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Cast of Characters

MELVIN THE BAILIFF

JUDGE WALLABEE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (DA) MUFFINHEAD

ATTORNEY WOMBAT

GOLDEE WYNN LOCKS (a.k.a. GOLDILOCKS)

PAPA BEAR

MAMA BEAR

BABY BEAR (TIFFANNII)

DETECTIVE CLOROX

THE LITTLE PIG WHO WAS NOT EATEN BY THE WOLF

DR. CANTALOUPE

MERWIN THE BIG BAD WOLF

THE JURORS*

*The jurors can be cut completely or used as an ensemble. There can be anywhere from 1–12 jurors. The jurors are used to react to the court proceedings and each juror has a bit that can be inserted somewhere during the course of the play. The juror bits can be found at the end of the play.

Production Notes

The set is a courtroom. The JUDGE's bench and the witness stand are center-stage center. The BAILIFF's chair is next to the JUDGE's bench. Center left is the defense table and center right is the prosecution's table. If the JURY is used, their seats can either be above and behind the JUDGE's bench or to the side.

All of the scenes that are acted out take place downstage center. The BAILIFF and the actors bring on whatever simple furniture or props are needed. The Bears' "house" can be suggested by the use of three chairs.

Characters move from the witness stand to the acting space and then back to the witness stand.

GOLDILOCKS ON TRIAL

by Ed Monk

(At rise: BAILIFF is at his seat, JURORS are in the jury box, MUFFINHEAD and PAPA BEAR sit at the prosecution table, WOMBAT sits at the defense table.)

BAILIFF. Oyez, oyez, oyez, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, distinguished guests, and my mother! All rise for his most respected and esteemed worthiness, His Honor, Judge Hugo T. Walabee, presiding judge of this here case.

(Enter JUDGE, who takes his seat.)

JUDGE. Be seated! Order in the court! Overruled! Sustained! You're out! Waiter! Oh. Melvin, what case do we have today?

BAILIFF. Your highness, today we have the People vs. Ms. Goldilocks who is accused off breaking and entering with malice aforethought and pre-meditation in the first degree!

JUDGE. A most serious charge! I find the defendant guilty and sentence her to thirty years in the slammer! Court adjourned!

BAILIFF. Your Honor! We have to have the trial first. Otherwise the people will want their three bucks back.

JUDGE. Oh. Well, we can't have that. Very well Melvin, let us proceed with the trial of Goldilocks!

(Sound of musical stinger.)

What was that?!

BAILIFF. Dramatic music your majesty.

JUDGE. Well stop it. It makes me nervous. Okay, who are the lawyers?

DA. Your Honor, representing the people today is myself, District Attorney Wallace Muffinhead. I can assure Your Honor that I will need only a short time to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Goldilocks committed this vicious deed!

JUDGE. What kind of goofy name is Muffinhead? Who's the other lawyer?

WOMBAT. It is I Your Honor, Felix Wombat, attorney at law. And may I say how happy I am that we have a real swell judge like you to hear our case.

JUDGE. Cheese and crackers! You're not going to win this case by trying to butter me up Wombat! I'll make up my own mind about this case! *I'll* decide if Cinderella is guilty or innocent!

BAILIFF. Goldilocks Your Honor, Cinderella was last week.

JUDGE. What? Oh yeah. Well she got what she deserved, running around stealing pumpkins and slippers. Anyway, let's get this trial started. Bring in Goldilocks!

(Sound of stinger as GOLDILOCKS enters and sits at defense table.)

Hey, I said stop that dramatic music! Now listen everybody, and that includes all you kiddies out in the audience! I will not tolerate any shenanigans in my courtroom. This is a place of law. And so long as I am the judge in this court, order will be maintained! I will deal firmly with any disruptions or inappropriate behavior!

DA. Your Honor, may I request a sidebar?

JUDGE. An excellent idea Mr. Muffinhead. I'll have a gin and tonic.

WOMBAT. No Your Honor, I believe the district attorney wants to have a talk with you.

JUDGE. What? Oh. I know that! I'm the judge! You can't tell me how to do my job you young whippersnapper. I'm fining you \$50 for contempt of court! Bailiff.

BAILIFF. Yes your judgeness?

JUDGE. Where's my hammer thingy?

BAILIFF. Your hammer thingy is under your comic book Your Worship. Next to the pork rinds.

JUDGE. Oh. Thanks Melvin. (*Bangs gavel.*) Now let's get this show on the road. Mr. Muffinhead, you may make your opening remarks to the jury.

DA. Members of the jury. You see here before you today an innocent-looking young lady. But do not be deceived by her looks. Oh no. For this young woman, known to the whole world as Goldilocks, is the most horrible, awful, and nasty criminal on the face of the planet! She ruthlessly and with wanton disregard for the law broke into the house of an innocent and lovable family of bears. You will hear how to this day that family of bears remains shattered and distraught by this tragedy. Ladies and gentleman of the jury, it is your solemn duty to make sure that rotten criminals like Goldilocks can never threaten peaceful bears or any other animals again. I ask you to find Goldilocks guilty of breaking and entering so we can lock her up behind bars for the rest of her life!

