

## Fairytale

### Grimm

Juno zipped this way and that, dropped onto a leaf here, a flower there, and sipped nectar from a tulip or two, before he noticed something new in faery wood. Noticed, is an understatement. Two giants were blundering through the undergrowth. He tugged on Io's wing, as she hovered in front of an unusual flower. "Io, look at this! He pointed at the disturbance. What are those two lumbering man thingies doing? Haven't seen one of those in five hundred years, and here's two, large as life, clomping over the threshold into Faery land. I thought they couldn't do that. Pied Piper's not been around lately has he? Last time he came through here, dragging that whingeing crèche of never ageing infants in his wake, even the travelling gnomes upped caravans and moved out." They'll all want passports eventually. You know what will happen then. They'll want asylum for their parents, and cousins, and god knows who else."

Io stuck her fingers down her throat, and vomited up the nectar she'd just drunk. "Urggh! Venus fly trap! Didn't think those things could grow in Faery land either. What's going on around here?" She scooped a dewdrop off a nearby leaf, and rubbed the sick off her spider-silk tutu. "God it gets everywhere!.. Come on then, let's have a look at your giants... Ooh! They're only little children, barely more than babes. Oh shit! That's how they got in. Look, they're following a trail of smarties, leading strait from the human realm, right to that little cottage in the wood. The one made of gingerbread, with candy frosted roof. Don't see too many of those around... Although..." she rubbed her chin, "I have heard of something like that before... Long time ago... Now what was it..?" The silver fairy penny finally dropped. "Bugger! We need to get down there, fast. Whatever you do, don't eat any of that house. Shit! They've gone in. How much fairy dust you got in your purse? Now where's my wand?" She rummaged around in her knickers. "Ah... got you, you little bugger. It grew to full size, as she pulled it out. Eeugh! Okay, Okay! My purse is full. Where else am I supposed to stick it?" She looked at it critically. "Haven't used this in a hundred years!" Io breathed on it and gave it a rub. "There, good as new. Follow me! You take the back and I'll go in the front... The witch had just rubbed fat on the children, and was loading them in the oven, when Io burst in, in a cloud of fairy dust, with an uncontrolled wand, bucking and throwing out thunder bolts in every direction. Juno had long forgotten how, and so miscast a spell, that caused his purse to eat the witch. The children ran screaming, back through the magical smartie portal. It snapped shut behind them. Io and Juno were left spluttering, as his purse let out an enormous witchy fart.

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