

# CLASSIC FAIRY STORIES

Read by **Bernard Cribbins**

JUNIOR  
CLASSICS



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

**Total Time 2:36:46**

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# 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.

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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**

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## 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

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

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