

JACK POINTLESS enters stage left. 2nd MAN enters stage right, followed by CHORUS.

2nd MAN

Hey, it's Jack Pointless. Yo, Jack, my man. What's up? High five.

2nd MAN gives Pointless a high five.

SONG 1: I HAVE A TALE TO TELL YOU

(To the tune of "I Have a Song to Sing O" from *"Yeoman of The Guard"*)

POINTLESS (going into song)

I have a tale to tell you.

2nd MAN and CHORUS

Tell us your story.

POINTLESS

It's the tale of intrigue and of industry,

A tale of love and duty.

It's a tale of mistaken identity.

As is often the case in such plots, you see

A tale of a lad who went astray

but was saved by the love of his lady.

Happy endings,

Though some might say

It's a cliché.

He went astray but in the end,

He was saved by the love of his lady.

CHORUS

Happy endings,

Though some might say

It's a cliché.

He went astray but in the end,

He was saved by the love of his lady.

CHORUS turns abruptly away from Pointless to face the audience

CHORUS

We are your humble chorus.

POINTLESS:

What is your purpose?

CHORUS turns back to Pointless

CHORUS

We are here to repeat ev'rything that you say
 And act as a kind of echo.
 It is just a tradition with G and S
 Though why that is so we can only guess.
 So don't ask for a reason why it is so;
 It is not really something we wish to know.
 As long as we have a part in the show,
 We just do ev'rything we are told to.

Please don't ask us why it is so;
 We just don't know.
 All we can say is it's just the way
 things are done as per our job description

POINTLESS

May I begin my story?

CHORUS

Do tell your story.

POINTLESS

It began in Penzance a long time ago
 With a man who ran a pie shop.
 His pies were delicious and very soon
 The business expanded like a hot air balloon.
 He started a franchise with its own brand
 That spread like a virus throughout the land
 To rival such outlets as Burger King
 And other big vendors of fast food things.
 It grew and grew and before you knew
 It was almost as big as MacDonalds.

He became a major tycoon
 And very soon
 He strode the corridors of power
 Just as if he was one of the gentry.

CHORUS

He became a major tycoon

And very soon
 He strode the corridors of power,
 Just as if he was one of the gentry

POINTLESS (going into dialogue)

The pie tycoon became known as the Pieman of Penzance, and he became a giant captain of industry.

A man in YEOMAN attire enters breathlessly.

YEOMAN

Sorry, I got held up by a carriage jam. Am I too late?

POINTLESS

About a hundred years too late, I'm afraid.

YEOMAN (*crestfallen*)

Oh dear. Oh dear oh dear oh dear.

POINTLESS

This is an entirely different show, and you're interrupting it.

YEOMAN

Sorry.

POINTLESS

Sorry doesn't cut it. Just go away. But please don't go away feeling rejected.
 Just go away.

YEOMAN exits dejectedly.

POINTLESS turns back to audience.

POINTLESS

Sorry about that. Anyway, I was talking about the Pieman of Penzance, also known as the Franchise King and the Corporate Pirate of Penzance.

(*Looking into the wings*) I think I can see him coming.

SONG 2: A MAGNIFICENT PORTFOLIO

(To the melody of "Monarch of The Sea" from *H.M.S. Pinafore*)

POINTLESS:

Here comes a king of industry,
 One many men would like to be

for he has a magnificent portfolio.

CHORUS

With a lot more dough than you could know
 With a lot more assets and more dough than you could know
 More assets and more dough than you could know.

POINTLESS

He owns a lot of properties
 Both here at home and overseas
 For his empire stretches far beyond our shore.

CHORUS

But he keeps on wanting more and more;
 Yes, he keeps on wanting more and more
 And more and more and more and more
 And more and more.

POINTLESS

For in spite of all he's got
 There is one thing he has not.
 For the one thing that he really wants to be
 Is a member of the aristocracy.

PIEMAN enters, flanked by three men in business suits (the ACCOUNTANTS) and three nubile SECRETARIES.

CHORUS

He would love to be accepted by the aristocracy.
 He would love to be a member of the aristocracy,
 accepted as an honorable member of the aristocracy.

SONG 3: THE FRANCHISE KING

(to the tune of "I Am a Pirate King", from "*Pirates of Penzance*")

PIEMAN

In stocks I own a massive amount.
 My wealth is more than you can count .
 My name can open many a door
 And yet I find myself wanting more.
 It's not just the money that matters you see;
 It's winning the game that means most to me.
 So I'll be true to the song I sing;

I'll always be a Franchise King.

For I am a Franchise King
and it is it is a wonderful thing
to be a Franchise King.

Yes I am a Franchise King!
And it is, it is a wonderful thing
To be a Franchise King!

For I am a Franchise King!

CHORUS
You are!
Three cheers for the Franchise King!

PIEMAN
And it is, it is a glorious thing
To be a Franchise King.

CHORUS
It is!
Three cheers for the Franchise King!

