

SLEEPING BEAUTY

By Richard Davis, Jr.

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STORY OF THE PLAY

The kindest, most generous rulers in the world, King August and Queen Summer, and two good but somewhat ditzzy fairy sprites, Flora and Fauna, are having a delightful time at a gathering for the royals' new baby, Princess Aurora. But you guessed it ... the evil fairy Maleficent crashes the party!

Irritated at not being invited, as well as for generally evil principles, Maleficent places a curse on beautiful child: when Aurora turns 16 she will cut her finger on a spinning wheel and the whole kingdom will fall asleep never to awake.

Flora and Fauna try to mollify Maleficent's curse with one of their own: after a hundred years a kiss from a true love will awaken the Princess and everyone else.

Later, Prince Charming breaks the curse by kissing the lovely Princess awake in spite of warning from his cowardly assistant, Hero, who thinks everyone may be vampires. Hero even saves the day by accidentally getting Maleficent to prick her own finger and fall asleep.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3m, 5w)

FLORA and FAUNA: Sister fairies who tend to be a little bit ditzy but are quite charming. They help each other around fairy faux pas.

SUMMER: A Queen, Sleeping Beauty's mother.

AUGUST: A King, Sleeping Beauty's father.

MALEFICENT: A female, fairytale Iago; puts the dreadful curse on Sleeping Beauty *(and giggles about it)*.

AURORA: Sleeping Beauty. She's sweet loving, beautiful ... in short, the typical fairy tale Princess.

HERO: His name is a misnomer. He's cowardly, but a very funny braggart; the Prince's friend.

PRINCE CHARMING: He's handsome, brave, honest; in short, the male counterpart of Aurora.

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SETTING

A fairy tale throne room in the castle of King August and Queen Summer. Simple furniture includes two thrones center, a spinning wheel DSL, a baby cradle which is brought from behind the thrones to DS, and a table laden with food which is carried on from the wings. Other set pieces can be added as desired. In addition, cobwebs can be hung to denote passage.

PROPS

Wands for all three Fairies, baby doll in the cradle, shawl for Flora, bottle for Fauna, cake with icing and other foods, swords for August and Charming, hairbrush for Aurora, long gray beard for August and blanket, pillow for Maleficent.

COSTUMES

King and Queen may make minor costume changes to denote passage of time from Aurora's infancy to her 16th birthday. Also, Maleficent looks like a little old lady when she confronts Aurora on her birthday.

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Lights, music, and mist can enhance the performance of the play. Lights include spots on the Fairies when they speak in front of the curtain; strobe lights to denote dreams; lights in the wings to denote a fire; and special sweeping lights when the Prince first sees the castle. Music can be used for the party, for chants, and to set evil or mysterious moods. Baby cries are also needed. Mist will help create an "other world" effect for the castle.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(BEFORE CURTAIN: A special LIGHT comes up on FLORA, a good fairy, who stands SL.)

FLORA: Hello, boys and girls. *(Response.)* My name is Flora ... *(SHE bows.)* and I live deep in the Magical Wood with my darling sister, Fauna. I've come here today to tell you a story. *(Special LIGHT comes up SR, revealing FAUNA.)*

FAUNA: Flora!

FLORA: *(Startled.)* Something?

FAUNA: We're going to tell a story, dear.

FLORA: Yes. Of course. We're going to tell a story. Sorry, my darling sister. *(SHE bows.)*

FAUNA: *(Bows.)* That's quite all right, my darling sister.

FLORA: Now. Let me see. What story should I tell ... *(FAUNA clears her throat, loudly. FLORA looks at her.)* Something? *(FAUNA smiles, gestures.)* Oh yes, of course. What story should we tell? *(THEY bow to each other. FAUNA crosses to HER.)* Now, let me think. What story should we tell ...? *(FAUNA whispers.)* Good idea. Fauna says we should tell the story of Sleeping Beauty. Would you like that? *(Response.)* Good. Because Fauna and I just happen to know the entire tale. We were there, you know. But there's so much to tell, I can't think where to begin ... *(FAUNA whispers.)* Thank you, Fauna.

