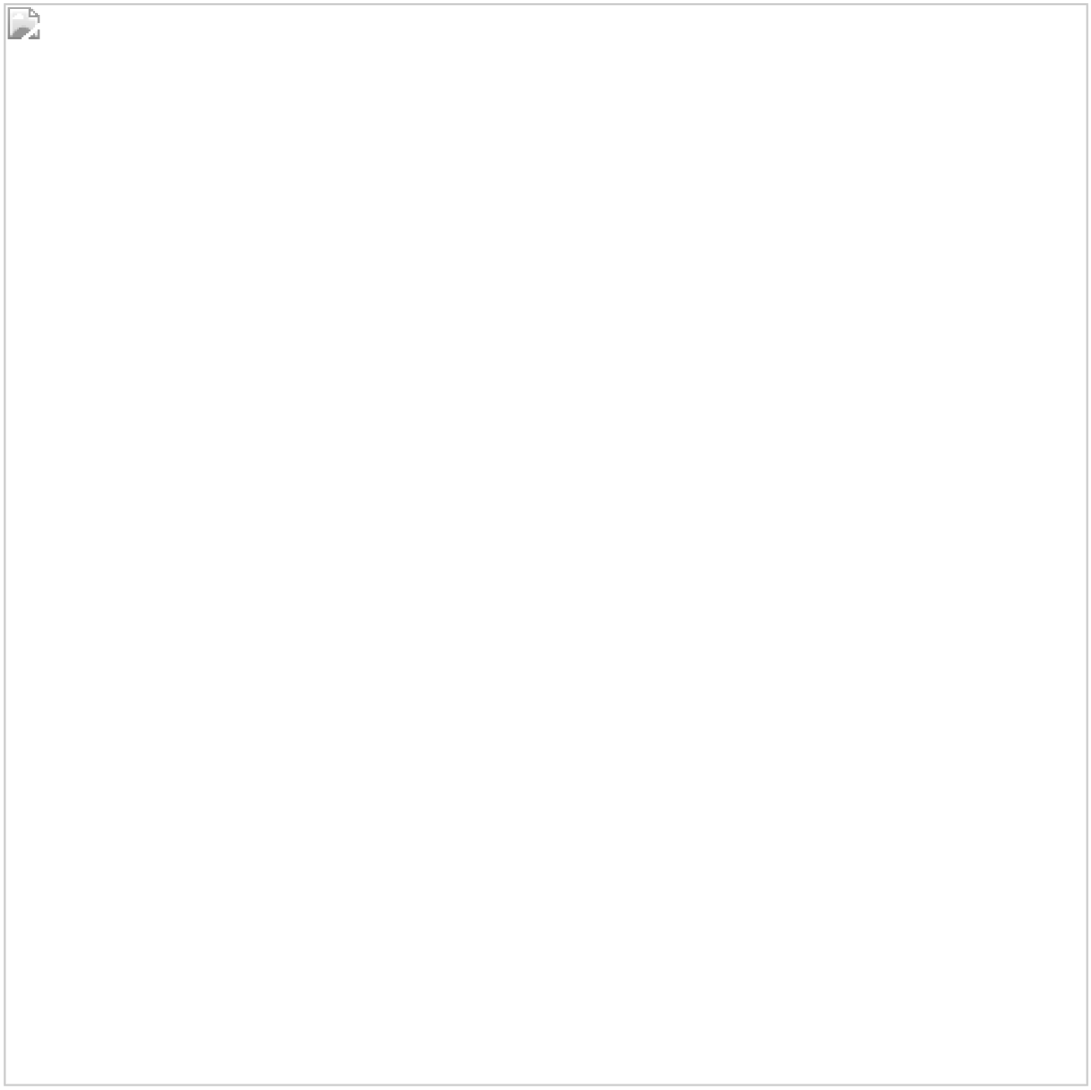
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Gold-Tree and Silver-Tree

A Tale from Scotland



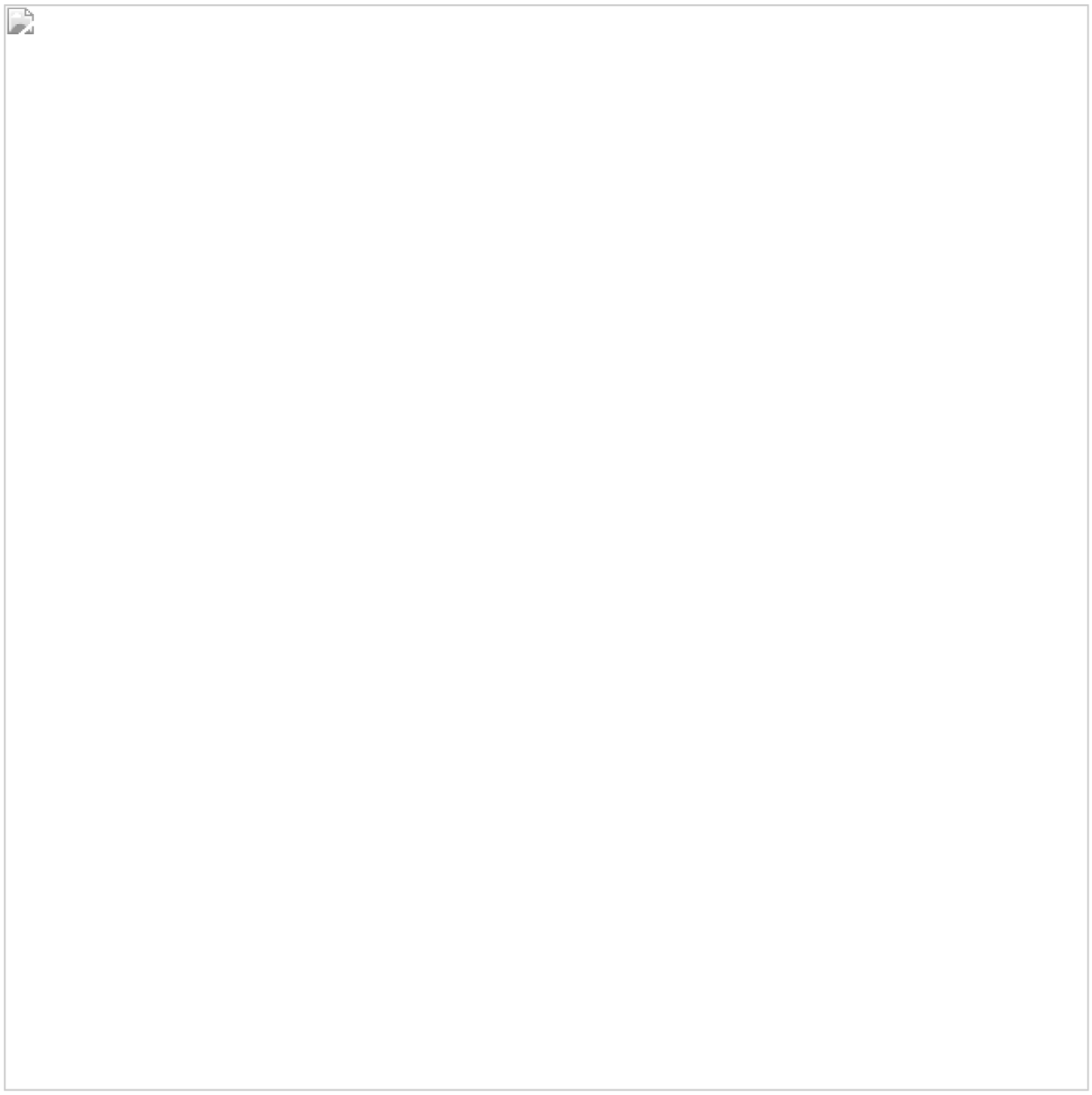
Once upon a time there was a king who had a wife, named Silver-tree, and a daughter, named Gold-tree. One day Gold-tree and Silver-tree went to a glen, where there was a well, and in it there was a trout.

TALK ABOUT IT

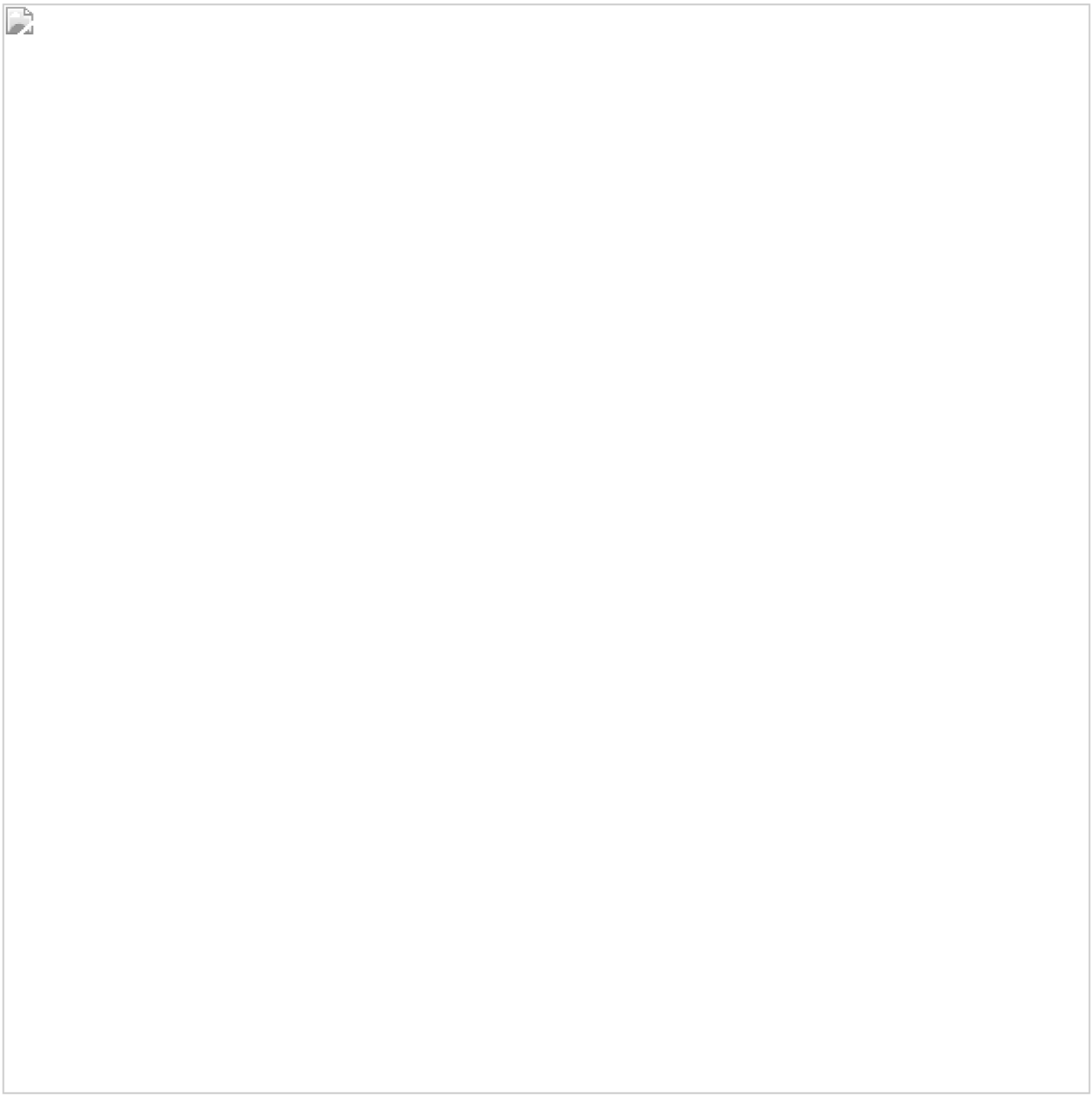
The tale starts at a well with a fish in it. What would you ask a talking fish?

This book belongs to _____

Gold-Tree and Silver-Tree · another picture



The Trout in the Well



Silver-tree said, “Troutie, bonny little fellow, am not I the most beautiful queen in the world?”

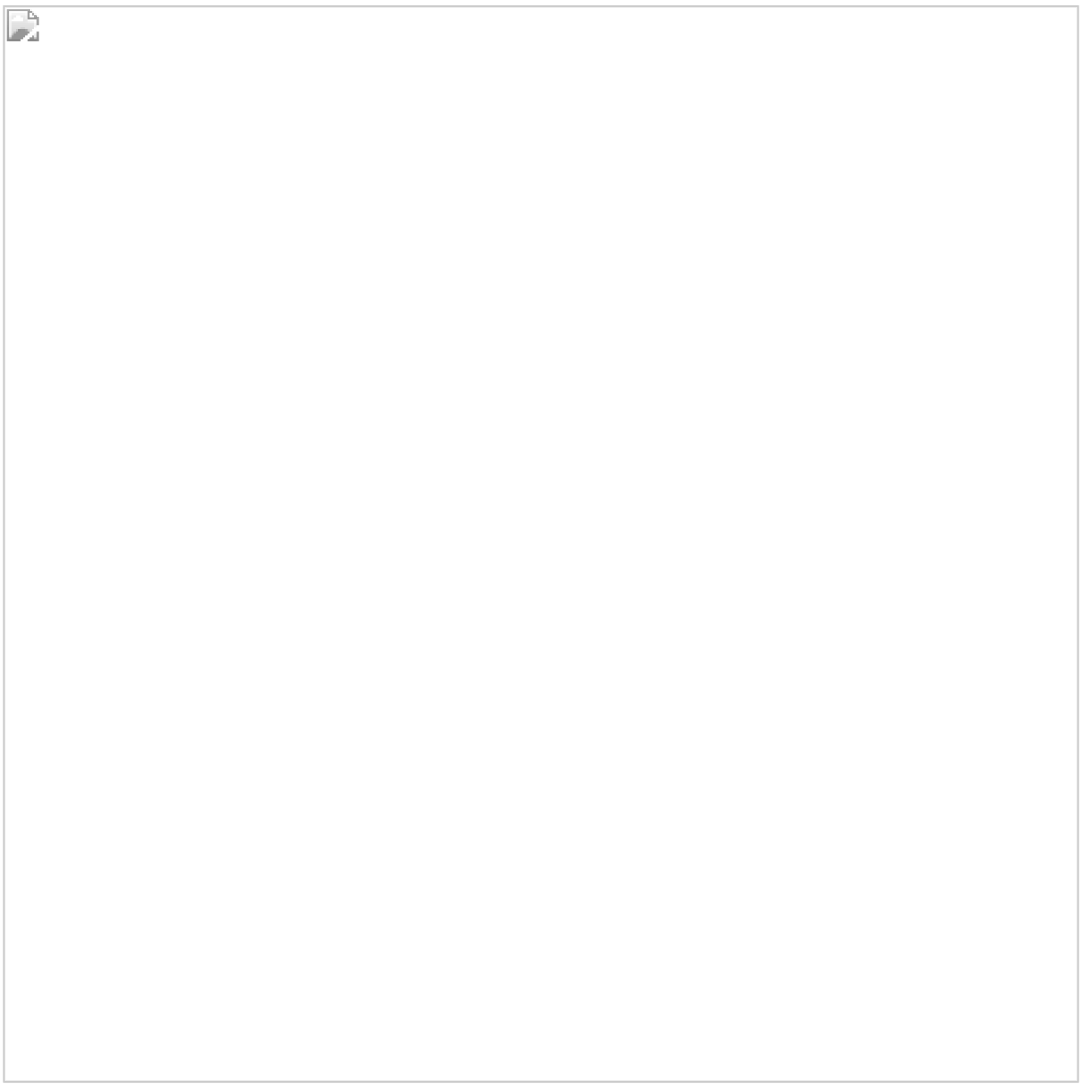
“Oh! indeed you are not,” said the trout.

