

Paper Princess: A Novel (The Royals, 1)

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#1 New York Times Bestseller USA Today Bestseller

From strip clubs and truck stops to southern coast mansions and prep schools, one girl tries to stay true to herself.

These Royals will ruin you...

Ella Harper is a survivor—a pragmatic optimist. She's spent her whole life moving from town to town with her flighty mother, struggling to make ends meet and believing that someday she'll climb out of the gutter. After her mother's death, Ella is truly alone.

Until Callum Royal appears, plucking Ella out of poverty and tossing her into his posh mansion among his five sons who all hate her. Each Royal boy is more magnetic than the last, but none as captivating as Reed Royal, the boy who is determined to send her back to the slums she came from.

Reed doesn't want her. He says she doesn't belong with the Royals.

He might be right.

Wealth. Excess. Deception. It's like nothing Ella has ever experienced, and if she's going to survive her time in the Royal palace, she'll need to learn to issue her own Royal decrees.

Erin Watt is the brainchild of two bestselling authors linked together through their love of great books and an addiction to writing. They share one creative imagination. Their greatest love (after their families and pets, of course)? Coming up with fun—and sometimes crazy—ideas. Their greatest fear? Breaking up.

"Ella, you're wanted in the principal's office," Ms. Weir says before I can step inside the Precalculus classroom.

I check my watch. "I'm not even late."

It's one minute before nine and this watch is never wrong. It's probably the most expensive item I own. My mom said that it was my dad's. Besides his sperm, it's the only thing he left behind.

"No, it's not about tardiness...this time." Her normally flinty gaze is soft around the edges, and my gut relays a warning to my sluggish morning brain. Ms. Weir is a hard ass, which is why I like her. She treats her students like we're here to learn about actual math instead of some life lesson on loving your neighbor and crap like that. So for her to be giving me sympathetic looks means something bad is cooking down at the principal's office.

She should save her sympathy for Justin Slade, the captain of the football team, who is unironically sticking his tongue between his fingers and wagging the wormlike thing at me. He bragged about his tongue the day we'd met, when he cornered me in the hallway, informed me I was hot, and graciously offered to give me the best sex of my life. I'd said

thanks, but no thanks.

Since then he's been hounding me to reconsider, but it doesn't matter, because I won't have to deal with him for much longer. He's going to college next year and will be in for a sore surprise when he realizes the best days of his life were in high school. His pathetic attempt at mocking me doesn't deserve acknowledgement.

"Fine." It's not like I can give any other response. I offer a nod and redirect myself to the school office.

"I'll email you the course assignment," Ms. Weir calls after me.

Again with the sympathy. I should be worried. The implication behind her statement is that I won't be returning to class, but there's nothing Principal Thompson has to say that could faze me.

Before enrolling in George Washington High School for my junior year, I had already lost everything of importance. There isn't anything else anyone can take from me.

Even if Mr. Thompson has somehow found out I'm not technically living in the GW school district I can think of some lie to stall for time, and if I have to transfer, which is the worst thing that could happen to me today, then I'll do it.

If he brings up the fact that my mother is a stripper? Well, I'll call him a liar and remind him that having a stripper for a mother isn't grounds for suspension or dismissal.

"How's it going, Darlene?"

The mom-haired school secretary barely looks up from her People magazine. "Take a seat, Ella. Mr. Thompson will be right with you."

Yep, we're on a first-name basis, me and Darlene. One month at GW High and I've already spent way too much time in this office, thanks to my ever-growing stack of late slips. But that's what happens when you work nights and don't see the smooth side of the sheets until three a.m. every night.

Other Books

Princesa de Papel, O primeiro livro da série The Royals, a nova sensação new adult dos EUA Ella Harper é uma sobrevivente. Nunca conheceu o pai e passou a vida mudando de cidade em cidade com a mãe, uma mulher instável e problemática, acreditando que em algum momento as duas conseguiriam sair do sufoco. Mas agora a mãe morreu, e Ella está sozinha. É quando aparece Callum Royal, amigo do pai, que promete tirá-la da pobreza. A oferta parece tentadora: uma boa mesada, uma promessa de herança, uma nova vida na mansão dos Royal, onde passará a conviver com os cinco filhos de Callum. Ao chegar ao novo lar, Ella descobre que cada garoto Royal é mais atraente que o outro - e que todos a odeiam com todas as forças. Especialmente Reed, o mais sedutor, e também aquele capaz de baixar na escola o "decreto Royal" - basta uma palavra dele e a

vida social da garota estará estilhaçada pelos próximos anos. Reed não a quer ali. Ele diz que ela não pertence ao mundo dos Royal. E ele pode estar certo. "Intenso, quente e assustador - eu não consigo parar de pensar em Princesa de papel" EMMA CHASE,

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