



The four musicians

Did you hear that? It's a donkey braying. Would you like to know why he's braying? He's begging his owner not to throw him out of the house.

"Please, don't throw me out," cried the donkey. "Let me stay!"

But the donkey's owner was in no mood to listen.

"You're an old, useless donkey, a good-for-nothing. Get out of here this minute, or I'll hit you with my stick!"

Poor donkey... He had to go out into the world on his own. "What will I do?" he thought. "I've got it! Since I'm good at braying, I'll become a singer."

And that's the start of the story "The Four Musicians".

Not far from the donkey, there was a dog barking. He was wagging his tail, as he asked his owner to take him along hunting.

"Please, take me with you," he begged. "Don't leave me alone."

But the dog's owner wouldn't hear a word of it.

"You're too old! You can't chase the rabbits anymore. Get out of here right now, if you don't want me to give you a good hard kick!"

So the poor dog had no choice but to go out all on his own.

And wouldn't you know, the poor dog ran into the poor donkey and told him his story.

"I was thrown out of my house, too," said the donkey to the dog. "Come with me and we can both become musicians. You can bark and I'll bray. We'll have a great time!"

And since the dog agreed, both animals went on their merry way.

Not far from the donkey and the dog, there was a cat meowing. The cat had long whiskers and was perched on top of a chair asking his owner not to throw him out of the house.

"Please, don't turn me out! What will I do all by myself?"

But the cat's owner wouldn't listen to a word he said.

"You've grown too old, you old cat! You don't catch mice the way you used to. Get out of my house before I pull your whiskers out!"

The poor cat had to go out all on his own. As soon as he left the house, he ran into the donkey and the dog, and told them his sad story.

"The same thing happened to us," said the dog. "And we decided to become musicians. You can join us and also become a musician. You can meow."

And since the cat agreed, all three of them went off happily together.

Very close to the donkey, the dog and the cat, there was a rooster that wouldn't stop crowing. He was begging his owner not to make him leave the house and be left on his own.

"Please, don't throw me out," he begged. "I'll do anything you want, but don't leave me on my own."

But the decision had been made.

"I don't want to see you anymore, you voiceless rooster! You're so old that you can't even manage to wake me up in the morning. Get out right now if you don't want a smack that will knock your feathers off!"

So the poor rooster had no choice but to go out all on his own.

On the way, the rooster ran into the donkey, the dog and the cat. When he told them his story, all three suggested he join them to become a musician. And since the rooster agreed, all four went off singing on their merry way.

After a while, it started getting dark.

"Do you see a house where we can spend the night?" the donkey asked his friends.

The dog, perched on top of the donkey's back, looked to see if he could find a place to for them to stay. The cat stretched up to get a better look. And the rooster stretched his neck up high and said:

"Hey, I see a house over there! Let's see if they'll let us spend the night!"

The four animals could never have imagined that a terrible ogre, feared by all, lived in that house. He had a square head, big round eyes and a horrible expression on his face. As you can imagine, he was a very ferocious, wicked ogre.

When they got to the ogre's house, the donkey, the dog, the cat and the rooster decided to sing together.

"If we sing, the owner of the house is certain to hear us and he'll let us spend the night," said the donkey.

And so, all four of them started singing.

From inside the house, the terrible ogre heard the noise made by the four of them and had a terrible fright. He was so frightened that he ran away from his own house in a panic.

The four animals went into the ogre's house and saw that it was very pretty.

"We could stay and live here," said the donkey to his friends. "We could spend the day singing and, most important of all, we could keep each other company. We would never be alone again."

And since the dog, the cat and the rooster agreed, all four of them moved into the house. And if no one has thrown them out yet, they're probably still living there.

Script: Eulàlia Carrillo

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