

The Bratty Daughter

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There once was a peasant who was married and had a beautiful little girl. The family lived very happily together until one day the wife got sick. For several months she lay in bed getting closer and closer to death. The father and daughter were extremely distraught because they loved the mother very much. One day the peasant took his daughter with him to the market to sell his grain. When the two arrived home again they called for the mother to say they were home. There was no reply. They went up to the mother's room and found her dead. The peasant and his daughter were heart-broken. They lived many years by themselves because they did not want anyone to take the place of the mother.

One day the peasant was selling his grain in the market again and he met a woman. He thought she was beautiful. She was the first woman to capture his attention since his wife had died. The woman started to talk to him and introduced him to her daughter. The merchant replied that he also had a daughter about the same age. The woman said that her husband had died and that she was lonely and so was her daughter. The two eventually decided to get married because they both wanted companionship. The woman brought her daughter and moved in with the peasant and his daughter. The woman's daughter was not a pretty girl. She also was a mean little

child and did not get along well with anyone. The woman looked at her step-daughter for the first time and instantly felt jealous. The peasant's daughter was the most beautiful little girl in the whole village. She was also known as the sweetest. The step-mother wished that her daughter had the looks of the peasant's daughter and resented her more and more as she grew up to become more and more beautiful.

After a while the step-mother could not take her jealousy any longer and commanded the peasant to take his daughter to the woods and leave her there. The peasant had become very submissive to the step-mother over the years and did exactly as he was told even though he loved his daughter. The peasant rode off the forest with his daughter and found a nice spot that had a small cave formed from several rocks in which the daughter could sleep. He left the daughter there and rode back home. The daughter sat under the rock and cried because she was all alone. All of a sudden a rabbit comes up to her with its baby and asks her why she is crying. The daughter says it is because her father left her all alone in the woods. The rabbit said she would keep her company but that her baby was sick and she needed to find a dry place for it to sleep because it was going to rain. If the baby had to sleep in the rain again surely it would die. The peasant's daughter said that the

rabbit could stay with her baby under the rocks that her father had left her under and that she would sleep in the rain. The rabbit thanked her repeatedly and said she would be rewarded.

That night the daughter was sleeping outside of the little cave in the rain and all of a sudden she heard the howl of a wolf. She looked up and he was standing right next to her. He told her that she had better run because he was going to eat her. The rabbit heard this and ran out to the wolf. The rabbit said that it would be much more fun for the wolf to chase her because at least that would be a fair challenge. The wolf agreed and started chasing after the rabbit. The rabbit was very quick and could duck underneath small bushes that the wolf had to jump over. The chase went on for a little and the rabbit hid under a large dense bush. The wolf could not find the rabbit anywhere and gave up. He went back to where he had left the peasant's daughter. She was up in a tree. He said that since she had been so smart to have the rabbit take her place in the chase she would be rewarded. He then took off his diamond collar and left it at the bottom of the tree. The princess thanked him and he ran away.

The next day, back in town, the step-mother told the father to go see how his daughter was doing. He agreed and

left to go find her. When the father's carriage was in sight the family dog started to talk. He said that the peasant's daughter was returning home with a beautiful diamond necklace and everyone was admiring her. The step-mother snapped at the dog and said that he should be saying the father was bringing home a carriage full of bones. The step-mother was sure that the peasant's daughter had died out in the woods but to her surprise the father and his daughter entered the house. The girl was wearing a beautiful diamond necklace too. The step-mother got very jealous of this. She commanded the father to take her daughter into the woods the next day. The father agreed.

The next day the father set out with his wife's daughter and left her in the same spot that he left his daughter. As soon as he left the same rabbit that had talked to the peasant's daughter appeared with its sick child and asked the step-mother's daughter if she could sleep underneath the overhang so her child did not die. The step-mother's daughter said she did not care if the rabbit's child died and that she would not let them sleep there. The rabbit left with tears in its eyes because she knew that if it rained again surely her child would die.

It became dark and the step-mother's daughter crawled into the cave to go to sleep. As she just about to dose off

she heard a howling noise right beside her. It was the same wolf that had come to the peasant's daughter. He told the girl that he was going to chase her and eat her. The girl yelled out for the little rabbit to help her because she had no one to turn to but the rabbit was already gone since the girl sent her away. The step-mother's daughter started to run away from the wolf as fast as she could crying and screaming the entire time. The wolf was quick though and easily caught her. She fell to the ground and the wolf tore her to pieces. All that was left of her was a pile of bones.

The next day the father went to go pick up the step-mother's daughter. The family dog heard the carriage coming and again started to talk. He said that the father was coming with a pile of bones in his carriage because the bratty daughter was dead. The step-mother hit the dog and said that that was not true. She said that her daughter would arrive wearing even more jewelry than the peasant's daughter. When the father arrived at the house he announced that all he found in the woods was a pile of bones that belonged to the step-mother's daughter. The step-mother was devastated at this. She could not believe that her beloved daughter was dead and the next day killed herself out of grief.