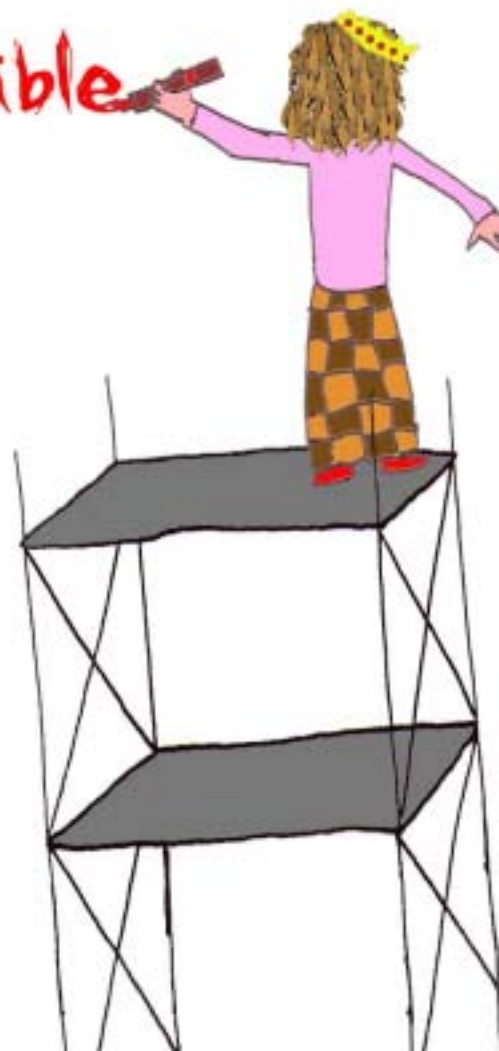


The Naughty

But ~~E~~xceptionally Able

Princess



By Megan Luce

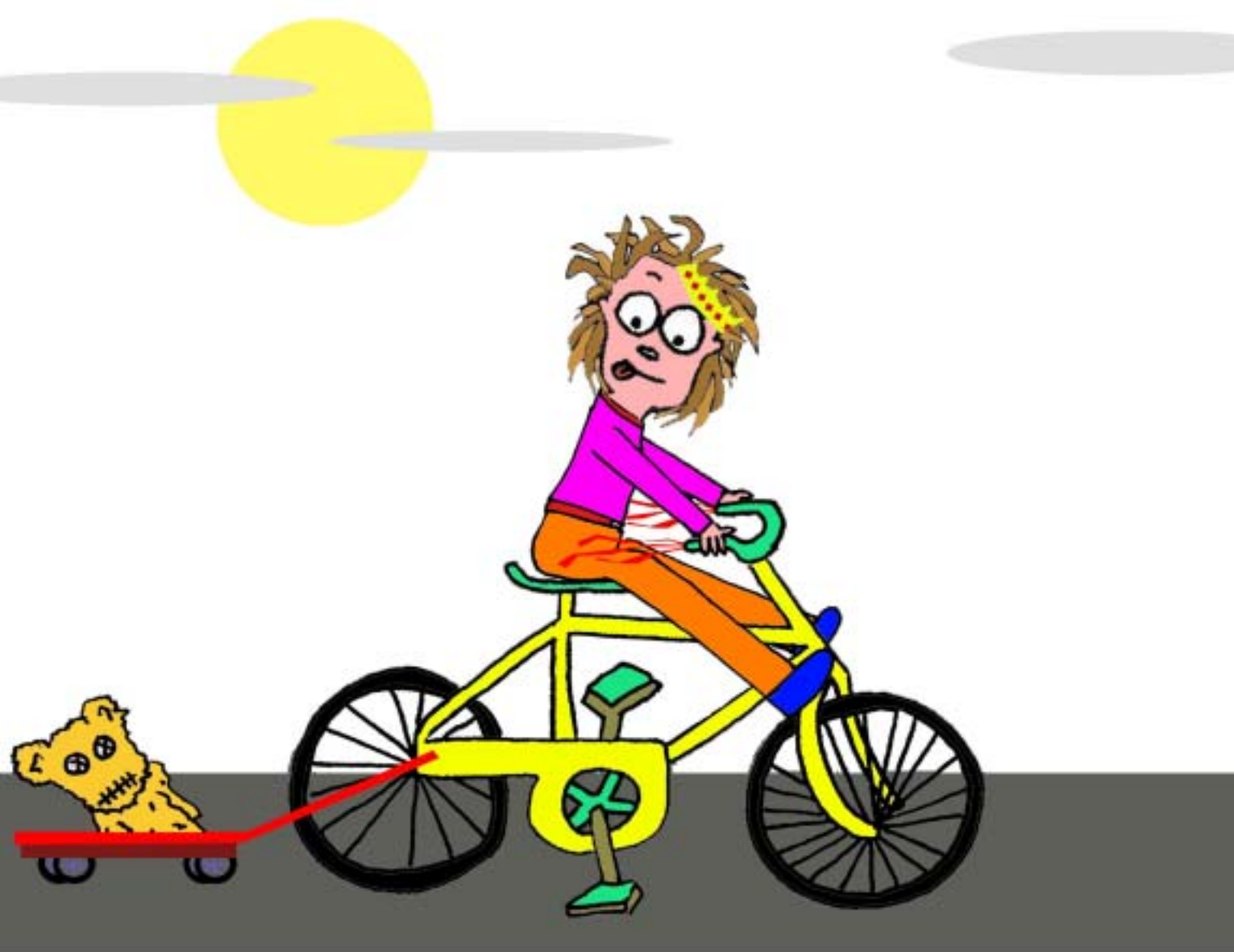
With illustrations by Lee LaMarche



The Very Naughty Princess
grew up like all princesses.



She had tea with royal dignitaries,



Paraded through the streets on her Schwinn Bicycle,



Waged war with the monsters
living in the hall closet,



And dreamt dreams of great splendor.



But the Very Naughty Princess
could also be **VERY** naughty.



