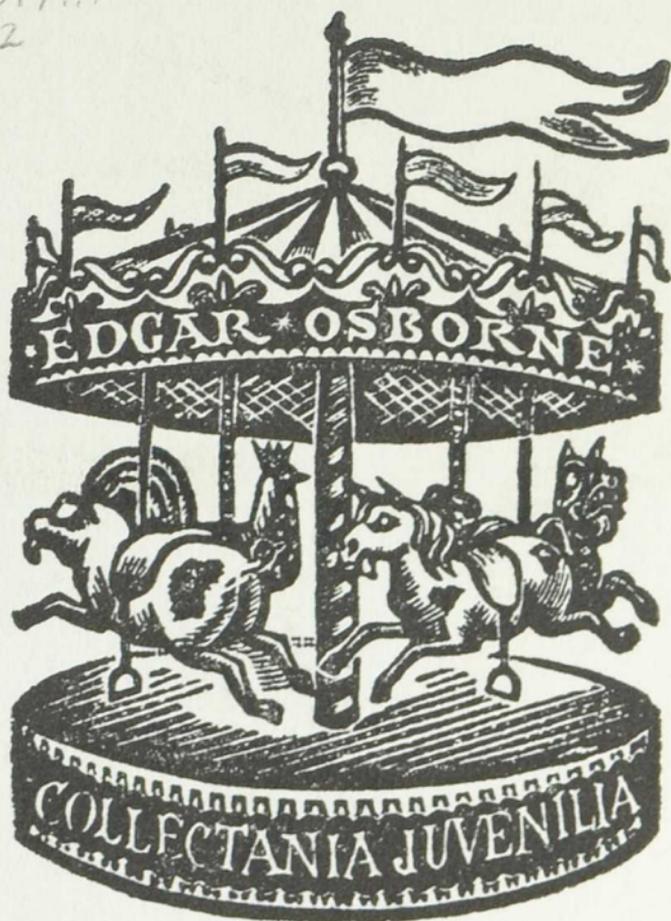




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BEAUTY...  
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# BEAUTY & THE BEAST



Beauty receiving the Magic Roses from her Father.



Beauty & her Father alarmed at the appearance of the Beast.



Beauty breaking the Beasts enchantment.

HE

HISTORY

OF

Beauty and the Beast;

OR, THE

*MAGIC ROSE.*



EMBELLISHED WITH A NEAT COLOURED FRONTISPIECE.



LONDON:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY

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## *Beauty and the Beast.*

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THERE was once a merchant who was very rich; he had six children, three boys and three girls: as he had also an excellent understanding, he spared no expense for their education, but provided them with all sorts of masters for their improvement. The three daughters were all handsome, but particularly the youngest; so very beautiful indeed was she, that every one called her Little Beauty, and being still the same when she was grown up, nobody called her by any other name; which made her sisters extremely jealous.

This youngest sister was not only handsomer than her sisters, but was better tempered also; the two eldest were extremely proud of being rich, and spoke to their inferiors with the greatest haughtiness; they gave them-

selves the most disdainful airs, nor would they indeed be seen with any but persons of the highest quality. They went every day to balls, plays, and public walks, and constantly jeered their youngest sister for spending her time in reading, or other useful employments.

By some unexpected accident, the merchant suddenly lost his whole fortune: having nothing left but a small cottage in the country, he said to his daughters, with tears in his eyes, "My children, we must now go and live in the cottage, and try to get a subsistence by labour, for we have no other means of support left!" The two eldest replied, that they knew not how to work, and would not leave town; for they had lovers enough who would be glad to marry them, though they now had no fortune. But in this they were mistaken; for the lovers, hearing what had happened, said, "They are too haughty and ill tempered; all we wanted was their fortunes. We are by no means sorry to

see their pride humbled; let them now show their pertness to their cows and sheep." But every one pitied Beauty, because she was so sweet-tempered and kind to every one; and several gentlemen offered to marry her, though she had not a penny; but Beauty refused, saying she could never think of abandoning her poor father in his misfortunes, but would go with him and assist him in his labours.

