

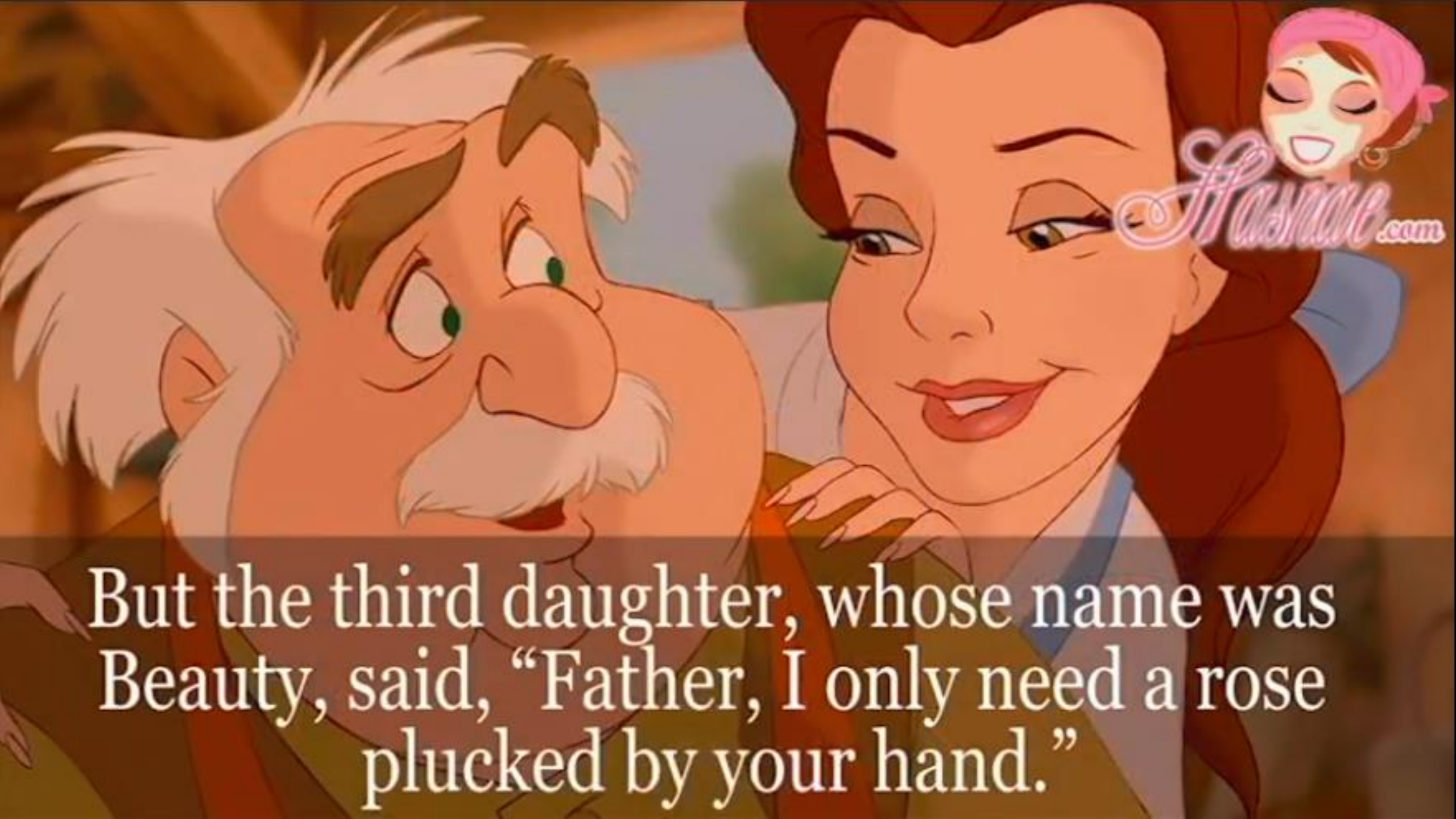
Once upon a time there lived a wealthy merchant and his three daughters.



One day, the father has to go to a far-away place and he asked his daughters what they wanted on his return.




The first and the second daughter asked
for expensive things.



But the third daughter, whose name was Beauty, said, "Father, I only need a rose plucked by your hand."



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A cartoon illustration of a merchant with a white mustache and a green tunic, riding a brown horse through a dark, dense forest at night. He is holding a large, glowing yellow scroll and a lantern. The horse is looking back over its shoulder.

The merchant, on his way back,
had to cross through the deep forest.



It was dark and the merchant
tried to find a place to sleep.



He suddenly found a huge castle
and went inside to find nobody.



There was a huge table with
delicious food and he ate it all.



Then the merchant went into the bedroom
and slept on a soft and fluffy bed.



The next day, he saw a beautiful rose bush growing in the lawn and remembered Beauty's gift. He plucked a red rose from the bush.



Suddenly, a ferocious looking beast sprang out of the bush.



He was wearing fine silk clothes and roared,
“I gave you food and a bed to sleep in! And
now, you are stealing my roses!”



The merchant was frightened and told the Beast about Beauty's gift.



The Beast decided to let him go only if he promised to send Beauty to this castle.



The merchant agreed and ran back home.



He cried and told his daughters about the Beast. But Beauty loved her father a lot and agreed to go stay with the Beast.



At first, Beauty was afraid of the Beast but slowly, she began to like him.



The Beast treated Beauty with kindness. He was never rude to her. He let her stay in the biggest room and let her roam in the beautiful garden.



One day, the Beast asked Beauty to marry him, but she refused. She was still afraid of his fearful-looking face.



The Beast still treated her kindly and with a lot of love. Beauty missed her father a lot.



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The Beast gave her a magic mirror and said,
“Look at the mirror and you can see your
family. Now you won’t feel lonely anymore.”



One day, Beauty looked in the mirror and saw that father was very ill and dying.



She went to the Beast and cried, "Please let me go home! I only want to see my father before he dies!"



But the Beast roared, “No! You promised you would never leave this castle!” Saying this, he stormed out of the room.




But later, he came to Beauty and said, “You may go to stay with your father for seven days. But you must promise to return after that.”



Beauty was very happy and agreed.



Then she left and went to stay with her father. Her father, on seeing Beauty, felt very happy and soon recovered.

The background of the image is a scene from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast". On the left, Cogsworth, the clockmaker, is shown from the chest up, looking towards Belle. He has a white beard and is wearing a green vest over a brown shirt. On the right, Belle is shown from the waist up, looking at Cogsworth with a surprised and happy expression. She has brown hair and is wearing a blue dress over a white long-sleeved shirt. The background is a warm, orange-toned interior with stone walls and a large window.

Beauty stayed with her family for seven days and more. She forgot the Beast and his castle.



But one night, she had a terrible nightmare in which she saw the Beast was very ill and about to die.



He was crying, “Beauty, please come back!”



Beauty woke up and went back to the castle because she did not mean to hurt the Beast.



She cried and said, “Please don’t die,
Beast! I will live with you forever!”



The Beast miraculously changed into a handsome prince.



He said, "I was under a curse all these years and could only be relieved when someone fell in love with me. I am now cured because you love me."



And then, Beauty and the Beast were married
and together they lived happily ever after.