

Granny Smith

Granny: Hello boys and girls...I said hello boys and girls! They told me there was a dense crowd in, now I know what they mean. You can always tell how good the evening's going to be by looking at the audience (**turning to exit**) it's okay, I'm just kidding, I know you're going to be the best audience we've had in today. I'm Granny Smith and this is the village of Nether Regions. I'm very pleased to meet you all. I do think good manners are so important, don't you? Let's try some polite conversation shall we? I'd like this side of the room (**indicates left side**) to give me a wave. Lovely! Now, after three I want you to wave at the people on the other side of the room and say "Hello, how are you?" One, two three...that was lovely. Now, the other side of the room (**indicates right side**) after three you wave back and say "mind your own business." One, two, three...!

Ruby Hood

Ruby: Hello mother, what are you doing?

Granny: I'm just talking to these lovely posh people here (points to audience) and these working class people here (points to chorus).

Villagers: Cheek!

Ruby: The villagers do work very hard mother. We're lucky to be able to buy everything we need here without having to go to Tesco's. We have the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker.

Granny: That's true you know. Which reminds me, I need to do my shopping. I'll have half a pound of sausages please Mr Butcher.

Butcher: I'll have to deliver them later. I backed into the bacon slicer and got a little behind with my orders.

Granny: And a bag of doughnuts please Mrs Baker.

Baker: I don't make doughnuts any more.

Granny: Why would you stop making doughnuts?

Baker: I got tired of the hole thing.

C. Maker: Don't you want to buy some candlesticks?

Granny: No, you're getting on my wick.

Ruby: You are in a funny mood today mother. .

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker

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Baker: I don't make doughnuts anymore.

C. Maker: Don't you want to buy some candlesticks?

Professor Lupas

Professor: Good day to you all, and what a scintillatingly beautiful day it is. The flora and fauna are so exquisitely sublime on a day like this.

Granny: Well hello! It's always good to see a new man in town, even if I don't know what he's talking about. Do you come here often?

Professor: This is my very first time in your glorious village. Let me introduce myself – my name is Professor Lupus.

Granny: Ooh, a real life professor! What do you profess?

Professor: I am a professor of archaeology and palaeontology. Having purchased a nearby manor house I have opened a museum of my exhibits to share them with the world. You must come and peruse my collection.

Granny: You mean a date? Oh goody gumdrops.

Professor: Well, um, I didn't mean...

Granny: Come on! You're just the type of man I'm looking for.

Professor: What type is that?

Granny: Well you're breathing for a start. I'd love to see your exhibits.

Professor: Then indeed you shall dear lady. And how about you much younger ladies? The museum is extraordinarily educational.

Ruby: You should go there Red, you can tell your teacher all about it when you go back to school.

Red: But it's the holidays – we don't want to do anything educational, do we girls?

Amber, Jade and Sapphire: No!

Professor: Ah, perhaps my mausoleum – I mean museum – would be too terrifying for such immature minds. In the course of my travels I have collected many ghastly and ghoulish finds from my encounters with dreadful beasts.

Granny: I've had some pretty bad encounters with beasts myself – my late husband for a start.

Professor: I refer to such abominations of nature as vampires, zombies and mummies.

The Squire

Squire: Good morning ladies.

Granny: I don't like the sound of that – he never calls me a lady unless he wants something.

Ruby: Good morning Squire. Good morning Lady Penelope.

Penelope: Good morning. Isn't it a lovely day?

Squire: Penelope, you go and do some shopping while I conduct a little business.

Penelope: Alright father, I need some new ribbons for my hair.

Squire: Don't get too close to the peasants though, you might catch something. .

Penelope: I'll be careful father. (She moves over to the stalls)

Granny: What can I do for you Lord Ponsonby-Smythe? Don't forget we're related.

Squire: We are not related. I'm a Smythe and you're a Smith. Not at all the same thing. I'm posh and you're common.

Granny: Well if we're not related that means we can get married.

Squire: Certainly not! I do have a nice surprise for you though.

Granny: You do?

Squire: You know how you've always wanted to live in a more expensive house?

Granny: Yes, yes, yes!

Squire: Well now you can - I've put the rent up!

Granny: But I haven't got any more money.

Squire: Well you'll have to find it from somewhere. My rent collectors will be round soon to collect this week's payment, and if you don't pay you'll be out on your ear.

