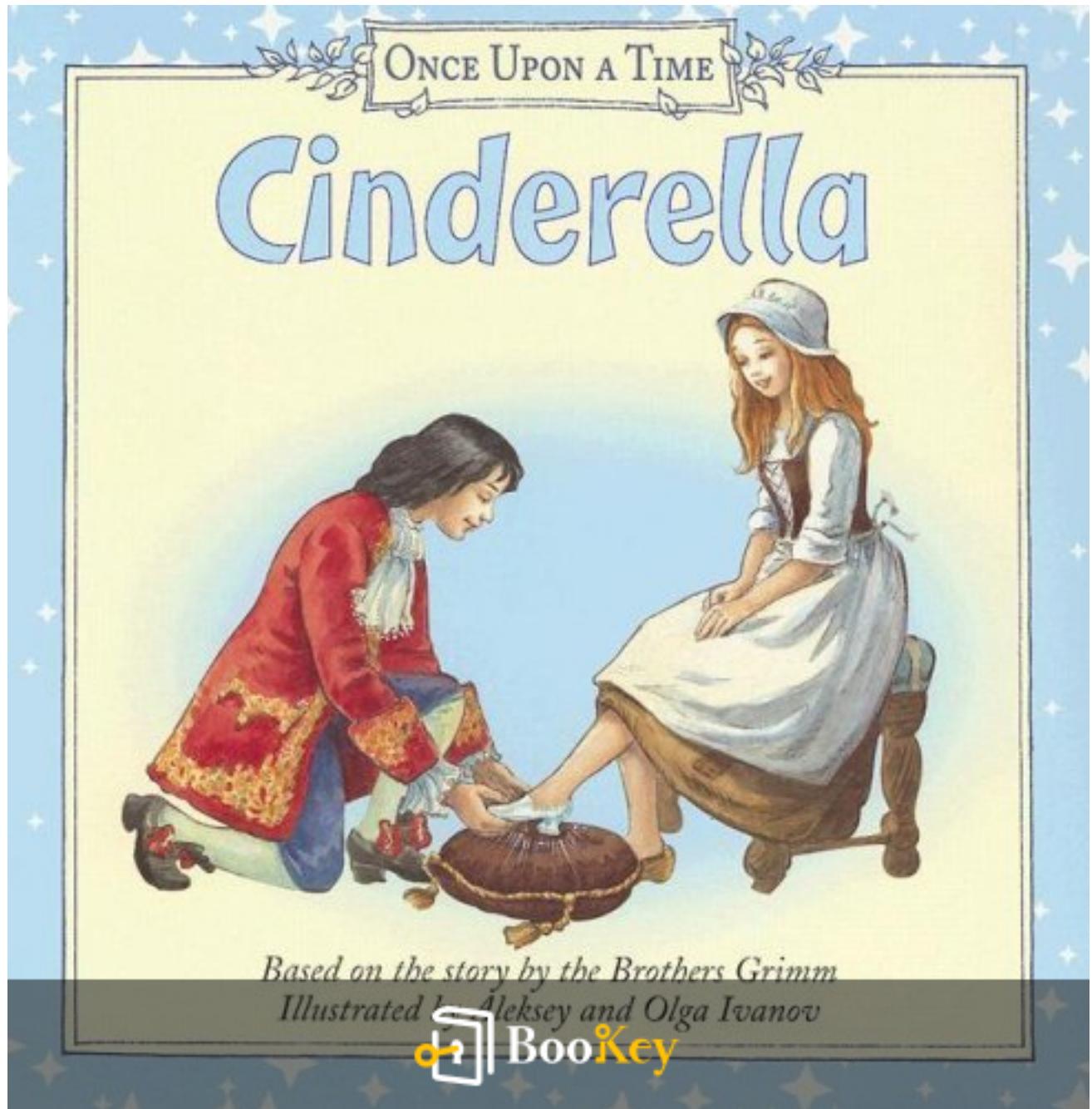


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Cinderella Summary

A Tale of Resilience and Enchanted Transformation

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About the book

Step into a world where kindness and resilience shine brighter than adversity in Jacob Grimm's timeless tale, "Cinderella." This enchanting story follows the journey of a young girl trapped in a life of servitude under her cruel stepmother and stepsisters, yet maintains hope and grace in the face of relentless hardship. With the magical intervention of a fairy godmother and the transformative power of love, Cinderella teaches us that true beauty lies not just in outward appearances, but in the strength of character and the goodness of one's heart. Join her as she navigates trials and triumphs, revealing that dreams can come true when one believes in the possibility of change.

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About the author

Jacob Grimm, born on January 4, 1785, in Hanau, Germany, was a prominent linguist, philologist, and fairy tale collector, best known for his pivotal role in the early 19th century folk tale revival that sought to preserve the oral traditions of German folklore. Alongside his brother Wilhelm, Jacob co-authored the famous "Grimm's Fairy Tales," a collection that includes beloved stories such as "Cinderella," "Snow White," and "Hansel and Gretel." Their meticulous documentation and retelling of these tales not only captivated audiences with their enchanting plots and moral lessons but also laid the groundwork for the field of literary fairy tale studies and had a profound influence on European literature and culture. Jacob's academic contributions extended beyond folklore; he was instrumental in the development of the German dictionary and made significant advancements in linguistics, earning a lasting legacy as one of the foremost figures in the study of the German language.

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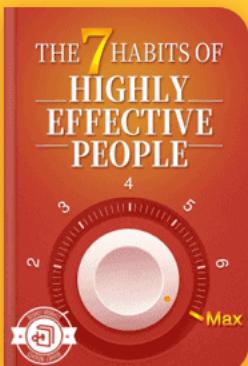
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Chapter 1 Summary: 1. The frog king or Iron Henry

Once upon a time, there was a King with three beautiful daughters, the youngest being exceptionally stunning, captivating even the sun with her beauty. She loved playing with a golden ball near a well in a dark forest. One fateful day, her ball slipped from her hands and fell into the well, causing her to cry inconsolably. A frog appeared and offered to retrieve the ball in exchange for her promise to love him and let him be her companion.

Though she thought it ridiculous, she agreed, and the frog dived into the well and brought back her ball. Overjoyed, she ran away, forgetting her promise and leaving the frog behind. The next day, during a meal at the castle, the frog knocked at the door, insisting on being let in. Despite her initial reluctance and embarrassment, her father encouraged her to honor her promise.

The frog joined her at the table, making her uncomfortable as he ate from her plate. He then requested to be taken to her bedroom, which she did hesitantly, even throwing him in anger when he insisted on sharing her bed. In that moment, the frog transformed into a handsome prince, revealing that a wicked witch had cursed him, and only she could break the spell.

With their bond forged, the prince and the princess were joyful, and they set off to his kingdom with a grand carriage and a loyal servant named Henry.

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Henry had suffered deeply during the prince's curse, binding his heart with iron bands to keep from breaking with grief. As they traveled, the prince heard sounds that he thought were from the carriage, but they were actually the iron bands around Henry's heart breaking, signifying the release of joy and love.

This enchanting tale highlights themes of promises, transformation, and the unexpected relationships that lead to true happiness, as love can emerge from the most unlikely of circumstances.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Cat and mouse in partnership

In Chapter 2 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we witness a sneaky and cunning cat who befriends a mouse with grand tales of friendship. The cat convinces the mouse to share a home and to prepare for winter by storing food, specifically a pot of fat, beneath a church altar, claiming that it is a safe spot. However, as winter approaches, the cat's greed takes over. He concocts stories about being invited to be a godfather to three fictitious kittens, using this as a cover to sneak away and devour the fat while leaving the unsuspecting mouse at home.

The mouse, kind-hearted and trusting, remains oblivious to the cat's manipulation and even expresses a desire for the treats the cat might enjoy. After the cat indulges himself, he returns home with increasingly absurd names for each nonexistent godchild he claims to have—Top-Off, Half-Gone, and All-Gone. Each name raises the mouse's suspicions, but the cat deflects her concerns and continues to deceive her.

Eventually, winter comes, and the mouse suggests they check their stored food. To their dismay, they find the pot empty. The mouse finally realizes the cat's true nature: it was he who consumed all the food while feigning friendship. In a heart-wrenching climax, the cat, angered by the mouse's words, pounces and devours her whole, leaving no trace behind.

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This chapter encapsulates themes of betrayal and the dangers of misplaced trust. The cat represents greed and deceit, while the naive mouse embodies the tragic consequences of trusting someone who lacks genuine loyalty. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the treacherous nature of relationships grounded in selfish motives.

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Chapter 3: 3. Our Lady's Child

Once upon a time, a poor woodcutter and his wife struggled to feed their only daughter, a little girl of just three years. One day, while working in the forest, the woodcutter encountered a magnificent woman adorned with a crown of stars: the Virgin Mary. Offering the child a comforting home in heaven, the woodcutter willingly entrusted her to Mary, who cared for the girl lovingly, providing her with sweet treats to eat and angels to play with.

As the girl grew to fourteen, Mary entrusted her with the keys to the thirteen doors of heaven, commanding her to open only twelve, warning that the thirteenth was forbidden. Despite her promise of obedience, curiosity overwhelmed her. One day, when the angels were gone, she unlocked the forbidden door just enough to glimpse the divine Trinity inside. Fear seized her the moment she touched the light, turning her finger golden. Terrified by her disobedience, she fled from the room, but the golden mark remained.

When Mary returned, she discovered the deceit in the girl's eyes and learned she had disobeyed. As punishment, the girl was cast down to the earth,

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Chapter 4 Summary: 4. The story of the youth who went forth to learn what fear was

In this captivating tale, we meet a father with two sons, where the elder is astute and adept, while the younger one, seemingly dim-witted, desires to learn how to "shudder," a concept lost on him. His father, exasperated by his lack of skills, eventually decides to send him to a sexton who promises to teach him. However, the younger son is oblivious to the sexton's trickery and unintentionally injures him, leading to his father sending him away with money and a warning to keep quiet about their family.

As the young man travels, he repeatedly mutters his wish to learn how to shudder. After engaging with various characters, he arrives at a haunted castle, where the King offers him a chance to win riches and the hand of his beautiful daughter by watchful nights in the ominous place. Eager to prove himself, the youth brings a fire, a lathe, and a cutting board as his tools.

Through a series of eerie encounters, he finds himself in chaotic situations with fantastical figures—a mishap involving hanging corpses and a ghostly man—but despite the eerie events, he fails to achieve his goal of understanding fear. In humorous defiance, he tries to manage the haunting spirits with a sense of absurdity, ultimately not comprehending the dreadful essence of what he encounters.

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On the last night, a menacing spirit confronts him, and in a clash of strength, he overcomes the older figure, gaining riches. However, even as he emerges victorious and marries the princess, his persistent longing to shudder remains unabated. His new wife devises a clever plan involving cold water and fish to finally induce the shudder he craves. When he awakens in shock, he realizes he has at last learned what it means to truly shudder.

The story touches on themes of perception and understanding, as the youth's quest for knowledge becomes a journey through illusions, absurdity, and ultimately enlightenment. His transformation represents a maturation from innocence into a deeper comprehension of life's complexities—all sparked by a simple yet profound desire to feel the essence of fear.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5. The wolf and the seven young kids

Once upon a time, an old goat cherished her seven little kids dearly. One day, she had to leave them to gather food in the woods. Before she left, she warned them to be cautious of the wolf, describing his hoarse voice and black paws. The kids reassured her that they would be fine.

Soon after their mother departed, the wolf came knocking, trying to trick the kids by masquerading as their mother. The kids recognized him by his hoarse voice and refused to open the door. In a bid to improve his disguise, the wolf ate chalk to soften his voice, then sought to hide his black paws with flour and dough from a baker and a miller. The baker complied due to fear, while the miller hesitated but ultimately gave in.

The wolf returned once more, and the kids, seeing his white paws, were deceived into opening the door. Once inside, the wolf swiftly captured all but the youngest kid, who hid away in the clock-case. He devoured the others, leaving the youngest terrified and alone.

When the mother goat returned, she was heartbroken to find the house in disarray and her children missing. Her youngest child revealed himself, and together they ventured outside, where they discovered the wolf sleeping beneath a tree. Noticing movement within the wolf's belly, the mother

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devised a plan. She sent her child back for scissors and thread, then cut the wolf open, freeing all her kids alive and well.

Joyful, they devised another plan to trick the wolf even further. They filled his body with heavy stones and sewn him up before he awakened. When the wolf finally roused, the stones made him thirsty, leading him to a brook. However, the burden of the stones made him topple into the water, where he drowned. The seven little kids rejoiced at the news of his demise, dancing happily with their mother, celebrating their victory over the wolf and the return to safety. This tale reminds us of the importance of vigilance, cleverness, and the unbreakable bonds of family.

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Chapter 6: 6. Trusty John

In this captivating tale, we meet an old king on his deathbed, filled with worries about his young son. He calls for his most trusted servant, Faithful John, and implores him to look after the boy, promising to teach him all he needs to know. However, the king gives a crucial warning: there is a forbidden chamber containing a picture of the beautiful Princess of the Golden Dwelling. He believes that if his son sees her portrait, he will fall desperately in love, leading to great danger.

After the king passes away, Faithful John keeps his promise and shows the prince around the castle, but he always avoids the forbidden room. The curious young king, restless to explore every corner, insists on opening the door. Despite John's protests, he eventually succumbs to the prince's determination and unlocks it, leading to the prince fainting at the sight of the princess's portrait. Once he regains consciousness, his overwhelming love for her drives him to seek her hand, and John devises a plan involving a ship filled with beautiful golden treasures to entice her.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7. The good bargain

In the whimsical tale of "The Good Bargain," we follow a peasant who sells his cow for seven thalers at a fair. As he walks by a pond, he hears frogs croaking "aik, aik," which he interprets as them claiming he sold it for eight thalers. Frustrated, he tries to explain by counting the seven thalers aloud, but the frogs remain unconvinced. In a fit of anger, he tosses the money into the pond, expecting the frogs to return it but they don't. Instead, they keep croaking, and the peasant leaves grumbling.

Later, the peasant decides to sell meat from another cow he has killed. At the town gate, a pack of dogs, led by a greyhound, demand the meat with their barking "wow, wow." The peasant, sensing he needs guarantee, insists that the leader must ensure the others don't devour all of his product. He leaves the meat with the dog but is anxious about getting paid.

When payment day arrives, he finds no one comes forth to pay him. Disappointed and frustrated, he goes to the butcher, who mocks him and drives him away. Determined to seek justice, he pleads his case to the King, who finds his situation amusing enough that he promises the peasant his daughter's hand in marriage for making her laugh. However, the peasant rejects the offer, claiming he already has a troublesome wife. The King, angered by the peasant's boldness, offers instead to give him a reward of five hundred thalers.

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On his way out, a soldier hears of his good fortune and arranges to share in it. Meanwhile, a crafty Jew offers to exchange the peasant's future payment into smaller coins. The peasant, ever shrewd, agrees to give the Jew three hundred thalers for the exchange, seeking a quick profit. However, when he returns to the King for his reward, he explains that he has already given portions of the money away, ultimately leaving him with nothing.

The King, amused by the peasant's mischief, offers him money from his treasure chamber instead. The peasant happily fills his pockets but later bemoans to himself that he was tricked out of his payment by the King's convoluted charity. A Jew, overhearing this grumbling, rushes off to report the peasant's disrespect to the King.

When summoned, the peasant insists that the Jew is a liar. The situation escalates, causing the King to command them to sort it out, which leads to further absurdity. In the end, the King recognizes that both parties may be deceiving one another. He decides to give the peasant more thalers, who leaves triumphant in a new coat that the Jew lent him, delighted that he has outsmarted both the Jew and the King, proving that sometimes cleverness and a bit of luck can lead to unexpected fortunes.

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Chapter 8 Summary: 8. The wonderful musician

Once upon a time, a talented musician wandered alone in a forest, feeling the weight of solitude. To lift his spirits, he decided to find a companion and began to play his fiddle. Soon, a wolf approached, admiring the musician's music and expressing a desire to learn. The musician, rather skeptical at first, agreed under the condition that the wolf obeyed his commands. The wolf, eager to learn, complied and got trapped when the musician wedged his paws in a hollow tree, leaving him as a prisoner.

Feeling lonely again, the musician played his fiddle once more and attracted the attention of a fox, who also wanted to learn to play. Using the same trick, the musician tied the fox's paws to bending trees, leaving it suspended helplessly in the air. Still not satisfied, the musician then encountered a little hare, who wanted to learn as well. He similarly tricked the hare by making it run around a tree while tied, ensuring it too became ensnared.

Meanwhile, the wolf managed to free himself and, furious about his betrayal, sought revenge on the musician. Hearing the wolf's cries, the fox pleaded for help, and together they rescued each other from their respective traps, subsequently freeing the hare as well. United by their anger, the trio set out to confront the musician.

Just as they were mounting their retaliation, the musician's music attracted

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the attention of a nearby woodcutter. Recognizing the joy in the music and sensing danger, the woodcutter stood protectively in front of the musician, brandishing his axe as a warning to the beasts. Frightened, the wolf, fox, and hare retreated back into the forest, leaving the musician safe.

Grateful for the woodcutter's intervention, the musician played a tune for him before continuing on his journey. The story highlights themes of deception and betrayal, as well as the value of true companionship, ultimately revealing how a simple yet powerful musical bond can bring people together and stave off danger.

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Chapter 9: 9. The twelve brothers

Once upon a time, there lived a king and queen who were blessed with twelve sons but yearned for a daughter. The king, fearing that a girl would inherit everything, conspired to have his sons killed should a daughter be born. He secretly prepared twelve coffins for them, which devastated the queen. Her youngest, Benjamin, discovered the truth and comforted her, suggesting they flee into the forest if a girl was born. The queen promised to signal them with a flag: white for a son, red for a daughter.

When the fateful day arrived, Benjamin saw a red flag, indicating their lives were in danger. Furious, the brothers vowed revenge against any girl and found refuge in a bewitched hut deep in the forest. They lived there, hunting and surviving together, while their sister, the baby who had been born, grew up unaware of her brothers' fate.

When she learned the truth from her mother, she was determined to find them. Setting off into the forest, she eventually found the hut and met Benjamin, who rejoiced upon recognizing her. However, the brothers' vow

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10. The pack of ragamuffins

In this whimsical chapter, we encounter a cock and a hen who decide to indulge in a feast of ripe nuts on a sunny hill. Enjoying their bounty, they become too proud to walk home and instead ask the cock to build a little carriage from nut-shells. The hen, nestled comfortably inside, orders the cock to harness himself to the carriage, but he stubbornly refuses, insisting he'll only be the coachman.

Their argument catches the attention of a duck, who confronts them for raiding her nut-hill. The cock bravely defends himself and eventually overpowers the duck, forcing her to agree to pull their carriage as a penalty. As they journey along, they encounter two foot-passengers, a pin and a needle, who plead for a ride. The cock allows them on board, provided they don't step on his and the hen's feet.

When night falls, the group decides to stay at an inn. After some initial hesitation from the innkeeper, they charm him into letting them stay by offering to give him the hen's laid egg and the daily egg from the duck. They enjoy a hearty feast, but early the next morning, the cock and hen sneak away after a quick breakfast, leaving behind some pranks for the innkeeper.

The pin is secretly placed in the innkeeper's chair, and the egg-shell is tossed onto the hearth. When the innkeeper finally wakes up, he faces a series of

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comical mishaps involving the pin, the egg-shell, and his own chair, leaving him quite displeased. Realizing what mischief has befallen him, he vows never to host ragamuffins again, regretting the trouble they bring despite the brief enjoyment of their company.

This chapter illustrates themes of pride, consequences of indulgence, and the folly of underestimating others. With rich imagery and playful interactions, it highlights the charm and unpredictability of its characters while delivering a light-hearted moral lesson.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11. The brother and sister

In this captivating chapter of "Cinderella," we follow an intense tale of resilience and love featuring a brother and sister who escape a cruel stepmother. After finding little comfort in their home, where they are mistreated and starved, they decide to journey into the wide world, hoping for better days. Their adventure begins with a heartfelt escape into the wild, showing their bond as they face the hardships of hunger and the elements, even crying together when it rains.

As they navigate through the forest, thirst leads them to three enchanted brooks, each with a spell cast by their wicked stepmother, who reveals her true nature as a witch. The sister warns her brother against drinking from these brooks; the first promises to turn him into a tiger, the second a wolf, and the third a fawn. Tragically, the brother, unable to resist his thirst, drinks from the last brook and transforms into a fawn before his sister's despairing eyes. This moment pivots their fates, deepening the sister's resolve to care for her brother in his new form.

Alone in the woods, the sister creates a cozy home, gathering food for both herself and the fawn, nurturing their bond despite the daunting circumstances. But when the King's hunt disrupts their peace, the fawn expresses a longing to join the hunt. After much reluctance, the sister allows him to go but imposes a condition: he must return and call out to her by

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specific words to be let back in. This suspenseful setup underscores the themes of loyalty and love.

As the fawn evades the huntsmen, a close encounter leads a hunter to discover their secret. The fawn, despite a minor injury, is determined to join the hunt again, showcasing the intensity of his yearning. In a gripping turn of events, the King discovers the sister upon visiting their home after many hunts.

What unfolds is a beautiful reunion marked by true love as the King asks the sister to be his queen. She insists on bringing the fawn, showcasing her unwavering devotion. The joyful wedding leads to a period of happiness but is overshadowed by the wicked stepmother's jealousy, bringing in dark twists. She disguises herself and her daughter to mislead the King, leading to the Queen's near demise.

The narrative dramatically shifts as the Queen makes secret visits to care for her child and the fawn, raising suspicion in the nursery. The tension builds, culminating in a desperate confrontation that reveals her true identity to the King.

In the end, justice prevails as the wicked stepmother and her daughter face retribution. The spell is lifted from the fawn, returning him to his rightful form, and the siblings' bond is restored. They live happily ever after, a

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testament to the enduring strength of love and loyalty amidst darkness. This chapter underscores themes of compassion, the bonds of family, and triumph over adversity while weaving a rich tapestry of magic and moral lessons.

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Chapter 12: 12. Rapunzel

In a tale rich with longing and transformation, "Rapunzel" begins with a couple who deeply desire a child but, after no success, the wife starts to crave the rampion growing in a witch's forbidden garden. Her husband, desperate to satisfy her unusual craving, risks his life by sneaking into the garden to steal some. The witch catches him and, in exchange for the rampion, demands their future child. When their daughter is born, the witch names her Rapunzel and takes her away, raising her in a secluded tower with no doors or stairs.

As Rapunzel grows, she becomes an enchanting beauty with long hair that glistens like gold. The witch visits her daily, calling out to be let in, and Rapunzel dutifully lets down her hair for her to climb. However, one day, a prince hears Rapunzel singing in her tower and becomes captivated by her voice. Intrigued, he discovers the secret of her hair and visits her, sparking a romantic connection. Despite her fear, Rapunzel is drawn to the prince and they devise a plan for her escape using silk ropes he will bring each time.

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Four steps to build good habits and break bad ones
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36 min 3 key insights Finished

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Chapter 1 of 5
Overview
Hi, welcome to Bookey. Today we'll unlock the book Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones.

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A
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Never Give Up

Schwarzman's relentless funds for Blackstone's first overcoming numerous rejections and setbacks. After two years of hard work, he successfully raised \$850 million.

Interpretation

is first for me. How the book makes me feel, it's like it has to match my life. It's happening around me. That's where it comes from.

- Boots Riley

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13. The three little men in the wood

Once, a widower and a widow decided to marry, thinking it would bring joy to their daughters. However, the stepmother quickly grew jealous of her beautiful stepdaughter, who was favored by fortune and kindness. After their marriage, the girls received their daily provisions differently: the stepmother's daughter received water, while the man's daughter enjoyed milk and wine, causing the widow's resentment to grow.

One frosty winter day, the envious stepmother sent her stepdaughter into the woods to gather strawberries, despite knowing none could be found. Armed with only a paper frock and a piece of bread, the girl ventured out into the cold. In the woods, she encountered three little men who welcomed her into their home. Grateful for her shared bread, they rewarded her by granting her beauty, fortune, and the promise of a king.

When she returned home with strawberries, gold fell from her mouth with every word she spoke, much to her stepmother's dismay and jealousy. The spiteful stepdaughter, wanting the same fortune, ventured into the woods ungratefully, but instead of rewards, she was punished by the little men with ugliness and toads that jumped from her mouth.

As the man's daughter continued to thrive, the stepmother's hostility became

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more severe. She forced her stepdaughter to rinse yarn in a freezing river, where the girl again met the King. They fell in love, and soon after, they were married, fulfilling the promises made to her by the little men.

However, when the stepmother and her daughter visited the royal couple, they plotted to harm the Queen. They threw her out of the window and tricked the King into thinking her strange speech stemmed from sickness. Yet, with the help of the duck who transformed back into the Queen every night, the truth was revealed when the King brandished his sword over her.

In the end, the stepmother and her daughter faced justice for their malicious actions, encapsulating themes of envy, kindness rewarded, and evil punished, while the Queen triumphed, leading to a happy life with her son and husband.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14. The three spinners

In Chapter 14 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, the tale revolves around a girl who is notoriously lazy and refuses to spin flax, much to her mother's dismay. After a severe beating from her mother, the girl's cries attract the attention of a passing Queen. Embarrassed but wanting to avoid the truth about her daughter's lack of industry, the mother tells the Queen she can't provide enough flax, leading the Queen to offer to take the girl to the castle to spin to her heart's content, even promising her the hand of her eldest son as a reward.

Upon arriving at the castle, the girl discovers three enormous rooms filled with flax and feels overwhelmed by the daunting task ahead of her. Terrified and unsure of how to spin even a single thread, she begins to weep. On the third day, the Queen returns to find that nothing has been done. The girl, struggling to explain her situation, tells the Queen that she is too distressed by leaving home. The Queen, somewhat appeased, insists she must start working the next day.

In her desperation, the girl spies three peculiar women outside the window—one with a broad foot, one with a hanging lip, and one with a broad thumb. They promise to help her if she agrees to invite them to her wedding. Eager for the help, she invites them in, and they begin spinning. Each woman demonstrates a unique skill: one threads the wheel, another

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moistens the thread, and the last twists it. Remarkably, they manage to spin all the flax in the three rooms, much to the girl's relief.

When the Queen sees the piles of spun yarn, she is impressed, and the wedding is soon arranged. The girl, grateful for her newfound fortune, insists on inviting her peculiar helpers to the wedding, where they join her at the head table. The bridegroom, taken aback by the odd appearances of the guests, questions their strange traits, receiving whimsical explanations from each woman.

In the end, the bridegroom declares that his beautiful bride will never have to spin again, ensuring her freedom from the hardships that once plagued her. This chapter underscores themes of cleverness, the value of help from unexpected sources, and the idea that true beauty and worth are not always reflected in appearance.

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Chapter 15: 15. Hansel and Gretel

In a small village near a vast forest lived a poor woodcutter, his wife, and their two children, Hansel and Gretel. They were on the brink of starvation, and one night, the man's wife concocted a cruel plan to abandon the children in the forest, believing it was the only way to survive. Reluctant at first, the woodcutter was swayed by her relentless insistence.

That night, Hansel overheard the dreadful plan and comforted Gretel, assuring her that he would find a way to help them. After filling his pockets with shiny pebbles, they were taken into the forest the next day. When left alone, Hansel used the pebbles to mark their path back home, successfully leading them back to their father's house, much to his relief.

However, more hardship struck their family, prompting the stepmother to insist once again on abandoning them deeper in the woods. This time, Hansel could not collect pebbles as the door was locked. Yet, he cleverly scattered breadcrumbs along the way, hoping to find their way back. But when night fell and they attempted to retrace their steps, they were

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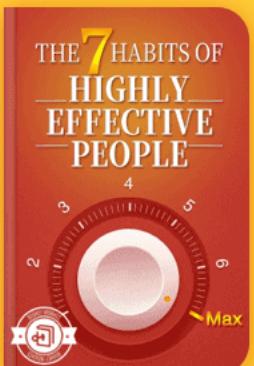
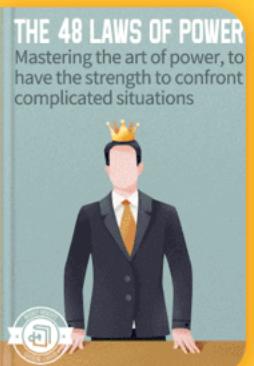
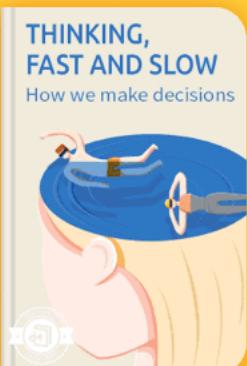
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Chapter 16 Summary: 16. The three snake-leaves

Once upon a time, a poor man could no longer support his only son, who bravely decided to leave home and find a way to earn his bread. He joined the King's army during a great war and, by rallying his fellow soldiers, led them to victory. The King, grateful for his heroism, honored him with riches and the position of highest rank in the kingdom. The King had a beautiful daughter, but she had a peculiar vow: she would only marry a man who promised to be buried alive with her if she died first. Undeterred by the strange requirement, the youth declared his love and accepted the terms. They married in grand style, but shortly after, tragedy struck—the Queen fell gravely ill and died.

The young King faced a nightmarish reality as he was required to fulfill his promise and be buried alive with her. When the fateful day arrived, he was sealed in the royal vault beside her coffin, dreading his impending doom. Supplies of bread and wine were all that stood between him and starvation. In a moment of despair, he witnessed a snake crawl in and, thinking it would harm the Queen, he killed it in three swift blows. To his shock, another snake arrived with magical leaves, healing its fallen companion. Inspired, the King used the leaves to resurrect his beloved wife, bringing her back to life just in time.

Though they celebrated their reunion, a chilling change had occurred; the

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Queen's love for her husband seemed to vanish completely. As time passed, she grew infatuated with the ship's skipper during a voyage. In a betrayal of the deepest kind, she and the skipper conspired to murder her husband, casting him into the sea while he slept. However, a loyal servant who had witnessed the treachery rescued the King's body and breathed life back into him using the magical leaves.

Paddling with urgency, the servant returned them to the old King's palace before the wicked duo arrived. When the deceitful Queen returned, she spun a sad tale about her husband's death, but the King, suspicious, summoned the real couple from their hiding place. The Queen was left horrified upon seeing her husband alive. The old King denounced her treachery, for she had betrayed the very man who revived her, and she was confronted with her fate. Both she and the accomplice were punished, sent to perish at sea in a sinking ship, their treachery finally catching up with them. The tale unfolds as a captivating exploration of loyalty, love, betrayal, and the consequences of one's choices, leaving a lasting impression of both tragedy and justice.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17. The white snake

In a kingdom known for its wise king, a peculiar custom emerges. Every day after dinner, the king indulges in a mysterious dish covered from sight, which he eats only when alone. Curiosity grips the king's trusty servant, who can no longer resist peeking beneath the cover. To his surprise, he discovers a white snake, and, unable to control his curiosity, he tastes it. Upon doing so, he gains the extraordinary ability to understand the language of animals.

That same day, the queen loses her precious ring, and suspicion falls on the servant. The king threatens him with execution unless he can identify the true thief by morning. Desperate, the servant listens to a group of ducks by a brook. They reveal that one of them swallowed the queen's ring. The servant captures the duck, and when it is prepared for cooking, the ring is discovered within. His innocence is proven, and the king rewards him with a chance to ask for anything. However, the servant chooses to travel the world, seeking adventure.

As he journeys, he shows kindness to a trio of fish trapped in reeds, returning them to the water. They promise to repay him. Further along, he helps an ant king by avoiding the ant colony while walking. Again, the ant king offers gratitude. Finally, he sacrifices his own horse to feed young ravens abandoned by their parents, who also vow to remember his kindness.

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Arriving at a city, the servant learns that the king's daughter is seeking a husband but requires suitors to complete dangerous tasks. Drawn to her beauty, he enters the competition. The first challenge is retrieving a gold ring from the depths of the sea. Once again, the fishes he saved come to his aid, presenting the ring to him after he helps them.

Despite his success, the proud princess dismisses him due to his humble origins, imposing yet another task: gather ten bags of millet seeds by morning. Feeling hopeless, he discovers that the ant king and his colony completed the task overnight in gratitude for his earlier kindness.

The princess, still prideful, then demands a golden apple from the legendary Tree of Life. With no clear direction, the young man embarks on an endless quest, but luck finds him when three ravens, now fully grown and remembering their promise, deliver the golden apple to him.

Triumphant, he returns to the princess, and together they eat from the apple. Her heart fills with love for him, and finally, they live happily ever after, a testament to the rewards of kindness and bravery amidst trials.

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Chapter 18: 18. Straw, coal, and bean

In this tale, we meet an old woman living in a village who plans to cook beans over a fire. While she prepares her meal, one bean falls unnoticed to the floor, right next to a piece of straw. Shortly afterward, a glowing piece of coal jumps out of the fireplace, eager to escape its fate of being burnt to ash. The coal, the bean, and the straw soon find themselves chatting, sharing their stories of near disaster. They all agree that they have narrowly avoided death and decide to embark on a journey together to find safety in another land.

As they travel, they come across a small brook, and with no bridge in sight, the straw bravely suggests it will lay itself across the water to create a makeshift bridge. The coal steps onto the straw confidently but becomes frightened halfway across when he hears the rushing water below. In a moment of panic, the straw catches fire and breaks apart, causing both the straw and the coal to fall into the brook. The coal hisses and meets its end, while the bean, who had wisely stayed behind, bursts into laughter at the absurdity of the situation.

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Chapter 19 Summary: 19. The fisherman and his wife

Once upon a time, a humble fisherman and his wife lived in a shabby hovel by the sea. Each day, the fisherman would fish with a simple hook and line. One day, he caught a magical flounder who revealed that he was an enchanted prince. Rather than keeping the fish, the kind fisherman set him free, claiming he wanted nothing in return.

When he returned home, his wife was disappointed. The hovel was cramped and unpleasant, so she insisted he go back and ask the flounder for a cottage. Reluctantly, he obeyed, and to his surprise, they returned to find their home transformed into a cozy cottage. For a while, they were content, but soon the wife wanted something bigger, a stone castle. The fisherman hesitated, but his wife insisted, leading him to once again seek the flounder's help.

With each request, the flounder granted their wishes, transforming their lives from a cottage to a grand castle, and eventually, the wife became an emperor. But still, her ambitions grew; she craved more power and wanted to become pope. Each time, the fisherman, uneasy about his wife's incessant desires, felt the flounder might tire of their greed. Yet, his wife's demands compelled him forward, and the flounder granted every wish.

Eventually, as the wife sat upon her glowing throne as pope, she grew restless and sought even greater power—to command the sun and moon. The

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fisherman, now terrified and overwhelmed, pleaded with her to be satisfied, but her impatience knew no bounds. Frightened by her relentless ambition and the chaos of the sea, he went to the flounder one last time.

The flounder's response was stark: the couple would return to their original hovel, stripped of all their lavish dreams. And just like that, the fisherman's wife, in her unquenchable pursuit of power, found themselves right back where they began, a stark reminder that unbridled ambition can lead to loss rather than fulfillment.

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Chapter 20 Summary: 20. The valiant little tailor

In a quaint tale, a little tailor begins his summer morning humbly stitching and simultaneously hears an old woman selling jelly. Intrigued, he buys a modest amount, thinking it will boost his strength and cleverness. As he savors it, he's bothered by a swarm of flies that are drawn to the jelly. In a fit of bravado, he swats the flies, eventually counting seven fallen victims. Thrilled by his perceived might, he sews a belt proudly proclaiming "Seven at one blow!" and decides to venture into the world, believing he has great adventures ahead.

His journey leads him to a mountain peak where he encounters a giant. Instead of backing down, the little tailor shows off his belt, impressing the giant, who challenges him to prove his strength. The tailor cleverly outsmarts him through tricks, using a cheese to demonstrate his might and then tossing a bird into the air to showcase his throwing abilities. The giant, convinced of the tailor's prowess, invites him to his den for the night.

In the giants' den, the little tailor narrowly escapes a deadly blow when the giant, mistaking the bed for the tailor, strikes it. Upon waking, he finds the giants terrified at the sight of him when they see he survived, leading them to flee in fear. Continuing on, the tailor finds himself in a king's courtyard, where the townsfolk mistakenly believe him to be a mighty warrior when they see his belt. The king quickly seeks to recruit him for the army, but the

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other soldiers are intimidated by the phrase on the belt, leading them to request a discharge out of fear.

The king proposes a series of daunting tasks for the tailor in exchange for his daughter's hand and half his kingdom. The tailor, self-assured from his past exploits, confidently accepts the challenges, believing he can defeat two giants. He uses clever tactics to eliminate the giants without direct confrontation, causing them to destroy each other in confusion. When he returns victorious, the king attempts to devise more tasks, including capturing a unicorn and a wild boar, yet the tailor outsmarts them easily.

