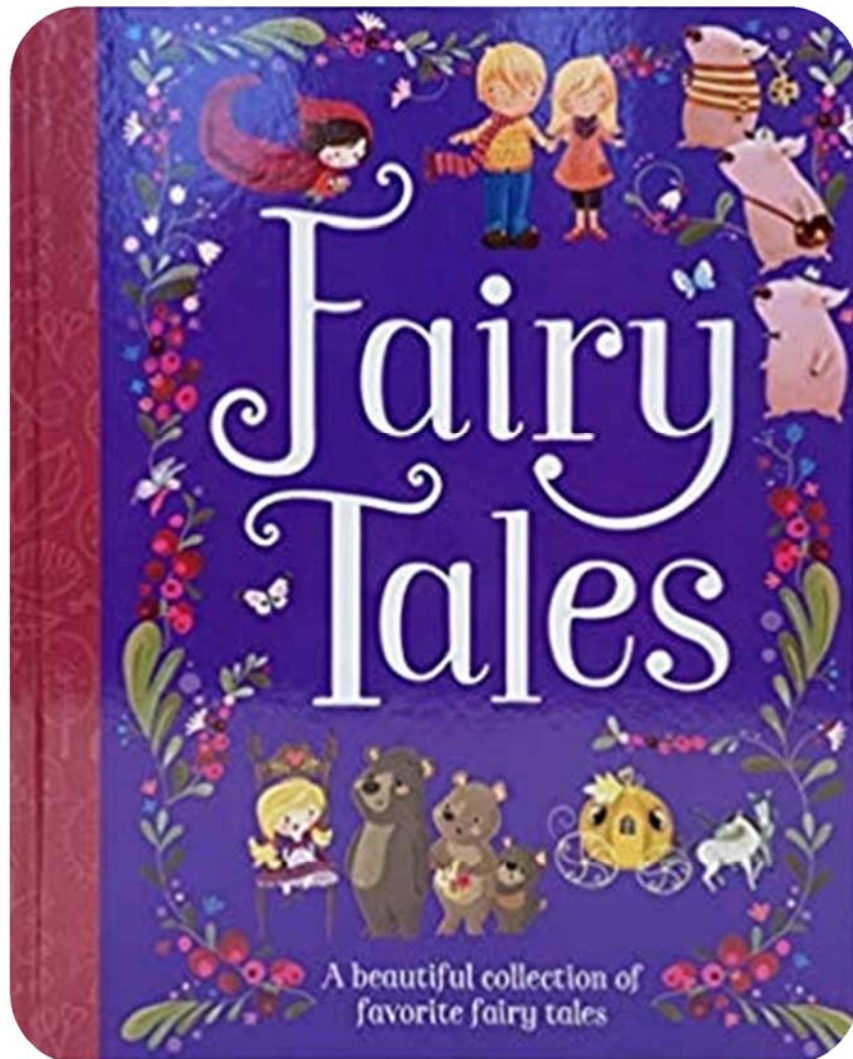




# BOORHAANOL

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## Cinderella

The wife of a rich man fell sick: and when she felt that her end drew nigh, she called her only daughter to her bedside, and said, "Always be a good girl, and I will look down from heaven and watch over you." Soon afterwards she shut her eyes and died, and was buried in the garden; and the little girl went every day to her grave and wept, and was always good and kind to all about her.

And the snow spread a beautiful white covering over the grave; but by the time the sun had melted it away again, her father had married another wife. This new wife had two daughters of her own: they were fair in face but foul at heart, and it was now a sorry time for the poor little girl. "What does the good-for-nothing thing want in the parlor?" said they; and they took away her fine clothes, and gave her an old frock to put on, and laughed at her and turned her into the kitchen.

Then she was forced to do hard work; to rise early, before daylight, to bring the water, to make the fire, to cook and to wash. She had no bed to lie down on, but was made to lie by the hearth among the ashes, and they called her Cinderella.

It happened once that her father was going to the fair, and asked his wife's daughters what he should bring to them. "Fine clothes," said the first. "Pearls and diamonds," said the second. "Now, child," said he to his own daughter, "what will you have?" "The first sprig, dear father that rubs against your hat on your way home" said she. Then he bought for the two first the fine clothes and pearls and diamonds they had asked for: and on his way home, as he rode through a green copse, a sprig of hazel brushed against him, so he broke it off and when he got home he gave it to his daughter. Then she took it, and went to her mother's grave and planted it there, and cried so much that it was watered with her tears; and there it grew and became a fine tree, and soon a little bird came and built its nest upon the tree, and talked with her and watched over her, and brought her whatever she wished for.

Now it happened that the king of the land held a feast which was to last three days, and out of those who came to it his son was to choose a bride for himself; and Cinderella's two sisters were asked to come. So they called Cinderella, and said, "Now, comb our hair, brush our shoes, and tie our sashes for us, for we are going to dance at the king's feast." Then she did as she was

told, but when all was done she could not help crying, for she thought to herself, she would have liked to go to the dance too, and at last she begged her mother very hard to let her go, "You! Cinderella?" said she; "you who have nothing to wear, no clothes at all, and who cannot even dance—you want to go to the ball?" And when she kept on begging, to get rid of her, she said at last, "I will throw this basinful of peas into the ash heap, and if you have picked them all out in two hours' time you shall go to the feast too." Then she threw the peas into the ashes; but the little maiden ran out at the back door into the garden, and cried out—

"Hither, thither, through the sky, turtle-doves and linnets, fly!

Blackbird, thrush, and chaffinch gay, hither, thither, haste away!

One and all, come, help me quick! haste ye, haste ye—pick, pick, pick!"

Then first came two white doves; and next two turtle-doves; and after them all the little birds under heaven came, and the little doves stooped their heads down and set to work, pick, pick, pick; and then the others began to pick, pick, pick, and picked out all the good grain and put it into a dish, and left the ashes. At the end of one hour the work was done, and all flew out again at the windows. Then she brought the dish to her mother. But the mother said, "No, no! indeed, you have no clothes and cannot dance; you shall not go." And when Cinderella begged very hard to go, she said, "If you can in one hour's time pick two of these dishes of pease out of the ashes, you shall go too." So she shook two dishes of peas into the ashes; but the little maiden went out into the garden at the back of the house, and called as before and all the birds came flying, and in half an hour's time all was done, and out they flew again. And then Cinderella took the dishes to her mother, rejoicing to think that she should now go to the ball. But her mother said, "It is all of no use, you cannot go; you have no clothes, and cannot dance; and you would only put us to shame;" and off she went with her two daughters to the feast.

