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Cast of Characters

BRUNO, a very large “BABY” bear, wearing overalls. He is always calm. He is about 12 years old and should act like a 12 year old.

MOTHER, a modern woman.

GOLDBLOCKS, about 12 years old.

WOLF/WITCH, it is important that these roles are played by the *same actor*, preferably an adult or older teen, where possible.

PAPA BEAR, a nice ordinary fatherly type.

MAMA BEAR, cheerful and a bit wacky.

GRANDMA, a self sufficient woman who knows her own worth: can be doubled with the Mother with makeup.

BIG SISTER PIG, middle aged, very conservative and in charge, she has been the “mother” for years.

BROTHER PIG, middle aged, a peacemaker, sweet and eager to help, a follower.

LITTLE SISTER PIG, about 50, annoyed by convention, wants to break the mold.

HANSEL, about 13, very protective of sister.

GRETEL, a little younger but thinks for herself and is adventure-some.

BABY BEAR AND THE BIG, BAD WOLF

by Chet Frame and Jan H. Wolfe

ACT I

Prologue

(In front of a closed curtain, BABY BEAR enters. He's well over six feet tall, 200 pounds. A large bear by any standard. [If this show is produced for a child cast, this part should be played by an adult or older child.] He is dressed in coveralls like Oshkosh B'Gosh, with a big medal on his chest that reads "HERO." He addresses the audience.)

BABY BEAR. Hi, my name's Bruno, but everybody calls me "Baby." You know...Baby Bear! *(To one of the children in the audience:)* How would you like to be called "Baby" all the time? I don't like it. Not one little bit. It really makes me mad! I'm the biggest one in my class at school and still they call me "Baby!"

(Drawing himself together:) But never mind that now. I came here today to tell you about the best day in my life...so far. No one would play with me, because I'm so big. *(To a child in the audience:)* Would you play with me? Really? Bears play pretty rough. Well any way, I want to tell you about the day I became a HERO! *(Points to "Hero" badge on his chest.)* I made a lot of friends that day. I... Well, let me start from the beginning.

It was a day like most other days only it was a Saturday, so none of us were in school. Goldilocks was sitting at home, playing with her Gameboy. You know what I mean? Well, here's how it went.

Scene 1
Goldilocks' Home

(Interior of Goldilocks' home. GOLDILOCKS is sitting on the floor playing a Gameboy. We hear the beeps and dings from the machine as she plays.)

MOTHER. *(Offstage:)* Goldi! Goldi! *(Entering:)* I just got off the phone with Grandma, and she's not feeling well. Would you take her some things that she needs?

GOLDILOCKS. Aw, Mom. I'm winning.

MOTHER. She said that she's coming down with a cold and she needs some things. She doesn't feel up to going to the store. Please?

GOLDILOCKS. In a little bit, OK? I've never gotten this far before. Please, Mom, in a little while?

MOTHER. She really needs the stuff now. Tell you what, if you do this for me, I'll let you wear your new red cape with the hood. How about it?

GOLDILOCKS. Really?!? Aw, darn! I just lost. I made it all the way to level four. That's pretty good, huh!

MOTHER. That's better than I've done. Come on. What do you say?

GOLDILOCKS. All right. Where's my cape?

MOTHER. Right here.

GOLDILOCKS. Where's the stuff?

MOTHER. I put it all in this basket. *(Hands her a wicker basket with a handle and a cloth covering the contents.)*

GOLDILOCKS. That really looks goofy. What's in here?

MOTHER. There's some cold medicine, some cough syrup, a couple of blueberry muffins that I made yesterday, and some tea. And I don't think it looks goofy. I think you look cute. Now scoot, and don't dawdle. Grandma really needs those things. Remember, stick to the road and don't talk to strangers

GOLDILOCKS. *(With MOTHER:)* Don't talk to strangers.

GOLDBLOCKS. I know, I know. Why do you keep telling me that?

MOTHER. Because I love you and you don't always listen. Now run along.

GOLDBLOCKS. OK. I'm out of here. I'll be back. *(She leaves house and exits stage. MOTHER picks up the Gameboy.)*

MOTHER. Now let's see. Fourth level was it? *(House moves off with MOTHER playing the Gameboy.)*

Scene 2 **The Forest**

(The forest. Actually an open area along a path through the forest. The WOLF is lounging by some trees Upstage Center. He is an adult, well dressed, smooth looking. He talks to the audience as the show progresses. He's the only one who can do that other than the Prologue and the Epilogue. He's alone as the scene begins.)

WOLF. Hello. I'm the Wolf, in case you couldn't tell. I live here in the forest, where I provide a service to the rest of the animals; by keeping the population down. Right now, I'm pretty hungry, because I've been chasing these three pigs. They have not made my life easy. You can't believe how hard it is to catch just one of them. I've been trying for days. If I don't eat soon...

Look, I'm not a bad wolf. I'm just misunderstood. I'm a nice guy. I like fun. I like friends. I just have a different taste when it comes to lunch. You guys probably like peanut butter sandwiches, pizza, and coke. Well, I like pig. Pig or kid or child. *(To one of the children in the audience:)* Say, is your mother here with you? How much do you weigh? Uh...uh. Forget that I said that.

Look, let's talk facts. I'm the most important character in this play. I'm the most important character in all of the Fairy Tales. How many stories am I in? Hundreds!?! OK. More than five, OK? I'm the only character that can talk with you and hear you when you speak. The others are kind of dumb. Hee. Hee. I'm important because without me there would be no fear, no problems for the other characters in the stories. I bring those with me.

(Looks off stage.) Hey. Here comes a young lunch...uh, lady, now. Look. You guys be quiet. I mean it! Don't say a word! I'm going to hide behind this tree and surprise this morsel. Watch how I handle things. Shh! *(He hides behind a tree upstage.)*

GOLDILOCKS. Wow. This forest is really beautiful. It really is a beautiful morning. I'm sort of glad that Mom made me come out here. It's too bad that Grandma's sick. She likes beautiful days like this, too. I think I'll take her some flowers.

WOLF. *(As he steps out from behind tree:)* Good morning, little girl. How are you today?

GOLDILOCKS. Yikes! Oh, it's you.

WOLF. What do you mean "Oh, it's you?"

GOLDILOCKS. I've read some Fairy Tales, and I've heard about you. You're the Big Bad Wolf.

WOLF. I am not BAD!

GOLDILOCKS. Well, that's what they call you in the stories. The Big Bad Wolf.

WOLF. I can't help it if they don't understand me. I am really very nice and polite and politically correct. I am interested in the ecology, the health of my fellow beings, and the protection of fur bearing animals. I'm glad to see you're wearing natural fiber material.

(As he touches her red cape:)

GOLDILOCKS. Bushwaw! You're a creep! My grandma and my mother have both told me about you. You're just interested in where you can get your next meal. And you aren't looking for McDonalds either.

