

# Little Princesses

# The Sea Princess

Katie Chase

*Random House Children's Books*

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Acknowledgements

Also by Katie Chase

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## About the Book

Rosie knows a very special secret. Hidden in her great-aunt's mysterious Scottish castle are lots of little princesses for her to find. And each one will whisk her away to another part of the world on a magical adventure!

Marissa, the Sea Princess, needs Rosie's help to find her crown and the Pearl of Wisdom that will restore order to the underwater kingdom of Aquatica. However, to find it, the girls must swim down to the bottom of the ocean and enter the cave of the Sea Hag ...

*Little Princesses*  
The Sea Princess

By Katie Chase



Illustrated by Leighton Noyes

Red Fox

For Martha and Ellis Richardson,  
with lots of love - *S.M.*

For Solange,  
with all my love - *L.N.*



## Chapter One

“ROSIE, WHAT ARE you doing?”

Rosie Campbell looked up from where she was lying on her bed to see her little brother Luke in the doorway. “I’m reading this,” she said, holding up the joke book she’d been looking at. “Emily lent it to me at school today. Why?”

“I’ve got a question,” Luke said. He ran in and leaped onto Rosie’s bed beside her. “It’s for my school project on sea creatures.”

Rosie put her book down and sat up. “Go on, then,” she said.

“Well,” Luke began, “today, we learned about octopuses. Did you know that they squirt out black ink when they’re scared?”

Rosie shook her head.

“And yesterday we learned about dolphins,” Luke went on. “Mrs Lovell told us that when they’re asleep, one side of their brain is still awake!”

“Cool!” Rosie replied.

“But what I really want to know is, where do all the mermaids live?” Luke asked eagerly.

Rosie smiled. “Sorry, Luke,” she said. “Mermaids don’t really exist. They’re just in stories.”

Luke shook his head stubbornly. “No, they’re real,” he said. “Great-aunt Rosamund said so.”

Rosie frowned, wondering if her brother was trying to trick her. “When?” she asked. “Great-aunt Rosamund is in the Amazon rainforest at the moment. Didn’t you see the postcard that arrived yesterday?”

Rosie and Luke’s Great-aunt Rosamund was a keen explorer, who owned a magnificent castle in Scotland. She

had travelled all around the world, collecting weird and wonderful souvenirs. This time, while she was away on another long trip, she had asked Rosie's family if they would look after the castle for her. Rosie's parents had agreed, so now Rosie's whole family was living in the castle - and Rosie had been having some wonderful adventures.



Luke had an obstinate look on his face. "When she came to visit us last year, she told me that she had met a mermaid before," he told Rosie. "And she said that the mermaid looked just like the one on the fountain in her garden."

Rosie stared at her brother with interest. "She really said that?" she asked. "That she met a mermaid?"

"Yes!" Luke said. "And—"

But before he could say anything else, a shout floated up from downstairs. "Luke! Are you up there? Tom's on the phone for you!" called Mr Campbell.

Luke's eyes brightened. Tom was his best friend from home. "Coming, Dad!" he shouted, racing out of Rosie's bedroom at once.

"Wait!" Rosie called, but Luke had already gone. She jumped off her bed, feeling a prickle of excitement. She knew that Great-aunt Rosamund might well have made up the mermaid story to entertain Luke, but she couldn't help hoping that there might be some truth in it. Great-aunt Rosamund had certainly met all sorts of other extraordinary people - as Rosie had been finding out for herself!