She snuck chocolates before dinner,



Fed the royal dog all her royal vegetables,



Hit every mud puddle on her way home from school,



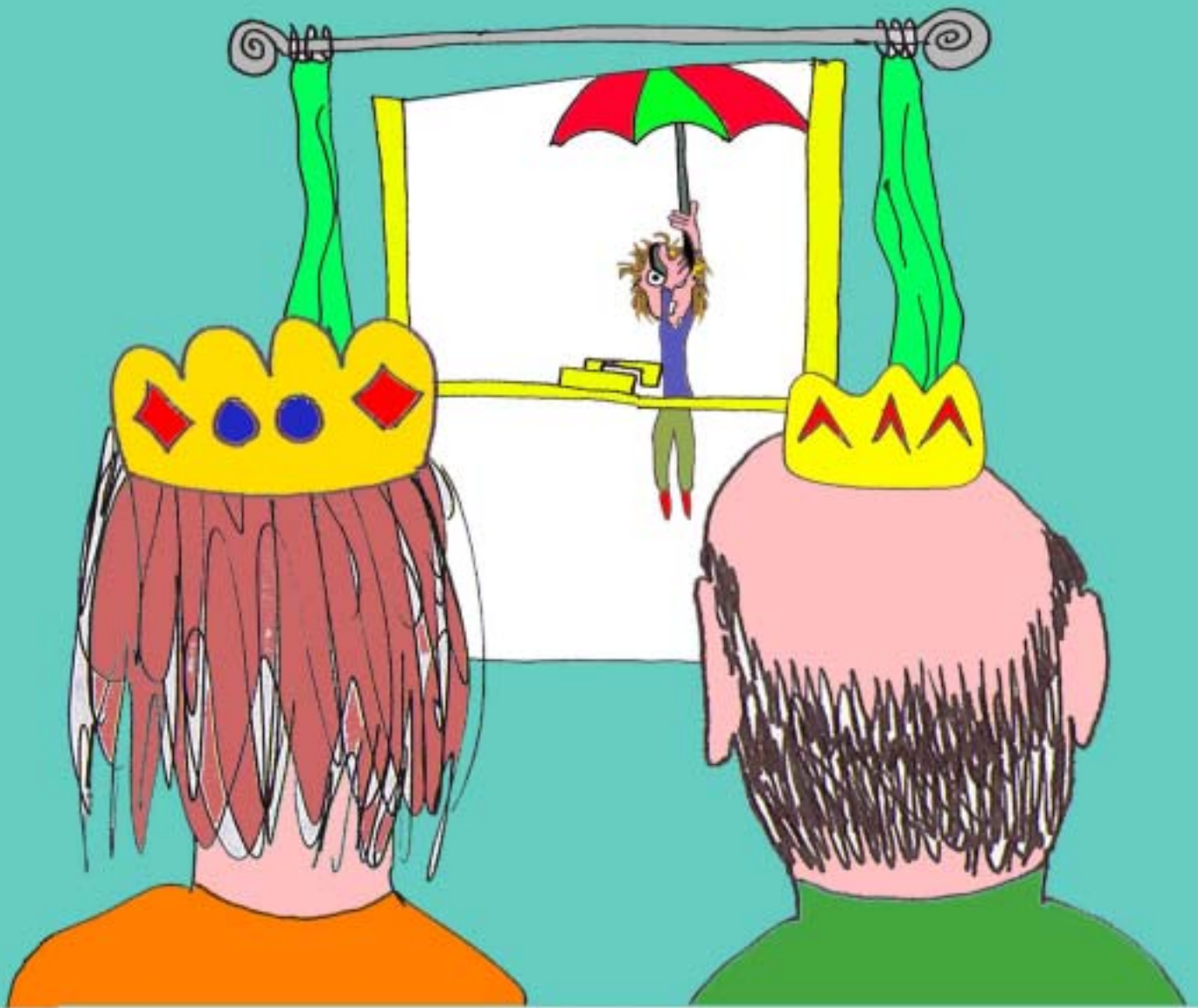
Swang on high tree branches,



and wandered far out past the limits of her parents' voices into fields collecting lightening bugs on summer nights.

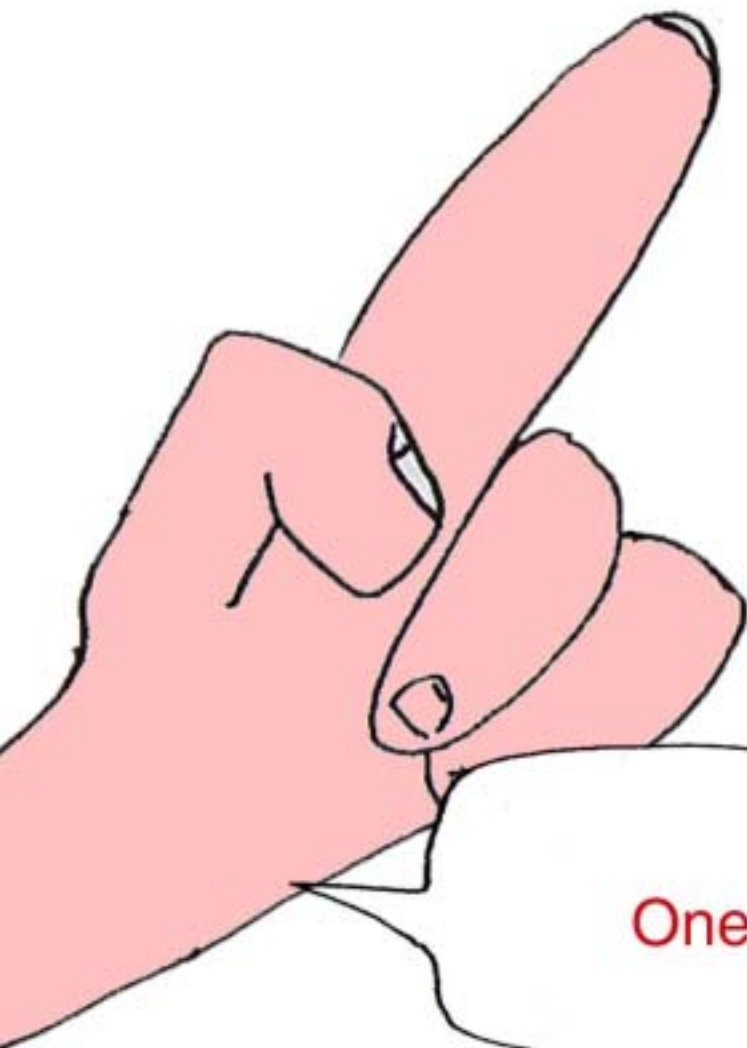


Unlike other princesses, The Very Naughty Princess was exceptionally able to avoid the consequences of her actions.



“Oh why must you be so naughty?!” Her parents exclaimed with horror and relief as they saw the Very Naughty Princess soar from the roof and land safely on the ground.

They shook their fingers at her



One of these days...

They said.



“One of these days I’m gonna be Queen of the World!” Yelled the Very Naughty Princess as she jumped on her trusty Schwinn and rode off, nearly hitting an unsuspecting dog.

