

LITTLE RED

By

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CHARACTERS

<u>LITTLE RED:</u>	Self absorbed and campy. Overacts. Wants to sing rock and roll.
<u>LUPO LUIGI:</u>	Slippery, smarmy. Also very campy. A ladies man.
<u>MOTHER:</u>	Naïve, nurturing. Loves crossword puzzles.
<u>WOODCUTTER:</u>	Strong, shy, simple. In love with MOTHER.
<u>GRANNY:</u>	Savvy, worldly, funny. Uses physical humor.
<u>THE GREAT PRETENDERS:</u>	Tell the story, back-up singers for solos, BE-BOP is serious like Marta in “Grease”, ROCKIN ROBIN is a bit rough like Rizzo in “Grease”, and PEGGY SUE is innocent and sugary sweet like Sandy in “Grease”.

SETTING AND COSTUMES

Set is abstract to allow for ease in staging. Costumes are 50's vintage: bobby sox, poodle skirts, straight skirts with sweaters buttoned up the back, leather jackets, sunglasses. Any “campy” ideas will work well.

NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT

Charles Perrault, as far as anyone knows, first wrote little Red Riding Hood. It is a story of seduction and judgement. Seduction comes in all forms. The original story is 2 pages in length. The wolf that confuses and outwits them quickly eats little Red and Granny. End of story. I have chosen to combine the charm of the original tale with the music of the 1950's to make this play new and entertaining. The message of the story is timeless. “Don't stop to talk to strangers”. Ours is not an innocent world. Precious as our children are, we must work together to give them the tools to care for themselves.

DEDICATION

To my father, Elmer Nesius, who always made me feel safe and loved.

ACT I

SCENE I

SETTING: The forest

AT RISE: Opening song is choreographed to introduce characters to audience. The only character whose face cannot be seen is LUPO. LIGHTS UP.

SONG – LITTLE RED/COMPANY

(16 ct intro)

GRANNY, WOODCUTTER, MOTHER

(Bass line, continue throughout song)

DOOP BA DOOWAH DOOP
DOOP BA DOOWAH DOOP
DOOP BA DOOWAH DOOP
DOOP BA DOOWAH DOOP
DOOP BA DOOWAH DOOP
LITTLE RED!

(Enter PRETENDERS)

PRETENDERS

(Background vocals continue throughout song)

OOOOWAHOOOO
OOOOWAHOOOO
OOOOWAHOOOO
OOOOWAHOOOO
OOOOOOOOWAH
LITTLE RED

(Enter LITTLE RED)

LITTLE RED

WO WO WO WO
WO WO WO WO
WO WO WO WO WO WO
WO WO WO WO
WOOOOOOOOOOOOWO
LITTLE RED!

(Enter WOLF, back to audience. Dances across stage a la Elvis)

WOLF

HOWL
HOWL
HOWL
HOWL
HOOOOOOWL

ALL

LITTLE RED

(48cts of choreography, snapping fingers, no singing. After dance, repeat one verse of song, each group singing respective parts. Tag repeats the phrase "Little Red" as each group exits. ALL exit except BE-BOP who rocks until SHE is alone)



Continue to Act I, Scene 6 Below

1-6-25

ACT I

SCENE VI

SETTING: Outside Little Red's house

AT RISE: Downstage RT, SPECIAL UP on BE-BOP

BE-BOP

This whole thing is not looking good to me. I fear for Little Red's safety. That crooked Luigi really gave her the business. Do you think he's really a big time talent agent? Not on your life, sister. If he's a talent agent, I'm . . .

(Enter PEGGY SUE)

PEGGY SUE

Talent agent? Where?

BE-BOP

I'm recapping the story here, Peggy Sue. Come and listen if you have to, but quit interrupting. Now, as I was saying . . . what WAS I saying?

PEGGY SUE

You were saying that Luigi is a big phony. He's only pretending to be a talent agent so that he can trick Little Red into meeting him alone so he can eat her for lunch except now it's gonna be dinner because Little Red didn't go for his "meet me in the woods alone, baby" plan for tomorrow.

(Enter ROBIN)

Now he's taken the shortcut to Granny's to try and beat Little Red there so he can ambush her.

ROBIN

What about Little Red's mother?

1-6-26

PEGGY SUE

She's STILL trying to finish the daily crossword puzzle. The handsome woodcutter, who is secretly in love with her has come by, as he always does, to say hello to her. Today he has some important news to tell her, but when he gets there, he sees her before she sees him and oh! . . . I love this part . . . his heart is struck with love!

(A CHORD sounds as the PRETENDERS collectively sigh and sing progression down the scale, backing out of their light as WOODCUTTER enters into it)

PRETENDERS

WO-WO-WO-WO . . .

WOODCUTTER

I am struck with love! Does she even know I exist? Can she see through this rough exterior into my heart? I am drowning in a sea of admiration! And yet I cannot, I dare not tell her how I feel. I am too . . . shy; too afraid she will not return these feelings with the same . . . fervor. I tremble when I see her face. What can I say? How can I find the words?

