



THE
**WORLD
OF FAIRY
TALES**
THE EMERALD BOOK

КНИГА ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

**МИР
ВОЛШЕБНЫХ
СКАЗОК**

ИЗУМРУДНАЯ КНИГА

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THE WORLD OF FAIRY TALES THE EMERALD BOOK

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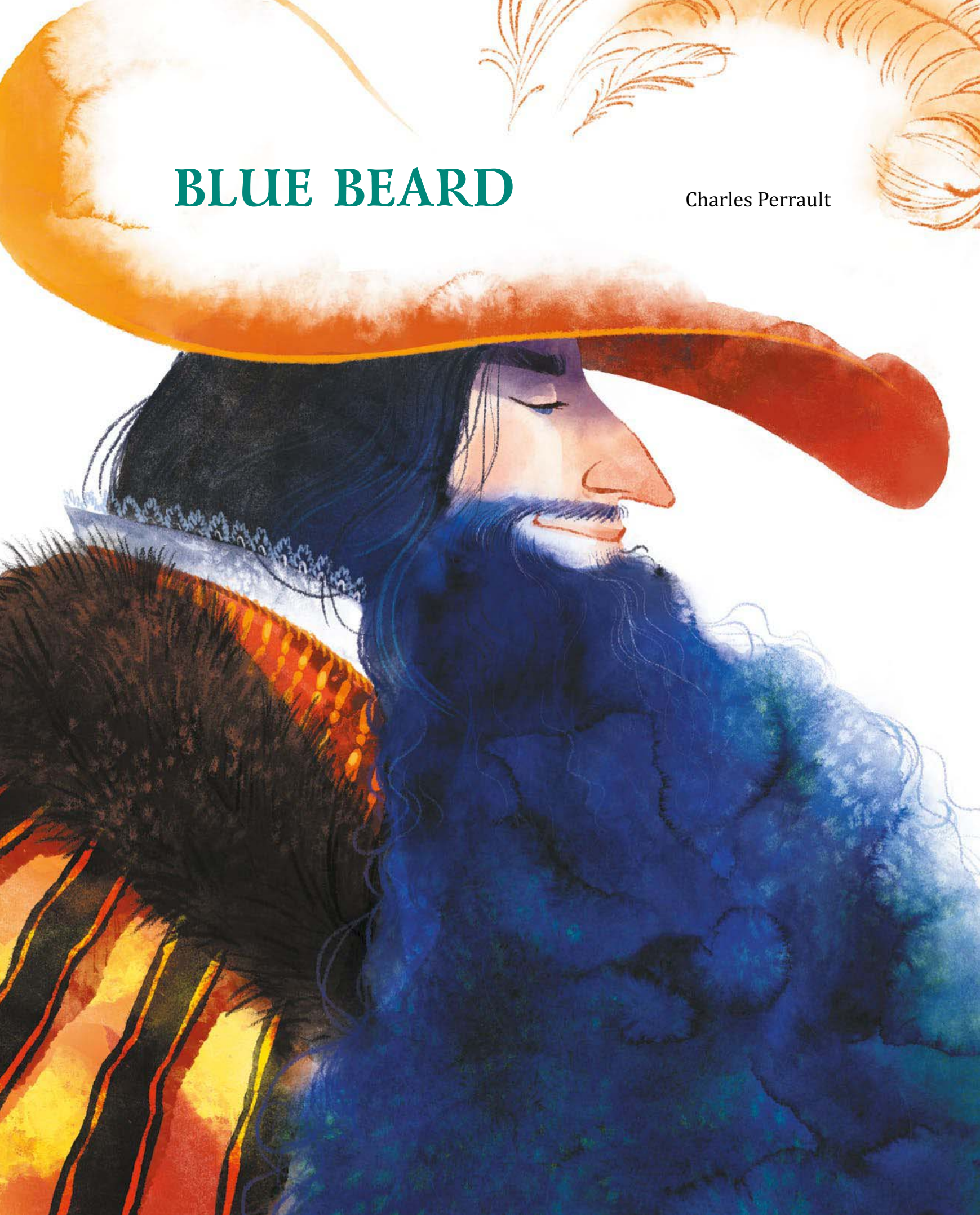
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BLUE BEARD

Charles Perrault





Once upon a time there lived a very rich man. He had a blue beard, which made him so terrible that all the girls ran away from him. Another thing that frightened them was that he had already married several wives, and nobody knew what had happened to them. So, when he asked a beautiful girl to marry him, she refused. Blue Beard decided to win her heart and invited the girl with her family and friends to his country seat. They spent there a whole week, hunting, dancing, playing and feasting. Everything was wonderful, and the girl began to think that the beard of the master was not so blue, and that he was a gentleman. So, as soon as they returned home, the marriage was concluded.

