

The Prodigal Daughter

Once upon a time, there was a single mother living with her daughter and son.* They were a close and happy family, and they got along for the most part, although they did fight now and then.*

One day, after the daughter had graduated from high school, she went to her mother and said,* "I'm eighteen and I'm old enough to be on my own. Please give me all the money we have saved up for my college tuition. I want to travel and see the world, get a job, and start living in a new and exciting place."*

The mother was sad. She tried to convince her daughter to stay home with the family and go to a local college, but the daughter refused. So the mother gave her the money and said good-bye.*

The daughter went to a big city and rented an apartment. She made a lot of friends and went out to eat every night.* She was having so much fun that she kept forgetting to look for a job.* Eventually, she ran out of money, and she was kicked out of her apartment.* The daughter found out that it wasn't easy to get a job. So she just walked the streets, eating whatever food she could find in the dumpsters behind the restaurants where she used to be a customer.* And nobody seemed to recognize her, and no one wanted to help her.

The daughter finally decided to go back home and ask her mother to hire her as a housekeeper.* She figured she could cook, clean, and take care of the house, because she could never ask to return home as a real daughter—not after wasting all that money.*

So the daughter returned home. Her mother was so happy to see her that she threw her arms around her and kissed her dirty face, brought her in, and poured her a cup of hot chocolate. The mother called for her son to come downstairs to celebrate.* Then she called all of her friends and relatives and told them to come over right away because her daughter had come back.*

