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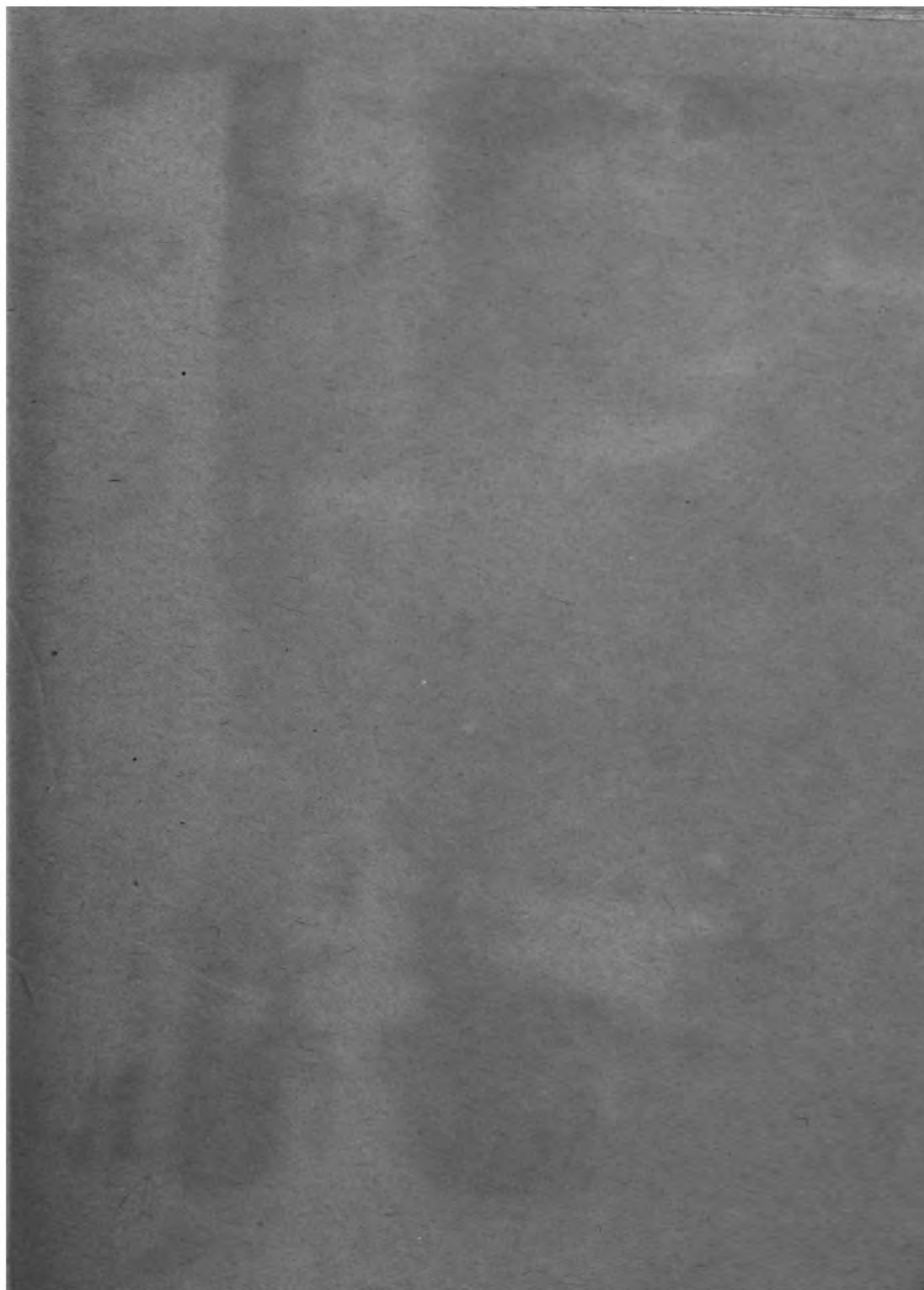
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# PRINCESS ROSEBUD



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# THE PRINCESS ROSEBUD



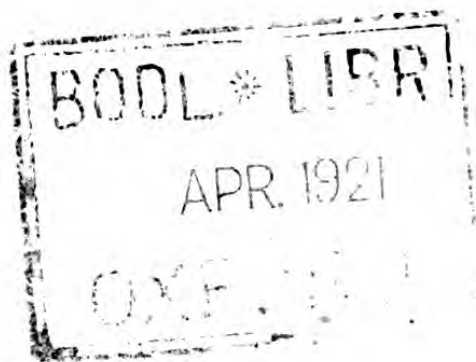
# THE PRINCESS ROSEBUD

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*This story is an adaptation of "La Princesse Rosette"  
by the Countess d'Aulnoy.*



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# THE PRINCESS ROSEBUD

## I.

WHAT THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES SAID.

IN times long ago there lived a King and Queen who had two sturdy sons. The name of the elder was Ibo, and the name of the younger was Ado.

The realm of this King and Queen was near to Fairyland, and when a child was born to them, they used to ask the Queen of the Fairies to a grand feast. When the feast was over they bowed down before the Fairy Queen, and said :

## 8            The Princess Rosebud.

“O Queen, tell us, we pray thee, what shall be the luck of this child that has come into the world?”

Now the Fairy Queen had said that good luck should come to both the young Princes Ibo and Ado, and this had made glad the hearts of the old King and Queen.

Some time after a little girl was born. She was so fair that the Queen named her Rosebud. Quickly she sent to the Queen of the Fairies, bidding her to the luck feast. It was the grandest feast that the King and Queen had ever given. When it was ended they bowed down before the Fairy Queen, and begged her to give good luck to the little Princess.

The Fairy Queen turned first to the

What the Queen of Fairies said. 9  
north, then to the south, then to the east,  
and then to the west. She waved her  
wand three times, but she spoke no word.

“Alas!” cried the Queen sadly, “I  
see that you cannot foretell good for  
my child. If her luck is to be evil, do  
not hide it from me. I would know  
the worst.”

“Lady,” said the Fairy Queen, “I  
foresee no ill luck for your child; but  
she will bring ill luck to others. She  
will be the cause of harm to the Princes  
Ibo and Ado, your sons; she may even  
bring them nigh unto death.”

