

CLASSIC FAIRY STORIES

Read by **Bernard Cribbins**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



1	The Brave Little Tailor	23:43
2	The History of Dick Whittington	19:51
3	Goldilocks and the Three Bears	8:37
4	The Princess on the Glass Hill	25:06
5	The Story of the Three Little Pigs	6:45
6	Beauty and the Beast	43:37
7	Jack and the Beanstalk	17:06
8	The Master Cat or Puss in Boots	12:01

Total Time 2:36:46

CLASSIC FAIRY STORIES

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum

I smell the blood of an Englishman

Every culture has its fairy stories. These are the fables, the imaginings of the small against the big, the weak against the strong and the naughty getting punished (though sometimes they do get away with it!).

It is a world of enchantment, where magic can, with a touch of a wand, transform the ordinary world into something – magical.

Fairy stories are, by their very nature, folk tales. They emerged from ordinary folk, and were passed on orally from generation to generation, by folk. That is why they reflect a bygone age, where kings ruled by right, where princesses were set in towers (or on a glass hill) so that they could be won by the right man, the bold, brave or cunning man; and where little men of the people – like a brave tailor – could achieve things which were totally unexpected.

In the 19th century, the importance and the charm of fairy stories were highlighted by the two key collections that were produced – by Hans Christian Andersen in Denmark and the Brothers Grimm in

Germany. They gathered stories from their traditions and rewrote them elegantly – charming their contemporary audience, and preserving them for later generations.

The stories in this collection, however, come from mainly English traditions – at least in their present form. *The History of Dick Whittington* is of particular interest as it has an historical basis. Richard Whittington really was three times Mayor of London (1397-98, 1406-07, 1419-20) and a wealthy merchant of his time. He died in 1423, but there is no record of his birth, suggesting that there was perhaps some truth in the story that he came from poor circumstances and managed the magical transition to a figure of great wealth (in the days before the lottery). The first record of the story as we know it, with the Bow bells, dates from the early 17th century, but there is no real reason to doubt its basic truth.

Jack and the Beanstalk is every boy's dream, but has particular resonance because of the Giant's chant, which has become part of the national consciousness.

In *The Story of The Three Little Pigs* there is also a line which we all know: 'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down,' and which is as much the charm of the story as the manner in which one little pig, at least, outwits the nasty fox.

Most fairy tales have a little moral, a little 'lesson learned' for their listeners. 'Be good, be kind, be generous, be hardworking and you will succeed, be happy or achieve your goal.' If you don't, you will get a fright like Goldilocks (and what a fright she got as the bears lumbered in!); if you are not bold (like Cinderlad) you won't get the princess. But life doesn't always work quite like that: a little luck with a clever puss can make you a Marquis of Carabas; and a little cunning, as displayed by the brave tailor, goes a long way.

And it never pays to be unkind, ugly sisters. Beauty is the heroine in *Beauty and the Beast*, and the story has many meanings and morals – for adults and children alike. But one of the morals is, and will always be, if you are an unkind, ugly sister, you don't get to go to the ball. For sure!

Notes by Nicolas Soames

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

The Brave Little Tailor

GRIEG NORWEGIAN DANCE NO. 2 8.550090
CSFR State PO (Kolice)/Edlinger

BIZET March from Jeux d'enfants 8.553027
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Donald Johanos

The History of Dick Whittington

BOCCHERINI FLUTE QUARTETS 8.553719
Alexandre Magnin, Janacek Quartet

MASSENET LA PROCESSION 8.550087
CSR SO (Bratislava) Ondrej Lenárd

SAINT-SAËNS BACCHANALE from SAMSON ET DELILAH 8.550138
CSR SO (Bratislava) Stephen Gunzenhauser

The Story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears

LISZT TARANTELLE 8.550087
CSR SO (Bratislava) Ondrej Lenárd

The Princess on the Glass Hill

GRIEG Norwegian Bridal Procession 8.550140
CSFR State PO (Kosice)/Gunzenhauser

GODARD SERENADE FLORENTINE 8.550087
CSR SO (Bratislava) Ondrej Lenárd

The Story of the Three Little Pigs

CHABRIER MARCHE JOYEUSE 8.550088
CSR SO (Bratislava) Ondrej Lenárd

Beauty and the Beast

BIZET ENTR'ACTE TO ACT 3, CARMEN 8.554703
Czecho-Slovak RSO, Alexander Rahbari

SAINT-SAËNS LE ROUET D'OMPHALE CSR SO (Bratislava) Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550138
GLUCK DANCE OF THE BLESSED SPIRITS Slovak State PO, Johannes Wilder	8.553435
BOCCHERINI FLUTE QUARTETS Alexandre Magnin, Janacek Quartet	8.553719
Jack and the Beanstalk GODARD SICILLIENNE CSR SO (Bratislava) Ondrej Lenárd	8.550087
TCHAIKOVSKY MARCHE SLAV RPO Adrian Leaper	8.550500
Puss in Boots GODARD TARANTELLE CSR SO (Bratislava) Ondrej Lenárd	8.550087

Music programming by Nicolas Soames

Cover picture by Hemesh Alles.

CLASSIC FAIRY STORIES

The Brave Little Tailor • The History of Dick Whittington
Goldilocks and the Three Bears • The Princess on the Glass Hill
The Story of the Three Little Pigs • Beauty and the Beast
Jack and the Beanstalk • Puss in Boots

Read by **Bernard Cribbins**

A delightful collection of famous fairy stories. How does *The Brave Little Tailor* become a king? How can the defenceless little pig keep the hungry fox at bay? And what happens when Jack climbs his beanstalk and encounters a giant singing Fee Fi Fo Fum? These stories, and the more gentle tale of *Beauty and the Beast*, have enchanted generations of children, and retain their magic even in the computer age.



Bernard Cribbins's voice is well-known through numerous BBC Radio plays, audiobooks and commercials, and, of course, as all the voices of *The Wombles*. His television work includes *Dalziel and Pascoe* and *Hands Across the Sea*, both for BBC. Theatre includes *Anything Goes* in London and *La Grande Magia* at the Royal National Theatre. He is known by generations of children as Mr Perks in the classic film *The Railway Children*.

CD ISBN:
978-962-634-222-0

View our catalogue online at
www.naxosaudiobooks.com



Stories selected, adapted and produced by Nicolas Scames
Edited by Sarah Butcher, SBS
Recorded by Norman Goodman, Motivation Sound Studios
Cover Illustration by Hameesh Alles

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,
BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THESE COMPACT DISCS PROHIBITED.
© 2001 NAXOS Audiobooks Ltd. © 2001 NAXOS Audiobooks Ltd.
Made in Germany.

Total time
2:36:46