BILLIKIN WHISKERS AND THE MOUNTAIN TROLLS:
A CHILDREN'S PLAY

THESIS

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By

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This thesis is a play for children. The story and the characters were derived from traditional Norwegian fairy tales. The central character is Billikin Whiskers, a billy-goat, who is captured by three trolls--Sparky, Garr and Pragg. The play is set on a mountain in Norway. The central idea of the play is the issue of intelligence--represented by Billikin Whiskers--versus physical strength--symbolized by the trolls.
CAST

Billikin Whiskers - a billy-goat
Millikin - Billikin's sister
Dillikin - Billikin's brother
Willikin - Billikin's brother
Mother - Billikin's mother
Sparky - The leader of the trolls
Garr - a troll
Pragg - a troll
AT RISE:
The side of a mountain in Norway. It is evening, and the sun is low on the horizon. Four young goats gambol on the rocks. Three of the goats, Millikin, Dillikin, and Willikin, playfully try to ram into each other with their heads. The fourth kid, Billikin Whiskers, wanders around alone, eager and inquisitive, with an air of mischief about him.

MILLIKIN
Come on Biillikin Whiskers, come and join us. We're having a great time.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
No thanks, Millikin, I want to find out what's up there, beyond that ridge. I bet the grass is greener, the water is sweeter and the view is incredible.

MILLIKIN
You know we're not allowed to go out of sight. Mamma said that we have to be close by.

DILLIKIN
(fearfully)
You better not go up there. That is where the scary old trolls live.

WILLIKIN
Diiillikin is right. Remember what happened to Paaapa. He disappeared over that very same ridge.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(kicking at stones)
Trolls, trolls, trolls. All my life I've been too-old I can't do this and I can't do that because of silly old trolls. I'm tired of not being able to have any fun. (jumping on top of a rock)
I want to explore. The world is full of excitement and adventure and I want to be part of it... (determined)
and I'm not going to be stopped by any stupid troll.
MILLIKIN
But tro-o-olls are big and mean and daaangerous...

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
and dumb. You know how stuuupid they’re supposed to be. How could a dumb troll ever catch me?
(gamboling up the rocks)
See ya!
(Billikin jumps over a large rock and disappears)

MILLIKIN
Wait Biiillikin! Come back!

DILLIKIN
(to Millikin)
Forget about him. He’ll co-o-ome back when he realizes that it’s no better over that cliff than it is he-e-ere.
(preparing himself)
Get ready! I’m coming at you!
(Dillikin charges at Millikin with his horns down and knocks her over)

MILLIKIN
(forgetting about Billikin)
Hey, you caught me off guard. I’ll ge-e-et you this time!
(Dillikin and Millikin charge at each other and both end up falling on the ground. Willikin charges at them and falls also. They all start laughing)

BILLIKIN
(behind a rock, growling in what he thinks is a troll voice)
Arg.

DILLIKIN
(fearfully)
What was tha-a-at?

WILLIKIN
What was what?
(standing)
That was fun. Le-e-et’s do it again.

Growl.
DILLIKIN
Didn’t you he-e-ear that?

MILLIKIN
(frightened)
It sounded like a tro-o-oll.

WILLIKIN
(trying not to act scared)
It co-o-ouldn’t be a tro-o-oll. They don’t come out until after dark.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Aaargg.
(Billikin Whiskers jumps out from the same rock he had disappeared behind and pounces on the other goats. Millikin, Willikin and Dillikin all scream and scatter)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(to Millikin in his troll voice)
Da, I’m dumbo da troll an’ I’m comin’ ta getcha.

MILLIKIN
Stop it. That’s not fuuunny.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(to Dillikin)
and I’m gonna get you too!
(to Willikin)
and you too!

DILLIKIN
Cut it out or I’ll tell maaamma.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(advancing on Dillikin again)
Your mamma can’t help you now. Ha, ha.

WILLIKIN
(standing up to Billikin)
Quit it Biillikin Whiskers.
BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(laughing and in his own voice)
You siiissies! You were so scaaared running in all
directions. That was the funniest thing I’ve ever se-e-e-en.

WILLIKIN
How can you joke about tro-o-olls like this when you know
that Paaapa was killed by one?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(chagrined)
I was just trying to have some fuuun. Besides, we don’t
even know if it was a troll that got paaapa. It could have
been anything.
(laughing again)
I can’t believe you kids were actually scaaared.

WILLIKIN
I wasn’t scaaared and Maaamma said it was a troll.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Well whatever it was, I’m sure it’s gone now.
(climbing toward the ridge)
So I’m going over that riiidge.

WILLIKIN
(disgustedly)
Go ahead and go. Come on Diiillikin, let’s go play.

