

## Sleeping Internet Beauty

By Robert Brizel

Once upon a time, in a lovely little kingdom called Hicanoe, in a big beautiful castle, lived a pretty young princess who had a computer.

Her name was Gigi Bala. Princess Gigi Bala loved to spend all day on her computer.

Outside the castle was an evil witch named Dubedee Bee. The witch had been expelled from the land of Hicanoe by the king and queen long before for casting evil spells on the good people of the kingdom.

Dubedee Bee was jealous of Princess Gigi Bala because the princess had a nice computer and nobody else had one.

Dubedee Bee used to spy on Gigi Bala while the princess surfed the internet.

She tried to cast evil spells on her, but the spells did not work.

One day, the evil witch Dubedee Bee came up with a plan. She read through her book of spells looking for an evil spell which worked on objects, not just people.

The witch found an old spell in the book that she had never tried before.

She tried the spell and broke a window.

The evil witch tried the old spell again, but this time used the name of the princess and mentioned her computer.

The evil spell worked. Back at the castle, the princess got sucked inside the computer screen, online into cyberspace and onto the internet.

Princess Gigi Bala got stuck inside her computer screen and she could not get out.

When she didn't come down to the dinner table, King Baba Paloolee and Queen Bala Kalou became worried.

So they went upstairs to her room and said "Where are you, honey?"

"I'm in here, mom and dad!" said the crying princess.

Then-as the king and queen found her-the princess fell asleep inside her computer screen.

The king and the queen tried in vain to get their daughter out of the computer, but hard as they tried, they could not get the princess.

The king's army went looking for the witch and found her.

The king's soldiers threatened to put the witch into a cauldron of hot soup.

They mixed the water in the pot to scare the witch and make her tell what she had done to the princess.

The frightened witch, not wanting to get thrown into the hot pot, told the soldiers what she had done.....

.....but she suddenly died before she could tell them how to free the princess.

So the king and queen went everyday to their daughter's room, and tried to free the sleeping princess with all of the magicians, witches and sorcerers they could pay to come.

Some were young.....

Some were old with long white beards.....

Some were ugly witches.....

Some tried unique tools.....

Some had bubbly potions.....

Some waved magic batons.....

Some brought old books with mysterious spells.....

But they all failed to free the princess.

And so, the princess remained asleep, trapped inside her computer screen. She never got old and she never woke up.

The king and the queen grew sad and old as each day passed, talking to their sleeping daughter on the computer screen.

As the years passed, the tragedy of their only child took its toll on the king and queen.

After a long time, a handsome young prince mysteriously arrived at the gates of the kingdom on a magnificent Arabian horse.

He identified himself as Prince Taragon of the faraway kingdom of Taragonee.

Prince Taragon met with King Baba Paloolee and Queen Bala Kalou.

The prince explained his visit. "I have heard the story of the beautiful and exquisite Princess Gigi Bala since I was a little boy. This is the first time I have passed by your kingdom. I stopped by to ask for the honor of meeting the princess, if it is possible."

So the king and queen told the prince the sad story of how the witch's spell had trapped Princess Gigi Bala inside her computer, and how the princess have never grown old.

The prince was not deterred. "Bring me to the computer so that I can meet her," he said.

So the king and queen led the handsome prince up the spiral staircase to their daughter's room.

The prince saw the ageless sleeping princess trapped inside the computer screen.

Then the prince said "I am Prince Taragon. Sleeping Princess Gigi Bala, you are even more beautiful that anyone described. Awake and marry me, o humble sleeping princess!"

Suddenly, the princess woke up from her long sleep on the internet.

The princess said "Help me, help me! I am trapped inside my computer online in cyberspace on the internet and I cannot get out!"

The princess cried and cried and cried.

Then the prince said to the princess "I am Prince Taragon of Taragonee. I have come to meet you, Princess Gigi Bala. Before I go, may I give you a kiss?" he asked.

Princess Gigi Bala giggled and nodded yes.

The prince bent over and kissed the princess on the computer screen.

As the prince and the princess kissed, her hands came through the computer screen!

The prince pulled her out.

The prince and the princess embraced.

The king and the queen were overjoyed. The evil spell had been broken.

Prince Taragon and Princess Gigi Bala had a big royal wedding the next week.

All the kings and queens of faraway lands were there with horse carriages.....

.....as were the parents of the bride and groom.....

.....and all of the happy townspeople, who lined the cobblestone streets.

The bride wore a beautiful long white dress held up by children of the kingdom.

Under the wedding canopy, they both wore crowns with jewels in them.

Everybody cheered and threw flower pedals in the air as they got married.

After a time, the princess and the princess became the king and queen.....

.....and they lived happily ever after.

The beautiful and good princess spent most of her time decorating the castle.....

.....knitting sweaters during the winter.....

.....planting flowers of many colors in the castle garden in the summer.....

.....spending time with her husband and children.....

.....bringing food, clothes and gold coins to poor people in the kingdom.....

.....and surfing the internet!