

# RATTLESTILT

1<sup>st</sup> Scene (in the house of the miller) *King entering in a mill "grind"*

The miller's wife: "Molly come here and sit down at the wheel. You know you spin very well. We are poor and you must earn money."

Molly: "I'm coming, mother, but why can't I - - -"

Miller's wife: "Father will soon be here and he must not find you idle."

Miller: "Good evening. Is dinner ready? I'm so hungry. (A knock is heard at the door). There is a knock at the door. Molly looks who's there."

Molly: (coming back): "It's the king. He has lost his way while hunting in the neighbourhood."

Miller: "What the king?"

King: (entering): "Good evening. You are the miller, I suppose."

Miller: "Yes your majesty, I'm the miller. We are poor, but honest people. Will your majesty take a seat and if you please your majesty I'll tell my wife to prepare some supper."

King: "Who is the girl that opened the door for me?"

Miller: "She is my daughter, your majesty."



2<sup>nd</sup> Scene (in the miller's house)

Miller: "Molly, do dress up a bit. You must accompany me to the castle. The king wants you to come <sup>you</sup> there."

Molly: "Me? What shall I do there?"

Miller's Wife: "What the king asked for your daughter? Miller, will you tell the truth! What did you boast of again?"

Miller: "Oh, I am unhappy. I told the king our daughter knew how to spin straw into gold and the king asked me to bring her to the castle today."

Molly and Wife: "Oh, what have you done!"

Molly: "Oh, I'm most unhappy. What shall I do now?"

Miller's Wife: "You can't do anything but obey the king and follow your father to the castle."

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3<sup>rd</sup> Scene (at the castle)

King: "You are the girl <sup>who</sup> you can spin straw into gold?"

Molly: "Yes, your majestay, I'm the miller's daughter, but - - - -"

King: "Your father told me everything. Follow me, don't speak a word. Here, do you see this room? It is full of straw. Over there is the spinning-wheel. Before to-morrow you must spin this straw into gold or you must die."

Molly (alone begins to cry):

Dwarf: "What are you weeping, my dear?"

Molly: "Oh, my father told the king that I can spin straw into gold from straw. The king has just ordered me to do so and I don't know how."

Dwarf: "What will you give me, if I spin it for you?"

Molly: "My necklace."

Dwarf: "All right. You may go to sleep. I'll spin the straw into gold." (Dwarf works hard, then disappears)

Molly (awaking): "Where am I? I must have been dreaming. But - - - - no - - - my necklace is gone - - - and here this is real gold and all the straw is gone!"



Molly: "I have nothing more to give you."

Dwarf: "So I'll tell you what you can give me. When you become queen you must give me your first child."

Molly: (so

"It's very hard, indeed, for me. But I can't help promising you my first child."

4<sup>th</sup> Scene (at the castle)

Molly: (<sup>and away goes her song, and she is singing</sup> sitting at a cradle singing: <sup>banter</sup> Baby, baby ~~wanted~~...) <sup>all at once she says: (and she looks)</sup>

young King: "good morning, my dear, how is our prince?"

Molly: "He is very well, dear. I was just singing a song to him before you entered."

young King: "I can't stay any longer to-day, I'm going a-hunting. I only wanted to see you and the baby, Farewell."

Molly: "God be with you" (begins to sing again).

"Baby, baby ~~wanted~~ wanted. . . ."

Dwarf: "good morning your majesty, I have come to fetch your child."

Molly: "Never in my life, you nasty dwarf, leave me alone. Don't touch my baby. I'll give you all my jewels instead."

Dwarf: "Keep your jewels for yourself. Don't you remember your promise, I spun the straw into gold for you and you became queen. Now, keep your promise and give me the child."

Molly: "I'll never give up my child to you! You may take all the riches of the kingdom but . . . . ."

Dwarf: "Listen, I will give you three days. If you find

out my name, you can keep your baby.

Melli (alone): rings the bells.

Servant: "What does your majesty want?"

Melli: "I must find out a certain name. Do ask for rare

names everyone in the castle and tell me all the

names you get to know."

Servant: "Since it is your majesty's wish, I'll at once

go and inquire."

(Melli goes to the window)

Dwarf: "Good morning, my dear Melli. I have come to the

house."

Melli: "I have in my life, my dear dwarf, been in show-

-in and I'll give you all my names in

show."

Dwarf: "I'll give you a name for yourself. Don't you remember your

promise, I open the door with gold for you and you

become queen, then, keep your promise and give me the

name."

Melli: "I'll never give up my child to you! You must take

all the riches of the kingdom but



5<sup>th</sup> Scene (at the castle)

Molly (alone): "What shall I do? To-day is the third day, ~~in the evening~~ the nasty dwarf will come again and he will take away my child if I can't make out his name. My good servants told me so many names and none was right."

Servants: "If you please your majestay the messengers, you sent throughout the land, are back. They have found many strange names again."

Molly: "Bring them here quickly! God help me to save my child!"

I. Messenger: "I found the following names, your majestay: Michael, Joe, Ruck, Pusselthing."

Molly (repeating them) "Thank you."

II. Messenger: "It was not possible to find out a new name, your majestay. But far away from here in a dark wood I saw a tiny man, hopping around a fireplace and shewing,

Nobody has ever seen that I'll get the child of the queen. For wherever they may go they never will get to know Rattlestilt is my name let's dance around the flame."

(at the end) end 3

What shall I do? To stay in the house

Molly: "Many, many thanks, I'm sure that's the

name! Rattlestilt."

can't make out his name - very good however, but

we no longer know and never will.

Reverend: "If you please, your Majesty, the Reverend, your

name is Rattlestilt, or Rattlestilt."

"I found many strange names again."

Molly: "Being them, your Majesty, I feel sure you will know my

child!"

I. Thackeray: "I found the following names, your Majesty:

"Rattlestilt, for, Rattlestilt, Rattlestilt."

Molly (repeating them) "Thank you."

I. Thackeray: "It was not possible to find out a new name, your

Majesty. But for every name there is a dark wood

to find a thing in, and every name is a mystery

and a mystery."

Thackeray has ever seen that all the child of

the Queen. For however they may be they never

will get to know Rattlestilt in any manner

and a name around the Queen.

6<sup>th</sup> Scene: (at the castle)

Molly (alone): "He will be here soon. I must not forget the name of Rattlestilts."

Dwarf: "I'm here again. Have you found ~~my~~ out my name?"

Molly: "Is it Michael or Joe."

Dwarf: "No, quite wrong, your majesty."

Molly: "Or, probably Buck or Pussalshing."

Dwarf: "No, wrong again. What a nice baby."

Molly: "Don't touch the baby. Surely your name is ----- Rattlestilts."

Dwarf: "The devil told you that Area -----"