

## Dick Whittington

**DICK:** So, this is London. So much for streets paved with gold. What I can see of them under this litter looks just dull and dirty. The people don't look much better in fact they look even poorer and hungrier than me. Goodness look at that Tiddles.  
*(cat races off after the rat)*

**DICK:** I see you have already seen it. Well at least if you catch that rat one of us will have a meal.  
*(Cat returns with rat and starts eating)*

**DICK:** You know Tiddles I think this was a bad idea. I think I'll go home...  
*(TURNS TO GO, BUT PAUSES bell rings out)*

**DICK:** *(humming to tune of bells)* Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London! Those bells are telling me to turn around. Very well! That's what I'll do!

*Enter Alice singing perhaps Oh What a beautiful morning*

**ALICE:** Oh, What a pretty cat! What's his name?

**DICK:** He's called Tiddles. He's a very clever cat - he can talk! Tiddles, say something!  
*(Tiddles shakes his head.)*

**DICK:** Go on!

**TIDDLES:** Me? How?

**ALICE:** That's very clever! By the way, what's your name? I'm Alice Fitzwarren.

**DICK:** I'm Dick Whittington.

**ALICE:** You don't look as if you are from around here, where are you from Dick?

**DICK:** I'm from Ashton where it rains a lot and the sky is often grey rather than Blue and there isn't all that much grass. The roads are black not paved with gold like I thought they would be here.

**ALICE:** You expected the roads to be paved with gold?

**DICK:** I had this dream you see of a place where the grass is the greenest green and the sky is the bluest blue and the streets are yellow, like they are paved with gold.

**ALICE:** I know the place you, I had that dream myself last year, but it's not London it's the Land of Oz

**DICK:** Thanks for telling me but it's too late now, I've come to London to find my fortune and I'm not having much luck so far.

**ALICE:** If that's a rat Tiddles is eating I reckon I now how you could make a bit of money. Come on I'll take you to meet my father. *They go offstage.*

*Outside the Fitzwarren shop*

**FITZWARREN:** There you are Nigella where have you been this time?

**NIGELLA:** I've been down in W H Smith's doing a book signing.  
(*Holds up copy of recipe book*)

**FITZWARREN:** Well now you're back you can make me something to eat you are supposed to be my cook you know.

**NIGELLA:** As if you'd ever let me forget it! But I can tell you now there is no chance of a meal here there's nothing in the pantry.

**FITZWARREN:** What but I went shopping at (local store) only yesterday!

**NIGELLA:** Well the rats obviously came by last night.

**FITZWARREN:** Oh no not again I'm starving

**NIGELLA:** I'll see if I can salvage a few bits and pieces and try to scrape something together for you.

*Leaves as Alice and Dick and Tiddles appear*

**ALICE:** Daddy, daddy, look who I've found.

**FITZWARREN:** Good morning, darling. Are you going to introduce me to your new friends?

**ALICE:** Dick may I introduce you to my father the Alderman Fitzwarren. This daddy is Dick Whittington and his very clever cat Tiddles.

**DICK:** Nice to meet you, sir. Alice here says you could help me make my fortune.

**FITZWARREN:** Alice, you said what? I can't make my own fortune at the moment never mind any one else's what were you thinking girl? You know very well our shop is losing money hand over fist. The rats keep breaking into the stores, and are eating us out of house and home.

**ALICE:** Exactly. Now Dick here has this cat Tiddles and he is an excellent rat catcher. I thought you might be interested.

**FITZWARREN:** You know you could be right. If Tiddles is as good as you say he is it might be the end of all my troubles. How much will you take for him young Dick? I'll go no higher than 10 guineas.

**DICK:** No, I'd not take a hundred and that would be a fortune but Tiddles is my cat and my cat he'll stay. I'd never be separated from him. He's my closest friend in the world.

**ALICE:** Well Daddy that means you'll have to take Dick on too.

**FITZWARREN:** You know I can never say no to you dearest. You'll have to help Nigella in the kitchen with all her book signings and celebrity interviews she's not here to cook any food we manage to salvage from the rats half the time. Come on in I'll introduce you.

