

**PRINCE RUDOLF'S QUEST: BEING
A STORY OF THE STRANGE
ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG
PRINCE OF THE OLDEN TIME**

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Prince Rudolf's Quest: Being a Story of the Strange Adventures of a Young Prince of the Olden Time by Ida Kenniston

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IDA KENNISTON

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THE LITTLE PRINCE MOUNTED ON A WHITE CHARGER, RODE AWAY FROM THE OLD CASTLE

*Nov - 18
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PRINCE RUDOLF'S QUEST

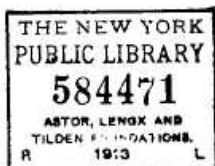
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BY
IDA KENNISTON



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PRINCE RUDOLF'S QUEST

Prince Rudolf's Quest

I

THE PROPHECY

PRINCE RUDOLF AND PRINCE Rupert were the sons of the good King Gottfried. Prince Rudolf was the younger, but his name is mentioned first because this story is mostly about him and the wonderful year he spent in the Forest of Grimwalki.

The two brothers, Rudolf and Rupert, were twins, so you see Rupert was only a very little the older. And yet, being sons of a king, even that little must make a great difference in their lives, for of course the King's first born must be king after him.

The King loved both sons dearly, but of the two Rudolf was a very little dearer to his father's heart. The boys were bright, handsome little fellows, eager and loving. They were very much alike in looks, so much so

that only the King, their father, could tell them apart. The Queen, their mother, had died when they were babies.

When the boys were five years old, the King called his court wizard and astrologer, Zuko, to a secret conference. He bade Zuko consult the stars and tell him of the future of the two boys. "Prince Rupert, the elder," said the King, "must rule after me in this fair kingdom. He will one day be king. But I would know what I may do for Prince Rudolf that he, too, may share in honor and greatness. It has occurred to me that I might divide the land into two kingdoms, and give to one son the eastern part, and to the other the western part, so that each might be king. Yet I do not like to do this. Consult the stars and all the lore of thy wizard books, O Zuko, and tell me if this shall be."

The wizard and astrologer, Zuko, who was of course a very old man, with a long, flowing beard as white as silver, retired to the circular room at the very top of the tall tower, where he had his great books of magic lore, and from where he studied the stars in the long nights when all the rest of the world was sleeping. Zuko shut himself up in the tower for three