



## Chapter One



Do you ever get scared of things? I do. For one thing, I'm scared I'll NEVER get five hundred tiara points by the end of my first year here at the Academy, and then I won't be allowed to join the Tiara Club – and I DO so want to! It sounds SO wonderful! And I'm scared of things like spiders, and



big fierce dogs. Actually, thinking about ANYTHING big and fierce makes my knees wobble! Our head teacher, Queen Gloriana, is scary too. She's very tall and gracious, but she can look SO fierce if you do something wrong. Fairy G is much friendlier, but even she can get angry, and when she does she swells up to TWICE her usual size. Honestly! I'm not joking!

When I first heard we were going to meet a real dragon, I was SO frightened I got hiccups. We were having breakfast, and Queen Gloriana and Fairy



Godmother came in to say good morning.

“Good morning, my dear young princesses,” Queen Gloriana said.





“Now, I have a very important announcement for the first year students. This morning, as you know, you have *Creative Cake Cooking for Perfect Palace Parties*. This afternoon, however, you are to go straight to the Tower Room just as soon as you’ve finished lunch. You are MOST fortunate; King Percival has agreed to bring in one of his dragons!”

You could have heard a pin drop. My heart was beating so fast I thought I might burst, and then I hiccupped. I was SO embarrassed!



“Now,” our head teacher went on, “I want you all to listen very carefully to what King Percival tells you. He will be instructing you on *How to Talk to Dragons*, and he will give you your tiara points at the end of the lesson. I look forward to hearing that you all have at LEAST ten points!” And then she swept out of the dining hall, and Fairy G – who is MUCH too huge to sweep – stamped after her.



Of course we all started to talk at once, except for Princess Perfecta and Princess Floreen. Perfecta pretended to give a bored yawn, and Floreen immediately copied her. Just because Perfecta was at the Academy last year she thinks she knows EVERYTHING, even though she only got about a hundred tiara points in the whole year! Alice's sister said Queen Gloriana was FURIOUS with her, and now she's back in the first year with us.

“A DRAGON!” Katie said, and her eyes were shining. “What FUN!”





“Do you think it’ll be VERY big?” I asked nervously.

“HUGE and FEROCIOUS!” Charlotte said, but Princess Sophia shook her head. “Queen Gloriana would never allow that,” she said. “I expect it’ll be a

very old dragon that can’t even breathe fire any more.”

“Come on!” Alice stood up. “Let’s go and get boring old Cake Cookery over. Then we can see the dragon for real! Hurry up and finish your toast, Daisy.”

