

Helping your children choose books they will love



Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website
created for parents and children to make
choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from
Stars of Mine

Written by
Kevin Crossley-Holland

Illustrated by
Martina Peluso

Published by
Barrington Stoke

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.



First published in 2013 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP
www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

This story was first published in a different form in
The Old Stories published by Orion Children's Books, 1999

Copyright © 2013 Kevin Crossley-Holland
Illustrations © Martina Peluso

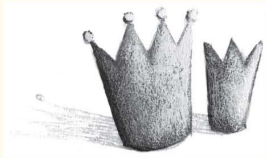
The moral right of the author has been asserted in
accordance with the Copyright, Designs and
Patents Act 1988

ISBN: 978-1-78112-192-4

Printed in China by Leo

This book has dyslexia-friendly features

For Jessica – with love



Contents

Chapter 1	1
Chapter 2	10
Chapter 3	18
Chapter 4	24
Chapter 5	30
Chapter 6	40
Chapter 7	51
Chapter 8	56
Chapter 9	67
Chapter 10	78



Chapter 1

There was once a little old cottage where a mother lived with her giddy girl. The girl was just sixteen, and as sweet as honey.

One fine day, the mother made five meat pies and put them in the oven. But then the woman from next door called round.

They were soon so busy with gossip that the mother forgot about the pies. By the time she took them out of the oven, their crusts were as hard as the bark of an old oak tree.



“Girl,” she said, “you put them there pies in the larder.”

“My! I’m that hungry,” said the girl.

“Leave them there and they’ll come again,” said the mother. That was an old saying. It meant that the crusts would get soft when the pies had cooled down.

But the girl didn't know that. "Well!" she said to herself. "If the pies will come again, I'll eat these ones now." And so she set to work and ate them all, every bite.



When it was supper time, the mother felt very hungry.

“I could just do with one of them there pies,” she said to the girl. “Go and get one off the shelf. They’ll have come again by now.”

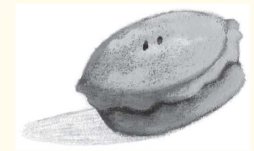
The girl went and looked. There was nothing on the shelf but an empty dish.

“No!” she called. “They haven’t come again.”

“Not none of them?” said the mother.

“No!” called the girl. “Not none.”

“Well!” said her mother. “Come again or not, I’ll have one for my supper.”





“You can’t if they haven’t come again,” said the girl. “I’ve eaten the lot. You can’t have one until it’s come again.”

Her mother was very angry. “You’ve eaten the lot?” she shouted. “You greedy guts!”