

I Want TWO Birthdays!

Tony Ross



**The Little Princess
wants to have
two birthdays!
Very well, says the
Prime Minister.
Of course, when
the Little Princess
sees how much
fun two birthdays
are, she must
have three.
Then four.
Then more!**

**But the more
birthdays she
has, the less
special they are.
Fortunately, the
King has a clever
solution up his
royal sleeve.**







To David and Bakhta



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It was the Little Princess's birthday.
She had a royal cake and lots of presents.
"Mum," she asked, "why do you have TWO
birthdays, and I only have one?"



“Well,” said the Queen, “queens always have two birthdays. There’s one for me to share with you, and one to share with all the people.”
“I want two birthdays then!” said the Little Princess.



So the Prime Minister put two birthdays
on the calendar for the Little Princess.
One in the autumn, when she was born,
and one in the winter, to cheer things up.



Two birthdays meant two cakes and twice as many presents every year. “This is FUN!” said the Little Princess.
“But THREE birthdays would be even better.”
So three birthdays went on the calendar . . .



. . . one in the autumn when she was born, one in the winter to cheer things up, and one in the spring.
“Can’t leave summer out,” said the Little Princess.
“I want FOUR birthdays!”



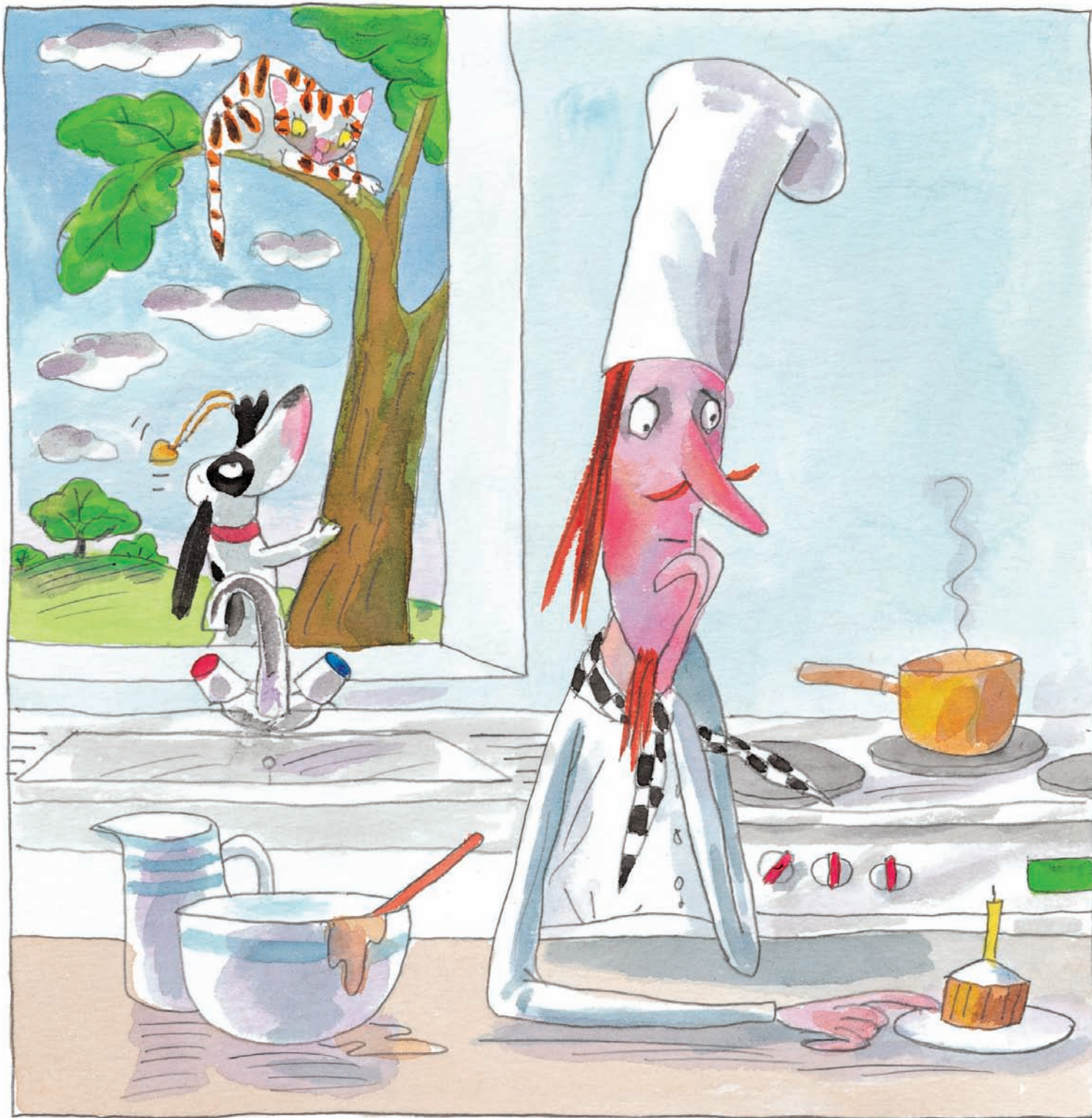
The Little Princess loved her birthdays. She loved getting up on the special day and getting specially clean. She loved the special cakes and all the special presents.



