The Wolf Who Cried Boy

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2002. G.P. Putnam's Sons. NY,


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Remark:
This landscape-formatted book has a sampler or needlepoint pattern as background for its dust jacket, covers, and end-papers. The title is a nice reversal of the usual fable. Here Little Wolf complains each night about what his mother serves for dinner, whether it is lamburgers, sloppy does, or chocolate moose. He wants boy! Father himself remembers wonderful boy chops and baked boy-tato. Father assures Little Wolf that, if he can find a boy in the woods, father and mother will catch and cook him. Here, in keeping with the fable, the boy tries to put off an unwelcome dinner of three-pig salad by howling to his parents from a distance on his way home from school that he has seen a boy. The two come running. The ruse works; the three-pig salad is ruined in the meantime. Little Wolf tries the same trick the next day, and the Granny Smith pie goes bad when Granny gets all lumpy! The parent wolves find him out, and the next day a whole troop of boy scouts come marching by. One curious boy even comes into their cave, but Little Wolf cannot get anyone to look up at him! The result? The boys at least live happily ever after. The illustrations are delightful, cartoonish, and unusually precise in their printing. Well done!

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