

张艳玲◎主编

*The Purest Fairy Tales in The World*

# 人类最纯真的童话

下册

这些英文，都有共同的特点：经典、优美、百读不厌。既可以陶冶情操，增长知识，给人以快乐的感受，又可激励人们向上。这些美文历经时间的考验而沉淀下来，成为历代传诵不衰的美文。



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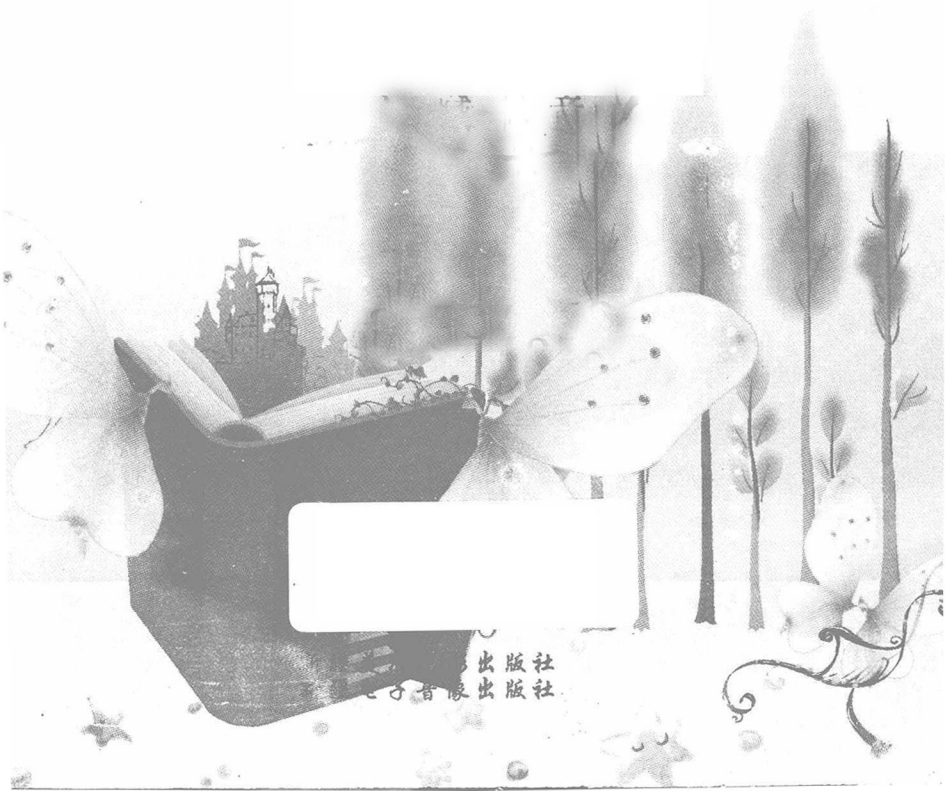
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## *Sleeping Beauty*

A long time ago and far away there lived a King and a Queen . They were very happy, for their first child, girl , had been born.

“We must have a grand christening for her,” said the King, who was delighted to have a daughter.

“We must invite all the fairies of the kingdom to bless her,” said the Queen.

“How many are there now?” asked the King.

“Twelve or thirteen,” said his wife. “Send the invitations. We’ll soon find out. ”

There were twelve fairies, and they were all sent invitations. A thirteen fairy had not been heard of for so long that it was presumed that she was dead. No invitation was sent.

The day of the christening was sunny and bright. The Princess was named Briar Rose, and the fairies began to give their gifts.



“She shall be beautiful,” said the first.

“She shall be wise,” said the second.

“She shall be good,” said the third.

“She shall be kind,” said the fourth.

The gifts continued in this way, wishing all that was good for Briar Rose. Eleven of the twelve fairies had given their gifts when the room suddenly went dark. After a great flash of light a small dark figure stood in front of the King and Queen.

It was the thirteenth fairy.

“Why wasn’t I invited to the christening?” she screamed.

She was furious at being left out.

“All the fairies of the kingdom have given their blessings. Well, here’s mine for the Princess. On her sixteenth birthday she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel and die.”

Another flash of light and the fairy was gone.

“But we thought she was dead,” said the King.

“What can we do?”

The Queen was in tears.

The twelfth fairy stepped forward.



“There is still my gift for Briar Rose,” she said. “The fairy’s curse cannot be undone, but I can change it a little. She will fall into a deep sleep that will last one hundred years.”

The following day the King issued a proclamation, ordering that all spinning wheels and spindles were to be destroyed.

Over the years, the Princess grew into a lovely girl. All who met her were enchanted by her.

Eventually, the bad fairy’s wish was forgotten. All spinning wheels and spindles had been destroyed, so there was no reminder. And the fairy was not heard of again.

And so, on Briar Rose’s sixteenth birthday, the King and Queen were due to arrive back from a far away visit. There was to be a large birthday party for the Princess.

Briar Rose was wandering around the palace. Everyone was preparing for the party, so she could please herself where she went. As had never set foot in, she foot in, she decided to go exploring.

