

The image shows the front cover of a vintage book titled "GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES". The cover is a dark blue color with a decorative gold-tooled border. The title is centered within a circular frame that is surrounded by stylized, swirling gold leaf patterns resembling maple leaves. The entire design is set against a background of a fine, repeating gold-tooled grid pattern.

GRIMM'S  
FAIRY  
TALES

The Baldwin Library  
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RmB





O WIND, BLOW COMING HOT AWAY,  
AND MAKE HIM FOLLOW AS IF FLIES;  
WHILE I WATH MY GOLD HAIR, WILL PLAY  
AND BIND IT UP IN SEEPLY WISE!

# GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

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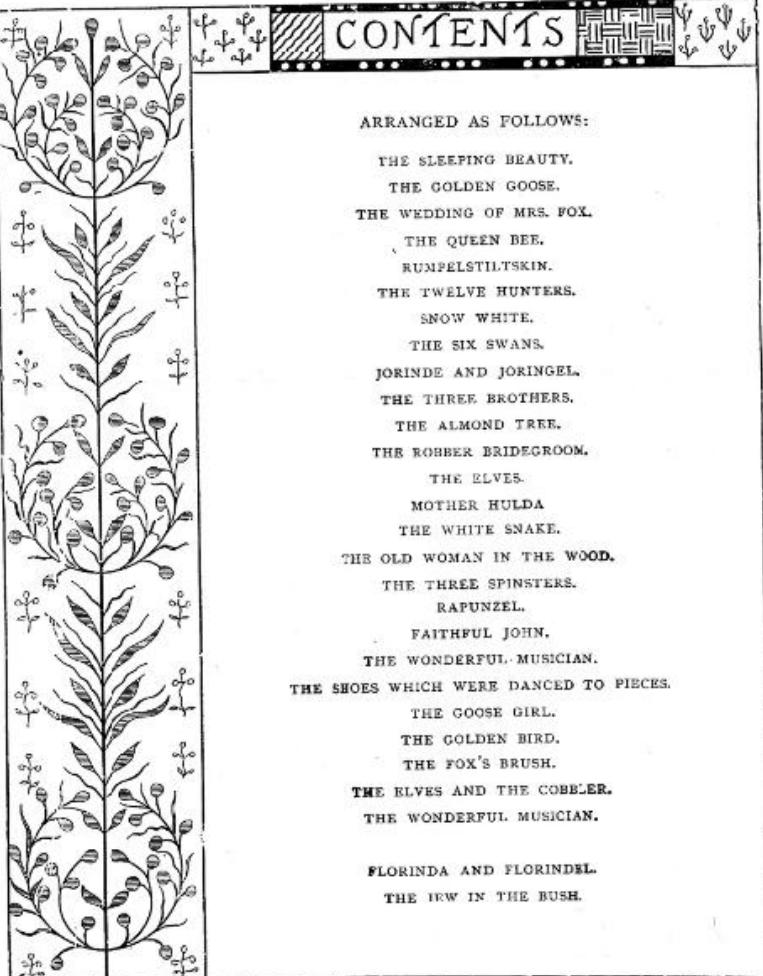
WALTER CRANE AND E. H. WEHNERT.



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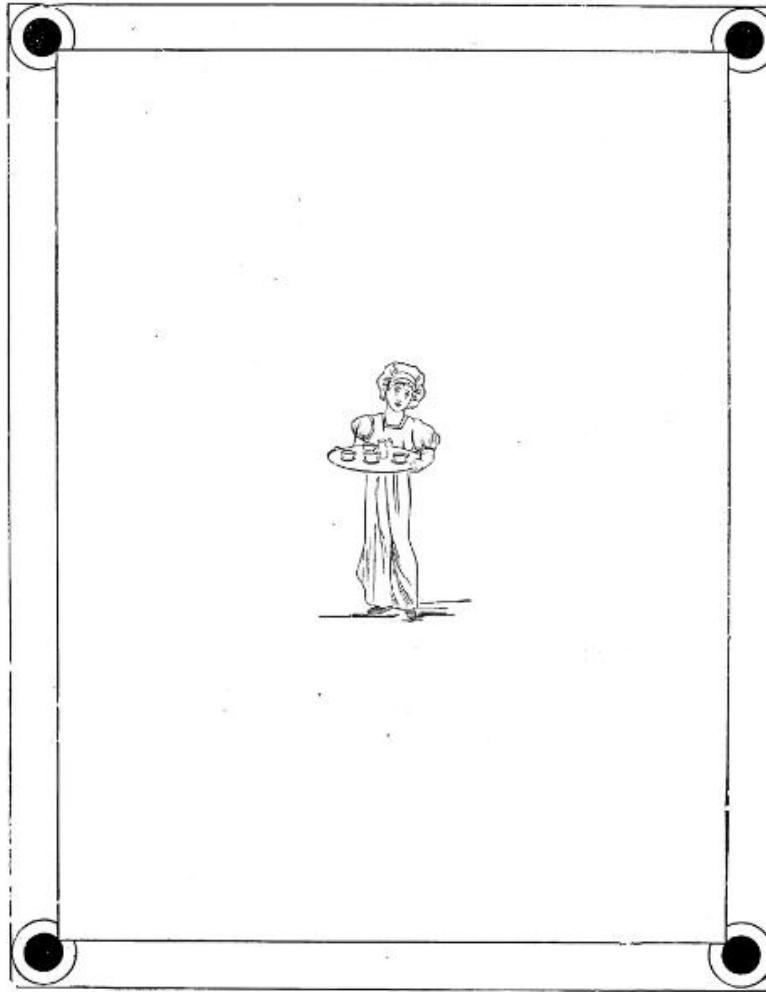
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## \*THE SLEEPING BEAUTY\*



N times past there lived a king and queen, who said to each other every day of their lives, "Would that we had a child!" and yet they had none. But it happened once that when the queen was bathing, there came a frog out of the water, and he squatted on the ground, and said to her :

"Thy wish shall be fulfilled ; before a year has gone by thou shalt bring a daughter into the world."

And as the frog foretold, so it happened ; and the queen bore a daughter so beautiful that the king could not contain himself for joy, and he ordained a great feast. Not only did he bid to it his relations, friends, and acquaintances, but also the wise women, that they might be kind and favorable to the child. There were thirteen of them in his kingdom, but as he had only provided twelve golden plates for them to eat from, one of them had to be left out.

However, the feast was celebrated with all splendor ; and as it drew to an end, the wise women stood forward to present to the child their wonderful gifts : one bestowed virtue, one beauty, a third riches, and so on, whatever there is in the world to wish for. And when eleven of them had said their say, in came the uninvited thirteenth, burning to revenge herself, and, without greeting or respect, she cried with a loud voice :

"In the fifteenth year of her age, the princess shall prick herself with a spindle and shall fall down dead."

And without speaking one more word, she turned away and left the hall. Every one was terrified at her saying. Then the twelfth came forward, for she had not yet bestowed her gift, and though she could not do away with the evil prophecy, yet she could soften it, so she said :

"The princess shall not die, but fall into a deep sleep for a hundred years."

Now the king, being desirous of saving his child even from this misfortune, gave commandment that all the spindles in his kingdom should be burnt up.

The maiden grew up, adorned with all the gifts of the wise women ; and she was so lovely, modest, sweet, and kind and clever, that no one who saw her could help loving her.

It happened one day, she being already fifteen years old, that the king and queen rode abroad, and the maiden was left behind alone in the castle. She wandered about into all the nooks and corners, and into all the chambers

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and parlors, as the fancy took her, till at last she came to a old tower. She climbed the narrow winding stair which led to a little door, with a rusty key sticking out of the lock; she turned the key, and the door opened, and there in the little room sat an old woman with a spindle, diligently spinning her flax.

"Good-day, mother," said the princess, "what are you doing?"

"I am spinning," answered the old woman, nodding her head.

"What thing is that that twists round so briskly?" asked the maiden, and taking the spindle into her hand she began to spin; but no sooner had she touched it than the evil prophecy was fulfilled, and she pricked her finger with it. In that very moment she fell back upon the bed that stood there, and lay in a deep sleep.

And this sleep fell upon the whole castle; the king and queen, who had returned and were in the great hall, fell fast asleep, and with them the whole court. The horses in their stalls, the dogs in the yard, the pigeons on the roof, the flies on the wall, the very fire that flickered on the hearth, became still, and slept like the rest; and the meat on the spit ceased roasting, and the cook, who was going to pull the scullion's hair for some mistake he had made, let him go, and went to sleep. And the wind ceased, and not a leaf fell from the trees about the castle.

Then round about that place there grew a hedge of thorns thicker every year, until at last the whole castle was hidden from view, and nothing of it could be seen but the vane on the roof.

And a rumor went abroad in all that country of the beautiful sleeping Rosamond, for so was the princess called; and from time to time many kings' sons came and tried to force their way through the hedge; but it was impossible for them to do so, for the thorns held fast together like strong hands, and the young men were caught by them, and not being able to get free, there died a lamentable death.

Many a long year afterwards there came a king's son into that country, and heard an old man tell how there should be a castle standing behind the hedge of thorns, and that there a beautiful enchanted princess named Rosamond had slept for a hundred years, and with her the king and queen, and the whole court.

The old man had been told by his grandfather that many kings' sons had sought to pass the thorn-hedge, but had been caught and pierced by the thorns, and had died a miserable death. Then said the young man, "Nevertheless, I do not fear to try; I shall win through and see the lovely Rosamond." The good old man tried to dissuade him, but he would not listen to his words.

For now the hundred years were at an end, and the day had come when Rosamond should be awakened.

When the prince drew near the hedge of thorns, it was changed into a hedge of beautiful large flowers, which parted and bent aside to let him pass, and then closed behind him in a thick hedge. When he reached the castle-yard, he saw the horses and brindled hunting-dogs lying asleep, and on the roof the pigeons were sitting with their heads under their wings. And when he



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came indoors, the flies on the wall were asleep, the cook in the kitchen had his hand uplifted to strike the scullion, and the kitchen-maid had the black fowl on her lap ready to pluck. Then he mounted higher, and saw in the hall the whole court lying asleep, and above them, on their thrones, slept the king and the queen. And still he went farther, and all was so quiet that he could hear his own breathing; and at last he came to the tower, and went up the winding stair, and opened the door of the little room where Rosamond lay.

And when he saw her looking so lovely in her sleep, he could not turn away his eyes; and presently he stooped and kissed her, and she awaked, and opened her eyes, and looked very kindly on him. And she rose, and they went forth together, and the king and the queen and whole court waked up, and gazed on each other with great eyes of wonderment.

And the horses in the yard got up and shook themselves, the hounds sprang up and wagged their tails, the pigeons on the roof drew their heads from under their wings, looked round, and flew into the field, the flies on the wall crept on a little farther, the kitchen fire leapt up and blazed, and cooked the meat, the joint on the spit began to roast, the cook gave the scullion such a box on the ear that he roared out, and the maid went on plucking the fowl.

Then the wedding of the prince and Rosamond was held with all splendor, and they lived very happily together until their lives' end.





## •THE•GOLDEN•GOOSE•



HERE was a man who had three sons, the youngest of whom was called the Simpleton, and was despised, laughed at, and neglected, on every occasion. It happened one day that the eldest son wished to go into the forest to cut wood, and before he went, his mother gave him a delicious pancake and a flask of wine, that he might not suffer from hunger or thirst. When he came into the forest, a little old gray man met him, who wished him good day, and said :

" Give me a bit of cake out of your pocket, and let me have a drink of your wine ; I am so hungry and thirsty."

But the prudent youth answered :

" Give you my cake and my wine ? I haven't got any ; be off with you."

And leaving the little man standing there, he went off. Then he began to fell a tree, but he had not been at it long before the hatchet hit him in the arm, so that he was obliged to go home and get it bound up.

The second son went into the wood, and the mother gave to him a pancake and a flask of wine. The little old gray man met him also, and begged for a little bit of cake and a drink of wine. But the second son spoke out plainly, saying :

" What I give you I lose myself, so be off with you."

And leaving the little man standing there, he went off. The punishment followed ; as he was chopping away at the tree, he hit himself in the leg so severely that he had to be carried home.

Then said the Simpleton : " Father, let me go for once into the forest to cut wood." And the father answered, " Your brothers have hurt themselves by so doing ; give it up, you understand nothing about it."

But the Simpleton went on begging so long, that the father said at last, " Well, be off with you ; you will only learn by experience."

The mother gave him a cake (it was only made with water, and baked in the ashes), and with it a flask of sour beer. When he came into the forest, the little old gray man met him, and greeted him, saying : " Give me a bit of your cake and a drink from your flask ; I am so hungry and thirsty."

And the Simpleton answered : " I have only a flour and water cake and sour beer ; but if that is good enough for you, let us sit down together and eat."

THE GOLDEN GOOSE.

Then they sat down, and as the Simpleton took out his flour and water cake, it became a rich pancake, and his sour beer became good wine ; then they ate and drank, and afterwards the little man said :

" As you have such a kind heart, and share what you have so willingly, I will bestow good luck upon you. Yonder stands an old tree ; cut it down, and at its roots you will find something." And thereupon the little man went away.

The Simpleton hewed away at the tree, and when it fell, he saw, sitting among the roots, a goose with feathers of pure gold. He lifted it out and took it with him to an inn where he intended to stay the night. The landlord had three daughters, who, when they saw the goose, longed for one of its golden feathers. The eldest thought, " I will wait for a good opportunity, and then I will pull out one of its feathers for myself ; " and so, when the Simpleton was gone out, she seized the goose by its wing—but there her hand held fast. Then came the second sister, and she also was held fast.

Lastly came the third with the same intentions ; and when she reached her sisters, there she stopped, hanging on with them. And so they had to stay all night. The next morning the Simpleton took the goose under his arm and went away, unmindful of the three girls that hung on to it. The three had always to run after him, left and right, wherever his legs carried him. In the midst of the fields they met the parson, who, when he saw the procession, said :

" Shame on you, girls, running after a young fellow through the fields like this," and forthwith he seized hold of the youngest by the hand to drag her away, but hardly had he touched her when he too was obliged to run after them himself. Not long after, the sexton came that way, and seeing the respected parson following at the heels of the three girls, he called out :

" Ho, your reverence, whither away so quickly ? " and he seized hold of him by his gown ; but no sooner had he touched him than he was obliged to follow on too. As the five tramped on, one after another, two peasants with their hoes came up from the fields, and the parson cried out to them to come and set him and the sexton free ; but no sooner had they touched the sexton than they had to follow on too ; and now there were seven following.

By and by they came to a town where a King reigned, who had an only daughter who was so serious that no one could make her laugh ; therefore the king had given out that whoever should make her laugh should have her in marriage. The Simpleton, when he heard this, went with his goose and his hangers-on into the presence of the King's daughter, and as soon as she saw the seven people following always one after the other, she burst out laughing, and seemed as if she could never stop. And so the Simpleton earned a right to her as his bride ; but the King did not like him for a son-in-law, and said he must first bring a man who could drink up a whole cellar of wine. The Simpleton thought that the little gray man would be able to help him, and went out into the forest, and there he saw a man sitting with a very sad countenance. The Simpleton asked him what was the matter, and he answered :

" I have a great thirst, which I cannot quench. I have indeed drunk up a whole cask of wine, but what good is a drop like that ? "

THE GOLDEN GOOSE.

Then said the Simpleton, "Come with me, and you shall have enough."

He took him straight to the King's cellar, and the man sat himself down before the big vats, and drank, and drank, until he had drunk up the whole cellar-full. The Simpleton again asked for his bride, but the King made new conditions. He was to produce a man who could eat up a mountain of bread. The Simpleton ran quickly off to the forest, and there sat a man who had fastened a strap round his body, making a very piteous face, and saying :

"I have eaten a whole bakehouse full of rolls, but what is the use of that when one is so hungry as I am?"

The Simpleton said, "Come along with me, and you shall have enough."

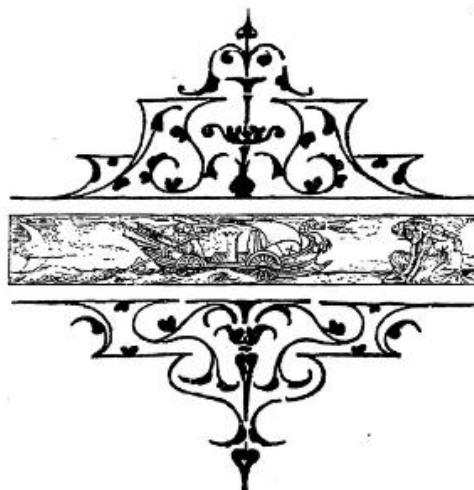
He led him straight to the King's courtyard, where all the meal in the kingdom had been collected and baked into a mountain of bread. The man settled himself down before it, and in one day he ate the whole mountain.

Then the Simpleton asked for his bride a third time. The King, however, said he must have a ship that should be able to sail on land or on water.

The Simpleton went straight to the forest, and there sat the little old gray man with whom he had shared his cake, and he said :

"I have eaten for you, and I have drunk for you ; I will also give you the ship ; and all because you were kind to me at the first."

Then he gave him the ship that could sail on land and on water, and the King could no longer withhold his daughter.





### THE WEDDING OF MRS. FOX.



HERE was once upon a time a Fox with nine tails, who thought his wife was not faithful to him, and determined to put it to the proof. So he stretched himself along under a bench, and keeping his legs perfectly still, he appeared as if quite dead. Mrs. Fox, meanwhile, had ascended to her room, and shut herself in; and her maid, the young Cat, stood near the hearth cooking.

