



book by
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A musical based on the characters and situations
of the *commedia dell'arte*

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Goosefeathers! can be presented by a cast of two or three performers. Cast the best clowns you can find, with a flair for vocal and physical characterization, and don't worry about gender or ethnicity. The following casting scheme is offered as a guide.

Dramatis Personae

Actor 1

Pedrolino, the clever servant

Actor 2

Arlecchino, the comic servant

Pantalone, the miserly old man

Captain Braggadocio, the soldier

Actor 3

Zanni, the comic old man

Columbina, the gooseseller

The Countess, the dinner guest

The play is set in the public square and the market of a small Italian village of the Renaissance. There should be at least four streets (entrance/exit ways) leading to center stage.

Goosefeathers! requires a couple of versatile musicians. Ideally, they play more than one instrument, are visible during the performance, and become involved in the stage action where appropriate.

GOOSEFEATHERS!

(The house lights fade, stage lights up. ELABORATE FANFARE. An ACTOR enters.)

ACTOR

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. My name is [name]. Tonight our company is delighted to present the exciting production of GOOSEFEATHERS. GOOSEFEATHERS is a play of adventure and humor. It is a play with music and dancing. It is a play with many characters and events. May I now introduce the entire company who will assist me in presenting this tuneful extravaganza!

(Music: ELABORATE FANFARE. Two other ACTORS enter.)

Let's give a warm welcome to the lovely and talented... (starts to point out the actor, at the last minute switches to actress) [name] (Applause.) And now, please welcome the not-so-lovely, but still very talented (indicates actor [name]). (Applause.)

You will be thrilled to learn that our production of GOOSEFEATHERS is based on Italy's fabulous comic theatre.... the COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE!

(Unenthusiastic audience response)

Ah! I see some of you are not too familiar with the Italian commedia.

(Music under.)

Perhaps we should begin by giving you some idea of what you can expect from a commedia.

SONG: THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA

SOLOS (as assigned)

A SONG, A DANCE

A PAIR OF BAGGY PANTS....

ALL

THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA!

SOLOS

A STICKY SITUATION
A RIDICULOUS ROMANCE

ALL

THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA!

SOLOS

SOME FUN, SOME FARCE

ACTOR 2

Some what?

SOLOS

THAT'S F-A-R-C-E.
AN EVENING OF HILARITY.
ON THAT YOU HAVE OUR GUARANTEE!
AND IF THE JOKES ARE FRIVOLOUS,
WE HOPE YOU WON'T OBJECT.

ALL

IT'S THE COMMEDIA
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

ACTOR 1 (as PEDROLINO)

Good evening and welcome. My name is Pedrolino. Tonight I will be your guide through our commedia. When you become confused by the elaborate plot twists, I will explain all. When you are left distraught by the hectic pace, I will soothe your spirits. And when you groan at the bad jokes and weak puns, I.... I will groan with you.

ALL

SOME PUNS, SOME JOKES
SOME VERY FUNNY FOLKS
THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA!

ACTOR 2

SOME BOGUS HOCUS POCUS
AS THE FOCUS OF A HOAX

ALL

THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM A COMMEDIA

SOLOS

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU GIGGLE
AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU GROAN
YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOUR NICKEL'S WORTH
OF TICKLES TO THE FUNNY BONE
AND IF WE LACK DECORUM,

WELL, WE MEAN NO DISRESPECT.

ALL

IT'S THE COMMEDIA,
 WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
 NO GAG TOO LOW
 NO JOKE TOO OLD
 NO STORY SO HOARY
 IT CAN'T BE TOLD
 A LITTLE MIRTH
 IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD!

WE'RE WEIRD, WE'RE WISE
 WE'RE MASTERS OF DISGUISE
 THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA!
 WITH MULTIPLE IDENTITIES
 WE CHANGE BEFORE YOUR EYES.
 THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA!
 IN CASE YOU MAY BE WONDERING
 WE'LL TELL YOU WHERE WE'RE FROM
 "THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
 FOR THE ART OF PANDEMONIUM!"
 AND BY THE TIME WE'RE FINISHED,
 IF THE THEATER IS WRECKED,
 IT'S THE COMMEDIA...
 WHAT DID YOU EXPECT!

(All exit except Pedrolino.)

ACTOR 1 (as PEDROLINO)

And so, Pedrolino is at your service. I will lead you through the fabulous and fanciful tale of a gold coin, a ruby ring and a gaggle of geese. Our commedia begins!

(Sings.) SIGNORINI AND SIGNORI
 WE'VE A STORY HERE TO TELL
 AND OUR SETTING IS AN ORDINARY SQUARE
 OVER HERE'S THE HOUSE OF ZANNI
 AND HIS SERVANT ARLECCHINO
 AND MY MASTER PANTALONE'S OVER THERE.
 HERE YOU SEE THE VILLAGE FOUNTAIN...
 DON'T YOU FIND IT RATHER QUAIN?T?
 DON'T TRY TO DRINK THE WATER, THOUGH --
 I FEAR IT'S MERELY PAINT!
 WITH SOME ARTIFICIAL GREENERY,
 THE SCENERY'S COMPLETE.
 NOW IT'S TIME TO MEET THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE.

ACTOR 2 (as ARLECCHINO)

(enters) Hey, Pedrolino, watch me pull a rabbit out of my hat!

PEDROLINO

That trick never works.

ARLECCHINO

(with elaborate gestures) Magic is my favorite habit as in my hat I find... (pulls out banana) a..... banana? I think I need a new hat. (exits)

PEDROLINO

THAT WAS TRUSTY ARLECCHINO
 JUST IN CASE YOU COULDN'T GUESS
 YOU COULD NEVER FIND A BETTER FRIEND THAN HE.
 THOUGH HE TENDS TO BE A BUMBLER
 THERE'S NO HUMBLER GUY I KNOW
 AND I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO HAVE HIS COMPANY
 WHEN HE TRIES DO HIS MAGIC, THOUGH
 THE TRICK IS NOT TO LAUGH
 YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE TIME HE TRIED
 TO SAW HIMSELF IN HALF.
 THOUGH HE ALWAYS GOES FOR BROKE
 HIS HOCUS-POCUS IS A JOKE
 HE'S GOT RAVIOLI WHERE HIS BRAINS SHOULD BE!

(Music continues underneath)

ACTOR 3 (as ZANNI)

(offstage) ARLECCHINO!

PEDROLINO

And not far behind we have Arlecchino's master, Zanni.

ZANNI

(enters in a tizzy) Arlecchino!

PEDROLINO

There is something on his mind.

ZANNI

The Countess, the Countess is coming for dinner! Where is Arlecchino? Arlecchino!! (exits)

PEDROLINO

Now it's time to introduce you to my master, Pantalone, a man of great wealth and even greater foolishness. And, if I know my master, he is very angry about something.

ACTOR 2 (as PANTALONE)

(enters) Pedrolino, I am very angry about something!

PEDROLINO

See what I mean? (to Pantalone) What's the matter, noble master?

PANTALONE

Where's my ring?

PEDROLINO

Your ruby ring?

PANTALONE

Yes, my ruby ring. Where is it?

PEDROLINO

It's at the jeweler!

PANTALONE

What's it doing at the jeweler's?

PEDROLINO

You sent it there to get polished.

PANTALONE

I did no such thing. Now, I'm dining with the Countess at Zanni's tonight, and I want to wear that ring. So fetch it for me. (beats him with walking stick) Don't delay! Get that ring! (exits)

PEDROLINO

(Sings.) THERE YOU HAVE THE MASTERS OF OUR PLAY
THEY'RE ALWAYS ON OUR BACKS
I WISH THAT THEY'D JUST RELAX
THEY THINK THAT THEY'RE THE BOSS
BUT LITTLE DO THEY KNOW
THE SERVANTS ARE THE ONES THAT RUN THE SHOW!

(ACTOR 1 takes off his hat and steps out of his "Pedrolino" character.)

PERHAPS TO YOU
WE SEEM A MOTLEY CREW

(ACTOR 3 joins him.)

ACTORS 1 and 3
THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA

ACTOR 3
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO COMEDY
WE KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO

(ACTOR 2 joins the other two.)

ALL
THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA

ACTOR 2
IT'S A TRICK WE'VE HAD THE KNACK OF
EVER SINCE THE RENAISSANCE

ALL
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE THE AUDIENCE
EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTS!
AND WHEN WE'RE THROUGH
WE KNOW THAT YOU
WILL CHEER FOR ALL YOUR WORTH:
"VIVA LA COMMEDIA!"
"VIVA LA COMMEDIA!"
THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

(After applause, ACTOR 3 exits, the other two put on their hats and step into character.)

ACTOR 2 (as ARLECCHINO)
Hey, Pedrolino...

ACTOR 1 (AS PEDROLINO)
What now!

ARLECCHINO
Let me show you my new card trick!

PEDROLINO
You haven't learned the old card trick yet.

ARLECCHINO
And I never will. But this is much better. Here we have a deck of fifty-two cards. Count them.

PEDROLINO
I trust you.

ARLECCHINO
You do? Good. As you see there is nothing up my sleeve and nothing in my pockets...

PEDROLINO
(to audience) And nothing in his head either.

ARLECCHINO
Now, (holds cards out) pick a card...any card!

PEDROLINO

This one.

(Pedrolino picks a card. Arlecchino grabs it back and throws it away.)

ARLECCHINO

Any card but that card. Try again.

PEDROLINO

How about this one? (Pedrolino picks a card)

ARLECCHINO

Nope. (throws it away) How about this one? (indicates card sticking out)

PEDROLINO

This one? (takes the card)

ARLECCHINO

That's the one. Now look at it and memorize it.

PEDROLINO

Alright.

ARLECCHINO

Now...tear the card in half.

PEDROLINO

If you say so. (tears card)

ARLECCHINO

Tear it again! (does so) Tear it again! (does so) (Arlecchino gets carried away in an elaborate dance) Tear it again! (does so) Tear it again...Tear it again!

PEDROLINO

Arlechhino!, that's all I can tear.

ARLECCHINO

Great. Now, put the pieces into my hat. (does so) Well, how do you like the trick so far?

PEDROLINO

Will you get on with it!

ARLECCHINO

I will now tell you what card you chose and magically put it back together again. Ready? Here we go!

Poker and bridge, euchre and spades

Canasta, hearts and gin--

Games we all can play with this card

When it's back together again.

Your card was the Jack of Hearts, and here it is!

(Turns hat over, pieces fall to floor.)

PEDROLINO

Wrong. It was the three of clubs.

ARLECCHINO

The three of clubs? (picks up pieces) You're right, it was the three of clubs. Here, let me try it again.

PEDROLINO

I'd love to stay, Arlecchino, but I'm in a hurry. I'm on my way to the jeweler's to pick up Master Pantalone's ruby ring. Why don't you practice while I'm gone? (exits)

ARLECCHINO

I tell you what--I'll practice while you're gone. Pick a card...

