

# The Paperbag Princess

## or The Dragon with the Girl Tattoo

- SUE: Once upon a time, there was a young Princess called Elizabeth. She was a very beautiful princess. She lived-in a splendid Castle, and had expensive princess-type clothes. Elizabeth was engaged to marry a handsome prince named Ronald.
- CHRIS (*coming through the audience*)  
Good evening Subjects: no. please doesn't bother to stand I'm a modern day egalitarian Aussie Princess, just like HRH Mary of Denmark" (*or words to that effect.*)
- SUE Excuse me, who did you say you were?
- CHRIS "I'm the very beautiful Princess Elizabeth' who this story is about.
- SUE 'You must be joking! Not in anyone's wildest imagination could you be a very beautiful Princess!
- CHRIS "OH yes I could;
- SUE "Oh No you couldn't.  
(*Play around with this get audience to take sides etc.*)
- CHRIS Oh yes I could! That's what Storytelling' is about- getting the Audience to believe in what you say; (*to audience*) YOU believe I'm Princess Elizabeth, don't you? (*Uses winsome wiles*)
- AUDIENCE Yes; Sure! (*etc.*)
- SUE (*miffed*) Oh! All right then!
- CHRIS I must dash! I've got to make myself even more Beautiful, for my Fi-ance, fee-ance-ah, fi—Well, Handsome Prince Ronald..... Au-revoir Subjects  
(*waves to Audience*)  
(*Exit Chris behind screen. Starts to throw clothes over screen etc.*)
- SUE Back to the Story. Poor Princess Elizabeth! Whilst she was making herself even more beautiful to meet Prince Ronald, a terrible thing happened; you'll never believe it! Oh, I forgot, you're the Audience that believes she's' a beautiful Princess, so you lot will believe anything!  
As I was saying, a terrible thing happened; A horrible fire breathing Dragon came and burnt down her designer Castle, burnt all her designer clothes and carried off handsome Prince Ronald! Can you believe it?
- AUDIENCE Yes! Sure (*etc.*)
- SUE Of course you do! Well, back to the story. Princess Elizabeth was furious!. She really spat the dummy!  
She smelt . . .
- CHRIS Watch it!

SUE She smelt of smoke, and was covered in ashes, but she was determined to go and rescue her beloved Fi-an-ee.. fi-an-ay oh heck! Her handsome Prince Ronald. What could she do?  
*Audience gives suggestions? (Play off them if this happens)*

SUE She looked everywhere for something to wear but the only thing she could find that wasn't burnt was a paper bag. So she put it on and followed the dragon back to his cave. *(Sue goes behind the curtain stage left; Enter CHRIS stage right from behind curtain)*

CHRIS: At last! Here is the dreadful Dragon's Lair! And here my darling Ronald is being held captive; I must rescue him at all costs, even if it costs me my life; (how much does a life cost these days?) Oh Dragon! Oh! Dragon! Are you at home?  
*(The dragon sticks his nose out of the door.)*

SUE (dragon) A princess! I love to eat princesses *(gets closes to C and makes salacious noises) (aside)*  
But I have got to eat Prince Ronald first.  
Come back tomorrow I am too busy today.

CHRIS: Please don't send me away Dragon; I've heard so much about you. Is it true that you are the smartest and the fiercest dragon in the world?

DRAGON: Yes; Of Course

ELIZABETH And is it true that you can burn up to ten forests with your fiery breath?

DRAGON: Yes. *(Proceeds to blow)*

ELIZABETH: Fantastic. Can you burn 100 forests?

DRAGON: Watch me. *(Proceeds to blow until he can't blow anymore)* I don't think I have anymore fire left not even to cook a meatball for supper.

ELIZABETH: Is it true that you can fly around the world in ten seconds?

DRAGON: Yes *(proceeds to fly)*

ELIZABETH: Magnificent. Can you fly around the world twice in twenty seconds?

DRAGON: Watch me. *(Proceeds to fly around twice)*. Don't ask me to do it again as I am too tired and just want to go to bed. *(Goes behind the curtain; loud snoring sounds)*

ELIZABETH: Hey dragon. *(Louder)* Hey dragon. *(Really loud)* Hey dragon! I guess he really is asleep. Ronald are you there? *(Louder)* Ronald are you there?  
*(Out pops Ronald from behind screen) N.B. May need to fill in whilst I get dressed in Prince's gear!*

SUE (Ronald): Elizabeth, you are a mess! You smell like ashes, your hair is all tangled and you are wearing a dirty old paper bag. Come back when you are dressed like a real princess.

ELIZABETH: Ronald, your clothes are really pretty and your hair is very neat. You look like a real prince, but you are a TOAD

BOTH Needless to say they didn't get married after all.