

USBORNE YOUNG READING



Stories of Princes and Princesses



with
CD

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Stories of Princes and Princesses

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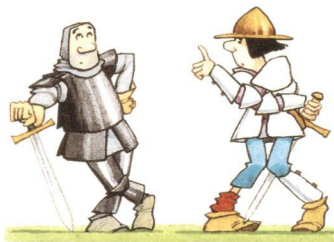
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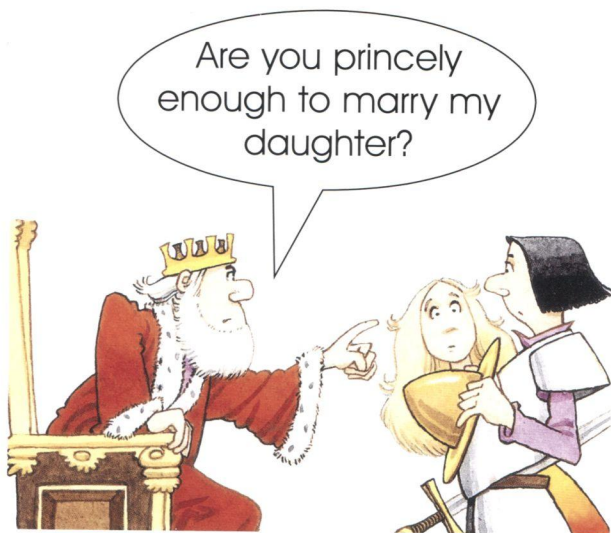
Chapter 1

The clumsy prince



Colin was the clumsiest prince in the kingdom. Other princes fought dragons. Colin fell over them. Other princes battered villains. Colin bumped into them.

One day, he tripped in front of a sad princess. She thought he was so funny, she wanted to marry him on the spot.



Her father had other ideas. He gave Colin three tests, tests he knew Colin would not pass.

First, Colin had to show how polite he could be. But he was so busy talking politely to the queen...



...that he didn't see the butler.

Next,
he had to
take the
princess
out. But
somehow,



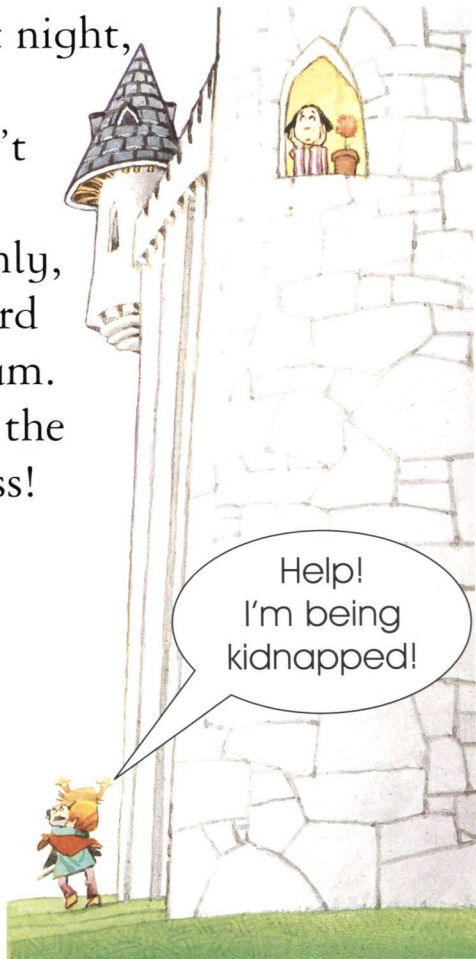
he lost the royal boat.

Then he had to ride the royal
horse like a prince.

“He rides like a clown!” said
the king.
“He must
leave the
palace
tomorrow.”



That night,
Colin
couldn't
sleep.
Suddenly,
he heard
a scream.
It was the
princess!



Colin jumped. What was going on? Was someone stealing the princess? He leaned out of his window and sent a flower pot flying...



