Once upon a time, a nobleman lived happily with his sweet and gentle-natured wife and their young daughter. And when his wife died, he took another, who seemed as sweet and gentle as the first.

But no sooner was the wedding over than the new wife revealed herself to be the mean and jealous person she truly was. She couldn’t stand the way her new stepdaughter’s pleasing demeanor made her own daughters look silly and selfish. That is why she gave her stepdaughter only rags to wear and made her do all the worst chores around the house.
The poor girl swept all the floors...

...washed and dried and pressed the laundry...
... scrubbed the stairs...

...and cleaned and scoured every dish, pot, and pan.
At night she slept on a thin mattress in the **dingy attic**, while her stepsisters had a **lavish** bedroom and all the **luxuries** they wanted.

**Her stepmother ruled her father with an iron fist, and the poor girl knew he would only scold her if she complained.** So she suffered in patient silence.