

The Cast

The Blue Bottle was written for about thirty 9 -11 year-olds, but the groups of Villagers, Sprites and Goblins can easily accommodate larger numbers. Most parts can be played effectively by boys or girls. If you have a girl playing the Landlord, do change it to Landlady and adjust the pronouns accordingly!

Parts with solo singing

- John Riley** Head of the Riley family; well meaning but impractical. Needs to be a good actor and singer.
Solo in *Magical Things* and *All Gone So Soon*
- Kate Riley** His feisty, resourceful wife. Solo in *All Gone So Soon*
- Jenny, Jack & Jim Riley** Their children; optional solos in *All Gone So Soon*. The Rileys also sing as a group in *Whatever Happened To The Rileys* and the reprise of *Magical Things*.
- Stranger:** A mysterious figure who controls the story; needs a good stage presence. Solo in *Magical Things*.
- Landlord** The greedy villain who terrorises the villagers. Must be a confident singer and actor. **Solo** in *Being Bad* and *The Rent Goes Up*
- Jenkins & Jinks** The Landlord's incompetent servants. Comic roles, short solos in *Being Bad*.

Speaking parts without solo singing

Named Villagers:

Grandma
Charlie
Jo
Pat
Billy
Fran
George

These double as Goblins 1-7 in Scene 8

Villagers 1-7

These double as Sprites 1-7 in Scene 4

Any number of non-speaking Villagers, Sprites, Goblins etc.
A brief appearance for **Buttercup**, the cow.

Song 1: Jackpot

(Villagers, Rileys, Jenkins, Jinks)

CD track 1/13

Summertime, but still it's always raining
Cold and wet and windy and the crops don't grow
Never mind, what is the use complaining
When you're at the bottom, up's the only way to go!

We can dream of striking lucky
Dream of making money
Dream of milk and honey
I know, maybe it's a long shot,
Could be lucky, why not
Hope we hit the jackpot...

We'll get by, you and I
Rain or shine or cloudy sky
And some day soon we'll be living like kings
Who knows what luck tomorrow brings!

Money's tight, we can't afford to waste it
Every day's a struggle just to make ends meet
Caviar, we'll never get to taste it
Turnip tops and cabbage leaves are all we have to eat

We can dream of striking lucky
Dream of making money
Dream of milk and honey
I know, maybe it's a long shot,
Could be lucky, why not
Hope we hit the jackpot...

We'll get by, you and I
Rain or shine or cloudy sky
And some day soon we'll be living like kings
Who knows what luck tomorrow brings!

Sooner or later we'll get it together
For how can the weather be cloudy forever
And someday soon we'll be living like kings
Who knows what luck tomorrow brings!

Scene 1. At the Rileys'

(A table and a few simple chairs or stools set the scene.

Enter Kate, Jim, Jack and Jenny. The smallest Riley has a battered teddybear. Kate has a saucepan and the children set the table with some bowls and spoons. Enter John.)

John: Good morning! And what a beautiful day it is!

Jim: Is there anything for breakfast?

Kate: Come here, John, and let me comb your hair.

Jack: *(Looking in pan)* Mmm, gruel again.

Jenny: I'm not eating that!

Jim/Jack: I'll have it! *(They fight over pan.)*

Kate: Stop that!

John: I'll bring you back something worth eating.

Jim: Where are you going, Dad?

John: I'm off to market to make my fortune.

Kate: Don't be silly. You're only selling a cow.

John: So? It could be my lucky day. I feel - *(with a dramatic pause)* ...magic in the air, don't you?

Others: *(Unimpressed)* No.

John: Anything could happen!

Kate: That's what I'm worried about! Remember the time you came back with "magic beans" ?

John: Oh, yes! *(Dreamily)* Just imagine a magic beanstalk growing up outside our -

Jim: Dad, they were in a tin. *(Shows tin of baked beans.)*

Jenny: And remember that scrawny goose you brought back?

John: But this little old woman told me it would lay golden eggs.

Kate: But John, only lady geese lay eggs.

John: All right! Hard cash only today. *(Exit Jim to get cow.)*

Kate: This is our last chance, John. I don't know what we'll do when this money runs out.

John: Oh, something will turn up.

Kate: But we can't pay the rent!

Jenny: We'll starve!

John: Nonsense! I'm off to sell this cow. Where are my boots?

Jenny: You haven't got any.

Jack: We sold them last month.

John: Oh good, that means I don't have to polish them.

Kate: Off you go! And good luck. *(John starts to exit.)*

Jenny: Bring me some chocolate!

Jack: Aren't you forgetting something?

(Enter Jim with Buttercup, the cow.)

Buttercup: Moo!

John: Ah, Buttercup! Of course!

All: Goodbye! Good luck! *(They wave him off. Exit all.)*