




❧ INTRODUCTION ❧

 Princess Smartypants is a very unusual princess.

Most princesses wear pretty dresses, lots of make-up and their main mission is to marry a rich handsome prince and live happily ever after.

But Princess Smartypants is very happily *unmarried*. She is quite content to be a 'Ms' and governs her wacky kingdom of Totaloonia all on her own with huge success – and without the



unwelcome help of any dumb princes.

She spends her time looking after her outrageous pets and having lots of fun. She wears dungarees and wellington boots (except when she is riding her trusty motorbike 'Norton' in her leathers). She flies about on her Dragonocodiles and Pollycrops and has a very naughty pony called Powderpuff.

Princess Smartypants' best friend is her handyman, Eric the Annihilator. He is a very large giant who keeps the





castle running and generally takes care of Princess Smartypants.

Although our princess is unusual, that does not mean to say that she is not continually bothered by princes asking for her hand in marriage. After all, she is very pretty and rich. They are always turning up at the castle making a nuisance of themselves, which is a horrible mistake on their part. You see, one kiss from Princess Smartypants will instantly turn them into a





warty toad or slimy frog.

Totaloonia is crawling with princes. They hang out in the castle moat where Eric feeds them on dried flies and locusts. They are actually very happy and well looked after, even though they still dream of finding the right princess to kiss them back into princes again.

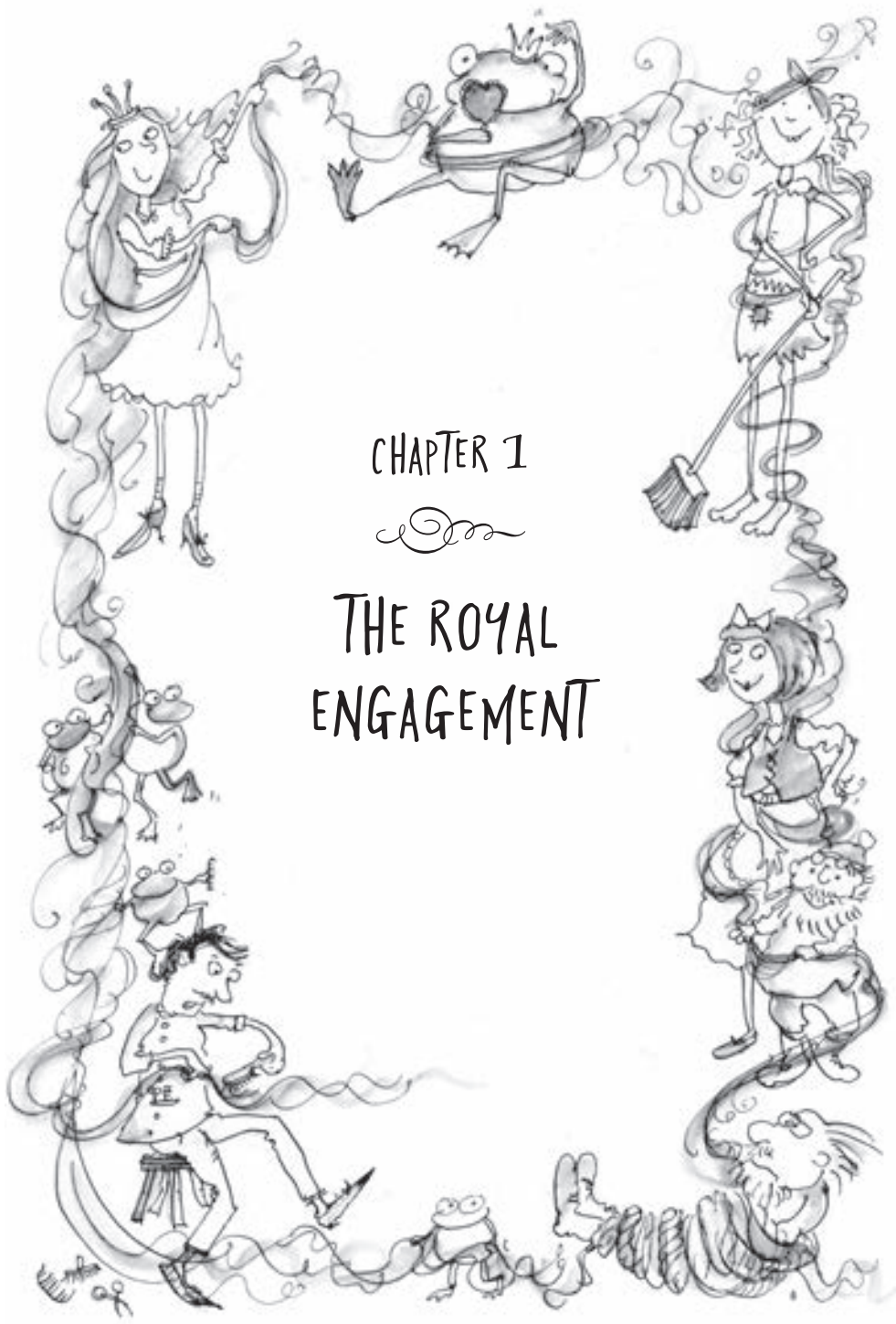
Princess Smartypants does understand that most fairytale princesses want to get married. In fact, she has three potential princess friends who are about to get engaged at

this moment in time.