Having spoken thus, the Fairy Queen  
spread her gauzy wings, flew upward, and  
was soon lost to sight in the blue sky.

The King and Queen watched her

flight until they could see her no more. Then they turned and went into the palace, full of sadness. They shut themselves up in one room, and would neither eat nor drink for three days.

## II.

### WHAT THE WISE MEN SAID.

WHEN three days were past, the King and the Queen called before them all the wise men of the land, and told them what the Queen of the Fairies had said. Then the King spoke:—

“O ye wise ones,” he said, “you have heard that the Princess Rosebud shall be the cause of harm to her brothers, the

What the Wise Men said. 11

Princes Ibo and Ado, and that she may even bring them nigh unto death. What, think you, may be done to save them from so sad a fate?"

The wise men looked at one another and shook their white old heads, but none spoke for some time. At last the oldest and whitest of them stood up and said:—

“O King, that which you ask is hard to answer. The Prince Ibo is your heir; he will one day rule this land, and his life must be guarded. Some might say that the Princess ought to be slain—”

Here the Queen gave a scream and nearly fainted.

“—But I am not so hard of heart. Build, O King, a tower, tall and strong.



At the top of the tower make a chamber, so that the light of day may never come into it. In this chamber shall the Princess Rosebud live for ever with her nurse. And that none may ever come nigh them, they shall draw up their food with a rope and a basket."

When the old man had spoken and the other wise ones nodded their heads and clapped their hands, and said that they had thought all the time that this was the right thing to do. The King thanked them for their counsel, and said that they might go home to dinner, at which they were very glad.

So the King built a tower, tall and strong, at the end of his garden. At the top of the tower he made a chamber, into

which the rays of the sun could never come. It was lighted by a thousand candles. In the floor was a trap-door, through which a basket could be raised and let down.

In this chamber the King placed the little Princess Rosebud, her Nurse, her Nurse's daughter, who was named Enna, and a dog, who was to be their guard. They went up into the chamber by a ladder, which was then taken away. From that day forth they could neither see nor speak to any one outside the tower.

All this was done so that the words of the Queen of the Fairies might prove false, and that the little Princess Rosebud might not be the cause of harm to

## 14      The Princess Rosebud.

her two brothers, the Princes Ibo and Ado.

### III.

#### ROSEBUD'S LIFE IN THE TOWER.

IT was a dull life that the poor little Princess led, year after year, at the top of the high tower. She never saw the sweet light of the sun, nor felt the cool breath of the wind. She did not know what a green wood was like, or the sparkle of running water. She could not tell you whether eggs grew on trees, or apples were laid by hens. She just ate them, and thought no more about it.

And what made things worse was that her old Nurse was cross and selfish. She

## Rosebud's Life in the Tower. 15

loved herself best of all, and then her daughter Enna. For little Rosebud she had no love to spare.

When she pulled up the basket with food in it she always took the best bits for herself. Then she gave a choice of what was left to Enna, and the Princess had the scraps.

Every year the Queen sent a fine new dress for Rosebud, but the Nurse did not let her wear it. She gave it to Enna, and made Rosebud put on the cast-off frock, which by that time was nearly worn out, and far too small for the Princess, who was growing fast.

But the smartest of frocks never made Enna look comely, because she was as ugly as Rosebud was fair. Her nose



She always took the best bits for herself.

## Rosebud's Life in the Tower. 17

was red, her eyes squinted, her mouth was all awry, and she had a hump on her back. But in spite of all this her foolish old mother thought her more lovely than any girl in the world.

The old Nurse and Enna grew weary of living in the tower. They wanted to be free to enjoy themselves, and in their hearts they wished that the Princess would die. Perhaps they would have starved her, if they had dared ; but they did not dare, because of the dog.

Now this dog, whose name was Flap, was the wisest dog in the world, and he loved the Princess Rosebud dearly. He knew well when the Nurse did not give his mistress enough to eat, and he looked at her with his great, green eyes, that

flashed fire and put her in fear of her life. It would have fared ill with the evil old woman if Flap had thought that she meant to harm his dear Princess.

Every night Flap slept at the foot of Rosebud's bed, and if the Nurse or Enniss so much as stirred in their beds he would start up with a low growl, his hair on end, and his eyes flashing with the strange green light that made the room as bright as if it were day.

#### IV.

##### ROSEBUD IS SET FREE.

TIME passed away, and at last the old King died, and Ibo, his elder son, reigned in his stead.

Now Ibo and Ado had often talked of their sister, whom they had never seen. They did not know why she was shut up in the high tower, and they thought it hard that she should spend all her life cut off from the world.

So they went to the old Queen, and stood before her. "Mother," said King Ibo, "tell us, I pray you, why it is that our sister, the Princess Rosebud, may never see the light of day? What evil has she done?"

"She has done no evil, my sons," said the Queen. "She is shut up for fear of the evil that she might do. For, at her birth, the Queen of the Fairies, who knows all things that shall be, said that she would be the cause of ill luck to you



both, and might even bring you nigh to death."

"Pooh! pooh!" cried the young King. "this is a mad tale. What harm could our sister do to us? She shall stay in the tower no longer."

"Before you set her free," said the Queen, "call the wise men to you, and hear what they have to say about it."

"Tut! tut!" said the King. "A set of silly old fools! I don't care a rap what they think."

"I pray that you may not be sorry for what you are going to do when it is too late to undo it," said the Queen.

The King and Prince Ado told the slaves to bring a long ladder. This the

set up inside the tower, against the trap-door, and called to all in the chamber to come down.

Down came the old Nurse, and she was so fat that she nearly broke the ladder. Then down came Enna, and she was so ugly that the slaves nearly ran off in a fright. Then down came the Princess Rosebud, and she was so fair that they made up their minds to stay.

The King and the Prince kissed their sister, and told her that they had come to set her free. They said that she should always live with them in the palace, and go where she pleased.

They were just going away when a loud barking was heard, and the tower was filled with a bright, green light.

22           The Princess Rosebud.

“Oh, my poor old Flap,” cried Rosebud  
“he is left behind.”

Prince Ado ran up the ladder, tucked  
Flap under one arm, and came down  
with him. Flap was so happy that he  
dashed off into the woods and was seen  
no more that day.

