

A Wolf's Guide to the Fairytale

By
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We've all heard the stories from times past, when girls in pretty scarlet capes wander alone in the woods on their way to delivering wine and cake to their ailing grandmother; of how wolves have tried over and over again to devour both of these feeble souls but have nonetheless wound up dead themselves. Well here it is, a 10-point "idiot's guide" incorporating centuries of knowledge on the legend and how to successfully hunt and consume your own Little Red Riding Hood (LRRH) and her Grandmother.

1. First you have to find yourself a LRRH. This part is easy – go to any enchanted, forbidden or fairytale forest and ask around. Reliable evil sources include the wicked witch, wicked step-mother and the huffing puffing wolf. Make it clear that you do not wish to trade fairy tales with these inept characters.

2. Once located, observe LRRH from afar, making sure you aren't seen.

3. LRRH will have a mother, and a father who may or may not be a woodcutter. LRRH will eventually be given rations to take to her sick grandmother – this is usually wine and cake. She will leave mid-afternoon and be told not to deviate from the path so that she reaches her Grandmother's cottage as quickly as possible. Follow her and make sure you keep out of sight.¹

4. Once on the path and away from view of her parental home you should seek to interact with LRRH. She is gullible and innocent, she will not fear you. The trick here is not to eat LRRH (as luscious as this may seem) but to find out the exact location of her Grandmother's house. It is located deep in the woods so make sure LRRH is precise and you memorize this. I cannot emphasize this enough – see point 6 below.

5. Suggest that there are some wonderful flowers in the forest for LRRH to pick for her Grandmother, be sincere but firm. Whilst LRRH is searching for flowers, this will enable you to get to the cottage before LRRH.²

6. Locate the cottage – WARNING!

There are many other cottages located in these forests so you need to make sure you find the right one. Avoid any house made of straw or sticks, and despite the glorious aromas, under no circumstance enter one that is built entirely of gingerbread!

7. Knock on the door, and pretend to be LRRH. The Grand-mother is old and probably senile so this shouldn't take much convincing, she'll encourage you in.

¹ *Werewolves, do not fear as LRRH always ventures to Grand-mother's house on a full moon, it's just the way the fairytale is written.*

² *Werewolves, ensure that LRRH does not pick wolfsbane or this will give her the upper hand later in the fairytale.*

8. Do not make small talk; time is of the essence, so gobble up grandmother as quickly as possible, borrow some of her night clothes, especially the nightcap and glasses, as these have been especially good camouflage garments throughout the centuries and jump into bed as LRRH will be arriving shortly. Do not fall asleep.

9. When LRRH arrives, invite her in. You will be desperate to devour her to take the taste of granny out of your mouth but there is a repertoire that needs to be adhered to. LRRH will comment on how big various parts of your body are. Depending on which fairytale you are in this will differ but reply to comments with, “All the better for seeing, smelling, touching you, etc.,” until she replies with the fateful, “Oh Grandmother, what big teeth you have,” and then you can say, “All the better for eating you with, my dear,” and this is your cue to eat that gloriously irresistible plump young flesh.³

10. LRRH’s father or a random woodcutter will come into the house after hearing you snore loudly – understandable after a big meal. Now, depending on the fairytale you are in, you will either be hacked open or silently opened by shears to allow LRRH and her Grandmother to escape. You might even be filled with rocks by LRRH so that you are too heavy to move. Regardless of how you are supposed to die, the obvious course of action is not to fall asleep in the first place (caffeine can help – The Mad Hatter provides a great brew on a regular basis) and merely run off into the woods to survive the fairytale.⁴

³ *Despite the temptation, chew up LRRH as you eat her, believe me, you’ll thank me for this should things go wrong here on in.*

⁴ *Howling with delight should you wish.*