

SAMPLE SCRIPT – KITTY WHITTINGTON EXCERPT

SCENE ONE

Downstairs in Mr Fitzwarren's house, a place bustling with activity, people coming and going, meals being prepared, meals being cleared up, and a whole lot of gossip.

Opportunity for an upbeat dance routine – the household staff going about their business. The routine could include the whole cast or just the characters in the scene, as required. After the dance, play some music while the dancers exit and the actors get into position. This could be a few instrumental bars from one of the songs, e.g. "Rats & Mice"

Groves What's her name then, this new girl?

Bernard I believe it's Kitty, sir.

Groves Kitty as in 'biscuity'?

Bernard Yes, Mr Groves. I believe she's very fond of them.

Groves Quite right, I'm very partial myself. And where is she now?

Bernard I believe that Mrs Tilbury has taken her under her wing.

Groves Oh the poor thing: a stinky place to be, and no mistake. We must look out for her.

Bernard I'll keep my ear to the ground.

Groves No, don't do that, you'll get a bad back. Just keep your eyes peeled. Go and see what they're up to whilst I plump the cushions in the drawing room.

Bernard Yes, Mr Groves.

They go their separate ways as Cecily, Mary and Kitty enter in their kitchen garb, along with the maid, Emily.

Kitty I do hope I haven't upset Mrs Tilbury already. She turned purple when I dropped that pan.

Emily Don't worry, her corset was probably too tight.

Cecily Or she had a sweet stuck in her throat. She likes her sweets does Mrs Bilberry.

Sarah, another maid, enters and overhears this.

Sarah Don't be disrespectful, Cecily, you know perfectly well what she's called.

Mary She's only joking, Sarah. Here, come and meet Kitty.

Without moving towards her, Sarah looks Kitty up and down, then looks back to Mary.

Sarah Well, she certainly belongs in the kitchens, that's for sure. She might even be able to put some flesh on her bones.

Kitty (*irritated*) It's a pleasure to meet you, too.

Sarah If Mr Fitzwarren takes in any more waifs and strays, he might as well turn this place into an orphanage.

Emily Sarah, don't be so rude.

Sarah It's not rude if it's the truth. Now, if you'll excuse me, some of us have work to do.

She exits haughtily, watched by the others.

Kitty Gosh. Well she's welcoming.

Cecily That's her on a good day!

Mary It can't be easy, having Mrs Tilbury as a mother.

Kitty Mrs Tilbury's her mother?

Mary Of course. If I were her, I think I'd be pretty annoyed with the world too.

Cecily If Mrs Tilbury were my mother ...

Mrs Tilbury enters and is immediately seen by Cecily, who stops speaking and looks decidedly sheepish.

Mrs Tilbury If Mrs Tilbury were your mother then Mrs Tilbury would tie a lead weight to her own legs and jump into the deepest part of the river.

Cecily I'm sorry, Mrs Tilbury, I didn't realise you were there.

Mrs Tilbury I am always here, Cecily: twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, slaving away with barely a word of gratitude from anyone. Least of all him upstairs.

Cecily Who, God?

Mrs Tilbury He might as well be for all the power he wields.

Kitty Mr Fitzwarren? But he's lovely. I've never met a kinder or more generous man in my life.

Mrs Tilbury turns on Kitty.

Mrs Tilbury Oh is that right? Well, come, sit down, tell me all about him, this kind and generous man whom you've known for all of two minutes.

Kitty Erm ...

Mrs Tilbury Forget that I've spent a lifetime filling his ungrateful belly with my delicious cooking, you clearly know him better than any of us.

Kitty I'm sorry.

Mrs Tilbury Go on, get to bed, all of you, I expect you in the kitchen at 6am sharp. *(to Kitty)* And as for you, you can be here at five.

Kitty Um ... yes, Mrs Tilbury.

Mrs Tilbury Kind and generous. Hmmmph.

Mrs Tilbury exits powerfully.

Kitty She really doesn't like me, does she?

Cecily Don't worry, she doesn't like anyone. Well, apart from Mr Groves!

The other girls snigger.

Emily Is your room okay, Kitty? I bet it's quite windy at the top of the house.

Kitty I was so tired last night that I didn't really notice. I'm just grateful to have a roof over my head again.

Emily He's a kind man, Mr Fitzwarren.

Cecily And James too. He's very kind.

Mary Right, come on, before the swooning starts.

Cecily All I meant was ...

Mary *(interrupting)* We all know what you meant. You're about as subtle as a rolling pin. Now hurry up, it's nearly midnight already.