



## ***Prince for a Princess***

Eric Walters

illustrated by David Parkins

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### **About the Book**

Seven-year-old Christina desperately wants a dog. When she visits a kennel with her parents, she comes home with Prince, a greyhound recently retired from his champion racing career. Christina is thrilled and spends all her time with her new pal. They are like two peas in a pod. But one day, when Prince is left alone in the backyard, he escapes. Promising never to leave him alone in the backyard again, Christina's father comes home with a little surprise for a large dog.

### **About the Author**

**Eric Walters** began writing in 1993 as a way to entice his grade-five students into becoming more interested in reading and writing. At the end of the year, one student suggested that he try to have his story published. Since that first creation, Eric has published over seventy novels. His novels have all become bestsellers and have won over eighty awards. Often his stories incorporate themes that reflect his background in education and social work and his commitment to humanitarian and social-justice issues. He is a tireless presenter, speaking to over 70,000 students per year in schools across the country. Eric is a father of three and lives in Mississauga, Ontario, with his wife Anita and dogs Lola and Winnie. For more information, visit [www.ericwalters.net](http://www.ericwalters.net).

### **About the Writing**

This is a very personal book. My daughter Christina and her husband Marc adopted first a rescue greyhound—King—and then a rescue Chihuahua—Chauncho. Those dogs are members of our family and our “granddogs.” The illustrations in *Prince for a Princess* are what the two of them actually look like. I hope others will be inspired to adopt one of these wonderful dogs. When I walk King, I make sure to always allow him to sniff the grass as much as he wants.

**Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections*****Prereading Idea***

Owning a dog is a big responsibility and can be both rewarding and challenging. Discuss the pros and cons of dog ownership with students.

***Classroom Discussion Questions***

1. Have you or someone you know ever had a dog that was difficult to train or liked to escape?
2. What are some of the benefits to adopting pets that have been rescued?
3. What is it about pets that makes them part of the family?

***Suggested Activities***

- Select a scene within the text that students can dramatize and read aloud as a play.
- Christina gives a speech on greyhounds to her class. Have students choose an animal or insect, research five facts about it, and present their findings to their class.
- Have students research greyhounds on their own to find and share any additional facts about them that Christina did not already mention in her speech.

**Other Titles and Websites of Interest**

*Adopting the Racing Greyhound* by Cynthia A. Branigan

*The Complete Book of Greyhounds* by Julia Barnes

Greyhound relocation and adoption Canada

<http://gracanada.com>

Adopt A Greyhound—The Greyhound Project, Inc.

[www.adopt-a-greyhound.org](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org)

**Recent Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers**

*Between Heaven and Earth*

*Catboy and Hunter*

*The Matatu*

*When Elephants Fight*

**Reviews**

“This simple but entirely engaging short chapter book for early readers is filled with child appeal. Frequent ink illustrations...provide just the right amount of visual information to keep the pages turning. Satisfying big-dog-meets-little-girl story.”

—*Kirkus Review*