DILLIKIN
Yeah, it’s getting laaate, we don’t have much time left.
(Willikin and Dillikin go back to
playing. Billikin starts to leave)

MILLIKIN
(running to him)
Biiillikin, I’m scared. Ple-e-ease don’t go.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Don’t worry Millikin. Trolls only come out after daaark.
If they so much as get a glimpse of the sun, they turn to
stone.

MILLIKIN
Well it’s getting pretty close to daaark now, so you better
stay riiight here.
BILLIKIN WHISKERS
I’ll only be gone a few minutes, I promise. I juuust want to look around up there. I’ll be back before you know it. Waaant to come along?

WILLIKIN
No, I’m afraid, and you would be too if you kne-e-ew what was good for you.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
You sound like maaamma. Suit yourself. I’ll tell you aaall about it when I get baaack.

(Billikin Whiskers exits)

MILLIKIN
(calling)
Please come baaack Billikin. I’m worried about you.

(Millikin runs up to the other two Billy-goats)

MILLIKIN
What should we dooo about Biiillikin?

WILLIKIN
How can you worry about him after he was so me-e-ean to us.

MILLIKIN
He wasn’t tryyying to be me-e-ean. He just wanted to have fun.

WILLIKIN
Well I don’t like his kind of fun.

DILLIKIN
Me neither.

MILLIKIN
I’m still wo-o-erried about him.

WILLIKIN
Quit worrying and come plaaay with us.

(Millikin looks off after Billikin, trying to decide what to do; finally she decides to play with the others. They all take position on different corners of the stage and prepare to charge. Suddenly the wind begins to blow, and the sky gets very dark. A
loud cracking sound is heard, and the mountain seems to move. The billy-goats scatter in all directions)

MILLIKIN
He-e-elp, where are you guys. I can’t see!

WILLIKIN
I’m over he-e-ere.

DILLIKIN
I’m scaaared.

(The billy goats are running around in confusion trying to find each other. A fog begins to swirl around the peaks. Mother goat is heard calling from off stage)

MOTHER
Kids! Kids! Where aaare you?

MILLIKIN
Maaamma, Maaamma, help maaamama!

DILLIKIN
(crying)
Mamma, I’m scaaared!

(The mother goat enters. She has been frantically searching for her children and is in a hurry to get them safely home)

MOTHER
Diiillikin is that you?

DILLIKIN
(through his tears)
I’m o-o-over here mamma!

MOTHER
I’m coming.

(The mother goat works her way over to Dillikin through the fog. There is another loud cracking sound and the mountain starts to move again. Millikin, who has been running toward the sound of her mother’s voice, is thrown off balance
and collides into her. The mother struggles to regain her balance without losing sight of the two goats)

MILLIKIN

Maaamma?

MOTHER

Miiilikin, is that you? Where are Biillilikin and Wiillilikin?

WILLIKIN

(making his way toward her)
Over here, maaamma!

(The cracking sound is heard again)

MOTHER

(gathering them to her)
Hurry, children, we muuust get home now! Run! Run!

(The mother goat and the billy goats exit. The mountain seems to break apart and what once was a rock becomes a moving beast. It is Garr, a large troll, with a long nose and broad shoulders. He stalks toward the audience. His make-up is very pale and he is in a light grey costume that will wash out in white light. He has been hiding in the mountain, waiting for the sun to go down. He stretches and lets out a great yawn. Then he looks around, sniffing the air)

GARR

What’s dat I smell.
(calling behind him)
Hey you guys, wake up!

(Another troll, Pragg, breaks out of his hiding place. His appearance is similar to that of Garr. However, he has very large ears)

PRAGG

(yawning)
Ohhh, what’re you yellin’ for. I was dreamin’...

GARR

Shut up an’ smell.
PRAGG

Hey, dat smells like billy-goat.

(Just then a third troll, Sparky, breaks out of his upstage rock. He has three eyes. He is dressed like the other trolls)

SPARKY

(rubbing his eyes with one hand and his stomach with the other)

I’m hungry...

(stopping and sniffing)

I smell billy-goat!

(taking charge)

What’re you standin’ dere for guys. Lets get ‘em!

(The trolls all look down, trying to smell the trail. Each of them picks a different scent to follow)

GARR

Dey went dis way!

PRAGG

No. Dis is de trail!

SPARKY


(They are not paying attention to where they are going, and all three collide into, and fall on top of each other)

SPARKY

(to Garr)

You clumsy klutz. Get off me. Dey’re getting away.

PRAGG

(angrily)

Who you callin’ a clumsy klutz. You get off a me!

GARR

(standing)

Let’s go get ‘em. Follow me!

(Garr runs off one direction)

PRAGG

(standing)

Dat’s not de way, you idiot!
(Pragg runs off another direction)

SPARKY
(sniffing on all fours)
I’m sure it’s dis way.
(he exits another direction)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(offstage)
Miilikin, I’m coming Miilikin.

