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Opening extract from

Princess Mirror-Belle and the Dragon Pox

Written by

Julia Donaldson

Illustrated by

Lydia Monks

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For Lauren



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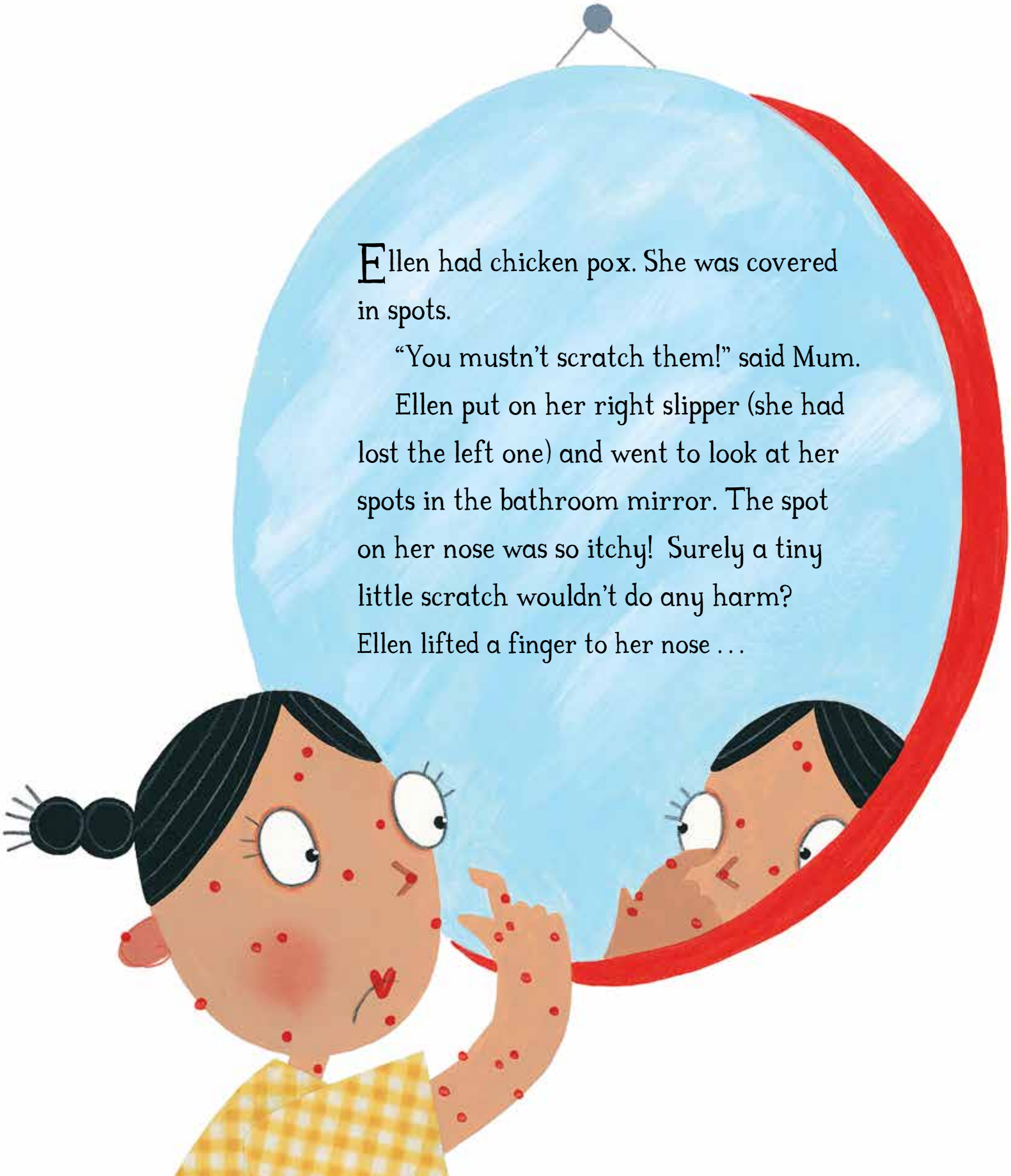
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Ellen had chicken pox. She was covered in spots.

