

# The Secret Valentine

Illustrated by  
**Jerry Smath**

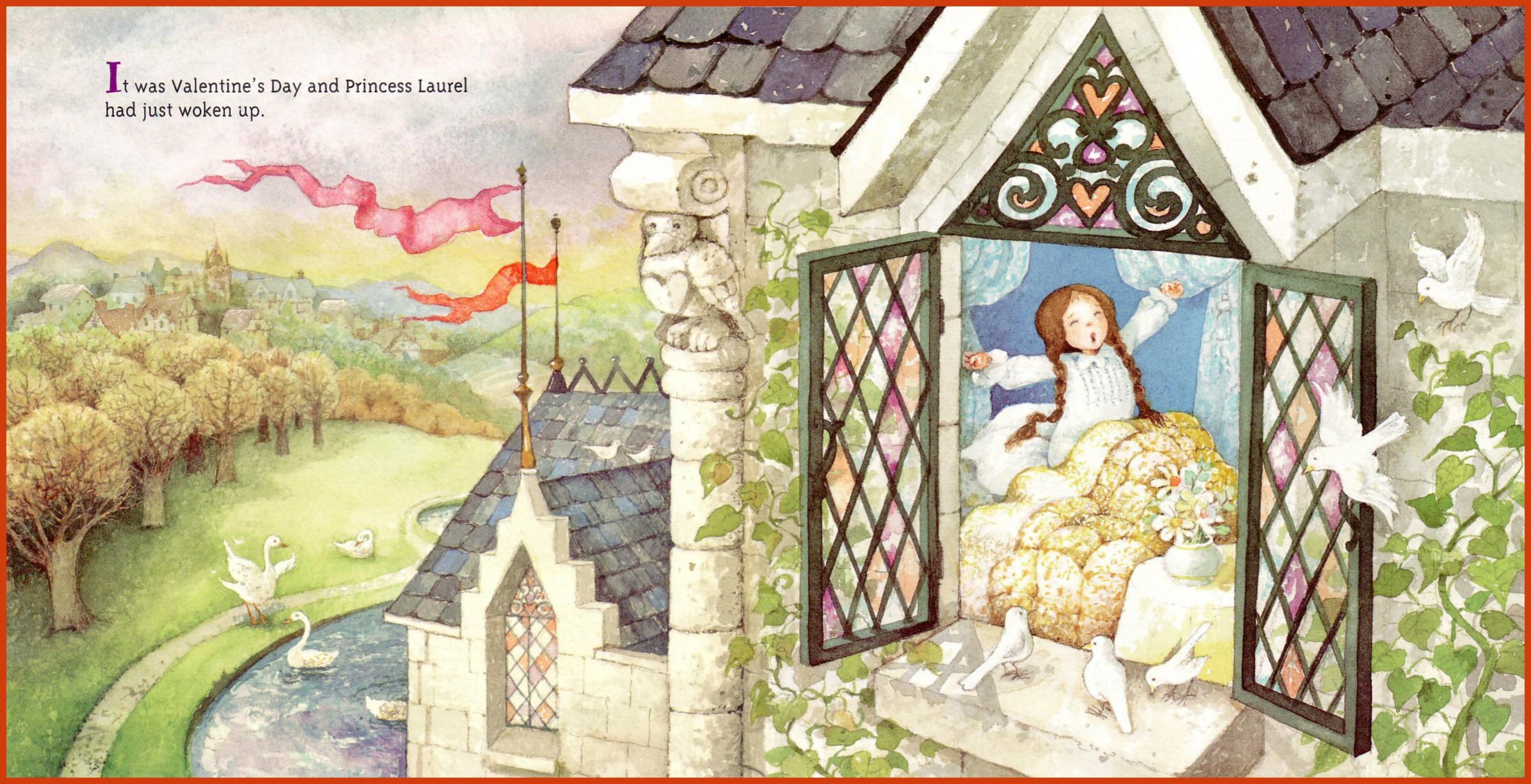


# The Secret Valentine



**Written by Johanna Maron  
Illustrated by Jerry Smath**

**I**t was Valentine's Day and Princess Laurel had just woken up.





What was that under her door?  
It was a large pink envelope.  
It had to be a valentine card!



The valentine had lace and gold trim on it.  
Laurel read the words out loud:

Princess Laurel, Happy Valentine's Day!  
I have a game for you to play!

The trick is to find me sometime soon,  
For I will be hiding until noon.

A clue to help you on your way:  
Think hearts—that's all I'll say.

When you get there you will see,  
All that a valentine surprise can be.

Guess who!





Hmm, thought Princess Laurel as she got dressed.... Who could her valentine be? Maybe the court jester knew. He always had a surprise up his sleeve.



Laurel found the jester in the castle courtyard.  
"Good morning, Jester. Were you the one who sent me  
this valentine?" asked Laurel.

