

Cooper
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Beauty and the Beast... Or is it?

Once upon a time in a land of all things beastly, there lived an old merchant Beast and his three daughters, Thistle, Thorna and Maybelle. Thistle and Thorna loved wandering through the city shopping for velvet dresses and lace slippers, but Maybelle, the youngest, loved to read, sew, dance, draw, and watch things grow. One day the merchant heard that all but one of his ship's had been destroyed, cargo lost and crew badly injured.

Before leaving to see his damaged ships at the capitol he asked his three daughters if they needed anything while he was gone. "Satin gowns!", demanded Thistle. "Golden slippers!", screamed Thorna. "Only a rose.", requested Maybelle. "Ok then. I shall be back in three days time. Stay well my three beauties." Then the merchant rode off on his white stallion.

After all the hustle and bustle of getting Thistle and Thorna's expensive gifts the Merchant totally forgot about Maybelles rose. The Merchant rode off on a rough path looking for a rose but could not find any. When the Merchant finally came to a stop he looked down and the path was at an end. Then he realized that he was in the middle of a thick forest. The curious little eyes of many little critters peeped out here and there, watching the Merchant wandering around their homes.

A couple of hours later the Merchant came across a palace, glittering with quartz and gold. Surrounding the palace was many gardens littered with thousands of frozen statues, hiding among the hedges. That's when he smelled it. There it was, right in the middle of the garden. A giant feast was just sitting there with all his favorite foods, but the odd thing was that the table was only set for one. After a while of waiting for his host the Merchant just took one little nibble, but soon he realized that the whole feast was suddenly gone.

Eating all this food made the Merchant very sleepy. The Merchant wandered out into the garden until he found a nice bench and then fell asleep. When he woke he was surprised to see he that was layered in silk sheets and he was laying on a soft mattress instead of a hard bench.