JUDGE. Well I didn't understand a word you said, and it was pretty boring too. Maybe the defense lawyer, Mr. Wombat, can do better. Wombat! Go!

WOMBAT. Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. I know that all of us have read and heard a great deal about this case. We've watched the TV reports, studied the newspaper accounts, read the books, seen the movie, surfed the websites, skimmed the comic strip, and listened to the CD. But today, for the first time, you will hear the true story of Goldilocks. It is not the story of a vicious criminal but rather the sad tale of an innocent girl accused of a crime she did not commit. A crime that she could not commit because she is the sweetest, most lovable, most wonderful girl in the whole wide world. And I am sure that after hearing the testimony in this case, you will have no choice but to declare her NOT GUILTY! I thank you.

JUDGE. Well that wasn't any better than the first one. Bailiff, when are we going to see some action?!

BAILIFF. In about three pages Your Most Honorableness!

JUDGE. Good. Wake me up when it's time. Mr. Muffinhead, you may call your first witness.

DA. Your Honor, the people call Mr. Papa Bear to the stand!

BAILIFF. PAPA BEAR TO THE STAND!

(PAPA BEAR takes the stand. BAILIFF reads him the oath.)

Repeat after me. I do hereby solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and also not tell any fibs or else I'll get in real big trouble and have no dessert forever and ever.

PAPA BEAR. Right, what he said.

DA. Now Mr. Bear, I know this has been a terrible ordeal for you.

PAPA BEAR. Oh it has, it has! No one will ever know what I've been through! Oh the horror, the horror!

WOMBAT. Objection Your Honor, the witness is stealing lines from movies!

JUDGE. Sustained! Mr. Bear, you have sworn to tell the truth.

PAPA BEAR. The truth! You can't handle the truth!

WOMBAT. Objection!

JUDGE. Mr. Bear! I'll not warn you again! We've had enough of that joke! Now Mr. Muffinhead, continue your questions.

DA. Mr. Bear, I know this will be painful, but could you please relate to us the events that led to that tragic day?

PAPA BEAR. I'll try.

(PAPA BEAR moves down toward center as MAMA BEAR and BABY BEAR enter.)

Well, it all started this way see. It was like every morning in our happy little house. Bright, cheerful, and peaceful!

PAPA BEAR. Good morning my happy, peaceful family! How is everyone this bright, cheerful, and peaceful morning?

MAMA BEAR. Good morning my handsome and happy husband! Everything is as bright and cheerful as always in our happy little home!

BABY BEAR. Good morning my happy and cheerful father! It is always so good to see you in our peaceful and happy home!

PAPA BEAR. Thank you Mama Bear! Thank you Baby Bear! My goodness, what is that delicious smell? Could it possibly be another one of Mama Bear's delicious, yet nutritious, breakfasts?

MAMA BEAR. It certainly is my sweet little baboo! It's your favorite breakfast of all time!

PAPA BEAR. Not...

BABY BEAR. Yes Daddy, we're having porridge! It's my favorite breakfast too!

MAMA BEAR. And mine too! Now let's all sit down at the table for a healthy, hearty start to this wonderful, peaceful, average day!

(The Bears all sit at table and eat porridge.)

BABY BEAR. MMMM MMMM. This is just about the best porridge I've ever tasted!

PAPA BEAR. She's sure right honey! Nobody makes porridge as good as you! It's just perfect!

MAMA BEAR. Oh pashaw! You two are just being silly. Although I will admit that it is rather tasty if I do say so myself.

BABY BEAR. Gosh, I sure am glad we're all a happy, peaceful family and that nothing horrible is going to happen today to forever change our lives in a horrible and awful manner from which we shall never fully recover no matter how much money we might win in a lawsuit!

PAPA BEAR. You said it punkin!

(They all freeze for a beat, and then PAPA BEAR goes back to the witness stand. MAMA BEAR and BABY BEAR exit.)

And that was how the whole tragic day started! If only I'd have known what lay ahead...

(He breaks down crying.)

DA. I know we all share your pain Mr. Bear. We have no further questions for this unfortunate soul Your Honor.

JUDGE. Mr. Wombat, you may cross-examine.

WOMBAT. Thank you Your Honor. Now Mr. Bear, is it your testimony that on the morning of the alleged break-in, you and your family had a quiet, peaceful breakfast of yummy porridge?

PAPA BEAR. Yes. It was the last peaceful day I've had since then!

WOMBAT. Thank you Mr. Bear, you may step down. I have no further questions for you.

(Gasp from the JURY.)

JUDGE. Mr. Wombat, am I to understand that you have no further questions of this witness?

WOMBAT. No Your Honor! For you see, I have a surprise witness that will prove that Papa Bear is a LIAR!

(Stinger and gasp from the JURY.)

PAPA BEAR. You can't call me a liar! I'll sue you, you shyster!

JUDGE. ORDER! ORDER! Very well, you may step down Mr. Bear! Mr. Wombat, you may call your witness!

(PAPA BEAR steps down and returns to prosecution table.)

WOMBAT. Thank you Your Honor. At this time, the defense calls to the stand, Miss BABY BEAR!

(Stinger and gasp from the JURY as BABY BEAR enters and takes the stand.)

