

## THE HARE'S BRIDE

A woman and her daughter had a beautiful garden with cabbages, but a lucky hare got into it on a cold winter night and ate as many cabbages as he could. The mother saw from the window and said to the daughter, "Go chase that fate hare away. He's eating all the cabbages."

The girl came out and said to the hare, "Shoo, shoo, hare! You're eating up all our cabbage."

The hare stalled for time as he was too full of cabbage to move. He patted the ground next to him and said, "Come, girl, sit on my tail, and come with me to my hut."

The girl refused.

The next day the hare hopped over again and ate cabbages, so the woman said to her daughter, "Go to the garden and chase that hare away again."

Again, the girl came running out of the house yelling. This time she was waving her arms while she said, "Shoo, shoo, hare! You're eating up all our cabbage."

And again the hare said, "Come, girl, sit on my tail, and come with me to my hut."

And yet again, the girl refused.

On the third day the hare came again and ate cabbages, so the woman said to her daughter, "Go to the garden and chase the hare away."

For a third time, the girl came running towards the garden shouting, "Shoo, shoo, hare! You're eating all our cabbages."

The hare said, "Come, girl, sit on my tail, and come with me to my hut."

Hoping it would keep him from eating their cabbage, she agreed. So the girl sat on the hare's tail, and he hopped her far away to his little hut. When they arrived he said, "Now cook some green cabbage and millet. I'm heading out to invite guests to our wedding."

The girl still hoped playing along would keep the hare away from their cabbage, but then the guests began to arrive. It was mostly hares, but a fox served as sexton and a crow that was ordained flew in to marry the two. The altar was even under a rainbow.

But the girl was sad, for she was all alone. She sat in her room and wept. The hare began knocking on her door.

"Open the door! Open the door! The wedding guests are making merry," he yelled.

She continued to cry. The hare left, but returned a few minutes later to yell and pound on the door again, "Open the door! Open the door! The wedding guests are hungry."

Still, the bride continued to cry, and said nothing. The hare went away again. Soon he came back and said, "Open the door! Open the door! The wedding guests are waiting."

She refused to answer the door. She looked around and found a pile of straw. She dressed it in her clothes and gave it a stirring-spoon. She carefully stood it next to the millet pot and snuck out of the hare's hut to return to her mother.

The hare came once more. He turned the knob and the door was unlocked, but his bride was not there. He turned and saw her at the stove. The hare walked over and immediately saw it was not his bride when her cap fell off and into the pot, and he sadly went away.