

THE PUDDOCK AND THE PRINCESS

by

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## SYNOPSIS – THE PUDDOCK AND THE PRINCESS

This story, is based on a traditional Scottish version of the European Frog Prince theme. It is set in a mythological Scotland a long time ago, when all the folk in the Kingdom were happy and content, every man the friend of his neighbor. The country had no king for the king had died, but he had left behind him a Queen and three bonny daughters.

Everybody said what a good Queen she was, but one day the Queen falls mortally sick and her daughters are sent in turn to the Well at the World's End at Ardnamurchan, where the water has magical curative powers. At the Well, each daughter, in turn, encounters the *Puddock* (frog) Guardian of the Magic Water, but the price of obtaining the water is marriage with the *Puddock*. The eldest daughter, Nanse, is too proud and selfish and she refuses, the second daughter, Eilidh, is *pernicketic* and she also refuses, but Morag, the youngest daughter, accepts the *Puddock's* proposal for her mother's sake. After an improvised marriage ceremony, Morag is allowed to collect some of the Magic Water and returns to the Queen at her Palace. The Queen gets her cure, and is restored to vigorous health, but the *Puddock* duly turns up at the Palace claiming his marital rights. In the end, the *Puddock* is conveniently transmogrified into a Prince, Morag's sacrifice is rewarded and everybody lives happily ever after.