

# GOLDILOCKS IN NURSERYLAND

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A one-act comedy by  
Trevor Suthers

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

GEORGIE PORGIE

MARY MARY

LITTLE MISS MUFFET

GOLDBLOCKS

SIMPLE SIMON

JACK

JILL

DADDY BEAR

MUMMY BEAR

BABY BEAR

TOMMY TUCKER (voice only)

WEE WILLIE WINKIE (voice only)

GOOSEY GOOSEY GANDER

BIG BAD WOLF (voice only)

MOTHER GOOSE (alternative ending only)

## SETTING

A Room.

One table, one chair, one tuffet.

Something representative of a door.

Something representative of a window.

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(GEORGIE PORGIE is sitting at a table reading a book of fairy tales. LITTLE MISS MUFFETT, who obsessively checks her clothing for spiders, sits on a stool lazily eating from a bowl with a spoon while MARY MARY stands aside playing with a thumbscrew. Knock on the door.)

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Get that, will you Mary. Mary?

**MARY MARY:** Get it yourself.

(Georgie gets up.)

Oh, alright, I'll get it.

(Mary Mary goes to the door.)

One, two, three, four, who's that knocking at our door?

**GOLDILOCKS:** (Off, pitifully:) I'm just a poor little kitten who's lost her mittens.

**MARY MARY:** (To Georgie:) Someone claiming to be a kitten who's lost her mittens.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** A mittenless kitten. How intriguing. Let her in.

**MARY MARY:** You let her in. Oh alright, I'll let her in.

(Enter GOLDILOCKS – a brunette.)

You're not a kitten.

**GOLDILOCKS:** No, I just used that line to get your sympathy.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Who are you?

**GOLDILOCKS:** I'm Goldilocks.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I don't think so. Not with that hairstyle.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Yeah, I had to lose the golden tresses. Bit of a giveaway.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** And that curl—right in the middle of your forehead.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Oh, you like that? Yeah, it sort of suggests that when I'm good, I'm very very good.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** And when you're bad?

**GOLDILOCKS:** You don't wanna go there.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** But what are you doing here?

**GOLDILOCKS:** Look, I just need a place to crash, that's all.

**MARY MARY:** Well, you can't crash here.

**GOLDILOCKS:** It's just for a couple of nights.

**MARY MARY:** Well, I suppose it'll be alright.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** No, we've no room.

**GOLDILOCKS:** I won't be any bother. I'm not fussy, I'll sleep anywhere—under a table, under a chair, under a haystack, I don't care.

*(Georgie kisses her.)*

Urghhh. *(Wiping her mouth:)* What did you do that for?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Sorry. It's something of a compulsion. OCD. It's in the nature of my nursery rhyme character.

**GOLDILOCKS:** It's revolting. Can't you control yourself?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I am on medication.

**GOLDILOCKS:** I've read about you—you must be Georgie Porgie, serial girl-kisser.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Tis true. It is my character-defining trait. However, I notice you're not crying.

**GOLDILOCKS:** You'll be crying if you try that again mister.

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**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Anyway, you're a fairy tale character – you can't stay here. This is strictly nursery rhyme territory.

**GOLDILOCKS:** I know. That's why I came here. I'm in terrible trouble. I've got these three psychotic bears on my tail.

*(Georgie picks up the book of fairy tales and thumbs through it.)*

They're out to get me. They're going to eat me. That's why I've had to go on the lam.

**MARY MARY:** I used to have a lamb. Its fleece was white as snow.

**GOLDILOCKS:** No, not that kind of lamb. I'm just saying I've had to run away, run for my life!

**MARY MARY:** She's like you, Georgie, remember? When the boys came out to play?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Just for the record, let's get this straight, I didn't exactly run away. I was merely avoiding the boys, preferring as I do, the company of girls.

**MARY MARY:** Whatever.

**GOLDILOCKS:** I'm so tired – may I sit on your chair?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I'd rather you didn't if you don't mind. Your reputation precedes you. *(Referring to his book:)* In fact, it says here you are accused of illegal entry, the wanton destruction of property and the unauthorised appropriation of oatmeal cereal.

**GOLDILOCKS:** You don't want to believe everything you read in books. And anyway, those bears, they completely over-reacted. You know Bears, there's just no reasoning with them. I wouldn't mind, but they left the door open and everything. It's not as though I had to break into the joint. So,

is it OK if I hide out here for a while? Just till the heat dies down?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I don't know, we're pretty full up.

