

# David the Shepherd Boy

## 3 Can He Or Can't He?

Characters:

The General.

The Commander.

David.

Larry.

Goliath (Off stage)

*(The General is sitting at a table centre stage facing the audience. He is shuffling papers on his desk)*

Gen: Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dear. Who will fight this terrible giant? Everyone is so scared that they have all run away.

Goliath: (off stage) Fee Fi Foe Fum, come and fight me any one?!

Gen: You see, there he is again. Oh dear Oh dear, what shall I do? He's going to make a laughing stock of the whole army.

Goliath: (off stage) Fee Fi foe Fum. I still smell cheese and I still want some.

*(There is a knock at the door)*

Gen: Come in.

*(Commander, David and Larry enter)*

Gen: Yes?

Com: General, I've found someone who wants to fight the giant.

Gen: Oh that's brilliant, show them in straight away.

Com: Well, err Sir, they're here already.

Gen: (Looking at Larry and moving closer to the commander) Err ... are you feeling all right?

Com: Yes sir.

Gen: Are you sure? I mean have you had your eyes tested recently? Have you had any funny turns, or have you been getting a bit forgetful?

Com: Err ..... No Sir.

Gen: Well then Commander, what on earth makes you think that this sheep can go out and fight a fifteen foot high giant with muscles like pumpkins and legs like tree trunks?

Larry: (bleats as if he is very scared)

Com: Errr... no sir. Its not the sheep who wants to fight the Giant. Its the boy.

Gen: Boy? What Boy? I don't see any boy. *(He looks around but is unable to see David - he is so small! - eventually he looks at David, and pauses, then goes closer to the Commander)* Now look here Commander, I know we're desperate, but,.... but ... but, ... he's even smaller than the sheep! How's he going to fight a fifteen foot Giant?!

Com: Well I'm sorry Sir. He's the only volunteer.

Gen: What about you commander?

Com: As I said, Sir, he's the only volunteer.

Gen: (to David) Look here Sonny, we're really grateful for you volunteering and all that, but, I think you better run along home and play with your toys for a few years and then maybe come back. You can't possibly fight a fifteen foot high Giant really can you!

David: Oh yes I can.

Gen: Oh no you can't.

David: Oh yes I can.

Com: Oh no you can't.

*(This exchange goes on for a while. The commander gets the Audience to join in with the General. During the exchange Larry does his best to shut David up, trying to put his hand over his mouth etc, but David pushes him off each time.)*

Goliath: (Off stage) Fee Fi Foe Fum. Come and fight me any one, and that cheese still smells good!

*(There is silence for a moment)*

David: Just give me a chance. I'm really brave you know. I look after my Father's sheep, and if a Lion or a Bear comes along and tries to steal a sheep I chase after them and fight them with my bear hands. And I always win and get the sheep back again.

Gen: Well. All right then. If you really want to try you can. But you will need some armour. You better borrow mine. Commander, fetch my armour and put it on this young lad, err.... what's your name,

David: David Sir.

Gen: Put it on David.

*(The Commander Fetches some cardboard armour, and chatting as he does he puts on a tunic, wraps cardboard round his legs and arms, and then puts a large box on his head. David tries to walk around but it is impossible)*

*Larry laughs hysterically.*

David: Take it off! Take it off! (Commander takes off the helmet) I can't wear all of this! I'll go in my ordinary clothes, just as if I was in the pasture with the sheep.

Goliath: (Off stage) Did I hear you say sheep? That reminds me I'm very hungry. Where's that cheese, and the tasty boy who brought it!

*(David tears of the Armour, and then strides off stage towards the sound of Goliath's voice with Larry trying to pull him back and stop him. Eventually Larry stops at the edge of the stage as David exits. Larry turns and heads back toward the General and Commander shaking his head as he does)*

Gen: There goes a brave lad!

Com: There goes a stupid lad!

Gen: There goes a brave, but stupid, lad!

*(They all exit the opposite way to David.)*

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