

**PLAYSTAGE
JUNIOR**

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THE GOLDEN GOOSE



A COMEDY PLAY

**Written by
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THE GOLDEN GOOSE

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CAST LIST

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

THE KING

PRINCESS PETUNIA

PRINCE EDWARD

PRINCE MICHAEL

PRINCE PETER

COURTIERS (any number)

WOODCUTTER

HARRY

WOODCUTTER'S WIFE

TREE SPRITE

CHARLIE

SIMON

THE GOLDEN GOOSE MAN

1ST GIRL

2ND GIRL

MOTHER

TROLL

TOWNSPEOPLE (any number)

18 speaking parts and unlimited chorus.

SCENE 1

The Palace throne room. The king and the Princess are sitting on “thrones”. Courtiers are standing about and there is a little group of three princes who have come to try and make the Princess laugh.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Your Majesty, the young princes from all over the land are assembled and ready to try and make Princess Petunia laugh.

THE KING

Well, I hope they are more successful than the last lot. I don't think I can stand it for much longer. My daughter has not laughed since she was five years old. It's such a worry – such a worry. She hasn't even smiled in all that time. Or sniggered, or tittered, or giggled. *(turning to the Princess)* Now, my dear. Here are some nice young men who are going to try and amuse you. Just relax. I'm sure that we will solve your problem today.

PRINCESS

Oh, I don't know why you bother, father. It won't work. Nothing works. I just don't seem to be able to feel happiness.

THE KING

There, there. Let's not give up, shall we?

Right! Bring on the first prince.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Prince Edward from Eggetania. Please step forward!

(Prince Edward steps forward)

LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

Prince Edward, you have three minutes to make the Princess laugh.

(Throughout his presentation, everyone else laughs at his jokes, but not the Princess)

PRINCE EDWARD

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Righto. Princess – why do elephants wear glasses?

PRINCESS

I don't know, why do elephants wear glasses?

PRINCE EDWARD

So no-one will recognise them! (*The Princess does not smile*)

OK. Let's try another one. What do monsters read in the newspaper every morning?

PRINCESS

***(wearily)* I don't know.**

PRINCE EDWARD

The horror – scope! (*No smile from the Princess*)

Right. Let's try another. Knock, knock.

PRINCESS

Who's there.

PRINCE EDWARD

Isabel.

PRINCESS

Isabel who.

PRINCE EDWARD

Isabel necessary on a bike? (*No reaction from the Princess*)

No? Try this one. What do you call a man lying under a pair of leaves?

(The Princess doesn't respond)

PRINCE EDWARD

Russell! Get it? Russell – of leaves?

(Prince Edward goes back to the group looking depressed)

KING

Next!

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

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Prince Michael of Mostavia. Please step forward.

(Prince Michael steps forward)

PRINCE MICHAEL

A patient goes to the doctor and says “Doctor, I don’t feel very well. I keep thinking I’m a pair of curtains.” And the doctor says “Pull yourself together!”

(No response from the Princess)

Another patient goes to the doctors and says “Doctor, I think I’m the Abominable Snowman” and the doctor says “Cool it, will you.”

(This time none of the courtiers laugh)

A man goes into a shop and says “Can I have a packet of helicopter flavoured crisps?” and the assistant says “I’m sorry, we’ve only got plane!” Get it? Plane? Aeroplane?

(He falls about laughing – no-one else does)

KING

Next!

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Prince Peter of Petrograd. Step forward.

PRINCE PETER

Why can’t you tell secrets on a farm?

PRINCESS

(wearily) **I don’t know.**

PRINCE PETER

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Because the corn has ears, the potatoes have eyes and the grass whispers.

(Everyone groans)

PRINCE PETER

Why don't polar bears eat penguins?

PRINCESS

Because they can't get the silver paper off. I've heard that one before.

PRINCE PETER

OK. Then what's green and wobbles while flying.

(The Princess gives every answer very quickly but a little wearily.)

PRINCESS

A jellycopter.

PRINCE PETER

Why was the brush late?

PRINCESS

It overswept.

PRINCE PETER

Why did the clock get ill?

PRINCESS

It was run down.

PRINCE PETER

Why did the raisin take the sultana to a dance?

PRINCESS

Because it couldn't get a date.

KING

Enough! You're all useless! Get out of my sight!

(The Princes leave in a hurry)

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

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I'm sorry Your Majesty. I just don't think that Princes are natural comedians. Perhaps we should widen the net. Let's get some professional jesters in.

KING

But I promised that whoever made the Princess laugh, should have her hand in marriage. She can't marry a professional jester!

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Perhaps you should change the offer, Your Majesty. We've now run out of suitable princes.

KING

Yes, yes. You're right. Let's change the offer to "anyone who makes the Princess laugh shall be rewarded with a bag of gold".

(The Lord Chamberlain bows)

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Right. I shall see to it at once. Thank you Your Majesty.

END OF SCENE 1/