



RUMPLESTILTSKIN

v.

THE QUEEN



Utah Law-Related Education Project
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RUMPLESTILTSKIN v. THE QUEEN

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Cast of Characters:	Bailiff	Queen (Defendant)
	Judge Mother Goose	King
	Clerk	Woodsman
	Defense Attorney	Rumplestiltskin (Plaintiff)
	Plaintiff Attorney	Social Worker

Bailiff: All arise. This court is now in session, the Honorable Mother Goose presiding.

Judge Mother Goose: You may be seated. Will the clerk call the next case?

Clerk: Rumplestiltskin vs. The Queen. The Plaintiff, Rumplestiltskin charges the Queen breached her promise to give her oldest child to the Plaintiff if he would spin straw into gold.

Judge Mother Goose: You may call your first witness.

Plaintiff Attorney: This is a clear case of breach of contract. We call the Plaintiff, Rumplestiltskin.

Clerk: Rumplestiltskin is sworn in

Plaintiff Attorney: Please state your name.

Rumplestiltskin: Rumplestiltskin, and it's not very often you'll hear me say that.

Plaintiff Attorney: How did you meet the Queen?

Rumplestiltskin: As a wood elf does, I was roaming near the castle when I heard this girl bawling her eyes out. I asked her what was wrong. She blubbered, "I'd give anything if I could turn this straw into gold." I said that I would spin it into gold for her. This happened on three different occasions. I received payment the first two times, first a ring and then a necklace. The third time she had nothing else to give me. Well, I don't spin straw into gold for nothing. So we agreed that she would give me her first born child.

Plaintiff Attorney: Did you spin the straw into gold?

Rumplestiltskin: Yes.

Plaintiff Attorney: Did she give you the child?

Rump: No.

Plaintiff Attorney: Did she become the Queen because of your spinning the straw into gold?

Rump: Yes.

Plaintiff Attorney: I have no further questions of this witness.

Defense Attorney: Isn't it true that you allowed the Queen an escape clause?

Rumplestiltskin: Well, yes. I agreed that if she could guess my name, I would not take her child. But she didn't guess my name. She cheated. She had some woodsman spy on my privacy, and he heard me speaking my name. The escape clause was for her to guess. Not for her to spy on me!

Defense Attorney: What about this poor child? What kind of a life would a child have with a wood elf? You're mean, you're ugly, and you don't like children.

Plaintiff Attorney: Objection! Counsel is arguing with the witness.

Judge Mother Goose: It may be stated in a confrontive manner, but it is a question I would like the jury to have answered.

Rump: What I do with the child is nobody's business. A deal is a deal! And the Queen should not be allowed to welch!

Defense Attorney: No further questions.

Plaintiff Attorney: I'd like to call the Woodsman as my next witness.

Clerk: (Woodsman is sworn in.)

Plaintiff Attorney: What do you do for a living?

Woodsman: I am a woodsman in the King's employ.

Plaintiff Attorney: Were you asked to spy on Rumplestiltskin?

Woodsman: Well, not exactly spy. I was promised a reward if I could find out his name, which I did when I chanced upon him dancing around a fire in the deep woods, singing his name.

Plaintiff Attorney: It was clear to you that the Plaintiff thought he had great privacy? And you never announced your presence?

Woodsman: That is true.

Plaintiff Attorney: Your Honor, I would next like to call to the stand, Mrs. I. M. Caring.

(The Social Worker is sworn in.)

Plaintiff Attorney: State your name and occupation for the Court.

Social Worker: My name is I. M. Caring. I am a social worker.

Plaintiff Attorney: Have you made a thorough investigation of both households for the purpose of determining suitability for raising a child?

Social Worker: Yes, I have.

Plaintiff Attorney: And what are the results of those studies?

Social Worker: Well, frankly, I was a bit surprised with the results. The suitability of the King and Queen as parents is, of course, without question. But what surprised me was the fine environment that Mr. Stiltskin can also provide. I found his tree to be a clean and warm home. There could be definite advantages to a child being raised in that lovely environment, coupled with the magical protection that Mr. Stiltskin is able to provide. I feel that both the King and Queen and Mr. Stiltskin could provide the child with a good home.

Plaintiff Attorney: I have no further questions of this witness.

Defense Attorney: Now, Mrs. Carling, can you really mean to tell this Court that a creature of the forest, an ugly little man with no friends, could be as good a parent as these two fine people, the natural parents of the child?

