The Belle and the Beast

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There was once a merchant who was extremely wealthy. He had six children, three boys and three girls, and as this merchant was a man of spirit, he spared nothing for the education of his children and gave them all kinds of masters.

His daughters were very beautiful; but the youngest, above all, was admired, and they called her, when she was little, only the Belle Enfant; so the name stayed with him, which made his sisters very jealous .

This younger sister, who was more beautiful than her sisters, was as good as they were. The two older girls were very proud because they were rich: they made ladies, and did not want to receive visits from the other daughters of merchants. They went to a ball, a comedy, a walk every day, and made fun of their younger sister, who spent most of her time reading good books.

As we knew that these girls were very rich, many large merchants the marriage asked, but the two elder replied that they would never marry, unless it 's they found a duke, or at least one count. La Belle thanked those who wished to marry him quite honestly; but she tells them that she was too young and that she wanted to keep her father company for a few years.

One day , the merchant lost his property and he only had a small country house, far from the city.

He said crying to his children that they had to go to this house and that by working as peasants, they could live there. Her two oldest daughters replied that they did not want to leave the city and that they knew young people who would be too happy to marry them, even though they no longer had any fortune. These young ladies were mistaken: their friends no longer wanted to watch them when they were poor.

Since nobody liked them, because of their pride, they said:

"They don't deserve to be pitied!" We are very glad to see their pride lowered: let them go and make ladies while keeping the sheep! "

But at the same time, everyone said:

"For Belle, we are very sorry for her misfortune : she is such a good girl!" She spoke to poor people with such kindness; she was so sweet, so honest! "

There were even several gentlemen who wanted to marry her, although she did not have a penny. But she told them that she could not resolve to abandon her poor father in his misfortune, and that she would follow him to the countryside to console him and help him to work. When they arrived at their country house, the merchant and his three sons occupied themselves with plowing the land. Belle got up at four in the morning and hurried to clean the house and prepare dinner for the family. At first she was very sad because she was not used to working as a servant; but after two months she became stronger and fatigue gave her perfect health. When she had done her work, she read, played the harpsichord, or sang while spinning. His two sisters, on the contrary, were bored to death; they got up at ten in the morning, wandered all day long, and regretted their fine clothes and their friends.

"See our youngest, they said to each other, she is so stupid that she is content with her unhappy situation. "

The good merchant did not think like his daughters. He knew that Belle was cleaner than his sisters in shining in society. He admired the virtue of this young girl and especially her patience; for his sisters, not content with letting him do all the work in the house, insulted him at all times. There was a year that this family lived in loneliness, when the merchant received a letter in which it was announced that a ship, on which he had the goods had arrived safely.

This news almost made turn the head with its two elder who thought that finally they could leave this countryside where they were bored so much. When they saw their father ready to leave, they begged him to bring them dresses, palatines, hairstyles, and all sorts of trifles. La Belle asked nothing of her, because she thought that all the money from the goods would not be enough to buy what her sisters wanted.

"Aren't you asking me to buy you something?" asked his father.

"Since you are kind enough to think of me," she said to him, "please bring me a rose, for it is not found here." "

It was not that Belle cared about a rose, but she did not want to condemn, by her example, the behavior of her sisters who would have said that it was to distinguish herself that she asked for nothing.

The man left. But when he arrived, he was put on trial for his goods. And after much pain, he returned as poor as he was before. He had only thirty miles to go before arriving at his house and he was already looking forward to the pleasure of seeing his children. But if he had to cross a large wood before finding his house, he got lost. It was snowing horribly; the wind was blowing so hard that he threw him twice down from his horse. When night came, he thought that he would starve or die of cold, or that he would be eaten by wolves whom he heard howling around him.

