

SKY BABY AND THE BEDTIME STORY

By Bobby Keniston

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 Males, 5 Females)

BARRY: Mid-twenties. He is a very nice guy and wants to make a good impression on Sky. He is very nervous, but tries his best. While he is not adept at making a story up on the spot, he is mostly a good sport.

CHRISTINE: Mid-twenties. She is a very good mother who has educated Sky very well. She is in love with Barry, and wants Sky to like him. In the story, she is also the QUEEN.

SKY-BABY: Four-years-old. She is very gifted and has a vocabulary beyond her years. But, she still has a great deal of the moodiness and brattiness of a four-year-old. She also has the same sense of wonder and imagination that a little one has, and she loves her mommy very much. She is not so sure about Barry just yet. She is dressed in little girl pajamas, even a onesie if available.

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: He is from Sky-Baby's imagination. He goes from scary to insecure and ridiculous at a moment's notice. He shouldn't be too scary of a monster. His costume should be more Sesame Street fuzzy than nasty monster looking.

THE WINDED PAGE: He is part of the story. He is a Knight's assistant, and should be dressed as such. He runs around a great deal and gets out of breath quite easily.

THE GOOD, KIND, MAGICAL LADY: She is sweet and kind, and helps out Sky-Baby and Barry within the story. She is your typical fairy godmother type, with an almost too sweet demeanor, regardless if she is speaking bluntly or not.

THE TWO MYSTERIOUS LADIES (MYSTERIOUS LADY 1 AND 2):

They are dressed like wood nymphs of the forest. For a good portion of their parts, they do not speak, so they must do well with pantomime.

THE KING: He is a representation of Sky-Baby's father within the story. He is kind and fair, and loves Sky-Baby very much.

PROPERTIES

TEDDY BEAR (SKY-BABY)

SCATTERED TOYS ABOUT SKY-BABY'S ROOM (these can include stuffed animals, books, toy cars, trucks, or whatever your production needs can accommodate to dress the set)

“BIG GIRL” BED AND BEDDING (this can be achieved even by using a cot dressed up with a comforter and pillow)

MAGIC WAND (GOOD KIND MAGICAL LADY)

SLICE OF CHEESE (MYSTERIOUS LADIES)

Do Not Copy

SKY BABY AND THE BEDTIME STORY

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SETTING: The bedroom of SKY. There are toys scattered about, and a “big girl” bed. The door to enter is from stage right.

AT RISE: BARRY, 20s, is pacing about in Sky's room. CHRISTINE, 20s, tries to calm him down.

BARRY: What's taking so long?

CHRISTINE: She's a big girl now. She likes to brush her teeth by herself.

BARRY: This is a bad idea.

CHRISTINE: No...

BARRY: She doesn't like me.

CHRISTINE: That's not true. *(beat)* Okay, it's kind of true, but only because she doesn't feel like she knows you yet. Right now, she just sees you as someone who isn't her daddy.

BARRY: She's not going to want me to tuck her in. That's your job. You're her mommy. She'll get upset. She might even cry. And then I'll freak out, get nervous, and that will just make it all worse. I know it.

CHRISTINE: She won't cry. *(beat)* She might yell and scream, but she won't cry.

(CHRISTINE tries to laugh, BARRY doesn't respond.)

Look, this is going to give you a chance to really get to know one another.

BARRY: But...

CHRISTINE: What is it?

BARRY: What if she doesn't want to get to know me?

CHRISTINE: She will.

BARRY: But what if she doesn't? I mean, I want Sky to like me so much, and I love you so much, but if she doesn't like me, you might...

CHRISTINE: Barry. I love you. And Sky is going to love you too when she gets to know you. I'm certain of it.

BARRY: Yeah? *(beat)* It's just that she's only four, and I think she's smarter than I am.

CHRISTINE: That's not true. She's precocious, yes, but...

BARRY: Precocious? She uses words that I don't understand.

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 5

CHRISTINE: Okay, so she's gifted. But I know you two are going to get along. Really.

