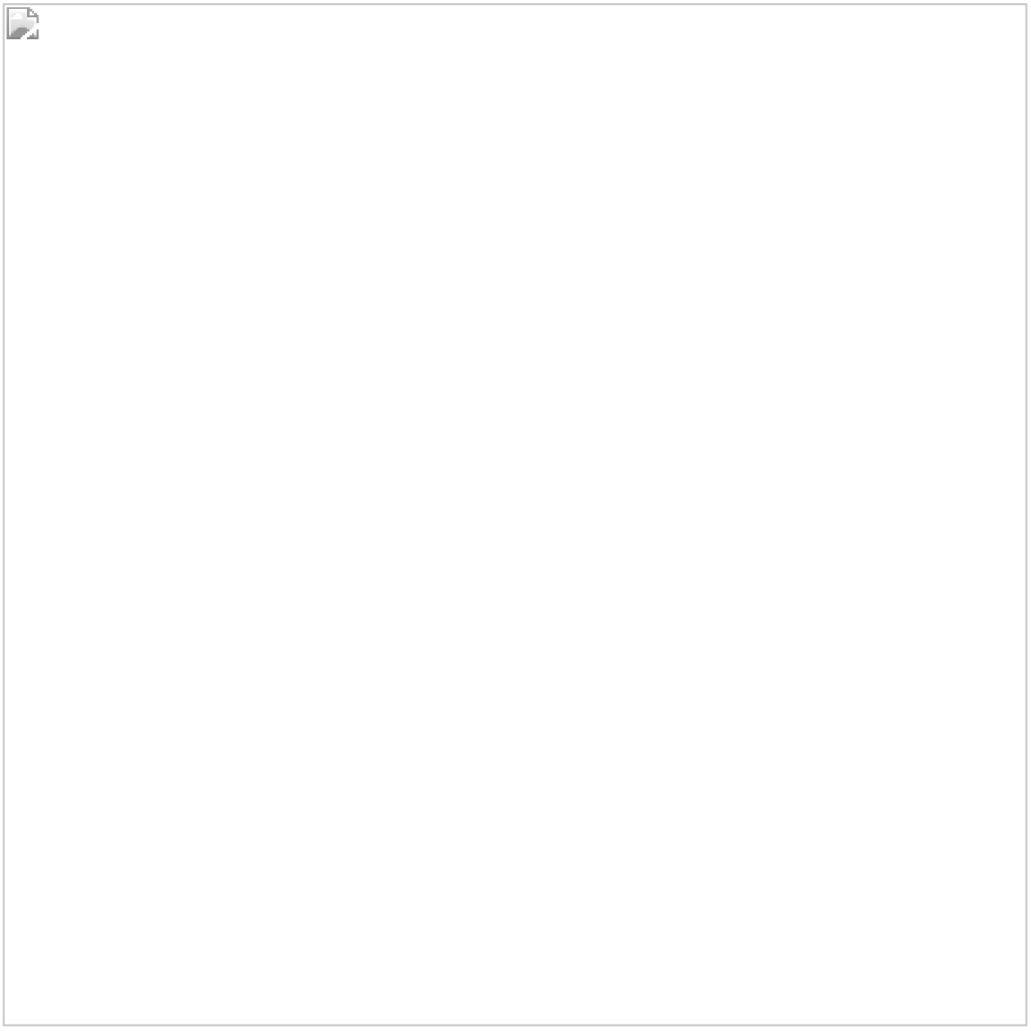
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood

A Tale of a Hundred Years



There were formerly a king and a queen who were so sorry that they had no children. They went to all the waters in the world, and tried vows and pilgrimages, but nothing helped.

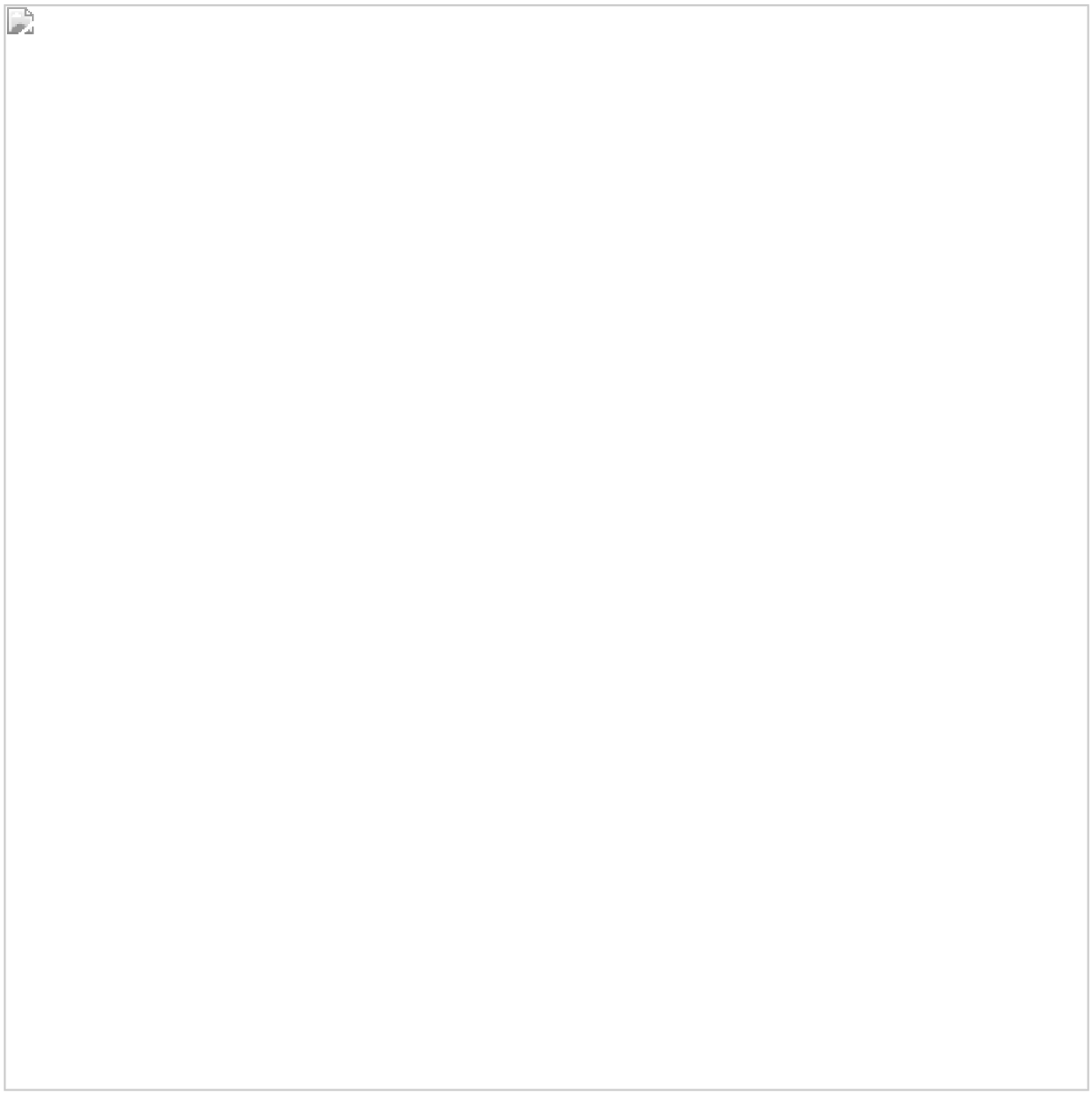
At last, however, the Queen had a daughter.

TALK ABOUT IT

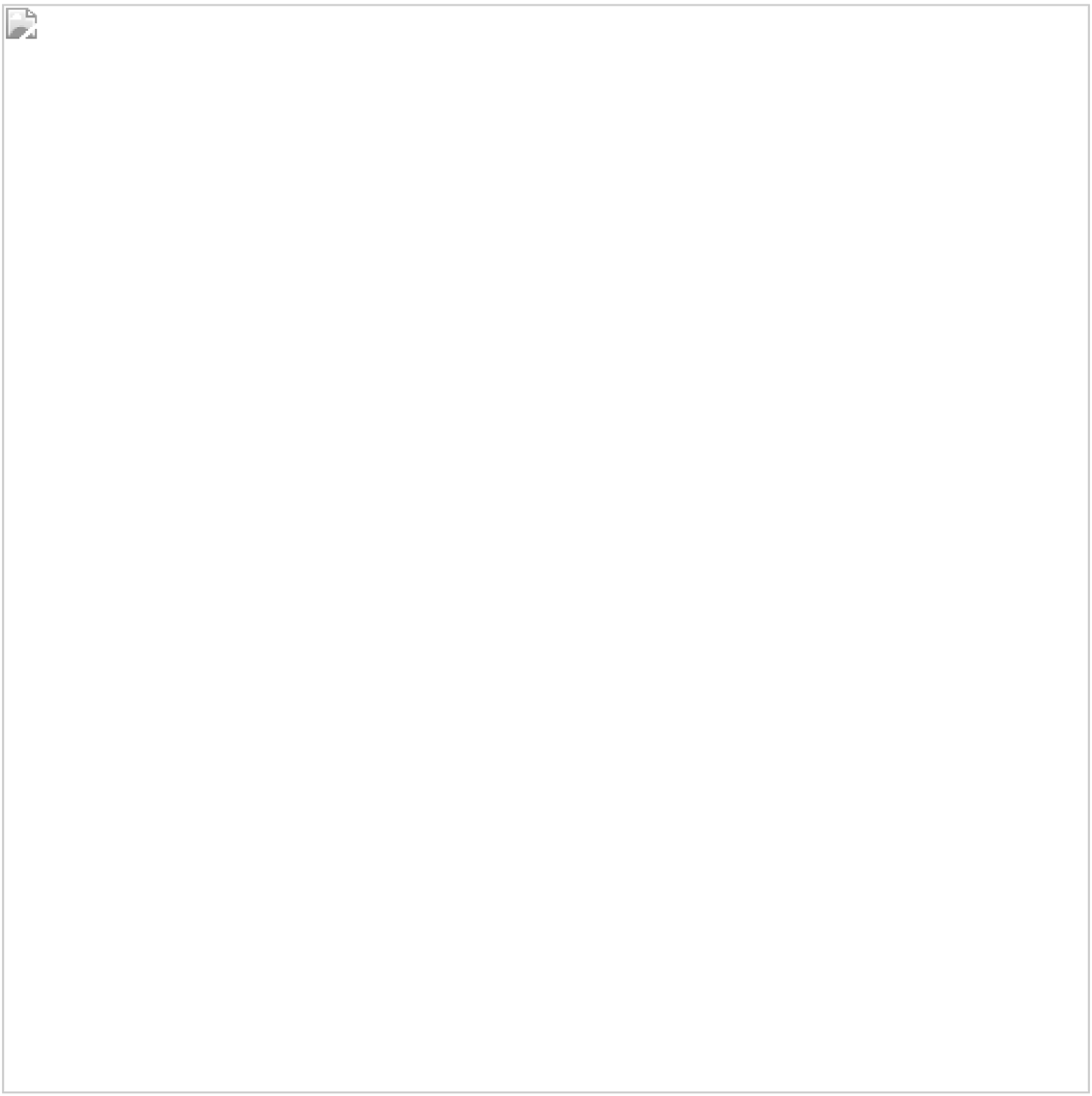
The King and Queen waited a long time. What do you think they hoped for their little girl?

This book belongs to _____

The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood · another picture



The Christening Feast



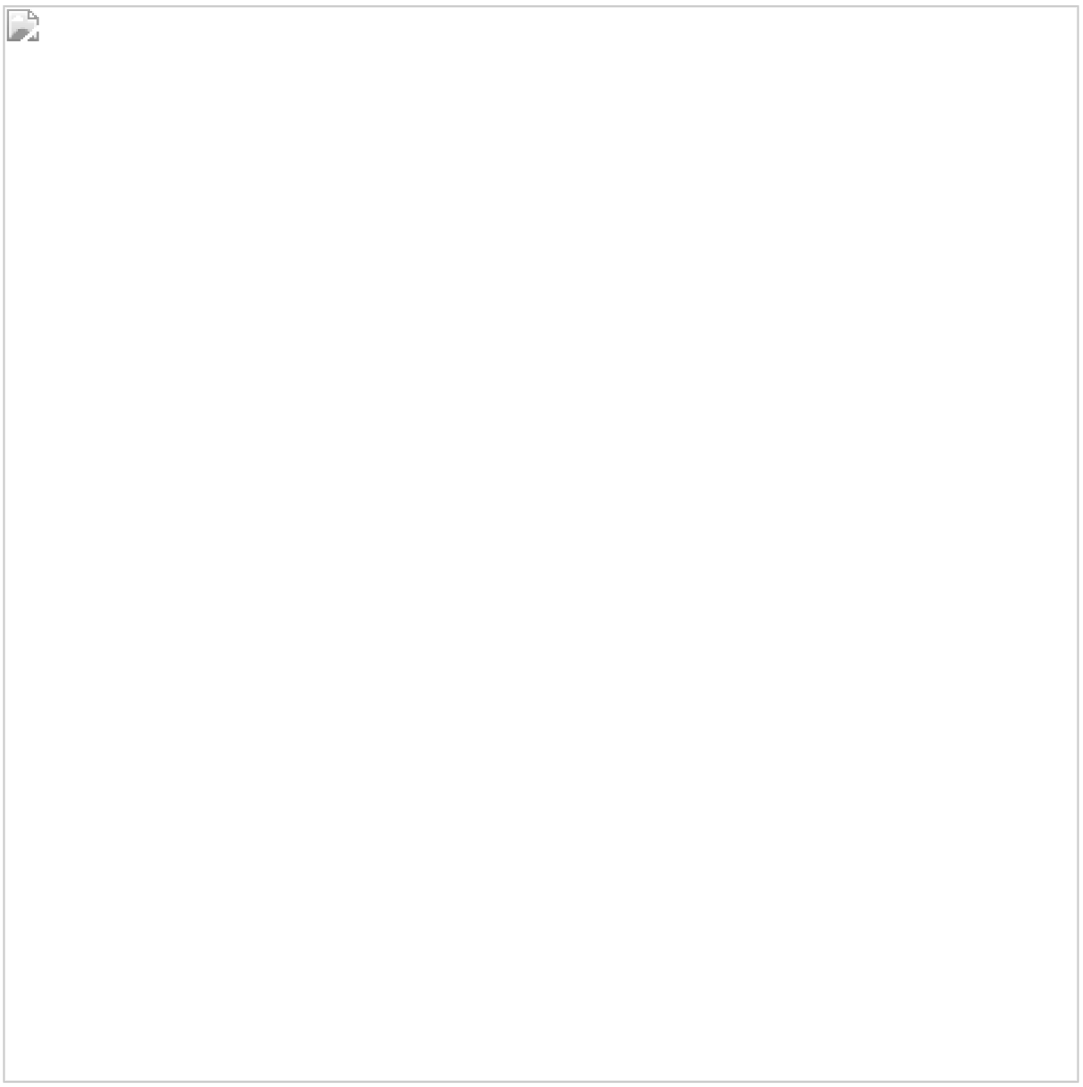
There was a very fine christening. The Princess had for her god-mothers all the fairies they could find in the whole kingdom, and they found seven. Each was to give her a gift.

After the ceremony there was a great feast for the fairies. Before each one was a magnificent cover with a case of massive gold, and in it a spoon, a knife and a fork, all of pure gold.

