450 Little Brother and Little Sister.

Little brother and little sister run away from their home because of their cruel stepmother [S31.5, S31] or because their parents want to eat them. In spite his sister's warning, the brother drinks from a spring or an animal's track [D555] and is transformed into a deer [D114.1.1] (Iamb [D135], goat). The children live together in the forest until a prince finds them [P253.2, N711.1]. The sister hides up in a tree but the prince tricks her into coming down. She marries the prince and they take the animal brother with them.

The prince is absent when their child is born. The sister is replaced by another bride [K1911, K1911.l.2], often the daughter of a bad woman (stepmother, witch, maid). The sister is thrown into the water [S142], transformed into a bird [D150] (fish [D170]), or swallowed by a fish [K1911.2.2.1]. She returns at night to suckle her child [E323.1.l, D688] and to look after her brother. A servant overhears the conversation between the animal brother and the sister and informs the prince [H13]. The false bride and her mother are punished. Cf. Type 403.

In some variants the false bride and her mother want to kill the animal brother because they fear that the truth will be discovered. The cook saves him.

Combinations: 313, 327 A, 403, 451, 480, and 709.

Remarks: Elements are documented in Latin verse by the Polish poet C. Kobylienski in 1588.