

## Rumpelstiltskin

By Brothers Grimm

**T**here was once a miller who was poor, but he had one beautiful daughter. One day he came to speak with the King, and he told him that he had a daughter who could spin gold out of straw, this was a lie. The King said to the miller: "If your daughter is as clever as you say, bring her to my castle tomorrow"

**W**hen the girl was brought to him, he led her into a room that was full of straw, and gave her a wheel and spindle, and said "Now set to work, and if by the early morning you have not spun this straw to gold you shall be locked here in forever." And so the poor miller's daughter was left there, she had no idea how to spin gold from straw, so she began to cry. The door opened, and in came a little man, who said "Good evening, why are you crying?"



"I have got to spin gold out of straw, if I don't, the King will trap me in this room forever" Then the little man said "What will

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you give me if I spin it for you?" - "My necklace," said the girl. The little man took the necklace, seated himself before the wheel and started to spin, until all the straw had been spun into gold.

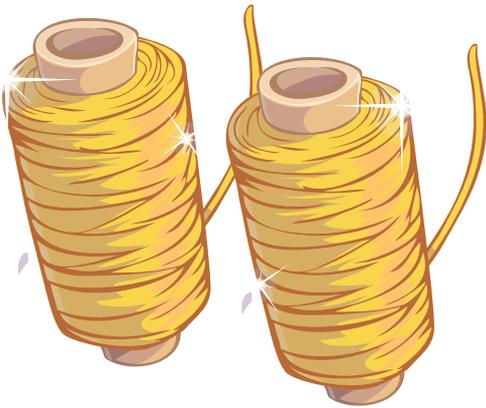
**A**t sunrise in came the King, and when he saw the gold he was astonished. He had the miller's daughter taken into another room filled with even more straw, and told her that she must spin it all in one night. The girl began to cry again, and the little man appeared



and said: "What will you give me if I spin all this straw into gold?" "The ring from my finger," answered the girl. So the little man took the ring, and began spinning again, by the next morning all the straw was spun into glistening gold. The King was very greedy, he had the miller's daughter taken into an even larger room full of straw, and said "This, too, must be spun in one night, and if you accomplish it you shall be my wife."

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As soon as the girl was left alone, the little man appeared for the third time. "I have nothing left to give," wept the girl.

"Then you must promise me the first child you have after you are Queen," said the little man. "But

who knows whether that will happen?" thought the girl; but as she did not know what else to do, she promised what he desired, upon which he began to spin, until all the straw was gold. And when in the morning the King came and saw all the gold, he demanded the wedding to be held at once, and the miller's daughter became a Queen.

In a year's time she had a beautiful child, and thought no more of the little man; but one day he came suddenly into her room, and said "Now give me what you promised me." The Queen began to weep. The little man said "ok, I will give you three days to guess my name, if you can't guess then you must give up the child to me."

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The Queen spent the whole night thinking and sent a messenger through the land to ask far and wide for all the names that could be found. And when the little man came the next day, she said all the names she knew, but after each one the little man said "That is not my name."

The second day the messenger came back and said "I have not been able to find a name; but as I passed through the woods I came across a little house, with a little man singing "Today do I bake, tomorrow I brew. The day after that the Queen's child comes in; I am glad that nobody knew. That the name I am called is Rumpelstiltskin!"

On the third day when the little man walked in the Queen said at first "Your name is Rumpelstiltskin!" "Who told you that!" cried the little man, and in his anger he stormed out of the Kingdom, never to be seen or heard of again.