As soon as it was known that Mr. Fox was dead, several suitors came to pay their respects to his widow. The maid, hearing some one knocking at the front door, went and looked out, and saw a young Fox, who asked :

"How do you do, Miss Kitten?  
Is she asleep or awake?"

The maid replied—

"I neither sleep nor wake;  
Would you know my business?  
Beer and butter both I make;  
Come and be my guest."

"I am obliged, Miss Kitten," said the young Fox; "but how is Mrs. Fox?"

"She sits in her chamber,  
Weeping so sore;  
Her eyes red with crying—  
Mr. Fox is no more."

"Tell her, then, my maiden, that a young Fox is here, who wishes to marry her," said he. So the cat went pit-pat, pit-a-pat up the stairs, and tapped gently at the door, saying, "Are you there, Madam Fox?"

"Yes, my good little Cat," was the reply.

"There is a suitor below."

"What does he look like?" asked her mistress. "Has he nine as beautiful tails as my late husband?"

"Oh, no," answered the maid, "he has only one."

"Then I will not have him," said the mistress.

The young Cat went down and sent away the suitor; and soon after there

THE WEDDING OF MRS. FOX.



came a second knock at the door from another Fox, with *two* tails, who wished to marry the widow ; he fared, however, no better than the former one.

Afterwards came six more, one after the other, each having one tail more than he who preceded him ; but these were all turned away.

At last there arrived a Fox with nine tails, like the deceased husband ; and when the widow heard of it, she said, full of joy, to the Cat, "Now you may open all the windows and doors, and throw the old Fox out of the house."

But just as the wedding was about to be celebrated, the old Fox roused himself from his sleep beneath the bench, and drubbed the whole rabble, together with his wife, out of the house, and hunted them far away.



## •THE QUEEN-BEE•

WO king's sons once started to seek adventures, and fell into a wild, reckless way of living, and gave up all thoughts of going home again. Their third and youngest brother, who was called Witling, and had remained behind, started off to seek them; and when at last he found them, they jeered at his simplicity in thinking that he could make his way in the world, while they who were so much cleverer were unsuccessful. But they all three went on together until they came to an ant-hill, which the two eldest brothers wished to stir up that they might see the little ants hurry about in their fright and carry off their eggs, but Witling said,

"Leave the little creatures alone; I will not suffer them to be disturbed."

And they went on farther until they came to a lake, where a number of ducks were swimming about. The two eldest brothers wanted to catch a couple and cook them, but Witling would not allow it, and said. "Leave the creatures alone; I will not suffer them to be killed."

And then they came to a bees'-nest in a tree, and there was so much honey in it that it overflowed and ran down the trunk. The two eldest brothers then wanted to make a fire beneath the tree, that the bees might be stifled by the smoke, and then they could get at the honey. But Witling prevented them, saying, "Leave the little creatures alone; I will not suffer them to be stifled."

At last the three brothers came to a castle where there were in the stables many horses standing, all of stone, and the brothers went through all the rooms until they came to a door at the end secured with three locks, and in the middle of the door a small opening through which they could look into the room. And they saw a little gray-haired man sitting at a table. They called out to him once, twice, and he did not hear, but at the third time he got up, undid the locks, and came out. Without speaking a word he led them to a table loaded with all sorts of good things, and when they had eaten and drunk he showed to each his bed-chamber. The next morning the little gray man came to the eldest brother, and beckoning him, brought him to a table of stone, on which were written three things directing by what means the castle could be delivered from its enchantment. The first thing was, that in the wood under the moss lay the pearls belonging to the princess—a thousand in number—and they were to be sought for and collected, and if he who should undertake the task had not fin-

THE QUEEN BEE.

ished it by sunset,—if but one pearl were missing,—he must be turned to stone. So the eldest brother went out, and searched all day, but at the end of it he had only found one hundred; just as was said on the table of stone came to pass and he was turned into stone. The second brother undertook the adventure next day, but it fared with him no better than with the first.

And so at last it was Witling's turn, and he began to search in the moss; but it was a very tedious business to find the pearls, and he grew so out of heart that he sat down on a stone and began to weep. As he was sitting thus, up came the ant-king with five thousand ants, whose lives had been saved through Witling's pity, and they collected all the pearls and put them in a heap.

Now the second thing ordered by the table of stone was to get the key of the princess's sleeping chamber out of the lake.

And when Witling came to the lake, the ducks whose lives he had saved came and brought up the key from the bottom. The third thing was the most difficult, and that was to choose out the youngest of the three princesses, as they lay sleeping. All bore a perfect resemblance each to the other, and only differed in this, that before they went to sleep each one had eaten a different sweetmeat,—the eldest a piece of sugar, the second a little syrup, and the third a spoonful of honey. Now the Queen bee of those bees that Witling had protected from the fire came, and trying the lips of all three, settled on those of the one that had eaten honey, and so the king's son knew which to choose. Then the spell was broken; every one awoke from stony sleep, and took their right form.

And Witling married the youngest princess, and became king.





## \*RUMPELSTILTSKIN\*

**T**HERE was once a miller who was poor, but he had one beautiful daughter. It happened one day that he came to speak with the King, and, to give himself consequence, he told him that he had a daughter who could spin gold out of straw. The King said to the miller :

"That is an art that pleases me well ; if thy daughter is as clever as you say, bring her to my castle to-morrow, that I may put her to the proof."

When the girl was brought to him, he led her into a room that was quite full of straw, and gave her a wheel and spindle, and said :

"Now set to work, and if by the early morning thou hast not spun this straw to gold thou shall die." And he shut the door himself, and left her there alone.

And so the poor miller's daughter was left there sitting, and could not think what to do for her life : she had no notion how to set to work to spin gold from straw, and her distress grew so great that she began to weep. Then all at once the door opened, and in came a little man, who said :

"Good evening, miller's daughter ; why are you crying ?"

"Oh !" answered the girl, "I have got to spin gold out of straw, and I don't understand the business."

Then the little man said :

"What will you give me if I spin it for you ?"

"My necklace," said the girl.

The little man took the necklace, seated himself before the wheel, and whirr, whirr, whirr ! three times round, and the bobbin was full. Then he took up another, and whirr, whirr, whirr ! three times round, and that was full. And so he went on till the morning, when all the straw had been spun, and all the bobbins were full of gold. At sunrise came the King, and when he saw the gold he was astonished and very much rejoiced, for he was very avaricious. He had the miller's daughter taken into another room filled with straw, much bigger than the last, and told her that as she valued her life she must spin it all in one night. The girl did not know what to do, so she began to cry, and then the door opened, and the little man appeared and said :

"What will you give me if I spin all this straw into gold ?"

RUMPELSTILTSKIN.

"The ring from my finger," answered the girl.

So the little man took the ring, and began again to send the wheel whirling round, and by the next morning all the straw was spun into glistening gold. The king was rejoiced beyond measure at the sight, but as he could never have enough of gold, he had the miller's daughter taken into a still larger room full of straw, and said :

"This, too, must be spun in one night, and if you accomplish it you shall be my wife." For he thought : "Although she is but a miller's daughter, I am not likely to find any one richer in the whole world."

As soon as the girl was left alone, the little man appeared for the third time and said :

"What will you give me if I spin the straw for you this time ?"

"I have nothing left to give," answered the girl.

"Then you must promise me the first child you have after you are Queen," said the little man.

"But who knows whether that will happen ?" thought the girl; but as she did not know what else to do in her necessity, she promised the little man what he desired, upon which he began to spin until all the straw was gold. And when in the morning the king came and found all done according to his wish, he caused the wedding to be held at once, and the miller's pretty daughter became a Queen.

In a year's time she brought a fine child into the world, and thought no more of the little man; but one day he came suddenly into her room and said :

"Now give me what you promised me."

The Queen was terrified greatly, and offered the little man all the riches of the kingdom if he would only leave the child; but the little man said :

"No, I would rather have something living than all the treasures of the world."

Then the Queen began to lament and to weep, so that the little man had pity upon her.

"I will give you three days," said he, "and if at the end of that time you cannot tell my name, you must give up the child to me."

Then the Queen spent the whole night in thinking over all the names that she had ever heard, and sent a messenger through the land to ask far and wide for all the names that could be found. And when the little man came next day (beginning with Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) she repeated all she knew, and went through the whole list, but after each the little man said :

"That is not my name."

The second day the Queen sent to inquire of all the neighbors what the servants were called, and told the little man all the most unusual and singular names, saying :

"Perhaps you are called Roast-ribs, or Sheepshanks, or Spindleshanks?" But he answered nothing but:

"That is not my name."

The third day the messenger came back again and said :

RUMPELSTILTSKIN.

"I have not been able to find one single new name; but as I passed through the woods I came to a high hill, and near it was a little house, and before the house burned a fire, and round the fire danced a comical little man, and he hopped on one leg and cried :

"To-day do I bake, to-morrow I brew,  
The day after that the Queen's child comes in;  
And oh ! I am glad that nobody knew  
That the name I am called is Rumpelstiltskin !'"

You cannot think how pleased the Queen was to hear that name, and soon afterwards, when the little man walked in and said : "Now, Mrs. Queen, what is my name?" she said at first :

"Are you called Jack ?"

"No," answered he.

"Are you called Harry ?" she asked again.

"No," answered he. And then she said :

"Then perhaps your name is Rumpelstiltskin ?"

"The devil told you that ! The devil told you that !" cried the little man, and in his anger he stamped with his right foot so hard that it went into the ground above his knee ; then he seized his left foot with both his hands in such a fury that he split in two, and there was an end of him.





## THE TWELVE HUNTERS.



CERTAIN King's son, unknown to his father, was betrothed to a Maiden whom he loved very much, and he said to her : " I will give you this ring for a memorial. When I become King, I will return and take you home with me." But his father made him promise that he would marry a certain Princess, and then the old King died and the son was betrothed to the Princess.

The Maiden heard of this, and grieved so much that she fast faded away. Then her father said to her : " Why are you sad ? whatever you wish for you shall have."

And she said : " I wish for eleven Maidens exactly like myself in figure and stature."

Her father ordered a search to be made until eleven maidens were found resembling exactly his daughter in figure and stature. When they came to the Maiden, she had twelve hunters' dresses made all exactly alike, and each put on one. Then she took leave of her father, and rode away with her companions to court, and they became the twelve royal Huntsmen of the young King.

The King, however, possessed a Lion who was such a wonderful beast that he knew all hidden and secret affairs. So one evening he said to the King : " Do you suppose that you have got twelve Huntsmen ? You are mistaken ; they are twelve maidens."

" That can never be true," said the King ; " how will you prove it to me ? "

" Order some peas to be strewn in your ante-room," said the Lion, " and you will see ; for men have a firm tread when walking on peas ; but Maidens trip and stumble."

This advice pleased the King, and he ordered peas to be strewn.

Now, there was a servant of the King's who was kind to the Huntsmen ; and he went and told them, and they trod firmly upon the peas.

Then the Lion said : " Let twelve spinning-wheels be now brought into the room, and they will be pleased at the sight thereof as no man would be."

But the servant went and told them, and they took no notice of the spinning-wheels.

Now it happened as they were going out to hunt, news came that the Princess was on her way to his court. As soon as the true betrothed heard

THE TWELVE HUNTERS.



this, all her strength forsook her, and she fell heavily to the ground. The King ran up to help her, and saw upon one finger the ring which he had given to his first love, and as he looked in the face of the supposed Huntsman, he recognized her. At the sight, his heart was so touched that he kissed her, and as she opened her eyes, he said: "You are mine, and I am thine, and no power on earth shall make it otherwise."

The King then sent a messenger to the Princess, begging her to return to her own country, for he had already a bride.



## •SNOW-WHITE•



T was the middle of winter, and the queen sat at her window working, and her embroidery frame was of ebony. And as she worked, she pricked her finger, and there fell three drops of blood on the snow. And she said to herself, "Oh that I had a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as the wood of the embroidery frame!"

Not very long after she had a daughter, with a skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony, and she was named Snow-white. And when she was born the queen died.

Then the king took another wife, a beautiful woman, but proud. She had a magic looking glass, and she used to stand before it, and say :

"Looking-glass upon the wall,  
Who is fairest of us all?"

And the looking-glass would answer :

"You are fairest of them all."

When Snow-white was seven years old, she was more beautiful than the queen. So one day when the queen went to the mirror, it said :

"Queen, you are full fair, 'tis true,  
But Snow-white fairer is than you."

From that hour her heart turned against Snow-white. She sent for a huntsman, and said, "Take the child out into the woods, and put her to death."

The huntsman led her away; but when he drew his cutlass to kill her, she began to weep, and to say, "Oh, dear huntsman, do not take my life; I will go away into the wild wood, and never come home again."

And the huntsman had pity on her, and said, "Away with you then, poor child."

Now, when the poor child found herself quite alone in the wild woods, she did not know what to do for fright. She ran as long as her feet could carry her; and when the evening drew near she came to a little house, and went



SNOW-WHITE.

Inside to rest. Everything there was very small, but as pretty and clean as possible. There stood the little table with seven little plates, and seven knives and forks, and drinking-cups. By the wall stood seven little beds. Snow-white, being very hungry and thirsty, ate from each plate a little porridge and bread, and drank out of each little cup. After that she lay down on one of the beds, but it did not seem to suit her; one was too long, another too short, but at last the seventh was quite right; and so she lay down upon it, and fell asleep.

When it was quite dark, the masters of the house came home. They were seven dwarfs, whose occupation was to dig for gold. When they had lighted their seven candles, and it was quite light in the little house, they saw that some one must have been in. The first said, "Who has been sitting in my little chair?"

The second said, "Who has been eating from my little plate?"

The third said, "Who has been taking my little loaf?"

The fourth said, "Who has been tasting my porridge?"

The fifth said, "Who has been using my little fork?"

The sixth said, "Who has been cutting with my little knife?"

The seventh said, "Who has been drinking from my little cup?"

Then the first one said, "Who has been lying on my bed?"

And the others came running, and cried, "Some one has been on our beds too."

But when the seventh looked at his bed, he saw little Snow-white asleep.

"O goodness! O gracious!" cried they all, "what beautiful child is this?" and they let her sleep on. And the seventh dwarf slept with his comrades, an hour at a time with each, until the night had passed.

When it was morning, and Snow-white awoke and saw the seven dwarfs, she was very frightened; but they seemed quite friendly, and she told them what her name was, and how she came to be in their house. Then the dwarfs said, "If you will keep our house for us, and cook, and wash, and make the beds, and sew and knit, and keep everything tidy and clean, you may stay with us, and you shall lack nothing."

"With all my heart," said Snow-white; and so she stayed, and kept house. In the morning the dwarfs went to dig for gold; in the evening they came home. All the day long the maiden was left alone, and the good little dwarfs warned her, saying, "Let no one into the house."

Now the queen came to her mirror, and said,

"Looking-glass upon the wall,  
Who is fairest of us all?"

And the glass answered,

"Queen, thou art of beauty rare,  
But Snow-white living in the glen

| With the seven little men  
Is a thousand times more fair."

SNOW-WHITE.

Then she was very angry, and she knew that the huntsman must have deceived her, and that Snow-white must still be living. And she thought and thought how she could manage to make an end of her. At last she painted her face and dressed herself like an old peddler woman, and went to the house of the seven little dwarfs, and knocked at the door and cried, "Fine wares to sell! fine wares to sell!"

"I need not be afraid of letting in this good woman," thought Snow-white, and she unbarred the door and bought some pretty lace.

Snow-white, suspecting nothing, stood up before her, and let her lace her with the new lace; but the old woman laced so quick and tight that it took Snow-white's breath away, and she fell down as dead.

"Now you have done with being the fairest," said the old woman as she hastened away.

The seven dwarfs came home and raised her up, and cut the lace in two; then little by little she returned to life. When the dwarfs heard what had happened, they said, "The old peddler woman was the wicked queen; you must beware of letting any one in when we are not here!"

And when the wicked woman got home she went to her glass and said:

"Looking-glass against the wall,  
Who is fairest of us all?"

And it answered as before:

"Queen, thou art of beauty rare, But Snow-white living in the glen	With the seven little men Is a thousand times more fair."
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When she heard that, she knew that Snow-white must be still living. Then she made a poisoned comb, and she dressed herself up to look like another sort of old woman, and went to the house of the seven dwarfs, and knocked at the door and cried, "Good wares to sell! good wares to sell!"

Snow-white looked out and said, "Go away! I must not let anybody in."

"But you are not forbidden to look," said the old woman, taking out the poisoned comb. It pleased the poor child so much that she opened the door. Then the old woman said:

"Now, for once your hair shall be properly combed."

Poor Snow-white, thinking no harm, let the old woman do as she would, but no sooner was the comb put in her hair than the poor girl fell down senseless.

"Now, you paragon of beauty," said the wicked woman, "this is the end of you," and went off. When the seven little dwarfs came home and saw Snow-white lying on the ground as dead, they thought directly that it was the step-mother's doing. They found the poisoned comb, and no sooner had they drawn it out of her hair than Snow-white came to herself, and related all that had passed. Then they warned her never again to let any one in at the door.

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And the queen went home and stood before the looking-glass and said :

" Looking-glass against the wall,  
Who is fairest of us all ? "

And the looking-glass answered as before,

" Queen thou art of beauty rare,  
But Snow-white living in the glen | With the seven little men  
  Is a thousand times more fair."

