



Little Red Riding Hood

by

Rob Fearn and Leo Appleton

The story of a girl, a wolf and a lovely red coat

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This script is published by

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Welcome to another classic tale penned in our inimitable style. It's lots of fun with fast paced dialogue and a story just quirky enough to make it appeal to all ages. As usual we have produced a script which will be equally at home on a small or large stage.

Of course if you feel that you need to make changes to adapt the script to your company then feel free. (Obviously if you write whole new scenes then please make sure that the credit goes to you for the additional material.)

Finally, can you please ensure Fearn & Appleton are credited in and on all your production material. Thanks.

Whatever you do with it though, as always, our motto is, 'make it fun'.

Best of luck,

Rob and Leo

PS: If you do perform one of our pantos and let us know when it's on we'd love to try and come and see it. You can message us via our Facebook site, Robleo Productions.

Thanks. L & R.

Others in the series

Cinderella

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Jack and the Beanstalk

Robin Hood

Rumpelstiltskin

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Sleeping Beauty

Oliver – A Christmas Twist of a panto

Characters – in order of appearance

Grandma	M/F	A comedic part. Needs to be able to sing and act.
Dame Dolly	M/F	The traditional Dame character. Works with Wally Woodcutter. Should be able to sing, dance, move and have a good rapport with the audience and have comic timing.
Bill	M/F	Part of a double act with Ben. If female, the names can be altered (Edna and Enid etc.). They should be quick witted, nimble with their lines, be able to act and sing. Must also have a good rapport with the audience with great comic timing.
Ben	M/F	As per Bill
Wolf	M/F	The baddie! Must be able to act and be convincing at being delightfully bad. Also some comedy lines as well. Must be able to handle an audience.
Ruby	F	The heroine of the show. Must be able to act and be convincing as well as work well with an audience. Must be able to sing and dance.
Villager 3	M/F	Although part of the chorus of Villagers these parts are integral to the show and if necessary can be named parts (director discretion). It is a comedic part so must be able to deliver lines and have good timing. Must also be able to sing and move.
Percy	M	The love interest for Ruby so needs to be convincing in this part. Must be able to sing and move and deliver lines. Also needs comedic timing.
Narrator	M/F	Interjects at various points. Keeps the story moving along as well as providing a commentary on proceedings. Must be able to deliver lines and be convincing.
Daddy Bear	M/F	Part of a trio so must be able to work well in a group and deliver lines. Needs good comedy timing.
Mummy Bear	M/F	As per Daddy Bear
Wayne Bear	M/F	As per Daddy Bear.
Wally Woodcutter	M	Works closely with Dame Dolly and is 'her' vague love interest. In many of the comedy scenes so needs to be able to be convincing and deliver lines as well as being able to sing and move.
Villager 1	M/F	As per Villager 3
Villager 2	M/F	As per Villager 3
Villager 4	M/F	As per Villager 3
Postman	M/F	A small part of a few lines only

ACT ONE

Scene 1

(Grandma is sitting in a rocking chair as the lights come up. Can be just lit to one side. She is gently rocking back and forth and humming a tune to herself. Posty enters and is delivering a letter).

Posty *(Staggers on under the weight of a seemingly heavy bag).* Knock knock.

Grandma *(Without opening her eyes).* Who's there?

Posty Over worked postman!

Grandma *(Looking up – peering at the Posty as if she has poor eyesight).* That's not a knock knock joke. Sounds more like a crossword clue. How many letters?

Posty *(Slightly exhausted).* Thousands and thousands.

Grandma Oh you poor dear. Have you got something for me then?

Posty *(Looking off).* Of course I have. You don't think I would have come up that long and unnecessarily winding road if I hadn't.

Grandma Well?

Posty Oh thank you very much, I could do with some water.

Grandma No. *(Puts her hand out).* Well?

Posty *(To audience).* Ah, I see, no concern for my wellbeing just wants the letter. *(Delves into the bag and brings out an envelope).* Here you are.