When they had removed to the cottage, the merchant and his three sons employed themselves in tilling and sowing the fields, and working in the garden, that they might have both corn and vegetables for their support. Beauty rose by five o'clock, lighted the fires, cleaned the house, and got the breakfast for the whole family. She at first found this very fatiguing, but she soon grew quite accustomed to it, and thought the work of a servant no hardship at all; besides, she found that the exercise greatly improved her health.

When she had done her work, she

generally amused herself with reading, playing on the harpsichord, or singing as she spun. The two eldest sisters, on the contrary, were at a loss what to do to pass the time away; they breakfasted in bed, and did not rise till ten, when they commonly walked out; but finding themselves very soon fatigued, they would frequently sit down under a shady tree, and lament the loss of their carriages, and finery, and say to each other, "What a mean-spirited poor stupid creature is our youngest sister, to be so contented with our miserable situation!" But their father thought very differently: he admired the patience of this sweet young creature; for her sisters not only left to her the whole work of the house, but insulted her every moment.

The family had lived in this manner about a year, when the merchant received a letter, which informed him that one of his richest vessels, which he thought was lost, had just arrived in the port. When they found that

this news made it necessary for their father to take a journey to the ship, the two eldest daughters crowded near him, and begged he would not fail to bring them, on his return, some new dresses, caps, rings, and all sorts of trinkets. "And you, Beauty," said her father, "ask for nothing; what shall I bring you, my child?" "Since you are so kind as to think of me, dear father," answered she, "I should like you to bring me a rose, for we have none in our garden." It was not that Beauty wanted a rose, but she was unwilling to condemn, by her example, the conduct of her sisters, who would have said she refused only to be praised.

The merchant took his leave, and set out on his journey; but, on his arrival at the port, some dishonest persons went to law with him about the merchandise; so after a great deal of trouble, he returned to his cottage as poor as he had left it. When he was within a few miles of his home, and thinking of the happiness he should

enjoy in again embracing his children, his road lay through a thick forest, and he had the misfortune to lose himself. It rained and snowed terribly, and the wind was so high as to throw him twice off his horse; and night being come, he fully imagined that he should die of cold or hunger, or be torn into pieces by the wolves, who howled in every direction around him. All at once, the merchant happening to look down a long avenue, discovered a light, but seemed at a great distance. He pursued his way towards it, and found it proceeded from a splendid palace illuminated all over. He quickened his pace, and soon arrived at the gates; which he opened, and was surprised to find not a single creature in any of the outer yards. His horse, which followed him, finding a stable door open, entered without ceremony, and being nearly starved, helped himself to a plentiful meal of oats and hay. His master then tied him up, and walked towards the house, which he entered, and to his

great astonishment, without seeing a living creature: he pursued his way to a large hall in which there was a good fire, and a table plentifully provided with the most delicate dishes.

As the snow and rain had wetted him to the skin, he approached the fire to dry himself. "I hope," says he, "the master of the house or his servants will excuse the liberty I take, for it surely will not be long before they make their appearance." He waited a considerable time, and still nobody came: at length the clock struck eleven; and the merchant, overcome with hunger and thirst, helped himself to a chicken, of which he made but a few mouthfuls, and then to a few glasses of wine; all the time trembling with fear. He sat till the clock struck twelve, and not a single person had he seen. He now took courage, and began to think of looking a little further about him: accordingly, he opened a door at the extremity of the hall, and entered an apartment magnificently furnished,

which he found opened into another, where there was an excellent bed; and finding himself quite overcome with fatigue, he resolved to shut the door, undress, and get into it.

It was ten o'clock the next morning before he thought of rising; when, what was his astonishment at seeing a handsome suit of clothes, entirely new, in the room of his own, which were quite spoiled! "No doubt," said he to himself, "this palace belongs to some good fairy, who has taken pity on my unfortunate situation." He looked out of the window, and instead of snow, saw the most delightful arbours embowered with all kinds of flowers. He returned to the hall where he had supped, and there found a breakfast-table, with some chocolate ready prepared. "Truly," my good fairy," said the merchant aloud, "I am extremely indebted to your kind care of me;" and, having made a hearty breakfast, he took his hat, and was going toward the stable, to pay his horse a visit. As he passed

under one of the arbours, which was loaded with roses, he suddenly recollected Beauty's request, and gathered a bunch of them to carry home.