With each challenge, the little tailor reveals his cunning nature, consistently using strategy over brute strength. However, the king grows increasingly regretful of his promise, wishing to rid himself of the tailor. As the wedding nears, the queen discovers her husband's humble origins through his sleep-talking and plots to have him removed. Yet the little tailor, wise to her scheme thanks to a loyal servant, feigns sleep and cleverly intimidates the would-be kidnappers, leading them to flee in fear.

Ultimately, the little tailor retains his title and rule, proving that wit and cleverness can triumph over physical might, and he reigns as a king, content in his newly granted life. This story highlights themes of intelligence over strength, the power of perception, and the unexpected journeys that lead to greatness.

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Chapter 21: 21. Cinderella

In this captivating rendition of the "Cinderella" tale by Jacob Grimm, we are introduced to a young girl whose life transforms from one of sorrow to ultimate joy. The story begins with a rich man's wife, on her deathbed, imparting wisdom to her only daughter, urging her to remain kind and pious. After her mother dies, Cinderella is left to the mercy of her cruel stepmother and stepsisters, who belittle and mistreat her, forcing her to work as a servant in her own home. They strip her of her beautiful clothes, calling her "Cinderella" for her soot-covered appearance, and burden her with endless chores.

Despite the harsh treatment, Cinderella's spirit remains unbroken. One day, her father returns from a fair and offers gifts to her stepsisters while she humbly requests a twig that strikes his hat. Cinderella plants this twig at her mother's grave, where it grows into a magical tree. Each time she visits, she prays and weeps, and a bird appears to grant her wishes, providing beautiful outfits for her.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22. The riddle

Once upon a time, a young prince yearned to explore the world.

Accompanied by a loyal servant, he ventured into a vast forest. As dusk fell and darkness enveloped the trees, he stumbled upon a lovely girl heading towards a small, eerie house. When he asked her for shelter, she warned him of her malevolent stepmother, a witch skilled in wicked magic. Despite the warning, the prince entered the house. Inside, the old witch welcomed them with feigned friendliness, but the girl advised against eating or drinking anything, fearing the witch might serve them poisoned food.

The next morning, as the prince prepared to depart, the witch offered a “parting draught.” Sensing danger, the prince rode away just in time, while his servant remained behind to fetch the saddle. The witch delivered her potion, but when the glass broke, poison splattered onto the prince's horse, causing it to collapse dead. The servant, despite his shock, decided to take the raven that had succumbed to the poison as they continued their journey through the forest.

Later, they found an inn, unaware they had entered the lair of murderers. The servant gave the raven to the innkeeper for dinner. As the murderers feasted on the raven's flesh, they unexpectedly dropped dead, having ingested the poison that had plagued the horse. The only survivor was the innkeeper's honest daughter, who let the prince and servant explore the treasures within.

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However, the prince refused any riches, choosing to continue his adventures instead.

Eventually, they reached a town ruled by a beautiful but haughty princess. She had issued a dangerous challenge: any suitor who could pose her a riddle she couldn't solve would win her hand, but failure meant execution. Many had tried and perished, but the prince, entranced by her beauty, was willing to risk it all. He presented his riddle: "One slew none, and yet slew twelve." The clever princess pondered but couldn't find the answer.

Determined not to lose, she sent her maid to eavesdrop as the prince slept, hoping to catch him revealing the answer in a dream. However, the ingenious servant substituted for his master in bed and scared the maid away. On the second night, the princess sent another maid, but once again, the servant thwarted her plans. Finally, on the third night, the princess disguised herself in a misty-grey mantle and sat next to the prince. She asked about the riddle, believing he was asleep when, in fact, he was wide awake. He explained that "one slew none" referred to the raven that had eaten from the poisoned horse, while "yet slew twelve" referred to the murderers who had eaten the raven and died.

Realizing they had trapped her, the prince held onto her mantle as she attempted to leave. The next morning, she announced she had solved the riddle, but the prince claimed she had cheated by overhearing him. The

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judges demanded proof, and the servant produced the three mantles, confirming the princess's deceit. The judges decreed that her misty-grey mantle should be embroidered with gold and silver, transforming it into her wedding mantle for the prince. This tale weaves themes of cleverness, deception, and the triumph of integrity over wickedness, ultimately leading to love and justice.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 23. The mouse, the bird, and the sausage

In this whimsical tale, a mouse, a bird, and a sausage live in harmony, each contributing to their happy household. The bird fetches wood, the mouse handles water and fire, while the sausage prepares their meals. Content with their roles, they enjoy a simple yet fulfilling life together.

However, temptation arrives when the bird encounters another bird that criticizes his hard work, suggesting that he should switch tasks with the others for a change. Influenced by this, the bird insists they each take on a new role, with the sausage heading out to gather wood, the mouse cooking, and the bird fetching water. They all agree reluctantly to this new arrangement.

Unfortunately, things quickly go awry. The sausage spends too much time in the forest and gets snatched by a dog. The bird, finding out what happened, is dismayed but returns home with wood. In an attempt to fill in for the sausage, the mouse leaps into the pot to cook, but tragically, she burns herself and dies.

Now alone, the bird spirals into despair, and in a moment of panic, he accidentally sets their home ablaze while trying to gather wood. When he rushes to get water, he ends up falling into the well and drowns.

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The story reflects themes of greed, the dangers of envy, and the repercussions of abandoning roles that contribute to a stable life. Ultimately, it serves as a cautionary tale about appreciating what you have and the potential consequences of wanting to change things without considering the risks involved.

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Chapter 24: 24. Mother Hulda

In this enchanting tale, a widow with two daughters harshly favors her ugly, lazy daughter over the pretty, hardworking one. The pretty girl endures endless toil, spinning by a well until her fingers bleed. One day, in a moment of despair, the spindle slips from her grasp and falls into the well. Upon telling her stepmother, she is cruelly ordered to retrieve it. In a bold act, she jumps into the well herself and unexpectedly finds herself in a beautiful meadow.

As she wanders through this magical place, she encounters a talking oven begging to be freed from burning bread, which she helps. Next, she meets an apple tree that asks to be shaken, and she does so until no apples remain. Eventually, the girl finds a quaint little house belonging to Mother Hulda, a kind old woman with imposing teeth. The girl is welcomed and agrees to work for her, diligently following the old woman's instructions and caring for her household. Her hard work is rewarded with good food and a pleasant life, but over time, she starts to feel homesick.

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Chapter 25 Summary: 25. The seven ravens

Once upon a time, a man and his wife longed for a daughter after having seven sons. Their wish was granted when a girl was born, but she was weak and needed a private baptism. In a hurry, the father sent one of his sons to fetch water, and all six others accompanied him. Unfortunately, the boys argued over who would fill the jug first, and it fell into the well. Unable to return home, their father, impatient and worried, wished they would turn into ravens. As if by magic, his wish came true, and the boys transformed into seven flying ravens.

Though devastated by the loss of her brothers, the girl grew healthy and beautiful. She lived without knowing about her siblings until she overheard people blaming her for their misfortune, which troubled her deeply. Determined to save them, she set off on a quest, armed only with a family ring, bread, water, and a small chair.

Her journey took her to the sun, the moon, and then to the stars. Each celestial body tested her resolve. The sun was too harsh, the moon too cold, but the stars were kind and offered her a drumstick, a key to her brothers' prison in the Glass mountain. Unfortunately, she lost the drumstick just when she needed it most and felt despair as she approached the mountain.

Refusing to give up, she cleverly used her own finger to unlock the

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mountain's door. Inside, a helpful dwarf welcomed her and said her brothers weren't home. While waiting for them, the girl ate a bit from each of their plates and sipped from their glasses, ultimately dropping her ring into the last glass.

When the ravens returned, they noticed someone had eaten from their food and, upon discovering the ring, wished for their sister to be there so they could be free. Hearing this, the girl stepped out, and her presence transformed the ravens back into their human forms. Joyful reunions followed, and together they journeyed home, their family restored. The story beautifully captures themes of love, resilience, and the unbreakable bond of family, illustrating how determination can overcome even the darkest magic.

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Chapter 26 Summary: 26. Little Red Riding Hood

Once upon a time, there was a sweet little girl known as Little Red Riding Hood, beloved by everyone, especially her grandmother. One day, her mother asked her to bring cake and wine to her sick grandmother, reminding her to stay on the path. Little Red Riding Hood promised to obey and set off through the woods.

However, she encountered a sly wolf who, pretending to be friendly, lured her away from the path by pointing out the beautiful flowers. Distracted, Little Red Riding Hood began to pick flowers, allowing the wolf to race ahead to her grandmother's house. There, he tricked the old woman, ate her up, and disguised himself in her clothes.

When Little Red Riding Hood finally arrived at her grandmother's house, she noticed something was off. As she approached the bed, she began to ask the disguised wolf about his features, only to be met with sinister responses. Before she knew it, the wolf pounced and devoured her.

Fortunately, a huntsman nearby heard the wolf snoring and investigated. Discovering the wolf, he cut open its belly, freeing both Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother. They filled the wolf with heavy stones, ensuring he could never terrorize anyone again.

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Grateful and relieved, the huntsman took the wolf's skin, while the grandmother enjoyed the treats Little Red Riding Hood had brought. From that day on, Little Red Riding Hood vowed never to stray from the path again.

The tale continues to remind us of her lesson in a subsequent encounter with another wolf, where Little Red Riding Hood remained cautious and returned home safely. In the end, with cooperation and cleverness, they triumphed over danger, emphasizing themes of resilience, the importance of caution, and listening to one's elders.

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Chapter 27: 27. The Bremen town musicians

Once upon a time, an old ass found himself too weak to continue working for his master, who planned to get rid of him. Fearing for his life, the ass escaped and decided to head to Bremen to become a town musician. Along the way, he met a hound who was also on the run from his master, who wanted to kill him because he could no longer hunt. The ass invited the hound to join him and suggested they could make music together.

Their journey continued, and they soon encountered a forlorn cat. The cat explained that her days of chasing mice were over, and her owner intended to drown her. The compassionate ass suggested she come along to Bremen, and the cat agreed. They then discovered a cock perched on a gate, crowing in despair because he was about to be made into soup. The ass encouraged the cock to join them, promising his strong voice would enhance their musical group.

As they traveled, the four companions decided to rest for the night in a wood. They spotted a distant light and headed towards it, hoping to find

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Chapter 1 of 5
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A
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Schwarzman's relentless funds for Blackstone's first overcoming numerous rejections and setbacks. After two years of hard work, he successfully raised \$850 million.

Interpretation

is first for me. How the book makes me feel, it's like it has to match my life. It's happening around me. That's where it comes from.

- Boots Riley

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Chapter 28 Summary: 28. The singing bone

In a land troubled by a fearsome wild boar that wreaked havoc on farms and frightened the people, a King offered a grand reward to anyone who could vanquish the beast. The promise was particularly enticing as it included his only daughter's hand in marriage. Among those who dared to take up the challenge were two brothers, the elder known for his cunning and the younger for his innocent heart. While the elder sought glory, the younger, driven by goodness, embarked on a perilous journey.

As they entered the forest from opposite sides, the younger brother encountered a mysterious little man who gifted him a magical black spear, assuring him that its power stemmed from his pure heart. With newfound courage, he swiftly confronted the ferocious boar, which charged at him and met its demise at the spear's tip. Victorious, he carried the slain beast home.

However, the elder brother, filled with envy after seeing his sibling's triumph, invited him to a celebration at a nearby house. There, the elder manipulated his unsuspecting brother into staying until darkness fell. Underneath a bridge, he struck his brother down in a treacherous act of betrayal, burying him in secret, and then deceitfully presented the boar to the King as if he were the hero.

Despite the elder brother's lies about the boar's attack claiming his sibling,

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the truth of the murder could not remain hidden. Years later, a shepherd discovered a small white bone beneath the bridge and fashioned it into a horn. To his astonishment, when played, the horn sang of the younger brother's fate, revealing the dark truth of his brother's treachery.

Upon hearing the song, the King ordered the ground to be excavated, leading to the discovery of the murdered brother's remains. The scheme unraveled, and justice was served as the wicked brother was punished by being sewn in a sack and drowned. Meanwhile, the innocent brother was finally given a proper burial, his story remembered, and his spirit honored. This tale not only underscores the themes of betrayal and the triumph of good over evil but also highlights the idea that truth will ultimately come to light, no matter how deeply buried.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 29. The devil with the three golden hairs

In this enchanting tale, a poor woman gives birth to a son with a caul, who is prophesied to marry the King's daughter at fourteen. When the King hears this, he disguises himself and tricks the parents into giving him the child, whom he then throws into a body of water, hoping to rid himself of the predicted suitor. However, the box floats and is rescued by a miller's boy who takes the child in, raising him well.

As the boy grows up, he catches the King's attention during a storm. The King, recalling his earlier deed, plots to have the boy killed by sending him to deliver a letter to the Queen ordering his execution. But the boy gets lost and finds refuge in a cottage occupied by a kindly old woman who warns him of impending danger. Fortunately, a group of robbers finds him, but feeling compassion, they change the letter's fate so he can marry the King's daughter instead.

When the King learns of the marriage, he becomes enraged and devises a new challenge: the boy must fetch three golden hairs from the devil's head to keep his bride. Undeterred, the boy sets off on his quest. Along the way, he encounters various towns where people ask for his help with problems—the mysterious drying up of fountains and trees. He assures them he'll return with answers.

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Reaching the entrance to Hell, he meets the devil's grandmother, who helps him sneak in undetected. After cleverly extracting the three golden hairs and receiving answers to the townspeople's questions, the boy resumes his human form and returns home, having resolved all the issues he promised to address.

When he presents the golden hairs and wealth to the King, the deal is fulfilled, and he is allowed to keep his wife. The once-greedy King, eager for riches himself, seeks to follow the boy's path to the treasures of the river. But he is tricked and ends up serving as the ferry-man for eternity, punished for his malice.

The story emphasizes themes of fate, kindness, cleverness, and the consequences of greed. The luck-child not only secures his future but also brings joy to many, proving that even in dire circumstances, bravery and goodness can prevail against all odds.

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Chapter 30: 30. The louse and the flea

In this whimsical tale, we encounter a louse and a flea living together and brewing beer in an eggshell. One day, the little louse accidentally falls in and burns herself, which causes the flea to scream in distress. This crying triggers a chain reaction of events. The little door, curious about the flea's commotion, creaks in response, prompting a little broom nearby to ask why it is creaking. The broom then joins in, sweeping frantically because of the fuss.

As the chaos escalates, a little cart tumbles by, questioning the broom's frantic movements and deciding to run in a frenzy. An ash-heap next to the cart reacts by saying it has a reason to burn, igniting in flames. Nearby, a little tree, witnessing the commotion, shakes itself, shedding all its leaves. When a girl passing by notices the tree shaking, she feels compelled to break her water pitcher out of a sense of shared calamity.

Finally, this series of events culminates with the spring from which the girl drew water, which starts to flow uncontrollably in response to the cascading

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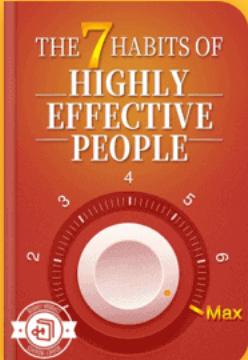
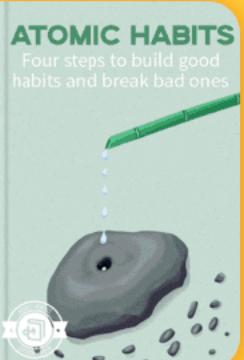
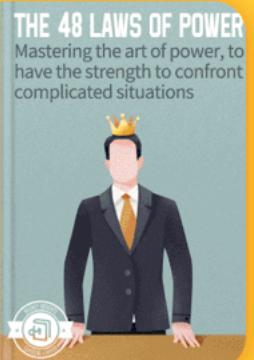
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Chapter 31 Summary: 31. The girl without hands

In "The Girl Without Hands," a poor miller makes a fateful deal with a mysterious stranger, who reveals himself to be the Devil. The man unwittingly promises the Devil what lies behind his mill, which turns out to be his beloved daughter, not just the apple tree he had in mind. As the years go by, the miller's daughter remains pure and devout despite the impending threat of her fate. When the day finally comes for the Devil to collect her, she creatively wards him off by cleansing herself, angering the Devil.

Faced with escalating demands, including the horrific request to cut off his daughter's hands, the miller ultimately capitulates out of fear. Demonstrating immense courage and love, the daughter accepts her fate and has her hands severed. The Devil arrives again, but she manages to repel him, freeing herself from his grasp.

Despite her father's newfound wealth, the girl chooses to leave, asserting her independence and resilience. With her hands bound to her back, she journeys through a forest until she comes across a royal garden. There, she miraculously receives help from an angel, which allows her to cross a moat and eat a pear from a tree, avoiding detection by the gardener.

The King, curious about the spirit he hears of, eventually watches the garden and discovers her. He learns of her tragic story and, enchanted by her beauty

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and goodness, takes her as his bride, providing her with silver hands to replace those she lost.

Tragedy strikes again when the King goes off to war, and the Devil attempts to destroy the Queen through deceitful letters that manipulate the King into thinking she has given birth to a monster. The compassionate Queen's life is spared by her mother-in-law, who reinterprets the King's cruel command and helps her escape into the woods with her son.

For seven years, the Queen and her child live on the edge of despair but receive divine protection. Their paths eventually cross again when the King, determined to find his lost family, ventures through the same woods.

Recognizing his wife and child, he is overjoyed, discovering that the Queen has regained her hands through divine grace. The family reunites and returns to the kingdom, celebrated and reunited in love, overcoming the darkness that had once separated them.

This rich tale explores themes of sacrifice, resilience, divine intervention, and the nature of true love, highlighting the strength found in vulnerability and the ultimate triumph of goodness over evil.

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Chapter 32 Summary: 32. Clever Hans

In Chapter 32 of "Clever Hans," we meet a simple yet endearing character named Hans, who seems to have a knack for befriending Gretel but struggles with practical skills. Each time Hans visits Gretel, he arrives empty-handed and asks for gifts, bringing back a series of increasingly impractical items. The story begins with his mother urging him to behave well as he sets off to see Gretel, a directive Hans seems to take lightly.

On his visits, Gretel gifts him a needle, a knife, a goat, bacon, and ultimately a calf. However, Hans consistently fails to care for the items properly, sticking the needle in a hay-cart, suffocating the goat in his pocket, and allowing dogs to eat the bacon tied to a rope. Each time he returns home to his mother, she chastises him for not handling things better. Despite his misadventures, Hans remains optimistic, declaring he will do better next time.

The climax arrives when Hans, still asking for gifts, decides to take Gretel herself by tying her up with a rope. This surprising turn shifts from innocence to a more mischievous or assertive behavior—leading her to his mother and stating that he brought her along. His mother's response, though initially disapproving, indicates the strange bond growing between Hans and Gretel.

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In an unexpected twist, Gretel becomes angry after Hans carelessly cuts out animal eyes and throws them at her. Instead of fear or anger leading her to run away, this act somehow seals her fate as she ends up marrying Hans.

This conclusion suggests that Hans's endearing clumsiness and disregard for the norm somehow lead him to a happy ending, showcasing themes of simple kindness, loyalty, and the quirky nature of relationships in the face of chaos.

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Chapter 33: 33. The three languages

In a tale that begins with a stern count in Switzerland and his seemingly hopeless son, the story reveals a journey of unexpected learning and self-discovery. The count is frustrated with his son's inability to learn anything substantial, as the boy only masters the languages of animals. After failing to impress his father, the young man is harshly cast out, ordered to be killed, but instead, he is spared out of pity.

Wandering alone, he discovers a fortress plagued by wild dogs. Unafraid, he bravely confronts the situation, learns their troubles through their barking, and finds out they are under a spell, guarding a hidden treasure. With newfound knowledge and the assistance of the dogs, he retrieves the treasure, freeing the land from their curse. This act earns him the admiration of the castle's lord, who wishes to adopt him.

As his journey continues, he travels to Rome. Upon his arrival, he finds himself amidst a crisis following the Pope's death, as a miraculous sign is sought for choosing the next leader. Unexpectedly, two doves land on his

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Chapter 34 Summary: 34. Clever Else

In a quaint little village, a father found himself pondering the future of his clever daughter, Clever Else. This peculiar girl had a mind sharp enough to notice even the tiniest details, and when a suitor named Hans came to seek her hand, he placed a significant condition on their marriage: she must be careful. Everyone, her father, mother, and even Hans, believed she was indeed clever enough for the task.

During a seemingly ordinary day, Clever Else was sent to fetch beer from the cellar. While there, she became distracted by a pickaxe left hanging above her head. A wave of dread washed over her as she imagined marrying Hans, having a child, and the horrifying thought of that pickaxe falling and potentially killing the child while drawing beer. Consumed by this fear, she began to cry.

Her sobs caused a chain reaction. First, the maid came down to check on her and ended up weeping alongside her, then the boy followed suit, spreading the sorrow further. It wasn't long before Else's mother and eventually her father joined in the lament, all sharing in the grief for the future imagined child who might be harmed. Their collective crying caught the attention of Hans, who, upon discovering the scene, was moved to declare that this level of concern was proof of Else's cleverness, and he married her on the spot.

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After their wedding, Hans encouraged Else to work in the fields while he earned money. However, Clever Else quickly found herself more interested in enjoying a hearty meal and subsequently taking a nap rather than cutting the corn. When Hans returned home to find her missing, he presumed she was diligently working. Only to discover her sleeping in the field, completely unproductive.

To rouse her from slumber, Hans cleverly decided to throw a bird-net with bells over her, which did the trick, but instead of awakening to the sight of her loving husband, she panicked. The jingling bells made her question her own identity—was she truly Clever Else or someone else entirely? When she knocked on their locked door for confirmation, she was further confused by Hans' reply, which only added to her fear of not being herself. In a panic, she fled the scene, running far away from the village, leaving everyone behind her puzzled and concerned.

This whimsical tale illustrates the themes of identity, the consequences of excessive worry, and how cleverness can sometimes lead a person astray. Clever Else's actions, while initially seeming wise, highlight how overthinking can spiral into anxiety. In the end, it's a story about the fragility of self-perception and the unexpected paths our thoughts can lead us down.

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Chapter 35 Summary: 35. The tailor in heaven

In this whimsical tale from “Cinderella” by Jacob Grimm, a good day in heaven takes an amusing turn with the arrival of a curious tailor. The story begins when God decides to enjoy the heavenly garden, leaving behind Saint Peter to guard the gates. When a poor, lame tailor knocks for entry, Peter is quick to suspect the man's honesty, recollecting his past misdeeds—he accuses the tailor of being a thief who pilfered scraps of cloth from others.

Despite his dubious past, the tailor pleads with Peter, promising to help care for the heavenly children, clean, and mend their clothes if granted entry. Moved by the tailor's desperation, Peter lets him into heaven, but only just enough for him to squeeze in behind the door. However, the tailor's curiosity gets the better of him, and he starts exploring.

In his wanderings, he discovers a magnificent golden chair—the Lord's throne—overseeing all earthly happenings. The sight captivates him, but he quickly becomes enraged upon seeing an old woman trying to steal veils while washing by a stream. In a fit of anger, he hurls the golden footstool down to her, taking no heed of the consequences.

When God returns and finds the footstool missing, he questions Peter, who informs him about the tailor. The Lord then addresses the tailor, who gleefully admits to his impulsive act. God reprimands him, asserting that if

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he were to judge as the tailor does, heaven would be emptied of all its belongings. Acknowledging the tailor's misjudgment, God decides that he cannot remain in heaven any longer and instructs Peter to escort him back out.

The story concludes with the tailor, now banished, leaving heaven with blisters on his feet and a stick in hand, heading towards "Wait-a-bit," a place where soldiers gather and enjoy their time. This tale cleverly explores themes of judgment, impulsivity, and the consequences of one's actions, wrapped in a humorous narrative that highlights human flaws amidst divine standards. The tailor's misadventure serves as a reminder that compassion must be tempered with wisdom and that judgment belongs to God alone.

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Chapter 36: 36. The Wishing-Table, the Gold-Ass, and the Cudgel in the Sack

Once upon a time, a tailor had three sons and a goat, which provided their sustenance. Each son took turns feeding her, but when the eldest brought her to the churchyard, he dishonestly claimed she had enough to eat. When the goat revealed the truth to the tailor, he was furious and drove his son away. The same happened with the second son, who tried to feed her, only to be kicked out too for lying. At last, the youngest son sought out the best food for the goat, yet when he returned home, the goat still complained, leading the tailor to banish him as well.

Left alone and regretful, the tailor regretted his rash actions. Each son found their way in the world, learning trades and receiving unique gifts from their masters. The eldest son, a joiner, was gifted a wishing table that provided delicious food and drink. The second son, apprenticed to a miller, received a magical ass that could drop gold when commanded. The youngest, a turner, received a cudgel that could punish wrongdoers.

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Chapter 37 Summary: 37. Tom Thumb

In a quaint village, a poor couple longed for a child, even one as small as a thumb. Their wish came true when they welcomed Tom Thumb, a tiny yet clever boy who remained the same size as he was at birth. One day, while his father prepared to go into the forest, Tom Thumb insisted he could help drive the cart by sitting in the horse's ear and directing him. To everyone's surprise, he successfully guided the horse to the wood, drawing the attention of two strangers who sought to buy him for a show. Although his father initially refused, Tom Thumb convinced him to let him go, promising to return.

Once in the hands of the strangers, Tom Thumb cleverly escaped by slipping into a mouse-hole, leaving them bewildered. He soon found shelter in a snail shell for the night but overheard two thieves plotting to rob a parson. He offered his help to the thieves, claiming he could sneak between the bars of the parson's house. However, when it was time to act, his loud voice scared the thieves away.

In a twist of fate, Tom Thumb accidentally ended up inside a cow's stomach after being caught in the hay and fell asleep. When the maid heard his voice, he was thought to be a spirit, leading to the cow's slaughter. Tossed onto a dung heap, Tom Thumb was soon swallowed by a hungry wolf. Maintaining his courage, he convinced the wolf to feast on his family's provisions.

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Eventually, the wolf got stuck trying to leave, and Tom Thumb took advantage of the situation by making noise to alert his parents. When they heard his voice and burst in, they killed the wolf and freed Tom Thumb. Overjoyed to be reunited, his parents showered him with love, vowing never to let him go again. Tom Thumb, who had seen the world in ways few could, chose to stay home, cherishing the warmth of his family and a newfound sense of belonging. The themes of adventure, cleverness, and the love of family weave through this charming tale, showcasing how even the smallest can achieve great things.

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Chapter 38 Summary: 38. The wedding of Mrs. Fox

In a whimsical tale, we meet an old fox with nine tails who suspects his wife, Mrs. Fox, of infidelity. To test her loyalty, he feigns death, lying still under a bench. Meanwhile, Mrs. Fox mourns her husband's apparent demise in her room, watched over by her maid, Miss Cat, who busies herself cooking. News of Mr. Fox's "death" spreads, attracting a stream of suitors eager to woo the grieving widow.

One by one, the wooers knock at the door, each with a different number of tails. The first has one tail, followed by various others with two and three tails. Mrs. Fox adamantly refuses them all, insisting only a suitor with nine beautiful tails like her late husband will do. Eventually, a young fox appears who also boasts nine tails, prompting Mrs. Fox to excitedly prepare for marriage. However, just as the wedding is about to take place, old Mr. Fox reveals he is alive and springs into action, driving all potential suitors out, including Mrs. Fox.

In a second story woven into the narrative, following Mr. Fox's ruse, a wolf arrives to woo Mrs. Fox. The cat informs him that Mrs. Fox is too consumed with grief to entertain his advances. The wolf and several other animals come knocking one after the other, from a dog to a lion, yet none have the qualities that Mrs. Fox desires. Just when it seems Mrs. Fox may remain alone, a young fox appears who meets her criteria, complete with red

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stockings and a pointed mouth.

Mrs. Fox welcomes him, celebrating their union with joyful preparations, sweeping the room and tossing her late husband's presence aside. The wedding festivities are filled with joy and laughter, culminating in dancing that perhaps never stops. This playful narrative captures themes of loyalty, love, and the absurdities of courtship, all wrapped in a fable-like charm where deception leads to humor and eventual happiness.

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Chapter 39: 39. The elves

In Chapter 39 of the tale, we venture into stories filled with magic and transformation, away from the familiar Cinderella narrative.

The first story introduces a poor shoemaker who, facing dire straits, manages to cut out leather for just one pair of shoes each evening before bed. When he wakes up the next morning, he discovers the shoes miraculously crafted overnight by kind-hearted little elves. Their skilled handiwork quickly brings the shoemaker fortune, allowing him to grow his business from one pair of shoes to multiple pairs, ultimately leading him to wealth and prosperity. Curious about his mysterious benefactors, the shoemaker and his wife decide to stay up one night to uncover the source of their unexpected fortune. They witness the elves, two tiny, naked men, sewing shoes with incredible speed and skill.

Gratified by their assistance, the couple decides to express their gratitude by making clothes and shoes for the elves. When the little men return that night, they joyfully don their new garments instead of working, and with their

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Chapter 40 Summary: 40. The robber bridegroom

Once upon a time, a miller had a lovely daughter, and as she grew up, he wished to see her happily married. An affluent suitor appeared, and although the miller saw no faults in him, the daughter felt apprehensive and knew little warmth for him. Despite her unease, she reluctantly agreed to visit his distant home in the woods when he insisted she must see him. To find her way, she scattered peas and lentils along the path for guidance while she headed into the dark forest.

Arriving at a gloomy and eerie house, she heard a bird in a cage urgently warning her to leave and warning of the dangers within. Ignoring this fear, she explored the empty house until she found an elderly woman in the cellar, who revealed the horrifying truth: the house was a den of robbers and cannibals planning to kill her. The old woman took pity on her and hid her behind a cask, promising to help her escape.

As night fell, the robbers returned, bringing another young woman with them. They drunkenly killed her, and the terrified bride witnessed the gruesome act. One of the robbers, unable to remove a golden ring from her finger, resorted to chopping it off, but the finger fell behind the cask where the bride was hiding. The old woman cunningly lured the robbers away, allowing the bride to sneak out when they fell into a deep sleep from the wine laced with a sleep-inducing potion.

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With the help of the sprouted peas and lentils to guide them under the moonlight, the bride and the old woman safely returned to the mill. When her wedding day arrived, family and friends gathered. During the feast, the bridegroom urged her to share a story. She recounted her harrowing experience, framing it as a dream. With her heart pounding, she narrated the warnings from the bird, the revelation of the old woman, and, chillingly, produced the severed finger with the ring.

The atmosphere darkened as the bridegroom paled, and unable to conceal his guilt, he attempted to flee. However, the guests apprehended him, leading him to justice for his vile misdeeds. In the end, he and his gang faced execution for their crimes, while the miller's daughter emerged triumphant, her bravery revealing the dangers hidden beneath the surface. This tale explores themes of courage in the face of danger, the importance of heeding intuition, and the triumph of good over evil.

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Chapter 41 Summary: 41. Herr Korbes

In the whimsical tale of "Herr Korbes," a cock and a hen embark on a journey together in a charming carriage with red wheels, pulled by four industrious mice. As they make their way to visit the elusive Herr Korbes, they pick up several quirky companions along the way, including a cat, a millstone, an egg, a duck, a pin, and a needle, each one taking a place in their delightful carriage.

Upon arriving at Herr Korbes' house, they find it empty, so each character settles into different spots while waiting for his return. The hen and cock perch high, the cat finds a cozy spot by the hearth, and the others take their places around the house. When Herr Korbes finally arrives, his day quickly turns disastrous. The cat cleverly throws ashes in his face, prompting him to rush into the kitchen where the duck splashes water at him.

As he tries to dry off with a towel, the egg unexpectedly rolls into his path, breaking and gluing his eyes shut. Frustrated, he attempts to sit down, only to be pricked by the hidden pin. In a fit of rage, he retreats to his bed, but just as he lays his head on the pillow, a sharp needle stabs him, sending him screaming from the house. However, his escape is thwarted by the heavy millstone that drops from above, leading to his demise.

The story paints a vivid picture of chaos and mischief, showcasing themes of

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retribution for wickedness, as Herr Korbes, presumed to be a malevolent figure, receives a fittingly grim fate at the hands of the creatures he once disregarded. The playful antics of the animals highlight the importance of unity and cleverness, transforming an ordinary journey into a memorable adventure filled with unexpected turns and moral lessons.

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Chapter 42: 42. The godfather

In Chapter 42 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we encounter a humble man overwhelmed by his family's growing number of children. Facing the dilemma of finding a godfather for his latest child, he dreams of seeking the first person he meets outside his gate. He follows this vision and meets a stranger who gifts him a magical glass of water. This water has the power to heal the sick, but it can only do so when the man can see where Death stands—by the head for life and by the feet for death. With this newfound ability, the man rises to fame and wealth, curing a royal child on two occasions, but ultimately must face heartbreak when he realizes he cannot save the child during his third visit.

Motivated by this success, the man decides to visit his godfather to share his fortune. However, upon arriving, he finds himself in a bizarre and unsettling environment. On his way through the strange establishment, he encounters a broom and shovel bickering, some dismembered fingers, and even a pile of heads—all of which are explained away by the godfather as harmless objects. When he finally meets the godfather, who surprises him with a pair

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Interpretation

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- Boots Riley

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Chapter 43 Summary: 43. Frau Trude

In this captivating tale, we meet a curious and defiant little girl who can't resist the allure of the mysterious Frau Trude, despite her parents' stern warnings. They caution her that Frau Trude is a wicked woman, threatening that if she disobeys and goes to her, she will no longer be their child. But the girl's curiosity overpowers her fear, and she decides to visit Frau Trude regardless.

Upon her arrival, she is struck by the eerie sights surrounding Frau Trude's home. She describes seeing a black man, who turns out to be a collier, a green man, a huntsman, and a terrifying blood-red man, whom she believes is the devil himself. Each revelation deepens her fright and vulnerability, and Frau Trude only heightens the tension by confirming her fears, revealing the sinister nature of her surroundings.

What unfolds next is chilling. Frau Trude, having waited for the girl, transforms her into a block of wood and cruelly tosses her into the fire, relishing the warmth of the flames as they consume the girl. In this grim act, the story starkly illustrates themes of disobedience, curiosity leading to peril, and the consequences of ignoring advice from those who care. The girl's curiosity costs her dearly, serving as a haunting reminder of the dangers that can lurk behind seemingly enchanting experiences.

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Chapter 44 Summary: 44. Godfather Death

In the tale of "Godfather Death," a desperate man, overwhelmed by his poverty while caring for twelve children, seeks a godfather for his thirteenth child. First, he encounters God, who offers care but is rejected because the man believes God favors the rich. Next, the Devil appears, tempting the man with riches, but he turns him down for his deceitful nature. Finally, Death approaches, and the man, seeing Death as equal to all, accepts him as the godfather, thinking Death's promise of wealth and fame is beneficial.

As the child grows, Death gifts him a powerful herb, enabling him to become the most renowned physician in the land. With Death waiting at the heads of recovering patients, the physician gains immense wealth and esteem. However, when the king falls gravely ill and Death stands at his feet, the physician, tempted by ambition, defies Death's warning. He cleverly flips the king's position to claim victory over death, and the king recovers, infuriating Death.

Later, when the king's daughter falls ill, the physician, enamored by her beauty and the promise of marrying her, again disregards the warning. He flips her position, saving her life once more, but this act of betrayal leads Death to confront him angrily. The physician is taken to a cavern filled with candles representing human lifespans, where he discovers his own light is mere stub about to extinguish. In desperation, he pleads with Death to

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extend his life, but Death refuses, teaching him the fatal lesson that one life must end for another to begin.

Ultimately, Death tricks the physician, extinguishing his life-light, and the once-proud healer is claimed by Death, fulfilling the solemn promise of inevitability he had once embraced without caution. The story underscores themes of ambition, the consequences of hubris, and the inexorable nature of mortality—highlighting how attempts to evade death can lead to one's own demise.

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Chapter 45: 45. Thumbling as journeyman (Thumbling's Travels)

In Chapter 45 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we encounter the adventurous tale of Thumbling, a young tailor's son who is no bigger than a thumb but possesses a brave spirit. Eager to explore the world beyond his quiet home, Thumbling persuades his father to equip him with a makeshift sword crafted from a darning needle. Before setting out, he can't resist taking a last peek at his mother's cooking but winds up getting swept up the chimney by the steam, marking his unexpected foray into the world.

