Beauty and the Beast

By Beaumont

* Family: merchant father, 3 sons and 3 daughters
* Read good books during her free time
* Merchant loses his fortune and they move to a small country house. Older sisters abandoned by their fiances
* Beauty: “I must try to make myself happy without a fortune”
  + “affable, obliging behavior”
  + “sweet-tempered”
  + “speaks kindly”
  + Does all the household chores for the poor family – becomes strong and healthy after the hard work
  + Can play the harpsichord
  + Can spin clothes
* Older sisters highly discontent
* Asks for a rose not because she likes it, but because she doesn’t want her sisters to look bad when they asked the father for so much stuff
* Beast values roses “above all things in the universe”
* Beast prefers people “speak as they think”
* Beast demands one of the daughters to come willingly and suffer in the father’s place, or else he will die. Time limit: three months
* Beauty at first believes Beast will fatten her up and eat her
* She is given a looking glass that allows her to see whatever she wants.
* Beast makes Beauty the “mistress” and “queen” of the castle and wishes to oblige her with anything she desires. He would even leave her alone if she desired it.
* Every night, after they spend time together, Beast proposes marriage to her, and she refuses.
  + She can never tell a “lie.”
  + When Beast asks her if he is ugly, she answers yes, but points out his good nature which makes him better than handsome men
* Beauty requests to stay one week with her father and return.
* Beast gives her a ring that, when it is put on the table before she goes to bed, will transport her back to his palace.
* Beauty stays longer when her sisters are so nice to her, but then eventually realizes that “sweetness of temper, virtue, and complaisance” are what make a better husband than “fine person, wit, etc”
* When Beauty professes her love to Beast, lights and stuff flash, and is replaced by a handsome prince (yay)
* Her two sisters are turned into statues outside Beauty’s palace, while still retaining their reason.

Main character: Beauty

Like many of the other fairy tale princesses in the land, she is beautiful. Unlike many of the other girls, who have royal or at least noble upbringings, Beauty comes from the merchant class and therefore does not have a naturally elegant disposition. She even spent a number of months working household chores in the countryside while their father was experiencing business failures, so she has developed callouses on her hands and experience in common household chores. She often feels overwhelmed by the world of the nobility and upper class, and often feels snubbed and outcast by other women who despise her humble origins or her extremely good fortune. Beast usually forgoes attending social banquets and parties because he himself is rather awkward in crowds, and also for the sake of Beauty, who cannot fit in well with the atmosphere.

They like to take walks in the gardens and spend time discussing various intellectual topics. Beast gardens as a hobby, while Beauty likes to read, so they can spend many hours in each others’ presence without saying a single word to each other, and feel perfectly comfortable. Reflecting the amount of time they spent getting to know each other and actually falling in love, they have an unusually strong bond, even among the other “true love” couples in the kingdoms.

Positive traits include a sweet temper and a willingness to work hard and make the best of a situation. In this regard, Beauty is close friends with Cinderella.

Original story

Not much different from the actual story.

Beast originally was the son of a king that ruled a small kingdom on the eastern continent. One day, an old woman came asking for shelter from the storm. Beast, who at that time was 10-years-old, tried to refuse her shelter because she looked really suspicious. It turns out that she was a faerie, and because her “desire” to have hospitality was rebuffed, it morphed into a vengeful magic that curse the Beast to take on the hideous appearance of the faerie. The faerie walked off with the face of the Beast, while the Beast is forced to flee the castle while being accused of eating the “prince” alive.

After wandering about, he finally settles in a decrepit old castle abandoned in the middle of a ruined city. He stays there for a number of years.

In the meantime, the small kingdom is expanding its borders, and once small villages near the Beast’s castle are flourishing into sizable trading towns. There Beauty’s father grows as a trader, then loses his business after a particularly bad storm – a storm that, incidentally, also allows the mermaid princess to meet the prince from the other kingdom. When Beauty’s family moves into the small village just at the edge of the forest, that is when the story begins.

The father tries to cross the forest into the next