Now when all were gone, and nobody left at home, Cinderella went sorrowfully and sat down under the hazel-tree, and cried out—

"Shake, shake, hazel-tree, gold and silver over me!"

Then her friend the bird flew out of the tree and brought a gold and silver dress for her, and slippers of spangled silk; and she put them on, and followed her sisters to the feast. But they did not know her, she looked so fine and beautiful in her rich clothes.

The king's son soon came up to her, and took her by the hand and danced with her and no one else; and he never left her hand, but when any one else came to ask her to dance, he said, "This lady is dancing with me." Thus they danced till a late hour of the night, and then she wanted to go home; and the king's son said, "I shall go and take care of you to your home," for he wanted to see where the beautiful maid lived. But she slipped away from him unawares, and ran off towards home, and the prince followed her; then she jumped up into the pigeon-house and shut the door. So he waited till her father came home, and told him that the unknown maiden who had been at the feast had hidden herself in the pigeon-house. But when they had broken open the door they found no one within; and as they came back into the house, Cinderella lay, as she always did, in her dirty frock by the ashes; for she had run as quickly as she could through the pigeon-house and on to the hazel-tree, and had there taken off her beautiful clothes, and laid them beneath the tree, that the bird might carry them away; and had seated herself amid the ashes again in her little old frock.

The next day, when the feast was again held, and her father, mother and sisters were gone, Cinderella went to the hazel-tree, and all happened as the evening before.

The king's son, who was waiting for her, took her by the hand and danced with her; and, when any one asked her to dance, he said as before, "This lady is dancing with me." When night came she wanted to go home; and the king's son went with her, but she sprang away from him all at once into the garden behind her father's house. In this garden stood a fine large pear-tree; and Cinderella jumped up into it without being seen. Then the king's son waited till her father came home, and said to him, "The unknown lady has slipped away, and I think she must have sprung into the pear-tree." The father ordered an axe to be brought, and they cut down the tree, but found no one upon it. And when they came back into the kitchen, there lay Cinderella in the ashes as usual; for she had slipped down on the other side of the tree, and carried her beautiful clothes back to the bird at the hazel-tree, and then put on her little old frock.

The third day, when her father and mother and sisters were gone, she went again into the garden, and said—

"Shake, shake, hazel-tree, gold and silver over me!"

Then her kind friend the bird brought a dress still finer than the former one, and slippers which were all of gold; and the king's son danced with her alone, and when any one else asked her to dance, he said, "This lady is my partner." Now when night came she wanted to go home; and the king's son would go with her, but she managed to slip away from him, though in such a hurry that she dropped her left golden slipper upon the stairs.

So the prince took the shoe, and went the next day to the king, his father, and said, "I will take for my wife the lady that this golden shoe fits."

Then both the sisters were overjoyed to hear this; for they had beautiful feet, and had no doubt that they could wear the golden slipper. The eldest went first into the room where the slipper was, and wanted to try it on, and the mother stood by. But her big toe could not go into it, and the shoe was altogether much too small for her. Then the mother said, "Never mind, cut it off. When you are queen you will not care about toes; you will not want to go on foot." So the silly girl cut her big toe off, and squeezed the shoe on, and went to the king's son. Then he took her for his bride, and rode away with her.

But on their way home they had to pass by the hazel-tree that Cinderella had planted, and there sat a little dove on the branch, singing—

"Back again! back again! look to the shoe!

The shoe is too small, and not made for you!

Prince! prince! look again for thy bride,

For she's not the true one that sits by thy side."

Then the prince looked at her foot, and saw by the blood that streamed from it what a trick she had played him. So he brought the false bride back to her home, and said, "This is not the right bride; let the other sister try and put on the slipper." Then she went into the room and got her

foot into the shoe, all but the heel, which was too large. But her mother squeezed it in till the blood came, and took her to the king's son; and he rode away with her. But when they came to the hazel-tree, the little dove sat there still, and sang as before. Then the king's son looked down, and saw that the blood streamed from the shoe. So he brought her back again also. "This is not the true bride," said he to the father; "have you no other daughters?"

Then Cinderella came and she took her clumsy shoe off, and put on the golden slipper, and it fitted as if it had been made for her. And when he drew near and looked at her face the prince knew her, and said, "This is the right bride."

Then he took Cinderella on his horse and rode away. And when they came to the hazel-tree the white dove sang—

"Prince! prince! take home thy bride,

For she is the true one that sits by thy side!"



## **The Gingerbread Man**

**Once upon a time there was a big old farm. Horses, pigs, and chickens lived on this big old farm, and they were well looked after by an old man and an old woman who lived in the farmhouse.**

Every morning the old man gave some carrots, lettuce and hay to the horses, pigs, and chickens and they were very happy.

On this particular morning, as the old man went outside to give the horses, pigs and chickens their carrots, lettuce and hay, while the old woman went to the kitchen to look in her very special and magic cook book.

Up, up, up she stretched to get the book down from the shelf and put it on the kitchen table. The old book belonged to her mum, and her mum's mum before that, and her mum's, mum's mum before her, and her mum's, mum's, mum's mum a long, long time ago.

She decided to open the book and slowly turned the pages. Page one, jumping bananas. Page two, flying pizzas. Page three, super spaghetti! What a crazy cook book.

Stopping on page 4 she read the title, "running biscuits" and smiled. Running biscuits she laughed. They look great. I like biscuits. No, I love biscuits!

Mix, mix, mixing, the old woman started to cook. Stir, stir stirring, she added sugar and flour and continued cooking. Mix, mix, mixing, stir, stir stirring. The old woman didn't stop. She added some butter and one large egg before mixing in some special ginger.

The old woman took a handful of dough to make a little gingerbread man. She made a leg, then two legs, a tummy, two arms and a head. She made a little nose, an eye, then two eyes and a mouth, a big smiling mouth.

Then from a sweet jar she took a red sweet, a blue sweet and a yellow sweet and placed them on the gingerbread man's tummy to make colourful buttons for him. She pushed the yellow sweet into place and put everything into a hot oven, and waited.

When the old woman opened the oven door the gingerbread man jumped out and ran across to the magic cook book. He started dancing on page 4, just below the title "running biscuits" and laughed at the old woman. "I'm a running biscuit and you won't eat me because you can't catch me" he laughed.

“Stop, stop little gingerbread man!” cried the old woman.