When she heard the looking-glass speak thus, she shook with anger. Then she made a poison-apple, beautiful to look upon, being white with red cheeks. Then she painted her face, and clothed herself like a peasant woman, and went to where the seven dwarfs lived. And when she knocked at the door Snow-white put her head out of the window and said, " I dare not let anybody in ; the seven dwarfs told me not."

" All right," answered the woman ; " I can easily get rid of my apples elsewhere. There, I will give you one."

" No," answered Snow-white, " I dare not take anything."

" Are you afraid of poison ? " said the woman ; " look here, I will cut the apple in two pieces ; you shall have the red side ; I will have the white one."

For all the poison was in the rosy half of it. Snow-white longed for the beautiful apple, and as she saw the peasant woman eating a piece of it, she took the poisoned half. But no sooner had she taken a morsel of it into her mouth than she fell to the earth as dead. And the queen laughed aloud and cried, " This time the dwarfs will not be able to bring you to life again." And when she went home and questioned the looking-glass as before, it answered : " You are the fairest now of all."

Then her envious heart had peace, as much as an envious heart can have.

The dwarfs found Snow-white dead. They cut her laces, combed her hair, washed her with water and wine, but all was of no avail. Then they laid her on a bier, and sat all seven of them round it, and wept three whole days. And they had made a coffin of glass, and they laid her in it, and wrote in golden letters upon it her name. Then they set the coffin out upon the mountain.

Now, for a long while, Snow-white lay in the coffin and never changed, but looked as if she were asleep, for she was still as white as snow, as red as blood, and her hair was as black as ebony. It happened, however, that one day a king's son rode through the wood and up to the dwarfs' house, which was near it. He saw on the mountain the coffin, and beautiful Snow-white within it, and he read what was written in golden letters upon it. Then he said to the dwarfs, " Let me have the coffin, and I will give you whatever you like to ask for it."

But the dwarfs told him that they could not part with it for all the gold in the world. But he said : " I beseech you to give it me, for I cannot live

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without looking upon Snow-white; if you consent I will bring you to great honor, and care for you as if you were my brethren."

When he so spoke the good little dwarfs had pity upon him and gave him the coffin, and the king's son called his servants and bid them carry it away on their shoulders. Now it happened that as they were going along, they stumbled over a bush, and with the shaking, the bit of poisoned apple flew out of her throat. It was not long before she opened her eyes, threw up the cover of the coffin, and sat up, alive and well.

"Oh, dear! where am I?" cried she. The king's son answered, full of joy: "You are near me," and, relating all that had happened, he said: "I would rather have you than anything in the world; come with me to my father's castle and you shall be my bride."

And Snow-white was kind, and went with him, and their wedding was held with pomp and great splendor.

But Snow-white's wicked step-mother was also bidden to the feast, and when she had dressed herself in beautiful clothes, she went to her looking-glass and said:

"Looking glass upon the wall,  
Who is fairest of us all?"

The looking-glass answered:

"O Queen, although you are of beauty rare,  
The young bride is a thousand times more fair."

Then she railed and cursed, and was beside herself with disappointment and anger. First she thought she would not go to the wedding; but then she felt she should have no peace until she went and saw the bride. And when she saw her, she knew her for Snow-white, and could not stir from the place for anger and terror. And they had ready red-hot iron shoes, in which she had to dance until she fell down dead.





## •THE•SIX•SWANS•



NCE on a time a king was hunting in a great wood, and he pursued a wild animal so eagerly that none of his people could follow him. When evening came he found that he had lost his way. Then all at once he saw an old woman with a nodding head coming up to him ; and it was a witch.

"My good woman," said he, "can you show me the way out of the wood ?"

"Oh, yes," answered she, "certainly I can ; if you will take my daughter for your bride, and make her queen, I will show you the way out of the wood."

The king consented, and the old woman led him into her little house, and there her daughter was sitting by the fire.

She received the king just as if she had been expecting him, and though he saw that she was very beautiful, she did not please him, and he could not look at her without an inward shudder. Nevertheless, he took the maiden before him on his horse, and the old woman showed him the way, and soon he was in his royal castle again, where the wedding was held.

The king had been married before, and his first wife had left seven children, six boys and one girl, whom he loved better than all the world, and as he was afraid the step-mother might not behave well to them, he took them to a lonely castle standing in a wood. The road to it was so hard to find that the king himself could not have found it had it not been for a clew of yarn, which, when he threw it down before him, unrolled itself and showed him the way. And the king went so often to see his dear children, that the queen became curious and wanted to know what he went out into the wood for so often. She bribed his servants, and they told her of the clew of yarn. Then she made some little white silk shirts, and sewed a charm in each. When the king had ridden to the hunt, she took the little shirts and went into the wood, and the clew of yarn showed her the way. The boys thought it was their dear father coming to see them, and came with joy to meet him. Then the wicked queen threw over each one of the little shirts, and they were changed into swans, and flew away through the wood. So the queen went home very pleased to think she had got rid of her step-children ; but the maiden had not run out with her brothers, and so the queen knew nothing about her. The next day the king went to see his children, but he found nobody but his daughter.

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Then she told him how she had seen her brothers in the guise of swans fly away through the wood. The king was grieved, but he never dreamt that it was the queen who had done this, and as he feared lest the maiden should also be stolen away, he wished to take her away with him. But she was afraid of the step-mother, and begged the king to let her remain one more night.

Then she said to herself, "I must go and seek for my brothers."

And when the night came, she fled away into the wood. She went on until she could go no longer for weariness. At last she saw a rude hut, and she went in. When it was near the time of sun-setting she heard a rustling sound, and saw six swans come flying in at the window. They blew at one another until they had blown all their feathers off, and then they stripped off their swan-skin as if it had been a shirt. And the maiden knew them for her brothers.

"You must not stay here," said they to her; "this is a robbers' haunt, and if they were to come and find you here, they would kill you."

"And cannot you defend me?" asked the little sister.

"No," answered they, "for we can only get rid of our swan-skins every evening for a quarter of an hour, and then we must be changed again into swans."

Their sister wept, and said, "Can nothing be done to set you free?"

"Oh no," answered they, "the work would be too hard for you. For six whole years you would be obliged never to speak or laugh, and make during that time six little shirts out of aster-flowers. If you were to let fall a single word before the work is ended, all would be of no good."

And then the quarter of an hour came to an end, and they changed into swans and flew out of the window.

But the maiden made up her mind to set her brothers free. She went into the middle of the wood, and climbed a tree, and there passed the night. The next morning she gathered asters and began sewing them together; as for speaking, there was no one to speak to, and as for laughing she had no mind to it; so she looked at nothing but her work. It happened that the king of that country went a-hunting in the wood, and some of his huntsmen came up to the tree in which the maiden sat. They called out to her, but she gave no answer. "Come down," cried they; "we will do thee no harm." But she only shook her head. And when they tormented her with questions she threw down to them her gold necklace, hoping they would be content with that. But they would not leave off, so she threw down to them her girdle, her garters, and one after another everything she had on but her smock. But all was no good, the huntsmen would not be put off any longer, and they climbed the tree, carried the maiden off, and brought her to the king. The king asked, "Who art thou? What wert thou doing in the tree?" But she answered nothing. He spoke to her in all the languages he knew, but she remained dumb: but, being very beautiful, he felt a great love rise up in his heart towards her; and casting his mantle round her, he brought her to his castle. Then he caused rich clothing to be put upon her, and he said:

"This maiden I choose for wife, and no other in all the world," and accordingly after a few days they were married.



THE SIX SWANS.

But the king had a wicked mother, who was displeased with the marriage.  
"Who knows where the maid can have come from?" said she, "and not able to speak a word! She is not worthy of a king!"

After a year had passed, and the queen brought her first child into the world, the old woman carried it away, and marked the queen's mouth with blood as she lay sleeping. Then she went to the king and declared that his wife was an eater of human flesh, but the king would not believe such a thing. And the queen went on quietly sewing the shirts and caring for nothing else.

The next time that a fine boy was born, the wicked step-mother used the same deceit, but the king would give no credence to her words.

When for the third time the old woman stole away the new-born child and accused the queen, the king could do no other but give her up to justice, and she was sentenced to suffer death by fire.

The day on which her sentence was to be carried out was the very last one of the sixth year during which she had neither spoken nor laughed. The six shirts were ready, all except one which wanted the left sleeve. And when she was led out, she carried the six shirts on her arm, and when the fire was about to be kindled, all at once she cried out aloud, for there were six swans coming flying through the air. The swans came close up to her, so that she could throw the shirts over them; and when that had been done the swan-skins fell off, and her brothers stood before her safe and sound; but as one shirt wanted the left sleeve, so the youngest brother had a swan's wing instead of a left arm. They kissed each other, and the queen went up to the king and said:

"Dearest husband, now I may dare to speak and tell you that I am innocent." And she told him how his mother had taken away the three children and hidden them. The wicked woman was burnt to ashes. And the king and queen lived happily many years with their six brothers.





#### JORINDE AND JORINGEL.

**D**IN a castle in the midst of a wood there lived an old Witch all by herself. By day she changed herself into a cat or an owl; but in the evening she resumed her right form. She was able also to stir to set the wild animals and birds, whom she killed, cooked, and ate, and whoever ventured within a hundred steps of her castle was obliged to stand still, and could not stir from the spot until she allowed it; but if a pretty maiden came into the circle the Witch changed her into a bird, and then put her into a basket, which she carried into one of the rooms in the castle; and in this room were already many thousand such baskets of rare birds.

Now there was a young maiden called Jorinde, who was exceedingly pretty, and she was betrothed to a youth named Joringel, and one day they went into the forest for a walk and got lost. Then Jorinde sang,—

\* My little bird, with his ring so red,  
For the turtledove soon will be dead.  
Sing sorrow, and sorrow and woe;  
Oh sorrow, and sorrow—pig, pig, pig.

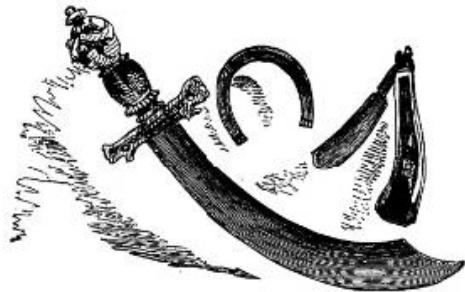
Joringel lifted up his head, and saw Jorinde was changed into a nightingale, which was singing, "Jug, jug, jug," and presently an owl flew round thrice, crying, "Tu wit, tu woe." Joringel could not stir; there he stood like a stone. Meanwhile the sun set, and the owl flying into a bush, out came an ugly old woman. She muttered, and seized the nightingale, and carried it away, while Joringel remained there. At last the Witch returned, and said with a hollow voice, "Greet you, Zanchiel! if the moon shines on your side release this one at once." Then Joringel ~~he~~ ~~was~~ free, and fell down on his knees before the Witch, and begged her to give him back Jorinde; but she refused, and said he should never again have her, and went away. He wept, and groaned, but all to no purpose; and at length he rose and went into a strange village, where for some time he tended sheep. He often went round about the enchanted castle, but never too near, and one night he dreamt he found a blood-red flower, in the middle of which lay a fine pearl, and he thought all he touched with it was free from enchantment.

The next morning he began his search to find such a flower, and at length he discovered it, and in its middle was a large dew-drop. Then he came to the

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castle, and touching the door with his flower it flew open. He entered, and there was the Enchantress feeding the birds in the baskets. As soon as she saw Joringel, she became frightfully enraged, and spat out poison at him, but she dared not come too close. But alas! there were many hundreds of nightingales, and how was he to know his Jorinde? While he was examining them, he saw the old woman taking away one of the baskets, and slipping out of the door. Joringel touched the basket with his flower, and at once Jorinde stood before him, and fell upon his neck, as beautiful as ever. Afterwards he disenchanted all the other birds, and then returned home with his Jorinde, and for many years they lived happily and contentedly.



### THE THREE BROTHERS.

HERE was once a Man whose family consisted of three sons, and his property only of the house in which he dwelt. Now, each of the sons wished to have the house at the death of their father; but they were all so dear to him that he knew not what to do for fear of offending the one or the other. He would have sold the house and shared the money, but it had been so long in his family he did not like to do that. All at once he thought of a plan, and said to his sons, "Go into the world, and each of you learn a trade, and he who makes the best masterpiece shall have my house."

With this plan the sons were contented, and the eldest became a Farrier, the second a Barber, and the third a Fencing-master. They appointed a time when they should all return, and went away; and it so chanced that each happened with a clever master, with whom he could learn his trade in the best manner. The Smith had to shoe the King's horses, and thought he must undoubtedly receive the house. The Barber shaved many distinguished lords, and made sure of getting the house on that account. The Fencing-master got many a blow, but he bit his lip and showed no concern; for he feared if he flinched at any stroke the house would never become his. By-and-by the time came round when they returned home to their father; but they none of them knew how they should find occasion to show their proficiency, and so they all consulted together. While they sat in consultation, a hare came running across the field where they were. "Ah! he comes as if he were called!" cried the Barber; and, taking his soap and basin, he made a lather; and as soon as the hare came up he seized him, and shaved off his mustaches as he ran along, without cutting him in the least, or taking off any unnecessary hairs. "That pleases me very well!" said the father; "and if the others do not do better, the house is yours." In a very short time a carriage, with a traveler in it, came rolling by at full speed. "Now you shall see, father, what I can do!" cried the Farrier; and, seizing the horse's feet as he galloped along, he pulled off the shoes, and shod him again without stopping him. "You are a clever fellow!" cried the father; you have done your work quite as well as your brother, and I shall not know to

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whom to give the house." "Let me show you something!" said the third brother; and, as it just then luckily began to rain, he drew his sword and waved it so quickly above his head that not a drop fell upon him. As soon as the father saw this he was astonished, and said to his son, "You have performed the best masterpiece, the house is yours."

The two other brothers were contented with this decision; and, because they all loved one another, they all three remained in the house driving their several trades; and as they were so clever, and were so advanced in their arts, they earned much money. Thus they lived happily together till their old age, and when one fell sick and died, his brothers grieved so for his loss, that they fell sick also and died.



## •THE ALMOND TREE•



LONG time ago, there was a rich man, and he had a beautiful and pious wife, and they loved each other very much, and they had no children, though they wished greatly for some, and the wife prayed for one day and night. Now, in the courtyard stood an almond tree; and one day in winter the wife was standing beneath it, paring an apple, and she cut her finger, and the blood fell upon the snow.

"Ah," said the woman, sighing deeply, and looking down at the blood, "if only I could have a child as red as blood, and as white as snow!"

And as she said these words, her heart suddenly grew light, and she felt sure she should have her wish.

And when the snow was gone and the almond tree had blossomed and borne fruit, she bore a child as white as snow and as red as blood, and when she saw it her joy was so great that she died.

Her husband buried her under the almond tree, and he wept sore; time passed, and he became less sad; and after he had grieved a little more he left off, and then he took another wife.

His second wife bore him a daughter. Whenever the wife looked at her daughter she felt great love for her, but whenever she looked at the little boy, evil thoughts came into her heart, of how she could get all her husband's money for her daughter, and how the boy stood in the way. And so she took great hatred to him, and drove him from one corner to another, and gave him a buffet here and a cuff there, so that the poor child was always in disgrace. When he came back after school hours there was no peace for him.

Once, when the wife went into the room upstairs, her little daughter followed her, and said, "Mother, give me an apple."

"Yes, my child," said the mother, and gave her a fine apple out of the chest, and the chest had a great heavy lid with a strong iron lock.

"Mother," said the little girl, "shall not my brother have one too?"

That was what the mother expected, and she said:

"Yes, when he comes back from school."

And when she saw from the window that he was coming, an evil thought crossed her mind, and she snatched the apple, and took it from her little daughter.

Then she threw the apple into the chest, and shut to the lid. Then the



"KYWITT, KYWITT, KYWITT, I CRY,  
OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BIG BIRD!"

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little boy came in at the door, and she said to him in a kind tone, but with evil looks, " My son, will you have an apple ? "

" Mother," said the boy, " how terrible you look ! yes, give me an apple ! "

Then she spoke as kindly as before, holding up the cover of the chest. " Come here and take one out for yourself."

And as the boy was stooping over the open chest, crash went the lid down, so that his head flew off among the red apples. But then the woman felt great terror, and wondered how she could escape the blame. And she went to the chest of drawers in her bedroom and took a white handkerchief out of the nearest drawer, and fitting the head to the neck, she bound them with the handkerchief, so that nothing should be seen, and set him on a chair before the door with the apple in his hand.

Then came little Marjory into the kitchen to her mother, who was standing before the fire stirring a pot of hot water.

" Mother," said Marjory, " my brother is sitting before the door, and he has an apple in his hand, and looks very pale ; I asked him to give me the apple, but he did not answer me ; it seems very strange."

" Go again to him," said the mother, " and if he will not answer you, give him a box on the ear."

So Marjory went again and said, " Brother, give me the apple."

But as he took no notice, she gave him a box on the ear, and his head fell off, at which she was greatly terrified, and ran to her mother, and said : " O mother ! I have knocked my brother's head off !" and cried and screamed, and would not cease.

" O Marjory ! " said her mother, " what have you done ? but keep quiet, that no one may see there is anything the matter ; it can't be helped now."

When the father came home and sat down, he said, " Where is my son ? "

But the mother was filling a great dish full of black broth, and Marjory was crying bitterly. Then the father said again, " Where is my son ? "

" Oh," said the mother, " he is gone into the country to his great-uncle's."

