



Stephen E. Rose

Inspired by the symphony *Peter and the Wolf* by Sergei Prokofiev

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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CATCH THAT WOLF!!

COMEDY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES. When some sheep go missing, the Mayor announces he will send three of his finest hunters to catch the wolf. The only problem is that the Mayor's finest hunters are away deer hunting, and there's just Sam, Andy, and Nick left. Not only is this bumbling trio horrible at hunting, they're terrified of wolves! And rumor has it that this wolf has sharp claws, vicious teeth, and a big appetite! But Bobbie Sue, who yearns to be a great hunter like her grandmother, sets out to catch the wolf with the help of a flighty bird, a "lucky" duck, and a sleepy cat. Youngsters will love this hilarious, action-packed comedy, which provides endless opportunities to showcase physical humor. Perfect for touring.

Performance Time: Approximately 45-60 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(4 M, 6 F, 1 flexible, opt. extras)

BOBBIE SUE: Adventurous, brave girl who yearns to be a great hunter like her grandma; female.

GRANDMA: Bobbie Sue's grandmother, Sara Steele, who was once the best hunter in all of McDonald County; female.

MAYOR WRIGHT: Mayor of Pineville; his best friend is a teddy bear; male.

MARY JANE: Mayor's loyal personal assistant; female.

SAM: The sheriff of Pineville, who loves to brag about being a great hunter; male.

NICK: Deputy who is always hungry; male.

ANDY: Tenderfoot deputy who is terrified of wolves; male.

WOLF: Wiley wolf; flexible.

DORIS: A lucky duck who loves to bicker with Abbey; volunteers to be Bobbie Sue's supply sergeant; female.

ABBEY: A flighty bird who runs in circles when she's scared; volunteers to serve as Bobbie Sue's hunting scout; terrified of Missy the cat; female.

MISSY: Sleepy cat who likes to drink fresh milk every morning, take a catnap in the barn, and chase birds; female.

VILLAGER 1-3 (opt.): Villagers who are upset that a wolf is eating their sheep; flexible. [Note: A voiceover may be used, if desired.]

NOTE: Mayor, Sam, Nick, and Andy may be played by females dressed as males. For flexible roles, change the script accordingly.

SETTING

McDonald County, 1948.

SETS

Woods. A backdrop of a forest may be used. There is a large tree off to one side with steps behind it so Bobbie Sue can "climb" the tree. There are bushes and a rock large enough for the Wolf to hide behind. There is a log large enough to sit on.

Front porch of Grandma's house. A backdrop of the house may be used. There is a chair on the porch.

Interior of Grandma's house. There is a chair near a wall where a rope hangs.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: The woods.

Scene 2: Grandma's front porch.

Scene 3: Inside Grandma's house.

Scene 4: The woods.

PROPS

Notepad and pencil, for Mary Jane
Feathers
Large bone
4 Toy hunting rifles/shotguns, for Hunters and Grandma
Pack(s) of assorted supplies (e.g. sleeping bags, canteens,
hunting boots for Mayor, etc.)
Teddy bear, for Mayor
Blanket
Berries
Sticks
Wood

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Bird chirping
Duck quacking
Cat meowing
Footsteps approaching
Door creaking
Campfire (lighting effect)
Rustling sound of bushes/leaves
Sound of a gunshot
Sound of rope creaking

CATCH THAT WOLF!!

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"HE IS SMART, FAST, AND STRONG
AND VERY, VERY CLEVER.
HE'LL SNEAK UP ON YOU AND ATTACK
WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT."

—MAYOR WRIGHT

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: *The woods. There is a rock large enough for the Wolf to hide behind. Note: Villagers 1-3 may be planted in the audience, if desired.*)

VILLAGER 1: (*Offstage, shouts.*) We demand action! We don't feel safe anymore!

VILLAGER 2: (*Offstage, shouts.*) You've got to do something about that wolf! He is causing us to lose our crops and food!

VILLAGER 3: (*Offstage, shouts.*) I can't even let my kids play outside, knowing that the wolf is loose! He's a menace, and it's your job to see our citizens are safe!

(*Mayor enters. Mary Jane follows him on.*)

MAYOR: (*To audience, as if they are Villagers.*) Ladies and gentlemen, I understand your concerns, and let me assure you everything is being done to take care of this problem. As your Mayor, let me tell you...we are working day and night on this important problem, and as your Mayor, I promise to personally see that he is caught. In 1946, you elected me, and I promised to bring the town electricity. And now in 1948, you all have electric power! As you know, I keep all my campaign promises. So I stand here today to offer one hundred dollars to the person or people who help catch this wolf. Mary Jane, take note! (*Mary Jane takes out a pad and pencil.*) "Catch the wolf! Important mission must not fail!" And so on and so forth. Pass it on to the correct people. Sign it, Mayor Wright.