Then into the hall came a very old fairy, whom nobody had invited. It was above fifty years since she had been out of a certain tower, and everyone thought she was either dead or enchanted.

TALK ABOUT IT

The old fairy had not been invited. What do you think that was like for her?

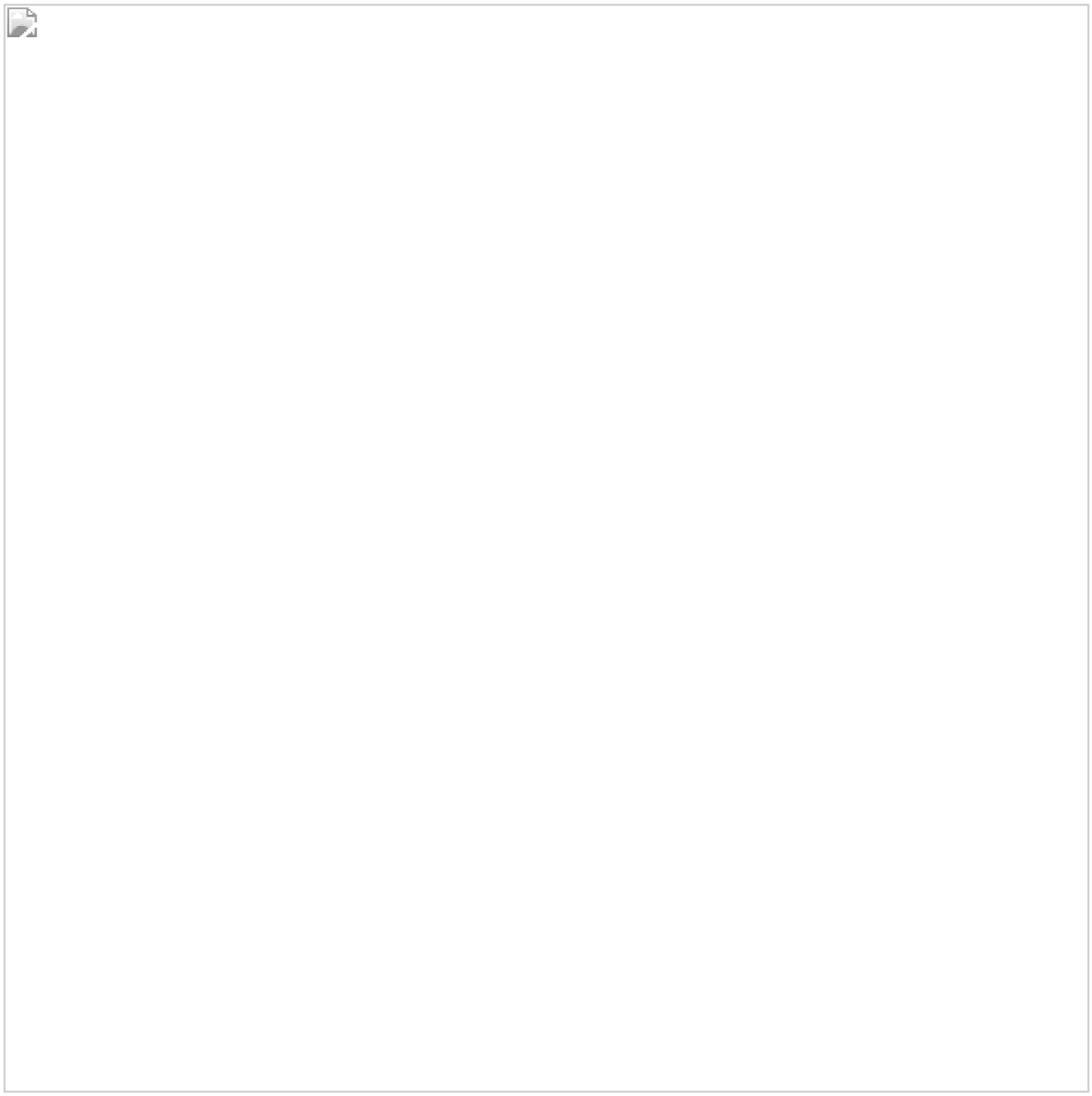


Think about it

1. How many fairies were invited to the feast?

- ○ Three
- ○ Seven
- ○ Twelve

The Fairies' Gifts



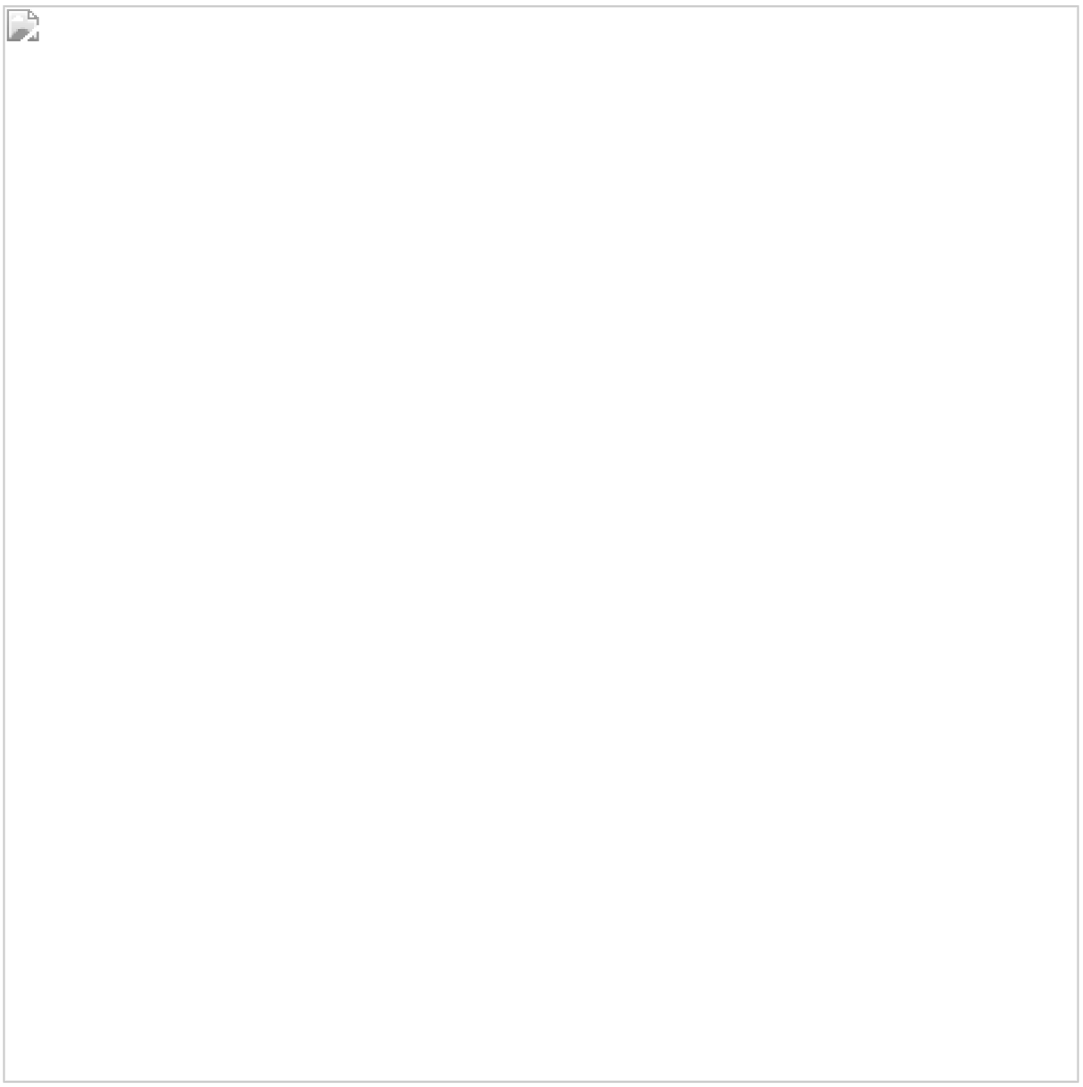
The King ordered a place for the old fairy, but he had no gold case for her, because there were only seven. She thought she was slighted, and muttered threats between her teeth.

A young fairy overheard her. She hid behind the hangings, so that she could speak last and mend any harm the old fairy might do.

The youngest fairy gave the Princess beauty. The next gave the wit of an angel. The third gave grace in everything she did, the fourth perfect dancing, the fifth a voice like a nightingale, and the sixth the gift of playing all kinds of music.

TALK ABOUT IT

Which of the gifts would you most like to have, and why?

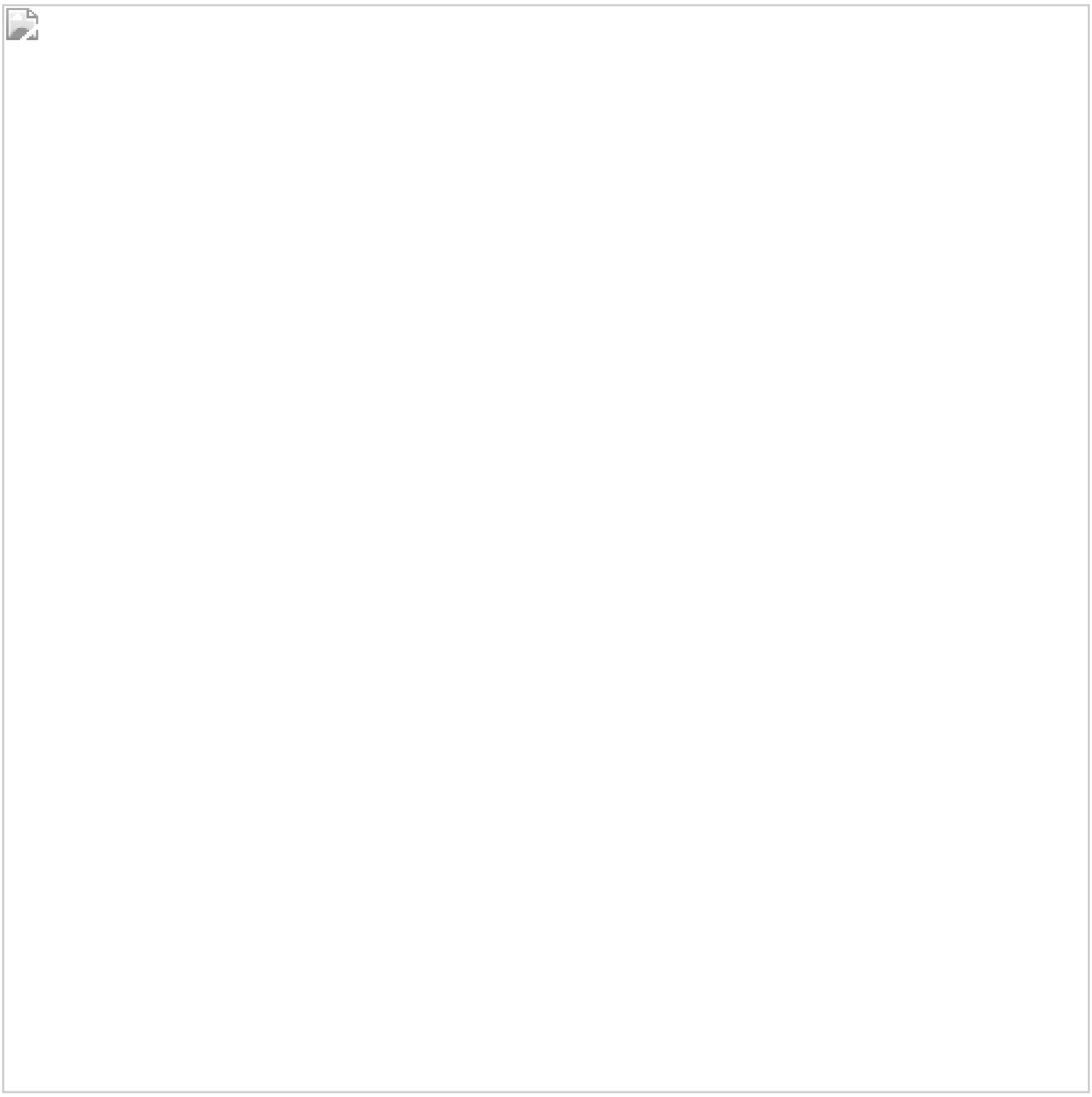


Think about it

1. Where did the young fairy hide?

- ○ Under the table
- ○ Behind the hangings
- ○ In the tower

A Gift of Sorrow



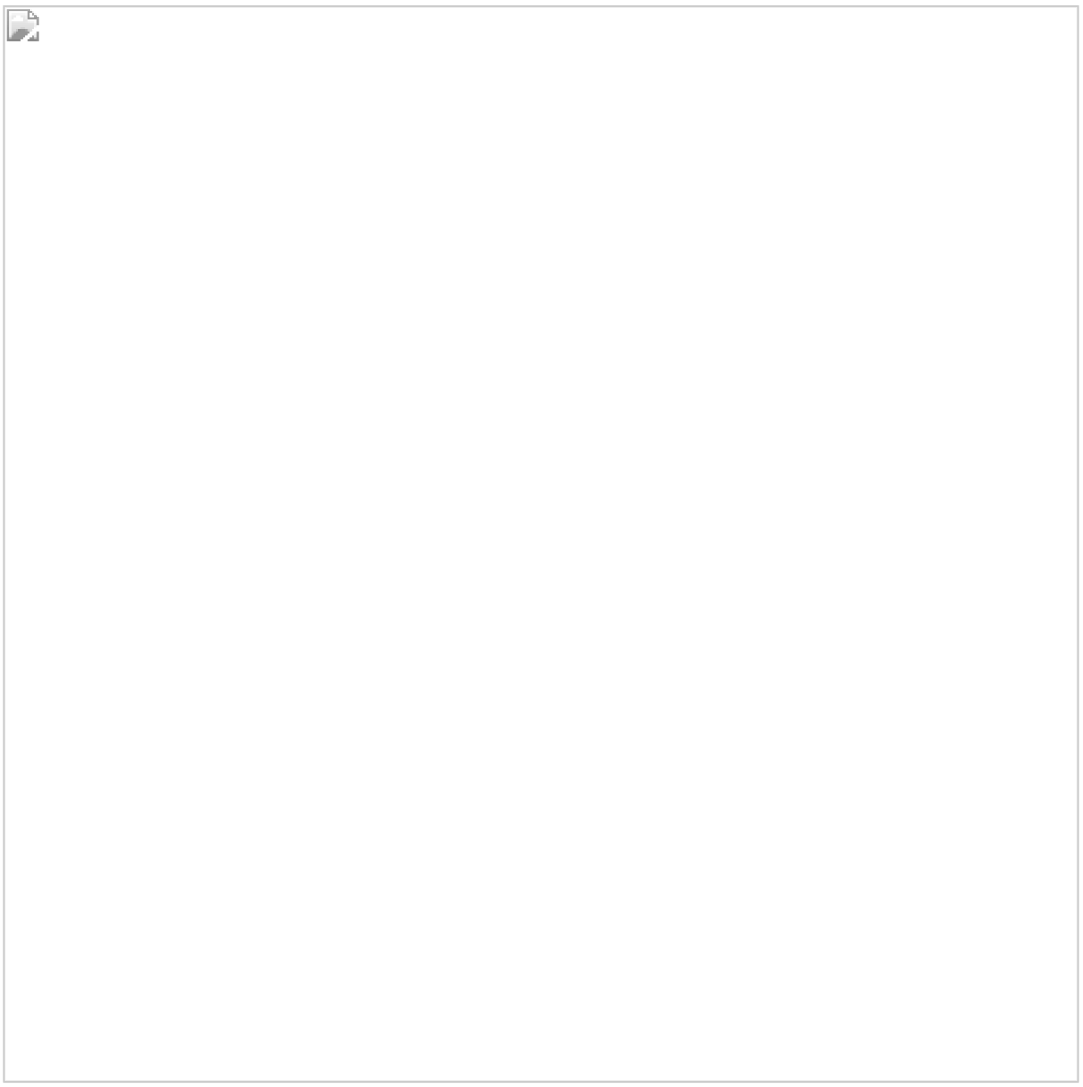
Then the old fairy's turn came. With a head shaking more with spite than age, she said that the Princess should have her hand pierced with a spindle and die of the wound. Everyone trembled and cried.