V.

ROSEBUD AND THE PEACOCK.

WHEN the Princess Rosebud came out of  
the tower she shaded her eyes with her  
hands and cried out: “What is this?  
It hurts, it hurts!”

“That is the blessed light of the sun,”  
said the King, “that makes all things to  
live.”



“What is this? It hurts, it hurts!”

24      The Princess Rosebud.

When Rosebud got used to the glare she said: "Is this great candle always alight?"

Prince Ado laughed, and said: "No dear sister. Sometimes the clouds hide it, and every night it dips below the edge of the world and sinks to rest."

But when the sun had set and the moon shone forth, Rosebud said: "Brother, you have not told me the truth; the sun is still there, but he has turned pale with fright. Something dreadful has happened."

The Princess had much to learn after having been cooped up in one room all her life, and at first she made many strange mistakes. One day, when she came to a broad lake in the garden, she would have tried to walk on it, but her brothers held

## Rosebud and the Peacock. 25

her back. The King threw a stone into the lake, which made a great splash, and sank. "Oh!" cried the Princess, putting her hand in the water, "this is what we wash in. I thought that it was always kept in jugs."

Indeed, if the wise dog Flap had not always been with his mistress, she would often have risked her life, for she did not know what things might harm her. She would have walked up to a lion or a bear without any fear, because she knew nothing of danger.

One day, when Rosebud was running in the garden with Flap at her heels, she saw a great, gaudy peacock, with his tail spread wide, strutting about on a lawn. She stopped and gazed at the proud bird.

“O lovely one!” she cried, “you that look at me with so many bright eyes, you are more fair than any living thing. Speak to me, I pray you.”

The peacock gave a great, harsh shriek, which was heard all over the garden.

“I do not know what you are saying,” said Rosebud, “with that sweet voice of yours, but I am sure that it must be something kind.”

The King had heard the peacock’s scream, and he came running to the Princess.

“Do not go too near that bird,” he shouted. “He is fierce.”

“O brother,” said Rosebud, “I can see that he is good and kind. He will

## Rosebud is to Marry. 27

not harm me. I love him more than I can tell. He must live in a room in the palace close to mine, so that I may see him every day."

So the King, who could deny his sister nothing, led the peacock into the palace. The peacock lived there always, and Rosebud spent her life in feeding him and looking to all his wants.

## VI.

### ROSEBUD IS TO MARRY.

Now a time came when the King and his brother Ado wished that Rosebud should take a husband. So they went



one day to their sister, and the King said  
“Rosebud, the great King Bobo, who is  
our friend, seeks you for his wife. This  
is a great honour, and it is our will that  
you should marry him.”

“Your will is law to me in all things  
but this,” said Rosebud, with a frown.  
“But I will not marry King Bobo.  
I have made up my mind. I will marry  
none but the King of the Peacocks, who  
must be the greatest and most handsome  
prince in the world.”

The King and Prince Ado looked sad  
when Rosebud said this. They love  
their sister, and they wished to please  
her; but they feared the wrath of King  
Bobo.

“We know not where is the land of

the Peacocks," said Prince Ado, "nor if there be such a King."

"Then find out," said Rosebud, "for you may be sure that I shall not marry your Bobo."

The King and Ado did not know what to do, so they sent for the wise men. When the wise men had come into the hall of the palace, the King said:—

"O wise ones, the Princess Rosebud says that she will wed none but the King of the Peacocks. Tell me, I pray you, where is the realm of this King?"

The wise ones looked at one another and shook their white heads. At last the oldest of them spoke.

"O King," he said, "I never learned about such a land when I was at school."

30      The Princess Rosebud.

“But that was a very long time ago,” said Prince Ado.

Then another wise man spoke. “O King,” he said, “I have heard that if you ride towards the setting sun until you reach the end of the world, there you will find the land of the Peacocks.”

“And it is well,” said a third, “that the Princess should marry this King; for then she will live so far away that the words of the Queen of the Fairies can never come true.”

Hearing these things, the King and Prince Ado made up their minds that they would go and seek the land of the Peacocks. They had a portrait of the Princess painted, so that they might show the King of the Peacocks how lovely

## The Land of the Peacocks. 31

she was. The picture was so big that it had to be packed in a cart all by itself.

Then the King and Prince Ado put on their finest clothes, and with a great array of horsemen and slaves they set forth to seek the land of the King of the Peacocks.

### VII.

#### KING IBO GOES TO THE LAND OF THE PEACOCKS.

THEY rode, and they rode, and they rode towards the setting of the sun, until they came to the end of King Ibo's realm. The guards turned out, and bowed to the ground before them.

“What land is this through which we are about to ride?” asked the King.

“It is the land of the Bees, Sire,” said one of the guards. “They are a very warlike race.”

As he spoke, a great buzzing was heard, and an army of Bees flew up. There were so many of them that they hid the light of the sun.

“Who are these,” cried their leader, “that seek to come into the realm of our great Queen?”

“Noble lord,” said one of the guards, “this is our great King Ibo, and he comes in peace.”

“He must go before our Queen,” said the Bee.

So Ibo and his train rode on, and the

## The Land of the Peacocks. 33

Bees flew on each side of them, and above them. It seemed as if they were riding under an arch of Bees.

At last they came to a tree. On the edge of a hole in the tree the Queen Bee was sitting, with her crown on her head.

“How dare you come into my land without my leave?” she asked sternly.

“Fair Queen,” said King Ibo, “we do not come to harm your land; we seek the realm of the King of the Peacocks.”

“That is a long way off,” said the Queen Bee, “where the sun dips over the edge of the world. You will have to cross the land of the Storks. You have leave to pass; but you must keep to the

34      The Princess Rosebud.

road. If you turn from it either to the right or to the left, my guards will sting you to death."

So King Ibo and his train rode on under the arch of Bees towards the setting of the sun. They rode for days and days, until they came to a long line of Storks that stretched as far as eyes could see. Each Stork was standing on one leg.

Then the Bees flew off, and the Storks began clapping their beaks, making even such a noise.

"Halt!" cried the chief of the Storks. "What do you seek?"

