

Rat / Rat Dancers    JUST TO STAY ALIVE, IT'S A BATTLE TO SURVIVE...  
All                      NO-ONE LOVES A RAT, WE'RE SAD TO SAY.  
Hens                    (*aggressively, pointing*) Dirty rats!

*[RAT DANCERS run away during applause. HENS move back to surround RAT hands on hips moving elbows like wings.]*

RAT                      (*to audience*) You see? It's not easy being a rat.

HEN 1                  (*hands on hips*) I suppose you think we care!

HENS                  (*folding arms*) But we don't!

HEN 2                  (*making 'shoo!' gesture*) Go away, you dirty rat!

HEN 3, 4                Leave our eggs alone!

*[HENS cluck hilariously.]*

RAT                      But you've got so many! (*pleading gesture*) Can't you spare just a few?

HENS                  No! (*pointing to Left*) Go away!

*[RAT droops, walks slowly to Left miserably. HENS should use appropriate threatening postures throughout song.]*

### **DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE!**

**( ☉ Track 4 / 21 )**

**Hens**    DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE ROUND HERE!  
          PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!  
          YOU DON'T BELONG ROUND HERE!  
          PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!  
          WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AWAY?

*[RAT dabs eyes with hankie, crossing to Right miserably.]*

YOU LEAVE OUR EGGS ALONE!  
PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!  
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME!  
PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!  
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AWAY?  
GO AWAY! GO AWAY! (*shouted*) GO AWAY!

HEN 1                  (*nastily, thrusting basket at RAT*) Don't forget your basket!

*[Exit HENS, clucking as if laughing at RAT.]*

NARRATOR 2         So Rat went home, without any eggs. She wished she wasn't a rat, so everyone would like her, but no matter how hard she wished, she would always be a rat... and that was that.

CHORUS                (*sympathetically*) Ah! Poor Rat!

NARRATOR 1         Rat walked slowly back through the trees towards the little round house, with an empty basket.

## OPTIONAL DANCE SECTION

NARRATOR 2

She was so busy thinking sad thoughts that she didn't notice the woodland creatures, which began to dance all around her.

*[Enter WOODLAND CREATURES. After a while RAT notices them, and cheers up a little.]*



### WOODLAND DANCE

( ☉ Track 5 / 22 )

*[Exit WOODLAND CREATURES to music. RAT continues to walk round as if going home until GRAN enters.]*

### WOODLAND EXIT MUSIC

( ☉ Track 6 / 23 )

---

*[Enter GRAN, BOY and CAT.]*

NARRATOR 2

Outside the little round house, Gran was counting her blessings.

GRAN

It's good to have a boy, a cat and a rat to help me.

BOY

I've finished cleaning the windows, Gran.

CAT

*(yawning 'miaow')* Miaow... I've finished dusting!

RAT

*(sadly, dabbing eyes)* I'm so sorry... there weren't any eggs!

*[BOY goes and puts arm around RAT. CAT tuts as if fed up with RAT, shakes head, goes upstage sulkily to preen whiskers.]*

GRAN

Don't worry. We'll think of something.

*[GRAN moves towards audience, getting out hankie.]*

NARRATOR 1

But they had nothing else to eat. Gran was sad. Things hadn't been easy since she lost dear old Dave, her husband.

*[GRAN wipes away tears.]*

But no matter how hard Gran wished, dear old Dave would never come back... and that was that.

CHORUS

*(very sympathetically)* Ah... Poor Gran!

*[GRAN blows nose loudly. BOY moves to put arm around her.]*

BOY

Don't cry, Gran. We don't need eggs. We can eat chicken instead.

*[CAT suddenly stops preening and turns round.]*

CAT

*(excited)* Eat chicken? Mmm... Tasty!

*[CAT walks dreamily D/stage rubbing tummy.]*

GRAN

*(cheering up)* What a good idea!

RAT

*(puts thumbs up - this is bad news for HENS!)* A very good idea!

BOY *(happily, walking to Left)* I love the smell of roast chicken. It's all warm and cosy. *(stops still, suddenly sad)* But that makes me sad...

*[BOY goes Left to sit on floor, head in hands.]*

NARRATOR 2 Suddenly the idea of roast chicken made the Boy think of homes that had mums and dads. He didn't have a mum or dad. No matter how hard he wished, he never would... and that was that.