(Billikin runs onstage)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Miilikin, whe-e-e-re are you?
(looking around)
Miilikin? Miiilikin?
(getting nervous)
Come on, guys, this isn’t funny.
(thinking)
I know, you’re hiding. You just waaant to see me get scaaared.
(running up to the rocks where they were playing)
I’m going to caaatch you.
(jumping behind a rock)
Aahaaaaa!
(realizing no one is there)
Whe-e-e-re are you?
(getting scared)
What if they left me alo-o-o-one?
(looking around)
It sure has gotten aaawfully daaark.
(shivering)
and aaawfully chilly. I better go home.
(starts to leave, then stops)
But whaaat if I meet a troll? It’s a lo-o-o-ong way home in the daaark. What if the mountain is filled with tro-o-o-olls?
(Billikin looks around in fear. He hears a night owl and is so startled that he darts behind a rock. Slowly, he peeks over the rock)
Is, is anyo-o-o-one the-e-e-re?
(Seeing that he is still alone and feeling very foolish, he tries to muster up some courage)
Aw, I’m not afraaaid of any stupid old tro-o-o-oll. Why I’ll just kick him in the leg.
(kicking the air)
I’ll butt him off the cliiiiff.
(puts his head down and pretends to charge the air)

Take thaat, you old troll! And thaat!

(Garr reenters sniffing the ground. He looks up when he hears Billikin and creeps up to him. Billikin is so wrapped up in his imaginary fighting that he doesn’t notice)

And what do you think of thaat you old troll!

(Billikin butts directly into the troll, who doesn’t budge. Billikin stops, and, realizing he could be in trouble, backs away, looking up)

A excuuuse me, Mister Tro-o-oll. I was juuust leaving.

(Garr pounces on Billikin, trying to catch him in his arms, but the troll’s reaction time is so slow that he only catches air. Billikin starts to run to a downstage exit, but before he can reach it, Pragg enters through it. Garr is running after the goat and Pragg tries to catch him, but Billikin runs between Pragg’s legs and kicks him from behind with his hind legs, causing Pragg to fall forward on top of Garr)

PRAGG
I got ya! I got ya! You won’t escape now!

GARR
Let go, you clumsy oaf! You got me!

PRAGG
What’s dat...

(letting go of Pragg)

Hey! What’d you do wit’ my goat.

(lunging at him)

GARR
I didn’t do nuttin’ wit’im you idiot.

(The two start fighting each other. Meanwhile, the billy goat starts backing away up the cliffs to an upstage exit. He is almost there, sighs a heavy sigh of relief, and turns around to run out the exit, but just then Sparky appears, blocking his way. Billikin sees him and stops)
Well, what 'ave we 'ere!

(Sparky goes after Billikin, but the goat counters every step, so that they look like two boxers in a ring, walking in a circle, then switching directions. Sparky finally gets frustrated and lunges at him but misses. Billikin runs downstage)

SPARKY
(to the other trolls)
Get 'im you guys. Quick, 'es gettin' away.

(The two other trolls stop fighting and run after Billikin. Billikin runs behind a large downstage rock, and the trolls all run after him in the same direction. At this point they begin a fast chase, running around the rock. We see Billikin first, then Sparky, then Garr, and finally Pragg)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(running)
He-e-elp! He-e-elp!

SPARKY
(in hot pursuit)
I'm gonna get dat goat.

PRAGG
(to Garr)
Outta my way, you slow poke. Let me at 'im.

GARR
(panting)
'E's mine! I found 'im first.

(They do several laps around the rock, but Billikin is so much faster than the trolls, that eventually he starts passing them)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(passing Pragg)
Haaa, haaa, You can't get me.

PRAGG
(grabbing at him)
Why you rotten goat! Get 'im, Garr.
(But by this time Billikin is already passing Garr)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(singing)
Nanny boo, I'm faster than you hoo.

GARR
A wise guy, eh?
(running faster)
I'll show you!

(Billikin then passes Sparky who swipes at him, but also misses. Then we see only the trolls running the laps with no sign of Billikin Whiskers)

SPARKY
(unaware)
I almost got 'im. I know it!

(Suddenly, Billikin climbs on top of the rock from behind and starts pointing and giggling at the trolls who are still furiously running around it. Billikin starts laughing harder, grabbing his sides and doubling over, until he loses his balance and falls right into Sparky's outstretched arms. Sparky stops. The other two trolls are still running and collide into him. The billy goat falls out of Sparky's arms as he is going down, but Sparky manages to keep hold of his back leg)

SPARKY
I got 'im! I got 'im!

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(struggling to break free)
Let me go-o-o! Let me go-o-o!

