

## The Golden Goose

There was once a man who had three sons. The youngest, called Dummerly, was scorned and mistreated by the whole family. One day, the eldest son took it into his head to go into the forest to cut wood; and his mother gave him a delicious meat pie and a bottle of wine to take with him. As he went into the forest, a little old man bid him good day, and said, "Give me a little bit of meat from your plate, and a little wine out of your flask; I am very hungry and thirsty." But the young man said, "Give you my meat and wine! No, there would not be enough left for me!" and he went on his way. He soon began to chop down a tree, but he had not worked long before he missed his stroke and cut himself badly.

Next the second son went out to work, and his mother gave him, too, a meat pie and a bottle of wine. The same little old man appeared and begged him for something to eat and drink. Like his brother, he said, "If I give you some, I shall be without; so go away!" He started cutting down a tree, but he accidentally hit himself on the leg with his ax, cutting himself badly.

Dummerly, the third son, went to his father and said, "Father, I should want to go and cut wood for the fire, too." But his father replied, "No, your brothers have both maimed themselves; you had better stay home." But Dummerly was very urgent, and at last his father said, "Go ahead; you will be wiser when you have suffered for your foolishness." His mother gave him only some dry bread and a bottle of water. When he went into the forest, he met the little old man, who said, "Give me some meat and drink, for I am very hungry and thirsty." Dummerly said, "I only have dry bread and water. If that will do, we can share it." So they sat down, and when the young man took out his bread, it suddenly turned into a splendid meat pie, and his water became delicious wine! They ate and drank heartily, and when they had finished, the little man said, "Because you have a kind heart and have been willing to share everything with me, I will bring good to you. There stands an old tree; chop it down, and you will find something at the root." Then he went on his way.

Dummerly cut down the tree, and when it fell, he discovered a goose with feathers of pure gold. He picked it up and went on to an inn, where asked if he could sleep for the night. The landlord had three daughters, and when they saw the goose, they were very curious and wished very much to pluck one of the feathers out of its tail. At last the eldest waited till Dummerly's back was turned, and then caught hold of the goose by the wing. To her great surprise, she found she was stuck, unable to pull her hand away. Next came the second sister, and who wanted a feather too, but the instant she touched her sister, she became

stuck as well. At last came the third sister, and when she looked at the goose, the other two cried out, "Keep away, keep away!" However, she did not understand, and the moment she touched her sisters she stuck to them, and so they stayed with the goose all night.

The next morning Dummerly carried off the goose under his arm, and the girls followed behind. Wherever he went, the sisters were obliged to follow, whether they wanted to or not.

As they made their way through the village, people tried to pull the girls away from the goose and Dummerly, but whoever put their hands on them became stuck and was forced to join the procession.

At last they came to a city whose King had only one daughter—a daughter who was so thoughtful and serious that no one could make her laugh. The King had announced that whoever could get her to laugh could marry her. When Dummerly heard this, he approached her with the goose and all its followers. As soon as she saw the group all hanging together, running around, stepping on each other's heels, she burst into a long and loud laugh.

Dummerly married the princess and became heir to the kingdom, where the couple lived happily ever after.

## **The Brothers Grimm**

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