“Who then?” “Why, Gold-tree, your daughter.”

Silver-tree went home “blind with rage.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The queen did not like the answer. Have you ever been told something you did not want to hear? What did you do?

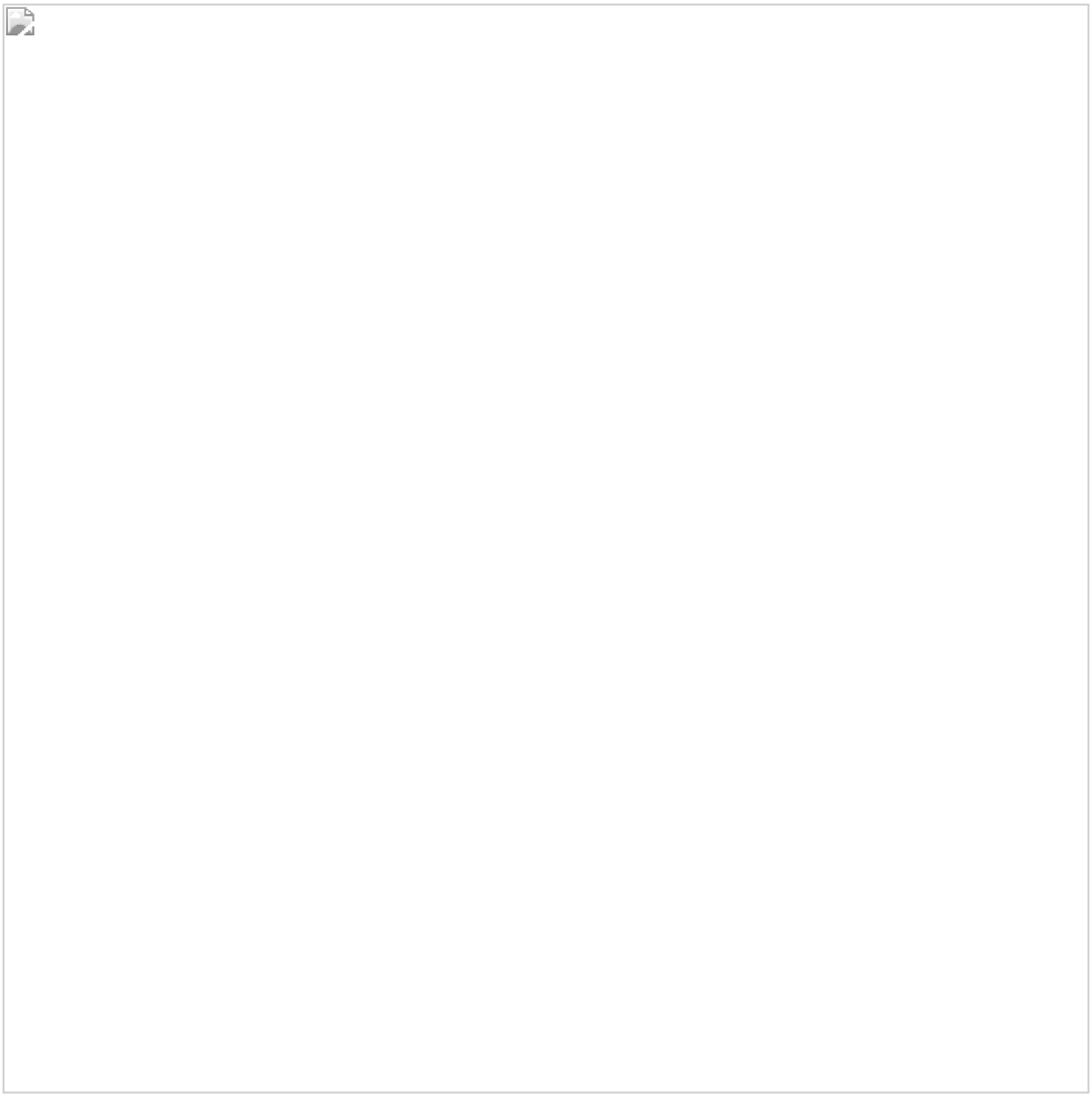


Think about it

1. Who did the trout say was the most beautiful?

- ○ The queen
- ○ Gold-tree, her daughter
- ○ The king

What the Queen Wanted



Silver-tree lay down on her bed. She vowed she would never be well until she had the heart and the liver of her daughter, Gold-tree, to eat.

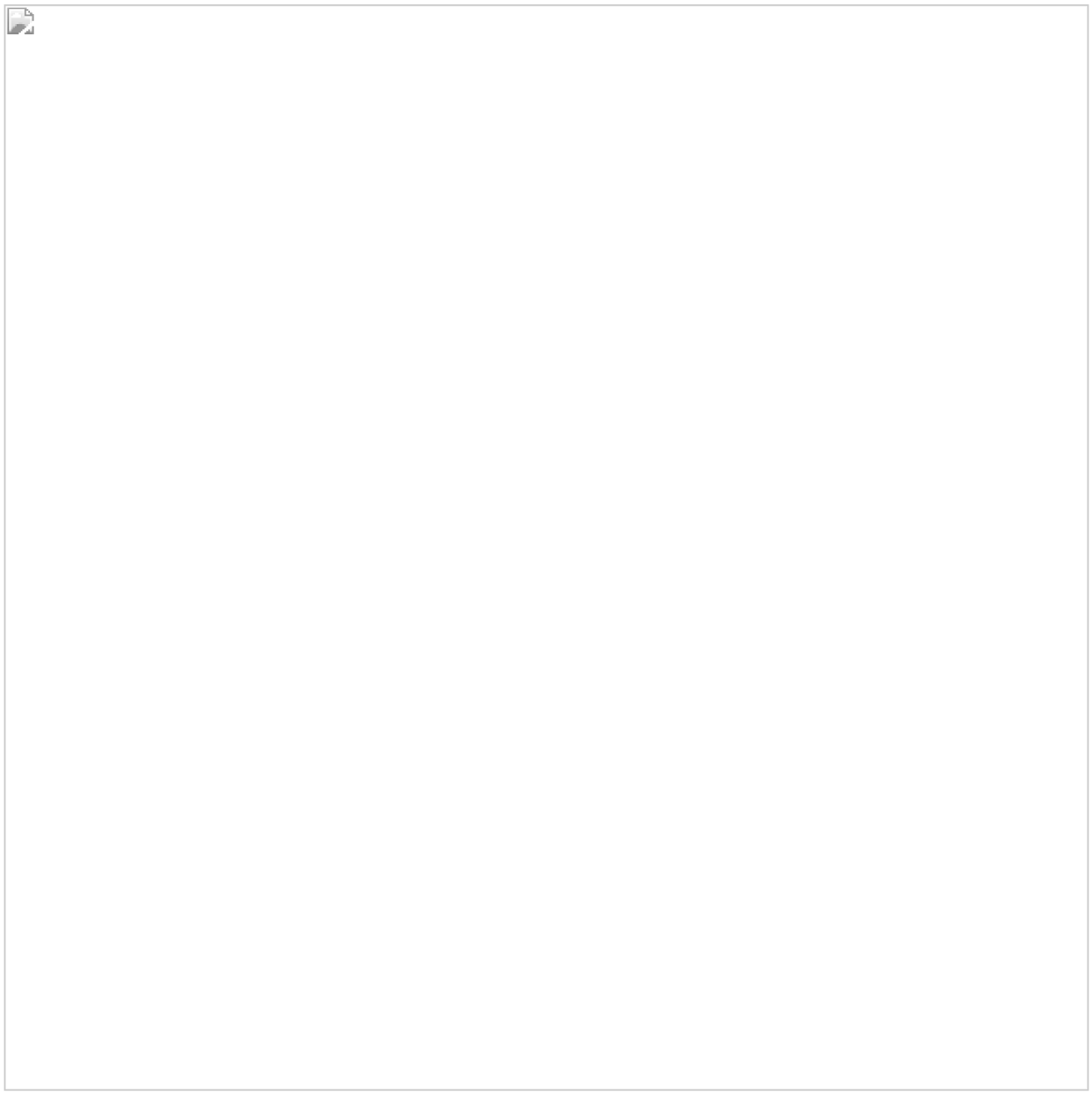
At nightfall the king came home and was told that his wife was very ill. He asked what was wrong.

“If I get the heart and the liver of Gold-tree, my daughter, to eat, I shall be well,” she said.

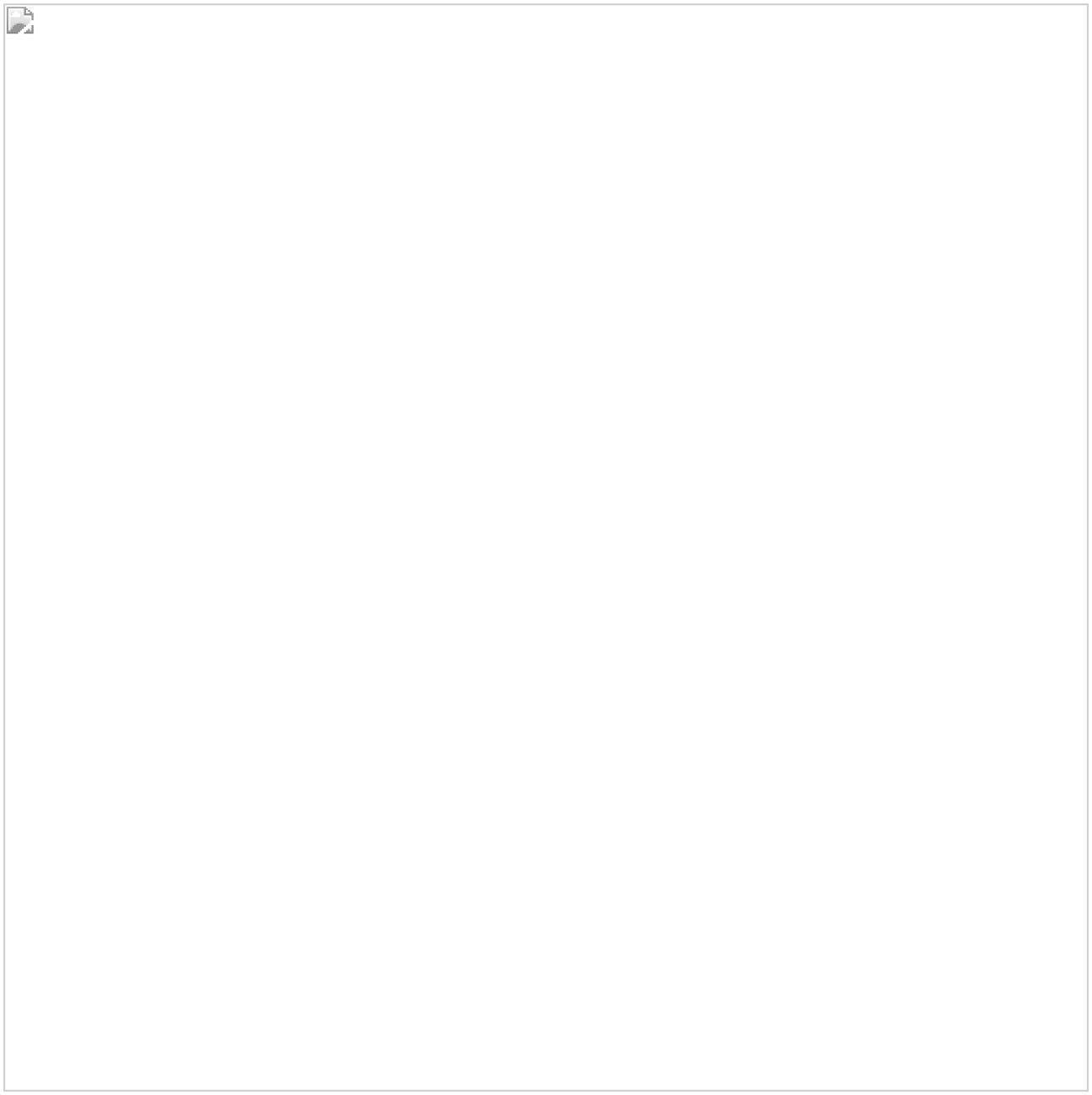
TALK ABOUT IT

The queen asked for something very wrong. Why do you think the king should not give her what she asks?