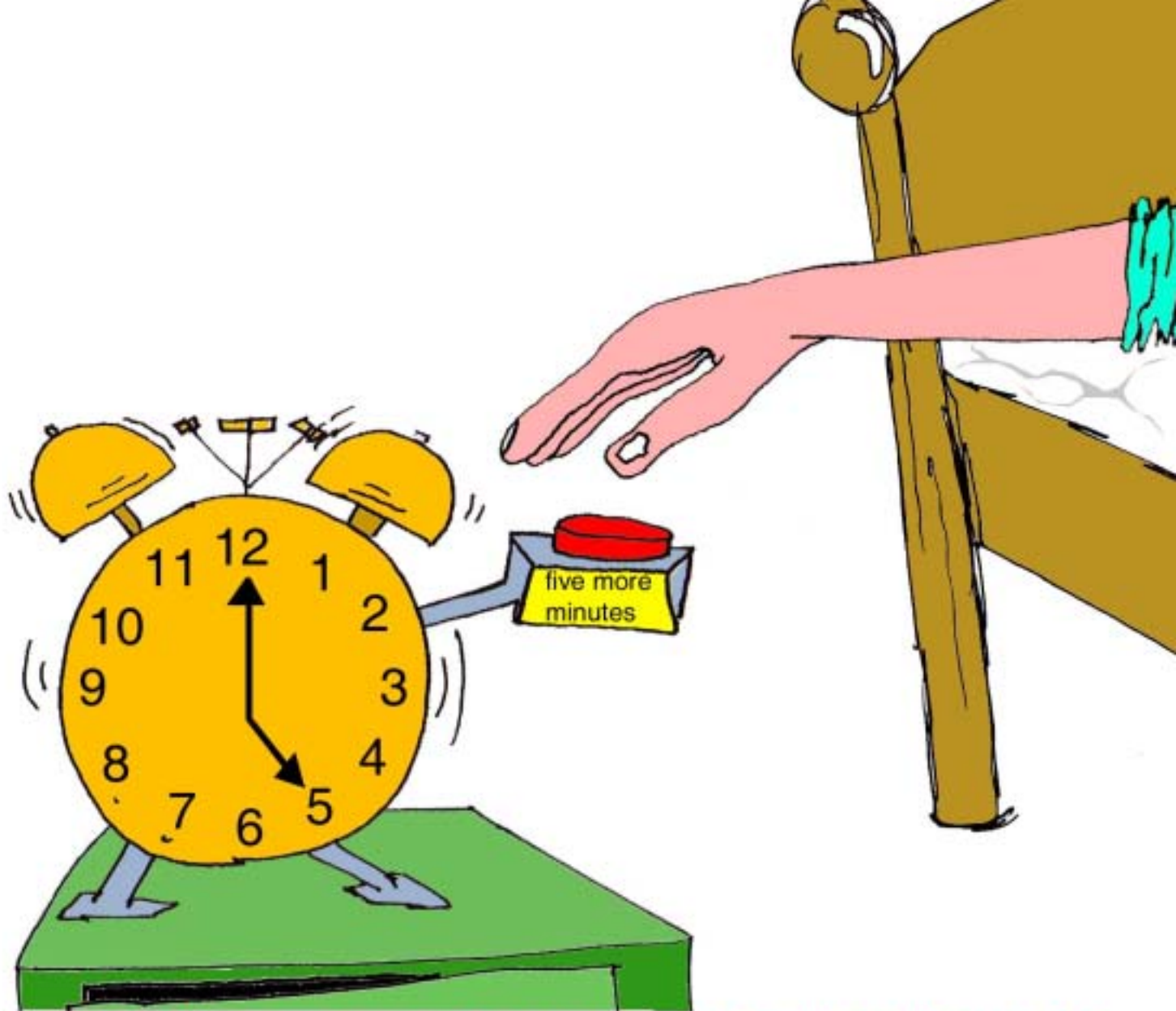


“You’re going to break your leg!” The King and Queen shouted after her. But the Princess did not hear them.



