

# *dragon fish*

BILL           there once was a brother-who-had-a-sister

GILL           and a sister-who-had-a-brother

BILL           they lived together in a distant land  
by the side of a great lake

                  the brother-who-had-a sister fished all day long  
from the rising of the sun in the east  
to the setting of the sun in the west

GILL           he sat by the lake  
with his rod and his line dangling in the water

BILL           but never in all his life did he catch a single fish

GILL           the sister-who-had-a-brother  
worked her fingers to the bone  
from the rising of the sun in the east  
to the setting of the sun in the west

                  she dug and she planted in the vegetable patch  
she fed the hens  
she pruned the plum-trees  
and she rubbed and she scrubbed to keep the cottage clean

BILL           but the vegetables grew scrawny and mean  
the hens layed never an egg  
the plums withered on the tree

GILL           no jam for tea

BILL           and though she rubbed and she scrubbed  
the dirt and the grime lay thick

                  at the bottom of the great lake  
where the brother and the sister had made their home  
lived the Dragon King

SISTER        Dragon King  
there's no such thing

BILL           said the sister-who-had-a-brother

BROTHER      ssh not so loud  
you'll make him angry

GILL           said the brother-who-had-a-sister

they grew old together these two  
in their tumble-down cottage  
by the side of the lake

BILL old and grumpy

SISTER there's me working working working  
and there's you shirking shirking shirking  
lazing all day with your rod a-dangle  
sitting on your lardy good-for-nothing BTM

BROTHER I'm fishing in the lake  
there's more than we know in its murky depths  
our fortune lies hidden somewhere beneath its waves  
so I'm fishing in the lake

SISTER it's all you ever do is that  
fishing in the lake  
but you've never caught a single fish  
you won't make your fortune there

BROTHER I can dream

SISTER anyone can dream  
but dreams don't put food on the table

BILL now the brother-who-had-a-sister  
had a friend  
a very special friend

GILL this special friend lived in the lake

BILL this special friend was called Cibet

GILL and what was especially special  
about special friend Cibet  
is that he was pretend

BILL he was the brother's pretend friend

BROTHER where are you Cibet?  
are you there?

ah there you are old boy  
how are you keeping then Cibet?

SISTER what's that?

BROTHER nothing sister  
she's got the moodies on her again  
she's got that face

SISTER what do you say?

BROTHER nothing sister  
best we keep out of her way

SISTER is it that blasted Cibet you're talking to?

BROTHER no sister

SISTER so you're talking to yourself then

BROTHER yes sister

SISTER not healthy

BROTHER no sister  
you're the only one I can have a proper conversation with

SISTER are you talking to me?

BROTHER no sister  
I'm definitely not talking to you

SISTER now look what you made me do  
another bowl broken  
our last bowl broken

if we had anything to eat  
we'd have nothing to eat it out of

what it is to be poor  
and cursed with a lazy good-for-nothing brother  
it's me has to pick up the pieces

BROTHER we'd best be away from here you and I  
it would only upset her being under her feet

take me away from here Cibet  
take me deep down to the depths of the lake  
let's find treasure you and I  
pirate treasure from years gone by  
that'd make her happy enough

GILL So the brother-who-had-a-sister  
and his special friend Cibet  
his pretend friend Cibet  
they dove deep down to the depths of the lake

among the wash of the waves  
the swish of the fish  
the hubble of the bubbles

BROTHER peace  
peace  
here I could drift for ever  
in peace

what's that you say Cibet?  
what do you say?  
treasure  
the treasure  
pirate treasure from years gone by  
the treasure of the deep

where are you taking me Cibet?  
deeper down than ever before  
deep deep down to the mud and the slime  
at the bottom of the lake

why here Cibet?  
what's here Cibet?

Oh yes I see it gleam  
the glint of gold  
the flash of silver  
the sparkle of diamonds  
spilling from a dead man's chest

we'll be rich Cibet  
all our problems solved  
my sister won't ever have to work so hard again  
she'll see I was right all along

but wait  
who's this?  
what hideous creature is this?  
it's the witch  
Sycorax the witch  
the witch from the bottom of the lake

SISTER        lazing all day with your rod a-dangle

BROTHER      out of my way  
you're not going to stop me

SISTER        your lardy good-for-nothing BTM

BROTHER      get off me  
help me Cibet

SISTER        working working working  
shirking shirking shirking

BROTHER      you foul and horrible witch  
I charge you in the name of the Dragon King  
be gone

SISTER        well that's just lovely isn't it  
you call your sister a witch

BROTHER      no no that's not what I meant

SISTER a foul and horrible witch  
your own sister that works her fingers to the bone  
that keeps her lazy good-for-nothing brother in comfort  
while he wastes his life away in idle dreams  
you call her a witch

BROTHER trout

SISTER now you call me a trout

BROTHER no not at all

SISTER witch isn't good enough  
so now you call me a trout  
an old trout  
that's what I am to you is it?