BAILIFF. Do you swear to truth the whole tell and in that telling of that truth leave out only those things which in themselves are not the truth or which might be misconstrued as the truth or any proximity thereof so help yourselves?

BABY BEAR. As if!

WOMBAT. Miss Bear...

BABY BEAR. I prefer *Ms.* Bear. And please do not refer to me as Baby. I now use the name Tiffannii (*pronounced tiff-ON-ee*). That's with two i's!

WOMBAT. Yes, well Ms. Tiffany Bear, did you hear your father, Mr. Papa Bear's testimony as to the events of the morning of the alleged break-in and do you in fact concur with his account of those said events?

BABY BEAR. Huh?

WOMBAT. Is what your father said true?

BABY BEAR. NO! NO! IT'S ALL LIES I TELL YA! IT'S ALL LIES! IT NEVER HAPPENED THAT WAY!

(Gasps from JURY.)

JUDGE. ORDER! ORDER! ORDER IN THIS COURT!

BAILIFF. I'll have a ham and Swiss on rye with a chocolate milkshake!

JUDGE. *(Taking out an order pad:)* You want fries with that?

BAILIFF. I'd prefer onion rings.

DA. Objection Your Honor! That is the oldest joke in the world and it's not even that funny!

JUDGE. Overruled! You may proceed Mr. Wombat.

WOMBAT. Now Baby Bear...er...I mean Tiffannii, perhaps you could tell the jury what really happened on the morning of the "so-called" break-in.

BABY BEAR. I'd be happy to. Well, it all began like every morning at our house...

(BABY BEAR moves to center and sits at the table with MAMA BEAR and PAPA BEAR, who enter.)

PAPA BEAR. Why the heck couldn't you have let me sleep for a few minutes more?!

MAMA BEAR. You have to put out the trash before the garbage man comes! You missed the last four weeks and the neighbors are starting to complain!

PAPA BEAR. Well why can't the kid take the trash out?!

BABY BEAR. Daddy, I have a new dress on. I can't get it all icky with yucky trash.

PAPA BEAR. (*Smelling stench:*) Whew! I guess you're right about that trash, it is starting to stink.

MAMA BEAR. That's not the trash, that's your breakfast.

PAPA BEAR. OH NO! NOT PORRIDGE?!

BABY BEAR. Daddy, stop having a cow. All the kids at school think you're some kind of weirdo or something.

PAPA BEAR. BUT I HATE PORRIDGE! WHY DO WE HAVE TO HAVE PORRIDGE?!

MAMA BEAR. Because it was your turn to make breakfast and you slept in again.

PAPA BEAR. Why is it my turn to make breakfast?

MAMA BEAR. I told you yesterday, I have a big meeting with a client today. And don't forget you have to take Baby Bear...

BABY BEAR. MOTHER! I am not a BABY! Please call me Tiffannii!

MAMA BEAR. You have to take Tiffannii to the mall to buy a prom dress.

PAPA BEAR. I hate the mall!

MAMA BEAR. Well too bad, you have to take her. Now hurry up and eat your breakfast, traffic is miserable this morning and I have to be at the subway by 7:00. Have some porridge.

PAPA BEAR. I hate porridge! Can't we have some (*Starting to get lost in a fantasy of delight:*) bacon or sausage or ham or kielbasa or a nice steak and some fried eggs?

BABY BEAR. DADDY! You know I'm a vegetarian! I don't believe in eating animals!

PAPA BEAR. You're a bear! That's what bears do! We eat animals!

BABY BEAR. Daddy you are gross.

MAMA BEAR. Anyway Papa, you know what Dr. Prostrate said about your cholesterol. Porridge is fat-free and has lots of fiber for you know what. Now let's all sit down and eat.

PAPA BEAR. *(Taking a bite:)* OOOOWWWWWW! IT'S TOO HOT! How many times have I told you not to cook it in the microwave?!

MAMA BEAR. Oh mine is stone cold! How many times have I asked you to fix that thing?! Baby...I mean Tiffannii, how is yours?

BABY BEAR. I can't eat breakfast Mother! I'll get too fat!

MAMA BEAR. But sweetie, you have to eat something.

BABY BEAR. Mother!

PAPA BEAR. Oh for the love of Mike! Can't we just cook some left-over pizza?!

(They all freeze for a beat, and then BABY BEAR moves back to the witness chair. PAPA BEAR and MAMA BEAR go back to the prosecution table.)

WOMBAT. And so Ms. Bear, that's what really happened that morning?

PAPA BEAR. NO! It's lies I tell ya! It's all lies! She's just mad because I wouldn't let her buy the prom dress she wanted because it was too short!

BABY BEAR. It was not too short! All the girls are wearing them!

PAPA BEAR. Maybe, but those girls ain't going to no prom!

JUDGE. Order! Order! Bailiff, does this have anything to do with the plot?

BAILIFF. Don't think so.

JUDGE. Okay, knock it off you two! Baby Bear, you can step down.

BABY BEAR. My name is Tiffannii!

(BABY BEAR steps down and moves to defense table.)

JUDGE. Muffinhead, call your next witness.

DA. Your Honor, don't I get to cross-examine Baby Bear?!