*Nigella is behind a big table making banging noises with a pan as she tries to get rid of the rats.*

**FITZWARREN:** I've brought you some help for the kitchen, Nigella.

**NIGELLA:** *(Standing up still holding the frying pan):* Mr. Fitzwarren, the rats are just TOO much!

**ALICE:** This is my new friend Dick and his cat Tiddles

**NIGELLA:** I'm not having a cat in my kitchen it's not hygenic.

**DICK:** My cat can get rid of your rats.

**NIGELLA :** Oh no he can't!

**DICK:** Oh yes he can!

*(Motions to audience to help him - someone could hold up a prompt as well.)*

**NIGELLA:** OH no he can't!

**DICK:** Oh yes he can!

**NIGELLA:** Oh no he can't!

**DICK:** Oh yes he can! Go on Tiddles show her!  
*Tiddles goes after the rats and catches them very quickly.*

**NIGELLA:** Do you know I think you are right that cat is just what we need!

**TIDDLES:** Purrr...fect

*(Possibly another song Stones Can't always get what you want you want but you get what need?)*

**FITZWARREN:** Now what about that food you promised us Nigella?

**NIGELLA:** I'll get onto it right away now I don't have to waste time chasing the rats off. You'll need to help me Dick.

**DICK:** Do you think I could make my fortune cooking?

**NIGELLA:** There's been plenty of young lad's that have, Dick. But you have to start at the bottom and you have to do just as I say. Here's some fruit now get chopping.

*Improvise slap stick scene with fruit, golden syrup, melted chocolate and cornflakes. Packet of cornflakes to spill because rats have been at them!*

**NIGELLA:** That's it Dick plate it up and take up to the Alderman and Miss Alice.

*Dick leaves with tray.*

End of Scene

**KING RAT:** Hello boys and girls I expect you think I am a hero as I am the king and I am to the rats. I rule the streets and alleyways of London. I keep London a safe place... for rats. But as far as the humans go I'm a real baddy. I'll do anything to spoil their fun especially if they are good people and there are a lot of them about.

*Encourage booing at this point.*

**KING RAT:** Shush now I can hear someone coming.

*In front of the stage rats scurry across*

**King Rat:** Hold it there, where are you all off in such a hurry.

**RAT 1:** We are getting away from Alderman Fitzwarren's shop.

**KING RAT:** And why are you doing that?

**RAT 1:** Well it's like this they've got a CAT!!!!

**KING RAT:** A cat

**RAT 2:** Yes a cat that can catch rats.

**RAT 1:** More than catch them. Benji's a goner and Sonja. If we hadn't left we would have been too.

**KING RAT:** So where did they get this cat from?

**RAT 1:** Miss Alice brought it home with a lad called Dick.

**RAT 2:** That's right. They just wanted the cat but Dick wouldn't sell it said he wouldn't be parted from it for 100 guineas.

**KING RAT:** So this cat is that good is he? (*others nod*) Well we'll have to do something about getting rid of him then. If you give up and run away we'll have everyone out there getting cats then where will we be?

**RAT 1:** But what can we do?

**KING RAT:** Seems to me if the cat and the lad stay together then we have to get rid of the lad. I've got it. Listen to me.

*Rats go into a huddle while hopefully audience Boos again.*

*End scene*

*Dick's bedroom*

**DICK:** Oh hello Alice. Wow you look beautiful.

**ALICE:** I am just on the way out to a ball with my father but I wanted to know if you and Tiddles have settled in OK.

**DICK:** We're fine. Nigella made me work hard today but if I am going to make my fortune at cooking I need to learn everything she can teach me. She let me have a copy of her book to read up the recipes we shall do tomorrow now Tiddles has got rid of the rats and we have food in the pantry again.

**ALICE:** You've been a good cat Tiddles no one has seen a sign of a rat since this morning.

**DICK:** I told you Tiddles was a good rat catcher.

**ALICE:** Well I must go now my father will be waiting. I'll see you both again tomorrow.

*(Pets cat and leaves.)*

**DICK:** Oh Tiddles she is so kind and so pretty. I don't believe a word about what they were saying in the kitchen about her the colour of her lovely blond hair coming out of a bottle.

