

DICK DAREDEVIL
A New Musical Comedy

Story, script and lyrics
by Phil Willmott

Music by Stephen Markwick

Original Production, The Drill Hall,
Off West End, Christmas 1996

"It should have us rushing to book our seats." SEE THEATRE.

"Phil Willmott's hum a-long, smile-and-a song musical is set in London 1944, heaving with dastardly secret agents, cheeky cockneys and two-timing GIs. Willmott leads you to the edge of the cliff hangers with a blend of the madcap and melodramatic.. Keeps the laughs flowing.. between the set piece show-stoppers. TIME OUT

"An adventure of time travel intrigue and bravery. The show's comedy works well.. certainly catchy.. THE STAGE

"Rumbustious pleasures. You can't argue with dialogue like this."
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH.

"BLITZ HITS TARGET

Phil Willmott's Boy's Own wartime musical flings itself at the audience with all the energy of a buzz bomb... The writer- director's undeniable talent for knock about fun... accompanied by a naggingly impressive, varied score by Stephen Markwick."

THE EVENING STANDARD

"THE BEST ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS SHOW IN LONDON.

Not content with producing a musical that's for the family, this is a musical comedy that's about the family in particular about the role of fathers and the needs of sons. Phil Willmott manages to weave the sub-text subtly into the action. Von Rippenclaw makes a first class villain."

THE INDEPENDENT.

"An epicly-scaled evening.. mixes Flash Gordon with Lionel Bart's Blitz! With pinches of Return to the Forbidden Planet. Markwick's songs are captivating." WHAT'S ON.

"Broadway musicals provide the raw material for writer Phil Willmott and composer Steven Markwick. The tone is so affectionate that there isn't much to separate Dick Daredevil from the forbears it draws upon."

THE TIMES

The Musical is set in The Fitzrovia area of London during The Blitz
and on The Planet Zarg, science fiction setting of the war time radio
serial,
The Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour.

~~Characters in order of appearance:~~

Mr. BBC. Announcer

Rose Spratt

- Proprietress of Spratt's Boarding House, London W1
and Billy's mum

lovable cockney Policeman

Charles (Chuck) Ryan

- Dashing US. Marine Captain.
doubling with
Dick Daredevil
- Dashing Super Hero type.

Billy Spratt

-age 10

Edmund Clegg

- Ace inventor
doubling with
Jock MacTavish
- Even acer inventor and Dick's loyal side kick.

Sylvia

- Plucky WAF. gal
doubling with
Princess Daphne
- Plucky glamorous space virgin and Dick's gal.

Lord Fang

- Deputy to Baron Von Rippenclaw

The Sinister Stranger

- with a suspicious german accent!
doubling with
Baron Von Rippenclaw
- Supreme commander of the intergalactic Forces Of Darkness.

First and Second U.S. Marines

- The Beast Of Clore**
- Gigantic, fire breathing monster

Winston Churchill

**Ensemble of Londoners, People of Zarg, Von Rippenclaw's Soldiers,
Harem (f), Marines (m), Cheerleaders (f)**

THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION WAS PLAYED OUT ON A GIGANTIC 1940'S WIRELESS SET ON TWO LEVELS. HIDDEN PANELS CAN DISSOLVE, SLIDE OPEN, REVOLVE AND ACT AS DOORS TO CREATE THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

Locations:

A street in war time Fitzrovia

The lobby of Spratt's boarding house

The flight deck of Dick's space ship

A public place on The Planet Zarg

The Star Gazer public house.

Von Rippenclaw's dungeon.

Churchill's war room.

Act One

FX. AIR RAID - ALL CLEAR SIREN

HOUSE LIGHTS TO HALF.

BRIGHT OVERTURE.

FX. THE SOUND OF A RADIO BEING TUNED IN.

A PANEL OF THE RADIO DISSOLVES TO REVEAL THE BBC NEWS CASTER IN 1940'S BLACK TIE EVENING DRESS.

AS HE SPEAKS LONDONERS SING SOFTLY AS THEY CLIMB OUT FROM THE BOMB SHELTERS

BBC ANNOUNCER: (IN PERIOD R.P.)

This is the BBC from London with the early evening news. The capital has suffered one of the heaviest bombing raids of the blitz with over 500 enemy planes dropping an estimated 100,000 bombs on the capital. All over London it's people emerged from the shelter of underground stations, to face the debris of another attempt at breaking the spirit of our great city.

COMPANY:

Endless nights of fire falling
Through the dark like poison rain
Every night like rats we scurry
From the sound of any plane.
But we're here,
Still alive,
London will survive.

Good Times

We're ready for good times in London again.
For singing and dancing but heaven knows when.
We're blue and we're through with the grim and the grey
We just need a hero to show us the way.

TUNE CONTINUES UNDER THE SCENE UNTIL INDICATED

VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY DISCUSS THEIR SITUATION. AMONGST THEM IS ROSE SPRATT, AN ATTRACTIVE BUT TIRED LOOKING MUM.

- 1: Poor old London.
- 2: look at her. It breaks my heart to see her so jagged and broken.
- 3: She's not finished yet, she's still got some fight in her.
- 4: Looks like the bombers gave them a pasting down Gas Street.
- 5: Maybe they're coming back for us tonight.
- 6: Not another night like this, please God.
- 7: At least the kids are safe in the country.
- 8: Yes, my two say they're homesick but you should read the letters they

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write about the pigs and the chickens. They've given Sarah a kitten to look after, she loves it.

9: It's good for them, all that country air.

ROSE: They're out the way of the bombs that's what matters.

10: How's your Billy coping with being evacuated?

ROSE: He seems pretty miserable. Says he misses me.

11: 'course he does he's only what.. ten years old. (ROSE NODS) They're bound to miss us.

ROSE: Mind you I don't know who he misses most me or Dick Daredevil.

(MUSIC OUT)

12: Eh?

ROSE: The Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour. On the wireless. He's always listened to it. Every night at 6.45 he's glued to that radio set. He follows all the adventures like they're really happening. I suppose it's been an escape for him. It can't have been easy since his dad died. And growing up in a boarding house with all those new faces coming and going at least he knows he'll always have me .. and Dick Daredevil.

13: I don't know how you manage to run that boarding house with out a man around.

ROSE: Oh there's plenty of men around. No shortage of sailors to unblock the plumbing, airmen to fix the roof, soldiers to put out the sandbags.

14: Lucky old Rose. All those handsome young men.

ROSE: Yeh, but I always have to hand them back to Mr. Churchill.

15: The American soldiers'll be arriving any day now. I hear that Clark Cable's joined up.

16: He's welcome in my air raid shelter any day.

17: Men away from home, we all know what they're after.

ROSE: Yes, and unfortunately it's a good breakfast and a shoulder to cry on.

A POLICEMAN ENTERS.

POLICEMAN: Excuse me ladies, can anyone tell me where I can find Rose Spratt of Spratt's boarding house.

18: Over here love. Not bad news I hope.

ROSE: That's me. I'm Rose Spratt.

POLICEMAN: It's about your little boy.

TENSE UNDERSCORING IN

ROSE: Oh dear God! Billy! No! Nothing's happened to him has it?

POLICEMAN: We're not sure. You see we've received reports that he's run away from the farm where he was evacuated.

ROSE: It's always the same, ever since his dad died, when ever there's the slightest problem he runs away and hides.

POLICEMAN: It happens sometimes with evacuees, kid's are very resourceful they usually make their way back home.

ROSE: But it's hundreds of miles! Oh my god and the bombs start falling the moment it gets dark. Anything could have happened to him.

POLICEMAN: Don't panic Mrs Spratt, there's someone asking around at the railway station. It's my bet he'll turn up safe and sound. If you could just give us a description.

ROSE: Well he's about so high, brown hair, big green eyes, a few freckles, one sock's usually higher than the other.

UNDERSCORING SOFTENS

TEN YEAR OLD BILLY ARRIVES, LED BY CHUCK RYAN, A VERY HANDSOME, US. ARMY OFFICER. DESPITE HIS POSITION CHUCK IS RATHER SHY AND AWKWARD. HIS MANNERS ARE GRACIOUS AND HE'S OBVIOUSLY FROM A WELL TO DO FAMILY.

BILLY: Mum! Mum!

CHUCK: I believe this young man belongs to you.

MUM AND SON HUG.

ROSE: Oh Billy, Billy thank God you're safe.

CHUCK: (INTRODUCING HIMSELF) Captain Charles Ryan. US Marines. I noticed your son hiding on the train. He's a resourceful little guy, he sure wanted to get back to London.

ROSE: Billy, what was you thinking of? Anything could have happened.

BILLY: I'm sorry mum but I had to get back. You see no one realised that the doctor was actually a foreign agent and time was running out to get the secret code through behind enemy lines.

CHUCK: What's this? You have information about enemy spies?

POLICEMAN: Don't worry Billy. I think you'll find that the tree people of Oboria were able to defeat the Moon troll in time to beam the Novarian star juice through to Dick.

CHUCK: Say, what is this?

POLICEMAN: The Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour, sir. The Radio serial. Every evening at 6.45 after the light programme. I gather this young man's a bit of a fan.

BILLY: Please don't make me go back to Wales mum, the farmer's wife won't let me listen no matter how much I beg her. They make me sleep up in the attic and when the candle goes out it so dark and scary. Don't make me go back there.

ROSE: But it's not safe here my darling. London's being bombed to pieces. I can't let you be at risk. It's not for long.

BILLY: Mum -

Good Times ii

ROSE: Sweetheart it's not how I want things to be
You know how I miss you when you're not with me,
Our troubles are tough but they're not here to stay
We just need a hero to show us the way.

Tell Mr Hitler that he's got it wrong.
From Poplar to Purley, we're all standing strong.
We've got the pluck that will win us the day,
We just need a hero to show us the way.

That Vera Lyn, she's always singing

"We'll meet again before too long."
 "Pack your troubles up" and "keep on smiling through"
 Well, I want a new kind of song.

EVERYONE:

We're ready for good times in London tonight,
 To see Piccadilly all lit up and bright.
 To walk down the strand feeling happy and gay
 We just need a hero to show us the way.

SPOKEN DIALOGUE OVER THE MUSIC:

BILLY: A hero like Dick Daredevil.

19: (AMUSED) Yeh, we could do with Dick Daredevil around here.

20: He'd get things sorted.

ROSE: Oh Billy. Real life it's not that simple. You see Dick Daredevil is only.. He's just..

POLICEMAN: He's very, very busy Billy. You've heard him on the wireless. He hasn't got time to listen to our problems.

BILLY: But maybe if we wished very, very hard.

21: There's no harm in wishing.

ROSE: I think we need a hero who's a little bit closer than the planet Zarg.

SINGING CONTINUES.

A WOMAN:
 Someone to tell old Mr. Churchill
 How we can win this blessed war.

A MAN:
 Someone strong and true
 To set old London free.

ROSE:
 So we'll be a family once more.

BILLY:
 With oranges for tea.

ROSE: (SPOKEN) That's the spirit. We will get through this if we can just remember how things were before.

POLICEMAN: (SPOKEN) And how they're going to be again.

ROSE: (POSH TO BILLY) May I have the pleasure of this dance.

