

The "**Town Musicians of Bremen**" (German: *Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten*) is a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. You can see a bronze statue by Gerhard Marcks showing the Bremen Town Musicians in the city of Bremen in Germany.

Bremen Town Musicians (Grimm Brothers)

A certain man had a donkey, whose strength was going, so he was too old to carry the corn-sacks to the mill. His master considered how he might give him away. But the donkey, seeing knew that, ran away and set out on the road to Bremen. There, he thought, he could surely become a town-musician.

When he had walked a while, he found a dog lying on the road crying. "Why are you crying so loud, you big fellow", asked the donkey. "I am old and weak", he replied. "My master wanted me to kill, so I ran away. But how can I earn my bread now?"

"I am going to Bremen, and shall be a town-musician there," donkey told him. "Come with me. I will play the lute, and you can beat the kettle-drum."

The dog agreed, and they went on. Soon they came to a cat, with a face like three rainy days. It was the same with her. "You`re too old to catch mice, but you understand night music", they said to the cat. "Come with us to Bremen."

The cat thought well of it, and went with them. After this the three fellows came to a farm-yard, where the cock was sitting upon the gate, crowing with all his might.

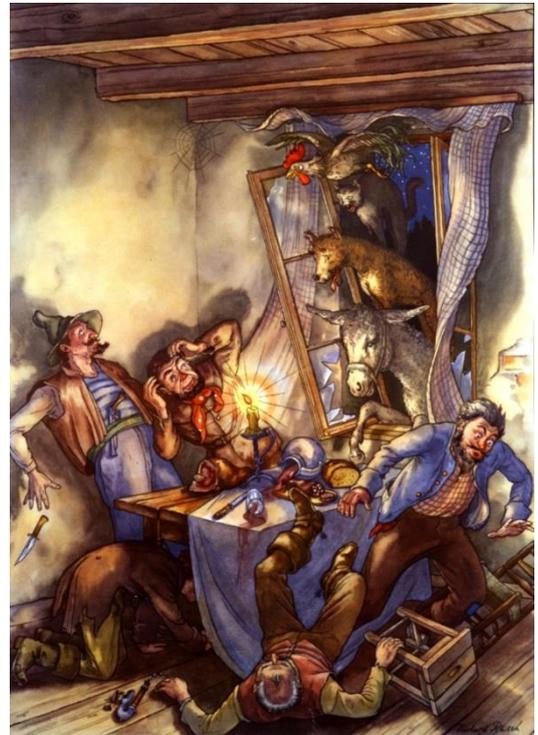
"Your crow goes through and through one," said the donkey. "What is the matter?"

"They intend to eat me in the soup tomorrow", he cried.

"You`d better come with us", the donkey said. "We are going to Bremen. You have a good voice. If we make music together, it should have good quality."

The cock agreed to this plan, and all four went on together. They could not reach the city of Bremen in one day, however, and in the evening they came to a forest. There they meant to pass the night. The donkey and the dog laid themselves down under a large tree, the cat and the cock settled themselves in the branches. But the cock flew right to the top, where he was safer.

Before he went to sleep he looked round, and thought he saw a light. So they decided to go to the place the light was, and soon they came to a well-lighted robbers` house. The donkey, as the biggest, went to the window and looked in.



"I see a table covered with good things to eat and drink, and robbers sitting at it enjoying themselves", he soon told the others.

"That would be the sort of thing for us," said the cock.

Then the animals thought about how they should manage to drive away the robbers, and at last they had a plan. The donkey placed himself with his fore-feet upon the window-ledge, the dog jumped on the donkey's back, the cat climbed upon the dog, and lastly the cock flew up and perched upon the head of the cat.

When this was done, they began to perform their music together. The donkey brayed, the dog barked, the cat mewed, and the cock crowed. Then they burst through the window into the room, shattering the glass.

That was so horrible, that the robbers sprang up, thinking a ghost had come in, and fled in a great fright out into the forest.

The four companions now sat down at the table, well content with what was left, and ate as much as they could.

Later they put out the light, and each of them looked for a good place to sleep. The donkey laid himself down upon some straw in the yard, the dog behind the door, the cat upon the hearth, and the cock upon a roof beam. Tired they soon went to sleep.

After midnight the robbers saw that there was no light in the house. So the captain ordered one of them to go back again and examine the house.

The robber found all quiet, so he went into the kitchen to light a candle. But, taking the glistening eyes of the cat for hot coals, he held a matchstick to them to light it. But the cat did not understand the joke, and flew in his face, scratching.

He was very frightened, and ran to the back-door, but the dog, lying there, sprang up and bit his leg. And as he ran across the yard by the dunghill, the donkey gave him a smart kick with its foot.

The cock, too, who had been awakened by the noise, cried down from the beam: "Cock-a-doodle-doo."

Then the robber ran back as fast as he could to his captain, and said: "There is a horrible witch sitting in the house that spat on me and scratched my face with her long claws. And by the door stands a man with a knife who bit my leg. And in the yard there lies a black monster that beat me with a wooden block. And above, upon the roof, sits the judge, who called out, bring the rogue here to me. So I got away as fast as I could."

After this the robbers never again dared to enter the house. But it suited the four musicians of Bremen so well that they did not want to leave it any more.

(Translated by Diyar, Dominik, Kevin)