

English

# The Princess and the Pea

- a story from Denmark





Once upon a time there was a prince. He wanted a princess, but she had to be a real princess.  
So he travelled all across the world to look for one, but everywhere he went, something wasn't right.



There were plenty of princesses, but he could not figure out if they were real princesses; there was always something that was not quite right.

So he went back home and was very upset, because he so dearly wanted a real princess.



One day with terrible weather, with lightning, thunder and lots of rain, there was a knock at the city gate. The old king went down to open it. There was a princess outside the gate.



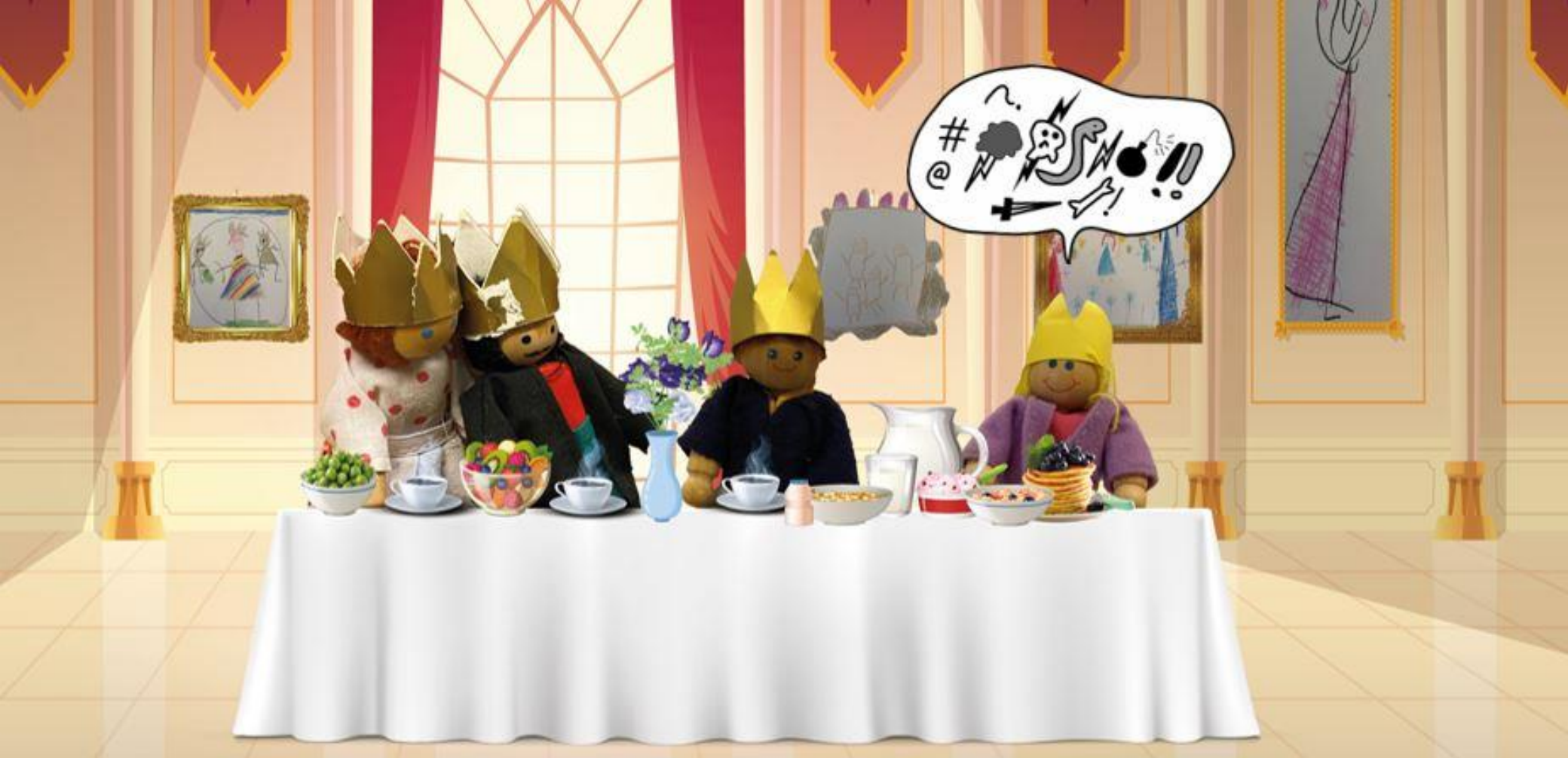
But she did not look like a princess. She was sopping wet and filthy from all the rain; water was dripping down her clothes and leaking out of her shoes.



«Well, we shall find out!», the old queen thought to herself. The queen said nothing, but went into the guest room and placed a pea at the bottom of the bed. Then she layered twenty mattresses and twenty duvets on top of the pea. This was to be the princess' bed for the night.



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In the morning, the queen and king asked her how she had slept. «Oh, very badly!», said the princess. «I've hardly closed my eyes all night! It felt like there was something in the bed. I was lying on something hard, so I'm black and blue all over my body! It's horrible!» Now they could see that she was a real princess, since she had felt the pea through the twenty mattresses and twenty duvets.



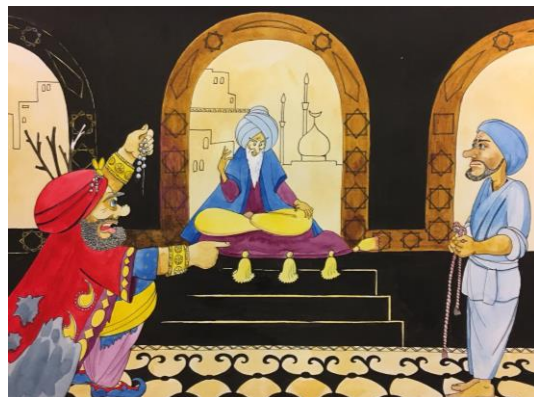
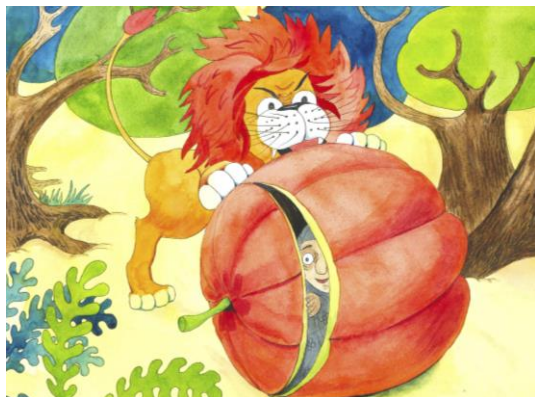


Only a real princess could be that sensitive.

The prince took her for his wife, for now he knew that he had found a real princess.



And the pea was put in a museum, where it can still be seen, if no one has stolen it.  
And that's the end of the story.



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This story was made with illustrations from Aursmoen barnehage