

Ep 1 - DANCES WITH RATS

1. INTRO

2. Ed: In this episode -

3. **001: SFX - LAST OF THE MOHICANS MUSIC (SOUNDALIKE)**

4. Ed: Two worlds collide in an epic adventure with more than one twist in the tale. Crybabies present... Dances with Rats

SCENE ONE

5. **001: SFX - FADE LOST OF THE MOHICANS MUSIC (SOUNDALIKE)**

6. **002: SFX - SHOP BELL**

7. Mark: Hi, yes, I bought these rat traps here last week but they clearly don't work. Can I return them, please?

8. Clerk: Sorry mate, no returns. Store policy.

9. Mark: But the traps don't work. There's more rats now than when I started.

10. Clerk: Well if you can't kill 'em, they'll multiply. Rats are horny sir, they have sex.

11. Mark: Yes, no I'm sure they do.

12. Clerk: And imagine surviving a trap, sir. What do you think that surge of adrenaline does to a healthy rat libido.

13. Mark: I couldn't say for certain but-

14. Clerk: Hearts pounding. Chest heaving. Sucking in sweet life itself. And after that sir, well, simple biology.

15. Mark: I would really appreciate it if you could -

16. Clerk: Rat semen penetrates the rat egg. Internal eggs of course sir. Not external, like a chicken. Mind you, if you have a chicken problem may I point you to our chicken traps?

17. Mark: You're not listening to me. Why on earth would I want chicken traps?
I'm not a fox.
18. Clerk: Is that supposed to be funny sir?
19. Mark: No- I-
20. Clerk: You think because I didn't go to a fancy university, I don't know the difference between a fox and men?
21. Mark: Sorry, I- I didn't mean to-
22. Clerk: What else do you think I think sir? That badgers are policemen?
- Mark: No I didn't say that.
23. Clerk: There's more than one path in life sir. I studied at the school of hard shops. My father built this place with his own two hands after his father burnt it down in an insurance scam.
24. Mark: OK fine! (sigh) I'll take a chicken trap please.
25. Clerk: Excellent.

26. 003: SFX - CASH REGISTER

27. Clerk: That is £29 and £50 as well.

28. SCENE TWO

29. 004: SFX - HOOVER

30. Sarah: And you showed him the receipt?
31. Mark: I didn't have the receipt.
32. Edith: (off mic) Dad! There's a rat in the bread bin!
33. Mark: I'll put another trap down.
34. Sarah: What do you mean you don't have the receipt?

35. Mark: Well I *think* the rats took it.

36. Sarah: God, like they took your car keys?

37. Mark: Yes!

38. 005: SFX - HOOVER TURNING OFF

39. Edith: (off mic) Dad there's a rat by the bread knife.

40. Mark: I'm putting a trap down.

41. Sarah: They didn't take your keys. You lost them. Just like you lost your job.

42. Mark: I didn't lose my job. I know exactly where it is. They just won't let me do it anymore because I fell asleep at the wheel of a forklift truck and drove it into the boss's great great grandmother. But that was only because I was up all night, trying to get rid of the rats.

43. Edith: Dad there's a rat in the bread oven.

44. Mark: Trap down!

45. Sarah: It was your idea to sink all our money into this new house and what do we have to show for it? A rat infestation and a daughter addicted to bread.

46. 006: SFX- BAG ZIP

47. Mark: Why are you packing all these suitcases? We can't afford a holiday.

48. Sarah: Said the man who just bought a chicken trap.

49. Mark: The minute we catch a chicken, these things will pay for themselves.

50. Sarah: I'm going to stay at my sister's. I'm taking Edith with me.

51. Mark: Not this again, we can fix this.

52. Sarah: We've tried everything. Couples retreats. Couples advances. Couples pincer movements.

53. Mark: I thought we made real ground The Military School of Manoeuvres in Marriage. Listen, we just -

54. Sarah: And for the last time, please do not put your coffee down on the cabinet.

55. Mark: Yes, sorry.

56. Sarah: It's Baroque. It's worth a fortune.

57. Edith: Dad!!

58. Mark: I've run out of traps!

59. Edith: No, what's for dinner?

60. Mark: Oh there's lasagne in the fridge sweetheart, your favourite.

61. Edith: I only like bread now, you know nothing about me.

62. Mark: Sweetheart, why don't we put the brioche down?

63. Edith: You're trying to starve me. You want me to die!

64. *Edith runs off crying.*

65. Sarah: Nice one Mark. Trying to starve your daughter to death.

66. Mark: I'm not - Sarah don't do this. This is all just because of the rats. I'll get rid of them, and everything will be perfect.