And so the Very Naughty Princess gleefully
continued to live her life

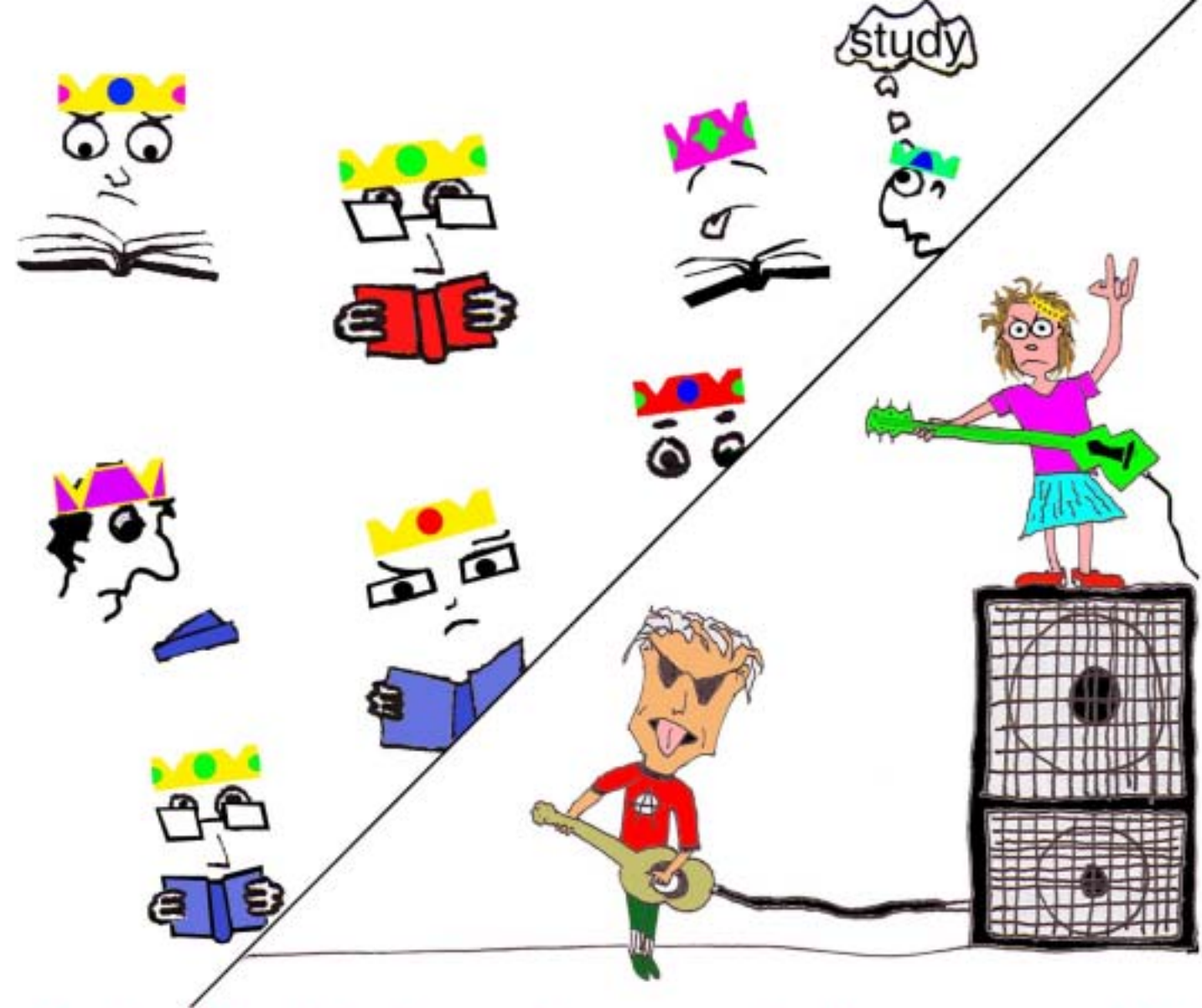




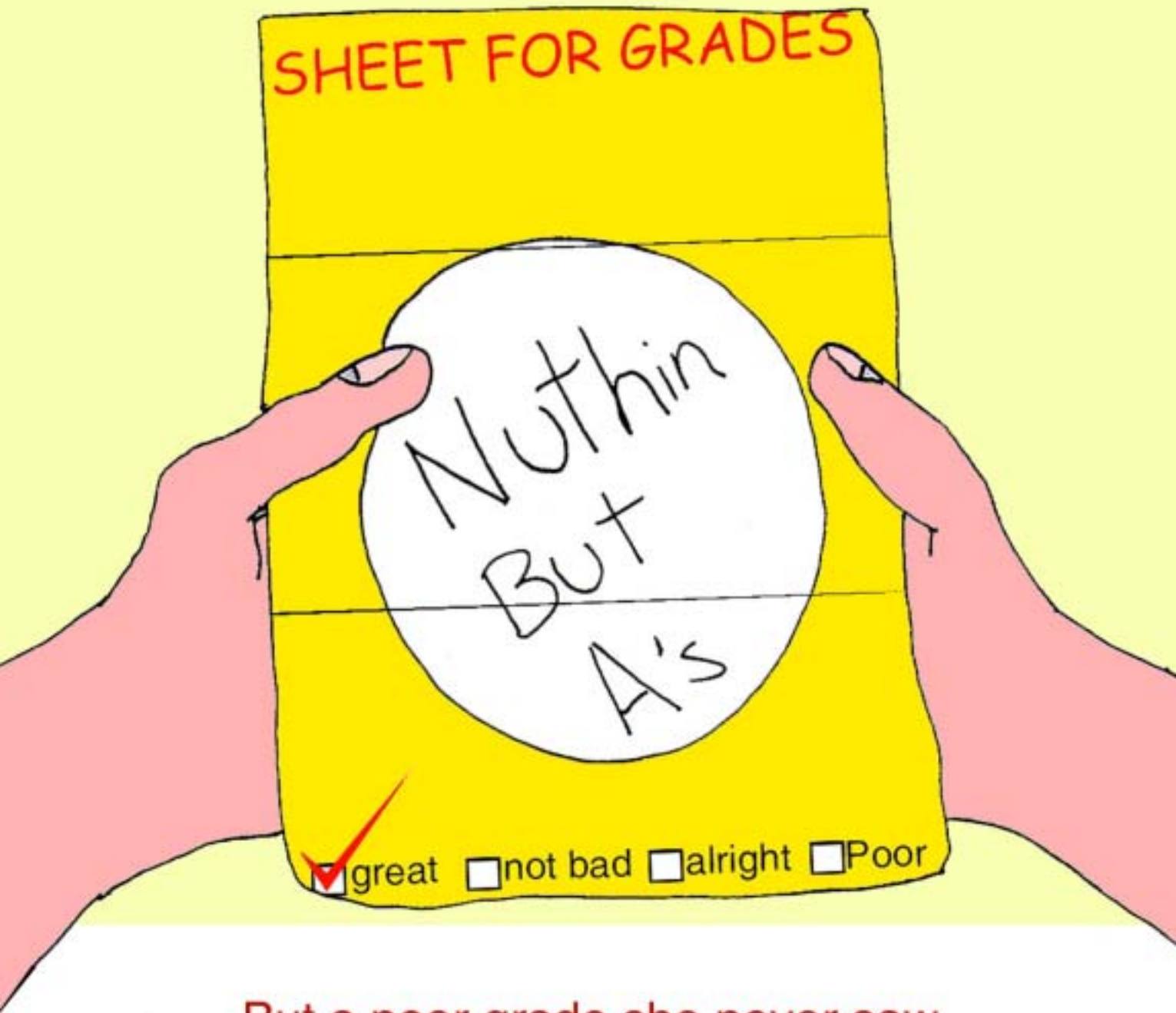
Like other young princesses, the Very Naughty Princess needed her beauty sleep - especially on school days right after her alarm went off.