Grandma Does it say who it is from?

Posty No. *(Sniffs the letter).* But it smells lovely.

Grandma That'll be from my lovely little Ruby then. *(Takes the letter).* Thank you young man. Have a lovely day.

(Posty starts to leave).

Grandma Wait I have a tip for you.

Posty Oh thanks very much. *(Holds out hand).*

Grandma If you got a bike it would help with your delivery.

Posty And if you'd been to acting classes it would have helped with yours. But as for your tip, they don't do a bike big enough for me to carry all my post. Here, I've got a riddle for you. What starts with P, ends with G, and has a million letters in it?

Grandma Oh I don't know. That sounds like a very big word and is too much for my old brain to cope with. Tell me then, what starts with P and ends with G and has a million letters in it?

Posty My post bag!

(Posty exits staggering under the weight of the bag).

Grandma Now, let me see what Ruby has to say. *(Gets out a big pair of comedy specs to read the letter)*. That's better. Now I can at least read the letter. I have very poor eyesight you know. Only last week I mistook a tree for Ruby's beau Percy. Though it's easy to see how. They're both a bit wooden. Now what does she say?

(Reads aloud)

Dear Grandma

I can't wait to see you and celebrate our birthday. I will be coming along quite soon and will be all by myself as I have now turned eighteen. Please leave your door unlocked. Perhaps we can have a sing when I arrive. I do know how much you love to sing.

Lots of love

Ruby

Grandma Ruby coming to see me all by herself? She is such a big girl now. I hope she takes care of herself. She'll need to keep an eye out for that wolf. He is mean and nasty and always trying to eat people. But she is right about one thing, I do love a good sing. When I was younger I used to sing anywhere. In the street, in the shops, in the toilet, great acoustics. Now I just sing in my house.

(She starts to sing a song – it could be the opening to the next chorus number and her singing fades into the opening song as it opens. Grandma exits).

Scene 2

OPENING NUMBER

(Curtain opens on a full, brightly lit, village scene. Chorus is on and should sing a rousing opening number. As the song finishes Dame Dolly moves to the front of stage and speaks to the audience).

DD Hello boys and girls, my name is Dame Dolly Murray. I work in this lovely village with my daughter Ruby and although we love to sing and dance, always at the back of our mind is the wolf. He is a very greedy wolf and quite often steals into our village and pinches a chicken, so we have to watch out for him.

(Sound of chicken squawking).

Bill *(Looking off stage).* Blimey! He's just had another one.

DD *(To audience).* What did I tell you? He's a very greedy wolf and he sometimes has a go at the villagers. But today we have other things to think about. It is Ruby's birthday and she has turned eighteen and I know that some of the villagers have brought her presents.

(Bill and Ben are standing holding different sizes of boxes wrapped up).

Ben *(To Bill. Ben's box is bigger than Bill's).* My box is bigger than yours.

Bill It's just a big box. I'll bet there isn't a present in there.

Ben There is.

Bill Oh no there isn't.

(Audience should hopefully join in).

Bill *(Eventually).* All right then, prove it.

(Ben looks at the box and exits running).

Bill *(To audience).* As I thought. All box.

(Other villagers enter carrying boxes as presents. The boxes should be quite big).

Bill Right you lot, are you ready? Get ready to surprise Ruby with 'Happy Birthday'. Lights down if you please.

(Lights go to blackout and after a slight delay come back up. Wolf is centre stage holding a chicken (rubber). Wolf looks at the chicken then audience and exits quickly).

DD I think we should try that again don't you. Lights down maestro, if you please.

(There's a scream and the lights come back up just as Wolf is trying to carry off one of the villagers. Wolf drops the chorus member and runs off).

DD *(To audience).* Let's keep the lights on or we might have nobody left for the rest of the show. And who knows once he's done with us, *(looks at the audience)*, he might start on you lot.

(Ruby enters).

DD Just in time. Right everybody. One, two, three.