Granny: Do you know, you used to be arrogant and obnoxious but now you're just the opposite – obnoxious and arrogant!

Squire: Your words don't concern me. It's your money I want. Penelope?

Penelope: Yes father?

Squire: I'm heading back to the manor, are you coming?

Penelope: I'll just collect my shopping father. I'll be home for lunch, the market is closing soon.

Squire: Well make sure you are. Good day ladies, I will see you again soon.

Granny: Not if we see you first.

Jack and Penelope

Jack: Oh!

Penelope: But you can call me Penny.

Jack: Thank goodness for that. Did you say you're a lady?

Penelope: Yes, my father's the Squire and we live in Nether Regions Manor.

Jack: Well that explains how you can afford to buy so much shopping.

Penelope: What do you do?

Jack: I'm just a simple woodcutter and I don't have much money at all.

Penelope: It must be lovely living a simple life, out in the woods all day.

Jack: Well usually it is but at the moment there's a dangerous wolf around and if he isn't caught soon someone's going to get badly hurt.

Penelope: Oh I do hope you'll be careful, I wouldn't want anything to happen to you.

Jack: Wouldn't you? Why not?

Penelope: (Laughing) I wouldn't have anyone to carry my shopping! I must be getting back now, my father wouldn't be happy if he knew I was standing around talking to you.

Jack: He sounds like a tyrant.

Penelope: Oh, he's alright really. It's only because he cares about me.

Jack: I know just how he feels.

Penelope: Isn't it strange how you can meet someone for a moment and feel as if you've known them your whole life.

Song suggestion – I've Never Been in Love Before

Penelope: Oh dear, Smash and Grab are coming this way. Let's go before they see us.

Jack: Smash and Grab?

Penelope: Yes – they work for my father and would be bound to tell him they've seen me with you.

Jack: Come on then, I'll carry your basket as far as the gates.

Penelope and Jack exit UL as Smash and Grab enter DR. Smash walks on first and then stops so that Grab bumps into him.

Grab: What did you stop for? .

Smash and Grab

Grab: What did you stop for? .

Smash: So you could catch me up.

Grab: Well I did that alright you idiot. Now sort yourself out, we've got a job to do.

Smash: What job?

Grab: Do you never listen? We've got to find Granny Smith and ask her to hand over the rent money.

Smash: Oh dear, I don't like rent collecting very much. We always make people cry.

Grab: That's good, we're supposed to scare people into paying up. If we don't get the money the Squire will fire us and then we'll be the ones crying.

Smash: I can't cry today.

Grab: Why not?

Smash: I've left my hankie at home.

Granny Smith enters DR with Red Riding Hood

Grab: Granny Smith?

Granny: Yes.

Grab: Your money or your life.

Granny: Let me have a think about that.

Red: Granny!

Smash: If you don't pay up...!

Jekyll and Hyde

Doctor Jekyll enters DL

Doctor: What's going on here? What are you two idiots up to now?

Red: They're upsetting my granny.

Grab: We were just doing our duty. .

Doctor: Well go and do it somewhere else. Go on – get out of here! I won't have my patients being upset. Go and practise some taxidermy.

Smash: What's that?

Granny: Get stuffed!

Smash and Grab exit DR, falling after each other as they go.

Doctor: Now then Granny, you're perfectly alright now they've gone. How is your bad leg?

Granny: Oh it's not good Doctor Jekyll, not good at all.

Doctor: You need to rest it. You remembered what I told you about not climbing any stairs didn't you?

Granny: I did, but shinning up that drainpipe four times a day is exhausting.

Doctor: Did you follow my advice and drink carrot juice after the hot bath?

Granny: No, I haven't finished drinking the bath yet.

Doctor: Do you drink to excess?

Granny: I'll drink to anything!

Red: Can you make her better doctor?

Doctor: Yes of course I can. Just take this medicine now Granny.

He gives her a bottle then turns to talk to the chorus. Meanwhile Granny is trying to read the label with obviously poor eyesight.

Doctor: How are you Mr Candlestick Maker? I haven't seen you for a long time.

C. Maker: I know doctor, I've been ill.

Doctor: And how about you Mr Butcher, let me take your pulse. Well, you seem to be in excellent health, your pulse is as regular as clockwork.

