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opening extract from

# Classic Fairy Tales

written by

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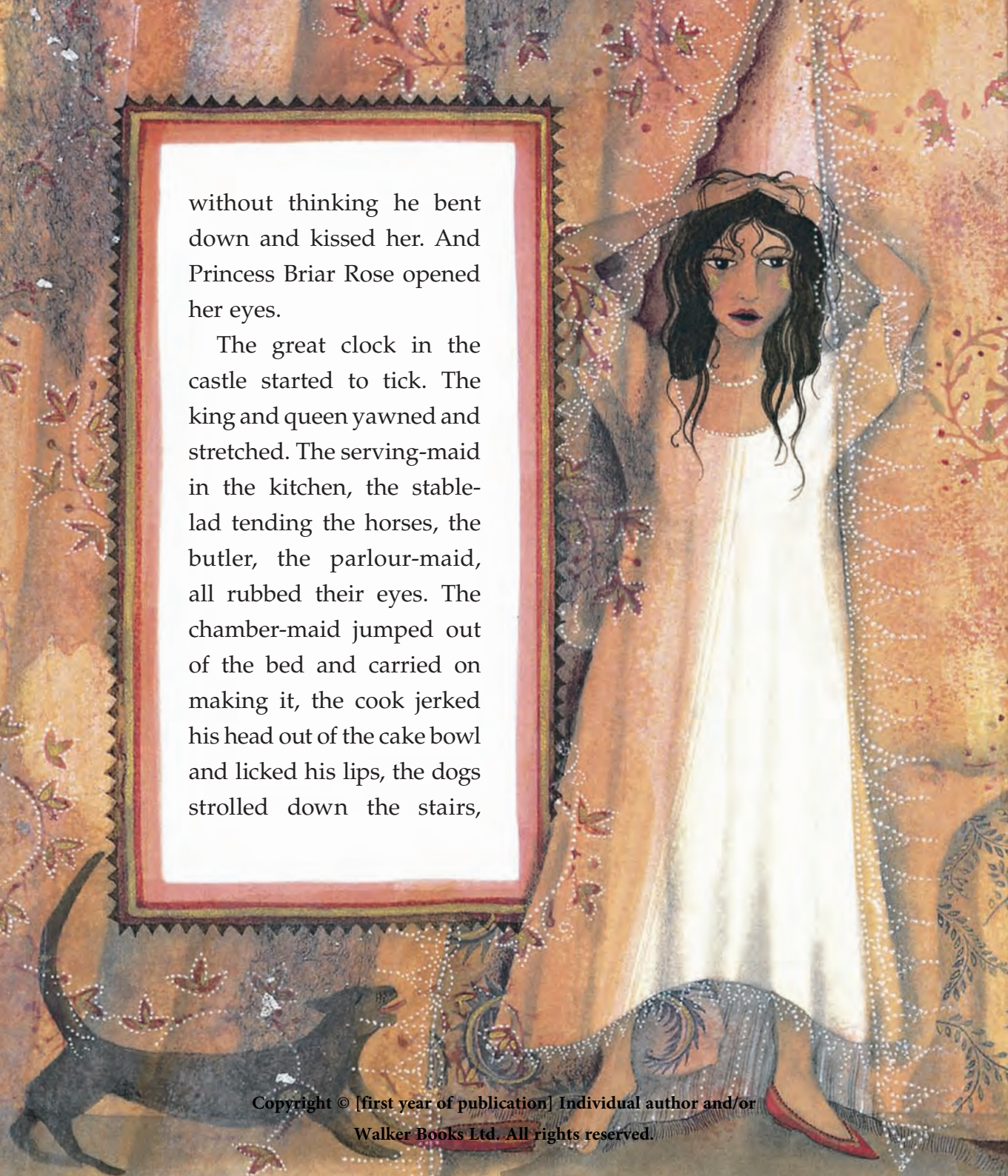
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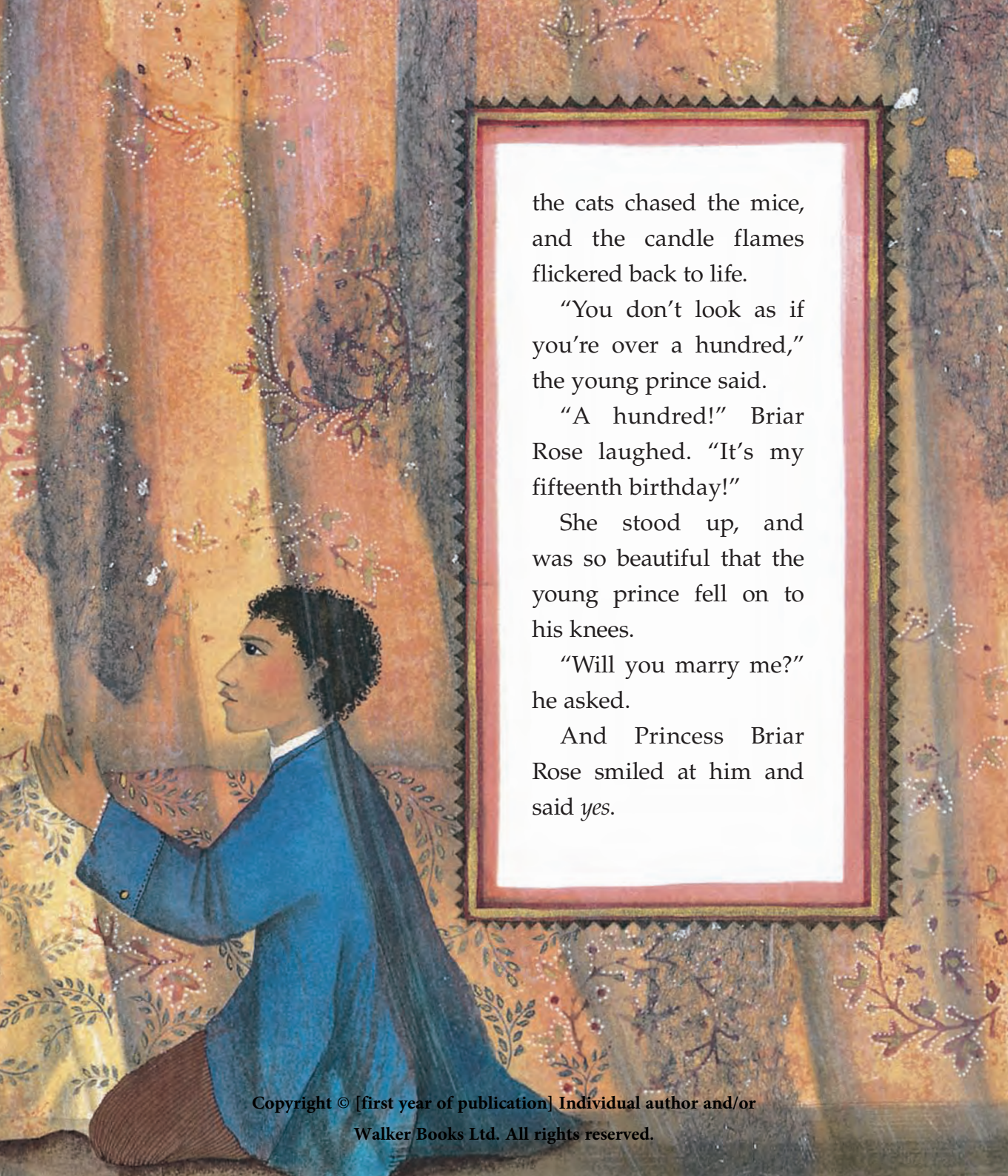


