

# **A Plaice in the Sun**

## **A play by Judith Moore**

### List of Characters

#### **The Codswallops**

**Carlotta Codswallop**-Owner of 'A Plaice in the Sun' Piddle-on-the-Sea's' premier 'luxury' fish and chip shop

#### **The Piddlers**

**Barry Man-'o'-War**- Leader of the fisherman gang. Tough as nails and just as sharp.

**Tetra Divine**- Barry's right hand lady. She can wield a fishing line like the best of them but sometimes has difficulty being taken seriously in the fishing world.

**Mike 'the Pike' Higgins**-The muscle of the group. Legend says he once wrestled the black sea monster and survived. Buy him a couple of pints and he might show you the scar.

**Captain Jetsam**- A man of few words, but no one knows the ocean quite like Jetsam

#### **The Crew of the Miserable Pete**

**Captain Brownbeard**- He would have had a more interesting name but his mother-the great pirate Queen may Davy Jones keep her soul- wouldn't let him dye his beard.

**S'you**-The first mate. Keeps everything in order for the captain. Has awful allergies.

**Needles**-The best sword fighter this side of the North sea.

**Francois Dijon**-All he wanted was a trip across the channel. But the language barrier rather put a spanner in the works and now he's head chef for a bunch of criminals who just don't appreciate fine cuisine.

#### **'The Famous Five' The Mundane Five**

**Julian**-The oldest of the five and the leader of the group.

**Dick**-Noone has told him that people don't really shorten richard to dick anymore. Oh well. Dick is cheeky and heroic.

**Anne**-Unlike Anne in enid blyton this anne is not a young, scared, soon to be housewife. Instead she is young, brave and wants to one day open her own restaurant.

**George**-George is a person who is headstrong, courageous and desperate to have adventures.

**(and their pet sea slug Timmy)**

#### **The Tourists/ Townsfolk**

##### Little old ladies

**Eileen McCreedy**-An old lady looking for some bracing sea air.

**Betty Smith**-Eileen's best friend who has accompanied her to Piddle-on-the-sea for the weekend.

**Lost Tourists**-their plane was diverted from the south of France to here but they weren't listening and have to make the best of it.

**Francine Hudson**-A feisty mother on a mission determined to make this the best family holiday anyone has ever had ever-despite the circumstances.

**Mark Hudson**-Francine's husband. He doesn't see any reason why the family should have to spend any time together this holiday but to be honest he'll do whatever his wife says.

**Jack Hudson**-Can't think of anything worse than having to spend a whole week with his parents-oh wait- having to spend a whole week with his parents and his sister.

**Grandpa Norman**- Isn't 100% sure where he is, but he's having a nice time

**Jane Hudson**-The youngest of the family who always seems to be getting into trouble.

**Mandy**-one of the only tour guide in POTS who for a small fee will tell you all the wonders the town has in store.

**Andy**- the other one of the only tour guide in POTS who for a small fee will tell you all the wonders the town has in store.

#### Also

**Gladys**-Rival fish and chip shop owner

**Sandra**-Marketing expert (or so she says)

**Derek**- Sandra's marketing expert friend

**Ian**- Blue flag committee member

**Lesley**- Blue flag committee member

**Brenda**- A seaside donkey

**Nancy**- Another seaside Donkey

**William Ramsey**- Ice cream shop owner with a bit of an anger problem

**Gacob Jiffiths** - Who spends most of the show stranded o/s in a rowboat with only one oar.

### List of Scenes

#### Act 1

- 1.1 In which we meet two dirty old ladies and there is some mild threat.
- 1.2 In which we meet Gladys. Who is fed up.
- 1.3 In which there are REAL PIRATES
- 1.4 In which the mundane five discuss the REAL PIRATES
- 1.5 In which the Blue Flag Committee assess the damage and the donkey's revolt
- 1.6 In which the tourists arrive at Piddle on the sea.
- 1.7 In which the pirates are the renaissance
- 1.8 In which the piddlers plan
- 1.9 In which the tour guides tour people
- 1.10 In which plots and plans are made

#### Act 2

- 2.1 In which the pirates realise their error
- 2.2 In which Gladys hires help
- 2.3 In which the good guys make plans
- 2.4 In which the mundane five are in a whole lot of trouble.
- 2.5 In which there are lesbians
- 2.6 In which there is a hostage situation and sneaking
- 2.7 In which the plot begins to resolve
- 2.8 In which we wrap up the side plots while the scene changes
- 2.9 In which there is an epilogue

### List of songs

**Life's a Beach** Carlotta

**Being a Pirate** The Pirates

(Optional)**We'll have a nice holiday if it kills us** Francine, Mark, Jack, and Jane

**Oh it's a Jolly Holiday with Whisky** Betty and Eileen

**The adventuring song** The mundane 5/4

**The complicated song**

**The final song**

### A Plaise in the Sun

#### Act 1

Scene 1: In which we meet two dirty old ladies and there is some mild threat.

*'Lights up' on the chip shop. **Carlotta** is behind the counter patiently involved in something, accounts probably. Enter **Eileen** and **Betty** who stand 'outside'.*

Eileen      Well Betty dear why don't we start this holiday with a bang?

Betty        Oh not today Eileen I'm much too tired from the journey and my hip is giving me all kinds of trouble.

Eileen      No no dear I meant shall we get some good old fashioned fish and chips.

Betty        I'm terribly sorry I thought you meant-

Eileen      I know what you thought and frankly we're both of us too old for that kind of nonsense. Now would you or would you not like some chips?

Betty        Well go on then-I suppose I can be a little naughty on holiday

Eileen      I'm fully aware of that Betty-I remember Cornwall in '68

Betty        We agreed never to speak of it again.

Eileen      If only it were that easy (*shudders*)

Betty        Well let's hope 2017 in Britain's most famous traditional seaside town Piddle-On-The-Sea proves a more...ahem...dignified holiday

Eileen      With far fewer Mojito's I hope

Betty        Don't count your chickens yet my dear. Now how about those chips eh?

*They Enter the chip shop and ring the bell on the counter. Cue a long drawn out routine where they try to get **Carlotta's** attention. E.g. playing a*

*trombone in her face, performing an elaborate breakdance routine, tap dancing. They are just about to give up when **Carlotta** looks up and notices them*

Carlotta Hello welcome to 'A Plaice in the Sun' Piddle-on-the-sea's premier luxury fish and chip restaurant serving our customers for over 40 years how may I help you today?

***Eileen** and **Betty** gasp for breath after their exertions, **Eileen** recovers first*

Eileen *(Wheezing)* I'll have one of your senior specials with Haddock please. Betty what about you?

Betty *(Wheezes weakly)*

Eileen And she'll have the same

Betty *(Wheezes more forcefully)*

Eileen But with Pollock not Haddock.

Betty *(Wheezes)*

Eileen And two cups of tea thankyou kindly

Carlotta Well that'll be £9.20.

Eileen I'll get these Betty my treat

Betty *(Still wheezing)* Thankyou dear

*She pays for the food Carlotta hands over two newspaper wrapped packages and two polystyrene cups. **Betty** and **Eileen** sit down at the table and begin to eat their dinner*

Carlotta *(to herself/ the audience)* Two whole customers? It's getting to be peak season alright. Summer in England eh? It doesn't get better than this. Or something....oh I can't get too distracted by all this business. There's accounts to be done and chicken nuggets to defrost and the fryer definitely needs cleaning. It keeps making this weird gloopy noise and *(Whispers so **Betty** and **Eileen** can't hear)* some of the chips glow in the dark But then again all good chip fryers have their quirks. Some of them use a little extra oil, some only need repairing when the moon is full. Ours simply causes the odd...mutation.

Betty What's that dear?

Carlotta Um..nothing! How is the food?

Eileen Oh just wonderful, best chips I've ever had! How long have you been in business?

Carlotta Well I took over after my mother died but she'd been running it for years before me. That batter's an old family recipe or so she said.

Betty Well my compliments to the chef...what did you say your name was dear?

Carlotta      Carlotta, Carlotta Codswallop

Eileen      What a...lovely...name. Well we should be making a move Betty dear, lots to do, things to see

*The two old ladies get up and leave with a hasty goodbye to **Carlotta***

Betty      Well what shall we do now Eileen dear? Fancy a trip to the arcade?

Eileen      Ok but you are only allowed on the two penny sliders, last time you lost £500 trying to win a cuddly smurf doll

Betty      I WAS SO CLOSE

Eileen      Come along now dear

*They exit as **The Piddlers** enter. **Tetra, Mike** and **Jetsam** sit down at the table while **Barry** goes and leans on the counter.*

Barry      Carlotta my darling. It's been a while.

Carlotta      I know exactly how long it's been Barry.

Barry      One month to the day. And we still don't have our money

Jetsam      *Grunts*

Carlotta      Business is slow Barry. But peak season is coming. We had *two* customers in today. I'll have your money soon I promise.

Barry      Promises promises. Carlotta darling. Tell me, what kind of establishment do you run here?

Carlotta      A fish 'n' chip shop Barry.

Barry      And what kind of business do we run Carlotta?

Carlotta      You're fishermen Barry

Tetra      Fisherpeople

Carlotta      Oh sorry. I don't believe we've had the pleasure?

*Tetra sidles over to the counter*

Tetra      Tetra Divine. I'm new in town. Thought it was time for some fresh water

Barry      She means salt water...the sea is salty Tetra

Tetra      It's an expression Barry.

Carlotta      Delighted to make your acquaintance.

Barry      Yes yes we're all pals. Now as I was saying. Without the fish that we fisherpeople catch what kind of business would this be?

Mike      An 'n' chip shop?

Barry      Thankyou Mike. And who ever heard of an 'n' chip shop?

Jetsam      *Grunts*

Carlotta     Not a man of many words is he?

Barry        You'd do well not to provoke Jetsam Carlotta. He may not have a lot to say. But he's the finest fisherman...fisherperson Piddle on the Sea has ever known. Aren't you Jetsam

Jetsam      *Mumbles inaudibly*

Barry        Now as I was saying. Who ever heard of an 'n' chip shop?

Mike         Noone boss

Barry        Precisely. Now you know our deal Carlotta. You pay us our money and we get you the fish. Without us you're nothing. I'll be back a week today for the cash and it had better all be there or else I might just have to set Mike on you.

