

精选外国寓言童话集

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

Once there were two mice. They were friends. One mouse lived in the country; the other mouse lived in the city. After many years the Country mouse saw the City mouse; he said, "Do come and see me at my house in the country." So the City mouse went. The City mouse said, "This food is not good, and your house is not good. Why do you live in a hole in the field? You should come and live in the city. You would live in a nice house made of stone. You would have nice food to eat. You must come and see me at my house in the city."

The Country mouse went to the house of the City mouse. It was a very good house. Nice food was set ready for them to eat. But just as they began to eat they heard a great noise. The City mouse cried, " Run! Run! The cat is coming!" They ran away quickly and hid.

After some time they came out. When they came out, the Country mouse said, "I do not like living in the city. I like living in my hole in the field. For it is nicer to be poor and happy, than to be rich and afraid."

Little Red Coat

There was a little girl. She lived with her mother in a hut near the forest.

One day the mother got some red cloth; she took her needle and she made a red coat for the little girl.

She put the coat on the little girl, and said, "I shall call you Little Red Coat." So the little girl was called "Little Red Coat" by her mother.

One day Little Red Coat said, "I want to show my red coat to Grandmother."

Grandmother lived in a hut. The way to the hut was through the forest.

The girl's mother said, "You shall show Grandmother your red coat, and you shall take some eggs to her. You shall put on your little red coat and go through the forest to her house."

Then the girl's mother put some eggs in a cloth, and gave them to the little girl, and said, "Take these eggs to Grandmother. You will go through the forest. Grandmother's house is far from here. Do not wait on your way through the forest. If you wait, the night will come. At night there is a wolf in the forest; he eats little girls and boys."

Little Red Coat said, "I will not wait on my way through the forest."

Then Little Red Coat went out. She went on her way through the forest. As she went, she saw many flowers by the way. She said, "I will take some flowers to Grandmother." Then she went this way and that way getting flowers for her Grandmother. She waited getting the flowers. Night was coming and she was far from her Grandmother's house. When she saw that night was coming, she ran.

As she ran she saw a wolf, with big red eyes, standing near a tree.

The wolf said, "Why do you run, Little Red Coat?"

"Night is coming," said Little Red Coat, "that is why I run."

The wolf said, "Where are you running, Little Red Coat?"

She said, "I am running to Grandmother."

"What are you taking to your Grandmother?" said the wolf.

"I am taking some eggs," said Little Red Coat.

"I will show you the way," said the wolf.

"No, no, no!" said Little Red Coat. "Do not show me the way; I know the way."

Then the wolf ran away through the trees.

The wolf came to Grandmother's house, and said, "Are you in, Grandmother?"

"Who is that?" said Grandmother.

"I am Little Red Coat," said the wolf, "and I have got some eggs for you."

"Come in, Little Red Coat," said Grandmother.

Then the wolf went in, and ate up poor Grandmother. Then he took Grandmother's clothes and put them on, and he got into Grandmother's bed.

Little Red Coat came to the hut. She said, "Are you in, Grandmother?"

The wolf said, "ho is that?"

She said, "It is Little Red Coat. I have got some eggs and some flowers for you."

"Come in, Little. Red Coat," said the wolf.

Little Red Coat went in.

The wolf said, "Come near and show me what is in that cloth."

"Eggs, Grandmother," said Little Red Coat.

The wolf said, "What is that in your hand?"

"Flowers," said Little Red Coat.

"come near, and show me your flowers, Little Red Coat," said the wolf.

Then Little Red Coat went near to the bed and sat down.

Then she said, " What big ears you have got, Grandmother."

" have got big ears to hear you with," said the wolf.

What big eyes you have got, Grand- mother," said Little Red Coat.

"I have got big eyes to see you with," said the wolf.

What a big mouth you have got, Grand- mother," said Little Red Coat.

"I have got a big mouth to eat you with!" said the wolf. And he jumped out of the bed and ran to catch Little Red Coat. She ran to the door, and out into the forest. The wolf ran. Little Red Coat ran.

Then she heard a shot. There was a man waiting near a tree. He had shot the wolf. The wolf was dead. Little Red Coat saw that the man was her father. Her father heard that the wolf was in the forest, and he came to help Little Red Coat.

The Cat and the Bell

There were many mice in a house. The man of the house got a cat. The cat killed many of the mice.

Then the oldest mouse said, " All mice must come to my hole tonight, and we will think what we can do about this cat.'

All the mice came. Many mice spoke, but none knew what to do. At last a young mouse stood up and said, "We must put a bell on the cat. Then, when the cat comes near, we shall hear the bell and run away and hide. So the cat will not catch any more mice.'

Then the old mouse asked, " Who will put the bell on the cat?" No mouse answered.

He waited; but still no one answered.

At last he said, "It is not hard to say things; but it is harder to do them."

Blue Beard

Once there was a very rich man. He lived in a beautiful house, and had a beautiful garden. The rich man had a blue beard: so he was called "Blue Beard."

Near the rich man's house there lived a poor woman. She had three sons, and two beautiful girls. The name of one of the girls was Ann; the name of the other was Fatima. Blue Beard wanted to marry one of the girls; but the girls did not want to marry Blue Beard.

Ann and Fatima did not want to marry the rich man because his beard was blue. Blue Beard had married many wives, but his wives had gone away. No one knew where his other wives had gone. The girls did not want to marry Blue Beard and become his wife, because no one knew where his other wives had gone. So their mother said to Blue Beard, "My girls do not want to marry you."

Then Blue Beard said, "Come and live in my house for some days." So they went and lived in Blue Beard's house. It was a very beautiful house, and Blue Beard was good to them in many ways.

Fatima said, "His beard is blue, but he is not a bad man. He is very good in some ways. So I will marry him."

So Fatima married Blue Beard and went to live in the beautiful house.

Some days went by. Then Blue Beard said, "I shall go on a journey." Then he gave Fatima the keys of all the rooms in the house. He said, "This is the key of that little room; do not open the door of it. ...Say that you will not open the door of the little room!"

Fatima said, "I will not open the door of that little room."

Then Blue Beard went away.

When Blue Beard was away, all Fatima's friends came to see her. She showed them the rooms, and what a beautiful house it was; but she did not open the door of the little room.

The friends went away. Then Fatima said, "Shall I open the door of that little room now? Why did he say, 'Do not open it'? I want to see what is in the little room."

Fatima took the key; she went to the door of the little room, and opened it. In the room she saw all Blue Beard's other wives. They were dead!

The key fell from her hand. When she took it up there was a red mark on it.

She shut the door. Then she took the key to her room. She said, "Blue Beard will see the mark on the key; he will know that I have

opened the door of the little room, and he will kill me, as he killed all the other wives." She rubbed the key with a cloth, but the mark did not go away. She washed the key in hot water, but the mark was not washed away. She rubbed the key on a stone, but she could not rub the mark away.

Blue Beard came back. He called Fatima, and said, "Give me my keys." Fatima gave him the other keys; but she did not give him the key of the little room. He said, "Where is the key of the little room?" She said, "I will bring it." She went and brought it; and he saw the red mark. He said, "You have opened the door of the little room. Now you shall die."

She fell at his feet: "Give me some hours to live," she said. He said, "I will give you one hour."

Fatima had three brothers. Her brothers had said, "We shall come and see you today;" but they had not come. She said, "If my brothers come in this hour they will save me."

Her sister Ann was in the house. She called to her, "Sister Ann, Sister Ann, go to the window and see if my brothers are coming."

Sister Ann went to the window; she said, "I see no one coming."

Fatima waited a little; then she cried, "Sister Ann, Sister Ann, do you see anyone coming?"

Sister Ann said, "I do not see anyone; no one is coming."

Blue Beard called, "Fatima!"

Fatima said, "Sister Ann, Sister Ann, is anyone coming?"

"I see a little dust," said Sister Ann, "very far away."

Blue Beard called, "Fatima, come down."

"Sister Ann, Sister Ann," said Fatima, "is there anyone in the dust?"

"I see men in the dust," said Sister Ann.

Blue Beard called, "An hour has gone by. Come down, Fatima, and I shall kill you."

"Sister Ann, Sister Ann, are three men in the dust?"

Blue Beard called, "An hour has gone by. If you do not come down, I shall come up."

"I see three men," said Sister Ann.

"They are my brothers!" said Fatima.

Fatima said, "Sister Ann, Sister Ann, call to them to come and save me."

Blue Beard called. "I am coming up," he said.

"Sister Ann, call to them, Sister Ann!"

Blue Beard came to the door.

The door opened: Blue Beard caught Fatima's arm.

The three brothers came in, and killed Blue Beard.

So Fatima was saved.

The Old Cat

An old woman had a cat. The cat was very old she could not run quickly, and she could not bite, because she was so old. One day the old cat saw a mouse; she jumped and caught the mouse. But she could not bite it; so the mouse got out of her mouth and ran away, because the cat could not bite it.

Then the old woman became very angry because the cat had not killed the mouse. She began to hit the cat. The cat said, "Do not hit your old servant. I have worked for you for many years, and I would work for you still, but I am too old. Do not be unkind to the old, but remember what good work the old did when they were young."

The Sleeping Princess

I

Once there was a King and a Queen. For many years they had wanted a child, and no child had come to them.

Then the Queen had a child. It was a girl. The King was very glad.

You know what a fairy is. Many fairies lived near the King's house. When the Queen's child came, the King went to all the fairies and said, "The Queen has a child. Do come to the house and see our new little girl." All the fairies said, "We are very glad: we will come today."

One of the fairies had gone away on a journey: she had been very far away. She had not come back when the Queen's child came. When she came back, one of the fairies said to her, "The Queen has a child, and the King came to us and said, "Come and see our new little girl. ""

But this fairy was a bad fairy; the bad fairy said, "The King went to all of you: why did he not come to me? I shall go and see the King's child; but I shall give her some bad thing."

All the good fairies went to the King's house, and saw the little girl; and they all gave her some good thing. One said, "I give her this good thing: she shall have riches." One fairy said, "I give her this good thing; she shall become a brave woman." One said, "I give her this good thing: she shall become a good woman." All gave some good thing.

Then there came the bad fairy. She said, "The King went to all the fairies but he did not come to me, so I shall give the child some bad thing. She will have riches; she will become brave; she will become good. But, when she is a woman, she will prick her hand with a needle, and die." The poor Queen did not know what to do. The King said to the good fairies, "

The poor girl shall not die. Can you not help me? Say that she shall not die!" The good fairies said, " We cannot help you. What the bad fairy has said will come. Your child will prick her hand with a needle; but she shall not die. She shall sleep for many years. Then a king's son shall come and kiss her. And she will awake. He shall wake her with a kiss." Then the fairies went away.

The King sent for all his men and all the Queen's women, and said, "Go and bring me all the needles that are in the house."

They brought all the needles that they could find, and the King took them, and threw them into a river far away.

Then he said, "See that no needle comes into this house. See

that no man and no woman brings a needle near my child. I shall kill them if they do."

The little child grew up in the King's house. She became a Princess. The Princess wanted to see all that she could. She wanted to know what the men were doing in the garden. She wanted to know the names of all the flowers and of all the trees. She said to the men in the King's garden, "What is the name of this flower? What is the name of this tree?" In the house she wanted to see all that there was to see.

She wanted to know how many rooms there were in the King's house, and who lived in all the rooms. So she went into one room, and then into another room, and then into another. She went into big rooms and little rooms, and very little rooms. Then she said, "I have been to all the rooms in the house." But there was one room where she had not gone.

As she went on, she came to a new room. It was a little room very far away from all the other rooms. The door of the room was shut. The Princess wanted to go in- and see what was in this room. She called, "Open the door!" But no one came. She called once. She called twice; then the door was opened. The Princess went into the room: and there she saw a very old woman.

The old woman was sitting near a table. On the table there was some cloth. The old woman had some cloth in one hand, and in the other hand she had a needle.

The Princess said, "What are you doing?"

"I am making something," said the old woman.

"What are you making?" said the Princess.

"I am making some clothes," said the old woman.

"What is that in your hand?" said the Princess.

"That is the cloth," said the old woman.

"No!" said the Princess. "What is that in your other hand?"

"That?" said the old woman. "That is a needle."

The Princess said, "Give me the 'needle'; I want to see it. I have not seen a needle. I do not know what a needle is."

The old woman said, "Have you not seen a needle? How can that be? You have seen many needles! Needles are seen in all houses."

The old woman gave the needle to the Princess.

"Give me the cloth," said the Princess: "I want to make clothes." Then the old woman gave the Princess the cloth.

The Princess pricked the cloth with the needle —but she pricked her hand. And she fell asleep!

Then all the men and the women in the house fell asleep. The King fell asleep at his table, and the Queen sitting near him fell

asleep.

The man in the garden fell asleep with his axe in his hand. The man standing at the door of the house fell asleep where he stood. All were asleep.

A fairy came to the Princess. She took her and put her on a bed. Then the fairy said to the trees and to the flowers in the garden, "Grow!" The flowers grew up, and the trees grew big. There was a wall of trees and flowers. So no one could go into the house.

In the house the Princess slept; and the King slept, and all his men; and the Queen, and her women, slept.

Many wanted to go into the house of the Sleeping Princess; but they could not go through the trees. So no one came.

Years went by, and the Princess slept. Many years went by, and men did not know what the house was and who was in it. The trees grew up; you could not see the house through the trees. Men went by the trees and did not know that there was a house there.

One day a King rode into the forest. His son was with him. The King and his men went far in front, and the King's son could not find them. He rode on, and he came to a wall of trees and flowers. He said, "My father has gone through those trees: I will go through them and find him."

As he came to the wall of trees, it opened, and he went through. Then he saw a garden; but all the flowers had grown here and there as they wanted.

He came to a house. The door was open, a man was standing by the door asleep. The King's son said, "What a lazy man, he sleeps standing!" He went into the house. Men sat at the table, with food in their hands, asleep.

A little boy had been reading a story: he had fallen asleep with his head on his arms. A woman had been putting on her shoes; she was asleep with one shoe on and one shoe in her hand. An old man sat with pen and paper, asleep; and the dust of years was on his paper. Near him a woman was asleep with her little child asleep in her arms.

The King's son went from one room to another. He saw the old King asleep at his table, and near him the Queen asleep with her head in her hands. Then he came to a room where there was sunlight and flowers. The window was open and roses had grown in through the window into the room. Golden light came through the window and fell upon a bed. The Princess was on the bed. Her eyes were shut. She was asleep.

The King's son kissed her. She awoke. Then all the house awoke. The man awoke at the door. The men awoke and ate the food in their

hands. The woman awoke and put on her shoe. The boy awoke and read his story. The King awoke at his table. The Queen rubbed her eyes, and said, "What were you saying, my King. I fell asleep."

The Princess was married by the King's son, and they became King and Queen.

The Man and the Apples

A man was going to the house of some rich person. As he went along the road, he saw a box of good apples at the side of the road. He said, "I do not want to eat those apples; for the rich man will give me much food; he will give me very nice food to eat." Then he took the apples and threw them away into the dust.

He went on and came to a river. The river had become very big; so he could not go over it. He waited for some time; then he said, "I cannot go to the rich man's house today, for I cannot get over the river."

He began to go home. He had eaten no food that day. He began to want food. He came to the apples, and he was glad to take them out of the dust and eat them.

Do not throw good things away; you may be glad to have them at some other time.

“ Mr. Fox is Dead ”

Mr. Rabbit was a very bad little beast; he was always doing things that made other persons angry and they wanted to catch him. But it was very hard to catch Mr. Rabbit.

One day Mr. Wolf said to Mr. Fox, "We will catch Mr. Rabbit and eat him tonight. You go to your home and get into bed. I shall say that you are dead. Then Mr. Rabbit will come near you to look at you, and you will jump up and catch him."

Mr. Fox ran home and got into bed. Mr. Wolf went to Mr. Rabbit's house. He stood at the door and called, "Mr. Rabbit, Mr. Rabbit."

"What is it?" said Mr. Rabbit.

"Have you heard about poor Mr. Fox? It is so sad!"

No," said Mr. Rabbit, "I have not heard anything about Mr. Fox."

"He is dead!" said Mr. Wolf.

Mr. Wolf went away. Mr. Rabbit went to Mr.

Fox's house to see what he could see. He looked in through the window, and there he saw Mr. Fox on the bed with his eyes shut, looking like a dead fox. Mr. Rabbit thought, "I must see if he is dead or not. For if he is not dead, he will catch me when I go near to him."

Mr. Rabbit went into Mr. Fox's house; he looked at Mr. Fox and said, "Mr. Wolf says that Mr. Fox is dead but he does not look like a dead fox. You can always know if a fox is dead, for dead foxes always open their mouths.

Mr. Fox heard this, and he thought, "I will show him that I am dead." So he opened his mouth.

When Mr. Rabbit saw Mr. Fox open his mouth he knew that Mr. Fox was not dead. Mr. Rabbit jumped up and ran out of the house as quickly as he could.

Snow-white

Once there was a Queen. She was sitting at the window. There was snow outside in the garden—snow on the hill and in the lane, snow on the huts and on the trees: all things were white with snow.

She had some cloth in her hand and a needle. The cloth in her hand was as white as the snow.

The Queen was making a coat for a little child. She said, "I want my child to be white as this cloth, white as the snow. And I shall call her Snow-white."

Some days after that the Queen had a child. The child was white as snow. The Queen called her Snow-white.

But the Queen was very ill, and after some days she died. Snow-white lived, and was a very happy and beautiful child.

One year after that, the King married another Queen. The new Queen was very beautiful; but she was not a good woman.

A wizard had given this Queen a glass. The glass could speak. It was on the wall in the Queen's room. Every day the Queen looked in the glass to see how beautiful she was. As she looked in the glass, she asked:

"Tell me, glass upon the wall,
Who is most beautiful of all?"

And the glass spoke and said:

"The Queen is most beautiful of all."

Years went by. Snow-white grew up and became a little girl. Every day the Queen looked in the glass and said,

"Tell me, glass upon the wall,
Who is most beautiful of all?"

And every day the glass spoke and said,

"The Queen is most beautiful of all."

Years went by, and Snow-white grew up and became a woman. Every year she became more and more beautiful.

Then one day, when Snow-white was a woman, the Queen looked in the glass and said,

"Tell me, glass upon the wall,
Who is most beautiful of all?"

And the glass said,

"Snow-white is most beautiful of all."

When the Queen heard this, she was very angry. She said, "Snow-white is not more beautiful than I am. There is no one who is more beautiful than I am."

Then the Queen sat on her bed and cried.

After one hour the Queen went out of her room. She called one of the servants, and said, " Take Snow-white into the forest and kill her."

The servant took Snow-white to the forest, but he did not kill her, because she was so beautiful and so good.

The man took Snow-white into the forest, but he did not kill her. He said, "I shall not kill you; but do not go to the King's house, because the Queen is angry and she will see you. If the Queen sees you, she will make some other man kill you. Wait here in the forest; some friends will help you."

Then he went away.

Poor Snow-white sat at the foot of a tree and cried. Then she saw that night was coming. She said, " I will not cry. I will find some house where I can sleep tonight. I cannot wait here: the bears will eat me."

She went far into the forest. Then she saw a little hut. She opened the door of the hut, and went in.

In the hut she saw seven little beds. There was a table and on the table there were seven little loaves and seven little glasses. She ate one of the loaves. Then she said, "I want some water to drink." So she drank some water out of one of the glasses. Then she fell asleep on one of the seven little beds.

The hut was the home of seven Little Men.

When it was night, the seven Little Men came to the hut. Each Little Man had a big beard, and a little blue coat. Each Little Man came into the hut, and took his little lamp. Then each Little Man sat down, and ate his little loaf, and drank his little glass of water.

But one Little Man said,

"Someone has eaten my little loaf."

And another Little Man said,

"Someone has drunk my little glass of water."

Then the seven Little Men went to bed, but one Little Man said,

"Someone is sleeping on my little bed."

All the seven Little Men came to look at Snow-white as she slept on the Little Man's bed. They said,

"She is very beautiful."

"She is very beautiful."

"She is very beautiful."

"She is very beautiful."

"She is very beautiful."

"She is very beautiful."

"She is very beautiful."

Snow-white awoke, and saw the seven Little Men with their big beards standing near her bed. She was afraid .

The Little Men said, "Do not be afraid. We are your friends. Tell us how you came here."

Snow-white said, "I will tell you." Then she told them her story.

They said, "Do not be afraid. Live here with us. But see that the door is shut when we are not in the house with you. Do not go out. If you go out, the bad Queen will find you. Then she will know that you are not dead, and will tell someone to kill you."

So Snow-white lived in 'the hut with the seven Little Men.

After some days Snow-white went into the garden. One of the Queen's servants was going through the forest, and he saw her. He went and told the Queen, "Snow-white is in a hut in the forest." The Queen was very angry when she heard that snow-white was not dead.

The Queen took an apple. She made a hole in the red side of the apple, and put some powder into the hole. Then she put on old clothes and went to the hut. She called, "Is any one there?"

Snow-white opened the door, and came out to her. The Queen said, "I have some pretty apples. Eat one of my pretty apples." Snow-white took the apple and said, "Is it good?" The Queen said, "See, I will eat this white side of the apple; you eat the red side. Then you will know that it is good."

Snow-white ate the red side of the apple. When the powder was in her mouth she fell down dead.

The Queen went back to her house. She went into her room. She looked into the glass and said,

"Tell me, glass upon the wall,
Who is most beautiful of all?"

The glass siad,

"The Queen is most beautiful of all."

Then the Queen knew that Snow-white was dead.

The Little Men came back to the hut. When they saw that Snow-white was dead, the poor Little Men cried. Then they put Snow-white in a box made of glass. They took the glass box to a hill and put it there, and said, "Everyone who goes by will see how beautiful she was."

Then each Little Man put one white flower on the box, and they went away.

Just as they were going away, a Prince came by. He saw the glass box and said, "What is that?" Then he saw Snow-white in the box. He said, ." She was very beautiful: but do not put her there. There is a hall in the garden of my father's house. It is all made of

white stone. We will take the glass box and put it in the hall of beautiful white stone."

The Little Men said, "Take her."

Then the Prince told his servants to take up the box. They took up the box. Just then one of the servants fell down. The box fell, and Snow-white fell with the box. The bit of apple fell out of her mouth: she awoke, and sat up, and said, "Where am I?"

The Prince said "You are with me. I never saw anyone as beautiful as you. Come with me and be my Queen."

The Prince married Snow-white, and she became his Queen.

A man went and told this to the bad Queen. When she heard it she was so angry that she fell down dead.

Snow-white lived and was very happy ever after. And the Little Men came to see her every year.

Mr. Rabbit and Mr. Wolf

One day Mr. Rabbit was walking near the hill; he heard someone crying out, " Help! Help!" He looked this way and that way, and he saw poor Mr. Wolf. A great stone had fallen on Mr. Wolf's back, and he could not get up. He cried, "Mr. Rabbit, take this great stone from my back or I shall die."

Mr. Rabbit worked very hard and got the stone from Mr. Wolf's back. Then Mr. Wolf jumped up and caught Mr. Rabbit in his mouth.

"If you kill me," cried Mr. Rabbit, "I will never help you again as long as I live."

"You will not live," said Mr. Wolf, "because I shall have killed you."

"No nice person kills a person who has helped him," said Mr. Rabbit; "it is not just. You ask Mrs. Duck: she is very fat and she knows everything. She will say that no nice person would do a thing like that."

I will ask her," said Mr. Wolf, "and if she does not say what I want, I shall eat her too."

So Mr. Wolf and Mr. Rabbit went to Mrs. Duck. Mr. Wolf said, "I caught Mr. Rabbit when he was sitting down near the hill. So I say that I should eat him. Now say what you think."

"I took a great big stone from his back," said Mr. Rabbit; "So I say that he should not eat me, because I helped him. Now say what you think. "What stone'?" said Mrs. Duck.

"A stone near the hill," said Mr. Rabbit.

"I must see it," said Mrs. Duck. "How can I say what I think if I have not seen the stone?"

So Mr. Wolf and Mr. Rabbit and Mrs. Duck went to see the stone.

"Now, put the stone just as it was," said Mrs. Duck.

So they put the stone back where it was.

"No," said Mrs. Duck, "that is not just as it was. You said that the stone was on Mr. Wolf's back."

So they put the stone on Mr. Wolf's back.

"Now," said Mr. Wolf, "you see just how it was. What do you say about it?"

Mr. Rabbit and Mrs. Duck said, "We say that we are going home. And you may ask some other person to take the stone from your back. You look very nice like that; stay just as you are!"

The Bird,, the Mouse, and the Loaf

I

Once there was a Bird, a Mouse, and a Loaf. They lived in a little house. The house was near a forest. There was a garden at the front of the house full of pretty flowers. There were flowers in the window, and a little tree on each side of the door.

The Bird, the Mouse, and the Loaf did all the work of the house. Each day the bird went to the forest and brought wood. The mouse brought water from the river and made the house clean. The loaf was the cook; she cooked the food and made bread.

They were all very happy.

One day the bird was going to the forest to get wood. He saw a friend in the lane: it was another bird; the name of the other bird was Mr. Magpie.

Mr. Magpie said, "I am very glad to see you. I have not seen you for many days. Are you happy?"

The bird said, "I am very happy. I live in a pretty house. I am now going to get the wood from the forest. "

I did not know that you had become a servant' said Mr. Magpie.

"I am not a servant," said the bird; "I live with friends. Mr. Mouse and Mrs. Loaf live with me in the house. "

"And do you do all the work of the house?" asked Mr. Magpie.

"No," said the bird, "Mrs. Loaf is the cook; she cooks the food and makes bread. I bring the wood from the forest; and Mr. Mouse does all the other things."

You do more work than the others," said Mr. Magpie. " It is not just that you should do more than the others do."

"The house is not far from the forest," said the bird.

"But on some days you have to go twice," said Mr. Magpie.

"That is so," said the bird; and he was angry that he should have to do more work than the others.

When Mr. Bird was bringing the wood from the forest, Mr. Mouse brought water from the river, put the water in the pot, put water on all the flowers, set the table ready for food, cleaned the rooms, cleaned the windows, cleaned all the pots and tins, and cleaned everything.

Mrs. Loaf got the food, made it ready, put the pot on the fire, made the water hot, and cooked the food.

Mr. Bird came into the house. He threw down the wood and sat down at the table. He did not speak to Mr. Mouse or Mrs. Loaf.

Mrs. Loaf said, "Poor Mr. Bird is ill—or he is angry. What has made you angry, Mr. Bird?"

Mr. Bird said nothing .

Mrs. Loaf brought the food and set it on the table.

This is very good bread," said Mr. Mouse; 'Mrs. Loaf makes very good bread."

Mr. Bird did not speak.

"There is much work to do in the garden," said Mr. Mouse. "Will you help me in the garden, Mr. Bird?" 'I will not help you in the garden," said Mr. Bird, "or do any other work. I do too much work. I work all day. I do all the work in the house." Mrs. Loaf said, " Mr. Mouse cleans the house,

and I cook the food; you do not do more work than we do."

Mr. Bird said, "That is not work. You sit in the house and do little things, but I go far away to the forest and get all these big bits of wood, and bring them here."

Mrs. Loaf said, "After this I will go to the forest and get the wood, and Mr. Mouse shall cook the food. You shall clean the house. Then you will not do too much work. I shall be glad to go to the forest: I have never been there."

So, on the day after that, Mrs. Loaf went out to bring wood from the forest; Mr. Mouse went to cook the food; and Mr. Bird went to get water from the river.

Mr. Bird took the pot with his foot, and went out to get the water. He came to the river, and put the pot in the water. When the pot was full of water, he took it with one foot; but the pot was too big. Then he took it with the other foot, but the pot fell. Then he got another pot, and brought the water.

Mr. Mouse went to cook the food. He put the pot on the fire, but he put his foot in the fire. The fire burned his foot, and he cried. But he made the food ready. Mr. Bird came back from the river. Mr. Mouse was angry because he had burned his foot; Mr. Bird was angry because the pot had fallen. And Mrs. Loaf had not come back from the forest.

Mr. Mouse said, "Shall we wait for Mrs. Loaf? Or shall we eat our food now?"

"We will wait a little," said Mr. Bird.

They waited for an hour; Mrs. Loaf did not come. Then Mr. Bird said, "I will go to the forest and get the wood, and tell Mrs. Loaf to come home."

So Mr. Bird went down the lane to the forest. He saw some bits of wood in the lane, but he could not see Mrs. Loaf. She was not in the forest; she was not in the lane. Then he saw a wolf sitting near the bits of wood.

Mr. Bird asked, "Mr. Wolf, have you seen Mrs. Loaf today?"

Mr. Wolf said, "That is Mrs. Loaf's wood."

"But where is Mrs. Loaf?" asked Mr. Bird.

"She was here," said Mr. Wolf.

"Where is she now?" asked Mr. Bird.

"She is here now " said Mr. Wolf.

"I do not see her," said Mr. Bird.

"She is inside me," said Mr. Wolf, "I have eaten her up."

"Then you are a bad wolf" said Mr. Bird. "Mrs. Loaf was a very good cook--and now you have eaten her!"

"Mrs. Loaf should not go to the forest," said the wolf. "Loaves should stay in the house. Go away, or I shall eat you too."

Mr. Bird took the wood and went home: he was crying. Mr. Mouse cried too when he heard that Mrs. Loaf was dead.

Then Mr. Mouse said, "I cannot eat today. But will you have your food now? I will go and get it ready."

The pot was a big pot; Mr. Mouse was a little mouse. He could not take the pot down from the fire: he fell into the pot and was killed.

Mr. Bird went to get ready the table. He set all ready, and then he waited. He waited, and waited. Then he called, "Mr. Mouse, Mr. Mouse; do come and have something to eat."

"Mr. Mouse," he called, " if the food is not ready, we will eat bread." But he heard nothing.

Then he went into the other room. He could not see Mr. Mouse. He went to the pot on the fire, and there he saw that poor Mr. Mouse was dead.

A bit of burning wood fell out of the fire. "The house is on fire!" said Mr. Bird. " It will all be burned!" He ran to the river to bring water to put out the fire. But he fell into the river, and was killed too.

And the house was burned.

That is what comes if you do not do your own work, but want to do the work for others.

We should each do our own work, and then we shall all be happy.

Mrs. Duck and Mr. Rabbit

Mr. Rabbit said to Mrs. Duck, "Come and work with me and you will get more money than you have ever had before." Mrs. Duck said, "I will come."

So Mrs. Duck worked with Mr. Rabbit. After some time Mrs. Duck said to Mr. Rabbit, "I want to buy some things; please give me some of the money which we have got."

Mr. Rabbit said, "Things have gone very badly. I have no money to give you now."

Mrs. Duck knew that this was not so; she knew that Mr. Rabbit has the money, but that he did not want to give it to Mrs. Duck. But Mrs. Duck said nothing. She went away; and she thought and thought. She did not go to sleep at night, but stayed awake thinking. She was thinking how she could get the money from Mr. Rabbit.

One day Mrs. Duck came to Mr. Rabbit and 'd, "I do not want that money now; I have found a sal great big hole near the river; the hole is full of gold. It is full to the top; I never saw so much gold. It is more than I can take away; will you help me to take it away?"

Mr. Rabbit said, "Yes, I shall be glad to help you."

So Mr. Rabbit and Mrs. Duck went down the road to the river. When they came to the side of the river, Mrs. Duck said, "it is on the other side of the river." ' How shall I get over the water?" asked Mr. Rabbit. " Sit on my back," said Mrs. Duck, "and I will take you over."

So Mr. Rabbit sat on Mrs. Duck's back, and Mrs. Duck went into the water. When Mrs. Duck was far from the side, she said, "Now I shall go down into the water, and you will fall from my back into the water."

"But I shall be killed!" said Mr. Rabbit.

"Yes," answered Mrs. Duck, "so you will. But you did not give me my money for the work which I did with you."

"I hid the money in a pot in my house. Take me home and I will give it to you," said Mr. Rabbit.

Mrs. Duck said, "I will take you home, and we will go to your house at once, and you shall give it to me."

So Mr. Rabbit gave Mrs. Duck the money.

Mr. Rabbit was afraid of Mrs. Duck after that

The Golden Touch

I

Once there was a King. His name was Midas.

Midas loved gold. He did not want to buy things with his gold. He wanted to have the gold; he wanted to look at the gold every day.

There was a house made of stone. He put every bit of gold in this house. There were many boxes in the house. He put the gold in the boxes. Midas went to the stone house every day. He opened every box and looked at the gold. He put his hands in the gold: he took the gold up in his hands.

"Gold! Gold!" he said, "Oh, I love gold. I do love gold. I do not want to buy things with my gold. I want to have my gold. I love gold!"

Midas had a beautiful garden. There were many beautiful flowers and trees in it. And there were beautiful birds in the trees. Midas loved flowers and birds and trees. But he loved gold more than flowers or birds or trees. He said, "I can buy flowers and gardens with my gold. I do love gold!"

Midas had one child-a beautiful little girl. The little girl loved the garden and the birds and the flowers; and Midas loved his child. Men said, "Midas loves his beautiful little girl. He loves his beautiful garden and his beautiful flowers. But he loves gold more than his child; he loves gold more than beauty."

There was a god called Dionysius. Dionysius was the god of Flowers and of Gardens.

Dionysius lived on a great hill with the other gods, but he sometimes came down to see men's flowers and gardens.

When Dionysius came into a garden all the flowers opened. He went to all the gardens, opening the flowers and making everything beautiful. One day Dionysius came to the garden of Kino, Midas.

The little girl was in the garden. She saw Dionysius. "Who are you?" She cried. "What are you doing in my father's garden?"

"I am Dionysius," said the God. "I have come to open the flowers and make your garden beautiful."

Then the little girl was very glad. She was glad to see Dionysius.

The little girl took the hand of Dionysius. She said, "Come with me. I will help you to open the flowers. Show me how to open the flowers in my garden."

Then Dionysius went with the little girl and showed her how to open the flowers.

At noon the little girl went into the house.

The day was hot.

Dionysius sat down at the foot of a tree. He fell asleep. Dionysius was sleeping at the foot of a tree in the King's garden.

He slept; the King's servants came to the garden.

Then one of the servants saw Dionysius sleeping at the foot of a tree. He said, "Who is this man? He has come to take the flowers! But the day was hot, and he fell asleep, and we should catch him."

Then he went and called another servant. Then all the other servants came to the place. They caught Dionysius. They took him to the King.

They said to the King, "This is the man whom we found sleeping in the garden. He came to take your flowers."

Then King Midas asked, "Why did you come to take my flowers? Why did you not ask me for some flowers? I give flowers to all who ask for them. I have given flowers to many poor men."

Dionysius did not answer.

"Do you love flowers?" asked the King.

"Yes," answered Dionysius. "I love flowers; but I have not taken any of your flowers."

"Have you any children?" asked Midas. "Do you want to take any flowers to your children?"

"The flowers are my children," answered Dionysius.

Then King Midas said, "This man may go, and he may take any flowers he wants."

Dionysius said, "O King! you are a good man. You have been good to me. You love flowers, and you love your child. I am a God. I will give you anything that you ask. Ask me for anything and I will give it to you."

"Can I ask for anything?" said Midas.

