



# Golden Fish







Once upon a time, there was an old fisherman who lived with his wife in a simple wooden cottage on the seacoast. The two didn't have much; they lived modestly but happily. One morning, the fisherman went to catch some fish, like any other day. One wave was rolling over another, rocking his boat ... The sun was setting and he still hadn't caught anything. Suddenly, something fluttered in the net. A fish, small but golden from snout to fin! "Release me, fisherman, and I'll grant you three wishes," it begged as the man wondered at its beauty. Of course he let the fish go free, wanting nothing in return.





He came home empty-handed and wide-eyed, telling his wife about the golden fish at once, not even pausing to take a breath. Oh, but he shouldn't have done that! Now there was hell to pay. The fisherman's wife flew into a rage, lamenting while her husband crumpled the empty net in his hands, shoulders stooping. "Why didn't you wish for anything, you fool? Go back immediately and tell the fish you want a new washtub! How do you expect me to do the laundry in our old one?! Go and don't come back without a new washtub!" she shouted at the old man as he left.





But the fisherman's wife still wasn't happy. "What am I supposed to do with a washtub when this darn house is falling apart? Why did I marry such a bumbling fool?" she yelled at her husband as he shuffled towards the sea, burdened with his wife's second wish. "Dear fish, my wife would like to have a new house." The fish peeked out of the water. "Of course, dear fisherman, of course I'll grant your wish. Return home, you'll be surprised at what you'll see." And indeed, the little cottage was replaced with a beautiful house. But the wife was still angry. He really expected her to live in such a hovel? She wanted a palace! She wanted it right there and then! And so she sent the fisherman back with her third and final wish.






The desperate fisherman knelt on the shore, imploring:  
 "Dear fish, I don't want anything for myself but my wife ...  
 the house is too small for her. She'd like a palace full  
 of gold, precious stones, and servants." Ever willing, the fish  
 granted even this wish. Unhappy, the fisherman came back  
 home. Was it even his home anymore? And that mean vain  
 woman—was that even his wife? Proud, she stood at the top  
 of the staircase, dressed in expensive clothes, bedecked  
 with gold. Everyone was bowing down before her, everyone  
 was afraid of her, including her own husband. Oh, why  
 did he ever tell her about that golden fish ...



What would you wish for if a magic fish could fulfil three of your wishes, as it did for a kind fisherman in the well-known children's tale? The fisherman didn't want anything but his wife had wishes aplenty and nothing was good for her. Ultimately, she ended up with nothing. One can't tempt their fortune forever, you know? Want to learn more? Then read this popular story in a three-dimensional rendition by Vojtěch Kubašta, a legendary illustrator whose books have brought up generations of children.



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WARNING:  
Choking hazard.  
Not suitable for children  
under 36 months.

