

GRADED READERS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

CHARLES PERRAULT



Student's Book

LEVEL 2


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AND
THE BEAST

CHARLES PERRAULT

Adapted by H. Q. Mitchell

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CHAPTER 1

ONCE UPON A TIME IN A COUNTRY FAR AWAY, THERE LIVED A very rich merchant. In fact, the merchant was the richest man in town. The merchant and his wife had three sons and two daughters. The family lived in a very big house with many rooms and servants. The merchant's wife gave birth to another daughter. The youngest daughter was very beautiful, so everyone called her Beauty. Soon after Beauty's birth, her mother died. As she grew older, Beauty became prettier and prettier. Her sisters were very jealous because everyone admired her. They were very mean to her and never played with Beauty. Beauty's brothers were nice to her, but they were always busy, so they didn't play with her either.

The merchant's older daughters were very spoiled and always asked their father for gifts. Beauty never asked her father for anything, so she became his favourite. Beauty's sisters often went to parties, but Beauty stayed home with her father. Beauty loved books and enjoyed reading to her father. A lot of young men wanted to marry Beauty's sisters because the girls were very rich. However, Beauty's sisters were not interested in these young men. They wanted to marry a prince or a duke. So they waited.

Beauty was in no hurry to get married either. "My Prince will appear some day," she thought.

And so the years went by. Beauty's sisters became even meaner to her because they couldn't find good enough husbands. But Beauty never complained.

There was a young man in town called Pierre. He was very handsome but he also showed off a lot. Pierre wanted to marry Beauty because she was so beautiful and so rich. One day, he decided to visit her. He went to Beauty's house and knocked on the door. A servant opened the door.

"Who are you sir and what do you want?" the servant asked.

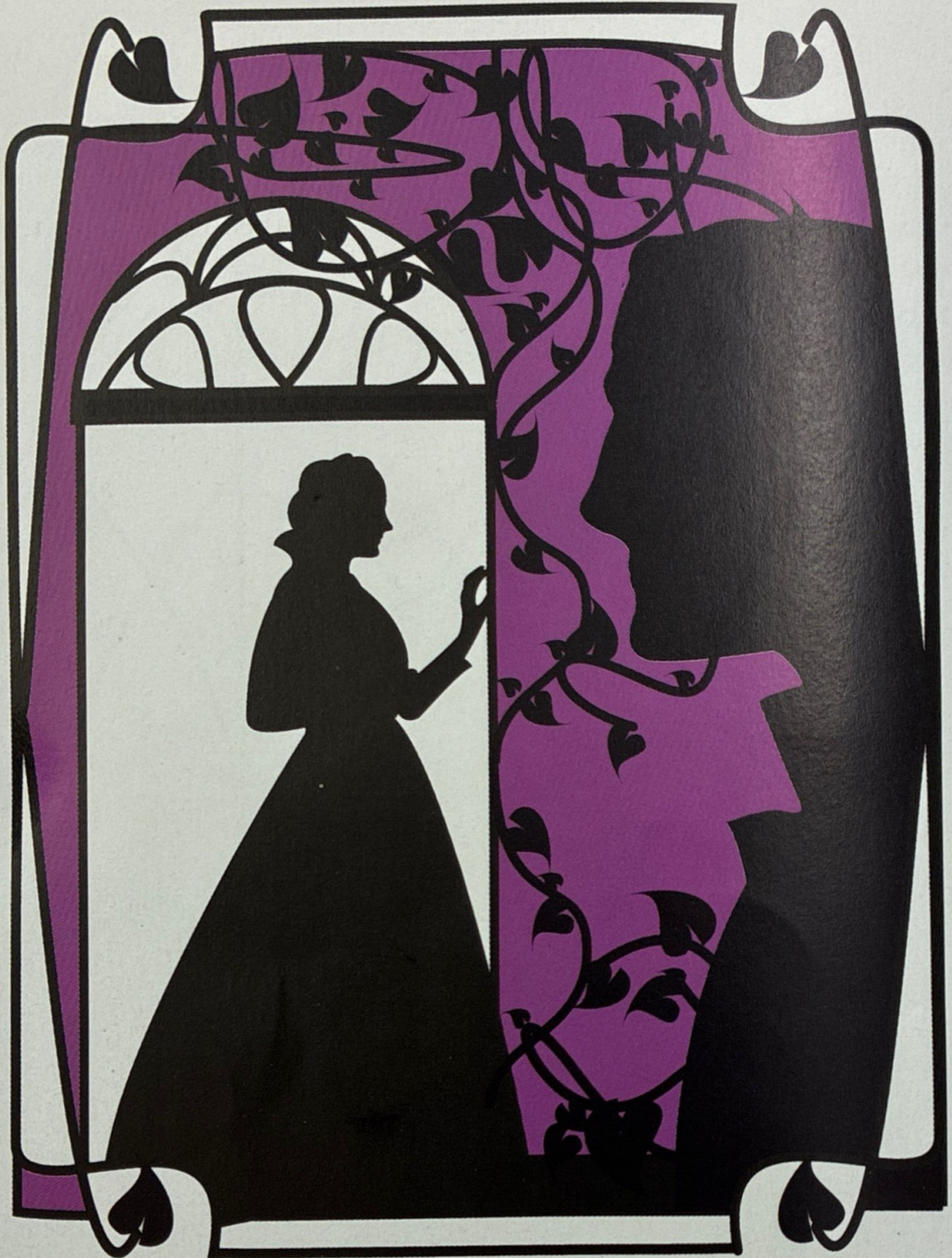
"I am Pierre and I want to talk to Beauty," answered Pierre very rudely.