"Yes. Do you want more flowers? — or more children?"

"Flowers are beautiful," said Midas; "but gold is more beautiful. I want more gold. I want to change things into gold. If I put my hand on anything, it shall be changed into gold. Give me that."

Then Dionysius said, "You may have what you ask. If you put your hand on anything, it shall be changed into gold."

Midas sat down at a table to write. He touched the table, and the table was changed into gold. It became a golden table. He took his pen. As he touched the pen, it was changed into gold. He wrote; and, as he touched the paper, it was changed into gold. He went to the door and opened it; and the door was changed into gold. He took his hat; as he touched it, the hat was changed into gold. He went into the garden to see the flowers. He saw a beautiful

rose. He put out his hand to take it. As he touched it, the rose was changed into gold. He put his hand on a tree and the tree was changed into gold.

Midas wanted to eat.

He went into the hall. He called a servant.

"Bring me food," he said.

The servant brought food. Midas put out his hand to take the food. As he touched the food, it was changed into gold. He could not eat the food.

"Bring me more food," said Midas.

The servant brought more food. Midas touched it, and it was changed into gold. He could not eat it.

Midas drank some water. The water was changed into gold. He could not drink it.

"How shall I eat? How shall I drink?" said Midas. "If I cannot eat and drink, I shall die!"

He stood up. He had eaten nothing. He had drunk nothing.

"I will go into the garden," he said, "I will go and make more golden flowers."

Then the little girl came into the hall.

"Oh, father!" she cried, "our beautiful roses have been killed. Who has killed our roses?"

Midas said, "The roses have been changed to gold, my child, gold is more beautiful than flowers."

The little girl cried.

"Do not cry my child," said Midas. "Come, we will change some more flowers to gold. We will change all the flowers to gold."

"Oh, father! give me back my flowers," cried the little girl. "Go back to the garden. Change the flowers back."

"Do not cry, little girl," said Midas. He took her in his arms. He put his hand on her head. "Do not cry, my child. Do not cry any more. I will change the gold back into flowers."

She did not cry any more.

"Father loves you," said Midas. "I love you as much as I love gold. Soon you will be a big girl. When you are a big girl, you will love gold as much as I do."

She was not crying.

She said nothing. She could not say anything. As soon as Midas touched her, she was changed into gold.

Midas looked at his child. He saw what he had done. As soon as he saw what he had done he cried out, "Help! Help! Oh, what have I done! I have killed my little girl. Help!"

The servants came running into the hall. They saw what Midas had done. They saw the little girl. She was made of gold.

"We will go away from here. The King is a magician!" they cried. "He changes everything to gold. He has killed his child and changed her to gold. He 'll kill us and change us to gold. We will not work for him any more." Then they ran away.

There was no one in the King's house. Midas sat there, with his dead child.

He went out and changed more things to gold. He made all the ducks and hens gold, and the donkey in the field was golden. Then he went and looked at the cows. He touched one cow and it was changed to gold. "I will make them all golden. I will have nice golden cows." He changed all the cows to gold.

"I shall get no milk," he said. "But the milk becomes gold as soon as I touch it. I do not want any milk."

Soon he came back. He looked at his little girl.

He looked up at the sky.

The sun was going down, changing the sky to gold. Gold! gold! —all gold.

Then Midas went out into the garden and cried.

Dionysius came to Midas as he sat crying in the garden. He stood before him.

"Are you happy now, O King?" said the God.

"No," said the King. "I was happy before. I was happy before you came. But now I am very unhappy."

"But you have much gold now. Why are you not happy? No one has as much gold as you have now. You said that nothing was as beautiful as gold."

"I do not want it!" cried Midas. "I do not want gold. I want my little girl back. Give me back my little girl! Give me back my flowers. Take away all this gold and give me back the things which I love."

"Go to the river," said Dionysius. "Jump into the water, and you will be as before. Put water on all the things which you have changed to gold, and they 'll be as before."

Then Dionysius went away. He went up into the sky.

Midas ran down to the river. He jumped into the water. Then he came out of the water. He put his hand on a stone. The stone was not changed to gold.

Then he brought a pot. He filled the pot with water. He ran with the pot full of water, and came to the hall. He threw the water on his little girl. She changed. She opened her eyes.

"Oh!" she cried, "was I asleep?"

She ran into the garden.

"Father," she cried, "you did not change the flowers back. They are all dead and golden. Every flower is dead. Come! Come and

give me back my flowers. And, oh! look at the golden cows!"

"Come with me," said Midas, "and we will bring back the flowers."

Then Midas and his little girl ran into the garden with pots full of water from the river. As they ran, they changed everything back. They changed the flowers and the trees and the birds, and the hens and the ducks and the cows. Then they ran into the house and they changed the tables and doors and pen and paper. And they changed Midas' hat.

"Do you not love gold any more?" asked the little girl, as they sat in the hall and ate.

"No," said Midas. "I love the trees and the flowers and the birds--and you."

Mr. Rabbit Kills a Wolf

One day all the beasts of the forest came to one place. All the big beasts came, and all the little beasts came. There were horses and cows and rabbits and foxes and ducks and mice and birds, and all the other living things. They were very afraid. For a great big wolf had come to the forest; and the great big wolf had said, "I shall kill you all if you do not give me food three times every day."

"What shall we do?" said Mrs. Duck: "what shall we do?"

*Whatever shall we do?" said Mr. Fox.

*What shall we do?" said all the beasts.

* I know what we must do," said Mr. Rabbit, looking very big; 'we must kill this Mr. Wolf. ---And I shall do it.'" Then he walked away along the road to Mr. Wolf's house. All the beasts looked at him.

" What is he going to do?" said Mrs. Duck. "What is he going to do?"

As Mr. Rabbit went along the road he saw a big hole in a field. The hole was full of water.

Then Mr. Rabbit went on and came to a river. He jumped into the water; then he walked through some dust; then he jumped into the water; then he walked in the dust. So he looked a very poor, ugly little rabbit, covered with water and dust.

At last Mr. Rabbit came to Mr. Wolf's house. "Who are you? "said Mr. Wolf.

"Please, I am your food for today."

" You! You ugly little beast! Tell them to send me a big fat cow, or a horse, or a hundred fat ducks."

"Please," said Mr. Rabbit, "the other wolf wants all the good food. So we have sent him all the cows and the horses and ducks. We must give them to him, because he is bigger and braver than you are."

"Oh, is he?" cried Mr. Wolf. "We shall soon see if he is! Come with me and show me where he lives."

Then Mr. Rabbit led Mr. Wolf to the hole in the field. "He is down there," said Mr. Rabbit. "Do not go near him or he will kill you." Mr. Wolf went to the side of the hole and looked down; he saw his own angry face in the water. He thought that it was the face of another wolf looking up at him. He jumped down into the hole, to kill the other wolf. When he had jumped down into the hole, he fell into the water; and he could not get out.

Mr. Rabbit went back to the other beasts. "It is not hard to kill a wolf, he said, "if you know how to do it."

Jack and the Bean Plant

I

Once there was a poor woman. She had one son, whose name was Jack. Jack had no father; a giant had killed him. Jack's mother had one cow, whose milk they sold. They had no money but the money which they got for the milk.

One day the cow gave no more milk. So they had no milk which they could sell; and they had no money with which to get food. Then the woman said, "Which shall we sell, the house or the cow? — We will sell the cow, and we will get a field with the money which we get for the cow." She called Jack and said to him, "Take the cow and sell her. She is a very good cow: do not take too little money for her."

So Jack took the cow and went down the lane, leading the cow.

As he went down the lane Jack saw a man. The man stood and waited; and when Jack came near he said, "That is a good cow: whose cow is it?"

Jack said, "It is my mother's cow."

"Where are you going with the cow?" asked the man. "I am taking the cow to sell her," said Jack.

The man said, "Will you sell the cow to me?"

"What will you give me for her?" asked Jack.

"I will give you some beans," said the man. "I do not want beans," said Jack. "I want money."

"I have no money," said the man, "but I have some very good beans."

Jack said, "If I get beans, I can sell the beans for money." So he asked, "How many beans will you give me for the cow?"

The man showed six beans in his hand. He said, "See, I have these six beans: they are very good beans." He put them in Jack's hand.

Jack had never seen beans like those. They were very beautiful; they looked like gold. He said, "I will sell you the cow for these beans. Give me the beans, and take the cow."

So the man gave Jack the beans, and took the cow. Jack went home with the six beans in his hand.

Jack's mother was working in the garden. She looked up and said, "You have come back very soon. Why have you come back so soon?"

He went into the house.

"I have sold the cow," said Jack.

"Did you get much money for her?" asked his mother.

"I did not sell the cow for money," said Jack; "but I got some very good things for her. See."

And Jack showed his mother the beans.

"What are these?" said his mother.

"Beans," said Jack.

"What beans?" said his mother.

"Beans," said Jack.

"What beans?" said his mother.

"The beans which I got for the cow," said Jack.

"Beans!" she cried, "Beans! Six little beans for my beautiful cow?"

She was very angry. "I never heard anything like it!" she cried. "You have taken six little beans for my beautiful cow! We shall get no money for these beans. We have no money at all, and we have no food at all to eat. Soon you will see what you have done: because you will have nothing at all to eat tonight; and there will be no food on the next day, or on the next day after that."

She threw the beans out of the window. "That is what I do with your good-for-nothing beans," she cried. "Go to bed, you good-for-nothing boy."

Jack went to bed. He was sad because he had made his mother angry. And he was sad because he had got no food to eat; and he was sad because the

beautiful cow was gone.... He cried a little. But he soon fell asleep.

Next day, when Jack awoke, he said, "I will find those golden beans. My mother threw them into the garden."

He went to the window and looked out into the garden.

The six beans had grown into a big plant; the plant had grown up and up. The top of the plant had grown far up into the sky. Jack could not see the top.

He said, "I will go up to the top of the plant; I want to see what there is in the sky."

So Jack went up the bean plant. He went up and up; he looked down and saw the tops of the trees and the red tops of the houses. He saw his mother's house; it looked very little because he was so far up in the sky. But he had not come to the top of the bean plant.

He went up and up; and then he came to the sky at the top. He was up in the sky.

In front of Jack was a road. Jack went along the road and came to a big house. He had no food when he went to bed, and he had no food when he awoke; so he wanted some food to eat. He said, "I think they will give me some food at this big house." So he went to the door of the house and called.

A very big old woman opened the door. Jack thought, " She does

not look like a very good woman.

"What do you want?" said the old woman.

"I want some food," said Jack.

"Come with me," said the old woman, "and I will give you something to eat."

Jack thought, "She wants to catch me; but I will go with her and see what there is in the house."

So he went with the old woman into the house. She gave him some bread to eat and some milk to drink. Then she put him in a little room, and said, "My man is a giant. He is coming just now. If you go out of that little room, he will kill you."

The giant came into the house. He was very big. He had the body of a dead cow in one hand and a tree in the other hand.... He came into the room; he looked this way and that way; then he said,

"Fee, Fi, Fo, Foy!

I smell the smell of a little boy!

Be he alive, or be he dead,

I will eat his body with my bread!"

The giant's wife said, "There is a little boy in that room. I do not want him to hear what I say. Do not eat him today; he is not fat now: but after two or three days he will be fat, and then I will cook him for you."

Then the giant sat down at the table; his wife brought food and set it on the table, and the giant ate it. When he had eaten he said, "Bring me my money." She brought two boxes full of gold, and put them on the table near him. He opened one of the boxes and looked to see how much gold there was in it. Then he shut his eyes, and very soon the giant was asleep. The giant's wife soon fell asleep too.

When the giant and his wife were asleep, Jack opened the door of the little room and came out. As he went by the giant's table he took one of the boxes of gold. Then he went out of the door and ran along the road. He came to the top of the bean plant. Then he threw the box down. Then he went down the tree. The box had fallen at the foot of the bean plant. He took it and went into the house.

His mother was working at the table. He put the box down on the table, and opened it, and said, "See, mother, this is one of the things that my beans have brought us. And they will soon bring other things too."

Six days went by. Then Jack thought, "I will go up the bean plant again."

On the next morning he got out of bed; he went up the bean plant again. He came again to the road; he went along it and came to the big house. He called, and again the giant's wife opened the door.

When she saw him she said, "Come in, little boy, come into the house."

But Jack was afraid; he thought, "No, I will not go in with her, for she wants to catch me: she will put me in that little room, and she will shut the door so that I cannot go out. Then, when I am fat, she will cook me for the giant." So he ran away and hid.

Jack waited near the giant's house. Soon he saw the wife of the giant go out into the garden, for it was morning and she had work to do in the garden. When he saw the giant's wife go into the garden, Jack opened the door of the house and went in. There was a big box in the room. Jack hid in the box.

After an hour, the giant's wife came into the room and began to cook the giant's food. Jack wanted to get out of the box, for the morning was hot and the box was not large. But just then the giant came into the room.

The giant looked this way and that way; then he said,

"Fee, Fi, Fo, Foy!

I smell the smell of a little boy!

Be he alive, or be he dead,

I will eat his body with my bread!"

The giant's wife said, "A little boy came to the house. I wanted to catch him for you, but he ran away.

"I smell the smell of a little boy," said the giant, and he looked here and there; but he could not find Jack. He looked in the little room, but Jack was not there. Then the giant's wife put the food on the table, and the giant began to eat.

When the giant had eaten, he said, "Bring the hen that lays the golden eggs." The giant's wife brought the hen and put it on the table.

The giant said, "Begin."

And the hen laid a golden egg.

The giant said, "Lay again!" and the hen laid another golden egg.

Then the giant and his wife began to sleep. Soon the giant laid his head on the table and fell asleep, and his wife was soon asleep too.

Jack came out of the box. The hen was on the table. As Jack went by the table he took the hen, and ran out of the house.

But the hen began to cry out, "Giant! Giant! Run! Run! A little boy is running away with me!"

The giant awoke and began to run after Jack. Jack ran and soon came to the top of the bean plant. He went down it.

The giant was big and could not go down so quickly. Jack came to his mother's garden. He called his mother and said, "Quick! Quick!

Bring an axe !" His mother ran quickly and brought an axe.

The giant was coming down the bean plant Jack's mother bravely hit at the foot of the plant with the axe: all the plant came down. The giant fell with it. He fell into the garden and was killed.

Jack's mother saw the giant, and she said sadly, "That is the giant who killed your father."

Jack and his mother were rich, and lived happily ever after.

Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Fox

Mr. Sparrow was a little bird. He was not a nice little bird — not at all nice; for he was always telling stories about one person to another person.

One day, as Mr. Sparrow sat in a tree, he saw Mr. Rabbit coming through the forest. Mr. Rabbit came near to the tree, and Mr. Sparrow heard him speaking; Mr. Rabbit was saying, "I shall do something which will make Mr. Fox so angry! Ha! Ha! Ha! He will be so angry!"

Then Mr. Sparrow cried out to Mr. Rabbit, "No, you will not! For I shall go and tell Mr. Fox what you have said."

Mr. Rabbit thought, "Now I do not know what to do. I do not know what I shall do, if that ugly little Mr. Sparrow tells Mr. Fox what I said."

But Mr. Sparrow went away quickly and told Mr. Fox what Mr. Rabbit had said. Mr. Rabbit thought and thought; at last he said, "I know what I shall say!"

In a little time Mr. Fox came running along the lane. Mr. Rabbit called out to him, "Mr. Fox, Mr. Fox!"

"What?" said Mr. Fox.

"Do not come near me," said Mr. Rabbit.

"Why?" said Mr. Fox.

"Because you will kill me and set my house on fire."

"Why do you say that?" asked Mr. Fox.

"Because I was told so," said Mr. Rabbit; "I was told that you said, 'I shall kill Mr. Rabbit and set his house on fire.'"

"Who told you that?" asked Mr. Fox.

"It was Mr. Sparrow."

"It was; was it!" said Mr. Fox.

On the next day Mr. Fox saw Mr. Sparrow in the forest. Mr. Sparrow called out to Mr. Fox.

"What do you want?" said Mr. Fox.

"I have something to tell you," said Mr. Sparrow.

"You have; have you!" said Mr. Fox.

"Yes, I have," said Mr. Sparrow.

"Stand on my head, little Mr. Sparrow, for one of my ears is bad, and I do not hear with the other," said Mr. Fox.

So Mr. Sparrow jumped on to Mr. Fox's head.

"Stand in my mouth," said Mr. Fox; "then I shall hear you nicely."

Mr. Sparrow stood in Mr. Fox's mouth. Mr. Fox shut his mouth and ate Mr. Sparrow. "Now go and tell stories about me!" said Mr. Fox.

Dick and His Cat

I

Once there was a boy called Dick. He was very poor: his father and mother were dead and he had no friends to help him.

One day he heard some men speaking: one man said, "I shall go to London, for London is a very big city, and its streets are covered with gold. Everyone in London is very rich."

Then Dick said, "I shall go to London and become rich."

Some days after that, Dick saw a cart at the side of the road. He said to the man who was on the cart, "Where are you going to?" The man said, "I am going to London." Will you take me to London with you?" asked Dick. The man said, "I will." So Dick got on the cart, and went to London.

When Dick came to London he saw that the streets were not made of gold; they were made of stones like other streets. But there were very many houses. All along the sides of the streets there were houses, hundreds and hundreds of houses, houses on this side, houses on that side, hundreds of houses everywhere. Dick got down; and the man and the cart went away.

Dick stood in the street: he had no house to go to, no food to eat, and no friends.

Then snow began to fall. The snow fell more quickly. Soon there was snow over everything. The streets and the houses were covered with snow. Soon they were all white; they looked beautiful. But it was very cold, Poor Dick was covered with snow; he was so cold that he thought that he would die.

Night was coming on. There was a light in the window of a house. Dick went to it and stood near the door- then he sat down on the stone. Just then the door opened and a servant looked out; she saw Dick sitting there. "Go away, you good-for-nothing boy!" she cried. "What are you doing there?" Dick was so cold that he could not even stand up. The servant became angry: "Go away!" she cried again. Then she got a pot of cold water and threw it over Dick. Poor Dick was too cold even to cry.

Now, that was the house of a very rich man, named Mr. Warren. Mr. Warren had one child, named Alice. Alice was standing near the door and she saw the servant-woman throw the water over Dick. Alice was very angry at this. She said, "The poor boy will die of cold. You bad woman!" Then she took Dick's hand. "Come in, poor boy," she said; and she brought him into the house. She gave him food and a bed to sleep in, and Dick stayed in the house that night.

In the morning Mr. Warren saw Dick, and said, "You shall stay in my house and help the cook, You shall begin today." So Dick stayed

and helped the cook.

Now the cook was a bad woman. She was not kind to Dick. She always made him do all her work; she always gave him bad food to eat; she was always calling him bad names, and when she was angry she even hit him on the face. Dick had a little room at the top of the house. It was a very little room; and it was a very bad room, for it was always full of mice. There were hundreds of mice. The mice would eat Dick's food. The mice would even run over his face when he was in bed.

So Dick was not happy in Mr. Warren's house. But he would not say anything to Mr. Warren or to Alice, for he loved Alice, and he did not want her to know that he was not happy.

One day Dick saw a small boy in the street. The boy had a cat in his arms. Dick asked, "Where are you taking that cat?" The boy said, "I am going to throw the cat in the river and kill her." Now Dick loved cats, so he said, "Do not kill her; give her to me." Dick had one small bit of money; he gave that to the small boy for his cat.

That night Dick took the cat to his room when he went to bed. He had a small bit of bread to eat. He put it on the table; then a mouse came and began to eat the bread. The cat jumped, caught the mouse and killed it. She killed many mice, and all the other mice ran away.

After that there were no more mice in Dick's room.

Alice saw that Dick was unhappy, and she knew that the cook was unkind to him. So she told her father, Mr. Warren, that the cook was unkind to Dick. Mr. Warren said, "The cook is not a nice woman; she is fat and ugly, and she looks unkind. Dick is a nice boy. He does his work nicely, and his face and hands are always nice and clean. Dick shall work for me."

Mr. Warren sent for Dick and said 'You shall come and work for me.'

Mr. Warren worked in a big ugly house by the side of the river. He had many ships. He sent the ships far away to other countries. The ships took things from England to other countries, and brought things from other countries to England. There were many men working for Mr. Warren: there were men writing for him in the big house; there were men taking things out of the ships, and men putting things on to other ships. There were men who worked on the ships, cleaning them and making them ready to go to sea again.

Dick still lived in the little room, and his cat was still with him, but in the day he worked in the big house by the side of the river.

One day Mr. Warren was sending a ship away to another country. He asked all his servants, "Have you anything which you want to send on my ship? It will be sold in some far country, and I will give you the money." Then Mr. Warren asked Dick; but poor Dick had nothing to send.

Alice said, "I will give Dick something to send on our ship." But Mr. Warren said, "No, he must send something of his own."

Dick said, "I have nothing but my cat."

"Why do you not send your cat?" asked Alice.

"I love my cat," said Dick; "but I must send her, for I have no other thing to send."

So Dick brought his cat, and put her on the ship.

Dick went back to his room. He was very sad, for he was alone now. He slept alone in his little room; he had not even his cat to speak to. The cat had gone; the mice were beginning to come back to the room; and Dick could not sleep because of the mice. The cook was still unkind to him, and she did not give him nice food.

One night Dick said, "I cannot stay here. I shall go away to some other country." He put on his clothes, and went down. He opened the door of the house, and went out alone into the street. He walked along the street. He walked all night. The street led out into the country. It became a small road. There were no houses in the country, but trees and fields. When morning was near he sat down on a stone at the side of the road. He could not go on.

As he sat there the sun came up into the sky. As the sun came up, the bells of London began to ring. They rang out from far away through the sky, calling the new day. As they rang, Dick thought that they said, "Come again! Come again!"

"They are ringing to me," he thought, "they are calling me back to London. They are saying 'Come back. You will not always be poor and unhappy and alone. Wait, and your day will come.'"

Dick stood up: "I will go back," he said, "—and wait." He went back again to the city.

The ship went far over the sea and came to an unknown country where they had never been before.

The King of that country asked the men from the ship to come to his house. "Come," he said, "and show me all the things which you have brought." So they went to the King's house taking beautiful cloth, jewels, rings, hats, shoes, axes, bells, boxes, lamps, and many other things. The King looked at all the things and said, "I do not want any of those things. Bring me what I want, and I will fill your ship with gold."

Then the King told his servants to bring food. They brought food and set it on the table before the men. As soon as they set

the food on the table, hundreds of mice came out of holes in the wall. The men had never seen so many mice before. The mice jumped on the table and ate up all the food before they could take it. The mice ate up the food before their eyes.

The King said, "That is what I want: I want something to kill these mice. They eat the food before our eyes. They run over the food before we can eat it. They make holes in our clothes. They run over our faces as soon as we get into bed. They bite the children. We cannot kill them: they are so small and they run away before we can catch them. Give me something that will kill the mice and I will fill your ship with gold."

"Have you no cats in this country?" asked one of the men from the ship.

"What is a 'cat'?" said the King.

Then the man ran quickly and brought Dick's cat from the ship. As soon as the man came into the King's hall the cat jumped from his arms; she killed a mouse with one foot, and caught another in her mouth. She killed so many mice that the other mice quickly ran away.

The King jumped up and cried, "Good! Good! I never saw a cat before. Give me the cat and I will fill your ship with gold. I never saw so beautiful a thing before."

So the King took Dick's cat, and he gave the men much gold for the cat: he filled their ship with gold.

The ship came back to London. Mr. Warren went on to the ship, and saw all the gold which they had got. He said, "What did you sell for so much gold?" The men said, "It was the cat."

Then Mr. Warren sent for Dick. He said, "You have become very rich. You have more money than I have. Do you want to go away from us now?"

Dick loved Alice. He said, "No, I want to stay and work with you."

Mr. Warren said, "You shall not stay as my servant, but as my friend."

So Dick stayed with Mr. Warren. After some years he married Alice, for he loved her very much. He became very rich, and he was a very good man. He and his wife lived together very happily for many, many years.

The Goat-Calf

Once a Leopard and a Jackal came to a village. The Leopard caught a goat, and the Jackal caught a cow.

They brought the goat and the cow back. The Leopard put the goat in his field, and the Jackal put the cow in his field.

The Leopard was angry because he had a goat, but the Jackal had a cow. He went at night to the Jack's field and looked at the cow. He saw that the cow had a calf. This made him very angry: he took the calf away and put it in the field with his goat.

Next day the Leopard saw the Jackal in the field. The Jackal said, "Ha! I have a beautiful cow, but you have a little goat."

The Leopard said, "Ah! But my goat has a calf."

"How can a goat have a calf'?" said the Jackal. "That cannot be! A cow can have a calf, but a goat cannot have a calf, so that calf is mine: it is my calf."

"Come and see my goat and her calf," said the Leopard.

The Jackal looked at the calf and said, "The calf is standing near the goat, but the goat is not its mother. If a calf is standing near a horse, do you say that the horse is the calf's mother? No! - So that is my calf."

"We will go and ask the Donkey," said the Leopard. "We will hear what he says."

So they told their quarrel to the Donkey. The Donkey was afraid of the Leopard. So he said, "When I was young, cows had calves, but other beasts did not have calves. But many things have changed: there are many new things now. Every day I see or hear some new thing. So now goats may have calves. It may be."

The Jackal said, "That Donkey knows nothing! And he is afraid of you. We will ask the Dog."

So they went to the Dog and told him their quarrel.

The Dog was afraid of the Leopard; so he said, "All goats are not the same. There are goats which are owned by men, and there are goats which are owned by leopards. Goats which are owned by men cannot have calves, but goats which are owned by leopards may have calves. That is what I think."

The Jackal said, "That Dog does not want to quarrel with you, so he said what you want. We will ask the Cat. She is very old, and remembers everything."

So they went and told their quarrel to the Very Old Cat.

The Very Old Cat said, "In the old times, the King of All the Beasts said, 'Cows will have calves; lions will have little lions; leopards will have little leopards. Every beast will have his own kind of young.' But now people do many new things and do not live

in the old ways as they did when I was young. Go away! I want to sleep."

"Now you have heard!" said the Leopard. "You have heard the Donkey, and the Dog and the Cat; and they all say that the calf is mine."

"We have not heard the Monkey," said the Jackal. "He sits on the top of a big stone where you cannot jump up at him, so he is safe and will not be afraid of you. And he knows everything."

So they came to the Monkey. He was sitting on the top of a very big stone. Many beasts were standing near, because they all brought their quarrels to the Monkey Who Knew Everything.

He was eating his food. The Leopard and the Jackal told him their quarrel. The Monkey went on eating.

"What do you say?" said the Leopard. "Is it my calf Can a goat have a calf?"

The Monkey took up a little stone and rubbed it.

"What are you doing?" said the Leopard. "Why do you not answer?"

"I have just eaten," said the Monkey. "Now I must have some music."

The Monkey rubbed the stone.

"What are you doing?" said the Leopard.

"I am making music," answered the Monkey.

"I cannot hear any music!" said the Leopard. "No music can come from a stone!"

"If a calf can come from a goat, then music can come from a stone," said the Monkey.

Then all the beasts said, "Ha! Ha! Ha! The Monkey knows everything. When music comes from a stone, the Leopard may have that calf."

So the Jackal took the calf and went home.

"Bah!" cried the Leopard. "These beasts! They all know nothing!"

Beauty and the Beast

I

Once there was an old man. He had three young and beautiful children: they were girls. The youngest girl was the most beautiful. She was called 'Beauty', because she was so beautiful. Beauty was a very nice girl: she was kind to everyone; she worked very hard. Whenever there was hard work to do in the house Beauty did it, for her sisters did not like hard work. Everyone liked Beauty, because she was so good and so kind; they did not like her sisters, because they were hard and unkind.

Now, the old man was very rich: he had many ships. He sent all his ships to sea. They were going to take cloth and many nice things to other countries to sell them there and bring back much money. But all the ships were lost at sea. The old man waited and waited, but none of his ships came back. He waited for one year and still no ships came. Then he said, "Now I know that I have lost my ships. I am not a rich man any more. All my riches have been lost on those ships."

Then the old man called his three children and said, "My ships are lost, and all my riches have been lost on the ships. We cannot live in this big house any more. We must go and live in a small hut in the country. We shall not have servants any more, but we must do our own work."

The sisters said, "It will be very hard for us to lose our nice house, and to live in a little hut." But Beauty said, "It will be nice to live in the country. I will do all the hard work, and we shall all be very happy."

So they went and lived in a small hut in the country. Beauty did all the hard work, for she loved her father and wanted to make him happy. Her sisters did no work: they did not love their father; they did not love anyone. They did not like hard work. They were angry because they could not live in a big house and have servants.

After about a year a man came and told the old man about one of his ships. He said, "You did not lose all your ships: one of your ships was not lost. The ship has come back." The old man said, "I will go to the city and see about it."

Then the old father called his children and said to each of the three sisters, "What shall I bring to you when I come back from the city?"

One sister answered, "Please bring me some jewels."

The other sister said, "Please bring me some beautiful clothes."

Then he said to Beauty, "What shall I bring to you?"

She answered, "Please bring me a rose."

"But that is a very small thing," said her father.

"A rose will please me most," she answered.

So he went to the city.

The ship was his smallest ship, and it had brought very little; so he had little money to buy things for his children; but he said, "I must get them what they asked." He bought jewels for one sister, and he bought beautiful clothes for the other. Then he went to a man who had a garden: he said to the man, "I want to buy some roses." The man said, "You cannot buy roses in this month. There are no roses in my garden now. Wait about three months, and the garden will be full of roses." But the old man said, "I want a rose now." "You cannot get roses this month," said the other man.

Then the old man set out on his way home. The road went through a big forest. After about two hours rain began to fall, and it was hard to find the way. Then night came, and he lost his way in the forest. He did not know where he was going.

After some time he saw a light very far away; and he thought, "If I go to the light, I shall come to some house where I can get food and a bed." He went on for some time, and then he saw a big house. He went to the door of the house, and called. He called many times, but there was no answer. Then he opened the door and went in.

Inside the house he saw a great hall. In the hall there was a great table, and on the table food was set ready for one person. He thought, "This must be the house of some great person. In a little time he will come.

He waited for some time, but no one came. He walked about the house from one room to another. He saw no one: there was not a person in the house. He called, but no one came.

Then he said, "I will not wait any more." He sat down and ate the food. Then he found a room with a bed in it all ready. He got into the bed and fell asleep.

He awoke in the morning, and got out of bed. He looked for his clothes. Some person had taken away his clothes in the night. Where his old clothes had been, there were very nice new clothes set ready for him. He put on the clothes: then he went into the hall. Food was set ready for him; he ate it. Then he went out, and walked about in the garden.

Now, as he walked about the garden, he saw a tree covered with roses. He thought, "Here are some roses for Beauty: she asked me to bring her a rose." So he took a rose in his hand. Just as he took the rose, a great beast jumped out of the trees and stood before him.

The Beast said, "I have given you food to eat; I have given you a bed to sleep on; I have given you new clothes to put on. What have you done for me? ... You have taken a rose from my rose-tree! You shall die for this."

"Please give me time!" cried the poor man. "I took it to give to Beauty."

"Who is 'Beauty'?" said the Beast.

"She is my youngest child," said the old man "She loves me very much. If you kill me, she will be so sad that she will die too."

"The girl may die in place of you," said the Beast. "You may go away now for one month; after one month you must come back to this place, or Beauty may come in your place."

"You could not kill her!" said the old man; "she is too good and too beautiful!"

"Bring her to this place after one month," said the Beast. "Go now -- and you may take your rose." The Beast went back into the trees. Beauty's father went sadly home.

At last the old man came home. He gave to the three girls the things which he had brought. He gave the jewels to one; the beautiful clothes to the other; and, last, he gave Beauty her rose.

The two sisters were very pleased; but Beauty saw that her father was not happy. Every day he looked more and more sad. At last she went to him and said, "Father, for a long time you have looked sad, and you look sadder every day. Why do you look so sad?"

For a long time he did not tell her. But she asked him again, and at last he said, "This is the last month I have to live." He told her about the great house and the Beast, and what the Beast had said—"After one month you must come, or Beauty must come in place of you."

Beauty said, "I will go with you. If you do not take me with you, I shall go alone."

At last the time came. The old man made ready his horse.

He got up on the horse, and Beauty got up with him; and they set out.

They rode through the forest. The way was long. It was night when at last they came to the great house. There were little lights set in the trees of the garden, and all the house was full of lights. In the hall beautiful food was set ready for them, and flowers were on the table. They sat down and ate. No one came to them.

They went to bed.

In the morning Beauty awoke and found that some person had set many beautiful dresses at the side of her bed for her. She did not

know which dress to take, for all the dresses were so beautiful. After some time she dressed herself. Then they went into the garden. The old man took Beauty and showed her the rose-tree where he had seen the Beast.

As they waited there, they heard a great noise, and the Beast stood before them. Beauty was afraid: then she looked into the Beast's eyes, and she saw that they were very kind eyes. She thought, "He must be a kind Beast: he will not kill me."

I The Beast said, "I am very pleased to see you, Beauty. " Then he said to her father, "Please go away, Beauty shall stay in this place with me alone." The old man looked at Beauty. " Shall I go?" he asked. "Yes," said Beauty. "Yes, go away, for I have seen his eyes, and I think he is a kind Beast."

So her father went away. The Beast went back into the trees. Beauty was there alone.

Beauty went into the house. She went from one place to another, and looked into all the rooms. The doors opened for her as she came, but she could not see who had opened them. Each room was full of beautiful things all set ready for her.

When she had seen all the rooms, she went into the hall and sat down. "I want a book to read," she said. "Can I have a book?" She could not see anyone near her, but someone answered, " Yes." At once someone placed a book on the table at her side. Her name was written in the book:

Beauty

with love from

The Beast

When night came she sat in the hall. She was reading her book. Just then she heard a great noise, and she saw that Beast standing before her.

The Beast said, "Is this a nice place?"

"Yes," she said.

"Did you like the dresses?"

"Yes, thank you," She said.

"Is that a nice book?"

"Yes, thank you," she said.

"Do you like living here?"

"Yes, thank you," she said.

Then, after a little time, he said, "Will you marry me?"

She cried and ran away.

He said, "Do not run away. Say 'Yes' or 'No.'" ...Will you marry me?"

"No, thank you," she said.

The Beast looked sad; and went away.

Each night, as she sat in the hall, the Beast came to her and said the same things. Each time he asked her to marry him, and she said, "No," Then he looked sad and went away. It made her sad too.

Beauty stayed in the place for a month. Then she thought, "My father will think that I am dead. I must go and see him."

So she said to the Beast that night, "I want to go and see my father."

"Yes, you may go," said the Beast, "but please come back after one month."

"Thank you," she said. "I will come back after one month."

On the next morning she found a horse. ready for her at the door. She got on the horse and rode to her father's house. He was very pleased to see her. She stayed there many days and she was very happy.

One month went by, but she did not remember the Beast. Two months went by, and still she did not remember him. At last, when three months had gone by, she remembered, and said, "I must go back to the Beast. I said that I would go back after one month, but I did not remember. I must go now, quickly." She took the horse and rode away.

She rode all night. "Poor Beast," she said, as she went through the forest, "he will think that I have not remembered him. He was so nice to me. Poor Beast!"

