

THE MILK-WHITE DOO

There was once a man who got his living by working in the fields. He had one little son, called Curly-locks, and one little daughter, called Golden-tresses; but his wife was dead, and, as¹ he had to be out all day, these children were often left alone. So, as he was afraid that some evil² might befall³ them when there was no one to look after them, he, in an ill⁴ day, married again.

I say “in an ill day”, for his second wife was a most deceitful woman, who really hated children, although she pretended, before her marriage, to love them. And she was so unkind to them, and made the house so uncomfortable with her bad temper⁵, that her poor husband often sighed to himself, and wished that he had let well alone, and remained a widower.

But it was no use crying over spilt milk; the deed⁶ was done, and he had just to try to make the best of it. So things went on for several years, until the children were beginning to run about out of doors and play by themselves.

Then one day the Goodman chanced to catch a hare, and he brought it home and gave it to his wife to cook for the dinner.

Now⁷ his wife was a very good cook, and she made the hare into a pot of delicious soup; but she was also very greedy, and while the soup was boiling she tasted it, and tasted it, till at last she discovered that it was almost gone⁸. Then she was in a fine state of mind, for⁹ she knew that her husband would

1. **as**, conj.: because, since (usually placed at the beginning of the sentence). *As she wasn't at home, I left a message.* (PROTOŽE)

2. **evil**, n.: wickedness, wrongdoing. *You should return good for evil.* (ZLO, ŠPATNOST). Also: disaster. *War, flood and famine are terrible evils.* (NEŠTĚSTÍ)

3. **befall** (befell, befallen), v.: happen (used only in the 3rd person). *A great misfortune befell him.* (POSTIHNOUT, PŘIHODIT SE, POTKAT, STÁT SE, UDÁT SE)

4. **ill**, adj.: not good, not favourable. *It was a very ill moment for a revolution.* (ŠPATNÝ, NEVHODNÝ, ZLÝ)

5. **temper**, n.: state of mind (as regards anger or calmness); ten-

SNĚHOBÍLÝ HOLOUBEK

Byl jednou jeden muž, který si vydělával na živobytí prací na poli. Měl synka jménem Kudrnáček a dcerku jménem Zlatovláska. Jeho žena už ale nežila, a protože musel být celý den venku, byly jeho děti často doma samy. A tak, protože se bál, aby se jim nepříhodilo něco zlého, když na ně zrovna nikdo nedává pozor, rozhodl se jednoho nešťastného dne, že se znovu ožení.

Říkám „jednoho nešťastného dne“, protože jeho druhá žena byla ta nejprohnanější ženská, jakou si dovedete představit – před svatbou předstírala, že miluje děti, ale ve skutečnosti je nenáviděla. A byla na ně tak zlá a kvůli její špatné náladě bylo v celém domě tak nepříjemně, že si ten ubohý muž často stýskal a přál si, aby se byl býval znovu neženil a zůstal vdovcem.

Už bylo ale pozdě plakat nad rozlitym mlékem. Už se stalo a on se musel snažit, aby to alespoň trochu šlo. Tak žili několik let, dokud děti nezačaly běhat kolem domu a hrát si samy.

Jednoho dne se tomu dobrému muži podařilo chytit zajíce. Přinesl ho domů a dal ho své ženě, aby ho udělala k obědu.

Jeho žena byla znamenitá kuchařka a uvařila ze zajíce hrnec vynikající polévky. Byla ale také velice nenasytná, a když se polévka vařila, ochutnávala a ochutnávala, až zjistila, že skoro všechno snědla. A měla z toho tuze špat-

dency to become angry easily. *He was in a very bad temper that day.* (NÁLADA, ROZPOLOŽENÍ; VÝBUŠNÁ POVAHA)

6. deed, n.: act, thing done. *Deeds are better than words when you need help.* (SKUTEK, ČIN)

7. now, adv.: used by the speaker without reference to time, to continue a narrative, request, etc. *Now the next thing we did was to have a cup of coffee.* (TAK, TAK TEDY, HELEĎ)

8. be gone, v.: disappear, vanish, cease to exist. *Has your headache gone yet?* (ZMIZET, ZTRATIT SE; UBÝVAT)

9. for, conj.: because (dated or formal; not used at the beginning of sentence). *He didn't come for it might be dangerous.* (NEBOT)

soon be coming home for his dinner, and that she would have nothing to set before him.

