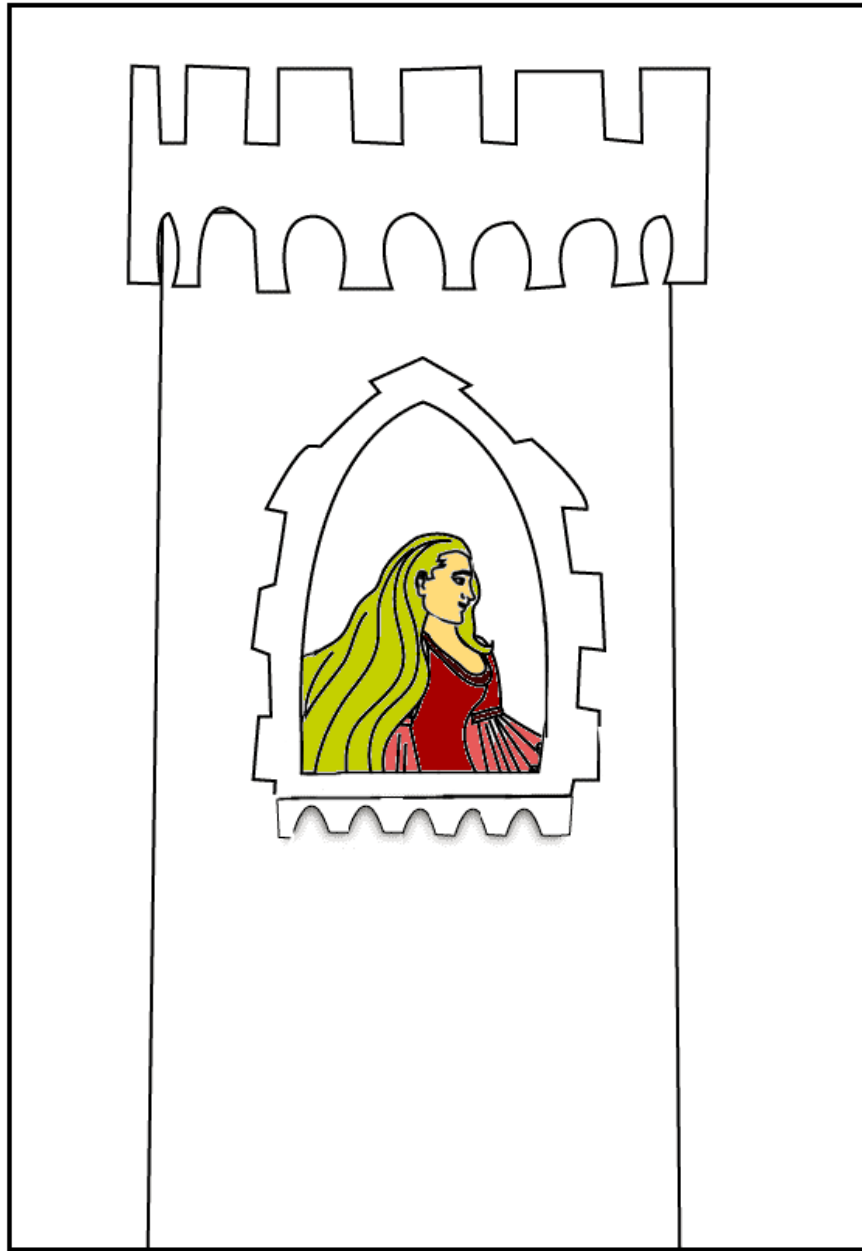


Redudezel

There once was a village not too far away, and in this village lived a boy named Redudezel. Redudezel was a little different from other boys in the village, not in a bad way, just different. Redudezel didn't like the same things as the other boys, when they were wrestling in the mud he was brushing his hair. When they were plowing the field he was sewing. When the boys were playing knights in shining armor he was playing princes.