JUDGE. Naw, I read that part of the script, it's boring. Move on!

DA. The prosecution calls Chief Detective Inspector Sergeant Zachary Clorox.

(CLOROX enters and takes the stand.)

BAILIFF. Chief Detective...something, something Zachary Clorox. Do you affirm that you are not now, nor have you ever been, a bad liar guy or some other stinky thing till death do us part?

CLOROX. Sure, whatever. I don't know.

DA. Detective Sergeant Clorox, would you tell the members of the jury where you are stationed and what your duties are?

CLOROX. Certainly. I am currently stationed at the 15th precinct, which is located in the enchanted forest, just north of the magic castle. I am in charge of investigating all crimes involving dragons, evil sorcerers, fairy godmothers, talking animals, and professional athletes.

DA. And could you tell the jury what happened on the morning of March 24?

(CLOROX moves to center as GOLDILOCKS moves to the house and covers herself with a blanket. MAMA BEAR, PAPA BEAR, BABY BEAR all move to their positions inside house.)

CLOROX. I was returning to the precinct after investigating a report of a wolf accosting women carrying goodies, when I passed the residence of the three Bears. At that point, I heard a great commotion!

(MAMA BEAR comes screaming from the house.)

MAMA BEAR. HELP! HELP! IT'S THE COMMUNISTS! IT'S THE COMMUNISTS! CALL 911! CALL THE MARINES! CALL THE AIR FORCE! CALL OPRAH!

CLOROX. Calm yourself madam. I am a policeman person. I will do my utmost to protect you and your property. Now, is there a problem?

MAMA BEAR. Yes! The communists have invaded my house!

CLOROX. Communists?

MAMA BEAR. Well maybe not the communists, maybe it was Imperial Storm Troopers or the Wicked Witch of the West or Godzilla or liberals! But somebody has destroyed our house!

(BABY BEAR comes out from the house.)

BABY BEAR. Oh take a chill Mother. It's not like we don't have insurance. Besides it's not that bad at all. I checked, and all of my CDs are all right.

(PAPA BEAR comes running out from house.)

PAPA BEAR. MAMA! MAMA! THERE'S A STRANGE BLONDE GIRL IN OUR BED!

WOMBAT. OBJECTION! This is supposed to be a children's show!

JUDGE. Sustained! We don't want any articles about us in the newspaper! Re-phrase that last statement!

PAPA BEAR. MAMA! MAMA! THERE'S SOMEONE IN OUR HOUSE!

CLOROX. I immediately radioed for back up and then proceeded to enter the domicile with my weapon at the ready! Observing someone under the covers, I quietly, calmly, instructed them to come out. FREEZE! THIS IS THE POLICE! DON'T MOVE OR I'LL SHOOT! YOU'RE BUSTED!

(GOLDILOCKS pops up from under the blanket with hands in the air.)

GOLDILOCKS. Don't shoot! I didn't do it! It's not my fault! Society is to blame! Police brutality! I want a lawyer! You've got the wrong person! I plead the fifth! I was playing golf!

(All freeze for a beat and then move back to the tables and stand.)

CLOROX. Upon further investigation it was determined that a large amount of porridge had been taken, a chair had been smashed, and three beds have been rumped. Also, a very rare antique clock valued at \$25,000 was missing.

MAMA BEAR. We don't have a clock worth \$25,000!

PAPA BEAR. Honey, shhh. What the insurance company doesn't know won't hurt it.

CLOROX. I then proceeded to arrest the suspect, one Miss Goldee Wynn Locks, a.k.a. Goldi the Locks, a.k.a. Goldilocks. Having done my duty, I returned to the station to await another cry for help from a desperate and frightened citizen and also Bugs Bunny was on.

DA. Thank you for your brave and true testimony Officer Clorox, I know I speak for all of us when I say, thank you. Your witness.

WOMBAT. Now Officer Clorox, isn't it true that on the morning of March 24, just half an hour before you arrived at the Bears' house, you were in fact at Rapunzel's Hut O' Donuts?

CLOROX. Well, yes, I did stop there for a quick bite.

WOMBAT. In fact Officer, I have here a sworn statement from a Mr. Hubert Filling that on the morning of the 24th, you ate 13 dozen donuts in the space of 30 minutes! Isn't that true?!

CLOROX. Well, I didn't keep track, but I'm not really...

WOMBAT. IS IT TRUE OR NOT?!

CLOROX. IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE! I'M ADDICTED TO DONUTS!
I'M ADDICTED TO DONUTS!

(Gasp from JURY.)

WOMBAT. And isn't it true that you were so filled with cream filling, lemon filling, chocolate frosting, sprinkles and those little coconut things that you were unable to even button your pants?!

CLOROX. IT'S LIES I TELL YA! IT'S ALL LIES!

(CLOROX leaps up from seat and his pants fall down.)

WOMBAT. Isn't it true that you were so full of junk food that you really can't remember what happened that day?!

CLOROX. No, I tell ya! She did it! She did it!

WOMBAT. No further questions.

JUDGE. You may step down Officer. Say, do you have any maple donuts on you?

(CLOROX breaks down crying and runs off.)