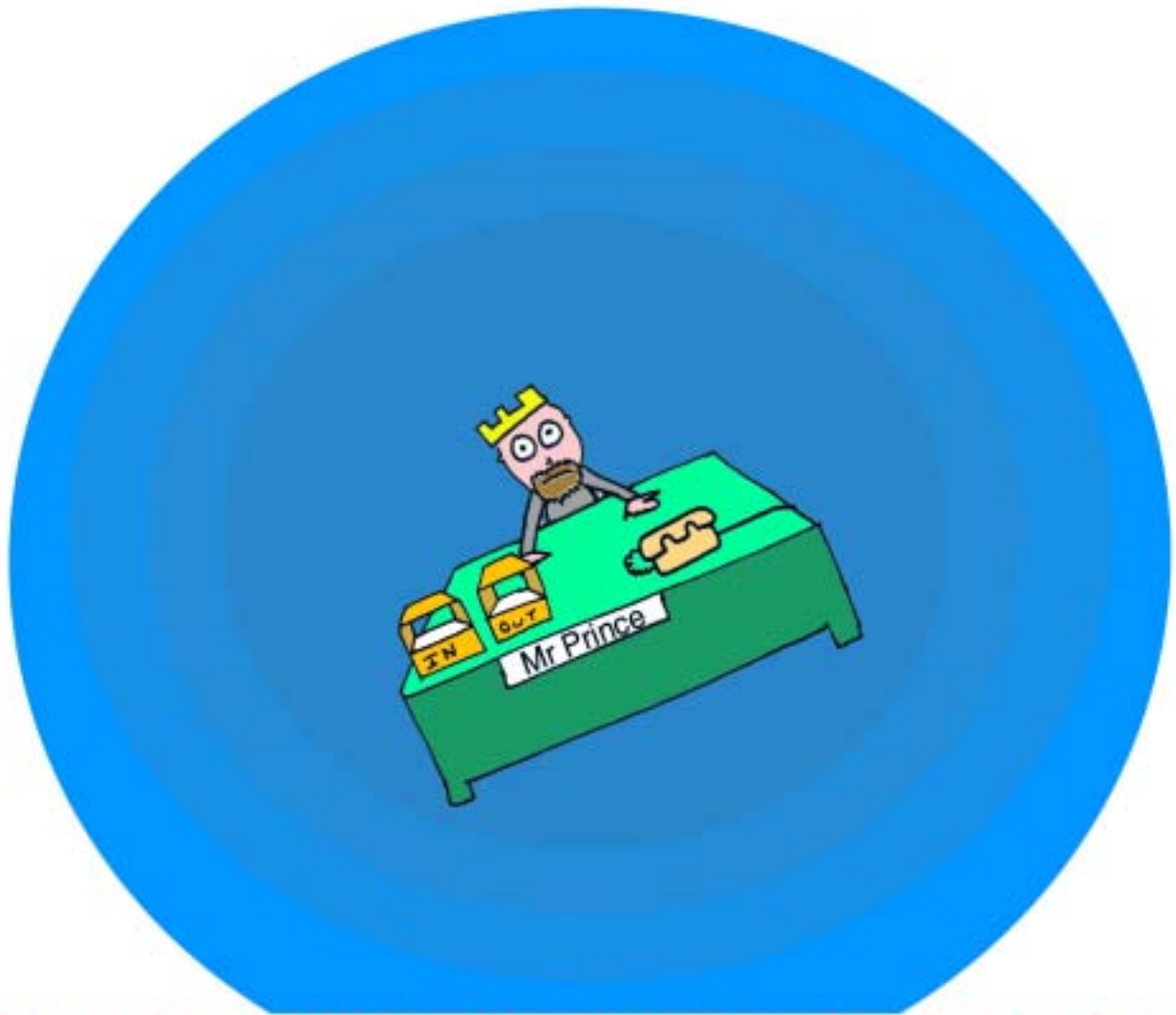
But the Very Naughty Princess never received a single tardy mark.



And while all other princes and princesses studied hard for their college exams, the Very Naughty Princess went to concerts and danced on stage with rock stars.



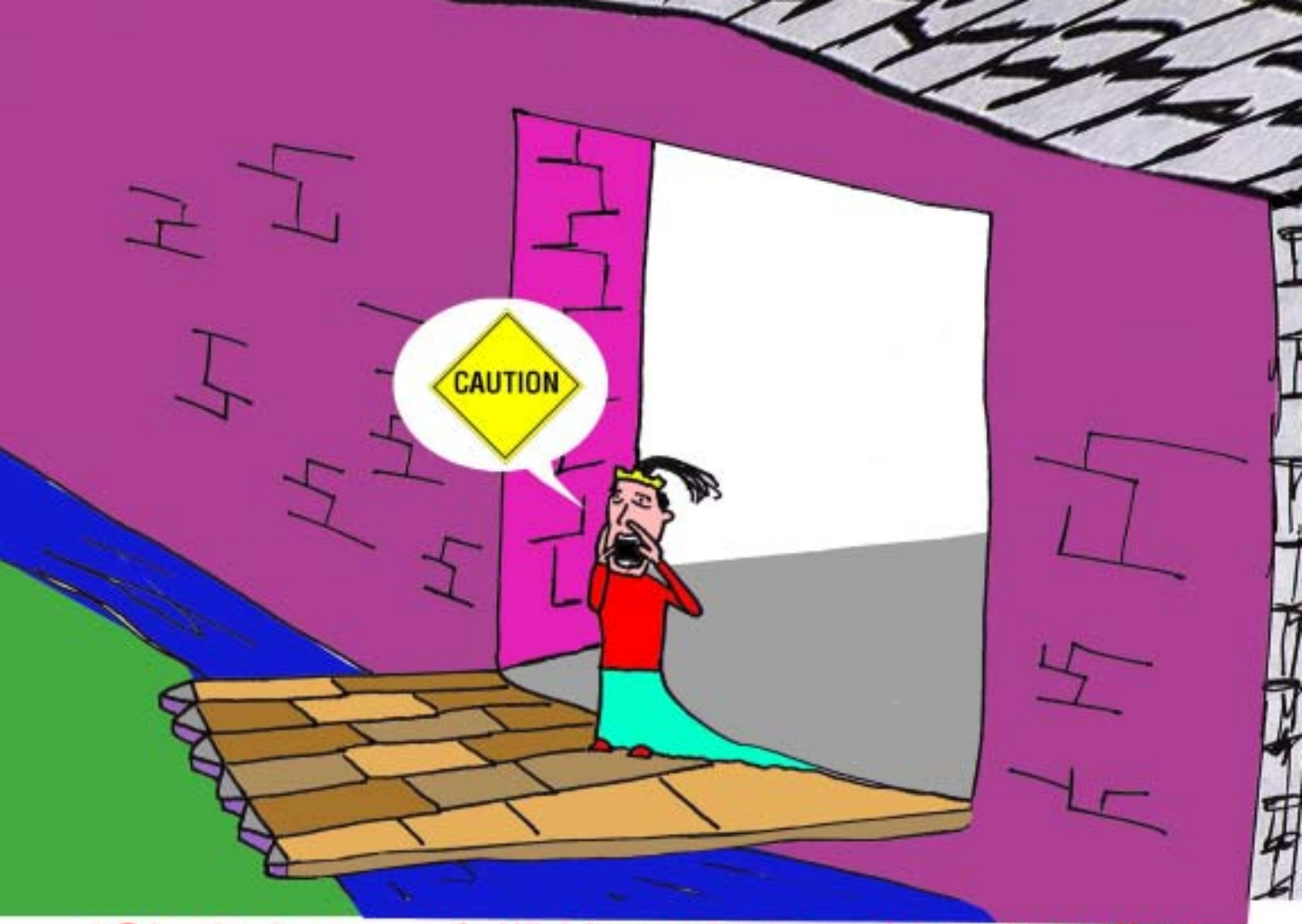
But a poor grade she never saw.



Soon, her childhood playmates began to face the realities of their crowns. They heaved great sighs as they sat behind desks and attended to the business of their kingdoms.



Meanwhile, the Very Naughty Princess packed what she could and announced at dinner one night that she would cross through the kingdom's forbidden forest to find what she could in foreign lands.



“Oh do be careful!” Her princess friends called out to her as they waved goodbye from their draw-bridge gates [for they had heeded the advice given to them and would stay safely in their castles].



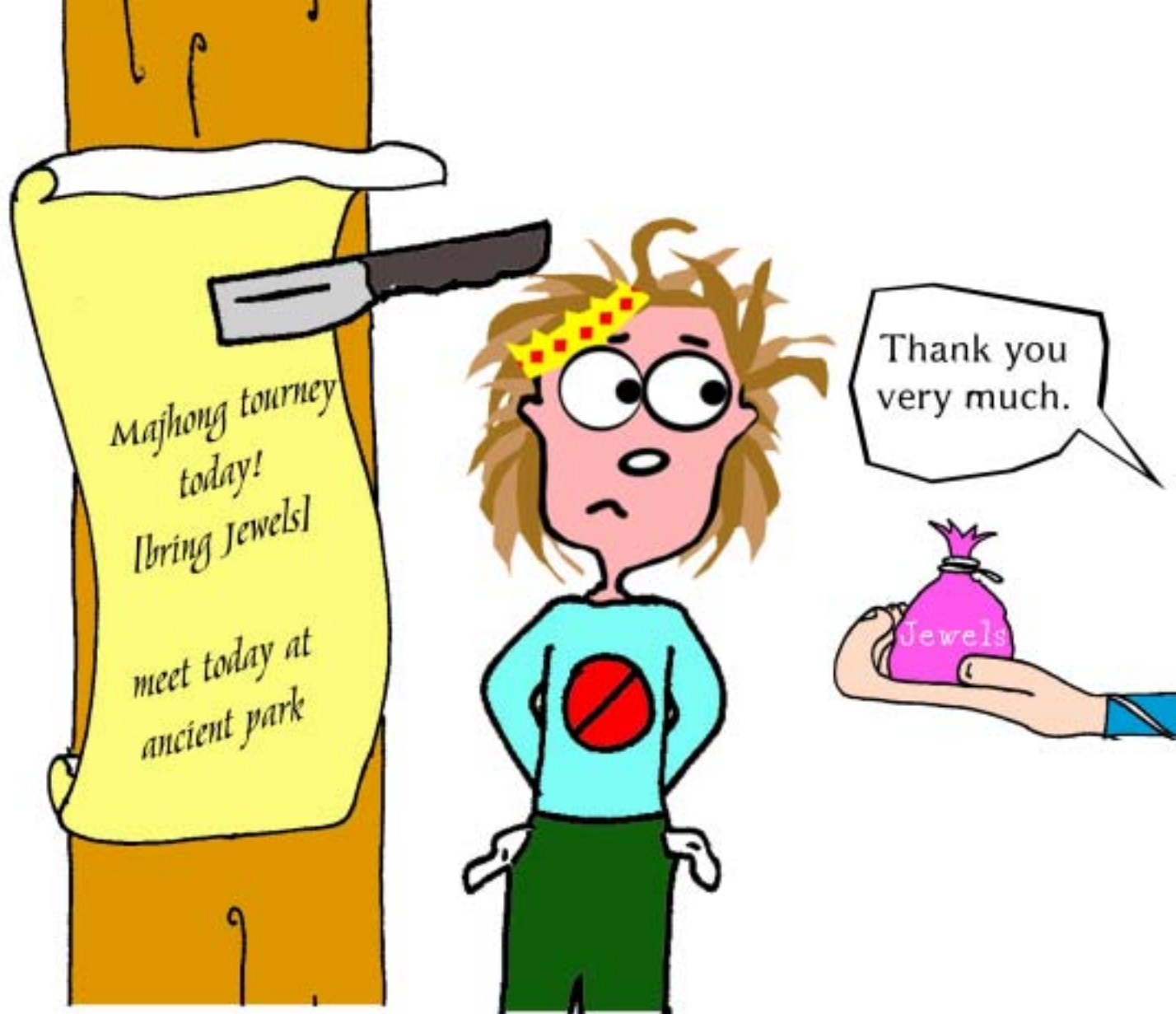
and so she crossed through the forest,



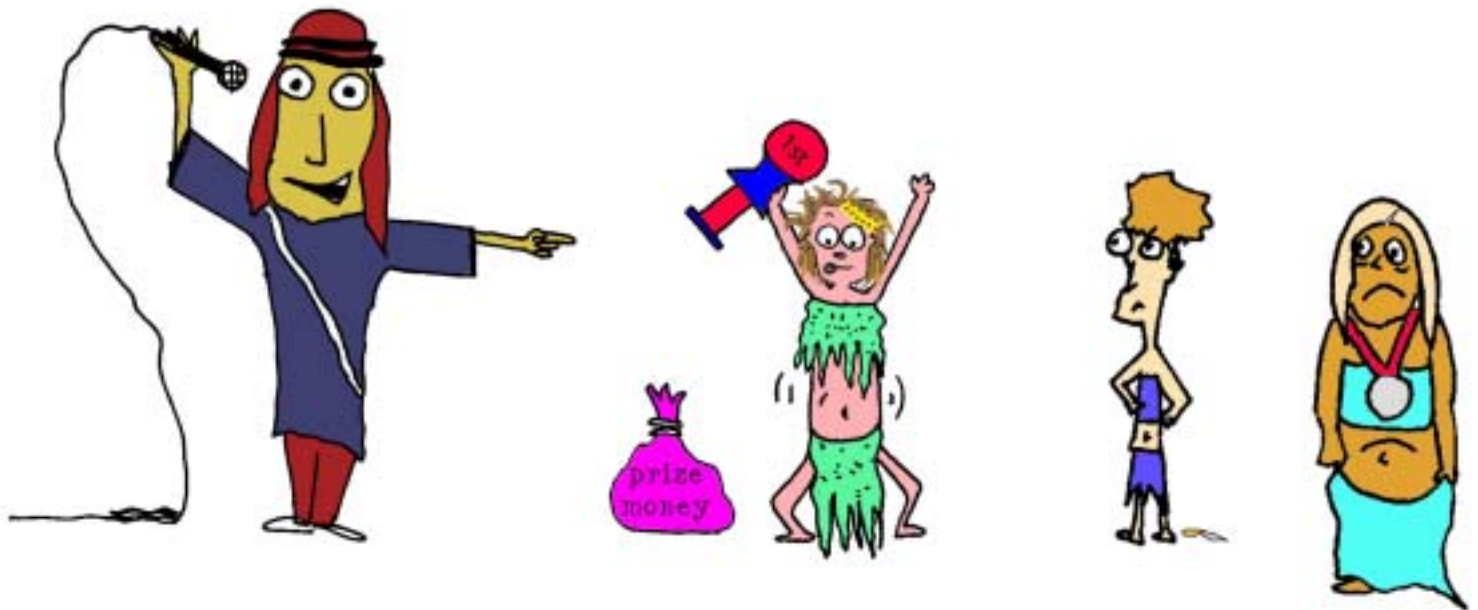
Sailed over seas,



And frolicked carefree through
the world's playground.



