

Words in **bold** are explained at the end

#### Scene 9 – All's well that ends

**NARRATOR:** So, where's Dick Whittington all this time? Isn't he supposed to be the hero? Doesn't he want to be Lord Mayor of London anymore?

**SNOW:** *[fade up]* ... It's very valuable, I think. I don't know, it's some kind of talking mirror, that's what I've heard anyway...

**DICK:** A talking mirror?

**SNOW:** Yahuh. I think she bought it in America.

**DICK:** Is it for blind people?

**SNOW:** No, no, you ask it questions and it answers them. Like she asked it, Who's **the fairest** of them all? and apparently this mirror said that I was...

**DICK:** Well, you know, that's no surprise to me. You are very very pretty...

**SNOW:** Really? Do you think so?

**DICK:** Oh come on Snow, you must know you're gorgeous!

**SNOW:** *[coy]* Well, I did have a suspicion... but it's ever so nice to hear it confirmed.

**DICK:** You're beautiful.... And if I were more than just a rotten Assistant Paperclips Officer I'd ask you to...

**SNOW:** Ask me to what, Dick?

**DICK:** Well... I'd ask you to be my girlfriend. But I know that a **swell** girl like you **would never be seen dead** with an ordinary guy like me..... would you?

**SNOW:** *[Thinking]* No-o.... but... maybe if your cat does really well in the Rat-Catching Contest and you become Lord Mayor then -

**DICK:** The Rat-Catching Contest! I completely forgot about that! It's five past four - the tail counting will have already started! Come on, we're late!

**FULBRIGHT:** *[fade up]* And lastly, with an absolutely incredible thirty-one tails we

have Tiddles! Can we get a warm saucer of milk for young Tiddles?  
And will the owner please come forward?

**DICK:** I can't see Apple anywhere!

**SNOW:** They're about to announce the winner!

**FULBRIGHT:** *[off tanoy]* He doesn't have an owner? So... what do we do now? - we can't have a cat as Lord Mayor!

**DICK:** *Quelle surprise.* I knew Apple wouldn't help me become Lord Mayor. He really is the most selfish animal in the whole world...

**SNOW:** Wait Dick....

**DICK:** What?

**SNOW:** That music.... It must mean Apple's coming back just in time...

**DICK:** You're right!

**FULBRIGHT:** Well, it's the first time it's happened in eight hundred years, but I can now announce that... hang on, I think we have a last-minute entrant... we have a cat at the back of the crowd... who appears to be floating...

**DICK:** Look! There's Apple! But he's not floating, he's being carried...

**SNOW:** By rats!

**APPLE:** Good people of London... do not run away in fright! I come in peace and goodwill as an ambassador for my good friends, the rats of London, who today saved my life.

I have something very important to say about the rats of London. Too long they've been **confined** to the shadows and sewers of our great city, afraid for their tiny lives, while we hunt them down with traps and poisons and **so-called** 'sporting events' like this. Too long, we have **retained** false ideas and **stereotypes** about our **fellow** creatures – who are actually very clean animals....

**SOMEONE:** What about **the Plague** then?

**APPLE:** Oh, that was ages ago! You know, Plagues... happen from time to time, and everybody goes a bit crazy, and some people die, but we haven't had a plague in this country for over three hundred years ... I just think... we need **to get over** the Plague... If you make my master, Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, he'll work with the rats of London to ensure that we never see a plague ever again!

**FULBRIGHT:** *[very moved]* What is your name, good cat?

**APPLE:** My name is Apple, my lady.

**FULBRIGHT:** That's a very strange name for a cat, but I can now tell you that you are the winner of the 134th Rat-Catching Contest! Who is your master?

**DICK:** That's me, I'm his master, my lady. Here I am, Dick Whittington. Well done Apple. ConRATulations. Get it? ConRATulations-

**FULBRIGHT:** Is this man really your master?

**APPLE:** Hmmm.... I'm not sure actually...

**DICK:** Apple! What do you mean, 'I'm not sure'? It's me, Dick! Your old **buddy!**

**APPLE:** I've never seen this man before in my life.

**DICK:** How can you say that? I'm your oldest friend. Come on, let's go out to celebrate. I'll get you that nice tuna steak I promised.

**APPLE:** Oh you're all friendly now, now that you're about to become Lord Mayor of London. Where were you when I needed you? Getting cosy with Princess over there, **no doubt.**

**DICK:** Ah yes, Apple. I want you to meet Snow White...

**SNOW:** Hello Apple. I've heard all about you.

**APPLE:** I'm sure you have.

**FULBRIGHT:** Look, I really need to get home. Is he your owner or not?

**APPLE:** Maybe.... Oh all right. Yes, he's my owner.

**DICK:** Oh Apple, thank you! I'll never forget this!

**FULBRIGHT:** Dick Whittington, I hereby pronounce you Right Honourable Lord Mayor of London!

**NARRATOR:** (Twee, 1940's) And so, the Lord Mayor's carriage makes its way slowly down Oxford Street, surrounded by crowds of rats, cats and people. What a fine summer's day to have a Lord-Mayor-making-celebration. Yes and what a fine young man this Richard Whittington is. Let's just hope he's got enough **spunk** for this most difficult and challenging job. There are so many things that a Lord Mayor has to do... he has to ensure that Big Ben is fed twice a day, and that all tourists pronounce the word 'Greenwich' correctly and of course his most important job of all is to make sure that the entire city of London never, ever runs out of paperclips...

