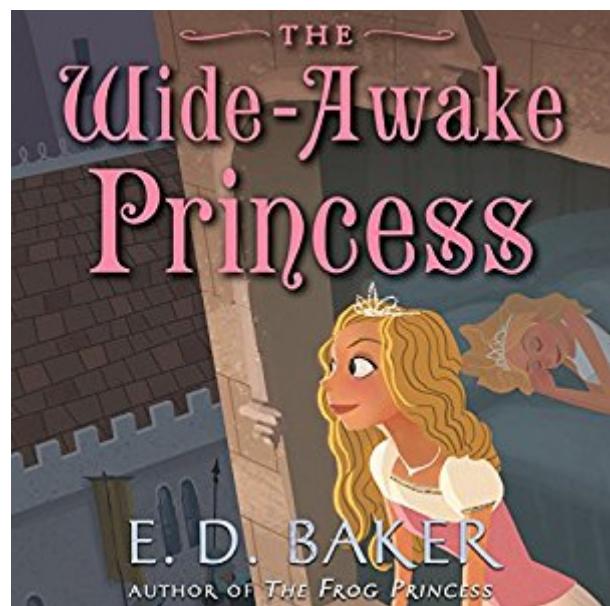


The book was found

The Wide-Awake Princess



Synopsis

In this stand-alone fairy tale, Princess Annie is the younger sister to Gwen, the princess destined to be Sleeping Beauty. When Gwennie pricks her finger and the whole castle falls asleep, only Annie is awake, and only Annie-blessed (or cursed?) with being impervious to magic - can venture out beyond the rose-covered hedge for help. She must find Gwen's true love to kiss her awake. But who is her true love? The irritating Digby? The happy-go-lucky Prince Andreas, who is holding a contest to find his bride? The conniving Clarence, whose sinister motives couldn't possibly spell true love? Joined by one of her father's guards, Liam, who happened to be out of the castle when the sleeping spell struck, Annie travels through a fairy tale land populated with characters both familiar and new as she tries to fix her sister and her family - and perhaps even find a true love of her own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's not easy being Sleeping Beauty's younger sister. While her big sister received all the faerie blessings of Charm, Grace, and Beauty (and the curse to go with it), Princess Annie received only one gift: that of total magic immunity: "From this day on, no magic shall touch you or bring you to harm. You'll have to survive on your natural charm." Fortunately, Annie's hardworking and resourceful and knows how to use her magic nullification talents to the fullest. But curses are curses, and Annie's ultimately left on her own when the rest of her family (along with the rest of the castle's inhabitants) are put to sleep by the spinning wheel curse. How will she fare against forests of gingerbread witches and mischievous faeries? Will she manage to find her sister's true love and

break the curse? And of course there's that teeny-tiny little chance that she just might find someone special herself. This book is a fun read and appropriate for both early readers and older kids. My seven year old (who reads around the 4th grade level) has really enjoyed it; a pair of nine year old twins (average readers) have asked repeatedly for me to read it aloud; and even my ten year old son has borrowed it - mostly for the fun of the fairy tale send ups. (Sorry, Prince - the Princess doesn't need rescuing from the hideous ogre - she just likes him better than you.) It's fairly well written, simple enough to follow, and fun enough for reluctant readers to want to continue with. For the sake of being comprehensive, there are a few scary moments (a kelpie and the gingerbread witch) and references to alcohol (a prince who's had too much ale and needs to be sobered up). The afore mentioned prince also had a pair of barmaids on his knee - think Gaston from Beauty and the Beast.

We all know the story of Gwen: When she was born, her parents made a little mistake with the guest list, which led to the ticking off of a bad fairy, which led to the prick her finger on a spinning wheel and sleep for 100 years curse. Such a curse adds a lot of stress, not to mention all the work involved in keeping a kingdom spinning-wheel free. So when Annie was born, her parents begged a good fairy to find a way to protect their second daughter from similar curses. With a wave of her wand, the good fairy makes Annie immune to magic. Since this also has the effect of dampening all magic used around Annie, her parents are a little put out when their own magically-enhanced beauty and charms fade whenever Annie is around. Still, she's safe, and as long as she stands far away from her family, Annie's gift has little effect. Life is fairly ho-hum for Annie until Gwen manages to get her hands on a spinning wheel on her 16th birthday and the kingdom-sleeps-for-100-years curse is set in motion. Everyone in the castle drops instantly into sleep, all except, of course, Annie. Never one to wait around for someone else to fix things for her, Annie sets out on a mission to find a prince to kiss her sister and end the curse. But which prince is her sister's true love? There's no way of knowing, so Annie sends every prince she finds back to her family's castle. Every prince she finds, however, seems to already be embroiled in his own quest or sticky situation, so Annie must first help with these various deeds and debacles. I really enjoyed this story! Annie is a great character from start to finish and would make a good role model for the intended audience. She's kind, has a good sense of humor, does things for herself, is smart, and is still girly.

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