

WOOLFIE

by Sybil St. Claire

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PUBLISHED BY
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Blending three well-loved fairy tales, Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears, WOOLFIE takes place in a series of flashbacks as the wolf must defend himself in the Trial of the Century.

Accused of a variety of heinous crimes that include blowing down other people's houses, impersonating grandmothers, and gobbling up little girls, the much maligned and misunderstood Woolfie must defend himself or face dire consequences.

This new look at an old tale explores prejudice in its many forms, and features such characters as Judge Billy Goat Gruff, Little Bo Peep as the bailiff, gangster pigs, a befuddled attorney, and an interactive panel of jurors. The play builds to an unexpected ending using audience participation and a surprise witness.

Running Time: 40 minutes

This show was first produced by the All Children's Theatre in Gainesville, Florida.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Approx. 6 m, 8 f, easily expandable and gender flexible.)

- WOOLFIE:** The boy next door, unfortunately, he is also a wolf! Shy and endearing as himself, but also plays the "big, bad wolf" of fairy tale lore.
- LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD:** A precocious little girl. Syrupy sweet. Wide-eyed innocence in the extreme. Cutesy sing-songy delivery.
- THE NARRATOR:** An argumentative country bumpkin. Thick hillbilly accent.
- JUDGE BILLY GOAT GRUFF:** A grumpy, gruff old goat.
- THE BAILIFF:** Little Bo Peep complete with shepherd's hook. Excited by her sense of importance, she enjoys the trial immensely and feels free to comment on the proceedings.
- THE LAWYER:** The only non-fairy tale character in the show, the Lawyer has been imported into this fairy tale madness to prosecute Woolfie. S/he spends most of the play deeply confused and dismayed.
- THE THREE LITTLE PIGS:** HARRY, the ring leader. An obnoxious and cunning bully. HENRY, Harry's dullard brother and willing partner-in-crime. LEOPOLD, the nicest of the pigs. He is bullied into playing along with Harry's dastardly schemes. All three have thick Brooklyn/mobster type accents.
- BABY BEAR:** A terribly cute spoiled brat. Talks and acts like a baby.
- RED'S MOTHER:** Although she cares deeply for her daughter, she has no tolerance for Woolfie or anything that is "different."
- MOMMA & PAPPY BEAR:** Cameo appearances at the end of the show. Mamma and Pappa Bear from "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."
- RED'S DOUBLE:** Cameo appearance at the end of the show. This character acts out Red's story as she (Red) tells it from the witness stand.
- THE JURY:** A hostile and vocal group who often speak and act as one. This is an ideal place to expand the cast as any size jury may be used.
- GUARDS:** Can be doubled with the Little Pigs and the Bears.

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SETTINGS

An improvised courtroom in the woods, Red's House, and Grandmother's house.

PROPS

Book, basket (Red)
Gavel (Judge)
Flip chart, easel, scroll (Bailiff)
Briefcase, legal papers (Lawyer)
Basket, candy, blanket (Woolfie)
Stuffed animal (Baby Bear)

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: The house of LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. RED sits reading a book.)

NARRATOR: *(Entering.)* Once upon a time, there lived a little girl, and her name was Little Red Riding Hood.

MOTHER: *(Offstage.)* Red!

RED: Yeah, Mom?

MOTHER: *(Entering.)* Your little friend is here.

RED: Who?

MOTHER: You know who.

NARRATOR: And she had a special friend.

RED: Who?

MOM: *(Whispering.)* The hairy one.

RED: Oh, Mom.

MOTHER: You know we don't like you playing with his kind.

RED: Mother please, he'll hear you. He's just different.

MOTHER: Well, so is spam ice cream, that doesn't mean I like it! Honey, we're just concerned about our little girl.

Can't you find another friend? He's just looks so ... unusual. Different from the other children.

RED: He is unusual. That's why I like him! *(Exit MOTHER. RED primps. Enter WOOLFIE.)* WOOLFIE!

WOOLFIE: Hey, Red. What's happenin'? Secret handshake. *(THEY exchange elaborate handshakes.)*

Your mom doesn't like me, does she?

RED: Ahh, she just doesn't know you. Guess what I got?! A new book! You wanna read it?

WOOLFIE: Yeah, sure. *(THEY settle down to read.)*

RED: Who ya taking to the ball next weekend?

WOOLFIE: I'm not going.

RED: Why not? You have to go to the Prince's ball!

WOOLFIE: I don't know any girls.

RED: I'm a girl.

WOOLFIE: You're not a girl, you're my friend.

RED: I could be a girl. *(Openly flirting.)* I could be your girl.

WOOLFIE: What?

RED: Nothing.

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WOOLFIE: *(Reading.)* Once upon a time ...
RED: Woolfie, what big eyes you have.
WOOLFIE: Is that good?
RED: Yeah, big eyes are good.
WOOLFIE: Well, the better to read you a story.
RED: Woolfie?
WOOLFIE: Yes?
RED: What big hands you have. *(RED timidly tries to hold WOOLFIE'S hand.)*
WOOLFIE: Quit, that tickles. Do you want to hear this story?
RED: Yeah.
WOOLFIE: Knock it off then. Once upon a time ...
RED: But Woolfie ...
WOOLFIE: What?!
RED: Woolfie?
WOOLFIE: Yes?
RED: What big arms you have. *(Putting WOOLFIE'S arm around her shoulder.)*
WOOLFIE: Are you nuts? *(WOOLFIE pulls away from RED.)*
RED: You're supposed to say "the better to hold you with!"
WOOLFIE: *(Uncomfortable silence.)* Red, would you like to go to the ball with me next weekend?
RED: *(Sighing.)* I thought you'd never ask.

(FADE to BLACK).

End of Scene

End of Freeview

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