

Fairy Ointment¹

Dame Goody was a nurse that looked after² sick people, and minded babies. One night she woke up at midnight, and when she went downstairs, she saw a strange squinny-eyed³, little ugly old fellow, who asked her to come to his wife who was too ill to mind her baby. Dame Goody didn't like the look of the old fellow, but business is business; so she popped on⁴ her things, and went down to him. And when she got down to him, he whisked her up on to a large coal-black⁵ horse with fiery eyes, that stood at the door; and soon they were going at a rare pace, Dame Goody holding on to the old fellow like grim death⁶.

¹ **ointment** – мазь

² **look after smb.** – присматривать за кем-либо

³ **squinny-eyed** – косоглазый

⁴ **pop smth. on** – надеть что-либо

⁵ **coal-black** – угольно-чёрный

⁶ **hold on like grim death** – держаться изо всех сил

They rode, and they rode, till at last¹ they stopped before a cottage door. So they got down and went in and found the good woman abed with the children playing about; and the babe, a fine bouncing boy, beside her.

Dame Goody took the babe, which was a fine baby boy. The mother, when she handed the baby to Dame Goody to mind, gave her a box of ointment, and told her to stroke the baby's eyes with it as soon as it opened them. After a while it began to open its eyes. Dame Goody saw that it had squinny eyes just like its father. So she took the box of ointment and stroked its two eyelids with it. But she wondered what it was for, as she had never seen such a thing before. So she looked to see if the others were looking, and, when they were not noticing, she stroked her own right eyelid with the ointment.

No sooner had she done so, than² everything seemed changed about her. The cottage became elegantly furnished. The mother in the bed was a beautiful lady, dressed up in white silk. The little

¹ **at last** – наконец

² **no sooner... than** – как только... сразу

baby was still more beautiful then before, and its clothes were made of a sort of silvery cloth. Its little brothers and sisters around the bed were flat-nosed imps with pointed ears, who made faces at¹ one another, and scratched their heads. Sometimes they pulled the sick lady's ears with their long and hairy paws. In fact, they were up to all kinds of mischief; and Dame Goody knew that she was in a house of pixies. But she said nothing to nobody, and as soon as the lady was well enough to mind the baby, she asked the old fellow to take her back home. So he came round to the door with the coal-black horse with eyes of fire, and off they went as fast as before, or perhaps a little faster, till they came to Dame Goody's cottage, where the squinny-eyed old fellow lifted her down and left her, thanking her civilly, and paying her more than she had ever been paid before for such service.

Next day happened to be market-day, and as Dame Goody had been away from home, she wanted many things in the house, and trudged²

¹ **make faces at smb.** — корчить кому-либо рожи

² **trudge** — устало тащиться, плестись

off to get them at the market. As she was buying the things she wanted, who should she see but the squinny-eyed old fellow who had taken her on the coal-black horse. And what do you think he was doing? He went about from stall to stall taking things from each, here some fruit, and there some eggs, and so on¹; and no one seemed to take any notice.

Now Dame Goody did not think it her business to interfere, but she thought she ought not to let so good a customer pass without speaking. So she went to him and said: ‘Good day, sir, I hope as how your good lady and the little one are as well as - -’

But she couldn’t finish what she was saying, for the funny old fellow started back in surprise, and he says to her:

‘What! Do you see me today?’

‘See you,’ says she, ‘why, of course I do, as plain as the sun in the skies, and what’s more,’ says she, ‘I see you are busy, too, into the bargain.’

¹ **and so on** — и так далее

‘Ah, you see too much,’ said he; ‘now, with which eye do you see all this?’

‘With the right eye to be sure¹,’ said she, as proud as can be to find him out.

‘The ointment! The ointment!’ cried the old pixy thief. ‘Don’t meddle² with what don’t concern you: you shall see me no more.’ And with that he struck her on the right eye, and she couldn’t see him any more; and, what was worse, she was blind on the right side from that hour till the day of her death.

EXERCISES

1) True of false?

1. Dame Goody was a doctor.
2. A strange old fellow came to Dame Goody at midnight.
3. The mother gave Dame Goody a box of ointment.
4. Dame Goody stroked baby’s nose with ointment.

¹ **to be sure** – бесспорно

² **meddle** – совать свой нос

5. Dame Goody knew that she was in a house of pixies.

6. Next day Dame Goody stayed at home.

7. Dame Goody was blind on the left side.

2) Fill in the gaps with the following words:

hold on like grim death; make faces at;

look after; and so on; to be sure

1. He stayed a little longer to
..... children.

2. She always drives the bike and I sit behind her, trying to
.....
.....

3. This is not his best book,
....., but it is still good.

4. My little brothers always
..... at each other when mom doesn't look.

5. He took some fruit from one stall, some eggs from another, some bread from the third and

3) Fill in the gaps using words in brackets.

