



Chapter One

This is Minna. She is a **princess**.

Princess Minna is very good at
lots of things.

She is good at taming unicorns,
kissing frogs and fighting dragons.

Sometimes, she can tell if there is a **pea** under a mattress just by lying on it. One tiny pea can make a princess toss and turn all night.

But you don't get many peas under mattresses these days.



Princess Minna lives in

Castle Tall-Towers

with the King, the Queen and a wizard called Raymond.



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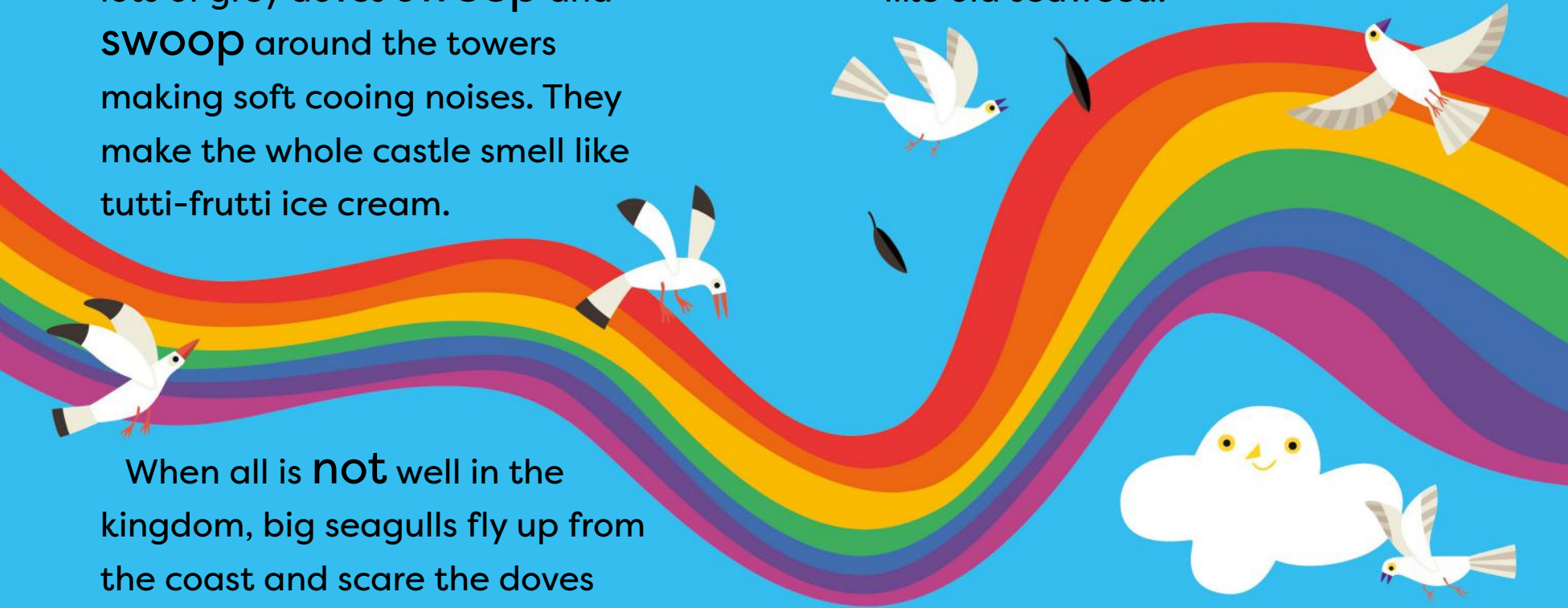


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When all is well in the kingdom, lots of grey doves **sweep** and **swoop** around the towers making soft cooing noises. They make the whole castle smell like tutti-frutti ice cream.

They make the whole castle smell like old seaweed.

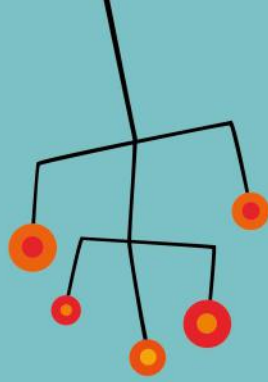


When all is **not** well in the kingdom, big seagulls fly up from the coast and scare the doves away.

Then they **flip** and **flap** around the towers, making **screechy squawking** noises.

There are also blackbirds at Castle Tall-Towers. They don't make the castle smell of anything. No one takes much notice of them.





But, no, she thought. It couldn't be that. You **never** find peas under mattresses anymore.



One morning, Princess Minna woke up feeling **very** tired.

She had not slept well **at all**.

Perhaps there was a pea under her mattress.





Flip! Flap!
Flap! Flip!

Princess Minna looked out of the window.

Screech!
Squawk!

Squawk!
Screech!



Oh dear. The seagulls were back and the doves were nowhere to be seen.

All is **not** well in the kingdom, thought Princess Minna. I'd better go and tell the others.



Princess Minna's bedroom is right at the top of this tower here. It takes her a **very long time** to get downstairs.



She ran **down**
and **down**
and **down**

and down
and down
and down
and down
and down
and down



until she reached the dining room,
where everyone else was having
breakfast.

Princess Minna was **even** more tired now, and **very** out of breath. “All is **not** well,” she huffed and puffed. “The doves have gone and the seagulls are back!”

“Oh dear,” said the Queen. “That explains why my tea has feathers in it.”

“Oh dear,” said the King. “That explains why my porridge smells of seaweed.”

“Oh dear,” said Raymond, magically.



“Never mind,” said the King. “I’m sure Minna can sort it out.”

Hurrah! thought Princess Minna. She **loved** sorting out the kingdom. What would it be this time?

A unicorn in need of taming?



A frog waiting to be kissed?



A dragon looking for a fight?



“Please be quick, Minna,” said the Queen. “The King and I have invited Lord and Lady Welling-Tunboot round to play **musical statues** this afternoon.”



“It’s been planned for weeks,” said the King. “But we won’t be able to do it if the castle is full of seagulls..”

“... and then where will we be?” said the Queen.



Princess Minna was already on her way. She **RAN** out of

Castle Tall-Towers

towards the town, shooing a few blackbirds away as she went.





Chapter Two


The townspeople **loved** Princess Minna. They were very pleased to see her.

They brought out their babies to be kissed, because princesses **always** like kissing babies.

They quickly baked some **sponge cakes** with cream in the middle, because princesses **always** enjoy a nice piece of sponge cake with cream in the middle.

They climbed wobbly ladders to pin up **bunting**, because princesses **always** feel happy when there's bunting out.





Princess Minna was really **very** tired now, but she still managed to **kiss** a few babies, eat some cake and admire the bunting.

Afterwards, she pointed towards the castle. “Look,” she said. “All is **not** well in the kingdom. There are seagulls flying around the towers and the doves are nowhere to be seen.”

The townspeople looked. They saw the seagulls. They scratched their heads and wondered what could be wrong. Everything seemed perfectly fine.

Suddenly there was a crash!

“Help! Help!

We have a

unicorn
emergency!”

Everyone turned round.

It was Little Tommy

Turret from Turret’s

T shop.

Turret's Tshop

