



Herb and Lois Walker's

SCRIPTS FOR  
SCHOOLS

Over-worked and  
Underpaid: Labour  
Unrest in Fairytale  
Land

By Christine Harvey

Running time: 45 minutes

25 speaking roles

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## **TP-4 Overworked and Underpaid: Labour Dispute in Fairytale Land**

**Cast: 25 Characters**

**Mama Bear  
Papa Bear  
Baby Bear  
Puss In Boots  
Witch  
Wolf  
Troll  
Pirate  
Dragon  
Ogre  
Goldilocks  
Red Riding Hood  
Granny  
Pig # 1, 2, & 3  
Robin Hood  
Sleeping Beauty  
Frog Prince  
Servant # 1, 2, 3, & 4  
King  
Mother Goose**

.....

### **Scene 1 (The Bears' Bomb Shelter)**

**Mama Bear:** Wow, that dinner was delicious. A little too hot, though. Better lay off the chili peppers next time. We need to ration them – we don't want to deplete our provisions too drastically.

**Papa Bear:** With all the food we have stored, we're set until Baby Bear is ready for college. There's no danger of running short. And if you want less spice, then make dinner yourself. That food was too mild for me.

**Baby Bear:** I liked it.

*(Papa Bear sits down and finds a long blonde hair on his armchair.)*

**Papa Bear:** Ugh, a golden hair on my armchair. Are we ever going to get rid of them? I found one stuck between my teeth yesterday.

**Mama Bear:** At least we won't have any more intruders, now that we've moved into our wonderful underground bomb shelter.

**Papa Bear:** Ah, yes. One year, five months, nine days, seventeen hours...and counting...of undisturbed peace and quiet. No more flippant blonde vagabonds stealing the food from our baby's mouth and breaking our most prized possessions.

**Baby Bear:** No one except me will ever sleep in my bed again.

*(Little Red Riding Hood skips past and throws a newspaper in the bears' mail tube.)*

**Papa Bear:** Oh look. Here's the paper. The mail tube must be working again. *(Papa Bear begins reading the newspaper.)* Scandalous! Look at this, Mama Bear. There they are again, front-page news. I'm so tired of seeing that warty old witch's face, and her heathen henchmen aren't much better. Did anyone notice when our home was brutally invaded? No. Did anyone come to interview us? Of course not. Newspapers! What are they good for? The fire, that's what.

*(Papa Bear tears the paper up, stomps on it, and throws it into the fire before Mama Bear can stop him.)*

**Mama Bear:** Papa Bear, calm down. You shouldn't get so worked up over these things.

**Papa Bear:** Those evil characters just make me so mad sometimes.

**Mama Bear:** I know, but I wanted to read that article. It's important to stay informed about the outside world. *(Mama Bear looks at the shreds of torn paper.)* I guess I'll have to watch the news instead. I'll turn on the television, unless anyone objects. *(Papa Bear grumbles.)* I didn't think so.

*(Mama Bear turns on the TV, and the scene shows what the bears are watching. A witch and her supporters are protesting on the palace steps. They are holding signs that say things like, "Equal representation for ALL story characters," and, "Have you hugged a troll today?" and, "Ogres have feelings too!")*

**Puss In Boots:** *(talking into a microphone, looking out into the audience)* I'm Puss In Boots for FTTV, with a special report live from the royal palace where protesters are still clogging the steps, demanding that the king adhere to their demands. It has been four weeks since the witches, trolls, ogres, wolves, and dragons have refused to appear in their customary places in the fairytale hierarchy. All trade in storytelling has been put on hold until one side or the other gives in. It is unclear how long the strike will last. I'm here with the Wicked Witch, self-appointed leader of the cabal. Witch, what do you have to tell the viewing public?

**Witch:** I want to make it clear to the fairytale community at large that we will never give up until our demands are met. Your stories, and the stories of your descendants, will never be completed unless we are allowed our rightful places within storytelling tradition.

**Puss In Boots:** And what are your demands?

**Witch:** We have prepared a list of claims against this empire. *(The Witch reaches into a file folder that she is carrying.)* The first item regards... Where is the list? It was supposed to be at the front of this file folder. *(She turns to the Wolf.)* Wolf, where is that list?