WOLF. I am hurt. I've done nothing to you.

GOLDILOCKS. And I'm going to keep it that way! I'm leaving. Mom always says that I shouldn't talk to strangers and there's no one stranger than you!

WOLF. Where are you going?

GOLDILOCKS. It's none of your business, but if you must know, I'm going to Grandma's...

WOLF. Where does your Grandmother live?

GOLDILOCKS. Why would you want to know?

WOLF. I just like to know my neighbors.

GOLDILOCKS. Over the hill and around the bend in the road. Now I really must be going. I have to take her this basket of goodies. She's not feeling well

WOLF. Is there any food in it? *(He starts to lift the cover.)*

GOLDILOCKS. *(Slapping at his hand and pulling the basket away:)* There is nothing here for you. It's for my Grandma.

WOLF. Just because she's so sick and you're so nice, I'll tell you about a shortcut through the woods. You just go over that little bridge over there and you will get to Grandma's in half the time

GOLDILOCKS. Thank you. Perhaps I was wrong about you. *(She exits in the same direction she was going.)*

WOLF. That should take her long enough for me to get to Grandma's before she does. See you kids later. *(Trying to imitate Goldilocks' voice:)* It's me Grandma, Little Red Riding Hood. It's me Grandma, Little Red Riding Hood.

Scene 3

Baby Bear's House

(Interior of Baby Bear's house. Of course, there are 3 bowls of porridge, 3 chairs, and 3 beds. GOLDILOCKS knocks on door from outside.)

GOLDILOCKS. Hello. Anybody home? *(Pokes her head in the door.)* Please be home. I'm so hungry and tired from walking in the forest. This is the longest shortcut I've ever seen. Wow, what a pretty little house. I wonder who lives here? Mom would be really angry if she saw me doing this, just coming in without an invitation, but I am soooo hungry. Do I smell food? *(Sees porridge.)* Three bowls of porridge—with brown sugar and raisins. My favorite! Nobody's home,

so I think I'll just taste a bit. Hmmmm, this porridge is too hot. This porridge is too cold. This porridge is just right. *(She eats all of porridge in smallest bowl. Looks around at chairs.)* Maybe I'll just sit and rest for a minute. Those chairs look comfortable. *(Sits in big chair first, then others.)* This chair is too hard... This chair is too soft... *(In smallest chair.)* This chair is just right. *(Chair falls apart under her.)* Phooey. Just when I was getting settled. *(Notices beds.)* Maybe I'll just take a teeny-weenie nap before I head on to Grandma's. *(She tries all the beds.)* This bed is too big. This bed is too low. But this bed is just right.

(She crawls into Baby Bear's bed and falls fast asleep. Just then, the THREE BEARS return.)

PAPA BEAR. That was a good walk. Maybe our porridge has cooled down enough by now.

MAMA BEAR. I hope so. I have worked up quite an appetite.

BABY BEAR. I always like a good meal.

(They cross to table with bowls, each in front of their own bowl.)

PAPA BEAR. Someone's been eating my porridge.

MAMA BEAR. Someone's been eating my porridge.

BABY BEAR. Someone's been eating my porridge, and they've eaten it all up. Wwaahh!

MAMA BEAR. Oh, dear. Papa Bear, who would do such a thing?

PAPA BEAR. Calm down, both of you. Let's just sit down and think about this.

(They all move to chairs.)

PAPA BEAR. Someone's been sitting in my chair.

MAMA BEAR. Someone's been sitting in my chair.

BABY BEAR. Someone's been sitting in my chair and broke it all to smithereens. Wwaahh!

PAPA BEAR. Something very strange is happening here.

MAMA BEAR. Maybe it's aliens from another planet. I read about them in that magazine at the grocery store.

PAPA BEAR. Pish posh. What would aliens want with our porridge? It's probably a practical joke from one of our neighbors.

BABY BEAR. Maybe it was a homeless person, looking for shelter.

PAPA BEAR. Let's go back to bed and start our day all over again. I think this is just a bad dream.

MAMA BEAR. *(Looks under table and chairs.)*

PAPA BEAR. What are you doing?

MAMA BEAR. Just making sure there are no aliens around.

PAPA BEAR. As if you'd recognize one if you saw it. Grumble, grumble.

(All go to their respective beds.)

PAPA BEAR. Someone's been sleeping in my bed.

MAMA BEAR. Someone's been sleeping in my bed, too.

BABY BEAR. Someone's IS sleeping in my bed, and isn't she cute. Mama, can I keep her for a friend. I don't have any, and she's just right.

GOLDILOCKS. *(Wakes up, startled. Looks at each bear, BABY BEAR last. Then she gets frightened.)* Yikes, look at the size of that bear. I didn't think they got that big. I'm outta here.

BABY BEAR. Please, little girl, be my friend.

GOLDILOCKS. Not on your life, you overgrown Teddy Bear. Everyone would laugh at me. Thanks for breakfast, ma'am. *(She grabs her hood and basket and leaves.)*

BABY BEAR. Mama, see, no one will be my friend 'cause I'm so big. I think I'll just run away.

MAMA BEAR. No, son, I know you're hurt, but someday people will like you just for who you are. Stay strong, and remember, we love you.

PAPA BEAR. Humans move in and the neighborhood just goes to pot. Come on, let's go to the Deli for breakfast. How about blueberry pancakes?

(All exit front door.)

Scene 4 **Goldilocks' Grandma's House**

(GRANDMA can be heard off stage coughing, blowing her nose, then gargling. The WOLF knocks on the door from outside the house. Hearing no response, he calls out in his imitation of GOLDILOCKS.)

WOLF. Grandma! Grandma! Let me in. It's Goldilocks. I've come with a basket for you. *(He waits. Hearing nothing he tries again.)*

WOLF. Grandma! Grandma! Let me in. It's Goldilocks. I've come with a basket for you.

(He waits. Hearing nothing he opens the door and peers in.) Grandma? Grandma? *(He listens. Hearing nothing he resumes his own voice.)* Good she's not home. Now I can wait for both of them. I think I'd prefer to eat the younger one, but if the older one gets here first I probably won't be able to say no.

I'm going to put on Grandma's stuff so that when that kid in red shows up, I can fool her and get the food from her basket as an appetizer and her for the main course. Now you kids just be really quiet and don't say anything, or I'll come out there and find my lunch in the audience.

(He starts to put on Grandma's sleeping cap and a shawl for his shoulders.) Sure you guys can laugh at me in this get up, but it beats working for my dinner. I mean I've never had a job. I wouldn't know how to work. I live by my wits and my tricks. I love my life. It's been good. There are these moments between meals that cause me some pain, when I get really, really hungry because I've gone days without food. But then one of my tricks works and I get a whole gaggle of geese or a family of rabbits to eat. OH! Life is so good sometimes. Work?!? Bah! Humbug! Could you see a wolf dig-

ging a ditch or building a house. I blow down houses! That's my job.