Sorry. Say Bailiff, I'm hungry, how about some Cokes and barbecue potato chips?

WOMBAT. Your Honor, I really must object.

JUDGE. On what grounds?

WOMBAT. I hate barbecue potato chips!

JUDGE. Overruled! Go bailiff. And I want some root beer! But not the gross kind. Say, is the trial over yet?

DA. No, Your Honor!

JUDGE. Okay, okay, don't get so nasty. I was just asking.

DA. Your Honor, the prosecution will call its next witness.

JUDGE. How come we keep having to have all of these witnesses?

BAILIFF. Call One of the Three Little Pigs!

(PIG enters and takes the stand.)

Raise your right hoof and swear after me, I do promise to be faithful, brave, and kind, E, I, E, I, O.

PIG. Oink.

DA. Would you state your name for the court please?

PIG. I am One of the Three Little Pigs.

DA. And which Pig are you?

PIG. I'm the one who did *not* get eaten by the wolf.

DA. Very well Mr. Pig Who Did Not Get Eaten By The Wolf, could you please tell us of a conversation you had with Miss Goldilocks on the night just before the break-in took place?

PIG. Sure.

(PIG moves to center as GOLDILOCKS moves into place.)

She came into my restaurant, I own a rib joint. Anyway, she came in about seven o'clock on the night of the 23rd.

GOLDILOCKS. Say, give me four or five racks of ribs to go. And make it snappy! I ain't got all night!

PIG. Beef or pork ribs?

GOLDILOCKS. Which do you recommend?

PIG. Personally, I prefer the beef ribs.

GOLDILOCKS. Okay, give me five racks of the beef ribs, three racks of the pork ribs, six pounds of coleslaw, and ten pounds of the baked beans.

PIG. Wow, that must be some party you're throwing.

GOLDILOCKS. What party? That's my dinner.

PIG. You can't eat all of that food yourself! You'll explode! Especially with ten pounds of beans!

GOLDILOCKS. Hey, mind your own business Pig. I'm a growing girl. Speaking of food, do you know of any place around here a girl can get a decent breakfast in the morning?

PIG. Well, there's Rapunzel's Hut O' Donuts.

GOLDILOCKS. Naw, I hates donuts! Besides, there's always too many coppers hanging around dem donut shops, if ya catch my drift. Naw, what's I really likes in the mornings is a nice big fat bowl of porridge! Any place around here sells decent porridge?

PIG. No ma'am, no place around here. I'm afraid you'll have to do without your porridge.

GOLDILOCKS. Don't sweat it porky. I usually gets what I want. One ways or another! I'll gets my porridge all right.

PIG. Sure. Whatever you say. That'll be \$86.87 for the ribs.

GOLDILOCKS. Gee, Spam boy, I seems ta be a little short on cash right now. Tell ya what, I'll pays ya later! So long sucker!

(GOLDILOCKS grabs the bag of ribs and runs out.)

PIG. STOP THIEF! STOP THIEF!

(PIG moves back to stand.)

And then she ran out with my ribs. My brother's ribs to be exact.

DA. And is the woman who took your ribs and talked to you about porridge in this courtroom now?

PIG. Yes she is.

DA. Would you point her out for the court?

PIG. THAT'S HER! IT'S THE DEFENDANT! IT'S GOLDBLOCKS!
SHE'S THE ONE!

(Gasp from JURY.)

GOLDBLOCKS. IT'S LIES I TELL YA! IT'S ALL LIES!

(Gasp from JURY.)

BAILIFF. Order in the court! Order in the court!

JUDGE. Hey, Melvin, that's my job. You're just the hired help!

BAILIFF. Sorry your magnificence.

DA. Your Honor, the prosecution rests!

JUDGE. Very well, I find the defendant guilty and sentence her to 100 years at hard labor!

WOMBAT. Your Honor! The defense has to present its case!

JUDGE. Oh do you really have to?

WOMBAT. Yes, we do!

JUDGE. All right, but hurry up. Gilligan's Island is on at 4:30.

WOMBAT. The defense calls Dr. Lester Cantaloupe III to the stand.

(PIG steps down as CANTALOUPE enters and takes the stand.)

BAILIFF. Lean to the left, lean to the right, stand up, sit down, fight, fight, fight.

CANTALOUPE. I do.

WOMBAT. Dr. Cantaloupe, you are an expert witness who used to work in the FBI crime lab, is that not correct?

CANTALOUPE. Yes, that is entirely correct.

WOMBAT. And would you mind telling the jury exactly what you are an expert in?

CANTALOUPE. Yes, I am an expert in testing and analyzing porridge.

WOMBAT. And did you in fact, test and analyze the porridge that was found in the Bears' house on the day of the crime?

CANTALOUPE. Yes, and I have set up a demonstration to explain my findings.

(CANTALOUPE moves to center as BAILIFF wheels out a demonstration table.)

As you can see, I have the three samples of porridge that were taken from the Bears' house by Officer Clorox.

WOMBAT. And what exactly did your experiments on the porridge show?

CANTALOUPE. Well, as you can see by this chart, the temperature of the porridge is directly converse to the enzymes produced by the saliva typically found in a bear of middle age when exposed to sudden climatic fluctuations.

