

"The Princess And The Pea"

Once upon a time, there was a powerful Queen who lived with her son. He was becoming an adult. So, it was time for him to be married, she told him:

"Son, you deserve the best woman in the whole world. Do not settle for just any pretty face. A prince must be married to a princess." she told him.

"But remember," said the Queen, "A real princess is not just the daughter of a king and queen. A real princess is delicate and refined and eats only the best foods. She reads the greatest books and poems. She is graceful. And the first thing you will notice, a real princess has the voice of an angel."

With that, the prince decided to go with his servants in search of his princess. After he had traveled for several days, he arrived at the nearest kingdom. When he came to the castle, he met the king and queen, they presented their daughter the princess.

When he got to the princess's room, he heard her speak. Her voice was terrible and squeaky.

As he left the castle, he felt bad, but he reminded himself of what his mother said: "A real princess has the voice of an angel."

The Prince decided to go to different kingdom where he again found the castle and met the king and queen. He was so charming that he was immediately invited to see the princess of the kingdom. This time, the king and queen led

the Prince to the castle's dining hall.

This princess was very beautiful but ate like a pig. She did not look at the prince. All she did was eating. She was eating disgusting food.

Finally, the Prince abandoned his search and returned home - still unmarried and very disappointed by his long journey.

The night when he returned, there was a terrible thunderstorm. A knock came at the door. A servant answered the door, and a young woman stood outside, dressed in heavy clothes, soaking wet from the rain.

The Prince happened to be walking past, but when he heard the voice of the young woman, he stopped.

She explained to the servant, "My driver got lost in the rain and we saw the light from your castle. Would you be kind enough to provide us shelter for the night?"

She had the voice of an angel, and the Prince knew immediately that this must be his princess. He quickly ran up and when she pulled the hood off of her head, the Prince thought that she was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen in his life.

The Prince was so excited, he ran to go tell his mother what had happened. But right after he told her the story, she was not happy.

"My dear son, she is no princess," she said. "What kind of a princess goes out

in the rain, knocking on doors in the middle of the night? Shouldn't she have a servant for that?"

The Queen could see that her son was already in love with the girl, so she devised a plan to get rid of her.

"Alright, then, if you don't believe me, we will put her to a test. Tonight, we will dress her bed with ten of the softest and most luxurious mattresses in the castle. Then, under the ten mattresses, we will place a single, uncooked pea. If this pea disturbs her sleep, then we will know. Only a real princess would be delicate and refined enough to feel the pea."

The Prince accepted. So, the Queen ordered her servants to prepare the bed. Later, she took a single pea, and put it under the bed.

In the morning, the Prince went to the dining hall to see the Princess. She looked terrible. She had dark circles under her eyes.

"I am so tired," the princess told a servant. "Please do not tell the Prince, but that bed is uncomfortable, I felt like there was a brick inside it. I did not sleep at all night." The prince overheard her talking to the servant.

He immediately mentioned, "You are a true princess, aren't you? Please marry me and live here. I will get you any mattress you choose."

The Princess looked shocked but smiled. "Yes, I will marry you, as long as I don't have to sleep on that bed ever again!" They lived happily ever after.