"Is she expecting you?" the servant asked.

"No, but that is not important," Pierre replied. "Just tell her I am here."

"I cannot do that," said the servant. She was about to close the door when Beauty appeared.





“Are you looking for someone, sir?” she asked.

“Yes,” Pierre replied. “I am Pierre, the most handsome man in town, and I am here because I want to marry Beauty.”

“Stop,” said Beauty. “I am Beauty and I thank you, sir, but I am too young to marry.”

“But...” Pierre started to say.

“Perhaps when I’m older,” said Beauty and closed the door.

Pierre was angry and went away. However, he still wanted to marry Beauty.

CHAPTER 2

ONE DAY, THE MERCHANT GATHERED HIS CHILDREN AROUND HIM. “I have some very bad news for you, dear children. All my fortune is gone and we are no longer rich. I have worked many years to make a fortune. Now we are quite poor. We must leave this great house with its many servants.”

The merchant’s older daughters were very sad when they heard the news.

“What are we going to do now?” they cried. “How will we buy new clothes and go to fine parties? How will we marry a prince or a duke? Oh dear, this is terrible,” said the girls and fainted.

Beauty was very calm.

“Do not worry, dear father,” she said. “I will always be here to take care of you.”



Soon the family sold their great house. The merchant owned a small cottage in the country far from the town. The family moved there.

Now they all had to work for a living. Beauty and her brothers woke up early every morning. The boys worked hard in the fields and Beauty did the housework. She was always cheerful and never complained. Now that she was poor, Pierre was no longer interested in marrying her. This made Beauty very happy, because she didn't like Pierre. Beauty's sisters didn't help at all. They woke up late every day and behaved as though they were still very rich. They always complained and they were very mean to Beauty. Beauty did all the work in the house because there were no servants and her sisters were so lazy. Every morning she milked the cows and cleaned the house. Then she cooked dinner for the whole family.

"If I work hard," she thought, "it will make life easier for father".

The family had to sell a lot of their possessions, but they didn't sell Beauty's books. Every evening after dinner, Beauty washed the dishes and put them away. Then, she chose a book and read a story to her father.

Weeks and months passed. One day, the merchant received a letter. When he read it, he gathered his family around him and shared the news with his children.

"My dear children, I have wonderful news. A ship with all my goods has arrived safely. I thought it was lost! Now I will sell the goods and we will be rich again."

Beauty's sisters jumped with joy when they heard the news.

"I must go on a long journey to claim my fortune," continued the merchant.

Beauty was happy for her father, but she was also a little sad because he had to go away.

"We will be rich again," exclaimed Beauty's sisters. "We will have beautiful clothes and a lot of young men will want to marry us. Go quickly, Father. Bring back our fortune and many presents for us."

Beauty didn't ask for anything.

"What would you like me to bring you, Beauty?" her father asked.

"All I want from you, Father, is that you come back home safe. But if you must bring me something, bring me a red rose."

And so the merchant set off on his journey.



CHAPTER 3

WHILE THE MERCHANT WAS AWAY, BEAUTY CONTINUED TO do all the work in the house. She cleaned, cooked and did all the laundry for her brothers and sisters without complaining. Her brothers continued to work in the fields. Her sisters did nothing to help Beauty.

“We are going to be rich again!” That’s all they thought about all the time.

At last, the merchant arrived in the city after a long journey. However, the news was not good. Someone cheated him and he lost his fortune again. The merchant went to court to reclaim his money, and the trial lasted a couple of months. He won, but all his money was gone. The merchant was very disappointed.

