

Hans Christian Andersen's



*The
Snow
Queen*

*With six
enchancing
pop-ups*

Illustrated by Lesley Barnes



"Why are you crying?" said Kay. "You look so ugly when you cry."
Kay was unkind to Gerda because his heart and eye had been pierced by fragments from a mirror, made long ago by a wicked goblin. When the mirror broke the pieces spread over the world and anyone with a piece inside them saw ugly things wherever they looked.

Kay took his sled and went to the town square. When he got there, he tied it to a big sleigh so he could be pulled along. The driver shook the reins and the horses galloped off at speed. What fun! Kay laughed as they left the city and sped through the winter fields. The snow swirled and the sleigh raced on, leaping hedges and ditches.

Finally, the reindeer stopped running and the driver stood up. Kay saw a tall woman dressed in a fur coat made from fluffy snow. It was the Snow Queen herself! She saw Kay tied to her sled and shaking with cold, so she wrapped him in her coat and kissed him. He felt a chill in his heart at first, but soon it was completely frozen and he didn't notice the cold any more.

Together Kay and the Snow Queen flew over forests and lakes. Around them, the wind blew and wolves howled. The moon made rivers of silver upon the ice as they travelled further and further north.

When Kay did not return, Gerda cried for days. But she refused to believe he was dead, so she put on her new red shoes and went down to the river.

"I'll give you my shoes if you bring little Kay back to me," she said to the water. Then she threw them in. The water gurgled and swallowed the shoes, but Kay did not appear, so Gerda climbed on a boat. Soon she was far from home. The river ended by a beautiful garden where a kind old woman lived. She offered Gerda a home amongst the roses, but the flowers reminded the girl of her lost friend. "I must find Kay," she said, and started to walk.


On the road, a black crow approached her and bowed deeply. "Caw, caw! Good caw day!" When Gerda told her story, the crow nodded wisely. "Maybe I have seen your Kay."

A clever, young stranger came by the palace one day, and because the princess was so very clever too, she decided to marry him. Perhaps it was him?"

The crow led Gerda to the palace and helped her sneak into the royal apartments. There, in a red bed and a white bed, each shaped as a flower, were the royal couple, but the young man was not Kay. Gerda burst into tears.

When the prince and princess woke and heard her story, they gave her a carriage of pure gold and a proud horse so she could continue her search. Then they put fur boots on her feet and waved goodbye as the coachman drove her into the forest.





Inside, everything was made of ice. The Snow Queen's throne was made of sharp icicles and the floor was a frozen lake that stretched as far as Gerda could see. When the Snow Queen was there, she sat on the throne, but on this day she was travelling the world to dust snow on mountaintops.

There, the middle of the great, cracked floor, was Kay. His hands and face were blue, and he was arranging sheets of ice into shapes. To his eyes they were the most beautiful things in the world and he did not feel the cold.

Gerda ran to him and threw her arms around his neck. He sat still, unmoved by her tears. But then something wonderful happened. Gerda's teardrops fell on his chest and warmed the skin through to his heart and the ice that had filled it melted.

Gerda started crying too, and his tears fell away the glass in his hand. He recognised his friend. "Where am I so cold?"

She took him by his hand. "You are in the Snow Queen's room, but come now."

She led him outside and up the mountain, and their friend carried them back south. When they saw flowers in many blankets as spring arrived. Finally, they returned to their city. In an attic, a mother was waiting for the roses of their garden and bright.