



No. 7.

THE STORY OF

FINETTA:

OR,

THE CINDER-GIRL.

In former times there lived a king and queen, who, had been driven from their kingdom, and brought very low in the world. They had three daughters, the eldest of whom was named Love's Flower, the second Fair-night, and the youngest Finetta, or Fine-ear, because she was endowed with the sense of hearing to an exquisite degree. Every day still bringing an increase of poverty, the king and queen were at last forced to the hard necessity of



B

67

getting rid of them; and the mother undertook to lose them.

Finetta, the youngest, over-hearing their conversation, set off for the habitation of her godmother, Merlucha, a very powerful Fairy, in order to ask her advice in the case. She soon grew tired, and her feet became very sore, insomuch that she was unable to proceed; when, to her great surprise, a fine Spanish horse, ready bridled and saddled, came and bent down for her to get upon him, which she had no sooner done, than he carried her to the Fairy's grotto like an arrow out of a bow.

The Fairy was very glad to see her, and given Finetta a clue of thread, she bid her, when the queen her mother took them out, fasten one end of it to their house, and carry the other in her hand, by



like their slave than their sister, yet she could not help pitying them: Wherefore, awaking them, she related how their mother had tricked them, and also what had passed between herself and the fairy. Love's-Flower and Fair-night were extremely terrified, and therefore, promising Finetta to give her all the fine things they had, they begged she would take them along with her, "Well, said Finetta, I will do it, though I know you will not regard your promise when safe at home." By using the clue of thread she then led them home.

After some little time, Finetta asked her sisters for what they promised her; but she only got jeers, and blows from them, so that the bruises she received prevented her going to sleep at night; which gave her an opportunity of hearing the



which means she might easily find her way home from any place she would be taken to. Finetta thanked her godmother a thousand times over, who gave her a vast quantity of clothes of the very finest sort, and sent her back again upon the Spanish horse.

Early the next morning the queen got up, and called her three daughters: they set off; and when they had travelled so far as that the queen imagined her weary daughters could not find their way back, she desired them to lie down and take a nap, while she would watch to prevent any harm happening to them. They laid themselves down therefore, but no sooner seemed to be asleep, than they were left by their mother.

Though Love's-Flower and Fair-Night had always used Finetta more

time, telling them, that, the king not being very well, they must go with her, to gather herbs in the for-



ests for his relief. The two sisters were very sorrowful, for they guessed at their mother's design: but Finetta only minded to strew her ashes. After travelling a long way, they lay down to rest, and the queen observing them to be asleep, bid them good bye.—Finetta awaked



queen tell the king that she would take them to some place farther off, from whence she was sure they could not return.

Finetta immediately got up, and set off for her godmother, and before she had got half a mile, was again met by the Spanish horse, which carried her there presently. Merlucha received her very kindly, and bid her take a sack of ashes, and strew upon she ground as her mother took them on, by which means, from the footsteps, she might easily return; but at the same time, the fairy charged her not to let her sisters go back with her. Then giving her a fine box of diamonds, she again mounted her upon the horse, which carried her home in a trice.

A little before day, the queen roused the three princesses a second

brought back her sisters, contrary to her orders. At last, after puzzling their brains a long while, they agreed to take some pease, that by sowing them as they went, they might trace their way back as before.

The queen again took them out, under pretence of marrying them to foreign princes, and at night, when they were asleep, left them as before. The princesses, when they awoke in the morning, were not much terrified, for they thought themselves sure of finding their way home by the pease:—but, alas, none could be found, for the pigeons had eaten up every one of them.

Nothing could now exceed their trouble: they cried for two whole days, at the end of which, Finetta

first, and perceiving the queen was gone, called her sisters. Love's-Flower and Fair-Night were almost distracted; when the good-natured Finetta was touched with compassion for them, and notwithstanding the fairy threatened never to see her again, if she took them back with her, "Yet, says she, I will venture for this time to preserve my sisters:" whereupon, both falling upon her neck and kissing her, they all returned together.

