



The Princess Who Had No Kingdom

Ursula Jones , Sarah Gibb (Illustrator)

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A witty contemporary fairy tale that made all the rich princes with kingdoms to spare want to marry her. But what is a kingdom without love?

The Princess Who Had No Kingdom Details

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Author : Ursula Jones , Sarah Gibb (Illustrator)

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Pöfivonat says

Feln?tt fejjel is igazi tündérmese. *.*

Kara says

There is something so very British about the humor in this book that I can't quite put my finger on. Something about the contrasts, I think, of a fairy tale princess in the same sentence as bath buns and public libraries.

The princess who has no kingdom also has no background; we are simply told she is a princess without a kingdom and that's that.

She now has a cart and horse, driving about delivering odd packages like "troublesome grannies and lame dogs" in order to make money. Also, when she is spitefully gifted with some old hand-me-down princess style gowns, she sees nothing wrong with selling them to make money.

The princess drives her cart around loaded up with pretty objects, tumbled on top of each other in utter disregard of the laws of physics – a gleaming candelabra stacked atop an empty gilded picture frame above a spindly legged chair, never tumbling out as you would think they would at any little bump in the road.

When she's invited to tea with the dowager duchess and her six rude daughters, the six lovely ladies sit at the table, their eyes fluttered shut, too busy looking beautiful to take in their surroundings, while the princess stares ahead, politely but openly, at the handsome jester as he tells a joke that she gets and laughs at heartily, not shy at expressing her feelings, good or bad.

There is then a ball, a fight, a wooing, a marriage, and still the princess searches for her kingdom, until she finds it rather unexpectedly...

I wonder if the illustrator studied ballet. There is something about the stance that all the characters take that suggest they are all about to start leaping about in defiance of gravity in order to convey their emotions. Also, the fashions all the characters wear have the suggestion of a ballet costume – an outfit that shows off a tremendous amount of beautiful detail and contains all sorts of layers and frills – but also has a cut and length to it that allows for movement.

The one stumble in the whole book is when the two main characters celebrate their engagement at Longfellow's Wayside Inn, a restaurant that is just so quintessentially Massachusetts, it didn't fit the rest of the British tone of pictures or text. An odd mistake among such a perfect 10 of illustrations.

If the illustrator was so set to give the inn a name, a generic British name like "The Red Lion" or "The Fox and Hound" would have worked better, or, if she felt she just had to stick a real place in there, "The Trip to Jerusalem Inn" is perhaps the most well-known English Inn.

But overall, a charming original fairy tale – pretty and funny at the same time.

Jenny says

Nice approach to haves & have-nots. The home is where the heart is, and that's really all that matters in life.
<3

J. Boo says

[A king and a variety of other leading nobility fall in love with her at a ball and have a food fight among themselves, so she marries a jester. Tres modern. (hide spoiler)]

Cheryl says

A Disney kind of a story, simple theme dressed up in longish text and confectionary illustrations. Too much of the stuff that doesn't matter, too much like an 'instant classic.' And even though it's supposed to be smarter than traditional fairy tales, there's still insta-love. But I did love the thrift of selling royal cast-offs and being disturbed about the food fight... so, rounding up from 2.5 stars.

Shiloah says

I always appreciate books with the heroine who knows who she is and lives her dreams. This princess lives in her power and doesn't let the naysayers and ridiculous stop or distract her. Beautiful and exquisite illustrations!!

Chicco Padovan says

C'era una volta una Principessa che non aveva un regno. Aveva, però, un pony e un carretto. Ogni giorno, la principessa guidava il pony e il carretto in lungo e in largo, cercando il suo regno. Quando pioveva apriva un ombrello rosso per tenersi all'asciutto. E ovunque andava, la gente le diceva: «Hai trovato il tuo regno, principessa?»

La fiaba di Ursula Jones è semplicemente adorabile e le illustrazioni di Sarah Gibb ancora di più. Un piccolo regalo di fine anno assolutamente gradito. Consigliato a tutti gli appassionati di fiabe illustrate.

Kerri Turner says

A lovely modern fairytale with some progressive twists to it. The artwork is what makes the book though, it is atmospheric and striking. Would gladly frame the pages and hang them on the wall!

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

I dont care that I am supposed to be a mature and serious *snort* grown up person. I want to read this!

Big Book Little Book says

I bought this recently for my daughter's 4th birthday on recommendation from a local children's book seller and it is already a firm favourite.

The first thing I noticed was the stunning, whimsical illustrations. I particularly love the amazingly detailed silhouettes (we have found something new to look at with each exploration) and the wonderfully expressive animal images throughout the book.

Having chosen this one for its gorgeous illustration, I was immensely pleased to discover the charming, witty and modern fairytale within.

While the princess is beautiful, if a little bedraggled, her true beauty shines through in her personality. No ordinary, down trodden fairytale princess in need of rescue here. Our Princess is self confident, independent and pragmatic. Rather than being swept off her feet by a handsome prince after a single night of dancing, SHE rescues HIM.

