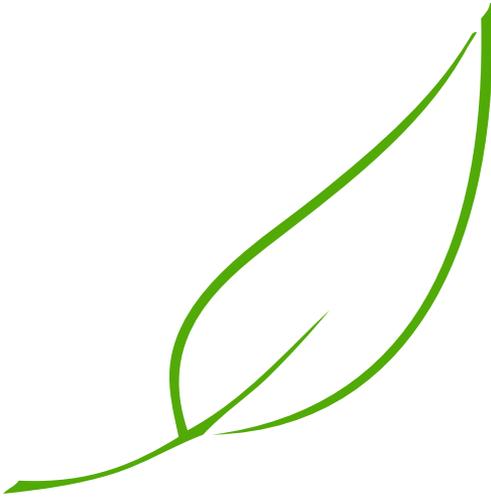


# PULLIN' THE WOOL

by Ken Bradbury



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*(a police sergeant sits behind a desk. A somewhat confused little girl stands in front)*

**SERGEANT:** Name?

**BO-PEEP:** Peep.

**SERGEANT:** What's that?

**BO-PEEP:** Peep. Peep.

**SERGEANT:** Peep-peep.

**BO-PEEP:** Just one little Peep.

**SERGEANT:** *(looking up)* Are you serious? I mean, I've got things to do.

**BO-PEEP:** That's my name. Peep.

**SERGEANT:** *(writing)* I could have taken early retirement, but no ... I wanted to serve the public. Is that your first or last name ... or does it even matter?

**BO-PEEP:** Last. My first name is Bo.

**SERGEANT:** *(staring at her)* "Bo." Cute. Got a middle name? And if you say "Diddly," I'm goin' for coffee.

**BO-PEEP:** No. That would be silly.

**SERGEANT:** Uh ... yeh. OK ... Mss ... Miss *(giggles while saying)* Peep. Sorry. Couldn't help myself. Just what do you want to report?

**BO-PEEP:** Missing sheep.

**SERGEANT:** Sheep. You mean like as in animals.

**BO-PEEP:** Yes. You know, baa-baa.

**SERGEANT:** Baa-baa. Sorta like peep-peep, huh?

**BO-PEEP:** Huh?

**SERGEANT:** Never mind. And just how many sheep are missing?

**BO-PEEP:** All of them.

**SERGEANT:** (*a take, then turning to the audience*)

You think this is easy, you try it. (*to Bo-Peep*) OK, sweetheart, could you ... like ... you know, give me a number?

**BO-PEEP:** Sure. Three.

**SERGEANT:** You've got three missing sheep?

**BO-PEEP:** No. You just said "give me a number."  
Three's my favorite number.

**SERGEANT:** (*turning again to the audience ... a long stare, then*) I could have called in sick today. I even thought about it. (*to Bo-Peep*) Miss Peep, just how many sheep are missing ... and please don't say "all of them." I mean, exactly what number of your sheep are missing?

**BO-PEEP:** (thinks hard, then) I'm not sure.

**SERGEANT:** Did you ever count them?

**BO-PEEP:** Yeh. But every time I tried, I fell asleep.

**SERGEANT:** Counting sheep.

**BO-PEEP:** Yeh. Ain't that somethin'?

**SERGEANT:** It certainly is. And these sheep all belonged to you?

**BO-PEEP:** Except for one. My sister's sheep.

**SERGEANT:** Your sister?

**BO-PEEP:** Mary. She had a little lamb.

**SERGEANT:** (*another long take to the audience*) I often dream of retirement at times like this. (*to Peep*) OK ... you've lost several sheep and one lamb belonging to your sister, Mary.

**BO-PEEP:** Actually I have two sisters. Mary and Mary-Mary.

**SERGEANT:** (*another long stare*) Don't tell me, Mary-Mary is too contrary to take care of the sheep.

**BO-PEEP:** Gee! How'd you know?

**SERGEANT:** That's why I'm a policeman. I'm really smart. So ... (*reading*)... the team of Bo-Peep, Mary, and Mary-Mary ... sort of a consortium, I guess ... are missing a bunch of sheep.

**BO-PEEP:** And we don't know where to find them.

**SERGEANT:** That would make sense. (*a take to the audience, then*) So what do you want the police to do about this, Miss Peep?

**BO-PEEP:** Leave them alone.

**SERGEANT:** (*another long take, then to the audience*) I think California would be a good place. They tell me lots of people go there to retire. Soon as I save \$50,000 I can buy that condo. No snow. No worries. No sheep. (*to Peep*) So you've come to report your lost sheep, then you ask the police to leave them alone.

**BO-PEEP:** Yeh. That's it. You've got it now.

**SERGEANT:** No, but I'm gettin' it. And why should we leave them alone?

**BO-PEEP:** Because they'll come home.

**SERGEANT:** They will?

**BO-PEEP:** Sure. They always do.

**SERGEANT:** You've lost your sheep. You don't know where to find them yet you're certain they'll come home. Is that right?

**BO-PEEP:** Yeh. And they'll be so happy to see me, they'll be wagging their tails.

**SERGEANT:** Where?

**BO-PEEP:** Behind them.

**SERGEANT:** I mean, I know that! You mean they come back to your house every night?

**BO-PEEP:** Yes. You're really wonderful, you know that Sergeant? I mean, the way you pick up on these things so quickly!

**SERGEANT:** (*dumb-founded... simply a long take to the audience then back to Peep*) I amaze myself sometimes. And the recommended course of action which you're advising is to leave them alone?

**BO-PEEP:** Roger-dodger!

**SERGEANT:** Roger-dodger?

**BO-PEEP:** It's a favorite saying of mine.

**SERGEANT:** Why am I not surprised? (*checking an imaginary watch*) Look, we've gotta wrap this up. I mean,



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