GARR
(grabbing another goat leg)
Yeah, let go of 'im. 'E's mine. I found 'im.

PRAGG
(angrily grabbing a third leg)
You didn't find 'im, I found 'im.
(The trolls begin pulling on Billikin from opposite directions, as in a tug-o-war)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Ow! Your huuurting me!

GARR

(tugging on his leg, to Pragg)

Why, you filt’y liar, I found ‘im.

SPARKY

(tugging harder)

I don’t care who found ‘im. I caught ‘im and ‘es mine.

(Sparky gives a final pull, causing Garr and Pragg to fall forward and let go of the goat)

SPARKY

(holding the goat and laughing)

I got ‘im now!

(pinching him)

Not much meat on you, but what dere is cherce! Oh, boy, do I love roast billy goat.

GARR

(struggling to his feet and going after Sparky)

Well, too bad, ‘cause you ain’t goin’ ta get none.

I ain’t huh...

(pulling out a large knife)

Well, just who’s goin’ ta stop me.

GARR

(backing down)

I’m tellin’ ya Sparky, someday yer gonna push me too far, an’ I’m gonna tear ya ta pieces.

SPARKY

(Laughing)

Whenever you’re ready Garr, whenever you’re ready.

PRAGG

(Thinking hard)

I know,...why don’ we all eat ‘im.
GARR
Are you kiddin'? Der's 'ardly 'nough meat on 'im for one of us, much less all t'ree of us.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(struggling in Sparky's arms)
Ple-e-ease let me go.

SPARKY
(ignoring Billikin)
All t'ree of us huh? Dat ain't a bad idea, Pragg. In fact, dat's just wha' we'll do. We'll divide 'im up an' eat 'im.

GARR
I get da rump.

PRAGG
Dat's jus' like you, ta want ta take da best part.

GARR
Well I desoive da best part, 'cause I'm da one dat found 'im.

PRAGG
(lunging at Garr)
I'm da one dat found 'im.

GARR
(fighting back)
Liar!

PRAGG
(between punches)
Who you callin' a liar?

(While Garr and Pragg fight, Sparky unhooks a rope from his belt, ties it around Billikin Whiskers and sets him by a downstage rock)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Ple-e-ease don't eat me. I must get baaack to my mother.

SPARKY
Yer mudder's gone now. She can't help you.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
What gooood am I to you three. I'm not even big enough to be a snaaack for o-o-one of you.
SPARKY
Oh, I don' know 'bout dat. A little goat stew can go a long ways.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(gulping)
Go-o-oat Stew?

SPARKY
Sure. We'll dice you up real fine, see. An' den we'll drop you in a stew filled wit' all my favorite fixin's an' you'll be surprised at how long you'll last.

(looking at Pragg and Garr, who have been fighting continuously throughout the previous conversation)
'scuse me for a moment.
(He crosses to the other trolls and roughly, separates them, and holds them up by their collars)
Das enough now you two. If you don' stop dis fighting, I'm gonna bury da bot' of you right now.

(Sparky lets go of the trolls, and the two fall to the ground)

GARR
(Sulking)
Well, 'e started it.

No, 'e did.

PRAGG

SPARKY
(angrily)
I said, DAS ENOUGH!

(Garr and Pragg are silenced. They sit glaring at each other)

Now, I'm goin' ta my cave, ta get some fixin's ready for da goat stew...

GARR
Goat stew? I t'ought it was gonna be roast goat!

PRAGG
Dat's no good. De only way I like my goat is fried.
BILLIKIN WHISKERS

(shuddering at the thought)
Ah, listen if you need he-e-e-lp deciding, I could always run home and get my recipe book. I’m sure it has...

SPARKY

(brandishing his knife, menacingly to the other trolls)
We’re ‘aving goat stew or I carve you two up for dinner. Is dat clear?

(they quiet down)
Now, like I said, I’m goin’ ta my cave, an’ while I’m gone, I wan’ one a you to go find some wood for da fire, an’ one a you ta watch dis ‘ere goat. Do ya t’ink you can ‘andle dat.

PRAGG

Yeah.

GARR

Sure, we can ‘andle dat, Sparky.

SPARKY

(crossing upstage)
An’ no fightin’!

(Sparky exits)

GARR

(Standing up and brushing off)
I t’ink I should be de one ta watch ‘im, since I’m de one dat found ‘im.

PRAGG

(Standing)
An’ I say, I’m de one dat found ‘im so I should be de one ta watch ‘im.

GARR

Oh yeah!

(Garr is about to lunge at Pragg again, when Billikin stops them with his words)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Excuse me, I don’t mean to pryyy, but, I think that I can reso-o-olve this little aaargument for you. I mean, after all, I was the one fo-o-ound, and I must admit...

(Pointing to Garr)
he is correct. He is the one that fo-o-ound me first.
GARR
See, dat settles it. You go find da firewood.