**GOLDILOCKS:** What about you—it's Mary isn't it? Can I stay, can I, can I, ah, come on Mary, whadda you say?

**MARY MARY:** Well, I could use some help in my garden.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Of course. I was going to ask you about that.

**MARY MARY:** No! Do not ask me about my garden! Never ask me about my garden!

**GOLDILOCKS:** Sure, sure, that's your business.

*(She goes over to Miss Muffet.)*

What about you? It's Miss Muffet, isn't it? Do you mind if I sit down beside you?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** What did you say?

**GOLDILOCKS:** I just wanted to know if you mind if I stay.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Does she have any spiders?

**GOLDILOCKS:** No, no, no, look and see, there are definitely no spiders on me.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Are you sure?

**GOLDILOCKS:** Ab-so-lu-te-ly.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** I don't mind.

**MARY MARY:** *(To Goldilocks:)* Aren't you going to ask me about my garden?

**GOLDILOCKS:** I thought you didn't want me to ask about your garden?



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**MARY MARY:** Aren't you even the tiniest bit curious about how it grows?

**GOLDILOCKS:** I'm sure it grows wonderfully.

*(Georgie takes Goldilocks aside.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** As you might have gathered, Mary Mary can be quite...

**GOLDILOCKS:** Contrary, yes, I sort of figured that.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** She can be also quite difficult to live with at times. Added to which she suffers from a multiple personality disorder.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Really?

*(Georgie attempts to kiss her again.)*

Will you stop doing that! You try that again I'll have to slug you one, buddy boy.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** But this is how it is in Nurseryland. You're still sure you want to stay here?

**GOLDILOCKS:** Well, if it's a choice between being slobbered over by you or eaten by bears—hmmm, something of a no-brainer I guess. But I'm warning you—cut out the kissing or...

*(Mary Mary approaches Miss Muffet doing the hand gestures.)*

**MARY MARY:** Incy Wincy Spider climbs up the water-spout... *(Miss Muffet gets up, still clutching her bowl, and moves away protesting "Stop it!, Stop it!")* Down comes the rain and wash the spider out...

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Mary Mary, no, stop teasing Miss Muffet.

**MARY MARY:** Out comes the sun and dries up all the rain...

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Come on now, Mary, knock it off!

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**MARY MARY:** So Incy Wincy spider climbs up the spout again!

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Really, that is so cruel.

*(Miss Muffet, upset, returns to her tuffet.)*

**GOLDBLOCKS:** Miss Muffet, she's arachnophobic I take it.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** No, I don't think she's ever visited Iraq. Or anywhere else for that matter. She just sits on her tuffet all day, eating her curds and whey.

**GOLDBLOCKS:** I mean, she's scared of spiders.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Is she ever! *(To Mary Mary:)* And Mary Mary, you know it's wrong to tease Miss Muffet like that. What has she ever done to you?

**MARY MARY:** I strongly suspect her of stealing my canary. *(To Goldilocks:)* I used to have a canary you know. Ah, feathers bright and yellow, such a pretty fellow.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** *(Aside to Goldilocks:)* Multiple personalities, remember?

**MARY MARY:** Its name was Peter...or possibly Paul.

**GOLDBLOCKS:** *(To Mary:)* Didn't it just fly away?

**MARY MARY:** That's just a cock and bull story. It's here somewhere. I just know it. It had the sweetest note. I still hear it sometimes.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** That's still no excuse to torment a traumatized paranoid schizophrenic.

**MARY MARY:** *(Wandering off)* Here little dickie bird, come little dickie bird.

**GOLDBLOCKS:** It's like living in a mad house.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I'm telling you, babe, you ain't seen nothing yet. You might be better off hiding over the hills and far away.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Far away?

*(Takes her across to the window.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Well, not that far away. Let me show you—out the window, see? Just down the lane—see, that big old shoe? The old woman who lives there, she has so many children, she just doesn't know what to do. Hundreds of them. They're like maggots. If you hide out there, the Three Bears would never be able to spot you amongst all of those brats. I'm sure you'll blend in perfectly.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Don't the poor children who live there get fed nothing but broth without any bread, then they all get spanked before they go to bed? Is that what you're suggesting? I spend my time getting starved and beaten? I think I'll take my chances here if you don't mind. Those stupid bears will never think of looking for me here.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Tis indeed true, we've very few, if any bears here in Nurseryland, that's if you don't count the teddy bears in the garden.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Teddy bears in the garden?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Let me show you, give me your hand *(Takes her hand:)* They just go round and round the garden, you know, like a Teddy Bear, one step, two steps... *(He tickles her.)* Tickle her under there!