67. Sarah: I'm sorry Mark. We've tried keeping things together for Edith, but it's just not working. We're different people. I'll be back tomorrow to pick up the rest of my stuff. I'd rather you weren't here.

68. 007: SFX - DOOR SLAM

69. Mark: Yeah well I'd rather you were here cos I can't actually imagine a life without you so - She's gone.

70. SCENE THREE

71. 008: SFX - PUB ATMOS

72. Mark: A pint of lager, please.

73. Bartender: That'll be £6 and £20 as well.

74. Mark: Do you have a brother?

75. Bartender: Is that supposed to be funny?

76. Mark: Forget it.

77. *Mark drinks. Sighs.*

78. Mark: (cont'd) What I would do to get rid of these rats.

79. Figure: (Approaching) In the Art of War, Sun Tzu states "to defeat your enemy, you must become your enemy".

80. Mark: What did you just say?

81. Figure: I said is this seat taken?

82. Mark: Oh. Ummm, I was just going to have a quiet pint.

83. Figure: Looks like you've had a rough day son.

84. Mark: (scoffs) Try a rough day times 7.

85. *Beat.*

86. Figure: So a rough week?

87. Mark: Yes.

88. Figure: Was that supposed to be funny?

89. Mark: You sound like my wife. And that bartender. Actually everyone I've spoken to today.

90. Figure: Married are we?

91. Mark: Well, technically, moved in across the road.

92. Figure: Man of the house. Mind you, not easy being a man these days.

93. Mark: You're right.

94. Figure: The constant pressure. The feeling that you're letting your family down. You can't seem to do anything right.
95. Mark: (Warming) Tell me about it.
96. Figure: That's what I'm doing now. Being a man now feels like you're always on trial. Hell, can you even say man anymore? Who do you support? Person-chester United? Oh no, all my underwear's dirty, guess I'll have to go com-person-do.
97. Mark: (Quiet) Ah right, you're one of those.
98. Figure: You know whose fault it is?
99. Mark: (Leaving) OK, nice to meet you.
100. Figure: The rats.
- 101. 009: SFX - DISTANT DRUMS**
102. Mark: Excuse me?
103. Figure: Rats. Man's greatest enemy. They infest our homes, destroy our lives, turn our families against us.
104. Mark: Exactly! Finally someone who understands. Ever since they started showing up it's been nothing but - sorry do you mind not banging your pint glass on the table.
- 105. 010: SFX - STOP DISTANT DRUM**
106. Figure: Sorry it helps concentrate and illustrate points.
107. Mark: They're destroying my life. I'd do anything to get rid of them.
108. Figure: Anything?
109. Mark: Anything.
110. Figure: Let's go for a drive.
111. SCENE FOUR

112. **011: SFX: CAR INTERIOR SOUNDS**

113. **012: SFX: SINISTER ATMOS**

114. Figure: Just a little further now.

115. Mark: Can I take this blindfold off?

116. Figure: No. You can't know where we're going.

117. Mark: Well can you at least drive?

118. **013: SFX: CAR SCREECH**

119. Driver: (Distant) Maniac!

120. **014: SFX - CAR SLOWING TO A STOP ON GRAVEL**

121. Figure: We're here.

122. SCENE FIVE

123. **015: SFX - GETTING OUT OF CAR & RUSTY GARAGE DOOR OPENING**

124. **016: SFX - STRIP LIGHTS BEING TURNED ON**

125. Mark: You have a laboratory?

126. Figure: Put this collar on.

127. Mark: OK-

128. **017: SFX - CLUNK CLICK**

129. Mark: (Struggling) It's a bit tight.

130. Figure: Go sit in that booth.

131. **018: SFX - BOOTH SHUT**

132. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) What is all this?

133. Figure: Every man needs a hobby, my friend. Some dress up as ghosts to scare old people into writing them into their wills and some experiment in inter-species transmutation. I do both.
134. **019: SFX - TYPING**
135. **020: SFX - MACHINE POWER UP**
136. Figure: The only way to truly get rid of rats is to destroy the nest. But how, I hear you ask, do you find the nest?
137. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) I don't think I did ask that actually.
138. Figure: When I flick this switch, the collar will activate. Each strand of your DNA will be ripped apart and twisted into an entirely new form. The metamorphosis will begin.
139. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) Wait. Does this thing turn me into a-
140. Figure: It's the only way.
141. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) No it's not.
142. Figure: Gain their trust. Find the nest. Destroy them from the inside.
143. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) You're insane. Mad person. Let me out of here.
144. Figure: See that button on the collar? Press it when you find the nest. That will lead me to your location and I'll take care of the rats.
145. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) You're not listening to me.
146. Figure: OK, transformation in three, two -
147. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) No! No! Why on earth would anyone do this?!
148. Figure: Are you gonna let them take away your home? Your family? Everything you've worked for? Or are you finally going to do something? Finally be a man.
149. *Beat.*

150. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) Turn it on.
151. **021: SFX - LEVER**
152. **022: SFX - BIG MACHINE BUILD UP**
153. Figure: (Over the noise, quickly) Also make sure you keep the collar on at all times. If it comes off, you'll turn back into a human. Or die. One of the two, I haven't properly figured it out yet.
154. Mark: (EFFECT - BEHIND GLASS) Sorry, what was that last thing about the collar?
155. Figure: Good luck.
156. **023: SFX - BLAST**
157. **SFX - STOP SINISTER MUSIC**
158. **SFX - STOP BIG MACHINE BUILD UP**
159. SCENE SIX
160. **024: SFX - ALARM CLOCK**
161. Radio DJ: (EFFECT - THROUGH RADIO) The headlines this morning, a local school hockey team was killed in a multi car pile up last night. The driver was described as an unattractive blindfolded man.
162. Mark: Ah! What a crazy dream. (Groans) God, how much did I drink last night? Well, best get up.
163. **025: SFX - TWILIGHT ZONE MUSIC SOUNDALIKE**
164. Mark: That's strange, my bed isn't usually a hundred feet long. I'll just turn the radio off. That's strange. I'm usually able to reach the radio. I'll just use my tail. That's strange. My tail doesn't normally exist. (Gasp) Oh my word, he did it. I'm a- I'm a-
165. **SFX - STOP TWILIGHT ZONE MUSIC**

166. Radio DJ: (EFFECT - THROUGH RADIO) That was spooky realisation music
from royalty free spooky clips dot com. But at number one for the fourth week in a row it's the Boomtown Rats.
167. Mark: This can't be happening. I can't be a rat. I'm a man. I like Sundays and petrol stations, not cheese and holes in skirting boards. OK focus Mark, how am I going to find the nest, this place is huge (*simulating an echo*) huge huge huge huge. Damn my stutter's back. What was the first step that guy said? Gain their trust.
- 168. 026: SFX - RAT TRAP**
169. Mark: What was that?
170. Longtail: (Far away) Help!
171. Mark: It's coming from the skirting board. I'm coming!
172. Longtail: (Getting closer) The trap! I am caught!
173. Mark: It's OK! It's OK! It's just got your tail.
- 174. 027: SFX - RAT TRAP DISARM**
175. Mark: (cont'd) Are you ok?
176. Longtail: (Hurt) How did you do that?
177. Mark: Must've used about a hundred of these. Also, I think this one's actually meant for a chicken.
178. S'piss::Princess! Princess!
179. Mark: Princess?
180. S'piss: I heard your screams. Are you hurt? Is this vagrant assaulting you?
181. Longtail: This *vagrant* just saved my life. The very duty you are charged with.
182. S'piss: Apologies princess.

183. Longtail: Oh spare the titles. What is your name kind stranger?
184. *Beat.*
185. Mark: Mark.
186. Longtail: Mark. What an unusual name. I'm Longtail, this is my royal guard,
Smellslikepiss.
187. S'piss: (Grumbling)
188. Mark: Forgive me. I'm new to these parts.
189. S'piss: And cheese is delicious.
190. Mark: You're a *princess*?
191. Longtail: You really are new.
192. S'piss: Your furriness, we *must* get you back to the nest at once.
193. Mark: The nest? Yes please take me to the nest. I agree with Smellslikeshit, or whatever your name was.
194. Longtail: It's too dangerous by the surface. We risk being spotted by Sara and
the one she calls prick. Let us go underfloor, there is a settlement on the outskirts of Leekpipe. We will take shelter there. Won't you join us Mark?
195. *Beat.*
196. Mark: Is cheese delicious?
197. Longtail: Was that supposed to be funny? Because it was.
198. *They all laugh.*
199. SCENE SEVEN
200. **028: SFX - MEDIEVAL MARKET ATMOS**

