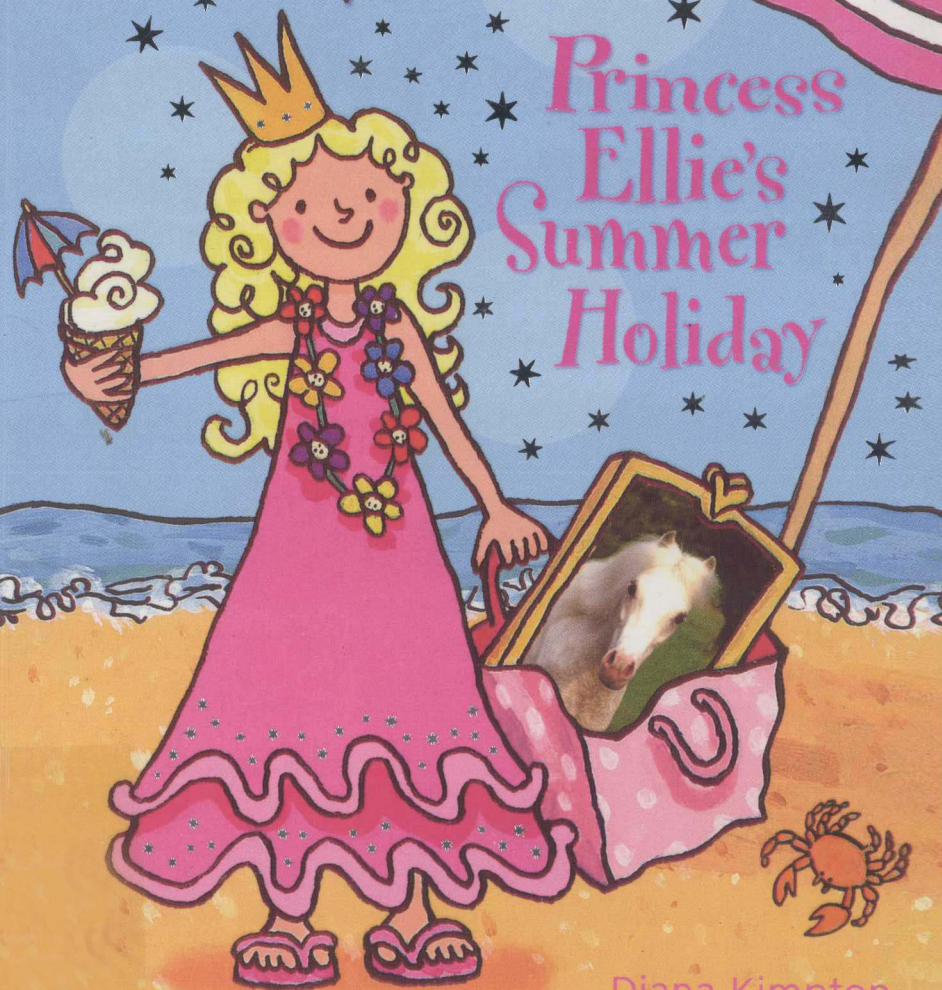


The Pony-Mad Princess



Princess
Ellie's
Summer
Holiday



Diana Kimpton

The Pony-Mad Princess



Princess 学院图书馆
Summer Holiday
藏书章

Ellie stroked the grey pony as he gently took the grass from her hand. "This one's definitely my favourite," she said. "He's the one I'd like to ride."

"Well, you can't!" said a voice from behind her.

Ellie and Kate spun round to see a girl glowering at them.

"That pony is mine," she yelled.

Look out for more sparkly adventures of
The Pony-Mad Princess!



Princess Ellie to the Rescue

Princess Ellie's Secret

A Puzzle for Princess Ellie

Princess Ellie's Starlight Adventure

Princess Ellie's Moonlight Mystery

A Surprise for Princess Ellie

Princess Ellie's Holiday Adventure

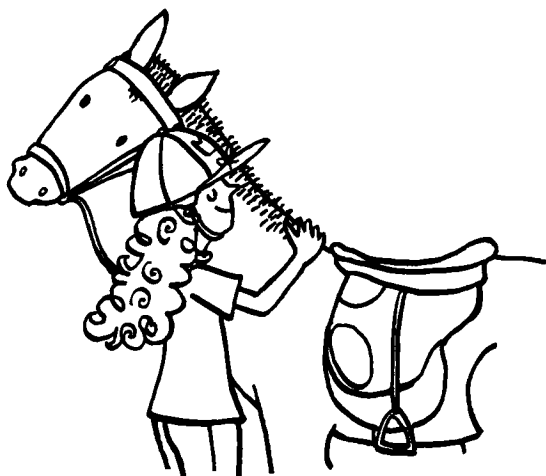
Princess Ellie and the Palace Plot

Princess Ellie's Christmas

Princess Ellie Saves the Day

The Pony-Mad Princess

Princess Ellie's
Summer Holiday



Diana Kimpton

Illustrated by Lizzie Finlay



For Cerys and Tegan



First published in 2006 by Usborne Publishing Ltd., Usborne House,
83-85 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RT, England. www.usborne.com



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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

J MAMJJASOND/07
ISBN 9780746073087

Printed in India.