At that very moment the young fairy came out from behind the hangings. "Assure yourselves, O King and Queen," she said, "that your daughter shall not die of this disaster." She had no power to undo it all.

But she said, "instead of dying, she shall only fall into a profound sleep, which shall last a hundred years, at the expiration of which a king's son shall come and awake her."

TALK ABOUT IT

The young fairy could not take away the whole curse, but she did what she could. What do you think of that?

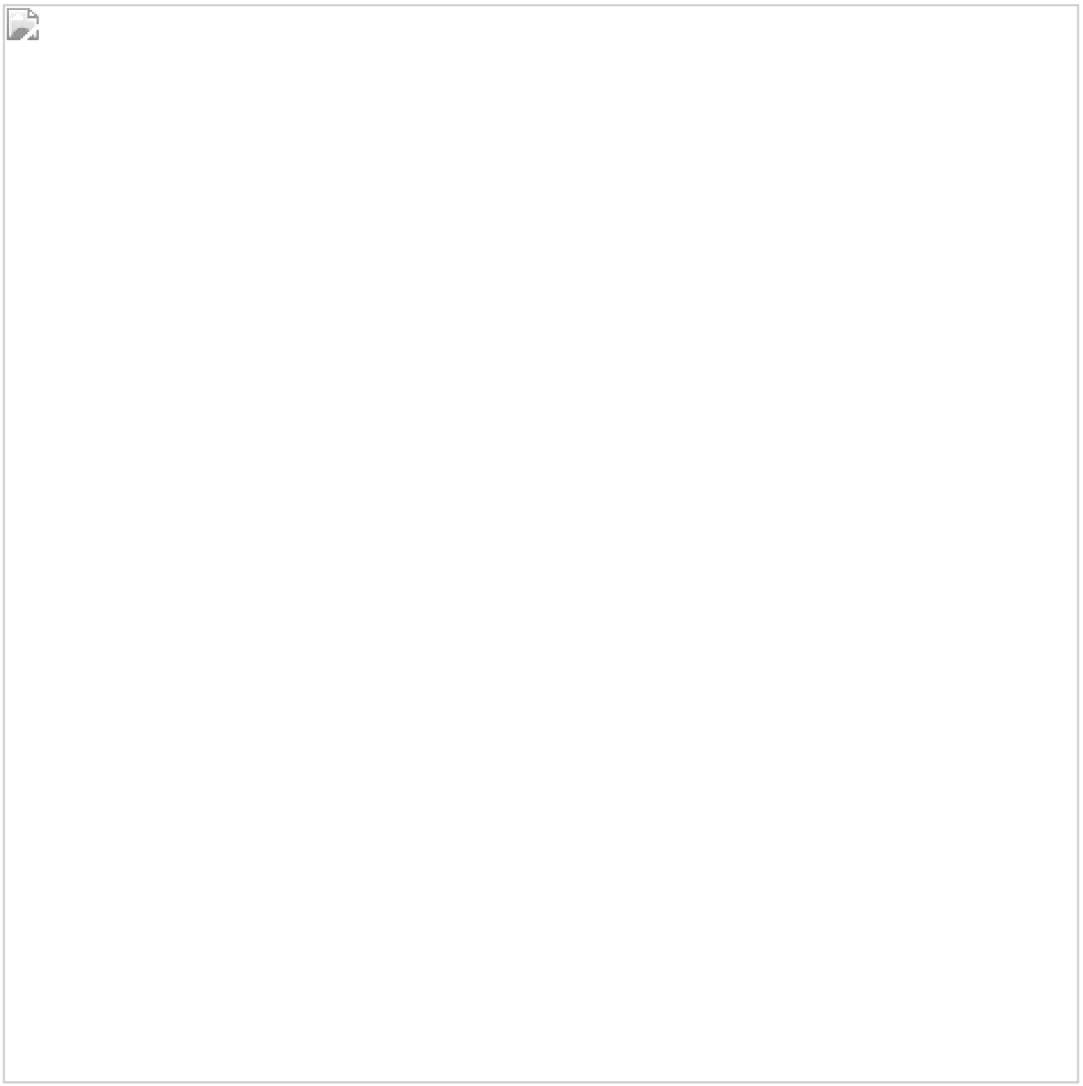


Think about it

1. How long would the Princess sleep?

- ○ A year
- ○ A hundred years
- ○ A thousand years

The Little Room in the Tower



The King had it proclaimed that nobody might spin with a spindle, or keep a spindle in the house.

Fifteen or sixteen years later, while the King and Queen were away, the Princess ran up to a little room at the top of a tower. There a good old woman was spinning with a spindle. She had never heard of the King's order.

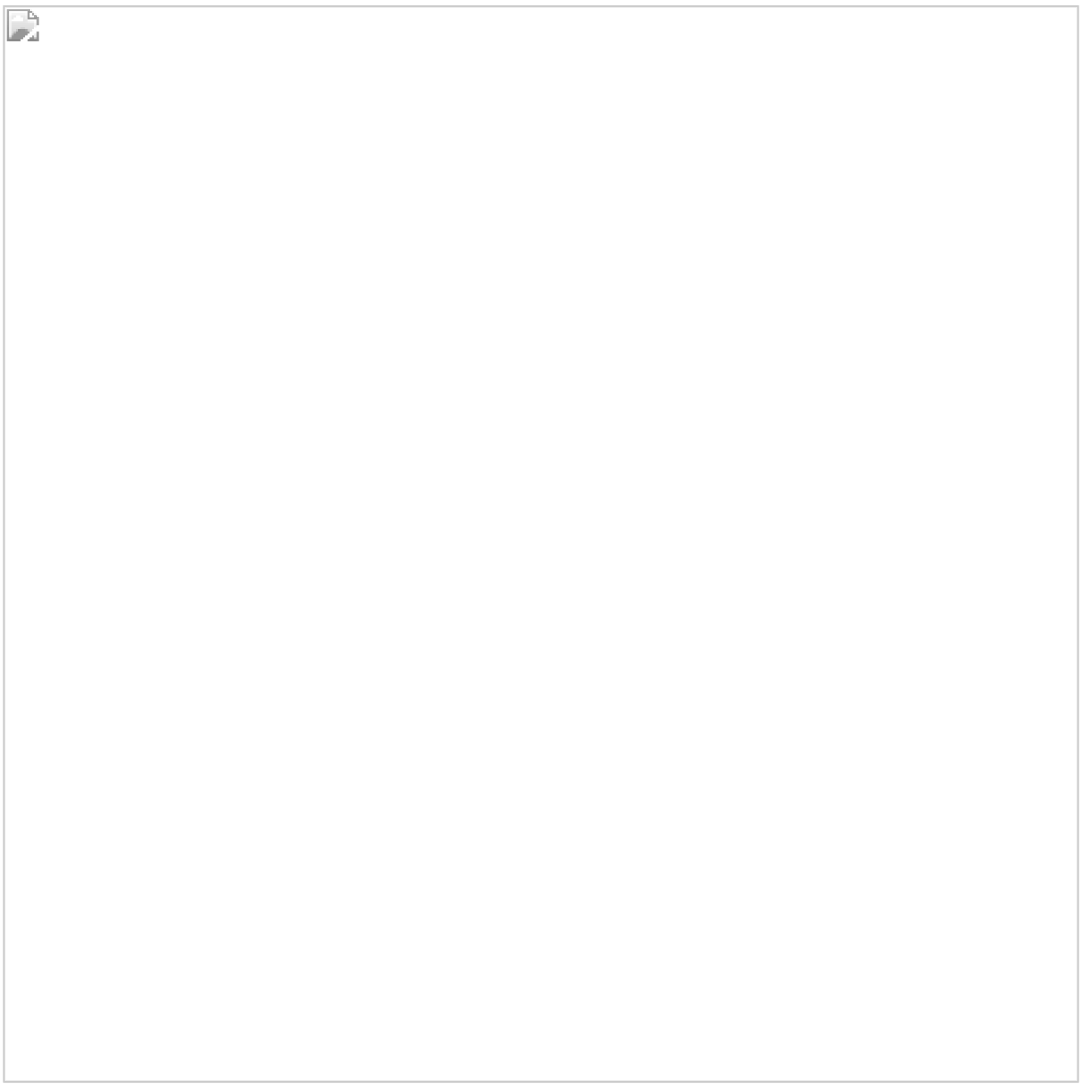
"What are you doing there, goody?" said the Princess. "I am spinning, my pretty child," said the old woman.

"Ha!" said the Princess, "this is very pretty; give it to me." At once the spindle ran into her hand, and she fell down in a swoon.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Princess had never seen a spindle before. What would you do if you saw something new?

The Little Room in the Tower · another picture

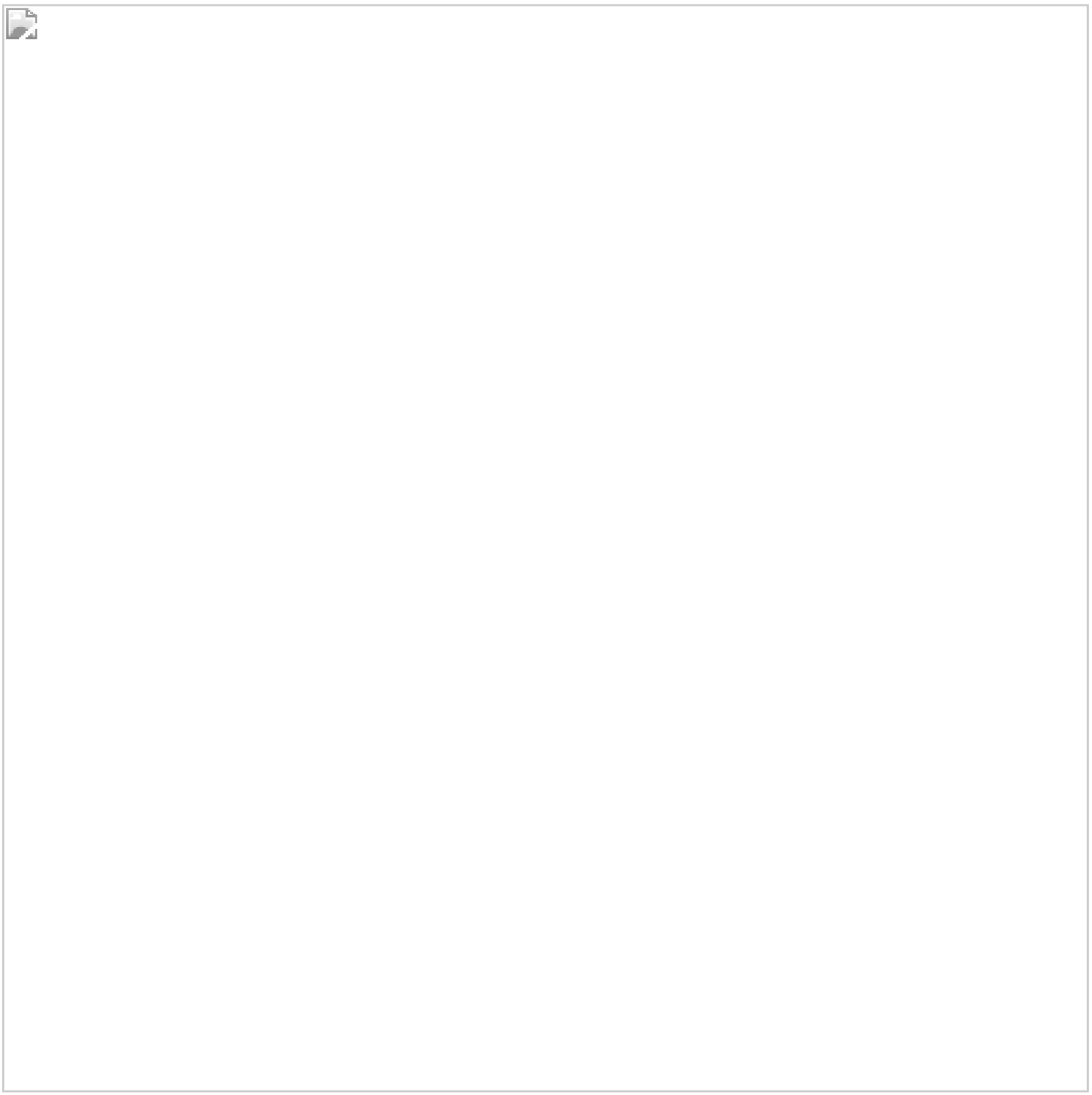


Think about it

1. What was the good old woman doing in the tower?

- ○ Baking bread
- ○ Spinning with a spindle
- ○ Sweeping the floor

The Palace Falls Asleep



People threw water on the Princess's face, but nothing would wake her. The King remembered the fairies' words and had her laid on a bed of gold and silver.

She breathed softly, so they knew she was not dead.