**Wolf:** I don't know boss. Shorty here was supposed to take care of it. *(The Wolf points to the Troll.)*

**Troll:** Hey! I'm not short. I just have bad posture.

**Pirate:** Yaar, there was once a time when my shipmates and I would have cracked your hunched-over bones. Yaar, those were the good old days.

**Wolf:** Hey, big guy. You got that list, or did you eat it?

**Dragon:** Oh, that's right, blame the dragon. Something is missing, so it must be the dragon's fault. A princess disappears, and who do they condemn? The dragon, of course. No one trusts the dragon. Just because I happen to enjoy burning villages and devouring townspeople, I get no respect. It isn't fair. It isn't right...

**Witch:** Are you finished? Ogre, do you know where the list is?

**Ogre:** What? Are you talking to me?

**Witch:** Yes. Have you seen the list?

**Ogre:** What? Clean my wrist? Why?

**Witch:** List. I need the list.

**Ogre:** Oh, the list. *(The Ogre takes the list out of his ear.)* I knew it was important so I put it in my ear to keep it safe. *(The Ogre passes the list to the Witch.)*

**Witch:** *(smoothing out the list)* Well, it might be a little difficult to read through the earwax, but it's the only copy we have. Our first demand is that the workload for evil fairytale characters be reduced to a reasonable amount. Every fairytale has a villain who is a witch, a wolf, an ogre, a dragon, or a troll.

**Pirate:** Or a pirate, ye bloated windbag.

**Witch:** Who's doing the talking here, Peg Leg? Me. I put in eighteen-hour days rushing from Rapunzel to Snow White to those little brats Hansel and Gretel to whichever law-abiding citizen needs abducting next. We deserve some leisure time just like everyone else. For once I'd like to see a princess kidnap another princess. If I have to turn one more prince into a frog, my wand is going to spontaneously combust. And for the record, I am so sick of children stew.

**Puss In Boots:** Do you have any other requests?

**Witch:** Yes, we insist that the evil characters be subsidized for the employment-related purchases they regularly make, such as broomsticks, caves, cauldrons, and claw-care kits. If we are going to expose our possessions to such hazards, we should get some kind of compensation. And on that note, we move to our third item. Evil doing is a very dangerous occupation. It is only natural that we should be given insurance packages to cover our medical and dental care, home maintenance, theft, and fire.

**Pirate:** Yaar, and flooding.

*(Goldilocks enters and the bears gasp.)*

**Goldilocks:** Oh good, the cameras are still here. *(Goldilocks starts looking through her pockets for her script.)*

**Mama Bear:** How did she get out of jail?

**Papa Bear:** They granted her parole, remember? It just goes to show that the justice system is completely ineffective.

**Goldilocks:** (*grabs Puss In Boot's microphone*) Here, I have my script prepared. (*Goldilocks reads from the script.*) After I broke into The Three Bears' home, there was simply no excitement left for me in the life of a goody-goody little girl. I had my first taste of mutiny, and I liked it.

**Pirate:** Mutiny, yaar. I know all about mutiny. In the good old days, we spiced our soup and sweetened our tea with mutiny. Mutiny was my middle name. It was the name of our ship. Also, it's the name of my cruel and dangerous parrot.

**Goldilocks:** That is very interesting, but it's my life they want to hear about.

**Witch:** Put a sock in it, Goldie, or I'll turn your pretty eyelashes into spiders. (*Goldilocks pouts and Puss In Boots takes back the microphone. The Witch turns back to Puss In Boots.*) I'm sure you understand the burden of our position.

**Puss In Boots:** Yes, of course. Thank you very much for your commentary. This is Puss In Boots for FTTV. Now, back to the station with...

**Witch:** Hold it right there. We're not done, kitty cat. We have one final policy. We insist that a series of distinctions be granted to the evil community. We want Halloween to become a statutory holiday, an annual evil prize to recognize the most diabolical among us, a prime-time sitcom, a two-week paid vacation, and a park named in our honour. Grant us our commands, citizens of Fairytale Land, or face the dire consequences.

