312 Maiden-Killer (Bluebeard)

(previously The Giant-killer and his Dog).

An odd-looking rich man (e.g. with a blue beard [S62.1]) takes his bride to his splendid castle. She is forbidden to open a certain room, but she disobeys and finds it full of the dead bodies of her predecessors [C611]. The husband wants to kill her for her disobedience [C920], but she is able to delay the punishment (three times) [K551]. She (her sister) calls their brother (three brothers) who kills the husband (sometimes with help from a dog or other animal) and rescues his sister(s) [G551.1, G652]. Cf. Type 311.

Combinations: 311, 313.

312A The Rescued Girl

(previously The Brother Rescues His Sister from the Tiger).

A man gives his daughter in marriage to a tiger (monkey, supernatural being) because he made a rash vow (as a payment for the tiger's help, or because the tiger threatened him). The tiger eats the girl and demands her sister(s), whom he also eats. The youngest sister (brother) kills the tiger (the girl escapes and the tiger is lured back to the village and killed).

312B   Not described in ATU