

“**A**nd so the Princess and the Frog Prince got married and lived happily ever after,” read Princess Arabella, closing the book with a satisfied sigh.

Princess Lucinda frowned, “That silly girl treated the Frog Prince so badly, she was lucky to marry him.”  
“If I ever met a talking frog, I wouldn’t make the same mistake,” agreed Arabella.





Princess Martha rolled her eyes. She liked facts more than fairy tales and real frogs more than enchanted ones. She'd heard a real frog croaking in the royal pond, but she could never spot him.

He's a clever little thing,  
thought Martha.



Martha was right, the frog was very clever indeed. He often listened in on the sisters' stories and the more he heard of princes and princesses, the more he longed to live like one.

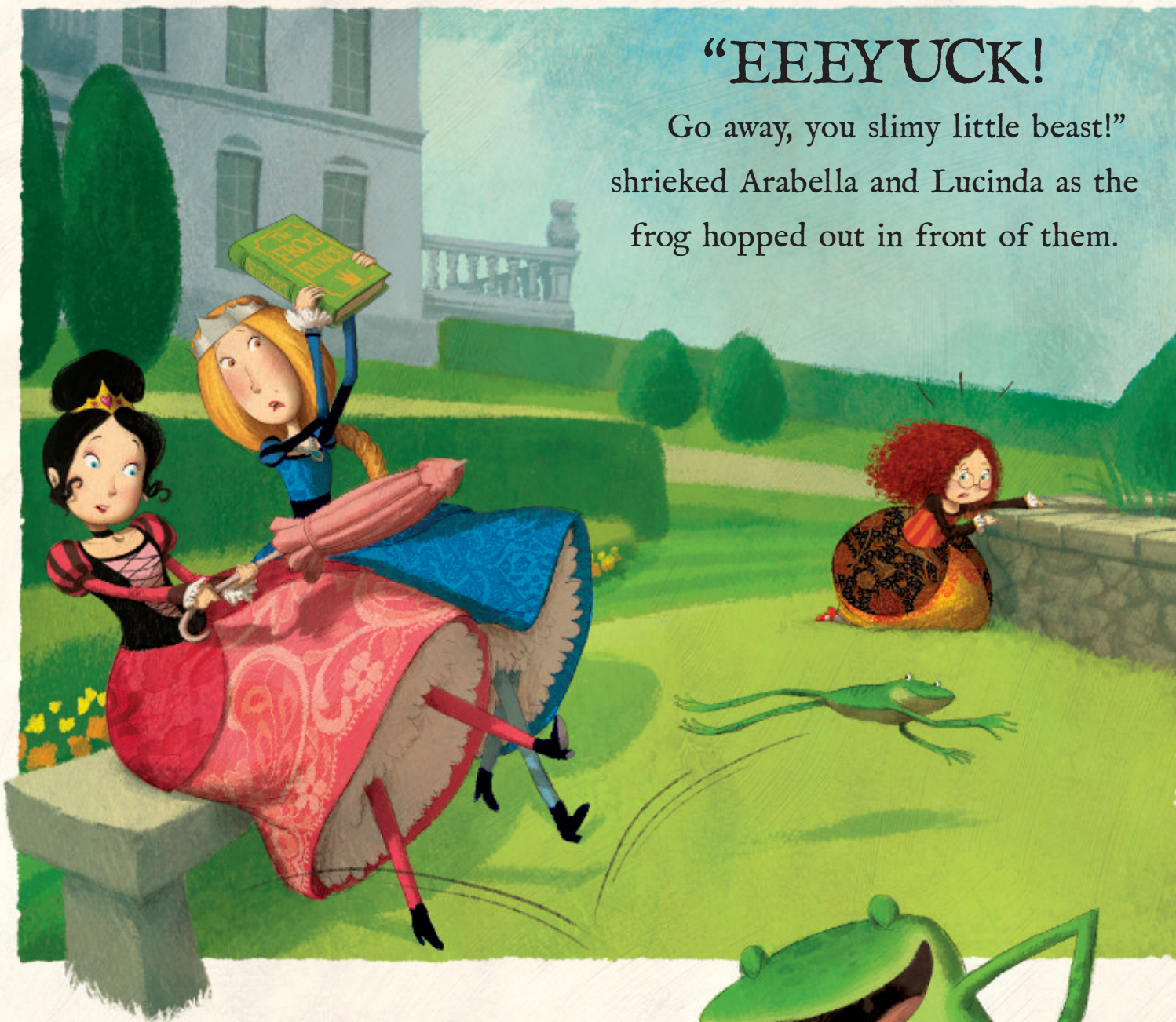


The frog dreamed of sleeping in a soft bed, eating fine foods and wearing a beautiful crown, and he'd just come up with a clever plan to make his dream come true.



“EEEYUCK!

Go away, you slimy little beast!”  
shrieked Arabella and Lucinda as the  
frog hopped out in front of them.



But instead of leaping  
into the pond, the frog  
cleared his throat and spoke.



“Allow me to introduce myself,”  
said the cunning frog,  
“my name is Prince Ribbit.”



Arabella and Lucinda stared, open mouthed, but Martha was delighted!  
“It’s a **FROG!**” she shouted. “A **TALKING FROG!**”



“Actually, I’m an enchanted prince,” said the frog. “A jealous wizard turned me into a frog because I was so astonishingly handsome! If only there was some way to break the spell.”