...straight onto the head of the man stealing the princess.

The princess thief fell to
the ground with a thud.

Colin raced from the tower
and swept up the princess.



The king and queen raced out too.

“What’s going on?” cried the king. “What has Clumsy Colin done now?”



“He’s rescued me!” said the princess.

“Really?” said the king.

“Really!” she said.

The king smiled. “Well, the reward for rescuing a princess is to marry her,” he said.



So Colin lived clumsily, but happily ever after.



Chapter 2

The princess who wouldn't get married

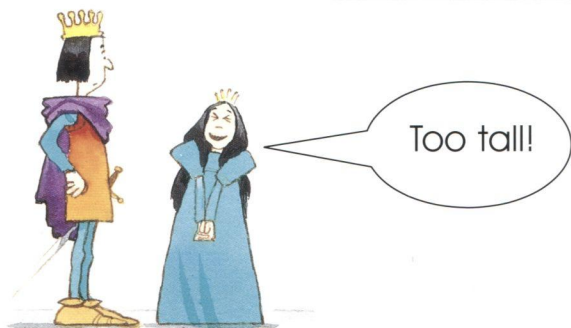
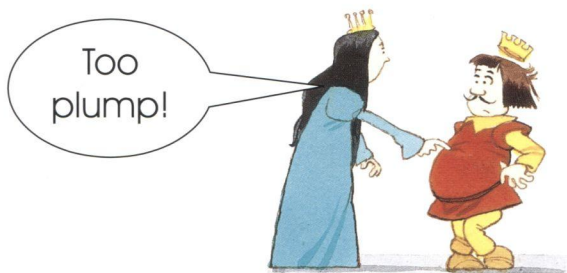


Prue liked being a princess, except for one thing. She didn't want to marry a prince.

“You have to,” said her dad.
“It's what princesses do.”

The king asked three princes to visit. "Choose one," he told Prue.

But Prue didn't want to. "Princes are boring!" she said.



Prue did like the third prince. But she didn't say so.



The king was angry.



The very next day, a beggar arrived, playing an old violin.

I order
you to marry my
daughter.

Yes sir, your
majesty.



Prue and the
beggar were
married on
the spot.

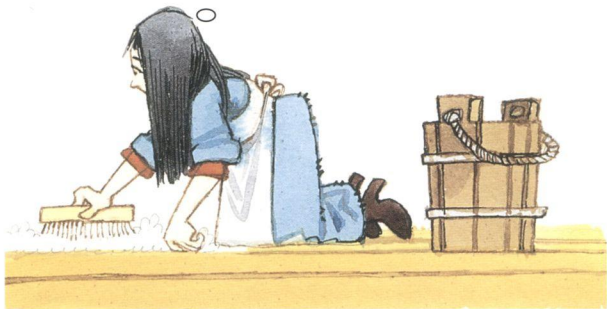
With his beard, the beggar reminded Prue of someone. Whoever he was, she didn't want to marry him. But the beggar took Prue home as his wife.



“Cheer up!” he said. “If you married a prince, you’d have to live in a boring castle.”

The beggar was kind, but very poor. They wore old rags and never had enough to eat. Prue was used to servants. Now, she did everything.

The floors at the palace seemed to stay clean.



One day, the beggar brought home some straw.

“We can make baskets to sell,” he said. But the straw cut Prue’s hands.



“You must get a job,” said the beggar. “Prince Alec is getting married. Perhaps you can work in the castle over the hill.”



The castle cook was pleased to have help. She took pity on Prue and gave her some food.

Prue was going home when she passed the ballroom. She sighed. There was Prince Alec, giving a speech to his guests.

Perhaps it
wouldn't have been
so bad to marry
a prince...



Just then, the prince turned around and saw her.

“You’re the hairy prince!”
cried Prue.

I wonder if
she knows...?



Prue tried to run away and
the food fell from her apron.
The guests began to laugh.