So what do you think the wicked¹ woman did? She went out to the door, where her little stepson, Curly-locks, was playing in the sun, and told him to come in and get his face washed². And while she was washing his face, she struck him on the head with a hammer and stunned³ him, and popped⁴ him into the pot to make soup for his father's dinner.

By and by the Goodman came in from his work, and the soup was dished up; and he, and his wife, and his little daughter, Golden-tresses, sat down to sup⁵ it.

"Where's Curly-locks?" asked the Goodman. "It's a pity he is not here while the soup is hot."

"How should I ken⁶ where he is?" answered his wife crossly. "I have other work to do than to run about after a mischievous laddie⁷ all the morning."

The Goodman went on supping his soup in silence for some minutes; then he lifted up a little foot in his spoon.

"This is Curly-locks' foot," he cried in horror. "There's been ill work here."

"Hoots, havers," answered his wife, laughing, pretending to be very much amused. "What should Curly-locks' foot be doing in the soup? 'Tis the hare's forefoot, which is very like that of a bairn⁹."

But presently the Goodman took something else up in his spoon.

"This is Curly-locks' hand," he said shrilly. "I ken it by the crook in its little finger."

1. wicked, adj.: morally bad, sinful or evil. *It was wicked of you to kill the beetle.* (ZLÝ, ŠPATNÝ, OŠKLIVÝ). Also: intended to harm or capable of harming. *There were some wicked weeds in the garden.* (ŠKODLIVÝ, NEBEZPEČNÝ)

2. get his face washed, v.: **get sth done** = have sth done. *I will have to get this book bound.* (DÁT SI NĚCO UDĚLAT)

3. stun, v.: make a person or an animal unconscious by a blow, esp to the head. *She sat stunned for a while, until she recovered.* (OMRÁČIT). Also: shock with sth unexpected. *They were really stunned by the news.* (OHROMIT, KONSTERNOVAT)

nou náladu, protože věděla, že její muž přijde co nevidět domů na oběd a ona nebude mít, co by před něj postavila.

Co si tedy myslíte, že ta špatná žena udělala? Vyšla ven přede dveře, kde si hrál na sluníčku její nevlastní synek Kudrnáček, a řekla mu, aby šel dovnitř, že mu umyje obličej. A když mu myla obličej, praštila ho do hlavičky kladívkem, omráčila ho a vrazila ho do hrnce, aby z něj udělala polévku pro otce k obědu.

Za chvíli přišel muž z práce. Polévka byla na stole a on, jeho žena a dcerka Zlatovláska si sedli ke stolu.

„Kde je Kudrnáček?“ zeptal se hospodář. „To je škoda, že tu není, dokud je polévka horká.“

„Jak mám vědět, kde je?“ odpověděla mu žena mrzutě. „Mám na práci jiné věci než běhat celé dopoledne za nebezpečným malým klukem.“

Hospodář chvíli jedl tiše polévku. Potom na lžici uviděl malou nožičku.

„To je Kudrnáčkova nožička!“ vykřikl s hrůzou. „Tady se přihodilo něco špatného!“

„Láry fáry,“ odvětila jeho žena, smála se a předstírala, že ji to ohromně pobavilo. „Co by dělala Kudrnáčkova noha v polévce? To je přece zaječí přední noha, a ta bývá velice podobná noze klučičí.“

Ale hospodář za chvíličky vytáhl z polévky něco jiného.