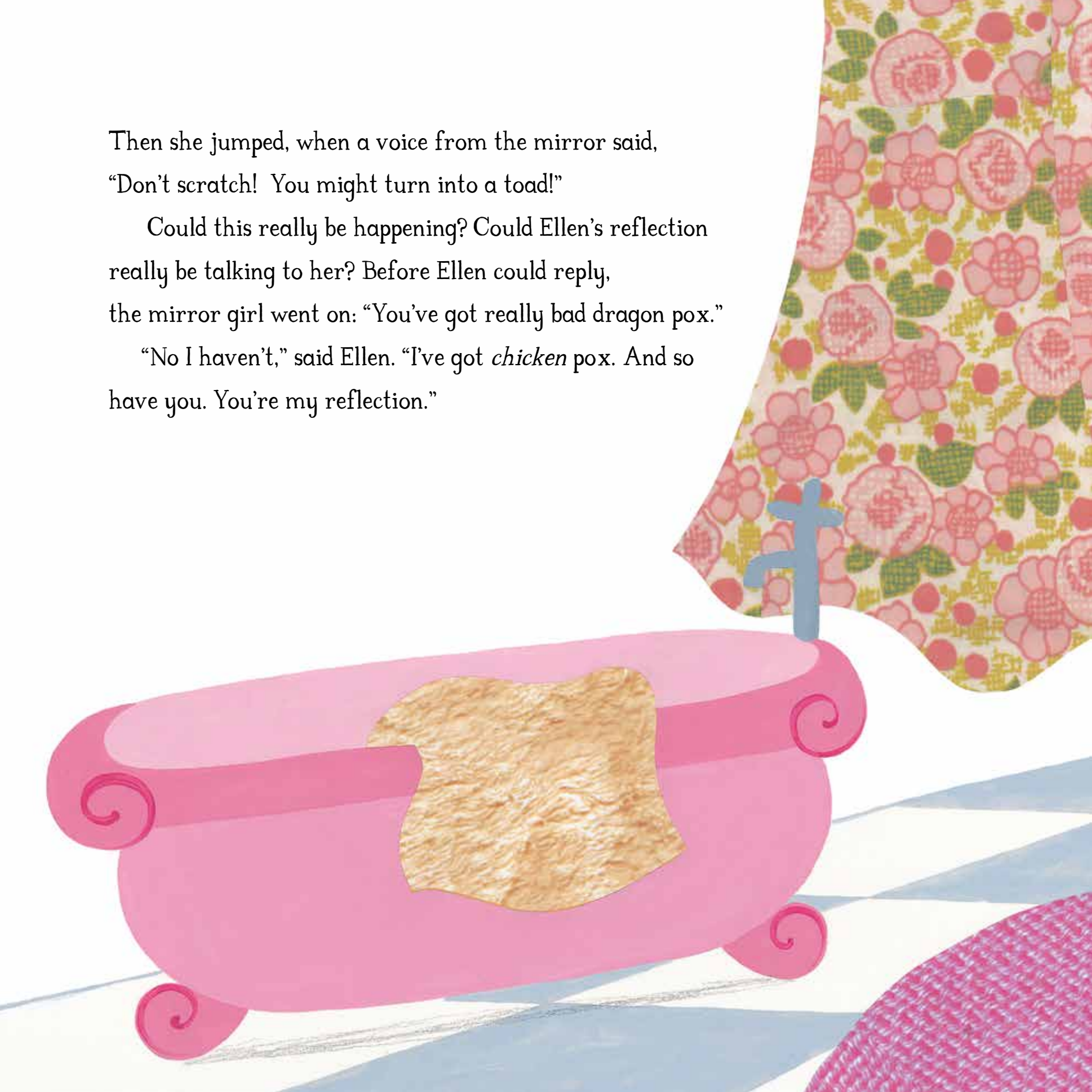
"You mustn't scratch them!" said Mum.

Ellen put on her right slipper (she had lost the left one) and went to look at her spots in the bathroom mirror. The spot on her nose was so itchy! Surely a tiny little scratch wouldn't do any harm? Ellen lifted a finger to her nose . . .

Then she jumped, when a voice from the mirror said, "Don't scratch! You might turn into a toad!"

Could this really be happening? Could Ellen's reflection really be talking to her? Before Ellen could reply, the mirror girl went on: "You've got really bad dragon pox."

"No I haven't," said Ellen. "I've got *chicken* pox. And so have you. You're my reflection."





"Don't be silly," said the mirror girl, and the next second she had jumped out of the mirror and was in the bathroom with Ellen. "I'm Princess Mirror-Belle. You really ought to curtsey, but as you're my friend I'll let you off."

"Are you really a princess?" asked Ellen. "But you look just like me. You've got the same pyjamas. You've even lost one of your slippers like me."

"Oh no I haven't," said Mirror-Belle. She paused for a second and then continued: "My slipper was stolen by a goblin. They're always stealing slippers. They like to sleep in them."

Ellen laughed. "Do they have little sheets and pillows?" she asked.



