



Chapter One



It was Wednesday, and we were late getting up. Katie was still in her pyjamas and Alice was only half-dressed when the last bell rang for breakfast. Charlotte dropped her hairbrush, and looked horrified.

“Oh NO!” she said. “Lady Albina’s going to be FURIOUS!”



We'll get about a million minus tiara points!"



Lady Albina is the school secretary, and she's usually floating about at breakfast time. She only smiles when Queen Samantha Joy is around, and she's always telling us off for not being Perfect Princesses – and handing out minus tiara points.

Emily groaned. "I've already got three this week," she said. "I forgot to hand in my Ideal Banquet Arrangements to Lady Victoria, and she was in a bad mood."

"But we did get five points each for knowing how to flutter a fan while curtsying," I said.

“You mean YOU did,” Katie said as she scrambled into her dress. “I only got two.”

Daisy sighed. “And me.”

“Never mind about fans,” Charlotte interrupted. “Just let’s GO!”

We hurried down the stairs, hoping we might be able to sneak in without being seen...

But Lady Albina was standing outside the dining hall pinning a notice on the board. She frowned at us as we sank into our most apologetic curtsies.

“I’m SO sorry we’re late, Lady Albina,” I said.



Lady Albina looked at her watch in a meaningful way. “You are VERY LATE INDEED, Princess Sophia,” she snapped. “Such behaviour is intolerable! Please report to Queen Samantha Joy immediately after breakfast, and I will not be at all surprised if she forbids you to attend Prince Maurice’s party!” Then she sniffed loudly, and stalked away with her nose in the air.

We stared at each other. Finally Emily said, “Who’s Prince Maurice? And why would he ask us to his party?”

Alice shook her head. “I don’t

know. My big sister’s never said anything about a Prince Maurice.”

Charlotte sighed. “I do hope we can go. It’s AGES since we’ve been to a party.”

Daisy was looking worried. “Do you think Queen Samantha Joy will be VERY angry with us?”





“We’d better have breakfast and find out,” Katie said, and we followed her into the dining hall.

Of course the only places left were next to the terrible twins, Diamonde and Gruella, and Diamonde looked SO superior as we sat down.

“Don’t any of you know that

Perfect Princesses are meant to be on time for their appointments?” she asked.

We ignored her, and Emily turned to Gruella. “Do you know anything about a party?” she asked. “Prince Maurice’s party?”

Gruella shook her head, but Diamonde snorted.





“Typical,” she sneered. “Trust one of the Silver Rose Roomers to pretend she knows something before the rest of us!”

Emily went very pink, and bit her lip. I jumped up and glared at Diamonde.

“That’s SO unfair!” I said. “Lady Albina told us!” As I spoke, I suddenly remembered. Lady Albina had been pinning up a notice when we saw her. I was so sure it was about the party that I went to check...and walked straight into our headteacher, Queen Samantha Joy.