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Opening extract from

My Favourite Fairy Tales

Written by

Tony Ross

Published by

Andersen Press

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First published in Great Britain in 2010 by Andersen Press Ltd.,
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA.
Published in Australia by Random House Australia Pty.,
Level 3, 100 Pacific Highway, North Sydney, NSW 2060.
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Colour separated in Switzerland by Photolitho AG, Zürich.
Printed and bound in Singapore by Tien Wah Press.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available.

ISBN 978 1 84270 980 1

This book has been printed on acid-free paper

MY FAVOURITE FAIRY TALES



Retold and illustrated by

TONY ROSS

ANDERSEN PRESS

Smiling, Old Mary went indoors to think of all her good luck.
"Oh, if only I could have such a lucky day tomorrow . . ."
she thought, as she dozed contentedly by her fire.

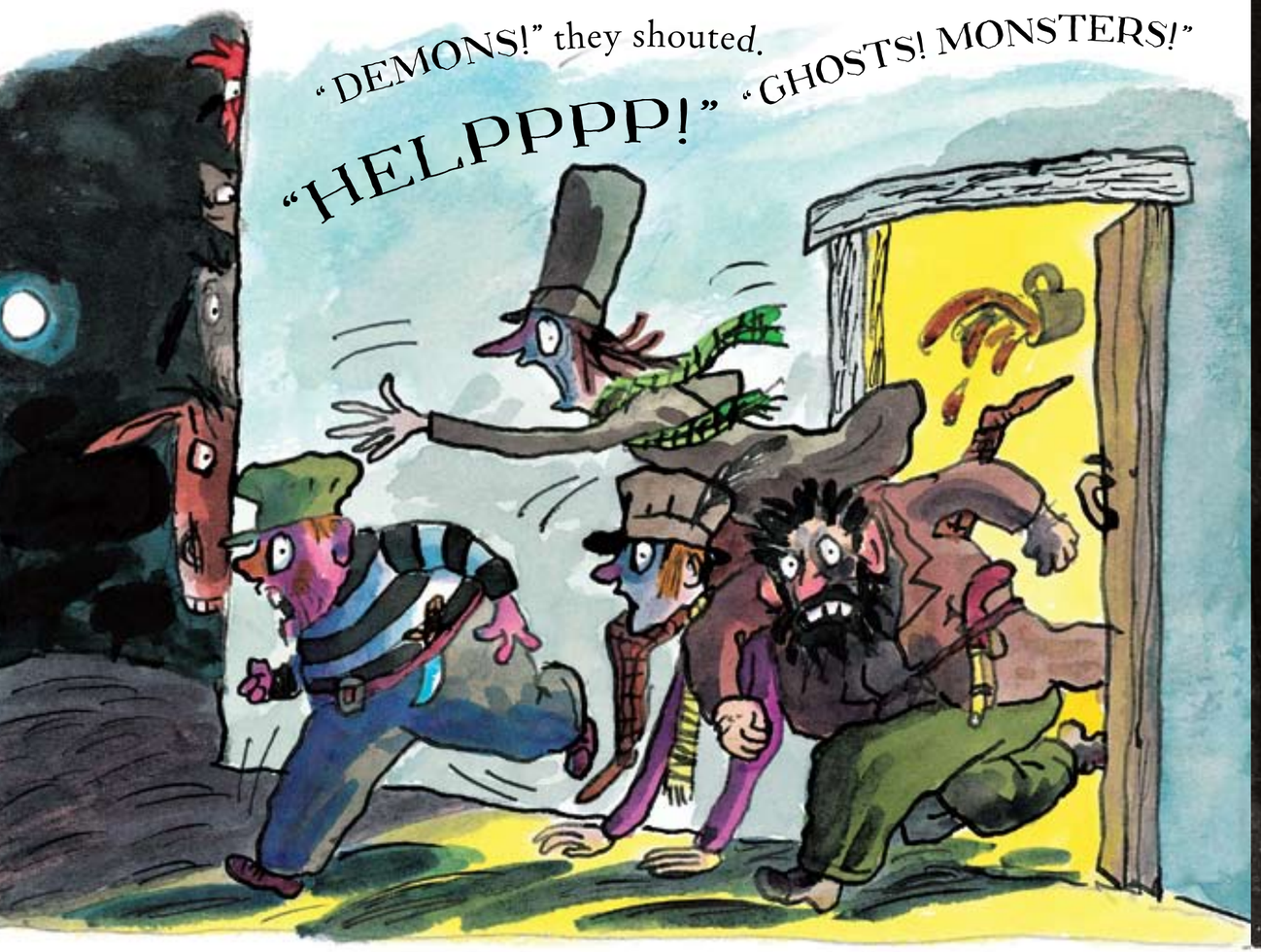


The Musicians of Bremen



Once there were four animals: a cockerel, a cat, a dog and a donkey. They had worked hard all their lives, and the time had come for them to have some fun.

To the musicians' surprise, the hovel door flew open, and the four robbers stumbled into the moonlight.



"Well," muttered the Donkey, "w-h-a-t-'s all that about?"
The animals watched the robbers disappear down the darkened path.
"Never mind!" they thought, and they went into the empty hovel, ate the food, and settled down to rest.



Later that night, one of the robbers crept back to see if it was safe to return, and he saw the cat's eyes shining in the dark. Thinking them to be coals, dying in the fire, he reached out with his candle, and tried to light it with the cat's face. Then, in a blink, all madness happened.

"Tell you what," said the goblin, "I've got a better idea. Did I ever mention my name?"
"No," said the Queen.
"Well, it is an unusual name, and if you can guess what it is, then you are released from our agreement."



"Is it Archibald?"
"No," said the goblin.
"Timothy, Pancho, Balmoral?"
"No, no, no!" sniggered the goblin. "I'll go now and come back tomorrow, and if you can guess my name, then you can keep your daughter."

