

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Once upon a time there was a king and queen who for a very long time had no children, and when at length a little ..... was born to them they were so ..... that they gave a christening feast to which they ..... a number of fairies. But, unfortunately, they left out one rather cross old fairy, and she was so ..... that she said the princess should ..... when she reached the age of ....., by pricking her ..... with a spindle.

All the other fairies present, except one, had already given the princess their beautiful ....., and this last one said she could not prevent part of the wicked wish coming .....; but her gift should be that the princess should not really die, but only fall into a ..... sleep, which should last for a hundred years, and at the end of that time she should be awakened by a king's .....

It all happened as the fairies had predicted. When the princess was sixteen years old she saw an old woman spinning and took the spindle from her to try this strange new work. Instantly she pricked her hand and fell into a deep sleep, as did everyone else in the palace. There she lay in a bower of ....., year after year, and the hedge around the palace ..... grew so tall and thick that at last you could not have told that there was a ..... at all.

At the end of the hundred years a king's son heard of the castle and the

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enchanted princess who lay asleep there and determined to rescue her. So he cut his way through the thick prickly hedge and at length he .....to the princess. When he saw how lovely and how sweet she looked he fell in ..... with her and, stooping, kissed her .....

At once she awoke and with her the king and queen and all the courtiers, who had fallen asleep at the same time.

As the princess was as much taken with the prince's appearance as he was with hers, they decided to be married. And so the ..... was celebrated the same ..... with great pomp and ceremony.

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