BROTHER no  
trout for supper  
that's what I mean  
don't you want trout for supper?

SISTER of course I want trout for supper  
I pray every day for trout for supper  
but how will we ever have trout for supper?  
you never catch nothing you  
never ever have you caught the tiniest tiddler  
the weeniest widdler  
you can't catch nothing you

BROTHER but Cibet can

SISTER Cibet!!

BROTHER yes Cibet  
I'll dive deep down with Cibet  
we'll hunt out the fattest trout in the lake  
and we'll bring it back up here for your supper  
tonight you'll eat like a Queen

SISTER what do you mean Cibet?  
Cibet isn't there  
Cibet is pretend  
Cibet can't catch us our supper

BROTHER That's what you think  
Come on Cibet  
let's show her

deep deep down in the depths of the lake  
peace again  
such peace  
here I could drift for ever  
in peace

what can you see  
through the murk and the gloom?  
Cibet what can you see?  
Look at them  
huge  
the trout of the lake  
heavy fat trout of the lake  
grazing like cows in their underwater world  
just one'll do fine for her supper

gone  
flashed away in an instant

there they are again  
swim gently towards  
not a ripple to disturb  
nudging towards  
reaching

that sound  
a rumble and a grumble  
from the bottom of the lake  
a churning and a gurning  
from the bottom of the lake  
bubbles belching  
a cloud of mud rising from the bottom of the lake

take me back Cibet  
get me out of here

GILL        a gloop and a gurgle  
              a flash of fire  
              eyes of fire flash  
              from the middle of the mud  
              at the bottom of the lake  
              a monster

BROTHER    take me back Cibet  
              get me out of here

GILL        up up up towards the surface of the lake  
              racing up up up  
              getting lighter  
              see the sky  
              bursting out on the surface of the lake  
              gasping  
              fighting for breath  
              what was that?

BROTHER    what was that we saw Cibet?  
  
              that wasn't a trout  
              that rumble

that grumble  
that belching of mud  
eyes of fire  
that were a monster of the deep

SISTER no trout then?

BROTHER you'll never believe what we saw

SISTER all talk as usual  
I'll get you a trout  
a trout for your supper  
tonight you'll eat like a Queen  
you and your pretend friend

BROTHER we nearly had a trout  
a trout as big as a cow  
but the monster

SISTER the monster

BROTHER yes the monster  
a monster of the deep  
maybe it was the Dragon King himself  
Cibet saved me

SISTER Dragon King  
there's no such thing

and there's no such thing as Cibet  
they're in your mind  
you are making them up

but worst of all there's no food  
and we have no money

and that isn't made up  
that is for real

BROTHER there are monsters sister  
and dragons  
and Cibet has seen them

he saved me from the monster of the deep

SISTER there is no monster of the deep brother  
and there is no Cibet  
Cibet is pretend  
your pretend friend  
he doesn't exist  
where is he?  
here?

BROTHER careful!

SISTER        here?

BROTHER     you'll hurt him

SISTER        here?

BROTHER     sister  
                 what have you done?  
                 what have you done?

                 Cibet  
                 Cibet speak to me

                 He isn't breathing

SISTER        He never breathed in the first place

BROTHER     he's gone

                 no more adventures  
                 no one to talk to  
                 no peace  
                 he's gone

                 I shall bury him in the shade of this tree  
                 by the side of the lake where he lived

                 I shall bury him with all the ceremony he deserves  
                 I shall decorate this tree  
                 and it shall stand as a memorial to Cibet  
                 to a true and trusted friend

                 I shall sing to the Dragon King  
                 to take care of Cibet in death

SISTER        do we really have to have your singing?  
                 there's no such thing as a Dragon King  
                 and there's no such thing as Cibet  
                 and what are you doing with that material?

