25. The Bald Man and his Wife

An elderly bald man is married to a younger woman who is deeply ashamed of his appearance and demands he walk miles to find a hair-growth cure.

The husband sets out but turns back early on the advice of a wise gentleman, accidentally returning home while his wife is entertaining an interloping servant.

The wife quickly hides her lover up in the loft just before the husband enters the house.

She tricks her husband into kneeling with an apron over his eyes, claiming she found a magical cure, and commands him not to look even if the house falls so she can secretly signal the lover to jump down and escape.

The wife chants a rhythmic rhyme to the fleeing lover ("Come Monday or Tuesday"), which the blindfolded husband foolishly believes is a magical spell calling forth his new hair.

Themes:

Marital infidelity and clever deception.

The foolishness and gullibility of the elderly husband.

Folk cures and double-meaning wordplay.