

(3) Rapunzel

In a land far away, lived a poor farmer and his wife. They had little to eat and were always hungry. Next to them lived an old lady. She had a very big garden. There she grew all kinds of fruit trees. Among them, the biggest is the shiny apple tree. It is standing right next to the farmer's fence. The branches of the apple tree spread out to the farmer's house. The poor farmer and his wife had never seen such beautiful apples. They tried to pick the apples from the tree branches.

“How dare you steal from my garden! I'll turn you both into rats!” screamed the old lady. She was in fact an old, wicked witch. The couple trembled with fear. Finally, the witch said, “Very well, I'll let you go. But you have to give me your first child.” The farmer and his wife were so scared, that they immediately agreed and fled.

Years past, the farmer and his wife lived safe and sound. Until one day, they had a beautiful baby girl. The old witch came swiftly. She took the baby girl away from them. She named her Rapunzel and kept her locked up in a tall tower. Rapunzel grew up to be a beautiful girl. And the most beautiful of all was her long, golden hair.

The only person she ever saw was the old witch. Every day, the witch came to the foot of the tower and called, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!” She then let her long plait fall out the window, and the witch held onto it and climbed up.

One day, a prince was passing by the tower. He saw the old witch talking to the tower. He felt curious. He hid behind the trees and watched the witch. As soon as the witch left, he too decided to try. “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair”, he cried. A long plait hang down from the window on the top of the tower. The prince climbed up carefully into the room. Both Rapunzel and the prince were stunned. They had

never seen anybody so handsome and beautiful before. They fell in love with each other right away. Every day, the prince would come to see Rapunzel after the witch left.

One day, without thinking, Rapunzel said to the witch, “My, you are so much heavier than my prince!” The witch was surprised to hear that. She screamed and shouted in anger. She cut off Rapunzel’s hair and sent her off deep into the forest. That day, when the prince came, he found the witch waiting for him at the top of the tower. She started to scream at the prince and casted a spell on him. The prince suddenly lost his sight. The prince, now blind and with a broken heart, wandered through the forest.

Many days later, Rapunzel found him lying on the forest ground among the trees. He was wounded. She felt sorry for her prince but she doesn’t know what to do. She began to cry. As soon as her tears fell on the prince, his wounds healed. More surprisingly, his eyesight returned! The first thing the prince saw was his beloved Rapunzel. They were overjoyed to find each other again. They went away to the prince’s kingdom and lived happily ever after, far away from the wicked witch.