

# *King Red and the white Snow*

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There was once a leprechaun. He was a king and his name was King Red. His beard was red, his cape was red, his crown was red, and his nose was red, especially when he had a cold. Everything was red, even his little finger. Luckily, his wife was green, which kept him calm—though when she danced with him he seemed redder than ever and about to catch fire.

One winter's day a snow storm came storming: the wind howled, the trees flopped back and forth, and snow fell in flakes as big as plates. Oh, the world was beautifully white when the storm stopped. It looked so pure and inviting that King Red just had to go out. Never before had there been such a snowfall in his kingdom, and never before had King Red gone walking in such whiteness. Out he went, marching happily on top of the snow. But King Red didn't get far. He was so red that the snow melted under his feet. Into the snow he sank, up to his knees and higher, and his red boots got wet. And when his red boots were wet, his socks got wet; when his socks were wet, his feet got wet, and when his feet were wet they were cold.

"Brrr, I'm chilly," shivered King Red. "My feet are freezing!" King Red wasn't used to being cold—oh no, not him, not Mr King Red. He trudged home slowly, his knees shivering and his teeth knocking together.

"Oh, my poor King Red," cried the lovely Queen Green when she saw him. She sat him on his throne and pulled on his red boots. She pulled and pulled and pulled—but they wouldn't come off; the leather had swollen.

So she got Princess Lilac to help her. They pulled and pulled and pulled at King Red's red boots, but they still wouldn't come off.

So Prince Orange was called, and he helped Queen Green and Princess Lilac. They pulled and pulled and pulled on those boots until they were purple in the face ... POP! went the boots, coming off like a cork out of a bottle. Green and Lilac and Orange fell over in a pile and squealed.

King Red looked at his feet. They were blue with cold.

"I shall never go walking in snow again," declared King Red, and his wife and children agreed that that would be a good idea.

And he didn't.

But his feet stayed blue for the rest of his life and he became known as King Red the Leprechaun of the Blue Footsies.