"We seek the land of the King of the Peacocks," said King Ibo.

"First turning to the left, and the

## The Land of the Peacocks. 35

first to the right," said the Stork. "Ride on. If you do not try to fish in our pools no one will stop you."

So King Ibo and his train rode on and on, and then turned to the left. The land was full of pools, and Storks were fishing in them. The Storks were so busy gobbling fish that they took no heed of any one that passed.

After many days they came to a road that turned to the right. Not far in front of them they saw that the road ran between two rows of great trees, and they could not see the leaves on the trees for the Peacocks. Peacocks were perched everywhere, spreading their bright tails, all covered with eyes, and screaming so loud that the King could hardly hear



his voice when he said : “ We have come to the end of our toils.”

## VIII.

### KING IBO MEETS THE KING OF THE PEACOCKS.

No one tried to stop them as they rode along under the trees ; but all the Peacocks stretched out their long, glossy necks, and screeched : “ What queer people ! What queer people ! ” The Peacocks in the trees farther up the road heard the cry, and they screamed “ Where are the queer people ? Show us the queer people ! ”

The noise must have been heard for



All the Peacocks stretched out their long, glossy necks.

miles round; for soon after crowds of men and women came running down the road. They were all dressed in peacocks' feathers, and they wore crowns of feathers on their heads. When they saw King Ibo and his train they began to dance and to shout, "Hurrah for the queer people, the very queerest people that ever we have seen!"

King Ibo was not very pleased at this, but he had not long to think about it, for soon he saw a great cloud of dust whirling down the road. Out of the cloud came a golden coach, drawn by fifty flying Peacocks.

"The King! The King!" shouted the crowd. "The King has come to see the queer people."

## The King of the Peacocks. 39

Out of the coach stepped a tall man, dressed in peacocks' feathers made of pure gold, with the colours worked in gems. King Ido and Prince Ado got off their horses and bowed before him.

“I know you, King Ibo,” said the King of the Peacocks. “Welcome to my land.”

“Brother,” said King Ibo, “I have ridden for many months, through strange places, to see you.”

“That was folly,” said the King of the Peacocks. “A ship can sail from one realm to the other in two days.”

“Then my wise men are but fools,” cried King Ibo. “They ought to have their heads cut off.”

“They ought,” said the King of the

40      The Princess Rosebud.

Peacocks ; “but there is no hurry about that. What caused my brother to come to see me ?”

King Ibo then told the King of the Peacocks that the Princess Rosebud longed to marry him, and that he had come to offer him her hand.

“That,” said the King of the Peacocks, “is a question for my people. I have no power to say yea unless they will it. Let us ride into the city.”

So the King of the Peacocks went into the golden coach, King Ibo and Prince Ado mounted their horses, and they all rode on. They entered the gate of the city, and came into a large square in front of the King’s palace. In the midst of the square was a golden throne, and

## King Ibo is sent to Prison. 41

two golden chairs were brought out of the palace, and were placed one on each side of the throne.

The King of the Peacocks mounted the golden throne, and signed to King Ibo and Prince Ado to sit on the golden chairs.

## IX.

### KING IBO IS SENT TO PRISON.

“SOUND the trumpets!” said the King of the Peacocks.

Out of the palace marched twenty men, dressed in peacocks’ feathers made of silver, bearing trumpets in their hands. They stood on the steps of the palace and blew a lively call.

At the sound of the trumpets, men and women came running out of the house into the great square. On they came more and more of them, until the square was filled with them. The square looked like a forest of peacocks' feathers.

Then the King of the Peacocks stood up on his throne and said :—

“ My good people, the great King Ib has come to offer me the hand of his sister, the Princess Rosebud. I know that you all long for a Queen—”

“ We do ! We do ! ” shouted the crowd.

“ —And I shall marry this Princess if such is your will.”

“ How can we tell ? ” cried all the people. “ We have never seen her. What is she like ? ”

## King Ibo is sent to Prison. 43

King Ibo spoke a word to the King of the Peacocks, who nodded in reply. Then King Ibo made a sign to his slaves, and they brought forth the portrait of the Princess Rosebud. They set it up in the square, behind the King's throne, so that all might see it.

“Oh, how lovely she is,” cried the crowd. “She is the most lovely Princess that ever lived. We will have her for our Queen.”

“It is your will, then, my people,” said the King of the Peacocks, “that if the Princess is as lovely as her portrait, I shall make her my wife. But if she should prove to be less beautiful—”

“Then King Ibo must die,” shouted



## 44      The Princess Rosebud.

all the people ; “ we will have a wedding or a 'heading, one or the other.”

The trumpets sounded again, and the people went home. In a few minutes the square was quite empty.

“ I am sorry, brother,” said the King of the Peacocks to King Ibo, “ for those last words that my people have said. But their will is law : I have no power to alter it.”

“ I do not fear, brother,” said King Ibo. “ No painter could paint my sister as more beautiful than she really is.”

“ I will send one of your slaves by sea,” the King of the Peacocks added “ to tell the Princess to come hither at once. Now we will go in and feast.”

## King Ibo is sent to Prison. 45

So they all went into the palace, and sat down to a grand feast. When it was ended, the King of the Peacocks said: "And now the law must be obeyed."

"What law?" asked King Ibo.

"Our law is," said the King of the Peacocks, "that if a man makes a promise, he must go to prison until he has kept it. You have said that your sister is as fair as the portrait that you have brought with you, so you must stay in jail until she comes to prove it."

"That is a hard law, brother," said King Ibo.

"It is," said the King of the Peacocks; "but I did not make it. It is my people's will."

Two files of soldiers marched into the

hall, and marched out again with King Ibo and Prince Ado between them.

## X.

### ROSEBUD GETS READY TO SAIL.

GREAT was the joy of Princess Rosebud when she heard that she was to be the wife of the King of the Peacocks. She danced round the garden three times clapping her hands, with Flap barking at her heels.

Then she ordered a hundred new dresses to be made, fit for a queen—dresses of gold and silver cloth, dresses of silk in many bright colours, all trimmed with shining gems.

