

HANZ/NEEZ – PIPER 1 – SPRIGGAN 2

(RE-ENTER Hans and Neez)

Hanz: Do you think it's gone now?

Neez: I hope so – it was horrible. We're never going to get rid of them are we? What shall we do? We'll be thrown out of the force.

SONG – A policeman's Lot

Hanz: It's no good, we're going to have to think of a way to get rid of all the rats – I'll have a look on the WInternet and see if there's anything on there.
(gets out his rather large mobile phone)

Neez: OK, here, why do you call it the WInternet?

Hanz: Because the town council's cheap server is so slow it's always freezing up on me; I wish they'd invest in a new one.

Neez: Don't be silly, if it isn't anything to do with eating, drinking and entertaining then the Mayor doesn't think it's worth it. Have you found anything?

Hanz: No, not yet – Oh wait a minute what's this? The Pied Piper Pest Prevention Agency; all pests done away with; large rodents a speciality.

Neez: That sounds like the solution. How much does it cost?

Hanz: I'll just give them a quick ring and find out. *(rings phone)* Hello, is that the Pied Piper Pest Prevention Agency? *(pause)* Good, I wondered if you can give me a price for getting rid of some rats? *(pause)* I see. Well, we've quite a large problem and we need something doing fast. *(pause)* Express service? Yes, that would be perfect. Goodbye.

Neez: Well, what did they say?

Hanz: They'll send their main operative straight away – Express service.

Neez: Sounds expensive.

(Enter Pied Piper – a man dressed half in yellow and half in red with Spriggan a Sprite)

Piper: Are you the ones who want the Express Pest Prevention Service?

Neez: My goodness, that was quick!

Hanz: Yes, we are. How did you get here so quickly?

Piper: We just happened to be in the area didn't we Spriggan?

Sprig: Always we be.

Piper: So where are the rats you want me to get rid of?

Hanz: Ah, they're not here, they're probably planning what mischief they can do to the town tonight.

Piper: Ah, the town of Hamlin is it? I've heard there is a problem there; why hasn't the Mayor done anything before now?

Neez: Oh he's too busy having dinners and civic receptions to worry about what's going on in the town.

Hanz: Yes, but now the townsfolk are getting angry and protesting so he HAS to do something pretty quick. Can you help us do you think?

Sprig: Help, can the Piper, anyone, if he chooses so he do; but a price it be at.

H/N: Pardon?

Piper: Don't worry, you'll get used to him. Come on, let's go and meet this mayor of yours.

PIPER 2 – MAYOR & 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.