

## THE THREE BEARS.

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**T**HERE was once a little girl who was called Silverlocks because her hair was so bright and shiny, and though she was a pretty child, she was always in mischief and meddling with what did not belong to her; till the neighbours said she was more trouble than she was worth. One day she went into a wood a long way from home and saw a little cottage with the door left open. In she went directly, hoping to be able to play some pranks there. Now the cottage belonged to two Bears, named Mr. and Mrs. Bruin, and to their little Bear whose name was Tiny, and they had all three gone for a walk leaving some soup on the table to cool. As soon as Silverlocks smelt the soup, she took the little pipkin that had been placed for Tiny, and being hungry very soon emptied it; then she sat down on a nice little chair and began to rock backwards and forwards till she broke it; and at last went upstairs and lay down on a soft little white bed that she found there. She was fast asleep when the Bears came home, and did not hear them growling and crying, "Who has been at my soup? Who has sat on my chair?" It was only when the Tiny Bear was just going to spring on to the bed, that she woke and managed to jump out of window. She had a sad tumble, but she was quite cured of meddling.