

## Story 2: *Rumpelstiltskin*

Once upon a time, there was a poor miller. He had a beautiful daughter. He told the king, "My daughter can turn straw into gold."

The king said to the miller, "That is very interesting, bring her to my palace, let me see her magic."

The next day, the king took the miller's daughter into a room and said, "Now turn all the straw into gold. If you can't do it, you will die."

The poor miller's daughter was sitting there with no idea how straw could be turned into gold. She was very frightened and began to weep.

Suddenly, a little man appeared, and said, "Mistress Miller, why are you crying?"

"I do not know how to turn straw into gold. If I can't do it, the king will kill me," answered the girl,

"What will you give me," said the little man, "if I do it for you?"

"My necklace," said the girl.

The little man took the necklace, and in seconds he turned all the straw into gold.

The king was very happy, but still he wished to have more gold. He took the miller's daughter to another room and ordered her to turn all the straw into gold again. He promised, "If you succeed, I will marry you."

When the girl was alone, the little man came again and said, "What will you give me if I turn the straw into gold for you?"

"I have nothing left that I can give," answered the girl.

"Then, if you become the queen, give me your first child."

The miller's daughter agreed. The little man then turned the straw into gold.

The king was very happy and married the pretty miller's daughter.

A year later, she had a baby. Suddenly the little man came into her room, and said, "Now give me what you promised."

The queen was frightened, and began to cry. So the little man pitied her.

"If you can find out my name in three days," he said, "you can keep your child."

When the little man came the next day, she began with Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar, and said all the names she knew, but they were all wrong.

On the second day, the queen sent a messenger out to collect names. When the messenger came back, he said, "When I was in the forest, I saw a little house. There was a ridiculous little man jumping and shouting - 'I am going to have the child of the young queen. She will never know that my name is Rumpelstiltskin'".

Later, the little man came in, and asked, "Now, mistress queen, what is my name?"

"Perhaps your name is Rumpelstiltskin?"

"Oh, how do you know my name? I don't believe it," the little man shouted angrily.