

# THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

(THE STEADFAST TOY SOLDIER)

Written by  
Hans Christian Andersen

First published  
1835 - 1872

This adaptation by  
Kiwi Opa





# THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Hans Christian Andersen is a Danish writer best remembered as one of the greatest storytellers of children's Fairy Tales. "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" was written between 1835 and 1872 and tells of the love and adventures of a one legged tin soldier and a paper doll dancer he falls in love with.

**By Hans Christian  
Andersen (1805-1975)**



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Once upon a time,  
a toymaker  
fashioned  
twenty five Brothers,  
all soldiers,  
from the same  
piece of tin.

They all shouldered muskets,  
They all looked straight ahead  
and they all wore splendid uniforms  
of red and blue.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Alas, When it came to the last soldier there wasn't quite enough tin left.

The toymaker only had enough to give the last soldier one leg.

But that soldier didn't mind, he was very proud to be different, he was very proud of his one leg.

He too stood erect, shouldering his musket, looking straight ahead, in his bright red and blue uniform.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The toymaker packed  
all 25 soldiers  
tightly, into a box.

It was very dark in there.

Then he carefully gift wrapped the box.  
They were a birthday present for a small boy.

When the little boy saw the box, he let out an  
exciting yell, "Tin Soldiers! Thanks, Mum!"



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The little boy emptied the soldiers out on the floor and selected the last tin soldier (because he was different) for sentry duty.



He placed him on a tower of blocks where the soldier could see:  
a brown Teddy Bear;  
a box labelled 'Jack';  
a magnificent castle with swans floating on a lake; and ...



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Standing at the castle door was the most beautiful girl the soldier had ever seen.

In fact,  
she was the only girl  
the soldier had ever seen,  
but he loved her because,  
like him,  
she only had one leg.

Well, he thought she did.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



“She is perfect,”  
the Little Tin Soldier  
said to himself,

“I shall make her my wife.”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



But what the soldier  
didn't realise,

The beautiful lady  
was a Dancer,

She held her other leg  
high in the air  
behind her.

# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



At midnight,  
when the clock  
struck twelve,  
all the toys  
would come alive.

The Little Tin Soldier  
was determined that  
then, he would visit  
the castle and ask  
for the beautiful lady's  
hand in marriage.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



At the stroke of midnight,  
the little tin soldier  
pushed open the lid of his box  
and climbed out.

He breathed deeply,  
because he was very nervous,  
then he began to hop  
in the direction of the castle.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Suddenly the lid of the jack-in-the-box popped open and an ugly grinning face jumped out and stared down at the Little Tin Soldier.

The face had sharp beady eyes  
that shone and flashed, “I’m Jack!”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

Jack stared at the Little Tin Soldier,

“She’s out of your league, soldier boy.  
and anyway, ya only got one leg.”



There was a moment  
silence between them.

“You live in a box!  
She lives in a castle.  
Give up!”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



The Little Tin Soldier  
looked up at the castle.

The beautiful dancer  
had been watching him.

She smiled.

The soldier's tin heart melted.

He jumped down onto the floor  
and started bouncing towards the castle.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



“Tin soldier,”

Jack practically spat  
the words out,

“Don’t wish for  
what does not belong  
to you.”

The Tin Soldier  
pretended not to hear.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Jack's voice became ominous,

“Very well!  
wait until tomorrow.

Bad things will happen.

An ill wind  
will carry you away,”

and with a fiendish laugh  
he disappeared back, inside his box.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



“I wouldn’t take  
any notice of Jack.”

Standing beside the soldier’s  
elbow was a Teddy Bear.

In spite of his growly voice,  
he sounded very friendly  
to the Little Tin Soldier.

“He’s bitter. He’s got no legs.

He can’t join in our games.”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



The Teddy Bear sighed,  
“Sad thing is, no-one  
would play with him  
even if he could move.”

The Little Tin Soldier glanced  
towards the castle and  
the stunningly beautiful lady.

“Go,” growled the friendly Teddy Bear,  
“Most important!

Don’t let Jack’s words get into your heart.”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

But the friendly Teddy Bear was too late.  
The Little Tin Soldier **had** taken  
Jack's words deep into his heart.



Jack had frightened him.

He lay down beside the lake,  
watching the Dancer;

He never took his eyes off her.

Finally he drifted off to sleep.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The next morning, when the little boy came in, he saw the tin soldier lying on the floor, he picked him up, placed him on a shelf, near an open window.



