

Hans Christian Andersen's



*The
Snow
Queen*

*With six
enchancing
pop-ups*

Illustrated by Lesley Barnes



Once upon a time, in a fantasy city, there lived two children called Kay and Gerda. They were not brother and sister but they loved each other just as much as if they were.

Their houses stood side by side and they slept in attic bedrooms with windows so close they could reach out and touch hands. In summer, they shared a tiny roof garden where they planted vegetables in pots and a rose bush, which climbed around the windows and framed them with flowers.

In winter, they loved to curl up inside and listen to tales told by Gerda's grandmother.

Grandmother often told the story of the Snow Queen: "She flies in the thick of snowflake swarms and when she peers through windows, they freeze in patterns like icy flowers." Gerda trembled when she heard this, but Kay said he was not afraid.

One day, Kay and Gerda were playing outside when Kay cried, "Oh my heart hurts! And there is something in my eye."

Gerda could not see anything there, but she was so concerned that tears welled in her eyes.



*"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 roared 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 shivering with cold, so she
wrapped him in her coat and blessed 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.





In the dark of the trees, Gerda's coach shone like a sun, and it caught the eyes of a band of robbers who lived there. "It's gold!" they cried, and they rode out of their hiding places waving swords and firing pistols. They had soon surrounded the coach and taken Gerda prisoner. Amongst the band there was a little robber girl, the same age as Gerda. "I want those fur boots!" she cried, and she took them. "And you have to come back to our robber's castle to be my friend," she said to Gerda. That night, asleep in the robber girl's bed in the hall amongst the animals, Gerda told her story of Kay and her long journey to find him.

"Coo," said the doves in the eaves, "We have seen little Kay! He passed through here in the sled of the Snow Queen. She was taking him to her home in the north!"
"Oh, I would love to go back north," sighed a reindeer who was nearby. "I miss the gleam of the northern lights and the lovely snow and ice!"
In the morning the robber girl dressed Gerda in warm clothes and tied her onto the reindeer's back.
"Since you know where the Snow Queen lives, you take her there," she said to the animal. "But carry her safely or I shall grieve fiercely when you return!"



The reindeer and Gerda rode north towards the flickering aurora. "These are my glowing nofights!" said the reindeer, and he greeted them like an old friend and ran even faster. After many long miles they came to the house of a wise woman. Inside, it was so hot that Gerda took off her boots and gloves.

"I know," said the reindeer to the woman, "that you are very powerful. You can tie the wind in knots. Can you help Gerda find Kay?" The woman shook her head. "Child, you must journey alone to the Snow Queen's palace. I can offer you no help, for all you need to save

your friend is the love that lies in your heart. Hurry to him, for unless the shard of glass leaves his eye, and the ice inside him melts, his heart will be cold forever."

On and on, the reindeer rode, and the freezing cold bit into Gerda's hands and feet, for she has left her gloves and boots in the wise woman's home.

When the reindeer could go no further, he set Gerda down, and she ran through the icy wastes in her bare feet. Behind her an army of snowflakes gathered, and they guarded her path up the dangerous mountain to the door of the Snow Queen's palace.

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 hands took away the glasses in his eyes. He recognised his friend and he said, "Where am I? It's so cold!" She took him by his hand. "You are in the Snow Queen's castle, but come now." She led him outside and they went to the mountain, and their friend carried them back south. When they were well settled, they saw flowers and warm blankets as they were being carried. Finally, they reached their city. In an attic, their mother was waiting for them with roses from their garden and a light.