Tetra        And believe me you don't want that

Carlotta     You'll have your money. I promise.

Barry        I'd better. Or else.

*They begin to exit*

Mike         Or else what boss?

Barry        Oh shut upMike. We're making a dramatic exit.

*They exit, leaving Carlotta alone and forlorn*

Carlotta     Piddle-on-the-sea isn't what it used to be. Now those piddlers have us all in their pocket, it started with the fish n' chip shops, then the ice cream vans, then the deck chair vendors, even the postcard shops are under their control. Even the people who clean those binoculars that you put in 10p and they...oh you get the picture. I just wish I could fight back. But they're too dangerous. I just have to find a way to get them the money

**Song 1 'Life's a Beach'** About the way Piddle on the Sea has changed from a happy seaside resort to a miserable den of nefarious deeds.

**Scene 2**     In which we meet Gladys. Who is fed up.

*This scene is designed to cover the scene change between the chip shop and the beach. So Gladys should talk loudly and distractingly to the audience so that they do not see the various humans behind the metaphorical curtain changing the set.*

Gladys      *Emerging in a somewhat sneaky way*

Six customers! She's had six customers? A Plaice in the Sun, her sorry excuse for an eating establishment has had SIX ruddy customers? While my fish and chip shop, Gladys's Crab Shack has sat empty all day. Thought I'd

sneak over here and find out where all the tourist's had got to. Turns out she's lured them all in there with her second rate chips. I mean what's she got that I haven't? She's got all that rubbish about 'ooh we've been in business for so many years' 'ooh it's an old family recipe'. Well all that means is you're more likely to be eating out of date Pollock or....oh it's no good. I came over here the other day and saw that those piddlers were extorting her. So I thought, well there's an idea, so I asked them if they'd extort me but they just looked at me like I was weird or something.

There's no way I'm going to beat her and become the number one fish 'n' chip shop in Piddle on the Sea...

*Sudden inspiration*

Unless... (*she pulls out a mobile*) hello is that budget marketing goons R us?

*She exits*

**Scene 3** In which there are REAL PIRATES

*Lights up on the beach. The pirates drag themselves upright as if they have just come out of the ocean. If they could be wet that would be great if not just cover them in seaweed. Maybe one could pull a fish out of a strange place and throw it back into the sea? Drape in seaweed?*

Needles Well I hate to disrespect the captain...?

Brownbeard And yet?

Needles And yet I can't help but point out that that was probably the worst landing any sailor anywhere has ever accomplished.

Brownbeard We aren't sailors though Needles

Francois *At the digression of the directors/actors Francois is supposed to have an outrageous French accent.*  
I thought we were sailors Mon capitain? We sail around. We have a ship and everything

S'you Had a ship

Brownbeard Thankyou S'you. Francois you clearly don't comprehend the subtle difference between a sailor and a pirate

Francois I don't think I do captain. What is the difference?

Brownbeard (*Pregnant pause (ha)*) Why it's a matter of style of course! Wouldn't catch me dead in one of those silly sailor uniforms.

S'you Only cause the hat wouldn't suit you

Brownbeard No it's the pirate's life for me.

*He gestures to his pirate boots and his (clearly fake) hook for a hand and eyepatch.*

Needles            Honestly captain I don't think they're fooling anyone. And that eyepatch is what got us into this mess!

Francois            Oui! Needles is right! If you hadn't been wearing that silly eye patch we would not have hit those rocks!

Brownbeard        I had no depth of vision! I thought they were bigger rocks further away!

Needles            We know. And then your hook got caught in the helm.

S'you                Steering the Miserable Peter directly into danger

Brownbeard        We survived didn't we?

S'you                Not all of us Captain (Sobs)

Brownbeard        *(Counts his crew)* No this seems about right what are you talking about S'you?

S'you                *(Still sobbing)* Polly Cap'n. She couldn't abandon ship quickly enough!

*He falls to the floor in loud, wet, embarrassing floods of tears. Brownbeard goes and lays a hand on his shoulder.*

Brownbeard        Now now S'you. I think we're being a little silly now aren't we?

Francois            I think we are being very silly

*Brownbeard shhhes him*

Francois            Do not shhhh me! I will not watch this embarrassment of a man weep over a taxidermy parrot!

*Brownbeard and Needles look at Francois in horror! S'you looks up in confusion*

S'you                What do you mean Francois?

Francois            I mean that thee reason your beloved Parrot was unable to abandon sheep was because he was nailed to his-

Brownbeard        -Duties as a ship's mascot! Nailed to his duties...nothing odd about that phrasing at all!

Needles            *(Nodding enthusiastically)* He was buried at sea, like a true hero *(To Francois)* You know better than to tell S'you about Polly. He'll be a mess for ages now!

Francois            I think we have greater problems than a dead *dead* parrot don't you? Captain?

Brownbeard        *(Handing S'you an enormous handkerchief on which he begins to noisily blow his nose)* Yes Francois?

Francois            What is the plan Captain Brownbeard?

Needles            Yes we're here now, mostly intact, now will you tell us your plan?

Brownbeard        Yes I suppose it's time.



S'you *(Loudly)* Don't let Polly have died in vain cap'n

Brownbeard Umm...quite. Right. It is time I tell you why we set out on this noble quest. As you well know my late mother-

All The great Pirate Desdemona may Davy Jones hold her soul *(Spit)*

Brownbeard Yes that's her, well in her will she bequeathed me a map leading to her famous treasure

*They cheer. "We'll be rich!" "No more travelodge bring on the Premier Inn!" etc* **SONG SONG SONG A pirate song about being a pirate and getting booty**

Brownbeard Steady on mates. It's not quite as simple as that. Before we can claim the treasure we have to...find it.

Francois Find it? Is it lost?

Brownbeard More like hidden. My mother stashed all her treasure in one secret location which she kept a secret for only herself

Needles Selfless woman your mother

Brownbeard *(Pretending he hasn't heard her)* Luckily I have this!

*He pulls out worn and battered (and slightly damp) treasure map*

S'you A real treasure map cap'n? I thought they only happened in stories?

Brownbeard I followed the coded instructions on the treasure map...at least I thought they were coded-turns out I was holding it upside down. Anyway I discovered that my mother's treasure is hidden somewhere here.

Needles Here? In Piddle-On-The-Sea? It's not exactly a typical hiding place for pirate loot is it?

Francois Unless she hid it in a candyfloss machine.

Needles Or up a donkey's -

Brownbeard Exactly, this godforsaken corner of the planet is the last place anyone would think to look!

S'you But we're here now! How do we find the treasure cap'n?

Brownbeard Easy as pie my dear S'you. As it always has 'X' marks the spot.

*He makes a big show of pointing to an X on the map*

Needles Shipmates we have a quest! Onwards

S'you For Polly!

*They all set out in different directions, there is a moment of confusion and flipping the map around then they all exit the same way.*

**Scene 4** In which the mundane five discuss the REAL PIRATES

*The mundane five slip out from hiding, perhaps they were in the audience? Find some way of adequately concealing them.*

Anne By golly Julian!

George Crikey Anne!

Julian Well I'll be Dick!

Dick Gee whiz Anne!

All Real Pirates?!

Dick Can you believe it? We only came down here to do a bit of bally rockpooling and there they were....real pirates!

Julian It's a good thing the trusty fifth member of our band warned us or we might not have hidden in time!

Anne Where is Timmy? Oh do don't say he's lost! Timmy!? Timmy?!

George Calm yourself Anne he's here in my pocket

*George produces something from her pocket. You may want to mime Timmy, you may want a real slug. I'm just the writer.*

Anne I say Timmy you naughty boy you gave me quite the fright!

George Yes where would we be without our trusty sea slug companion

Dick I still wish Aunt Fanny would have let us have a dog

Julian Balderdash Dick. Timmy's just as good as any dog aren't you boy?

*They all stare at the slug. Timmy does nothing*

Anne Yes. Just as good as any dog. Pop him back in your pocket George we've got something important to discuss.

Julian Yes exactly. I hereby call this meeting of the mundane five together.  
Subject of discussion: pirates.

Dick Why do you always get to start the meetings Julian? Seems rather unfair I think

Julian Because I'm the oldest that's why. And you know what that means?

George That Aunt Fanny put you in charge?

Anne That you're the tallest?

Dick That you're using the arbitrary factor of age in order to manufacture a facade of wisdom and innate authority?

Julian Well blow me! You're all right! Now do be quiet and let me get on with the

meeting

All Yes Julian

Julian Now what exactly are we going to do about the fact that there are ruddy pirates abroad in Piddle-On-The-Sea?

George Do we have to do anything? They're not doing any harm. They're just chasing after some treasure that the captain's mum left here

Anne I think we ought to try to find the treasure for ourselves and buy ourselves a pirate ship.

Dick But that would be stealing! Stealing is a crime! That treasure isn't ours.

Anne Well it isn't theirs either! They said the pirate queen got it by pillaging. That's just a fancy name for stealing

Julian Exactly. Pirates are criminals and I think the most sensible thing to do is to go to the police

Dick Yes because going to the police always goes so well for us

George They just laugh at us "Of course there's a ghost haunting the old ferry" "Why yes I'm sure there are smugglers in Horner's cove" "I totally believe that your pet sea slug has been captured by a rogue opera singer in half a face mask" their sarcasm is starting to hurt my feelings

Anne George is quite right. The police aren't an option. Back to my plan-operation steal the treasure for ourselves and then buy ourselves a pirate-

Julian Oh do be quiet Anne we aren't stealing it. But we're going to have to bring those pirates down ourselves. Without the help of the grownups. And the best way to do that is to find the treasure before they do.

Dick How on earth are we supposed to find a lost treasure when the only map is in the hands of actual hook handed, actual sword wielding pirates?

Anne I don't think that hook was real....

George Come on gang. We know this village better than anyone! We've explored every nook and cranny, even those secret tunnels that lead to the underground radioactive base. If anyone can find that treasure it's us!

All The mundane five!

*They exit in pursuit of the pirates*

**Scene 5** In which the Blue Flag Committee assess the damage and the donkey's revolt

*Enter Ian and Lesley who have clipboards and a general air of beaureacracy. The Donkeys, Brenda and Nancy are nearby.*

Ian Lovely to be out in the bracing sea air isn't it Lesley

Lesley      Lovely? Sea air? We didn't join the Blue Flag inspectors committee to enjoy the sea air Ian. We did it to allow us to judge and inspect the sea air to see if there were too many pollutants in it for it to be safe for children. Enjoy yourself indeed!

