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# So You Want to Be a *Princess?*



Illustrated by: Bonnie Wakeman

Deborah Hage, MSW

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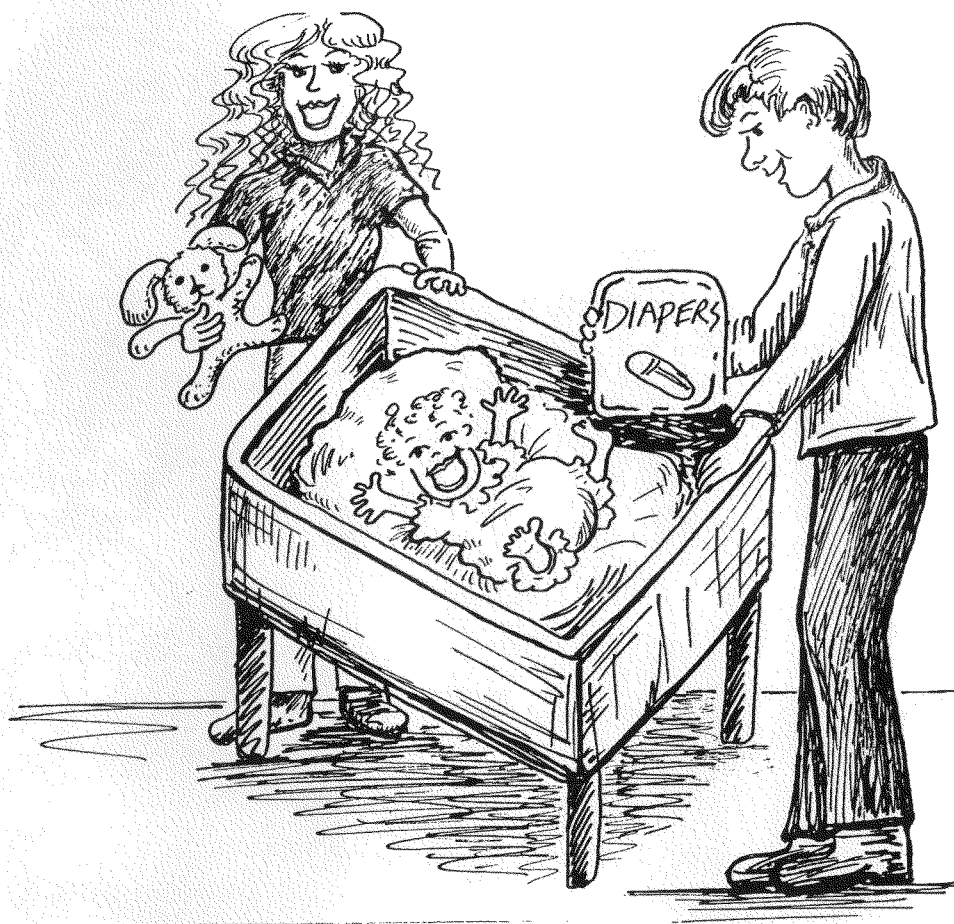
For wounded children everywhere, who,  
while denying the facts,  
have no trouble recognizing the truth.

So You  
Want to  
Be a  
*Princess?*





Beautiful beautiful baby.  
What a princess!



Does the princess need her diaper changed?

Does the princess want a toy?

Peek a boo, princess.

Time to go to bed, Princess.



No? Is the princess saying "No"?

Put away your toys, Princess.  
No?  
Is the Princess saying "No"?



Princesses don't have to do anything anyone else tells them to do.  
That is what makes them princesses.

Well, Princess, it is not quite like that.



A princess is a princess because she is the daughter of a queen.  
And queens are obeyed by everyone, even their little princess.



I am not going to do it your way. I am not that kind of a princess. I am the kind of princess that only does what she wants to do when she wants to do it.

You cannot be a princess unless I am a queen. It is my job to be a very good queen so you learn how to grow up to be a good princess. You can be a princess and be a cooperative princess. Putting away your toys when you are told does not make you less my princess.

