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Opening extract from

Princess Smartypants and the Missing Princes

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INTRODUCTION

Princess Smartypants is a very unusual princess.

Most princesses wear pretty dresses, lots of make-up and their main mission is to marry a rich handsome prince and live happily ever after.

But Princess Smartypants is very happily *un*married. She is quite content to be a 'Ms' and governs her wacky kingdom of Totaloonia all on her own with huge success – and without the



unwelcome help of any dumb princes.

She spends her time looking after her outrageous pets and having lots of fun. She wears dungarees and wellington boots (except when she is riding her trusty motorbike 'Norton' in her leathers). She flies about on her Dragonocodiles and Pollycrocs and has a very naughty pony called Powderpuff.

Princess Smartypants' best friend is her handyman, Eric the Annihilator. He is a very large giant who keeps the





castle running and generally takes care of Princess Smartypants.

Although our princess is unusual, that does not mean to say that she is not continually bothered by princes asking for her hand in marriage. After all, she is very pretty and rich. They are always turning up at the castle making a nuisance of themselves, which is a horrible mistake on their part. You see, one kiss from Princess Smartypants will instantly turn them into a





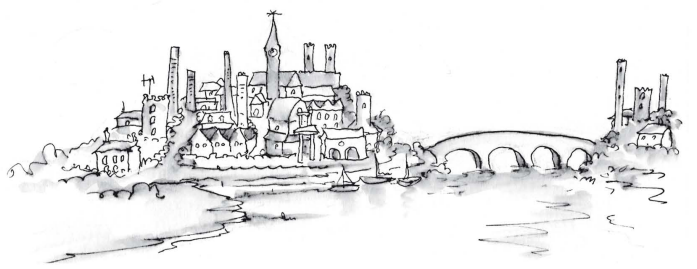
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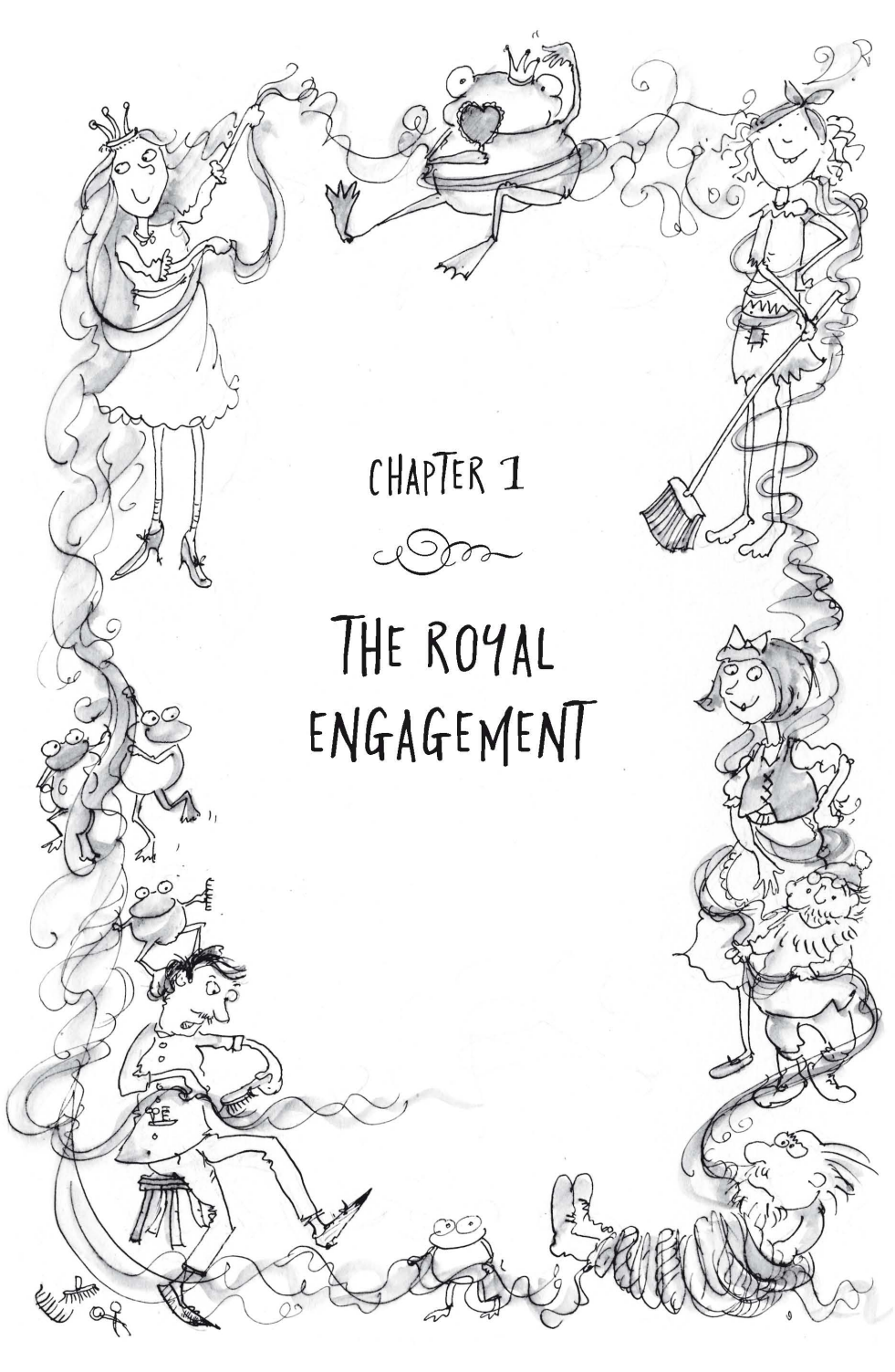
Totaloonia is crawling with princes. They hang out in the castle moat where Eric feeds them on dried flies and locusts. They are actually very happy and well looked after, even though they still dream of finding the right princess to kiss them back into princes again.

Princess Smartypants does understand that most fairytale princesses want to get married. In fact, she has three potential princess friends who are about to get engaged at

this very moment in time.

And that is what this story is all about. So let us not waste any more time and get on with this very unusual fairytale.





CHAPTER 1

THE ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

Princess Smartypants was just polishing the scales on Polly, her Pollyopticus (one of her favourite pets), when the castle doorbell rang.

Eric let down the drawbridge and a pretty coach containing three would-be Princesses clattered into the castle courtyard.

Her friends, Snowy (Snow White), Cindy (Cinderella) and Punzie (Rapunzel), alighted from the carriage and made their way to the

stables where Princess Smartypants was at work on Polly. (A Pollyopticus is half parrot, half octopus, with a bit of chicken thrown in.) She removed her heavy-duty rubber gloves and gave her friends a big hug. Polly tried to hug them too but Princess Smartypants explained to him that not all young ladies appreciated this, because they thought he might eat them!

They had come to ask Princess Smartypants a favour. They were about


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to be officially engaged to the three princes, Charming, Handsome and Daring, who had rescued them in their own Fairytale stories.

Unfortunately, the princes had very troublesome mothers who all wanted the official engagement party to be held at their own particular palace. The girls had decided to take the matter into their own hands and find an independent venue.

The trouble was, Punzie only had a high tower with no disabled access ...