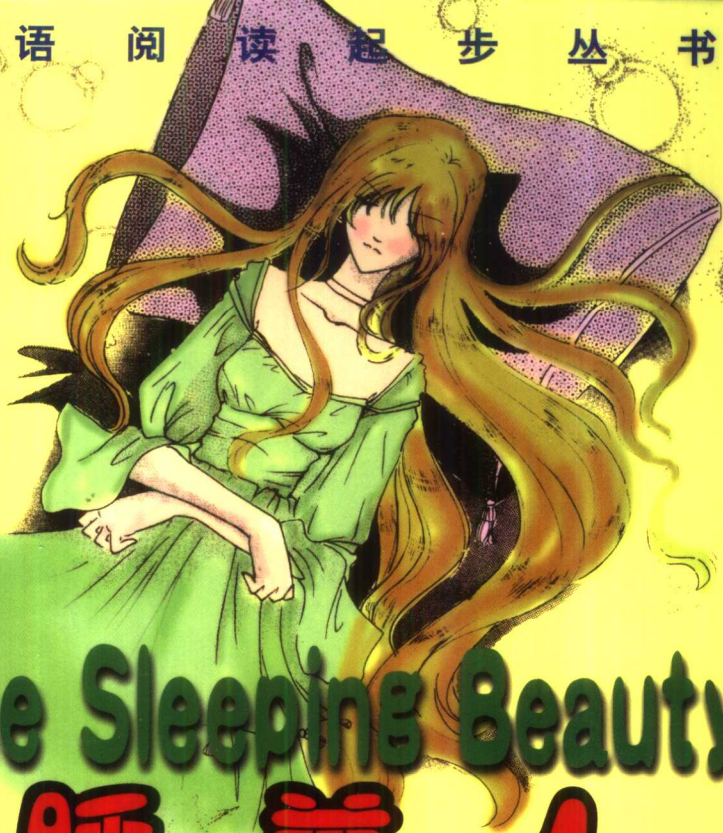


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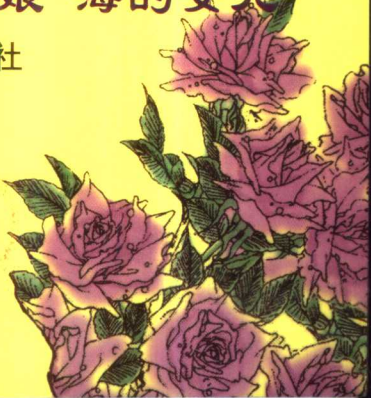


The Sleeping Beauty

睡美人

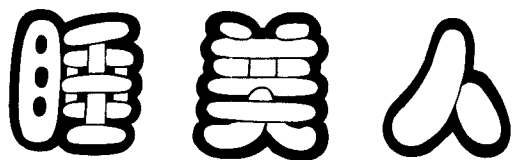
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The Sleeping Beauty

In a faraway land, long ago, lived King Stefan and his fair queen. They loved each other deeply and lived together happily. But they had neither a son nor a daughter. How they longed for a little child of their own.

long for 渴望



One day, the queen was out in the garden. She passed the pond and said to herself, "If only I had a child!"

A frog crept out of the water and jumped onto the land. It said to the queen, "Don't worry, Your Majesty. I can tell you how to get a child. Turn to an old witch called Martha. She is very powerful."

So the king and the queen went off to see the old witch.

pond n. 池塘

crept (creep 的过去式)

v. 爬

witch n. 巫婆



“We’d so much like to have a little child.” said the queen.

“That’s no trouble at all,” said the witch. “Drink the magic water and you will have your own child soon.”

Soon after they returned from the witch, the king and the queen did have a baby daughter. The merry couple called the little girl Aurora. She was named after the dawn, for she filled their life with sunshine.

magic water 魔水

dawn n. 曙光



The king was so excited that he decided to hold a grand party. The king ordered a huge feast. And the cooks prepared the feast carefully. The musicians in the palace were busy writing new songs to play at the feast.