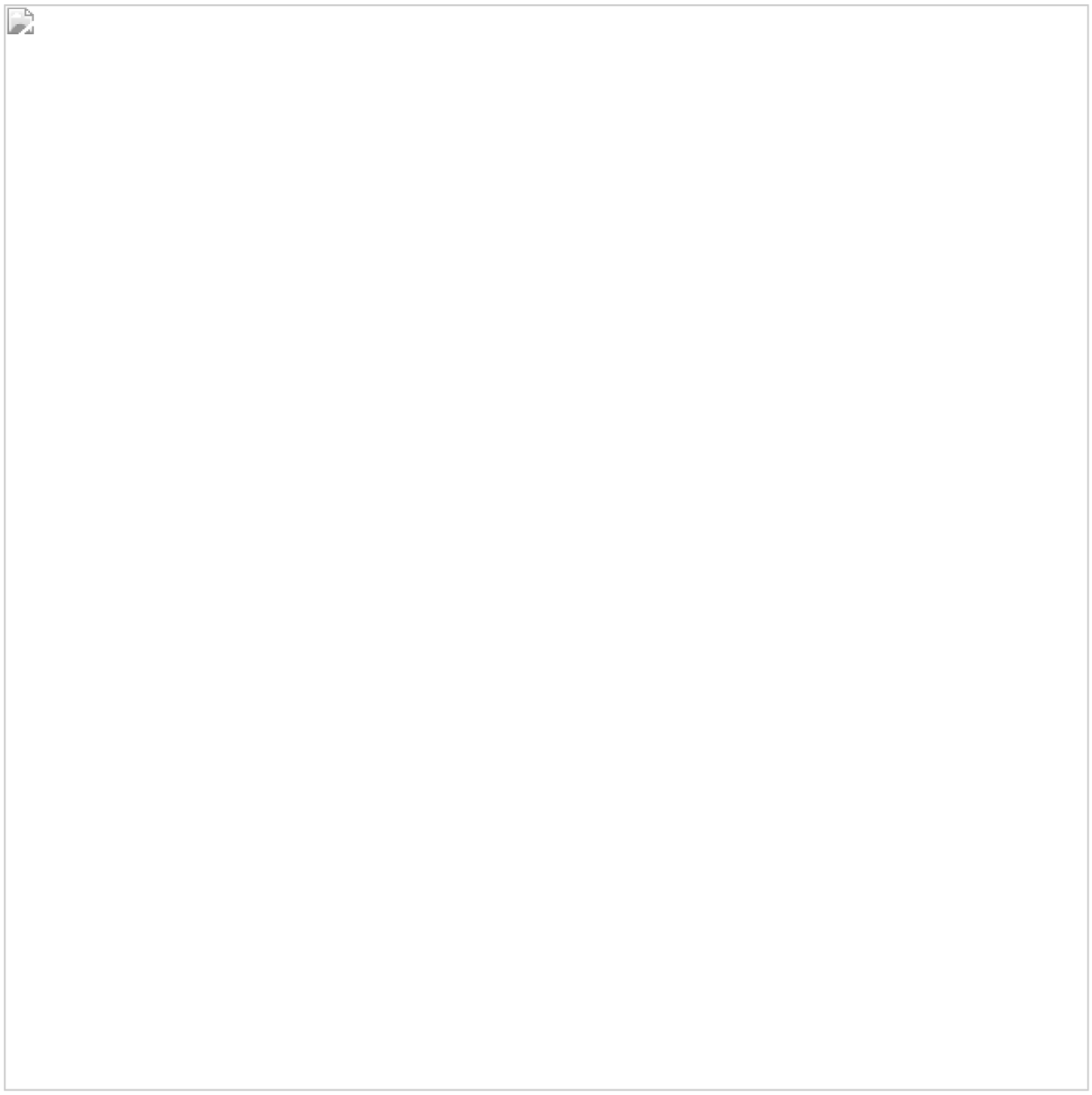
The good fairy came in a chariot drawn by dragons. She touched everyone in the palace with her wand except the King and Queen, down to Mopsey, the little spaniel, so that they all fell asleep, ready to wait on the Princess when she woke.

The King and Queen kissed their child and left. Soon trees and brambles grew so thick around the park that nobody could pass.

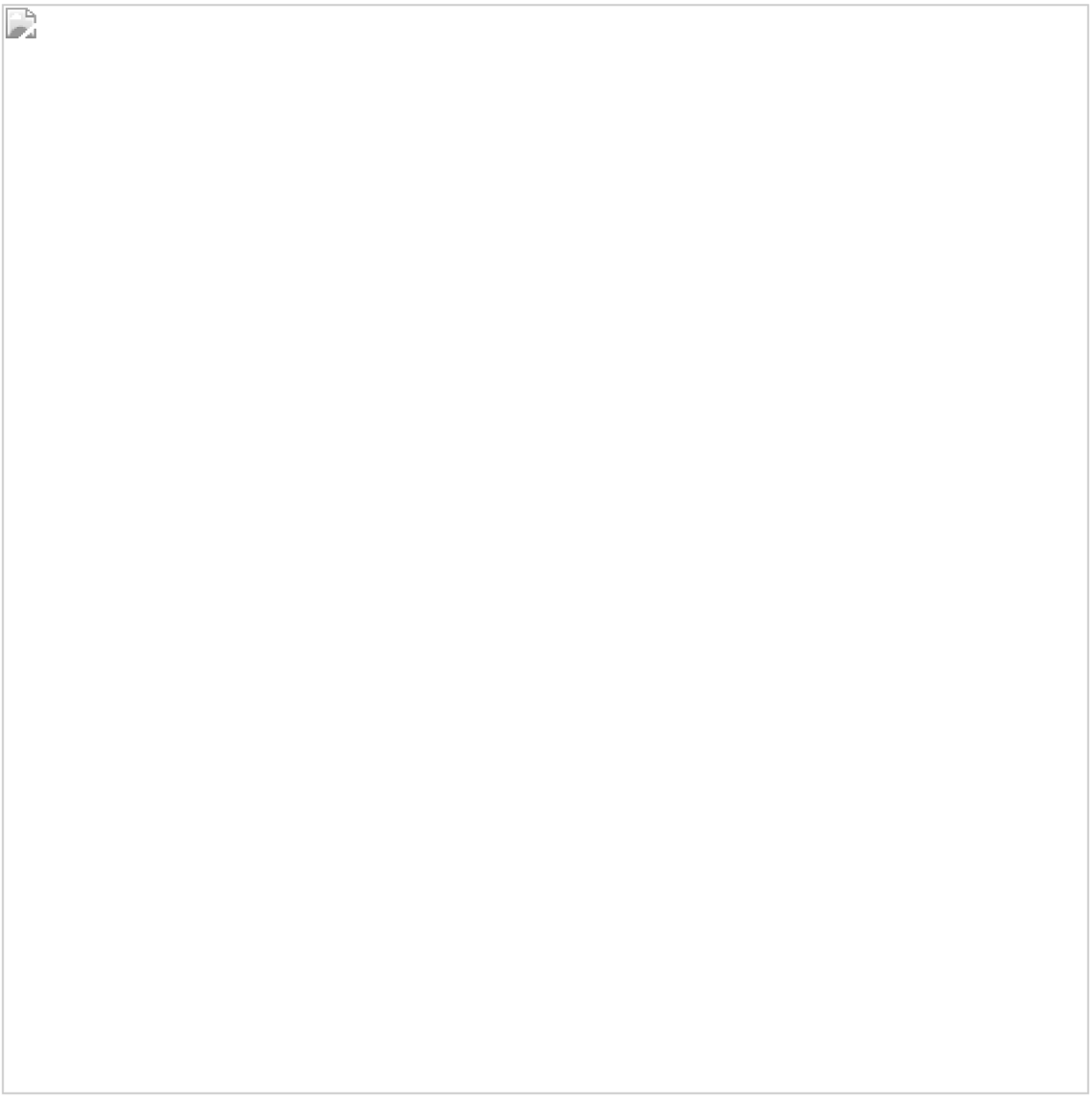
TALK ABOUT IT

The good fairy made sure the Princess would not wake up alone. Why do you think she did that?

The Palace Falls Asleep · another picture



A Hundred Years Later



When a hundred years had gone by, a king's son of another family was out hunting. He saw towers in the middle of a thick wood and asked what they were.

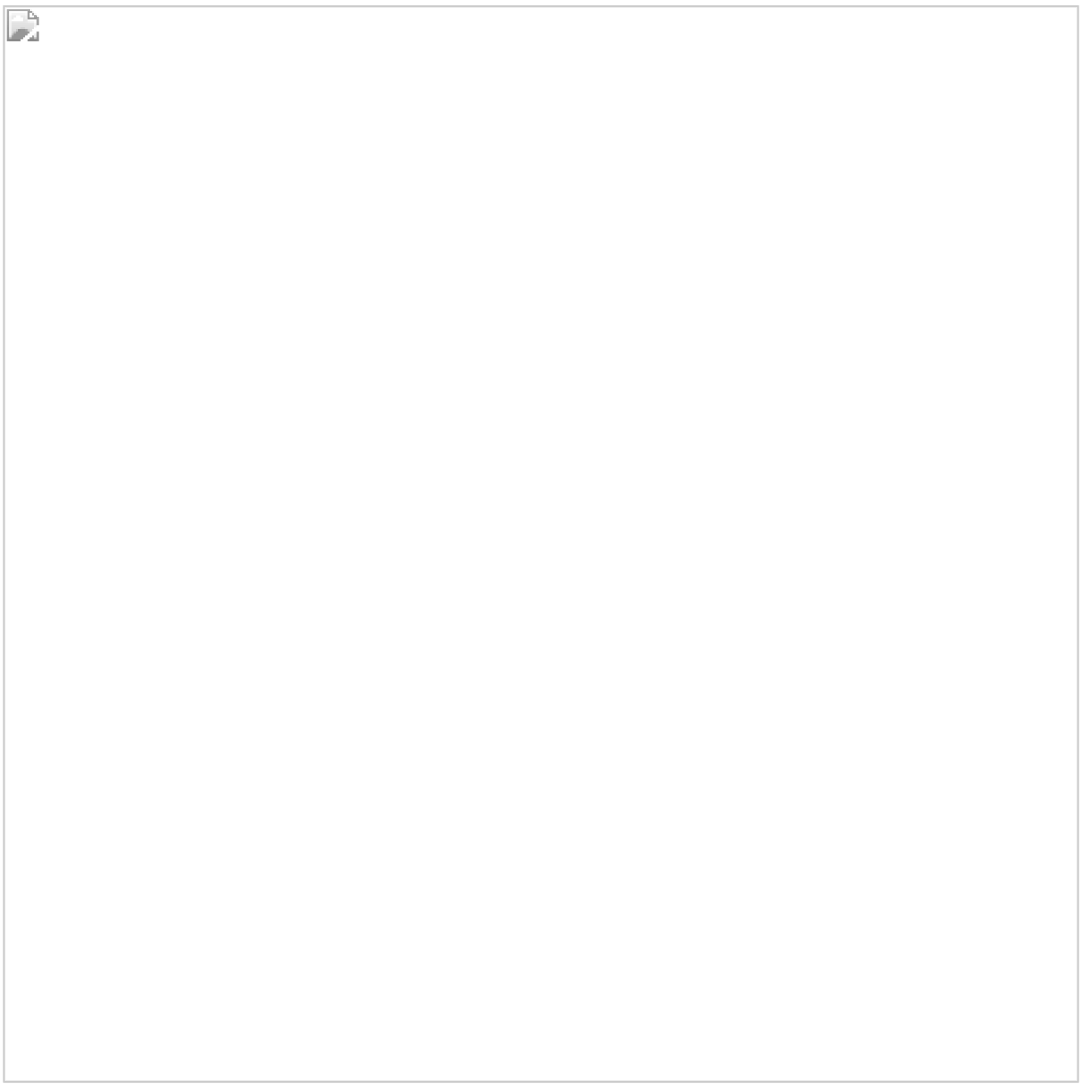
Everyone had a different answer. Some said it was a ruinous old castle haunted by spirits. Others said witches kept their night meetings there. The common opinion was that an ogre lived there.

Then a good countryman said that he had heard from his father, who heard it from his grandfather, that there was in the castle a princess, the most beautiful ever seen. She must sleep a hundred years, and be waked by a king's son.

TALK ABOUT IT

People guessed many different things about the castle. How could the Prince find out what was true?

A Hundred Years Later · another picture

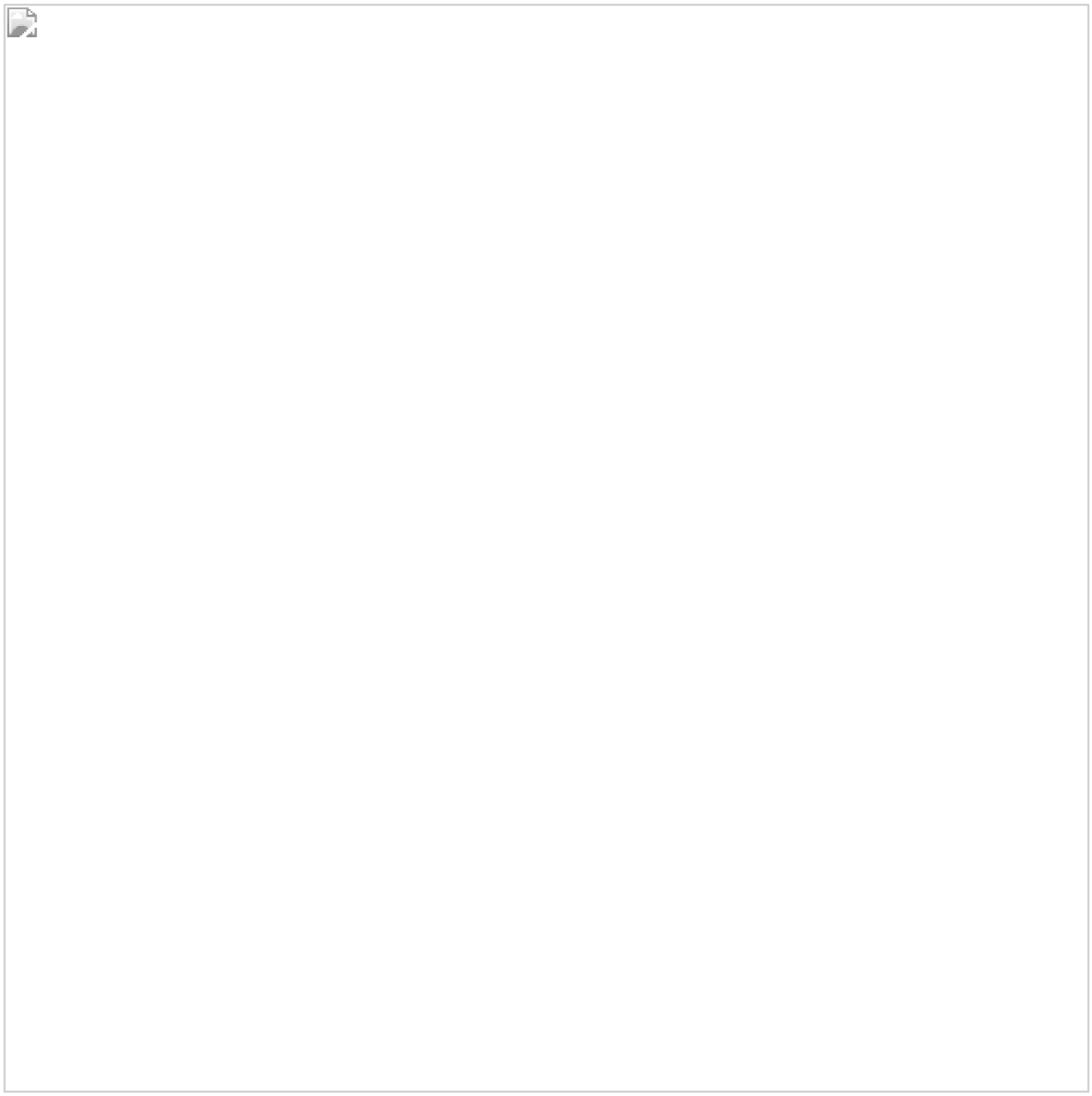


Think about it

1. Who told the Prince about the sleeping Princess?

- ○ A good countryman
- ○ The old fairy
- ○ The King

Through the Wood



The young Prince was all on fire at these words, and decided at once to look into it.