**DICK** What's that you say? Paperclips! I thought I **was finished with** all that! Oh well, at least as Lord Mayor of London I'll be able to marry Snow White...

**SNOW:** What's that you say? Marry you! I said I'd **go out with** you, but no one ever mentioned the big white dress! **One step at a time**, Lord Mayor!

**DICK** OK, OK... one step at a time. But... you will go out with me, won't you?

**SNOW:** On a trial basis..... OK. I'll go out with you.

**NARRATOR:** And so they might not be **happy ever after**, but let's hope our friends Dick Whittington, his cat Apple and Snow White will be moderately content for a good amount of time... The End.

Dick Whittington was played by Jackie Dalton, Apple by William Kremer; Neil Edgeller was Franky Banky; Snow White was played by Elena Newton and Amber Barnfather was Tigger. Rats 1-30 were all played by Catherine Chapman, Zappo the Wonder Horse -

**BIG VOICE** ZAPPO THE WON-DER HOR-SE!!!

**LITTLE VOICE:** [fast] 07700 900009. Special rates apply.

**NARRATOR:** Yes, all right. Zappo the Wonder Horse was played by...

**BIG VOICE** ZAPPO THE WON-DER HOR-SE!!!

- yes, all right - by Nuala O'Sullivan as Top and Dima Kostenko as Bottom; Sylvania Fulbright was Paul Scott... and my name is Callum

Robertson.

**ALL:** Good-bye!

## Vocabulary

### **‘All’s Well That Ends’**

This is a humorous misuse of the Shakespearian phrase *All’s well that ends well* – which means that a happy ending to something is more important than how it is achieved

### **the fairest – ‘Who’s the fairest of them all?’**

an old-fashioned word meaning *the most beautiful*

### **swell – ‘...a swell girl like you...’**

American slang meaning great, super

### **would never be seen dead – ‘...a swell girl like you would never be seen dead with an ordinary guy like me’**

would hate to be seen by people in that situation, e.g.:

*I wouldn’t be seen dead wearing that skirt*

*I wouldn’t be seen dead with her*

### **‘Quelle surprise’**

a French phrase occasionally used in English. It’s used sarcastically, to show that we are not surprised by something.

### **to be confined – ‘...they’ve been confined to the shadows and sewers of our great city’**

to be kept somewhere, not allowed to leave

### **so-called – ‘so-called ‘sporting events’ like this’**

used to show that other people describe something in this way, but we don’t necessarily agree with their words. Apple does not think that hunting rats should be called a ‘sport’.

### **to retain – ‘... we have retained false ideas ... about our fellow creatures’**

a formal word, meaning *to keep*

### **a stereotype – ‘...false ideas and stereotypes about our fellow creatures’**

(negative) an idea which is commonly thought about a group of people, but which is not true of everyone in that group, e.g.:

*It’s such a stereotype that British people only eat fish and chips*

### **fellow – ‘...about our fellow creatures...’**

an adjective describing someone who has a similarity to you: cats, rats and humans are all creatures

**the Plague – ‘What about the Plague then?’**

the Great Plague was a disease that killed around 100,000 people in England in 1665. It was spread by rats. The word *plague* is still used to describe a disease that causes fever, swelling and death.

**to get over something – ‘...we need to get over the Plague...’**

informal, to gradually recover from something:

*I'm cautious about getting into another serious relationship at the moment. I've only just got over my last boyfriend.*

*It took years for her to get over the shock.*

Apple is using the phrase to mean *to accept something*, e.g.:

*Look, I don't like your friends, all right?! Get over it!*

**buddy – ‘Your old buddy’**

American slang for *friend*

**no doubt – ‘Getting cosy with Princess over there, no doubt.’**

*probably, I expect*

**spunk – ‘Let's just hope he's got enough spunk for this ... job’**

energy and spirit

**to be finished with something – ‘I thought I was finished with all that!’**

to not have to do something any longer. It can also be used when you are really tired of doing something and want to stop, e.g.:

*Right! I'm finished with all this nonsense! I quit!*

**to go out with someone – ‘I said I'd go out with you...’**

to date someone, to be in a couple with them

**‘One step at a time’**

a phrase meaning to do something gradually, and not in a rush.

*You might become a manager, but in this business you really have to go one step at a time.*

**happy ever after – ‘...they might not be happy ever after...’**

an old-fashioned phrase meaning *for the rest of their lives*. It is often used in fairy tales at the end of the story, e.g.:

*... and they lived happily ever after. The end.*