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opening extract from

Classic Fairy Tales

written by

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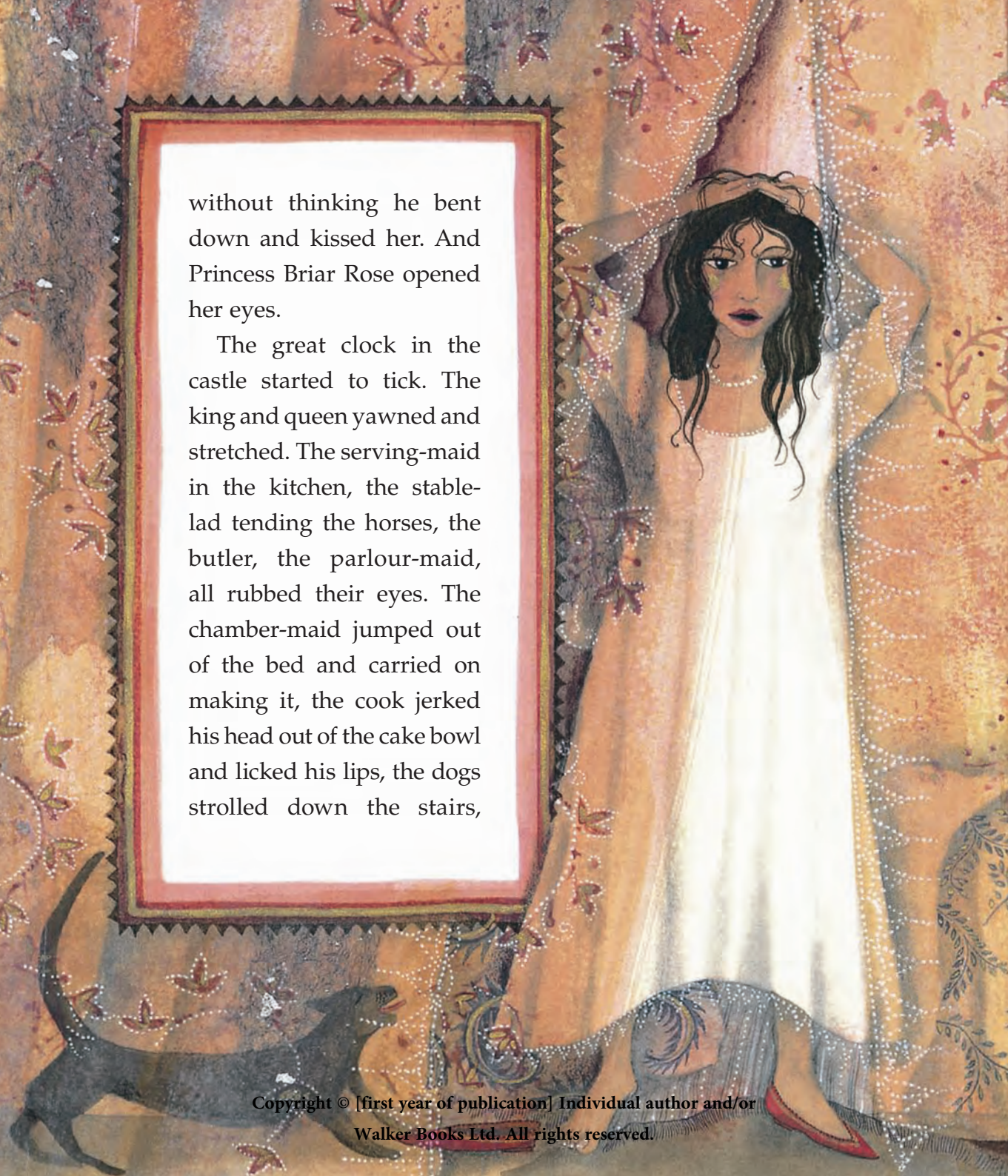
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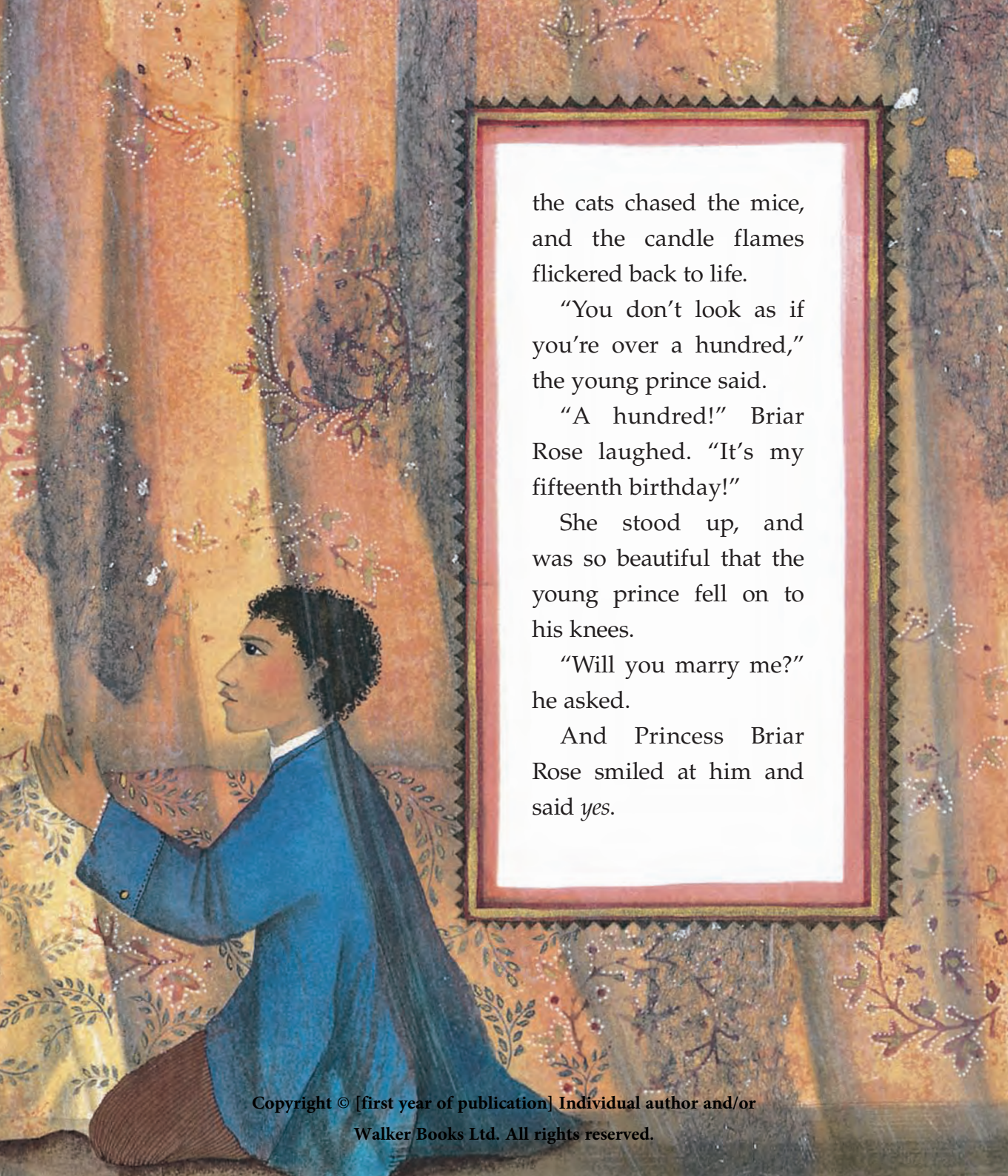
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without thinking he bent down and kissed her. And Princess Briar Rose opened her eyes.

The great clock in the castle started to tick. The king and queen yawned and stretched. The serving-maid in the kitchen, the stable-lad tending the horses, the butler, the parlour-maid, all rubbed their eyes. The chamber-maid jumped out of the bed and carried on making it, the cook jerked his head out of the cake bowl and licked his lips, the dogs strolled down the stairs,



the cats chased the mice,
and the candle flames
flickered back to life.

"You don't look as if
you're over a hundred,"
the young prince said.

"A hundred!" Briar
Rose laughed. "It's my
fifteenth birthday!"

She stood up, and
was so beautiful that the
young prince fell on to
his knees.

"Will you marry me?"
he asked.

And Princess Briar
Rose smiled at him and
said *yes*.