At the same instant he heard a most horrible noise, and saw such a hideous Beast approaching him, that he was ready to die with fear. "Ungrateful man!" said the Beast, in a terrible voice: "I saved your life by receiving you into my palace, and in return you steal my roses, which I value more than all my other possessions. But, with your life shall you atone for your fault: you shall die in a quarter of an hour!" The merchant fell on his knees to the Beast, and, clasping his hands, said, "My lord, I humbly intreat your pardon: I did not think it could offend you to gather a rose for one of my daughters, who desired to have one." "I am not a lord, but a Beast," replied the monster: "you say, however, that you have daughters—I will pardon you, but, on condition that one of your daughters shall come hither and die in your

place; do not attempt to argue with me, but go. If they should refuse, swear to me that you will return yourself in three months."

The tender-hearted merchant had no intention to let one of his daughters die in his stead; but he thought to himself, that by seeming to accept the Beast's condition, he should at least have the satisfaction of once again embracing his dear children.

He accordingly swore, and the Beast told him that he might set off as soon as he pleased: "But," added he, "it is my will that you should not go empty-handed. Go back to the chamber in which you slept, where you will find an empty chest; fill it with whatever you like best, and I will get it conveyed to your own house." The Beast having said this, went away; and the merchant said to himself, "If I must die, yet I shall have the consolation of leaving my children some provision."

He returned to the chamber in which he had slept, and found there

a great quantity of pieces of gold; he filled the chest with them to the very brim, locked it, and mounting his horse, left the palace with no less grief than he had entered it with joy.

The horse of itself took a path across the forest, and in a short time they reached the merchant's house. His children gathered round him as he dismounted from his horse, but the merchant, instead of embracing them with joy, could not, as he looked at them, refrain from weeping. He held in his hand the bunch of roses, which he gave to Beauty, saying, "Take these, Beauty;—but little do you think how dear they have cost your unhappy father:"—and then gave an account of all that happened in the palace of the Beast. The two eldest sisters immediately began to shed tears, and reproach Beauty, who, they said, would be the cause of their father's death. "See," said they, "the consequence of the pride of the little wretch: why did she not ask for fine things, as we did? but, forsooth, miss

must distinguish herself; and though she will be the cause of her father's death, yet she does not shed a tear."

"It would be useless," replied Beauty, "to weep for the death of my father, since he will not die. As the Beast will accept of one of his daughters, I will give myself up to his fury; and most happy do I think myself in being able at once to save his life, and prove my tenderness to the best of fathers."

"No, sister," said the three brothers, "you shall not die; we will go in search of this monster, and either he or we will perish." "Do not hope to kill him," said the merchant, "for his power is by far too great for this to be possible. I am charmed with the kindness of Beauty, but I will not suffer her life to be exposed. I am old, and cannot expect to live much longer; I shall therefore have lost but a few years of my life, which I regret only for my children's sake."

"Never! my father," cried Beauty, "shall you go to the palace without me; I had much rather be devoured

by the monster, than die of the grief your loss would occasion me." The merchant in vain endeavoured to reason with Beauty, for she was determined to go; at which the eldest sisters, who were jealous of her amiable qualities, secretly rejoiced; though they pretended to be sadly grieved.

The merchant was so afflicted with the idea of losing his dear child, that he never once thought of the chest he filled with gold: but retiring to his chamber at night, to his great surprise, he perceived it standing by his bed-side. He now determined to say nothing to his eldest daughters of the riches he possessed; for he knew very well they would immediately wish to return to town: but he told Beauty his secret, who informed him that two gentlemen had been visiting at the cottage during his absence, who seemed to have a great affection for her two sisters; she therefore entreated her father to marry them without delay: for she was so sweet-tempered that she loved them, notwithstanding

all their unkind behaviour, which she forgave with all her heart.

When the three months were expired, the merchant and Beauty prepared to set out for the palace of the Beast; upon which occasion the two sisters rubbed their eyes with onions, to make believe they shed a great many tears; but both the merchant and his sons shed them in reality: there was only Beauty who did not weep, for she thought it would only increase their affliction.