*(The evil characters break into diabolical laughter as they resume picketing.)*

**Puss In Boots:** We've already suffered some of the consequences of the evil characters' wrath. The economy has ground to a halt without the villains' participation in our stories. If diplomacy fails, what will happen next? This is Puss In Boots for FTTV. Now we really will

return to the station with some remarks from a group of spokes-characters selected on behalf of the community of good.

*(The good characters enter, including Red Riding Hood, Granny, Pigs, Robin Hood, and Sleeping Beauty. They address the audience as if they are reporting from a television station.)*

**Red Riding Hood:** I'm speaking on behalf of myself and my grandmother when I say that we must stand united against this uprising. Wolves should not be permitted to run about, free to feast on grannies for their own pleasure, never mind being given insurance for it.

**Granny:** You tell them, Red. My hip is still out of joint ever since that wolf kicked me out of bed and stole my nightgown. That wolf needs to be taught some manners.

**Pig # 1:** We agree with Red's assessment of the situation.

**Pig # 2:** We have all lost friends to the wolf's insatiable appetite.

**Pig # 3:** That wolf won't get any insurance from us.

**Pig # 1, 2, & 3:** Not by the hair of our chinny, chin, chins.

**Pig # 1:** He can huff and puff all he wants.

**Robin Hood:** That's right, evil characters. We know how to handle your kind in my neck of the woods. So you'd better stay clear of Sherwood Forest, or my Merry Men will use you for target practice.

**Sleeping Beauty:** *(yawning between words)* I think...that we should make them go away...somehow. I'm so tired of their complaining...and whining...and cackling.... A person can't get any sleep around here.

*(Sleeping Beauty falls asleep and starts snoring. The Frog Prince enters.)*

**Frog Prince:** *(to everyone)* Well, here I am. What were your other two wishes? *(The Frog Prince walks over to Red Riding Hood.)* Hey, how you doing, darling? What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this? Would you care to help out a poor frog? Just a little kiss? *(The Frog Prince puckers his lips.)*

**Red Riding Hood:** Um, I'm not a princess.

*(The Frog Prince looks at Granny.)*

**Granny:** And neither am I, sonny.

**Frog Prince:** Oh terribly sorry. *(The Frog Prince walks over to The Three Pigs.)* Hello. I'm Mr. Right. Someone said you were looking for me.

**Pig # 1, 2, & 3:** *(all pointing to Sleeping Beauty)* Over there, Romeo.

**Frog Prince:** Right. *(The Frog Prince approaches Sleeping Beauty who is still snoring.)* How you doing, sweetheart? Your lips look so lonely. Would they like to meet mine? *(Sleeping Beauty snores louder.)* Okay, let's try – I'm a thief, and I'm here to steal your heart. *(The sound of Sleeping Beauty's snoring escalates again.)* Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?

*(Servants enter.)*

**Servant # 1:** Make way...

**Servant # 2:** Make way for the king.

**Servant # 3:** Presenting his Royal Highness.

**Servant # 4:** All hail the king.

*(The king enters and everyone bows.)*

**King:** Ahem. I have a royal announcement. I, King of Fairytale Land, declare that this strike is a complete downer. Ever since those radical socialists went on strike, I've been unable to sit in my counting house and count my money. Their chanting and pacing makes me lose track of where I am. What is up with this evil labour union disrupting my thriving little kingdom? Those evil characters terrorize my faithful subjects and now they want to be compensated. Who do they think they are anyway?

**Red Riding Hood:** Excuse me, Your Majesty. We are also disheartened by this event, but what are you going to do about it?

**King:** What can I do about it? I've tried everything. I bellow out my window at them. I send my guards out to get rid of them. I've even passed a decree stating that strikes are illegal in Fairytale Land, but those rebels have no respect for the law or for the king's authority. I've even threatened to imprison and behead them, but those punks aren't afraid of me.

**Red Riding Hood:** Your Majesty, excuse me for saying so, but why do we have a king, if not to deal with situations like this?

**King:** Young lady, what a preposterous question! Of course I'm not equipped to handle this. Nothing like this was ever written into fairytales. Negotiating was definitely not part of my job description.

