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Легко читаем по-английски

**Самые лучшие английские
легенды / The Best English Legends**

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Сказки и легенды любят читать не только дети, но и взрослые. В книгу вошли красивые английские легенды «Принцесса Кентербери», «Биннори», «Леди Годива» и др. Тексты подготовлены для уровня 2 (для продолжающих учить английский язык нижней ступени Pre-Intermediate) и снабжены комментариями. К произведениям даны упражнения для проверки понимания текста, а в конце книги – англо-русский словарик. Издание предназначено для всех, кто стремится читать на английском языке.

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Содержание

The Wishing Ring[1]	6
Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.	8

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Подготовка текста, комментарии, упражнения и словарь С. А. Матвеева
Иллюстрации *М. М. Салтыкова*

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The Wishing Ring¹



Once upon a time there lived a young farmer. He worked very hard, and yet he was quite poor. One day he ploughed his field. Suddenly a strange woman appeared before him. And this is what she said to him:

“Why are you working so hard, and all for nothing?² Listen to me. Go straight on for two days until you come to a great oak. This oak stands by itself³ and is higher than all the other trees. Fell it, and your fortune is made.⁴” And she disappeared as suddenly as she appeared.

The farmer took his axe and started on his way. He went straight on for two days. At the end of the two days he came to a place where he saw a great oak which stood by itself and was higher than the other trees.

“Now I see that the woman told me the truth,” said the farmer to himself. “I must do what she said.” And he began to fell the tree at once.

When the tree came down, a bird’s nest fell on the ground. Two little eggs in the nest were broken. From one of them came a gold ring, from the other a wonderful bird. The bird grew and grew until it was very large. It became so large that the farmer was frightened. But the wonderful bird spoke to him in a very kind voice.

¹ The Wishing Ring – Кольцо, исполняющее желания

² **and all for nothing** – и всё без толку

³ **stands by itself** – стоит в стороне

⁴ **your fortune is made** – найдёшь свою удачу

“You have set me free,⁵” said the bird, “and I want to thank you for it. I shall give you the ring that was in the other egg. It isn’t an ordinary ring. It is a wishing ring. If you turn it on your finger, and say to yourself a wish, your wish will come true.⁶ But you can only have one wish. After that the wishing ring will become an ordinary ring. So you must think carefully before you say your wish.”

And with these words the bird flew away. The farmer put the ring on his finger and started on the way home. In the evening he came to a town and went to a goldsmith who had many gold rings in his shop. The farmer showed him the ring and asked what it was worth.

“Next to nothing,⁷” answered the goldsmith.

The farmer laughed aloud and said, “You don’t understand anything. It is a wishing ring. It is worth more than all the rings in your shop put together.”

That goldsmith became silent; he was greedy enough. Though he was very rich, he always wanted to have more money. So he asked the farmer to stay at his house for the night.

“It will bring me good fortune,⁸” he said, “if a man with such a wonderful ring spends the night here.”

The goldsmith gave the farmer some bottles of wine to drink and talked to him like a friend. But he was a false friend, indeed! At night, when the farmer was fast asleep, he took the ring from his finger, and put another one in its place, which looked just like the wishing ring.

In the morning the goldsmith could hardly wait⁹ until his guest left his house. As soon as the farmer went away, he hurried to his shop, closed the shutters, locked the door, turned the ring on his finger and said, “I wish to have a hundred thousand sovereigns.¹⁰”

⁵ **you have set me free** – ты освободил меня

⁶ **your wish will come true** – твое желание исполнится

⁷ **next to nothing** – почти ничего

⁸ **good fortune** – удача

⁹ **could hardly wait** – не мог никак дожидаться

¹⁰ **hundred thousand sovereigns** – сто тысяч соверенов (*соверен* – золотая монета в 1 фунт стерлингов)

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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