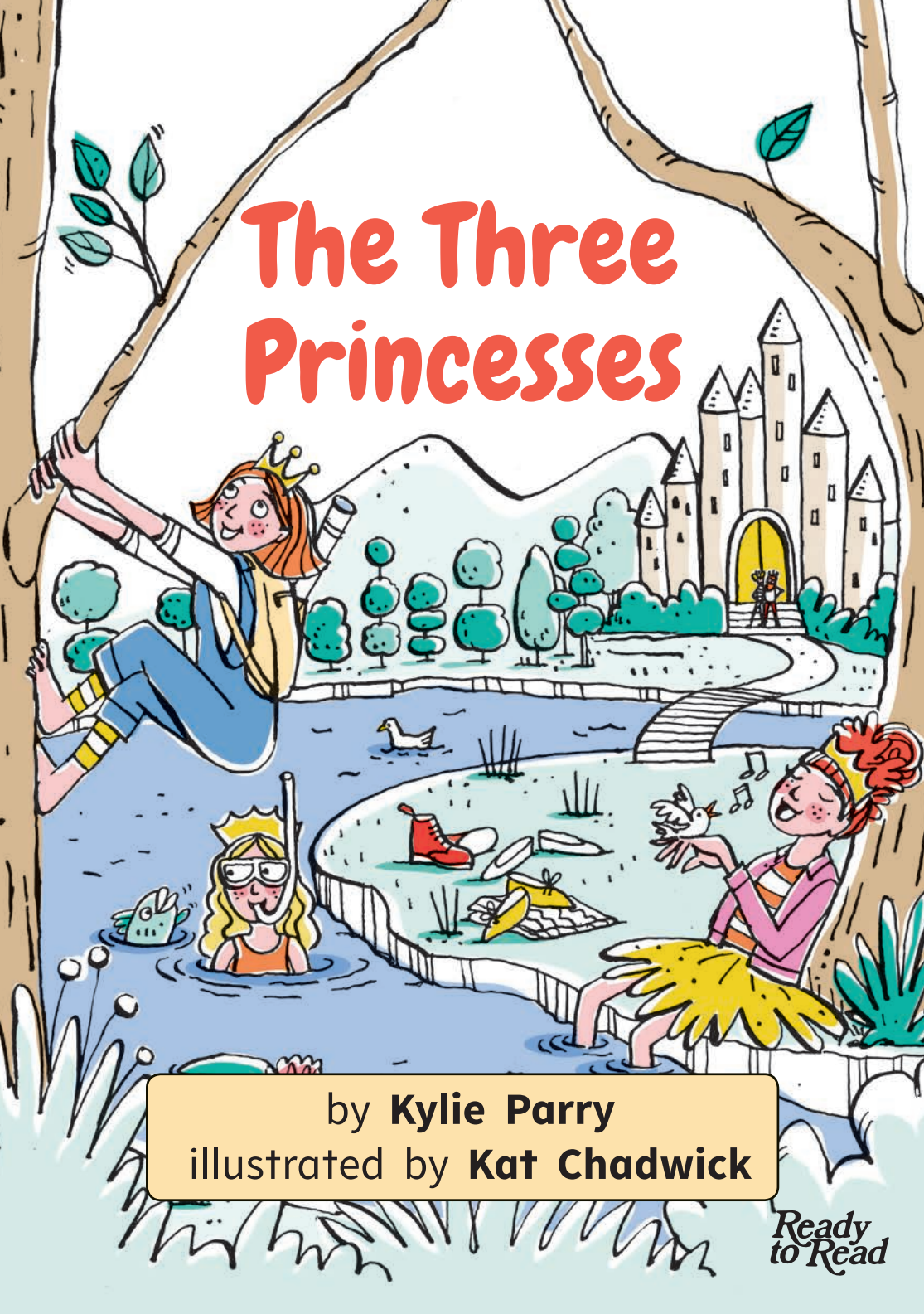


The Three Princesses



by **Kylie Parry**
illustrated by **Kat Chadwick**

*Ready
to Read*

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The Three Princesses



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Once upon a time,
there were three princesses.
The eldest princess
could swim like a fish,
the middle princess
could sing like a bird,
and the youngest princess
had strong, sturdy feet.

