

Sleeping Beauty



Once upon a time there lived a king and queen who had no children, which made them very sad. But then, one day, to her amazement, the queen found out that she was going to have a baby! The king and queen looked forward with great excitement to the day of the baby's birth. When then the time came, a lovely baby daughter was born and the king and queen decided to hold a grand feast to celebrate the arrival of the baby princess. Invitations were sent to many important people, including all the fairies in the kingdom. Unfortunately, one of the fairies was nowhere to be found and so could not be given an invitation.

When the feast was over, the fairies gave the princess their gifts.

The first fairy said, "You shall be wise!"

The second said, "You shall be beautiful!"

The third said, "You shall be loving and kind!"

But just as the fourth fairy was about to give her gift, the uninvited fairy suddenly appeared! She was furious because she had not been invited to the feast.

"When the princess is sixteen years old, she shall prick her finger with a spindle and fall down dead!" She raged, looking straight at the baby princess and in an instant, she was gone!

Straight away the fourth fairy stepped forward and said
“My gift for the princess is still left. My gift is life. When the princess pricks her finger she will not die but will sleep for a hundred years. Only a kiss from her true love will wake her.”

The king thanked the fairy for her kindness and ordered
that all spinning wheels and spindles be destroyed.

He hoped that this would stop the wicked fairy’s spell from
ever coming true.

As time went by, the princess grew into a young girl who was
beautiful, wise, loving and kind, just as the fairies
had promised.

On the day of her sixteenth birthday, a birthday party was
arranged for the princess. But whilst the princess was waiting for
her guests to arrive, she decided to climb to the highest of
the castle towers. When she reached the top of the highest
tower, there was a little room. She went in and there
was the bad fairy.

“Come in my child, look at this lovely spinning wheel. Would you
like to play with it?” asked the cunning fairy.

“Thank you, that would be wonderful!” replied the princess.
No sooner had the princess touched the spindle than the words of
the wicked fairy came true - she pricked her finger! And, at that
moment, the princess fell into a deep, deep sleep. The spell
worked on everyone else in the castle too. The king and queen
fell asleep, the guests, even royal pets fell asleep.

As the years passed, a thick hedge grew up around the castle.

It grew so tall that it almost hid the castle and the
sleeping princess became known as Sleeping Beauty.

Many knights tried to journey to the castle to wake
Sleeping Beauty but none were able to fight their way through
the thick and thorny hedge.

Now it happened that, exactly one hundred years after Sleeping Beauty had fallen asleep, a brave and handsome prince came riding by. He had heard of the beautiful princess known as Sleeping Beauty and was determined to fight his way through the thorny hedge to reach her. He pushed his way towards the castle and to his amazement the hedge magically opened to let him through. He went further into the castle until he came to a high tower. Hastily, he climbed the narrow staircase and stepped through the door to the little room at the top and there he saw the most Beautiful princess he had ever seen, sleeping peacefully on the bed. Lovingly, he bent down and gave her a kiss. At that moment, Sleeping Beauty opened her eyes and gave the prince a wonderful smile. Sleeping Beauty looked deeply into the prince's eyes and immediately fell in love. The whole castle came alive again after one hundred years of sleep. Everyone in the castle was amazed and delighted. A wonderful wedding was held for Sleeping Beauty and the handsome prince and they all lived happily ever after.