

The Little

Ladybird



(Portuguese Folk Tale)

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The Little Ladybird



There was once a very nice and beautiful Ladybird who felt very sad

though for living alone. As she was not rich, she had not yet met the charming

husband of her dreams.



But one day, when sweeping the kitchen, our little Ladybird found five

cents. She was very happy with her treasure and went immediately to her

neighbour's and asked her:

“Tell me, my friend, what should I buy with these five cents?”

Her neighbour said: “Buy some  cake.”

“No, they are too fattening”, replied the little  Ladybird, who then went

to the other neighbour’s and made the same question:

“Tell me, my friend, what should I buy with these five cents?”

“Buy a new dress, assorted collar and earrings, and sit by the window shouting:

“Who wants to marry the little  Ladybird who is wealthy and beautiful?”

The little  Ladybird followed the advice and soon was she nicely

dressed and sitting by the window shouting:

“Who wants to marry the little



Ladybird who is wealthy and

beautiful?”



A

Donkey passed nearby and said: “I do!”

“Let me hear your voice,” the little



Ladybird said to him.



The

Donkey brayed and the little



Ladybird told him:

“Trot away, Donkey, you don’t make me a good husband, a better one I will

choose.”

And the little Ladybird continued shouting at the window: “Who wants to marry

the little  Ladybird who is wealthy and beautiful?”

A  Dog passed then under the window and said: “I do!”

“What do you eat?” the little  Ladybird asked him.

The  Dog barked: “I eat everything. I even feed on bones.”

“Trot away, Dog. You don’t make me a good husband, a better one I will

choose,” the little Ladybird said, and she continued shouting at the window:

“Who wants to marry the little  Ladybird who is wealthy and beautiful?”



A Pig passed next and said: "I do!"



"Where do you live?" the little Ladybird asked him.



"In a pigpen," the Pig oinked.

"Trot way, Pig. You don't make me a good husband, a better one I will choose."

And our little Ladybird continued shouting at the window: "Who wants to marry



the little Ladybird who is wealthy and beautiful?"



A Bull passed and said: "I do!"



And the little Ladybird asked him: "What can you do?"

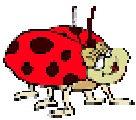
“I’m good at bullfighting,” the Bull moored.



And the little Ladybird scared shouted: “Trot away, Bull. You don’t

make me a good husband, a better one I will choose.”

Somehow disappointed for not finding a husband who could please her, our



little Ladybird nevertheless shouted again: “Who wants to marry the



little Ladybird who is wealthy and beautiful?”

Then a handsome passed by and said: “I do, little



Ladybird

because you are wealthy and beautiful.”



“Tell me, handsome Rat, what do you eat?” the little Ladybird asked.



“Because I have a sweet tooth, I eat only delicacies... Don’t you know that I’m



John the Rat?” he said.



The little Ladybird then told him: “No other husband will I have. You

are the one I will wed.”

And the marriage festivities soon started. When going to the church on the



wedding day, our little Ladybird suddenly remembered that she had

forgotten her bridal flowers at home and asked John the Rat to go back and get

them for her.



John the hurried to meet her bride's request and ran back home. When

he arrived there, an agreeable smell to food filled the air...



As he was a glutton eater, John the Rat could not resist the smell and

went to the kitchen to taste what was inside the cooking pan. He removed the lid

and put a finger inside the pan. But with his finger he could still not taste the food,

so he put his hand, then his arm... and he leaned so deeply over that he fell inside

the cooking pan!



Tired of waiting for her bridegroom at the church, our little Ladybird

then decided to go back home. She looked for John the Rat everywhere in the

house but could not find him. Then a strange smell reached her nose and she

headed to the kitchen. When she entered there, she saw the cooking pan lid lying

aside... And a sad feeling stroke her that something had happened to her beloved



John the Rat.



In tears our unhappy little

Ladybird cried loud: “Oh my poor John the

Rat! Oh my poor John the Rat, cooked alive in the cooking pot!”

Dulce Rodrigues

About the Author

Dulce Rodrigues was born in Lisbon, Portugal. After a professional career that took her to other cities and countries, she now spends her life either travelling or among books; writing for children is for her a rewarding challenge and an engaging act of creation.

Following the publication some years ago in Belgium of her first book for children, now also published in English, Dulce Rodrigues created the pedagogical project www.barry4kids.net that opened the way to collaborations in different European countries, namely France, Belgium, Luxembourg and even Romania.

Dulce Rodrigues has university courses in the field of science as well as languages and literatures, and she was awarded scholarships in Germany and Belgium. A few of her children's tales and stories were awarded literary prizes in France at European level contests. She speaks six living languages and writes regularly in at least three.

Her books have been published in more than one European country, and performances of her children's play "Penguin and the Fig Tree" have already taken place in Romania and Luxembourg. The Portuguese version of "Father Christmas has the Flu" was performed in Portugal and her recent script play "Há Festa no Céu" was also performed in Luxembourg.

Books for children by the same Author

Piloto e Lassie, uma outra estória de Romeu e Julieta, 2011 - play

Der Weihnachtsmann ist verschnupft, 2010 – play

Father Christmas has the Flu, 2010 – play

Barry's Adventure, 2010 – tale

Il était une fois une Maison, 2009 – tale

Le Père Noël est enrhumé / O Pai Natal está constipado (bilingual), 2008 – play

Le Théâtre des Animaux, 2008 – play

A Aventura do Barry (CD-Rom), 2001 – tale (out of print)

L'Aventure de Barry, 1999 – tale (out of print)

Play scripts (available in English) by the same Author:

The Little Ladybird

The Miracle of Saint Nicholas (Christmas)