

ROCKIN' IN THE TREETOPS

by Ken Bradbury



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Cast: Judge Jack Sprat, Bailiff, Baby Baby, Prosecutor, Mary

BAILIFF: All rise! *(They do.)* This court will now come to order! The Honorable Jack Sprat presiding!

(Sprat enters and takes his seat at center, then the others sit.)

JUDGE SPRAT: Call the next case.

BAILIFF: Mary, owner of the little lamb, versus Baby in the treetops.

JUDGE SPRAT: Opening statement?

PROSECUTOR: Thank you, your honor. Your honor, I will prove that Baby was in the treetop and when the wind blew the cradle rocked. And furthermore, when the bough broke the cradle did fall and down did come Baby, cradle and all ... right on Mary's little lamb.

BABY: I object!

JUDGE SPRAT: To what?

BABY: It wasn't my fault. I was just up there rockin' and ...

JUDGE SPRAT: You'll get a chance to testify. Just calm yourself.

BABY: I want my mommy.

JUDGE SPRAT: Call your first witness.

PROSECUTOR: Mary, owner of the little lamb.

BAILIFF: Calling Mary, owner of the little lamb. *(She comes forward and takes a seat near the judge.)* Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

MARY: I just follow the script.

JUDGE SPRAT: Was that a yes?

MARY: Yes! Geesh! Gimme a break! What was the question?

BAILIFF: Do you promise to tell the truth?

- MARY:** Do I look like a liar to you?
- JUDGE SPRAT:** Just answer the question, ma'am.
- MARY:** Yeah, yeah. I'll tell it straight.
- PROSECUTOR:** Miss Mary, did you on the afternoon of October 24th happen to be walking with your little lamb in or near the vicinity of the Baby in the treetops?
- MARY:** I didn't know he was up there.
- PROSECUTOR:** I'm asking if you were there!
- MARY:** Of course I was there. How do you think the lamb got smashed?
- JUDGE SPRAT:** Just answer the question.
- MARY:** What was the question?
- PROSECUTOR:** You just answered it.
- MARY:** Oh. How'd I do?
- PROSECUTOR:** Just fine. And what, Miss Mary, were you doing under the tree containing Baby in his cradle?
- MARY:** Huh?
- PROSECUTOR:** What were you doing?
- MARY:** I was looking up into the tree and shouting, "Holy cow! There's a baby in a treetop! I hope that cradle don't fall!"
- PROSECUTOR:** And did it?
- MARY:** Isn't that why we're here?
- JUDGE SPRAT:** Just answer the question simply.
- MARY:** Simply?
- BAILIFF:** Simply.
- MARY:** Okay ... Whoosh! Ahhhh! Smash! (*sheep sound*) Baaaa ...!
- JUDGE SPRAT:** Miss Mary, did you do anything to provoke Baby?
- MARY:** What does that mean?
- JUDGE SPRAT:** Did you egg him on in any way?
- MARY:** Like Humpty Dumpty?
- JUDGE SPRAT:** Did you in any way cause his cradle to fall?

MARY: Are you nuts? That was my favorite lamb! I called him Bob. Bob the lamb. Bob the lamb who is now Bob the dead lamb.

PROSECUTOR: And so what did you do?

MARY: We ate him.

BAILIFF: What!!!

JUDGE SPRAT: Bailiff!

BAILIFF: Sorry.

BABY: What a dingbat.

PROSECUTOR: Objection!

JUDGE SPRAT: Sustained!

MARY: What's the big deal?

BAILIFF: How could you eat your pet lamb?

MARY: With ketchup!

BABY: I object!

JUDGE SPRAT: To ketchup?

PROSECUTOR: Please, Miss Mary. I simply want to know if you and your lamb were walking under the treetops when the cradle fell.

MARY: Yeah. And down came Baby, cradle and all.

PROSECUTOR: Did you provoke Baby in any way?

MARY: I can't even spell provoke.

PROSECUTOR: I want to call my next witness!

JUDGE SPRAT: Next witness!

MARY: That's all?

BAILIFF: You're excused, Ma'am.

MARY: You guys are a barrel of laughs, you know that? So when do I get my money?

JUDGE SPRAT: Please step out of the witness stand.

MARY: My pleasure! *(She returns to her seat.)*

PROSECUTOR: I call Baby to the stand!

JUDGE SPRAT: Baby will come to the stand!

BABY: *(approaching the witness chair)* Yeah, yeah, I heard you.

BAILIFF: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth ...

BABY: ... and nothing but the truth. I got it.



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