BARRY: Are you sure?

CHRISTINE: You bet. *(beat)* I think. Now stop pacing around. That will make her nervous.

BARRY: Oh. Right. *(HE stops pacing, but begins to tap his foot)*

CHRISTINE: Barry?

BARRY: Huh?

CHRISTINE: Calm down.

BARRY: Right. *(stops tapping his foot)* See, I'm calm.

(SKY enters. SHE is four-years-old, and is dressed in one piece pajamas. Her hair is tied back in pigtails. SHE does not seem to be in a good mood.)

CHRISTINE: Did you remember to turn off the sink? *(as if for the thousandth time)* Good girl. You've got a little toothpaste there, on the corner of your mouth.

SKY: Where?

CHRISTINE: Come here.

(SKY goes to her mother, and has the toothpaste wiped away from her mouth. SHE fusses slightly. CHRISTINE finishes and gives her a hug.)

There you go, Sky Baby.

SKY: Are you going to tell me a story?

CHRISTINE: Actually, Barry's going to tell you a story tonight. Won't that be fun?

BARRY: Hi Sky.

SKY: *(dismissing him)* Hi. *(to CHRISTINE)* I want you to tell me a story, mommy-mommy.

CHRISTINE: I'll tell you plenty of stories, but tonight, Barry is going to tell you a story, okay?

BARRY: It's okay if she doesn't want me to...

CHRISTINE: No, it's fine. *(to SKY)* Now Sky Baby, Barry is very important to mommy, and he really wants to get to know you. Okay? Will you let him tell you a story tonight?

SKY: Mommy...

BARRY: If she really doesn't want me to...

SKY: See, mommy? He doesn't want to!

BARRY: Oh, no, Sky, that's not what I meant...

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 6

SKY: Why don't you tell me a story tonight, mommy-mommy, and he can see how you do it, and then he can try it some other time. *(beat)*

You see Barry, mommy and I have a system for telling stories.

BARRY: I am really impressed with all of the words you know. You must be the smartest four-year-old in the whole world.

CHRISTINE: Wasn't that a nice thing for Barry to say, Sky Baby?

SKY: I guess.

CHRISTINE: So what do you say?

SKY: *(mumbling)* Thank you, Barry. *(beat. Under her breath)* Actually, Mozart was only four when he wrote "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

(Beat)

BARRY: You're welcome.

CHRISTINE: There we go. We're all being friends. So, Sky, why don't you let him tell you a story, and try your best to be nice. He doesn't have to have the same system that you and I have, okay?

SKY: But I like our system, mommy-mommy.

CHRISTINE: Well, you and Barry can work out your own system. That way, he can tell you stories some nights, and I'll tell you stories some nights, and you'll have a nice variety of stories and story-telling systems. How does that sound?

SKY: Not very practical.

CHRISTINE: Sky...

SKY: But I'll try. For you, mommy-mommy.

CHRISTINE: Thank you. Okay, I'll leave you two alone...

BARRY: You're not going to stay?

CHRISTINE: No, I'm going to start in on the dinner dishes.

BARRY: But what if...?

CHRISTINE: You'll be fine. Sky's going to be nice. Right, Sky?

SKY: *(smiling too sweetly)* I'm going to be super nice, mommy-mommy. I promise. *(to BARRY, still smiling too sweetly)* I'll be super nice, Barry.

(BARRY smiles back, unconvinced.)

CHRISTINE: That's my good girl. All right, I'll leave you two alone.

(CHRISTINE starts to leave. BARRY stops her.)

BARRY: Wait!

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 7

CHRISTINE: What?

BARRY: Ummm... nothing. I love you.

SKY: *(very loud)* I love you, mommy-mommy!

CHRISTINE: *(smiling)* I love you, too. Both.

(CHRISTINE exits. SKY and BARRY stand looking at each other. SKY is sizing BARRY up, looking at him, curious. BARRY looks nervous, but is still smiling, if somewhat uncomfortably. SKY picks up a teddy bear off her bed and holds it for a moment.)

