**Cast In Order Of Appearance:**

**Narrator**
**Old Man**
**Eldest**
**Middle**
**Dummling**
**Father**
**Sisters**
**Parson**
**Sexton**
**King**

NARRATOR : Once upon a time, there were three brothers. The youngest was called Dummling and he was teased all the time.

One day, the eldest brother went into the forest to chop some wood. Before he left, his mother gave him a cake and a bottle of wine to take with him.

When he went into the forest, he met a little old man who greeted him and said—

OLD MAN : Good day. Please give me some cake and wine. I am very hungry and very thirsty.

NARRATOR : And to this the eldest brother replied—

ELDEST : If I give you any, I shall have none for myself. Go away.

NARRATOR : Later, as the eldest brother was chopping down a tree, the little old man secretly caused the axe to slip and the blade cut his arm. So the brother had to return home to get it wrapped in bandages.

The middle brother then went into the forest, also with cake and wine.

And in the forest, he also met the same little old man.

OLD MAN : Good day. Please give me some cake and wine. I am very hungry and very thirsty.

MIDDLE : If I give you any, I shall have less for myself. Go away.

NARRATOR : Soon after, as the middle brother was chopping down a tree, the little old man secretly caused the ax to slip again. And the blade cut his leg so badly that he had to be carried home. Then Dummling said—


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DUMMLING : Father, let me go and cut the wood.

NARRATOR : But his father said no.

FATHER : You are too stupid to cut wood. You will get hurt, just like your brothers.

NARRATOR : But Dummling begged and begged. So his father let him go, certain that his youngest son would get hurt, but then learn from the experience. The mother gave Dummling a hard cake made with water and baked in the cinders, and also a bottle of sour beer.

In the forest, he also met the same little old man.

OLD MAN : Good day. Please give me some cake and wine. I am very hungry and very thirsty.

DUMMLING : I have only cinder cake and sour beer. But if that's okay, we can sit down and eat it together.

NARRATOR : They sat down and when Dummling took out his cake it was now a fine, sweet cake and the sour beer had turned into a fine wine.

After they ate, the little old man said—

OLD MAN : Because you have a good heart, I will give you good luck. Cut down that old tree over there. It has something in its roots.

NARRATOR : When the tree fell, Dummling found a goose with feathers of pure gold sitting in its roots. He took the goose with him to an inn where he could spend the night.

The innkeeper had three daughters who were all curious about the goose and wanted one of its golden feathers.

When Dummling went to his room, the eldest daughter went to the barn and tried to pull out a feather from the goose's wing. But her finger and hand stuck fast to the wing, as if glued.

The middle daughter then came to pluck a feather. But as soon as she touched her sister on the arm, she became stuck fast to her, as if glued.

When the youngest daughter came, her sisters tried to warn her away.

SISTERS : Keep away! Keep away!

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NARRATOR : But the youngest wouldn't listen and when she touched the middle sister on her arm, she became stuck fast to her, as if glued.

So the three girls had to spend the night in the barn with the goose, all stuck together.

The next morning, Dummling took the goose under his arm and took no notice of the three stuck sisters. He then set out for his home with the three sisters dangling along.

On the way, a parson spied them. And he, being a parson, said to them—

PARSON : This is unseemly. You girls should not be running after this young man!

NARRATOR : And the parson reached out to pull the youngest sister away and his hand got stuck fast to her arm, as if glued.

Before long, the parson's sexton saw them and called out—

SEXTON : Your Reverence! Where are you going? We have a christening today.

NARRATOR : He grabbed the parson's arm, and he became stuck fast to the parson, as if glued.

Two laborers were passing by, and the parson begged them to help free himself and the sexton. But the first laborer got himself stuck to the sexton, and the second laborer got himself stuck to the first laborer, as if glued.

Now there were seven people running behind Dummling and the goose.

Soon after that, Dummling came to a city where there lived a Princess who was so solemn and so serious, that her father, the king, decreed that whosoever could make her laugh should marry her.

So when Dummling heard this, he went to the princess with his goose and the train of stuck people following along after him.

When the princess saw the seven people all stuck in a line and fumbling and jumbling and running behind Dummling, she began to laugh and laugh and laugh. She laughed so loudly that it seemed she would never stop.

Dummling then asked for the princess to be his wife. But the king did not like the idea of a peasant marrying his daughter and made all sorts of excuses to get out of his promise.

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KING : You must first produce a man who can drink a cellar full of wine.

NARRATOR : Dummling thought of the little old man, so he returned to the forest and found the little old man looking very sad.

OLD MAN : I am so thirsty. I cannot stand water and I have just emptied a barrel of wine. But that is but a drop on a hot stone for someone as thirsty as me.

NARRATOR : Dummling looked at him and knew the answer to his problem.

DUMMLING : Come with me. I know where you can get rid of your thirst.

NARRATOR : Dummling took him to the king's cellar, whereupon the little old man drank and drank and drank until all the wine barrels had been emptied.

Dummling again asked for the princess to be his wife. But the king really, really hated the idea that an ugly peasant called Dummling should marry his daughter.

So the king came up with another request that he thought Dummling couldn't fulfill.

KING : Find me a man who can eat an entire mountain of bread.

NARRATOR : Dummling again thought of the little old man and returned to the forest.

OLD MAN : I am so hungry. I have eaten an oven full of rolls. But what good is that to someone as hungry as me? My stomach is empty and I will die of hunger.

NARRATOR : Dummling again knew the answer to his problem.

DUMMLING : Come with me. I know where you can eat yourself full.

NARRATOR : Dummling took him to the king's palace and had a mountain of bread made. The little old man ate and ate and ate until, at the end of the day, the mountain of bread had vanished.

Then Dummling, for the third time, asked for the princess to be his wife. But the King again tried to fend him off with a demand.

KING : Find me a ship that can sail on land and on water.

NARRATOR : Dummling immediately returned to the forest. This time, the old man listened to Dummling and then he said—


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OLD MAN : Since you have been so kind and given me food and drink, I will give you this ship.

NARRATOR : And when the king saw the ship, he could no longer refuse to give the princess to Dummling for his bride.

They wed, and after the king's death, Dummling inherited the kingdom and lived a long time, very happy and content with his wife.

The end.


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