

## Oleomargerine

Widow, dying, gives seeds to Johnny -- got them from old woman once, to whom she had been kind -- always believed she was a fairy -- only in dire distress must they be planted -- then await results with confidence -- so she had kept them till now. <sup>q</sup>  
<When> Must be planted in spring -- watered at dawn & exactly at Midnight -- tend them constantly & keep a pure heart & avoid complainings. When flower came up, eat it.

She died. Johnny was alone all winter & nearly starved -- humiliated & sometimes kicked by neighbors when he begged a crumb.

Planted seed in spring -- a month's weary but faithful tending,  a green blade <sh> came up -- after a week  a bud appeared -- blossomed full, in another -- a delicate pink flower, with golden edging & a pale blue heart -- pretty & odd. Johnny seized & ate it. His hunger was raging. A mighty disappointment<sub>v</sub> -- it had no taste, it affected his hunger not. His heart broke, tears flowed, he went sobbing into the wilderness to die.

Kangaroo heard him & asked what was the matter. Johnny astonished -- "Can you talk?" Yes, all animals could talk -- often spoke to people but got no reply they could understand. "Do you understand me?" Yes -- "for evidently you have eaten the ju-ju flower -- fairies rarely give it to anybody."

Other animals collected. "Here's a boy who has eaten

juju -- we must befriend him." All agree -- news flies everywhere & clouds & droves of joyous birds & beasts collect.

The moles build a cellar, the beavers erect posts & cover with boughs -- earth put on top & flowers planted there -- vines planted which furnish sides to house -- Johnny cuts windows & a door. Birds fly away & steal hammer, saw, any tool he wants.

[REDACTED] Animals bring cherries, nuts, strawberries, & everything, including wheat-heads -- cow is milked, bread is baked, [REDACTED] all have a banquet. Karoo hostess, ain't she? (Susie) Nightingale, mocking-bird, <sup>etc,</sup> & <sub>6</sub> make a concert (insert the words) monkey makes humorous speech, lion a grave one (insert them)

Bed made of sods topped with moss, then ducks & geese pull out feathers for it -- a dead tiger & seal are skinned for blanket sheet & coverlet.

Linx & lion appointed as guards.

Lark calls all hands at daylight -- they show Johnny a cool spring to wash & drink -- after breakfast, every day, all wander picknicking over mountains & through forests, J riding lion, birds & beasts cutting up fun. One day J. finds hand-bill [REDACTED] -- prodigious reward <sup>m</sup> in money -- a princess a home in palace for life little Prince Oleomargerine been carried off -- giants suspected.

"Would you like to earn that money &c?" Yes indeed. Well, go tell the King if he will protect your witnesses, you'll put

him on track of prince -- say nothing more.

They take him to top of mountain overlooking Capital, thence he goes on foot -- won't let him in at City gate -- all right, no matter, I only came with news of Prince. They beg he won't mention their discourtesy -- rush him to King & do him honor. King beside himself with joy till he sees poor little J -- "What can such a little chap as you do for my trouble?"

"Protect my witnesses & await results?"

Who are they? -- why should they need protection?

J wasn't to say anything more.

All right, I'll promise any thing -- I'll line the streets with soldiers & none shall touch the witnesses.

Very well, I'll be at city gate at 2 pm.

I'll be there, too.

J reported to animals. They decide he must travel in state, mounted on one elephant, with another on each side -- then rhinoceros, then giraffes, alligators, serpents, birds, every kind of animal that can live on land -- birds perched on them.

King astounded when they arrive.

Do you own the menagerie? Have you no tent? How are you going to Exhibit? But where are the witnesses?

These are they. {?}

These -- how can they help?

Go to palace -- then we will try.

At palace J says to animals -- now everything is done as you

J  
 said -- what must ~~A~~ do next. They answer by the roaring lion,  
 which frights everybody.

J says, he tells me they are now ready to testify.

Do you mean ~~to~~ to say the lion spoke, & you understood him.

Yes.

Can't believe it -- give me a proof.

What will you have?

Tell < > a bird to do something.

All right -- suggest it.

Paper pinned to younger flag -- tell him to fetch it to me.

Buzzard does it. K can't be convinced. See helmet at  
 yonder distant soldier's feet -- tell lion fetch it.

Lion marches grimly off (everybody flying before him, & does  
 it.

King  astounded. Let evidence proceed.

J, says -- now animals, testify.

Tiger -- I lay in my lair & saw 2 giants pass by bearing  
 Prince -- I couldn't get down precipice, so I notified eagle  
 overhead -- he followed them.

J -- Come, eagle.

Eagle -- followed them till dark, then notified owl.

Owl -- I followed them till came to the sea -- called sea-gull.

Sea-gull -- I followed to land beyond, then tired -- they  
 entered marsh -- I notified <water snake> alligator

W. S. I followed them to <hot> edge of hot sandy desert,  
notified sand-snake --

SS -- Followed them to grassy plain, notified antelope.

A -- followed them to snowy highlands, <to> notified  
reindeer.

Rdeer -- Followed them toward summit, they entered a dark  
cavern, notified bat.

Bat -- I followed them in, & saw them lay a spell upon Prince.  
I know the place. It is guarded by 2 mighty dragons who never  
sleep.