The king wanted everyone to share his happiness, so he invited all of his relatives and friends home and abroad. Even more, he sent invitations to the seven good fairies in his kingdom.



feast n. 宴会

fairy n. 仙女

On the very day, the palace was decorated with colourful flags and streamers.

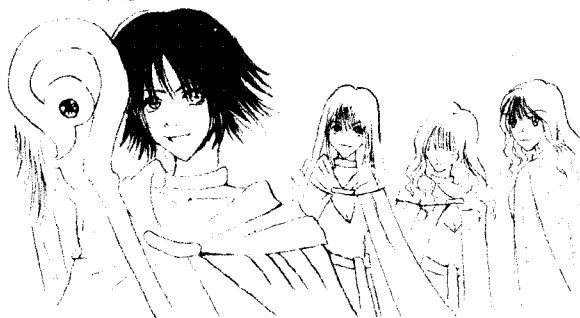
From near and far, the people came and brought their gifts.

The seven fairies were the most honored guests. They stood around the baby in the cradle and sang happy songs to her.

“To give our best wishes,” said the first fairy whose name was Flora, “We each will give Aurora a special gift.”

be decorated with 裝飾着 streamer n. 飄帶

cradle n. 搖籃



“I will be the first.” She bent down and watched the lovely baby who was smiling sweetly.

“My child, you will be a beauty when you grow up.”

“Now it’s my turn.” said the second fairy, Fauna. She thought for a while and then gave the gift

of song. She promised that the girl could sing like a nightingale.

bent (bend 的过去式)

down 弯腰

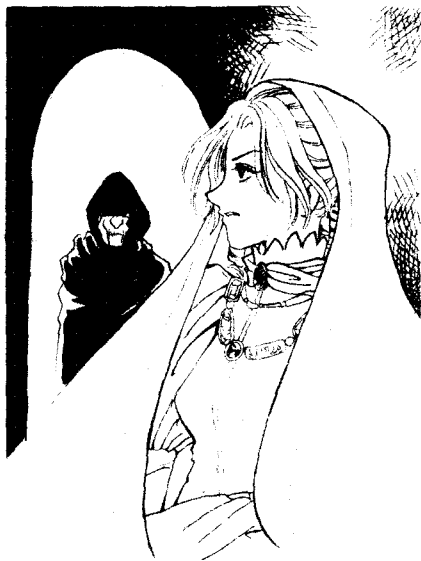
nightingale n. 夜莺



One by one, the six fairies sent out their gifts. They all promised that Aurora would grow in a virtue like wisdom, courage, kindness and honesty.

The seventh fairy, Merryweather was about to give her gift when the palace doors crashed open. There was a roar of thunder and a gust of wind. A blinding flash of light filled the great hall. Before them stood an ugly old fairy. She was the oldest fairy — Maleficent.

a roar of thunder and
a gust of wind 雷声
隆隆，狂风大作
a blinding flash of
light 眩目的闪电

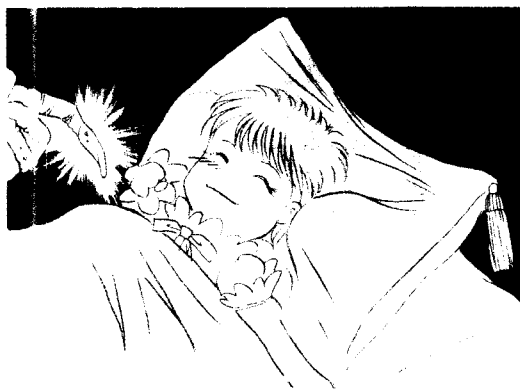


“Well, King Stefan. I was quite upset at not receiving an invitation. Do you think I am old and useless? To prove my power, I, too, have a gift to give the child.”

“The princess shall indeed grow in grace and beauty. But before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday, she will prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel, and die.”

“Oh, no.” The cry rose from every heart.

Then the old fairy disappeared.



the spindle of
a spinning
wheel 纺车的
锭子

What a terrible situation!