MARY JANE: Sir, would you like that in triplicate?

MAYOR: No, just three copies.

(*Mayor and Mary Jane exit. Feathers fly out from behind a large rock. Wolf pops his head out from behind the rock. He is holding a large bone in one hand and patting his stomach with the other hand.*)

Licking his chops, Wolf finds a comfortable spot to lie down and falls asleep. Just as Wolf falls asleep, he is awakened by a bird chirping. After stirring a bit, he settles down and falls asleep. Just as he falls asleep, he is awakened by the sound of a duck quacking. After stirring a bit, he finally settles down and falls asleep. Just as he falls asleep, he is awakened by the sound of a cat meowing. Wolf sits up, looks around, and settles down for his nap. Just as he falls asleep, he is awakened by the sound of Bobbie Sue and Missy the cat approaching. Wolf hides behind a large rock. Bobbie Sue and Missy enter.)

BOBBIE SUE: Missy, all this summer I've wanted to have a real adventure, but nothing exciting happens. Nothing exciting ever happens around here. Do you know what I mean?

MISSY: Me do. Me do. *(Yawns.)*

BOBBIE SUE: Missy, you get to hunt and chase birds and ducks around the pond all day. I guess you can't understand why I am so bored.

MISSY: Me do. Me do.

BOBBIE SUE: Oh, you understand? Well, that's great! At least you understand. I've got an idea! Maybe we can play a game or chase a bird or even hunt something today! How about it? You're an old hunter from way back. I've seen you stalk your prey and move so quickly and quietly that other animals in the barn never know you're around. Those mice don't stand a chance with you around. Do you remember the day the mice tried to tie a bell around your neck so they would be able to hear you coming? Ha! Ha!

MISSY: Me do. Me do.

BOBBIE SUE: Well then, old friend, what do you think about going on a hunt right now? What do you think about that?

MISSY: *(Yawns.)* I'm sleepy after all that milk and cream I ate for lunch, Bobbie Sue. Maybe later. I think right now I'll go to the barn and take a little catnap. Oh, I'm so sleepy. *(Yawns.)* I'll see you later, Bobbie Sue. Goodbye. *(Exits.)*

BOBBIE SUE: *(Calls.)* Goodbye, Missy, you old fat cat! *(To herself.)* Now what can I do? There is no one to play with around here. *(Points to tree.)* I think I'll climb that tree. That'll be fun! Maybe I can see the pond from up there and watch the ducks swim. Yes, I will see my friend Doris, the duck. I'll just stay up there and watch her swim.

(Bobbie Sue goes behind the tree and "climbs" it. For the following, Bobbie Sue remains hidden in the branches. Wolf emerges from his hiding place and settles in for a nap. After stirring a bit, Wolf falls asleep. Just as he falls asleep, Wolf is awakened by the sound of someone approaching. Wolf hides again. Sam, Andy, and Nick march on.)

SAM: *(To Andy and Nick.)* Hup, 2, 3, 4! Hup, 2, 3, 4! Hup, 2, 3, 4! Company, halt! *(Andy and Nick keep marching. Shouts.)* Stop! Don't you know that "halt" means "stop"?! Stop! *(Louder.)* Stop! *(Andy and Nick stop marching.)* Now...attention! *(Andy and Nick stand at attention.)* Good! Very good! Present arms! *(Andy and Nick show Sam their arms. Shouts.)* No, no, no, you idiots! Show me your guns! *(Andy and Nick point their guns at Sam. Shouts.)* No! Don't point them at me! Put them back on your shoulders! What am I going to do with you two? Will you ever learn? Now, try to act like soldiers when you meet with the Mayor. Please!

ANDY: The Mayor?! Are we really going to meet with the Pineville mayor?!

SAM: Yes, Andy. That is why we must be in marching shape! The Mayor told me to meet him in the woods with you and Nick.

ANDY: *(Flattered.)* He asked for *me*?! Imagine that!

NICK: *(To Sam.)* Are you sure he asked for me?

SAM: No, he asked for two of the finest hunters, but you two were the only hunters around. All the others are on an

important mission. You know, deer season. That's why I am bringing you with me to meet him, understand?

ANDY: (*Overjoyed.*) Imagine that! The Mayor of Pineville has personally asked for me! *Me!* Just wait until I tell the folks back home!

