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opening extract from

Classic Fairy Tales

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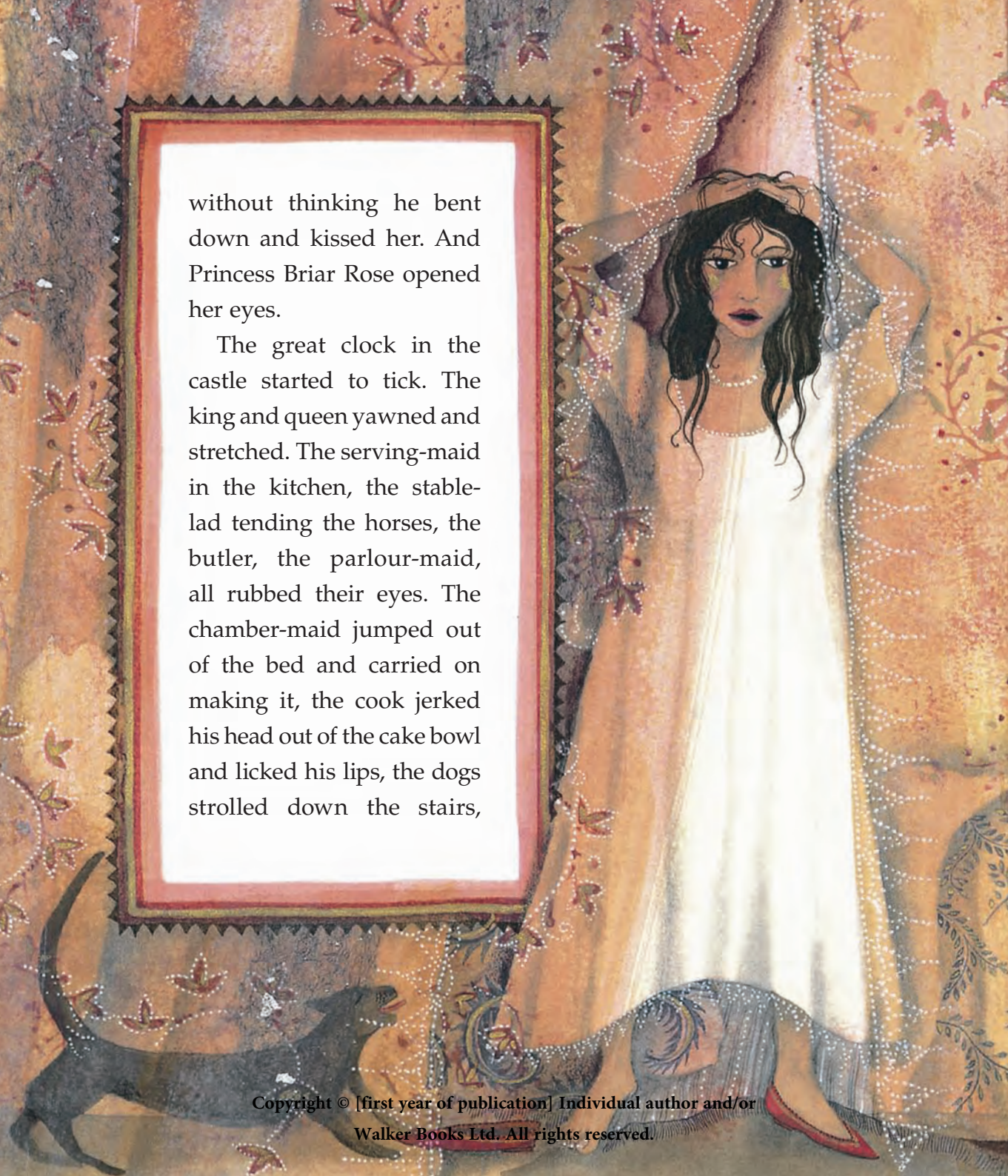
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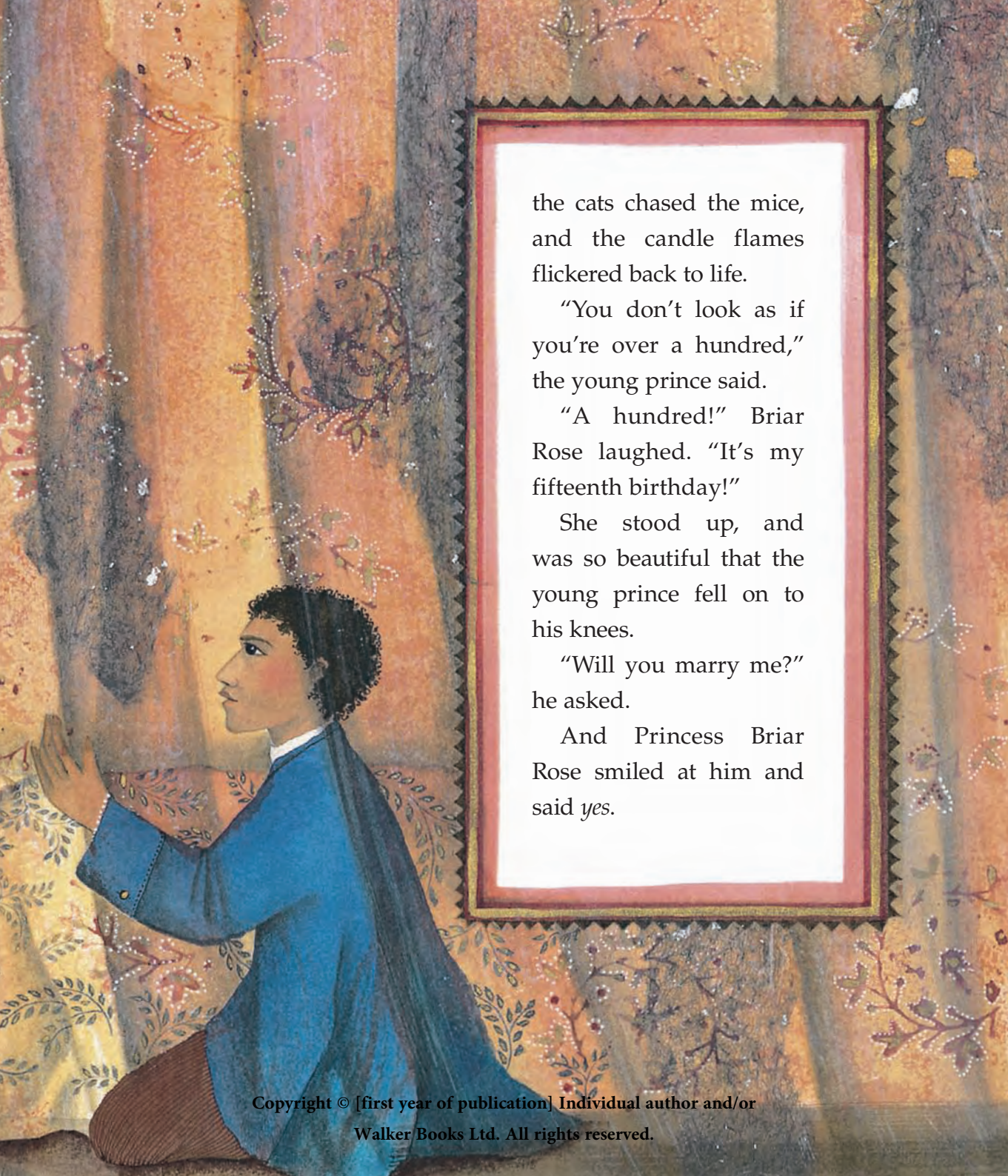
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without thinking he bent down and kissed her. And Princess Briar Rose opened her eyes.

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,

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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*.

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