

DAME

MUSIC CUE: BALLS CREEP

SILLY BILLY: That's better! My balls are in safe hands! I'd better go. I have to go and help shave the bearded lady or 'Mum' as she's better known!

DAME(OFF): I heard that!

SILLY BILLY: Whoops! Bye everyone!

HE RUNS OFF. DAME GERTIE ENTERS.

MUSIC CUE: 'THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DAME' PLAY ON

DAME: Look at you all! I never thought I'd see so many people in my ring... I am Dame Gertie Dollop and welcome to the world renowned Dame Gertie's Circus! Here we are in Cannyville pitching a tent and would you just look at all the gorgeous fellas in here! [*To three men:*] You're gorgeous and you're gorgeous and you're gorgeous... [*To a fourth:*] Good evening! What's your name? Sorry? No, I heard you I'm just sorry! I'm newly single you know [NAME OF MAN]. I lost my husband...I never was very good at poker! Our relationship was like a VISA debit card transaction...contactless! I could do with some fiscal funding actually [NAME OF MAN] because you know what boys and girls...I'm poor! I'm poorer than that! We haven't got a pot to pass around. The circus is a flipping flop! We may have fallen on hard times and had to make some cut backs but the show must go on! Roll up! Roll up! Come and lose yourself in our amazing hall of...mirror. Marvel at the astonishing two headed Cobra born with only one head. Though I must apologise; Madame Bella the fortune teller is currently unavailable...due to unforeseen circumstances! It's lucky I've got my boy Silly Billy by my side. Speaking of Silly Billy, have you seen him? I love him dearly but he is dim. Mind you he was born during a power cut! Where has he got to now? [*Noticing the juggling balls:*] Hang on a minute, what are these doing here?

SHE APPROACHES THE JUGGLING BALLS. SILLY BILLY ENTERS.

SILLY BILLY: Get your hands off my balls! Mum, it's you!

DAME: Don't you "Mum, it's you" me you! Have you been clowning around?

SILLY BILLY: No! I promise.

DAME: I don't believe you! What are you doing with juggling balls anyway? You can't juggle...

SILLY BILLY: Oh yes I can! I can juggle plates one handed...

DAME: Really? What do you do with the other hand?

SILLY BILLY: Pick up the pieces!

DAME: Enough of your nonsense! I need you to clean up after the Elephants.

SILLY BILLY: But I don't want to!

DAME: Don't get shirty with Gertie!

SILLY BILLY: I haven't been trained.

DAME: You don't need training...you can just pick it up as you go along! [*Handing him a broom.*] Here Son, you'll need this.

SILLY BILLY: What is it?

DAME: It's a revolutionary new broom.

SILLY BILLY: Is it?

DAME: Yes! It's been sweeping the nation!

COLOSSUS ENTERS.

COLOSSUS: [*Handing her a letter.*] This is for you Dame Gertie.

DAME: Oh! Ladies and Gentlemen, look! Our star attraction! This is Colossus, the world's shortest giant...Who is this from?

COLOSSUS: Peter.

DAME: Peter the Fire Eater? "Dear Dame Gertie, I'm sorry but I cannot perform in the show tonight as I have...heartburn." Tell him to have a Gaviscon and get on stage or he'll be gone!

COLOSSUS: He won't take Gaviscon.

SILLY BILLY: I wouldn't either...the last thing I want is a tiny fireman spraying my organs with his hose.

DAME: Speak for yourself son! [*To Colossus:*] Get back to work you. I don't pay you to stand around.

COLOSSUS: You don't pay us at all!

COLOSSUS EXITS.

DAME: What are we going to do Billy? No fortune teller, no fire eater! We'll have to cancel the show!

SILLY BILLY: Why don't you give me a chance? I could be in the show.

DAME: What would you do?

SILLY BILLY: I could be a clown!