



Children's Stories That Never Grow Old.

Aladdin or the Wonderful Lamp.



1.
A LADDIN was the son of a poor widow who made her living spinning cotton. When Aladdin was 15 years old he was playing in the street one day when a strange-looking man stopped and looked at him. He was a wicked African magician who needed a boy to help him, and he thought Aladdin was a nice-looking little fellow and just the boy he wanted.

"How would you like to work for me, my boy? I will pay you well," he said to Aladdin.

Aladdin said nothing would please him more if his mother would let him.

The poor widow was overjoyed to have Aladdin make some money, and he started next day to work for the magician, who treated Aladdin very kindly, giving him lots of fine clothes and paying him well.



2.
EVERYTHING went well until one day, the magician said to Aladdin:

"Come, my boy, I will take you to walk and show you some very fine things."

They went together into a great valley, with high mountains on all sides. At last the magician said:

"Let us rest here a while. Get some sticks and I will make a fire."

Aladdin gathered a lot of sticks and the magician built a big fire. He then threw a queer kind of perfume upon the flames and spoke some strange words. A black smoke curled upwards and the ground shook and opened before them. Looking down, Aladdin saw a square stone with a brass ring fastened to the top of it. He was frightened and started to run away, when the magician gave him a box on the ear that nearly knocked his teeth out. He was more frightened than ever now and said in a weak voice:

3.
"WHAT do you want me to do? I am ready to obey."
"Take the ring and lift up the stone," said the magician.
Aladdin lifted the stone without any trouble, and saw at the bottom of the opening a little door, with steps to go down even lower.
"Go down, and when you get to the steps you will see a door which leads into three great halls. In each are four bronze vases full of gold and silver. Walk straight on until you come to a garden, and there you will see in a niche in the wall a lighted lamp. Put it out, and bring it to me. Touch nothing else on your way, or you will die."
When the magician had said this he took off a ring which he had on his finger and gave it to Aladdin.
"As long as you wear this ring no evil can come to you," he said.



4.
A LADDIN jumped into the opening and went to the bottom of the steps, and there he found everything just as the magician had said it would be. He took the lamp and walked back to the opening.
"Give me your hands to help me up," he called to the magician.
"Give me the lamp first," the magician answered.
"It is not in my way. I will give it to you when I come out."
At this the magician flew into a rage and, turning, threw a little perfume on the fire and again said some magic words. At that the ground closed over the entrance.
Aladdin called, "I will give you the lamp! Only let me out!"
But no, the wicked magician would not.
There Aladdin stayed for two days without food or drink. At last he thought of the ring upon his finger. He rubbed it, and at once a great figure appeared.



5.
"WHAT do you wish? I am ready to obey you as your slave."
"Whoever you are, take me out of this place!" Aladdin cried.
Scarcely had he said this when he found himself out of the cave. He ran home quickly and told his mother what the wicked magician had done.
Some days after this Aladdin thought he would sell the lamp, as they were in need of money. He asked his mother to clean it up. She had just begun to rub the lamp, when a hideous, gigantic genius rose out of the ground.
"What do you wish? I am ready to obey you," it said.
Aladdin seized the lamp and said: "I am hungry; bring me something to eat."
The genius disappeared and came back in a moment with a lot of the very best food, and Aladdin and his mother were never in want after this.



6.
ONE day Aladdin saw the princess from his window as she passed by. He thought her very beautiful and longed to marry her. He said to his mother:
"I want to marry the princess."
His mother laughed at him, saying, "You are a foolish boy. A princess must marry a prince."
"I will marry her, mother, and the lamp will help me," he answered.
And Aladdin rubbed the lamp. The genius at once appeared, and he told him of his wish. The genius said:
"Your orders shall be obeyed."
In a very short time the genius returned with forty black slaves, each carrying on his head large golden basins full of pearls and diamonds and rubies.

7.
HE TOLD the slaves to take all this to the palace and give the gems to the sultan as a present from Aladdin. The sultan was pleased.
"Go," he said, "and tell the young man who sent all these riches that I will welcome him as my son-in-law." For he thought Aladdin must be very rich.
So Aladdin and the princess were married, and Aladdin rubbed the lamp many times, and they were very happy.
One day Aladdin went on a hunting trip, and while he was gone the wicked magician came back, vowing to destroy Aladdin. He took a lot of new lamps, and, going near Aladdin's palace, he called out:
"Who will give old lamps for new?"
The princess, hearing him, thought she would give Aladdin a surprise and get him a new lamp for his old one. So she gave Aladdin's lamp to the old man, who no sooner got the lamp in his hand than he rubbed it, and there stood the Genius of the Lamp before him. He ordered him to move the palace and the princess to Africa.



8.
POOOR Aladdin, when he came home, found his wife and home gone. He was heartbroken, but at last he thought of his ring. He pressed it and the Genius of the Ring appeared.
"Take me to the princess!" Aladdin ordered; and in a moment he was beside the princess. She was very happy at the sight of him, and in tears she told him what she had done with the lamp. Aladdin knew that until he could kill the magician the princess would be in his power. So he got some poison powder and gave it to the princess to put into the wicked magician's wine when he came to see her.
The magician drank the mixture and felt senseless.
Aladdin took the lamp from his bosom and hastily rubbed it. He ordered the genius to take them back to their own land, where they lived happy for many years.

