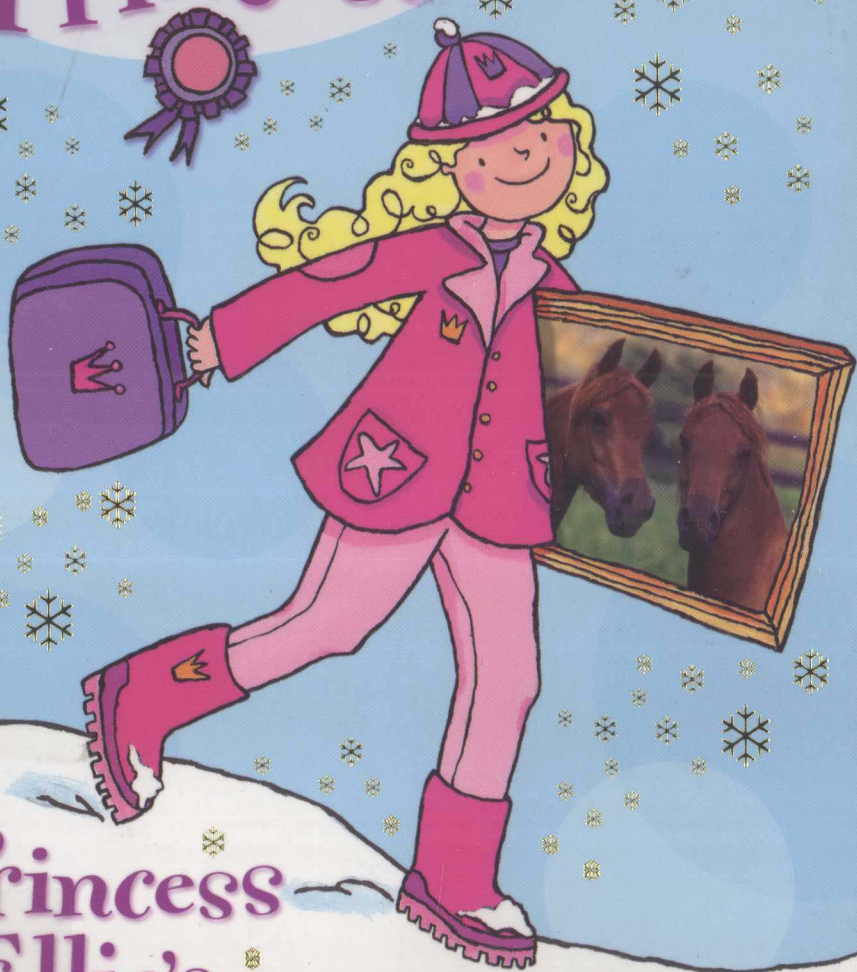


# The Pony-Mad Princess



## Princess Ellie's Holiday Adventure

Diana Kimpton

# The Pony-Mad Princess



Princess 工业学院图书馆  
Holiday Adventure  
藏书章

Ellie glanced at John. "Which way do we go?" she asked.

There was a long pause while John looked round thoughtfully. Then he shrugged his shoulders and admitted, "I don't know where we are. I think we're lost."

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**The Pony-Mad Princess!**



Princess Ellie to the Rescue

Princess Ellie's Secret

A Puzzle for Princess Ellie

Princess Ellie's Starlight Adventure

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Princess Ellie and the Palace Plot

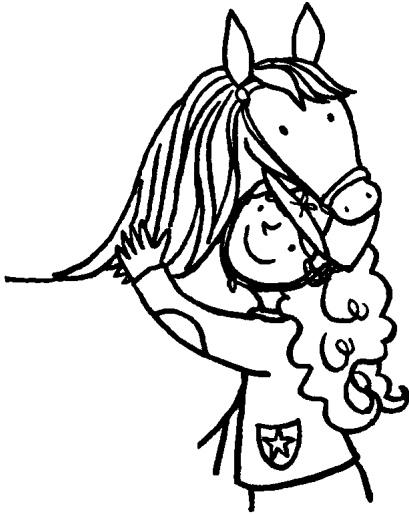
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Princess Ellie's Christmas

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# The Pony-Mad Princess

Princess Ellie's  
*Holiday Adventure*



Diana Kimpton

Illustrated by Lizzie Finlay



## For Steve



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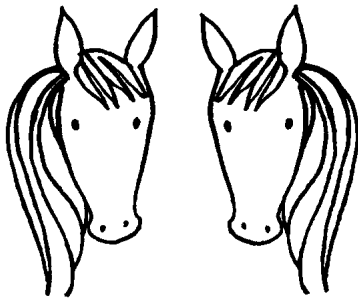
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# Chapter 1



"Wow!" squealed Princess Ellie. "Look at those mountains."

"They're fantastic," agreed her best friend, Kate. "And they've got snow on the top."

