



THE SECRET OF THE GYPSY QUEEN

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I'd like to take you far away,
far up into the hills,
And introduce you to a girl whose story gives me chills.



'Twas long ago that her adventure saved her little town
From turning to a path that all too often we go down.

The little town was prosperous,
and all its people happy.
The scissormaker's name was Opa
(German for Grandpappy).

His little Ilse loved him so.
She ran his grinding mill.
One day she came into the shop,
and found him standing still.





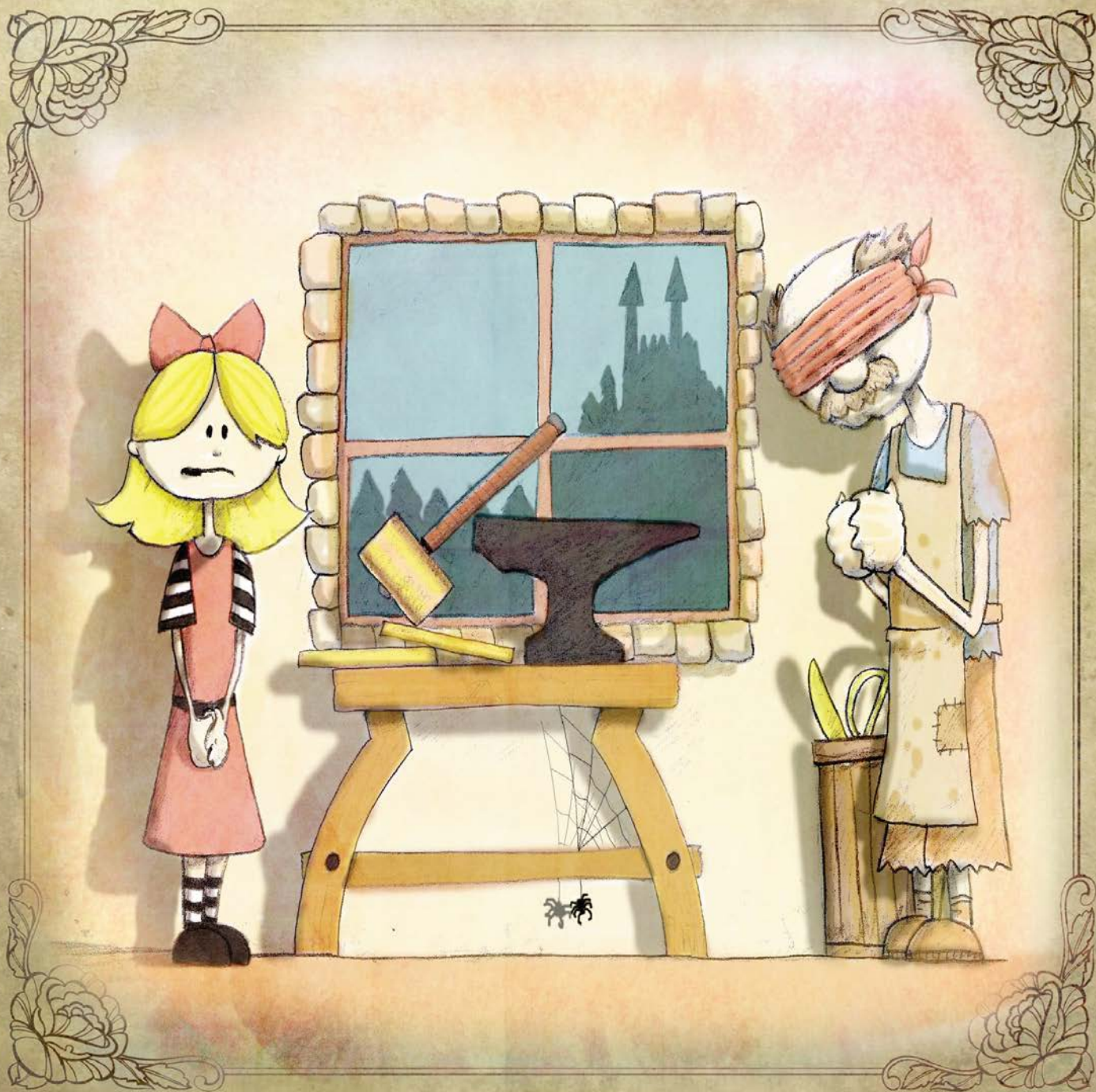


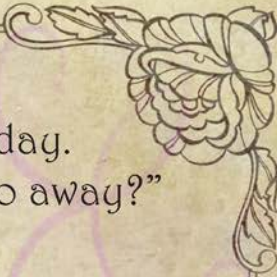



“Opa, You’ve got a scarf tied o’er your eyes
Opa, You cannot see, you realize?
Dear Opa, what’s the point of that?