201. Trader 1: Get your breadcrumbs. Fresh, stale breadcrumbs!
202. Trader 2: Read your paw sir?
203. Trader 3: Excra! Excra! Excrement is our money!
- 204. SFX - FADE MEDIEVAL MARKET ATMOS**
205. Mark: Good god, there's hundreds of you.
206. Longtail: Oh this is but a fraction of our community. We stretch across
all
Verminia, from Upstairs Landing to Kitchen Island. Tell me Mark,
where do you hail from?
207. Mark: Bath.
208. Longtail: Beg pardon?
209. Mark: The bath. I'm from underneath the bath.
210. Longtail: Great whiskers, we heard those lands were wiped out. You
must be
the sole survivor?
211. Mark: Yes. I'd rather not talk about it or have any more follow up questions.
212. Rat 1: Princess princess! Please look upon me!
213. Rat 2: Grace us with your beauty!
214. Rat 1: I love the princess so much I'd die for her.
215. Rat 2: Well I'd kill for her.
216. Rat 1: Really? Why don't you kill me?
217. Rat 2: That's a great idea. (Throttling)
218. Rat 1: You're killing me!
219. Rat 2: I'm killing you!
220. Mark: Wow, they really do love you.

221. Longtail: They're merely over excited for the celebration tomorrow.
Though I can't say I'm in the mood for celebrating.
222. S'foot: (Approaching) Darling! Out of my way. Darling! Where is my beloved?!
223. Longtail: (Big sigh)
224. S'foot: (Arriving) There you are! (Kissing) Aren't you a sight for beady eyes.
225. Longtail: Mark, this is my fiance, Scurryfoot.
226. S'foot: My sweet, what have I told you about going to the surface?
227. Longtail: Our people need food Scurryfoot. Would you have them starve?
228. S'foot: I was beside myself! Though that wouldn't be such a bad thing, mind.Finally get to see myself in the flesh. Have a drink with me, pick my brains, maybe even start a fight. (Smirking) That'd wipe the smile off my face. Who does this rat think he is? Well I'll show me who's boss. What do you think darling? Reckon I could beat me up?
229. Longtail: Scurryfoot-
230. S'foot: I was worried! We are to be wed tomorrow and you risk - *gasp* - your tail! What happened?
231. Longtail: I'm fine.
232. S'foot: You are wounded! Medic! Get me the finest surgeon poo can buy.
233. Longtail: It was just a trap.
234. S'foot: It was an attempt on my bride's life. Barbarians! Humans, they infest our lands with their machines of death.
235. S'piss: Princess, there's a tiny perfectly square piece of cheese over here!
236. Longtail: Smellslikepiss no!
237. **029 SFX - RAT TRAP**

238. **030 SFX - BEHEADING**

239. **031 SFX - WILHELM SCREAM**

240. Longtail: Send a message to his wife. And his 39 children.

241. S'foot: How much more bloodshed are we willing to suffer? I tell you, we must rise up against Sara and the one she calls Bald Loser.

242. Mark: Bald Loser? I thought it was prick.

243. Longtail: He has many names.

244. S'foot: And who are you street rat? What's with the collar round your neck?

245. Longtail: *Mark* saved me from the trap.

246. S'foot: Did he now? I've never known a rat be able to outsmart one of those machines.

247. Longtail: He is a hero.

248. S'foot: Hero eh? Well let's see how he handles a blade. En garde!

249. **032 SFX - SWORD SHING**

250. Longtail: Enough Scurryfoot. Lower your weapon.

251. Mark: That's my car key.

252. Longtail: Excuse my fiance. The only muscle he doesn't exercise is his brain.

253. Mark: Really needed that to take mum to hospital.

254. Longtail: Mark dines with us tonight.

255. S'foot: Dines on what? There's no food. The outskirting boards have been hoovered dry.

256. Longtail: Well what are we going to do?

257. S'foot: We will do what rats have always done. Cannibalism. Mark,

Congratulations, I'm promoting you to food.

258. 033 SFX - SWORD SHING

259. Mark: Wait wait wait. There's lasagne in the fridge?

260. S'foot: Fridge? What is this fridge you speak of?

261. Longtail: And what is this lasagne?

262. Mark: I'll show you, if you like. Everyone, follow me.

263. 034 SFX - FANTASY TRANSITION STING

264. SCENE EIGHT

265. Mark: (Out of breath) We're here.

266. S'foot: You risk venturing up to the Surface, merely to show us the Ice
caves
of Bosch?! We should have stuck with the safer option of
cannibalism.