(He looks out the window.) Here comes that little kid with the basket. Now, you guys stay still. No talking! I don't want you trying to warn her. She's mine. Do you hear me? I'm just going to climb into Grandma's bed and wait.

GOLDILOCKS. *(Knocking on the door:)* Grandma! Grandma! Let me in. It's Goldilocks. I've come with a basket for you.

WOLF. *(Trying to sound like GRANDMA with a cold:)* Come in, dear. I'm in bed.

GOLDILOCKS. *(Entering and closing the door:)* Hi, Grandma. Mom gave me this basket of things for you.

WOLF. Come closer, dear. I can't see you.

GOLDILOCKS. *(Moving closer to the bed:)* Why Grandma, what big eyes you have.

WOLF. All the better to see you with, my dear.

GOLDILOCKS. Why Grandma, what big ears you have.

WOLF. All the better to hear you with, my dear.

GOLDILOCKS. Why Grandma, what big teeth you have.

WOLF. *(Throwing off the covers and lunging for GOLDILOCKS:)* All the better to eat you with, you luscious little tidbit!

GOLDILOCKS. *(Running away from the WOLF:)* You're not Grandma! You're that Big Bad Wolf!

WOLF. I told you before, I'm not bad! But I am hungry. You're my lunch!

GOLDILOCKS. Help! Grandma! The wolf is trying to eat me. Help! Help! *(Everything stops for the next line. Then the chase continues.)* Where is that woodsman when you really need him?

WOLF. I'm starting to drool. Come here you sweet little thing!

GRANDMA. *(Coming in from the bathroom:)* You don't need a man. You've got me. *(She grabs a baseball bat by her bed.)* Here it is, Wolf!

I'll teach you to mess with my family. *(She hits the WOLF with the bat, knocking him flat on the floor.)* That's that, huh kid? Let's get rid of this piece of work. *(She opens the door and GOLDILOCKS and GRANDMA roll the WOLF out of the door. They shut the door.)*

GOLDILOCKS. That was close. I thought he was going to get me.

GRANDMA. All you needed to do was call for help. I may be sick, but I can still hold my own against the likes of him.

GOLDILOCKS. It was more scary for me, because I always feel safe here in your house. You should have kept your door locked.

GRANDMA. Dear, you can't live in fear forever. I knew you were coming over and I was in the bathroom. I didn't want you to have to wait outside until I finished.

GOLDILOCKS. It's just that when I met the Wolf in the woods, I wasn't afraid of him because I knew he would be there. Here in your house it was different.

GRANDMA. What was so different?

GOLDILOCKS. I didn't expect him, HERE. I guess it was just a scary day. After I left the Wolf, I got tired and hungry and I passed this pretty house. Well, nobody was there, so I went in and had some food and then I slept in the most comfortable bed. When I woke up there were three bears looking at me. The biggest one said he wanted to be friends with me, but I said "no way." Then I ran almost all of the way here.

GRANDMA. It must have been my good neighbors, the Bear family. You broke into the Bear's house?

GOLDILOCKS. The door wasn't locked.

GRANDMA. Just like mine?

GOLDILOCKS. Yes.

GRANDMA. Then you are really no better than the wolf.

GOLDILOCKS. Grandma!

GRANDMA. No! You tell me about feeling safe, but you broke into someone else's house, stole food from them, used their beds, and

then refused an offer of friendship from Bruno, the bears' baby son. That's pretty bad. I don't see where there's much difference between what you did and what the Wolf did.

GOLDILOCKS. I didn't try to eat them! I didn't trick them! I was tired and I was hungry and the house was there and open. I just went in.

GRANDMA. They felt safe enough to leave their door unlocked, and you violated that trust, because you couldn't wait to get here to eat and rest. Why didn't you eat some of the things in the basket?

GOLDILOCKS. They were for you and you were sick.

GRANDMA. You think it's better to steal from strangers than to eat something your mother made for me?

GOLDILOCKS. No. I didn't think of it that way.

GRANDMA. How did you think of it?

GOLDILOCKS. I guess I didn't think about it. Gee, Grandma, I'm sorry. I won't do that again. But I still think you should lock your door. You need to keep your house safe from the Wolf and all of the other bad..., all of the other people who might try to hurt you.

GRANDMA. We have a Neighborhood Watch that helps to keep us safe. I work with my friends to make sure the bad ones stay out.

GOLDILOCKS. At your age you should just stay here and be safe with your door locked!

GRANDMA. At my age?!? You have to understand. Although you feel safe in a certain place, you have to work to keep that place safe. If you don't work to stretch the safe space, it will close in around you until you are trapped in it.

GOLDILOCKS. But you have BEARS for neighbors! Don't they scare you? They sure scared me! Especially that big Baby Bear.

GRANDMA. He would be a terrific friend for you, but you'll have to learn that for yourself. Now that you've learned your lesson, come on, let's go eat some of the goodies your Mother sent. *(Exit.)*

Scene 5
Outside Little Pigs Straw House

(All PIGS are outside putting straw house together again. They have done this many times. They are middle age brother and sisters.)

BIG SISTER. I am so tired of building houses of straw. All my life that I can remember, we've been rebuilding our house after the Wolf has blown it down. C'mon, LITTLE SISTER, let's get some more straw.

LITTLE SISTER. The only thing I can remember longer than building straw houses is being called LITTLE SISTER. I'm almost fifty years old. Can't you just use my name?

BROTHER PIG. To be honest, I don't even remember your real name.

BIG SISTER. Almost fifty from which side?

BROTHER PIG. It would nice to build our house from something else, but that's all our Father Pig taught us, and his father before him. We don't know anything else, and to be honest, I don't know what else we could use.

BIG SISTER. *(Looking off left:)* Dear me, here comes the Wolf again.

BROTHER PIG. And he looks particularly grumpy today.

LITTLE SISTER. Get ready to run.

(All THREE PIGS go into house.)

(Enter WOLF.)

WOLF. *(To audience:)* I can't believe she had a bat! She hit me with a bat! Did you all see that? You're my witnesses. Innocent little ol' me. What was I doing that was so bad? Oh, that. Well, never mind. I guess I'll just have to catch myself a piggy for lunch. Watch how it's done. *(He speaks to pig's house:)* Little pigs, little pigs, let me in. Let me in.

LITTLE SISTER. *(From inside:)* Can't we at least change the dialogue? Say something original?

BROTHER PIG. *(From inside:)* That's the way it's always been, and to be honest, I don't know what else he would say.

WOLF. See, that's what makes them an easy mark. Little pigs, little pigs let me in. Let me in.

