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The Wild Swans

By HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



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THE WILD SWANS

By HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



ONCE THERE WAS A KING WHO HAD ELEVEN SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER, ELISE.
ONE DAY

MY CHILDREN, IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE YOUR MOTHER DIED. I AM GOING TO TAKE A NEW WIFE.



THE NEW QUEEN WAS VERY, VERY MEAN.

I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES ME.

I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES ANY OF US!



THE CHILDREN WERE RIGHT. A FEW DAYS LATER

ELISE, I AM GOING TO SEND YOU TO THE COUNTRY TO LIVE. YOU MUST STAY THERE FIVE YEARS.

OH, PLEASE DON'T SEND ME AWAY!



BUT



THE QUEEN WAS REALLY A WICKED WITCH. AS SOON AS ELISE WAS GONE, SHE CHANGED THE ELEVEN BROTHERS



INTO ELEVEN WILD SWANS.



ELISE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER BROTHERS. SHE LIVED IN THE COUNTRY FOR FIVE YEARS. THEN IT WAS TIME FOR HER TO RETURN TO THE PALACE

HOW SORRY I AM THAT YOU MUST LEAVE US.



THE WICKED QUEEN WAS WAITING FOR HER.

OH, HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS! I MUST GET RID OF HER!

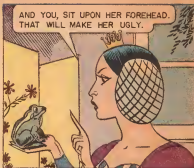


THE QUEEN PREPARED A BATH FOR ELISE. THEN SHE TOOK THREE FROGS.

ONE OF YOU, SIT UPON HER HEAD. THAT WILL MAKE HER LAZY. THE SECOND ONE, SIT UPON HER HEART. THAT WILL MAKE HER MEAN.



AND YOU, SIT UPON HER FOREHEAD. THAT WILL MAKE HER UGLY.



BUT WHEN ELISE GOT INTO THE WATER...

THE FROGS HAVE CHANGED INTO ROSES! MY MAGIC DOES NOT WORK ON ELISE!



THE QUEEN FOUND ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE ELISE LOOK UGLY.

WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING ON ME?

IT IS ONLY WALNUT JUICE. IT WILL NOT HURT YOU.



THEN THE QUEEN MUSSED UP ELISE'S HAIR, AND SENT HER IN TO SEE THE KING.

OUT OF MY SIGHT, YOU UGLY GIRL! I WILL NOT HAVE YOU FOR MY DAUGHTER!



ELISE WAS SO UNHAPPY THAT SHE RAN AWAY INTO THE FOREST.

SHE STOPPED AT A POND FOR A DRINK OF WATER.

OH! HOW UGLY MY STEPMOTHER MADE ME!

IF ONLY I HAD MY BROTHERS TO HELP ME. I MUST FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE!

ELISE WASHED OFF THE WALNUT JUICE.

THEN SHE CONTINUED SADLY ON HER WAY. SOON SHE MET AN OLD WOMAN.

HAVE YOU SEEN ELEVEN PRINCES RIDING IN THE WOODS?

NO, BUT I SAW ELEVEN WILD SWANS SWIMMING IN A STREAM NEAR HERE. THEY HAD GOLDEN CROWNS ON THEIR HEADS.

6

THE OLD WOMAN LED ELISE TO THE PLACE WHERE SHE HAD SEEN THE SWANS.

WAIT UNTIL THE SUN GOES DOWN. PERHAPS THEY WILL COME AGAIN.

THANK YOU, YOU ARE VERY KIND.



AND JUST BEFORE SUNSET



HERE THEY COME! I WILL HIDE BEHIND THE TREES AND WATCH THEM.

THE MOMENT THAT THE SUN DISAPPEARED, THE ELEVEN SWANS TURNED INTO ELEVEN HANDSOME PRINCES.



MY BROTHERS!

ELISE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE HER BROTHERS AGAIN.



THEY TOLD ELISE WHAT THE WICKED QUEEN
HAD DONE TO THEM.

IN THE DAYTIME, WE ARE
SWANS. BUT AFTER THE
SUN GOES DOWN, WE
BECOME MEN AGAIN.



WE DON'T LIVE
HERE. WE LIVE
IN A BEAUTIFUL
COUNTRY, FAR,
FAR AWAY.

WE COME
HERE ONLY
ONCE A YEAR.
TOMORROW,
WE FLY
BACK HOME.



OH, TAKE ME
WITH YOU! DO
NOT LEAVE ME
HERE ALONE!



SO THE BROTHERS MADE A GREAT
NET TO CARRY ELISE.