„To je Kudrnáčkova ručička!“ zakřičel. „Poznám ji podle toho záhybu na malíčku!“

4. pop sth into, v.: put or take sth somewhere quickly or suddenly. *She popped the tart into the oven.* (VSTRČIT, VRAZIT, VSUNOUT)

5. sup, v.: (archaic) eat supper. *They supped off cold meat.* (VEČERĚT)

6. ken (kenned or kent, kenned), v.: (Scottish) know. (ZNÁT, POZNAT)

7. laddie, n.: (informal, esp Scottish) boy, young man. Also **lad** or **laddy** (MLADÍK, HOCH, CHLAPEC)

8. 'Tis: (archaic or rhetorical) it is (TO JE)

9. bairn, n.: (Scottish) child. (DÍTĚ)

“The man’s demented,” retorted his wife, “not to ken the hind foot of a hare when he sees it!”

So the poor father did not say any more, but went away back to his work, sorely perplexed in his mind; while his little daughter, Golden-tresses¹, who had a shrewd suspicion of what had happened, gathered all the bones from the empty plates, and, carrying them away in her apron, buried them beneath² a flat stone, close by a white rose tree that grew by the cottage door.

And, lo and behold³! those poor bones, which she buried with such care –

*“Grew and grew,
To a milk-white Doo,
That took its wings,
And away it flew.”*

And at last it lighted on a tuft⁴ of grass by a burnside, where two women were washing clothes. It sat there cooing⁵ to itself for some time; then it sang this song softly to them:

*“Pew, pew,
My mimmie⁶ me slew,
My daddy me chew,
My sister gathered my banes⁷,
And put them between two milk-white stanes⁸.
And I grew and grew
To a milk-white Doo,
And I took to my wings and away I flew.”*

1. tresses, n.: long hair, esp of a woman. *She was combing her long tresses.* (VLASY, KADERÉ)

2. beneath, prep.: in or to a lower position than sb/sth; under. *The boat sank beneath the waves.* (POD)

3. behold (beheld, beheld), v.: (archaic or rhetorical) see. *Behold the king!* (SPATŘIT, HLEDĚT). **Lo and behold!**: (idiom) used to indicate surprise. (EJHLE!)

4. tuft, n.: bunch of hair, feathers, grass, etc, growing or held together at the base. *She found a tuft of hair that wasn’t hers.* (CHOMÁČ, CHUCHVALEC, TRS)

„Ten chlap se snad zbláznil,“ odsekla mu žena, „nepoznává zadní zaječící nohu, když ji vidí na vlastní oči.“

A tak už ubohý otec nic neříkal a šel zpátky do práce velice zmatený. Jeho dceruška Zlatovláska, která byla chytrá a tušila, co se stalo, ale zatím posbírala z prázdných talířů všechny kosti, odnesla je v zástěrcce ven a pohřbila je pod plochý kámen nedaleko keře růží, který rostl u dveří chalupy.

A ejhle! Ty ubohé kosti, které tak pečlivě pohřbila

*„rostly a rostly,
až z nich vyrostl sněhobílý holoubek,
který zamával křídly
a odletěl pryč.“*

A nakonec usedl na trs trávy blízko místa, kde praly dvě ženy prádlo. Seděl tam a chvíli si jen tak vrkal. Potom jim jemně zazpíval tuhle písničku:

*„Tralali, tralala,
macecha mě zabila,
tatínkovi upekla,
sestra kosti sebrala,
mezi dva sněhobílé kameny vložila.
A já jsem rostl a rostl,
až se ze mě stal sněhobílý holoubek,
a zamával jsem křídly a odletěl pryč.“*

5. coo, v.: (of a dove or pigeon) make its characteristic soft cry. (VRKAT). Also: make a soft murmuring sound. *He heard a baby cooing in the garden.* (VRNĚT)

6. mimmie, n.: mommy, mummy (used mainly by young children); mother. (MAMINKA)

7. banes, n.: (here: used to indicate Scottish pronunciation) bones. (KOSTI)

8. stanes, n.: (here: used to indicate Scottish pronunciation) stones. (KAMENY)

The women stopped washing and looked at one another in astonishment¹. It was not every day that they came across² a bird that could sing a song like that, and they felt that there was something not canny³ about it.

