

Fairy Tale Beginnings



A Book of Once Upon a Time

collected by Eliza Redgold/
Elizabeth Reid Boyd Ph.D.

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(Illustration: *Once Upon a Time* by Henry Meynell Rheam, 1908)

We all know how fairy tales end, but do you know the beginning?

My name is Eliza Redgold. It's the Gaelic meaning of my full name, Elizabeth Reid Boyd. I'm an author, academic and collector of fairy tales.

In 2015, I held weekly 'Fairy Tale Fridays' on my author Facebook page. I brought magic into my life by posting the first line or two of a favourite fairy tale onto my page. Readers young and old were invited to guess the story. The next Friday, I revealed the identity of the fairy tale, along with a beautiful old illustration.

So many people found this a magical experience. It was such fun to share that I decided to put some of them together in this book. Some are simple, some are more difficult. I do hope you enjoy it.

May life bring you many happy endings – and even more fairy tale beginnings.

Eliza/Elizabeth

www.elizaredgold.com

Let's begin now.

Once upon a time there lived in a certain village a little country girl, the prettiest creature was ever seen. Her mother was excessively fond of her; and her grandmother doted on her still more.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning? Turn the page to find out.



Little Red Riding Hood

(Illustration: *Little Red Riding Hood* by François Fleury, 1820)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time, in a very far-off country,
there lived a merchant who had been so
fortunate in all his undertakings that he was
enormously rich.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning? Turn the page to find out.



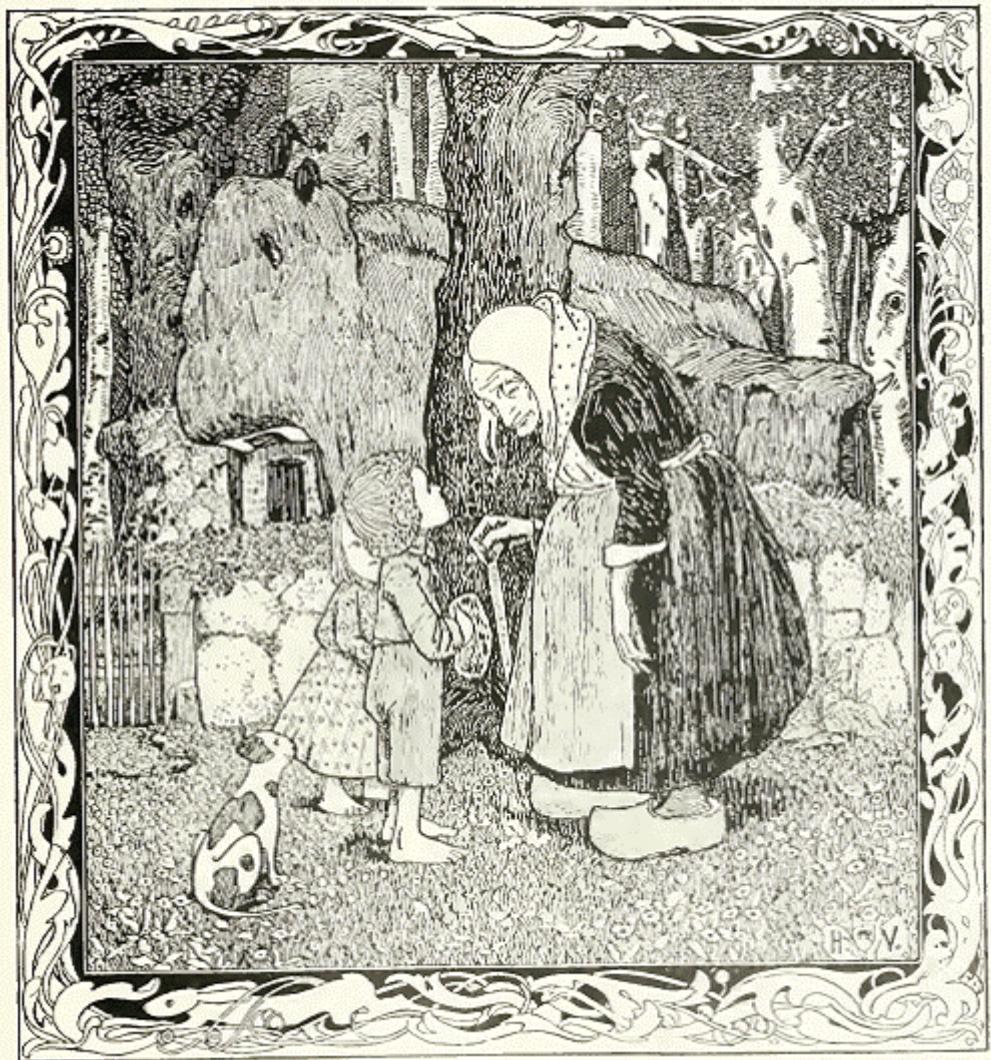
Beauty and the Beast

(Illustration: *Beauty and the Beast* by Warwick Goble, 1913)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time there dwelled on the
outskirts of a large forest a poor woodcutter
with his wife and two children.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning? Turn
the page to find out.