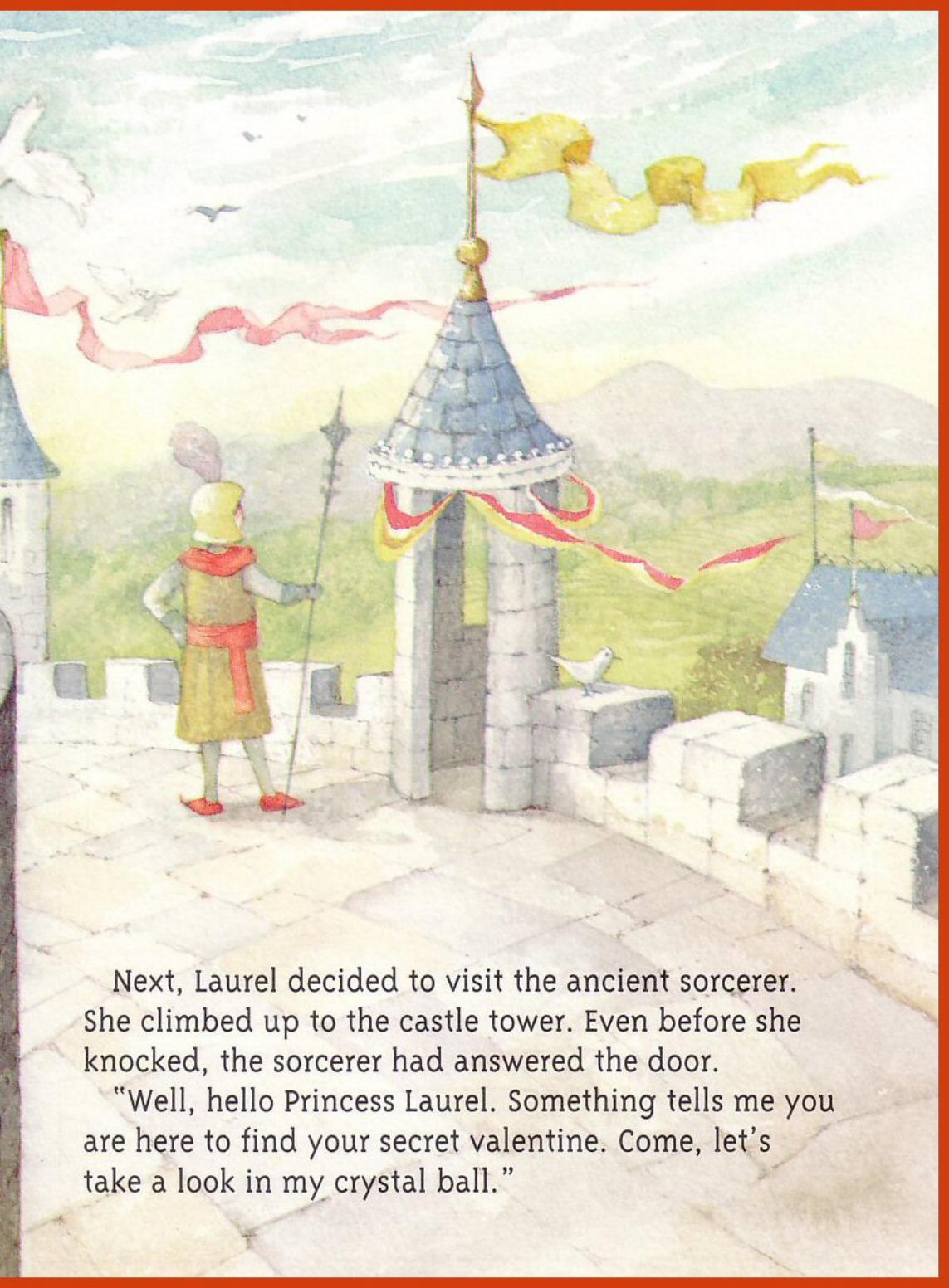
The jester nodded his head "yes" and answered, "No."

Laurel laughed and the jester said, "It was not I,  
Princess Laurel, but you are still the apple of my eye."  
And with a wink, he reached behind Laurel's  
ear and discovered an apple! Silly jester!



Next, Laurel decided to visit the ancient sorcerer. She climbed up to the castle tower. Even before she knocked, the sorcerer had answered the door.

"Well, hello Princess Laurel. Something tells me you are here to find your secret valentine. Come, let's take a look in my crystal ball."

