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THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

by Hans Christian Andersen

Once upon a time, there was a prince looking to marry a princess. One day, his father and mother asked all the princesses in the land to come over to their castle. Unfortunately, the prince did not get along with any of them. The angry princesses stormed off into the rainy night.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. The prince opened the door to see a beautiful princess standing in the rain. Even though she didn't look like a princess with her clothes and hair all wet, the prince invited her in from the cold. She told the prince and his family that she was a princess.

The queen was doubtful. As the queen prepared the bed for the visitor, she placed a tiny pea under 20 mattresses. Only a true princess would be able to feel the pea! When the princess awoke the next morning, she had a terrible pain in her back. When the prince and his family heard of this, they knew she was indeed a real princess. The prince had found the princess of his dreams, and the two soon got married.

