

Born in Scotland during the magical age of unicorns, Princess Aila is blessed with the ability to communicate with many animals. She discovers an enchanted forest full of unicorns and must risk her life to save an alicorn. All ages will love this heartwarming tale filled with friendship, trust, bravery and love.

Princess Aila and the Unicorns Book 1

by Bill Jameson, illustrated by Emme Rose

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Princess Aila AND THE Unicorns

BILL JAMESON

Book
1



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Written by: Bill Jameson

Illustrated By: Emme Rose



**The meaning of Aila is “from
a strong and resilient place.”**

The meaning paints a picture of a girl that
will grow to be a leader and one that does
not back down from a challenge.

*Dedicated to my Emily, Mollie
and Andrew
-Dad*

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Once when the world was new there lived a young princess with a special gift. The princess loved animals and was gifted with the ability to speak their many languages. Every morning she was in the stables whispering to the horses. In the afternoon she was in the hen house chatting with the chickens or in the pigpens giggling with the pigs. At sunset she would be in the meadows laughing with the lambs. She filled books full of drawings and writings about the animals she loved.

Her name was Princess Aila and she was the only child of King Fergus. As the clan's first king, King Fergus ruled his kingdom wisely with fairness toward everyone. He was a widower and knew someday his daughter would grow up to be the queen. He understood that for Aila to become a skillful leader, he must teach her all he knew about ruling a kingdom. Early every morning they walked through the gardens speaking on many topics, and the princess always asked many questions. Most of all, the king enjoyed watching the princess playing and talking with the animals.

The kingdom was in a part of the world that would someday be called Scotland. Thousands of years ago the forests of Scotland were filled with the same kinds of wild animals found there today. There were mountain hares, foxes, squirrels, and deer. However, there was one big difference. Many years ago, in the forests of King Fergus' kingdom, there lived wild unicorns!

It saddened the little princess when hunters returned from the forest with the hares they had snared, the foxes they had killed and the deer they had slain. One day she went to her father and asked if there could be a rule against killing wild animals. "You are the king after all," she argued. "You get to

make the laws. Please father, make a law that says the killing of wild animals is hereby **FORBIDDEN!**"

King Fergus took his 10 year old princess into his arms and explained.

"Aila, a king or queen must rule for all the people.

You must understand that the hunters use the meat and skins from these animals for their survival. Every hunt is done respectfully and whenever an animal is killed the hunters must pause and give thanks for the life of that animal. This is the way it has always been, our traditions, and now these are our laws."

"You are my father and a wise king," said Aila.

"I respect your word and your laws, but I believe it does not always have to be this way."



Time passed and one day the hunters returned from the forest with a wild unicorn they had slain. Princess Aila was beyond sad. She was very angry. She marched into her father's chambers with fists clenched.

"Father!" she exclaimed. "The hunters have returned with a slain unicorn. Please father, these are magical and beautiful creatures. Could we not protect these animals? Could we not have one law that says there shall be no killing of unicorns?"

The king looked at his daughter with sadness as she spoke for he knew in his heart how much she loved animals. He wanted to agree with her for he also believed that unicorns were enchanting. He sat down with his eyes facing hers and held her hands.

"Aila, I agree. Unicorns are beautiful creatures. The people of this kingdom and even my soldiers believe that the horn of the unicorn has much magic. If I were to create such a law as you suggest it would be impossible for me alone to enforce. You must understand Aila, unicorns are very clever and very fast. Rarely are unicorns ever killed."

And this was true, for this was the first time that Aila had ever laid eyes on a unicorn. She fought back tears and took a deep breath.

"Very well father, you are a wise king and I respect your wisdom. But there must be a solution to save the unicorns."

The princess hugged her father and left his chambers. To the princess, even one unicorn killed was one too many. Aila longed for the day she could go off into the forest alone in search of the unicorns and learn to speak their language.

Surely her father would never let a 10 year old child wander off into the forest alone, so she never asked his permission. For now, she would have to wait and hope that the unicorns would be safe from the hunters.

One day King Fergus came to Aila and told her he must leave and travel for many days. He wished to visit another king that lived far away in another kingdom. The king wanted to become friends and make peace with this clan. He explained that he would be gone for an entire month. Aila was worried and began to cry.

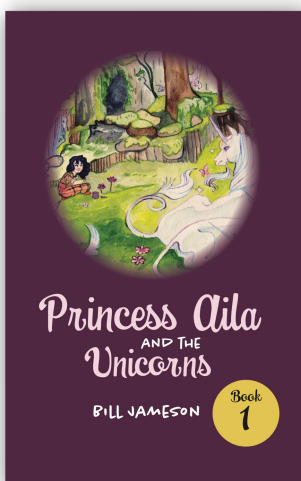
“Father we have never been apart, not even for one day. I am scared that you will not return,” cried the princess.

The king hugged his daughter and assured her there was no danger. He told her to take care of all the animals while he was away and time would pass quickly. He led her to his chambers and placed a very special looking wooden box into her hands. It was heavy and carved with unicorns.

“This is a gift from your mother,” he explained. “She told me that I would know when it was time to give it to you and that you would know what to do with it. I have no idea why, but I believe now is the time. Do not open it until I am gone. It will remind you in a hundred ways that you are loved. I will tell you more when I return.”

Aila was now sad and happy at the same time. She returned to her room and put the box on a shelf and stared at it until she fell asleep.





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