

Sleeping Beauty

Act I

As the play opens a Woodsman is seen in a clearing in an enchanted forest. He is singing about the curse that has been placed on it for the last hundred years. Soon a Prince enters, lost and looking for a place to rest. The Woodsman begins to tell the Prince the story of the forest and a sleeping princess. A long time ago a King and a Queen were celebrating the birth of their daughter, Briar Rose, with her fairy godmother, Joycelyn. During the party, Evileen, an evil fairy, disrupts the festivities. Because she was not invited to the party, Evileen places a curse on Briar Rose. On her sixteenth birthday Briar Rose will prick her finger on a spinning wheel spindle and die. Joycelyn cannot remove the spell, but she can change it. Rather than dying, Briar Rose will fall into a deep sleep for one hundred years. The King then banishes all spinning wheels from the kingdom. Time passes quickly and finally Briar Rose's sixteenth birthday arrives. Suddenly Evileen appears seated at a spinning wheel. Briar Rose is fascinated by the wheel and asks Evileen about it. When Evileen tells Briar Rose she is making thread for a special birthday gift, Briar Rose wants to try it herself. As she starts to spin the thread, she pricks her finger on the spindle and Evileen's curse finally comes true. The King and Queen discover Briar Rose in a deep sleep by the spinning wheel. They are very upset and saddened by what has happened. Joycelyn tells them that she will place the entire kingdom in a deep sleep for a hundred years and when Briar Rose's true love comes to awaken her with a kiss the whole kingdom will wake up as well. Over the protests of the King and Queen everyone falls asleep under Joycelyn's spell.

Act II

Again the Woodsman and the Prince are talking about the story of the enchanted forest and the castle. The Prince introduces himself as Bryon of the kingdom of Marinville. The Woodsman tells him of the dangers ahead and gives him a shield. He tells the Prince not to put down the shield until he is safely inside the castle. The Prince appears on the path trying to cut his way through the vines that block his way. Evileen enters disguised as an old woman and asks where he is going. When he tells her of his journey she warns him of how other princes have tried unsuccessfully to find the sleeping princess. But, Prince Bryon will not give up his quest. Evileen gives him directions to the castle, but these directions will really lead him into a trap. The Prince leaves thinking he is on his way to rescue the princess. Soon the Prince is blinded by thick fog and becomes entangled in thorny vines. He remembers to use the shield for protection. Joycelyn, who has been watching him, releases him from the vines. As the Prince continues on his way, Evileen confronts him as herself. The Prince draws his sword, but she magically knocks it from his hand and he becomes frozen in his place. Evileen tries to blind him with sunlight, but the Prince uses the shield to block his face. He frees himself just as Evileen decides to finish him off. She casts a spell to make the shield very heavy, but the Prince will not let it go. Evileen screams out that she cannot touch the shield. Since the Prince now knows Evileen's weakness he touches her with the shield. She loses her powers and runs away. Prince Bryon realizes that the shield must hold the magic to get through the vines. As he touches the vines with the shield, the vines part revealing the way into the castle where the King, Queen, and Briar Rose sleep. Once inside, he crosses to the sleeping beauty, Briar Rose, and kisses her. She awakens and sees her true love. Joycelyn and the Woodsman enter and with a wave of the magic wand, the King and Queen also come out of their sleep. The King and Queen give their blessing to the young lovers and they celebrate Briar Rose's birthday and her betrothal. The End.