As morning came into the sky she saw the great house. The door was open. She ran quickly into the hall; she went into one room after another, but she could not find the Beast. She called, but no one answered. She went into the garden and looked for him: she came to the rose-tree and there she found him. He was at the foot of the tree. She thought he was dead: his eyes were shut. She went to his side: "Poor Beast!" she said, and kissed him. He opened his eyes: "I thought that you would never come back, and I knew that you would never marry me."

But Beauty knew that she would always love the poor Beast. She said, "I will marry you, Beast. You are ugly, but you are a very kind Beast."

There was a great noise, and in the place where the Beast had been there stood a beautiful Prince. He said, "A bad fairy changed me into a Beast. The fairy said, "You may change back into a man when a beautiful girl says that she will marry you." I changed back into a man."

The Prince married Beauty, and they were very happy. Beauty's father came and lived near the great house. But the two sister went away and lived in another country.

Beauty sometimes said, "You are very beautiful, my Prince; but

I did like my nice ugly Beast!"

The Donkey Who Sinned

Once a Lion and a Leopard and a Dog and a Donkey were sitting in a field. The sun was hot; there was no rain; there was no water in the river; the fields were dusty, and there was no food.

The Lion said, "Why is everything so bad? Why is there no rain? Why is there no food? There is no food because one of us has sinned, and God is angry with us."

The Leopard said, "Yes, one of us has sinned."

The Dog said, "One of us has sinned."

Then the Donkey said, "We will each tell our sins. Then God will not be angry and will send rain."

So the Lion began, "I have sinned a great sin. I found a poor man's cow near a village. I killed it and ate it."

The others were afraid of the Lion, so they said, "No! No! That was not a sin."

Then the Leopard said, "I have sinned a great sin. I found an old woman with goat on the hill. I jumped out, and the old woman ran away, and I killed the old woman's goat."

The others said, "A little girl had a cat. She loved it very much. I quarrelled with the cat and killed it."

The others said, "Oh, no, that was not a sin."

Then the three other beasts looked at the Donkey.

The Donkey said, "The man was going with me to the village. He stood and spoke to a friend. Then I ate a little grass from the side of the road."

The other beasts said, "Oh! Oh! Oh! That was a sin. That was a great sin. Now we know why God is angry with us and there is no rain." Then they all jumped at him and killed him.

The White Duck

The little white duck was sleeping under a tree in a wood. There were some nuts on the tree. While Mrs. Duck was sleeping, one of the nuts fell off the tree and hit her on the head. Mrs Duck woke up very afraid.

"Oh!" she said. "Somebody is shooting at me. I must go and tell the King."

So Mrs Duck went out of the wood and began to walk along a road. As she was walking, she met Mrs Hen.

"Where are you going?" asked Mrs Hen.

"I am going to the King. A bad man has shot me with a gun."

"I can run faster than you," said Mrs Hen.

"I will run and tell the King."

So Mrs Hen ran along the road, leaving Mrs Duck behind her. On the way Mrs Hen met Mrs Cat.

"What is the matter, Mrs Hen?" said Mrs Cat. "Why are you running along the road?"

"I am going to the King. Some bad men have come into our country and are shooting all the people," said Mrs Hen.

"Oh! Let me go first. I can run faster than you," said Mrs Cat.

"I will run quickly and tell the King."

So Mrs Cat ran along the road, leaving Mrs Hen behind her.

While Mrs Cat was running along, she came to Mr Dog, who was lying by the side of the road. Mr Dog did not like Mrs Cat, He jumped up.

"Stop!" he cried.

"Don't stop me," said Mrs Cat. "Something very bad has happened."

"What has happened?" said Mr Dog.

"A hundred soldiers have come into our country, They are shooting all the people," answered Mrs Cat.

"Oh! That is very bad," said Mr Dog. "You stay here. I can run faster than you. I will run and tell the King."

So Mr Dog began running along the road, leaving Mrs Cat behind him.

On the way, Mr Dog met Mr Horse, who was eating grass by the side of the road.

"What is the matter, Mr Dog? Why are you running so fast?" asked Mr Horse.

"I am running to tell the King that a big army has come into our country. A thousand soldiers are killing all our people."

"That is very bad," said Mr Horse. "The King must be told quickly. I can run faster than you. You stay here while I run and

tell the King."

So Mr Horse began running along the road, leaving Mr Dog behind him.

King Lion was sleeping in his beautiful garden. The sound of running feet woke him. He looked up, and there was Mr Horse standing in front of him.

"What is the matter?" said King Lion.

Mr Horse was very tired. He was so tired that he could not speak.

"Go and drink some water, and then come back and tell me," said the King.

So Mr. Horse went to drink some water. When he came back he could speak. He touched the ground before the King with his head. Then he said, "O King, thousands of bad soldiers have come into our country and are killing all our people."

"Ring the bells," said King Lion, "and call my soldiers."

Then the bells were rung, and all the King's soldiers, elephants, foxes, bears, and wolves marched into the garden. Six pigeons flew above their heads.

"Quick march!" cried the King.

Then all the soldiers marched out of the garden. King Lion and Mr Horse marched in front of them. Above their heads flew the six pigeons.

"Can you see anything?" cried King Lion to the pigeons over his head.

"Only a dog coming this way," answered one of the pigeons.

"Did you see the bad soldiers killing our people?" said King Lion to Mr Horse.

"No," answered Mr Horse. "It was Mr Dog who told me."

When they came to Mr Dog, the King cried, "Stop."

Then they all stopped.

"Come here, Mr Dog," said the King. "Where are the bad people?"

Mr Dog pointed with his foot. "There," he said.

"Did you see them yourself?" asked the King.

"No, I didn't see them myself," answered Mr. Dog.

"Quick march!" cried the King.

They all began to march again. The King, Mr Horse, Mr Dog marched in front, followed by the elephants, the bears, the wolves, and the foxes. The pigeons flew over their heads.

"Can you see anything?" cried the King to the pigeons.

"Only a cat lying by the side of the road," answered one of the pigeons.

"Did you see the bad soldiers killing our people?" said King Lion to Mr Dog.

"No, I didn't see them myself. But I know it is true, because

Mrs Cat told me," answered Mr Dog.

"Don't believe everything that you hear," said the King.

When they came to Mrs Cat they all stopped.

"Where are the bad soldiers?" asked the King.

"There," answered Mrs Cat, pointing with her foot.

"Did you see them yourself?" asked the King

"No, I didn't see them myself," answered Mrs Cat. " But I know it is true because Mrs Hen told me."

" Don't believe everything that you hear," said the King.

"Quick march."

When they had marched for some time, the King cried to the pigeons in the air above him, "Can you see anything now?"

"Only a hen sitting by the side of the road," answered one of the pigeons.

When they reached Mrs Hen they all stopped.

"Where are those bad soldiers?" asked the King.

"There," answered Mrs Hen, pointing with her foot.

"How many did you see?" asked the King.

"I didn't see any myself," answered Mrs Hen. "But I know it is true, because Mrs Duck told me."

"Don't believe everything that you hear," said the King. "Quick march."

After a time the King asked the pigeons if they could see anything.

"Only a white duck sitting by the road-side," answered one of the pigeons.

When they reached the white duck, they all stopped.

"Come here, Mrs Duck," said the King. Mrs Duck got up and touched the ground with her head in front of the King.

"Where are the bad soldiers?" asked the King.

"I haven't seen any," said Mrs Duck.

"Who has been killed?"

"Nobody has been killed, but someone has shot me with a gun."

"Are you hurt?" asked the King.

"Yes. Something hit me on my head."

" I think that you are very foolish," said the King. "Come here and let me look at your head."

When the King looked at Mrs Duck's head, he could find no mark.

"Now tell me what happened," said the King.

" I was sleeping under a tree in a wood and something hit me on the head."

"Show me the tree," said the King.

Then Mrs Duck led them all into the wood and showed them the tree under which she had been sleeping. When they were standing

under the tree, a nut fell on the King's head. He looked up and saw many other nuts.

"This is a nut tree, and the nuts are falling," he said. "Mrs Duck, you are very foolish. You told Mrs Hen that you had been shot. Mrs Hen, kick Mrs Duck."

Mrs Hen kicked Mrs Duck.

"Mrs Hen, you are very foolish. You told Mrs Cat that some bad men had come into our country and were shooting the people. Mrs Cat, bite Mrs Hen."

Mrs Cat bit Mrs Hen.

"Mrs Cat, you are a big fool. You told Mr Dog that a hundred soldiers were killing our people. Mr Dog, bite Mrs Cat."

Mr Dog jumped at Mrs Cat and bit her.

"Mr Dog, you are a bigger fool than Mrs Cat. You told Mr Horse that a big army had come into our country. Mr Horse, kick Mr Dog."

Mr Horse gave Mr Dog a big kick.

"Mr Horse, you are a fool too," said King Lion. "You said that thousands of soldiers had come into our country. I shall bite you myself."

King Lion bit Mr Horse.

"Now remember," said King Lion: "do not believe all that you hear. Believe what you see. Now we shall go back. Quick march."

Then the King marched away, followed by the elephants, the bears, the wolves, and the foxes. And over their heads flew the pigeons.

Then Mrs Hen tried to catch Mrs Duck, and Mrs Cat tried to catch Mrs Hen, and Mr Dog tried to catch Mrs Cat, and Mr Horse tried to catch Mr Dog. But Mrs Duck jumped into some water where Mrs Hen could not follow her; Mrs Hen flew over the trees where Mrs Cat could not reach her; Mrs Cat jumped up a tree where Mr Dog could not follow her; Mr Dog ran away among the trees where Mr Horse could not follow him, and Mr Horse went back along the road.

The Magic Mill

A long time ago, far, far away, there lived two brothers. One of them was quite rich; the other was very poor. The rich brother lived on a little island; he was a seller of salt. He had sold salt for many years and had got a great deal of money. The other brother was so poor that he had not got enough food for his wife and children.

His wife said, "What will happen to us? Do you want me and the children to die? There is nothing to eat. Why don't you go and ask your brother for some money.

" My brother loves his money very much. I'm sure that he will not give me any. Perhaps he will want to give me a handful of salt. But I will go and see him."

He got into his boat and sailed across to the island where his brother lived.

He found his rich brother at home, counting his money.

"What is the matter? Why have you come here?"

"Please, brother, I have no food in my house. Please give me one of those gold pieces you are counting."

.No. These are mine. You are very lazy. Why do you not go and work?"

" I have tried to find some work, but I cannot. Now there is no bread in my house for my children."

"I will not give you any money, but I'll give you some bread. If I give you a loaf of bread, will you go away and not come back?"

"Yes. Please give me the bread."

The rich man threw a loaf of bread to him, and he went away.

While he was on his way to his house, he came to an old man sitting by the side of the road.

"What is that you are carrying?" said the old man. "Is it bread? I have not had any thing to eat for two days."

"This bread is for my own children. But I do not like to see anyone without food. Here, I will cut a piece off the loaf for you."

He cut a piece off the loaf and gave it to the old man, who thanked him and began to eat.

When he had finished, the old man said, "Now I will do something for you. I will show you the home of the fairies who live underground. If you show them the bread, they will want to buy it from you. But do not let them give you any money. Ask them for the little mill that stands behind their door. Do as I say, and you will become rich. When you come back, I will show you how to use it."

The old man then led him into a wood. He pointed to a hole in the ground. It looked like the hole made by a big rabbit. Inside,

the hole grew bigger and a little stone door could be seen.

"That is the fairies' home. Get in and open the door. I will wait until you come out," said the old man.

The poor man got into the hole, opened the door, and went in. It was dark inside the door: for some time he could see nothing. Then, when he could see more clearly, he saw many little fairies: they came and stood round him.

"What is that?" said one of them. "Is it white bread? Please give it to us, or sell it to us."

"We will give you gold and silver for it," said another.

"No," said the poor man. "I don't want gold or silver. Give me that old mill that stands behind the door, and I will give you the loaf of bread."

At first they did not want to give him the mill for the bread, so he turned away.

But some of the fairies began to cry, "Let him have the old mill. We never use it now. And only good people can make it work."

Then they gave him the mill. He put it under his arm and went out of fairy-land. He found the old man waiting for him.

"That is it," the old man said. "This is how to use it. Only good people can use it. You must never let any other person use it."

It was quite late when the poor man reached home.

"Where have you been?" said his wife. "There is no fire and no food in the house. The children are cold and crying for food. What is that you are carrying. It looks like an old mill."

"It is a mill," he said. "Now watch. Say what you want, and you will I have it."

He put the mill on the table and began to turn it. Out of the little mill came wood for the fire oil for lighting and cooking, clothes, corn, and many other good things.

"It is a magic mill," said his wife. "Now we are rich."

.Yes, but no-one must know about it. We must hide it and use it only when no-one is watching."

The poor man soon became as rich as his brother. He did not keep all the good things for his own family. He gave many things to poor friends.

When his brother heard about this, he said to himself, "I do not know why my brother has become rich. I must find the reason for his riches."

For a long time he tried to find the reason, but he could not. But one day he gave a servant some money and ordered him to watch the house of his brother at night. That night, the servant looked through the window and saw the family standing round the mill,

which was working. He went back and told what he had seen.

The next day the brother got in his boat and sailed across the water. He said to his brother, "I see that you are now quite rich, and I know the reason. You have a little magic mill. Sell it to me. How much money do you want for it?"

"I cannot sell it," said the poor man. "It must never leave my hands. The old man said, 'There will be great danger if you sell it or give it to any other person.' That is what he said."

Then the rich brother sailed away home. But later, one dark night, he came back, went very quietly into the house, and stole the mill. He quickly carried it to the sea, where his boat was waiting. Then he sailed away to his island.

But the bad brother wanted very much to make the mill work. He did not wait until he reached home. While he was sailing in the boat, he tried to make it work.

"Salt," he said. "Salt is what I sell, and salt is what I want." Then he began to turn the mill.

Then salt began to come out of the mill. He laughed and began to sing. Masses of salt came out and began to fill the boat. The boat became low in the water. He tried to throw some of the salt into the sea. But more came in, masses of it. He stopped laughing and singing. Then he began to be afraid.

More salt came out of the mill, and soon the boat was full of it. Then water came in and filled the boat. The boat went down, down to the bottom of the sea, carrying with it the thief and the magic mill.

There, at the bottom of the sea, the mill is still turning, making more and more salt.

That is the reason (some people say) why the water of the sea is salty.

The Man Born to be King

There was once a king who had great power and was very rich. One day a little old man came to his court. This old man had clear blue eyes. People said that he had the power to read the lives of men in the stars.

The King said to him: "Tell me something about myself."

The old man said: "When you die no one from your own family will be king after you. The man who will follow you is not yet born."

The King was not pleased to hear this; he ordered the old man to leave his court and not come back.

The King often thought about what he had heard. After a time he married a beautiful lady and forgot the old man. Everyone was happy when the King married. They all hoped that he would have a son who would be a good king.

One day the King rode into the forest with some friends to shoot animals. They saw a fine large animal, and they all rode after it. The King had the best horse; so he rode faster than the others. He soon left the others behind him. When night came, the King found himself alone in the forest. He had not shot the animal. He did not know where he was or how to find a way out of the forest. He said to himself, "I am quite lost. I do not know where to go. It is now quite dark. I must sleep here in the forest. Tomorrow, when the sun rises, I shall find my way out of the forest."

The King began to make a bed of grass and leaves. But before lying down to sleep, he looked this way and that way. Then he saw a little light: it was the light of a lamp in a window. He mounted his horse and rode to the light. When he came near he found that the light was in a poor man's hut. He shouted. A big man, in poor clothes, opened the door.

"You cannot come in here," said the man. "My wife is very ill. I fear that she may die. Look, there is another hut. Go there to sleep. I will bring you something to eat and to drink."

During the night a loud cry awoke the King. He went out of the hut and looked around, but could see nothing. Then he went back and slept again. In his sleep he saw the old man with the clear blue eyes standing in front of him.

The old man said to the King, "Remember the poor man's child. He will become king in your place."

The King awoke when morning came. He went out to the poor man's hut. Inside the hut he found the man weeping. He was looking at the dead body of his wife who had died. At her side there was a little child that had been born in the night. The child was alive.

The King looked at the poor man and he looked at the little child.

While the King was looking at this sad sight, he heard noises outside the hut. He heard the voices of his friends. He went outside. The men were very pleased to see that their king was safe. They came riding up to the door of the hut.

The King said to them, "This poor man has helped me, so we must help him. His wife has died. We must give him some gold and we must take the little child with us. Our ladies will take care of the child. He shall live with us."

Then the poor man knew that this was the King.

"O King," he said. "Do as you wish. I myself cannot take care of my son, because his mother is dead."

The King said to one of his servants named William, "William, give the man this gold and bring the child with you."

William gave the man the gold pieces. Then he found a small box and put some dried grass in it. He put the child in the box and put some more dried grass over him; this was the only covering which the child had.

The King mounted his horse. He said to William, "Ride near me and hear what I am going to say."

As they were riding away from the hut, the King told William what he had seen and heard in his sleep. He said, "The old man said that this child will become king after me. I do not want him to become king. I want you to throw the child in the river."

William said, "If God wishes the child to become king, he will be saved even if we try to kill him."

"Do not be foolish," said the King. "Throw the box upside down into the river. Stay behind and do what I say."

The King rode away, leaving William behind. William threw the box into the river. The King heard the box fall into the water. He looked behind. He saw the box on the top of the water. But it was not upside down. The child was crying. The water was carrying the box quickly away.

When the King reached his home, a servant met him with a happy face. He told the King what had happened while he was away in the forest. A child, a girl, had been born to the queen. The King was very glad. He gave the servant money and did not think about the poor man's child.

Fourteen years passed. One morning the King went alone into the forest to shoot animals. There he saw a man and a boy cutting wood. The boy was fair and had blue eyes. The man was dark and had dark eyes.

"Who is that boy?" asked the King.

"O King, he is my son."

"He is not like you at all," said the King. "Go and bring your wife here. I want to see whether he is like her."

"I will bring my wife, O King, if you wish. But he is not like her. We call him our son because he has always lived with us. But he is not really our son. We found him fourteen years ago. We saved his life. We do not know whether his father and mother are alive."

The King looked carefully at the young man. Fear filled his heart. The man went away. When he came back his wife was with him. She was carrying a small box in her arms.

The man turned to his wife. "Speak, wife," he said, "and tell the King your story."

"My story is quite short. One day, fourteen years ago, I was riding on my donkey along the bank of the river. I heard a cry. It was like the cry of a very young child. I looked down into the long grass growing by the bank. There, in the long grass, I saw a box. And in that box there was a little child crying. I got off my donkey, took up the box and carried him home. We were very glad, because we had no children. We gave him the name of Robert. This is the box in which I found him. We love him and he loves us."

When the King saw the box, he knew that he had seen it before. It was the box which William had thrown into the river. And he also knew that the boy was the child whom he had tried to kill.

The King gave the man and his wife some money. Then he rode away with fear in his heart. When he reached home, he called for William, who was still one of his servants. He talked quietly to William for a long time. He sent William with a letter to the poor man. William mounted his horse and rode into the forest.

In the forest William found a boy who was trying to catch fish in the river. The boy looked up when he heard William coming. William said to himself, "I am sure this is the boy who is born to be king." Then to the boy he said, "Where is the man whom the King met yesterday?"

"He is my father. Follow me, and I will lead you to him."

When they came to the house, Robert called his father. His father looked at William and knew by his fine clothes that he had come from the King.

"Read this letter," said William. "It is from the King."

"I cannot read, but Robert can," answered the man.

Robert read the letter. The letter ordered Robert to come to the King. The King wished to take care of him and send him to a good school.

"We must do as the King orders," said the man sadly. "But Robert is happy enough here."

"I am very happy here," said Robert. "No one ever had such a

kind father and mother. I do not want to go."

William said, "You must come. Here you have the life of a poor man. Do you not want to become learned and a great man? Come with me."

The poor man said, "Yes, you must go with him. But I know that you will always remember us. Perhaps you will come and visit us sometimes."

"Yes," said his wife; "try to visit us when you can." She threw her arms around him and kissed him.

"You must come now," said William. He led Robert to his horse, mounted it and told Robert to get up on the horse behind him. Then they rode away.

Robert was very sad to leave the kind people who had been like a father and mother to him all his life. For a time he felt very unhappy. But he was young, the sun was warm, and the birds were singing in the trees. He soon began to feel happy again.

After a time, William said to him, "Get off the horse. It is too tired to carry both of us."

So Robert got off the horse and walked beside it. They went through the forest for a long time, and Robert became very tired. He wanted to rest.

William stopped the horse and got off. They both sat down under a tree. After a time Robert lay down and fell asleep. Then William took a large stone and hit him with it on the head. Then he heard a noise: some travellers were coming. Filled with fear, he stood up, jumped on the horse, and rode away, thinking that he had killed Robert.

When he reached the King, he said, "The boy is dead. He will never become king."

Six years passed. The King hoped that a son would be born to the Queen. But no more children were born. His daughter grew into a beautiful young woman. She was as kind as she was beautiful, and all the people loved her.

When the Princess was eighteen years old, her mother, the Queen, died. The King and his daughter were very sad at this. The Princess was so sad that she became ill.

Her father said to her, "Dora, my daughter, you seem to be ill. I am going to send you to 'The House of the Rose' in the country, where the good air and the quiet life will make you better."

The King said, "Stay in 'The House of the Rose' until I come. Perhaps I shall bring a prince for you to marry."

Princess Dora went away to 'The House of the Rose' in the country with her servant Mary. She was happy to go, but she did

not want to marry a man whom she had never seen. But she knew that she must do as her father wished. She hoped that her father would bring someone who would be young, kind, and good-looking. The king travelled to another country to look for someone to marry his daughter. The ruler of that country had a fine army. One of the officers of that army was a fine-looking young man with fair hair and blue eyes. When the King saw him, he thought that he knew him.

"Who are you, and where do you come from?" he asked the young man. "I think that I know your face."

"My name is Robert," said the young man. "And that is all I know about myself. Six years ago I was brought to this country. Some travellers brought me. They had found me in a forest, nearly dead. Someone had tried to kill me. He had hurt my head very badly. That is why I do not remember anything about myself. I only know my name."

The King was then sure that the young man was the boy whom he had ordered William to kill. He asked the ruler of the country for the young man. When he went away to his own country he took Robert with him.

One day the King sent for Robert.

"Go to 'The House of the Rose'," he said, "and take this letter. Give it to the Captain of my soldiers who are there. Be careful! Give it only to the Captain. Then do what he tells you to do."

Robert mounted his horse and rode through the fields to 'The House of the Rose'. There was a big garden in front of the house. By the door of the garden a soldier was standing.

When he saw Robert he said, "Who are you and what do you want?"

"I have a letter from the King," said Robert. "I must give it to the Captain."

"The Captain is eating now, and you must wait," said the soldier. "But you look tired. Leave your horse here. You may go into the garden and sit down. I will call you when the Captain comes."

Robert went into the garden. It was a quiet, beautiful place, full of flowers and fine trees. There were some red fishes swimming in some water. Robert looked at them for a time. Then, feeling tired, he sat down under a tree. He closed his eyes and fell asleep.

A short time later, Princess Dora and Mary came into the garden. They walked on the soft, green grass for a time. Then the Princess sat down to rest while Mary walked about by herself. She came near to the place where Robert was sleeping. When she saw him, she stopped and looked at him carefully. She had never seen such a fine-looking young man.

"This is the man whom the Princess should marry," she said. She then went quickly back to where the Princess was standing.

"I think that your Prince has come," she said.

"What do you mean?" said Princess Dora.

"Come and see for yourself," said Mary. "A Fine young man, asleep. If he is not a prince, he looks as fine as any prince in the world."

Mary then led the Princess to where Robert lay sleeping. When Dora saw him, love came to her heart. The Princess thought, " I shall never love any other man." She stood looking at him for some time, and then she turned her eyes to Mary. She saw that Mary was reading a letter. It was a letter that had fallen from the young man's hand. As she was reading the letter, Mary's face became white with fear.

"What is that letter you are reading?" asked the Princess.

" Take it and read it for yourself. It is sad for such a thing to happen to so fine a young man."

The Princess took the letter and read it. This is what she read: "To my Captain, at 'The House of the Rose'. 1, the King, order you to put to death the one who carries this letter. All such bad men should die."

Princess Dora was very afraid. She looked at Mary for a time. Then she said, "Wait near him till I come back. If he wakes up, hide him. Do not let anyone see him."

Then she ran quickly to her room and took a pen and a clean piece of paper. She sat down and began to write.

This is what Princess Dora wrote on the paper: "To my Captain at 'The House of the Rose'. I send you my best wishes. I want my daughter to marry the man who carries this letter. Do not wait. Let her marry. him quickly. When I come I want to find them married. These are the orders of your King."

She went back to the garden and showed the letter to Mary. Then they put the letter near the hand of the young man and went away.

They sat waiting in another part of the garden. Both were very afraid.

Mary said, "Let us not be afraid. We must finish what we have begun. I feel in my heart that you will be very happy."

After a time they heard the sound of voices. The Captain and the young man were coming.

" Princess," said the Captain, " this is a letter from your father the King. Please read it for yourself."

When Robert looked at the Princess, his heart was filled with love. He had never seen such a beautiful young woman. She read the letter and then looked at him. .

" I shall be pleased to do as my father orders. Something tells me that we shall find happiness together. Let us be married

tomorrow."

Robert was very surprised when he heard what was in the letter. He said, "I am ready to give my life for the King and to serve him till I die. The King wishes us to be married; I know that I shall always love you, so..."

The Princess took his hand. "Tomorrow," she said.

The King waited for one day after Robert had gone, and then mounted his horse and set out for 'The House of the Rose'.

When he came near he heard bells ringing and saw many people dancing in the garden. He was very surprised, and did not know what to think. He rode into the garden and saw his daughter walking hand in hand with Robert. Behind them was the Captain of the soldiers. Seeing the King, Dora and Robert stopped. The Captain came forward to help the King get off his horse.

"O King," he said, "I have done as you ordered. Your daughter the Princess and Prince Robert are married."

All the people shouted with happiness and threw their hats into the air. The King stood still looking at his daughter and Robert. Then a look of happiness came to his face.

"It is the wish of God," he said. "This man was born to be king."

Then the King took his daughter's hand and kissed her. He also took the hand of Robert. Then he turned to the people. "This is your new Prince," he said. "I know that it is the wish of God that he should become your King. This is the happiest day of my life. Sing, dance, and be happy."

The people shouted loudly and began to dance again. The King took the hand of his daughter and Robert and passed through the happy people into 'The House of the Rose'.

Alice in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll 原著

D. K. Swan 简写

Down the Rabbit Hole

Alice and her big sister were sitting on the grass. Her sister was reading a book, but Alice had nothing to read. She looked at her sister's book again. There were no pictures in it.

"What good is a book without pictures?" She wondered.

It was a very hot day, and Alice wondered what to do. "I'm so sleepy," she said to herself. "Shall I look for some flowers, or is it too hot?"

She saw a leaf falling from a tree, but she was too sleepy to look at it.

Just then, a white rabbit ran by, very near to her. That does not happen every day, but Alice did not wonder about it. She did not wonder very much even when the rabbit said to itself, "Oh! Oh! I shall be too late!"

But she did wonder when the rabbit took a watch out of its pocket and looked at it.

"A rabbit with a pocket?" Alice asked herself. "And a watch in it?"

She jumped up and ran after the White Rabbit. She was just in time to see him go down a big rabbit hole.

Alice went into the hole too. She didn't stop to wonder how she could get out again.

The rabbit hole went along just under the ground, and then... Alice was falling ... down...down... down.

She was not falling quickly. She had time to wonder 'What's going to happen next?' She looked down, but there was no light there.

Down, down, down. "Oh!" she said, "it's a long way. I shall never be afraid of falling again. I wonder where the hole will come out.

Down, down, down. "Will Dinah wonder where I am tonight?" Alice asked herself. (Dinah was Alice's cat.) 'Will they remember her milk at tea time? Oh, Dinah! Why aren't you here with me? There are no mice here, but there may be some bats. Do cats eat bats, I wonder?' Alice was beginning to get sleepy. "Do cats eat bats?" she asked herself. "Do cats eat bats?" And sometimes she asked, "Do bats eat cats?"

Thump! Bump! Alice came down on something that was not very hard.

She sat up quickly. She could still see the White Rabbit, far away along the rabbit hole.

"Run!" Alice told herself, and she ran very quickly after the White Rabbit,

"Oh, my ears!" she heard him say. "How late it's getting!" Then he went quickly through an opening at the side of the rabbit hole.

Alice ran through the opening. She was in a long hall, and she could not see the White Rabbit.

There were doors on every side of the hall, but she could not open any of them, and she could not find the opening from the rabbit hole.

"What can I do?" she wondered. Then she saw a little table. It was a glass table, and there was a very small golden key on it. "Will it open one of the doors?" she wondered. She went to all the doors, but the key was much too small to open any of them. "It must open something," she told herself.

Then she saw a very little door, hidden near one of the big doors. The little key opened it. Alice put her head down and looked through it into a very beautiful garden. She could see a lot of flowers and grass, and she wanted to go there. But the door was much too small. Sadly she shut it again and took the key back to the table.

"Why can't I become smaller?" Alice wondered. "It's not like home here-it's more magic-so there must be a way to get smaller." She looked at the glass table. There was a little bottle on it. ("That was not on the table before," Alice told herself.) She read a note on the bottle. It was in very good, big writing: "Drink me".

"I shall try just a little," Alice said, "a very little." She tried it, and it was very nice. She drank some more.

"Oh! My feet are much smaller and much nearer," Alice said. "I must be very small now."

She was. "Now I can go through the little door," she told herself.

She went to the door, but she could not open it, and the key was on the glass table. She could see it through the glass, but she was now much too small to get it. She tried to get to it up one of the glass legs, but she could not.

The poor little girl sat down and cried.

"Alice! Alice!" she said bravely. "It's no good crying like that. Stop it at once!" She sometimes spoke to herself like that, but it did not help her this time. She was still crying when she saw a little glass box under the table.

Alice opened the box. There was a very small cake in it. "Eat me", she read.

"Yes, I shall eat it," Alice said. "If I grow bigger after that, I can get the key. If I grow smaller, I can get under the door into the garden." So she ate the cake.

The Pool of Tears

Alice grew bigger. "How quickly I'm growing!" she said. And then, "Oh!" she cried, as her head hit the ceiling.

"I must go into that garden," she thought. "This hall is too small for me now."

She took the little golden key and went quickly to the garden door. She was much too big to go through it.

Poor Alice! She sat down and began to cry again. Because she was so big, the tears that fell from her eyes were very big too. They made a big pool.

"Stop crying!" Alice told herself. "You're a big girl (and she was big — very big) and you mustn't cry." But she couldn't stop the big tears, and soon there was a pool of tears all round her.

After a time, she heard little feet running towards her, and then she saw the White Rabbit coming back. He had his best clothes on, and he had two very clean white gloves in one hand and a fan in his other hand.

"Oh, the Duchess, the Duchess!" Alice heard him saying. "How angry she'll be because I'm late!"

Alice wanted to ask him for help. She tried to speak in her nicest way as she said, "Please—"

The White Rabbit jumped. The word came from the ceiling, and he was afraid. He ran away as quickly as he could, and the gloves and the fan fell from his hands.

Alice took up the very small gloves and the fan. It was hot in the hall, so she began to fan herself with the fan.

"Am I changed?" she wondered. "I was myself yesterday, but things are not the same today. If I'm not me, who am I? I don't want to be my friend Mabel because she doesn't know very much. I know much more than she does," Alice stopped. "Do I know more?" she wondered. "I'll try. I'll try to say four times. Four times one is four. Four times two is eight. Four times three is nine, Four times four is— Oh!" She began to cry again.

They were only small tears. One of them fell on her hand, and she looked down. There was a glove on the other hand.

She had put one of the White Rabbit's little gloves on.

"How can I have done that?" she thought. "I must be growing small."

She stood up and walked to the table again. "I'll see how big I am," she said.

The table was a long way up. Alice was very small and she was quickly becoming smaller. "The fan!" she thought. "The fan's making me smaller." She threw it down.

"I'm so small that I can go through the door," she thought, and she ran towards it. She had not run far when-splash-she fell into a lot of water. "I have fallen into the sea," she thought.

It wasn't the sea. It was the pool of tears that she had made when she was very big.

"Why did I cry so much?" Alice said.

She heard something splashing about in the pool near her. "It must be a very big fish or sea animal," she thought. But then she remembered that she her- self was very small, and she soon saw that it was a mouse that had fallen into the water.

"I wonder if it can speak," Alice thought. "This place is not the same as home, so I'll speak to it. OMouse!" she said. "Do you know the way out of this pool?"

There was no answer. "Is it a French mouse?"

Alice wondered. She tried to remember some French words. The words that began her school French book were the words for: Where is my cat? So she said them: "Où est ma chatte?"

There was a great splashing, and the Mouse moved away as quickly as he could.

"Oh!" Alice cried. "Please don't be angry! I didn't remember that mice don't like cats."

"Don't like cats!" the Mouse said. (He was very angry.) "Would you like cats if you were me?"

"No," Alice said. "No. But I think you would like Dinah. She is a nice, dear thing." Alice was speaking mostly to herself. "She never makes a noise, and she's very good. She catches all the mice—Oh! You're angry again! We will not speak about Dinah any more—"

"We!" the Mouse cried. "I never speak about cats! I don't want to hear any more about them."

Alice quickly tried to speak about other things. "Perhaps—" she said, "perhaps you like dogs?" The Mouse did not answer, so Alice began again: "There is a very nice little dog near our house. You would love it. It likes playing with children, but it works too. Its home is on a farm, and the farmer says that it helps him a lot. It kills all the m — Oh!"

The Mouse was very angry. He splashed his way to the side of the pool and got out of the water. Alice went after him.

There were a lot of animals and birds which had fallen into the pool: a duck, and a dodo, and others with names that Alice did not know. They splashed after Alice and got out of the water.

A Caucus Race

Alice was very cold after being in the pool, and all the animals and birds were cold and unhappy.

Alice did not wonder about it when they began to speak to her.

"The best thing if you are cold," the Dodo said, "is to have a race—a Caucus race."

None of the other birds or animals said anything, but the Dodo was waiting for a question, so Alice asked, "What is a Caucus race?"

"I could tell you," the Dodo said, "but the best thing is to do it."

The Dodo made marks to show where to run.

There was no place to begin running. There was no place to run to. There was no "One, two, three, go!" They began running when they liked, and they stopped when they liked. Only the Dodo knew when the race was over. When everybody was hot again and happy, the Dodo called out: "The race is over!"

Then they all stood round the Dodo and asked, "Who has won?"

The Dodo could not answer at once. He sat for a long time with a finger to his head, and at last he said:

Everybody has won. Everybody must have a prize.

"But who is to give the prizes?" the Mouse and a lot of other animals asked.

"She is," the Dodo said, looking at Alice.

"Prizes! Prizes!" all the birds and animals cried, standing round Alice.

Alice was not ready for this, but she put her hand in her pocket. She found a small box of very small sweets in it. (It was a good thing that the water had not got into it.) There was just one sweet for each of the birds and animals.