267. 035 SFX - SWORD SHING

268. S'foot: Which meat do you fancy princess? Heads or tails?

269. Longtail: Let him speak.

270. Mark: Trust me, if we all just pull here.

271. S'foot: Trust you?! I wouldn't trust you as far as I could throw you. Mind you,
the shape I'm in, that would be some way. (Pause) Alright, do as he
says.

272. 036 SFX - MEDIEVAL GATES OPENING

273. Mark: Pull! Pull!

274. Crowd: Wow! / We'll never starve again / Cheese *is* delicious. / And so is
lasagne! There's cheese in the lasagne! Three cheers for Mark!

275. Longtail: You are full of surprises.

276. S'foot: Yes... (sinister) full of surprises.

277. SCENE NINE

278. **037 SFX - CAMP ATMOS**

279. Mark: And then I said, 'yeah rough day times 7'.

280. *Everybody laughs.*

281. Rat: Like a week!

282. Longtail: (Laughs) I can't thank you enough. I haven't seen my family
this happy in years.

283. Mark: Well thank you for being so welcoming. I must say, I'm not used to it.

284. Longtail: You Bath rats are strange folk. It is what us rats do. Living off
the land, giving, sharing, trusting. Together. At least... that's how things
used to be.

285. Mark: How so?

286. Longtail: For centuries man and rat lived peacefully side by side. Our
lives sustained by the scraps they discarded. But now the humans seek to
destroy us all. And if Scurryfoot had his way, he would lead us into
war and, no doubt, to extinction. (Sigh) If only we could talk to the
humans.

287. **039: SFX - LONGTAIL SONG**

Reason with them, show them how beautiful our world truly is.
(Singing) We wake to see the light upon the landing
And scuttle til there comes a time to rest
The beauty of this kingdom is outstanding
And most importantly we have sex

288. Mark: Beg your pardon?

289. Longtail: You'll always have a family there beside you
You'll always have a home within the nest
May the squeakings of our elders ever guide you
But can I stress once again that we have sex
290. Mark: I did hear you correctly, right.
291. Longtail: You understand as well as anyone, Mark. Rats are horny. We
have sex. Plus surviving that trap has done wonders for my libido. Come.
292. All: Hurrah/woohoo/come brother Mark let's have sex.
293. Mark: What, now? I've just met you all.
294. Longtail: 'Tis no matter. This is the ultimate expression of trust. A
celebration of our collective body. And it feels great.
295. Mark: I don't know princess.
296. Longtail: Whatever's the matter?
297. Mark: I get everything wrong. What if I'm not good?
298. Longtail: Shhhh. You'll be perfect. Come brothers and sisters!
299. All: A thousand bodies for each other pining.
300. Mark: It's beautiful!
301. All: No one really knowing who is who
(no one really knowing who is who)
Sweaty matted hair and tails entwining
Bound together by love and piss and poo
302. M/L: (Quieter) Yes we're bound together by love and piss and poo
303. *Sounds of ecstasy fade.*
304. SCENE TEN
305. **040: SFX - PUB ATMOS**

306. Barman: Same again?

307. Figure: Yes please.

308. 041: SFX - TRACKER BEEPS

309. Barman: May I say that's a lovely tracking device you've got there.
Turned
another man into a rat have we?

310. Figure: Aye. I'm picking up a lot of repetitive movement, which if I know anything about rats, means he's integrated himself quite well. As soon as he presses that button, I head over there and wipe out every single one of them.

311. Barman: If you don't mind me asking sir, why do you hate those rats so much?

312. 042: SFX - PENSIVE MUSIC

313. SFX - FADE TRACKING BEEPS

314. Figure: It all started with her. She sat opposite me at work. I always had a tough time speaking to people. But not with her. One day I plucked up the courage to ask if she'd like to go out for dinner. She said yes, where do you fancy? I said why don't I make something? She said do you cook? I said I'm the best chef in Paris. Why did I say that? As the day got closer, I began to panic. But luckily I'd seen this film where a guy put a rat on his head and the rat would pull his hair in specific ways to help him make delicious dishes. So, I found myself my own rat and I stuck him on my head. But this rat wasn't into cooking. No. He was into grave robbing. Next thing I knew, I was outside Highgate cemetery in the dead of night. A quick tug of the hair and I snipped the lock of the gate with a pair of bolt cutters. One slow, sustained tug and I jimmied the crowbar into a mausoleum. This rat was a pro. Hard repeated yanks of the hair for each swing of the pickaxe down on Karl Marx's coffin. I tried to explain to the judge that it wasn't me desecrating these graves, it was the rat, but they wouldn't listen. She testified against me, I got ten years and never heard from her again. The only consolation being that I made so much money from selling stolen relics that I could fund advanced research into inter-species transmutation.

