

## Goldilocks and the Three Barristers

*by Carole Gauntlett*

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, we thank you for your service and admonish you to listen to all of the testimony before discussing or forming an opinion about this case. We begin this morning with the Prosecutor's opening statement.

We intend to prove that a spoiled, brazen scofflaw named Ms. Goldilocks broke into the peaceful home of: Papa Bear, Mama Bear and Baby Bear with intent to Rob, Vandalize and Corrupt the bedclothes of the premises with willful intent. Her frightening of Baby Bear is legally termed "Child Abuse," also punishable by imprisonment. The Bears have been so intimidated by the experience that they have been unable to occupy their cabin until a very expensive rehabilitation, fumigation and exorcism have been completed. We are asking you to find Ms. Goldilocks guilty of all charges and find her responsible for their time and expenses.

The defense attorney will now address the jury with his opening statement.

Thank you your honor.

I am here to talk to you about my client, a poor child, abandoned in the forest by neglectful parents. She found herself alone, hungry and terrified until she spotted the encouraging sight of a dimly lit cabin at the end of the path. She knocked and called out repeatedly, "Please help me, kind residents. I am hungry and forsaken." When no one replied, she tried the unlocked door and found porridge which oddly was very hot, very cold or just right. Having assuaged her starvation, she rested on a just right chair which, because of its poor condition broke and caused her an injurious fall. For this reason she sought a place to rest until she could once again continue her search for her own home after of course writing a thank you note to the residents.

Since the jury could not reach a decision we have called in a Mitigator. Here is what he has to say.

Dear Bears: You don't lock your doors which makes your homeowners insurance null and void in this case. Mama Bear, if you could coordinate your cooking in the first place, you wouldn't have needed to take a walk. You need cooking lessons. Papa Bear, Make some repairs around the place. That chair is not the only dangerous item in your house. Baby Bear, Stop whining and grow up, you're six feet tall and weigh 300 pounds!

Goldilocks, Learn some manners. Wait and ask permission before entering or eating. If no one's at home, move on. You say the bears frightened you! Of course they did, they're bears! They could have eaten you and we wouldn't be here in court today. Next time you are so hungry, there's a Gingerbread house just down the road and someone is always home there.

Case Dismissed.