

310 The Maiden in the Tower. (Petrosinella, Rapunzel.)

A (pregnant) woman steals herbs (fruits) from the garden of a witch (sorceress) [G279.2] and is forced to promise her unborn child to the witch [S222.1]. The woman bears a girl, and after a certain time the witch comes for the daughter (often called Petrosinella, Rapunzel, etc. according to the name of the stolen plant) [G204]. The witch locks her up in a tower [R41.2]. Whenever the witch wants to visit her, she enters by climbing on the girl's long (golden) hair as on a ladder [F848.1].

A prince discovers the girl in the tower because of her hair shining in the sun [F555] and falls in love with her. The girl gives the witch a sleeping-draught. The prince climbs up on the girl's hair and they have a love affair. The witch finds out about the nocturnal visits of the prince. She wants to prevent further visits, but accidentally discloses that the lovers could flee by transforming themselves with the help of three oak galls.

The girl overhears the conversation [N455] and explains the magic oak galls to the prince. They flee together and are pursued by the witch. They escape [0642.7] and the witch is killed. The prince marries the girl [L162].

Combinations: 313, 327 A, and 402.