

Super Short Mini Zines

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“The Real Princess” with the illustrations was published in 1899 and is public domain.

The Real Princess

Hans Christian Andersen
illustrated by
Helen Stratton



The Prince

‘Ahi we shall soon see that!’

thought the old Queen-mother;

however, she said not a word of

what she was going to do; but went

quietly into the bedroom, took all

the bedclothes off the bed, and put

three little peas on the bedstead.

She then laid twenty mattresses one

upon another over the three peas,

and put twenty feather beds over the

mattress.

Upon this bed the Princess was to

pass the night.

The next morning she was asked

how she had slept. ‘Oh, very badly

indeed!’ she replied. ‘I have scarcely

closed my eyes the whole night

through. I do not know what was in

my bed, but I had something hard

under me, and am all over black and

blue. It has hurt me so much!’

It was a Princess who was standing
outside the door. What with the rain
and the wind, she was in a sad
condition; the water trickled down
from her hair, and her clothes clung
to her body. She said she was a real
Princess.



heard a violent knocking at the door,
and the old King, the Prince’s father,
went out himself to open it.



The Real Princess

There was once a Prince who wished to marry a Princess; but then she must be a real Princess. He travelled all over the world in hopes of finding such a lady; but there was always something wrong. Princesses he found in plenty; but whether they were real Princesses it was impossible for him to decide, for now one thing, now another, seemed to him not quite right about the ladies. At last he returned to his palace quite cast down, because he wished so much to have a real Princess for his wife.

One evening a fearful tempest arose, it thundered and lightened, and the rain poured down from the sky in torrents: besides, it was as dark as pitch. All at once there was

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delicacy?

Wasn’t this a lady of real

not lost.

are still to be seen, provided they are

cabinet of curiosities, where they are

three peas were however put into the

he had found a real Princess. The

his wife; being now convinced that

The Prince accordingly made her

delicate sense of feeling.

real Princess could have had such a

twenty feather beds. None but a

through the twenty mattresses and

been able to feel the three little peas

be a real Princess, since she had

Now it was plain that the lady must