Social Worker: Well, I certainly found no reason why he couldn't be. Studies show that wealth and position don't always indicate the ability to be a good parent.

Defense Attorney: What job did you have before you became a social worker?

Plaintiff Attorney: Objection, Your Honor. This has no relevance to the case in point.

Defense Attorney: Your Honor, I contend that this woman's former employment does have bearing.

Judge: Very well, I will allow her to answer.

Social Worker: Well, uh, I was an advisor to the King. At least I was until that girl came along, her with her spinning straw into gold. (She points to the Queen, then quickly calms back down.) But that makes no difference in this case. Mr. Stiltskin could still be a good parent, in my opinion.

Defense Attorney: I have no further questions.

Plaintiff Attorney: Your Honor, we rest.

Defense Attorney: I call the Queen as our first Witness.

(The Queen is sworn in.)

Defense Attorney: Will you state your name for the record?

Queen: I am Her Majesty, the Queen.

Defense Attorney: You have heard the testimony of Mr. Stiltskin. Is his statement of how you first met accurate?

Queen: Certainly not! I was a poor girl in a bad situation. I knew the King would only have interest in me if I could spin the straw into gold. And what's more, I knew if I did not, both my family I and would suffer severe penalties. I paid him my most valuable possessions to perform the wonder. I was a desperate woman! I was under great duress. At the time I made the arrangement, I never knew I would have children. He took advantage of my situation!

Defense Attorney: This little girl who is your oldest child, is she happy in your home?

Queen: Yes. I could not imagine her living with a wood elf!

Defense Attorney: I have no further questions. Your witness.

Plaintiff Attorney: Look, Queenie, isn't it true you would have promised anything to get that room of straw turned into gold. And isn't it also true that any King who would demand such of a prospective wife must be a real tyrant?

Queen: No! No! Certainly not! Being Queen requires a special ability to use one's wits, and the King's test was very suited to that requirement.

Plaintiff Attorney: But everything else aside, you did promise to give the child to Mr. Stiltskin?

Queen: Yes, but he gave me a way out if I could guess his name. And I did!

Plaintiff Attorney: But you used the Woodsman to cheat, isn't that true?

Queen: There were no rules that said I had to think up my guesses myself.

Plaintiff Attorney: No other questions.

Defense Attorney: I would like to call at this time, His Royal Majesty, the King, to the stand.

(Kings don't need to be sworn in.)

Defense Attorney: Will you state your name?

King: I am Reginald Wenceslas the Forty-Third, King of the Realm.

Defense Attorney: You are the father of the child in question?

King: Yes.

Defense Attorney: Did you ever give your consent to your wife to make a deal to give away your child?

King: No.

Defense Attorney: Are you willing now to let your child go?

King: No!

Defense Attorney: Nothing further. Your witness.

Plaintiff Attorney: Look, let's state the facts straight for this court. You really have a thing about gold, don't you?

King: Well, I do like it.

Plaintiff Attorney: In fact, all you wanted in a wife was someone who could change straw, which you have a lot of, into gold, which you had a little of.

King: Well, that was certainly a consideration.

Plaintiff Attorney: Oh, get off it, your high and mightyness! If she hadn't performed, you'd have wiped her and her whole family out!

King: Well, I, er, uh, well, you see, uh. Well, I don't want to lose my daughter!

Plaintiff Attorney: But you have kept all of the gold. No further questions.

Judge Mother Goose: The attorneys may not argue their cases.

Plaintiff Attorney: It is a clear case of a broken promise. The Queen promised her child and then looked for a way out. She got the gold, and now she wants the child, too. Rumpelstiltskin, in an effort to be more than fair, gave her a way out, but she chose to cheat! Instead of guessing his name herself, she used her newfound power as Queen to send out spies to invade his privacy and learn Rumpelstiltskin's name. I urge you to find in favor of the plaintiff.

Defense Attorney: This case isn't about promises. It is about an ugly little wood elf trying to get a little girl. It would be wrong to let him take advantage of a poor girl's desperate situation. The Queen only agreed under great duress and in any event, she guessed his name. There was no rule that said she couldn't have help. Let the little girl grow up in the castle as a princess of the realm.

Judge Mother Goose: You have now heard the evidence. The choice is yours, as a jury, to find in favor of Rumpelstiltskin and give him the child, or to find in favor of the Queen and let her keep her daughter.