

Sleeping Beauty
By Camille Atebe

Characters

Page

Queen Constance

Princess Aurora

Good Fairies

Bad Fairy

Marlene

Beatrice

Prince Valiant

Regina

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Scene 1

Page Hear ye, hear ye, now enters the good Queen Constance and her new daughter, Aurora!

Queen Constance enters with her new baby princess, Aurora. The good fairies are waiting.

Good Fairy 1 Oh, what a lovely child!

Good Fairy 2 She's absolutely adorable!

Good Fairy 3 She's going to be very special.

Queen Yes, she's perfect. And that's why I've asked the three of you here. I want her to be given the best magical gifts in all the land. I want my baby girl to be the most beautiful, clever, successful princess in the world.

Good Fairy 1 Well, we'll see what we can do. I'll give her the gift of intelligence.

Good Fairy 2 I'll give her the gift of beauty. She'll look just like me!

Good Fairy 3 And I'll give her...

The bad Fairy enters. She is furious.

Bad Fairy What is this? Is there a christening going on that I wasn't invited to?

Good Fairy 1 Uh oh. How did she hear about this?

Queen I didn't invite you because you're mean and horrid and you never give good gifts.

Bad Fairy That's not true! I give great gifts!

Good Fairy 3 Name one.

Bad Fairy Okay. Ummm. I gave Prince Ivan a magical ring.

Good Fairy 2 That made him invisible to beautiful girls.

Bad Fairy I gave Princess Heather the gift of psychic powers.

Good Fairy 1 And she went crazy from hearing everyone's thoughts all the time.

Bad Fairy I blessed Sir Harold with super-strength.

Queen Yeah, thanks for that. He breaks every chair he sits in, now, and he breaks people's hands when he shakes them.

Bad Fairy Okay, okay. So I give lousy gifts. But I still like to be included.

Queen Well, you're here now. So sit quietly in the corner, would you, and don't give any gifts, whatever you do.

Bad Fairy Don't tell me what to do! First you don't invite me to the christening, then you tell me to sit in the corner?

Good Fairy 1 You're a troublemaker.

Bad Fairy Yes, I am a troublemaker. And I'm going to make trouble right now. I'm going to curse this baby. She will die of boredom on her 16th birthday!

Queen No!

Good Fairy 2 You're awful!

Bad Fairy Yes I am! Hah ha!

She cackles evilly and flits away.

Queen Oh, how horrible! But you can reverse the curse, right?

Good Fairy 1 I'm sorry. Union rules state that we can only give one gift per fairy per child.

Queen But she cursed my beautiful baby!

Good Fairy 2 Well, at least she'll be smart and beautiful until she dies.

Queen You aren't helping!

Good Fairy 3 Wait a minute- I haven't given a gift yet.

Queen Oh thank goodness! You can reverse the curse.

Good Fairy 3 Actually, no, I can't.

Queen Why not?

Good Fairy 3 Union rules.

Queen Oh, can't you forget your silly union rules? This is my daughter's life we're talking about.

Good Fairy 1 But the rules are very clear.

Good Fairy 2 We can't just go breaking them willy-nilly.

Good Fairy 3 But you know, I can *modify* her curse.

Queen Good!

Good Fairy 3 So, on her 16th birthday, she will not *die* of boredom, just fall into a deep sleep for 100 years.

Queen A deep sleep for 100 years? What kind of modification is that?

Good Fairy 3 It's the best you're going to get, under the circumstances.

Good Fairy 1 You could always keep her stimulated so she doesn't ever get bored.

Good Fairy 2 Yeah. If she's never bored, it's pretty hard for her to die of boredom.

Queen Well, thanks. Thanks a lot.

Good Fairy 3 Sarcasm isn't going to make us want to help you any more, you know.

Good Fairy 2 Yeah. We've done our best, here.

Good Fairy 1 Let's go, ladies. You know, your majesty, Aurora is a pretty lucky kid, all things considered.

The fairies exit.

Scene 2

Fifteen and a half years later. The queen enters and sits at a desk. She picks up a phone.

Queen You can send the next applicant in, Beatrice.

Marlene enters. She walks confidently up to the desk.

Marlene Hello your Majesty! My name is Marlene.

Queen Hello Marlene. Have a seat, please. Now tell me, why do you think you'd be the best person for this job?

Marlene Well, as I understand it, you need someone to keep your teenaged daughter busy. And there is no one around who is better at keeping busy than I am! I can teach your daughter piano, drums, bassoon, flute and tuba, I can instruct her in ballet, tap and classic Balinese dance. And of course we will study all the basics- math, science, French, Latin and Chinese, English literature..

Queen Yes, yes, I get the idea. Well, you certainly seem to be very qualified. Are you prepared to work long hours?

Marlene Of course. As long as is needed.

Queen I would also need you to keep an extra close eye on her around her birthday.