As Thumbling travels, he finds work with a master tailor whose meager rations lead him to threaten the mistress with a cheeky chalk message. Angered, she tries to catch him, but with his nimbleness, he evades her until eventually, he is ousted from the house. Venturing further, he encounters a band of robbers who recruit him for their plan to steal from the King's treasure chamber, believing his small size makes him the perfect fit to sneak in. Once inside, Thumbling cleverly deceives the guards, tossing out coins to the robbers while keeping himself hidden and safe. After successfully

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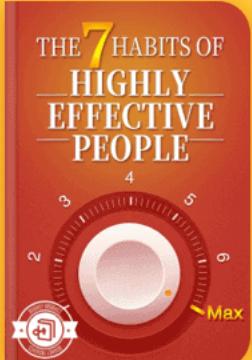
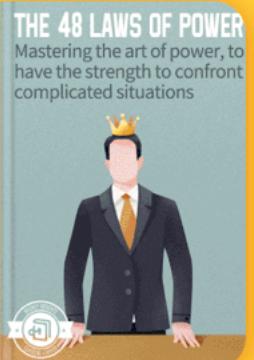
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Chapter 46 Summary: 46. Fitcher's Bird

In the tale of "Fitcher's Bird," a cunning wizard cleverly disguises himself as a poor beggar to ensnare beautiful young women, taking them away while their families are left in despair. He arrives at the house of a man with three daughters and successfully captures the eldest. At his opulent home in a dark forest, he showers her with gifts but warns her to avoid one forbidden room. Driven by curiosity, she opens the door and is horrified to discover the gruesome fate of other girls—the bloody remnants of their bodies—and, in her panic, drops an egg she was tasked to guard. When the wizard returns, he immediately senses her disobedience, punishes her brutally, and discards her body into the basin with the others.

The same fate befalls the second sister when the wizard comes for her, as she, too, cannot resist the temptation of the forbidden chamber. But the third sister is wise and cautious. After being taken, she carefully examines the house, remembers the warning, and ultimately discovers her sisters' tragic fate. Instead of succumbing to despair, she courageously pieces together the remains of her sisters, miraculously reviving them with her efforts.

When the wizard returns and demands the keys and the egg, he finds no blood on the egg, indicating the clever sister has not disobeyed. As a reward, he proposes marriage, but she outsmarts him further. She tasks him with bringing gold back to her parents and secretly smuggles her revived sisters

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home, hiding them in a basket filled with gold. The wizard, tricked by the sister's voice correctly mimicking her, is forced to keep moving and ultimately delivers the girls home without suspicion.

As the wedding festivities unfold, the clever sister devises a plan for revenge against the wizard. Disguised as a bird, she distracts the wedding guests, including her soon-to-be husband, while her brothers arrive to rescue her by setting fire to the wizard's house. In a dramatic climax, the wizard and his evil associates meet their end in the flames, while the sisters unite once more, triumphant in their escape and renewed by their bond, showcasing themes of resilience, cleverness, and the triumph of good over evil.

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Chapter 47 Summary: 47. The almond tree

In a tale of longing and betrayal, a wealthy man and his loving wife yearn for a child. One day, while under an almond tree, the wife cuts her finger, and as her blood mixes with the snow, she wishes for a child as red as blood and white as snow. Miraculously, she gets her wish but dies after giving birth to a beautiful boy. Heartbroken, the father eventually remarries, and a daughter arrives. However, the new wife harbors hatred toward the boy, as she schemes to enrich her own daughter.

The mother's cruelty escalates when she tricks the boy into opening a locked chest, causing a tragic accident where his head is severed. In a panic, she attempts to conceal her crime and deceives her daughter, Marjory, into believing her brother has gone away. As Marjory mourns, she discovers the bones of her brother and lays them beneath the almond tree, invoking a magical transformation. From the bones, a beautiful bird emerges, singing of his tragic fate and naming those responsible for his demise.

The bird's enchanting song captures the attention of townsfolk and even the goldsmith and shoemaker, who offer treasures for another rendition. Each time, the bird sings of betrayal, detailing the mother's murderous act and the father's unwitting complicity, while entrusting Marjory with the beautiful shoes and the gold chain. Finally, the bird returns to the father's house, where the truth is unveiled through its haunting song.

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It leads to the mother's demise as a millstone crushes her when she tries to escape her guilt. Ultimately, the story concludes with the reunion of the family, as Marjory and her father are joyfully united with the spirit of the boy, symbolizing forgiveness and the bond of love that endures even in the face of betrayal. Themes of maternal love, jealousy, and redemption weave through this eerie yet heartwarming narrative, reminding readers that happiness can rise again from the ashes of sorrow.

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Chapter 48: 48. Old Sultan

In "Old Sultan," a farmer decides to put down his loyal and elderly dog, Sultan, claiming he's no longer useful since he has lost all his teeth. Sultan overhears this grim plan and is heartbroken, but he quickly seeks help from his clever friend, the wolf. The wolf proposes a scheme: while the farmer and his wife work in the fields, they will leave their child under a hedge for shade. The wolf will frighten the farmer by stealing the child, and Sultan can chase him, eventually returning the child, thus earning the farmer's gratitude.

The plan works perfectly. When Sultan retrieves the child from the wolf, the farmer is overjoyed and promises Sultan a comfortable life. From that day on, Sultan receives food and a soft place to sleep. However, when the wolf comes back to Sultan looking to raid the farmer's sheep, Sultan refuses, stating his loyalty to the farmer. Furious, the wolf tries to take a sheep at night but ends up being caught and beaten by the farmer.

Later, the wolf, seeking revenge, sends a wild boar to challenge Sultan. The situation seems dire for Sultan, who can only bring a three-legged cat as his

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Chapter 49 Summary: 49. The six swans

Once upon a time, a king became lost while hunting in a vast forest. After wandering for hours, he encountered a witch who offered to guide him home in exchange for marrying her beautiful daughter. Although the king felt uneasy about his bride, he agreed due to his predicament and returned to his castle for the wedding.

The king had previously lost his first wife, who left behind seven children—six boys and a girl. Concerned about how the new queen would treat them, he hid the children in a secret castle. However, the queen grew suspicious of his frequent visits and learned about the place through bribed servants. Determined to eliminate her stepchildren, she crafted little silk shirts enchanted with wicked magic. One day, she found the children in the woods, cast the shirts over them, and turned them into swans, leaving their sister behind.

When the king returned, he found only his daughter, who told him about her brothers' transformation. Heartbroken and unaware of his wife's treachery, he took her back home, but she begged to stay one more night in the woods. During the night, she decided to seek out her brothers. After a long journey, she discovered a small hut where her siblings transformed back into human form for just a short while each evening. The brothers described the curse placed upon them, explaining that to break it, she would have to sew six

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shirts from aster flowers without speaking or laughing for six years.

Determined to save her brothers, the girl set off to gather asters and began her work. One day, the king's huntsmen found her sitting in a tree and brought her to the castle. Without speaking, the king became enchanted with her beauty and took her as his wife. Despite their happiness, the king's wicked mother loathed the union and hatched a plan to discredit the queen.

Accusing her of being a cannibal after she gave birth to three children, the queen could not defend herself due to her silence. Each time, she was falsely accused and eventually sentenced to death by fire. As fate would have it, the day of her execution marked the end of her six-year vow of silence. Just as the flames were about to engulf her, her brothers, now swans, appeared overhead.

In a desperate act, she threw the shirts over them, successfully breaking the enchantment. Her brothers transformed back into human form, but one bore a swan's wing instead of an arm due to the unfinished shirt. The queen used this opportunity to explain the truth to the king, revealing the wickedness of his mother. The queen regained her rightful position, and the stepmother was punished for her treachery.

The story concludes with the family reunited—a king, queen, and six brothers—living a life filled with joy and peace, free from the shadows of

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deception. Themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the triumph of good over evil weave through this tale, illustrating the power of love and resilience in the face of adversity.

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Chapter 50 Summary: 50. Sleeping Beauty (Little Briar Rose)

Once upon a time, a king and queen longed for a child but were unable to conceive. One day, while the queen was bathing, a frog emerged from the water and promised that she would have a daughter within a year. True to its word, the queen gave birth to a beautiful girl, prompting the king to host a grand celebration. He invited many guests, including twelve wise women to bestow gifts upon his daughter. However, he overlooked one, leaving her uninvited. Angered, the thirteenth wise woman crashed the party and cast a dark curse: when the princess turned fifteen, she would prick her finger on a spindle and die. Fortunately, the twelfth wise woman softens this curse, declaring that the princess would instead fall into a deep sleep for a hundred years.

To protect his precious child, the king ordered all spindles in the kingdom to be destroyed. The princess, named Rosamond, grew up surrounded by beauty and grace, embodying the gifts of the wise women. On her fifteenth birthday, while exploring the castle alone, she discovered an old tower where an elderly woman was spinning. Out of curiosity, Rosamond touched the spindle and pricked her finger, immediately falling into a deep slumber.

As she slept, the entire castle succumbed to the same enchantment. The king and queen, their court, animals, and even the fire in the hearth all fell into a

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deep sleep. Over time, a thick hedge of thorns grew around the castle, hiding it from view. The story of the beautiful sleeping princess spread, attracting many young princes who tried to rescue her, only to meet their demise entangled in the thorns.

Years later, a brave prince heard the tale of Rosamond's enchantment and, undeterred by the warnings, approached the castle. To his surprise, the thorny hedge transformed into a blooming barrier that allowed him passage. He entered the castle and found everyone asleep, including the king and queen. He climbed the tower and discovered Rosamond, lying in stillness. Captivated by her beauty, he bent down and kissed her.

With that kiss, the enchantment broke! Rosamond awoke, her eyes bright with kindness. As they made their way back, the entire castle revived: the horses shook themselves awake, the dogs wagged their tails, and the kitchen came back to life once more.

Ultimately, Rosamond and the prince celebrated their love with a grand wedding and lived happily ever after, surrounded by the joy that had returned to the castle. This tale beautifully highlights themes of fate, love's power to overcome darkness, and the transformative effects of time, reminding us that even the deepest slumber can be broken by true affection.

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Chapter 51: 51. Fundevogel (Bird-foundling)

Once upon a time, in a deep forest, a forester heard a child's cries and discovered a baby perched high in a tree. A predatory bird had snatched the infant from its sleeping mother. The forester rescued the child and decided to raise him alongside his own daughter, Lina. The foundling was named Fundevogel, or "Bird-foundling." As they grew up, Fundevogel and Lina formed a close bond, relying on one another for happiness.

One day, an old cook named Sanna became envious and plotted to boil Fundevogel alive. She shared her malicious plan with Lina, who promised not to tell anyone. Upon learning of the cook's scheme, Lina warned Fundevogel, and together they decided to escape. They quickly dressed and fled just before the cook could carry out her evil intentions.

Realizing the children were missing, Sanna sent three servants to retrieve them. However, the clever children transformed themselves into a rose and a rosebush, confusing the servants who could only report back that they had found nothing but a flower.

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Chapter 52 Summary: 52. King Thrushbeard

In this tale, we encounter a beautiful but proud princess who refuses all suitors, making fun of each man presented to her at a grand feast. The king, frustrated with his daughter's haughty behavior, vows to marry her off to the first beggar that arrives at their doors. Shortly after, a fiddler dressed in rags comes by seeking charity. The king fulfills his oath, much to the princess's horror, and she is wed to the beggar against her will.

As they leave the palace, they pass through lands owned by the rejected King Thrushbeard, which makes her lament her choice even more. The fiddler, her new husband, is not pleased by her constant longing for another man. They arrive at their humble home, a stark contrast to the princess's previous lavish life. Struggling with household chores, she finds it hard to adjust. Their life becomes one of hardship, with her attempting various trades only to face setbacks that lead her back to the market selling pots.

During a royal wedding celebration, the princess yearns to be part of the elegant world she once knew. Disguised as a kitchen-maid, she watches sorrowfully as the festivities unfold. When the prince notices her and tries to pull her into the dance, her pockets burst open, causing chaos and ridicule in the hall. Overwhelmed with shame, she tries to flee, only to be caught by King Thrushbeard, revealing his true identity.

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He explains that he orchestrated this entire scenario, including her husband's appearance, to teach her a lesson about humility and pride. The princess, recognizing her mistakes, feels remorseful for her past actions. However, Thrushbeard comforts her, announcing that their wedding will finally take place, bringing joy to all. The story concludes with the celebration of their union, emphasizing themes of humility, the consequences of pride, and the transformative power of love.

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Chapter 53 Summary: 53. Snow-white

In the heart of winter, a queen, while working at her window, pricks her finger and sees three drops of blood fall onto the snow. This inspires her wish for a daughter with skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony. Soon after, she gives birth to Snow-white but tragically dies. A year later, the king remarries a beautiful yet vain queen who possesses a magical mirror. This mirror feeds her ego, declaring her the fairest in the land—until Snow-white grows up to surpass her beauty at just seven years old.

Consumed by jealousy, the queen's envy morphs into hatred. In a desperate attempt to rid herself of Snow-white, she orders a huntsman to take the girl into the forest and kill her. However, upon confronting Snow-white in the woods, the huntsman, moved by her innocence, spares her life and instead presents the queen with a boar's heart as proof of Snow-white's death.

Alone and frightened in the woods, Snow-white discovers a small, tidy cottage owned by seven dwarfs. After tasting their food and feeling exhausted, she falls asleep in one of their beds. When the dwarfs return home, they are surprised but enchanted by the sight of Snow-white. Grateful for her company, they offer her a place in their home if she will keep it clean and tidy.

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While Snow-white finds safety among the dwarfs, the wicked queen discovers that she is still not the fairest. Angered upon consulting her mirror, she devises several plans to eliminate Snow-white. First, she disguises herself as an old woman and tricks Snow-white into being laced too tightly, causing her to faint. The dwarfs, returning home just in time, save her by cutting the laces.

Unwilling to give up, the queen uses a poisoned comb on her next visit, which once again plunges Snow-white into unconsciousness until the dwarfs revive her by removing the comb. After this incident, the dwarfs warn Snow-white to never let anyone inside while they are away.

The queen, still driven by her jealousy, concocts a deadly poisoned apple, disguising herself as a peasant. Snow-white, tempted by the apple and seeing the disguised queen eat a safe half, takes a bite and collapses, seemingly dead. The dwarfs, heartbroken, lay her in a beautiful glass coffin, mourning her for days.

A prince, captivated by Snow-white's beauty, stumbles upon her coffin and asks to take it. While carrying it away, a jolt dislodges the piece of apple stuck in her throat, waking her. Overjoyed, Snow-white agrees to marry the prince, and they plan a grand wedding.

The jealous queen learns about the marriage and, after posing a question to

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her mirror, discovers that Snow-white's beauty now far surpasses hers. Enraged, she attends the wedding but is horrified to see that Snow-white is alive. As punishment, she is forced to dance in red-hot iron shoes until she dies, finally ridding Snow-white of her wicked stepmother's dark influence. This tale intertwines themes of jealousy, innocence, and the triumph of good over evil, ultimately celebrating the resilience of love and friendship against envy.

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Chapter 54: 54. The knapsack, the hat, and the horn

Once upon a time, three brothers found themselves in deep poverty, struggling with hunger. They decided to seek their fortunes, embarking on a journey that took them through vast landscapes. The first brother soon encountered a silver hill and, satisfied with the silver he gathered, returned home. The second brother, upon finding a golden hill, debated taking some gold but ultimately followed his brother home with a pocketful of riches. The youngest brother, however, was not swayed by silver or gold; he wanted something greater.

As he ventured further into the woods, hungry and exhausted, he stumbled upon a lavish spread of food beneath a tree, which he enjoyed thoroughly. He realized the tablecloth he had found was magical, allowing him to summon food whenever he wished. Despite this treasure, he continued his quest for fortune. Meeting a charcoal-burner in a lonely wood, he offered to share his meal in exchange for an old knapsack rumored to have magical powers. The knapsack, when tapped, produced a corporal and six soldiers to do his bidding.

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Chapter 55 Summary: 55. Rumpelstiltskin

In the tale of "Rumpelstiltskin," we meet a poor miller who strives to impress the king by boasting that his daughter can spin gold from straw. Intrigued by this promise, the king tests the miller's daughter, threatening her life if she fails. Alone and desperate in a room filled with straw, she is visited by a mysterious little man who offers to help her spin the straw into gold in exchange for her necklace. To her amazement, by morning, all the straw has been turned into shimmering gold.

The king, greedy for more wealth, brings the miller's daughter into even larger chambers filled with straw, demanding she spin them all into gold by dawn. Each time, the little man appears to help her for a price—in this instance, a ring and finally her first child once she becomes queen. Out of desperation, she agrees, and by morning the king is delighted, leading to their marriage.

As the queen gives birth to her child, she is suddenly confronted by the little man who demands what she promised. Terrified, she offers riches in return, but he insists on the child. He grants her three days to guess his name, leading her to frantically search through all known names, yet she fails to guess correctly. On the third day, she learns of a little man in the woods who reveals his name, Rumpelstiltskin, while dancing and singing a singsong tune.

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Eager to be free from her pact, the queen waits for Rumpelstiltskin's arrival. When he comes, she cleverly begins asking if his name is various options, finally revealing his true name. Furious at being outsmarted, Rumpelstiltskin declares that the devil revealed his name to her. In his rage, he stomps his foot so forcefully that he becomes stuck in the ground and, in a fit, tears himself in half, thus freeing the queen from her agreement.

This story explores themes of desperation, the consequences of greed, and the power of cleverness and knowledge. The miller's daughter transforms from a helpless girl into a resourceful queen who outmaneuvers a powerful figure. Rumpelstiltskin serves as both a helper and a villain, showcasing the duality of seeking help and the dangers of deals made in distress. In the end, intelligence and resilience triumph, delivering a satisfying resolution.

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Chapter 56 Summary: 56. Roland

In this gripping tale from "Cinderella," we meet a wicked witch with two daughters: one ugly and cruel, whom she adores, and the other—a beautiful stepdaughter—whom she despises. Consumed by jealousy over her stepsister's lovely apron, the witch plots to murder her stepdaughter. However, the clever girl overhears the plan and manages to dodge death by switching positions with her sister that night. Instead, the witch mistakenly beheads her own daughter, setting off a chain of events that leads the stepdaughter to flee with her beloved, Roland.

Before they escape, Roland advises her to take the witch's magic wand to ensure they can fend off her dark powers. The girl collects the wand and drops three drops of blood to leave misleading trails. When the witch awakens and realizes her mistake, she pursues them with relentless fury. Through a series of transformations using the magic wand, the girl and Roland evade her—turning into a lake and a duck, and then into a flower and a fiddler. The witch is ultimately outsmarted, forced to dance and jump until she succumbs to her own magic.

After their narrow escape, Roland leaves to prepare for their wedding while the maiden turns into a milestone, waiting for his return. Meanwhile, he falls victim to the charms of another maiden and forgets his first love. Disheartened by his prolonged absence, the girl transforms into a flower,

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hoping for someone to crush her. A shepherd finds her and brings her home, where she magically tends to his household chores, but still longs for Roland.

When the shepherd discovers her true form, he reveals his desire to marry her, but she remains steadfast to Roland. As Roland's wedding approaches, the forsaken maiden is compelled to attend, where she sings a heart-wrenching song. The moment he hears her voice, Roland's memories flood back, and he realizes his true love lies with her, not with his new bride. They are joyfully reunited, and the tale concludes with their marriage, celebrating loyalty, love, and the triumph of good over evil.

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Chapter 57: 57. The golden bird

In a distant kingdom, a king's garden held a tree that bore precious golden apples. One day, he discovered that one of the apples was missing. Furious, he commanded his three sons to keep watch over the tree at night. The first two sons each failed to stay awake, and another apple went missing during their watches. Skeptical but out of options, the king allowed his youngest son, who had little confidence from his father, to try his turn.

Determined not to sleep, the youngest prince caught a glimpse of a magnificent golden bird flying toward the tree. He shot an arrow, striking the bird and causing one of its feathers to fall. The next morning, he presented the feather to the king, who deemed it more valuable than the kingdom itself and demanded to possess the entire bird. The eldest son set out first to capture it, dismissing a fox's advice to choose a less inviting tavern over a lively one. He ultimately succumbed to temptation and forgot his mission.

The second son followed, but he, too, ignored the fox's warning and ended

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Chapter 58 Summary: 58. The dog and the sparrow

In this tale, a neglected shepherd's dog, driven by hunger, decides to leave his uncaring master. On his journey, he meets a friendly sparrow who offers to help him find food. Together, they visit several shops where the clever sparrow pecks down pieces of meat and bread for the grateful dog. Satiated but tired, the dog falls asleep on the road while the sparrow keeps watch.

Tragically, a carter comes along and, despite the sparrow's warning, runs over the sleeping dog, killing him. Infuriated by the dog's death, the sparrow vows to make the carter pay for his cruelty. She first sabotages the carter's cart, causing his wine to spill. Then, when he tries to strike her, he accidentally kills his three horses, leading him to bemoan his "unlucky" fate.

When the carter returns home distraught, his wife informs him that a multitude of birds, including the sparrow, are eating their corn. Despite losing everything, the carter remains enraged and tries to kill the sparrow, but every attempt leads him to break his own belongings in frustration. Eventually, the sparrow is captured, but the carter decides to eat her instead of killing her quickly.

In a twist of fate, when the carter's wife tries to kill the sparrow, she accidentally strikes her husband instead, killing him instantly. The sparrow, seeing her enemy vanquished, flies home, leaving behind the chaos caused

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by the carter's own cruelty. This story highlights themes of loyalty, justice, and the consequences of cruelty, showing how the sparrow's quick wit and determination lead to the downfall of the heartless carter.

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Chapter 59 Summary: 59. Frederick and Catherine

In this amusing tale, we meet Frederick and Catherine, a young couple navigating the challenges of daily life. Frederick, eager for a hearty meal after his day of plowing, instructs Catherine to prepare roast meat and fresh beer. However, as she cooks, a series of mishaps ensues. While chasing their mischievous dog who steals the frying sausage, Catherine neglects the beer, causing it to spill all over the cellar. In a rush to cover her mistake, she uses flour to clean up, making a mess instead.

When Frederick returns, he is dismayed to discover the chaos. Determined to keep a closer watch on their belongings, Frederick saves gold coins for their future, but Catherine's curiosity leads her to accidentally give them away to some passing peddlers under the guise of "yellow counters." By the time Frederick realizes what happened, it's too late.

Catherine, undeterred, suggests they recover their stolen gold from the thieves. With some butter and cheese packed for the journey, they set off but encounter further quirkiness along the way. Catherine gets distracted by her attempts to care for the earth, and in a fit of generosity, she slathers butter on the cart ruts and rolls away all her cheeses, leading to further complications.

Once they reach the forest, they can't find the thieves, but they climb a tree for safety when night falls. The foolish robbers camp right beneath them,

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and as they plan to throw stones at the rogues, Catherine's burdens become too heavy to bear. She recklessly discards her food and finally the door she carried, which scares the thieves away, allowing Frederick and Catherine to reclaim their gold.

Back home, Frederick urges Catherine to be industrious. However, after eating, she falls asleep in the field and wakes up in tatters, which leads her to believe she might not be herself. In a comical twist, she joins up with bandits to help them steal, only to frighten a bystander who mistakes her for a devil due to her appearance.

Through Frederick and Catherine's misadventures, this chapter explores themes of carelessness, naive generosity, and the humorous challenges of marriage. It reflects on the importance of communication and understanding as the couple learns to navigate their conflicts while showcasing Catherine's whimsical spirit and resilience despite the chaotic situations that often unfold around her.

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Chapter 60: 60. The two brothers

Once upon a time, there were two brothers—one wealthy and cunning, a goldsmith by trade, and a poor but honorable broom-maker. The poor brother had two twin sons who spent time at their rich uncle's house, often eating scraps. One day, while gathering wood, the poor father spotted a beautiful golden bird. After successfully hitting it with a stone, he brought a single golden feather to his brother, who offered him a great sum for it. The next day, the father found a golden egg in the bird's nest and took it home, again earning money from his brother. Eventually, the goldsmith, envious of the bird's potential fortune, wanted the live bird itself. The poor man went back to the forest, captured the golden bird, and received a hefty reward.

The goldsmith's greed led him to roast the bird, but while he was away, the poor man's twin sons snuck into the kitchen, snatched pieces of the bird, and unwittingly consumed its heart and liver. The next morning, they discovered golden coins under their pillows, leading their father to share this miraculous news with the goldsmith. However, the deceptive goldsmith, filled with spite, convinced the father his children were in league with evil and urged

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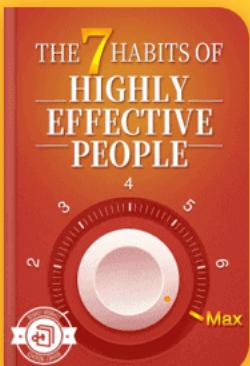
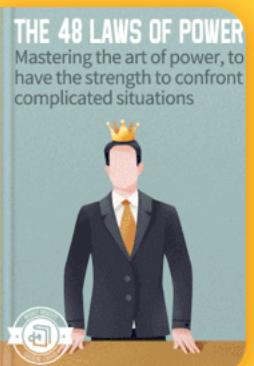
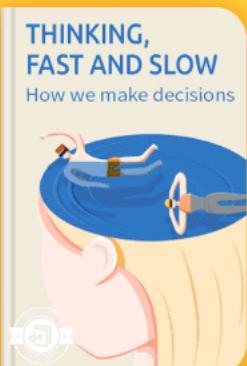
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Chapter 61 Summary: 61. The little peasant

In a village filled with wealthy peasants, one poor man, known as the little peasant, dreamed of owning a cow. Lacking funds, he and his wife devise a clever plan: they ask a carpenter to create a wooden calf, painted to look real, hoping it will eventually grow into a real cow. When the cowherd mistakenly carries it into the pasture, they claim a real cow after it is stolen, thanks to a sympathetic mayor who punishes the careless cowherd.

With their fake cow turned real, the peasant's joy is short-lived as they lack food for it, leading them to kill the cow. Determined to make a profit, the peasant goes to sell the cow's skin but finds a raven with broken wings and takes it along. Caught in a storm, he seeks shelter at a mill, where the miller's wife feeds him rather poorly compared to the feast she has prepared for a visiting parson.

While listening in, the peasant learns that the miller's wife hides all their food whenever her husband is home, and he devises a trick to profit from this. He pretends that the raven is a soothsayer and convinces the miller to reveal the hidden delights in return for a hefty sum. After successfully providing the miller with the location of all the stolen food, they negotiate a payment for a mysterious fifth prophecy, which turns out to be about the parson hiding in a cupboard. The revelation causes much chaos, and the peasant leaves with his newfound wealth.

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As the peasant builds his fortune, the other villagers grow envious and attempt to replicate his success by selling their own cow skins, but they fail miserably. After being wrongfully accused and sentenced to death, the little peasant cleverly manipulates the situation by tricking a shepherd into taking his place in a punishment barrel meant for the peasant. The trick backfires, and the whole village plunges into the water after the mayor jumps in first, believing they will find a bounty of sheep below.

In the end, the little peasant emerges as the sole survivor, inheriting the wealth of the entire village. The story unfolds themes of ingenuity, the consequences of envy, and the cleverness that can emerge from seemingly hopeless situations, ultimately showcasing how wit can triumph over greed and foolishness.

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Chapter 62 Summary: 62. The queen bee

In this enchanting tale from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we meet three king's sons who set off together in search of adventure, but the two older brothers quickly succumb to a wild and reckless lifestyle, abandoning their noble pursuits. The youngest brother, Witling, who is seen as simple-minded, seeks to find them and bring them back home. Despite their mocking, he persists in his quest.

Their journey leads them to an ant-hill, a lake with ducks, and a beehive, where Witling shows compassion by preventing his brothers from harming the creatures. This kindness becomes significant when they stumble upon a cursed castle with stone horses and a mysterious little grey man who helps them after their arrival.

The next morning, the grey man reveals to each brother a task that must be completed to break the enchantment over the castle. The first two brothers fail spectacularly: the eldest searches for pearls but gathers only a hundred, while the second brother finds two hundred, each meeting the same fate—they are turned to stone for not completing the task. Finally, it's Witling's turn, and upon sitting down in despair after a fruitless search, he is rewarded for his kindness when the ant-king he saved brings thousands of ants to help collect the missing pearls.

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Witling's luck continues when the ducks he spared retrieve the key to the princess's chamber from the lake. The last challenge requires him to identify the right princess among three identical sisters. At this critical moment, the Queen bee, whom he saved, cleverly identifies the princess who had eaten honey, guiding Witling to choose wisely.

With all tasks completed successfully, the enchantment is lifted, turning the stone figures back into their true forms. Witling earns not only the love of the youngest princess but also his rightful place as king after her father's death. Meanwhile, his brothers must settle for the other two sisters, learning the values of kindness and humility that Witling embodied. This tale beautifully highlights themes of compassion, bravery, and the idea that true wisdom sometimes lies in unassuming hearts.

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Chapter 63: 63. The three feathers

Once upon a time, there was a king with three sons. The youngest, known as Simpleton, was simple-minded, unlike his clever elder brothers. As his end approached, the king decided to choose his successor based on who could bring him the most beautiful carpet. To ensure fairness, he blew three feathers into the air, directing his sons to follow them. The eldest feathers flew east and west, while Simpleton's feather ascended straight up and eventually fell nearby.

While his brothers scorned him and went on their way, Simpleton discovered a trap-door beneath his feather and ventured down. There, he met a fat toad with a brood of little toads who agreed to help him find the finest carpet. The toad presented him with a gorgeous carpet unlike any other, and Simpleton returned home proudly.

His brothers, convinced he would fail, only brought back coarse handkerchiefs, believing they could outsmart him. But when the king saw Simpleton's beautiful carpet, he was amazed and felt justice demanded that

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Chapter 64 Summary: 64. The golden goose

In this enchanting tale from the "Cinderella" collection, we meet a family with three sons, the youngest being a kind-hearted and simple-minded lad known as the Simpleton. While his older brothers are clever and confident, they often mock the Simpleton, dubbing him foolish. One day, the eldest brother sets off to chop wood in the forest, armed with a tasty pancake and wine from their mother. However, when an old grey man asks for a share, the brother vainly refuses, leading to misfortune when he accidentally injures himself with his hatchet.

The second brother faces a similar fate. When he too encounters the old man and denies him food and drink, he injures his leg while chopping wood. Finally, the Simpleton begs his father for a chance to go into the woods, despite the warnings about his brothers. His mother gives him a meager pancake and sour beer. When he meets the grey man, instead of rejecting him, the Simpleton shares his humble meal. Grateful for the Simpleton's kindness, the old man rewards him with good fortune and tells him to cut down a nearby tree, where he finds a magical goose with feathers of pure gold.

Taking the goose to an inn, the Simpleton unwittingly becomes part of a humorous predicament as the innkeeper's three daughters become stuck to the goose after each tries to pluck a golden feather. When the Simpleton

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leaves the inn, they have no choice but to follow him. The peculiar procession attracts the attention of various townsfolk, including a parson and a sexton, who also get swept up in the absurdity of the situation, creating a delightful spectacle that finally makes the king's serious daughter laugh. This victorious moment earns the Simpleton the right to marry her.

However, the king despises the idea of his daughter marrying someone considered a Simpleton. He imposes a series of challenges that the Simpleton must complete. The Simpleton, relying on the grey man's earlier help, succeeds in fulfilling each task by finding a thirsty man who drinks an entire cellar of wine, a starving man who consumes a mountain of bread, and finally, obtaining a magical ship that sails both land and water.

With the completion of these extraordinary feats, the king can no longer refuse and grants his daughter's hand in marriage to the Simpleton. Their wedding is joyous, and upon the king's death, the Simpleton inherits the kingdom, ultimately living a long and happy life with his wife. This charming tale emphasizes themes of kindness, humility, and the notion that true worth often lies beneath the surface, challenging appearances and societal judgments.

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Chapter 65 Summary: 65. All-kinds-of-fur (Allerleirauh)

Once upon a time, a King had a beautiful wife with golden hair, who, before her death, made him promise to never marry anyone less beautiful than her. After her passing, the King struggled with his grief until his advisors insisted he find a new queen. Despite their efforts, no woman matched the beauty of the late queen, not even his own daughter, who resembled her mother perfectly.

When the King became infatuated with his daughter, she was horrified. To avoid his terrible plan to marry her, she made impossible demands: three exquisite dresses—golden as the sun, silvery as the moon, and bright as the stars—and a mantle of fur from every animal in the kingdom. To her surprise, the King fulfilled her requests, and when he announced their wedding, she realized she had no choice but to flee.

Under the cover of night, she escaped, disguising herself as a beggar in a fur mantle, with soot on her face. She found refuge in a vast forest and fell asleep in a hollow tree. The King of that forest, out hunting, discovered her and decided to bring her back to his palace as a curious creature. She was given the name Allerleirauh and forced into menial kitchen work.

Despite her dire situation, Allerleirauh attended royal feasts in secret, transforming herself into a stunning princess each time. During these dances,

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the King was captivated but could never catch her, as she slipped away before he could grasp her identity. In her rush back to the kitchen, she prepared delicious soups for him, surreptitiously placing golden tokens—a ring, a spinning wheel, and a reel—inside.

Each time he tasted the exceptional soup, he grew more curious about the mysterious girl. After the final feast, Allerleirauh was caught when the King recognized her white finger, revealing her true identity. The King's heart soared as he uncovered her beauty beneath the soot and rags. He declared her his bride, and they married, ensuring a life filled with love and happiness, free from the perils of her father's dark intentions. Their love story concluded with a joyful celebration, fulfilling the promise of a bright future together.

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Chapter 66: 66. The rabbit's bride

Once upon a time, a woman and her daughter lived in a lovely garden filled with cabbages. However, their peaceful life was disrupted by a mischievous rabbit that devoured all of their cabbages. The mother repeatedly sent her daughter into the garden to drive the rabbit away, but each time, the girl just shooed it with little effect. Instead, the rabbit invited her to ride on its tail to its hutch, yet the girl declined the invitations until, on the third attempt, she finally accepted.

Once at the rabbit's hutch, the rabbit asked her to cook some bran and cabbage for a wedding feast he wanted to throw. Guests began arriving, including all the hares, a crow to officiate the wedding, and a fox to act as the clerk. However, as the festivities began, the girl felt lonely and sad. Even as the rabbit encouraged her to join the joyful celebration, she only wept.

To cope with her loneliness, she cleverly fashioned a straw figure resembling herself, dressed it in her own clothes, and set it to watch over the cooking kettle. Afterward, she returned home to her mother, leaving the figure in

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Chapter 67 Summary: 67. The twelve huntsmen

Once upon a time, there was a King's son deeply in love with a maiden.

However, he had to leave her when news came that his father was gravely ill. Before the King passed away, he asked his son to marry a certain princess, and out of grief, the prince agreed. After the King died and the mourning period ended, the prince was compelled to honor his father's promise and sought the hand of the named princess.

Meanwhile, the prince's first love was heartbroken by his betrayal. When her father noticed her sorrow, she wished for eleven girls who looked exactly like her. Her father granted her wish, and soon twelve maidens, all identical, were found. The maidens donned huntsmen's outfits, with the heartbroken girl wearing the twelfth suit. Together, they approached the prince at the court, offering their services as huntsmen, and the prince, unaware of their true identities, accepted them eagerly.

A wise lion at the court recognized that the "huntsmen" were actually girls. To prove this, he suggested a test involving peas strewn on the floor. However, a loyal servant warned the girls about the test, and they successfully walked over the peas without stirring them. The lion, still unconvinced, proposed another test with spinning wheels. Once again, the servant warned them, and the girls resisted the temptation to look at the wheels.

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As time passed, the prince grew fond of his twelve huntsmen, but tension arose when news of his betrothed's arrival reached them during a hunt. In a moment of vulnerability, the true bride fainted, prompting the prince to come to her aid. When he removed her glove, he discovered the ring he had given her. Realizing who she was, he embraced her and vowed that they belonged together.

In the end, he sent the other princess back to her own kingdom, proclaiming his love for his true bride. The wedding was celebrated, reinstating the lion's reputation as a wise and truthful companion, and the prince's heart was finally at peace with his beloved.

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Chapter 68 Summary: 68. The thief and his master

In this captivating tale from "Cinderella," we follow Hans, a father who seeks to teach his son a useful trade. After praying for guidance, he receives an unusual answer from a clerk in the church: "Thieving, thieving." Taking this to heart, Hans finds a master-thief in a remote forest who agrees to train his son in the art of stealing. However, there's a catch: if Hans doesn't recognize his son after a year of training, he must pay a hefty sum of two hundred thalers.

As the year progresses, Hans grows increasingly anxious about how he will identify his son. In his wanderings, he encounters a helpful dwarf who advises him to look for his son by placing a basket of bread near a basket where a little bird peeps out. When Hans follows this advice, he successfully recognizes his son, who is thrilled to reunite with him, though the master-thief is suspicious of how Hans knew.

The father and son set off together, but soon the son demonstrates his magical ability to transform into a large greyhound, allowing Hans to sell him for thirty thalers. The dog hilariously escapes the carriage, returning to Hans. The next day, at a fair, the son changes into a beautiful horse, but his father fails to remove the bridle as instructed after selling him to the master-thief.

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In a twist of fate, when the maid removes the bridle, the horse turns into a sparrow and escapes, which leads to a chaotic chase involving the master-thief. The two change forms, with the master eventually becoming a fish, but he continues to lose challenges against the son, who transforms into a fox and cleverly ends the master-thief by biting off his head.