All of a sudden, looking down a long avenue of trees, he saw a great light, but that seemed far removed. He walked over there and saw that the light came from a large palace, which was all lit up. The merchant thanked God for the help he was sending him and hastened to arrive at this castle; but he was very surprised to find no one in the courtyards. His horse following him, seeing a large open stable , entered it; Having found hay and oats, the poor animal, who was dying of hunger, threw himself on it with great greed. The merchant tied him up in the stable and walked towards the house, where he found no one; but having entered a large room, he found there a good fire and a table laden with meats, where there was only one cutlery. As rain and snow had soaked him to the bone, he approached the fire to dry himself and said to himself :

"The master of the house or his servants will forgive me for the freedom I have taken, and no doubt they will come soon. "

He waited for a considerable time; but eleven o'clock having struck without his seeing anyone , he could not resist hunger and took a chicken which he ate in two bites, and trembling. He also drank a few shots of wine; becoming bolder, he left the room and crossed several large, magnificently furnished apartments. In the end, he found a room where there was a good bed and as it was after midnight and he was tired, he decided to close the door and get to bed. It was ten in the morning when he woke up the next day and he was very surprised to find a very clean coat in place of his which was all spoiled.

" Certainly ," he thought, "this palace belongs to some good fairy who took pity on my situation. "

He looked out the window and saw no more snow, but cradles of flowers that enchanted the view. He entered the big room where he had supper the day before and saw a small table where there was chocolate.

"Thank you, Madame la fée," he said aloud, "for having been kind enough to think of my lunch." "

The man, after having taken his chocolate, went to fetch his horse e t, as he passed under a bower of roses, he remembered that the Beautiful in it had requested, and plucked a branch where there were several.

At that moment he heard a great noise and saw a Beast coming towards him so horrible that he was very close to passing out.

" You are very ungrateful," said the Beast to him in a terrible voice: "I saved your life by receiving you in my castle and, for my pain, you steal my roses which I like better than anything in the world: you have to die to make up for your fault. I only give you a quarter of an hour to ask God for forgiveness. The merchant threw himself on his knees and said to the Beast, clasping his hands :

"My Lord, forgive me, I did not believe offend you picking a rose for one of my daughters, who me had dem andé.

" My name is not Monseigneur," replied the monster, "but the Beast." I don't like compliments, I want people to say what they think; so don't think you touch me with your flatteries. But neither you 've said you girls. I want good forgive you, provided that one of your girls come voluntarily to die for you. Do n't argue , go! And if your daughters refuse to die for you, swear you will be back in three months. "

The fellow had no intention of sacrificing one of his daughters to this ugly monster; but he thought:

"At least I will have the pleasure of kissing them again. "

So he swore to come back, and the Beast told him he could leave when he wanted.

" But, " she added, "I don't want you to go away empty-handed." Go back to the bedroom where you slept, you will find a large empty chest there, you can put anything you like in it, I will have it carried to your home. "

At the same time the Beast withdrew and the boy said to himself:

“If I have to die, I will have the consolation of leaving bread to my poor children. "

He returned to the room where he had slept; having found there a great quantity of gold coins, he filled the chest with which the Beast had spoken to him, closed it and, having taken up his horse which he found in the stable, he left this palace with equal sadness to the joy he had when he entered it. His horse took one of the roads in the forest by himself and, in a few hours, the fellow arrived in his little house. His children gathered around him; but, instead of being sensitive to their caresses, the merchant began to cry as he looked at them. He held in his hand the branch of roses which he brought to Belle; he gave it to him and said to him:

"Beauty, take these roses!" They cost your unhappy father dearly. "

And, immediately, he told his family about the fatal adventure that had happened to him. At this tale, her two eldest yelled loudly, and cursed the Beauty, who did not cry.

"See what the pride of this little creature produces," they said. Why did she not want dresses like us: but no, Mademoiselle wanted to stand out! She is going to cause the death of our father, and she is not crying .

"That would be very useless," replied La Belle: "why should I mourn the death of my father?" He will not perish. Since the monster is willing to accept one of its daughters, I want to indulge in all its fury and I find myself very happy since by dying I will have the joy of saving my father and showing him my tenderness.

- No, my sister, said her three brothers, you will not die: we will find this monster, we will perish under its blows if we cannot kill it.

- Do n't hope so, my children! said the merchant. The power of the Beast is so great that I have no hope of destroying it. I am charmed with Belle's good heart, but I don't want to expose her to death. I am old, I have little time left to live ; and I will lose that e few years of life I do not regret that because of you, my dear children.

" I assure you, father," said La Belle, "that you will not go to this palace without me: you cannot prevent me from following you." Although I am young, I am not very attached to life and I prefer to be devoured by this monster than to die of the grief that your loss would give me. No matter how much one said, Belle wanted absolutely to leave for the beautiful palace, and her sisters were charmed by it because the virtues of this younger sister had inspired them with much jealousy.

