



Good to Be Green

By Lois Lewis

NARRATOR 1:

It's 9 a.m. in Nursery Rhyme Kingdom and members of the kingdom's membership committee are arriving at town hall. They've been called together to review the application of a possible new addition to the kingdom's cast of characters.

NARRATOR 2:

Committee members take their seats as their chairperson, King of Hearts, calls the meeting to order.

KING OF HEARTS:

All right, everyone, let's get started. In folders in front of you, you'll find copies of an application for membership in our land.

OLD MOTHER GOOSE: (opening her folder)

What's the applicant's name?

KING OF HEARTS:

His name is Little Gerry Green Thumb.

LITTLE NANCY ETTICOAT: (sighing)

Little? Do we really need another character named "Little" around here? Just how little is he anyway?

KING OF HEARTS:

Little Nancy, I'm surprised at you! You of all people should know that we don't judge a character by his name -- or his size.

MUFFIN MAN:

A green thumb . . . Hmm . . . Do we want to admit someone with such a strange feature?

KING OF HEARTS:

Muffin Man, you know it's against our laws to judge someone by the color of his skin -- no matter how odd it might be.

JACK BE NIMBLE: (reading through his folder)

His application says that his green thumb helps plants grow. That's certainly a useful skill.

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY: (slamming her folder shut)

Well, I don't like it!

OLD MOTHER GOOSE:

Oh, Mary, you don't like much of anything.

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY:

He's going to have to prove to me that he's worthy to join us!

NARRATOR 1:

The King of Hearts walks to the door and looks through the peephole.

KING OF HEARTS:

Mary, you and everyone here will get your chance to see if Little Gerry Green Thumb has what it takes to join our group. He's waiting in the hallway. Shall I let him in?

NARRATOR 2:

Surprised committee members look at one another. They nod yes.

NARRATOR 1:

The King of Hearts opens the door. A very short man with a large green thumb on his right hand walks in. He smiles when the King shakes his hand and introduces him to the group.

LITTLE GERRY GREEN THUMB: (sitting down)

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me.

MUFFIN MAN:

Mr. Green Thumb, please tell us why you want to join our land.

LITTLE GERRY GREEN THUMB:

I like the diversity of characters in your kingdom.

LITTLE NANCY ETTICOAT: (puzzled)

Our diversity? Please explain.

LITTLE GERRY GREEN THUMB:

Sure. The members of your kingdom are of many backgrounds, abilities, and ages. Each character is unique.

OLD MOTHER GOOSE:

Mr. Green Thumb, have people made fun of you in the past?

LITTLE GERRY GREEN THUMB:

Yes. For most of my life, people have laughed at me and called me names because of my green thumb and my size. I believe that the members of your land will accept me for who I am.

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY: (folding her arms)

Mr. Green Thumb, your application says that your green thumb helps plants grow. Can you show us how?

LITTLE GERRY GREEN THUMB:

Certainly! King of Hearts, would you please hand me that wilted potted plant on the windowsill.

NARRATOR 2:

Puzzled, the King hands him the plant. When Little Gerry puts his green thumb on its drooping leaves, they perk up and turn green!

NARRATOR 1:

The committee members gasp. Their eyes grow wide in amazement.

JACK BE NIMBLE:

That's incredible! How would you use that skill in our land?

LITTLE GERRY GREEN THUMB:

I'd like to help Nursery Rhyme Kingdom stay a beautiful place to live by helping its plants grow healthy and strong.

NARRATOR 2:

For the next half hour, committee members ask Little Gerry more questions. When they are finished, the King of Hearts stands up and turns to Little Gerry.

KING OF HEARTS:

Thank you for answering our questions, Mr. Green Thumb. We'll call you with our decision.

NARRATOR 1:

Little Gerry shakes everyone's hand and leaves the building. The committee members discuss their thoughts about him. Then King of Hearts calls for the vote.

KING OF HEARTS:

Raise your hand if you vote to accept Little Gerry Green Thumb into our kingdom.

NARRATOR 2:

Each member raises his or her hand -- including Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY:

Mr. Green Thumb convinced me that he will be a good character for our land. I won't be contrary on this vote!

KING OF HEARTS:

Great! I'll give him the good news.

NARRATOR 1:

The next day, everyone in the kingdom gathers in the main square to welcome Little Gerry Green Thumb to their land. He quickly becomes a popular character, especially among the gardeners.

PETER PIPER:

With Little Gerry's help, this is the best crop of peppers I've had in years!
They'll make great pickled peppers.

PETER, PETER, PUMPKIN EATER:

My pumpkins are bigger and better than ever, thanks to Little Gerry.

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY:

Little Gerry has shown me that a garden is much more than silver bells and
cockleshells.

NARRATOR 2:

What is Little Gerry's rhyme? The characters created one that describes his
unique skill.

*Little Gerry Green Thumb
Has a special way
To make gardens beautiful
Each and every day.*

*One touch from Gerry's green thumb
Helps plants grow green and strong
And flowers bloom bright and colorful
All year long!*