They reached the palace in a few hours; when the horse, without bidding, entered the same stable as before, and the merchant with his daughter proceeded to the large hall, where they found a table magnificently provided with every delicacy, and with two covers laid on it. The merchant had but little appetite; but Beauty, the better to conceal her sorrow, placed herself at the table, and having helped her father, began herself to eat, thinking all the time, that the Beast had surely a mind to fatten

her before he eat her up, since he had provided such good cheer.

When they had finished their supper, they heard a hissing noise; and the good old man began to bid his poor child farewell, for he knew it was the Beast coming to them.

Beauty, on seeing his hideous form, could not help being terrified, but she tried as much as possible to conceal her fear. The monster having asked her if she came willingly, she replied, trembling more than before, "Y-e-s." "You are a good girl," replied he, "and I think myself much obliged to you. Good man, (continued he) you may leave the palace to-morrow morning, and take care to return to it no more. Good night, Beauty." "Good night, Beast," answered she: and the monster then withdrew.

The merchant and Beauty now bid each other a sorrowful good night, and went to bed, thinking it would be impossible for them to close their eyes; but, no sooner had they laid down, than they fell into a profound

sleep, from which they did not awake till morning. Beauty dreamed that a lady approached her, who said, "I am much pleased, Beauty, at the generous affection you have shown, in being willing to give your life to save that of your father; and it shall not go unrewarded." Beauty, as soon as she arose, related this dream to her father; but though it afforded them some comfort, yet he could not take leave of his darling child, without shedding the bitterest tears.

Beauty having a great deal of courage, soon resolved not to make her unhappy condition worse by useless sorrow, and to wait with as much tranquillity as she could till the evening; when she thought the Beast would not fail to come and eat her.

She now determined on taking a view of the different parts of the palace, with the beauty of which she was much delighted. But what was her surprise at coming to a door over which was written, "BEAUTY'S APARTMENT." She opened it hastily, and

was dazzled at the splendour of every thing it contained; but what more than all excited her wonder, was a large library filled with books, a harpsichord, and several pieces of music. "The Beast is determined I shall not want amusement;" said she. The thought then struck her that it was not likely such a provision would have been made for her, if she had but one day to live, and began to hope all would not end as she had imagined. She then opened the library, and perceived a book, on which was wrote, in letters of gold:

Beauteous lady, dry your tears,  
 Here's no cause for sighs or fears;  
 Command as freely as you may,  
 Compliance still shall mark your sway.

"Alas!" said she, sighing, "there is nothing I so much desire as to see my poor father, and to know what he is at this moment doing." This she said to herself; but how great was her amazement, when, on casting her eyes on a mirror that stood near her, she saw her home, and her father riding

up to the cottage in the deepest affliction. Her two sisters had come out to meet him, and notwithstanding all their endeavours to look sorry, could not help betraying their joy. In a short time all this disappeared; but Beauty began to think that the Beast was very kind to her, and that she had nothing to fear from him.

About noon she found a table prepared for her, and a delightful concert of music played all the time she was eating her dinner, without her seeing a single creature.

At supper, when she was going to place herself at table, she heard the noise of the Beast, and could not help trembling with terror. "Will you allow me, Beauty, (said he) the pleasure of seeing you sup?" "That is as you please," answered she, dreadfully frightened. "Not in the least," said the Beast, "and the Beast you alone command in this place. If you dislike my company, you have only to say so, and I will instantly leave you. But tell me, Beauty, do you not think

me very ugly?" "Truly, yes," replied she, "for I cannot tell a falsehood; but then I think you are very good." "You are right, (continued the Beast) and beside my ugliness, I am also extremely ignorant; I know very well that I am a Beast." "You cannot, I should think, be very ignorant, (said Beauty) if you yourself perceive this." "Pray do not let me interrupt your eating, (pursued he) and be sure you do not want for any thing, for all you see is yours, and I shall be extremely grieved if you are not happy." "You are very good; (replied Beauty) I must needs confess that I think very highly of your disposition; so much so, that I almost forget your ugliness." "Yes, yes. I trust I am good-natured, but still I am a monster!"