“Sing that song again, my bonnie⁴ bird,” said one of them at last, “and we’ll give you all these clothes!”

So the bird sang its song over again, and the washerwomen gave it all the clothes, and it tucked them under its right wing, and flew on.

Presently it came to a house where all the windows were open, and it perched⁵ on one of the window-sills, and inside it saw a man counting out a great heap of silver.

And, sitting on the window-sill, it sang its song to him:

*“Pew, pew,
My mimmie me slew,
My daddy me chew,
My sister gathered my banes,
And put them between two milk-white stanes.
And I grew and grew
To a milk-white Doo,
And I took to my wings and away I flew.”*

The man stopped counting his silver, and listened. He felt, like the washerwomen, that there was something not canny about this Doo. When it had finished its song, he said:

“Sing that song again, my bonnie bird, and I’ll give you a’⁶ this siller⁷ in a bag.”

1. astonishment, n.: great surprise. *To my astonishment he didn't do anything!* (ÚDIV, ÚŽAS)

2. come (came, come) **across**, v.: meet or find sb/sth by chance. *I came across an old school friend this morning.* (NARAZIT na někoho/něco, NÁHODOU POTKAT)

3. canny, adj.: (Scottish) natural. (PŘIROZENÝ, POZEMSKÝ). Also: shrewd and careful. *He was really canny about business matters.* (OPATRŇÝ, ŠETRNÝ, OBEZŘELÝ)

4. bonnie, adj.: (esp Scottish) also **bonny**: attractive or beautiful;

Ženy přestaly prát a s úžasem se na sebe podívaly. Nestávalo se jim každý den, aby narazily na ptáčka, který by uměl zazpívat takovou písničku, a cítily, že v tom bude něco podivného.

„Zazpívej nám tu písničku ještě jednou, milý ptáčku,“ řekla nakonec jedna z nich, „a my ti dáme všechny tyhle šaty.“

A tak ptáček přezpíval svou písničku ještě jednou, pradleny mu za to daly všechno prádlo a ptáček si ho schoval pod pravé křídlo a letěl dál.

Zanedlouho přiletěl k domu, který měl všechna okna otevřená, posadil se na římsu a uvnitř uviděl muže, který přepočítával velkou hromadu stříbrných mincí.

A jak seděl na okenní římsě, zazpíval mu svou písničku:

*„Tralali, tralala,
macecha mě zabila,
tatínkovi upekla,
sestra kosti sebrala,
mezi dva sněhobílé kameny vložila.
A já jsem rostl a rostl,
až se ze mě stal sněhobílý holoubek,
a zamával jsem křídly a odletěl pryč.“*

Muž přestal počítat své stříbro a poslouchal. Stejně jako pradlenám se mu zdálo, že s tím holoubkem není něco v pořádku. Když dozpíval, muž mu řekl:

„Zazpívej mi tu písničku ještě jednou, milý ptáčku, a já ti dám všechno stříbro, co je v tomhle pytlí.“

healthy-looking. *Her sister was a bonny girl.* (ROZMILÝ, MILÝ, ŠVARNÝ, PĚKNÝ; ZDRAVÝ)

5. perch, v.: (of a bird) come to rest or stay (on a branch, etc). *The birds perched on the television aerial.* (SEDĚT, SLETĚT A POSADIT SE)

6. a', indef. det.: abbr. form of **all** (here: to indicate Scottish pronunciation). (VŠECHEN, CELÝ)

7. siller, n.: (here: used to indicate Scottish pronunciation) silver. (STŘÍBRO)

So the Doo sang its song over again, and got the bag of silver, which it tucked¹ under its left wing. Then it flew on.