This lively story highlights themes of family, the unpredictability of fate, and the cleverness that can help one outmaneuver even the most cunning adversaries. Through persistence and a bit of luck, Hans and his son triumph over the master-thief, reinforcing the idea that loyalty and resourcefulness will always prevail.

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Chapter 69: 69. Jorinda and Joringel

In a vibrant forest stood an old castle inhabited by a cunning witch, who could transform into a cat or a screech-owl during the day. She had a frightening power: anyone who entered a hundred paces of her castle was compelled to freeze in place, unable to move until she deemed them free. The witch had a cruel habit of transforming innocent maidens into birds, trapping them in a myriad of cages that filled her castle.

Among the many victims of her magic was a lovely maiden named Jorinda, who was in love with a handsome youth named Joringel. They were betrothed and cherished every moment together. One fateful day, they ventured too close to the witch's castle while walking in the woods. Despite Joringel's warnings, they lost their way, and when Jorinda began singing a song that revealed her sorrow, the witch appeared, transformed Jorinda into a nightingale, and captured her.

Joringel was paralyzed with fear and despair as he witnessed the transformation. When the witch finally released him from her spell, he was

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Chapter 70 Summary: 70. The three children of fortune

In "The Three Children of Fortune," a thoughtful father prepares for his death by bestowing his three sons with seemingly useless gifts: a cock, a scythe, and a cat. He advises them to seek out lands where these items are unknown, suggesting that it is their resourcefulness that will determine their fortune.

After their father's passing, the eldest son sets out with his cock but quickly realizes he's unable to impress anyone in familiar towns. However, he eventually discovers an island where the inhabitants know nothing of cocks. They are amazed by its ability to announce the time, and he cleverly sells the cock for a hefty sum, returning home with wealth that leaves his brothers astonished.

Encouraged, the second brother departs with his scythe, yet faces a similar fate until he too finds an island where scythes are unknown. The islanders are baffled by his ability to harvest grain quietly, something they struggled with using cannons. He sells his scythe for a horse loaded with gold.

Finally, the youngest brother takes his cat, but at first, he struggles like the others, finding cats are common on the mainland. Luck strikes when he arrives at an island plagued by mice. The people are desperate for relief, and the king pays a great deal for the cat to combat the infestation. The cat excels

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at her job, hunting down the mice with great enthusiasm.

However, the cat's casual "Mew! Mew!" terrifies the king and his court, leading them to believe she has become a monster. In their panic, the king seeks to drive her out with threats and eventually cannon fire. As the palace burns, the clever cat leaps to safety, leaving the palace destroyed.

Through clever twists of fate and the unique reactions of each brother to their gifts, this tale explores themes of ingenuity, the value of resourcefulness, and the unpredictable nature of fortune. Each son exemplifies how attitude and circumstance shape one's destiny and the importance of seeking opportunity, even in the most unexpected places.

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Chapter 71 Summary: 71. Six soldiers of fortune

In this lively tale, a versatile man, looking for adventure after his military service, recruits a motley crew of unique talents to help him in his quest for treasure and glory. First, he finds a strong man who uproots trees with ease, and together they find a huntsman aiming at a distant fly; the huntsman joins them. Next, they encounter a peculiar man blowing air into windmills to make them spin, a runner who has taken off a leg to slow himself down, and finally, a man whose tilted hat causes frost to fall from the sky. With this eclectic group assembled, they travel to a town where the king announces a race: whoever wins can marry his daughter, but losing means losing one's head.

Determined to win, the leader backs the fast runner, who races against the king's daughter. He initially speeds ahead but ultimately succumbs to exhaustion and falls asleep, leaving his pitcher empty. The clever huntsman saves the day by shooting the skull from under the runner's head, awakening him just in time to fill his pitcher and win the race, much to the king and his daughter's dismay.

Frustrated with his unexpected defeat, the king plots to eliminate the six men. He tricks them into a room with a red-hot iron floor, intending to suffocate them. However, the man with the little hat freezes the room with a cold blast, rendering the king's plan futile.

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The king, not to be outsmarted, offers the leader gold in exchange for his claim to the princess. The leader agrees, and after a fortnight, he returns with a sack fashioned by the kingdom's tailors. When he arrives, he effortlessly fills this enormous sack with the king's treasure, loading tons of gold and even oxen with ease, leaving the king incredulous.

Finally, when the king sends his cavalry to retrieve the sack, the man who can blow sends them tumbling away with a gust of air. The sergeant, a seasoned warrior, begs not to be humiliated and is released with a warning to convey back to the king. The monarch, recognizing the strength in the six men, decides to let them be.

In the end, the six friends share their fortune, living happily and contentedly, having outsmarted the king at every turn. The story celebrates themes of camaraderie, resourcefulness, and triumph against the odds, infusing humor throughout with its quirky characters and their unconventional solutions to challenges.

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Chapter 72: 72. The wolf and the man

In this whimsical tale featuring a clever fox and a boastful wolf, the story opens with the fox discussing the formidable strength of humans. The wolf, eager to prove his bravery, boldly claims that he would confront a man if given the chance. The fox, always up for a bit of trickery, promises to help him encounter one the very next morning.

As dawn breaks, the fox leads the eager wolf along the path frequented by hunters. Their first encounter is with an old soldier, but the fox dismisses him as not being a true man. Next, they see a schoolboy, who is deemed "on his way to becoming one." Finally, a real hunter appears, complete with a gun and a sword.

The fox, sensing the impending showdown, advises the wolf to launch an attack while he scurries off to safety. With courage (or perhaps foolishness), the wolf charges at the hunter. The hunter, startled but prepared, quickly fires his gun, hitting the wolf in the face with small shot. Despite this setback, the undeterred wolf tries again, only to suffer more pain as the

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Chapter 73 Summary: 73. The wolf and the fox

In this tale of cunning and misfortune, we meet a wolf and a fox, the latter being the wolf's unwilling accomplice. The wolf, greedy and insatiable, continually threatens the fox, demanding that he find food or face the dire consequence of being eaten. On their first excursion, the fox cleverly leads the wolf to a farm where he steals a lamb for him. However, the wolf's greedy nature leads him back for a second lamb, resulting in a furious mother lamb alerting the farmer. The wolf ends up badly beaten for his gluttony, and the fox, though guilt-ridden, points out that the wolf's greed is to blame.

The next day, the wolf demands more food, and the fox suggests they raid a farmhouse baking pancakes. The fox manages to retrieve six pancakes but once again, the wolf's gluttony gets the better of him. He destroys the entire pancake dish, only to be caught by the farmer and beaten once more, returning to the fox in a sorry state.

By the third day, the wolf, now limping from his previous encounters, demands the fox again find him food or face his wrath. The fox proposes they raid a cellar filled with salted meat. While the wolf devours the meat without restraint, the clever fox keeps checking the exit, mindful of the farmer's return. The wolf, consumed by his desire for food, ignores the fox's warnings and becomes trapped in the barrel after overeating.

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When the farmer arrives, he easily dispatches the gluttonous wolf. Meanwhile, the fox escapes unscathed, relieved to be rid of his greedy companion. This story reflects themes of greed and consequence, depicting how gluttony can lead to one's downfall while highlighting the cunning nature of the fox, who uses his wits to escape danger time and again. Ultimately, it's a cautionary tale about the dangers of excess and the importance of cleverness in the face of greed.

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Chapter 74 Summary: 74. Gossip wolf and the fox (The fox and his cousin)

In this clever tale from "Cinderella," we encounter the cunning relationship between a fox and a she-wolf, named Gossip. The story begins with the she-wolf giving birth to a pup and inviting the fox to be its godfather, believing he can impart wisdom and guidance to her young one. The fox graciously accepts, expressing gratitude and promising to help.

As the celebration unfolds, the fox suggests that they need to provide strong food for the pup, pointing out a nearby sheep-fold to the wolf. He cleverly manipulates the situation, telling Gossip that she can sneak in for a tasty meal while he goes to find a chicken. However, rather than support her, the fox abandons her to lounge at the edge of the forest.

Unfortunately, the she-wolf's adventure to the fold goes awry. A dog starts barking, alerting the farmers, who capture her and douse her with a boiling wash mixture. Badly burned but determined to escape, she drags herself back out to safety, where the fox waits, feigning injury and a tale of woe. He convinces Gossip to carry him home, preying on her concern for him.

In a twist of betrayal, once she has borne the effort of carrying him, the fox mocks her, wishing her well with a taunting farewell, and then dashes off. The story highlights themes of deception, ingratitude, and the cleverness of

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the fox, whose self-serving nature ultimately leads him to abandon the she-wolf despite her kindness. It serves as a cautionary tale about trust and the consequences of being too trusting in relationships.

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Chapter 75: 75. The fox and the cat

In the tale of "The Fox and the Cat," a clever cat encounters a proud and arrogant fox in the forest. The cat admires the fox for his cunning and attempts to strike up a friendly conversation, inquiring about his well-being. However, the fox responds with disdain, mocking the cat for her simplicity and lack of skills, boasting instead of his own mastery of numerous clever tricks.

Curious about the cat's abilities, the fox asks what she has learned. The cat humbly replies that she only knows how to escape from danger by climbing trees when chased by dogs. The fox, filled with arrogance, dismisses her single skill, confidently offering to teach her his more complex arts of evasion.

Suddenly, their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of a hunter accompanied by four dogs, prompting the cat to swiftly climb up a tree to hide. She calls out to the fox to use his own tricks to escape, but it's too late; the dogs have already caught the fox, and he is unable to save himself. In

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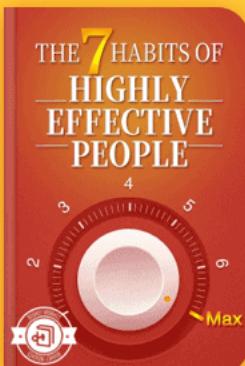
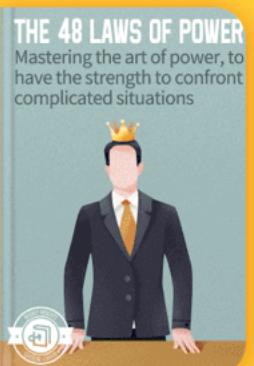
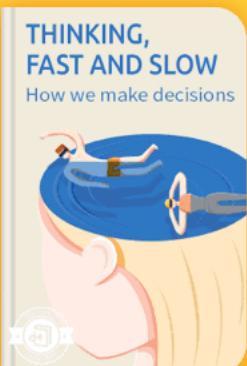
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Chapter 76 Summary: 76. The pink

Once upon a time, there was a Queen who longed for children. After fervent prayers, an angel assured her she would bear a son with the magical ability to wish for anything he desired. When she finally had her child, joy filled the castle, and the Queen often took her son to the garden. However, their happiness was shattered when the treacherous cook, knowing of the boy's power, kidnapped him, smeared the Queen's apron with chicken blood, and falsely accused her of negligence. The enraged King imprisoned his wife in a tower without food or water, while the cook raised the boy in secret.

As the boy grew, the cunning cook manipulated him into making wishes, first for a magnificent palace and then for a beautiful girl, who became his companion. Yet, fearing the boy might one day reveal the truth, the cook coerced the girl to murder him. However, she resisted and, instead, took a hind's heart and tongue, tricking the cook. When he realized her deception, the boy used his powers to transform the cook into a black poodle forced to eat coals.

With the girl now a pink flower, the boy set out to find his mother. He cleverly freed her from her confinement with the help of his wishes. After reuniting, he returned to his father's palace, disguised as a huntsman. His skillful hunting soon impressed the King, who invited him to dine with him. As the boy's thoughts turned to his mother, he wished for someone to

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mention her plight, prompting the King to express disdain for her.

Confident in his abilities, the boy revealed himself as the Queen's long-lost son, exposing the cook's treachery. The cook was punished and soon met a gruesome end. The Queen was summoned but, despite being reunited with her son, she passed away peacefully shortly after. In her honor, the boy transformed the maiden into her true form at the royal table, and they ultimately married.

This tale weaves themes of betrayal, the power of love, and redemption, highlighting the strength of familial bonds amidst adversity. In the end, the son secured a happy ending for himself, though grief enveloped the King, who mourned the loss of his wife and soon followed her in death. The fate of the couple who loved against all odds remains a mystery known only to God.

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Chapter 77 Summary: 77. Clever Gretel

Once upon a time, there was a lively cook named Gretel who loved her red-rosetted shoes and enjoyed sipping wine while she prepared meals. One day, her master asked her to prepare two fowls for a guest arriving that evening. As the fowls roasted, Gretel's impatience grew, and in her thirst, she sneaked down to the cellar for a drink. Tempted by the smell, she tasted the fowls, savoring their flavor and convincing herself that it was a shame to see them uneaten. Slowly but surely, she started helping herself—first to a wing, then the other, and finally, she devoured both chickens.

Just as Gretel was finishing her feast, her master returned, urging her to serve the meal, as the guest was right behind him. Unfazed, Gretel dashed to the door, spotted the guest, and in a crafty move warned him to escape because her master intended to harm him, sharpening a knife in preparation. Alarmed, the guest fled, convinced that he was in danger. Gretel, thinking quickly, told her master that the guest had run off with the chickens. Frustrated and lamenting the loss of his dinner, her master chased after the guest, begging him to leave just one chicken behind, unaware of the mix-up. The guest, interpreting it as a demand for one of his ears, ran off in panic, thinking that he had narrowly escaped a terrible fate.

Through her cleverness and mischievous spirit, Gretel not only enjoyed a full meal but also managed to turn the situation to her advantage,

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showcasing themes of cunning, quick wit, and the humorous pitfalls of miscommunication.

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Chapter 78: 79. The water-nix

In this enchanting tale, a little brother and sister are drawn into trouble while playing near a well, where they unwittingly fall in and are captured by a wicked water-nix. This creature forces them into hard labor, with the girl spinning tangled flax and fetching water in a leaky bucket, while her brother struggles to chop down a tree with a dull axe. Their harsh conditions leave them starving, with only rock-hard dumplings to eat, which fuels their desire to escape.

One day, while the nix attends church, the children seize their chance to flee. They don't get far before the nix realizes they are missing and pursues them. In a desperate attempt to slow her down, the girl throws a brush behind her, transforming it into a massive hill of bristles. The nix struggles through this prickly barrier but eventually manages to overcome it. The boy then hurls a comb, creating another daunting hill made of comb teeth, but the nix proves relentless and gets past that too.

Finally, the girl tosses a looking-glass behind her, which turns into a slippery

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Chapter 79 Summary: 80. The death of the little hen

In this poignant tale from Chapter 79 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we meet a little hen and a little cock who venture to a nut-hill, promising to share whatever they might find. The hen stumbles upon a massive nut and, driven by greed, decides to keep it for herself. Unfortunately, the nut gets lodged in her throat, leaving her in a perilous situation. In desperation, she calls for the cock to fetch her water.

The little cock gallantly races to a nearby spring, pleading for water to save his friend. However, the well demands a red silk from the bride first. So off he goes again, this time to the bride, who insists he retrieve her little wreath hanging on a willow. The cock dutifully fulfills her request, receives the silk, and returns to the well, obtaining the much-needed water.

Yet, tragedy strikes as he reaches the nut-hill only to find that the little hen has already choked to death. Overcome with sorrow, the cock cries out, drawing the animals of the forest to mourn for the hen. Six mice band together to build a small carriage, with the cock taking the reins as they prepare to lay the hen to rest.

As the procession begins, they encounter the fox, who asks to join. The cock allows him but directs him to sit at the back to avoid overburdening the carriage. One by one, other forest creatures, including a wolf, bear, stag, and

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lion, join the mournful journey.

However, when they reach a stream, they face another obstacle. A straw attempts to bridge the water but fails, causing the mice to drown in the process. A coal then tries to help but also perishes, hissing as it extinguishes itself upon touching the water. A stone finally steps in to assist and courageously lays across the stream, allowing the cock to pull the carriage over.

Yet, when trying to bring the others across, the carriage is too heavy, leading to another unfortunate fall into the water, drowning all those on board. The little cock, now left alone with the dead hen, digs her grave and buries her, ultimately succumbing to his grief.

This heart-wrenching story reflects themes of greed, loss, and the fragility of life. The initial act of selfishness by the hen sets off a tragic chain of events, leading to widespread sorrow. The unwavering loyalty of the little cock and the communal grief of the forest creatures emphasize the deeper connections of friendship and loss within the animal kingdom, making it a profound reminder of the consequences of our choices and the inevitability of death.

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Chapter 80 Summary: 81. Brother Lustig

Once upon a time, there was a soldier named Brother Lustig who was discharged after a long war, returning home with nothing but a small loaf of bread and a few coins. On his journey, he encountered a beggar who was actually St. Peter in disguise, and despite his own poverty, Brother Lustig selflessly shared his meager provisions, giving away pieces of his bread and coins three times. In gratitude, St. Peter decided to travel with him, promising to help him earn a living using his knowledge of medicine.

Their first adventure led them to a sick peasant's home, where St. Peter miraculously healed the man. Despite St. Peter's refusal of reward, Brother Lustig urged him to accept a lamb offered by the grateful couple, insisting he would carry it. However, after cooking the lamb, Lustig greedily consumed it all while trying to hide his actions from St. Peter. When questioned, Brother Lustig comically claimed that lambs don't have hearts, leading to a humorous exchange about the nature of lambs.

As the journey continued, St. Peter helped Brother Lustig through a dangerous stream, forcing him to confess his sin of eating the heart. They later arrived in a kingdom where the king's daughter lay dead. St. Peter, with confidence and skill, raised her back to life, but Brother Lustig, hoping to cash in on the miracle, was thwarted by his incompetence when he tried to replicate the feat for another princess. St. Peter had to intervene again,

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correctly arranging the bones and successfully restoring her to life.

Despite his earlier promises, Brother Lustig managed to trick the king into giving him gold and exited from the encounter with riches. However, he wasted his fortune and ended up broke yet again. This led him to a castle rumored to be haunted, where many had perished trying to sleep.

Undeterred, Lustig entered and defeated nine devils through a comical struggle, trapping them in his knapsack. He later showcased his conquest but refused the nobleman's offer to stay, opting for a life of wandering.

As time passed and Brother Lustig aged, he sought redemption, yearning to find his place in heaven. Misguided, he chose the easy path to hell but was recognized by a devil he had once bested and subsequently turned away.

When he approached the gates of heaven, St. Peter also refused to let him in, leading to a humorous exchange about the knapsack that contained the devils. In a twist of fate, Brother Lustig wished himself inside his knapsack, achieving eternal residence in heaven.

This whimsical tale explores themes of greed, redemption, and the unexpected twists of fate. Brother Lustig's journey illustrates the importance of generosity and the consequences of one's actions while providing a narrative rich in humor and life lessons about self-awareness and the pursuit of a good life.

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Chapter 81: 82. Gambling Hansel

In the tale of Gambling Hansel, we meet a man obsessed with gambling to the point where he loses everything he owns, including his house, right on the eve of losing it all to his creditors. One night, he encounters the Lord and St. Peter, who come looking for shelter. Despite his situation, Hansel begrudgingly accepts them but claims he has nothing to offer. Though St. Peter gives him three groschen to buy bread, Hansel can't resist the allure of gambling and loses the money to his fellow gamblers.

After being scolded by the Lord for his deception, Hansel is given a second chance with more groschen and manages to bring back bread. When the Lord asks for wine, Hansel protests that his casks are empty, but he's led to discover fine wine hidden in the cellar. As the night comes to an end, the Lord grants Hansel three wishes, expecting something noble, but Hansel shockingly asks for a magical deck of cards that guarantees his wins, dice that ensure his success, and a tree filled with fruit that traps anyone who climbs it.

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Chapter 82 Summary: 83. Hans in luck

In "Hans in Luck," we follow the cheerful journey of Hans, who, after seven years of hard work, receives a hefty piece of gold from his master. Excited to return to his mother, Hans sets out on foot, but soon becomes envious of a horseman he sees riding by. After a quick conversation, they decide to swap the gold for the horse, but Hans is soon thrown off, landing in a ditch and vowing never to ride again.

Discovering a countryman with a cow, Hans realizes the cow would provide far more benefits, so he trades the horse for the cow. Content with his new acquisition, he dreams of endless milk, butter, and cheese. However, as he tries to milk the cow for a refreshing drink, she kicks him, leaving him stunned. A kind butcher helps him up, revealing that the cow is too old to produce milk.

Inspired by the butcher's suggestion, Hans trades the cow for a pig, believing it will provide delicious meals. As he continues on his way, he meets a lad carrying a plump goose headed to a feast. Hearing that a pig has been reported stolen, Hans, worried for his freedom, trades the pig for the goose, thinking it will provide both nourishment and comfort.

Hans' luck continues when he meets a scissors-grinder who offers to trade a grindstone, which promises to provide endless money, for the goose.

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Ecstatic at this trade, Hans carries the grindstone home but soon grows weary and hungry. While attempting to drink from a well, he accidentally drops the heavy stones in, rejoicing at their loss and feeling freed from their burden.

With a light heart, he heads home to his mother, feeling like the luckiest person in the world. Hans' journey emphasizes themes of contentment, simplicity, and the idea that happiness can come from the most unexpected places. His cheerful spirit and ability to find fortune in misfortune make him a relatable and endearing character, showcasing the wisdom that true wealth comes from a joyful heart rather than material possessions.

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Chapter 83 Summary: 84. Hans married

In this whimsical tale, we meet Hans, a simple peasant who finds himself the target of his uncle's matchmaking ambitions. His uncle, eager to secure Hans a wealthy bride, has him sit still behind a hot stove with a farthing, some milk, and bread, telling him not to move until he returns. This odd arrangement serves as a ruse; the uncle sets off to find an eligible young woman, pitching Hans as a man of means, despite his ragged appearance.

The uncle visits the father of a wealthy peasant's daughter, assuring him that Hans has both wealth and land to offer. He cleverly spins Hans's humble background into a lucrative catch by claiming that Hans's patches—his tattered clothes—represent the riches of small pieces of land. The father, swayed by this charming deception, agrees to the marriage.

On the day of the wedding, Hans cunningly shifts from his Sunday best to his patched smock-frock to avoid spoiling his good coat. When they step outside to view their new life, Hans repeatedly points to patches on his garment instead of the actual land, guiding his new wife's gaze away from the real estate. He emphasizes that these patches are his own, showcasing his cleverness and resourcefulness.

The story captures the themes of deception, the value of appearances versus reality, and the notion that wealth is often a matter of perspective. Although

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Hans is not as wealthy as portrayed, he cleverly navigates his circumstances while maintaining a lively spirit. In a playful moment, he recounts absurd details of his wedding attire, filled with humor and imagination, suggesting that sometimes truth is less important than a good story. This enchanting account leaves readers questioning the nature of wealth and the true essence of contentment.

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Chapter 84: 85. The gold-children

In the enchanting tale of "The Gold-Children," we meet a humble fisherman and his wife who live a life of barely scraping by in their small cottage. One day, while casting his net, the fisherman catches a miraculous golden fish that can speak. The fish promises to grant him a lavish castle filled with food, provided he keeps its origin a secret. Skeptical yet hopeful, the fisherman releases the fish back into the water, and magically, their dreary home transforms into a magnificent castle with a cupboard full of delectable dishes.

Initially overjoyed, the couple begins to enjoy their new fortune. However, the wife's curiosity soon overwhelms her, and despite her husband's warnings, she presses him for the secret behind their newfound wealth. In a moment of impatience, he divulges the truth, causing their riches to vanish, returning them to their old fisherman's hut. Heartbroken yet undeterred, the fisherman finds the golden fish once again and is instructed to bury parts of it. Following the fish's guidance leads to miraculous changes: golden lilies sprout, his horse gives birth to golden foals, and the couple has two beautiful

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Chapter 85 Summary: 87. The poor man and the rich man

In a time long ago, a tired stranger, who later turns out to be the Lord, finds himself without a place to stay as night falls. He comes across two contrasting houses—one grand and owned by a rich man, the other modest, belonging to a poor man. Opting not to impose on the rich, the Lord seeks shelter at the poor man's home. To his delight, the poor man and his wife warmly welcome him, offering their meager food and even deciding to give up their own bed for him.

The humble couple's kindness impresses the Lord, who grants them three wishes as a reward for their generosity. The man wishes for eternal happiness, good health, and enough food to sustain them, along with a new house to replace their old hut. The Lord fulfills their wishes, transforming their home into a beautiful dwelling.

Meanwhile, the rich man, who had turned the Lord away, is puzzled by the sudden change in the poor couple's fortunes. Learning the truth from his wife, he becomes envious and sets out to seek the Lord for his own wishes, convincing himself that he can maximize his happiness.

However, when the rich man encounters the Lord, he is warned that his desires may not lead to true happiness. Dismissive of the warning, he

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eagerly returns home, contemplating his wishes. Unfortunately, his impatience results in an accidental, destructive wish that kills his horse. In his misery, he resolves to wish for wealth but grows frustrated that he can't think clearly.

As he laments, he unknowingly wishes for his wife to be stuck on the saddle of his horse, which immediately comes to pass. When he sees her trapped and upset, he attempts to bargain for riches to help her. Ultimately, he must wish her free from the saddle, leading to a costly lesson: his greed and hasty wishes bring him nothing but trouble.

In contrast, the poor couple lives happily and contentedly, nurturing their newfound blessings. This tale weaves themes of generosity, the folly of greed, and the contrast between true happiness derived from kindness versus wealth. It serves as a reminder that wealth does not guarantee happiness and that the truest riches come from a loving heart.

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Chapter 86 Summary: 88. The singing, springing lark

In this enchanting tale, a father embarks on a journey and asks his three daughters what gifts they desire. The eldest two choose pearls and diamonds, but the youngest, a compassionate girl, asks for a singing, soaring lark. He sets out and eventually finds the lark but encounters a fierce lion that claims the bird as his own. The lion demands a terrible payment: the first creature the father meets upon his return home. Reluctantly, the father agrees, fearing it will be his beloved youngest daughter who greets him.

When he returns, the daughter indeed meets him first, sparking a tragic realization in the father—he has unwittingly promised her to the lion. Despite the father's protests, she bravely decides to go to the lion, determined to soften his heart. What the father didn't know is that the lion is actually an enchanted prince, who transforms back into a handsome man at night. Their love flourishes, even as the prince warns her of dangers connected to an impending family wedding.

When she invites him to her sister's wedding, the prince declines, fearing he will be transformed into a dove if exposed to candlelight. Ignoring his fears, she takes him along, but the light strikes him, and he changes into a dove. Heartbroken but resolute, she follows the dove's instructions to find him and embarks on a long quest, guided by drops of blood and white feathers that the dove leaves behind.

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During her arduous journey, she seeks help from the sun, moon, and night wind, each gifting her with items for her trials. Following the night wind's advice, she defeats a dragon threatening the lion, restoring him to his human form. However, in a twist of fate, the prince is whisked away by another enchanted princess, leaving the devoted maiden in despair.

Not one to give up, she continues her search, using the gifts of the sun and moon to create a stunning dress and golden chickens that capture the attention of the prince. After several attempts to reveal herself to him during sleep, he finally awakens from a spell of forgetfulness and recognizes her voice. They escape together from the clutches of the sorceress princess and her father, riding a griffin across the Red Sea.

In the end, they return home to their child, living a joy-filled life, united in love and victorious over their trials, showcasing themes of bravery, fidelity, and the transformative power of love. The narrative beautifully illustrates the dedication and resilience found in true love, reminding us that despite daunting challenges, faith and perseverance can lead to a happily ever after.

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Chapter 87: 89. The goose girl

In this enchanting tale, we meet an old Queen who prepares her beautiful daughter, a Princess, for a marriage to a distant King's son. With love, she gathers a magnificent dowry and provides her daughter with valuable gifts for the journey, including a magical talking horse named Falada. Just before her daughter sets off, the Queen pricks her finger, allowing three drops of blood to fall onto a white napkin, which she gives to the Princess, urging her to keep it safe.

As the journey begins, the Princess becomes thirsty and requests her waiting-woman to fetch water from a brook using her golden cup. Instead, the waiting-woman harshly demands that the Princess stoop down and drink from the stream. The Princess complies, but as she does, she weeps, and the drops of blood voice her sorrow, confessing that her mother would be heartbroken if she knew. This moment marks a decline in the Princess's royal status as she gradually loses her confidence and strength.

The situation worsens when the waiting-woman plots to take over the

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Overview
Hi, welcome to Bookey. Today we'll unlock the book Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones.

Imagine you're sitting in a plane, flying from Los Angeles to New York City. Due to a mysterious and undetectable turbulence, your aircraft's nose shifts more than 7 feet, 3.5 degrees to the south. After five hours of flying, before you know it, the plane is landing.

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Interpretation

is first for me. How the makes me feel, it's like. It has to match my life. s happening around me. That's where it comes from.

- Boots Riley

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Chapter 88 Summary: 90. The young giant

Once upon a time, a farmer had a son named Thumbling, who was no bigger than a thumb and didn't seem to grow at all. One day, when the farmer was going to plough the fields, Thumbling begged to come along. Reluctantly, the father agreed and carried him in his pocket. In the field, the boy was placed in a freshly cut furrow, but soon a giant approached. The farmer, wanting to scare Thumbling into better behavior, meant to frighten him with talk of the giant, but was horrified when the giant picked Thumbling up and took him away.

The giant raised Thumbling as his own, feeding him and nurturing him until he grew into a towering young man, far stronger than anyone could imagine. After years of training, the giant brought Thumbling back to the farmer, now a formidable giant himself, to show his father his transformation. But the father, in shock, could hardly believe his eyes and rejected him, insisting he couldn't be his son. Demonstrating his incredible strength, Thumbling offered to plough the field far better than his father. With a single hand, he pressed the plough deep into the earth and finished the work himself, leaving his father in awe.

Though Thumbling longed to help his family, his immense appetite proved troublesome, leading him to request an iron staff to demonstrate his strength further. After breaking several attempts at finding a suitable staff, he decided

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to leave his home and set out into the world, claiming he would become a smith's apprentice. He soon found a greedy smith who sought to profit off him by agreeing to pay him in blows instead of wages. When the smith saw Thumbling's strength in action, he quickly regretted his decision.

Moving on, Thumbling then became a head-servant for a bailiff, again choosing a peculiar payment of receiving blows every year. The other servants, sensing Thumbling's unbelievable might, became fearful as he consistently outperformed them and left them behind in their tasks, all while maintaining his laid-back demeanor.

Eventually, the bailiff, desperate to rid himself of Thumbling, devised a plan to end his life by sending him to a haunted mill at night. However, Thumbling's courage and strength shone through as he faced supernatural challenges in the mill, even humorously dining with invisible hands and returning the slaps he received. Come morning, he emerged victorious, liberating the mill from its curse.

At this point, Thumbling demanded his due reward, which terrified the bailiff and his wife. In a panic, they tried to escape, but Thumbling dispatched them both with a swift kick that sent them flying through a window, never to be seen again. Thumbling, with his iron bar in hand, continued on his journey, ready for more adventures to come.

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This tale emphasizes themes of growth, identity, and the significance of strength—both physical and moral. Thumbling's journey highlights the importance of self-acceptance and tapping into one's potential, even when underestimated.

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Chapter 89 Summary: 91. The gnome

In a royal kingdom, a rich King cherished a magnificent tree that bore apples as red as blood, but he forbade anyone from picking them, threatening dire consequences. His three daughters often admired the tree but never found a single apple. One day, the youngest daughter, convinced their father only meant to scare strangers, plucked an apple. When her sisters tasted it too, they all sank deep into the earth, unable to hear the world above.

Desperate to find his daughters, the King promised them to whoever could bring them back. Many brave young men searched in vain until three huntsmen stumbled upon a deserted castle, filled with still-warm food. They decided one would remain while the others searched. The eldest was chosen and was soon visited by a little mannikin who asked for bread. The huntsman, wanting to help, was beaten by the mannikin for dropping the bread.

The next day, the second huntsman faced the same fate. Finally, Stupid Hans, the youngest, stayed behind. When the mannikin came to him, Hans refused to pick up the bread, leading to a confrontation. The mannikin, realizing Hans's bravery, offered to share the secret of the missing princesses. He revealed hidden chambers guarded by dragons, telling Hans how to rescue them.

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When the other two huntsmen tried to rescue the princesses, they both failed, while Hans succeeded, bravely slaying the dragons guarding each sister. The princesses adored Hans, giving him valuable gifts after being freed.

However, when he was about to escape himself, Hans remembered the mannikin's warning about his deceitful brothers. He cleverly placed a stone in the basket to replace himself before they cut the rope, thinking he was lost forever.

Alone in the chambers, Hans discovered a flute hanging on the wall. Playing it, he summoned elves who helped him return to the surface. He rushed to the King's palace just as a wedding was about to take place. The princesses recognized him but fainted, leading the King to imprison him mistakenly. The princesses advocated for Hans, explaining their bond and adventures together, prompting the King to listen at the door to learn the truth.

Ultimately, the King's wrath fell upon the treacherous brothers, who were executed for their betrayal. In a twist of fate, the King rewarded Hans with his youngest daughter's hand in marriage. Sporting a pair of glass shoes, Hans broke them dramatically in an unforgettable moment, marking a happy end to his remarkable journey. Through courage, kindness, and a touch of cleverness, Hans triumphed over deceit and adversity, uniting with the princesses in joy.

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Chapter 90: 92. The king of the golden mountain

In the tale of "The King of the Golden Mountain," we meet a merchant who, after losing his fortune at sea, encounters a mysterious black dwarf. The dwarf offers the merchant a deal: if he gives him the first thing that brushes against his leg when he returns home, he will receive unlimited wealth. Mistakenly thinking it will be his dog, the merchant agrees, sealing his fate.

Upon returning home, the merchant's little son runs to him, and the realization of the promise weighs heavily on the father. However, fortune smiles once again when he finds a hidden pile of money, restoring his wealth. As the years pass and the son grows into a clever young man, the impending fulfillment of the dwarf's deal causes anxiety. When the time comes, the son reassures his father, insisting that the dwarf cannot harm him. They set out to fulfill the promise, but the encounter takes a dark turn, with the father having to push his son out to sea in a small boat, believing he has lost him forever.

But the boy survives and washes ashore on a mystical island where he finds

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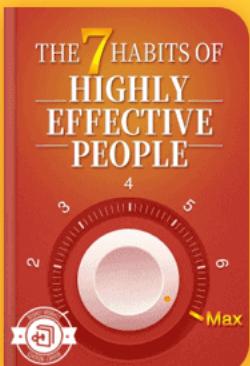
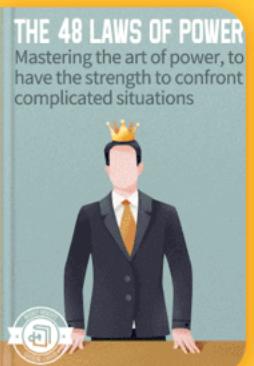
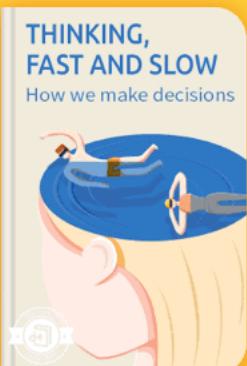
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Chapter 91 Summary: 93. The raven

Once upon a time, a queen with a mischievous little daughter accidentally cursed her child while expressing her frustration, wishing for peace. The girl transformed into a raven and flew away, leaving her parents heartbroken. In the dark forest, a man found the raven, who revealed her true identity as a princess under a spell. She instructed him on how to rescue her: he must wait for her to arrive in a carriage, but he could not eat or drink anything offered by an old woman he would meet, or he would fall asleep.

Despite his promises to the raven, he was persuaded by the old woman to drink. Each day, when the raven arrived in different carriages, she found him asleep, filled with sorrow that he could not save her. Finally, after the raven left him gifts and a letter directing him to the golden castle of Stromberg, he set out to find it.

His journey was long and arduous, leading him through a dark forest for fourteen days. Eventually, he met giants who settled down for a meal and helped him pinpoint the castle's location on a map—though it was far away. The kind giant offered him a ride part of the way, and the man continued on foot until he reached the castle, which was perched atop a glass mountain.

From below, he saw the raven princess, unable to climb the slippery glass. He built a hut and waited a year, watching her daily. One day, he

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encountered three robbers fighting over magical items. He cleverly bargained with them and acquired a horse that could ascend the glass mountain, an invisible mantle, and a stick that would open doors.

Using these treasures, he reached the castle and, concealed by the mantle, dropped the ring the princess had given him into her wine cup. Recognizing it, she knew he was her savior. After a lively search, the invisible man revealed himself, and they joyfully embraced. With her freedom finally secured, they planned to celebrate their wedding the very next day, marking the end of her curse and the beginning of their new life together.

