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The Amazing Adventures of the Princesses from Planet STEM

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On Planet STEM, all girls are princesses—rare, unique and one-of-a-kind.

One day, a plague hits the planet—the dark plague of Ignorance.

After the 20 princesses rally to ask their fairy godfather for help and he doesn't deliver, learn how the princesses save themselves

and Planet STEM by putting their strengths, talents and passions to work in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) with 100% girl power!!

This book is for girls ages 5-9, and their parents. Included is a list of resources for girls on planet Earth to engage more in STEM!

Resource Guide: <http://bit.ly/STEMPrincess>



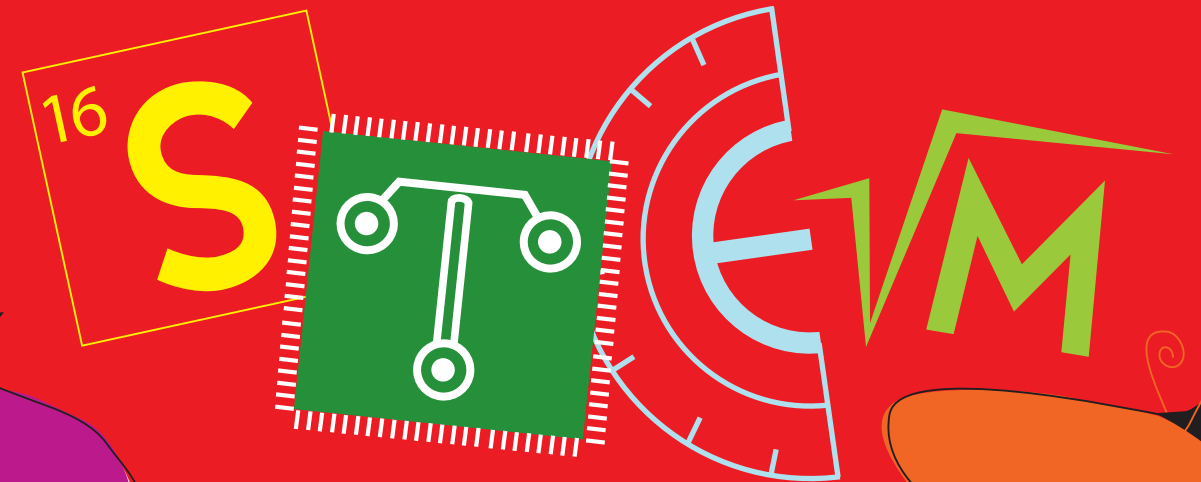
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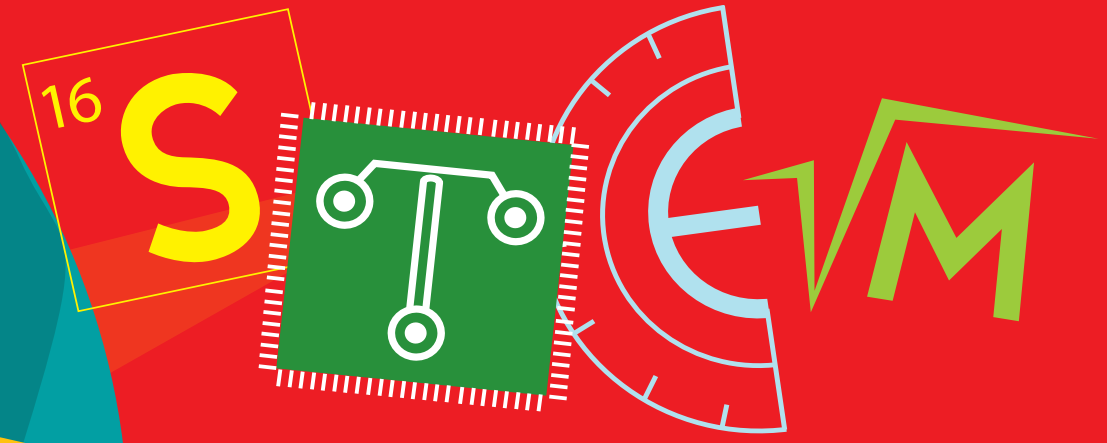
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ERIN L. ALBERT
ILLUSTRATED BY PAM FRAIZER



