

Goldilocks and the Three Little Pigs

for Rowan

Once upon a time there were three little pigs who lived together in a little house made of brick. In the little house made of brick, with wooden windows and straw on the floor, they had three little beds. The littlest pig had coarse woollen sheets on her bed, but she spent very little time in bed since she was up all day and all night cooking and cleaning for her two brothers. The middle-sized pig had linen sheets on his bed, and he would stay in bed giving orders to the littlest pig. The biggest little pig had silk sheets on his bed, and to keep them fresh he would lay a blanket on top and lie on it, berating the middle pig for his laziness but not lifting a trotter to help the littlest pig. In this way they continued for many years.

One day a big bad blonde girl was wandering through the forest. It was a hot day and she had come far. She was looking for a soft spot to rest when she saw the little brick house. She knocked on the door, and when no one answered she lifted the latch and let herself in. She was very tired so she lay down on the littlest pig's bed and lit a cigar. A spark from the cigar fell on to the wool sheets and the bed caught on fire. Goldilocks jumped out of bed and lay down on the middle-sized pig's bed to finish her cigar. The ash was getting long so she tapped the cigar against the bed post. A spark fell onto the linen sheets and the bed caught on fire. Goldilocks jumped up and moved to the biggest pig's bed, but the silk sheets were so comfortable that she fell fast asleep before she could relight her cigar.

Soon the three little pigs came home from collecting acorns in the woods. As soon as they opened the door they noticed that the walls were black with smoke. The littlest pig went to her burned-out bed and smelt the cigar. "Someone's been smoking in my bed", she cried "and they've huffed and

they've puffed and they've burned it right down." Then the middle-sized pig went to his bed. "Someone's been smoking in *my* bed", he cried "and they've huffed and they've puffed and they've burned it right down." They all went over to the biggest pig's bed. "No one was smoking in my bed", he shouted "and there she is, fast asleep".

Goldilocks heard the cries of the three little pigs, leaped out of bed, and jumped out of the window. The pigs tidied away the two burned beds, which made them so tired that they all three fell into the third bed, with its silk sheets, and fell into a deep sleep. Meanwhile Goldilocks continued on her way, but she could not stop thinking of the comfortable bed with the silk sheets that she had left behind. She thought of a clever plan. She disguised herself as an old woman and knocked on the window of the little pigs' house, with a basket of apples. She had poisoned one half of an apple and when the biggest pig opened the window she offered apples at a pfennig a dozen, taking a big bite out of the safe side of one apple to show how good it was. The biggest pig went to get his purse from under his mattress but the littlest pig stopped him. "I can smell cigars on the breath of that old woman", she said "so do exactly as I say."

All three pigs got into the bed with the silken sheets, with the littlest pig's head on the pillow, the middle pig further down, and the biggest pig curled up under the blanket at the foot of the bed. The littlest pig made her voice gruff like the biggest pig and called out "come in, come, in and I'll buy your apples."

When Goldilocks approached the bed she saw the head of the littlest pig and said "my what a long tummy you have, for such a small pig". "All the better to eat your apples" grunted the littlest pig. Goldilocks took a step closer. "And what a smelly house you live in" she said "it smells like a burned out pigsty". "All the better to clean with fresh apple juice", said the middle-sized pig

from under the covers. Goldilocks took one more step towards the bed. "And what strangely-shaped trotters you have" she said, looking at the lump at the foot of the bed. "All the better to chase you with" cried the biggest pig, and at that all three pigs leaped out of bed and chased Goldilocks around the house until she was so tired they could tie her up with ropes.

After that all three pigs lay in the same bed all day long and smoked cigars, grunting orders to Goldilocks who worked from morning till night cooking and cleaning, past the point at which the house was spotless and the three little pigs had grown into fat old lazy pigs who lived happily ever after.