BARRY: *(to break the silence)* That's a nice bear.

SKY: No, he's been very naughty lately. He was just in a time-out.

BARRY: *(crosses to SKY, pats the bear's head)* Well, he looks really nice to me. Aren't you nice, Mr. Bear?

(SKY growls loudly like a bear, and acts like the bear is attacking BARRY's hand. BARRY steps back, startled.)

SKY: Bear doesn't like to be touched. *(to bear)* That was naughty, bear. You shouldn't try to BITE Barry. Be nice, or you'll have to go into time-out again.

(SKY smiles too sweetly at BARRY again. There are a few moments of silence.)

BARRY: Well, okay... uh... I guess, uh, we should get the story underway. What do you say?

SKY: *(shrugs her shoulders, plays with bear)* I guess.

BARRY: Good. *(pause)* Good. *(pause)* All right. *(pause)* Okay... so, do you want me to get you tucked in, or do you want to do it yourself?

SKY: Barry...

BARRY: What?

SKY: Barry...

BARRY: Yeah?

SKY: BAAARR-EEEE!

BARRY: What is it, Sky?

SKY: I don't get into bed until AFTER the story.

BARRY: Oh. Really?

SKY: *(begins hopping around)* Mommy-mommy doesn't tuck me in until after the story!

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 8

BARRY: Okay, okay. Uh... well, what story do you want me to read to you?

SKY: Read to me?

BARRY: Yeah, do you have a favorite?

SKY: *(rolling her eyes)* Barry...!

BARRY: Yes?

SKY: *(jumps up and down)* BARRR-EEEE!

BARRY: *(nervous)* What is it?

SKY: You don't READ me a story!

BARRY: Didn't you say you'd let me tell you a story tonight?

SKY: I did! TELL me a story. Mommy-mommy TELLS me stories. I can read books myself. You have to TELL me a story!

BARRY: Wait, I'm not reading you a story?

(SKY shakes her head "no".)

You mean, I'm supposed to just... make it up as I go?

SKY: *(as if talking to an idiot)* Yes. What else?

BARRY: *(with renewed nervousness)* Oh. Wow. I didn't know that.

Huh. So, your mommy just makes up a story, huh?

SKY: *(sing-songy)* Mommy tells me a story every night, and she starts with "once upon a time"... and then we make some of it up together because she lets me help. And we make the best stories ever in the world!

BARRY: Huh. Wow, that sounds like... fun, yeah, but maybe tonight I could just read you a story...

SKY: *(singing a random tune)* No, no, no, no, no! Barry has to TELL me a story, Barry has to TELL Sky Baby a story before she goes to bed!

BARRY: That was a nice song. *(pause)* All right, okay, I'll tell you a story, and you'll help me out. That sounds good. We can do that, can't we?

(SKY says nothing.)

Great... well, let's get started.

SKY: Okay. Go ahead.

BARRY: *(trying to work up enthusiasm)* All right, good. No time like the present. *(beat)* Once upon a time...

SKY: That's a good start.

BARRY: Thank you. Once upon a time there was a... uh... there was a... oh!, there was a Princess. Do you like stories with princesses in

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 9

them? I think I remember your mommy saying that you liked a princess movie, so, I hope you like...

SKY: Go on.

BARRY: Right, sorry. There was a princess, but not just any princess. She was a beautiful princess named Sky, just like you.

SKY: Sky Baby.

BARRY: What?

SKY: Sky Baby! The princess. Her name was Sky Baby, just like me, and she lived in a pink castle and got to ride on horses every day!

BARRY: Right! There you go, that's exactly right. Sky Baby was a young princess, but she was very smart, and all the people in the village loved her bunches and bunches.

SKY: And the village was called Foxtown, because Princess Sky Baby loved foxes. And the houses in the village looked like pyramids, but they were made from mud and wood and grapefruits!