(Holds cards out, but there's no one there. He turns.)

Pick a card...

(No one there. He looks around, offers card to statue on backdrop.)

Pick a card?

ACTOR 3 (as ZANNI)

(enters) Arlecchino! Where is Arlecchino? Where is that clown? The Countess is coming for dinner and we have nothing to serve! Where is Arlecchino?

ARLECCHINO

(to audience) Ah, my master, Zanni.

ZANNI

(screams) Arlecchino!

ARLECCHINO

He's a worrier.

ZANNI

There you are!

ARLECCHINO

Pick a card.

ZANNI

Not time for card tricks. We must think! We must act!

ARLECCHINO

To be or not to be, that.....

ZANNI

Arlecchino!

ARLECCHINO

What!

ZANNI

You call that acting?

ARLECCHINO

It's the best I can do.

ZANNI

I have big news.

ARLECCHINO

What?

ZANNI

The Countess! The Countess is coming for dinner!

ARLECCHINO

An honor!

ZANNI

A problem!

ARLECCHINO

How so?

SONG: GET A GOOSE!

ZANNI

THE COUNTESS IS COMING HERE TO DINE!
SHE'S EXPECTED AT SEVEN ON THE ON THE DOT.
BUT WHAT MAKES THIS RATHER TRICKY
IS MILADY'S RATHER PICKY.
I MUST SERVE HER SOMETHING WONDERFUL...

BUT WHAT?

ARLECCHINO
PASTA WITH RAGU?

ZANNI
THAT WOULD NEVER DO!

ARLECCHINO
VEG'TABLE CHOW MEIN?

ZANNI
WHAT? ARE YOU INSANE?

ARLECCHINO
LEG OF LAMB!

ZANNI
I HATE IT!

ARLECCHINO
EGGS AND SPAM!

ZANNI
WE ATE IT.

ARLECCHINO
HOW 'BOUT CHICKEN A LA KING?

ZANNI
WAIT! I KNOW THE PERFECT THING!
GET A GOOSE
MAKE IT TWO
DO YOU THINK THAT TWO WILL DO?
MAYBE THREE WOULD BE BETTER
LET ME SEE... BETTER GET HER
THREE OR FOUR, MAYBE MORE
HALF A DOZEN OUT TO DO IT
ARE YOU LISTENING? I KNEW IT!
PAY ATTENTION!

WHAT IF SIX WON'T SUFFICE?
LET US THINK ABOUT THIS TWICE
YOU HAD BETTER ORDER EIGHT OR
THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR LATER
GET ME NINE!

ARLECCHINO

Okay, fine.

ZANNI
 THEN AGAIN, SHE MIGHT WANT TEN.
 GET A GAGGLE!
 YES, A GAGGLE OF GEESE!

ARLECCHINO
 A gaggle?

ZANNI
 A GAGGLE!

ARLECCHINO
 HOW MANY IS A GAGGLE?

ZANNI
 WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO HAGGLE
 GET A GAGGLE OF GEESE.
 I KNOW FISH IS A DISH
 THAT THE COUNTESS WOULDN'T WISH
 AND SHE THINKS THAT CHICKEN'S SICKENING
 OR SO I'VE HEARD IT SAID.

ARLECCHINO
 MAYBE VEAL IS A MEAL
 THAT WOULD BE IDEAL...

ZANNI
 NO VEAL! NO BEEF!
 GOOD GRIEF, SHE'D HAVE MY HEAD!

GET A GOOSE
 GET A BUNCH!
 WE CAN EAT THE REST FOR LUNCH
 IF WE USE A SPECIAL RECIPE
 THE COUNTESS WILL BE HOOKED
 ONE MORE THING, ARLECCHINO,
 DON'T FORGET TO BUY THE VINO
 NOW YOU'D BETTER MAKE IT SNAPPY
 IF YOU WANT ME TO BE HAPPY
 GET A MOVE ON, ARLECCHINO
 OR YOUR GOOSE WILL BE COOKED!

ARLECCHINO
 To the market!

ZANNI
 Off you go.

ARLECCHINO

But wait! Master Zanni, how am I to pay for this gaggle of geese?

ZANNI

Oh, right! Here, take this gold coin. Buy geese! The finest geese for the Countess! A gaggle of geese! Go to the market and buy a gaggle of geese! Hurry! The market will close.

ARLECCHINO

Close?

ZANNI

Close. Close? CLOTHES! I don't have anything to wear. The Countess is coming to dinner, and I have nothing to wear. Clothes!

ARLECCHINO

(thinking, pacing) Clothes...

ZANNI

Clothes! (pacing) Clothes! Clothes!

ARLECCHINO

(still thinking) Clothes...

ZANNI

CLOTHES!!! That's what I'll wear. I'll wear clothes. (shakes Arlecchino's hand) Thank you! Clothes, of course. There must be something in my closet...(exits)

ARLECCHINO

A gaggle of geese - Countess's dinner - gold coin - here I go! (starts off stops, turns, thinks) You know I haven't done the old disappearing gold coin trick in ages, and here comes Pedrolino! Just in time, my friend!

PEDROLINO

(enters) Arlecchino, feast your eyes on a jewel of enormous value. Master Pantalone's ruby ring!

ARLECCHINO

That's nice, but you are in for a rare treat. Watch this!

PEDROLINO

No more card tricks, please!

ARLECCHINO

Right. No cards in this trick. This is the famous disappearing gold coin trick.

PEDROLINO

Where did you get a gold coin?

ARLECCHINO

From my master Zanni. I'm on my way to the market to buy a gaggle of geese for the Countess's dinner. Now watch closely!

PEDROLINO

I wouldn't play with that coin if I were you.

ARLECCHINO

Don't worry, I never miss with this one. Here we have a gold coin.

PEDROLINO

So I see.

ARLECCHINO

There is still nothing up my sleeve, still nothing in my pocket.

PEDROLINO

(aside) And still nothing in his head!

ARLECCHINO

I will now make that gold coin disappear from my hand and make it reappear in my hat. Keep your eye on the coin!

PEDROLINO

I'll try.

ARLECCHINO

I hold the gold...enfold the gold...and--behold! (throws coin in air, it disappears) Hey! It worked! It's gone!

PEDROLINO

Not bad, Arlecchino! Now, make it reappear in your hat!

ARLECCHINO

Oh, sure. That's the easy part! (takes off hat)A trick that's good for young and old In my hat we find... (pulls card out of hat) The Jack of Hearts? And your card was the Jack of Hearts, and here it is! Is that a great trick, or what?

PEDROLINO

That's a wonderful trick.

ARLECCHINO

Yep!

PEDROLINO
That's a superb trick.

ARLECCHINO
Yep!

PEDROLINO
It's also the wrong trick.

ARLECCHINO
What!

PEDROLINO
This isn't the card trick. It's the gold coin trick.

ARLECCHINO
Oh, right, the gold coin. Let's try that again... A trick that's good for young and old in my hat we find... ..nothing!

PEDROLINO
Uh-oh.

ARLECCHINO
Oh, no, it's gone! The coin is gone. It's not in my hat. It's not on the ground. It's not in my pocket. It's gone! ...Uh-oh! How am I going to buy geese for the Countess's dinner now?

PEDROLINO
You and your magic tricks! (aside) Now he's going to ask me to help him out of this jam.

ARLECCHINO
Pedrolino, will you help me out of this jam?

PEDROLINO
(aside) It's almost like I read the script. (to Arlecchino) Don't worry, my friend, you can count on me!

ARLECCHINO
I knew I could.

PEDROLINO
You simply need a gold coin to buy the geese.

ARLECCHINO
I sure do.

PEDROLINO

And I'll get one for you, but it may take me a little while.
Meanwhile, go ahead to the market. Tell the goose seller to set
aside the gaggle of geese. You'll have your gold coin soon.

ARLECCHINO

What are you going to do?

PEDROLINO

I don't know, but I'll think of something. I always do. Now, go!

ARLECCHINO

Thanks, my friend! (exits)!

PEDROLINO

(to audience) This is the part of the play I like the best. Here
I am, faced with an enormously difficult problem. A gold coin
must be found quickly. This will require a scheme, a ruse... a
plan! I will now show you why Pedrolino is known far and wide
as... "The Village Planning Commission!"

SONG: PEDROLINO!

PEDROLINO

WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN THEY'VE TIED YOU TO THE TRACKS
AND THE ONE-FIFTEEN IS COMING ROUND THE BEND?
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS
AND YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT YOU'LL NEVER FIND A FRIEND?
YOU'RE STANDING ON THE GALLOWS
AND YOUR NECK IS IN THE NOOSE.
YOU CRY AND BEG FOR MERCY,
THOUGH IT ISN'T ANY USE.
BUT AS THE TRAP DOOR OPENS
AND YOU START TO GIVE UP HOPE,
WHO COMES TO CUT THE ROPE
AND TURN YOU LOOSE?
PEDROLINO, PEDROLINO
HE'S THE QUICKEST AND THE CLEVEREST YOU'VE SEEN-O!
WHEN YOUR BACK IS TO THE WALL
AND YOU HAVE GOT NO HOPE AT ALL,
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE YOU CAN ALL ON:
PEDROLINO!

(Interlude. He does a little dance.)

THERE WAS A TIME
A HUNGRY GIANT TERRIFIED THE TOWN
AND PEOPLE FAR AND NEAR

WERE PARALYZED WITH FEAR.
 IN VAIN THE TRIED
 BUT NOTHING MADE THE MONSTER BUDGE AN INCH
 TIL IN A PINCH,
 THEY TURNED TO PEDROLINO.
 I HIT ON AN IDEA
 I WAS SURE WOULD SAVE THE DAY
 I OFFERED HIM A GIANT PLATE
 OF OCTOPUS SOUFFLE
 IT GAVE HIM INDIGESTION
 AND HE FINALLY WENT AWAY!
 I WAS THE HERO
 AND EVERYONE BEGAN TO CHEER...
 PEDROLINO, PEDROLINO
 HE'S A GUY WHO KNOWS THE WAY TO USE HIS BEAN-O
 PEDROLINO IS YOUR MAN
 WHEN YOU HAVE GOT TO HAVE A PLAN
 YES, HE CAN COOK UP AN ANSWER...

(The song is interrupted by the entrance of the Countess.)

ACTOR 3 (as COUNTESS)

(enters) Excuse me. Hello there!

PEDROLINO

The Countess!

COUNTESS

Why yes, I am the Countess. And you are....

PEDROLINO

Concerned.

COUNTESS

How nice. May I ask your help?

PEDROLINO

Certainly.

COUNTESS

Can you direct me to Zanni's house? I'm expected for dinner.

PEDROLINO

Yes, of course! Dinner! Now, let me see, if I recall Zanni's house is ...ah... far away!