Hansel and Gretel

(Illustration: *Hansel und Gretel* by Heinrich Vogeler, 1902)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there lived a king and a queen who lacked but one thing on earth to make them entirely happy.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning? Turn the page to find out.



The Sleeping Beauty

(Illustration: *The Sleeping Beauty* by Henry Meynell Rheam, date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there lived a gentleman who married twice. His second wife was a widow with two grown-up daughters, both somewhat past their prime, and this woman would have been the proudest and most overbearing in the world had not her daughter exactly resembled her with their fine airs and insolent tempers.

The husband, too, had by his first wife, a child of his own.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



Cinderella

(Illustration: *Cinderella*, artist unknown, 1865)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time there were Three Bears,
who lived together in a house of their own in a
wood.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

(Illustration: *The Three Bears*, by Arthur Rackham, 1918)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time in the middle of winter,
when the flakes of snow were falling like
feathers from the sky, a queen sat at a window
sewing, and the frame of the window was
made of black ebony. And whilst she was
sewing and looking out of the window at the
snow, she pricked her finger with the needle,
and three drops of blood fell upon the snow.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



Snow White

(Illustration: *Snow White* by Henry Meynell Rheam, 1920)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there was a king who had twelve beautiful daughters. They slept in twelve beds all in one room and when they went to bed, the doors were shut and locked up. However, every morning their shoes were found to be quite worn through as if they had been danced in all night.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



The Twelve Dancing Princesses

(Illustration: *Twelve Dancing Princesses*, artist unknown, 1912)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time, far out in the wide sea –
where the water is as blue as the loveliest
cornflower, and as clear as the purest crystal,
where it is so deep that very, very many
church towers must be heaped one upon
another in order to reach from the lowest
depth to the surface above – dwell the Mer-
people.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



The Little Mermaid

(Illustration: *The Little Mermaid's Sisters*, by Anne Anderson, date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time there was a wicked sprite,
indeed he was the most mischievous of all
sprites. One day he was in a very good humor,
for he had made a mirror with the power of
causing all that was good and beautiful when
it was reflected therein, to look poor and
mean; but that which was good-for-nothing
and looked ugly was shown magnified and
increased in ugliness.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



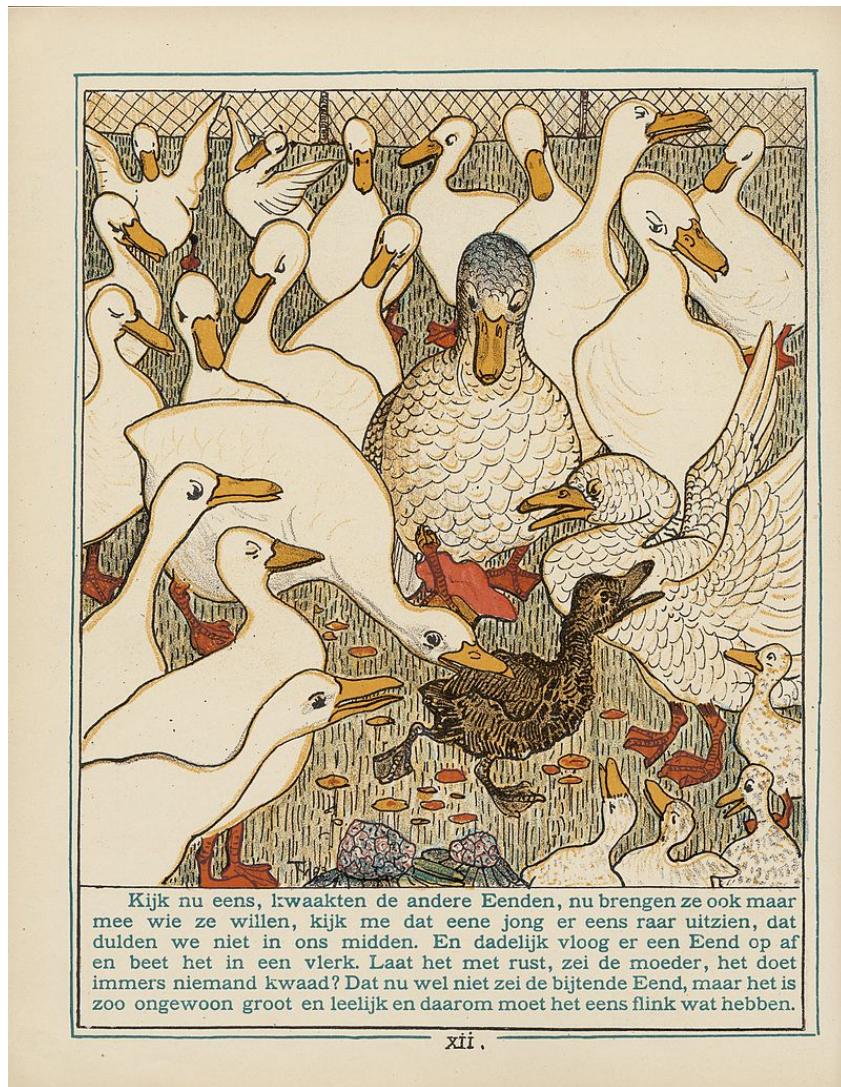
The Snow Queen

(Illustration: *The Snow Queen*, artist unknown, 1916)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time it was beautiful in the country, it was summertime; the wheat was yellow, the oats were green, the hay was stacked up in the green meadows, and the stork paraded about on his long red legs, discoursing in Egyptian, which language he learned from his mother.

