

WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

Grimm's Fairy Tales

J.L.C. & W.C. GRIMM



Complete and Unabridged

Grimm's Fairy Tales

J. L. C. & W. C. GRIMM

WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

In loving memory of
MICHAEL TRAYLER
the founder of Wordsworth Editions

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The Rabbit's Bride



HERE was once a woman who lived with her daughter in a beautiful cabbage-garden; and there came a rabbit and ate up all the cabbages. At last said the woman to her daughter, 'Go into the garden, and drive out the rabbit.'

'Shoo! shoo!' said the maiden; 'don't eat up all our cabbages, little rabbit!'

'Come, maiden,' said the rabbit, 'sit on my tail and go with me to my rabbit-hutch.' But the maiden would not.

Another day, back came the rabbit, and ate away at the cabbages, until the woman said to her daughter, 'Go into the garden, and drive away the rabbit.'

'Shoo! shoo!' said the maiden; 'don't eat up all our cabbages, little rabbit!'

'Come, maiden,' said the rabbit, 'sit on my tail and go with me to my rabbit-hutch.' But the maiden would not.

Again, a third time back came the rabbit, and ate away at the cabbages, until the woman said to her daughter, 'Go into the garden, and drive away the rabbit.'

'Shoo! shoo!' said the maiden; 'don't eat up all our cabbages, little rabbit!'

'Come, maiden,' said the rabbit, 'sit on my tail and go with me to my rabbit-hutch.'

And then the girl seated herself on the rabbit's tail, and the rabbit took her to his hutch.

'Now,' said he, 'set to work and cook some bran and cabbage; I

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'Come, maiden,' said the rabbit, 'sit on my tail and go with me to my rabbit-hutch.'

And then the girl seated herself on the rabbit's tail, and the rabbit took her to his hutch.

'Now,' said he, 'set to work and cook some bran and cabbage; I

am going to bid the wedding guests.' And soon they were all collected. Would you like to know who they were? Well, I can only tell you what was told to me; all the hares came, and the crow who was to be the parson to marry them, and the fox for the clerk, and the altar was under the rainbow. But the maiden was sad, because she was so lonely.

'Get up! get up!' said the rabbit, 'the wedding folk are all merry.'

But the bride wept and said nothing, and the rabbit went away, but very soon came back again.

'Get up! get up!' said he, 'the wedding folk are waiting.' But the bride said nothing, and the rabbit went away. Then she made a figure of straw, and dressed it in her own clothes, and gave it a red mouth, and set it to watch the kettle of bran, and then she went home to her mother. Back again came the rabbit, saying, 'Get up! get up!' and he went up and hit the straw figure on the head, so that it tumbled down.

And the rabbit thought that he had killed his bride, and he went away and was very sad.





Six Soldiers of Fortune



HERE was once a man who was a Jack-of-all-trades; he had served in the war, and had been brave and bold, but at the end of it he was sent about his business, with three farthings and his discharge.

‘I am not going to stand this,’ said he; ‘wait till I find the right man to help me, and the king shall give me all the treasures

of his kingdom before he has done with me.’

Then, full of wrath, he went into the forest, and he saw one standing there by six trees which he had rooted up as if they had been stalks of corn. And he said to him, ‘Will you be my man, and come along with me?’

‘All right,’ answered he; ‘I must just take this bit of wood home to my father and mother.’ And taking one of the trees, he bound it round the other five, and putting the faggot on his shoulder, he carried it off; then soon coming back, he went along with his leader, who said, ‘Two such as we can stand against the whole world.’

And when they had gone on a little while, they came to a huntsman who was kneeling on one knee and taking careful aim with his rifle.

‘Huntsman,’ said the leader, ‘what are you aiming at?’

‘Two miles from here,’ answered he, ‘there sits a fly on the bough of an oak tree, I mean to put a bullet into its left eye.’

‘Oh, come along with me,’ said the leader; ‘three of us together can stand against the world.’

The huntsman was quite willing to go with him, and so they went on till they came to seven windmills, whose sails were going round briskly, and yet there was no wind blowing from any quarter, and not a leaf stirred.

'Well,' said the leader, 'I cannot think what ails the windmills, turning without wind.' And he went on with his followers about two miles farther, and then they came to a man sitting up in a tree, holding one nostril and blowing with the other.

'Now then,' said the leader, 'what are you doing up there?'

'Two miles from here,' answered he, 'there are seven windmills; I am blowing, and they are going round.'

'Oh, go with me,' cried the leader, 'four of us together can stand against the world.'

So the blower got down and went with them, and after a time they came to a man standing on one leg, and the other had been taken off and was lying near him.

'You seem to have got a handy way of resting yourself,' said the leader to the man.

'I am a runner,' answered he, 'and in order to keep myself from going too fast I have taken off a leg, for when I run with both, I go faster than a bird can fly.'

'Oh, go with me,' cried the leader, 'five of us together may well stand against the world.'

So he went with them all together, and it was not long before they met a man with a little hat, and he wore it just over one ear.

'Manners! manners!' said the leader; 'with your hat like that, you look like a jack-fool.'

'I dare not put it straight,' answered the other; 'if I did, there would be such a terrible frost that the very birds would be frozen and fall dead from the sky to the ground.'

'Oh, come with me,' said the leader; 'we six together may well stand against the whole world.'

So the six went on until they came to a town where the king had caused it to be made known that whoever would run a race with his daughter and win it might become her husband, but that whoever lost must lose his head into the bargain. And the leader came forward and said one of his men should run for him.

'Then,' said the king, 'his life too must be put in pledge, and if he fails, his head and yours too must fall.'

When this was quite settled and agreed upon, the leader called the runner, and strapped his second leg on to him.

'Now, look out,' said he, 'and take care that we win.'

It had been agreed that the one who should bring water first from a far distant brook should be accounted winner. Now the king's daughter and the runner each took a pitcher, and they started both at the same time; but in one moment, when the king's daughter had gone but a very little way, the runner was out of sight, for his running was as if the wind rushed by. In a short time he reached the brook, filled his pitcher full of water, and turned back again. About half-way home, however, he was overcome with weariness, and setting down his pitcher, he lay down on the ground to sleep. But in order to awaken soon again by not lying too soft he had taken a horse's skull which lay near and placed it under his head for a pillow. In the meanwhile the king's daughter, who really was a good runner, good enough to beat an ordinary man, had reached the brook, and filled her pitcher, and was hastening with it back again, when she saw the runner lying asleep.

'The day is mine,' said she with much joy, and she emptied his pitcher and hastened on. And now all had been lost but for the huntsman who was standing on the castle wall, and with his keen eyes saw all that happened.

'We must not be outdone by the king's daughter,' said he, and he loaded his rifle and took so good an aim that he shot the horse's skull from under the runner's head without doing him any harm. And the runner awoke and jumped up, and saw his pitcher standing empty and the king's daughter far on her way home. But, not losing courage, he ran swiftly to the brook, filled it again with water, and for all that, he got home ten minutes before the king's daughter.

'Look you,' said he; 'this is the first time I have really stretched my legs; before it was not worth the name of running.'

The king was vexed, and his daughter yet more so, that she should be beaten by a discharged common soldier; and they took counsel together how they might rid themselves of him and of his companions at the same time.

'I have a plan,' said the king; 'do not fear but that we shall be quit of them for ever.' Then he went out to the men and bade them to feast and be merry and eat and drink; and he led them