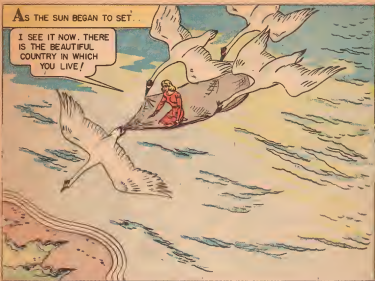
AND THE NEXT MORNING . . .



9

AS THE SUN BEGAN TO SET . . .

I SEE IT NOW. THERE IS THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IN WHICH YOU LIVE!



THE SWANS LANDED IN FRONT OF A CAVE.



THAT NIGHT, THE BROTHERS MADE A SOFT BED FOR ELISE INSIDE THE CAVE.

SLEEP WELL, DEAR ELISE.

IF I COULD ONLY DREAM OF A WAY TO SAVE ALL OF YOU!



10
AND THAT NIGHT, A FAIRY
CAME TO ELISE IN A DREAM.

DO YOU SEE THIS
NETTLE? IT GROWS
OUTSIDE OF
THE CAVE.



YOU MUST GATHER IT THEN YOU MUST
CRUSH IT WITH YOUR FEET AND MAKE
IT INTO THREAD.



WEAVE THIS THREAD
INTO ELEVEN COATS.
THROW THESE COATS
OVER YOUR BROTHERS
AND THEY WILL NEVER
BE SWANS AGAIN.




BUT YOU MUST NOT SPEAK A WORD TO
ANYONE UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED THESE
COATS. OTHERWISE, YOUR BROTHERS
WILL NEVER BE SAVED!



11

WHEN ELISE WOKE THE NEXT MORNING, HER BROTHERS HAD FLOWN AWAY FOR THE DAY. SHE RAN OUTSIDE AND

HERE ARE THE NETTLES, JUST AS THE FAIRY SAID.

A young woman with blonde hair, wearing a red dress, is kneeling in a forest. She is holding a bundle of green nettles. The background shows trees and a rocky path.

THE NETTLES STUNG HER HANDS.

OH, HOW PAINFUL THIS IS!

The young woman is shown in a close-up, holding a nettle to her hand. She has a pained expression on her face. The background is a rocky, outdoor setting.

BUT ELISE DID NOT LET THE PAIN STOP HER. ALL DAY LONG SHE WORKED. AND THAT EVENING

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ELISE?

A scene inside a cave. Elise is sitting on the ground, working with a tool. Several other people, including a man in a white tunic and a crown, are looking at her. The cave has rocky walls and some items on the ground.

ELISE DID NOT ANSWER.

WHAT IS WRONG, ELISE? WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK?

LOOK, SHE IS WEAVING SOMETHING. SHE MUST BE TRYING TO SAVE US. THAT IS WHY SHE DOES NOT SPEAK.

A scene showing Elise weaving a basket. She is sitting on the ground, and several people are standing around her, watching her. One man in a white tunic and crown is looking at her with a concerned expression. The background is a rocky, outdoor setting.

ELISE WORKED ALL NIGHT. THE NEXT MORNING, HER BROTHERS AGAIN FLEW AWAY. AND ELISE KEPT WORKING.

HOW HAPPY I AM! I HAVE FINISHED ONE COAT ALREADY



SHE WENT OUTSIDE TO PICK MORE NETTLES.

WHAT IS THAT NOISE? IT SOUNDS LIKE HUNTING HORNS!



ELISE RAN BACK INTO THE CAVE TO HIDE.

I MUST NOT LET ANYONE SEE WHAT I AM DOING.



A FEW MINUTES LATER, A HUGE DOG APPEARED.



THE DOG WAS FOLLOWED BY A KING AND HIS HUNTING PARTY.



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, FAIR MAIDEN?

THE KING ASKED MANY QUESTIONS, BUT ELISE DID NOT ANSWER THEM.



IT DOES NOT MATTER. SHE IS SO BEAUTIFUL, I WILL MAKE HER MY WIFE.

AND SO ELISE WAS PUT ON THE KING'S HORSE.



DO NOT WEEP. I WILL TRY TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

WHEN THE BROTHERS RETURNED THAT NIGHT,



SOMEONE HAS TAKEN ELISE AWAY!
WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE FIND HER!



AT THE KING'S PALACE, ELISE WAS DRESSED IN BEAUTIFUL ROBES.

HOW STRANGE IT IS THAT SHE CANNOT TALK!

ALL SHE DOES IS CRY.



THEN SHE WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE KING. ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE COURT ADMIRER HER.

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL! NO WONDER THE KING FELL IN LOVE WITH HER!



