

MGTV

by
Stephen Murray

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Mother Goose and the Brothers Grimm have been in competition for over 200 years and the friction between them doesn't seem to be abating. The poor Big Bad Wolf is caught in the middle of the feuding. He has 12 cubs to feed and is working on the sly for both Mother Goose and the Grimms-when he can stay awake.

The war is heating up so Mother Goose has been pretty cranky lately, and the employees beg her to take a vacation. She takes off to a beautiful island resort leaving Simple Simon in charge. Simon lets the power go to his head, spends money like crazy, and the Goose employees go on strike. The only way Simon can bring them back to work and get the company out of the red is to agree to appear on a fairy tale TV special with the Brothers Grimm employees.

Unfortunately, the Brothers Grimm know Mother Goose is on vacation and plan to sabotage the Mother Goose presentation on the live, nationwide television broadcast, destroying her company once and for all! But Mother Goose hasn't run the number one fairy tale company for 200 years by being foolish, and finds a way to save her company and bring it back better than ever.

MOTHER GOOSE, INC., a musical version of this play, as well as other popular Steve Murray plays and musicals, are available through Eldridge Publishing.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 9 w, 12 flexible)

MOTHER GOOSE, INC. EMPLOYEES

MOTHER GOOSE: A very business-like chief executive who is overworked. She is a kind old woman, but the stress of her job has made her a bit short-tempered. She needs a vacation.

SIMPLE SIMON: Quite dumb, but a sweetheart. Simon's eagerness to please Mother Goose sometimes gets him in trouble. May be played by a male or female.

CINDERELLA: Sweet and cute and used to happy endings.

UGLY STEPSISTER 1: Nerdy, squeaky and annoying.

UGLY STEPSISTER 2: Also nerdy, squeaky and annoying.

PRINCE CHARMING: A prince, but not to Cinderella.

RAPUNZEL: She is tired of having such problem hair.

GOLDILOCKS: Tired of porridge, develops quite a sweet tooth.

PAPA BEAR: Likes to make bad jokes.

MAMA BEAR: Is the most enthusiastic about their job as cheerleaders for the Chicago football team.

BABY BEAR: Is a cute infant carrying a "teddy-person" doll.

THE THREE PIGS: Down-home farm folk, dressed in overalls and caps. (PIG ONE, PIG TWO, PIG THREE.)

BROTHERS GRIMM FAIRY TALE EMPLOYEES

SLIM GRIMM: A slick used-car salesman type. Very emotional. An over-the-top villain.

JIM GRIMM: The more stable and intellectual of the brothers. Likes to see things done in an orderly fashion.

SNOW WHITE: A demanding diva who must have things her own way. She is prone to violent mood swings.

THE DWARFS: There are now six and they are all "Happy." They follow Snow White's every move and drive her nuts. They should all be small except Fred who is the oddball. (WINKY, PINKY, BLINKY, FINKY, STINKY, FRED.)

RED RIDING HOOD: Always playing second fiddle to Snow White and is a bit jealous.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: A crazy old ogre. Friend to Big Bad Wolf. Should have a loud, maniacal laugh.

THE BIG BAD WOLF: Works for both companies. With a large family to take care of, he/she must work two jobs. Is often sleep deprived and tends to doze off a lot.

FRANCES FLASHBULB: A flamboyant and phony television director and producer. Very Hollywood, very loud and very full of him/herself.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Flashbulb Television Studio.

Scene 2: Office of Mother Goose, Inc.

Scene 3: Office of Brothers Grimm, Inc.

Scene 4: Office of Mother Goose, Inc.

Scene 5: Flashbulb Television Studio.

Props and setting information appear at the back of the script.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Flashbulb Television Studio. MOTHER GOOSE and her EMPLOYEES are on stage preparing to make a television commercial. The BIG BAD WOLF is yawning and looking tired. FRANCES FLASHBULB enters and takes charge.)

FLASHBULB: Places, everyone! Lights, please! Mother Goose, your position is off right. *(MOTHER GOOSE exits.)*
Simple Simon, please face this way, thank you. You all know your parts. Roll film...ACTION!

SIMPLE SIMON: Gosh, I'm bored.

3 LITTLE PIGS: So are we!

GOLDILOCKS: I wish we had something to do.

ALL: Me, too!

(MOTHER GOOSE enters.)

MOTHER GOOSE: Say, everyone, I have an idea. Why don't you read a book?

ALL: A book?

MOTHER GOOSE: Yes, a book. Mother Goose, Inc. has several titles to choose from.

PRINCE CHARMING: *(Sounding like a typical television announcer.)* That's right, Mother Goose. You can get great stories like, "The Three Little Pigs," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Rapunzel," and "Little Red Riding Hood."

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, sounds expensive.

PRINCE CHARMING: You would think so, wouldn't you. But we are prepared to offer a package with all of these stories for not \$29.95, not \$19.95, but for only \$9.95. *(ALL applaud.)*

MOTHER GOOSE: That's incredible!

PRINCE CHARMING: But wait, there's more. If you order now you will receive, at no extra charge, this set of nursery rhymes, including "Simple Simon," "Three Blind Mice," and "Humpty Dumpty." *(Holds up book as HE speaks. ALL applaud.)*

MOTHER GOOSE: What a terrific offer. I don't see how anyone could pass it up. Call 1-800-MA-GOOSE today, operators are standing by.

(After commercial, BIG BAD WOLF falls asleep.)

FLASHBULB: Cut! Print it! That's going to be a great commercial! Come here, Mama Goose, baby. How come you've never done television before? You're a natural, you've got star potential!

MOTHER GOOSE: Thanks, Ms. Flashbulb, but for hundreds of years I've been concentrating on books. I've never cared much for television and I'm only doing this commercial because my accountant suggested it.

FLASHBULB: Mama, sweetie, TV is where it's at! Sure, you run the biggest fairy tale company in the world. But, if you want to stay number one, you've got to advertise. Television, Mama G. Besides, the other fairy tale company is doing TV now.

EMPLOYEES: The other fairy tale company?

FLASHBULB: Yeah, The Brothers Grimm. They should be here any minute to film a commercial.

MOTHER GOOSE: Come on, everyone, we have to leave now!

PRINCE CHARMING: Why can't we stay to meet the Grimm Brothers, Mother Goose?

MOTHER GOOSE: Because they're the bad guys, Prince Charming. Let's go. Oh, Big Bad Wolf...Wolf? WAKE UP!!!!!! *(WOLF awakens.)*

BIG BAD WOLF: *(Confused.)* What? Oh, Mother Grimm, I mean Mother Goose, I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your grandmother down!!!!!!!!!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Come on, Wolfie, it's time to leave. You ought to go home and get some rest.

End of Freeview

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