

Two-Eyes, looked closely at their faces and saw that they were her two sisters, One-Eye and Three-Eyes. They had become so poor that they were forced to wander about, begging their bread from day to day.

Two-Eyes welcomed them in, and took care of them. They were sorry for the way they had treated her. Together they all lived happily ever after.

LITTLE ONE-EYE, TWO-EYES AND THREE-EYES



By The Brothers Grimm



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Editor: Jennifer Robinson

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Little One-Eye, Two-Eyes and Three-Eyes/Wilhelm and Jakob Grimm

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LITTLE ONE-EYE, TWO-EYES AND THREE-EYES

Once upon a time there was a Woman, who had three daughters. The eldest daughter was named One-Eye, because she had only one eye, and it was placed in the middle of her forehead. The second daughter was called Two-Eyes, because she was like other mortals. The third was called Three-Eyes, because she had three eyes. Two were like normal and another was in the middle of her forehead.

But, because her second sister had nothing out of the common in her appearance, she was looked

down upon by her sisters, and despised by her mother. “You are no better than common folk,” they would say to her. “You do not belong to us.”

They would push her about and give her coarse clothing. They would also give her nothing to eat but their leftovers, and they did many other bad things to her.

Once it happened that Two-Eyes had to go into the forest to tend the goat. She went very hungry, because her sisters had given her very little to eat that morning. She sat down upon a hill and cried so much that her tears flowed almost like rivers out of her eyes!

By and by she looked up and saw a Woman standing by. The woman asked, “Why are you weeping, Two-Eyes?”

“Because I have two eyes like ordinary people,” replied the maiden. “Therefore my mother and sisters dislike me. They push me into corners, throw me their old clothes, and give me nothing to eat but what they leave. Today they have given me so little that I am still hungry.”

“Dry your eyes, then, now,” said the wise Woman. “I will tell you something which shall

from early morning to late evening. Take me, and save me!”

The Knight reached down and pulled Two-Eyes up on his saddle. Then he took her home to his father's castle. There he gave her beautiful clothes, and all she wished to eat or to drink.

Soon he fell in love with her. He married her, and a very happy wedding they had.

Her two sisters were very jealous when Two-Eyes was carried off by the Knight. They consoled themselves by saying, “The wonderful tree is still here for us. Even if we cannot get at the fruit, everybody that passes will stop to look at it. Then they will come and praise it to us. Who knows what will happen with us.

The morning after this speech, however, the tree disappeared, and with it all their hopes. When Two-Eyes looked out of her bedroom window, she saw the tree below her.

For a long time Two-Eyes lived in great happiness. One morning two poor women came to the palace and begged for money.

The sisters insisted that it was theirs. Two-Eyes was angry that her sisters would lie to the Knight. She rolled a golden apple from underneath the cask. It rolled right to the feet of the Knight.

When he saw the apple he was astonished, and asked where it came from. One-Eye and Three-Eyes said they had another sister, but they dared not let her be seen. They were ashamed because she had only two eyes, like common folk!

The Knight, however, insisted on seeing her. He called, "Two-Eyes, come here!" She raised the cask and stepped out.

The Knight saw her great beauty. He said, "Two-Eyes, can you break off a bough of this tree for me?"

"Yes," she replied. "I can, for it is my tree." Climbing up, she easily broke off a branch with silver leaves and golden fruit. This she handed to the Knight.

"What can I give you in return, Two-Eyes?" asked the Knight.

"If you will take me with you I shall be happy. Now I suffer hunger and thirst, and am in trouble

prevent you from being hungry again. You must say to your goat:

*"Little kid, milk
Table, appear!"*

"Immediately a nicely filled table will stand before you, with delicate food upon it. Then you can eat as much as you please. When you are satisfied, and have done with the table, you must say:

*"Little kid, milk
Table, depart!"*

"and it will disappear directly."

With these words the wise Woman went away. Little Two-Eyes thought to herself she would try at once if what the Woman said were true, for she felt very hungry indeed.

*"Little kid, milk
Table, appear!"* said the maiden.

Immediately a table covered with a white cloth stood before her, with a knife and fork, and silver spoon. The most delicate dishes were ranged in order upon it, and everything as warm as if they had been just taken away from the fire.



One morning, not long after the springing up of the apple-tree, the three sisters were all standing together beneath it. In the distance a young Knight was seen riding toward them.

“Make haste, Two-Eyes!” exclaimed the two older sisters. “Go away and hide so we won’t have to be ashamed of you.”

They quickly grabbed an empty cask and put it over top of her. They also covered the golden apples she had been picking.

Soon the Knight came up to the tree. The sisters saw he was a very handsome man, for he stopped to admire the fine silver leaves and golden fruit. Then he asked who owned the tree, for he should like to have a branch off it.

One-Eye and Three-Eyes replied that the tree belonged to them. They tried to pluck a branch off for the Knight. They had no luck, though, for the boughs and fruit flew back as soon as they touched them.

“This is very strange.” cried the Knight. “You say this tree belongs to you, and yet you cannot pluck the fruit!”

Then the mother said to Three-Eyes, “Climb up, for you can see better with your three eyes than your sister with her one.” Three-Eyes did no better than her sister, for the golden apples flew back as soon as she touched them.

At last the mother got so impatient that she climbed the tree herself. But she had no more success than either of her daughters. She grabbed only air when she reached for the fruit.

