



THE FROG KING

Once upon a time, there was a very old king ruling in a kingdom. The king had a daughter who was famous for her beauty far and wide. The princess enjoyed spending time in the royal garden, where she walked or played with her friends. One day, she was in her favourite spot – by the well. She was listening to the bubbling of the water, throwing and catching her little golden ball and humming to herself. The little ball glinted beautifully in the sun. But then the light reflected into her eyes, she dropped the ball into the well, and it disappeared in the dark depths. The princess started crying because that was her favourite toy. And as she was crying, she heard a voice coming right out of the well: “Why are you crying, princess? Ribbit, ribbit.”

The princess was so surprised that she stopped sobbing and in a few moments, she saw a little creature with bulging eyes in the water. It was a frog. He quickly realized why the princess was sad and he said to her: “Don’t cry, I can bring you your golden ball back. But what can you give me in return?”

“Anything you want, dear frog. Pearls, diamonds, whatever would make you happy,” said the princess.

“No, no, no. I don’t need any of that. I just want to be your friend. I want to sit at your table and sleep in your bed with you. If you can promise me that, I will

THE FROG KING

give you your ball back,” he said. Those were his conditions.

The princess promised the frog everything he wanted right away. She really wanted her beloved ball back, but she didn't intend to keep her promise. 'It's just a frog and frogs belong in the water, not the palace. And most of all, not in my soft bed,' she thought.

When the frog heard her promise, he jumped into the well and came back in a minute with the lost ball. The princess grabbed it and ran joyfully home.

The frog shouted behind her: "Wait, beautiful princess, take me with you. Don't run so fast!"

But the princess didn't even look back, and so the sad little frog had to return to the well.

The next day, the princess was enjoying a royal feast with the king, when suddenly, there was a knock on the door and there came a familiar voice: "Open up, princess, you promised. You must keep your word. Croak, croak."

"Go away, you ugly frog! Why did you think you could be friends with a princess, anyway?" she shouted angrily and then she told her father what happened at the well the previous day.

The king frowned and answered seriously: "Daughter, dear, since you gave your word, you need to keep it. Get up and open the door for the frog."

The princess obeyed and when she opened the door, the frog leaped onto the table and started enjoying the food that was meant to be hers. When he had finished, he asked her to lead him into her chambers, because he wanted to rest a little. The princess had goosebumps at the thought of this slimy, ugly frog sleeping under her silk covers. She started crying desperately.

When the king saw, he got extremely angry, and asked her: "How can you be so mean to someone who helped you when you needed it? You gave a promise, and promises must be kept."

And so she had no choice but to take the frog into her chambers. When she entered, she just left the frog in a corner.

"You can't expect me to sleep on the floor, pretty princess. I was promised a bed, which is where I want to sleep. Ribbit, ribbit," said the frog.

THE FROG KING

This was just too much for the princess. She picked him up and slammed him angrily against her bed.

“Take that, you ugly, disgusting frog,” the princess screamed at him.

Suddenly, sparks appeared in the princess’ chambers, there was a flash of light and suddenly a tall, young prince stood in front of her. There was no trace of the frog anymore.

He told the princess that an evil witch had turned him into a frog a long time ago. The only way to break the curse, was for a princess to let him into her chambers. The stupefied princess felt deeply ashamed of her behaviour and she was grateful for her father’s words. She was glad that she managed to save the pretty prince and apologized over and over for her behaviour. And as it usually goes, it was love at first sight. Soon after, there was a big royal wedding between the princess and the frog prince, where they all ate and drank and danced until dawn.