BILLY: (PLAYING ALONG) Why certainly Modom.

THEY START A CLUMSY, SILLY WALTZ BUT WHICH SOON DEVELOPS A COCKNEY KNEES UP FEEL.

AT FIRST THE OTHERS WATCH THEM UNCERTAINLY. IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE'S BEEN HAPPY ENOUGH TO DANCE. BUT ROSE AND BILLY'S GOOD SPIRITS WIN EVERYONE OVER.

CHUCK LOOKS RATHER OUT OF PLACE AMONGST ALL THIS BUT HE'S ENJOYING IT ALL THE SAME. HE IS VERY DRAWN TO ROSE.

We're ready for good times in London again.
For singing and dancing but heaven knows when.
We're blue and we're through with the grim and the grey
We just need a hero
So where is the hero
Please send us a hero
to show us the way.

END OF SCENE.

REPRISE TUNE TO COVER SCENE CHANGE.

SCENE 2.

THE LOBBY OF SPRATT'S BOARDING HOUSE.

THERE IS A FRONT DESK BEHIND WHICH IS A BOARD FOR HANGING KEYS AND PIGEON HOLES FOR THE GUESTS' LETTERS.

THERE IS A STAIRCASE LEADING UP TO A SECOND LEVEL WHERE THERE ARE 3 BEDROOM DOORS.

THERE IS A WIRELESS PROMINENTLY ON THE COUNTER. (A REAL VERSION OF THE GIANT RADIO WHICH FORMS THE SET)

BILLY IS SAT ON THE COUNTER. HE TURNS THE RADIO ON. ABOVE THE ACTION A PANEL DISSOLVES AND THE BBC. MAN SAYS:

EDMUND: Jolly good. Any post?

BILLY: Yes, I think there's a letter for you.

EDMUND OPENED HIS LETTER, READS IT, THEN CRUMPLES IT IN FRUSTRATION.

EDMUND: Dash it!

BILLY: What's the matter.

EDMUND: The war office have rejected another of my inventions.

BILLY: The anti-tank tin opener?

EDMUND: Why can't they see I can be of use to them? Not just stuck behind a desk with my beastly asthma. Well, I'll show them. Just you wait until the world hears about my new discovery.

BILLY: Edmund?

EDMUND: Oh Billy, I'm so excited I've got to tell someone. Can you keep a secret?

BILLY: Of course.

EDMUND: You're not a very short, cunningly disguised secret agent?

BILLY: You know I'm not.

EDMUND: Well, what do you make of this?

MUSIC.

HE PLACES A LUMP OF CRYSTAL ON THE DESK IN FRONT OF THE BOY.

BILLY: It looks like.. it's.. no it can't be.

EDMUND: Go on. What do you think it is?

BILLY: It looks like something from.. Dick Daredevil's home - The planet Zarg.

EDMUND: Good. I think so to.

BILLY: But what's it doing here?

EDMUND: I "fetched it".

BILLY: What?

EDMUND: I "fetched it". Or that's what seems to have happened. I think.. I think.. well it's just possible that I've built a machine that can transport things into and back from Dick Daredevil's world - from outer space.

MUSIC OUT

BILLY: I'm not laughing at you. Edmund.

EDMUND: I can see your not. You're a good boy.

BILLY: You think you've built one.

EDMUND: It's a long story. Well -

The Russian in a bar

I've always had a yearning to learn Russian
 (And) a Russian sailor asked me for a light.
 I asked him home to give me some lessons
 He kindly volunteered to spend the night.
 We crept in and he bumped into the wireless
 which turned it on and from a distant place
 The planet Zarg was beaming me a message
 Telling how to travel into space.

Who would ever guess
 A nobody like me
 Could travel to a distant star.
 Could take a holiday,
 Around the Milky Way,
 Because he met a Russian in a seedy Soho bar.

So I began to build myself a space ship.
 A cumbersome contraption I'll agree.
 Copper piping, fuse wire and a bath chair
 But built according to the formulae.
 I couldn't figure how to power the engine.
 It troubled me so much I couldn't sleep.
 But at the bar a russian car mechanic,
 Let me have the battery from a jeep.

Who would ever guess
 A nobody like me
 Could travel to a distant star.
 Could take a holiday,
 Around the Milky Way,
 Because he met a Russian
 In a seedy Soho bar.

The next night, terrified, I pressed the starter.
 The lever stuck, the engine wouldn't turn,
 Belching smoke it threatened to explode so,
 I ran away, too frightened to return.
 A Russian fighter pilot bought me vodka
 And petrified I told him what I feared,
 Together we returned to face the wreckage,
 Instead I found a crystal had appeared.

Who would ever guess
 A nobody like me
 Could travel to a distant star.
 Could take a holiday,
 Around the Milky Way,
 Because he met Russian
 In a seedy Soho bar.

(VERY FAST)
 Who would ever guess
 A nobody like me
 Could travel to a distant star.
 Could take a holiday,
 Around the Milky Way,
 (VERY, VERY FAST)
 'Cause he met Russian sailor
 And a Bolshevik mechanic,
 And Tsarist fighter pilot
 In a seedy Soho bar.
 Hoi!

EDMUND: I was shaken up I can tell you. The contraption was in the corner of my room as if nothing had happened, except on top of it was this lump of crystal with a note attached.

BILLY: A note? What did it say?

EDMUND: "Very impressive, you have the admiration of a fellow scientist. Best wishes, Professor Jock Mactavish"

BILLY: Jock Mactavish! Jock! but that's Dick Daredevil's trusty assistant!

EDMUND: Yes and tonight I'm going to travel into space and meet him in person.

BILLY: That's incredible. Oh Edmund!

EDMUND: You believe me then, Billy?

BILLY: Of course I believe you, Edmund. Can I come too?

EDMUND: Not this time old chap it's far too dangerous but I'll say hello to Captain Daredevil for you.

FROM OFF

ROSE: Billy! Is that you?

EDMUND: Well there's your ma. I'd better make myself scarce.
(MAKES HIS WAY UPSTAIRS) I've a lot to do if I'm to travel into space tonight.

BILLY: Good luck Edmund.

EDMUND: Toodle pip!

ROSE ENTERS BELOW JUST AS EDMUND'S ABOUT TO ENTER HIS ROOM ON THE LANDING LEVEL.

ROSE: (HARSH) Mr. Clegg!

EDMUND: Ah what harmonic loveliness fills the early evening air? Could that be the gentle voice of the delectable Mrs Spratt.

ROSE: Never mind any of your guff. You owe me two months rent. I can't run this place on fresh air, you know?

EDMUND: My dear Mrs S, angel of mercy. If I could just prevail on your good nature until the end of the week my current unfortunate and deeply depressing monetary crisis will have been brought to a joyous and full conclusion. Allowing instant and unbounded remuneration for the splendid facilities I have enjoyed here at Mason Spratt.

ROSE: You want me to take a cheque, don't you?

EDMUND: Yes.

ROSE: No chance. Cash on Friday or you're out on your ear. And about you "nocturnal activities". As you know in this establishment we discourage overnight visitors in the guests rooms. I'm all for "entertaining the troops" Mr. Clegg but there are limits.

EDMUND: (TO HIMSELF) That's rich coming from you.

ROSE: What was that?

EDMUND: Nothing Mrs Spratt, you'll have the rent by the end of the week. Bye Billy.

(HE EXITS HURRIEDLY)

ROSE: (KINDLY TO BILLY) Now sweet heart, what are you still doing down here?

BILLY: I'm waiting for The Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour, Mum.

ROSE: You know as well as I do it's not on for another twenty minutes. I told you to get washed so you can go straight to bed afterwards.

BILLY: But Mum! I'm too excited. Mr. Clegg says he's invented a space travelling machine. He's going to visit Dick Daredevil.

ROSE: Son, you're going to have to understand that Dick Daredevil dose not exist anywhere except in the wireless set. And that Mr. Clegg shouldn't be filling your head with ghosts and all that scientific fiction nonsense. Now, pyjamas please. If you don't hurry up you'll miss the beginning of The Adventure Hour. And be sure you brush your teeth properly.

BILLY: Yes mum.

BILLY STARTS TO MOVE UPSTAIRS.

ROSE: Did the post arrive?

BILLY: (AS HE GOES) Yes, I put it in the pigeon holes for you.

ROSE: Good boy.

BILLY: Mum?

ROSE: Yes Darlin'?

BILLY: I still miss dad.

ROSE: I know you do, sweet heart. Me too.

HE GOES.

ROSE: (TO HERSELF) Yeh, he was one in a million that man. I've never met another man who can touch him, even with his drinking. Gawd knows I've looked hard enough.

SHE SHUFFLES THROUGH HER MAIL.

ROSE: Bills, bills, bills!

CHUCK ENTERS. VERY GAUCHE.

CHUCK: Hi there again. Charles Ryan. We met earlier. I delivered your son from Paddington station.

ROSE: Of course you did, Captain Ryan.

SHE IS ALMOST LOST FOR WORDS AT HOW HANDSOME HE IS.

CHUCK: Oh please call me Chuck.

ROSE: Chuck! Ooh I like that. It's very American isn't it? Sends me all of a quiver, it's like talking to someone in a Hollywood film. Chuck, I think a woman telephoned for you earlier. From the RAF?

CHUCK: Goodness is there no escape from these people.

ROSE: Well, I said I didn't know anyone of that name, I'm afraid.

CHUCK: It won't hurt them to wait a while.

ROSE: You must be ever so important. I didn't get a chance to thank you properly with so much going on.

CHUCK: I didn't want to out stay my welcome. My unit is about to be stationed here and I'm supervising things from this end. I know there's some anti-American feeling at the moment.

ROSE: Not round here, love. The girls can't wait till the GIs arrive.

CHUCK: It was great to see you and Billy together. You obviously love each other very much.

ROSE: Yeh well, we've become very close since his dad was killed.

CHUCK: Oh, I'm very sorry, Mam.

ROSE: Don't be. It was a while ago now, and please call me Rose. Would you like a cup of tea, love?

CHUCK: Well, I.. I feel kind'a stupid now I'm here.

ROSE: What's the trouble darlin'?

CHUCK: Well, I got to thinking about all the stories Billy had told me about the guest house. And... I guess I'd really like to stay here if you have a room.

ROSE: Well, of course I'm sure we could find you something. We've never had a guest from Hollywoo.. America before. Breakfast is at eight-thirty. I'm afraid it's rather basic, what with the war and everything. (SHE'S MAKING A JOKE) not too many options with your eggs I'm afraid.

CHUCK: Oh however they come, sunny side up, over easy.. anything.

ROSE: Powdered.

CHUCK: Ah, I see. Yes, right. They did seem to have some bacon at The Dorchester.

ROSE: Spam.

CHUCK: Spam.

ROSE: Changed you mind?

CHUCK: No, no not at all. It'll be my pleasure to stay in a home for a while, even if it's not my own.

ROSE: Good. Me and Billy'll enjoy having you here.

CHUCK: (IN A GUSH) What time do you finish work? (REMEMBERING HIMSELF) If it's not an impertinent question.

ROSE: I don't get much spare time, Chuck.