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Chapter 92 Summary: 94. The peasant's wise daughter

Once upon a time, in a humble village, a poor peasant and his clever daughter longed for a better life. The daughter suggested they ask the King for a piece of newly-cleared land, which he graciously granted. As they worked the land, they discovered a beautiful golden mortar. The father eagerly decided to present it to the King, but the wise daughter warned him that without the accompanying pestle, trouble would follow. Ignoring her advice, the father presented the mortar, only to find himself imprisoned when he couldn't provide the pestle.

In prison, he lamented his poor decision, repeatedly wishing he had heeded his daughter's wisdom. The King, curious about the peasant's cries, summoned the daughter. Impressed by her cleverness, he challenged her with a riddle: to come to him not clothed, not naked, not riding, not walking, not in the road, and not out of the road. The daughter cleverly stripped off her clothes and wrapped herself in a fishing net, then had an ass drag her along, fulfilling all the conditions. The King was so impressed that he released her father and proposed to her, marrying her and entrusting her with royal possessions.

Years later, during a troop parade, a dispute arose between peasants over a lost foal. The Queen, sympathetic because of her own humble beginnings, decided to help the peasants. She instructed one man to stand in the King's

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path, pretending to fish on dry ground, and when questioned, to reply that fishing was as easy on land as it was for an ox to bear a foal. The clever trick reached the King's ears, and though the peasant initially claimed the idea was his own, he eventually revealed it was from the Queen.

Feeling betrayed by his wife's deception, the King demanded they part ways, offering her the chance to take whatever she valued most. The Queen smartly decided that the most precious thing was the King himself. She drugged him with a sleeping potion, wrapped him in a linen cloth, and took him back to her humble home.

When the King awoke, he was bewildered and called for his attendants, only to realize he was alone with the Queen. Explaining her love and cunning, she expressed how invaluable he was to her. Overjoyed, the King reconciled with her, and they returned to the palace for a second wedding, their bond stronger than ever. The tale leaves one imagining them happily living together, a testament to love, wisdom, and the unexpected paths that fate can take.

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Chapter 93: 95. Old Hildebrand

In this quirky tale, we meet a peasant and his wife, who is seduced by the local parson's desire to spend time with her. The parson concocts a scheme by instructing the woman to pretend to be ill, promising a miraculous cure if her husband journeys to the Göckerli hill in Italy to fetch laurel leaves he needs to heal her. Believing in the parson's sermon, the peasant eagerly prepares for his pilgrimage, but on his way, he encounters his friend, an egg merchant, who reveals the parson's true intentions. The egg merchant cleverly suggests that the peasant hide in his basket to witness the reality at home.

When they arrive, the peasant uncovers his wife having a merriment-filled gathering with the parson and even indulging in pancake preparations, showing a delightful disregard for her supposed illness. The parson attempts to coax the wife into singing, with both enjoying the moment. However, as the songs resonate, the peasant, realizing he's been duped, reacts with frustration. He emerges from the basket and forcefully chases the parson away, reclaiming his home and revealing the clever ruse that was played

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Chapter 94 Summary: 96. The three little birds

In this captivating tale from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we journey into a kingdom governed by a small king who is passionate about hunting. One fateful day, he crosses paths with three sisters tending to their cows. The eldest proclaims her desire for the King, while the second sister claims her affection for one of the King's ministers. Eventually, the King brings the girls to court, where the two sisters are married to the ministers, and the eldest sister becomes the Queen, renowned for her striking beauty and golden hair.

However, the sisters' envy seizes them, and they plot against the Queen's newborn children. When the Queen gives birth to a handsome boy, they heartlessly throw him into the water, but a miraculous little bird sings a haunting prophecy: he will not die. This pattern continues as they discard the Queen's subsequent children—a second boy and a girl—into the depths of the river, each time the bird proclaiming their tragic fates. The King remains oblivious, believing the sisters' deceitful claims that the Queen has birthed dogs and cats, leading to her unjust imprisonment.

Years pass, and the lost children grow up. The eldest boy embarks on a quest to find his father, learning from a kind fisherman of his true origins. Despite the fisherman's attempts to dissuade him, he pushes forward. The second brother soon follows suit, and ultimately, the distraught sister decides to

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search for her brothers as well. Guided by an old woman by the river, she successfully retrieves a magical bird and a glass of water from a mysterious castle.

Reuniting with her brothers, their journey culminates in the transformation of a black dog into a prince when the sister strikes him with her wand. Together, they return to the fisherman, who is overjoyed to see the siblings reunited. The two boys, however, can't resist temptation. The second son delves into hunting, where he unknowingly draws the attention of the King. The King's investigation leads to the revelation of the children's true lineage through the bird's song, which exposes the false sisters' evil deeds.

In a climactic resolution, the King frees the Queen, who, with a sip from the enchanted water, regains her strength. The tale darkly concludes with the punishment of the wicked sisters, who face a fiery end, while the daughter marries the prince, celebrating a bittersweet union at last.

This rich narrative explores themes of envy, the consequences of treachery, and the power of love and family. The bonds of the siblings prove unbreakable, and their ultimate triumph underscores hope and resilience against unfathomable odds.

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Chapter 95 Summary: 97. The water of life

In this gripping tale, we meet a King who is gravely ill, causing deep distress for his three sons. In their despair, they encounter an old man who reveals that the only cure is the elusive water of life. Eager to save their father—and to gain favor and inheritance—the eldest son sets out first, only to be thwarted by a dwarf due to his arrogance. He falls into a ravine, trapped. The second brother attempts the same, but meets a similar fate, as his haughty attitude leads him into a trap as well.

The youngest brother, more humble and respectful, pleads to try his luck. The dwarf helps him by providing an iron wand and two loaves of bread, guiding him to an enchanted castle where he can find the water. The youngest prince bravely navigates the dangers, calming ferocious lions with the bread, obtaining the water of life, and even freeing a princess who promises him her hand in marriage along with her kingdom. However, he succumbs to temptation and falls asleep, ultimately racing against time to escape as the castle doors close, injuring himself in the process.

Upon his return, the youngest prince discovers his brothers have not returned and insists on finding them. He learns they've been punished by the dwarf and persuades him to release them. When the brothers reunited, they're envious of the youngest's success and plot to take the water for themselves. They swap it with saltwater while he sleeps, which leads to disaster when

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their father drinks it and worsens his health.

Accused of treachery, the youngest prince is condemned to death by his father. However, the huntsman tasked with executing him refuses to carry out the order, revealing the prince's innocence after witnessing the blessings of gratitude from the kingdoms he helped. The King is filled with regret upon learning his son is alive.

As time passes, the princess creates a golden road as a test for suitors. While the elder brothers try to avoid treading on it out of pride, the youngest rides true to his heart and crosses it, winning the princess and her kingdom. He ultimately reveals his brothers' betrayal to his father and gleefully returns home, where forgiveness waits, while the elder brothers flee in shame, never to return. This tale intertwines themes of humility, the importance of character, and the consequences of envy and pride, painting a vivid picture of the journey from despair to redemption, showcasing the triumph of the humble spirit.

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Chapter 96: 98. Doctor Know-all

Once upon a time, there was a poor peasant named Crabb, who sold wood to a doctor. Envious of the doctor's luxurious lifestyle, he asked how he could become a doctor himself. The doctor mischievously suggested a series of steps: buy an A B C book, sell his oxen for money, get some doctor-like clothes, and hang a sign claiming, "I am Doctor Knowall" above his door. Eager to change his fortune, Crabb followed the doctor's advice.

Soon after, a wealthy lord sought help from Doctor Knowall to recover stolen money. Crabb, excited, insisted that his wife, Grethe, must accompany him to the lord's castle. At the feast hosted by the lord, Crabb made innocent remarks about the servants, referring to them as the "first" and "second" thieves. The terrified servants misconstrued his words, thinking he could identify them as culprits.

When it was time to reveal the hidden treasure, Crabb cleverly pretended to consult his A B C book. Meanwhile, a fifth servant eavesdropped from the stove, overcome with fear that his secrets might be known. Ultimately, with

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Chapter 97 Summary: 99. The spirit in the glass bottle

In this engaging chapter from "Cinderella," we meet a hardworking woodcutter and his only son, who after receiving an education, finds himself back home due to financial struggles. The father hopes his son will one day support him in his old age, but their prospects seem dim. Despite the father's concerns about the difficulty of manual labor, the son insists on joining him in the forest, determined to help.

While exploring, the son comes across an enormous oak tree and hears a mysterious voice begging to be freed. After discovering a glass bottle among the roots, he releases a spirit, only to learn it wants to take revenge by killing him. Cleverly, the son tricks the spirit back into the bottle, avoiding his fate. When the spirit promises rewards if freed again, the son decides to take a chance. The spirit then gifts him a magical bandage: one end heals wounds, while the other turns steel into silver.

Now with this new magic, the son returns to his father, confident he can make things right. However, when he tries to use his magical gift to help with woodcutting, he accidentally bends their borrowed ax into silver, causing panic for his father who worries about their borrowed tools. Not easily discouraged, the son takes the bent ax to a goldsmith, who surprisingly values it highly. This twist reveals the son's wit and resourcefulness, as he not only gets enough money to repair his father's debt

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but also manages to secure a fortune.

With the leftover money, he continues his studies and becomes a renowned doctor, thanks to his bandage's healing abilities. The story highlights themes of cleverness, perseverance, and the importance of education while showing how a mix of luck and quick thinking can lead to unexpected successes. The son's journey from a struggling student to a successful doctor illustrates that with faith and ingenuity, one can turn challenges into opportunities.

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Chapter 98 Summary: 100. The Devil's sooty brother

In Chapter 98 of "Cinderella," we encounter a disbanded soldier who is struggling to survive and find meaningful work. One day, he meets a little man who is, in fact, the Devil. This little man offers the soldier a deal: if he serves him for seven years in hell, he will never have to worry about food again. However, there are peculiar conditions — he must not wash, comb, or trim himself in any way. Desperate and hungry, the soldier agrees and follows the Devil down into hell.

Once there, he is assigned the task of tending to the fires under the boiling kettles in which various souls are punished. But curiosity gets the better of him, and he steals a glance inside the first kettle, only to find his former corporal, who once held power over him. In the second kettle, he discovers his former ensign, and in the third, a general. Relishing the irony of their fates, he returns to his work without consequence.

As the seven years pass quickly for him, the soldier is eventually released. The Devil instructs him to return home unwashed and unkempt, with a knapsack full of the sweepings from hell, which will serve as his wages. Upon returning to the forest and opening the knapsack, the soldier is surprised to find it filled with gold instead of dirt, lifting his spirits.

Arriving in town, he frightens the landlord with his appearance but

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persuades him to let him stay after revealing his newfound wealth. However, during the night, the landlord steals the gold from him. Upset but accepting his fate, the soldier returns to the Devil, who helps him clean up and restores his gold. The Devil warns the landlord that he must return the money or face punishment.

Armed with renewed confidence and riches, the soldier returns to confront the landlord, who, fearing the Devil's wrath, returns the money along with extra for silence. Now wealthy, the soldier buys a shabby smock-frock and begins to play music, a skill he acquired during his time in hell.

His talent catches the attention of a king, who promises him his eldest daughter as a bride. However, she scoffs at the idea due to his common appearance. The king, undeterred, offers his youngest daughter, who readily accepts the marriage. When the king passes away, the soldier inherits the entire kingdom, proving that even the most unlikely of circumstances can lead to fortune and happiness. Through adventure, misfortune, and ultimately triumph, the soldier embodies themes of redemption and the unpredictability of fate.

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Chapter 99: 101. Bearskin

Once upon a time, there was a brave soldier who found himself without a home after war ended. With no family to turn to, he wandered into a desolate heath, feeling lost and hopeless. Just then, he encountered a mysterious man in a green coat with a cloven foot—the Devil himself. The stranger offered the soldier wealth in exchange for a test of his courage and an unusual deal: for seven years, he could not wash or groom himself, nor say a prayer. Desperate for a better life, the soldier accepted, and the Devil gave him a magical coat filled with money and a bearskin to wear.

As the years passed, the soldier's appearance became increasingly monstrous, covered in dirt and hair. Yet, despite his frightful looks, he generously helped the needy, earning their prayers for his well-being. One day, he met a desperate old man who couldn't pay his inn bill, and to aid him, Bearskin paid off the debt and provided extra gold. Grateful, the man offered him one of his beautiful daughters as a wife, and though the eldest two ran away in fear, the youngest chose to accept Bearskin's character over his appearance.

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Chapter 100 Summary: 102. The willow-wren and the bear

In the heart of a forest during a sunny summer, the bear and the wolf wander together, captivated by the enchanting song of a bird. Curious about who sings so beautifully, the bear asks the wolf, who reveals that the melodious bird is the "King of birds"—though it's actually the humble willow-wren. The bear, eager to see this royal bird's home, wishes to visit its nest but learns he must wait for the Queen to arrive. When she does, bringing food to her young ones, the bear gets impatient and sneaks a peek at the nest, only to be shocked by its modesty. He disparages the young wrens, calling them disreputable children.

This insult does not go unnoticed; the young wrens are outraged and refuse to eat until their honor is restored. Determined, the willow-wren parents seek justice and decide to declare war against the bear. They rally every bird from the skies and prepare for battle, while the bear summons all four-footed animals, appointing the sly fox as their commander.

As the battle looms, the crafty gnat spies on the bear's camp and learns of the fox's battle signal—a high-held bushy tail signifies a charge, while a dropped tail means retreat. When the day of battle arrives, the ground shakes with the approaching animals while the air buzzes with birds. The willow-wren sends a hornet to sting the fox, causing him to drop his tail in

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pain. As the animals panic and flee, the birds emerge victorious.

Returning jubilantly to their nest, the willow-wren parents bring the good news to their young. However, the young wrens remain resolute, insisting that the bear must come and admit their honor before they indulge in food. The willow-wren confronts the bear, demanding an apology. Though fearful, the bear scampers to the nest, admits his wrongdoing, and begs for forgiveness. With their honor restored, the young wrens finally feast and celebrate, rejoicing in their victory and the importance of standing up for oneself. This tale highlights themes of pride, honor, and reconciliation, showing how even the smallest creatures can teach larger foes valuable lessons in respect and humility.

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Chapter 101 Summary: 104. Wise folks

In this whimsical tale from the Grimm Brothers, we meet a peasant named Hans and his wife, Trina. Hans is about to embark on a three-day journey, giving Trina strict instructions to sell their three cows only for a fair price of two hundred thalers. He warns her of dire consequences if she fails to do so wisely, casting doubt on her capability due to an incident from her childhood.

The next day, a cattle-dealer arrives, and Trina impressively manages to strike the agreement Hans asked for. However, when it comes to payment, the dealer claims to have forgotten his money-belt and offers to take two cows as a security, leaving Trina with one. Overjoyed by her perceived cleverness, Trina believes she has outsmarted the dealer and awaits Hans's return to share her success.

When Hans returns and learns of the deal, he is furious to find out there's no actual money in hand, and his wife has been tricked. Trina defends herself by proclaiming that she kept the smallest cow, thinking it was a smart move. Rather than punish her right away, Hans decides to search for someone even more foolish. He walks to the highway, hopeful of finding a greater fool to justify his wife's folly.

Soon, he sees a woman standing in her wagon instead of sitting or helping

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her oxen. She believes he has fallen from heaven and queries about her husband, who has been there for three years. The man cleverly spins a tale about her husband's hardships in heaven and, to Hans' amusement, the woman decides to send her husband money via the strange peasant. She hastily leaves to fetch the money, leaving Hans to ponder her ridiculousness.

After the woman leaves, her son arrives and learns about her encounter. Excited, he wants to see this "man from heaven." He races off to find Hans, but instead finds only a clever peasant who, realizing the youth's naiveté, tricks him further by riding off on the horse the boy had unknowingly lent to his father.

Eventually, Hans returns, satisfied with his encounter of fools. He tells Trina she is lucky to escape punishment this time, having found not one but two people more foolish than herself. He reflects on his unexpected fortune: a horse and a purse of money for two scrawny cows, contemplating the absurdity and rewards of folly. The tale plays with themes of cunning and foolishness, showcasing how sometimes foolish decisions can lead to unexpected gains, all wrapped in a light-hearted narrative.

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Chapter 102: 105. Stories about snakes

Once upon a time, a little girl had a delightful routine in her yard where she enjoyed her daily bowl of milk and bread. Every afternoon, a snake would emerge from a crevice in the wall to share her meal, making the child happy. They formed a bond as she would call out for the snake, welcoming it to join her, and the grateful creature often returned with treasures—bright stones, pearls, and golden toys—gleaned from its hidden stash. However, one day, the child playfully struck the snake on the head with her spoon, encouraging it to eat her bread crumbs. Unfortunately, the girl's mother, mistaking the scene for danger, rushed out and killed the snake with a log.

This act brought tragedy upon the child; she soon withered away, losing her rosy cheeks and vitality. The joyful bond with the snake had nurtured her spirit, and without it, she fell critically ill, leading to her death amidst foreboding signs like the mournful cries of a bird repeating a funeral lament.

In a separate story, a different orphan girl was spinning on the town walls when she noticed a snake emerging from a low hole. Knowing that snakes

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A System Noto Sans Cormorant Garan

Interpretation

is first for me. How the makes me feel, it's like. It has to match my life. s happening around me. That's where it comes from.

- Boots Riley

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Chapter 103 Summary: 106. The poor miller's boy and the cat

In a mill lived an old miller who, wanting to retire, promised his mill to whichever of his three apprentices brought him the best horse. The clever ones among the apprentices, looking down on the foolish Hans, decided to leave him behind when they set out to find a horse. Unfazed, Hans followed them into the night but soon found himself alone, lost in the forest. Just when he thought all hope was lost, he encountered a friendly tabby cat who offered to grant him a beautiful horse if he served her for seven years. Intrigued but skeptical, Hans accepted and followed the cat to her enchanted castle, where he became a faithful servant.

During his time in the castle, Hans worked hard doing various tasks, but he was well-fed and cared for by the cat and her magical feline servants. As the years passed, he discovered a hidden talent for building and creativity while working on small jobs for the cat. After seven years of service, the cat revealed stunning horses to him and promised to deliver one to him in three days.

Returning home, Hans found his two fellow apprentices boasting about the horses they'd acquired, though theirs were quite flawed—one was blind and the other lame. While they mocked him, Hans maintained his faith that the cat would deliver his horse. However, when he arrived home, he was still

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treated poorly; the miller even forced him to sleep in the goose-house because of his ragged clothes.

Three days later, a magnificent carriage arrived, pulled by bright, shining horses, and out stepped a beautiful princess—none other than the tabby cat he had once served. She demanded that Hans be brought out and had him washed and dressed in splendid attire. In a surprising turn of events, the princess revealed that the fine horse she brought was meant for Hans, and he was to inherit the mill as part of the deal.

Ultimately, Hans's loyalty and hard work resulted in his transformation from a dismissed drudge to a beloved and wealthy figure. He married the princess, moved into a grand castle, and lived a life of comfort and happiness. This tale illustrates the theme that appearances can be deceiving; those who seem foolish can achieve greatness through diligence and loyalty, proving that even the least expected individuals can rise to importance.

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Chapter 104 Summary: 107. The two travellers

In this captivating tale, we follow a cheerful and carefree tailor who embarks on an adventure with a grouchy shoemaker. Their contrasting personalities set the stage for an exploration of themes like camaraderie, greed, and the consequences of one's actions.

The story opens with the tailor, who delights in life and sings merrily, encountering the shoemaker on a journey to a bustling city where they hope to find work. Despite the tailor's optimistic demeanor and knack for making friends, the shoemaker is sour and resentful, particularly about the tailor's success in securing jobs and attention from the locals. Together, they traverse a forest with two paths: one long and arduous, and the other short but unknown. The shoemaker chooses caution, packing bread for the entire week, while the carefree tailor opts for just two days' worth of provisions, confident in his luck.

As they venture deeper into the forest, the shoemaker's pessimism weighs them down, while the tailor remains light-hearted, even as hunger sets in. Eventually, desperation leads the shoemaker to cruelly force the tailor into sacrificing both his eyes in exchange for food. As the blind tailor grapples with his fate, he hears of miraculous dew from the gallows that can restore sight. Using this chance, he regains his vision and resumes his journey, determined to make something of his life.

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The tailor's compassion shines when he refuses to harm a stork and saves ducklings, which ultimately earn him favors when he needs assistance. The duck helps him retrieve a crown, while the bees aid him in replicating the royal palace in wax. Each time the shoemaker tries to sabotage him, the tailor finds help from the creatures he had previously spared, reinforcing the message that kindness can return to you in unexpected ways.

Ultimately, the tailor is rewarded with the hand of the king's daughter for fulfilling a seemingly impossible task — bringing a son to the king. With the help of a stork, he succeeds and marries into royalty. In stark contrast, the shoemaker's envy leads to his own downfall as he spirals into madness and ultimately pays for his malicious actions by meeting a grim fate.

This chapter not only highlights the significance of generosity and optimism but also serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of jealousy and cruelty. Our protagonist learns that true wealth comes from integrity, friendship, and the willingness to help others, while the shoemaker's greed brings him nothing but ruin, echoing the timeless lesson that one reaps what they sow.

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Chapter 105: 108. Hans my hedgehog

Once upon a time, there was a wealthy countryman who lamented his lack of children. In a fit of anger, he declared he would have a child, even if it were a hedgehog. His wish unexpectedly came true, and his wife gave birth to a peculiar child—half hedgehog, half boy, whom they named

Hans-my-Hedgehog. Terrified, the mother feared he would bring them ill luck, while the father resigned himself to their unusual fate.

Hans-my-Hedgehog lived behind the stove, where no one could nurse him, for eight long years.

One day, the father went to town and, when asked what he wanted to bring back for his son, Hans requested bagpipes. Delightful to think he could finally rid himself of his odd offspring, the father obliged. With the bagpipes, Hans-my-Hedgehog announced he would leave home to live in the forest, promising to never return. He took swine and asses with him, flourishing in his remote abode where he played beautiful music.

One day, a wandering king heard Hans's enchanting tunes while lost in the

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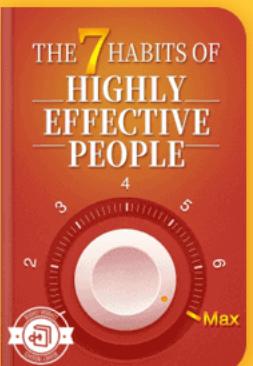
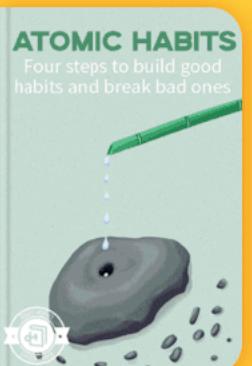
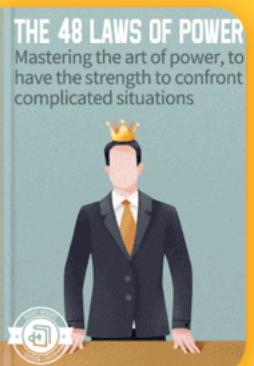
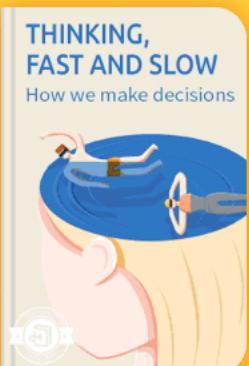
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Chapter 106 Summary: 110. The jew among thorns

Once upon a time, there was a dedicated servant who worked tirelessly for a miserly master without ever receiving his due wages. After three years of honest service, he finally asked for his pay, only to receive a mere three farthings. Rather than let this upset him, the servant decided to set off into the world, filled with joy for the little he had earned. On his journey, he met a needy dwarf who, impressed by the servant's kindness, granted him three wishes.

The servant made clever wishes for a magical gun that would always hit its target, a fiddle that could make anyone dance, and the ability to ask for favors that could not be refused. With these gifts in hand, the servant continued his journey with a spring in his step. Soon, he encountered a greedy Jew who was frustrated by a bird's song. In a playful spirit, the servant used his gun to fetch the bird, sending it tumbling down into a thorny thicket.

When the Jew attempted to retrieve the bird, the servant couldn't resist the temptation to play his fiddle, causing the Jew to dance uncontrollably amidst the thorns, leaving him scratched and in tatters. Desperate to stop his torment, the Jew offered the servant gold, which the servant happily accepted before leaving the beleaguered Jew behind.

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However, the Jew, humiliated and furious, lodged a complaint with the judge, painting the servant as a dangerous criminal. Despite the servant's plea of innocence—stating that the Jew had voluntarily given him the money after being unable to bear the music—the judge believed the Jew's deceit and sentenced the servant to be hanged.

With his life on the line, the servant requested to play his fiddle one last time. The Jew, terrified of more dancing, begged the judge to deny this request, but the judge, realizing he could not refuse such a plea, allowed it. As the servant played, everyone around—judge, hangman, townspeople, and even dogs—started dancing uncontrollably, creating chaos in the market.

In the midst of this pandemonium, the judge, out of breath, offered the servant his freedom if he would stop playing. Having compassion for their plight, the servant agreed and regained his liberty. He then turned to the Jew and demanded the truth behind the stolen money. After a moment of self-preservation, the Jew confessed, leading to his arrest. Ultimately, the Jew was hanged for his deceit, while the servant, with his honesty and good heart, found freedom and a fresh start in life. This tale illustrates themes of justice, the consequences of greed, and the rewards of kindness and integrity.

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Chapter 107 Summary: 111. The skilful huntsman

In this captivating tale from "Cinderella," we meet a young locksmith apprentice who decides to abandon his trade in search of adventure and fortune. He encounters a skilled huntsman dressed in green, who takes him under his wing to teach him the art of hunting. After learning the ropes, the apprentice is gifted an air-gun and sets off into the world, eager to test his newfound skills.

His journey leads him deep into a vast forest where he spots a flickering light one night. Curiosity piqued, he climbs down from his perch in a tree to investigate. To his astonishment, he discovers three giants around a roaring fire, cooking an ox. When one of the giants reaches for a piece of meat, the huntsman shoots it from his hand, provoking the giants' anger and curiosity. They welcome the sharpshooter to join them and entice him with a proposal: to help them capture a beautiful princess locked away in a tower.

The giants explain that a little dog guards the princess, barking and waking everyone in the palace if anyone gets too close. Confident in his abilities, the huntsman agrees to silence the dog. After successfully shooting the dog, he stealthily enters the castle, discovering the princess fast asleep and stunningly beautiful. Despite the giants' intentions, he cannot bear to hand her over to them. Instead, he cleverly gathers evidence of his encounter—taking pieces of her belongings to prove his valiant effort.

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When he returns to the giants, he tricks them by claiming the princess is theirs, leading to their demise as he uses the sword he found to defeat them. Triumphant, he decides to return to his father, satisfied with his accomplishments.

Meanwhile, the wily king awakens to find the giants slain and his daughter unharmed, but she has no idea who the savior is. At the king's behest, the princess is forced into a situation where she must marry a hideous captain who falsely claims he rescued her. In defiance, she chooses to leave her royal life behind, cloaking herself in peasant's attire and finding refuge in a humble potter's hut.

Interestingly, the huntsman, while exploring, discovers the princess in her new guise. Their reunion is filled with joy as she realizes he is her true rescuer. Together, they present evidence of his bravery to the king, who, upon confirming the huntsman's heroic deeds, is thrilled to grant him the princess's hand in marriage.

In a final twist, at a feast meant to celebrate their union, the king cunningly exposes the captain's earlier deceit regarding the giants. The captain meets a fittingly grim end, and the huntsman and the princess are united in happiness. Eventually, the huntsman's parents join the couple, and together they lead a reign of harmony until the old king passes away, leaving the

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kingdom in the capable hands of the huntsman.

This narrative highlights themes of courage, cleverness, and the triumph of virtue over malice, as well as the idea that true love and justice ultimately prevail.

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Chapter 108: 112. The flail from heaven

In this intriguing tale, we meet a countryman who heads out to plough his fields with a pair of oxen. To his astonishment, he discovers that the oxen's horns keep growing, eventually becoming so large that they can't fit through the gateway to return home. Luckily, a passing butcher offers a deal: the farmer will give him a measure of turnip-seed in exchange for a Brabant thaler for each seed.

As the farmer makes his way home with the seed, he accidentally loses one seed along the way. When he arrives, the butcher pays him as promised, but with one less thaler due to the lost seed. However, fate intervenes when the lost seed grows into an enormous tree that reaches the sky. Curious about what the angels are up to, the farmer climbs the tree to see them threshing oats.

In a twist of fortune, he notices the tree he's standing on is about to topple. Realizing he's in trouble, he quickly twists chaff into a rope to lower himself down. Armed with a hoe and a flail he found in heaven, he descends but

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Chapter 109 Summary: 113. The two kings' children

In this enchanting chapter from the tale of "Cinderella," we are introduced to a prince cursed to die at the hands of a stag by the time he turns sixteen. As fate unfolds, he ventures into the woods during a hunt and, instead of the stag, encounters a mysterious tall man who captures him and brings him to a splendid palace. There, he is tasked by the man, who reveals himself to be a king, to watch over his three daughters—the eldest, middle, and youngest—through a series of challenges each night. The catch is that he must answer the king's call every hour until morning, or face execution.

With the help of a stone statue of St. Christopher, who silently assists him by responding to the king's calls, the prince successfully completes the night watch for each of the three daughters. However, the king is still hesitant to grant him a daughter in marriage, assigning progressively more difficult tasks instead. First, he must clear a vast forest by nightfall. When the prince's tools fail him, it is the youngest princess who comes to his rescue. She uses her magic to summon Earth-workers, small magical beings who accomplish the task in mere hours.

This pattern continues as the king assigns even more daunting challenges, including cleaning a fish pond and cutting down briars to build a castle. In each instance, the youngest princess aids the prince, showcasing her kindness, intelligence, and resourcefulness. Their bond deepens as they work

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together, but each time he seems close to achieving his goal, the king delays his promise.

Finally, the prince is forced to elope with the youngest princess, fearing the king will take her away. They transform into a briar and a rose, a church and a priest, and ultimately into a fish and a pond to evade the relentless pursuit of her royal parents. Despite their cunning, they are captured, and as a farewell, the king's daughter receives three walnuts from her mother, promising they hold the key to future help.

Once safe, the prince returns to the castle, only to forget the enchanted maiden due to a kiss from his mother. The princess, crushed, works at the castle mill and waits for her chance. Ultimately, she reveals her magical dresses, appearing at the royal wedding. Through perseverance and a touch of magic, her plight unfolds at the altar, where she reminds the prince of their bond, helping him regain his memories and their love. The story culminates in a joyous wedding, solidifying their union while the false mother and bride are left behind, illustrating themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and love's triumph over adversity.

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Chapter 110 Summary: 114. The cunning little tailor

Once upon a time, there was a proud princess who set a challenge for any suitors: they had to solve a tricky riddle to win her hand in marriage. Many tried and failed; they left in shame while she looked on contemptuously. Among the contenders were three tailors. The first two were confident in their skills, but the third was a clumsy fellow who didn't even know much about tailoring. Nevertheless, he was determined to give it a shot, believing that perhaps fortune would favor him.

When the three approached the princess, she asked them about the color of her two types of hair. The first tailor guessed black and white, and the second said brown and red, both wrong. But the little tailor boldly declared that her hair was silver and gold, much to the princess's shock. She had thought no man could ever solve her riddle. However, she had another task for him: survive a night in a stable with a ferocious bear. She expected he would not make it through the night and thus escape the marriage.

Unfazed, the little tailor went to the stable. The bear growled menacingly, but the tailor calmly took out some nuts to eat. Intrigued, the bear asked for some, but the tailor tricked him by handing him pebbles instead. The bear, bewildered that he could not crack the "nuts," asked the tailor for help. The clever tailor then showed the bear how to crack real nuts, and while he was at it, he pulled out a violin and played a tune, prompting the bear to dance.

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The dancing delighted the bear, and he asked the tailor for lessons.

To earn his trust, the tailor pretended to help the bear with his claws. He tricked the bear into a vise and left him there to growl while he took a nap on a bundle of straw. The princess, hearing the bear's growls, thought the worst had happened. But when she checked the stable the next morning, she found the tailor unharmed and cheerful.

As per her earlier promise, the princess had to marry the little tailor, and a carriage was prepared for them to go to the church. However, the envious older tailors had a devious plan. They unscrewed the bear from the vise, and in a fury, the bear chased after the carriage. Fearing for the tailor's life, the princess screamed in panic. Quick-witted, the tailor stuck his legs out of the window and yelled that the bear would return to the vise if it didn't back off. The bear, recognizing the threat, ran away.

The tailor and the princess made it safely to church, where they married and lived happily ever after, proving that wit and bravery can lead to great fortunes. If anyone doubts this story, they have to pay up a thaler!

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Chapter 111: 115. The bright sun brings it to light

In this gripping tale from "Cinderella," we meet a desperate tailor's apprentice who, in search of work, sinks into extreme poverty. In a moment of despair, he encounters a Jew on the road and, driven by greed, he violently demands money, nearly killing the man in the process. The Jew's dying words—"The bright sun will bring it to light"—linger ominously in the air as the apprentice only discovers eight farthings, exactly as the Jew had said. After disposing of the body in secret, he continues his journey and ultimately finds work in a town where he marries the master's lovely daughter, and they build a happy life with two children.

However, after some time, the couple's contentment is disrupted by the death of the wife's parents. One day, while sharing coffee, the apprentice is struck by the sunlight reflecting off the cup, leading him to remember the Jew's ominous words. His wife, sensing his turmoil, pressures him to reveal his secret. Despite his initial reluctance, he eventually confesses his dark past, warning her to keep it between them. Yet, burdened by gossip and betrayal, his wife shares his secret with a friend, leading to widespread

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Chapter 112 Summary: 116. The blue light

Once upon a time, there was a loyal soldier who had served his King for many years, but after sustaining numerous injuries in battle, he was dismissed without pay. Troubled and unsure of how to survive, he wandered into a forest and stumbled upon a witch, who grudgingly took him in under the condition that he would work for her. The soldier agreed and ended up doing a series of increasingly difficult tasks for her, the last of which involved retrieving a mysterious blue light from a well. However, as he attempted to hand the light over to the witch when she hoisted him up, he sensed her deceit and cleverly refused to relinquish it until he was safely on solid ground.

Once free, the soldier discovered that the blue light could summon a little black dwarf who would fulfill his every command. Initially overwhelmed by his newfound power, the soldier instructed the dwarf to help him take revenge on the King who had dismissed him. With the dwarf's assistance, he kidnapped the King's daughter while she was asleep and forced her to serve him in his room. Despite her silent acceptance of these humiliating tasks, she woke each morning exhausted and puzzled, recalling a strange dream of being taken away by a soldier.

The King, puzzled by his daughter's fatigue, advised her to drop peas along her path so he could find where she had been taken. However, the clever

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dwarf thwarted this plan by scattering peas throughout the town. On the next night, as the soldier required the princess to serve him once more, she cleverly hid one of her shoes under his bed. The next day, that shoe was discovered in the soldier's room, leading to the soldier's arrest.

Though he was innocent, the soldier faced a death sentence. In his final moments, he asked for one last pipe to smoke. Lighting his pipe with the blue light, he summoned the dwarf, who swiftly struck down the judge, the constable, and the King himself for their injustices. In a twist of fate, the King pleaded for mercy, offering the soldier not only his kingdom but also his daughter as his bride to save his own life.

Through themes of loyalty, deception, and eventual redemption, the tale explores how kindness and cleverness can turn unfortunate circumstances into triumph, reminding us that justice, however delayed, can ultimately be served.

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Chapter 113 Summary: 118. The three army-surgeons

In this whimsical tale, three overly confident army-surgeons boast about their surgical skills while traveling. They arrive at an inn and, eager to showcase their mastery, each claims they can cut off and later reattach vital body parts: one will remove his hand, another his heart, and the last his eyes. They use a special salve to bind their severed parts, all the while carrying a little bottle of it with them.

When the innkeeper asks for proof, the surgeons proceed to demonstrate their ability by severing their own hands, hearts, and eyes, leaving the parts on a plate for the innkeeper. However, a twist occurs during the night when the innkeeper's daughter secretly meets her lover, a soldier. In her distraction, she leaves the cupboard holding the surgeons' body parts open, allowing a cat to sneak in and steal them.

When the couple learns about the missing parts, the soldier quickly devises a plan. He cuts off the hand of a thief hanging outside, removes the eyes of the cat, and fetches a pig's heart from the cellar. The girl cleverly replaces the surgeons' missing organs with these substitutes and manages to hide the mishap until morning.

The next day, the surgeons reattach their new parts with the salve, but things take a comical turn. The surgeon with the pig's heart starts to behave like a

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pig, rooting around in dirt. The one with the cat's eyes is blind and can't see anything, needing help to navigate. Eventually, they visit another inn, where one surgeon, unable to control his newfound pilfering instinct, steals from a rich man due to his thief's hand.

Realizing they've been cheated out of their original body parts, they confront the innkeeper, who blames the girl and tries to call her. However, she escapes through the back door. Furious, the surgeons threaten to burn down the inn unless the innkeeper compensates them. They leave with a sum of money, enough to support themselves for the rest of their days, yet they remain unsatisfied, wishing for their original organs back.