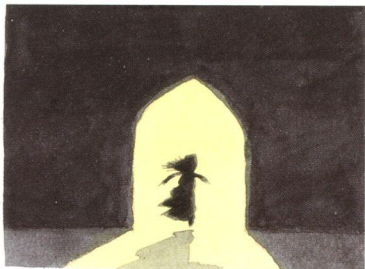


“I’d like to dance with you!”
said the prince and he reached
for her hand.

Just one
dance.



Prue burst into tears. She pulled her hand from the prince and fled.



But Prince Alec caught up with her. Prue looked at him closely. It was her beggar.

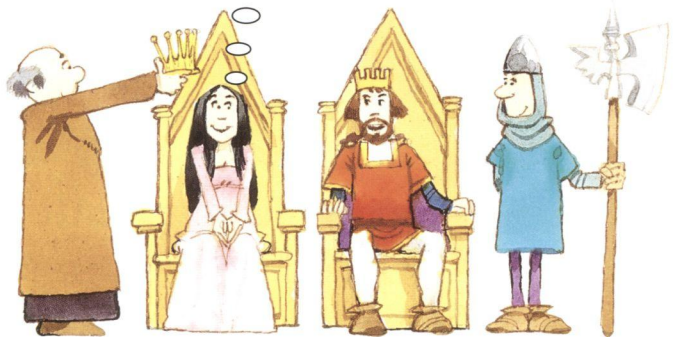


He took her back to the ballroom.

“Would you marry a prince now?” asked Alec.

“I would,” said Prue. “But I’m already married to you!”

No more
floors to scrub.
Ever!





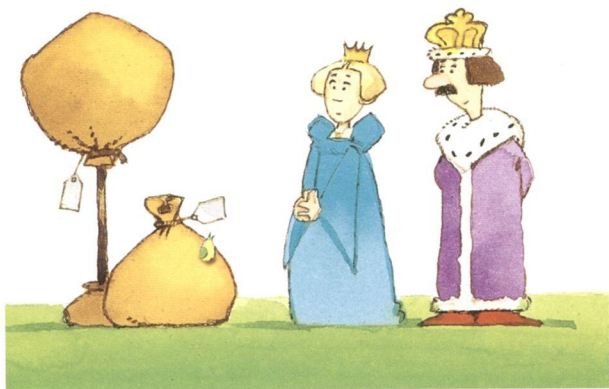
Chapter 3

The princess and the pig boy



Once, a poor prince named Sam lived in a tiny castle. All he owned were a beautiful rose tree and a lovely nightingale.

Sam fell in love with a rich princess named Sara. So, he sent her his beautiful tree and the lovely nightingale.



But Sara was not pleased. “A silly tree and a noisy bird?” she said. “Send them back!”

Sam didn't give up. He went to Sara's palace and got a job taking care of the palace pigs.

They don't
smell as sweet as
my rose tree.



But Sam missed his home.
He especially missed the
lovely songs of his nightingale.

So, he made a rattle which
played magical tunes.

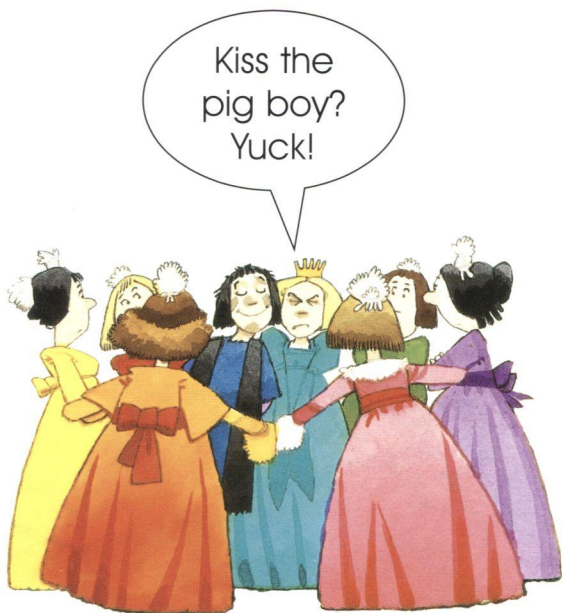


Sara was out with her maids
when she heard the rattle.

