

## **Webber Andrew Lloyd**

### **"Mungojerrie and rumpelteazer"**

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The greatest magicians have something to learn  
From Mister Mistoffelees' Conjuring Turn

Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer were a notorious couple  
of cats  
As knockabout clowns, quick - change comedians  
Tight - rope walkers and acrobats  
They had an extensive reputation, made their home in  
Victoria Grove  
That was merely their center of operation for they were  
incurably given to rove

If the area window was found ajar and the basement  
looked like a field of war  
If a tile or two came loose on the roof which presently  
ceased to be waterproof  
If the drawers were pulled out from the bedroom  
chests  
And you couldn't find one of your winter vests  
Or after supper one of the girls suddenly missed her  
Woolworth pearls

Then the family would say, "It's that horrible cat!  
It was Mungojerrie or Rumpelteazer!"  
And most of the time they left it at that

Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer had an unusual gift of  
the gab  
They were highly efficient cat burglars as well and  
remarkably smart at a smash and grab  
They made their home in Victoria Grove, they had no  
regular occupation  
They were plausible fellows who liked to engage a  
friendly policeman in conversation

When the family assembled for Sunday dinner  
Their minds made up that they wouldn't get thinner on  
Argentine joint, potatoes and greens  
Then the cook would appear from behind the scenes  
And say in a voice that was broken with sorrow  
"I'm afraid you must wait and have dinner tomorrow

The joint has gone from the oven like that!"

Then the family would say, "It's that horrible cat!  
It was Mungojerrie or Rumpelteazer!"  
And most of the time they left it at that

Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer had a wonderful way of  
working together  
And some of the time you would say it was luck and  
some of the time you would say it was weather  
They'd go through the house like a hurricane and no  
sober person could take his oath  
Was it Mungojerrie or Rumpelteazer? Or could you have  
sworn that it might have been both?  
When you heard a dining room smash or up from the  
pantry there came a loud crash  
Or down from the library came a loud ping  
From a vase which was commonly said to be Ming  
Then the family would say: "Now which was which cat?  
It was Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer and there's  
nothing at all to be done about that"

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