

A Fair Swap

Retold by
Jenny Giles
Illustrated by
Isabel Lowe



Once upon a time, a man and his wife lived on a small farm. Every day, he went out to work in the fields, while she did the housework and looked after the animals.

One evening, the man came home very tired indeed, and complained to his wife. "You are so lucky, because you can stay here at home," he grumbled, "while I have to work hard in the fields. How I wish that I had such an easy life."

The woman smiled at her husband. "If you think that my life is so easy," she said, "then tomorrow we shall have a fair swap. I shall go out to the fields, and you can do the housework."

"What a good idea!" said the man.

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So, early the next morning, the woman took the sickle, and went to work in the fields.

The man could not believe his luck. What a wonderful time he was going to have!

“First of all,” he decided, “I will sit down and rest while I churn the cream. I will soon have the butter made.”

After he had been churning for a while, he began to feel hungry. “I will cook some sausages,” he said, and he went to get them.

But as soon as his back was turned, the pig ran into the house. It smelled the cream in the churn, and rushed towards it.

Crash! Down went the churn! The cream spilled all over the floor, and the pig ran about in it, snorting and snuffling.

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The man heard the noise, and ran to pick up the churn. But the cream was very slippery, and he slid across the floor, banging his head against the wall.

“Oh, help!” he cried. “Look at all the cleaning up I have to do now!”

The man put the sausages on the table and chased the pig out of the kitchen. Then he began to mop the floor. But while he was cleaning, the fire went out. “I will have to get some more wood from the shed,” he said.