It had not flown very far, however, before it came to a mill where two millers were grinding corn². And it settled down on a sack of meal³ and sang its song to them.

*“Pew, pew,
My mimmie me slew,
My daddy me chew,
My sister gathered my banes,
And put them between two milk-white stanes.
And I grew and grew
To a milk-white Doo,
And I took to my wings and away I flew.”*

The millers stopped their work, and looked at one another, scratching their heads in amazement.

“Sing that song over again, my bonnie bird!” exclaimed both of them together when the Doo had finished, “and we will give you this millstone.”

So the Doo repeated its song, and got the millstone, which it asked one of the millers to lift on to its back; then it flew out of the mill, and up the valley, leaving the two men staring after it dumb⁴ with astonishment.

As you may think, the milk-white Doo had a heavy load⁵ to carry, but it went bravely on till it came within⁶ sight of its father’s cottage, and lighted down at last on the thatched roof.

Then it laid⁷ its burdens⁸ on the thatch, and, flying down

1. tuck, v.: draw sth together into a small space. *The bird tucked his head under its wing.* (SCHOVAT, ZASTRČIT). Also: push or fold or turn the ends or edges (of cloth, paper, etc) so that they are hidden or held in place. *Tuck your trousers into your boots.* (ZASTRČIT, ZANDAT, VSUNOUT)

2. corn, n.: (seed of) various grain plants, chiefly wheat, oats, rye and maize. *We went through a field of corn.* (OBILÍ, ZRNÍ). In American English: maize. (KUKUŘICE)

3. meal, n.: coarsely ground grain. *She baked delicious oatmeal cakes.* (hrubě mletá MOUKA)

4. dumb, adj.: unable to speak. *She’s been dumb from birth.*

A tak holoubek přezpíval svou píseň ještě jednou a dostal pytel stříbra, který si schoval pod levé křídlo. Potom letěl dál.

Neletěl ale daleko, a už byl u mlýna, kde dva mlynáři mleli obilí. Usadil se na pytli mouky a zazpíval jim svou písničku.

*„Tralali, tralala,
macecha mě zabila,
tatínkovi upekla,
sestra kosti sebrala,
mezi dva sněhobílé kameny vložila.
A já jsem rostl a rostl,
až se ze mě stal sněhobílý holoubek,
a zamával jsem křídly a odletěl pryč.“*

Mlynáři přestali pracovat, podívali se na sebe a překvapeně se podrbali za uchem.

„Zazpívej tu písničku ještě jednou, milý ptáčku!“ zvolali oba najednou, když holoubek dozpíval, „a my ti dáme tenhle mlýnský kámen.“

A tak holoubek spustil ještě jednou a dostal mlýnský kámen. Požádal jednoho mlynáře, aby mu ho naložil na záda, a potom vyletěl ze mlýna a zamířil do údolí, zatímco ti dva muži za ním civěli celí tumpachoví.

Určitě si pomyslíte, že ten náklad byl pro sněhobílého holoubka hrozně těžký, ale nesl ho statečně, až doletěl na dohled k otcově chaloupce a nakonec se snesl na doškovou střechu.

(NĚMÝ). Also: stupid. (HLOUPÝ, PROSTODUCHÝ)

5. load, n.: thing that is being carried or is to be carried, esp if heavy. *He had a heavy load on his shoulders.* (NÁKLAD, BŘÍMĚ)

6. within, prep.: not further than (the specified distance), inside the range or limits of sth. *There is a bell within the patient's reach.* (V, V RÁMCI, V MEZÍCH něčeho)

7. lay (laid, laid), v.: place sth in a certain position on a surface. *I laid the book on the table.* (POLOŽIT)

8. burden, n.: thing or person that is carried, heavy load. *They carried a burden of firewood.* (BŘEMENO, BŘÍMĚ, TÍHA)

to the courtyard, picked up a number of little chuckie stones. With them in its beak it flew back to the roof, and began to throw them down the chimney.