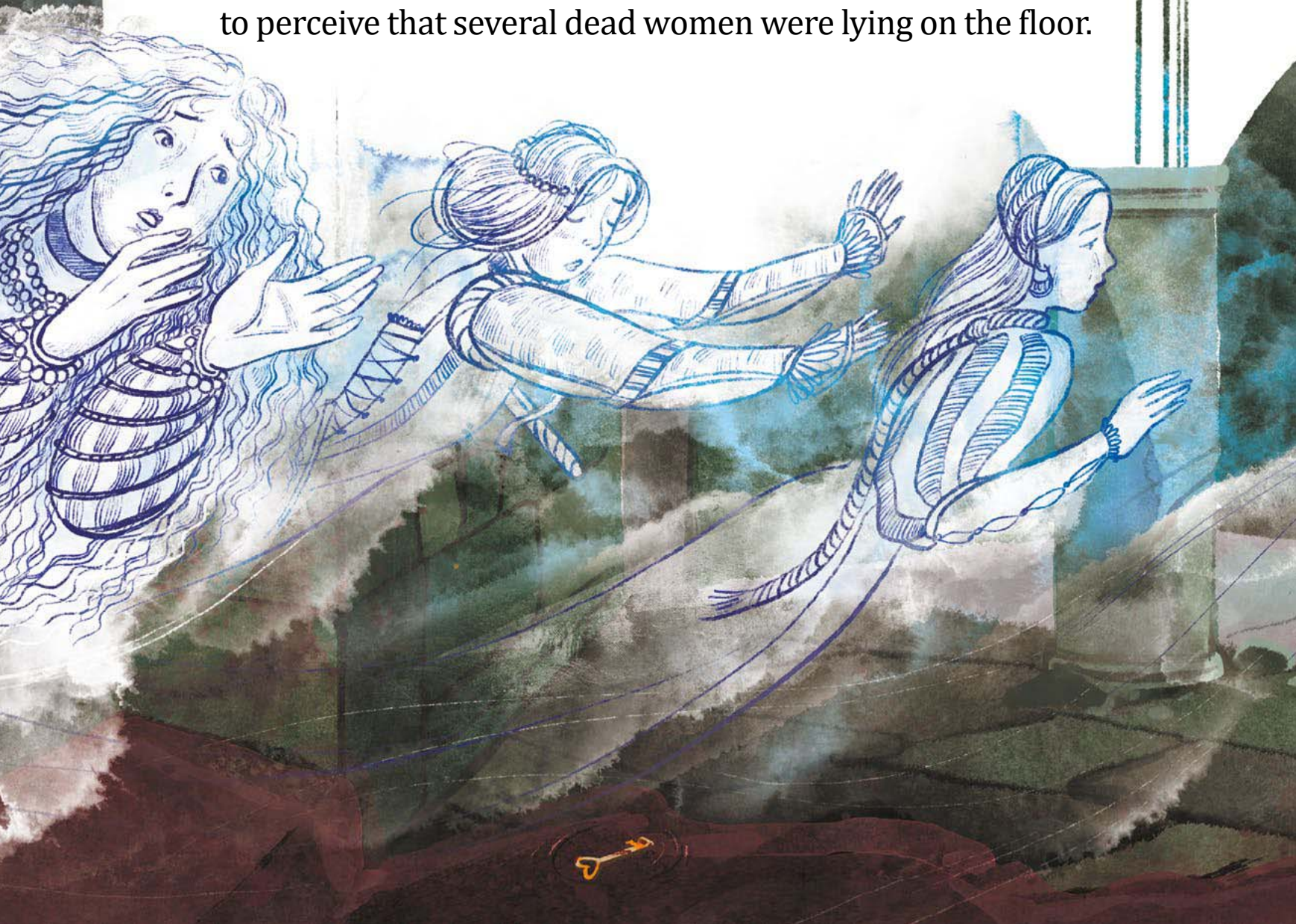




About a month afterwards Blue Beard told his wife that he was obliged to take a country journey for six weeks, on business of great importance. He desired her to amuse herself well in his absence. He gave her the keys to all the rooms, but asked her not to open one little closet at the end of the great gallery on the ground floor. She promised to obey exactly all his orders, and Blue Beard, after having embraced her, got into his coach and set out for his journey.