## Rosebud gets ready to sail. 47

The wise men were much upset when they heard the news. They met in the great hall and wagged their old heads, and tugged at their old beards, and talked about it for hours. They said that the King of the Peacocks ought to have come to fetch his bride, and that he had shown very bad taste in sending for her in this off-hand way.

But when they had talked until they were so hungry that they could talk no more, they made up their minds that there was nothing to be done but to send the Princess in a ship to the land of the Peacocks, with her Nurse and Enna to take care of her.

When the old Nurse heard that she and Enna were to sail with the Princess,

her wicked eyes gleamed, and evil thoughts came into her head. One night, just before the ship was to sail, she stole down to the port, and went on board.

She found the Captain in his cabin eating his supper. "Good evening," she said, "you are the Captain with whom the Princess Rosebud is to sail to the land of the King of the Peacocks?"

"I am," said the Captain.

"The Princess is a stuck-up thing," the Nurse went on.

"I daresay she is," said the Captain with his mouth full of food; "princesses mostly are."

"And you don't much care whether she becomes Queen of the Peacocks or not," said the Nurse.

Rosebud gets ready to sail. 49

“Not a bit,” replied the Captain.

“There will be gems on board your ship, the half of which would make you rich for life,” said the Nurse.

The Captain stopped eating, and stared at the Nurse. “Is that so?” said he.

Then the Nurse bent her head close to the Captain, and spoke so low that no one could have heard her, even with an ear at the keyhole. The Captain nodded his head while she spoke, and when she had ended, he said: “It is well; I will do it.”

The old Nurse left the ship, and sought the Princess Rosebud. She found her in the palace, with many slaves round her, who were busy packing her dresses in boxes.

“I have been down to the ship, dearie,”

(2,184)



said the Nurse, "to see that all has been made ready for your comfort. It is a good ship, and the Captain is a kind man."

"You dear old thing," cried the Princess Rosebud, "to take so much care of me. When I am Queen of the Peacock you shall be a great lady."

"I think that perhaps I shall," said the wily old Nurse.

## XI.

### THE PLOT OF THE WICKED NURSE.

AT last the day came when the ship was to sail. Rosebud's boxes, full of dresses and jewels, were all aboard. The Prin

## The Plot of the Wicked Nurse. 51

cess, the Nurse, Enna, and Flap the dog came down to the port, and many people crowded after them to see them off. Rosebud was much loved by all, and when she stood on the deck of the ship the crowd cheered, and cried, "Good luck go with our dear Princess."

Then the sailors began to pull up the anchor and to hoist the sails, with much shouting and noise. When the wind filled the sails, the ship moved slowly from the quay towards the open sea. Rosebud stood watching the land while the ship drew away from it, and the cheers of the people grew fainter and fainter.

The day was calm, the sea was blue, and little waves broke in white foam



about the prow of the ship. "This is lovely," said the Princess. "Were it not that I so long to see my dear King of the Peacocks, I should like to sail on for ever."

The old Nurse looked at the Captain and the Captain looked at the Nurse. Enna smiled with her wry mouth, but no one spoke a word.

"And now, dearie," said the Nurse, "come and see the cabin that our good Captain has made ready for you."

They all went into the cabin, the walls of which were gay with bright silks. In the middle of the cabin was a little boat with a bed of the softest sheets and pillows made up in it.

"How funny it will be to go to bed in a boat!" cried the Princess.

## The Plot of the Wicked Nurse. 53

“It is our great care for you,” said the Nurse. “If a storm were to come at night, and the ship were wrecked, your life would be safe in that boat. We do not care what may befall us, so long as the Queen of the Peacocks is not drowned.”

“You kind old thing!” cried Rosebud, kissing the Nurse. “You are always thinking of me.” But the old Nurse did not seem to like the kiss.

Towards night a fine feast was served, and they all sat down and ate. When the meal was ended, the Nurse took up a jug that stood by her side and poured some of the drink that it held into a glass.

“This is the water of sleep, dearie,” she said. “Drink of it. No one ever sleeps the first night on a ship, and it will

54      The Princess Rosebud.

never do for you to look pale when you meet the King of the Peacocks."

Rosebud took the glass and drank. "It is very sweet," she said. While she was drinking, the old Nurse took a piece of meat from her pocket and gave it to Flap, who soon ate it up. Again there was an ugly smile on Enna's face.

Soon Rosebud's head began to droop. "The water of sleep is strong," she said, "and the ship must be tossing on the waves, it goes up and down so. I think that I will go to bed."

She rose, but she could hardly walk. The Captain and the Nurse led her to the cabin, and placed her in the boat. Enna caught up Flap, who was snoring in a corner, and put him in the boat a

Rosebud is cast away. 55

Rosebud's feet. Then they went on deck, and waited.

## XII.

### ROSEBUD IS CAST AWAY.

AFTER a time the Nurse rose and peeped into the cabin. Rosebud and Flap were in a deep sleep. "Now!" she said.

They all went into the cabin, softly raised the boat with the Princess and Flap in it, and bore it on to the deck. Then they let it down over the side of the ship with ropes.

They cast off the ropes; the ship sailed on, and the little boat lay tossing on the waves. They watched it as it grew

smaller and smaller, but neither the Princess nor Flap stirred.

“That is well done!” cried the Nurse.  
“And now to work.”

The Nurse, Enna, and the Captain broke open the boxes that held Rosebud’s rich dresses and jewels, and strewed the deck with the finery. The old Nurse chose the very grandest dress that she could find, and told Enna to put it on. Then she placed a crown of diamonds on Enna’s head, hung many sparkling necklaces upon her, and covered her arms and fingers with bracelets and rings.

But fine feathers do not make fine birds. No grand clothes and gems could hide Enna’s ugliness; indeed, they seemed to make it worse. But the old Nurse could

not see this. She still thought that Enna was the most lovely girl in the world. She looked at her with pride.

“Was there ever such a beauty?” she said to the Captain.

“Humph,” said the Captain; “give me my share of the spoils.”

So the old Nurse gave the Captain half of the Princess Rosebud’s jewels. He packed them in a box and stowed them away in the hold of his ship.

“And now I have done with you,” said the Captain, “I will take no further part in the trick that you are going to play.”

“I will see to the rest,” said the old Nurse.

