

Ending of *Sleeping Beauty* (Andrew Lang, *The Blue Fairy Book*)

(After the prince awakens her with a kiss ...)

They had but very little sleep—the princess was certainly not tired. The prince left her next morning to return into the city, where his father had been worrying about him. The Prince told him that he had lost his way in the forest as he was hunting, and that he had lain in the cottage of a charcoal-burner, who gave him cheese and brown bread.

The King, his father, who was a good man, believed him, but his mother could not be persuaded it was true. Then, seeing that the prince now went a-hunting almost every day, and that he always had some excuse ready for so doing, for three or four nights in a row, she began to suspect that he was married. He lived with the princess for two whole years and had by her two children, the eldest of which, who was a daughter, named Morning, and the youngest, who was a son, called Day, because he was a great deal more beautiful than his sister.

The Queen spoke several times to her son, asking many questions about how he passed his time. But he never dared to trust her with his secret for he feared her, though he loved her. She was of the race of the Ogres, and the king would never have married her had it not been for her vast riches. It was even whispered about the Court that she had Ogreish inclinations, and that, whenever she saw little children passing by, she had all the difficulty in the world to not devour them. And so the Prince would never tell her one word.

But when the king died, which happened about two years afterwards, the prince became the lord and master. He openly declared his marriage, and he went in great ceremony to conduct his queen to the palace. They made a magnificent entry into the capital city, she riding between her two children.

Soon after, the new King went to war with his neighbor. He left the government of the kingdom his mother, and trusted to her care his wife and children. He would be gone all the summer, and as soon as he departed the Queen Mother sent her daughter-in-law to a country house among the woods, so that she might gratify her horrible longing.

A few days after the princess was gone, the ogre queen said to her cook, "I have a mind to eat little Morning for my dinner tomorrow."

"Ah! madam," cried the cook.

"I will have it so," replied the Queen (and this she spoke in the tone of an Ogress who had a strong desire to eat fresh meat), "and will eat her with a sauce."

The poor man, knowing very well that he must not play tricks with Ogresses, took his great knife and went up into little Morning's chamber. She was then four years old and came up to him jumping and laughing, hugging him around the neck and asking him for some sugar-candy. The cook began to weep, the great knife fell out of his hand. He went into the back yard and killed a little lamb, and dressed it with such good sauce that his mistress assured him that she had never eaten anything so good in her life. He had at the same time taken up little Morning, and carried her to his wife, to conceal her.

About eight days afterward the wicked Queen said to the clerk of the kitchen, "I will sup on little Day."

The cook answered not a word, being resolved to cheat her as he had done before. He went to find out little Day and saw him with a little sword in his hand with which he was fencing a great monkey, the child being then only three years of age. He took him up in his arms and carried him to his wife, that she might conceal him in her chamber along with his sister. In the room of little Day cooked up a young goat, very tender, which the Ogress found to be wonderfully good.

All seemed well in the kingdom, but one evening this wicked Queen said to her cook, "I will eat the Queen with the same sauce I had with her children."

It was now that the poor clerk of the kitchen despaired of being able to deceive her. The young Queen was only twenty, not counting the hundred years she had been asleep, and how to find in the yard a beast so firm was what puzzled him. He decided he must save his own life and kill the young queen. Going up into her chamber, he put himself into a great fury and ran into the young Queen's room with his dagger in his hand. He could not, however, surprise her, but told her, with a great deal of respect, the orders he had received from the Queen-mother.

"Do it! Do it!" she cried, stretching out her neck. "Execute your orders, and then I shall go and see my children, my poor children, whom I so much and so tenderly loved."

She thought them dead ever since they had been taken away without her knowledge.

"No, no, madam" cried the poor clerk of the kitchen, all in tears. "You shall not die, and you shall see your children again. But you must go home with me to

my lodgings, where I have concealed them, and I shall deceive the Queen once more, by giving her instead a young pig."

Quickly he took her to his chamber, where, leaving her to embrace her children, and cry along with them, he went and cooked a pig, which the Queen had for her supper, and devoured it with the same appetite as if it had been the young Queen. She was delighted by her cruelty, and she had invented a story to tell her son on his return, how mad wolves had eaten up the Queen his wife and her two children.

One evening, as was her custom, the queen was rambling round about the grounds of the palace to see if she could smell any fresh meat. She heard in a ground room, little Day crying, for his mama was going to whip him because he had been naughty, and she heard, at the same time, little Morning begging pardon for her brother.

The Ogress recognized the voice of the Queen and her children, and being furious that she had been deceived, she commanded by break of day (with a most horrible voice, which made everybody tremble), that they should bring into the middle of the great court a large tub, which she filled with toads, vipers, snakes, and all sorts of serpents, in order to throw into it the Queen and her children, the cooks, his wife and maid—all whom she had given orders should be brought with their hands tied behind them.

Just as the executioners were just going to throw them into the tub, the King, who was not so soon expected, entered the court on horseback and asked, with the utmost astonishment, what was the meaning of that horrible spectacle.

No one dared to tell him, when the Ogress, enraged to see what had happened, threw herself head foremost into the tub and was instantly devoured by the ugly creatures she had ordered for others. The King was a little sorry, for she was his mother, but he soon comforted himself with his beautiful wife and his pretty children.