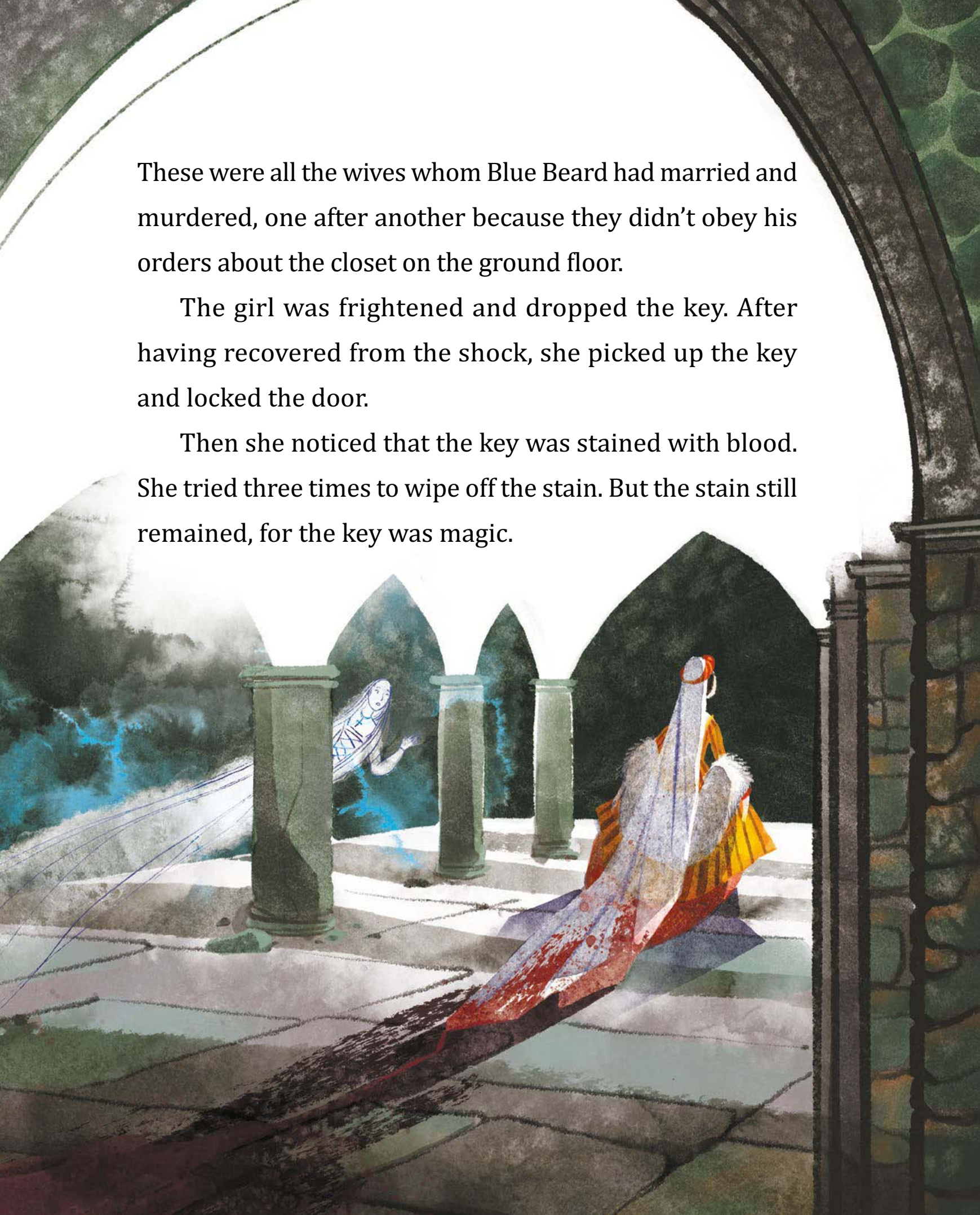
Some days passed. She had already been to all the rooms except the closet. Her curiosity to explore all the rooms of the house was so great that she went down a back staircase and reached the closet. She stood still for some time, thinking of her husband's orders, but the temptation was so strong that she couldn't overcome it and opened the door of the closet with a little key. At first she couldn't make out anything because the windows were shut. After some minutes she began to perceive that several dead women were lying on the floor.



