

Illustrations by Ireneu J. Oliveira

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Little Ladybird seeks a Husband

> Portuguese folkstale adapted by

Dulce Rodrigues



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Little Ladybird John the Rat Neighbour 1 Neighbour 2 Donkey Dog Pig Ox Narrator Choir

Town

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ACT ONE Scene 1

A very pretty Little Ladybird is sweeping her kitchen.

Narrator:

There was once a very nice and pretty Little Ladybird who felt very sad because she lived alone. She had no charming husband with whom to share the joys of life. Facebook had not yet been invented, and our Little Ladybird was too poor to have a social life and meet a husband.

Little Ladybird:

- Poor me, pretty and gifted Little Ladybird! Alas, I have not yet met the charming husband of my dreams! (*She finds a gold coin*) - Eureka! I found a gold coin! I'm rich! I'm rich!

She runs to her neighbour's house and knocks insistently at the door.





Little Ladybird:

- Hello, my dear! Hello, my dear!

Her neighbour, a fat lady, shows up at the window:What is all the fuss about? Is there something wrong?

Little Ladybird, very excited: - I'm rich! I'm rich! I found a gold coin!

The neighbour, looking a little confused: - And so?

Little Ladybird:

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- Tell me, my dear, what should I buy with this coin?

The neighbour:

- Buy some cakes.

Little Ladybird:

- Oh, dear, no! Cakes are too fattening! I want to keep my slim figure!



KIDS' PLAYS AND PLAY SCRIPTS

All my kids' plays are written for readers' enjoyment and also to be performed by actors before an audience of children, young adults and families.

But my kids' plays can as well be used for reading in a classroom or for after-school programs: scripts are held by the readers; lines don't need being memorized. The stage in this particular could be the front of a classroom; an actual stage isn't needed. The focus is on reading the text with expressive voices and gestures. Children love it!

My own experience has shown me that children and juveniles with no deep interest in books and who struggle with reading gain confidence and get involved in reading as they practice and master simple theatre scripts. With these experiences in mind, any of my plays is available aiming to help teachers and students stage it if they so wish.

A royalty is required of both amateur and professional productions any time all or part of a play is performed in front of any size audience, whether or not admission is charged. This includes audience-attended school performances. If audience (other than school staff) watching the play does not exceed six, no author royalty is due. Instead, a performance fee is requested. Professional performances will receive a Professional Royalty quote.

Payment of a royalty fee/performance rights means that you have permission to use and perform the writer/playwright's property.

Royalty payments are due one week prior to your first performance, at which time authorization for production is granted. Anyone found in violation of this may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

(Dulce Rodrigues)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Award-winning Dulce Rodrigues is the happy grandmother of two lovely little girls. She has authored thirteen children's books published in several languages (including Chinese), two travelogues, and a novel. She also participated in international anthologies and writes in newspapers and magazines. She speaks six living languages and translates most of her own books. Born and raised in Lisbon, Portugal, Dulce Rodrigues received a scholarship to study at the Goethe Institut in Germany, and one for a scientific course with the Open University in the UK, and wound up living in many different countries around Europe. Retired after a career that included working for NATO and as a translator for the U.S. Military, she now spends her life either travelling or among books; writing for children is source of great pleasure.

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She was awarded a few literary prizes: while the Honourable Mention awarded at the 2013 Hollywood Book Festival came from the US, eight other prizes came from Europe, including Honourable Mention at the 2013 London Book Festival. A few of her kids' plays were performed in countries in Europe. In addition to writing and travelling she enjoys gardening, photography, music, and pets. She also has a passion for History and for all forms of Art that transmit Beauty.

Following the publication some years ago in Belgium of her first book for children, Dulce Rodrigues created the educational project *www.barry4kids.net* that opened the way to collaborations in different European countries. Please also visit her at *www. dulcerodrigues.info.*

CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY DULCE RODRIGUES

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"Sofia & Adelia" series

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY DULCE RODRIGUES

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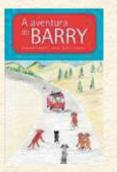
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