

The Silent Couple

There once was a young man who was the most stubborn fellow in town. And a young woman who was said to be the most stubborn maiden, and of course they somehow fell in love and got married. After the wedding ceremony, they had a grand feast at their new house, which lasted all day.

Before bed, the husband noticed that the last guest to leave had forgotten to close the door.

“My dear,” he said, “would you mind getting up and shutting the door? There is a draught.”

“Why should I shut it? You shut it.”

“Nag, nag, nag” said the husband. “Will I always have to listen to you complaining?”

“And will I always have to listen to your rudeness?” asked the wife.

Then the bride suggested that whoever spoke first would have to get up and close the door.

The husband agreed and so sat looking at each other without saying a word.

They stayed that way for about two hours when a couple of thieves passed by and saw that the door was open. They crept into the house, which looked empty, and began to steal everything. They took tables and chairs, pulled paintings off the walls, even rolled up carpets. But the husband and wife never spoke a single word.

The newlyweds sat quietly for the rest of the night. At dawn a policeman walked by and, noticing the open door, stuck in his head to ask if everything was alright. But, of course, he couldn't get an answer out of the silent couple.

“Now, see here!” he yelled, “I am a police officer! Who are you? Is this your house? What happened to all of your furniture?” And still getting no response, he raised his hands to box the man's ears.

“Don't you dare!” cried the wife, jumping to her feet. “That's my new husband, and if you touch him, you'll have to answer to me!”

“I won!” yelled the husband, clapping his hands. “Now go and close the door.”