

BLAME IT ON THE WOLF

An original play by Douglas Love

Scene 1

The jury is seated on the stage. The judge walks in and steps up to his podium. WOLF is downstage center.

Judge: Jury, have you reached a verdict?

(Each jury member stands as he or she speaks.)

Tom: Yes –

Sue: Your...

Ted: Honor.

Ann: We....

Pat: find...

Sam: the...

Tom: wolf...

Wolf: Stop! Wait! Freeze!

(All the actors onstage, except WOLF, magically freeze, and WOLF talks directly to the audience.)

Wolf: I didn't do it! I'm not guilty. You gotta believe me. Why do they always blame the wolf? They never bother to listen to my side of the story – until now! I'm going to tell you my side of the story. You can step into my shoes. You can look through my eyes. You'll decide if I'm guilty. They say that I ate Little Red Riding Hood's grandma, Old Red. I'll present my case, and you can decide. I know you'll be fair. It all started in this Courtroom a few days ago when they asked the Three Little Pigs to tell the court all about the first time they met me.

(The actors move in slow motion to show the change in time, taking their places in the courtroom for the action a few days earlier when the trial began. IGGIE THE PIGGIE is on the stand.)

Judge: Please state your full name for the jury.

Iggie: Iggie the Piggie.

Judge: Your witness, Mr. Wolf.

Wolf: Iggie, how long have you known the defendant?

Iggie: Who's the defendant?

Wolf: Me! The wolf!

Iggie: Oh. Two weeks, I guess.

Wolf: You guess? Do you always guess when you answer questions in a court of law?

Iggie: I don't know.

Wolf: You don't know?

Iggie: I've never been in a court of law before.

Wolf: Me neither; aren't you nervous?

Iggie: Yes I am. *(Pointing to the jury.)* Who are they?

Wolf: They're the jury. They decide if I did it or not.

Judge: *(getting impatient):* Can we get on with it?

Wolf: I'm sorry, Your Honor. *(To Iggie.)* Please tell the court about the first day we met.

Iggie: My two brothers were over at my brick house.

Wolf: For the record, Your Honor, Iggie the Piggie refers to his brothers, Squiggy and Moe.

Judge: *(surprised at the corny names)*: Iggie, Squiggy, and Moe?

Iggie: Well, Your Honor, my parents already had an Iggie and a Squiggy, and they thought they should have one Moe.

Blackout.

SCENE 2

Inside Iggie's brick house. IGGIE, SQUIGGY and MOE are huddling in the corner, trembling with fright, WOLF is at the side of the stage, looking mean.

Wolf: *(in a mean voice):* Little pigs! Little pigs! Let me come in!

Iggie: Not by the hair of my chinney chin chin!

Squiggy: You tell 'im, Iggie!

Iggie: Thanks, Squiggy!

Wolf: Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house into another galaxy!

(He tries huffing and puffing and cannot blow down the brick house.) Let me in, little pigs, or I'll make you my supper!

Moe: What did he say?

Squiggy: He says he'll make us his supper!

Iggie: He'll make us his supper? Don't worry brothers. My brick house is strong enough to protect us from the evil wolf!

(Wolf tries to blow down the house and he cannot. The piggies dance in celebration.)

Lights fade.

SCENE 3

Back in the courtroom, at the trial.

Judge: Thank you, Iggie the Piggie. Do you have anything else to ask Mr. Wolf?

Wolf: Yes, Your Honor, I would like to call Squiggy and Moe to the stand.

Judge: Squiggy and Moe, please take the stand.

(SQUIGGY and MOE take the stand with IGGIE. All three sit in the same chair.)

Wolf: What do you think I said outside your brick house? On the day in question?

Iggie: I thought you said, "I'll huff and I'll puff and blow you into another galaxy!"

Squiggy: I thought he said, "My hands are rough. Can I borrow some moisturizing lotion?"

Moe: I thought he said I'll have a BLT on whole wheat – hold the mayo!"

Wolf: So you admit that you really aren't sure what I said. *(To jury.)* I intend to prove that sometimes we don't hear everything clearly. Some people don't pay attention....

Judge: *(trying to get WOLF's attention):* Mr. Wolf...

Wolf: *(continuing without hearing the JUDGE):* Some people only hear what they want to hear....

Judge: *(again trying to interrupt WOLF):* Mr. Wolf...

Wolf: *(again he does not hear):* And some people have wax...

Judge: *(finally interrupting)*: Mr. Wolf, please make your point.

Wolf: Judge, with your permission, I would like to explain what really happened that day I met the three pigs.

Judge: All right, Mr. Wolf. But make it snappy!

