

## Rapunzel (I)

Once upon a time there lived a poor man and his wife. The wife was expecting a baby and the wife had fallen very ill and there was no money for medicine.

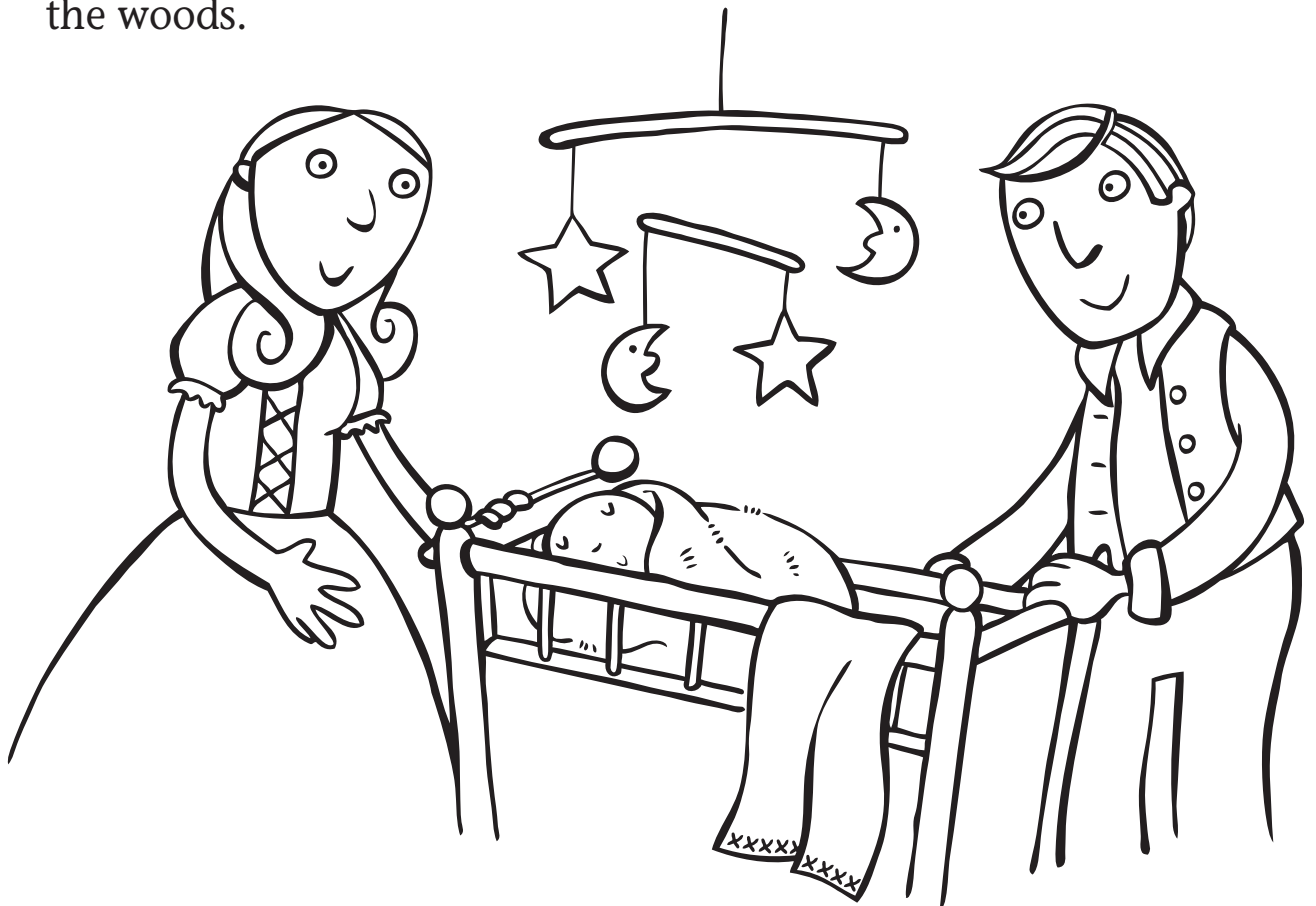
“Pick me some rapunzel plants from the garden next door,” said the woman. “Or I’m sure I will die.”

The man went out in the middle of the night into the next door’s garden. He did not know that it was the home of a witch. No sooner had he picked a plant than there she was in front of him.

“If you take that plant,” said the witch. “I will take your baby.”

“I agree,” said the man. His wife would die if he did not. The wife ate the plant and got better. Her baby girl was born and they called her Rapunzel. They were happy for three days, then one morning the baby had gone.

The man and the woman searched and searched for their baby but the witch had locked her in a tower in the middle of the woods.



## Rapunzel (2)

One day, seventeen years later, a prince was following a stag in the woods when he saw an old witch by an old tower. The tower had no door, just one window at the top. "Rapunzel, Rapunzel let down your hair," shouted the witch. A beautiful girl looked out of the window and threw down her plait which came all the way to the floor. The prince looked on amazed as the witch climbed up the hair.

The prince sat down and waited and two hours later the witch climbed back down and left.

The prince went up to the tower. "Rapunzel, Rapunzel let down your hair," he shouted and down came the hair. The prince climbed up. Rapunzel and the prince looked at each other in wonder and fell in love at once.

Every afternoon the prince visited Rapunzel and told her about the outside world. But one day, the witch saw the prince climbing up the hair. That night she cut off Rapunzel's hair.

The next day when the prince climbed up the hair, the witch was waiting for him at the top. She pushed him out of the window and watched him fall down and down. But as she watched, Rapunzel took her chance and pushed the witch out after the prince. The witch screamed and vanished.

Rapunzel, for the first time in her life, climbed out of the tower and down her own hair. The prince was alive but badly hurt. Rapunzel cried for him, and her magical tears healed him.

Together Rapunzel and the prince walked to the villages nearby asking if anyone knew who she was. When they found Rapunzel's parents they laughed and cried and cried and laughed. The prince and Rapunzel were married and Rapunzel's parents lived with them at the palace. They all lived happily ever after.

*Retold by Sarah Snashall*