“I wonder what is in the great South Tower,”



she said. All the servants and courtiers wished her a happy birthday as she made her way across the palace.

That part of the palace was very old, and there were very few people here. The base of the tower was in a corridor. The entrance was a small, very solid looking door. The key was on the outside.

"It's very stiff," said the Princess, as she turned the key. "There! It's open!"

Stairs led up the tower in front of her. She began to climb them.

Meanwhile, her parents had arrived back at the palace.

"Has anyone seen the Princess?" asked the King.

"Today is her sixteenth birthday — the day when the curse may fall. Somebody must know where she is."

Nearly everyone had seen her, but nobody knew where she had been going.

"She must be found," said the Queen. "If the prophecy is to come true, today is the day."



A search of the palace and the grounds began.

Meanwhile, the Princess had reached the top of the tower where there was another door. This time there was no key and the door was slightly open.

“There must be a wonderful view of the rest of the palace and grounds from the window,” said the Princess. Then she heard a strange whirring sound. It was unlike anything that she had ever heard before.

She pushed the door open and went into the room. There, in the middle, sat an old woman working at a spinning wheel. Behind her was an enormous bed.

The wheel was making the noise.

“What are you doing?” asked Briar Rose. “I have never seen one of those before, what is it?”

“It is a spinning wheel,” said the old woman, “Would you like to try it my dear?”

“Oh. May I?” asked Briar Rose.

She sat on the stool in front of the wheel and the wheel whirred round. As soon as she touched the spindle she pricked her finger. She fell to the



floor in a deep sleep.

The old woman, who was really the thirteenth fairy in disguise, picked her up and laid her on the bed.

At that moment, all over the place, people began to asleep. The cooks who were preparing for the party fell asleep over the stirring and tasting. The scullery maids fell asleep over the washing up. The laundry maid fell asleep while they dusted, polished and prepared for the party. The King and Queen, the courtiers and the guests fell asleep in the Great Hall. The guards fell asleep at their posts. The search parties looking for the Princess fell asleep while they searched in the gardens, in the corridors, in the spare rooms, and some in the oldest part of the palace.

Even the flies fell asleep on the stable walls. The birds and the butterflies fell asleep in the palace the palace vegetable gardens. The gardeners and their helpers, who were busy chasing off the rabbit, fell asleep in mid—chase.

In the hearths the fires died down and the meat



stopped cooking. The kitchen maid stopped plucking the chicken.

The entire palace fell asleep, along with the Princess.

A hedge of briar roses sprang up around the palace, protecting it from the outside world.

Years passed, and from time to time a King's son would come to the famous briar hedge to try and find the mysterious sleeping Princess that the legend spoke of. But none got through. The hedge was too strong and the Princes were cut to bits.

A hundred years passed and the tale of the Sleeping Beauty, as the Princess was known, becomes a great legend. Very few people believed she existed.

One day a King's son came to the nearby village.

"Legend says," an old man was speaking in the village square. "Legend says that the Princess lies asleep behind that great briar hedge just outside the village in my grandfather's day, you could see the topmost turret of her tower." The Prince stopped to



listen. "Where can I find this hedge?" asked.

"Just beyond the village, young sir," said the old man. "If you're going to try, you'll need more luck than the other young men who have had ago."

"I shall try," said the Prince. "We have heard of Sleeping Beauty in my kingdom."

The Prince went to the hedge and held up his sword. He went to strike at the hedge, but where his sword met the thorns, great roses bloomed instead. A path opened for him, for the one hundred years were up. The curse was lifting.

The hedge seemed to disappear before him.

He went through into the palace grounds, walking past the sleeping rabbits, birds and butterflies, and the gardeners at their work. The kitchens were full of cooks and maids who hadn't moved for a hundred years—They were all fast asleep. Even the King and Queen who were seated at the table in the Great Hall were sleeping soundly!

The Prince walked on through the palace, making his way to the tallest tower where he climbed the stairs and entered the tower room.



There on the bed he saw Briar Rose fast asleep.

“She is so lovely,” he said, He had fallen completely in love with her. “How can I wake her?”

He leant over and gently kissed her.

Briar Rose's eyelids flickered and she woke up. The first person she saw was the Prince and she fell in love with him.

Together they walked down to the Great Hall. The King and Queen were just waking up, when the Prince and Briar Rose entered.

The cooks in the kitchen woke up to carry on preparing the food and the chambermaids carried on with their work.

The party was still to be held, but it was an engagement party instead of a birthday party. The Prince and Briar Rose were to be married.

The hedge disappeared and the village saw the palace again and realized the legend had been true.

The bad fairy was never heard of again.

