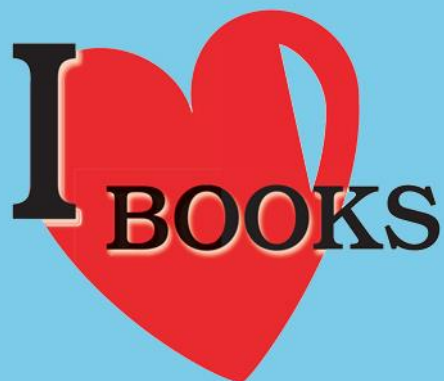




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Opening extract from
Best Friends!

Written by
Wendy Finney

Illustrated by
Tony Ross

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All he wanted to do was try on the suits of armour in the long hall and play war with Daddy's collection of old swords."



Rosie smiled as she thought back. He had challenged the General to a sword fight. The General had drawn his sword and cut off Cuthbert's sticky-up hair with one swipe!



“ROSIE!!!” shouted Maidy, *very* loudly this time. “GET YOUR ROYAL SELF DOWN HERE AT ONCE!”

Rosie knew that Maidy's voice was now too cross to ignore, so she slid down the banister of the very long castle staircase.



Maidy was waiting at the bottom, her arms folded. She pointed to the golden hall and said, "He's already waiting. He might even have got fed up and gone by now!"



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Chapter 1



Rosie rarely did as she was told. And being a not-so-little princess, she could do whatever she liked most of the time.

So, when Maidy called upstairs for the third time, “HURRY AND GET DRESSED! YOUR NEW FRIEND WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!”, Rosie was still busily sorting out her

clothes in alphabetical order:

B – for BEST DRESSES. Four to be used for parties, visiting royal aunties and uncles and maybe judging dog shows. One made in purple velvet and fringed in ermine, for VERY SPECIAL occasions.





C – for CROWNS. Nine gold everyday ones, and a special one with rubies and diamonds for coronations and visits by other kings and queens.

J – for JEANS. Twelve pairs – one with patches sewn on by Princess Rosie herself.



N – for NIGHTDRESSES. Ten, all white.

T – for TRAINERS. Three pairs. One pair for special, one pair for splashing in muddy puddles, one pair for kicking things and doing other stuff like tripping up little brothers.



Maidy's shout came just as Rosie was about to get to U for UNDERWEAR. She let out a deep sigh. "Not another new friend!" she said.

She turned to Gilbert, her loyal bear. “Do you remember the last one, Gilbert? Wilbert Cuthbertson or Cuthbert Wilbertson – something like that? He didn’t like dolls, he didn’t like skipping, he didn’t like any of the games I wanted to play.