CHUCK: Is this the lounge bar through here? Would you care to join me for a cocktail later?

ROSE: I can do you a milk stout. And I'm afraid it's less a bar more a drinks trolley by the aspidistra. But yes, I'd love to join you, that'd be smashing.

THE TELEPHONE RINGS. SHE ANSWERS.

ROSE: (POSH VOICE) Hello, Spratt's Hotel. How may I help you?
(DROPPING IT) what, but... Yes alright.. of course darling.. no, no..
don't you worry about a thing. I'll be right over.(SHE HANGS UP).

CHUCK: Anything the matter?

ROSE: It's my sister in Poplar, she's pregnat. I'm sure this is another of her false alarms but I've got to get over there. How am I going to get through with all the road blocks?

CHUCK: Don't worry I have full security clearance and a car waiting outside. I can get you through, no problem.

ROSE: Oh, could you?

CHUCK: Yes, of course. No problem at all. Let's go.

ROSE: You really are a hero. Just like in the films. - a proper.. hero.

CHUCK: Mrs.. Rose, you're making me blush. The truth is I've been thinking about you all day.

Don't Let Me Fall In Love

I never know the thing to say,
Romantic moments slip away,
Ask any girl I meet.
I stumble on when I should dance
I know I haven't got a chance,
This guy's got two left feet.

I want to be the hero
Of a Hollywood affair
But I know I always blow
It when I try my Fred Astaire.

So - don't let me fall in love with you baby
This Romeo knows he ought to go.
I've had to learn to slam the door
When love comes calling,
But like some dozy labrador
I find I'm falling.

Don't let me fall in love with you baby

Don't make me dream what I'm dreaming of
And if I start to stare a lot
Tell me to stop.
Don't let me fall in love

CHUCK: I'll go and tell my driver where we're going.

HE EXITS.

ROSE:
Don't let me fall in love with you mister
Believe me it's the last thing I need.
I've learnt so painfully before
Don't fall for lodgers
But can my crazy feet ignore
I'm Ginger Rodgers?

SHE TAKES A TATTY OLD STOLL FROM OFF THE COAT RACK, WRAPS IT ROUND HER SHOULDERS AND TRIES TO FEEL GLAMOROUS. SHE SINGS IN AN AMERICAN ACCENT TRYING TO BE LIKE A GINGER RODGERS TYPE FILM STAR.

Don't let me fall in love with you baby
It's quite the worst thing that we could do.
And should I catch your eye a lot
Tell me to stop.
Don't let me fall in love with -

A FANTASY OF HER BEING GINGER RODGERS. BITS OF THE WALL OPEN UP AND MEN IN TOP HAT AND TAILS ENTER THROUGH DRY ICE DANCING WITH HER AS IF SHE WERE GINGER OR MARILYN IN DIAMONDS ARE A GIRLS BEST FRIEND.

AT THE CLIMAX OF THE DANCE BREAK SHE SPINS INTO CHUCKS ARMS WHO ENTERS JUST IN TIME TO CATCH HER, THE FANTASY MEN START TO FADE AWAY. BACKING HARMONIES.

ROSE:
Tonight has all gone balmily Broadway

DICK:
I'm hum, hum, humming Hollywood too.

BOTH:
Was I the one who used to say
Tell me to stop.

FANTASY MEN OUT. LIGHTS RESTORE TO NORMAL.

Don't let me fall in
Stop me I'm falling
Don't let me fall in
love with you.

I'll meet you outside. (HE EXITS)

BILLY COMES DOWNSTAIRS IN HIS PYJAMAS AND DRESSING GOWN.

ROSE: Oh Billy, I've got to go over to your aunty Vi's.

BILLY: Is it the baby coming?

ROSE: It could be Darlin'. Will you be alright on your own for an hour?

BILLY: Yes mum.

ROSE: And you'll keep an eye on the front desk for me?

BILLY: I'll stay right here by the wireless.

ROSE: Goodbye. Any trouble, you just call Mr. Clegg.

BILLY: But Edmund will be in outer space.

ROSE: Billy what have I told you?

BILLY: What if I see an enemy spy?

ROSE: (MOCK TOUGH) Any spies come in here you make sure they wipe their feet first. But what you don't do is run away. I want to find you here when I get back, is that clear?

BILLY: Yes mum.

r;(SOFT) Oh Billy, It's lovely to have you home again. (SHE HUGS HIM)

BILLY: I won't let you down, Mum.

SHE KISSES HIM ON THE FOREHEAD AND LEAVES.

BILLY TURNS ON THE WIRELESS.

BBC MAN IS REVEALED.

BBC ANNOUNCER: Tomorrow morning Downing Street will release details of further enemy advances in Eastern Europe. Allied command are currently meeting in Whitehall to assess the situation. That's the end of the news at 6.45 and it's time for today's exciting instalment of The Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour.

MUSIC

In a far galaxy a lone space craft returns home to the planet Zarg from another daring adventure. But the crew little suspects what perils lie ahead.

A PANEL DISSOLVES AND WE SEE A MODEL OF THE SPACESHIP FLYING ACROSS A STARRY SKY. IT HAS A SPARKLER STICKING OUT BEHIND IT.

The space ship is captained by our hero Dick Daredevil, accompanied as always by his beautiful girlfriend Princess Daphne and loyal sidekick Jock MacTavish. But wait a moment, what's this? The craft seems to spinning out of control dragged by some force down towards a cloud of burning sulphur.

THE SPACESHIP WOBBLER ACCORDINGLY.

LIGHTS UP ON THE HOTEL LOBBY AREA WHICH IS NOW DOUBLING AS THE FLIGHT DECK OF DICK'S SPACESHIP. DICK IS TRYING TO CONTROL THE SHIP, DAPHNE IS FIXING HER MAKE UP AND JOCK IS POURING OVER A MONITOR.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DICK IS PLAYED BY THE ACTOR WHO HAS BEEN CHUCK, DAPHNE BY WHOEVER PLAYED SYLVIA AND JOCK IS DOUBLED BY THE ACTOR WHO HAS BEEN PLAYING EDMUND.

DICK DAREDEVIL: (VERY PUBLIC SCHOOL) Jock old boy, is our destination locked into the navigational control system?

JOCK: (VERY COD SCOTTISH) Affirmative Captain Dick. Everything seems apparently normal.

DAPHNE: But we're spinning out of control towards those fierce looking red clouds. Darling, you have to do something before we're plunged into a fiery abyss. Is there anything I can do to help?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Just stay at my side my sweet, as a reminder of everything we're fighting for.

DAPHNE: Yes Darling. Would it help if I pushed some buttons?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Certainly, my angel.

DAPHNE: I'll push some of the green ones. (SHE DOES)

JOCK: I just can't understand it, captain. It's as if some kind of magnetic force is dragging us out of the sky and we're powerless to resist.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Could it be that we're in the control of some higher power, Jock old chap? The power of goodness, truth and light. Could it be that far from trying to destroy us it may actually be trying to protect us?

JOCK: By dragging us down through the fire clouds, Captain?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Daphne, I think it's going to start getting pretty hot around here but I've got a funny feeling there's a higher power battling for our team. Are you wearing your inter-galactic herotron watch?

DAPHNE: Affirmative, big bear.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Darling I have told you not to call me that when we're on a mission.

JOCK: I think there's something coming through on the monitor.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Switch it through to the main screen.

A MILITARY FIGURE, LORD FANG, APPEARS ON THE SPACESHIP'S SCREEN.
(ANOTHER DISSOLVING PANEL)

LORD FANG: Attention, attention small space craft.

DICK DAREDEVIL: It's Lord Fang, Von Rippenclaw's right hand toady. What's he doing on Zarg. This can only mean trouble.

LORD FANG: You are entering a restricted military zone. The Planet Zarg is now under the jurisdiction of Baron Von Rippenclaw supreme commander of the intergalactic forces of darkness.

JOCK: The evil swine.

CONTROL: The air space surrounding Zarg is strictly out of bounds until after this afternoon's glorious coronation when our beloved leader Baron Von Rippenclaw will officially proclaim himself emperor. Turn back now and you will be spared, continue with your journey and your pitiful little craft will be blown out of the skies.

FADES OUT.

DAPHNE: Good heavens Dick, should we tell him we're out of control.

DICK DAREDEVIL: How long until we enter the sea of fire, Jock?

JOCK: About two mitons D. D.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Can the ship withstand that kind of heat?

JOCK: It's possible but no one has ever tried to pass through the sea of fire.

DICK DAREDEVIL: The clouds of sulphur will protect us from the enemy scanners. We'll get in close and give Von Rippenclaw a coronation present he will never forget. Zarg will never fall to The Forces Of Darkness.

JOCK: Stand by, we're about to enter the fire storm.

BLACKOUT ON THAT. LIGHTS UP ON THE MODEL SPACESHIP ABOUT TO ENTER A PUFF OF DRY ICE LIT RED.

BBC ANNOUNCER: Meanwhile far below our hero the citizens of the oppressed and violated moons gather to meet their new ruler.

CITIZENS OF THE PLANETS EMERGE INTO THE LIGHT IN A MIRROR OF THE LONDONERS COMING OUT OF THE AIR RAID SHELTER.

It's Getting Dark

From the mountains of Oboria
 Across the plains of Tark
 It's getting dark.
 There's a cold wind out of Cartos
 Blowing chill into our hearts,
 It's getting dark.
 All the crops have failed in Talus,
 There's a plague in Alazark
 It's getting dark.
 There are rats in every larder
 There are mad dogs in street
 It's getting dark.

No flowers bloom,
 No children laugh.

Dark clouds cover the moon,
 Dark waves break on the sand,
 Dark fears live in our hearts,
 Darkness flooding our land.
 Dark cries fill up the night.
 Dark words poison the air
 Wise men don't understand,
 Darkness flooding our soul
 And our land.

No flowers bloom,
 (No flowers bloom)
 No children laugh,
 (No children laugh)

Dark clouds cover the moon,
 Dark waves break on the sand,
 Dark fears live in our hearts,
 Darkness flooding our land.
 Dark cries fill up the night.
 Dark words poison the air
 Wise men don't understand,
 Darkness flooding our soul
 And our land.

(No flowers bloom,
 No children laugh,
 No hope,
 No light,
 Only dark.
 No flowers bloom,
 No children laugh,
 No hope,
 No light,
 Only dark.)

From the mountains of Oboria
 Across the plains of Tark
 It's getting dark.
 There's a cold wind out of Cartos
 Blowing chill into our hearts,
 It's getting dark.
 It's getting dark.

THIS EVENTUALLY TURNS INTO A LOW MOAN IN TIME TO THE MUSIC IN
 THE STYLE OF SLAVES MOANING IN CECIL B DE MILLE BIBLICAL EPICS.
 CONTINUING AS:

ABOVE THEM TWO HOODED ACCOLYTES APPEAR ON THE BALCONY (THE LANDING LEVEL OF THE GUEST HOUSE) BELOW THEM FOUR STORM TROOPERS MOVE INTO THE CROWD.

LORD FANG: His supreme malevolence Baron Von Ripponclaw, absolute commander of the invading intergalactic forces of darkness.