“I have worked so long for nothing,” he thought. “Once I was one of the richest men in the country. Now I am still one of the poorest. What am I going to tell my children?”

So, the merchant set off on his journey home. He was going back as poor as before. He travelled for weeks.

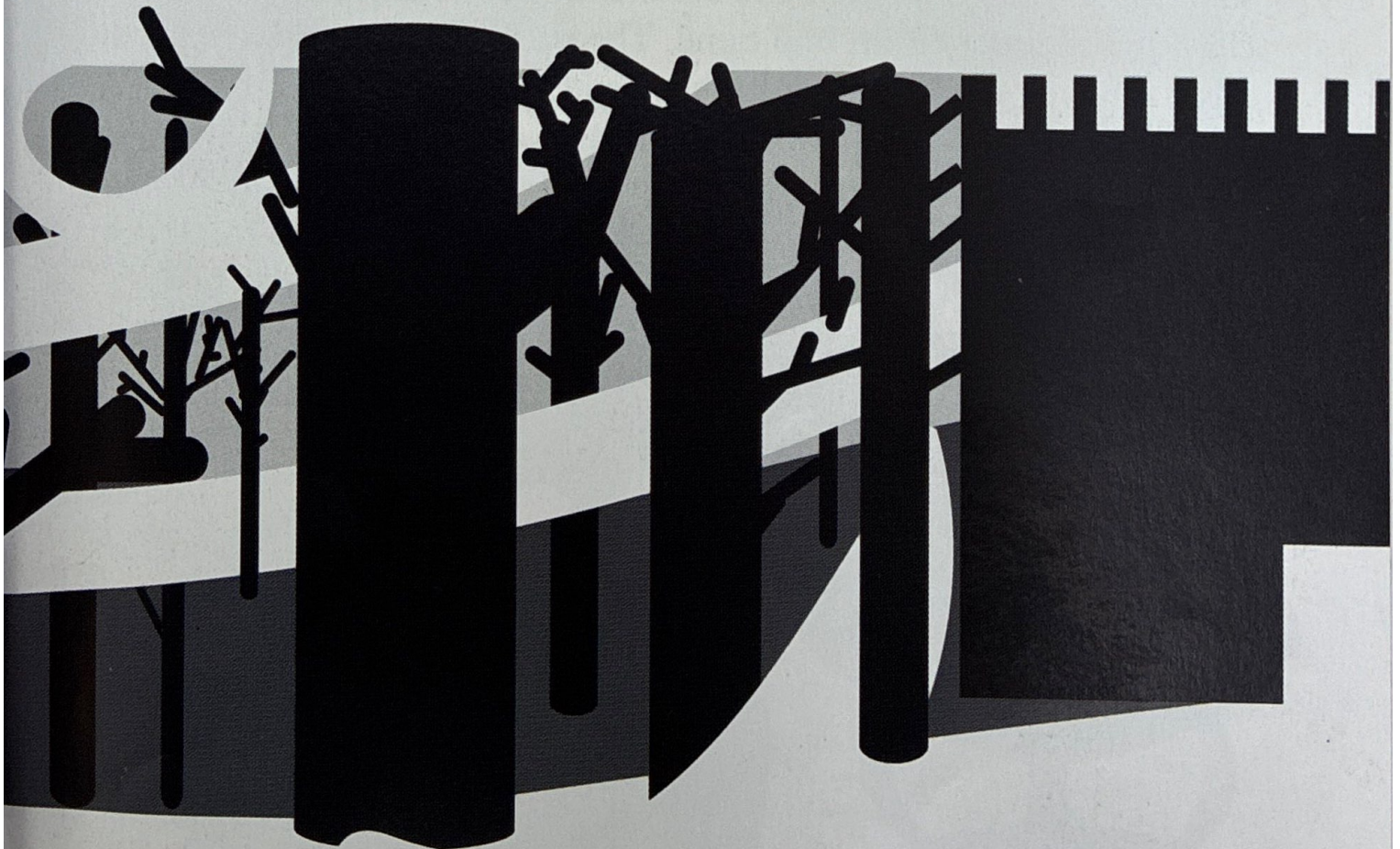


“I cannot wait to see my own dear children again,” he thought to himself when he was almost home.

It was getting dark when he started going through a large forest. Suddenly, the weather changed. A high wind started to blow, snow started to fall and soon it turned into a storm. The horse struggled on, but it fell several times. As the merchant pushed his horse on, he heard wolves howling in the distance. Soon, he was lost in the forest. It was now completely dark. The sound of the wolves seemed closer.

