



The Multilingual Library for Children in Europe

Czech Traditional Story
English language version



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“Fairy tales are more than true:
not because they tell us that dragons exist,
but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.”

Neil Gaiman



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Little Stumpy

Czech Traditional Story
English language version

Author: Karel Jaromír Erben

Illustrator: Kateřina Kroupová

Far away in a distant forest there lived a man and a woman. They both were very sad because they didn't have a baby.

The man was a lumberjack and one day, while in the woods, he found a little stump that looked like a little boy. He took it home.

The man came home and said: "My darling, I brought you little Stumpy!" The woman was very happy. She put little Stumpy in a crib and sang to him.

A voice came out of the crib: "Mum! I want to eat!"

The woman ran off to the kitchen and cooked some porridge. She brought a full plate and little Stumpy ate it all. After a while he shouted again: "Mum! I want to eat!"

The woman had a loaf of bread at home and wanted to give a slice to little Stumpy, but he jumped out and ate it all again!



After a while he shouted once more: “Mum! I want to eat!”

But the woman didn’t have any more food. Little Stumpy opened his mouth and swallowed the woman whole!

Later that afternoon, the man came home. Little Stumpy said to him: “Dad! I want to eat! I ate up some porridge from a plate, a loaf of bread, my mum, and I will eat you too!”
And he swallowed the man whole!



After that, little Stumpy went out. On the road he met a housemaid carrying some clovers. He came to her and said: “I ate up some porridge from a plate, a loaf of bread, my mum, my dad, and I will eat you too!”
And he swallowed the housemaid with the clovers whole. He went on.



He met a farmer pushing a wheelbarrow. He came to him and said: “I ate up some porridge from a plate, a loaf of bread, my mum, my dad, a housemaid with clovers, and I will eat you too!”

And he swallowed the farmer with the wheelbarrow whole.

Further down the road he saw a pig herder. He came to him and said: “I ate up some porridge from a plate, a loaf of bread, my mum, my dad, a housemaid with clovers, a farmer with a wheelbarrow, and I will eat you too!”

And he swallowed the herder and the pigs whole.



Later he saw a shepherd with some lambs on a hill. He came to him and said: “I ate up some porridge from a plate, a loaf of bread, my mum, my dad, a housemaid with clovers, a farmer with a wheelbarrow, a herder with pigs, and I will eat you too!” Whoosh! The shepherd, the lambs and his dog Fido fell into little Stumpy’s mouth. Little Stumpy saw an old woman hoeing weeds in her garden. He came to her and said: “I ate up some porridge from a plate, a loaf of bread, my mum, my dad, a housemaid with clovers, a farmer with a wheelbarrow, a herder with pigs, a shepherd with lambs, and I will eat you too!”



He opened his giant mouth... but the old woman was quick and sliced little Stumpy's big fat belly with her hoe. Stumpy fell to the ground.

Fido the dog jumped from his belly, followed by the shepherd and his lambs. Fido rounded them up together, the shepherd whistled and they all went home. Afterwards, a litter of pigs came running out of the belly. Just behind them the herder cracked his whip and they all ran after the shepherd. Then the farmer with a wheelbarrow came out and ran after the herder. The housemaid with clovers was next, followed by the man and the woman. They went home and carried with them the loaf of bread.





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