Can you guess the fairy tale?



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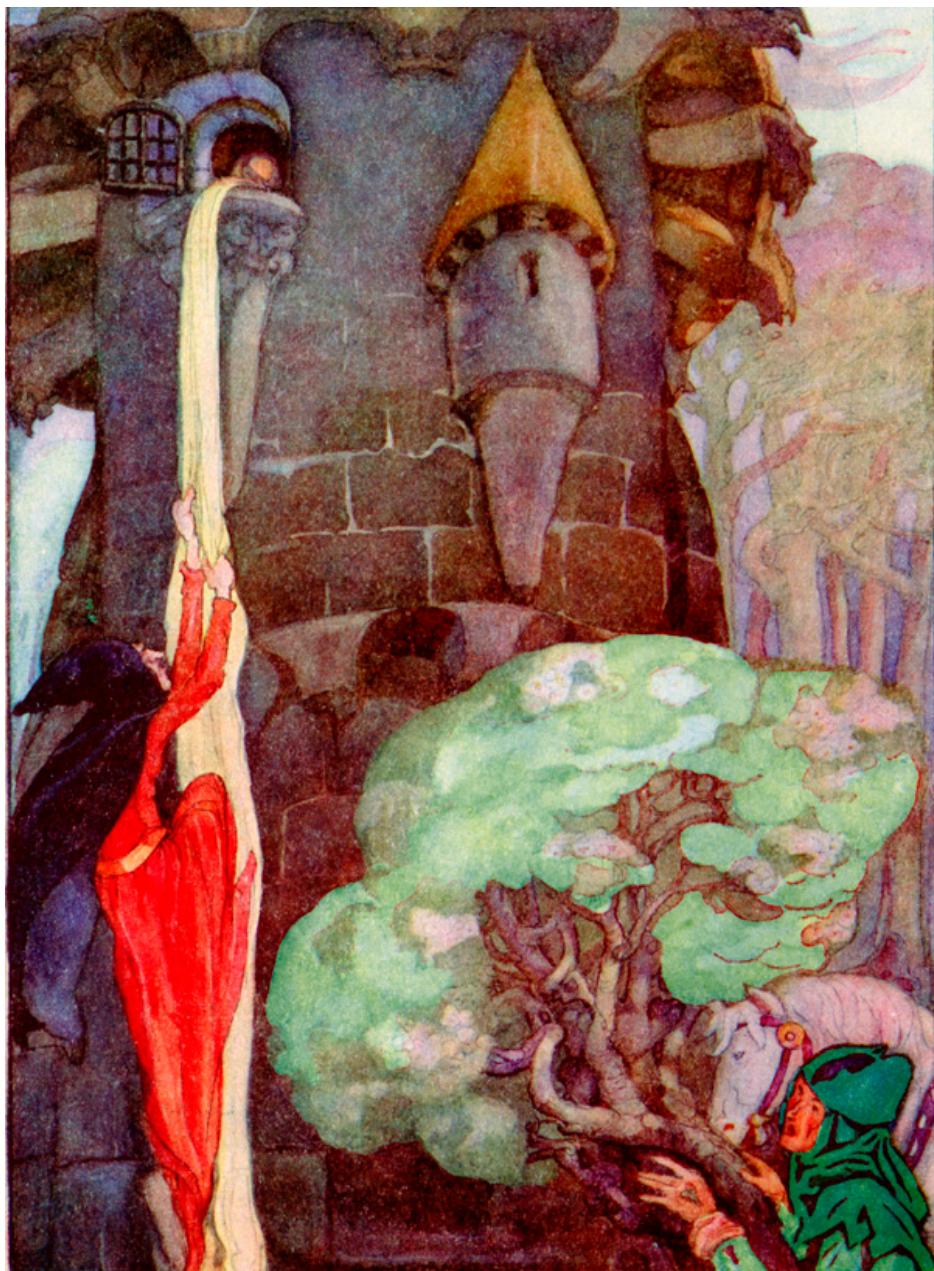
The Ugly Duckling

(Illustration: *The Ugly Duckling*, 19th century)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there were a man and a woman who had long, in vain, wished for a child. At length it appeared that God was about to grant their desire. These people had a little window at the back of their house from which a splendid garden could be seen, which was full of the most beautiful flowers and herbs. It was, however, surrounded by a high wall, and no one dared to go into it because it belonged to an enchantress.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



Rapunzel

(Illustration: *Rapunzel, Let Down Your Hair*, Anne Anderson, date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time there lived a poor widow
who had an only son named Jack.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



Jack and the Beanstalk

(Illustration: *Jack and the Beanstalk*, Walter Crane, date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time, many, many years ago,
lived an emperor who thought so much of new
clothes that he spent all his money in order to
obtain them; his only ambition was to be
always well dressed.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