PRAGG
But wait a minute. How do I know dat I can trust you?

GARR
What’s dat supposed ta mean?

PRAGG
Whose ta say dat while we’re bot’ gone, you won’t run off wit’ da goat.

GARR
Are you sayin’ I’m not trustworthy?

PRAGG
I’m sayin’, I t’ink you’re a t’ief.

Why you dirty rott’n...

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Guys, guys reme-e-mber what old Sparky said: "No fighting." What do you think he’s go-o-o-ing to do when he finds out neither of you have gone for firewood?

GARR
Well, what do we do den, ‘cause I don’ trust ‘im neither.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Well, why don’t you take tuuurns getting the firewood.
(Pointing to Pragg)
You gather up the first load and...
(Pointing to Garr)
you can gaaather up the second load.

PRAGG
(scratching his head)
Gee, why didn’t I t’ink o’ dat. I guess dat’ll be okay.

GARR
Well dat’s aw’right wit’ me too den, I guess.

PRAGG
But why should I have ta go first?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(patiently)
Because he-e-e-e found me, so its only fair that he-e-e-e should get to watch me first.
PRAGG
(thinking)
Oh yeah... I get it now.
(pointing at them both)
Now, don' go nowhere!

(Pragg exits downstage, Garr looks after
him for a while and then crosses to the
cave opening he revealed when he came out
from the mountain. He sits down)

GARR
(to Billikin Whiskers)
T'anks for stickin' up for me.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
It's the le-e-east I can do. After all, you aaare the one
that found me. I'm rightfully yours.

GARR
(proudly)
Dat's right. I found you an' you're mine.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
I hate to pryy, but if I were a gre-e-eat big tro-o-oll
like yourself, and I found a billy goat, I wouldn't let
anyone to-o-ouch it, much less tell me how to cook it.

GARR
(grumpily)
It's dat darned Sparky. 'E's always tellin' us what ta do.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
I know it's none of my business, but I wouldn't staaaand for
it if I were you.

GARR
But what am I suppose' ta do 'bout it?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Take chaaarge. Don't let him push you around. Who is he,
anyway?

GARR
(getting excited)
Da's right, who does he t'ink he is anyway. Why, I tell ya
what I'm goin' ta do.
(rising and crossing to Billikin)
I'm goin' ta show 'im.
(picking up the billy-goat)
I'm goin' ta tear you apart and eat you raw, right now.
(Garr starts to pull him apart)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

(frantic)
WAAAIT! Thaat’s not the waaay to do it!

GARR

(stopping)
Huh? Why not?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Ho-o-ow are you going to explain it to them, when they return and I’m gone?

GARR

(starting to pull on him again)
I don’t care. Dey can t’ink what dey want.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Now, thiiink about this, Garr. If you eat me now, you’ll have twooo of them to fight, and although you obviously are stro-o-o-onger than either of them, I doubt you could take them both on at the saaame time.

GARR

(stopping)
What’s dat? You t’ink I’m da strongest?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Of course, thaaat’s what I’ve been trying to te-e-ell you. Now will you put me do-o-own!

GARR

(setting him down)
But what do I do? I’ll never get my way as long as Sparky ’as dat knife.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

(checking to see if he is still all there)
Well I never haaaave been one to get involved in other people’s business, but if I were yooou, I would go get a club.

GARR

A club?
BILLIKIN WHISKERS
You know...a heavy blunt instrument. What good would Sparky's little knife be against the strength of a club in your powerful hands?

GARR
But where would I fin' one?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
You're go-o-o-ing to look for firewood, aren't you? I'm suuure you could find a heavy, long piece of wood, that could easily be slipped into your belt and, at the appropriate time, used to overpower your oppo-o-o-onents.

GARR
(trying to sort out what all the goat just said)
I don' know...

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Whaaat's not to know? You're the stro-o-o-ongest, so you should have no problem defeating them, and once they realize how strong and powerful you are, they will have no choice but to make you their leader...
(Garr is still struggling with the idea)
But of course, if you're aafraid...

GARR
I ain't afraid...I'm jus' t'inkin'. It's all so confusin', you talk so fast. It jus' don't seem like it would be dat easy, dat's all.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(disappointedly)
I uuunderstand. It's easy to sit back and let yourself be bullied. It takes real co-o-ourage to do something about it.
(sighing)
I should have known you'd be too scaaared...

GARR
(furiously grabbing Billikin Whiskers and shaking him)
I ain't scared o' nuttin', you hear, nuttin!

(PRAGG enters with a load of firewood)

PRAGG
Hey, what're ya doin'?
(dropping the wood and rushing to Garr)
Let go a him.
(grabbing the goat)
You're gonna damage da food.

