



## Little Princess Melon: The Play

**Narrator:** Once upon a time, in Japan, there lived an old couple who always wanted a child.

**Old Lady:** My dear husband, we have a beautiful home and plenty of food, but there is one thing we don't have. I wish we had a baby!

**Old Man:** Dear wife, I always wanted a child, too. But we are getting old. What can we do?

**Narrator:** One day, the old woman went to the little river behind her house to do laundry. As she was sitting at the river washing clothes, she saw a huge delicious-looking melon floating the river toward her.

**Old Lady:** What a huge melon! I must take it home and share it with my husband.

**Narrator:** She reached over and pulled the melon to the shore. It was so big that she had to roll it home.

**Old Lady:** Dear husband, look what I've found in the river!

**Old Man:** Oh that looks delicious. I'll bring a knife to cut it.

**Narrator:** But when the old man's knife just touched the melon, it split in half and out popped a tiny baby girl!

**Old Man:** This baby must be a gift from Heaven. We will take good care of her.

**Old Lady:** Yes, and let's call her Little Princess Melon.

**Narrator:** Long time passed, and Little Princess Melon grew up to be a fine young girl. One day she saw a little bird outside her window. The bird was badly hurt.

**Bird:** A hunter shot an arrow at me and scraped me. I think I'm going to die! (Cries.)

**LPM:** Don't worry. I will take care of you.

**Narrator:** Little Princess Melon dressed the bird's wound and gave her some rice. Soon the bird felt much better.

**Bird:** Thank you, my friend, you saved my life. My name is Kotori. If you ever need me, just sing out my name.

(The bird flies away. LPM waves good-bye.)

**Narrator:** The next day the old couple decided to go into town for shopping.

**Old Lady:** Little daughter, we must go shopping and it will take us a whole day. You have to stay home all by yourself. Do you think you will be okay?



**LPM:** Sure, I am old enough to stay home by myself.

**Old Man:** There is one thing you must know. You see, a terrible creature lives on top of the mountain. Her name is Monster Amanjaku, and she might come down the hill to cause trouble. Whatever you do, don't open the door.

**LPM:** Okay, I promise.

**Narrator:** Then the old couple left, and LPM was home alone. Soon there was a knock on the door.

**LPM:** Who is it?

**Monster:** Who is it?

**Narrator:** A strange voice copied her from outside.

**LPM:** Are you the monster?

**Monster:** Are you the monster?

**LPM:** I'm not a monster. Go away.

**Monster:** I'm not a monster. Go away.

**LPM:** Stop copying me!

**Monster:** Stop copying me!

**Narrator:** Little Princess Melon was scared, but she was also curious. She decided to open the door a little to take a peek. But then the monster jumped in and grabbed her!

**Monster:** Ha ha ha! I've got you!

**Narrator:** The monster took Little Princess Melon to the top of the mountain and tied her to a tree. Then she took Little Princess Melon's kimono and put it on herself.

**Monster:** Hmmm. This makes me look so pretty. From now on, I will be the Little Princess!

**Narrator:** The Monster went back to Little Princess Melon's house. After a while, the old couple came back. They didn't notice that the monster had taken their daughter's place.

**Old Man&Old Lady:** Hi, little daughter, we're home.

**Monster:** Hi, little daughter, we're home.

**Narrator:** The monster copied, because it was her nature to copy everything. She couldn't help it. The old couple was confused.

**Old Man:** Why are you copying us?

**Monster:** Why are you copying us?

**Old Lady:** Stop making fun!

**Monster:** Stop making fun!

**OM&OL:** What happened to our daughter?



**Narrator:** Meanwhile, LPM was trying to escape, but she was all tied up. Then she remembered her friend the Little Bird.

**LPM:** Kotori, Kotori, come and help me!

**Narrator:** Soon she heard fluttering of the bird's wings above her.

**Bird:** What happened to you, Little Princess?

**LPM:** Well, the monster kidnapped me, and now she is pretending to be me, and my parents are in danger.

**Bird:** Don't worry. I'll untie you, and we'll go and rescue your parents.

**Narrator:** They hurried back to LPM's house.

**LPM:** I am the real Princess Melon.

**Bird:** That girl there is the monster!

**OM&OL:** What?!

**Monster:** Oh, no!

**Narrator:** The monster jumped out of the kimono and ran. They chased her to the top of the mountain and told her never to come back again. And this is why, to this day, when you are on top of the mountain and say something, what do you hear? An echo. That's what Monster Amanjaku is all about. She is the echo. As for LPM, she learned her lesson.

**LPM:** I am sorry I broke my promise. I will never do that again.

**OM&OL:** We are glad you are safe. And thank you, Little Bird, for saving her life.

**Bird:** You're welcome.

**Narrator:** And they all lived happily ever after.