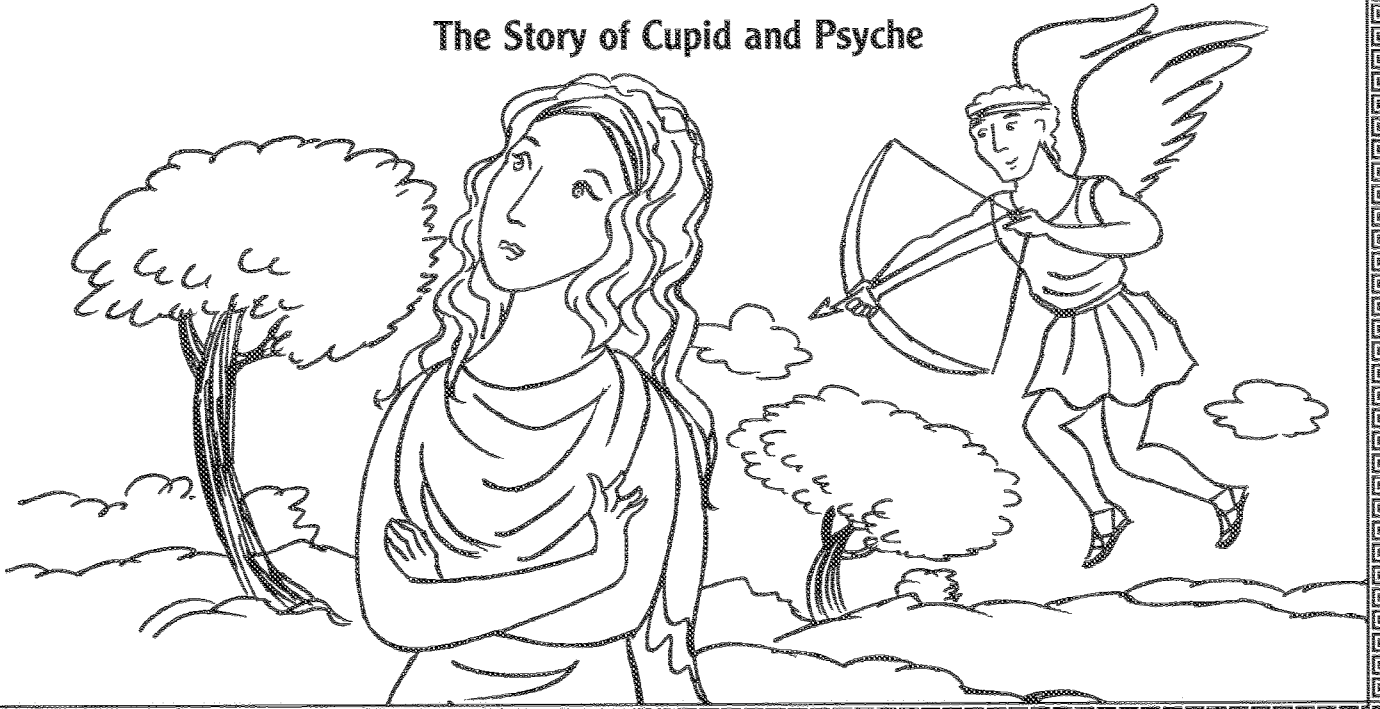


CUPID FALLS IN LOVE

The Story of Cupid and Psyche



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Psyche was annoyed by her trail of admirers. Meanwhile, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, watched Psyche and her devoted following from Mount Olympus. Like Psyche's sisters, Aphrodite grew jealous. The goddess of love called her son Cupid to help.

Cupid, darling, shoot one of your arrows at that girl who is stealing all the attention. But make sure she falls in love with something ridiculous, like a pig or a goat!

