

510B Peau d'Asne

(previously The Dress of Gold, of Silver, and of Stars [Capo' Rushes]). (Cap o'Rushes, Donkey Skin, All Kinds of Fur, Allerleirauh.)

A king promises his wife on her deathbed [M255] only to marry another woman who is as beautiful as she is (whom a particular ring fits). Because she is the only one who meets this condition, the king wants to marry his grown daughter. In order to delay the wedding, the young woman asks him to give her dresses like the sun (gold), the moon (silver), and stars (diamonds), and a coat made of many different kinds of fur (a covering of wood). After he provides all these, the daughter runs away from her father [T311.1] and, disguised in the ugly skin [K521.1, F821.1.3, F821.1.4], works as a kitchen maid (goose-girl) in another castle. Cf. Types 706, 706C.

When a series of feasts is held in the castle where she works, the young woman secretly puts on her splendid dresses. The prince falls in love with her [N711.6] but does not recognize her as the kitchen maid [R255]. On the following days he treats the kitchen maid badly. During the feasts he asks the beautiful woman where she comes from, and she gives cryptic answers that refer to how he had treated the kitchen maid [H151.5]. He gives her a ring. Then the prince becomes lovesick. In her character as kitchen maid, she slips his ring into his soup (bread). He finds her [H94.2, H94.4] and marries her.

Sometimes the young woman is discovered while she is bathing or dressing instead of being recognized through a token.

Combinations: 403, 510A, 511, 706, and 923.

Remarks: This form of the incest motif (the king wants to marry his daughter after the death of his wife) is often documented independently since the 12th century.