

RAPUNZEL

By the Grimm Brothers*

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You need:

2 settings: The House overlooking the Witch's Garden, The Tower.

5 characters: Man and Wife, Rapunzel, Witch, Prince (plus Narrator)

SCENE 1: The House overlooking the Witch's Garden

Stage Note: *On the left side of the stage, we see a balcony with the man and woman. They are overlooking the witch's garden below, to the right of the stage. We see a bunch of spinach-like vegetables.*

NARRATOR: ONCE upon a time there lived a man and his wife who were very unhappy because they had no children. These good people had a balcony at the back of their house, which looked into the most lovely garden, full of all manner of beautiful flowers and vegetables; but the garden was surrounded by a high wall.

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: Our Story begins with the wife who is pregnant. She is talking to herself as she looked out from her balcony into the garden.

WIFE:

“Oooh! What fresh, leafy rampion grows in the garden yonder!”

*Adapted by the Yap Family for Jin-Ai's 9th Birthday.

MAN: “My dearest, you have been looking so longingly into our neighbor’s garden ever since you have been pregnant with our child. What ails you?”

WIFE: “If I don’t get some rampion to eat out of the garden, I may die.”

MAN: “But darling, you know the garden belongs to the Wicked Witch, who makes me shudder just to think of it. If we are caught by the Wicked Witch stealing from her garden, we shall surely die.”

WIFE: “Not if we drop by her garden in the night; surely she will not notice a few missing leaves.”

MAN: “I saw in the market this morning that Old Farmer MacDonald was selling some spinach that was twice as green as those rampion, and thrice sweeter! Come now, I will buy you a bunch tomorrow.”

WIFE: “Nay, I need rampions not spinach.”

MAN: “Darling, rampion and spinach are all greens. Besides, the latest medical research says that spinach is 15% richer in vitamin A than rampion.”

WIFE: “Oh, you don’t love me enough, and you don’t care if I die.”

CURTAIN DROPS

SCENE 2: At night in the Witch’s Garden

Stage Note: *The scene is like in Scene 1, except that a white transparent cloth covers the stage, and a flashlight shine from the back of the stage towards the white cloth. What we see is the shadow of the Man in the witches garden.*

NARRATOR: The man, who loved his wife dearly, thought to himself, “Come! rather than let your wife die you shall fetch her some

rampion, no matter the cost.” So at dusk he climbed over the wall into the witch’s garden, and, hastily gathering a handful of rampion leaves, he returned with them to his wife.

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: The next night, we see him back in the garden.

MAN: “Oh here we are again! I stole some rampion for my wife last night. She made it into the most glorious salad, and now she wants more. When is this going to stop? I know this is going to end up in no good. I should have stayed home tonight.”

(Witch suddenly appears in front of the man, who jumped back)

WITCH: “How dare you climb into my garden and steal my rampion like a common thief? You shall suffer for your foolhardiness.”

MAN: “Ooops! Pardon my presumption; necessity alone drove me to the deed. My wife saw your rampion from her window, and conceived such a desire for it that she would certainly have died if her wish had not been gratified. You know how pregnant woman craves for special food.”

NARRATOR: At this word, the Witch cackled and her anger appeared to be a little appeased. But it was because a wicked thought occurred to her.

WITCH: “If it’s as you say, you may take as much rampion away with you as you like, but on one condition only – that you give me the child your wife will shortly bring into the world. Heh, heh, heh!!!”.

MAN: *(greatly relieved)* “Yes, err..., thank you so kindly. I think you look like you will be a good mother for my child. See you soon!”

(He scrambled clumsily over the wall)

CURTAIN DROPS

SCENE 3: In the Tower

Stage Note: In place of the balcony on the right hand side of the stage, we now have a tower.

NARRATOR: The woman gave birth to a baby girl, whom they named Rapunzel. This was quite appropriate since rapunzel is just another name for rampion. The witch immediately appeared and carried off the child. Rapunzel grew into the most beautiful girl under the sun. Now Rapunzel had wonderful long hair, and it was as fine as spun gold.

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: When she was twelve years old, the Witch began to shut her up in a tower in the middle of a great wood. We now see the witch approaching the foot of the tower.

WITCH: “Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let down your golden hair!”

RAPUNZEL: “Hold on, I am loosening my plaits”

NARRATOR: Rapunzel lets her hair fall out of the window about twenty yards below, and the old Witch climbed up by it.

WITCH: “Whew! This gets tiring! One of these days I shall install an elevator. Rapunzel, here is your food and a new set of chores you to do.”

