

THE BROTHERS GRIMM

by Patrick Stinson

CAST -

- 1 - Wilhelm Grimm (A Brother)
- 2 - Jacob Grimm (A Brother)
- 3 - CAT - PRINCE - HANSEL
- 4 - MOUSE - RUMPLESTILSKIN
- 5 - STEPSISTER - LITTLE RED - GRETEL
- 6 - STEPSISTER - SLEEPING BEAUTY
- 7 - CINDERELLA - GOLDILOCKS
- 8 - WICKED STEP MOTHER - WOLF

SCENE 1 - CAT and MOUSE

WILHELM

A certain cat had made the acquaintance of a mouse, and had said so much to him about the great friendship he felt for him, that at length the mouse agreed that they should live and keep house together.

JACOB (Off Stage)

Brother...Brother? Where are you?

WILHELM

In here Jacob.

JACOB

Wilhelm are you writing again? That is all you do all day long. Write write write. What are you writing now?

WILHELM

Katze und Maus in Gesellschaft

JACOB

In English brother, you know I only speak german on Tuesdays.

WILHELM

Cat and Mouse in Partnership

JACOB

I like the title in German better. So what is this one about?

WILHELM

It is about a cat and mouse who decide to be roommates.

JACOB

Let me get this straight...you think it is ok for a cat and a mouse to cohabit?

WILHELM
Cohabi-what?

JACOB
Live together, dumkopft.

WILHELM
Is it Tuesday?

JACOB
Why?

WILHELM
Because you spoke German...who's the dummy now? Do you want to hear the rest of the story?

JACOB
Not really....but that won't stop you.

WILHELM
You know me all too well brother...So a cat and mouse are cohabitating.

CAT
But we must make a provision for winter, or else we shall suffer from hunger and you little mouse, cannot venture everywhere or you will be caught in a trap some day.

JACOB
I have no idea what that cat just said.

WILHELM
He told the mouse that they should gather food and that the mouse shouldn't go outside or he might get caught in a trap.

JACOB
Then the cat should have said...

CAT
Hey mousy go make me a pot pie and don't leave or you'll get yours.

WILHELM (sarcastically)
That is so much better. I don't know why I write...you are so much more better at it than I am.

JACOB (Oblivious to the sarcasm)

Yeah me neither. So how's the rest of the story go. I'll see if I can improve it for you.

WILHELM

The good advice was followed, and a pot of fat was bought, but they did not know where to put it. At length, after much consideration...

CAT

I know no place where it will be better stored up than in the church, for no one dares take anything away from there. We will set it beneath the altar, and not touch it until we are really in need of it.

JACOB

That is one dull cat. I would hide it in my sock drawer. That's where I hide all my valuables. Oh wait..I mean...no I don't.

WILHELM

So the pot was placed in safety, but it was not long before the cat had a great yearning for it.

CAT

I want to tell you something, little mouse; my cousin has brought a little son into the world, he is white with brown spots. Let me go out today, and you look after the house by yourself.

MOUSE

Yes, yes, by all means go, and if you get anything very good to eat, think of me.

JACOB

"Yes Yes...by all means" Finally the mouse gets to talk and you make him a nerd. I'm surprised he didn't say pip pip.

WILHELM

All this, however, was untrue; the cat had no cousin. She went straight to the church, stole to the pot of fat, began to lick at it, and licked the top of the fat off. Then she took a walk upon the roofs of the town, looked out for opportunities, and then stretched herself in the sun, and licked her lips whenever she thought of the pot of fat, and not until it was evening did she return home.

JACOB

So the Cat stole the fat?

WILHELM

That's what i just said.

JACOB

No you said...la la la....boring boring boring...I am stupid...

MOUSE

Well, here you are again, no doubt you have had a merry day.

CAT

All went well.

MOUSE

What did they name the child?

CAT

Top Off

JACOB

That's not even a real name. Top Off? It sounds like when two Irish guys meet.

WILHELM

When two Irish guys meet?

JACOB

Yeah...they say "Top off the morning to ya."

WILHELM

Are you going to make stupid jokes all day or do you want to hear the rest of the story?

JACOB

I'm sorry go ahead...

MOUSE

What did they name the child?

CAT

Top Off

MOUSE

Top off! That is a very odd and uncommon name, is it a usual one in your family?

