

The Princess and The Pea Synopsis

Three story tellers welcome the audience into the 'Museum of Forgotten Things'. They tell the audience about one of their artefacts; a very famous pea, and so the story begins.

There once was a king and queen who were very happy but longed for a child. After some time they had a little boy- the prince- but sadly the king died leaving the palace to the queen and the prince.

The prince had everything he ever wanted and lived a very lavish life. He slept on silk sheets; people were paid to laugh at his jokes and on his birthday the palace threw large parties.

Money at the palace was beginning to run out, even the palace roof was leaking, and one day the queen told the prince he must go out into the world and find a REAL princess to marry and preferably a rich one. The prince searched the world but he could not find a REAL princess so the queen, with the last of her money, throws a ball and invites all the princesses in the land in the hope the prince will chose one.

On the night of the ball a great storm blows, and after all the guests have finally left, the doorbell chimes and a girl soaking wet and bedraggled is stood at the doorway.

The girl was called princess Vol-au- vent, she is kind and down to earth. After her father died she had to work for a living. (Unknown to the queen and prince she had been working in their very kitchen downstairs!)

On hearing her name at the door the queen decides to give her the **princess test!** Inviting her to spend the night at the palace the queen puts a little green pea under princess Vol-au- vent's mattresses in her bed. If she is a REAL princess she will be unable to sleep! The princess finds the whole thing a bit strange and the next morning when the queen discovers she has not slept a wink the queen declares princess Vol-au- vent to be a REAL princess.

The prince had finally found a REAL princess and a friend, so being a dutiful son he asks her to be his wife, but the princess is not ready to be married!! The queen gives up her nuptial quest, but being resourceful works with them both to turn the palace into a museum, where visitors can come and see the artefacts of all the forgotten stories. With this new income they fix up the palace, live happily together and throw regular parties for all the princess they know.