

# THE BEST BALLOON

---

A short dramedy for young audiences by  
Annie Harrison Elliott

This script is for evaluation only. It may not be printed, photocopied or distributed digitally under any circumstances. Possession of this file does not grant the right to perform this play or any portion of it, or to use it for classroom study.

[www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)  
[info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com)  
424-703-5315

*The Best Balloon* © 2019 Annie Harrison Elliott  
All rights reserved. ISBN 978-1-62088-845-2.

**Caution:** This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the copyright union and is subject to royalty for all performances including but not limited to professional, amateur, charity and classroom whether admission is charged or presented free of charge.

**Reservation of Rights:** This play is the property of the author and all rights for its use are strictly reserved and must be licensed by the author's representative, YouthPLAYS. This prohibition of unauthorized professional and amateur stage presentations extends also to motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of adaptation or translation into non-English languages.

**Performance Licensing and Royalty Payments:** Amateur and stock performance rights are administered exclusively by YouthPLAYS. No amateur, stock or educational theatre groups or individuals may perform this play without securing authorization and royalty arrangements in advance from YouthPLAYS. Required royalty fees for performing this play are available online at [www.YouthPLAYS.com](http://www.YouthPLAYS.com). Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Required royalties must be paid each time this play is performed and may not be transferred to any other performance entity. All licensing requests and inquiries should be addressed to YouthPLAYS.

**Author Credit:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisements and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line with no other accompanying written matter. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s) and the name of the author(s) may not be abbreviated or otherwise altered from the form in which it appears in this Play.

**Publisher Attribution:** All programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

*Produced by special arrangement with YouthPLAYS ([www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)).*

**Prohibition of Unauthorized Copying:** Any unauthorized copying of this book or excerpts from this book, whether by photocopying, scanning, video recording or any other means, is strictly prohibited by law. This book may only be copied by licensed productions with the purchase of a photocopy license, or with explicit permission from YouthPLAYS.

**Trade Marks, Public Figures & Musical Works:** This play may contain references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may also contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). YouthPLAYS has not obtained performing rights of these works unless explicitly noted. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is <http://www.copyright.gov>.

## COPYRIGHT RULES TO REMEMBER

1. To produce this play, you must receive prior written permission from YouthPLAYS and pay the required royalty.
2. You must pay a royalty each time the play is performed in the presence of audience members outside of the cast and crew. Royalties are due whether or not admission is charged, whether or not the play is presented for profit, for charity or for educational purposes, or whether or not anyone associated with the production is being paid.
3. No changes, including cuts or additions, are permitted to the script without written prior permission from YouthPLAYS.
4. Do not copy this book or any part of it without written permission from YouthPLAYS.
5. Credit to the author and YouthPLAYS is required on all programs and other promotional items associated with this play's performance.

When you pay royalties, you are recognizing the hard work that went into creating the play and making a statement that a play is something of value. We think this is important, and we hope that everyone will do the right thing, thus allowing playwrights to generate income and continue to create wonderful new works for the stage.

Plays are owned by the playwrights who wrote them. Violating a playwright's copyright is a very serious matter and violates both United States and international copyright law. Infringement is punishable by actual damages and attorneys' fees, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per incident, and even possible criminal sanctions. **Infringement is theft. Don't do it.**

Have a question about copyright? Please contact us by email at [info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com) or by phone at 424-703-5315. When in doubt, please ask.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

BOY

GIRL

SUN

CLOUD

BIRD

BEAR

SNAKE

CHORUS OF 3+ FOREST ANIMALS (SQUIRREL, FOX, etc.)

## SETTING

A forest.

## NOTES

All roles are designed to be gender-flexible. Feel free to reverse the GIRL and BOY characters, or to change the roles to GIRL and GIRL or BOY and BOY.

## SPECIAL THANKS

To Nicole Blair Adkins.

## DEDICATION

For Morgan and John.

---

(A CHORUS of forest animals enter. We hear an orchestra of sounds created by the forest animals. Students in the Chorus may select their own animal such as fox, squirrel, etc. The animal characters remain on stage for the duration of the play and speak all Chorus lines, which should be assigned variously. Slashes "/" indicate potential line breaks that may be assigned to different Chorus members. Chorus speaks directly to the audience. BOY enters center stage holding a balloon tied to a string.)

**CHORUS:** The boy is on his way home/from a birthday party/with the best balloon—

**BOY:** You are the best balloon I've ever seen...

*(He looks up at it, admiringly, and with joy.)*

**CHORUS:** As the boy's heart fills with joy/ the sun comes out/on cue.

*(SUN enters, dancing on tip toes and twirling.)*

**SUN:** Shining brightly, shining brightly, shining brightly...

*(Sun watches the Boy's loosening grip on the balloon as he enjoys her rays.)*

Don't forget. Hold on tightly!