By this time¹ it was evening, and the Goodman and his wife, and his little daughter, Golden-tresses, were sitting round the table eating their supper. And you may be sure that they were all very much startled² when the stones came rattling down the chimney, bringing such a³ cloud of soot with them that they were almost smothered. They all jumped up from their chairs, and ran outside to see what the matter was.

And Golden-tresses, being the littlest, ran the fastest, and when she came out at the door the milk-white Doo flung⁴ the bundle of clothes down at her feet.

And the father came out next, and the milk-white Doo flung the bag of silver down at his feet.

But the wicked stepmother, being somewhat⁵ stout⁶, came out last, and the milk-white Doo threw the millstone right down on her head and killed her.

Then it spread its wings and flew away, and has never been seen again; but it had made the Goodman and his daughter rich for life, and it had rid⁷ them of the cruel stepmother, so that they lived in peace and plenty⁸ for the remainder of their days.

1. by this time: by now. (TEĎ UŽ). Also: not later than, before. *By this time next week we shall be in London.* (TOUTO DOBOU)

2. startle, v.: give a sudden shock or a surprise to a person or an animal. *He had a startled look on his face.* (nepříjemně PŘEKVAPIT, PODĚSIT, VYLEKAT)

3. such, det.: (referring forward) of the specified kind. *The knot was fastened in such a way that it was impossible to undo.* (TAKOVÝ)

4. fling (flung flung), v.: throw sth violently, angrily or hurriedly. *They started to fling stones at his window.* (prudce HODIT, MRŠTIT, PRAŠTIT čím)

Potom ten náklad položil na došky, slétl na dvůr a do zobáčku posbíral spoustu malých kamínků. S nimi vylétl zpátky na střechu a začal je házet dolů komínem.

To už byl večer a hospodář se ženou a dceruškou Zlatovláskou seděli u stolu a večereli. A můžete na to vzít jed, že se všichni pěkně polekali, když se z komína začaly sypat kamínky a s nimi se vyvalil takový oblak sazí, že se málem zadusili. Všichni vyskočili ze židlí a utíkali se ven podívat, co se to děje.

A Zlatovláska, protože byla nejmenší, běžela nejrychleji, a když byla u dveří, sněhobílý holoubek jí k nohám shodil ranec šatů.

Jako další vyběhl ven otec a sněhobílý holoubek mu k nohám shodil pytel stříbra.

Ale zlá macecha byla trochu podsaditá, a tak vyběhla poslední a sněhobílý holoubek jí shodil mlýnský kámen přímo na hlavu a zabil ji.

Potom roztáhl křídla a odletěl a už ho nikdy nikdo neviděl. Ale hospodáři a jeho dcerce zajistil dost bohatství na celý život a zbavil je kruté macechy, takže mohli žít v klidu a hojnosti až do konce svých dní.

5. somewhat, adv.: to some degree, rather. *He answered somewhat nervously.* (PONĚKUD, TROCHU)

6. stout, adj.: of a person: rather fat, solidly built. *He's going rather stout.* (TLUSTÝ, ZAVALITÝ, PODSADITÝ, SILNÝ)

7. rid (rid, rid) sb/sth of sb/sth, v.: make sb/sth free from sb/sth unpleasant or unwanted. *I really don't know what could rid the house of mice.* (ZBAVIT se čeho, VYSVOBODIT od čeho). More often: **get rid** of sb/sth: become free of sb/sth. (ZBAVIT se čeho)

8. plenty, n.: number or amount that is sufficient for sb or more than sb needs, abundance. *We had food and drink in plenty.* (SPOUSTA, HOJNOST, VELKÉ MNOŽSTVÍ, NADBYTEK)