JACOB

See even the nerdy mouse doesn't like the name. (Wilhelm makes a fist) Ok OK continue...I'll shut it.

CAT

What does that matter, it is no worse than Crumb-stealer, as your nieces and nephews are called.

WILHELM

Before long the cat was seized by another fit of yearning.

CAT

You must do me a favour, and once more manage the house for a day alone. I am again an Uncle.

WILHELM

Two babies in two days?

JACOB

It was his other sister. The good mouse consented, but the cat crept behind the town walls to the church, and devoured half the pot of fat.

CAT

Nothing ever seems so good as what one keeps to oneself, I am quite satisfied with my day's work.

MOUSE

What was the name of this child?

CAT

Half-done.

MOUSE

Half-done! What are you saying! I have never heard the name is my life. I'll wager anything it is not a real name.

JACOB

Oh now the cat's gone and done it...he has gotten the mouse mad. maybe that mouse isn't such a nerd. me and this mouse have got to hang one day.

WILHELM

The mouse isn't real it is a story you nincompoop....The cat's mouth soon began to water for some more fat from the jar in the church.

CAT

All good things go in threes. The child is quite black, only it has white paws, but with that exception, it has not a single white hair on its whole body; this only happens once every few years, you will let me go, won't you?

JACOB

You can tell that the Cat is lying. To much detail. That's what happens when you lie though. Even I know that.

MOUSE

Top-off! Half-done! They are such odd names, they make me very thoughtful.

JACOB

Why do you have to make the Mouse talk like that. He is not a nerd like you. He should say.

MOUSE

Top-off? Half-done? Those names be illin' yo. I gots to be centratin' on dis.

WILHELM (sarcasm)

So eloquent.

CAT

You sit at home, in your dark-grey fur coat and long tail, and are filled with fancies, that's because you do not go out in the daytime.

WILHELM

During the cat's absence the mouse cleaned the house, and put it in order, but the greedy cat entirely emptied the pot of fat.

CAT

When everything is eaten up one has some peace.

MOUSE

What was this child called?

CAT

It will not please you more than the others. He is called All-gone.

JACOB

And then the mouse said..

MOUSE

OK Cat...the gloves are off. You and me are steppin.

WILHELM

No the mouse said...

MOUSE

All-gone, that is the most suspicious name of all! I have never seen it in print. All-gone; what can that mean?

WILHELM

From this time forth the cat had no nephews or nieces to see, but when the winter had come and there was no longer anything to be found outside, the mouse thought of their provision..

MOUSE

Come, cat, we will go to our pot of fat which we have stored up for ourselves—we shall enjoy that.

JACOB

Hey mouse, I need to tell you this because you are like a brother to me, it's not gonna be there.

WILHELM

Who are you talking to?

JACOB

No one... just finish the story.

CAT

Yes, you will enjoy it as much as you would enjoy sticking that dainty tongue of yours out of the window.

JACOB

What does that mean?

WILHELM

It loses a lot in the translation. They set out on their way, but when they arrived, the pot of fat certainly was still in its place, but it was empty.

MOUSE

Alas! Now I see what has happened, now it comes to light! You a true friend! You have devoured all when you were supposed to be going to see you family. First top off, then half-done, then—'

CAT

Will you hold your tongue, one word more, and I will eat you too.

MOUSE (unable to stop sentence)

ALL-Gone

WILHELM

And the mouse was. The End.

JACOB

WHAT KIND OF CHILDREN'S STORY IS THAT?

WILHELM

One for the ages.

JACOB

Yeah..one for the ages of 50 to 80. Kids don't want to hear about cats eating mice.

WILHELM

I suppose you could better.

JACOB

You forget Wilhelm we both have diplomas from the University of Marsburg.

WILHELM

You cheated on every test and copied all my work.

JACOB

Same goal different routes.

WILHELM

If you think you can do so much better, why don't you write your own story...I'll make it even easier....rewrite this one...(he hands him a manuscript of Cinderella)

JACOB

Aschenputtel?

WILHELM

We are German..you should recognize the name.

JACOB

I am going to rename this one Cinderella.

WILHELM

Tomorrow have your rewrite and we will see who the writer in the family is!

