MUSIC: Whimsical music plays gently.

SFX: Gentle rain falls on the forest as the music gently fades.

NARRATOR

It rained, and it rained, and it rained.

PIGLET

I've never seen so much rain. Never in all my life! And I am… goodness knows how old! Three? Or is it four? If only I had been in Pooh's house, or Christopher Robin's house, or Rabbit's house when it began to rain. And then I should have had company all this time instead of being here all alone with nothing to do except wonder when it will stop.

Oh! It is a little anxious to be a very small animal entirely surrounded by water.

Christopher Robin and Pooh could escape by trees. And Kanga and Roo could escape by jumping. And Rabbit could escape by burrowing. And Owl could escape by flying. And well… Eeyore could escape by… well… I suppose by making a loud noise until rescued.

And here I am, surrounded by water. And I can't do anything!

NARRATOR

It went on raining. And every day, the water got a little higher. The little dry ditches, in which Piglet had nosed about so often, became streams. The streams across which he had splashed became rivers. And the river was taking up so much room everywhere that Piglet wondered if it should be reaching his house very soon. The water was nearly up to Piglet's window. And he still hadn't managed to think of a way to be rescued. Hmmm…

Music: A chorus of hopeful string instruments gently fade in…

PIGLET

Oh, dear. Oh, dear! Oh, dear! Oh, dear!

NARRATOR

Then he suddenly remembered a story Christopher Robin had told him about. Yes! In which a man on a desert island had written something and put it into a bottle and thrown it into the sea.

PIGLET

Perhaps if I write something and put it into a bottle and throw it into the water, then someone might come and rescue me!

Music: The hopeful chorus fades as the rain takes over once more…

NARRATOR

He left the window and began to search his house. And at last he found a pencil and small piece of dry paper and a bottle with a cork to it. And he wrote on one side of the paper…

PIGLET

Help! Signed, Piglet… who is me.

NARRATOR

And on the other side…

PIGLET

It's me… who is Piglet. Help! Help!

NARRATOR

Then, he put the paper in the bottle and he corked the bottle up as tightly as he could. And he leaned out of his window and threw the bottle as far as he could throw.

SFX: Splash!

He watched the bottle floating away slowly, until his eyes ached with looking.

Music: Our hopeful orchestra gently trickles back in…

PIGLET

Now, someone will have to do something. And I hope they will do it soon. Because if they don't, I shall have to swim. And I can't. So I hope they do it soon.

SFX: Gentle rain fades away.

NARRATOR

Before the rain had begun, Pooh had asked Christopher Robin if there might be any other poles such as a Bear of Little Brain might discover. As he was so proud of his discovery of the North Pole.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Well… there is a South Pole. And I expect there's an East Pole and a West Pole. Though people don't like talking about them.

NARRATOR

Pooh got very excited when he heard this, and he suggested that they have an expedition to discover the East Pole. But Christopher Robin had thought of something else to do with Kanga, so Pooh had set off by himself.

He was so tired when he got home that he fell fast asleep in his chair. And he slept, and he slept, and he slept. Then, suddenly, he was dreaming!

Music: Woodwinds gently bounce into the picture as Pooh dreams…

He was dreaming he was at the East Pole. And it was very cold with snow and ice all over it. He had found a beehive to sleep in, but there wasn't room for his legs. So he left them outside. And the world of Woozles, such as inhabit the East Pole, came up to him in the beehive until he suddenly… woke up.

SFX: Dream music stops. Gentle rain falls on the forest once more as Pooh wakes with a snort.

POOH

Oh!

NARRATOR

And there he was, sitting in his own chair, with his feet in the water. And water all around him! Oh, no!

POOH

This is serious! I must have an escape. Perhaps the thing to do would be to take all my ten pots of honey out of the larder, and set them carefully upon a branch of my tree. And then I will sit there until the rain has stopped.

NARRATOR

And he did just that. And then he sat upon a branch, dangled his feet, and ate through his ten pots of honey until only one remained. It was then that Piglet's bottle floated by. And, thinking it was honey, Pooh plunged into the water…

SFX: Large splash!

…seized it, and struggled back to his branch again.

SFX: Water lapping as Pooh swims out.

POOH

Whew!

SFX: Bottle uncorks with a 'pop!'.

Bother! All that for nothing! No honey at all.
What's that bit of paper doing in there? It's a message! That's what it is! It must be a very important message to me. And I can't read it!

I must find Christopher Robin, or Owl, or Piglet, and they will tell me what this message means. Only I can't swim! Bother!

NARRATOR

Then, he had an idea.

SFX: Lightbulb 'ding!'

Music: We hear a gentle, bouncy sort of tune… flutes, and perhaps a xylophone…

And for a Bear of Very Little Brain, it was a good idea!

POOH

If a bottle can float, then a jar can float. And if a jar can float, I can sit on top of it, if it's a very big jar!

NARRATOR

So he took his biggest jar and corked it up.

