

# The Town Musicians of Bremen

## A Fairy Tale by the Brothers Grimm



Foto Jürgen Howaldt via Wikimedia Commons

**Statue of the Musicians of Bremen  
in Bremen, Germany**

Once upon a time there was an old donkey. He was unable to work anymore. His owner was going to get rid of him. But Donkey had other ideas. He wanted to go to the city of Bremen. He wanted to be a town musician.

Donkey left early one morning. Soon he saw an old dog lying in the road. The old dog had left his owner, too. Donkey invited Dog to join him. Dog happily agreed. Together, they walked to Bremen.

An hour later, the pair came across an old cat lying in the road. Like the other animals, Cat was old and no longer useful. They invited Cat to join them. Cat gladly agreed.

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## The Town Musicians of Bremen

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At noon, the animals came and saw an old rooster. Like the other animals, Rooster was old and no longer useful. They invited Rooster to join them. Rooster gladly agreed.

At last it got too dark to travel. The animals were cold. They were hungry. But they had nowhere else to go. They lay down in the forest for the night. Rooster sat in a tree. In the distance, he saw a light from a house.

“Let’s go to this house,” Rooster said. “Maybe they have food. Maybe they have a warm place for us to sleep.” The others loved this idea.

The animals heard loud voices coming from the house. Donkey peeked inside one of the windows. He saw a group of robbers. They were enjoying a grand feast at the dining room table. The room was filled with stolen goods.

The animals made a plan to scare off the robbers. Each of the animals climbed on top of Donkey. Dog stood on Donkey. Cat stood on Dog. And Rooster stood on top of Cat. In the dark, they looked like a fearsome creature. Each animal began to yell his special tune. Donkey brayed. Dog barked. Cat yowled. Rooster crowed.

The animals crashed into the house together. They scared the robbers. The robbers ran away. They left everything behind.

It was warm and dry inside the house. The animals were starving. They ate the robbers’ leftover food. Then they blew out the lights and went to sleep.

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## The Town Musicians of Bremen

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Sometime later, the robbers looked back at the house. It was dark. Everything seemed to be quiet. The captain sent one man back to check on the house.

The robber got to the house. He tiptoed inside. Cat opened his eyes. They glowed like coals in the dark. The robber thought they were coals from the oven. He tried to light a match with them. He poked Cat in the eyes. Cat got mad. Cat jumped into the robber's face, spitting, hissing, and scratching.

The robber took a few steps backward. He stepped on Dog's tail. Dog jumped up. He bit the robber's leg. The robber tried to run for the door. But he bumped into Donkey. Donkey gave him a strong kick. Rooster was alarmed by all the noise. He began crowing from his perch in the rafters. The robber ran off. He was bruised and frightened.

The robber limped back to his camp fast as he could. "There is a witch in the house," he told the captain. "She blew at me and scratched my face with her long fingers. Then a man stabbed me in the leg with a knife. Then a giant hit me with a wooden club. There was another man on the roof. He began shouting, 'Bring the rascal here!' I barely escaped with my life!"

After that, the robbers never returned to the house. The four Bremen Musicians liked the house a lot. They decided to stay. They never got to Bremen. But they lived happily ever after.

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## A Fairytale by the Brothers Grimm



Foto Jürgen Howaldt via Wikimedia Commons

Statue of the **Musicians of Bremen**  
in Bremen, Germany

Once upon a time there was an old donkey. He became too old to work. So his owner planned to get rid of him. But Donkey had other ideas. He decided to go to the city of Bremen and become a town musician.

Donkey left early one morning on the road to Bremen. After some time he came upon an old dog lying in the road. The old dog had left his owner for the same reason as Donkey. Donkey invited Dog to join him in becoming a musician in Bremen. Dog gratefully accepted.

Soon, the pair came across an old cat lying in the road. The old cat had a story similar to Donkey and Dog. Donkey invited Cat to join their band bound for Bremen and Cat gladly agreed.

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Toward midday, the three animals came across an old rooster. Like the other animals, Rooster had served his master well. But he was now old and no longer useful. The group was happy to invite Rooster to join their band bound for Bremen.

Together, the foursome continued down the long road to Bremen. At last it got too dark to travel. The animals began to settle in a forest for the night. From his perch in a tree, Rooster could see the lights from a house in the distance.

“Let us go to this house,” Rooster suggested to his friends. “Perhaps they have food and a warm place for us to sleep.” Being cold and hungry, the other animals readily agreed.

As they approached the house, they heard loud booming voices. Donkey crept up to a window and peeked inside. He saw a group of robbers enjoying a grand feast at the dining room table. The room around them was filled with stolen goods. The animals devised a plan to scare away the robbers.

Each of the animals climbed on top of Donkey. Dog stood on Donkey. Cat stood on Dog. And Rooster stood on top of Cat. In the dark, they looked like a fearsome creature. They walked in front of the great window, and each began to holler his special tune. Donkey brayed, Dog barked, Cat yowled, and Rooster crowed. The animals continued their noisy song as they crashed through the window together.