"But she must have a prize herself, you know," the Mouse said.

"Yes," the Dodo answered. He told Alice to find another prize in her pocket.

"I only have the box," Alice said.

"Give it to me." The Dodo put his hand out, and Alice put the box into it.

They all stood round Alice again, and the Dodo gave her the box, saying: "Please take this very beautiful box with our thanks."

The next thing was to eat the sweets. There was some noise and crying about this. The sweets were too small for the big birds: they did not last. They were too big for the small birds. "Quick! Pat them on their backs!" Alice cried.

At last the sweets were all gone, and the birds and animals sat round in a ring and waited for something to happen.

"If Dinah were here, I should be very happy," Alice said. She said it to herself, but her new friends heard the words.

"And who is Dinah, may I ask?" the Dodo said.

Alice was always ready to speak about her friend the cat.

"Dinah's our cat. She's very nice. And she's very quick. You should see her catching mice. She's very good at catching birds too. --Oh, why have they all gone?"

All the animals and birds had gone. Alice was alone again. "They don't like me to speak about Dinah," she told herself. "Nobody likes Dinah down here, but she's the best cat of all. I wonder if I shall ever see her again."

Alice began to cry again because she was alone, but she heard little feet coming towards her, and she stopped crying. "Perhaps it's the Mouse," she thought.

The White Rabbit's House

It was not the Mouse. It was the White Rabbit. He was looking everywhere, and she heard him saying, "The Duchess! The Duchess! She'll be so angry! Oh, where are they? Where did they fall?"

Alice knew that he was looking for the fan and the little gloves, and she tried to find them. But every- thing was changed. The hall with the little glass table and the doors had gone. She was in the country.

The White Rabbit saw her. "What are you doing out here, Mary Ann?" he asked angrily. "Run home at once and bring me some white gloves and a fan. Quick! Now!"

Alice ran towards a little house without trying to tell the White Rabbit that she was not the girl who worked for him. When she came to the door of the house, she saw: W.RABBIT on it, and she went in. In a small room at the top of the house there was a table. Alice saw a fan and some gloves on it. She took them and went towards the door, but there was a little bottle near it. It was not like the bottle in the hall. It did not have "Drink me" on it, but she tried it.

"When I eat or drink anything here," she said to herself, "something always happens. Perhaps this will make me grow big again. I don't want to be small any more."

She did grow. She grew very quickly.

"Have I drunk too much?" she wondered.

She sat down. But soon she was too big for that. With her side on the floor it was better, but she was still growing. She put her arm out of the window and her foot inside the fireplace.

"I'm glad there isn't a fire," she thought. "If I grow any more, I don't know what will happen."

She stopped growing, but she could not move.

"Mary Ann! Mary Ann! Where are you? Where are my gloves?" The words came from the garden, outside the window. The Rabbit was there, and soon Alice heard his little feet as he came up to the room.

The Rabbit tried to open the door of the room, but he could not move it. Alice's back stopped it.

Alice heard him say, "Then I'll go and get in at the window."

"Oh, no, you will not!" Alice thought. She waited for the Rabbit to run round the house to the window.

There was a little cry. She heard the Rabbit calling for help, and then she heard little animals speaking.

"It's an arm."

"It's too big. It can't be an arm."

"It is an arm. Take it away."

Alice moved her arm. There were more cries and a lot of noise, and then she heard the Rabbit:

"We must burn the house down!"

Alice shouted, "If you do, I'll ask Dinah to catch you!" Her shout made the little house shake.

There was no answer from the little animals. She heard nothing at all for some time. Then they began to move about again.

"What will they do next?" Alice wondered.

A lot of little stones were thrown at the window. Some of them hit her arm, and some of them came through the window and hit her face and her body before they fell on the floor.

Alice looked at the stones on the floor. They all became little cakes.

"If I eat one of these cakes," she thought, "it will do something to me. It can't make me bigger, so it must make me smaller."

She ate one of the cakes.

At once she began to get smaller. When she was so small that she could go through the door, she ran out of the house.

There were a lot of animals outside, so Alice ran quickly until she got to some trees. It was very hard to run because she was so small. She ran round even the smallest plants and flowers.

"Oh!" Alice said, stopping and using a piece of grass as a fan. "I must grow bigger again. How can I do it? I must eat or drink something, but the question is: What?"

That was the question. Alice looked all round her at the flowers and the grass, but she could not see anything with "Eat me" or "Drink me" on it.

There was a big mushroom growing near her. Alice went towards it. She looked under it; she looked beside it; she looked at the back of it. Then she looked to see what was on top of it.

The mushroom was as big as she was, but she could just see over the top. She looked into the eyes of a big blue caterpillar.

The Caterpillar

The Caterpillar looked at Alice and said nothing.

"Perhaps it doesn't speak", Alice thought.

But at last it did speak. "Who are you?" it asked.

"It was a hard question." Alice answered, but not very quickly: "I—I don't know. I knew who I was this morning, but I have changed — more than once — I think."

"How?" the Caterpillar asked.

It was another hard question. Alice said, "It's just that--changing from one thing to another is very hard."

"No, it isn't."

Alice thought about that. "Perhaps it isn't hard for you," she said. She knew that caterpillars change more than once before they become butterflies. "But it is hard for me."

"For you? Who are you?"

The Caterpillar had asked that question before, and Alice was near to becoming angry. She said, "Perhaps you can tell me who you are before I tell you who I am?"

"Why?"

It was another hard question. Alice could not answer it, so she began to walk away.

"Come back!" the Caterpillar called. "I want to say something."

Alice went back to the mushroom.

"You must never be angry." the Caterpillar said.

"Is that all?" Alice asked. She was angry.

"No!"

Alice waited. "Perhaps it will say something if I wait," she thought.

The Caterpillar got down from the mushroom and began to move away. As it went, it said: "One side will make you grow bigger, and the other side will make you grow smaller."

Alice did not say anything, but she thought, "One side of what? The other side of what?"

Perhaps the Caterpillar heard her thinking, because it said, "Of the mushroom." Then it went into the grass, and Alice never saw it again.

Alice looked at the mushroom. It was round, like all mushrooms. "How can it have two sides—one side and the other side?" she wondered.

At last she put her arms round the top, as far as they would go. She took a bit of the mushroom with each hand.

"And now which bit will make me bigger?" she asked herself. She took a very small bite from one. "Oh!" she cried, as her head

hit her foot. She just got a small bite from the other side into her mouth before it was too late. That made her bigger.

Then she tried very small bites from one side on the other, and at last she was not too big and not too small.

"Now I must find that beautiful garden," she said.

Alice began to walk through the trees. She came to a garden, but it was not the garden that she saw before. There was a house in it — a very small house.

"I'm much too big," Alice thought. "If I go there like this, the people in the house will be afraid. I'll eat some mushroom from the art that makes me small."

Pig and Pepper

When Alice was not too big to go through the door, she went up to it. The house was very noisy inside.

"There's no bell," she told herself, "and nobody would hear a bell. There's too much noise."

She opened the door and went in.

She wanted to cover her ears because of the noise, but she could not do that in front of the Duchess.

The Duchess was sitting on a very small chair. She had a baby in her arms. The cook was at the fire, making soup in a very big pot.

"There's too much pepper in that soup," Alice said to herself. It was hard to say anything because the pepper made her sneeze so much. Even the Duchess was sneezing, and the baby sneezed and cried without stopping.

The cook was not sneezing, but she was making a great noise with the cooking things-crash! bang! smash!

There was a very big cat, too, and it was not sneezing. It was sitting near the fire, and it had a grin from ear to ear on its face.

"Can girls speak first to duchesses, or must they wait for the duchesses to speak to them?" Alice wondered.

The Duchess did not speak, so Alice asked: "Please tell me why your cat grins like that."

"It's a Cheshire cat," said the Duchess, "and that's why. Pig!" She shouted the last word, and Alice jumped. But the Duchess was shouting at the baby, and not at Alice. So Alice spoke again.

"I didn't know that Cheshire cats always grin. I have never seen any cat grinning."

"They all can," said the Duchess, "and most of them do."

"I didn't know that," Alice said.

"You don't know much!"

Alice thought, "I must think of something new to speak about." But just then the cook took the soup pot off the fire and began to throw things at the Duchess. One thing came through the air after another: pots, jars, irons, knives... Some of the things hit the Duchess and the baby. The Duchess did nothing, and the baby was making so much noise that it could not make any more.

"Oh, please don't throw any more things at the baby," Alice cried. "You'll hit its pretty nose."

"It isn't your baby," the Duchess said, and she began to sing to it. After every line she gave it a great shake. The words were:

Speak roughly to your little boy,
And beat him when he sneezes:
He only does it to annoy,
Because he knows it teases.

Perhaps those were not the words. It was hard for Alice to hear them because the baby was making so much noise.

"Here!" the Duchess said. "You can have the baby for a time if you like." As she was speaking, she threw the baby to Alice, adding, "I must get ready to play croquet with the Queen," and going quickly out of the room. The cook threw a pot after her, but it did not hit her.

Alice caught the baby, but it was hard to make it stay still in her arms. She took it out of the house, and after a time it stopped sneezing. It did not stop crying, but it began to make noises like a baby pig. Its eyes were becoming very small, and its nose was changing and becoming more like a pig's nose.

"It is a pig!" Alice told herself. She put it down on the ground, and it ran happily away, making pig noises.

Alice looked round her. She jumped a little when she saw the Cheshire Cat sitting in one of the trees near her.

The Cat only grinned when it saw Alice.

"It looks kind," she thought, "but perhaps it will get angry quickly like all the people and animals here." So she tried to speak in a pleasing way.

"Cheshire Cat, dear," she said.

Its grin grew bigger. not smaller, so she knew that it was pleased.

"Will you tell me, please," she said, "which way I must go from here?"

"Yes," said the Cat, "but mustn't you tell me where you want to go?"

"Well, any place—" Alice began.

"Then you can go any way," the Cat said.

"--if it is a place," Alice said.

"If you walk that way, you'll get to a Hatter's house. Hatters make hats, you know. And if you walk that way, you'll find a March Hare. The Hatter's mad, and the March Hare's mad."

"But I don't want to meet mad people," Alice said.

Oh, there's no way not to meet them. We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" Alice asked.

"You must be mad," the Cat said. "Everybody who comes here is mad. Are you going to play croquet with the Queen today?"

"That would be very nice," said Alice, "but nobody has asked

me yet."

"You'll see me there," the Cheshire Cat said.

It did not go away, but it was not there any more. It just disappeared. Alice did not wonder about this, but she was still looking at the place when it appeared again. "What happened to the baby?" it asked.

"It became a pig," Alice said.

"I thought it would," said the Cat, and disappeared again.

Alice waited. "Perhaps it will appear again," she thought. But it did not appear, and she began to walk towards the March Hare's home.

"I have seen hatters before," she said to herself. "I would like to see a March Hare. This is May, not march, so perhaps the March Hare isn't very mad."

Just then, she looked up, and there was the Cheshire Cat again, sitting in another tree.

"Did you say pig, or fig?" said the Cat.

"I said pig," Alice answered. "And please stop appearing and disappearing so quickly. I don't like it."

The Cat disappeared a little at a time. The last part that Alice could see was its grin. It was there after the other parts had gone.

"I have seen a cat without a grin very many times," Alice thought. "but a grin without a cat! I never saw anything like that before."

When the Cheshire Cat's grin had gone, Alice began to walk again towards the March Hare's house. She saw it through the trees, and it was not so small as the Duchess's house. Alice had the bits of mushroom in her pockets. She quickly ate a little of the bit that made her bigger. Then she walked towards the house.

At the Tea Table

There was a tree in front of the house. A big table under the tree had places for a lot of people, but there were only three at it: the Hatter, the March Hare, and a dormouse. The Dormouse was asleep, and the other two were sitting very near to it, one on each side, and speaking over its head.

When they saw Alice, the Hatter and the March Hare cried out, "No, no! There isn't a place for you!"

"There are a lot of places," Alice said, and she sat down in a big chair.

The Hatter looked at her and took a watch out of his pocket. "What day is it?" he asked.

Alice thought. Then she said, "Wednesday, I think."

"It's Friday by my watch," the Hatter said to the March Hare, looking unhappy. "I told you that butter wasn't good for a watch."

"It was the best butter," the March Hare said.

"Yes, but you put it in with the bread knife. Some bread got in, perhaps."

The March Hare took the watch and looked at it sadly. Then he put it in his tea; took it out; looked at it sadly again; and said again, "It was the best butter."

Alice looked at the watch. "It tells the day," she said, "but it doesn't tell you the time of day."

"Why should it?" the Hatter asked. "Does your watch tell you what year it is?"

"No," Alice answered, "but that's because it's the same year for a very long time."

"And my watch doesn't tell the time because it's always tea time."

Alice wondered about that, but she said nothing.

"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to her.

Alice said. "Thank you. But I haven't had any yet, so I can't take more."

"Yes, you can," the Hatter said. "Anybody can take more than nothing."

Alice did not like the way the Hatter spoke to her. "I don't think he should speak to me like that," she thought. And she began to tell him: "I don't think—"

"Then you shouldn't speak," the Hatter said.

Alice was angry. She walked away from the table. "Perhaps they'll call me back," she thought. "And then they'll be nice to me and give me some tea and bread-and-butter."

But they did not say anything. She looked back once. The

Dormouse was still asleep, and the Hatter and the March Hare were trying to put it into the teapot.

"I'll never go there again," Alice said. And she tried to tell herself, " I didn't want any tea or bread-and-butter."

Just as she said that, she saw a door in one of the trees.

"I have never seen a door in a tree before," she thought. "I wonder where it goes." And she went in. She found herself in the long hall, near the little glass table.

"I'll get through the little door into the garden this time," she said to herself. She took the little golden key and opened the little door. Then she took very small bites from the bit of mushroom that made her smaller. When she was not too big and not too small, she walked through the door. At last she was in the beautiful garden.

Croquet With the Queen

The prettiest flowers in the garden were the roses. There were some on a small tree. Alice stopped to look at them. They were white roses, but three gardeners were working hard, trying to make them red.

"Why are they doing that?" Alice wondered. She went near them.

"Please can you tell me," she asked, "why you are making those roses red?"

The three gardeners looked very unhappy.

"You tell her. Seven," one of them said.

"No," said Seven, "you tell her. Five."

But Five said, "No, you tell her. Two."

Two looked even more unhappy. but he began. Well. Miss, this-er-this-er-tree should be a red rose tree. If the Queen sees white roses on it, she'll-er-she'll have our heads cut off. So we're trying to make them red before she comes to-er—"

Five was looking across the garden, and just then he cried out, "The Queen! The Queen!"

At once the three gardeners threw themselves down with their faces on the ground.

Alice heard a great noise. "Now I shall see the Queen!" she thought.

It was a procession. Ten soldiers came in front of all the others. They were like the gardeners, but they had clubs ♣. Then Alice saw ten of the King's own men with red diamonds ♦ on them. The children of the King and Queen came next, all with red hearts ♥. After them there were the people who had come to play croquet. Most of them were kings and queens, but Alice saw that one of them was the White Rabbit, not looking at all happy. The Knave of Hearts came next, "just in front of the King and Queen of Hearts themselves.

"Should I lie on my face like the gardeners?" Alice wondered. "But what is a procession for if nobody looks at it?" So she stood and waited.

When the procession came to Alice, they all stopped and looked at her. The Queen said to the Knave of Hearts. "Who is this?"

The Knave of Hearts did not know, so he said nothing.

"Fool!" the Queen shouted. Then she spoke to Alice. "What's your name, child?"

"My name is Alice, if you please." And Alice wondered if that was the way to speak to a queen. "But they're only a pack of cards," she told herself. "I'm not going to be afraid of them."

The Queen looked at the three gardeners who were on their faces

round the rose tree. She could not see who they were because their backs were the same as the backs of all the others: the same as three soldiers; or three of the King's own men; or even three of her own children.

"Who are these?" the Queen asked.

"Don't ask me! Why should I know?" said Alice. ... "That was very brave of me," she thought.

The Queen's face became very red. She was very, very angry. She looked at Alice and shouted: "Off with her head! Off—"

"Nonsense!" said Alice.

The Queen did not know what to do. The King put his hand on his wife's arm and said, "Don't be angry, my dear. She's only a child."

She moved her arm away angrily. "Show me their faces," she said to the Knave.

The Knave moved the gardeners with his foot.

"Get up!" the Queen shouted, and they stood up, very much afraid, and saying nothing.

"What," the Queen asked, "have you been doing?"

"If you please," began Two, "we-er-we were trying—"

"I see!" said the Queen. She had been looking at the roses. "Off with their heads!"

The procession moved on, but three soldiers stayed to cut the gardeners' heads off. The gardeners ran to Alice for help, and she put them into a big flower pot. "Don't be afraid," she said. "They will not cut your heads off."

The soldiers looked round the garden for some time. Then they went after the procession.

"Are their heads off?" the Queen shouted.

"Their heads have gone, if you please," they shouted back.

"Good!" shouted the Queen. "Can you play croquet?"

The soldiers said nothing, but they looked at Alice. The question was for her.

"Yes," Alice called out.

"Come on, then!" the Queen cried, and Alice went and took her place in the procession.

"What will happen next?" she wondered.

"It's-it's a nice day, isn't it?" she heard.

The White Rabbit was beside her. He was looking at her face to see if she was angry with him.

"Yes, a very nice day," Alice said. "Where's the Duchess?"

"Sh!" The Rabbit looked all round him quickly. Then he put his mouth near to Alice's ear and said: "She's going to have her head cut off."

"Is she? Why?" Alice said.

"Did you say, 'I shall cry'?" the Rabbit asked.

"No, I didn't. I shall not cry. I said, 'Why?'"

"She hit the Queen—" the Rabbit began.

"Oh, good!" Alice said.

"Sh!" the Rabbit said again. (Alice could see that he was afraid.) 'The Queen will hear you. She hears everything. The Duchess came late, and the Queen said—'

"Go to your places!" shouted the Queen, and people began to run about everywhere. They ran into other people and fell down. Alice could see that they were all afraid of the Queen. But after a time they were ready, and the game began.

This croquet was not the game Alice knew. At home people hit a ball with a wooden 'mallet' to send it over the grass. Here somebody gave her a flamingo to hit a hedgehog. Some of the ground was grassy, and some was not.

When her flamingo was ready to hit the hedgehog, the hedgehog walked away. When the hedgehog was a ball again, the flamingo put its head up and looked at her. "It's a very hard game," Alice thought.

The game was hard for everybody, and the Queen was becoming angrier and angrier. She went round shouting "Off with his head!" or "Off with her head!"

Alice didn't see any heads being cut off, but she was not happy. "The Queen isn't angry with me just now," she thought, "but it can happen at any time. I would like to speak to somebody about it."

There was something in the air near her. "I wonder what it is," she said. And then she saw that it was a grin. "It's the Cheshire Cat," she thought.

"Now I shall have somebody to speak to."

As soon as its mouth was all there, the Cheshire Cat said, "How are you? Are you happy?"

Alice waited. When she could see its eyes, she shook her head. "I can't speak to it," she thought, "before it has some ears — or perhaps one ear."

Soon she could see its head, with the ears, and, Alice said, "I don't like the game at all. It isn't a good game."

The Cat did not show any more of itself. Its head stayed in the air without a body. "How do you like the Queen?" it asked.

"I don't," said Alice. She saw that the Queen was very near, and she added "-think—I don't think that there is any queen like her."

The Queen was pleased, and moved away. But the King came to Alice and stood by her, looking at the Cat's head and wondering.

"Who are you speaking to?" he asked Alice.

"It's a friend of mine," Alice said, "a Cheshire cat."

"I don't like the look of it at all," said the King, "but it may kiss my hand, if it likes."

"I don't want to." the Cat said.

The King was angry, but he was afraid too. "Don't look at me like that," he said to the Cat, and he stood on the other side of Alice.

Alice said, "A cat may look at a king. I read that in a book, I think."

"Well, it must go," the King said, and he called to the Queen. "This cat must go, my dear, mustn't it?"

The Queen did not even look. "Off with his head!" she shouted.

"I'll get the axeman myself," the King said, and he went away quickly.

Just then, Alice lost her flamingo. It tried to fly up into a tree, and she could not catch it for some time.

When Alice got back to the Cheshire Cat, there were a lot of people round it. The King and the Queen and the axeman were all speaking at the same time.

The axeman was saying: "I can't cut a head off it there isn't a body to cut it off."

The King was saying: "Nonsense! If anything has a head, its head can be cut off."

The Queen was saying: "If somebody doesn't do something soon, I'll have everybody's head cut off."

As soon as Alice came, they all asked her about it. Alice thought, and then she said, "It's the Duchess's cat. Ask her about it."

"Bring the Duchess here," the Queen said. "She's waiting to have her head cut off."

The axeman ran to get the Duchess. and the Cheshire Cat's head began to disappear. Even its grin had disappeared by the time the Duchess came. The King and the axeman ran about, trying to find it, but the Queen told all the others to go back to the game.

"Come for a walk," the Duchess said, and she put her arm through Alice's arm. "I'm very glad to see you again." And they walked away.

Alice heard the Queen at the croquet ground. She was still shouting 'Off with his head!' and 'Off with her head!' as she got angry with the players.

"You must be glad to be alive." Alice said to the Duchess.

"Yes," the Duchess said. "It's a nice day."

"Will they still cut your head off?"

"Oh, no! They never cut anybody's head off. The Queen likes

to say it, but nobody does it."

Alice wanted to ask some more questions, but they heard a cry of 'The trial's beginning!'"

"What trial is it?" Alice tried to ask, but the Duchess was running too quickly to answer. As she still had Alice's arm, Alice ran too.

Who Stole the Tarts?

The King and Queen of Hearts were sitting down, and the trial was ready to begin when Alice went into the courtroom. Alice had never been in a courtroom, but she had seen pictures of courts, and she knew something about them from books.

The Knave of Hearts was standing in front of the King and Queen. His head was down, and there was a soldier on each side of him. It was his trial.

Alice found a place, and then she looked round her. She saw a lot of the animals and birds that she knew. And there were some tarts on a table on the court. They looked very good.

When everybody was ready, the King called out: "Read the paper!"

The White Rabbit stood up. From a very big paper he read out:
"The Queen of Hearts. she made some tarts,
All on a summer day.
The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts,
And took them all away."

"Off with his head!" cried the Queen.

Alice could see that the White Rabbit was afraid, but he said, "Not yet, not yet! We must have witnesses.

"Call a witness," said the King.

The Hatter came into the court as a witness. He had his tea in one hand and some bread-and-butter in the other hand.

"I was having my tea when they called me," he said.

"Why?" asked the King. "When did you begin your tea?"

The Hatter thought. He looked at the March Hare and the Dormouse, who had come into court with him. Then he said, "March 14th, I think."

"15th," said the March Hare.

"16th," added the Dormouse.

"Write that down," said the King. Then he said to the Hatter, "Take off your hat."

"It isn't mine," said the Hatter.

"You stole it?" The King looked angry.

The Hatter was so afraid that he began to shake. "No, no! I sell them. I'm a poor man. I haven't any hats of my own. I'm a hatter!"

"Don't be afraid," the King said, "or I'll tell them to cut your head off. What did you see?"

"I'm a poor man," the Hatter said, still shaking. "I was having my tea when the March Hare said—"

"I didn't!" the March Hare cried quickly.

"Well, the Dormouse said--" The Hatter waited for the Dormouse to say " I didn't" but the Dormouse was asleep.

"After that," the Hatter said, "I cut some more bread-and-butter."

"But what did the Dormouse say?"

"I can't remember," the Hatter said.

"You must remember," the King said, "or I'll have your head cut off."

The unhappy hatter was shaking more and more. "I'm a poor man —" he began.

The King wanted to hear the next witness. "You may go," he said to the Hatter.

The Hatter ran out of the court as the Queen said, "And cut his head off outside!" But he was running so quickly that the axeman could not catch him.

Alice was wondering why the court room was becoming smaller. She thought about it. "Perhaps I am growing bigger," she told herself.

"Call the next witness," said the King.

Alice did not know who the next witness was.

But people at the door began to sneeze, and then everybody in the court sneezed, as the Duchess's cook came in with her pepper pot.

The King looked at her. "Are you the next witness?" he asked. There was no answer.

" Tell us everything that you know," said the King.

"No!" said the cook.

"You must ask her some questions," the White Rabbit told the King.

"Oh!" the King said. He thought hard, and then he asked, "What are tarts made of?"

"Pepper, mostly," the cook said, and she shook her pepper pot.

When everybody had stopped sneezing, they looked for the cook, but she had disappeared.

"Call the next witness," said the King.

Alice wondered who the next witness would be. The witnesses haven't said anything yet," she thought.

The White Rabbit looked at his paper. He read out the next name: "Alice!"

The End of the Trial

"Here!" cried Alice, and she stood up.

She did not remember that she had been growing. When she stood up, the chairs and tables and other things and the people in the court room fell about here, there, and everywhere.

Alice put them back in their places. Then she looked at the King. He was writing something. He looked at Alice and then read:

"Rule Forty-two: No person as big as a house may stay in the court."

"I'm not as big as a house—" Alice began.

"You are," said the King.

"Nearly twice as big," the Queen added. She was very angry.

"—and it's not a rule," Alice said. "You have just written it."

"It's the oldest rule of all," the King told her.

"Then," said Alice, "it should be Rule One, not Rule Forty-two." She was not afraid of them because she had grown so big.

"Off with her head!" shouted the Queen.

"Nonsense!" said Alice. "Who's afraid of you? You're only a pack of cards!"

The pack of cards—all fifty-two of them—went up into the air and came down on top of her. Alice began to fight them, partly afraid, and partly angry. She opened her eyes, and—

She was on the grass; some leaves had fallen from the tree on to her, and her sister was moving them off her face.

"Wake up, Alice dear!" her sister said. "What a long sleep you have had!"

—对照译文—

城里老鼠和乡下老鼠

从前，有两只老鼠，它们是好朋友。一只老鼠居住在乡村，另一只住在城里。很多年以后，乡下老鼠碰到城里老鼠，它说：“你一定要来我乡下的家看看。”于是，城里老鼠就去了。乡下老鼠领着它到了一块田地上它自己的家里。它把所有最精美食物都找出来给城里老鼠。城里老鼠说：“这东西不好吃，你的家也不好，你为什么住在田野的地洞里呢？你应该搬到城里去住，你能住上用石头造的漂亮房子，还会吃上美味佳肴，你应该到我城里的家看看。”

乡下老鼠就到城里老鼠的家去。房子十分漂亮，好吃的东西也为他们摆

好了。可是正当他们要开始吃的时候，听见很大一阵响声，城里的老鼠叫喊起来：“快跑！快跑！猫来了！”他们飞快地跑开躲藏起来。

过了一会儿，他们出来了。当他们出来时，乡下老鼠说：“我不喜欢住在城里，我喜欢住在田野我的洞里。因为这样虽然贫穷但是快乐自在，比起虽然富有却要过着提心吊胆的生活来说，要好些。”

小红袄

(一)

有一位小姑娘，她和母亲住在森林附近的一座小屋里。

有一天，妈妈得到一块红布，她拿针给小闺女做了一件小红袄。

她给小女孩穿上这件小红袄，说：“以后呀，我就叫你小红袄。”从此，她妈妈管小闺女叫“小红袄”。

一天，小红袄说：“我要让外婆看看小红袄。”

外婆住着一间小屋，去外婆家的路要穿过一片树林。

小姑娘的妈妈说：“你应该让外婆看看小红袄，并带上一些鸡蛋给她老人家，你穿上你的小红袄，穿过那片树林去她家。”

然后，妈妈就把一些鸡蛋包在一块布里，给了小姑娘，还对她说：“带上这些鸡蛋上外婆家。外婆家离这儿很远，你得穿过那片树林。在穿过树林的路上不要耽搁。如果你一耽搁，天就黑了，天黑时，树林里有一只狼，它专门吃小孩子。”

小红袄说：“我在穿过树林的路上决不耽搁。”

于是，小红袄走了。她踏上了穿过树林的路，她走在路上，看到路边许多鲜花。她说：“我要采些花送给外婆。”于是，她边走边摘花，这边摘摘，那边摘摘，准备送给外婆。她就这样采着花，把时间耽搁了。夜幕降临了，而外婆家还有很远的路，当她发现天已黑了，就跑了起来。

她一边跑着的时候，发现了一条睁着两只大红眼睛的狼正站在一棵树旁。

这只狼说：“小红袄，你为什么要跑？”“天黑了，”小红袄说，“所以我要跑。”

狼说：“小红袄，你往哪里跑？”

她说：“我要跑到外婆家。”

“你带给你外婆什么东西？”狼问。

“我带了些鸡蛋。”小红袄说。

“我来给你带路。”狼说。

“不，不，不！”小红袄说，“不用给我带路，我认识路。”

然后，这只狼穿过树林跑掉了。

(二)

这只狼到了外婆家的门口后，就在外边喊：“外婆，您在家吗？”

“谁呀？”外婆问。

“我是小红袄，”狼说，“我送给您一些鸡蛋。”

“小红袄，进来吧。”外婆说。

于是，狼进了屋，把可怜的外婆吃掉了，然后它脱下外婆的衣服给自己穿上，上了床，钻进外婆的被里。

小红袄来到外婆的小屋，问道：“外婆您在家吗？”

狼说：“谁呀？”

她说：“是小红袄，我带了些鸡蛋和花送给您。”

“进来，小红袄，”狼说。

小红袄进去了。

狼说：“走近点，到我跟前来，让我看看布里包的是什么东西。”

“是鸡蛋，外婆。”小红袄说。

狼问：“你手里拿着什么？”

“花，”小红袄说。

“小红袄，走近点，给我瞧瞧你的花。”狼说。

小红袄走到床边坐下。

然后她说：“外婆，您的耳朵可真大呀！”

“我耳朵大才好听你说话呀。”狼说。

“外婆，您的眼睛真大呀！”小红袄说。

“我眼睛大好看你呀！”狼说。

“外婆，您的嘴好大呀！”小红袄说。

“我嘴大才好吃你呀！”狼说。它从床上跳了下来，跑上去抓小红袄。

小红袄跑出门外，钻进树林。小红袄在前跑，狼在后追。

突然，她听到一声枪响，有一个人在一棵树旁等着。他射中了狼，狼已经死了。小红袄遇到的这个人正是她的父亲。她父亲听到树林里有狼，就来营救小红袄了。

猫和铃

房屋里有许多老鼠，房主找来一只猫，这只猫吃掉了很多老鼠。

这时，最老的一只老鼠就说：“今天晚上，所有的老鼠必须到我的洞里来，我们要想点办法，怎样来对付这只猫。”

所有的老鼠都来了，许多老鼠都发言了，但是，谁也不知道该怎么办。最后，有一只年轻的老鼠站起来说：“我们必须在猫的身上安放一个铃，这样一来，当猫走近时，我们会听到铃声，跑开躲起来，这样，猫就再也抓不到老鼠了。”这时，年纪大的老鼠说：“谁去给猫身上安铃呢？没有一只老鼠回答。

它等了一会儿，仍然没人回答。

最后，它说：“说起来容易，但做起来难啊。”

蓝胡子

(一)

从前，有一位富翁，他住着漂亮的房子，还有一座美丽的花园。这位富翁留着一副蓝胡子，因此，大家叫他“蓝胡子”。

在富翁的房子附近住着一个穷女人，她有三个儿子和两个漂亮的女儿。一个女儿的名字叫安，另一个女儿叫法蒂玛。蓝胡子想要娶其中的一个女儿为妻，但是，两个女儿都不愿和蓝胡子结婚。

安和法蒂玛不愿同这位富翁结婚，是因为他的胡子是蓝色的。蓝胡子已经娶了很多妻子，但他的妻子都不见了，谁也不知道他的那些妻子哪儿去了。这俩姑娘不愿和蓝胡子结婚，当他的妻子，因为没人知道他的妻子的去向。因此，她们的母亲对蓝胡子说：“我的女儿不想和你结婚。”

这时，蓝胡子说：“来我家住几天吧。”于是，她们来到蓝胡子家住下。这房子真漂亮，蓝胡子处处对她们都特别好。

法蒂玛说：“他的胡子是蓝色的，但他不是一个坏人，在有些地方，他是很好的，所以我愿嫁给他。”

于是，法蒂玛和蓝胡子结婚了，住到了这所漂亮的房子里。

几天过去了。蓝胡子说：“我要去旅行。”然后，他把这座房子里所有的房间钥匙都给了法蒂玛，他说：“这一把钥匙是那间小屋的，千万别打开那间屋子的门……你说，你一定不会打开小屋子的门！”

法蒂玛就说：“我决不会打开那间小屋的门。”

于是，蓝胡子就走了。

当蓝胡子不在家时，法蒂玛的所有朋友都来看她。她带朋友们观看了许多房间，房子确实很豪华。但是，她没有打开那间小屋的门。

朋友们都走了，她自言自语道：“现在，我能打开那间小屋吗？他为什么说，‘不能打开它？’我想看看小屋里究竟有什么东西。”

(二)

法蒂玛拿了钥匙，她来到小屋门前，把门打开了。在屋里，她发现了蓝胡子的所有妻子，她们都是死的！

钥匙从她手里掉了下去，当她捡起钥匙时，发现钥匙上有一个红记号。

她把门关上，然后，拿着钥匙回到她的房间。她说：“蓝胡子会发现钥匙上的记号，还会知道小屋的门已经打开过，他一定会象杀害其他妻子一样，杀了我。”她就用布去擦钥匙上的记号，但是擦不掉，她用热水洗钥匙，记号还是洗不掉，她又在石头上磨钥匙，可是记号仍旧去不了。

蓝胡子回来了，他叫来法蒂玛，说：“把钥匙给我。”法蒂玛把其它的钥匙给了他，但是，小屋的钥匙没给，他问道：“小屋的钥匙哪儿去了？”她说：“我去拿。她就去把钥匙拿来，他发现了红记号，说：“你已经开过小屋的门，现在你得死。”

她跪在他的面前说，“让我再活几个小时吧！”

他说：“我给你一小时时间。”法蒂玛有三个兄弟，她的兄弟说过：“我们今天一定来看你。”但是，他们还没有来。她想：“如果我的兄弟这一小时来到，他们就能搭救我。”

她的姐姐安在家。她对姐姐喊：“安姐姐、安姐姐，到窗户那儿看看兄

弟们来了没有。 ”

安姐姐来到窗户向外张望，她说：“ 我没看见有人来。 ”

法蒂玛等了一会儿，然后她喊：“ 安姐姐，安姐姐，你没有发现有人来？ ”

安姐姐说：“ 我没看见任何人，没有一个人来。 ”

蓝胡子喊：“ 法蒂玛！ ”

法蒂玛说：“ 安姐姐，安姐姐，有没有人来？ ”

“ 我发现很远地方有一小团尘土， ” 安姐姐说。

蓝胡子又喊：“ 法蒂玛，下来。 ”

“ 安姐姐，安姐姐， ” 法蒂玛问，“ 尘土里有人吗？ ”

“ 我发现尘土中有人， ” 安姐姐说。

蓝胡子叫喊起来：“ 一个钟头已经到了，下来，法蒂玛，我要杀了你。 ”

