



Three Golden Hairs

Vojtěch Kubašta

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Once upon a time there was a coal-man who had a baby boy. "One day you will marry a princess," the Fates told him. However, there was a king resting above, who had lost his way in the forest. "I will not give my daughter to any dirty coal-man!" he thought. In the morning he said: "I can raise your

son at my castle. He will have a better life there!" The coal-man agreed but as soon as the king disappeared, the baby was thrown into a river. The waves carried him until they brought him to an old mill. There lived a miller with his wife who took the orphan in and began to call him Floating.



The old woman asked him everything that Floatling needed to know and he hurried home with his three golden hairs. As soon as the ferryman carried him safely across the lake, Floatling called out to him: "The next time you ferry someone, put the oar in their hands and jump ashore!"

Then he went to a kingdom, where people were in mourning because their golden apple tree had stopped bearing apples. "Far below the roots of the tree lives a white snake - if you pull it out, the apple tree will come alive again," he told them. The happy king gave him a donkey loaded with gold and silver.

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One morning, a wicker basket containing a boy arrived at a mill, having been carried there on a river. "We shall call him Floatling," said the delighted miller and his wife. Although they were poor, they took the little boy in and raised him well. No wonder, then, that he catches the eye of the beautiful princess. Unhappy about this, the king declares that for the princess to become the wife of the pauper Floatling, he must first bring her three golden hairs from the head of Grandfather Know All. Will Floatling succeed in his task? To find out, read this time-honoured tale with delightful pop-up illustrations by world-famous Czech artist Vojtěch Kubašta.

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