BUT ONE PERSON DID NOT LIKE ELISE. HE WAS THE KING'S CHIEF MINISTER.

YOUR MAJESTY, THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS GIRL. SHE MAY BE A WITCH.

NONSENSE! SHE IS TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BE A WITCH.



THEN . . .

COME, MY DEAR. I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU. IT WILL MAKE YOU VERY HAPPY.



THE KING HAD PREPARED A ROOM TO LOOK JUST LIKE THE CAVE. THE NETTLES AND THREAD AND THE FINISHED COAT HAD ALL BEEN BROUGHT THERE.

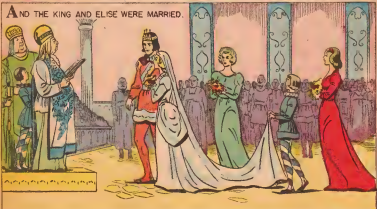
HERE YOU WILL FEEL AT HOME. YOU MAY CONTINUE THE STRANGE WORK YOU WERE DOING WHEN I FOUND YOU.



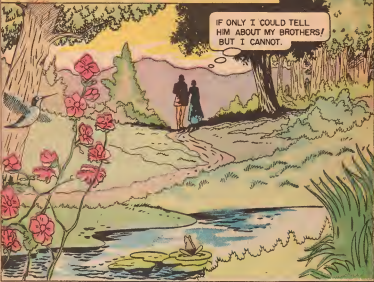
ELISE WAS SO HAPPY THAT SHE KISSED THE KING'S HAND.



AND THE KING AND ELISE WERE MARRIED.




THE KING WAS VERY KIND TO ELISE. SHE LOVED HIM VERY MUCH.



IF ONLY I COULD TELL HIM ABOUT MY BROTHERS! BUT I CANNOT.

EACH NIGHT, ELISE WENT TO THE CAVE-ROOM AND WORKED ON THE MAGIC COATS.



AND EACH NIGHT, WHILE ELISE WAS BUSY AT HER WORK, THE KING'S MINISTER WHISPERED EVIL WORDS ABOUT HER.

THIS WIFE OF YOURS IS UP TO SOMETHING. I AM SURE SHE IS A WITCH.



GO AWAY! I WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOU!

THEN ONE NIGHT

OH, DEAR! THE NETTLES ARE ALL USED UP. I WILL HAVE TO GO OUT AND FIND MORE.



SHE HURRIED QUIETLY OUT OF THE PALACE.



I HOPE NO ONE SEES ME!

BUT SOMEONE DID SEE HER. IT WAS THE KING'S MINISTER. HE FOLLOWED HER AND WATCHED WHAT SHE DID.

I WAS RIGHT! SHE MUST BE A WITCH!



THE MINISTER WENT BACK TO THE PALACE AND KNOCKED AT THE KING'S DOOR.

YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU.



THE MINISTER TOLD THE KING WHAT HE HAD SEEN.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! LEAVE ME AT ONCE!



BUT THE KING WAS TROUBLED.

IF SHE IS NOT A WITCH, WHY DOES SHE DO THESE STRANGE THINGS?



WHAT IF THE MINISTER IS RIGHT?



A FEW DAYS LATER

THERE! THE TENTH COAT IS FINISHED! NOW I HAVE ONLY ONE MORE TO MAKE.



BUT AGAIN ELISE FOUND THAT ALL THE NETTLES WERE GONE.

I MUST GO OUT TO THE FIELDS FOR MORE.



AGIN THE MINISTER SAW HER. HE CALLED THE KING.

CAN IT BE TRUE THAT SHE IS A WITCH?



THE KING AND THE MINISTER FOLLOWED ELISE TO THE FIELDS.

IT MUST BE TRUE. OH, HOW UNHAPPY I AM!



THE NEXT MORNING . . .

LAST NIGHT, I SAW YOU DOING THINGS ONLY A WITCH WOULD DO. TOMORROW, YOU WILL BE SENT AWAY TO PRISON. YOU MUST STAY THERE FOREVER.



ELISE WAS LOCKED IN A LITTLE ROOM IN THE TOWER OF THE PALACE.



HERE ARE YOUR NETTLES FOR A PILLOW.

AND HERE ARE THE COATS YOU MADE. YOU CAN USE THEM FOR A BLANKET!



ELISE WAS HAPPY THAT SHE COULD GO ON WITH HER WORK.

PERHAPS I CAN STILL SAVE MY BROTHERS!



SUDDENLY SHE HEARD A SOUND AT THE WINDOW.

IT SOUNDS LIKE THE RUSTLE OF SWANS' WINGS!



