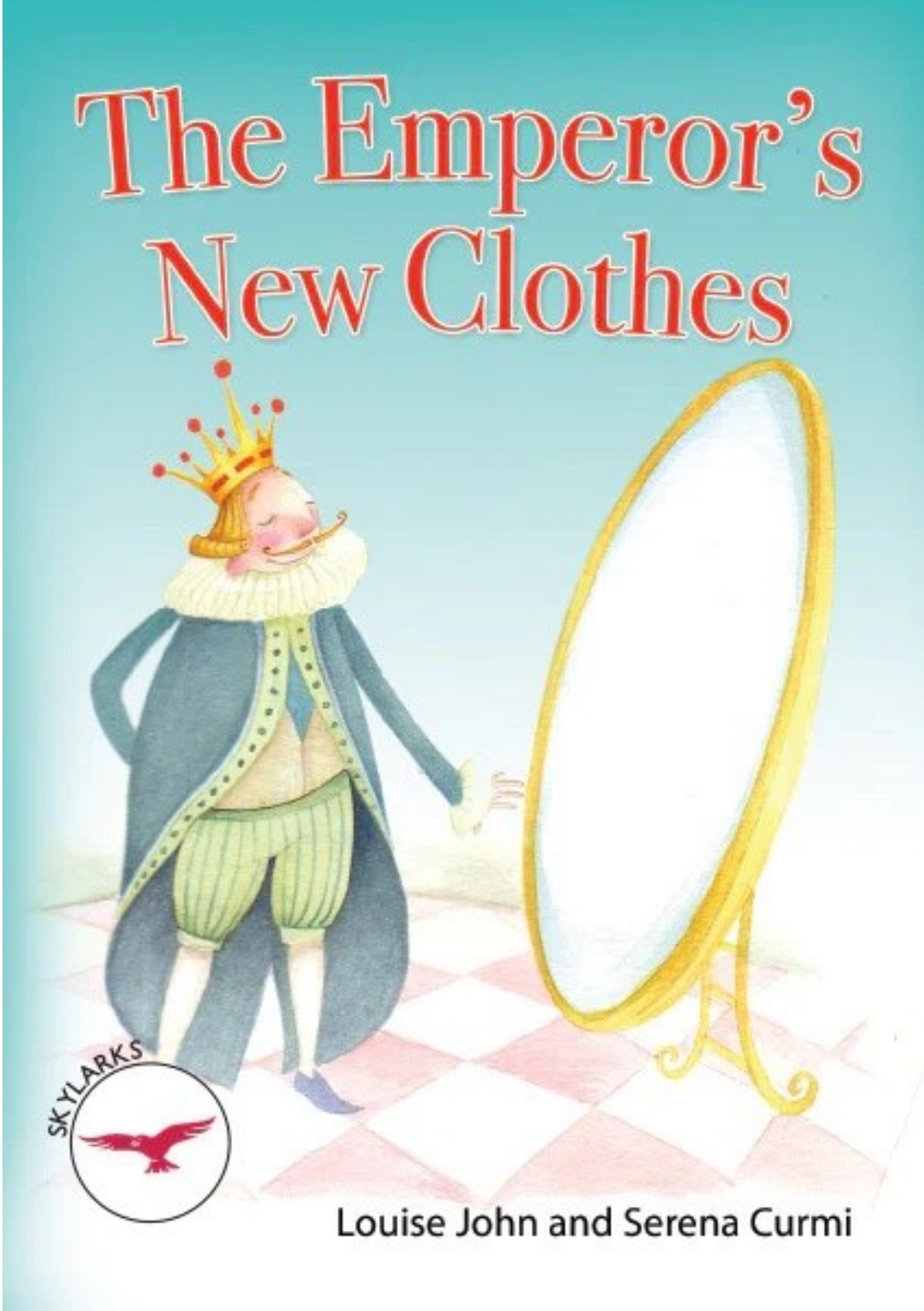
The Emperor's New Clothes



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Chapter One

There once lived an emperor who was kind and just. He ruled wisely and his people loved him. But the emperor was also proud and vain and liked nothing more than looking at himself in the mirror. He spent all of his money on new clothes – robes in every colour and

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fabric that you could imagine: bright silks and embroidered satins, all trimmed with fancy frills and feathers.

The emperor's favourite pastime was to ride around in his carriage, showing off his beautiful clothes to anyone who would look. He had different robes for every single hour of every single day.



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Time passed merrily and visitors to the emperor's town came and went. Everyone knew about the emperor's fancy wardrobe and people came from far and wide just to admire him.

One fine day, two strangers arrived at the palace. They told the courtiers that they were weavers and asked for permission to see the emperor.



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"We have travelled the world and learned new skills. We can weave cloth of the most beautiful colours and patterns," they told the emperor.



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"It is magical cloth," said one weaver.

"Magical cloth?" breathed the emperor in excitement.

"Cloth that can only be seen by those worthy of their position," said the other.

"I must have this cloth!" gasped the emperor. "I must have it at once!"

So the emperor gave the weavers bags of gold coins as payment. They set up their looms in the palace and demanded the best silk and threads, and the finest spun gold. And they set to work.

But the two scoundrels put nothing on their looms. Instead, they stuffed the silk and thread into their pockets and the looms stood empty. Then, the two crooks sat down and, with looks of great concentration on their faces, they pretended to weave.

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Chapter Two

Day after day the weavers worked, sitting at the empty looms pretending to weave. Night after night, they took home their bags of gold coins and emptied their pockets of the gold thread and silk they had stolen.

The emperor's courtiers watched all

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