**GOLDILOCKS:** Will you cut that out!

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Sorry, couldn't resist.

*(Mary Mary approaches Miss Muffet again.)*

**MARY MARY:** Will you walk into my parlour said the spider to the fly.

*(Miss Muffet flies off.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Mary, how many times do I have to tell you. Leave Miss Muffet alone. You know she has issues.

**MARY MARY:** Shut your face, cowardy, cowardy custard!

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** *(Threatening:)* Do you want a kiss? Do you want me to give you a kiss?

**MARY MARY:** No, no, sorry. I promise I'll never do it again.

*(Knock at the door.)*

**GOLDILOCKS:** Quick—hide me, hide me. It's the Three Bears.

*(She hides under the table.)*

**MARY MARY:** Or it could be the spiders. The three giant spiders.

*(Terrified, Miss Muffet grabs a hold of Georgie.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Who's there?

**SIMPLE SIMON (OFF):** It's me!

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Who's me?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Georgie Porgie.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** No, not me, who's you?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I'm not you, I'm me!

*(Goldilocks comes out from under the table.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** By the sound of him it must be Learning Difficulties Simon. I sent him out to get something for supper—three days ago.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Learning Difficulties Simon?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** He's a bit, you know...

**GOLDILOCKS:** Simple?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Only don't call him that. It'll hurt his feelings. Let him in, will you, Mary.

**MARY MARY:** Let him in yourself. What am I, your servant?!

**GOLDILOCKS:** I'll let him in.

**MARY MARY:** It's OK—I'll let him in. I'm perfectly capable of opening the door.

*(She opens the door. SIMPLE SIMON comes in.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Simon, where have you been?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I've been to London to visit the Queen. She wasn't there.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** But Simon, you were supposed to be getting our supper. We've been living on pease puddin' and curds and whey for the past three days.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** On the way back I met a pie-man, going to the fair.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Excellent, pies! I'm starving.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I asked him if I could have a taste, make sure they were all right, you know... *(re: Goldilocks:)* Who's this?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Don't worry about her. Tell me about the pies man, the pies.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Oh, the pies—well, like I said I asked him if I could try one, but he insisted I show him the money first.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** So you showed him the money.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** No, I couldn't. I didn't have any.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Yes, you did—I gave you a sixpence, a jolly jolly sixpence. I even sang a song about it before I gave it to you.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I couldn't show him that.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Why not?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Why is Miss Muffet crying?

**GOLDILOCKS:** She thought you were a giant spider.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Who are you?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Never mind who she is—why didn't you show him your sixpence?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Well, it was all bent and crooked and anyway—he wanted a penny and I didn't have a penny, I only had a sixpence.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Oh well, my fault for sending you out in the first place. So, where's my sixpence?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Oh, I spent it.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** You spent it? On what?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** On a piece of meat.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** A piece of meat? Oh, what a treat! Show it to me!

*(Simon pulls out a piece of meat from his jacket.)*

**MARY MARY:** Oh, that's disgusting. It's all dirty. I cannot possibly eat a piece of dirty meat.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I tied it to a horse's tail—I thought it would make it clean and sweet. I was mistaken.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** So, that's all you've brought back with you – a piece of manky meat.

**GOLDILOCKS:** All this talk of food, I'm just wondering what a girl has to do to get something to eat round here.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Are you Polly? You could put the kettle on – we'll all have tea. I'll have three cups full – one for I, one for myself and one for me.

**GOLDILOCKS:** I'm not Polly, I'm Goldilocks.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** No you're not. You're Brownyllocks.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Ah, well, you see, I had to have a bit of make-over – it's a long story.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** No it isn't, it's short story – something about bears and chairs and porridge.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Miss Muffet, you wouldn't happen to have a spare bowl of, what's it called, curds and whey?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh, I have pots and pots. I make lots and lots. You see, I'm on a diet. You really should try it.

**GOLDILOCKS:** By the way, what is curds and whey?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Truly maid I couldn't say. Why not ask another day. Ask of me another time. And when you ask me – ask in rhyme.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Dear Miss Muffet, pray disclose to me, for your curds and whey, the recipe.

*(Miss Muffet claps her hands with joy.)*

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh, well done, well done. We'll make a Nursery Rhymer of you yet. Well, let me see, you'll need twelve cups of fresh water, six cups of instant dry milk

powder, one to one and a half cups of white vinegar and half a teaspoon of salt.

**MARY MARY:** And don't forget to add just a pinch of mashed spider.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** (*Horried.*) No! No!