All ***'Happy birthday to you etc.'***

Ruby Thank you, thank you, everybody. *(Sees the boxes).* And thank you for your kind and very generously proportioned gifts. I do love a gift.

(Chorus start looking at each other. All the gifts in the box are very small and should be relatively boring /uninteresting).

Bill Do not get your hopes up.

Villager 3 Mines a lovely box.

Ben *(Re-enters).* Mines the biggest.

Bill It's empty.

(Ben exits again).

Ruby I'm sure they are fabulous gifts, thank you.

(The villagers put the boxes down in front of Ruby. As they do so they start to sneak off. Dame Dolly and Ruby return to the boxes).

Ruby I'm going to open them all now.

DD Oooh yes, I love a big box.

Ruby *(Picks up a box).* Who got me this one? *(She turns around but of course there is nobody there).*

DD They've gone. Never mind, get them opened, I'm sure they will be fabulous gifts. *(To audience).* Everybody loves Ruby.

(Ruby unwraps the first gift and delves into the box).

DD What is it? A pressure cooker, a waffle maker. I do love a waffle. Or perhaps one of those fancy new hoovers.

Ruby *(Come up from the box).* A pink ribbon.

DD What!

Ruby How lovely. It's just what I need to tie back my hair. *(She ties her hair back).*

(Delves into another box).

DD *(To audience).* I don't want to get my hopes up. *(To Ruby).* Is it a television or radio or perhaps a record player?

Ruby Look mother, a ball!

DD *(Sarcastically).* Whoopee.

Ruby But look it's absolutely perfect, so round and bouncy and it just fits my hand so well. It's also red, my favourite colour. *(She puts it into her basket).*

(Opens the third present).

DD *(To audience).* I wonder what this is? A piece of grit from someone's shoe? A lolly stick? Or maybe a bright shiny pin? At least I could use it to stick it in my very mean friends. I had high hopes for those big boxes and now my birthday dreams are shattered.

Ruby *(Coming up from the box).* Not your birthday dreams mother, mine, and those two gifts were just right and now I have this one from Percy.

(It's a present within the box and there is a label on it from Percy).

Ruby *(Reads).* 'From Percy, do not open until we are together'.

DD What on earth could that chump have got you?

Ruby Well, I am going to do exactly as he says and put it over here *(places it side stage)* and when we eventually meet up we can open it together. I wonder what it can be? But it will have to wait until I come back from Grandmas. *(To audience).* You see it is Grandmas birthday today as well as mine and I always go over to see her, usually with mother, but now I am eighteen, I can go by myself and I am so looking forward to the journey.

DD Well don't forget it is a long journey, so you will have to rest every thirty yards being a very lazy teenager.

(Dame Dolly exits).

Ruby *(To audience).* She is so silly. I may be a teenager, but I'm not that lazy, well perhaps every sixty yards or so. Even so, it will be lovely to see Grandma again and then when I get back I can open my present with Percy. *(She looks wistfully at the present).*

(Sings song). (End song).

(Ruby exits. End scene).

Scene 3

(It's still the village square. Percy enters in a state of panic).

Percy *(To audience).* Hello everyone. I'm Percy. I wanted to see Ruby before she set off to her Grandmas. It seems I've missed her. You see I have this present for her. *(Sees the present at the side of the stage).* It's there, good. I want her to open it with me, it's a very special present. I'm going to go and look for her, but I don't want to cart the present with me. *(Thinks).* I know, would you do me a favour? If I leave it here will you keep an eye on it for me until I can give it to Ruby? If you see anyone messing with it, give me a shout and I'll be back as quick as a flash. All you have to do is shout '**Percy The Present.**' Let's give it a try. I'll wander over here and you shout etc. etc. *(Audience should shout out 'Percy The Present' while Percy tests them).* That's great! Thanks for your help.

(Bill enters, sees Percy).

Bill Hello Percy. Are you looking for Ruby?

Percy *(Looking hopeful).* Yes, have you seen her?