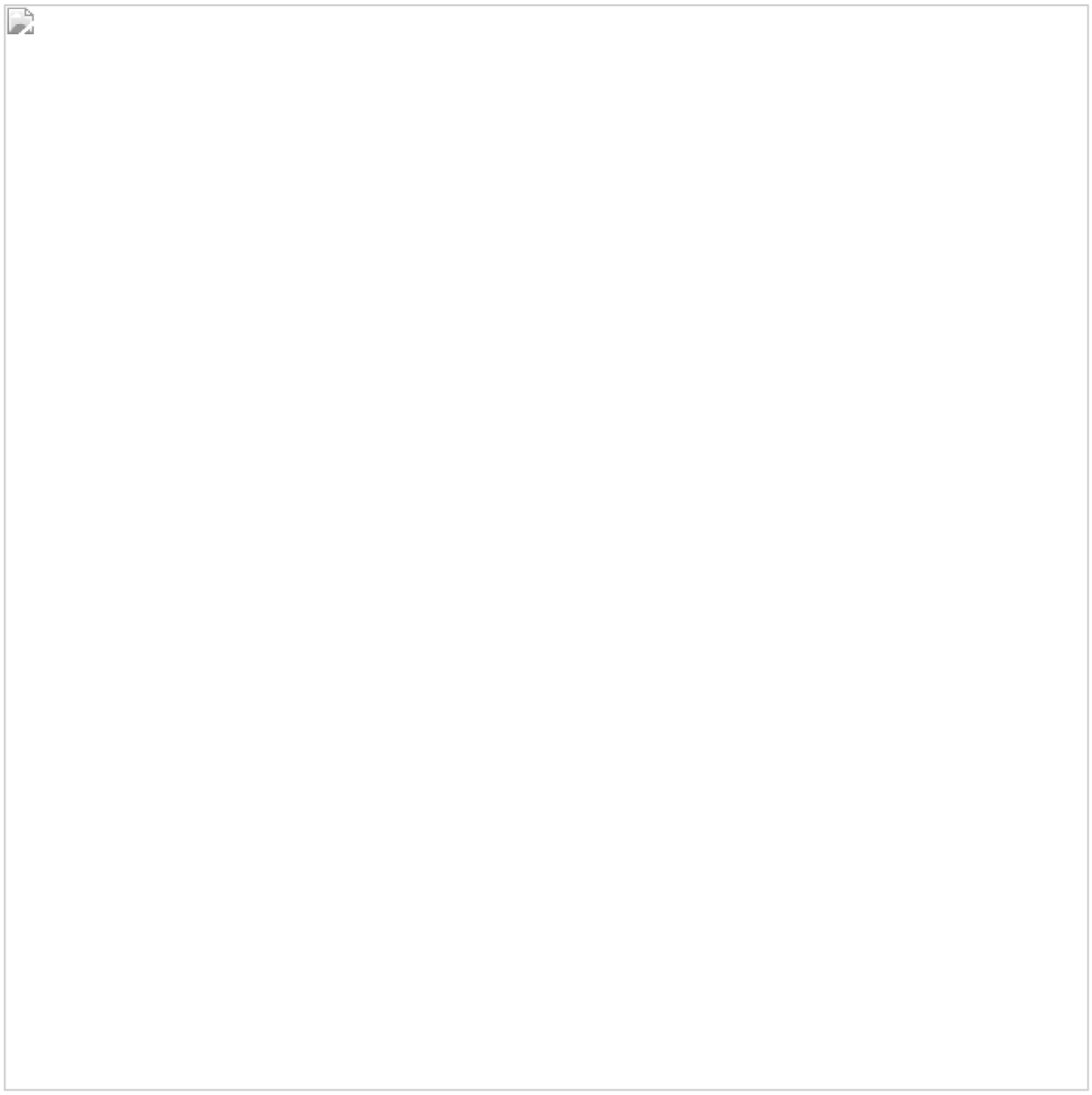
As he went toward the wood, the great trees, bushes and brambles gave way of themselves to let him pass. But his people could not follow, because the trees closed again behind him.

He came into a great court. There was a frightful silence, and everywhere lay men and animals that seemed to be dead. But by the ruby faces of the guards, and the drops of wine still in their goblets, he knew they had only fallen asleep.

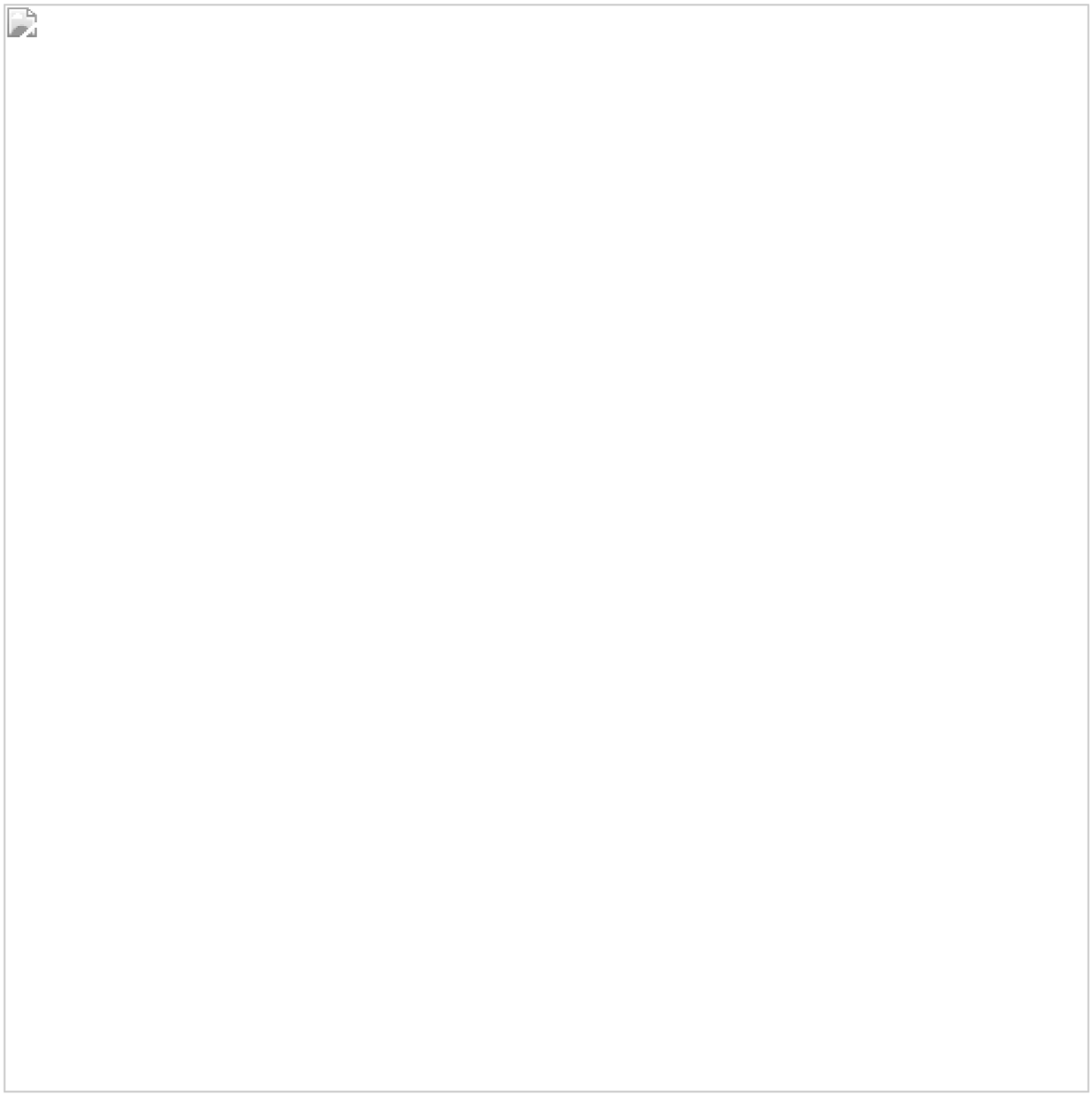
TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the Prince was wondering as he walked through such a quiet place?

Through the Wood · another picture



“You Have Waited a Long While”



He went up the stairs, past guards snoring in their ranks and rooms full of sleeping ladies and gentlemen, to a chamber all gilded with gold.

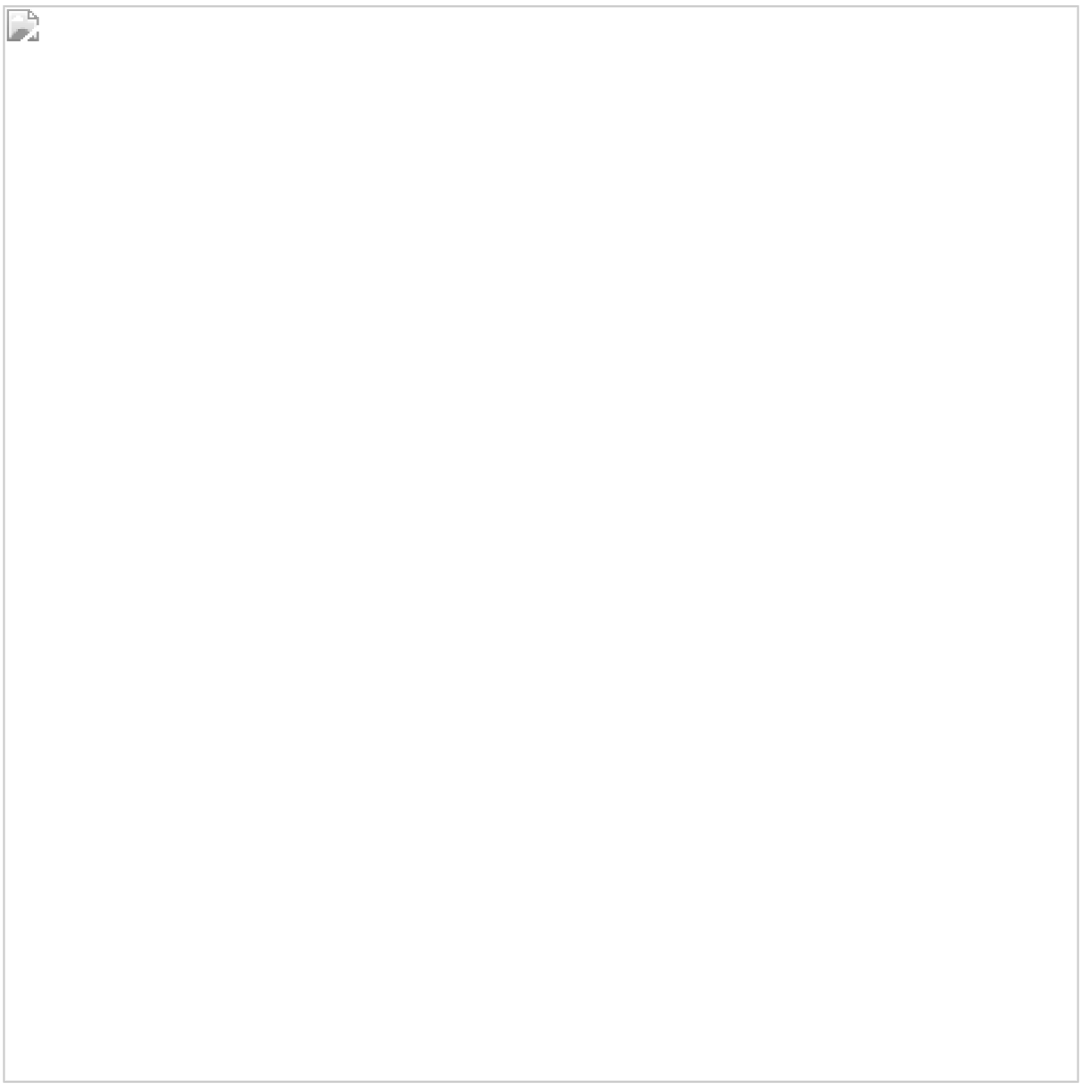
On a bed with open curtains lay a princess who seemed fifteen or sixteen years old, the finest sight ever seen. He knelt before her, trembling.

The enchantment was at an end, and the Princess woke. “Is it you, my Prince?” said she to him. “You have waited a long while.”

They talked four hours together, and yet they said not half what they had to say.

TALK ABOUT IT

She says he has waited a long while. How long did he wait, really, and who was waiting longer?

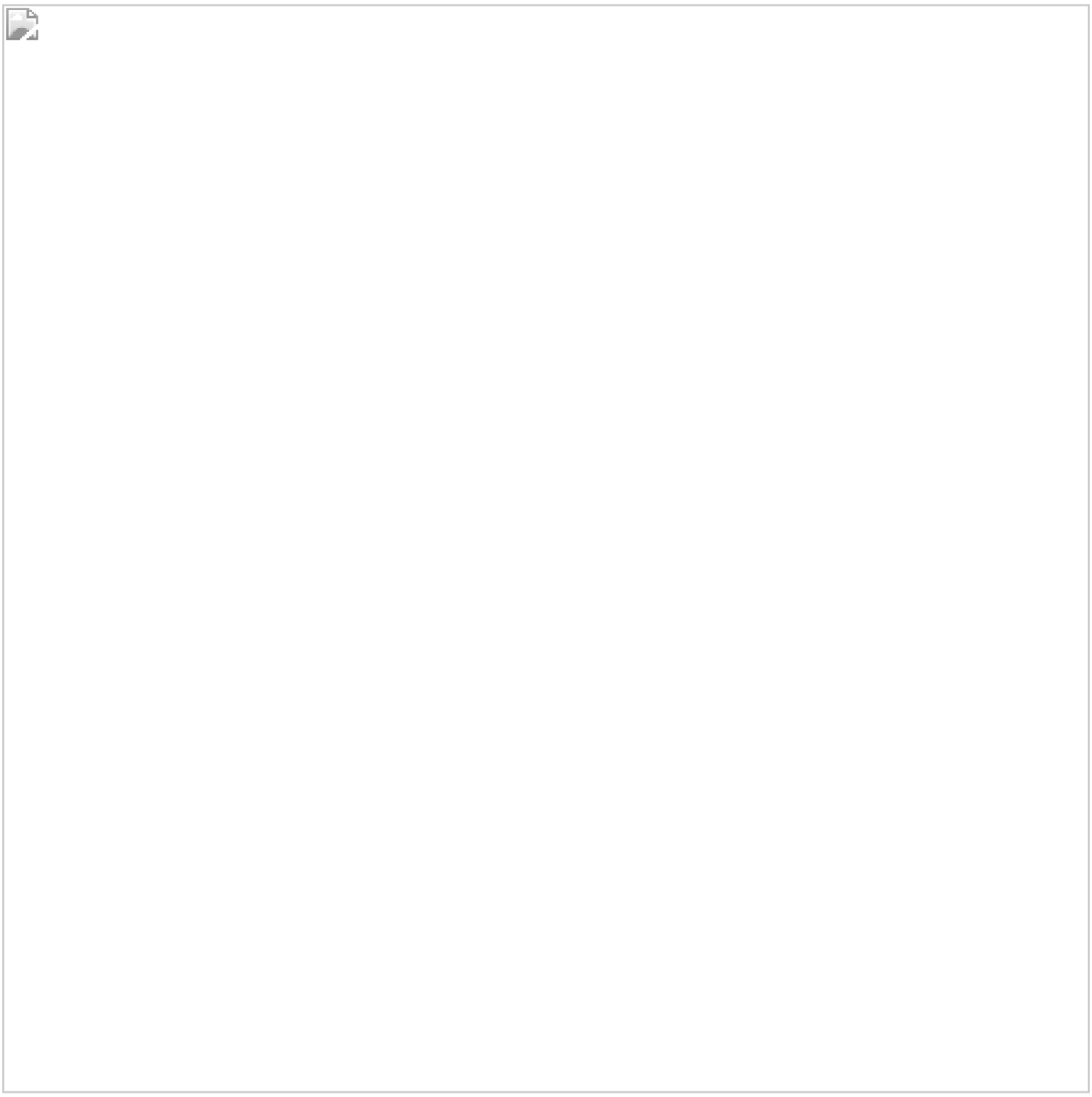


Think about it

1. What did the Princess say when she woke?

- ○ “Where am I?”
- ○ “Is it you, my Prince? You have waited a long while.”
- ○ “Who let you in?”

