

THE FAIRY THAT WOULDN'T FLY

by
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BLACK

An older female voice.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
A long time ago, after many a good
night

FADE IN:

EXT. A GLADE - NIGHT

Blinking lights fly around the glade.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Our story unfolds with fairies in
flight

Closer. The lights are fairies that trail sparkles behind.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
They leave sparkling trails in the
air as they go forming dewdrops
that fall to the foliage below.

The sparkles become a fine mist as they descend. Near a leafy
dewdrop laden bush stands a lone fairy RUMPLETUZ. He
wistfully watches above.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But notice there's one who's not in
the air. While his friends fly
above him with devil may care

He frowns and lowers his head.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
His name's Rumpletuz and no one
knows why he absolutely positively
refuses to fly.

RUMPLETUZ
My wings are too short, my body too
stout. I'd never lift off, there is
not a doubt.

A stern looking woman fairy, MIMISHI, joins him.

MIMISHI
We've tested your wings, and your
weight and your height and the
doctor has said they are perfectly
right. There isn't a reason in this
world you can't fly. You'd find
that you could if you'd only just
try. Would you do that for me? Just
try it please. I'm sure you will
find you can do it with ease.

And with that the woman scoops up the shocked Rumpletuz and
lifts him high into the air. Rumpletuz looks down, then he
closes his eyes tightly.

Mimishi deposits him on the top leaf of the dewdrop laden bush and then she pushes the trembling Rumpetuz toward the edge. He teeters next to an abyss.

RUMPLETUZ
How could you do this to your very
own son?

MIMISHI
Just give it a go. You'll have lots
of fun.

A crowd of flying fairies surround them and chant.

CROWD
Rumpetuz! Rumpetuz! He never
could fly. When he hits the ground
he surely will cry!

Tears well in Rumpetuz's eyes. He looks imploringly at Mimishi who flies before him. She holds her arms out to him.

MIMISHI
Pay no attention to that rabble-
like crew just come to your mother,
that's all you need do.

Rumpetuz snuffles and then takes a step toward Mimishi. Unknowingly, he steps right off the leaf.

His mother smiles impishly.

Rumpetuz look suspiciously at her and then looks down. Shocked to see himself suspended in mid-air, he falls. He claws at the air for altitude.

MIMISHI
Just flap your wings and they'll
keep you afloat

The fairy crowd laughs. He flaps his wings but they are of no help at all. He plummets toward the ground.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But Rumpetuz sunk like a brick in
a moat. And then something simply
magical occurred. Something
unexpected, something absurd.

He stops falling. He looks sideways at his wings, but they aren't flapping. He looks up and then his face is full of questions.

JASPA a young girl fairy holds him by the neck of his shirt. She smiles nervously down at him.

JASPA
I couldn't stand by and just watch
them make fun, but it's so hard to
stop them once they've begun.

Jaspa slowly lowers him to the ground.

RUMPLETUZ

Thank you so much, I am ever in your debt. You saved my life and I will never forget.

He walks away. Jaspa seem thoughtful, then unsure of herself. But she chases after him and then walks alongside.

JASPA

My name is Jaspa. I thought we could, um, talk.

RUMPLETUZ

What would we say? When you fly and I walk.

Jaspa stops, a bit stung. Rumpletuz continues walking. Then Jaspa catches up with him again.

JASPA

It doesn't matter to me that you don't fly.

Rumpletuz stops. Full of venom, he turns toward Jaspa.

RUMPLETUZ

I'm leaving this town and I'll tell you why. You might not care if I'm flapping my wings but everyone else seems to care of these things. This will never be home unless I'm in flight and I've heard of a way to make everything right. There's a witch they say lives near Garbinger Rift, she can make me a potion to give me some lift. It's a dangerous walk but that's certainly that! If I ever return, we can have that, um, chat.

He starts walking and Jaspa catches up again.

JASPA

You don't have to walk, you honestly don't.

