

# **JHONATHAN AND THE WITCHES**

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From : First Words

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Jhonathan. He was smart, handsome, and very brave. But Jhonathan was a cobbler's son.

One day, his father said, "Jhonathan, you must go and seek your fortune. You are old enough."

Jhonathan, being a smart boy, knew he better ask the king for work.

So, he set out.

On the way, he met a rabbit who was a fairy in disguise. The scared thing was being pursued by hunters and jumped into Jhonathan's arms. When the hunters came up, Jhonathan pointed excitedly and shouted, "That way, that way!"

After the hunters had gone, the rabbit turned into a fairy and said, "You have helped me. I will give you three wishes. What are they?"

But Jhonathan could not think of anything, so the fairy agreed to give him the wishes when he needed them.

So Jhonathan kept walking until he made the kingdom without incident.

So he went to the king and asked for work.

But, as luck would have it, the king was in a very bad mood that day. So he vented his mood on Jhonathan.

"Yes, there is something you can do. On yonder mountain, there are three witches. If you can kill them, I will give you 5,000 crowns. If you cannot do it, I will have your head! You have 20 days." With this, he dismissed Jhonathan.

"Now, what am I to do?" thought Jhonathan. "Well, I shall try."

Then he remembered the three wishes granted him and set out for the mountain.

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Now, Jhonathan was at the mountain and was just going to wish for a knife to kill the witch, when he heard a voice in his ear, "The first witch cannot be pierced. The second witch cannot be pierced or smothered. The third witch cannot be pierced or smothered and is invisible."

With this knowledge, Jhonathan looked about and saw no one. Then he remembered the fairy and smiled.

He then went in search of the first witch.

At last, he found her. She was in a cave near the foot of the mountain and was a mean-looking hag.

He remembered the fairy's words, and before the witch could do anything but give him an ugly look, he wished she would be smothered. And lo! It was done.

Now, he went higher in search of the second witch. There was a second cave higher up. There he found the second witch. He was about to wish her smothered when he remembered she could not be smothered. And then before the witch could do anything but give him an ugly look, he had wished her crushed. And lo! It was done.

Now he had only to kill the third witch and he would have the 5,000 crowns. But on the way up, he was plagued with thoughts of how?

Then he hit upon a wonderful plan.

Then he saw the last cave. He waited outside the entrance until he heard the witch's footsteps. He then picked up a couple of big rocks and wished.

He then wished the witch was a normal woman and lo! She became visible and then Jhonathan struck her dead with the rocks he had.

Jhonathan collected his 5,000 crowns, and he and his father lived happily ever after.