BARRY: Um... okay, yeah, why not? If you like grapefruits, I like grapefruits. And... uh... the villagers of Foxtown were happy because Princess Sky Baby and her mother, the Queen, were kind to everyone... because... you know, it's good to be kind to people, isn't it?

SKY: Yes. And one day, Queen Mommy-mommy came to see Sky-Baby with an important message...

(At this point, the lights change to signify that we are inside the story. This will be indicated in the remainder of the script as "story lighting", as SKY and BARRY move in and out of the story. CHRISTINE enters, now dressed as a fairy tale Queen, complete with a crown.)

CHRISTINE: *(as the QUEEN)* Greetings, my little princess. How do you fare on this fine morning.

SKY: *(in the story)* It is a wondrous day, mommy-mommy. Are you happy?

CHRISTINE: I am always happy to see my little Sky Baby. But there is something I must speak with you about, my little one.

SKY: What is it?

CHRISTINE: There is someone I want you to meet. He is a very special friend of mine, and it would warm my heart for you to get to know him.

SKY: Who is it?

CHRISTINE: He is called the Nervous Knight.

SKY: The Nervous Knight? I don't think I'll like him.

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 10

CHRISTINE: But princesses must always learn to give people the benefit of the doubt, and not make judgements before getting to know someone.

SKY: *(rolling her eyes)* I guess.

CHRISTINE: Hark! I think I hear the Nervous Knight approaching now!

(There is a pause. BARRY, who has been watching all of this, continues to watch, waiting to see what will happen next. SKY breaks out of the scene and storms over to him. The QUEEN remains frozen in the scene.)

SKY: *(to BARRY, in a loud whisper)* It's your turn!

BARRY: Huh?

SKY: You're the Nervous Knight!

BARRY: I am?

SKY: *(as if for the thousandth time)* Yes! You have to pay attention.

BARRY: Oh. Thank you for putting me in the story.

SKY: Come on!

(SKY goes back to her place by the QUEEN, and we are once again in the story. The QUEEN unfreezes.)

CHRISTINE: Hark! I think I hear the Nervous Knight approaching now!

(BARRY enters the story somewhat awkwardly, but tries his best. HE crosses to SKY and CHRISTINE.)

BARRY: *(as the KNIGHT)* Uh... Good day, my Queen. *(HE bows)*
Good day, my Princess. *(HE bows again)* Uh... My duty to your lordships.

SKY: We're not lords. Lords are men.

CHRISTINE: *(to SKY)* Now be nice.

BARRY: Er... right. I have come to you on this fine day to announce that... uh... well, I have come to you on this fine day to announce that we... um... are running out of grapefruits in the village.

CHRISTINE: Oh, dear! What will the villagers make their houses out of if we run out of grapefruits?

BARRY: You needn't worry, milady. The other knights and myself are looking into the situation.

CHRISTINE: Heavens! I must go and inform my chief carpenter.

Nervous Knight, would you be so kind as to stay here and watch the

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 11

Princess for a few minutes? It will give you an excellent chance to get to know one another.

BARRY: It would be an honor. *(HE bows)*

(CHRISTINE exits. BARRY and SKY stare at each other for a few moments. The “story lights” disappear.)

SKY: What now? I'm getting bored.

BARRY: Really? I think we're off to a pretty good start. I mean, that whole grapefruit shortage is pretty interesting, isn't it?

SKY: BAAARRR-EEE! Stories are supposed to have adventure in them.

BARRY: Well, yeah, but...

SKY: But right now we're just staring at each other and we don't know what to say. Just like real life.

BARRY: I'm trying my best.

SKY: Stories are supposed to help you escape real life, not be just like it.

BARRY: You really are the smartest four-year-old I've ever met.

SKY: Daddy-daddy says I'm a genius.

BARRY: Oh.

SKY: I got it!

(SKY goes back into the world of the story, and the lights shift to “story lighting.”)

Suddenly, a Page came in, all out of breath, looking for the Nervous Knight.