And that is what this story is all about. So let us not waste any more time and get on with this very unusual fairytale.



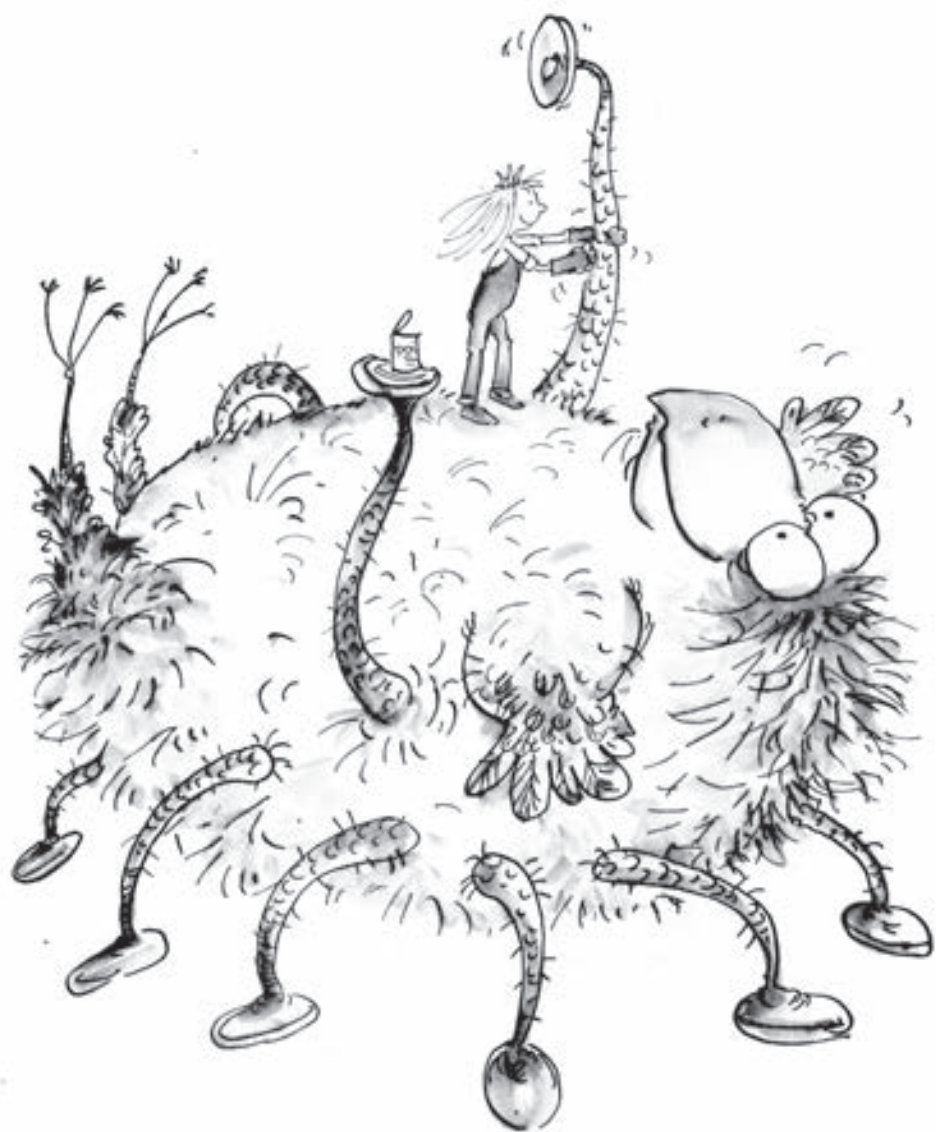





CHAPTER 1




THE ROYAL
ENGAGEMENT



 Princess Smartypants was just polishing the scales on Polly, her Pollyopticus (one of her favourite pets), when the castle doorbell rang.