“Oh, I hope the wolves won’t eat me. I want to see my children again,” thought the merchant.

Suddenly, he could see lights in the distance. He continued to push his horse on. As he rode towards the light, a great building appeared. The merchant was very happy. He thanked God for his good luck. As he came closer to the building, he saw that it was a palace. The door to the outer court was open, so the merchant led his horse slowly in. The stable door was also open, so they went inside. There was plenty of hay and oats on the floor. The horse was tired and very hungry, so it started to eat right away. The merchant started looking for the owner of the palace. The palace was very large, much larger than the merchant’s old house.



CHAPTER 4

THE MERCHANT CROSSED THE COURTYARD AND REACHED THE front door of the palace. He knocked several times, but there was no answer. Then, he noticed that the door was unlocked. The merchant opened it and walked into a large hall. A fire was already burning. He warmed himself by it and dried his clothes.

“Hello,” the merchant called out. “Is anyone here?”

There was no reply.

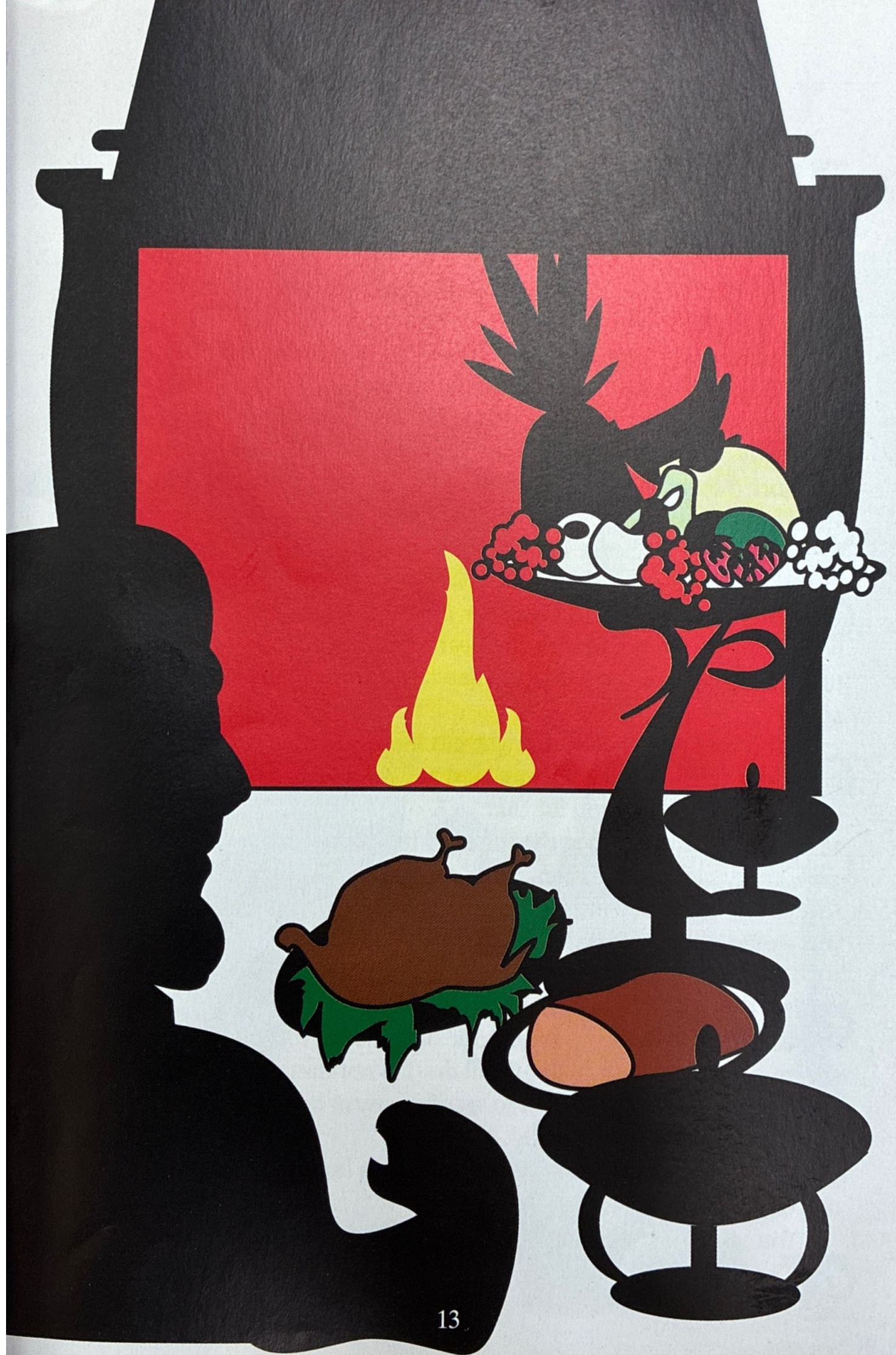
“Hello,” he called again, but the palace was completely silent.