GARR
(grabbing Billikin back)
Well 'e's my goat an' I can do wit'im as I please.

PRAGG
(grabbing Billikin again)
'E is not your goat, an' if you say dat one more time, I'm gonna bash you on da head!

GARR
(defiantly)
'e's mine, mine, mine.

PRAGG
Dat's it!
(holding Billikin in one arm and trying to hit Garr with the other)
You're gonna get it now!

(Pragg, still holding Billikin, punches at Garr and Garr punches back)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
STO-O-OP!
(this startles the two trolls and they drop him)
If you two don't quit fiiighting over me, there won't be anything left for you to eat.
(taking a deep breath, to Garr)
Now don't you think it's time for you to gather up some fiiirewood?

GARR
Huh?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Fiiirewood...reme-e-ember?

GARR
(understanding)
Oh yeah...
(winking)
firewood. I got ta get some firewood.

(Garr exits. Pragg looks after him and as soon as he is gone, roughly grabs Billikin Whiskers by the neck)
Now supposin' you tells old Pragg what Garr was up to.
(suspiciously)
Was 'e gonna eat you up an' not leave none for me?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(struggling to speak, since he is being choked)
No, it was nothing like thaat. He was just trying to get me to tell him my seeecret.

PRAGG
(quickly)
Secret? What secret?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Let go of me and I will te-e-ell you.
(Pragg drops him)
Much better.

PRAGG
Awright now what’s da secret?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
This secret is so greaaat, that I knew it could only be fully appreeeciated by someone as smaaart and clever as yourself.

PRAGG
(proudly)
Smart an’ clever, eh? You t’ink so?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Of course, how co-o-ould I not? Those other two are idiots compaaared to you.

PRAGG
(modestly)
Well, I don’ know ‘bout dat.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Oh I do. I recaaaall that you were the one with the briiilliant idea of dividing me up. Tho-o-o-ose guys could never have thought of something so clever.

PRAGG
Dat was pretty good, wasn’t it.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Oh yes, I knew right then you were the one to shaaare my secret with.
PRAGG
Yeah, does udder guys are idiots compared ta me. Now what’s da secret?

(Billikin Whiskers nods for Pragg to come closer, and Pragg does so)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
My greaaaat grand goat, Billikin Whiskers the First, told me of an enormous hidden treaaasure.

PRAGG
(excitedly)
Hidden treasure?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Hidden treaaasure.

PRAGG
(anxiously)
Where is it!
(with sudden violence)
You better tell me righ’ now or I bust your ‘ead in.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Paaatience! Paaatience! This treaaasure is so cleverly hidden that it can only be found during the light of day.

PRAGG
(scratching his head disappointedly)
Well, dat don’ do me no good. I can’ be out in de daytime.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
I know thaaat. Thaaat’s why you need me. You see, my greaaaat grand-goat, told me how to find it before he passed awaaay.
(secretively)
Now, if you can keep me alive until daylight, I will go and find that treaaasure for you.

PRAGG
(surprised)
You would do dat for me?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Of course, but remember, you must keep me alive until daaaylight.

PRAGG
(scratching and thinking)
But...we’re suppose’ta eat you up. You’re our dinner.
BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Whaaat do you care about one helping of billy-goat stew, when you could have enough gold to make you the richest troll that e-e-ever lived?
(Pragg is debating)
But... if you’d raaather eat me...

PRAGG
(quickly)
I didn’ say dat.
(thinking)
but how am I s’pose’ta keep you from being eaten by de udder guys?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
That’s why I cho-o-ose you. Because I knew you were the only one cle-e-ever enough to be able to figure that out.

PRAGG
(really concentrating)
But how?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Of course, we could aaalways tell the o-o-others...

PRAGG
(quickly)
NO!
(stopping)
Shhh.
(listening)
I ‘ear someone comin’. Now, promise you won’ tell de udders an’ I’ll take care of it.

(Garr enters with a load of firewood and a club tucked in his belt)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(loudly)
I knew I could co-o-ount on you. I promise.

GARR
(overhearing)
Promise what?
(rushing to Billikin)
You’re plottin’ somet’in’ ain’t you?

PRAGG
(with a knowing smile to the billy-goat)
Oh nuttin’ dat your little pea brain could understand.
BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(to Garr)
Are you going to let a weeakling like that insult you?

PRAGG
(offended)
Hey, who you callin’ a weakling?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(whispering loudly to Pragg)
I’m trying to keep him occupied so he doesn’t find out about our little seeecret.

GARR
(overhearing)
So you are plottin’ somet’ in’!
(crossing to Pragg)
You better tell what it is righ’ now.

PRAGG
(laughing)
Why should I tell you? You’re so dumb, you wouldn’ know a plot if it reached out an’ bit you on da nose.

GARR
(lunging at Pragg)
Oh yeah?