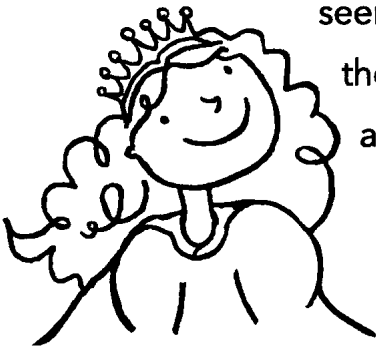
"Of course they have," said Miss Stringle. "Andirovia is a much colder country than ours. Now do stop pressing your face against the car window, Princess Aurelia."

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That's no way to behave. We can't have the public thinking princesses have squashed noses."

Ellie groaned as she sat back in her seat. She hated it when her governess called her by her real name. But she was too excited about the royal holiday to stay miserable for long. This was the first time she had ever visited Prince John and his family. She had never been to Andirovia before, and she'd never

seen mountains as big as these. She gazed longingly at the white peaks. "I've never seen real snow close up."



"I have," said Kate.

"It's brilliant. Mum and Dad took me skiing once in the school holidays." Kate's parents

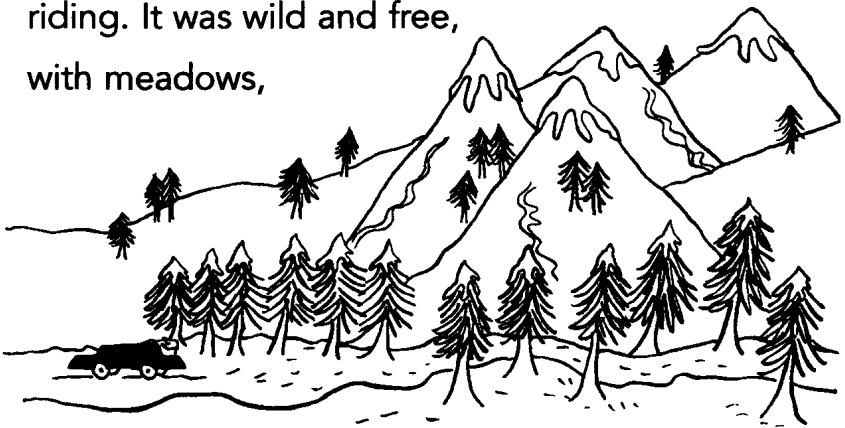
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worked abroad and moved around a lot so she lived with her grandparents most of the time. Her gran was the palace cook.

"Let's ask if we can go up there and play snowballs," suggested Ellie.

"You'll ask no such thing," declared Miss Stringle. "You are guests and you must fit in with the activities arranged by your hosts."

Ellie hoped some of those plans would involve Prince John's ponies. The country they were driving through was perfect for riding. It was wild and free, with meadows,





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forests and fast-flowing mountain streams. Andirovia really was as wonderful as John had described.

The car slowed down. It was the second in a line of gleaming black vehicles. Each one had a small Andirovian flag fluttering at the front. The first car held Ellie's parents, the King and Queen. The ones behind held their luggage and servants. To Ellie's disappointment, there was no horsebox. The King and Queen had insisted that all her ponies stayed at home.

She was already missing them. So she was delighted when she found the hold-up was caused by a lady riding a large, grey horse. The road was narrow here, so there wasn't room for the cars to overtake the rider safely. They had to drive slowly behind

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her until she turned into a gateway to let them through.

As her car swept past, Ellie gave the lady a royal wave, exactly as Miss Stringle had taught her in her waving lessons. "What a beautiful horse," she sighed.

"Where?" asked Kate, who'd been staring out of the opposite window. She turned round just in time to catch a glimpse of the grey and its rider before the car overtook them completely. Determined to see more, she swivelled round so she was kneeling on her seat. Then she watched them through the back window, waving wildly at the rider with both hands.



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"Sit down at once," snapped Miss Stringle. "That is not how the public expect royalty to behave."

"But I'm not royal," said Kate.

Miss Stringle sighed. "I know that and so do you. But that woman doesn't."

Kate slowly turned round and faced the front again. She slumped miserably in her seat. "I'm never going to manage this," she groaned. "I don't know how to act royal."

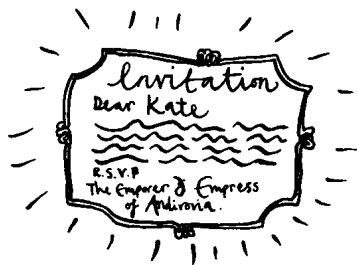
Ellie smiled reassuringly. "It's easy enough. I do it."

"But you've had lots of lessons," said Kate. "I haven't. I'm going to let everyone down. I know I am."

Ellie was desperate to cheer Kate up. She knew her friend was nervous about coming on the royal holiday. But she had every right

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to be there. She had her own gold-edged invitation from the Emperor and Empress



of Andirovia. Prince John had insisted on it.

It was Miss Stringle who came to Kate's rescue. "Don't worry, my dear," she said kindly. "Just copy Princess Aurelia. She knows what to do."