**Red Riding Hood:** But you have to help us. You are the king.

**King:** That's right. I am the king. I make declarations, pass arbitrary laws, produce simpering princesses, stockpile gold, wear purple capes, and look regal in a crown. Now if you'll excuse me, I have some daughters to betroth.

*(The servants hold the king's cape as he exits.)*

**Puss In Boots:** It seems that there is little hope to be found in the community of good...

*(Papa Bear turns off the TV in frustration. The TV scene ends and all TV characters exit.)*

**Papa Bear:** I've had enough of this. It's time for my nice firm bed.

**Mama Bear:** And what a nice soft bed I have.

**Baby Bear:** I don't want to go to bed.

*(The Three Bears exit.)*

## **Scene 2 (The Evil Characters' Hideout)**

*(The evil characters are sitting in their hideout, sorting through a pile of letters.)*

**Witch:** *(reading a letter)* Look at this. We have absolutely no supporters among the population. This is from Snow White. *(The*

*Witch reads the letter.*) "I have a park named in my honour, but you'll never get yours. How do you like them apples?"

**Dragon:** *(reading another letter)* This one says, "Dragon, get some Tic Tacs or something. Signed, I can smell your bad breath from here." Well, that was rude and unnecessary.

**Pirate:** *(reading another letter)* And look here. *(The Pirate reads the letter.)* "Dear Mr. Pirate, how did you manage to hold up a sign when you only have one hand?" *(The Pirate throws the letter down.)* That scurvy Peter Pan. I'll twiddle his elbows and frizzle his gizzard and...and spraddle his...arrh...baby toe.

**Ogre:** *(reading another letter)* I can read this one. It says, "Go...away."

**Dragon:** We just don't get any respect.

**Witch:** What are we going to do? I don't understand why they won't listen to our demands. We're very reasonable people.

**Wolf:** Speak for yourself, boss.

**Dragon:** Yeah, people don't have sharp teeth like ours. *(The Dragon points to his teeth and the Wolf's teeth and they high five each other.)*

**Witch:** Whatever, whatever. We've spent a month on the picket line, we've sent petitions to the king, we've tried to rally support with appeals through the media, but our cries have fallen on deaf ears.

**Troll:** It's the same old story. Those good fairytale characters have no honour and no sense of fairness. They don't listen to us, and they never keep their promises. They treat us as if we are below them or something. They say, "Oh yes, Mr. Troll. I'll give you my first born if you turn this straw into gold for me." Then you come to collect and they whine, and beg, and make deals and excuses, and the law is always on their side. Just like with those three billy goats moving in next door. I asked them to keep it down when they stomp across my bridge, but no. And I'm the one who gets evicted, even though I was there first.

**Dragon:** The troll is right. Nothing is ever going to change. We can't win against them. Maybe we should just give up. I'm ready to throw

in the towel on this strike and go back to burning houses for minimum wage.

**Wolf:** Oh, that's a bad idea, Dragon. You don't want to know what evil characters do to dragons that oppose their union. A union is like a family, see, and you don't ever want to upset the family. You're either with us or against us. What's it going to be, Dragon?

**Dragon:** I'm with you, of course. I was just venting, that's all.

**Pirates:** Aye, don't be talking like that anymore, or you may find yourself walking the plank.

**Goldilocks:** I really think that we are going to win this strike. I mean, I understand your apprehensions, because they never listen to you, but you never had me helping you before. In the past, you have lacked charm and fashion sense, but now your worries are over. I get everything I want, because nobody can ever say "no" to this beautiful face. (*Goldilocks points to her face.*)

**Ogre:** Maybe we need a new plan.

**Troll:** I think we've been going about this the wrong way. We've been following the rules, and that's just not our style. We need to do things the evil character way. We need to bend the rules. Better yet, let's just break them.

**Ogre:** Like how?

**Troll:** I propose that we send out teams of our comrades to take hostages among the enemy, and hold them until our ransom demands are fulfilled.

**Ogre:** But that would be kidnapping.

**Troll:** It's not really kidnapping – it's borrowing.

**Pirate:** Aye, and for our ransom we will demand seven chests full of gold doubloons, three fast-sailing sloops, twenty ropes of deep-sea pearls...

