

Creative writing inspired from The Sleeping Beauty

Once upon a time there was a beautiful princess named Amanda. She was the only child of a Royal Couple. made a little desperate by the poor behaviour of their daughter. Amanda was bright and lively. She didn't want to behave like a good girl. She was more like a naughty tomboy. And this was a very serious concern for her parents - always wearing trousers when her mother ordered expensive dresses, riding horses instead of sitting at the back of the carriage, running in the fields instead of learning sewing at home. It was embarrassing. The Kingdom needed a proper heir respecting protocols and traditions but whatever-effort they made to enforce such good attitudes in their daughter, nothing worked. They had called the best tutors, tried to spoil her with jewellery, threatened to lock her in the dungeon and shouted very nasty things at her that can't be reported here. They had even begged her in tears. Nothing helped.

Amanda was about to turn 16 and her parents began to conspire behind her back to find her a husband. Perhaps a strong-handed man would succeed where they had failed. With great care not to alert their daughter, they set out to find the perfect match. In a nearby neighbourhood, they heard that a young prince was looking for a wife. The family was rich with a good reputation, so they made contact and organised a meeting between the two of them. It was painful. The prince wanted to check his future wife's skills asking questions like: 'How many children do you want? Do you know how to cook? Have you been learning sewing?' Amanda was in shock and didn't say a word. She understood that her parents wanted to marry her off and would not leave her alone. This is when she decided to go to bed and not to get out again, at least until her parents gave up the idea of finding her a spouse. She refused to talk to them or eat, although she raided the kitchen at night, when no one knew about it.

The King asked advice from his councillors. "We heard about a similar story a long time ago" they said. 'The princess woke up after a prince gave her a kiss.' The parents set off again in search of a new prince. This time, they looked a little further because people around were starting to gossip. A new prince was found, quite the opposite of the first one. He was shy and frail, but he was the only one who agreed to meet Princess Amanda. In fact, he didn't really agree. Like Amanda he wanted to live the life he enjoyed, cooking, sewing and doing the dishes but his parents were furious and so far, had not found him a wife. When the Prince entered Amanda's bedroom, she opened an eye to look at him. We don't know exactly what happened in the bedroom, but the two young people went out, smiling and holding hands. They married and never produced any heirs but they opened a canteen for the children around so the young Prince could cook, and the Princess could teach them how to ride.