It's been a long day for Tiddles and I you will tell Tiddles if you see a rat won't you boys and girls. I need to get to sleep. Nigella expects me back in the kitchen early tomorrow morning.

*Dick and Tiddles settle down for the night. Enter Rat 1 with a locket in it's paws.*

*Children hopefully shout out to Tiddles.*

*Tiddles Makes Sh noises and mimes that Dick is sleeping. Children continue to shout out Tiddles mimes not being able to see the rat. Looks around and Rat follows behind out of his view. When chance arrives he stuffs locket into Dick's pocket. Rat creeps off. Tiddles mimes not listening anymore and lies down to sleep again.*

*Commotion everyone talking and arriving in Dick's room. Alice tries to stop them entering.*

**ALICE:** But daddy this is so unfair. How can you blame Dick?

**FITZWARREN:** Wants to make his fortune doesn't he? What's easier than taking your locket?

**ALICE:** He could have taken the money you offered for Tiddles but he wants to make his fortune by working hard at becoming a good cook like Nigella.

**FITZWARREN:** The facts speak for themselves till he came here we have never had any thefts except for the food those rats have stolen. Anyway it will be easy enough to prove he's innocent. He won't mind us searching his room will he? If we find nothing then that's that.

**DICK:** Oh Sorry did I over sleep? I'll be right there Nigella.

**FITZWARREN:** You just stay where you are lad.

**DICK:** Of course what ever you want Alderman Fitzwarren.

**FITZWARREN:** What I want is to search the room and you.

**DICK:** Search the room and me? Have you lost something?

**ALICE:** Oh Dick my lockets gone missing and daddy thinks you've stolen it.

**DICK:** I'd never do that I'm no thief. Beside why would I do that when you have been so kind to me. You've taken me in and Nigella's going to teach me to cook so I can earn a fortune.

**ALICE:** I know that Dick and I have told Daddy.

**DICK:** I am glad you believe me but Alderman Fitzwarren feel free to search I have nothing to hide.

*Fitzwarren looks around the room then pats Dick down and finds the locket.*

**FITZWARREN:** There you are Alice. What did I tell you it was him. You are far too trusting.

**DICK:** sir, there must be some mistake I promise I've never seen that before.

**ALICE:** But you have I was wearing it for the ball last night.

**DICK:** You might have been Alice but do you think I would have noticed a locket when I could look at you?

**ALICE:** There must be some other explanation Daddy. I believe he is telling the truth. Please don't call the peelers.

**FITZWARREN:** Very well Alice. You want to make your fortune young man? We have the locket back and I can see Alice here wouldn't want to see you hung so I have just the thing for you. You can set sail to the far east. There are ships leaving everyday for India from the docks. Here you two take him down to the ships and see he gets on the first one leaving today.

*Alice sneaks out.*

**DICK:** Come on Tiddles I knew this was too good to be true finding such kind people to take us in and help us make our fortune.

*As Dick is led out Rats come in rubbing their paws in glee. King Rat picks up the locket and goes off again. Hopefully with the audience booing.*

*End of scene.*

**SEAMAN 1:** Here you are Captain Jack. We have a new recruit off to make his fortune.

**CAPT. JACK:** And who's this?

**DICK:** That's my cat Tiddles I go nowhere without Tiddles. He's a good rat catcher.

**CAPT. JACK:** OK I suppose we could use a ship's cat.

**DICK:** Excuse me he called you Captain Jack that's not Captain Jack Sparrow is it the notorious pirate?

**CAPT. JACK:** No definitely not. I'm an honest seaman. My name is Captain Jack Starling, lad and don't you forget it.

**ALICE:** Pst. Dick.

**DICK:** Alice what are you doing here?

**ALICE:** I just came to see that you were alright. I know you didn't take my locket. Someone must have wanted to get you into trouble.

**DICK:** What's going on now? That looks like Nigella.

**ALICE:** Who's that she's talking to. It's not Captain Jack Sparrow is it the notorious pirate?

**DICK:** He does look a bit like him doesn't he but he assured me he was an honest seaman. His name is Captain Jack but he's called Starling not Sparrow.

