**The Princess and the Mustard Seed…Retold.**

By Lee Ann Hotovy

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Synopsis: *The princess from the first telling of this story, returns as a fairy Godmother and seeks out Goldilocks who has a special gift of knowing when things are “just right”. With this gift, she is sent to find the princess who will be able to move the mountain. As Goldilocks attempts to help, she accidentally unravels the endings of other characters stories, leaving everyone in need of a new Happily Ever After ending. Eventually she is put through a difficult test, where she must outwit the Big Bad Wolf and push the mountain aside making it possible for others to enter.* *Goldilocks discovers she is “the princess” and finds her Happily Ever After.*

**Cast of Characters:**

Goldilocks

Fairy Godmother

Lord Huff

Little Red Riding Hood

Granny

Wilbur

Orville

Spammy

Snow White

Rapunzel

Cinderella

Flora

Fauna

Merriwether

Tink

King of Spades

Queen of Hearts

Prince Ace

Royal Accountant

Royal Adjustor

Advisors (1-5)

Royal Guards (2)

Anastasia

Dreselda

Lady Tremain

Legendary Queen

Legendary Princess

Seven Dwarves:

Doc, Grumpy, Sleepy, Happy, Sneezy, Bashful, Dopey

 *Double as: The Three Bears; Spider Hansel; Little Miss Muffet; Old Lady*

**Act 1/Scene 1: Once Upon a time…**

*Staging: Stage is set with a stair step riser cascading down with several layers to place cast. Three tall stage areas stand behind risers with a second story on each. These can be lit with front or backlighting and have an arched top similar to large ballroom windows. A large façade of mattresses stacked high is centered just behind risers and in front of ballroom window.*

*As scene opens four fairies silhouettes are scene as they retell story with lighting on mattress. Fairies move downstage into light while other figures show in background.*

*Reenactments by other characters take place as they are described by fairies. These characters can be played by ensemble.*

**MUSIC AND LIGHT CUE:**

*SONG*

FLORA: Once upon a time, in a world much like your own, there stood a great lodging. It was a place majestic designed for all those who sought things above the ordinary, the earthen…a place of peace, rest, and a good ending.

FAUNA: Here a young princess ventured in search of her prince.

*Princess enters and merges into silhouettes of King, Queen etc.*

FAUNA: Upon her arrival she was made welcome and given much food, drink, and a fresh gown. She visited at length with the King, Queen and guests of the lodging, but nowhere could she find the prince.

MERRIWEATHER: At last she was escorted to the ballroom by the queen. Thirteen mattresses stacked one upon the other met her gaze. The princess was aghast at this, and could not understand why such a thing should be presented to a princess. It was far from a normal bed and stood like a great mountain blocking the entrance to the great hall where the prince awaited.

TINK: Turning to the queen the princess asked…

LEGENDARY PRINCESS: Is this a test…to see if I am a true princess?

LEGENDARY QUEEN: It is a test to see if you love the prince and believe in him though you not see nor hear him.

LEGENDARY PRINCESS: But of course I do…that is why I have journeyed here.

LEGENDARY QUEEN: Then you will need to move this mountain of mattresses, for He awaits you on the other side.

LEGENDARY PRINCESS: But I have not the strength to move this …summon the guards to take it away!

LEGENDARY QUEEN: There is no need for a guard, only a mustard seed.

FLORA: The queen handed the princess the smallest of seeds and said…

LEGENDARY QUEEN: The Prince will someday be the King of Kings…his kingdom will be grander than any man has known and will extend to the ends of the earth. With faith, no more than the size of this seed, you will be able to move the mountain.

FAUNA: The Princess was amazed, and though it took many advisors and many trials, she at last saw beyond herself and heard beyond her voice, and with the faith the size of a mustard seed, she moved the mountain and received the impossible…her Happily Ever After.

FLORA: Because of her sacrifice, others who stayed at the lodging also found their way through the mountain and journeyed on with the princess.

MERRIWEATHER: Years passed and the lodging fell into disrepair. Fewer and fewer wanderers came. Some tried to move the mountain for they had heard of a great treasure beyond, but most failed for they had not the seed, nor the understanding to unlock its mystery. So the mountain of mattresses remained fast.

TINK: The idea of faith fell into legend. Those who passed by, or had once known of the lodging made light of it and called it a fairy’s tale.

FLORA: Eventually, seven short but adventurous brothers came upon the lodging and lay claim to it. They too attempted to move the mountain but were unsuccessful, for they had not the princess, nor the seed.

