

THE PRINCESS AND THE SWINEHERD

By Hans Christian Anderson

This popular fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson tells the story of a proud princess who, refusing all her suitors is married off to a swineherd and learns humility. As in all good fairy tales, the swineherd turns out to be a prince who truly loves her. In this scene, the princess is found playing ball with two attendants.

PRINCESS: Oh, you stupid, stupid thing! That is the third time you have missed your throw. What did you say? Of course it was straight; princesses always throw straight, don't they? Now don't stand there chattering; begin again, and remember after this, the first one who misses shan't play anymore.

(The princess misses)

(Angrily) There! That was your fault; you can't throw straight, either of you. It's a silly game anyway so go away and leave me alone!

(The emperor enters)

Good day Father, I suppose it's nearly time for me to meet another of your boring Princes. Why do you keep inviting them? They are none of them good enough. The last one had too big a nose and couldn't speak without gobbling like a turkey. His Kingdom was such a little one and his palace wasn't a palace at all, I don't want to get married, so you can tell this new Prince to go away for I won't see him!

What did you say? He has brought me a present! Oh I do hope it's a little cat! I've always wanted one. Open it! Open it quickly!

(The emperor opens the present)

Why, it's nothing but an ordinary flower – what a common thing! You can take it away again. Tell the prince I won't marry him, so he needn't bother to wait. Now go, Father and leave me alone – I am tired of silly presents and princes.