**ALICE:** That's good. Let's see if we can hear what Nigella is up to.

**NIGELLA:** Are you sure you are not the notorious pirate captain Jack Sparrow?

**CAPT. JACK:** Now look here darling. I already told you my name is Starling.

**NIGELLA:** Oh Dick there you are. Is that Tiddles with you?

**DICK:** Yes it's me and here's Tiddles. What are you doing here Nigella?

**NIGELLA:** The minute you and Tiddles left the rats came back even more than before. I told Fitzwarren I had enough. I can't be expected to create amazing meals in those conditions. I am staying with you and Tiddles. Beside I can write a new book Nigella in the Far East, Nigella And the spices of the Orient. What do you think.

**CAPT. JACK:** Hang on a minute I can't be having a woman on the boat women bring nothing but bad luck.

**DICK:** Surely you are not superstitious. She's a great cook. She's written a book, look. (*holds up book*) She's a celebrity.

**SEAMAN 1:** Looks like we're stuck with her now Captain we've cast off while you've been talking.

**KING RAT:** Oh no, I'm stuck on board too. I only wanted to be sure the lad and the cat were finished in London. I need to find somewhere to hide before the cat sees me.

*Possibly sing Sailing.*

*End scene.*

**DICK:** We have been sailing for weeks now and I can't wait to see dry land and start to make my fortune.

**ALICE:** I've certainly had enough of swabbing these decks.

Improvise scene swabbing decks.

**DICK:** Hang on a minute Alice shouldn't we be putting water on the decks. Seems to me the water is coming from nowhere.

**ALICE:** Not from nowhere, Dick. It's coming from the sea. Look at that the waves are coming over the side.

**SEAMAN 1:** Look out we're heading into a storm. All hands on deck.

*Improvise storm rocking and rolling on the deck.*

**CAPT. JACK:** I said 'twould be unlucky having a woman on board. Prepare a boat we're putting her off.

**SEAMAN 1:** Too late Captain. We've run aground. Looks like we've been holed by a rock.

**CAPT. JACK:** Abandon ship, Abandon Ship.

*Everyone mimes going over the side.*

*End of scene.*

*Enter Sultan's palace Sultan is sat being fanned by some women*

**SULTAN:** What's going on here? Who dares disturb the Sultan of Bonsai? Just who are you scurvy lot?

**DICK:** May I introduce you our majesty to Capt. Jack Starling, Alderman Fitzwarren's daughter Alice and Nigella his cook.

**SULTAN:** Nigella indeed. I've heard that name before you are not the Nigella writer of Nigella's Fun Food cookbook are you?

**NIGELLA:** I am indeed your worshipfulness in the flesh so to speak.

*They are interrupted as the women fanning him start screaming.*

**SULTAN:** Oh do be quiet I would have thought you would have been used to the rats by now.

**DICK:** Did you say rats? Are you having a problem with rats too?

**SULTAN:** Indeed I have had a problem with rats in the palace this last 10 years.

**DICK:** Alderman Fitzwarren had a problem with rats too.

**ALICE:** That's right but Tiddles here got rid of every last one of them.

**SULTAN:** Tiddles?

**ALICE:** Yes Tiddles Dick's cat.

**SULTAN:** I'd give my fortune for such a cat that would rid my palace of rats. I could always make another fortune and it would bring such piece of mind to get rid of the rats.

**DICK:** Oh you don't have to do that I would never part from Tiddles anyway. Alderman Fitzwarren offered me 100 guineas for him but I wouldn't hear of it.

**ALICE:** No indeed he was happy just to have the opportunity to work in our kitchens and learn from Nigella. But I have an idea how about half your fortune

and Dick lets Tiddles do his worst and promises to come regularly to check the palace is still clear of rats because Nigella only came with us because after Tiddles left the rats came back.

**SULTAN:** So you don't like rats Nigella. Shame I bet you could teach me a thing or two. Mind you if I let Dick have half my fortune we would be free from rats and we might be able to keep some stores in the kitchen. Would you stay then and show my cooks how to prepare your best recipes. I already have your book.

**NIGELLA:** But of course I'd stay, Food from the kitchen of the Sultan's palace. That would make a snappy title for my next book.

**CAPT. JACK:** Did I hear you say you was short of food stuffs. I might find I could rescue some provisions from my ship, for a price of course.