" What should he go for ? " said the father, " and without bidding me good-bye, too ! "

" Oh, he wanted to go so much, and he asked me to let him stay there six weeks : he will be well taken care of."

" Dear me," said the father, " I am quite sad about it ; it was not right of him to go without bidding me good-bye."

With that he began to eat, saying, " Marjory, what are you crying for."

After a while he said, " The food is very good ; give me some more."

And the more he ate the more he wanted, until he had eaten it all up, and he threw the bones under the table. Then Marjory went to her chest of drawers, and took one of her best handkerchiefs, and picked up all the bones from under the table and tied them up in her handkerchief, and went out at the door crying bitterly. She laid them in the green grass under the almond tree, and immediately her heart grew light again, and she wept no more. Then the almond tree began to wave to and fro, then a cloud rose from the tree, and in

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the midst of the cloud there burned a fire, and out of the fire a beautiful bird arose, and, singing most sweetly, soared high into the air. And when he had flown away, the almond tree remained as it was before, but the handkerchief full of bones was gone. Marjory felt quite glad and light-hearted, just as if her brother were still alive. So she went back into the house and had her dinner.

The bird, when it flew away, perched on the roof of a goldsmith's house, and began to sing :

"It was my mother who murdered me ; It was my father who ate of me ; It was my sister Marjory Who all my bones in pieces found ;	Them in a handkerchief she bound, And laid them under the almond tree. Kywitt, kywitt, kywitt, I cry, Oh, what a beautiful bird am I !"
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The goldsmith was sitting in his shop making a golden chain, and when he heard the bird, who was sitting on his roof and singing, he started up to go and look, and as he passed over his threshold he lost one of his slippers. And he went into the middle of the street with a slipper on one foot and only a sock on the other, with his apron on, and the gold chain in one hand and the pincers in the other; and so he stood in the sunshine looking up at the bird.

"Bird," said he, "how beautiful you sing! Do sing that piece over again."

"No," said the bird, "I do not sing for nothing twice."

"Very well," said the goldsmith, "here is the gold chain."

Down came the bird and took the gold chain in his right claw, and perched in front of the goldsmith and sang,

"It was my mother who murdered me ; It was my father who ate of me ; It was my sister Marjory Who all my bones in pieces found ;	Them in a handkerchief she bound, And laid them under the almond tree. Kywitt, kywitt, kywitt, I cry, Oh, what a beautiful bird am I !"
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Then the bird flew to a shoemaker's, and perched on his roof, and sang the same song.

When the shoemaker heard, he ran out of his door in his shirt sleeves and looked up at the roof of his house, holding his hand to shade his eyes from the sun. "Bird," said he, "how beautiful you sing!"

Then he called in at his door:

"Wife, come out directly; here is a bird singing beautifully; only listen."

Then he called his daughter, all his children and acquaintance, both young men and maidens, and they came up the street and gazed on the bird, and saw how beautiful it was with red and green feathers, and round its throat was as it were gold, and its eyes twinkled in its head like stars.

"Bird," said the shoemaker, "do sing that piece over again."

"No," said the bird, "I may not sing for nothing twice."

"Wife," said the man, "go into the shop; on the top shelf stands a pair of red shoes, bring them here."

So the wife went and brought the red shoes.

"Now, bird," said the man, "sing us that piece again."

And the bird came down and took the shoes in his left claw, and flew up again to the roof, and sang:



#### THE ALMOND TREE.

“ It was my mother who murdered me;  
It was my sister Marjory  
Who all my bones in pieces found;  
Them in a handkerchief she bound.”

THE ALMOND TREE

"It was my mother who murdered me ; It was my father who ate of me ; It was my sister Marjory Who all my bones in pieces found ;	Them in a handkerchief she bound, And laid them under the almond tree. Kywitt, kywitt, kywitt, I cry, Oh, what a beautiful bird am I ! "
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And when he had finished he flew away, with the chain in his right claw and the shoes in his left claw, and he flew till he reached a mill, and the mill went "clip clap, clip-clap, clip-clap." And in the mill sat twenty millers' men hewing a millstone—"hick-hack, hick-hack, hick-hack." And the bird sang the same words. At the first line one of the men looked up.

At the second two more looked up and listened.

At the third line four more looked up.

And they listened one after the other, till at length the last one left off, and he only heard the end.

"Bird," said he, "how beautifully you sing! let me hear it all."

"No," said the bird, "I may not sing it twice for nothing; if you will give me the millstone I will sing it again."

"Indeed," said the man, "if it belonged to me alone you should have it."

"All right," said the others, "if he sings again he shall have it."

Then the bird came down, and all the twenty millers heaved up the stone with poles—"yo! heave-ho! yo! heave-ho!" and the bird stuck his head through the hole in the middle, and with the millstone round his neck he sang it all through again.

And when he had finished, he spread his wings, having in his right claw the chain, and in the left claw the shoes, and round his neck the millstone, and he flew away to his father's house.

In the parlor sat the father, the mother, and Marjory at the table. The father said: "How light-hearted and cheerful I feel!"

"Nay," said the mother, "I feel very low, just as if a great storm were coming." But Marjory sat weeping.

"Oh," said the father, "I feel so joyful, and the sun is shining so bright; it is as if I were going to meet with an old friend."

"Nay," said the wife, "I am terrified; my teeth chatter, and there is fire in my veins." And Marjory sat in the corner and wept. Then the bird sang:

"It was my mother who murdered me ;"

And the mother stopped her ears and hid her eyes, and would neither see nor hear; nevertheless, the noise of the fearful storm was in her ears.

"It was my father who ate of me ;"

"Oh!" said the father, "there is a beautiful bird singing so finely, and the sun shines, and everything smells as sweet as cinnamon."

"It was my sister Marjory  
Who all my bones in pieces found ;"

Marjory hid her face in her lap, and wept, and the father said:  
"I must go out to see the bird."

"Oh do not go!" said the wife, "I feel as if the house were on fire."

THE ALMOND TREE.

But the man went out and looked at the bird.

" Them in a handkerchief she bound, | Kywitt, kywitt, kywitt, I cry,  
And laid them under the almond tree. | Oh what a beautiful bird am I ! "

With that the bird let fall the gold chain upon his father's neck, and it fitted him exactly. So he went indoors and said :

" Look what a beautiful chain the bird has given me."

Then his wife was so terrified that she fell on the floor. Then the bird began again to sing,

" It was my mother who murdered me ; "

" Oh," groaned the mother, " that I were a thousand fathoms under ground, so as not to be obliged to hear it."

" It was my father who ate of me ; "

Then the woman lay as if she were dead.

" It was my sister Marjory "

" Oh," said Marjory, " I will go out, too, and see if the bird will give me anything." And so she went.

" Who all my bones in pieces found ;  
Them in a handkerchief she bound,"

Then he threw the shoes down to her.

" And laid them under the almond tree.  
Kywitt, kywitt, kywitt, I cry,  
Oh what a beautiful bird am I ! "

And poor Marjory all at once felt happy and joyful, and put on her red shoes, and danced and jumped for joy.

" Oh dear," said she, " I felt so sad before I went outside, and now my heart is so light! He is a charming bird to have given me a pair of red shoes."

But the mother's hair stood on end, and looked like flame, and she said :

" Even if the world is coming to an end, I must go out for a little relief."

Just as she came outside the door, crash went the millstone on her head, and crushed her flat. The father and daughter rushed out, and saw smoke and flames of fire rise up; but when that had gone by, there stood the little brother. And he took his father and Marjory by the hand, and they felt very happy and content, and went indoors, and sat to the table, and had their dinner.





## \*THE ROBEER BRIDECROOM\*



HERE was once a miller who had a beautiful daughter, and when she was grown up he became anxious that she should be well married and taken care of ; so he thought—

“ If a decent sort of man comes and asks her in marriage, I will give her to him.”

Soon after a suitor came forward who seemed very well to do, and as the miller knew nothing to his disadvantage, he promised him his daughter. But the girl did not seem to love him as a bride should love her bridegroom ; she had no confidence in him ; as often as she saw him or thought about him, she felt a chill at her heart. One day he said to her :

“ You are to be my bride, and yet you have never been to see me.”

The girl answered :

“ I do not know where your house is.”

Then he said :

“ My house is a long way in the wood.”

She began to make excuses, and said she could not find the way to it ; but the bridegroom said :

“ You must come and pay me a visit next Sunday ; I have already invited company, and I will strew ashes on the path through the wood, so that you will be sure to find it.”

When Sunday came, and the girl set out on her way, she felt very uneasy without knowing exactly why ; and she filled both pockets full of peas and lentils. There were ashes strewed on the path through the wood, but, nevertheless at each step she cast to the right and left a few peas on the ground. So she went on the whole day until she came to the middle of the wood, where it was the darkest, and there stood a lonely house, not pleasant in her eyes, for it was dismal and unhomelike. She walked in, but there was no one there, and the greatest stillness reigned. Suddenly she heard a voice cry :

“ Turn back, turn back, thou pretty bride,  
Within this house thou must not bide,  
For here do evil things bode.”



THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM.

The girl glanced round, and perceived that the voice came from a bird who was hanging in a cage by the wall. And again it cried :

" Turn back, turn back, thou pretty bride,  
Within this house thou must not bide,  
For here do evil things betide."

Then the pretty bride went on from one room into another through the whole house, but it was quite empty, and no soul to be found in it.

At last she reached the cellar, and there sat a very old woman nodding her head.

" Can you tell me," said the bride, " if my bridegroom lives here ? "

" Oh, poor child," answered the old woman, " do you know what has happened to you ? You are in a place of cut-throats. You thought you were a bride, and soon to be married, but death will be your spouse. Look here, I have a great kettle of water to set on, and when once they have you in their power they will cut you in pieces without mercy, cook you, and eat you, for they are cannibals. Unless I have pity on you, and save you, all is over with you ! "

Then the old woman hid her behind a great cask, where she could not be seen.

" Be as still as a mouse," said she ; " do not move or go away, or else you are lost. At night when the robbers are asleep, we will escape. I have been waiting a long time for an opportunity."

No sooner was it settled than the wicked gang entered the house. They brought another young woman with them, dragging her along, and they were drunk, and would not listen to her cries and groans. They gave her wine to drink, three glasses full, one of white wine, one of red, and one of yellow, and then they cut her in pieces. The poor bride all the while shaking and trembling when she saw what a fate the robbers had intended for her.

One of them noticed on the little finger of their victim a golden ring, and as he could not draw it off easily, he took an axe and chopped it off, but the finger jumped away, and fell behind the cask on the bride's lap. The robber took up a light to look for it, but he could not find it. Then said one of the others :

" Have you looked behind the great cask ? "

But the old woman cried,

" Come to supper, and leave off looking till to-morrow ; the finger cannot run away."

Then the robbers said the old woman was right, and they left off searching, and sat down to eat, and the old woman dropped some sleeping stuff into their wine, so that before long they stretched themselves on the cellar floor, sleeping and snoring.

When the bride heard that, she came from behind the cask, and had to make her way among the sleepers lying all about the ground, and she felt very much afraid lest she might awaken any of them. But by good luck she passed

THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM.

through, and the old woman with her, and they opened the door, and they made all haste to leave that house of murderers.

The wind had carried away the ashes from the path, but the peas and lentils had budded and sprung up, and the moonshine upon them showed the way. And they went on through the night till in the morning they reached the mill. Then the girl related to her father all that had happened to her.

When the wedding-day came, the friends and neighbors assembled, the miller having invited them, and the bridegroom also appeared. When they were all seated at table, each one had to tell a story. But the bride sat still, and said nothing; till at last the bridegroom said to her :

"Now, sweetheart, do you know no story? Tell us something."  
She answered :

"I will tell you my dream. I was going alone through a wood, and I came at last to a house in which there was no living soul, but by the wall was a bird in a cage, who cried :

"Turn back, turn back, thou pretty bride,  
Within this house thou must not bide,  
For evil things do here betide."

"And then again it said it. Sweetheart, the dream is not ended. Then I went through all the rooms, and they were all empty, and it was so lonely and wretched. At last I went down into the cellar, and there sat an old woman, nodding her head. I asked her if my bridegroom lived in that house, and she answered, 'Ah, poor child, you have come into a place of cut-throats; your bridegroom does live here, but he will kill you and cut you in pieces, and then cook and eat you.' Sweetheart, the dream is not ended. But the old woman hid me behind a great cask, and no sooner had she done so than the robbers came home, dragging with them a young woman, and they gave her to drink wine thrice, white, red, and yellow. Sweetheart, the dream is not yet ended. And then they killed her, and cut her in pieces. Sweetheart, my dream is not yet ended. And one of the robbers saw a gold ring on the finger of the young woman, and as it was difficult to get off, he took an axe and chopped off the finger, which jumped upwards, and then fell behind the great cask on my lap. And here is the finger with the ring!"

At these words she drew it forth, and showed it to the company.

The robber, who during the story had grown deadly white, sprang up, and would have escaped, but the folks held him fast, and delivered him up to justice. And he and his whole gang were, for their evil deeds, condemned and executed.





## THE ELVES

### I.



HERE was once a shoemaker, who, through no fault of his own, became so poor that at last he had nothing left but just enough leather to make one pair of shoes. He cut out the shoes at night, so as to set to work upon them next morning; and he laid himself quietly down in his bed and fell asleep. In the morning he found the pair of shoes made and finished, and standing on his table.

Soon after a purchaser entered, and as the shoes fitted him well, he gave more than the usual price for them, so that the shoemaker had enough money to buy leather for two more pairs of shoes. He cut them out at night, and when he got up they were already finished, and a customer even was not lacking, who gave him so much morey that he was able to buy leather enough for four new pairs. Early next morning he found the four pairs also finished; and so it always happened, whatever he cut out in the evening was worked up by the morning, so that he was soon in the way of making a good living, and in the end became very well to do.

One night he said to his wife : "How would it be if we were to sit up to-night and see who it is that does us this service?"

His wife agreed, and set a light to burn. Then they both hid in a corner of the room, behind some coats that were hanging up, and began to watch. As soon as it was midnight, they saw come in two neatly formed naked little men, who took up the work, and began to stitch, to pierce, and to hammer, cleverly and quickly. And they never left off until everything was finished, and then they jumped up and ran off.

The next morning the wife said to her husband : "They must be very cold ; I will make little shirts, coats, waistcoats, and breeches for them, and knit each of them a pair of stockings, and you shall make each of them a pair of shoes."

The husband consented, and at night they laid the gifts on the table, instead of the cut-out work, and placed themselves so that they could observe how the little men would behave. At midnight they rushed in, ready to set to work, but when they found, instead of the pieces of prepared leather, the neat little garments put ready for them, they stood a moment in surprise, and then

they testified the greatest delight. With the greatest swiftness they took up the pretty garments and slipped them on, singing:

"What spruce and dandy boys are we!  
No longer cobblers we will be."

Then they hopped and danced about, jumping over the chairs and tables, and at last they danced out at the door.

From that time they were never seen again; but it always went well with the shoemaker as long as he lived, and whatever he took in hand prospered.

## II.



HERE was once a poor servant maid, who swept down the house every day, and put the sweepings on a great heap by the door. One morning she found a letter, and it was an invitation from the elves to come and stand godmother to one of their children. As she was told that no one ought to refuse the elves anything, she made up her mind to go. So there came three little elves, who conducted her into the middle of a high mountain, where the little people lived. Here everything was of a very small size, but more fine and elegant than can be told. So the maid stood godmother, and was then for going home, but the elves begged her to stay at least three more days with them; and so she consented, and spent the time in mirth and jollity. Then they filled her pockets full of gold, and led her back again out of the mountain. When she got back to the house she was going to begin working again, and took her broom in her hand—it was still standing in the corner where she had left it—and began to sweep. Then came up some strangers and asked her who she was, and what she was doing. And she found that instead of three days she had been seven years with the elves in the mountain, and during that time her master and mistress had died.





“THEN THE GIRL WENT BACK AGAIN  
TO THE WELL AND DRAWING WATER  
TOOK AND IN THAT DUSTY BOTTLE OF HER  
HORN SPUN IT DOWN INTO  
THE WELL. THE SAME DAY THE  
SPINNING HAD GONE.”



## MOTHER HULDA.



WIDOW had two daughters ; one was pretty and industrious the other was ugly and lazy. As the ugly one was her own daughter, the pretty one was made to do all the work. Every day the poor girl had to sit by a well and spin until her fingers bled. As the spindle was bloody, she dipped it into the well to wash it ; but it slipped out of her hand and fell in. Her step-mother scolded her without mercy.

Then the girl went back again, and in despair jumped down into the well. After that she knew nothing ; and when she came to herself she was in a beautiful meadow. And she walked on through the meadow until she came to a baker's oven that was full of bread ; and the bread called out to her :

"Oh, take me out, take me out ; I am baked enough already !"

Then she took out all the loaves one after the other. And she went on till she came to a tree weighed down with apples, and it called out to her, " Oh, shake me, shake me, we apples are all of us ripe ! "

Then she shook the tree until there were no more apples to fall ; and gathered them in a heap, and went on further. At last she came to a little house, and an old woman was peeping out of it, but she had such great teeth that the girl was terrified and about to run away, only the old woman said,

"Come and live with me, and if you do the house-work well, things shall go well with you. You must make my bed well, and shake it up so that the feathers fly about, and then in the world it snows, for I am Mother Hulda."

As the old woman spoke so kindly, the girl took courage, and went to her work. She did everything to the old woman's satisfaction, and shook the bed with such a will that the feathers flew about like snow-flakes ; and so she led a good life, had never a cross word, but boiled and roast meat every day. When she had lived a long time with Mother Hulda, she became homesick, although she was a thousand times better off where she was.

