

# THE SILVER GOOSE

## A Tale from Italy

Long ago in the city of Genoa lived a count whose name was Carlo. He believed that money could get him anything, so he hung a sign outside his door which said just that.

One day the king happened to pass Carlo's estate when he noticed the sign. He became curious, so he knocked on Carlo's door to invite him to the upcoming carnival ball. While chatting, he asked Carlo if he truly believed money could get him anything. The Count quickly replied that he did.

The king then gave Carlo a challenge. He had three days to talk to the king's daughter. If he did not do so by the end of the carnival, at the stroke of midnight, Carlo would be sent to the gallows and his fortune given up to the king. To make matters more complicated, the king locked the princess in the tallest tower of his palace and stationed guards all around.

Carlo was not certain his money could get him out of this mess. He thought he was doomed. When asked, he told his old nanny

why he was in such a sorrowful state. She offered to help and asked him for a bag of gold. Carlo needed all the help he could get, so he gave her the gold she requested.

Nanny brought the gold to a very talented silversmith and asked him to make a large goose on wheels that could lay silver eggs, open its beak, and wag its tail. She wanted it by the next day. The silversmith said such a timeframe was impossible until he saw the bag of gold. He accepted the challenge, solicited the help of several other fine artists, and got the job done. They worked all night to accomplish the task.

The next morning Nanny picked up the silver goose and towed it through the city streets where the carnival was in full swing. All the spectators were so fascinated by the goose that they told everyone they knew about it. In this way, the princess heard about the wonderful silver goose. She begged her father to let her out of the locked tower so she could see it. When he refused the princess began to cry. This caused the king to think of a new plan. He agreed to allow the woman with the silver goose to bring it to the palace so his daughter could see it.

The princess was delighted when she saw the silver goose that Nanny brought up to her tower. However, she was extremely surprised when it split in half and Carlo came out of it. The princess asked who he was. He told her his name, and of the challenge set for him by the king. He then asked the princess if

she would please tell her father she spoke to him. The princess agreed to do so and said she would do more by telling her father she wanted to marry Carlo.

The two sat in her tower and talked until midnight. This was when the carnival ended. The king rushed up to the tower to celebrate his victory, but was surprised to see Carlo in the room with his daughter. Well, this made the king believe that Carlo was right after all, and money can get you anything you want. At this point, Carlo told the king he was wrong. He elaborated by saying that although money can help, one needs brains, passion, hard work, luck (and a helpful nanny) to succeed.

And so it was that Carlo and the princess were married. The two lived happily ever after.

Adapted by Kathleen Simonetta. Inspired by the following tale:

“The Silver Goose” found in [Around the World in 80 Tales](#). By Saviour Pirotta, illustrated by Richard Johnson, Boston: Kingfisher, c2007, pp 92-93.