Are you sure princess have to learn to put away their toys?



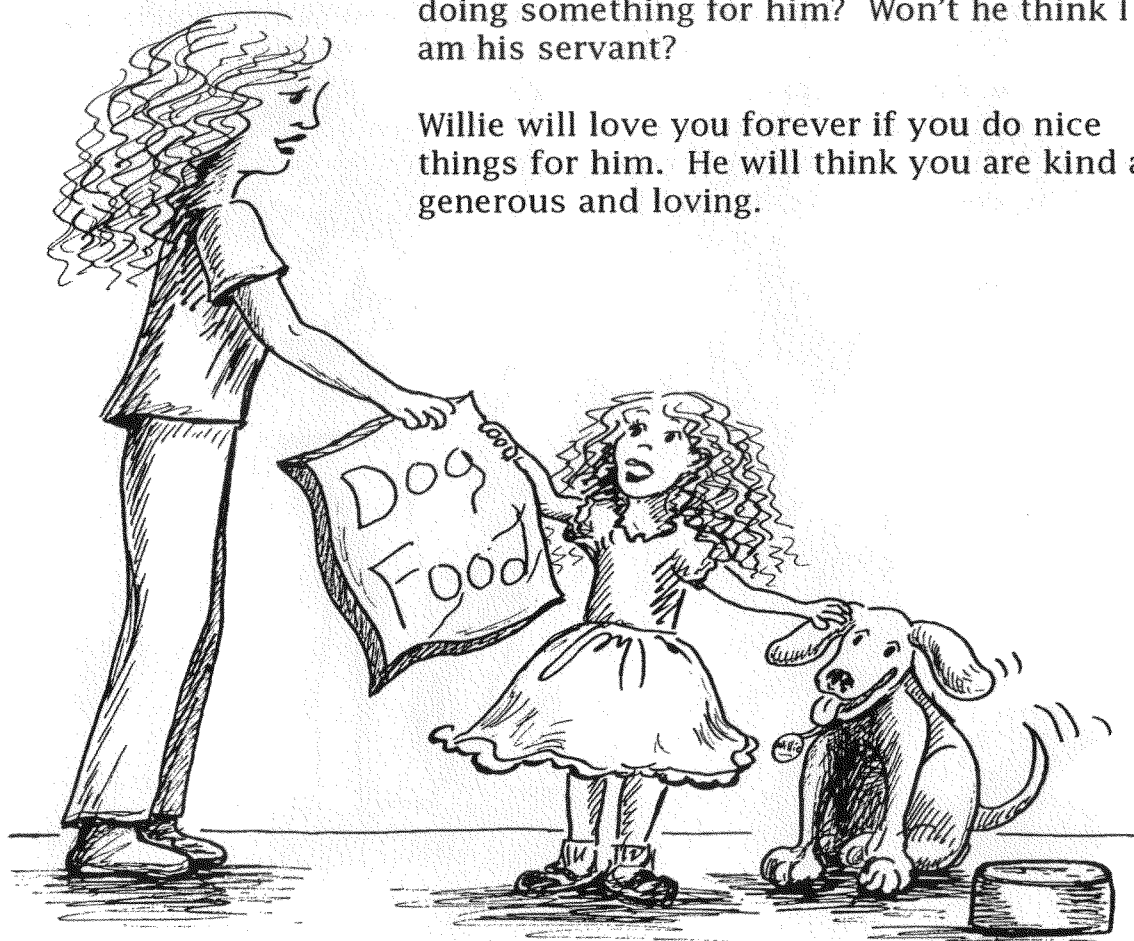
Positive!



You can be a princess and be a responsible princess. Feeding Willie does not make you less of a princess.

Will Willie think I am a princess if he sees me doing something for him? Won't he think I am his servant?

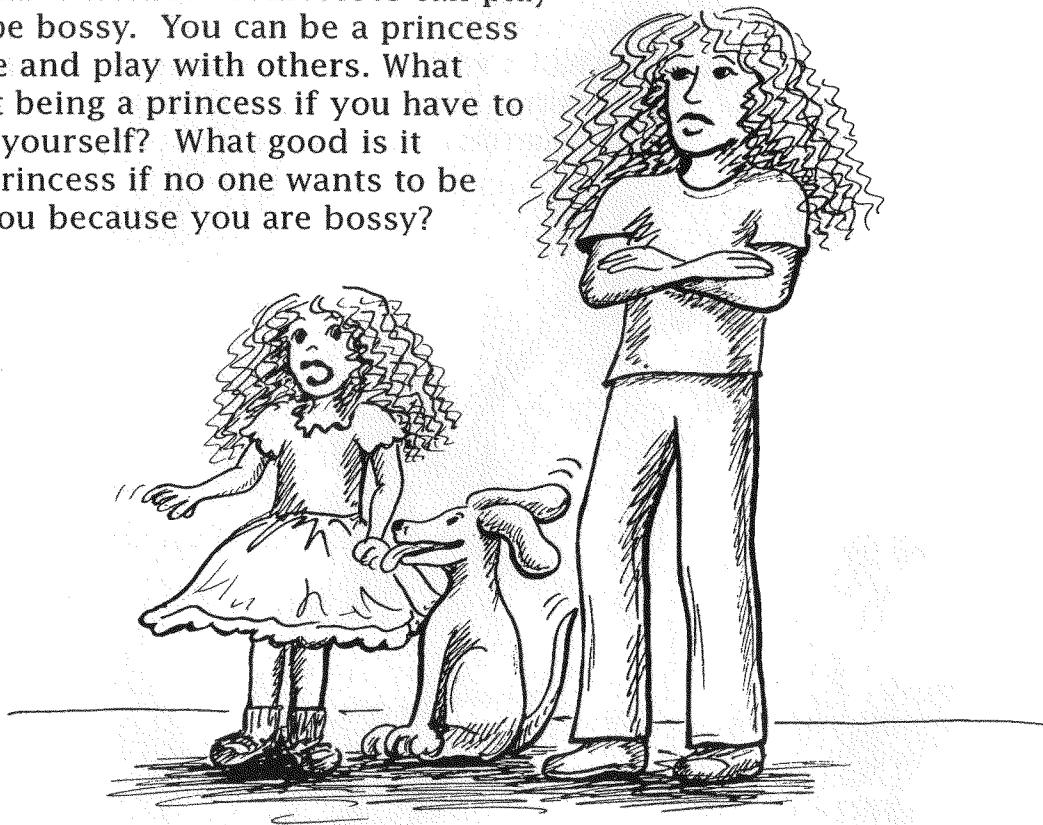
Willie will love you forever if you do nice things for him. He will think you are kind and generous and loving.



He will not think you are his servant, but a very good friend.

