

# The Enchanted Slumber: Elara's Tale of Kindness and Courage

Once upon a time, in a kingdom nestled between towering mountains, there lived a kind and beautiful princess named Elara. She was known far and wide for her ebony hair, porcelain skin, and lips as red as the blood-red roses that bloomed in the royal gardens. Her stepmother, Queen Malvina, was an enchantress, but her heart was as cold as the snow that blanketed their land.

One day, as Elara was playing in the royal gardens, she pricked her finger on a thorn and watched as three drops of blood fell onto the freshly fallen snow. "Oh, how I wish for a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as ebony," she whispered, not realizing the enchantment her words held.

The queen's heart was filled with jealousy and anger, for she knew that Elara was the fairest in the land. She summoned her most trusted servant, the Huntsman, and ordered him to take the princess deep into the forest and never return. The Huntsman, torn between loyalty to the queen and his love for the princess, took her deep into the woods, but he could not bring himself to harm her.

"Run, Elara, and never return," he said, giving her a satchel of food and a cloak. With tears in her eyes, the princess fled into the forest, her ebony hair contrasting starkly with the snow, and her lips as red as blood.

Lost and frightened, Elara wandered deeper into the forest until she came across a tiny cottage nestled among the trees. She knocked on the door, and it creaked open to reveal seven dwarfs, each with unique names: Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy, Doc, and Dopey.

"Who are you?" Grumpy asked, his brows furrowed in suspicion.

"I am Princess Elara," she replied, "and I am lost in the woods. I seek shelter."

The dwarfs exchanged glances, and Happy, the kindest of them all, said, "You may stay with us, Princess."

Elara soon became a part of their family, and her kindness and beauty won their hearts. She helped them with their chores, kept their home tidy, and filled it with laughter. In the evening, the dwarfs would gather around her and listen to her sing, her voice as melodious as a nightingale's.

Meanwhile, Queen Malvina's jealousy only grew as the years passed, and she often consulted her enchanted mirror. To her dismay, the mirror continued to reply that Elara was the fairest in the land. Fueled by rage, the queen brewed a potion, transforming herself into an old hag.

One fateful day, Queen Malvina disguised herself and arrived at the cottage of the seven dwarfs, offering a beautiful, but poisonous, red apple to Elara. The princess, ever the trusting soul, accepted the gift and took a bite. She fell into a deep slumber, and the queen left, believing her stepdaughter was finally gone.

The dwarfs returned to find Elara, and no matter what they did, they could not awaken her. Heartbroken, they placed her in a glass coffin on a hill overlooking the forest. There, she lay in her eternal sleep, still as beautiful as the day she arrived.

One day, a prince passing through the forest came upon the glass coffin and was struck by Elara's beauty. He kissed her, breaking the curse and awakening her from her deep slumber. Elara opened her eyes and smiled at her rescuer.

The prince, enchanted by her beauty and kindness, proposed to her, and Elara accepted. Together, they returned to the kingdom, and Elara was finally reunited with her father, the king.

As for Queen Malvina, her wickedness was revealed, and she was banished from the kingdom forever.

And so, Princess Elara lived happily ever after, her beauty as radiant as the sun, and her heart as pure as snow, with the prince who had found her in the depths of the enchanted forest, surrounded by the seven dwarfs who had become her dearest friends.