BROTHER     I shall dress the tree in honour of Cibet

SISTER        that's to make curtains  
                 I saved for that  
                 I scrimped and saved every last penny for that  
                 how can you

BROTHER     mighty Dragon  
                 king of the deep  
                 your servant Cibet  
                 is in his last sleep  
                 may he rest in your care  
                 for ever and a year  
                 and by your blessing

may we live in good cheer

SISTER we'll be chopping up that tree for firewood  
come winter

BROTHER never  
this tree will stand for ever  
or at least for a long time after you and I have gone

GILL The very next day

BILL the brother-who-had-a-sister  
put his fishing rod to one side  
and sat himself under the tree  
to think quietly for a moment  
about his dear departed friend Cibet

GILL his pretend friend Cibet  
and as he sat  
and thought sad thoughts  
something hit his hand  
and then  
something hit his other hand

BROTHER silver  
coins  
silver coins  
falling from the tree

I'm blessed  
the dragon-king has blessed me  
in honour of Cibet

the dragon-king heard my song  
my singing pleased him  
and now he showers me with silver sister

I told you our fortune was in that lake

Sister look  
a miracle  
now will you believe me  
silver sister  
silver coins  
we're rich  
the tree has showered me with silver  
look

look

SISTER look at what?

BROTHER they were here in my hand  
silver coins

they fell from the tree  
one in each hand to begin with  
then more and more

a shower of silver coins

SISTER you're cruel  
downright cruel  
you're nothing but mean

why delight me with talk of silver  
only to laugh in my face

how can you do it to your own flesh and blood?

BROTHER but no sister here I was  
and here it was  
and now it isn't

SISTER and it never even was

BROTHER but it was  
I swear it was  
on Cibets life that is no more I swear it was

SISTER Cibet never had a life  
so that's a swear worth nothing

BROTHER sit down yourself under the tree

SISTER I haven't the time  
there's jobs need doing

BROTHER sit yourself down  
just as I was sitting down

SISTER there's the veggies need digging

BROTHER under the tree  
arms held out

SISTER there's the hens need feeding

BROTHER eyes closed

SISTER the plums need pruning

BROTHER gentle breathing

SISTER there's jam needs making

BROTHER it can wait

SISTER I'm an excellent jammer me

BROTHER I know you are

SISTER there's the cottage needs cleaning

BROTHER thinking of Cibet

SISTER you know that'll just make me angry

BROTHER then think of something calming  
soothing  
relaxing  
listen to the sounds of the lake  
listen to the ripple of the lake  
the lapping of the lake  
the slip slop slapping of the lake

SISTER ooh this is nice  
nice to take the weight of my legs  
ooh this is pleasant  
this is peace  
very peaceful indeed

no-one makes jam like me  
who'll make the jam when I'm gone?  
no-one that's who  
no-one

ooh I can smell it

BROTHER the jam?

SISTER no the peace

I can smell peace  
a very peaceful smell

what's that  
I felt it  
something hit my hand  
and again  
something hit my other hand

silver  
the tree's showering me with silver

brother you're right  
you were right all along  
and I never believed you

we're rich  
a new house  
that's what we'll have  
with all the modern bits and pieces  
a washing machine  
a dishwasher

a vacuum cleaner with all the extensions

we're rich

bird-poo

it's not silver at all  
it's bird poo  
how disgusting

what have you done to me  
you wicked wicked man?  
how have you charmed the birds  
to poo in my hands?  
you wicked wicked man

BROTHER no sister see  
it was silver that fell on me  
silver that fell from the tree

SISTER so where is it now?  
the silver that fell from the tree  
you made it up  
like you make everything up  
your life is a dream

well I won't have it  
I won't put up with it  
all this nonsense  
this dressing up of a tree  
down it comes  
chop chop chop  
everything here has to earn its place  
that includes you  
and that includes the tree  
so down it comes  
chop chop chop  
stack it for firewood when winter comes

BROTHER no not for firewood never  
this is Cibert's tree  
you won't burn Cibert's tree

a raft  
that's what I'll make with Cibert's tree  
a raft to fish from in the middle of the lake  
that's where the fish are  
that's why I never catch a fish  
because the fish all swim in the middle of the lake

