

Sleeping Beauty

In a faraway land, long ago, lived King Stefan and his fair queen. One day a daughter was born and they called her Aurora. They named her after the dawn, for she filled their lives with sunshine.

From near and far the people came, bringing their gifts, to celebrate the royal birth.

The most honored guests were the three good fairies: Fauna, Flora, and Merryweather. Each could give the child a single gift. Flora blessed the child with beauty. Fauna gave the gift of song, that she might sing like a nightingale.

Little Merryweather was about to give her gift when suddenly there was a roar of thunder and a gust of wind. A blinding flash of light filled the great hall, and before them stood the evil Maleficent. “Well, King Stefan. I was quite upset that I did not get an invitation. I, too, have a gift for the child.

“The princess shall indeed grow in grace and beauty. But before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday, she shall prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel, and die!”

“Oh, no!” The cry rose from every heart. But before anyone could catch Maleficent and make her take back her evil curse, she disappeared.

What a terrible situation! But there was hope. Merryweather still had her gift to give. “Your Majesties, I cannot undo this wicked curse, but I can help.”

Merryweather waved her magic wand over the cradle. “Sweet princess, if all this should come to pass, not in death, but just in sleep. And from this you shall awake, when true love’s kiss the spell shall break.”

But King Stefan was still fearful for his daughter’s life. “This does not take away the evil threat. We must take action! Let every spindle and spinning wheel in the country be burned.” That night, the countryside was bright with the fire of burning wheels.

Meanwhile, the three good fairies were trying to think of a better plan. Merryweather told the others, “A bonfire won’t stop Maleficent. There must be some way we can protect Aurora from that wicked old witch! I know. Let us raise the princess in a secret place. We will keep her safe until her sixteenth birthday.” Sadly, the King and Queen agreed.

Dressed as simple farming women, the three good fairies took the young princess to a tiny cottage deep in the forest. They called her Briar Rose instead of Aurora, and never told her she was a princess. So, for sixteen years, the whereabouts of Aurora remained a mystery.

Oh her sixteenth birthday, Briar Rose was picking berries when she happened to meet a handsome young man riding in the forest. He was very kind. But she was rather shy.

She was not supposed to speak with strangers, but Briar Rose felt as if she knew him, for she had often dreamed of meeting someone so charming. She asked him to come to the cottage that evening and meet her family. Then Briar Rose rushed home to tell Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather her happy news. She was falling in love!

When Briar Rose told the fairy godmothers about her true love, they grew sad. “Since it’s your sixteenth birthday, we must tell you the truth now. You are really Princess Aurora. Your marriage to Prince Philip will take place this very evening in your father’s castle. You can never see your handsome stranger again.” Briar Rose burst into tears.

Meanwhile, the young stranger rode off to tell his father that he had just met the girl of his dreams. Actually, the young man was Prince Philip. When he told his father, King Hubert, about Briar Rose, the King became very upset.

“What? You’ve fallen in love with some farming girl? I won’t accept it! I promised my neighbor, King Stefan, that you would marry his daughter, Aurora! You’re a prince! And you’re going to marry a princess!”

But Philip’s mind was made up. Off he rode to the cottage in the woods to meet his true love, Briar Rose.

But she was not there. The three good fairies had carefully escorted her back to King Stefan’s castle. The poor princess should have been happy, but all she could think of her lost love.

Merryweather led her up to her room. “Cheer up, dear. You can’t meet your father looking so unhappy. We’ll leave you alone for a few moments to dry your tears.”

While the good fairies waited outside, a mysterious voice began calling to the sad princess. “Aurora. Aurora.” In a trance, she followed the haunting sound up a winding stairway to the top of the tower.

Off in the distance, Merryweather heard the evil chant. “Listen! It’s Maleficent!”

The fairies rushed through the palace corridors searching for the princess. “Rose! Rose! Don’t touch anything!”

But Maleficent’s curse was far too powerful. The evil fairy called out from the shadows, “Touch the

spindle. Touch it, I say!” As if in a dream, Aurora stretched out her hand to touch the shining spindle.

The fairies finally found Maleficent, but alas, it was too late.

“You poor, simple fools. Thinking you could defeat me. Me, mistress of all evil! Well, here’s your precious princess.” Maleficent pulled back her long cape to reveal the beautiful Aurora, lying in a deep sleep. Maleficent disappeared in a blaze of light. Her curse was complete. Now only true love’s kiss could save Aurora.

Merryweather knew they must do something. “No one must ever know of this wicked deed. We’ll put everyone to sleep until Rose awakens.”

As the fairies cast their spell over the castle, they heard King Hubert say, “My son, Philip, has lost his mind. He fell in love with some girl named Briar Rose.”

Flora realized that the young stranger Rose had met in the forest was really Prince Philip. But miles away, Maleficent was plotting. “Prince Philip is the only person who can break my evil curse. I must find him at once.” She and her demon army captured Philip and locked him in a deep dungeon. But the good fairies flew to rescue him. They gave him a magic sword and led him to the sleeping princess.

Maleficent was so angry when she found that the prince had escaped. Determined to stop him, she turned herself into a fiery dragon. But her evil could not overcome Philip’s magic sword and his true love. As a result, Maleficent was destroyed.

With the help of the three fairies, Prince Philip found the tiny tower room where his sleeping beauty lay. There, dreaming of her true love, was the Princess Aurora – the very same girl he had fallen in love with. He gave her a kiss. She opened her eyes and smiled. Maleficent’s spell was broken!

Soon, the whole castle was awake, and the joyous wedding celebration began.

And so, the Sleeping Beauty and her own true love were married and lived happily ever after.