

DICK leads TOMMY towards the shop.

ALICE: He looks very nice...

SARAH: As nice as any cat, I suppose.

ALICE: I wasn't talking about the cat!

SARAH: Oooh!

As DICK opens the shop door, THREE RATLINGS run out. They drive the humans into a tight circle and run round them threateningly. At the sight of the RATLINGS, TOMMY hisses and arches his back, attacks them and, with appropriate percussive effects, beats them up and chases them off.

ALICE: What a brave cat!

FITZWARREN: **(To DICK, shaking his hand)** Thank you very much, young man for getting rid of those rats. I'm most grateful; if there's anything I can do for you, please let me know. **(Starts to exit)**

DICK: Well, I am looking for a job sir, I'd work very hard, I promise.

FITZWARREN: I'm sure you would, but I'm afraid my business isn't doing too well at present, and I've no vacancies. I'm sorry, lad.

ALICE: Surely there's some job he could do?

FITZWARREN: You know very well...

ALICE: Please?

FITZWARREN: There is no way...

ALICE: Pretty please?

FITZWARREN: It could only be for a few days.

DICK: That's a start, sir.

FITZWARREN: Very well then, I'll give you a chance.

DICK: I'm really very grateful, sir!

ALICE: Thank you, Father. **(Kisses FITZWARREN)**

FITZWARREN: I have to go now. I have some business to settle aboard my ship, the Lollipop. But I'll see you again over supper: Alice will look after you until then. Come along, Cuttle!

CAPTAIN: Aye, Aye, Sir!

FITZWARREN and CAPTAIN CUTTLE exit.

ALICE: Congratulations Dick. that's great news!

DICK: Thank you for persuading your father, it's all due to you.

SARAH: Yes, well done Dick; and now I'm going to take Tommy inside and give him a big bowl of milk!

TOMMY meows, rubs his tummy and exits into shop.

SARAH: Come on Jack!

JACK: It's alright Mum, I'll stay and have a chat with Dick and Alice.

SARAH: No you won't! You don't want to be a gooseberry, do you?

JACK: Uh? **(Looks at DICK and ALICE)** Oh, I see what you mean. Do you think they're going to get all sloppy, and start snogging?

SARAH: There's a chance, son!

JACK: Yeucch!

JACK and SARAH exit into the shop as the CHORUS drift on.

ALICE: Did you really believe that the streets of London were paved with gold?

DICK: That's what they told me back in the village.

ALICE: You shouldn't believe everything people tell you. But I wish they were, then I'd be able to help my father.

DICK: But your father must be very rich; he's an Alderman; he's got a shop. he owns a ship.

ALICE: He used to have a fleet of ships but one by one they all were wrecked by storms; he's had an awful lot of bad luck lately.

DICK: I'm sorry your father's been having a bad time, but his luck will soon change, now he's got me working for him.

ALICE: You're very sure of yourself.

DICK: Alice, I just know that anything is possible if you work hard enough at it.

MUSIC CUE 4: SONG FOR DICK, ALICE AND CHORUS
At the end of the song Blackout. Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...