COUNTESS

But I thought....

PEDROLINO

Most people do, but they're wrong.

COUNTESS

What?

PEDROLINO

If you want to get to Zanni's, you must start off in... that direction.

COUNTESS

But that's the way I came.

PEDROLINO

Then it should be familiar to you. Just continue a few furlongs to the east, then take a hard right at that big column and then you'd better ask someone there.

COUNTESS

You say I should...

PEDROLINO

Hurry! You must hurry. It's getting close to dinner time.

COUNTESS

Oh yes, I wouldn't want to miss dinner.

PEDROLINO

And you won't. So, off you go...

COUNTESS

Thanks for your help, kind sir. (exits)

PEDROLINO

(ushering her) Off, off, off.... Notice, my friends, how we have just added another level of urgency to our problem. Can we pick up the tempo here?

WHAT DO WE DO?
 ARLECCHINO'S ON THE SPOT
 SINCE HE MADE HIS MASTER'S MONEY DISAPPEAR
 WHAT DO WE DO?
 IF THE GOLD HE HASN'T GOT
 THEN HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE, I FEAR.
 IF MY BUDDY ARLECCHINO
 NEEDS A COIN TO BUY SOME GEESE
 THEN THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION
 IS TO FIND A FOOL TO FLEECE.
 WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK
 I'LL FIND A SUCKER WHO WILL PAY

AND IT WON'T BE LONG
 BEFORE YOU HEAR HIM SAY:
 "PEDROLINO, PEDROLINO
 THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU THANK YOU,
 PEDROLINO!
 I WAS REALLY IN A STEW
 BUT THEN YOU FINALLY CAME THROUGH
 AND NOW I OWE THE WORLD TO YOU
 DEAR PEDROLINO!"

PEDROLINO, PEDROLINO
 YOU SHOULD TAKE A GUY LIKE ME TO THE CASINO
 IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BUCK
 AND YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY STUCK
 I BET I FIND A WAY TO CHANGE YOUR LUCK TODAY
 PEDROLINO
 CAN FIND A WAY!

PEDROLINO (continued)

A good planning session begins with a brief inventory. Let's see, what do I have to work with? My wit... my talent... my youthful good looks! (considers) Alright... my wit and my talent... and... Aha! My master's ruby ring! This is certainly worth a gold coin... if I could only find a buyer.

(Looks off in the distance.)

Ah, luck! Could this be who I think it is? Here comes Captain Braggadocio. The Captain is a veteran of numerous battles - a bore of heroic proportions. (Captain enters) He is a man of many gold coins and excellent taste in jewelry. Signor Capitano!

ACTOR 2 (as CAPTAIN BRAGGADOCIO)

Good day, Pedrolino. (passes him by)

PEDROLINO

May I have a moment of your time, sir?

BRAGGADOCIO

(stops) A moment of my time? (music) You would like a moment of my time? (music underneath)

PEDROLINO

Just a moment.

BRAGGADOCIO

Well, certainly young man. You shall have (music) A Moment of My Time. The question is which MOMENT OF MY TIME (music) shall tell you about?

PEDROLINO

Ah...no...

SONG: A MOMENT OF MY TIME

BRAGGADOCIO

A MOMENT OF MY TIME?
 AN EXCELLENT REQUEST!
 A MOMENT OF MY TIME...
 LET'S SEE
 WHICH ONE WOULD BE BEST?
 THE SIEGE OF PATAGONIA?
 THE SACKING OF PERU?
 EACH SCAR YOU SEE ME WEARING
 TELLS A TALE OF DERRING-DO
 BUT WHICH DO YOU SUGGEST
 I SHARE WITH YOU?

PEDROLINO

Well, actually, I didn't want to hear...

BRAGGADOCIO

Of course!

THE BATTLE OF CONSTANTINOPLE!
 THAT'S IT WITHOUT A DOUBT
 A MEMORABLE ROUT
 THE BATTLE OF CONSTANTINOPLE!
 THE VISIGOTHS SURROUNDED ME
 AND LEFT ME NO WAY OUT!

PEDROLINO

Excuse me, but...

BRAGGADOCIO

THE ODDS WERE ASTRONOMICAL
 FIVE HUNDRED MEN TO ONE
 THE FILLED THE SKIES WITH HEATHEN CRIES...
 BUT STILL I DID NOT RUN.
 THEY THOUGHT
 THAT I'D TURN CHICKEN
 THEY WERE SURE THEY'D SEE ME BEG.
 BUT THEN I ROSE TO FIGHT THEM
 ARMED WITH JUST A CHICKEN LEG...
 and a half-eaten chicken leg, at that!

PEDROLINO

I hate to interrupt, but...

BRAGGADOCIO

I FELT MY PULSES QUICKEN
AND THE VISIGOTHS LOOKED STRICKEN
AS I GAVE THEM ALL A LICKIN'
WITH A SCRAWNY CHICKEN LEG!

THE BATTLE OF CONSTANTINOPLE!
IT WAS THE SORT OF THING
OF WHICH THE POETS SING.
THE BATTLE OF CONSTANTINOPLE....

PEDROLINO

That's a wonderful story, Captain, but I want to talk to you
about a ring...

BRAGGADOCIO

A ring? Of course!

THEY LIT A RING OF FIRE
AND THROUGH THE HAZE I WATCHED THE BLAZE
GROW HIGHER, EVER HIGHER.
THE AIR GREW HOT AND SMOKY
I FOUGHT THE URGE TO CHOKE
AS THE VISIGOTHS, INVISIBLE
APPROACHED ME THROUGH THE SMOKE!

Their war cries would have curdled a lesser man's blood.
Hey-ya-ya-ya! Hey-ya-ya-ya!

PEDROLINO

Can you believe this? I just want to sell this guy a ring.

BRAGGADOCIO

HA HA! I LAUGHED!
THE SCOUNDRELS HEARD ME SCOFFING.
HO, HO! I LAUGHED!
AND THEN I STARTED COUGHING.
I'D RECENTLY QUIT SMOKING
AND THEIR SMOKE HAD GOT ME CHOKING
BUT THEY KNEW I WASN'T JOKING
IT WAS TIME TO GO FOR BROKE!
I GRABBED THE NEAREST VISIGOTH
(Grabs Pedrolino, who cries out.)
HE STRUGGLED TO GET LOOSE
WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, HE TRIED TO FIGHT
BUT STILL IT WAS NO USE.
I LOCKED MY ARMS AROUND HIS NECK
AND BROUGHT HIM TO HIS KNEES
THEN I HEARD THE RASCAL
START TO BEG ME....

PEDROLINO

Captain, please! The ring!

BRAGGADOCIO

Yes, the ring of fire grew bright red....

PEDROLINO

No, Captain, this ring...

BRAGGADOCIO

Ring?

PEDROLINO and BRAGGADOCIO

(alternating) Ring, ring, ring, ring....

BRAGGADOCIO

Would someone answer that phone?

PEDROLINO

No, Captain, this ruby ring could be yours for one gold coin!

BRAGGADOCIO

(takes ring) Why this ring is worth thousands....

PEDROLINO

Yes, I know....

BRAGGADOCIO

THOUSANDS.... THOUSANDS OF VISIGOTHS
RETURNED TO JOIN THE FRAY.
THE ARROWS FELL LIKE HAIL FROM HELL
BUT I FOUGHT WELL THAT DAY.
I SEIZED A NEARBY PRISONER
AND USED HIM FOR A SHIELD
AND, BRANDISHING MY CHICKEN LEG
I DROVE THEM FROM THE FIELD!

(Grabs PEDROLINO and mimes fight.)

Ha! Ho! Ha! Ho! (etc)

PEDROLINO

Let go of me!

BRAGGADOCIO

HA HA! I CRIED
AS SOMEONE TRIED TO GRAB ME!
HO, HO, THEY TRIED
BUT NOBODY COULD STAB ME.

(He throws PEDROLINO aside. PEDROLINO sits down to wait him out.)

IN VAIN THEY TRIED TO FIND A PLAN.
I FOUGHT THE TRAITORS MAN BY MAN
TILL THROUGH THE BLOODY FIELDS THEY RAN
AND FLED CONSTANTINOPLE!

AS I SURVEYED THE BATTLEFIELD
IT WASN'T VERY NICE
BUT I KNEW WELL THE INFIDEL
HAD FINALLY PAID THE PRICE!

PEDROLINO

Price? Yes, Captain, the price! Only one gold coin for this handsome ruby ring!

BRAGGADOCIO

What a bargain that is? There you are, my good man. There is your gold coin!

PEDROLINO

And for you, noble warrior, there is your ruby ring.

BRAGGADOCIO

(admiring it) To the victor goes the spoils.
IN TRIUMPH I RETURNED
TO CLAIM A RICH REWARD
ONE COIN FOR EVERY VISIGOTH
I'D VANQUISHED WITH MY SWORD

THIS DEED REQUIRED BRAVERY
A VALUE MOST SUBLIME.
IT SEEMS THAT ONLY YESTERDAY
THAT I WAS IN MY PRIME.
WHAT BLISS IT WAS TO RECOLLECT
THIS MOMENT OF MY TIME!
MY TIME!!!!!!!

PEDROLINO

Thank you, Captain. Thank you for that wonderful story.

(Shakes hands and surreptitiously grabs the ring.)

BRAGGADOCIO

Yes it was. But, you know, Pedrolino, it was not really the finest moment of my time.

PEDROLINO

(uneasily) No.....

BRAGGADOCIO

There was the sacking of Peru.... It was in a driving Andes rainstorm that I....

PEDROLINO

(pushing him off) Well, Captain, it was nice talking with you.....

BRAGGADOCIO

...faced a thousand Incan warriors....

PEDROLINO

(still pushing) You do get around...

BRAGGADOCIO

Then... a mudslide...

PEDROLINO

(pushes him offstage) Some other time, Captain. Look how late it's getting. The old shadow on the sundial is getting long. (ushers Captain off, then to audience) Can you believe this guy.....

BRAGGADOCIO

(reenters) There I was swinging and fighting, and fighting and fighting and swinging. (continues)

PEDROLINO

Ahh! (joins in and starts singing) Swinging and fighting and fighting and swinging.. (swings the Captain off) Captain, watch out for that...

(Braggadocio lands offstage with a crash.)

BRAGGADOCIO

Ahhhhh!

PEDROLINO

I always thought that was a lousy place for a tree. I hope Arlecchino appreciates what I go through for him. Oh, you may be wondering how I can sell my master's ruby ring like that and not worry? Look at this. (takes ring from pocket) The hand is truly quicker than the eye. I wonder how long it will take before the Captain realizes this is gone.

But now, let's find our magician? (looks around) Ah, here he comes right on cue.

(Arlecchino enters in a stupor, strumming a guitar absentmindedly.)