1. One night she (to be) woke up at midnight, and when she (to go) downstairs, she (to see) a strange old fellow.

2. They (to ride) till at last they (to stop) before a cottage door.

3. So she (to take) the box of ointment and (to stroke) its two eyelids with it.

4. The cottage (to become) elegantly furnished.

4) Translate the following sentences:

1. Мать была красивой леди, одетой в белый шёлк.

2. Но она ничего никому не сказала.

3. Она поплелась на рынок, чтобы купить нужные вещи.

4. Он ходил от прилавка к прилавку, забирая что-нибудь с каждого.

5. Вот тебе за то, что суёшь нос в не своё дело!

5) Retell the fairy-tale.

The Pied¹ Piper²

Newtown is a sleepy little town that was once noisy enough, and what made the noise was – rats. They ate their way into every barn³, store-room⁴ and a cupboard. Even beer in the barrels was not safe from them.

Why didn't the good people of the town have cats? Well, they did, and there was a fair fight, but in the end the rats were too many, and the pussies were defeated. Poison, I hear you say? They poisoned so many that it nearly caused a plague. Ratcatchers? Many of them tried their luck but there seemed to be more rats than ever.

The Mayor⁵ and the town council were desperate. As they were sitting one day in the town hall trying to figure up what to do, the town messenger run in. 'Please your Honour⁶,' he said, 'here is one fellow come to town. I don't

¹ **pied** – пёстрый

² **pipec** – дудочник

³ **barn** – амбар

⁴ **store-room** – кладовая

⁵ **mayor** – мэр

⁶ **your Honour** – Ваша честь (*обращение*)

know what to think of him.’ ‘Show him in¹,’ said the Mayor, and he stepped in. He was tall and thin, and had piercing eyes². His clothes was painted in all colours of the rainbow.

‘I’m called the Pied Piper,’ he said. ‘What will you pay me if I free your town of every single rat?’

Fifty pounds³ were promised him (and it meant a lot of money in those days) as soon as not a rat was left in Newtown.

The Piper laid his pipe to his lips and started playing it. Every rat came out from its hole and followed the sound of his pipe.

The Piper went through town to the harbour⁴, and when he was at the water’s edge he stepped into a boat, and all of the rats followed him. On and on he played and played until each rat sank.

The townsfolk had been throwing up their caps and hurrahing⁵, but when the Piper

¹ **show smb in** – провести кого-нибудь внутрь

² **piercing eyes** – пронзительный взгляд

³ **pound** – фунт (*денежная единица*)

⁴ **harbour** – порт

⁵ **hurrah** – Ура!

stepped ashore¹, the Mayor said ‘you see what poor folk we are; how can we manage to pay you fifty pounds? Will you not take twenty?’

‘Fifty pounds was what I was promised,’ said the Piper shortly; ‘and if I were you I’d pay it quickly. Because I can pipe many kinds of tunes, as folk sometimes find to their cost².’

‘Would you threaten us, tramp³?’ shrieked the Mayor, and at the same time he winked to the council; ‘the rats are all dead and drowned,’ said he; and so ‘You may do your worst, my good man,’ and with that he turned short upon his heel.

‘Very well,’ said the Piper, and he smiled a quiet smile. With that he laid his pipe to his lips again, but now there came another tunes. And as he went down the streets from school-room and playroom, from nursery and workshop, children ran, following the Piper to the cool green forest full of oaks and wide-spreading⁴

¹ **ashore** – на берег

² **to one’s cost** – на свою беду

³ **tramp** – бродяга

⁴ **wide-spreading** – широко раскинувшийся

beeches. In and out among the oak trees was heard the laughter of the children break and fade as deeper and deeper into the green wood.

All the while¹, the elders watched and waited. They mocked no longer now. And never saw they the Piper in his pied coat again. The Mayor sent his men to look for the Piper and bring the children back but none could find the lost children.

EXERCISES

1) True or false?

1. Newtown was full of rats.
2. The Mayor and the town council decided to hunt rats.
3. The Piper was tall and thin.
4. Piper's clothes was all black.
5. The Mayor promised to pay Piper twenty pounds.
6. The Piper led children to the forest.

2) Fill in the gaps using words in brackets.

¹ all the while – всё это время