SCENE 2 - CINDERELLA

STEPSISTERS (Jumping rope)

Cinderella dressed in yellow, went upstairs to kiss her fellow, made a mistake she kissed a snake, how many doctors will it take?

PRINCE (Rapping)

THIS IS THE STORY OF CINDY

HOW I MET THIS BABE

THE BOO WHO TRULY GAVE ME HER HEART

THE ONE THAT I CRAVE

STEPSISTERS (Now back up singers to PRINCE)

Cinderella dressed in lace, went upstairs to fix her face, oh no oh no, she found a blemish, how many powder puffs till she's finished?

PRINCE (Rapping)
A POOR GIRL IN THE WOOD
LIVIN' WITH HER DADDY
AND IT'S UNDERSTOOD
THAT SHE WILL KEEP THE HOUSE
SHE WILL COOK AND CLEAN
DO IT ALL
WORD..HER STEPSISTERS ARE MEAN

STEPSISTERS

Cinderella dressed in green, went downtown to buy a ring, made a mistake and bought a fake, how many days before it breaks?

PRINCE (Rapping)
CINDERELLA
IM HER FELLA
LOST HER SLIPPA
GOTTA FIND HER QUICKA

CINDERELLA (Singing)
PRINCE...PRINCE
NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH PETER QUINCE
I LOVE THE PRINCE
I NEED THE PRINCE
MIDNIGHT CAME AND I HAD TO SCRAM
NOW I'M BACK WITH MY STEP SISTERS
LIVING ON THE LAMB

OOOOO...I GOTTA GET BACK TO MY MAN
OOOOOO....I GOTTA GET BACK TO MY MAN

WICKED STEP MOTHER (taking over the rap)
THE PRINCE DESERVES THE BEST
SO PRINCE YOU HAVE TRIED THE REST
LITTLE CINDY GET AWAY
MY GIRLS HE WILL SAY
ARE FOR HIS HEART
NOT THE MAID
THERE'LL BE NO TRADE
SO CINDY GET ON OUT
YOU ARE NOW TO FOREVER POUT

PRINCE (Back to his rap)
TICK TOCK GOES THE CLOCK
ON THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT
THE GIRL TAKES FLIGHT
TICK TOCK GOES THE CLOCK
CARRIAGE TO A PUMPKIN
I'D FEEL LIKE A BUMPKIN
IF I DON'T FIND THIS BABE.

WILHELM

Stop...stop...you have ripped apart this beautiful story. Carriage to pumpkin..I'd feel like a bumpkin. And who are the girls jumping rope and dancing in spandex?

JACOB

Those are the evil...but hot...stepsisters.. Now look did I interrupt you when you were telling your story.

WILHELM

As a matter of fact you did. Is your entire story a rapopera?

JACOB

No this is just the opening sequence.

WILHELM

Opening sequence? I can't take any more of this. Aschenputtel is a beautiful story that you turned into garbage, pure garbage.

JACOB

Wilhelm...you must understand my vision.

WILHELM

Vision schmision...You have killed my beautiful story. I can't believe you would be so selfish and ruin everything. (he exits weeping)

JACOB

Wilhelm..I'm sorry I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. I just wanted to help.

HANSEL (entering with Gretel for no apparent reason)
Guten tag mein freund.

JACOB

Hi Hansel and Gretel...I think I just made a big mistake.

GRETEL

Wie können wir helfen?

JACOB

I guess you can help... Let me tell you what happened....All I did was....

SCENE 3

IN THE FOREST

WOLF

Where is that girl in the red cape that travels these woods? She has such delectable treats.

LITTLE RED (off stage)

Yoo Hoo Mr. Wolf I have more treats today.

(WOLF runs off and when he is off stage LITTLE RED runs on shortly followed by him)

WOLF

You are a fast one. But one day I will catch you and I will get those wonderful treats.

(WOLF chases her OFF)

JACOB (entering)

I did not mean to hurt poor Wilhelm's feelings. Hansel and Gretel are right...I need to make it up to him. I know I will write him a story he will love.

(Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty begins to play)

SLEEPING BEAUTY (Crossing Stage)

I am so tired. I need to go home and take a long nap.

JACOB

I just have no idea...

PRINCE (desperately entering)

Excuse me? Did you just see an exhausted girl go by? She was a real sleepy Beauty?

