



**Happily Never After:
a fairy tale gone bad**

LYRIC SHEETS

1. **Happily Ever After**

The Big Bad Wolf, sick of having a bad ending morning after morning, kidnaps Mother Goose in order to get his hands on her Book of Happy Ending. He pulls out a goose quill pen and immediately scribbles in the book.

BIG BAD WOLF

(tears pages; scribbles in the book)

Bad guy loses; bad guy loses. I don't think so! Starting today, I'm writing us some different endings. Woof-woof-harooo! Watch this. Once upon a time....

(Lights change; THREE PIGS in the Brick House thumb their noses at the BIG BAD WOLF.)

STICK PIG

Once upon a time, the three little pigs were hiding in their house made of bricks

STRAW PIG

when the Big Bad Wolf came along and said

BIG BAD WOLF

I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down.

STICK PIG

Yeah, right, like that's going to happen.

(BIG BAD WOLF huffs and puffs, and the brick house blows away as though hit by a hurricane. THE THREE PIGS hide behind the toppled chimney.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Woof-woof-harooo!

STRAW PIG

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

STICK PIG

IT'S VERY QUEER.

BRICK PIG

A WOLF CAN'T BLOW DOWN
A HOUSE OF BRICK.

IF THIS IS REAL
STICK PIG

WE'LL SOON BE A MEAL!
BRICK PIG

I THINK I'M GETTING SICK.
STRAW PIG

NOW JUST HOLD ON;
BRICK PIG
LET'S NOT CARRY ON.
MOTHER GOOSE WILL CHANGE IT
TO THE WAY IT'S BEEN.

STICK PIG/STRAW PIG
HOW COULD SHE MAKE SUCH AN AWFUL MISTAKE?

THREE PIGS
THE BAD GUYS NEVER WIN.

BRICK PIG
HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
LET'S SING OUR SONG
AND BEFORE TOO LONG

BRICK PIG/STRAW PIG
WE'LL SEE THERE REALLY IS NOTHING WRONG.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ALL THE LAUGHTER?

THREE PIGS
LIFT UP YOUR CHIN,
PUT ON A GRIN --

(The BIG BAD WOLF roars up suddenly. The PIGS scurry for hiding places.)

BIG BAD WOLF
IT'S THE BAD GUYS' TURN TO WIN!
Aha-ha-ha, and now to fix getting my head cut off every evening. Once upon a time....

(RED RIDING HOOD ventures out, skipping across the stage with a basket on her arm. BIG BAD WOLF scribbles in the book.)

RED RIDING HOOD

Once upon a time, Little Red Riding Hood was on her way to Granny's, carrying a basket of goodies.

BIG BAD WOLF

When a wolf came along and stole the goodies all for himself!

(HE snatches the basket.)

RED RIDING HOOD

Waa-aa!

BIG BAD WOLF

Woof-woof-harooo!

(The PIGS commiserate with RED RIDING HOOD.)

STRAW PIG

HEY RIDING HOOD
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

RED RIDING HOOD

THE WOLF JUST TOOK MY GOODIES;
I HAD QUITE A SCARE.

STICK PIG

THAT'S NOT SO BAD.
HE ALMOST HAD US SERVED UP MEDIUM RARE.

RED RIDING HOOD

THIS ISN'T FUN.

BRICK PIG

SOMETHING'S GOTTA BE DONE.
WE CAN'T JUST LIE DOWN AND QUIT
WITHOUT A FIGHT.

STRAW PIG

THAT MAY BE TRUE,

STICK PIG

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

BRICK PIG

GET MOTHER GOOSE!

BRICK PIG/STRAW PIG
SHE'S SURE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

THREE PIGS
AND WE'LL LIVE...

RED RIDING HOOD/PIGS
HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
LET'S SING OUR SONG
AND BEFORE TOO LONG
WE'LL SEE THERE REALLY IS NOTHING WRONG.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ALL THE LAUGHTER?
LIFT UP YOUR CHIN,
PUT ON A GRIN....

(LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF and BIG BAD WOLF run in and frighten away the PIGS and RED RIDING HOOD with an exploding stink bomb; THE GOOD GUYS run off, coughing and gasping for air.)

WOLVES
(laughter)

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF
(reaching for the book)
My turn, my turn! Bye-bye stupid "Peter and the Wolf"! I'm going to write myself a whole new story!

BIG BAD WOLF
(snarls viciously; catches himself)
Eh, I don't think so. But you can watch.

(The GINGERBREAD WITCH appears with an enormous tray of cupcakes. HANSEL and GRETEL approach her, unafraid, as HANSEL proffers a stick with four finger-like twigs.)

GRETEL
Once upon a time

HANSEL
Hansel

GRETEL
and Gretel

who really loved gingerbread

HANSEL/GRETEL

had fooled the Gingerbread Witch

HANSEL

into thinking that Hansel

GRETEL

was too scrawny to eat.

HANSEL/GRETEL

But the witch bought herself a new pair of glasses....

BIG BAD WOLF

Uh-oh.

HANSEL/GRETEL

(The GINGERBREAD WITCH puts on a large set of eyeglasses and turns on HANSEL and GRETEL.)

GINGERBREAD WITCH

And she saw that both Hansel and Gretel would make a wonderfully plumpy lumpy tasty meal this very evening.

Not good.

HANSEL/GRETEL

(BIG BAD WOLF, LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF, and the GINGERBREAD WITCH high-five each other and run off.)

HANSEL

WE CAN'T GIVE UP YET.

GRETEL

DON'T GET TOO UPSET.

BRICK PIG

BUT THERE'S CLEARLY SOMETHING VERY WRONG!

HANSEL

WE CAN'T GIVE IN.

GRETEL

NEXT TIME WE'LL WIN.

HANSEL/GRETEL/RED/PIGS

THIS CAN'T GO ON FOR LONG!

(THEY run off behind a thicket to conspire. The
GINGERBREAD WITCH skips on in front of BIG BAD WOLF
and LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF.)

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Thanks for the happy ending, Big Bad Wolf! With my new glasses--
(turns and looks at BIG BAD WOLF)

Whoa! You're ugly!

BIG BAD WOLF

Watch it or I'll write you back into the oven.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Whoa! You're handsome.

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

I want to write myself a new story, please!

BIG BAD WOLF

(not a chance)

Once upon a time....

(ALICE skips on with a little cake.)

ALICE

Once upon a time, Alice in Wonderland could make herself very very small or very very tall just
by eating her special cake.

(The QUEEN OF HEARTS enters.)

BIG BAD WOLF

But the Queen of Hearts came along --

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Off with her head!

BIG BAD WOLF

And saw to it that Alice only thought the cake could make her small.

ALICE

La, la, la, now that I've eaten my cake, I'll be small enough to walk under that tree branch
without ducking! La, la, la....

QUEEN OF HEARTS

I said off with her --

(ALICE walks smack dab into a tree branch, and falls to the ground, dazed.)

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Never mind.

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

That's gotta hurt.

(The GOOD GUYS gather together.)

PIGS/RIDING HOOD/
HANSEL/GRETEL/ALICE

What's happening to us?

QUEEN OF HEARTS

(to BIG BAD WOLF)

So next you're going to use the book to make me Queen of Everything, right?

BIG BAD WOLF

Yeah, right. "The Story of Sleeping Beauty."

(SLEEPING BEAUTY skips in, followed shortly thereafter by the THIRTEENTH FAIRY.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Once upon a time, according to the story, Sleeping Beauty forgot to invite the Thirteenth Fairy to a party, which apparently was enough to upset her so much

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

She hurt my FEELINGS!

BIG BAD WOLF

Awww. So the Thirteenth Fairy made Sleeping Beauty fall asleep for a thousand years. Well, now Sleeping Beauty falls asleep not once, but all the time.

(SLEEPING BEAUTY enters, looking on a mirror; her ravishing blond hair piled atop her head. THE THIRTEENTH FAIRY flits nearby with a wand.)