(Garr and Pragg start to struggle again, offstage we can hear the sound of singing)

SPARKY
(off)
Roast ‘em, toast ‘em, bake ‘em in a fire.
Baste ‘em, taste ‘em, watch the flames go higher.
‘Cause a billy-goat for dinner,
is always a winner.

(Sparky enters still cheerfully singing. He is carrying a large cauldron. The other trolls don’t notice him, because they are still fighting. Sparky sees them, sets down the cauldron, calmly marches over and bashes the fighting troll’s heads together)

SPARKY
Aw’right you two knuckle ‘eads, break it up. I ain’t gonna let you two bunglebrains ruin my good mood. I spent all dis
time gatherin’ up de best fixin’s for dis ‘ere goat stew. 
Come an’ look at dis pot.
   (Sparky crosses to the cauldron. The 
other trolls reluctantly follow, glaring 
at each other)
I started out wit’ de oldest stagnant water I could find. 
Den I added rottin’ tree bark for texture, moss, toadstools, 
an’ bat’s wings for flavoring, an’ my personal favorite, 
dried toenails for extra crunch!

PRAGG
   (rubbing his tummy and looking at 
the billy-goat painfully)
Gee dat sounds great, Sparky. My mouth is waterin’ jus’ 
t’inkin’ about it.

SPARKY
   (crossing to Billikin Whiskers and 
taking out his knife)
Well lets get ta work den, boys.
   (holding up the goat)
You two tend to de fire, while I dice up de goat.

   (Pragg starts over to the wood, Sparky’s 
words have not sunk in yet. Billikin
Whiskers lets out a little cry. Sparky
is about to chop off the goats head when
he is stopped by Pragg’s frantic scream)

PRAGG
STOP! You can’ dice up dat goat!

SPARKY
   (with knife poised)
An’ just supposin’ you tell me why I can’?

PRAGG
   (scratching his head)
’Cause...

SPARKY
I’m waitin’.

PRAGG
   (Frantically thinking)
’Cause...ya don’...
   (quickly)
Ya don’ get de full flavor ‘less you boil ‘im live.
(jumping in)
GARR
Pragg's right!

PRAGG
(shocked)
I am?

GARR
'Sides, I wan' de pleasure of 'earin' 'im scream at de top of 'is lungs as 'e's lowered into de boiling water.

SPARKY
(laughing and dropping the goat)
Well, now, ain't dis grand. You two numbskulls finally agree on somet'in'. I t'ought I'd never see de day. Ain't it a shame you ain't gonna get your way.

GARR
An' why not?

SPARKY
'Cause it jus' so 'appens dat I'm not gonna 'ave you two morons fightin' all night over who gets da rump. Dat's why!

GARR
Oh yeah? Well I'm de one dat found de goat, so I'm de one dat should get ta decide what 'appens ta 'im.

SPARKY
You may 'ave foun' him, but you didn't 'ave de sense to hold on to him. If I remember correctly, I'm de one dat caught de goat.

(brandishing the knife)
Besides, I'm the one with the knife.

GARR
(pulling out a large, comic, homemade club)
Yeah? Well now you ain't the only one with a weapon, an' it just so happens that mine is bigger than yours.

(Garr hits Sparky with the club and Sparky tries to run away, but Garr chases after him. They run around with Garr occasionally hitting Sparky, until Sparky runs over the goat, who manages to trip him. Sparky falls to the ground. The knife flies out of his hand and Garr pounces on him. They roll around on the ground by the billy goat,
fighting. Several times the tied up Billikin Whiskers has to roll out of the way to keep from being crushed by the fighting trolls. Sparky manages to get his hands around Garr's neck and begins to strangle him, but Garr conks him on the head with the club. Sparky falls on his butt and rubs his head.

SPARKY

Ow! That hurt!

GARR

(proudly to Billikin)

Well, I guess I showed him who's boss!

(Sparky gets up and leaps on Garr, and the two begin to struggle on the ground)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

(to Pragg, who has been watching in amazement)

Hurry, get the knife and cut me loose!

PRAGG

(thinking)

I can't do that. What if they...

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

There's no time to waste. You want the treasure don't you?

(Pragg looks at the trolls and back at Billikin, and then goes after the knife)

SPARKY

(to Garr)

I'm gonna tear you from limb to limb.

GARR

Not while I have this club, you won't.

(Pragg gets the knife, unnoticed, and crosses back over to Billikin)

PRAGG

(still scared)

I don't know if I should do this.
(Pragg starts to untie Billikin but just then Garr manages to get a leg under Sparky and to kick him off. Sparky is on his feet and sees Pragg)

SPARKY
Hey! What are you doin’?

(Garr, who was about to pounce on Sparky, stops and also turns to Pragg)

PRAGG
(unable to think)
I...ahhh...