Bill No.

Percy Do you know where she is then?

Bill Not a clue, sorry.

(Bill exits as Dame Dolly enters and sees Percy).

DD Oh it's you. I thought I heard someone dribbling on. Are you looking for Ruby?

Percy Yes.

DD You're too late, she's gone. Just a minute. *(To audience as if telling them a private story).* He has the hots for Ruby. He's a nice enough lad, but I want her to marry someone with prospects, y'know, a prince, a lawyer, an international jewel thief. *(Wolf enters unseen).* *(To Percy)* I'm sorry Percy, Ruby's not here, she's gone to see her Grandma on the other side of the forest.

Percy Oh no, not to see Grandma on the other side of the forest. Is she on her own?

DD Yes, she's been on her own for over twenty years.

Percy What Ruby?

DD No, Grandma.

Percy I didn't mean Grandma, I meant Ruby.

DD But Ruby's just eighteen. How can she be over twenty?

Percy I didn't say she was. You did.

DD So, you're calling me a liar now, are you?

Percy Let's start again.

DD Alright. (*Turns to audience as if starting the show again*). Good evening boys and girls and welcome to ...

Percy No, I didn't mean start the panto again. Look, is she on her own?

DD I've told you, she's been on her own for over twenty

Percy Not Grandma, Ruby. Is she on her own?

DD Why didn't you say that in the first place. Yes she's alone, why?

Percy What about...?

DD What about what?

Percy What about (*looks over his shoulder*), Wolf. Dun de dun dun derrrrrrr!

(*There is a wolf howl and the two cling together frightened. Wolf speaks unseen by the others*).

Wolf (*To audience*). Indeed, what about Wolf (*sarcastically*) dun de dun dun derrrrrr! I presume they mean me of course. Long tail, beautiful mane, and sharp teeth. Yes, I am the wolf and what's more I'm a hungry wolf. I've had enough of chickens. I fancy a curry, a Ruby Murray, that's a play on words, Ruby Murray, curry. Oh c'mon, I can see you lot are going to be hard work, the last audience loved my little jokes. They wolfed them down.

DD (*Breaking from the clinch*). We must pull ourselves together. She'll be fine just as long as she sticks to the path and doesn't talk to anyone (*to audience*) and by anyone, I specifically mean, Wolf.

Wolf That's me again.

Percy (*To audience*). I have a bad feeling about this. I think I'll go after her. (*To Dame Dolly*). See you later Dame Dolly.

DD Where are you going all of a sudden?

Percy Nowhere. Just thought I'd go for a walk (*to audience*), through the woods to Grandma's house.

(*Percy races off stage*).

DD Well, could you just....oh he's gone.... (To audience). He was in a rush wasn't he? (*Sees Percy's package and looks to see if there is anyone around*). Now's my chance to find out what that big lump has bought her. What is it I wonder? It's nicely wrapped. Perhaps a few face packs? Maybe Ruby will let me use one. Though I don't really need them. Let's have a little look.

(*Dame Dolly leans over to unpack it just as the audience shout out, 'Percy the Present'. Percy immediately enters in a rush*).

Percy Oi! What are you playing at?

DD (*Jumps*). Nothing. (*Dame Dolly immediately bends over to her shoe*). I was just tying my shoelace.

Percy A likely story. Leave it alone. That's a present for Ruby.

(*Percy slowly exits, walking backwards, keeping his eyes on Dame Dolly*).

DD (*To audience*). Thanks! You didn't have to warn him did you?

(*A 'plant' should reply, 'Oh yes we did'*).

DD Oh no you didn't

Audience Oh yes we did.

(*Etc. until Dame Dolly starts her next line*).

DD He's got me all worried now. (*Getting emotional*). My little Ruby, all on her own in the deep dark woods. (*Recovers herself*). She'll be alright. She has my brain, she's intelyphant, infelligent, a bright young thing. She'll be fine.

(*Dame Dolly exits happy she has convinced herself Ruby will be alright*).

