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Opening extract from

Sleeping Beauty

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Illustrated by

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FOR JOEL AND JOHN

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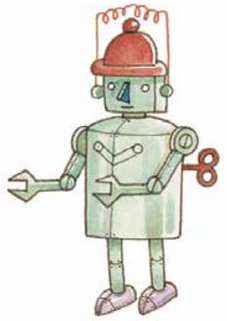
SLEEPING BEAUTY

A mid-century fairy tale

David Roberts

Retold by
Lynn Roberts-Maloney

PAVILION



In a time not too long ago and in a land much like our own, there lived a happy young girl called Annabel. She lived with her two Aunts, Rosalind and Flora. Annabel loved science fiction and spent hours dreaming of what the future would be like. However, little did she know she was living under an evil spell that could mean she had no future at all.







For on Annabel's first birthday
something had happened to change
her future forever. All the neighbours
were invited to a party, but one
of the neighbours was a mean and
spiteful witch called Morwenna.
She was jealous of Rosalind, Flora
and the beautiful baby Annabel
so she set out to spoil the fun.



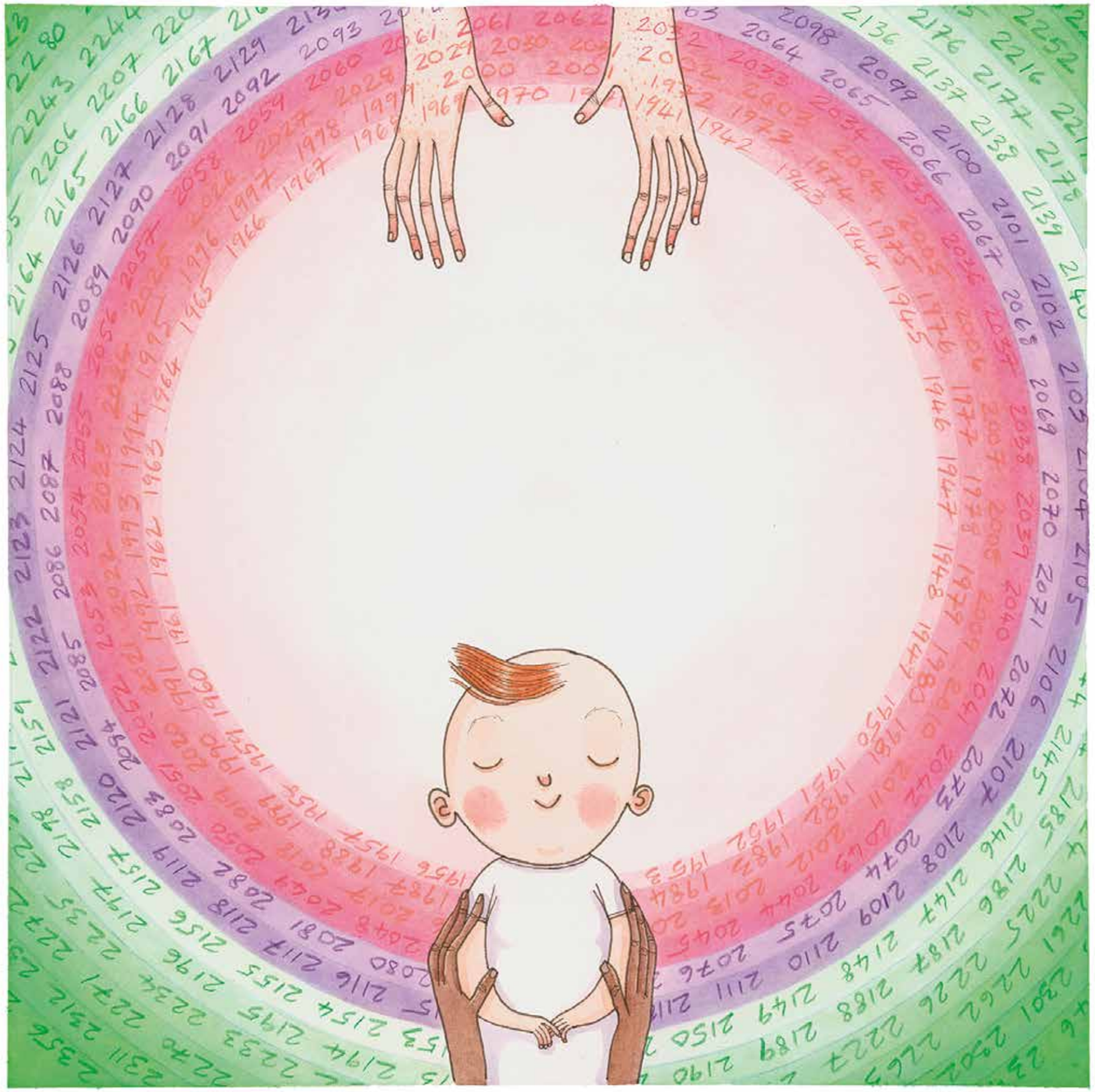
Everyone fussed over baby Annabel and gave her gifts. They were having a wonderful time until Morwenna stepped forward.

'Here's my gift' she cried, casting a spell. 'Before her 16th birthday is over, she will prick her finger on a needle and die!' Before anyone could do anything to stop her, Morwenna disappeared quick as a flash leaving behind only the echo of an evil laugh.



Rosalind cried in despair afraid that she could do nothing to stop the spell from coming true but Flora, who as it happened was a good and kind witch, said ‘Morwenna is a powerful witch and this spell is strong. I can’t take the spell away … but I can change it so that if Annabel pricks her finger she will not die, but will sleep for thousand years’. So as not to upset Rosalind further Flora kept secret that Morweena’s spell was actually so strong that if Annabel was not woken at exactly midnight on the thousandth day she would indeed die.







Rosalind removed every needle from her home and over the years kept a careful watch over Annabel. Oblivious to her fate, Annabel spent her time reading space books and watching the new television. She marveled at the films and stories about science and robots. She often thought that if she could wish for anything, it would be to see the world as it would be in the future.