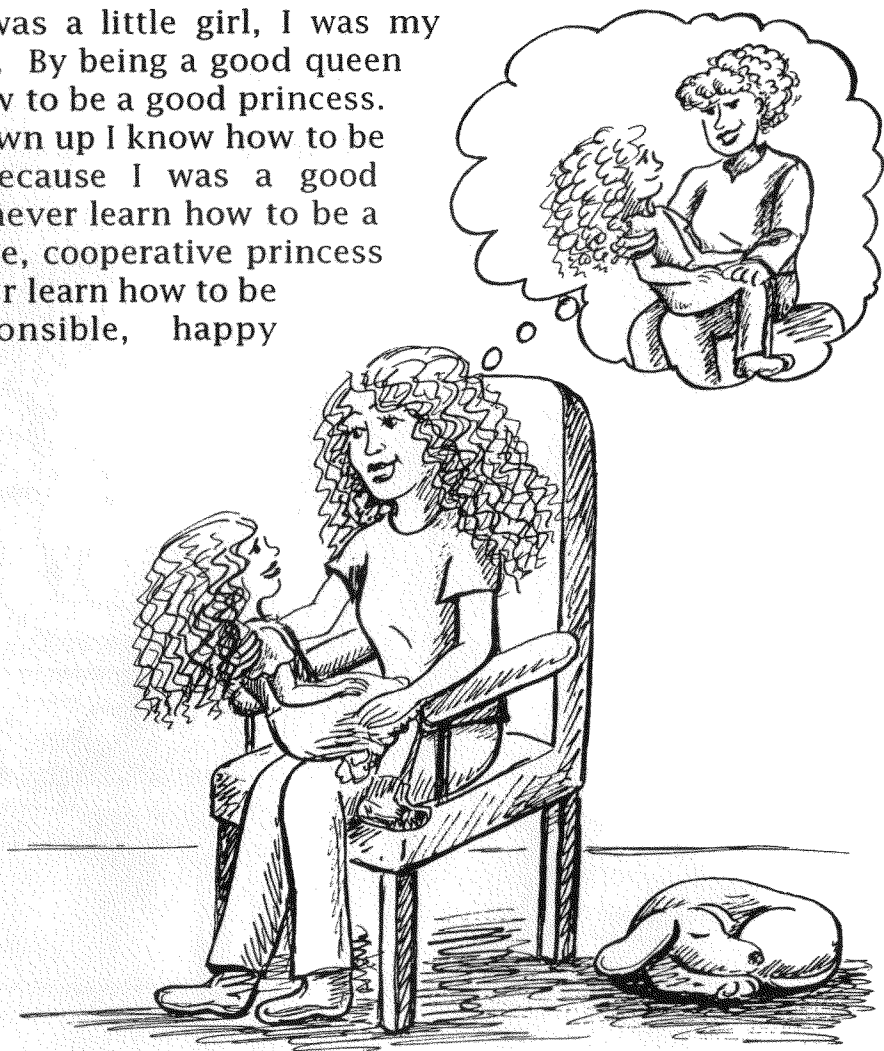
Friend? Princesses don't have friends unless they are other princesses. Other people won't know they are princesses unless they tell them what to do. Princesses are always in charge. That is their job.

Your idea of being a princess doesn't sound like someone who is very happy. Your kind of princess sounds lonely. You can be a princess and still have friends. Princesses can play and not be bossy. You can be a princess and smile and play with others. What good is it being a princess if you have to be all by yourself? What good is it being a princess if no one wants to be around you because you are bossy?



Are you sure? What makes you think you know so much about being a princess?

Because when I was a little girl, I was my mother's princess. By being a good queen she taught me how to be a good princess. Now that I am grown up I know how to be a good queen because I was a good princess. If you never learn how to be a loving, responsible, cooperative princess then you will never learn how to be a loving, responsible, happy queen.



Are you really a queen?

To you I am. Because if I am not a queen then you cannot be a princess.  
Do you want to be a princess?

