

552 The Girls Who Married Animals.

(Including the previous Types 552A and 552B.)

This tale exists chiefly in two different forms:

(1) Following the wish of his dead father and against his brothers' advice, the youngest son marries his three sisters to the first suitors who come for them [S221.1]. The suitors take the girls home with them [B620.1, B640].

On a quest for his sisters, the brother reaches the castles of his brothers-in-law and learns that they are the masters of the three animal kingdoms (men transformed to animals [D620, D621.1]; cf. Type 302C*).

They receive their brother-in-law in a friendly way and provide him with magic means (parts of their body, feathers, hair, etc.) [B501, B505.1] to use to call them at any time (he leaves a signal of distress). With their help he accomplishes difficult tasks and finally marries a woman (princess).

(He is dismembered by an ogre, summons the brothers-in-law, and they resuscitate him; cf. Type 302C*. They also recover his lost castle; cf. Type 560). (Previously Type 552A.)

(2) Three girls who despair of being married say that they will marry anyone even if the suitors are animals [C26]. Three animals pass by and take along the three girls as wives. When the girls' father visits his daughters, he finds food and other things magically provided by the brothers-in-law [D2105]. Later (at home) he tries the same method without success [J2411.3] (his effort nearly ends tragically). (Previously Type 552B.)

Combinations: 302, 302C*, 303A, 317, 400, 425A, 425C, 518, 554, and 560.

Remarks: Important version see Basile, *Pentamerone* (IV,3). The type occurs in two forms, but many variants are not clearly differentiated. The second form occurs mainly in northern Europe and is less widespread.