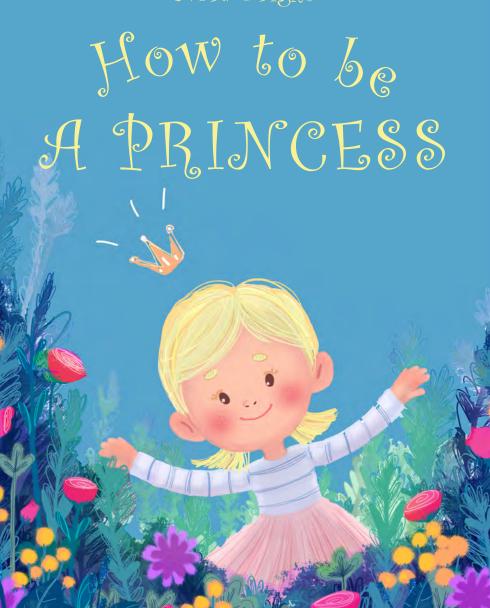
Nora Bright



**M**imi was not your ordinary girl. Whatever boys did, she could do better! Whether it was playing with cars, climbing trees or walking the dog, Mimi was always exceptional. Mommy would often grumble that she would come from the playground with dirt all over, even in her ears!



Whenever Mimi watched cartoons or read books about princess adventures, she would dream about things she would do if she were one. Once she looked straight into her Grandma's eyes and asked,



"How do you become a princess, Grandma? When I grow up I want to be a princess. One of my friends wants to be a doctor, the other one, an actress, but I want to be a princess!"



Her Granny smiled and replied: "When I was a little girl like you, I also wanted to be a princess. I'll tell you everything I know about it! You see, every single girl is already a princess."



"No way!" shouted the little girl! "Even that gloomy girl that works in a grocery store? And you too, Grandma?"

"That's right, darling! Every single girl comes into this world with an invisible crown. We are all princesses from the day that we are born!"



"But what happens to them, Grandma? Why do some princesses grow up to be grumpy old ladies or sometimes even witches?" — inquired Mimi.

Grandma
thoughtfully replied
and said: "You
know, my love, their
crowns stop shining
when they forget
who they are.

Your princess nature needs to be nurtured like a flower that needs to be watered. If you take good care of yourself, your princess nature will begin to bloom, but if you forget, it may begin to fade. Sometimes, parents forget to tell their little girls that they are princesses, and they lose their identity."



Mimi asked, "Well now that I know how to become a princess, can I be one?"

"Yes, my darling!
However, just knowing
that you are a princess is
not enough. You have to
behave like one as well"
— replied Grandma.

"Where do I learn this? Can you teach me?"
Mimi was captivated by Grandma's every word.



" $\mathbf{F}$ irst, in order to be a princess you have to remember that you already are one; loved and amazing, just the way you are. With those beautiful sparkly eyes, that button nose and all of your talents. Remember, every girl is special and has her own unique beauty. There is no one like her in the whole wide world.



**B**ut a real princess not only takes care of herself, but also of her surroundings. She thinks about the whole kingdom, her family, friends, dogs and all of the people she has in her life.

In order to be a real princess, you have to take care of others. You can feed animals, help your mom and dad when you can. Sometimes just smiling and being nice to others is already an act of kindness. A princess knows that she's an example and behaves like one."



"What about the beautiful clothes they wear?" — Mimi asked with great concern.
"I don't have too many dresses and they don't look princess-like!"



"Darling, it's not always about the dresses. You will look like Princess if you just brush your teeth, comb your hair and try to be neat. Because being dressed like a princess doesn't always mean that you have to wear only princess dresses, as they are not comfortable to ride a bike, or have fun on the playground" -Grandma delicately explained.



It was already late, but Grandma wanted her baby to understand one more important thing.

"A Princess should always treat others as she wants to be treated. She has the power to make people happy and she uses it. A Princess also asks others to treat her with the respect that she deserves. But why are you so sad, my love?"



**M**imi sullenly replied: "You know, those princesses are so nice, so perfect, but me... sometimes I forget to wash my hands with soap after I go for a walk. I also don't always clean my desk. I don't even help you that much... I don't think I will be able to be a good princess." Just then, Mimi almost started to cry but grandma reached out her arms and gave her a wonderful hug.



Grandma reassured Mimi and said: "My dear child, nobody is perfect. Those things can happen to anyone, even a princess! Maybe she ate too much candy or forgot to keep her chin up and her crown fell. Regardless a princess is never afraid to admit her mistakes and knows how to say she's sorry. That's why no one can hold a grudge against her.



 $\boldsymbol{J}$ ust remember that to your family you will always be the most amazing, adorable and beautiful person on earth! Even if you're angry, even if you break something or don't want to share your toys.

**E**ven if I have to give you a timeout, I will never stop loving you. However, please don't forget about your invisible crown and responsibilities that come with it. If you stay true to your nature you will be a true princess and live your life happily ever after."



