

A Frightfully Fraudulent Fairy Tale

by Marilyn Reeves

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children she said to herself: / I could get by without one or two.
With that thought in mind she sent one out / to the deep dark wood
And that girl would become known as
Red Riding Hood.

She told her to bring back some berries / and pick fruit from the trees.
'And if some little pigs you happen to see / Bring back one or two, or ...
What the heck! Make that all three!
Invite them for dinner. They're mighty tasty.'

So the girl whose real name was Rose Red / Said to herself: 'Mom's really a witch!'
But she set off with her basket and then ...
She tripped and she stumbled / and fell into a ditch.

Along came Chicken Little / and the Little Red Hen
and she called out to them, / 'Please lend me a hand!'
But one shouted, 'The sky is falling!'

And the other one said, / 'I can't help you, I'm gathering grain
so that I can bake bread.'

Along came a fox with a sour expression / who just kept on muttering
'Those grapes are no good. / Not one bit of nutrition!'
Then along came a girl / with bright golden hair.
And Red Riding Hood shouted:
'Oh please! Can you help me?
I'm stuck. I need help - can't you see?'

'No,' said Goldie Locks / who was too tired to care.
'I need to lie down / I'm waaaaaay too *sleep-y*!
Someone else will help you
Of that I am sure.'

Along came some bears – a whole family:
Mama and Papa and Baby made three.
And they heard her cry out / with a loud plaintive shout,
'Please help! Get me out! Set me free!'

But the bears passed on by / and ignored her distress.
They were headed back home / to their beds for some rest.
'*Well fine then!*' Red Riding Hood said
(although we now know that her name was Rose Red).
'I'll climb out on my own!' / And she tugged and she scrambled
And she got to the top ...

When a loud crack and deep boom / caused her to stop.
Huge chunks of the sky started / falling, *plop, plop!*
And crashing all over!
So she jumped back in the ditch / Which offered good cover.

And it turned out as most fairy tales do:
Red Riding Hood climbed back up to the top
and she fully recovered.

And then she lived on as the only survivor.
Except for maybe a wolf / And her dear old Grandmother.

And what of the woman who lived in a shoe?
She's a witch, like I told you, / And she survived too.
She ate all her children – They tasted so good.
All except for ... you guessed it!
Our dear Riding Hood.