WOMBAT. Could you explain that a little more clearly Dr. Cantaloupe?

CANTALOUPE. No I couldn't. But I could demonstrate what I discovered.

WOMBAT. Very well doctor, please proceed.

CANTALOUPE. Well, Papa Bear testified that his porridge was perfect, but if you taste this porridge you can see why this couldn't be true.

(CANTALPOUPE has WOMBAT take a bite of porridge. WOMBAT makes a horrible face and spits it out.)

WOMBAT. THAT'S DISGUSTING! IT TASTES LIKE IT'S ROTTEN!

CANTALOUPE. Exactly! It is rotten!

WOMBAT. THEN WHY DID YOU HAVE ME EAT IT?!

CANTALOUPE. You said to do my demonstration. Now, the fact that this porridge has gone rotten and is making you sick, proves that it was in fact too hot when it was served. Otherwise, the filthy germs and bacteria could not have grown. Now, if you'll taste Mama's porridge.

(CANTALOUPE forces WOMBAT to take a bite of different porridge.)

WOMBAT. THAT'S WORSE THAN THE FIRST!

CANTALOUPE. Correct. Because Mama Bear's porridge was cooked too cold, it has all of these little green bugs in it and these slimy things that smell bad. Therefore, we have proof that Papa Bear was lying about his porridge being perfect! Mr. Wombat? Are you okay? You don't look well.

(WOMBAT collapses on the ground in a horrifying way and begins to die.)

DA. Your Honor I object, Mr. Wombat is trying to get the jury's sympathy by dying!

JUDGE. Sustained! Mr. Wombat, stop dying and call your next witness.

(CANTALOUPE steps down and moves to the defense table.)

WOMBAT. Your Honor, the defense calls Merwin the Big Bad Wolf.

BAILIFF. Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate? Goldilocks, Goldilocks!

WOMBAT. State your name for the court.

MERWIN. I am Merwin the Big Bad Wolf.

WOMBAT. And Merwin, can you tell us why you believe that Goldilocks is innocent of this crime of which she is accused?

MERWIN. Yes I can.

WOMBAT. Well tell us!

MERWIN. Oh yes, sorry. *(As if memorized:)* Yes I know that Goldilocks is innocent of this horrible crime for which she was accused because she was with me on the very day when she was done supposed to be committing this horrible crime which she did not do because she was with me. The end.

WOMBAT. Are you saying that Goldilocks was with you that entire day?

MERWIN. I just did.

WOMBAT. Was Goldilocks with you the entire day?!

MERWIN. Yes, I was out trying to steal a basket from Red Riding Hood... I mean I was going to the library when I saw Goldilocks sitting at the side of the road...

(MERWIN moves down center as GOLDBLOCKS moves into place.)

GOLDBLOCKS. Why hello Merwin my old friend, how are you today?

MERWIN. I am fine Goldilocks my close personal friend. I was just going to the library. Would you like to spend the entire day with me never once leaving my sight so that you could never be accused of committing a crime?

GOLDBLOCKS. Why yes my close personal friend Merwin the Big Bad Wolf, I would like to spend the entire day with you. Shall we go to the library now and stay there the entire day never going near any house that belongs to some bears?

MERWIN. Certainly old chap, let us be off now at this very moment.

(MERWIN moves back to the stand while GOLDBLOCKS returns to defense stand.)

And so we went to the library and spent the whole day there and Goldilocks never once left my side to commit a crime.

WOMBAT. Thank you Merwin The Big Bad Wolf, for your totally honest and believable testimony. Your witness Mr. Muffinhead.

DA. Mr. Wolf, did you really spend the entire day with Goldilocks?

MERWIN. Yes. Yes, I did.

DA. Isn't it true, that being an animal, you can't read?

MERWIN. Yes, that is true.

DA. Then why would you go to the library?!

MERWIN. The swimsuit issue was in.

DA. When the police questioned you four months ago, why didn't you tell them you had been with Goldilocks all day?

MERWIN. I thought they were talking about another Goldilocks.

DA. Isn't it true that you are really secretly in love with Goldilocks and that is why you're telling these lies, to save her from going to jail?!

MERWIN. IT'S LIES I TELL YA! IT'S ALL LIES!

DA. DO YOU LOVE GOLDDILOCKS?!

MERWIN. YES! YES! YES! I DO LOVE HER! I DO!

(He breaks down sobbing. Gasp from JURY.)

DA. We have no further questions.

(MERWIN steps down and moves to the defense table.)

BAILIFF. Wow, this is getting good!

JUDGE. Hush up Melvin. Are we done yet?

WOMBAT. The defense has just one more witness Your Honor. We call...GOLDDILOCKS to the stand!

(Gasp from JURY and stinger.)

BAILIFF. Goldilocks to the stand!

(GOLDDILOCKS takes the stand.)

Engine, engine number nine, going down the Chicago line, if the train should jump the track, do you want your money back?

GOLDDILOCKS. Yes.

WOMBAT. Now Goldilocks, I know this will be extremely difficult for you, but could you tell us, honestly and as simply as possible, what happened on the morning of March 24?

(GOLDILOCKS moves down center and acts out all of her testimony.)