**CHORUS:** But the little boy let go—

**BOY:** Nooooooooo! My balloon! Come back!

*(The boy reaches for his balloon, but it's too late. He wraps his arms around himself for comfort.)*

**CHORUS:** As the boy's heart fills with gloom/a rain cloud appears/on cue.

*(CLOUD enters while dancing.)*

**CLOUD:** Circling slowly, circling slowly, circling slowly...

*(Cloud bumps the Sun out of the way.)*

**SUN:** Hey! You took my spot.

**BOY:** My best balloon is gone. I'll never feel happy again!

*(Cloud is pleased. Sun looks sad. BIRD enters, hopping on one foot.)*

**BIRD:** Tweet. Tweet. Tweeeeeet. Tweet! Tweet.

**BOY:** I wish I could fly like you, bird. Then I could reach my balloon.

**BIRD:** Tweet. Tweet.

*(Bird flies away.)*

**BOY:** *(Speaks to Chorus animals:)* Hey, maybe if I ask nicely, that bird will catch my balloon way up in the sky and bring it back to me. Then I'd feel happy again!

*(Chorus responds. Boy sets out after Bird.)*

Bird! Come back.

*(Boy exits, following Bird into a forest. Sun and Cloud exit. The Chorus of Animals participate in their animal business such as hiding nuts for winter, etc. Bird re-enters, picking berries from a nearby bush, and eating them. Bird flies away. BEAR enters.)*

**BEAR:** *(Singing to himself:)* My berries are ripe! Gonna make a pie! Oh, I can't wait!

*(Pause.)*

Who picked the berries off my berry bush?

*(Boy enters.)*

Was it you?

**BOY:** Me?

**BEAR:** Did *you* pick the berries off my berry bush?

**BOY:** No.

**BEAR:** Oh.

**BOY:** Have you seen a red bird go by, hopping on one foot?

**BEAR:** No.

**BOY:** Oh.

**BEAR:** I'm sorry if I seem glum. I worked hard planting berries all winter so they'd grow in the spring. And now they're gone.

**BOY:** I lost something, too.

**BEAR:** What?

**BOY:** The best balloon I ever saw.

**BEAR:** That does sound like a special balloon.

**BOY:** It was. I'm sorry about your berries.

**BEAR:** I'm sorry about your balloon. I just don't know how I'll cheer up again—

**BOY:** When I'm feeling low, sometimes taking a nap helps. I curl up in a blanket and read about something exciting—

**BEAR:** I do enjoy a good hibernation—I suppose I could get cozy in my cave.

**BOY:** That will make you feel happy again.

**BEAR:** But what will you do?

**BOY:** What do you mean?

**BEAR:** To feel better.

**BOY:** I will find that bird. They will fly up into the sky and bring my balloon back to me. Then I will feel happy again.

*(We hear a Tweet. Tweet. Tweet.)*

**BEAR:** It's coming from that way—

**BOY:** Goodbye Bear!

**BEAR:** Goodbye Boy!

*(Bear exits to his cave. Bird enters, chirping.)*

**BIRD:** Tweet. Tweet. Tweet. Tweet.

**BOY:** Bird! Have you seen my balloon?

**BIRD:** The one flying high up in the sky?

**BOY:** Yes. That must be it—

**BIRD:** I've seen it—

**BOY:** You are the only one who can reach it way up there—  
can you bring it back to me?

**BIRD:** Tweet. Tweet. Tweet. Tweet.

*(The Bird hops on one foot, then flies away.)*

**BOY:** Wait!

*(Boy runs offstage in pursuit of Bird. Chorus reacts. SNAKE enters.)*

**SNAKE:** Slithering slowly. Slithering slowly. Slithering slowly—

*(Boy enters, out of breath. Chorus reacts.)*

**BOY:** Excuse me, snake? Have you seen my balloon?

**SNAKE:** Can't say I have—

**BOY:** Have you seen a little bird hopping on one foot?

**SNAKE:** Can't say I have—

**BOY:** You seem sad. Is everything okay?

**SNAKE:** I've lost something—

**BOY:** Me too! My balloon.

**SNAKE:** My skin.



---

**BOY:** Your *skin*?

**SNAKE:** I woke up this morning to find it had peeled off—

**BOY:** Oh.

**SNAKE:** Quite alarming, really.

**BOY:** Yes.

**SNAKE:** I don't feel quite like myself now.

**BOY:** I understand.

**SNAKE:** My slithering feels slower because of these new scales—

**BOY:** It feels different.

**SNAKE:** It makes me feel a little—

**BOY:** Sad.

**SNAKE:** Yes.

**BOY:** Sometimes—when I wake up in the morning and find I've grown taller, I feel a little sad.

**SNAKE:** You do?

**BOY:** Just for a minute. But then I think of something good that comes from growing taller. Now that my arms are longer, I can reach a jar of peanut butter on the highest shelf!

**SNAKE:** I am less slick and slippery now...less likely to fall off rocks...

**BOY:** Exactly!

**SNAKE:** I'm starting to feel better. Thank you.

**BOY:** You're welcome.

**SNAKE:** But how will you feel better? About your lost balloon?

**BOY:** I will find that bird. He will fly up into the sky and bring my balloon back to me. Then I will feel happy again.

*(We hear Bird tweeting.)*

Want to read the entire script? Order a perusal copy today!