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Oh, look at that beautiful --

(The THIRTEENTH FAIRY zzaps SLEEPING BEAUTY with a blast of Magic from her wand, and SLEEPING BEAUTY suddenly falls to the ground, sound asleep.)

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(loud snoring)

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

Next time, put me on the invite list. Thanks, Wolf!

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Hey Wolf, I want to be Queen of Everything.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

Is that an option?

(sucking up to BIG BAD WOLF)

Did I tell you how handsome you are?

BIG BAD WOLF

Yes, but I can never hear that too many times. Oh, girls, we're going to make the world so very nasty!

BAD GUYS

Woof-woof-harroo!

HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

OUR TIME IS HERE

IT'S OUR BIG YEAR.

THE BAD GUYS' TURN.

LET'S HEAR A BIG CHEER!

WE'VE STOLEN THE GOOD GUYS' LAUGHTER.

WE'VE GOT A NOOSE

ON MOTHER GOOSE.

BIG BAD WOLF

BY THE HAIRS ON OUR CHINNY CHIN CHIN....

BAD GUYS

IT'S THE BAD GUYS' TURN TO WIN!

2. Distress

PRINCE CHARMING

(to the GOOD GUYS)

Stand aside, everyone. Watch this.

(to the DAMSELS, egging them on; showing off)

Let me hear some nice loud cries for help. Loudest cry gets rescued.

DAMSELS

(suddenly agitated)

I'M JUST A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS
 ATTEMPTING VAINLY TO IMPRESS
 PRINCE CHARMING
 AND MAKE HIM SEE
 THE BEAUTIFUL AND CAPTIVATING CAPTIVE GIRL
 THAT HE SHOULD SAVE IS ME.

VARIOUS DAMSELS

It's me! It's me! It's me! It's me!

DAMSELS

I'M TRAPPED BEHIND THIS CASTLE WALL
 AND NOWHERE NEAR A SHOPPING MALL!
 AN ALARMING CATASTROPHE.
 TOO BAD THERE'S NOT SOME CHARMING MAN
 TO COME AND LEND A HELPING HAND TO ME.

VARIOUS DAMSELS

To me! To me, me, me, me me!

DAMSELS

DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
 I NEED A SAVIOR TO SET ME FREE.
 DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
 WHY WON'T HE JUST PICK ME?

SLEEPING BEAUTY

But ladies. These turrets are made of cardboard. If you just --

DAMSELS

Shhh!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Ladies, you don't have to have a prince rescue you.

DAMSELS

We do, we do! Because we're damsels in distress!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Whatever.

DAMSELS

IS THERE NO ONE
BRAVE AND STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE ME?

PRINCE CHARMING

YES, THERE'S ONE MAN
BRAVE AND STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE THEE.

DAMSELS

IS HE A DUKE, AN EARL, A BARON OR A KING?

PRINCE CHARMING

YOU KNOW MY NAME, LET'S HEAR IT:

DAMSELS

PRINCE CHARMING!
(spoken)

Swoon!

PRINCE CHARMING

I love being needed.

DAMSELS

DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
I NEED A SAVIOR TO SET ME FREE.
DISTRESS! DISTRESS!
WON'T YOU PLEASE JUST PICK ME?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STUCK FOREVER IN THIS DRESS,
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT DISTRESS!
I DON'T DESERVE IT!
THIS AGONY.
WELL, IT WOULD SURE BE SWELL
IF A CUTE BOY SAVED ME FROM THIS CELL.
PRINCE CHARMING, PLEASE RESCUE ME!

3. Sick & Tired

The Bad Guys have captured the Good Guys and put them in prison.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Well, I gotta hand it to you, boss. You said you'd take over the world, and you did. Here's to the bad guys!

QUEEN/FAIRY/WITCH

MISTER WOLF, I THANK YOU FOR SO MANY THINGS.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

I LIKE WHAT YOU GIVE US
MORE THAN DIAMOND KINGS

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

AND IT SURE IS SWELL FOR ONCE
TO BE ON TOP.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

I LIKE BEING IN CHARGE
AND I LIKE LIVIN' LARGE.