The merchant was so occupied with the pain of losing his daughter that he did not think of the chest he had filled with gold; but as soon as he had locked himself in his bedroom to go to bed, he was very surprised to find him at the foot of his bed. He decided not to tell his children that stay t become rich, because her daughters would have wanted to return to the city and he was determined to die in this campaign, but he confided this secret to the Belle who taught him that some gentlemen had come during his absence, that there were some who loved his sisters. She begged her father to marry them; for Beauty was so good that she loved them and forgave them with all her heart for the harm they had done to her.

These wicked girls rubbed their eyes with an onion to cry when Belle left with her father; but his brothers were crying as well as the merchant. There was only Beauty who did not cry because she did not want to increase their pain. The horse took the road to the palace and, in the evening, they saw it lit up like the first time. The horse went alone to the stable and the snowman entered with his daughter in the large room where they found a beautifully served table, with two cutlery. The merchant did not have the heart to eat, but La Belle, trying to appear quiet, sat down at the table and served him.

Then she said to herself:

“The Beast wants to fatten me up before I eat it because it makes me eat so much. "

When they had supper, they heard a great noise. The merchant said goodbye to his poor daughter, crying because he thought it was the Beast. Belle couldn't help shuddering when she saw this horrible face, but she reassured herself as best she could and, the monster having asked her if it was with a good heart that she had come, she said to him, trembling, that yes.

"You are very good," said the Beast to him, "and I am much obliged to you." Man, leave tomorrow morning and never dare come back here. Farewell, Beauty.

" Farewell, the Beast," she replied, and immediately the monster withdrew.

"Ah! my daughter, said the merchant, embracing Belle, I am half dead with fright. Trust me, leave me here.

- No, my father said Beauty with firmness, you will leave tomorrow morning and you abandon me to the aid of Heaven perhaps will he pity me. They went to bed and thought they weren't going to sleep all night; but hardly were they in their beds when their eyes closed. While sleeping, Belle saw a lady who said to her :

" I am happy with your good heart, Beauty. The good deed you do, in giving your life to save your father's, will not go unrewarded. "

La Belle, awakening, related this dream to her father and, although he consoled him a little, that did not prevent her from uttering loud cries when it was necessary to separate from her dear daughter. When he was gone, Belle sat in the great room and began to cry too. But as she had a lot of courage, she recommended herself to God and resolved not to grieve for the short time she had to live because she firmly believed that the Beast would eat her in the evening. She resolved to walk around while waiting and to visit this beautiful castle.

E lle could not stop to admire the beauty. But she was very surprised to find a door on which he had written: Appartement de la Belle. She opened the door with haste and was dazzled by the magnificence that reigned there. But what struck him most was a large library, a harpsichord and several music books.

"You don't want me to be bored," she said softly. Then she thought:

"If I only had one day to stay here, I wouldn't have been provided for that. "C ette thought revived his courage. She opened the library and saw a book in which there was written in gold letters: Wish, order: you are here the queen and the mistress.

"Alas! she said with a sigh, I only want to see my poor father and know what he's doing now. She had said that to herself. What was his surprise, looking at a large mirror, to see his house where his father arrived with an extremely sad face! His sisters came to meet him and, despite the grimaces they made to seem distressed, their joy at the loss of their sister appeared on their faces. A moment later, all that disappeared, and Beauty could not help thinking that the Beast was very accommodating and that she had nothing to fear. At noon, she found the table set and, during her dinner, she heard an excellent concert, although she saw no one. In the evening, as she was about to sit at the table, she heard the noise made by the Beast and could not help shuddering.

"Beauty," said this monster to him, "will you let me see you so up?"

" You are the master," replied Belle, trembling.

" No ," replied the Beast, "there is no mistress here except you." You only have to tell me to go if I bore you; I will go out immediately. Tell me, don't you find me ugly?

" That is true," said La Belle, "for I cannot lie; but I think you are very good.

- V ou have reason, said the mons be. But besides that I am ugly, I have no spirit: I know very well that I am only a Beast.

" You are not stupid," replied La Belle, "when you think you have no mind." A fool never knew that.