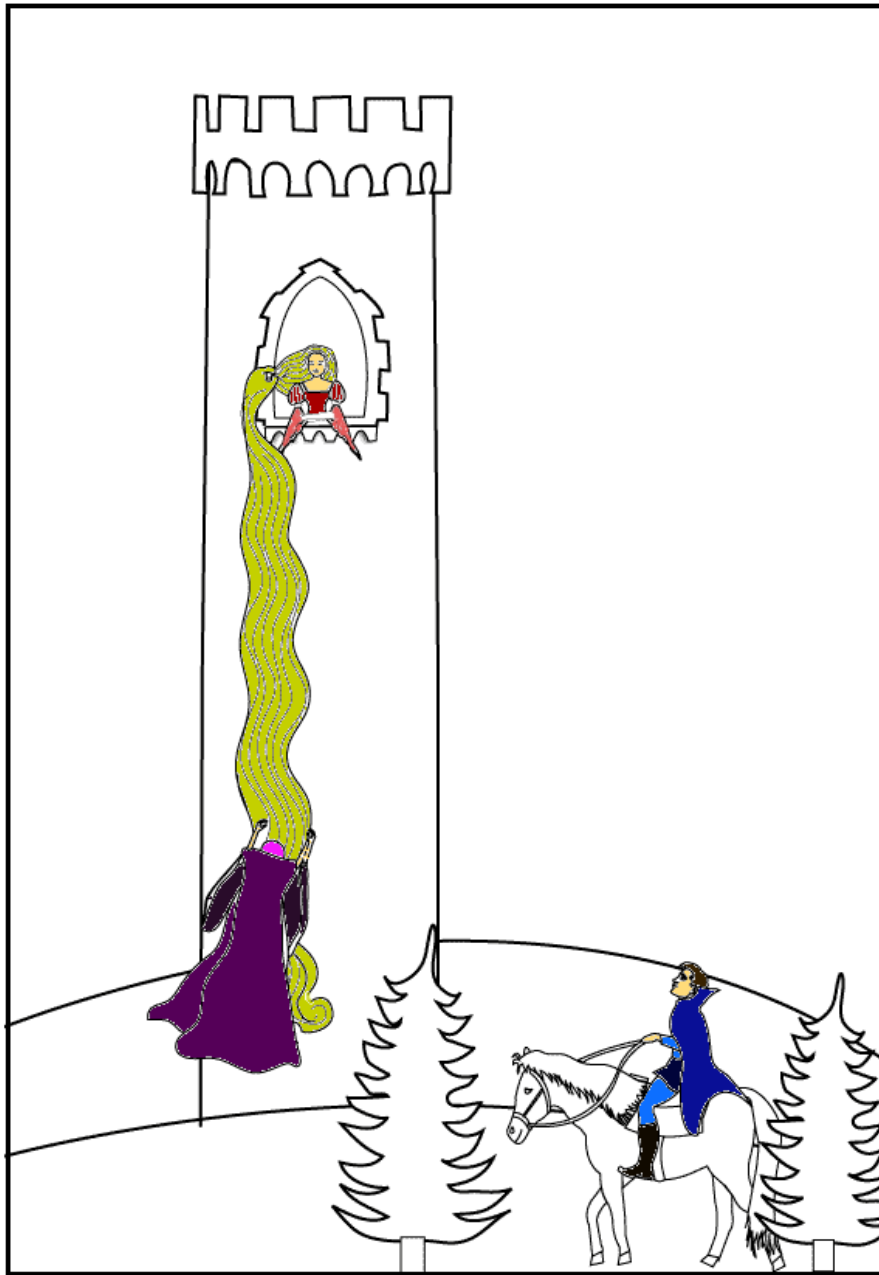
Redudezel's parents were convinced that he was just going through a phase, and as good parents they understood, so they encouraged Redudezel to do the kinds of things he liked. He became an expert seamstress, better than many of the girls in the village. He sang in the quire, and was the best singer in the whole village, maybe in the entire kingdom. He wanted to be a princess, so wore a dress, his parents didn't object. He was very beautiful.