“Why can’t I have MORE special birthdays?”
she thought.



So she had a word with the Prime Minister, and
she had more birthdays put onto the calendar.
Soon she had a birthday on every day of the year.



So every day, the Cook had to make another cake.
But they got smaller. And every day, everybody
had to buy presents. But they were not as nice.



The Admiral gave her a piece of chewing gum that he had finished chewing. The General gave her a piece of string with a knot in it. The Maid gave her a worn out clothespin.



The next day, the King gave her a broken pencil.
“Tomorrow,” he said, “you can have an old pen with no ink in it.”
“POO!” said the Little Princess. “These are rotten presents.”



The Little Princess spat out that day's birthday cake. "POO!" she said. "It's got no chocolate chips or anything in it!" And last week's birthday cards were still on the mantelpiece.



Every day, the Little Princess had to stay specially clean for her special birthday parties, but everyone stopped coming, because they couldn't afford the presents.



At last, Gilbert was the only one at the Little Princess's party.

"Where's my present, Gilbert?" she asked.

"Haven't got one, 'cause I'm only a toy bear," said Gilbert.

"Happy birthday!" At least, that's what she thought he said.



The very next day, the Maid came into the Princess's room.
"Happy birthday, Princess," she said. "Get up and get
specially clean for your birthday. You've got another
party, you know."



“Oh NO!” groaned the Little Princess. “Not again! Why can’t I play like I used to? Why can’t I get dirty?”
“Because today is your BIRTHDAY,” said the Maid.
“Put on this nice clean crown.”



“EVERY DAY is my birthday!” cried the Little Princess.

“I want a SPECIAL day, different from all the others.”

“We must go and see your mum and dad then,” said the Maid.



“I want a SPECIAL day, different from all the others!”
said the Little Princess.

“HMMM!” hummed the King. “What you need is an unbirthday,
just one unbirthday every year, and that will be your special day!”



“Wheee!” squealed the Little Princess. “Lovely, what day shall I have my unbirthday on?”
“How about the day you were born? We can all remember that, and it’s next Wednesday.”



The Little Princess was SO excited.
She had to wait a whole week until her unbirthday arrived . . .
and when it did arrive . . .



... the Cook baked a VERY special unbirthday cake and everyone brought VERY special presents to the unbirthday party. And the Little Princess had a VERY special day.



And she had to wait a whole year until the next one!
“I wish I had an unbirthday every day!” she said.
“If you did, then it wouldn’t be special, would it?”
said the Maid.







Tony Ross was born in London and trained at the Liverpool School of Art. He has worked as a cartoonist, graphic designer, and art director of an advertising agency. He is now considered to be one of the finest children's illustrators in the world and has written and illustrated dozens of books for young readers over the course of his decades-long career.

Tony Ross created the first Little Princess book in 1986 and has gone on to write many more. The series has been translated into many languages and has been adapted for television.

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by Tony Ross

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two birthdays!
No, three!
What about four?
Then more!

But sometimes
getting what you want
isn't so great . . .