SHE RUSHED TO THE WINDOW.

OH, MY DEAR BROTHERS, YOU HAVE FOUND ME AT LAST!




KNOWING THAT HER BROTHERS WERE NEAR GAVE ELISE NEW COURAGE.

I MUST FINISH THIS LAST COAT!
I MUST!




22

WHEN NIGHT CAME, THE BROTHERS TRIED TO THINK OF A WAY TO SAVE ELISE.

A group of eleven young men are gathered in a courtyard at night. In the background, a castle with a tower and a full moon are visible. The scene is lit with a yellowish glow, suggesting moonlight.

IF ONLY THE KING WILL SEE US, WE CAN TELL HIM EVERYTHING.


AN HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE, THE BROTHERS APPEARED AT THE GATES.

A group of young men wearing yellow hats are gathered at the wooden gates of a castle. They are looking towards the gatekeeper's window.

LET US IN!
WE MUST SEE
THE KING!

GO AWAY!
THE KING IS
SLEEPING.


FOR A WHOLE HOUR, THE BROTHERS BEGGED THE GATEKEEPER TO LET THEM IN. THEN

A king in a red and white robe with a crown is talking to a gatekeeper in a red tunic and white cap. They are standing in a doorway.

WHO IS MAKING
ALL THAT NOISE
DOWN THERE?

YOUR MAJESTY, THERE
ARE ELEVEN YOUNG
MEN AT THE GATE.
THEY ARE BEGGING
TO SEE YOU.

BUT WHEN THE GATEKEEPER LED THE KING TO THE GATE...

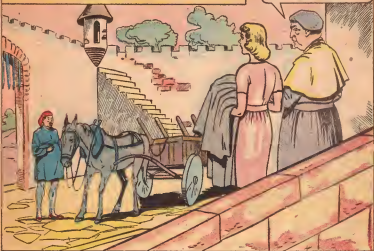
A landscape with a castle in the background. Swans are flying in the sky. A gatekeeper and a king are walking away from the gate. The scene is lit with a yellowish glow, suggesting sunrise.

THEY
ARE
GONE!

WHERE DID THOSE
SWANS COME FROM?
I NEVER SAW SUCH
BEAUTIFUL SWANS
BEFORE!

A LITTLE WHILE LATER, ELISE WAS BROUGHT DOWN TO THE COURTYARD.

THIS CART WILL CARRY YOU TO PRISON.



EVEN IN THE CART, ELISE WENT ON WITH HER WORK.

IF ONLY I CAN FINISH THIS LAST COAT BEFORE THEY TAKE THEM ALL AWAY FROM ME!



OUTSIDE THE PALACE, THE PEOPLE WAITED TO LOOK AT ELISE.

THERE SHE IS!
SHE IS STILL
DOING HER
EVIL WORK!



24
AS ELISE RODE TO THE PRISON, THE ELEVEN SWANS SUDDENLY FLEW DOWN.



JUST AS ELISE REACHED THE PRISON,
THE KING CAME RIDING UP.



THE PRISON GUARD CAME FORWARD.

COME! INTO
THE PRISON
WITH YOU!



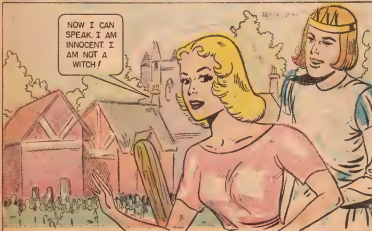
BUT ELISE HAD FINISHED THE LAST
COAT. QUICKLY SHE THREW ONE OVER
EACH OF THE SWANS.



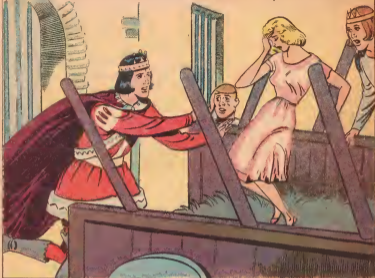
AND THE SPELL WAS BROKEN.



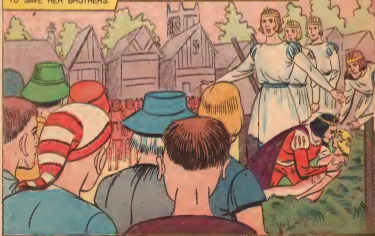
NOW I CAN
SPEAK. I AM
INNOCENT. I
AM NOT A
WITCH!



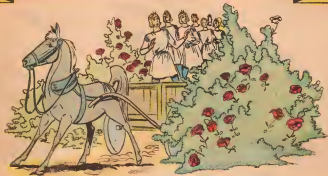
26
THE KING RUSHED FORWARD. BUT BEFORE HE COULD REACH HER, ELISE FAINTED.



