

*Old Style*  
**SERIES.**

**THE SLEEPING  
BEAUTY!**



ARDROSSAN :—  
ARTHUR GUTHRIE.





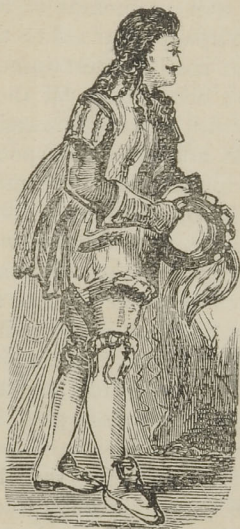
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*At last he came to an apartment, in which was a magnificent bed, and a young lady.—Page 10.*

THE  
SLEEPING BEAUTY.



ONCE upon a time there lived a king and queen who had no children, which made them very unhappy. Hoping, by some means or other to have an heir, they went to consult all the fairies they could hear of—vows, pilgrimages, every thing was tried but without success. At length, however, news was proclaimed that the queen

was going to have a child, and soon after she was brought to bed of a princess. The christening was most sumptuous ;

and seven fairies—being all that could be found in the country—were at once appointed to be her godmothers, so that each of them might bestow upon her a gift, as was the custom in those days. By these means the princess had every possible perfection. When the ceremonies of the baptism were over, all the company returned to the king's palace, where the most costly entertainment was prepared for the fairies; before each of them was set a magnificent cover, with a case of massive gold, which contained a knife, a fork, and a spoon, set with diamonds and rubies, and all of the most curious workmanship. As the company were going to place themselves at the table, an old fairy, who for more than fifty years had not left the tower she inhabited, and was believed to be either dead or enchanted, and on that account had not been invited to the christening, entered the room. The king immediately ordered a seat to be brought for her, and also a cover; but it could not be of massy gold, because only seven had been made, being one each for the seven fairies. The old fairy, seeing that her cover was not more than half so magnificent as those of her sister-fairies, thought that the king had made little of her, and muttering between her teeth that she would be fully revenged. One of the young fairies who sat next her, and caught the sounds that fell from her, fearing that she might bestow on the

infant princess some unlucky gift, on leaving the table, went and hid herself behind the window curtains, so that she might speak last, and thus repair as much as possible the injury intended by the old fairy. In the meantime, the fairies began to make their donations to the young princess. The first gave her for a gift, that she should be the most beautiful lady in the world—the next that she should have the wit of an angel—the third, that she should do everything she undertook with the most enchanting grace—the fourth, that she should dance so as to delight every beholder—the fifth that she should sing like a nightingale—the sixth, that she should play perfectly well on all sorts of musical instruments. It being the old fairy's turn to speak next, she came forward, shaking with spite, and said—'The gift I bestow on the princess shall be, that she shall pierce her hand with a spindle, and die of the wound.' This terrible gift made the whole assembly tremble, and every one but the old fairy fell to crying violently. Just at this instant, the young fairy came out from behind the window-curtains, and in a distinct voice pronounced the following words :—'Do not, O King and Queen, thus deeply afflict yourselves ; the princess shall not die of the wound ; for, though I have not the power wholly to prevent what an older fairy than I has decreed, I can, however, make her gift prove less injurious to the princess ; accordingly,

your daughter shall pierce her hand with a spindle ; but instead of dying of the wound, she shall only fall into a deep sleep, which shall continue for one hundred years, at the end of which time she shall be awakened by a young prince.' The king, thinking to avoid so terrible a misfortune, had it every where proclaimed that no person, on pain of death, should spin with a spindle, or even keep one in their house.

About sixteen years after this, the king and queen being at one of their palaces in the country, it happened that the young princess was one day running from room to room to amuse herself ; she at length found her way to a small apartment at the top of a tower, in which an old woman sat spinning with a spindle (for the poor old creature had never heard of the proclamation that had been made against spindles.)

'What are you doing, Goody?' said the princess; 'I am spinning, my pretty lady,' replied the old woman, who did not know to whom she was speaking. 'Ah! how I should like to do such fine work!' continued the princess—'Pray let me try.' She had no sooner taken the spindle in her hand than, being very sprightly and thoughtless, she ran the point of it into her hand, and instantly fell down in a sound sleep. The old woman being greatly frightened, and at a loss what to do, called out for help. Several persons immediately ran to her assistance; they



threw cold water on the princess's face, cut the lace of her stays, rubbed her hands and temples with Hungary water—but all to no purpose, for she remained fast asleep. The king ordered her to be carried to the most sumptuous apartment in the palace, and laid on a bed made of the richest velvet, and ornamented with gold and silver. The princess in this situation, appeared so beautiful that she might have been taken for an angel, for the deep sleep into which she had fallen did not the least injury to her fine complexion; her cheeks still resembled the most delicate roses, and her lips the finest coral ever seen; the only difference being that her eyes, which sparkled like diamonds, were now covered by the lids. She breathed so softly that they were quite sure she was not dead; and the king commanded that no one should attempt to disturb her repose.