The Palace Wakes



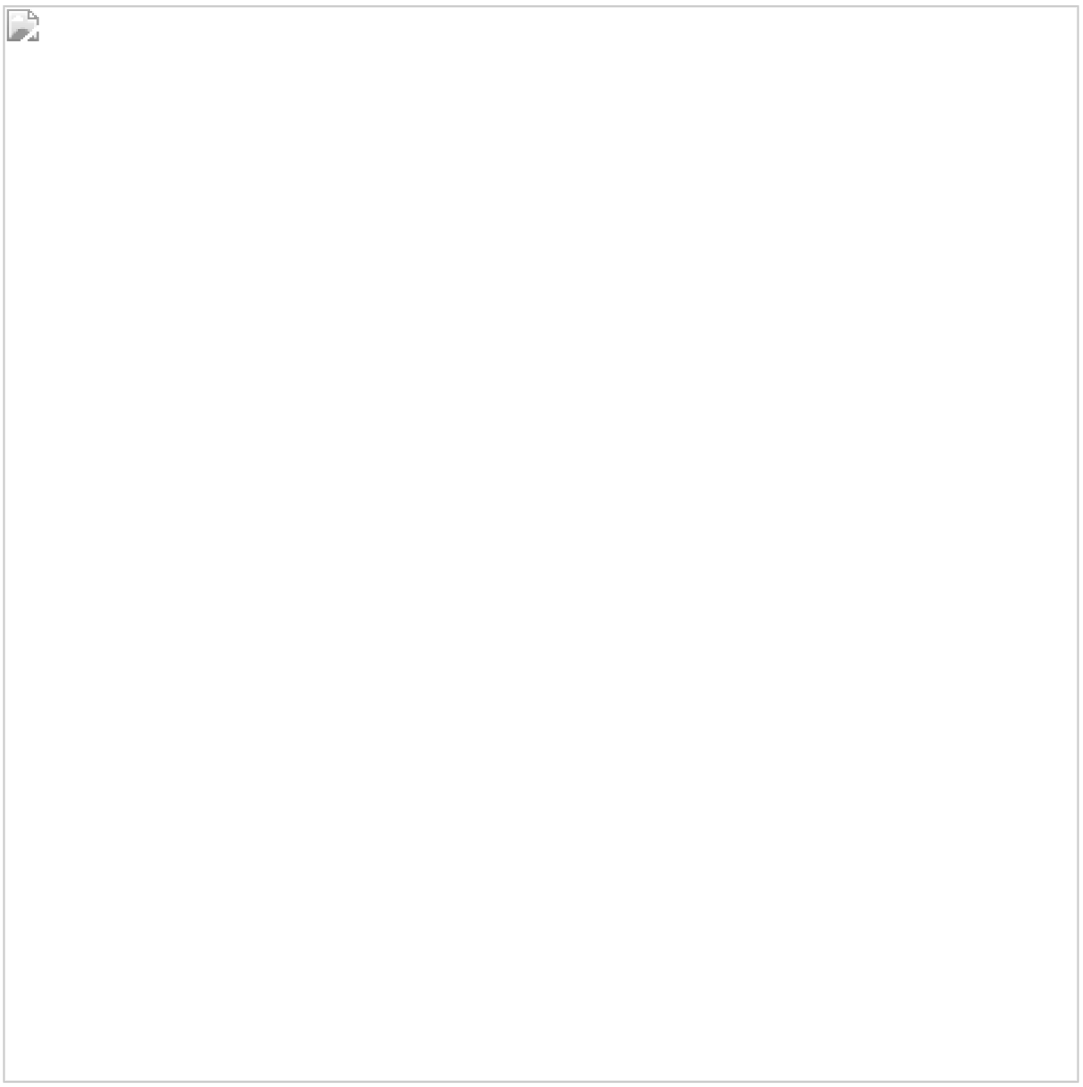
Meanwhile the whole palace woke up. Since they were not all in love, they were ready to die of hunger. The chief lady of honor said aloud that supper was served.

The Prince helped the Princess to rise. She was dressed magnificently, though like his great-grandmother. He took care not to tell her that, and she looked no less charming for it.

They went to the great hall of looking-glasses and supped there. The violins and hautboys played old tunes, though it was a hundred years since they had played. After supper, the lord almoner married them in the chapel of the castle.

TALK ABOUT IT

After a hundred years the first thing everyone wanted was supper. What would be the first thing you wanted?

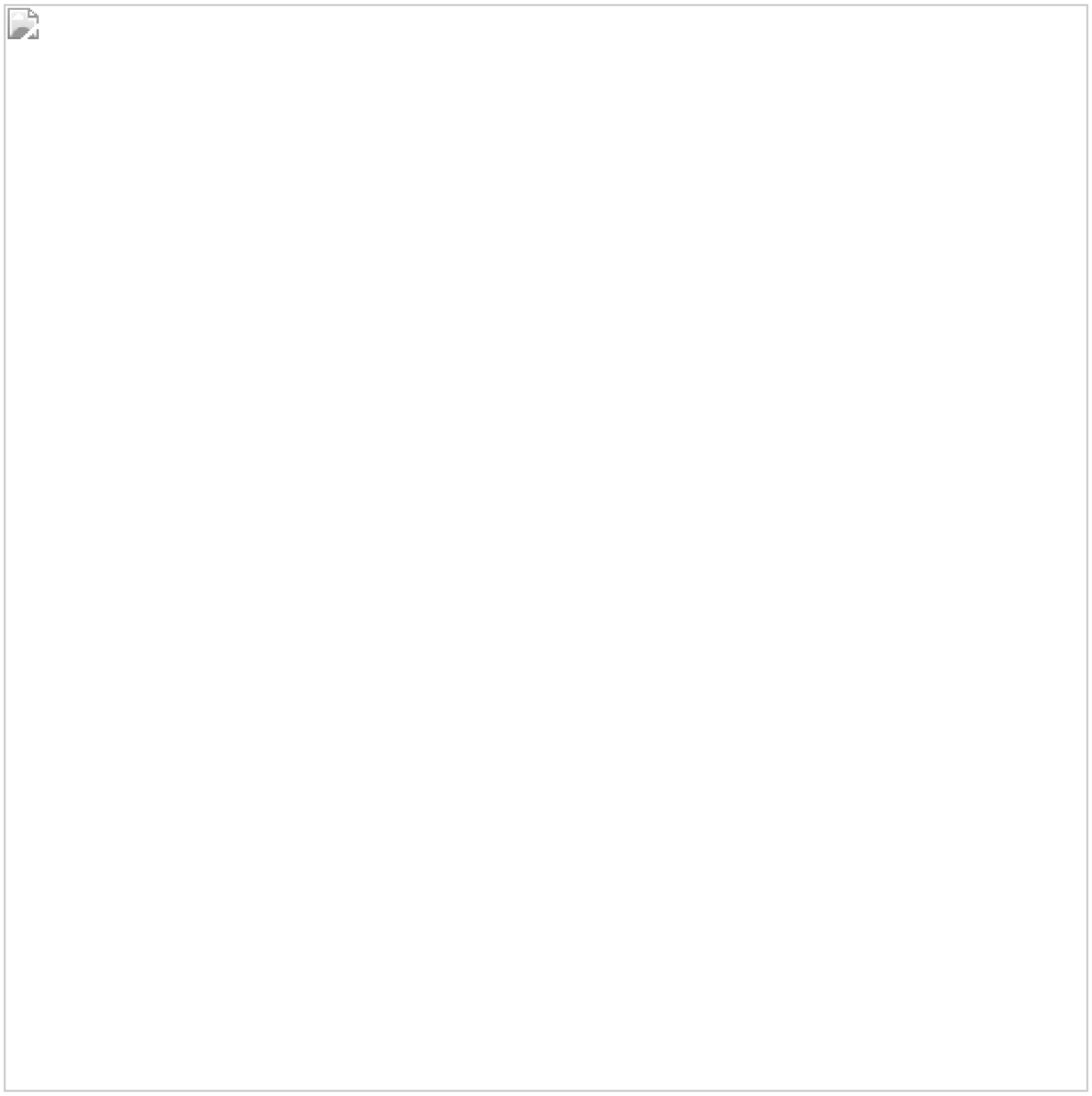


Think about it

1. Where did they have supper?

- ○ In the garden
- ○ In the great hall of looking-glasses
- ○ In the tower

A Secret Kept



Next morning the Prince went home. He told his father he had lost his way hunting and slept in a charcoal-burner's cottage.

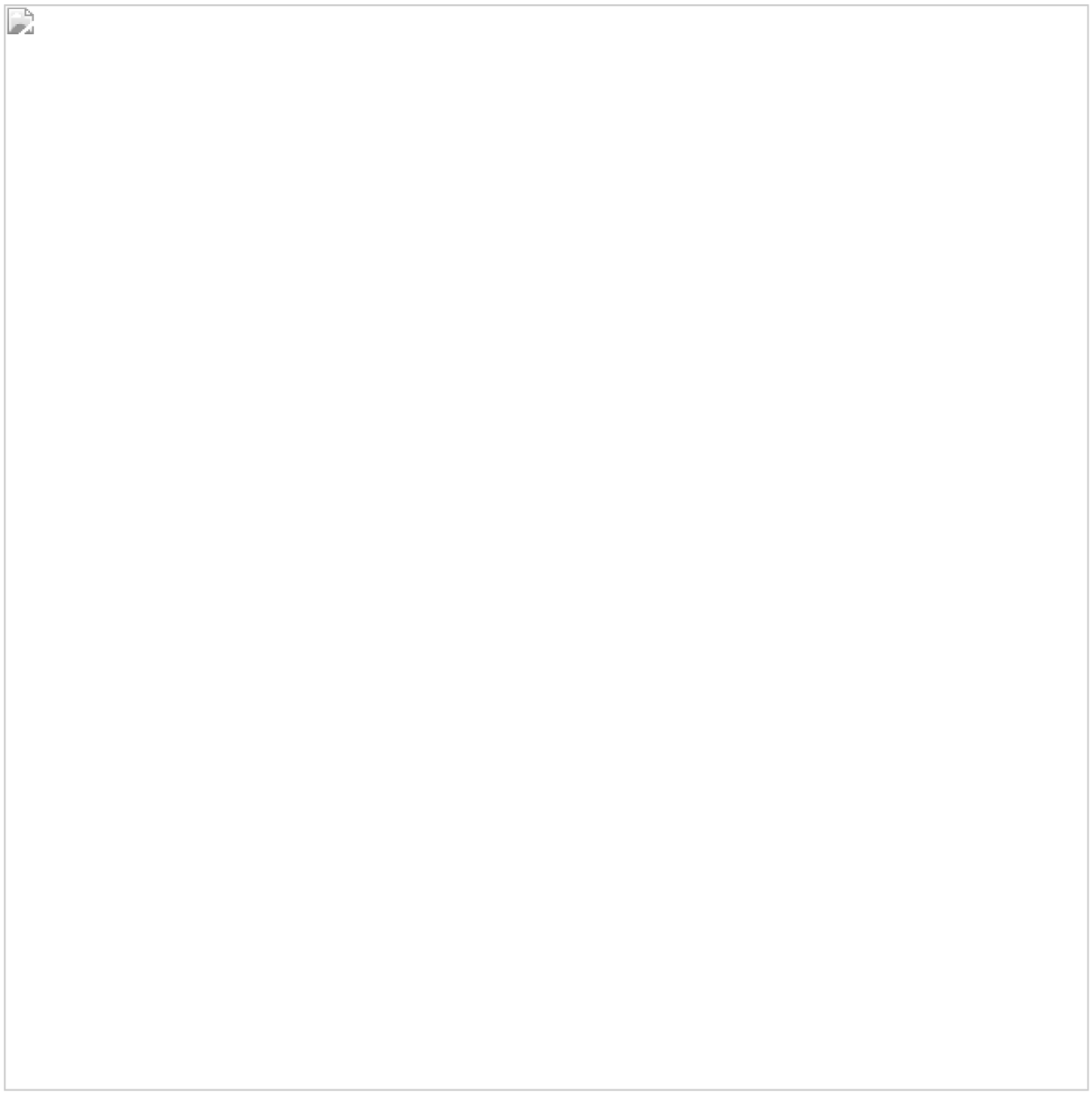
The King believed him, but his mother did not. He went hunting almost every day and was often away for nights together, so she suspected he was married.

He lived with the Princess two whole years, and they had two children: a daughter named Morning and a son called Day.

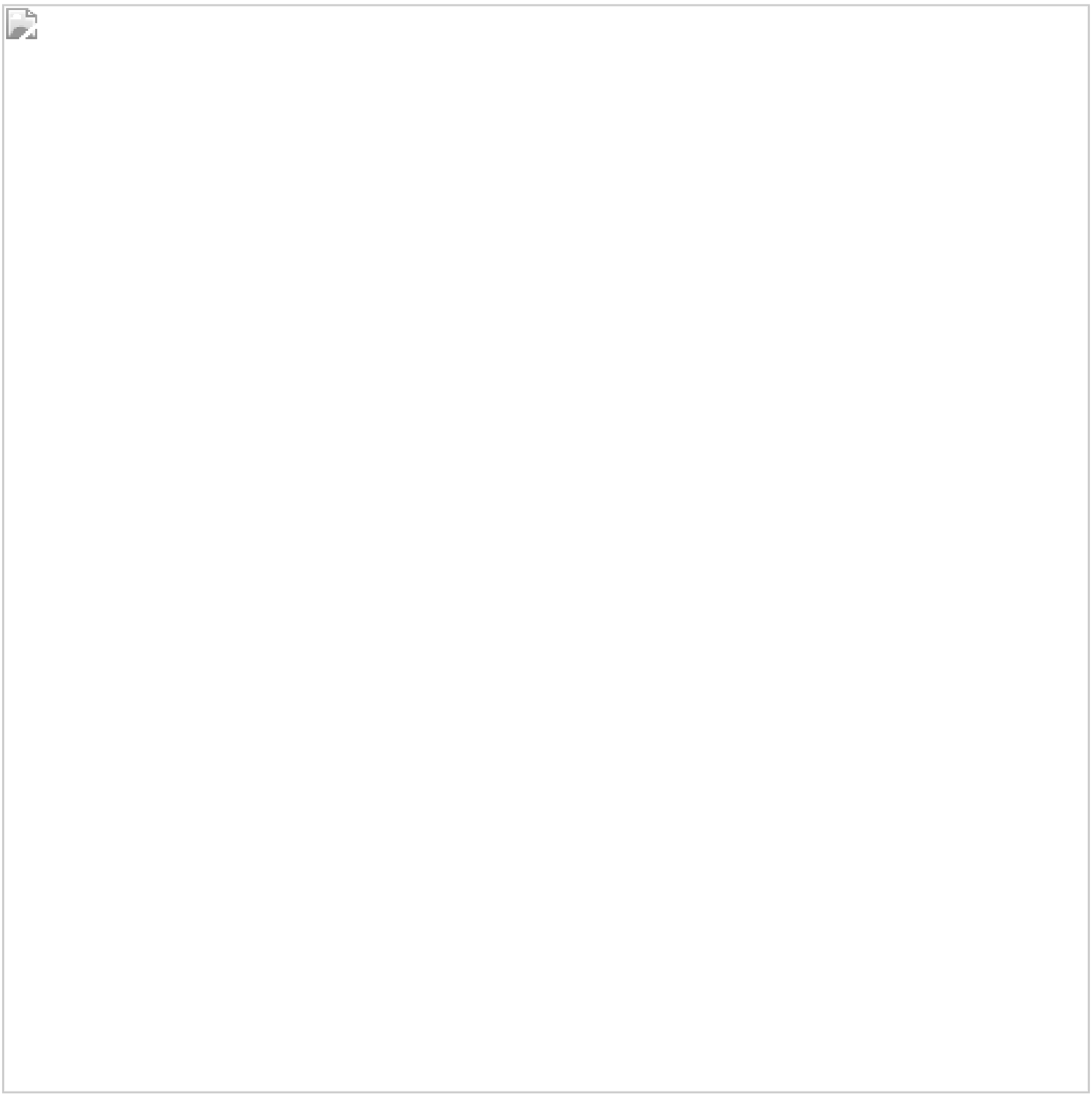
He never dared tell his mother. He loved her, but he feared her, for she was of the race of the Ogres, and when she saw little children passing, she could hardly keep from falling upon them.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Prince kept his secret from his mother. Why do you think he did?