From there the soldier could see the whole room: Jack's box; the Teddy Bear; the castle and ... the beautiful lady was smiling at him.

He smiled back.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Suddenly,  
a gust of wind  
caught the curtain.

It flipped  
the Little Tin Soldier  
backwards,  
out of the  
open window.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

As he fell down towards the ground,  
Jack's words tumbled through his mind,

'Tomorrow, an ill wind will carry you away,'



And he  
was sure  
he heard  
Jack's  
fiendish  
laugh  
in the wind.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



The Little Tin Soldier landed upside down with his bayonet wedged between the cracks in the pavement.

The little boy and his mother rushed down to rescue him.

But they couldn't find him, although at one time, they almost stood on him.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

Now the soldier felt really miserable.

To make him feel even worse, large, heavy drops of rain started to fall.



It wasn't long before water was pouring down the gutter beside him.

‘What bad thing is going to happen next,’ he said to himself.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



As if in answer,  
two boys came running  
down the street.

They thought  
it would be fun  
to send him out to sea.

They quickly made  
a small sail boat out  
of an old newspaper  
and placed him inside.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



They sent the newspaper boat sailing down the gutter, then raced alongside laughing and splashing in the puddles.

The Little Tin Soldier, shouldered his musket, looked straight ahead, and he wondered, 'Will I ever see my beautiful Dancer again?'



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Large waves rocked the boat up and down.

It became soggy.

At times it swirled a full circle, quickly, in the water.

The Little Tin Soldier trembled.

He held on to his musket tightly.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Suddenly the boat dipped down and rushed into a drain.

‘What on earth is happening?’ thought the Soldier,

‘I bet Jack is behind this,  
his evil words put a magic spell on me!’



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Inside the drain  
it was very dark.

As dark as the box  
the soldier lived in.

In the distance  
he saw  
what looked like,  
the headlights of a car.

But that was silly,  
for cars hadn't been invented.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

As the newspaper boat floated closer,  
the soldier realised that  
the two lamps, were in fact, eyes.

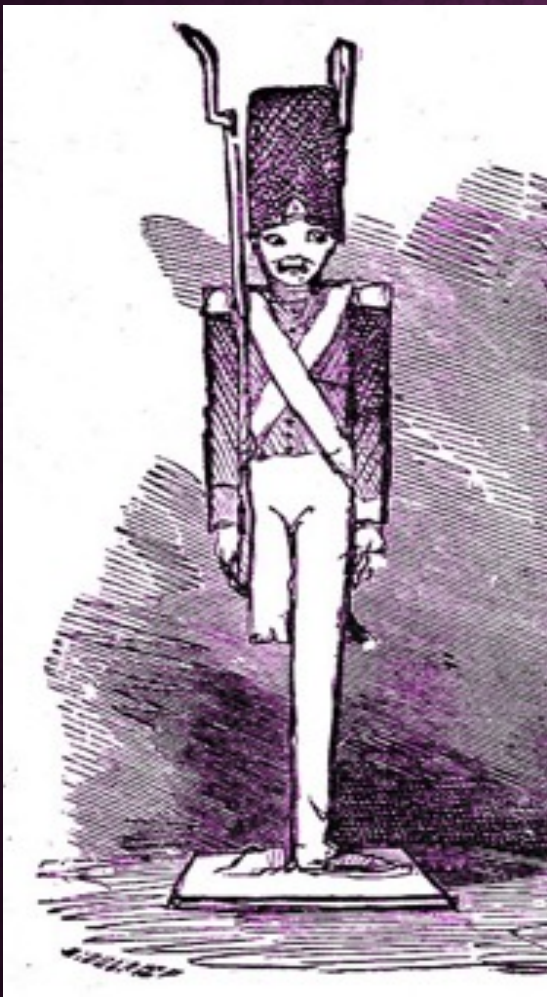
The eyes of a huge, ugly, fat, water-rat  
with a chewed off ear,



“Passport!”  
it cried.

It was  
the border  
patrol!





# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The Rat's eyes reminded him of Jack's sharp, beady eyes, that shone and flashed.

Unlike Jack's the rat's eyes didn't flash, but they just were as mean and unfriendly.

The Tin Soldier remained silent and held tightly to his musket.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



The Water Rat's hand reached out to make a grab for his passport.

But the Little Tin Soldier was too quick.

He crashed his boat through the straw barrier, and sped away.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

Hollering and gnashing his teeth  
the Rat gave chase.