(The PAGE enters. HE runs around, looking for the NERVOUS KNIGHT, and even though BARRY is in plain sight, the PAGE does not register this fact. After a few moments of running around and acting silly, BARRY stops him. The PAGE is very out of breath)

PAGE: *(out of breath)* Oh, Nervous Knight, I have searched this village, running like the wind to find you! *(takes some deep breaths)* I was running very fast. I have urgent... news... about the grapefruit crisis. *(HE stops, tries to catch his breath)* Whew, I guess I must really be out of shape. I can't seem to catch my breath. One sec. *(HE puts his hands behind his head and breathes deeply)* It seems that the problem is that... that... the grapefruits... are... being... stolen by...

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 12

(HE leans over and continues to try to catch his breath) I've got to get more cardio in, it's that simple.

BARRY: Who stole the grapefruits, my winded Page?

PAGE: Oh... right. Sorry. *(takes a few more deep breaths)* The grapefruits... were stolen by... by... *(the PAGE keels over)*

BARRY: Page! Page! Are you all right? Speak to me, Page! Who stole the grapefruits?! Page!

SKY: It's okay, he just passed out. He'll be fine in a few minutes.

BARRY: But he was just about to tell me about the grapefruits.

(SKY jumps over the PAGE, and the lights shift out of "Story lighting.")

SKY: I think we're getting too worked up about the grapefruits.

BARRY: What do you mean?

SKY: Grapefruits were a good jumping off point, but now we have to think about raising the stakes.

BARRY: Raising the stakes?

SKY: BAAARRR-EEE! Mommy-mommy says to have a good story, you need to really care what happens. You have to have high stakes.

BARRY: Well... uh... without grapefruits, how are the villagers going to build their houses?

SKY: Eh! Don't care. Let's see... all of a sudden, while the Nervous Knight was trying to get his Page to wake up, a big Giant Monster Person came in!

(The lights shift into "story lights." The GIANT MONSTER PERSON enters.)

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: I am a big Giant Monster Person!

SKY: And he growled like this! *(SHE growls loudly)*

(The GIANT MONSTER PERSON begins to growl like SKY, but HE is interrupted by BARRY. The lights shift to somewhere in between normal and story lighting, as the GIANT MONSTER PERSON listens in on the following conversation.)

BARRY: Wait, wait, wait. I don't know if this is a good idea.

SKY: What?

BARRY: I don't want to tell you a story with monsters in it. That's too scary.

SKY: BARRR-EEE!

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 13

BARRY: I don't want you to have nightmares, Sky Baby.

SKY: But lots of stories have monsters in them, all the time. Gee, I can't think of any that don't. Even Little Red Riding Hood has the Big Bad Wolf. And he eats people. This monster doesn't eat people. *(to MONSTER)* Do you?

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: Of course not. You see, I am a Giant Monster Person, so, I am, in fact, part person. So, no, I do not eat people, and quite frankly I am offended you would even ask.

BARRY: I don't know.

SKY: Mommy tells me stories with monsters. It's an easy way to raise the stakes.

BARRY: Fine, but can he be a nice monster at least? He doesn't have to be a scary monster, does he?

SKY: If he's nice right from the start, then his character will have no place to grow from. He needs to have a solid character arc, or else you're just cheating the viewer.

BARRY: *(after a slight pause)* I have no idea what you're talking about.

SKY: Gee whiz, don't you know ANYTHING about stories?

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: I have to agree with the little girl on this one. I feel my character would be much more interesting if I start off scary, and then, as time goes on, you see other layers of my personality come out.

BARRY: Okay. Fine. We have a big scary monster person, and he's growling like this. *(BARRY growls half-heartedly)*

(We are back in the story. The GIANT MONSTER PERSON takes his place and growls loudly. The lights shift to "story lighting". The PAGE is awakened by the MONSTER's growling. HE stands up, sees the MONSTER, screams like a little girl, and runs off.)

SKY: Maybe he is too scary.

