

SLEEPING BEAUTY (THE ORIGINAL)

By: Vasudha C.

You know that cheesy version of Sleeping Beauty you heard when you were small? It's all wrong. They told you that so you wouldn't get freaked out by the real thing. You wanna know the truth? Then keep reading. If you want your life to continue the way it is, stop.

There was once a little princess born to a king and queen. She was a typical princess, right? Wrong. She was born evil. Evil straight from birth. She had a heart of stone, cold and black. Her name was Briar Rose.

As the years passed, Briar turned 11. Her parents got to know that she wasn't what they wanted. They tried to get rid of her by leaving her out in the forest, giving her to the lions, and even drowning her. But every time Briar found her way back. Her parents' treatment made Briar angry and paranoid. Briar had enough of it. She decided to run away and give her parents satisfaction.

That night, Briar packed her bag and dagger and left for the forest. "I'll be back. You haven't seen the last of me, your highnesses," Briar mocked as she sprinted toward the woods.

* * *

In the woods, Briar saw a strange little cottage that was covered in thorns. She desperately hacked through them with her dagger. By the time she got to the front lawn, she was scratched and bleeding in several places. She staggered up to the front door and pushed it open.

Inside the cottage, there was a pot on top of the stove with a wooden ladle stirring its contents by itself! There was a sweater being self-knitted and a black fire crackling in the hearth. Even though the fire was black, it illuminated the cottage and gave it a warm feeling. The place had a magical aura to it.

"Well, well, well. Finally, you have come Briar Rose," a mysterious voice said behind Briar. Hearing her name sent a chill down her back. Briar turned so quickly, she got a crick in her neck.

The women behind Briar had pale-green skin, electric green eyes, long curved horns on her head, and a smirk on her face. She wore a midnight-black cloak that went down to her toes.

"Who are you?" Briar asked mystified.

"I'm Maleficent. I'm here to help you destroy your parents. But I'll need a small sacrifice," Maleficent said.

"A sacrifice?" Briar asked.

"Yes, maybe like your sweet blood."

" If it'll help me destroy my parents, then I'm in."

" Excellent. Let's get started. Let's widen one of your thorn-cuts with that dagger." Briar took her dagger and widened a cut on her forearm. Blood dotted her wound. Maleficent came over with a vial and collected the blood. She tucked it safely in her cloak. " Wonderful."

Briar glanced outside, it was getting dark. " Why don't you settle in for the night?" Maleficent offered. Briar didn't argue and trudged upstairs where she found a vacant room and crashed onto the bed. Before she even hit the pillow, she fell into a deep trance.....

5 YEARS LATER

" Briar, could you get some earthworms for my potion?" Maleficent called. " Sure," Briar replied. She grabbed a bunch of earthworms from the ground and gave them to Maleficent who was making her potion outside. Maleficent sprinkled the worms into her cauldron. She muttered a spell and the potion turned a sickly shade of blue.

" What's the potion for?" Briar asked.

" It's part of my plan to take over the kingdom," Maleficent answered.

The plan was to somehow overthrow Briar's parents and take over the kingdom. They would attack on Briar's 16th birthday, which was a week from now.

Maleficent took out a vial filled with a red liquid. " Do you remember the blood I took from you 5 years ago? I'm going to take revenge with this," she said maliciously. She dug up a spot on the ground and poured in the blood and blue potion. The ground began to rumble and thousands of skeleton warriors burst out. They wore gray suits, gray caps, and their skin was translucent.

" What are those?" Briar asked.

" They are my army," Maleficent replied.

* * *

The night of the attack came and Briar was ready to take down her parents. They had tried to get rid of her, now *she* would get rid of them. Briar went over battle strategies she had learned over the years while strapping on her armor.

As dawn fell, the army marched toward the kingdom. The lights in the castle came on and soldiers filed out in ranks. A battle cry came from somewhere in the kingdom-army and the war started.

Briar charged through the battle, trying to make her way to the castle. She finally made it to the main door and pushed it open. She sprinted toward the throne room. Her parents were mounted on their thrones and stared at her in bewilderment. "Hello your highnesses I'm back," Briar said as she smirked.

Briar walked up to the thrones and slashed her sword through her parents who vaporized leaving mounds of ashes behind. Briar was shocked that they vaporized and didn't die normally. The ashes began to dissolve into ghost versions of her parents, Pale and weak. " Briar, you have done the wrong thing. You must change," Her mother said desperately. " In your dreams mother," Briar replied as

the ghosts faded. She felt satisfied with herself and walked off to help Maleficent with the kingdom-army.....

There you go folks, the real thing. The princess you heard about was nowhere close to this one. She let her anger get the best of her. She had no forgiveness in her heart and held a grudge which led to misery. Briar Rose would do anything to get revenge on her parents, even if it meant killing them.