So Mother Hulda took her by the hand and led her to a large door standing open, and as she was passing through it there fell upon her a heavy shower of gold, and the gold hung all about her, so that she was covered with it.

"All this is yours because you have been so industrious," said Mother Hulda. And then the door was shut again, and the girl found herself not far from her mother's house ; and as she passed through the yard the cock cried :

MOTHER HULDA.

"Cock-a-doodle doo ! Our golden girl has come home too !"

As she had returned covered with gold she was well received.

So the girl told what had happened to her, and when the mother heard it she began to wish that her idle daughter might have the same good fortune. So she sent her to sit by the well and spin ; and she threw the spindle into the well, and jumped in herself. She found herself, like her sister, in the beautiful meadow, and when she came to the baker's oven, the bread cried out :

"Oh, take me out, take me out, or I shall burn ; I am quite done already!"

But the lazy bones answered : "I have no desire to black my hands," and went on farther. Soon she came to the apple tree, who called out :

"Oh, shake me, shake me, we apples are all of us ripe !"

But she answered, "Suppose one of you should fall on my head." When she came to Mother Hulda's house she did not feel afraid, as she knew beforehand of her great teeth, and entered into her service at once. The first day she did everything Mother Hulda bade her, because of the gold she expected ; but the second day she began to be idle, and the third day still more so, so that she would not get up in the morning. Neither did she make Mother Hulda's bed as it ought to have been made, and did not shake it for the feathers to fly about. So that Mother Hulda soon grew tired of her, and gave her warning, at which the lazy thing was well pleased, and thought that now the shower of gold was coming ; so Mother Hulda led her to the door, and instead of the shower of gold a great kettle of pitch was emptied over her.

So the lazy girl came home all covered with pitch, and the cock cried :

"Cock-a-doodle doo ! Our dirty girl has come home too !"

And the pitch remained sticking to her fast, and never could it be got off.





"THEY DIVIDED THE APPLE OF  
LIFE AND ATE IT TOGETHER."



## \*THE WHITE SNAKE,



LONG time ago there lived a king whose wisdom was noised abroad in all the country. Nothing remained long unknown to him, and it was as if the knowledge of hidden things was brought to him in the air. However, he had one curious custom. Every day at dinner, after the table had been cleared and every one gone away, a trusty servant had to bring in one other dish. But it was covered up, and the servant himself did not know what was in it, and no one else knew, for the king waited until he was quite alone before he uncovered it. This had gone on a long time, but at last there came a day when the servant could restrain his curiosity no longer, but as he was carrying the dish away he took it into his own room. As soon as he had fastened the door securely, he lifted the cover, and there he saw a white snake lying on the dish. After seeing it he could not resist the desire to taste it, and so he cut off a small piece and put it in his mouth. As soon as it touched his tongue he heard outside his window a strange chorus of delicate voices. He went and listened, and found that it was the sparrows talking together, and telling each other all they had seen in the fields and woods. The virtue of the snake had given him power to understand the speech of animals.

Now it happened one day that the queen lost her most splendid ring, and suspicion fell upon the trusty servant, who had the general superintendence, and he was accused of stealing it. The king summoned him to his presence, and after many reproaches told him that if by the next day he was not able to name the thief, he should be considered guilty, and punished. It was in vain that he protested his innocence; he could get no better sentence. In his uneasiness and anxiety he went out into the courtyard, and began to consider what he could do in so great a necessity. There sat the ducks by the running water and rested themselves, and plumed themselves with their flat bills, and held a comfortable chat. The servant stayed where he was and listened to them. They told how they had waddled about all yesterday morning and found good food; and then one of them said pitifully :

"Something lies very heavy in my craw,—it is the ring that was lying under the queen's window; I swallowed it down in too great a hurry."

Then the servant seized her by the neck, took her into the kitchen, and said to the cook, "Kill this one, she is quite ready for cooking."

THE WHITE SNAKE.

"Yes," said the cook, weighing it in her hand, "there will be no trouble of fattening this one—it has been ready ever so long."

She then slit up its neck; and when it was opened the queen's ring was found in its craw. The servant could now clearly prove his innocence, and in order to make up for the injustice he had suffered the king permitted him to ask some favor for himself, and also promised him the place of greatest honor in the royal household.

But the servant refused it, and only asked for a horse and money for traveling, for he had a fancy to see the world, and look about him a little. So his request was granted, and he set out on his way; and one day he came to a pool of water, by which he saw three fishes who had got entangled in the rushes, and were panting for water. Although fishes are usually considered dumb creatures, he understood very well their lament that they were to perish so miserably; and as he had a compassionate heart he dismounted from his horse, and put the three fishes back again into the water. They quivered all over with joy, stretched out their heads, and called out to him :

"We will remember and reward thee, because thou hast delivered us." He rode on, and after a while he heard a small voice come up from the sand underneath his horse's feet. He listened, and heard an ant-king complain :

"If only these men would keep off, with their great awkward beasts! Here comes this stupid horse treading down my people with his hard hoofs!"

The man then turned his horse to the side-path, and the ant-king called out to him : "We will remember and reward thee."

The path led him through a wood, and there he saw a father-raven and mother-raven standing by their nests and throwing their young ones out.

"Off with you! young gallows birds!" cried they; "we cannot stuff you any more; you are big enough to fend for yourselves!" The poor young ravens lay on the ground, fluttering, and crying :

"We are poor, helpless things, we cannot fend for ourselves, we cannot even fly! we can only die of hunger!"

Then the kind young man dismounted, killed his horse with his dagger, and left it to the young ravens for food. They came hopping up, feasted away at it, and cried: "We will remember and reward thee!"

So now he had to use his own legs, and when he had gone a long way he came to a great town. There was much noise and thronging in the streets, and there came a man on a horse, who proclaimed: "The King's daughter seeks a husband, but he who wishes to marry her must perform a difficult task, and if he cannot carry it through successfully he must lose his life."

Many had already tried, but had lost their lives in vain. The young man, when he saw the King's daughter, was so dazzled by her great beauty that he forgot all danger, went to the King, and offered himself as a wooer.

Then he was led to the sea-side, and a gold ring was thrown into the water before his eyes. Then the King told him that he must fetch the ring up again from the bottom of the sea, saying: "If you come back without it, you shall be put under the waves again and again, until you are drowned."

THE WHITE SNAKE.

As he was standing on the shore and thinking of what he should do there came the three fishes whom he had set free. One had a mussel in his mouth, and he laid it at the young man's feet ; and when he took it up there was the gold ring inside ! Full of joy, he carried it to the King ; but the King's daughter, proud of her high birth, despised him. She went into the garden, and strewed about ten sacks full of millet seed.

" By the time the sun rises in the morning you must have picked up all these," she said ; " and not a grain must be wanting."

The young man sat down in the garden, feeling very sorrowful, and expecting to be led to death at break of day. But the ant-king arrived in the night with his thousands of ants, and the grateful creatures picked up all the millet seed and filled the sacks. The King's daughter came into the garden and saw it with astonishment. But she said :

" Although he has completed the two tasks, he shall not be my bridegroom unless he brings me an apple from the tree of life."

The young man did not know where the tree of life was to be found, but he set out and went on and on. When he had gone through three kingdoms, he came one evening to a wood, and seated himself under a tree to go to sleep ; but he heard a rustling in the boughs, and a golden apple fell into his hand. Immediately three ravens flew towards him, perched on his knee, and said :

" We are the three young ravens that you delivered from starving ; when we grew big, and heard that you were seeking the golden apple, we flew over the sea to the tree of life, and we fetched the apple."

Full of joy, the young man brought the golden apple to the King's beautiful daughter, who was without any further excuse.





#### THE OLD WOMAN IN THE WOOD.

**N**CE upon a time a poor Servant Girl was traveling with her boxes through a wood, and a band of robbers sprang out of the brushwood ; but she jumped out of her cart and hid herself behind a tree. As soon as the robbers had disappeared with their booty, she began to cry bitterly, and said to herself : " What shall I do now ? I cannot find my way out of the wood, and I must perish with hunger ! " When evening came, she sat down under a tree. Then a little White Pigeon came flying towards her, carrying in his beak a small golden key. The bird put the key into her hand, and said, " Do you see yon great tree ? within it is a cupboard, and there you will find food enough." The girl went to the tree, and unlocking it, found pure milk in a jug, and white bread, and of these she made a good meal. When she had finished, she said to herself, " I am so tired I should like to go to bed." In a moment the Pigeon flew up, bringing another gold key, and said : " Do you see yon tree ? open it and you will find a bed ! " She opened it, and there stood the little white bed ; and, after saying her prayers, she went to sleep. In the morning the Pigeon came bringing another key, with which he told the girl to open a certain tree. When she did so, she found dresses of all kinds, as beautiful as any princess could desire. And the Pigeon every day brought her what she needed.

One day, however, the Pigeon came and asked the Maiden whether she would do an act of love for him. " With all my heart ! " was her reply. " I wish you then," said the Pigeon, " to come with me to a little cottage, and in it, on the hearth, you will see an old Woman, who will say, ' Good-day ! ' But for my sake, give her no answer ; but go past her right hand, and into a room, where upon a table will lie a number of rings, and among them several with glittering stones ; but leave them alone, and look out a plain one which will be there, and bring it to me as quickly as possible."

The Maiden thereupon went to the cottage, and stepped in ; and there sat an old Woman who made a great face when she saw her, but said, " Good-day, my child ! " The Maiden made no answer, but went towards the door. " Whither are you going ? " cried the old Woman, and she tried to detain the Maiden. But she went into the room and saw the heap of rings upon the table. She searched, for the plain ring, but could not find it ; and while she searched, she saw the old Woman slip in and take up a bird-cage, with which she made off. So the Maid pursued her, and saw the ring in the bill of the

THE OLD WOMAN IN THE WOOD.



bird. She took the ring and ran back. She leaned herself back against her tree and waited for the Pigeon; but presently the tree became, as it were, weak and yielding, and its branches began to droop. All at once the boughs bent round, and became two arms; and as the Maiden turned round, the tree became a handsome man, who embraced and kissed her, saying, "You have saved me out of the power of the old Woman, who is an evil witch. She changed me into a tree a long while ago, and every day I became a White Pigeon for two hours; but so long as she had possession of the ring, I could not regain my human form." And his servants and horses recovered also, for they likewise had been changed into trees; and they accompanied their master to his kingdom (for he was a King's son), and there he married the Maiden, and they lived happily ever afterwards.



## RAPUNZEL.



HERE once lived a man and his wife, who had long wished for a child, but in vain. Now there was at the back of their house a little window which overlooked a beautiful garden full of the finest vegetables and flowers; but there was a high wall all round it, and no one ventured into it, for it belonged to a witch of great might, and of whom all the world was afraid.

One day that the wife was standing at the window, and looking into the garden, she saw a bed filled with the finest rampion; and it looked so fresh and green that she began to wish for some; and at length she longed for it greatly.

This went on for days, and as she knew she could not get the rampion, she pined away, and grew pale and miserable. Then the man was uneasy, and asked:

"What is the matter, dear wife?"

"Oh," answered she, "I shall die unless I can have some of that rampion to eat that grows in the garden at the back of our house." The man, who loved her very much, thought to himself :

"Rather than lose my wife I will get some rampion, cost what it will."

So in the twilight, he climbed over the wall into the witch's garden, plucked hastily a handful of rampion and brought it to his wife. She made a salad of it at once, and ate of it to her heart's content. But she liked it so much, and it tasted so good, that the next day she longed for it thrice as much as she had done before; if she was to have any rest the man must climb over the wall once more. So he went in the twilight again; and as he was climbing back, he saw, all at once, the witch standing before him, and was terribly frightened, as she cried, with angry eyes :

"How dare you climb over into my garden like a thief, and steal my rampion! It shall be the worse for you!"

"Oh," answered he, "be merciful rather than just. I have only done it through necessity; for my wife saw your rampion out of the window, and became possessed with so great a longing, that she would have died if she could not have had some to eat." Then the witch said :

"If it is all as you say you may have as much rampion as you like, on one



RAPUNZEL.

condition—the child that will come into the world must be given to me. It shall go well with the child, and I will care for it like a mother."

In his distress of mind the man promised everything; and when the time came when the child was born, the witch appeared, and, giving the child the name of Rapunzel (which is the same as rampion), she took it away with her.

Rapunzel was the most beautiful child in the world. When she was twelve years old, the witch shut her up in a tower in the midst of a wood, and it had neither steps nor door, only a small window above. When the witch wished to be let in, she would stand below and would cry:

"Rapunzel, Rapunzel! let down your hair!"

Rapunzel had long, beautiful hair that shone like gold. When she heard the voice of the witch, she would undo the fastenings of the upper window, unbind the plaits of her hair, and let it down twenty ells below, and the witch would climb up by it.

After they had lived thus a few years it happened that as the King's son was riding through the wood, he came to the tower; and as he drew near he heard a voice singing so sweetly that he stood still and listened. It was Rapunzel, in her loneliness trying to pass away the time in sweet songs. The King's son wished to go in to her, and sought to find a door in the tower, but there was none. So he rode home, but the song had entered into his heart, and every day he went into the wood and listened to it. Once, as he was standing there under a tree, he saw the witch come up, and listened while she called out:

"O Rapunzel, Rapunzel! let down your hair."

Then he saw how Rapunzel let down her long tresses, and how the witch climbed up by them, and went in to her, and he said to himself:

"Since that is the ladder, I will climb it, and seek my fortune." And the next day, as soon as it began to grow dusk, he went to the tower and cried:

"O Rapunzel, Rapunzel! let down your hair."

And she let down her hair, and the King's son climbed up by it.

Rapunzel was greatly terrified when she saw that a man had come in to her, for she had never seen one before; but the King's son began speaking so kindly to her, and told how her singing had entered into his heart, so that he could have no peace until he had seen her himself.

Then Rapunzel forgot her terror, and when he asked her to take him for her husband, and she saw that he was young and beautiful, she thought to herself:

"I certainly like him much better than old mother Gothel," and she put her hand into his hand, saying:

"I would willingly go with thee, but I do not know how I shall get out. When thou comest, bring each time a silken rope, and I will make a ladder, and when it is quite ready, I will get down by it out of the tower, and thou shalt take me away on thy horse." They agreed that he should come to her every evening, as the old woman came in the day-time. So the witch knew nothing of all this, until once Rapunzel said to her unwittingly:



RAPUNZEL.

"O, RAPUNZEL, let down your hair;  
From the window let it fall;  
Then by the tresses strong and fair,  
I can climb the castle wall."

RAPUNZEL.

"Mother Gothel, how is it that you climb up here so slowly, and the King's son is with me in a moment?"

"O wicked child," cried the witch, "what is this I hear! I thought I had hidden thee from all the world, and thou hast betrayed me!"

In her anger, she seized Rapunzel by her beautiful hair, struck her several times with her left hand, and then grasping a pair of shears in her right snip, snap—the beautiful locks lay on the ground.

And she was so hard-hearted that she took Rapunzel and put her in a waste and desert place, where she lived in great woe and misery.

The same day on which she took Rapunzel away, she went back to the tower in the evening and made fast the several locks of hair to the window-hasp, and the King's son came and cried:

"Rapunzel, Rapunzel! let down your hair."

Then she let the hair down, and the king's son climbed up, but instead of his dearest Rapunzel he found the witch looking at him with wicked glittering eyes.

"Aha!" cried she, mocking him, "you came for your darling, but the sweet bird sits no longer in the nest, and sings no more; the cat has got her, and will scratch out your eyes as well! Rapunzel is lost to you; you will see her no more."

The King's son was beside himself with grief, and in his agony he sprang from the tower. He escaped with life, but the thorns on which he fell put out his eyes.

Then he wandered blind through the wood, eating nothing but roots and berries, and doing nothing but lament and weep for the loss of his dearest wife.

So he wandered several years in misery, until at last he came to the desert place where Rapunzel lived with her twin-children that she had borne, a boy and a girl.

At first he heard a voice that he thought he knew, and when he reached the place from which it seemed to come Rapunzel, knew him, and fell on his neck and wept. And when her tears touched his eyes they became clear again, and he could see with them as well as ever.

Then he took her to his kingdom, where he was received with great joy, and there they lived long and happily.





### "THE THREE SPINSTERS"



HERE was once a girl who was lazy and would not spin, and her mother could not persuade her to it, do what she would. At last the mother became angry, and gave her a good beating, so that she cried out loudly. At that moment the Queen was going by. As she heard the crying she stopped, and, going into the house, she asked the mother why she was beating her daughter so that every one outside in the street could hear her cries.

The woman was ashamed to tell of her daughter's laziness, so she said :  
"I cannot stop her from spinning ; she is for ever at it, and I am poor and cannot furnish her with flax enough."

Then the Queen answered :

"I like nothing better than the sound of the spinning-wheel, and always feel happy when I hear its humming; let me take your daughter with me to the castle. I have plenty of flax, she shall spin there to her heart's content."

The mother was only too glad of the offer, and the Queen took the girl with her. When they reached the castle, the Queen showed her three rooms which were filled with the finest flax as full as they could hold.

"Now you can spin me this flax," said she, "and when you can show it me all done you shall have my eldest son for bridegroom. You may be poor, but I make nothing of that—your industry is dowry enough."