“ 安姐姐，安姐姐，尘土中有三个男人吗？ ”

蓝胡子喊：“ 一个钟头过去了，如果你不下来，我就上去啦。 ”

“ 我看到有三个人， ” 安姐姐说。

“ 他们是我的兄弟！ ” 法蒂玛说。

法蒂玛说：“ 安姐姐，安姐姐，叫他们来救我。 ”

蓝胡子在喊叫着。“ 我上来了， ” 他说。

“ 安姐姐，快叫他们，安姐姐！ ”

蓝胡子走到了屋子门口。

门打开了，蓝胡子抓住法蒂玛的胳膊。

三个兄弟进来了，杀死了蓝胡子。

这样，法蒂玛得救了。

老猫

一位老妇有只猫，这只猫很老，它跑不快了，也咬不了东西，因为它年纪太大了。一天，老猫发现一只老鼠，它跳过去抓这只老鼠，然而，它咬不住这只老鼠。因此，老鼠从它的嘴边溜掉了，因为老猫咬不了它。

于是，老妇很生气，因为老猫没有把老鼠咬死。她开始打这只猫，猫说：“不要打你的老仆人，我已经为你服务了很多年，而且还愿意为你效劳，但是，我实在太老了，对年纪大的不要这么无情，要记住老年人在年青时所做过的有益的事情。”

睡美人

(一)

从前，有一位国王和一位王后，多年来他们一直希望有个小孩，但他们还是没有孩子。

后来，王后有了一个孩子，是女孩，国王十分高兴。

你知道仙女是什么。很多仙女住在王宫附近。当王后的小孩出世后，国王去告诉所有的仙女说：“王后生了一个孩子，你们一定到王宫来，看看我们刚出世的小女孩。”仙女们说：“我们很高兴，今天我们一定去看看。”

她们当中有一位仙女已经出门旅行去了，她已经到了很远的地方。王后的小孩出世时她还没有回来。当她回来后，一位仙女对她说：“王后生了一个女孩，国王来告诉过我们说，‘来看看我们刚出世的小女孩’。”

可是，这位仙女是一个坏仙女。坏仙女说：“国王来告诉你们大家，但为什么就不来告诉我呢？我一定要去看看国王的孩子，我要给她咒一些坏事。”

好的仙女们来到了王宫，见到了小女孩，她们大家都给她说了些吉利的话。一位说：“我给她这样吉利的话：她一定会发财。”一位说：“我给她这样吉利的话：她一定会成为一位勇敢的女性。”一位说：“我给她这样吉利的话：她一定会成为一名好女人。”大家都说了些吉利的话。

然后，坏仙女来到这里，她说：“国王去告诉了所有的仙女，他就是不来告诉我。所以，我要给小孩咒一些坏事。她会发财，会成为一名勇敢的女性，也会成为一名好女人。但是，当她成年后，她将用针刺破手而死去。”

可怜的王后不知道如何是好。国王对那些好仙女说：“这可怜的女孩子不能死，你们不能帮助我吗？求你们说一声她不会死去！”

好的仙女们说：“我们不能帮助您，坏仙女所预言的必将应验，你的孩子将会用针刺破手，但是，她不一定死，她要沉睡很多年。然后，有一位王子会来吻她，她将会醒来。他的吻会把她唤醒。”然后，仙女们走了。

国王叫来他的所有男仆和王后的所有女仆，说：“去把房间里所有的针都给我搜罗来。”他们去把所有能够找到的针都拿来了，然后，国王拿着这些针，把它们扔到很远的一条河里去了。

接着他说：“千万注意，别让一枚针进到这所房子里来。还要注意，谁也不准带着针靠近我的孩子。如果他们敢这样做，我就杀了他们。”

(二)

小女孩在王宫里长大了，她成为一名公主。凡是能看到的東西，公主都想看看。她想知道在花园里的人正在干什么；她要知道所有的树木和花的名字。在花园里她问花匠：“这是朵什么花？这是棵什么树？”凡是房子里能够见到的她都要看看。

她要知道王宫里有多少间房间，所有的房间都有谁住着，她一间接一间的进去看看，她进了大房间、小房间和很小的房间。然后，她说：“我已经走遍了这所房子里的所有房间。”但是，有一间屋子她没有去过。

她继续走，来到一间陌生的屋子，这间小屋子离其它房间很远。这间屋的门关着，公主要进去看看这间屋子里有什么。她就喊：“开门！”但没人出来，她喊了一遍后，又喊了一遍，这时门打开了，公主走进屋里，在这里她发现一位很老的老太太。

老太太正坐在桌子旁，桌子上有一些布，老太太一手拿着一些布，另一只手拿着一枚针。

公主问：“你在做什么？”

“我正在做活儿，”老太太说。

“你在做什么活儿？”公主问。

“我正在做衣服，”老太太说。

“你手里拿着什么？”公主问。

“那是布，”老太太说。

“不是！”公主说，“另一只手里是什么？”

“这？”老太太说，“这是一枚针。”

公主说：“把‘针’给我，我要看看它，我没有见过针，不知道针是什么。”

老太太说：“你从没有见过针？那怎么可能呢？你见过的针多着哩！家家户户都可以见到针。”

老太太把针给了公主。

“把布给我，”公主说，“我要做衣服。”这时，老太太把布给了公主。

公主用针扎布——然而，她刺了自己的手，接着她睡过去了。

然后，房子里的男男女女都睡着了。国王趴在桌上睡着了，王后坐在他身旁睡着了。

在花园里的花匠拿着斧头睡着了，大门旁的门房站着睡着了，所有的人都睡着了。

一位仙女来到公主面前，她抱起公主，把她放在床上。然后，仙女对花园里的树和花说：“快长！”花儿长起来了，树儿长大了，于是出现了一堵由树和花组成的墙。这样，没有人能走进这所房子了。

在这所房子里，公主睡着，国王王后睡着，男仆女仆也都睡着。

（三）

许多人想进入睡美人的房子，但是，人们穿不过树墙，所以没有一个人来过。

年复一年，公主长眠不醒。很多年过去了，人们不知道这所房子里发生了什么事情，不知道谁住在里面。树儿长高了，你通过树丛看不到房子，人们从树丛旁走过，不晓得这里有一座房子。

一天，一位国王骑马进了森林，王子也随同他前往。国王和他的仆人在前面走得很远（把王子抛在后面），王子找不到他们了。王子骑着骑着，来到了花树墙前，心想：“父王已经穿过那片树丛，我要穿过去，找到他们。”

他走到树墙前，树丛打开了一条路，他穿了过去。这时，他发现一个花园，然而，所有的花草却长得杂乱无章，遍地皆是。

他来到一座房子前，门开着，一个男人正站在门旁睡着，王子说：“多懒的人啊，他站着都睡着了！”他走进房屋，一些人坐在桌旁，手里拿着吃的睡着。

一个小男孩正在看书上的一个故事，他头枕着胳膊睡着了。一位妇女正在穿鞋，她脚上穿着一只鞋，手中拿着一只鞋睡着。一位老人也坐那儿睡着，旁边是笔和纸，而纸上都是陈年积土，他旁边一个妇女怀抱着熟睡的孩子睡着。

王子从一间屋走到另一间屋，他发现以前的国王在桌旁睡着，在他身旁

王后双手抱着头睡着。然后，他来到一间有花和有阳光的屋子，窗户开着，玫瑰花已经从外爬进了窗户，长满了房间。金色的阳光透过窗户洒落在床上，公主躺在床上，她的眼睛闭着，也睡着。

王子吻了她，她醒了过来。随即整座房子里的人都醒了。门口的人醒了；一些手里拿着吃的人醒了；妇女醒了，穿上了她的鞋；男孩醒了，看他的故事。在桌旁的国王醒了，王后揉了揉眼睛，说：“国王，你刚才说什么来着？我睡着了。”

公主嫁给了王子，他们成为国王和王后。

一个人和苹果的故事

一个人正朝着一个富人的房子走去，当他沿着路走时，在路的一边他发现一箱好苹果，他说：“我不打算吃那些苹果，因为富人会给我更多的食物，他会给我很好吃的东西。”然后他拿起苹果，一把扔到土里去。

他继续走，来到河边，河涨水了，因此，他到不了河对岸，他等了一会儿，然后他说：“今天我去不了富人家了，因为我不能渡过河。”

他开始回家，那天他没有吃东西。他就开始去找吃的，他找到苹果，很高兴地把它们从尘土中翻出来吃了。

不要把好东西扔掉，换个时候你会觉得它们大有用处。

“ 狐狸死了 ”

兔子先生是一个很坏的小动物，他总是干出一些惹别人生气的事来，所以他们都要捉拿他。但是，抓住兔子可不是一件容易的事。

有一天，狼先生对狐狸先生说：“今天晚上我们一定要抓住兔子把它吃掉。你回家，钻进被窝里，我说你死了，当兔子靠近你的时候，你窜出来把它抓住。”

狐狸跑回家，钻进被窝里。狼去了兔子家，他站在门口喊：“兔子先生，兔子先生。”

“什么事呀？”兔子问。

“你听说可怜的狐狸了吗？真是太惨了！”

“没有，”兔子说，“狐狸先生的事我什么也没听说。”

“他死了！”狼说。

狼走了。兔子就到狐狸家去看看是怎么回事。他从窗户望进去，看到狐狸躺在床上闭着眼睛，看上去就象是一只死狐狸，兔子想：“我必须弄明白他是否死了，要是他没有死，当我走近他时，他就会抓住我。”

兔子进了狐狸的屋子，他看看狐狸说：“狼先生说狐狸先生死了，但是，他看上去不象一只死狐狸，谁都会知道狐狸死的样子，因为死的狐狸总是张着嘴。”

狐狸听到这些话，他想：“我一定得让他看到我是死的。”于是他张开嘴。

当兔先生看到狐狸张开嘴时，他知道狐狸没有死。兔子先生蹦起来就跑，尽快地跑出了屋子。

白雪公主

(一)

从前，有一个王后，她坐在窗户旁。窗外的花园里积满了雪，山上是雪，小路上是雪，树上有雪，屋顶上也积着雪，万物一片白茫茫。

她手中拿着些布和一枚针，她手中的布就象雪一样洁白。

王后正在为一个小孩做一件袄子，她说：我要让我的孩子象这布一样白，象雪一样白，我要叫她“白雪公主”。

过了几天之后，王后生了个小孩，这个孩子白得象雪一样，王后给她取名为“白雪公主”。

但是，王后患了重病，几天以后她去世了。白雪公主活着，是一个十分幸福和美丽的孩子。

王后去世一年以后，国王又娶了一位王后。新王后十分漂亮，但是，她不是一个好女人。

一个巫师给了新王后一面镜子，这面镜子会说话，它被挂在王后的房间墙上，每天王后照着镜子，欣赏自己多么漂亮。当她照着镜子的时候，她说：

“告诉我，墙上的魔镜，
谁是世界上最美丽的人？”

于是魔镜开口说道：

“王后是世界上最漂亮的。”

几年过去了，白雪公主长成了一个小姑娘。每天王后照着镜子说：

“告诉我，墙上的魔镜，
谁是世界上最漂亮的？”

每天魔镜开口说道：

“王后是世界上最漂亮的。”

又过了几年，白雪公主长大成人了。一年年她变得越来越漂亮。

当白雪公主是一个年青姑娘时，有一天，王后照着镜子说：

“告诉我，墙上的魔镜，
谁是世界上最漂亮的？”

魔镜说：

“白雪公主是世界上最漂亮的。”

当王后听到这些话时，她十分恼怒，她说：“白雪公主没有我漂亮，没有一个比我更漂亮。”

然后，王后坐在床上哭了。

一小时后，王后从她的房间走出，她叫来一个仆人说：“把白雪公主带到森林中杀掉。”

仆人带着白雪公主到了森林，但他没有杀死她，因为她太美太好了。

这个人带着白雪公主进了森林，没有杀害她，他说：“我不会杀死你的，但是，你不能回王宫，因为，王后很生气，她会看到你的。如果王后发现你，她会让别人杀死你的。你就呆在森林里，会有朋友来帮你的。”

然后，他走了。

可怜的白雪公主坐在一棵树底下哭了，这时，她看到天快黑了，她说：“我不哭了，我要找所房子今晚好睡觉，我不能呆在这儿了，熊会吃了我的。”

她往森林深处走去，这时，她发现一座小屋，她打开小屋的门，走了进去。

(二)

在小屋里，她看到七张小床，还有一张桌子，桌子上有七块小面包和七个小杯子。她吃了其中一个面包，然后说：“我想喝点水。”于是，她又喝了一个杯中的一些水。之后，她躺在一张小床上睡着了。

这座小屋是七个小矮人的家。

当夜幕降临的时候，七个小矮人回到小屋。每个小矮人都留着一副大胡子，穿一件小蓝袄。小矮人进了小屋，点上他们的小灯，然后，小矮人都坐下，开始吃面包，喝小杯里的水。

但是，一个小矮人说：

“有人把我的小面包吃了。”

另一个小矮人说：

“有人把我小杯子里的水喝了。”

然后，七个小矮人去睡觉。可是，一个小矮人说：“有人正睡在我的小床上。”

七个小矮人都过来看这睡在小矮人床上的白雪公主。他们说：

“她真漂亮。”

“她真漂亮。”

“她真漂亮。”

“她真漂亮。”

“她真漂亮。”

“她真漂亮。”

“她真漂亮。”

白雪公主醒了，发现七个留着大胡子的小矮人站在她床旁，她很害怕。

小矮人们说：“别害怕，我们是你的好朋友，告诉我们你是怎么到这儿的。”

白雪公主说：“好的。”接着她就给他们讲述了自己的来历。

他们说：“不要害怕。就在这儿和我们住在一起，但是，我们不在家的时候，你一定要关上门，别出去。如果你出去了，坏王后会发现你，这样，她知道你没有死，会让人来杀死你。”

于是，白雪公主和七个小矮人就生活在这座小屋里。

几天以后，白雪公主去了一趟花园。王后的一个仆人正经过这片森林，他发现了她。他回去告诉了王后：“白雪公主在森林一座小屋里。”王后听说白雪公主没有死，就很生气。

王后拿来一个苹果，她在苹果红的一边挖了一个洞，把一些粉末放在这个洞里。然后，她穿上一身旧衣服，去了小屋。她喊：“屋里有人吗？”

白雪公主打开门，出来见她。王后说：“我有一些漂亮的苹果，吃一个尝尝。”白雪公主拿着苹果说：“这好吃吗？”王后说：“瞧，我吃苹果白的一面，你吃红的一面，然后你会知道它好吃。”

白雪公主吃了苹果红的一面，当粉末进到她的嘴里时，她倒下死了。

王后回到家，她进了自己房间，对着镜子说：

“告诉我，墙上的魔镜，

谁是世界上最漂亮的？”

魔镜说：“王后是世界上最漂亮的。”

这时，王后知道白雪公主已经死了。

小矮人们回到小屋，发现白雪公主死了，可怜的小矮人们全都哭了。

然后，他们把白雪公主放到水晶匣子里，把水晶匣子抬到山坡上，安放在那里，说：“每位经过这里的人都会看见她是多么漂亮。”

接着每个小矮人在匣子上放了一朵白花，然后离开了。

他们刚刚要离开，一位王子从旁边走过，他看着水晶匣子说：“那是什么？”这时，他发现白雪公主在匣子里，他说：“她太美丽了，不能把他放在这里，在我家王宫花园里有一座大厅，整个大厅都是用白石头砌成，我们把这水晶匣子搬到那漂亮的白玉大厅里。”

小矮人们说：“抬走她。”

然后，王子告诉他的仆人抬起匣子。他们抬起匣子，不巧一个仆人跌倒了。把匣子也跌到地上，白雪公主随同匣子跌了下来，那块苹果从她嘴里掉了出来，她就醒了，坐起来说：“我这是在哪儿？”

王子说：“你跟我在一起，我从来没有见过一位象你这样美丽的人，跟我来，做我的王后。”

王后和白雪公主结婚了，她成为一位王后。

一个人去把这些消息告诉了坏王后，当她听到这些，气得倒下死去了。

从那以后，白雪公主一直生活得很愉快。每年小矮人都来看她。

兔子和狼

一天，兔子先生正在山坡附近遛哒，他听到有人在呼救：“救命呀！救命呀！”他这边瞧瞧，那边望望，他发现了可怜的狼先生，一块大石头掉下来压在狼先生的背上，他起不来了。他喊道：“兔先生，把这块大石头从我背上搬开，要不然我会死的。”

兔子好不容易把大石头从狼背上搬开，这时，狼跳起来，把兔子叼在嘴里。

“如果你吃了我，”兔子叫喊着，“只要我还活着，我再也不帮你的忙了。”

“你不会活了，”狼说，“因为我要吃了你了。”

“好人是不会杀救过他命的恩人的，”兔子说，“这很不公平，你去问鸭子夫人，她很胖，她样样事情都通晓，她一定会说没有一个好人会干出这种事情来。”

“我去问她”，狼说，“如果她不是按我所想的那么说，我也要把她吃掉。”

于是，狼和兔子到了鸭子家。狼说：“当兔子先生在山坡附近坐下时，我抓住了他，因此，我要吃掉他。现在你来谈谈你是怎样想的吧。”

“我从他的背上搬开好大的一块石头，”兔子说，“因此，我说他不应该吃掉我，因为我救了他。现在你说说你的看法吧。”

“什么石头？”鸭子夫人问。

“山附近一块石头，”兔子说。

“我必须去看看，”鸭子说，“如果我连那块石头也没有看见，那我怎么说得出我的看法？”

于是，狼、兔子和鸭子一起去看那块石头。

“现在，按原来的样子把石头放好，”鸭子说。

于是，他们把石头搬回原处。

“不，”鸭子说，“那不是原来的样子，你不是说那块石头压在狼的背上吗？”

于是，把石头放在狼的背上。

“现在，”狼先生说，“你看好了原来就是这个样子，你还能说什么吗？”

兔子先生和鸭子夫人说：“我们要说我们打算回家了，你可以求别人来搬开你背上的石头，你这样呆着多好呀，你就这样呆着吧！”

鸟、老鼠和面包

(一)

从前有一只鸟，一只老鼠和一块面包，他们住在一座小房子里。这座房子在一片树林附近，房前有座花园，花园长满了美丽的鲜花。窗户上有鲜花，门口的每一侧也都有一棵小树。

鸟、老鼠和面包自己干所有家务活。每天，鸟到那片树林背柴荷，老鼠从河里背水，还打扫房子的卫生，面包是厨师，她烧饭做菜烤面包。

他们都生活得很愉快。

一天，鸟先生正要去树林背柴荷，他在小路上遇见一位朋友，它也是一只鸟，名字叫喜鹊。

喜鹊先生说：“见到你真高兴，好些天不见你了，你过得好吗？”

这只鸟说：“我很好，我住在一幢漂亮的房子里，现在我正准备从树林里取些柴荷。”

“我还不知道你已经当了仆人了？”喜鹊先生说。

“我不是仆人。”鸟先生说，“我和朋友们生活在一起，老鼠先生和面包夫人同我住在一所房子里。”

“屋里的活计都是你干吗？”喜鹊先生问。

“不，”鸟先生说，“面包夫人是厨师，她烧饭做菜烤面包，我从树林背柴荷，老鼠先生干所有其它的事情。”

“你干的活比其他人多，”喜鹊先生说：“你得比别人多干活，这是很不公平的。”

“这座房子离树林不远，”鸟先生说。

“然而有些天你不得不每天跑两趟，”喜鹊先生说。

“是这样，”鸟先生说。他很生气，自己要干的活比别人多。

当鸟先生从树林背回柴火时，老鼠先生也从河里背来了水，他把水倒进罐里，给花浇水，摆好餐桌准备吃饭，然后打扫房间，擦窗户，清洗所有盆盆罐罐，把每样东西都弄得很干净。

面包夫人搞到食物，准备做饭。她把锅放到火上，把水烧开，并做好了饭菜。

鸟先生走进屋里，他扔下柴火，在餐桌旁坐下，他没有和老鼠先生或面包夫人说话。

面包夫人说：“可怜的鸟先生生病了，要不他是生气了。什么事惹你生气了，鸟先生？”

鸟先生闭口不答。

面包夫人端来饭茶摆在餐桌上。

“这是很好吃的面包，”老鼠先生说，“面包夫人烤的面包都很好吃。”

鸟先生没开口。

“花园里要干的活儿很多，”老鼠先生说，“鸟先生，你能帮我干点花园里的活儿吗？”

鸟先生说，“花园里的活儿我不帮，也不帮你干其它的活儿，我干的活儿太多了，我整天干活，我干了屋子里所有的活儿。”

面包夫人说：“老鼠先生打扫房子，我烧饭做菜，你没有比我们做更多

的事儿。”

鸟先生说：“那不算活儿，你坐在家里，干一点事情，而我要跑到很远的树林里去弄大劈柴，还要把它们背到这儿。”

面包夫人说：“从今以后，我去树林里搞柴荷，老鼠先生烧饭做菜，你打扫房子，这样你就不会干太多的活儿，我也很高兴能去树林，我还从来没有去过那里。”

（二）

就这样，第二天，面包夫人出去到树林里背柴荷，老鼠先生烧饭做菜，鸟先生到河边挑水。

鸟先生用脚提着罐，出去打水。他来到河边，把罐子装上水。水装满后，他用一只脚提着，然而罐太大了，于是他又用另一只脚去提，可是罐子还是掉下来了。于是他只好拿了一个罐提水。

老鼠先生去烧饭做菜，他把锅往火上放，可是他的脚却踩在了火上，火烧伤了他的脚，他哭了。但是，他还是准备好饭菜。鸟先生从河边回来了。老鼠先生很生气，因为他把脚烧伤了。鸟先生也很生气，因为罐子摔了。而面包夫人还没有从树林里回来。

老鼠先生说：“我们还等面包夫人吗？还是现在我们就吃饭？”

“我们等一会儿，”鸟先生说。

他们等了一个小时，面包夫人没回来，他们等了二个小时，面包夫人还没回来。这时，鸟先生说：“我到树林去拿柴荷，再告诉面包夫人回家。”

于是，鸟先生沿着小路到树林去，在小路上他看见一些小木片，但他没有见到面包夫人。她不在树林，也不在小路上。这时，他看到木片旁边蹲着一只狼。

鸟先生问：“狼先生，你今天见到面包夫人了吗？”

狼先生说：“那是面包夫人的柴荷。”

“但是面包夫人在哪儿？”鸟先生问。

“她在这里，”狼先生说。

“她现在在哪儿？”鸟先生问。

“她现在在这里，”狼先生说。

“我看不见她，”鸟先生说。

“她在我肚子里，”狼先生说，“我把她吃掉了。”

“你是一只大坏狼！”鸟先生说，“面包夫人是一位了不起的厨师，现在你把她吃掉了！”

“面包夫人不应当去树林，”狼说，“面包本该呆在屋里。走开，不然我把你也吃掉。”

鸟先生拿着柴火回了家，他哭了起来。老鼠先生一听说面包夫人死了，他也哭了。

然后，老鼠先生说：“我今天吃不下饭。你现在要吃饭吗？我去弄。”

这锅是一口大锅，而老鼠先生是一只小老鼠，他不能把锅从火上拿下来，他掉进了锅里，给烫死了。

鸟先生去准备餐桌，他把餐具都摆好了，然后等着，……他等了又等，然后就喊：“老鼠先生，老鼠先生，你得来吃点东西啊。”

“老鼠先生，”他喊着，“如果饭菜没有准备好，我们就吃面包好了。”但是他听不到任何动静。

于是，他就到另一间屋子，没有见到老鼠先生，他走到在火上的锅跟前，他发现可怜的老鼠先生死在那儿了。

一块烧着了的劈柴从火里掉出来，“房子着火啦！”鸟先生说，“房子会全部烧光的！”他跑到河边去打水想要扑灭火灾，但是，他掉进河里，也淹死了。

房子烧光了。

这就是你不去做你力所能及的工作，偏要干合适别人的工作所招致的后果。

我们每个人应该做自己力所能及的工作，这样，我们大家都愉快。

鸭和兔

兔先生对鸭夫人说：“来跟我一起干活，你会得到以前你从没得到的那么多钱。”鸭子夫人说：“我一定来。”

这样，鸭夫人和兔先生一起干活。过了一些时间，鸭夫人对兔先生说：“我要买些东西，请给我一些我挣的钱。”

兔先生说：“情况变得很坏，现在我没有钱给你。”

鸭夫人知道不是这么回事，他知道兔先生有钱，就是不想把钱给自己。但是，鸭夫人没有说什么。她走了。她想来想去晚上觉也没睡，而醒着想事情，她考虑怎样才能从兔子那里拿到钱。

一天，鸭夫人到了兔先生那里说：“现在我不要钱，在河边附近我发现了一个很大很大的洞，洞里全是黄金，金子满到洞上了，我从来没有见到这么多的金子，金子多得我拿不了，你能帮我去搬吗？”

兔先生说：“行，我很乐意帮你的忙。”

这样，兔先生和鸭夫人沿着去河边的路走去。当他们走到河的一边时，鸭子夫人说：“洞是在河的那边。”

“我怎样渡过水去？”兔先生问。

“坐在我背上，”鸭夫人说，“我带你过去。”

兔先生坐在鸭夫人背上，鸭夫人走进水里，当鸭夫人游到离岸很远的地方时，她说：“现在我要潜到水里去了，你会从我的背上掉进水里的。”

“那我会淹死的！”兔先生说。

“是的，”鸭夫人回答，“你是会淹死的。可是你还没付给我和你一起干活时挣的钱。”

“我把钱藏在我家一个罐里，带我回家，我一定把钱给你，”兔先生说。

鸭夫人说：“我带你回家，我们立刻回你的家，你一定把钱给我。”

于是，兔先生把钱付给了鸭夫人。从那以后，兔先生再也不敢欺负鸭夫人了。

点金术

(一)

从前有一位国王，名字叫迈德斯。

迈德斯喜欢金子，他不用自己的金子买东西，他只要拥有金子，他每天都要看着金子。

有一座用石头砌的房子，他把每一块金币都放在这所房子里。房子里有许多箱子，他把金子放在这些箱子里。迈德斯每天去石头房，打开每个箱子看金子，他把自己的手放在金子上，用双手捧起金子。

“金子！金子！”他说，“啊，我喜欢金子，我确实喜爱金子。我不用我的金子去买东西，我要拥有金子，我喜爱金子！”

迈德斯有一座美丽的花园，里边有很多美丽的花和树，树上有漂亮的鸟。迈德斯喜欢花、鸟和树，但是，他更喜欢金子。他说过：“我用我的金子能买花和花园。我实在喜爱金子！”

迈德斯有一个孩子——一位美丽的小姑娘。小姑娘喜欢花园、鸟和花。迈德斯喜爱自己的孩子，人们说：“迈德斯喜爱他的美丽的小姑娘，他也喜欢他的美丽花园和美丽的花。但他爱金子胜过自己的孩子，胜过爱美。”

有一位神，名叫迪奥尼修斯。迪奥尼修斯是专司花和花园之神。

迪奥尼修斯和其他神住在一座大山里，有时他来到人间查看鲜花和花园。

当迪奥尼修斯进到花园时，所有的鲜花都开放了。他到所有的花园中去，让鲜花开放，使一切变得美丽。

有一天，迪奥尼修斯来到迈德斯国王的花园。

小女孩正在花园里，她见到迪奥尼修斯，“你是谁？”她喊道，“你到我父亲的花园干什么？”

“我是迪奥尼修斯，”神说，“我来会使鲜花开放，让你的花园变得漂亮。”

于是，小女孩十分高兴，她很高兴见到迪奥尼修斯。

小女孩拉着迪奥尼修斯的手，她说：“跟我来，我来帮您让鲜花开放，给我看看在我的花园里鲜花是怎样开放的。”

于是，迪奥尼修斯就和小姑娘一起走，让她看花是怎样开放的。

中午的时候，小姑娘回屋去了。

这一天天气很热。

迪奥尼修斯坐在一棵树底下，睡着了。他是在国王花园里的一棵树下睡觉。

他睡着；国王的仆人们来到花园。

这时，其中一个仆人看见迪奥尼修斯在树下睡觉，他说：“这人是谁？他是来摘花的！但是，大热天的，他睡着了，我们应当抓住他。”

然后，他又去叫来一个仆人，接着，其他的仆人也都来到这个地方，他们抓住迪奥尼修斯，领着他去见国王。

他们对国王说：“这就是我们发现睡在花园中的那个人，他来摘您的花。”

于是，迪奥尼修斯问他：“你为什么来摘我的花？你为什么不向我要些花呢？凡要鲜花的人我都会给他的，我把鲜花给了许多贫穷的人。”

迪奥尼修斯没有回答。

“你喜欢花吗？”国王问。

“是的，”迪奥尼修斯回答，“我喜爱花，但我没摘您的花。”

“你有孩子吗？”迈德斯问，“你要摘花给您的孩子吗？”

“花就是我的孩子，”迪奥尼修斯回答。

接着，迈德斯国王说：“这个人可以放了，他想要什么花就可以摘什么花。”

迪奥尼修斯说：“国王啊！你是一位好人，你待我很好。你喜欢鲜花，你爱你的孩子。我是一个神，我会满足您一切要求，向我要吧，要什么我都给您。”

“我能要任何东西吗？”迈德斯说。

“是的，您要很多的鲜花吗？或者很多孩子？”

“鲜花是美丽的，”迈德斯说，“但金子更美丽，我要很多金子，我想把东西变成金子，当我把手放到任何一件东西上，它就能变成金子。你就给我这法术吧。”

这时，迪奥尼修斯说：“可以满足您的要求——如果你把手放到任何一件东西上，它就能变成金子。”

（二）

迈德斯坐在桌子旁写东西，他摸一下桌子，桌子就变成了金的。它变成了一张金桌子，他拿自己笔，当他摸到笔，它就变成了金的。他写字，当他摸到纸时，它就变成了金的。他去打开门，门就变成了金的。他拿帽子，他一摸它，帽子变成了金的。他到花园里赏花，他看见一朵美丽的玫瑰花，他就伸手去摘它，当他一摸它，玫瑰花就变成金的了。他把手放在一棵树上，树也变成了金的。

他进了小屋，他召来一个仆人。

“把饭菜端来，”他说。

仆人端来饭菜。迈德斯伸手去拿饭菜，当他一摸饭菜，饭菜变成了金的。这些饭菜他不能吃了。

“再给我端一些饭菜，”迈德斯说。

仆人又端上来一些饭菜。迈德斯一摸它，它就变成了金的，饭菜又不能吃了。

迈德斯想喝水，水变成金的，他不能喝了。

“我怎么吃？怎么喝？”迈德斯说，“如果我不能吃喝，非死不可！”

他站起来。他什么也没吃，什么也没喝。

“我要到花园里，”他说，“我要去变更多的金花。”

这时，小女孩进了小屋。

“啊，父王！”她哭喊着，我们那些美丽的玫瑰花都给毁掉了，谁毁掉我们的玫瑰花？”

迈德斯说：“玫瑰花已经变成了金子，我的孩子，金子比花更美丽。”

小女孩哭了。

“不要哭，我的孩子，”迈德斯说，“过来，我们要把更多的花变成金的，我们要把所有花都变成金的。”

“啊，父王！把花还给我吧，”小女孩哭喊着，“回到花园，把花变回来。”

“不要哭，小姑娘，”迈德斯说，他把她抱在怀里，手抚摸着她的头，“不要哭，我的孩子，不要再哭了，我一定把花变回来。”

她不再哭了。

“爸爸爱你，”迈德斯说，“我象喜爱金子那样喜爱你，马上你就是个大姑娘了，当你长大的时候，你就会象我一样喜爱金子。”

她没有哭。

她没开口。她不能说任何话了。当迈德斯一抚摸她的时候，他就变成了金的。

迈德斯看着自己的孩子，他发现了他所干的事。一发现自己所干的事，他就大叫起来，“救命！救命！啊，我干了什么呵！我害死自己的小女孩，救命！”

仆人都跑进大厅。他们发现了迈德斯所干的一切，他们看到了小女孩，她也成了金的了。

“我们要离开这里，国王是一个魔术师！”他们喊道，“他把所有的东西变成了金的，他害死自己的孩子，把她变成了金的，他将会害了我们，把我们变成金的，我们不再为他干事了。”然后他们都跑了。

王宫一个人也没有，迈德斯和他死了的孩子坐在那里。

他出去又把一些东西变成金子。他把所有的鸡鸭都变成金的，把田地里的驴变成金的，然后他就去看奶牛，他摸了一头奶牛，奶牛就变成了金的，“我要把它们都变成金的，我将有美丽的金奶牛。”他把所有的奶牛都变成了金的。

“我再也不会有牛奶喝了，”他说，“不过我一碰牛奶，牛奶马上就会变成金的，我不要牛奶了。”

不久，他回来了。他看着自己的小女孩。

他抬头望着天空。

太阳要下山了，把天空变成了一片金黄色。金子！金子！——都是金子。

然后，迈德斯出来，到了花园，他哭了。

迈德斯坐在花园里正哭着的时候，迪奥尼修斯来了，他站在迈德斯面前。

“现在您幸福吗，国王？”神说。

“不，”国王说，“我从前是幸福的。在你上次来以前我是幸福的。可是现在我很不幸。”

“但现在您有许多金子，为什么您不幸福？还没有一个人象您现在这样拥有这么多金子。您说过没有什么东西跟金子一样美丽。”

“我不要它！”迈德斯哭喊着，“我不要金子，我要我的小女孩变过来，把我的小女孩还给我！把我的花变过来。把所有的金子拿走，让我喜爱的东西都变过来。”

“到河边去，”迪奥尼修斯说：“跳进水里，您就会跟从前一样，把水洒在所有被您变成了金子的东西上，他们就会跟从前一样。”

然后，迪奥尼修斯走了。他升到天上去了。

迈德斯跑下河去，他跳进水里。然后他从水里出来，他把手放在一块石头上，这块石头没有变成金的。

接着他拿了一个罐子过来，他装满了一罐水，他提了装满水的罐子跑回大厅，他把水泼在小女孩身上，她变回来了，睁开了双眼。

“哇！”她喊道，“我是睡着了吗？”

她跑进花园。

“父王，”她喊，“您没把这些花变回来，它们都是死的，都成了金的，每朵花都是死的。来！来把我的花变回来。噢！看看这金的奶牛！”

“跟我来，”迈德斯说，“我要把这些花变回来，”

于是，迈德斯提着装满河水的罐子和他的小女孩一起跑进花园，他们一边跑，一边将所有的东西变回来。他们把花、树、鸟、鸡和奶牛都变回来了。然后他们跑进房子，把桌子、门、笔和纸都变了回来，他们还把迈德斯的那顶帽子也变了回来了。

“您还喜爱金子吗？”当他们坐在小屋吃饭时，小女孩问。

“不，”迈德斯说，“我喜爱树、花和鸟，还有你。”

小兔子智杀大狼

一天，森林里的所有野兽都来到一个地方。所有的大、小野兽都来了。有马、牛、兔子、狐狸、鸭子、老鼠、鸟和其他所有的动物。他们很害怕，因为有一只特别大的狼到森林来了，这只庞大的狼说过：“如果你们不能一日三餐供给我吃的，我把你们全咬死。”

