

The Miracle of Spring

King Bartholomew bans Spring, only to realize that he has shown disrespect for Mother Nature, upset the cycles of the seasons, and destroyed the food supply. . . .

by Helen Hanna

Characters

KING BARTHOLOMEW
KING'S VALET
PRIME MINISTER
DOOR GUARD
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD
TWO GUARDS
SPRING

JUDGE WISE OWL
THE CROW
EAGER BEAVER
MRS. APPLE TREE
MR. SQUIRREL
MS. WINTER WHEAT
MS. STRING BEAN
MS. BESSIE COW
MR. WOOLLY LAMB
MS. HONEYBEE

ANIMALS
BIRDS
INSECTS
TREES
FLOWERS

*Mother
Nature's
court*

jury

SETTING: *King Bartholomew's bedroom.*

AT RISE: *KING BARTHOLOMEW sits up in his bed, with a dinner tray on his lap. His VALET stands at his bedside. At the door stands DOOR GUARD.*

KING (*Making a grimace and replacing spoon in his plate*): Zounds! What is this tasteless pap?

VALET: Cook calls it Spring Pudding, Sire. It's on your diet!

KING: Bah! Take it away. It's not what I eat that makes my stomach ache. It's aggravation! That tour of the kingdom yesterday—that's what made me sick!

VALET: It was a beautiful day for a tour, Sire. Spring has warmed the air and budded the trees.

KING (*Extremely aggravated*): Indeed! And Spring has turned my hardworking subjects into daydreaming idlers, dozing in the sunshine. Everywhere I went—no one was working!

VALET: Just a touch of spring fever, Your Highness.

KING: Spring fever is just another name for laziness! And I won't have it! Has the Captain of the Guard reported yet?

VALET: No, Sire, but the Prime Minister is waiting to see you.

KING: Send him in. And find the Chancellor for me.

VALET (*To DOOR GUARD*): The King will see the Prime Minister. (*VALET exits.*)

DOOR GUARD: The Prime Minister to see the King. (*PRIME MINISTER enters and bows.*)

PRIME MINISTER: Your Majesty, good evening.

KING: Where is the report I ordered?

PRIME MINISTER: It's not quite finished yet, Sire. I came to ask a favor. I'd like to take the day off tomorrow, to take my kids fishing.

KING (*Exploding*): Fishing! Of all the ridiculous things! (*Doubles over in pain*) Out, out with you! (*As PRIME MINISTER hastily retreats, VALET enters.*)

VALET: The Chancellor has not yet returned from the tournament.

KING (*Exploding again*): Tournament! Then I'll talk to the Chamberlain.

VALET: He's taken his family on an outing, Sire.

KING (*Again in pain*): Outing! Give me my medicine. And get the Captain of the Guard, immediately!

VALET (*To DOOR GUARD*): Summon the Captain. (*GUARD exits.*)

KING (*Taking medicine which VALET hands him from night table*): Fishing! Tournaments! Outings! (*DOOR GUARD enters.*)

DOOR GUARD: The Captain of the Royal Guard! (*CAPTAIN enters.*)

CAPTAIN: At your command, Your Highness.

KING: Have you taken your prisoner yet?

CAPTAIN: Yes, Your Highness, the prisoner is outside.

KING: Then bring the criminal to me. (*CAPTAIN salutes and exits, returning immediately with TWO GUARDS, leading between them SPRING.*)

VALET (*Shocked*): 'Tis the maiden, Spring!

KING: You! You are the one who has turned my kingdom upside down with fishing tournaments and outings! I'll not have it, do you understand? I'll keep you under lock and key, so you can do no more mischief! (*SPRING remains silent.*) Take the prisoner to the dungeon, and see that every measure is taken to prevent her escape. (*KING falls back against pillows, exhausted, as GUARDS salute and lead SPRING away. KING turns weakly to VALET.*) You—stop staring like an idiot, and get out of here. I am exhausted. Wake me at six o'clock tomorrow morning.