“But there is!” cried Lucinda. “It’s in this book. You just need to be looked after by a pretty princess like me!”

“Or a pretty princess like ME!” said Arabella. “And then you’ll turn back into your old astonishingly handsome self and we can live happily ever after!”



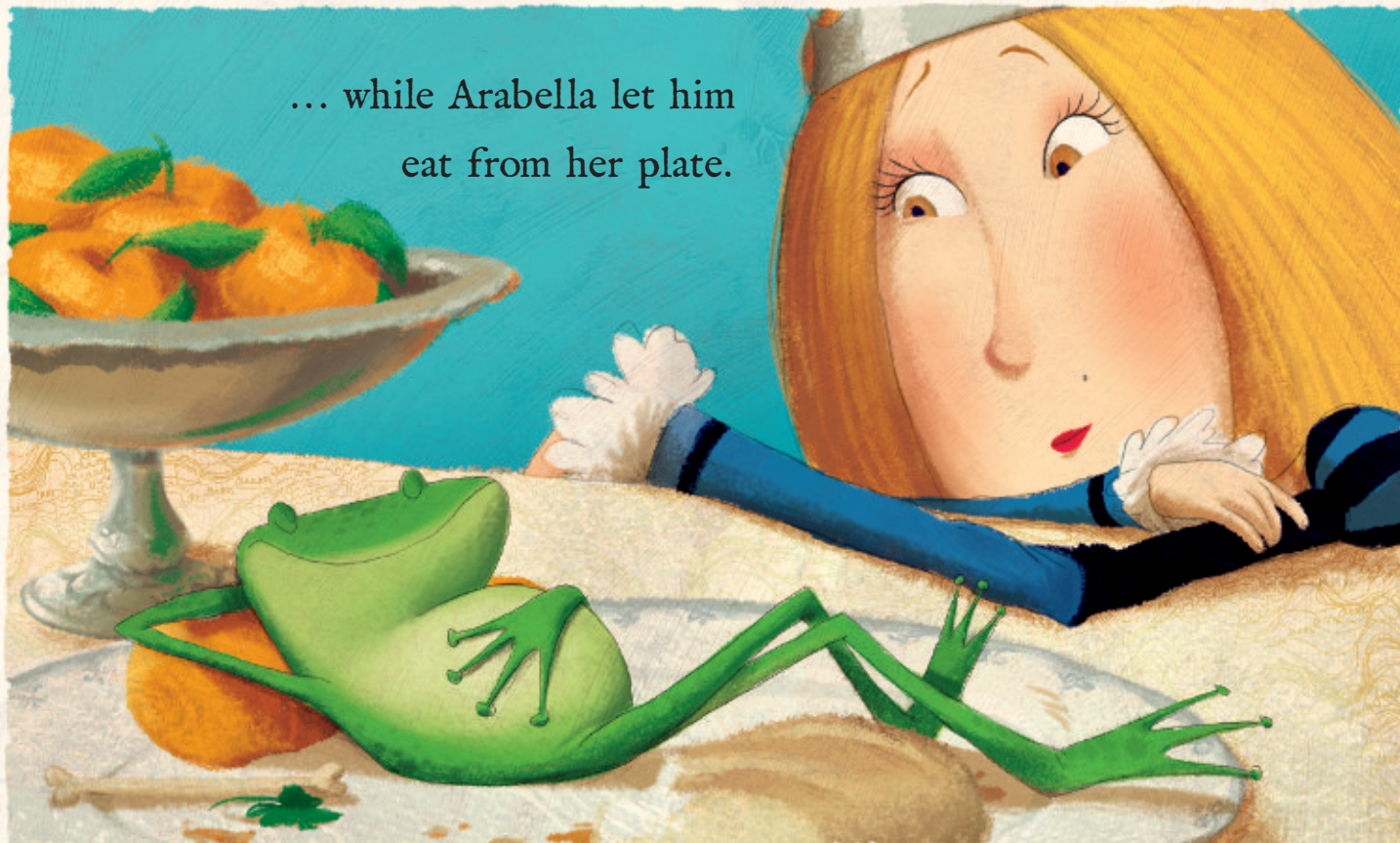


Lucinda and Arabella took Prince Ribbit back to the palace  
and gave him whatever he wanted.

Lucinda let him  
sleep on her pillow ...



... while Arabella let him  
eat from her plate.



But the more Princess Martha saw of the frog,  
the more suspicious she became.

“Why are you making such a fuss of him?”  
she asked, as Prince Ribbit hopped  
around the dinner table.





"Because he's an enchanted prince," said Arabella,  
"and that's how you break the spell!"



"Just because it's in a book,  
it doesn't mean it's true,"  
said Martha.



And with that, she went to the Royal Library,  
to find out the truth about frogs.



"A mother frog lays eggs," she explained to her sisters.  
"Then the eggs turn into tadpoles, and the tadpoles turn into frogs.  
But frogs don't **EVER** turn into princes!"



"Just because it's in a book,  
it doesn't mean it's true,"  
replied her sisters.



So Lucinda and Arabella continued to  
pamper Prince Ribbit.



They let him sleep in  
the biggest, softest bed ...



ALSO BY JONATHAN EMMETT AND POLY BERNATENE



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