

SHANNON HALE & DEAN HALE

THE Princess IN
BLACK
and the PERFECT PRINCESS PARTY



illustrated by LeUYEN PHAM



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CANDLEWICK PRESS



This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either products of the author's imagination or, if real, are used fictitiously.

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*For Uyen, Sarah, and Barry—
with you it's always a perfect princess party*

S. H. and D. H.

To my royal nieces, Alize, Alora, and Mathilde

L. P.





Chapter 1



Pink balloons topped the castle towers. Pink balloons bobbed from the treetops. There was even a pink balloon tied to a unicorn's horn.

Today was Princess Magnolia's birthday. She wanted the party to be perfect.



Princess Magnolia cleaned her tower room. She put on her favorite fluffy dress. She polished her glass slippers. She frosted cupcakes.



She looked out her window. Her
guests would arrive any moment.

And then her glitter-stone ring rang.



“The monster alarm,” said Princess
Magnolia. “Not now!”

It was time for Princess Magnolia’s
birthday party. It was not a good time
for a monster attack.



Chapter 2



Monsters did not care about Princess Magnolia's birthday. Monsters just wanted to eat goats. Stopping monsters was no job for prim and perfect Princess Magnolia. But it was the perfect job for the Princess in Black.



Princess Magnolia ducked into the broom closet.



She took off her favorite fluffy dress.
She slipped off her glass slippers.

Underneath, she was dressed all in black. She fastened on her mask.



She was no longer Princess Magnolia.
She was the Princess in Black.



“The princess is back!” said the Princess in Black.



She slid down the secret chute.



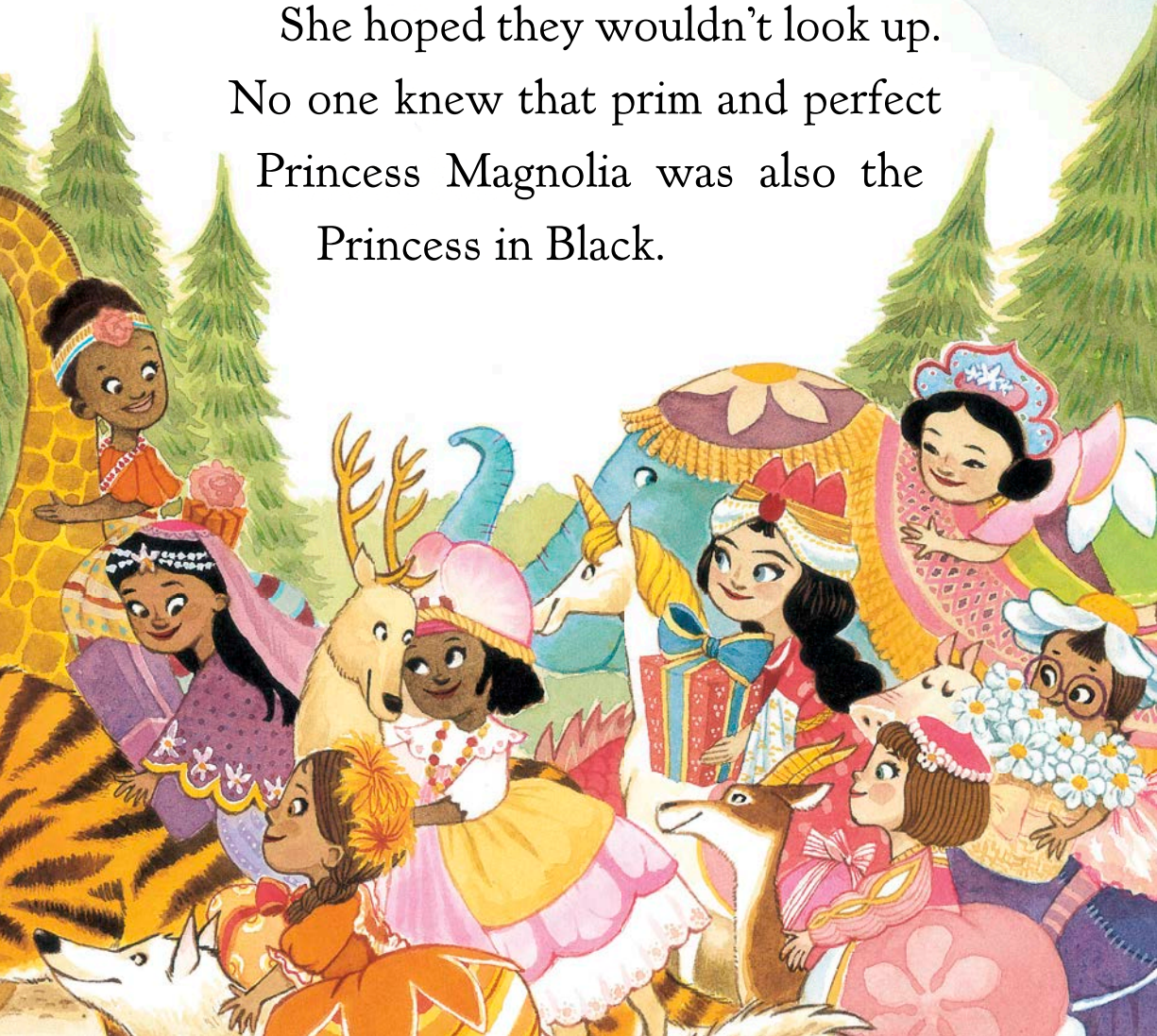


WELCOME!

She high-jumped the castle wall.

Twelve sparkly princesses were riding toward the drawbridge. Her party guests!

She hoped they wouldn't look up. No one knew that prim and perfect Princess Magnolia was also the Princess in Black.



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