What the Queen Wanted · another picture



The Prince and the Goat

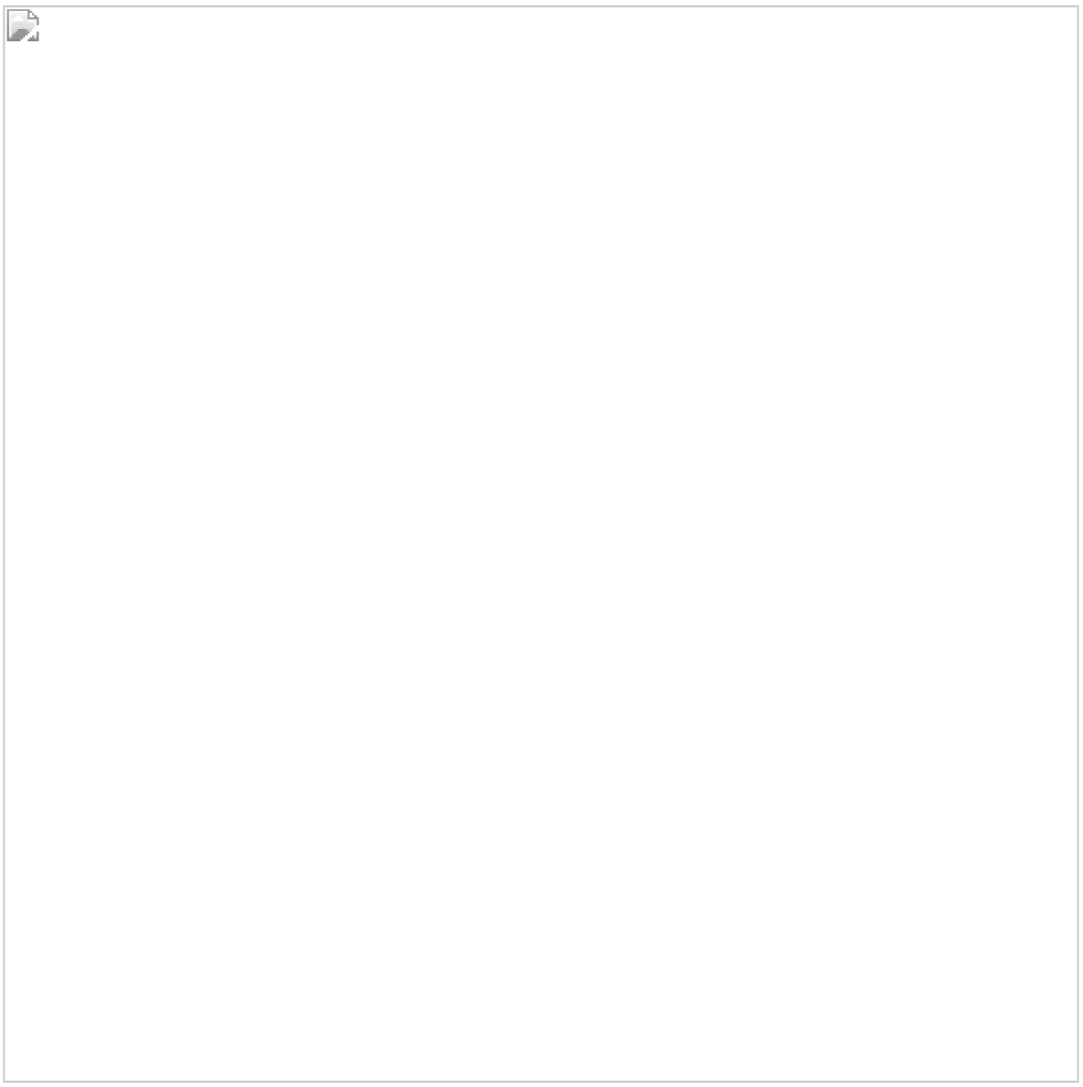


Now at that time the son of a great king had come from abroad to ask Gold-tree to marry him. The king agreed, and Gold-tree and the prince went away across the sea.

Then the king sent his lads to the hunting-hill for a he-goat. He gave its heart and its liver to his wife to eat, and she rose well and healthy.

TALK ABOUT IT

The king did not hurt his daughter. He sent her somewhere safe. What do you think he was thinking?

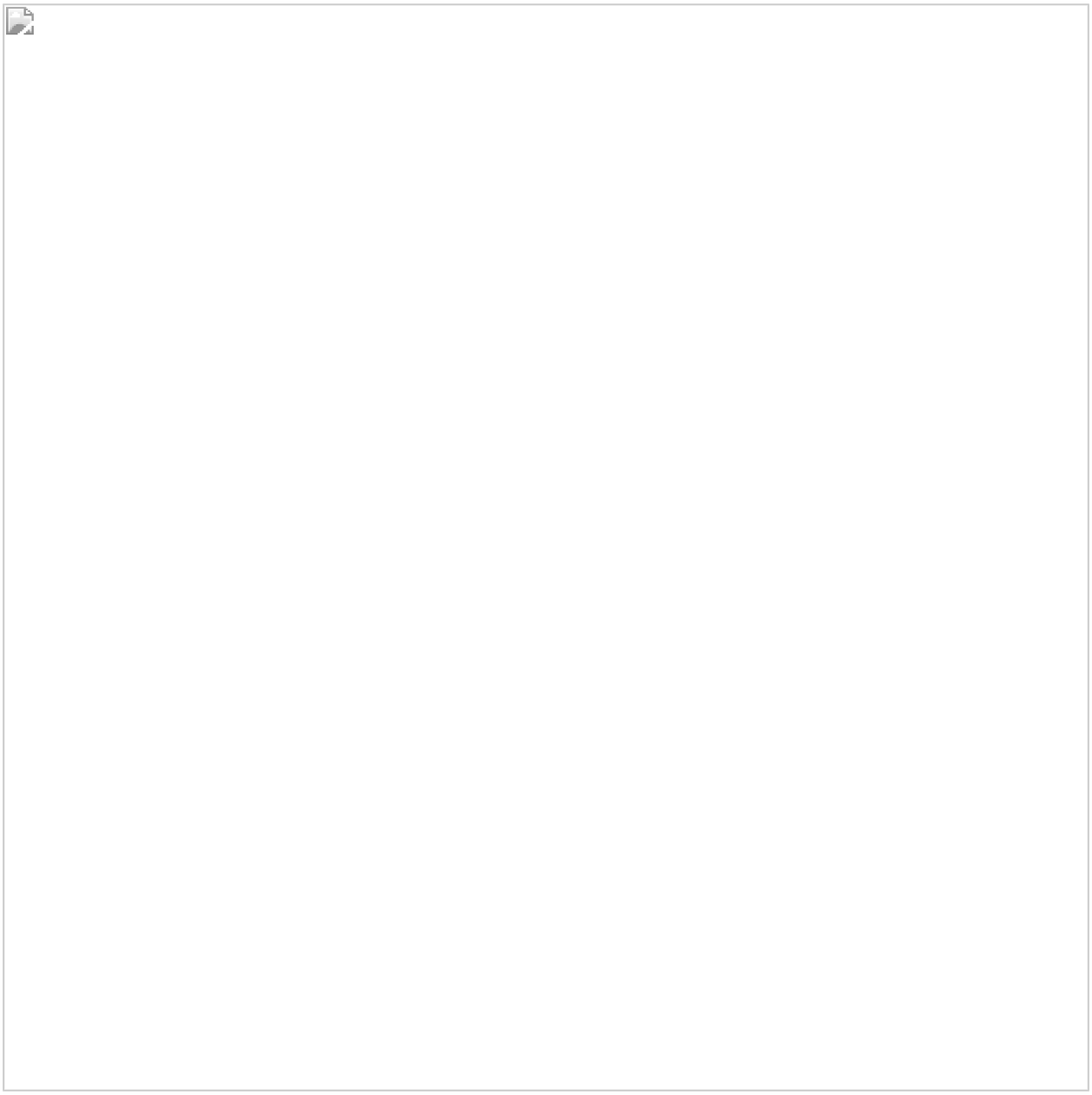


Think about it

1. Whose heart and liver did the queen eat?

- ○ A deer's
- ○ A he-goat's
- ○ A trout's

A Year Later



A year after this, Silver-tree went back to the glen and the well. “Troutie, bonny little fellow,” she asked again, “am not I the most beautiful queen in the world?”

“Oh! indeed you are not.” “Who then?” “Why, Gold-tree, your daughter.”

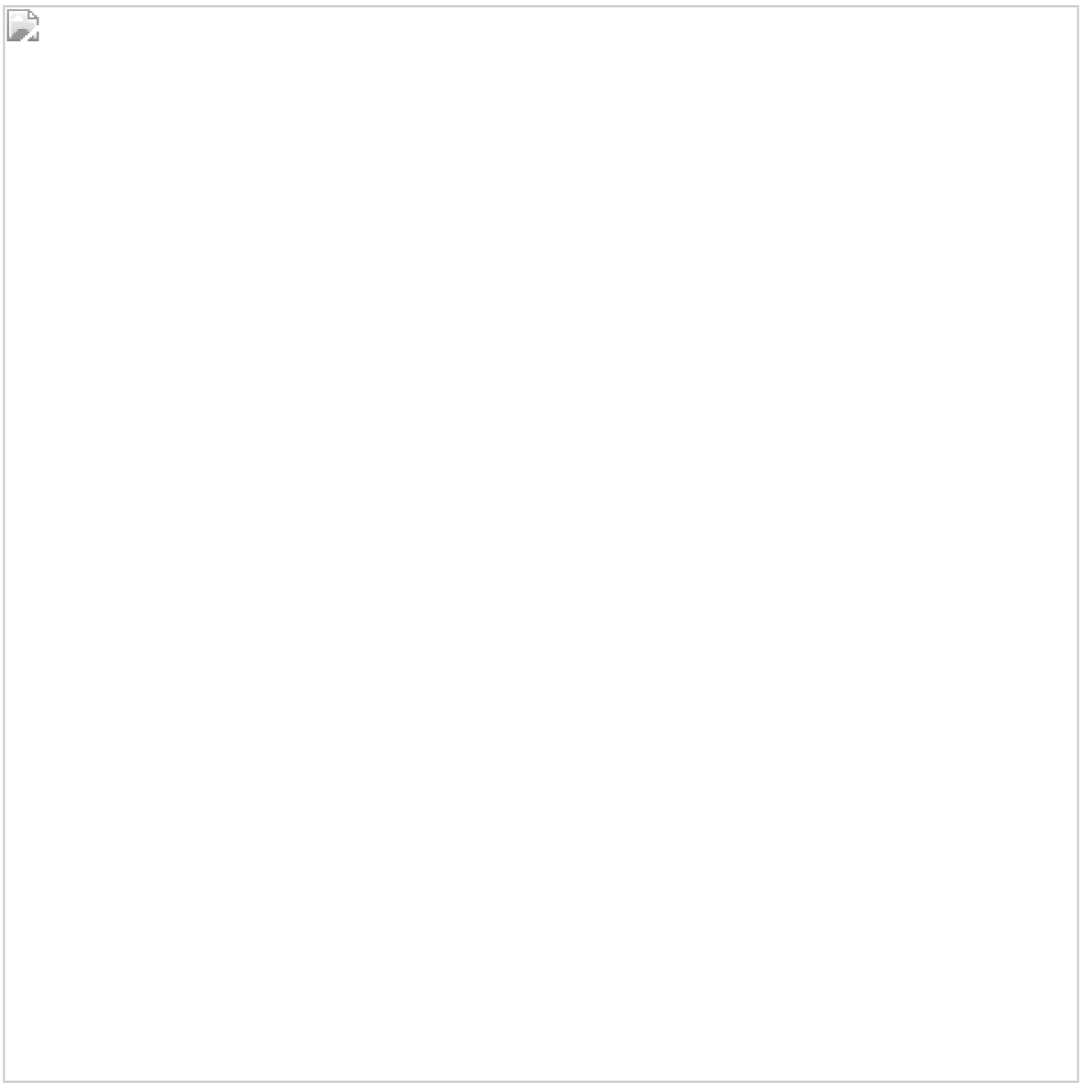
“Oh! well, it is long since she was living,” said the queen. “It is a year since I ate her heart and liver.”

“Oh! indeed she is not dead. She is married to a great prince abroad.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The trout told the truth, even when it was not welcome. When is it hard to tell the truth?

A Year Later · another picture

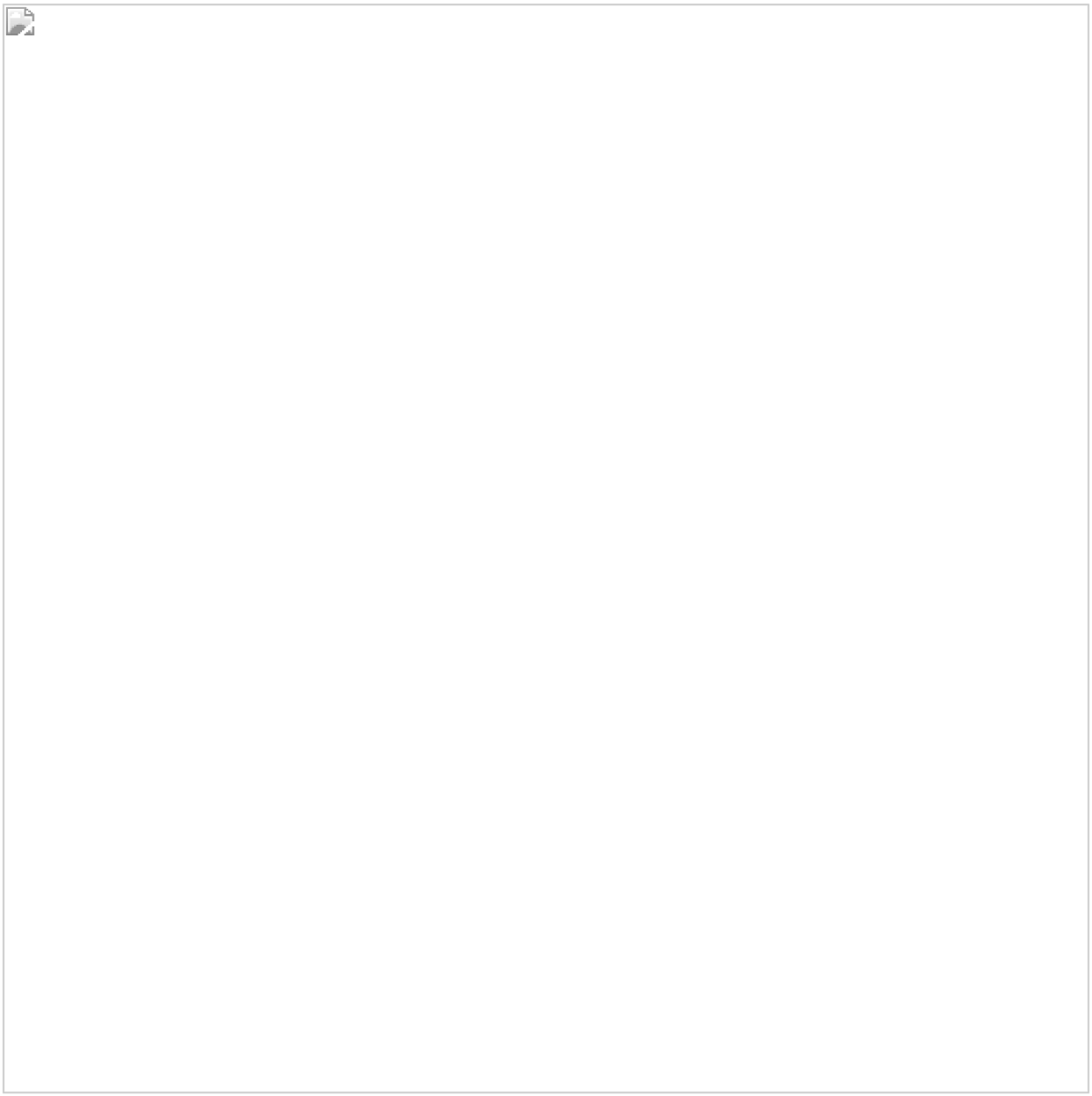


Think about it

1. Where was Gold-tree?

- ○ Under the well
- ○ Married to a great prince abroad
- ○ Back at home

The Long-Ship



Silver-tree went home and begged the king to put the long-ship in order. She said, “I am going to see my dear Gold-tree, for it is so long since I saw her.”