Ian          Good point Lesley.

Lesley      And frankly, this is one of the worst beaches I've ever seen. I've already witnessed at least four dogs being walked without proper leashes, fifteen separate cases of littering...by one person and one candyfloss vender who I'm 99% certain stuck his finger into the bag of sugar, licked it and then stuck it back in again.

Ian          Not to mention those donkeys

Lesley      Donkeys?

Ian          Well they're just wandering around aren't they? Their ropes have come untied.

*At this moment I should make it clear that we need to suspend disbelief. I need you to understand that although the audience can understand the donkeys, the humans in the show cannot. For at this point the donkeys begin to have a discussion as Lesley and Ian continue their conversation inaudibly.*

Brenda      Nancy he's right!

Nancy      That plonker of a donkey keeper must have tied the knots wrong

Brenda      This is our chance Nancy. Too long we have been kept down, forced to plod around with slightly too hefty humans on our back.

Nancy      Enduring selfie after selfie after selfie

Brenda      Being fed carrots until we want to throw up

Nancy      Being told off when we 'accidentally' spit at one of the more annoying children

Brenda      Well no more! This is our moment Nancy

Nancy      We'll have to move fast!

Brenda      It's every donkey for herself...RUN!

*They dash offstage*

Ian          What's going on?

Lesley      Quick. After them! Two rogue donkeys is a dangerous health and safety violation!

*They chase after the donkeys*

**Scene 6**      In which the tourists arrive at Piddle on the sea.

*Enter **The Tourists**. They should be decked out in all their holiday finery, souvenir T shirts, hats, Piddle-on-the-Sea foam fingers, the whole shebang. [ OPTIONAL During this scene the pirates walk along the back following the map, the mundane five follow them in a slow motion scooby doo doors kind of thing. Not too distracting but enough to add another dimension to the whole business.]*

Francine Isn't this lovely darlings? The four of us all together on a family holiday. I know it isn't quite what we planned but hey! Who needs the French Riviera when you've got the good old English sea side eh?

Jane I'm boooooored. Can I have another candyfloss? Can I go for a ride on the dodgems? I bet I can go even faster than anyone's ever gone on a dodgem ever in the whole entire history of the world! Can I have an ice cream? mum you said we could have ice cream! Mum please please please can I have an ice cream? And a candyfloss? And a ride on the dodgems! And can we go to the arcade mum pleeeeeease?

Francine Ask your father

Jane Daaaaaaaad? Can I have another candyfloss? Can I go on the dodgems? Can I have an ice cream and can we go to the arcade?

Mark *(Coming out of a daze)* What? Oh um? Ask your mother.

Jane Muuuuum?

Jack Oh will you just shut up Jane!

Francine Jack! Don't tell your sister to shut up it's rude. Isn't it Grandpa Norman?

Grandpa Yes no need for such harsh words. Back in my day, if you wanted someone to be quiet, especially sisters, you just slapped them.

Francine GRANDPA! *(She turns to see Jack raising a hand at Jane)* JACK!

Jack Sorry mum. *(To Jane)* My apologies. I humbly request that you button your pie hole for the rest of eternity.

Francine *(Sternly)* Jack?

Jack But it's her fault we're in this mess. If she hadn't refused to put her shoes on we wouldn't have missed the plane and we would be in France right now!

Jane I couldn't put my shoes on because the floor was lava and there wasn't a proper pathway to the shoe cupboard. Duh! Did you want me to burn to death?

Jack No that would be far too quick and not nearly painful enough.

Francine What was that?

Jack Nothing mum

Francine Mark did you hear that? Your son is suggesting that your daughter should die a slow and painful death.

Mark (Once more emerging from another world) What's that dear?

Francine And what are you going to do about it? Hmm?

Mark Listen to your mother.

Jack and Jane Yes dad (*They poke their tongues out at each other, shove each other etc then look angelic when Francine turns back*)

Grandpa Back in my day you didn't listen to women.

Francine Grandpa!

Mark Dad!

Grandpa I didn't say it was a good thing!

Francine Now...children as long as you're willing to behave we'll have a lovely holiday together

Jack But how? There's nothing to do here!

Francine Nonsense! There's plenty to do. You just have to know where to look!

**Song: *Think just a spoonful of sugar but instead of mary poppins teaching children to see the fun in cleaning its francine trying to show the fun of P.O.T.S which fails miserably because it is not fun there and donkey rides are exploitative.***

**Scene 7** In which the pirates are the renaissance  
*The pirates are outside the chip shop poring over the treasure map*

Brownbeard Right mates. Looks like the 'X' on my mother-

All The great Pirate Desdemona may Davy Jones hold her soul (*Spit*)

Brownbeard -'s treasure map leads us right about...  
*He turns and points directly at the chip shop*

Francois The treasure is in this chip shop?

Needles That seems like an odd place to hide treasure. Even for your mum who was a few drops short of an-

Brownbeard Don't you speak ill of my mother or I'll make you walk the plank!

S'you Cap'n the ship sank. We don't have the plank anymore. It's at the bottom of the sea along with (*sobs*) polly!

Brownbeard See Needles now you've upset S'you. If you don't start behaving like one of my crew I will..find a plank and mark my words you will walk it.

Needles Apologies Captain.

Brownbeard But you are right. It does seem like an odd place to hide treasure. We must find out what they know...do some reconnaissance.

S'you Cap'n I don't feel like painting anything right now

Francois That is the renaissance you imbecile.Reconnaissance? Spying?

S'you Oh spying!

Francois Mon dieu

Brownbeard Right shipmates disguises on.

*They all look confused*

S'you We haven't got any disguises cap'n. We're pirates not actors.

*Moment of meta*

Needles Wait a minute captain. We're pirates!

*Moment of 'well yeah and what?'*

Needles So we're basically already wearing disguises aren't we? So let's just take off all our pirate gear and no-one will recognise us.

Brownbeard *(Removing his eyepatch and hook for a hand)* An excellent plan Needles. Come on crew. Off with it.

*They start to take off all their pirate accoutrements. S'you starts to remove one too many items of clothing (I'll let you decide how many is too many)*

Brownbeard Now now S'you that's a little too far.

S'you Apologies Cap'n

Brownbeard Right now in we go. And remember we are but normal travellers wanting something to eat. What we are not is the scourge of the high sea taking a break from plundering and pillaging in order to obtain a long lost treasure. Got it?

All Aye aye cap'n

Brownbeard Well that's no good is it? They'll know we're pirates if we say aye ay! Try again.

Needles Um...yes?

S'you Quite right old chap

Francois Oui

Brownbeard Much better! Now keep your wits about you mates. Let's go scout out our treasure.

*They enter the chip shop. Brownbeard furtively rings the bell on the counter. Carlotta enters*

Carlotta Hello welcome to 'A Plaice in the Sun' Piddle-on-the-sea's premier luxury

fish and chip restaurant serving our customers for over 40 years how may I help you today?

Brownbeard *(Adopting a spurious accent to rival that of Francois)* Ah hello my name is Count Dumblesprout of *(he looks around for inspiration)* Napinkinia and these are my associates

*As they are introduced Carlotta gets more and more confused/suspicious*

Needles Miss Anne Thropy

Francois Gregoire de Pamplémousse

S'you Queen Elizabeth the Second

Carlotta I'm sorry?

Brownbeard Is his favourite member of your british royal family. Mine is prince Harry. Ahem. *(He glares at S'you)*

Carlotta Riiight. Well can I get you anything?

*They peruse the menu*

Francois I will have one order of Chips si vous plait.

Needles Nothing for me thanks

S'you What's a deep fried creme egg like?

Carlotta You don't want to know

Brownbeard *(pushing the others aside)* I was wondering if you could tell me anything about the history of this fine establishment

Carlotta *(While preparing Francois' order)* Well there's not that much to tell. My Mother built the shop and we've sold quality fish and chips ever since. Do you want salt and vinegar?

Francois Oui merci

Carlotta So yeah that's really all the history there is. 40 years of greasy carbohydrates. There was the time the beached whale exploded and we had a deep fried blubber special. But that was a while ago now. Here you go. That'll be £2.20.

Francois There we go. *(He hands over an enormous gold dubloon)*

Carlotta I don't think I can accept this? Did you pick it up in the arcade?

Francois No I peeked it up at the bottom of the ocean just off the shore of Venezuela, It was caught in the eye socket of a sailor's skull.

Carlotta I'm sorry?

Needles Francois be quiet!

Carlotta Hang on I thought his name was Gregoire de Pamplémousse? What



exactly is going on?

Brownbeard Wait a minute. Did you say your mother built this place?

Carlotta Yes 40 years ago but I'd rather you payed for your food in legal tender then question me about history.

Brownbeard Well that dubloon is certainly worth more than £2.20 and we had better be going come along mates...I mean...acquaintances

Needles Captain?

Carlotta Captain? I thought he was a count?

Brownbeard I'm both. Very titled I am. Thankyou so much goodbye!

*They exit.*

Carlotta I don't know. There's something fishy going on here.

*Meanwhile across stage the pirates are re-donning their pirate gear*

S'you What was that about cap'n?

Brownbeard You heard her. That place has only existed for 40 years. Well this treasure map was made exactly 41 years ago. You know what that means?

Needles Of course!

Francois Zut alors!

S'you No?

Brownbeard If the treasure map is older than the chip shop then the treasure must have been buried before the construction of the chip shop

Needles Which means the treasure is under the chip shop so all we need to do

S'you Is find a way to dig up the chip shop!

Brownbeard Exactly! Hmmm... this may take more planning than I anticipated. And we will need spades.

Needles Pretty much every shop here sells spades captain

S'you Buckets too

Brownbeard Excellent. Onwards crew!

*As the rest of them leave Francois eats his first ever chip. He freezes in place.*

Francois Oh brave new world

What is this wondrous new delight?

After so many years of cooking ships biscuits with the worms left in for extra protein. So crispy. So warm. So deliciously carbohydratey. With a glimmer of salt, a dapple of vinegar like the final touch on a masterpiece. Never again shall I eat sea cucumber for breakfast. Not when my pallet

has been cleansed by such a delicious, such a magnifiqué, such a stupendous taste as this!  
*He takes another bite. Savours it and then exits the same way as the rest of the crew*

*At the end of this scene, and to cover any necessary changes we have this small interlude.*

*The donkeys run across the stage. In pursuit are Ian and Lesley*

Ian STOP THAT DONKEY

Lesley STOP THAT OTHER DONKEY!

Brenda They can take our oats

Nancy But they'll never take

Donkeys OUR FREEDOM!

*They all run off again.*

**Scene 8** In which the Piddlers plan.

*The piddlers are by the sea front. Not sure how you'd demonstrate this? Maybe deckchairs?*

Barry Well I think that went well

Mike What went well?

Barry Our little chat with Mrs Codswallop earlier

Mike You mean the extortion Barry?

Barry Yes Mike. The extortion.

Jetsam 'Stortion. (*grunts*)

Tetra It's all well and good to ask her for the money but what are we actually going to do if she can't get it.

Barry We do what I said. Mike will see to her won't you Mike?

Tetra But what does that actually solve? We don't have the money and we've beaten a woman up. We're in a pickle now I don't see the point in making it worse!

Barry It's a threat Tetra. She'll get the money. Word is her mother was loaded.

Tetra Well she'd better get it Barry. We can't afford our next operation without that cash.

Mike Operation?

Barry Honestly Mike its like talking to a mollusc. Operation Get Loads of Cash by Exploiting Our Position as the Fish Suppliers Of Piddle On The Sea And Then Go Away Somewhere Sunny And Relax For A Bit.

Tetra I'm sure there's a catchier name for it.

Barry It's best not to confuse him. You're right though Tetra. We need a backup plan in case our Fish peddling friend doesn't come through.

Tetra What did you have in mind boss?

Jetsam Grunts and points

Mike Hang on what's that?

*He walks along the 'beach' and retrieves a soggy and disheveled pirate flag*

Tetra Mike it's just a tourist's flag they've dropped off the side of a boat. Put it in the bin

Mike It doesn't look like one of the tourist flags. It doesn't say 'Made in China' or anything?

Barry *(Goes over and inspects the flag)* You're right Mike. How unusual. And look over here.

*He walks over to another bit of beach and picks up a piece of the ship with the words "The Miserable Peter" written on it.*

Barry This must be the ship's name

Tetra The ship?

Barry Don't you see Tetra. Look at all this flotsam and jetsam. There's been a shipwreck and this is the debris!

Tetra A shipwreck?

Mike A pirate shipwreck!

Barry And there's only one reason pirates would ever come near this coast.

Jetsam *Confused mumble*

Mike What's that Barry?

Barry The legendary Pirate treasure of Piddle on the Sea!

Tetra Come on Barry everyone knows that's just the tourism department's last ditch effort to make this place remotely interesting.

Barry But what if it's true? What if that's why the pirates are here?

Tetra That's a big if Barry

Barry *(Dreaming now)* we could retire, live as kings and queens, buy an island somewhere where it doesn't rain and there isn't a single candyfloss stand or hot dog cart as far as the eye can see.

Mike That sounds horrible! No candyfloss?!

Tetra Suppose we go after this treasure boss. We don't have any idea where it is!

Barry First we have to find the pirates. Then we'll find the treasure! Come along then!

*They exit. The mundane five emerge from their hiding place. If possible could they emerge from the sea wearing snorkles? I would find it amusing and I promise I'll laugh really loud.*

George Blimey! First we follow the pirates and find out the treasure's under a chip shop

Anne Now we find out the Piddlers are after it too!

Dick And that they're demanding money from poor Mrs Codswallop!

Julian I say! It's all rather thrilling isn't it!

Dick Not as thrilling as that time we witnessed a triple homicide while on holiday in blackpool

George No. And it's not nearly as exciting as the time we accidentally got aboard that whaling ship and Julian got to harpoon an orca.

Anne My favourite was the time Dick fell into that vat of toxic waste and then gained the ability to control weasels with his mind!

All *(sigh of nostalgia)*

Julian Yes what bally fun we've had. Wholesome character building fun.

All Here here!

Dick But what are we going to do about this treasure business?

Anne What's that Timmy?

*Pause while Timmy 'speaks'*

Anne You're absolutely right Timmy! We need to warn the Codswallops before the Pirates get them

George Or the gang!

Julian Right 'o' chaps-to the chip shop!

**Scene 9** In which the tour guides tour people

*Enter tourists, old ladies and mandy and andy who are unnaturally happy.*

Mandy And so everyone we come to the next part of Mandy and Andy's 'piddle on the sea' extravaganza tour.

Andy Are we all having a super fun time?

*Mandy and Andy sing a short 'we're mandy and andy jingle'*

Eileen I say Betty dear this is rather different to cornwall isn't it. For one thing I'm completely sober.

Betty Speak for yourself dear. *(She takes a hefty swig from a hip flask then offers it to eileen)*

Eileen Oh go on then. Maybe it'll make this fractionally tolerable

Betty That's the spirit

Eileen *(Coughing)* It certainly is at that

*They continue liberally swigging as the scene goes on*

Mandy Now if you look here you'll see the exact spot where her majesty Queen Elizabeth I stopped her carriage here in Piddle on the Sea.

Francine Oh I can see why she would stop here. Such a lovely view.

Mandy Well in fact the view had little to do with it. A little known fact about our famous ruler is that she got awfully travel sick.

Andy See this plaque? *(they point down at the grown)*

Mark *(reads)* The Virgin Queen did Chunder here.1582.

Francine Oh my Mark get the camera and Mandy darling would you take a picture of us and the plaque?

Mandy It would be my pleasure

Jack Do I have to?

Francine Stand in the photo and smile nicely and I will consider not making you come kayaking tomorrow.

Mark If I stand nicely can I not go kayaking?

Francine What was that Mark?

Mark Nothing dearest!

*They get into position for a photo*

Mandy *(As she takes the photo)* The plaque isn't the only commemoration of a royal visit to Piddle-on-the-Sea. At the end of the pier there is a statue to memorialise King George IV's victory.

Eileen I didn't know any battles were ever fought here?

Betty Then again-we're both pissed.

Eileen Betty dear you'd better be careful or it won't just be royalty who's vomited on this spot

Mandy Umm...well...no actually it was to commemorate his victory in the hot dog eating contest in 1807

Jack Did they have hot dogs in 1807

Mandy Not in the modern sense no. Things were a bit more literal back then. Now say cheese!

Francine      Wait a moment where's Jane? She should be in the photo. Jack where's your sister?

Jack            How should I know?

Francine      Mark! Mark! Where's Jane?

Mark          I thought it was a bit quiet

All             Jane? Jane? Where are you? etc?

Grandpa      In my day when Children went missing you assumed they'd been murdered

Francine      Grandpa!

Grandpa      Or kidnapped

Francine and Mark      Grandpa!

Grandpa      Or eaten by wolves

Francine  
Mark and  
Jack          Grandpa!!

*Jane runs onstage*

Jane          Mum, Dad, Jack, Grandpa, Old ladies, Mandy, Andy, I just found the best thing ever!

Francine      What on earth did you think you were doing running away like that anything could have happened to you.

Jack          (*Dreamily*) anything at all.

Francine      No more ice cream for you for the rest of the holiday

Jane          But MUuuuuuuUUUUuuuum I had to go and look there were pirates!

Jack          Ok now she's just making things up

Mark          Jane they're probably just actors hired to take photographs with people

Jane          Well can I get a photo with them mum! They're coming this way.

Francine      If it's not too expensive Jane. We'll see.

*The pirates enter in deep conversation they are carrying an assortment of plastic spades, S'you is wearing an inflatable rubber ring.*

Needles      Will you take that blasted thing off S'you you look ridiculous. I don't even know why you bought that thing.

S'you          The man in the shop said that he couldn't change a gold dubloon so we had to make up the money somehow. I haven't said anything about your purchase.

Needles I am a master swordswoman. I am allowed to buy a new sword if I want.

S'you It's a bubble sword

Needles MAYBE I WANT TO FIGHT BUBBLES

Francois Do you suppose that before we dig up the chip chop that I could try them with a little tomato sauce?

Brownbeard Stop it all of you. There will be time for bickering once we have the treasure.

*Francine approaches them.*

Francine Hi. How much for a photo with the little one?

Brownbeard I'm sorry?

Francine A photo. How much are you charging?

Brownbeard Charging? Photo? What do you mean?

Francine Look I'm not willing to haggle. Here's five pounds. Now come along Jane get in the photo

*Jane runs in amongst the pirates*

Jane Wow you even smell like real pirates. Can I wear your hat? Can I try on your Hook? Can I hold the bubble sword?

Needles It's my sword

Francois What is happening?

Jane Please please please can I wear your hat?

Brownbeard Why do you want to wear my hat? What exactly is going on here

*Jane snatches Brownbeard's hat and dons it.*

Francine Say cheeese!

*The pirates all pull intensely confused faces while Jane beams and instantly runs to her mother to check the photo*

Brownbeard The child has stolen my hat! No-one steals from the Captain of the miserable Peter. Get her!

*The pirates run and grab Jane.*

Francine What do you think you're doing?

Brownbeard The wench stole from me and she will pay the price. She will walk...a plank!

Needles As soon as we can find a suitable plank!

Francine *(to Mandy)* is this some kind of immersive tour?

Mark I'm not paying extra for these theatricals

Mandy Hello I'm Mandy from the piddle on the sea tourism board. Could I see your license to trade and to perform immersive theatre please?

Brownbeard What does she want?

S'you She wants to see proper documentation cap'n

Needles We're pirates we don't have documentation that's kind of part of the deal.

Francois Precicement!

Brownbeard Now we are taking this lassie with us to walk the plank as soon as our other...business is attended to.

*The pirates run offstage with Jane in tow*

Francine Stop them they're stealing my daughter Mark do something!

Mark What's that dear? Oh the kidnapping. I suppose we'd better follow them

Andy On the way we'll point out some other significant monuments within and around the town.

Jack What are we waiting for let's go!

Grandpa Back in my day, tours of seaside towns rarely ended in kidnappings. What is the world coming to?

*They all run off except the two old ladies who by this point have sat down and are well and truly gazeboed.*

Betty Where did they all run off to?

Eileen *(Topples over)* Betty Betty help me!

Betty What's wrong Eileen?

Eileen The world's fallen sideways? A gravitational shift!

Betty *(Heaving her upright)* You never could hold your liquor.

Eileen Remember in Norfolk that year with the cows?

Betty Ah yes and Enrique the bar man

*Sigh*

Eileen Ooh and there was Glasgow the year before that

Betty I'm still not allowed in any pubs in the city centre

Eileen And Scunthorpe

Betty Now that was more of a health hazard than a holiday.

Eileen We've had some good times haven't we Betty?

Betty That we have Eileen that we have



**Song: Oh it's a jolly holiday with Whisky** (Obvs not this but that's the theme-debauchery)

**Scene 10** In which plots and plans are made

*The chip shop. Carlotta paces nervously.*

Carlotta How on earth am I going to come up with the money?  
There was that gold coin that man gave me earlier but  
cash my gold? More like 'take my gold and send me back £4.50'  
I'm going to lose the shop. I'll have to move far away, change my name!  
Live a life of misery. Not a chip in sight.  
Oh how will I ever get through this?

*She swoons and starts sobbing uncontrollably.*

*Faster than a speeding plot device the mundane five enter*

Julian I say Mrs Codswallop you'd better scarper toot sweet!

Carlotta Who are you?

Julian Pleased to meet you I'm Julian

Dick I'm Dick

George Call me George

Anne My name's Anne and this is Timmy the sea slug

Carlotta ...and you are?

Julian Why we're the mundane five of course!

Carlotta No I meant "and you are here because?"

George Because there's a gang coming to your chip shop

Carlotta Yes I know about that

*Carlotta starts to cry again*

Anne Not just the gang! There are pirates coming too!

Dick They've come for the treasure

*Carlotta stops sobbing*

Carlotta Treasure?

Julian            The legendary treasure of Piddle on the sea. They've traced it to this fish and chip shop and they're coming to get it.

Carlotta        Wait a minute? Actual Pirates? Here?

George          Yeah they've got hooks for hands and eyepatches and everything

Carlotta        Hang on did any of them have a spurious accent?

Mundane five    Yes!

Carlotta        It's those strange customers from earlier. I knew there was something fishy about them

Dick            Haha. Fishy. This is a fish and chip shop. Very good!

Carlotta        WHY WOULD I MAKE A PUN AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

Anne            You're quite right. It's time we ran!

Carlotta        But you said there's treasure somewhere here?

Julian          Yes there is but there's no time!

Carlotta        That treasure could be our only chance of saving the fish and chip shop! We have to have it

George         There's no way you'll be able to find the treasure before the pirates get here

Anne            Don't forget the Piddlers!

George         Them too! And even if you did get to it they'd just take it away from you anyway!

Carlotta        Then we'll just have to find a way to stall for time.

Julian          What's the plan Mrs Codswallop?

Dick            I'm sorry are we really contemplating not running away from a violent gang?

Anne            And pirates!

Dick            Oh I'm glad we got that straight.

Carlotta        I've got it!

Julian          By Jove she's got it!

Carlotta        Now is anyone any good at papier maché?

*They gather around to hear the plan which is inaudible to the audience. Call out ooh eer etc. They set to work. First they cover over the 'a plaice in the sun' sign with one that says 'Back to the Fuschia' The mundane five are concealed behind the counter.*

*The pirates Enter with Jane in tow*

Jane Where is the treasure? Do I get some? How shiny will it be? Does this make me a pirate too since I'm stealing treasure with you? What would my pirate name be? (*Continue extempore*)

Francois Can we get reed of this irritating enfant now mon capitain? She is giving me a horrible headache

S'you Captain I'm not sure we should have kidnapped her in the first place. It's a bit more than morally dubious

Brownbeard She insulted my honour when she stole my hat and as soon as I find a plank she will walk it. In the meantime one of you has to make her be quiet

S'you Why can't you do it captain? You're the one that wanted to bring her with us

Brownbeard Because I am the captain and what I say goes now-

Needles (*Brandishing her bubble sword at Jane*) Silence now wench or I'll tear you limb from limb

Jane (*Stops talking and whispers*) wow!

Brownbeard Thankyou Needles. Now it's time to go and dig up the fish and chip shop.  
*He turns to enter the fish and chip shop but stops when he sees the sign*

Brownbeard This is where it was right?

S'you Yes captain

Brownbeard Then why is it a flower shop?

Needles I'm not sure what's going on captain. We'd better go and investigate  
*They enter the 'flower shop'*

Francois What is happening here?

Carlotta Welcome to 'Back to the Fuschia' Piddle on the Sea's premier flower selling establishment.  
How may we help you this fine day?

Brownbeard A flower shop? But this is a fish and chip shop?

Carlotta Ah no you mean the fish and chip shop on the other side of the town. This is an entirely different establishment

Needles Something seems odd here captain

Brownbeard Well it wouldn't be the first time we've ever got lost would it?

S'you Most certainly not captain.

Brownbeard My apologies Ms?

Carlotta -Cods-geranium

Brownbeard Ms Codsgeranium?

Carlotta It's an old family name

Francois I see

Brownbeard Well we'd better be on our way mates. Sorry for disturbing you  
*They begin to leave. Carlotta looks relieved until...*

Jane Why aren't there any flowers?  
*The pirates freeze and look around.*

Needles The little one's right captain. *(To carlotta)* What kind of flower shop doesn't have any flowers?

Carlotta A good one? We...we sold them all to a-butcher?

Brownbeard A butcher?

Carlotta Oh no!  
*Brownbeard rips off the trick sign!*

Brownbeard AHA! Treachery!

Carlotta *(To the mundane five hidden under the counter)* Plan B guys! *(To the pirates)* Alas you have discovered my attempt to deceive you  
 How could I ever hope to pull the wool over your eyes?

S'you Yeah well I'm allergic to wool so-

Brownbeard Quiet S'you. We have come for the treasure. Now step aside and allow us to dig up your floor!

Carlotta Oh there's no need to dig it up.

Needles I'm sorry?

Carlotta The treasure's been in the basement for years. Just gathering dust. Shall I get it for you?

Francois How accommodating  
*Carlotta does the thing where you pretend to go down steps and comes back up with a sealed box with 'Treasure' written on the side in marker pen.*

Carlotta There you go. You may as well take it. I've no use for it.

S'you That's it? The legendary pirate treasure in a cardboard box?

Carlotta Well I was hardly going to put it in a carrier bag now was she?

Brownbeard Yes S'you don't be so silly. A carrier bag indeed! Thankyou ladies we shall be on our way.

Francois I don't suppose I could have some

Carlotta *(hands him a pre made packet of chips)* Free of charge

Francois Merci Madame!!!

Brownbeard Come along crew. We need to buy ourselves a bigger boat.

*The pirates exit. The mundane five emerge from the counter*

Anne How long before they realise we gave them crude papier maché approximations of pirate treasure?

Carlotta Not long I shouldn't think. But we've bought ourselves some time.

Dick And with the piddlers following the pirates we shouldn't have any more unexpected visitors

*At that Francine and the tourist party (not the old ladies they're still drunk) come on stage.*

Francine GIVE BACK MY DAUGHTER!

Julian Way to speak too soon Dick

George I don't think we have your daughter

Mark I don't see her Francine

Francine *(Picks up hair ribbon)* Then how do you explain this?

Carlotta That was your daughter?

George With the pirates?

Mandy Can I just remind everyone that the Piddle on the Sea tourism board is not liable for any losses incurred while on the extravaganza tour

Francine It's not like dropping a phone in a vat of ice cream! Our daughter was kidnapped!

Jack Which way did they go?

Julian They went that way! *(Points)*

Francine After them!

*They exit.*

Carlotta So what happens now?

Grandpa Ooh I can't keep up with those young 'uns. I'm going to go and buy myself a lemonade and sit by the pier. Back in my day we'd have an interval right about now...

## **End Act 1**

### **Act 2**

**Scene 1**      *In which the pirates realise their error*

*The act opens with the pirates (and Jane) looking decidedly dejected at the remains of the 'treasure'*

Brownbeard    I still don't believe it

Needles        Really? You still don't believe it?

S'you          Well he didn't believe you when you first said they didn't look like real treasure

Needles        Well saying 'all they need is a little polish' and dunking them in the ocean, where they then proceeded to disintegrate is quite a telling sign that it wasn't real treasure.

Francois       I wish I could say this was the first time we 'ad been fooled by papier maché

Jane            Why? What happened last time?- (*someone (not Needles) puts a hand over Jane's mouth*)

Brownbeard   I thought we agreed we were going to shut her up?

S'you          We tried cap'n.

Brownbeard   She's a child S'you. We're pirates? How did we not succeed?

S'you          She bit Needles

Needles        She did not!

Jane            I did! And you taste disgusting by the way- (*hand over the mouth again*)

Needles        She may have bitten me a little.

Francois       So much for being the scourge of the high seas

Needles        Shut up Francois!

Brownbeard   Shut up all of you. I am the captain around here and I say who shuts up and right now you are all going to shut up so that I can think of a plan.

*Lengthy silence while they all look at Brownbeard*

S'you          How's that plan coming cap'n

Brownbeard   Ah! This is impossible. How am I supposed to come up with a plan when I'm so angry at being fooled by that woman and those, those children!

Needles        They made a fool out of us Captain

Francois       And no one makes a fool out of the crew of the miserable Peter and gets

away with it.

Jane Yeah!

*They all turn to stare at Jane who mimes zipping her lip sheepishly*

Brownbeard You're right. Would my mother the great Pirate Desdemona-may Davy Jones hold her soul (*Spit*) sit by and let herself be insulted by mere children

S'you No she would not Cap'n

Needles She would seek revenge

Francois She would show them that she means business!

Brownbeard Then I say we come up with a plan to get the treasure later. And right now we get our revenge on those meddling kids.

Jane Yeah!

*They all turn to look at Jane*

Brownbeard Remind me why we have this one with us

Needles You wanted to make her walk the plank Captain

Jane But you haven't found a plank yet

Brownbeard Oh. Well can we work on a way to shut her up until such a time as a suitable plank can be found?

*The crew all look at each other*

Brownbeard Well? That was an order!

Needles I'm not touching her. She might bite me again!

Francois I have...allergies?