They sailed on and on, until they came in sight of land. It was night when they

entered the port. There was no one to be seen on shore, so the sailors moored the ship, and the Nurse and the mock Princess had to sleep on board.

### XIII.

#### THE MOCK PRINCESS GOES TO THE CITY OF THE PEACOCKS.

THE next day many people came flocking down to the port to see the ship that had come to land. They asked the Captain what goods he had on board.

“No goods,” said the Captain; “only two women. This one,” he added, pointing to the Nurse, “will tell you why they come.”

“Good people,” said the Nurse, “I bring with me the Princess Rosebud, who is to be the bride of your great King.”

At this the people shouted and cheered. Horsemen were sent riding post haste to the city, to take the good news to the King of the Peacocks.

When the King heard it he sent his golden coach, drawn by fifty flying Peacocks, to fetch the Princess to the city. Then the trumpeters came out on the steps of the palace, blew their trumpets, and cried: “Listen, good people, listen! The King’s bride is coming to the city. Give her welcome!”

Then the King caused the portrait of the Princess Rosebud to be set up again



in the great square. He mounted his golden throne, and all his wise men stood around him, waiting for the coming of the bride.

Before the golden coach had reached the port all the roads from the port to the city were lined with people, and the trees on each side of the road that led to the city gate were full of Peacocks.

The golden coach stopped by the side of the ship. Enna, the mock Princess, came out of the cabin, dressed in all her finery, and the old Nurse walked behind her, bearing her train.

When the people first caught sight of Enna they saw only her gaudy dress and the blaze of her gems, and they cheered loudly. But when she stepped from the

ship to the shore, and they saw her ugly face, the cheers died away. Enna bowed and smirked and grinned, but there were no more cheers. Then some one shouted "Oh! how ugly she is!" and all the rest took up the cry. Nothing could be heard but people bawling "How ugly she is! How ugly she is!"

Enna and the Nurse turned pale; they went into the coach with haste, and off flew the Peacocks. All along the road the same cry greeted them; they heard nothing but the shout "How ugly she is!"

When the coach turned to go up to the gate of the city, between the great trees, the Peacocks craned out their glossy necks and joined in the cry.

The King of the Peacocks and the

## 62      The Princess Rosebud.

wise men round him at first heard on a shouting, but as the noise came nearer the words could be heard more plainly.

“What is it they are saying?” asked the King.

“I think that they are crying out ‘How ugly she is!’” said one of the wise men.

“If that be true,” said the King, “there will be a heading, but no wedding.”

## XIV.

### HOW THE KING OF THE PEACOCKS RECEIVED HIS BRIDE.

THE golden coach drew up before the golden throne, and out stepped Enna and

How the King received his Bride. 63  
the Nurse. They were quaking with fear, and this made Enna look more ugly than ever.

“Who are you?” cried the King, in a voice full of rage.

“Sire,” said the old Nurse, in shaky tones, “this is the Princess Rosebud, the sister of the great King Ibo, who has come to be your bride.”

The King caused the trumpets to sound for silence, for the great square was now packed with people, who did nothing but shout “How ugly she is!” Then he stood up on his golden throne.

“My people,” he said, “I gave my word that I would make this Princess my Queen if she were as lovely as the

64      The Princess Rosebud.

picture that you see before you. Has King Ibo's promise been fulfilled?"

"It has not!" shouted the crowd.

"And will you have this woman to be your Queen?" he said.

"We will not," they all cried. "Away with the ugly witch. We will have no wedding, but we will have a 'heading.'"

At these words Enna fell down in a swoon. At a sign from the King a file of guards came forth and lifted her from the ground. They fettered the hands of the old Nurse, and carried them both to prison.

The King turned to the people once more and said, "Your will shall be obeyed; go home in peace."

Then the King of the Peacocks strode

How the King received his Bride. 65  
off to the prison in which King Ibo and Prince Ado were shut up. "Wicked King," he said, "you have played me false. The Princess Rosebud is here, and she is as ugly as sin."

"That cannot be, brother," said King Ibo; "she is as lovely as the day."

"Tell no more lies," shouted the King of the Peacocks, in a great rage. "All my people have seen her. They say that they will not have the wedding, but that they will have a 'heading instead."

"You could not have the heart to do such a cruel thing," said King Ibo.

"It is not my doing," said the King of the Peacocks. "My people have said it, and it must be done."

"Sire," said Prince Ado, "I think I

can guess how this has come about. Long ago, when the Princess was born, the Queen of the Fairies said that our sister would be the cause of harm to us and might even bring us nigh unto death. She is angry that her words have not yet come true, and she has put a spell upon our sister, to do us hurt."

"Such things have been," said the King of the Peacocks. "I do not wish to act in haste. I will send to the Queen of the Fairies to find out the truth of this. In the meantime, King Ibo shall live."

## XV.

### HOW FLAP SAVED ROSEBUD.

WHILE the old Nurse and Enna were sailing for the land of the Peacocks, Princess Rosebud and Flap lay tossing in the little boat on the wide blue sea. For a long time they slept soundly, and the boat drifted where it would.

At last Princess Rosebud roused, rubbed her eyes, and looked up. Nothing could she see save the blue waves lapping around her, and Flap lying at her feet, fast asleep. Her heart was filled with fear.





At last Princess Rosebud roused, rubbed her eyes, and  
looked up.

## How Flap saved Rosebud. 69

“O Flap, dear Flap,” she cried, “wake up, wake up! We are lost on the wide sea.”

Flap raised his sleepy head, and slowly opened his eyes. Then he started up with hair all on end, and growled.

“I see what has happened,” said Princess Rosebud. “Our ship has been wrecked, and my good Nurse and Enna are drowned. Had it not been for their great care of me, in making my bed in this boat, I should have been drowned too.”

The green light flashed from Flap’s eyes, as it always did when he was angry. “Fudge!” he said. “That old Nurse put us overboard to get rid of us. She is going to do some evil deed.”

“But what are we to do, dear Flap,” cried Rosebud. “We shall surely be drowned in the end.”

“We are going to get to land,” said Flap.

He seized in his mouth the end of the rope that was fixed to the boat; then he sprang into the sea, and began to swim.