Despite Redudezel's amazing singing and sewing the villagers didn't like that he was different, and no matter what his parents said, they were convinced that he was possessed by some kind of evil spirit. His parents refused to punish him for his behavior. So on Redudezel's twelfth birthday the villagers came together and stormed their house, to kidnap Redudezel. They took him and sent him far away, so far that his parents couldn't find him, no matter how hard they looked.



They sent him somewhere no one could find him. They sent him to the wickedest enchantress in the entire kingdom, and she locked him in a tower, which lay in a forest, and had neither stairs nor a door, but at the top was a little window. Reduzel was quite happy up there because he could sit at the window watching the life of the forest and talk to the birds. Yet sometimes he would sigh, for he longed to be back in the village where he could run and skip in the sunshine with his friends. Then he would sing to cheer himself up.

When the enchantress brought Reduzel food, she placed herself beneath the window and cried, “Reduzel, Reduzel, let down your hair.”



You see, Reduzel loved his hair so much that he never cut it. It was so long it could reach the ground, even from the top of the very tall tower. When the enchantress called out to him Reduzel would twist his hair around a hook and drop it out of the window, and the witch

would climb up it. When she left, Redudezel would let down his hair once more, and the witch would slide down to the ground.

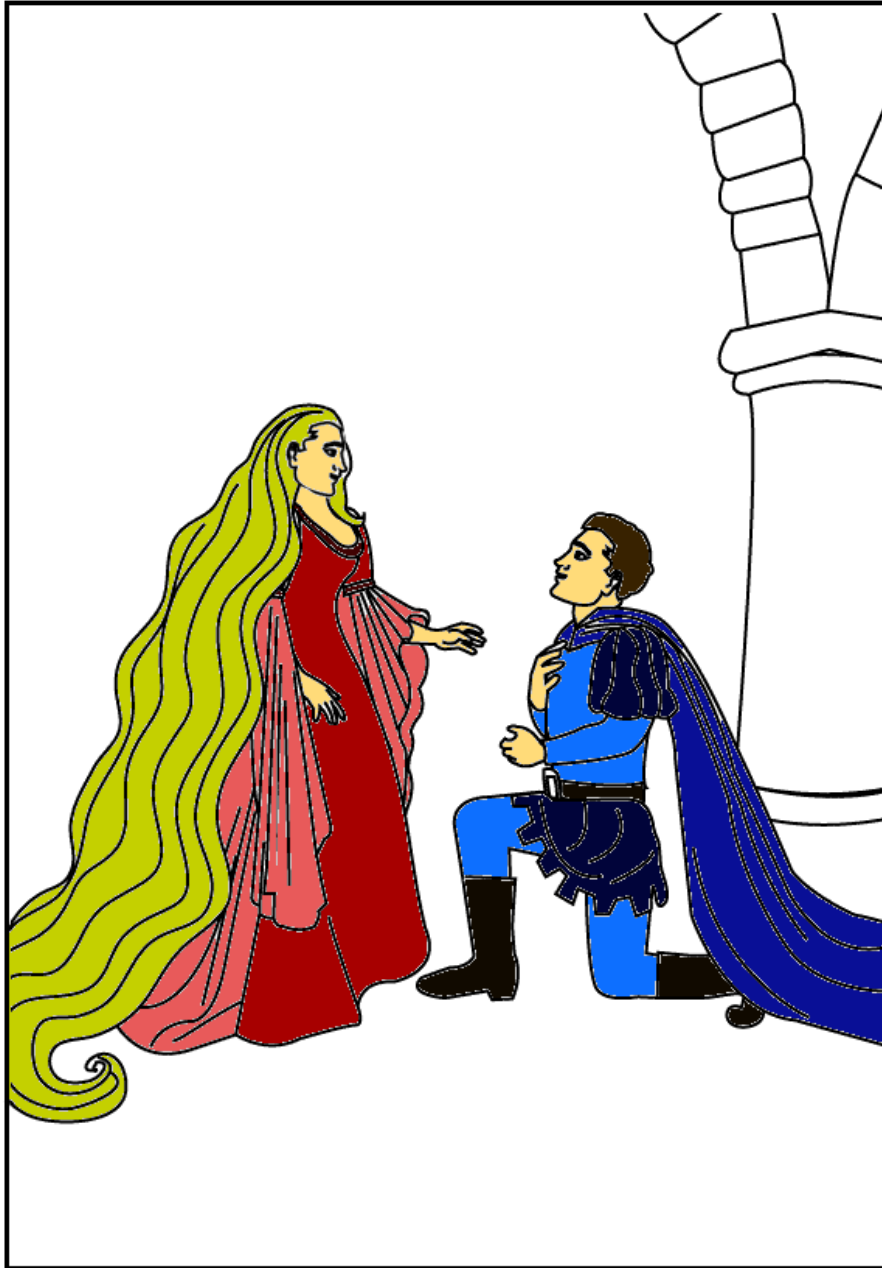
After a year or two, it came to pass that the king's son rode through the forest and passed by the tower. Then he heard a song, which was so charming that he stood still and listened. It was Redudezel, who in his solitude passed his time in letting his sweet voice resound all around the forest. The king's son wanted to climb up to him, and looked for the door of the tower, but none was to be found. He rode home, but the singing had so deeply touched his heart, that every day he went out into the forest and listened to it.