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: I have come to warn you, Princess Sky Baby, that unless you bring the rest of the grapefruits in your village to my evil lair by sundown, you will never see your Queen mother again!

SKY: What have you done to my mommy-mommy?

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: I have taken her prisoner, and if you ever want to see her again...

SKY: Yeah, yeah, I got that part. Why do you need all the grapefruits?

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: *(after a slight pause)* Because they're healthy and they taste good! And, they are a good source of Vitamin C. Uh, and they are good for the metabolism.

SKY: Do something, Nervous Knight!

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 14

BARRY: Oh, right. *(to MONSTER)* Listen, monster--- It wasn't very nice to kidnap the Queen. I'm sure we can work out an arrangement where we can all learn to share the grapefruits in the village...

SKY: BAAAARRR-EEE!

BARRY: What?

SKY: Why are you talking about sharing? He's a monster! You need to sock him in the face!

(The MONSTER looks nervous at this possibility.)

BARRY: What? No, I'm not going to sock him in the face.

SKY: But he's a monster!

BARRY: But violence doesn't solve anything!

SKY: Tell that to the marines! Look, Barry, you're a Knight. Sock the monster in the face.

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: If anyone is interested in my opinion on the subject, I think...

SKY: Quiet, Monster! Fine, I'll do it. And then, Princess Sky Baby socked the monster in the face and broke his teeth!

(SHE is about to sock the cowering monster, but BARRY holds her back.)

Let me go!

BARRY: But the Nervous Knight held Sky Baby back, because violence doesn't solve problems!

SKY: BAARRRR-EEE!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: Ha, ha, ha! You have only a few hours left until nightfall! Bring all the grapefruits in the village to my lair, or the Queen gets it!

(GIANT MONSTER PERSON exits. BARRY lets go of SKY. We come out of the "story lighting.")

SKY: Gee whiz.

BARRY: Well, I don't think you should be fighting.

SKY: But I take Judo! Gee whiz!

BARRY: But still, it's never a good idea to resort to fighting. There are other ways we can deal with situations.

SKY: How are we going to get Queen mommy-mommy back?

BARRY: We could... uh... we could...

SKY: I wish daddy-daddy was here. HE'D know what to do.

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 15

BARRY: I'm sorry, Sky.

SKY: Daddy would be the King, and he'd go rescue mommy, and sock the monster in the face, and then we'd live happily ever after. But daddy doesn't even live in the same castle anymore!

BARRY: I know.

SKY: And I only get to see him on weekends.

BARRY: We'll figure out how to save the Queen.

SKY: I don't even care.

BARRY: Sure you do.

SKY: Nuh-uh.

BARRY: Hey! I got it! Have you ever heard of Deus ex machina?

SKY: What?

BARRY: Deus ex machina. It's something used in stories to help the heroes on their quest. It's when something magical that can't be explained happens to help them out.

SKY: Deus ex machina?

BARRY: Yeah. I can't believe I know something you haven't heard of. Okay. So, Sky Baby and the Nervous Knight didn't know what to do, when all of a sudden, they were visited by the Good, Kind Magical Lady!

SKY: I like that!

(The Lights go back to "story lighting." There is a sound of twinkling chimes, and the MAGICAL LADY enters. SHE is dressed in typical fairy godmother type clothes and has a magic wand. SHE smiles, and sweeps across the room on her toes.)

MAGICAL LADY: I am the Good, Kind, Magical Lady. I am here to help Princess Sky Baby and the Nervous Knight save the village and the Queen from the evil Giant Monster Person.

SKY: You're our Deus ex machina.

MAGICAL LADY: *(after a slight pause)* Good for me!

BARRY: What must we do, Kind Magical Lady?

MAGICAL LADY: The answer lies within your hearts.

SKY: Yeah, yeah. That doesn't help. Tell us what to do.

MAGICAL LADY: Patience, Princess Sky Baby. You must learn to work together with those around you. You must also understand that there is still much you can learn from others. Intelligent as you are, you do not yet have all the answers.

