

307 The Princess in the Coffin

(previously The Princess in the Shroud).

(Including the previous Types 307B* and 307C*.) After a hasty wish (curse), a diabolic (black, mute) daughter is born to a childless couple (king and queen) [C758.1, S223]. The daughter demands that when she dies, there should be a night-watch at her coffin in the church (graveyard) (someone should watch over her for three nights in order to save her). The dead girl rises every night from the coffin and swallows the man on guard [E251].

A soldier (boy) learns from an old man what he must do to free the girl from the witchcraft [N825.2]. During the first two nights, he hides from the dead girl. During the third night, when the girl leaves the coffin, the soldier lies down in it, refuses to let her in, and forces her (by means of a rusty sword) to say a Paternoster (sing a hymn at the altar). As she says the prayer, the rooster crows and the girl is disenchanted [D791.1.7]. The guards are revived and the girl marries her rescuer [L162]. (The soldier tears his bride into two parts and shakes out the bad spirit in the form of reptiles.)

Various other magic or religious means can be used to save the princess.

Combinations: 306, 507, and 518.