JACOB

She went that way. (He points and the PRINCE exits and music ends a la scratching record sound) I just have no idea what to write about. Wilhelm gets all the ideas. How does he do it?

RUMPLESTILSKIN (Slinking in)

If you can guess my name I will give you riches but if you can't I will take your first born.

JACOB

Rumpelstilskin you and I went to school together you sat behind me in the third grade.
And since when do you have any riches to give away?

RUMPLESTILSKIN

Ha ha you'll never catch me... (he runs off)

JACOB

This sure is a busy forest today...I just wish I could get an idea of what to write to make
Wilhelm not mad at me anymore.

GOLDILOCKS

If you see a bear family come by tell them I went that way.

JACOB

Will do...Hey I just had an idea. Miss wait for me...

SCENE 4

IN THE GRIMM HOME

WILHELM (In the dark or Wilhelm blindfolded)

Jacob..you got me here...now what do you want me to do.

RUMPLESTILSKIN, GOLDILOCKS, LITTLE RED, WOLF, PRINCE and SLEEPING
BEAUTY jump out

THEM

SURPRISE

WILHELM

I don't get it... it's not my birthday.

JACOB

No not your birthday, but a present for you none the less. I was taking a walk in the
forrest and my friends here and I put together a story for you that will cheer you up and
also show you that I can help with your writing.

WILHELM

OK....lets see what you got.

JACOB

One summer's day a few years back but not as far back as some there was a
screaming snarly Wolf.

WOLF (Over Acting)

I wouldn't be so snarly if I had a proper meal. Here comes a little girl perhaps she has some sustenance to offer a starving wolf.

LITTLE RED

Get away from me you flea bitten mangy animal. This food is for me and my grandmother only. No foul beast will partake of this feast.

WOLF

Please young lady...All I ask is for your crumbs nothing more.

LITTLE RED

Away thou retched and abhorred stench.

JACOB

This hurt the poor wolf's feeling and he fell into despair...

RUMPLESTILSKIN

I am so lonely. I have no one to share my gold with. I am a rich man. I am rich in gold but poor in companionship. If only there was someone to share my life with.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Pardon me...short, hunched, and handsome, do you mind if I sit her. I am ever so tired from a long day of princressing that I need to take a nap.

WOLF

Excuse me kind sir..

RUMPLESTILSKIN

Rumplestilskin's the name...making friends that's my game. (He turns and sees that he is talking to a wolf) Oh no...a wolf...wake up lady...it's a wolf...he's going to eat me and you. He is going to eat us. We are going to get eaten. We will soon enter his mouth and be chewed in bits then swallowed and live in the stomach of the the beast before us. The beast known as the wolf. (He picks up sleeping beauty and runs off stage)

WOLF

Really I am nice guy. I don't even eat meat. I'm vegan wolf.

LITTLE RED

See you mangy good for nothing. Nobody wants to help you. Why don't you just get a job and get outta here.

JACOB

The wolf took the Little Red girl's advice and left town and found a job...

WOLF

OK it's safe there are no bears here.

GOLDBLOCKS (with bow and arrow)

How many times do I have to tell you. We are hunting for bears. Your job is to flush them out of their hiding spot so I can get them with my bow and arrow.

WOLF

Sorry Goldi...

GOLDBLOCKS

It's Miss Locks to you. You mangy good for nothing excuse for dog. Now let's look over there and see if we can find any bears. (they go off stage)

JACOB

It seemed no matter what the wolf did he never got any love or respect.

HANSEL

Guten Tag Mein hund. Wie gehts?

WOLF

Are you talking to me?

GRETEL

Ja. Meine name ist Gretel.

HANSEL

Und mein name is Hansel.

WOLF

I'm sorry I have no idea what you are saying.

(the two kids join hands and start dancing around the wolf giggling and laughing and the wolf starts to enjoy the positive attention)

GOLDBLOCKS

Those are not bears you flea bitten mongrel.

HANSEL

Tag. Fraulein. Mein name ist Hansel

GOLDBLOCKS

Du bist ein heilig junges.

WOLF

Miss Locks you speak German.

GOLDBLOCKS

Of course I do we are in Germany you snarly nincompoop.

WOLF

What do they want?

