

# Little Princesses: The Desert Princess

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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!

Aisha, the Desert Princess, is determined to find the cure to her sister's illness and save Egypt by preventing an ancient prophecy from coming true. But first Rosie must help her to answer the riddle of the Sphinx!

Join Rosie and meet her exciting new friends, as she discovers all the Little Princesses.

*Little Princesses*  
The Desert  
Princess

By Katie Chase

Illustrated by Leighton Noyes



Red Fox

For Teazle, who would be a Little Princess - if she  
wasn't already Queen!  
- *A.J.C.*

For Holly, my favourite goddaughter. And for Laura,  
my other favourite goddaughter  
- *L.N.*



## Chapter One

"IS IT TIME to go yet, Dad?" Rosie asked, hurrying into the castle kitchen, where her father and her younger brother, Luke, were sitting at the enormous pine table. "I don't want to be late."

Her father laughed. "You asked me that five minutes ago!" he pointed out. "If we leave now, we'll be too early!"

"Sorry," Rosie said, and grinned. "I'm just so excited about Emma's party. Everyone at school's been talking about it."

"You look different," Luke said, staring at Rosie's costume. She wore a long, golden dress, a thin gold headband and armfuls of bangles.

"Mum made the dress from some bits of material we found in Great-aunt Rosamund's sewing room," Rosie explained.

Luke nodded wisely. "I know what you're dressed as," he said proudly. "An ancient eruption!" Rosie and Mr Campbell burst out laughing.



“Nearly right!” Rosie said. “An ancient *Egyptian!*”

“Hasn’t Emma’s family just come back from Egypt?” asked Mr Campbell.

Rosie nodded. “Emma said they went on a boat trip down the River Nile and saw the Pyramids,” she replied. “Emma loved it so much she wanted her birthday party to have an ancient Egyptian theme.”

“That’s a great idea,” said Mr Campbell.

Rosie nodded. “And I was *really* pleased when Emma invited me because we haven’t been friends for long.”

Rosie and her family had left their own home several months ago to move into Great-aunt Rosamund’s castle in Scotland. Great-aunt Rosamund, Rosie’s favourite relative, loved travelling the world and collecting beautiful antiques to fill her home. She was now away for a couple of years on another trip, and she had asked Rosie’s family to move in and look after the castle while she was gone.

“Can I see the invitation again?” Luke asked eagerly. “It had funny pictures on it!”

Rosie pulled a glossy cream card from the pocket of her dress and laid it on the table. All the details for the party

were listed in bright gold lettering and then underneath it said, "Could all guests come as glittering ancient Egyptian princes and princesses?" Around the edges of the invitation there were lots of ancient Egyptian drawings, including one of a pharaoh dressed in white and gold robes, with an elaborate headdress.



"What's that, Dad?" Rosie asked, pointing at a picture of a fabulous, cat-like beast. It had the body of a lion, a human head and large wings folded neatly against its sides.

"That's the Sphinx!" replied Mr Campbell. "He's a legendary beast, and there's an enormous stone statue of him in Egypt, next to the Pyramids."

"He looks grumpy," Luke remarked.

"He wasn't very friendly!" Mr Campbell agreed. "According to the myths, the Sphinx would stop travellers who were passing and ask them to solve a riddle. If they failed, he would swallow them whole!"

"What's the riddle?" asked Rosie. "Does anyone know the answer?"

Mr Campbell nodded. "Oh, yes, it's very famous now." He smiled mysteriously at Rosie and Luke and set them the riddle. "What has four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon and three in the evening?"