THE WAIL OF THE CROWD BUILDS. VON RIPPENCLAW ENTERS THE BALCONY. HUGE RED FASCIST STYLE BANNERS UNFURL. HIS COSTUME IS A SORT OF SCI FI FASCIST UNIFORM - PETER CUSHING IN STAR WARS.

HE ADDRESSES THE PEOPLE OF ZARG.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Citizens of the planet Zarg - how sweet of you all to come.

Let the nightmare begin

I'm not like some others who
Will cruelly hit and run
I want to get to know you all
And won't we all have fun?
I'm want to make myself at home
with all the friends I've found.
My People you'd better get used to it 'cause
Peasants I'm sticking around.

Welcome to your tomorrow,
Say farewell to the past.
That holiday
Could never last.
I am your future
Open up, let me in,
I'm your worst nightmare
Let the nightmare begin.

What's that noise? (BEAT) It's the crackle
Of the fires of hell.
Do I detect
That sulphur smell.
Direct from Satan
I'm original sin.
I'm your worst nightmare
Let the nightmare begin

One night with me

And you have to surrender.
 Deep in your heart
 I'm a sliver of steel.
 I will be there when darkness finds you.
 I want to share in the pain you feel.

So the stage is awaiting.
 Are you ready to go?
 It's time to start our horror show.
 This sombre mask hides
 My maniacal grin.
 I'm your worst nightmare
 Let the nightmare begin.

All the actors are here
 And the audience in.
 So with no more delay,
 Let the orchestra play,
 Let the nightmare begin.

HE DESCENDS THE STAIRS TO GROUND LEVEL. ACOLYTES REMAIN ON THE TOP LEVEL

My people I, Baron Von Rippenclaw, Supreme Commander of the Intergalactic Forces Of Darkness today proclaim myself Emperor of Zarg . Let the ceremony commence!

ONE OF THE ACOLYTES ON THE BALCONY RIPS OFF HIS MASK TO REVEAL HE IS DICK DAREDEVIL.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Not so fast Von Rippenclaw!

VON RIPPENCLAW: So. Dick Daredevil. I wondered if you'd be stupid enough to show yourself today. Vain enough to think you could defeat me. Fool! Don't you realise you're surrounded by my men? As we speak hundreds of deadly ray guns are trained on your body.

JOCK REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE SECOND ACOLYTE.

JOCK: That may be true but do you recognise this, Baron?

JOCK PRODUCES ANOTHER CRYSTAL, IDENTICAL TO THE ONE EDMUND HAD EARLIER.

VON RIPPENCLAW: You meddling fool. Do you think I'm frightened of a lump of rock?

JOCK: Not just any rock, Von Rippenclaw. This is crystal from the Yasos mines on the moon of Zarganna.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Impossible I had those mines destroyed. The site is guarded night and day. No one has access to the crystals.

JOCK: Some power within the crystal renders all weapons of death useless, doesn't it Baron?

VON RIPPENCLAW: If it were indeed a crystal from Zarganna - but you're bluffing. Lord Fang, fire on the imposters.

FANG TRIES. THE CROWD SCATTER AWAY.

LORD FANG: The weapon is malfunctioning, your Highness.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Frightened Von Rippenclaw ?

VON RIPPENCLAW: Of a man in tights? never! I have tolerated your insolence for too long. I challenge you to a dual as befits the honour of a warrior knight of The Dark Force. Your prize will be freedom for Zarg but should you loose I shall show no mercy.

DICK DAREDEVIL: I accept. On behalf of all the oppressed people of the galaxy I accept.

VON RIPPENCLAW AND DICK DAREDEVIL FIGHT WITH SPACE AGE BROAD SWORDS.

DURING THE FIGHT:

COMPANY:

Ahhh

Dick Daredevil!

Dick Daredevil!

Dick Daredevil!

Ahhh

Dick Daredevil!

Who's gunna save you?

Dick Daredevil!

Who's got the power?

Dick Daredevil!

He's gunna rescue - You!

Ahh

Dick Daredevil!

EVENTUALLY AFTER MUCH EXCITEMENT DICK DAREDEVIL WINS. VON

RIPPENCLAW IS AT HIS MERCY.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Once again goodness, honour and truth have thwarted the powers of Darkness.

CHEERS.

Do you have any last words Von Rippenclaw?

VON RIPPENCLAW: Look behind you Daredevil!

LORD FANG APPEARS ON THE BALCONY ABOVE CARRYING DAPHNE HOSTAGE.

DAPHNE: Dick! Up here!

VON RIPPENCLAW REGAINS HIS COMPOSURE.

VON RIPPENCLAW: You underestimated me, Daredevil. All of you will submit to my men or you'll never see Princess Daphne alive again. And tell your wee friend to hand over the crystal from Zarganna.

JOCK LOOKS TO DICK.

JOCK: Do I have a choice, Captain?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Maybe not now Jock old boy but he's not going to get away with this.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Idle words Daredevil, I have the girl and I have the crystal.

JOCK: You have a crystal but somewhere out there is another.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Where!

JOCK: I don't know but I sent it light years away from here.

BBC ANNOUNCER: Will Dick rescue Daphne? Where did Jock hide the second crystal? Can our heros find it before Von Rippenclaw's forces of darkness? Tune in your wireless tomorrow at the same time for the next thrilling instalment of The Dick Daredevil Adventure hour.

EVERYONE SINGS COMBINATIONS OF:

COMPANY:
Dick Daredevil!

Who's gunna save you?

Dick Daredevil!

Who's got the power?

Dick Daredevil!

He's gunna rescue - You!

Ahh

Dick Daredevil!

THE END OF THE RADIO PROGRAMME. BILLY TURNS OFF THE WIRELESS AND IS ALONE IN THE BOARDING HOUSE LOBBY.

BILLY: So Edmund's crystal was the real thing. Wizard! (SUDDENLY AWARE OF THE DARK) It's getting dark here too. I hope mum's back soon. Maybe I could just go to bed and hide under the covers. No, I've got to stand guard. If only.. Why are the shadows always darker in the corners of the room.

FROM OUTSIDE WE HEAR A CRASH, A DOG BARKS. SCARY MUSIC. A MAN ENTERS DRESSED IN A LONG BLACK COAT AND WIDE BRIMMED HAT. HE IS PLAYED BY THE SAME ACTOR WHO PLAYS VON RIPPENCLAW BUT MUCH MORE NATURALISTIC. VERY SINISTER BUT UNDERSTATED.

BILLY HIDES BEHIND THE DESK.

THE STRANGER APPROACHES IT AND RINGS THE DESK BELL.

BILLY'S HEAD POKES OVER THE TOP.

BILLY IS VERY SCARED.

BILLY: Good evening sir.

THE STRANGER HAS A GERMAN ACCENT.

THE STRANGER: Good evening little boy. I wonder if you can help me.

BILLY: I... I'll try sir.

THE STRANGER: I'm looking for someone, some one who wears a green neck tie.

BILLY: What sort of green, sir?

THE STRANGER: Don't play the fool with me boy or it will be the worst for you. Has anyone passed through here wearing a green neck tie.

BILLY: I don't think so, sir. My mother will be back very soon, if you

could wait a while.

THE STRANGER: THE NECK TIE! Think hard. Are you thinking hard? I wouldn't want you to be disobedient. Do you know what happens to little boys who are disobedient? They have their finger nails pulled out one by one. You wouldn't want that would you?

BILLY: No sir.

THE STRANGER: So you think carefully about the neck tie.

BILLY: There's been no one sir. No one like you described.

THE STRANGER: Well let's hope your telling me the truth or it will be the worse for you. And if you do happen to see the party I've described you tell him I was looking for him.

BILLY: Yes sir.

THE STRANGER: But if you tell anyone else I was here I'll cut out your innards and fry them for my breakfast. Do you understand?

BILLY: Yes sir. Sir?

THE STRANGER: What is it?

BILLY: Are you a spy, sir?

THE STRANGER: Just you remember what I've said. Little boys make delicious sausages.

BILLY: I won't tell anyone.

THE STRANGER LEAVES.

What shall I do. A real enemy spy here in Fitzrovia. "Don't tell anyone he said" but I have to be brave. I have to tell someone. If only dad were here. He'd know what to do.

Dad

When I was very small my daddy seemed so tall
 As high upon his shoulder I'd play.
 It made me feel so proud, like riding on a cloud,
 When I was frightened he would say
 Be brave my boy, you'll never have to run
 Away my boy because you'll always be my son

With dad to carry me I rode to victory
Whenever there were monsters to slay.
The ghost under the bed, we'd find had always fled,
Because he heard my father say
Be brave my boy, you'll never have to run
Away my boy because you'll always be my son.

With dad on hand
No evil stalked the land.
With me upon my trusty mount high up in the air.
No cannibal could eat me up no lion, wolf or bear.
If witches hid behind the door or met me on the stair
I'd simply call my trusty steed and know that he'd be there.

I trusted him of course, my father and my horse
As bravely into battle I'd ride.
I would never fear he'd ever disappear
I trusted he'd be at my side.
But then, he shied, my horse took off and ran
Away, he lied, he said he'd never go
Away, (SLOW UP) he died and now I run and hide away.

THE AIR RAID SIREN GOES OFF. GUESTS APPEAR ON THE BALCONY ETC.

ROSE AND CHUCK ENTER.

CHUCK: I have to go. Duty calls.

ROSE: You'll be back later?

CHUCK: Of course I will.

HE EXITS. SHE'S TOUGH AND IN COMMAND AGAIN. CALLS.

ROSE: All right let's be having you. Everyone out to the air raid shelter.
Quick as you like! Billy are you alright darling? What's the matter? You're
as white as a sheet. You seen your ghost or something?

BILLY: Mum.. I..

AN AIR RAID WARDEN ENTERS.

WARDEN: Mrs Spratt can I have a quick word with you.

ROSE: (TO BILLY) Tell me all about it later. And your aunty Vi's had a
beautiful little baby girl.

EDMUND HAS COME DOWN STAIRS.

Oh, Mr Clegg, take Billy down to the shelter for me will you? Make sure he doesn't scarper like the last time.

SHE MOVES OUT OF EARSHOT TO TALK TO THE WARDEN.

BILLY: Edmund are you still here? I thought you'd be in outer space.

EDMUND: I got everything set up and then the siren went off. Everything's ready to go.

ROSE: (CALLS OVER) Billy, Edmund come on! Every one down the shelter.

THE WHOLE COMPANY ARE MOVING OUT TOWARD THE SHELTER. SUDDENLY THEY ALL STOP AND TURN TO THE FRONT.

Good Luck London

COMPANY:
 Good luck London
 Win the fight
 Stay strong London
 One more night

EVERYONE HAS PASSED INTO THE SHELTER. ROSE IS LAST. THE AIR RAID WARDEN RETURNS AND ASKS:

WARDEN: Every one inside?

ROSE: That's the lot, warden.

WARDEN: You won't let your Billy run off again will you?

ROSE: Mr. Clegg's got him safe.

w; Good, they say we're in for a night of it.

ROSE: Take care.

MUM MOVES INTO THE SHELTER. (CLOSES A DOOR BEHIND HER) THE WARDEN MOVES OFF.

