

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

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Born on the Same Day

CHAPTER 1

Two Different Worlds

One autumn day in the 1500s, two babies were born. Both were boys, both had the same birthday, and both were born in London, England. Aside from those facts, life couldn't have been more different for the two.

Tom Canty was born to a family who wore raggedy clothes and lived in one crowded room. To them, the newborn was just another unwelcome mouth to feed.

Edward Tudor, on the other hand, was born in a palace, to a family who went wild with joy at his birth. So did all of England, for Edward was a prince. Cared for by great lords and

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ladies, little Prince Edward slept through the noisy street parties and bonfires in his honor.

Tom Canty's street, Offal Court, was noisy too, and crowded and dirty as well. His family lived on the third floor of a rickety house. His fifteen-year-old twin sisters, Bet and Nan, were good-natured like their mother. But his father and grandmother, Gammer Canty, were absolute terrors. He stole and she cursed. And both drank and fought a lot.

John Canty would roar at his family, "Where is the stuff from today's begging?"

Mrs. Canty would timidly hand him the coin she had gotten, and one of the girls would come up with a chunk of stale bread.

Then John Canty would turn to Tom. "What about you, brat? Nothing!" And he would grab his son and smack him around hard.

Then the grandmother would shriek at Tom, "I'm ashamed to call a rotten good-for-nothing like you my grandson!" And she would give him another beating.



“What About You, Brat?”