034 FOX
Indeed! how interesting! I wish I could meet with that fowl. I would teach it to mind its own business! But as to a nest - there is no difficulty: I have a sackful of feathers in my wood-shed.

035 JEMIMA
(tentatively)
Quack -

036 FOX
No, my dear madam, you will be in nobody's way. You may sit there as long as you like.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC

037 BEATRIX (V.O.)
He led the way to a very retired, dismal-looking house amongst the fox-gloves. It was built of sticks and turf, and there were two broken pails, one on top of another, for a chimney.

START >>>

038 FOX
This is my summer residence. You would not find my burrow - my winter house - so convenient.

039 BEATRIX (V.O.)
There was a tumble-down shed at the back of the house, made of old soap-boxes. The gentleman opened the door, and showed Jemima in.

DOOR CREAKS OPEN. MUSIC DARKENS

040 BEATRIX (V.O.)
The shed was almost quite full of feathers - it was almost suffocating; but it was comfortable and very soft.

FEATHERS BLOW ABOUT FROM THE LITTLE BREEZE LET IN THROUGH THE DOOR.

041 JEMIMA
Oh! I - I have never seen such a vast quantity of feathers in one spot.

042 FOX
Is Madam not pleased?

043 JEMIMA
No, no. Certainly not. It is very comfortable.

044 FOX
Oh yes, yes, of course. It is very *comfortable*. Will it suit? Will you build your nest here?

045 JEMIMA
I can make a nest without any trouble at all.

JEMIMA NESTLES DOWN AMONG THE FEATHERS, SETTING TO WORK AT ONCE.

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC.

6 EXT. WOOD

046 BEATRIX (V.O.)
When she came out, the sandy whiskered gentleman was sitting on a log reading his newspaper - at least he had it spread out, but he was peering over the top of it. He was so polite, that he seemed almost sorry to let Jemima go home for the night.

047 FOX
I will take great care of your nest until you come back tomorrow. I *love* eggs and ducklings. I shall be proud to see a fine nestful in his wood-shed.

MUSIC TAKES OVER

048 BEATRIX (V.O.)
Jemima Puddle-duck came every afternoon. She laid nine eggs in the nest. They were greeny white and very large. The foxy gentleman admired them immensely.
(MORE)

BEATRIX (CONT'D)
He used to turn them over and count them when Jemima was not there.

049 JEMIMA
I will begin sitting tomorrow. And I'll bring a bag of corn with me, so that I won't need to leave my nest until the eggs are hatched. They might catch cold.

050 FOX
Madam, I beg you not to trouble yourself with a bag. I will provide oats. But before you commence your tedious sitting, I intend to give you a treat. Let us have a dinner-party all to ourselves!

OMINOUS SFX - MINOR MUSIC BOX NOTE

051 FOX (CONT'D)
May I ask you to bring up some herbs from the farm-garden to make a savoury omelette? Sage and thyme, and mint and two onions, and some parsley. I will provide lard for the stuff -
(he catches himself)
Lard for the omelette.

<<< END

052 BEATRIX (V.O.)
- said the hospitable gentleman.
(beat)
Jemima Puddle-duck was a simpleton. Not even the mention of sage and onions made her suspicious!

NEED A TRANSITION OF SOME KIND HERE?

7 EXT. FARM YARD

PIT PAT PADDLE PAT! PIT PAT WADDLE PAT!

053 JEMIMA
(sing songy)
Sage and thyme. Mint and two onions! And parsley. Sage and thyme...

PIT PAT PADDLE PAT! PIT PAT WADDLE PAT!