

Peter Bently

Claire Powell

The King's Birthday Suit

From the story by Hans Christian Andersen

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK

BLOOMSBURY, BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS and the Diana logo are trademarks of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

First published in Great Britain 2021 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Text copyright © Peter Bently 2021

Illustration copyright © Claire Powell 2021

Peter Bently and Claire Powell have asserted their rights under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as the Author and Illustrator of this work

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publishers

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: HB: 978 1 4088 6013 7

PB: 978 1 4088 6014 4

eBook: 978 1 4088 6015 1

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

Printed in China by Leo Paper Products, Heshan, Guangdong

All papers used by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc are natural, recyclable products from wood grown in well managed forests.

The manufacturing processes conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

To find out more about our authors and books

visit www.bloomsbury.com and sign up for our newsletters

For Theo and Tara.
Good things come to
those who wait – x P.B.

For Stefan, who told
me I could when I was
convinced I couldn't – x C.P.

BLOOMSBURY
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY

King Albert-Horatio-Otto the Third
had so many clothes it was simply absurd.





He had outfits for yoga
and stroking his cat.



He **never** ate cheese
without changing his hat.



For every event he would wear something new –
he even changed outfits to go to the loo.

But nothing His Majesty tried was quite right.

"This cloth is too scratchy,
and simply too bright!"



This jacket's not comfy.
It just doesn't fit!



Too stripey
and spotty –
I look a right twit!"



Along came two rascals, McTavish and Mitch
who'd cooked up a story to make themselves rich.
"We'll make you a suit of the finest cloth ever,
which can only be seen by the wise and the clever!"



The King said, "Fantastic!
That's just what I need.
I'll make sure you're paid
very highly indeed."