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Opening extract from

Fairy Tales

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Illustrated by

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Published by

Walker

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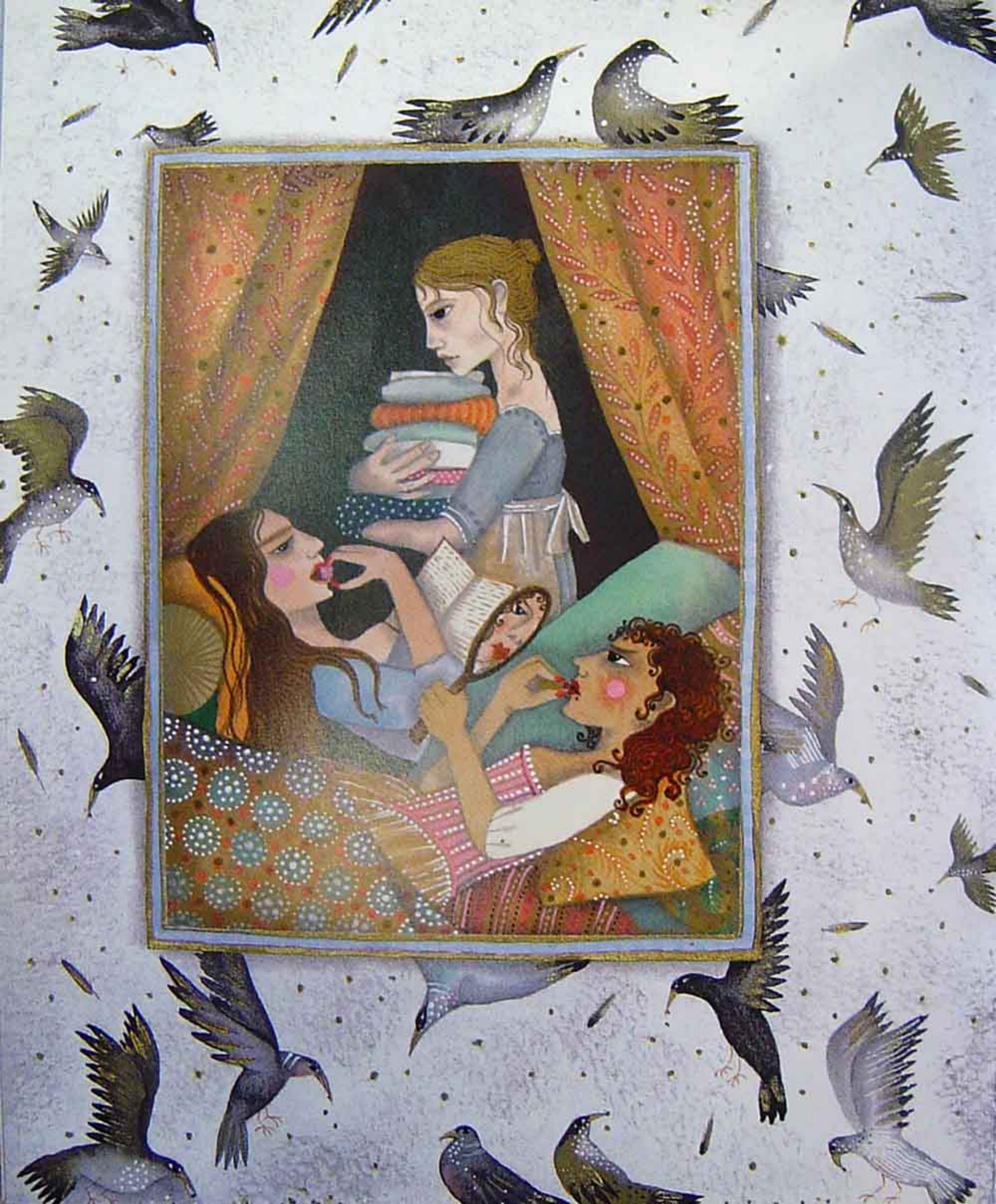
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CINDERELLA



There was once a girl who lived with her father and his new wife and her two daughters. Her mother had died, and the new wife was jealous because the girl missed her mother so much, and because she was prettier than her own daughters. She tried to hide her away at the bottom of the house. And the sisters had such ugly hearts that they treated the girl as if she was their servant. They came to be known as the ugly sisters.

The girl had to do everything for them, and never got any thanks for it. All she had to wear

was a ragged grey dress, and at night when her work was done, she had to sleep on the hearth among the ashes and the cinders. And so she became known as Cinderella.

One day Cinderella's father was going on a journey, and he asked his three daughters what they would like him to bring back for them.

"Oh, some glittery gold to wear round my neck!" said the oldest.

"Oh, some sparkly jewels to match my eyes!" said the second.

The father smiled fondly and said to Cinderella, "And what about you?"

"I would like the first twig that brushes against your hat as you ride," said Cinderella.

Her sisters laughed in scorn.

"The girl's an idiot!" the stepmother said.