SISTER you never catch a fish because you're a no good fisherman

BROTHER this raft will prove you wrong  
with this raft in the middle of the lake  
I'll catch fish by the bucketful

we'll have fish enough to munch on Mondays  
chew on Tuesdays  
wolf on Wednesdays  
give thanks for on Thursdays  
and fry on Fridays

SISTER no it's going for firewood

BROTHER no I've done it look  
the raft is ready

GILL and so it was

and the brother-who-had-a-sister  
hailed the raft to the edge of the lake  
and launched his raft on the water

BILL and the brother-who-had-a-sister  
paddled his raft to the middle of the lake  
while the sister- who-had-a-brother  
watched him through the spy-glass  
that she kept specially for the purpose

SISTER why the no-good so-and-so  
there he sits with his rod a-dangle  
lazing on his lardy good-for-nothing BTM

does he look at the rod?  
no  
does he look at the float?  
no  
are the fish biting?  
yes  
does he catch any fish?  
no  
does he ever catch any fish?  
no  
he's the very worst fisher that ever there was

and that raft  
that raft is just his excuse  
to get away from me

BROTHER nothing biting sister  
not today

SISTER oh really?

BROTHER yes really  
better luck tomorrow

SISTER I don't think so

BROTHER we can always dream

SISTER I don't think you'll be out there tomorrow

BROTHER I think I will

SISTER then I think you'll have to swim

BROTHER no I think I'll paddle the raft

SISTER not by the time I've finished you won't

BROTHER what are you doing?  
are you crazy woman?

SISTER call me crazy  
I call you lazy

I seen you out there  
snoozing  
dozing  
catching nothing but a nap

I won't have it do you hear  
I won't have you make a fool of me

never mind firewood  
when I've finished with this lot  
you'll be lucky to make a matchstick

BROTHER how has that helped anything?  
how has chopping down the tree  
how has smashing up my raft  
how has any of that helped anything?

SISTER It makes me feel better

BROTHER It won't catch us any fish

SISTER You never catch us any fish  
so what's the difference?

BROTHER I might if I had a hook

SISTER what do you mean?

BROTHER I might catch some fish if I had a hook

SISTER you don't have a hook?

BROTHER no I don't have a hook

SISTER how long have you not had a hook?

BROTHER I've never had a hook

SISTER        you've never had a hook?

BROTHER      never

SISTER        all these years and you've never had a hook?

BROTHER      all these years

SISTER        so that's why we've never eaten fish in all these years

BROTHER      that's why

SISTER        and why have you never had a hook?

BROTHER      I never got round to making a hook

SISTER        why do I put up with you?

BROTHER      because I'm your brother

SISTER        do you think that's reason enough?

BROTHER      I'll make a hook  
a hook that'll hook us our fortune  
a hook strong enough to hook the Dragon King himself

SISTER        you will will you  
and what will you make this mighty hook out of?

BROTHER      I'll make it out of the tree  
I'll make it out of Cibert's tree  
the tree that you've chopped and smashed  
I think there's still a piece big enough

SISTER        it's happened again  
just when I think you're going to do something sensible  
just when I think finally  
you're going to put a decent hook on your line  
you come out with another stupid idea

                  you don't make a hook out of wood

BROTHER      why not?

SISTER        it'll float

BROTHER      I'll make it out of heavy wood

SISTER        even heavy wood floats

BROTHER      very heavy wood

SISTER        even very heavy wood floats

BROTHER    so heavy that it sinks

SISTER      and it won't be strong enough

BROTHER    but you're forgetting  
this is a magic tree  
this is Cibet's tree  
that's why it'll be strong enough  
and that's why it'll sink

SISTER      I give up  
finally I give up

              you do what you want  
and I'll take a leaf out of your book  
I'll follow your example  
I'll sit here and I'll watch the lake  
never mind the veggies  
never mind the hens  
never mind the plum trees and the jam  
never mind the house  
let everything fall to rack and ruin  
why not?

BROTHER    Sister I do care  
I really do care  
you must understand that  
it's just that I have my own way of doing things

              here we are then  
a fine looking hook

SISTER      and what will you use for bait?

BROTHER    bait?

SISTER      what will you put on the hook  
to attract the fish?  
to tempt a big fat trout?  
a lump of bread?  
a wiggly worm?  
what?