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF THE PRINCESSES *from* PLANET



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The Amazing Adventures of the Princesses from Planet STEM

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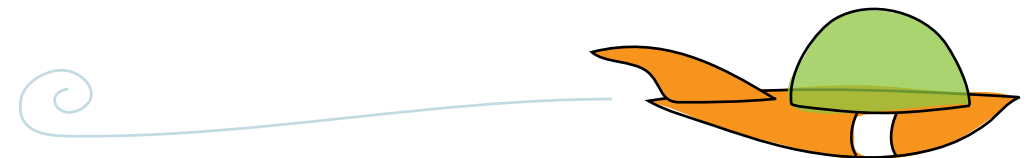
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**To all current and future STEM Princesses:
may you grow up and live happily ever after.**

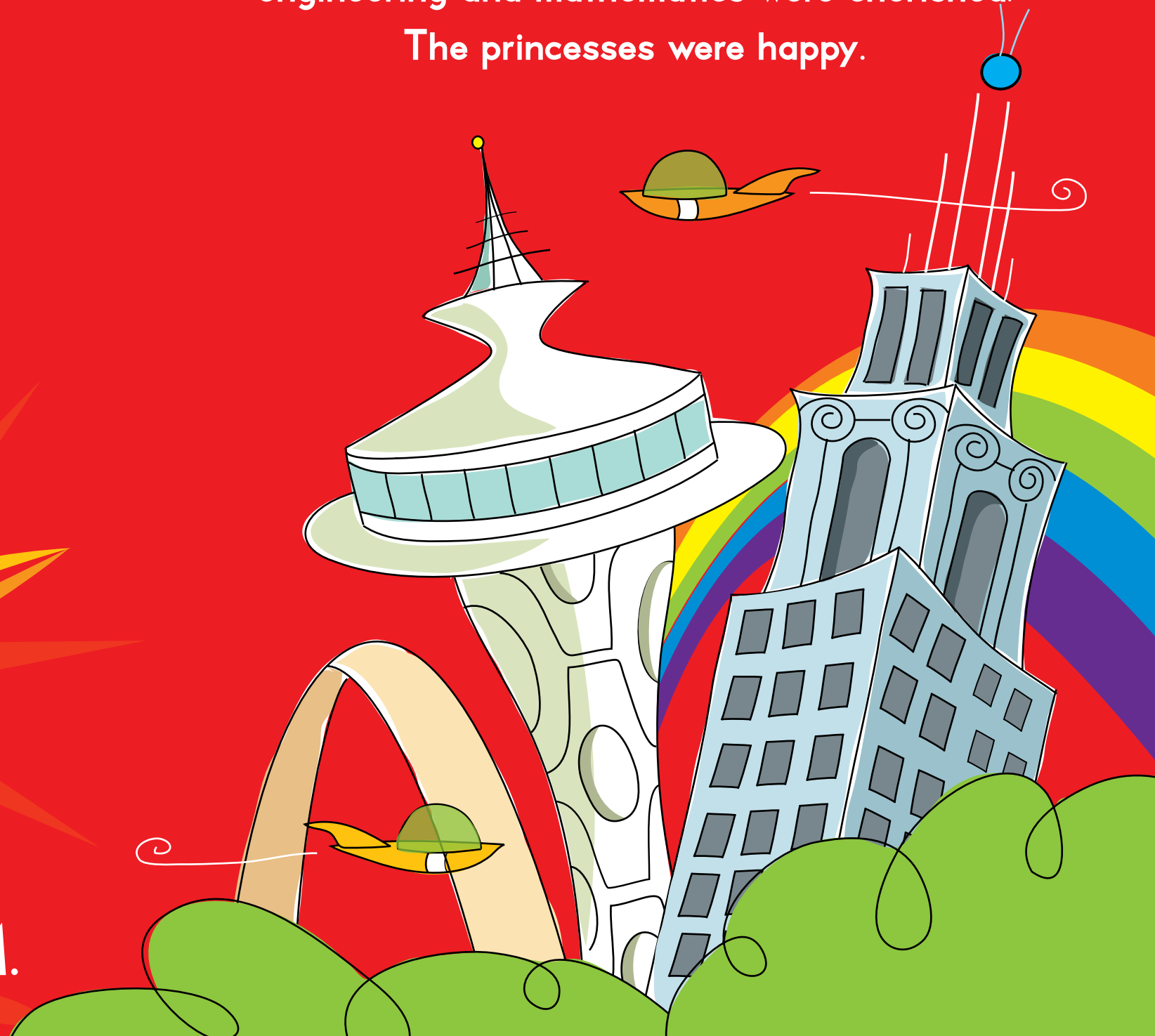