SONG – I FELL FOR YOU/WOODCUTTER, PRETENDERS

(Enter PRETENDERS on introduction of song. THEY sing 3 part harmony throughout)

WOODCUTTER

FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU
STANDING THERE IN THE MOOLIT TWILIGHT
I COULD HEAR MY HEART POUNDING
LIKE A TREE AS IT CRASHES IN THE NIGHT AND I KNEW
THAT I FELL FOR YOU NOTHING ELSE WOULD DO
IN MY HEART THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE ROOM FOR YOU AND ME
AS I FELL FOR YOU

PRETENDERS

(Underneath WOODCUTTER)

OoooooWah Ooooooo, Wahooooo, Wah oooooo OooooAhOooAhOooAhOooAh

1-6-27

SONG – I FELL FOR YOU (Cont'd)

(LIGHTS UP on Little Red's house. MOTHER is laboring on crossword)

WOODCUTTER

AND WHENEVER I'M NEAR YOU
I CAN HEAR THE WIND WHISTLE THROUGH THE TREES
SEE YOU FACE IN THE MOONLIGHT
FEEL YOUR TOUCH AS IT BRINGS ME TO MY KNEES
AND I KNEW THAT I FELL FOR YOU NOTHING ELSE WOULD DO
IN MY HEART THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ROOM FOR YOU A ND ME
YES I FELL FOR YOU

(Spoken)

Oh my darling ... I have longed to tell you how I feel. My heart is full of words of love and yet ... I find it hard to express them to you. If I knew that you loved me ... if I knew that you even cared ... I would be the happiest woodcutter alive. I would shower you with kisses and make you mine. Oh my darling ... when will I ever tell you? When will you be mine?

AND WHENEVER I'M NEAR YOU
I CAN HEAR THE WIND WHISTLE THROUGH THE TREES
SEE YOUR FACE IN THE MOONLIGHT
FEEL YOUR TOUCH AS IT BRINGS ME TO MY KNEES
AND I KNEW THAT I FELL FOR YOU AND NOTHING ELSE WOULD DO
IN MY HEART THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ROOM FOR YOU AND ME
YES I FELL FOR YOU

ALL

(TAG)

AH-OOO-EE
AH-OOO-EE
AA-OOO-EE-OOO

(Exit PRETENDERS. WOODCUTTER crosses to stage left and enters Little Red's house)

WOODCUTTER

Hello there!

1-6-28

MOTHER

(Startled, pleased, muddled)

OH! Ohhh., ah, well . . . ahem. Good afternoon, Woody.

WOODY

I can come another time if you are busy.

MOTHER

Oh yes, I mean, no, I mean yes I am not busy and please come another time . . .
no, I mean, come in and join me.Would you like some tea?

WOODY

No thank you.

(Sweetly)

Are you well?

MOTHER

Well, yes. Yes, well . . . I am.

WOODY

You look well.

MOTHER

I am well . . . well enough. Well, I am very well, actually. Except . . .

(Looks at him dreamily)

WOODY

Except?

(Returns the look)

1-6-29

MOTHER

Except . . .

(Breaks the spell)

I am having a problem with my crossword this morning.

WOODY

Well, maybe I could help. . . ?

MOTHER

Would you? That would be wonderful! Let's see now . . . Here's one . . . "some tasty and attractive things to eat". I has seven letters. It starts with G and ends with IES. I haven't a clue. I could only think of the word "treats", but that doesn't fit.

WOODY

(Looks at her dreamily)

Ah, how about . . . snacks?

MOTHER

No, that doesn't fit at all.

WOODY

Sweets?

MOTHER

Has to start with the letter G.

WOODY

Oh, gee. Grapes?

MOTHER

Nope.

WOODY

Banquet? Feast?

MOTHER

Starts with G.

WOODY

Oh, gee. . . garlic?

MOTHER

Nope.

WOODY

Gumbo? Grapefruit? Gumdrops?

MOTHER

Nope, nope, nope.

WOODY

(Sighs)

I can't think of any other goodies.

MOTHER

GOODIES! Oh, good job! Now, here's the one that has stumped me all morning. "A wild animal related to dog". Four letters, first is W, ends with F. I'm telling you, this is a hard one.

WOODY

(Thinks and thinks, tries every vowel sound. MOTHER hangs on his every word)

Wa . . . wi . . . wooh . . . wooh . . . Dear me, do you think I could have a bit of that tea after all? I . . . I have some important news to give you.

MOTHER

Why, of course, Woody. What news is that? You know, I must apologize for not insisting you have the tea. It's just that Little Red got me in such a tither this morning?

WOODY

A tither?

MOTHER

Just that. I made a new traveling cape for her and it seems it only served to further this silly notion she has about becoming a rock and roll star.

WOODY

I have heard her singing in the garden. She sings quite well.

MOTHER

I know, but there's so much that goes along with all of that. She is so young. I don't know anything about the business and that music is so loud . . .

WOODY

I may be wrong, but perhaps letting her experiment with her idea would be a good thing to do. Let her find out for herself whether rock and roll is where she wants to be.

MOTHER

(Stands)

Maybe you're right. I'll try that!

(Sighs and walks downstage. Enter PRETENDERS, in sync, upstage center, pose)

You know, Woody, she is my only child. It has been hard since . . . well, raising her alone is not easy. She's my most important creation. I don't know what I'd do if anything happened to her . . .