BROTHER    a wiggly worm  
that sounds cruel to me  
no the hook will do just fine  
just as it is  
it doesn't need anything else

GILL        and with that  
he did a one and a two and a three  
and he cast his line into the water

BILL        and what a cast he made  
far far out from the shore where he stood

right to the middle of the lake

GILL           and just as he said it would  
the wooden hook sunk like a stone  
as heavy as a stone  
heading for the bottom of the lake

BILL           and then all of a sudden  
the water of the lake

GILL           it bubbled and it heaved  
like it was alive

BILL           like it was a monster rolling around in some kind of pain

GILL           and the waters of the lake  
they quite overflowed

BILL           they came pouring out

GILL           gushing out

BILL           rushing out

GILL           the waters of the lake  
came sweeping and swooping through the little wooden shack

BILL           where the brother-who-had-a-sister lived

GILL           with his sister-who-had-a-brother

BILL           and when at last the waters crept back

GILL           crept back out of the shack

BILL           back into the body of the lake  
there was left in the shack a terrible slime of mud

GILL           and a filthy stink from the ooze left behind by the lake

BROTHER       what was all that about?

SISTER         I've no idea  
but it's all your fault  
bound to be  
what a filthy stink

BROTHER       mud everywhere  
slime everywhere  
stink everywhere

SISTER         and guess who's going to have to clean it up  
well you guessed wrong  
because no  
that's it

I've said it before but this time it's true  
I've had enough  
it's finished

BROTHER beautiful

SISTER what's that?

BROTHER beautiful

SISTER what are you on about?

BROTHER quite beautiful

SISTER not me

BROTHER so young

SISTER definitely not me

BROTHER no not you  
behind you

SISTER there's nothing behind me  
only the lake

BROTHER rising out of the lake  
we were young once sister  
do you remember?

SISTER she's walking on water is she?

BROTHER I can't tell  
yes I suppose she is

SISTER get a grip

BROTHER her lips are moving  
look

SISTER I'm not turning round

BROTHER Look at her sister  
she has something to say

SISTER you're not going to get me to turn round

BROTHER there's nothing to be afraid of

DAUGHTER I want you to come with me

BROTHER me?

DAUGHTER yes you  
will you come with me

please

BROTHER you want me to come with you?

DAUGHTER yes I do

BROTHER what can you want with the likes of me?

DAUGHTER I want you to help my father please

BROTHER your father?

DAUGHTER that's what I said

BROTHER what's wrong with your father?

DAUGHTER the hook you cast into the lake  
it is caught in my father's mouth  
only you can free him

BROTHER is your father a fish?

DAUGHTER don't be ridiculous please  
do I look as though my father is a fish?

BROTHER no not at all

DAUGHTER why do you insult me by asking if my father is a fish?

BROTHER I didn't mean to insult you

DAUGHTER no my father is a dragon

BROTHER a dragon?

DAUGHTER my father is the Dragon King  
who lives at the bottom of the lake

BROTHER you don't look like your father is a dragon

DAUGHTER now you insult me again

BROTHER I mean that you look too gentle  
too beautiful  
too delicate  
to have a dragon as your father

DAUGHTER I might not be as gentle as I look  
will you come please?

BROTHER I'd like to help you  
but I'm just a human  
I don't have any dragon in me at all  
not even any fish

so I'd not be able to breathe underwater

DAUGHTER don't worry about that please  
I know how to help you there  
will you come

BROTHER yes I'll come

GILL and before she led him into the lake  
the daughter of the Dragon King  
blew a great big bubble  
right around the brother-who-had-a-sister's head  
and the bubble was full of air  
so that he could breathe

BILL and she took him by the hand  
and they dived into the lake

DAUGHTER have you dived in the lake before?

BROTHER only in my dreams  
in my games  
the games I played with Cibet  
he was my friend  
Cibet was my friend  
but he was only pretend  
this is real

GILL the lake wasn't all murk and mud by any means  
ribbons of multi-coloured weed-fronds  
drifting upwards

great rocks of limestone and sandstone  
white pink red

shoals of tiny fish  
glittering and skittering  
in broken sunlight

BILL and then a shadow

a dark shadow  
a swirl and a rush

BROTHER the Dragon King?