SAM: Andy, you don't understand what I just said. I said—

NICK: Never mind, sir. (*Indicating Andy.*) He won't hear you. He only hears what he wants to hear. Don't burst his bubble.

SAM: Bubble?! (*Indicating Andy.*) He's a bubble *brain!* (*To Nick and Andy.*) It is getting late. It's time to march on. Attention! (*Nick and Andy stand at attention.*) Forward March! Hup 2, 3, 4. Hup 2, 3, 4.

(*Sam, Andy, and Nick march off. Mayor enters and stands near a tree.*)

MAYOR: (*To himself, looking around, angry.*) Where are those three? They are to meet me here this minute! No one's ever late for the Mayor!

(*Sam, Andy, and Nick march on opposite. They do not see the Mayor standing near the tree.*)

SAM: (*To Andy and Nick.*) Hup, 2, 3, 4. Hup, 2, 3, 4. Company, halt! (*Andy and Nick halt and adlib excitement.*) Quiet, you idiots! Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!

(*Mayor doesn't see them since the tree obscures his view.*)

MAYOR: (*Calls.*) Hello, is anyone there?

SAM: (*Calls.*) Hello?! (*To Andy and Nick.*) I think I heard somebody by that tree.

ANDY: (*Scared.*) I hope it's not a dangerous somebody.

SAM: Shhh! Quiet!

(Sam, Andy, and Nick listen intently. Mayor pokes his head out from behind the tree and sees Sam. Note: Andy and Nick are standing behind Sam, so the Mayor doesn't see them.)

MAYOR: *(Startled.)* Ohhh!

(Sam sees Mayor.)

SAM: *(Surprised.)* Oh! A thousand pardons, Mayor Wright.
(Stands at attention.)

MAYOR: At ease, Sam. Where are your deputies? I've been looking forward to meeting the two finest hunters in these here parts.

(Nick steps out from behind Sam.)

NICK: *(To Mayor.)* Right here, at your command, sir.

MAYOR: Nick?! *(Indicating Andy.)* And who is this young man?

ANDY: Andy, sir, at your command.

MAYOR: *(Disappointed, angry.)* Sam, I thought I told you I wanted the *finest* hunters in McDonald County. Not these, these, these—!

SAM: Sir, they were the only ones who weren't deer hunting, sir. They're eager to please. Please, sir, give them a chance to prove themselves to you. I'll be responsible for them, sir.

MAYOR: *(Reluctantly.)* Well, I reckon I have no other choice. I'll hold you responsible, Sam! This is a very important matter! There is a very grave danger in the woods!

SAM: *(Scared.)* A danger?

NICK: *(To Mayor, scared.)* A danger?

ANDY: *(To Mayor, scared.)* A danger?

WOLF: *(Pokes his head out and mouths/mimes.)* Danger?

MAYOR: *(To Sam, Andy, and Nick.)* I want the woods to be a safe place for all the people in McDonald County, so that's

why I called you here today. Now, don't fail me! The whole town's counting on you! Now, are there any questions?

SAM: *(Trying to be brave.)* No, we will take care of everything. You can count on us, sir! There is no danger we can't face! We know no fear! We laugh at danger! *(Fake laugh.)* Ha! Ha! With a song in our heart, and the pride of Pineville in our hearts, we are prepared to meet any danger for you, the Mayor! Any danger! *(Short pause. Thinks. Worried.)* But what is this danger?

MAYOR: Well, it has terrible claws.

SAM: *(Scared.)* Terrible claws?

NICK: *(Scared.)* Terrible claws?

ANDY: *(Scared.)* Terrible claws?

(Wolf pokes his head out and looks at his "claws.")

MAYOR: *(To Sam, Andy, and Nick.)* And vicious teeth!

SAM: *(Scared.)* Vicious teeth?

NICK: *(Scared.)* Vicious teeth?

ANDY: *(Scared.)* Vicious teeth?

(Wolf pokes his head out and feels his teeth.)

MAYOR: *(To Sam, Andy, and Nick.)* And a big appetite!

ANDY: *(Relieved.)* Oh, it's Nick!

MAYOR: No, you idiot! It's a wolf!

SAM: *(Scared.)* A wolf?!

NICK: *(Scared.)* A wolf?!

ANDY: *(Scared.)* A wolf?!

(Alarmed, Wolf pokes his head out.)

WOLF: *(Gestures to himself, mouths.)* A wolf?

