

THE TALE OF TWO BAD MICE

By Beatrix Potter

Adapted for radio by Carl Prekopp

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	SPOT & SOUND EFFECTS	ACTOR PICK-UPS
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SCENE 1

INSIDE A LIVING ROOM

WINDING UP OF A MUSIC BOX KEY

MUSIC BOX MUSIC

NAR: Once upon a time there was a very beautiful doll's-house; it was red brick with white windows, and it had real muslin curtains and a front door and a chimney. It belonged to two Dolls called Lucinda and Jane; at least it belonged to Lucinda, but she never ordered meals. Jane was the Cook; but she never did any cooking, because the dinner had been bought ready-made, in a box full of shavings.

There were two red lobsters and a ham, a fish, a pudding, and some pears and oranges. They would not come off the plates, but they were extremely beautiful.

SOUND OF TUNI TOY WHEELS OF A PRAM BEING PUSHED AROUND THE LIVING ROOM

NAR: One morning Lucinda and Jane had gone out for a drive in the doll's perambulator. There was no one in the nursery, and it was very quiet.

GENTLE SCRATCHING SOUND

NAR: Presently there was a little scuffling, scratching noise in a corner near the fire-place, where there was a hole under the skirting-board. Tom Thumb put out his head for a moment, and then popped it in again. Tom Thumb was a mouse. A minute afterwards, Hunca Munca, his wife, put her head out, too; and when she saw that there was no one in the nursery, she ventured out on the oilcloth under the coal-box.

SCUTTLING OF MOUSE FEET

NAR: The doll's-house stood at the other side of the fire-place. Tom Thumb and Hunca Munca went cautiously across the hearthrug. They pushed the front door—it was not fast.

Winding up of a music box key

Music Box

Wheels of a pram being pushed around the living room

Gentle scratching sound

Scuttling of mouse feet

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<p>CREAK OF LITTLE DOLL'S HOUSE DOOR</p> <p>SCUTTling OF FEET UP LITTLE STAIRS</p> <p>NAR: Tom thumb and Hunca Munca went upstairs and peeped into the dining-room. Then they squeaked with joy! Such a lovely dinner was laid out upon the table! There were tin spoons, and lead knives and forks, and two dolly-chairs—all so convenient! Tom Thumb set to work at once to carve the ham. It was a beautiful shiny yellow, streaked with red.</p> <p>SOUND OF SNAPPING PLASTIC</p> <p>TOM: "Ouch!"</p> <p>NAR: The knife crumpled up and hurt him; he put his finger in his mouth.</p> <p>TOM: "It is not boiled enough; it is hard. You have a try, Hunca Munca."</p> <p>NAR: Hunca Munca stood up in her chair, and chopped at the ham with another lead knife.</p> <p>HUNCA: "It's as hard as the hams at the cheesemonger's,"</p> <p>NAR: The ham broke off the plate with a jerk, and rolled under the table.</p> <p>TOM: "Let it alone, give me some fish, Hunca Munca!"</p> <p>NAR: Hunca Munca tried every tin spoon in turn; the fish was glued to the dish. Then Tom Thumb lost his temper. He put the ham in the middle of the floor, and hit it with the tongs and with the shovel—bang, bang, smash, smash!</p> <p>CRASH BANG WALLOP OF THINGS BEING BROKEN</p>	<p>Creak of little doll's house door</p> <p>Scuttling of mouse feet up stairs</p> <p>Snapping plastic</p> <p>Crash Bang Wallop</p> <p>Things being broken</p>	<p>TOM – x3 HUNCA – x1</p>