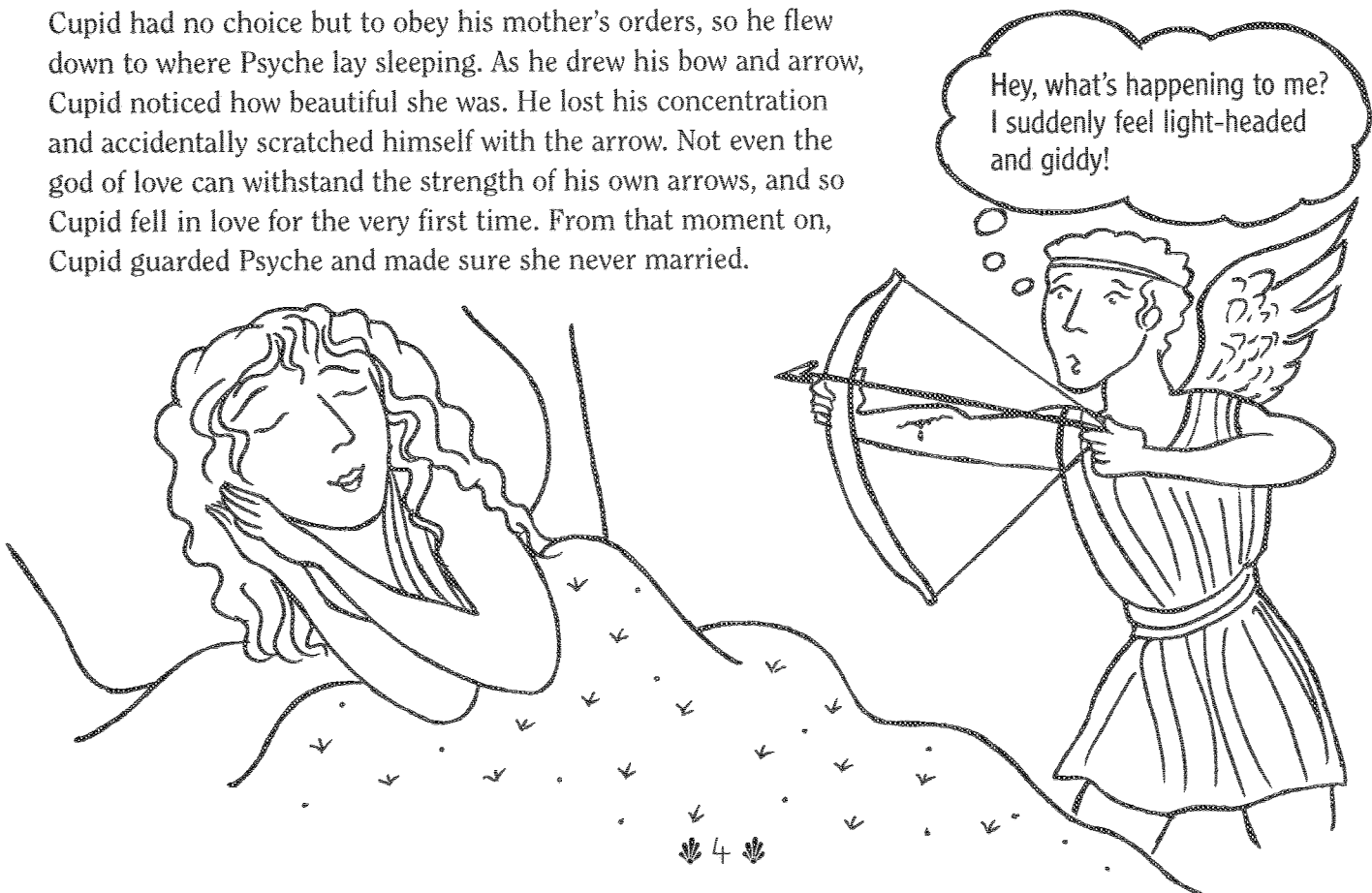


Long, long ago, sisters did not always get along. Psyche and her two older sisters were no exception. Psyche's sisters were envious of her beauty and the number of suitors who followed her all over town.



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Cupid had no choice but to obey his mother's orders, so he flew down to where Psyche lay sleeping. As he drew his bow and arrow, Cupid noticed how beautiful she was. He lost his concentration and accidentally scratched himself with the arrow. Not even the god of love can withstand the strength of his own arrows, and so Cupid fell in love for the very first time. From that moment on, Cupid guarded Psyche and made sure she never married.



