honest day's work! I expect of this thief before he tries ny pockets to pick. (Helps den EXIT.)

nter as they go.) Oh, woe is ny unfair share! (SHERLOCK

wiped my pennies! (EXITS ious thing indeed.

do know one thing. This

f?
side the compartment?

it on the news.

th a stolen necklace, she'll

lieber! Look! Sunlight is place up! argie will be coming down glimpse of us, ve vill all

finds the necklace, she'll

LL EXIT UPSTAGE.)

rot on his shoulder.) Well, alawags abandoned ship. (Goes to the counter and imbers! A necklace made hink I should do with it, 's beak.) A most excellent



plan. Those scalawags will never miss it! (Laughs evilly, pockets the necklace, and EXITS UPSTAGE. LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.)

End of Scene Four

ACT ONE Scene Five

LIGHTS UP: The next day. A weary BOMBALURINA pokes her head into the room from OFF LEFT. Seeing no one around, she tiptoes IN and falls into bed.

A day filled with infinite possibilities! Why, today might be the day our business finally turns around! (Unlocks the STAGE RIGHT door. BOMBALURINA sits up, bleary-eyed, sees the mess on the counter, rushes over to clean it up and closes the book with the lock.) What are you doing? (BOMBALURINA stretches out arms, blocking her view of the mess.) Are you hiding something from me? (BOMBALURINA shakes head.) Come on. Let me see. (Reluctantly, BOMBALURINA steps aside. She gasps.) Oh, Bombalurina! Why did you steal all these things? (BOMBALURINA claps a paw to forehead.) If you're not careful, one of these days the police are going to come right through that door and arrest you! (OFFICER KETCHUM ENTERS RIGHT. BOMBALURINA lets out a screech.) I didn't mean it!

OFFICER KETCHUM: Didn't mean what?

20 MARGIE: That you'd arrest Bombalurina!

OFFICER KETCHUM: Bombalurina? That's a rather unusual name for a cook. Wait. Not cook. I meant crook. That's an unusual name for a crook.

MARGIE: You're not going to lock her up, are you?

25 **OFFICER KETCHUM**: Of course I'm going to lock her up! I can't let hardened criminals run around willy-nilly! Well, maybe I can let them run around willy. But I certainly can't let them run around nilly! Now where is the miscreant?

MARGIE: What do you mean where is she? She's right here. (Indicates BOMBALURINA.)

OFFICER KETCHUM: What? Behind the cat?

MARGIE: No. She is the cat.

OFFICER KETCHUM: You've got to be kidding! I'm not going to arrest a cat!

35 **MARGIE**: Then why are you here? (Looks around.)

OFFICER KETCHUM: Don't tell anyone, but I'm after a gang of jewel thieves.

MARGIE: (Gasps.) Jewel thieves?

1 **OFFICER KETCHUM**: Shhh! Keep it down!

MARGIE: (Softer.) Jewel thieves? **OFFICER KETCHUM**: Who told you?

MARGIE: You did.

5 **OFFICER KETCHUM**: Well, keep it under your hat. Wait. Forget that. You're not wearing a hat. I'll keep it under my hat. (Lifts his hat and pretends to place something under it.)

MARGIE: Do you know what the thieves look like?

OFFICER KETCHUM: No. All I know is they've been stealing diamonds from a number of jewelry stores, then smuggling them out of the country, only I don't know how they're smuggling them.

MARGIE: Oh, how exciting! It's just like a mystery novel!

OFFICER KETCHUM: This is nothing like a mystery novel, ma'am. This is serious. Why, your very knife could be in danger!

15 MARGIE: What?

35

40

OFFICER KETCHUM: Did I say knife? Sorry. I meant life. Your very life could be in danger.

MARGIE: Oh, dear!

OFFICER KETCHUM: Have you seen any suspicious activity lately?

20 **MARGIE**: Well, I did have a very well-dressed young woman come in and try to sell me a book that she couldn't unlock.

OFFICER KETCHUM: I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about thieves! I'm talking about criminals! I'm talking about people with bad teeth and horrible scars!

25 MARGIE: I thought you didn't know what they looked like.

OFFICER KETCHUM: All criminals have bad teeth and horrible scars! **MARGIE:** All right. I'll keep a lookout for them.

OFFICER KETCHUM: You do that. After all, it's citizens like you who are the mouth and stomach of the police force.

30 MARGIE: Don't you mean the eyes and ears of the police force?

OFFICER KETCHUM: Not when it's this close to lunch. I'm starving! *(EXITS RIGHT.)*

MARGIE: Did you hear that, Bombalurina? Jewel thieves! Oh, how I wish they'd come here! I'd give them a good drubbing with my quarterstaff, just like Robin Hood used to do! Oho! (Pretends to hold quarterstaff and fight off the thieves. Embarrassed, BOMBALURINA buries head in paws. MARGIE returns to the counter.) Oh, well. I suppose I'd better get these things out of the way. But first thing tomorrow, I want you to return them to whomever you stole them from! (Leaves the book with the lock on the counter, picks up the