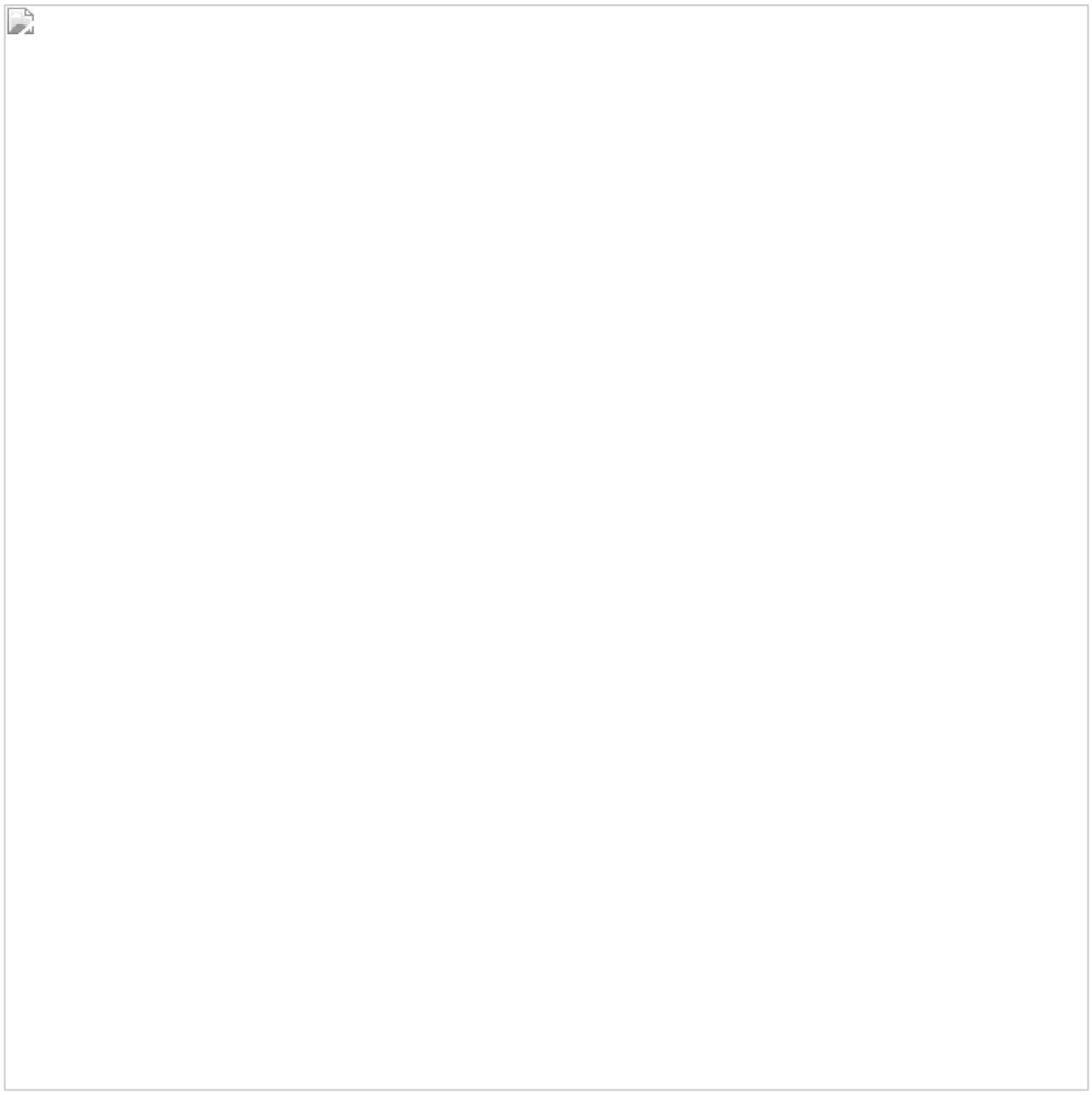
It was Silver-tree herself that was at the helm, and she steered the ship so well that they were not long at all before they arrived.

The prince was out hunting on the hills. Gold-tree knew her father's long-ship coming.

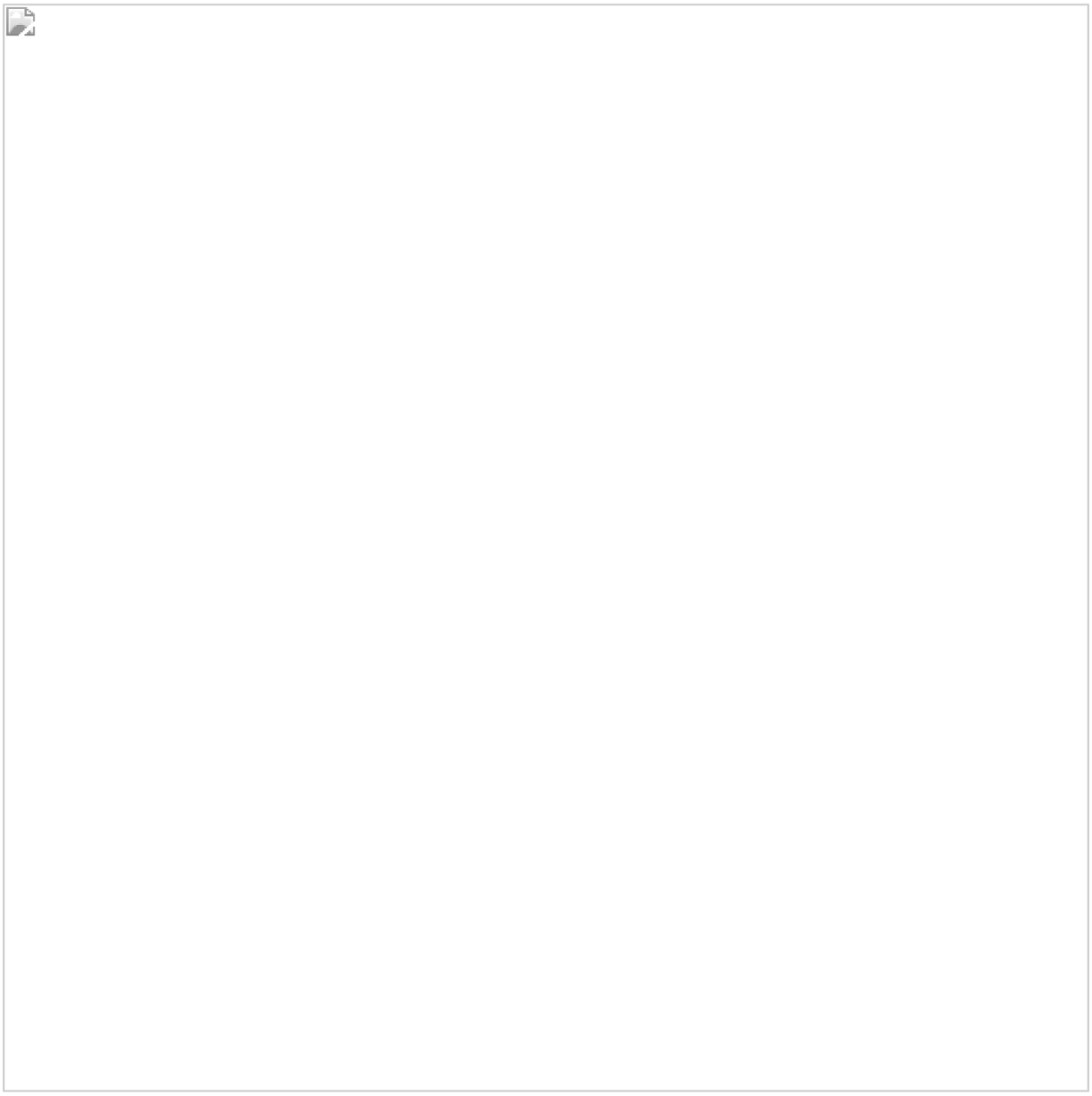
TALK ABOUT IT

Gold-tree knew the ship at once. Is there something you could know from far away, just by how it looks or sounds?

The Long-Ship · another picture



The Locked Room



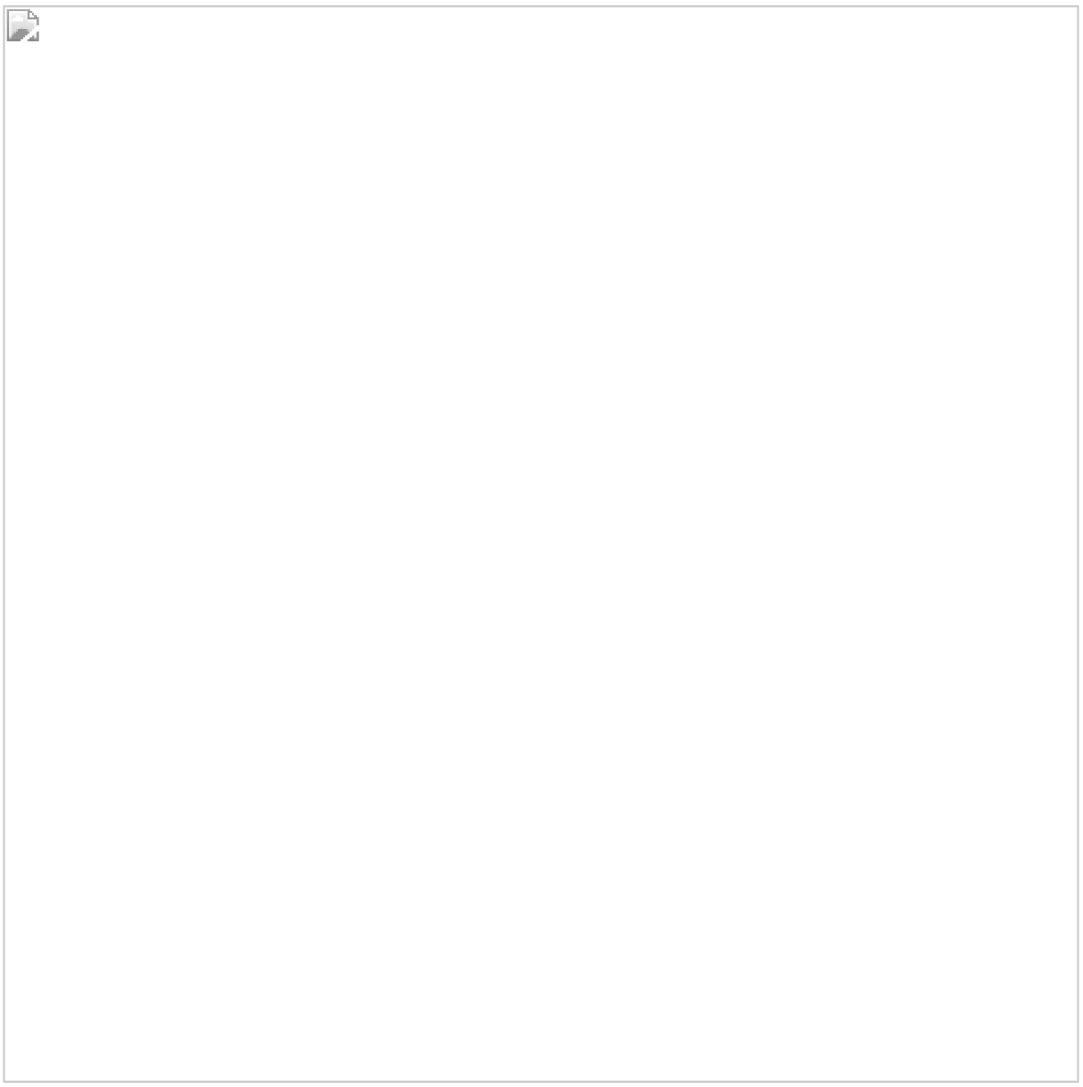
“Oh!” said Gold-tree to the servants, “my mother is coming, and she will kill me.”

“She shall not kill you at all,” they said. “We will lock you in a room where she cannot get near you.”

So it was done. When Silver-tree came ashore, she cried, “Come to meet your own mother, when she comes to see you.” Gold-tree said she could not; she was locked in the room.

TALK ABOUT IT

The servants wanted to keep Gold-tree safe. Who helps keep you safe?