Two-Eyes now thought she would try. She said to her sisters, “Let me try. Perhaps I will be successful.”

“Hah,” they said. “With your two eyes: you will see well, no doubt!” So Two-Eyes climbed the tree. She quickly touched the limbs and the golden apples fell into her hands. She plucked them as fast as she could, and filled her apron before she went down.

Her mother grabbed them from her, without any thanks. Instead of treating Two-Eyes better than they had done, they were only more angry at her. In fact, they treated her worse.



Two-Eyes said a short grace, and then began to eat. When she had finished she pronounced the words which the wise Woman had told her:

*“Little kid, milk
Table, depart!”*

The table and all that was on it quickly disappeared. “This is great housekeeping,” said the maiden, happily.

That evening she went home with her goat, and found an earthen dish which her sisters had left her filled with their leavings. She did not touch it. The next morning she went off again without taking the meager breakfast which was left out for her.

The first and second time she did this the sisters thought nothing of it. When she did the same the third morning they began to worry. They said, “All is not right with Two-Eyes. She has left her meals twice, and has touched nothing. She must have found some other way of living.”

They decided that One-Eye should go with the maiden when she drove the goat to the meadow. she would watch and see whether anyone brought her food or drink.

the goat. Bury it in the earth before the house door, and your fortune will be made.”

Then she disappeared. Two-Eyes went home, and said to her sisters, “Dear sisters, do give me some part of the slain goat. That is all I want.”

The sisters laughed and readily gave them to her. She buried them secretly in front of the door, as the wise Woman had told her.

The next morning they found in front of the house a beautiful tree. It had leaves of silver and fruits of gold hanging from the limbs. Nothing more splendid could be seen in the world.

The two older sisters had no idea how the tree came where it stood. Two-Eyes understood that it had grown from the body of the goat, for it stood on the exact spot where she had buried it.

As soon as the mother saw it she told One-Eye to break off some of the fruit. One-Eye went up to the tree, and pulled a limb toward her. She reached up to pluck off the fruit; but the bough flew back out of her hands. This happened every time she took hold of it. Finally she gave up. No matter how hard she tried, she could not get a single golden apple.

“Little kid, milk

Table, appear!’

“A table comes up laid out with meat and wine, and everything of the best. It is much better than we have. As soon as she has had enough she says:

“Little kid, milk

Table, depart!’

“It all goes away quickly, as I clearly saw. She did put to sleep two of my eyes, but the one in the middle of my forehead luckily kept awake!”

“Will you eat better than we do?” cried the angry mother. “Then you shall lose the chance.” She quickly grabbed a carving-knife and killed the goat dead.

Two-Eyes ran away crying. She went to the old spot and sat down where she had sat before to cry.

All at once the wise Woman stood in front of her again. She asked why the maiden was crying. “Why shouldn’t I cry when the goat which used to feed me is now dead? My mother has killed it and again I must go hungry.”

“Two-Eyes,” said the wise Woman, “I will give you a piece of advice. Beg your sisters to give you

When Two-Eyes was about to set off, One-Eye followed her. She told her sister she was going with her to see whether she took proper care of the goat and fed her enough.

But Two-Eyes knew what her sister wanted. She drove the goat where the grass was finest. Then she said, “Come, One-Eye, let us sit down, and I will sing to you.” So One-Eye sat down, for she was quite tired with her unusual walk and the heat of the sun.

Two-Eyes sang to her sister:

“Are you awake or asleep, One-Eye?

Are you awake or asleep?”

Finally her sister went to sleep. As soon as she was fast asleep, the maiden had her table out. She ate and drank all she needed.

By the time One-Eye woke up the table had disappeared. The maiden said to her sister, “Come, we will go home now. While you have been sleeping the goat might have run about all over the world.”

So they went home. The mother left a bowl of leftovers for Two-Eyes, but she did not eat it. After

Two-Eyes had left her meal untouched, the mother asked One-Eye what she had seen. One-Eye had to confess that she had been asleep.

The following morning the mother told Three-Eyes that she must go out and watch Two-Eyes. She must find out who brought her food. She was sure that someone was feeding her.

That day Three-Eyes told her sister that she was going to go with her that morning to see if she took care of the goat and fed her well. Two-Eyes knew why she was coming. Again she drove the goat to the best feeding-place.

Then she asked her sister to sit down and she would sing to her. Three-Eyes did so, for she was very tired with her long walk in the heat of the sun. Then Two-Eyes began to sing as before:

“Are you awake, Three-Eyes?”

but, instead of continuing as she should have done,

“Are you asleep, Three-Eyes?”

she said by mistake,

“Are you asleep, Two-Eyes?”

and so went on singing:

“Are you awake, Three-Eyes?”

“Are you asleep, Two-Eyes?”

By and by Three-Eyes closed two of her eyes, and went to sleep with them. But the third eye, which was not spoken to, stayed open.

Three-Eyes, however, shut it too, and pretended to be asleep. She was really watching. Soon Two-Eyes, thinking all safe, repeated the words:

*“Little kid, milk
Table, appear!”*

The table appeared. As soon as she was full she said the words:

*“Little kid, milk
Table, depart!”*

Three-Eyes watched all of this. Soon Two-Eyes woke up her sister, saying, “Ah, sister! You are a good watcher, but come, let us go home now.”

When they reached home Two-Eyes again ate nothing. Her sister told her mother she knew why the bad maiden would not eat their food.

“When she is out in the meadow,” said her sister, “she says: