Princesses Are Not Perfect

Megan Harris

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Reviewer: Laurien Clay
Reading Level: Primary
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Picture books; Fairy tales;
Subject: Princesses--Fiction; Self-perception--Fiction; Books--Reviews;

Princesses Allie, Libby, and Mellie may live in a rose-colored palace by the sea, but they do not sit around doing nothing. Princess Allie is a baker of delicious confections. Princess Libby is a builder of wondrous constructions. Princess Mellie is a gardener on an epic scale. However, one day just before the Summer Party while bored of their past-times, they decide to switch their jobs around, believing the "princesses are good at everything." Princess Mellie is assigned to do bake 100 cupcakes, Princess Allie to build 100 chairs, and Princess Libby to pick 100 small baskets of blueberries for the Summer Party. However, each princess' effort is disastrous at their new task, but they are unwilling to admit to each other that they have failed. Since each cannot sleep that night, they return to their respective past-times to make themselves feel better. The next day at the Summer Party, much to each other's surprise, Princess Allie delivers the cupcakes, Princess Libby carts up the chairs, and Princess Mellie drags in the baskets of berries. The Summer Party is a success, and each Princess learns that she does not have to be good at everything to be a princess.

Lum and Hellard team up once again to create another charming story. With Lum's concise prose and Hellard's vivid ink and watercolor, they portray a world full of beautiful dresses, delicious pastries, aromatic flowers, and hard work, where anyone-- even a princess--can learn to find self-acceptance.

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