

# SCENE ONE: A WEALTHY LONDON STREET

## SONG: LONDON

BELL ENTRY

LONDON  
Heart of the nation  
Wonderful place to be!  
LONDON  
Full of tradition  
And good society.

*Chorus*

L O N D O N LONDON  
L O N D O N LONDON  
L O N D O N LONDON  
LONDON

L O N D O N LONDON  
L O N D O N LONDON  
L O N D O N LONDON  
LONDON

*LONDON STOLE MY HEART AWAY  
LONDON STOLE MY HEART*

LONDON  
Capital city  
Interesting and diverse.  
LONDON  
City of Commerce  
Filling the nation's purse.

*Chorus*

LONDON  
Historical City  
Home of the River Thames  
LONDON  
City of Culture  
Storing the nation's gems

*Chorus*

*Extra*

*LONDON STOLE MY HEART AWAY  
LONDON STOLE MY HEART*

BELL EXIT

*Dick enters*

Dick: Oh, hello everyone! My name is Dick Whittington and I have come down from the North of England to London to make my fortune.  
Do you know what? I have been told that the streets of London are paved with gold but I haven't seen any yet.

Can anyone tell me where I can find the streets that are paved with gold?

*(Audience interaction)*

There are none! Are you sure?

*(Audience interaction)*

Oh, no! What a disappointment.

*Lights start to dim*

Oh dear! It's beginning to get dark already and I haven't found anywhere to sleep yet. I can hardly keep my eyes open. *( Yawning)*

I have been walking for days and I am absolutely exhausted.

These cobble stones don't look too inviting. I need somewhere I can be sheltered from the cold. *(Looks around)*

Ah! There's a doorway over there, in that fine looking house. Now that looks a good place to rest.

*(Sits in the doorway yawning)*

I'm starving. All I've got left now is this apple I found in an orchard just outside London.

*(Starts to eat it and falls asleep).*

*House door opens and the Cook comes through*

Cook: Oi! Ragamuffin! What are you doing on Mr Fitzwarren's step?

Dick: *( Trying to wake up.)* Er! Er! I need to sleep.

Cook: You need to sleep! Well, not 'ere you don't.

*(She kicks him off the step)*

Get off! Go on, scram, you little varmit!

This place is for decent human beings with a bit of class.

Dick: Pay pity on me, please, Madam? I have come to London to seek my fortune!

Cook: Yeah! Yeah! That's what they all say.

*(Holds her nose)* Whoa! When was the last time you had a wash?

Dick: *(Embarrassed and moving away from her )* I'm sorry.

Um! Perhaps you could help me!

Cook: I very much doubt it!

Dick: I came to London because I was told the streets were paved with gold.

Cook: *(Laughs)* So, you're not right in the 'ead then.

Come on, off you go! I need to get to my bed, not be 'ere on the doorstep dealing with a ragamuffin like you. Go on, off you go!

Mr Fitzwarren is a wealthy merchant. He doesn't want little scruffs like you hanging around 'ere. 'Op it!

*Cook goes back through the door.*

*Dick stands staring after her.*

Dick: Oh dear! I can't get my brain to think straight. I am so tired.  
What a nasty person that cook is. Do you think she is nasty, boys and girls?  
I am so very tired. I don't know where to go.  
Do you think the cook will come back again?  
That doorway wasn't comfortable but it did give me some shelter.  
There's no-one around. Shall I go back to the doorway and try to sleep?  
Shall I?  
Will you tell me if the Cook comes back, please?  
Thank you.

*Dick goes back to the step.*

*The house door opens. Dick jumps out of the way and Alice comes through.*

Alice: Don't go, young man!

*Dick turns and looks at her. It's love at first sight for both of them.*

Dick: Oh! Who are you?

Alice: I've been watching you from my window. I'm Alice Fitzwarren.

Dick: The wealthy merchant's daughter?

Alice: Yes.

I heard the dreadful way cook treated you.  
I'm so sorry she was unkind.

Dick: Thank you, Alice. I am so exhausted; I can hardly keep my eyes open.

Alice: Please come here! I won't bite you.

Dick: Cook said that I smell.

Alice: Cook is unkind. Please come here! What's your name?

Dick: I am Dick Whittington, and very pleased to meet you.  
I've come from the North to find my fortune.

Alice: I see. Many people do that. They think London is the answer to all their problems but it is a hard place to live and you will need to find a job. That may not be so easy.

Dick: I was going to start looking tomorrow.

Alice: How long have you been travelling for?

Dick: Weeks!

Alice: You must be exhausted. What about your family, Dick?

Dick: (*Sadly*) I don't have a family anyone.

Alice: Oh poor you! Listen! I will ask my father if he can help.

Dick: Will you? How kind you are Alice.

Alice: Father returns home tomorrow. You can sleep in the box room for the night. I will get you something eat.

Dick: Thanks

Alice: Come on in!

(*To the audience*) I hope my father won't mind. He is a kind man, I am sure it will be all right.

## SCENE TWO: DICK'S BEDROOM

*Dick is pacing around the room unable to sleep.*

Dick: Thank goodness it's morning. It was so kind of Alice to let me stay here but it has been very hard to sleep. This place is alive with rats and mice. They have been scampering over my bed all night. They have even walked over my face and got under the bedcovers. It's been just like Celebrity Big Brother. Urgh!

*The mice and rats pop out of the holes.*

M&R We got 'ere first sonny!

Dick: Oh no you didn't!

M&R: Oh, yes we did!

Dick: Oh, no you didn't!

R1 Yeah! This is our room! So don't you mess with us, young man.

Dick: You're disgusting!

M1 You don't smell too hot yourself, sonny!

R1: Yeah! Go on! Clear off back up North!

Dick: I'm not going anywhere.

M&R Oh yes, you are!

Dick: Oh, no I'm not!

M&R But you don't know that yet! (Laughter)

R1: Anyway, we have ways means of getting rid of people, don't we?

M2 Ways and Means! What's that mean?

R1: Shut up!

Dick: I've got a way and means of getting rid of you.

R1 Oh yeah, wise boy, and what's that?

Dick: A cat!

M&R: Urghhhhh!

*Mice and rats exit*

Dick: That's stopped your nonsense!  
Oh! I hope Alice comes to get me soon.

*Knock on the door*

Alice: (*Outside*) Are you awake, Dick?

*Dick tidies up his clothes and checks his armpits*

Dick: Yes, Alice. Come in!

*Enter Alice. They gaze lovingly into each other's eyes*

Dick: Oh Alice! You look so lovely.

Alice: Do I, Dick? Thank you! I am glad you are awake. Did you sleep well?

Dick: Er... yes, thank you Alice.

Alice: I thought so, because it's ten o'clock and you've been asleep for ages. I didn't like to knock and wake you.

Dick: You could never spoil my sleep, Alice. Is it really that late?

Alice: Yes and my father is here.

Dick: Oh dear! Does he want me to leave?  
(*Dick starts to gather up his belongings*) It's all right, I'll go straight away.

Alice: No, Dick! I have told him about you and he wants to help. I think he will let you stay. So at least you will have a roof over your head, whilst you look for work.

Dick: Oh, Alice! You have been so kind to me. I don't know how I can repay you.