

Hans Christian Andersen

**THE
EMPEROR'S
NEW
CLOTHES**

*Retold by
Ned Bustard*

*Illustrated by
Matthew Clark*

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“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” MATTHEW 6:28-29

*This story is lovingly dedicated
to my sister, Melissa—who knows
the difference between a swindle
and a bargain when she sees it.*

*These illustrations are dedicated
to my wife, Amy—who is never
afraid to tell me when my
Emperor has no clothes.*

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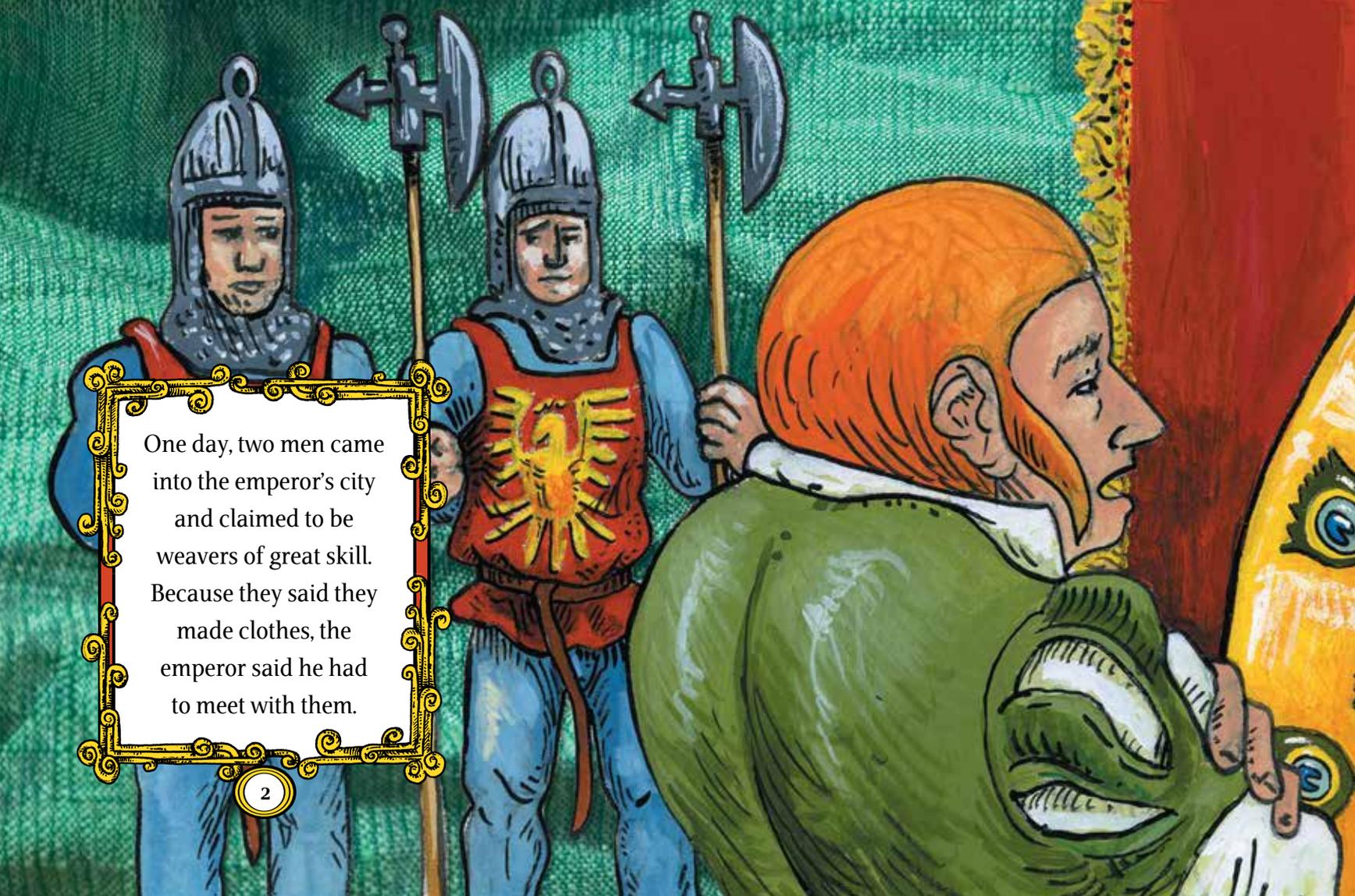
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**ONCE
UPON A TIME**
far across the Sea,
there lived an Emperor
who loved clothes. His
every thought was about
them. He spent all of
his money on new
clothes. He filled all
of his time dressing and
undressing. He had so
many clothes that he had
a different coat for every
hour of the day.

An illustration depicting a scene from a story. On the left, two men in medieval-style armor stand against a green, textured background. They wear silver helmets and chainmail. The man in the center has a red tunic with a yellow eagle emblem. Both hold large, double-bladed axes. On the right, a man with a large, rounded orange headpiece and a green robe is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He has a white beard and is holding a white cloth. The background on the right is red with a yellow decorative border. A yellow eye-like symbol is visible on the far right edge.

One day, two men came into the emperor's city and claimed to be weavers of great skill. Because they said they made clothes, the emperor said he had to meet with them.



“Your Majesty,” said the first man, “We have traveled from distant lands with the humble hope of crafting clothes for the man known far and wide as the smartest dressed of all royalty.”

“We make uncommonly beautiful fabric,” the other man added. “The color and pattern is woven so that it seems to be invisible to any man who is unfit for his work—or is simply stupid.”

“What grand clothing that must be!” thought the emperor. *“If I possessed such finery I would be able to stroll through my empire and easily separate the brilliant from the buffoon.”* The emperor was so excited with the idea of the magical cloth that he gave a large sum of money to the weavers so they could begin working that very day.





This is the story of a vain simpleton—an emperor who is swindled by a pair of rogues claiming to be great weavers. Promising miraculous clothes that are invisible to any man who is unfit for his work or stupid, the emperor proves himself to be both before being humbled in the end by an honest child.

Hans Christian Andersen's classic yarn of vanity and pride comes to life again in rich illustrations set against a kaleidoscope of cloth.

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