The boat sped on and on, and the waves broke over it until Rosebud's clothes were quite wet. She grew very cold, and as time passed she grew hungry too; but there was nothing in the boat that she could eat. She became so weary that at last she fell into a deep sleep.

When she woke, she saw that the boat was quite near to land. But Flap was

## How Flap saved Rosebud. 71

swimming slowly ; his strength was nearly spent.

“ Dear Flap, come into the boat and rest awhile,” she said, “ we are quite near to land now.” Flap could not speak, because he had the rope in his mouth ; but he still swam on.

Then Rosebud saw a hut on the beach. An old Man was seated in front of it, mending a net. “ Help ! Help ! ” she shouted.

The Man looked up, and saw the strange sight of a boat, with a girl in it, towed by a dog. He threw down his net and waded into the sea. He caught up Flap and put him in the boat ; then he pulled the boat to shore.

## XVI.

## ROSEBUD IS HUNGRY.

THE old Man took Rosebud in his arms and carried her into his hut. Flap shook the water out of his coat and went slowly after them, panting, with his tongue hanging out of his mouth.

The old Man made a fire of sticks and while he was doing this he said, "Tell me who you are, fair lady; for I see by your dress that you are not a common person."

"I am the Princess Rosebud, the sister of the great King Ibo. I was coming in a ship to marry the King of the

Peacocks, but I was wrecked on my way thither."

The old Man laughed to himself while he tended the fire. "A likely tale, indeed," he thought. "The Princess Rosebud came to our King's court two days ago. This poor girl's head is turned by the hardships that she has gone through, and she does not know what she says."

Rosebud shivered. "I am so cold," she said.

"I do not know what to do for you, fair lady," said the old Man. "I have no clothes fit for you to wear; but in that cupboard hangs a dress that was my wife's. If you will deign to put it on, I will go out and try to find some food for

you to eat. I fear that it will be a hard task."

So the old Man went out of the hut. Rosebud took off her wet clothes, and put on the rough, coarse dress that she found in the cupboard. Then she sat down by the fire and put her hand on Flap's head. "Flap, dear," she said, "you are my only friend, and you have saved my life."

Flap, who was now quite warm and dry, looked up at her with kind eyes and wagged his tail.

It was a long time before the old Man came back to the hut. When he did come, his face was sad. "Alas, fair lady," he said, "I do not know how I shall find food for you. There are no fish on m

lines. I have tried to beg some, but in vain, and in the hut I have nothing but hard, black rye bread, which, I fear, you could not eat."

"I am so hungry," said Rosebud, "that I think I could eat anything. Let me try."

The old Man took an axe and cut a slice off a great black loaf that seemed almost as hard as a stone. Rosebud tried to bite it, but she failed.

"It is no good," she said sadly. "Although I am starving, I cannot eat it. Dear Flap, you are the wisest dog in all the world, surely you can find us some food."

Flap jumped up and put his paws on Rosebud's knees, as if he would say, "Give me the chance."



“Let the dog have a basket,” said Rosebud to the Man. “We will see what he can do.”

The old Man took down a basket, and placed it on the ground before Flap. The dog seized it with his teeth, and trotted out of the hut.

## XVII.

### THE KING OF THE PEACOCKS LOSES HIS DINNER.

FLAP trotted away towards the city. On his way he saw hundreds of peacocks, but he did not think that raw peacock would be good food, so he le

## The King loses his Dinner. 77

them alone, and they took no heed of him.

When he had passed the gate of the city, he went down many streets sniffing at the doors of the houses to find out where good food was being cooked. At last he came to the door of the King's kitchen. There the smell pleased him so well that it made his mouth water, and he went in.

In the midst of the kitchen a big fire was burning, and over the fire was a pot. No one was to be seen, so Flap tipped up the pot, turned the meat that was in it into his basket, and ran off as fast as he could.

In this way the Princess Rosebud got a good dinner. The fisherman had a

better dinner than he had ever had in his life, and you may be sure that Flap was given his full share.

The King of the Peacocks had been hunting that morning, and he came home very hungry. He went into the dining-hall without stopping even to wash his hands, and called for food. No food was brought to him. He shouted again, and then sixteen serving-men, with very pale faces, came into the hall. They threw themselves on the ground before the King, and said: "Sire, there can be no dinner to-day."

"No dinner!" bawled the King in rage. "What do you mean, slaves?"

"We mean that there is nothing for

## The King loses his Dinner. 79

you to eat, Sire," said the serving-men, still lying on the ground.

"Nothing to eat, villains!" roared the King. "Send the head cook here at once!"

At this all the sixteen serving-men jumped up, and rushed out of the hall. They were only too glad to get away from the angry King.

Then the head cook came in, shaking with fear. He threw himself on his face before the King, and wept.

"Slave," said the King, "how is it that you have thus failed in your duty?"

"Great King," whined the head cook, "I cannot tell: I looked in the pot, and it was full, and I looked again, and,

behold, it was empty! Some bad fairy must have done this."

"Have a care that no bad fairy does again," said the King, "or you will lose your head. See that I have a good supper to-night. My people will not spare you if they know that you starve their King."

## XVIII.

### THE KING OF THE PEACOCKS CANNOT GET ANY SUPPER.

ALTHOUGH the Princess Rosebud had eaten such a good dinner, towards night she grew hungry again. So she said "Flap, old dog, you found us such

The King cannot get any Supper. 81  
good meal this morning that I am  
sure you will be able to get us some  
meat for supper if you try. Take the  
basket once more, and see what you  
can do.”

Flap, who did not mind how many  
meals he had in the day, seized the  
basket with his teeth, and trotted out of  
the house.

When he came to the city he did not  
waste time in sniffing about to find where  
good food was to be had. He went  
straight to the King's kitchen and  
walked in.

In the midst of the kitchen the great  
fire was still burning, and before it a joint  
was roasting. It was done almost to a  
turn. Not a soul was to be seen, so

Flap gave the joint a hitch with his nose and it fell into his basket.

But the sixteen serving-men and the head cook had hidden themselves behind cupboards and behind presses. When they saw what was being done they ran out, with great sticks in their hands shouting "Stop thief! Stop thief!"

