

GET UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED • GET THE SACK

By Carole L. Cooney

From ancient Roman times, the left side of anything was considered evil. The Romans thought bad luck would come to anyone who put his or her left foot down first when getting out of bed. Through the centuries a superstition continued and created the expression “get up on the wrong side of the bed,” which would be the left side of the bed. Today, the expression “get up on the wrong side of the bed” means a person is grouchy or not in a good or happy mood.

As far back as the 1500’s, workmen traveled around from job to job carrying all their tools in a sack. If a man was fired, he was told to get his sack, pack up his tools and move on. Today, the expression “get the sack” means being fired from your job.

Setting: Little Louie’s Diner

Characters:

Narrator

Peggy, Louie’s wife

Louie, the owner and cook

Francine, a waitress

Jackson, Francine’s bull dog

Narrator: The sun came up brightly at 5 a.m. This morning was the big opening of Little Louie’s Dinner. When 8 a.m. rolled around, it would be time to turn on the neon “OPEN” sign. Louie and his wife, Peggy stood at the front door anxiously trying to unlock the lock.

Peggy: I’m so nervous my hands won’t quit shaking. I’m getting the keys out as fast as I can, Louie.

Louie: Come on, Peggy! There’ll be a line of people on the sidewalk before you know it and they’ll be hungry. Hurry up! I’m getting tired of waiting. Give me the keys!

Peggy: Louie, hold on. You’re acting like you “got up on the wrong side of the bed” this morning - just calm down a bit.

Louie: (sarcastically) Sorry, Peggy, but I *thought* you knew how to use a key.

Peggy: Aw, come on, Louie. Just give me a chance to get it out of my tote bag.

Louie: (very impatient) I’m going to “give you the sack” if I have to wait another minute.

Narrator: Finally, Peggy found the key at the bottom of her tote bag, put it in the lock and “click!” the door flew open.

Louie: All right! Peggy, you know the drill. Get the coffee started and...

Francine: (running in) Whew! I thought I was going to be late. I made it in the nick of time! Okay, Louie, what am I supposed to do?

Louie: Don’t you remember what we practiced this whole week? I don’t have time for this. Peggy, get Francine started.

Francine: (whispering) What’s got into Louie this morning? He was so nice this week and now he’s a monster.

Peggy: You know what they say - he must have “gotten up on the wrong side of the bed.”

Narrator: Francine and Peggy quickly slipped into their new green checkered aprons and started to get everything ready for the Grand Opening. Suddenly, Francine screamed.

Francine: (screaming) Eeek! There's a snake under that table!

Louie: (annoyed) What's all the screaming about? Come on, the clock is ticking!

Narrator: Just then, the door flew open and in ran Jackson, Francine's bull dog.

Jackson: Grrrr... Woof! Woof! Francine, what's the matter?

Peggy: Here Jackson, over here! See the snake?

Jackson: Grrrr... Woof! Woof! Let me at him!

Narrator: Swiftly, Jackson lunged at the snake. The snake whipped and slithered under the tables trying to escape the angry jaws of the bull dog.

Louie: (commanding) Open the back door, Peggy! Jackson, chase the snake out!

Jackson: (softly) Woof, woof, woof! Aw, can't I have a little fun and run that snake around and around the room for a little while longer?

Francine: (pleading) Jackson, be a good boy and do what Louie said. Chase the snake out the back door.

Narrator: Jackson leapt high in the air, landed with a thud, and then lowered his body onto the floor. The snake slithered over and touched Jackson's paw.

Jackson: Awwww. Look at this itty-bitty snake. He's not going to hurt anyone.

Peggy: (begging) Jackson! PLEASE take the snake outside so we can open the diner on time. (Sweetly) I'll give you a special treat.

Jackson: Woof, woof, woof! ALL RIGHT! I'll do anything for a treat! Woof, woof, woof!

Narrator: While Jackson gently moved the tiny snake through the back door, Peggy and Francine got the diner ready with lightning speed.

Francine: Whew! I have never worked so fast in my life!

Louie: (sternly) You had better or else...

Francine: I know, I know. I would have "gotten the sack!"

Louie: Aw, I was just kidding. You girls have worked magic and since we have 20 minutes to spare, let's grab a cup of coffee and rest a while.

Narrator: Time flew by and it was suddenly 8 a.m. Louie walked over to the front window.

Louie: Here goes, girls. The first day of Little Louie's Diner!

Narrator: Louie connected the electric plug and the neon sign flashed "OPEN." Peggy and Francine smiled and clapped their hands with excitement. Louie opened the front door and in walked the first customer. Can you guess who it was? It was Jackson, of course, anxiously waiting his special treat!