The kind fairy who had saved her life, by thus condemning her to sleep a hundred years, was in the kingdom of Matakín, at the distance of 12,000 leagues when the accident happened to the princess; the news of it, however, was carried to her in a short time by a dwarf who was her friend, and who used his seven-leagued boots for the purpose; that is, boots which he could stride over seven leagues of ground at once.

The fairy immediately set off, and in less than an

hour descended in a fiery chariot drawn by dragons, in the outer yard of the palace. The king hastened to welcome and assist her in getting out of the chariot, and then related what had happened. The fairy approved of all the king had done ; but having a great deal of foresight, she remarked to him that the princess, on awaking, would be extremely terrified to find herself alone in so old and gloom a place. After thinking a few minutes what could possibly be done to remedy this inconvenience, she soon hit upon an expedient ; she touched all the persons in the palace, except the king and queen, with her wand ; maids of honour, governesses, waiting-women, gentlemen - ushers, grooms of the bed - chamber, lords in waiting, stewards, cooks, scullions, guards, pages, and footmen, were all thrown into a sleep as sound as that of the princess, till the time should arrive for the princess to awake, when they would be ready at a moment's warning to wait upon her. Even the very spits, and the partridges and pheasants that were roasting on them, together with the fire, were all laid asleep ; and all this was concluded in a moment— for fairies are never long in performing their feats. The king and queen, after embracing their daughter tenderly, without awaking her, left the palace ; and made a proclamation, that no one, on pain of death, should dare approach her. The king might, how-

ever, have saved himself this trouble ; for in a quarter of an hour there sprang up round the palace a vast number of trees of all sorts and sizes, bushes and brambles, all twining one in the other, that neither man nor beast could have made a passage through them. At the end of the hundred years, the son of a reigning king, who was of a different family from that of the sleeping princess, happened to pass near the palace as he was hunting, and asked his attendants to whom the turrets and the wood belonged. Some of them said it was an old castle that was haunted by ghosts ; others, that all the witches in the country assembled in it to hold their nightly meetings ; but the most common opinion was that it was inhabited by an ogre, who retired within its walls to devour all the children he ran away with. The prince had just alighted, when an old peasant approached him and said—‘ May it please your Royal Highness, I was told more than fifty years ago, by my father, who heard it from my grandfather, that there was concealed in this palace a princess of exquisite beauty, who was condemned by a fairy to sleep a hundred years, and was then to be awakened by the son of a king, who was to be her husband.’ The young prince listened eagerly to this discourse, and thought he must be the prince intended by the fairy to awake her ; and, hurried on by gallantry and love, he resolved on entering the palace. After considerable

difficulty, he entered a spacious court, where every thing he saw might have terrified the stoutest heart in the world. All the men and animals that had been laid asleep were stretched on the ground, and appeared as if they were dead, and there was a fearful silence through all the palace. After a little time, however, he perceived, by the red faces of the men-servants, that they were only asleep; and as there was still some beer left in the bottom of their cups, he saw plainly that they had fallen asleep while drinking. The prince next went through a large court paved with marble, which led to a staircase, this he ascended and came to the chamber of the guards, who were all standing in ranks with their muskets on their shoulders, and snoring with all their might. He continued his way through several other apartments, which were filled with ladies and gentlemen, some sitting, some standing, but all fast asleep. At last he came to an apartment gilded all over with gold, in which was a magnificent bed, with the curtains drawn back, and a young lady, about sixteen years of age, more beautiful than any one he had ever seen. After he had stood looking for a few minutes with the greatest delight upon her, he could not help falling upon his knees to her as if she had been awake. The enchantment of the fairy being thus ended, the princess opened her eyes, and, casting them on the prince with a look of more tender-

ness than is common at first sight—‘Is it you my prince?’ said she; ‘How long you have made me wait for you!’

The prince, delighted at these words, and still more at the sweet tone of voice in which she pronounced them, was at a loss how to express his gratitude and joy. He assured her that he loved her better than he did himself; and this, with many other expressions of the same kind, he repeated a thousand and a thousand times.

‘Ah, dear prince,’ replied she, ‘I feel that we were made for each other. It was you I saw, it was you who were my companion, and during my long sleep I thought of no one but you.’

In the meantime all the attendants who had been asleep the same time as the princess, were awaked, and had set about their work; but as they were not like the princess, in love, they found themselves extremely hungry, for it was very long since they had eaten anything. The first maid of honour, who was as sharp set as the rest, even ventured to tell the princess, without any ceremony, that the dinner was served.