QUEEN/FAIRY/WITCH

BUT THERE IS ONE THING WE NEED
TO TALK ABOUT.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

I ALONE SHOULD RULE WITH YOU.
LET'S THROW THEM OUT.

THIRTEENTH FAIRY

WRONG! IT'S ME WHO SHOULD BE
SITTING BY YOUR SIDE.

GINGERBREAD WITCH

NO! WE SHOULD UNITE.

Yeah, right.

(to WOLF portrait)

GET THEM OUT OF SIGHT!

QUEEN/FAIRY/WITCH

THE THOUGHT OF ONE OF YOU TWO RULING
 MAKES ME RATHER ILL.
 THAT SURELY WOULD DESTROY
 MY SELF-ESTEEM.
 TO HAVE TO SHARE THIS HOUSE WITH YOU'S
 ALREADY SUCH A BITTER PILL,
 IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A FULL-GROWN WOMAN SCREAM!

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR CONSTANT WHINING.
 YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO HAVE YOUR LITTLE WAY.
 WELL, LET ME TELL YOU THIS:
 LISTEN VERY CLOSELY, MISS,
 I CANNOT STAND TO BE AROUND YOU TWO ANOTHER DAY.
 YOU'RE STUPID AND INCREDIBLY ANNOYING.
 AND YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE'S HIT YOU WITH A BRICK.
 YOU STINK LIKE DIRTY SOCKS,
 GET OUT, I WANNA CHANGE THE LOCKS!/YOU'RE TWICE AS DUMB AS
 GOLDBLOCKS!
 I HATE YOU AND YOU MAKE ME SICK.

(Music continues as lights change to reveal a dungeon. Dark, dank and moldy. Big iron bars; a metal grating. Big jagged boulders on the walls. Asleep are Brick Pig, Hansel, Gretel and Prince Charming. Huddling for warmth are Alice, Red Riding Hood, and Sleeping Beauty.

ALICE/RED/SLEEPING BEAUTY

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE COULD BE SO NAÏVE.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

HOW COULD WE TELL WE'D END IN THIS PRISON CELL?

ALICE

I DON'T EVEN THINK IT PAYS TO EAT MY CAKE AT ALL.

RED RIDING HOOD

IT MUST BE ASSUMED
 WE ALL ARE DOOMED.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS ACT AS THOUGH
 THERE ISN'T ANY HOPE?

RED RIDING HOOD

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
 WELL, IF YOU CAN STAY AWAKE.

SLEEPING BEAUTY/RED RIDING HOOD

(ad-lib bickering)

I resent that! Good! You're always complaining. You're always snoring...

ALICE

YOU TWO SHOULD SETTLE DOWN.
LOOK AT ME; HOW WELL I COPE.

SLEEPING BEAUTY/RED RIDING HOOD

OH, SHUT UP! I HATE YOU
AND YOUR STUPID CAKE.

(Lights change to reveal the living room of the castle; the three
GOOD GUYS sing simultaneously with the three female BAD
GUYS.)

QUEEN/FAIRY/WITCH

(simultaneous with GOOD GUYS)

I WILL BE THE ONE
WHO'LL RULE AT BIG BAD'S SIDE
WHEN I HAVE THE POWER
YOU'D BOTH BETTER HIDE.
I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER DAY
WITH YOU AROUND.
ON THE DAY I'M CROWNED
YOU'LL NO LONGER BE FOUND.

ALICE/RED/SLEEPING BEAUTY

(simultaneous with the BAD GUYS)

OH, WOE IS ME,
IN PRISON IN MISERY.
IT'S 'CAUSE OF YOU
WE'RE STUCK IN THIS HUMAN ZOO.
I CAN'T STAND TO SIT HERE
WITH YOU FOR ANOTHER DAY.
OH, HOW I PRAY
YOU'LL GO AWAY!