*Show dwarves attempting to remove mountain*

**MUSIC AND LIGHT CUE:**

SONG

TINK: After many years they grew restless and wished to explore other lands…

FLORA: So as not to lose out entirely on the deal, they put the lodging up for sale…

*Dwarves place sign that reads Woods Bros. /Queen of Hearts, King of Spades and Prince Ace enter*

FAUNA: A greedy king and queen, looking for an investment property, spotted the *for sale* sign and made an inquiry. They were puzzled upon seeing the large mountain of mattresses.

QUEEN: What’s with the bed!?

MERRIWEATHER: The brothers explained about the mountain, the mustard seed, and the *treasure* beyond.

SNEEZY: It came with the place.

SLEEPY: You just need a princess to move it…

BASHFUL: Then you’ll be rich!

MERRIWEATHER: The king and queen desired a larger kingdom and more importantly a princess suitable to marry their son. They thought if a princess came along who could move the bed, they would then have access to much wealth and more lands to rule, and their son would have an extremely strong wife…

KING: Which might come in handy?!

QUEEN: We’ll take it!

TINK: They bought the lodging for a song.

*Queen and King mouth singing for brothers while prince stands aside looking at mattresses*

SONG

FLORA: The brothers moved on looking for a place to stay until they could return to the Lonely Mountain…

HAPPY: Oh look a cottage deep in the woods…

SNEEZY: That oughtta hold us for the winter…

BASHFUL: And not a moment too…

SLEEPY: For it looks like *Snow…*

*Dwarves move off stage and meet up with Snow White in background.*

FAUNA: The king and queen moved in and began planning a grand ball to move the bed, while the prince dreamed of *his* happily ever after.

*King and Queen exit behind mattresses as prince lingers to side/silhouettes*

MUSIC AND LIGHT CUE:

*Lights fade with transition/story book pages are placed in front of ballroom windows with cutouts. Fairy tale characters (Three bears, Little Miss Muffet, Spider, Hansel, Old Lady) appear in storybook boxes in silhouettes as Fairies work their way downstage.*

MUSIC AND LIGHT CUE:

SONG

FLORA: Now in another part of the forest, a young girl named Goldilocks was falling in and out of stories. She was …a very hungry, slightly criminal, and unlikely heroine….and this is where her story begins.

FAUNA: Goldilocks, or so she was referred to because of her hair, lacked one thing…she had no happily ever after ending…

MERRIWEATHER: She was simply never heard from again.

TINK: Sad as that seemed, she did possess one thing that others lacked…she was hungry, always hungry…and in her search she became very good at determining when things were too hot, too cold, or…

ALL FAIRIES: Just right!

**MUSIC AND LIGHT CUE:**

**SONG**

**Act 1/Scene 2: In the pumpkin patch…**

**MUSIC and LIGHT CUE:**

SONG

*Fairy Godmother enters from audience singing and moves to pumpkin patch.*

*Goldilocks in background falls from page to page as Fairy Godmother sits on pumpkin downstage. As song ends Goldilocks has stumbled into pumpkin patch and ends up at same pumpkin as Fairy Godmother.*

GOLDILOCKS: Pumpkins! Small ones, medium sized ones, and really, really big ones!

*Goldilocks attempts to take a bite out of largest pumpkin when she notices FAIRY GODMOTHER.*

GOLDILOCKS: Oh…uh…is this yours?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: No.

GOLDILOCKS: Oh great…because I’m starving…(*starts trying to bite pumpkin*)

FAIRY GODMOTHER: I don’t normally eat pumpkins …I usually turn them into things.

GOLDILOCKS *hesitates and looks at pumpkin oddly*: Like what?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Oh carriages, small cottages, hot air balloons…

GOLDILOCKS: Well that seems like the waste of a perfectly good pumpkin…I mean you can hardly eat a carriage…

FAIRY GODMOTHER: True…but a carriage can take people places. It can get them somewhere other than where they are.

GOLDILOCKS: In a pumpkin?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes. I’ve sent princesses to balls in pumpkins.

GOLDILOCKS *sarcastically*: Oh…well, I suppose if the prince arrived in a gourd he might be impressed with the pumpkin…after all…pumpkins have always been classier than gourds.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Hmmmm…you are hungry aren’t you.

GOLDILOCKS *still trying to eat the pumpkin*: I told you I was starving!

FAIRY GODMOTHER: I see that.