You cannot see a thing
You’ve done no work,
you also look just like a ding-a-ling.
I’d say the shop’s a mess if I were one to moralize.
Please Opa, won’t you tell me why that scarf’s
tied o’er your eyes?”

“It’s called an Überscarf, it is; a wondrous new invention.
It makes things go away,
the things that cause me hypertension.
If stocks are low,
the Überscarf will hide that from my sight.
If I can’t see a problem, well then, everything’s all right.
When the shop’s untidy, or the pantry shelves are bare,
My splendid Überscarf will keep me blissfully unaware.”









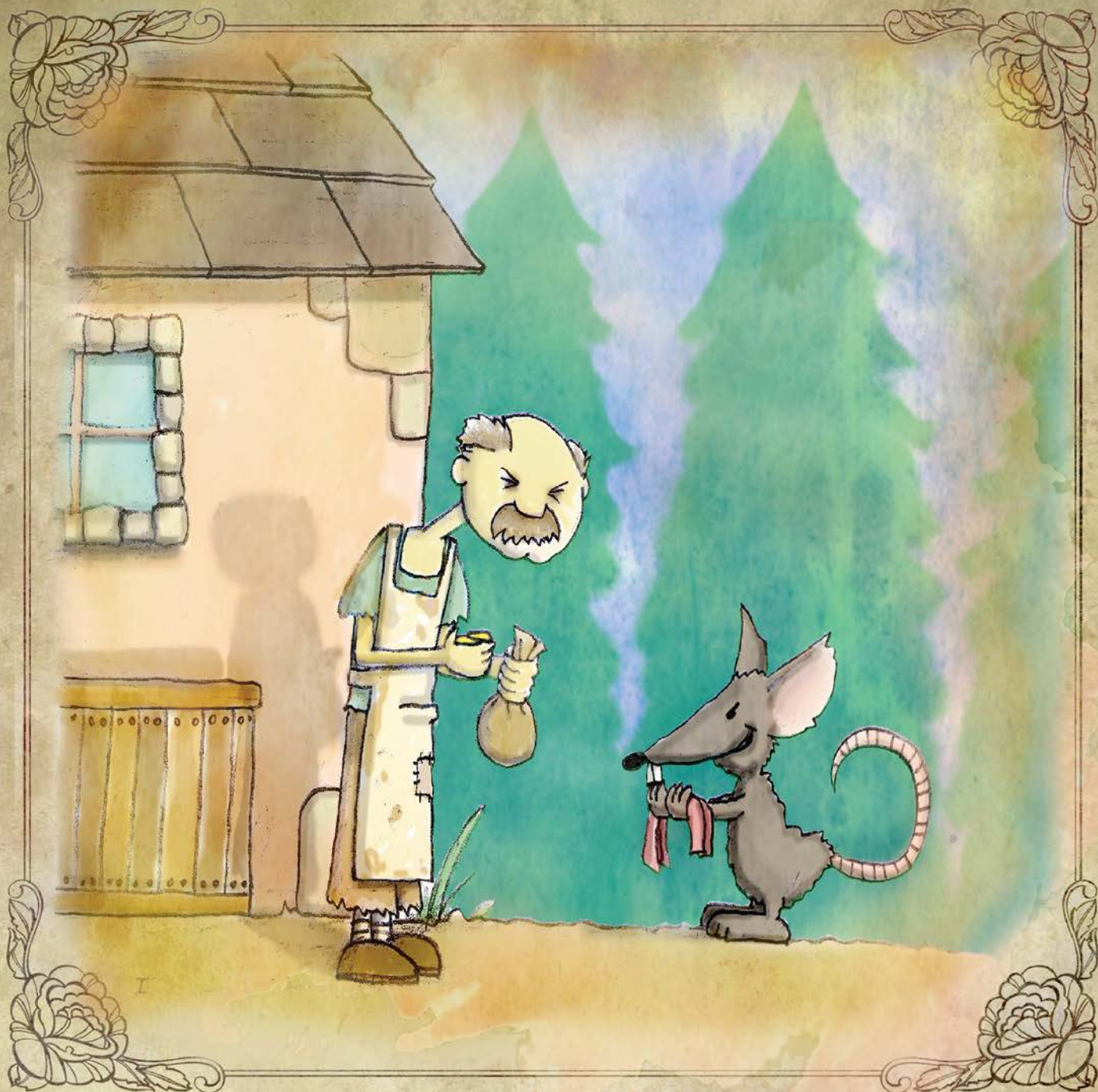
“Of all I’ve heard, that is the most ridiculous today.
Who told you covering your eyes makes troubles go away?”

