



2002

Will Reese's the Willow Princess

Nicole Marriott

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Wells, Allison. Music and lyrics by Bev Ross. *Will Reese's The Willow Princess*. I.E. Clark Publications, 1999. 23 pp.

Reviewer: Nicole Marriott;
Reading Level: Intermediate; young adult;
Rating: Dependable;
Genre:
Subject:

B 5-10 Reviewed by Nicole Marriott

In the kingdom of Katzenfeld, the king's evil advisor and his mother plan to take over the kingdom, starting by tricking the king into giving Princess Willow to the advisor in marriage. The advisor and his mother also plot to rid the kingdom of cats; however, a prince from a neighboring kingdom finds out about the plot and saves the day. The advisor and his mother are banished from the kingdom.

This musical has clear-cut good and bad characters. When the king banishes the cats, it is not because he is not a good character, it is because his advisor tricked him. The dialogue is fairly obvious and rather cheesy, but young children will love it. The actors also talk to the audience, and most of the songs they sing are not very original. However, some are quite amusing, such as the sneezing song in which the princess finishes sentences as though she is sneezing. A younger audience would appreciate this play more than an older audience, especially as much of it is interactive, and the characters call on the audience to help and to sing with them.

The set could be done fairly simply; the costumes would be more difficult. Some sound effects are called for, and there might be some difficulty with the need for kittens on stage. The cast is fairly small (2 F, 3 M).