Ellie stared at her in surprise. Her governess didn't usually have so much confidence in her abilities.

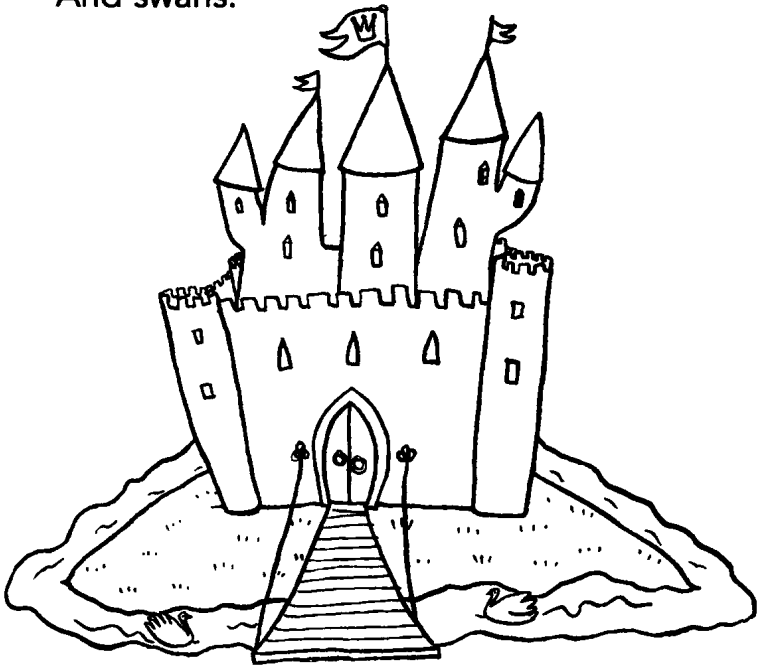
At that moment, the cars rounded a bend and Ellie saw Prince John's home for the first time. "Wow!" she said for the second time that day. John had been telling the truth. His palace really was twice the size of the one she lived in. It was built of white stone,

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with strong towers at each corner like a castle.

"Look! There's a moat," cried Kate.

"And swans."



"And a real drawbridge," added Ellie as the car whizzed across it and drew to a halt in the palace courtyard.

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The palace guard snapped to attention and the Emperor and Empress of Andirovia walked majestically down the front steps. Prince John was close behind, looking uncomfortable in his naval uniform. He peeped round his father and grinned at the girls.

A footman swung open the car door and a blast of cold air rushed inside. Ellie shivered and pulled her velvet cloak tight around her shoulders. Then she climbed out and led Kate over to join the King and Queen.

"How wonderful to see you," gushed the Empress. She kissed Ellie and Kate on the nose in the traditional Andirovian way. "Now come with us to inspect the palace guard."

"Oh dear," whispered Kate. "Is that hard?"

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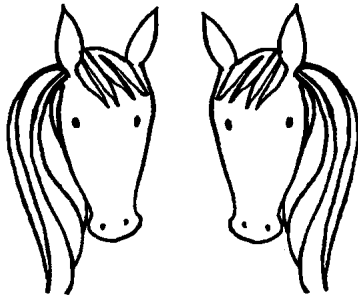
"No," replied Ellie. "We just walk along behind Mum and Dad and get bored."

The guardsmen looked bored, too, and very chilly. Their noses were red, their lips were blue and some of them were struggling to stop their teeth chattering. Ellie felt sorry for them. She felt sorry for herself as well and longed to get indoors. "It's freezing," she grumbled.

"No, it's not," declared John. "It's exactly 4° Celsius. Look – I've got this great new watch that tells the temperature as well as the time."

Ellie wasn't impressed. Cold weather would be fun if there was snow to play in. If there wasn't any, she much preferred to be warm. Perhaps Andirovia wasn't such a great place for a holiday after all.

## Chapter 2

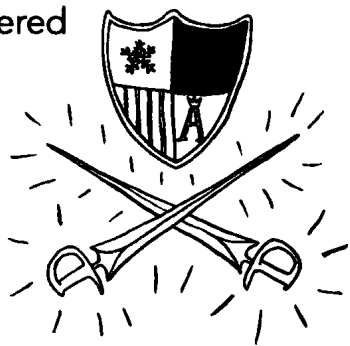


The inside of the palace was even more impressive than the outside. To Ellie's relief, it was also much warmer. A flurry of maids met them in the entrance hall with mugs of hot chocolate topped with whipped cream and marshmallows. Ellie sipped hers gratefully, wrapping her hands round it to thaw out her cold fingers.



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She would have loved a second helping, but there wasn't time. The Emperor and Empress were keen to show off their home, so they whisked the visitors away on a conducted tour. Ellie loved the log fires that blazed in every room. The light from the flickering flames glittered on the swords and shields that hung on the walls.



By the time the girls were shown to their bedrooms, the maids had already unpacked their clothes. Ellie found it reassuring to see her own dressing gown hanging on the back of the door and her pink alarm clock on the bedside table. They helped her feel less homesick.