

Princess **CHINNI** Goes to School



Isabella Dipesh

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BLUE PENCIL

About the author

I am Isabella and I am twelve years old. I live in Hyderabad and study in Meridian School. My father is a management consultant and my mother is a consultant Acupuncturist and a Naturopathist. As a child, I loved to read books (which I still do!) and share stories with my parents.

Growing up, I began writing short stories for my little brother. The hobby turned into a fierce passion for me. My first story 'The Magnet That Attracted Girls' has been published in the anthology *Ocean Blue* by Scholastic.

When I'm not writing or dreaming up stories, I love to play jazz tunes on my piano, cook for my family, do artwork and read *G.K.* in my free time. People often call me nerdy, but I would say, I'm curious to learn more. I remember how thrilled I was when I first

learned to read, to be able to access the many worlds of fiction. My mission is to hold children spellbound with my stories and to evoke in them a love of reading.

I also want to help save the environment in little ways such as recycling, composting and planting trees in my backyard. I'm not sure what profession I'll take when I grow up, but one thing's for sure, I want to be an author who travels around the world, collecting tales of different cultures, and be the change I wish to see in the world!

My favourite quote that I thought of by myself is, "I would rather be an imperfect human than a perfect inhuman."

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A Venture of Wisitech InfoSolutions Pvt Ltd
76/2, 3rd Floor, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110065
Ph: + 91.95828.49600
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www.bluepencilpublishers.com

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*"I can do all things through
Christ who strengthens me"
- Philippians 4:13*



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Chapter 1

Welcome to the Palace

It is a bright and sunny day. Princess Chinni wakes up in her lovely canopy bed, decked with ornately carved bedposts and silk bed sheets with floral prints kept neatly at the end of the bed. The bedsheets are made from imported silks which traders have acquired after travelling many countries and bargaining hard. Her golden spaniel gives her a big sloppy lick for her to know it's time to start the day!

She is awakened by the call of the peacocks that are bred in the palace gardens. She glances around her room which is as big as a mansion. Her eyes fall on her toy cupboard. She slowly walks to the cupboard and her golden spaniel, whose name is Daniel the Golden Spaniel follows her. She flings the

doors open with a dramatic air and looks up to see thousands and thousands of costly plush toys, dolls and beautiful figurines.

Princess Chinni rings her servant bell. Soon she is surrounded by hordes and hordes of servants, wearing their red and white chequered aprons and bringing fresh flowers from the garden to adorn her hair. Some help her get dressed and change her lovely nighttime brown pyjamas and comb her fine sheet of jet black hair and some clean her room.



She soon finds out that she is going to be visiting the villas where her father works. She quickly puts on her lovely pink frock which has dainty little frills on it and her pretty little tiara which is topped with a matching pink jewel which lights up her tanned, sober, little face that makes her look really nice. She runs out of the palace and is greeted by the neighing of her coach's horses and the beaming smile of her kind coachman. She hurries inside the coach and instructs the coachman about the destination, who immediately turns around and beams at her.

"Would you be a dear and get me to the villas where my father is holding a party, please?" the Princess asks the coachman. Without further ado the coachman drives up straight to her father's party. When she reaches there, she hears a loud call. After a few minutes she is awake.

Chinni realised she had fallen asleep in the sandpit. "It is not real. It is not true. It is just fake! It is just phony," she cried out with

tears hot in her eyes. She was thoroughly disappointed. The castle and the maids were made of sand and sticks. The coach and the coachman were just bugs. Her father really did work at the villa site, but as a construction worker. Her tiara was made out of vines and her pyjamas were rags. Her lovely gown was a rag too. She was just a simple villager girl.





Chapter 2

Reality Strikes!

She was truly disappointed, but that didn't stop her from imagining she was royalty. She went inside her shanty house and pretended it was a bungalow. She went to the dining area, which was actually a dirt rag to sit on and eat. She told her sweet mother Latha, "Give me some food to eat! You should have served it for me much earlier! If you keep up at this rate, I shall have to whip you." She spoke as if her mother was a maid.

"Dear, dear! What has gotten into you? First of all, I am unhappy because my salary for this month hasn't been paid and now, you go all high and mighty and order me about as if I am your drudge," Latha said.

Hot tears swelled up in Chinni's eyes. She ran to her favourite tree - which was a mango

tree, sat dejectedly beside it and cried for almost an hour. "Why, why has God put me in this state? While he could have put me in the palace, I've to stay here and weep in the pit. Curse the princesses who live a royal life. Oh God!" she thought.

"Chinni, Chinni, where are you, Thalli?" she heard her mother shout. She put her face into her cupped hands and refused to show it so as to say, "Leave me alone, Ma." Her father



Srinivasa came right at that moment, and called out, "I have come home, Chinni darling. Where is my nice little dotty?"

"This Chinni is angry with me," said Latha.

They waited till evening but still Chinni didn't come out of her little hiding place. Soon it was time for her parents to go to work again, and so they went leaving Chinni to cry to herself.

Latha was hard at work, washing the vessels and making the house spic and span, but the employers would still not have it. They would shout at her if a single spot of dirt was found, they would scold her and insult her by saying she was a big lazy fool who didn't know a thing.

Srinivasa's state was even worse. Day in and day out, he would have to carry heavy bricks, handle sticky mortar, and stand in the sun for the whole day. They wouldn't give him a day off, not a second's rest, even on Sundays.

Fun Activity

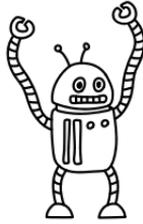


Search on the internet about International Labour Day and help out your parents and maids by giving them a day off in a year to make them feel nice.

You can do things like:

1. Help wash dishes
2. Help water plants
3. Help old people with their stuff
4. Help clean things and tidy up
5. Help fold the washed clothes.





Chapter 3

Technological Advancements in the World

The world was changing. There were metro trains which were driverless. Skyscrapers and highrise buildings were having their glass panes cleaned by robots. As Latha peeped out from the window, she saw robots sweeping the streets. She wasn't shrewd so she foolishly called her employers and showed them the sight. "At least they are more accurate than you are!" her employer Raagini, the mistress of the house, sneered at her. "The day after tomorrow you shall be fired," said Raagini. "Before you came we had already planned and made arrangements to buy these special robots which are meticulous, unlike you. They are impeccable," she continued.

Latha was heartbroken. She ran home, sat in

END OF SAMPLE

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