PIEMAN and CHORUS
Three cheers for the Franchise King!

PIEMAN
I just live to play the corporate game
For all else seems so tedious and tame.
I cheat a little bit more, it is true,
Than a well bred executive ought to do.
But many a king on a first class throne,
If he wants to call his crown his own,
Must manage somehow to get through
More dirty work than I ever do.

For I am a Franchise King
And it is it is a wonderful thing
To be a Franchise King!

Yes I am a Franchise King!
And it is, it is a wonderful thing
To be a Franchise King!

For I am a Franchise King!

CHORUS

You are!

Three cheers for the Franchise King!

PIEMAN

And it is, it is a glorious thing

To be a Franchise King.

CHORUS

It is!

Three cheers for the Franchise King!

PIEMAN and CHORUS

Three cheers for the Franchise King!

PIEMAN (*going into dialogue*)

Let me introduce my entourage.

(He beckons the three ACCOUNTANTS forward)

SONG 4: AN ACCOUNTANT'S LIFE IS NOT A LOT OF FUN

(Adapted from "A Policeman's Lot Is Not a Happy One" from "*Pirates of Penzance*")

ACCOUNTANT 1:

I am Alistair McDuff, the chief accountant.

CHORUS

Number cruncher.

ACCOUNTANTS 2 and 3

And we are his assistants, Keith and Ron.

CHORUS

Keith and Ron.

ACCOUNTANTS

It's our job to take good care of all finances.

CHORUS

All finances.

ACCOUNTANTS

And make sure our number crunching's never wrong.

CHORUS

God forbid.

ACCOUNTANTS

But there's no joy in being an accountant.

CHORUS

No excitement.

ACCOUNTANTS

For nobody ever thinks of us as fun.

CHORUS

Dull as dirt.

(ALL YAWN)

ACCOUNTANTS

No-one ever thinks of us as hot and sexy.

CHORUS

Never sexy!

ACCOUNTANTS

We always seem so dull to ev'ryone.

ALL

It's not nice when
ev'rybody thinks you're dull
and no fun.

An accountant's lot is not a jolly one;
Not a jot.

ACCOUNTANTS

But you'll find in private life
We're quite eccentric

CHORUS:

You? Eccentric?

ACCOUNTANTS

If you knew what we got up to, you would say . . .

CHORUS

We might say . . .

ACCOUNTANTS

That you never would have thought that an accountant . . .

CHORUS

An accountant . . .

ACCOUNTANTS

Could behave in such a nonconformist way.

CHORUS

There's no way.

ACCOUNTANT 1:

In my private life I am an outlaw biker.

CHORUS

Who'd have thought it?

ACCOUNTANT 1

At weekends I wear leather ev'ry day.

CHORUS

Ev'ry day?

ACCOUNTANT

I ride my Harley with such wild abandon . . .

CHORUS

Wild abandon . . .

ACCOUNTANT 1

I scare the pants off all who come my way . . .

CHORUS

Come your way.

ACCOUNTANT 2

At weekends I become a secret nudist.

CHORUS
The mind boggles.

ACCOUNTANT 2
I strut around as naked as can be.

CHORUS
T.M.I.

ACCOUNTANT 2
So never knock upon my door at weekends . . .

CHORUS
We'll avoid it.

ACCOUNTANT 2
Unless you want to see the naked me.

CHORUS
No, not me.

ACCOUNTANT 3
At weekends I dress up in women's clothing

CHORUS
No surprise there.

ACCOUNTANT 3
I have a diff'rent dress to wear each day.

CHORUS
Come what may.

ACCOUNTANT 3
I've lots and lots and lots of pretty outfits.

CHORUS
Bet that cost you!

ACCOUNTANT 3
But though I'm a crossdresser I'm not gay.

CHORUS
(extending arms in a very camp "get away with you" gesture)

Gay? No way!

ALL

Oh, when there is number crunching to be done,
To be done,
An accountant's job is not a lot of fun,
Not much fun

ACCOUNTANTS step back as PIEMAN ushers the three secretaries forward.

SONG 5: THREE HOT AND SEXY GIRLS ARE WE

(To the tune of "Three Little Maids from School" from "The Mikado", with snatches of the Cygnets' Dance from Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake)

SECRETARIES

Three sexy sec'ratries are we,
Pretty and sassy as can be
Filled to the brim with vampish glee.
Yes, three sexy girls are we.

SECRETARY 1

I just want to have lots of fun.

SECRETARY 2

Life is a joke that's just begun.

SECRETARY 3

Who really cares if no work gets done.

SECRETARIES

Three sexy girls are we.
Three sexy girls are we.

You don't need brains to understand me.
We are just here to be eye candy.
I never do the work they hand me.
We couldn't if we tried.
We couldn't if we tried.

MUSIC breaks into eight bars of the CYGNET DANCE from Swan Lake. Three girls dressed as CYGNETS dance on, holding hands and moving in Cygnet fashion.