Chapter 1



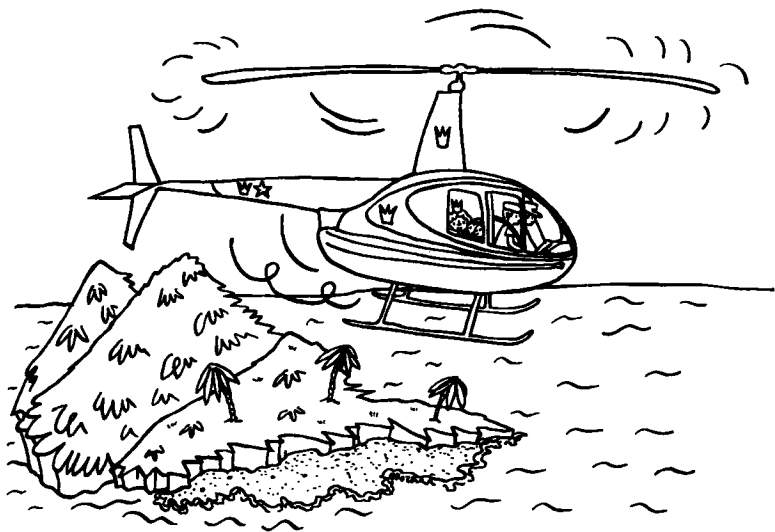
"It looks wonderful," yelled Princess Ellie, as she stared out of the helicopter window. She had to shout to be heard above the roar of the engine.

"Fantastic!" agreed her best friend, Kate, at the top of her voice.

They both stared down, watching the tropical island come closer and closer.



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Its hills were covered with thick, green jungle, and blue sea lapped gently on its white, sandy beaches. It looked like the perfect place for a summer holiday. There was only one problem – there was no sign of any ponies.

The helicopter landed gently on a patch of ground marked with an enormous H. The wind from its rotor blades sent up clouds of dust that blocked the view from the window.

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Then the engines finally stopped and all was quiet.

"Thank goodness," said the Queen.

"That journey was too long and too noisy."

"But it was worth it, my dear," said the King. "We've got nothing to do for the next two weeks except relax and swim and make new friends."

"And ride," added Ellie. "You promised there'd be riding." She was starting to feel worried. If there weren't any ponies, her holiday would be ruined.

Before either of her parents could answer, the helicopter door swung open. "Welcome to Onataki," announced a man in a brightly coloured shirt. "Hi! I'm Don – I own the island."

Ellie and Kate followed the King and



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Queen out of the helicopter. The sun was so bright that it dazzled them. The air was hot and the gentle breeze carried strange scents Ellie didn't recognize.

As soon as they were all on the ground, a crowd of smiling women ran forward and hung garlands of flowers around their necks. One of them accidentally knocked the King's crown sideways, but he didn't seem to mind. He just laughed as he pushed it straight.



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Kate nudged Ellie with her elbow. "Why aren't they bowing and curtsying like people usually do when they see your parents?"

"Dad says they don't bother with that here," explained Ellie. "Lots of the people who come to this island are royal. The others are all millionaires or famous film stars."

"Except me," laughed Kate. Her gran was the palace cook.

"And the maids and Higginbottom," added Ellie. She glanced back at the helicopter where the butler was busy making sure all their luggage was unloaded.

Don led the way to a white building with RECEPTION written on it in large gold letters. Inside, full-size palm trees grew in pots and goldfish swam lazily in a huge pool.

While Don chatted to the King and



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Queen, the two girls looked around at the walls. There were photos of people waterskiing and sailing. There were notices about golf and fishing and tennis. But there was nothing at all about horse riding.

Ellie tugged anxiously at her mum's sleeve. "Ask about the ponies," she begged.

"In a minute, Aurelia," replied the Queen.

Ellie sighed. She knew from experience that that sort of minute often lasted several hours.