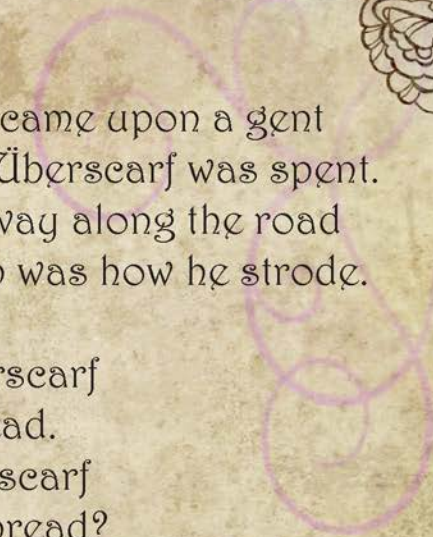

“Why Ilse dear I’ll tell you, just a moment to recount it,
A friendly rat was selling them at market, all discounted.
He told me how it works, he said my troubles would be banished;
And once he tied it round my head, well sure enough, they vanished!
But one thing more convinced me of the Übersearf’s cachet:
It’s not made here, exotic scarves are crafted far away.
The Gypsy Queen of Großerkopf creates them in her castle,
Her servant rats distribute them to spare the buyer hassle.”

“The Gypsy Queen, I’ve heard of her
So she’s behind this mess.
The Gypsy Queen, that swindler
I’ll find her nonetheless.
I’ll ask her what these Übersearves are really all about,
She sold my Opa rubbish, she and I will have it out.
The Großerkopf is far away, but in my line of sight;
The journey’s long, but off I go. I’ll try to make things right.”

So Ilse packed a satchel and she started on her way.
Though Opa told her not to, Ilse chose to disobey.









She hadn't gone a furlong when she came upon a gent
Whose hard-earned money also on an Übersearf was spent.
He couldn't see, and so he made his way along the road
By holding to a fence, and step by step was how he strode.



"The Mayor has an Übersearf
Tied all around his head.
The Mayor has an Übersearf
How far has this thing spread?

Oh Mayor, please be careful for you cannot see the lane:
We cannot have you falling down and ending up in pain.
Please sir, may I ask you why you're covering your eyes?
Are you sure it helps you govern? Are you sure it's very wise?"

"It's the greatest thing," the mayor said, and groped to find the rails,
"I see no beggars wanting food, no outlaws in our jails.
I see no trash or disarray. My vision's been unleashed;
This Übersearf has opened up my eyes and shown me nicht!
I'm going now to make a brand new city proclamation:
An Übersearf for every single person in the nation!"







“This problem’s spreading far and wide
Much farther than I knew
The mayor has a level head
But he has bought one too.

It seems that everyone in town has bought this silly hoax!
Hello, what’s happ’ning at the home of these nice village folks?”

And there they were: A man and wife doing naught but standing there,
Wearing Übersearves and with their house in disrepair.
Their cottage doors were open and the upstairs windows too,
And into waiting wagons rats tossed bags of revenue.
They walked right past the family as they carried ‘way their swag,
And tipped their hats and waved and simply told them “Guten tag.”

“So that’s the Gypsy Queen’s design,
To make the folks content
Then send her rats to clean them out
Of house and home and rent!

Call the erier! Raise alarms from every house and tower,
It must be fast, it must be soon, for late now is the hour!
I’m headed now for Großerkopf to tell that Gypsy Queen
Exactly what I think of her and her disgusting scheme!”