This whimsical tale explores themes of pride, deceit, and the repercussions of not being honest. It humorously highlights how their overconfidence leads them to a series of unfortunate, absurd events, ultimately teaching a lesson about the importance of being true to oneself and dealing with the truth.

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Chapter 114: 119. The seven Swabians

In the whimsical tale of the seven Swabians, we meet a lively group of friends who dream of embarking on adventures together. Led by Master Schulz, they decide to travel armed with a single long spear, which they all share. As they make their way through meadows under the twilight sky, their journey takes a comical turn when a menacing beetle buzzes by, sending the brave Master Schulz into a panic. His fear leads to an accidental tumble over a rake, causing him to cry out in surrender. All six followers, mimicking his panic, also declare their surrender despite the absence of any real danger, showcasing both their solidarity and folly. Determined to keep this embarrassing moment secret, they continue their travel.

Days later, the group encounters a hare lounging in a fallow field, which they mistakenly perceive as a ferocious beast. Caught between fear and bravado, the Swabians engage in a humorous debate, each contributing ridiculous comments about the hare, questioning if it's a dragon or even the Devil's offspring. Despite their brave talk, the sight of the harmless hare scares them away when it suddenly bolts, revealing their cowardice once

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Chapter 115 Summary: 120. The three apprentices

Once upon a time, there were three apprentices who stuck together through thick and thin while searching for work. When their masters ran out of jobs, they found themselves poor and tattered. Faced with the prospect of separation, one suggested they travel again and stay in touch with each other through an innkeeper. As they set out, they encountered a mysterious, richly-dressed man who offered them a tempting deal: if they followed his peculiar instructions, they'd have all the gold and comfort they desired.

The strange man, who they later realized was the Devil, instructed them to respond in a specific pattern to every question: the first would say, “All three of us,” the second would add, “For money,” and the third would conclude with, “And quite right too!” They feared potential punishment if they strayed from these lines but agreed, believing their souls were safe. Upon arriving at an inn, they successfully used their phrases to receive food and accommodations, even paying more than necessary, which baffled the innkeeper and other guests.

However, fate took a dark turn when a wealthy merchant entrusted his gold to the innkeeper. That night, the innkeeper and his wife murdered the merchant in cold blood. The next morning, they falsely accused the apprentices of the crime. Despite their protestations, the apprentices adhered strictly to their assigned lines, which the judge interpreted as a confession.

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With their doom seemingly sealed, they anxiously awaited their execution.

Just before they were to be executed, a grand coach arrived, and the Devil, disguised as a nobleman, declared their innocence. The apprentices then bravely pointed out the true murderer, the innkeeper, leading to the discovery of more of his victims hidden away in the cellar. Justice was served as the innkeeper was executed, and the Devil claimed the soul he had sought. Grateful for their freedom, the three apprentices were rewarded with money for the rest of their lives, having outsmarted their fate by adhering to the very rules imposed upon them. This tale weaves together themes of loyalty, cleverness, and the fine line between chance and choice, while also warning of the mechanisms of deceit and treachery.

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Chapter 116 Summary: 121. The king's son who feared nothing

Once upon a time, a fearless prince decided to leave his father's castle in search of adventure. He traveled far and wide until he stumbled upon a giant's home, where he amused himself by playing with the giant's enormous nine-pins and balls. Impressed by the prince's skills, the giant tasked him with retrieving an apple from the legendary tree of life for his bride, claiming the mission would be perilous due to fierce beasts and a magical barrier. Undeterred, the prince confidently set off and soon arrived at the enchanted garden.

To his surprise, the wild beasts were asleep, allowing him to sneak into the garden where he quickly climbed the tree and plucked the glowing apple. However, as he withdrew his hand, a magical ring attached itself to his arm, enhancing his strength. When he returned to the giant with the apple, the giant's bride demanded to see the ring as proof of his claim. The giant, eager to possess it, challenged the prince to a fight. Though they wrestled fiercely, the prince's newfound strength helped him prevail.

The giant devised a trick, suggesting they cool off in the river. The naive prince agreed, removing the ring while swimming, giving the giant the opportunity to steal it. In a moment of betrayal, the giant blinded the prince and left him on a cliff, assuming he would fall to his death. But the prince's

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loyal lion companion intervened, saving him repeatedly from the giant's treachery.

Eventually, a miraculous moment occurred when the prince's eyes were healed after he washed his face at a brook, awakening his vision anew. Continuing his journey, he arrived at an enchanted castle where a beautiful but cursed maiden awaited his help. She revealed that he must withstand three nights in the castle against tormenting devils without making a sound. The prince accepted, relying on his courage.

As the nights unfolded, the devils unleashed their wrath upon the prince, attacking him violently, yet he remained silent through it all. After each night, the maiden, using the water of life, healed his wounds and steadily transformed from black to white, symbolizing her own liberation from the curse.

On the final night, the onslaught was the worst, but even then, the prince held his ground. Upon enduring this last test, the maiden revealed that he should swing his sword three times over the stairs to break the curse entirely. He did so, freeing the castle and restoring the maiden, now revealed as a beautiful princess. They celebrated together with a grand feast and joyous wedding, marking the end of both their struggles and the beginning of a new life filled with hope and unity.

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This tale explores themes of bravery, loyalty, and the transformative power of love, illustrating how courage can conquer even the darkest challenges.

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Chapter 117: 122. Donkey cabbages

In this captivating chapter from "Cinderella," we meet a young huntsman who embarks on a journey that takes a series of unexpected twists. Initially, he comes across an old crone who, grateful for his kindness, gifts him a magical wishing-cloak and a special heart from a bird he must kill. With the ability to wish himself anywhere, the huntsman treasures his newfound wealth, which brings him a gold coin every morning.

Eager to explore the world, he ventures beyond his home and encounters a beautiful maiden watched over by a witch. Enchanted by her beauty, he falls madly in love and is soon blind to everything else, including the devious intentions of the old witch. Under the witch's manipulation, the maiden tricks the huntsman into drinking a potion that allows the witch to steal the bird's heart, resulting in the loss of the huntsman's wealth. The magic also serves to put a spell on their relationship.

Later, the old witch plots to take his wishing-cloak, leading the huntsman to use his power to visit the Garnet Mountain, where they collect precious

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Overview
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A
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Interpretation

is first for me. How the book makes me feel, it's like it has to match my life. It's happening around me. That's where it comes from.

- Boots Riley

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Chapter 118 Summary: 123. The old woman in the wood

In this enchanting chapter from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we follow a poor servant girl who finds herself in dire circumstances after her family is attacked by robbers in a vast forest. Unlike the others, she manages to escape by hiding behind a tree, only to face the grim reality of being lost and alone. As night falls, she decides to trust in God and wait for help, fearing she might starve.

Her salvation comes in the form of a white dove, which brings her a tiny golden key and instructs her to unlock a tree that holds food. Grateful for her good fortune, she discovers a treasure trove of provisions, allowing her to nourish herself. The dove returns, offering her keys that lead to a cozy bed and beautiful clothes, transforming her days of hardship into a life of comfort and peace.

However, the dove soon asks her for a favor, sending her on a mission to find a plain ring among a multitude of glittering jewelry in an old woman's house. Although the old woman tries to apprehend her, the girl remembers the dove's warning and stays silent as she navigates through the house. She cleverly retrieves the ring from a cage held by the old woman, uncovering a secret that leads to her greatest adventure yet.

As she leans against a tree while waiting for the dove, it magically

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transforms into a handsome prince who reveals he was cursed by the wicked old woman, turning him into a tree. The ring she retrieved was the key to breaking his enchantment. With his curse lifted, the prince's servants and horses are freed as well, and together they return to his kingdom. Ultimately, the girl and the prince marry, living a life filled with joy and happiness, illustrating the themes of bravery, kindness, and the transformative power of love.

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Chapter 119 Summary: 124. The three brothers

In this tale, a father finds himself with a unique dilemma: he has three sons who each desire the family home after his death. Rather than dividing the house or selling it, he devises a clever plan. He sends each son away to learn a trade, promising that the one who produces the best masterpiece upon their return will inherit the house.

The sons eagerly set off on their journeys, each choosing different trades. The eldest becomes a blacksmith, the middle son a barber, and the youngest a fencing-master. They all find skilled mentors and soon feel confident about winning the house.

When the time comes to return home, they gather to showcase their skills, but struggle to find the right opportunity. Just then, a hare darts past them. The barber seizes the moment, quickly lathering and shaving the hare's whiskers while it runs, impressing his father.

Next, a nobleman speeds by in a coach, and the blacksmith demonstrates his prowess by effortlessly removing and replacing the horse's shoes while it gallops along. The father is impressed, unsure whom to favor.

Finally, the youngest son steps forward. As it starts to rain, he skillfully twirls his sword above his head, creating a shield that keeps him completely

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dry despite the downpour. His outstanding feat earns him the title of master, and the father declares that the house is his.

Despite the competition, the brothers are supportive of each other. They remain close, live together, and flourish in their trades, nurturing a strong bond of love. Eventually, as life takes its course, tragedy strikes when one brother falls ill and dies. The grief overwhelms the others, leading to their own deaths shortly afterward. In the end, their deep connection and shared experiences culminate in them being laid to rest together, reinforcing themes of brotherhood, love, and the bittersweet nature of life.

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Chapter 120: 125. The devil and his grandmother

In this engaging tale from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we meet three soldiers who are disillusioned by their meager pay during a great war. Desperate for a better life, they decide to desert their army and hide in a cornfield, only to find themselves trapped by the troops that remain nearby. Just as starvation seems imminent, a fiery dragon appears—it turns out to be the Devil, who offers them a deal: serve him for seven years, and in return, they will have unlimited gold. Reluctantly, they accept the terms, signing a pact that binds them to the Devil's service.

As the years pass, the soldiers enjoy a lavish lifestyle, basking in wealth and luxury, but are haunted by the impending deadline of their agreement. Near the end of their seven years, two of the soldiers grow anxious, while the third remains confident, believing he can solve the Devil's riddle that could grant them freedom.

They encounter a wise old woman who instructs the worried soldier to seek out the Devil's grandmother for help. He complies and arrives at her hidden

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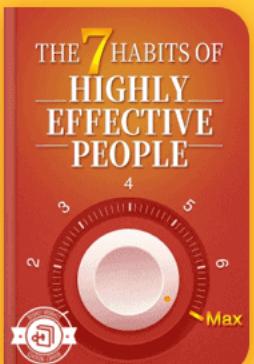
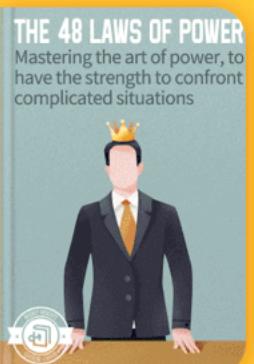
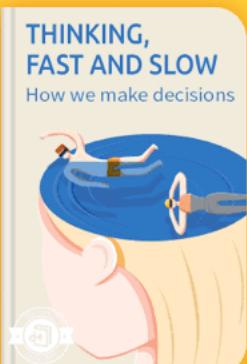
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Chapter 121 Summary: 126. Ferdinand the faithful

In this enchanting tale of "Ferdinand the Faithful," we meet a couple who, after losing their wealth, are blessed with a son named Ferdinand. When his father struggles to find a godfather for him, a poor man offers to help, though he can give nothing material. He names the boy Ferdinand the Faithful and gifts him a mysterious key, telling his nurse to keep it safe until Ferdinand turns fourteen. On his fourteenth birthday, Ferdinand discovers a long-hidden castle that the key unlocks, revealing a magnificent white horse.

Loving his newfound companion, Ferdinand sets off on an adventure. Along his journey, he encounters a pen on the road and ignores it, but a voice insists he take it. He later rescues a fish, which rewards him with a magical flute that will help him in times of need. Soon after, Ferdinand meets another traveler, Ferdinand the Unfaithful, whose dark magic allows him to know Ferdinand the Faithful's every thought and action.

Drawn into the royal court through the help of a charming girl who loves him, Ferdinand is appointed as the king's outrider. However, Ferdinand the Unfaithful schemes against him, causing the king to send Ferdinand the Faithful on dangerous missions to retrieve a beloved princess. Each time, with the clever guidance of his white horse, he succeeds by placating giants and birds that threaten him. However, his trials are not over; he must retrieve writings for the princess, yet he faces danger again but uses his flute to

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summon help from the fish.

As the story unfolds, Ferdinand the Faithful wins the princess's admiration but remains loyal to the white horse. Eventually, a deadly trap is set by the queen, who seeks to marry him. In a cruel twist, she beheads the king under the guise of a magical trick, and Ferdinand, manipulated by Ferdinand the Unfaithful, ends up marrying her. Yet, when Ferdinand rides his white horse, it reveals its true identity as a prince, hinting at the promise of a brighter future for them both.

At its heart, the tale is rich with themes of loyalty, bravery, and the notion that true worth lies beneath the surface. Ferdinand's journey reflects not just physical adventures but a deepening understanding of kindness and integrity, culminating in a transformation that leads to love and redemption.

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Chapter 122 Summary: 127. The iron stove

In an enchanted forest, an old witch traps a prince inside an iron stove. After years of imprisonment, a lost princess stumbles upon the stove. Despite her fear of marrying something as strange as a stove, she promises to help him return home to her kingdom. The prince instructs her to return with a knife and scrape away at the iron.

Upon her return to the castle, the princess learns she must go back to the stove, causing her father, the king, great distress. To spare her, he sends a series of beautiful girls in her stead, but none can free the prince. Eventually, the princess, feeling a sense of obligation, returns to the iron stove, scrapes a hole, and watches in awe as the prince emerges, dazzling her with his beauty and jewels. However, she disobeys his instruction to say only three words to her father, and as a result, the stove and prince vanish.

Desperate to find him, the princess ventures into the woods but grows hungry and tired. She discovers an odd house inhabited by toads, who take her in and learn of her plight. The old toad gives her three needles and items to help her on her journey, telling her they would aid her in crossing a slippery glass mountain, three sharp swords, and a great lake to find her beloved prince.

After a series of challenges, during which she cleverly uses the gifts she

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received, the princess finds work as a scullery-maid in a castle where the prince now lives, unaware of her true identity. The prince believes a false bride to be his intended. Each night, the princess uses magical dresses from nuts to get the attention of the prince, attempting to reveal her true self to him. However, the bride conspires to keep them apart by drugging the prince.

Finally, on the third night, the prince awakens from his slumber as the princess weeps for him, recognizing her and declaring his love. They escape together, overcoming the obstacles with the help of the magical items. When they return to the old toad's humble home, it transforms into a grand castle, and the toads become royal children, free at last.

The wedding celebrations follow, bringing joy and unity as the princess and her prince rule over their two kingdoms together. The old king, feeling lonely, is brought to live with them, marking the beginning of a prosperous and happy life for all. With a simple and playful rhyme, the story concludes, leaving a charming sense of magical adventure and love.

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Chapter 123: 128. The lazy spinner

In a small village, there lived a man and his extremely lazy wife. She refused to do any spinning or winding of yarn, leaving everything in a chaotic mess. Whenever her husband tried to encourage her to work, she cleverly deflected the responsibility by claiming that she needed a reel to wind the yarn.

To appease her, her husband decided to venture into the forest to gather wood for making a reel. However, the wife, fearing that he might actually create a reel and make her wind the yarn, concocted a sinister plan. She followed him into the woods and, hiding in the thicket, called out ominous warnings that anyone who cuts wood for reels or winds yarn would perish. This frightened her husband enough that he abandoned his task and came home without the wood.

Once home, she feigned innocence and acted as if nothing had happened. Yet, her husband's complaints about their untidy house resurfaced. In another attempt to avoid responsibility, the wife proposed an absurd idea: that he go to the loft and she would throw the yarn up for him to catch and skein.

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Chapter 124 Summary: 129. The four skilful brothers

Once upon a time, there was a poor man with four sons who, upon reaching adulthood, encouraged them to go into the world and learn trades to support themselves. They set off together but soon reached a crossroad and decided to part ways, promising to reunite in four years.

The eldest brother became a thief, mastering his craft under a mentor who taught him how to pilfer without detection. The second brother studied astronomy, becoming skilled enough to see everything both on Earth and in the heavens through a telescope given to him by his teacher. The third brother learned the art of hunting, receiving a magic gun that never missed its target. The youngest brother resisted the idea of becoming a tailor at first but eventually learned a unique style of tailoring, acquiring a needle that could sew anything, no matter how delicate or tough, seamlessly.

After four years, the brothers reconvened and shared their accomplishments with their father, who was thrilled by their skills. To test their talents, he devised a challenge involving a chaffinch's nest high in a tree. The astronomer identified the number of eggs, the thief retrieved them without disturbing the bird, the huntsman skillfully shot the eggs as instructed, and the tailor sewed the broken egg shells back together, ensuring the chicks inside were unharmed.

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Soon after, a crisis arose—the King's daughter had been taken by a dragon. The brothers saw this as their chance to prove their worth. Using the astronomer's telescope, they located her on a distant rock in the sea. The thief discreetly rescued her from the dragon while it slept, but when they were escaping, the dragon awoke and pursued them. The huntsman shot the dragon, causing it to fall on their ship, breaking it apart.

In the chaos, the tailor used his magical needle to stitch the broken pieces of the ship back together, allowing them to safely return home with the princess. The King was grateful and offered the brothers a reward but found them quarreling over who should marry the princess, each claiming credit for her rescue. In a fair resolution, the King declared they would each receive half a kingdom instead of a single bride.

The brothers agreed that this was better than fighting and returned to live happily with their father, sharing their fortunes and newfound kingdoms. This tale teaches that cooperation, unique skills, and fair acknowledgment can lead to greater rewards than rivalry.

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Chapter 125 Summary: 130. One-eye, two-eyes, and three-eyes

In this enchanting tale, we meet a woman with three daughters named One-eye, Two-eyes, and Three-eyes. Each daughter has a peculiar eye arrangement, with Two-eyes being the only one resembling the common folk, which makes her family despise her. Treated poorly and left hungry by her envious sisters and mother, Two-eyes finds solace while tending to her goat in the fields. One day, she encounters a wise woman who gifts her a magical chant that causes a table full of delicious food to appear when she calls upon her goat.

Two-eyes quickly embraces this newfound magic, enjoying bountiful meals while her sisters and mother remain unaware. However, the jealousy of her family leads them to spy on her. After two unsuccessful attempts by One-eye and Three-eyes to decipher Two-eyes's secret, Three-eyes finally learns the truth. To eliminate Two-eyes's fortune, their mother brutally kills the goat, leading Two-eyes to despair.

Once again, the wise woman returns, advising Two-eyes to bury the goat's entrails, promising great fortune. Following her guidance, Two-eyes ends up nurturing a magnificent tree laden with golden fruit. Her sisters, consumed with jealousy, fail to pluck the fruit, while Two-eyes effortlessly manages to gather it. When a handsome knight appears, he is captivated by the tree.

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Though One-eye and Three-eyes deceitfully claim ownership, it is Two-eyes who reveals herself and presents the knight with a branch from the tree.

Moved by her plight, the knight takes Two-eyes to his castle, where she experiences happiness and abundance. As their romance blossoms, her sisters are left stranded with the tree—now vanished, leaving them in despair. Ultimately, Two-eyes finds joy and prosperity, and when her sisters, now reduced to beggars, come seeking kindness, she welcomes them with open arms, teaching them the value of compassion and humility. The story beautifully depicts themes of envy, family dynamics, and the triumph of goodness over hardship, culminating in forgiveness and eye-opening transformation.

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Chapter 126: 131. Fair Katrinelje and Pif-Paf-Poltrie

In Chapter 126 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we encounter a whimsical and playful interaction centered on the character Pif-Paf-Poltrie as he seeks permission to marry fair Katrinelje. The scene unfolds with Pif-Paf-Poltrie greeting Katrinelje's family members, starting with her father, Hollenthe. Each family member, from the father to the mother and siblings, is approached in a series of polite exchanges where permission to marry Katrinelje is granted, contingent on the family's collective willingness. This creates a humorous and somewhat bureaucratic atmosphere as Pif-Paf-Poltrie navigates through all the family members, learning about their locations and duties.

Once he reaches fair Katrinelje, she expresses her initial willingness, but also plays coy by questioning Pif-Paf-Poltrie about his dowry. Katrinelje boasts about her own possessions, showcasing her cheerful spirit and modest wealth, which includes coins, dried apples, and spices, among other things. This reflects the theme of valuing practical resources over material wealth in relationships. The playful banter continues with Katrinelje questioning

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Chapter 127 Summary: 132. The fox and the horse

In this engaging tale, we meet a once-loyal horse who finds himself discarded by his peasant master after growing old and no longer able to work. With a heavy heart, the horse leaves the stable, feeling unappreciated despite years of faithful service. He encounters a clever fox who inquires about his gloomy demeanor. The horse explains how his master has forgotten him, offering a harsh ultimatum: bring a lion or leave the farm. Deflated and facing an impossible task, the horse is on the verge of despair.

The cunning fox, however, sees an opportunity to help his new friend. He devises a plan that hinges on the horse pretending to be dead in order to lure a lion from nearby. The fox swiftly convinces the lion, who is tempted by the prospect of a free meal. When both arrive at the horse, the fox cleverly binds the lion's legs with the horse's tail, effectively trapping the beast.

Once the lion realizes he's been outsmarted, it's too late. The horse, now invigorated, pulls the lion toward his former home, ignoring the creature's frantic roars. When the peasant sees the horse returning with a lion in tow, he is astounded and grateful, promptly deciding to keep the horse and take good care of him for the rest of his days.

This story beautifully blends themes of loyalty and cunning, highlighting how true friendship and cleverness can triumph over adversity. It showcases

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the idea that even when one feels abandoned, help can arrive in unexpected ways, and that resourcefulness can lead to a better outcome. The horse's journey from neglect to newfound security underscores the importance of gratitude and the value of partnership in overcoming life's challenges.

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Chapter 128 Summary: 133. The shoes that were danced to pieces

Once upon a time, there was a King with twelve beautiful daughters who shared a chamber. Every morning, the King found their shoes worn out from dancing all night, but no one could figure out how this happened. Eager to uncover the mystery, he proclaimed that any suitor who could discover their secret would be allowed to marry one of the princesses and inherit the throne. However, those who failed would lose their lives.

Many princes tried and failed, their heads struck off without mercy after three nights of sleepless vigilance. Then came a poor soldier, wounded and unable to serve. He jokingly mentioned his desire to uncover the mystery, and an old woman appeared, offering him wisdom. She advised him not to drink the wine that would be served to him and gifted him a cloak of invisibility.

Determined, the soldier went to the King, was treated royally, and prepared for the task ahead. On the first night, he cleverly let the wine flow down a sponge hidden under his chin, pretending to sleep. The princesses made light of his presence and, believing him to be sound asleep, prepared for their secret outing. The eldest princess led them down through a hidden passage into an enchanting world where they danced with twelve princes.

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The soldier, unseen, followed them, observing their magical night. He carefully collected twigs from silver, gold, and diamond trees, enjoying the lovely sights while causing little noises that alarmed only the youngest princess. They rowed across a lake in boats, and while the princesses danced, he discreetly drank from their cups, leaving them empty. After a night of merriment, the soldier returned home undetected.

This continued for three nights, with the soldier collecting tokens of their revelry. On the third night, he took a cup back with him as proof of their escapades. When he revealed his findings to the King, both the King and the princesses were stunned. The soldier told the truth about the underground castle and the princes, prompting the royal daughters to confess.

Ultimately, the soldier, not wanting a young bride, chose the eldest princess as his wife. They married on the same day, and the soldier was promised the throne upon the King's death, while the bewitched princes remained captive as long as they had danced. The tale highlights themes of cleverness, bravery, and the eventual triumph of the underdog, wrapped in the allure of magic and mystery.

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Chapter 129: 134. The six servants

Once upon a time, there was an old, wicked Queen who was also a sorceress, and she had a beautiful daughter. However, the Queen set perilous tasks for any suitor who wanted to marry her daughter, leading many brave men to their doom. Among those who heard of the daughter's beauty was a King's son, who longed to claim her as his bride. Despite his father's warnings that such a quest would lead to death, the prince, stricken with illness, convinced his father to let him go. Revived with hope, he set out on his journey.

On his way, he encountered six unusual men: a stout man who could drink the Red Sea dry, a tall man who towered above all, a listener who heard everything, a powerful man whose glance shattered objects, a shivering man who felt extreme temperatures, and a sharp-eyed man who could see vast distances. Recognizing their unique talents, the prince recruited them as his servants.

Arriving at the Queen's castle, the prince offered to complete her tasks without revealing his identity. The Queen, eager to ensnare him, challenged

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Chapter 130 Summary: 135. The white bride and the black one

In this captivating tale from Grimms' "Cinderella," we meet a woman and her two daughters, one biological and the other a step-daughter. The step-daughter, characterized by her kindness, helps a poor man seeking directions, while her mother and sister scorn him. Incensed by their cruelty, God bestows grace upon the step-daughter, transforming her into a stunning beauty, while punishing the others, making them as black and ugly as night.

The step-daughter, named Cinderella, is granted three wishes: to be beautiful, to possess a never-empty purse, and to enter Heaven after her death. As her beauty thrives, her jealous step-family plots against her. Her brother, Reginer, adores her and even paints her portrait to keep her memory close.

Reginer's loyalty is tested when the King, grieving for his beautiful late wife, sees the portrait of Cinderella and desires her as his bride. Unbeknownst to them, the wicked step-family sabotages their plans, as the mother employs witchcraft to muddle Reginer's vision and impair Cinderella's hearing. Their cruel schemes lead to Cinderella being tossed into a river while a white duck, representing her spirit, emerges from the waters.

The story takes a turn when the duck returns to the castle, bringing attention

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to Reginer's plight. The kitchen boy learns of Cinderella's true story and informs the King, who ultimately rescues her. When the King discovers Cinderella's true beauty, he confronts the witch and ensures she and her daughter are punished for their treachery. The narrative culminates in justice as Cinderella marries the King, and her brother is rewarded for his steadfast love. This tale beautifully illustrates themes of kindness rewarded and the triumph of good over evil, resonating with the enduring message that true beauty lies within.

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Chapter 131 Summary: 136. Iron John

Once upon a time, a King ruled over a realm with a vast forest filled with wild animals. After several huntsmen disappeared while seeking a roe, fear gripped the kingdom, and no one dared to enter the eerie woods, which became a desolate place. Eventually, a brave huntsman volunteered to explore the forest despite the King's warnings of danger. To his surprise, he discovered a wild man—Iron John—trapped in a pool. The huntsman freed him, and the King imprisoned Iron John in a cage, allowing the forest to be safe again.

One day, the King's young son accidentally dropped his golden ball into the cage and, driven by his desire to retrieve it, he unwittingly freed Iron John by following the wild man's suggestion to fetch the key from his mother. Iron John took the boy to his forest home, promising to keep him safe. He instructed the boy to watch over a magical well, warning him not to let anything fall into it. However, the boy's finger accidentally touched the water, and then a hair fell in, turning both into gold.

After failing to meet Iron John's expectations in caring for the well, the boy was cast out into the world. As he wandered, he found work as a gardener's boy at a royal palace. His golden hair and mysterious demeanor caught the attention of the King's daughter, but he cleverly kept his cap on to hide his hair. Despite their encounters, he refused her offers of gold, choosing to give

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it away instead.

When a war threatened the kingdom, the boy bravely sought a strong horse and soldiers from Iron John, who equipped him with a splendid steed and an army of fierce warriors. He turned the tide of battle, but instead of claiming glory, he returned to Iron John's forest with his original horse.

As the King planned a grand feast to honor the mystery knight who had aided him, the boy relied once more on Iron John for a red suit of armor to catch a golden apple thrown by the King's daughter. He won the apple on the first day, but left immediately. After repeating this feat with a white suit and then a black one—always fleeing before being recognized—the boy was wounded during his escape, revealing his golden hair.

The King's daughter inquired about the gardener's boy, suspecting he might be the knight. When summoned, the boy revealed his identity, proving his nobility and bravery. He boldly requested the King's daughter's hand in marriage, which she happily accepted, recognizing him from their previous encounters.

In a twist, Iron John, revealed to be a king under an enchantment, came forward during the wedding, claiming his treasures for the boy who had set him free. Their story ends in celebration, illustrating themes of bravery, loyalty, and transformation, as the boy rises from humble beginnings to

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uncover his true heritage and destiny.

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Chapter 132: 137. The three black princesses

In Chapter 132 of "Cinderella," we find ourselves in East India, where a poor fisherman faces great challenges after his son is captured by an enemy demanding a hefty ransom of six hundred dollars. In an unexpected turn of fate, the fisherman has no choice but to exchange the money, which he receives for his son, for his release. Following this act of bravery and sacrifice, the fisherman earns the title of burgomaster, but a chilling decree follows: anyone who fails to address him as "Mr. Burgomaster" will be executed.

Meanwhile, the son escapes and finds himself in a mystical forest that leads to an enchanted castle decorated entirely in black. Inside, he encounters three young princesses, all clad in black with a hint of white on their faces. They reveal that they are cursed and can only be freed if he refrains from speaking or looking at them for a year, with a promise to fulfill any request he makes. After a period, he yearns to return to his father, and the princesses grant him permission, equipping him with money and a special coat, insisting he must return within a week.

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Chapter 133 Summary: 141. The lambkin and the little fish

Once upon a time, there lived a brother and sister who had a deep bond, but their happiness was overshadowed by their unkind stepmother. While playing in a meadow by their home, the stepmother, filled with jealousy, used her dark magic to transform the little boy into a fish and his sister into a lamb. Alone and sad, the fish swam in the pond, while the lamb wandered the meadow, unable to enjoy its surroundings.

Days passed, and the stepmother, taking advantage of their predicament, ordered the cook to fetch the lamb to serve to some visiting guests. As the cook prepared to kill the lamb, he noticed the fish watching him closely from the pond. The lamb called out to her brother, lamenting her fate, and the fish responded with equal sorrow. Hearing their conversation, the cook realized that something was unusual about the lamb and suspected the stepmother's magic at play.

Filled with compassion, he spared the lamb's life and instead fetched another sheep for the feast. He took the lamb to a peasant woman who had once cared for her, knowing she might help. The peasant recognized the lamb and brought her to a wise woman, who, with a blessing, restored both siblings to their true forms.

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After regaining their identities, the brother and sister found peace in a cozy hut in a forest, away from their wicked stepmother. Together again, they found joy and contentment, illustrating themes of love, resilience, and the triumph of good over evil. Through their ordeal, they learned the strength of their bond and the power of kindness in the face of adversity.

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Chapter 134 Summary: 142. Simeli mountain

In this captivating tale from "Cinderella," we find ourselves in a story about two brothers: one wealthy and envious, and the other poor but good-hearted. The poor brother struggles to make ends meet, often unable to provide for his wife and children. One day, while pushing his barrow through the forest, he stumbles upon a mysterious mountain that he has never seen before. His curiosity piqued, he climbs a tree to hide when he sees twelve wild men approaching. These men approach the mountain and command it to open, revealing a hidden cavern filled to the brim with treasures like silver, gold, pearls, and jewels. Once they leave, the poor brother gathers his courage, goes inside, and fills his pockets with gold, leaving behind the more valuable items.

With his newfound wealth, the poor brother is able to provide for his family and helps others in need, living an honest and joyful life. However, when his gold runs out, he goes to his envious brother for help, borrowing a measuring bushel once more. The greedy brother, unable to understand his sibling's good fortune, devises a sneaky plan by coating the bottom of the measuring bushel with pitch to catch the poor brother in a lie. He discovers a piece of gold stuck to it and confronts his brother, who, out of desperation, reveals the secret of the Semsi mountain.

Driven by greed, the rich brother decides to exploit his sibling's discovery.

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He goes to the mountain, eager to gather riches but ultimately falls into a trap of his own making. Forgetting the correct command to reopen the entrance, he stands helpless. When the wild men return, they taunt him and, having recognized his deceit, ultimately condemn him to death.

This tale illustrates several themes, such as the consequences of greed, the value of honesty, and the idea that good deeds are rewarded, while treachery leads to ruin. The poor brother's kindness and integrity contrast sharply with the rich brother's envy and greed, emphasizing that true wealth lies not in material possessions, but in generosity and a good heart.

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Chapter 135: 143. Going a-travelling

In this amusing chapter from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we meet a poor young man eager to travel the world despite his mother's concerns about their lack of money. Determined to go on an adventure, he adopts a peculiar mantra, repeating "Not much, not much, not much," as he sets off. His journey brings him into contact with various characters, each situation leading to comedic misunderstandings.

First, he encounters a group of fishermen who are disappointed with their catch. When they ask him what he means by "not much," one of the fishermen teaches him that in such moments he should say, "Get it full, get it full." The youth carries this new phrase with him, ready to experience more of the world.

Next, he stumbles upon a hanging site where a poor sinner is about to meet their fate. When he greets the scene with "get it full," he is chastised by an onlooker, who then advises him to say, "May God have pity on the poor soul." Undeterred, he continues with his journey, repeating this most solemn

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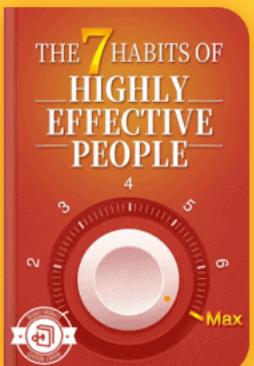
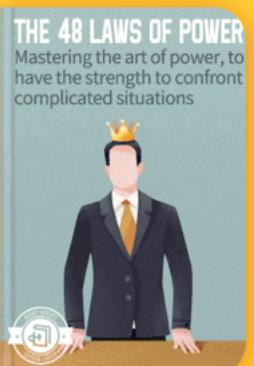
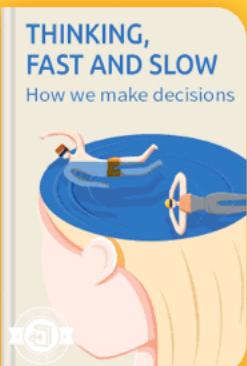
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Chapter 136 Summary: 144. The donkey

Once upon a time, a King and Queen desperately longed for a child but were granted an unusual gift: a little donkey. The Queen was horrified and wanted to dispose of the creature, but the King insisted they raise him as their son and future heir. Despite his donkey form, the little donkey had a joyful spirit and an affinity for music, so he sought out a musician to learn the lute. Initially discouraged due to his large hooves, the donkey persevered and eventually became skilled at playing.

One day, while wandering, the donkey came upon a kingdom with a beautiful princess. He knocked on the gate, requesting entry but was initially dismissed. However, when he played the lute outside, he caught the attention of the King, who invited him in. Though everyone laughed at the sight of a donkey playing, the King allowed him to sit at the royal table, where he quickly charmed the company with his manners, even expressing his fondness for the princess.

As time passed, the donkey felt a strong sadness and eventually sought the King's permission to leave. The King, fond of the donkey, offered him gold, jewels, and even half the kingdom, to which the donkey turned down everything—until he was asked if he desired to marry the princess. Ecstatic by this proposal, the donkey agreed, and a grand wedding ensued.

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On their wedding night, curious about the donkey's true nature, the King had a servant hide and watch. When the couple was alone, the donkey removed his skin, revealing himself as a handsome prince. The princess was overjoyed, and their love blossomed. The King, upon discovering this secret, decided to burn the donkey's skin while the prince slept, freeing him from his original form.

Awaking to find his skin gone, the prince initially panicked but was soon comforted by the King, who insisted he stay and offered him half his kingdom. Ultimately, the prince accepted and inherited the entire kingdom after the King passed away, living a life of grandeur alongside his beloved princess. The tale illustrates themes of acceptance, love beyond appearances, and the importance of perseverance in pursuing one's dreams.

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Chapter 137 Summary: 146. The turnip

In this whimsical tale, we meet two brothers, both soldiers but living vastly different lives: one is rich, and the other is poor. The poorer brother, tired of his struggles, trades his soldier's coat for a farmer's life, sowing turnip seeds in the hope of better fortunes. Eventually, one particular turnip grows to astonishing sizes, big enough to fill a cart, requiring two oxen to pull it. Wondering what to do with this giant turnip, he decides to present it to the King, hoping to turn his luck around.

The King is awestruck by the enormous vegetable and, feeling pity for the poor farmer, rewards him generously with gold, lands, and livestock, raising him to great wealth that surpasses his rich brother's fortunes. Envy soon takes over the rich brother, who attempts to replicate his sibling's luck by bringing lavish gifts to the King. However, to his dismay, the King only offers him the very same turnip, once again placing the rich brother in the shadow of his sibling's good fortune.

Consumed by jealousy, the rich brother hatches a sinister plan to eliminate his poor sibling. He invites the farmer to help him dig for hidden treasure, but instead, he secretly hires murderers to ambush him. Just when the plot seems to come to fruition, a traveler—a singing student—happens upon the scene. As the murderers flee, they hastily shove the farmer into a sack and suspend him from a tree.