The Queen-Mother



Two years after, the old King died. The Prince, now master of the kingdom, openly declared his marriage and brought his Queen and their two children to the palace in great ceremony.

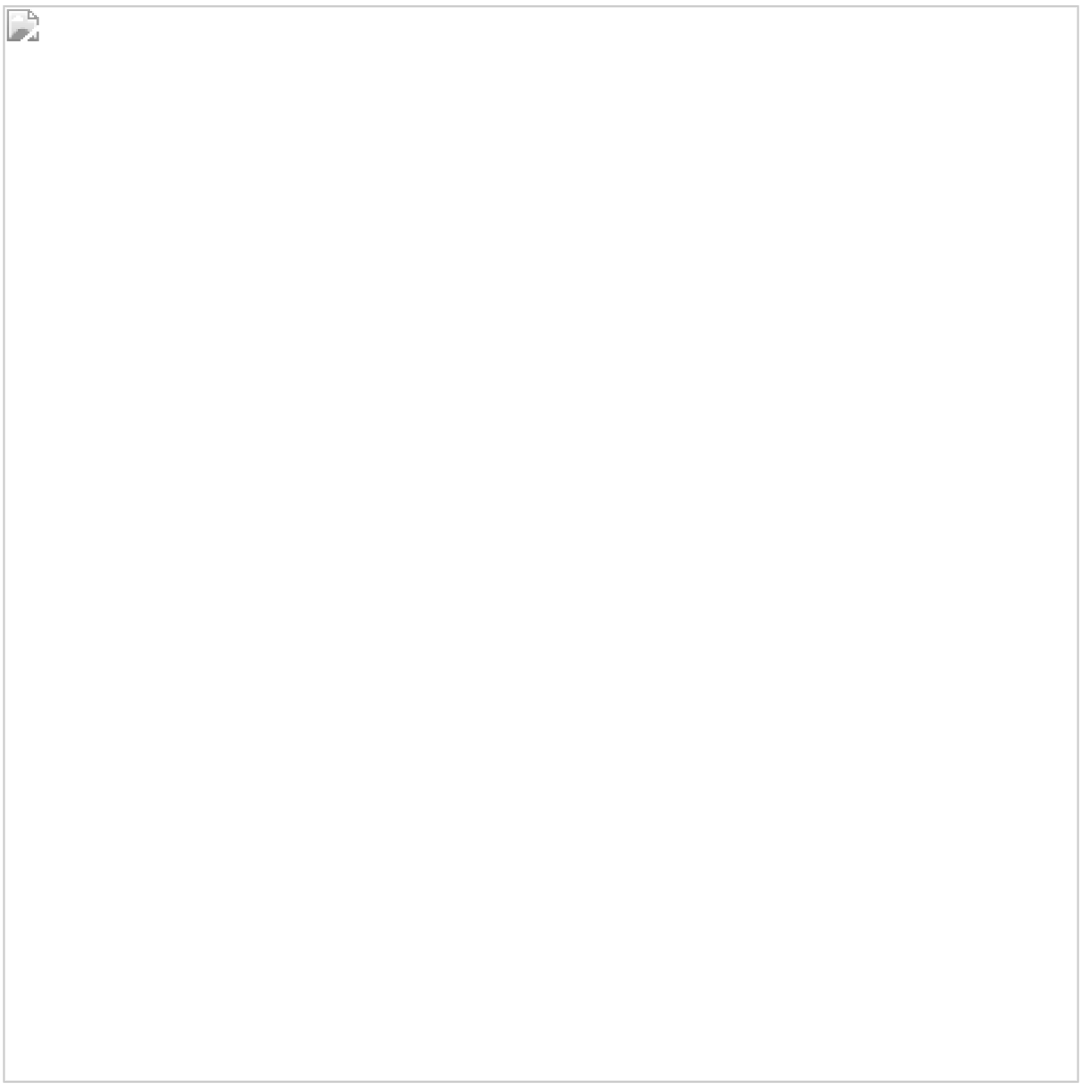
Soon after, the new King went off to make war on the Emperor Contalabutte, his neighbor. He left the kingdom in his mother's care, and asked her to look after his wife and children.

But as soon as he was gone, the Queen-mother sent her daughter-in-law and the children to a country house in the woods, so that she could more easily do what her horrible hunger wanted.

TALK ABOUT IT

The new King trusted his mother with his family. What do you think about that?

The Queen-Mother · another picture

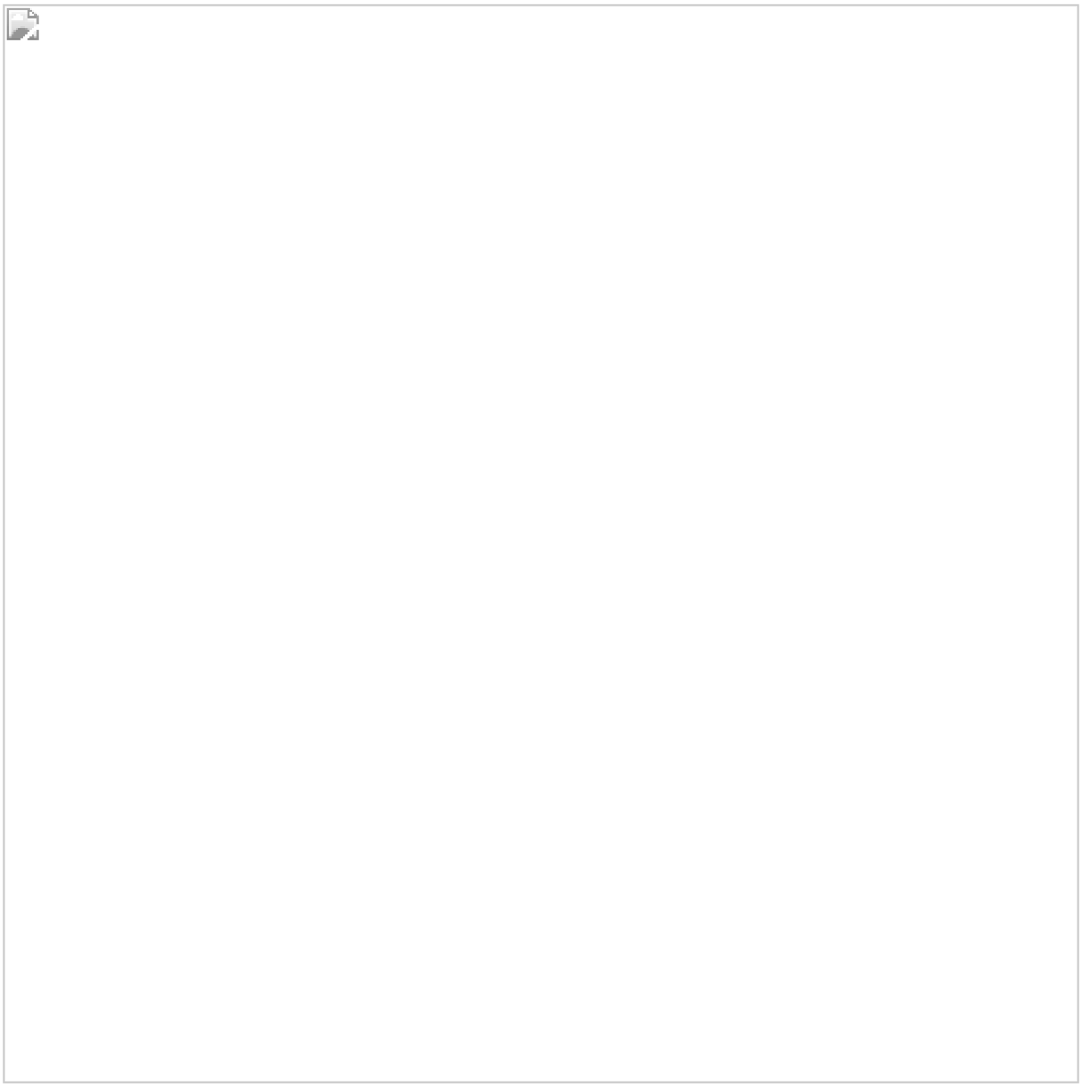


Think about it

1. Who did the new King leave in charge while he went to war?

- ○ His mother, the Queen-mother
- ○ The good fairy
- ○ The clerk of the kitchen

The Clerk of the Kitchen



The wicked Queen went to the country house and told her clerk of the kitchen she had a mind to have little Morning for her dinner.

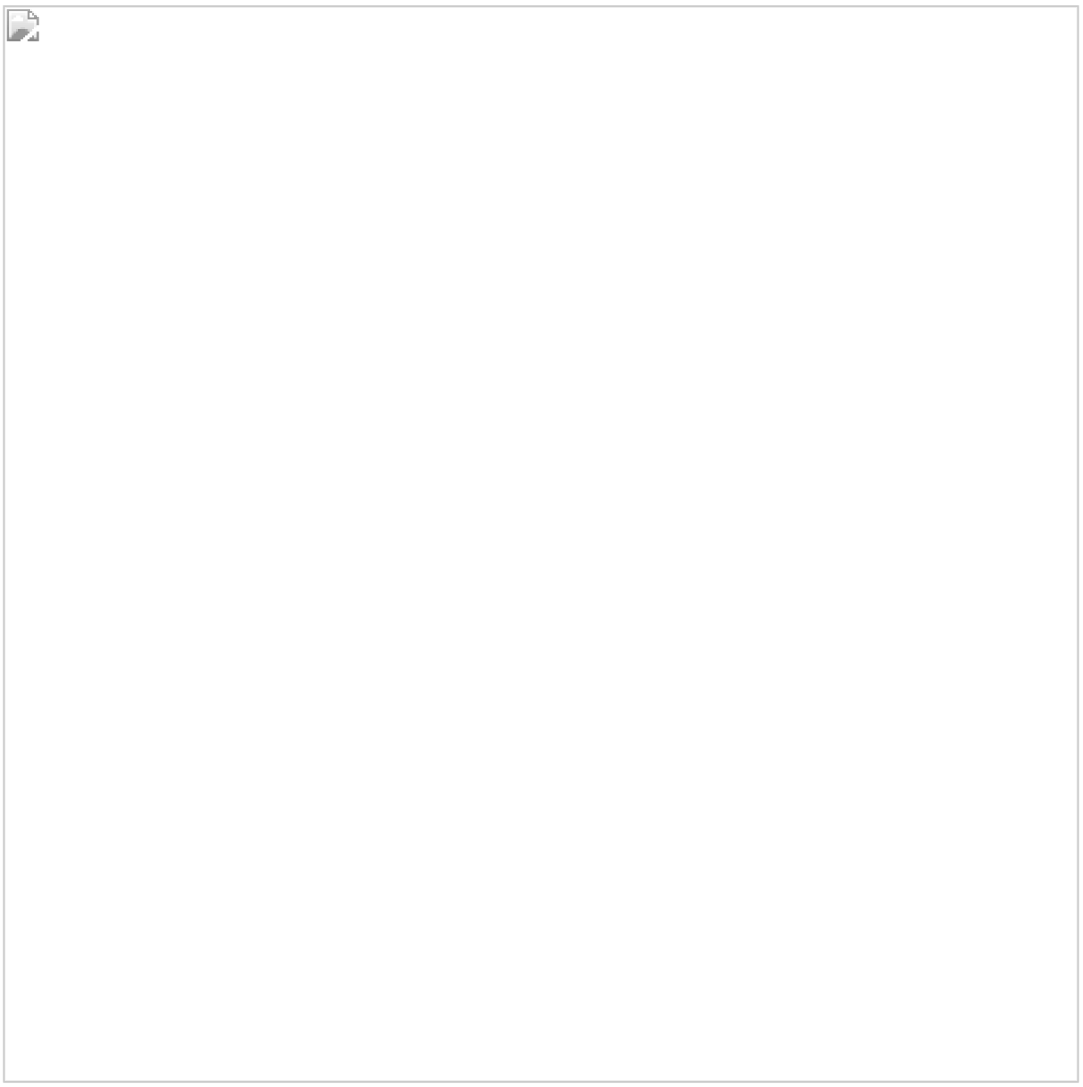
“Ah! madam,” cried the clerk. But he knew he must not play tricks with Ogresses. He took a great knife to Morning’s room, and the four-year-old came jumping and laughing to ask him for sugar-candy.

He wept, and the knife fell from his hand. He hid Morning with his wife and cooked a little lamb instead. The Queen never guessed.

Eight days later she wanted little Day. The clerk hid him with his sister and cooked a young kid instead.

TALK ABOUT IT

The clerk was afraid, but he did the kind thing. What would give a person that kind of courage?