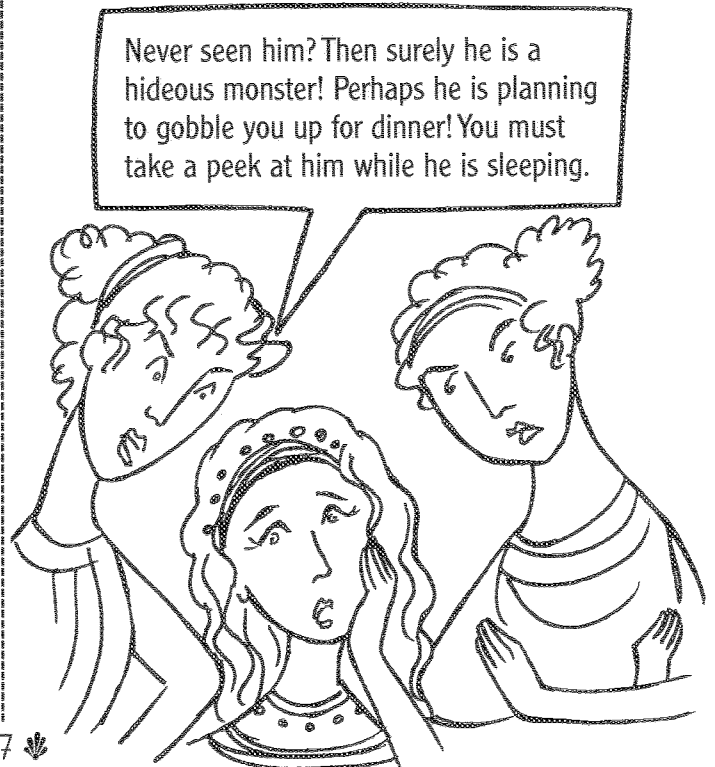
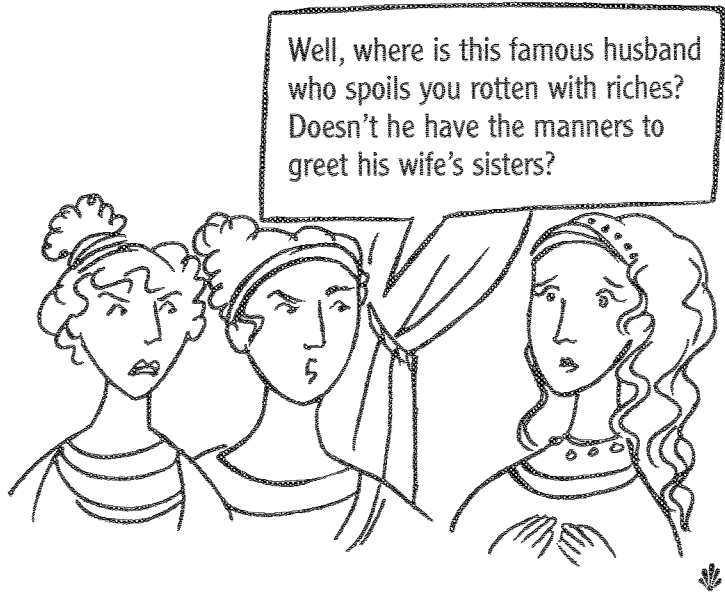
Psyche's father consulted an oracle to learn why his daughter had not yet married. The oracle said that Psyche must be left on a mountainside to be claimed by her future husband. Fearful and alone, Psyche waited there until it grew dark. Suddenly, a gust of wind picked her up and carried her far away to a beautiful castle. She wandered inside and looked everywhere for her husband, terrified of whom or what she might find. But the castle was completely empty.