SKY: *(rolling her eyes)* Okay, what else?

MAGICAL LADY: And you, Nervous Knight, must learn to believe in yourself, to take confidence in who you are. You have great strength and courage, if only you would believe it.

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 16

BARRY: No offense, but I'm with Sky Baby on this one--- how does this help us?

MAGICAL LADY: For two intelligent people, you're acting awfully thick at the moment. Alas. You must go to the Dark Forest where you will meet Two Mysterious Ladies who will help you. Only they know the secret of finding the Giant Monster Person's lair. Remember what I have told you. Time is of the essence. Now I must bid you farewell. Farewell.

(The MAGICAL LADY exits, to the sound of chimes. BARRY and SKY stare at each other a moment.)

BARRY: Huh.

SKY: Barry?

BARRY: Yeah?

SKY: I think we got ripped off by our Deus ex machina.

BARRY: Maybe. But I guess we better do what she says, huh?

SKY: I guess.

BARRY: And so Princess Sky Baby and the Nervous Knight made their way to the Dark Forest in search of the Mysterious Ladies.

SKY: The Dark Forest wasn't really as dark as you might think. It had lots of sunlight and beautiful trees that grew bananas and chocolate chip muffins.

BARRY: Which was good, because they had missed lunch. So they munched on bananas and chocolate chip muffins as they walked through the Dark, but kind of light, forest. And then suddenly they heard a sound. *(in the story)* Princess Sky Baby, did you hear that?

SKY: Yes. *(clutches her teddy bear)* Did you hear that, bear?

(Suddenly, TWO MYSTERIOUS LADIES enter. THEY are dressed like wood nymphs of the forest. THEY skip in, arm in arm, and circle around SKY BABY and BARRY. Note: The TWO MYSTERIOUS LADIES do not speak unless noted. THEY will act certain messages out, and what THEY are acting out will be represented by the use of brackets []. The brackets will also contain suggestions of how to act out what THEY are saying. After skipping around, THEY stop and face BARRY and SKY BABY and wave.)

SKY: Are you the mysterious ladies the Good, Kind Magical Lady told us about?

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: *(together)* [Nod their heads. "Yes, we are".]

BARRY: Great! Are we glad to see you!

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 17

SKY: Tell us what we must do!

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: [Points to SKY BABY, then points to her ear, and then points to herself and MYSTERIOUS LADY 2: “You must listen to us.”]

BARRY: What are they saying?

SKY: I think they want a muffin.

MYSTERIOUS LADY 2: [Rolls her eyes and shakes head-- “No, we don't want a muffin.”]

SKY: You can have a muffin if you want. The trees grow them here.

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: [SHE rolls her eyes, slaps her own forehead in frustration. SHE points to SKY BABY and points to her ear again. “You have to listen.”]

SKY: I give up, Barry. I don't know what they're saying to me. This is pointless!

BARRY: You can't give up! Remember what the Magical Lady told us. You need to have patience and learn to work with others.

SKY: But they won't talk to me!

BARRY: Maybe you just really need to listen.

SKY: Okay. I'll try. (*to the MYSTERIOUS LADIES*) How do I get to the Giant Monster Person's lair?

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: [Makes a grabbing motion, then points to her right hand: “Take a right”]

SKY: Hand? Something about my hand?

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: [Shakes her head, “No.” Then mimes writing something.]

SKY: Write? Wait... Right. Take a right?

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [Nod their heads: “Yes.”]

SKY: Where?

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [MYSTERIOUS LADY 2 stands like a tree, and the MYSTERIOUS LADY 1 indicates SHE is a very big tree. “At the tallest tree.”]

SKY: I don't know!

BARRY: I think they're saying “tree”... a right at the biggest tree!

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [Nod their heads, smiling: “Yes”.]

SKY: Okay, a right at the tallest tree. Then what?

MYSTERIOUS LADY 2: [Points to SKY BABY, then makes a flowing gesture with her using her hand to indicate the flowing of a stream: “You must cross the stream”.]

