

Extract from “Jesper the Hare Herder”

It was agreed that the queen should try to buy a hare. That afternoon, she dressed in old clothes and went to the woods where she asked Jesper if he could spare one of his hares. Jesper replied they weren't his, but she pleaded and flattered Jesper until he promised her a hare. He blew on the whistle and all the hares gathered around him. He picked one up by the hind legs.

“You may have this one if you kiss its backside first,” he said.

The queen was outraged; a queen shouldn't have to kiss a hare on its backside, but, of course, she couldn't say that. However, she had to admit that she'd rather kiss a hare on its backside than see her daughter marry a commoner and besides, there was no one there to see her do it. She lifted the hare's tail and planted a kiss on its bottom. Jesper put the hare in the queen's sack and carrying it over her shoulder, she made her way back to the palace. Just as she was about to pass through the gate, Jesper blew on the whistle and the hare jumped out and ran back to the woods.