Once when he was standing behind a tree, he saw that an enchantress came there, and he heard how she cried, "Redudezel, Redudezel, let down your hair." Then Redudezel let down his gorgeous hair, and the enchantress climbed up to him.

"If that is the ladder by which one gets up the tower, I too will try my fortune," said the prince, and the next day when it began to grow dark. He went to the tower and cried, "Redudezel, Redudezel, let down your hair".

Immediately Redudezel's hair fell down and the king's son climbed up. At first Redudezel was terribly frightened when a man, climbed inside the tower instead of the enchantress. But the king's son began to talk to him quite like a friend, and told him that his heart had been so stirred by the singing that it had let him have no rest, and he had been forced to find the source. Then Redudezel lost his fear, and the prince would come and visit every day he and the prince became best of friends.

Soon they became more than friends, and when the prince asked Redudezel if he would marry him, and Redudezel saw in his eyes that they were truly in love, he said yes, and laid his hands on the prince's.



“I will willingly go away with you, but I do not know how to get down,” said Rededezel.

“I will bring with a strain of silk every time that I come, and you will weave a ladder with it, and when that is ready you can climb down, and I will take you on my horse.”

They agreed that until that time he should come to her every evening, for the old woman came by day. The enchantress never noticed anything of this. Until once Redudezel said to her, spoke without thinking.

"Why is it when you climb up my hair you are so heavy? The handsome prince who comes is much lighter than you."