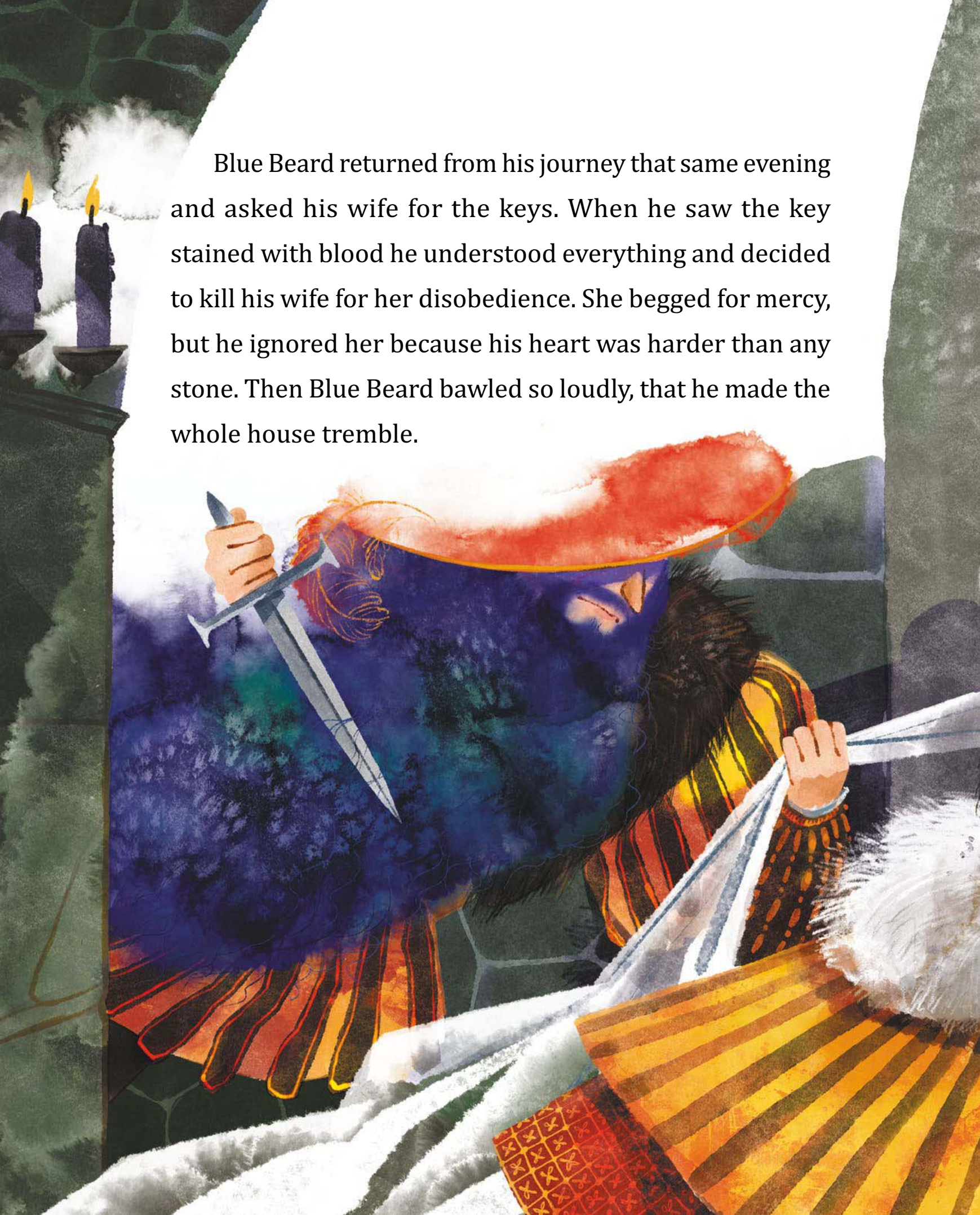
These were all the wives whom Blue Beard had married and murdered, one after another because they didn't obey his orders about the closet on the ground floor.

The girl was frightened and dropped the key. After having recovered from the shock, she picked up the key and locked the door.

Then she noticed that the key was stained with blood. She tried three times to wipe off the stain. But the stain still remained, for the key was magic.



Blue Beard returned from his journey that same evening and asked his wife for the keys. When he saw the key stained with blood he understood everything and decided to kill his wife for her disobedience. She begged for mercy, but he ignored her because his heart was harder than any stone. Then Blue Beard bawled so loudly, that he made the whole house tremble.



At this very instant there was such a loud knocking at the gate, that Blue Beard made a sudden stop. The gate was opened, and presently entered two horsemen. He knew them to be his wife's brothers. They ran directly to Blue Beard and pierced his body with their swords, and left him dead.

Blue Beard had no heirs, and so his wife became mistress of all his estate.



RIQUET

WITH
THE TUFT

Charles Perrault





nce upon a time there was a Queen, who was brought into the world a very ugly son. He came into the world with a little tuft of hair upon his head, which made them call him Riquet with the Tuft, for Riquet was the family name. A Fairy, who assisted at his birth, affirmed, he would be very lovable for his wit, and it would be in his power to bestow on the person he most loved as much wit as he pleased.

Seven or eight years after this, the Queen of a neighbouring kingdom was delivered of two daughters. The first-born of these was beautiful but as stupid as she was pretty. The second daughter she was delivered of was ugly but clever. The same Fairy assisted at their birth. She gave the first daughter the power to make handsome the person who would please her.



As these Princesses grew up, their perfections grew up with them; all the public talk was of the beauty of the eldest, and the wit of the youngest. It was true also that their defects increased considerably with their age; the youngest visibly grew uglier and uglier, and the eldest became every day more and more stupid. She could not but notice it, and would have given all her beauty to have half the wit of her sister.

One day, as she was walking in the wood, she met a little man, very unpleasant, but magnificently dressed. This was the young Prince Riquet with the Tuft, who fell in love with

