Once there was and once there was not a family of three brothers. The two older brothers went out hunting every day, but they left the youngest brother at home. They brought home rabbits that they had shot, and they had the younger brother cook them. This was all very well until one day Trouble-Making Ayşe came along and threatened the youngest brother:

"I shall do this to you, and I shall do that to you."

When that did not have the effect she wished, she pretended to faint. And so, one way and another, she finally got the rabbit which she wanted and went away.

When the two older brothers came home that evening, they said to the youngest brother, "What did you do with the rabbit we left for you?"

"I ate it," he said.

"Oh, really? Can one eat that much meat alone?"

This sort of thing went on day after day, for Trouble-Making Ayşe came to their house again and again. Sometimes she would say, "O my Bekir, let me admire your eyes! O my Bekir, be good enough to let me admire your beard! Please, Bekir, permit me to admire your mouth!" And in such ways, she took the rabbit away from...
the youngest brother. When the older brothers realized that there was loss of a rabbit every day, they decided to remain at home themselves to see what was happening to it.

Trouble-Making Ayşe realized that she could no longer take anything from that household, she decided to go elsewhere. She fashioned a man out of cloth and weeds, placed him on the back of a mule, and let the mule loose in a melon field. She was leading the mule by its halter.

The owner of the melon field shouted at her, "Lead it along the side! Lead it along the edge of the field!" But all of the time she was taking it right across the middle of the field. Becoming angry, the owner of the field shouted, "Are you blind? Are you deaf? I am asking you to lead the animal along the edge of the field, but you are, instead, trampling down all of my melons!" He grew so furious that he knocked the "man" off the mule and burned him.

As soon as this happened, Trouble-Making Ayşe began to scream, "You have killed my husband! You have killed my husband! I shall go to court and sue you for murder -- false accusation of murder -- in order to extract money from you." The owner begged her, "Please! Have mercy! Do not sue me and I shall give you this field, including all of..."
Story 678

Farmer—gives trickster melon field—to escape the melons.

Trickster—girl—gives melon field by farmer falsely accused

After Trouble-Making Ayse had acquired the field in this way, she made a likeness of a baby out of cloth and weeds. Going to a shop, she began ordering a great amount of goods. She said, "Over here! I shall take this, and I shall take that." And as she was giving these orders, the shop keeper was piling up before her all of the things that she asked for. When she had all of the things that she wanted, the woman reached into her purse several times. Then she said, "Alas! I left my money at home. Let this child remain with you as a guarantee that I shall return with the money and pay for these things." Saying this, she laid the child in a bin and left it there, with its face covered.

Gathering up all of her purchases, she returned to her home with them. When she came back to the store, she picked up the "child" and held it in her arms. But then right away she started screaming, "You have killed my child! Oh, you have killed my child! I shall certainly sue you for a great amount of money!"

The poor man came forward and begged her to relent "Please, have mercy on me, my sister! Just do not sue me, and I shall give you this whole shop with everything
that is in it."

So she also acquired a shop. After she had sold of its contents, she left that place and went to a nearby village. There she came upon a funeral. The wife of a man had died, and the whole family had gathered around the corpse to mourn. She went to them and began to mourn right along with all of the rest. She kept crying, just as they did. She kept crying, "Of-f-f! You were just like a sister to me! I always got along so well with you! Of-f-f! My sister, you died so suddenly!"

The people there served her food and drink, and they did everything to make her feel welcome. "If you were like a sister to our bride, then do sit here where it is comfortable. Or sit over there, if that is more comfortable."

When it was time to retire, the grieving husband said, "I cannot sleep in the bedroom where the corpse..."

"...and so he went and slept in another room.

After everyone was asle...
not know what to make of this.

When it occurred on the third night, he tried to explain this to the other people there. To his mother he said, "Mother, this is what is happening. This is what has been going on for the past three nights."

And she replied, "Yes, my son, I understand. I have been hearing this voice at night too." (You remember, though, that neither of them knows the facts about all of this.) She continued, "In my dreams I have been told, 'Have that woman as a bride in your house! If you do not do so, you will be strangled.'"

Let us have her as a bride!" Going to Trouble-Making Ayşe, then, she said, "My daughter, inasmuch as you do not have a husband, and inasmuch as my son's wife has died, let us have you married to him."

Trouble-Making Ayşe, trying to behave in a coquettish way at first, asked, "Oh, how dare you ask a guest to become a bride? Shame on you! His wife was just like a sister to me!" A short while later, however, she said, "Well, all right, then. I shall marry him."

One day shortly after they were married, Trouble-Making Ayşe's mother-in-law became ill and was confined to her bed. The bride first twisted the woman's tongue viciously to hasten her death. She wrenched her tongue so severely that the woman could not utter a single word.
Then Ayşe slammed her first against this wall and then against another wall, and she continued to do this for some time. Remember that the woman was unable to speak or call for help. "Neighbors!" shouted Trouble-Making Ayşe, "come! Hurry! My mother-in-law is so sick that she is completely out of her mind. She says, 'The properties on this side belong to you, and the properties on that side belong to you. This house is also yours.'"

When the neighbors came in, the mother-in-law could not speak to them because of the damage to her tongue, but she tried to show them by gestures what had happened. She pulled on her tongue. Then she pointed first to the wall on one side of the room, and then to the wall on the opposite side of the room. She meant, "She twisted my tongue. Then she hit me against the wall first, and then she slammed me against the opposite wall. But as she was doing this and trying to show the truth, her daughter-in-law was explaining it in a different way. She had the Muhtar\(^1\) and the hoca.\(^2\)

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\(^1\)The Muhtar is the village head man, the only elected official that rural Turks see very often.

\(^2\)The hoca is the village priest, and formerly was both priest and teacher.
brought to witness the behavior of her mother-in-law. The poor woman was clutching her tongue and pointing first to one wall and then to another to show how she had been mistreated. And Ayşe accompanied her gestures with her own explanation. "You see, she is saying, 'The properties on this side are yours, and the properties on that other side are yours also.'" They all witnessed this, and by then Trouble-Making Ayşe's husband had arrived to observe his mother's strange behavior. The authorities decided, after the death of the mother-in-law, to transfer to Trouble-Making Ayşe all of the old woman's properties. Ayşe finally felt satisfied and at ease. One day after her husband had gone out of the house to work in the fields, Trouble-Making Ayşe took a mirror, gazed at herself in the mirror, and started to talk to herself. "Well, Ayşe, you have accomplished many things. First you took rabbits away from Bekir. Then you took the melon field away from its former owner. Next, you took a shop from its owner when you claimed that he had killed your baby. Finally, you slammed your mother-in-law so hard first against this wall and then against that wall that she died of her injuries. And now you possess all these properties, Trouble-Making Ayşe!" She thought that no one else had heard her talking...
in this way to herself, but her husband had returned to the house unexpectedly, and he had heard all that she had said. He grabbed the arm of Trouble-Making Ayşe and threw her out into the street.