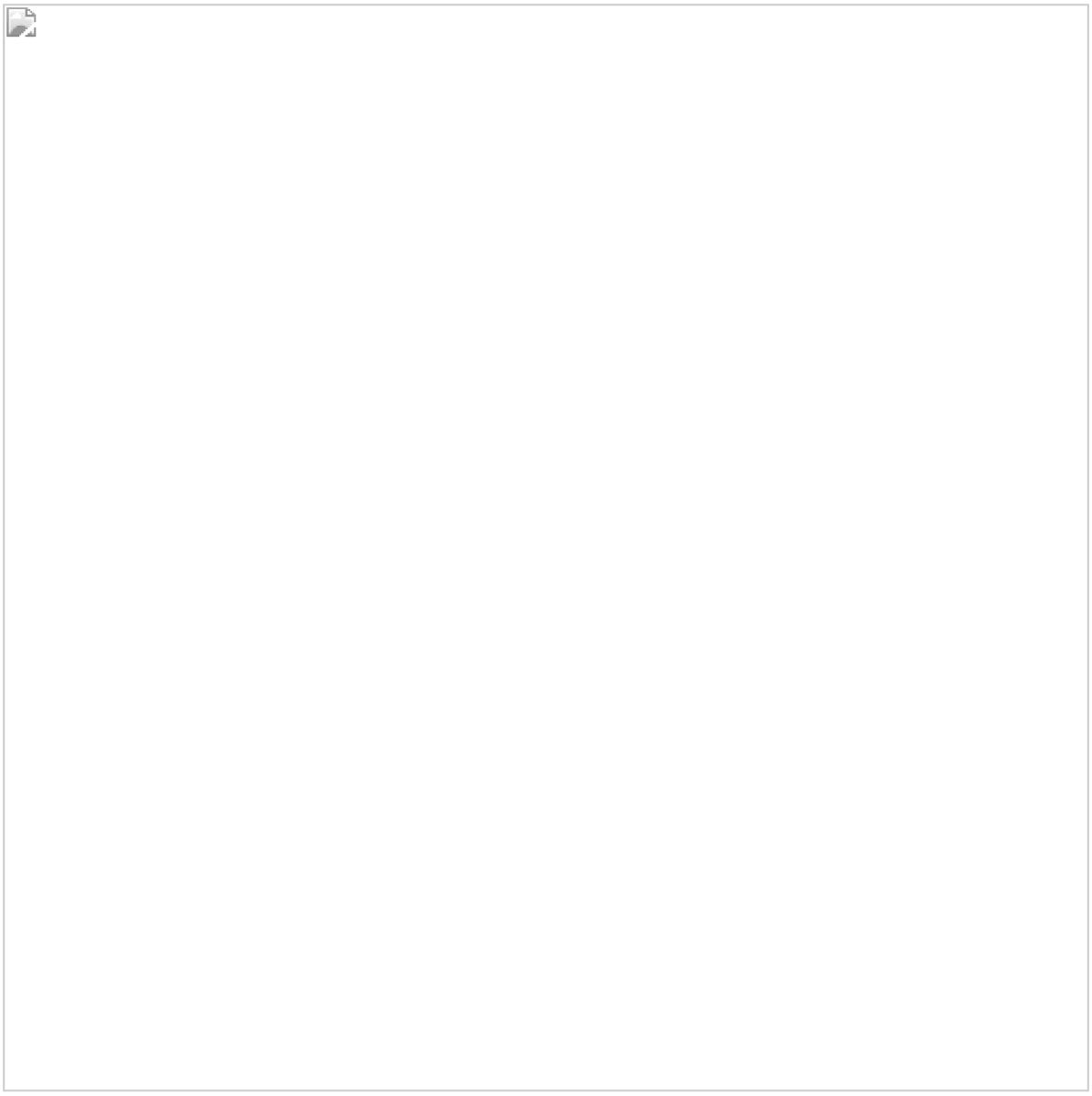


Think about it

1. What did the servants do to protect Gold-tree?

- ○ Hid her in the long-ship
- ○ Locked her in a room
- ○ Sent her to the hills

The Little Finger



“Will you not put out,” said Silver-tree, “your little finger through the key-hole, so that your own mother may give a kiss to it?”

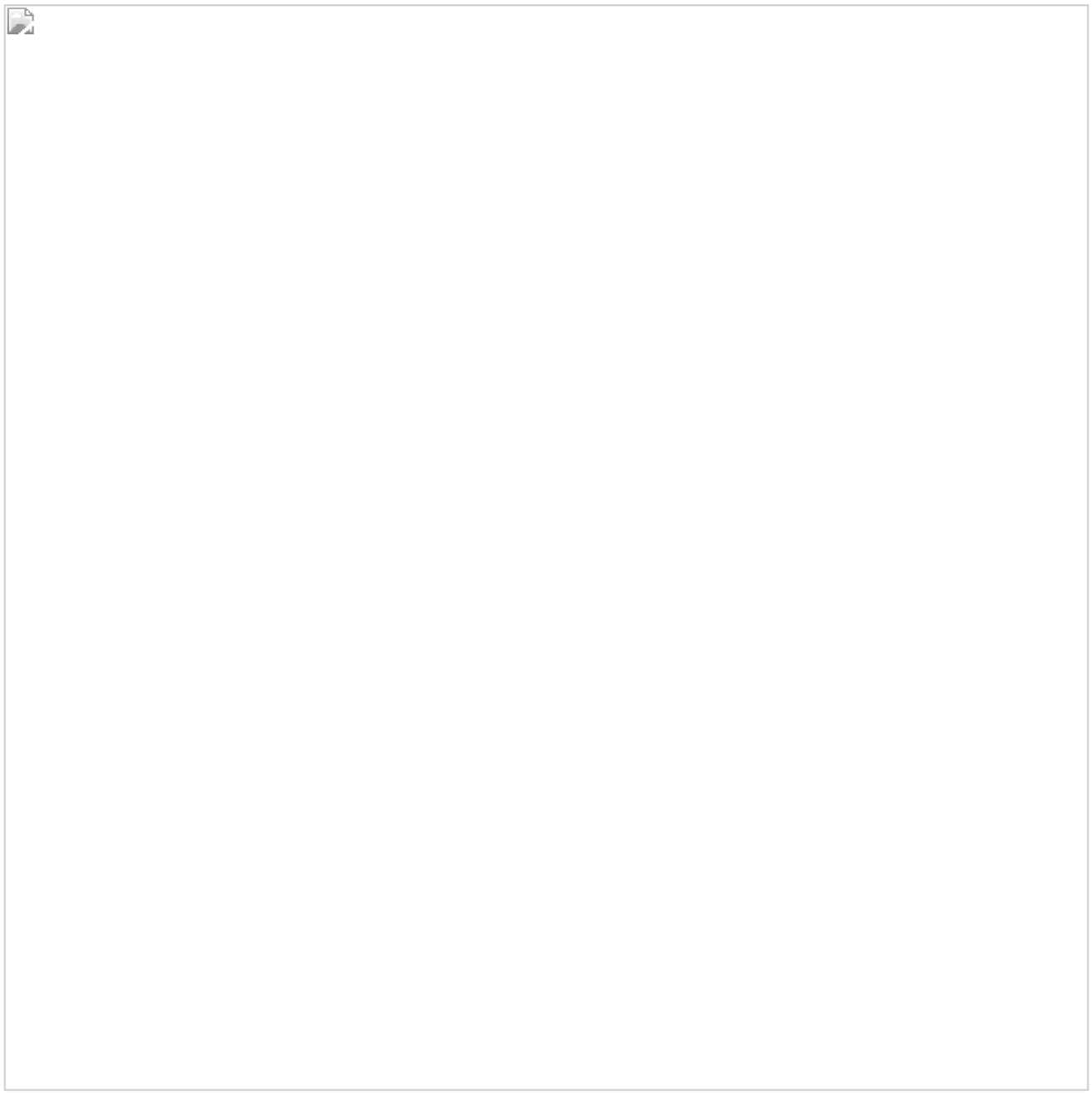
Gold-tree put out her little finger. But Silver-tree gave it a poisoned stab, and Gold-tree fell dead.

When the prince came home and found Gold-tree dead, he was in great sorrow. She was so beautiful that he did not bury her at all. He locked her in a room where nobody would get near her.

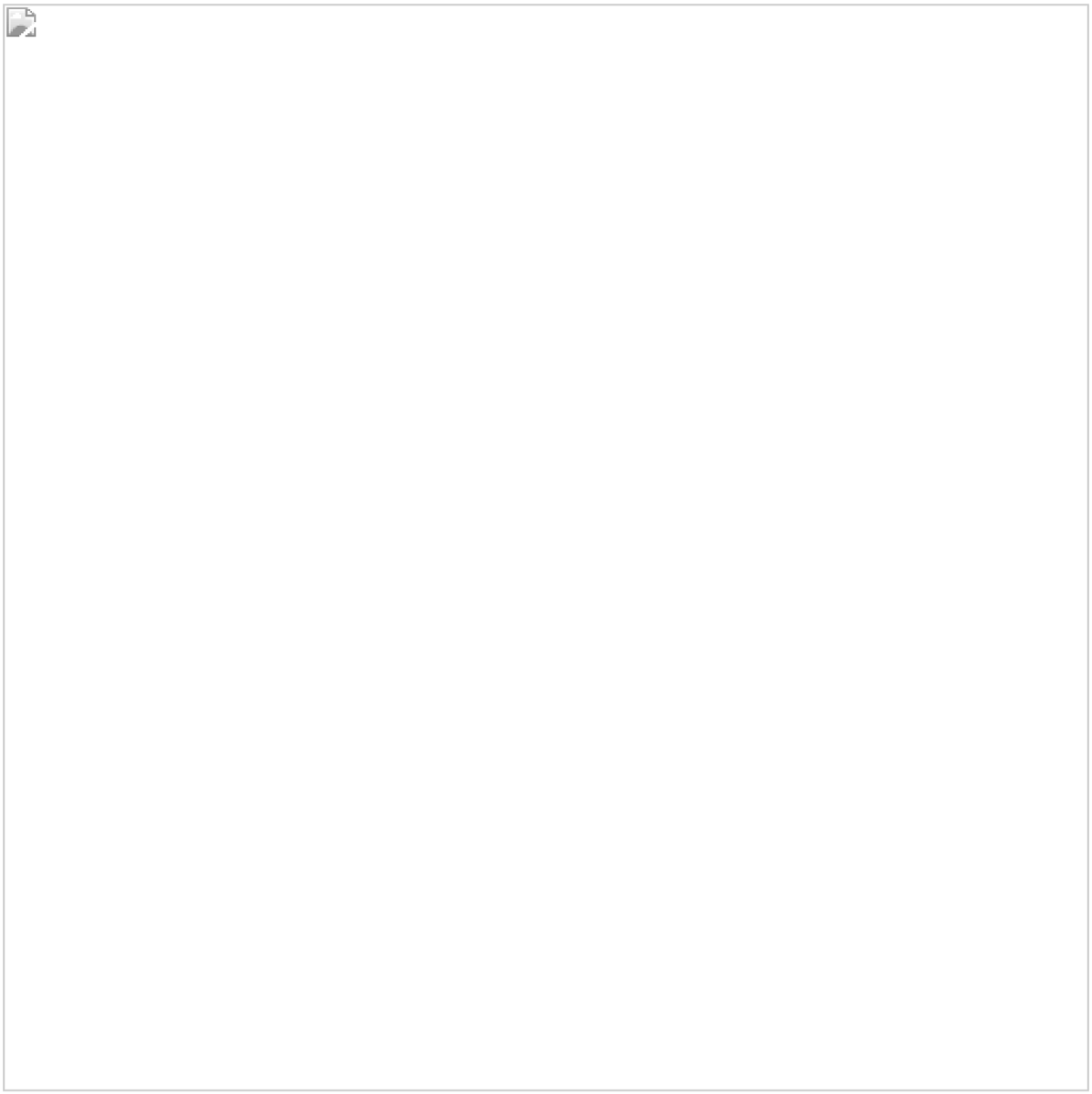
TALK ABOUT IT

Silver-tree said she wanted a kiss, but she did not mean it. How can you tell when someone is not being honest with you?

The Little Finger · another picture



The Second Wife



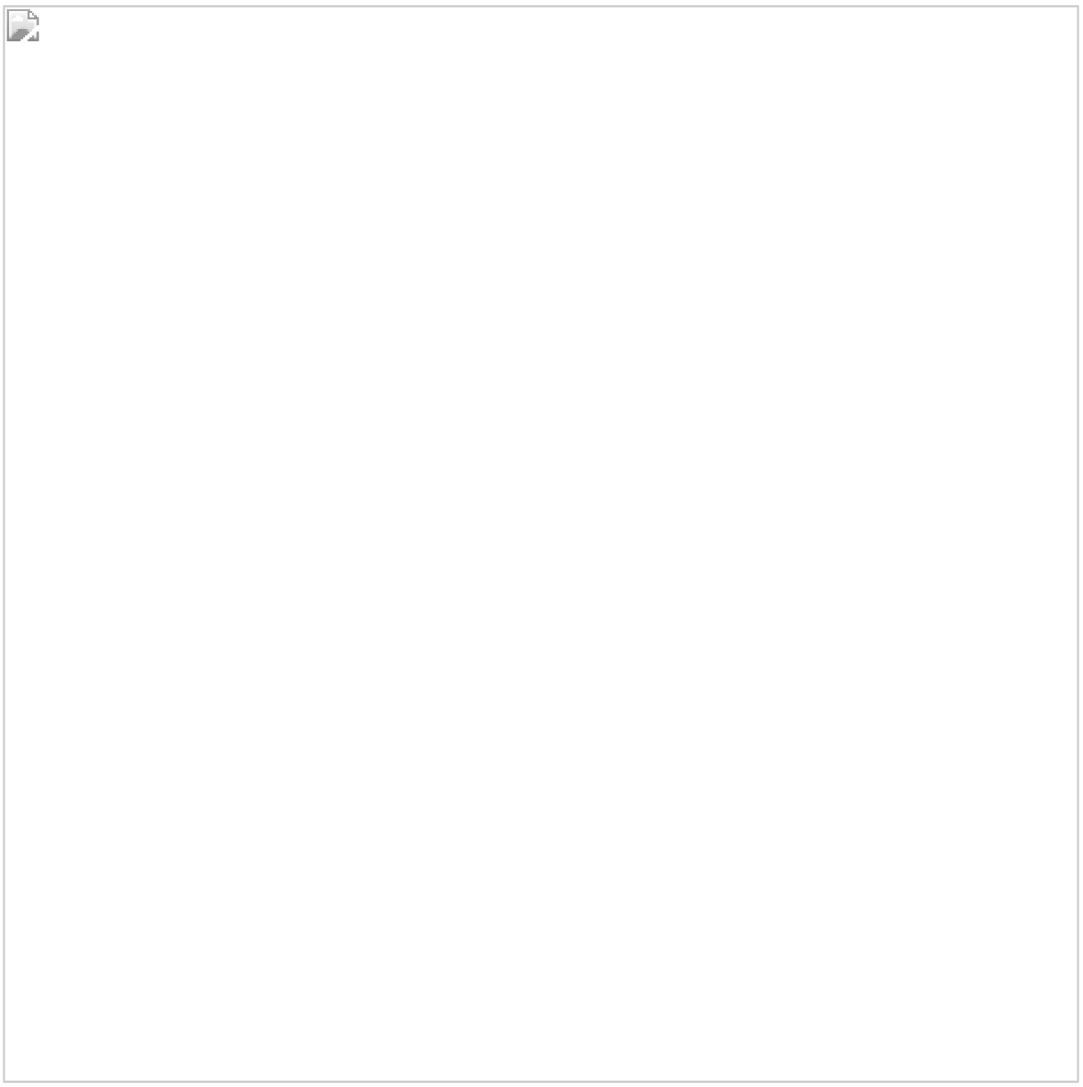
In the course of time the prince married again. The whole house was under the hand of this wife, but one room. He always kept the key of that room himself.