DRAGON not me  
no  
just his messenger  
come to lead you to his majesty  
he waits

BILL a cave  
a cavern

a great yawning chasm

BROTHER it's dark  
and dank  
and dingy  
and dirty

GILL the drip drip drip of the

BROTHER dark

GILL and drip

BROTHER and dank

GILL and drip

BROTHER and dingy

GILL and drip

BROTHER and dirty and dark

GILL and drip

BROTHER and dank

GILL and drip

BROTHER and dingy

GILL and drip

BROTHER and...

stalagmites  
growing upwards from the floor

stalactites  
hanging downwards from the roof

like rows of teeth

rows of sharp sharp teeth

like rows of dragon teeth

rows of giant dragon teeth

they are rows of giant dragon teeth  
we're in the Dragon-King's mouth

DAUGHTER yes we are  
but don't be afraid please  
he needs your help

the hook you cast in the lake  
has hooked itself into his mouth  
into the roof of his mouth

you must remove it please

BROTHER it's only such a tiny hook  
and this is such a monstrous mouth

DAUGHTER a mosquito is tiny  
but its bite still causes you pain  
so your hook  
although it is a tiny hook  
it is the cause of much pain to my father

BROTHER I'll do what I can but I'm not sure where to start  
there's such a lot of mouth to look in

and one careless breath of flame from the Dragon-King  
I'll be roasted  
or toasted

DAUGHTER he's not going to toast the man who's here to save him  
what are you thinking

BROTHER I'm also the man who hooked him  
that's what I'm thinking

DAUGHTER he'll be very grateful

BROTHER really?

DAUGHTER really

BROTHER look up there  
caught in the roof of his mouth  
I think it is

I can't reach  
you best find someone taller

DAUGHTER climb up a tooth perhaps

BROTHER way too sharp  
and way too slippery  
all that slime and saliva

DAUGHTER then me

BROTHER you?

DAUGHTER me

BROTHER you're going to get the hook out?

DAUGHTER no you're going to climb up me

BROTHER I couldn't do that  
I might hurt you

DAUGHTER my father is in pain  
climb up me please

BROTHER if you're sure  
  
am I hurting you?

DAUGHTER have you got the hook?

BROTHER it's here but I can't get it out?  
am I too heavy?

DAUGHTER just get the hook out please

BROTHER I'm doing my best  
  
I've got it

[IN THE PROCESS OF EXTRACTING THE HOOK HE  
COMES TUMBLING DOWN]

I'm sorry  
I'm really sorry  
are you alright?

DAUGHTER yes of course

BROTHER you're strong

DAUGHTER what do you expect?  
I'm the daughter of the Dragon-King

BROTHER what's happening  
everything's moving  
  
here hold steady  
you're not going to eat me  
  
I've done what you wanted  
I've taken out the hook  
I never meant it to catch you in the first place  
  
don't eat me  
please don't eat me  
don't let your teeth come crashing together  
don't let your molars mash me  
your incisors snip me

which way is out?  
I don't want to be heading for your belly

just belch me back out into the lake

D'KING      you've served me well old man  
                 you came to me in my hour of need  
                 you braved the fieriness of my breath  
                 you braved the sharpness of my teeth  
                 you braved my anger and my pain  
                 and you set me free

so I set you free

and when you return to your home above the water  
to your shack by the side of the lake  
you will find a gift  
a present  
something precious  
something of great worth  
look after it well  
and you shall have a happy life

now prepare yourself for your journey home

BILL            and with a great belch and a burp  
                 from the bottom of his belly  
                 the Dragon King sent  
                 the brother-who-had-a-sister  
                 whirling on his way  
                 ploughing through the waves of the lake  
                 to his shack by the side of the water

SISTER        And what's that bubble you're wearing on your head?

BROTHER      it's my breathing bubble  
                 it's full of air

SISTER        like the rest of your head

BROTHER      so I could breathe when I helped the Dragon King

SISTER        there's no such thing

BROTHER      I helped him get the hook out of his mouth

SISTER        I'm not listening to this nonsense

BROTHER      he was very grateful

SISTER        la de da de da de da

BROTHER      so grateful he gave me a gift  
                 a present

SISTER        where

BROTHER     I thought you weren't listening

SISTER        where's the present?

BROTHER     well he didn't give it to me exactly  
                 he said it'd be here

SISTER        I nearly believed you

BROTHER     but I can't see anything

SISTER        you nearly made me believe you

BROTHER     just the mud from the flood  
  
                 what's this?

SISTER        what's what?

