

Nanny Goat Bold

There once lived an old man and an old woman. The old man went to market and bought himself a nanny goat. He brought her home and the following morning he sent his oldest son to pasture her.

The boy herded the nanny goat until the evening came and then he began to chase her home. He had just gotten her to the gate when his father appeared before him with beautiful red boots on his feet.

He spoke to the goat:

“Nanny Goat, my dear,

Nanny Goat, my sweet,

What did you have to drink?

What did you have to eat?”

And the goat answered, “Old man, I did not drink or eat. I ran over a little bridge and snatched a small leaf from a maple tree. I ran over a mill dam and caught a droplet of water. That is all I had to eat and drink.”

The old man as so vexed with his son for looking after the animal so poorly that he turned him out of the house.

The next day he sent another son, a younger son, to pasture her. The boy herded the goat until the evening and then he started to chase her home. He had just gotten the goat to the gate when his father appeared before him with his red boots on and he spoke to the goat:

“Nanny Goat, my dear,

Nanny Goat, my sweet,

What did you have to drink?

What did you have to eat?”

And the goat answered, “Old man, I did not drink or eat. I ran over a little bridge and snatched a small leaf from a maple tree. I ran over a mill dam and caught a droplet of water. That is all I had to eat and drink.”

So the old man chased away that son, also. On the third day he sent his wife out. She herded the goat until evening and then she started to chase the animal home. She had just gotten the goat to the gate when the old man appeared before her with his red boots on and he questioned the goat:

“Nanny Goat, my dear,

Nanny Goat, my sweet,

What did you have to drink?

What did you have to eat?”

And the goat answered, “No, old man, I did not drink or eat. I ran over a little bridge and snatched a small leaf from a maple tree. I ran over a mill dam and caught a droplet of water. That is all I had to eat and drink.”

So the old man turned his wife out of the house.

On the fourth day he pastured the goat himself. He herded her all day until the evening came and then he began to chase her home. He went along the road a bit and then he made a beeline for the gate. When the nanny goat arrived he stood there in his red boots and said to her:

“Nanny Goat, my dear,

Nanny Goat, my sweet,

What did you have to drink?

What did you have to eat?”

And the goat answered, “Old man, I did not drink or eat. I ran over a little bridge and snatched a small leaf from a maple tree. I ran over a mill dam and caught a droplet of water. That is all I had to eat and drink.”

Then the old man got angry and went to the blacksmith. He sharpened his knife and began to cut the goat. She tore out of his reach and ran off to the woods. There she saw a rabbit’s wee house, so she ran in and hid on top of the big brick stove.

Soon the rabbit came home and heard someone moving around. The rabbit called out, “Just who is in my housie?”

The goat, sitting on top of the brick stove, replied,

“I am Nanny Goat, strong and bold.

For three kopeks I was sold.

Half of my side was cut away,

Toop, toop, toop! my sharp hooves say!

I shall gore you with my horn,

By my hooves you will be torn,

I shall sweep you with my tail,

Death awaits you without fail!”

So the rabbit was greatly frightened and ran out of his wee housie and sat under an oak tree. He sat and cried until there came along a bear who said to him, “Why are you crying,

Rabbit-Hopping-Habit?”

“Why shouldn’t I cry, Brother Bear, when a terrible dragon is sitting in my house.”

And the bear replied, "I shall chase him out!" So he ran to the wee housie and said, "Who is in Bunny Rabbit's housie?" And the goat replied from on top of the brick stove,

"I am Nanny Goat, strong and bold.

For three kopeks I was sold.

Half of my side was cut away,

Toop, toop, toop! my sharp hooves say!

I shall gore you with my horn,

By my hooves you will be torn,

I shall sweep you with my tail,

Death awaits you without fail!"

The bear got frightened. "No, Rabbit-Hopping-Habit, I can't chase it out," he cried. "I'm afraid, too." So once more the rabbit went and sat under the oak tree and began to cry. Presently, along came a wolf who said, "Why are you crying, Rabbit-Hopping-Habit?"

"Why shouldn't I cry, Brother Howler-Prowler the Wolf, when a terrible dragon is sitting in my house?"

And the wolf replied, "I shall chase it out."

"How can you chase it out?" said the rabbit. "The bear tried, and he couldn't turn it out."

"Well then, I shall turn it out!" So the wolf ran off to the house and called out, "Who? Who is in Bunny Rabbit's house?"

"I am Nanny Goat, strong and bold.

For three kopeks I was sold.

Half of my side was cut away,

Toop, toop, toop! my sharp hooves say!

I shall gore you with my horn,

By my hooves you will be torn,

I shall sweep you with my tail,

Death awaits you without fail!”

The wolf got frightened. “No, Rabbit-Hopping-Habit,” he said, “I can not turn it out. I am frightened.” So the rabbit once more sat under the oak tree and started to cry. Presently, along came sister Foxy-Loxy. She came up to the rabbit and asked, “Why are you crying, Rabbit-Hopping-Habit?”

“Why shouldn’t I cry, sister Foxy-Loxy, when in my house sits a terrible monster?”

And Foxy-Loxy said, “Well, I shall chase him out!”

“How can you, Sister Foxy-Loxy, chase it out? The bear tried and he couldn’t chase it out. The wolf tried and he couldn’t chase it out. Do you think you can?”

“Well, you shall see! I shall chase it out!”

So Sister Foxy-Loxy ran off to the wee house and called out, “Who? Who is in Bunny Rabbit’s wee house?”

And the goat replied,

“I am Nanny Goat, strong and bold.

For three kopeks I was sold.

Half of my side was cut away,

Toop, toop, toop! my sharp hooves say!

I shall gore you with my horn,

By my hooves you will be torn,
I shall sweep you with my tail,
Death awaits you without fail!”

So Foxy-Loxy got frightened, too. “No,” she said to Rabbit-Hopping-Habit, “I can’t chase it out I am afraid.” So the rabbit went off and sat under the oak tree and began to cry again. Presently, there came along Crayfish. “Why are you crying, Rabbit-Hopping-Habit?”

“Why shouldn’t I cry, when at my house there’s a terrible monster sitting?”

“Well now, I shall soon chase it out,” replied Crayfish.

“How can you chase it out? The bear tried and he couldn’t turn it out. The wolf tried and he couldn’t turn it out. The fox tried and she couldn’t turn it out,” said the rabbit.” Well, I shall certainly chase it out!” So the crayfish crawled up to the little house and asked, “Who? Who is in Bunny Rabbit’s house?”

And the goat made answer,

“I am Nanny Goat, strong and bold.

For three kopeks I was sold.

Half of my side was cut away,

Toop, toop, toop! my sharp hooves say!

I shall gore you with my horn,

By my hooves you will be torn,

I shall sweep you with my tail,

Death awaits you without fail!”

And the crayfish crawled and crawled until he reached the top of the brick stove and then said,

“And I am Crayfish,

But when I pinch, you’ll feel my bite.”

And he pinched the goat really hard with his claws. The goat bleated loudly and jumped from the stove and darted from the house. She ran so hard and fast you could barely see her. So the rabbit was happy once more. He thanked the crayfish and lived once more in his own wee housie.