

EVERYWOLF

While Mr Bear was 'attending to business affairs' at the Lettuce Inn, Mrs Bear went to the Bear Market with Baby Bear. As usual, Baby Bear ran around looking at all the stalls, but when Mrs Bear was finished, he was nowhere to be seen. Very troubled, she collected Mr Bear from the Inn and they went straight to the Constabulary.

Behind the counter sat PC Wolff, and they told him how Baby Bear had vanished. PC Wolff asked whether anything unusual had happened recently. They told him that, a few weeks earlier, a little girl with blond curls had broken into their house, sat on their chairs, eaten their porridge, and slept in their beds.

'Ah, that must be Goldilocks', said Wolff. 'She does cleaning at the hospital. We will go there now.' Sure enough, Goldilocks was there, but Matron and the doctors insisted that she had been at the hospital all morning. So Mr and Mrs Bear went away, puzzled and worried.

'You must still come to the Constabulary with me to answer some questions,' said Wolff to Goldilocks. But Goldilocks had heard nasty rumours about Wolff, so she said she had to tell Matron, and came back a few minutes later wearing a very large overcoat. When they got to the Constabulary, Wolff took a bunch of keys and led the way down a long flight of steps to the dungeons. He unlocked the iron-barred door of a cell, and told Goldilocks that she must wait in there.

But Goldilocks pulled a hypodermic syringe out of the pocket of the overcoat and quickly jabbed it into Wolff's leg. His eyes glazed over and he slumped on the floor sound asleep. Goldilocks heard distant cries for help, so she took the keys and went down the corridor. There she found three occupied cells: in one was Baby Bear; in another, a young boy called Fred Riding-Hoode; and in the third, another boy called Peter, with a duck called Dulcie. Together, they dragged Wolff into the open cell and locked the door, and then made their way to the Bears' cottage.

When they arrived, Mrs Bear hugged Baby Bear, but Mr Bear towered over Goldilocks, asking why she had taken him away.

Fred Riding-Hoode spoke up: 'Goldilocks saved us all. It was PC Wolff who stole us away.'

'She was brave and clever', added Peter.

'And he was going to eat me tomorrow,' quacked Dulcie.

'Indeed', boomed Mr Bear, eyeing Goldilocks doubtfully. He turned to Fred, 'No doubt your father, Sir Basil, will sort this out. He is a magistrate.'

'Now I *must* go to Granny's cottage in the dell', said Fred.

'Oh, that's not far away', said Mr Bear, 'We'll all go.'

When they got there, Lady Riding-Hoode was visiting. She and Granny were extremely glad to see Fred safe and well: he told them how PC Wolff had tricked him into visiting the cottage one day when Granny was away, and they thanked Goldilocks for rescuing him. So Granny opened her Special Tin and gave them all ginger-bread men to eat.

Lady Riding-Hoode asked Goldilocks where she lived.

'In an old hen-coop,' she said, 'because I'm an orphling.'

'Goldilocks,' said Granny, 'I live on my own here, and sometimes I'm very lonely. Would you like to come and stay with me?'

So Goldilocks went to live with Granny in the dell. She and Fred often went to play with Peter at his lair in the woods – but that is another story!

Roy Chisholm