“我们该怎么办？”鸭子说，“我们该怎么办呢？”

“我们究竟应该怎么办？”狐狸说。

“我们该怎么办？”动物们说。

“我知道我们该怎么办，”兔先生说，显得很自信的样子，“我们必须杀死这个狼先生，……我来干。”然后，他沿着去狼家的路走了，在场的所有动物都望着他。

“他要干什么？”鸭夫子说。“他要干什么呢？”

当兔先生沿路走着时，他看到田野里有一个大坑，坑里全是水。

兔子先生继续往前走，来到一条河边，他跳进水里。然后他从尘土中走过，接着他又跳进水里，然后他再往尘土里走，这样一来，他看上去就象是很可怜，很丑陋的小兔子，浑身是水和土。

最后，兔先生到了狼的家。“谁呀？”狼先生问。

“请用吧，我就是你今天的食物。”

“你！你这个丑陋的小家伙！告诉他们，给我送来一头大肥牛，或是马，或是一百只肥鸭子。”

“对不起，”兔先生说：“另外一只狼他要所有好的食物，于是我们就把所有的牛、马和鸭子给他送去了。我们必须把他们给他，因为他比你壮实还勇敢。”

“噢，他比我还壮实还勇敢？”狼先生喊了起来，“咱们马上就能看出，他到底是不是比我还壮实还勇敢！来，带我到他住的地方。”

于是，兔先生就把狼先生带到了田地那个大坑那儿。“他就在那下边，”兔子先生说，“不要走近他，不然他会吃掉你。”狼先生走到坑边往下一看，他在水里看到了他自己那怒气冲冲的面孔。他以为那是另一只狼的脸正朝上看着他。他跳下坑去，要咬死那只狼。当他一跳进坑，他就掉进了水里，上不来了。

兔子先生回到其他那些动物那里。他说，“假如你知道如何做的话，杀一只狼并不困难。”

杰克和豆秧

(一)

从前，有一位穷女人，她有一个儿子，名字叫杰克。杰克没有父亲，被一个妖怪杀了。杰克的母亲养了一头奶牛，他们母子俩就卖这牛奶。除了卖牛奶得的钱外，他们再没有别的钱了。

有一天，这头奶牛不再产奶了，所以他们就没有牛奶好卖了，他们也就没有钱用来买吃的。这时，母亲说：“我们卖掉什么呢？——是卖掉房子呢，还是卖掉奶牛呢？我们把奶牛卖掉吧，我们用卖牛的钱来买一块地。”她喊来杰克，对他说：“把牛牵去卖了，她是一头很好的奶牛，可别卖得太便宜了。”

于是，杰克牵着牛，沿着小路走了。

当他沿小路走着的时候，他看见一个人站在那里等着。杰克走近时，那人说：“这是头好奶牛，是谁的？”

杰克说：“是我母亲的。”

“你牵着牛上哪儿去？”那人问。“我要去把这头牛卖掉，”杰克说。

那人说：“你能把牛卖给我吗？”

“这头牛你给什么价钱？”杰克问。

“我要给你一些豆子，”那人说。

“我不要豆子，”杰克说，“我要钱。”

“我没有钱，”那人说，“但是我有一些特别好的豆子。”

杰克心里说：“如果我得到豆子，我可以拿豆子卖钱。”于是他问：“你给我多少豆子买这牛？”

那人给他看手里拿着的六粒豆子，他说：“瞧，我有六粒豆子，它们是特别好的豆子，他把豆子放在杰克手里。

杰克从来没有见过象那样的豆子，它们十分美丽，看上去就象金子一样。他说：“就要这些豆子了，我把牛卖给你，给我豆子，牛你牵走。”

于是，那人把豆子给了杰克，把牛牵走了。杰克手里拿着六粒豆子回家了。

杰克的母亲正在园子里干活，她抬起头说：“你回来得好快呀，你怎么这么快就回来了？”

他们走进屋里。

“我已经把牛卖了，”杰克说。

“你卖了多少钱？”他母亲问。

“没卖钱，”杰克说，“但我换得一些特别好的东西，瞧。”

杰克就让他母亲看这些金子。

“这都是什么？”他母亲问。

“豆子，”杰克说。

“什么豆子？”他母亲问。

“这些豆子是我用牛换来的。”杰克说。

“豆子！”她喊着，“豆子！六粒小小的豆子换走我一头好牛！”

她很生气。“我从来还没听说过这种事，”她大声说着，“你用我的好奶牛换了六粒小小的豆子！拿这些小小的豆子我们换不来钱，我们一个钱也

没有，我们一点吃的也没有。你很快就会知道你干了什么好事，因为今晚你就根本没吃的了，明天或者后天都没吃的了。”

她把豆子扔到窗外，“对你的这些一钱不值的豆子就只能这样，”她大声说道，“去睡觉，你这个没出息的孩子。”

杰克去睡觉了，他觉得伤心，因为他把母亲惹生气了，他觉得伤心，因为他没有东西吃，他还伤心，因为那头好奶牛没了。……他哭了一会儿，但很快睡着了。

第二天，杰克醒来，他说：“我一定找到那些金黄色的豆子，我妈妈把它们扔到园子里了。”

他走近窗户往外边园子里看。

六粒豆子长成大的豆秧了，豆秧越长越高，顶端已经高高地伸到天上去了，杰克看不到顶。

他说：“我要爬到豆秧顶端，我想看看天上有什么东西。”

于是，杰克往豆秧上爬，他往上越爬越高，他往下看，看见树的顶梢和红的房顶，他瞧见他母亲的房子，房子看上去很小，因为他在高高的天空上，但他还没有爬到豆秧顶部。

他又往上爬呀爬呀，这时，他爬到了豆秧顶端的天空，他已经在天上了。

（二）

杰克的前边有一条路，杰克沿着路走去，来到一座大房子。昨晚他睡觉时没有吃东西，他醒来后也没吃，所以他要找点东西吃，他说：“我想这座大房子里的人们会给我一些吃的。”于是，他走到房子门前叫门。

一位又高又胖的老太太开了门，杰克想：“她不象是个好女人。”

“你要什么？”老太太说。

“我要些吃的，”杰克说。

“跟我来，”老太太说，“我要给你一些东西吃。”

杰克想：“她想要抓住我，但是我还是要跟她去看看房子里都有什么。”

于是，他跟着老太太进了屋。她给了他一些面包，一些牛奶。然后她把他关进一间小屋，说：“我丈夫是个妖怪，他现在就要回来了，如果你从这间屋子出来，他会杀了你。”

然后，她关上门。小屋门上有一个小洞，所以杰克能看到外面的情况。

妖怪进了家，他个头很大，他一手拿了一头死牛，另一只手拿着一棵树。……他进了屋子，这边瞧瞧，那边望望，然后嚎叫起来：“哼哼哈哈，有一个娃娃让我闻见啦，不管他活的死的，我要夹着面包吃了他。”

妖怪的妻子说：“那间屋里有一个小男孩，我不想让他听到我说了什么，今天别吃他，他现在还不肥，两三天后他肥了，那时我再煮给你吃。”

于是妖怪坐在桌子旁，他的妻子拿来食物，在桌子上摆好，妖怪就吃。吃完之后，他说：“把我的钱拿来。”她拿来满满两盒子的金子，把它们放在靠近他的桌子上。他打开其中一个盒子，瞧瞧里面有多少金子。然后他闭上双眼，很快，这妖怪就睡着了，妖怪的妻子也很快睡着了。

在妖怪和他妻子睡着的时候，杰克打开小屋的门走了出来，他经过妖怪的桌子拿了一盒金子。然后出了门，沿着那条路跑了，他来到豆秧顶端，然后把盒子抛了下去，接着他爬下树。盒子已经落在豆秧的底下，他捡起它，进了家。

他母亲正在桌旁做活儿，他把盒子放在桌子上并且打开了，说：“瞧，

妈妈，这就是我的豆子给咱们带来的一件东西，它们还会很快带来其它东西。”

六天过去了，这时杰克想：“我要再爬上豆秧去。”

第二天早晨，他起了床，他又爬上了豆秧，他又来到那条路，他沿路走去，来到那座大房子，他又一次叫门，妖怪的妻子仍然打开门，当她看见他时，说：“进来，小娃娃，到屋里来。”

但杰克害怕，他想：“不，我不能跟她进去，因为她要抓住我，她会把我关在那间小屋里，她会锁上门，不让我出来，然后，当我长胖时，她就把我煮给妖怪吃。”于是，他就跑掉藏起来了。

杰克在妖怪的房子附近等着，一会儿他发现妖怪的妻子出来进了花园，因为，这是早上，花园里有活儿要干。当他看见妖怪的妻子进了花园时，杰克打开房子的门，进了屋。屋里有个大箱子，杰克藏在箱子里。

一小时以后，妖怪的妻子进了屋，开始给妖怪做饭菜。杰克想从箱子里出来，因为上午很热，箱子又不够宽敞。但是，就在这时，妖怪进屋来了。

妖怪这边瞧瞧，那边望望，然后嚎叫起来：

“哼哼哈哈！

有一个娃娃让我闻见啦，

不管他活的死的

我要夹着面包吃了他！”

妖怪的妻子说：“一个小男孩来过这房子，我要抓住他给你，但是他跑掉了。”

“我闻到一个小男孩的气味，”妖怪说。他四处张望，但他没发现杰克。他朝小屋里看了看，杰克不在那里。这时，妖怪的妻子把饭菜放在桌子上摆好，妖怪开始用餐。

当妖怪吃完饭时，他说：“把下金蛋的母鸡拿来。”妖怪的妻子就把母鸡抱来，放在桌子上。

妖怪说：“开始。”

于是母鸡就下了一个金蛋。

妖怪说：“再下一个！”母鸡又下了一个金蛋。他说：“再下一个！”母鸡又下了一个金蛋。

然后，妖怪和他妻子开始睡觉，不一会儿妖怪就头枕在桌子上睡着了，他的妻子也很快睡着了。

杰克从箱子里出来。母鸡在桌子上，杰克走过桌子时，抱起母鸡就跑出了屋子。

但是母鸡开始大叫起来：“妖怪！妖怪！快！快！一个小男孩带着我逃跑了！”

妖怪醒来了，就去追杰克。杰克很快跑到豆秧顶端，他爬了下去。

妖怪个头大，不能很快爬下去。杰克来到他母亲的花园，他喊他母亲，说：“快点！快点！拿斧子来！”她母亲很快拿着斧子跑来。

妖怪正从豆秧上下来，杰克的妈妈勇敢地朝豆秧根部砍了一斧头，整棵豆秧倒下了。

妖怪同豆秧一起倒下来，他掉在花园里摔死了。

杰克的母亲见到妖怪，她悲痛地说：“就是这个妖怪杀死了你的父亲。”

从那以后，杰克和他母亲变得富裕起来了，生活得很幸福。

麻雀和狐狸

麻雀先生是一只小鸟，他不是一只讨人喜欢的小鸟——一点也不讨人喜欢。因为他总喜欢拨弄是非。

有一天，当他坐在一棵树上时，他发现兔子先生穿过树林朝这边走来。兔子来到这棵树旁，麻雀听见兔子在说话。兔子说：“我要干一件使狐狸先生大发雷霆的事！哈！哈！哈！他一定会大发雷霆！”

这时，麻雀对兔子喊道：“不，你不可能！因为我将要把你说的这些告诉狐狸先生。”

兔子想：“现在我不知道该怎么办了，如果这丑陋的小麻雀告诉狐狸我所说的话，我不知道我该怎么办。”

但是，麻雀还是很快就去把兔子所说的话告诉了狐狸。兔子想来想去，最后他说：“我知道我该说些什么！”

不一会儿，狐狸沿着小路跑来，兔子对他大声叫唤：“狐狸先生，狐狸先生！”

“干什么？”狐狸说。

“不要靠近我，”兔子说。

“为什么？”狐狸说。

“因为你会吃了我，把我的房子烧掉。”

“你为什么要说这些？”狐狸问。

“因为有人这样告诉我的，”兔子说，“有人告诉我说你说过，‘我要把兔子吃了，把他的房子烧掉。’”

“谁告诉你的？”狐狸说。

“是麻雀先生。”

“是他，又是他！”狐狸说。

第二天，狐狸在树林里见到麻雀。麻雀对狐狸大喊大叫。

“你要干什么？”狐狸说。

“我有事儿要告诉你，”麻雀说。

“你有事儿，你又有事儿！”狐狸说。

“是的，我有事儿，”麻雀说。

“站到我头上来，小麻雀先生，因为我一只耳朵不好使，而另一只又听不见，”狐狸说。

于是，麻雀先生跳到狐狸先生的头上。

“站到我的嘴里来，”狐狸说，“这样我能听得更清楚。”

麻雀先生站到狐狸先生嘴里。狐狸闭上他的嘴吃掉了麻雀。“现在你再去拨弄我的是非！”狐狸说

迪克和猫

(一)

从前，有一个男孩名叫迪克。他十分可怜，他的父母都已去世，没有朋友来帮助他。

有一天他听见有些人在谈话，一个人说：“我将去伦敦，因为伦敦是一个很大的城市，伦敦的街上铺满了金子，伦敦的每个人都很富有。”

这时迪克想：“我要去伦敦，我要变得富有。”

几天以后，迪克在路旁发现了一辆运货马车。他对车上的人说：“你上哪儿？”那人回答：“我打算去伦敦。”“你能带我一起去伦敦吗？”迪克问。那人说：“行。”于是，迪克上了马车，踏上去伦敦的路程。

当迪克来到伦敦，他发现大街不是用金铺的，它们象别的街道一样，也是用石块铺的，只是有很多的房子，沿着街道两旁都是房子，成千上万座房子，这边也是房子，那边也是房子，到处都是房子。迪克下了车，而那人和马车走了。

迪克站在大街上，他无家可去，没有吃的，举目无亲。

接着就下起雪来了。雪下得越来越大，很快到处白茫茫一片，街道和房子覆盖了一层雪，很快它们就都变成白色的了，看上去十分美丽。然而，天气很冷，可怜的迪克浑身都是雪，他太冷了，觉得自己会冻死的。

夜幕降临了。一座房子的窗户里亮着光，迪克走过去站在这房子的门口，然后在石头墩上坐下，正在这时，门打开了，一个仆人向外张望，她看到迪克坐在那里。“滚开，你这讨厌的家伙！”她骂道，“你在这儿干什么？”迪克冻得连站都站不起来了。仆人发怒了：“滚开！”她又一次喊道。然后她拿来一盆冷水，泼了迪克一身，可怜的迪克冻得甚至连哭都哭不出来了。

原来这座房子是一位名叫沃伦先生的有钱人的。沃伦先生有一个孩子，名叫艾丽斯。艾丽斯正站在门旁，她看到女佣人泼了迪克一身水，艾丽斯对女佣人这样做感到很生气。她说：“这可怜的男孩会冻死的，你这个坏女人！”然后她拉起迪克的手，“进来，可怜的男孩，”她说。她把他领进屋里，她给他吃的并让他上床睡觉，那天晚上，迪克就住在这所房子里。

早晨，沃伦先生看到迪克，说：“你就留在我家里，帮助做饭，今天就开始。”于是迪克就留下帮助做饭。

可是，这个厨师是个坏女人，她对迪克很不好，她总是让他干她所有的活儿，她总是把不好吃的给他吃，她总是恶狠狠地骂他，当她发火时甚至还扇他耳光。迪克住着房顶的一间小房间，房间很小，也很糟糕，因为房间里经常到处是耗子，有数百只耗子，老鼠偷吃迪克的食物，老鼠甚至在他睡觉时跑到他脸上。

因而，迪克在沃伦先生家并不愉快。但是，他又不能对沃伦先生和艾丽斯说什么，因为他喜欢艾丽斯，他不想让她知道他不愉快。

有一天，迪克在街上看见一个小男孩，男孩怀里抱着一只猫。迪克问：“你抱着猫去哪儿？”男孩说：“我打算把这只猫扔到河里淹死。”迪克特别喜欢猫，于是他就说：“别害死她，把她给我。”迪克只有一点点钱，他把这点钱给了小男孩，买下了这只猫。

那天晚上，当迪克上床睡觉的时候，他把这只猫带到了自己的房间里，他有一小片吃的面包，他把面包放在桌子上，这时老鼠就来了，开始吃那块面包。猫跳了上去，抓住了老鼠，就把它吃掉。她吃掉许多老鼠，所有其它的老鼠都跑了。

从那以后，迪克的房间再也没有老鼠了。

艾丽斯发现迪克不高兴，她知道是厨师对他不好。于是她把厨师对迪克不好这件事情告诉了她父亲——沃伦先生。沃伦先生说：“那个厨师不是一个好女人，她又胖又难看，她看起来就不慈善。迪克是个好孩子，他活儿干得不错，他的脸和手总是干干净净的，迪克应该在我身边工作。”

（二）

沃伦先生打发人叫来迪克，说：“你来我身边工作。”

沃伦先生在河边一座样子难看的大屋子里工作，他有许多船，他的船远航到其他国家，这些船把货物从英格兰运到其他国家。再从其他国家把货物运回英格兰。有许多人为沃伦先生干活儿。有在大屋子里为他写东西的人；还有卸船的人，有装船的人，有些人在船上干活打扫船舱并为再次出海航行作准备。

迪克仍然住在那间小屋里，他的猫仍然伴随着他，但是白天他在河边那座大房子里干活儿。

有一天，沃伦先生正要派一只船到另一个国家去，他问所有的仆人：“你们有什么东西想搭在我船上去卖吗？可以到某个遥远的国家去卖，然后我给你们钱。”这时所有的仆人都拿了些东西放到船上。接着沃伦先生问迪克，可是可怜的迪克没有什么可卖的东西。

艾丽斯说：“我给迪克一些东西，放到我们的船上去卖。”可是，沃伦先生说：“不，他必须拿他自己的东西。”

迪克说：“我除了一只猫外，什么也没有。”

“你为什么不卖了你的猫呢？”艾丽斯问。

“我爱我的猫，”迪克说，“但我不得不把她运走，因为我没有其他东西可卖了。”

于是，迪克带来了他的猫，把他放在船上。

迪克回到自己的房间，感到悲伤，因为他现在又是孤身一人了。他独自睡在自己小屋里，他甚至连可以说说话的猫也没有了。猫走了，老鼠又渐渐回到这间屋里来了，由于这些老鼠，迪克睡不着觉，厨师仍然对他不好，也不给他好吃的饭菜。

有一天晚上迪克说：“我不能呆在这儿了，我要离开这儿去另外国家。”他穿上衣服，走下楼去，他开开屋门，独自走到大街上。他沿着大街走，走了一整夜，这条路一直通往乡下，慢慢就变成了一条小路，乡下没有房屋，而是树木和田地。当快要拂晓的时候，他坐在路边一块石头上，他再也走不动了。

他坐在这里的时候，太阳慢慢升起了，当太阳一升起，伦敦的钟声也就开始响起。这远方传来的钟声，划破长空，召唤着新的一页来临。钟声在响，钟声觉得那钟声象是在说：“回来吧！回来吧！”

“这钟声是在召唤我，”他想，“这钟声是叫我回到伦敦，它是在说：“回来吧！你不会永远贫穷、不幸和孤单的。等待吧，你的好日子一定会来的。”

迪克站了起来，“我要回去，”他说，“——继续等待，”他又回到了这城市。

船在海上航行得很远，来到了一个他们从未到过的陌生的国家。

那个国家的国王请船上的人上他的家去。“来吧，”他说，“也让我看看你们带来的东西。”于是，他们带着漂亮的布、宝石、金项链、帽子、鞋、斧头、钟、盒子，灯和其他很多东西到了王宫。国王看着所有的东西，说：“我不要这些东西。把我需要的东西带给我，我就用金子装满你们的船。”

这时，国王告诉他的仆人上饭，他们端来饭菜，在他们前面的桌子上摆好。他们刚刚把饭菜在桌子上摆好，数百只老鼠就从墙洞里钻出来，这些人从来也没见过这么多的老鼠，老鼠跳上桌子，没等他们动手，就吃光了饭菜。这些老鼠在众目睽睽之下把饭菜吃光了。

国王说：“那就是我所要的：我需要能够杀死这些老鼠的东西，它们当着我们的面吃这些食物，在我们吃饭之前老鼠就在食物上跑来跑去，老鼠把我们的衣服咬成窟窿，我们一上床它们就在我们脸上乱窜，它们还咬小孩。我们没法消灭它们，它们太小，在我们捉住它们之前就跑掉了，给我能消灭老鼠的东西。我将用金子满你们的船。”

“在你们这个国家没有猫吗？”船上来的一个人问。

“‘猫’是什么？”国王说。

接着，那个人很快跑到船上把迪克的猫拿来。这个人一进国王的大厅，这只猫就从他怀里跳下来，她的一只爪子掐死一只老鼠，嘴里还咬着另一只老鼠，她消灭了这么多老鼠，其他的老鼠都赶紧逃跑了。

国王跳了起来欢呼道：“妙极了！妙极了！以前我从未见过猫，给我这只猫，我要用金子装满你们的船。我以前从来没见过这么好的东西。”

于是，国王抱走了迪克的猫，他给了那些人很多很多金子买下这只猫：他用金子装满他们的船。

船回到了伦敦，沃伦先生上了船，他看到他们得到这么多金子，就说：“你们卖了什么东西换来这么多金子？”船上的人说：“是那只猫。”

这时，沃伦先生叫来迪克，他说：“你已经很富有了，你的钱比我的还多，现在，你打算离开我们吗？”

迪克喜爱艾利斯，他说：“不，我要留在这儿和你一起工作。”

沃伦先生说：“你不再是我的佣人，而是作为我的朋友留在这里。”

于是，迪克就留下同沃伦先生在一起。几年以后，他与艾丽斯结婚了，因为他非常爱她。他还成了富翁，是一个非常好的人。他和妻子白头到老，生活得很幸福。

山羊生牛犊

从前，有一只豹和一只豺来到一个村庄，豹抓了一只山羊，豺抓了一头母牛。

他们带着山羊和母牛回去了。豹把山羊放在他的地里，豺把母牛也放在他自己的地里。

豹很生气，因为他只有一只山羊，而豺却有一头母牛。到了晚上他就去豺的地里看那头母牛，他发现母牛生了头小牛！这使他更恼火了，他就把小牛偷走，把它跟自己的山羊放在一个栏里。

第二天，豹看到豺在地里。豺说：“哎！我有一头漂亮的母牛，而你只有一只小山羊。”

豹说：“啊！可是我的山羊生了一头小牛。”

“山羊怎么能生小牛呢？”豺说，“那是不可能的事！一头母牛能生小牛，而山羊不可能生小牛，想必那头小牛是我的，是我的小牛。”

“来看看我的山羊和她的小牛，”豹说。

豺看着小牛，说：“小牛是站在山羊旁边，但山羊不是它的妈妈。如果一头小牛站在一匹马的旁边，你能说那头马就是小牛的妈妈？不对！——那一定是我的小牛。”

“我们去问问驴，”豹说，“我们听听他是怎么说的。”

于是，他们就把他们争吵的事告诉了驴。驴害怕豹，因此他说：“当我年轻时，母牛生小牛，而其他的动物就不会生小牛。然而许多事情已经变了，现在有许多新鲜事，每天我都会看见或者听说一些新鲜事。因此，山羊可以生小牛，这是可能的。”

豺说：“这头蠢驴什么也不懂！他是害怕你，我们去问问狗。”

于是，他们到了狗那里并把他们的争吵告诉狗。

狗害怕豹，因此他说：“所有的山羊并不都是一样的，有些山羊归人所有，有些山羊归豹所有，人养的山羊不可能生小牛，而属于豹的羊却可能生下小牛来，这就是我的看法。”

豹说：“那只狗不想和你争吵，所以他尽说你爱听的。我们去问问猫，她年纪很大了，什么都知道。”

于是，他们把争吵的事儿告诉了老猫。

这只苍老的猫说：“古时候，兽中之王说：‘母牛生小牛，母狮生小狮子，母豹生小豹，每种动物都会生他自己同类的崽’，然而如今人们干出了许多新鲜事儿，他们已不象我年轻那时一样再按旧习惯生活了，走吧！我要睡觉了。”

“现在你已经都听说了！”豹说，“你已经听驴、狗和猫讲了，他们都说这小牛是我的。”

“我们还没听听猴子怎么讲，”豺说，“他坐在一块大石头顶上，你不能扑上去抓住他，所以他是安全的，他一定不怕你，而且他还是一个万事通。”

于是，他们来到猴子那里，他正坐在一块巨大的石头顶上，附近站着许多野兽，因为，他们都带着所争吵的问题来向这个万事通的猴子请教。

他正吃他的东西。豹和豺对他们的争吵告诉了他。

猴子仍然管自己吃着东西。

“你怎么看？”豹问道，“是我的小牛吗？山羊能生小牛吗？”

猴子捡起一块小石头，擦了擦。

“你在干什么？”豹说，“你为什么不回答？”

“我刚吃完饭，”猴子说，“现在我得听一会儿音乐。”

猴子还在擦着小石头。

“你干什么？”豹问道。

“我在奏乐，”猴子回答说。

“我根本听不见有什么乐曲！”豹说，“石头不能演奏音乐！”

“要是山羊能生出小牛，那么石头就能演奏音乐。”猴子说。

这时所有的野兽都说：“哈！哈！哈！猴子是个万事通。什么时候石头能演奏出音乐，豹就可以占有那小牛了。”

于是，豹就领着那头小牛回家了。

“呸！”豹叫喊着，“这群野兽，他们都是傻瓜！”

美丽和怪兽

(一)

从前有一位老人，他有三个年轻漂亮的孩子：她们都是姑娘。最小的姑娘是最漂亮的一个，她名叫“美丽”，因为她太漂亮了。美丽是一个特别好的闺女，她对每个人都很好，干活儿也很努力，每当家里有累活儿时，都是美丽干，因为她两个姐姐不喜欢干累活儿。大家都喜欢美丽，因为她又好又善良，他们不喜欢她的姐姐，因为她们冷酷无情，不友好。

这位老人很富有，他有很多船只，所有的船都被他派遣出海航行了，这些船装着布匹和许多好东西运到别的国家去卖，再在那里换回很多钱。但是所有的船只都在海里沉没了。老人等了又等，可他的船一只也没有返回。他等了一年，没有船回来。他又等了一年，仍然没有船回来。这时他说：“现在我知道我的船都沉没了，我不再是一个富有的人了，我的财富都随着船失去了。”

于是，老人召拢他的三个女儿，说，“我的船没了，我的所有财富也随之消失了。我们再也住不起这幢大房子了。我们得搬到乡下去，住在小屋子里。我们也不会再有仆人了，我们只有自己动手做自己的事了。”

姐姐们说：“没有舒适的房子而住到乡下的小屋去，对我们来说太苦了。”但是美丽说：“住在乡下也不错，我来干所有累的活儿，我们大家也一定会很幸福的。”

就这样，他们到了乡下，住进了一间小屋里。美丽干所有的累活儿，因为她爱她父亲，尽量使他快活，她的两个姐姐都不干活儿，她们不爱父亲，不喜欢任何人，她们也不想干苦活儿。因为她们没有住上舒适宽敞的房子，没有仆人为她们服务，因此都很不高兴。

大约过了一年以后，有个人来告诉这位老人有关他的一条船的消息。他说：“你的船并没有全都沉没，其中一条船没有沉，这条船已经返航回来了。”这位老人说：“我回城里去打听一下船的消息。”

然后，老父亲把他的女儿叫来，一个一个地问：“我从城里回来时给你们带点什么？”

一个说：“请给带些宝石来。”

另一个说：“请给带几件漂亮的衣服。”

然后，他对美丽说：“我给你带点什么？”

她回答说：“请给我带一朵玫瑰花。”

“但是，这是件很不值钱的小东西，”他的父亲说。

“能有一朵玫瑰花就会使我非常愉快，”她回答说。

于是，他上城去了。

这只船是他最小的一只船，这回的货物很少。所以，他只有一点钱用来给他的孩子们买东西。但是，他想：“我必须满足她们的要求。”他给一个姐姐买了宝石，为另一个姐姐买了漂亮的衣服，然后，他到了一个有一座花园的人那里，他对那人说：“我要买一些玫瑰花。”那人说：“这个月你还买不到玫瑰花，现在我花园里没有玫瑰花，大约再等三个月，这个花园将开满玫瑰花。”但是，这位老人说：“我现在就要一朵玫瑰花。”“你这个月得不到玫瑰花的，”那人说。

然后，这位老人就动身回家了。这条路穿过一片大森林。大约过了两小时，天开始下雨了，很难找到路。紧接着，夜幕降临了，他就在森林中迷了路，他不知道他在往哪儿走。

过了一会儿，他看到很远的地方有一点亮光，他心想：“如果我到那亮的地方去，我就会找到有人住的房子，那我就可以在那儿要点吃的，再睡上一觉。”他又走了一会儿。这时他发现一座大房子，他走到门口叫门，他连叫了好几次，可就是没人回答，于是，他打开门进去了。

进了房子他看到一个大厅。大厅里有一张大桌子，桌子上摆好了为一个人准备的食物，他想：“这很可能是一个大人物的房子，他马上就会来的。”

他等了一会儿，可是没人来。他就在这屋子里四处走，从这间屋子走到那间屋子，他没发现一个人。房子里连一个人都没有，他大声喊，还是没有人来。

于是，他说：“我不能再等了。”他坐了下来，把东西给吃了。随后，他找了一间里面铺好床的屋子，他上了床，躺下睡着了。

一大早他醒来，下了床，去找他的衣服，有人在晚上拿了他的衣服。而就在原来他放旧衣服的地方，现在给他摆好了十分漂亮的新衣服。他穿上这些新衣服，然后走进大厅。饭菜已经为他准备好了，他吃了饭，出去到花园里转悠。

他在花园转悠时，发现一棵开满玫瑰花的树，他想：“这里有美丽要的玫瑰花，她让我给她带一朵玫瑰花的。”于是，他摘了一朵玫瑰花拿在手里，他刚摘下这花，一只大怪兽从树丛里跳了出来，站到他面前。

这怪兽说：“我给了你东西吃，给了你床睡觉，给了你新衣服穿，你为我做了些什么呢？你却摘我玫瑰树上的玫瑰花！你要以死来偿还！”

“请给我一点时间！”可怜的老人大声说，“好让我把玫瑰花送给美丽。”

“‘美丽’是谁？”怪兽说。

“她是最小的孩子，”老人说，“她很爱我，如果你杀了我，她也会伤心得死去。”

“你闺女可以替你死，”怪兽说，“你现在可以走了，给你一个月的时间，一个月后，你必须回到这个地方来，或者美丽替你来。”

“你不能杀害她！”老人说，“她太好、太美了！”

“一个月以后把她带到这个地方”，怪兽说，“现在走吧——你可以拿着你的玫瑰花。”

怪兽钻进树丛里。美丽的父亲悲伤地回家去了。

（二）

最后，老人回到家。他把他所带的东西分给三个女儿，他把宝石给了一个闺女，把漂亮的衣服给了另一个闺女，最后，他把玫瑰花给了美丽。

两个姐姐都十分高兴，而美丽却发现了他父亲闷闷不乐的样子。一天一天地过去了，他显得越来越忧伤。最后，她过去对父亲说：“爸爸，这些天来，您一直看上去很悲伤，一天比一天悲伤，您为什么这样愁容满面？”

他好一会儿没有吭声，于是，她又问他，终于他说：“这是我生命的最后一个月。”他告诉了她关于那座大房子以及那个怪兽，和怪兽说的话——“一个月以后，你必须来，或者美丽替你来。”

美丽说：“我同您一起去，如果您不带我一起去，那我就自己一个人去。”终于到时候了，老人备好了马。

他骑上马，美丽同他一起骑上了马，他们出发了。

他们骑马穿过那片森林，那条路很长，当他们最后来到大房子时已是晚上了。花园中的树丛上缀满了盏盏小灯，整座房子灯火辉煌。在大厅里美味佳肴和鲜花已为他们摆满一桌，他们坐下吃饭，没有一个人来见他们。

他们就去睡觉了。

第二天早晨美丽醒来，发现有人已把许多漂亮的衣服在她床边给她摆好了，她不知穿哪件衣服好，因为所有的衣服都很漂亮。过了一会儿，她穿好衣服，然后他们进了花园。老人领着美丽，让她看看那棵玫瑰树，这就是他碰见怪兽的地方。

当他们在那里等候的时候，听见一阵响声，之后怪兽就站到了他们面前。美丽很害怕。然后，她注视着怪兽的眼睛，她发现怪兽的双眼十分友善。她想：“他一定是好怪兽，他不会杀害我的。”

怪兽说：“我见到你很高兴，美丽。”然后他对她父亲说：“请你走吧，美丽要独自跟我留在这里。”老人看着美丽，“我走吗？”他问。

“对，”美丽说，“对，走吧，因为我看了他的眼神，我想他是一个好怪兽。”

于是，她父亲走了。怪兽也回到树丛里了，美丽就一个人在那里。

美丽走进了房子，她从一个地方走到另一个地方，去看所有的房间。当她走来时，每道门都为她打开了，但她不知道谁开的这些门，每个房间里都摆满了许多很美的东西供她使用。

她看遍了所有的房间后，就来到大厅坐下，“我想看本书，”她说，“能给我一本书吗？”在她周围她见不到任何人，可是有人回答，“可以。”立刻就有人把一本书放在她身边的桌子上，书上写着她的名字：

“美丽爱你的比斯特敬赠。”

当夜幕降临的时候，她坐在大厅里，在读她的书。正在这时，她听到一阵响声，然后她看到就怪兽站在她面前。

怪兽说：“这个地方好吗？”

“很好，”她说。

“你喜欢这些衣服吗？”

“喜欢，谢谢，”她说。

“那本书好吗？”

“好，谢谢，”她说。

“你喜欢住在这儿吗？”

“喜欢，谢谢，”她说。

过了一会儿，他说，“你和我结婚可以吗？”

她哭着跑了。

他说：“别跑，说‘行’还是‘不行’，……你愿意嫁给我吗？”

“不，谢谢，”她说。

怪兽看上去很伤心，就走了。

每天晚上，当她坐在大厅时，怪兽就来见她并说同样的话，每次都要求和他结婚，她总说：“不。”然后，他就伤心地走了。这使得美丽也同样伤心。

美丽在这个地方住了一个月，然后她想：“我父亲一定认为我已经死了，我必须回去看看他老人家。”

于是那天晚上，她就对怪兽说：我想回去看我父亲。”

“好的，你可以走，”怪兽说，“但请你一个月后还回来。”

“谢谢，”她说，“一个月后我会回来的。”

第二天早晨她发现门边已经有一匹马给她备好了，她上了马，骑回了父亲家。父亲见到女儿很高兴，他在那儿住了很多天，她也很快乐。

一个月过去了，她忘记了怪兽，两个月过去了，她仍然没想起他。最后，三个月过去了，她终于想起来了，就说：“我必须回到怪兽那里，我曾说过一个月后回去，但我给忘了。我现在就得赶快走。”她牵来马骑着走了。

她骑了一整个通宵。“可怜的怪兽，”当她穿过那片森林时，说，“他一定认为我不记得他了，他对我这么好。可怜的怪兽！”

