

DICK WHITTINGTON
=====

AND HIS CAT
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written by M. Osterrieth.

(In cemetery outside a country church after a Sunday service)

Dick: I have no parents, I am very poor, often hungry
and cold. I have nowhere to sleep.

Country woman:
Nice day to-day.

Farmer: Those clouds over there are not a good sign, they
mean rain and storm.

Innkeeper: I saw Bill last week, do you know what he told me,
that in London, people are so rich, so well dressed,
that the streets are even paved with gold.

Dick: Oh, how I wish I could see it all.

Innkeeper: and he also said that Londoners eat chicken every
day of the week.

(In front of Inn.)

Dick: You have nice horses.

Carter: Yes lovely beasts, nobody has such strong horses, not
so beautiful. You should see them pulling up a hill
with a full load.

Dick: Are you going to London?

Carter: Yes.

Dick: Is it very far away?

Carter: Miles and miles.

Dick: How long does it take?

Carter: Days and days.

Dick: Would you like company on the way?

Carter: Who... You..

Dick: Yes I would help you in the evenings with the horses,
I would be very gentle with them, rub them down,
bring them water,
Please, please, let me come.

Carter: All right, but I warn you, it's not all a bed of
roses, you will feel your feet and your back and
every bone in your body will ache before we arrive.

Dick: When are you leaving?

Carter: To morrow, crack of dawn.

Dick: I'll be there.

(Chorus sings on the tune of "It 's a long way to Tipperary"....)

It 's a long way to go to London, it 's a long way to go
It 's a long way to go to London, to the richest town I know
Goodbye to the country
Farewell poverty
It is a long way to go to London, it 's a long way to go.

(In London, in front of a big house, Dick sits on the doorstep
The house belongs Fitzwarren.)

Dick: Oh, I am so tired, so hungry, so miserable, where must
I go? I'll sit down here. I can't go any further.

Cook: (Comes out of the house) What are you doing here, you
lazy rogue. Go away, double quick.

Dick: Please let me stay, I am doing no harm.

Cook: If you don't leave immediately, I'll throw some dishwater
at you. I have some hot enough to make you jump.

Dick: (cries and tries to get up.)

Mr.

Fitzwarren:(arrives on the scene and looks at Dick.)

Why do you lie there my boy. You seem old enough to be
able to work. Are you lazy?

Dick: No indeed ,Sir. I would like to work. I don't know how
to find any, I feel sick, I have not eaten for three days.

Mr.

Fitzwarren: Poor fellow, get up. Let me see what is wrong with you.

Dick: (he tries to get up, but can't and falls on doorstep again)

Mr.

Fitzwarren: (to cook) Help this boy and carry him in the house.
Give him a meal. He can help you in the kitchen.

(Chorus sings on tune of "Three blind mice".)

Poor little Dick, poor little Dick,
See how he cries,
See how he cries
The cook beats his back whit a frying pan,
She cuffs his ears with the flat of her hand
Did ever you see such a thing in your land
Poor little Dick, poor little Dick.

(In the kitchen) (The cook is running behind Dick and beating him
with a large wooden spoon. Enters Alice Fitzwarren.)

Alice: You horrid woman, beating a poor defenceless boy. If you
don't stop immediately, my father will turn you out of the house

Cook: Yes, Miss Alice. I will try and be kinder.

Alice: (to Dick) You poor little boy, should the cook be again unkind to you, you can always come to me. I will protect you.

(chorus sings on the tune of "Dickery Dock")

Hick o ry, dick o ry dack, the rats ran up his back,
They bit him here, they bit him there,
Hick o ry, dick o ry dack.

While the chorus sings a woman walks with a cat in her arms. Dick gives her a penny and receives the cat in exchange.

(Chorus now sings on the tune of "Lavenders blue")

Give me your cat, diddle diddle, for a penny
To chase the rats, diddle, diddle, that worry me,
Here is the cat, diddle, diddle,
You treat her well and all the rats, diddle diddle
Will go to hell.

(In Mr. Fitzwarren's office)

Mr. Fitzwarren: I have a ship ready to sail. I want everybody to bring me something to sell to the natives.

Cook: Here is some money

Clerk: Here is some money.

Alice: Where is Dick? Go and call him cook.

Dick: (Dick enters with cook) I have nothing except my pussy-cat.

Alice: (to here father) Can I give some of my money for him?
Mr.

Fitzwarren: No, he should give something of his own.
Let him give his cat. (He turns to Dick)
Fetch your cat my boy, and let her go.
(The clerk, cook, etc. all laugh)
Dick cries and gives his cat.

Captain: (to Mr. Fitzwarren)
I will take care of all this, I'll do all I can to satisfy you.

Mr.

Fitzwarren: May God bless your voyage.

Dick abandoned and desperate decides to return North to his village. Suddenly he hears a voice:

Voice: "Turn back Whittington, Lord Mayor of London"

In foreign Land on a beach.

Captain: Good people, we have come from England. Our ship is loaded with fine merchandise.
We hope your king will buy them.

Moor or native:

My king send me to greet you.
His Majesty invites you to a great feast.
Pray bring some of your goods with you.
(They all go to the feast.)

King: Be welcome in my land, white man.

Captain: Your hospitality touches our hearts.
(They all sit in a circle in the middle is a big basket with food)

King: We must hurry with our meal, otherwise the rats will eat it all up. I would give half my treasures to get rid of them.

Captain: We have a wonderful animal, your Majesty, on board our ship. He could save you.

King: Bring this marvellous animal to me. If what you say is true I will load your ship with gold and jewels.

Queen: Run, run, I am impatient to see the dear creature.

Captain: (to sailor) Fetch the cat.

King and Queen: (together) Wonderful, superb, look all the rats are either dead or gone.

Queen: (with purring pussy on her lap) What a lovely soft animal it even makes music.

King: I will buy all the ships cargo and give you a chest full of jewels in exchange of the cat,

(In Mr. Fitzwarren's office. One knocks at the door.)

Mr.

Fitzwarren: Come in

Captain: I have come to bring you good news. I have sold all the cargo with a huge profit and for the cat I got this (a sailor comes forward carrying a chest full of jewels which he opens in front of Mr. Fitzwarren.)

Mr.

Fitzwarren: Pray call Mr. Whittington

Cook: You should keep some of it, don't give him all.

Mr.

Fitzwarren: God forbid, that I should deprive him of the value of a single penny.
(a chair is placed for Dick)

Dick: (enters) I am only a poor boy, you should not make fun of me.
Mr.

Fitzwarren: We are in earnest, Mr. Whittington. We rejoice in your good fortune. All these riches are yours. I have no doubt you will use them well. (distribute jewels to everybody.)

Alice: You are too kind, you must keep it all for yourself.

Cook, Captain, clerk, sailor: Thank you very much Mr. Whittington. 194.

A child of the chorus comes forward and says:

I am very glad to be able to tell you that Alice and Dick were eventually married, were very happy, had several children and That he became Lord Mayor of London.

The whole cast then sings on the tune of " Boys and girls come out to play")

Girls and boys we've done our play
We did our best to make it gay
Farewell to all and let us pray
We meet again some other day.

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