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The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs



Comedy/Fairy Tale by Linda Daugherty

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The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs

Comedy/Fairy Tale. By Linda Daugherty. Cast: 18 m. or w. (may double to 13). Three classic fairy tales (The Three Little Pigs, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and Goldilocks and the Three Bears) begin in their usual "once upon a time" fashion; however, this time things change on the way to "happily ever after" as the pigs wonder what life would be like if the wolf were not always at their door, the billy goats gruff can't face another trip-trap over the troll's bridge, and Papa Bear has had enough of the meddlesome little girl Goldilocks! Assisted by The Voice (struggling to narrate the changing stories) and three stagehands (desperately trying to juggle sets to keep the stories straight), the three trios join forces to re-write their stories, ridding themselves of their respective villains by exchanging them. In the process, the family audience is inspired to conquer their fears by taking control of their own lives. Area staging. Approximate running time: 1 hour.

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The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs

By
LINDA DAUGHERTY



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LINDA DAUGHERTY

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(THE SURPRISING STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS)

ISBN: 978-1-58342-548-0

This play is dedicated to Artie Olaisen,
a voice you can count on.

IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the play *must* give credit to the author of the play in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the play and in all instances in which the title of the play appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the play and/or a production. The name of the author *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. Biographical information, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

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The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs premiered at the Dallas Children's Theater (Robyn Flatt, Executive Artistic Director) on June 16, 2000, directed by Nancy Schaeffer.

Original Cast

The Voice Artie Olaisen*
Mother Pig/Stagehand #1/Mama Bear . . . Rosemary Kolbo
Pig #1 Karl Schaeffer*
Pig #2 Kyla D. Pitcher
Pig #3. Dwight Sandell*
The Man with Straw/Stagehand #3/Papa Bear . Brian Gonzales
Stagehand #2/Baby Bear Brandon Bales
Big Billy Goat Jeremiah Allen
Middle Billy Goat Heather Hammett
Little Billy Goat Jennifer Holloway
Wolf. Douglass Burks*
Troll Johnny Sequenzia
Goldilocks Lisa C. Jones

Original Production Staff

Scenic Designer Mary Therese D'Avignon
Costume Designer. Garry D. Lennon
Lighting Designer. Linda Blase
Properties Designer Rosemary Kolbo
Sound/FX Designer. Marco Salinas
Stage Manager Terrell Roykouff*

*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs

A Play in Two Acts
For 18 m/w, may double to 13

CHARACTERS (in order of appearance):

MOTHER PIG
PIG #1
PIG #2
PIG #3
THE MAN WITH STRAW
THE VOICE
STAGEHAND #1
STAGEHAND #2
STAGEHAND #3
BIG BILLY GOAT
MIDDLE BILLY GOAT
LITTLE BILLY GOAT
WOLF
TROLL
GOLDILOCKS
PAPA BEAR
MAMA BEAR
BABY BEAR

POSSIBLE DOUBLING:

STAGEHAND #2 / BABY BEAR
THE MAN WITH STRAW / STAGEHAND #3 / PAPA BEAR
MOTHER PIG / MAMA BEAR / STAGEHAND #1

[One of the THREE PIGS searches for a story without a huffing and puffing wolf. He stumbles upon the THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF.]

(*PIG #1 enters.*)

PIG #1. Excuse me.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Aaaaagh!!!

PIG #1. Oh, sorry. I didn't mean to frighten you. I didn't know anyone was here.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Who are you?!

PIG #1. I'm from the pig story. You know—"The Three Little Pigs." You've heard of it?

ALL BILLY GOATS. No.

PIG #1. Never mind. You are the three billy goats gruff, right?

BIG BILLY GOAT. Who wants to know?

PIG #1. Just this little piggy. Anyway, I don't mean to interrupt your story.

BIG BILLY GOAT. Well, you *are* interrupting.

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. Actually, this is not the story. We're having a discussion.

BIG BILLY GOAT. We're having an *argument!* And right in the middle of the story.

PIG #1. Now that's interesting. The same thing happened to us.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Us?

PIG #1. The three pigs. We were going along nicely and then, well, I was hungry and I sat down to eat. It just seemed to set everyone off.

BIG BILLY GOAT. They set off? I wish we would set off.

PIG #1. What I mean is my change of the normal routine seemed to get everyone's goat. Oh, no, no, I shouldn't put it that way. What I mean to say is that the three of us started to butt heads—oh, dear—I'm really in a mud-

dle here. I didn't mean to horn in—oh, my—forgive me.

It's just that I couldn't take it anymore.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. You, too! I know what you mean!

BIG BILLY GOAT. Couldn't take what? The troll?

PIG #1. No, no. Our story has a wolf.

ALL BILLY GOATS. A wolf?

PIG #1. He's a hairy, sneaky fellow with sharp, vicious teeth.

(GOATS shudder together.)

BIG BILLY GOAT. See, we don't have it so bad.

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. Tell us more.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Yes, tell us your story.

(PIG #1 acts out story with GOATS reacting.)

PIG #1. We three pigs say goodbye to our mother who has packed our snacks and we go out into the wide, wide world to make our fortunes.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Lucky pigs, they don't have to cross over a troll-infested bridge for something to eat.

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT & BIG BILLY GOAT. Sssh!

PIG #1. At last we reach the wide, wide world and I build my house of straw.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Straw?! Ah ha!!!

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT & BIG BILLY GOAT. Sssh!

PIG #1. Then the wolf comes along and he huffs and he puffs and he blows my house down.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Oh, no!

PIG #1. I barely escape to my sibling's house of sticks. Not so charming as my house of straw but certainly more substantial.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Go on, go on!

PIG #1. Then the wolf comes and he huffs and he puffs and he blows the stick house down.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. What a nightmare!

