

## Sun Tannin

In the twenty seventh bathroom  
of her palace by the sea  
the princess washed her little feet  
in a bucket of cold tea

She'd heard that tea was good for feet  
if you rinsed them with champagne  
so she thought she'd try it once,  
then twice, then again and again and again

She drank some champagne as well, you see  
but spilled some on her clothes  
the front of her dress got rather wet  
and the bubbles tickled her nose

But she kept enough to rinse her feet  
in the hope it would work OK  
so she'd have the prettiest feet in the land  
every minute of every day

She did the washing and rinsing in spring  
in time for the summer sun  
and thought she'd take a look at herself  
in the tall mirror, what smashing fun

But her face soon dropped when she looked up and down  
and she almost began to cry  
blonde hair, blue eyes, lily white skin  
but feet like some overcooked pie

What could have gone wrong she asked herself  
I did it the way I should  
but the champagne didn't rinse off the tea  
I've got feet like mahogany wood

So she called for the palace doctor  
and asked him what she should do  
he took a look and smiled  
then said 'milk is the answer for you'

What do you mean asked the sad princess  
the tea and champagne didn't work  
so why do you think milk's any different  
I don't want another weird quirk

'When the staff in the kitchen make tea for you  
they add a drop of milk  
so the tea doesn't taste as strong as it might  
and it goes down as smooth as silk'

'The milk also help the cups to stay clean  
so instead of horrid brown stains  
the inside of the cups is nicely clear  
and washing them causes no pains'

'When you put your feet in the bucket tea  
it treated them like a cup  
left unwanted stains, a horrible sight  
and wouldn't come off when washed up'

'So what we can do is get some milk  
and wash your feet in that  
then the tea stains will gradually disappear  
till your feet are as white as your hat '

What do you mean by gradually  
asked the princess in sudden despair  
the summer will be almost over  
and I can't go out anywhere

'Don't worry' said the doctor  
'I know a way we can cheat  
we can suntan the rest of your body  
the same colour as those tea-stained feet'

So they went to a suntanning parlour by car  
the most exciting of rides  
she laid naked under a sun bed  
and tanned evenly front, back and sides

When she went to the beach her friends were jealous  
of her tan, no bikini lines: none  
and the way she had tanned between her toes  
made them wonder all day in the sun

'You must have sunbathed without any clothes  
you saucy young thing you've no shame  
but you must tell us how you suntanned your toes  
so we can do the same'

First you get a bucket of tea  
the princess started to say  
but her friends just laughed and thought she was joking  
so her secret stayed safe from that day.

In autumn the stains from the tea disappeared  
and the doctor's idea was right  
now she washes her feet in milk not tea  
and thinks them a beautiful sight.

Written by Philip W Baker for Charlotte  
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