

Prince Ivan and Noelle

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A long time ago in a distant land lived a young beautiful girl by the name of Noelle. She had two Stepsisters who were ugly and obnoxious. Noelle's mother died when she was only five years old and her father decided to marry again. Unfortunately for Noelle, this was not a wise choice since her new stepmother treating her poorly from the day the two met. Her stepsisters got anything they asked for; jewelry, dresses, shoes, and all the finest silks they ever wanted. Noelle's two stepsisters envied her beauty along with their mother. Her stepsisters were hideous and no man in the land wanted to have their hand in marriage, meanwhile Noelle was flocked daily by the local men to try to get her to be their wife. But for Noelle only one man stood out, Prince Ivan of Zion. One day with Prince Ivan singing a beautiful poem to Noelle her stepmother saw this and became insanely jealous, even more jealous than she was before of Noelle if it was possible.

Prince Ivan was considered the most courageous and most handsome prince of all the surrounding ten kingdoms. Noelle's wicked stepmother would not allow this to happen so she interrupted the two and sent Noelle to work in the yard. With Noelle gone, her stepmother invited Ivan into the house to meet her two daughters. Even with Prince Ivan very unimpressed by the two girls he invited the three of them to his ball the following Friday and told them to not forget to tell Noelle. The four of them agreed and Prince Ivan jumped on his horse and took off for his palace.

. Noelle dressed in the oldest rags her stepmother could find and was never given any precious stones or metals. Her stepmother waited till Noelle's father went away to work in the fields to put Noelle to exhausting work all day. As Noelle would be doing hard work outside her stepmother and stepsisters would watch from the windows laughing and giggling as her clothes got dirty and the sun darkened her skin. When

Noelle finished with one task she was given another. It seemed that her days of work would never end. When her father returned from work he would ask Noelle how her day was and for fear of her stepmother sending her off if she replied otherwise, she said, "Quite nice father." With this said her father would go back to his business and never know of the tortures his wife put his daughter through.

Finally the Friday of the ball arrived and the stepsister were up early along with their mother to get ready. Noelle awoke and asked her mother what they were getting ready for and her mother explained how Prince Ivan was having a ball for all of the maidens in the land to find himself a bride. As soon as Noelle heard this her big blues eyes brightened up and asked if she could come along with her stepmother and stepsisters. Her mother quickly laughed in her face and said if she was able to clean up all of the spilled flour in the kitchen before they left she could go. Noelle knowing that this task was impossible she still got down on her hands and knees and started to scrub with all her strength. With Noelle so very close to finishing her chore her stepmother and sisters were about to walk out the door and to their carriage, Noelle pleaded with her stepmother, "Please gracious mother I only need ten more minutes to finish cleaning the floor and I will be able to come along," "Sorry dear we mustn't be late for the Prince's ball; maybe next time." She then walked out the door and got in the carriage as it rode off. Noelle knelt to the ground and weep for hours.

As the stepmother and stepsisters arrived at the ball they were quickly greeted by the Prince with him completely ignoring the sisters and asking where the fair maiden Noelle was. The stepmother said sadly Noelle had come down ill and was not feeling well enough to attend. Just as fast as Prince Ivan had appeared he was gone from the

mother and sisters. The party was filled with hundreds of girls from lands miles and miles away with the sisters just being another face in the crowd and an ugly one at that. Before Noelle's stepmother and stepsisters left Prince Ivan invited them back to another ball in two weeks and said to make sure they bring their other sister. When Noelle's stepmother and sisters arrived home she was still up awaiting their arrival. Her stepmother lied to her saying that her stepsisters had danced with the prince all night long and the entire crowd was stunned by their beauty. After hearing this Noelle ran to her room and cried herself to sleep, envying her stepsisters.

For the next two weeks Noelle's stepmother and stepsisters kept the ball a secret from her. Noelle was kept busy, as always with chores inside and outside the house. The Prince thinking that Noelle would certainly attend his ball did not come to visit her in the weeks prior. Noelle's father left several days before the ball and this was the worst time for Noelle to be alone with her stepmother and stepsisters. On the day of the ball Noelle noticed her Stepmother getting into one of her best dresses and asked her stepmother what the occasion was. Her mother acted astonished at the question and said that she must have forgotten to tell her about Prince Ivan's ball that night. Noelle's stepmother also told her if she hurried to finish with her chores she may be able to go with them. Noelle now madder than she ever flew through her daily chores and was just about to be finished with them as her stepmother and stepsisters were walking out the door. She cried to her mother to wait a little longer for her, but her mother replied in the same matter as she did before, "Sorry daughter we mustn't be late for the Princes ball." Noelle wept again the entire not and did not wait up for their return. At the ball the stepmother and stepsisters were again greeted by Prince Ivan, but his only interest was to see the young

Noelle. With Prince Ivan asking where Noelle was this time the stepmother again replied that she was feeling ill. He was gone as fast as he came and the stepdaughters were just another face in the crowd and an ugly one at that. Before the stepmother and daughter left the ball the Prince said to them that their will be a ball in one week and he invited them again along with Noelle.

The stepmother again kept the ball a secret from Noelle until the night it took place. Noelle noticed again that her stepmother was putting on an expensive dress and asked what the occasion was for. Her mother acted dumbfounded at the question and told her that Prince Ivan was having another ball tonight. Thinking it was impossible, her stepmother said that if she was able to finish her chores for the night she could attend the ball with them. Noelle gave the stepmother a surprise and said she had just finished up all of her chores. Knowing that Noelle had no appropriate clothing for such a ball she said that if she was able to get dressed by the time they left she could go. Noelle ran to her room and began to rummage through her dirty and torn clothes finding nothing suitable. Again her stepmother and stepsisters left without her. Noelle became to weep again until a little butterfly flew in her room from her window and asked her what was wrong. Noelle explained how her stepmother had left her home and had taken her two stepsisters to Prince Ivan's ball. The butterfly told her to worry no more and out the window appeared a wonderful white carriage and on her bed laid a gorgeous blue gown. Noelle put on her dress, which fit perfectly and hopped into the carriage. The butterfly flew down in the front seat and turned into a handsome chauffeur. As Noelle reached the Prince's palace the entire crowd stopped speaking and turned to the young maiden and was amazed by her beauty. The prince ran to Noelle recognizing who this stunning young

lady was. Not even her stepmother and stepsisters knew it was their sister. The next day Prince Ivan and Noelle were married and she moved into his palace along with her father. Noelle's stepmother and stepsisters were sent away when Prince Ivan found out that they had not relayed his message and lied to him. Noelle and Prince Ivan to this day are still happily married in his kingdom.