The merchant waited for some time, but no one came. He decided to look around. The merchant went through another open door and came to a huge dining hall. In the middle of the room there was a large table with lots of food on it. He saw roast chickens and beef and all kinds of fruit and vegetables. And there were just two chairs.

“If I wait a little longer,” thought the merchant, “perhaps someone will join me.”

He waited for some time but no one came. By now, the merchant was very hungry, and the food looked very tasty. He couldn't wait any longer, so he sat down to eat. He ate and drank until he was full and satisfied. The clock ticked and still no one came. The palace was very quiet and the merchant was very tired. He left the great dining hall and looked for a place to rest. He passed many big rooms and saw that they were all empty. Finally he came to a room with a big bed. The merchant went inside, closed the door and went to bed.

“Perhaps when I wake up in the morning,” he thought, “I will find my host.” He fell asleep immediately.



CHAPTER 5

THE MERCHANT SLEPT PEACEFULLY AND RESTED WELL. When he woke up in the morning, he looked around and he was surprised to find new clothes on a chair by the bed.

“What is this?” he asked himself. “Someone was in the room while I was sleeping. I must find my host to thank him. He is very kind and generous.”

The merchant got dressed and went to the dining hall. No one was there, but there was a large breakfast on the table.

“How kind of my host,” he said aloud, but there was no reply.

The merchant ate some porridge and drank some hot chocolate. Then he decided to go out and look for the owner of the palace. The merchant went out of the palace. He turned down a path and walked towards the stable. There was a hedge of roses on each side of the path. Everywhere he looked, he saw beautiful red roses.

“I promised Beauty to bring her a red rose,” he thought. As he cut a beautiful rose from a branch, he heard a dreadful noise behind him. He turned around and saw a frightful beast. The beast was huge, ugly and very angry.

“Who told you that you might cut one of my roses?” demanded the beast in a terrible voice. “I was kind to you and in return you steal my flowers. I will punish you for that.”

The merchant dropped the rose and fell on his knees.

“Oh sir, please listen to me,” he cried out. “I promised to bring a red rose to one of my daughters. You have so many roses. I really did not think you would mind. Please forgive me.”

“I will forgive you on one condition,” the beast roared.

“What’s that?” the merchant asked.

“You must bring me one of your daughters,” replied the beast. “And she must come willingly, or you will die. Do not think you can escape me.”

The merchant did not want to sacrifice any of his daughters. He wanted to see them again, so he agreed.

“All right,” he said to the beast, “let me go home and I will return with one of my daughters.”

“You will not leave empty handed,” said the beast “In your bedroom





you will find an empty chest. Fill it with gold and gifts for your daughters.”

The merchant did as the beast told him. He went back to his bedroom and found lots of gold and gifts. Quickly, he filled the empty chest. When he returned to the Great Hall, the beast was waiting for him.

“Remember, you must keep your promise and return with one of your daughters,” said the beast. “Now go.”

The merchant thanked the beast for the gifts and set off on the journey home.

CHAPTER 6



WHEN THE MERCHANT RETURNED TO HIS COTTAGE, HIS children were very glad to see him. He went inside and emptied the chest.

"Oh, we are very rich again," his eldest daughters screamed with joy. Beauty was happy to receive the red rose.

"Thank you father for remembering to bring me the rose," said Beauty.

"This red rose has cost us a great deal," said the merchant sadly.

"What do you mean?" Beauty asked.

The merchant told his children the whole story. When he finished, they were all very unhappy.

“If the beast comes, we will kill it,” said the boys firmly. The girls were crying.

“Remember, girls, that I promised the beast to go back with one of you,” said the merchant. Beauty’s sisters were very angry.

“We won’t go!”, they shouted. “It is all Beauty’s fault!”

“By asking for the rose,” said Beauty, “I have caused all this. Father must keep his promise. I will go to the beast’s palace.”

The merchant and his sons were very unhappy.

“We can’t let you go,” they said to Beauty.

But Beauty said, “I am not going to change my mind. We can go any time you want, Father.”

“All right,” said the merchant, “we’ll go in a week’s time.”

During that week, Beauty gave all her possessions to her sisters.

