

408 The Three Oranges.

A prince insolently breaks an old woman's jar (makes her angry in another way). She utters a curse: he is to fall in love with three oranges (lemons, other fruits, girls of magic origin) [S375].

The prince sets out on a (sometimes very long) quest during which he is given directions, advice, and help to overcome obstacles.

The prince finds the fruits in a garden (castle). When he opens them, out of each comes a beautiful, often naked, young woman who asks for water (comb, mirror, towel, clothes, etc.) [D721.5]. The prince can give only the third woman what she asks for, and the other girls die (disappear, return into the fruits).

The prince hides the woman on a tree besides a fountain while he goes to get clothes (carriage, company) for her. An ugly black woman (Gypsy woman, witch) comes to get water. She thinks that the reflection of the Orange Girl is her own [J1791.6.1], and breaks her water jar because she thinks she is too beautiful to carry water. The Orange Girl laughs, and the black woman discovers her.

The black woman succeeds in taking the Orange Girl's place (two different versions). The prince returns, and though he is astonished at the sudden change (excuses: sunburn, influences of wind and weather), he marries the false bride.

(1) The black woman pushes the Orange Girl into the water [K1911.2.2], where she changes into a fish [D170] (bird [D150]). The false bride demands that it be killed, but from its remains grows a tree. She demands it be felled, but an old woman (man) takes away a splinter (log) [D610]. Out of this once again comes the Orange Girl, who secretly does the old woman's housework. The old woman finds the girl and adopts her. The prince recognizes her when he hears her life history (when the girl tends one of his horses) [K1911.3].

(2) The black woman combs (louses) the Orange Girl and sticks a magic needle into her head. The girl changes into a dove [D150] and flies to the castle. The gardener (cook) hears the bird's song asking about the prince and his black wife. The dove is captured and the prince is much pleased with it. He finds the magic needle and removes it, and thus the dove changes back into the Orange Girl [K1911.3]. Cf. Type 452B*.

After the couple's reunion, the false bride is punished (sentenced to a cruel death; she often pronounces her own judgment).

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 310, 313, 314, 400, 403, 425, 451, 510A, 516, and 709.

Remarks: Documented in the 17th century by Basile, *Pentamerone* (V,9).