

START >>> 036 **TAILOR**
 Simpkin, we shall make our fortune
 with this cherry coloured coat, but
 I am worn to a ravelling.

THE DOOR SWINGS SHUT BEHIND HIM.

037 **TAILOR** (CONT'D)
 Take this -

HE TOSSES A COIN ONTO THE GROUND AT SIMPKIN'S
 FEET.

038 **TAILOR** (CONT'D)
 It's our last fourpence. Buy a
 penny's worth of bread, a penn'orth
 of milk and a penn'orth of
 sausages.

039 SIMPKIN
 Miaw.

040 **TAILOR**
 And oh, Simpkin, with the last
 penny of our fourpence buy me one
 penn'orth of cherry-coloured silk.
 But do not lose the last penny of
 the fourpence, Simpkin, or I am
 undone and worn to a thread-paper,
 for I have *no more twist*.

MINOR MUSIC BOX NOTE.

041 SIMPKIN
 Miaw.

SOFT CAT PAWS - SIMPKIN GOES OUT A LITTLE CAT
 DOOR.

042 BEATRIX (V.O.)
 Simpkin took the coin and went out
 into the dark.

MUSIC UNDERSCORE ENTERS

043 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The tailor was very tired and
 beginning to be ill.

CREAK OF A ROCKING CHAIR. LOW CRACKLE OF A SMALL
 FIRE ON THE HEARTH.

044 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He sat down by the hearth and
 talked to himself about that
 wonderful coat.

045 TAILOR
 I shall make my fortune. The Mayor
 of Gloucester is to be married on
 Christmas Day in the morning, and
 he has ordered a coat and an
 embroidered waistcoat - to be lined
 with yellow taffeta - and the
 taffeta suffices. There is no more
 left over in snippets than will
 serve to make tippets for mice.

MUSICAL FLOURISH, THEN: TIP TAP, TIP TAP, TIP
 TAP TIP!

046 BEATRIX (V.O.)
 The tailor started!

GRUNT OF SURPRISE FROM THE TAILOR

047 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Suddenly, from the dresser at the
 other side of the kitchen, came a
 number of little noises - Tip tap,
 tip tap, tip tap tip!

TIP TAP, TIP TAP, TIP TAP TIP!

048 TAILOR
 Now what can that be?

TAILOR JUMPS UP FROM HIS ROCKING CHAIR.

049 BEATRIX (V.O.)
 The tailor jumped up from his
 chair. The dresser was covered with
 crockery and pipkins, willow
 pattern plates, and tea-cups and
 mugs.

TAILOR CROSSES TO THE DRESSER.

050 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The tailor crossed the kitchen, and
 stood quite still beside the
 dresser, listening, and peering
 through his spectacles.

TIP TAP, TIP TAP, TIP TAP TIP!

051 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Again from under a tea-cup, came
 those funny little noises- Tip tap,
 tip tap, Tip tap tip!

052 TAILOR
 This is very peculiar.

CLINK OF CHINA -

053 BEATRIX (V.O.)
 And he lifted up the tea cup which
 was upside down.

GLASS BELL SHIMMER - REVEAL!

054 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Out stepped a little live lady
 mouse, and made a curtsy to the
 tailor.

A LITTLE SQUEAK FROM THE MOUSE!

055 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Then she hopped away down off the
 dresser, and under the wainscot.

TAILOR WALKS BACK TO HIS ROCKING CHAIR AND SITS
 DOWN.

056 BEATRIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The tailor sat down again by the
 fire, warming his poor cold hands,
 and mumbling to himself -

AS THE FIRE CRACKLES

057 TAILOR
 The waistcoat is cut out from
 peach-coloured satin - tambour
 stitch and rose-buds in beautiful
 floss silk. Was I wise to entrust
 my last fourpence to Simpkin? One
 and twenty button-holes of cherry-
 coloured twist!

◀◀◀ END

TIP TAP, TIP TAP, TIP TAP TIP!

058 BEATRIX (V.O.)
 But all at once, from the dresser,
 there came other little noises: Tip
 tap, tip tap, tip tap tip!

TIP TAP, TIP TAP, TIP TAP TIP!