



The Princess & the Pauper

By Kate Brian

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I opened the door the following evening to find Princess Carina standing there with her hair all pushed up under a cap and her face hidden by a pair of oversized sunglasses.

"Princess," I said flatly.

"Pauper," she replied.

Julia Johnson isn't like the other students at the Rosewood School. She takes a bike to school, not a BMW. She goes home every night to a run-down apartment that she shares with her mom and her cat. While the other girls obsess over the upcoming visit from some princess, Julia is trying to find the money to keep a roof over her family's heads.

Then **Carina**, the Crown Princess of Vineland, shows up at Rosewood for a speech, and Julia finds her answer. The thing is, Julia's a dead ringer for Carina. And when Carina offers her ten thousand dollars to switch places for one day, Julia can't say no.

But when the *real* princess doesn't come back from her day off, Julia finds herself on a plane to Vineland. How long before her cover gets blown? What will Carina's almost-fiancé, Markus, say when he finds out she's been lying to him? And how in the *world* is she going to explain all this to her mother?

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The Princess & the Pauper By Kate Brian Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Keep that tiara handy, because the princess craze is in full swing. Disney after-school specials, Meg Cabot's *Princess Diaries* series, and even many classics tap into girlhood fantasies of switching places with a beautiful, glamorous royal whose wish is everyone else's command. In Kate Brian's *The Princess and the Pauper*, however, the "pauper," a 16-year-old from L.A. named Julia Johnson, isn't remotely interested in being a princess until she's offered \$10,000 to swap places with one, money that could keep she and her mom from being evicted from their run-down L.A. apartment.

The story begins when Carina, crown princess of Vineland, meets an American rocker dude named Ribbit on the Internet and desperately wants to hook up with him in L.A. when she's on a "goodwill tour" of the U.S. When she visits L.A.'s Rosewood Academy, her friend Ingrid discovers Julia, who looks enough like Carina to take her place and fill in for her on the night of the Toadmuffin concert. The makeovers go well, but the scheme (surprise!) goes terribly awry. The utterly sheltered princess ("who makes Rapunzel look free") wakes up the morning after the concert with a hungover Ribbit in a beat-up van on the way to Texas, and Julia ends up falling in love with the "duller than biology" Markus Ingvaldsson, the boy Carina is destined to marry. While the princess does manage to squirm out of danger in the desert, the two imposters don't manage to reconnect before the plane leaves for Vinelandia with the wrong girl on it.

The narrative switches back and forth from rebellious, sarcastic teen Julia's voice to rebellious, sarcastic teen Carina's, which, as it turns out, aren't as different as their backgrounds would suggest. Popular culture and L.A. references abound--the princess compares herself to Buffy "when she had to hide her whole secret slayer life" and Julia describes a world of Crest Whitestrips and Kelly Osborne haircuts. While predictable and a bit too familiar, *The Princess and the Pauper* will no doubt appeal to girls who haven't quite yet had enough of the trials and tribulations of an unlikely princess. (Ages 12 and older) --Karin Snelson

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up-Julia is a poor scholarship student at the exclusive Rosewood Academy. Carina is the Crown Princess of the tiny European country of Vineland. Bored with ball gowns, embassy parties, and state dinners, she's prepared to do anything to sneak away from her constant chaperones and go to the Toadmuffin concert during her royal visit to Los Angeles. The only thing these teens have in common is their remarkably similar looks. Carina's best friend comes up with a plan: pay Julia to go to the embassy ball. The scheme goes awry, though, and Carina wakes up halfway to El Paso on the Toadmuffin tour bus, while Julia falls in love with the princess's boyfriend. Carina and Julia are both believable characters; one is self-absorbed, while the other is practical but desperate. The story is told from both viewpoints, and there is no indication when the narrative shifts, which can be momentarily confusing. The plot develops quickly and flows steadily toward the predictable but happy ending. A light story generously peppered with modern-day references to movie stars, musical styles, and teenage slang, this novel is perfect for fans of Meg Cabot's "Princess Diaries" series (HarperCollins).

Heather E. Miller, Homewood Public Library, AL

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-8. Once you accept the premise that two unrelated 16-year-old girls can look enough like each other to fool everyone but their mothers, this ends up being a rollicking good read. When the bored and overprotected Crown Princess Carina of Vineland comes to L.A. on a goodwill trip, she meets the sensible but poor Julia,

who just happens to resemble her almost exactly. They hatch a plan to give Julia a princessworthy makeover (and \$10,000) in time to take Carina's place at an important ball, so that Carina can meet the punk-rock musician she's been corresponding with via e-mail. The usual misunderstandings and misadventures occur, told in alternating chapters by Carina and Julia in light and funny teenspeak. Although the plot is pure fairy tale, the humor is incisive, the characters of the two girls are well drawn, and the touch of sweet, G-rated romance will thrill the intended audience. The glossy photos on the jacket and the breezy Cinderella story will attract fans of Meg Cabot's *The Princess Diaries* books. *Eva Mitnick*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mamie Wilson:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *The Princess & the Pauper*. Try to face the book *The Princess & the Pauper* as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

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