RAPUNZEL: “Thank you, Mother Witch. But why do you keep me here? I could do all the chores for you in your house, for instance.”

WITCH: “This tower is for your own safety, of course. The world out there is full of people who are so bad that I look good. Now I must be off to get ready for my Witches’ Coven at midnight tonight.”

(She climbs down and disappear)

CURTAIN DROPS

SCENE 4: The Prince Appears

Stage Note: Same as scene 3. There is a beautiful voice singing.

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: One day a Prince was riding through the wood and passed by the tower. As he drew near it he heard someone singing so sweetly that he stood spell-bound, and listened. It was Rapunzel in her loneliness trying to while away the time by letting her sweet voice ring out into the wood.

PRINCE: “I must see who this sweet voice belongs to. It comes from this tower, but I see no door! Let me hide behind these bushes and watch who comes along.”

NARRATOR: He hides. Then Witch appears while the voice continues singing.

WITCH: “Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let down your golden hair!”

(The singing voice stops)

RAPUNZEL: “Hold on, I am loosening my plaits”

NARRATOR: Rapunzel lets her hair fall out of the window about twenty yards below, and the old Witch climbed up by it.

WITCH: “Here is your food and a new set of chores.”

RAPUNZEL: “Boiled potatoes and sauerkraut again?”

WITCH: “No complaining. Times are hard for Witches. You know, modern medicine and all that. Anyway, I heard your singing. You should not be doing this – you never know what strange sorts might be attracted to your voice and try to steal your beautiful voice.”

NARRATOR: The Witch said this to frighten Rapunzel.

RAPUNZEL: “How can someone steal my voice?”

WITCH: “Easy as abacadabra! With a little magic, phoof! And your voice will be trapped in a little box, and you will never talk or sing again. So mark my word. But for now I must be off as I have a busy day ahead. Tonight, at 1a.m. I have an appointment with the Wicked Witch of the East.”

(She climbs down and disappears.)

PRINCE: “So that’s the staircase, is it? Then I too will climb it and try my luck.”

NARRATOR: After a short wait, the Prince approaches the foot of the tower.

PRINCE: “Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let down your golden hair!”

RAPUNZEL: “But you just left! Did you forget something? Luckily, my plaits are still loose.”

NARRATOR: Rapunzel lets her hair fall out of the window, and the Prince quickly climbed up by it. Rapunzel gasps!

RAPUNZEL: “Who, who are you? Are you here to steal my voice?”

PRINCE: “Nothing of the sort! I had to find out who that beautiful voice belongs to. Now I see you! You are even more beautiful than the voice would suggest. I am not the hasty sort, but in this case, I am ready to marry you and carry you away.”

RAPUNZEL: “But, but, I barely know you. Who are you?”

PRINCE: “I am a prince, and I know you will be most happy with me.”

RAPUNZEL: “I need to ask the Witch’s permission or something.”

PRINCE: “Oh, the Witch is it? She is the one keeping you here? My father, who happens to be the king, would be furious to learn about her wicked acts. She will be locked up for good.”

RAPUNZEL: “You do seem very kind, and I do deserve a nice prince.
So I am sold. But what do we do?”

PRINCE: “We will lay a trap for the witch tomorrow.”

CURTAIN DROPS

SCENE 5: The Final Encounter

Stage Note: Same as scene 3.

CURTAIN OPENS

NARRATOR: The next day, the witch came as usual.

WITCH: “Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let down your golden hair!”

RAPUNZEL:

(in hush voice)

“Prince! Quick, hide behind that bed frame!”.

(Then speaking loudly)

“Just a minute, I am loosening my plaits”

NARRATOR: Rapunzel lets her hair fall out of the window, and the old Witch climbed up by it. In the tower, the Witch suddenly narrowed her gaze, and looked around suspiciously.

WITCH: “Sniff! sniff! Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum! I smell the smell of a man!”

RAPUNZEL: “You must be mistaken, for there is no one else here.”

WITCH: “You wicked child! You must have attracted some evil person to this tower by your singing.”

NARRATOR: At this, the prince jumped from behind the bed frame with his sword drawn.

PRINCE: “The game is over, Witch! In the name of law, which happens to be my father’s, you are under arrest.”

PRINCE: *facing Rapunzel*

“Rapunzel, my dear, let us make hast to meet dad, and to announce our royal wedding! We must find your mother and father to bring them to our wedding.”

CURTAIN DROPS

NARRATOR: And so the witch was bound and taken off to the king’s dungeon. Rapunzel and the Prince was married in a fabulous wedding unlike anything seen in the land before. Rapunzel and the Prince lived happily ever after.