SILENCE, STILLNESS.

BILLY EMERGES FROM THE SHELTER. LOOKING AROUND GUILTILY HE HAS OBVIOUSLY RUN AWAY.

HE SINGS:

Dad di

BILLY:

Oh Dad if you are there, please say a little prayer
I've got a plan to save me and mum.
I'll travel to the planet Zarg in Edmund's new machine
To tell Dick of the bombing raids and of the spy I've seen.
I'll bring him back to London and he'll save my home tonight
For he's the hero that we need to lead us in our fight.

THE TUNE CONTINUES, SWELLING DRAMATICALLY AS BILLY RUNS UP THE STAIRS AND INTO EDMUND'S ROOM.

THE WALL DISSOLVES AND WE SEE THE BOY CLIMB INTO THE MACHINE AND PULL THE STARTING LEVER. LIGHTS FLASH AND THE ROOM FILLS WITH SMOKE.

FX. MACHINE NOISE.

THE WALL GOES SOLID AGAIN.

EVERYONE SINGS COMBINATIONS OF:

Ahhh
Dick Daredevil!
Dick Daredevil!
Dick Daredevil!
Ahhh
Dick Daredevil!
Who's gunna save you?
Dick Daredevil!
Who's got the power?
Dick Daredevil!
He's gunna rescue - You!
Ahhh

A HUGE EXPLOSION AND FLASH OF LIGHT AS BILLY ENTERS THE BALCONY WITH DICK DAREDEVIL AT HIS SIDE.

BILLY: Welcome to London Captain Daredevil. Everyone I love lives here. We're in great danger. You have to help us.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Don't panic old son, spill the beans and be quick about it. I've got to save London, vanquish evil and get back in time to rescue my gal.

COMPANY:

Ahhh

Dick Daredevil!

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT 2.

BBC ANNOUNCER: This is the BBC from London.

Thousands of American GI's are enjoying London's hospitality as they arrive in Britain to take up their posting.

(EXCITEDLY) And on the streets of Fitzrovia young Billy Spratt is about to begin the adventure of a life time!

HE SINGS:

Billy Spratt's Adventure Hour

Welcome to the adventure hour
 Tyrant's tremble and villains cower
 There's a rumour that's knocked 'em flat
 Dick has teamed up with Billy Spratt.
 Danger's lurking in every door
 But he's not scared like he was before
 Stepping out with a super power.
 Billy Spratt's Adventure Hour.

COMPANY:

The Billy Spratt Adventure Hour

The hottest show in town

BBC. MAN: Billy and Dick are partners who
 Won't let the other down.

COMPANY: On course to save the day
 Sorting wrong from right
 The Billy Spratt Adventure Hour

BBC MAN: Coming to you tonight.

BILLY AND DICK ENTER.

BILLY AND DICK:
On the trail of a deadly foe
Stealing secrets he shouldn't know

THE STRANGER ENTERS AND SCUTTLES THROUGH THE CROWDS.

Armed and desperate he's bound to be
Cunning ruthless and dastardly.

BILLY SPOTS THE STRANGER.

BILLY: Wait I think that I see him there
In the Shadows -

DICK DAREDEVIL: - Show me where.
Ah I see him, he's on the run.
I'll zap the fiend with my lazier gun.

(SPOKEN OVER THE MUSIC)

It's not working. Of course it's not. Jock sent the second crystal to earth
didn't he. We'll have to use our wits on this one.

BILLY: We can do it.

DICK DAREDEVIL: You and me? Absolutely. Now think fast. Your spy could
be in London for the first time. Where do people go on their first visit to
London?

BILLY: Madame Tussauds or to see the changing of the guard. Madame
Tussauds is better they've got a chamber of horrors.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Chamber of horrors. That sound's like the place. Good
thinking. Have you done this hero stuff before?

BILLY: It's my first time.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Pretty impressive. D'you know the way?

BILLY: Of course I do.

DICK DAREDEVIL: What are we waiting for? Let's go!

BBC MAN: Spilling out of your wireless set

It's as thrilling as you can get.
Listen in for the daring deeds

COMPANY: Who know's where the adventure leads.

BBC MAN: Risking capture, defying death
All the nation will hold it's breath.
Grab your cocoa, put out the cat.
It's the story of Billy Spratt.

EVERYONE: The Billy Spratt Adventure Hour
The hottest show in town
Billy and Dick are partners who
Won't let the other down.
Now they're on course to save the day
Sort wrong from right
The Billy Spratt Adventure Hour
Coming to you tonight.

THE STAGE BECOMES THE STAR GAZER PUBLIC HOUSE.

BBC. ANNOUNCER: But pursuit of the enemy spy does not go well for our heros who soon loose their quarry in the unmarked streets of wartime London. After many hours fruitless searching the two arrive exhausted at The Star Gazer public house.

BILLY AND DICK IN A PUB. THERE IS A CROWD SINGING.

CROWD:
Put the cork back in the bottle
Leave the dishes in the sink
Hows about some slap and tickle
'Cause I've had a little bit to drink.

DICK DAREDEVIL: I say old chap, what is this place?

BILLY: It's called a pub. It's where people relax at the end of a hard day's work. They drink, meet and talk together. Except we're only going to have the one drink because we've still got work to do.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Absolutely. I've got to get back and rescue princess Daphne as soon as we've caught your spy. That sly devil. I don't know how we're ever going to trace him in this maze of streets.

BILLY: But we have to keep trying.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Goodness yes, old chap. Of course we do. We're action heros.

BILLY: I wish I could call my mum but the number isn't working. The line must have been damaged in the raid. She'll be very worried by now.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Never mind old chap she'll be all the happier to see you when you've saved London from the forces of darkness.

BILLY: I suppose your right. Captain Daredevil, have you always been brave, and dashing and fearless and things?

DICK DAREDEVIL: My goodness me, no.

You Can Be A Hero Too

When I was a little pup
 Other chaps would beat me up.
 Break my toys, and pass the blame,
 I would cry with all the shame.
 What would I turn out to be?
 What could the future hold for me?
 Then I had the greatest dream.
 So you see this was the plan
 I would become a daredevil man
 And if you want to have a go
 This is all you need to know -

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.
 Keep your friends at your side,
 And their love will be your guide.
 This is all you have to do
 And you can be a hero too.

You've herad of men like Hercules
 And how these chaps were strong.
 The secret isn't muscle bound
 It's right here in this song.

Get your dream into shape
 You don't need a mask and cape.
 Live by what I'm telling you
 And you can be a hero too.

(SPOKEN) Give it a try old chap.

BILLY:

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.
 Keep your friends at your side,
 And their love will be your guide.
 This is all you have to do
 You can be a hero too.

You've heard of men like Hercules
 And how these chaps were strong.
 The secret isn't muscle bound
 It's right here in this song.

BOTH:

So you see you can't go wrong
 With moral of this song
 Let the words inspire you
 And you can be a hero too.

You can be a hero too.

You can be a hero too.

DICK DAREDEVIL: That's the spirit. I'll tell you what, now you're an action hero too I'm going to let you wear my Inter Galactic Herotron watch for a while.

BILLY: What does it do?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Princess Daphne has the other and if she's ever in desperate peril she can press a button which transports me immediately to her side. No matter where she is. She's a bit of a gal for getting herself into scrapes. It can be dashed inconvenient some times I can tell you. If you hear the signal be sure and let me know.

BILLY: I wish it could help us find the enemy agent. He's very near I just know he is.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Well, that's not much to go on old bean.

BILLY: I know but I've got a hunch, like when you had a hunch that the Crocodile King Of Septana wasn't all he pretended to be.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Quite right, old chap. I was very good in that wasn't I?

BILLY: You certainly were. And all because of a hunch.

DICK DAREDEVIL: You feel we could be dealing with a "Crocodile King Of Septana" type situation here?

BILLY: Could be.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Jolly good! If only we had some re-enforcements to help us search but we'll take some refreshment and soldier on. What do people drink around here?

BILLY: Well my dad used to drink quite a lot of something called "one for the road".

DICK DAREDEVIL: "one for the road" well that sounds the very thing.

BILLY: Coming up. "one for the road" (PROUDLY) Just like my dad.

BILLY MOVES OFF TO GET THE DRINKS THROUGH THE CROWD.

TWO LONDON GIRLS APPROACH DICK.

1; Hello Darling!

DICK DAREDEVIL: Good evening Earth maidens. May I be of any assistance?

2; Don't you talk funny?

1; He's a bit of a looker though. You're not American are you? Me and Dorris are all excited about the GIs coming.

A GANG OF MARINES. BURST IN.

FIRST MARINE: Hiya girls!

SECOND: The boys are here!

GIRLS SCREAM AND RUSH OVER TO THEM.

THE FIRST MARINE NOTICES DICK.

FIRST MARINE: Hey! look who it is! Look guys, it's Dick Daredevil.

SECOND: It can't be.

FIRST MARINE: Sure it is. I watched that limey's adventures every Saturday morning at the picture show. Dick how you doing? What brings you to London?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Well, I'm on a mission.

THIRD: Hey! How's it going.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Not so well. You see my friend and I really need some re-enforcements to search for an enemy spy.

FIRST MARINE: We'll help you. Won't we boys?

MARINES: SURE!

DICK DAREDEVIL: Who are you fellows?

THEY SING:

Call Out The Marines

We're man-size slabs of US. beef
Hearts of gold, underneath.
Every yankee Mother's dream
The Marine Corps Football team.

We're wholesome, healthy, squeaky clean,
Apple pie, Brilliantine,
Every limey sweethearts dream
The Marine Corps Football team.

From Baltimore down to Savannah,
We march 'neath the star spangled banner.
When Old Man Trouble's on your back
Call us in, we'll attack
The toughest guys you've ever seen
The Marine Corps Football Team

FIRST MARINE: Show em' boys.

BUTCH TYPE DANCE OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL.

From Buffalo to Kansas City
We're rough, we're tough, we're mean, we're gritty
When Old Man Trouble's at the door
Show 'em what a man is for
The hottest hunks you've ever seen

The Marine Corps Football Team.

THE WOMEN SING "ANDREWS SISTERS LIKE"

WOMEN: They're man-size slabs of US. beef
Hearts of gold, underneath.
Every yankee Mother's dream
The Marine Corps Football team.

They're wholesome, healthy, squeaky clean,
Apple pie, Brilliantine,
Every limey sweethearts dream
The Marine Corps Football team.

MEN: From New York State to California,
Don't pretend we didn't warn 'ya.
When Old Man Troubles round about
Don't despair, just call us out
The coolest doods you've ever seen
The Marine Corps Football Team.

EVERYONE:
Well, the Lord created human bein's
But Uncle Sam made us marines.

Keep your cool and call the best,
Put some muscle to the test,
Roosevelt's Marine Corps Football Team

MUSIC CONTINUES UNDER:

BILLY RETURNS

DICK DAREDEVIL: Hey, you chaps are A1.

BILLY: Captain? What's going on?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Would you help Billy and I search London for the spy?

SECOND MARINE: Sure Dick we'd be proud to.

FIRST: But Dick if you're gunna' hang around with us there's a few things we need to teach you.