When Flap saw them he glared at them with his great eyes, and the kitchen was filled with a strange, green light. All the sixteen serving-men and the head cook shrieked with fright, and fell down in a faint. Flap trotted off with the joint for Princess Rosebud's supper.

The King of the Peacocks called for his supper early that night, for he was starving. He called, and called, but

The King cannot get any Supper. 83  
one came. At last, when he had shouted himself hoarse, the door slowly opened and the sixteen serving-men and the head cook were seen outside. Their faces were so white that they looked as if they had been daubed with flour. Each of them was trying to push another into the room, because they so feared the anger of the King.

“Come in, hounds, and bring the supper quickly,” roared the King.

The men came into the hall and threw themselves on the ground before the King.

“Sire,” said the head cook, “mercy, mercy! There is no supper.”

“No supper for me; no heads for you,” said the King, with deadly calm. “That is the law, I think.”





“Come in, hounds, and bring the supper quickly,” roared the King.

The King cannot get any Supper. 85

“Hear me, great King,” cried the head cook. “When we had set the joint to roast, we hid in the kitchen with sticks in our hands. And lo! into the kitchen came a great, fiery dragon, with scales on his body as big as dishes, and he seized the joint with his huge, steel teeth. We had no fear; we rushed upon him to beat him off. But he flashed green flames at us from his fiery eyes, which blinded us, and made us as if we were dead. When we came to life, the dragon was no more to be seen.”

“We will see into this ourselves,” said the King. “Go, you can keep your heads for the present.”

## XIX.

HOW THE KING OF THE PEACOCKS  
HUNTED FLAP.

NEXT morning the King gave order that the great square should be lined with horsemen, armed with spears, to battle with the fiery dragon. His gold coach, with the fifty flying Peacocks, was drawn up in front of the palace. When this was done, the King, the head cook and the sixteen serving-men hid themselves in the kitchen, where a big goose was roasting over the fire.

Soon after this a dog came trotting through the gate of the city, with

## How the King hunted Flap. 87

basket in his mouth. "Here comes the fiery dragon!" cried one of the men, and all the others laughed.

Flap took no heed of them. He went on his way until he came to the door of the King's kitchen.

Now the King had hidden himself quite near to the door. He was the first to see Flap come in and go up to the roasting goose. He came out of his hiding-place and stood before the door. "The dragon!" he shouted.

All the serving-men came running out, and Flap saw that the game was up. He dropped his basket, dashed past the King, who tried in vain to catch him, flew across the square and out of the city gate like a flash.

The King rushed into the square “Charge!” he shouted; “catch that dog!” Then he jumped into his golden coach. The horsemen streamed through the gate, crying “Stop that dog!” and the golden coach came rolling behind them. The Peacocks in the trees joined in the cry “Stop that dog!” but they did not do anything to help.

Flap tore on, with the horsemen at his heels, until he reached the hut, where he threw himself down panting.

“Oh, my poor Flap!” cried the Princess Rosebud. “What has happened?” Then she heard the tramp of horses’ feet and, looking out of the doorway, she saw the horsemen drawing up round the hut. Soon after that the golden coach stopped

## How the King hunted Flap. 89

in front of the door, and out stepped the King of the Peacocks.

The King of the Peacocks strode into the hut. "Whose dog is that?" he asked, harshly, of the old Man. The old Man knelt before the King, but he said nothing.

The Princess Rosebud did not kneel; she stood up in front of the King and said: "Sir, the dog is mine. If he has done wrong, I am to blame."

The King looked hard at the Princess, and his face grew less stern. "And who are you?" he asked.

"I am the Princess Rosebud," she replied, "the sister of the great King Ibo." Then she told the King all the story of her sailing to marry the King of

the Peacocks; how she had been cast away at sea, and how she had been saved from death by Flap, her dog, and the good old Man.

The King looked at Rosebud's face and he saw that it was the face of the portrait that King Ibo had brought with him. He knew that her tale was true. He knelt before her and kissed her hand. "I am the King of the Peacocks," he said, "and you shall indeed be my wife."

## XX.

### THE KING OF THE PEACOCKS MARRIES ROSEBUD.

THE King then sent two horsemen before him to the city, to order the trumpets to



He knelt before her, and kissed her hand.



sound for all the people to meet in the great square, and to set up the portrait of the Princess Rosebud behind the golden throne.

When this was done the King gave the old Man much gold, and many praises for his care of the Princess. Then he led Rosebud to the golden coach, and Fla jumped in after them.

The noise of their coming had gone before them, and when they reached the road that led to the city gate the trees were crowded with Peacocks. The Peacocks craned out their glossy necks and cried, "Oh, how lovely she is! how lovely she is!" For although Rosebud still wore the old grey dress, this could not hide her beauty.

## The King marries Rosebud. 93

When they had passed the city gate they made their way through a shouting crowd to the golden throne, behind which was the Princess Rosebud's portrait. The King led Rosebud up the steps of the throne, and they stood there together, with Flap sitting beside them.

Then the King said, "My good people, this is the true Princess Rosebud. You can see that for yourselves, if you look at her and then at the portrait."

And all the people cried, "It is indeed the Princess Rosebud. How lovely she is!"

"And is it your will that I wed the Princess Rosebud?" asked the King.

"It is! It is!" shouted the people. "We will have a wedding."

“ But you cannot have a 'heading too,” said the King.

“ We do not want a 'heading ; we will have a wedding,” they all cried.

Then the King of the Peacocks sent the chief of his wise men to fetch King Ibo and Prince Ado out of the prison. When King Ibo and Prince Ado came into the square, Rosebud ran down the steps of the throne, threw her arms round their necks, and kissed them again and again.

So all ended happily. Soon after there was a wedding in the palace, and the Princess Rosebud became the King of the Peacocks' bride.

There would have been a 'heading too for the King of the Peacocks said that

## The King marries Rosebud. 95

in no case should the wicked old Nurse and the ugly Enna be allowed to live. But Rosebud begged so hard for their lives that the King let her have her will. They were allowed to go back with King Ibo and the Prince Ado, who soon after returned to their own land, laden with costly gifts.

And as for Flap, he was the happiest dog in the world. He lived in a golden kennel, and had always so much to eat that he never thought of stealing a dinner.

**THE END.**

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