PEDROLINO (continued)

(to Arlecchino) I said "magician" not "musician". (No response. To audience:) How does this guy make it through the day? (to Arlecchino) Welcome back, compadre. Now I will show you a magic trick. Voila! a gold coin, Just like that!

(No response from Arlecchino, strumming away.)

I see my magic has left you speechless. Arlecchino, are you there? Look, I have the gold coin and the ruby ring. Some magic, eh?

ARLECCHINO

That's nice. (working on his song)

PEDROLINO

What's going on here? Did you see the goose seller?

ARLECCHINO

(dreamily) What? Oh yes, I saw the goose seller.

PEDROLINO

Did you order the geese?

ARLECCHINO

Geese? Oh yes, the geese...

PEDROLINO

What is going on?

ARLECCHINO

Pedrolino, I'm in love!

PEDROLINO

With a goose?

ARLECCHINO

No, I'm not in love with a goose. I'm in love with the gooseseller - Columbina, the gooseseller! I'm composing a love song to win her affection.

PEDROLINO

Great, "love," that's all we need.

ARLECCHINO

(notices ruby ring on Pedrolino's finger) Wow! What a ring! Where did you get that ring?

PEDROLINO

Haven't you been paying attention?

(Arlecchino is staring rapturously at the ring)

I guess not. That is Pantalone's ruby ring.

ARLECCHINO

It's beautiful.

PEDROLINO

Yes.

ARLECCHINO

It's magnificent!

PEDROLINO

Yes.

ARLECCHINO

Can I borrow it?

PEDROLINO

Ye.....NO!

ARLECCHINO

Oh, please! Could I just wear it to the market?

PEDROLINO

No!

ARLECCHINO

Columbina would notice me if I wore a ring like this.

PEDROLINO

I'm sure she would, but I'm not going to let you borrow the ring.

ARLECCHINO

Come on, for a pal?

PEDROLINO

No.

ARLECCHINO

For love!

PEDROLINO

No!

ARLECCHINO

For a couple of minutes?

PEDROLINO

(aside) If I give him the ring there's sure to be trouble. But, if I don't give him the ring, the play will be over and everyone has to go home early. (to Arlecchino) Alright, you can borrow the ring.

ARLECCHINO

Aha!

PEDROLINO

But remember, that ring must be back on Pantalone's finger by sunset.

ARLECCHINO

You shall have the ring back within the hour. To the market!
(starts off)

PEDROLINO

Whoa! (holds up coin) The gold coin!

ARLECCHINO

(looks at it) What's that for?

PEDROLINO

To buy the geese.

ARLECCHINO

Oh yes, the geese. (starts off, stops, looks at ring, starts polishing it) What a ring...

PEDROLINO

Will you get going!

ARLECCHINO

(confused) Where?

PEDROLINO

To the market.

ARLECCHINO

(still confused) Why?

PEDROLINO

(take to audience) To buy the GEESE!!

ARLECCHINO

The geese? Oh yes, the geese...to theuh...

PEDROLINO

MARKET!

ARLECCHINO

Market, right! (exits)

PEDROLINO

Whew..... Let's see now. Arlecchino has the gold coin and ruby ring. Soon he'll have the geese and the girl. Is this our happy ending already? No, of course not. Not with Arlecchino. Nothing is ever quite that simple. Watch this. (exits)

ARLECCHINO

(enters) What a ring! This is a ring that would be worn by a man of...style. (Strikes what he thinks is a stylish pose) But how should I wear it? Any fool can wear a ring on a finger. But a man of ..style...(pose) would have to do something special. Let's see...it wouldn't look good on my ear. It wouldn't stay on my nose. Would it be dumb...to try my...thumb! That's it! That is ...style! (pose) That is class! That is.....(struggles with ring on thumb) ...stuck! Oh, no! The ring's stuck on my thumb. I'd better get the jeweler's help...(starts off) But wait! There is Columbina now! What a vision of loveliness! What a feast for the eyes!

(Columbina enters, she is outrageous.)

And she speaks with the voice of an angel. (listens)

(Musical underscore of "Get A Goose" as she enters.)

ACTOR 3 (as COLUMBINA)

(screeching) NEXT! NNNNNNNEEXXTTTT! Who's next?

(sings) GET YER GEESE
GET 'EM HERE
COME ON, MAKE IT SNAPPY, DEAR.

Who's next? I ain't got all day!

ARLECCHINO

Hello there, Columbina.

COLUMBINA

Oh, no. You again. Listen, I hope you brought your money this time. Like I told you before...No gold, no geese!

ARLECCHINO

I have the gold coin, but I have something else for you, as well....

COLUMBINA

Whaddaya talking about?

ARLECCHINO

I have a love song for you.

COLUMBINA

A what!

ARLECCHINO

May I sit down?

COLUMBINA

NO!

ARLECCHINO

Thank you. (starts strumming guitar)

SONG: THE RING OF LOVE

ARLECCHINO

WHAT A PRECIOUS THING
 IS THE LADY I SING
 HOW RARE IS THE FAIR COLUMBINA.
 LIKE THE RUBY RING
 THAT YOU SEE ME WEAR,
 (She sees the ring and reacts with astonishment.)
 COLUMBINA'S A JEWEL
 BEYOND COMPARE.
 HAVE YOU SEEN HER EYES?
 THEY'RE A WONDERFUL PRIZE
 LIKE DIAMONDS, THEY SPARKLE AND SHINE
 AND I YEARN TO POSSESS
 SUCH LOVELINESS...
 COLUMBINA, PLEASE WON'T YOU BE MINE?

COLUMBINA

That's so beautiful.

ARLECCHINO

Do you like it?

COLUMBINA

It's magnificent.

ARLECCHINO

It's just for you.

COLUMBINA (aside)

THIS LITTLE FELLOW'S CUTE AND KIND OF FUNNY.
DO YOU SUPPOSE HE HAS A LOT OF MONEY?
THOUGH HEAVEN KNOWS HE'S NOT REALLY A SINGER,
CHECK OUT THAT ROCK HE'S WEARING ON HIS FINGER!
HE MAY BE AN ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE
HE MAY BE SOMEONE'S HUSBAND, I DON'T CARE
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE MOST TERRIFIC THING
I EVER LAID EYES ON.
WHEN I FIRST SAW THE RING I NEARLY FAINTED
PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR US TO GET ACQUAINTED
I CAN TELL THAT WE'LL GET ALONG FINE
AND I HAVE TO POSSESS
ITS LOVELINESS
THAT RUBY IS GOING TO BE MINE!

ARLECCHINO

WHAT A PRECIOUS THING

IS THE LADY I SING

HOW RARE IS THE FAIR
COLUMBINA.

LIKE THE RUBY RING

THAT YOU SEE ME WEAR

COLUMBINA'S A JEWEL
BEYOND COMPARE.

HAVE YOU SEEN HER EYES?

THEY'RE A WONDERFUL PRIZE

LIKE DIAMONDS, THEY SPARKLE
AND SHINE
AND I YEARN TO POSSESS
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COLUMBINA, PLEASE WON'T YOU
BE MINE?

COLUMBINA

THIS LITTLE FELLOW'S CUTE
AND KIND OF FUNNY.
DO YOU SUPPOSE HE HAS A LOT
OF MONEY?
THOUGH HEAVEN KNOWS HE'S NOT
REALLY A SINGER,
CHECK OUT THAT ROCK HE'S
WEARING ON HIS FINGER!
HE MAY BE AN ECCENTRIC
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HE MAY BE SOMEONE'S HUSBAND,
I DON'T CARE
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WHEN I FIRST SAW THE RING I
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PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR US TO
GET ACQUAINTED
I CAN TELL THAT WE'LL GET
ALONG FINE
AND I HAVE TO POSSESS
ITS LOVELINESS
THAT RUBY IS GOING TO BE
MINE!

ARLECCHINO

THIS BARNYARD DIVA
GIVES ME A FEVER

COLUMBINA

WHO IS THIS FELLA?
A ROCKEFELLER?
HE LOOKS SO WEALTHY

ARLECCHINO

SHE LOOKS SO HEALTHY

COLUMBINA

MY DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE!

ARLECCHINO

AND SO COQUETTISH...

COLUMBINA

JEWELS ARE MY FETISH!

ARLECCHINO

I WANT THAT!

COLUMBINA

ME TOO!

ARLECCHINO

SHE'S CUTE AS THE DICKENS
OH HOW MY PULSE QUICKENS
TO GAZE AT HER THERE
'MIDST THE DUCKS AND THE CHICKENS

COLUMBINA

THAT RING IS MY THING
IT'S A REAL HUMDINGER
IMAGINE THAT BLING
DECORATING MY FINGER

SO RARE AND SO PRECIOUS,

ARLECCHINO

SO FAIR AND SO FINE,

BOTH

MY SOUL HAS BEEN RAVISHED
BY A RAPTURE DIVINE,
LIKE THE FEELING OF GOOSEFEATHERS
TICKLING MY SPINE
HEAR ME NOW
AS I VOW
THAT, SOMEHOW,
IT/SHE IS GOING TO BE MINE!

COLUMBINA

What a gorgeous ring (grabs his hand and inspects ring) I didn't know you had a ring like that!

ARLECCHINO

Of course I have a ring like that. I am a man of ...style.
(pose)

COLUMBINA

It's beautiful!

ARLECCHINO

Yes.

COLUMBINA

It's magnificent!

ARLECCHINO

Yes.

COLUMBINA

Oooooo... I would love to have a ring like that!

ARLECCHINO

Oooooo... I would love to give you a ring like that!

COLUMBINA

You would give me that ring? How wonderful! (tries to pull ring off his thumb)

ARLECCHINO

(pulls away) I would... but I can't give you that ring.

COLUMBINA

Whaddaya mean, you can't give me that ring? What kind of creep are you?

ARLECCHINO

I'm not a creep. I am a man of ...style. (pose)

COLUMBINA

Oh yeah. Well, it ain't very stylish (mocks pose) to promise a person a ring and then not give it to her.

ARLECCHINO

You don't understand. I can't give you this ring because...(gets idea) ...because it's stuck on my thumb!

COLUMBINA

So, it's stuck on your thumb, eh?

ARLECCHINO

That's the truth.

COLUMBINA

We'll just see about that. (grabs his hand, tugs at ring)

ARLECCHINO

Yeeeeoooooww!

COLUMBINA

You're right it is stuck.

ARLECCHINO

That's what I was telling you.

COLUMBINA

Here, let me try again. I'm really good at getting things unstuck. (grabs his hand starts twisting)

ARLECCHINO

No, don't do that. I'll go to the jeweler....Ahhhh!

COLUMBINA

You just have to twist it the right way. (stuggles mightily)

ARLECCHINO

Stop. Let me go! Let's talk about something else. That's a lovely dress you're wearing. Aaaaaooooooo.....

COLUMBINA

(hops up on bench, puts her foot on his chest, grabs ring and pushes) We're getting somewhere now!