The Emperor's New Clothes

(Illustration: *The Emperor's New Clothes* by Vilhelm Pederson, date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

*Once upon a time there was a Prince who
wished to marry a Princess; but she must be a
real Princess.*

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



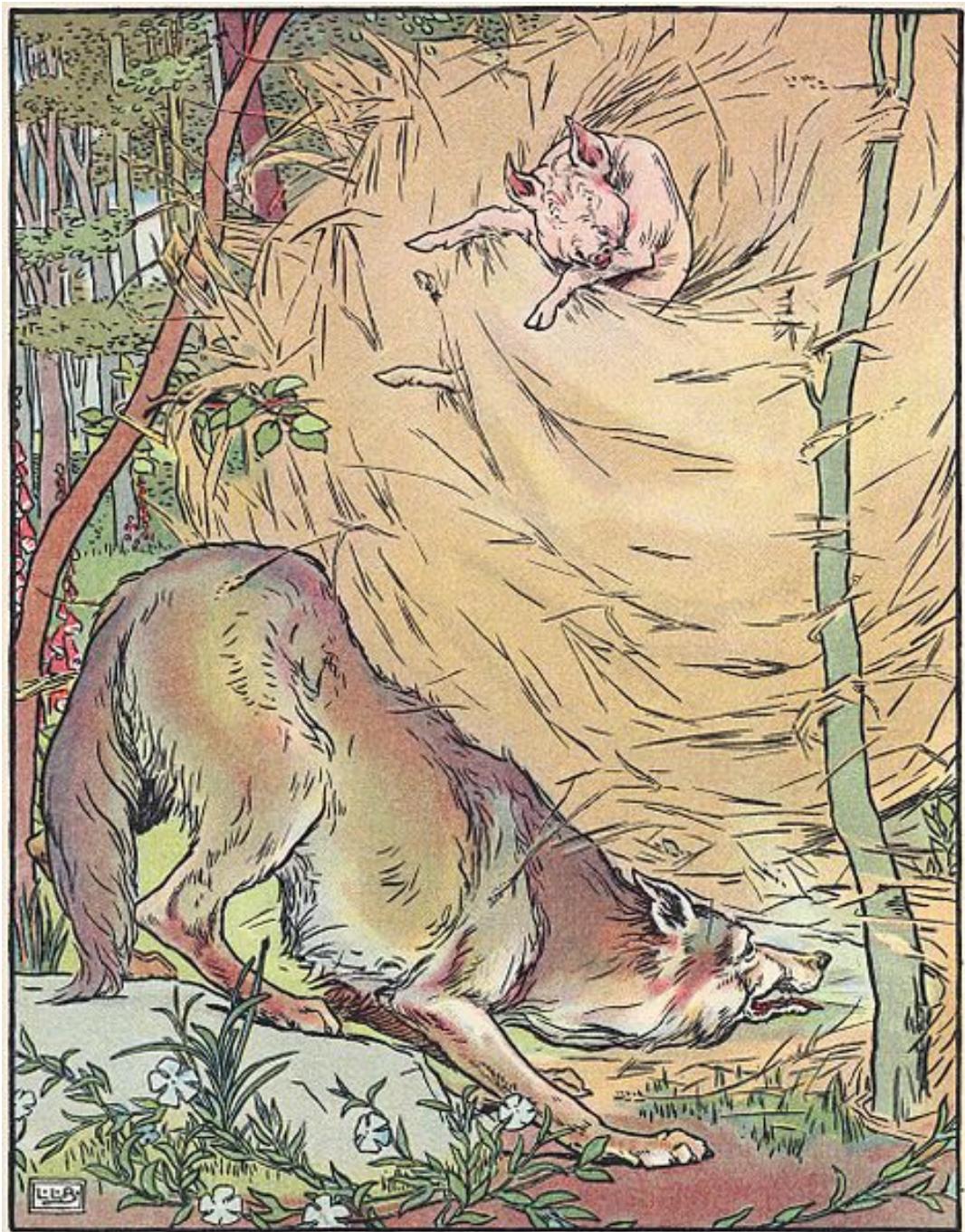
The Princess and the Pea/The Real Princess

(Illustration: *The Princess and the Pea* by Helen Stratton, 1899)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there was an old sow with three little pigs, and as she had not enough to keep them, she sent them out to seek their fortune.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



