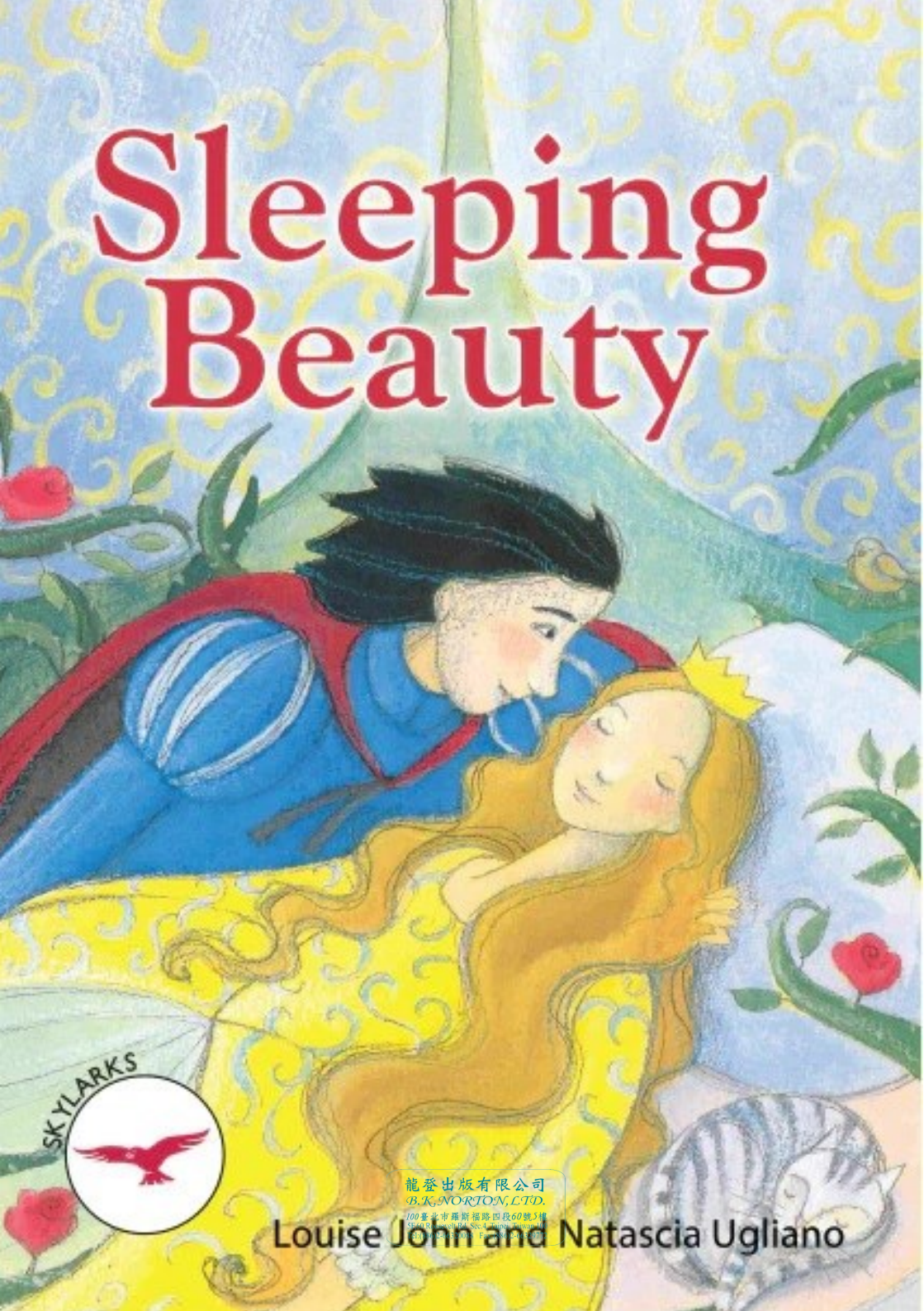
Sleeping Beauty



SKYLARKS

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Chapter One

Once upon a time, in a land far away, there was a king and a queen. They lived together in a beautiful palace and life was good. The only thing that made the king and queen sad was that they had no children. Many years went by and when the queen finally gave birth to a baby girl, everyone in the kingdom was delighted.

The king and queen held a christening to celebrate. They invited the seven good fairies of the land to be the baby's godmothers and each fairy was to give the baby a magical gift. But, on the day of the christening, an extra fairy arrived.

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This fairy was ugly and old. The king and queen hadn't invited her because they hadn't seen her for a long time and thought she was dead. The fairy was very cross indeed.

Soon the time came for the fairies to give the baby princess their gifts. The first said she would be beautiful, the

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second said she would be clever, one fairy said she would be graceful, another gave her the gift of dance. The fifth and sixth fairies gave her the gift of music,



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so she would sing and play like an angel. The seventh fairy held back. She was feeling worried about what the angry old fairy was going to do.

The old fairy pushed forwards and pointed her wand at the princess's crib.



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"The princess will prick her finger on a spinning wheel and die!" she spat, glaring at the baby. Everyone gasped in horror and the queen began to cry.



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The seventh good fairy stepped forward quickly. She wasn't powerful enough to undo the curse, but she could help a little.

"Here is my gift," she said. "The princess will not die. She will prick her finger and fall asleep for a hundred years. At the end of that time, she will be awoken by the kiss of a prince."

The king and queen were relieved but they ordered all the spinning wheels in the kingdom to be destroyed right away, just in case.

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