“I want it!” she said.


“It costs one hundred kisses,”
said Sam.





“Never!” said Sara. But she did want the rattle. “I’ll give you ten kisses,” she said.

“The price is one hundred,” said Sam. Sara had to give in.

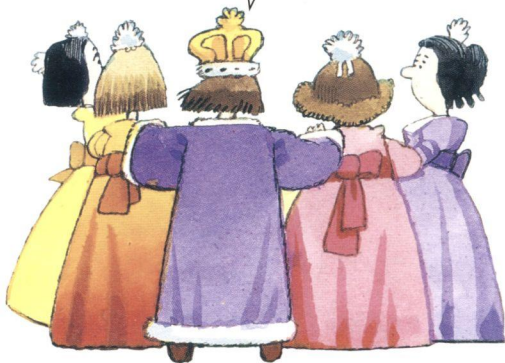
A king wearing a purple robe and a golden crown stands on a balcony of a yellow stone building. He is looking down at a group of people in a green field. A speech bubble points from the king to the group. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a small hut.

The king was
on his balcony,
when he heard
giggling. It was
coming from
the pig sty.

What's
going on down
there?

The king hurried down. He crept up behind Sara's maids and looked over their shoulders.

Hmm. Someone's kissing the pig boy...
It's Sara!



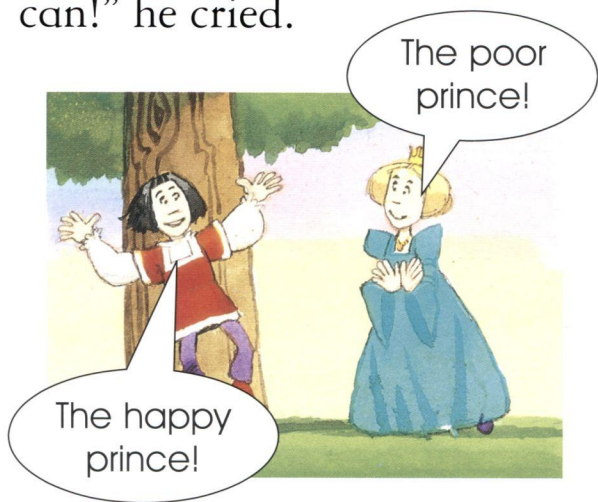
The king was very angry.
“Princesses don’t kiss pig
boys!” he shouted. “Both of
you must leave at once.”



Sam and Sara had to leave
the palace.

“I don’t even like pigs,” said Sara. “I wish I’d married that poor prince.”

Sam quickly changed his clothes behind a tree. “You can!” he cried.



Sam took Sara to live in his tiny castle. Sometimes, she even watered the rose tree.



Chapter 4

The smelly prince



Percy was the rudest, dirtiest, smelliest prince in the country.

He lived all alone in his dirty old castle. He didn't like children. He hated animals. He had no friends, not one.

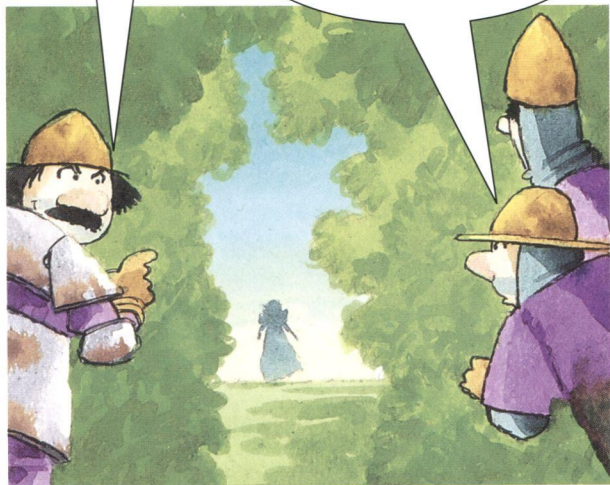


Even his soldiers called him Smelly Perce – though not to his face.