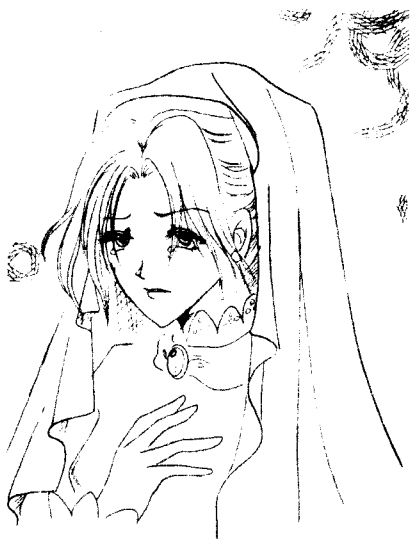
The queen cried, “My poor Aurora.”

“Don’t cry.” said Merryweather, the fairy who still had her gift to give. “Your Majesties, I can’t break this wicked curse, but I can help.” She waved her magic wand over the cradle. “Sweet princess, if all this should come to happen, you wouldn’t die, but just fall into sleep. A kiss of true love will break the spell and then you will wake up from your deep sleep.”

wicked adj. 邪恶的

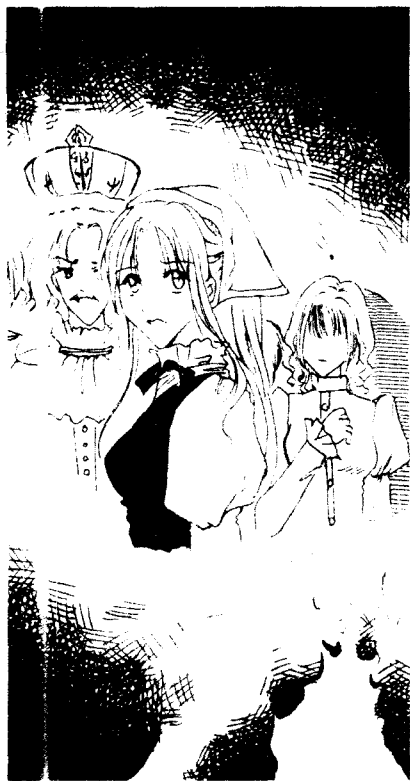
magic wand 魔杖

spell n. 诅咒



King Stefan was still afraid. He was really concerned about his little daughter and that terrible curse.

“Merryweather’s words won’t take away the evil threat. We must take action. Let every spindle and



spinning wheel in the country be burned.”

The king sent out his order. And that night the countryside was aglow with the light of burning spinning wheels.

threat n. 威胁

aglow adj. 发红的

At the same time, the seven good fairies were trying to think of a better plan.

Fauna told other fairies, “I don’t think a bonfire will stop Maleficent. We must find a better way to protect Aurora from that wicked old witch.”

They thought hard. At last Merryweather shouted, “Well, I have a good idea. Let us raise the princess in a secret hiding place. We will keep her safe until her sixteenth birthday.”

bonfire n. 一把火



The fairies told it to the king. Sadly the king and the queen agreed.

The seven good fairies disguised as simple peasant women and took the young princess to a small

cottage deep in the woods.

They called her Briar Rose instead of Aurora, and never told her that she was actually a princess.

For sixteen years, no one knew the whereabouts of Aurora.

disguise as 装扮成

whereabouts n. 下落



Briar Rose grew up, just as the seven fairies had promised. She was so sweet, modest, kind, gentle, clever and beautiful.

On her sixteenth birthday, the seven fairies wanted to send her a beautiful gown and a nice cake.

They said to her, “Rose, go outside and play for a while.”

Briar Rose went to pick berries and then she looked up in the sky and sang.

modest adj. 谦虚

的

gown n. 女式长

服



Her voice sounded so nice, just like that of a nightingale. The birds in the trees flew to her and joined in the singing. Even the stream stopped murmuring and listened to her singing.

Just then a handsome young man rode by and heard the beautiful voice. He was attracted by it.

He followed the sound and found Briar Rose under a tree.

murmur n. 潺潺声
be attracted 被吸引