“Father, give my sisters enough gold so that they can find suitable husbands,” Beauty said to her father. When the day came for them to leave, Beauty said goodbye to everything she loved. She forgave her sisters for all their cruelty. Her sisters pretended to be sad. Beauty did not cry at all, because she did not want her family to be unhappy. Beauty and her father mounted their horse. The horse seemed to fly, but Beauty was not frightened. The horse took the direct road to the palace. Beauty’s father tried to persuade her once more not to go, but she did not listen. Night fell, and beautiful coloured lights appeared and began to shine in all directions. The cold night air became warm. As Beauty and her father reached the palace, music sounded softly from the courtyard. Although she was afraid, Beauty thought everything was lovely.



CHAPTER 7

BEAUTY AND HER FATHER ENTERED THE GREAT HALL. THEY PASSED through many rooms, but they did not see the beast. They reached the dining hall. Just as before, a fire was burning in the fireplace and dinner was on the huge table. It looked delicious. Beauty and her father were very hungry because of the long ride. They sat down to eat. They were still eating when they heard footsteps. The beast was approaching. They were both very frightened. When the beast appeared, Beauty trembled, but she tried to hide her fear. She greeted him warmly and this pleased the beast. The merchant was terrified, but he introduced his daughter to the beast.

“This is my youngest daughter, Beauty,” he said.

“Good evening, old man,” said the beast. “Good evening Beauty.”

“Good evening Beast,” Beauty answered sweetly.

“Have you come willingly?” asked the beast.

“Yes,” answered Beauty.

“I am pleased with you,” said the beast. “Since you have come willingly, you may stay.”





The beast turned to her father. "You must leave tomorrow after breakfast, and you must never come here again."

The merchant was very sad. "I will never see my favourite daughter again," he thought.

"You mustn't feel sad," said the beast. "I won't hurt your daughter. She will be happy here. Tomorrow morning you will find two empty chests in your bedroom. You can fill them with gold and gifts for your children."

The next morning, Beauty and her father had their last meal together. When it was time for her father to leave, they were both very sad.

"We might never see each other again," said the merchant.

"I know," said Beauty. "But don't worry about me. Take care of yourself and my sisters."

Beauty thought, "If I please Beast, perhaps he will let me visit my family." This made her feel better. They went down into the courtyard. Two horses were waiting. One was carrying the two chests. The other was there for the merchant to ride.

"Goodbye, my dear Beauty," said the merchant and hugged his daughter.

“Goodbye, Father,” said Beauty. They both had tears in their eyes.

The merchant got on his horse and in an instant, he was gone. Beauty started crying. Slowly and sadly, she walked back to her room. She lay down and fell asleep immediately. Beauty dreamt that she was walking by a small river. A handsome young prince stopped her.

