

# **Puss in Boots**

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**All suggested songs are from the Contemporary  
Disney Songbook**

## Puss in Boots Dramatis Personae

The Miller's three sons:

Percival

Henry

Thomas

Priscilla      Percival's wife

The Magistrate

Puss

Villager 1

Villager 2

Chorus of villagers

A rabbit

A partridge

The King

Princess Alice

The Earl of Easton

Footmen 1 and 2

Courtiers and Servants

Reaper 1, 2 and 3

Other Reapers

Mower 1, 2 and 3

Other Mowers

Sir Simon de Gruffwit (The Ogre)

The Ogre's servants and friends.

All suggested songs are from the Contemporary Disney Songbook which is available from [www.musicroom.com](http://www.musicroom.com) or any good music shop.

## Scene 1            In the Village, Outside the Mill

*The scene is one of happy village life with villagers dancing and singing on the green in front of the mill. All but two seem to be enjoying themselves, Percival and Priscilla, the late millers eldest son and his wife. The magistrate stands aloof, shuffling through his papers and scrolls.*

### SONG 1            Go the Distance (from Hercules)

- MAGISTRATE Gather round, my good people, and prepare for the reading of the miller's will.
- VILLAGER 1 The miller's will! At last, the wishes of our dear late miller shall be revealed.
- VILLAGER 2 Dear late miller, my elbow! You couldn't stand the sight of him when he was alive. Not many of us round here could.
- VILLAGER 1 That doesn't mean we shouldn't be respectful now he's dead, does it?
- VILLAGER 2 I have a sneaky feeling that his spirit lives on in that one there.  
*(Points to Percival, the eldest son, who is bossing the villagers around and getting them to stand in line for the will-reading.)*
- VILLAGER 1 I hope he left the mill to Thomas, he's a good lad.
- VILLAGER 2 He's the youngest son, you fool. The youngest does not inherit.
- MAGISTRATE Gather round, I say, and be quick about it, I have other more important business to attend to today.
- VILLAGER 1 Look at that scroll, the will must be very detailed.
- VILLAGER 2 It'll take all day to read that out.
- PERCIVAL Silence, you peasants! Let the reading commence.
- MAGISTRATE By the powers invested in me by his royal highness the King, in my capacity as city magistrate and acting as attorney for the late Herbert, Miller of .....
- PERCIVAL Just get on with the will, man, never mind the sermon.
- MAGISTRATE Very well. *(Clearing his throat)* The will is very straight forward....
- VILLAGER 1 *(Aside)* Thank goodness for that!
- MAGISTRATE Post hoc ergo propter hoc.....
- PERCIVAL In English, magistrate, in English. You don't think these ignorant villagers understand Latin, do you?
- VILLAGER 2 Why, do you?

PERCIVAL     How dare you!

VILLAGER 1   That means no.

MAGISTRATE   Oh, very well. I, Herbert the Miller do bequeath my estate to my three sons. It shall be divided as follows: Percival, my eldest son, shall alone inherit the mill buildings and the business associated with it; *(gasps of surprise)* Henry, my second son, shall have my donkey and Thomas, my youngest son, shall have the cat.  
*(Much outrage amongst the villagers at Thomas's lot.)*

VILLAGER 2   Shame on you, Herbert. Is that the best you can do for your younger boys who have worked so hard in the mill?

MAGISTRATE   Silence that man. This will may not be contested.  
*(Villager 1 clasps his hands over the mouth of villager 2. Percival struts smugly around and gives each brother a commiserating slap on the back. The villagers drift away.)*  
The title deeds to your mill, Percival. *(He hands the documents over.)*

PERCIVAL     Thank you, magistrate, you have been most helpful.  
*(He shakes the magistrate's hand and drops a bag of gold into his palm.)*

MAGISTRATE   My pleasure, young Percival. May you have many years of success as the new miller. *(He exits, leaving the three boys alone with Priscilla. Puss is curled up one side, regarding the scene.)*

PRISCILLA    Right, now let's get on with things, shall we. You two boys shall work for us now.

PERCIVAL     Priscilla, you may be my wife but I own the mill and I employ the workers.

PRISCILLA    Shall we say five shillings a week?

HENRY        No we shall not. I, for one, have no intention of working for you two.

THOMAS       I neither. I shall make my own way.

PERCIVAL     Pah! All you own in the world is the clothes on your back and a cat. How will you survive?

THOMAS       I can look after myself, thank you. All I ask is that, for the time being, you allow me, and Puss, to sleep in the barn.  
*(Percival is about to answer when...)*

PRISCILLA You may sleep in the barn for one year, after which time, if you have not left, I will have the bailiffs throw you out. Is that understood?

THOMAS Perfectly.

PRISCILLA Now come along, Percival, we have work to do. We cannot stand around idling all day.

PERCIVAL Yes, Priscilla. *(They exit)*

HENRY Farewell, Thomas, my good brother.

THOMAS But, Henry, what will become of you?

HENRY I shall take my donkey and offer to work for the miller at Gudrun's Ford. He will value my skill with the machinery. But what about you?

THOMAS I will have to wait and see what fate has in store for me, Henry. I will find something.

HENRY Well, the best of luck, brother.

THOMAS You too, farewell. *(Exit Henry.)*  
Oh woe! What is to become of me?  
*(Puss wakes up)*

PUSS Don't be sad, master. You have me to help you. I am a cat of many means.

THOMAS My goodness, a talking cat. That alone must be worth something. What else can you do? Can you sing?

PUSS Oh yes, master. Would you like to hear?

THOMAS Well, I don't know if now is the time....

PUSS The boys and girls would like me to sing, wouldn't you boys and girls?

THOMAS Well, perhaps just a quick one then.

**SONG 2 My Funny Friend and Me (from the Emperor's New Groove)**

THOMAS My Puss, you certainly can sing – after a fashion. Perhaps we could join a circus. They might need a performing cat. Or else, I could sell you for your fur.

PUSS Master Thomas, do not speak rashly for I shall help you make your fortune. I have a plan.

THOMAS        What plan could this be? It is true, I have seen how resourceful and intelligent you are when you catch the mice and rats in the barn, but helping me make my fortune is in a different league altogether. (*He ponders.*) Very well, I shall give you a chance to prove yourself.

PUSS            Thank you master. All I need is a pair of boots to protect me from the brambles, a drawstring bag and a length of rope.

THOMAS        How one can make a fortune from those quite eludes me. Nevertheless, you shall have what you ask.

PUSS            Thank you master. You shall not regret this. Using all my feline skills of deception and subterfuge I shall make a rich man of you. Whatever happens, you know you've got a friend in me. (*Thomas winces as Puss begins to sing again. A chorus of villagers appears and join in the song.*)

**SONG 3            You've Got a Friend in Me (from Toy Story)**