ONCE UPON *a* TIME
IN *a* GALAXY
NOT SO FAR AWAY...

...THERE WAS A PLANET WITH LIFE.


IT WAS CALLED PLANET STEM.

On this planet, all girls were princesses,
and it was a magical place—
where science, technology,
engineering and mathematics were cherished.
The princesses were happy.



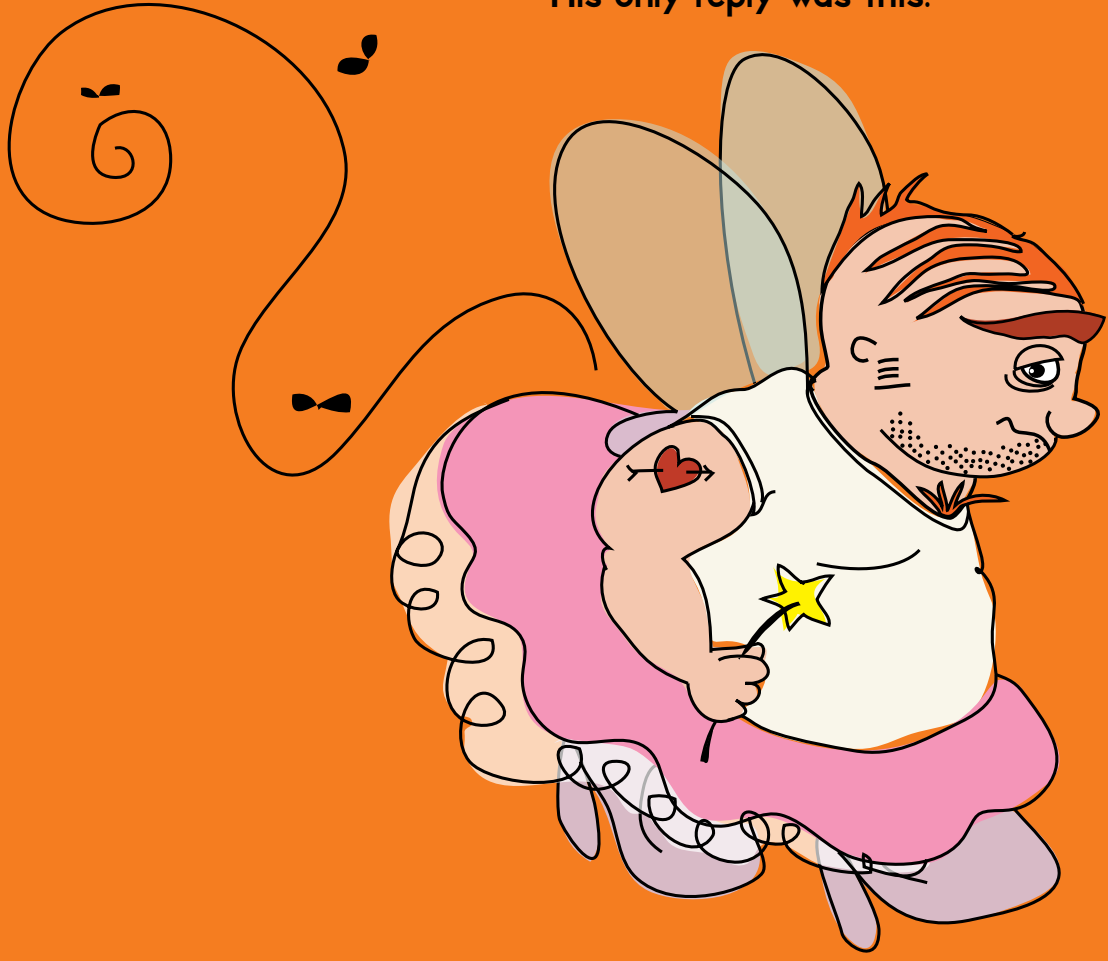


One day, an evil invader attacked Planet STEM.
It was called Ignorance. Ignorance began to spread
like a black, dark plague over the land.