CHORUS *(very sympathetically)* Ah... poor Boy!

NARRATOR 1 As for the cat, secretly he wished he was a big strong tiger, so people would take him seriously.

CAT *(pathetically, with clawing hands)* Miaow.

*[CAT goes Right to sit on floor, head in hands.]*

NARRATOR 1 But Cat would always be a cat, no matter how hard he wished.

CAT *(after a pause, looks up)* Oi! Didn't you people want to say something?

CHORUS Like what?

CAT Like... *(sadly)* 'Ah, poor cat'?

CHORUS *(thinking, fingers on chins)* Er...  
*(arms folded)* No. It's just not sad enough.

CAT *(to audience, hands out)* No-one takes me seriously...

NARRATOR 2 Poor cat! Still, at least there was chicken for supper. That's enough to cheer anyone up... *(pause)* ... apart from a vegetarian.

BOY *(gets up)* I'm going to fetch a chicken. *(beckons RAT)* Come on, Ratty!

RAT *(nervously biting nails)* Oh... wouldn't you rather take the Cat?

GRAN No, Cat's coming with me.

*[Exit BOY, followed by very nervous RAT carrying basket.]*

CAT *(getting up)* Where are we going?

GRAN To pick nettles. We'll boil them up to go with the chicken.

CAT *(showing disgusted face to audience)* Boiled nettles? Yuck!

*[Exit GRAN, followed by CAT. Shortly, HENS enter, clucking.]*

### **THEY SENT RAT ON HER WAY**

**( ☉ Track 7 / 24 )**

Chorus	THEY SENT RAT ON HER WAY!	←	All point at HENS.
Hens	PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!		All shake heads.
Chorus	SHE WON'T BE BACK TODAY	←	
Hens	PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!		All shrug on 'they don't care'.
Chorus	RAT IS SAD, BUT THEY DON'T CARE!	←	

<b>Chorus</b>	THEIR EGGS ARE SAFE AGAIN!	←	Thumbs up.
<b>Hens</b>	PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!		
<b>Chorus</b>	SO THEY ARE HAPPY HENS!	←	Flap elbows, wing fashion. On 'they don't care' 1. shrug 2. point at HENS 3. fold arms.
<b>Hens</b>	PUK, PUK, PWAH! PUK, PUK, PWAH!		
<b>Chorus</b>	RAT IS SAD, BUT THEY DON'T CARE!	←	
<b>Hens</b>	THEY DON'T CARE! THEY DON'T CARE!	←	
	<i>(shouted) We don't care!</i>		

*[HENS cluck as if laughing.]*

NARRATOR 1      The hens were so pleased they'd sent Rat away, but they weren't pleased for long. Rat was back - this time with the Boy!

*[RAT & BOY enter, HENS look scared, 'wings' trembling.]*

HEN 1              *(pointing)* Oh no! It's the boy!

HEN 2              *(scared)* That means they want chicken for supper!

HENS                *(panicky)* Quick! Lay some eggs! Pwah...puk, puk, puk!  
*(flapping wings)* Pwah...puk, puk, puk! Pwah...puk, puk, puk!

*[Each HEN pulls out two eggs from pockets in costumes.]*

HENS                Here you are! *(holding out eggs)* Eggs!

BOY                 Look how many eggs they've got! What should we do?

CHORUS *(Left)*    Eat eggs!

*[HENS nod vigorously, with big smiles.]*

CHORUS *(Right)*   No! Eat chicken!

*[HENS shake heads vigorously, looking terrified.]*

CHORUS *(Left)*    Eat eggs!

*[HENS nod vigorously, with big smiles.]*

CHORUS *(Right)*   No! Eat chicken!

*[HENS shake heads vigorously, looking terrified.]*

BOY                 *(turning to RAT)* What do you think, Ratty?

*[HENS turn heads sharply to look at RAT.]*

RAT                 *(slowly, finger to chin)* Well, I really don't know! Chickens...?  
*(pause)* Or eggs...?

*[HENS kneel down, in begging pose, and hold eggs out.]*

*(to HENS)* Will you be nice to me next time, if I say 'eggs'?

*[HENS nod lots of times, nervously.]*

*(to BOY, slowly as if deciding)* I think we should eat...

HENS                *(nervously)* Pwah... puk, puk...

RAT                 *(holding out basket)* ...Eggs!