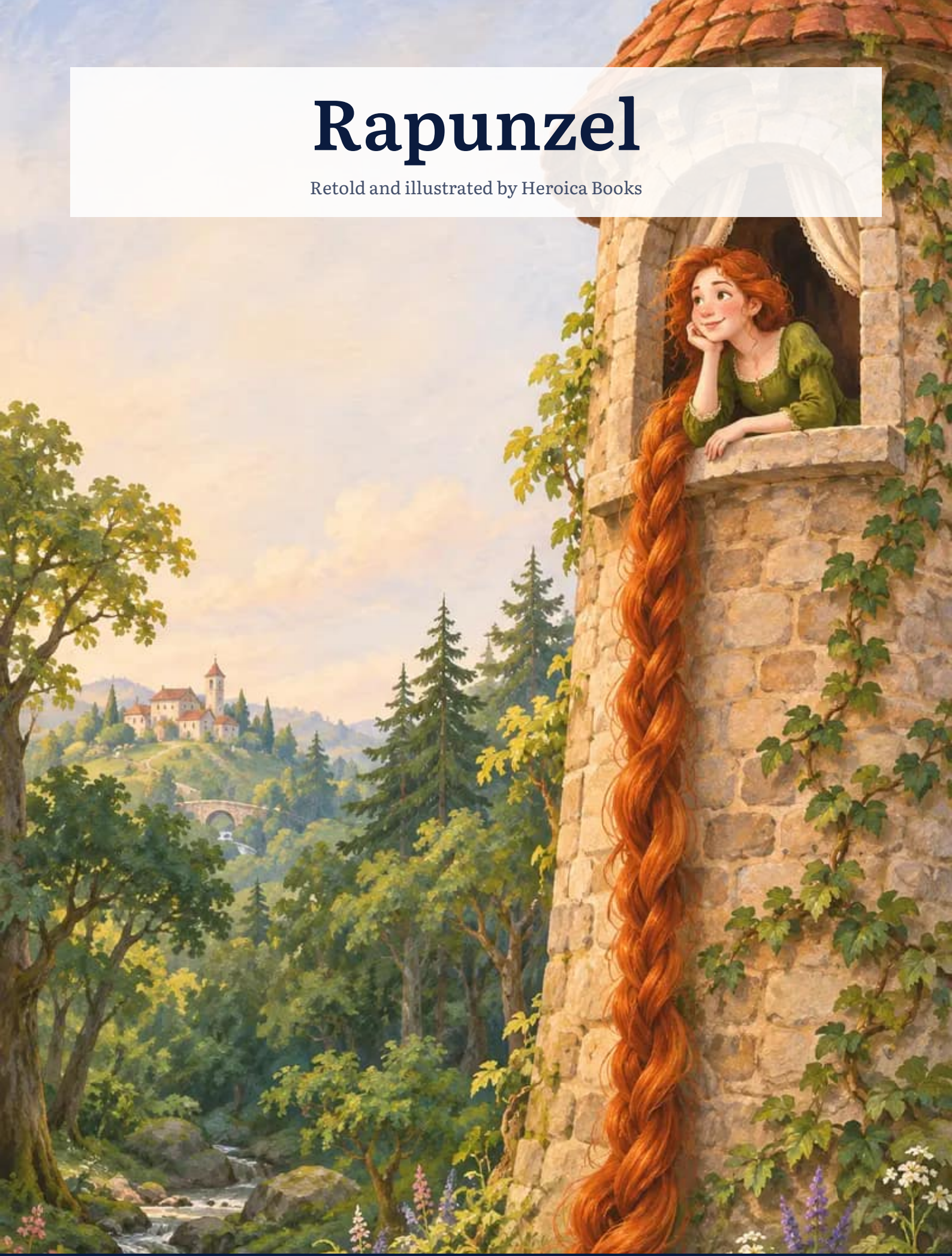
Rapunzel

Retold and illustrated by Heroica Books



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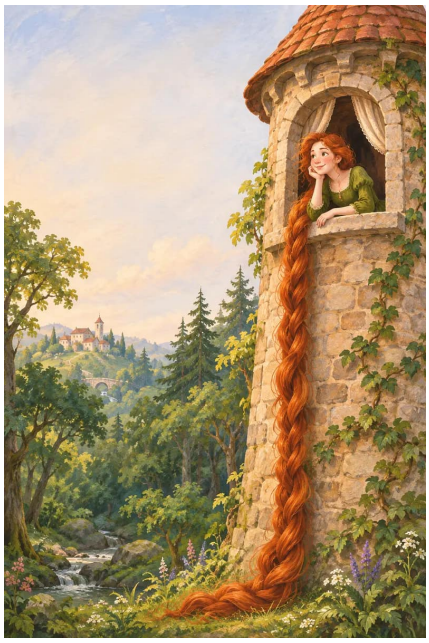
Where does this story come from?