东方破晓的时候，她看到了那座大房子，门开着，她飞快跑进大厅，她一间连一间地都进去看了看，但是，她没有找到怪兽。她大声叫喊，但也没有人回答。她就到花园里去找他。她来到玫瑰树下，在这里他找到了他。他在这棵树底下。她想他死了，他的双眼闭着，她走到他身边：“可怜的比斯特！”她说着并吻了他。他睁开眼睛：“我还以为你想不起来了，”他说，“我还以为你永远不会回来了，我知道你永远不会嫁给我。”

但是，美丽知道她会永远爱着这个可怜的怪兽，他说：“我嫁给你，比斯特，你虽然长得丑陋，但你却非常善良。”

突然有一声巨响，就在刚才怪兽站着的地方，出现了一位漂亮的王子。他说：“一个妖婆把我变成了怪兽，这个妖婆说，‘当一位美丽的姑娘对你说她愿嫁给你时，你才能重新变成人’。因此，当你说，‘我将嫁给你’，我就重新变成了人。”

王子和美丽结婚了，他们非常幸福。美丽的父亲也搬来住在这座大房子旁边。但她两个姐姐却离开了，生活在另一个国家。

美丽有时说：“你很漂亮，我的王子，不过我当时确实喜欢我那虽丑但可爱的怪兽！”

犯罪的驴

从前，有一只狮子、一只豹、一只狗和一头驴正坐在田野上，烈日当头；没有下雨；河里没有水；田野干裂，生长不了粮食。

狮子说：“为什么情况会变得这么糟？为什么不下雨？为什么没有吃的？我们之所以没有吃的，是因为我们当中有一位犯了罪，上帝对我们生气了。”

豹说：“是的，我们当中有一位犯罪的。”

狗说：“我们当中有一位犯罪的。”

然后驴说：“我们每个人都说出自己的罪孽，这样一来上帝就不会生气，并且还会让天下雨了。”

于是，狮子开始说：“我曾犯了一个大罪，在村庄附近我发现一个可怜人的奶牛，我把它咬死了，还吃掉了它。”

其他几个动物都害怕狮子，因此它们说：“不！不！那不是犯罪。”

接着豹子说：“我曾经犯了一个大罪，我在山坡上发现一位老太太带着一只山羊，我窜了过去，老太太跑了，我咬死老太太的山羊。”

其他几个说：“噢；不，那也不是犯罪。”

这时狗说：“一个小女孩有一只猫，她十分喜爱它，我和这只猫吵架，就把它咬死了。”

其他几个说：“噢，不，那不是犯罪。”

这时，其他三个都看着驴。

驴说：“主人和我正要去村庄，他站在那儿和一个朋友谈话，这时我吃了路边一点青草。”

其他几个说：“啊！啊！啊！那是罪孽，那是一大罪孽。现在我们知道为什么上帝对我们生气，并且没有下雨。”然后，他们一起跳到驴身上，把他咬死了。

白鸭子

树林里一只小白鸭正在一棵树下睡觉。树上长了一些栗子。鸭子夫人正睡着的时候，一枚栗子从树上掉了下来，打在她的头上，鸭子夫人惊醒过来，十分害怕。

“啊！”他说，“有人正在瞄准我，我必须去告诉大

于是，鸭子夫人从林中出来，开始沿着一条路走去，路上，她遇见了鸡夫人。

“你到哪儿去？”鸡夫人问。

“我去大王那里，有一个坏人开枪打我。”

“我跑得比你快，”鸡夫人说，“我跑去告诉国王。”

于是，鸡夫人就沿着这条路跑去，把鸭子夫人抛在后面。

在路上，鸡夫人碰上了猫夫人。

“什么事情，鸡夫人？”猫夫人问，“为什么在路上跑？”

“我要去见国王，有些坏人来到我们国家，正在开枪杀人，”鸡夫人说。

“啊！让我先去，我跑得比你快，”猫夫人说，“我要很快地跑去告诉国王。”

于是，猫夫人沿着这条路跑去，把鸡夫人抛在后头。

当猫夫人沿着路在跑时，她遇见了正在路边躺着的狗先生。狗先生不喜欢猫夫人，他跳了起来。

“站住！”他喊道。

“不要拦我的路，”猫夫人说，“发生了很糟糕的事儿了。”

“发生了什么事情？”狗先生问。

“一百个士兵已经进了我们的国家，他们正在开枪杀人，”猫夫人回答说。

“啊！那太糟糕了，”狗先生说，“你留在这里，我跑得比你快，我来跑去告诉国王。”

因此，狗先生开始沿着这条路跑去，把猫夫人抛在后面。

在路上，狗先生遇见了正在路旁吃草的马先生。

“什么事情，狗先生？你为什么跑得这么快？”马先生问。

“我要跑去告诉国王，有一大批军队已经来到我们国家，一千个士兵正在杀害我们所有人民。”

“那太糟糕了，”马先生说，“必须尽快地让国王知道，我跑得比你快，你呆在这里，我来跑去告诉国王。”

于是，马先生开始沿着这条路跑去，把狗先生抛在后面。

国王狮子正在他美丽的花园睡觉。一阵跑步声惊醒了他，他抬头一看，只见一匹马站在他面前。

“什么事情？”狮子国王问。

马先生太累了，他累得讲不出话。

“去喝点水，然后回来告诉我，”狮子国王说。

于是，马先生去喝了点水，他回来时便能讲出话了。他在国王面前磕了磕头，然后说：“国王呀，几千个坏士兵已经进了我们国家，正在杀害我们所有的人。”

“敲钟，”狮子国王说，“把我的士兵召集起来。”

这时，钟敲响了，国王的所有士兵、大象、狐狸、熊、狼都跨进了花园里。六只鸽子在他们的头上飞。

“快步前进！”国王喊着。

这时所有的士兵跑出花园，狮子国王和马先生跑在最前面，六只鸽子在他们头顶上飞。

“你们看到了什么没有？”狮子国王对在他头顶上飞的鸽子大声问道。

“只有一只狗朝这里跑来，”一只鸽子回答。

“你看见坏士兵杀害我们的同胞了吗？”狮子国王对马先生说。

“没有，”马先生回答，“那是狗先生告诉我的。”

当他们走近了狗先生，国王喊：“停止前进。”

这时，他们都站住了。

“到这里来，狗先生，”国王说。

“坏人在哪儿？”

狗先生用他的脚指了指，“那里，”他说。

“你亲眼看见他们了吗？”国王问。

“没有，我没有亲眼看见，”狗先生回答。

“快步前进！”国王喊着。

他们又全都开始前进。国王、马先生、狗先生跑在队伍的前边，跟着的是大象、熊、狼和狐狸，鸽子在他们头上飞着。

“你们发现目标了吗？”国王大声问鸽子。

“只有一只猫躺在路边，”一只鸽子回答。

“你看见坏士兵杀害我们的人了吗？”狮子国王问狗先生。

“没有，我不是亲眼看见的，但我知道那是真的，因为猫夫人跟我说了的，”狗先生回答。

“听说的事情不能轻信，”国王说。

来到猫夫人跟前，大家停住了。

“坏士兵在哪儿？”国王问。

“那儿，”猫夫人用她的爪子指着回答。

“你亲眼见到他们了吗？”国王问。

“没有，我没有亲眼看见，”猫夫人回答，不过我知道这是真的，因为鸡夫人告诉了我。”

“你听来的事情不要轻易相信，”国王说。“快速前进。”

当他们行进了一会儿，国王朝他上空的鸽子大声喊，“现在你们发现什么没有？”

“只有一只母鸡蹲在路边，”一只鸽子回答。

当他们到了鸡夫人跟前，他们都停住了。

“那些坏士兵在哪儿？”国王问。

“在那儿，”鸡夫人用她的爪子指着回答。

“你看见有多少人吗？”国王问。

“我没有亲眼看见，”鸡夫人回答说，“但是我知道那是真的，因为鸭子夫人告诉了我。”

“听来的事情不能样样都信，”国王说。“快步前进。”

过了一会儿，国王又问鸽子，是否发现什么了。

“ 只有一只白鸭子坐在路边， ” 一只鸽子回答。

当他们到了白鸭跟前，大家都停住了。

“ 过来，鸭夫人， ” 国王说。鸭夫人站了起来，在国王面前磕了头。

“ 坏士兵在哪儿？ ” 国王问。

“ 我没见到什么坏士兵， ” 鸭子夫人说。

“ 谁被杀害了？ ”

“ 没人被杀，但有人开枪打我。 ”

“ 你受伤了吗？ ” 国王问。

“ 是的，有东西砸在我头上。 ”

“ 你真是个十足的蠢货， ” 国王说， “ 过来，让我看看你的头。 ”

国王看了看鸭子夫人的头，他没发现什么伤痕。

“ 现在告诉我，都发生了什么事情， ” 国王说。

“ 我正在一棵树下睡觉，有东西打在我的头上。 ”

“ 带我去看那棵树， ” 国王说。

于是，鸭子夫人带着他们大家进了那片树林里，指给他们看刚才她睡在下面的那棵树，当他们还在那棵树下站着时，一枚栗子掉到国王头上，他抬头一看，只见有很多栗子。

“ 这是一棵栗子树，栗子正在往下掉， ” 他说。 “ 鸭子夫人，你太愚蠢了，你告诉鸡夫人你被打了一枪。鸡夫人，踢鸭子。 ”

鸡夫人踢了鸭夫人。

“ 鸡夫人，你也是一个蠢货，你告诉猫夫人说有坏蛋来到我们国家，正在开枪杀人，猫夫人，咬鸡。 ”

猫夫人咬了鸡夫人。

“ 猫夫人，你是一个大傻瓜，你告诉狗先生说有一百个士兵正在杀害我们的人，狗先生，咬猫。 ”

狗先生扑向猫夫人，咬了她。

“ 狗先生，你比猫还要傻，你告诉马先生说一大批军队开进了我们国家。马先生，踢狗。 ”

马先生狠狠地给了狗先生一蹄子。

“ 马先生，你也是一个傻瓜， ” 狮子国王说， “ 你说几千个士兵开进我们国家，我亲自来咬你。 ”

国王狮子咬了马先生。

“ 现在，记住， ” 狮子国王说， “ 不要一味相信你听说，要相信你亲眼看见的，现在我们返回，快步前进。 ”

于是，国王走了，后面跟着大象、熊、狼和狐狸。他们头顶上飞着鸽子。

然后，鸡夫人便极力要抓住鸭夫人，猫夫人要抓鸡夫人，狗先生要抓猫夫人，马先生要抓狗先生。但是，鸭子夫人跳进水里，鸡夫人抓不住她。鸡夫人飞过树顶，那儿猫夫人够不着她。猫夫人跳上了一棵树，狗先生追不上了。狗先生往树丛里跑掉了，马先生抓不到他，只好沿着那条路回去了。

神磨

很久以前，在很远很远的地方，住着两兄弟。其中一个很富有，一个很贫穷。富兄弟住在一个小岛上，他是一个盐商，他经营了很多年的盐，挣了一大笔钱。另一个兄弟穷得连他妻子和孩子饭都吃不饱。

他的妻子说：“接下来该怎么办？你让我和孩子们去死吗？没有东西吃了。你为什么不去向你的兄弟要些钱。”

“我的兄弟特别爱自己的钱，我想他肯定一分钱也不会给我，也许他会给我一把盐，不管怎么说我要去见见他。”

他上了他的小船，朝他兄弟住的那个小岛驶去。

他发现他富兄弟在家，正在点钱。

“什么事呀？你怎么到这儿来了？”

“对不起，兄弟，我家里没吃的了，请给我一枚你正在点的那些金币吧。”

“不行，这些是我的，你太懒惰了，你为什么不去干活？”

“我已经努力去找些活儿干，但是我还是找不到活儿，现在，我家里都没有面包给孩子们吃了。”

“我不会给你钱的，但我给你一些面包，如果我给你一块面包，你就离开，不要回来好吗？”

“好吧，把面包给我。”

这位富人扔了一块面包给他，他就走了。

在回家的路上，他碰见一位老人坐在路边。

“你拿的是什么东西？”老人问，“是面包吗？我已经两天没有吃东西了。”

“这面包是给我自己孩子们的，但我不愿看到别人没有吃的。来，我切下一片面包给你。”

他切下一片面包给了这位老人。老人感谢过了，他就开始吃起来。

吃完面包时，老人说：“现在我来要为你做点事。我带你去地底下妖精住的家。如果你让他们看到这块面包，他们就会想从你手里买下。但是，你别让他们给你钱，要他们门后立着的那个小磨。你照我说的那样去做，你就会变成富翁，你回来以后，我教你怎样用那小磨。”

然后，那位老人就带他到了森林里，他指了指地上的一个洞，这个洞看上去好象是大兔子挖的。越往里面洞也越大，还可以看到一扇小石门。

“那就是妖精的家，进去把那门打开，我等着你出来，”老人说。

这个穷人进了洞，打开门进去了。门里边漆黑一片：好一会儿，他什么也看不见。当他能看得清楚一些时，他见到很多小妖精，他们过来围着他站着。

“那是什么？”其中有一个妖精问，“是白面包吗？请把它给我们吧，或卖给我们。”

“我们要用金子、银子买你的面包，”另一个说。

“不，”穷人说，“我不要金子或银子。只要把门后立着的那个旧磨给我，我就把这块面包给你们。”

开始时，他们不愿用他们的磨换面包，于是，他转身就走。

但是，有些妖精叫了起来：“给他那个旧磨吧，我们现在根本不用，只

有在好人手里才能有用。”于是，他们把磨给了他，他把磨夹在腋下，走出了妖精的家。他发现那位老人正等着他。

“就是它，”老人说。“这是使用它的办法。只有好人才能用它，你千万别让其他任何人使用。”

这个穷人才到家的时候天已经晚了。

“你到哪儿去了？”他的妻子说，“家里没有烤火，没有吃的，孩子们冷，哭着要吃的。你带的那个东西是什么？看上去象一个旧磨。”

“就是一个磨，”他说，“现在来瞧瞧，你说要什么，它就有什么。”

他把磨放在桌子上，开始转动。从小磨里出来了烤火用的柴荷、点灯和做饭菜用的油、还有衣服、粮食和其他很多好东西。

“真是一个神磨，”他的妻子说：“现在我们富有了。”

“是的，不过，我们一定别让任何人知道它。我们必须把它藏起来，只有在没人看见时才拿出来用。”

这个穷人很快变得象他兄弟一样富有。他不是把好东西都留给自己家享用，他把许多东西送给穷苦的朋友。

他的兄弟听说了这些，心里想：“我不知道为什么我的兄弟变富了，我必须找到他致富的原因。”

他探究了好长时间，可是还是不知道。有一天，他给了一个佣人一些钱，让他在晚上监视他兄弟的家。那天晚上，这个佣人透过窗户看到他们全家人围着磨站着，正用着磨。他就回去把他所看到的说了。

第二天，这位富兄弟上了船，开过岸来，他对他的兄弟说：“我发现你现在很富有，并且也知道为什么。你有一个小神磨，把它卖给我吧，你要卖多少钱？”

“我不能卖，”那个穷人说，“它绝不能离开我的手。老人说过，‘如果你卖掉它或把它给了其他人，必将招来大祸。’这就是他说的。”

于是，富兄弟把船开回家了。但是，后来，在一个漆黑的夜晚，他又回来了，他很快进了屋，偷走了神磨。带着它飞快地到了海边，他的小船正等在那里，然后，他驶向他的小岛。

这个坏兄弟很想让磨磨出东西来。他等不及回到家，还在船里的时候，就迫不急待地要用。

“盐，”他说，“我是卖盐的，我要盐。”然后，他开始转动磨。

这时，盐开始从磨里出来了，他笑开了脸，开始唱起歌来。一堆一堆的盐出来了，船都要装满了。船开始往下沉，他拼命地把一些盐扔进海里，但是更多的盐从磨里出来了，一堆堆的。他不笑了，也不唱了，接着，他开始害怕起来。

从神磨里出来的盐越来越多，很快填满了整只船。这时，水进来了，淹没了船，船下沉了，连同这个贼和神磨一起，沉到了海底。

在海底里，神磨仍然转动着，磨出越来越多的盐。

这就是（有些人所说的）海水为什么是咸的原因。

生为国王的人

(一)

从前，有一位很富、权力很大的国王。一天，一位小老头来到他的宫廷，这位老人有一双清澈的蓝眼睛。人们说他能根据星星看出人的生命相。

国王对他说：“你说说我吧。”

老人说：“您去世后，您的家族里没有一个人能继承您的王位成为国王，继承王位的还没有出世。”

国王听了这些话很不高兴，他命令这位老人离开他的宫廷，不许再来。

国王经常在想他听到的这些话。过了一段时间，他娶了一位美丽的小姐，也就忘掉了那位老人。国王结婚时，大家都很高兴，他们都希望国王会有一个儿子，将来能成为一名好国王。

有一天，国王和一些朋友骑马到森林里打猎，他们发现了一只又大又漂亮的动物，大家就骑马去追。国王的马最好，因此，他骑得比其他人都快，他很快就把其他人都抛在了后面。夜幕降临时，国王才发现自己一个人在这片森林里，他没能猎获那个动物，他不知道自己在哪里，也找不到走出森林的路。他对自己说：“我完全迷路了，我不知道该往哪儿走。现在，天也相当黑了，我必须在这森林里睡着了，明天太阳出来的时候，我会找到走出森林的路的。”

国王开始用草和树叶铺了一张床，但是在躺下睡觉前，他四处张望了一番。于是他发现了一处小亮光，那是从窗户投出来的灯光，他登上马向灯光方向骑去。当他走近时，他发现是一个穷人的小屋里亮的灯，他大喊一声。一位个头很大，穿着破旧的人打开了门。

“你不能进来，”那人说，“我的妻子病得很厉害，我怕她会死去。瞧，那边还有一间小屋，去那儿睡觉吧，我拿点吃的喝的给你。”

夜间，一声尖叫惊醒了国王，他走出小屋，四周张望，但是什么也没有发现。于是又回屋睡觉了。睡梦中他看见那个眼睛又亮又蓝的老人站在他面前。

老人对国王说：“记住这个穷人的孩子，他将成为国王。”

早晨国王醒来。他去了那个穷人的小屋。在小屋里，他发现那人在哭，一边凝视着他死去的妻子的尸体，在她旁边是一个昨晚出生的小孩，孩子还活着。国王看了看那个穷人，又看了看那个小孩。

国王正看着这悲伤的场面时，他听到小屋外边有吵声，他听出来是他朋友们的声音，他走了出来。这些人见到他们的国王安然无恙，都很高兴。他们骑着马来到小屋门前。

国王对他们说：“这个穷人帮了我，因此我们必须帮助他，他的妻子死了，我们要给他一些金子，我们还要把这个小孩一起带走，由我们的侍女来照看这个孩子，他要同我们在一起生活。”

这时，那个穷人才知道这人就是国王。

“哦，国王，”他说，“就这么办吧。我自己是养活不了我的儿子的，因为他妈妈死了。”

国王对一个名叫威廉的仆人说：“威廉，把这金子拿给那人，带上孩子。”

威廉把金币给了那人，然后找来一个小箱子，在里面铺上一层干草，他

把孩子放进箱子里，再在他上面盖了一层干草；这便是孩子所有的遮身之物了。

国王骑上马，他对威廉说：“骑马时离我近点，好听我吩咐。”

在他们离开小屋的路上，国王告诉威廉在梦里所看到和听到的，他说：“那个老人说过这个孩子将继承我的王位，我不想让他成为国王，我让你把这个孩子扔到河里。”

威廉说：“如果上帝希望这个孩子成为国王，即使我们极力要杀死他，他也会被救活。”

“不要犯傻了，”国王说，“把那个箱子倒过来扔到河里。你留在后面，照我说的去做。”

国王骑马走了，把威廉留在后面。威廉把箱子扔进了河里，国王听到箱子落在水里的声音，他回头看了看，他看到箱子漂在水上，不过，箱子没有翻过去，那孩正哭着，水很快把箱子冲走。

当国王到了家，一个仆人满面喜色迎上来，他告诉了国王，当他在那边森林里时家里所发生的事情：王后已经生了一个孩子，是女孩。国王十分高兴，他给了这个仆人一些钱，不再去想那个人的孩子了。

十四年过去了，有一天上午，国王独自去森林打猎，在那儿他看到一个男人和一个男孩在伐木。那个男孩很英俊，有一双蓝色眼睛。

“这是谁的小孩？”国王问。

“国王呀，他是我的儿子。”

“他一点也不象你，”国王说。“去把你的妻子带到这儿来，我要看看他象不象她。”

“哦，国王，那好吧，我去叫我妻子。但是他也不象她，我们称他为我们的儿子是因为他一直同我们生活在一起。但是，他不是我们真正的儿子，我们是在十四年前发现了他，我们救了他的命。我们不知道他的父母是否还在世。”

国王仔细打量了这个年轻人，他心里充满了恐惧。那人走了，回来时，带着他的妻子，她手里抱着一个小箱子。

那人转身对她妻子说：“妻，说吧，把你遇到的事儿告诉国王。”

“这事很简单。十四年前的一天，我正骑着驴沿着这河边走，我听到一阵哭叫声，象是一个婴儿的哭声。我低头朝岸边那一大片的草丛看去，在那儿，我发现了一个箱子，在这个箱子里有一个小孩在哭。我下了驴，搬起箱子带回了家。我们很高兴，因为我们没有孩子，我们给他起了个名字叫罗伯特。我就是在这个箱子里发现他的。我们很爱他，他也爱我们。”

当国王一看到这个箱子，他便知道他见过。这就是威廉扔到河里的那个箱子，他也知道这个男孩就是他想要杀害的那个孩子。

国王给了那个人和他妻子一些钱，然后，他心惊胆跳地骑马走了。到了家，他叫来威廉，威廉仍然给他当着仆人。他悄悄地和威廉谈了好长时间，他让威廉带一封信给那个穷人。威廉骑上马，进了森林。

在森林里，威廉发现一个小男孩正在河里抓鱼。小孩听到了威廉过来的声音，就抬起头看。威廉自语道：“我敢肯定，这就是生来要当国王的那男孩。”然后他对男孩说：“昨天国王见到的那个人在哪儿？”

“他是我父亲，跟我来，我带你去见他。”

到了房前，罗伯特喊出他的父亲。他父亲看到威廉穿着一身好衣服，知

道他是从国王那里来的。

“看看这封信，”威廉说，“是国王写给你的。”

“我不识字，罗伯特识字，”那人回答。

罗伯特念了这封信，信上命令罗伯特去见国王，国王希望抚养他去一所好学校读书。

“我们必须照国王的宗旨去做，”那人伤心地说，“不过，罗伯特在这里也是很幸福的。”

“在这里我是很幸福，”罗伯特说，“有这样好的父亲和母亲，我不想去。”

威廉说：“你必须来，在这里你过着穷人的生活，你不想成为一个有学问的大人物吗？跟我来吧。”

那个穷人说：“是的，你必须跟他去，不但是我知道你会永远记着我们，或许你还会来看望我们。”

“对，”他的妻子说，“可能的话就来看看我们。”她一把搂住他，吻他。

“现在你就得走了，”威廉说。他把罗伯特领到他的马跟前，骑上马，告诉罗伯特骑在他后面，然后，他们骑马走了。

离开了一直象亲生父母一样待他的这两位善良的人，罗伯特十分悲伤。他一时感到很难过。但是他毕竟还小，阳光明媚，树上的鸟儿嚶歌婉转，他很快又高兴起来了。

过了一会儿，威廉对他说：“下马吧，它驮着我们俩太累了。”

于是，罗伯特下了马，在马旁边走。他们走了很长时间才穿过这片森林，罗伯特很累，他想要休息一会儿。

威廉立住马，从马上下来，他们俩在一棵树下坐下。不一会儿，罗伯特就躺倒睡着了，于是，威廉搬来一块大石头，砸了他的头。这时，他听到一阵响声，一些过路人正朝这来，他胆颤心惊地站起来，跳上马，骑着就跑，还以为他已经杀死了罗伯特。

当他到了国王那里，他说：“那个男孩已经死了，他永远也不可能成为国王了。”

（二）

六年过去了。国王希望王后能生个儿子，然而，再也没有孩子降生。他的女儿也长成一位美丽动人的姑娘。她又善良又漂亮，所有的人都喜爱她。

公主十八岁的时候，她的母亲——王后去世了。国王和他的女儿都对此十分悲伤，公主悲伤得病倒了。

她父亲对她说：“多拉，我的女儿，你好象病了，我打算送你到乡下‘玫瑰花房’里，那里空气新鲜，生活安静，你会很快地好起来的。”

国王说：“在我来之前，不要离开‘玫瑰花房’。或许我会带来一位王子和你结婚。”

多拉公主和她的仆人玛丽去乡下“玫瑰花房”了，她很高兴到那儿去，但是她不想跟一个从来没有见过的男人结婚。然而，她知道她必须照父亲的想法去做，她希望他的父亲将能带来一位年轻、善良、英俊的男子。

国王到了另一个国家去寻找女儿的对象。这个国家的统治者有着强大的军队。军队里有一位年青英俊的军官，长有一头金发和一双蓝眼睛。当国王见到他时，国王就觉得自己认识他。

“你是谁，你从哪儿来？”他问那个年轻人，“我觉得你很面熟。”

“我叫罗伯特，”年轻人说，“这就是我所知道的一切。六年前，我被带到这个国家。是一些旅行者带我来的。他们在森林里发现了我这个快要死的人，有人要杀害我，他砸伤我的头，伤得很厉害，因此我自己过去的事都记不起了，仅仅知道自己的名字。”

于是，国王确信，这个年轻人就是他命令威廉去杀掉的那个男孩。他请求这个国家的统治者把这个年轻人给他。当他回国时就带走了罗伯特。

有一天，国王派人去叫来罗伯特。

“到‘玫瑰花房’去，他说，“带着这封信把它交给在那里的卫兵队长，一定小心！只给那个队长，然后他会告诉你怎么去做的。”

罗伯特骑上马，穿过一片田野，来到了‘玫瑰花房’。房前有一座大的花园，花园门旁正站着一个卫兵。

当他发现罗伯特时，他说：“你是谁，你要干什么？”

“我从国王那里带来一封信，”罗伯特说，“我必须把它交给你们的队长。”

“队长现在正在吃饭，你必须等一会儿，”卫兵说。“不过你好象很累。把你的马留在这里，你可以到花园里坐着，队长来时，我叫你。”

罗伯特进了花园。这是一个很安静、很美丽的地方，长满了鲜花和树木，水里还有红色的鱼游来游去。罗伯特看了一会儿鱼，然后，觉得累了，就在一棵树底下坐下，他闭上眼睛睡着了。

不一会儿，多拉公主和玛丽来到花园，她们在这柔软的绿草坪上走了一会儿，然后公主坐下休息，而玛丽一个人仍然散着步。她走近罗伯特正在睡觉的地方，当她发现他时，便停住脚，仔细地看他，她从来没有见过如此英俊的年轻男子。

“这就是要和公主结婚的男子，”她想。于是她很快回到公主站着的地方。

“我想您的王子已经来了，”她说。

“你这是什么意思？”多拉公主说。

“你自己过来看看，”玛丽说，“一个英俊的男子正睡着呢。即使他不是一位王子，他也不比世上的任何王子逊色。”

于是玛丽领着公主到了罗伯特躺着睡觉的地方。多拉一见到他，爱意便油然而生，公主想：“我永远也不会爱上其他任何男人了。”她站着看了他半天，然后，她的目光转向玛丽，他发现玛丽正在看一封信，信是从这年青人手中掉出来的。玛丽读着读着，吓得脸色发白。

“你看的是什么信？”公主问。

“给你，你自己来看吧，这么一个英俊的男子竟要碰上这种事，真是悲惨。”

公主把信拿去看。她看到上面写着：“驻‘玫瑰花房’的卫兵队长：我，国王，命令你处死带这封信的人，所有这样的坏人务必处死。”

多拉公主十分害怕。她看了玛丽好一会儿，然后说：“我回来之前，你不要离开他，如果他醒了把他藏起来，不要让任何人发现他。”然后，她飞快地跑回自己的房间，拿出笔和一张白纸。她坐下开始写。

下面就是多拉公主在纸上所写的：“‘玫瑰花房’卫兵队长：你好。我要让我的女儿和这位带信的男子结婚，不要等，让他们马上成婚。我到的时

候，我要看到他们已经结婚了，以上是你的国王的命令。”

她回到花园，把这封信给玛丽看。然后她们把这封信放在那位年轻男子的手旁边，就走开了。

他们坐在花园另一边等着，俩人都很担心。

玛丽说：“我们别害怕了，我们既然做了，就要做到底。我心里觉得你将会很幸福的。”

过了一会儿，他们听到一阵说话声，队长和那个年轻男子正走过来。

“公主，”队长说，“这是从你父王那里带来的信，请你自己看一看。”

罗伯特一见公主，不禁满怀爱意。他从来没有见过这么年青美貌的女子。她读完信，然后看着她。

“我将很高兴按我父亲的旨意去做。我有一种感觉我们结合在一起一定很幸福，让我们明天结婚吧。”

罗伯特一听说信的内容，吃惊不已，他说：“我时刻准备把自己一生献给国王，终生为他效劳。国王希望我们结婚；我知道我要永远爱你，所以……”

公主拉起他的手。“明天，”她说。

罗伯特走后国王等了一天，然后他骑上马，前往‘玫瑰花房’。

当他快要到的时候，他听见钟声，看见许多人在花园起舞。他很吃惊，不知道发生了什么事情。他骑马走进了花园，发现他的女儿和罗伯特手牵着手走着，他们后面是卫兵队长。一见到国王，多拉和罗伯特便停下脚步，队长跑上前去搀扶着国王下了马。

“国王，”他说，“我已经照您的命令去办了。您的公主和王子罗伯特结婚了。”

所有的人欢呼起来，把他们的帽子抛向天空。国王站在那里一动不动，凝视着他的女儿和罗伯特。然后，他脸上露出了喜色。

“真是上帝的安排，”他说，“这个人生来就是要做国王。”

于是，国王拉起女儿的手并吻了她。他又拉着罗伯特的手，然后转向人群。“这是你们的新王子，”他说。“我知道这是上帝安排的，他将成为你们的国王，这是我一生最幸福的一天，唱吧、跳吧，尽情地欢乐吧。”

人们又开始大声地欢呼，跳起舞来。国王一手拉着女儿，一手拉着罗伯特穿过欢乐的人群，走进了‘玫瑰花房’。

爱丽丝漫游奇境记 跌进兔洞

爱丽丝和姐姐坐在草地上。姐姐在看书，可是爱丽丝没什么可读的。她看看姐姐的书，书里没有图画。

“一本没有图画的书有什么好看？”她感到纳闷。

这一天很热。爱丽丝不知道该做什么。“我太困了。”她心里想，“我是不是该去找点花儿来，还是天太热了呢？”

她看到一片叶子从树上掉下来。不过她太困了，没心思去想它。

就在这个时候，一只白兔跑了过去，离她非常近。这可不是每天都能碰上的事，但爱丽丝对这事儿没有感到奇怪。就连兔子嘴里念叨着“啊呀！我要迟到了”的时候，她也不觉得惊讶。

当兔子从自己兜里掏出一块表瞧了瞧的时候，她才疑惑起来。

“兔子有个兜儿？”爱丽丝心想，“里头还有块表？”

她跳起来去追那只白兔，正赶上看见兔子钻进一个大兔子洞。

爱丽丝追进洞去，也没有停下来想想，她怎么出来。

这个兔洞在地面下向前伸展。忽然……爱丽丝跌了下去，掉呀，掉呀，掉呀……她掉得并不快，还来得及想想：“待会儿会出什么事呢？”她往下看，那儿一点光也没有。

掉呀，掉呀，掉呀。“嘿！”她说，“这条路可真长，今后我再也不怕掉下去了。我真想知道这个洞的出口在哪儿。”

掉呀，掉呀，掉呀。“蒂娜会知道今天晚上我在哪儿吗？”爱丽丝问自己。（蒂娜是爱丽丝的猫）“他们不会在喝茶的时候忘了给它牛奶吧？哦，蒂娜！你怎么不跟我在一块儿呢？这儿没耗子，不过可能有几只蝙蝠。猫吃蝙蝠吗？我不知道。”爱丽丝打起瞌睡来。“猫吃蝙蝠吗？”她问自己，“猫吃蝙蝠吗？”但有时候她又问，“蝙蝠吃猫吗？”

砰！哇！爱丽丝跌落在不太硬的东西上头。

她很快地坐起来，还能看到那只白兔，它沿着兔洞跑远了。

“跑！”爱丽丝对自己说，她飞快地跟着白兔跑。

“哦！我的耳朵！”她听到白兔说，“太晚了！”接着兔子很快地钻进兔洞旁边的一个洞口。

爱丽丝跑进洞口，来到一个长长的大厅。她看不见白兔了。

大厅四周有许多门，不过她哪一扇门也打不开。她也找不到去兔洞的那个洞口了。

“我怎么办呢？”她想，接着她看见一张小桌子。这是一张玻璃桌子，上面放着一把小小的金钥匙。“它能打开其中的一扇门吗？”她想到这儿就拿着钥匙到每扇门上去试试。不过这把钥匙太小了，哪一扇门也打不开。她对自己说：“这把钥匙一定能开什么的。”

后来，她看见一扇很小的门，这扇门藏在另一扇大门旁边。她用那把小钥匙把门打开，低下头，从那扇小门往里一看，只见里面是一座非常美丽的花园。她看见很多鲜花和青草。她想到那儿去，可是那扇门太小。她很不高兴地把门关上，把钥匙放回桌上。

“我怎么不能变小一点儿呢？”爱丽丝想道，“这儿跟家里不一样——

这儿有魔力——所以一定有办法变小。”她看看玻璃桌子，桌子上有一个小瓶。（“以前这个瓶子不在桌上。”爱丽丝对自己说。）她看看瓶子上的标签，上面用工整的大字写着：“把我喝掉。”

“我尝点儿。”爱丽丝说，“就一点儿。”她尝了尝，挺好喝，她又喝了一点儿。

“哎哟，我的脚变小了，离得更近了，”爱丽丝说，“我现在一定很小啦。”

她的确很小。“现在我能进那扇小门了。”她自言自语地说。她走到门口，却开不了门，钥匙在玻璃桌上。她透过玻璃，可以看见它。现在她太矮了，够不着。她试着顺玻璃桌腿爬上去拿钥匙，可又上不去。

这个可怜的小女孩坐下来哭了。

“爱丽丝！爱丽丝”她勇敢地说，“这样哭可不好。快别哭了！”她有时的那么跟自己说，可是这一回没有用。她还在哭。就在这时，她看见桌子下面有一个小玻璃盒子。

爱丽丝打开盒子。里面有一块很小的糕。她念道：“吃掉我。”