The old woman tried to stop the gingerbread man but he could run very fast. He ran under the table, over the chairs and out of the kitchen door before the old woman could catch him. The gingerbread man stopped at the door and sang to the old woman “run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

By this time the old man was coming back to the house after feeding the horses, pigs, and chickens and could see the gingerbread man running around the garden. “Catch the gingerbread man” shouted the old woman to the old man, “run and catch him, run and catch him”.

“Catch me?! Ha, ha, ha” laughed the gingerbread man “the old man has got two old legs, I’ve got two new young legs look!” The gingerbread man started to shake his right leg and then his left leg while he ran around and around the old man singing his taunt “run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

When he finished singing his song the gingerbread man ran under the old man’s legs and out into the farmyard.

“Catch the gingerbread man” shouted the old man to the pigs. “You’ve all got four legs and can run fast! Run and catch him, run and catch him”.

The pigs saw the gingerbread man and tried to eat him. “oink, oink. Stop little gingerbread man, I want to eat you” said one pig but the gingerbread man simply jumped on the pig’s back and ran from his head to his tail singing, “run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!” while all the other pigs just ran around and around squealing and oinking.

The gingerbread man ran into the chicken coop where the chickens began to fly about above the gingerbread man looking down on him as he ran through the eggs on the floor below.

“Catch the gingerbread man” shouted the old man to the chickens. “You’ve all got two wings and can fly. Fly down and catch him, fly down and catch the gingerbread man”.

But the gingerbread man laughed as the chickens tried to fly down and catch him. “cluck, cluck” they said “stop little gingerbread man, we want to eat you”.

Jumping over, under, around and between the big eggs the gingerbread man sang “fly, fly as fast as you can you can’t catch me, I’m the gingerbread man” and he was right. The chickens couldn’t catch the gingerbread man.

The gingerbread man was now running past the horses. “Neigh, stop little gingerbread man” said a big brown horse “I want to eat you”. But the gingerbread man didn’t stop running and the horse couldn’t catch him.

All the old woman, the old man, the pigs, the chickens and the horses could do was watch as the gingerbread man ran out of the farm singing “run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

A police officer was walking past the farm and stopped to listen. He could hear the horses neighing, the chickens clucking, the pigs oinking and the old woman and old man shouting.

The police officer went to look what was going on but he too was also hungry and when he saw the gingerbread man running towards him he put his whistle in his mouth and blew. "WHEWWW, WHEWWW. Stop little gingerbread man" he said "I want to eat you".

"Sorry Mr Police Officer, I will not stop for you to eat me!" said the gingerbread man "so run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!"

Away from the farm the ginger bread man was about to run past an office worker, who was eating a sandwich. The office worker look at the gingerbread man and said "Hello, hello. Stop little gingerbread man, I want to eat you".

Again the gingerbread man didn't stop, he just looked over his shoulder and sang "run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!"

And so the gingerbread man continued to run, run, run until he arrived at a river.

A fox came out from behind a tree and smiled at the gingerbread man. He wanted to eat the gingerbread man but had a clever plan.

"Hello little gingerbread man, you've stopped running. Can you swim across the river?" asked to fox.

"No, I can't swim" said the gingerbread man "I can run very fast. I can run faster than the old woman, I can run faster than the old man, I can run faster than the pigs, the chickens and the horses, I can run faster than the police officer and the office worker, but I can't swim".

"I don't want to eat you but I can help you" said the fox "climb onto my tail and we can swim across the river together" and so the gingerbread man did what the fox wanted.

"Oh no" said the fox "the water is deep. I think it's a good idea if you climb onto my back". So the ginger bread man climbed onto the fox's back.

"Oh no" said the fox "the water is very deep. I think it's a good idea if you climb onto my nose". So the ginger bread man climbed onto the fox's nose.

The gingerbread man's legs were now nearly in the fox's mouth and the fox could almost taste the lovely gingerbread. He liked gingerbread very much.

He was about to take a bite when the old woman pulled the fox's tail from behind him! The fox cried out "ou-ou-ouch" and threw gingerbread man up into the air.

The gingerbread man was flying through the air up, up, up then... down, down, down he fell and waited to splash into the cold water of the river.

But the splash didn't come. Instead he felt 5 fingers around his tummy and before long he was looking into the eyes of the old woman.

"Don't eat me. Don't eat me!" the gingerbread man cried, as he got closer and closer to the old woman's mouth.

The old woman closed her mouth and put her lips together and gave the gingerbread man a kiss on his forehead.

You see the pigs, the chickens, the horses, the police officer, the office worker and especially the fox all wanted to eat the gingerbread man but little old lady didn't.



“No, no, no” she said. “I don’t want to eat you. I made you because I wanted a baby. I wanted a fast and strong baby boy like you” and she kissed him again.

The fox ran back behind the tree and the old woman and the gingerbread man went back to the kitchen in the big old farmhouse.

The old woman started to cook again and as she was cooking she sang, louder and louder, over and over the same song,

“I’m making a gingerbread house, with a gingerbread floor and a gingerbread door,  
Gingerbread stairs and gingerbread chairs, A gingerbread toy for my gingerbread boy.”

In a short time the old lady had made a beautiful little gingerbread house with four windows, two doors, a bedroom and a living room. Inside the house there were tables and chairs, and a big soft sofa.

And in this gingerbread house the little gingerbread man lived happily ever after.



### **Little Red Riding Hood**

Once upon a time there lived in a certain village a little country girl, the prettiest creature who was ever seen. Her mother was excessively fond of her; and her grandmother doted on her still more. This good woman had a little red riding hood made for her. It suited the girl so extremely well that everybody called her Little Red Riding Hood.

One day her mother, having made some cakes, said to her, "Go, my dear, and see how your grandmother is doing, for I hear she has been very ill. Take her a cake, and this little pot of butter."

Little Red Riding Hood set out immediately to go to her grandmother, who lived in another village.

As she was going through the wood, she met with a wolf, who had a very great mind to eat her up, but he dared not, because of some woodcutters working nearby in the forest. He asked her where she was going. The poor child, who did not know that it was dangerous to stay and talk to a wolf, said to him, "I am going to see my grandmother and carry her a cake and a little pot of butter from my mother."

"Does she live far off?" said the wolf

"Oh I say," answered Little Red Riding Hood; "it is beyond that mill you see there, at the first house in the village."

"Well," said the wolf, "and I'll go and see her too. I'll go this way and go you that, and we shall see who will be there first."

The wolf ran as fast as he could, taking the shortest path, and the little girl took a roundabout way, entertaining herself by gathering nuts, running after butterflies, and gathering bouquets of little flowers. It was not long before the wolf arrived at the old woman's house. He knocked at the door: tap, tap.