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<p>TOM IS GOING BERZERK</p> <p>NAR: The ham flew all into pieces, for underneath the shiny paint it was made of nothing but plaster! Then there was no end to the rage and disappointment of Tom Thumb and Hunca Munca. They broke up the pudding, the lobsters, the pears and the oranges. As the fish would not come off the plate, they put it into the red-hot crinkly paper fire in the kitchen; but it would not burn either.</p> <p>TOM: "It won't even burn!"</p> <p>NAR: Tom Thumb went up the kitchen chimney and looked out at the top—there was no soot. While Tom Thumb was up the chimney, Hunca Munca had another disappointment. She found some tiny canisters upon the dresser, labelled—Rice—Coffee—Sago—but when she turned them upside down, there was nothing inside except red and blue beads.</p> <p>SOUND OF LITTLE CANS OF BEADS BEING SHAKEN AND SPILLING ONTO THE FLOOR</p> <p>NAR: Then those mice set to work to do all the mischief they could—especially Tom Thumb!</p> <p>DRAWS AND CUPBOARDS OPENING VIOLENTLY</p> <p>NAR: He took Jane's clothes out of the chest of drawers in her bedroom, and he threw them out of the top floor window. But Hunca Munca had a frugal mind. After pulling half the feathers out of Lucinda's bolster, she remembered that she herself was in want of a feather bed. With Tom Thumb's assistance she carried the bolster downstairs, and across the hearth-rug.</p> <p>THE TWO MICE SQUEEZE TO GET INTO THEIR HOLE IN THE WALL</p> <p>NAR: It was difficult to squeeze the bolster into the mouse-hole; but they managed it somehow.</p>	<p>Cans of beads being shaken and spilling onto floor</p> <p>Draws and cupboards being violently opened</p> <p>Squeezing into a hole in the wall</p>	<p>TOM – x1</p> <p>TOM going bezerk</p>

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<p>RATTLING OF CHAIRS AND FURNITURE AND A BIRDCAGE ETC.</p> <p>NAR: Then Hunca Munca went back and fetched a chair, a book-case, a bird-cage, and several small odds and ends. The book-case and the bird-cage refused to go into the mouse-hole. Hunca Munca left them behind the coal box, and went to fetch a cradle.</p> <p>MUFFLED TALKING FROM BEHIND THE DOOR ON THE LANDING</p> <p>NAR: Hunca Munca was just returning with another chair, when suddenly there was a noise of Talking outside upon the landing.</p> <p>HUNCA: "OH, NO!"</p> <p>NAR: The mice rushed back to their hole and the dolls came into the nursery. What a sight met the eyes of Jane and Lucinda! Lucinda sat upon the upset kitchen stove and stared; And Jane leant against the kitchen dresser and smiled. But neither of them made any remark. The book-case and the bird-cage were rescued from under the coal-box—but Hunca Munca has got the cradle, and some of Lucinda's clothes. She also has some useful pots and pans, and several other things. The little girl that the doll's-house belonged to, said,—</p> <p>GIRL: "I will get a doll dressed like a policeman!"</p> <p>NAR: But the nurse said,—</p> <p>NURSE: "I will set a mouse-trap!"</p> <p>NAR: So that is the story of the two Bad Mice,—but they were not so very very naughty after all, because Tom Thumb paid for everything he broke.</p> <p>DISTANT SOUND OF CHRISTMAS AND PEOPLE LAUGHING DOWNSTAIRS</p>	<p>Rattling of chair and furniture</p> <p>Muffled talking from behind the door on the landing</p> <p>Sound of Christmas / People laughing</p>	<p>HUNCA – x1</p> <p>GIRL – x1</p> <p>NURSE – x1</p>
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<p>A CHRISTMAS DITTY IS BEING PLAYED ON A PIANO</p> <p>NAR: He found a crooked sixpence under the hearthrug; and upon Christmas Eve, he and Hunca Munca stuffed it into one of the stockings of Lucinda and Jane.</p> <p>TOM: "Merry Christmas."</p> <p>A COIN DROPS INTO A STOCKING</p> <p>THE SOUND OF A LITTLE BROOM SWEEPING THE DOLL'S HOUSE FLOOR</p> <p>NAR: And very early every morning—before anybody is awake—Hunca Munca comes with her dust-pan and her broom to sweep the Dollies' house!</p> <p>SWEEP SWEEP SWEEP</p> <p>THE END</p>	<p>Christmas ditty being played on piano</p> <p>Coin drops into a stocking</p> <p>Little broom sweeping</p> <p>Sweeping</p>	<p>TOM – x1</p>
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