

Rush Cape (aka bread loves salt)

Once upon a time there was a man who had three daughters. One day he started to wonder how much his daughters loved him, so he decided to ask them. He went to his eldest daughter and asked "How much do you love me?" and she answered with "Father I love you like I love all the beautiful clothes in the world" and he was pleased with the answer because he knew how much she loved to wear beautiful clothes. He then went to his middle daughter and asked "How much do you love me?" and she answered "Father I love you as much as I love all the fine and beautiful jewelry in the whole world". So he was also pleased with this answer for he knew how much she loved to wear beautiful jewelry. He then went to his youngest daughter and asked "How much do you love me?". Now this daughter loved her father so much that he wanted to give just the right answer, so after a long moment she said to him "Father, I love you as much as bread loves salt".

The father became very angry at this answer for he thought his daughter was just making fun of him and at that very moment he threw her out of the house with only the clothes on her back. The daughter, not really understanding why, left with a sad heart.

So the girl tried to make her own way in the world taking odd job here and there for food and a place to stay. As the weather got colder she knew she would need a coat so as she passed a lake one day she got an idea. She took the rushes that grew by the edge and wove them into a cape with a hood so she now had something to keep herself warm.

One day the girl in her travels came upon a castle. Now she knew that castle was often a good place to find a meal so she knocked on the kitchen door. When the old cook saw her standing there shivering she brought her in and gave her a hot meal by the fire and then invited the girl to spend the night in the warm kitchen before going on her way in the morning.

In the morning the girl wanted to do something nice for the cook for her kindness, so she decided to cook breakfast. When the cook came down to the kitchen and saw all the food prepared and tried it she found it was delicious. So she invited the girl to stay and work in the kitchen for a place to sleep and food to eat.

Now everyone in the castle liked the girl a lot but, they never got a good look at her as she would never take down her hood or say her name, so they just called her Rush cape for the cape of rushes she wore.

Now one day the prince of the castle decided to throw a grand ball and invite everyone rich or poor. All the castle was so excited but Rush Cape told them she would rather sit by the fire and read. After everyone had gone to the party Rush Cape changed into the beautiful dress she had made with scrapes and went to the ball.

The minute she entered the ballroom every eye was on her though nobody knew who she was. When the prince saw her he fell madly in love and they danced all evening long. Very late into the evening the prince took off a very expensive ring from his own hand and gave it to the girl as a token of love. As the prince turned to see the time and turned back again the girl had disappeared. For many days he had his people search for her, but they did not find her anywhere so the prince took to his bed with a broken heart.

A short time later the old cook told Rush Cape she should make some of her fine chicken soup and she would take it up to the prince. So Rush Cape did so and the cook took it to the prince. Now at first the prince didn't want to eat it, but since he didn't want to hurt the cook's feelings he tried some and it was so delicious that he ate the whole bowl. And when he got to the bottom he found the ring he had given the girl. He asked the cook who made the soup and she told him that the girl who they called Rush Cape had made the soup. He then sent for her.

When she entered his chambers he said to take down the hood and when she did he saw it was indeed the girl he had fallen in love with and right then and there he asked her to marry him and she said yes.

The girl was very happy in her new life, but she still liked to help in the kitchen and was there one afternoon when there came a knock on the kitchen door. When the door was opened she saw an old man dressed in clothes that at one time were fine, but now were dirty rags. His hair was uncut and he hadn't bathed in a long time. But under all the grit and grime she knew without a doubt that the old man was her father though he did not recognize her.

So she invited him to eat with her family that night and sent him off with servants for a bath and clean clothes and she fixed supper. She fixed many good things, but the one special thing that she made that night was some homemade bread.

As they sat around the table and passed around the food, the old man took a piece of bread and as he chewed tears filled his eyes. For at that moment he realized who the girl was and which of his daughters really loved him. It wasn't his daughters who loved him like they loved material things, but instead it was his youngest daughter who loved him like bread loves salt which is the same way your heavenly father loves you.

So the girl asked her father to stay and live with them and they all lived happily ever.