RUMPLETUZ

If you're suggesting I fly, you know that I won't.

JASPA

I'm offering to fly you to Garbinger Rift.

Rumpletuz opens his mouth to protest.

JASPA

And before you protest, consider it my gift.

And Jaspa sweeps Rumpletuz up off of the ground. He closes his eyes and holds Jaspa tightly.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
They flew and they flew and they
flew and they flew.

Forest scenery passes by below. Rumpletuz opens his eyes and smiles with wonder.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And during that flight their
friendship grew too.

Rumpletuz and Jaspa smile at one another.

EXT. SHACK - DAY

A ramshackle wooden cabin in the woods. Jaspa and Rumpletuz land on the weatherworn porch.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
When they finally arrived at the
old witch's shack, both of them
knew there'd be no turning back.

Both seem a bit frightened. There is a small dark hole at the bottom of the door. Rumpletuz eyes it nervously.

RUMPLETUZ
Well this is it, I'm going inside

JASPA
I'm going too ...

RUMPLETUZ
Thanks for the ride -- but I need
to do this part on my own.

Jaspa nods.

Rumpletuz bravely enters the small hole at the bottom of the door.

Jaspa twiddles her thumbs and paces back and forth. She looks toward the door full of worry.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And so Jaspa waited on that porch
all alone.

Jaspa sits and sadly lowers her head. Then a sound catches her attention. She turns her head toward the door.

A depressed looking Rumpletuz exits the hole.

Jaspa bounds toward him.

JASPA
Is it done? Did she do it? Do you
think you can fly?

RUMPLETUZ
No one was home...

JASPA
Well, it was worth the try.

RUMPLETUZ
I'll never fly now, just forget
that you knew me.

JASPA
Don't talk like that, It's alright,
you will see.

A growling sound.

JASPA
What is that? It sounds very near.

A wolf hops onto the porch and corners Jaspa and Rumpletuz.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And while both of them trembled
greatly with fear. Jaspa scooped
the very scared Rumpletuz up and
flew out and away from that
overgrown wolf pup.

Jaspa flies Rumpletuz into the air just as the wolf pounces
at them. They fly up under the porch roof. A protruding nail
catches one of Jaspa's wings and she suddenly stops flying.

Rumpletuz catapults from her arms. As he sails away, she
grabs his hand and he swings down beneath her.

JASPA
Hang on! Hang on! I can't fly! I'm
stuck!

The wolf howls at them from below. Rumpletuz tries to
maintain his grip on Jaspa's hand but his hand slips.

RUMPLETUZ
I can't! I'm slipping! This is
terrible luck!

And he falls down toward the wolf's snapping jaws.

JASPA
Rumpletuz! No! You can't leave me
like this!

When Jaspa closes her teary eyes a glistening tear escapes.

Rumpletuz stares up at Jaspa and watches her agony. He
reaches up to comfort her, but he is falling and is too far
away.

Determined, he flaps his wings but he still falls. Then he
flaps faster and he manages to stop his fall just above the
wolf's snout.

The wolf hops up and snaps at him but Rumpletuz is unaware of
it.

Rumpletuz examines his flapping wings with awe.

The wolf snarls and Rumpelstilzchen realises just how close he is to its jaws. He flaps his wings harder and as he looks up at Jaspa a glistening fairy tear hits his face.

It coats him in sparkles and he takes off like a rocket leaving a glittery trail behind him. He grabs Jaspa, pulling her quickly off the nail and they fly off into the shadowy woods.

He holds her close.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And, yes, of course, they finally
did kiss.

Their faces get even closer and they kiss.

A broom-mounted witch lands on the shack porch.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And what is my interest in this
story, ask you? This witch isn't
merely a brewer of brew.

She scratches the wolf pup on its ear and he licks her on the cheek.

NARRATOR/WITCH
And if after all this you're still
asking why? There is more than one
way to teach fairies to fly.

The wolf pup follows the witch into the cabin and the door shuts.

FADE OUT.