S'you I've sprained my left spleen

Brownbeard Honestly I've never met a more cowardly crew in my entire life (*to Jane*) will you promise to be quiet? Because if you don't I'll...well I'll do something and... it'll be

Needles -Really nasty?

Brownbeard That's right. It'll be really nasty. Promise?

Jane Yes captain

Brownbeard Now that's more like it. Right crew. I've come up with a cunning plan. All we need is a convenient stretch of beach and a fishing net. We'll get those children or my names not Captain Brownbeard. Now who's with me!

Crew and Jane Aye Aye Captain!

Brownbeard I can't heear you  
*Silence and judging looks from the crew*

Brownbeard Fine fine. Now let's go!  
*Exeunt*

**Scene 2** In which Gladys hires help

*Scene covers scene change Gladys is stood with Sandra and Derek who have charts/an ipad? For reference they are annoying hipster marketeers*

Sandra So what we've really noticed Gladys is that you don't have very many customers at your fish 'n' chip shop

Derek And ideally in business, customers are...well there are customers

Gladys I know that! That's why I hired you!

Sandra Yeah...yeah...I mean that's what we are here to do. You hired us to get you customers because you're smart, motivated and full of can-do attitude you just need a bit of a push.

Gladys So what do I need to do to get customers?

Derek Well we've completed a walking poll and some preliminary observations and we think we know what makes a fish and chip shop succeed in Piddle on the Sea.

Sandra Thanks Derek

Derek You're welcome Sandra

Sandra So Gladys what we think really works for your area Gladys...Is fish pun names

Derek And not the crab shack. That does not work

Gladys Right. So I need a new name...ummm? Trout and About?

Sandra Loving the energy Gladys, but it's got to be fresh, it's got to be cool, ironic, topical, now!

Derek The quinoa of fish pun names

Gladys Well what do you suggest?

Derek What about 'The Flshcoteque'

Sandra Love it Derek

Gladys It's awful

Sandra Of course it's awful Derek. What were you thinking Derek. What about 'Cod almighty'



Gladys            That's no good either.  
Derek            I've got it!  
Sandra           Well come on Derek we all want to know  
Derek            Frying Nemo  
Gladys           Oh this is hopeless!

*Exit*

**Scene 3**           In which the good guys make plans  
*We return to the chip shop.*

Carlotta          Well I still can't believe that worked  
Dick              You can say that again  
Carlotta          Well I still can't-  
Dick              It's an expression!  
George           Well the fact is it did work. Three cheers for us  
*They do the three cheers thing (hip hip hurray) while Carlotta tries to make them stop*

Carlotta          Honestly this isn't a time for cheering. Any minute now those pirates are going to realise that what we gave them was not in fact a priceless pirate treasure but poorly crafted replicas made out of papier mache that might as well have been stand in props in some cheap student production and they're going to come bursting through this door and kill us!

Julian            By gum. You're right. Awfully sorry. Better retract those cheers then  
*They do the three cheers backwards(hurray hip hip or pih pih yarruh you decide).*

Dick              So what are we going to do? I don't know about you chaps but I don't fancy facing down some pirates.

Anne              Well I think it could be quite wholesome fun. Aunt Fanny did say we should get more exercise

George           Be that as it may, I think she was more thinking we should go for bracing walks along the seashore as opposed to battling for our lives against cutlass wielding brigands.

Anne              She might have meant that...

Carlotta          Come on! We need to come up with a plan!

*Everyone inside the chip shop continues pretending like they're coming up with a plan while (if we had a rotating stage this would be the time to use it) the Piddlers are revealed sneaking up to the Fish and Chip shop.*

Barry Right are we all clear on the plan?

Tetra Which particular part of the plan Barry? The part where we go to the fish and chip shop and listen to *their* plan or...oh no wait that was the whole plan.

Barry Well obviously Tetra is clear on the plan. Mike?

Mike *(ponders for a long while)* Yes Barry.

Barry Jetsam?

Jetsam *Mumbles incoherently*

Barry Excellent. We saw those pirates get fobbed off with fake treasure. We won't be fooled. You have to wake up pretty early to fool Barry Man o'war

Mike What like...6am

Barry No Mike not like 6am

Mike So 5 am?

Barry No Mike not 5 am either

Mike 4AM?

Barry *(Shouting)* IT IS AN EXPRESSION MICHAEL. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC TIME AT WHICH YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!!!

*Those inside the chip shop all look up at the sound. They go to peer outside. The piddlers have to hide quickly.*

George That's odd. I'm sure I heard something

Julian Go and see what it is Anne. Take Timmy for protection.

Anne Alright. But if I get kidnapped again then I'm not going to be best pleased.

*Anne peers outside. The piddlers are poorly concealed and know that if she comes any closer they will be discovered.*

Julian Can you hear anything Anne?

Dick Oh it's probably nothing. I'm sure it was just a bird

*Barry gestures at Tetra who seems confused. He gestures more emphatically. Eventually she gets it.*

Tetra Tweet. Tweet.

*The Piddlers look at her in shock at howbad her bird impression was. At this point the donkeys and the blue flag committee run past.*

Ian and Lesley Stop those donkeys!

Brenda Keep running Nancy. We're this close to freedom

Nancy Viva la donkey revolution!  
*They run offstage*

Anne Don't worry guys it was just some rogue donkeys  
*She goes back inside.*

Mike That was close

Barry That it was. Now we'll have no more shouting.

Tetra But you were the one who-

Barry NO MORE- *(he drops to a whisper)* shouting. Got it?

Tetra and Mike *(Whisper)* Yes Barry

Jetsam *Mutters* I wasn't shouting

Barry Good now let's listen in.

Carlotta So we're all clear. The four of you

Anne And Timmy!

Carlotta ...And Timmy of course. The Five of you will go out and see if you can get help. We'll stay here and guard the chip shop in case anyone comes back

Julian And have a look around for that treasure while we're at it.

Carlotta You don't think if there had been an enormous pirate treasure in this tiny chip shop I would have found it by now! The treasure is a myth. It doesn't exist.

Julian Well it won't hurt to have a poke about. It could be...behind the sofa?

Carlotta I give up. Are we all clear on the plan?

All Yes!

Carlotta Right then. Bring help as soon as you can.

Julian Don't worry miss. You can count on us.

Dick Stay safe now.

Anne and George Bye!

*The mundane five exit running too fast to see the piddlers (theatre) In the background Carlotta silently acts (I know)*

Barry So the treasure isn't inside the shop?

Tetra So it would seem

Jetsam *Grunts*

Mike Oh. I was looking forward to spending my dubloons

Barry But just because the treasure isn't inside the shop. Doesn't mean we haven't found the treasure

Mike What?

Tetra For once I'm as lost as Mike is. What are you on about Barry?

Barry What's the one thing Pirate treasure is known for being?

Mike Shiny!

Tetra Stolen!

Barry No

Tetra Old?

Mike Cursed?

Barry No and no

Mike Gold?

Jetsam Smelling like fish?

*Moment of surprise at coherent sentence from Jestam*

Barry Ok what is one *other* thing pirate treasure is known for being?

*Silence*

Barry Buried!

Mike Buried Barry?

Tetra Are you saying the booty's been buried Barry?

Barry Indeed. The booty has been buried. But how are we going to get to it?

Tetra (Gasps) I know!

Mike What is it?

*They get into a huddle and whisper their plan*

Barry I like it. It's got a certain elegance

Mike It does?

Barry It does

Tetra Let's just hope it works. Come on boys let's go get our treasure.

*Exeunt*

**Scene 4** In which the mundane five are in a whole lot of trouble.

*We open on the mundane five in a whole (hole) lot of trouble. Because they are in a hole. The crew of the miserable peter (and Jane) have surrounded the hole. Now I'm not sure how to stage this if I'm honest. Depends on the venue. If you're in somewhere with a raised stage (JDP) then you could have them on the floor with the audience. If not...good luck and I'm sorry.*

George        This is all your fault Julian

Julian        How is it my fault? How was I supposed to know that there was a cleverly disguised trap dug into the beach by a crew of dastardly pirates seeking revenge.

Anne        If you want to keep being the leader of this group I suggest you start looking where you're going!

Dick        Hey! We all walked into the hole didn't we?

George        I was following you!

Julian        Well there's no use fighting about it. Like it or not we're in the hole. Now I suggest we buck up and start thinking of a way out of here.

Brownbeard    Oh no you don't. I'll not have any thinking while you're my prisoner

Needles        I don't think we can stop them thinking cap'n

Francois        I agree. It would be difficult to say the least

Jane        Yeah I don't think I could stop thinking if I tried! One time I did try but then I kept thinking about how I wasn't supposed to think and then- (*Someone places a hand over Jane's mouth*)

S'you        Aye cap'n. I think we should stick to the original plan and not worry about stopping anyone from thinking.

Anne        What is your plan?

George        (*quietly*) Yeah right Anne. Like he's just going to tell us the plan!

Brownbeard    The plan is simple. And since you will likely be dead soon I suppose I can tell it to you in full without any fear of any repercussions whatsoever.

Francois        Ummm-

Brownbeard    Willl you be quiet Francois I am speaking. Now where was I? Ah yes! As you may have noticed you have fallen into my cunningly disguised trap

Julian        Your hole?

Brownbeard    Yes. The hole. Now what you may have failed to notice is that

Dick        The tide is coming in?

Brownbeard    Well. I suppose maybe you did notice that. But what will have escaped your attention is that

George        That we're about to be drowned as the hole fills with water and the fishes

will nibble our bones?

Brownbeard Right. Well. But. What you have yet to grasp is that-

Anne We have absolutely no hope of escape?

Brownbeard Alright fine! But I bet you didn't know that we're about to go back to that fish and chip shop and hold that dreadful woman at cutlass point until she hands over the treasure that my grandmother left there for me and then we're going to kill her anyway because we're oh so very evil! Bet you didn't know that then did you!

Julian Actually we didn't know that

Needles Captain. We agreed you would keep at least some of the plan to yourself! Anyone could have overheard that!

Brownbeard Dammit! Well the brats will be dead soon enough anyway and we can make a run for the chip shop now before anyone has a chance to stop us.

Dick You'll never get away with this!

Brownbeard Just watch me. Or rather, don't watch me because you'll be dead in a hole and I will be far away claiming the treasure that is rightfully mine!