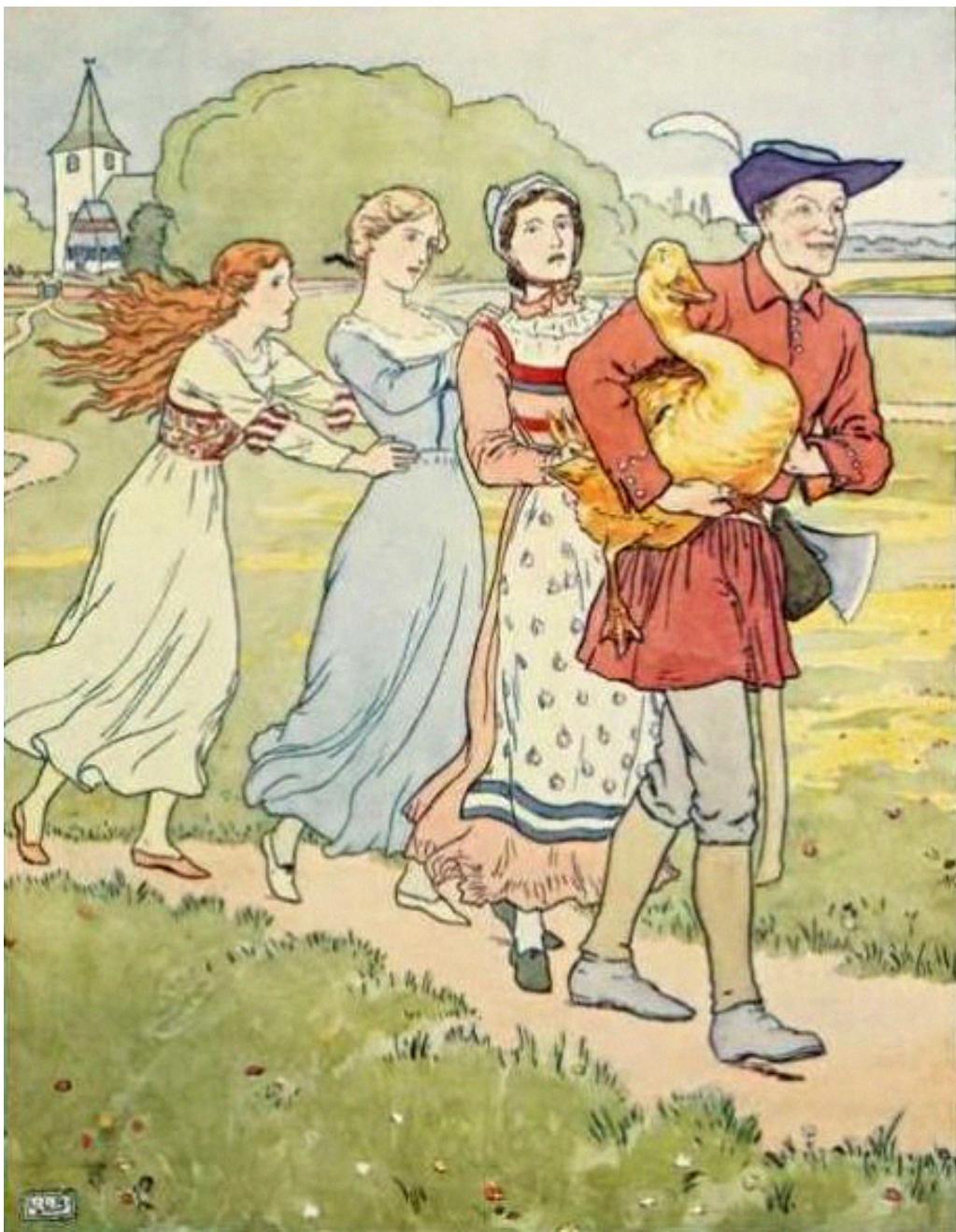
Three Little Pigs

(Illustration: *Three Little Pigs, The Straw House*, artist unknown, 1904)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there was a man who had three sons, the youngest of whom was called Dumpling, and he was despised, mocked, and put down on every occasion.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



The Golden Goose.

(Illustration: Simpleton takes the Golden Goose to the Inn, by L. Leslie Brook, 1904)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time, one fine evening, a young princess put on her bonnet and clogs, and went out to take a walk by herself in a wood; and when she came to a cool spring of water with a rose in the middle of it, she sat herself down to rest a while. Now she had a golden ball in her hand, which was her favourite plaything; and she was always tossing it up into the air, and catching it again as it fell.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



The Frog Prince

(Illustration: *The Frog Prince*, by Marianne Stokes, 1855-1927)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time, a poor widow lived in a little cottage with a garden in front of it, in which grew two rose trees, one bearing white roses and the other red.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