And so the princess moved and grooved about the world. She lost some royal jewels in rounds of majhong in ancient parks,



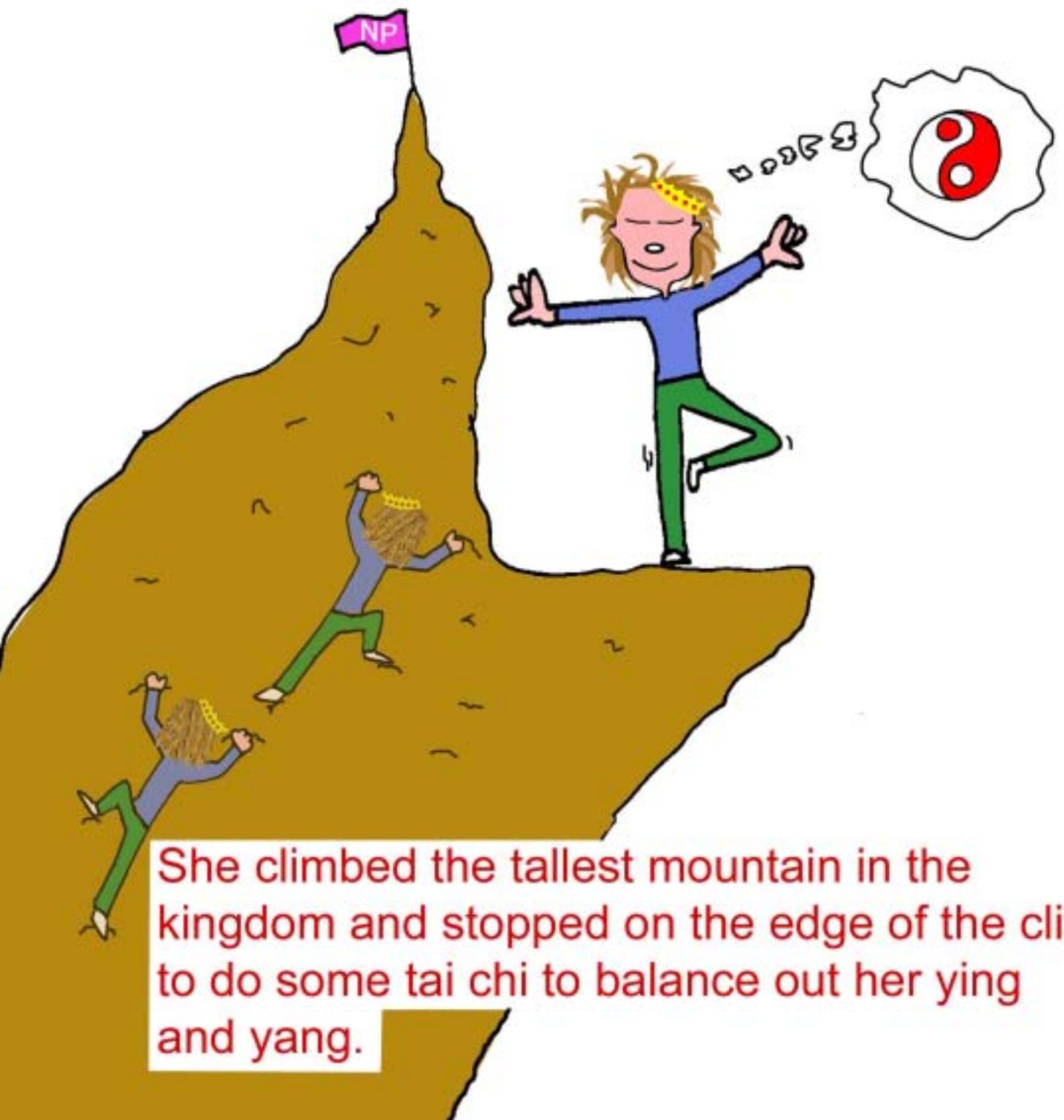
But regained her pride and filled her pockets by winning belly dance contests on exotic stages.



When the princess would return to her kingdom, she sought out her princess friends. But everytime she came back, fewer and fewer princesses could go out to play.