VALET: As you wish, Your Highness. Pleasant dreams, Sire. (*VALET takes tray and exits.*)

KING (*To DOOR GUARD*): You, too, out!

DOOR GUARD: Good night, Your Majesty. (*Exits. KING closes his eyes. Lights dim. Suddenly large downstage window opens and CROW steps in. He looks around, then signals to the other members of Mother Nature's Court. All*

except *JUDGE* enter. They carry bench and witness box, which they set up where it can be seen by *KING*. Jury sits together, either on the floor or on folding chairs which they carry with them. The witnesses remain together in another area.)

CROW: Caw! Caw! Hear ye! Hear ye! Mother Nature's Court is now in session. Judge Wise Owl presiding. All rise. (All rise as *JUDGE OWL* enters, goes to bench and sits. *KING* awakens.)

JUDGE OWL (*Pounding gavel*): What is the first case before the court?

CROW: Mother Nature vs. King Bartholomew, Your Honor.

JUDGE OWL: Is the attorney for Mother Nature ready?

EAGER BEAVER: Ready, Your Honor. Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I, Eager Beaver, shall prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that King Bartholomew is guilty of attempted murder.

KING (*Sitting up in his bed*): Murder! I have never murdered anybody!

JUDGE: Quiet, please.

BEAVER: I said, "Attempted murder."

KING: I have never even "attempted" murder!

JUDGE: You will have to restrain yourself, Sire—or you will be held in contempt of court. You may proceed, Mr. Eager Beaver.

BEAVER: I speak of the attempt to murder by starvation.

KING: I have never starved anybody! Even the prisoners in our jail are given the finest peanut butter and jelly!

JUDGE: This is your last warning, Sire.

BEAVER: I call my first witness, Mrs. Apple Tree. (*APPLE TREE* comes forward.)

CROW: Raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

APPLE TREE (*Raising hand*): I do.

BEAVER: Mrs. Tree, will you tell the court, please, why you are all dressed in drab brown, instead of the bright green you usually wear this time of year?

APPLE TREE: Because there is no spring this year. King Bartholomew has forbidden spring to come to this kingdom.

BEAVER: And is that why you are not wearing your pretty bonnet, decked with blossoms?

APPLE TREE: Yes, and I miss it so, not only because every tree likes to look her prettiest, but also because it means I won't have any apples this year. The apples come from those spring blossoms.

BEAVER: And do you speak for the other fruit trees as well?

APPLE TREE: I do. There won't be any pears or peaches or cherries or plums. No spring—no blossoms—no fruit.

BEAVER: Thank you, Mrs. Tree. That will be all. We have now proved that the people of the kingdom will have no fruit to eat this year. Next witness, Mr. Squirrel. (*SQUIRREL* steps forward and is sworn in by *CROW*.) Now, Mr. Squirrel, you are not your usual cheery self these days. Why is that?

SQUIRREL: I'm worried. And so are all my brothers, sisters, cousins, and friends.

BEAVER: Will you tell the court why you are worried?

SQUIRREL: Because we are going to starve to death next winter. Last year's harvest of nuts is almost gone, and there won't be any nuts this year.

BEAVER: No nuts? How's that?

SQUIRREL: Because the nuts are the fruits of the nut trees, just as the apples and pears are the fruits of the

trees in the orchard. No blossoms on the nut trees—no nuts!

BEAVER: Thank you, Mr. Squirrel. You may step down. (*SQUIRREL returns to his place.*) The court has now heard that we will have no fruit and no nuts in the kingdom this year. This will affect the lives of both the people and the animals. Next witness—Ms. Winter Wheat. (*WINTER WHEAT is sworn in by CROW.*)

Thank for your interest in *Plays, Scripts for Young People*. We have included roughly one-half of this play to provide you with a sample of the type and quality of the plays we offer.

Descriptions of other plays in our archives are available in the [Scripts](#) section of our website.

We will be happy to send you the entire play when you become a subscriber (which includes seven issues a year of our magazine and access to 300+ plays in our downloadable archives). [Subscribe now](#).