While we are in no doubt of Princesses feelings for her Prince, a man who makes her laugh and supports her unconditionally, she is not defined by their relationship. At one point during the story it looks as though things won't work out and while the princess expresses sadness, she picks herself up and prepares to get on with her life.

There is no happily ever after assumed here, just the promise of a beautiful shared future based on mutual understanding and goals. A much healthier and realistic role model for our daughters!

Verdict: An exquisitely illustrated modern fairytale.
Caroline.

Miriam says

By Ursula Jones, sister of Diana Wynne Jones!
Illustrated by Sarah Gibbs, whose Rapunzel I loved!
Sadly, not at the library.

Luisa Knight says

A sweet, original fairy tale story! Illustrations are lovely too.

Ages: 5 - 8

Cleanliness: "Pooh" is exclaimed.

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Barbara says

Although her peripatetic lifestyle might not be recommended, the princess at the center of this book offers a good role model for young readers. For reasons never made clear in the book, she is a princess without a kingdom. As she and her pony and cart travel through the countryside, she hopes to eventually find her kingdom. Although some of the royalty she encounters treat her rudely, she remains gracious and kind. Young readers familiar with fairy tales will expect her to sweep a prince or two off their feet at the ball, which does happen. But she flees the scene when things get out of hand, and the royals engage in a wasteful food fight. When she meets the man who becomes her prince, she's the one who helps him out, which is a nice turnaround from the traditional fairy tale. Lovely illustrations with a great deal of detail alternate with silhouettes that allow readers to read between the lines to figure out what's happening. Ultimately, it becomes clear that being a princess has more to do with one's actions than what one possesses. I enjoyed this one thoroughly.

Daniel Middleton says

As the book's title suggests this is a tale of a princess, named Princess, who had no kingdom. What she did possess was little to speak of: a cart which she used to deliver odd items that could not be mailed through the post; a red umbrella to shelter her from the rain; and a pony named Pretty, who pulled said cart. Each day the princess would roam from town to town and all through the countryside searching for her kingdom, and whenever she passed the home of another royal she would politely stop in to pay her respects. One day she stops in to see a dowager duchess and there she meets a kind court jester. When the duchess suspects that her son the prince might fall in love with this poor beauty she devises a plan to keep him distracted for the day. Before long Princess meets him anyway after a coronation is announced and all royals are summoned to court. What follows is a hilarious set of circumstances that forces Princess to head for the hills, and upon doing so, she finally finds her kingdom and her king. This was a delightful fairy tale with interesting and refreshing twists on a timeworn genre.

The art too is exquisite, comprised mostly of color flats and silhouettes featuring characters in profile for the most part, which keeps things simple and straightforward so as not to overpower or upstage the wonderful

narrative. I truly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it.

Galleane says

Je crois qu'à force de voir des blogueuses se mettre aux albums, j'ai eu envie de tenter moi aussi d'en lire. J'en avais parfois repéré, notamment ceux illustrés par Sarah Gibb lorsque je voulais lire l'oeuvre originale de Raiponce, mais je voulais pouvoir voir les dessins avant de me lancer dans un éventuel achat. Et, depuis que je travaille en médiathèque, et que j'ai l'occasion d'en voir passer entre mes mains très souvent, j'ai l'occasion de faire de belles découvertes. Toujours influencée majoritairement par les graphismes, un peu comme avec les livres et leur couverture, mais de manière plus forte vu que les dessins dans les albums sont bien plus nombreux et que cet aspect représente un fort pourcentage dans l'appréciation du livre, pour ces raisons, vous verrez toujours dans ce genre de billet, des albums qui me plaisent dans un premier temps pour leurs dessins.

Les dessins sont soit totalement colorés, soit mélangés avec des illustrations en noir. Si les planches tout en couleur flattent l'oeil et éblouissent à chaque nouvelle découverte, celles qui sont majoritairement noires avec des touches subtiles de couleur, ne sont pas en reste. J'ai vraiment aimé ce qui se dégageait de ces dernières, c'est original et ça ne gâche en rien l'immersion. Le contraste existant entre ces mélanges marche à merveille.

Du coté de l'histoire, j'avais peur de ne pas aimer, de trouver ça trop enfantin, alors même que j'adore les contes. Préjugé stupide puisque j'ai pris un plaisir manifeste à lire cette histoire. Courte, mais faisant autant sourire que rager, elle n'est pas avare en émotions. Les péripéties de la princesse qui n'avait pas de royaume mêlent habilement tout ce qui fait la richesse des contes et offre un moment rapide, mais complet. Et complètement subjuguée par les dessins, je suis même passé à côté d'une évidence. L'épilogue est trop choupi et la chute à la fin m'a fait rire, je n'y aurais pas du tout pensé ^^.

Sur le blog : <http://bloggalleane.blogspot.fr/2014/...>