**Goldilocks:** And a red convertible and some fur coats, and some Armani sunglasses...

**Witch:** Enough. Remember what we're here for. This is about our fundamental rights.

**Wolf:** Yeah, our fundamental rights.

**Witch:** As long as I don't have to deal with any of those annoying princesses, the plan has my approval. It might be the only way to get what we want. Are we all in agreement about Plan Ransom? (*All the evil characters nod.*) Okay, our mission is to kidnap as many good fairytale characters as we can. Use any means necessary. Whoever brings in the most hostages will get the corner office in our new headquarters. Synchronize your watches.

*(The evil characters synchronize their watches and then exit.)*

### **Scene 3 (A Street in Fairytale Land)**

**Ogre:** (*carrying a big bag across the stage*) Good thing I didn't have to catch more than seven dwarves. I can't count any higher than seven. The corner office will be mine.

*(The Ogre exits. Witch enters pushing Sleeping Beauty in front of her. Sleeping Beauty walks as if she is sleepwalking.)*

**Witch:** Keep sleepwalking, my pretty. You'll be tucked into your nice cell soon. Dream of roses, fairies, and princes, for your waking will be much less pleasant.

*(The Witch and Sleeping Beauty exit. The Wolf and the Dragon enter pulling the three pigs, Red Riding Hood, and her Granny who are tied to a long rope. The Three Pigs are snorting. The Wolf is wearing Granny's nightcap and glasses.)*

**Wolf:** Quiet with the snorting, or I'll carve up three pork roasts for the mob's main course.

**Red Riding Hood:** Slow down, you heartless beast. Granny can't see very well without her glasses.

**Dragon:** Unless you pipe down, Lady in Red, you'll be our dessert.

**Granny:** Oh you're such a considerate granddaughter. I'll be all right, Red. But that savage could at least have let me put in my dentures first.

*(They exit. The Troll and the Pirate enter carrying a large sack.)*

**Troll:** Without you, I would have never managed to trap all these mermaids.

**Pirate:** Arrr. You can always catch them with a few barrels of lemonade poured into the ocean. On a voyage that I remember well, my crew and I stole so many barrels of lemonade that fair morning that we sank our ship. The waters became so thick with sharks that you couldn't see the bottom. The creatures were hungry. They were coming for us. I drew my sword and... *(trailing off as they exit.)*

*(All of the servants enter.)*

**Servant # 1:** I thought I saw them go that way carrying a sack full of mermaids.

**Servant # 2:** No, they went that way with a shish-kabob of pigs, a granny, and a little girl in a red hood.

**Servant # 3:** I'll track the imbecile carrying the dwarves.

**Servant # 4:** We have to catch them, or the king will be furious.

*(All the servants nod and then exit in different directions.)*

#### **Scene 4 (The Bears' Bomb Shelter)**

*(The Three Bears enter and turn on the TV. Puss In Boots arrives on stage.)*

**Puss In Boots:** Last night, in the latest of many kidnappings, an old woman went missing from her shoe, and her children are desperately crying out for their mommy. And now, with an FTTV exclusive special report, we have Mother Goose in our studio with the ransom note that she received in her mailbox only hours ago. Goose, go ahead.

*(Mother Goose enters, sobbing and sniffing. As she talks, the Pirate and the Ogre capture Puss In Boots. They put their hands over his mouth, so that he cannot alert Mother Goose to his capture.)*

**Mother Goose:** It reads: "We have your fairytale characters in our custody. We hope you now see that we are not to be trifled with. You

know our demands. If you ever want to see your precious angels again, you will comply immediately. Sincerely, the Forces of Evil.”  
*(Mother Goose turns towards where Puss In Boots was, and realizes that he is not there.)* Puss In Boots? Puss In Boots? Where are you? Puss In Boots? Are we still on the air? Puss In Boots?

*(Mother Goose wanders off the stage calling for Puss In Boots. Mama Bear turns off the television.)*

**Mama Bear:** I can’t watch this anymore. It’s too depressing.

**Papa Bear:** At least we’ll be safe here.

*(Goldilocks, the Ogre, and the Pirate enter.)*

**Goldilocks:** Okay, soldiers, we’re going in.

**Ogre:** How are we going to get in? This bomb shelter looks pretty secure.

**Goldilocks:** Don’t worry. I bust into this joint all the time.

**Pirate:** Yarr. The lass is right. My maties and I have ravaged many a stronghold more impenetrable than this, with no more than a bit of whale gut and a splinter of driftwood to help us.