### ◆ ◆ ◆ 熟词空间 ◆ ◆ ◆

1. delight 喜欢的, 高兴的



2. kingdom 王国
3. invitation 招待，邀请；请帖
4. christen 【宗教】为……施洗礼（使成基督教徒）；施洗礼时命名；给……取绰号
5. fairy 妖精；仙女
6. spin 纺；精纺；棉纱
7. wandering 徘徊；流浪；漫游；错乱；胡话
8. explore 探测；测定，在…探险
9. entrance 进入；入场
10. prophecy 预言；预言能力
11. pluck 拔，扯（羽毛等）；采，摘
12. famous 有名的；出名的，驰名的
13. topmost 最上的，最高的，绝顶的
14. butterfly 蝴蝶；蝶式，蝶形



## 睡美人

以前，有个国王和王后，他们生了一个女孩，那是他们的第一个孩子，他们非常高兴。

“我们要举行盛大的宴会。”有了这样一个女儿，国王高兴极了。

“我们要邀请王国里所有的女巫师为她祈福。”王后说。

“一共有多少个女巫师？”国王问。

“十二个或十三个，”他的妻子回答，“我们要去查查，不久就要发出邀请。”

十二个巫师都接到了邀请，第十三个巫师没有接到邀请，据说她已经死了，所以没有向她发出邀请。

举行庆典的那一天，阳光明媚。小公主被命名为玫瑰公主。女巫师们都送出了美好的祝福：

“她将拥有美丽。”第一个说。

“她会非常聪明。”第二个说。

“她会很富有。”第三个说。

“她会很善良。”第四个说。

祝福就这样进行着，所有的美好都给了玫瑰公主。当第十一个女巫师刚刚为她祝福之后，大厅里突然黑了



下来，一个小小的黑影站在国王和王后的面前。

这是第十三个女巫师。

“为什么没有邀请我？”她尖叫着。

她看起来非常可怕。

“王国里所有的巫师都送出了祝福。好了，这是我送给公主的祝福。在她十六岁的时候，她会被一个飞转的纺锤弄伤，最后死去。”

所有在场的人都大惊失色。那个巫师走了。

“但是，我们知道了她会死，”国王说，“我们该怎么办呢？”

王后流泪了。

第十二个女巫师走上前来。

“这是我送给玫瑰公主的礼物，”她说，“这个凶险的咒语的确会应验，但我会改变它，公主不会死去，而只是昏睡过去，而且一睡就是一百年。”

在接下来的日子里，国王为了不使他的女儿遭到那种不幸，命令将王国里的所有纺锤都收上来，又把它们全部销毁。

多年过去了，公主长成了一个可爱的女孩，女巫们所有的预言都在她身上应验了。

后来，那个可恶的巫师的预言也被渐渐地忘记了。王国里的所有纺锤都被销毁了，人们也再没有听到那个巫师的消息。

在玫瑰公主十六岁生日的时候，国王和王后都去了



很远的地方，他们要为公主举行一个盛大的生日宴会。

公主在宫殿里四处转悠，每一个角落她都走到了，对她所过之处很享受。对于她足迹从没到过的地方，她决定都要去走一走。

“我要到那个巨大的南宫去看看。”在她经过的每一个地方，所有的仆人和大臣都祝贺她生日快乐。

那个宫楼非常古老，而且几乎没有人住。宫楼的底部是一个长廊，入口很小，门很坚固，门上插着一把钥匙。

“这太紧了。”公主说着，转动了钥匙，“看！门开了！”

楼梯就在眼前，她开始往上爬。

与此同时，她的父母已经回到了宫殿。

“谁见到公主了？”国王问。

“今天是她十六岁的生日。一定有人知道她在哪儿。”

几乎所有的人都看见她了，但是没有人知道她在哪儿。

“必须找到她。”王后说，“如果那个预言应验，就在今天。”

宫殿里开始了寻找。

这时，公主已经到了楼顶，那里还有另一个门。这儿没有钥匙，门是开着的。

“从这儿的窗子往外看，一定有神奇的风景。”公主说着，这时她听到一个奇怪的声音，这是她从来没有听



到过的声音。

她推开门走了进去。在那儿，屋子中间，坐着一个老女人，她正在纺纱，在她身后是一张床。

纺锤发出声音。

公主见了说：“您这是在干什么呀？我以前从来没有见到过这个。”

“纺纱。”老太婆回答说，“你愿意试试吗？”

“我可以吗？”公主问。

她坐在纺车旁边，轮子转动着。可是她的手指一碰到纺锤，立即就倒在地上昏睡了。

那个老女人就是第十三个巫师，她把公主抱起来放到床上。

这时，这个地方所有的人都睡过去了；准备生日宴会的厨师也都沉睡了；马厩里的马，院子里的狗，屋顶上的鸽子，墙上的苍蝇，也都跟着睡着了；国王和王后，宫殿里所有的人，全都沉沉地睡去，在每一个空着的房间，在宫殿的每一个地方都睡着人。

甚至桌边的蝴蝶也睡了，鸟儿也不再飞行，在公园的每一个地方陷入沉睡，园丁和他们的助手们都睡过去了。

甚至连火炉里的火也停止燃烧入睡了，厨房里也停止烹饪了。

整座宫殿都和公主一起陷入沉睡中。

不久，王宫的四周长出了一道蒺藜组成的大篱笆，