

**1812**

**GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES  
A RIDDLING TALE**

**Jacob Ludwig Grimm and Wilhelm Carl Grimm**

Grimm, Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859) - German philologists whose collection "Kinder- und Hausmarchen," known in English as "Grimm's Fairy Tales," is a timeless literary masterpiece. The brothers transcribed these tales directly from folk and fairy stories told to them by common villagers. A Riddling Tale (1812) - One of three women who were changed into flowers is allowed to remain human at night; she asks her husband to chop her down in order to break the spell, but first he must solve a riddle.

**A RIDDLING TALE**

THREE WOMEN were changed into flowers which grew in the field, but one of them was allowed to be in her own home at night. Then once when day was drawing near, and she was forced to go back to her companions in the field and become a flower again, she said to her husband, "If you will come this afternoon and gather me, I shall be set free and henceforth stay with you." And he did so.

Now the question is, how did her husband know her, for the flowers were exactly alike, and without any difference? Answer: Since she was at her home during the night and not in the field, no dew fell on her as it did on the others, and by this her husband knew her.

**THE END**