

Halima, Superhero Princess

Emily Joof and Åsa Gilland

The illustrations in this book were drawn by hand using traditional and digital methods

First published in Swedish as *Superhjälte Prinsessan* by Rabén & Sjögren, Stockholm in 2022
First published in English by Floris Books, Edinburgh in 2024. This paperback edition published 2024
Swedish text © 2022 Emily Joof. English text © 2024 Emily Joof. Illustrations © 2022 Åsa Gilland. Author photo © Lena Nian. Illustrator photo © Åsa Gilland. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of Floris Books, Edinburgh www.florisbooks.co.uk
British Library CIP data available ISBN 978-178250-906-6 Printed in China by Leo Paper Products Ltd

Printed on sustainably sourced FSC® certified paper. Uses plant-based inks which reduce chemical emissions.

Floris Books

Astrid and Maya are my best friends in the whole wide world. We share ALL our secrets. We love eating cucumber, making slime, and being pirates and space explorers.

One day, our friend Alexis invited us all to her sixth birthday party – a superhero and princess party!

We had an emergency meeting.

"I'm going as Iron Man!" Maya grinned, showing the gap between her front teeth. "We have lots of old boxes to make a cool costume… Or I could be Cinderella, with my outfit from Halloween."

"I'm going as a princess!" said Astrid excitedly. "I have all the costumes – Rapunzel, Snow White, Anna and Elsa. I can't wait!"

"I want to be Elsa too," I said. "Or Pippi Longstocking. She's sort of a superhero. She helps children when they don't have any money to buy sweets. She's the best!"

"But, Halima..." Maya said, looking puzzled, "you can't be Pippi or Elsa, even with a costume. How would you look like them?"

"Maybe with a mask and a wig?" Astrid offered, trying to be kind.





I felt a big grey cloud fill my tummy, and suddenly it was too cold to be outside. It took all my energy to carry the grey cloud inside me. I spent the rest of the day feeling very small.



“How exciting, Halima!” said Mama, when she saw the party invitation. “Who do you want to go as?”

“I don’t want to go,” I mumbled.

“Why not?” she asked. “You love parties and dressing up. You are totally a superhero or a princess every day! What’s wrong?”



“I want to go to the party as someone strong and brave,” I told her. “But I can’t be a superhero princess like Elsa or Pippi because I don’t look like them or have the right hair. Are there any cool people who look more like me, Mama?”