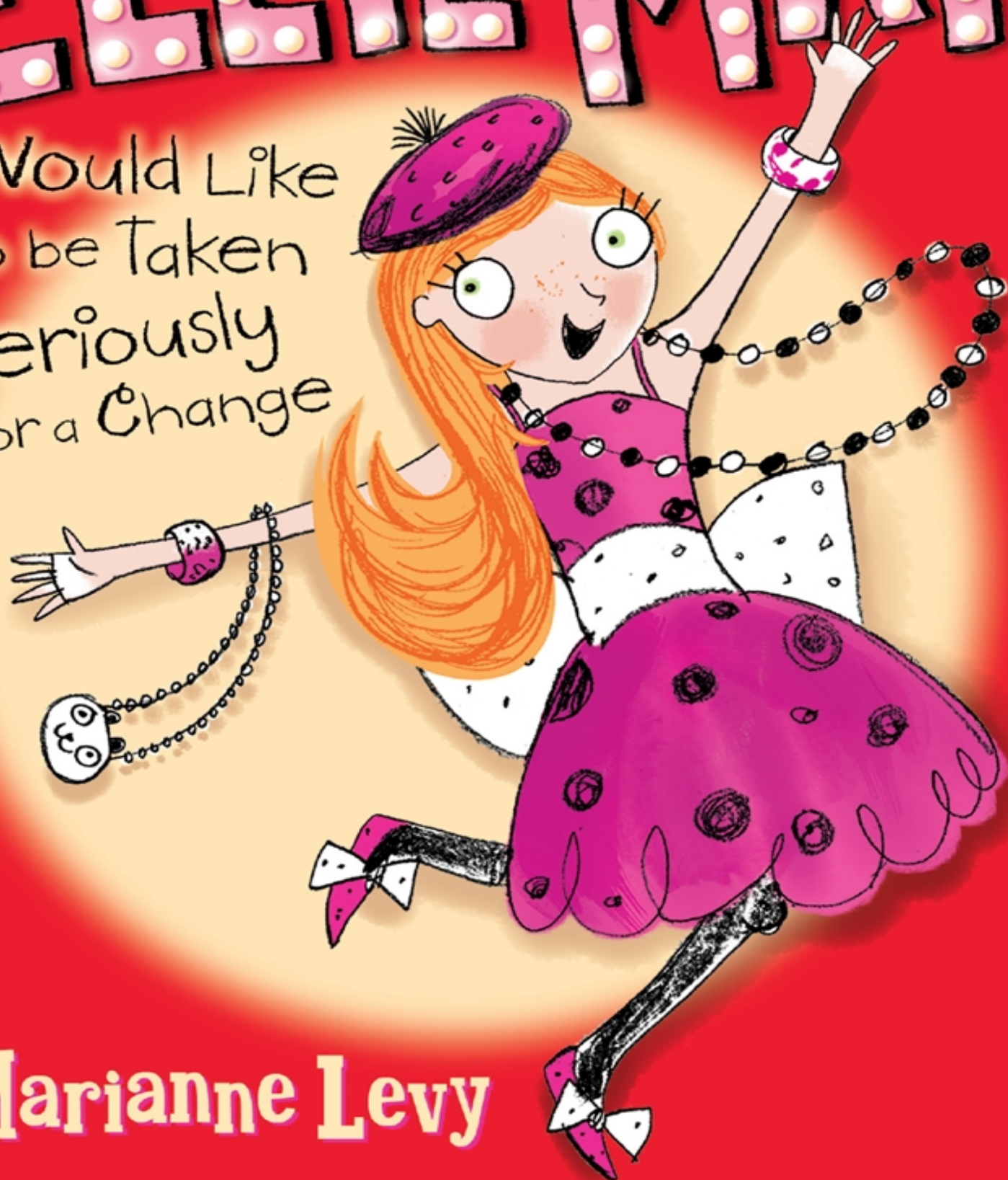


'Made me laugh out loud. Ellie May rocks!' Andy Stanton, author of *Mr Gum*

ELLIE MAY

Would Like
to be Taken
Seriously
for a Change



Marianne Levy



To E.A.D. and J.D.F. with gratitude

EGMONT

We bring stories to life

Ellie May Would Like to be Taken Seriously for a Change

First published in paperback in Great Britain

2012 by Jelly Pie, an imprint of Egmont UK Limited

239 Kensington High Street

London W8 6SA

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Illustrations copyright © 2012 Ali Pye

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ISBN 978 1 4052 6029 9

eISBN 978 1 7803 1107 4

www.egmont.co.uk

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

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Ellie May Would Like to be Taken
Seriously for a Change

Ellie May was an incredibly famous film star.

