



THE WOODSMAN AND THE WOLF

READING THEATRE

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The Wolf and the Woodsmen

Characters:

Judge
Bailiff
Red Riding Hood
Gran
Woodsmen
Wolf

Bailiff Judge, all the fairy-tale characters have been sworn in. You can be seated. Today we have the trial of the Big Sad Wolf Versus the Woodmen.

Judge Wolf are you here today because you lost someone dear to you?
Wolf That's correct. One of my brothers is standing trial against some lying pigs. My other brother was killed by him (*points to the woodsman.*)

Judge Sounds like your family has gone to the pack.
Wolf This is not a time for insensitive jokes.
Judge Um yes of course, please continue.

Wolf I would like to call to the stand Little Red Riding Hood (*she takes the stand*)
Red Would you like a delicious cake from my basket Judge?
Judge Actually that would be fantastic. I skipped breakfast this morning.
Wolf Are you bribing the Judge?
Judge I mean no, and you can't have food in a courtroom. Give them to me (*she does as he whispers to her*) I'll eat them after and you can get the basket from me later.

Wolf So Red when did you first meet my brother?
Red When he stalked me on a morning walk to Gran's.
Wolf Did you speak to him?
Red Yes, although you should never speak to strangers, especially ones who want to eat you.

Wolf Did he try to eat you?
Red No but he wanted to.
Wolf Objection your honour. How do we know that?
Judge Yes Red how do we know that?
Red Cause I said it and I never lie, do I Gran?
Gran It's true: my angel would never lie.
Judge Okay I believe her. Objection overruled.
Wolf I object to your overruled objection,
Judge Well I object to the fact you are trying to object to an objection that I didn't like.

Red I object to your breath wolf. What did you eat? Dog food?
Wolf I had to leave early to get here. It's a long way. I didn't get time to brush my teeth.

Red How early did you leave, a week ago? Gran give him a mint.
Wolf Red, did my brother try to harm you?
Red No but he tried to lure me into Gran's house, by making out he was her. How do you explain that tuna breath?

Wolf I don't have to. I'm asking the questions.
Judge I would like you to answer the question.
Wolf I object.
Judge You used up your objections.
Wolf I call to the stand - Granny.
Gran You be nice. I'm very old and not very patient in my twilight years, hairy.

Wolf Are you the Granny?
Gran No, I'm a swimsuit model! Is that the stupidest question you've heard in here?
Judge It is close, Gran.
Wolf Did my brother hurt you?
Gran Yes he did.
Wolf Okay no further questions.
Judge Answer the question Gran.
Wolf Bugger.
Gran He tied me up and threw me in a cupboard.
Wolf He was helping you rest.
Gran It hurt my knees. I fell and the cold room was no good for my arthritis and my hip almost dislocated.
Wolf But he didn't hurt you badly?
Gran He said to wait there. He'll come back and eat me after he'd eaten my granddaughter.
Wolf But he didn't really hurt you though - is the point I'm making.
Gran Did you pass grade two in school?
Wolf Were you afraid?
Gran Of course I was. He was dressed up in my favourite nighty. He could have had fleas or anything. He was stretching it out of shape. Of course I was scared, scared he'd rip it. They don't even stock them anymore.
Wolf Did you see what happened when Red came to the door?
Gran Yeh I looked through a locked wooden door. You aren't smart are you?
Wolf So you know nothing?
Gran I know I'm gonna crack this walking stick on your dumb skull in a minute flea bag.
Wolf Let the jury witness that she has a cane.
Judge And -
Wolf It's a weapon.
Judge She's not on trial
Wolf But imagine she was? That would be important.
Judge Do you wish to talk to anyone else Wolf?
Wolf I call to the stand the killer, the Woodsman. *(he comes to the stand and sits)*
Do you carry an axe?
Woodsman Yes
Wolf Is it sharp?
Woodsman Yes
Wolf Did you kill my brother
Woodsman Yes
Wolf I knew it! *(gives a fist pump)* Do you drink milk?
Woodsman Yes
Wolf Are you a murderer?
Woodsman No
Wolf Oh so close! I thought I had him there.
Woodsman It was self-defence.
Wolf Karate is self-defence. You chopped him in half.
Woodsman He was running.
Wolf You'd be fun at an athletics carnival wouldn't you? Oh looks he's running – chop! She's running around the track – chop! You need to be locked away for everyone's safety.
Woodsman It's not like that. Red yelled out that he had eaten Granny, I was protecting Red.
Wolf But he didn't eat Gran did he?
Woodsman Well no he didn't.
Wolf He hadn't eaten anyone had he?

Woodsman I don't know.
Wolf Oh you do though don't you?
Woodsman I don't know what you are talking about?
Wolf He's a rug on your floor now isn't he?
Woodsman Only half of him unfortunately.
Wolf Like a killer you kept him as a trophy. My innocent, never ate any one brother.
Gran Who was waiting to kill me.
Wolf Be quiet old lady.
Gran You are a mad wolf.
Wolf No he is dead.
Gran And the fairy-tale world is a better place.
Wolf (*turns back to the Woodsman*) Did you kill an unarmed wolf Mr Woodsman?
Woodsman Are we counting huge teeth, huge claws and the strength of five men, unarmed?
Wolf Did he have arms?
Woodsman Technically he has four legs.
Wolf That's right. He was unarmed and you killed him.
Woodsman It was self-defence.
Wolf You played that small violin before. I rest my case.
Judge Well jury this case is now in your hands. Please deliberate and come back with your verdict. While you are doing that I'm going to hoe into the cakes!