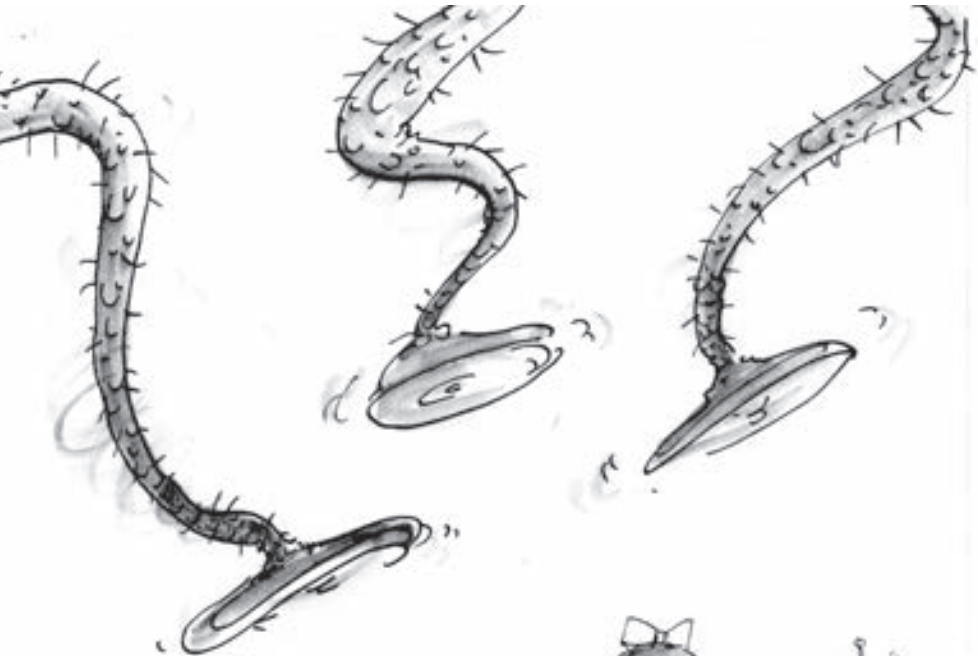
Eric let down the drawbridge and a pretty coach containing three would-be Princesses clattered into the castle courtyard.

Her friends, Snowy (Snow White), Cindy (Cinderella) and Punzie (Rapunzel), alighted from the carriage and made their way to the



stables where Princess
Smartyants was at work on
Polly. (A Pollyopticus is half
parrot, half octopus, with
a bit of chicken thrown in.)
She removed her heavy-duty
rubber gloves and gave her
friends a big hug. Polly tried
to hug them too but Princess
Smartyants explained to
him that not all young ladies
appreciated this, because
they thought he might eat
them!

They had come to ask
Princess Smartyants a
favour. They were about



to be officially engaged to the three princes, Charming, Handsome and Daring, who had rescued them in their own Fairytale stories.

Unfortunately the princes had very troublesome mothers who all wanted the official engagement party to be held at their own particular palace. The girls had decided to take the matter into their own hands and find an independent venue.

The trouble was, Punzie only had a high tower with no disabled access ...



Cindy just had a kitchen which
belonged to her three ugly
sisters ...



... and Snowy could only come
up with a small hut full of very
small, bearded gentlemen.



'Hey, Smarty pants,' said Cindy, 'would it be OK if we had our engagement party at your castle?'

'It would be the perfect setting,' added Snowy, 'and it has disabled access.'

‘Also it would stop our future mothers–in-law arguing about where it is going to be held,’ said Punzie.

‘My dear friends,’ said Princess Smartypants, ‘I would be delighted to help. Just tell me what theme you want for the party and my court magician, Mervin, will conjure it up in an instant.’

The girls had decided that the theme should be ‘Field and Woodland Romance’ with a collection afterwards for the ‘Totaloonian Field and Woodland Trust’.

‘Excellent idea!’ agreed Princess Smartypants. ‘The castle caterers will put on such a spread your future mothers-in-law will be very impressed.’

They all hugged each other again, although Princess Smartypants had to restrain an over-affectionate Pollycroc, and it was all arranged for next week.

Cindy handed Princess Smartypants the guest list. Everyone from Fairytale Land was invited, except that naughty little witch, Araminta Allspell.



Princess Smartypants
confessed she was a bit
worried about the blacklisting
of Araminta. 'It's asking for
trouble,' she said.

'Our mothers-in-law forbid
it,' said Snowy. 'Anyway, she
is on holiday at the time in
the West Hadies so we should
be covered.'

'Nevertheless,' said
Princess Smartypants,
'you should get the three
queens to send an invitation.
Otherwise, they are snubbing
her and she won't like that
at all!'



The girls said they would try to persuade their future mothers-in-law.

'Let's hope they can agree on something,' said Punzie.

They all hugged again and the three happy friends climbed back into the carriage. It clattered over the cobblestones and out over the drawbridge and was gone.

Eric pulled it up again.

'Did you hear that?' said Princess Smartypants.

'We all know Araminta is a tricky little brat,' replied Eric. 'She only looks about six but

she is really 600 years old and a very experienced witch. You don't rub her up the wrong way if you have any sense.'



They both had a definite
feeling trouble was on its way.