DICK DAREDEVIL: What's that?

FIRST MARINE: Well, I don't mean to be personal but your clothes look

kind'a geeky.

SECOND: Us marines, we got quite a reputation with the ladies. We wouldn't want you to let the side down.

THIRD: D'you think you could keep up?

DICK DAREDEVIL: I think I could make the grade. (TO BILLY) Don't worry old chap, this'll be fun.

BILLY: But Captain we haven't got time for all this.

THE MARINES CHANT.

Before we answer to this call
 Gunna' make that man play ball.
 Hanging out with the marines
 Dick must learn a few routines.

Show 'em how it's done Hank!

DANCE IN WHICH A MARINE KNOCKS BACK A DRINK THEN APPROACHES AND SEDUCES A GIRL.

DICK KNOCKS BACK A DRINK THEN COPIES BUT THE DANCE TURNS INTO A ROCK AND ROLL JIVE WITH TWO GIRLS.

THE LADS ARE VERY IMPRESSED WITH THIS AND COPY IT WITH THEIR GIRLS. (ONE EACH) HUGE ROCK AND ROLL JIVE ROUTINE AND LOTS OF DRINKING, DRUNKENLY CLIMAXING IN:

ALL: They're man-size slabs of US. beef
 Hearts of gold, underneath.
 Every yankee Mother's dream
 The Marine Corps Football team.

Well, the Lord created human bein's
 But Uncle Sam made us marines

HUGE FINNISH

Keep your cool and call the best,
 Put some muscle to the test,
 Roosevelt's Marine Corps Football Team!

1ST MARINE: Hey Dick, what are ya drinking?

DICK DAREDEVIL: I think they call it a "one for the road"

BILLY: Captain, you've had too much to drink already. You're not used to it.

1st MARINE: Hey, set up the drinks for our pal Dick Daredevil!

BILLY: Captain we have to go now.

BUT BILLY GETS PUSHED ASIDE AS THE MARINES CROWD AROUND DICK AND TAKE HIM TO THE BAR.

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE MOVEMENT BILLY COMES MOMENTARILY FACE TO FACE WITH THE STRANGER. SCARY MUSIC.

HE IS JUST ABOUT TO RUSH BACK TO DICK WHEN HE SEES EDMUND ENTER. EDMUND IS WEARING A GREEN NECK TIE.

THE STRANGER APPROACHES HIM. THEIR CONVERSATION IS STILTED.

THE STRANGER: (TALKING IN CODE) I see you are wearing a green neck tie. I gather they're all the rage (POINTEDLY) in the garden at Baaden-baden.

EDMUND: (HASN'T REALISED IT'S A CODE YET) Pardon?

THE STRANGER: Baaden-baaden.

EDMUND: Pardon me, did you say Baaden-baaden?

THE STRANGER: Ja, in the Garden.

EDMUND: (CATCHING ON) Oh the Garden at Baaden-baaden.

THE STRANGER: (ANGRILY) Ja, dos ist was ich gesacht habe. (YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID)

EDMUND: Pardon?

THE STRANGER: Don't start that again! You are wearing a green neck tie. Ja?

EDMUND: Oh Ja absolutely. "Baden-baden", "garden" all that code stuff absolutely.

THE STRANGER: So you are agent 336?

EDMUND: I'll say. Goodness this is exciting. They've never let me do anything more dangerous than steam open the guest house mail until now.

THE STRANGER: We had to be sure of you.

EDMUND: Well you can be jolly sure of me, let me tell you. I'm sick of the petty minded British always ignoring my inventions. I'm throwing my lot in with you chaps. Have you mentioned to herr Hitler about my space machine, yet? The strangest thing all the fuses have blown in it. It's like someone's used it. I've brought the proto-type of my anti tank tin opener though. If you'd like to take a look all we need's a tin. Well I suppose a tank would be handy as well.

THE STRANGER: Will you please listen! My superiors have been very impressed with your persistence. We have decided to invite you on a very dangerous and important mission. A group of us are to kidnap Winston Churchill and persuade him to surrender.

EDMUND: How do we do that?

THE STRANGER: We threaten to slit his guts open.

EDMUND: Well, yes that could be awfully persuasive I'd imagine. A bit rough on old Winnie though.

THE STRANGER: Do not let that concern you. You will make it possible for us to invade England. And when we are in control no one will ever laugh at your inventions again. You'll be a national hero and rich beyond your wildest dreams.

EDMUND: Well, if you put it that way. I'm jolly well in.

THE STRANGER: Good. Arm yourself only with a blade in case you are stopped and searched. We meet in the shadow of big Bill at midnight.

EDMUND: Ben.

THE STRANGER: I just told you, at Midnight.

EDMUND: No, you see it's big..

BUT THE STRANGER HAS GONE.

Oh never mind. Big Wilhelm at midnight it is.

HE EXITS.

BILLY HAS OVERHEARD ALL THIS.

BILLY: Captain, Captain Daredevil! You'll never guess what's happened!

THE CROWD COME FORWARD VERY DRUNK NOW WITH DICK AT THE CENTRE DRUNKER THEN ANYONE.

CROWD:

Put the cork back in the bottle
Leave the dishes in the sink
How's about some slap and tickle
'Cause I've had a little bit to drink.

BIG DRUNKEN SOLO FROM DICK.

DICK DAREDEVIL:

'Cause I've had a little bit to
Had a little bit to
Had a little bit tooooooo

HE FALLS TO THE FLOOR DRUNK.

BILLY: Captain Daredevil.. you're drunk. What am I going to do now?
You're drunk... (SADLY) Just like my dad.

EVERY ONE SOFTLY SINGS AS THE SCENE DISSOLVES AWAY.

We just need a hero
So where is the hero?
Please send us a hero
to show us the way.

BBC. ANNOUNCER: Where are the heros Indeed? Must young Billy continue his quest alone?

BILLY IS ALONE.

A STRANGE NOISE. THE HEROTRON WATCH IS FLASHING.

BILLY: What's that noise? It's Captain Daredevil's watch. Princess Daphne must be in danger.

BILLY BEGINS TO FADE AWAY.

Oh no! what's happening? Help me. Somebody please help.

THE BBC MAN APPEARS.

BBC. ANNOUNCER: But no help is at hand as young William Spratt is unwillingly transported to the planet Zarg by Princess Daphne. In the dungeons beneath Von Rippenclaw's palace, the beautiful space virgin is hoping that it is Dick Daredevil who will answer her summons and rescue her from the attentions of the evil tyrant.

VON RIPPENCLAW PURSUES DAPHNE DOWN THE DUNGEON STEPS INTO THE CLUTCHES OF LORD FANG.

SHE SCREAMS AS HE HOLDS HER.

DAPHNE: Let me go you horrid beast!

VON RIPPENCLAW: Thank you Fang. Won't you introduce our beautiful visitor to the guest slab. I have a feeling she'll become quite attached to it.

DAPHNE IS CHAINED ALLURINGLY TO A SLAB BY LORD FANG.

DAPHNE: You're a despicable, inhuman brute.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Ah flattery! Why not admit you find me quite irresistible.

DAPHNE: Because it's not true.

VON RIPPENCLAW: ADMIT IT OR I'LL PEEL YOUR FACE OFF! (PURRING AGAIN) As the saying goes.

DAPHNE: You'll be sorry when Dick arrives.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Ah your precious boyfriend. We're all so looking forward to seeing him, aren't we Fang?

LORD FANG: Yes master.

VON RIPPENCLAW: But in the meantime it's just you, me, the rats, Lord Fang -

FANG PRODUCES A HORRIFIC LOOKING TORTURE INSTRUMENT.

and one or two little play things. Isn't it romantic?

DAPHNE: What do you want from me?

VON RIPPENCLAW: You are the concubine of my greatest enemy, the only man who stands between me and universal domination. With the two of you dashing about the galaxy people have hope, a figure-head for their pathetic little acts of rebellion, a prospective leader for their puerile attempts at resistance. Your public submission will be the propaganda coup of the Dark Wars. You lucky, lucky creature to play such a glorious role in history. And lucky, lucky me that you also happen to have lovely, lovely.. But that's enough about you. I'm sure you're gagging to hear more about me.

~~Seduction Song~~

When I was ten I had a yen
To rule the universe.
Ambition was my only friend
A comfort and a curse.
But as I journeyed to my goal
It didn't ring quite true.
There was something missing
And guess what?
That something's you.

HAREM GIRLS ARRIVE AS BACKING SINGERS.

Let me be your coochy woochy,
Crave my violation.
Even Genghis Khan got smoochy
during mass extermination.
I'm a lonely fluffy Bunny
You're the perfect wife and mummy.
We'll be parents of a, guess what?
happy despot family

Please don't be intimidated
Feel free, you can refuse.
It's just I'm rather fearful of
How much you stand to lose.
I've trained a gun on your home town,
It's dappled blues and greens
Say yes and then it's future's safe
Say no, it's smithereens!

Let me be your coochy woochy
Spurn emancipation.
Gambol gaily, with me daily
Sharing each abomination.
There's no storm we cannot weather

Our souls will rot away together.
With Mr Stork we can create a
new dictator dynasty.

Let me be your coochy woochy
Cancel your aversions.
Plan our romance and our wedding
all our honeymoon perversions.
There's a message to this saga
Just lie back and think of Zarg a
Mother's work is all that matters
and the patter of jack booties.

VON RIPPENCLAW: It's alright, you don't have to thank me. I can see you're overwhelmed. So what do you say? Shall we get a little more intimate?

DAPHNE: I'd rather make love to the runny nose of a Delarian Baboon.

VON RIPPENCLAW: A girl with unconventional appetites. That's what I like to hear.

DAPHNE: I will never succumb to your evil plans while Dick still lives and breathes.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Well, that can easily be sorted. But do not be churlish my little festering wound of heart break. Think of the luxury that will be yours, the palaces, the rich silks, Saturday nights at home curled up in front of an execution.

DAPHNE: Just a minute, did you say palaces?

VON RIPPENCLAW: I will build you such palaces and there we will stroll together and watch the sun set - All three of them.

DAPHNE: (SEEMS TO BE MELTING) High, high up in the mountains in a palace of diamonds and class?

VON RIPPENCLAW: Our Kingdom of love spread out before us like a glittering toy.

DAPHNE: Together we will ascend the stairs of our ivory tower.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Oh yes,

DAPHNE: Climbing higher and higher.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Yes.

DAPHNE: Faster and faster.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Yes, Yes,

DAPHNE: Our bosoms heave together as we climb upwards and upwards toward the moon.

VON RIPPENCLAW: All six of them!

DAPHNE: Bosoms or Moons?

VON RIPPENCLAW: Either.

DAPHNE: There we stand a-top our crystal tower, a-top our perfect palace, high on our highest mountain, above our magic kingdom. Picture me as I stare deep into your eyes and then... and then..

VON RIPPENCLAW: Yes?

DAPHNE: (HARSH) I push you over the battlements you repellent toad.

VON RIPPENCLAW: (ANGRY) Alright! That's it. No more Mr. nice Nazi! It's time for a little seductive torture.