ALICE/RED/SLEEPING BEAUTY and
QUEEN/FAIRY/WITCH

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR CONSTANT WHINING.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO HAVE YOUR LITTLE WAY.
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU THIS:
LISTEN VERY CLOSELY, MISS,
I CANNOT STAND TO BE AROUND YOU TWO ANOTHER DAY.
YOU'RE STUPID AND INCREDIBLY ANNOYING.
AND YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE'S HIT YOU WITH A BRICK.
YOU STINK LIKE DIRTY SOCKS,
GET OUT, I WANNA CHANGE THE LOCKS!
I HATE YOU AND YOU MAKE ME SICK.
I HATE YOU AND YOU MAKE ME SICK!

3. Keep on Believin

Little Big Bad Wolf has the task of putting Mother Goose in chains, while Big Bad Wolf supervises. Mother Goose is unafraid of the chains.

MOTHER GOOSE

YOU MUST TRY BELIEVING
THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BE
IS TO BE HONEST.
WHEN YOU DO GOOD THINGS
YOUR STORY WILL END HAPPILY.

MOTHER GOOSE/LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

KEEP ON BELIEVING.
HAVE FAITH IT'LL ALL WORK OUT --

BIG BAD WOLF

What're you doing?

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

Catchy tune.

BIG BAD WOLF

Not for wolves. Now help me chain her up and we'll roast her in front of her friends!

MOTHER GOOSE

(over the action)

AND KNOW THAT GOOD DEEDS ARE THEIR OWN REWARD
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
NOW IT ISN'T ALWAYS EASY
TO DO THE THINGS YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD.
THERE'S SURE TO BE TEMPTATION
ALONG THE WAY.
BUT YOU ALWAYS MUST REMEMBER
YOU'RE THE AUTHOR OF IT ALL.
AND HOW IT ENDS IS
MAINLY YOURS TO SAY.

(BIG BAD WOLF hands LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF a chain, but
LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF looks sheepish, and doesn't take it.)

BIG BAD WOLF

You're either with me, or you're against me.

(LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF looks between BIG BAD WOLF and
MOTHER GOOSE, torn.)

LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

I can't decide.

BIG BAD WOLF

Her or me. The Goose or your brother.

(LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF drops the chains on the floor.)

BIG BAD WOLF

Then stay here with her!

(BIG BAD WOLF wraps both LITTLE BAD WOLF and MOTHER GOOSE in chains. BIG BAD WOLF slams and locks the tower door, locking his brother alone with MOTHER GOOSE. Dramatic lighting from the window, the sole source of light in the tower, spotlighting a very confused LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF.)

MOTHER GOOSE/LITTLE BIG BAD WOLF

DON'T LET THE NASTY PEOPLE
OR THE NASTY WAY THEY PLAY
AFFECT THE WAY YOU LIVE
FROM DAY TO DAY.

(Lights rise on another part of the forest; the GOOD GUYS are making their way in the opposite direction of the castle.)

BRICK PIG

Okay, I admit it. We're totally lost.

HANSEL/GRETEL

Lost and hungry.

RED RIDING HOOD

Lost, hungry, and doomed. Just a matter of time before the buzzards find us.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Can I just say being around you is really really depressing?

BRICK PIG

What would Mother Goose do?

RED RIDING HOOD

Well, first of all, Mother Goose would fly.

BRICK PIG

But after that. If she got depressed or scared or lost...she'd sing, wouldn't she?

GOOD GUYS

(ad-lib)

Yeah, that's right! She'd sing! We should try that...!

MOTHER GOOSE/GOOD GUYS/LITTLE BIG
BAD WOLF

KEEP ON BELIEVING
THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BE
IS TO BE HONEST.
WHEN YOU GOOD THINGS
YOUR STORY WILL END HAPPILY.
KEEP ON BELIEVING.
HAVE FAITH IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
AND KNOW THAT GOOD DEEDS ARE THEIR OWN REWARD
THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
ETC. (REPEAT)