

PIPER 2 & SPRIGGAN 2 – MAYOR (1) & FRITZ

(Piper and Spriggan return STAGE.....)

Piper: There you are; your rat problem is solved. I've come for my payment now. I believe you said one thousand guilders.

Mayor: But they have my daughter you stupid fool. You surely don't expect to be paid do you?

Piper: But of course, a contract was signed, legal and binding.

Sprig: Yes, binding was the contract signed. Pay you must.

Dame: But they took Heidi. You have to get her back.

Peter: Yes, can't you do anything?

Piper: I'm afraid not. Once the magic tune is played it cannot be undone. *(to the mayor)* I'm sorry that they took your daughter but a contract is a contract.

Mayor: I refuse to pay you until you bring back my daughter. Tell him Fritz.

Fritz: Look here man, taking the daughter wasn't part of the deal – you were only contracted to take the rats. Now let's be civil about this, surely you can do something to get her back.

Piper: The contract has to be honoured, that is the rule. I've done my work now I need to be paid.

Mayor: Then you can whistle for your money; you'll not get any from me.

Piper: I'm afraid then sir that I will have to draw your attention to clause 13b section 21 page 10.

Mayor: What?!

Fritz: I think he means the small print your worship; I did tell you to read it before you signed.

Piper: Yes, that's it exactly. Give me the contract Spriggan. *(Spriggan hands contract to Piper)* Allow me to quote: "In the event of the aforementioned party refusing to pay, even in the event of a minor error, the provider, hereby known as The Piper, acting on behalf of the Pied Piper Pest Prevention Agency, shall extract payment as follows: The Piper shall play a tune of his choosing and whatever this tune shall attract shall follow The Piper until he stops."

Dame: Oh I hate jargon but that really doesn't sound good.

Mayor: Oh don't be silly woman, whatever he attracts will only be pests so no matter what we will be rid of them. *(to Piper)* So Piper, do your worst – but you are not getting paid until you return my daughter.

Peter: Be careful your worship, it may be worse than you think; remember, he did say that anything could follow his tunes.

Dame: Oh yes, you never know what he may take.

Fritz: They are right, I beg you to reconsider.

Mayor: No! My mind is made up – no payment until he returns my daughter.

Piper: Then if that is your last word on the matter I will choose my tune.

MAYOR 2

(Enter – Mayor stage with a pair of shoes behind his back)

Mayor: Greta, what are you doing hanging around here? Have you got my laundry?

Greta: *(to audience)* This is him, the Mayor, or old bossy boots as I like to call him. *(to mayor)* Oh hello your worship, I'm just on my way.

Mayor: Just on your way? You left the town hall ages ago, what have you been doing woman?

Greta: *(to audience)* You see what I mean, no wonder the townsfolk get so angry. *(to mayor)* Yes, I know I did, but you see I got waylaid by an angry mob.

Mayor: An angry mob, here in my town – ridiculous! Whatever have they got to be angry about?

Greta: *(to audience)* Blind as a bat too. *(to mayor)* Well just look around you your worshipness, its those rats again, they've been running amuck, all over the town. The townsfolk are revolting.

Mayor: Oh Greta, they may be a bit odd but they're not that bad.

Greta: Oh for goodness sake, we've done that one already. Mark my words; you're going to have trouble on your hands before the day is out.

Mayor: Nonsense Greta, the townsfolk love me, I'm their mayor.

Greta: *(to audience)* Hmm, that's what he thinks.

Mayor: I'll have them eating out of my hand don't you worry.

Greta: Not the mood they are in. I wouldn't like to be in your shoes.

Mayor: Oh thank you Greta that reminds me *(takes shoes from behind his back)* can you take these to the cobblers for me, and make sure he gives me a receipt so I can claim on expenses! *(dumps shoes on Greta and exits opposite way to the way he came on)*