He screamed to the wood and the straw,



“Stop ‘im, stop ‘im.  
‘E as’n’t paid  
me his toll.

‘E ‘ain’t got no  
pass.”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

But the roaring water surged on.

The Little Tin Soldier  
could already see daylight ahead.



‘Freedom, freedom,’  
he thought,

‘I might still  
get home to  
see her smile  
once more.’



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

As the little boat rushed towards the daylight,  
the Soldier heard a noise.



It was a waterfall.

The little boat  
shot out into the air.

Way, way, way below  
was a canal.

‘Not again,’ thought the soldier. Although he was  
frightened, he refused to close his eyes.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The boat spun and swirled and crashed  
onto the surface of the water and  
shattered into a thousand pieces.

(Do you think the soldier  
actually counted the pieces?)

The soldier was thrown  
into the thunderous water,  
with millions of bubbles  
rising up all around him.

(He definitely didn't count the bubbles!)





# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

There was a sudden silver flash,  
everything went dark.



He thought of the  
beautiful Dancer's smile.

He sighed,  
'will Jack's curse never end!'

An old tune  
popped into his head,

*'Farewell, warrior! Ever brave,  
drifting onward to thy grave.'*



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

It was then the soldier understood,  
he had been swallowed by a fish.



He lay full length,  
shouldering his musket.

The fish began to  
thrash about;  
the soldier held on  
for dear life.

Then suddenly it lay still.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

As the soldier lay there,  
a flash of lightning  
struck the fish';  
daylight flooded in.



Then,  
he heard a voice  
he recognised.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



“Why, it’s the  
little one legged  
Soldier  
that fell out  
the window.

Goodness gracious!”

The voice belonged  
to the little boy’s  
mother.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The fish that had swallowed him,  
had been hooked from the canal,  
taken to the market  
and sold to the mother.

When the mother  
sliced it open,  
she found the  
Little Tin Soldier.





# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



She carefully  
dried and showered  
the Soldier,

then put him  
in the castle,  
next to the  
beautiful Dancer.

“Don’t they make  
a lovely couple,  
both standing there  
on one leg?”



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



The soldier felt  
the presence of the Dancer.

Her smile melted his heart.

When the clock chimed  
midnight,  
he would boldly  
take her hand,  
ask her to marry him  
and ...

perhaps, even kiss her.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

But Jack's words still shadowed his heart.



Suddenly the  
little boy's sister  
came into the room,

“That soldier is ugly,  
he's deformed.”

She grabbed the  
Little Tin Soldier,  
and threw him  
into the fire.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



The fire burned,  
smoke poured from  
his uniform.

He was suffocating,  
because of the flames,  
maybe because of  
the fire of his love,  
he was totally unsure.

All he knew was,  
he was melting away.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



He stared up  
at the beautiful Dancer.

She smiled  
back at him.

But there was a tear  
that fell from her eye.

The tear finally  
washed Jack's words  
from the soldier's heart.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



As he was watching  
the curtain moved.

A breeze swooped in,  
caught the paper dancer  
in its arms,

and rushed her  
into the flames  
beside her love.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



Happy at last,  
wrapped in  
each others arms,  
the paper Doll  
and the  
Little Tin Soldier,  
danced close  
in the flames.



# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

The next morning, when the mother came in to clean up the ashes.

She discovered,  
lying in the fireplace,  
snuggled together,

the soldier's heart;  
and beside it,

the paper Dancer's  
little red tinsel rose.





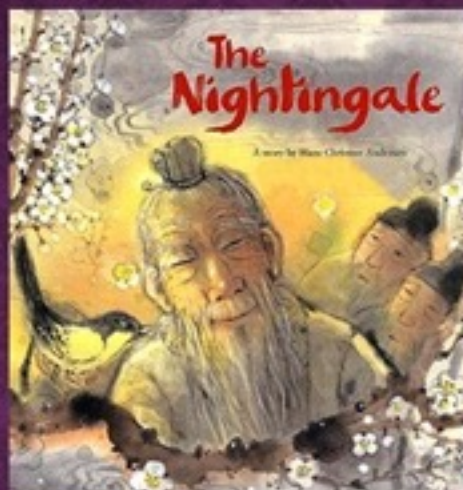
# LITTLE TIN SOLDIER

... together forever.



# THE END





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# THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIER



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**By Hans Christian  
Andersen (1805-1975)**





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