One day he forgot to take the key with him, and the second wife got into the room. What did she see there but the most beautiful woman that she ever saw.

She began to turn and try to wake her, and she noticed the poisoned stab in her finger. She took the stab out, and Gold-tree rose alive, as beautiful as she was ever.

TALK ABOUT IT

The second wife could have been angry about the locked room. Instead she helped. What do you think about that?

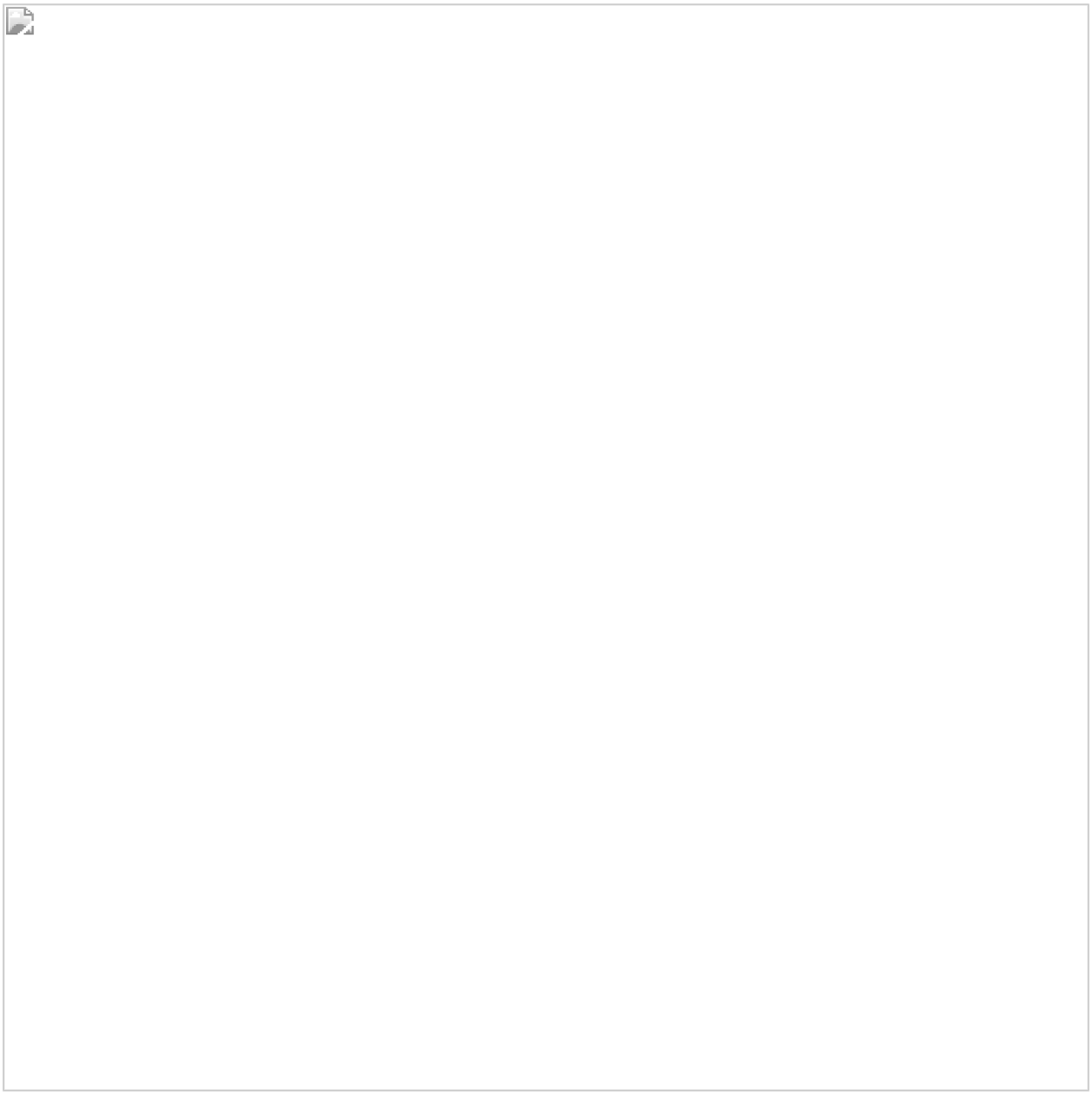


Think about it

1. How did the second wife wake Gold-tree?

- ○ She sang to her
- ○ She took the stab out of her finger
- ○ She called the prince

Make You Laugh



At fall of night the prince came home from the hunting-hill, looking very downcast.

“What gift,” said his wife, “would you give me that I could make you laugh?”

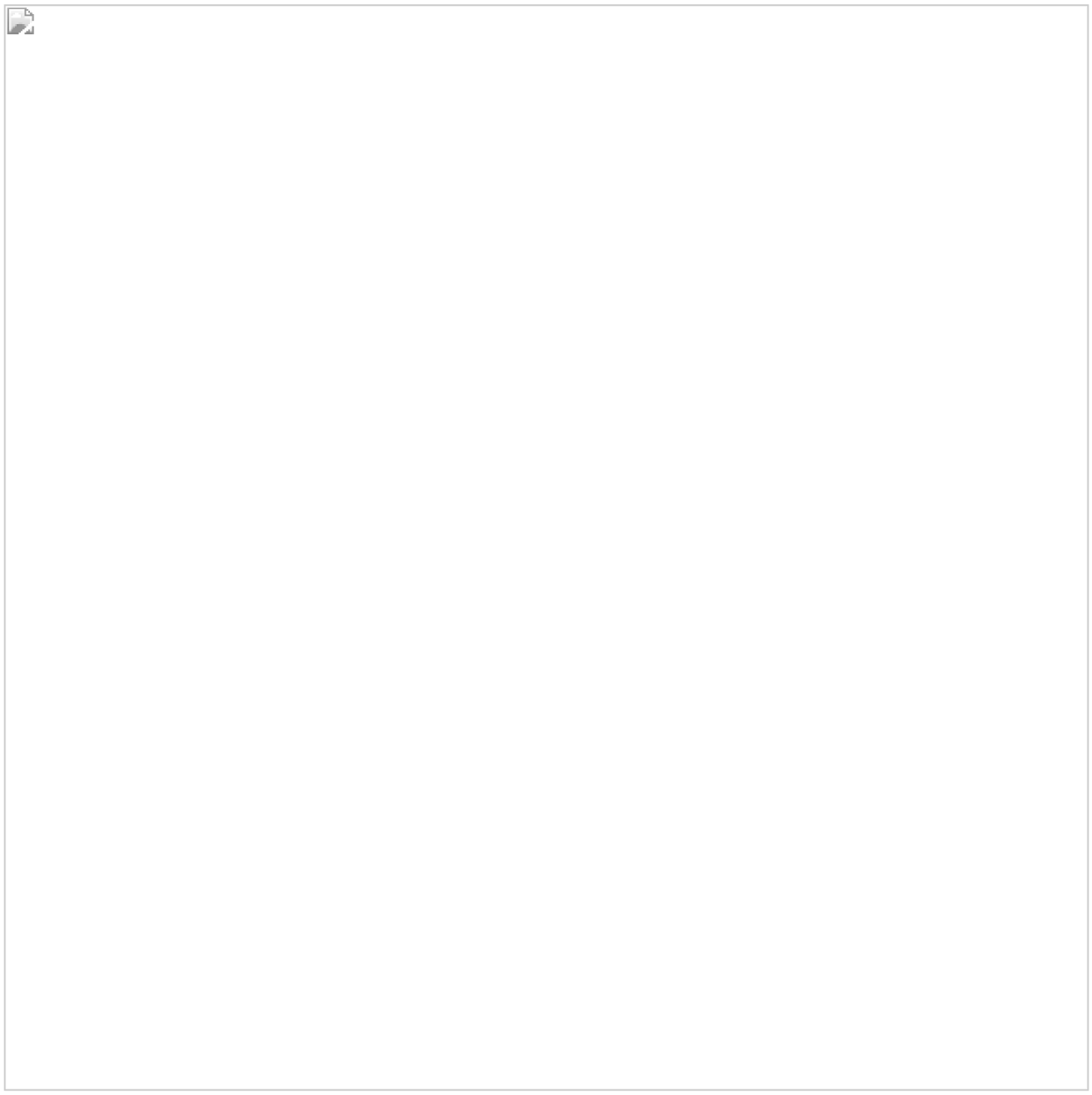
“Oh! indeed, nothing could make me laugh, except Gold-tree were to come alive again.”

“Well, you'll find her alive down there in the room.”

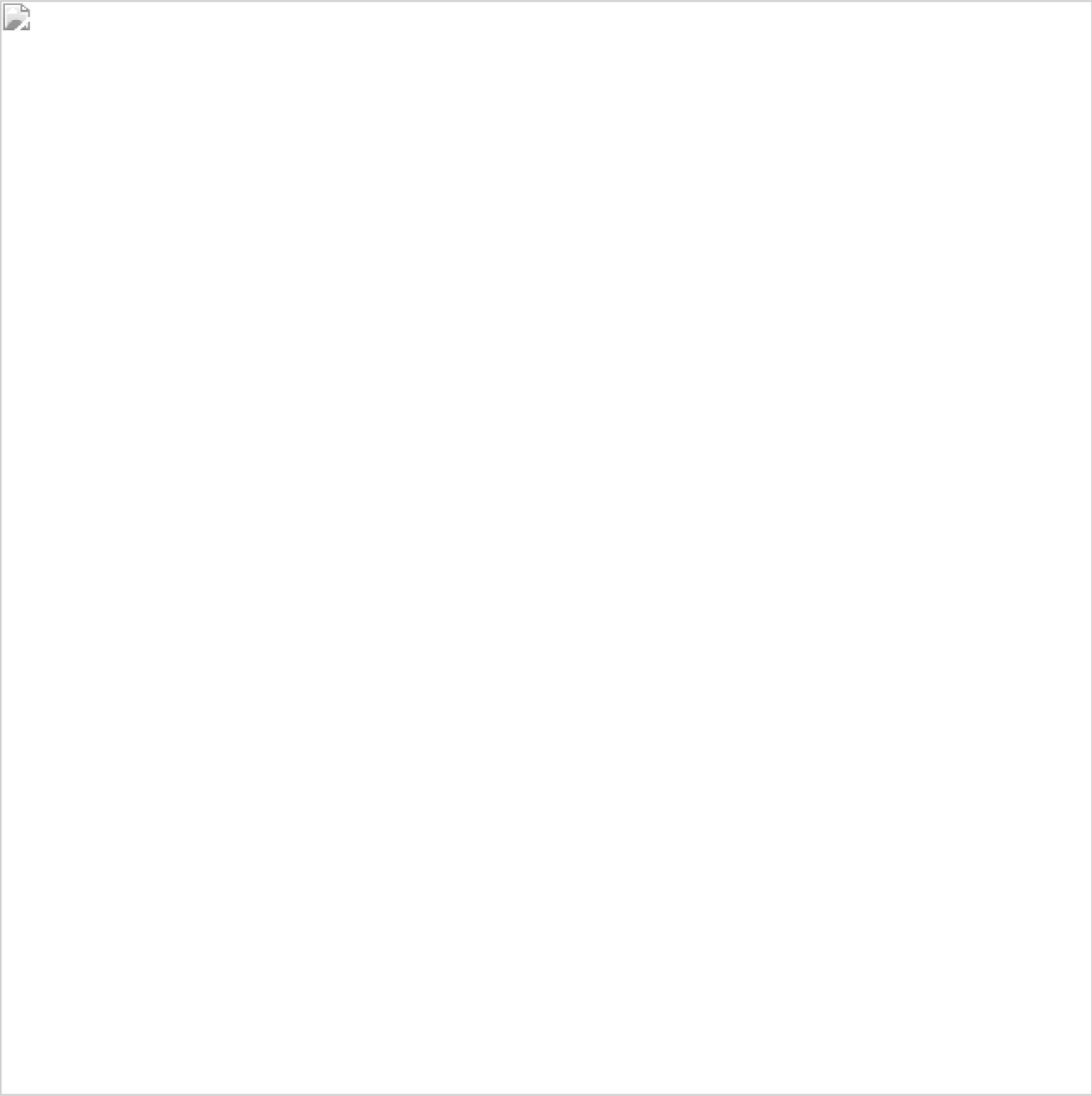
TALK ABOUT IT

The prince was so sad. What helps you when you are feeling down?