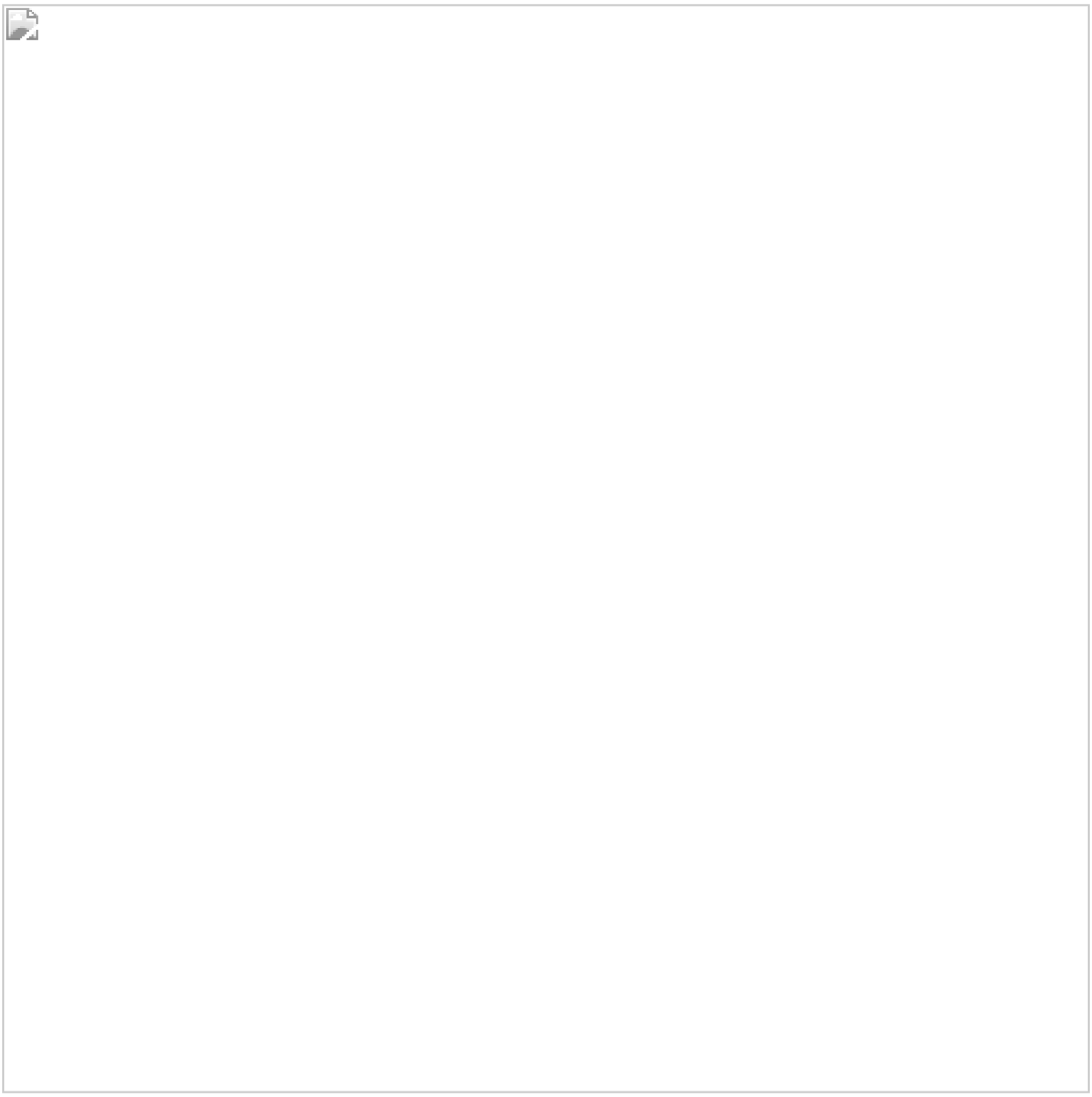


Think about it

1. What did the clerk of the kitchen cook in place of little Morning?

- ○ A little lamb
- ○ A pie
- ○ A pumpkin

A Young Hind



One evening the wicked Queen said she would have the young Queen too. The poor clerk was in despair, for he did not know where to find a beast to take her place.

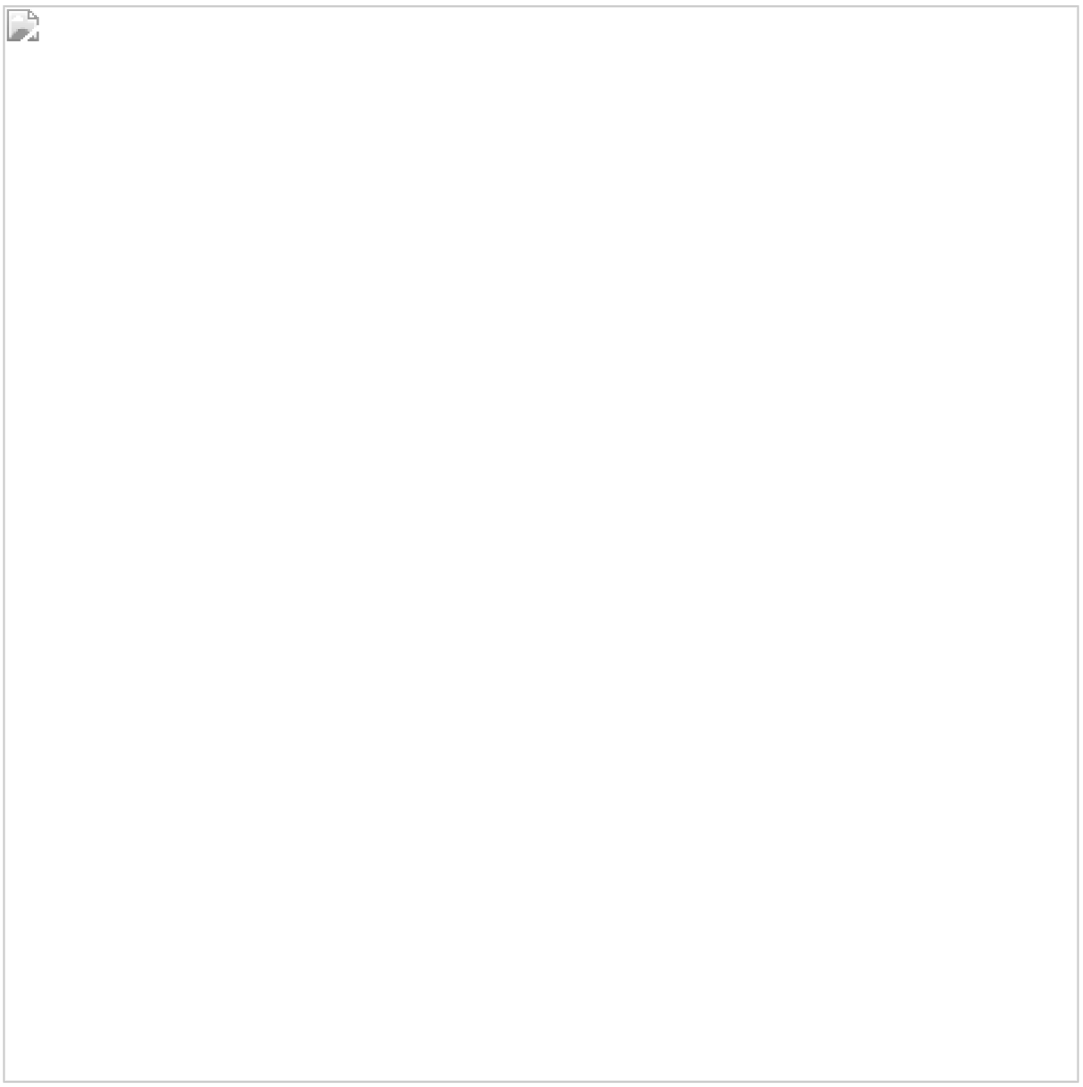
He went to the young Queen's chamber and, in tears, told her what the Queen-mother had ordered.

"No, no, madam," cried the poor clerk, "you shall not die, and yet you shall see your children again." He took her to his lodging, where she embraced her children and cried with them. Then he dressed a young hind, and the Queen-mother ate it at supper as if it were the young Queen.

TALK ABOUT IT

The clerk was brave and kind. What do you think the young Queen and her children felt when they were together again?

A Young Hind · another picture

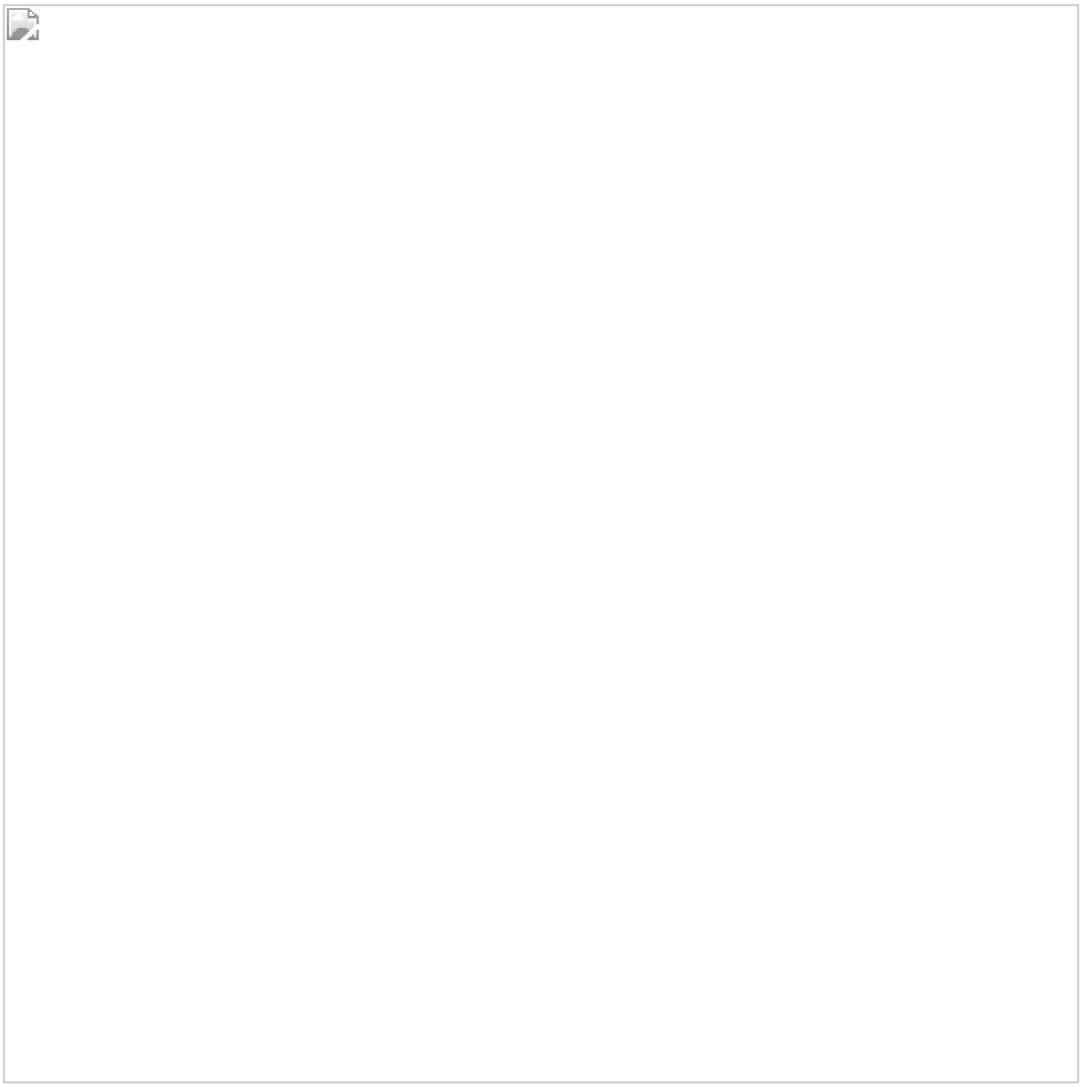


Think about it

1. What did the clerk give the wicked Queen at supper in place of the young Queen?

- ○ A young hind
- ○ A pumpkin
- ○ A loaf of bread

The Ogress's Own Plan



The Ogress heard little Day crying and Morning begging pardon for him.

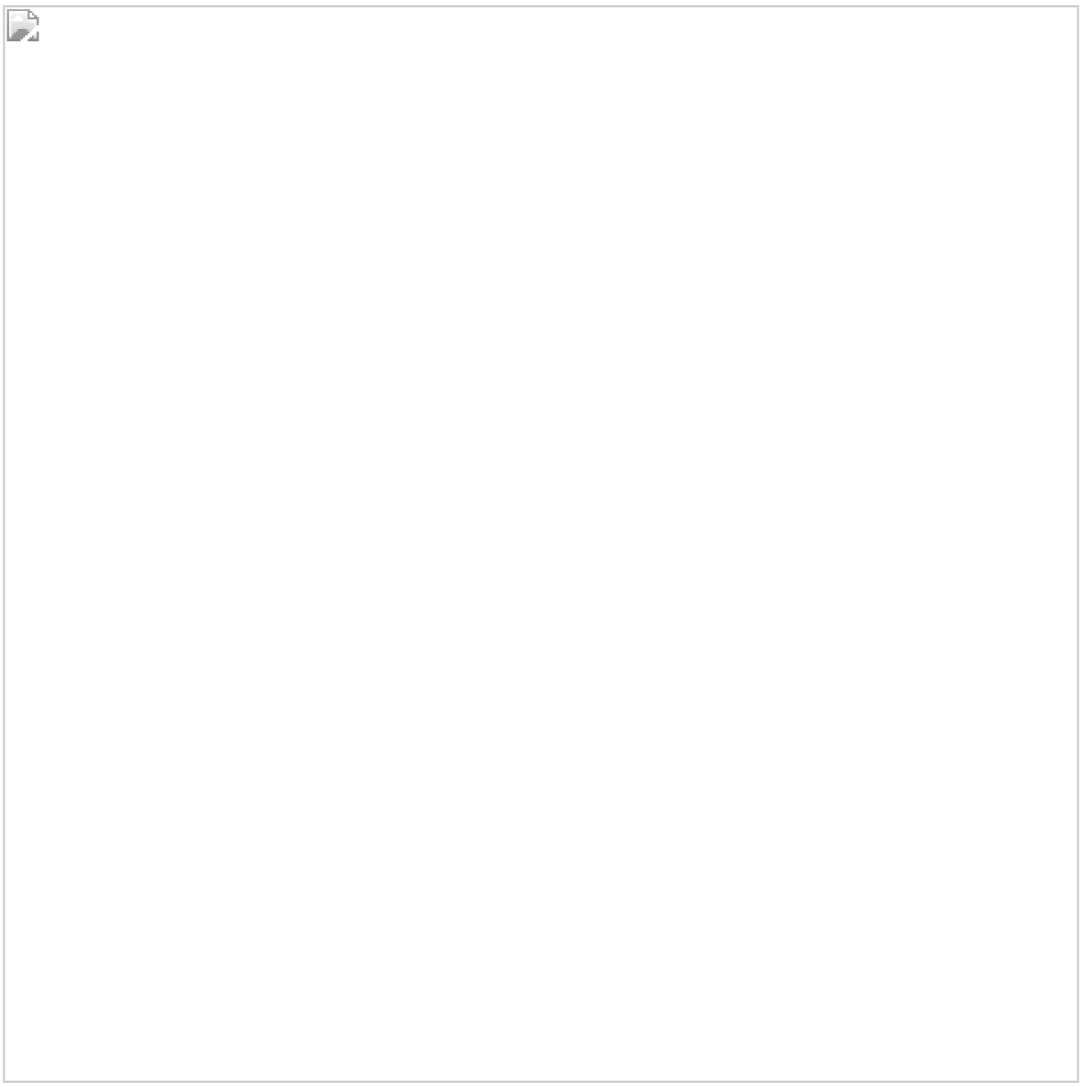
She knew she had been deceived. Next morning she had a great tub filled with toads, vipers and serpents, for the Queen, her children, the clerk, his wife and his maid.

They were about to be thrown in when the King, who was not so soon expected, rode into the court and asked what this horrible sight meant.

The Ogress threw herself head foremost into the tub, and her own wicked plan was the end of her. The King was sorry, for she was his mother, but he soon took comfort in his family.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Queen-mother's own plan failed. What do you notice about how the tale ends for everyone else?



Think about it

1. Who came home just in time?

- ○ The King
- ○ The Prince's mother
- ○ The good fairy

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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