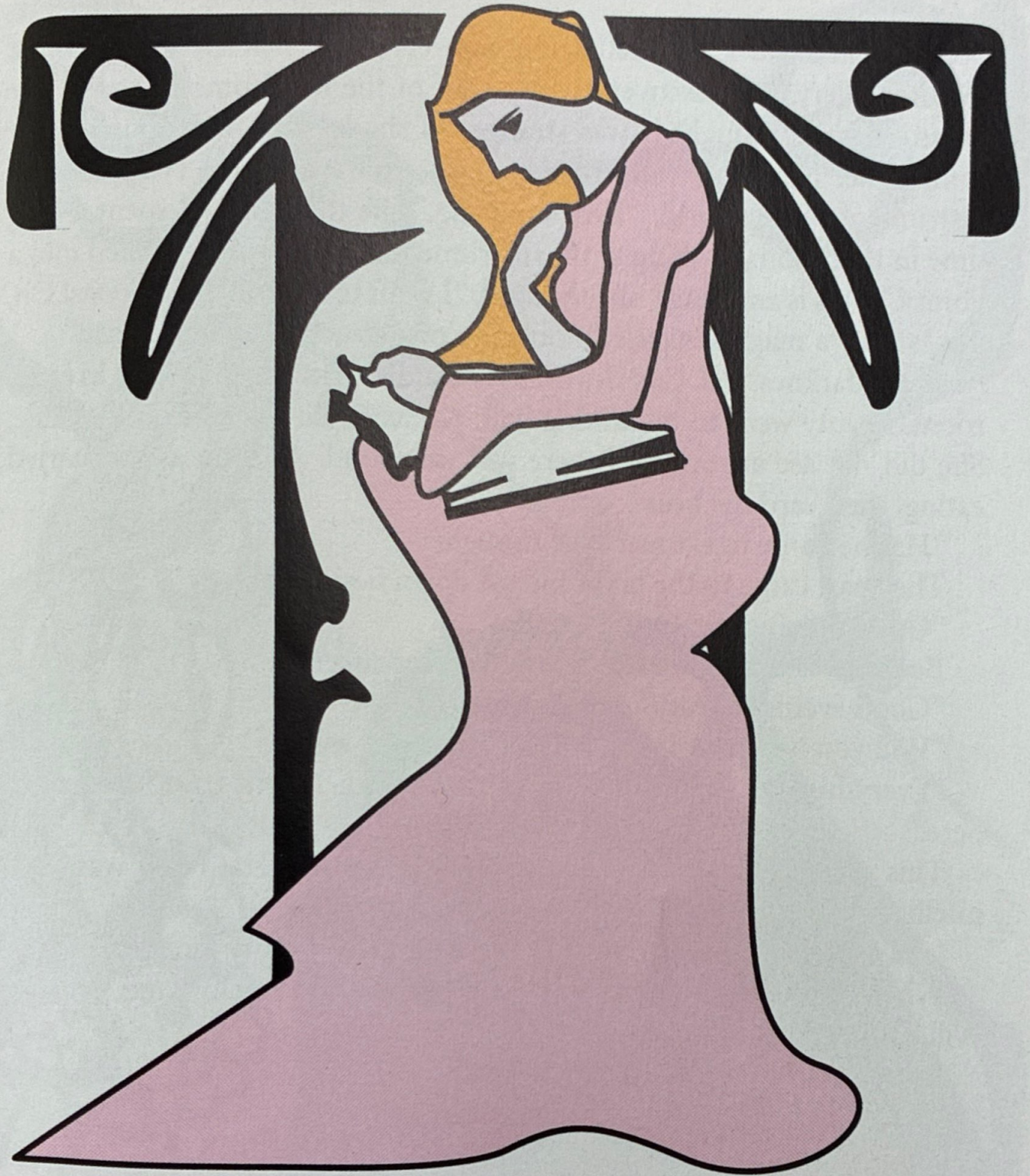
“Oh Beauty, do not be sad. You will be rewarded for your suffering and all your wishes will come true. Remember that I love you. If you make me happy, you will be happy, too.”

“What can I do to make you happy, Prince?” Beauty asked.

“Do not desert me. Save me from my cruel misery,” he answered. “And do not let appearances fool you.”

Beauty was mystified. She didn’t want to wake up from the dream, but the clock struck and she opened her eyes.





CHAPTER 8

“WHAT A STRANGE DREAM,” Beauty thought. “Why did the prince give me that advice; not to let appearances fool me? I must remember it was only a dream. But the handsome young prince seemed so real!” Beauty was enchanted. “Maybe I should stop thinking about him.”

She got up and went to explore some of the rooms of the palace. First, she entered a room full of mirrors. Beauty thought it was charming,

because she could see her reflection on every side. Then she walked into a picture gallery. She discovered a portrait of the handsome prince in her dream. Beauty thought it was strange, so she looked at the portrait for some time. Next she walked into a large room and saw every musical instrument in the world. "How amusing," she thought and spent a long time in that room, looking at the instruments. Next, Beauty walked into a library. "This is amazing," she thought. "I want to read all these books! Oh, this is truly a magical palace! If only the owner wasn't an ugly beast!"

Soon, darkness fell. Candles in silver candlesticks began to light in every room. Beauty went to the dining hall. As usual, dinner was on the table. She did not see anyone and there was no sound. As soon as she started eating, she heard the beast coming.

"Has he come to eat me?" she thought.

The beast came to the table and sat down beside her.

"Good evening, Beauty," he said.

Beauty was frightened but tried to appear cheerful.

"Good evening, Beast," she answered.

"Will you be happy in my palace?" the beast asked.

"Everything is so beautiful," Beauty replied. "I will try to be happy here."

This pleased the beast. They continued to talk. The beast was very intelligent.

"He isn't nearly as terrible as I first imagined," Beauty thought.

When the beast got up to leave, he asked her, "Do you love me, Beauty? Will you marry me?"

Beauty did not know how to answer.

"If I refuse, he may be angry," she thought.

"Say yes or no without fear," he said.

At last she answered. "No, Beast," she said bravely.

Immediately, the beast sighed and the whole palace trembled.

"Since you will not marry me, good night," he said.

"Good night, Beast," Beauty answered.

The beast got up and left the dining hall without turning back.



CHAPTER 9

THE DAYS PASSED QUICKLY. There were so many rooms in the palace, and Beauty loved to visit them. Days turned into months and Beauty was very happy. Beast no longer frightened her. Every evening they had dinner together. They spent a lot of time talking. Every evening after dinner, the beast asked Beauty the same question.