Beauty supped with an excellent appetite, and had nearly got the better of her dread of the monster; but she was ready to sink with horror, when he said to her: "Beauty, will you be my wife?" She remained for

a few moments without answering, for she was afraid of putting him in a passion by refusing. At last she replied: "No, Beast!" The Beast made no reply, but sighed deeply, and made so loud a hissing, that the whole palace echoed with the sounds; but Beauty was soon relieved of her terror, for the Beast said, in a melancholy tone, "Adieu, Beauty!" and left her, turning his head two or three times as he went, to look at her once more. Beauty, finding herself alone, began to feel the greatest compassion for the poor Beast. "Alas!" said she, "what a pity it is he should be so very frightful, since he is so good-tempered."

Beauty lived three months in this palace very contentedly: the Beast visited her every evening, and entertained her with his conversation while she supped; and though what he said was not very clever, yet, perceiving in him every day new virtues, instead of dreading the time of his coming, she was continually looking at her watch,

to see if it was almost nine o'clock; at which hour he never failed to visit her. There was but one thing that made her uneasy; which was that the Beast, before he retired, constantly asked her if she would be his wife, and appeared extremely sorrowful at her refusals.

Beauty one day said to him: "You distress me exceedingly, Beast, in obliging me to refuse you so often: I wish I could prevail upon myself to marry you; but I am too sincere to flatter you that this will ever happen; I shall always be your friend—try to be satisfied." "That I must needs do, (replied the Beast) since I know well enough how very horrible I am; but I love you exceedingly: however, I think myself very fortunate in your being pleased to stay with me: promise me, Beauty, that you will never leave me." Beauty was quite confused when he said this, for she had seen in her mirror that her father had fallen sick of grief for her absence,

and pined to see her. "I would willingly promise not to leave you entirely, (said she) but I have such a longing desire to see my father, that if you refuse me this pleasure, I shall die of grief."

"Rather would I die myself, Beauty," replied he, "than cause you any affliction. I will send you to your father's cottage; you shall stay there, and your poor Beast shall die of grief." "No," said Beauty, weeping, "I love you too well to be the cause of your death: I promise to return in a week. You have shewn me that my sisters are married, and my brothers are gone to the army; my father is therefore all alone. Allow me to pass one week with him." "You shall find yourself with him to-morrow morning," answered the Beast, "but remember your promise. When you wish to return, you have only to put your ring on a table when you go to bed. Adieu, Beauty!" The Beast, as usual, sighed as he pronounced

these words ; and Beauty went to bed extremely affected at seeing him so distressed.

When she awoke in the morning, she found herself in her father's cottage ; and ringing a bell that was at her bed-side, a servant entered, and on seeing her, gave a loud shriek ; upon which the merchant ran up stairs, and on beholding his daughter, was ready to die with joy. They embraced again and again : at length Beauty began to recollect that she had no clothes to put on ; but the servant told her she had just found in the next room a large chest filled with apparel, embroidered all over with gold, and ornamented with pearls and diamonds.

Beauty thanked the kind Beast for his attention, and dressed herself in the plainest of the dresses, telling the servant to put away the others very carefully, for she intended to present them to her sisters ; but scarcely had she pronounced these words, than the chest disappeared. Her father then

observed, that no doubt the Beast intended she should keep the whole for herself; at which the chest instantly returned to the same place.

Her sisters, hearing of her return, paid her a visit; but were ready to burst with envy when they saw Beauty dressed like a princess, and look so very beautiful: not all the kindness she showed them produced the least effect; for their jealousy was still increased, when she told them how happily she had lived at the palace of the Beast. The envious creatures went secretly into the garden, where they cried with spite, to think of her good fortune. "Sister, (said the eldest) a thought has just come into my head: let us try to keep her here beyond the week allowed her by the Beast, who will be so enraged, that ten to one but he eats her up in a moment." To this the other instantly agreed.

When the week was ended, her sisters counterfeited so much affliction at the idea of her leaving them, that she consented to stay another week; dur-

ing which Beauty could not help reproaching herself for the unhappiness she knew she must occasion her poor Beast, through breaking her promise.