"Who's there?"

"Your grandchild, Little Red Riding Hood," replied the wolf, counterfeiting her voice; "who has brought you a cake and a little pot of butter sent you by mother."

The good grandmother, who was in bed, because she was somewhat ill, cried out, "Pull the bobbin, and the latch will go up."

The wolf pulled the bobbin, and the door opened, and then he immediately fell upon the good woman and ate her up in a moment, for it been more than three days since he had eaten. He then shut the door and got into the grandmother's bed, expecting Little Red Riding Hood, who came some time afterwards and knocked at the door: tap, tap.

"Who's there?"

Little Red Riding Hood, hearing the big voice of the wolf, was at first afraid; but believing her grandmother had a cold and was hoarse, answered, "It is your grandchild Little Red Riding Hood, who has brought you a cake and a little pot of butter mother sends you."

The wolf cried out to her, softening his voice as much as he could, "Pull the bobbin, and the latch will go up."

Little Red Riding Hood pulled the bobbin, and the door opened.

The wolf, seeing her come in, said to her, hiding himself under the bedclothes, "Put the cake and the little pot of butter upon the stool, and come get into bed with me."

Little Red Riding Hood took off her clothes and got into bed. She was greatly amazed to see how her grandmother looked in her nightclothes, and said to her, "Grandmother, what big arms you have!"

"All the better to hug you with, my dear."

"Grandmother, what big legs you have!"

"All the better to run with, my child."

"Grandmother, what big ears you have!"

"All the better to hear with, my child."

"Grandmother, what big eyes you have!"

"All the better to see with, my child."

"Grandmother, what big teeth you have got!"

"All the better to eat you up with."

And, saying these words, this wicked wolf fell upon Little Red Riding Hood, and ate her all up.

Moral: Children, especially attractive, well-bred young ladies, should never talk to strangers, for if they should do so, they may well provide dinner for a wolf. I say "wolf," but there are various kinds of wolves. There are also those who are charming, quiet, polite, unassuming, complacent, and sweet, who pursue young women at home and in the streets. And unfortunately, it is these gentle wolves who are the most dangerous ones of all.



### **The Little Mermaid**

Far out in the sea where the water is very deep, the Sea King ruled the undersea world. In the deepest spot of the sea was his castle. The walls were made of blue coral. On the roof were shells that opened and closed when the water passed by. And that is where the Sea King lived with his mother and four daughters, each one born a year apart.

The youngest of the four princesses was the Little Mermaid. She spent much of her time swimming to ships that had fallen to the bottom of the sea. The ships held treasures from the world above! She would fill her arms and set up her collection here and there. All the while she would sing. As she did, fish circled around to hear her. For the Little Mermaid's voice was the most beautiful one under the sea.

The girls knew that when they turned 15, they could swim up to the surface for the first time. It would be a long time that the Little Mermaid had to wait, as she was the youngest! So she made her grandmother tell her all about life up on land. Tales about ships and towns, and every bit of stories about humans that she knew.

**For the Little Mermaid's voice was the most beautiful one under the sea.**

Soon the eldest sister turned 15. She was the first to be allowed to rise up to the surface. When she came back, she had many wonders to tell her sisters about! She told about resting on soft white sand. High above was a deep blue sky with puffy white clouds. Later the sun set, she said, and the whole sky turned gold and red. She had watched the birds fly high above her, dipping and making turns in the red and gold sky.

When the next sister turned 15, it was winter. She told of icebergs floating in the sea and shining bright. All the ships stayed far away from the icebergs, she said, as if in fear. But the icebergs did not seem lonely. They were like friends, floating close to each other.

When it was the third sister's turn, she told about moving as close as she could to the gate of a town. She heard people call out, horses that went clip, clopping down the street. And even music that she had never heard before.

**When she came back she had many wonders to tell her sisters about!**

All this the Little Mermaid heard with wonder. It wasn't fair that she had to wait the longest! At last the day came when she turned 15, too. Now she could rise up over the surface and see for herself.

When she came up over the water, the Little Mermaid was next to a large ship. On the ship beautiful music was playing. Sailors were dancing on the deck. They were laughing and having a fine time. It must be a party! Now and then as the waves lifted up the Little Mermaid, she could see better. A handsome young man stepped out on the deck. When he did, a hundred rockets rose in the air. The party was for him. Was it his birthday? She swam closer. The men all seemed to like that young man. When he spoke, the sailors would laugh. Sometimes they patted him on his back in joy. Once that made his crown fall off. The men laughed and picked it up. "A crown," said the Little Mermaid. "He must be a prince."

### **At last the day came when she turned 15, too.**

Suddenly, it became very dark and the wind picked up. The sailors started to run about on deck. They pulled down the sail. The ship dipped and swooped. It rolled side to side, and up and down on the high waves.

Then lightning. Thunder. A strong rainstorm hit. The poor ship started to tip on the rough waves! It was so dark that the Little Mermaid could see nothing. Then lightning lit up the sky, and she could see the young prince on deck. He seemed to be the only one still there! He was working hard to keep the ship afloat. He was throwing ropes out to his men who had jumped. But then, all at once, the waves got very high and the ship started to tip over. The Prince was flung to the side of the ship and thrown overboard! Down into the sea he fell. He dropped very fast. What was the Little Mermaid to do? She knew that human beings cannot live under the water. She dove deep and fast. She reached out and was able to grab his shirt. Then she swam up to the surface as fast as she could. At last she could pull his head above the water. There the two of them floated as the waves rose and fell. By morning, the storm had passed. Yet the prince was as still as he had been all night. From far off the Little Mermaid saw tops of hills. "Land!" she said.

She swam to the shore, pulling him behind her. It was not easy to pull the young man up onto dry sand, but she did it. Was he dead? She sang a sad song. All of a sudden, the prince started to move. "Oh! Are you all right?" she asked, and touched his forehead.

### **All of a sudden, he started to stir.**

Just then, she heard a group of girls come over. At once, she dove into the sea and hid behind a rock. They must not see her – a mermaid! The girls found the prince, who was now awake. They called for help and soon he was led off. The prince would never know that she had saved him. The Little Mermaid sank into a deep gloom. When she went back home, her sisters wanted to know all about her trip. But she was too sad to say anything.

Days went by. Then weeks. The sisters went to their grandmother for help. The old woman went to her granddaughter. "Child, what is the matter?" she said.

The Little Mermaid cried out, "Grandmother, I will never be happy again!" She told about meeting the prince and saving him. Then having to leave him behind. "Unless I can somehow walk on land and be with that young man, I will be sad for the rest of my days!"