(*Wolf steps centre stage*).

Wolf So, the foolish young lad is going after Ruby. That means I need to get to her first, if I want a spicy lunch. Four legs are so much faster than two and I know a short cut as well. Ha ha haaaaa. (*Breaks into a wolf howl*),
oooooooooooooooooooo!

(*Wolf exits at a trot*).

(*End scene, blackout*).

Scene 4

(Lights up on a woodland scene.)

Ruby *(To audience)*. It's a lot further than I remember and so tiring. As teenagers we have to keep up to date with *(puns on the real thing)* faceslate, instaram, *(a sheep baaa's)* and ex-tweeter. *(Stops to listen)*. What's that? *(Birds sing)*. Oh my goodness! Shez has split up with Daz and Daz has asked out Shaz and Shez wants Daz back but Shaz and Shez are BFF's and.... I'm exhausted. Perhaps I should have a forty winks. *(Looks around)*. This looks like a nice spot, lovely, lush green grass to rest my aching body *(yawns, Lies down and falls asleep but starts talking in her sleep)*. Shez, ... Daz, ... Shaz, ...

(Narrator enters).

Narr Hello boys and girls. *(Looks at Ruby)*. Teenagers are so adorable ...when they're unconscious. As Narrator, I will pop in and out and see how things are progressing. If of course it all gets a bit complicated, which strangely, I think it will, then I will try and clarify it all for you, a bit like a football commentator, but no VAR – thank goodness. It looks like it could get a bit chilly as well, especially as they've not put the heat on in here, so I'm going to give her my red cloak to keep her warm. *(Places the cloak over Ruby)*. There we go, snug as a bug in a rug, my Little Red Riding Hood.

(Narrator exits. Wolf enters).

Wolf Yes it's me again, the bad guy. *(Audience should boo)*. Go on boo all you like. I'm going to trick her back to my lair where I have my cauldron waiting, with onions bubbling, a pinch of salt, a smidge of pepper, herbs, and perhaps garlic. Yuuumeee! But how do I get her back there? I have it. She's a lazy teenager. Just change the signs. She'll follow what she thinks is the short route to Grandma's, when in fact it will deliver her to me. It's a little like Deliveroo, except this is, Deliveruby!

(There are two signs on stage. One says short route to Grandmas and another which says long route to Wolf. Wolf changes the sign round so the short route to Grandma's actually takes Ruby to the Wolf's lair and visa versa then exits).

(Ruby wakes, stretching. She notices the red cape around her).

Ruby What's this? A lovely warm red cloak, with a hood. I wonder who put this on me. How kind. *(Out to ether)*. Thank you whoever you are. Right, best get to Grandma's. I don't want to be hanging around in the woods, who knows what dangers I might have to face.

(Ruby takes one exaggerated step and then hearing a noise off stage hides).

(The Three Bears enter going opposite way to Ruby. They notice the sign).

Daddy B I don't think the signs right. I think its pointing the wrong way.

Mummy B It's not the signs fault. Someone must have moved it. Who would do such a thing?

Wayne B But I think the signs just right.

Daddy B Wayne, be quiet. *(To Mummy Bear)*. But which way is which?

Mummy B No, the way isn't to the witch.

Daddy B One way leads to Grannie and the other is to Wolf. So we need to get it right.

Wayne B I think, that's just right.

Daddy B So which way is it?

Mummy B *(Changing the signs round so it is correct)*. A man asking for directions, that's a first. I think it's that way round.

Daddy B *(Puts it back again)*. No silly, I actually think it's that way.

(The sign is now the wrong way round, the short way to Grandma's pointing towards the Wolf's lair).

Ruby *(Steps out from hiding)*. Hey!

(They all jump).

Ruby Who are you?

Daddy B I'm Daddy Bear.

Mummy I'm Mummy Bear.

Wayne And I'm just right.

Mummy B This is Wayne.

Ruby What are you doing with the sign? I'm getting all confused.

