

“Stanley StingyBritches”

by
Don Bosley

- What** Lilly and her friend Lars are all about the joy of forgiveness, but the villainous Stanley StingyBritches is out to steal all the forgiveness for himself and never give it to anybody. As Lilly and Lars discover, sometimes people need to be soaked in forgiveness before they truly understand its cleansing potential.
- Themes:** Forgiveness, Friendship, Selflessness, Children, Kids, Mission Trip Skit
- Who** Narrator
Lilly, a lovely girl
Lars, her sidekick
Stanley StingyBritches, the villain.
*Note: Stanley can also be changed to Suzy and become a villainess.
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Lilly is fun to play in a bright spring dress, and Stanley should wear a black bandit’s mask and a villain’s cape. The main props are two ice chests full of water balloons ... and probably some towels standing ready nearby.
- Why** Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Luke 17:3-4; Colossians 3:13
- How** This children’s piece is designed for outdoor outreach and missions settings, and an animated narrator can help tremendously in getting the children participating early. Lars will play his role as a clumsy, animated mime. After their opening, the Narrator will stand to one side and cue the children in their participatory sounds.
- One warning: When some children are invited to throw water balloons at Stanley, be sure to choose children who won’t go rogue and throw at everybody, and don’t let them attack Stanley from too close up. (Many a Stanley has been doubled over by an overzealous 5th-grader with a point-blank range).
- Time** Approximately 15 minutes

***Narrator** enters. They will welcome the crowd and explain that they're going to need some help with the skit. Specifically, the children must provide background sound effects at different points in the story. The **Narrator** will teach them to respond to the following gestures:*

Narrator's gesture

Audience verbal response

Sinister cloak-over-face motion

"Dun-DUNNNNNN!"

Slipping on bar of soap

"Whoooooop!"

Scary lion

"Aaaaaauugh!"

*After a few practice exercises, **Narrator** will explain that we're ready for the skit.*

Narrator: Listen, my children, and you shall hear
A tale that's sure to tickle your ear
It's the tale of a lovely girl named Lilly...

Lilly enters happily, rolling behind her an ice chest.

And her sidekick Lars, who was often silly.

Lars enters, badly imitates Lilly, and crashes in a heap.

Children: (cued by **Narrator**) Whooooop!

Lilly: Oh, Lars, you are so silly!

Lars salutes and knocks himself down.

Children: (cued by **Narrator**) Whooooop!

Narrator: Now Lilly was pretty, and gentle, and kind
She could cartwheel without falling on her behind
She always said please; she never burped in a crowd
(Or at least, if she did, it wasn't very loud)
But the thing about Lilly that made her so sweet
Was something quite special, something quite neat
For no matter who you were...or what you had done
Lilly had enough forgiveness...for everyone

Lilly: You know what, Lars? I have enough forgiveness for everyone! In fact...
(digging in her ice chest for a water balloon)...I have a whole colossal
supply of forgiveness, right here!

She hands a water balloon to Lars, who examines it. He squeezes too hard and it explodes all over him.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whoooooop!

Lilly: Oh, Lars, you are so silly! You don't know how to handle forgiveness, do you? Do you know what forgiveness is?

Lars looks a little unsure.

Lilly: *(turning to children)* Do you know what forgiveness is?

Lilly takes some answers from kids.

Lilly: Right! Forgiveness is when somebody does something wrong...maybe they do something mean...or maybe they hurt your feelings. Has anybody here ever had their feelings hurt? Maybe they accidentally ruin one of your favorite toys...

Lars reacts by dancing in a boxing stance, angrily.

Lilly: No, no, Lars. Forgiveness is when, instead of being mad at them for it, you tell them it's OK and you don't stay mad at them anymore.

Lars lets down his boxing stance and gives her a hug.

Lilly: That's right. Forgiveness is so cool because it helps people love each other instead of being mad at each other.

As she walks, she is dragging around Lars, who keeps his tight embrace.

Lilly: You can let go now, Lars.

Lars doesn't.

Lilly: Lars, you're making it hard for me to breathe.

Lars shakes his head, not letting go.

Lilly: Lars! Please let go of me before—

They do some crazy falling schtick and wind up on the ground in a messy heap.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whoooooop!

Lilly: *(holding ankle)* Lars, you hurt my ankle! Why didn't you let go when I asked you to?