The king and queen were now more surprised than before at their finding their way back, as the queen had taken them to so great a distance. Nevertheless, at night they laid a new plot to lose them, which Finetta overhearing, told her sisters. They were in sad distress to know what to do; for Finetta durst not go again to her godmother, having

They resolved, therefore, to dress themselves as fine as possible in the cloaths which had been given to Finetta by her god-mother, (for she had carried them with her) and thee to go to the palace. So, while she was up in the tree, they stole them from her; and having put them on, they set off to court, as they thought, taking Finetta with them as their servant. But the place they were going to, was the castle of a giant; and when they had knocked at the gate, out came his wife, a woman fifteen feet high, having but one eye, which was in the middle of her forehead, and as large as five. The princesses attempted to run away from so frightful a creature;—but she quickly laid hold of them, saying, “Tis lucky my husband is not at home, for he would eat you up all at one meal, whereas now I will put

getting up into an oak-tree, espied a most superb house, the walls being made of emeralds and rubies, and the roof of diamonds set in gold.



Her two sisters immediately concluded this fine building to be the palace of some powerful king, at whose court, perhaps, there were princes who would marry them.

when they were brought before him, almost ready to die with fear, he ordered them to make some nice cakes, to let him see what they could do, Love's-Flower and Fair-Night prepared the paste, while Finetta made a most furious fire in the oven, which was a monstrous large one. The giant asked Finetta if the oven was hot enough, who said she would try, and threw in some pounds of butter, which she begged the giant to taste with his tongue, not being tall enough herself. He consented, and as he was licking the butter, the three princesses lustily shoved him into the oven, and shut up the the mouth, so that he was burnt to ashes.

They next plotted the death of his wife; for which purpose, the two eldest soothed her vanity, by telling her they could make her as hand-

you by as a nice bit for myself, and you will serve me two or three days;" and with that she dragged them into a cave, which was strewed with the bones of devoured persons.

The giant himself came home soon after, who was six times as big as his wife; and having swallowed, like so many poached eggs, fifteen little children which he had brought with him, he cried out, "Wife, I smell fresh meat, give it me, or I'll cut off your head directly." His wife, frightened by this threat, confessed she had got three fine young girls, yet advised her husband not to eat them, for they could bake, brew, and do household work, no-body like them: but by the by, she only meant to keep them for her own eating.—"Well, said the giant, let me see them;" and



them by the king's son. Finetta's heart was almost broke at being so ill treated; when one night, as she was sitting very gloomy over a handful of fire, and raking the cinders, she found a little rusty key, which upon scouring, proved to be gold. This accident seemed to revive her; and trying all the locks with it, she found it belonged to a fine box, which contained a vast variety of the richest cloaths and jewels of all kinds that ever eyes beheld.



some as Venus, if she would let them. Love's-Flower and Fair-Night pretended to dress her hair in a most elegant manner, and the active Finetta, at one blow, struck off her huge head from her body with an axe.

The excess of their joy was now equal to that of the grief, which they had just before suffered. They rung the golden bell at the top of the house, and ranged through all the rooms without controul, finding pearls, diamonds, and rich furniture without end. But the two eldest, now the giant and his wife were dead, began to use Finetta as bad as ever, and made her do all the drudgery of the house; while they dressed themselves up in the fine cloaths, and went every now and then to balls at the next village, where they had great respect shewn



She was prudent enough to keep this discovery a secret from her sisters; and she determined the next time they went to the ball, to dress herself and go likewise. When she appeared there, the whole assembly was struck with admiration, and her sisters burned with jealousy at the particular attention paid to her by all, though they did not know her by reason of her fine cloaths.

When the ball was over, Finetta made all the haste she could, in order to get home and be undressed before her sisters arrived there, and in her hurry lost one of her slippers. This slipper was found the next day by prince Cherry, the king's eldest son, who admired it so much, for its elegance and smallness, that he could not be at ease without the lady to whom it belonged.

—She will be found in next number.

*Just Published,*

BY

FLEMING & KERR,

A NEW EDITION

OF

MOTHER BUNCHE'S

FAIRY TALES,

*EMBELLISHED WITH ADDITIONAL CUTS.*

NEATLY DONE UP

At One Penny, Two-pence, Three-pence, Four-pence, Six-pence, Nine-pence,—complete in One Volume, One Shilling.