*(Runs back to her tuffet in tears. Georgie strides over and gives Mary Mary a big kiss. She bursts into tears.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I did warn you.

**GOLDBLOCKS:** This is driving me nuts.

*(Goldilocks goes over and slaps Mary Mary in the face. Mary Mary stops crying. Mary Mary does the same to Miss Muffet and she stops crying. Miss Muffet slaps Georgie Porgie.)*

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** What was that for?

**GOLDBLOCKS:** You've had that coming for a long time.

*(Simple Simon proffers his face.)*

Do you want a slap as well?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Oh, yes please.

*(She slaps his face, and he starts crying.)*

**GOLDBLOCKS:** What are you crying for?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I didn't know it was going to hurt.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Look Goldilocks, to be frank, I don't think this is working out. I'm beginning to see why the Bears have got such a bee in their bonnets about you. And anyway, now Learning Difficulties Simon has come back home, all three of him, I'm afraid there's just no room for you here. Maybe you should try the house that Jack built? They might be able to put you up, assuming they can put up with you.



**GOLDILOCKS:** Where's the house that Jack built?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** It's on the road to Banbury Cross. It's all sign-posted, you can't miss it. You can either walk or ride a cock-horse – there's one every ten minutes.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Is that a house full of nutcases, like this?

**MARY MARY:** No, it's full of spiders.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Oh shut up, Mary. Why don't you go and dig in your garden.

**MARY MARY:** (*Threatening:*) Have you seen my pretty maids? Would you like to join them? I'm sure I can find a place for you at the end of the row.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** Mary, Mary, don't be scary, you're scaring us half to death.

**GOLDILOCKS:** I tell you, this place is really doin my head in. I think I might take a hike.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** No, don't take a hike, take a bike – you'll get there a lot faster.

**MARY MARY:** Dear Goldilocks, do stay, it's such a pleasure having you with us.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Goldilocks, Goldilocks, please do stay, then we'll have some curds and whey.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Will I be safe here – can you protect me from the Three Bears?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I'll protect you, Goldilocks – you can count on me.

**GOLDILOCKS:** Can I, can I really count on you?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Of course you can – I'm a great counter. I can count all the way up to ten.

*(Simon starts to skip and clap and sing.)*

One, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive. Six, seven, eight, nine, ten, then I let it go again.

*(All the other characters join in.)*

**ALL:** *(In unison:)* Why did you let it go?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Because it bit my finger so.

**ALL:** *(In unison:)* Which finger did it bite?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** This little finger on my...

*(Simon stops and holds up his two little fingers.)*

Now which little finger was it. I can never remember – was it this little finger, or was it that little finger?

*(Door opens and JACK staggers in, clutching his head and wailing. He flops down into the chair.)*

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Jack, Jack, whatever is the matter?

**JACK:** Oh, my head hurts.

**MARY MARY:** Maybe he's been attacked by bears.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh no, surely not.

**GOLDILOCKS:** You see – I told you those bears were savage.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** This is nothing to do with bears – Jack simply fell down.

**JACK:** I think I've broken my crown.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** You've broken your crown? Let us help you, your majesty. Maybe we can fix it with some super glue.

**JACK:** My head, you simpleton!

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Well, why didn't you say so? You can't expect us to glue your head back together. Remember when

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Humpty Humpty fell off the wall – we couldn't put him back together again.

**MARY MARY:** Yes, but he was an egg, not a boy. What we need is vinegar and brown paper.

**JACK:** That's no use – what I need is a doctor. I'm sick, sick, sick. Fetch me a doctor, quick, quick, quick.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Doctor Foster's gone to Gloucester.

**JACK:** There's never a doctor around when you need one.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** I've got some vinegar.

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** I've got some brown paper somewhere.

**JACK:** Are you sure this is going to work?

**GEORGIE PORGIE:** It's worth a shot.

*(Georgie pulls out some brown paper from under his pullover, and Miss Muffet sprinkles vinegar all over it. They slap in on Jack's head.)*

Here, hold this in place.

*(Jack holds the soggy brown paper onto his head.)*

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Feeling any better?

**JACK:** I feel ridiculous.

**SIMPLE SIMON:** Can you put some on my little finger that the little fishy bit?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Which little finger?

**SIMPLE SIMON:** I don't know – it's either this one or that one. Put some on them both.

*(Miss Muffet applies the soggy brown paper.)*

**MARY MARY:** By the way, Jack, where's Jill?

**JACK:** Jill? How should I know where Jill is?

**MARY MARY:** Didn't she go up the hill with you, to fetch a pail of water?

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