

SIDE #2

Characters: Peaches, Maurice, Dangerous Beans

PEACHES Ahem.

MAURICE [*Sharply*] Yes?

PEACHES Do we *really* need to keep on doing this?

MAURICE [*With heavy irony*] Well, of course, *no*. I don't have to be here at *all*. I'm a *cat*, right? A cat with talents. People *like* cats. But, owing to being incredibly, you know, *stupid* and *kind-hearted*, I decided to help a bunch of rodents who are, and let's be frank here, not exactly number one favourites with humans. Now some of you [*he looks at **Dangerous Beans***] have some idea of going to some island somewhere and starting up a rat civilization, which is very admirable, but for that you need...?

DANGEROUS BEANS Money, Maurice, but —

MAURICE Money. Right. Sheesh, I just don't know what you lot would do without...anyone? Begins with an M.

DANGEROUS BEANS You, Maurice. But, you see, what we really think is —

MAURICE Yes?

PEACHES Ahem. [*Maurice groans*] What Dangerous Beans means is that all this stealing grains and cheese and gnawing holes in walls is, well, it's *not morally right*.

MAURICE But it's what rats do!

DANGEROUS BEANS But we feel we shouldn't. We should be making our own way in the world.

MAURICE Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. Ho for the island, eh?

[*He leans forward and taps **Peaches**' copy of 'Mr Bunnsy'.*]

The Kingdom of the Rats. Not that I'm laughing at your dream.
Everyone needs their little dreams. *[Aside, to the audience]* If you
know people's dreams, you can control them.

PEACHES Ahem. We think this should be the last time. This must be the very
last time we do the silly plague of rats trick. And that's final.