LITTLE PIGS. Not by the hairs on our chinny-chin chins.

WOLF. Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in. *(He huffs and puffs and the house comes down. THREE PIGS scatter, yelling.)*

LITTLE PIGS. See you back here in an hour.

LITTLE SISTER. *(To WOLF:)* Someday, we'll fool you and find something stronger to build our house with, just you wait and see. *(Exits.)*

(WOLF tries chasing all three but gets nowhere. To audience:)

WOLF. See what I'm up against. They're awful fast for middle aged piggies.

(Runs offstage as if to catch them. When he returns, it will be the WITCH in Wolf's costume, continuing as same character. The following action should be continuous as the character walks from the Pigs' house, which moves off, to the Gingerbread House, which moves on.)

Scene 6

Woods between Little Pigs and the Gingerbread House

(The WITCH enters in the Wolf's costume. As she walks across the stage talking to the audience, the Pigs' house moves off and later the Gingerbread House moves on. As she walks, she removes the WOLF makeup [mask] to reveal the WITCH. She should look normal, not hideous or ugly.)

WITCH. *(Returning from where the WOLF has just exited chasing the pigs. Looking identical to the WOLF:)* Not Fair! Not Fair! Not Fair! I have been in two fairy tales this morning already and I haven't had a thing to eat. Not Fair! Well, those pigs won't come back for a while, and that blonde girl is with her Grandma who is vicious with that bat. I guess I'd better head for home. At least it's warm there.

Maybe I'll find a rat or two for a snack. Are you alone, dearie? Did your Mommy drop you off? How about you? You look sweet, and I really mean it. *(She starts taking off the WOLF face. She stops and looks at the children in the audience:)* Are you surprised that the Wolf is really the Witch in disguise? That's because you think you understand what you see, but it's easy to be fooled by appearances. Who would think those pigs could run so fast, as old as they are? I didn't think that old woman would have a bat by her bed, or that she would be able to hit so hard with it. People aren't always what they seem to be. You have to look behind the mask...It doesn't matter what I look like, what form I take. It's what I do that counts. *(Approaching the Gingerbread House:)* Well, it's good to be home. At least it's warm inside. *(She enters.)* Perhaps I forgot something in one of my cabinets. *(Searches everywhere for food.)* Drat! Drat! Drat! Nothing. This is depressing. Wait! I think I smell something. *(To audience:)* Did each of you bathe this morning? *(Sniffing:)* No. No. There is something delicious in the air. I think...Yes! It is! It is...CHILDREN!!! Oh, my luck was bound to change. Look! Look! There they are. *(HANSEL and GRETEL enter on opposite side of stage from Gingerbread House.)*

WITCH. *(To audience:)* You kids had better be quiet. I haven't had a banquet of children in quite some time. Be quiet or I'll start with you.

HANSEL. I'm hungry.

GRETEL. So am I, but don't whine.

HANSEL. I'm tired.

GRETEL. So am I. We've come a long way.

HANSEL. Do you know where we are?

GRETEL. In the forest, somewhere. It's too bad you didn't have marbles instead of bread crumbs to drop as we were lead off the path.

HANSEL. It would have made getting back so much easier. Why did Dad bring us out here?

GRETEL. He said he couldn't afford to keep us any more, and that this would force us to support ourselves.

HANSEL. I think I'm dying.

GRETEL. Why?

HANSEL. That house looks as if it were made of Gingerbread.

GRETEL. We both must be dying, because it looks that way to me, too.

HANSEL. *(Running up to the house:)* Let's just smell it to see. *(Sniffs.)* It smells like Gingerbread.

GRETEL. Who would build a house of Gingerbread?

HANSEL. I don't know, but they must want us to eat it.

GRETEL. We had better be careful. Something's not right about this.

HANSEL. I'm just going to take a little piece. *(He breaks off a Gingerbread shingle and tastes it.)* It's really good. Take some.

GRETEL. *(Looking around:)* Well, I don't see anyone to tell us "NO!" I'll take a little piece, too. *(As she takes her piece the WITCH steps out of the house and catches HANSEL and GRETTEL.)*

WITCH. So, stealing my house, bit by bit, are you?

GRETEL. No. Not us.

WITCH. What is that in your hands? What is that in your mouths? Is it my Gingerbread?

HANSEL. So what if it is? We're hungry.

WITCH. So am I! But I didn't start eating your home. I didn't steal from you.

GRETEL. We didn't steal. We didn't know anyone owned this place. We just saw it, and smelled it, and...

WITCH. *(Cutting her off:)* You started eating it! Did you knock at the door to see if anyone was home? Did you ask permission? NO! You stole from me. *(She starts to take HANSEL and GRETTEL inside the*

house.) I will have to find a punishment that suits the crime. In the meantime I'll keep the two of you in this cage.

HANSEL. Let us go.

GRETEL. Let us out of here.

HANSEL. We're not animals to be locked up.

WITCH. No. You're criminals to be locked up.

GRETEL. What are you going to do with us?

WITCH. I'm not sure, but since you stole food from me, I think that I should eat you. That is what I will do.

HANSEL. You can't do that.

WITCH. Not only can I, I will. But not now. You two are too thin. I will have to fatten you up to make you edible. *(They all go into house and cannot be seen.)*

GRETEL. We won't eat. We'll starve first.

WITCH. We'll see. We'll see. But since I can't eat you now, I'll have to come up with something else. *(Comes outside.)* Those two aren't ready, but those pigs are. I need to be able to get closer to them. They are just too fast for the Wolf. What if...

(Curtain.)

BABY BEAR. *(Entering in front of the closed curtain:)* Well, what do you think of this story so far? It's pretty grim, isn't it? Hansel and Gretel are trapped in the cage by the Witch. The three pigs have had their latest house blown down by the Wolf. Goldilocks is safe at her Grandma's, but she has to get home again which means she'll have to go through the woods one more time. And I still don't have any friends. Don't you wonder how we'll get out of this?

Pretty soon you'll see how I got this medal. But we thought we had better give you a short break to get a snack of your own or just to rest after that last scary scene. Are you guys OK? You know I'm just around the corner and I'm a hero, so don't worry. We'll be right back with the rest of this tale. Get it? Tail? Never mind.

End of Act I

ACT II

Prologue

BABY BEAR. *(Enters in front of Curtain with a book of Fairy Tales.)* I was just reading ahead while you were taking that break. I like to read. Do you like to read? You don't need a friend to read. I'd rather have a friend, but...

Anyway, are you ready for the rest of this story? You remember where we left off, right? Well this is going to get really exciting. The Witch has figured out how to get those Three Pigs. Here we go.

(He exits as Curtains open for Scene 1.)

