

## Transcription of the video « Only the finest apples »

**Constance, the storyteller, is strolling through the museum.**

[Constance]

Autumn is a lovely time to walk in the forest. You can find chestnuts, mushrooms, hazelnuts and, in the fields, apple trees, with apples to crunch. I know someone who loved apples. He was a king. He even promised his daughter's hand to whoever brought him the finest apples in the land.

**Constance goes up to a painting of a man who's leaning slightly forward and looking straight at us. He's wearing simple clothes and holding a metal dish.**

[Constance]

In Brittany, there was a young farmer. His name was Joseph. He was shy, a bit of a loner. He had a hunched back, and was rather ugly. So when he heard the news, he thought,

[Joseph]

'This may be my only chance to win the princess's hand!'

[Constance]

He went straight to his orchard, where he picked the two finest apples he could find.

**Constance approaches a still life painting. It shows a table with a basket full of eggs, some apples, some chestnuts and a little mushroom.**

[Constance]

Then he took a basket of eggs to eat on his journey. He thought,

[Joseph]

'I'll find some chestnuts and mushrooms on my way.'

[Constance]

So off he went. That evening, feeling tired, he stopped by a spring. He was making his omelette when suddenly, he saw an old woman.

[Old woman]

'Young man, I'm old and tired. Could you give me something to eat?'

[Constance]

Joseph had found one mushroom that day. He had his omelette, but not much else. He hesitated, then said,

[Joseph]

'All right, old woman, stay with me.'

[Constance]

After the meal, the old woman left. She said,

[Old woman]

'The apples will be lovely!'

[Constance]

The next day, Joseph reached the castle and proudly presented his two apples. When the king saw them he said,

[The king]

'I've never seen such beautiful apples! They're so red, so golden. They're mouth-watering! I think you're the son-in-law I need.'

[Constance]

But by the king's side was the princess, and when she saw Joseph, a rather ugly hunchback, her face fell. And by her side was the blue prince, who was about to win the contest. So the prince said,

[The prince]

'Oh my king, perhaps we could set an extra challenge for this young man, as he's very ugly.'

[The king]

'Very well!' said the king. 'Joseph, listen to me; tomorrow morning you must find all the squirrels in my garden, take them for a walk in the forest, then bring them back to the garden. If even one is missing, you must go home.'

[Constance]

The next day, Joseph woke up in a very bad mood. He fetched a wheelbarrow, managed to catch the squirrels, headed for the forest, muttering in his beard, when suddenly...

[Old woman]

'Well, young man, you don't look happy...'

[Joseph]

'Ah, old woman, I should have won the princess's hand, but because I'm ugly, they've set me an extra challenge.'

[Old woman]

'There there, never mind, take this whistle. When you use it, the squirrels will follow you!'

[Joseph]

'Thank you old woman!'

[Constance]

So Joseph waited all day. In the evening, he blew his whistle and the squirrels came running. He returned to the castle in triumph. When the king saw that he said,

[The king]

'You truly are the son-in-law I need! You're a clever fellow. The wedding will be held tomorrow!'

[Constance]

The princess looked a bit grumpy. The next morning, Joseph and the princess got ready, and they both made their way to the church. But there, under the porch, was the old woman. She went quietly up to the princess and put her hand over the princess's eyes, and suddenly, when she opened her eyes, she looked at Joseph and she saw a true Prince Charming.

She smiled.

Apparently, the two of them got married, lived happily ever after, and enjoyed eating apples their whole life long!