Prince and the Pauper

A boy who looks exactly like the prince is found on the streets one year before the prince’s official crowning at his 21st birthday. In order to preserve the prince’s life, the royal family switches the two boys, allowing the pauper to take the prince’s place. The boy spends a year living in luxury, but also suffers from dangers of poisoning, assassination, and other kinds of threats against his life. While enamoured by the glamorous life of a palace, he quickly becomes disillusioned and begins to resent the royals and the nobles, who only consider him a human meat shield with which to protect the prince.

His resentment grows even stronger when he realizes that the real prince is nothing but an idiot. The man is spoiled, feels entitled, and immaturely whines about allowing the peasant to have the same privileges that he enjoys. He is clearly not as clever as the Pauper, whose years of living on the streets have made it second nature to him to be able to read the moods of those around him and strategize to save his own face and survive.

On the day of the birthday, the pauper is thrown back out onto the streets while the prince is crowned king.

Ironically, once out of the palace, the pauper realizes that he has already gotten used to a pampered, luxurious life and cannot imagine returning to the impoverished lifestyle he once led. His disgust with the shallow, dirty palace intrigues and his longing for the kind of lifestyle it offers conflict in a big turmoil within his heart.

Eventually, he seeks the help of a witch, who recognizes the desire he holds and offers to give him the power to grant his wish.

The boy’s wish: to become a prince.