POOH

All boats have to have a name, so I shall call mine… The Floating Bear!

Music: The chorus turns back into smooth, lulling woodwinds…

NARRATOR

Christopher Robin lived at the very top of the forest.

It rained, and it rained, and it rained! But the water… no, it couldn't come up to his house. The water kept growing higher and higher, but it never reached him. And so, before long, Christopher Robin was quite surrounded by it.

And this is when Owl came flying over for a visit.

Music: Woodwinds draw to a close as Owl lands… gentle rain takes over the landscape again…

OWL
How do you do, Christopher Robin?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
I say, Owl! Isn't this fun? I'm on an island!

OWL
The atmospheric conditions have been very unfavorable lately.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
The what?

OWL
It has been raining.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
Yes! It has!

OWL
The flood level has reached an unprecedented height.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
The who?

OWL
There's a lot of water about.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
Yes! There is!

OWL
However, the prospects are becoming rapidly more favorable. At any moment-

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Have you seen Pooh Bear?

OWL

No. At any moment-

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

I hope he’s alright. I expect Piglet is with him. Do you think they’re alright, Owl?

OWL

I expect so. You see, at any moment-

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Do go and see, Owl. Because Pooh hasn’t got very much brain. He might do something silly. I do love him so.

OWL

I will go. Back directly.

NARRATOR

And so, he flew off. And in a little while he was back again.

OWL

Pooh isn’t at his house!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

He isn’t there?

OWL

He certainly has been there. There are nine pots of honey on the branch of the tree outside his house. So he was surely sitting there with them. But he isn’t there now.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Oh, Pooh Bear! Where are you?

POOH

Here I am!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Pooh! How did you get here?

POOH

On my boat. I had a very important message sent to me in a bottle. And, owing to having some water in my eyes, I couldn't read it. So I brought it to you.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

This message is from Piglet! He's asking for somebody to come and rescue him! We must go at once! Owl, could you rescue him?

OWL

I don't think so. It is doubtful if I have the necessary dorsal muscles.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Then would you fly to him at once and say that rescue is coming? And Pooh and I will think of a rescue and come as quick as we can! Go on, Owl! Quick! Now then, Pooh. Where's your boat?

Music: Our chorus of hopeful string instruments gently fade in, punctuated by Pooh's bouncing flutes and oboes…

POOH

I ought to say that it isn't an ordinary sort of boat.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Isn't it?

POOH

It is a honey pot, you see, that I have made The Floating Bear! And by doing so, I have made it into a boat.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Pooh! What a brave and clever bear you are! It is too small for two of us…

POOH

And three, with Piglet.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

That will make it smaller still. Oh, Pooh Bear. What shall we do?

NARRATOR

He looked around and he thought very seriously, wanting to live up to the title of Brave and Clever Bear, and make Christopher Robin very proud again. And his brains, they worked very hard, and then… he thought a think that was very Brave and Clever, indeed!

POOH

We might go in your umbrella.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

What?

POOH

We might go in your umbrella.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Ohhh! Oh, Pooh! What a very good idea!
Because if I turn the umbrella upside down, it will be a bit like a boat. And then there will be plenty of space for me, and for you… and for Piglet, once we have rescued him.

POOH

I am very happy that you agree, Christopher Robin.

NARRATOR

And so… [she hums a triumphant trumpet-like tune] …Christopher Robin and Pooh climbed into the umbrella, and set sail forthwith, in a south-westerly direction. Their ship reached Piglet, who was being comforted by Owl.

OWL

Piglet! Look! Can you see?

Music: The music gets a little brighter… a little more twinkly…

PIGLET

A ship! A ship! Rescue has come at last!

OWL

It’s just as I told you. Christopher Robin and Pooh would be along very soon.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Hello, Piglet!

POOH

Here we are!

PIGLET
Hello, Christopher Robin! Hello, Pooh Bear! Oh, you really did come to save me!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
Of course we did, Piglet!

POOH
We will sail right under your window, Piglet. And then you may jump right into the umbrella boat.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
And there we will all sail to safety together.

POOH
Are you ready, Piglet?

PIGLET
Oh! Oh, dear! Oh, dear! Ready… set… here I go!

SFX: Piglet lands with an 'oof!'.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
There you are, Piglet. Safe and sound.

NARRATOR
And so they sailed back together to Christopher Robin's island, with Owl perched upon the umbrella's handle, guiding their way home to where it was warm and dry.

SFX: Gentle rain continues to fall, as we hear the gentle splash of Christopher Robin's paddling the umbrella boat…

Music: Whimsical tunes enchant the forest again as they sail away…

Silly Old Bear is based on the book Winnie-the-Pooh, by A.A. Milne, and was adapted, directed, and designed by Caroline Mincks. Score and themes composed by Trace Callahan.

This episode featured the voices of Sarah Golding as the Narrator, Sophs Hughes as Piglet, Ashley Hunt as Winnie-the-Pooh, Layla Katib as Christopher Robin, and Karim Kronfli as Owl.

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