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Opening extract from
Stars of Mine

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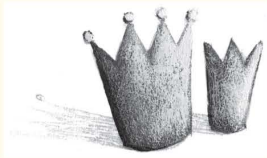
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This book has dyslexia-friendly features

For Jessica – with love



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Chapter 1

There was once a little old cottage where a mother lived with her giddy girl. The girl was just sixteen, and as sweet as honey.

One fine day, the mother made five meat pies and put them in the oven. But then the woman from next door called round.

They were soon so busy with gossip that the mother forgot about the pies. By the time she took them out of the oven, their crusts were as hard as the bark of an old oak tree.



“Girl,” she said, “you put them there pies in the larder.”

“My! I’m that hungry,” said the girl.

“Leave them there and they’ll come again,” said the mother. That was an old saying. It meant that the crusts would get soft when the pies had cooled down.

But the girl didn't know that. "Well!" she said to herself. "If the pies will come again, I'll eat these ones now." And so she set to work and ate them all, every bite.



When it was supper time, the mother felt very hungry.

“I could just do with one of them there pies,” she said to the girl. “Go and get one off the shelf. They’ll have come again by now.”

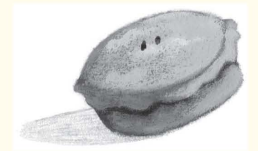
The girl went and looked. There was nothing on the shelf but an empty dish.

“No!” she called. “They haven’t come again.”

“Not none of them?” said the mother.

“No!” called the girl. “Not none.”

“Well!” said her mother. “Come again or not, I’ll have one for my supper.”





“You can’t if they haven’t come again,” said the girl. “I’ve eaten the lot. You can’t have one until it’s come again.”

Her mother was very angry. “You’ve eaten the lot?” she shouted. “You greedyguts!”