Make You Laugh · another picture



I Shall Have Both of You



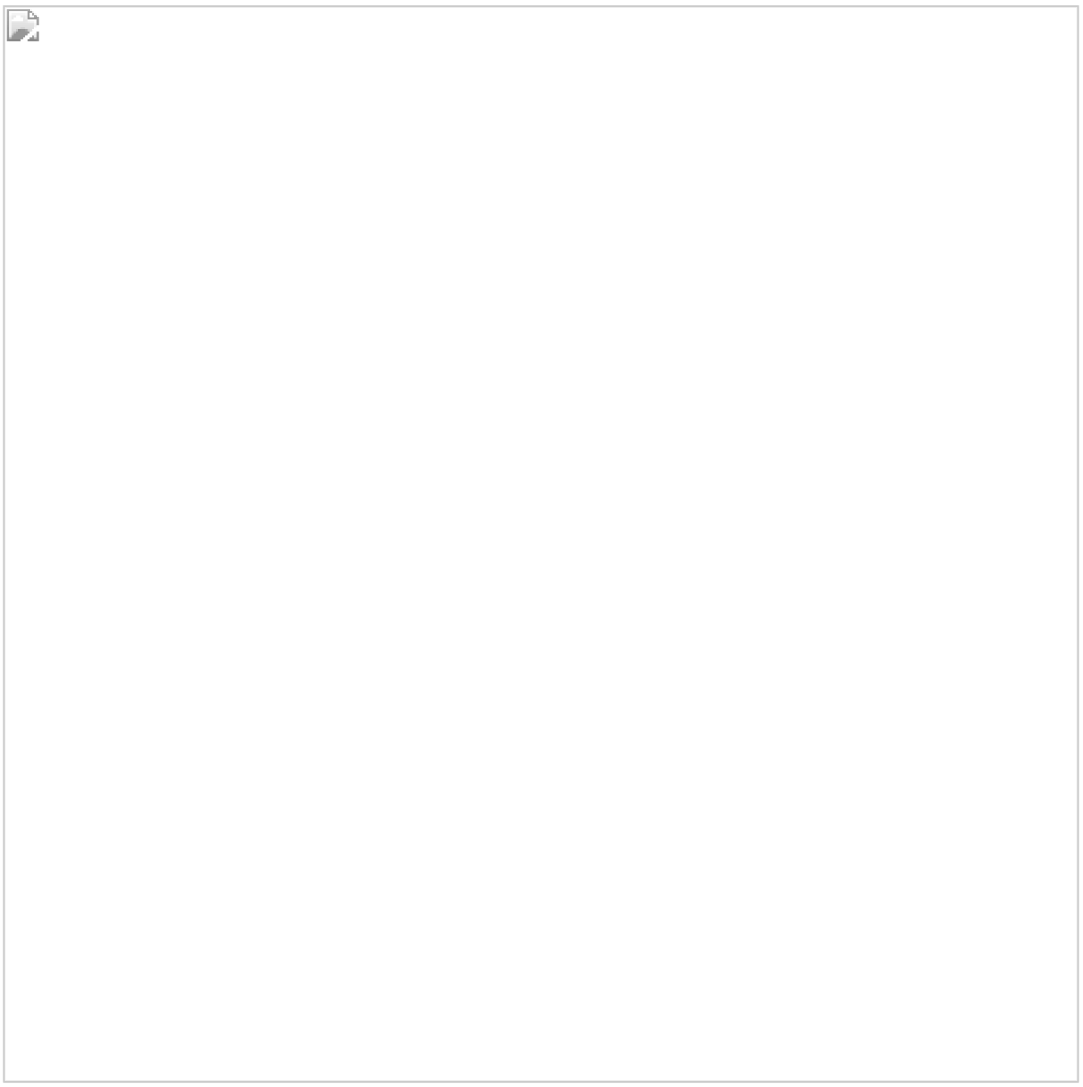
When the prince saw Gold-tree alive, he made great rejoicings, and he kissed her and kissed her and kissed her.

The second wife said, “Since she is the first one you had it is better for you to stick to her, and I will go away.”

“Oh! indeed you shall not go away, but I shall have both of you,” said the prince.

TALK ABOUT IT

The second wife offered to go away, and the prince said no. Why do you think he said that?

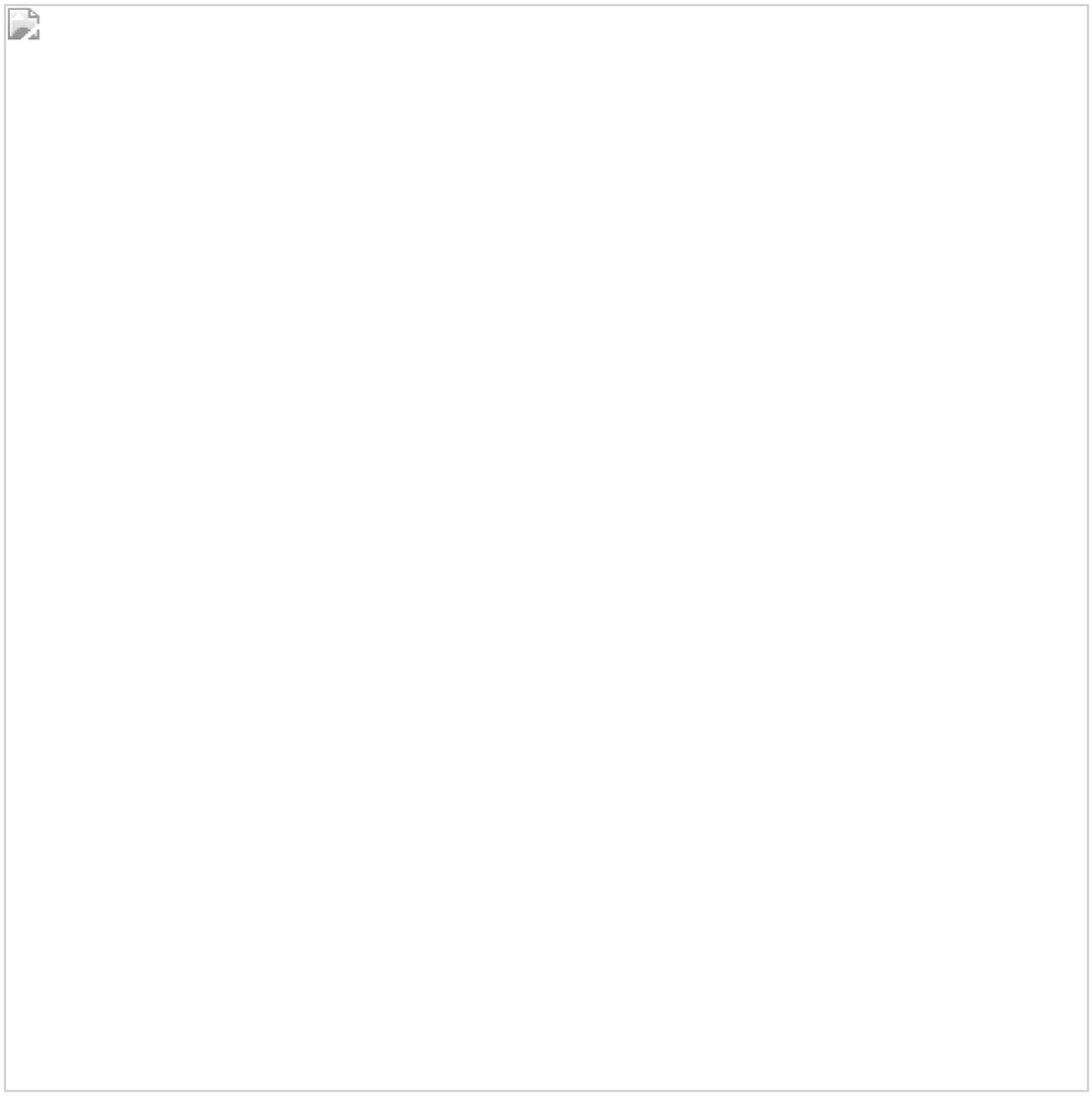


Think about it

1. What did the prince say to the second wife?

- ○ “You must go away.”
- ○ “You shall not go away.”
- ○ “Go and ask the trout.”

The Third Visit



At the end of the year, Silver-tree went to the glen and the well and asked the trout the same question. “Why, Gold-tree, your daughter,” said the trout.

“Oh! well, she is not alive,” said the queen. “It is a year since I put the poisoned stab into her finger.”

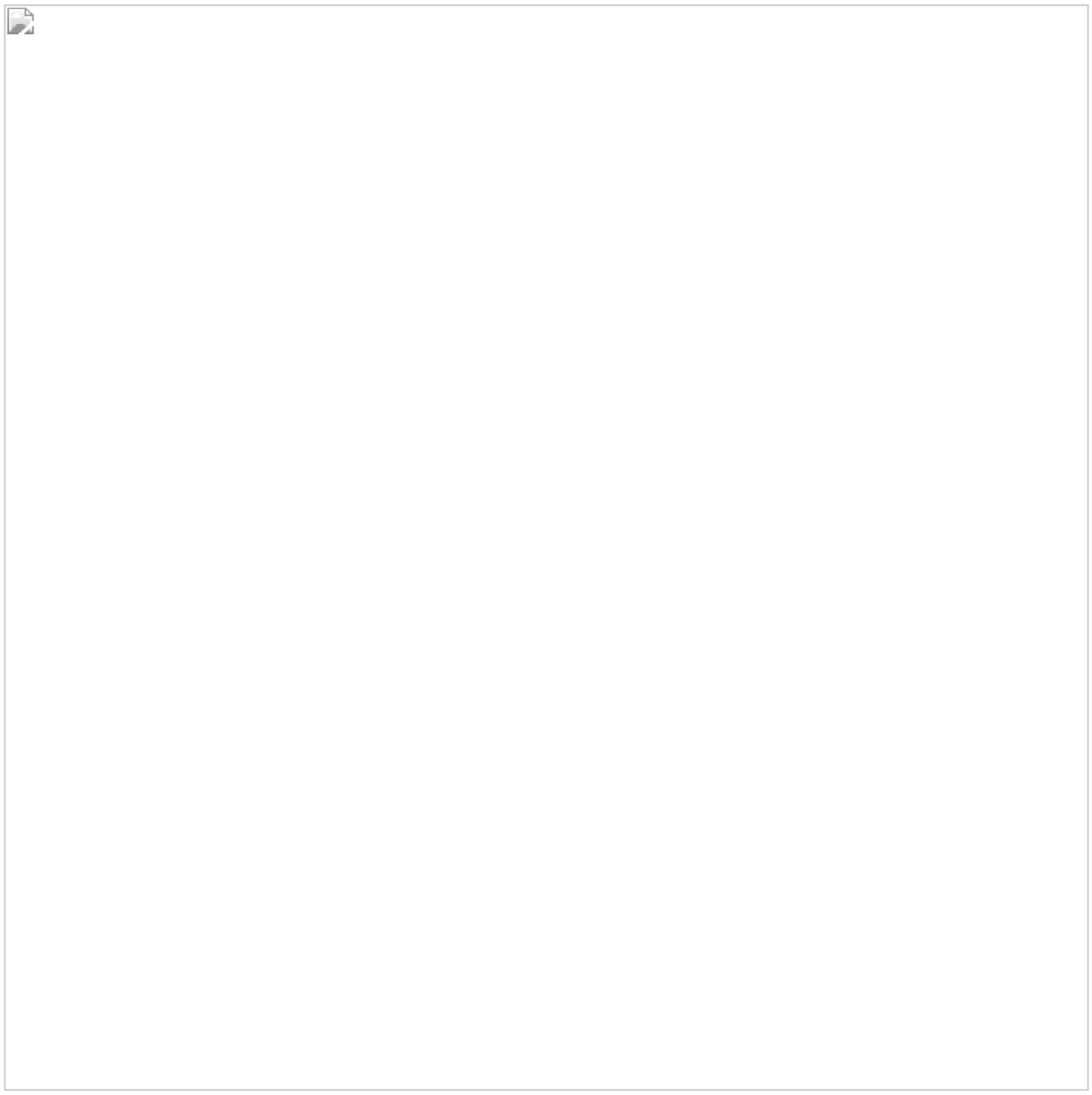
“Oh! indeed she is not dead at all, at all.”

Silver-tree had the king ready the long-ship, and away they went. The prince was out hunting. Gold-tree knew her father's ship and said, “My mother is coming, and she will kill me.”

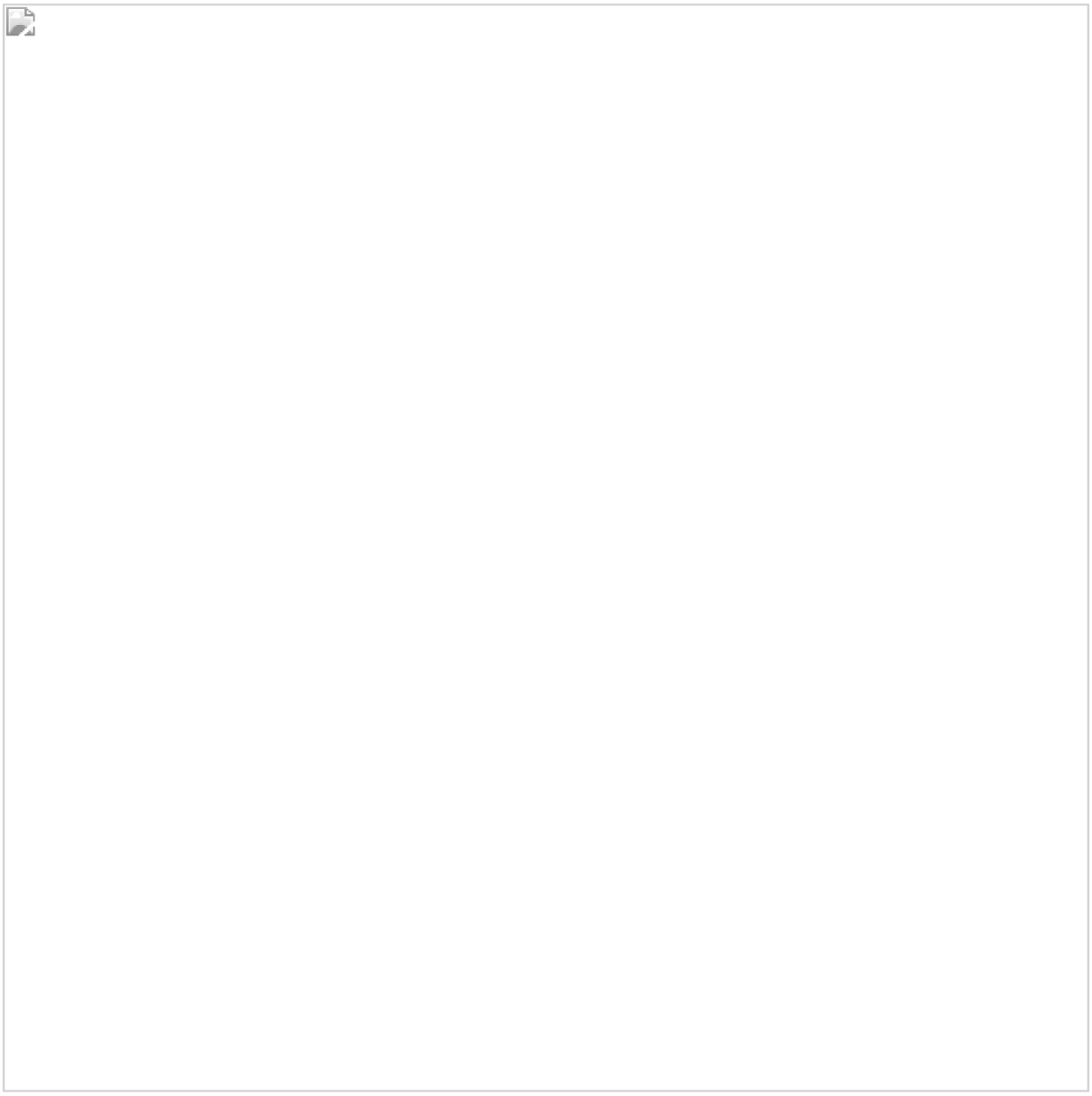
“Not at all,” said the second wife. “We will go down to meet her.”

