

The Gingerbread Man

An Aussie version

Once upon a time there was a little old woman and a little old man who had no children. One day the little old woman made a little gingerbread man. She mixed up the dough and shaped his body, his head, his arms and his legs and put him in the oven to bake.

The yummy smell of gingerbread filled the little bush house. The little old man sat down at the table, licking his lips and thinking of the delicious gingerbread man he would soon be eating.

When the gingerbread man was done, the little old woman opened the oven door and out jumped the little gingerbread man and away he ran. The little old woman and the little old man ran after him as fast as they could, but he just laughed and said,

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

And they couldn’t catch him. The gingerbread man ran on and on until he came to a woolly sheep.

“Stop, little gingerbread man,” said the sheep. “I want to eat you.”

But the gingerbread man said, “I have run away from a little old woman and a little old man, and I can run away from you, too. I can, I can!”

And the woolly sheep ran after the gingerbread man, but the gingerbread man ran faster, and said,

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

And the sheep couldn’t catch him. The gingerbread man ran on until he came to a wombat.

“Please, stop, little gingerbread man,” said the wombat. “I want to eat you. I love gingerbread.”

And the gingerbread man said, “I have run away from a little old woman, a little old man, and a woolly sheep, and I can run away from you too. I can, I can!”

And the wombat ran after the gingerbread man, but the gingerbread man ran faster and said,

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

And even though wombats can run very fast when they want to the wombat could not catch the gingerbread man.

By and by the gingerbread man ran past a shed full of shearers.

“Stop,” said the shearers. “Don’t run so fast. We want to eat you.”

But the gingerbread man said, “I have run away from a little old woman, a little old man, a cow, and a horse, and I can run away from you, too. I can, I can!”

The shearers ran after him, but the gingerbread man ran faster than ever and said,

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

And the shearers couldn’t catch him. The gingerbread man ran faster and faster.

By this time the gingerbread man was so proud of himself he didn’t think anyone could catch him.

Then he saw a dingo resting under a gum tree. He called out to the dingo.

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

But the dingo took no notice of the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man stopped running and walked closer to the dingo. Again he called out to the dingo.

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

The dingo half raised his head and put his paw to his ear as though he could not hear what the gingerbread man was saying. The gingerbread man yelled as loudly as he could.

“Run, run, as fast as you can.
You can’t catch me!
I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

But the dingo went back to sleep. The gingerbread man was so annoyed he walked right up to that dingo and put his mouth up close to the dingo’s ear. And before he could say a word that dingo’s jaws opened and:

‘Snap.’ The dingo ate up the gingerbread man

And that was the end of the Gingerbread man! And that is what always happens to gingerbread men because they are so delicious they are eaten up very quickly until there is not a crumb left.