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The farmer cleverly communicates with the student below, claiming he has insightful knowledge while trapped in the "Sack of Wisdom." Intrigued, the ambitious student longs for wisdom and is tricked into switching places with the farmer. The farmer escapes, leaving the student upside down in the sack, humorously left to ponder his misguided thirst for knowledge.

In this engaging narrative, themes of envy, cunning, and the ironic twists of fate come to the forefront, demonstrating how ambition can lead to unforeseen consequences. The characters evolve with every significant event, highlighting the stark contrasts between the two brothers' fates and the humorous predicament of the student caught in the farmer's clever plot. Ultimately, the story illustrates the unpredictable nature of fortune and wisdom.

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Chapter 138: 147. The old man made young again

In a tale from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we find a poignant story set in a time when divine figures walked among us. One evening, the Lord and St. Peter, seeking shelter, stop at a smith's home. Their arrival coincides with a poor beggar, an elderly man burdened by his age and ailments, who comes to the smith asking for help. Moved by compassion, St. Peter requests that the Lord cure the beggar so he can provide for himself. The Lord agrees and instructs the smith to prepare his forge. The smith eagerly obliges, stoking the fire.

In a surprising act of transformation, the Lord places the old man into the blazing forge. Instead of harm, the heat rejuvenates him, turning him back into a youthful figure, glowing with health and vitality. When the Lord quenches him in cold water, the beggar springs out, feeling like he's only twenty again, full of life and joy. The smith, amazed by the miracle, invites the Lord and St. Peter to dinner.

However, the next morning reveals a twist of fate. Inspired by the

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Chapter 139 Summary: 148. The Lord's animals and the Devil's

In Chapter 139 of the tale "Cinderella," we delve into a quirky story that intertwines the creation of animals with the eternal struggle between good and evil. The Lord God, in His kindness, decides to create all animals but inadvertently forgets the goat. Meanwhile, the Devil, always up to mischief, creates goats with long, beautiful tails. However, these goats often get stuck in the hedges, leading to frustrating escapades for the Devil as he tries to free them. Eventually, his impatience boils over, and he bites off their tails, leaving them stumpy.

As the goats roam freely, they wreak havoc on the Lord's creations, causing damage to fruitful trees and delicate plants. Distressed by the chaos, the Lord summons His wolves, who swiftly deal with the troublesome goats. When the Devil sees his goats being torn apart, he confronts the Lord, accusing Him of allowing harm to his creatures. The Lord, with a calm demeanor, questions the Devil's decision to create harmful beings and promises to pay him for the damages once the oak leaves have fallen.

When the time comes for payment, the Devil discovers a tall oak tree in Constantinople that still has leaves. Frustrated, he wanders the wilderness for six months in search of it. When he finally returns, he finds that the oaks have sprouted new leaves, causing him to lose the opportunity for his

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compensation. In his wrath, he exacts revenge by putting out the eyes of the remaining goats and replacing them with his own, explaining the peculiar features of goats—stumpy tails and devil-like eyes.

This chapter cleverly illustrates themes of divine creation versus evil deception and the consequences of one's actions. It paints a vivid picture of the playful yet dark struggle between the Lord and the Devil, emphasizing how every creature, even goats, have a story rooted in the schemes of good and evil. Through this engaging narrative, we see how the world around us is influenced by the tales of creation and the moral choices made by mythical beings.

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Chapter 140 Summary: 149. The beam

In this captivating chapter from "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we encounter a clever girl who discovers the truth behind a magician's trickery. The story begins with an enchanter showcasing his magical abilities to a crowd, including an astonishing feat where a cock lifts what appears to be a heavy beam. However, the girl, having recently found a four-leaf clover, possesses a newfound wisdom that allows her to see through the deception. She boldly exclaims that the supposed beam is merely a straw, shattering the illusion and exposing the enchanter for what he is. Enraged by his humiliation, the magician vows revenge.

The narrative then shifts to the girl's wedding day, filled with excitement and anticipation. Dressed beautifully, she parades through the fields towards the church. However, she soon encounters a swollen stream with no means to cross. Undeterred, she decides to wade through but is abruptly mocked by the enchanter, who points out that she's actually standing in a field of blue flax and not water. As she realizes the truth, the people around her also see her predicament and join in ridiculing her.

This chapter highlights themes of deception and the triumph of truth, illustrating how wisdom can unveil illusions. The enchanter symbolizes jealousy and vengeance, while the girl's initial cleverness leads to her embarrassment, demonstrating that even the wise can falter. The story plays

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with the idea that appearances can be deceiving, urging readers to look deeper before making judgments.

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Chapter 141: 151. The three sluggards / The twelve idle servants

In Chapter 141 of Jacob Grimm's "Cinderella," we encounter two intriguing tales centered around laziness and idleness.

The first story features a king with three sons, each vying for the throne. The king, perplexed about which son to choose as his successor, decides that the laziest would be the rightful heir. Each son proudly boasts of their extreme idleness: the eldest claims he wouldn't even blink if a drop of water fell in his eye while sleeping, the middle son would rather let his heel burn rather than move, and the youngest asserts that he'd rather hang than lift a hand to save himself. It's the youngest son's shocking declaration that earns him the title of king, emphasizing the absurdity and humor in the notion that the laziest should rule.

The second tale introduces twelve lazy servants who pride themselves on their inactivity. They lie on the grass, each sharing their unique approaches to avoiding work. One servant explains how he focuses solely on his own

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Chapter 142 Summary: 152. The shepherd boy

Once upon a time, there was a shepherd boy known far and wide for his remarkable wisdom and clever answers to any question posed to him. His reputation reached the ears of the King, who, skeptical of the boy's abilities, summoned him to the palace. The King challenged the boy, promising to treat him as his own child if he could answer three seemingly impossible questions.

The first question was about the number of drops of water in the ocean. With a clever twist, the shepherd boy suggested that the King should dam all the rivers on earth to count the water, implying that it was an impossible task. The King then asked how many stars there were in the sky. The boy ingeniously requested a large sheet of white paper and, using a pen, made countless tiny dots on it, suggesting that counting them would be as futile as counting the stars themselves.

The King's final question was how many seconds of time existed in eternity. The boy responded with a creative metaphor involving the Diamond Mountain in Lower Pomerania, stating that it would take a bird sharpening its beak on the mountain for ages before even a single second of eternity passed.

Impressed by the boy's wisdom, the King granted him the honor of living in

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the palace, promising to consider him as his own son. This tale highlights themes of intelligence, creativity, and the alluring nature of friendship and family bonds, showing that wisdom can take many forms and often lies beyond the surface of mere answers. The shepherd boy's cleverness and the King's humility create a captivating dynamic that underscores the value of intellect over brute power.

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Chapter 143 Summary: 153. The star-money

In this enchanting chapter of "Cinderella," we meet a compassionate young girl who finds herself alone and destitute after the death of her parents. With nothing but the clothes on her back and a small piece of bread gifted to her, she ventures out into the world, trusting in divine kindness.

As she walks through the countryside, her heart shines through her actions. She encounters a starving man and selflessly hands over her entire piece of bread, wishing him well. Continuing her journey, she meets a child shivering from the cold and readily gives away her hood. The kindness doesn't stop there; she also gives away her jacket and a frock to children in need, demonstrating her unwavering generosity even as her possessions dwindle.

Finally, in a dark and lonely forest, she meets yet another child in need—a poor creature asking for a shirt. With a selfless spirit, she strips off her last garment, choosing to help despite being left with nothing herself. Just as she stands there, vulnerable and cold, a miraculous event occurs: stars fall from the sky, transforming into smooth pieces of money. In an astonishing twist of fate, a new fine linen shirt appears on her, and she gathers the star-money, ensuring she will have wealth for the rest of her life.

The story beautifully illustrates themes of selflessness, generosity, and the idea that true kindness is often rewarded in unexpected ways. Through her

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acts of compassion, the girl not only finds material wealth but also a sense of fulfillment, showing that goodness and faith can lead to wonderful surprises when least expected.

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Chapter 144: 154. The stolen farthings

In this poignant chapter from the story of "Cinderella," a family is enjoying a meal when an eerie but beautiful event takes place. As the clock strikes twelve, a pale child dressed in white appears, silently entering a neighboring room before leaving just as quietly. The stranger, who is visiting, becomes intrigued and questions the father about the mysterious child, but neither he nor his family can see it.

Day after day, the child repeats this strange ritual, and the stranger finally takes matters into his own hands. He peeks into the room and discovers the child on the floor, busily searching between the floorboards. When the child notices the stranger, it disappears. The stranger shares his experience, prompting the mother to reveal that this is her deceased child, who passed away a month earlier.

The story deepens as they uncover the reason for the child's restless spirit: it had been given two farthings by its mother to donate to a poor man but had kept them instead, thinking about buying sweets for itself. This one small act

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Chapter 145 Summary: 157. The sparrow and his four children

In this charming tale, a sparrow and his four fledglings experience the trials of growing up in a world filled with dangers. After a mischievous incident where boys knock their nest down, the young sparrows are scattered but manage to survive. When autumn arrives, the father sparrow is overjoyed to reunite with his children, reflecting on the worry he felt during their time apart. He realizes he didn't give them the important lessons about the perils of the world before they flew off.

As they share their summer experiences, each young sparrow recounts where they found food and how they navigated risks. The eldest sparrow shares his time in gardens, with the father warning him about the dangers posed by people with sneaky traps. The second son's adventures at court reveal a place filled with opulence but also peril, with reminders to stay cautious around clever and deceitful figures. The third son talks about foraging along highways, but the father cautions him about the danger of being caught by anyone with stones. Lastly, the youngest, who seems weaker and more naive, speaks of finding safety in a church, where he learned the importance of faith and divine protection.

The father is impressed by the youngest son's wisdom, as he emphasizes relying on God and his guidance for safety. They learn that faith and a good

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conscience can protect them against the wild dangers of the world. The tale concludes with a poignant reminder that those who trust in God and maintain their purity are under His safeguarding care, encapsulated in a beautiful verse about commitment and protection.

This story weaves themes of parental concern, the lessons of experience, and the importance of faith in the face of adversity. It illustrates how different paths in life lead to valuable lessons, and ultimately highlights the idea that spiritual faith and trust can lead to peace and safety amid life's uncertainties.

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Chapter 146 Summary: 158. The tale of Cockaigne

In Chapter 146 of the tale of Cockaigne, we enter a whimsical and surreal world filled with bizarre and amusing imagery that challenges the laws of nature and logic. The narrator describes an extraordinary scene where nothing is as it seems. Among the strange occurrences, we see renowned landmarks like Rome and the Lateran precariously hanging by a thread, and a man without feet surprisingly outrunning a horse.

This enchanting realm features a host of unusual characters and situations: a young ass with a silver nose is on the chase after two swift hares, while an enormous lime tree bears hot cakes instead of fruit. There's a lean old goat that surprisingly carries a massive load of fat and salt. As if things couldn't get any stranger, we witness a plough working without any animals, and a one-year-old child effortlessly throwing heavy millstones across vast distances.

The laughter continues as more oddities unfold: fishes causing a ruckus that could be heard in the heavens, honey flowing abundantly from a mountaintop, and two crows mowing a meadow. Children and animals alike partake in impossible tasks: frogs threshing corn, mice ordaining a bishop, and even cats attempting to extract a bear's tongue! In this topsy-turvy land, a snail manages to defeat two fierce lions, while a barber sets out to shave a woman's beard.

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The narrative culminates in a chorus of cock crows, encapsulating the whimsical essence of the tale. This chapter truly embodies themes of absurdity and imagination, offering a playful exploration of a world where the impossible becomes reality and the ordinary is transformed into the extraordinary. The charming and light-hearted tone invites readers into a delightful reverie filled with laughter and wonder.

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Chapter 147: 161. Snow-White and Rose-Red

Once upon a time, in a humble cottage surrounded by a lovely garden with white and red rose bushes, lived a kind widow and her two daughters, Snow-white and Rose-red. The girls were very different in personality; Snow-white was gentle and calm, often helping their mother at home, while Rose-red was lively and adventurous, enjoying nature outside. They shared a deep bond, promising to always stay together and supporting each other in all they did.

Living close to the forest, the girls roamed freely, gathering berries and playing with the friendly animals, secure in the knowledge that the woods held no danger for them. One morning, after a night spent camping in the forest, they encountered a luminous child who watched over them, ensuring they didn't fall into a dangerous precipice while they slept — a guardian angel, as their mother said.

As seasons passed, they maintained a wonderfully tidy home, with Rose-red blessing their mother with floral wreaths in summer while Snow-white

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Interpretation

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- Boots Riley

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Chapter 148 Summary: 163. The glass coffin

In this enchanting chapter, we follow a humble tailor's apprentice who, after getting lost in a great forest, seeks shelter for the night. Finding a quaint hut, he is initially turned away by a grumpy old man but eventually gets invited in after pleading for help. The tailor spends a peaceful night, only to be startled awake by a fierce battle between a stag and a bull. To his astonishment, the stag wins and then whiskers him away on a wild ride to a hidden rock chamber.

Inside, he encounters a mysterious voice leading him deeper into the hall adorned with mesmerizing glass treasures. His curiosity is piqued as he discovers two glass chests—one containing a picturesque miniature castle and the other housing a stunning maiden asleep in a glass coffin. When she awakens, her joy at being freed leads to the revelation that she has been imprisoned by a malicious sorcerer who transformed her brother into a stag and shrank her home.

She shares her story, detailing how a stranger's unwanted advances led to her brother's transformation and her own captivity. With a heart full of compassion, the tailor helps her fulfill the tasks she must complete to restore everything to its rightful place. They successfully retrieve the miniature castle and, with magical assistance, bring it to life back in the real world.

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As they free the maiden's brother from the stag form, the joy is palpable as they bring back her loyal subjects from their smoky prisons. The chapter culminates in a triumphant reunion and the beginning of a new life for the tailor, who, having proven his bravery and kindness, wins the heart of the beautiful maiden. Their union promises happiness and prosperity, signaling that noble deeds and genuine intentions can lead to the most rewarding outcomes in life. This chapter beautifully illustrates themes of courage, the power of love and compassion, and the triumph of good over evil, showing that even the humble can achieve greatness when guided by the right spirit.

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Chapter 149 Summary: 164. Lazy Harry

Lazy Harry is a man who finds even the simplest tasks burdensome. Each day, he drives his goat to pasture but complains about the effort it takes. Longing for an easier life, he soon devises a plan to marry fat Trina, a fellow idle soul who also has a goat. Seeing their shared disposition, Trina's parents agree to the match, and the couple happily weds, with Trina taking both goats out to pasture while Harry enjoys the comforts of idleness.

Trina suggests they trade their goats for a beehive since bees require less care and can provide sweet honey without the hassle. Harry, pleased with this idea, quickly makes the swap, and soon they are rewarded with delicious honey that fills a pitcher in their bedroom. Worried about mice or thieves, Trina keeps a stout stick nearby to protect their treasure, while Harry remains snug in bed, believing that rising early wastes time and resources.

One day, while still lounging, Harry muses that they should trade their honey for a goose and gosling. Trina argues they should wait until they have a child to tend to the geese, expressing her fears of the extra work. Their conversation turns playful when Trina imagines harshly disciplining their future children. However, in her excitement, she inadvertently shatters the honey pitcher, spilling the sweet treat everywhere.

Instead of mourning the loss, Harry quips about the “goose and gosling” no

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longer needing care thanks to the accident. They decide to enjoy the honey remnants in a blissful state of laziness, finding humor in their mishaps and contentment in their easygoing lifestyle. The story closes on a lighthearted note, reflecting the couple's belief that life can be enjoyed at a leisurely pace, just like the snail that showed up late to a wedding. Through this tale, themes of laziness, companionship, and the art of taking life easy shine brightly, creating a vivid picture of a carefree, if somewhat foolish, couple.

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Chapter 150: 165. The griffin

Once upon a time, there was a king with a beloved daughter who was gravely ill, and none of the doctors could heal her. A prophecy revealed that she could only be cured by eating a specific apple. Eager to save her, the king declared that whoever brought this apple would marry his daughter and become king. A peasant with three sons decided to send them to find the apple. The eldest, Uele, ventured forth, but when he met a little iron man and claimed he had apples for the princess, the man cursed him to carry back frogs' legs instead. The same unfortunate fate befell the middle son, Seame, who returned with hogs' bristles.

Then came the youngest, Hans, often mocked as "Stupid Hans." Despite his father's ridicule, he was determined to find the apple. He also encountered the little iron man, who assured him that his apples would indeed turn out beautiful. When Hans reached the palace, he successfully presented golden-yellow apples, and the princess was cured and sprang from her bed, much to the king's joy. However, the king hesitated to marry his daughter to Hans and instead imposed a series of increasingly difficult tasks on him,

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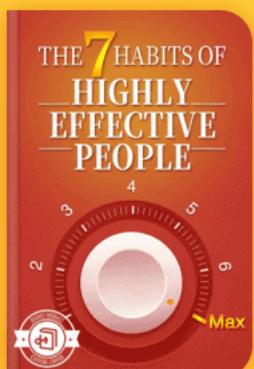
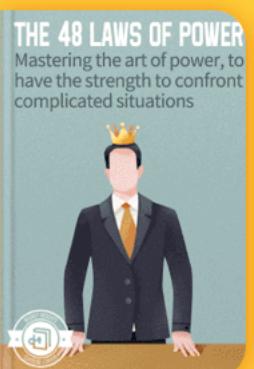
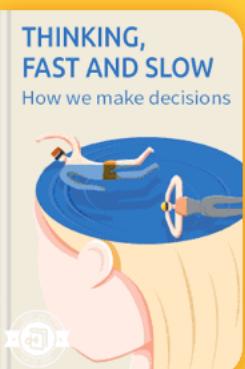
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Chapter 151 Summary: 166. Strong Hans

In the tale of "Strong Hans," we meet a man and his wife living a quiet life in a valley with their young son, Hans. One day, while collecting firewood, they are captured by robbers who take them deep into the dark forest to their hideout. The robbers force the mother to stay and care for her son, while Hans grows strong and brave under her guidance. Filled with an unyielding desire to know his father, Hans confronts the robbers, asserting his strength with a sturdy club he secretly created. After enduring two failures to extract the truth from the robbers, Hans finally overcomes them in a fierce battle, proving his might and determination.

With his mother, he escapes the cave laden with treasures, returning to their valley where his father is overjoyed to see them. The family begins a new life, thriving with Hans's industrious nature, showcased as he effortlessly plows the fields. Seeking adventure, Hans chooses to travel and fashions a formidable walking stick.

In the forest, he meets two strong men—Fir-twister and Rock-splitter—whom he recruits due to their impressive strength. Together, they take refuge in an abandoned castle where they encounter a wicked dwarf who demands food. While Hans shows kindness and resists greed, his companions are punished by the dwarf for their selfishness. This sets up a test of character showing Hans's virtuous nature in contrast to Fir-twister and

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Rock-splitter's flaws.

Eventually, Hans bravely confronts the dwarf, rescuing a beautiful maiden who reveals she is a kidnapped princess. Discovering the dwarf's treasures, Hans cleverly uses a magical ring to summon spirits that help him escape a trap set by his companions who betray him to steal the princess.

Chasing after them, Hans uses the ring's power again to rescue himself from drowning in the sea. After defeating his treacherous friends, Hans sails back triumphantly with the maiden, bringing joy to her parents and securing a happy ending through bravery, loyalty, and virtuous character. Themes of strength, morality, and the triumph of good over evil run through the story, highlighting Hans's journey from captivity to heroism, and emphasizing that true strength comes from one's heart and actions.

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Chapter 152 Summary: 168. Lean Lisa

In Chapter 152 of the tale, we meet Lean Lisa, a hardworking and ambitious woman, in stark contrast to her complacent husband, Long Laurence, and the lazy neighboring couple, Harry and Trina. Lisa tirelessly scrubs everything around her, overburdening Laurence with more chores than he can handle. Despite her relentless efforts, their life remains stagnant and unprosperous.

One night, utterly exhausted, Lisa stirs Laurence from his sleep to share her plan: if she can gather four florins, they could buy a young cow. The idea excites Laurence, who dreams of having fresh milk. However, Lisa quickly clarifies that the milk is for the calf, emphasizing their need to sell it for profit.

Their conversation turns heated, revealing Lisa's controlling nature as she refuses to let Laurence have any milk. In a moment of frustration, Laurence threatens to strike her, which only stirs more anger in Lisa, prompting her to confront him aggressively. The quarrel underscores the tensions in their marriage, showing Lisa's fierce determination and Laurence's submissive but frustrated demeanor.

As the chapter closes, it leaves us in suspense about whether Lisa will pursue her goal of finding the florin and whether their bickering will

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continue or yield to new developments. This chapter delves into themes of ambition versus complacency, the dynamics of domestic relationships, and the challenges of striving for a better life despite overwhelming circumstances.

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Chapter 153: 169. The hut in the forest

In a little hut on the edge of a lonely forest, a poor wood-cutter, his wife, and their three daughters faced hunger and hardship. One day, the wood-cutter decided to send his eldest daughter into the forest with his lunch, hoping she wouldn't lose her way. He scattered millet seeds along the path for her to follow. However, by the time she set out, the birds had eaten all the seeds, and she got lost in the woods. As night fell, she noticed a light between the trees and approached a house where an old man welcomed her in. Though he had three animals—a hen, a cock, and a brindled cow—the girl ignored them, focused only on her own needs. After eating, she went upstairs seeking a bed, but when she fell asleep, the old man mysteriously took her down to his cellar.

The next day, when the wood-cutter returned home hungry and worried, he sent his second daughter with lunch, confident she wouldn't stray. Alas, like her sister, she lost her way and ended up at the old man's house, where she repeated the same mistakes, neglecting the animals once again.

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Chapter 154 Summary: 170. Sharing joy and sorrow

In this chapter, we meet a quarrelsome tailor who mistreats his kind-hearted and hardworking wife. No matter how much effort she puts in to please him, he remains dissatisfied, often resorting to physical abuse. When the authorities finally catch wind of his behavior, they imprison him to reform his ways. After a while, he is released on the condition that he promises to stop the abuse and live peacefully with his wife, sharing in both joy and sorrow, as a good couple should.

However, the tailor struggles to change. Initially, he tries to obey the rules by not physically hitting her, but instead resorts to pulling her hair and chasing her around with a yard-measure and scissors. His erratic behavior escalates into a bizarre and cruel game where he finds amusement in her distress. When the neighbors intervene to help the wife, the tailor is brought back to the magistrates, where he tries to justify his actions. He claims he has been sharing joy and sorrow with her; when he hits her, he feels joy, and when he misses, she feels joyful. The judge and authorities see through his twisted logic and are rightly displeased, giving him the consequences he deserves.

This story highlights themes of abuse, the struggle for power in relationships, and the absurdity of twisted justifications for bad behavior. The tailor's inability to genuinely change illustrates how some individuals

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refuse to take responsibility for their actions, instead manipulating the truth to serve their own narratives. Ultimately, it serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of kindness and respect in marriage.

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Chapter 155 Summary: 171. The willow-wren

In a time long ago, the world was filled with sounds that each carried meaning—just like the blacksmith's hammer that urged, "Strike away!" and the mill wheel that cried for divine help when the miller was dishonest. As nature thrived on communication, birds had their own language that all understood, but that began to fade over time.

One day, the birds decided they needed a King, one who could lead them with wisdom and strength. The green plover, however, was against this idea, valuing his freedom above all else. He retreated to a marsh, wanting no part in the royal ambitions of his fellow birds. The assembly gathered on a beautiful May morning, filled with various birds, from eagles to sparrows. The chosen contest for kingship was simple: whoever could fly the highest would be declared King.

As the birds took to the sky, the smaller ones quickly fell behind, unable to keep up. The mighty eagle soared high above, confident in his victory. Yet, just then, a small nameless bird sneaked into the eagle's feathers and flew even higher, proclaiming himself King from the very heavens. The other birds were outraged, claiming he had cheated through trickery. They quickly changed the rules: now, the bird who could dive the lowest would become King.

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Chaos ensued as the birds scrambled to find their way to the ground. The little nameless bird cleverly found a mouse hole to conceal himself, proclaiming once more, "I am King!" The angry birds decided to imprison him, placing the owl as the guard to ensure he would not escape. But as night fell, even the vigilant owl grew weary and mistakenly fell asleep with one eye shut. Seizing his chance, the little bird slipped away unnoticed.

From that day forward, the owl shunned the daylight, fearing the reprisal of the other birds. The little bird, too, stayed hidden, only daring to occasionally declare himself "King of the hedges." While the other birds mocked him, the lark reveled in her newfound freedom, rising high at dawn to sing joyfully about the beauty of life, untouched by the whims of their small, cunning king. The story explores themes of ambition, cunning versus brute strength, and the struggle between freedom and authority, all woven together with the charm of nature's whimsical characters.

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Chapter 156: 174. The owl

In a quaint little town centuries ago, a humorous and absurd tale unfolds involving a horned owl that inadvertently becomes the center of panic. One night, this formidable owl takes refuge in a barn, and when daylight exposes her presence, the town's man-servant is so terrified that he flees in fright, claiming he's seen a monster capable of devouring men. His master, intrigued yet frightened, decides to face the creature himself, only to be equally alarmed upon seeing the owl.

Word spreads quickly, and the townsfolk gather, armed to the teeth—spears, axes, and scythes in hand—as though preparing to confront a fearsome enemy. One by one, the bravest among them attempts to confront the owl, but they all retreat in terror. Finally, a renowned strongman steps up, asserting that the others have turned cowardly. After arming himself with a sword and armor, he ascends a ladder to confront the beast.

As he nears, the owl, startled by the crowd and the chaos, flaps her wings and issues a harsh cry. The crowd, filled with enthusiasm and chants of

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Chapter 157 Summary: 175. The moon

In a land shrouded in eternal darkness, three adventurous young men ventured into another kingdom where they encountered the radiant moon, a glowing orb perched on an oak tree. They learned that the community's mayor had purchased this celestial light, maintaining it with oil and care. Inspired, the men devised a scheme to steal the moon for themselves, envisioning the joy it would bring to their own darkened homeland. One of them skillfully climbed the tree, bored a hole in the moon, and lowered it into their cart, covering it to hide their theft as they returned home.

Once they placed the moon on a similar oak tree in their own land, the transformation was magical. The moonlit glow spread joy throughout the community, attracting dwarfs and elves who reveled in the newfound light. The men diligently maintained the moon, receiving a small reward for their efforts. However, as time passed, they aged, and one man, foreseeing his death, commanded that a quarter of the moon be buried with him. This ritual continued with each of the men until the final one passed away, leading to the moon's gradual dimming until their land plunged back into darkness.

Meanwhile, the moon's pieces reunited in the underworld, stirring the dead from their slumber. Awed by the light, they became restless, venturing back to their old habits of revelry and chaos, which escalated into brawls that echoed towards heaven itself. Concerned, Saint Peter mistook this uproar for

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a revolt and gathered heavenly forces to address it. When he discovered the truth, he calmed the undead, put them back to rest, and reclaimed the moon, restoring it to its rightful place in the sky.

This tale speaks to themes of light and darkness, the consequences of greed, and the cyclical nature of life and death. It invites reflection on the joy found in light, the chaos that often accompanies freedom, and the inevitable return to order.

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Chapter 158 Summary: 176. The duration of life

In this thought-provoking tale, God decides to determine the lifespan of various animals and humans, starting with the ass. When the ass learns he would live for thirty years, he pleads for a shorter life, lamenting the hardships he faces as a beast of burden. Moved by his plight, God reduces his lifespan by eighteen years. Next, the dog arrives, and upon hearing he would also have thirty years to live, he expresses his concerns about aging and the decline of his abilities. God again shows compassion and shortens the dog's life by twelve years.

Then, the monkey comes along, initially seeming to have a carefree life filled with laughter. However, he too recognizes the superficiality of his enjoyment, realizing that joy can mask underlying sadness. God, reflecting on these exchanges, grants him an even shorter lifespan of ten years. Finally, when man appears, he excitedly requests a long life. God, sticking with the thirty years, offers to extend it by adding the ass's eighteen years, the dog's twelve years, and the monkey's ten years, making a total of seventy years.

Despite receiving this generous time, man yearns for more, feeling that seventy years isn't enough to experience life's fullness. As the narrative progresses, it reveals the phases of life: the first thirty years filled with vibrancy and vigor, followed by the burdensome phase of the ass for eighteen years, the growling, less active time of the dog for twelve years,

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and finally, the last ten years resembling the foolishness of the monkey. This chapter poignantly illustrates themes of existence, the inevitability of aging, and the complexity of life roles. It underscores how each stage holds its own challenges, joy, and sorrow, inviting readers to reflect on their own lives and the passage of time.

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Chapter 159: 177. Death's messengers

In this gripping tale from "Cinderella," we encounter a powerful giant on a highway who boldly confronts a mysterious figure declaring himself as Death. The giant, believing he can overtake anything, attacks Death and surprisingly defeats him, leaving Death weakened and unable to rise. Realizing that without Death, the world would overflow with living souls, he worries about his fate.

Along comes a young, carefree man who notices the stricken Death and out of compassion, helps him regain his strength. Grateful for the kindness shown to him, Death makes a promise to the young man: he will send messengers to warn him before his time comes, thus allowing him to prepare. The young man, relieved, continues to live a joyful life, untroubled by the thought of death.

However, as time passes, the man's youthful vitality fades and he is beset by sickness and sorrow, which grow increasingly distressing. He clings to the hope that Death will honor his promise and give him a proper warning,

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Chapter 160 Summary: 178. Master Pfriem (Master Cobbler's Awl)

In Chapter 160 of "Cinderella," we meet Master Pfriem, a cantankerous shoemaker known for his incessant criticism and overbearing nature. He's a small, thin man with a pale, scarred face and hair that is gray and unkempt. Master Pfriem is a whirlwind of activity, constantly rushing about and chastising anyone who dares to stray from his high standards. His apprentices can hardly bear to stay with him, as he finds fault with everything they do—from the unevenness of stitches to the dimensions of shoes, treating his work as if it were an art requiring absolute perfection.

His cantankerous spirit extends beyond his workshop as he meddles in the affairs of others, berating a girl for spilling water, scolding servants for idleness, and critiquing the construction of a new house. His chaotic, critical nature leaves chaos in his wake, with his criticisms often resulting in messes that he causes unintentionally. When his apprentice tries to point out that one particularly bad shoe is his own fault, Pfriem refuses to acknowledge the truth.

One night, after a particularly exhausting day, Pfriem dreams that he has died and found his way to heaven. Excited to enter, he is warned by the apostle Peter to abandon his critical ways or face dire consequences. However, his pride remains unshaken as he claims to see perfection in

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heaven. As he explores his celestial surroundings, he continues to critique the angels' work, noting the improper carrying of a beam and the absurdity of a leaky bucket. He sees heavenly tasks being executed in ways that baffle him, igniting his irritation.

His critical attitude leads to a crucial moment when he berates an angel for how they are moving a cart stuck in a hole. Just as he prepares to unleash more complaints, he finds himself forcefully expelled from heaven by a resident angel—an indication that his vanity and need for criticism are unwelcome, even in paradise.

Awakening from his dream, Pfriem reflects on the perplexing order of heaven compared to the earthly realm. While he doesn't fully grasp the divine rationality, he concludes with a smidge of relief that he's still alive on earth, ready to impose his will and standards yet again. The chapter illustrates themes of pride, the pitfalls of constant criticism, and the ironic nature of a man who is blind to his own flaws while being hyper-aware of others'. Through Pfriem's journey, we see a vivid portrayal of how rigid control and judgment can cloud one's understanding of the world around them.

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Chapter 161 Summary: 179. The goose-girl at the well

Once, in a secluded mountain area, there lived an old woman with a flock of geese. Despite her age, she was surprisingly agile and would venture into the forest each day to gather food for her geese. Although she greeted everyone with kindness, people avoided her out of fear, believing she was a witch. One day, a handsome young man, a count by birth, encountered her while she was cutting grass. Out of compassion, he reluctantly agreed to help her carry her heavy bundles.

As he struggled under the weight of the load, the old woman mocked him for his discomfort, insisting he press on. The burden became increasingly difficult, and he grew exhausted. Nevertheless, he had no choice but to comply with her demands. Finally arriving at her home, he was met by an ugly, strong woman who called the old woman "mother." The young count, resting outside, found the surroundings beautiful, yet felt drained and fell asleep.

When he awoke, the old woman shook him and handed him a small emerald book, promising it would bring him luck. Grateful yet curious, he departed without saying goodbye to the old woman's daughter. After wandering through the woods for three days, he reached a royal palace where he presented the emerald book to the queen. However, when she opened it and found a pearl inside—just like those that fell from her long-lost daughter's

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eyes—she fainted.

The queen explained her sorrow over her daughter, whom the king had banished long ago. The youngest daughter had compared her love for her father to salt, angering him, and he had sent her into the forest with salt as her only burden. The queen's anguish was palpable as she spoke of her daughter, lamenting that she may have died in the wild. Upon hearing this, the young count shared his tale of receiving the pearl from the old woman, leading the royal couple to resolve to find her.

Meanwhile, the old woman's daughter was revealed to be a beautiful maiden with golden hair, who washed herself at a well each night. However, every time the count caught sight of her, she vanished as soon as the moon was obscured. He pursued her relentlessly until he reunited with the king and queen, sharing his wondrous experiences.

The trio finally found the old woman, who revealed that their daughter had been safe and tended to geese all along, maintaining her innocence and purity. When the princess emerged from her chamber, she was as radiant as an angel. The family rejoiced, and the old woman bestowed upon the princess the tears she had shed for her—valuable pearls worth more than a kingdom.

With the old woman's departure, her humble abode transformed into a grand

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palace, suggesting she was not a witch after all, but a wise woman who cared deeply for the young girl. It was believed that the princess and the young count married, living happily in their new palace, while the enchanting mystery of the old woman lingered on: a protector and a bearer of gifts, ensuring that virtue and love triumphed in the end.

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Chapter 162: 180. Eve's various children

In this chapter, we revisit the familiar tale of Adam and Eve after their expulsion from Paradise. Struggling to survive in a harsh world, they establish a home and work hard, with Adam tending to the land and Eve spinning. Over time, Eve bears many children, each unique in appearance, some beautiful and others plain or even ugly.

As the time for God's inspection approaches, Eve is overjoyed and strives to present her household in the best light. She meticulously cleans the home and beautifully dresses her lovely children, instructing them on how to behave respectfully in front of the Lord. Meanwhile, in a bid to hide her less attractive offspring, she stashes them away in various hiding spots throughout the house.

When God arrives and sees the beautiful children, he blesses them with noble titles and rich gifts—promising future success as a king, prince, count, and more. However, Eve, feeling a surge of hope, decides to reveal her ugly children, believing they too deserve a blessing. To her surprise, God greets

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Interpretation

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- Boots Riley

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Chapter 163 Summary: 181. The nix of the mill-pond

Once upon a time, a miller and his wife enjoyed a comfortable life until misfortune struck, depleting their wealth. In desperation, the miller ventured out one morning and encountered a beautiful nix rising from the mill-pond. The nix offered him great riches in exchange for the young child his wife had just given birth to. Fearing that the nix was tricking him, the miller believed he was agreeing to part with a mere animal and accepted her deal.

As time passed, the miller's fortunes improved, but the promise he had made haunted him. He warned his son to stay away from the water, fearing the nix would come to claim him. Eventually, the son became a skilled huntsman, marrying a lovely woman and starting a life of happiness. However, while chasing a roe deer near the pond, he fell into the grasp of the nix, who dragged him beneath the waves.

His wife, upon realizing he had not returned, searched for him and discovered his hunting pouch by the pond. Heartbroken, she called for her husband but was met with silence. Exhausted from her grief, she fell asleep and dreamed of an old woman in a cottage who offered to help her. Following the old woman's advice, she received a golden comb, flute, and spinning wheel, each of which she used to summon her husband from the depths of the pond. Each attempt revealed more of him, allowing her to see and connect with him briefly before he was pulled back under.

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Desperate to save her husband, they were transformed into a toad and frog to escape a flood that erupted from the pond. Although the flood separated them, they eventually regained their human forms in a strange land, where they worked as shepherds.

Years later, fate reunited them as they grazed their flocks nearby. Neither recognized the other until the huntsman played a sorrowful tune on his flute, causing the shepherdess to weep. Their shared memories flooded back, and they embraced joyously, celebrating their love that had conquered all obstacles. This tale explores themes of love, sacrifice, and the enduring bond between partners, even in the face of overwhelming challenges.

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Chapter 164 Summary: 182. The little folks' presents

In this enchanting chapter from "Cinderella," two travelers, a tailor and a goldsmith, embark on an adventure that leads them to a magical hill where little folk dance joyously. As they draw near, they are captivated by the delightful music and soon find themselves invited to join the dance. The scene is vibrant with laughter and melody, but an old man among the dancers possesses a peculiar intention. He shaves the heads of both men, prompting initial fear but ultimately a sense of relief when he kindly gestures them to take home a heap of coals.

