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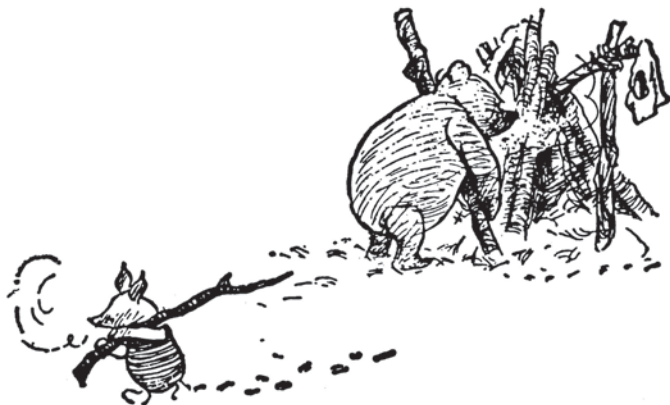
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Dramatic Publishing



THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER

By A. A. MILNE

A PLAY FOR EVERYONE

Adapted by Bettye Knapp



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY



**And Eeyore got his house
at last . . .**

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A PLAY IN THREE ACTS

A. A. MILNE'S

The House at Pooh Corner

ADAPTED BY

BETTYE KNAPP



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY



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THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER

A Play in Three Acts

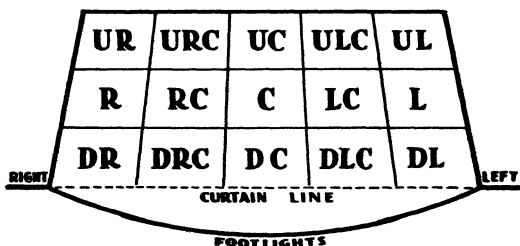
For Eleven Characters and a Voice

CHARACTERS

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN..... *a small boy*
WINNIE-THE-POOH..... *a teddy bear*
PIGLET..... *a small pig*
OWL..... *an owl*
EEYORE..... *a donkey*
TIGGER..... *a tiger*
KANGA..... *a mother kangaroo*
ROO..... *her child*
RABBIT..... *a rabbit*
EARLY..... *a niece of Rabbit*
LATE..... *another niece*
VOICE..... *an adult*

EXTRAS (*other residents of the forest*)
may be added

CHART OF STAGE POSITIONS



STAGE POSITIONS

Upstage means away from the footlights, *downstage* means toward the footlights, and *right* and *left* are used with reference to the actor as he faces the audience. R means *right*, L means *left*, U means *up*, D means *down*, C means *center*, and these abbreviations are used in combination, as: UR for *up right*, RC for *right center*, D L C for *down left center*, etc. A territory designated on the stage refers to a general area, rather than to a given point.

NOTE: Before starting rehearsals, chalk off your stage or rehearsal space as indicated above in the *Chart of Stage Positions*. Then teach your actors the meanings and positions of these fundamental terms of stage movement by having them walk from one position to another until they are familiar with them. The use of these abbreviated terms in directing the play saves time, speeds up rehearsals, and reduces the amount of explanation the director has to give to his actors.

ACT ONE

Scene One

SCENE: The Woods. There is a large tree painted on the backdrop, and on the wings there are partial outlines of trees or their shadows. Some branches in concealed pots in the foreground will give the effect that the stage is within the forest. There is a Sitting Stone, with a half circle of stools placed in front of it. (A low bench covered with dark burlap may serve as the Sitting Stone, or, if convenient, an actual stone may be used.) At one side there is the painted front of a little house marked "POOH'S COTTAGE". On it hangs a sign with "RNIG" painted on it.

There is a large, crudely lettered sign:

MERGENCY MEETING
KINELY BE ON TIME
THIS MEANS YOU.
GONE OUT. BACKSON.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Before the curtain rises there is flute music, and as the curtain rises, bird calls are heard.

AT RISE OF CURTAIN: EARLY RABBIT enters. She has a skipping rope and occasionally uses it for a hop or two. EARLY RABBIT is followed more slowly by RABBIT, who has a carrot in her hand.

RABBIT

(Grumbling)

We're the first ones here! I said we'd be early.

EARLY

But I have to be Early--that's my name.

(KANGA enters, leading ROO by the hand)

KANGA

Better early than late, I always say.

(To ROO)

You see, dear, there was plenty of time to take your bath. Just as I told you!

ROO

But I'd already had my bath.

KANGA

Yes, but you played outside afterwards, dear. We never go to a Mergency Meeting unless we're nice and clean.

RABBIT

I expect I may as well finish my breakfast.

(Sits on a stool and nibbles at carrot)

KANGA

(Eying it suspiciously)

Did you scrub that carrot well? It looks to me as if it needs a nice scraping.

RABBIT

It looks to me the way I like carrots to look.

(To ROO)

Want a bite?

(ROO is interested)

ROO

Sure.

KANGA

(Drawing ROO away)

Later, dear.

(Offstage the "Tiddely Pom" song is heard, and POOH enters DL, followed by PIGLET. They are wearing long mufflers around their necks)

RABBIT

Oh, Pooh--Piglet, we've been waiting for you.
Did you find him?

POOH

Not yet.

ROO

Find who?

KANGA

Whom, dear.

POOH

We were looking for Owl. And so while we looked
I've been trying to teach Piglet some "tiddely poms."

PIGLET

It's hard to get them exactly right.

KANGA

What are "tiddely poms"?

POOH

Part of my song, of course. They make it much

more hummy. It's my special Outdoor Song Which
Has To Be Sung In The Snow.