Scene 1

Gingerbread House

WITCH. *(Loading a wheelbarrow with twigs in front of the Gingerbread House:)* This will get them! I'm so smart. They won't talk to the Wolf, but they'll talk to me. I'll get them to trust me. I'll help them. I'll have them build their house of twigs. That will make them feel safe, and then the Wolf will eat them all up! HA HA!

HANSEL and GRETEL. *(Crying and Sobbing inside the house:)* We want to go home! We want our Mother.

WITCH. All right, you two little twerps. You behave yourselves and eat all of your food. I want you to fatten up a little before I have you for dinner.

HANSEL and GRETEL. *(Louder wailing:)* No! We'll starve first. You won't get to eat us.

WITCH. We'll see. *(She moves off with her wheelbarrow.)* We'll just see about that. I may just eat them as they are when I get back. But if I can get those pigs, I'll eat them first. *(Exits.)*

HANSEL. Gretel, can you reach the lock?

GRETEL. No.

HANSEL. Try putting your arm through the space between the bars.

GRETEL. It's no good. I can't reach it.

GOLDBLOCKS. (*Entering in her red riding hood:*) This doesn't look like the same road I was on this morning when I went to Grandma's house. It looks different. Wow! Look at that house! It looks like it was made of gingerbread. (*She approaches the house and sniffs it.*) It even smells like gingerbread. (*She breaks off a small piece and eats it.*) It is gingerbread.

GRETEL. Help! Help!

GOLDBLOCKS. Yikes. Who's there? Who said that?

HANSEL. Shh! You don't know who that is out there.

GRETEL. Who's out there?

GOLDBLOCKS. Are you the Wolf?

GRETEL. We're Hansel and Gretel and the Witch trapped us in a cage!

GOLDBLOCKS. Why?

HANSEL. She caught us snitching some of her Gingerbread.

GOLDBLOCKS. (*Trying to put back the piece she has taken:*) This is worse than porridge. Where is the witch now?

HANSEL. She just left. She said she would be back later. Can you help us get out of here?

GOLDBLOCKS. (*Trying the door knob:*) The door's locked.

GRETEL. Maybe you could break through the walls.

HANSEL. Or eat your way through them?

GOLDBLOCKS. I can't. I'm too little. But I know someone who can. You wait right here and I'll be back in a few minutes with a big friend of mine. Gee, I hope he's a friend. He said he wanted to be my friend. Grandma said he would be a good friend. He's big enough to help.

GRETEL. We can't go anywhere. Hurry, before the witch comes back.

GOLDILOCKS. I'll run all the way. *(She runs back the way she came.)*

HANSEL. I hope she gets back before the Witch.

GRETEL. Me too.

Scene 2 **Little Pigs Area**

(The THREE PIGS are standing in the spot where the house of straw stood before. They are all trying to catch their breath.)

BROTHER PIG. *(Wiping his forehead with a handkerchief:)* We have got to find something better to build our house with. That Wolf is going to get one of us one of these times.

BIG SISTER. You're right, Brother Pig. We do need to make a change.

LITTLE SISTER. But how?

WITCH. *(Wheeling in her wheelbarrow. She is very smooth in her delivery.)* Hi There! How are you today? I'm the Happy Helper of Homes. I have here the very latest building material with which to make safe places for families to live.

BIG SISTER. Hello. We're the Pigs. We just lost our home to the Wolf.

WITCH. Oh, how dreadful. What was it made of?

LITTLE SISTER. Straw! We only know how to make our homes of straw. That's the problem.

WITCH. You're right! Straw is so light weight and flimsy. It just gets blown out of the way with a mild puff of wind. Now my twigs are much thicker and stronger than straw. Have you ever seen the wind blow a tree over? Twigs are just small trees.

BROTHER PIG. Well it sounds like it might be what we need.

LITTLE SISTER. But we don't know how to build a house with twigs.

BIG SISTER. She's right you know.

WITCH. Well I can show you very quickly how to build your home from twigs. It's not much different from what you already know. You take two or three twigs and you tangle the ends together nice and tight. You put some on the inside and some on the outside and they lean against and support each other. *(She starts to demonstrate.)* You see it does go rather fast. These twigs are bundled which makes it still faster. I'll just give you this barrow full for you to use for your new house.

BIG SISTER. That's very nice of you.

BROTHER PIG. Thank you, ma'am.

LITTLE SISTER. How much will all this cost? We don't have much money.

WITCH. Oh, I don't want to make a pig of myself. Oh no. I'm sorry. That wasn't very nice. To apologize, I'll give you this barrow full. These are my samples. I want you to have a safe place to stay and hide from the Wolf.

BIG SISTER. That's what we want too.

LITTLE SISTER. What's in it for you?

WITCH. *(Getting angry:)* Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

BIG SISTER. Horse? Where's the horse? We can't afford to keep a horse.

BROTHER PIG. I think I've got the hang of this. I think we'll be able to build a house of twigs. It will be wonderful, you know.

WITCH. Well, I've got to go along now. I want you to finish building. You never know when that Wolf might come back.

BIG SISTER. Well, we'll be ready for him when he comes the next time.

WITCH. I'm on my way. *(She starts out and speaks to the audience:)* But I'll be back as "you know who" in just a little while. I think I'll just rest up over there, where I can watch them build this "safe" house. Ha ha ha. *(Exits laughing.)*

BIG SISTER. She was a very nice person to give us all of this. The twigs, the help...

LITTLE SISTER. She reminds me of someone. I'm not sure who, but it will come to me.

BROTHER PIG. She seemed very nice. I hope that this house will be as strong as she said it would be. It doesn't seem too strong yet. *(He pokes at the little bit of wall that the WITCH put up.)*

LITTLE SISTER. She may be right, but it will take me more than a little while to take off these running shoes. I don't think I'll ever feel safe. I'm going to leave them on.

BROTHER PIG. That seems like a pretty good idea to me. I think I'll leave mine on too.

BIG SISTER. I guess you two are right. I'll leave mine on too. Just in case. Let's finish this wall.

BROTHER PIG. Let's move it over there. *(He points off stage.)* We can brace it by the tree and the thicket.

LITTLE SISTER. That should make it easier.

BIG SISTER. I'll take these.

BROTHER PIG. And I'll take the wheelbarrow. *(They exit.)*

Scene 3 **Gingerbread House**

(GOLDILOCKS enters with BABY BEAR. They are outside the Gingerbread House. They are out of breath.)

GOLDILOCKS. Here it is! Here it is! They're in there. Break a hole in the wall and get them out.

BABY BEAR. Wait a second. Who's in there?

HANSEL. We're in here. Hansel and Gretel! Get us out of here!

GRETEL. Please get us out before the Witch comes back!

BABY BEAR. Why are you in there?

GRETEL. We were lost in the woods. We were hungry.

HANSEL. We found this house and tasted one of the shingles.

BABY BEAR. (*Breaking off a small piece of shingle:*) It smells like Gingerbread.

