



**THE *UN*-TOLD STORY OF PETER AND THE WOLF  
AS REVEALED BY THE LITTLE BIRDIE TO  
NANCY BACHRACH**

## 1. “INTRODUCING PETER”

Today, for the first time, you’re going to hear The *UN*-told Story of Peter and the Wolf. Because The Little Birdie is finally ready to sing about what really happened to the Duck. So with a little help from my friends on the piano, our story will be told in music as well as in words.

Let’s begin at the beginning.

*Once upon a time,*

Peter was just an ordinary boy,  
doing ordinary boyish things. . . .

Then, one day, he was tested.

It was no ordinary day.

It was a defining moment.

Peter was warned by Grandfather not to wander out of his yard

“because of the Big Bad Wolf.”

And what did Peter do with this wise counsel?

He *defied* it!

On this beautiful Spring morning,

Peter threw the gate open

and *skiiiiipped* out into the big green meadow.

His pet Duck waddled along behind him.

Can you hear Peter frolicking

through the forbidden woods

and into the Unknown???

## 2. “THE BIRD” & “THE DUCK”

The Little Birdie chirped from a treetop, “All is well up here!”

He had a bird’s eye-view

but he was a lousy lookout.

Instead of detecting danger

the Bird dove down to the ground

and demeaned the Duck.

“What kind of bird are you if you can’t fly?” the Bird badgered.

The Duck quacked back, “What kind of bird are you if you can’t swim?”

“You can’t sing!”

“You can’t quack!”

Back and forth they squawked,

bickering about who was the bona fide bird,

the *birdier* bird,

the fairest fowl of them all.  
This is what it means to be a birdbrain!

### 3. “THE CAT”

No one noticed there was danger lurking—  
    an *existential* threat!  
Something was *sliiithering slooowly* towards them  
    through the overgrown green grass.  
The Cat crept in like fog  
    on little cat feet  
It sat on silent haunches  
    looking over . . .  
    . . . a two-course *menu* of Bird and Duck!  
The Cat stooped to conquer its cuisine  
    but prolonged its pounce,  
    and the predator became the prey.  
In the woods, things can change in a New York minute.

### 4. “THE GRANDFATHER”

Enter the Grandfather, the voice of wisdom and experience.  
    He knew the World could be a dangerous place  
    and he knew the Wolf was out there.  
Would Peter finally obey his warning to stay in the yard?  
    *Of course not!*  
    What little boy listens to warnings?  
So Grandfather brought Peter home and locked the gate.  
    Unfortunately, the Duck was left behind, sitting by the pond.  
    In retrospect, he was a sitting duck.

### 5. “THE WOLF”

Cue the Big Bad Wolf!  
Some historians believe that this is the very same Wolf who had recently gobbled down  
Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandma.  
    So he should have been full.  
    But who can resist a farm-raised Duck?  
The Wolf swallowed that sitting Duck whole!  
    In a single gulp!

Then he looked around for dessert.

He circled around and around the tree  
where the Bird and the Cat were cringing —  
on separate branches, of course.

Peter watched this catastrophe unfold from his yard.

Then he grabbed a rope and scaled the stone wall and hoisted himself up into the tree!

And while Birdie baited the Wolf—  
by dive-bombing his growling snout—  
Peter lassoed the Wolf by his tail  
and tied him upside down to the tree!  
Just in time!

## 6. **“THE TRIUMPHAL MARCH”**

Peter led The Triumphal March home, basking in his heroism.

His curiosity nearly killed the Cat, but in the end he saved the day.

He hired an agent and sold his story to Prokofiev.

Grandfather carried the Cat and grumbled about all the things that could have gone wrong.

The Cat was Cool.

The Little Birdie whistled a happy tune to the authorities . . .

and then he went into a witness protection program.

And so it has been said,

*“Everyone lived happily ever after.”*

**BUT WAIT!!! WHAT ABOUT THE DUCK???**

Well, no one knows for sure . . .

but according to the Little Birdie,  
on the march home  
the Duck could still be heard quacking . . .  
from inside the Wolf’s belly!

*Exit The Duck.*

What about the Wolf, you wonder?

The Wolf did time in a zoo  
and then he was paroled,  
and he was last spotted on the other side of the forest  
where he was stalking three little pigs.

**[THE END]**