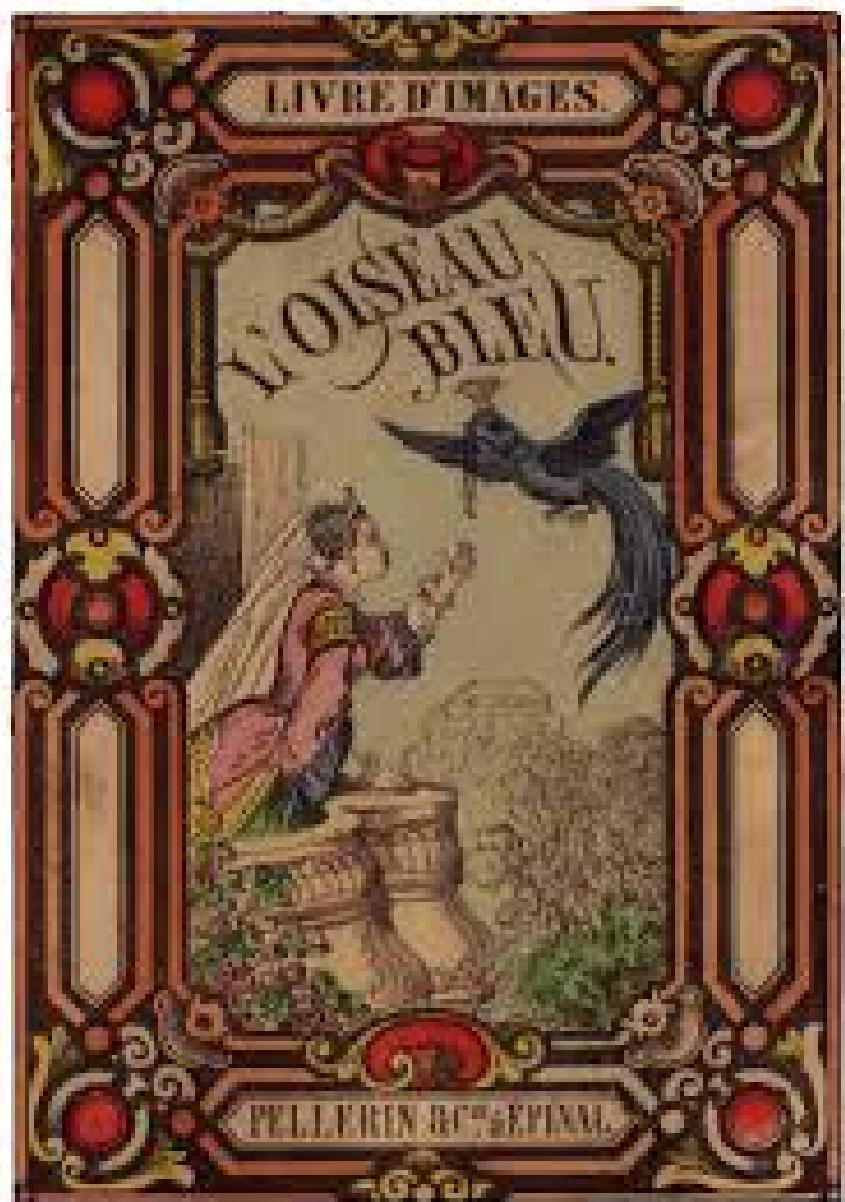
Snow White and Rose Red

(Illustration: *Snow White and Rose Red*, by Hermann Vogel, date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there was a king who was very rich in lands and money. When his wife died he was inconsolable.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