SKY: Uh... Fish?

BARRY: Brook?

SKY: Stream? Stream!

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [Nod their heads happily: “Yes”.]

SKY: We cross the stream! Then what?

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 18

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [MYSTERIOUS LADY 1 mimes out the GIANT MONSTER PERSON, and makes a silent growl. MYSTERIOUS LADY 2 draws a box shape in the air with her fingers: “Giant Monster Persons House.”]

SKY: Giant Monster Person...

BARRY: House!

SKY: Giant Monster Person's House!

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: [Nods: “Yes.” Then holds up three fingers, then points to her left hand... “Third house on the left.”]

SKY: Third house on the left! I got it!

MYSTERIOUS LADY 2: [Makes house gesture again, then takes a slice of cheese out of her pocket and points to it: “House made out of cheese.”]

SKY: House cheese?

BARRY: The house is made out of cheese?

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [Nod: “Yes.”]

SKY: All right, made out of cheese. And that's where I'll find mommy-mommy?

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: [Nod, excited: “Yes!”]

SKY: Oh, thank you, Mysterious Ladies!

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: (*SPEAKING together*) No problem.

BARRY: Wait a minute! You can talk?

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: You bet.

BARRY: But then why did you...

MYSTERIOUS LADY 2: Because she needed to learn to really listen!

MYSTERIOUS LADY 1: And look how well you worked together!

BARRY: Hey, we really did, didn't we Sky?

SKY: Yeah, I guess we did.

MYSTERIOUS LADIES: (*together*) See ya! (*THEY skip merrily away.*)

SKY: And so the Nervous Knight followed Princess Sky Baby to the Giant Monster Person's Lair, which was made out of cheese. And when they got there, Princess Sky Baby knocked on the door.

BARRY: Three times. And then...

(*The GIANT MONSTER PERSON pushes CHRISTINE, as the QUEEN, onstage. SKY sees her.*)

SKY: Mommy!

CHRISTINE: Sky Baby!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: Did you bring the grapefruits?

SKY: Let my mommy-mommy go!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: Not until you bring on the citrus!

Sky Baby and the Bedtime Story – Page 19

BARRY: Listen, Giant Monster Person, we came here to talk peacefully.

I want you to focus on the “person” side of your nature, and let the Queen go. There are enough grapefruits for everybody.

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: But I want them all!

SKY: But that's just selfish! Not to mention that it's way too much citric acid. It will hurt your tum-tummy!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: I don't care!

CHRISTINE: Please! Just let me go!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: Never!

BARRY: Then you leave me no choice! I, the Nervous Knight, challenge you to a.. uh...

SKY: A duel?

BARRY: That seems too violent.

SKY: Okay. What about a thumb wrestling competition?

BARRY: That works for me. (to MONSTER) I challenge you to a thumb wrestling competition!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: I accept your challenge!

(The MONSTER releases the QUEEN, who rushes to SKY BABY and holds her. The GIANT MONSTER PERSON and BARRY face off, almost in spaghetti-Western style. THEY act very over-dramatic, perhaps music could even heighten the comedic effect. THEY walk towards each other, dramatically, their chests puffed out. When THEY are face-to-face, THEY immediately clasp hands and lean over... music, if used, is stopped abruptly.)

BARRY AND GIANT MONSTER PERSON: One, two, three, four, I declare a thumb war.

(THEY begin to thumb wrestle, over-dramatically. SKY and the QUEEN look on, acting as though they are witnessing a mighty battle, and react accordingly. Finally, BARRY pins the GIANT MONSTER PERSON's thumb.)

BARRY: One, two, three, four, I WIN THUMB WAR!

GIANT MONSTER PERSON: Aw, man.

(SKY BABY and CHRISTINE rush to BARRY.)

SKY: You did it!

CHRISTINE: I knew you could do it, Brave Knight!

(CHRISTINE is about to kiss BARRY, but...)

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