The girl was terrified, for she could not have spun the flax even if she were to live to be a hundred years old, and were to sit spinning every day of her life from morning to evening. And when she found herself alone, she began to weep, and sat so for three days without putting her hand to it. On the third day the Queen came, and when she saw that nothing had been done of the spinning, she was much surprised; but the girl excused herself by saying that she had not been able to begin because of the distress she was in at leaving her home and her mother. The excuse contented the Queen, who said, however, as she went away: "To-morrow you must begin to work."

When the girl found herself alone again, she went and gazed out of the window. There she saw three women passing by, and the first of them had a broad flat foot, the second had a big under-lip that hung down over her chin, and

THE THREE SPINSTERS.

the third had a remarkably broad thumb. They all stopped in front of the window, and called out to know what it was the girl wanted. She told them all her need, and they promised her their help, and said :

"Then you will invite us to your wedding, and not be ashamed of us; and call us your cousins, and let us sit at your table; if you will promise this, we will finish off your flax-spinning in a very short time."

"With all my heart," said the girl; "only come in and begin at once."

Then these same women came in, and she cleared a space in the first room for them to spin. The first one drew out the thread and moved the treadle that turned the wheel; the second moistened the thread; the third twisted it and rapped with her finger on the table, and as often as she rapped, a heap of yarn fell to the ground, and it was most beautifully spun. But the girl hid the three spinsters out of the Queen's sight, and only showed her the heaps of well-spun yarn; and there was no end to the praises she received. When the first room was empty, they went on to the second, and then to the third, so that at last all was finished. Then the three women took their leave, saying to the girl : "Do not forget what you have promised."

So when the girl showed the Queen the great heaps of yarn, the wedding was at once arranged, and the bridegroom rejoiced that he should have so diligent a wife.

"I have three cousins," said the girl, "and as they have shown me a great deal of kindness I would not wish to forget them; may I be allowed to invite them to the wedding, and to ask them to sit at the table with us?"

The Queen and the bridegroom consented at once.

So when the feast began, in came the three spinsters in strange guise, and the bride said : "Dear cousins, you are welcome."

"Oh," said the bridegroom, "how came you to have such ugly relations?"

And then he went up to the first spinner and said : "How is it that you have such a broad flat foot?" "With treading," answered she, "with treading."

Then he went up to the second and said : "How is it that you have such a great hanging lip?" "With licking," answered she, "with licking."

Then he asked the third : "How is it that you have such a broad thumb?" "With twisting thread," answered she, "with twisting thread."

Then the bridegroom said that from that time forward his beautiful bride should never touch a spinning wheel.





## \* FAITHFUL \* JOHN \*



HERE was once an old King, who, having fallen sick, thought to himself : "This is very likely my death-bed on which I am lying."

Then he said : "Let Faithful John be sent for."

Faithful John was his best-beloved servant, and was so called because he had served the king faithfully all his life long. When he came near the bed, the King said to him :

"Faithful John, I feel my end drawing near, and my only care is for my son ; he is yet of tender years, and does not always know how to shape his conduct, and unless you promise me to instruct him in all his actions and be a true foster-father to him, I shall not be able to close my eyes in peace."

Then answered Faithful John : "I will never forsake him, and will serve him faithfully, even though it should cost me my life."

And the old King said : "Then I die, being of good cheer and at peace."

And he went on to say : "After my death you must lead him through the whole castle, into all the chambers, halls, and vaults, and show him the treasures that in them lie ; but the last chamber in the long gallery, in which lies hidden the picture of the Princess of the Golden Palace, you must not show him. If he were to see that picture, he would directly fall into so great a love for her that he would faint with the strength of it, and afterwards, for her sake, run into great dangers ; so you must guard him well."

And as Faithful John gave him his hand upon it, the old King became still and silent, laid his head upon the pillow, and died.

When the old King was laid in the grave, Faithful John told the young King what he had promised to his father on his death-bed, and said : "I will certainly hold to my promise, and be faithful to you, as I was faithful to him, even though it should cost me my life."

When the days of mourning were at an end, Faithful John said to the Prince :

"It is now time that you should see your inheritance."

Then he led him over all the place, upstairs and downstairs, and showed him all the treasures and the splendid chambers ; one chamber only he did not open, that in which the perilous picture hung. Now the picture was so placed that when the door opened, it was the first thing to be seen, and was so won-



FAITHFUL JOHN

IT HAPPENED, AS THEY WERE STILL  
JOAKEYING ON THE OPEN SEA, THAT  
FAITHFUL JOHN, AS HE SAT IN THE FORE  
PART OF THE SHIP, & MADE MUSIC, CAUGHT  
SIGHT OF THREE RAVENS FLYING OVER-  
HEAD. THEN HE STOPPED PLAYING, &  
LISTENED, DRAINC THAT DRONE ONE ANOTHER.

FAITHFUL JOHN.

derfully painted that it seemed to breathe and move, and in the whole world was there nothing more lovely or more beautiful. The young King noticed how Faithful John always passed by this one door, and asked : " Why do you not undo this door ? "

" There is something inside that would terrify you," answered he. But the King answered : " I have seen the whole castle, and I will know what is in here also." And he went forward and tried to open the door.

Then Faithful John called him back and said : " I promised your father on his death-bed that you should not see what is in that room ; it might bring great misfortune on you and me were I to break my promise."

But the young King answered : " I shall have no peace day or night until I have seen it, and I will not move from this place until you have unlocked it."

Then faithful John saw that there was no help for it, and he opened the door. He walked in first, and thought that by standing in front of the King he might hide the picture from him, but the King stood on tiptoe and looked over his shoulder. And when he saw the image of the lady that was so wonderfully beautiful, he fell on the ground powerless. Faithful John helped him up, took him to his bed, and thought with sorrow : " Ah me ! the evil has come to pass ; what will become of us ? "

When the King came to himself, the first words he said were :

" Oh the beautiful picture ! whose portrait is it ? "

" It is the portrait of the Princess of the Golden Palace," answered Faithful John.

Then the King said, " My love for her is so great that if all the leaves of the forest were tongues, they could not utter it ! I stake my life on the chance of obtaining her, and you, my Faithful John, must stand by me."

The faithful servant considered for a long time how the business should be begun ; it seemed to him that it would be a difficult matter to come only at a sight of the Princess. At last he thought out a way, and said to the King :

" All that she has about her is of gold—tables, chairs, dishes, drinking-cups, bowls and all the household furniture. In your treasury are five tons of gold ; let the goldsmiths of your kingdom work it up into all kinds of vessels and implements, into all kinds of birds, and wild creatures, and wonderful beasts, such as may please her ; then we will carry them off with us, and go and seek our fortune."

The King had all the goldsmiths fetched, and they worked day and night, until at last some splendid things were got ready. When a ship had been loaded with them, Faithful John put on the garb of a merchant, and so did the King, so as the more completely to disguise themselves. Then they journeyed over the sea, and at last they came to the city where the Princess of the Golden Palace dwelt.

Faithful John told the King to stay in the ship, and to wait for him. " Perhaps," said he, " I shall bring the Princess back with me, so take care that everything is in order."

Then he gathered together some of the gold things, one of each kind, and

FAITHFUL JOHN.

went up to the royal castle. And there stood by the well a pretty maiden, who had two golden pails in her hand, and she was drawing water with them ; and as she turned round, she saw the strange man, and asked him who he was. He answered :

"I am a merchant," and opened his apron, and let her look within it.

"Ah, what beautiful things!" cried she, and setting down her pails, she turned the golden toys over, and looked at them one after another ; then she said : "The Princess must see these; she takes so much pleasure in gold things that she will buy them all from you."

Then she took him by the hand and led him in. When the Princess saw the golden wares she was very pleased, and said :

"These are so fine that I should like to buy them of you."

But Faithful John said : "I am only the servant of a rich merchant, and what I have here is nothing to what my master has in the ship."

The Princess then wanted it all to be brought to her ; but he said : "That would take up many days; so great is the number that there would not be enough room for them in your house."

But the Princess's curiosity grew so much that at last she said :

"Lead me to the ship; I will go and see your master's treasures."

Then Faithful John led her to the ship joyfully, and the King saw that her beauty was even greater than the picture had set forth. Then she climbed up into the ship, and the King received her. Faithful John gave orders for the ship to push off, saying, "Spread all sail, that she may fly like a bird in the air."

So the King showed her all the golden things, the dishes, the bowls, the birds, and the wonderful beasts. In her pleasure the Princess never noticed that the ship was moving onwards. When she had examined the last, she thanked the merchant, and prepared to return home ; but when she came to the ship's side, she saw that they were far from land, and speeding on under full sail.

"Ah!" cried she, full of terror, "I am betrayed and carried off by this merchant. Oh, that I had died rather than fallen into his power!"

But the King took hold of her hand and said : "No merchant am I, but a King ; it is because of my love for thee that I have carried thee off by cunning. The first time I saw thy picture, I fell fainting to the earth."

When the Princess of the Golden Palace heard this, she became more trustful, and she willingly consented to become his wife.

It happened that Faithful John, as he sat in the fore part of the ship, caught sight of three ravens flying overhead. And he listened to what they said to one another. The first one cried : "Ay, there goes the Princess of the Golden Palace."

"Yes," answered the second ; "but he has not got her safe yet."

And the third said, "He has her though ; she sits beside him in the ship."

"What does that avail him?" said the first. "When they come on land a fox-red horse will spring towards them ; then will the King try to mount him ; and if he does, the horse will rise with him into the air, so that he will never see his bride again."

FAITHFUL JOHN.

The second raven asked : " Is there no remedy ? "

" Oh, yes ; if another man mounts quickly, and takes the pistol out of the holster and shoots the horse dead with it, he will save the young King. But he that knows it and does it will become stone from toe to knee." Then said the second : " I know further, that if the horse should be killed, the young King will not even then be sure of his bride. When they arrive at the castle, there will lie a wrought bride-shirt in a dish, and it will seem all woven of gold and silver; but it is really of sulphur and pitch, and if he puts it on 't will burn him to the marrow of his bones." The third raven said : " Is there no remedy ? "

" Oh, yes," answered the second ; " if another man with gloves on picks up the shirt, and throws it into the fire, then is the King delivered. But he who does it will be turned into stone from his heart to his knee." The third said :

" I know yet more, that even when the bride-shirt is burnt up, the King is not sure of his bride. When, at the wedding, the young Queen dances, she will suddenly fall to the earth as if she were dead, and unless some one takes three drops of blood from her right breast, she will die. But he that knows this and does this will become stone from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot."

Then the ravens flew away. Faithful John had understood it all, and from that time he remained quiet and sad, for he thought to himself that were he to conceal what he had heard from his master, misfortune would befall ; and were he to discover it, his own life would be sacrificed. At last, however, he said within himself, " I will save my master, though I myself should perish ! "

So when they came on land, it happened just as the ravens had foretold, there sprang forward a splendid fox-red horse.

" Come on," said the King, " he shall carry me to the castle," and was going to mount, when Faithful John passed before him and mounted quickly, drew the pistol out of the holster, and shot the horse dead. Then the other servants cried out (for they did not wish well to Faithful John), " How shameful to kill that beautiful animal." But the King said : " Hold your tongues : he is my Faithful John ; he knows what is the good of it."

Then they went up to the castle, and there stood in the hall a dish, and the wrought bride-shirt that lay on it seemed as if of gold and silver. The young King was going to put it on, but Faithful John pushed him away, picked it up with his gloved hands, threw it quickly on the fire, and there let it burn. The other servants began their grumbling again, and said :

" Look, he is even burning up the King's bridal shirt !" But the King said : " There may be a good reason for it ! He is my Faithful John."

Then the bride led the dance, and fell down as if she were dead. Then he went quickly to her, and carried her into a chamber hard by, and took three drops of blood from her right breast. Immediately she drew breath again and raised herself up. But the young King grew very angry.

The next morning Faithful John was condemned to death and led to the gallows, and as he stood there, he said : " He who is about to die is permitted to speak once before his end. I have been condemned unjustly, for I have

FAITHFUL JOHN.

always been faithful," and he related how he had heard on the sea voyage the talk of the ravens, and how he had done everything in order to save his master.

Then cried the King : " O, my Faithful John, pardon ! lead him down !" But Faithful John, as he spoke the last words, fell lifeless, and became stone.

And the King caused the stone image to be lifted up and put to stand by the side of his bed. And as often as he saw it he wept.

After some time the Queen bore twins—two little sons—that grew and thrived, and were the joy of their parents. One day the young King gazed at the stone image full of sadness, and cried : " Oh, that I could bring thee back to life, Faithful John !" Then the stone began to speak, and said :

" Yes, thou canst bring me back to life again, if thou wilt bestow therefor thy best beloved." Then cried the King : " All that I have in the world will I give up for thee !" The stone went on to say :

" If thou wilt cut off the heads of thy two children with thy own hand, and besmear me with their blood, I shall receive life again."

The King was horror-struck at the thought that he must put his beloved children to death, but he remembered all John's faithfulness, and how he had died for him, and he drew his sword and cut off his children's heads. And when he had besmeared the stone with their blood, life returned to it, and Faithful John stood alive and well before him ; and he said to the King :

" Thy faithfulness shall not be unrewarded," and taking up the heads of the children he set them on again, and in a moment they were whole again.

Now was the King full of joy ; and when he saw the Queen coming he put Faithful John and the two children in a great chest. When she came in, he said to her : " Dear wife, we can give Faithful John life again, but it will cost us both our little sons, whom we must sacrifice."

The Queen grew pale and sick at heart, but said :

" We owe it him, because of his great faithfulness."

Then the King rejoiced because she thought as he did, and he went and unlocked the chest and took out the children and Faithful John.





## •THE WONDERFUL MUSICIAN•



HERE was once a wonderful musician, and he was one day walking through a wood all alone, thinking of this and that; and when he had nothing more left to think about, he said to himself :

" I shall grow tired of being in this wood, so I will bring out a good companion."

So he took the fiddle that hung at his back, and fiddled so that the wood echoed. Before long a wolf came through the thicket and trotted up to him.

" Oh, here comes a wolf ! I had no particular wish for such company," said the musician. But the wolf drew nearer, and said to him :

" Ho, you musician ; how finely you play ! I must learn how to play too."

" That is easily done," answered the musician ; " you have only to do exactly as I tell you."

" O, musician !" said the wolf, " I will obey you, as a scholar does his master."

The musician told him to come with him. As they went a part of the way together they came to an old oak tree, which was hollow within and cleft through the middle.

" Look here," said the musician ; " if you want to learn how to fiddle, you must put your fore feet in this cleft."

The wolf obeyed ; but the musician took up a stone and quickly wedged both his paws with one stroke, so fast, that the wolf was a prisoner and there obliged to stop.

" Stay there until I come back again," said the musician, and went his way.

After a while he said again to himself :

" I shall grow weary here in this wood ; I will bring out another companion." And he took his fiddle and fiddled away in the wood. Before long a fox came slinking through the trees.

" Oh, here comes a fox !" said the musician ; " I had no particular wish for such company."

The fox came up to him and said :

"O, my dear musician! how finely you play! I must learn how to play too."

"That is easily done," said the musician; "you have only to do exactly as I tell you."

"O, musician!" answered the fox, "I will obey you, as a scholar does his master."

"Follow me," said the musician; and as they went a part of the way together, they came to a footpath with a high hedge on each side. Then the musician stopped, and taking hold of a hazel-branch, bent it down to the earth, and put his foot on the end of it; then he bent down a branch from the other side, and said: "Come on, little fox! if you wish to learn something, reach me your left fore foot."

The fox obeyed, and the musician bound the foot to the left-hand branch.

"Now, little fox," said he, "reach me the right one;" then he bound it to the right-hand branch. And when he had seen that the knots were fast enough he let go, and the branches flew back and caught up the fox, shaking and struggling, in the air.

"Wait there till I come back again," said the musician, and went his way.

By and by he said to himself, "I shall grow weary in this wood; I will bring out another companion."

So he took his fiddle, and the sound echoed through the wood. Then a hare sprang out before him.

"Oh, here comes a hare!" said he, "that's not what I want."

"Ah, my dear musician," said the hare, "how finely you play! I should like to learn how to play too."

"That is soon done," said the musician; "only you must do whatever I tell you."

"O, musician!" answered the hare, "I will obey you, as a scholar does his master."

So they went a part of the way together, until they came to a clear place in the wood where there stood an aspen tree. The musician tied a long string round the neck of the hare, and knotted the other end of it to the tree.

"Now then, courage, little hare! run twenty times round the tree," cried the musician, and the hare obeyed. As he ran round the twentieth time the string had wound twenty times round the tree trunk and the hare was imprisoned, and pull and tug as he would, he only cut his tender neck with the string.

"Wait there until I come back again," said the musician, and walked on.

The wolf meanwhile had struggled, and pulled, and bitten at the stone, and worked away so long, that at last he made his paws free and got himself out of the cleft. Full of anger and fury he hastened after the musician to tear him to pieces. When the fox saw him run by he began groaning, and cried out with all his might:

"Brother wolf, come and help me! the musician has betrayed me." The wolf then pulled the branches down, bit the knots in two, and set the fox

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free, and he went with him to take vengeance on the musician. They found the imprisoned hare, and set him likewise free, and then they all went on together to seek their enemy.

The musician had once more played his fiddle, and this time he had been more fortunate. The sound had reached the ears of a poor woodcutter, who immediately, and in spite of himself, left his work, and, with his axe under his arm, came to listen to the music.