DAPHNE: I am a princess of the house of Oboria. In my veins runs the blood of twelve generations of three nipple warrior vixens. There is no man alive can cause me a moments pain.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Princess you underestimate me. If I can not have you then no one will. (CALLS) Fang release the Beast of Clore.

LORD FANG: Yes master.

DAPHNE: No not the beast!

VON RIPPENCLAW: Oh yes, 20ft high, permanently crabby and very, very carnivorous. Do give it my love.

LORD FANG: I'm sure it will make short work of such a tender morsel.

VON RIPPENCLAW: That is unless the h'or d'oeuvre has changed it's mind?

DAPHNE: Never.

VON RIPPENCLAW: We shall see! Fang, sound the dinner gong. It's

feeding time at Von Rippenclaw Zoo.

(THEY SWEEP OUT)

DAPHNE: (ALONE) Oh Dick! Dick! Where are you?

BILLY APPEARS.

BILLY: Princess Daphne.

DAPHNE: Who are you?

BILLY: William Alexander Spratt, your royal highness. But please call me Billy.

DAPHNE: Where did you come from?

BILLY: Fitzrovia, your Highness

DAPHNE: In what stellar constellation?

BILLY: Just off the Tottenham Court Road, your majesty and I have to get back there. You see my mum'll be really worried about me. She doesn't like it when I wander off. Sometime's she get's really cross. And after that I have to stop Edmund from kidnapping Mr. Churchill. He's a spy, you see, with a green neck tie. Well, not Mr. Churchill - Edmund is and... it's all so complicated I don't know what to do. Could you help me get back to earth?

DAPHNE: Earth, that's a long way. I'm sure my friend Jock could help assemble you a transporter but he isn't here and you must run as far away as possible. Baron Von Rippenclaw is sending a gigantic beast to devour me. If only Dick were here.

AT THAT MOMENT JOCK ENTERS WITH THE ZARG REBELS.

JOCK: Princess Daphne! Don't worry we've come to rescue you.

HE RELEASES HER FROM THE SLAB.

DAPHNE: Oh Jock how thrilling.

JOCK: Who are your friends?

JOCK: Princess may I introduce the Zarg People's Resistance front.

PEOPLE: (SING)

Freedom for Zarg!
Fight till the grave.
Zarg will never ever, ever
Be a slave.

DAPHNE: Is Dick with you?

JOCK: He told us to go on ahead. He had to dash off to Earth on a mission. Let's get out of here.

A REBEL RUSHES IN.

REBEL: Professor! Lord Fang has sealed off the escape tunnel with the imperial guard.

ABOVE THEM VON RIPPENCLAW APPEARS.

VON RIPPENCLAW: So you thought you could get the better of me did you? With Dick Dare Devil on Earth there's no one to rescue you now. (CALLS) May I wish all you peasants the best of luck in your new career as mixed grill for the beast of Clore.

AND HE IS GONE.

JOCK: What do we do now? Without Dick Daredevil to save us we're doomed?

DAPHNE: No, Dick will be here. I summoned him with the herotron watch. The signal says he's on his way.

BILLY: That was me.

DAPHNE: What did you say?

BILLY: It was me, Billy, Princess Daphne. I was wearing the watch when you called for Captain Daredevil. It brought me here.

DAPHNE: You stole it.

BILLY: No, no the Captain gave it to me to wear. He said I could be a hero too.

JOCK: Well Billy, then D.D. has sent you to rescue us.

BILLY: No! I can't, I don't know what to do.

JOCK: But he did say you could be a hero?

BILLY: Well yes.

JOCK: Then he obviously has great faith in you and so do we. Tell us what we have to do.

BILLY: If we escape could you help me get home to my mum. You see I've got to warn Mr. Churchill that the enemy are planning to kidnap him.

JOCK: We'll help you. I can knock us together a basic T5689 space transporter in no time. With the correct know how you can assemble one from a battery, a few bed springs, and a bath chair.

BILLY: I know.

DAPHNE: But you have to get us out of here first, What does Dick want us to do?

You Can Be A hero Too ii

BILLY:
 Back on earth he used to say
 Every pup could have his day.
 I felt brave, like his son
 I knew I would never run.
 'cause when he was small and weak
 And with the future looking bleak
 He would dream greatest dream.
 And if we could sing it through,
 We might become daredevil's too.

JOCK:
 I think we ought to have a go
 Tell us what we need to know.

BILLY:
 Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true.
 And you can be a hero too.

WITH BACKING.

Keep your friends at your side,
 And their love will be your guide.
 This is all you have to do.

You can be a hero too.

JOCK:

Billy's plans taking shape
 We don't need a mask and cape.
 Let's all try the hero thing
 With some added Zargan swing.

EVERYONE:

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.

Keep your friends at your side,
 And their love will be your guide.
 You can be a hero too.

Get your dream into shape
 You don't need a mask and cape.
 Everything will be just fine
 If you live this plan of mine.

JOCK DAPHNE AND BILLY:

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.

WITH BACKING:

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.

EVERYONE:

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.

Make a stand, don't give in,
 If you try then you can win.
 Know what's right, know what's true,
 You can be a hero too.

Make a stand, don't give in,

If you try then you can win.
Know what's right, know what's true,
You can be a hero too.

Know what's right, know what's true,
You can be a hero too!

THE BEAST ROARS. IT IS APPROACHING.

DAPHNE: The beast!

EVERYONE CLUMPS TOGETHER IN TERROR.

JOCK: (TO BILLY) You were so brave a moment ago. What do we now?

THE HUGE RADIO SET ON WHICH THE MUSICAL IS PLAYED OUT BECOMES
THE BEAST OF CLORE.

BILLY ADDRESSES IT.

THE BEAST ROARS THREATENINGLY.

BILLY; Excuse me Mr. Beast, Would you just stop doing that please. It's
very scary and you've got very bad breath.

THE BEAST ROARS EVEN LOUDER

BILLY: Now, you're a monster and I'm a little boy and it would be very,
very easy for you to kill me, very easy indeed.
But please don't because...

Well, you see I went off this evening without telling my mum. I didn't
mean to be away as long as this and she's going to be really, really
worried about me... Just a minute.

(HE FISHES IN HIS POCKET AND PRODUCES A PHOTO) This is me and her
at Southend last summer. That's me in the shorts. Well you can see that.
Go on have a good look. (HE BEGINNING TO CRY) I miss my mum.

THE BEAST LOOKS AT THE PHOTOGRAPH IT TRIES SLOWLY AND CLUMSILY
TO REPEAT THE WORD.

BEAST: M U M M Y.

BILLY: What?

BEAST: M U M M Y.

BILLY: What was that?

BEAST: M U M M Y.

THE BEAST BEGINS TO CRY:

BILLY: You're crying. Don't cry.

BEAST: M U M M Y.

BILLY: Did Von Rippenclaw take you a way from your mum?

BEAST: M U M M Y.

BILLY: Where's is she? Is she back on your planet? The planet Clore?

BEAST: C L O R E. M U M M Y.

BILLY: Are you only a baby beast?

BEAST: (REALLY PATHETIC) M - U - M - M - Y.

BILLY: Don't worry. If you don't eat us and you can help us break out of here I'll promise we'll send word to your mum so she can come and fetch you.

A HUGE ROAR FROM THE BEAST.

EVEN BILLY RETREATS WITH THE OTHERS IN TERROR. BUT SLOWLY THE BEAST BEGINS TO LUMBER AWAY.

THE SOUND OF THE BEAST BREAKING DOWN THE DOOR.

JOCK: It's incredible.

DAPHNE: It's actually breaking down the door for us.

BILLY: You see, we didn't need a super hero.

JOCK: Now we have a lot to do. We must send a message to the beast's mother then go to earth. Billy you try and warn your Winston Churchill.

DAPHNE: I'll try and find Dick.

JOCK: And I can tell your mother that you're alright.

BILLY: She's gunna be very cross with me.

THE SCENE FADES AWAY TO BE REPLACED BY ROSE ALONE

ROSE SINGS:

Billy

ROSE:

You've really done it this time Billy Spratt.
 How could you go running off and disappear like that?
 In the middle of an air raid, what' you playing at?
 You've really done it this time Billy Spratt.

One day you'll be standing in a church.
 You'll change your mind and run away and leave her in the lurch.
 And all the guests will cry as the champagne's going flat.
 You've really done it this time Billy Spratt.

For a day, Billy Spratt,
 Would you stay, Billy Spratt,
 Where I say, Billy Spratt,
 You should play, Billy Spratt,
 But oh no, Billy Spratt.
 Cheerio, Billy Spratt!
 And you go Billy Spratt.

Billy
 Why'd you
 Do this to me?

Billy, Billy, my little lad
 He's not an angel but he's not so bad.
 I'm a disaster, that's what they say.
 How can I blame you, running away?

Billy, Billy, I've let you down.
 I've got to be the worst mother in town.
 I was so busy, I wasn't there.
 How could you know then, how much I care?

Billy, Billy
 I got it wrong,
 Billy, Billy
 But we belong.

I promise you, things'll be better

All of the heartache is going to end.
 I've found a man, he will be diff'rent
 He'll be a hero, a father and friend.

True till the end.

A hero and father for
 Billy, Billy,
 My Billy

Come home, come home
 Run home, run home
 to me.

Billy, Billy,
 Dream it with me.
 Dream of this home with our new family.
 Trips to the seaside, days full of fun.
 Mummy, and daddy and Billy their son.

Billy, Billy
 You needn't run
 Billy, Billy
 life's just begun

For mummy and daddy and Billy their son.

SYLVIA ENTERS. THE HANDSOME YOUNG WOMAN PLAYED BY THE ACTRESS WHO PLAYS DAPHNE.

SYLVIA: Excuse me, this is Spratt's boarding house isn't it?

ROSE: Yes, darling. What on earth are you doing out during an air raid? Let me show you where the shelter is. Ere' you haven't seen a little boy wandering about have you?

SYLVIA: I'm looking for my Fiancee. Captain Charles Ryan.

ROSE: Chuck?... You're -

SYLVIA: Do you know him? I was so frightened for him in the air raid, I know it's silly, I have to be with him. We haven't been engaged very long.

CHUCK ENTERS.

CHUCK: Sylvia! What are you doing here?

ROSE: Your fiancée came to look for you. She was worried.

CHUCK: (TO SYLVIA) Gee that's sweet of you honey. Listen why don't you wait down in the shelter? I just need a quick word with Mrs Spratt.

SYLVIA: (AS SHE GOES, TO ROSE) Thank you for your help.

ROSE: No, thank you. (SHE IS ALONE WITH CHUCK) Well, you made a right fool of me didn't you?

CHUCK: No it wasn't like that. All those things I said to you I really meant them.

ROSE: Yes, except you forget to mention you had a fiancée you should be looking after.

CHUCK: What does it matter, all of that? Sylvia will be a great little wife if we make it through this war but jeez we could be blown sky high at any moment. We should grab what ever pleasure we can. I thought that's what you people were all about.

ROSE: "You people"?

CHUCK: Yeh, everyone knows you limey chicks go crazy for an american guy. Well why shouldn't we keep each other company through the blackouts.

ROSE: Is that all it was?