(He sings)

The more it Snows--

PIGLET

(Singing)

Tiddely pom,

POOH

The more it Goes--

PIGLET

Tiddely pom,

POOH

The more it goes--

PIGLET

Tiddely pom,

POOH

On Snowing.

And nobody knows--

PIGLET

Tiddely pom,

POOH

How cold my toes--

PIGLET

Tiddely pom,

POOH

How cold my toes--

PIGLET

Tiddely pom,

POOH

Are growing.

PIGLET

Tiddely pom.

POOH

No, Piglet, there isn't a "tiddely pom" at the end.
Only in between.

KANGA

Well, to me it doesn't seem a very suitable song.
All about snow.

POOH

But that's the way songs are. You get them ready
ahead of time.

KANGA

(Brightening)
Like cleaning house?

POOH

(Doubtfully)
I guess so.

(EEYORE enters, the very figure of gloom)

EEYORE

I heard your song, Pooh. Ah, it's a sad, sad
world! All that snow coming!

KANGA

Today's a lovely day.

EEYORE

(Ignoring her)

Snowstorms and blizzards coming, as sure as
thistles go to seed!

EARLY

(Alarmed and glancing offstage uneasily,
pulling at Rabbit's arm)

Which way are they coming from, Auntie Rabbit?

RABBIT

Ssh! It's just Eeyore. He's a pessimist.

EARLY

What's a pessimist, Auntie?

RABBIT

Ssh!

(EARLY retreats and skips her rope a time
or two. ROO joins her and in pantomime
tries to get her to let her try it. Presently
EARLY hands the rope to ROO. As ROO
is about to try it, KANGA notices and hastily
crosses to them. She takes the rope
from ROO and returns it to EARLY, then
leads the petulant ROO firmly away by the
hand, evidently murmuring admonitions to
her)

EEYORE

However, we haven't had an earthquake lately.

POOH

What's the matter, Eeyore? You seem even sadder
than usual.

EEYORE

Nothing, Pooh. Nothing important. But while you

and Piglet are tiddely-pomming, I too have my thoughts about snow.

POOH

(Cheerfully)

Okay. You listened to my thoughts. I'll listen to yours. Tell us.

EEYORE

Oh, mine aren't important--that is, to anybody but me. It's just that standing out in a cold windy pasture, I sometimes get to thinking about a house. Especially about three in the morning.

KANGA

(Interested)

A house? What sort of a house?

EEYORE

A warm house. But since it's only Eeyore standing out in the blizzard, who cares?

POOH

I'm sorry, Eeyore.

PIGLET

(Brightly)

Maybe if you tried singing a few tiddely poms you'd feel better.

(EEYORE turns and glares balefully at PIGLET, who edges away and goes around behind POOH for protection)

KANGA

(Glancing sternly at PIGLET)

A cold house is no joke, Piglet. Standing out in a blizzard it's easy to contract pneumonia.

PIGLET

(Abjectly)

I don't want Eeyore to be cold or contract anything.

POOH

I think we should ask Christopher Robin what to do about a house for Eeyore. Where IS Christopher Robin anyway?

KANGA

He called the Mergency Meeting. He should be here.

RABBIT

Backson called it, too.

POOH

Who's Backson?

RABBIT

I don't know. Maybe a friend of Christopher Robin. But he signed his name to the announcement first. See.

(Indicates)

It's signed Backson right over Christopher Robin.

KANGA

Oh, dear, maybe Mr. Backson wants to move into our forest.

ROO

(Eagerly)

Have the Backsons any children?

KANGA

(Primly)

I'm sure I don't know. It could make a lot of

trouble if the wrong sort of family moved in.

PIGLET

It might be fun to know some kids one could have snow fights with.

ROO

(Eagerly coming forward)

That'd be great!

KANGA

(Drawing her back gently but firmly)

You might tear your clothes, dear.

PIGLET

(Eagerly)

Maybe we could make mudpies with the Backson children.

ROO

(Capering)

Mudpies! Hooray. Let's go find the Backson kids!

KANGA

(Horrified)

Play with mud!

(Takes Roo's hand firmly)

Some other time, dear.

RABBIT

(Staring up into tree in wings)

You'd think wherever Owl is she'd come home some time. But there's not a sign of her, and her curtains are all pulled down.

KANGA

Maybe she's asleep. Owl sleeps far too much, if

you ask me. It's unhealthy to take so many naps in the daytime.

ROO

I could climb up and ring her doorbell.

KANGA

And get your clean dress all dirty? No, dear.

EEYORE

Well, don't anyone look at me. I won't climb up there. Nobody ever does me a favor. Why should I risk my bones for them? Standing all night in a cold pasture with the snow getting in my ears. And nobody cares. Absolutely no one.

POOH

I said we'd take it up at the Mergency Meeting.

(Pauses and cocks his head)

I hear someone coming.

PIGLET

Maybe it's Owl.

RABBIT

Or Christopher Robin.

KANGA

Or Mr. Backson.

EARLY

It's my sister. Hello, Late.

(LATE enters, trailing her skipping rope behind her listlessly)

RABBIT

It's one of my nieces. I have twenty-nine--I think.

That is, at the last count.

LATE

I'm Late.

KANGA

(Kindly)

We see that. But it doesn't really matter, dear, for Christopher Robin and Mr. Backson and Owl are even later.

LATE

I mean that's my name. Late Rabbit.

KANGA

Well! Better late than never.

ROO

Where's never, Mama?

KANGA

Hush, Roo.

ROO

But where is it?

KANGA

It's a black hole at the end of the forest.

ROO

But----

KANGA

Another time, dear. Ah--there he is!

(CHRISTOPHER ROBIN enters)