ARLECCHINO

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHH (trying to keep his cool) Nice shoes. Are they Italian? (The ring finally slips off, Arlecchino goes sprawling across the floor) Yeeeeoooooww!

COLUMBINA

There it's off! I knew I could do it. You should thank me!

ARLECCHINO

(in agony) Thank you?

COLUMBINA

You're welcome. What did you say your name was?

ARLECCHINO

(still in pain) Arli....Arli... (realizes what has happened) The ring! (leaps up from the floor, lunges at Columbina. She sidesteps him)

COLUMBINA

What a sparkler. You know, Arly-Arly.. you're kind of cute.

ARLECCHINO

Yes, but....(leaps again) the ring!

COLUMBINA

(sidesteps again) It's beautiful. Nicest present anyone ever gave me.

ARLECCHINO

Present!

COLUMBINA

Wait right here, Arly-Arly. I'll get your geese. (exits)

ARLECCHINO

Present? Not present. (calling off to here) That's the wrong word ...not ...present ...no (he realizes the magnitude of the problem) ...the ring ...shering ...PedrolinoPantalonering ...Ahhhhhhh (faints)

COLUMBINA

(reenters carrying bag of geese) Here are your geese handsome. I had a hard time getting them in the bag. They're so lively. Just like you, hotshot... Oh look, how cute. He's asleep. (softly) Wooo-oooo, Arly- Arly...wake up. (softly) Wooo-ooo. Arly-Arly.... (screams) WAKE-UP!

ARLECCHINO

(bolts up) Ahh!

COLUMBINA

Here are your geese, sugar. (hands him bag) Be sure you hold the bag tightly so they don't get out...

ARLECCHINO

(takes bag) Uh...I have to talk to you about the... (notices the ring is gone from her finger) ...the ring! (looking) Where's the ring?!!!

COLUMBINA

Er..ring? ...uh, what ring?

ARLECCHINO
The ring I just gave you.

COLUMBINA
Oh.....that ring.

ARLECCHINO
Where is it?

COLUMBINA
Uh....there's a problem.

ARLECCHINO
Don't tell me the ring is gone.

COLUMBINA
The ring is gone.

ARLECCHINO
I asked you not to tell me that.

COLUMBINA
Oh... well... it isn't really...gone.

ARLECCHINO
Thank goodness.

COLUMBINA
It's...in the bag.

ARLECCHINO
In the bag? The ring is in this bag? Aha! I have the bag. I have the ring! I'll just be running along. (starts off)

COLUMBINA
Wait, you don't understand.

ARLECCHINO
(stops, turns) What?

COLUMBINA
One of the geese ate the ring.

ARLECCHINO
(pause) A goose ate the ring?Ahhhhh (faints)

COLUMBINA
Arly-Arly wake up! wake up!

ARLECCHINO

(sits up) Oohhhh... What happened?

COLUMBINA

You fainted.

ARLECCHINO

Why did I faint?

COLUMBINA

Because I told you a goose ate the ring.

ARLECCHINO

AAAhhhhhh! (faints)

COLUMBINA

Not again. Get up. (helps him up)

ARLECCHINO

How did a goose eat the ring?

COLUMBINA

Well, I was putting them in the bag, and one of them must have just snatched it off my finger. I'm awfully sorry. But, don't worry.

ARLECCHINO

Why? Why shouldn't I worry?

COLUMBINA

You can get me another ring. It doesn't even have to be a ruby. It could be a diamond or a pearl. I ain't picky. Good luck with your geese. See you later, cutie pie. (exits)

ARLECCHINO

(Stands looking after her, then to audience) What a girl!
(returns to reality) What a mess! I have to find that ring!
(reaches into bag, there is great squawking, as a goose grabs his finger) Ahhhhhhhh! (pulls hand out of bag) Oooo! This is awful. I told Pedrolino he'd have the ring back within an hour, Now he's going to have it back ...within a goose. (take) What am I going to do?

(A "honk-honk" comes from inside the bag. He faints.)

Ahhhhhhh.....

ZANNI

(offstage) Arlecchino! (enters) Arlecchino? (sees Arlecchino) Arlecccchinnnooo! What are you doing? This is no time for a nap! Have you forgotten the Countess is coming to dinner? Did you get the geese?

ARLECCHINO

(wakes up, jumps up) Zanni! Ahhh!

ZANNI

I said, did you get the geese!

ARLECCHINO

The geese? Uh...no....(there is great squawking from bag)

ZANNI

Nooooo?

ARLECCHINO

Did I say "no"? I meant "yes"! Yes I got the geese.

ZANNI

Then give them to me. (grabs the bag starts off)

ARLECCHINO

(grabs bag back) No! I can't give you the geese.

ZANNI

What is wrong with you? I must have those geese for dinner. (pulls the bag)

ARLECCHINO

(pulls bag back) I can't give you the geese?

ZANNI

What? Why?

ARLECCHINO

Uh...they'respecial geese.

ZANNI

Of course they're special geese. They're for the Countess's dinner. I'll give them to the cook right away.(pulls bag)

ARLECCHINO

(pulls bag back) You can't give them to the cook!

ZANNI

What has gotten into you?

ARLECCHINO

The problem is, what has gotten into the geese? (laughs weakly at his joke)

ZANNI

Enough of your foolishness! The cook is waiting. Give me those geese!

(They struggle back and forth with bag, finally Arlecchino wrests it away from Zanni)

ARLECCHINO

Wait, I've got it! They're special geese, right? They have to be cooked in a special way ...specially for the Countess's special dinner! And...I have to cook them myself. That's it! I have to cook these geese. It's a special method. My own secret recipe. I use eleven herbs and spices.

ZANNI

Ooooooo, sounds delicious!

ARLECCHINO

Oh yeah. They're "finger lickin' good"!

ZANNI

I didn't know you could cook!

ARLECCHINO

Oh sure, I can cook. Chef Boy-ar-chino, that's what they call me. Yes indeed, I'll take care of these geese. You go home. Polish the silver....set the table.... (pushing him off)

ZANNI

Alright, but don't delay! Those geese must be ready by sunset!

ARLECCHINO

And they will! Now, go! (shoves him off) Oh, this is terrible...

ZANNI

(reenters) And if those geese aren't ready by sunset, you won't live to see the next sunrise....(exits)

ARLECCHINO

(Calling off) Thank you for those words of encouragement! (to audience) This is terrible. Zanni needs his geese. The Countess needs her dinner. Pantalone needs his ring. If only Pedrolino were here, he'd tell me what to do. (looks around) But, he isn't

here. So, it looks like I'll have to handle this myself. Ahhhhh!
(faints)

PEDROLINO

(enters, singing) When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza
pie.... (walks past Arl, stops, looks) What's this? Funny place
for a nap. Arlecchino, are you alright?

ARLECCHINO

(still lying flat) No!

PEDROLINO

What's the matter?

ARLECCHINO

Everything.

PEDROLINO

Get up, my friend, tell me what's wrong.

ARLECCHINO

(sits up) I don't know how to put this.

PEDROLINO

Is there a problem with the ring?

ARLECCHINO

Ahhh... there's a problem with the ring.

PEDROLINO

Nicely put. Where's the ring?

ARLECCHINO

(handing him bag) In the bag.

PEDROLINO

Good.

ARLECCHINO

In a goose!

PEDROLINO

What!!???

ARLECCHINO

A goose ate the ring!

PEDROLINO

What do you mean, "a goose ate the ring"? (looking into the bag)
Which goose is it? (reaches in, with great squawking, goose
grabs his finger. He pulls hand out of the bag.) Ahhhhh!

ARLECCHINO

One of those in the bag.

PEDROLINO

(counting) There are ...eight geese in here.

ARLECCHINO

That's a gaggle!

PEDROLINO

I'll say. What are we going to do?

ARLECCHINO

I was hoping you would know.

PEDROLINO

Relax, my friend. It's simple

ARLECCHINO

I hope so:

PEDROLINO

(gives Arlecchino the bag) Take the geese to the kitchen. When
the cook prepares the geese for the oven, you'll find the ring.

ARLECCHINO

Why didn't I think of that?.

PEDROLINO

Off you go.

ARLECCHINO

To the market! (starts off)

PEDROLINO

No! To the kitchen.

ARLECCHINO

Right! To the kitchen! (starts off, stops) To find the ring!
(starts off, stops) This is so exciting!

PEDROLINO

Will you get going! (shoos him off)

ARLECCHINO

Right! (exits)

PEDROLINO

(to audience) So, now while Arlecchino solves the problem, it looks like a good time.... (He sits back as if to nap) ...for me to...

COUNTESS

(enters, stops Pedrolino) Ho there!

PEDROLINO

Countess!

COUNTESS

Aren't you the one who gave me directions earlier?

PEDROLINO

Yes, you were looking for the ..ah ...Coliseum. Did You find it?

COUNTESS

Coliseum? Where did you get that idea? I'm looking for Zanni's

PEDROLINO

Ohhhh... Zanni's. Why didn't you say so?

COUNTESS

I was told it is very near this square.

PEDROLINO

Well, yes and no.

COUNTESS

What do you mean?

PEDROLINO

It is near "a" square. Now, here's what you want to do.

COUNTESS

Do you know what you're talking about?

PEDROLINO

Always. (pointing) You see that chestnut tree behind the church just beyond the hill past the shoemaker's shop at the end of this road?

COUNTESS

I can't see that far!

PEDROLINO

No wonder you have such a problem with directions. Just follow this road past the shoemakers, go over the hill, and when you come to the elm tree, Zanni's...

COUNTESS

I thought you said the chestnut tree.

PEDROLINO

There are two of them, a chestnut and an elm. When you get to those trees...that grove.... that arboretum, Zanni's house is in the second square to the east.

COUNTESS

But that doesn't....

PEDROLINO

Oh, look, the sun is getting low. (ushering her off) You better get moving, You wouldn't want to miss dinner with Zanni.

COUNTESS

No I wouldn't. I hope he's serving geese again.

PEDROLINO

Me too... (pushes her offstage, then calls off to her) Walk slowly. It improves the appetite.

(Pantalone enters silently. He stands angrily behind Pedrolino. Pedrolino turns and bumps into him.)

(startled) Ah!

PANTALONE

Ah, yourself. Where's my ring?!!!!

PEDROLINO

Your ring is on its way..

PANTALONE

On its way where? (offstage honk)

PEDROLINO

Good question.

PANTALONE

Enough of your riddles. I want that ring. So fetch it!

(PANTALONE bops PEDROLINO. PEDROLINO ducks the next swing and PANTALONE spins and bops himself.)

Nice shot, sir.

PEDROLINO

Just go and get that ring!

PANTALONE

I'm off! (starts off)

PEDROLINO

(enters and stops Ped before he can exit) Hold it right there!

ZANNI

Ah. Master Zanni!

PEDROLINO

Where's your buddy, Arlecchino?