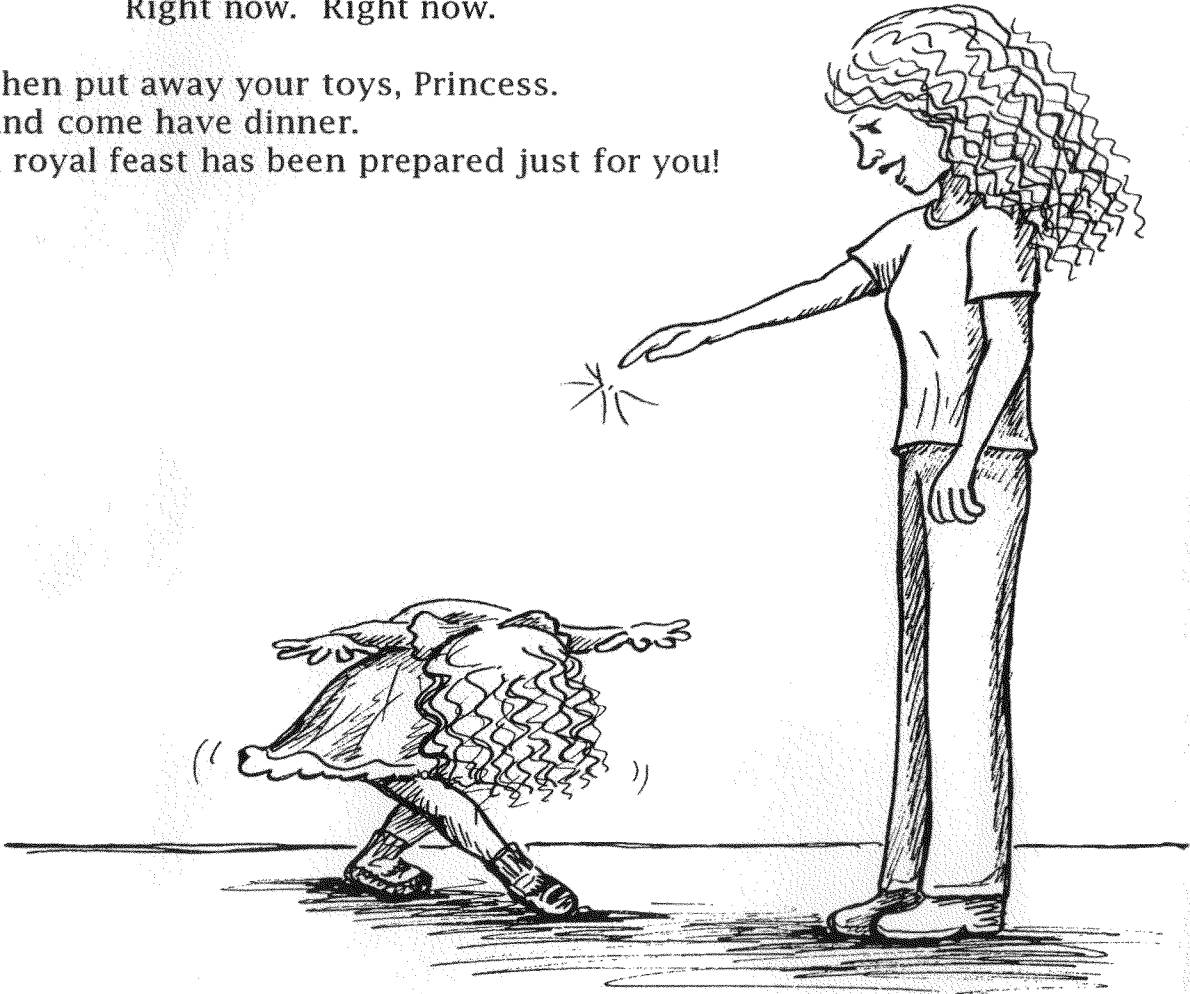
With all my heart.



When do you want to become a princess?

Right now. Right now.

Then put away your toys, Princess.  
And come have dinner.  
A royal feast has been prepared just for you!



With pleasure, Your Royal Highness.

## About the Author

Deborah Hage remains happily married after 30 years and 14 children to Paul Hage. During the last years of being parents they have given birth to two children, adopted seven children and have been therapeutic foster parents to five other children. Most of the children have been physically, emotionally, behaviorally and/or intellectually challenged. They have dealt extensively with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, educational and legal issues. At one point in time 10 of the children were teenagers at once! Their oldest children are now in the throes of emancipation, with several seeking out and finding birth parents, one becoming a parent and others finding the surest way to leave home is to go to jail.

In her "**Parenting With Pizazz**" lectures Deborah shares how they have stayed sane through the trials and triumphs of parenting their children, most of whom entered their lives with emotional scars due to abuse and neglect. She lectures nationwide and in Canada on bonding and attachment as well as techniques which, when added to normal parenting styles, have a positive effect on children who are behaviorally problematic. Her presentations include information on how to make it more fun to be a parent and children more fun to be around, as well as when to hang on and when to let go. Interventions which are appropriate at home and for children who are a danger to themselves, their family and/or their community are addressed.

Deborah has contributed chapters and articles on therapeutic parenting to several books and publications and has a master's degree in Social Work. She is in private practice and is available for consultation and intensive child and family therapy interventions.

For more information regarding two week intensive therapy, lecture dates and fees contact:

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