GOLDILOCKS. Well, I was walking along minding my own business, when I seen this here cottage. It was like real pretty and all.

WOMBAT. So you *did* see the Bears' cottage. Did you walk past the cottage or did you do something else?

GOLDILOCKS. Well...I uh...I uh... Okay, so's I went into the house!

(Gasp from JURY.)

I admit it! I knew it wasn't right but I did it anyway. But it wasn't to steal nothing! I swear it! I had to go to the bathroom. I mean I was out in the woods. All alone. There wasn't a gas station or a 7-11 within miles. Not that 7-11 lets you use their bathroom anyway. But as I was saying, I rang da bell. I called out. But no one answered. Then I sees that the door wasn't locked. So's I just kinda pushed it a little to see if maybes someone was at home and the door popped right open. So's then I figured I'd just use the little girls' room real quick see, and then I'd leave and no one would be the wiser, catch my drift? So's I walk into the house, and that's when I saw it. I tell ya, if I'da known it was in there, I never woulda gone in. I'da kept on going into dem woods. Ya gotta believe me! YA JUST GOTTA! But before I knew what was happening, there it was. THERE IT WAS!

WOMBAT. What was there?

GOLDILOCKS. It was, the...PORRIDGE!

WOMBAT. Do you have a problem with porridge, Miss Locks?

GOLDILOCKS. Ever since I was a little kid, my mother always made me finish all of my porridge. And if I didn't, I couldn't watch no cartoons or read no comic books. And so's now, whenever I sees a bowl of porridge, I gets this urge, ya follow? And I just gots to

eats all of the porridge. I just gots ta! I ain't got no control see, I can't help myself, I just gotta eat it!

(She breaks down into tears.)

WOMBAT. Your Honor, the defense would like to enter into evidence this report from a distinguished therapist attesting to the fact the Goldilocks suffers from Parental Porridge Syndrome which makes her not responsible for her actions inside the Bears' cottage.

DA. Objection Your Honor!

JUDGE. On what grounds Muffinhead?

DA. This evidence is totally ridiculous, irrelevant, false, misleading, unsubstantiated, and immaterial!

JUDGE. So?

DA. So? It shouldn't be allowed!

JUDGE. Oh don't be such a party pooper. You may continue, little Wombat.

WOMBAT. Now Ms. Locks, what happened after you consumed the porridge?

GOLDILOCKS. Well, as soon as I was done eating I was consumed with horrible guilt. I felt just awful! So's I decided I was gonna waits till the bears come back and then I'd apologize for eatin' all dere porridge and I'd make full restitution and like that. But I waited and waited and theys still didn't come and I started getting real sleepy cause I'd eaten about 15 pounds of porridge. So's I figured I'd just lay down and takes me a little rest until dose bears gots home and I could make full restitution and like that. So's I just laid down on the bed, the kid's bed, 'cause I can'ts sleep on no waterbed like her folks had, and the next thing I knows is there's all this screaming and this copper with donut breath is busting me. And that's the whole and honest complete truth! Cross my heart and stick waffles in my eye!

WOMBAT. Now Ms. Locks, what about the chair that was destroyed?

GOLDILOCKS. Look, I don't know nuttin' about no chair! I never even seen no chair. First thing I ever heard about the chair was when I was at the station house and the coppers keep asking me about the chair!

(Enter CLOROX.)

CLOROX. All right Goldilocks, why'd ya smash the chair?!

GOLDILOCKS. Chair? What chair?! I didn't smash no chair! IT'S LIES I TELL YA! IT'S ALL LIES!

(CLOROX exits and GOLDILOCKS moves back to the stand.)

WOMBAT. So you never even saw a chair in the Bears' house?

GOLDILOCKS. No. I don't know what happened to that chair, but I didn't do nuttin' to it! I'm being framed, I tell ya! I'm being framed!

WOMBAT. Thank you Ms. poor, sweet, innocent Goldilocks. Your witness, mean, nasty, cruel District Attorney Muffinhead.

DA. Your Honor! I object! That big goof can't call me names!

JUDGE. Well as far as I'm concerned, you're both big goofs. Now continue.

DA. Okay Goldilocks, you say you never saw the chair that was broken?

GOLDILOCKS. No, I never set eyes upon it.

WOMBAT. Your Honor, at this time we would like to recall Chief Detective Inspector Sergeant Clorox to the stand!

BAILIFF. YO! CLOROX! 'MON BACK!

(GOLDILOCKS steps down as CLOROX enters and takes the stand. BAILIFF brings in the chair from the Bears' house.)

DA. At this time, the people would like to present exhibit number 678, the chair that was found smashed at the Bears' residence. Officer Clorox, do you recognize this chair?

CLOROX. Yes, that is the chair the bailiff just brought in.

DA. NO! Have you ever seen this chair before?

CLOROX. Oh. Yes. That is the chair that was found destroyed at the scene of the crime.

DA. And where was this chair located?

CLOROX. Next to the dining room table.

DA. And in your expert opinion, as an official police person, could anyone have eaten at that dining room table without seeing this chair?

CLOROX. Oh no, surely not.