"At last here comes the right sort of companion," said the musician; "it was a man I wanted, and not wild animals." And then he began to play so sweetly that the poor man stood as if enchanted, and his heart was filled with joy. And as he was standing there up came the wolf, the fox, and the hare, and he could easily see that they meant mischief. Then he raised his shining axe, and stood in front of the musician, as if to say:

"Whoever means harm to him had better take care of himself, for he will have to do with me!"

Then the animals were frightened, and ran back into the wood, and the musician, when he had played once more to the man to show his gratitude, went on his way.





#### THE SHOES WHICH WERE DANCED TO PIECES.

HERE was once a King who had twelve daughters. Their beds all stood in a row, and in the evening, as soon as they were gone to sleep, the King shut the door and bolted it. One morning, when he opened the door, he perceived that their shoes were danced to pieces, and nobody could tell how it happened. The King said that whoever could discover where they danced in the night, should have one of them to wife, and become King at his death; but whoever should attempt to do it, and after three nights and days fail, must lose his life. In a short time a Prince came and offered himself to undertake the task. He was led to a room which adjoined the bed-chamber, but he went to sleep; and when he awoke in the morning he found their shoes there with holes in the soles. The second and third night it happened just the same; and on the morrow the Prince lost his head without mercy. Afterward came many more and attempted the task, but they all lost their lives.

One day it chanced that a poor Soldier came upon the road which led to the city. There he met an old woman, who asked him whither he was going. "I had an idea of going to the place where the Princesses dance their shoes to pieces, to find out the mystery, and so become King." "That is not difficult," said the old woman, "if you do not drink the wine which will be brought to you in the evening, but feign to be asleep." With these words she gave him a cloak, and told him that if he put it on his shoulders he would become invisible and be able to follow the Princesses. So the Soldier presented himself before the King as a suitor. When evening came, the eldest Princess came and brought him a cup of wine, but he drank none.

Then he laid himself down, and in a short time began to snore as if he were in a deep sleep, while the twelve sisters laughed to one another, saying, "He might have spared himself the trouble!" Then the eldest sister knocking on her bed it sank down in the ground, and the twelve Princesses followed it through the opening, the eldest one going first. The Soldier put on his invisible cloak and descended with the youngest sister. So they went down, and at the bottom was a wonderful avenue of trees, whose leaves were all silver. Then they passed into another avenue where the leaves were of gold, and then into a further one where they shone like diamonds. In each avenue he broke off a twig. Then they came to a lake, on which were twelve little boats, and in each boat a handsome Prince, who each took one sister, and the old Soldier sat down in the boat where the youngest one was. On the other side of this water stood a noble castle, and here they danced till their shoes were in holes,

THE SHOES WHICH WERE DANCED TO PIECES.



and the Princes rowed them back again over the water. When they came back to the steps, the Soldier ran up first, and laid down again in his bed and snored loudly. The second and third nights passed like the first, and the Soldier brought away a cup with him from the ball-room. When the time arrived for him to answer, he went before the King. "Where have my daughters danced during the night?" asked the King. "With twelve Princes in a subterranean castle," he replied; and, relating everything as it had occurred, he produced his witnesses in the three twigs and the cup. The King then summoned his daughters, and they were obliged to confess the truth. The King asked him which he would have for a wife, and he chose the eldest. And the wedding was celebrated the self-same day.



## THE GOOSE GIRL.



HERE lived once an old Queen, whose husband had been dead many years. She had a beautiful daughter who was promised in marriage to a King's son living a great way off. When the wedding drew near, she got together furniture and cups and jewels and adornments, both of gold and silver, everything proper for the dowry of a royal Princess, for she loved her daughter dearly. She gave her also a waiting gentlewoman; and they were each to have a horse for the journey, and the Princess's horse was named Falada, and he could speak. When the time for parting came, the old Queen cut her own finger so that it bled; and she held beneath it a white napkin, and on it fell three drops of blood; and she gave it to her daughter, bidding her take care of it, for it would be needful to her on the way. Then they took leave of each other, and the Princess put the napkin in her bosom, got on her horse, and set out to go to the bridegroom. After she had ridden an hour she felt very thirsty, and she said to the waiting-woman:

"Get down, and fill my cup that you carry with water from the brook."

"Get down yourself," said the waiting-woman, "and if you are thirsty stoop down and drink; I will not be your slave."

And the Princess had to get down and drink, and could not have her gold cup. "Oh dear!" said she. And the three drops of blood heard her, and said:

"If your mother knew of this it would break her heart."

So they rode on some miles farther; the day was warm, the sun shone hot, and the Princess grew thirsty once more. And when they came to a water-course she called again to the waiting-woman, and said: "Get down and give me to drink out of my golden cup."

But the waiting-woman spoke still more scornfully, and said: "If you want a drink you may get it yourself; I am not going to be your slave."

So the Princess had to get off her horse to drink, and as she stooped she wept and said, "Oh dear!" And the three drops of blood heard her and answered: "If your mother knew this it would break her heart."

And the napkin on which were the three drops of blood fell out of her bosom and floated down the stream, and she never noticed it; not so the waiting-woman, who rejoiced because she should now have power over the bride.

And when she was going to mount her horse again the waiting-woman



THE GOOSE GIRL.

cried : " Falada belongs to me, and this jade to you." And the Princess had to give way, and let it be as she said. Then the waiting-woman ordered the Princess to take off her rich clothing, and put on her plain garments, and then she made her swear to say nothing of the matter when they came to court.

The waiting-woman then mounting Falada, and the Princess the sorry jade, they journeyed on till they reached the royal castle. The King's son hastened to meet them, and lifted the waiting-woman from her horse, thinking she was his bride ; and then he led her up the stairs, while the real Princess had to remain below. But the old King, who was looking out of the window, saw her standing in the yard, and noticed how gentle and beautiful she was, and then he went down and asked the seeming bride who it was that was now standing in the courtyard.

" Oh ! " answered the bride, " I only brought her with me for company ; give the maid something to do, that she may not be for ever standing idle."

And so the real Princess was sent to keep geese with the goose-boy, who was called Conrad. Soon after the false bride said to the Prince :

" Dearest husband, send for the knacker, that he may carry off the horse I came here upon, and make away with him ; he was very troublesome to me on the journey." For she was afraid that the horse might tell how she had behaved to the Princess. And when the order had been given that Falada should die, it came to the Princess's ears, and she came to the knacker's man secretly, and promised him a piece of gold if he would nail Falada's head on the gate through which she had to pass morning and evening with her geese. And the man promised, and he took Falada's head and nailed it fast in the gateway.

Early next morning, as she and Conrad drove their geese through the gate, she said as she went by :

" O Falada, dost thou hang there ? "

And the head answered :

" Princess, dost thou so meanly fare ?  
But if thy mother knew thy pain,  
Her heart would surely break in twain."

And when they came into the meadows she sat down and undid her hair, which was all of gold, and when Conrad saw how it glistened he wanted to pull out a few hairs for himself. And she said :

" O wind, blow Conrad's hat away, | While I with my gold hair will play  
Make him run after as it flies, And twist it up in seemly wise."

Then there came a wind strong enough to blow Conrad's hat far away over the fields, and he had to run after it ; and by the time he came back she had put up her hair with combs and pins, and he could not get at any to pull it out ; and he was sulky, and would not speak to her.

The next morning, as they passed under the gateway, the Princess said :

" O Falada, dost thou hang there ? "

And Falada answered, and the same things happened as before.

And after they had got home Conrad went to the old King and said : " I

THE GOOSE GIRL.

will tend the geese no longer with that girl!" "Why not?" asked the old King.

Then Conrad related all that happened at the gate and in the fields.

The old King told him to go to drive the geese the next morning as usual, and he himself went behind the gate and listened how the maiden spoke to Palada; and then he followed them into the fields and hid himself. And after a while he saw the girl make her hair all loose, and how it gleamed and shone. Soon she said the verses, and there came a gust of wind and away went Conrad's hat, and he after it, while the maiden combed and bound up her hair; and the old King saw all that went on. When the goose-girl came back in the evening he sent for her, and asked her the reason of her doing all this.

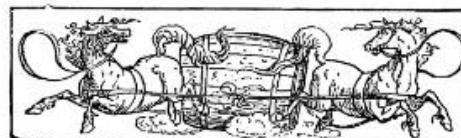
"That I dare not tell you," she answered, "for when I was in danger of my life, I swore an oath not to reveal it." At last he said:

"If you will not tell it me tell it to the iron oven," and went away. Then she crept into the iron oven and said: "Here I sit forsaken of all the world, and I am a King's daughter, and a wicked waiting-woman forced me to give up my royal garments and my place at the bridegroom's side, and I am made a goose-girl, and have to do mean service. And if my mother knew, it would break her heart."

Now the old King was standing outside by the oven door listening, and he heard all she said, and he called to her and told her to come out of the oven. And he caused royal clothing to be put upon her, and called his son and proved to him that he had the wrong bride, for she was really only a waiting-woman, and that the true bride was she who had been the goose-girl. The Prince was glad at heart when he saw her beauty and gentleness; and a great feast was made ready, and all the court people and good friends were bidden to it. The bridegroom sat in the midst, with the Princess on one side and the waiting-woman on the other; and the false bride did not know the true one, because she was dazzled with her glittering braveries. Then the old King gave the waiting-woman a question to answer, as to what such an one deserved who had deceived her masters in such and such a manner, telling the whole story, and ending by asking: "Now, what doom does such an one deserve?"

"No better than this," answered the false bride, "that she be put naked into a cask, studded inside with sharp nails, and be dragged along in it by two white horses from street to street until she be dead."

"Thou hast spoken thy own doom," said the old King; "as thou hast said, so shall it be done." And when the sentence was fulfilled, the Prince married the true bride, and ever after they ruled over their kingdom in peace.





THE GOOSE GIRL.

"O FALADA, dost thou hang there?"

"Princess, dost thou so meanly fare?  
But if thy mother knew thy pain,  
Her heart would surely break in twain."



## \* THE GOLDEN BIRD \*



N times gone by there was a king who had a beautiful garden, in which stood a tree that bore golden apples. As the apples ripened they were counted, but one morning one was missing. Then the king was angry, and he ordered that watch should be kept about the tree every night. Now the king had three sons, and he sent the eldest to spend the night in the garden; but at midnight, he could keep off sleep no longer, and in the morning another apple was missing. The second son had to watch the following night; but at twelve o'clock he went to sleep, and in the morning another apple was missing. Now came the turn of the third son to watch. The king had less trust in him, but in the end he consented to let him try. So the young man lay down under the tree to watch, and resolved that sleep should not be master. When it struck twelve, something came rushing through the air, and he saw in the moonlight a bird flying towards him, whose feathers glittered like gold. The bird perched upon the tree, and had already pecked off an apple, when the young man let fly an arrow at it. The bird flew away, but the arrow had struck its plumage, and one of its golden feathers fell to the ground; the young man took it to the king, and told him what had happened. The king called his council together, and all declared that such a feather was worth more than the whole kingdom.

"Since the feather is so valuable," said the king, "one is not enough for me; I must and will have the whole bird."

So the eldest son set off, and he thought he should soon find the golden bird. When he had gone some distance he saw a fox and he pointed his gun at him. The fox cried out :

"Do not shoot me, and I will give you good counsel. You are on your way to find the golden bird, and this evening you will come to a village, in which two taverns stand facing each other. One will be brightly lighted up, and there will be plenty of merriment going on inside; do not mind about that, but go into the other one, although it will look to you very uninviting."

"How can a silly beast give one any rational advice?" thought the king's son, and let fly at the fox, but missed him, and he ran quickly into the wood. Then the young man went on, and towards evening he came to the village, and there stood the two taverns. In one singing and dancing were going on; the

THE  
GOLDEN-BIRD



"— THE FOX SAID, —  
" HOW WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME  
FOR MY REWARD ? " —

THE GOLDEN BIRD.

other looked quite dull and wretched. "I should be a fool," said he, "to go into that dismal place, while there is anything so good close by." So he went into the merry inn, and there lived in clover, quite forgetting the bird and his father, and all good counsel.

As time went on, and the eldest son never came home, the second son set out to seek the golden bird. He met with the fox, just as the eldest did, and received good advice from him without attending to it. And when he came to the two taverns, his brother was standing and calling to him at the window of one of them, out of which came sounds of merriment; so he could not resist, but went and revelled to his heart's content.

Then the youngest son wished to try his luck, but his father would not consent.

But at last, as there was no peace to be had, he let him go. By the side of the wood sat the fox, who begged him to spare his life, and gave him good counsel. The young man was kind, and said: "Be easy, little fox, I will do you no harm."

"You shall not repent of it," answered the fox; "and that you may get there all the sooner, get up and sit on my tail."

And no sooner had he done so than the fox began to run, and off they went. When they reached the village, the young man, following the fox's advice, went into the mean-looking tavern, and there he passed a quiet night. The next morning, when he went out into the field, the fox, who was sitting there already, said:

"Go on until you come to a castle, before which a great band of soldiers lie, but they will be all asleep and snoring; pass through them and forward into the castle, and go through all the rooms, until you come to one where there is a golden bird hanging in a wooden cage. Near at hand will stand empty a golden cage; but do not take the bird out of his ugly cage and put him into the fine one."

Then the fox stretched out his tail again, and the king's son sat down upon it, and away they went. And when the king's son reached the castle, he found everything as the fox had said; the three golden apples too were in the room. Then, thinking it foolish to let the beautiful bird stay in that mean and ugly cage, he put it in the golden one. In the same moment the bird uttered a piercing cry. The soldiers awoke, rushed in, seized the king's son and put him in prison. The next morning he was brought before a judge and condemned to death. But the king said he would spare his life on one condition, that he should bring him the golden horse whose paces were swifter than the wind, and that then he should also receive the golden bird as a reward.

So the king's son set off to find the golden horse, but he was very sad, for how should it be done? Then he saw the fox sitting by the roadside.

"Now, you see," said the fox, "all this has happened because you would not listen to me. But I will tell you how you are to get the golden horse. You must go on until you come to a castle, where the horse stands in his stable; before the door the grooms will be lying, but they will all be asleep.

THE GOLDEN BIRD.

and you can go and quietly lead out the horse. But take care to put upon him the plain saddle, and not the golden one, which will hang close by."

Then the fox stretched out his tail, and the king's son seated himself upon it, and away they went. And everything happened just as the fox had said, and he came to the stall where the golden horse was. And as he was about to put on him the plain saddle, he thought to himself :

" Such a beautiful animal would be disgraced were I not to put on him the good saddle, which becomes him so well." However, no sooner did the horse feel the golden saddle touch him than he began to neigh. And the grooms all awoke, seized the king's son, and threw him into prison. The next morning he was condemned to death, but the king promised him his life, and also to bestow upon him the golden horse, if he could convey thither the beautiful princess of the golden castle.

With a heavy heart the king's son set out, but by great good luck he soon met with the faithful fox.

" I ought now to leave you to your own ill-luck," said the fox, " but I am sorry for you, and will once more help you in your need. Your way lies straight up to the golden castle. At night the beautiful princess will go to the bath. Go up to her and give her a kiss, then she will follow you, but do not let her go and take leave of her parents."

Then the fox stretched out his tail, the king's son seated himself upon it, and away they went. And when he came to the golden castle, all was as the fox had said. As the beautiful princess went to bathe, he went up to her and gave her a kiss, and she willingly promised to go with him, but she begged him that he would let her first go and take leave of her parents. At first he denied her prayer, but as she wept so much, and fell at his feet, he gave in at last. And no sooner had the princess reached her father's bedside than all who were in the castle woke up, and the young man was thrown into prison.

The next morning the king said to him, " Thy life is forfeit, but thou shalt find grace if thou canst level that mountain that lies before my windows, and over which I am not able to see, and if this is done within eight days thou shalt have my daughter for a reward."

So the king's son set to work, and dug without ceasing, but when, on the seventh day, he saw how little he had accomplished, he fell into great sadness and gave up all hope. But in the evening the fox appeared, and said :

" You do not deserve that I should help you, but go now and lie down to sleep, and I will do the work for you."

The next morning when he looked out of the window, the mountain had disappeared. The young man hastened full of joy to the king, and told him that his behest was fulfilled, and the king had to keep to his word, and let his daughter go.

So they both went away together, and it was not long before the faithful fox came up to them.

" Well, you have got the best first," said he ; " but you must know the golden horse belongs to the princess of the golden castle."



#### THE GOLDEN BIRD.

THE King the Princess to him brings ;  
She lightly to the saddle springs ;  
And away they go like wind in a gale,  
With the fox behind, o'er hill and dale.

THE GOLDEN BIRD.

"But how shall I get it?" asked the young man.

"I am going to tell you," answered the fox. "First, go to the king who sent you to the golden castle, and take to him the beautiful princess. He will willingly give you the golden horse. Mount him without delay, and stretch out your hand to each of them to take leave, and last of all to the princess, and when you have her by the hand swing her upon the horse behind you, and off you go!"

And so the king's son carried off the beautiful princess. The fox did not stay behind, and he said to the young man:

"Now, I will help you to get the golden bird. When you draw near the castle, let the lady alight; then you must ride the golden horse into the castle-yard, and they will bring out to you the golden bird. As soon as you have the cage in your hand, you must come back to us."

When the young man returned with the treasure, the fox said: "Now slay me, and cut my head and feet off."

"I could not possibly do such a thing," said the king's son.

"Then," said the fox, "if you will not do it, let me give you some good advice. Beware of two things—buy no gallows-meat, and sit at no brook-side." With that the fox ran off into the wood.

The young man thought to himself, "How should any one buy gallows-meat? and I am sure I have no particular fancy for sitting by a brook-side."

