A Royal Runaway

Written and illustrated by

Rachel Pierce

This book is dedicated to my children,

Liam and Nora,

who have brought more joy into my life

than I could ever imagine.

Once upon a time, in a land far away

Lived many creatures that are not known today

There were beasts with ten arms

And goblins with charms

And magicians who kept dragons at bay.

The forest in this land was always growing

Creating new beasts in summer and even when snowing

There were plants that could rhyme

Only to waste your time

So you would forget where you were going.

Above the forest, atop an overgrown hill

Sat an amazingly stunning bright castle

It had walls made of trees

And an army of bees

With fairies upon the window sill.

In this castle lived a princess named Claire

With shiny long brown flowing hair

With eyes like the ocean

And a voice with emotion

She was lonely and longed to go elsewhere.

On one fine beautiful summer day

Claire decided to run away

In search of something

More interesting

Than the castle in which she stayed.

Down the overgrown hill she walked with care

Stepping in the wrong place she did not dare

On a sleeping sphinx?

Or a spider with a jinx?

She made sure not to step there.

She came upon a rainbow colored lake

And spotted a boat she decided to take

It moved on its own

As if in a zone

She then realized this was a mistake…

The boat came to a stop in the middle

Where an octopus emerged with a riddle

“What object has a face

And whose features stay in place

And if wrong its hands you must fiddle?”

Claire pondered the riddle that caused her fright

Then shouted out a “A CLOCK!” with pure delight

“I allow you to pass

But be careful and fast

When the sky becomes dark at night.”

Claire passed the octopus and was on her way

Not even realizing the time of day

She jumped off the boat with glee

Was curious and carefree

Not even thinking of what the octopus had to say.

Claire ventured on and it began to get dark

In the woods she heard a cry and a bark

She heard whispers from behind

And growling she could not find

She jumped at the sound of a lark.

Claire started to run through the woods with fear

Footsteps following her she could hear

Branches cut her face

Faster got her pace

On her face there was many a tear.

Out of nowhere something grabbed her arm

She panicked afraid it would do her harm

She looked at this thing

And how interesting

It was no cause for fear or alarm.

This thing was not a beast, enemy or foe

It was but a prince, with eyes like a doe

The moon shone from above

Claire had fallen in love

With a stranger that was surely her beau.

Gracefully the prince whistled a tune

Which brought to them a winged raccoon

They jumped on its back

Narrowly missing an attack

And soared through the night to the moon.

Afraid of heights, Claire closed her eyes

And opened them to find a big surprise

They were on top of a star

From fear they were far

Besides her prince, there was no better prize.

The next morning at the castle they were

So in love, both him and her

Claire had found something

That was so interesting

And they lived happily ever after…

The End

About the Author

Rachel Pierce is the mother of two wonderful children, who inspired her to publish her own book she could read to them. Rachel and her family live in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and enjoy spending time outdoors with their two dogs.