DA. AH HA! GOTCHA NOW! Goldilocks sat in that chair and destroyed it in a fit of malicious vandalism!

WOMBAT. Your Honor at this time we would like to recall Merwin The Big Bad Wolf to the stand!

BAILIFF. MERWIN, MY MAIN MAN, DUDE, WE NEED YOU BACK HERE!

(CLOROX steps down as MERWIN takes stand.)

WOMBAT. Merwin, how long have you known the defendant, Ms. Goldilocks?

MERWIN. I have known her for eleventeen years.

WOMBAT. And in all of those years, have you ever seen Goldilocks sit down?

MERWIN. No, I have never seen Goldilocks sit down because she cannot sit down because she was injured in the war and cannot sit down!

WOMBAT. AH HA! Obviously she could not have destroyed that chair by sitting in it because Goldilocks cannot sit down!

(Everyone in court does a take at GOLDILOCKS who is sitting down.)

BAILIFF. She's been sitting down this whole trial!

GOLDILOCKS. Uh...I had an operation, and now I am better?

DA. Your Honor, at this time we would like to recall Dr. Cantaloupe.

BAILIFF. OLLIE OLLIE OXEN FREE!

(MERWIN steps down as CANTALOUPE takes the stand.)

DA. Dr. Cantaloupe, did you do some really big science tests to this chair?

CANTALOUPE. Yes I did. I did them in my laboratory which has really cool chemicals and test tubes and stuff.

DA. And what did these tests show?

CANTALOUPE. They show that the chair was covered in porridge!

DA. AH HA!

WOMBAT. We call Papa Bear to the stand!

BAILIFF. RED ROVER, RED ROVER, SEND PAPA BEAR RIGHT OVER!

(CANTALOUPE steps down as PAPA BEAR takes the stand.)

WOMBAT. Papa Bear, isn't it true that you often ate porridge in this chair?

PAPA BEAR. NO! I never did! Absolutely not! I categorically deny that! No way Jose! Uh-uh!

WOMBAT. Do you realize you could go to jail if you are telling a lie?!

PAPA BEAR. Oh. Well, in that case I did eat porridge in that chair sometimes.

WOMBAT. AH HA!

DA. Papa Bear, did you eat porridge in that chair the morning of the break-in?

PAPA BEAR. No I did not because the porridge was too hot and also because I wanted some *(He enters his meat fantasy again.)* bacon or sausage or ham or kielbasa or some steak and fried eggs or some hash browns or some...

DA. We recall Baby Bear back to the stand!

BAILIFF. HEY! WHY DOESN'T THE WHOLE AUDIENCE COME UP?!

(PAPA BEAR steps down as BABY BEAR takes the stand.)

DA. Baby Bear.

BABY BEAR. TIFFANNII!

DA. Tiffannii, was the chair broken when your family left the house that morning?

BABY BEAR. Daddy, do I get to buy that dress?

PAPA BEAR. NO! IT'S TOO SHORT!

BABY BEAR. Then I don't remember!

PAPA BEAR. You're grounded as soon as we get home!

BABY BEAR. DADDY!

WOMBAT. AH HA!

DA. That doesn't prove anything!

WOMBAT. Does too!

DA. Does not!

WOMBAT. DOES TOO!

DA. DOES NOT!

WOMBAT. BABY!

DA. CHEATER!

JUDGE. ORDER IN THIS COURT! THAT IS ENOUGH FROM BOTH OF YOU! This is an extremely serious matter! I will not have such foolishness in my court! Now, the court recalls The Little Pig Who Was Not Eaten By the Wolf to the stand.

BAILIFF. SOOOOIIIEEE!

(BABY BEAR steps down as PIG enters and takes the stand.)

JUDGE. Now Mr. Pig, did you or did you not, testify under oath, in front of this court, that you own and operate a rib joint?

PIG. Yes Your Honor, that is correct.

JUDGE. Good, I'm hungry. I want a rack of ribs and some slaw.

WOMBAT / DA. OBJECTION!

JUDGE. Oh you two are no fun. Okay, is she guilty or not?

DA. GUILTY!

WOMBAT. NOT GUILTY!

JUDGE. You two can't agree on anything. Wait a minute! I just realized something! There's one witness we haven't heard from!

(Stinger and gasp from JURY.)

And I believe that this witness may hold the key to this whole case.

BAILIFF. Who is it Your Honor?

JUDGE. Who's what?

EVERYBODY. WHO'S THE WITNESS?!

JUDGE. Oh.yeah. I now call MAMA BEAR to the stand!

(Stinger and gasp from JURY.)

BAILIFF. MAMA BEAR, COME ON DOWN!

(PIG steps down as MAMA BEAR takes the stand.)

BAILIFF. R-O-W-D-I-E, THAT'S THE WAY WE SPELL ROWDIE!
ROWDIE! WHOO! LET'S GET ROWDIE!

MAMA BEAR. WHOO!

JUDGE. Mama Bear, this court has not yet heard your testimony as to what happened on that fateful day. What happened when you returned to your house the afternoon of March 24?

MAMA BEAR. Well, we were coming home as usual...

(MAMA BEAR moves to center as PAPA BEAR and BABY BEAR move into position outside of the house.)

THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!

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