



# *The Wolf, the Goat and the*

## *Kid*

La Fontaine

French

---

*Easy*  
*1 min read*

As went a goat of grass to take her fill,  
And browse the herbage of a distant hill,  
She latch'd her door, and bid,  
With matron care, her kid;  
“My daughter, as you live,  
This portal don't undo  
To any creature who  
This watchword does not give:  
‘Deuce take the wolf and all his race!’”  
The wolf was passing near the place  
By chance, and heard the words with pleasure,  
And laid them up as useful treasure;  
And hardly need we mention,  
Escaped the goat's attention.

No sooner did he see  
The matron off, than he,  
With hypocritic tone and face,  
Cried out before the place,  
“Deuce take the wolf and all his race!”  
Not doubting thus to gain admission.  
The kid, not void of all suspicion,  
Peer’d through a crack, and cried,  
“Show me white paw before  
You ask me to undo the door.”  
The wolf could not, if he had died,  
For wolves have no connection  
With pains of that complexion.  
So, much surprised, our gourmandiser  
Retired to fast till he was wiser.  
How would the kid have been undone  
Had she but trusted to the word?  
The wolf by chance had overheard!  
Two sureties better are than one;  
And caution’s worth its cost,  
Though sometimes seeming lost.[Pg 85]

Read more fairy tales on [Fairytalez.com](http://Fairytalez.com)