PIG #1. So we two run for our lives to our brother's house of bricks. Strong, warm but absolutely no charm—

ALL BILLY GOATS. Go on, go on!

PIG #1. Once again that wolf tries his “Little pig, little pig, let me come in” bit. And we three answer, “Not by the hair of our chinny, chin, chin.”

ALL BILLY GOATS. Oh, good one!

PIG #1. Well, of course we pigs are too smart to fall for that so the wolf retorts with, “Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!”

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Not again!

BIG BILLY GOAT. So what happens?!

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. The wolf blows the brick house down?!

PIG #1. Oh, no. The brick house is too strong so the wolf disguises himself in a sheep getup.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Do you fall for it?

PIG #1. No! No way are we intelligent pigs leaving our house of bricks.

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. Then what happens?

PIG #1. The wolf climbs on the roof and down the chimney to get us.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Aaggh!

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. Oh, mercy!

BIG BILLY GOAT. Doomed!

PIG #1. Well, of course not. We clever pigs have a pot of water boiling on the fire.

ALL BILLY GOATS. Yes!

PIG #1. The wolf falls in, shrieks, and “zip” he’s up that chimney and never seen again!

ALL BILLY GOATS. Whew!

PIG #1. Until—

ALL BILLY GOATS. Oh, no!

PIG #1. Once upon a time...

ALL BILLY GOATS. Once upon a time...?

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. That has a familiar ring.

PIG #1. So that’s how our story goes. So, when I found out there were other stories, I simply had to, to... (*Collapsing with emotion.*) I had to find a story without a wolf! Could I, could I please be in your story?

ALL BILLY GOATS. “The Three Billy Goats Gruff and a Pig”?

BIG BILLY GOAT. Huddle!

(GOATS huddle and converse.)

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. This is certainly new territory.

BIG BILLY GOAT. I say “no” to a pig in our story.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Didn’t I tell you that straw was a sign?

BIG BILLY GOAT. I say, “No pigs!”

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. We can’t send that pig back to be eaten by the wolf.

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. I know, I know! Let the *pig* cross the bridge. If the pig makes it safe and sound, we’ll know that everything is just fine with our story.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. But what if the pig gets eaten by the troll?

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. That would be too bad for the pig. But then the troll would be full and happy.

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. And I could trip trap safely across the bridge!

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT & BIG BILLY GOAT. Bingo!

(GOATS break out of huddle.)

ALL BILLY GOATS. Welcome to our story!!!

PIG #1. Oh, thank you! I certainly don't think you goats deserve your name.

BIG BILLY GOAT. What do you mean?

PIG #1. Well, billy goats *gruff*. You're not *gruff* at all. You're all extremely sympathetic.

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT *(to BIG BILLY GOAT)*. Oh, now I feel bad!

BIG BILLY GOAT. Quiet! *(Sweetly enticing PIG #1.)* Why don't you join in right now and cross over the bridge?

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. And we'll meet you in the wide, wide meadow.

PIG #1 *(nervously)*. The troll is, um, beneath this very bridge?

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Right, you go first.

PIG #1. No, I couldn't. After you.

ALL BILLY GOATS. No, after you.

PIG #1. No, after you.

ALL BILLY GOATS. We *insist*!

PIG #1. You're too kind! (*To self.*) A troll? How scary can a troll be? Certainly better than a wolf. (*PIG #1 starts to cross bridge.*) Trip trap, trap trap. Oh, my...

TROLL's VOICE (*ominously*). Who's that trip trapping on my bridge?!

(*PIG #1 continues to nervously cross bridge as PIG #2 and PIG #3 sneak on.*)

PIG #1. Uh, trip trap, trip trap, trip trap—

PIG #2 & PIG #3 (*grabbing PIG #1*). There you are!

PIG #1. Aaggh!!!! Oh, it's you! (*In a nervous whisper.*)

For mercy's sake, pipe down. I'm crossing a dangerous bridge here.

ALL BILLY GOATS. What?! Now we have *three* pigs?!

PIG #2 & PIG #3 (*seeing GOATS*). Aaggh!!!

PIG #1. Don't be alarmed. It's just the three billy goats gruff.

PIG #2. It's true!

PIG #3. There *are* other stories!

PIG #1. Yes, and I'm in this one because—

PIG #2. I know! Because they don't have a *wolf*. You have a, uh—

ALL BILLY GOATS. Troll.

PIG #3 (*to GOATS*). No wolf in this story?

ALL BILLY GOATS. *No wolf.*

PIG #3. Sounds like a great story to me.

PIG #2. I love this story! It's just perfect. We'll bring Mother. We'll cross over the bridge to the wide meadow and have a picnic. This is my idea of a story!

BIG BILLY GOAT. Wait a minute.

ALL BILLY GOATS. What about us?

ALL PIGS. You can have *our* story!

BIG BILLY GOAT. You can't just barge in here and take over our story! And, besides, goats hate wolves!

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. Wolves eat goats!

LITTLE BILLY GOAT. Wolves with sharp, drooling teeth make even trolls look good!

MIDDLE BILLY GOAT. Well, I wouldn't go that far.

VOICE OF TROLL. Who's that trip trapping on my bridge?!

GOATS & PIGS. Aaggh!!!

PIG #2 & PIG #3. What was that?!

PIG #1 (*trying to be confident*). Only Mr. Troll.

(WOLF appears over rail of bridge behind PIGS.)

WOLF. Little pig, little pig, let me come in?

ALL BILLY GOATS. You're not a troll!

ALL PIGS (*frozen at seeing WOLF*). You're the wolf!

(TROLL appears over rail of bridge.)

TROLL. Bingo! I Troll!

GOATS & PIGS. Aaggh!!!!