**Mama Bear:** I think I hear something.

**Goldilocks:** Let’s go! It’s now or never.

**Baby Bear:** I’ve heard that voice before.

*(Goldilocks, the Ogre, and the Pirate charge into the bears’ bomb shelter and grab The Three Bears.)*

**Goldilocks:** So we meet again. And this time, I brought a few friends.

**Ogre:** How do you do? *(Goldilocks elbows the Ogre.)* I mean...uh...prepare to be captured.

**All three bears:** AAAAAAGGGGGHHHH!

*(Goldilocks and her henchmen drag The Three Bears offstage.)*

### **Scene 5 (The Evil Characters' Hideout)**

*(The good fairytale characters are locked in a cage. Puss In Boots is tied with the cord from his microphone. The evil characters are guarding them.)*

**Pigs # 1, 2, & 3:** Let us out of here!

**Red Riding Hood:** You tyrants! We will never submit to you, even if you kidnap every last one of us. We'll form an alliance and break free from your oppressive jail.

**Frog Prince:** Don't listen to her! Let us go, and we'll give you anything you want.

**Sleeping Beauty:** We beg for your pity. I can only sleep on a cold dungeon floor for so long.

**Granny:** You young whippersnappers think you can get away with anything.

**Robin Hood:** Well, they won't get away with this. My Merry Men will avenge me.

**Witch:** Quiet. Mother Goose is going to arrive at any moment for the negotiations. *(She turns to her henchmen.)* Let's try to stand in an orderly formation, shall we? *(The evil characters make a line.)* I've never seen such a sloppy bunch. Stand up straight! Comb your hair! Wolf, what's that in your teeth? Have you eaten one of our hostages?

**Wolf:** *(grinning)* Not yet, boss, but I'm looking forward to it.

*(The good characters gasp. There is a knock at the door.)*

**Witch:** There she is. Wolf, show the birdie in.

**Wolf:** Sure, boss.

*(The Wolf escorts Mother Goose in. Mother Goose runs straight to the good characters and attempts to comfort them.)*

**Mother Goose:** You poor things. Did they injure you? Have they been feeding you well?

**Witch:** Wolf, get her away from them. She can have a seat over here. Now, Goose. All you have to do is sign this paper stating that our policies will be executed in the name of the king.

**Mother Goose:** But so many of these demands are impossible for us to meet.

**Witch:** Like what?

**Mother Goose:** Well, we don't even have insurance ourselves. How are we supposed to give it to you? Do you know how difficult it is for people who are constantly being turned into frogs and trapped in towers to find reliable coverage?

**Wolf:** Trying to weasel your way out of it, are you? Very clever, but your tactics won't work on us. We've seen it all before. Isn't that right, boss?

**Mother Goose:** All we can offer is what we can give.

**Witch:** Oh, spare me.

**Mother Goose:** *(holding a list of proposals)* The king sent me with a list of proposals. See here, if you eliminate the insurance clause, we can offer a work-sharing plan, basic subsidies, and paid vacation time.

**Dragon:** But what about our sitcom?

**Witch:** It's true. There are many stipulations that you have overlooked.

**Pirates:** My crew and I will rob every last jewel from your treasury before we abandon our claims.

**Red Riding Hood:** But you don't understand. Without us, our stories will never be completed. There will be no fairytales, so we won't have any money to meet any of your other demands. We need each other to make this work – good and evil.

**Mother Goose:** That's right. After all, we need to make a living as much as you do. Can't we reach some kind of compromise?

**Witch:** As impertinent as you are, you make an essential point. Let me discuss this with my colleagues. *(The Witch stands there waiting for her colleagues to consult with her, but they just stand there looking at her. Finally she yells.)* Huddle! *(The evil characters huddle and mutter amongst themselves until finally the huddle disbands.)* Fine, Ms. Goose. It seems we have no choice but to agree. However, we have one adjustment to make to the bargain. There must be a worldwide acknowledgment that not everyone lives happily ever after.

