

Cinderella



Once upon a time there was a widower who had a very good and beautiful daughter. He decided to marry again and bring her a new mother. But his new wife was proud and evil. She did not love her step-daughter at all and had exes only for her own two ugly and lazy daughters whom she brought to the house. Their step-sister had to wait on them hand and foot from morning to evening. She cooked, washed, sewed, scrubbed the stairs, lit the fires, and because she was dirty with soot and ashes she was soon known to everyone in the house by the name of Cinderella.

It came about that one day the royal prince gave a ball to which he invited all the nobility from far and near. Among those invited were the evil step-mother and her two daughters. They were extremely excited about the invitation and great preparations began in the house. They bought the most expensive materials and jewels, powders and perfumes. Cinderella hardly knew which way to turn – she sewed dresses for her two sisters, combed their hair into beautiful styles, every thing to make them look as nice as possible. But they did not even thank her. Cinderella was very sad, how she would have loved to go to the ball with her sisters! But no-one invited her. Who would want anything to do with sooty Cinderella?

When last they had all left. Cinderella sat down in a corner and wept. Suddenly in front of her there appeared her Fairy Godmother and said: „You’d like to go to the ball, wouldn’t you? “ The Fairy then told Cinderella to run and fetch a pumpkin. With her magic wand she turned it into a coach and then six mice into splendid horses and six lizards into liveried servants. Finally she touched Cinderella with her magic wand. At once her poor rags were changed into a dress of gold. Then the Fairy conjured up the sweetest glass slippers and gave Cinderella some advice: „Don’t stay at the ball after midnight, otherwise the magic will vanish! “

Cinderella promised her Fairy Godmother that she would not stay after midnight and went off joyfully. When she entered the royal palace the music stopped playing and no-one could tear his eyes from the unknown beauty. The Prince invited her to dance and all evening danced only with her. The time was passing very quickly said farewell and suddenly the clock on tower struck a quarter to midnight. Cinderella quickly said farewell and left. She ran back home to her Fairy Godmother and begged her to allow her to go to the ball again the following day. Then her stepmother and sisters came back. They talked of nothing but the unknown Princess who was so beautiful and kind and wore such a splendid dress.

The following day, when finally the sisters, after much preparation, left once again for the ball. Cinderella prepared to follow them. She was even more beautiful than on the previous evening. When she appeared in the hall the Prince was beside himself with joy. They danced together all evening and Cinderella did not even notice time. When she heard the castle clock strike midnight she fled without saying goodbye. In her haste, however, she lost one slipper on the castle staircase. The Prince ran out after Cinderella, but he did not catch her. All that he was left with was the glass slipper which he picked up from the ground.

The Prince was very sad when the Princess vanished for the second time and he had it announced that the girl whose foot fitted the glass slipper would become his wife. The courtiers therefore led her off to the castle and the Prince immediately recognized her as the unknown Princess. Everyone was happy, especially the Prince and Cinderella, and soon after the wedding was arranged.