ZANNI

He's in your kitchen helping with dinner.

PEDROLINO

No, he's not.

ZANNI

(confused) He should be.

PEDROLINO

He's not in the kitchen. And worse, there are no geese in the kitchen!

ZANNI

What!

PEDROLINO

Don't just stand there. Find Arlecchino. Get me some geese!

ZANNI

Right. (starts off)

PEDROLINO

And get my ring!.

PANTALONE

Certainly.

PEDROLINO

PANTALONE and ZANNI

GOOOOOOOOO!

PEDROLINO

Happily! (exits)

(PANTALONE & ZANNI look after PEDROLINO for a moment. Then they look at each other. Then...)

PANTALONE and ZANNI

Arrrrrgh, SERVANTS! (Music.)

THE MASTERS' SONG

ZANNI

CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW HARD IT IS
TO FIND GOOD HELP NOWADAYS

PANTALONE

I CAN REMEMBER THE WAY THINGS WERE
BACK WHEN A SERVANT WOULD CALL YOU "SIR".

ZANNI

YOU TRY TO TEACH THE FOOLS RESPECT
BUT THEY NEVER MEND THEIR WAYS

PANTALONE

NOWADAYS THEY WALK ALL OVER YOU
THEY'VE REALLY GOT THEIR NERVE

PANTALONE and ZANNI

NO MATTER HOW WE TRY TO SHOW THEM WHO'S THE MASTER
THE SITUATION ALWAYS TURNS INTO DISASTER.
CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW HARD IT IS
TO FIND GOOD HELP NOWADAYS?
WHEN WILL WE EVER GET
THE SERVICE WE DESERVE?

ZANNI

I WANT A SERVANT WHO CAN KEEP THINGS NEAT
TO FILL MY TUBBY AND MASSAGE MY FEET

PANTALONE

TO FETCH A TODDY AND A HOT HORS D'OEUVRE.
I WANT A SERVANT WHO KNOWS HOW TO SERVE.

ZANNI

INSTEAD I'M LUMBERED WITH A HALF-WIT CLOWN
WHO'S TURNED THE SITUATION UPSIDE-DOWN.
THIS KNAVE OF A SLAVE
WILL SEND ME TO AN EARLY GRAVE.

PANTALONE and ZANNI
DO YOU BELIEVE HOW HARD IT IS
TO FIND GOOD HELP NOWADAYS?

PANTALONE
WE DO OUR DARNDDEST, BUT HEAVEN KNOWS
IT SEEMS WE'RE ALWAYS ON OUR TOES...

(They do a corny old-fashioned dance, cracking wise and
disparaging one another.)

<p>ZANNI THEY HELP THEMSELVES TO OUR HARD-EARNED CASH AND SPEND IT ON A LOT OF FOOLISH TRASH THEY PLAY ALL NIGHT AND SLEEP ALL DAY</p>	<p>PANTALONE OH, THAT ARLECCHINO OH, THAT PEDROLINO OH, HOW WELL DO WE KNOW</p>
--	---

PANTALONE and ZANNI
THEY ACT LIKE TEENAGERS, YOU'D HAVE TO SAY
WHEN YOU DON'T WANT 'EM, THEY WILL INTERFERE,
BUT WHEN YOU NEED 'EM, THEN THEY DISAPPEAR.
THEY KNOW EVERY TRICK...

ZANNI
I THINK THEY NEED A GOOD SWIFT KICK!

PANTALONE and ZANNI
CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW HARD IT IS
TO FIND GOOD HELP NOWADAYS.

ZANNI
MY ARLECCHINO IS JUST A CURSE

PANTALONE
MY PEDROLINO IS EVEN WORSE

PANTALONE and ZANNI
YOU TRY TO TEACH THEM WHAT TO DO
BUT IT SEEMS IT NEVER PAYS.
JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT THEM STRAIGHTENED OUT,
THEY THROW ANOTHER CURVE.

PANTALONE
I'VE HAD IT RIGHT UP TO HERE WITH THEIR MALARKEY

PANTALONE and ZANNI
HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE PATRIARCHY?
DO YOU BELIEVE HOW HARD IT IS

TO FIND GOOD HELP NOWADAYS

ZANNI
WHEN WILL WE EVER GET THE SERVICE...

PANTALONE
I'M AFRAID IT MAKES ME NERVOUS...

PANTALONE and ZANNI
THAT WE'LL NEVER GET THE SERVICE WE DESERVE!

PANTALONE
(bows) Until later, my friend.

ZANNI
(bows) Until dinner, signor.

(Humming, Pantalone dances off. Zanni starts off. Loud honking offstage)

PEDROLINO
(enters) Arlecchino!

ZANNI
You!

PEDROLINO
Zanni!

ZANNI
What are you doing?

PEDROLINO
I'm looking for... the Countess.

ZANNI
Is she here?

PEDROLINO
She just passed through the square, but she missed your house.

ZANNI
Oh no!

PEDROLINO
She's headed off in the wrong direction. You'd better catch her.

ZANNI
Oh yes. Which way did she go?

PEDROLINO

That away. (offstage honk from that direction) No, that away.

ZANNI

Make up your mind!

PEDROLINO

There she goes! Hurry and you can catch her.

ZANNI

(exiting) Countess, come back! (Offstage honking.)

ARLECCHINO

(enters) Stop him!

PEDROLINO

(calls off) Zanni!

ARLECCHINO

Not him. The goose!

PEDROLINO

Wait a minute. What's going on?

ARLECCHINO

They're gone!

PEDROLINO

Who?

ARLECCHINO

The geese!

PEDROLINO

No!

ARLECCHINO

Yes! They hopped out of the bag in the kitchen. This is terrible!!!

PEDROLINO

Pull yourself together. We have to round up those geese.

ARLECCHINO

But Zanni needs geese for dinner now!

PEDROLINO

So, we'll buy more geese.

ARLECCHINO

How are you gonna do that? You don't have a gold coin.

PEDROLINO

I'll get a gold coin. You go find the goose with the ring
(offstage honk) There's one now. Go!

ARLECCHINO

To the market!

PEDROLINO

To the goose!

ARLECCHINO

Right! (exits) (Offstage honking)

COUNTESS

(enters running) Help. I'm being chased by a goose. You!

PEDROLINO

Don't worry, Countess, I'll get him. (to goose) Hey, come back here!

COUNTESS

(chasing Pedrolino) Hey, come back here. (exits)

(Honking off - Countess reenters)

Ahhh, someone stop that goose! (exits)

PEDROLINO

(enters) I'm trying. I'm trying! (starts off)

BRAGGADOCIO

(off) You there!

PEDROLINO

Uh, oh. Here comes trouble with a capital "T" and that rhymes with "B" and that stands for "Bore". I bet the Captain wants to know where his ring is.

BRAGGADOCIO

(enters) Where's my ring?

PEDROLINO

I never get tired of being right.

BRAGGADOCIO

I know you have my ring.

PEDROLINO

Correction, Capitano. I had your ring, but I don't have it now.

BRAGGADOCIO

What's going on?

PEDROLINO

I can explain.... uh... (gets idea) ...ah! Do you know the lovely gooseseller Columbina?

BRAGGADOCIO

What does she have to do with my ring?

PEDROLINO

She has fallen madly in love with you.

BRAGGADOCIO

(softening) Me?

PEDROLINO

She wants to marry you.

BRAGGADOCIO

Smart girl.

PEDROLINO

So, I gave her your ruby ring as an engagement present!

BRAGGADOCIO

Wonderful, I must go meet my bride to be.

PEDROLINO

You can't.

BRAGGADOCIO

Why not?

PEDROLINO

(thinking) Why not... why not... ah! Because of your mustache.

BRAGGADOCIO

(stroking mustache) Dashing, eh?

PEDROLINO

It has to go.

BRAGGADOCIO

Where?

PEDROLINO

Away, Columbina hates mustaches.

BRAGGADOCIO

Oh?

PEDROLINO

But don't worry, I can shave that off for you right now and it will only cost you one gold coin.

BRAGGADOCIO

Stop, I could never shave this mustache.

PEDROLINO

I'll throw in a haircut.

BRAGGADOCIO

Never! This mustache and I have been through too many battles together. Have I ever told you about the Battle of Constantinople....

PEDROLINO

Yes, yes!

BRAGGADOCIO

Then you know why I could never shave this mustache. The wedding is off. Go fetch my ring back from that woman.

PEDROLINO

I don't think I can do that.

BRAGGADOCIO

Then, I shall have my gold coin.

PEDROLINO

That's going to be even tougher.

BRAGGADOCIO

(drawing sword, threatens Pedrolino) I shall have my gold coin, or I will show you how I treated those Incan warriors....

PEDROLINO

(pushing sword away) I get your point.

BRAGGADOCIO

Bring me the gold coin at Zanni's. I'm dining with the Countess. Don't delay. (exits)

PEDROLINO

Great, now we need two gold coins, one for him and one to replace the one eaten by the geese. Alright, think... What I need is a foolish person with a pocketful of gold coins. But where am I going to find such a person quickly?

PANTALONE

(off) Pedrolino!

PEDROLINO

Thank you, Zeus!

PANTALONE

(off) Pedrolino, where are you?

PEDROLINO

Over here noble master.

PANTALONE

(enters) There you are! (raising the stick) The ring, man, where's the ring!

PEDROLINO

(Holds up his hand to stop him) Ah! (Pantalone freezes, then) I gave it away!

PANTALONE

Ah! (drops stick) You...? Ah.....erg....uuhhh (goes into cardiac arrest, grabs heart) You gave?eeerrgg.....ooffff!ring?.....aggggggg! Elizabeth, I'm coming to see you!!! Agggg. Errggggg.....

PEDROLINO

Easy there.....(supports him) Calm, calmbreathe deeply.....That's it. In....out....in....out.... Now, try the puff blows here. They usually help.

PANTALONE

Puff... pufff..... (calming down)

PEDROLINO

Now, a deep cleansing breath..

PANTALONE

(calms) Ahhhhh.....ehhhhh.....

PEDROLINO

That's better. Let me explain....Do you know the lovely goose seller, Columbina?

PANTALONE

What does she have to do with my ring?

PEDROLINO

I must tell you Ah...well... Of course! Columbina has fallen madly in love with you.

PANTALONE

Me?

PEDROLINO

Yes. She wants to marry you.

PANTALONE

Me? She wants to marry me? Hot diggity!

PEDROLINO

So, I gave her your ruby ring for an engagement present.

PANTALONE

That's why you gave my ring away! Good work, Pedrolino. Oh, you are a clever servant! (slaps him on back) Now I must go meet my bride-to-be.

PEDROLINO

You can't!

PANTALONE

Why not?

PEDROLINO

Because.... uh... of your smile!

PANTALONE

My smile?

PEDROLINO

It's almost perfect.

PANTALONE

Almost?