Count Toothree

Count Toothree enters DR carrying a parcel

Count: Good day to you both. Can you help me? I'm trying to find the post office. Am I on the right road?

Frank: Just keep on this path until you pass an old bridge that isn't there any more.

Stein: No that's not the best way. The best way is to take the left fork by the field with the two horses in it.

Frank: No, No. You'll only confuse him. There's only one horse in that field now.

Stein: Well there have always been two horses in that field.

Frank: Not any more.

Stein: Which one's not there?

Frank: The one that's missing. You know, Black Beauty – he was a dark horse.

Stein: What is the world coming to when you can't even rely on two horses in a field.

Count: Thank you – I think. Am I correct in thinking that you two work for Professor Lupus?

Frank: That's correct, we're his right hand men. .

Count: Splendid. My name is Count Toothree.

Frank & Stein: One, two, three!

Count: That's hardly very original. What are your names?

Frank and Stein

Frank: You're right, we can retire to the country and buy a farm.

Stein: If you want to be a farmer you'll need sheep, chickens, herd of cows.

Frank: Of course I've heard of cows. A farmer offered me a job once looking after his wheat fields – I could have been a corn tender.

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Frank: We're Frank...

Stein: And Stein.

Mystic Peg

Mystic Peg enters DR

Peg: Buy my lucky heather! Buy my lucky heather!

Granny: Mystic Peg, you look terrible. Are you alright?

Peg: No I'm not. My black cat was drowned yesterday and this morning I tripped in the street and tore my dress. Then as I lay in the road a horse and cart ran over me, and I lost all my pegs in the gutter. Will you buy something from a Romany Lady?

Granny: What are you selling?

Peg: Good luck charms £1 each. Guaranteed to work every time!

Granny: Well, what I do need is to know what's in store for me, Can you predict the next few months?

Peg: The next few months. Oh, yes. February, March and April. .

Granny: If you're such a good fortune teller you should be able to tell us the score of the next (local football team) match before the game starts.

Peg: That's easy - before the game starts the score will be nil nil.

Granny hits Mystic Peg.

Peg: Ow! What's that for?

Granny: I always like to strike a happy medium. Are you going to tell my fortune or not?

Peg: Cross my palm with silver.

Granny: I can't pay you anything now but if you come to the café tomorrow I'll give you a free cuppa.

Peg: Okay. I see a tall, dark handsome stranger coming into your life. He has a long nose and very big teeth.

Granny: Well nobody's perfect – except me of course. Thanks Peg.

Mystic Peg exits DL as Red, Amber, Jade and Sapphire enter DR.

Countess Bloodlust

Countess Bloodlust enters DL

Countess: Did I hear you young ladies say you are going to visit the museum.

Red: Yes, we're going tomorrow.

Countess: Then I will no doubt see you there. I am a close friend of Professor Lupus. Allow me to present myself – the Countess Bloodlust.

Granny: A real Countess. I'm charmed to meet you your ladyship.

Sapphire: Come on Red, hurry up.

Granny: Off you go then. I have to get back to the cottage to start composing an advertisement.

Countess: What are you advertising for?

Granny: A man! I'm going to put an ad in the lonely hearts column – finding a rich husband has got to be easier than putting the marigolds on in that café.

Jade: What happened to your first husband?

Granny: He left me a widow many years ago?

Sapphire: Were you happy together.

Granny: Oh yes, we had nine happy years. And nine out of twenty-five isn't bad. Though we didn't always see eye to eye – he was only four foot ten. On our anniversary I made him a custard pie and he threw it right back in my face.

Countess: I'm a great fan of marriage. I've had many, many husbands.

Red: What happened to them?

Countess: They all met an unfortunate end.

Red: You must be very unlucky.

Countess: It depends on your point of view.

Jade, Sapphire and Amber

Jade: What shall we do?

Red: We'll have to go there to investigate – tonight when it's dark.

Sapphire: That sounds dangerous, can't we go in daylight?

Red: Of course not. We need the element of surprise if we're going to find Penny and rescue her. We'll have to form a gang of investigators.

Sapphire: You mean like the famous five?

Red: Yes. After all we are Red Riding Hood and the Hoodies. Meet me on the edge of the village after sunset.

Sapphire: I'm scared.

Jade: And me.

Amber: I'm not scared of anything.

Red: Come on fellow hoodies, I'll show you what I do when I'm afraid. .