

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Mr. and Mrs. Good Citizen
Invited the wrong fairy to the baby shower.
She arrived with her
Disneyland case on wheels
A magic hypodermic
And a tagging machine:
'Just a quick prick
In her chubby little arm
Just a teeny-tiny chip and pin
Behind her pretty ear:
Carabosse is here
On her majesty's government service
Offering sensible precautions
And protection from fear'

Rock a bye, rock the baby
In the self-assembly cot
Rock a bye the baby
Lullaby lies
Close her ears and close her eyes.

Carabosse works nine to nine
In the ministry office block
Her database is humming,
Spinning triplicated lies
Collecting fingerprints
For bureaucrats
And stealing eyes.

Mr. and Mrs. Good Citizen
Brought the wrong clothes
For their five year old.
Grey skirt and grey jumper
And off through the bluebell wood
With her basket of crisps and cola,
Where golden wolves
Wait behind silver trees
For the girl in a red hood
Who knows their secrets well
And the bold prince
Hopes in vain
For a lilac fairy
To cast a magic spell.