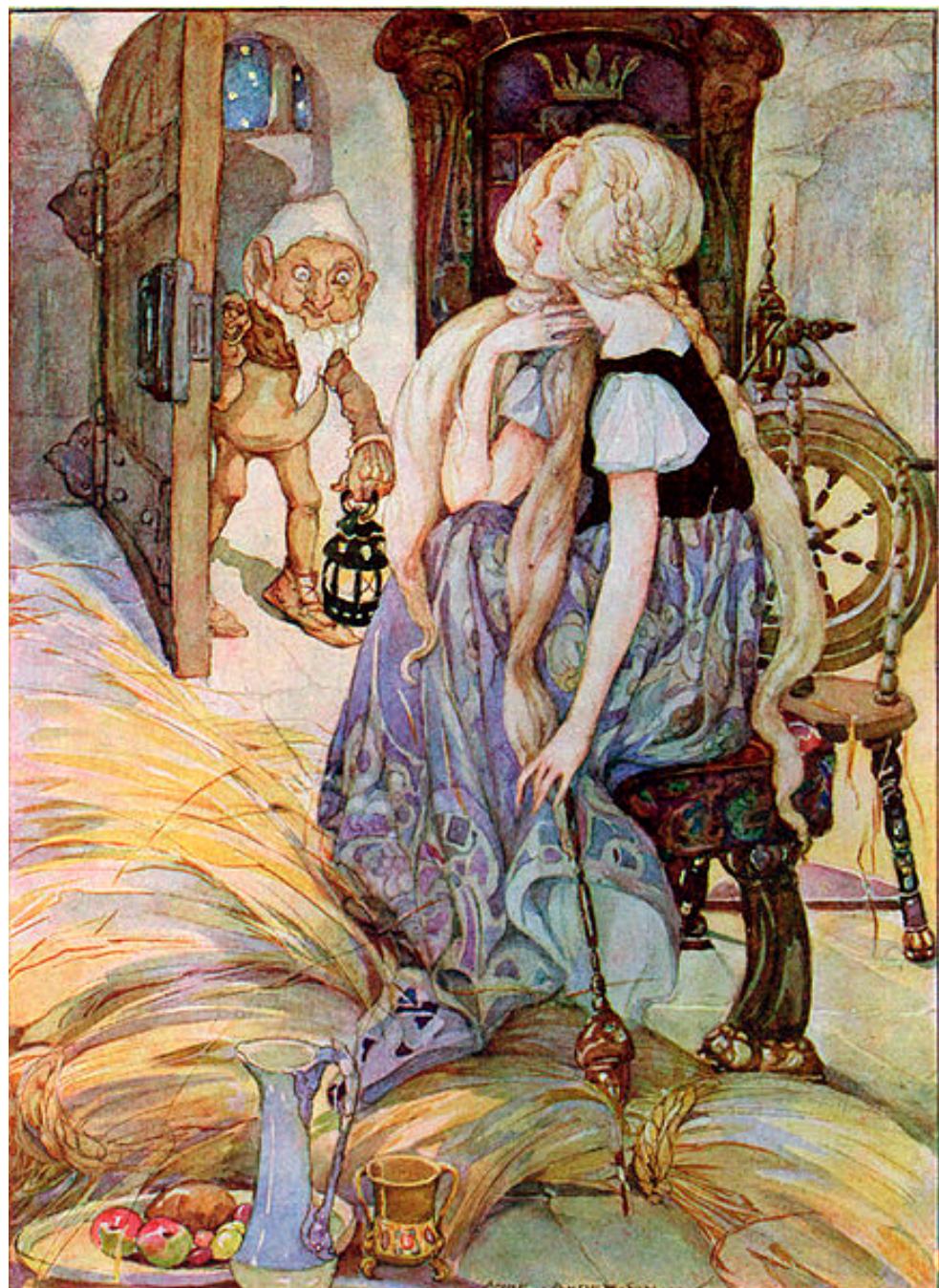
The Blue Bird

(Illustration: L'Oiseau Bleu, artist and date unknown)

Let's begin another tale:

Once upon a time there was a poor miller who had a very beautiful daughter. Now it happened one day that he had an audience with the King, and in order to appear a person of some importance he told him that he had a daughter who could spin straw into gold.

Can you guess the fairy tale beginning?



Rumpelstiltskin

(Illustration: *The Miller's Daughter*, by Anne Anderson, date unknown)

And that's the end of the story!
May you live happily ever after.



The Fairy Wood

(Illustration: *The Fairy Wood* by Henry Meynell Rheam, 1903)

About this Fairy Gift

I hope you've enjoyed this selection of *Fairy Tale Beginnings*. All the illustrations I've included here are in the public domain. So too are fairy tales. Where possible I've provided the artist's link overleaf, so you can find more of their beautiful work.

Please feel free to visit my website at www.elizaredgold.com

Fairy tales and romances were once told in the same *romanz* language. You may enjoy my historical fiction '[Ladies of Legend](#)' series, starting with *NAKED: A Novel of Lady Godiva* (St Martin's Press) or some of my light-hearted [romances](#) (Harlequin).

Coming soon is some exciting non-fiction (writing as Elizabeth Reid Boyd) including the forthcoming *The Secrets of Mindful Beauty* to be published by Skyhorse Publishing, New York. Also in progress is a non-fiction book about the spirit of fairy tales and how you can transform your life with a forgotten fairy tale philosophy.

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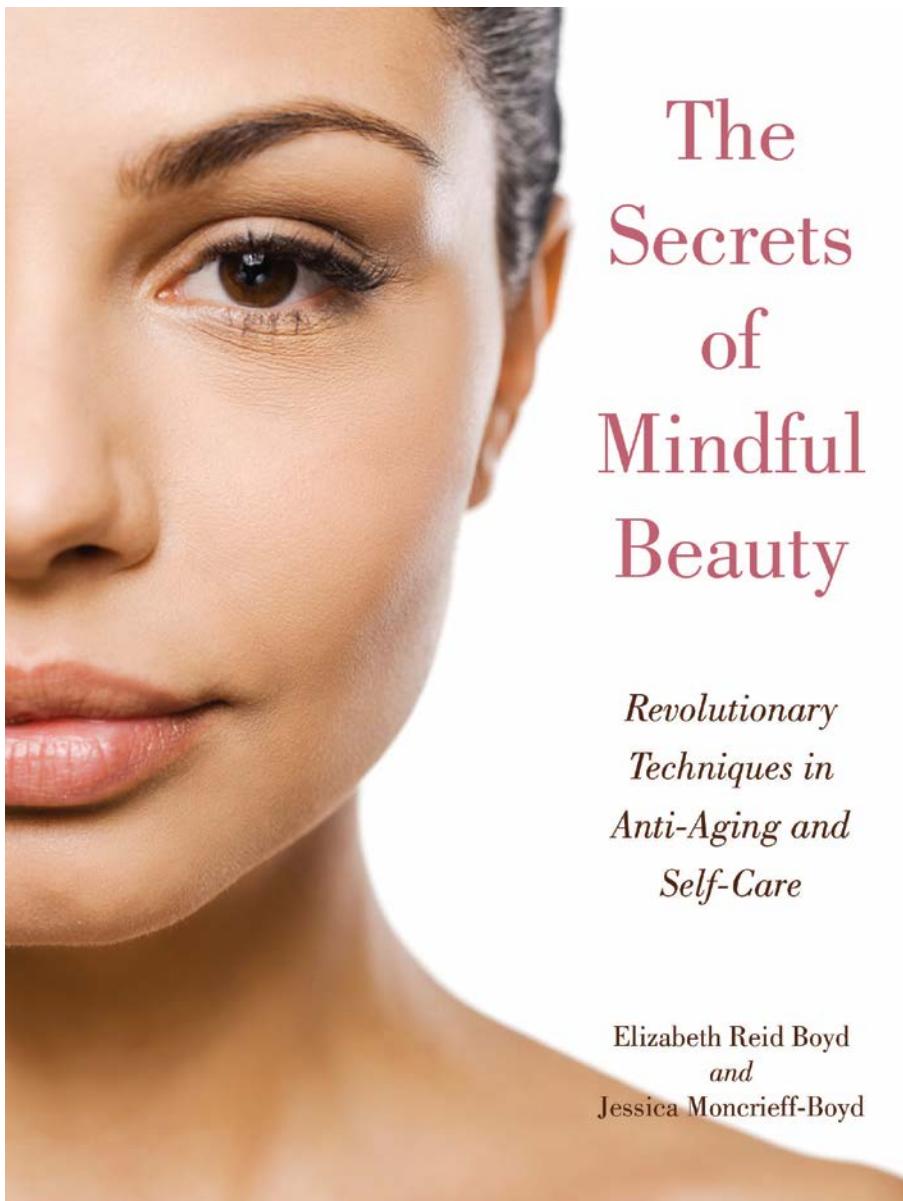
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Best wishes,