He was a very lonely prince,
until one day, he had an idea.
He would capture a princess
and marry her.

She'll do.
Get her!

Yes sir. But I
don't think she'll be
happy about it.



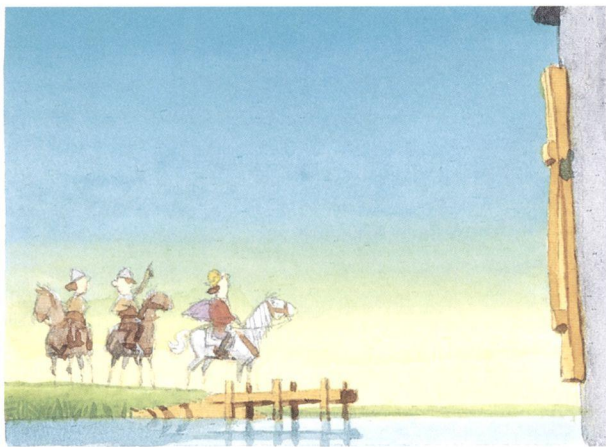
Percy grabbed the first princess to come along. He was taking her home when they passed some moles. There were mole hills all over his field. Percy was very angry.

I won't have animals near my castle. Smash their homes!



Percy locked the princess in a tower. But she had already agreed to marry someone else – a clean prince named Harry.

“I shall rescue her at once!”
Harry said...



...but he couldn't get into
Percy's castle.

Just then, a mole popped its head above ground.

“Percy smashed our homes,” it said. “We’ll help you.”

Don't worry, your highness. We'll soon get you into the castle.



The moles dug all night.

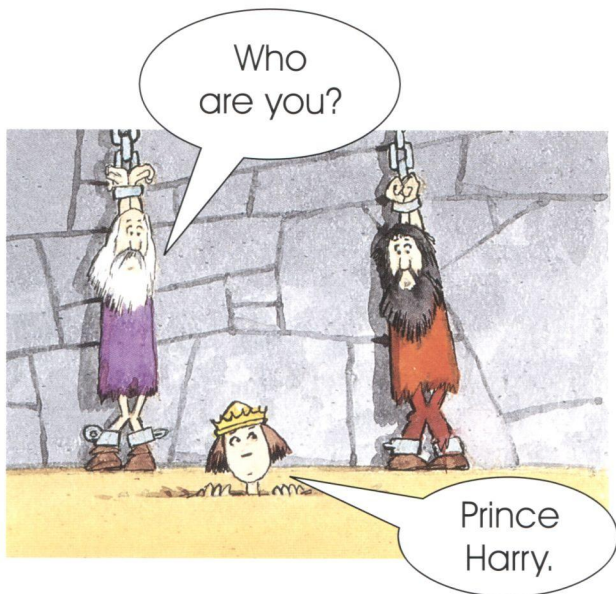


They dug all of the next day too. By the following evening, they'd built a tunnel.



It ran all the way under the moat and into the castle.

Prince Harry was delighted.
The tunnel took him into
Percy's dungeons.



Harry set the prisoners free.
Then he went to find Percy
and the princess.

Percy tried to stop Harry.
But his sword was so rusty,
it bent. He was no match
for Harry.



As if that wasn't bad enough, Harry's soldiers decided Percy needed a bath.



To Percy's surprise, he found being clean was fun. And people were friendlier.

Harry rescued the princess
and married her. Even Percy
was invited to their wedding.



The invitation said: “Please
come – but take a bath first!”