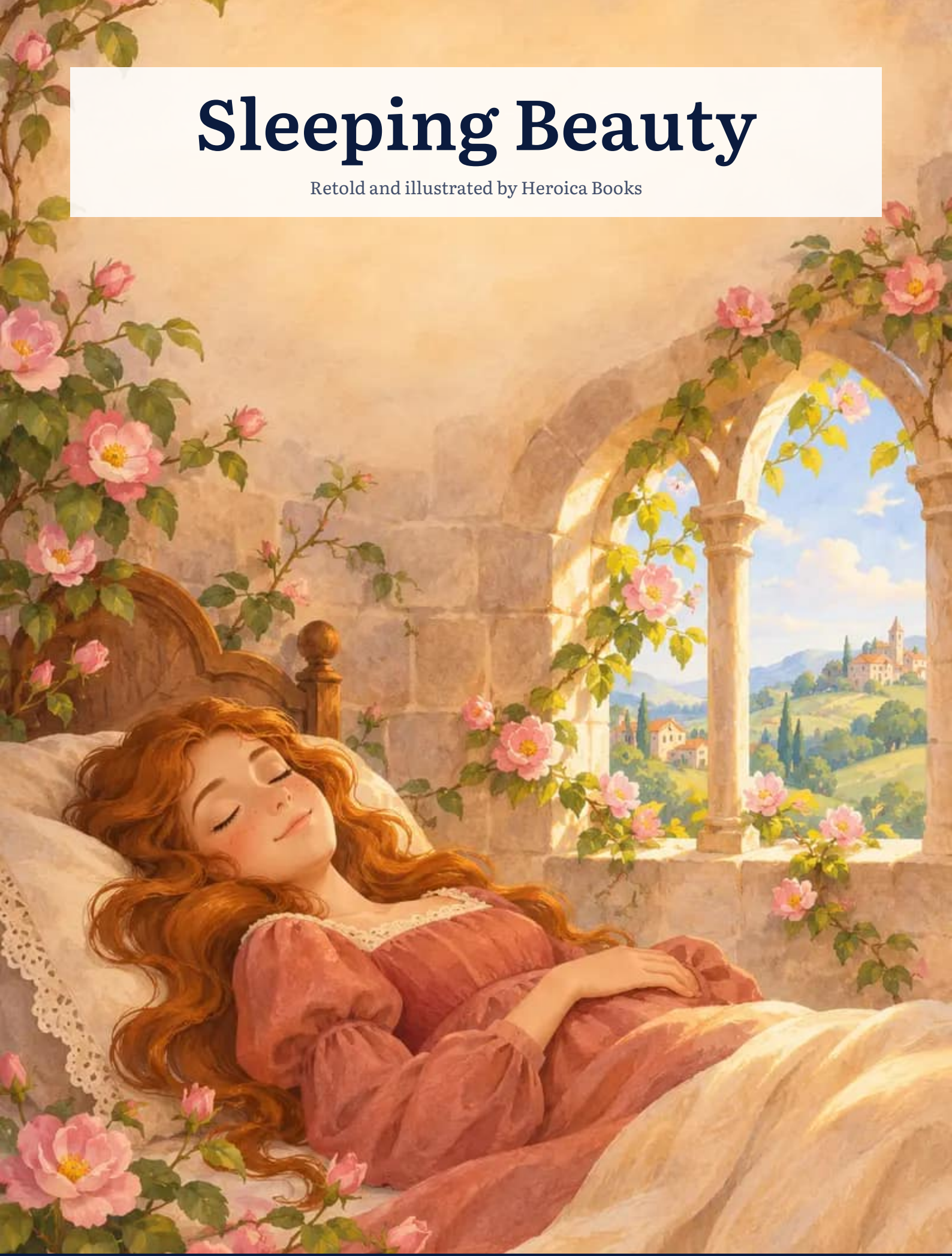
Sleeping Beauty

Retold and illustrated by Heroica Books



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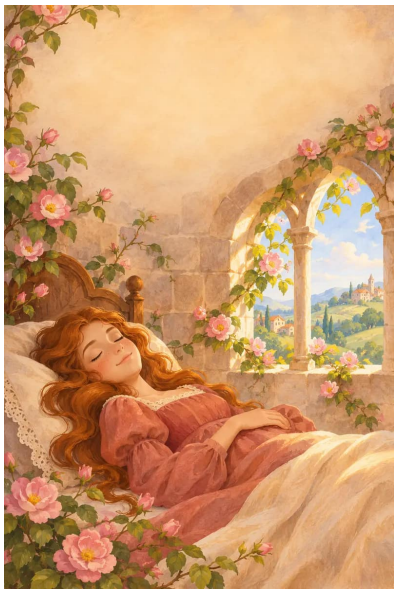
Where does this story come from?