BILLIKIN
(quickly)
He was just going to cut me loose, so that I could show him where the treasure was hidden.

SPARKY and GARR
Treasure?

PRAGG
I t’ought you weren’t goin’ to tell!

(Sparky and Garr both go after Pragg)

SPARKY
Holdin’ out on me, eh? Why, I could kill you!

GARR
I knew you were up to somet’ing! Let me at ‘im!

(Sparky tries to grab Pragg in his arms, but Pragg is too fast. He steps out of the way and gives Sparky a kick in the butt. Sparky straightens up, feeling his butt, as Garr tries to swing at Pragg with his club. Pragg ducks and Garr hits Sparky instead)

SPARKY
(rubbing his head)
You blockhead. That was my head.

(Sparky jumps at Garr. Pragg seizes Billikin Whiskers and starts to run off. It is now dawn, and the light begins to grow gradually throughout the rest of the scene)
BILLIKIN WHISKERS
(screaming)
Put me down! Let go of me!

GARR
Hey. He's getting away.

(Garr drops his club and jumps on Pragg's back. Pragg, still holding Billikin, tries to back himself into the rocks in order to knock Garr off. Meanwhile, Sparky gets the club and begins to hit all of them)

SPARKY
Teach you to hide treasure from me!

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
SPEAKING OF TREASURE!
(The trolls all freeze)
If you will be kind enough to untie me, I think I will be able to remember where it is.

Where is it?

GARR
Lead me to it.

PRAGG
Sure, I'll untie you.

SPARKY
No let me.

PRAGG
(The trolls fall all over each other trying to untie Billikin Whiskers)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Now let me see, where is that treasure?
(stalling until sunrise, jumping on a rock)
Could it be here?
(The trolls all rush to the rock, knocking each other over to get to it)
No, no, that's not it.
(climbing a little higher)
What about here?
(again the trolls beat on each other trying to get to the spot first)
No, humm, where could it be?

(Billikin starts roaming around)

SPARKY

Hey, 'e's stallin'

GARR

I bet there ain't even any treasure.

(the trolls all surround Billikin as the sun starts to rise over the horizon)

PRAGG

You better tell us where that treasure is now, or we're gonna tear you to pieces.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Oh, I remember now. It's right up there!

(The billy goat points to the sun)

THE TROLLS

Where?

(The trolls all quickly turn to stare directly into the sun. As soon as they do, there is a loud cracking sound, and they all turn to stone. White light floods in on them from directly overhead in order to wash them out. Billikin hesitantly feels the statues to be sure they are really stone)

MILLIKIN

(off stage)

Biiillikin Whiskers! Biiillikin! Where aaare you?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

(calling)

I'm o-o-over here, Millikin.

(Millikin enters and runs to Billikin Whiskers)

MILLIKIN

Biiillikin Whiskers! There you aaare, we were so worried about you.

(Willikin and Dillikin run onstage)
WILLIKIN
There you are, Billikin, we have been looking all over for you.

DILLIKIN
Yeah, what happened to you? Why didn't you come home?

(The billy-goats all gather around
Billikin Whiskers)

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
I went out looking for adventure and that is exactly what I found. Enough to last a lifetime.

Really?

Tell us about it.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Well, there were these three trolls.

MILLIKIN
(wide-eyed)
Three trolls?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
Yes, and they captured me and tied me up.

DILLIKIN
Oh, no! What did you do?

Were you afraid?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
At first I was, but then I realized I could outsmart them. So that's what I set out to do, and my fear just disappeared.

How did you outsmart them?

BILLIKIN WHISKERS
I kept them busy fighting until the sun came up and turned them to stone.

(The other goats are amazed)
Wow, Billikin, you must be the bravest billy goat that ever lived.

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

(embarrassed)

Well... I don’t know about that...

MOTHER

(off)

Billikin...

BILLIKIN WHISKERS

Here I am, mamma.

(Mother goat runs in and rushes to him)

MOTHER

Billikin Whiskers. I’m so glad your safe!

(scolding)

How dare you stay out all night and frighten me like that.

DILLIKIN

Mamma, Billikin was captured by three trolls.

BILLIKIN

Yeah, and he turned them all into stone!

MOTHER

(gently chiding)

Shame on you Billikin Whiskers. Telling a tale like that.

What an active imagination you have.

(gathering the goats to her)

Come on now. Let’s all go home. Billikin needs to have his breakfast, and then he can tell us what really happened.

(All the goats exit except for Billikin Whiskers who starts to go but he stops, wanting one more look at the trolls, just to convince himself that it really happened. He walks over to the trolls and starts to butt at them, challenging them. Suddenly a loud cracking sound is heard again and Billikin jumps and races offstage)
BIBLIOGRAPHY


