

A Fairy Tale

Read the **story**.



The Emperor's New Clothes



Many years ago, there lived an emperor who was very vain. He loved to show off his beautiful clothes, and he spent long hours proudly looking at himself in the mirror.

One day, two scoundrels arrived in the kingdom. They came to see the emperor and told him that they could make him a suit of the finest cloth ever imagined. "In fact," they told him, "this cloth will be so delicate that it will appear invisible to anyone who is not smart enough to appreciate it."

The emperor quickly agreed to have this suit made and gave them a large bag filled with gold. The men asked for a loom, the finest silk, and lots of gold thread. They then pretended to begin their work.

Every day, the emperor sent one of his ministers to check on the men's progress. Although they saw that nothing was being made, they were afraid to report this to the emperor. After all, they did not want him to think that they were not smart enough to see and appreciate the cloth. Instead, they told the emperor that his new suit would be magnificent.

At last, the two scoundrels announced that the suit was finished. "Tomorrow will be a holiday, and I will parade through the streets in my new suit," announced the emperor excitedly.

The next morning, the two men pretended to help the emperor put on his new suit. The ministers stood nearby, admiring the work. No one, including the emperor, was willing to admit that what they really saw was the emperor dressed only in his underwear.

The parade began, and crowds of people pushed and shoved to get a good look at the emperor and his new clothes. Because they, too, did not wish to seem less than smart, the people cheered and praised the beauty of his new suit. But then a young boy's voice was heard above the noise of the crowd. "Look," he shouted, "the emperor is wearing no clothes!"

Suddenly, everyone realized that the boy was right. As the crowd laughed and even the ministers chuckled, the foolish emperor rushed back to his palace as fast as he could go. The two scoundrels, of course, were nowhere to be found.