Francois That may have been overkill mon capitaine.

Brownbeard Oh hush all of you. To the Plaice in the Sun.

*The Pirates exit. Leaving the mundane five in MORTAL PERIL*

Julian Oh what are we to do!

George Well it's no good panicking. We've gotten out of worse scrapes than these before haven't we? There was that time where we were trapped in the catacombs under Paris

Dick And the time we were supposed to go fishing but we ended up having to be helicoptered out of the brecon beacons.

Julian Which was especially odd since we'd gone fishing in Kent.

George And there was that time Dick accidentally ran for MP in the Manchester by election

Dick I'd almost forgotten about that one. And now here we are. Conquered not by mole people, the freezing mountainous terrain or by the political landscape of the 21st century but by a hole in a beach dug with a plastic spade by some half-arsed pirates.

**Song! A fun song about old and obscure adventures**

Anne If you are quite finished Dick. All is not lost. We still have our secret weapon

George Weapon? What are you talking about Anne?

Anne The pirates didn't see him. He was tucked away in my pocket.

All 4 children Timmy!

Anne I'll send Timmy to fetch help. He'll be back in a Jiffy

*She throws Timmy over the edge of the hole where he remains motionless because he is a pretend sea slug. Quelle surprise.*

Julian How long do you think he'll be? The tide does come in awfully fast

George Trust Timmy Julian. He's never let us down before.

Dick We've never sent him to get help before.

Anne Oh do have a little faith Dick. Now there's nothing better to do than wait.

*They wait. They wait some more. They wait until it all gets a bit awkward.*

Julian I suppose shouting 'help' wouldn't hurt either

All 'Help' 'we're trapped in a hole' (*ad lib as needed*)

*On come the tourists*

Francine Do you hear that Mark? It could be Jane. Hello?

Mundane 5 Help us!!!!  
(4)

Mandy Are you aware of the health and safety risk associated with this hole? I must make it clear that the Piddle-on-the-sea tourism board is not in anyway liable for any injuries or drowning caused by this hole.

Andy This is an unsanctioned hole!

Francine Oh be quiet no one is suing you. There they are. Jane!?

Anne No it's just us.

Grandpa Back in my day holes like this were only used when trying to hunt endangered animals. I remember the time when we caught a zebra and it kicked one of the guides right in the-

Francine Grandpa!

Anne Is Timmy there with you

Francine Timmy?

Anne Our pet sea slug. We sent him for help and he must have found you.

*At this point Mark realises he has in fact trodden on Timmy. He hastily wipes his shoe on the sand.*

Mark Oh um...he found us. And then he said he had important things to do and went on ahead

*They help the children out of the hole*

Julian Oh he must have gone to head off the pirates at the fish and chip shop

Francine The pirates have gone to the chip shop? What have they done with Jane?

George She was with them. Don't worry she isn't hurt.

Jack But if you're here where's Carlotta?

Anne She stayed behind to guard the shop. But the pirates still want the treasure and they're headed back there to take her hostage

Dick And then they're going to kill her anyway!

Jack We have to help her!

Francine What can we do?

Jack I don't know! But I can't sit around and do nothing. You three go to get help. Guys *(To the five (now four))* can you show me where they went?

Francine Jack?

Jack Yes mum?

Francine If you see Jane

Jack I'll make sure she's safe mum

*Jack and the four exit*

Mark Well what are we waiting for. Let's go see if there's anyone in town you can stop these pirates.

Grandpa I need the toilet

Francine Let's go see if there's anyone in town you can stop these pirates. And find a toilet.

*They exit.*

## **Scene 5** In which there are lesbians

*An interlude to all of this drama. We revisit Betty and Eileen enjoying their holiday. Eileen is walking round in circles.*

Betty You alright there dear?

Eileen Yes. I mean I would be a lot better if everything would just stop spinning.

Betty That's you dear. You're spinning.

*Eileen stops spinning and promptly needs to sit down (bench, chair, something)*

Eileen Well I never knew you had an identical twin Betty. How do you do?

Betty Oh we've reached double vision now have we? Oh it's like Ibiza all over



again. Eileen?

Eileen Not now Betty I'm trying to say hello to your charming sister.

Betty That's me Eileen

Eileen Well make up your mind. First you don't have a sister then you *are* your sister it's all very confusing. I think I liked it better when everything was spinning. (*She gets up to spin more*)

Betty Will you sit down. Honestly you can't hold your liquor. You never could.

Eileen Then why on earth did you marry me?

Betty Well Eileen. All these adventures we've had. Ibiza, Cornwall, the Galapagos, Hull

Eileen Yes?

Betty They wouldn't have been any kind of adventures if it hadn't been for you. (*they schuzzle*) Now let's get you off to bed and tomorrow I'll make us bacon sandwiches.

***Song! A big, important song that may make your musical director cry. So in this song...imagine 'one day more' from les mis but written for each of these groups of characters...not a parody song. A whole new song. I'm sorry. I'll write it for you. Sorry.***

**Scene 6** In which there is a hostage situation and sneaking

*We are back at the chip shop inside Carlotta has been tied up by the pirates who are gesturing at her with large cutlasses or something similar. The four children and Jack sneak up to the window/door or something*

Jack No! We're too late

Julian They've got Carlotta

Dick And they're going to kill her if they don't get the treasure.

George Or if they DO get the treasure!

Anne What are we going to do?

Jack We need to stay calm. We have to let Carlotta know that we're out here without tipping off the pirates.

Dick How do you propose we do that?

Julian I've got an idea!

*The action switches to inside the fish and chip shop*

Brownbeard Tell us where the treasure is or I'll chop off one of your ears!

Carlotta I told you! There isn't any treasure!

Francois        Nonsense. We know there is treasure here somewhere.

Needles        And you're going to give it to us...

S'you        Or else things are going to get awfully messy.

Carlotta        But I already told you. If there was any treasure I would have found it I've looked everywhere. I've even checked behind the sofa

S'you        That is a thorough search cap'n. Maybe she's telling the truth.

Brownbeard    Nonsense S'you. My mother wanted me to find this treasure which means we will find it. No matter the cost. Even if I have to tear this chip shop apart brick by brick. Now if the girl won't tell us we'll just have to look. Get to it you scurvy dogs!

Crew and Jane    Aye Aye Captain

*The crew begin to look. Carlotta looks out of the window where Jack is frantically waving.*

Carlotta        Gasps

Brownbeard    What was that? What do you see?

Carlotta        Ummm...I just remembered that I forgot to check...under the beds?

Needles        You forgot the beds? A rookie mistake. The treasure must be under one of them.

Brownbeard    Come on crew let's go find the treasure. Francois – watch her

*The pirates run upstairs leaving Francois and Carlotta*

Jack        *(mimes/mouths to carlotta)* Distract him

*During this exchange Jack and the four sneak into the shop and untie Carlotta*

Carlotta        *(nods)* oh Mr-

Francois        Francois

Carlotta        Mr Francois. How did you come to be a pirate?

Francois        Ah it is a terrible tale. I was in France

Carlotta        Oh that explains the accent

Francois        The Accent?

Carlotta        Never mind.

Francois        Yes I was in France awaiting to catch the ferry over to England for to study english cooking. But what do you know. I got on the wrong boat and it just so happened to be a pirate ship.

Carlotta A pirate ship? Oh my!

Francois Ah yes I feared for my life. But Captain Brownbeard, he is a kind man

Carlotta I'm finding that a bit difficult to believe right now.

Francois It is true. This treasure it has become an obsession. But he could have killed me that day. Instead he made me the ship's cook and I have served him ever since.

Carlotta That's not so terrible a tale

Francois Oh but it is. For though I kept my life I have been forced ever since to cook using the foulest of ingredients. Can you imagine what it is like to eat only pickled herring for months at a time. Have you ever eaten a ship's biscuit so hard that you used it earlier in the day as a hammer when repairing the ship?

Carlotta Oh how...difficult for you

Francois Yes. That is why I was so happy when I came to this place. These frites! Delicieux n'est pas? Parfait!

Carlotta Frites?

Francois The chips madame the chips!

Carlotta Ah yes well thankyou. An old family recipe. I could...get you some now if you like?

Francois Really?

Carlotta Yes of course. They're just here behind the counter

Francois Oh thankyou.

*She goes behind the counter*

Francois Hang on a minute. How did you get untied?

*Carlotta emerges from behind the counter and hits Francois on the head with something amusing (a fish, a potato, a comical blow up hammer?)*

Carlotta You saved me! But why did you come back without help?

Jack My mum and dad have gone to get help. We came to rescue you from the pirates. They're going to kill you.

Julian We heard them say so themselves!

Carlotta Oh no. Everyone, we have to go.

Jack Wait. Where's my sister

Carlotta Oh no! The pirates took her upstairs.

Jack I promised mum I'd get her back.

Carlotta Nonsense. I'm not sending teenagers up to rescue kidnapped children.

Get yourselves outside. I'll handle this (*she brandishes her weapon from earlier*)

George But what if they-

Carlotta A captain has to go down with her ship...chip dear. I'm not leaving this place.

*Despite their protestations the others go outside. Carlotta sets her shoulders and follows after the pirates and Jane. Outside the Chip shop, the children and Jack run into the piddlers*

Barry Soon that treasure will be ours-hey!

Anne How many times! There isn't any treasure.

Tetra Oh but there is. Buried under that chip shop is our fortune. And any minute now it's going to be all ours

Jack You're going to dig up the chip shop? Well I hate to break it to you but you'll have a hard time getting through all the concrete oh and the bloodthirsty PIRATES!

Barry Oh we're not going to dig. We've simply used all the old TNT we had from when we used to go dynamite fishing. All I have to do is press this trigger (*He has a trigger*) and...

Mike Boom!

Jetsam *Mumbles boom.*

George You can't do that! Carlotta's in there!

Jack And my sister!

Anne And Timmy could be in there

*Awkward silence. Someone mouths 'who's timmy?'*

Tetra There's nothing you can do about it now. The treasure is ours.

Julian We have to warn Carlotta

Jack I'll come with you.

*They run inside*

Barry Oh for heaven's sake. I want the treasure now. 3...2...

Mike Err...boss?

Barry What is it Mike?

Mike I'm not sure I want to blow up the fish and chip shop. Not if there's people inside. And if we did blow it up...where would we get chips?