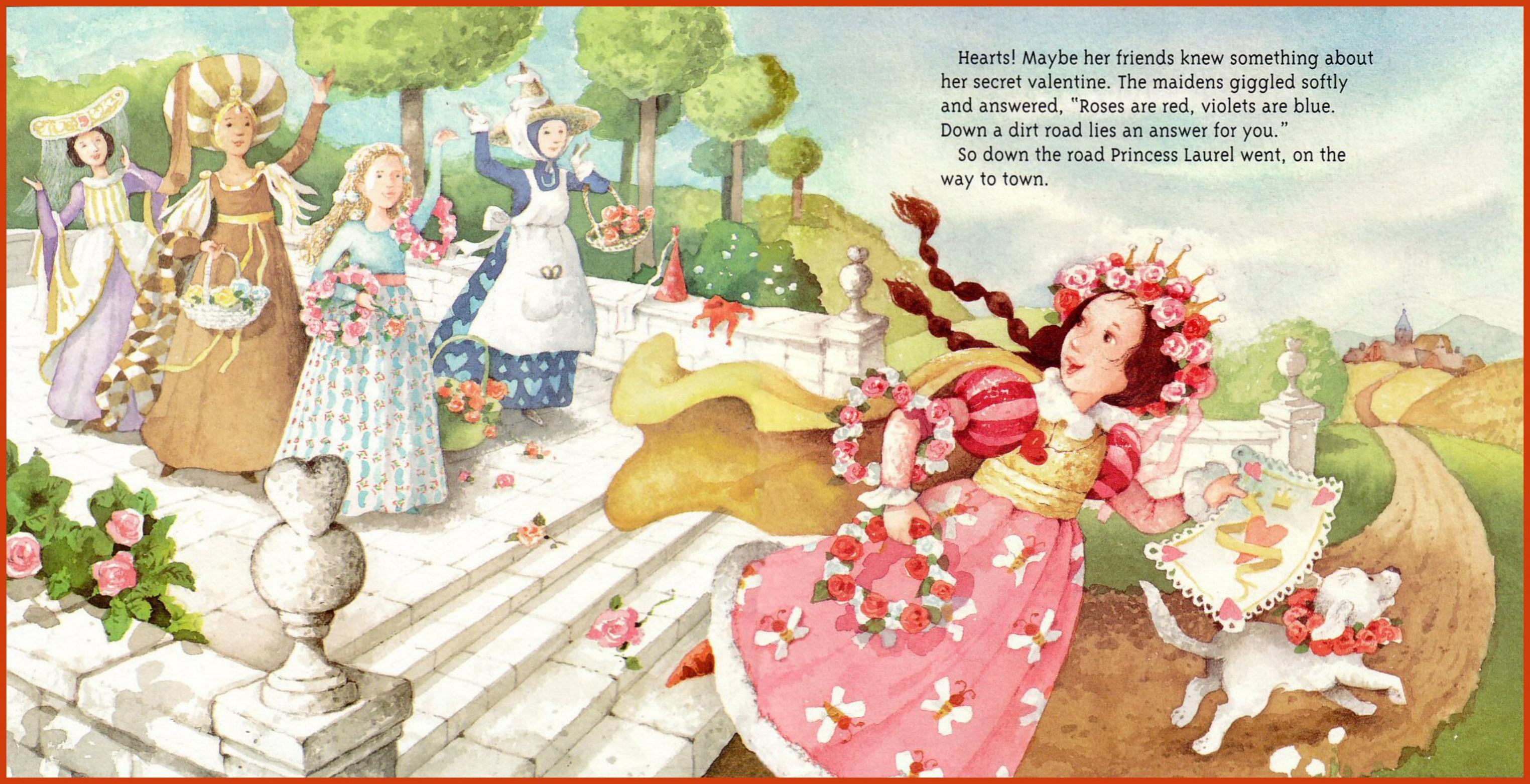


The sorcerer stared deep into the crystal ball,  
and someone finally appeared. "Ahh, I see someone,  
Princess Laurel, but you must find your secret valentine  
for yourself. I'll say this though, hearts will lead the way."



Laurel then ran down the tower stairs to the garden. There she found the young maidens of the castle who were clipping roses and making them into heart-shaped wreaths. They called out, "Happy Valentine's Day to you, Princess Laurel," and placed a wreath on her head.





Hearts! Maybe her friends knew something about her secret valentine. The maidens giggled softly and answered, "Roses are red, violets are blue. Down a dirt road lies an answer for you."

So down the road Princess Laurel went, on the way to town.



Then, she saw a path of hearts leading to the town's bakeshop. Now Princess Laurel knew who her secret valentine was.

Laurel followed the trail of hearts all the way to the end. There she found Lou, the baker's son, grinning by the bakery door.

"Happy Valentine's Day, Princess Laurel! You found  
your secret valentine, and here's your valentine surprise!"  
Lou said and threw open the door.





Inside the bakery, there was a grand Valentine's Day party, and the smell of chocolate filled the air.

# The Secret Valentine

Princess Laurel gets a secret valentine—who could it be from?  
Follow the Princess on her valentine's adventure  
and join in the surprise!



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