Blackout.

SCENE 4

Back at the brick house. The pigs are sitting around playing Monopoly.

Moe: *(moving his game piece around the board):* 1...2...3... Go directly to jail? Darn!

Iggie: *(taking the dice from MOE):* My turn!

(They continue playing as WOLF enters the stage outside of their house).

Wolf: *(talking to himself):* I always get a flat tire out in the middle of nowhere! Now all I've got to do is find a phone! *(He notices the brick house.)* Maybe the people who live in this brick house will let me call the motor club from their phone!

(Wolf begins to knock on the door of the pigs' house.)

Wolf: Hello, Hello!

Iggie: *(to his brothers):* Who's that?

Squiggy: Well, it can't be the Chinese food. That already came.

Moe: Maybe it's the three bears, Harry, Mary, and Epstein.

Squiggy: Those are the three little kittens. The three bears are named Fritzie, Mitzie, and Hansenfrasen.

Iggie: No, no. They're the three blind mice! The three bears are named Enrico, Pico, and Kinnicinnic.

(The three of them begin to argue, all talking at once. WOLF knocks again to stop their arguing.)

Moe: I'll look out the window and SEE who it is. *(He looks.)* Hey, it's the big bad wolf!

Iggie: *(clinging to his brother)*: A big bad wolf – I'm scared!

Squiggy: Just relax, brothers – he cannot hurt us in this strong brick house.

Wolf: *(still talking to himself)*: What does this welcome mat say? "The house of the three little pigs." *(knocking and calling through the door)* Little pigs... little pigs! Let me in! I've got a flat on the interstate, and I need to call a tow truck!

Iggie: Not by the hair of my chinney chin chin!

Squiggy: You tell 'im, Iggie!

Iggie: Thanks, Squiggy!

Wolf: Please! I'm so out of breath from walking all the way from my car. I'm hugging and puffing, and I need to blow my nose.

(They don't let him in.)

Squiggy: What did he say?

Wolf: Please help me, little pigs, I'm so hungry – I haven't had any supper!

Moe: What did he say?

Squiggy: He says he'll make us his supper!

Iggie: He'll make us his supper? Don't worry, brothers. My brick house is strong enough to protect us from the evil wolf!

Wolf: *(still knocking)*: Please help!

SCENE 5

The courtroom,

Judge: Members of the jury, please understand that the Piggies have appeared as character witnesses. It is your job to decide who was telling the truth. We will now hear from two more character witnesses. *(To Officer one.)* Officer One? Please call Hansel and Gretel to the stand.

Officer One: *(turning to Officer Two):* OfficerTwo? Please call Hansel and Gretel to the stand.

Officer Two: *(turning to Officer Three):* Officer Three? Please call Hansel and Gretel to the stand.

Officer Three: Officer Fff... *(seeing that there is nobody else to delegate)* Hansel and Gretel, please take the stand!

(Hansel & Gretel take the stand.)

Wolf: Your Honor, I plan to reveal to the court that I could not possibly have eaten Old Red because I was saving the lives of these two children. *(To the children.)* Please state your names for the court.

Hansel: Hansel.

Gretel: Gretel.

Wolf: Where did we first meet?

Gretel: At Auntie Pot Pie's house.

Wolf: And how did you happen to arrive there?

Hansel: My sister and I lost our way in the woods...

Gretel: It wasn't my fault. I told him to leave a trail.

Hansel: I keep telling you. I did leave a trail!

Gretel: You don't leave a trail of bread crumbs in a forest full of hungry little animals!

Blackout.

Lights shift to the Hansel and Gretel setting.

SCENE 6

*Flashback to the woods outside Auntie Pot Pie's candy house.
Woodsman and Woodswoman enter with a lantern looking for their children.*

Woodsman: Hansel! Gretel!

Woodswoman: Gretel! Hansel!

Woodsman: Children! Where are you?

Woodswoman: They're nowhere to be found! What shall we do?
Oh, it's my fault! If only I hadn't been so greedy
about the firewood! I never should have sent them
along into the forest. What shall become of them?

Woodsman: Now, now. We shall find them. I know every inch of
these woods. I will not give up until I've found our
dear children. Their legs are short. They could not
have gone far...

Woodswoman: *(frightened)*: Oh, my poor children. What shall
become of them?

Woodsman: Do not fret! We will find them! *(They exit.)*

Chicken Little: *(enters in a fright)*:

It's falling! It's falling!
Tomorrow you'll be crawling
Under piles of cloud and sky,
It's frightful! Appalling!
There isn't any stalling.
How I wish these wings could fly!
I'd fly away above the sky
On Venue I would live.
The moon would be my neighbor
And there'd be no one to give the word...
It's falling! It's falling!