Eliza Redgold/Elizabeth Reid Boyd





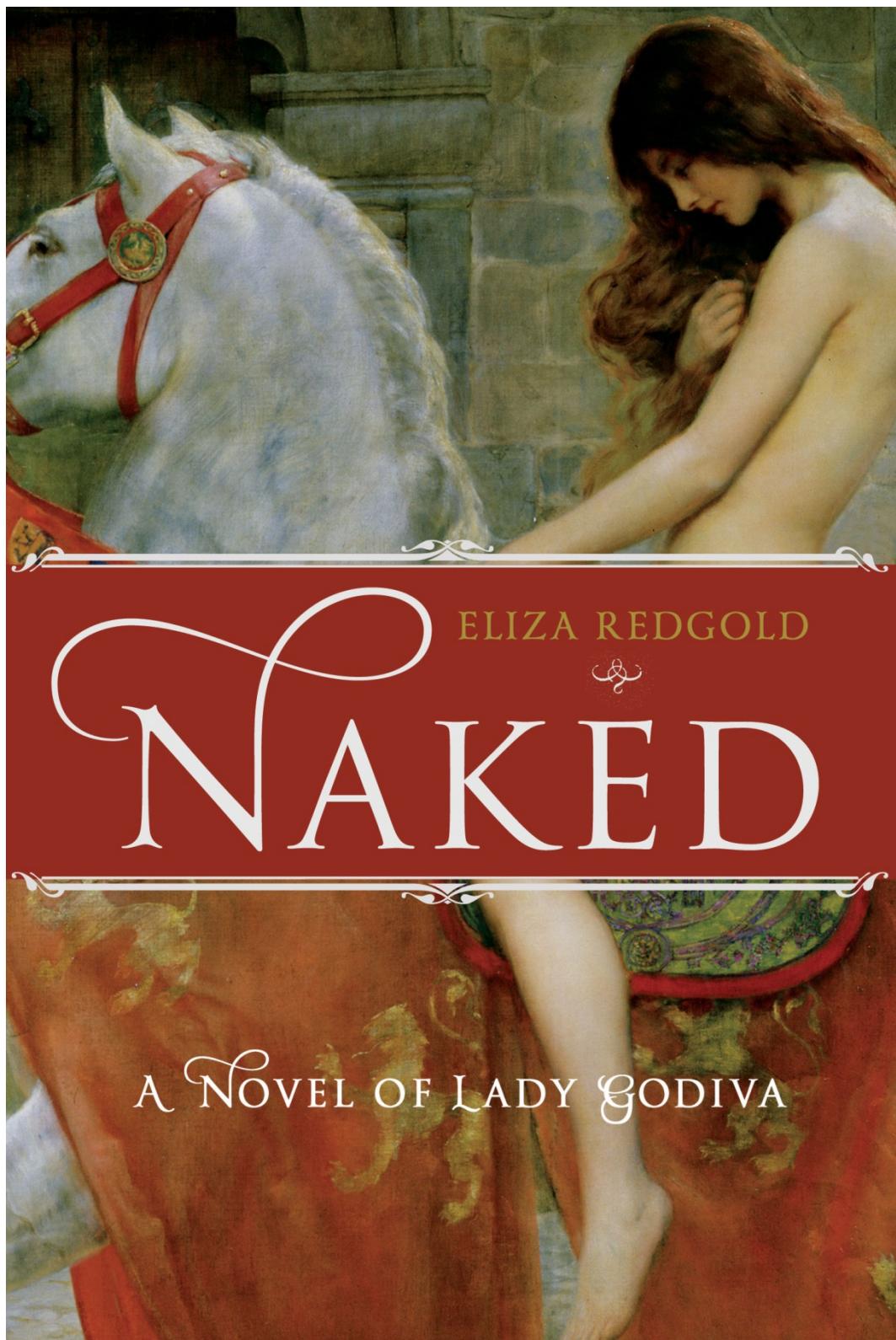
The Secrets of Mindful Beauty

*Revolutionary
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Elizabeth Reid Boyd
and
Jessica Moncrieff-Boyd

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