**Mother Goose:** I can't make changes to the contract without the king's approval.

**Witch:** Well, that is our condition. Take it or leave it.

**Mother Goose:** Can I use your phone?

**Witch:** Give her your cell phone, Goldi.

**Goldilocks:** Awww. *(The Witch glares at Goldilocks.)* All right.

*(Goldilocks hands Mother Goose her cell phone. Mother Goose dials.)*

**Mother Goose:** Hello. I need to speak with the king. It's an emergency.

*(Servant # 1 enters, frantically.)*

**Servant # 1:** The king, the king! Where is the king?

*(Servant #2, 3, and 4 enter.)*

**Servant # 2:** A phone call for the king? Can't you take a message?

**Servant # 1:** She said it's an emergency.

**Servant # 3:** An emergency?

**Servants # 1, 2, 3, & 4:** AAAHHHGGG!

*(The servants run in chaotic circles.)*

**Servants # 4:** Hurry. Page the king.

*(The servants disperse in all directions, yelling for the king. The king enters.)*

**King:** I am here. Why have you summoned me? This is not customary. I should summon my servants. My servants should never summon me. It's undignified.

**Servant # 2:** But, Your Highness!

**Servant # 3:** You have a phone call.

**King:** Why didn't you take a message?

**Servant # 4:** It's an emergency. They wish to speak directly to the king.

**King:** Well, who is it? I don't speak to just anyone, you know.

**Servant # 1:** Uh, I forgot to ask, Your Majesty.

**King:** It's so hard to find good help these days. Well, ask already.

**Servant # 1:** *(into the phone)* Who, may I ask, is speaking?

**Mother Goose:** *(exasperated)* It's Mother Goose.

**Servant # 1:** It's Mother Goose, Your Highness.

**King:** Ah, excellent. Give me the phone. *(The servant gives the king the phone.)* Well, Ms. Goose, were your peace talks successful?

**Mother Goose:** Your Majesty, they are willing to accept the terms of our proposal, but they would like to add one thing to it.

**King:** No, absolutely not. I will not tolerate an evil characters' sitcom. That's asking too much. I thought you said you could handle this negotiation stuff.

**Mother Goose:** It's not that, Your Majesty. They want us to admit publicly that "happily ever after" is a fairytale myth.

**King:** Is that all? Well, I suppose we have been tricking unsuspecting readers with that line for long enough. It may make it more difficult to marry off my daughters, but as long as I can count my gold in peace

and quiet, I am satisfied. Retire the line and put those no-good creatures back to work.

**Mother Goose:** Thank you, Your Majesty. Good-bye. *(The king exits, and his servants hold his cape as he goes.)* The king has agreed that not everyone lives happily ever after.

*(Goldilocks retrieves her phone. Mother Goose signs the contract, and the henchmen free the good characters. The good characters hug each other and cheer.)*

**Witch:** I'm taking my two weeks of paid vacation right now.

**Troll:** I'll go with you.

**Dragon:** Me too.

**Goldilocks:** Let's go to Hawaii.

**Wolf:** Oh yeah, I look fierce in swimming trunks.

**Pirate:** Aye, and there may be treasure to uncover on the islands. I must find my map.

*(The evil characters exit, leaving only the ogre behind.)*

**Ogre:** So who gets the corner office?

*(The Ogre runs after his colleagues.)*

**Papa Bear:** I guess it's back to the bomb shelter for us. I'm going to have to start putting together some reinforcements ASAP. No mail tube for us.

**Red Riding Hood:** Why don't we take a vacation too? We could use the time off, after all the stress we've been through.

**Granny:** Woo-hoo! Now you're talkin'.

**Mother Goose:** I don't think the king is going to like this. I mean, people have been without fairytales for almost a month.

**Red Riding Hood:** Everyone is too dependent on our stories anyway.

**Mama Bear:** People really need to think of some new ideas for once.

**Pigs # 1, 2, & 3:** Aloha, Hawaii.

**Frog Prince:** Beach babes, here I come.

*(The good characters form a conga line and exit, cheering and dancing.)*