THEN THE OLDEST BROTHER EXPLAINED HOW ELISE HAD BEEN SILENT TO SAVE HER BROTHERS.



AS HE SPOKE, A HEDGE OF ROSES SPRANG UP ALL AROUND THE CART.



AT THE TOP OF THE HEDGE WAS ONE PURE WHITE BLOSSOM. THE KING PLUCKED IT .



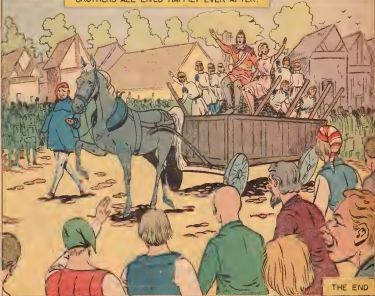
AND CARRIED IT TO ELISE .



ELISE AWOKES.

NOW I MAY SPEAK
TO YOU AT LAST!

THEY ALL RETURNED TO THE CASTLE, AND THERE THE KING AND ELISE AND HER BROTHERS ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



THE END

AESOP'S FABLES

THE RAVEN AND THE SWAN

ONE DAY, TWO BLACK RAVENS SAW A SWAN FLOATING ON A LAKE.

LOOK AT THAT SWAN. HE IS AS WHITE AS SNOW.

NO WONDER! YOU WOULD BE WHITE, TOO, IF YOU SPENT THE WHOLE DAY WASHING YOURSELF IN THE WATER.



DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? I WILL TRY IT!

DON'T BE FOOLISH. IF YOU WERE MEANT TO HAVE WHITE FEATHERS, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN WITH THEM!




BUT THE SILLY RAVEN WOULD NOT LISTEN TO HIS FRIEND.

FAREWELL! THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME, I WILL HAVE BEAUTIFUL WHITE FEATHERS.




30

AND SO THE RAVEN LEFT HIS HOME, WHERE HE HAD ALWAYS FOUND PLENTY TO EAT, AND WENT TO LIVE BY THE LAKE.




I AM SURE MY FEATHERS WILL TURN WHITE IN NO TIME AT ALL.

HE WASHED HIMSELF FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED.



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. I HAVE BEEN WASHING MYSELF EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK, BUT MY FEATHERS ARE STILL BLACK.

HE FOUND NOTHING TO EAT DOWN BY THE LAKE. HE GREW HUNGRIER AND HUNGRIER.



I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! I WILL STARVE IF I STAY HERE!

SO THE RAVEN WAS FORCED TO FLY BACK HOME.



WELL, FRIEND, I SEE YOU ARE JUST AS BLACK AS EVER.

YES. IT IS FOOLISH TO DO THINGS ONLY BECAUSE OTHERS DO THEM. WHAT IS BEST FOR A SWAN MAY NOT BE AT ALL GOOD FOR A RAVEN!

THE END

I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING BY

I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING BY,
COME SAILING BY, COME SAILING BY,
I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING BY,
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE MORNING.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS IN THEM THEN?
WAS IN THEM THEN, WAS IN THEM THEN?
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS IN THEM THEN,
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE MORNING?

THREE PRETTY GIRLS WERE IN THEM THEN,
WERE IN THEM THEN, WERE IN THEM THEN,
THREE PRETTY GIRLS WERE IN THEM THEN,
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE MORNING.



THE WIND

I SAW YOU TOSS THE KITES ON HIGH
AND BLOW THE BIRDS ABOUT THE SKY;
AND ALL AROUND I HEARD YOU PASS,
LIKE LADIES' SKIRTS ACROSS THE GRASS—
O WIND, A-BLOWING ALL DAY LONG,
O WIND, THAT SINGS SO LOUD A SONG!

I SAW THE DIFFERENT THINGS YOU DID,
BUT ALWAYS YOU YOURSELF YOU HID,
I FELT YOU PUSH, I HEARD YOU CALL,
I COULD NOT SEE YOURSELF AT ALL—
O WIND, A-BLOWING ALL DAY LONG,
O WIND, THAT SINGS SO LOUD A SONG!

O YOU THAT ARE SO STRONG AND COLD,
O BLOWER, ARE YOU YOUNG OR OLD?
ARE YOU A BEAST OF FIELD AND TREE,
OR JUST A STRONGER CHILD THAN ME?
O WIND, A-BLOWING ALL DAY LONG,
O WIND, THAT SINGS SO LOUD A SONG!



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