

SUPER SITTER

by Ken Bradbury



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(Yells for Jimmy who is in another part of the house)

Jimmy! James Parker Finster, Jr.! Get your pajama bottoms up here this instant! You may not sleep with the hamster! No, your Mommy did not give you permission to sleep with any rodents ... except your brother. *(to Teddy, a younger brother in the room)* Oh, Teddy, stop crying. I was just kidding. Your brother thinks he can pull a fast one on his babysitter but he doesn't know me.

(Yells for Jimmy again) Jimmy, I'm going to count to three and your tail had better be in this bed or I'm going to throw Teddy out the window. *(to Teddy)* Teddy, I'm kidding. Stop whining. *(to Jimmy)* One, two ... Jimmy, I mean it! Three! *(looks down the stairs)* What? You're waiting for me to throw him out the window? *(to Teddy)* Teddy, stop crying. I'm not going to throw you out the window. *(to herself)* It's nailed shut. *(to Jimmy)* Jimmy, get up here or there'll be no bedtime story! *(watching him run into the room)* That's better. Now crawl in there beside Teddy. Teddy, you've got to let him in. It's his bed, too.

Hold it! Hold it right there, James! What's that inside your pajama top? Don't tell me that, it's wiggling. Jimmy, give me the hamster. I mean it! Give it ... *(she screams)* ... *(looking at it, deciding how to grab it)* ... tell it to stop wiggling, Jimmy.

I don't know ... give it an order or something. I ... (*watches the hamster scramble away*) Where'd it go, Jimmy? Don't tell me you don't know! I can't be in this house with a hamster running loose! Leave? Very funny, Jimmy. Have you ever slept tied up in a bathtub? You have? Why don't I don't I doubt that.

Boys, I've already got the girls to bed. They're good little girls. Why can't you be good little girls? No Jimmy, I don't want you to explain it. Just settle down and I'll read you a story.

Okay, here's one my Mommy always used to read to me. "Once upon a time there were three little pigs, and ..." It not a boring story. I did not have a boring Mommy. (*sees something*) Jimmy, there's something moving under the covers. Jimmy, catch that hamster right now! What? Then if you won't, I will! (*slams her hands down hard on the bed*) Oh, Teddy, I'm sorry. That was your foot? It looked like a hamster, it really ... (*screams*) There it is! Catch it, Jimmy! Catch it! No, don't give it to me! Throw it down the ... Oh, here! (*sticks her hand out carefully*) ... easy ... just give him to me slowly. Not that slowly, Jimmy! Give him! (*covers her face as the hamster flies toward her*) Jimmy, have you ever been microwaved? Wanna try? Now where'd that rat go? Yes, it is a rat as far as I'm concerned! Look, boys, just get back in bed! Get back in bed! I'll find the hamster later ... somehow.

Okay, the three little pigs were walking along one day when ...Yes, Teddy, the wolf loses. I don't know. He always loses. Name me a story where the wolf wins. Wolves always lose. It's a law ... the Wolf Loser Law, now lie back down and I'll ... Three? Because there's always three pigs. They were not ganging up on him! Pigs are smaller than wolves. They're not? Look, encyclopedias aren't always right, Teddy. Look up "little boy" sometime and you'll see a picture of a nice, sweet, well-behaved little child. Then look at your brother Jimmy. See? Encyclopedias lie. Yes, they do. Sometimes parents lie, too. They told me you'd be no trouble.

So the three little pigs built their houses. I know they can't build a stupid house but it's a stupid fairy tale and I'm stupid for taking this babysitting job in the first place! How about some warm milk? Lactose-What? Good. Maybe I should give Jimmy a whole glass.

(shouting off) No girls, I'm not shouting! I'm telling a story! Just go back to ... *(and she sees the girls running in and jumping on the bed)* Well, now there are five of us. No, girls, don't sit on Teddy. Here ... sit on Jimmy. Okay, just this one story. Once upon a time there was this big bad wolf who ate hamsters ... and ... shhh! Shhh! Stop screaming! Okay, I'm sorry I said that. Why is Hannah still screaming? You did what? Jimmy, get that hamster out of your sister's pajamas this instant! Jimmy, it's crawling up her back and she's getting very



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