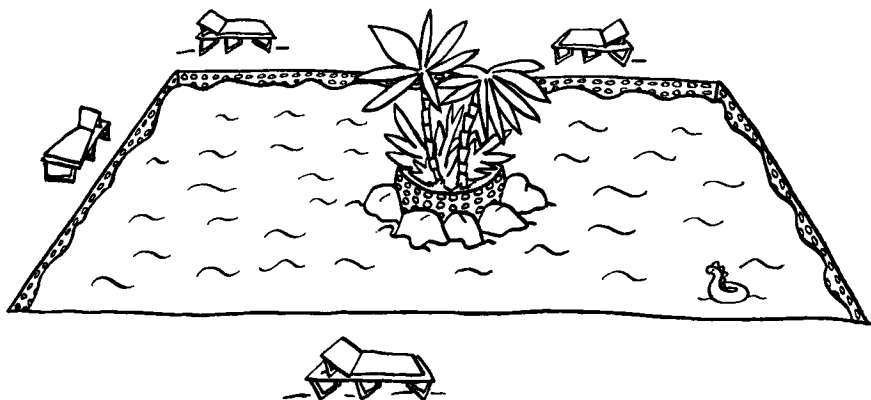
Don picked up some keys from the desk. "Come with me and I'll show you where you're staying." He led the royal group through the reception area and out the other side.

"Wow," cried Kate and Ellie together, as they stepped onto a wide, sun-soaked patio.



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Straight in front of them was an enormous swimming pool with water as blue as the sky.



Beyond that lay a wide, sandy beach dotted with striped sun umbrellas. And on either side of the pool stood the villas for the guests, each with its own garden.

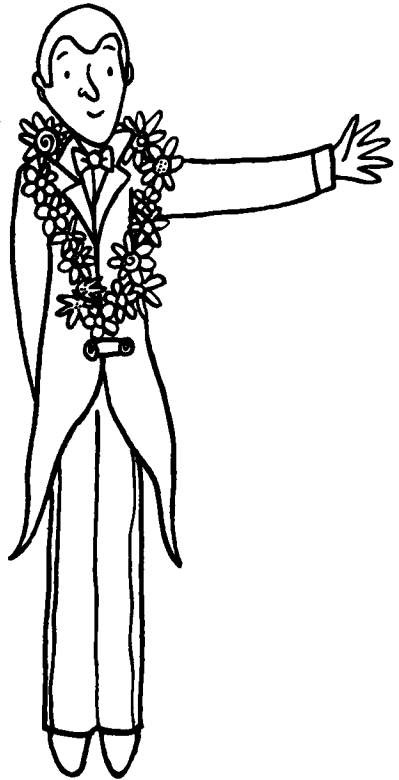
Ellie was pleased to find their villa was at the far end, closest to the beach. It was totally different to the palace where she normally lived. It was much smaller, and it

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had a wide, shady veranda and a roof of green tiles. In the garden, hummingbirds flew from flower to flower and a fountain splashed gently into a shell-shaped pool.

To Ellie's surprise, Higginbottom opened the door to greet them. He was slightly out of breath from rushing to get there before they did, and his garland of flowers looked ridiculous on top of his evening suit.

He smiled at Ellie and pointed at one of the doors, leading off the sitting room.



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"That's your room, Your Highness. And Kate's. His Majesty thought you'd like to share."

"Brilliant!" cried Ellie. She flung open the door and stared in delight at her holiday bedroom. It wasn't pink like her bedroom at home. The tiled floor was creamy yellow and the covers on the two beds were bright orange.

Kate rushed past her and threw herself onto the bed nearest the window. "Can I have this one?" she asked. "It's great. I can see the sea all the time, even when I'm lying down."

"I'm happy with this one," said Ellie, as she bounced up and down on the other bed. Then she spotted an envelope on the dressing table. It had a drawing of a horse



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at the top, and it was addressed to Princess Aurelia and Kate Brown.

Ellie ripped it open and pulled out a sheet of paper. It had "Onataki Riding Stables" written across the top in bright red letters. She danced round the room in excitement as she read the letter.

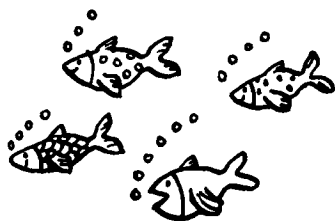
"Yippee," she yelled. "There really are ponies on the island and Dad's arranged for us to borrow two for the whole holiday. We've got to go to the stables at nine o'clock tomorrow morning to meet them."



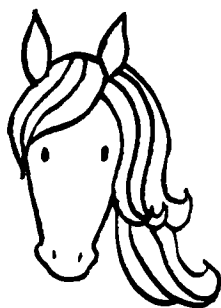
Princess Ellie's Summer Holiday

"Great!" cried Kate. "I can hardly wait."

"Neither can I," sighed Ellie. She was already missing her own ponies, even though she'd only said goodbye to them that morning. Then she looked at the map on the back of the letter and grinned. "Let's go and find the stables now. Surely no one will mind if we just have a quick look."



Chapter 2



"Where are you two going in such a hurry?" asked the Queen, as Ellie and Kate rushed into the garden.

Ellie hesitated. She wasn't sure if her parents would approve of their plans. The letter hadn't said anything about going to the stables *today*. "We're...um..."

"...going exploring," finished Kate.