I tell ya that I'm bawling.
This news of doom I will be
Spreading near and far.
I am getting very tired. How I wish I had a car!
It's falling! It's falling!
Tomorrow you'll be crawling
Under piles of clouds and sky.
(*Chicken Little exits.*)
(*Hansel and Gretel enter, looking lost.*)

Gretel: Where are we, Brother? I thought we left a trail!

Hansel: We did leave one, Sister. Only I fear that I had no stones to drop behind us to mark our way.

Gretel: What did you drop, Brother?

Hansel: Bread crumbs from my peanut butter and pickle sandwich.

Gretel: (*very angry*): BREAD CRUMBS! The birds and animals of the forest must have eaten them all up!

Hansel: What are we to do?

Gretel: We must try to find our way on our own.

(*They come upon a house made of gingerbread and candy.*)

Hansel: Look at that candy house.

Gretel: It looks good enough to eat!

Hansel: It is making me very hungry.

Gretel: Let's make a small bite... no one will know!

Auntie Pot Pie: (*from inside the house*)
Who is nibbling on my house?

Hansel: What was that?

Auntie Pot Pie: (*entering*): Who is nibbling? Nibbling, nibbling on my house?

Gretel: I am sorry, old woman. We are lost and haven't eaten a thing all day.

Hansel: We are very hungry. May we eat your door post?

(Chicken Little enters with Turkey Lurkey and Henny Penny, Hansel, Gretel, and Auntie Poe Pie look at the three birds as if they have wandered into the wrong story.)

All three birds: It's falling! It's falling!

Tomorrow you'll be crawling
Under piles of clouds and sky.

Henny Penny: It's frightful! Appalling! There isn't any stalling.

Turkey Lurkey: How I wish these wings could fly! (*flap, flap*)

I'd fly away above the sky
Oh Venue I would live.

Chicken Little: The moon would be my neighbor and there'd be no one to give the word...

All three birds: It's falling! It's falling!

I tell ya that I'm bawling,
This news of doom I will be
Spreading near and far.
I am getting very tired. How I wish I had a car!
It's falling! It's falling!
Tomorrow you'll be crawling
Under piles of clouds and sky.
(The three of them exit.)

Auntie Pot Pie: Come inside and I'll give you some sweets,
children.

Blackout.

SCENE 7

The courtroom, Hansel & Gretel are finishing their story.

Hansel: Then she put us in a cage until the wolf came by and rescued us.

Woodsman: *(standing in his place on stage, crying tears of joy):*
Thank you, Mr. Wolf, for saving my children!

Judge: Order in the court! Mr. Wolf, do you have any further questions for these witnesses?

Wolf: Just a few, Your Honor, Hansel, Gretel – how would you describe me?

Gretel: Well... you're about 4 foot 9 and furry....

Wolf: No, I mean as a person...

Hansel: You were very kind to us!

Wolf: I rest my case!

(Hansel and Gretel leave the witness stand.)

Judge: OfficerOne, please call Little Red Riding Hood to the stand.

Officer One: *(turning to OfficerTwo):* Officer Two, please call Little Red to the stand.

OfficerTwo: *(turning to Officer Three):* Officer Three, please call Little Red to the stand.

Officer Three: Officer fff... *(Turning to see there is not another officer.)*...um... Little Red Riding Hood, please take the stand.

(Little Red skips up to the witness stand and sits down.)

Little Red: The wolf ate my grandma! He came to her door and ate her up! I always visit on Thursdays! Last Thursday she was gone! He must have eaten her up. I say x-ray his stomach and look for her bifocals!

Wolf: I never even met your grandmother. I am going to explain what really happened that day.

End of scene.

SCENE 8

Big Red, Little Red's mother, is sending her off to bring a basket of goodies to Little Red's grandmother, Old Red.

Big Red: Now remember, Daughter, go to Grandma's with this basket of goodies and do not stray from the path. Do not talk to strangers. Do not pick the flowers. Do not speak out of turn. Do not pass go. Do not run in the halls. Do not chew gum in school. And don't count your chickens!

(Chicken Little enters with Turkey Lurkey and Henny Penny).

Chicken Little: Did somebody mention chickens?

Turkey Lurkey: Or turkeys?

Henny Penny: Or hennys?

All three birds: It's falling! It's falling!

Tomorrow you'll be crawling
Under piles of clouds and sky.

Henny: It's frightful! Appalling!
There isn't any stalling...