GOLDILOCKS. Yeah, Yeah! And it tastes like gingerbread; now get them out of there, would you!

BABY BEAR. (*Tasting the shingle:*) It *does* taste like gingerbread!

GOLDILOCKS. Come off it, would you. We need to get them out!

HANSEL. Please get us out of this cage before the Witch comes back.

GRETEL. She's going to eat us!

GOLDILOCKS. What are you waiting for?

BABY BEAR. Wait! This isn't my house. I don't want to get in trouble.

GOLDILOCKS. This is different. The Witch caught them and locked them in a cage. Now even if they were wrong to eat the gingerbread, it's not right for them to be eaten by the Witch! Let's get them free and then we can sort out the right and wrong of it.

HANSEL. Please?

GRETEL. Pretty Please?

GOLDILOCKS. With gingerbread on top? Let's get them out of there.

BABY BEAR. OK. Stand back. Cover your eyes. Here I come. (*He pulls off some larger pieces of "shingles" from the upstage side of the house. He makes a show of how heavy they are and how strong he is, even though we cannot see him at all. Finally he steps into the house through the hole he has made and sees HANSEL and GRETEL in the cage. The audience cannot see BABY BEAR nor can they see HANSEL and GRETEL.*) Wow! This is pretty ugly. It's not like it is outside. She's not a very good housekeeper.

HANSEL. The lock is right there. Open it and then we can swing open the door.

GRETEL. Oh yes. That's it. Run Hansel.

HANSEL. You first Gretel.

BABY BEAR. Both of you, get out.

(GRETEL enters the stage from the Gingerbread House, followed by HANSEL and BABY BEAR.)

BABY BEAR. Wow. That place sure is spooky.

GOLDBLOCKS. Are you two all right?

GRETEL. I'm fine, now.

HANSEL. Me too.

GOLDBLOCKS. Well, let's get out of here before the Witch comes back. I don't want to get locked in a cage. That's for sure.

BABY BEAR. Wait. I want to know why you two were in the forest to begin with. Don't you know that you can get lost here?

HANSEL. Sure, we know. Our father led us into the woods. He led us in circles, and I ran out of stuff to mark our trail. Then he ditched us and ran off.

GRETEL. It's because our mother died and the new woman he married doesn't want us in the house with her and her children.

HANSEL. We kept walking, hoping to find a friendly person who would let us stay with them for a while.

GRETEL. We can do work. We would work for our food.

HANSEL. Anyway, we ended up here. We were hungry and the gingerbread was there for the taking. We took some. Then the Witch jumped us and threw us into that cage.

BABY BEAR. That's really sad. Look, let's go back to my house. Papa and Mama are really very smart about things. Maybe they can help you.

GOLDBLOCKS. Well, let's make tracks. I don't want to meet that Witch this close to her cage.

HANSEL. Where is your house, Baby... Uh, what is your name?

BABY BEAR. It's Bruno. My name is Bruno.

HANSEL. Where is your house, Bruno?

BABY BEAR. Go down this trail about half a mile. Take the left branch when the trail splits. My house is just beyond the stream. It's about ten minutes from here.

HANSEL. You go and take Gretel with you. I'm going to stay and wait for the Witch to come back.

BABY BEAR. I don't think it is right for you to harm the Witch. She really hasn't harmed you.

HANSEL. I'm not going to hurt her. When she comes in, I'm going to throw her in her own cage. Then I'll throw away the key.

GRETEL. Please, no Hansel. Not without me.

HANSEL. Go with them. I need to do this.

GRETEL. Not alone. It will be easier to do if we stay together.

HANSEL. OK. But we need to plan this out.

GOLDILOCKS. You two are nuts. But if that's what you want, go ahead.

BABY BEAR. You may be right. Goldi and I will go back to my place to get some help from my parents. If you decide not to wait, or if she comes back before we do, run down the path, stay to the left, cross the stream, and you'll come to our house.

GRETEL. We'll remember. You two run along. We'll be there as soon as we finish this.

HANSEL. Thank you, Bruno, for getting us out of the cage.

GRETEL. Yes, Thank you.

GOLDILOCKS. OK, hero, let's blow this Popsicle stand.

BABY BEAR. What?

GOLDILOCKS. Let's go find your folks, and get this fixed.

BABY BEAR. Oh. Right! You called me hero. Does that mean we're friends?

HANSEL. I hope so.

GRETEL. So do I.

GOLDDILOCKS. Enough. We're friends. But we've got to get out of here, now.

BABY BEAR. Right. *(They exit.)*

HANSEL. Let's get started. This is how I think we can do this.

(They walk into the Gingerbread House.)

Scene 4 **Little Pigs' Twig House**

BROTHER PIG. *(Putting the final bunch of twigs in place on the facade of the Twig House:)* Well, that just about does it. I think we've finished.

BIG SISTER. Good thing it is, too. We're out of bundles of twigs.

LITTLE SISTER. *(Checking the lack of sturdiness of the wall:)* I don't think that that woman knew what she was talking about. This wall doesn't look very sturdy. It looks about the same as a wall of straw. I don't think that it will hold up.

BIG SISTER. Sure it will. She said it would be as strong as a tree when we finished it.

BROTHER PIG. We've finished it. Is it strong?

LITTLE SISTER. Not very, I'm afraid.

BIG SISTER. Let's not be pessimistic about it. It does feel firmer than the ones we used to build of straw.

LITTLE SISTER. *(Looking offstage:)* Uh Oh! Here comes the first test! Let's get inside! It's the Wolf!

BROTHER PIG. Quick, get in! I'll fasten the door.

BIG SISTER. I hope these walls hold up against him.

LITTLE SISTER. Well, make sure your shoes are tied and your leg muscles are loosened up. We may have to run for it.

WOLF. (*Entering, to audience:*) Well, here's the part you've been waiting for. It was so cute watching them build this house. They are SO stupid. Watch this. (*To the THREE PIGS:*) So here is the new house of twigs, eh? We'll just have to see how well it's built.

BROTHER PIG. Hold on tight. He's going to start.

WOLF. Little pigs, little pigs let me in. Let me in.

LITTLE PIGS. Not by the hairs on our chinny-chin chins.

WOLF. Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in. (*He huffs and puffs and the house stays up.*)

BIG SISTER. It's working. It's working.

LITTLE SISTER. Don't untie your shoes yet. Here he comes again.

WOLF. Little pigs, little pigs let me in. Let me in.

LITTLE PIGS. Not by the hairs on our chinny-chin chins.

WOLF. Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in. (*He huffs and puffs and the house caves in.*)

BROTHER PIG. Run for it! Same Rules.

(The THREE PIGS run squealing off in different directions.)