The bellowing monster that crashed into the house terrified the robbers. The robbers dropped everything and fled the house at once, leaving their meal and their treasures behind.

It was warm and dry inside the house. The four animals were famished. They finished off the leftovers from the robbers' grand feast. Tired, they blew out the lights and went to sleep.

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Sometime later, the robbers looked back at the house and saw that it had gone dark. Everything in the house appeared to be quiet. The captain sent one of the robbers to go back and investigate.

When the robber got to the house, he opened the door and tiptoed inside. Instantly awake, Cat's eyes glowed like embers in the night. Thinking Cat's eyes were live coals in the oven, the robber tried to light a match with them. Angered at being poked in the eyes, Cat jumped into the robber's face, spitting, hissing, and scratching.

The robber took a few steps backward and stepped on Dog's tail. Dog jumped up and bit him in the leg. The robber tried to run for the door, but bumped into Donkey, who gave him a strong kick. Alarmed by all the noise, Rooster began crowing from his perch near the ceiling. The robber ran off bruised and frightened.

The robber limped back to his camp fast as he could. "There is a witch in the house," he told the captain. "She blew at me and scratched my face with her long fingers. A man stabbed me in the leg with a knife, and then a giant hit me with a wooden club. A fourth man on the roof began shouting, 'Bring the rascal here!' It was all I could do to escape with my life!"

From that time on, the robbers never returned to the house. However, the four Bremen Musicians liked the house a lot. They decided to stay. They never got to Bremen. But they lived happily ever after.

# The Town Musicians of Bremen

## A Fairy Tale by the Brothers Grimm



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**Statue of the Musicians of Bremen**  
in Bremen, Germany

Once upon a time there was an old donkey. He was unable to work as hard as he once could and his owner planned to get rid of him. But Donkey had other ideas—he was going to the city of Bremen to become a town musician.

Donkey set on the long road to Bremen early one morning. After some time, he came upon an old dog lying in the road. Dog left his owner for the same reason as Donkey and had nowhere to go. Donkey invited Dog to join him in becoming a musician in Bremen and Dog gratefully accepted.

Soon, the pair came across an old cat with a similar sad story. Donkey invited Cat to join their band bound for Bremen and Cat joyfully agreed.

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## The Town Musicians of Bremen

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Toward midday, the three animals came across an old rooster who had also outlived his usefulness on the farm. The group was pleased to invite Rooster to join their band bound for Bremen. Rooster was delighted to join them.

Together, the band of musicians journeyed down the long road to Bremen. When at last it got too dark to travel, the animals had to settle in the forest for the night. From his perch high in a tree, Rooster spied the lights from a house in the near distance.

“Let us go to this house,” Rooster suggested to his friends. “Perhaps they have food and a warm place for us to sleep.” Being cold and hungry, the other animals readily agreed.

As the animals approached the house, they heard loud voices coming from inside. When Donkey crept up to a window and peeked inside, he saw a group of robbers enjoying a grand feast at the dining room table. The room around them was filled with stolen treasure. The animals knew they had to work together to scare off the robbers and together they formulated a plan to do just that.

Each of the animals climbed on top of Donkey. Dog stood on Donkey, Cat stood on Dog, and Rooster stood on top of Cat. In the dark, their animal pyramid made them look like a giant and fearsome creature. They walked in front of the great window, and each began to holler his special tune: Donkey brayed, Dog barked, Cat yowled, and Rooster crowed. The animals continued their ear-splitting quartet as they stormed into the house together.

The bellowing monster that crashed into the house terrified the robbers, who dropped everything and fled the house at once leaving their meal and their treasures behind.

Inside the house was warm and dry. The food on the table was still hot. The famished animals finished off the leftovers from the robbers' grand feast. Tired, they blew out the lights, found comfortable spots, and drifted off to sleep.



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Sometime later, the robbers looked back at the house. In the distance, they saw that the light was no longer burning inside and that everything appeared to be quiet. The captain sent one of the robbers to go back and investigate the house.

When the robber got to the house, he opened the door and tiptoed inside. Instantly awake, Cat's eyes glowed like embers in the night. Thinking Cat's eyes were live coals in the oven, the robber tried to light a match with them. Angered at being poked in the eyes, Cat jumped into the robber's face, spitting, hissing, and scratching.

The robber took a few steps backward and stepped on Dog's tail. Dog jumped up and bit him in the leg. The robber tried to run for the door, but bumped into Donkey, who gave him a strong kick. Alarmed by all the noise, Rooster began crowing from his perch near the ceiling. The robber ran off bruised and frightened.

The robber limped back to his camp fast as he could. "There is a witch in the house," he told the captain. "She blew at me and scratched my face with her long fingers. A man with a knife stabbed me in the leg, a giant monster hit me with a wooden club, and then another man began shouting 'Bring the rascal here!' from the roof. It was all I could do to escape with my life!"

From that time on, the robbers never returned to the house. However, the four Bremen Musicians liked the house a lot and decided to stay. They never got to Bremen, but they lived happily ever after anyway.