“My dear,” said the grandmother, “you know as well as I do that it is not possible for a mermaid to walk on two legs! Why, the only one who can do anything like that is the Sea Witch. But of course it is much too dangerous to go to her.”

The Sea Witch! Before she knew it, the Little Mermaid was headed to the far corner of the sea, where the Sea Witch lived.

### **“The only one who can do that is the Sea Witch.”**

“This is no problem,” said the Sea Witch when the Little Mermaid told her what she needed.

“I fix problems much harder than this. Why, to have legs all you need to do is to drink my potion.” Then she turned to face the girl. “But I don’t just give it away, you understand.”

“Oh!” said the Little Mermaid. “What then is your price?” In her heart, she felt a lift. So there was a way she could have two legs and be with the prince after all!

“Oh, not too much,” said the Sea Witch. “For one, you must give up your voice.”

“My voice?” said the Little Mermaid. She knew her voice is what everyone loved about her the best.

“You don’t need it,” said the Sea Witch. “Chitter, chatter, what a waste of time! But know this, little pretty. If the prince marries someone else, the next day you must die. And your voice will stay with me forever. But then again, who knows? He might choose YOU....”

The Little Mermaid’s heart leaped.

The Sea Witch held out a glass with the green potion. “So!” she said. “What are you going to do? Make up your mind! I don’t have all day.”

The Little Mermaid took the potion and drank it. At once she felt dizzy and in pain, as if a sword was being passed through her body. She spun and jerked about, then fell. When she awoke, she was on the same dry land as when she had rescued the prince. Lifting up her head, she could see that her dream had come true. Where her tail had been, she had two human legs!

### **The Little Mermaid took the potion and drank it.**

“Say, Miss, are you in trouble?” It was none other than the prince! She tried to say something but no words came out of her mouth. “Can you not speak?” said he. She shook her head “no.” “Oh! Well then, let me take you to the castle. You can clean up there and get some dry clothes to wear.”

You can be sure the Little Mermaid was very happy to join the prince at the castle! At first, walking on her two legs was shaky. But soon she got the hang of it. That night, the prince showed her around the castle rooms. He would point to a portrait and tell her all about the person. When he said something funny, they laughed together. When the story was sad, her kind eyes told him that she knew why and she felt sad, too.

The next day was a royal party. The prince had not been not looking forward to going to it. Hours of standing with finely-dressed people who talk and talk and have nothing to say! He asked the Little Mermaid if she might come with him. She nodded a big “yes”! That day, with the Little Mermaid by his side, the prince felt glad. Sometimes he would make a comment in a low voice to her. And by her eyes and face, he knew that she understood.

After that, the prince wanted the Little Mermaid by his side every day. He thought he could even fall in love with her. But he still held out hope to marry the one with the lovely voice he remembered from when he had been rescued. Of course, it could not be his wonderful new friend who was not able to talk, let alone sing.

**By her face and eyes, he knew that she understood.**

The King called for his son one day. "Son," he said, "your mother and I have made a decision. It is time that you took a bride. Lucky for you that we already picked one out for you."

"What!?" said the prince. He only wanted to marry the woman with the beautiful voice that he remembered. "Who is she?"

"A princess from a nearby land. Tonight she is coming with her parents. We will make the wedding plans."

The prince was crushed. And the Little Mermaid felt fear. She knew what would happen to her the day after the prince married someone else!

That night her troubles got even worse. What the Little Mermaid did not know was that the Sea Witch had put her voice into this princess. She was a stuck-up princess who thought only of herself. Yet when she spoke, it was the Little Mermaid's voice that came out! The prince was stunned. He asked the princess to sing. It was the Little Mermaid's voice that filled the room. The prince could not believe his luck! At last, he could marry the woman he had longed for all this time! When he shared his joy with the Little Mermaid, she tried to show that she was happy for him. But gloom filled her heart.

**The Little Mermaid felt fear. She knew what would happen to her when the prince married someone else!**

The next morning at dawn, the Little Mermaid went to the sea. Her sisters, worried since they had not heard from her, rose above the water to see how she was. Their youngest sister let them know the trouble she was in. The prince's wedding was going to take place the very next day! And the day after that she must die. The sisters said not to worry, that they had an idea! They told her to come back to the shore later that night. Then they dove back into the sea.

That night, the Little Mermaid came back to the shore as she was told to do. The three sisters rose up again. Gone was their beautiful long hair. For they had cut it all off to give to the Sea Witch in exchange for a knife. With the knife, the Little Mermaid must kill the princess that very night. Then the wedding could not take place and she could return to the sea and be with her family. She took the knife for she knew how much they had done for her in love. But in her heart she knew she was not going to kill the princess.

The wedding day had arrived. The Little Mermaid stepped up to the wedding ship with the other guests. The wedding would take place at sunset.

In the meantime, the three sisters had returned home. They were met with an angry father. "Where is your sister?" the Sea King shouted. "Where have you all been?"



They told the father the trouble their youngest sister was in. The father swam up to the wedding ship. He saw the prince and princess getting ready to marry. He knew that his daughter did not use the knife the night before.

At once, the Sea King rushed to see the Sea Witch. She laughed. She said there was only one way to save his youngest daughter from her fate. If he would just hand over his scepter to her, the Little Mermaid could be saved. With the scepter in her hand, the Sea Witch would rule the underworld kingdom! The Sea King took a deep breath. What else could he do? So, he agreed.

### **The wedding was to take place at sunset.**

The Sea Witch grabbed the scepter and laughed in glee. She rushed to the wedding ship to see her victory. The Little Mermaid saw the Sea Witch rise out of the sea. She saw that with the scepter, the Sea Witch had become a huge sea monster. Tentacles were twisting out from all over her body like an octopus. The Little Mermaid knew she must protect the prince and even his new bride. So she took out the knife. Just then, one of the Sea Witches tentacles reached out and lifted the Little Mermaid right off the ship! “This is the end for you!” crowed the Sea Witch.

Before the Little Mermaid knew it, she was wrapped up by the tentacle. She was spun to the very chest of the Sea Witch. And the knife she was holding – the Sea Witch’s very own knife – she used it and dove it deep into the chest of the monster.

The Sea Witch reeled back in pain and the Little Mermaid was freed. On the ship, the guests ran around in fear. The prince shot arrow after arrow at the monster. Finally, the Sea Witch dropped down under the water. As she fell, the Little Mermaid’s voice was let go, and it returned to her.