Marlene I can do that. Is she planning an extra crazy party for her sixteenth?

Queen No. She's been cursed. She'll fall asleep from boredom on her 16th birthday and won't wake for

100 years if we don't keep her busy. So an extra crazy party would be a good thing.

Marlene You can count on me, your majesty.

Queen Great! You're hired. You can start tomorrow.

Marlene Thank you, your majesty! I promise you won't be disappointed.

She exits, and Beatrice enters.

Beatrice Your majesty, shall I schedule more interviews for tomorrow, or have you found a nanny?

Queen I've found her! And don't call her a nanny. The Princess Aurora is too old for a nanny. She's more of a governess.

Beatrice Well, I hope she's good. Princess Aurora turns 16 in two weeks, and if she gets bored...

Queen Yes, yes, I know. She'll fall asleep for 100 years. We can't let that happen.

Beatrice No, we can't. Shall I order extra-loud noisemakers for the party, just in case?

Queen Yes, and extra caffeinated drinks. We can't take any chances.

Scene 3

Princess Aurora wanders in and slumps on a couch. There is the sound of revelry in the background. Prince Valiant and Princess Regina enter.

Valiant Aurora? What are you doing in here? The party is going crazy in the other room.

Regina Yeah. Princess Margeurite just did a triple backflip off of the chandelier into the punchbowl.

Aurora (yawns) Boring.

Valiant Boring?

Regina Boring? Did you hear what I just said? A triple backflip! Off the chandelier!

Aurora Yeah, I heard. Boring.

Regina How is a triple backflip boring?

Aurora My whole life is triple backflips. I just want to sit quietly for a moment.

Valiant But it's your 16th birthday. You should be having fun!

Aurora I'm tired of having fun. I've been having fun all day, every day of my life, and I'm exhausted.

Regina But you can't stop now! You'll fall asleep for 100 years. Remember the curse?

Aurora At this point, 100 years of sleep sounds like a good idea.

Valiant But think of all the things you'll miss if you fall asleep!

Regina Like learning to drive!

Valiant And being crowned Queen!

Regina And all the glamorous parties!

Aurora I can't think of anything better than missing all those things. Sleep, here I come!

She stretches out on the couch and closes her eyes.

Valiant Oh no! She's gone!

Regina Don't just stand there- we have to go get help!

They run out, and Aurora opens an eye.

Aurora Finally! Some peace and quiet. This is fantastic!

She rests happily for a few minutes, then Valiant and Regina return, with Marlene, Beatrice and the Queen.

Queen Oh no! my poor sweet baby! Marlene- you were supposed to keep her busy!

Marlene I'm so sorry your majesty! But the clowns were putting cake in the donkey's ears and one of the jugglers had dropped his fiery clubs and the curtains caught on fire, and the backup piccolo player fell into the jello salad...

Queen That's no excuse! You're fired!

Aurora *(opening her eyes)* Oh mum, leave her alone. I'm not really asleep.

Queen Oh, thank goodness. Okay, everyone, get stimulating!

Marlene begins quizzing Aurora with math questions, Valiant and Regina do a funny dance, the queen sings a funny song, and Beatrice does a puppet show. Aurora watches for a moment, then slowly collapses into slumber. It takes a moment for everyone to notice.

Valiant Oh no! She's fallen asleep!

Beatrice Maybe she's pretending again.

Marlene No, she's not! Does this mean I'm fired again?

Queen Aurora? Aurora? Oh, my darling baby!

Regina How could it have happened? We were all being very entertaining.

Marlene I'll go pack my bags.

Queen Wait! There may be a way to save her! Prince Valiant!

Valiant Yes?

Queen Kiss her!

Valiant Eeew! Why would I kiss someone while they're sleeping? That's just creepy.

Queen It might break the spell.

Valiant And it might not.

Beatrice He's right, your majesty. The fairy godmother gave no indication that the sleep could be interrupted.

Queen But a kiss from a handsome prince always breaks these kinds of spells. Remember Snow White?

Regina I heard he gave her the Heimlich manoeuvre, not a kiss.

Valiant I could give her the Heimlich manoeuvre. I wouldn't find that creepy.

Queen No, that won't help. She didn't choke on an apple, she fell asleep from boredom.

Beatrice There's only one thing we can do, your majesty.

Queen What? Leave her here on the couch for 100 years?

Beatrice No, lock her in a tower, guarded by a dragon for 100 years.

Queen All right. Valiant, you and Regina carry her upstairs, and Beatrice, you go find a dragon. I'll go find Marlene and give her her final cheque.

Regina and Valiant hoist up Aurora, and everyone exits.

Scene 4

A voice is heard in the darkness: "100 years later..." and the lights come up on Aurora entering. Her hair is long and scraggly, and she is rubbing her eyes.

Aurora Wow, that was a great nap. Hey, where is everyone?

The End.