315. SFX - PENSIVE MUSIC FADES

316. 043: SFX - TRACKING BEEPS

317. Figure: And I won't stop, until every last rat is wiped off the face of the earth.

318. Barman: Right. One last question, why are you dressed as a ghost?

319. Figure: I'm going to the old folks home after this.

320. Barman: Say no more.

321. SCENE ELEVEN

322. 044: SFX - CRICKETS

323. Mark: Mark, what are you doing? You came here to destroy them, not comprehensively satisfy upwards of a thousand of them.

324. Longtail: Mark?

325. Mark: Princess. What are you doing out here alone?

326. Longtail: I just needed some air. There's something so beautiful about
the plywood joists at night.

327. *Pause. Longtail starts crying.*

328. Mark: Princess...?

329. Longtail: Why did you have to come today?

330. Mark: Sorry. Was I bad?

331. Longtail: You were magnificent.

332. Mark: Then what's wrong?

333. Longtail: I don't want to spoil a perfect night.

334. Mark: No no it's ok...you can tell me.

335. Longtail: I didn't fall in that trap by accident. I wanted to end it. All of it.
But I
got cold paws. I screamed out and there you were.
336. Mark: You tried to - but you have so much to live for?
337. Longtail: That trap felt like the only way I could be free. You've no idea
what
it's like Mark. The constant pressure. The feeling that I'm letting my
family down.
338. Mark: What about Scurryfoot?
339. Longtail: There's no love there. We try keeping things together for the
sake of
the family, but it's just not working. We're different rats. I'm alone,
Mark. So very alone. (*composes herself*) I'm sorry. I wouldn't expect
you to understand.
340. Mark: No. I do.
341. *Pause*
342. Mark: Listen, princess, I need to tell you something-
343. Longtail: Kiss me Mark.
344. Mark: What?
345. Longtail: Kiss me.
346. Mark: But we barely know each other. We've only just had sex.
347. Longtail: And yet I feel as if I've known you my whole life. With you
Mark I
would go to the ends of the house. Kiss me.
348. **045: SFX - BUTTON PRESS**
349. **046: SFX - BEEP**
350. Longtail: What was that?
351. Mark: Oh no. The button. You pressed the button on the collar!

352. Longtail: Mark? What are you talking about?
353. Mark: Princess, I need to get out of here now.
354. S'foot: (Approaching) You're not going anywhere.
355. Mark: Scurryfoot?
356. Longtail: What is going on here?
357. S'foot: I knew there was something up your 'hero.' Mark is a traitor! He is in league with Sara and the one she calls baldloser
358. Longtail: Please Scurryfoot save your stories for the camp fire.
359. S'foot: Don't believe me? Then what do you say to this?!
- 360. 047: SFX - SCROLL UNFURL**
361. S'foot: This scroll here details the purchase of 17 rat traps and it bears the sigil of Mark.
362. Mark: There's my receipt!
363. S'foot: And he admits it!
364. Mark: Oh no.
365. S'foot: Guards seize him.
- 366. 048: SFX - SEIZE HIM MUSIC**
- 367. 049: SFX - MARCHING GUARDS**
- 368. SFX - STOP CRICKETS**
369. Longtail: Mark? Is this true?
370. Mark: No please everyone, I can explain.
371. S'foot: Oh you can explain in cat heaven. Also known as rat hell.
372. Mark: (Exertion) Get off me! Where are you taking me?

373. S'foot: The traitor will stand trial at the nest.
374. Mark: No no please, you can't take me there! He's tracking me!
375. S'foot: Silence!
- 376. 050: SFX - KNOCKOUT**
377. Mark: (Taking a hit)
- 378. SFX - STOP SEIZE HIM MUSIC**
379. SCENE TWELVE
- 380. 051: SFX - DREAMSCAPE ATMOS**
381. Figure: When you find the nest, press the button on your collar.
382. Longtail: Mark, kiss me.
383. Figure: It'll lead me to your location. I'll take care of the rats.
- 384. 052: SFX - REVERSING TRUCK REVERB**
385. Boss: Oh no! The driver of that forklift truck has fallen asleep and now it's heading straight for the boss' great great grandmother. Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!
- 386. SFX- STOP DREAMSCAPE**
387. Guard: Wake. Up!
388. Mark: (Startled) Uh! Where am I?
- 389. 053: SFX - ROYAL FANFARE**
- 390. 054: SFX - HUGE CROWD AMBIENCE**
391. Mark: Oh no. The Nest.
392. Judge: (Old - grand echo) Rodents and gentlerats of the nest. We assemble here in the confines of this Baroque cabinet.

