

The Story of Ava Rose

By Emma Lengkeek

Once upon a time a long time ago, there lived a handsome, poor woodcutter and a pretty miller's daughter. They fell in love and were married. They were very poor, but very happy. A year later, the miller's daughter brought into the world the prettiest daughter ever. The woodcutter and his wife named her Ava Rose. The woodcutter and his wife were very proud of their new daughter. Ava Rose grew prettier and prettier as she got older. One day the woodcutter's wife was taking a walk when she got lost trying to take a shortcut through the woods. While she was scrambling through the bracken, a party of hunters came along and thinking that she was a wild beast they shot her. They ran over to collect the beast, but to their horror it was not a beast but a beautiful lady. When the woodcutter heard that his beloved wife was dead, he shut himself in a room for a week and did not eat and drink.

But at the end of a week he got to thinking and thought to himself, "Who will take care of my daughter Ava Rose?" So the next week, the woodcutter married a nearby neighbor who lived in the woods, but little did he know she was a wicked witch. When she moved in, she rearranged the entire house and got rid of anything that belonged to Ava's mother. A year later Ava's stepmother got pregnant and while the baby was still in her womb she cast a spell on the child that the child's goal in life would be to seek revenge on Ava. The baby was born and to the disgust of her mother she was very beautiful. The Witch named her Hazel because her skin was hazel color. After Hazel was born, Ava's stepmother became very mean and made Ava do all the work and would beat Ava if she made a mistake. She also would scream at Ava's father saying that he liked Ava better than Hazel. Fifteen years passed in this manner.

On Ava's twentieth birthday she happened to hear her stepmother and stepsister talking about how they would celebrate Ava's birthday and to Ava's horror they said they would celebrate her birthday by killing her, so she ran away. Ava ran as fast as she could through the woods until she collapsed on a log exhausted and started to cry. "Why was life so unfair?" thought Ava. A prince happening to pass along the road stopped his men and said "Do you hear that noise?" One of his men answered "It sound like somebody crying." "You are right," said the prince, "let's find out who is crying". So they got off their horses

and started following the sound. The prince went around the corner and there sitting on a log was a beautiful lady. He stooped over her and said, "Why are you crying?" Ava, startled, put her head up suddenly and smashed the prince's head. "Oh, I am so sorry sir; I did not mean to smash your head." "That's okay," said the prince rubbing his head, "But why are you crying?" "I am crying because my stepsister and stepmother are planning to kill me." The prince and Ava talked for a while and at the end of their conversation the prince asked Ava, if she would marry him. Ava said, "Yes."

So they went back to the palace and were married. A year went by, and one day a peddler came asking if she could see Princess Ava for she had some beautiful cloth to sell. So the princess was called. When Ava entered the room she recognized the peddler as her stepsister Hazel, but she pretended not to recognize her. Ava looked at the beautiful wares for a while; then the peddler offered her the most beautiful apple she had ever seen. But Ava refused it because she had heard the story of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves." Instead Ava said, "The cloth is beautiful I will ask my husband if I might buy some." She went to her husband and told him that her stepsister was trying to kill her downstairs, but that she knew that her stepsister was really good at heart and if they could undo the spell her sister would become good. So the prince called his wise men and asked if any of them had an idea. One of the younger of the wise men said that he had heard from his aunt's cousin's friend's brother's cousin how you could make a potion. So he made the potion. Then Ava went downstairs and told Hazel that she must drink this potion, but Hazel would not. So Ava called the wise men so that they could hold her down while she poured the potion down her throat. As soon as she drank the potion she became good. A week later she married the prince's younger brother.

A year later Ava told Hazel that she felt bad that her father was living with her awful stepmother and that they should go and rescue him. When they arrived at the home of their childhood a shaggy dog greeted them and then ran away. They looked at the house and it was a mess. The windows were missing some of the shutters and the grass was tall and the garden was full of weeds. They knocked at the door and Ava's father opened the door he looked very old and tired but he smiled when he saw them. Ava and Hazel told him everything that had happened to them and asked him if he would like to come to live with them and he answered

yes.

“By the way,” said Ava, “Where is our step mother?” Her father answered “Did you see that dog outside? That is your stepmother.”

The End