

WHAT COMES AROUND

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

JACK	From Jack and the Beanstalk
ST. PETER	From the Pearly Gates
GOLDBLOCKS	From Goldilocks and the Three Bears

SETTING

Outside of Heaven.

SCENE

(Lights come up as Jack approaches the Pearly Gates. St. Peter is sitting behind a desk with a large journal in front of him.)

Whoa.

JACK

Name.

ST. PETER

This is amazing!

JACK

Yes. Name.

ST. PETER

Is this heaven?

JACK

Nearly. Name.

ST. PETER

Am I in heaven?

JACK

Not yet. Name.

ST. PETER

What?

JACK

Name. Your name. Don't make me ask a sixth time please, or I'm taking points off.

JACK

What? Oh. Jack.

ST. PETER

Last name.

JACK

I don't have one. Just Jack. I guess maybe 'Giant Killer' could be a last name.

ST. PETER

No. That's an epitaph. But it's fine. I found you here. Born 1702, Hamburg. Died, 1743. Says here 'trampled by oxen'. Does that sound right?

JACK

Trampled by... Ohh. Oh yeah. Oh my God—

(Goldilocks enters.)

GOLDILOCKS

Hi! I'm Goldilocks. *(Twirls her goldy locks.)*

ST. PETER

Of course you are.

GOLDILOCKS

I'd like to go inside now.

ST. PETER

You'll have to wait your—

GOLDILOCKS

I'm getting hungry and would like to go in. Tra la la!

(Goldilocks walks toward the gates.)

ST. PETER

They're locked.

GOLDILOCKS

Oh, silly. That won't stop me.

(St. Peter holds out a hand, and Goldilocks is halted as if she hit a wall.)

ST. PETER

There's a line. Besides, we've had a lot of fairy tale characters kicking the bucket recently, so there's not a lot of space right now.

GOLDILOCKS

Well if you just let me go in, I'm sure—

JACK

I was here first.

GOLDBLOCKS

(Noticing Jack, and with a quick appraisal.)

You wouldn't mind waiting, though, would you?

JACK

As a matter of fact, yes. I would.

GOLDBLOCKS

I don't like your pants. They look toooooo short.

ST. PETER

You'll have to wait. Now, Jack. What have you done to deserve admittance?

JACK

I did lots of great things!

GOLDBLOCKS

(Muttering)

Didn't.

JACK

First, I was a responsible young boy and sold our cow.

ST. PETER

Says here that you traded it.

JACK

Sold, traded. Same thing.

ST. PETER

Says here that you traded Milky White for beans.

JACK

Magic beans. Five of them.

GOLDBLOCKS

(Muttering)

Tooooo few.

ST. PETER

So after years of loyally providing milk, you went and traded her for some beans.

JACK
Magic beans...

ST. PETER
That doesn't sound particularly compassionate.

JACK
But...

GOLDBLOCKS
(Muttering)
Too bad.

JACK
My mother told me to! I was doing what I was told!

ST. PETER
(As he is writing in the journal...)
Just... following... orders...

JACK
Wait! Wait. I also climbed up this huge beanstalk, snuck into a giant's castle, and returned with a magic harp and goose. A goose that lays golden eggs!

ST. PETER
(Still writing...)
Trespassing... theft of harp... and goose. Got it.

GOLDBLOCKS
Can I go in now? I'm hungry.

JACK
You're not getting in. If I'm not getting in, you definitely aren't!

GOLDBLOCKS
Don't be silly. I'm delightful!

JACK
You're not going to let her in, are you?! You know what she did? She went into the bears' house and ate their porridge!

ST. PETER
(Flipping pages...)
One count breaking and entering, one count petty larceny.

GOLDBLOCKS

Oh yeah?! Well, *he* broken into the castle. He did that too!

JACK

I did not! It was open!

GOLDBLOCKS

The cottage was open!

JACK

Yeah, right!

GOLDBLOCKS

And I didn't damage anything! I just hung out for a bit!

ST. PETER

(Still writing...)

One count loitering...

JACK

And she went over the river and through some protected wetlands!

GOLDBLOCKS

Did not!

JACK

Did too!

GOLDBLOCKS

I didn't! That was Little Red Riding Hood!

JACK

Well, you would have!

GOLDBLOCKS

No, that walk is toooo long!

(Beat.)

JACK

You're really picky!

You smell bad!

GOLDBLOCKS

(St. Peter knocks on the desk.)

Are you finished?

ST. PETER

Yes sir.

JACK AND GOLDBLOCKS

Now, have either of you done *anything* that would not be considered some kind of felony or misdemeanor?

ST. PETER

(They take turns opening their mouths, pausing, and then closing them again, sometimes with a finger raised as if they've come up with something. Finally...)

I see.

(A moment later, a family of three bears comes trotting up. St. Peter waves them through with nothing more than three checkmarks in his journal. As they are passing, Baby Bear sticks out his tongue at Goldilocks, and then they exit.)

That's not fair!!

GOLDBLOCKS

(Throwing a fit...)

Serves you right!

JACK

(There's a loud stomp from offstage, and they all turn. In unison, their heads all raises to look up at an enormous off-stage giant, and Jack suddenly looks very nervous.)

Uh oh.

(Lights out.)