

The Perfect Princess

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'TERRIBLE!!!' the princess screamed out loud as she woke up. 'I could hardly close my eyes throughout the whole night! What's under this mattress! I was like lying on a pile of beans. It is terrible!'

'What do you want from me?' the prince finally shouted, 'this is the last mattress in the entire country! You never seem to be contented! I'm so tired with this. I've been wanting to divorce and I want it NOW!'

'You just don't understand!'

'IT'S ENOUGH! WE ARE DIVORCED!' the prince slammed the bedroom door, leaving the princess alone.

What defines a real princess? He thought to himself. Sensitive enough to feel a pea? Ridiculous!

He had made his decision to find his really REAL princess, an understanding and beautiful princess. So he rode away on his white horse and started his journey.



On his way, there were seven dwarfs surrounding a glass coffin of a young girl. She was as white as snow, and so red were her lips. 'Fragile, and beautiful! This might be the real princess', he thought.

'Kiss her, for God's sake, or she may die!' one

of the dwarfs begged.

Closing his eyes, the prince kissed the princess' lips. But just as the prince opened his eyes, the princess was already awake, staring at him.

'AAAGHHH!!!' he was so frightened that his hair went all straight, 'Are you a ghost or something? You almost scared my heart out of me!'

'What?' the 'princess' sighed coarsely, 'I thought it would be romantic enough for you to fall in love with me on our first kiss!'

'What? I...'

'Everyone knows you are divorced,' said the dwarfs, 'every girl is preparing themselves to be your next bride!'

'Oh, no!' he slapped himself, trying to clear his head, 'I want an affectionate princess and I'm not going to marry you because of a kiss!' And he immediately got on his horse and rode away.



The prince and his horse ran so fast that they almost dashed into a lake, where the prince found another young lady, who was dressed neatly in an imperial golden color, searching for something. 'How lucky am I!' thought the prince. 'She might be the real princess I'm looking for.' So he walked towards her, trying to start a conversation.

'Anything I can help?' he asked politely.

'Oh! Would you please find me some frogs, as many as you can? It's urgent!' So desperate was she looking for frogs that she didn't even raise her head to look at him.

The prince was puzzled, 'Pardon me, did you say...frogs?'

'It's just complicated. My father has decided to have the just-divorced-prince of the neighboring country as my husband, but I hardly even know him! Now my only hope is to kiss a frog into a prince I love, so that I don't have to marry that heartless prince! How good could he be if he can divorce his wife so casually!' she continued searching as she finished her words.

The prince was so ashamed that he blushed like a sunset, he knew that it was himself, the 'heartless' prince she mentioned. 'I...' thinking how to respond, he found himself stepping on her full-length fanciful dress, making her - 'splash' – fall into the lake.

'I'M EXTREMELY SORRY!!!' And the prince rushed away on his horse.



It was forgotten how long the prince travelled until there was suddenly a strong freezing wind. The prince had a hard time riding against the gusty wind. Just before the prince was frozen to death, he found a grand ice castle at the end of the path.

'You shouldn't be here,' said a voice which belonged to a woman. He turned around and saw her - Light blue dress with sparkles, white-haired but young.

'Step away from my castle!' she ordered in a powerful voice. The prince was mesmerized by her voice. He felt like he had found the real princess. He couldn't help getting closer to her and all in a sudden, he was frozen – she felt threatened and used her magic powers to turn him into an ice statue.



So hopeless was he, standing frozen in the middle of nowhere, with no one for help.

A drop of tear dropped onto the snowy ground – it couldn't be! Statues couldn't cry.

Another drop fell on the ground. He felt his body temperature returning to normal – he was thawed!

He heard someone sobbing, and he recognized the sound. It was the princess of the pea, his wife - her tears had melted the ice.

'You would have died!' cried she, hugging him as tight as she could. Not saying anything, he promptly hugged her back.



The prince had always wanted a real princess. He travelled for miles to find one, but there was always something wrong. There were plenty of princesses, but whether they were real princesses he had great difficulty to tell; there was always something which was not quite right about them.

He might not be able to realise that the one right in front of him was his real princess when she whined about the pea which was under her twenty mattresses. True love is shown in adversity. He found the real princess when he saw her heart, his real princess.

So the prince took her to be his wife again. Although there was no guarantee for happiness ever after, for now he was sure that he had found a real princess, the princess who was willing to travel miles for him, or even sacrifice for him. And the pea she felt under her bed was put into the Royal Museum, where it can still be seen nowadays if no one has stolen it.