“Darling daughters,” said the queen.

“The time has come
for you to leave the castle
and find your paths in life.”

“Go well, my daughters,”
said the king.

The three princesses each packed a backpack with a healthy lunch and a good raincoat.



They hugged their mother and father and walked happily into the forest. The sun sparkled through the leaves, and birds fluttered all about them.



After a while, the eldest princess said, “I wonder what my path will look like.”

The middle princess said, “I wonder what *my* path will look like – and where it might go.”



The youngest princess said, “I wonder why mud feels so lovely when you squish it between your toes.”



At last, the princesses came to a clearing.
On the far side, they could see three paths.

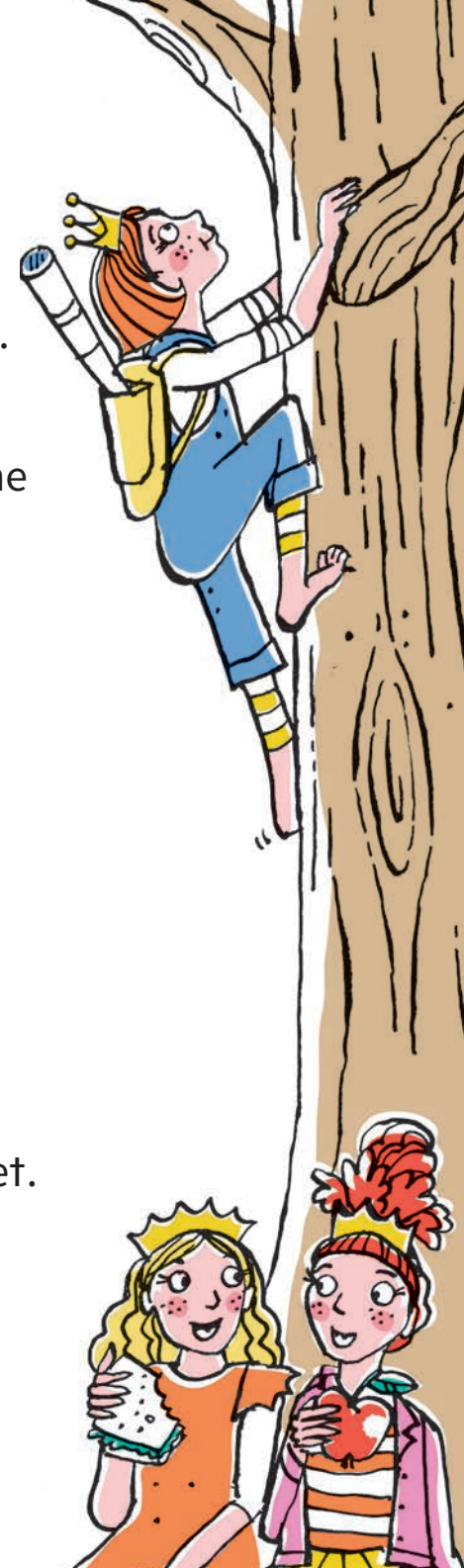
“Those must be our paths,”
said the eldest princess,
“but which path do we choose?”

The princesses sat down on the soft grass
and ate their healthy lunches.
While they ate, they looked at the paths
and wondered.

The eldest princess sighed.
“How will I know
which path is the right one
for me?” she said.

“And which one
is right for *me*?”
said the middle princess.

The youngest princess
didn't say anything.
She was too busy
climbing a tree
with her strong, sturdy feet.





The eldest princess said,
“I could toss a pebble
and choose whatever path it lands on.”

The middle princess said,
“I could spin round and round
with my eyes closed and see
which path my finger points to
when I stop.”



“I can help you,”
called the youngest princess.

She smiled at her sisters.

“The first path leads to a castle by a great lake,” she said.

“A lake! That’s the path for me,” cried the eldest princess, and she ran down the first path.

“The second path leads to a castle surrounded by songbirds,” said the youngest princess.

“Songbirds? That’s the path for me,” cried the middle princess, and off she went.



The youngest princess smiled
and climbed down from the tree.
She picked up her boots
and walked off onto the third path.

This path had the biggest puddles
and the best mud.

She squished the mud
under her strong, sturdy feet ...



... all the way to happily ever after.

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The Three
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