The princess then shouted in a gruff harsh voice, “What a lousy kingdom this is! You can’t even have a proper wedding!” The prince heard the princess and knew that she was not who he thought she was. Then the Little Mermaid started to sing. The prince knew that the voice he remembered belonged to the very one he had grown to love.

The angry princess stormed off the wedding ship. And her family followed close behind. When the Sea King arrived, the scepter was floating in the sea, as if it were waiting for him. With a sweep of his arm, it was his again.

“Well!” said the Sea King. “I see my daughter is in good hands.” and, with a wave of his scepter, he lifted the Little Mermaid back onto the ship.

The prince put his arms around her. “Now I know it was you all along!” said the prince. “Will you marry me?” The Little Mermaid had her voice back now. But with all the happiness in her heart, she could not manage to speak. So she nodded “yes” with a warm smile. And a wedding on board ship took place after all.



### **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

Once upon a time there were three Bears, who lived together in a house of their own, in a wood. One of them was a Little Wee Bear, and one was a Middle-sized Bear, and the other was a Great Big Bear. They had each a bowl for their porridge; a little bowl for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bowl for the Middle-sized Bear; and a great bowl for the Great Big Bear. And they had each a chair to sit in; a little chair for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized chair for the Middle-sized Bear; and a great chair for the Great Big Bear. And they had each a bed to sleep in; a little bed for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bed for the Middle-sized Bear; and a great bed for the Great Big Bear.

One day, after they had made the porridge for their breakfast, and poured it into their porridge-bowls, they walked out into the wood while the porridge was cooling, that they might not burn their mouths by beginning too soon, for they were polite, well-brought-up Bears. And while they were away a little girl called Goldilocks, who lived at the other side of the wood and had been sent on an errand by her mother, passed by the house, and looked in at the window. And then she peeped in at the keyhole, for she was not at all a well-brought-up little girl. Then seeing nobody in the house she lifted the latch. The door was not fastened, because the Bears were good Bears, who did nobody any harm, and never suspected that anybody would harm them. So Goldilocks opened the door and went in; and well pleased was she when she saw the porridge on the table. If she had been a well-brought-up little girl she would have waited till the Bears came home, and then, perhaps, they would have asked her to breakfast; for they were good Bears—a little rough or so, as the manner of Bears is, but for all that very good-natured and hospitable. But she was an impudent, rude little girl, and so she set about helping herself.

First she tasted the porridge of the Great Big Bear, and that was too hot for her. Next she tasted the porridge of the Middle-sized Bear, but that was too cold for her. And then she went to the porridge of the Little Wee Bear, and tasted it, and that was neither too hot nor too cold, but just right, and she liked it so well that she ate it all up, every bit!

Then Goldilocks, who was tired, for she had been catching butterflies instead of running on her errand, sat down in the chair of the Great Big Bear, but that was too hard for her. And then she sat down in the chair of the Middle-sized Bear, and that was too soft for her. But when she sat down in the chair of the Little Wee Bear that was neither too hard nor too soft, but just right. So she seated herself in it, and there she sate till the bottom of the chair came out, and down she came, plump upon the ground; and that made her very cross, for she was a bad-tempered little girl.

Now, being determined to rest, Goldilocks went upstairs into the bedchamber in which the Three Bears slept. And first she lay down upon the bed of the Great Big Bear, but that was too high at the head for her. And next she lay down upon the bed of the Middle-sized Bear, and that was too high at the foot for her. And then she lay down upon the bed of the Little Wee Bear, and that was neither too high at the head nor at the foot, but just right. So she covered herself up comfortably, and lay there till she fell fast asleep.

By this time the Three Bears thought their porridge would be cool enough for them to eat it properly; so they came home to breakfast. Now careless Goldilocks had left the spoon of the Great Big Bear standing in his porridge.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN AT MY PORRIDGE!" said the Great Big Bear in his great, rough, gruff voice.

Then the Middle-sized Bear looked at his porridge and saw the spoon was standing in it too.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN AT MY PORRIDGE!" said the Middle-sized Bear in his middle-sized voice.

Then the Little Wee Bear looked at his, and there was the spoon in the porridge-bowl, but the porridge was all gone!

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN AT MY PORRIDGE, AND HAS EATEN IT ALL UP!" said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

Upon this the Three Bears, seeing that someone had entered their house, and eaten up the Little Wee Bear's breakfast, began to look about them. Now the careless Goldilocks had not put the hard cushion straight when she rose from the chair of the Great Big Bear.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!" said the Great Big Bear in his great, rough, gruff voice.

And the careless Goldilocks had squatted down the soft cushion of the Middle-sized Bear.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!" said the Middle-sized Bear in his middle-sized voice.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR, AND HAS SATE THE BOTTOM THROUGH!" said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

Then the Three Bears thought they had better make further search in case it was a burglar, so they went upstairs into their bedchamber. Now Goldilocks had pulled the pillow of the Great Big Bear out of its place.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED!" said the Great Big Bear in his great, rough, gruff voice.

And Goldilocks had pulled the bolster of the Middle-sized Bear out of its place.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED!" said the Middle-sized Bear in his middle-sized voice.

But when the Little Wee Bear came to look at his bed, there was the bolster in its place!

And the pillow was in its place upon the bolster!

And upon the pillow——?

There was Goldilocks's yellow head—which was not in its place, for she had no business there.

"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED,—AND HERE SHE IS STILL!" said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.

Now Goldilocks had heard in her sleep the great, rough, gruff voice of the Great Big Bear; but she was so fast asleep that it was no more to her than the roaring of wind, or the rumbling of thunder. And she had heard the middle-sized voice of the Middle-sized Bear, but it was only as if she had heard someone speaking in a dream. But when she heard the little wee voice of the Little Wee Bear, it was so sharp, and so shrill, that it awakened her at once. Up she started, and when she saw the Three Bears on one side of the bed, she tumbled herself out at the other, and ran to the window. Now the window was open, because the Bears, like good, tidy Bears, as they were, always opened their bedchamber window when they got up in the morning. So naughty, frightened little Goldilocks jumped; and whether she broke her neck in the fall, or ran into the wood and was lost there, or found her way out of the wood and got whipped for being a bad girl and playing truant, no one can say. But the Three Bears never saw anything more of her.



### **The three little pigs**

Mrs Pig was very tired: 'Oh dear,' she said to her three little pigs, 'I can't do this work anymore, I'm afraid you must leave home and make your own way in the world.' So the three little pigs set off.

The first little pig met a man carrying a bundle of straw.

'Excuse me,' said the first little pig politely. 'Would you please sell some of your straw so I can make a house?'

