

DICK/ ALICE/ DAME/ TOM

Dick is on stage. *Alice Enters From the shop (back Left) . Dick and Alice make eye contact and freeze momentarily.*

Alice *(to the audience)* Wow, he's a sight for sore eyes, he's definitely new around here.

Dick Things are looking up Tom, London's better than I thought!

Both unfreeze

Alice Hello, are you alright, do you need some help?

Dick Oh yes please, we're new to the City.

Alice We?

Dick Yes, me and Tom, my cat.

Alice A cat? Gosh I've never seen one before. He's lovely.

Dick Never seen a cat? Really.

Alice No, cats are just a distant myth and memory here in London. We are over-run with rats, nobody apart from my mother can remember there ever being a cat in Cheapside.

Dick Wow, London is stranger than I thought. *(to Tom)* We're in luck Tom, you can catch rats can't you? *(Tom meows)* Well I might just be your man, *(winks at the audience)* Tom here is an excellent ratter, and it just so happens we are looking for a job aren't we Tom? *(meow)* I've come here from Yorkshire to seek my fame and fortune.

Alice Well I'm Alice Fitzwarren, my mum runs this shop *(points at shop)*, Fitzwarren Stores. She might take you on.... Sorry, I don't even know your name.

Dick Richard Whittington at your service *(thigh slap)*. But you can call me Dick.

Alice Pleased to meet you Dick, I'll go and get her now, wait here.

Alice exits into shop

Dick It looks like our lucks in Tom, I've got a good feeling about this.

Alice re-enters with Dame

Dame Alice stop being ridiculous, I'm not taking in any more waifs and strays off the stree.... (*sees Dick*) Oh hello, he's a sight for sore eyes.

Alice this is Dick mum.

Dame (*raises eyebrows*) I can see that Alice

Dick Richard Whittington at your service Maam, but as Alice says, call me Dick.

Dame Maaam ey, how do you do Dick, Fanella Fitzwarren of Fitzwarren Stores, Cheapside Branch. So you're after a job are you?

Alice Yes he is. You can give him one can't you mum?

Dick I'd be very grateful Fanella.

Dame Oh please, call me Fanny. (*to audience*) Who makes this stuff up?

Alice He has a cat mum.

Dame Alice stop talking nonsense, cats are long since extinct around here, I see no cat.

Dick She's right Fanny, Tom here is an excellent rat catcher.

Dame Oh good gracious, where on earth did you find that. I don't believe it. Oh I need a lie down.

Dick We met when I arrived in London. We go everywhere together now don't we Tom. (*meow*)

Dame Well in that case, welcome aboard Dick. There's plenty of work for you both. Especially with the little amount my son Jack actually does around the place. Come on Alice, lets get a bed made for Dick.

Dame and Alice Exit

Dick We really are lucky today Tom.

Tom Indeed we are Boss.

Dick Pardon? Did you just speak Tom?

Tom Of course.

Dick Wow, a talking cat. Today really has been unique. Why leave it until now?

Tom Well there hasn't been the opportunity until now, but I was getting sick of meowing. Don't worry, only you can understand me. They've had enough shocks for one day.

Dick Yes, you're probably right. Come on then.