- Eat then, Beauty, said the monster, and try not to be bored in your house because all this is yours, and I would be sad if you were not happy.

- You 're very kind, said Belle. I. assure you that I am happy with your heart. Come to think of it, you don't seem so ugly anymore .

- Oh! lady, yes! replied the Beast. I have a good heart, but I am a monster.

" There are many men who are more monsters than you," said Belle, "and I love you better with your face than those who, with the face of a man, hide a false, corrupt, ungrateful heart ."

" If I were witty," replied the Beast, "I would give you a big compliment to thank you; but I'm a fool, and all I can tell you is that I have to. "

La Belle suppa of good appetite. She was almost no longer afraid of the monster, but she almost died of fright when he said to her:

"La Belle, do you want to be my wife?" She was without answer for some time: she was afraid of arousing the monster's anger by refusing his proposal. Finally she said to him, trembling:

"No, the Beast. "

At the moment, this poor monster wanted to sigh and it made a whistle so appalling that the whole palace rang out; but Beauty was soon reassured, for the Beast, having sadly said to her "Goodbye then, Beauty", left the room, turning from time to time to look at her again. Belle, seeing herself alone, felt great compassion for this poor Beast.

" Alas! she said, it's too bad she's so ugly , she's so good! Belle spent three months in this palace with enough tranquility. All the evening the Beast visited her and spoke with her for dinner with enough common sense, but never with this that we call spirit in the world. Every day, Belle discovered new goodnesses in this monster: the habit of seeing him had accustomed her to her ugliness and, far from fearing the moment of her visit, she often looked at her watch to see if it was soon new hours, because the Beast never failed to come at that hour. There was only one thing that bothered the Belle, it is that the monster, before going to bed, always asked her if she wanted to be his wife and seemed penetrated by pain when she said to him that no. One day she said to him :

" You grieve me, the Beast! I wish I could marry you, but I'm too sincere to make you believe that this will never happen : will always be your friend; you try to cont enter for this.

" It must be," replied the Beast. I do myself justice! I know I'm horrible, but I love you very much. Also, I'm too happy that you want to stay here. Promise me that you will never leave me! "

Belle blushed at these words. She had seen in her mirror that her father was sick with grief at having lost her and she wanted to see him again.

" I could promise you that I will never leave you completely, but I want to see my father so badly that I will die of pain if you refuse me this pleasure."

" I prefer to die myself," said the monster, "than to give you sorrow. I will send you to your father, you will stay there, and your poor Beast will die of pain.

" No," said Belle , crying, "I love you too much to want to cause your death." I promise to come back in eight days.  You have made me see that my sisters are married and my brothers went to the army . My father is alone: ​​accept that I stay with him for a week.

- V ou will be there tomorrow morning, said the Beast. But remember your promise: all you have to do is put your ring on a table by lying down when you want to come back. Farewell, Beauty ”.

The Beast sighed, as usual, saying these words, and Beauty went to bed, very sad to have afflicted her.

When she woke up in the morning, she found herself in her father's house and, having rung a bell which was beside the bed, she saw the servant coming, who uttered a loud cry as she saw her . The man ran up to this cry and almost died of joy when he saw his dear daughter again, and they remained kissed for more than a quarter of an hour. La Belle, after the first transport, thought that she had no clothes to get up, but the servant said that she had just found in the next room a large chest full of gold dresses, trimmed with diamonds. Belle thanked the good Beast for her attentions. She took the least rich of these dresses and told the servant to put away the others which she wanted to present to her sisters. But hardly had she said these words when the chest disappeared. Her father told her that the Beast wanted her to keep all of this for herself, and immediately the robes and the chest returned to the same place.

La Belle got dressed and , during this time, they went to warn her sisters who came running with their husbands. They were both very unhappy. The eldest had married a young gentleman as handsome as Love; but he was so in love with his own figure that he was occupied only with that from morning until evening. The second had married a man who had a lot of spirit, but he only used it to make everyone angry, starting with his wife. Belle's sisters almost died of pain when she saw her dressed like a princess, and more beautiful than the day.

Nothing could stifle their jealousy, which increased when Belle told them how happy she was.

These two jealous went down into the garden to cry there very easily and they said to each other:

"Why is this little creature happier than us?" Are we not more loving than her?

