

FRUMPLED FAIRY TALES

by William J. Springer

*First Produced
at Brown Ledge Camp, 1973*

*Dedicated to
Frances "Bonnie" Royster
Mentor & Friend*

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR: May be played by one person or three (*One for each story.*)

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

MILLER

MILLER'S DAUGHTER

KING

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

MESSENGER

(Doubling possible: Miller may double as Messenger.)

RAPUNZEL

MAN

WIFE

RAPUNZEL

WITCH (*Dame Gothel.*)

PRINCE

(Doubling possible: Man or Wife, in all female cast, may double as Prince.)

RED RIDING HOOD

RED

MOM

GRANNY

WOLF

HERO

(Doubling possible: Mom, in all female cast, may double as Hero.)

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

(AT RISE: The MILLER and his DAUGHTER are SR; NARRATOR is DC; KING is SL. Throne is preset UC. 1st room is preset on SL turntable. 2nd room is preset on SR turntable. Both are in off position. NOTE: Specific blocking is not always given for the Narrator. He may move through the scenes or sit along the edge of the stage as the director sees fit.)

NARRATOR: There was once a miller, who was poor.
(MILLER steps forward.) But he had one beautiful daughter. *(SHE steps forward, court curtsy, freezes.)* It happened one day that the Miller came to speak with the King. *(KING crosses DS, MILLER crosses DL; they meet.)*

And to make himself look more important he told the king:

MILLER: I have a daughter who can spin gold out of straw.

NARRATOR: The King said to the Miller:

KING: This is an art that pleases me well; if your daughter is as clever as you say, bring her to my castle tomorrow that I may put her to the proof.

NARRATOR: The Miller returned home. *(MILLER crosses back to DAUGHTER. ALL pantomime sleep. Daughter snores. Looks from others. SL revolve on.)* The next day he returned to the King with his daughter. *(THEY cross to KING. Bow and curtsy business.)* The King led her to a room that was quite full of straw, *(THEY circle stage to SL room. MILLER off.)* sat her by a spinning wheel and spindle, and said:

KING: Now set to work, and if by the early morning you have not spun all of this straw into gold, you shall die!

NARRATOR: Then he shut the door and left her there all alone. *(KING exit SL.)*

GIRL: Hello ...

ECHO: Helllllllllllloooooooooo ...

GIRL: Anybody there ...

ECHO: Nooooooooooooooooo ...

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NARRATOR: And so the poor Miller's daughter was left there sitting all alone because nobody was there. She could not think of what to do to save her life. She had no notion of how to spin gold out of straw, and her distress grew so great that she began to weep:

GIRL: WAAAAAAAAAAAA ...

NARRATOR: Then all at once the door opened, and in came a comical little man who said:

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: (*Enters SL.*) Good evening, Miller's daughter.

GIRL: Good evening little man who came in after the door all at once opened.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Why are you crying?

GIRL: Oh,

NARRATOR: Said the girl,

GIRL: I have to spin gold out of straw and I don't understand this business.

NARRATOR: Then the little man said:

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: What will you give me if I spin it for you?

GIRL: My necklace.

NARRATOR: Said the girl. The little man took the necklace. (*Pantomimed.*) Then he stood at the wheel and with three spins: Whirr, whirr, whirr, he had spun all the straw into gold. When he finished, he disappeared. (*HE exits.*)

GIRL: Good-bye, little man.

NARRATOR: And the little girl went to sleep.

GIRL: (*Snores.*) Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzz ...

NARRATOR: The next day at sunrise the King came to the room. (*KING re-enters.*) When he saw all the gold he was very happy, for he was a greedy king. (*SR revolve on with 2nd room.*) He took the Miller's daughter to a second room which held even more straw than the first. (*SL revolve off.*)

KING: If you value your life, you must spin all this straw into gold in one night!

NARRATOR: The King left. (*KING exits SR.*) The girl did not know what to do and so she began to cry.

GIRL: WAAAAAAAAA!

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NARRATOR: Again the door opened and again the comical little man appeared.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: *(Enters.)* Ta-Da ! ! !

GIRL: Hello, again, comical little man who came through the open door again.

NARRATOR: The comical little man said:

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: What will you give me if I spin all this straw into gold?

GIRL: The ring on my finger.

NARRATOR: The girl replied. So the little man took the ring, *(Pantomimed.)* spun the gold - whirr, whirr, - and left. *(HE exits.)* The girl went to sleep. *(Snore business.)* The next morning the King came to her. He was very, very happy, and very, very pleased, but unfortunately he was still very, very greedy.

KING: Very, very well done, my dear. Come along with me. *(SL revolve on with 3rd room; SR off. THEY cross to SL.)*

NARRATOR: The King took the maiden to an even larger room with even more straw. He said:

KING: This, too, must be spun in one night, and if you accomplish it you shall be my wife and the queen of my heart.

GIRL: Queen of Hearts? Off with your head ! ! !

NARRATOR and KING: What?

GIRL: Oh, sorry.

NARRATOR: Again the king left the room *(HE exits.)* and again the girl cried.

GIRL: WAAA!

NARRATOR: And again the door opened and, yep, you guessed it, again the comical little man came into the room and again he said:

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: *(Enters.)* What will you give me if I spin all the straw into gold?

GIRL: I have nothing left to give.

NARRATOR: Answered the girl.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Then you must give me the first child you have after you are made queen.

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NARRATOR: The comical little man said. The girl did not know whether that would ever happen, but she did not know what else to do, so she said:

GIRL: Yes.

NARRATOR: And so again the little man spun the straw into gold - whir, whir, whir - then the comical little man left (*HE exits.*) and the girl went to sleep. (*Snore business.*) The King returned the next morning (*KING enters, crosses to GIRL.*) and when he saw all the gold, he immediately arranged for the wedding. (*KING leads GIRL off.*)

And so they were married and the pretty Miller's daughter, that is the pretty daughter of the Miller, not the daughter of the pretty Miller, that is if you see what I mean - Anyhow the girl married the guy and because the guy was a king, the girl became a queen. And so tune in again tomorrow and you, too, may become a Queen for a Day! ! ! (*Pause.*) Oh, excuse me, I got carried away ... As I was saying, the Miller's pretty young daughter was married and became Queen. In a year's time she brought forth a fine child into the world (*GIRL re-enters wearing crown, carrying pantomimed baby. She crosses to throne, CS, and sits.*) and thought no more of the comical little man.

GIRL: The who?

NARRATOR: The comical little man.

GIRL: Oh, I don't think about him anymore.

NARRATOR: Well, one day, when the Queen was busy not thinking about thinking about the comical little man, he came into the room and said:

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: (*Enters.*) Ta-da! Again! ! !

GIRL: Hello there, comical little man whom I have thought no more of since I brought this fine child into the world.

NARRATOR: Said the Queen. The comical little man said:

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Now give me the child you promised me!

NARRATOR: The Queen was terrified!

GIRL: Oh, no!

NARRATOR: She thought for a second or two (*Thinker pose.*) or maybe three (*Repeat business.*) and then she said:

End of Freeview

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