Lars hangs his head in shame. Lilly sighs, removes a water balloon from her ice chest.

Lilly: It's OK, Lars. I forgive you.

She hands Lars the water balloon. Lars looks pleased but squeezes too hard, and it explodes.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whooop!

Lars looks shamed again.

Lilly: *(retrieving another water balloon)* Sometimes you have to give somebody forgiveness again...

She hands Lars the water balloon, which he accidentally explodes again.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whooop!

Lilly: *(handing him another)* And again...

Lars explodes the balloon again.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whooop!

Lilly: *(handing him another)* And again. Lars, don't handle it so roughly this time. There. Doesn't that feel nice?

Lars smiles and nods happily. In fact, he begins to get downright joyous at the wonderful feel of his forgiveness. Then he squeezes and accidentally explodes it again.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whooop!

Lilly fetches another balloon and gives it to him again. Lars thanks her by rubbing his head on her shoulder.

Lilly: *(to children)* See how happy Lars is because I gave him forgiveness? Doesn't forgiveness seem like a good thing to you? Well, I don't know about you, but I want to give forgiveness to everybody!

Lars nods eagerly.

Lilly: *(gasping with an idea)* That's what we'll do, Lars! We'll go take all this forgiveness we have, and we'll go out and give it to everybody! Then everybody will be as happy as you.

Lars nods happily; they dance a circle together joyously, then grab the ice chest together and take off, handing imaginary balloons to imaginary people.

Narrator: So off they did go, dear Lilly and Lars
To spread their forgiveness, from Fresno to Mars!
It gave them great joy, it gave them great pleasure
To pass out forgiveness like it was great treasure

But little did they know, that there in the land
Was one whose black heart could foil their plan

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Dun-dunnnnnnnn!

Stanley enters, looking classically the villain, with cape and everything. Lars hides behind Lilly.

His eyebrows were scary, his smile was vicious
His name...was Stanley StingyBritches.

Stanley laughs loud and long, comically evil.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Auuuuughhhhh!

Stanley: I...am Stanley StingyBritches!

Lilly: *(kindly)* How do you do? *(offering balloon)* Would you like some forgiveness?

Stanley: Why, yes, my dear, I believe I would.

Stanley takes the balloon and cradles it carefully. Then he laughs loud and long again.

Stanley: It's mine...mine...MINE! All mine!

Lilly: Look how happy she is, Lars! It just makes you feel good inside, doesn't it?

Stanley: Forgiveness is mine! All mine! No one else can have it now!

He rushes to grab his own ice chest and places the balloon carefully inside.

Lilly: Oh...I see you already have a full supply of forgiveness, just like us!

Stanley: Indeed, I do, fair maiden. But there is one monstrous difference between you and me. While you foolishly give away your forgiveness again and again, I, on the other hand, shall keep mind safely tucked away. No one shall ever have my forgiveness except me!

Lars has snuck over and peered inside Stanley's ice chest. Stanley now slams the lid down, hurting Lars' fingers.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Auuuuughhhh!

Lars bounds around in pain.

Lilly: *(aside, to children)* Wow. Now I know why they call him Stanley StingyBritches!

Lars starts dancing around in his boxing stance again, comically challenging Stanley.

Lilly: Lars, Lars...remember. Staying angry doesn't solve anything. We need to give Stanley forgiveness instead.

She hands Lars a balloon from her ice chest. Lars frowns reluctantly at the idea.

Lilly: Go on.

Lars approaches Stanley, who is bent overlooking into his ice chest. His backside is an obvious target to Lars. Lars looks angry and evil, goes into a big pitcher's windup, and hits Stanley right in the backside. Stanley reacts in big surprise. Lars reacts in triumph and walks off.

Lilly: Now, Lars, what was that?

Lars shrugs and mimes giving forgiveness to Stanley.

Lilly: No, you did not give him forgiveness. When we say we're giving someone forgiveness, but we do it with the wrong attitude, that's not really forgiveness. That's just a big mess.

Stanley: *(rubbing backside)* A big, wet mess! Ouch!

Lilly: Lars, I really think you need to apologize to Stanley StingyBritches and ask for his forgiveness.

Lars mimes his reluctance. Then he walks up to Stanley and mimes shame and an apology.

Stanley: *(as Lars mimes)* Yes. Uh-huh. I see. And you want forgiveness from me now, is that it? *(Lars nods)* Well, my good man. I'd be happy to give you my forgiveness...if you deserved it! But I don't think you do! I don't think anybody deserves it! That's why no one will ever get any forgiveness from me! Not ever! I shall keep my forgiveness locked up and out of reach. No one shall have it!

Lilly: But...you have so much forgiveness you could give away...!

Stanley: Stanley StingyBritches gives forgiveness to no one! Not only that, but it is my mission to get ahold of everybody else's forgiveness and keep it for myself!

Lilly: You want forgiveness, but you're not willing to give it back out to anybody?

Stanley: That's exactly right! And the first batch of forgiveness that I intend to take for myself...is yours! *(pointing at their ice chest)*

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Auuuuggghhhh!

Music cue, if possible: Music to be chased by. Maybe "Help" by the Beatles. Lars yelps, and a wild chase ensues, with Aaugghs, dun-dunns and whoops as appropriate. At an opportune time, Lilly will run by and hand the ice chest to the Narrator, who will panic and sit on the chest as Stanley continues past in pursuit of Lilly. Then Narrator will recruit a couple of kids to sit in front of the ice chest and help hide it.

Narrator: Around and around and around they did go
Chasing each other 'till they couldn't chase no mo'
They ran through the snow, they ran through the ditches
They ran like the dickens from Stanley StingyBritches
Forgiveness he wanted, forgiveness he got
But would he give forgiveness to others? – NOT!
They tied his shoelaces ... they tugged on his cape
But suddenly they were trapped; there was no escape!

Lilly and Lars appear cornered by Stanley.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Dun-dunnnnnn!

Stanley: Now you are trapped! There is no escape!

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Auuuggghhh!

Stanley: Where is your supply of forgiveness, dear girl?! I must have that forgiveness!

Lilly: I...I don't have it. Do I, Lars?

Lars begins to point to the ice chest near the Narrator. Lilly slaps him on the shoulder and Lars falls down.

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whooop!

Stanley: Say it isn't so! What, have you given your forgiveness to another?!

Lilly: To many others, Stanley StingyBritches! And it made all of them happy!
And it made me happy! You should try to give forgiveness to others yourself! It'll make you happy, too!

Stanley: Happy?! I don't do happy, my dear girl! No one has ever called me Stanley HappyBritches! And do you know whhhhhhhhhyyyyyy?!
Because I'm stingy! I like being stingy! And I'm particularly stingy when it comes to forgiveness! I will have that forgiveness of yours, make no mistake about that! And when I get ahold of it, then no one else will ever have it!

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Dun-dunnnnn!

Stanley: For now, I will take the little bit of forgiveness that you have left!
(indicating balloon in her hand)

Lilly: I'm happy to give you my forgiveness, Stanley. And I hope that my forgiveness makes you happy.

Stanley has Lilly on one side of him and his ice chest on the other. He opens his ice chest, then turns to take the balloon from Lilly. When his back is turned, Lars—behind Stanley—takes a balloon from Stanley's ice chest. When Stanley turns to put his new balloon in his own ice chest, Lars hands the balloon he stole to Lilly, behind Stanley's back. So when Stanley turns around again, Lilly is holding another balloon.

Confused, Stanley takes that balloon, too—as Lars repeats the process behind him. It continues again and again, faster and faster—from Lilly to Stanley to the ice chest to Lars and back to Lilly. Pretty soon Stanley isn't putting his balloons in the ice chest but is simply handing the balloons directly to Lars. The three are going in circles. Finally, Stanley begins to look confused by the process, even as he continues in it. Finally, Stanley grabs Lars' hand as it reaches for another balloon.

Stanley: Aha!

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Whoooooop!

Confused by the kids' response, Stanley shakes his head at them and tries again.

Stanley: Aha!

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Auuughhhhh!

Exasperated, Stanley shakes his head and tries again.

Stanley: Aha!

Children: *(cued by Narrator)* Dun-dunnnnn!

Stanley nods, now happy with the reaction.

Stanley: I can see that you are determined to make me give my forgiveness to others! But it shall never happen! Never!

Lilly: You are such a StingyBritches!

Stanley: And mark my words, dear girl. When I find out where you're keeping all your forgiveness locked away, I will see to it...that you're giving it all... to me!

Stanley laughs evilly and departs.

Lilly: Oh, dear, Lars! What are we going to do about Stanley StingyBritches?!

Lars strikes boxing stance.

Lilly: No, no, no, we must keep forgiving him. But even when we give him forgiveness over and over again...it doesn't change his heart! He still wants to keep all of his forgiveness for himself. *(thinking)* Maybe he just needs more forgiveness. *(to children)* What do you think? After all, Lars, maybe you and I are the only people who have ever given forgiveness to Stanley StingyBritches. But if a whole bunch of people gave him forgiveness, again and again...well, how could he be stingy anymore after that?! We could just hit him with forgiveness again and again and again until he just has to stop and say, "I don't want to be a StingyBritches anymore!" What do you think, Lars?

Lars, who has been miming everything she's proposing, now nods eagerly.

Lilly: *(holding water balloon thoughtfully)* But where could we find people who would be willing to hit Stanley StingyBritches with forgiveness again and again?

Lars jumps up and down and points to the children in the audience.

Lilly: What? These guys? You want some of these guys to be the ones to hit Stanley StingyBritches with forgiveness again and again? *(to children)* Well, what do you say, you guys? Do some of you want to help Stanley out? *(reaction)* Okay. Lars here is going to pick some of you to come help.

Lars begins recruiting some volunteers. He beckons them to one side of the playing area, gives each some water balloons and instructs them to hide the balloons behind their backs.

Lilly: And the next time Stanley comes out, you wait until I say the word "Now!", and then we'll all hit Stanley StingyBritches with as much forgiveness as we can! That'll change his black heart! Now remember... when we give someone forgiveness, we can't be mean about it. If we do it with the wrong attitude, we shouldn't do it at all.

Stanley's laugh is heard offstage.

Lilly: Oh! Here he comes! Now, remember, don't hit him with your forgiveness until I tell you. Okay? If we all hit him with enough forgiveness all at once, he'll become a forgiving person just like us and give away all the forgiveness that he's stored up just for himself.

Stanley enters.

Stanley: Rats! I thought I'd found your treasure chest of forgiveness, but it was just an ice chest. No forgiveness in there, but there were some cold hot dogs.

He pulls out a cold hot dog and takes a bite.

Lilly: Stanley? Lars and I and our friends (*indicating volunteer kids*) have been thinking. Maybe you can't help being a Stingy Britches. Maybe no one has ever given you very much forgiveness, and maybe that's why you keep all your forgiveness to yourself.

Stanley: Or maybe I'm just plain stingy because I want to be. Ever think of that?

Lilly: Perhaps, Stanley. But what we're trying to say is...that we have decided to give you all of the forgiveness we have stored up.

Stanley: (*aghast*) You have?!!

Lilly: Yes, Stanley. We want you to have every last bit of it. We want you to be swimming in it, you might say!

Stanley: Hahahaha! I knew it! I'm going to have all the forgiveness in the world, and nobody else will have any! (*laugh*) So where is it?

Lilly: First, you must sit down.

He does.

Lilly: Close your eyes.

He does.

Lilly: Put out your hands.

He does.

Lilly: Are you ready?

Stanley: Oh, I'm definitely ready.

Lilly: Good. (*to children*) Now!

Led by Lars, volunteer children begin pelting Stanley with water balloons. Stanley jumps up in surprise and mocks running from them...a wild and exciting chase scene ensues. Roll with it. Finally:

Lilly: How do you feel, Stanley?

Stanley: Oh, I've never felt so much forgiveness in my whole life! It feels... (*suddenly surprised*) ...very cool! It...it feels wonderful!

Lilly: Doesn't it?

Stanley: It's wonderful! Forgiveness tastes so good! It makes me want to dance!

Stanley dances a silly dance, and Lars joins him.

Stanley: It feels great!

Lilly: And you know something else, Stanley? Once you've received forgiveness, God wants you to give it to other people!

Stanley: Other people?! But...but then I won't have any forgiveness for me!

Lilly: God is always going to have enough forgiveness for you. You have to trust him. *(to children)* Right, guys?!

Stanley: I do want everyone to feel this. I want everyone to have forgiveness! Okay! Forgiveness for everyone!

He begins lobbing water balloons selectively into the crowd. Lilly stops him after a moment.

Lilly: Why, Stanley StingyBritches! I don't believe I've ever seen you look happier!

Stanley: I've never been happier! From now on, you can call me...Stanley HappyBritches!

He does his silly dance off the stage; the others follow. Lights fade.