The man readily agreed and the first little pig went off to find a good place to build his house.

The other little pigs carried on along the road and, soon, they met a man carrying a bundle of sticks.

'Excuse me,' said the little pig politely. 'Would you please sell me some sticks so I can build a house?'

The man readily agreed and the little pig said goodbye to his brother.

The third little pig didn't think much of their ideas:

'I'm going to build myself a much bigger, better, stronger house,' he thought, and he carried off down the road until he met a man with a cart load of bricks.

'Excuse me,' said the third little pig, as politely as his mother had taught him. 'Please can you sell me some bricks so I can build a house?'

'Of course,' said the man. 'Where would you like me to unload them?'

The third little pig looked around and saw a nice patch of ground under a tree.

'Over there,' he pointed.

They all set to work and by night time the house of straw and the house of sticks were built but the house of bricks was only just beginning to rise above the ground. The first and second little pigs laughed, they thought their brother was really silly having to work so hard when they had finished.

However, a few days later the brick house was completed and looked very smart with shiny windows, a neat little chimney and a shiny knocker on the door.

One starlit night, soon after they had settled in, a wolf came out looking for food. By the light of the moon he espied the first little pig's house of straw and he sidled up to the door and called:

'Little pig, little pig, let me come in.'

'No, no, by the hair of my chinny chin chin!' replied the little pig.

'Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!' said the wolf who was a very big, bad, and a greedy sort of wolf.



And he huffed, and he puffed and blew the house in. But the little pig ran away as fast as his trotters could carry him and went to the second little pig's house to hide.



The next night the wolf was even hungrier and he saw the house of sticks. He crept up to the door and called:

'Little pig, little pig, let me come in.'

'Oh no, not by the hair on my chinny chin chin!' said the second little pig, as the first little pig hid trembling under the stairs.

'Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!' said the wolf.



And he huffed, and he puffed and he blew the house in. But the little pigs ran away as fast as their trotters could carry them and went to the third little pig's house to hide.

'What did I tell you?' said the third little pig. 'It's important to build houses properly.' But he welcomed them in and they all settled down for the rest of the night.

The following night the wolf was even hungrier and feeling bigger and badder than ever.

Prowling around, he came to the third little pig's house. He crept up to the door and called:

'Little pig, little pig, let me come in.'

'Oh no, not by the hair on my chinny chin chin!' said the third little pig, while the first and the second little pigs hid trembling under the stairs.

'Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!' said the wolf.



And he huffed, and he puffed and he blew but nothing happened. So he huffed and he puffed and he blew again, even harder, but still nothing happened. The brick house stood firm.

The wolf was very angry and getting even bigger and even badder by the minute.

'I'm going to eat you all,' he growled, 'just you wait and see.'

He prowled round the house trying to find a way in. The little pigs trembled when they saw his big eyes peering through the window. Then they heard a scrambling sound.





'Quick, quick!' said the third little pig. 'He's climbing the tree. I think he's going to come down the chimney.'

The three little pigs got the biggest pan they had, and filled it full of water and put it on the fire to boil. All the time they could hear the sound of the wolf climbing the tree and then walking along the roof.

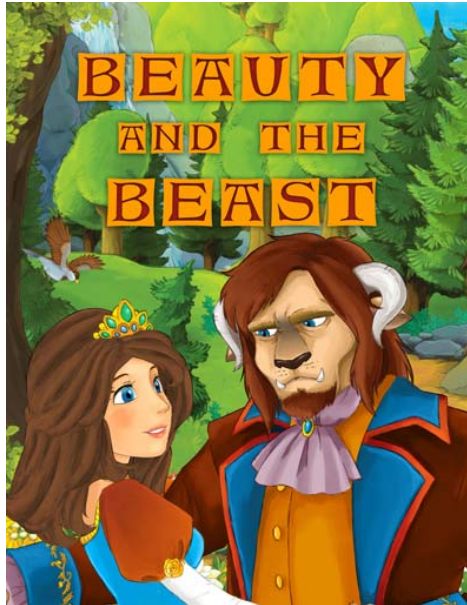
The little pigs held their breath. The wolf was coming down the chimney. Nearer and nearer he came until, with a tremendous splash, he landed in the pan of water.

'Yoweeeeee!' he screamed, and shot back up the chimney thinking his tail was on fire.



The last the three little pigs saw of the big bad wolf was him flying over the treetops clutching a very sore tail.

So, the three little pigs lived happily together ever after in their very smart houses of bricks.



## Beauty and the Beast



Once upon a time, there was a struggling trader. He lived with his daughter, Beauty, in a small village in France. He left their home for a business trip, leaving Beauty behind. Coming back, he had to pass through a dark forest. As he was tired, he looked for a place to sleep.

He came across an enchanted castle and knocked on the door. There was no answer. The trader crept inside and found that the castle was empty. However, there was a table covered with dishes of food and a large, comfortable bed. After eating a full meal, he curled up in the bed and went straight to sleep.

The trader woke up feeling fresh the next morning and still there was no sign of life in the castle. While searching, he came across a vibrant rose bush in the garden. He thought to himself that Beauty would love a rose as a gift when he arrived home. He reached out and cut a red rose from the strange bush.

Immediately, a violent and loud roaring sound came from the bush. Something swept the trader off his feet and tumbled him to the ground. A vicious Beast jumped out of the bush. He towered over the trader and scowled down at him.

He wore a long, red velvet cape around his furry neck.

‘You come into my home and then you dare to steal my roses!’ he boomed.

The trader was speechless. His face froze in horror.

It was then that a little voice shouted from afar, ‘Father!’

It was Beauty. She had gone in search of her father when he had not returned home on time.

She jumped off her horse and ran to the garden. She stopped by her father’s side and stared up at the Beast.

The Beast looked at them both.

‘I will let you go. To pay for your crime, your daughter stays with me forever,’ he growled.

The father begged the Beast not to give them such a punishment. However, Beauty loved her father very much and she promised to stay in the castle if he was allowed to go free.

The Beast picked up Beauty’s father in his paws and threw him out of the garden. Beauty’s father was afraid and he ran away to the village.

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At first, Beauty was terrified to stay in the castle. She was afraid of the Beast’s monstrous looks. However, Beauty soon learned that the Beast’s heart was kind. He treated her with care; making sure she was fed and warm. He would keep her company while she was reading or exploring the castle.

The Beast fell in love with Beauty and eventually asked if she would marry him. However, Beauty refused as she still missed her father and wanted to see him again.

The Beast then showed her a small magic mirror.