TALK ABOUT IT

This time Gold-tree was not alone. Who would you want beside you if you were afraid?



The Precious Drink



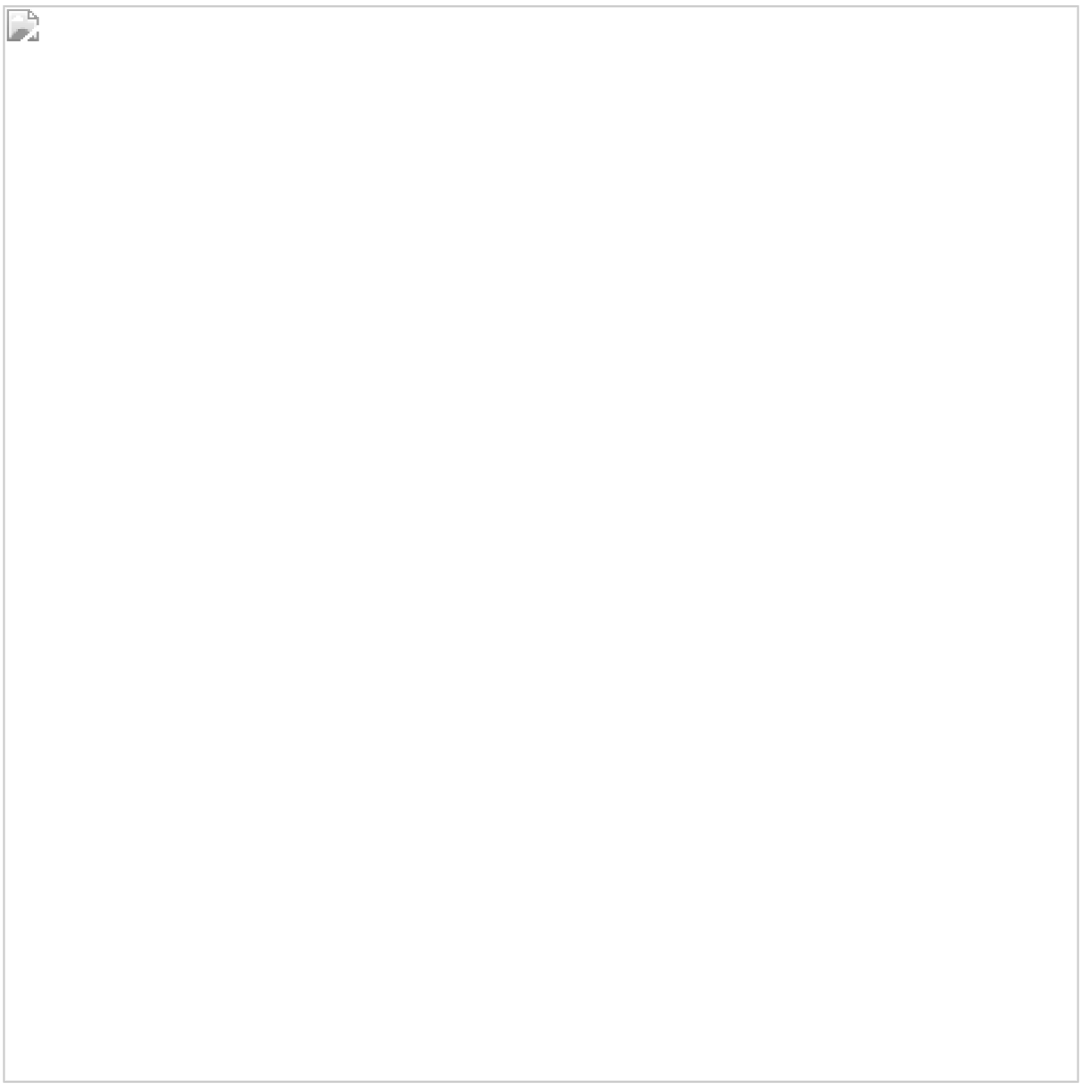
Silver-tree came ashore. “Come down, Gold-tree, love,” said she, “for your own mother has come to you with a precious drink.”

“It is a custom in this country,” said the second wife, “that the person who offers a drink takes a draught out of it first.”

Silver-tree put her mouth to it. The second wife struck it so that some of it went down her throat, and she fell dead. They had only to carry her home and bury her.

TALK ABOUT IT

Was that a fair way to stop Silver-tree? What else might the second wife have done?

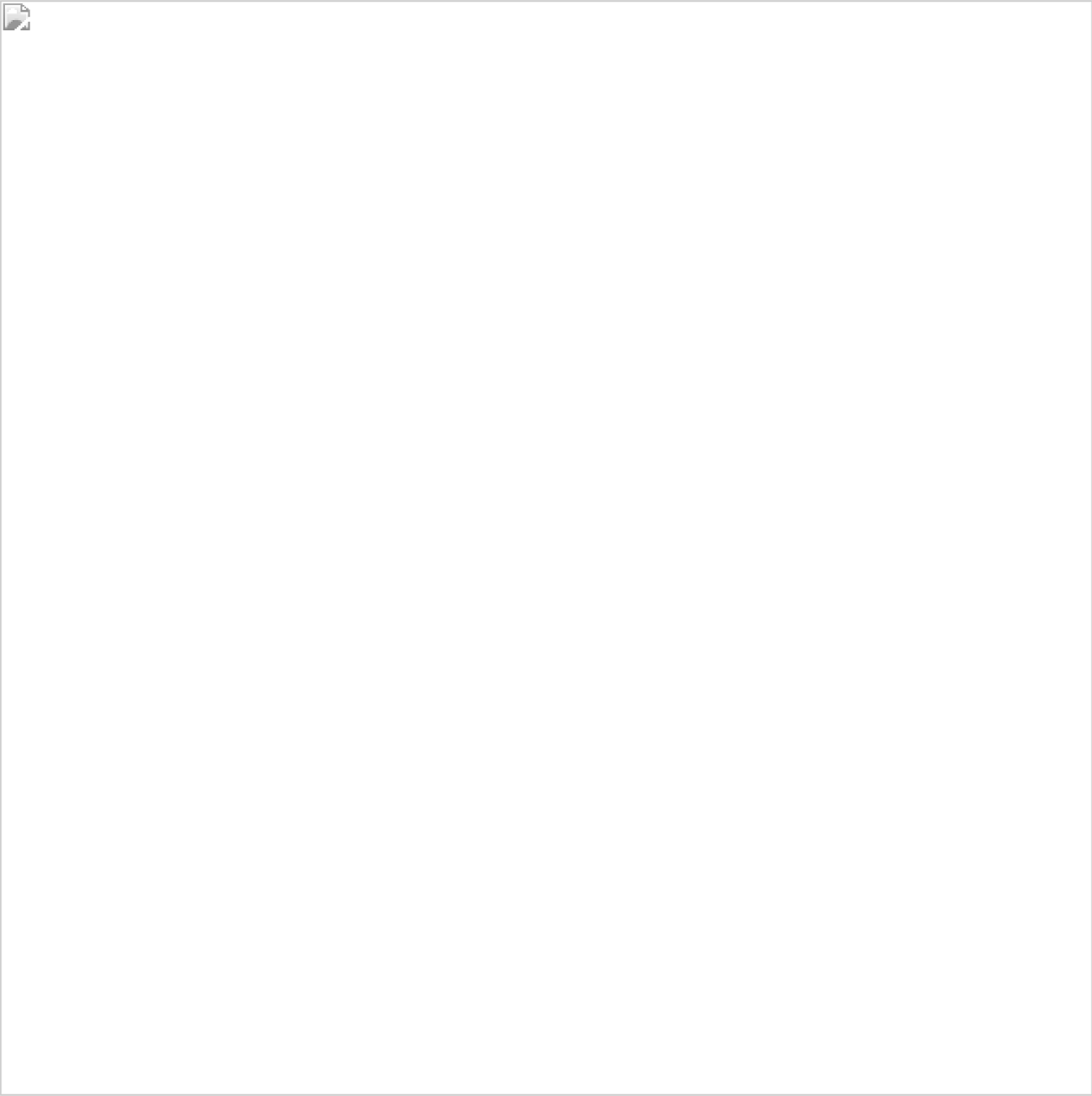


Think about it

1. What was the "custom" the second wife spoke of?

- ○ Whoever offers a drink takes the first draught
- ○ Everyone drinks at sunrise
- ○ Only the queen may pour

Peaceful at Last



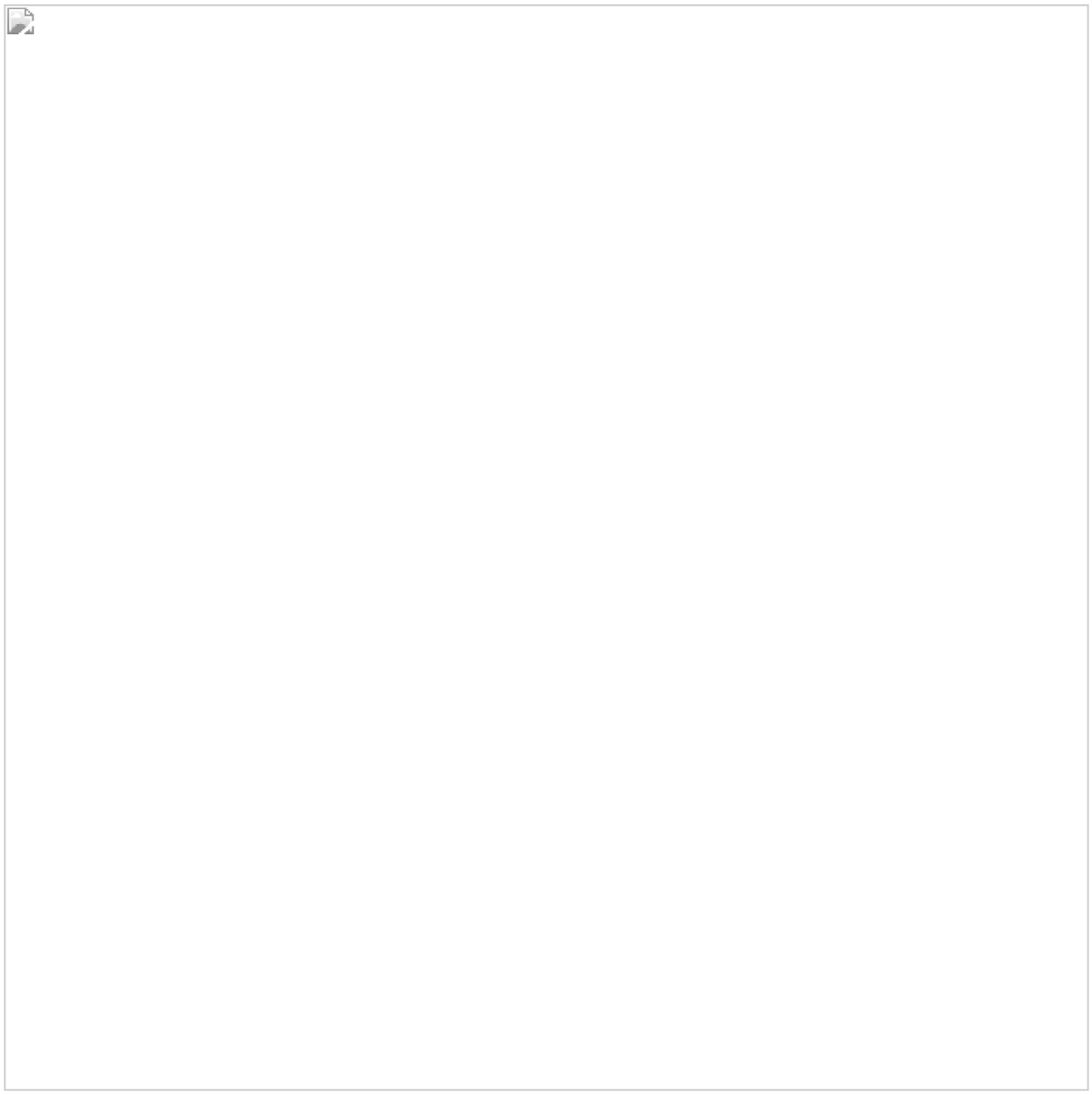
“The prince and his two wives were long alive after this, pleased and peaceful.”

And the teller says, “I left them there.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The tale ends quietly. What do you think a happy day looked like for Gold-tree?

Peaceful at Last · another picture



“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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