FAUNA: *(Crossing SR.)* You're welcome, Flora.

FLORA: Silly me. How could I have forgotten? It's the way all fairy tales begin. *(SHE looks at FAUNA.)* Ready?

FAUNA: Ready.

(BOTH wave their wands. CURTAINS open to reveal a throne room. The only LIGHT comes from a special aimed at two thrones CS. AUGUST sits on one; SUMMER, the other. August waves regally, smiles when THEY say his name. Summer does the same. Royal sounding MUSIC is heard.)

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FLORA: Once upon a time in a land far, far away there lived
a handsome King ...

FAUNA: August was his name.

FLORA: *(SHE looks at FAUNA for a beat.)* Yes. August.
Ah ... Fauna, dear?

FAUNA: Something?

FLORA: Nothing, really. It's just that I thought I'd tell this
part ... if that's all right with you, my darling sister.

FAUNA: Certainly, Flora, dear. I'll just be quiet.

FLORA: Thank you, Fauna. August had a ...

FAUNA: You're welcome, Flora.

FLORA: *(Glances at FAUNA, continues.)* August had a
lovely wife ...

FAUNA: Summer was her name.

FLORA: *(Looks at FAUNA for a beat.)* Yes. Summer.
August and Summer loved each other very much ...

*(AUGUST and SUMMER remain seated, but lean into each
other and kiss.)*

FAUNA: Very, very much.

FLORA: *(Glances at FAUNA.)* And they were very happy ...

FAUNA: Very, very happy.

FLORA: Fauna ...

FAUNA: Something?

FLORA: Why don't you tell this part, dear?

FAUNA: Oh, I couldn't do that, my darling sister. This is the
part you were going to tell.

FLORA: I insist, my darling sister.

FAUNA: Well, if you insist ... *(SHE looks out, continues.)*
Let me see. Where were we? Oh yes. August and
Summer were very, very happy ... especially after their
lovely little daughter, Aurora, was born ...

*(MUSIC stops as a very loud BABY'S wail jars the KING and
QUEEN out of their smiley-kissy posture. Both look out,
then cross behind throne, pick up a crib concealed there,
place it front of throne, fawn over it until wailing stops.)*

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FAUNA: The King and Queen were so happy that they decided to have a party in honor of Aurora's birth. And, of course, they invited their two favorite, and quite pretty, fairies ... *(BOTH primp.)* Flora ... *(FLORA bows.)* and me, Fauna. *(SHE bows.)* We were delighted to be invited, of course, because the King and Queen are very nice ...

FLORA: And they always give the best presents to their friends...

FAUNA: We were also very glad to get away from our home in the Magical Wood for a while because it's not nearly as nice as it used to be, thanks to that wicked fairy, Maleficent... *(FLORA clears her throat, loudly.)* Something?

FLORA: Let's not talk about Maleficent just now, Fauna dear. You'll only become upset. Why don't we go to the party?

FAUNA: Silly me. You're right, of course. I'll just put Maleficent out of my mind ... *(SHE puts her hands to her temples, concentrates for a beat.)* There. Done. Ready?

FLORA: Ready.

(BOTH wave their wands. LIGHTS come up in throne room as party MUSIC begins. Among the set pieces are a spinning wheel DSL and a table full of food including an iced cake. AUGUST and SUMMER bustle about. Flora and Fauna simply walk into the scene.)

SUMMER: *(As SHE crosses to THEM.)* Oh, good. Flora and Fauna are here from the Magical Wood.

AUGUST: *(As HE crosses to THEM.)* So good of you to come.

FLORA: We're delighted to be here ...

FAUNA: *(Very fast.)* Especially since the Magical Wood isn't so magical thanks to that wicked fairy, Maleficent. She cast her nasty spell on it. Now it's always too hot or too cold, and there's never enough to drink because Maleficent stole our ... *(FLORA clears her throat.)* Something?

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