

The Wolf and the Foolish Little Kids

A play in one act

By Bren Dubay

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Meet the Flanagans, a family of goats including the mother, Maureen, and her five children: Patrick, Bridget, Meghan, Cullen, and the youngest, Molly. Poor Molly is continually rebuffed by all her siblings because she is “too little.”

One day the local wolf, Alister Yorkshire, sees an opportunity to capture the kids alone at home. Alister’s impersonation of Maureen almost succeeds in tricking the kids, but Molly’s shrewd questions and keen hearing foil Alister’s plan. Before trying again, Alister swallows chalk because he has been told it will make one’s voice soft and smooth. But Molly sees his grey paws on the window sill and warns the others not to open the door no matter how sweet the voice. Alister covers his paws with dough and flour, and this time the door is opened before Molly has a chance to stop it.

The wolf sets about eating all the kids, except for Molly, who hides inside the clock case. But Molly is not to be outwitted just yet, and she is not going to allow her siblings to stay in the belly of a wolf no matter how “little” they think she is. Molly, with the help of her mother, devises a plan to rescue the other Flanagan children.

Ultimately the family ends the day with a festive dance and dinner and a whole new feeling about Molly for they know now, as she has always known, that she is not “so little” after all.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SIX GOATS: all members of the Flanagan family, and one wolf.

MOLLY FLANAGAN: The youngest of the Flanagan family. She's going to come of age.

MEGHAN FLANAGAN: The third born. She's clever but surly. She is particularly impatient with Molly.

CULLEN FLANAGAN: The fourth born. He sides with Meghan on most occasions.

BRIDGET FLANAGAN: The second born. A good soul.

PATRICK FLANAGAN: The first born. He always tries to live up to the responsibilities an eldest child bears.

MAUREEN FLANAGAN: The mother of the clan. She's a writer. She has an incredible fear of wolves.

ALISTER YORKSHIRE: A wolf. He's hungry and he wants to eat the Flanagans.

SCENE: The Flanagan family's house, yard, and the forest around their home.

TIME: The past when goats and wolves talked openly.

SETTING

Stage right is the interior of the Flanagan home; out the window and door stage left is the front yard. A substantial oak tree with a swing hanging from it dominates the yard; not far from the tree is a well. Near the well is a tree stump. The home is rustic and comfortable. Two rooms of it are revealed—a kitchen, the heart of this home, and the room. Actually, the only thing which separates the two rooms is a large fireplace along the back wall. In the kitchen there is a table, a stove, and assorted cupboards all big enough to hide in or under; in the study area is a large grandfather clock, a writing table and chair, and a cot all of which are large enough to hide in or under, too.

THE WOLF AND THE FOOLISH LITTLE KIDS

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up to reveal MAUREEN working at her writing table. Her five children are in the yard. MOLLY is in the swing; MEGHAN and CULLEN are playing marbles; BRIDGET is doing gymnastics; PATRICK is practicing his pipe tin whistle.)

MOLLY: *(Crosses to Meghan and Cullen.)* Can I play marbles, too?

MEGHAN: No.

CULLEN: You're too little. You don't know how.

MOLLY: I know how.

MEGHAN: Go away.

MOLLY: You could teach me how. I could learn.

MEGHAN: No. Go swing.

MOLLY: *(Crosses to Bridget.)* I learned how to do a somersault, Bridget.

BRIDGET: *(Continues her routine.)* That's good, Molly.

MOLLY: Can I show you?

BRIDGET: *(Continues her routine.)* Show me what?

MOLLY: My somersault.

BRIDGET: Not right now. You can show me later. Go on and play now. *(Continues her routine.)*

MOLLY: *(As she walks away, to herself.)* I'm trying to play. *(Crosses to Patrick.)* Will you show me how to play the pipe?

PATRICK: When you're bigger.

MOLLY: I am big.

PATRICK: Not to me.

MOLLY: Everybody treats me like a baby.

PATRICK: You are the baby.

MOLLY: Well, somebody better notice that I am growing up.

CULLEN: Patrick, let's play The Three Goats Gruff.

MOLLY: I want to be the troll.

MEGHAN: You can't be the troll. How utterly ridiculous.

MOLLY: Then I want to be the Great Big Goat Gruff.

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(MEGHAN & CULLEN look at each other and then break up laughing.)

PATRICK: Molly, you be the audience.

MOLLY: I don't want to watch.

BRIDGET: There are only four parts. You used to always like to watch us. This is how we always got you to smile.

MOLLY: When I was a baby. I am not a baby anymore. I'm older.

BRIDGET: You'll always be the baby goat to us.

MOLLY: Why did mother write the story with only four parts? Only four characters?

MEGHAN: She wrote it before you were born.

MOLLY: Well, I'm here now and I want a part. She can rewrite it.

MEGHAN: *(Is retrieving a board.)* Bridget.

(BRIDGET goes to help; THEY place board over tree stump and use it as a seesaw.)

PATRICK: Sit in the swing and watch us.

MOLLY: No.

PATRICK: *(Starts to exit.)* I'm going in.

CULLEN: *(Has gotten a barrel from the side of the house to help make a bridge.)* No, Patrick. *(Signals for the seesaw game to stop so the bridge can be built.)* Look, Meghan and I are building the bridge. Come on, you have to be the troll.

(HE and MEGHAN place the board over the tree stump and barrel; ALL but MOLLY prepare to act out the story. She sits in the swing.)

PATRICK: Once upon a time there were three Goats named Gruff who lived together on a mountainside.

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BRIDGET: (*Delivers line from the top of the well where she has climbed.*) Now on their mountainside there was very little to eat, but just across the way was a beautiful pasture of green grass.

PATRICK: (*Goes under bridge.*) On the way to this pasture they had to pass over a bridge, and under the bridge lived a big bad troll.

CULLEN: (*Starts across the bridge.*) One day, trip - trap, the youngest Goat Gruff started across the bridge.

PATRICK: Who trips over my bridge?

CULLEN: Only Littlest Goat Gruff.

PATRICK: Aha! I am going to come up and eat you.

CULLEN: Oh, don't eat me. My big sister is coming after me, and she is much bigger than I.

PATRICK: Oh, grumble and rumble. You may cross the bridge.

(*CULLEN crosses over the bridge.*)

MEGHAN: (*Starts across the bridge.*) Soon, trip - trap, trip - trap, the second Goat Gruff started across the bridge.

PATRICK: Who trips over my bridge!

MEGHAN: Only middle - sized Goat Gruff.

PATRICK: Aha! I am going to come up and eat you.

MEGHAN: Oh, don't eat me. My bigger sister is coming after me, and she is much bigger than I.

PATRICK: Oh, grumble and rumble. You may cross the bridge.

(*MEGHAN does.*)

BRIDGET: (*Starts across the bridge.*) Soon, trip - trap, trip - trap, the biggest Nanny Goat Gruff started across the bridge.

PATRICK: Who tramps over my bridge?

BRIDGET: It is I, Great Big Nanny Goat Gruff.

PATRICK: Aha! I am going to come up and eat you.

BRIDGET: Come along.

PATRICK: So up came the old troll.

End of Freeview

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