Turkey: How I wish these wings could fly!
I'd fly away above the sky
On Venus I would live...

Chicken: The moon would be my neighbor
And there'd be no one to give the word....

All three birds: It's falling! It's falling!
I tell ya that I'm bawling.
This news of doom I will be spreading near and far.
I am getting very tired. How I wish I had a car!
It's falling! It's falling!
Tomorrow you'll be crawling
Under piles of clouds and sky

(The three of them exit.)

(Little Red walks around the stage, then stops at Old Red's house. She knocks on the door. Auntie Pot Pie is inside, disguised as a wolf.)

Auntie Pot Pie: *(evilily)*: With this disguise Little Red will think that I am the wolf and I ate her grandmother. This way I can get back at that nasty wolf who helped those delicious little children Hansel and Gretel, go! And I can also get back to Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother, my sweet twin sister! Yuck!

(Auntie Pot Pie opens the door, Little Red thinks that she is talking to her grandma.)

Little Red: Here is a basket of goodies for the best grandma in the world!

Auntie Pot Pie: I am not your grandma! I am the big bad wolf!

Little Red: *(not paying attention)*: Grandma! What big eyes you have!

Auntie Pot Pie: These are wolf eyes! Why don't you open yours and take a look?

Little Red: Grandma! What big ears you have!

Auntie Pot Pie: I'm not your granny! Open up your ears so I can tell you I'm the big bad wolf!

Little Red: *(not paying attention):* Grandma! What big wolflike teeth you have!

Auntie Pot Pie: You better believe it, baby! What do you have to say about that?

Little Red: So how've you been, Grandma?

(Auntie Pot Pie roars with anger.)

Little Red: Sore throat still?

(Auntie Pot Pie roars again.)

Little Red: Eek!

(A big chase follows that involves many cast members. We end up in the courtroom with the jury about to announce the verdict.)

SCENE 9

The courtroom. The judge and jury are seated. Wolf is downstage center.

Wolf: *(to audience):* See? I couldn't have eaten Old Red! All the evidence is in. All of the witnesses have testified. I guess I have to find out what the jury decides sooner or later. *(To audience.)* Have you made up your mind? You don't think I did it, do you? *(Pointing to the jury)* Let's see what they think.

(The Judge and the jury unfreeze and the jury is about to give its verdict.)

Judge: Jury, have you reached a verdict?

Tom: Yes –

Sue: Your...

Ted: Honor.

Ann: We...

Pat: find...

Sam: the...

Tom: wolf...

Sue: guilty

Ted: as

Ann: charged.

Pat: Guilty.

Sam: Guilty

Tom: Guilty.

Sue: Guilty.

Ted: Guilty.

Ann: Guilty.

Pat: as

Sam: charged!

(Suddenly from stage left Old Red enters.)

Old Red: *(singing to herself):* Oh, I wanna go back to my little
grass shack in Ka Wala Ka Koo Hawaii!! La La La La La
La La

(Little Red is surprised.)

Little Red: Grandma!

Auntie Pot Pie: *(seeing that she will soon be found out):* Uh-Oh!

Wolf: See! I told you I didn't eat her!

Old Red: I'm back! *(to Auntie Pot Pie.)* Thank you, dear sister, for
sending me on that lovely vacation. You know, I don't
think I'll ever be able to get over how surprised I was
when you offered me the trip. I always thought you didn't
like me. I know better now, sweet sister!

Auntie Pot Pie: Don't sweet sister me.... You always come in at the
wrong time!

Judge: Jury – I think that we all owe Mr. Wolf an apology. We
can only hope that he will accept it.

Wolf: Oh, I accept it. It is not easy to see both sides of a story.
But you'll never see the other side if you don't look.

Auntie Pot Pie: This is all so sweet and mushy. I think I'm going to be sick! You all celebrate – I'm going home.

Little Red: Wait! Stay and celebrate with us! Grandma is going to teach us all to hula!

(Auntie Pot Pie stays on stage, looking defeated.)

Wolf: What's a hula?

Little Red: It's a dance!

Old Red: I picked it up in Hawaii. You're going to love it!

(Suddenly a loud boom is heard and clouds fall to the stage.)

All three birds: *(entering)*

It's falling! It's falling!
We told you it was falling!
But you did not hear, did you?
We told you – We warned you.
We did not want to scorn you.
But, the foot's on the other shoe.
It is always good to listen to
Another point of view.
Hear all sides of the story and
You'll have a better clue.
We're happy, there's justice.
You'll really have to trust us.
We want you all to go out yelling up to every rafter.
The wolves and pigs, the reds and grets,
Live happily ever after!

Curtain....