Daddy Bear Don't worry we know what we're doing. *(To audience)*. Don't we boys and girls?

Ruby Oh no you don't

Daddy Bear Oh yes we do. etc.

(Audience should be encouraged to pick this up).

Wayne B *(Whispers in Mummy's ear)*.

Mummy B Wayne wants to know why you scared us?

Ruby I heard some voices and thought, well, I don't know what I thought.

(Birds start tweeting).

Ruby *(Listens exaggeratedly).* Oh good. Shaz and Daz are back together.

Daddy B Thank goodness! *(Looks off).* I thought it was Goldilocks coming.

Mummy B Who are you young lady?

Ruby *(Hesitant).* I'm, er little Ruby.

Daddy B You don't seem too sure.

Ruby For moment there I almost said Little Red Riding Hood. I don't know why.

Mummy B Well, little dead riding hood.....

RubyRed, not dead.

Mummy B Sorry, getting ahead of the plot. Now, Little Red Riding Hood, you do know that this forest is dangerous.

Ruby Because of Wolf?

Daddy B Yes. Now, where are you going?

Ruby To Grandma's house. But now the signs have been moved I am not sure which way is which.

Mummy B I've told you before there is no witch.

Daddy B We've done that and the sign is back the way it should be. Someone else moved it first.

Wayne B And it's just right.

Daddy B *(To Mummy Bear).* Can you tell him to be quiet, please.

Mummy B You tell him, I've been up all night cooling his porridge down to 39.5 degrees centigrade.

Wayne B And it was just right. *(Wayne Bear snuggles into Mummy and falls asleep).*

Daddy B Wake up sleepy.

(Wayne Bear wakes up).

Ruby Is he a teenager?

Daddy B *(Sarcastically).* No, he's a narcoleptic, what do you think? So, just follow the sign for Grandma's house and you should be there in no time.

Ruby Don't you want to come with me? She makes great cakes.

Mummy B Unless its squirrel pie no. We have to get away from Goldilocks. She's another teenager with a bad attitude. Always going on about it being, too hard, or too soft, or too hot.

Wayne B And it was just right.

(Lights blackout. In the darkness we hear a 'donk'. Lights back up. Daddy Bear is holding a comedy frying pan. Wayne Bear is flat on the floor holding his head. Lights again blackout and we hear another 'donk'. Lights up and Daddy Bear is now on the floor and Mummy Bear is holding the frying pan.)

Mummy B Juuuust right.

(She carries on as if nothing has happened. Daddy Bear and Wayne Bear get up).

Ruby And you're sure the sign is in the right way round?

Daddy B Absolutely.

Mummy B No, it's not right. *(Goes to change the sign).*

Daddy B Leave it alone, its right.

Ruby Well if that's the case, goodbye then.

Daddy B Goodbye little dead, I mean, Little Red Riding Hood.

(The bears exit).

Ruby *(To audience).* There's that name again. Little Red Riding Hood. I do rather like it.

(A chance here for a song.).

Ruby I suppose I should just follow the direction of the sign.

(Ruby bends down to pick up her basket. As she does this Wayne Bear re appears and changes the sign round so now, the signs point the correct way i.e. Short way to Grandmas and Long way to the Wolf).

Wayne Juuuust right.

(Ruby exits and as she does Daddy Bear comes back on looks at the sign and then changes it back to the wrong way round).

(Then exits looking satisfied).

(End scene, blackout).

Scene 5

(Back in the village square, Dame Dolly is sitting on a sun lounger drinking cocktails. Various chorus members wander past her. Bill and Ben are also on looking concerned).

DD I am so worried about Ruby. All on her own. In the woods. And that Percy going after her, well, he has just made me look like a bad parent. *(To Bill)* What do you think I should do?

Bill Are you kidding me? It's obvious. You need to go after her.

DD *(Already walking away she ignores Bill)* What to do, what to do, what to do? Oooh all the ice in my cocktail has melted. *(To Ben)*. What do you think I should do?