So they rode on through the village where his two brothers had stayed. There they heard a great noise, and learned that two people were going to be hanged. And when he drew near, he saw that it was his two brothers, who had done all sorts of evil tricks.

He bought them off, and when they were let go they all went on their journey together.

After awhile they came to the wood where the fox had met them first, and there it seemed so cool that the two brothers said: "Let us rest here for a little by the brook."

The young man consented, quite forgetting the fox's warning. Then the two brothers thrust him into the brook, seized the princess, the horse, and the bird, and went home to their father.

Then there was great rejoicing in the royal castle, but the horse did not feed, the bird did not chirp, and the princess sat still and wept.

The youngest brother, however, had not perished. The brook was, by good fortune, dry, and he fell on soft moss without receiving any hurt, but he could not get up again. But in his need the faithful fox was not lacking; he came up running, and reproached him for having forgotten his advice.

"But I cannot forsake you all the same," said he; "I will help you back again into daylight." So he told the young man to grasp his tail, and hold on to it fast, and so he drew him up again.

"Still you are not quite out of all danger," said the fox; "your brothers, not being certain of your death, have surrounded the wood with sentinels, who are to put you to death if you let yourself be seen."

THE GOLDEN BIRD.

A poor beggar-man was sitting by the path, and the young man changed clothes with him, and went clad in that wise into the king's courtyard. Nobody knew him, but the bird began to chirp, and the horse began to feed, and the beautiful princess ceased weeping.

"What does this mean?" said the king, astonished.

The princess answered: "I cannot tell, except that I was sad, and now I am joyful; it is to me as if my rightful bridegroom had returned."

Then she told him all that happened, although the two brothers had threatened to put her to death if she let out anything. The king then ordered every person who was in the castle to be brought before him, and with the rest came the young man, like a beggar, in his wretched garments; but the princess knew him, and greeted him well, falling on his neck and kissing him. The wicked brothers were seized and put to death, and the youngest brother was married to the princess, and succeeded to the inheritance of his father.

But what became of the poor fox? Long afterwards the king's son was going through the wood, and the fox met him and said: "Now, you have everything that you can wish for, but my misfortunes never come to an end, and it lies in your power to free me from them." And once more he prayed the king's son earnestly to slay him and cut off his head and feet. So, at last, he consented, and no sooner was it done than the fox was changed into a man, and was no other than the brother of the beautiful princess; and thus he was set free from a spell that had bound him for a long, long time.

And now, indeed, there lacked nothing to their happiness as long as they lived.



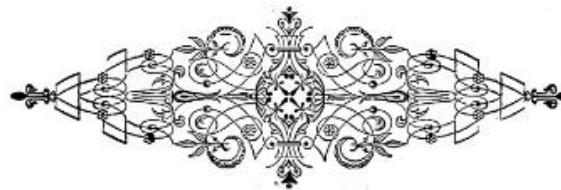


**G**LONG while ago there was a King who had a tree which bore golden apples, and as soon as the apples were ripe they were counted, but the next day one was missing. This vexed the King very much, and he ordered that watch should be kept every night beneath the tree; and having three sons, he sent the eldest, when evening set in, into the garden; but the youth fell into a deep sleep, and in the morning another apple was missing. The next night the second son had to watch, but he fared no better; for he fell fast asleep, and another apple was wanting in the morning. The turn came now to the third son, who watched steadily, and at midnight he saw a bird with golden feathers come and pick off an apple. The bird flew away, but not before he had shot at it, and one of its feathers fell to the ground. When he showed the feather to his father, the King sent his eldest son to hunt for the Golden Bird. The son had not gone far before he met a Fox, who said: "If you will not try to harm me, I will show you what you are looking for." But the young man raised his gun to shoot, and the Fox ran away.

Then the King sent his second son to look for the Golden Bird. He also met the Fox, who said the same thing. But the young man threw a stone at him, and the Fox ran away. The youngest son started to search for the Bird, and when he met the Fox, he said: "Do not be afraid, little Fox, for I will not hurt you." Then the Fox said: "Get up on my tail, and I will take you where you wish to go." So he seated himself on the Fox's tail, and away they went like the wind.

THE FOX'S BRUSH.

At last they came to a castle where the Golden Bird was, in a wooden cage. A golden cage stood near by, but the Fox told him to take the bird in the wooden cage. He disobeyed the Fox, however, and took the golden cage, when the soldiers woke up and caught him, and took him to the King. The King said he could have the Bird, if he brought him a Golden Horse. He went to the Fox and sprang upon his tail, and away they went to the palace where the Golden Horse was kept. The Fox told him to take the old saddle, and not a fine one which hung near by. But he disobeyed, and the soldiers awoke and took him to another King. This King told him he could have the Golden Horse, if he would bring him the Princess of the Golden Castle. The Fox helped him again, and after many adventures, he secured the Princess, and then the Horse, and finally the Golden Bird, which he took to his father.





## THE ELVES AND THE COBBLER

HERE was once a Shoe-maker, who, from no fault of his own, had become so poor that at last he had nothing left, but just sufficient leather for one pair of shoes. In the evening he cut out the leather, intending to make it up in the morning; and, as he had a good conscience, he lay quietly down to sleep, first commanding himself to God. In the morning he said his prayers, and then sat down to work; but, behold, the pair of shoes were already made, and there they stood upon his board. The poor man was amazed, and knew not what to think; but he took the shoes into his hand to look at them more closely, and they were so neatly worked, that not a stitch was wrong. Presently a customer came in; and as the shoes pleased him very much, he paid down more than was usual; and so much that the Shoe-maker was able to buy with it leather for two pairs. By the evening he had got his leather shaped out; and when he arose the next morning, he prepared to work with fresh spirit; but there was no need—for the shoes stood all perfect on his board. He did not want either for customers; for two came who paid him so liberally for the shoes, that he bought with the money material for four pairs more. These also—when he awoke—he found all ready-made, and so it continued;

THE ELVES AND THE COBBLER.

what he cut out overnight was, in the morning, turned into the neatest shoes possible.

One evening as he had cut out the usual quantity, he said to his wife before going to bed, "What say you to stopping up this night, to see who it is that helps us so kindly?" His wife was satisfied, and they hid themselves in the corner of the room. As soon as it was midnight in came two little moppets, who squatted down on the board; and, taking up the prepared work, they set to stitching and sewing, and hammering so swiftly and lightly, that the Shoe-maker could not take his eyes off them. They did not cease until the shoes stood ready on the table; and then they sprang quickly away.

The following morning the wife said: "The little men have made us rich, and we must show our gratitude to them; they must be cold, for they have nothing on their bodies. I will make a little shirt, coat, waistcoat, trousers, and stockings for each, and do you make a pair of shoes for each."

The husband assented; and one evening, when all was ready, they laid presents, instead of the usual work, on the board, and hid themselves to see the result.

At midnight, in came the Elves, and soon prepared to work; but when they saw no leather, but the natty little clothes, they at first were astonished, but soon showed their rapturous glee. They drew on their coats, and went hopping and jumping over the stools and chairs, and at last out at the door. They did not come again; but the Shoe-maker prospered in all he undertook, and lived happily to the end of his days.





## THE WONDERFUL MUSICIAN.

WONDERFUL Fiddler was traveling through a wood, and he said to himself, "I will fetch a good companion;" and, taking the fiddle from his back, he fiddled till the trees re-echoed. Presently a Wolf came.

"Ah! a Wolf comes, for whom I have no desire," said the Fiddler; but the Wolf said, "How beautifully you play! might I learn how?"

"It is soon learnt; you have only to do exactly as I tell you." They came to an old oak-tree, which was hollow within and split in the middle. "See here," said the Musician, "put your forefoot in this cleft." The Wolf obeyed; and the Fiddler quickly wedged both his feet, and the Wolf was stuck fast. "Wait there till I come again," said the Fiddler, and went on his way, fiddling. Presently a Fox came, and said: "You fiddle so beautifully; might I learn, too?"

"It is soon learnt," answered he; "but you must do all I tell you." The Musician stopped, and pulling the bough of a hazel-tree down to the ground on one side, he put his foot upon it, and then bent another down on the other side,

THE WONDERFUL MUSICIAN.

saying, "Come, little Fox, reach me you left forefoot." The Fox obeyed, and the Musician bound the foot to the left bough. "Now reach me the other," said he, and he bound that to the right bough. Then he let go, and the boughs sprang back into the air, carrying the Fox up with them. "Wait there till I come again," said the Musician, and went on his way, fiddling. Then a Hare came, and said : "Could I learn to play, too?"

"It is soon learnt," replied the Musician, "only do all I tell you." The Musician bound a twine round the neck of the Hare, and knotted the other end to a tree. "Now, my little Hare, jump twenty times round the tree," exclaimed the Musician. The Hare obeyed; and the twine had wound itself round the tree, and made the Hare prisoner. "Wait there till I come again," said the Musician, and went on still fiddling for a companion.

A wood-cutter heard him, and when he came the Fiddler said : "This is the companion I want." The Wolf, the Fox, and the Hare all got loose, and went after the Fiddler to kill him, but the wood-cutter raised his axe and killed them all.





## RUMPEL-STILTZ-KEN

HERE was once a poor Miller who had a beautiful daughter; and one day, having to go to speak with the King, he said, in order to make himself appear of consequence, that he had a daughter who could spin straw into gold. The King was very fond of gold, and so he said to the Miller, "Bring her to the castle in the morning."

As soon as she arrived, the King led her into a chamber which was full of straw; and giving her a wheel and a reel, he said, "If you have not spun this straw into gold by an early hour to-morrow, you must die." With these words he shut the door.

When the maiden was left alone she began to cry, for she could not spin at all. Then in came a little man, who offered to spin all the straw into gold, if she would give him her necklace. When she had promised he sat down to the wheel, and before the morning all the straw was spun into gold. The next night the greedy King put her into a larger room full of straw, and said she must spin it all before morning or she should die. The little man came in as before and spun it all, and she gave him her ring. The third night the King took her to a still larger room filled with straw, and told her if she would spin

RUMPEL-STILTZ-KEN.

it all he would make her his bride. The little man came again, and made her promise to give him her first child. The straw was all spun, and the wedding was celebrated. About a year after, when she had forgotten all about her promise, she had a fine boy child, whom she loved very much. One day the little man appeared to take the child which she had promised to give him. She cried so much that the little man said if she would guess his name he would relieve her of her promise. She guessed all the names she could think of, but none of them were correct, and the little man gave her one day to think of more.

She sent her servants in every direction to find out new names. One of them came back and said he had passed a curious little hut in which he saw a little man dancing and singing, that his name was Rumpel-stiltz-ken. So she found out the name and saved her child.





## FLORINDA & FLORINDEL

**N**a castle in the midst of a large thick wood, there lived an old Witch all by herself. By day she changed herself into a cat or an owl; but in the evening she resumed her right form. Whoever ventured within a hundred steps of her castle could not stir from the spot until she allowed it; but if a pretty maiden came into the circle, the Witch changed her into a bird, and then put her into a basket, which she carried into one of the rooms in the castle; and in this room were already many thousand such baskets of birds.

There was a young maiden called Florinda, and she was betrothed to a youth named Florindel.

One day they went into the forest for a walk, and they went too near the Witch's castle, and Florinda was changed into a nightingale, and Florindel found that he could not stir nor speak. An owl came hooting about and flew into a bush, and soon out came an ugly old woman who seized the bird and went away. She came back after awhile and released Florindel, but she would not give him back the maiden. One night Florindel dreamed that he found a flower which would free from enchantment all that he touched with it. He

FLORINDA AND FLORINDEL.

hunted till he found such a flower, and then he went to the castle. The old Witch tried all her powers of enchantment, but they did not succeed, because of the flower in his hand.

He went to the room where the birds were kept, but how was he to tell which was his Florinda among so many. While he stood looking at them, he saw the old Witch trying to hide one away. He touched this one with his flower, and immediately Florinda stood before him as beautiful as ever.

He afterwards disenchanted all the other birds, and they became beautiful young ladies, and in time they all found their homes. As for Florinda and Florindel, they at once went home and were married, and lived happily together many years.





## THE JEW IN THE BUSH.

HERE was once a rich man, who had a Servant so honest and industrious that he was every morning the first up, and every evening the last to come in. He never complained, but was contented and happy under all circumstances. When his year was up, his master gave him no reward. The Servant said nothing, but did his work during the second year as well as the first; but still he received nothing for it, so he made himself happy about the matter, and remained a year longer.

When this third year was also past the Servant asked him for his wages, and would stay no longer.

So the miserly old man gave him three farthings, one for each year. As the Servant did not know the value of money, he went away very happy. He had not gone far when he met a little, old man, who looked so poor and helpless that he gave him the three farthings. Then the little man said: "I will promise you three wishes, one for each farthing." "Then," said the Servant, "I wish first for a gun that shall hit all I aim at; second, a fiddle which shall make all who hear it dance; third, that whatever I request of any one, they cannot

THE JEW IN THE BUSH.

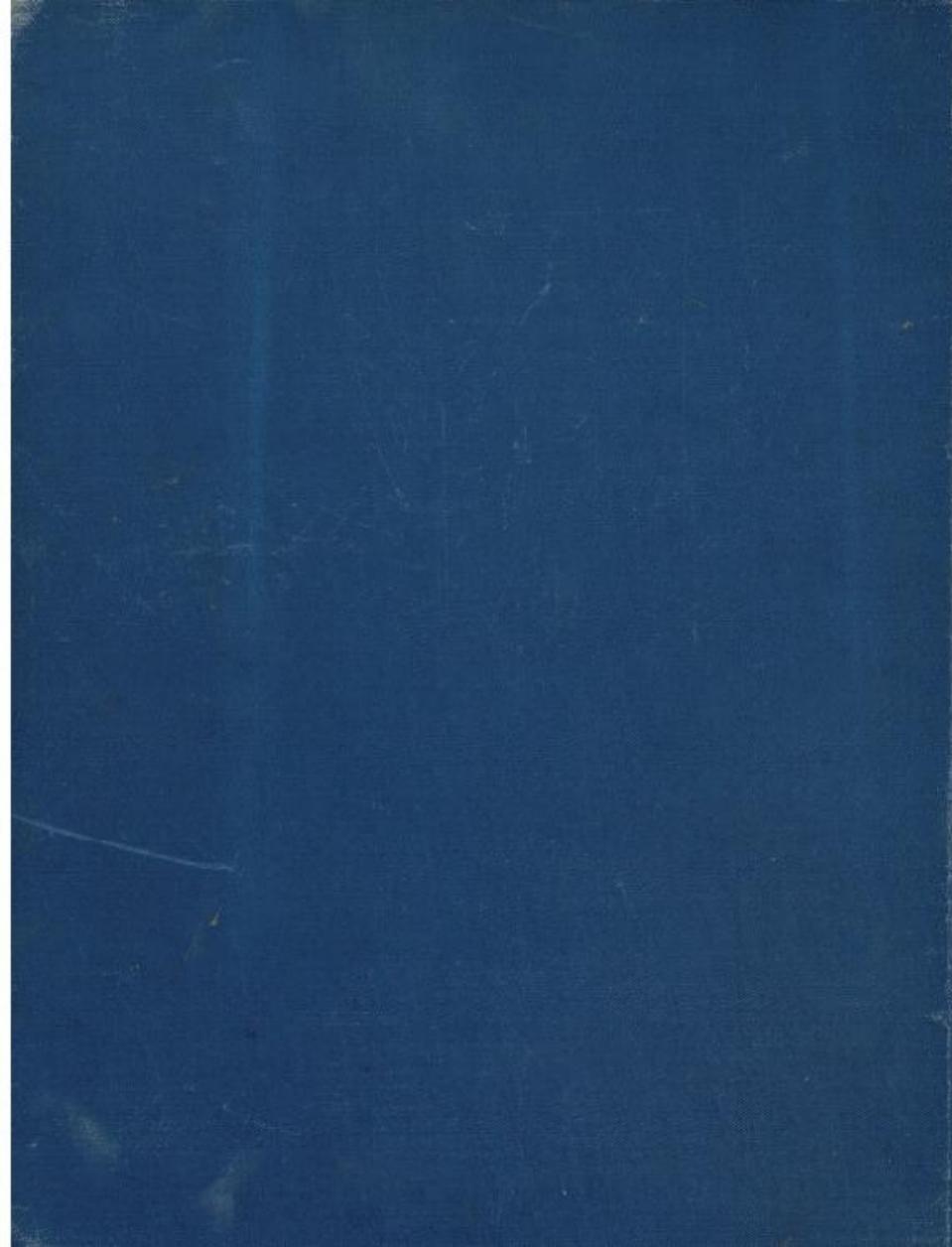
refuse me." The little man at once produced the gun and the fiddle, and told him that whatever he asked of any one, he should not be refused.

Going on, the Servant saw a Jew listening to the singing of a bird in a tree, and wishing that he could have it. The Servant fired his gun and down came the bird in the bushes. He told the Jew to go in the bushes and get the bird, and the Jew crawled in and got stuck fast in the brambles. Then the Servant began to play on his fiddle, and the Jew began to dance. The brambles tore his clothes into rags and pricked his body all over, but he could not stop dancing. Finally, he gave the Servant a purse of gold if he would stop fiddling.

The Jew, however, followed him to the next town, and had him arrested for robbing him. The Servant's story was not believed, and he was condemned to be hung. When he was led to the gallows he began to play on his fiddle, and the Judge and Jew and all the rest began to dance, and could not stop until the Judge promised him his life if he would stop fiddling.



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