THE LASSIE AND HER GODMOTHER

A poor couple cannot afford to christen their daughter so the father makes an arrangement with a wealthy woman: the daughter will be christened but must live with the woman afterwards. The godmother treats the lassie kindly but forbids her from entering certain rooms. The lassie, overcome with curiosity, opens a forbidden door and the stars spill out. The godmother is angry with her but lets the girl stay as long as she does not repeat her mistake. When the girl opens two more forbidden doors, releasing the moon and the sun, the godmother kicks her out. In the traditional version of the story, the godmother offers the lassie a choice of her curse: would she like to be beautiful and mute or ugly but able to speak? The girl chooses beauty and goes to live in the forest. In Cry Havoc’s version of the story, lassie voluntarily takes a vow of silence for seven years to redeem herself. Eventually, a prince finds her and marries her. The lassie gives birth to three children, but after each birth the godmother steals the baby, saying that the lassie must feel as sorry as she did when she lost the stars, sun and moon. The godmother then smears the blood onto the sleeping lassie's mouth. The prince's mother accuses the lassie of eating her babies and the lassie's muteness prevents her from defending herself. After the loss of his third child, the prince agrees with his mother and sentences the lassie to death when the godmother appears, declaring the lassie has been punished enough. She restores the lassie’s speech and reunites her with her children, and the lassie and prince live happily ever after. *

*Once Upon a Moon combines this story with elements of Six Swans by The Grimm Brothers.

THE MOON

Four travelers from a town with no moonlight steal a moon from another town. As they die, they each take one quarter of the moon with them into the Underworld. Eventually the moonlight wakes up all of the dead, and they make noise and throw parties. In the traditional version of the story, the angel Gabriel grows annoyed by their noise and goes into the underworld, takes the moon, and puts it into the sky, silencing the dead and bringing light to all alive on Earth. In Cry Havoc’s version, the godmother from The Lassie and Her Godmother returns the moon to the living.

SEVEN RAVENS

A daughter is born into a family with seven sons. She is sickly at birth, so their father asks the sons to get water with which to baptize her and therefore save her life. The brothers fail, and the father curses them, wishing they would be turned into ravens. The boys are transformed and leave. Meanwhile, the daughter grows up healthy but learns of her brother’s fate. She goes to find them and after approaching the stars, moon, and sun, she learns that they live in a glass mountain in the woods. She opens it by chopping off her little finger and using it as a key. Her brothers are not home so she eats and drinks from their plates and leaves her ring in one of their cups so they understand their sister is there. The family reunites, the brothers turn back into humans, and they return home.

*Once Upon a Moon relies on an early version of this story with three ravens instead of seven.
HANSEL AND GRETEL
Hansel and his sister Gretel live in a country devastated by famine. They overhear their stepmother telling their father they must abandon Hansel and Gretel in the woods or the family will starve. As they head into the forest, Hansel leaves a trail of shiny pebbles so he and his sister can find their way home that night. The stepmother tries again the next day. This time, Hansel leaves a trail of breadcrumbs, but birds eat it before they find their way home. Lost in the woods, the siblings stumble upon a house made of bread and are soon kidnapped by the hungry witch who lives inside it. She locks Hansel in a cage and prepares to eat him. Gretel outsmarts the witch by luring her into the oven and trapping her inside. The siblings return home. Their stepmother has died and the children receive a warm welcome from their father.

THE ROBBER’S BRIDEGROOM
A miller promises his daughter to a seemingly perfect suitor but the daughter senses something is wrong. The groom finally convinces the maiden to visit his home, but when she arrives an old woman appears and warns her that the house is a murderer’s den. The murderers come home and prepare dinner - one of their victims. They chop off a finger and it goes flying into the lap of the hiding maiden. Later, as the murderers sleep, the maiden and old woman escape. The maiden returns to her home as her arranged wedding is beginning. She retells the story of her journey at her wedding under the guise of being a dream, but when she holds up the finger, the groom turns pale, and he and the murderers are executed.

BLUEBEARD
A man with a blue beard wants to marry a young woman and asks for her father’s permission. Against the young woman’s wishes, her father agrees because Bluebeard is very wealthy. Soon after the bride and Bluebeard arrive at Bluebeard’s elaborate home, he tells his wife that he is going on a trip. He gives her the keys to every room in the house with the warning that she may open all of the doors but one. She is curious and enters the forbidden room - it is covered in blood and filled with the bodies of dead women. She is startled and drops the keys onto the bloody floor and is magically unable to clean them. Bluebeard returns, sees the bloody keys and threatens to kill her for her disobedience. Bluebeard allows his wife to pray before she dies but she instead calls for her brothers’ help. Her brothers speed to her aid and kill Bluebeard. The woman inherits all of his treasure.

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL
A young girl living in poverty sells matches to make money. One New Year’s Eve, she grows so cold that she decides to light one of her matches to keep her warm. In the flame, she sees and feels a great iron stove. It burns out so she lights another, this time seeing and smelling a beautiful meal of roast goose. She lights another and sees a beautiful Christmas tree. When that match burns out, she sees a shooting star; her late grandmother had told her a shooting star signaled that a soul was flying up to heaven. When the girl lights another match, her grandmother appears in front of her and the two fly up to heaven leaving her body in the cold.