



The Princess and the Pea: (abridged version)

A long time ago, there lived a Prince who was terribly sad because all he wanted, was to marry a Princess and live happily ever after. One day, the prince jumped onto his big white horse and waved goodbye to the King and Queen. "I'm going to find a princess and ask her to marry me," he said.

"Make sure she's a real princess," said the king.

But wherever he went, the Prince couldn't find the Princess of his dreams, and this made him sad.

That night there was a terrible storm and a knock at the castle door. Ra-ta-tat-tat.

The Prince opened the door and there was a very wet and cold Princess. The Prince and the Princess sat and talked in front of the open fire.

"I suppose we'd better find out if she's a real Princess." said the Queen.

At bedtime the Queen secretly placed a tiny, dried up pea in the center of the Princess's bed. Forty mattresses were placed on top "This is your bed," said the Queen.

The Princess climbed the ladder and settled down to sleep. But she couldn't sleep it was very uncomfortable.

The next morning the Queen asked, "Did you sleep okay?"

'No,' said the Princess, 'I didn't sleep at all. There was a hard lump in the middle of the bed.'

"Only a real Princess could feel the tiny pea I placed under all those mattresses." said the Queen.

"Will you marry me?" asked the Prince.

"No," said the Princess. "Not yet. There's a whole world waiting out there for me, and I want to explore it. You can come with me if you like."

'I'd love that,' said the Prince. "Having an adventure would be so much more fun than getting married. We could go on my horse, if you like."

So they jumped onto the big white horse and they galloped off.