PEDROLINO

Except for that one crooked tooth in the front. Surely you've noticed that.

PANTALONE

Well, not really...

PEDROLINO

You can't meet your bride with an ugly crooked tooth dangling in your mouth.

PANTALONE

Of course. But where will I find a dentist to fix it?

PEDROLINO

Don't worry. I just happen to know a dentist who will fix it right now. But, he will charge you one gold coin.

PANTALONE

Find him! I don't care what it costs. I must have a perfect smile.

PEDROLINO

And so you shall.

PANTALONE

Go get the dentist! (shoves Pedrolino off)

PEDROLINO

Don't move. (Pantalone freezes) The dentist will be here in a minute.

(Music, as Pedrolino slips around behind Pantalone and puts on dentist disguise)

PANTALONE

(holding pose. He is quiet for a moment. Then he turns to audience) I wonder why I shouldn't move? Must have something to do with oral hygiene. (thinks) Orel Hygiene. didn't he pitch for the Dodgers in '88?

PEDROLINO

(disguised as dentist with a bag of tools)

SONG: DOCTOR BUFFO

DOCTOR BUFFO
DOCTOR BUFFO
HE CAN FIX YOUR ROTTEN "TOOF"
AND THAT'S THE "TROOF"-OH! (TRUFFAUT?)

IF YOUR TOOTH IS LOOKING RANK
JUST LET HIM GIVE THE THING A YANK
AND YOU WILL SOON BE SAYING
THANK YOU, DOCTOR BUFFO

WHERE IS THE FELLOW WHO SAID THAT HE NEEDED A DENTIST?

PANTALONE

(still holding pose) That was quick!

PEDROLINO

LUCKY FOR YOU, I WAS IN-A THE NEIGHBORHOOD
WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE IN TROUBLE
I CAME OVER ON THE DOUBLE,
AND NOW, I'M GONNA FIX YOU, YES...
I'M GONNA FIX YOU GOOD!

SO SMILE!
HOW 'BOUT A SMILE FOR DOCTOR BUFFO?
YES, SMILE
I'M HERE TO FIX YOUR ROTTEN TOOF-O.
MY SKILL
WILL GIVE YOU QUITE A THRILL
ESPECIALLY THE DRILL
JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE!
NEVER FEAR
I'M-A HERE
GIVE A CHEER FOR DOCTOR BUFFO, THAT'S-A ME!

SO YOU SAY YOU NEED A DENTIST?
YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER ONE!
AS A LAD, I WAS APPRENTICED
TO ATTILLA THE HUN
AND I RECENTLY COMPLETED MY GRADUATE DEGREE
AT THE MARQUIS DE SADE SCHOOL OF PAINLESS DENTISTRY!

Now then, Senor Crooked Tooth! Let's have a look!

PANTALONE

(still holding pose) I never dreamed it was that bad.

PEDROLINO

(grabs Pantalone's head, swings him around in a circle. Stares into mouth.) Bad? BAD? It is UGLISSIMO! It is almost as uglissimo as that rotten tooth next to it.

PANTALONE

Rotten??!!

PEDROLINO

Si! Mama mia, your whole mouth is (stares into mouth, moves away gagging) ...MOLTO DISGUSTO! But, don't worry, for one gold coin I fix you up!

PANTALONE

Do it quickly. I'm to meet my bride-to-be!

PEDROLINO

Then I got here just in time.

PEDROLINO (continued)

I KNOW YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR WEDDING
THE MOMENT WHEN THE KNOT IS FIN'LLY TIED
IMAGINE THAT YOU'VE MADE IT TO THE ALTAR
YOUR BRIDE-TO-BE IS STANDING BY YOUR SIDE
AND THEN SHE SEES YOUR ROTTEN SMILE!
SHE'LL TURN AND BEAT IT UP THE AISLE
AND ALL THE WEDDING GUESTS WILL SING,
LA-LA-LA-LA, THERE GOES THE BRIDE!

Sit down. (throws him onto bench) I'll just get my instruments ready, presto! Presto! (Throws instrument bag into his stomach.)

PANTALONE

Oooooffff! Be careful with the instruments, will you!

PEDROLINO

(pulls out spaghetti tongs) First we pull the rotten tooth!
(hands Pantalone the tongs)

PANTALONE

Is this what you pull teeth with?

PEDROLINO

Si, that's a "tong" depresseroni. (pulls out a rolling pin) Then we straighten out the crooked tooth! (demonstrates) Ha! Ho!
(hands it to Pantalone)

PANTALONE

You straighten teeth with this?

PEDROLINO

Only use that for the upper crust clients. And then... (pulls out egg beater) ...the ROOT CANAL!

PANTALONE

Root canal???!!!

PEDROLINO

For one more gold coin you could have braces! (hands Pantalone egg beater, takes tongs)

PANTALONE

Just get me to the church on time.

PEDROLINO

SAY AAH
 AND OPEN WIDE FOR DOCTOR BUFFO
 SAY AAH, AH, AH, AH,
 DON'T TRY TO HIDE FROM DOCTOR BUFFO
 YOU'LL SHRIEK
 WITH JOY AT MY TECHNIQUE
 YOU'LL FEEL IT FOR A WEEK
 AND THAT'S THE HONEST TRUTH!

And a one, and a two..

PANTALONE

What's with the exercises?

PEDROLINO

I DON'T WANT TO PULL A MUSCLE, JUST A TOOTH!

(Starts toward Pantalone with "Jaws" theme)

PANTALONE

Nooooooooooooo! (Leaps up, runs away. Tools go crashing to the floor) Ahhhhh!

PEDROLINO

Come back here! (grabs him by cape, bops him on head with the tongs)

PANTALONE

Ahhhhh! (stops)

PEDROLINO

You must have a magnifico smile for your wedding.

PANTALONE

Oh yes, I guess I must.

PEDROLINO

Then, sit back down, please. (throws him down on bench)

PANTALONE

Ahhhhhhh!

PEDROLINO

I fix you up andante cantabile!

PANTALONE

Be gentle!

PEDROLINO
 SO YOU WANT ME TO BE GENTLE?
 WELL, I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN.
 WHEN IT COMES TO MATTERS DENTAL,
 I'M A SENTIMENTAL MAN,
 DON'T YOU WORRY, PANTALONE,
 TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO...

You know how kind you are to your servant, Pedrolino? Huh? Huh?
 HUH?

THAT'S HOW KIND I'LL BE TO YOU!

Now, say "ah."

PANTALONE
 Ah. (opens mouth slightly)

PEDROLINO
 Wider.

PANTALONE
 Ah.... (slight improvement)

PEDROLINO
 WIDER! (stomps his foot on Pantalone's toe)

PANTALONE
 AAAHHHHHHH!!!!

PEDROLINO
 NOW FIRST, WE PULL THE TOOTHY-WOOTHY THIS WAY
 AND THEN WE PULL THE TOOTHY-WOOTHY THIS WAY
 AND NOW
 WE PULL IT UP AND DOWN
 AND MOVE IT ALL AROUND
 UNTIL WE BREAK IT FREE!

THEN WE TWIST
 AND WE YANK
 THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME,
 JUST-A PAY MY FEE:
 ONE GOLD COIN FOR DOCTOR BUFFO,
 THAT'S-A ME!

PANTALONE
 (falls back in pain) Ooooo, ahhhhh, owwww....

PEDROLINO

(looks at tongs) Ooops, we didn't get the little toothy woothy. Let's try again. (starts for Pantalone)

PANTALONE

(grabs egg beater from floor, holds it as a weapon) Don't move!!! One more step and you're whipped cream, buddy.

PEDROLINO

But, senor...

PANTALONE

Careful, I know how to use this thing!

PEDROLINO

Your wedding...

PANTALONE

Forget the wedding! Forget the tooth! Everything is off! I can't go through with this.

PEDROLINO

Too bad. In that case... (pulling out piece of paper) Here you go. (hands it to Pantalone)

PANTALONE

What's that?

PEDROLINO

My bill. That will be one gold coin, please.

PANTALONE

Bill? You expect me to pay you for torturing me? This is what I think of your bill and your gold coin. (crumbles paper into a ball, throws it at Pedrolino) I'll keep my crooked tooth. The wedding is off! I must find Pedrolino and get my ring back from that woman. (exiting) Pedrolino! Where are you? Find that woman and fetch my ring. Pedrolino! Ahhhhhhhhhh.....

PEDROLINO

Arrivederci, Senor! (to audience, as Pedrolino, taking off dentist disguise) Do you think I went a little too far? Oh well, it was fun while it lasted. Oh, don't worry about Pantalone. He'll be fine when the pain goes away.

(Honking offstage.)

COUNTESS

(off) Ahhhhh...

PEDROLINO

And speaking of pain, look who's back.

(More honking)

COUNTESS

(enters) Someone stop that goose! (exits)

PEDROLINO

Gladly! (hides behind a column ready to pounce)

ARLECCHINO

(off) Get the goose!

(More honking, ARLECHHINO enters, PEDROLINO grabs him.)

PEDROLINO

Got him.

ARLECCHINO

Stop!

PEDROLINO

You're not a goose.

ARLECCHINO

No, and you just let one get away.

PEDROLINO

Great.

ARLECCHINO

The geese are all gone. Scattered. We'll never find the ring.

PEDROLINO

What are we going to do now?

ARLECCHINO

You'll think of something -- you always do.

PEDROLINO

Yes! That's right I always do.

ARLECCHINO

So?

PEDROLINO

Alright then, let's begin by reviewing the situation.

SONG: OUR GOOSE IS COOKED

PEDROLINO

OLD ZANNI WANTS HIS GEESE
PANTALONE WANTS HIS RING
THE CAPTAIN WANTS HIS COIN
IT'S A VERY SIMPLE THING,

ARLECCHINO

A VERY SIMPLE THING..

PEDROLINO

THERE MAY BE A SOLUTION
THAT WE HAVE OVERLOOKED

ARLECCHINO

BUT UNLESS WE FIND IT PRONTO
I THINK OUR GOOSE IS COOKED

BOTH

THE HEAT IS ON!
I THINK THAT WE'RE IN TROUBLE
THE HEAT IS ON!
LET'S BEAT IT ON THE DOUBLE
YES, ON YOUR FEET
OR PREPARE TO MEET DISASTER
WE'D BETTER MAKE IT FAST OR
I THINK OUR GOOSE IS COOKED!

(PEDROLINO and ARLECCHINO start off. Offstage they see ZANNI coming their way. ARLECCHINO exits opposite way. PEDROLINO hides onstage)

ZANNI

I'VE GOT TO HAVE THOSE GEESE
THE HOUR IS GROWING LATE
ARLECCHINO WILL BE SORRY
THAT HE EVER MADE ME WAIT!

HE'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE
FOR HOURS NOW I'VE LOOKED
JUST WAIT UNTIL I FIND HIM...
ARLECCHINO'S GOOSE IS COOKED!