GOLDILOCKS: I don’t suppose you have a knife, or saw, or jack-hammer on you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: No, just a wand.

GOLDILOCKS: Well can you “zap” this thing into a pie or something?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: I could, but I don’t think it will satisfy your hunger.

GOLDILOCKS: Are you kidding me…of course it will! Look, I haven’t anything solid to eat in weeks, years, forever…a little porridge, but it’s either too hot or too cold, too big or too small, too hard or too soft …and nothing has ever been just right!

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Like…the bears?

GOLDILOCKS: You saw that…I can explain…or well…no…actually… I can’t…you see…I have been doing a lot of falling out of storybooks lately.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Apparently, you haven’t found a story that’s “just right”…

GOLDILOCKS: Yes…that’s it…how did you know that?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Oh I know a lot about you…you’re the infamous and slightly criminal Goldilocks…wanted by the Queen of Hearts on three counts of petit larceny, vandalism, and bad manners.

GOLDILOCKS: Who are you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: A Fairy Godmother…yours in fact.

GOLDILOCKS: A fairy Godmother? Are you kidding…I’m not a princess…I’m Goldilocks…I don’t get a fairy Godmother.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Oh fiddlesticks…where does it say that only princesses get help? Now I want you to look in here…

*Holds up mirror*

GOLDILOCKS: I don’t see anything.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: You don’t see *anything?*

GOLDILOCKS: Oh well I see me…but nothing else.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Well that is something and that is where we must begin. Now tell me… what do you see?

GOLDILOCKS: A girl without an ending mostly…

FAIRY GODMOTHER: What if I were to tell you that once upon a time, I was a girl without an ending?

*Goldilocks looks at fairy Godmother curiously*

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Much like you…

**MUSIC AND LIGHT CUE:**

**SONG**

GOLDILOCKS: But now…you have your Happily Ever After ending? You’re a Fairy God mother!

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes…it is very good, but my story continues and I need someone to help me.

GOLDILOCKS: With what?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: The mountain of mattresses! It remains closed, and it has not been opened for a very long time. There are so few who know of the Prince now…and He grows lonely. I want others to make the journey as I have…to their Happily Ever Afters.

GOLDILOCKS: Why don’t you open it up then…just use your wand!

FAIRY GODMOTHER: The mountain can only be moved by faith…faith the size of this…a mustard seed…it requires a new princess to open it again…for a new beginning and ending to the story.

*Hands seed to Goldilocks*

GOLDILOCKS: This will move a mountain?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes...would you help me?

GOLDILOCKS: I don’t know…this sounds a little way out…even for me…no offense Fairy Godmother…I’m used to getting wrapped up in other character’s stories…but…I’m not much of a…a…gardener.

*Hands seed back to FAIRY GODMOTHER*

FAIRY GODMOTHER: That may be true, but you have a gift that I am interested in…that is why I have chosen you for this mission.

GOLDILOCKS: I do…?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes…you know when things are too hard, or too soft…too hot, or too cold…or when things are…*just right*…is this not so?

GOLDILOCKS: Well yes…but I’ve never thought of it as a gift before?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: It is a gift and I want you to use it to help me…I want you to go to a Ball and find the princess whose heart is *just right*…the one who possesses this heart will be able to move the mountain of mattresses and then many will be able to journey on and meet the Prince.

GOLDILOCKS: Wait…did you just say…Ball?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes…that is where you will begin…

GOLDILOCKS: Fairy Godmother, whip me up a gown!

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Sorry…I don’t do gowns…but I will give you this…

*FAIRY GODMOTHER hands her a glass pot for seed and exits.*

GOLDILOCKS: What am I supposed to do with this?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: It will help you see what isn’t there, hear what isn’t spoken, and believe until the spell is broken…look inside the hearts of others and find the one for me…

GOLDILOCKS: Thanks fairy Godmother…I’m sure a princess will show up at the Ball!

*Goldilocks holds up leaves to side of her like dress*

GOLDILOCKS: Do these make me look fat?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Not at all…they’re lovely.

GOLDILOCKS: Great! It may not be a pumpkin carriage…but they’ll have to do…

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Don’t forget the seed!

**MUSIC /SONG**

*Goldilocks hurries back and grabs pot then exits to change/lights fade on FAIRY GODMOTHER still sitting in pumpkin patch as Goldilocks exits. Back lighting comes up on ballroom as fairies remove story book pages revealing ballroom.*

*Ball room figures move into place as silhouettes.*