The two travelers retire for the night, and to their astonishment, they discover that the coals have transformed into pure gold while their hair has grown back. While the goldsmith, driven by greed, suggests they return for more riches, the content tailor prefers to enjoy his new fortune and plans to marry his sweetheart. Despite his reluctance, he accompanies the goldsmith back to the hill.

Once there, the goldsmith, now even greedier, fills his bags with coal, confident of his impending wealth. However, his gluttony leads to dire consequences: when he awakes, he finds he's received nothing but black coals, and his body has changed—growing a second hump and leaving him bald. Faced with the results of his greed, he is devastated and weeps.

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The compassionate tailor comforts his unfortunate companion, offering him a place to share in his newfound wealth. Yet, the goldsmith remains marked by his greed, carrying the weight of two humps for the rest of his life. This tale poignantly illustrates the themes of contentment, the consequences of greed, and the value of friendship against the backdrop of a whimsical yet cautionary adventure.

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Chapter 165: 183. The giant and the tailor

In this whimsical tale, a boastful tailor, who is more talk than action, decides to explore the world, leaving his workshop behind. As he wanders through the countryside, his curiosity is piqued by a towering structure in the distance. Upon closer inspection, he discovers that the tower is actually a giant who leaps over hills with ease.

The giant, with a booming voice, confronts the tailor, questioning why he's in his territory. The tailor, trying to impress, claims he's looking for work. Amused, the giant offers him a position with unusual wages—365 days a year, plus an extra day for leap years. The tailor, secretly planning to escape as soon as possible, agrees to the terms.

The giant then instructs the tailor to fetch him a jug of water. In a cheeky reply, the tailor suggests he might as well bring the entire well and spring. This comment unnerves the already timid giant, who begins to suspect the tailor might be more formidable than he lets on. Each request from the giant becomes a test that the tailor responds to with grand, boastful remarks,

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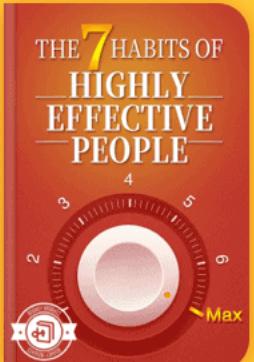
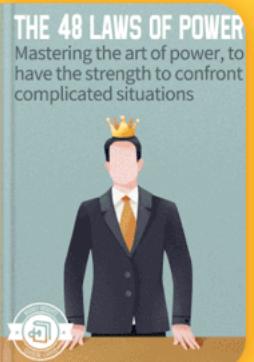
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Chapter 166 Summary: 184. The nail

In this chapter of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we meet a successful merchant who has just wrapped up a profitable day at the fair. Eager to return home quickly, he loads up his horse and, despite warnings from a stable-boy about a missing nail in the horse's shoe, chooses to ignore the advice, thinking he can manage the short distance left.

As he rides on, the horse begins to show signs of distress, limping and stumbling. The neglected nail ultimately leads to the poor creature falling and breaking its leg, leaving the merchant stranded and forced to carry his heavy trunk on foot. By the time he reaches home, it's late at night, and he reflects on the misfortune he brought upon himself by disregarding the stable-boy's warnings about the importance of that simple nail.

This tale emphasizes the theme of heeding wise advice and the consequences of haste. The merchant learns the hard way that taking shortcuts can lead to greater troubles, encapsulated in the wise saying, "Hasten slowly." Through this narrative, Grimm reminds readers that patience and attention to detail are essential for success and safety.

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Chapter 167 Summary: 185. The poor boy in the grave

In this grim tale, we meet a poor shepherd-boy whose life is marred by the neglect and cruelty of his wealthy guardians. Left orphaned and abandoned by his parents, he is taken in by a rich couple who are more concerned with their wealth than the well-being of the boy. Faced with hunger and constant beatings, the boy struggles to survive under their harsh treatment.

One day, while tasked with watching a hen and her chicks, disaster strikes when a hawk swoops down and captures the hen. The boy, desperate and trying to defend his charge, calls out for help, but his cries go unanswered. Instead, he faces a furious beating from the farmer for the loss. This incident highlights the boy's vulnerability and the unreasonable expectations imposed upon him.

When he is later sent to deliver a basket of grapes to a judge, hunger compels him to eat two bunches before reaching his destination. Though he confesses his actions honestly, he is still punished. The judge, amused by the boy's straightforwardness, recommends that the farmer care better for him. However, the farmer remains harsh, assigning the boy grueling tasks with threats of violence if he fails.

In a moment of desperation while chopping straw, the boy accidentally ruins his coat, fearing punishment more than anything. Overwhelmed, he

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remembers a poisoned pot that the farmer's wife had mentioned, leading him to consume the contents in hopes of ending his misery. Unexpectedly, he finds himself invigorated rather than weakened. Confused but determined, he seeks out what he believes is the true poison, but instead drinks Hungarian wine, which only drunks him further.

Believing he is near death, he makes his way to a graveyard and lays down in a freshly dug grave. Here, lulled by music from a nearby wedding, he drifts into unconsciousness and ultimately succumbs to the effects of the wine and the cold night air.

When the farmer learns of the boy's death, fear grips him over the consequences of his treatment of the boy, causing him to faint. In the commotion, the farmer's wife inadvertently sets their home ablaze, leading to their downfall. The once-wealthy couple is left poor and remorseful, haunted by their guilt and the harsh realities they ignored.

This chapter captures themes of neglect, cruelty, and injustice, emphasizing the vulnerability of the weak against the powerful. The boy's tragic journey from hardship to despair serves as a poignant reminder of the consequences that arise from treating others with disdain and the bitter price of ignorance.

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Chapter 168: 186. The true bride

In this captivating chapter of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we are introduced to a beautiful young girl who endures a miserable life under the cruelty of her stepmother after losing her mother at a young age. The stepmother imposes impossible tasks upon her, demanding her to complete arduous chores like picking twelve pounds of feathers, emptying a pond with a leaky spoon, and building a castle—all tasks designed to break the girl's spirit.

One day, amidst her despair, the girl cries out for help, and a kind old woman appears, offering her support. With her magical assistance, the girl miraculously finishes each task while she rests. The old woman vanishes after each of her acts of kindness, leaving the girl to face her stepmother's wrath, who is nonetheless impressed with the completed tasks and only seeks to impose greater challenges.

The final task involves constructing a grand castle, which the stepmother plans to claim for herself. However, with the old woman's help once again,

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Chapter 169 Summary: 187. The hare and the hedgehog

In this charming tale, we meet a hedgehog and a hare, whose contrasting personalities set the stage for a hilarious showdown. One sunny Sunday morning, while the world is bustling with joy and anticipation of harvest, the hedgehog feels a burst of confidence and challenges the haughty hare to a race. The hare, with his long legs, scoffs at the hedgehog's short ones and believes he can easily outpace him. Fueled by anger and determination to prove the hare wrong, the hedgehog proposes a wager: a golden louis-d'or and a bottle of brandy.

As the hedgehog prepares for the race, he devises a clever plan. Knowing his wife can assist him, he instructs her to stand at the finish line and shout, "I am here already!" when the hare arrives. The race begins with the hare dashing away at incredible speed, while the hedgehog feigns a slow start, hiding in the furrow. Each time the hare rushes to the end, the hedgehog or his wife calls out from the finish line, tricking the hare into believing he's been beaten by the hedgehog himself.

Despite repeated attempts and growing frustration, the hare realizes he can't win against the clever hedgehog, ultimately collapsing from exhaustion after the seventy-fourth race. Victorious, the hedgehog claims his winnings, and he and his wife return home in delight.

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At its heart, this story imparts important lessons: respect for others regardless of their stature and the wisdom of choosing a partner who complements one's own nature. It humorously reminds us that pride and underestimating others can lead to unexpected downfalls, leaving a joyous legacy where hedgehogs are forever wary of racing hares.

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Chapter 170 Summary: 188. The spindle, the shuttle, and the needle

In this enchanting tale, we meet a girl who becomes an orphan at a young age and is taken in by her kind godmother, an elderly woman skilled in spinning, weaving, and sewing. As the girl grows, her godmother imparts wisdom and love, preparing her for the world. On her deathbed, the godmother gifts her the little house where they lived, along with a spindle, shuttle, and needle, emphasizing the importance of keeping God's love in her heart.

After her godmother's passing, the girl lives alone, working diligently with her tools. She thrives in her activities, finding that her hard work is met with ample rewards, allowing her to live comfortably while also sharing her good fortune with others.

Meanwhile, the King's son is on a quest to find a bride, declaring he will marry the girl who is both the richest and the poorest. As he journeys through the village, he learns about the poor girl in her humble house. Intrigued, he seeks her out. When he sees her spinning, she's shy and quickly goes back to work, leaving a lasting impression on the prince.

Motivated by a whimsical tune she recalls from her godmother, the girl sings to her spindle, which magically leaps from her hand, followed by the shuttle

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and needle as she calls to each. As they move independently, creating threads and weaving a stunningly beautiful carpet, their magical essence leads the prince back to her side, guided by the golden thread.

When the prince arrives at her door, he is taken by her beauty despite her simple attire. Recognizing her as the richest in spirit and the poorest in circumstance, he invites her to join him, and she graciously accepts. With a kiss, he helps her onto his horse, and they ride away together to the royal castle, where a grand wedding is celebrated.

This vibrant chapter weaves themes of resilience, the transformative power of love, and the idea that true wealth lies not in material possessions but in kindness and spirit. The magical tools symbolize creativity and the rewards of hard work, showcasing how the protagonist's humble beginnings lead to a splendid destiny. The story concludes with a nod to the timeless artifacts, valued in the castle, representing her journey to love and fulfillment.

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Chapter 171: 189. The peasant and the devil

Once upon a time, there was a clever peasant known for his cunning tricks.

One day, while finishing his work in the field as dusk fell, he discovered a pile of burning coals with a little black devil perched on top. The devil bragged that the coals were hiding a treasure of gold and silver. Intrigued, the peasant struck a deal with the devil to share the harvest from his field: the devil would take half of everything above ground, and the peasant would keep what was below.

The peasant, however, had a clever plan in mind. He planted turnips, knowing that when harvest time came, the devil would only find the wilted leaves above ground while he dug up the juicy turnips beneath the soil. The devil realized he had been tricked, conceding the point but vowing to make another deal. This time, they agreed that the devil would take what was below ground and the peasant would take what was above.

When it came time to sow again, the wily peasant planted wheat. Come harvest, the devil arrived to claim his share, only to find nothing but stubble.

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Chapter 172 Summary: 191. The sea-hare

Once upon a time, a proud princess lived in a castle with twelve windows that allowed her to see her entire kingdom. Her vanity was matched only by her desire for control; she declared that any suitor who wanted to marry her must successfully hide from her gaze—an impossible task, with many challengers meeting grim fates at her hands. With ninety-seven heads displayed on posts as warnings, she relished her freedom, believing no one could ever challenge her.

Three brothers dared to try their luck against her. The eldest thought he could hide in a lime-pit, but she spotted him immediately and had his head cut off. The second brother chose to hide in a cellar but met the same fate. The youngest brother, however, was determined not to give up. He asked the princess for a day to think and pleaded for leniency if he failed to hide twice, but she doubted his chances.

Struggling to find a hiding place, he ventured out hunting, where he encountered a raven, a fish, and a fox. Each creature he spared promised to help him. The raven hid him in an egg, but she soon discovered him. The fish then swallowed him, and again the princess found him. After these failures, despairing but hopeful, he sought out the fox one last time.

The clever fox led him to a spring, transforming him into a small sea-hare,

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which he disguised himself as. The fox disguised himself as a merchant and took the sea-hare into town, where it caught the princess's eye. She bought it, and as she began her search through the windows, she did not spot him until the twelfth, making her furious. In a rage, she violently closed the window, shattering glass throughout the castle and discovering the sea-hare hiding in her hair.

Anger turned to disbelief, and she threw the sea-hare aside. Both he and the fox returned to their true forms by diving back into the spring. The youth, grateful for the fox's cleverness, headed to the palace to meet the princess. She, already accepting her fate, eagerly awaited him, and they married soon after. In the end, he never revealed his secret to her—crediting his success to his own cunning, which earned her admiration and respect. Thus, the tale closed on a budding kingdom united under love, mystery, and the respect earned through cleverness.

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Chapter 173 Summary: 192. The master-thief

In Chapter 173 of "Cinderella," we encounter an old peasant couple who live a humble life when one day, a splendid carriage approaches. The man inside, dressed finely and assumed to be a noble, requests a simple meal of potatoes. While the wife prepares the dish, the peasant shares his story about his wayward son who ran away long ago, a sharp boy who never learned a trade. The stranger, eager to learn more about the absent son, reveals himself as the peasant's child, marked by a distinctive birthmark. Ashamed but also proud, the father learns his son has become a "master-thief," stealing from the rich to help the poor.

While the father expresses concern about his son's chosen path, the mother, torn between joy and sorrow, welcomes her son back. The master-thief boasts about his skills and decides to visit the local count, who was once his godfather. The count expresses shock when recognizing him, yet allows him to undertake three challenges to prove his worth—failures will lead to a dire fate.

The master-thief cleverly completes the first task by stealing the count's prized horse using ruse and cunning, putting the guards to sleep with a potent wine. As dawn breaks, he joyfully presents the horse back to the count, who is impressed but warns him that next time will not be so easy. For the second task, the demon-like son uses trickery and the corpse of a

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hanged man to sneak into the count's castle at night, charming the countess into giving him her wedding ring under the ruse of needing it for a burial.

The master-thief displays his wit again in the final task by dressing as a monk and tricking the local parson and clerk into thinking the world is ending. He convinces them to crawl into a sack to escape to heaven, only to drag them to the count's castle instead. The count, after being shown the captured clergy, acknowledges the thief's masterful deception and lets him go with a warning never to return.

With a mixture of admiration and caution, the story ends with the master-thief leaving his parents once more, his fate remaining a mystery, illustrating themes of cleverness, the consequences of choices, and the bond between family despite life paths diverging.

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Chapter 174: 193. The drummer

In this enchanting chapter of "Cinderella," we meet a young drummer who embarks on a magical adventure following a chance encounter at a lake. While exploring the countryside, he stumbles upon three pieces of exquisite linen and unwittingly takes one. That night, he is visited by a mysterious voice pleading for the return of her dress, which belongs to a king's daughter trapped by a witch on the glass mountain. Moved by her plight, the drummer agrees to help her, despite the daunting challenges ahead.

The next day, the determined drummer sets out for the glass mountain, which is said to be impossible to climb. As he traverses a perilous forest, he cleverly confronts a giant by beating his drum to awaken others in the forest, leading the giant to fear the little folk's wrath. Instead of facing them, the giant offers to carry the drummer to the mountain. After a series of amusing exchanges with multiple giants, the drummer finally reaches the foot of the glass mountain, only to find that climbing it is an impossible task.

While pondering his next move, he encounters two men fighting over a

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Chapter 175 Summary: 195. The grave-mound

In Chapter 175 of "Cinderella" by Jacob Grimm, we meet a wealthy farmer who is prideful and self-absorbed. As he surveys his prosperous fields and treasures, he is abruptly confronted by the voice of his conscience, which reminds him of his neglect towards his family and the needy. This moment of self-reflection terrifies him, as he realizes he has been heartless and greedy, caring only for his wealth.

Soon after, a desperate poor man knocks on his door, pleading for help for his starving children. The rich man hesitates but eventually offers not four but eight measures of corn, under the condition that the poor man will watch over his grave for three nights after his death. Despite his reluctance, the poor man agrees, driven by his dire need.

Before long, the rich man dies unexpectedly, and the poor man honors his promise. As he keeps vigil by the grave, he encounters a soldier, who is looking for a place to shelter. The two decide to keep watch together, sharing stories and fears. In the dead of night, they are confronted by the Devil himself, who demands the soul of the rich man.

Undaunted, the soldier challenges the Devil and rejects his offers of gold, insisting on more until the Devil brings an enormous sack, still failing to fill the soldier's boot. As the sun begins to rise, the Devil, in desperation, flees,

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leaving the rich man's soul free.

In the end, the poor man wants to share the newfound gold, but the soldier, embodying generosity and selflessness, insists that it should be given to the poor. He proposes that they live together in peace and modesty, valuing companionship over wealth. This chapter beautifully highlights themes of greed versus generosity, the importance of kindness, and the fulfillment found in sharing with others.

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Chapter 176 Summary: 196. Old Rinkrank

Once upon a time, there was a King with a beautiful daughter, who declared that anyone who could cross a glass mountain would win her hand in marriage. A brave suitor sought the King's permission to attempt this challenge, and to his delight, the princess agreed to accompany him, promising to hold him steady if he wavered. However, halfway up the mountain, disaster struck when the princess slipped and fell into the depths, disappearing as the mountain sealed itself shut. The suitor and the King were devastated and searched desperately but found no trace of her.

Meanwhile, the princess had fallen into the dark underground lair of an old man known as Old Rinkrank, who had a long gray beard. He offered her a grim choice: serve him dutifully or face death. She complied and spent years cooking, cleaning, and tending to him while he brought home heaps of treasure. Over time, she became known as Mother Mansrot and he as Old Rinkrank.

One day, seizing an opportunity when Old Rinkrank left home, she cleverly locked the doors and opened a small window for light. When he returned, he pleaded for entry with increasingly desperate calls, but she refused. Eventually, he tried to peek through the window, but his long beard got caught. In a moment of cunning, she refused to release him until he revealed where he hid the ladder he used to climb the mountain. Reluctantly, he

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shared its location to free himself.

With the ladder secured to the window, the princess climbed back to the surface. Overjoyed, she reunited with her father and told him everything that had happened. The King ordered a search of the mountain, uncovering Old Rinkrank along with his treasures. Justice was served as the King had him executed, while the princess's suitor was waiting for her. They joyfully married and lived happily ever after in wealth and happiness.

This tale highlights themes of bravery, cunning, and the triumph of good over evil. The princess's resourcefulness and determination ultimately lead to her freedom and a joyful reunion with her true love, illustrating that resilience and cleverness can overcome even the darkest of circumstances.

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Chapter 177: 197. The crystal ball

Once upon a time, there was a powerful enchantress who was deeply mistrustful of her three beloved sons, fearing they might try to usurp her powers. In her jealousy, she transformed the eldest son into a soaring eagle, the second son into a mighty whale, and the youngest son, fearing a similar fate, fled. He sought the beautiful but cursed princess imprisoned in the Castle of the Golden Sun, knowing that many brave souls had perished trying to rescue her.

After wandering through a dense forest, the youngest son encountered two arguing giants who were fighting over a magical wishing-cap. The clever youth suggested a race to resolve their dispute. He used the cap to wish himself to the castle, finding the princess in a wretched state—old and ugly in appearance, but her true beauty concealed beneath. She provided him with a mirror, showing him her true form, and outlined the perilous quest that lay ahead: to retrieve a crystal ball that would break the enchantment.

The courageous youth embarked on his dangerous mission, battling a fierce

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Chapter 178 Summary: 198. Maid Maleen

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess named Maid Maleen, who was deeply in love with a prince. Despite their love, her father, a powerful king, wanted to marry her off to someone else. Maid Maleen was resolute and declared she would take no other suitor, which infuriated her father. In his wrath, he imprisoned her in a dark, sunless tower, vowing she would remain there for seven long years until her spirit was broken.

Maid Maleen, along with her loyal waiting-maid, was sealed in the tower. With no light to mark day from night, they lamented their fate and worried they might starve as their food supply dwindled. Realizing that time was running out, Maid Maleen resolved to escape. Together, they worked tirelessly, using a bread knife to chisel away at the wall until they finally made a small opening through which they could see the outside world.

What they discovered was devastating—Maid Maleen's father's kingdom lay in ruins, ravaged by enemies. With no one left to help, they set off in search of a new home, struggling through hardships and hunger until they arrived at a large city where they were allowed to work as scullions in the royal kitchen.

Unbeknownst to them, the prince in this new kingdom was actually the same boy Maid Maleen loved. He had been betrothed to another woman, whose

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appearance matched her cruel heart. On the day of the wedding, the ugly bride, ashamed of her looks, forced Maid Maleen to wear her wedding attire to take her place at the ceremony. Though Maid Maleen initially resisted, the bride threatened her life, and eventually she complied.

As the prince led her to the church, he felt a peculiar connection, sensing her resemblance to Maid Maleen. During their walk, Maid Maleen whispered poignant phrases that hinted at her identity, which intrigued the prince. However, the bride feigned ignorance when questioned about these phrases.

After the wedding ceremony, when they returned to the palace, Maid Maleen quickly changed back into her simple garments, keeping only the precious necklace given to her by the prince. But when the prince asked about the words she whispered, the bride's deception was brought to light. Unable to recall the phrases, she realized her trick was failing.

In a moment of panic, the bride sent Maid Maleen away to uncover the words she had spoken. Maid Maleen's replies revealed the truth of her identity, which ultimately led the prince to recognize her as the true bride. Once he saw her gold chain, he rushed to her side, realizing how she had suffered for love during those dark years.

Maid Maleen revealed her identity and her past torment, leading to a joyful reunion with her beloved. The false bride, having been exposed for her

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treachery, faced dire consequences. Maid Maleen and her prince rejoiced together, filled with happiness after overcoming their trials, and the tower that once imprisoned her stood as a reminder of her bravery and resilience, a tale sung by children for generations.

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Chapter 179 Summary: 199. The boots of buffalo-leather

In this captivating chapter of "Cinderella," we follow a fearless soldier who, after being discharged, finds himself wandering through the countryside with little more than his buffalo-leather boots and an old waterproof coat. One day, he stumbles into a forest and meets a well-dressed huntsman who, like him, has lost his way. They decide to stick together in their search for food and shelter.

As evening falls, they spot a light in the distance and approach a stone house, only to learn from an old woman that it is the hideout of robbers. The soldier, undeterred by the danger, insists on entering the house, dragging the reluctant huntsman along with him. The woman, sympathizing with their plight, hides them behind a stove just as the twelve robbers burst in, demanding food.

The soldier's hunger overrides any concern for his safety, and he boldly sits at the table, much to the robbers' astonishment. When they threaten him with death, he casually enjoys his meal instead. As he drinks, he performs a clever trick, casting a spell that immobilizes the robbers, leaving them sitting frozen in shock.

Reveling in their defeat, the soldier instructs the huntsman to join him in feasting before capturing the robbers. Once they are securely bound and

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carted off to prison, the soldier and huntsman decide to follow along, blending in as the townsfolk celebrate the return of the King.

As they near the town, the soldier learns that the huntsman is actually the King in disguise. Surprised and embarrassed for treating him as a peer, the soldier kneels and begs for forgiveness. However, the King is grateful for the soldier's bravery in saving his life and promises him a lifetime of support, inviting him to enjoy the royal kitchen while humorously warning him to seek permission before drinking a toast in the future.

This chapter beautifully intertwines themes of bravery, companionship, and unexpected turns of fate. The soldier's confidence in the face of danger and his loyalty to the huntsman showcase the importance of friendship, while the revelation of the King's true identity adds an element of surprise and highlights how appearances can be deceptive. In the end, the soldier's audacity not only saves him but also earns him the favor of the King, illustrating a classic tale of courage and reward.

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Chapter 180: 201. St. Joseph in the forest

In this enchanting tale, a mother has three daughters, each with distinct personalities. The eldest is cruel and favored, the second is somewhat better but still flawed, while the youngest is kind-hearted and good-natured. Despite the youngest's virtues, their mother resents her and often sends her into a dark, mysterious forest, hoping she'll get lost and never return. However, the girl is watched over by her guardian angel, who ensures her safe passage.

One day, the angel's guidance seems to falter, and the youngest daughter finds herself lost in the forest. Fortunately, she discovers a small hut and knocks on the door, where she meets St. Joseph, a kind, elderly figure. He welcomes her, provides her with roots to make a soup, and offers her a warm fire to sit by. Demonstrating her generosity, the girl shares most of her food with him, a decision blessed by God as they both find satisfaction in the meal. When it's time to sleep, St. Joseph offers her the bed, but she insists he takes it, showing her humility and kindness. She falls asleep safely, and in the morning, she finds a bag of money left for her by St. Joseph, rewarding

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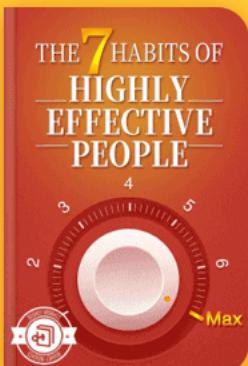
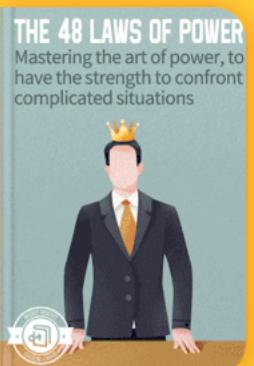
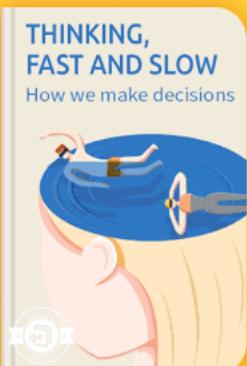
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Chapter 181 Summary: 202. The twelve apostles

In this enchanting tale, we meet a mother struggling to care for her twelve sons, burdened by poverty and helplessness. Each day, she prays fervently to God for her sons to be alive during the time of the promised Redeemer. As their need grows dire, she sends each son out into the world to search for food.

The eldest son, Peter, sets off on a journey, bravely traversing a vast forest in search of sustenance. However, as hunger gnaws at him, he becomes lost and weak, feeling the shadows of despair closing in. Just when he thinks hope is lost, a radiant boy appears—like an angel—offering solace and a solution. The child asks Peter about his troubles, and after hearing his heartfelt wish to see the Savior, he invites him to follow him to a hidden cavern filled with dazzling treasures of gold, silver, and crystal.

Inside the cavern, the boy instructs Peter to lie down in one of twelve beautiful cradles. As Peter nestles in, the angelic boy begins to rock him gently while singing a lullaby, lulling him into a deep sleep. One by one, Peter's brothers, each guided by their own guardian angels, find their way to the cavern and join him in slumber, each sleeping in their own cradle.

They remain in this enchanted sleep for three hundred years, until the momentous night of the Savior's birth, when they awaken, ready to fulfill

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their destiny as the twelve apostles of Christ. This tale captures themes of faith, divine intervention, and the timeless bonds of family, leading to a profound transformation that intertwines their lives with a pivotal moment in history.

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Chapter 182 Summary: 204. Poverty and humility lead to heaven

Once upon a time, there was a sorrowful King's son yearning for a deeper understanding of life and the path to heaven. He sighed wistfully about peace and goodness found in the skies above. During his ramble, he encountered a poor, gray-haired man who imparted profound wisdom: to reach heaven, one must embrace poverty and humility. He advised the Prince to wear ragged clothes, wander the world for seven years, and experience true suffering, asking for food only from the kindness of strangers.

Embracing this call, the Prince shed his luxurious garments and donned the beggar's rags, setting out on a journey fraught with hardship. During those seven years, he faced great trials, praying for divine guidance and nourishment. Upon his return to the palace, he was unrecognizable and met with disbelief from the servants when he asked to see his family. They mocked him instead of delivering his message. He then attempted to reach out to his mother through a heartfelt letter, describing his struggles without revealing his identity.

Moved by his words, the Queen offered him a place under the stairs of the palace, assigning two servants to provide him food. One of the servants was malevolent, hoarding the good food and depriving the weak beggar of proper

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sustenance, while the other was kind-hearted, ensuring he received the meager rations intended for him. As time passed, the beggar grew weaker, eventually nearing death. When the priest came to administer the last rites, the bells in town rang out, heralding his passing.

After he died, the beggar was buried, and a beautiful rose sprouted on one side of his grave, alongside a pure white lily on the other. This poignant tale illustrates deep themes of humility, suffering for a greater purpose, and the transformative power of sacrifice, where the Prince's journey teaches that true nobility lies not in royal titles or wealth, but in one's heart and compassion for others.

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Chapter 183: 206. The three green twigs

In this heartwarming tale, we meet a pious hermit who lives in solitude at the foot of a mountain, dedicating his life to prayer and good deeds. Every evening, he carries two pails of water up the mountain to nourish the thirsty plants and animals, accompanied by an angel who rewards his devotion with food. However, one day the hermit makes a careless remark about a poor sinner being taken to the gallows, believing him to get what he deserved. This judgment leads to the abrupt withdrawal of the angel's presence and the hermit's food, leaving him in despair.

Determined to understand his sin, the hermit spends days in prayer, eventually hearing a little bird who reveals that his judgment of the sinner angered God. To seek forgiveness, the angel instructs him to carry a dry branch until it sprouts three green twigs and to beg for his sustenance while staying only one night in each house. Thus begins the hermit's journey back into the world, where he faces rejection and hunger, often ending up empty-handed as he pleads for food.

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Chapter 184 Summary: 208. The aged mother

In this poignant chapter from "Cinderella," we encounter an elderly woman who reflects on her profound loneliness after losing her husband, children, and all her friends. Each loss weighs heavily on her heart, particularly the death of her sons. In her sorrow, she grapples with her faith, feeling abandoned by God.

One night, consumed by grief, she inadvertently watches the night slip away until she hears the church bells ringing for early prayer. Surprised by the passage of time, she lights her lantern and heads to the church. Upon arriving, she finds the church dimly lit and filled with people—who, surprisingly, are her deceased relatives, dressed in old-fashioned attire and with pale faces, silently filling the benches.

In a haunting moment, her aunt stands and directs her attention to the altar, revealing her two sons: one hanging from a gallows, the other bound to a wheel. The aunt explains that this grim fate would have befallen them had they lived, emphasizing that their early deaths were a merciful act by God, sparing them from a tragic life.

This revelation transforms the old woman's sorrow into gratitude. She returns home, trembling yet enlightened, and kneels in prayer, thanking God for the kindness that she had failed to understand amidst her grief.

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Ultimately, a sense of peace envelops her, and three days later, she passes away, suggesting a serene acceptance of her life's painful journey and a reunion with her loved ones in the afterlife.

This chapter beautifully explores themes of loss, the complexity of grief, and the potential for finding solace and understanding in the face of suffering. It underscores the idea that sometimes, what we perceive as misfortune can be a hidden mercy, leading to a deeper appreciation of life and faith.

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Chapter 185 Summary: 209. The heavenly wedding

In Chapter 185 of “Cinderella” by Jacob Grimm, we follow the journey of a poor peasant-boy who, inspired by a priest's sermon about entering the kingdom of heaven by walking straight on without turning aside, sets out on a simple but profound quest. He travels through hills and valleys, unwavering in his direction, until he arrives at a grand town and finds himself in the midst of a church during a divine service. Mistaking the church for heaven, he refuses to leave, proclaiming his joy at finally reaching paradise.

The church's clerk, puzzled by the boy's conviction, informs the priest, who decides to humor the boy by allowing him to stay, noting that his belief is a gift in itself. The boy quickly adapts to his newfound home, even expressing concern for the wooden image of the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus, whom he thinks looks starved. With heartfelt sincerity, he starts sharing half of his meager meals with the figure, believing his offerings help it grow healthier and stronger.

As time passes, odd occurrences stem from his acts of kindness; the image appears to gain life and vitality, puzzling the townsfolk and the priest alike. One day, the boy falls ill and cannot bring any food for eight days. However, upon recovering, his first thought is still to visit the image and apologize for his absence. To his astonishment, the image replies, assuring him that his

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good intentions are what truly matter, and promises that he will join her at the wedding next Sunday.

The boy is overjoyed and shares this news with the priest, who wishes to join him on this spiritual journey. However, the image tells him that it is only for the boy. As preparations unfold, the priest provides the boy with holy communion. In a poignant turn of events, upon receiving the host, the boy encounters his end, but instead of despair, he is welcomed into the eternal wedding, signifying a union with divine grace.

This chapter is rich with themes of innocence, faith, and the transformative power of selfless love. The boy's unwavering belief and genuine kindness not only uplifted his spirit but also created a miraculous bond with the divine that transcended the boundaries of life and death. Through simple acts of love and devotion, the boy finds his heavenly reward, illustrating that true faith and goodwill can lead to profound spiritual revelations.

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Chapter 186: 211. Puss in Boots

In the whimsical tale of "Puss in Boots," we meet a miller who leaves behind a rather unusual inheritance for his three sons: a mill, a donkey, and a clever tom cat. When the youngest son inherits only the cat, he is disheartened, feeling he received the least valuable asset. To his surprise, the tom cat speaks, revealing a grand plan: he asks the miller's son to make him a pair of boots so he can venture into the world.

Once clad in boots, the tom cat transforms into a remarkable figure. He quickly devises a scheme to impress the king, who has a particular taste for partridges. Using his wit and charm, the tom cat cleverly traps a number of partridges and presents them to the king, claiming they are a gift from his master, a lord he pretends to serve. The king is delighted and rewards the tom cat with gold, to the astonishment of the miller's son.

As days go by, the tom cat continues to catch more partridges and brings riches back to the miller's son, all while spinning fantastical tales of his master, whom he claims is a powerful and wealthy nobleman. Emboldened

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 187 Summary: 212. The hand with the knife

In this chapter of "Cinderella," we meet a young girl with three brothers who dominate their mother's affection, leaving the girl feeling neglected and mistreated. Each day, she's forced to venture out to a barren heath to dig peat for the household, using a heavy, dull tool that makes her task grueling and tiring.

Despite her hardships, there's a glimmer of magic in her life. An elf, who resides in a hill near her home, has taken a liking to her. Whenever the girl passes by, he offers her a magical knife capable of cutting through anything. With this enchanted tool, she quickly gathers the required peat, transforming her laborious task into a breeze. At the end of her work, she would gently tap the boulder to return the knife to her mysterious helper.

However, the girl's good fortune does not go unnoticed by her mother. Suspicious of the girl's newfound efficiency, the mother alerts the brothers, who begin to spy on her. They soon discover the secret of the magical knife and, in an act of betrayal, they seize it from her. When they return to the rock and the elf's hand reaches out as usual, the brothers shockingly use the very knife to sever the elf's hand. Believing that the girl has betrayed him, the elf disappears forever, leaving the girl alone and heartbroken.

This chapter explores themes of jealousy, betrayal, and the consequences of

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misused power. The contrast between the girl's innocence and her brothers' cruel actions highlights the tragic outcomes that arise from envy, ultimately leading to the loss of her magical ally and a deep sense of loss for her character.

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Chapter 188 Summary: 213. How children played slaughter with each other

In a quaint city named Franecker in West Friesland, a group of young children engage playfully in a game that takes a dark turn. They assign roles: a boy as the butcher, another as the pig, and two girls as cooks, one of them tasked with catching the "blood." The game appears innocent to them, but things go awry when the councilman witnesses the butcher enact a brutal scene. Recognizing it as childish play, the council convenes to decide the boy's fate. An old and wise councilman suggests a clever test using a red apple and a Rhenish gulden. If the boy chooses the apple, he will be freed; if he picks the gulden, he would face dire consequences. In an unexpected moment of childhood innocence, the boy chooses the apple, laughing, and is spared any punishment.

However, the story shifts dramatically to another family. A father slaughters a pig, an event that impresses upon the children, leading to a tragic game where a boy pretends to be the butcher and fatally stabs his little brother. Their mother, occupied with bathing another child, rushes downstairs upon hearing the screams. In her panic and fury, she retaliates by harming the little butcher. In a heartbreak twist, while she seeks help for her wounded child, the one she was bathing drowns. Overcome with grief and despair, the mother cannot accept comfort from neighbors and ultimately takes her own life. The father, returning from his work in the fields, is left in utter sorrow,

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leading to his own demise.

This grim tale reveals the dangerous intersections of innocence, play, and the harsh realities of adult consequences. It explores themes of childhood naivety, the gravity of actions, and the tragic fallout that can arise from misunderstanding and grief. The stark contrast between the playful mischief of the children and the tragic end of the mother and her family serves to highlight the fragility of life and the serious implications of seemingly innocent games.

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Chapter 189: 214. Death and the goose herder

In this intriguing tale, we meet a humble goose herder who spends his days tending to a flock of white geese by the shore of a stormy body of water. One day, Death appears, emerging from the water and expressing a wish to leave the world. Curious, the herder inquires how one can exit this life. Death informs him that crossing the water leads to a new world beyond. The herder, weary of his life, asks Death to take him across, but Death declines, saying it isn't time for him yet.

As the story unfolds, we learn about a greedy man who also catches Death's attention. Driven by his desire for wealth, this man is led to the water by Death and is drowned, along with his chase of dogs and cats, all lost to the depths. A few days later, Death returns to the herder, who is now filled with joy and song. This time, the herder agrees to follow Death and, much to his delight, his geese are transformed into beautiful white sheep during their passage.

Upon reaching the new land, he discovers it is a wonderful place where

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