Ben Oh hang on, let me consult my good parenting guide. *(Shouts)*. It says, go and find your daughter!

DD I meant about my cocktail lovey. *(Sighs)*. I suppose, I should, get off my ar...backside and get some more ice before I make any hasty decisions.

(Wally Woodcutter enters).

(To audience). Oh look here's Wally, I'll ask him. Wally dear, can you do something for me?

WC Of course Dolly. Are you all right? You look a bit stressed.

DD Oooo Wally, I've had such a difficult day. There is something which is worrying me sooooo much.

Bill and Ben At last.

DD Yes. I can't stop thinking about that box over there. I wonder what is inside it.

WC Why don't I chop it open with my trusty axe *(waves the axe)*, and we can take a look.

DD Oh would you dear? *(To audience)*. He's so strong and manly and I am quite taken with him. *(To Wally)*. But before that, I have something I need to talk to you about. Ruby has gone off to her grandmas all alone and I was just wondering, as she's not here, can you get me some more ice for my drink?

Bill and Ben What!

WC Ruby is all alone in the woods? Oh poor you, all that worry. Of course you can have some more ice in your drink. It's the least I can do.

(Wally Woodcutter returns with ice bucket and gives it to Dame Dolly. She is expecting Wally to put the ice in her glass).

WC Now, let's take a look at that box.

(Wally Woodcutter walks over to inspect the box. The audience should shout Percy the Present. Percy enters at a trot.)

Percy *(To audience)*. Thanks boys and girls, though I can see this is going to start getting on my nerves. Luckily, I managed to get back just in time. *(To Wally Woodcutter)*. What are you up to Wally?

WC Dame Dolly asked me to take a look at this mysterious box.

Percy There's nothing mysterious about that box, as Dame Dolly well knows. It is a present for Ruby from me for when she gets back. *(To himself)*. If she ever does.

WC Oh yes, she's all alone, isn't she, on her way to Grandma's house.

Percy Yes, and I was just on my way to protect her, when I had to race back because I heard the children warning me you were messing with my present. So, keep your sticky fingers off and if you really want to be helpful....

WC ...I know, you don't need to ask...

Percy Thank you...

WC ...you want me to get you some more ice for a Dolly's cocktail, don't you?

Percy No, of course not. I want you and Dame Dolly to help me protect Ruby in the woods. She's all alone with Wolf roaming around. *(Looks at Dame Dolly)*. Dame Dolly, why are you just lounging around drinking cocktails when your daughter is in danger?

DD I'm sorry dear, it's all the worry. *(To audience)*. He's very bossy isn't he? *(To Percy)*. Just let me finish my drink and I will be with you in a jiffy. Have you got one of those little pink umbrellas for my drink Wally?

Percy Dame Dolly, we have no time for ice, umbrellas or sparklers.

DD Oooh, sparklers, that would be nice.

Percy Your daughter is in danger.

DD *(Gets up and moves to Percy)*. Of course, I know, you're right Percy. But what can little old me do against a big *(stressing the H's into Percy's face)* hairy, hungry wolf?

Percy *(Comedy stagger wafting his hand in front of his face). (To audience). She could breathe on him for a start off. (To Dame Dolly) Not much, granted. But if we all went to help her, then maybe we can save her together. What do you say everyone?*

Bill and Ben Yes!

DD And what about you Wally. Would you come with me to make sure I am all right, oh and to save Ruby as well?

WC Of course Dame Dolly. I will bring my trusty axe to protect you both.

(The Villagers start to gather behind them).

Percy That's it then. All we need now is a rousing song to send us on our way into the dark, scary woods to fight the enormous...

Bill Enormous you say?

Percy ...hungry wolf...

Ben Hungry you say?

Percy ...with the big teeth and...

(Villagers start to mumble uncertainly).

Bill Big teeth?

Percy Voracious appetite.

Ben Voracious appetite?