393. Mark: Of course it's in the cabinet.
394. Judge: To call the court of her furiness, Princess Longtail to order. May your cheese be delicious?
395. Rats: (En masse) And your skirting boards have holes.
396. Judge: Be squeakéd. Mark of Bath. You are charged with crimes of
high treason.
397. S'foot: Hang him!
398. Judge: Peace Scurryfoot. What kind of rats would we be if we didn't adhere to the judiciary processes? Mark. How do you plead?
399. Mark: Your honour, none of you are safe, you need to -
400. Judge: How do you plead?
401. Mark: Please, we don't have time -
402. Judge: Dammit rat, how do you plead?
403. Mark: Guilty!
404. All: (Gasp)
405. S'foot: Ha! That's the one thing you shouldn't say.
406. Mark: But not of treason. I am guilty of being a man.
407. *Confusion.*
408. Mark: Not just any man. The one she calls Prick.
409. *Gasp.*
410. Rat 1: I thought she calls him baldloser.
411. Rat 2: I thought it was ugly baldloser.
412. Rat 3: No! She calls him unemployed ugly baldloser.

413. Mark: I have many names!

414. 055: SFX - BRAVEHEART MUSIC

415. Mark: But days ago, I thought you vermin. Pests! Sent to tear my life apart. So I did what any man would do. I let another man I'd just met turn me into a rat so I could destroy you from the inside. It all seemed so simple. But there was one thing I didn't plan for. You.

416. S'foot: Hang him!

417. Longtail: Let him speak.

418. Mark: All of you. You may be rats but you have shown me more humanity than I have ever known. And if you can find it in your hearts to forgive me, I pledge to dedicate my life to each and every one of you. No longer hunting you, but protecting you. No longer as man. But as rat.

419. Longtail: You are full of surprises.

420. Mark: But friends that trust must start today. You must send me far from
this place before it's too -

421. SFX - STOP BRAVEHEART MUSIC

422. 056: SFX - FAST BEEPING

423. Longtail: What's that beeping?

424. S'foot: That collar round his neck.

425. Mark: Oh no.

426. 057: SFX - FLOORBOARDS RIPPING

427. Rat: Look! Up there! The sky is falling!

428. S'foot: What the -

429. Figure: (EFFECT - AS A GIANT) There's your nest!

430. Mark: We're too late! No please, call off the attack!

431. Figure: (EFFECT - AS A GIANT) Nothing smashes up furniture like grave digging equipment. It's rat hammering' time.
432. **058 SFX - EXPLOSION**
433. **059 SFX - WAR ATMOS**
434. **060 SFX - WAR MUSIC (MARCH OF THE TEMPLARS)**
435. S'foot: We are under attack! Rats! All of you form ranks.
436. **061 SFX - SWORD SHING**
437. Mark: No Scurryfoot, he's too strong. You all need to get out of here now!
438. S'foot: Oh we've heard more than enough from you. (Calling out) We knew this day would come! No longer will we cower 'neath floorboards, praying for crumbs. Today we summon the spirit of our ancestors who wiped out half of Europe and scurry like it's 1349. Charge!
439. **062: SFX - BIG BATTLE CRY**
440. Mark: No, no, no! I've got to do something.
441. Longtail: (Approaching) Mark!
442. Mark: Longtail! There you are. I'm so sorry. This is all my fault.
443. Longtail: There's no time, we need to save my family.
444. Mark: Get me out of these binds.
445. Longtail: (Struggling) It's no use! It's a folded out paper clip, this thing's unbreakable.
446. Mark: I've got to do something. Scurryfoot can't hold him off forever.
447. S'foot: (Distant) Is that all you got you two legged freak? Hahahahaha!
448. **063: SFX - EXPLOSION**
449. Longtail: It's hopeless. I don't know why I thought we could reason with
the

humans.