GOLDILOCKS

They say you are a lousy good for nothing wolf.

WOLF

But they seem so friendly.

GOLDILOCKS

They are just making fun of you. Like everyone else.

WILHELM

But Hansel and Gretel were just tell the wolf their names and asking hi how he was.
What happens next?

JACOB

The lone-ly wolf was discouraged when the only people he thought were nice to him turned out to be making fun of him. He decided to be as evil as everyone else. He quit working for Goldilocks, decided to be a carnivore, and bought a leather jacket.

WOLF

Hey Little Red what you got in the basket?

LITTLE RED

Weren't you supposed to get a job and get a life...you good for nothing little...

JACOB

The wolf had heard enough. He lunged for Little Red. She had no idea what to do...it was a good thing she took those self defense classes her grandma got her for Christmas last year. She dodged the wolfs advances and gave him a karate chop to send him clear across the forest and she ran to the safety of her grandma's house.

WOLF

Wo...that little chick sure can pack a wallop. Where am I?

RUMPLESTILSKIN

Honey wake up... My sleepy beauty. It's time for dinner.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

OK OK you handsome shrimp of a man. I'm awake, but I must eat quickly and get back to my beauty sleep.

WOLF

That is the man who ran away from me in the woods with his new wife. I'll give him something to be afraid of now.....hey wrinkly skin you and me. here...now...it's gonna happen.

JACOB

Rumplestilskin was frozen with fright, however Sleeping Beauty had plenty of rest and was ready to take on anything. She took her spoon and tossed it it the wolf and it hit him right between the eyes. This knocked the Wolf out cold. When the Wolf woke up he was tied up in a chair.

WOLF

You better let me go you tiny man and tired lady. You do not want me to break out of these binds and eat you up.

JACOB

Little did the Wolf know that Rumplestilskin and his bride had kind hearts unlike Goldilocks and Little Red. He had made a phone call and there was a knock at the door.

HANSEL

Guten Tag!

GRETEL

Guten Tag!

WOLF

Oh it's you two again. You can speak all the mean German you want I don't have to listen.

RUMPLESTILSKIN

Mean German? These are the nicest psychiatrists I have ever met.

WOLF

But they said such awful things to me in the forest.

RUMPLESTILSKIN

Are you sure? DO you speak German?

WOLF

No I don't speak German but it sounded so mean.

RUMPLESTILSKIN

That's just the way German sounds... Let me translate for you.

JACOB

Rumpelstilskin, the wolf, and the Doctors talked into the night while Sleeping Beauty joined in periodically after taking cat naps.

WOLF (no longer tied up)

I feel so much better now. Doctors Hansel und Gretel du bist ausgetseicnich.

RUMPLESTILSKIN

You picked up a lot of German tonight and I think Hansel and Gretel are awesome too.

WOLF

I never realized I brought on most of my troubles by not standing up for myself and letting bullies get the best of me. I shouldn't have to change who I am just to make those mean people feel better. From now I on I am going to be me.

WILHELM

Wow Hansel and Gretel sure are good psychiatrists.

JACOB

Of course they are they are German....The wolf felt so good about himself that he decided to open up a vegetarian store and his business became very successful. Then one day he was walking down the forest path when...

LITTLE RED

Look who is here Goldi...it's that wolf.

GOLDILOCKS

I can't believe it's him.

JACOB

It took all everything the Wolf had not to run away in fear of these mean girls. Then all of a sudden.

LITTLE RED

We just love your stores. Can we have your autograph.

GOLDILOCKS

Uh-huh

JACOB

The wolf was flabbergasted. The wolf took out a pen and signed their papers and aced as his he had forgot about the past for he knew:

WOLF

You make your day what it will be and I want my days to be filled with joy. If you give joy you will receive it.

JACOB
The End

WILHELM

That was a wonderful story. I never knew you could write so well. I thought I knew what was going to happen and then you changed it all around and you know what was the best thing about your story?

JACOB
What?

WILHELM
I learned something.

JACOB
You did?

WILHELM
Yes

JACOB
No seriously you did?

WILHELM

Yes Brother..I learned that I shouldn't take you for granted. You style may be different from mine but that doesn't make you any less talented as me. From now on we will write all of our stories together and we will go down in the history books as the greatest children's book authors, The Brothers Grimm.