The prince then assisted the princess to rise. He took her hand, and conducted her to the room in which the dinner was served; as soon as they had seated themselves at table, the musicians, who were in readiness with their instruments, began to play

some airs, which, though they were out of fashion, were nevertheless very agreeable. The prince and princess passed the evening, delighted with each others company ; and as a long courtship was not necessary, they agreed to be married that very night. The lord almoner was consulted, and he consented to perform the ceremony, providing the chapel could be got ready (for it was very dusty and full of cobwebs). There were plenty of hands willing to be employed on such an occasion, so that the chapel was soon swept, the crimson velvet hangings neatly brushed, and the books nicely dusted.

When all was ready, my lord almoner led the way in his canonical robes, with his mitre on his head, and preceded by half a dozen servants in the richest liveries that can be imagined, bearing each a lighted torch—then followed six beautiful boys in white surplices, with censers in their hands, perfuming the air with the most aromatic sweets—after them followed the prince and princess, hand in hand ; next followed the maids of honour, the gentlemen and ladies of the bed-chamber, the lords in waiting, and in short the whole court. They were all magnificently dressed, but, as you may suppose, their clothes were rather old-fashioned. So soon as the ceremony was performed, they returned to a magnificent banquet, where the company enjoyed themselves to a very late hour.

The next morning the prince reflected that he had been guilty of a very great fault in marrying without having previously asked the consent of his parents ; not but what he would readily have obtained the pardon of the king his father, who was a very good and benevolent man, but the queen, his mother, was descended from the race of cannibal giants called Ogres ; and though some generations had passed, she still retained their horrid inclinations, and had all the difficulty in the world, when she saw little children pass, to refrain from falling on them and eating them up.

The prince, therefore, resolved not to say one word at home of his marriage, and took the opportunity, under pretence of hunting, to visit his beautiful princess three or four times a week. He lived in this way some years, and had in that time two children—the eldest of which, who was a daughter, was named MORNING, and the youngest, who was a son, they called DAY, because he was much handsomer and more beautiful than his sister.

The Queen Mother, suspecting that her son's frequent huntings, at all seasons, was only a pretence to colour other engagements, had the prince watched ; and, having discovered the abode of the princess and her lovely children, resolved to eat her grandchildren. An opportunity soon offered—for the Emperor Cantalabutte having declared war

against the king, the prince was appointed Generalissimo, and went at the head of the army to defend the kingdom against this powerful adversary. The queen, as soon as the prince was departed, lost no time in going to the wood. Having paid her respects to the princess, and kissed the children, she called the good old cook aside, and said to him—‘ I have a mind to eat little Morning for my dinner to-morrow ! Fail not at your peril ; and let her be well seasoned, and with plenty of my favourite sauce.’ The poor man, knowing very well that he must not play tricks with Ogresses, took his great knife, and went up to little Morning’s chamber very early the next day ; but, instead of killing her, he carried her to a little room he had at the bottom of the garden, and then killed a little lamb, and had it dressed so excellently, that the wicked queen did not know that she was cheated. Little Day was saved in the same way. When the queen left, he took little Day to his wife in the old castle, where he had already placed little Morning. On her next visit, this wicked Queen said to him—‘ I will eat the young princess with the same sauce I had with her children.’ The poor cook, in order to execute the wicked queen’s commands, put himself in a seeming great passion, and rushed into the princess’s chamber with a drawn dagger. He told her the cruel orders he had received from the Ogre queen. ‘ Come, do it, do it,’ said she, ‘ and



then I will go to my poor children whom I love so dearly.' 'No, no, madame,' cried the good cook, all in tears, 'you shall not die; and you shall see your children again; only conceal yourself until the queen is gone, and I will take you to them.' This overjoyed the princess, who at once concealed herself. The cook then went and dressed in her stead a young hind, which the queen had for her supper, and devoured it with the same appetite as if it had been the princess. Delighted with her cruelty, she then invented a story to deceive her son; and, as she returned home, she caused it to be noised about that the wood in which the castle was situated was infested with robbers, who murdered and destroyed every one that came in the way.

In the meantime, the cook, so soon as the queen was departed, carried the princess to the children. The transports of this good mother, and the caresses of her affectionate children, were without bounds; but, alas! their troubles were not yet at an end.

The wicked queen, soon after her arrival at home, found that a peace was nearly concluded; and, expecting her son, found she had no time to lose in order to deceive him. She, therefore, took the soldiers and returned to the castle, to see if all was as she left it.

On her arrival, she crept softly to an open window, and saw the princess, her two children, and the cook

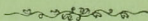
and his wife, playing at blind-man's-buff. She ordered the soldiers to strip and bind them all—while the large brewing copper, filled with oil, was put on the fire ; intending to boil them in it, as the cruelest death she could devise. At this awful moment, the Prince rushed into the apartment ; and the wicked queen, overcome with rage, threw herself headlong into the boiling oil, and died in great agony.

The prince's father resigned his crown to him ; and, as king and queen, lived long and happy, and were succeeded by little DAY, who took care not to marry without the consent of his parents.



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