450. Mark: Longtail. Take my collar off.
451. Longtail: What?
452. Mark: I need you to take my collar off. Now.
453. Longtail: What happens if I do?
454. *Beat*
455. Longtail: Mark, what happens if I do?
456. Mark: Please don't cry, there's no time.
457. Longtail: I'm crying because it sounds like you're saying goodbye.
458. Mark: Longtail. I swore I would do whatever it took to protect you. I will
keep
that promise, even if it's the last thing I do.
459. Longtail: (Sobbing) OK.
460. Mark: And Longtail...I would have followed you to the ends of the house.
- 461. 064: SFX - EXPLOSION**
462. Mark: Do it now.
- 463. 065: SFX - COLLAR UNLOCK**
- 464. 066: SFX - RAT TRANSFORMATION (THE THING)**
- 465. 067: SFX - GROWING NOISE**
466. Mark: (Cries of pain)
- 467. SFX - CUT WAR ATMOS**
- 468. SFX - CUT WAR MUSIC**
469. SCENE THIRTEEN

470. Mark: Stop!
471. Figure: Woah, who are you?
472. Mark: It's me! You turned me into a rat.
473. Figure: Oh yes of course. Well job done. We found the nest and, listen, you owe me money by the way. That'll be £50 pounds and £600-
474. Mark: No, you listen. Your services are no longer required. Because you know what...
- 475. 068A: SFX - DOOR OPENING**
476. Sarah: (Entering) Ok Mark let's just make this as easy as possible ok? I just came to pick up the rest of my - what the hell is going on?!
477. Mark: Sarah hi.
478. Sarah: Why are you naked?
479. Mark: OK. Now, bear with me on this. I have just transformed back into a human after I'd been turned into a rat -
480. Sarah: The cabinet! Oh look at it, it's completely destroyed. That was a baroque cabinet.
481. Figure: Now it's a ba-roke cabinet...sorry I didn't introduce myself, I'm a friend of your husband's.
482. Mark: This man is not a friend.
483. Sarah: And you are not my husband. Whose fault is all this?
484. Figure: It's the rats.
485. Mark: It's mine, Sarah. I see that now. It was never about the rats. We've been growing apart for a long time now and I just couldn't accept it, couldn't face up to my failings. So like a coward, I placed the blame on something else. So I'm sorry. And if this is the end, then I understand.
486. Figure: He's right. The rats aren't the enemy. You know if I really think about

it. It was me who robbed those graves. I already had all the tools. I think I was just nervous about having a date.

487. *Pause.*

488. Mark: I don't know what you were talking about but I'm glad you've learnt something.

489. Figure: So about my fee.

490. Mark: Get out of my house!

491. Figure: (Leaving) I'm going, I'm going.

492. 068B: SFX - DOOR CLOSING

493. Sarah: Well Mark, I'm still not entirely sure what happened here today but erm...Thank you, for understanding. What are you going to do now?

494. Mark: I think I'm going to stay here. These rats need a protector.

495. Sarah: OK.

496. Mark: But obviously that doesn't mean that Edith can't come and stay at weekends, I still want to be a very present father figure.

497. Sarah: (Leaving) Yeah I think we'll just let the courts decide that.

498. 068B: SFX - DOOR SHUT

499. Longtail: (Gentle squeaking)

500. Mark: Longtail.

501. Longtail: Mark you're...

502. Mark: Don't look at me. I'm hideous.

503. Longtail: No, you're still as beautiful as you've always been.

504. Mark: Thank you. Well I guess this is goodbye.

505. Longtail: Why?

506. Mark: The collar's broken. I'm stuck like this forever. And we can't be together when you're a rat and I'm -

507. Longtail: The greatest rat I've ever known.

508. SCENE FOURTEEN

509. 069: SFX - WEDDING BELLS & SFX - CELTIC MUSIC

510. Judge: Rodents, gentlerats and *human* of the nest we are gathered here today to witness the union of Princess Clarabelle Vermintrude Longtail and Mark Baldloser. If any creature here knows a reason why these two may not be bound in holy rat-rimony, squeak now or forever hold your -

511. S'foot: Wait!

512. SFX - STOP CELTIC MUSIC

513. Judge: (Befuddled) Tail?

514. Mark: Scurryfoot?

515. All: (Gasp.)

516. S'foot: (Approaching) Out of my way. Out of my way! You! Mark. You thought this could conduct this whole affair without me? Well I'm finally gonna do what I should have done the moment I met you.

517. 070: SFX - SHING

518. S'foot: Anoint thee *sir* Mark Baldloser.

519. All: (Cheers)

520. Mark: Thank you Scurryfoot.

521. S'foot: Thank you for protecting our family.

522. 071: SFX - LONGTAIL SONG REFRAIN

523. S'foot: Now let us celebrate in the ways of our elders.

524. All: (Singing) Man and vermin finally united
Now there's only one left to do
Bodies quaking, nervous yet excited
Bound forever by love and piss and poo

525. *More rat ecstasy.*

526. *Credits.*