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Opening extract from
**The Princess and the
Pea (Early Reader)**

Written by
Sally Gardner

Published by
Orion Children's Books

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Magical Princess series*

Cinderella
Sleeping Beauty
Snow White
The Frog Prince

The Princess and the Pea

Written and illustrated by
Sally Gardner



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Chapter One



Once upon a time there lived
a prince who wished very much to
marry a real princess.

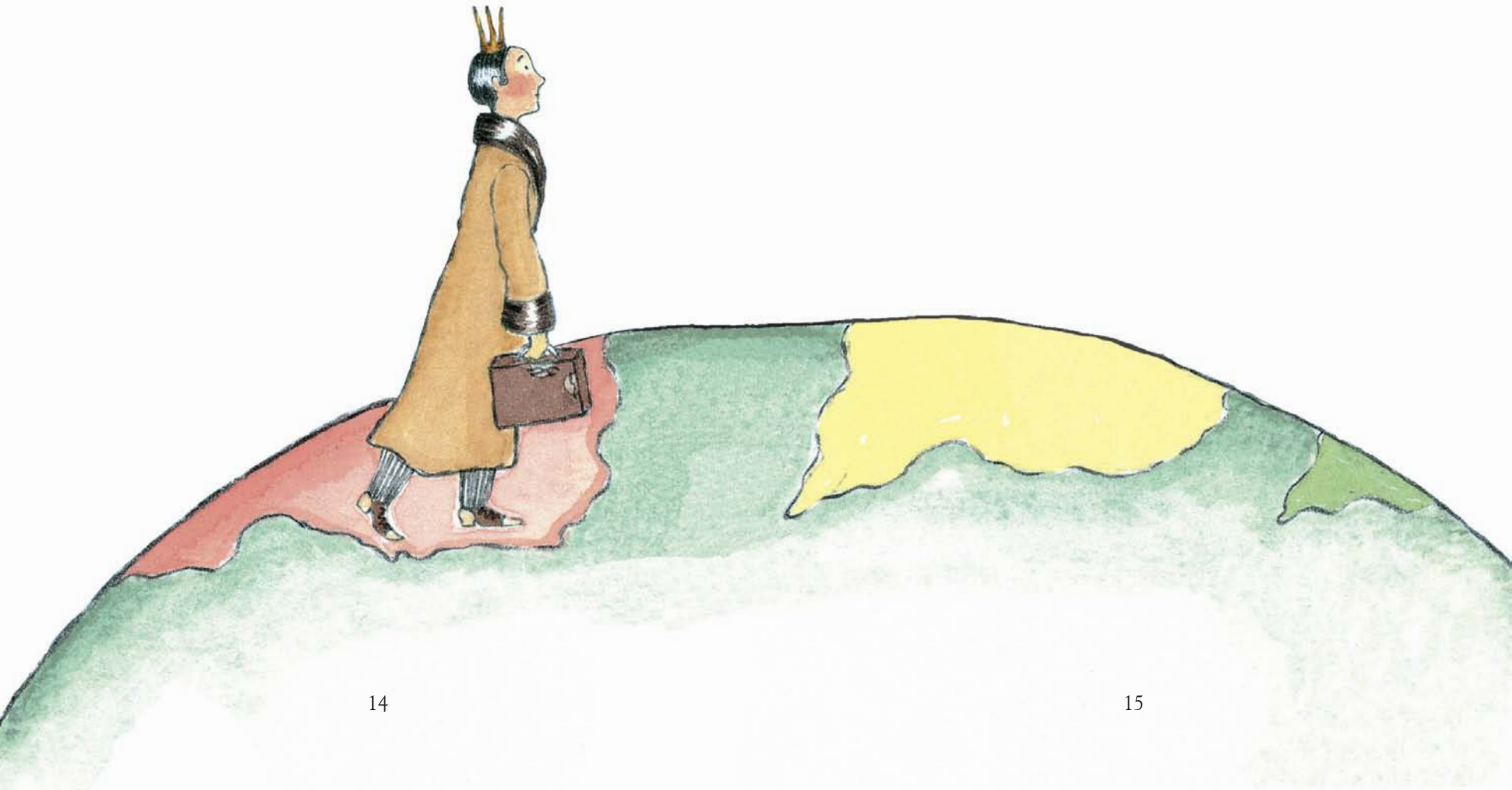




His search for a bride took him
around the world and back again.



That is a very long way indeed.





He met lots of girls who called themselves princesses:

pretty ones,



plain ones,



happy ones,



sad ones and mad ones.



But there was always something not quite right.

It was a problem. How was he to know if they were real princesses? At last he gave up and went home, feeling very upset.



The king and queen agreed with their son. There was no point in marrying a girl who was not a real princess.

