



Beauty and the Beast

第九级



(英) Michaela Morgan 改编

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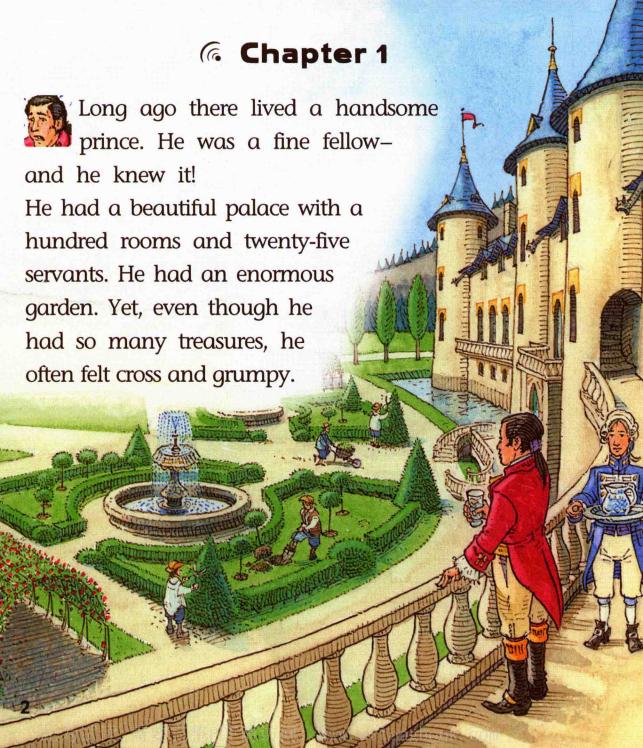
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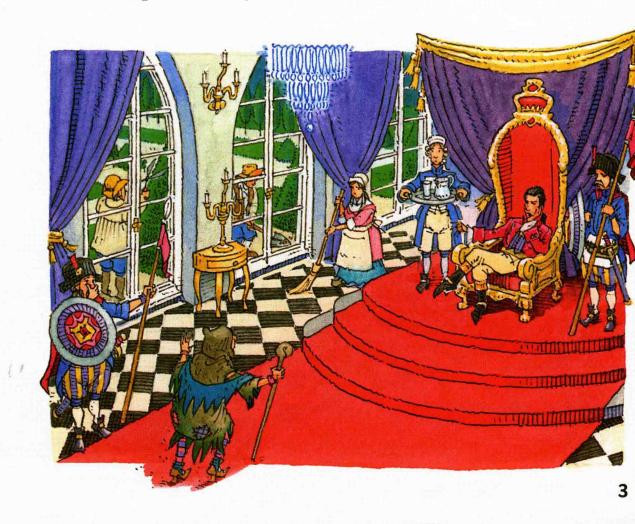


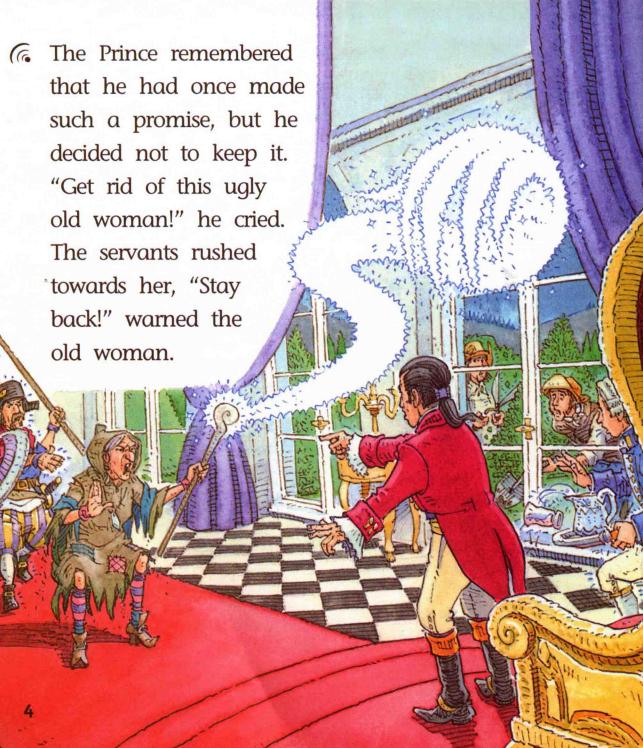
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© On one of his grumpy days, an old woman hobbled into his palace. She was dressed in rags and covered in dirt.

"Please help a poor, homeless old woman," she begged.
"You promised you would."





(a) A beam of light flashed from her stick and the servants became invisible!

The spades carried on digging and the brushes carried on sweeping all by themselves.

"Let this be a lesson to you," she cried, waving her stick at the Prince.



The Prince began to change. He became bigger and BIGGER. His feet popped out of his shoes. They didn't look like feet at all! They were huge and hairy like the paws of a beast! The Prince looked down at his hands. He could see fur sprouting and his fingernails had become long, black claws. His teeth were now fangs.



The Prince ran to a mirror. To his horror, he saw he had become a beast.

The old woman cackled, "Before the roses in your garden fade, you must find someone who loves you even though you are now an ugly beast."

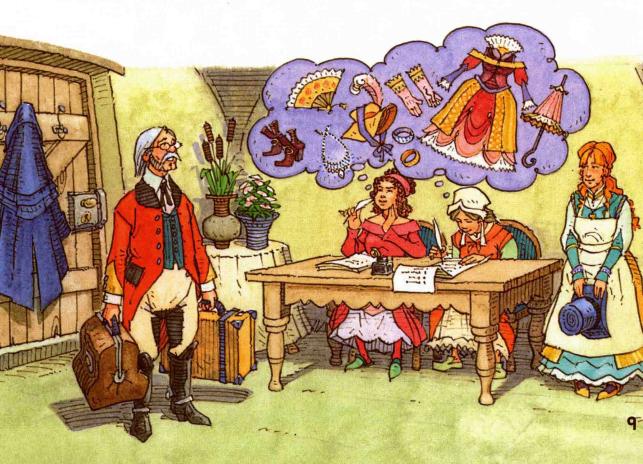
With a wave of her stick, she vanished.

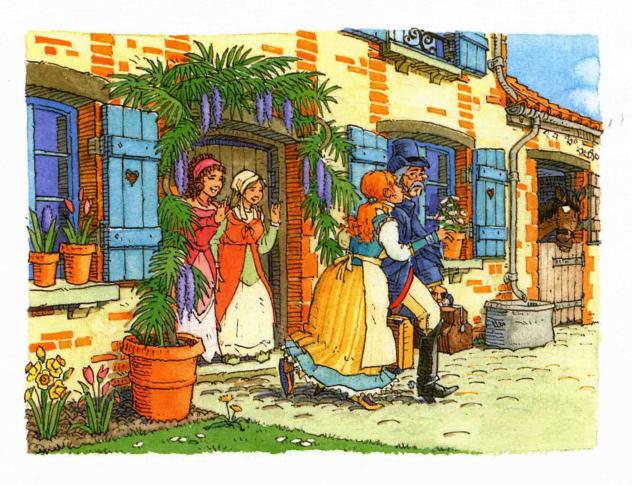


Too late, the Prince realised the woman was a witch. Too late, he realised he had behaved badly. He cried with pain and shame and sorrow. His cries echoed around the countryside. They sounded like the howls of a wild animal.

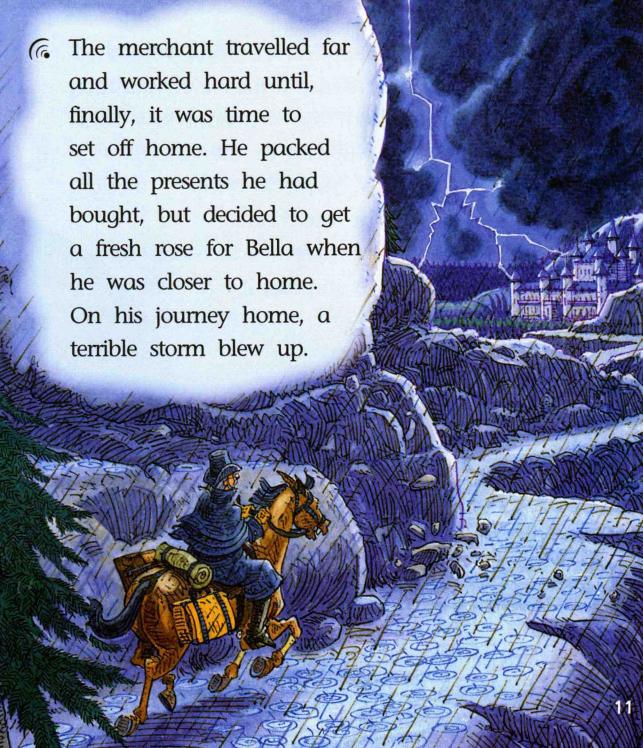
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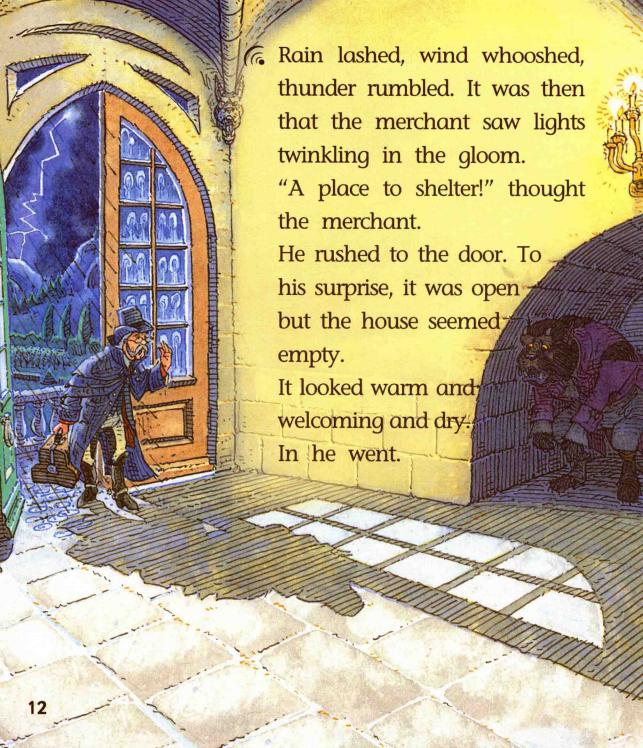
Meanwhile, at the other end of the country, a merchant was setting off on a long journey. "What presents would you like me to bring for you?" he asked his daughters. The two oldest girls wanted many expensive things. They gave him a long list.





Bella, the youngest daughter, was a kind, good-hearted girl. She loved books and music, animals and nature. "I just want you to come home safely," she said. "But you could bring me a rose to plant in the garden."





"Is there anybody there?" he called. But there was not a creature to be seen or a sound to be heard. Tired and wet, the merchant sat down by the fire. Invisible hands gave him warm drinks and good food; invisible hands tucked a cushion behind his head.

The merchant rubbed his eyes. "I must be dreaming," he thought.