(ZANNI exits. PEDROLINO starts off, sees PANTALONE enter and hides again)

PANTALONE

I WANT THE RUBY RING
 THAT PEDROLINO TOOK
 I THINK HE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT
 AND SOLD IT TO A CROOK.

I'LL TAKE HIM TO THE JAIL
 AND HAVE THE RASCAL BOOKED.
 JUST LET ME GET MY HANDS ON HIM
 THAT FELLOW'S GOOSE IS COOKED!

(Zanni re-enters.)

ALL THREE

THE HEAT IS ON!

PANTALONE

JUST WAIT UNTIL I FIND HIM! (exits)

PEDROLINO and ZANNI

THE HEAT IS ON!

PEDROLINO (aside)

DON'T TELL HIM I'M BEHIND HIM! (exits)

ZANNI

I WANT THOSE GEESE!
 I'D SETTLE FOR A CHICKEN

PEDROLINO

THE PLOT'S BEGUN TO THICKEN

ZANNI and PANTALONE

(Seeing PEDROLINO) You!!!!!!

PEDROLINO

AND I THINK OUR GOOSE IS COOKED.

(ZANNI and PANTALONE chase PEDROLINO off.)

PANTALONE

(offstage) Pedrolino!

(Pedrolino reenters, then hears...)

COUNTESS

(offstage) You there!!!!

(He starts off in another direction. He sees The Captain and
 hides onstage. The Captain enters.)

BRAGGADOCIO

I'VE GOT TO HAVE THAT COIN
 I PAID HIM LONG AGO
 NOBODY PLAYS A TRICK
 ON CAPTAIN BRAGGADOCIO

"A MOMENT OF MY TIME"
 THAT'S WHAT'S HE'S GOING TO GET
 AND IT WILL BE A MOMENT
 THAT HE NEVER WILL FORGET!

(Captain BRAGGADOCIO thinks he is sitting on a bench, but he actually sits on PEDROLINO. PEDROLINO leaps up. The Captain is thrown forward. He turns to see PEDROLINO. When the Captain runs toward him, PEDROLINO tricks the Captain into looking the other way. PEDROLINO exits. The Captain realizes the trick and exits after. Pedrolino reenters)

PEDROLINO

PEDROLINO, PEDROLINO
 I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO QUICKLY SPLIT THE SCENE-O
 WHEN YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS FAIL
 AND YOUR ABOUT TO GO TO JAIL
 DON'T WASTE TIME, JUST MOVE YOUR TALE
 SAYS PEDROLINO

(PEDROLINO starts to exit. He runs into ARLECCHINO. They both try to exit by another path. They see someone coming, and pose in front of the center backdrop pretending to be part of the fountain.)

COUNTESS (enters)

I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT HOUSE
 IT'S HERE SOMEWHERE I KNOW
 OLD ZANNI WAS EXPECTING ME
 A LITTLE WHILE AGO

(Arlecchino tries to suppress a sneeze)

I FOLLOWED THOSE DIRECTIONS
 BUT I MUST HAVE MISSED A TURN
 AND IF I'M LATE FOR DINNER
 I FEAR HIS GOOSE WILL BURN!

(ARLECCHINO sneezes, and falls from his pose.)

COUNTESS

Bless you!

ARLECCHINO

Ah! (exits)

COUNTESS

(sees him leave) Hey!

(The COUNTESS then sees PEDROLINO still in his pose. Suspicious, she starts tickling him. He holds his pose. Satisfied, she exits. PEDROLINO bursts into laughter.)

PANTALONE

(offstage) Pedrolino!

(Pedrolino resumes his pose as Pantalone enters and walks right past Pedrolino)

Pedrolino! Where are you? Where's my ring? Where is... where is everybody?? (exits)

(PEDROLINO grabs the stick Pantalone dropped earlier and swings it offstage to bop Pantalone. Instead he hits Columbina offstage)

COLUMBINA

(pushes Pedrolino onstage) What do you think you're doing?

(She grabs the stick and bops Ped. He runs off.)

Arly-Arly, where are you? I got something to tell you! (she exits)

PEDROLINO (enters)

THE HEAT IS ON!
OUR FEET ARE TO THE FIRE!

ARLECCHINO (Enters)

THE HEAT IS ON!
WE'RE GOING TO THE WIRE!

BOTH

THE HEAT IS ON
GETTING HOTTER BY THE MINUTE!
WE HAVEN'T GOT THE RUBY RING
THE GEESE, THE GOLD, OR ANYTHING

PEDROLINO

THEY'LL HAVE OUR HEAD

ARLECCHINO

WE'RE GOOD AS DEAD

BOTH
OH YES, OUR GOOSE IS... COOKED!

PEDROLINO
Arlecchino, this is hopeless. I am fresh out of ideas.

ARLECCHINO
I was afraid of that.

PEDROLINO
(to audience) I'm sorry but there may not be a happy ending to this thing after all. (to ARLECCHINO) If only you hadn't made that gold coin disappear in the first place!! (head in hands)

ARLECCHINO
I know, I know! I can't understand. I've done that trick a hundred times. It's so simple! You just take off your hat, and you say "a trick that's good for young and old -- in my hat, I find the gold". You reach in, pull out a gold coin. (He pulls out a gold coin, but doesn't notice) I don't know why I can't do that. It should be right...there!

(ARLECCHINO and PEDROLINO both see the gold coin at the same time.)

ARLECCHINO and PEDROLINO
THE GOLD COIN!

ARLECCHINO
I knew I could do it! Now Zanni can have his geese.

PEDROLINO
That's great... but we still need a coin for the Captain.
(pause) You don't suppose --

ARLECCHINO
I'm a magician, aren't I? Here we go. A trick that's good for young and old - in my hat, I find the gold!

(Another coin appears.)

PEDROLINO
Arlecchino, you're a genius!

ARLECCHINO
Yeah... genius!

PEDROLINO

Give me the coin, and I'll take care of the Captain. Use the other one to buy more geese from Columbina! (exits)

ARLECCHINO

To the market (starts off, stops) But wait! We have a gold coin for the Captain. We have a gold coin to buy the Countess's dinner. What about Pantalone? If we had one more gold coin, we could buy him a new ruby ring! Here we go. A magician's song I love to sing as in my hat I find...the jack of hearts. Oh boy, I never get tired of that trick. To the market! Columbina, here I come. (starts off)

COLUMBINA

(enters) Arly-Arly! Yoo-hoo! Arly-Arly!

ARLECCHINO

Columbina!! Just who I was looking for.

COLUMBINA

Ooooo, it's my man of style! (pose)

ARLECCHINO

We don't have time for that. Here's a gold coin - go back to the market and send another gaggle of geese to Zanni's right away.

COLUMBINA

Another one? What happened to the first gaggle?

ARLECCHINO

They escaped.

COLUMBINA

You should be more careful with your geese.

ARLECCHINO

It was all your fault.

COLUMBINA

My fault? What did I do?

ARLECCHINO

I was trying to find the ruby ring.

COLUMBINA

Oh ...you mean this ruby ring? (pulls it from her pocket)

ARLECCHINO

Yes, that ... (multiple takes) WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

COLUMBINA

(laughs) I found it right after you left. I guess I made a little mistake -- a goose didn't eat it after all! It must've just fallen into my pocket! Isn't that funny? (laughs)

ARLECCHINO

(laughs with her) ...Funny. Funny? (fake laughter)
Har-dee-har-dee-har-dee har-har. I don't think it's funny at all!

COLUMBINA

Oh, you don't? Well, I'll tell you something. I could never marry a man without a sense of humor.

ARLECCHINO

What!

COLUMBINA

And besides that your style is definitely on the way out. Take back your ring. (gives him ring) You've seen the last of me. (exits) A girl has to maintain some standards.

ARLECCHINO

Wait, Columbina! Come back! (looks after her, looks at ring, makes his choice) Well, at least I have the ruby ring. Wait til Pedrolino sees this! He's going to find out he's not the only clever servant in this play! Here he comes now.

PEDROLINO

That's that -- the Captain is happy. How'd you do with Columbina?

ARLECCHINO

The geese are on their way to Zanni's.

PEDROLINO

So, Zanni should be happy, too. But what about Pantalone?

ARLECCHINO

I have an idea.

PEDROLINO

We don't need any more of your ideas.

ARLECCHINO

Why don't we just give him his ring?

PEDROLINO

Because we don't HAVE the ring, Arlecchino!

ARLECCHINO

Oh, really? What do you call this? (produces ring)

PEDROLINO

The ruby ring! Where did you get that?

ARLECCHINO

Let's just say I worked a little of my magic!

PEDROLINO

My friend, from now on, you can show me your tricks anytime you want.

ARLECCHINO

I can? That's great! Because I have a brand-new card trick for you.

PEDROLINO

Oh great...

ARLECCHINO

But first we need an elephant. Let's go find one. (starts off)

PEDROLINO

An elephant?

ARLECCHINO

Yeah. You know how they say elephants never forget? We're gonna find out. Come on! (exits)

PEDROLINO

I'm right behind you, Arlecchino! (to audience) An elephant????

COUNTESS

(enters) Stop!!!!

PEDROLINO

Countess, we can't go on meeting like this.

COUNTESS

What is going on?

PEDROLINO

Going on?

COUNTESS

You have sent me up and down every street in this village and I still have not found Zanni's house. What are you up to?

PEDROLINO

Up to?

COUNTESS

Just what is all this madness?

PEDROLINO

I believe it could be called a "wild goose chase".

COUNTESS

What?

PEDROLINO

But it's all over now. May I show you the way to Zanni's. Dinner will be served soon.

COUNTESS

Are you sure?

PEDROLINO

Without a doubt. Come along. I hope you enjoy geese for dinner.

COUNTESS

Oh, I do...

PEDROLINO

(starting her off) Then go ahead, Countess. It's the second door on the right.

COUNTESS

Oh! However did I miss it the first time? (exits)

PEDROLINO

An easy mistake. It happens all the time.

(He starts to follow, stops and walks downstage to address the audience)

By the way, that's the story of the gold coin, the ruby ring, and the gaggle of geese. I promised you a happy ending.

SONG: FINALE

OUR PLAY IS DONE
WE HOPE YOU HAD SOME FUN
THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA

ACTOR 3

OUR STORY'S ENDED HAPPILY
FOR NEARLY EVERYONE

THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THE COMMEDIA

ACTOR 2

IT'S A TRICK WE'VE HAD THE KNACK OF
EVER SINCE THE RENAISSANCE

ALL

YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE THE AUDIENCE
EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTS
SO NOW WE'RE THROUGH
WE HOPE THAT YOU
WILL CHEER FOR ALL YOUR WORTH
VIVA LA COMMEDIA!
(Come on, everybody!)
VIVA LA COMMEDIA
(One more time!)
VIVA LA COMMEDIA
THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

THE END