BROTHER     this

SISTER        it's a jar

BROTHER     I can see it's a jar

SISTER        with a fish in it

BROTHER     I can see there's a fish in it

SISTER        a beautiful blue fish

BROTHER     where did this come from

SISTER        you put it there

BROTHER     I never did

SISTER        when I wasn't looking you put it there

BROTHER     when was it you weren't looking?

SISTER        just now  
                 just a second ago

BROTHER     but you're always looking  
  
                 and anyway  
                 why would I put it there?

SISTER        to trick me  
                 all you ever want to do is trick me

BROTHER I didn't put it there sister  
and you didn't put it there  
this is the present  
this is what the Dragon-King has given me

SISTER a little blue fish in a jam jar?  
after you went all the way to the bottom of the lake  
climbed inside his mouth  
and pulled out the hook  
all you get is a little blue fish in a jam jar?  
that's pathetic

BROTHER I thought you didn't believe me

SISTER I don't believe you  
but if you had done all those things  
then that would be pathetic

BROTHER it's a very pretty blue fish  
and the dragon-king said it would make my life happy

SISTER it's going back in the lake

BROTHER don't be silly please  
this fish is the key to our happiness  
this is what we've been waiting for all these years  
from out of the lake

SISTER what you've been waiting for

BROTHER and she's staying right here

SISTER how do know it's a she?  
how can you tell?

BROTHER I don't know how I can tell  
but she is a she I'm sure  
and she's staying right here

GILL and the brother-who-had-a-sister settled himself for a nap  
with the blue fish in a jar safely between his hands  
and soon he was snoring away

BILL because taking a hook out of a dragon's mouth is tiring work  
  
and the sister-who-had-a-brother  
soon she was snoring as well

GILL because complaining all the time is tiring work too  
  
and while the both of them were snoring

BILL something very strange happened

GILL           so that when they awoke

BROTHER       how did you do that?

SISTER         do what?

BROTHER       it's clean  
                  everything's clean

                  the mud from the flood  
                  the slime from the lake  
                  all gone  
                  the stink from the ooze left behind by the lake  
                  it isn't there anymore

SISTER         well it wasn't me  
                  I told you I was going to have nothing to do with it

BROTHER       then who?  
                  who could have cleared it away?  
                  and so quick while we slept?

SISTER         it really has gone

BROTHER       it really has

SISTER         and there's that smell  
                  that peaceful smell  
                  that smell I smelt sitting under the tree  
                  before you made the bird poo on my hand  
                  what horrible thing's going to happen to me today?

BROTHER       nothing horrible is going to happen to you today  
                  this is what the Dragon-King said  
                  our life will be happy

SISTER         I bet he said your life will be happy  
                  not our life  
                  I'm never going to be happy

BROTHER       I wish you could believe sister

SISTER         sometimes brother I wish I could

NARR           every night when they slept  
                  things happened around the house  
                  to make their lives better

SISTER         the vegetable garden it's bulging with veggies  
                  there's enough for us and sell some at the market

BROTHER       those hens they're laying like I never seen  
                  eggs to scramble and boil and fry

SISTER        those plum trees have never had so much fruit on them  
                   there'll be jam for yesterday  
                   jam for tomorrow  
                   and plenty of jam for today

BROTHER      and somebody's even been doing the fishing  
                   the net's stuffed full of fish for our supper  
                   trout  
                   a huge brown trout  
                   at last you will eat like a Queen  
                   my dear sister

SISTER        who's doing such things?  
                   how does it happen?

BROTHER      what's it got to do with the little blue fish?

SISTER        she's bringing us luck

BROTHER      but you don't believe

SISTER        she is though isn't she  
                   that's what happening

BROTHER      is that what you believe?

SISTER        I don't know what I believe

BROTHER      I'm going to find out

SISTER        no you mustn't  
                   it might stop if you find out  
                   let it stay as a mystery  
                   let it be a dream

BROTHER      I've spent too much of my life in a dream  
                   I'm going to find out

GILL          that very night  
                   they settled down as usual to sleep

BILL          but the brother-who-had-a-sister only pretended

GILL          while the sister-who-had-a-brother snored her head off

BILL          her brother lay quietly with his eyes closed  
                   listening hard to the sounds in the house

GILL          he heard the hens outside clucking in their sleep  
                   he heard the wind stirring the leaves of the plum trees  
                   he even thought he could hear the vegetables growing  
                   so hard he strained his ears to hear