(Villagers gather in fear behind Dame Dolly and Wally Woodcutter)

DD Anyone want a cocktail before we go.

Villagers Yes!

Percy No. No more cocktails. We must go now.

(They all exit. Villagers and Bill and Ben go one way, Dame Dolly and Wally Woodcutter go another. Percy looks behind him and everyone has gone. He is now scared, so perhaps sings a song for courage and inspiration).

(End song, end scene, blackout).

Scene 6

(Lights up. Opens with the sound of running. Percy races onto the stage. He's out of breath. On is the wrong sign directing them to Grandma's (To the Wolf).

Percy Hello *(puff)* ... boys *(puff)*... and *(puff)* ... girls. *(Looks around)*. Goodness knows where Dame Dolly and Wally have got to. I last saw them dropping into a watering hole. *(Name of local establishment)*. The Vic' I think they called it. *(Lights begin to dim)*. It's getting dark now though, and you know what happens when it gets dark don't you? You can't see anything.

(Some stuffed animals start appearing on stage and there are strange noises. Audience should start shouting).

What's that? Animals. Where? *(He turns around and sees them)*. Hello, what are you doing here? *(He goes to them and they speak in his ear. Percy looks at the audience)*. If it was good enough for Sooty, its good enough for me.

(The animal whispers in Percy's ear again and exits).

Percy *(Indignant)*. Do you know what it just called me? It was ...

(Voices off. Dame Dolly shouts) ...Dimwit!

Percy *(To audience)*. Dimwit? If only. It was a lot ruder than that. Anyway, where did that shout come from?

(Percy looks over one side of the stage and then starts backing towards the middle as Dame Dolly with Wally Woodcutter back on from the other side).

DD *(To Wally Woodcutter)*. Wait until I find Percy, the dimwit. Running off like that. He could end up in all sorts of bother.

(They bump into each other. They all jump and Wally Woodcutter readies his axe as if for trouble).

Percy Aagh! *(Percy sees Dame Dolly and covers his face)*. Don't kill me strange old hag.

DD I'll give you strange old hag.

Percy *(Recognises them)*. Dame Dolly, Wally? Is that you?

WC Shall I kill him now?

DD No, you can't kill Percy. How many times have I got to tell you.

Percy *(To Wally Woodcutter)*. Steady on tiger, no you can't kill me. You'll find I'm quite integral to the story, you on the other hand.

DD *(An aside to Percy)*. No, we'll need him as well.

Percy Oh, fair enough.

(There is a loud growl from the woods).

DD *(To Percy).* Hungry, love?

Percy Yes. I've not eaten all day actually.

DD I can tell. Your stomachs rumbling.

(Another roar, Wally Woodcutter springs ready for action).

Percy I know I'm hungry, but not that much. That sounds like a vicious man eating monster. *(Or any other animal available).*

DD So long as its man eating, I'm in the clear.

(If the Dame is being played by a man then there can be some strange looks exchanged between the three).

WC We need to be on our guard. The last thing we want is for a man... *(again if the Dame is being played by a man there is a pause and a look)*... person eating monster to creep up on us. Stay with me and I will protect you. Let's look this way.

(This is now the behind you scene. The 'monster' creeps in and follows the three round as they go through the routine.)

WC *(They go left and look).* Nothing there.

(The 'monster' taps Percy on his shoulder. Percy sees the 'monster', screams and runs away in the direction of the sign).

DD What did I tell you Percy. So long as Wally Woodcutter's here we'll be safe. *(Dame Dolly turns to look for Percy. He isn't there).* Gone. *(Shouts)* Percy! *(To audience).* He was so young as well.

WC Never fear Dame Dolly. Stay right behind me and nothing can harm you.

(Dame Dolly looks over her shoulder then back again).

WC Let's look over here. *(They go right).* Nothing here either.

(The 'monster' now creeps up behind Dame Dolly and taps her on the shoulder. Dame Dolly turns sees the 'monster', screams and runs away in the direction of the sign.)