



Picture Books

The Dumpy Princess

Karin Fernald

Sophie Foster, illustrator

Frances Lincoln

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“How a plain girl with no chin became Queen of England” is this delightful book’s subtitle. It’s the funny, eccentric story of Victoria’s ascension at eighteen years of age, featuring a zany (and nightmarish) cast of characters such as King George the Third, who is “one fish fork shy of a dinner set” and “Old Boney,” a.k.a. Napoleon. There’s a fascinating and painless history lesson tucked into these entertaining pages, but the overall impression one takes away is that royals are as vulnerable, fallible, and nutty as the rest of us. Ages nine to twelve.