BILL            what he definitely did hear  
                  most definitely did hear  
                  was a swish and a splosh  
                  from where the jar sat on the table

GILL            the jar with the little blue fish  
                  swimming round and round

BILL            the swish and the splosh  
                  of the little blue fish  
                  jumping out of the jar

GILL            he reached for the light switch by the side of his bed

BROTHER       it's you  
                  it's you again  
                  the Dragon-King's daughter

DAUGHTER     it's me  
                  me again

BROTHER       you're in our house

DAUGHTER     I am

BROTHER       and it's you that's been cleaning  
                  it's you that makes the hens lay  
                  it's you that makes the plums grow  
                  it's you that catches all the fish

DAUGHTER     it is

BROTHER       it's you that brings us happiness  
                  you're the little blue fish  
                  aren't you  
                  during the day you're the little blue fish

DAUGHTER     I am

BROTHER       a dragon-fish  
                  you're a little blue dragon-fish

DAUGHTER     yes

BROTHER       and you live in the jar

DAUGHTER     yes  
                  you're not meant to see me like this  
                  this is a mistake please

BROTHER I don't want you to live in the jar  
I want you to live with us  
with me and my sister

sister wake  
there's someone to meet

SISTER you're the Dragon-King's daughter

BROTHER how do you know that?  
you didn't even turn round

SISTER I've seen her in my dreams

BROTHER you have dreams

SISTER of course I have dreams  
I've always had dreams

BROTHER you never said

SISTER you never asked

and I've dreamed of you my dear  
dreamed of someone young  
a young child to make the jam with  
cos who's going to make the jam when I'm gone?

a young child  
to keep me company  
to laugh with me and play with me

BROTHER you never laugh  
you never play

SISTER in my dreams I do  
I laugh a lot in my dreams

so now you'll stay

DAUGHTER I can't stay  
I have to live in the jar

BROTHER you can't live in a jar  
that's not right  
you could teach me to fish  
never in all my life have I caught a single fish

DAUGHTER you caught my father  
the Dragon-King

BROTHER so I did

DAUGHTER that's why I'm here  
he has commanded I look after you

BROTHER but we don't need looking after

SISTER we could look after you

BROTHER of course we could

DAUGHTER I'm a fish  
a dragon-fish  
I need to live in water

BROTHER but not in a jar

SISTER I could teach you to make jam  
I'm famous for my jam

BROTHER she is that  
she's a champion jammer is she

DAUGHTER what is this jam  
for which you are so famous?

SISTER plum jam  
sweet and sticky  
you know jam

DAUGHTER no I don't know jam

a dragon-fish doesn't eat jam

a dragon-fish eats flies and worms  
and other fish  
so I don't know jam

but jam smells good  
I would like to know this jam

I like your world  
I like your blue skies  
I like your white clouds

I like the green of your hills  
the rustle of your trees  
the whistle of your wind

I like your warm days  
and your cold nights

and I like the smell of this jam

BROTHER then stay with us

SISTER let us break the jar  
stay with us

BROTHER be our little girl

DAUGHTER it's not possible  
however much I might want to be with you  
my bones are too weak to live on land

BROTHER your bones are too weak?

DAUGHTER yes they are

BROTHER I could make new bones if that's the trouble

SISTER yes he could  
he's very clever like that  
there's nothing he can't make  
once he puts his mind to it

BROTHER if only I had the wood I made the hook from  
the wood from Cibet's tree  
that's the wood to make new bones from  
that's the strongest wood in the world  
but it's gone  
chopped and smashed into tiny little pieces

SISTER not all of it

BROTHER yes all of it  
you know all of it  
cos she chopped and smashed it herself  
not that I blame you mind

SISTER no not all of it  
I hid a couple of branches  
I don't know why  
but I knew we'd need them one day  
and we do

BROTHER there we are then

DAUGHTER there's another thing  
if you give me new bones  
if I live on the land  
if I leave the lake behind  
I leave my special powers behind as well

all the cleaning  
the gardening  
looking after the hens  
it won't get done by magic

it'll be hard work  
for us all

BROTHER I'm ready for some hard work  
and we'll start with these bones

DAUGHTER do you really think it'll work?

BROTHER I know it'll work

SISTER just believe

mighty dragon king of the water  
we give thanks for the gift of your daughter  
may she rest in our care for ever and a year  
and by your blessing may we live in good cheer