“对，我把它吃了，”爱丽丝说，“要是我吃了，能长高一点，我就够得着那把钥匙了。要是我缩小了，我就可以从门底下钻进花园去。”于是她把那块糕吃了。

泪水池

爱丽丝长高了。“我长得多快呀！”她说。这时，“噢！”她叫了一声，她的头碰到了天花板。

“我一定要进那座花园，”她想，“现在这个大厅对我来说是太小了。

她拿起小金钥匙，很快地走到花园门口。她身材太高大了，进不了门。

可怜的爱丽丝！她又坐下来大哭起来。因为她太高、太大了，从她眼里掉下来的泪珠儿也很大。泪水流成了一个池子。

“别哭啦！”爱丽丝跟自己说，“你现在是个大姑娘了（她确实大——大极了。），你不该哭啊。”可是她禁不住大滴的眼泪掉下来。不一会儿，她的周围就形成了一个泪水池。

过了一会儿，她听见小脚朝她跑过来的声音，接着她看见那只白兔又跑回来了，他穿着最好的衣服，一只手里拿着一副挺干净的白手套，另一只手里拿着一把扇子。

“啊！公爵夫人，公爵夫人！”爱丽丝听到他这么说，“我迟到了，她会多么生气啊！”

爱丽丝想要他帮忙，就用她最和气的语气说道：“请——”

白兔跳了起来，这句话是从天花板上来的，白兔很害怕，丢下手套和扇子拼命跑开了。

爱丽丝拿起那副小小的手套和那把扇子。大厅里很热，她就用扇子扇扇。

“我变了吗？”她觉得奇怪。“昨天我是我自个儿，今天情况就不一样了。假如我不是我，那么我是谁呢？我可不愿意做我的朋友玛贝尔，因为她知道的事儿太少，我比她知道的事儿多得多。”爱丽丝停住了，“我知道得比她多吗？”她又怀疑起来，“我试试看，我来试着说四的倍数。一四得四；二四得八；三四得九；四四——啊呀！”她又大哭起来。

掉下来的是小泪珠儿，有一滴眼泪掉在她一只手上。她低头看看，在另一只手上戴着一只手套。

“我怎么能戴上的呢？”她想，“我一定是在缩小。”

她站起来，又走到桌子旁。“我得看看我到底多大。”她说。

要走到桌子旁去，有很长一段路。爱丽丝很小，而且还在很快地变得更小。“扇子！”她想到，“这扇子把我变小了。”她把扇子扔了。

“我这么小，能钻进门去了。”她想着，就朝那门跑去，没跑多远，——扑通——她掉进水里去了。“我掉到海里了。”她想。

这不是海，是泪水池，就是她身材十分高大的时候流的泪形成的泪水池。

“我干吗要哭得那么厉害呢？”爱丽丝说。

爱丽丝听到旁边有什么东西在哗啦哗啦地划水。“一定是条大鱼或是只海兽。”她想。这时，她才想起自己是很小的。她马上看到了，那是只掉进水里的耗子。

“不知道它会不会说话。”爱丽丝想，“这地方跟家里不一样。我跟它说说看。”“喂，耗子！”她说，“你知道怎么离开水池吗？”

没有回答。“这是只法国耗子吧？”爱丽丝挺纳闷儿，她试着回想几个法文字儿。学校里的法文书上头几个词儿是：我的猫在哪儿？所以她就用法文说：“Où est machatte？（我的猫在哪儿？）”

哗啦，哗啦，水花乱溅，那只耗子拼命游开去。

“哦！”爱丽丝叫道，“请别生气，我忘了，耗子是不喜欢猫的。”

“不喜欢猫！”耗子说（他很生气），“假如你是我的话，你能喜欢猫吗？”

“不，”爱丽丝说，“不喜欢。不过我想，你会喜欢蒂娜的，她是个讨人喜欢的小东西。”爱丽丝主要是跟自个儿说的，“她从来不闹，她真好。她逮所有的耗子——哦，你又要生气了！咱们别再谈蒂娜吧……”

“咱们！”耗子叫着，“我从来不提猫儿！我不要再听猫儿的事了。”

爱丽丝马上想法子谈别的事儿。“也许——”她说，“也许你喜欢狗吧？”耗子没有吭声，所以爱丽丝又说：“我们家附近有一只可爱的小狗。你会喜欢它的。它爱跟小孩子一块儿玩，它还干活儿呢。它家在一个农场里，农夫说，它帮了他很多忙。它弄死了所有的耗——哦！”

耗子气坏了，它一路溅着水游到岸边，爬出水池。爱丽丝跟在它后面。

有不少飞禽走兽掉进池子里：一只鸭子、一只渡渡鸟，还有爱丽丝叫不出名字的动物。他们跟在爱丽丝后头，哗哗地划着水，上了岸。

一次考克斯赛跑

爱丽丝在池子呆过以后，感到很冷。所有的禽兽都觉得很冷，情绪低沉。

当他们跟爱丽丝说话的时候，她一点也不感到惊奇。

渡渡鸟说：“如果你觉得冷，最好来一次赛跑——考克斯赛跑。”

别的鸟儿或走兽谁都没吭声儿，不过渡渡鸟还等着提问题呢，因此爱丽丝问：“什么是考克斯赛跑？”

“我可以告诉你，”渡渡鸟说，“但最好还是去做。”

渡渡鸟做了些标记，表示往哪儿跑。

没有起跑点，没有终点，也没人喊“一、二、三，跑！”他们喜欢什么时候开始跑就什么时候跑，喜欢什么时候停就什么时候停。只有渡渡鸟知道什么时候比赛结束。当一个个又暖和又高兴的时候，渡渡鸟喊道：“比赛结束！”

于是，他们站在渡渡鸟周围问道：“谁赢了？”

渡渡鸟不能马上回答，他用一个指头支着脑袋坐了好久，最后说：

“大家都赢了，每个人都该有奖。”

“可是谁来发奖呢？”耗子和很多别的动物问道。

“她发奖。”渡渡鸟望着爱丽丝说。

“奖品！奖品！”所有的飞禽和走兽都站在爱丽丝周围叫喊着。

爱丽丝对此毫无准备，不过她把手伸进口袋去，摸到一个盛着小糖块儿的小盒子（水没有灌到盒子里去，真不错。），正好每个动物都能分到一块糖。

“她自个儿也该得一份，你们说是吗？”耗子说。

“是呀，”渡渡鸟回答道。他让爱丽丝从口袋里再找一份奖品。

“我只有这盒子。”爱丽丝说。

“把它给我！”渡渡鸟伸出手来，爱丽丝把盒子放到他手里。

他们又都站在爱丽丝周围。渡渡鸟把盒子交给她，说：“请接受这个美丽的盒子和我们的谢意。”

下一步就是吃糖。为了吃糖，又吵吵起来了，对大鸟儿来说，糖太小了，不经吃。对小鸟儿来说，糖又太大了。爱丽丝叫道：“快！轻轻地拍他们的背！”

最后，糖都吃完了。鸟兽围成一个圈儿，等着别的事。

“要是蒂娜在这儿，我就高兴了。”爱丽丝说。她在自言自语，不过她的新朋友们都听见这句话了。

“请问，蒂娜是谁？”渡渡鸟说。

爱丽丝总是乐意谈她的朋友小猫儿的。

“蒂娜是我们的猫儿，她可爱极了，她动作敏捷。你们看到她逮耗子吧。她捉鸟儿也很在行呀——哦！为什么他们都跑啦？”

所有的鸟兽都跑了。又只剩下爱丽丝一个人。“他们不喜欢我谈蒂娜。”她自言自语道，“这儿没有人喜欢蒂娜，不过她是最好的猫儿。我不知道还能不能见到她。”

爱丽丝孤零零地一个人，所以又哭了。她听到小脚向她走来的声音，就不哭了。“也许是耗子。”她想。

白兔的家

这不是耗子，是白兔。他在东张西望。爱丽丝听见他说：“公爵夫人！公爵夫人！她一定很生气！噢！它们在哪儿呀？它们掉在哪儿啦？”

爱丽丝知道他在找扇子和手套。她也想去找找，不过一切都变了。大厅、小玻璃桌、门都不见了。她在村子里。

白兔看见她，就生气地问：“你到外头来干什么？玛丽·安，马上跑回家去，把白手套和扇子给我拿来。快！就去！”

爱丽丝向小屋跑去，也没告诉白兔说，她不是为他服务的女孩子。她来到屋门口，看见上面有“白兔”两个字，于是她就进去了。在房屋顶层的小房间里有一张桌子。爱丽丝看见桌上有一把扇子和一些手套。她拿起来就往门口走去。门边有个小瓶子，它跟大厅里的那个瓶子不一样。它上面没写：“把我喝掉。”可她还是尝了尝。

“我在这儿吃了什么东西或者喝了什么东西，”她心想，“总会发生什么事儿，这回也许又使我长大起来。我不想再缩小了。”

她真长大了，长得非常快。

“我喝得太多了吧？”她想道。

她坐下来。可是不久她长得太大，连坐也没法儿坐了。她把身子侧靠在地面上，这算好了点，可是还在长。她把胳膊伸出窗外，把脚伸进壁炉。

“幸亏那儿没有火。”她想，“如果我再长，真不知道将会发生什么事。”

她不再长了，可也动弹不了。

“玛丽·安！玛丽·安！你在哪里？我的手套在哪儿？”这些话是从窗外花园里传来的。白兔在那儿呢。一会儿他往屋子这边走过来，爱丽丝听到他的小小的脚步声。

兔子想开门，却推不动，爱丽丝的背顶着门呢。

爱丽丝听见他说：“那我就绕一下，从窗口进去。”

“哦！不，你进不来！”爱丽丝想。她等着兔子绕过房子跑到窗口去。

传来一声轻轻的惊叫，她听见兔子在呼救，又听见小动物在说话。

“这是一只胳膊。”“太大了，不可能是胳膊。”

“是胳膊，把它搬开。”

爱丽丝动了动手臂，传来了更多的叫喊声，喧闹声也更大了。她听见兔子说：

“我们得把这所房子烧掉！”

爱丽丝大声说：“如果你们要烧房子，我就要蒂娜来抓你们！”她的喊声使这座小房子晃了起来。小动物没有反应，有一会儿，她听不见什么声音。后来，他们又开始走来走去。

“下一步他们要干什么？”爱丽丝想。

很多小石子对着窗户扔来。有些打中她的胳膊，有些扔进窗子里，打中她的脸和身体，又落到地上。

爱丽丝看看地上的石子儿，它们都变成了小糕饼。

“要是我吃一块，”她想，“那会对我起点作用的。它不能使我变大，那么就一定会使我变小。”

她吃了一块糕饼。

她立刻变小了，当她小得可以穿过房门时，就跑到屋外。

外面有很多动物，所以爱丽丝跑得很快，一直跑到长着一些树木的地方。她的身材太矮小，跑起来很吃力，甚至碰上最小的植物和花儿她都要绕着跑。

“哦！”爱丽丝说，停下来用一片草当扇子。“我得再长大点儿。我怎样才能长大呢？我得吃点或喝点什么，但问题是‘吃什么？’”

这的确是个问题。爱丽丝看看周围的花草，但她看不到有“吃掉我”或“喝掉我”的字样。

在她旁边长着一个很大的蘑菇。爱丽丝朝它走过去。她看看蘑菇底下，看看它旁边，看看它背面，又看看它的顶。

这蘑菇和她一般儿大，她刚好可以看到蘑菇的顶。她看着一条蓝色大毛虫的眼睛。

毛虫

毛虫看了看爱丽丝，什么也没说。

“也许它不会说话。”爱丽丝想。

可是毛虫终于讲话了，“你是谁？”它问。

这是个很难回答的问题。爱丽丝犹豫地答道：“我——我不知道，今天早上我知道我是谁，可我变了——不止一次——我想。”

“怎么变的？”毛虫问。

这又是一个难答的问题。爱丽丝说：“那就是——从一样东西变成另一样东西是很困难的。”

“不，不是这样。”

爱丽丝想起了这一点。“也许这对你并不困难。”她说。她知道，毛虫在变成蝴蝶以前，要变化多次。“不过，这对我是困难的。”

“对你？你是谁？”

毛虫刚才就问过这个问题了，爱丽丝快生气了。她说：“我告诉你我以前是谁，也许你可以告诉我你是谁。”

“为什么？”

这又是一个难题。爱丽丝回答不了，所以她就走开了。

“回来！”毛虫叫道，“我有话说。”

爱丽丝回到蘑菇那儿去。

“你千万别生气。”毛虫说。

“就这些吗？”爱丽丝问道。她生气了。

“不！”

爱丽丝等着。“要是我等着，也许它还会说点什么。”她想。

毛虫从蘑菇顶上下来，就走开去，它一面走，一面说：“一边使你长大，另一边使你缩小。”

爱丽丝没有说什么，心里想：“是什么东西的一边？是什么东西的另一边？”

也许毛虫猜出了她的心思，就说：“蘑菇的。”然后就钻进草里去了。此后爱丽丝再也没有看见过它。

爱丽丝打量着这个蘑菇。它跟所有的蘑菇一样是圆形的。“它怎么会有两边呢——一边和另一边？”她感到奇怪。

最后她尽量伸开胳膊围着蘑菇的顶部，两只手各掰下一片蘑菇。

“哪一片使我变大？”她问自己。她从一片蘑菇上咬了很小一口。“啊呀！”她叫起来，因为她的头碰到了她的脚。她赶紧在另一片蘑菇上咬了一点吃进嘴里，这一片使她变大了。

然后她两边都咬一点儿试试，最后她的身材变得不太大，也不太小了。

“现在我得去找那个美丽的花园。”她说。

爱丽丝穿过树林子，来到一座花园，但这不是以前她看到过的花园。这座花园里有一座房子——很小的房子。

“我太大了，”爱丽丝想，“要是我这样进去，屋里的人一定会害怕的。我要吃一点能使我变小的那一边的蘑菇。”

猪和胡椒

爱丽丝朝那所房子走去，她的身材不太大了，可以进得去门。房子里面闹得很厉害。

“没有门铃，”她对自己说，“太闹了，也没人会听得见铃声。”

她开门，走了进去。

屋子里声音太大，她想把手捂上。不过她在公爵夫人面前，不好这样做。

公爵夫人坐在一张很小的椅子上，手里抱着一个婴孩。厨子在炉子旁边用一个很大的锅煮汤。

“汤里面胡椒放得太多了，”爱丽丝想。胡椒呛得她直打喷嚏，想说什么都不行。连公爵夫人也在打喷嚏。那个婴儿也大打喷嚏，号陶大哭。没完没了。

厨子不打喷嚏，可是在做饭的时候，弄出很大的响声——乒乒！啷啷！啷啷！还有一只很大的猫，它倒不打喷嚏，坐在炉子旁边咧着嘴笑呢。

“女孩子们该先对公爵夫人说话呢，还是等公爵夫人先对她们说话？”爱丽丝思忖着。

公爵夫人没说话，所以爱丽丝问道：“请告诉我，你的猫为什么那样咧着嘴笑？”

“这是一只切舍猫，”公爵夫人说，“这就是它张开嘴嘻嘻笑的缘故，猪！”她一喊最后这个词，爱丽丝就跳了起来。但公爵夫人是叫那个婴孩，不是叫爱丽丝，所以爱丽丝又说开了。

“我不知道切舍猫总是露着牙齿嘻嘻笑的，我从来没有见过咧着嘴笑的猫。”

“她们都会的，”公爵夫人说，“大多数猫都会。”

“这个我可不知道。”爱丽丝说。

“你不知道的事多着哩！”

爱丽丝寻思：“我该想点什么新鲜事谈谈。”但正当这时，厨子把汤锅从火上端下来，朝公爵夫人扔东西：壶、罐子、锅、熨斗、刀子……东西一样接着一样飞过来，有些东西砸着了公爵夫人和婴儿。公爵夫人也不理会，而那婴孩却大哭大闹，吵得不可开交。

“噢！请不要再对小孩儿扔东西了。”爱丽丝嚷道，“你会打着他那好看的鼻子的。”

“这又不是你的小孩儿，”公爵夫人说，她开始对小孩儿唱歌。她唱一句，就使劲摇他一下。歌词是：

跟孩子粗声说话，
一打喷嚏就揍他，
他打喷嚏烦扰人，
他知道它惹恼人。

也许不是这些词儿。那孩子闹得太厉害，爱丽丝不容易听清。

“来！”公爵夫人说：“要是你愿意，这个孩子给你带一会儿吧。”她说着就把孩子扔给爱丽丝，又加上一句：“我得准备和皇后打槌球去。”说完就很快地走了出去。厨子朝她扔出一个罐子，没有打中她。

爱丽丝抱着这孩子，可是让他待在怀里不动也不响就很困难了。她带着它走到门外，过了一会儿，它不打喷嚏了，可哭个没完，而且象小猪仔那样哼哼起来，眼睛变小，鼻子也变得更象猪鼻子。

“这是一只猪！”爱丽丝心想。她把它放在地上。它发出猪的叫声，高高兴兴地跑开了。

爱丽丝四下看看，见切舍猫坐在附近一棵树上，吓了一跳。

猫看见爱丽丝就张嘴嘻嘻一笑。

“这只猫看上去挺和气，”她想，“也许它跟这儿所有的人和动物一样很快就会发脾气的。”所以她尽量和颜悦色地说话。

“切舍猫，亲爱的。”她说。

猫的嘴咧得更大，而不是闭拢，因此她知道，猫很高兴。

她说：“请你告诉我，从这儿我该往那条路走？”

“好呀，”猫说，“可你得跟我说你要上哪儿去呀？”

“这个，随便上哪儿——”爱丽丝说。

“要是你走那条路，你就会走到一个制帽人的屋子里去，你也知道，制帽人做帽子。如果你走那条路，你会找到一只三月兔。做帽的人发了疯，三月兔也发了疯。”

“可我不愿意碰上疯子呀。”爱丽丝说。

“唉！你走哪条路都会碰上他们的。我们这儿人人都疯了。我疯了，你也疯了。”

“你怎么知道我疯了？”爱丽丝问。

“你一定疯了，”猫说。“到这儿来的人都疯了。今天你打算去跟皇后打槌球吗？”

“那一定很好玩。”爱丽丝说，“可没人请我啊。”

“你在那儿会看到我的。”切舍猫说。

切舍猫没走，不过它已不在那儿了，一下子不见了。爱丽丝也不觉得奇怪，她还盯着那儿看，切舍猫又出现了，它问：“那娃娃怎么了？”

“变成了一头猪。”爱丽丝说。

“我想它会变的。”猫说完又不见了。

爱丽丝等着。她想：“也许它还会出现。”不过猫再也没有出现。她就向三月兔家走去。

“我见过做帽子的人，”她心里想：“我愿意见见三月兔。现在是五月，不是三月，也许这只三月兔不太疯。”

就在这时候，她一抬头，看见切舍猫又出现了。它坐在另一棵树上。

猫问道：“你说是‘猪’呢，还是‘无花果’？”

爱丽丝答道：“我说猪呀。请你别这么快地一会儿出现，一会儿隐没。我不喜欢这样。”

切舍猫一点儿一点儿地隐没了，爱丽丝看到的猫身体的最后那一部分是它咧着的嘴；其它部分隐没了，嘴还在那儿呢。

“我好多次见过不咧开嘴笑的猫，”爱丽丝想，“可还从来没见过有咧开的嘴而没有身子的猫。”

等切舍猫那咧开的嘴也隐没了，爱丽丝就向三月兔家走去。她透过树林看到了它。它不象公爵夫人屋子那么小。爱丽丝兜里还有一些蘑菇，她很快地咬了一丁点儿能使她长大的蘑菇片，就向那屋子走去。

在茶桌边

屋前有一棵树，树下有一张可供许多人围坐的大桌子。然而桌旁只有三个人：制帽人、三月兔和一只睡鼠。睡鼠在睡觉，另外两个，每边一个，紧挨着睡鼠坐着，隔着睡鼠讲话。

制帽人和三月兔一见爱丽丝就大叫起来：“别来，别来！这儿没你的地方。”

“这儿有很多地方嘛。”爱丽丝说着就坐在一把大扶手椅上。

制帽人看看她，就从口袋里拿出一块表。“今天星期几？”他问。

爱丽丝想了想说：“我想是星期三。”

“我的表上是星期五，”制帽人挺不高兴地对三月兔说，“我告诉过你，黄油对表没好处。”

“这是最好的黄油。”三月兔说。

“是呀，不过你是用面包刀把黄油抹进去的，也许，有点面包屑落进去了。”

三月兔拿着表，带着发愁的样子看了看，把它浸到茶里去；又取出来；忧心忡忡地又看了看说：“这是最好的黄油。”

爱丽丝瞧着那只表说：“它是报星期几的，不是报时刻的。”

“干吗要报时刻？”制帽人问：“难道你的表报年份吗？”

“不报年份，”爱丽丝回答说，“那是因为一年的时间挺长啊。”

“我的表不报时刻，因为它老是喝茶的时刻。”

爱丽丝感到奇怪，不过她没说什么。

“请再喝点茶吧。”三月兔对她说。

爱丽丝说：“谢谢你，但我还一点儿都没喝过呢，所以我不能再喝点。”

“唉，你能，”制帽人说，“谁都能在没吃过没喝过什么的时候再来点的。”

爱丽丝不喜欢制帽人跟她说话的态度，她想：“我认为他不该跟我这么说话。”爱丽丝对他说：“我不认为..”

“那你就别说啦。”制帽人说。

爱丽丝生气了，她离开桌子就走，“也许他们会叫我回去，”她想到，“那样他们会待我好一点，给我点茶喝，给我点黄油面包吃。”

但他们什么也没说。她回头一看，只见睡鼠还在睡觉。制帽人和三月兔正想法子把睡鼠塞到茶壶里去呢。

“我再也不到那儿去了。”爱丽丝说。她试图说服自己：“我不要喝茶，也不要吃黄油面包。”

就在她说这句话时，她看见林子里有一棵树，树上有一扇门。

“我以前从来没见过有门的树，不知道这门通向哪儿。”她想着就走了进去。

她发现自己在原来那个长长的大厅里，就在小玻璃桌旁边。

“这一回，我就可以从这个小门到花园里去了。”她想道，拿起小金钥匙打开小门。接着她从能使她缩小的那片蘑菇上咬下一点点吃了。等她的身体变得不大不小的时候，就进了小门，她终于来到那个美丽的花园了。

和王后玩槌球游戏

在这座花园里，最美丽的花是玫瑰。在一棵小树上有几朵玫瑰，爱丽丝收住脚步，来欣赏这些花儿。这是白玫瑰，不过有三个园丁在费劲地干着活儿，想把它变成红玫瑰。

“他们干吗要干这种事？”爱丽丝觉得奇怪。她走到他们跟前，问道：

“请告诉我，你们干吗要把这些玫瑰弄成红的？”

三个园丁样子很不高兴。

“你跟她讲，七。”他们当中有一个人说。

“不。”七说，“你跟她讲，五。”

但五说：“不。你跟她讲，二。”

二更不高兴，不过他倒说了话：“好吧，小姐，这个，呃，这个，呃，树应该是棵红玫瑰树，要是王后看到树上开白玫瑰花，她就，呃，她就要砍掉我们的脑袋，所以我们在她上这儿来之前，得把花变成红的，呃——”

五往花园另一边一看，就叫起来：“王后！王后！”

三个园丁马上趴下，把脸贴在地面上。

爱丽丝听到一片喧闹声。她想：“现在我可要看到王后了！”

这是一支浩浩荡荡的队伍。在队伍前面的是十名士兵。他们很象园丁，但他们身上有扑克牌上的梅花♣；接着，爱丽丝看到国王的十个侍从，身上都有红方块♦；随后，国王和王后的子女来了，他们每个人身上都有红心♥，跟在他们后面的是来玩槌球的人们。他们中间，多数人是国王和王后，不过爱丽丝在其中看到了白兔。看上去他不很快活，红心杰克跟着过来了，他就在红心国王和王后的前面。

“我该跟园丁一样匍匐在地上吗？”爱丽丝心想，“假如没有人观看，那么列队行进有什么意思呢？”因此她在那儿等着。

这支队伍来到爱丽丝跟前时，人们都停下来打量她。王后问红心杰克说：“这是谁？”

红心杰克不清楚，所以他没说什么。

“笨蛋！”王后嚷道。她对爱丽丝说：“你叫什么名字？孩子。”

“我叫爱丽丝。”爱丽丝不知道这样跟王后说话是否合适，她心里想：“他们只不过是一副纸牌，我不怕他们。”

王后看看那三个园丁，他们都面向着玫瑰树，王后看不出他们是谁，因为他们的背面和别人的背面一模一样：和三个士兵一样；和国王的三个侍从一样；甚至和她自己的三个孩子一样。

“这些人都是谁？”皇后问。

“别问我，我怎么会知道？”爱丽丝说。她心里想：“我这样是够勇敢的。”

王后的脸涨得通红，她气坏了，两眼瞪着爱丽丝，大叫一声：“把她的头砍掉！砍——”

“胡闹！”爱丽丝说。

王后不知道该怎么办。国王把手放在他妻子的胳膊上说：“别生气，亲爱的，她不过是个孩子。”

她气冲冲地把她的手挪开。“让我瞧瞧他们的脸。”她对杰克说。

杰克用脚碰了碰这些园丁。

“起来！”王后嚷道。他们战战兢兢地站了起来，没说什么。

“你们刚才在干什么？”王后问。

二开口说：“我们——呃——我们是——要——”

“我明白了！”王后说。她看到玫瑰花。“砍掉他们的头！”

队伍继续前进，三个士兵留下来砍这些园丁的头。园丁们跑到爱丽丝那儿去求援，她把他們放进一个大花盆里，她说。“别害怕，他们不会砍你们的头。”

士兵们在花园里东张西望，过了一会儿，就跟上队伍走了。

“下一步要发生什么事呢？”她想。

“这——这是个好天气，不是吗？”她听见说话声。

白兔在她身边。他注视着她的脸，看她是不是生他的气。

“是的，天气很好。”爱丽丝说，“公爵夫人在哪儿？”

“嘘！”白兔很快地朝四周看看，然后把嘴凑近爱丽丝的耳朵说：“王后要砍掉公爵夫人的头。”

“是吗？为什么？”爱丽丝说。

“你是说：‘我要哭’吗？”白兔问。

“没有，我没说，我不会哭的，我是说，‘为什么？’”

“她把王后打了——”白兔说。

“噢，好啊！”爱丽丝说。

“嘘！”白兔又说，（爱丽丝看得出他很害怕。）“王后会听见的，她什么都听得见。公爵夫人来晚了，王后说——”

“各就各位！”王后喊道，人们马上到处奔跑起来。他们有的撞了别人，摔倒了。爱丽丝知道这些人都怕王后。过了一会儿，他们准备就绪，槌球赛开始了。

爱丽丝不熟悉这种槌球游戏。在家里，人们用木槌把球击过草地。在这儿，有人给爱丽丝一只活的红鹤，让她去打活的刺猬。有些地上有草，有些地上又没有草。

当爱丽丝的红鹤要打刺猬的时候，刺猬却爬开了。当刺猬团成一个球的时候，红鹤又抬起头来看看爱丽丝。爱丽丝想：“这是一场很费劲儿的比赛。”

人人都觉得这场比赛很困难。王后的火气变得越来越旺。她四处走动，大喊大叫：“砍掉他的头！”要不就是：“砍掉她的头！”

爱丽丝没看到哪个头被砍掉，可是她心中闷闷不乐。她想道：“王后这会儿没生我的气，不过，她随时都可能对我发火的。我想找人谈谈这件事。”

就在她身边的空中有样东西，她说：“我想知道这是什么。”后来她看清了，那是一张笑嘻嘻的嘴。她想：“这是切舍猫，现在有同我说话的人了。”

切舍猫嘴刚一出现，它就说：“你好吗？你快活吗？”

爱丽丝等待着，当她能看清猫的眼睛时，就摇了摇头。她想道：“在猫耳朵出现以前——哪怕是一只耳朵——我不能同它说话。”

不久，她就可以看到它的头了，头上有耳朵。爱丽丝说：“我根本不喜欢这种游戏，这不是好游戏。”

猫没有再显现出来，空中有猫的头，却没有猫身子。它问：“你觉得王后怎么样？”

“我不——”爱丽丝看见王后离不远，就接着说，“——认为，我不认

为还有象她这样的王后。”

王后挺高兴，就走开了。但是，国王又走到爱丽丝跟前来，站在她旁边，一见猫头，很觉奇怪，于是就问爱丽丝：“你在跟谁说话？”

“这是我的朋友，”爱丽丝说，“切舍猫。”

“我不喜欢它那副样子。”国王说，“不过，如果它愿意，可以吻我的手。”

“我才不呢。”猫说。

国王生气了，但他也感到害怕，他对猫说：“别这样瞅着我。”接着就站到爱丽丝的另一边去了。

爱丽丝说：“猫可以看国王，我想，我在一本书上读到过。”

“那么，它得走。”国王说。他去找王后对她说：“这只猫是得走，亲爱的，不是吗？”

王后连看都不看，就喊道：“砍掉他的头！”

“我亲自去找刽子手。”国王说完，就很快地走开了。

正当这时候，爱丽丝的红鹤丢了，红鹤要飞上树去。有好一会儿功夫爱丽丝抓不着它。

当爱丽丝回到切舍猫旁边时，猫四周围着许多人。国王、王后、刽子手在那儿吵吵。

刽子手说：“我没法儿砍掉一个没有身子的头。”

国王说：“胡说！不论什么东西只要有头，就可以把它砍掉。”

王后说：“要是有人不马上干什么事，我就要把每个人的头都砍掉。”

爱丽丝一来，他们都问她这是怎么回事。爱丽丝想了想说：“这是公爵夫人的猫，还是问她吧。”

“把公爵夫人带到这儿来，”王后说，“她正等着斩首呢。”

刽子手跑去带公爵夫人。这时切舍猫的头渐渐隐去，等公爵夫人到来的时候，连咧开的嘴也不见了。国王和刽子手跑来跑去，想找到它，而王后却叫大家回去比赛。

“散散步去，”公爵夫人挽着爱丽丝的胳膊说，“又看见你，我很高兴。”她们走开了。

在槌球场上，爱丽丝听见，王后对参加比赛的人一上气就大叫大嚷：“砍掉他的头！”或“砍掉她的头！”

“你还活着，一定很高兴吧！”爱丽丝对公爵夫人说。

“嗯，”公爵夫人说，“是个好天。”

“他们还要砍你的头吗？”

“噢！不！他们从来不砍谁的头。王后喜欢说这句话，可没有一个人去干。”

爱丽丝想问别的问题，她们俩听到一声喊叫：“审判开始！”

爱丽丝问道：“什么审判？”公爵夫人没回答，就飞快地跑起来，她还抓着爱丽丝的手，所以爱丽丝也跑起来。

谁偷了果馅饼

红心国王和王后坐在那儿。爱丽丝走进审判室时，审讯正要开始。爱丽丝从来没进过审判室，但她看见过画着法庭的图片，也从书上知道一些法庭的情况。

红心杰克站在国王和王后的前面，低着头，两旁各站着一个士兵。是他在受审呢。

爱丽丝找了个地儿，向四周看了看。她看到许多她认识的禽兽。法庭里的桌子上放着果馅饼，看上去挺不错。

大家就位以后，国王大声说道：“读起诉书！”

白兔站起来，拿着一张大纸，宣读起来，

“红心王后做馅饼，

在夏季的一天里。

红心杰克偷馅饼，

把它统统都拿光。”

“砍掉他的头！”王后叫道。

爱丽丝看出白兔害怕了，不过他说：“且慢，且慢。我们得有证人。”

“传证人。”国王说。

制帽人出庭作证。他一只手端着茶，一只手拿着黄油面包。

“他们叫我的时候，我正在喝茶呢。”他说。

“什么？”国王问，“你什么时候开始喝茶的？”

制帽人想了想，又看了看同他一起到法庭来的三月兔和睡鼠，然后说：“三月十四日，我想。”

“十五日。”三月兔说。

“十六日。”睡鼠补充说。

“记下来。”国王说。然后他对制帽人说：“摘掉你的帽子。”

“这帽子不是我的。”制帽人说。

“是你偷的？”国王显得很生气。

制帽人吓得发抖。

“不，不！我卖帽子，我是个穷人。我自己一顶帽子也没有，我是一个做帽子、卖帽子的人。”

“别害怕，”国王说，“不然我叫他们砍你脑袋。你看见什么没有？”

“我是一个穷人，”制帽人说，他还在发抖，“我正在喝茶，三月兔说——”

“我没说，”三月兔马上叫道。

“呃，睡鼠说——”制帽人等着睡鼠说“我没说”这句话，但睡鼠还在睡觉呢。

“这以后，”制帽人说，“我又切了点黄油面包。”

“睡鼠说什么来着？”

“我不记得了。”制帽人说。

“你一定得想起来，”国王说，“不然我就砍掉你的脑袋。”

这个不幸的制帽人越抖越厉害了。“我是一个穷人——”他又说。

国王要听取下一个证人的证词。“你可以走了，”他对制帽人说。

制帽人跑出了法庭，王后说：“到外面去把他的头砍掉。”他跑得非常快，刽子手抓不着他。

爱丽丝感到纳闷儿，怎么审判室会越来越小，她考虑着这事儿，“也许我在变大。”她对自己说。

“传下一个证人。”国王说。

爱丽丝不知道下一个证人是谁，不过，站在门口的人开始打喷嚏了。公爵夫人的厨子带着她的胡椒罐进来时，法庭上所有的人都打起喷嚏来。国王望着她问道：“下一个证人是你吗？”

没有回答。

“把你知道的全部事实都讲出来。”国王说。

“不！”厨子说。

“您得向她提些问题。”白兔对国王说。

“哦！”国王说。他费劲地想着，过后问道：“果馅饼是用什么做的？”

“大部分是胡椒。”厨子说，她摇了摇她的胡椒罐。

当所有的人都不在打喷嚏时，再找厨子，她已经不见了。

“传下一个证人。”国王说。

爱丽丝想知道下一个证人是谁。她想：“这些证人还什么都没说哩！”

白兔看着他的文件，然后读出下一个名字：“爱丽丝！”

审判结束

“在！”爱丽丝叫道，就站了起来。

她已经忘了，她的身材长大了。等她站起来，椅子、桌子、别的东西，还有审判室里的人都摔倒了，这儿，那儿，到处都是。

爱丽丝把他们放回原来的地方。她看看国王，国王正在写东西。国王看看爱丽丝，然后读道：

“按法规第四十二条：象屋子一样大的人，不得在法庭上停留。”

“我没有屋子那么大——”爱丽丝说。

“你有。”国王说。

“差不多有两个屋子那么大了。”王后接着说，她很生气。

“这可不是一条法规，”爱丽丝说，“是你刚才写上的。”

“这是全部法规中最古老的一条。”国王告诉她。

“那么，”爱丽丝说，“它就该是第一条，而不是第四十二条。”她不怕他们，因为她已经长得非常之大了。

“砍掉她的头！”王后喊道。

“废话！”爱丽丝说，“谁怕你们？你们不过是一副纸牌！”

这副纸牌——一共五十二张——一齐飞到空中，向她头上飞将过来。爱丽丝就跟它们搏斗，她又害怕，又生气，睁开眼睛一看——

她在草地上，几片叶子从树上掉下来，落在她身上。她姐姐正从她脸上把叶子拿掉。

“醒醒，亲爱的爱丽丝！”她姐姐说，“你这一觉睡得可真长呵！”