Charles Perrault published "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood" in France in 1697, and the Brothers Grimm recorded the German version, "Little Briar Rose", in 1812. This retelling blends the two: the whole castle sleeps with the princess, as in Grimm, and she wakes when the hundred years are over, with the princess's first words, taken from Perrault.

What is the moral of the story?

Patience and hope can outlast even the longest spell, and an act of kindness can soften what was meant for harm.



What if the hero of the next story were your child?

With Heroica you create a book with a brand-new story, written for your child and illustrated with their face from a photo.

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Once upon a time there was a king and a queen who waited many years for a baby. When the little princess was born, they gave a great party and invited the fairies of the kingdom to be her godmothers. Each fairy gave a magic gift: beauty, kindness, joy, a lovely singing voice.

But an old, grumpy fairy whom nobody had seen for a long time had not been invited. She appeared at the door, offended, and said: "When she turns fifteen, the princess will prick her finger on a spindle and fall into a sleep without end!"



Everyone was frightened. Then the youngest fairy, who had not yet given her gift, spoke up: "I cannot undo the spell, but I can soften it. The princess will sleep, yes, but only for a hundred years. And she will wake up."

Even so, the king ordered every spinning wheel and every spindle in the kingdom to be taken away. The princess grew up happy and curious, playing in the castle gardens, without ever seeing a spinning wheel.



On the day she turned fifteen, the princess decided to explore the castle. At the top of a forgotten tower she found an old woman spinning at a wheel. "What is that thing that twirls so prettily?" she asked. "It’s a spindle, my dear. Would you like to try?"

As soon as the princess touched the spindle, she pricked her finger. At once she felt terribly sleepy and fell asleep right there, just as the fairy had said.



The good fairy heard the news and, so that the princess would not wake up alone, she put the whole castle to sleep with her: the king and queen on their thrones, the cook by the stove, the guards at the gates and even the little dog.

Around the castle grew an enormous hedge of rose bushes full of thorns, so tall and so thick that no one could get through. In time the castle became a legend, and people told stories of the Sleeping Beauty.



A hundred years went by. One day, a prince travelling through the kingdom heard an old man tell the legend of the sleeping princess, and he decided to go and see.

When he came near the hedge, something wonderful happened: the thorns turned into flowers, and the rose bushes moved aside by themselves, opening a path for him. The hundred years of the spell were ending on that very day.



The prince climbed up to the tower and found the princess asleep. As he came closer, the hundred years were over, and she opened her eyes and smiled: "Is it you, my prince? You took your time!"

At that very moment the whole castle woke up. The cook went back to stirring his pot, the little dog barked for joy, and the king and queen hugged each other. There was a huge celebration, and the princess and the prince lived happily ever after. The end.

NOW IT'S YOUR CHILD'S TURN

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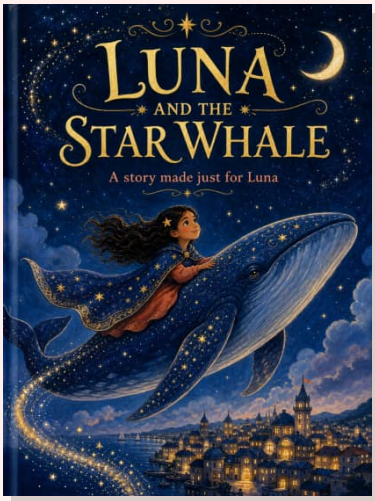

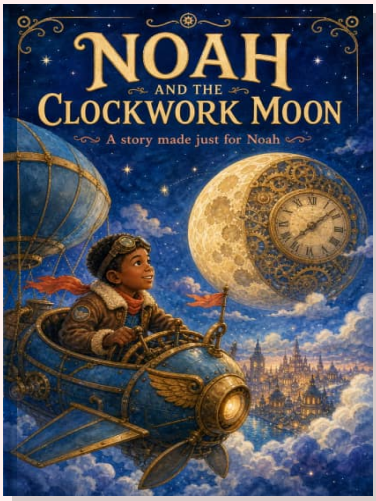



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