

Come Back, Goldilocks!

A Comedy for Young Actors

By John Shanahan

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DEDICATION

To Martha, for always being there.

SYNOPSIS

Mama Bear is feeling bad about scaring off Goldilocks and wants to apologize. But she has no idea how to find her—and if it's even a good idea. When reporter Chicken Little gets wind of the story, the quest to find Goldi becomes a sensation all over Fairy Tale Wood and beyond! A sizable cast and cameos from well-known fairytale and nursery rhyme characters make this a super fun ride with a gentle message about making mistakes and finding forgiveness.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

“Come Back, Goldilocks” premiered on July 18, 2025, in a production by Theater Plus! of Marshfield, MA. Directed by Martha Sawyer. The show featured the following cast:

Mama Bear: Victoria Gassett, Baby Bear: Harper Chase, Papa Bear: Saskia Carlson, Lucy Goosey: Corinne Bennett, Sign Carriers: Mary Flaherty, Eleni Mullins, Luna North, and Oliver Trecartin, Goldilocks: Zoe Tanzie, Jill: Sydney Smolcha, Jack: Jakob Cramer, Chicken Little: Adelaide Badgley, Pinocchio: Molly Schoeck, Ashley “Little Miss” Muffet: Chloe Chase, Little Boy Blue: Abigail Schoeck, Three Pigs: Isabella Lane, Bernadette Luzitano, Layla O’Toole, Little Red Hen: Emma Trecartin, Puss in Boots: Ryan Wood, Gingerbread Person: Beau McAuley, Witch: Brianna Foley, Hare: Zander Donnelly.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 8 w, 8 flexible)

In order of appearance

MAMA BEAR

BABY BEAR

PAPA BEAR

LUCY GOOSEY

SIGN CARRIER (S)

GOLDBLOCKS

JILL

JACK

CHICKEN LITTLE

PINOCCHIO

ASHLEY "LITTLE MISS" MUFFET

LITTLE BOY BLUE

FIRST PIG

SECOND PIG

THIRD PIG

LITTLE RED HEN

PUSS IN BOOTS

GINGERBREAD PERSON

WITCH

HARE

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SETTINGS

BEARS' HOME: A comfy chair for Mama; beanbag chair or a big pillow on the floor for Baby; and a large hard wooden chair for Papa.

COFFEE SHOP: A café table and two chairs.

RESTAURANT: A booth or a table with chairs.

FAIRY TALE WOOD AND PARK: A forest background.

PROPS

Laptop

iPad

Mail

Coloring book and crayons

Coffee cups

Six illustrated "wanted" type flyers

Two microphones

Two VCR-style cameras (i.e., not a GoPro style)

Earbuds and phone

Phone

A large box marked "Gingerbread House Kit"

Envelope

WORDING FOR SIGNS

"MEANWHILE" (Handwritten "HI, MOM" and attached to the back of the sign.)

"BACK IN FAIRY TALE WOOD"

"YOU GET THE IDEA"

"AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER." ("WILD APPLAUSE!" attached to the back of the sign.)

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: The home of the three bears. MAMA BEAR sits in a comfy chair scrolling through her phone idly. BABY BEAR sits nearby in a beanbag chair on the floor or a big pillow, also on a device. There is also a large hard wooden chair for PAPA BEAR who enters, holding some mail.)

PAPA: Mail's here.

MAMA: *(Kind of sitting up.)* Anything good?

PAPA: Bills. More bills. Things for a sale at the Honey Shop.
That's it.

MAMA: *(Hesitantly.)* Nothing ... from her?

PAPA: You have to stop asking.

MAMA: I'm just—

PAPA: You're curious. I know.

MAMA: I just feel so bad about how we scared her off.

PAPA: I know.

BABY: I roared so loud!

MAMA: You did.

BABY: Because she was sleeping in my bed!

PAPA: Yup.

BABY: And I was already mad because she broke my chair.

PAPA: That surprised me. She didn't look that heavy.

MAMA: Well. *(SHE shrugs.)* Ikea.

PAPA: Fair enough. But Mama...all things considered that girl's not coming back any time soon. It's been weeks. And we scared her off.

MAMA: I know. I just wish we had a second chance. We're nice bears.

PAPA: We are.

BABY: I'm vicious!

PAPA: Of course you are.

(THEY growl playfully at each other.)

MAMA: Do you think anyone else in Fairy-Tale Wood might have seen her?

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PAPA: No one's ever mentioned it. But I've never really asked.

BABY: If she comes back, she can't break my beanbag!

MAMA: That's why we got it, dear. *(To PAPA.)* Maybe after our house, she went to someone else's.

PAPA: Because she wasn't done breaking furniture and stealing porridge?

MAMA: Maybe?

PAPA: That seems weird.

MAMA: Well, we did interrupt her nap.

BABY: In my bed!

MAMA: Maybe she was still tired, the poor thing,

PAPA: That's a whole lot of maybe, Mama. Look, it was strange, it happened, we scared her off, and it's over. A silly human came into Fairy Tale Wood, poked around, and got caught. We lost a batch of porridge and a chair.

BABY: *My chair!*

PAPA: It probably could have been worse.

MAMA: I know. I just wish we could tell her that we're sorry for scaring her.

BABY: I'm not!

MAMA: *(Sadly.)* We're nice bears.

(LIGHTS fade.)

Scene 2

(LIGHTS up on a cafe. MAMA BEAR and LUCY GOOSEY are at a table having coffee.)

MAMA: And like I said to Papa, we're nice bears.

LUCY: I've always thought so!

MAMA: Thank you, Lucy. I'm just not sure what to do. Papa says to forget about it, but I just can't.

LUCY: Well, it must have been very scary, finding someone in your house!

End of Freeview

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