Not one of those film stars who was a little bit famous, where people would say, 'Ellie May. We know that name from somewhere. Has she been on television, then?'

No, Ellie May was the kind of film star where people would say, 'Ellie May! Of course we know who you mean! She's that incredibly famous film star!'

In the last year, for example, she'd starred in *Tears Before Bedtime*, *The Darkest Night* and *Flufflepuffs: The Movie!*

She'd been shopping in Paris, shopping in London, and over to LA for some interviews, and to do a bit of shopping.

She'd collected a BRA award, for 'Best Recent Appearance', and a CAFE, a 'Critics' Award for Excellence'. Best of all, she had just been nominated for *Giggle*

magazine's 'Seriously And Unbelievably Stunningly Amazingest Girl Ever!' award, otherwise known as a SAUSAGE.



And right now she was about to finish her latest film, *Alien Attack*. In fact, there was just one line left to say:

'Now the aliens are gone, and the world will be safe forever!'

'Cut!' called the director. 'And that's a wrap. We're finished! Well done, everybody!'

The cameraman switched off his camera, the sound man put down his microphone and the stuntman stopped crashing his car into a wall and started eating an ice cream.

'Thanks, Ellie May,' said the director, as she folded up her director's chair. 'You've been wonderful, as always.'

'It's been amazingly amazing,' said Ellie May. 'Are you coming to the premiere? What do you think you'll wear? I haven't decided yet. I've got this brilliant pair of shoes I found in New York. They're pink with silver bows on them and they're absolutely perfect. Except that I'm not totally sure about the bows. Or the pink. It might not go with my hair. But then, my feet are quite far away from my hair. Hmm.'

Like the rest of her, Ellie May's hair was incredibly famous. Practically everyone in the world knew that it was long and red, and that her eyes were big and green. Her fingernails were notedly nibbled, her knees notedly knobbly. And she smelled of strawberry lipgloss, but not many people knew that.

'Oh, Ellie May,' said the director. 'You do know that this premiere is about our film, and not just your shoes, don't you?'

'It is mainly about the film,' said Ellie May. 'But I think we all know that it is a little bit about my shoes as well.'

'Honestly! It's lucky you're not a grown-up, or I'd have things to say to you!' laughed the director. 'And it's been nice working with you too, Jeffrey. This was your first time chaperoning Ellie May, wasn't it? I hope you've enjoyed it.'

'Well,' said Jeffrey, a small, neat, worried young man with a round, worried face, a worried little mouth and curly, worried hair. 'I have to say, it was all a bit worrying, especially at the beginning. Ellie May's so incredibly famous, you see, and film sets are enormous - I'd never been on one before, and -'

'Well, we've certainly loved having you,' said the director. 'Fudge cake, whenever we want it! And I don't think I've ever met anyone your age with such an enormous collection of bow ties.'

'Yes,' said the stuntman. 'You and Ellie May do look funny together.'



'What do you mean?' asked Jeffrey, shifting nervously in his tweedy jacket. 'The sort of funny that makes you laugh, or the sort of funny that just means strange?'

'Both!' said the stuntman. 'Would you like some of my ice cream?'

'Never mind ice cream,' said Ellie May. 'It's tea time, and I want some fudge cake. Bye, everyone!'

'Bye!' called the director.

'Bye!' called the stuntman.

'Oh dear,' muttered Jeffrey.



Ellie May had to spend lots of time in her trailer when she was working, so she always liked to personalise it with souvenirs from her previous films. From *Cushion My Fall*, she had acquired some gorgeous pink cushions, from *Sofa Surfer*, a beautiful purple sofa. And from her international blockbuster *Mirror Lake*, Ellie May had managed to keep a full-sized canoe.

Now she flumped down on to the sofa, looked at her feet and sighed.

'Jeffrey,' said Ellie May. 'There's nothing wrong with me liking shoes, is there?'

'What?' said Jeffrey, who wasn't really listening.



'Oh, nothing,' said Ellie May.

'Ellie May,' said Jeffrey. 'There's nothing wrong with the way I dress, is there?'

'What?' said Ellie May, who wasn't really listening.

'Oh, nothing,' said Jeffrey.

'Are you all right?' asked Ellie May. 'What are you worrying about now? It's the end of the film! Let's celebrate!'