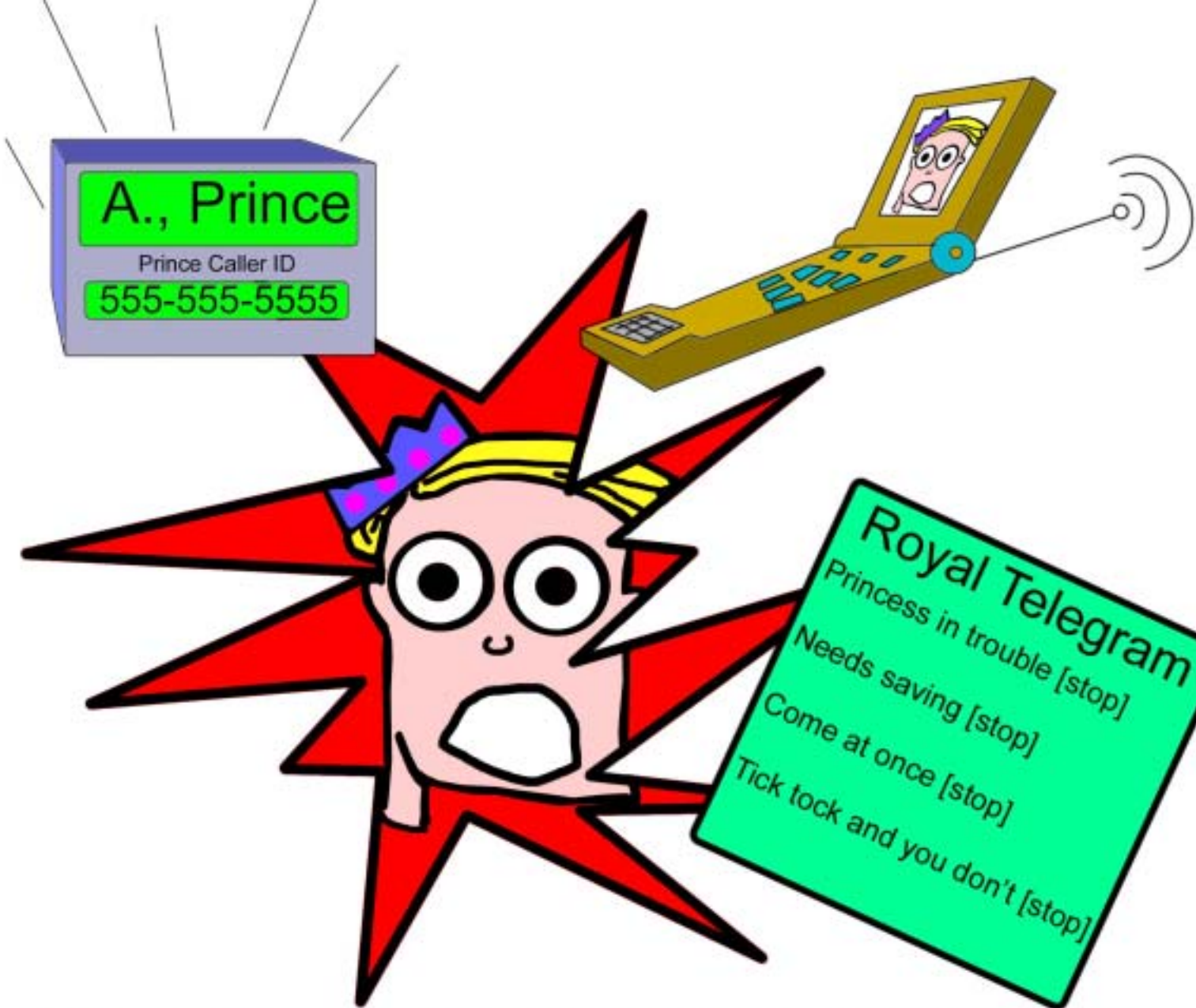
For the first time, the Very Naughty Princess felt lonely. She needed to think.



She climbed the tallest mountain in the kingdom and stopped on the edge of the cliff to do some tai chi to balance out her ying and yang.



Little did the princess know that across the valley perched high on another mountain was a prince who was guarding the kingdom from his lookout. Spotting the princess, he feared the worst.



He sent out a call for help which traveled across the lands. Princes from every corner of the globe heeded his call and moved to rescue the princess.

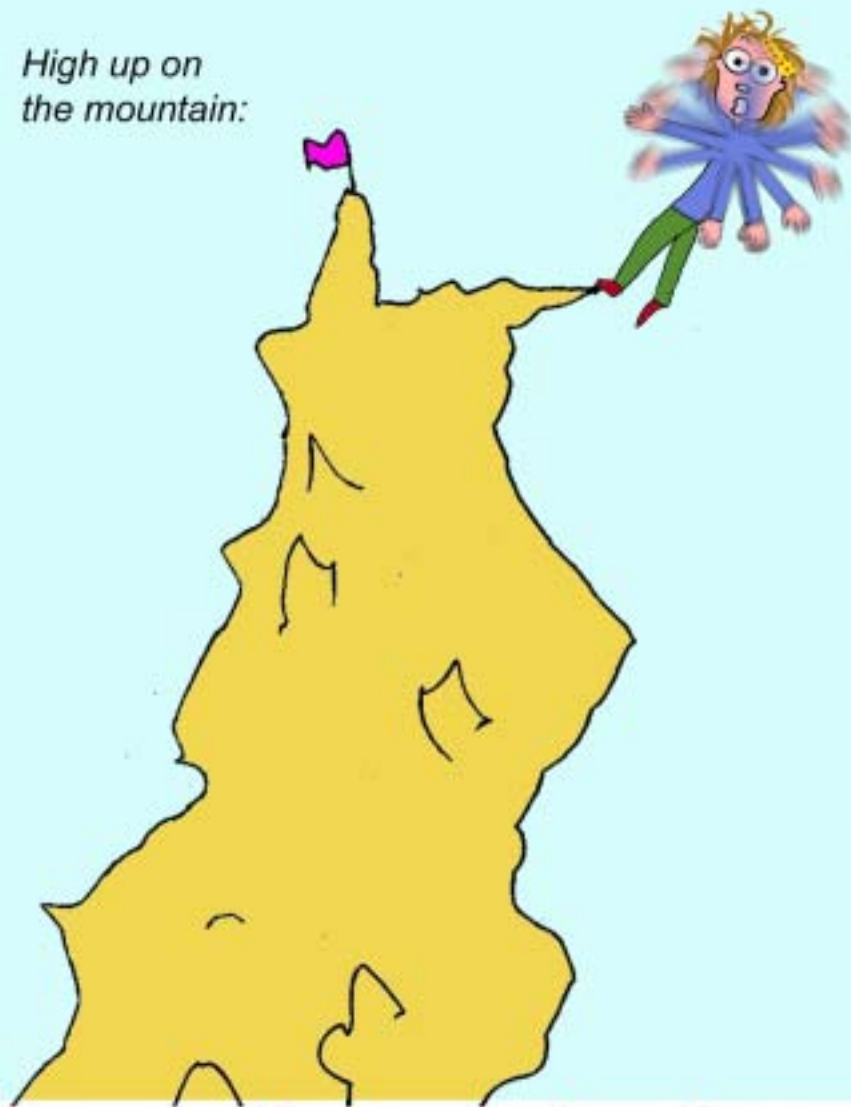


Some princes arrived by land, some by sea, and some parachuted in. Some princes even arrived on motorcycles and in race cars!



All the princes wanted to prove their bravery and valor by saving the Very Naughty Princess from an great, great, GREAT fall.

*High up on
the mountain:*



Not good.

Meanwhile on the ground:



However, their arrival on the scene caused such a loud commotion that it broke the princess' concentration. Much to her surprise (but not that of the expectant princes) she lost her balance and indeed began to fall.



“AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Screamed the Very Naughty Princess in shock.

BUT...





Just before the Very Naughty Princess' great, great fall brought her near the ground, the Very Naughty Princess sprouted the wings she had always wanted and before the princes could save her, she began to fly herself to the destiny she always dreamed.



The End