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A full-page illustration featuring a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a long, flowing white dress and a pearl necklace. She has her hands raised behind her head. The background is a wall with warm, golden-brown tones and delicate floral patterns in red and green. A dark dog is visible in the lower-left corner. The text is contained within a rectangular frame with a decorative, scalloped border.

without thinking he bent down and kissed her. And Princess Briar Rose opened her eyes.

The great clock in the castle started to tick. The king and queen yawned and stretched. The serving-maid in the kitchen, the stable-lad tending the horses, the butler, the parlour-maid, all rubbed their eyes. The chamber-maid jumped out of the bed and carried on making it, the cook jerked his head out of the cake bowl and licked his lips, the dogs strolled down the stairs,

The illustration shows a young man with dark, curly hair, wearing a blue suit jacket and a brown sweater, kneeling on the ground. He is looking up and touching a large, textured tree trunk with his hands. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with intricate floral and leaf patterns in shades of red, green, and brown. The scene is framed by a decorative, scalloped border.

the cats chased the mice,  
and the candle flames  
flickered back to life.

"You don't look as if  
you're over a hundred,"  
the young prince said.

"A hundred!" Briar  
Rose laughed. "It's my  
fifteenth birthday!"

She stood up, and  
was so beautiful that the  
young prince fell on to  
his knees.

"Will you marry me?"  
he asked.

And Princess Briar  
Rose smiled at him and  
said *yes*.