

The princess and the pea

There was once a prince, and he wanted a princess, but she had to be a real princess. He travelled around the world to find one. There were so many princesses, but he couldn't find his real princess.

One evening there was a terrible storm. The rain poured down in torrents, it really was a horrible night.

Suddenly somebody knocked at the door. A girl stood outside. She said: "Please may I come in? I'm a princess and I am so wet and cold." The princess was tired and she looked terribly dirty. She was soaking wet.

'Well, we shall soon see if that is true', thought the old queen. The prince went into the guest bedroom. He put a pea under twenty mattresses. This was where the princess was to sleep that night.

The next morning, the old queen asked the princess: "How did you sleep?"

"Oh, terribly!" said the princess. "I have hardly closed my eyes all night! I was lying upon something hard, and my whole body is black and blue this morning. It was terrible!"

"This must be a real princess, if she felt the pea through twenty mattresses", thought the old queen.

The prince was very happy and took the princess to be his wife.