The Brothers Grimm published "Rapunzel" in Germany in 1812, based on a story told earlier in France and Italy. The name comes from a vegetable, rampion. In this retelling for young children, the thorns only hurt the prince's eyes, and Rapunzel's tears heal them, as in the original.

What is the moral of the story?

Love and hope find a way even when everything seems lost, and no one should live trapped by someone else's fear.



What if the hero of the next story were your child?

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Once upon a time there was a couple who lived next to a sorceress’s garden. In it grew some rampion, a vegetable so fresh and green that the wife, who was expecting a baby, longed to eat it. One night, her husband climbed over the wall to pick some.

But the sorceress caught him by the sleeve. "Take as much as you like," she said, "but when the baby is born, it will come and live with me." Frightened, the man promised. And so, when the little girl was born, the sorceress took her and named her after the plant: Rapunzel.



Rapunzel grew up with very, very long copper-coloured hair. When she turned twelve, the sorceress took her to a tower in the middle of the forest, with no stairs and no door, only one little window at the very top.

Whenever she wanted to go up, the sorceress called from below: "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!" And Rapunzel let her braid fall from the window all the way to the ground, so the sorceress could climb up it.



One day, a prince riding through the forest heard a lovely voice singing. Hiding behind a tree, he saw the sorceress call out and climb the braid. The next evening, he did the same: "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!"

Rapunzel was startled to see a young man climb in through the window, because she had never seen anyone but the sorceress. But the prince spoke so kindly that she soon lost her fear.



The prince began to visit her every evening. They talked and laughed, and each time he brought her a skein of silk, so that Rapunzel could weave a ladder and escape from the tower.

But one day Rapunzel forgot herself and asked the sorceress: "Why are you so much heavier than the prince?" The sorceress was furious. She cut off Rapunzel’s braid with a pair of scissors and sent her to a land far, far away.



That evening, the prince called as usual, and the sorceress let down the braid she had cut off. When he reached the window, he came face to face with her! "Your little bird has flown, and you will never see her again," said the sorceress.

In his fright, the prince fell from the tower into a thorn bush. The thorns hurt his eyes, and he could hardly see. For a long time he wandered lost in the forest, feeling his way, sad and missing her.



One day, in a faraway land, he heard that lovely voice singing again. It was Rapunzel! She ran to him and hugged him, crying for joy. Two of her tears fell into the prince’s eyes, and he could see perfectly again.

Together they went back to the prince’s kingdom, where they were welcomed with a great celebration. Rapunzel let her hair grow long again, and they lived happily ever after. The end.

NOW IT'S YOUR CHILD'S TURN

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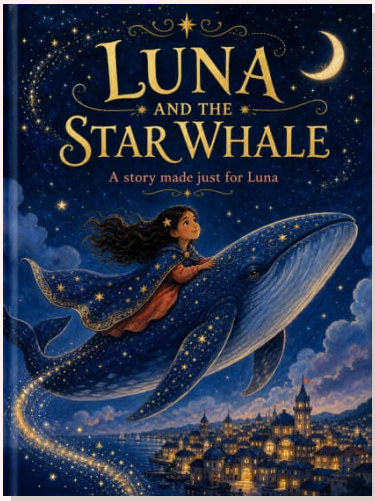

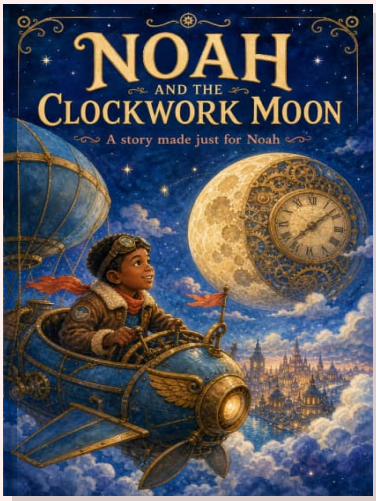



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