Cinderella

There was, many years ago, a gentleman who had a charming lady for his wife. They had one daughter only, who was very dutiful to her parents. But while she was still very young, her mamma died, to the grief of her husband and daughter. After a time, the little girl’s papa married another lady. Now this lady was proud and haughty, and had two grownup daughters as disagreeable as herself, so the poor girl found everything at home changed for the worse.

But she bore all her troubles with patience, not even complaining to her father, and in spite of her hard toil, she grew more lovely in face and figure every year.

Now the King’s son gave a grand ball, an all persons of quality were invited to it. Our two young ladies were not overlooked. Nothing was now talked of but the rich dresses they were to wear.

At last the happy day arrived. The two proud sisters set off in high spirits. Cinderella followed them with her eyes until the coach was out of sight. She then began to cry bitterly. While she was sobbing, her godmother, who was a Fairy, appeared before her.

“Cinderella,” said the Fairy, “I am your godmother, and for the sake of your dear mamma, I am come to cheer you up, so dry your tears; you shall go to the grand ball tonight, but you must do just as I bid you. Go into the garden and bring me a pumpkin.” Cinderella brought the finest that was there. Her godmother scooped it out very quickly, and then struck it with her wand, upon which it was changed into a beautiful coach. Afterwards, the old lady peeped into the mouse-trap, where she found six mice. She tapped them lightly with her wand, and each mouse became a fine horse. The rat-trap contained two large rats; one of these she turned into a coachman, and the other into a postilion. The old lady then told Cinderella to go into the garden and seek for half a dozen lizards. These she changed into six footmen, dressed in the gayest livery.

When all these things had been done, the kind godmother touching her with her want, changed her work-out clothes into a beautiful balldress embroidered with pearls and silver. She then gave her a pair of glass slippers, that is, they were woven of the most delicate spun glass, find as the web of a spider.

When Cinderella was thus attired, her godmother made her get into her splendid coach, giving her a caution to leave the ball before the clock struck twelve.

On her arrival, her beauty struck everybody with wonder. The gallant prince gave her a courteous welcome, and led her into the ballroom; and the kind and queen were as much enchanted with her, as the Prince conducted her to the supper-table, and was too much occupied in waiting upon her to partake of anything himself. While seated, Cinderella heard the clock strike three-quarters past eleven. She rose to leave, the prince pressing her to accept an invitation for the ball on the following evening.