MAYOR: *(To Sam, Andy, and Nick.)* Yes, a wolf! Now, you know that wolves are the reason our sheep have been

missing. Our food supply is slowly being cut off because of these wolves.

NICK: (*Rubbing his stomach, excited.*) Food?! Did you say "food supply"?!

ANDY: (*Scared.*) So, Mayor, sir, this wolf...how dangerous is he?

(*Wolf pokes his head out.*)

WOLF: (*Gestures to himself, mouths.*) Me?

MAYOR: (*To Sam, Andy, and Nick.*) As far as I know, he's very dangerous. He is smart, fast, and strong, and very, very clever. He'll sneak up on you and attack when you least expect it.

(*Wolf pokes his head out.*)

WOLF: (*Gestures to himself, mouths.*) Me?

MAYOR: (*To Sam, Andy, and Nick.*) He must be caught before the village people begin to panic. My voters need protection from this wolf. Do you understand?

SAM: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. We will take care of him.

NICK: (*To Mayor.*) Yes, sir. You can count on us.

(*Terrified, Andy is speechless. Unseen by them, Wolf rushes off.*)

MAYOR: Now, Sam, I'm counting on you to keep these two in line and catch that wolf. Is that clear? Now, go get him!

SAM: Yes, sir! (*To Nick and Andy.*) Forward march! On to the hunt! (*Sam, Andy, and Nick start to march, but Nick marches in the opposite direction. Annoyed, shouts.*) No, Nick, this way! Follow me! (*Nick rushes over to Sam and Andy, and the three begin to march off.*) Hup, 2, 3, 4. Hup, 2, 3, 4.

(*Sam, Andy, and Nick march off. Tree branches move, revealing Bobbie Sue is still in the tree. Bobbie Sue overhears the following.*)

MAYOR: *(To himself.)* Those idiots! Oh, if only I had more hunters like Sarah Steel, but she's retired now, and rightfully so. She served me well and was an inspiration to all who hunted with her. *(Sighs.)* If only I could get a brave hunter...

BOBBIE SUE: *(Calls down from the tree.)* Like me?!

MAYOR: *(Looking around.)* Who said that? Who said that? Where are you?

BOBBIE SUE: *(Calls.)* Up here, sir, in this tree!

MAYOR: Come down here, girl! Come down at once!

BOBBIE SUE: Yes, sir, at your command.

(Bobbie Sue "climbs" down the tree and approaches the Mayor.)

MAYOR: How long have you been spying on me?

BOBBIE SUE: I wasn't spying on you, sir. I was watching the ducks in my Grandma's pond. I'm Bobbie Sue, the granddaughter of Sarah Steel, but I just call her Grandma.

MAYOR: You are the granddaughter of Sarah Steel?

BOBBIE SUE: Yes, and I want to join the Pineville hunters.

MAYOR: I'm afraid you're too young to join the Pineville hunters.

BOBBIE SUE: But I really want to serve you, sir.

MAYOR: Well, since you're the granddaughter of Sarah Steel, maybe you could have her teach you some of her fine hunting skills. Then we shall see. Now, run along home and ask her to teach you.

BOBBIE SUE: Yes, sir! You will see! I'll make a fine hunter for you, sir! Thank you! Thank you, sir! *(Rushes off.)*

MAYOR: *(To himself.)* Well, if all the young ones were like her, I'd have no trouble getting recruits. Those silly hunters Sam, Nick, and Andy! I think I'll probably end up hunting that wolf myself. I guess if you want something done right, I reckon you must do it yourself...with some extra help, of course. *(Calls.)* Mary Jane, where are you?!

(Mary Jane enters, loaded down with supplies.)

MARY JANE: Yes, sir, I'm here. I've got all the supplies you asked for. Plus, I brought along some things that might come in handy: sleeping bags, a canteen, and, of course, your comfortable hunting boots.

MAYOR: And did you bring my *little* secret weapon...the *little* secret weapon no one else knows about?

MARY JANE: Trust me, no one will ever know about your little teddy bear.

(Mary Jane pulls the Mayor's teddy bear out of a pack. Mayor grabs his teddy bear and hugs it.)

MAYOR: *(To teddy bear.)* Ah! My little itty-bitty friend! The only one I can truly confide in! The only one that really understands me!

MARY JANE: *(To herself, under her breath.)* I'm outranked by a teddy bear. *(To Mayor.)* Sir, I think we'd better get going. Remember the wolf, the people, the promise?

MAYOR: Yes, let's go. I'll carry Teddy. You can carry the rest. Come along.

(Mayor and Mary Jane exit. Blackout.)

[END OF FREEVIEW]