The tenth night of her being at the cottage, she dreamed she was in the garden of the palace, and that the Beast lay expiring on a grass plat, and in a dying voice reproached her with ingratitude. Beauty awaked in the greatest agitation, and burst into tears. "Am I not very wicked," said she, "to act so unkindly to a Beast who has treated me with so much kindness? It is not his fault that he is so ugly and so stupid: and then he is so good! which is far better than all the rest. Why do I refuse to marry him? I should certainly be happier with him than my sisters are with their husbands; for it is neither the person nor understanding of a man that makes his wife happy; but kindness, virtue, and an obliging temper; and all these the Beast possesses in perfection. I do not love him, but I feel for him the sincerest friendship,

esteem, and gratitude. I am resolved he shall not be unhappy on my account, I am determined."

She immediately arose, put her ring on the table, and went into bed again, and soon fell fast asleep. In the morning she with joy found herself in the palace of the Beast. She dressed herself with great magnificence, that she might please him the better, and thought she had never passed so long a day. At length the clock struck nine, but no Beast appeared. Beauty then imagined she had been the cause of his death. She ran from room to room, all over the palace; calling, in the utmost despair, upon his name: but still no Beast came. After seeking him in vain for a long time, she recollected her dream, and instantly ran towards the grass plat: there she saw the poor Beast extended senseless, and to all appearance dead. She threw herself upon his body, thinking nothing at all of his ugliness; and finding his heart still beat, she ran hastily and fetched some water from a canal

a little way off, and threw it on his face. The Beast opened his eyes, and said: "Beauty! you have forgot your promise! My grief for your loss made me resolve to starve myself to death; but at least I shall die content, since I have had the pleasure of seeing you once more."

"No, my dear Beast," replied she, "you shall not die; you shall live to become my husband. From this moment I offer you my hand, and swear to be only yours. Alas! I thought I felt only friendship for you; but the pain I now feel, convinces me that I could not live without you."

Scarcely had Beauty pronounced these words, before the palace was suddenly illuminated, and music, fireworks, and all kinds of amusements, announced the most splendid rejoicings. All this, however, had no effect upon Beauty, who watched over her dear Beast with the most tender anxiety. But what was her amazement, to see all at once at her feet the handsomest prince that ever was seen, who

thanked her, with the utmost tenderness, for having broken his enchantment! Though this handsome prince was deserving of her whole attention, she could not refrain from asking him what was become of the Beast. "You see him, Beauty, at your feet," answered the Prince: "a wicked fairy had condemned me to wear the form of a beast, till a beautiful young lady should consent to marry me, and had forbidden me, on pain of death, to show that I had any understanding. You alone, dearest Beauty, have had the generosity to judge of me by the goodness of my heart; and, in offering you my crown, the recompence falls infinitely short of what I owe you for your kindness."

Beauty, in the most pleasing surprise, assisted the young prince to rise, and they proceeded together to the palace; when her astonishment was very great, to find there her father and all her family, who had been conveyed there by the beautiful lady she saw in her dream. "Beauty,"

said the lady, (for she was a great fairy) "receive the reward of the virtuous choice you have made. You have preferred goodness of heart to sense and beauty; you therefore deserve to find all these qualities united in the same person. You are going to be a great queen: I hope a crown will not destroy your virtue. As for you, ladies," said the fairy, to the eldest sisters, "I have long been witness to the malice of your hearts, and to your injustice. You shall become two statues, and shall be fixed at the gate of your sister's palace; nor will I inflict on you any greater punishment than that of witnessing her happiness. You will never recover your natural forms till you are fully sensible of all your faults; and, to say the truth, I much fear you will ever remain statues. I have seen that pride, anger, and idleness may be conquered; but to amend a malignant envious temper, would be absolutely a miracle."

At the same instant the fairy, with a stroke of her wand, transported all

who were present to the young Prince's dominions, where he was received by his subjects with the greatest demonstrations of joy. He married Beauty, and passed with her a long and happy life.

Beauty's father lived happily with them for some time, and died at a good old age.

Her brothers assisted the King in the administration of justice, and by their moderation and wisdom, became universally respected.

Her sisters, after continuing in their mortifying situation for several years, were restored by the good fairy to their former shape, and by their conduct fully atoned for their past follies.