‘Ask the mirror to let you see your father,’ he said.

The mirror lit up and there, in the glass, was Beauty’s father. He was very ill in bed and he was all alone.

Beauty cried out in terror, pleading, ‘Beast, please let me see my father, he is dying.’

Despite the promise she had made, the Beast agreed to let Beauty go as he wanted to see her happy. Beauty left for weeks to nurse her father back to health and she was happy at home.

One night, when she had been at home for some time, Beauty had a terrible nightmare in which she saw that the Beast was ill. He was dying in his bed. Beauty was afraid for him. As soon as she woke up the next morning, she ran straight back to the castle.

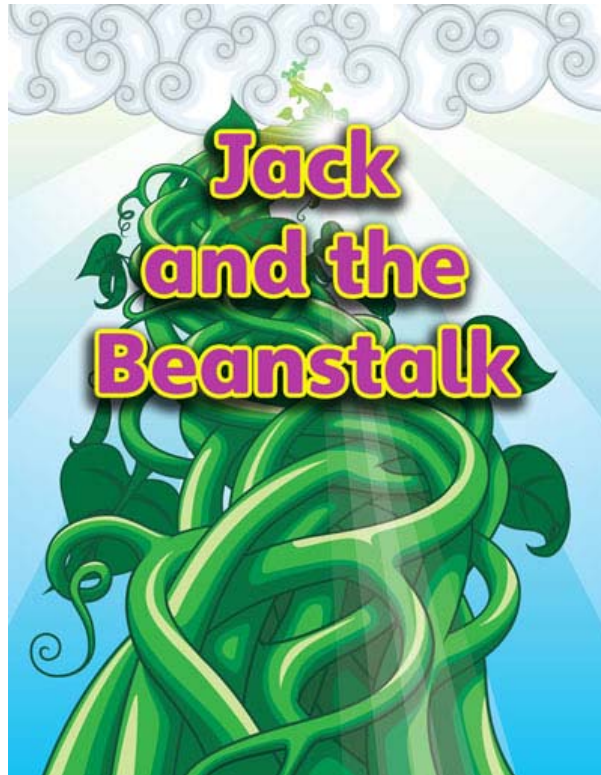
She saw the Beast lying in the same bed that she had seen in her dream.

She cried out, ‘Please! Do not leave me! I love you!’

Then, all of a sudden, the Beast transformed into a handsome young prince. He stood up and turned to face Beauty.

‘I was once a prince but I was put under this terrible curse. Only true love could break it. You have saved me because you learned to love me for who I am. You did not look at me and see only a Beast.’

Overjoyed, the couple married and lived happily ever after.



### Jack and the Beanstalk



Once a poor widow had a son called Jack. She loved him dearly. They lived in a little house and all they owned was a cow called Daisy.

Sadly, the time came when all their money was gone and the widow decided that all they could do was to sell Daisy.

“Jack, it’s no good. You’ll have to take Daisy to market. She’s worth a lot of money, so make sure you get a good price for her.”

Jack set off and on his way he met a strange man who offered him five beans which he said had magic powers. In return he wanted Daisy as his own. Jack agreed and, taking the beans, ran back to his mother.

“Mother! Mother, look what I’ve got! Magic beans in return for Daisy.”

Much to his surprise, his mother was very angry.

“Oh, you stupid boy!” she cried. “How can we live on five beans?”

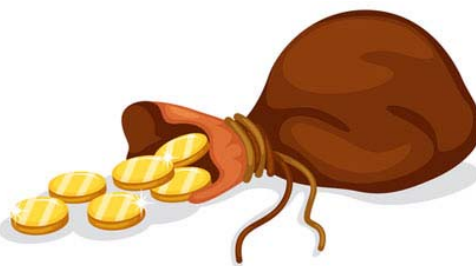
Snatching the beans, she threw them out of the window in disgust and sent poor Jack straight to bed.

The next morning, looking out of the window, they couldn't believe their eyes. For, where the beans had landed, there was a giant beanstalk reaching up into the clouds.



Jack decided that it would be an adventure to climb up the beanstalk and see what was at the top. Up and up he climbed, higher and higher, but still he hadn't reached the top. He paused for breath. Up and up he climbed again, higher and yet higher until, to his amazement, he found himself at the entrance to a huge castle. Boldly, he pushed open the heavy door and entered.

At first there seemed to be no-one there and so Jack wandered about. To his surprise, there were giant chairs by giant tables. Clambering onto a chair, Jack could see giant golden coins lying in heaps on the table. Snoring loudly, with his head on the table, was a diabolical giant. Jack held his breath and, picking up one of the golden coins to take to his mother, crept silently away, afraid he might wake the giant.



As he scrambled down the beanstalk it started to shake and, in the distance, he could hear the rumbling voice of one very angry giant:

“Fee, fie, foe, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman.”

Jack slithered down the stalk as fast as he was able.

“Mother, mother,” he cried, “look what I’ve found!”



She couldn't believe her eyes. "Where did you find that coin? It's worth enough to feed us for the year!"

Jack told her of his adventure and she told him how proud she was. That night they ate the biggest dinner they had eaten in years.

That night, as his mother slept, Jack decided to creep up the beanstalk again and see what else he could find. At the castle, his eyes alighted upon more coins and glittering diamonds, rubies and emeralds. Quickly, he scooped into his pouch as much as he could carry and hurried back to the beanstalk.



But this time, the giant had been waiting for him. The ground began to shake beneath Jack's feet, the beanstalk trembled and the sky turned black.

"Fee, fie, foe, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman," roared the giant, lumbering after Jack. Trembling with fear, Jack climbed onto the beanstalk and began to slide down.

He nearly lost his balance as the giant put his foot on the top of the beanstalk and clambered after him, muttering to himself: "This is diabolical, absolutely diabolical! You can't trust anyone these days. Just wait till I get my hands on that Englishman!"

The beanstalk shook as though in a storm.

Quicker and quicker Jack slid, but quicker and quicker the giant followed.

Faster and faster Jack slid, but faster and faster the giant followed.

Gathering speed, Jack tumbled down the last few feet. Breathless and afraid, he rushed to the woodshed and grabbed an axe. Without a moment's delay, he dashed back to the beanstalk and, with one mighty swing of the axe, he severed the stalk.

The beanstalk toppled over and, with a thunderous crash, the beanstalk and the giant fell to the ground causing a huge hole in the M1 and a tailback for fifty miles.

You will be happy to know that Jack and his mother bought back Daisy the cow. Together they lived happily ever after, boring all their friends with their story.