“Beauty, will you marry me?”

“No, Beast,” she answered, “although I like you as a friend.”

“But I love you,” said the beast one evening. “Promise me you’ll never leave.”

“I promise,” replied Beauty. “Only...”

“Only what?” asked the beast.

“I would really like to see my home again,” she answered.

“Why do you want to escape, Beauty?” asked the beast. “Do you hate me so much?”

“No, dear Beast, I do not hate you,” replied Beauty. “But I miss my father. Please let me go for two weeks. I promise I will come back to you, and I will stay here for the rest of my life.”

“I cannot refuse you,” the beast said sadly. “But if you break your promise, I will die of grief.”

“No,” said Beauty. “You are my friend and I don’t want to cause your death. I give you my promise.”

The beast gave Beauty a ring and said, “Lay this ring on a table when you wish to come back. Good night Beauty. Don’t be afraid. Sleep peacefully. Soon, you will see your father again.”

Beauty then went to bed and dreamt of her prince. He was lying on the grass by a river. He looked sad and worried.

“What’s the matter?” asked Beauty.

“Why do you ask me?” replied the prince. “You are leaving me to my death.”

“What are you talking about?” asked Beauty. “I’m trying to understand, but I don’t.”

“What does it matter?” the prince said sadly.

“I am going to tell my father I am well,” she said. “Then I will return.”

Just then, Beauty woke up. It was time to leave. She got dressed quickly



and went to find her horse. She was full of excitement and joy because she was going home.

When Beauty approached the little cottage, she heard her father's voice. She rushed to greet him. Her brothers were happy to see her. They didn't expect to see her again. Beauty also had gifts for her sisters. They just wanted to see the gifts and didn't care about Beauty.

"We are so happy you are here with us again," said Beauty's father.

"You'll never go back to the beast's palace, will you?" said one of her brothers.

"My dear father, my dear brothers, I have only come for two weeks," said Beauty. "Then I must go back, and I will stay there for the rest of my life. I gave the beast my word. I can't break my promise, or he'll die of grief!"

Beauty's father and brothers were very sad to hear this.





CHAPTER 10

THE TWO WEEKS PASSED QUICKLY. Beauty was happy to be with her family again, but she often thought of the beast and the magical palace. Soon, it was time to leave. On the last evening, Beauty and her family had dinner together. Then she said goodbye to them all and went to her room. She placed the ring on the table and said, "I wish to go back to the palace." She went to bed and fell asleep quickly.

When Beauty opened her eyes the next morning, she was back in her room at the palace. Everything was just as before. Beauty was anxious to see the beast again. She felt that time was passing very slowly that day. When it was time for dinner, Beauty went to the dining hall, but the beast was not there. She listened and waited a long time. The beast still didn't appear, so Beauty ran into the garden to look for him. She called out his name, but there was no answer. She rushed down the path and found a cave. It was dark, but she went in. There, she saw the beast.

"He is asleep," she said. "I am so happy I found him. She stroked his head. The beast did not move or open his eyes.

"Oh, he is dead," she cried out. "It is all my fault."

She fetched some water and sprinkled his face. Beauty was very happy when he opened his eyes.

"Dear Beast, how you frightened me," she said with tears in her eyes. "Now I realise how much I love you."

"Can you really love such an ugly creature as I?" said the beast faintly. "I thought you would never return."

"Oh no, dear Beast. Here I am as I promised," said Beauty.

"Go back now and rest," said the beast. "I will see you at dinner."

Beauty rested in her room for a while, then she put on her finest dress and went into the dining hall. As usual, dinner was on the table. Soon the beast came in and sat beside her. They talked about her journey home.

"I was very happy to see my family again," said Beauty.

"Will you stay with me now?" the beast asked.

"As I promised," Beauty replied.

When they finished eating, the beast asked once again.

"Beauty, will you marry me?"

Beauty paused for a moment.



“Yes, dear Beast,” she answered softly. “I know now that I love you and cannot live without you.”

As she spoke those words, there was a blaze of light. Fireworks crackled and music played. Beauty was amazed. She turned to the beast, but he wasn't there. In his place, stood the prince of her dreams. Beauty was really surprised.

“Where is Beast?” she asked.

“I'm in front of you,” the prince replied. “A wicked fairy cursed me years ago. Only a beautiful young girl could lift the curse when she agreed to marry me.”

Beauty gave her hand to the prince. They walked into the Great Hall. There she found her father and her brothers and sisters.

Beauty and the Prince celebrated their marriage and they lived happily ever after.