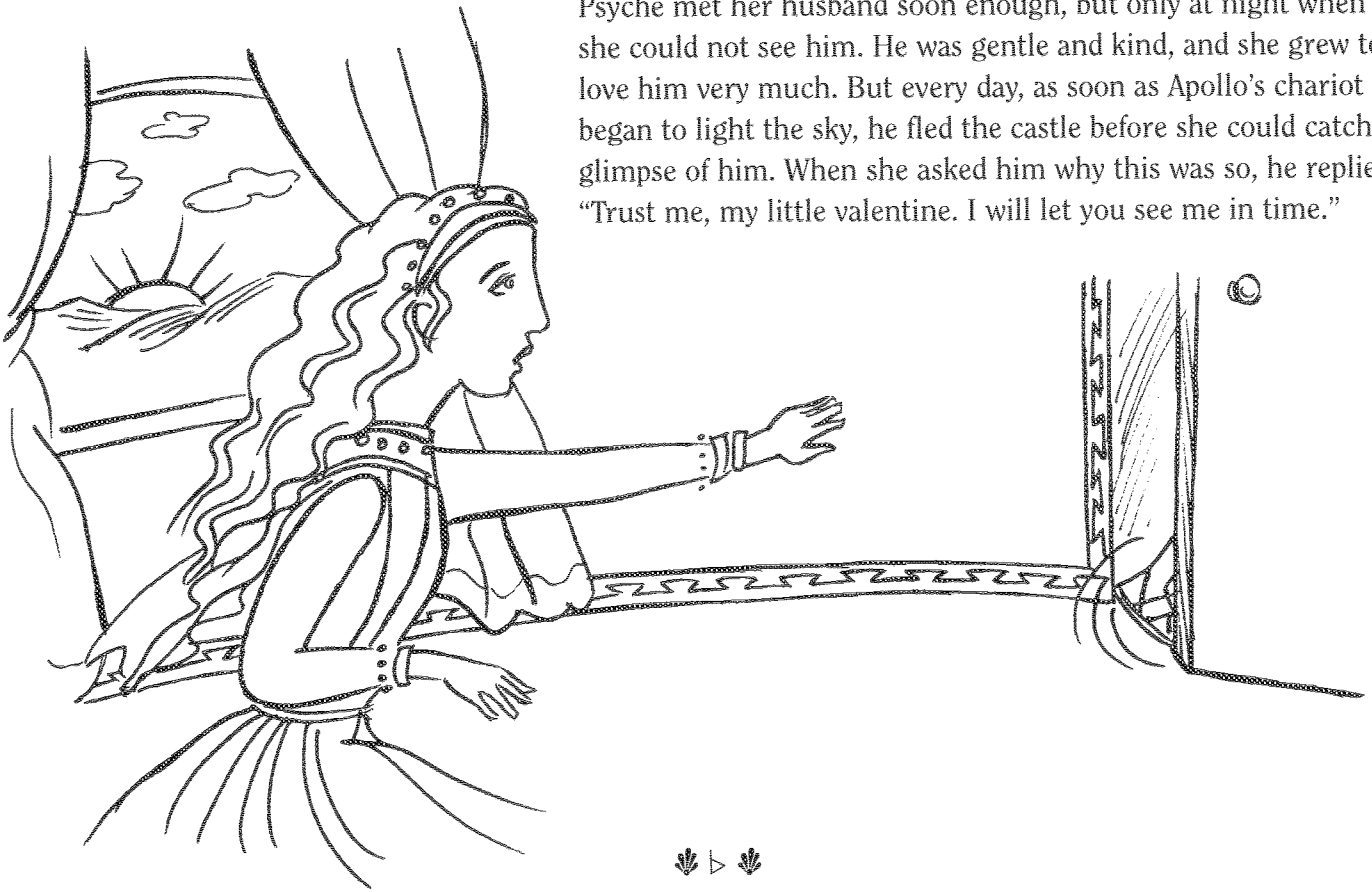
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Psyche missed her husband during the long hours of the day. She grew so lonely that she asked if he could bring her sisters for a visit. The next day, the two sisters were whisked into the castle by a gust of wind. They marveled at the splendor of the palace and at Psyche's beautiful clothes, but jealousy gnawed at them.

Psyche made up an excuse, but finally broke down and told them that she had never actually seen her husband.



Psyche met her husband soon enough, but only at night when she could not see him. He was gentle and kind, and she grew to love him very much. But every day, as soon as Apollo's chariot began to light the sky, he fled the castle before she could catch a glimpse of him. When she asked him why this was so, he replied, "Trust me, my little valentine. I will let you see me in time."



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That night while her husband slept, Psyche lit an oil lamp and tiptoed to his side. She beheld the most beautiful sight—there, peacefully sleeping, lay the god of love. As she reached to touch his face, a drop of hot oil dripped from the lamp onto Cupid's shoulder and he awoke with a start. When he saw Psyche, he was heartbroken. He knew that she did not trust him, and that love can be built only upon trust. He flew out of the castle, never to return.