WOLF. I hate it when they do that. That was harder than it looked. I can't run now. They're gone. Drat. I guess I'll just go home and eat those kids in the cage. (*He exits.*)

Scene 5 **Gingerbread House**

WITCH. (*Enters somewhat winded and tired.*) I can't believe those three little porkers can run so fast. They really move out in a hurry. I'm bushed. I just need a little something to give me strength. (*Calling into the house:*) Hello in there. Are you fatter than you were when I left? Did you eat up all of your lunch?

HANSEL. (*From inside the Gingerbread House:*) We're stuffed. Why don't you come in and see for yourself?

WITCH. He sounds a little bold for someone locked in a cage. *(Calling to GRETEL:)* And you, little girl, are you stuffed as well?

GRETEL. You must see for yourself. Come inside and see.

WITCH. I really think that something is not quite right. Something is different. I had better beware.

HANSEL. We're waiting for you, wicked Witch.

WITCH. I'm NOT wicked. That's just your point of view.

HANSEL. My point of view is from inside a cage.

WITCH. *(To audience:)* Now I know that something has changed. They wouldn't be so brave if they were alone and locked up. I'll go along to see what's up. *(To HANSEL and GRETEL:)* Here I come, ready or not. *(She unlocks the door and steps into the Gingerbread House. She closes the door behind her.)* Oh, what a mess someone has made of my house.

GRETEL. Here I am, still in the cage. Come and see how much I've eaten.

WITCH. Where is your brother? It's dark in here, and I can only see one of you.

GRETEL. He's here behind me. I've grown so big you can't see him hiding there.

WITCH. I'm closer and I still can't see him.

GRETEL. Open the door to the cage and step in. Then you'll be able to see him.

WITCH. Really. How clever you are, young lady. I open the cage door and you hit me over the head and run away. I don't think so.

GRETEL. Now would we try to hurt you? Have you hurt us? What are you worried about? If you don't open the door and step into the cage, you won't be able to see us both.

WITCH. I suppose you're right. I had better check on the both of you, and make sure that my supper is ready to be eaten. *(We hear the sound of the door opening.)* OK, little girl, move away from your cow-

ardly brother. Wait, you're not even in the cage. *(We hear the cage door slam shut.)*

HANSEL. Got you! You old Witch!

GRETEL. Quick Hansel, let's get out of here. *(She opens the door of the Gingerbread House and steps out. HANSEL steps out behind her.)*

HANSEL. *(Looking back through the open door.)* That will serve you right, you evil Witch. Starve in that cage until a friend sets you free. *(He closes the door to the Gingerbread House, locks it, and throws the key offstage.)*

WITCH. I don't have any friends!

GRETEL. Oh, Hansel. Your plan worked so well.

HANSEL. I told you that she wouldn't be able to see that you were behind the cage, not in it. And when she stepped into the cage, I came from behind her, and slammed the door shut.

WITCH. Please, let me out of this cage. Don't make me starve.

GRETEL. Let's go to the Bears' house. Maybe I'll feel safer there.

HANSEL. OK. Let's go. *(They exit.)*

WITCH. *(After a pause:)* Hey are you kids still out there? Hey, you, Hansel! Can you hear me? *(The door handle on the Gingerbread House turns and the door opens to reveal the WITCH standing there smiling.)* Silly children, it's my trap. Witches can't be caught in their own trap. Certainly not by children. *(She steps down onto stage and closes the door behind her.)* Now I've got to think. I haven't eaten in so long I'm getting weak. I was looking forward to those two, but they really are skinny. They're going to the Bears' house. Well, I won't go there. Those bears are too strong for me. They can't be fooled by my tricks. I really need to think. *(She exits.)*

Scene 6
Baby Bear's House

(Doorbell rings.)

PAPA BEAR. I'll get it. *(He looks out window.)* Oh dear. It's an old human woman. I wonder what she's selling. Oh well. *(He opens the door.)* Yes?

GRANDMA. Hello, Mr. Bear? I'm from the neighborhood watch. We are gathering a group of concerned citizens to keep our neighborhood safe by watching for strangers. We were wondering if you and your wife would be interested in helping us.

MAMA BEAR. Who is it, dear?

PAPA BEAR. It's a human lady from the Neighborhood Watch program.

MAMA BEAR. *(Coming to the door:)* Our clocks are all fine. We don't need another watch, thank you.

GRANDMA. You misunderstand. We help each other stay safe by watching out for strangers that might try to harm you.

MAMA BEAR. You mean, like aliens? I read about them at the supermarket. I told you, Papa.

PAPA BEAR. I don't think that's what she means. Won't you come in please?

GRANDMA. Thank you. We have had several problems recently at various homes. Have you had any problems?

PAPA BEAR. Well, we did have this one human child come in and eat our food.

GRANDMA. I know.

PAPA BEAR. You know?

MAMA BEAR. What do you mean you know? Are you one of those people who sees through walls?

GRANDMA. The young girl is my granddaughter, Goldilocks. She told me about the incident, right after we fought off the Wolf. The

Wolf and the Witch seem to be at the root of most of the incidents that have been reported.

PAPA BEAR. We haven't had any problems, have we, Mother?

MAMA BEAR. Not like the ones I saw in the paper at the supermarket. There are people from Mars, you know?

GRANDMA. We are most concerned that our little problems don't grow into bigger ones, that's why we are asking for volunteers from everyone in our part of the forest.

GOLDILOCKS. (*Entering with BABY BEAR.*) Are you sure this is going to be OK? I mean, I wasn't very nice the last time I was here.

BABY BEAR. It'll be OK. Hi, Dad. Hi, Mom. This is Goldilocks.

GOLDILOCKS. Grandma?!? What are you doing here?

GRANDMA. Neighborhood Watch! What are you doing here? Why aren't you at home with your mother?

GOLDILOCKS. There were these two kids, Hansel and Gretel, who got trapped by the Witch.

BABY BEAR. We helped them get free, but they stayed behind to trap the Witch.

GRANDMA. It won't do them any good. She can't be trapped like that.

PAPA BEAR. It could be dangerous for them. Where are they?

BABY BEAR. (*There's a knock at the door.*) That should be them now.

(He opens the door and in come HANSEL and GRETEL and the THREE PIGS.)

HANSEL. We got her. We locked her in her own cage.

GRETEL. (*To BABY BEAR and GOLDILOCKS.*) We found these three running through the woods. The Wolf blew down their house and they have no where to go. I hope you don't mind.

BABY BEAR. Come in. Welcome to my house. These are my parents, and this is Goldilocks' Grandmother.

BIG SISTER. I'm a little nervous being in a bear's house.

BROTHER PIG. Yeah. Me, too.

LITTLE SISTER. It's better than running through the woods, hoping that the Wolf isn't waiting behind the next tree.

BABY BEAR. I understand. You're safe here. We're all safe here.

BROTHER PIG. But we can't stay here forever.