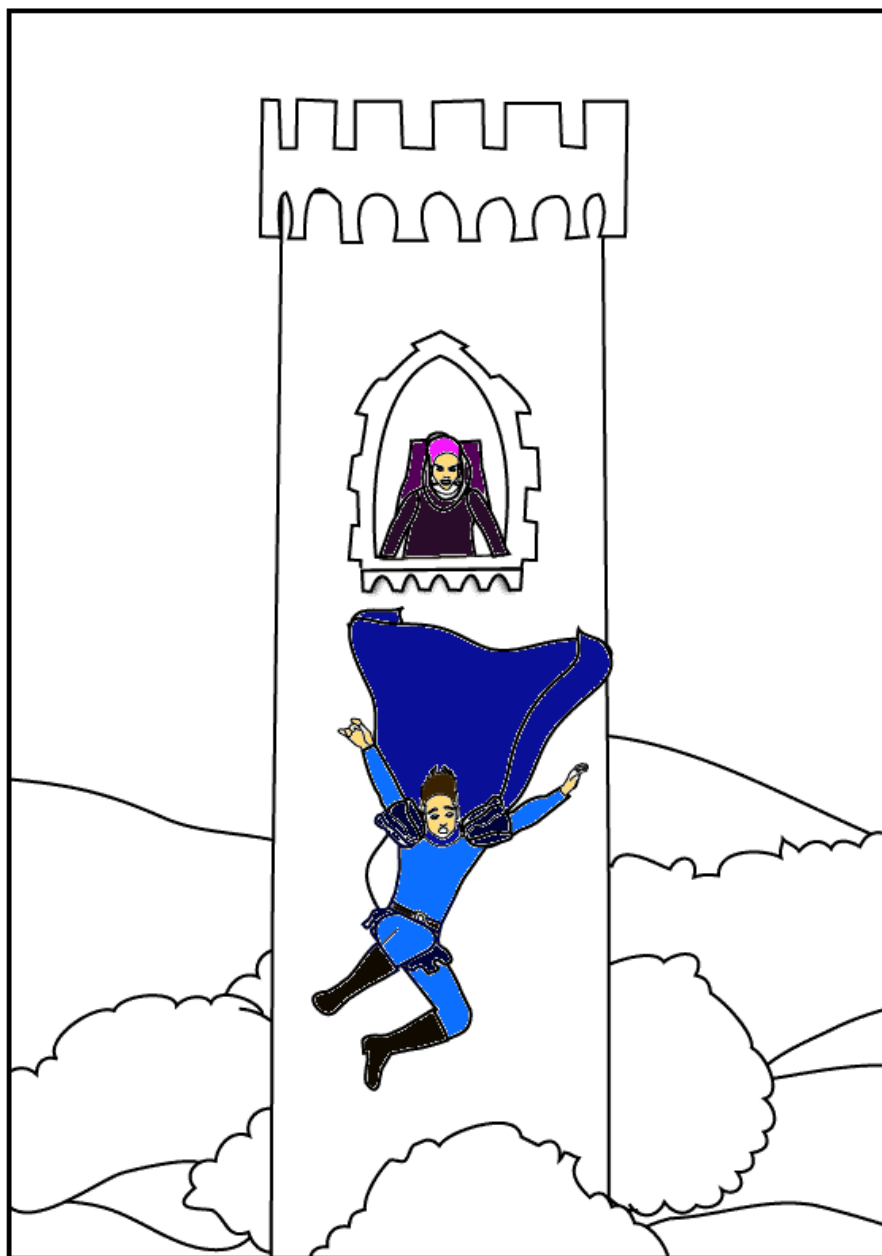
At this, the enchantress flew into a rage, "You wicked child," cried the enchantress and took Redudezel out of the tower and led him into the desert to a lonely spot and told him he must stay there without food or shelter. The witch cut off Redudezel's hair and then hurried back to the tower.



That evening when the prince came by, he called out as usual, "Redudezel, Redudezel, let down your hair."

The witch, who had Redudezel's hair, threw it down. The prince climbed up eagerly, only to be confronted with the enchantress.

"Aha," she cackled, "so you are the visitor who has been coming to see my little Redudezel. I will make sure you won't see her again," and she tried to scratch out his eyes.



The prince jumped out of the high window, but was not killed for he landed in a clump of thorny bushes. His face, however, was badly scratched and his eyes hurt so that he could not see, and he stumbled off blindly into the forest.

After several days of wandering and suffering, he heard a voice singing. Following the sound, he drew closer and realized he had found Reduzel, who was singing as he worked to make a home for himself in the forest. The prince ran towards him, calling his name, and came and kissed him. As he did so, his eyes were healed and he could see again.



The prince took Redudezel to his father's palace, where he told his story. Redudezel was reunited with his parents who were overjoyed to see their son again. and a proclamation was made banning the witch from the kingdom and allowing the marriage of two men. Then a grand wedding took place. Redudezel married the prince and lived with him for many years. As for the witch, she was never seen again.