- My sister, said the elder, I have a thought! Let’s try to stop her here for more than eight days: her stupid Beast will get angry that she has run out of words and maybe devour her.

- You 're right, my sister answered the aut re. We will do everything to keep it here. And, having taken this resolution, they went back up and made so many friendships with their sister that Belle cried with joy. When the eight days had passed, the two sisters tore their hair, pretending to be so distressed at her departure that Belle promised to stay another eight days. However Belle reproached herself for the sorrow she was going to give to her poor Beast whom she loved with all her heart. She was also bored of not seeing her anymore .

T he tenth night that she spent with her father, she dreamed that she was in the palace garden and that she saw the Beast lying on the grass, and ready to die, which reproached him for his ingratitude. La Belle awoke with a start and shed tears.

"Am I not very mean," she said, "to give sorrow to an animal which has so much kindness for me!" Is it her fault if she is so ugly? what if she has little spirit? It is good, it is better than everything else. Why didn't I want to marry her? I would be happier with her than my sisters with their husbands. It is neither the beauty nor the spirit of a husband that makes a woman happy, it is the goodness of character, virtue, and the Beast has all these good qualities. I have no love for her, but I have esteem, friendship and gratitude. Come on, don't make her unhappy! I would blame myself for my ingratitude all my life . "

At these words, Belle gets up, puts her ring on the table and comes back to bed. No sooner was she in bed than she fell asleep. When she woke up in the morning, she saw with joy that she was in the palace of the Beast. She dressed beautifully to please him and was bored to death all day, waiting for nine o'clock in the evening; but the clock may sound, the Beast did not appear. Belle then feared that she had caused her death. She ran all over the palace, shouting loudly; she was in despair. After having looked everywhere, she remembered her dream and ran into the garden to the canal where she had seen in his sleep.

She found poor Beast lying unconscious and thought she was dead. She threw herself on his body without having horror of his face and feeling that his heart was still beating, she took of e water in the canal and threw him on the head. The Beast opened his eyes and told the Beautiful: " You 've forgotten your promise! The sorrow of having lost you made me resolve to let myself starve; but I die happy since I have the pleasure of seeing you again .

- No, my dear Beast, you will not die! said Belle. You will live to become my husband. From that moment, I give you my hand and I swear that I will only be yours. Alas! I thought I had that friendship for v e, but the pain that I feel makes me see that I could live without you see. "

No sooner had Belle said these words than she saw the castle shining with lights. The fireworks, the music, everything announced a party to him; but all these beauties did not stop her sight. She turned back to her dear Beast whose condition made her shudder. What was his surprise? The Beast had disappeared, and she no longer lives at his feet a prince more beautiful than Love, who thanked to have Roma have its enchantment.

Q uoique prince deserved his whole has aution, she could not help asking him where the Beast.

" You the see at your feet, said the prince. A wicked fairy had condemned me to stay under this figure until a beautiful girl agreed to marry me, and she had forbidden me to make my spirit appear. So there was only you in the world to let yourself be touched by the goodness of my character: by offering you my crown, I cannot fulfill my obligations to you. "

La Belle, pleasantly surprised, gave her hand to this handsome prince to raise him. They went together to the castle and the Belle almost died of joy when she found, in the main hall, her father and all her family , which the beautiful lady who had appeared to her in a dream had transported to the castle.

"Beautiful," said this lady, who was a great fairy, "come and receive the reward of your good choice: you preferred virtue to beauty and spirit." You deserve to find all of these qualities together in one person.

You will become a great queen: I hope that the throne will not destroy your virtues. For you, ladies, said the fairy to the two sisters of Belle, I know your heart and all the mali that it contains. Become two statues, but keep all your reason under the stone that will envelop you. You will remain at the door of your sister's palace, and I impose no other pain upon you than to witness her happiness. You will not be able to return to your first state until you recognize your faults. But I was afraid that you would still remain statues. We correct ourselves for pride, anger, gluttony and laziness, but it is a kind of miracle that the conversion of a wicked and envious heart. At the moment, the fairy gave a wand which transported all those who were in this room to the kingdom of the prince. His subjects saw him with joy, and he married Belle, who lived with him for a very long time, and in perfect happiness, because he was founded on virtue.