

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**BEAUTY &
THE BEAST
& Other Stories**

BARONET BOOKS, New York, New York

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His Money was Not Too Much.

BEAUTY • AND • THE • BEAST

Once upon a time there lived a merchant who was enormously rich. He had sons and daughters, and his money was not too much for everything they fancied and were accustomed to.

One day a most unexpected misfortune befell. Their house caught fire and burnt to the ground, with all the splendid furniture, and precious goods it contained; but this was only the beginning of their troubles. The father, who had prospered in all ways, suddenly lost every ship he had, either by pirates, shipwreck, or fire. Then he heard that his clerks in distant countries, whom he trusted entirely, were unfaithful; and from great wealth he fell into direst poverty.

All that was left was a little house in a desolate place far from the town in which he had lived, and there he was forced to retreat, his children in despair at leading such a different life. The daughters at first hoped that their friends, who had been so numerous, would insist on their staying in their houses now that they no longer possessed one. But they soon found that they were alone,

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

and that their former friends attributed their misfortunes to their own extravagance.

So nothing was left but to take to their cottage, in the midst of a dark forest that seemed the most dismal place on earth. They were too poor to have servants; the girls had to work like peasants, and the sons worked in the fields to earn their living.

The girls regretted unceasingly their former life; only the youngest tried to be brave and cheerful. When misfortune overtook her father, she worked to make the best of things, to amuse her father and brothers and to get her sisters to join her. But they would do nothing, and declared that this miserable life was all she was fit for.

But she was prettier and cleverer than they were; she was so lovely that she was called Beauty.

After two years their father heard that one of his ships, believed to be lost, had come safely to port with a rich cargo. They thought that their poverty was at an end, and wanted to set out directly for town; but their father, more prudent, begged them to wait a little, and determined to go himself first.

Only Beauty doubted that they would be as rich as before, or at least rich enough to live where they would find amusement and fine companions again. The rest of them asked their father for jewels and dresses which would have cost a fortune; only Beauty did not ask for anything.

Her father, noticing her silence, said: "And what shall I bring for you, Beauty?"



The Cottage in the Forest