PAPA BEAR. You're correct. It seems, Grandma, that we do need the Neighborhood Watch.

BABY BEAR. And a little bit more. We need to take action. We need a plan.

GOLDBLOCKS. Do you have a plan?

BABY BEAR. Not yet. Dad, where do we start?

PAPA BEAR. We start by deciding what our goals should be.

GRANDMA. We can define common goals and common needs. That will focus our thinking toward a plan.

GOLDBLOCKS. Well let's make a list of what we need.

GRETEL. We need to find someplace to live.

LITTLE SISTER. So do we.

HANSEL. We need to be safe from the Witch.

BIG SISTER. We need to be safe from the Wolf.

BABY BEAR. Good! Good! That's it. Let's try to work together to solve this.

BROTHER PIG. We need a place of our own where we can untie our shoes and rest.

HANSEL. We need a place where we will be warm and full and safe.

BABY BEAR. Okay. We need a safe place: a house for three pigs and two children. We will need materials, plans, and strong arms to build a safe house.

BIG SISTER. We built our house with straw and we built our house with twigs, but the Wolf was stronger than the house.

PAPA BEAR. You need a house of something stronger than twigs.

HANSEL. Why not use bricks?

LITTLE SISTER. What are bricks?

HANSEL. Brick is made of baked clay. You stack them on top of one another.

BABY BEAR. *(To HANSEL:)* Do you know how to make brick?

HANSEL. Sure. My dad made bricks before he lost his job. He taught me.

GRETEL. Usually Brick is bound together by mortar.

BIG SISTER. What's mortar?

GRETEL. Mortar is wet cement that holds the bricks together and makes them stronger. I can make mortar.

GOLDILOCKS. I can draw the plans for a nice house. I like to draw.

BROTHER PIG. *(To HANSEL and GRETEL:)* If you can show us how to put the bricks together, we can do the building.

BIG SISTER. We're strong, and we've built a lot of houses in our time.

BABY BEAR. *(To GOLDILOCKS:)* Why don't you draw the plans for two more bedrooms?

GOLDILOCKS. Why would they...? Oh, yeah. I see. We can build one house for all five of you.

HANSEL. Well, I don't know.

BABY BEAR. It makes perfect sense. We will build one house for all five of you. You and Gretel have provided the right materials and the pigs will provide the labor to build the house.

LITTLE SISTER. I think that's a great idea.

GOLDILOCKS. I'll do the plans.

HANSEL. I'll start molding bricks.

BIG SISTER. I'll help mold bricks.

GRETEL. I'll make the mortar.

BROTHER PIG. I'll help her make the mortar, and I'll lay out the molded bricks.

MAMA BEAR. I'll make food for everyone. Grandma, would you like to help?

GRANDMA. Sure. It looks like these youngsters have it all together.

BABY BEAR. I'll help Brother Pig with his work.

PAPA BEAR. I'll supervise and keep a lookout for the Wolf and the Witch. They won't mess with me.

HANSEL. With all of us working, it shouldn't take us too long to get the house done.

GOLDBLOCKS. Gee, this is pretty exciting. If we can build a really safe house this will be terrific.

GRETEL. I just want to be safe and warm.

LITTLE SISTER. Me too.

BABY BEAR. Let's get started.

BROTHER PIG. I'll go mark out the spot for the new house.

HANSEL. We'll start making the bricks.

GOLDBLOCKS. Let's go. *(The youngsters all leave in various directions.)*

MAMA BEAR. So many strangers.

GRANDMA. But they are working together. They won't be strangers long.

PAPA BEAR. I'm so proud of all of them, especially our Baby Bear.

GRANDMA. Well, let's get cooking.

Scene 7
The Brick House

GOLDILOCKS. The building is almost done. I can't believe how fast it's gone.

BABY BEAR. Yeah. The pigs sure know how to build.

GOLDILOCKS. Well, they've had lots of experience.

HANSEL. *(From a window in the house:)* Goldi! Bruno! Come in and see! We're almost finished.

GOLDILOCKS. Let's go.

WOLF. *(Enters on other side of stage. To audience:)* I am so hungry. I've got to eat something or I'm going to die right here. I can't bear to think about chasing those pigs again. They should have been slower, but I think they were faster.

LITTLE SISTER. *(From inside the house, looking out the door through which GOLDILOCKS and BABY BEAR just entered:)* Look! It's the Wolf! He's coming this way.

WOLF. *(To audience:)* I'm so hungry I could faint, but here we go again. *(Sighs deeply, then takes a deep breath.)* To the chase.

BIG SISTER. Close the door! Quick! Here he comes!

BROTHER PIG. I've got to get this mortar off my shoes just in case we have to run out of here.

HANSEL. Don't worry. We'll be OK in here.

WOLF. *(At the door:)* Little Pigs, Little Pigs, Let me in. Let me in.

LITTLE SISTER. *(At the window:)* Oh, really. Do I really have to do this again?

OTHERS. Yes!

LITTLE SISTER. *(To the WOLF:)* Not by the hair of my Chinny chin chin.

WOLF. *(To the audience:)* To maintain our high standards in this politically correct time, I want you all to understand that we are not trying to offend anyone who has, unfortunately, some growth of fa-

cial hair that was not planned or cultivated. We do not mean to imply that if you have some facial hair that you are a pig. *(To those in the house:)* Then I'll huff and I'll puff 'til I blow the house in.

ALL. *(From inside the house:)* Try it! Go ahead! We're not scared of you!

WOLF. *(Takes very deep breath and attempts to blow down the house.)* Whoosh! Cough! Cough! *(Tries again, same result.)*

GRETEL. See! We're not scared of you!

WOLF. I see that there are more here than those pigs. *(To audience:)* She may not be scared of me, but I know someone else that frightens her. *(To GRETEL:)* We'll just have to see about that! *(WOLF crosses out behind the house.)*

WITCH. *(Entering from the same direction that the WOLF left:)* Now we'll see. You bad children will pay for abusing me in my own house! Come out here right now!

BROTHER PIG. *(In the window:)* I don't know why you're here lady, but we built ourselves a good house with the help of some real friends, and they're not coming out.

WITCH. So Brother Pig, why don't you come out and talk with me?

LITTLE SISTER. She looks awfully familiar.

HANSEL. That's the Witch! The one who tried to eat us!

BABY BEAR. Are you sure?

GRETEL. When someone tries to eat you, you are not likely to forget the face. It's her!

BIG SISTER. Then lady, you're not welcome at our new house.

WITCH. I know someone who can help me get in. *(She exits.)*

WOLF. *(Enters almost immediately:)* Let me in! Let me in!

LITTLE SISTER. Blow away!

WOLF. *(Tries blowing. Leaves.)*

WITCH. *(Enters as WOLF leaves.)*

THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!

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