

Baba Yaga the Hairy

I'm not going to start with once upon a time because this is not one of those fluffy bunny stories where life is perfect and nothing horrible happens.

My story starts long ago with a girl called Fanny. Her family wasn't rich but they lived in a farm in a beautiful valley in the countryside.

One gloomy morning Fanny's mother had a terrible fever and was sick and very pale. Fanny's father sent for a doctor to come over and check her up but Fanny already knew it was too late to save her mother.

Months went by after her mother's death. Her father tried to do all he could to take care of Fanny but with the farm, animals and crops it was just too much work. He was absolutely exhausted in the evenings.

Years went by and her father became very weak.

It was winter and a strong blizzard arrived. Fanny's father didn't have much time left, but whatever Fanny did, she knew it wasn't enough to save him.

One night she was making her father comfortable on the pillows until he whispered something to her. "Fanny, darling, I'm dying now. Find your uncle who lives in the Valley of Pink Metamorphosis. We don't have enough money to support this farm. When I die you will have nothing". Fanny was devastated. Tears swelled up in her eyes and she grabbed her father's hand. "I love you papa!" She whispered. "I love you too my dear and I will tell your mother the same. Goodbye my sweet!". "Goodbye papa!"

She stayed next to her father for the rest of the night and never let go of his hand.

Next morning Fanny got up and trudged to the kitchen to get supplies. It was going to be a long journey so she would need all the food she could get.

Once she was ready, she looked around the farm for one last time and headed south.

One afternoon, while she was walking in the forest, she heard laughing and shooting so she went to see what was going on. In the distance she could see poachers trying to shoot a bear. She stared at the creature for a moment until it looked up at her with eyes full of worry and pain. She looked down at its paw and saw it was bleeding.

She felt so much pity for the animal that she could not just watch it suffer. She picked up a large branch off the ground and sneaked up behind the 2 poachers. She smacked it as hard as she could against their heads and they dropped to the floor with a thud.

She didn't realize that she had the magical power to do that.

When she looked up she saw that the bear was standing right in front of her. Then it began to talk. "You saved my life and I thank you! In return I give you the ability to transform into a bear whenever you please." Fanny was speechless. "A bear...wastalking to me... I must be going mad" She thought. Then suddenly, it blew a cool breath at her and the inside of her stomach felt tingly. She continued to stare at it until it began to turn away. "Uh, thank you!" She called after it.

She turned around and walked to the direction which she came from.

She couldn't stop thinking about what the animal had done, and said to her until she saw a little boy playing with a butterfly.

"Come here butterfly NOW!" He shouted fury in his voice. "I want your pretty wings!" "What are you doing child?" Fanny asked him. "I'm trying to get this butterfly's wings!" The boy answered in an impolite voice. "Why are you doing that?" She asked. "Because I like them! COME HERE NOW BUTTERFLY!" He shouted. "Stop that right now child and go back to your parents. Leave that poor butterfly alone!" She told him. The boy immediately ran the other direction towards his parents.

"Thank you!" Fanny heard a voice behind her and instantly turned around. "Thank you for saving me! As a gift, I will give you the ability to transform into a butterfly whenever you want!" The butterfly blew a tiny cool breath at Fanny. This time Fanny replied. "Thank you butterfly!"

The butterfly giggled quietly. "You're welcome!" And she flew away.

She continued to walk towards the sea.

She was just about to test out her new skills when she heard a terrified screeching.

A dolphin was swimming away from some poachers who were shooting arrows at her.

Fanny immediately transformed into a butterfly and flew towards the boat of the poachers. But as she was in the boat she transformed into a bear. The poachers backed away in horror to the far end of the boat. Fanny let out a deep roar and the poachers dived into the water and swam as fast as they could to land.

She turned back into her human form and looked at the dolphin that was now swimming next to the boat.

It screeched a happy sigh of relief and suddenly blew, like the other animals, a cool breath. Fanny knew straight away what the dolphin did. "Thank you dolphin!" And the dolphin swam away.

One day as she walked through a forest, she saw a house in the distance. Fanny jogged slowly towards the doorstep and knocked a quick tap on the door. It was the first house she had seen in a long time.

Suddenly the house started to move. The house was on giant chicken legs!

The door flew open and standing right behind it was the ugliest person Fanny had ever seen. Fanny gasped in terror and she instantly knew where she was. This was the house of Baba Yaga the Hairy!

There was a reason why people called her Baba Yaga the Hairy. Whoever trespassed on Baba Yaga's land would first get their hair ripped out and she would use the hair as a skirt. Then she would prick you with her finger nail and it would kill you instantly because of a venom in it.

Lastly, she would eat you and give the scraps to her pet which was a deadly chicken with red eyes.

There was only one way of stopping Baba Yaga the Hairy and that was by drowning her.

How could Fanny have been so careless?! There was no way of going back now! She was doomed!

"Ahh, what have we here?" Baba Yaga said in the most terrible voice. "Care to come in?" She snickered. And before Fanny knew it, she was dragged by the most disgusting hand you could possibly imagine.

Fanny didn't know what to do. But she had to think of something....fast!

"Stay very still" She sneered and reached her hand out to start ripping Fanny's hair out.

That's it! Fanny had to get of this house NOW!

Fanny was so furious that she transformed into a bear and leapt at Baba Yaga. But even though Baba Yaga was old, she had the reflexes of a young goat and so Fanny missed. She roared at Baba Yaga, transformed into a butterfly and zoomed out of a tiny crack.

Baba Yaga was right behind her but Fanny was still young, and very fast.

She flew out to the river, transformed into a dolphin and sped even faster. She had to drown her!

Fanny knew exactly how to trick her.

Fanny dived down and waited until Baba Yaga would follow. When she arrived, Baba Yaga made an evil smile and at the same moment Fanny laughed, a laugh of victory. She grabbed Baba Yaga's hand and swam as deep as she could into the water until Baba Yaga drowned.

A week later Fanny found her uncle and lived with him for a while. She then met a man called Peter and they both fell in love and got married. She never transformed back into the animals she was given the power to again.

So whenever you swim deep enough into the sea, you will always see the green fingers of Baba Yaga struggling to break free. Fanny called those green fingers of Baba Yaga the Hairy, sea-weed.