



## First Day of School

Princess Ella gazed out at the trees and hedges flashing past the car window. She linked her fingers together tightly and tried to ignore the fluttering feeling in her tummy. It wouldn't be long now. Soon they would reach the Royal Academy for Princesses, her new school!

Ella tucked her dark, wavy hair behind her tiara and smoothed the gray pleats of her new school uniform. She was trying not to think about missing home,



especially her puppy, Sesame, with his beautiful brown eyes and soft little paws. But thinking about her new school didn't make her feel better, either. Her mom had told her that the school was enormous. What if she got lost trying to find her way around? What if none of the other girls wanted to talk to her? What if —

“Are you all right, Ella?” Her mom, Queen Jade, turned toward her. “You look a little pale. Do you feel sick?”

“No, I'm fine.” Ella tried to smile.

“Really?” The queen frowned. “You don't *look* fine. Maybe we'd better stop for a minute.” She leaned forward to speak to the royal driver. “Stop at the side of the road, please.”

The car pulled over next to a hedge. Ella's dad, King George, quietly snored from the front passenger seat.

