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opening extract from

Princesses are Not Perfect

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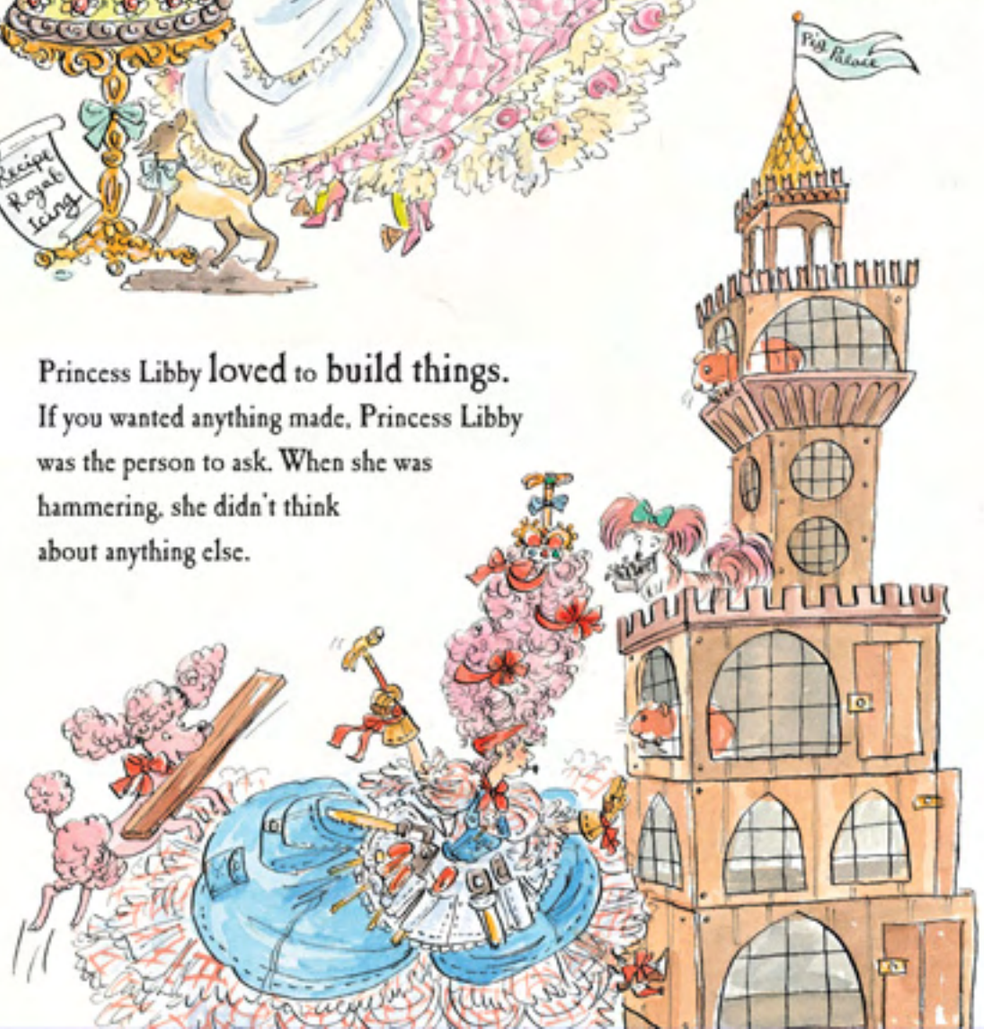
Once there were three princesses:
Princess Allie, Princess Mellie and Princess Libby.
They lived in a rose-covered palace by the sea.

They weren't the kind of princesses who sit around doing nothing.
They were very busy.
They **grew** things in the **garden**,
they **baked** things in the **bakehouse**
and they **built** things in the **workshop**.
Each princess had her speciality.



Princess Allie loved to bake.
She made the best cakes you've ever tasted, covered with royal decorations. When she baked, she felt completely happy.

Princess Libby loved to build things.
If you wanted anything made, Princess Libby was the person to ask. When she was hammering, she didn't think about anything else.



Princess Mellie loved her garden.
She could make just about anything grow, no matter what the weather. When she gardened, she felt all was right with the world.

One sunny morning, the princesses were sitting in the palace dining room having breakfast. They were making plans. The next day, all the children in the princessdom were coming to the palace for the Summer Party.



Suddenly
Princess Mellie,
who had not slept very well, said,
'I don't see why I always have to be the one to garden.'

The other princesses looked at her in surprise.

'Garden, garden, all day long,' complained Mellie.
'Dirt here, weeds there. I am **sick** and **tired** of it.'

'Well, what would you like to do instead?' asked Allie.



'**Bake!**' said Mellie. 'I want to bake things.
I'm sure I can bake just as well as you.
Princesses are good at everything.'

'But if you bake, what will I do?' cried Allie.

'You could **build things**,' said Mellie.
'And Libby could **garden**.
Don't you ever get bored, doing the same jobs again and again?'



'Well, yes . . . once in a while,'
said Allie and Libby.

'Then it's all settled!' cried Mellie.
'I'm the baker, Allie is the builder and Libby is the gardener. I'm sure that everything we do will be perfect.'

As soon as they had finished eating, they ran to see the housekeeper, Mrs Blue.

'Mrs Blue,' they announced, 'we are switching jobs. From now on, Allie will be the builder. If you want anything made, go to her. Mellie will be the baker. If we need any treats, let her know. And Libby will be the gardener. Go to her for fruits and flowers.'



Mrs Blue looked worried. 'Yes, Your Princesses,' she said. 'But do you think this is a good idea?'

'Of course, Mrs Blue,' said Allie, Mellie and Libby. '*Princesses are good at everything.*'

'Very well,' said Mrs Blue. 'Tomorrow is the Summer Party for all the children in the princessdom. We will need 100 small baskets of berries.'

'No problem, Mrs Blue,' said Libby.

'We will need 100 cupcakes with pink roses,' said Mrs Blue.

'No problem, Mrs Blue,' said Mellie.

'We will need 100 little chairs,' said Mrs Blue.

'No problem, Mrs Blue,' said Allie.