**SULTAN:** That would be excellent bring them to the kitchen. Nigella come with me and I will show you around.

*As they leave he asks Nigella*

**SULTAN:** Are you sure that man's not a pirate he looks awfully like

**NIGELLA:** I know we all thought so too but he says he's Capt. Jack Starling not Sparrow and who are we to argue with him?

**CAPT. JACK:** I'm off then if we can salvage our cargo and sell it to him I suppose you and your fortune will want a return passage to England?

**DICK:** You would be right and not as cabin boy this time. I will pay for Alice and I to travel home first class.

**CAPT. JACK:** I'll get my men right on the repairs then.

**DICK:** Come on then Tiddles if you go and get those rats I know you are only doing what comes naturally but you are making me a fortune or half a one at least.

**TIDDLES:** Purrr... fect

*A song here*

*Tiddles rushes off chasing rats. Eventually he returns dragging King rat.*

**ALICE:** What have you got there Tiddles. He's a bit bigger than the others isn't he?

*Tiddles pulls a piece of paper from the rats pocket.*

**ALICE:** The king of rats, eh. Well you've made an end of him. He looks more like a magpie with all that bling on him. Wait a minute. Look that's my locket. He must have had it all the time. I knew you never took it Dick.

**DICK:** Thank you for having faith in me Alice. You know I would never hurt you. You know I think you are the kindest most beautifullest girl in the world and I don't care if you die your hair or not.

**ALICE:** Oh Dick you must know I think you are the most charming and honest man in the world.

*Sultan and Nigella re-enter with a plate of something delicious looking.*

**SULTAN:** I see all the rats are gone. I have had my people check the palace and there is not one left. I am a man of my word and I am having half my fortune set aside in chests for you now. Talking of chests I should tell you that Nigella here has agreed to become my number 76. She will stay on here at the palace. She knows the way to man's heart is through his stomach.

**ALICE:** Are you sure? We shall miss you so much at home.

**NIGELLA:** I'm sure. I have everything I could want here.

**DICK:** Well then let's waste no more time.

Enter Capt. Jack

**CAPT. JACK:** We're all ship shape and ready to take our leave.

**DICK:** Come on then Tiddles let's go.

**ALICE:** Just a minute. I must take my locket and tell my father what's happened. Perhaps we'd better bring the lot and see if we can trace their rightful owners.

End of Scene

*Alderman Fitzwarren's shop*

**ALICE:** Daddy I'm back.

**FITZWARREN:** Oh my child I thought I lost you what were you thinking going off after that delinquent Dick.

**ALICE:** But he was never a delinquent Daddy. He never took my locket. Look here it is.

*Dick and Tiddles enter followed by a line of people holding chests.*

**DICK:** She is right I never took. It was the king rat who did that. Tiddles killed him and we found it and other stuff about his body.

**ALICE:** I've had time to think about it and I think that the king rat did it deliberately to get Dick out the way. He knew Dick would never leave Tiddles behind. Without Tiddles all the other rats were safe.

**FITZWARREN:** You know you may be right there daughter, Dick will you ever forgive me?

**DICK:** Of course I will you gave me the chance to make my fortune and I did. Or at least half a one or at least Tiddles did.

**FITZWARREN:** you mean all these chests are full of....

**DICK:** Gold silver and jewels and there will be more each year when I travel back to Sultana land with Tiddles to keep it free from rats.

**FITZWARREN:** I can't believe it!

**DICK:** Neither can I. It is a dream come true. Now to make my dream complete I wish to ask for Alice's hand in marriage.

**FITZWARREN:** Her hand?

**DICK:** Well and all the rest of her too of course.

**ALICE:** Oh Dick

**FITZWARREN:** Well you will need to be respectable now. I shall retire and see you are appointed one step on your way to becoming Lord Mayor of London.

**DICK:** So the bells were right. It is a good thing I listened to them and didn't go back home to Ashton. I'd never have made my fortune there.

Now Alice go and get changed into that beautiful ball gown you had on that first night I stayed here and let's find someone to marry us.

*Final bow with everyone coming on with Dick and Alice last ready to get married.*

*Add suitable song*