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The Golden Goose in The Classic Fairy Tales 2 retold for the stage by Charles Way

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Author: Way, Charles

Title: *The Golden Goose* in *The Classic Fairy Tales 2 retold for the stage*.

Year of Publication: 2008

Publisher: Aurora Metro Publications Ltd.

ISBN: 978-0-9551566-7-0

Number of pages: 80

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate

Keywords: Brothers Grimm; The Golden Goose, The Princess Who Never Laughed; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Fairy Tales; Plays; Theater for Young Audiences; Children's Theatre

Production Requirements: Scenery for several different locations – could be simple to extensive. Sound, light and special effects required.

Number of Acts: 2

Estimated Runtime: 100 minutes

Number of Characters: 13

Cast Requirements: 4-8 men, 4-5 women

Time Period: medieval

Review:

Though titled *The Golden Goose*, the original Grimm brother's tale is used more as a jumping off point in this script. A young man named Dummling lives in a cottage with his mother and favored elder brother. Dummling meets the Fairy King in the forest and in exchange for a kind act is given a golden goose that lays golden eggs. When his mother and brother try to take the goose they become attached to it and Dummling leads them on a run through the town to the king's castle. The king has issued a proclamation that whoever can make his sad eldest daughter laugh will earn her hand in marriage. The script then leaves the original story and Dummling has to prove himself worthy of the princess's hand by completing several near-impossible tasks. Then, the princess and her sister along with Dummling and his brother find themselves in a *Midsummer Night's Dream* – like situation, complete with love potion applied to their eyes.

The addition of several characters and story lines somewhat weakens the plot, making the story disjointed and not allowing for complete character development. Random characters like the "uninventor" who helps Dummling with one of his tasks and quirks such as having the younger princess shout "Ding!" every time the king says a royal cliché line detract from the world of the play. The use of fairies supposedly descended from Titania and Oberon to tie the tale together is forced and the addition of the almost identical lover's plot from *Midsummer's* is contrived. Dummling's beating the odds in spite of other people's opinions of him will have universal appeal.



Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

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