

JACK/ DAME

Dame is on Stage, Jack Enters from the shop (back Left)

Jack Hello Everyone, what are you all doing here?

Dame Jack son, isn't it obvious? They're all queuing for the shop, why have you abandoned your post?

Jack Oh the post's already been.

Dame No, not the post post, your post. the shop post- the counter!
(points across audience) Look, they're queuing for our unique range of premium goods.

Jack Oh right I see, well Alice is in the shop, though I doubt they've any intention of coming to buy anything. Look at them, they look right cheapskates! Sorry everyone, only joking. Even if they were shopping, there's nothing for them to buy.

Dame Of course there is.

Jack Well the punters, when they DO come in, don't seem to agree. We're going to have to start selling things that people want to buy. Nobody wants your rubbish. We need to diversify. Even the greengrocers are doing it. The Apple merchants have started selling computers, the citrus boys have gone into mobile phones, and the body shop- they're selling soap!...

Dame Oh give over, it'll never catch on. I've told you Jack, we'll re-stock when we've sold what we've got.

Jack *(Sighs)* Oh I give up. Anyway, I'm off out.

Dame You can't be off out. Out out? Where are you going?

Jack Not out out, just out! I'm going to look for inspiration and seek my fame and fortune.

Dame *(aside)* Now I'm sure I've read that somewhere, but I'm sure it's not his line. *(to Jack)* Don't be daft, you've got all the fame and fortune you need here in the shop.

Jack Fame? The only fame we have these days is the fame of being the shop with nothing worth buying. As for fortune, you've never paid me.

Dame How dare you, I pay you for every hour that you work.

Jack You do not!

Dame No, you do not!

Jack I do not? I do not what?

Dame Work!

Jack That's not fair! I'm always working!

Dame Well in that case, it's time you proved it. If Alice is in the shop, then you need to get into the cellars and get the rat-traps set. We really need to sort those blighters out, London is plagued with the darn things these days. I don't know why we never catch any. Oh if only we still had cats around the town. Right, come on, be off with you.

Jack Oh alright bossy boots, Bye boys and girls.

Dame Right, I'd best get going too, I've a hundred and one errands to do, a woman's work is never done you know.