CHUCK: You didn't think we had a future together did you? My father's a senator. How would it look me taking home someone like you.

ROSE: I though you cared for me.

CHUCK: Sure I do. Tonight I care for you very much. Tomorrow? who knows. This is war.

ROSE: My husband got himself killed in this war fighting for a better life for his family. I'm not going to start using that same war as an excuse to behave like pigs in a trough. My Alec may have been a drunk but he was worth ten dozen of you. To think for a moment I thought you could take his place. Get out.

CHUCK: Is that really what you want?

ROSE: I've never wanted anything so much in my life.

CHUCK: Well, So long and I'm sorry. I'll never forget you.

ROSE: Try!

HE LEAVES.

ROSE: Oh Billy!

JOCK ENTERS:

JOCK: Mrs. Spratt is it?

ROSE: Who want's to know.

JOCK: I'm a friend of your sons. Will you come quickly. I'm afraid he could be in great danger.

THE BBC MAN APPEARS:

BBC ANNOUNCER: Meanwhile. In the private apartments of Ten Downing Street. The midnight oil burns.

WINSTON CHURCHILL IN HIS DRESSING GOWN. A GREAT BEAR OF A MAN.

HE STARTS TO MOVE MODEL WARSHIPS AROUND A CHART.

BEHIND AND ABOVE HIM IS A HUGE MAP OF THE WAR OR GIGANTIC UNION JACK.

BILLY ENTERS AND WATCHES HIM FROM THE SHADOWS.

BILLY: Excuse me sir.

CHURCHILL: What was that?

BILLY: I said excuse me sir. I'm sorry to disturb you.

CHURCHILL: Who are you? how did you get in here?

BILLY: I'm Billy Spratt from Fitzrovia, sir. I sneaked in behind a policemen but it's because (HIS VOICE TRAILS OFF) you're in great danger.

(HE HAS NOTICED THE MODEL BOATS)

CHURCHILL: What are you staring at, young man?

BILLY: Golly! If you're prime minister does your mum let you stay up all night and play with your toy boats?

CHURCHILL: These boats are not toys. Where I place them on the map could determine exactly where real warships will go in an important naval manoeuvre. If I get this wrong and just one of these boats is destroyed it could mean thousands of men lose their lives, who knows it may also lead to our losing the war.

BILLY: Cor, can I do anything to help? Would you like me to pass you some of these sailing boats?

CHURCHILL: I'm afraid you must come to learn, young man, that little boats are no use in winning a war. In the same way that little boys can serve no purpose in making important decisions.

BILLY: Sorry sir.

CHURCHILL: That's alright. (TAKES A SWEET TIN FROM HIS POCKET) Would you like a "Victory V"?

BILLY: No thank you, sir. Please, sir. You're in very great danger. Mr Clegg in room 2 is really an enemy agent and he's joined a ruthless gang who are planning to kidnap you.

CHURCHILL: Kidnap me? Mr Clegg? Room 2?

BILLY: Yes, Mr Clegg inventor of the anti- tank tin opener.

CHURCHILL: Anti-tank..?

BILLY: Yes, you see a spy came to our house looking for a green neck tie.

CHURCHILL: Neck tie?

BILLY: Yes, Captain Dick's been helping me. That was before we met the GIs.

CHURCHILL: (GENTLY) Captain Dick? and that would be..?

BILLY: Dick Daredevil from on the wireless. The Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour. You know.

CHURCHILL: I see. Young man, I'd love to play with you. Really I would but unfortunately I have more important things to do at the moment.

SUDDENLY THE HUGE MAP OR FLAG IS RIPPED ASIDE TO REVEAL THE STRANGER SURROUNDED BY BALACLAVED TERRORISTS ALL IN BLACK. NO GUNS BUT KNIVES IN THEIR MOUTHS LIKE PIRATES ETC.

THE STRANGER: So Herr Churchill we capture the old fox in his lair.

ONE OF THE TERRORISTS TEARS OF HIS MASK TO REAL IT'S EDMUND.

EDMUND: I say isn't this fun? Hello Billy! What are you doing here?

THE STRANGER: Silence!

EDMUND: Sorry.

THE STRANGER: Fat pig Churchill, you will listen very carefully to me. I have here documents outlining Britain's unconditional surrender. You will please to sign them and no harm will come to you. If you will not co-operate then you die tonight.

CHURCHILL: (TO BILLY) It seems I owe you an apology young man. I should have listened to you after all.

BILLY: How could you Edmund, how could you work for the Nazis?

EDMUND: Because they listened to me. Can't you understand how much it meant for someone to take my ideas seriously.

BILLY: I took them seriously, Edmund.

EDMUND: I know you did, Billy. You believed in me.

BILLY: Not any more Edmund. Not now you've joined the enemy. They killed my dad.

THE STRANGER: So Fuhrer Churchill what is your answer?

WINSTON CHURCHILL: I will never give in to your demands. If I must die for the freedom of my country then so be it.

THE STRANGER: Very well, if you value you life so cheaply. But perhaps you will change your mind if this boy's life hangs in the balance.

THE STRANGER GRABS BILLY.

EDMUND: I say, is that absolutely necessary?

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Billy, what shall I do?

A FANFARE SOUNDS FROM OFF. THE NOISE OF APPROACHING FEET.
(TAP?)

THE STRANGER: What's that noise.

A GANG OF MARINES AND AMERICAN CHEERLEADERS ENTER LED BY
DAPHNE AND DICK DAREDEVIL.

MARINES:
From Baltimore down to Savannah
We march neath the star spangled banner.
When Old Man Trouble's on your back
Call us in, we'll attack
The toughest guys you've ever seen
Dick Daredevil's Team.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Don't worry, Billy, It's Dick Daredevil to the rescue.

THE YANKS CHEER.

The guys have agreed to help.

THE YANKS: Hiya Bill!

DICK DAREDEVIL: All right chaps lets up and at 'em.

A HUGE FIST FIGHT FOR EVERYONE. CHURCHILL AND BILLY TOO. THE
TERRORISTS END UP IN A PILE ON THE FLOOR WITH EDMUND AND THE
STRANGER HELD CAPTIVE.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Take these evil people to the tower of London.

THE TERRORISTS ARE LED OUT.

EDMUND: I only wanted to be famous.

THE STRANGER: Oh shut up!

ROSE PUSHES HER WAY THROUGH.

ROSE: You let me pass this instant or it'll be the worse for you. I'm Mrs
Spratt. My little Billy's in here!

SHE RUNS TO HUG BILLY.

ROSE: Billy, Billy there you are. Are you alright my darlin'? I've been so

worried about you. (SHE SUDDENLY NOTICES CHURCHILL) Oh I'm sorry your majesty. (CURTSEYS)

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Mrs Spratt. I hope you're very proud of this young man. He and his friends have been very brave this evening.

ROSE: Oh I know. A scottish gentleman's been telling me all about it.

BILLY: You're not cross with me then, mum?

ROSE: No darlin'. You did what you had to do. And what's more... well tonight I've learnt the only people this family needs is me and you.

BILLY: Oh mum!

HE HUGS HER. EVERY ONE "AHS".

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Captain Daredevil. I'm extremely impressed. I wonder if I might prevail on you to join with our allied forces. You could be a valuable secret weapon in our fight against the forces of darkness.

DAPHNE: Oh Dick wouldn't it be wonderful to settle down on one planet?

DICK DAREDEVIL: Oh yes my angel but unfortunately we have our own enemies to fight.

JOCK RUSHES IN.

JOCK: D.D! I've just received the most amazing news from Zarg. The Dragons of Clore arrived to rescue the baby beast, teamed up with the Zarg Peoples Resistance front and they're defeating Von Rippenclaw.

A PANEL DISSOLVES TO REVEAL VON RIPPENCLAW LOOKING OUT AT THE BATTLE THROUGH FIELD GLASSES. LORD FANG RUSHES IN.

FANG: Your majesty, your majesty! The Dragons have recaptured Arboria from The Forces of Darkness, Kartoss has fallen to the rebels, and the allied forces are heading towards Zarg.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Unleash the chameleon men of Botar!

FANG: They've joined the allies your maliciousness.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Turncoats!

FANG: We must head for the bunker before it's too late.

VON RIPPENCLAW: Never, the forces of darkness will never surrender.

THE SOUND OF THE DRAGONS APPROACHING.

VON RIPPENCLAW: What's that noise?

FANG: The dragons are gathering overhead! The bunker your malignantship before it's too late.

THE SOUND AND THE UNDERSCORING SUDDENLY CUTS OUT.

VON RIPPENCLAW: You see, there's nothing to worry about.

BEATING WINGS OVERHEAD. VON RIP AND FANG CONSUMED BY FIRE AND SMOKE. THEIR SCREAMS MINGLING WITH THE BAYING OF THE DRAGONS. BLACK OUT ON THIS.

BACK TO JOCK AND OUR HEROS IN LONDON.

JOCK: The Dark Wars are over. All thanks to Billy.

FX. VOICE OF BEAST: T h a n k ' s B i l l y !

DAPHNE: Oh Dick!

DICK DAREDEVIL: In that case I'd be proud to bat for your team Mr. Churchill. What do you say jock old boy.

JOCK: With Billy on our side we can't loose.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Excellent, that's all settled then.

BILLY: Mum, could Captain Daredevil, Princess Daphne and Jock come and live with us in the boarding house.

ROSE: Of course they can darlin'

BILLY: We'll be the best family there ever was!

THE FIVE ALL HUG.

DURING THIS AN AIDE ENTERS AND HANDS CHURCHILL A PIECE OF PAPER.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: May I have your attention everyone I have an important announcement to make.

THE COMPANY ENTER TO HEAR CHURCHILL'S SPEECH.

CHURCHILL: I have just heard that enemy forces have suffered a great defeat at the hands of the red army and the people of Stalingrad. As we enter another year of this terrible war this victory and the others like it, no matter how insignificant some may seem, stand as testimony to one fact, and one fact alone. That young or old, male or female, no matter what our background, creed or class, if we remain true to what we believe is just and right, no matter how small a step we take toward our goal we can all be a hero or heroine. And finally I should like to say a special thank you to young Billy Spratt of Fitzrovia who reminded me of the valuable lesson that we once learnt on the beaches of Europe - that sometimes it's the little boats that make all the difference.

ROSE: Three cheers for Billy. Hip, hip etc.

DICK LIFTS BILLY ON TO HIS SHOULDERS AND EVERYONE SINGS:

Good Times ii

We've got us a hero in London tonight,
And now Piccadilly is suddenly bright.
So smile for a while everything looks okay

BIG FINISH

And Billy's the hero who's shown us the way.

You Can Be a Hero Too iii

EVERYONE:

Make a stand, don't give in,
If you try then you can win.
Know what's right, know what's true,
You can be a hero too.
Keep your friends at your side,
And their love will be your guide.
You can be a hero too.

Get your dream into shape
You don't need a mask and cape.
Everything will be just fine
If you live this plan of mine.

Make a stand, don't give in,
If you try then you can win.

Make a stand, don't give in,
If you try then you can win.

Know what's right, know what's true,
You can be a hero too.

THE END. (Copyright. All rights reserved. Phil Willmott 27th October
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