Tetra Actually Mike has a point. The fish and chip shop may be deeply in our debt but we do need somewhere to sell our fish or else what's the point in being fisherpeople?

Barry But the treasure! We could live like kings!

Tetra I never wanted to be a king Barry. I got into fishing to have a quiet life.

Mike Me too.

Jetsam *Noncommittal grunt*

Tetra Let's forget all about it Barry. Put the detonator down.

Barry But-

Tetra We could still catch the tide if we leave now?

Barry I mean...I suppose...alright then

*They move to leave but at that exact moment Mandy, Francine and Mark run on stage. They crash into Barry which launches the detonator up in the air. Possibly through the magic of theatre all goes into slow motion and they follow the detonator up and then down onto the floor. Barry looks at everyone else and shouts*

Barry RUN

*They all leap away from the chip shop trying to reach safety.*

*Blackout*

*EXPLOSION SOUND EFFECT*

**Scene 7** In which the plot begins to resolve

*If in anyway possible this scene takes place next to the (smouldering) remains of the fish and chip shop.*

Anne What have you done!

George You've killed them!

Barry It was an accident. It fell out of my hand you all saw

Francine Where's Jack? Where's Jane?

Grandpa You call that an explosion? Back in my day-

Everyone Grandpa!  
but Mark and Francine

Andy This may not be the time...

Mark They weren't...

Anne They were inside

*Francine begins to weep*

Mandy I would like to point out that Piddle-on-the-sea tourism board is not in any way liable-

Mark Oh shut up Mandy!

*There is a solemn moment as they gaze upon the carnage and then...*

Dick Wait a second!

George What is...

Barry It can't be

Anne It is!

*Slowly but surely Jack emerges carrying/dragging Jane. Julian comes out with her Carlotta's arm around his shoulder.*

All Cheers! They made it! huzzah!

Anne I don't understand it? How on earth did you survive?

Jack We hid under one of the beds. It shielded us from the brunt of the blast. It was a bit of a squeeze with all the pirates as well

George The pirates!

*At this all the pirates also emerge from the wreckage*

Carlotta Well they were already under the beds so it would have been too much work to push them out again!

Brownbeard What was that explosion in aid of?

Francois My head hurts

Tetra We wanted to find the buried treasure. We thought the blast would reveal it underneath the foundations.

*There is a pause then everyone at the same time begins searching for the treasure amongst the ruins.*

Anne I've found something!

Dick What is it Anne?

George Give her some space!

*Anne dramatically turns to reveal what she has found. It is an old and dusty message in a bottle!*

Julian Is there a message inside!?

Carlotta Read it! Can you believe it, right under our feet all these years?

Anne I think he should read it. *(She points at Brownbeard)*

Julian Why should he read it! He tried to kill us all!

Anne Well it's addressed to him!

Brownbeard It is?

Anne To whomsoever followed the map here. That's you isn't it?

Brownbeard It is.  
*He takes the bottle and opens the message*

Brownbeard To whomever found this treasure. Whichever one of my descendants managed to follow the map here. Well done. You have found the place where I brought all my ill gotten gains.

Barry Yes! Treasure I knew it!

Brownbeard Hang on! There's more. Sadly if you were looking for silver or gold or rubies you will not find them.

Needles What?!

Brownbeard For I have decided to leave piracy behind me and to go into business. I am using all my treasure to buy this plot of land and to build myself an eating establishment that I can be proud of. In which I can lead an honest life making people happy with food. I am sorry to have disappointed you but now you have learnt the most valuable lesson I can teach you. Piracy is all well and good, but in the end you sometimes have to stop searching for adventures and come in to safe harbour.

Francois Sacre Bleu!

Julian What a beautiful moral

Carlotta Well it would be if you guys hadn't blown up the 'safe harbour' with TNT?

Mike Sorry

Tetra How were we supposed to know there wasn't a vast sum of wealth underneath the shop?

Barry TNT seemed the best idea. Anyway I didn't want to blow it up in the end. I had a sudden and hugely plot significant change of heart.

Anne That's true he did.

George It was him (*points at Mark*) who barged in here, knocked the detonator out of his hand and it went off by accident.

Carlotta Well thank goodness I took out that insurance policy against accidental damage through enormous explosions.

George You did?

Carlotta Oh yes. It's standard policy when operating a small business these days. I'll put a phone call in to the insurance company 'Plot Convenience 'R'Us' in the morning and they should be able to give us enough money to rebuild the shop and pay back any debt we owe to the fisherpeople.

Barry Well...given that it was us who blew up the shop anyway why don't we call that debt settled

Tetra It's the least we can do.

Julian You don't say.

Brownbeard Wait a minute. I'm still not sure I understand.

Francine What in particular don't you understand? I've been thoroughly confused since part way through act 1!

Brownbeard Well if my Mother came here, sold all her treasure and started a fish and chip shop. How did you end up running it?

Carlotta Well I took over from her of course. It is tradition for the child to take on the parent's business.

*GASPS all round.*

Jack You mean he's your

Brownbeard You're my

Needles He's a

S'you You can't mean?

Brownbeard You're my...half sister?

Carlotta So it would seem!

Francois Mon dieu

Brownbeard Sort of...awkward now. I'm sorry for...threatening to kill you. Hug? (*he holds out his arms*)

Carlotta Yeah no I'm not doing that. But fair's fair this chip shop ought to have been half yours as well as mine so I'll

Brownbeard Offer me a half share of the business?

Carlotta Of course not! You tried to kill me! I was going to say I'll let you go with all your limbs intact and I might wait a few days before I call the police!

Brownbeard Oh. Right. Well I'll just be off then.

Dick Ahem (*he whispers into Carlotta's ear*)

Carlotta Oh alright then. You can stay to help us rebuild the chip shop. There's an awful lot of work to be done and we could use all the help we can get. But if we ever want to get it done we have to start now. Who's with me?

All Cheers!

*Blackout*



**Scene 8**

In which we wrap up the side plots while the scene changes

*Gladys is onstage with the marketing executives*

Gladys Well that was an absolutely fruitless exercise!

Sandra I'm hearing a lot of negativity here Gladys.

Derek Negativity is a toxin of the soul. It's like...reverse kale

Gladys Oh shut it you ridiculous humans. It was your idea that I should 'imitate the practices of local businesses similar to mine'.

Derek Great idea Sandra

Sandra Thankyou Derek

Gladys No! Not a good idea Sandra. It was a very bad idea to 'blow up my own chip shop to indicate how business was booming' Turns out Carlotta didn't even blow her shop up on purpose! That's it you're fired!

*At this moment the donkeys enter pursued by the blue flag committee*

Nancy It's no good Brenda. Leave me behind. I can't run any further

Brenda No Donkey gets left behind! We get turned into glue together!

Lesley Stop that donkey

Ian And that other donkey

*Gladys grabs hold of the donkeys*

Lesley Finally we've got you! Now you're going back to the beach

Gladys You're not taking them to the beach are you? It's covered in the fragments of not one but two exploded fish and chip shops!

Ian What?

Gladys Long story

Lesley She's right Ian, we can't take them back there. If there's one thing we've found out today it's that this isn't a safe beach. Blue flag denied!

Ian Well what's going to happen to them then?

Lesley I think we'll have to take them to a donkey sanctuary

Gladys Well the local sanctuary shut down recently. It's currently up for sale.

Ian Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Lesley We give up being boring blue flag inspectors and start a donkey sanctuary?

Gladys And I make the food for the people visiting and for the donkeys!

Ian Exactly!

Sandra And we do the marketing

*Awkward silence*

Gladys Ummm...no? You head off back to hipster land or wherever it is you came from. The three of us have a donkey sanctuary to discuss.

*The marketing goons leave*

Brenda You hear that Nancy-a sanctuary! We're going to be free

Nancy Thank heavens Brenda. I didn't much fancy being on the run for the rest of our lives. I'm so glad we decided to run. That was a wise decision.

Brenda Well we are a pair of smart asses.

*With that pun. They all exit.*

**Scene 9** In which there is an epilogue

*The lights come up on the opening of A Plaice in the Sun 2 (electric boogaloo). Betty and Eileen come in as they have been invited alongside everyone else to the grand opening.*

Eileen Doesn't it look lovely Betty

Betty Ooh yes Eileen (*to Carlotta*) You've done a wonderful job dear

Carlotta Well I couldn't have done it without everyone's help. Thankyou to the Piddler's for doing the bricklaying and to the four of you for giving helpful moral support.

Anne Good show!

George Huzzah

Carlotta That's quite enough of that thankyou. I'm also excited to announce that Francois will be joining me as the newest fry cook here at the new and improved Plaice in the Sun. And to the pirates for letting us use the timbers from the miserable Pete- you have my undying gratitude

Needles You've changed your tune

S'you I think you mean she's changed her TUNA

Tetra Oh please we got through almost the entire show without having to deal with excessive fish puns. We were so close

Julian (*To Jack*)So when are you guys headed home?

Jack Tomorrow. Early. It's a long drive back to (*place Jack is from*)

Anne Oh.

Jack We'll be back next year though. We haven't had a holiday this fun in years. Jane's decided she wants to be a pirate when she grows up and they've agreed to take her sailing a bit next summer-so long as promises to keep her mouth shut.

Dick            So we'll see you next year then?

Jack            I'd like that

Francine        Oh yes we'll be back.

Grandpa        Unless I've died by then

All              Grandpa!

Julian          Well speaking of leaving we'd better be going soon too. Aunt Fanny will wonder where we've been this whole time.

Anne            Well given that we've not been home in 4 days and she hasn't come looking for us I suspect she's still sat in front of that Netflix marathon.

Dick            Well her poor guardianship hasn't stopped us yet. Carpe-Diem

S'you           CARP e diem!?

Needles        S'you I told you no fish puns. I've had it up to here with you!

S'you           You've haddock up to here?

Needles        S'you I will take my cutlass and I will put it somewhere very dark and very uncomfortable if you do not stop now.

Brownbeard    Will you please stop it both of you. If you are quite finished I would like to take this opportunity to raise a...chip? To the most exceptional woman who brought all of us together today. My mother The great Pirate Desdemona may Davy Jones hold her soul (*Spit*) May her spirit live on in this noble establishment and...

S'you           Cod bless us. Every one.

Needles        S'YOU!

                    Fin. (geddit...fin)