



# Twelve Dancing Princesses 12个跳舞的公主

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### Chapter 1 Holey boots



Tramper could feel the stony road through the holes in his boots. A newspaper blew by, Tramper picked it up and sat down to cover the holes in his boots with the paper.

A frail old lady glared and stared at him.

"You think you have shoe troubles!" she said. "The King has twelve girls and all of them have holes in their slippers!"

The old lady's feet were bare, cut and purple with cold. Tramper felt sorry for her, so he gave her his shabby boots. To thank him, she gave Tramper her dirty cloak. As she clumped away down the road, she called:

"Stay awake.

Drink no drop.

Sip no sup.

Taste no cup."

"An odd way to say goodbye," thought Tramper.



## Chapter 2 The mystery

Rain drizzled down. Tramper put on the cloak and tried to read what was left of the wet newspaper. As it fell apart in his hands he read:

#### PALACE NOTICE

WANTED:

Answer to the Mystery of the Worn Slippers.

REWARD:

Princess' hand in marriage.

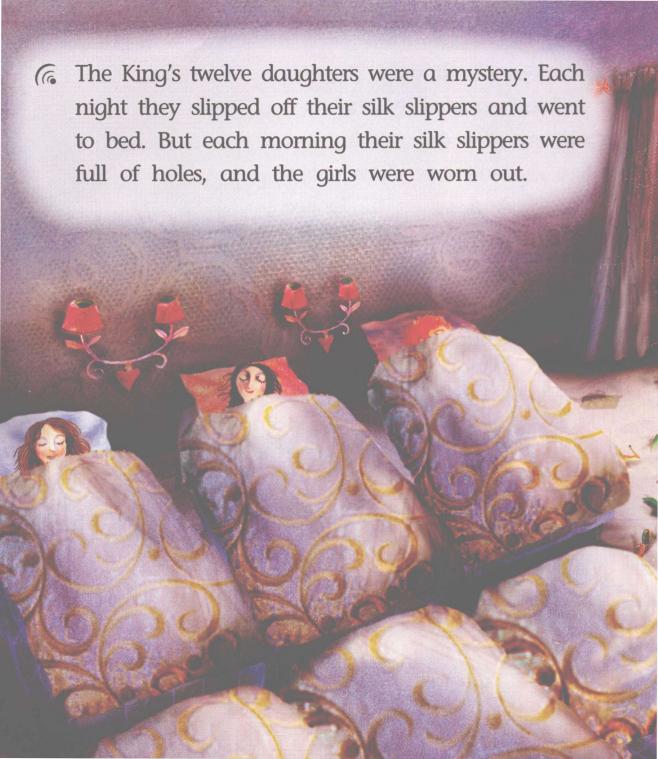
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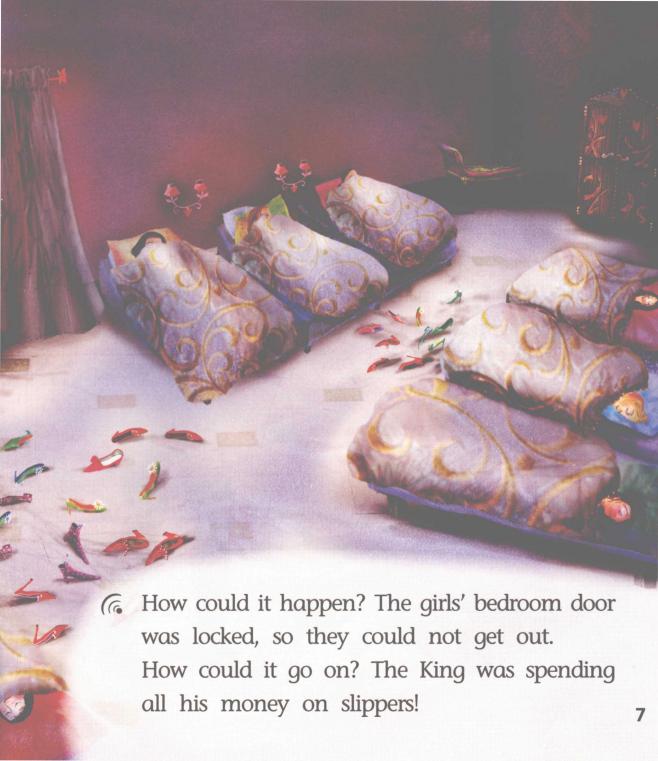
All those who fail will be locked up.

"Why not?" thought Tramper.

"I bet I could solve the mystery. I've got nothing to lose, I don't even have any boots." And, when he looked down, his feet were gone too. His feet, legs and body had gone. He was invisible. "The cloak is magic!" he gasped.







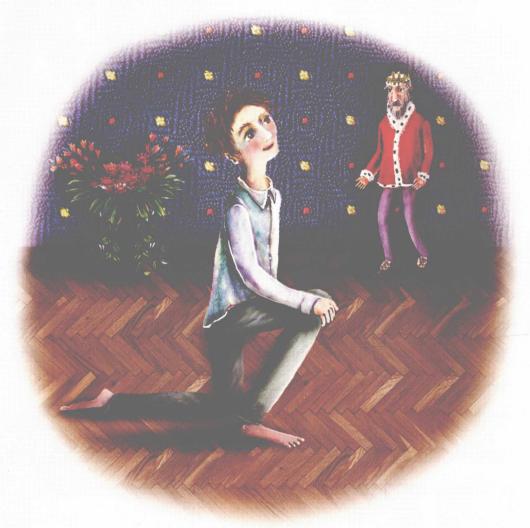
Princes came from everywhere to solve the mystery. Each stood watching the princesses as they slept. Each tried to keep awake by choosing which one of the princesses he would marry. But the next morning he woke up on the couch, surrounded by sleeping princesses and twentyfour holey slippers. And after the third time, the royal guard threw him into prison.



Princes stopped coming and knights came instead, then squires. They were all determined to solve the mystery, but they all failed.

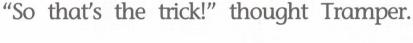
The King was furious. New slippers had to be bought every day. The prisons were full to bursting with princes, knights and squires. But Tramper didn't know any of this.

Tramper went to the castle and stood before the King. "You have no boots!" said the King in deep disgust. "And you keep running out of slippers," said Tramper.



### Chapter 3 Sleeping princesses

The princesses were kind to Tramper. "A brave man deserves a good supper," they said, and brought him baked salmon and a glass of milk. He ate the salmon but remembering the advice of the old lady, he did not drink one drop of milk. Secretly, he let the cat drink the milk, until, with a miaow, it fell off the window sill, sound asleep.







The princesses went to bed and Tramper lay down on the couch. He snored loudly, pretending to sleep. Later that night ... the distant sound of a strange music began. The princesses jumped out of bed and slipped their feet into their brand new slippers. Then they all climbed into the wardrobe!



### Chapter 4 The magical wardrobe

The princesses pushed between the hanging clothes and ran down a passageway. Tramper followed them with the old lady's magic cloak over his head. The princesses ran across a garden of ruby roses, through an orchard of diamond fruit and up some glass steps towards a magnificent castle. Tramper ran after them.