The princesses gathered together
and asked, "What shall we do?
Who will save us from Ignorance?"

They called on their fairy godfather.
The princesses asked him what they should do.
His only reply was this:

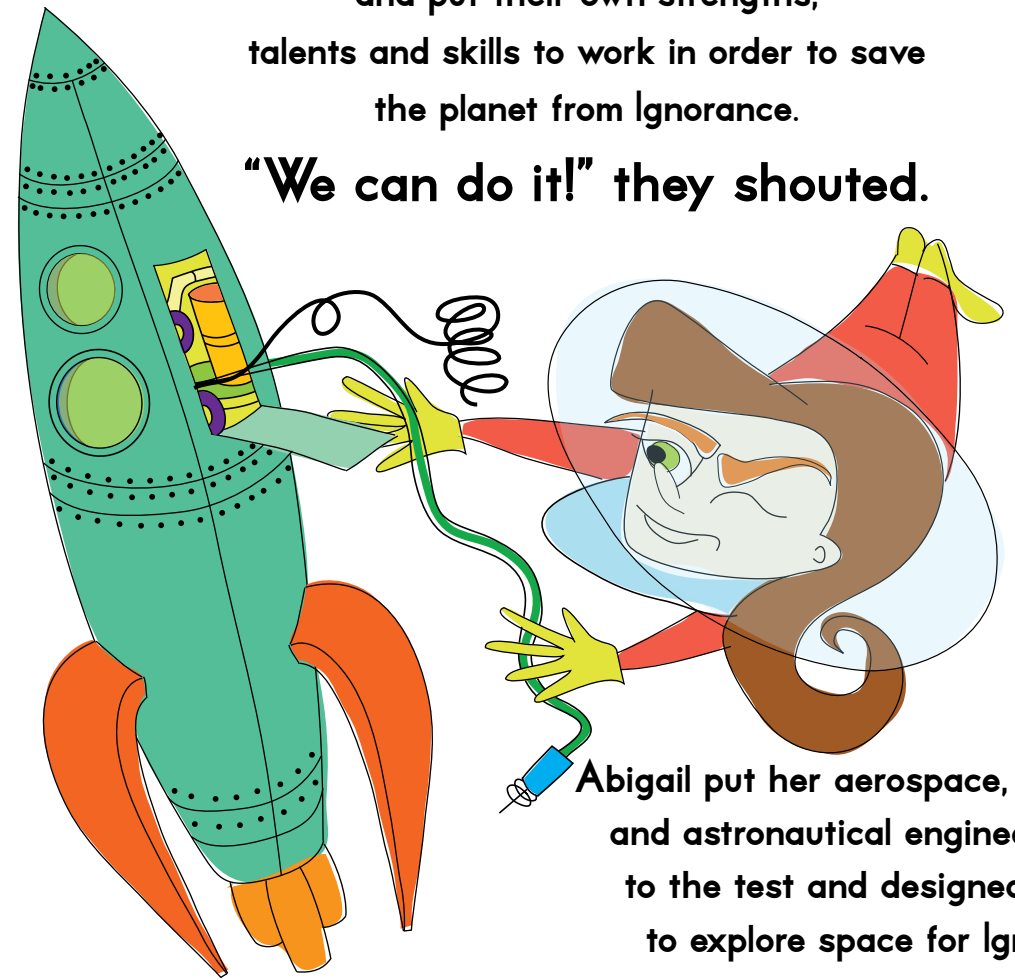


**“Girls! No one is coming to save you—
you MUST save yourselves!”**

The fairy godfather then disappeared.

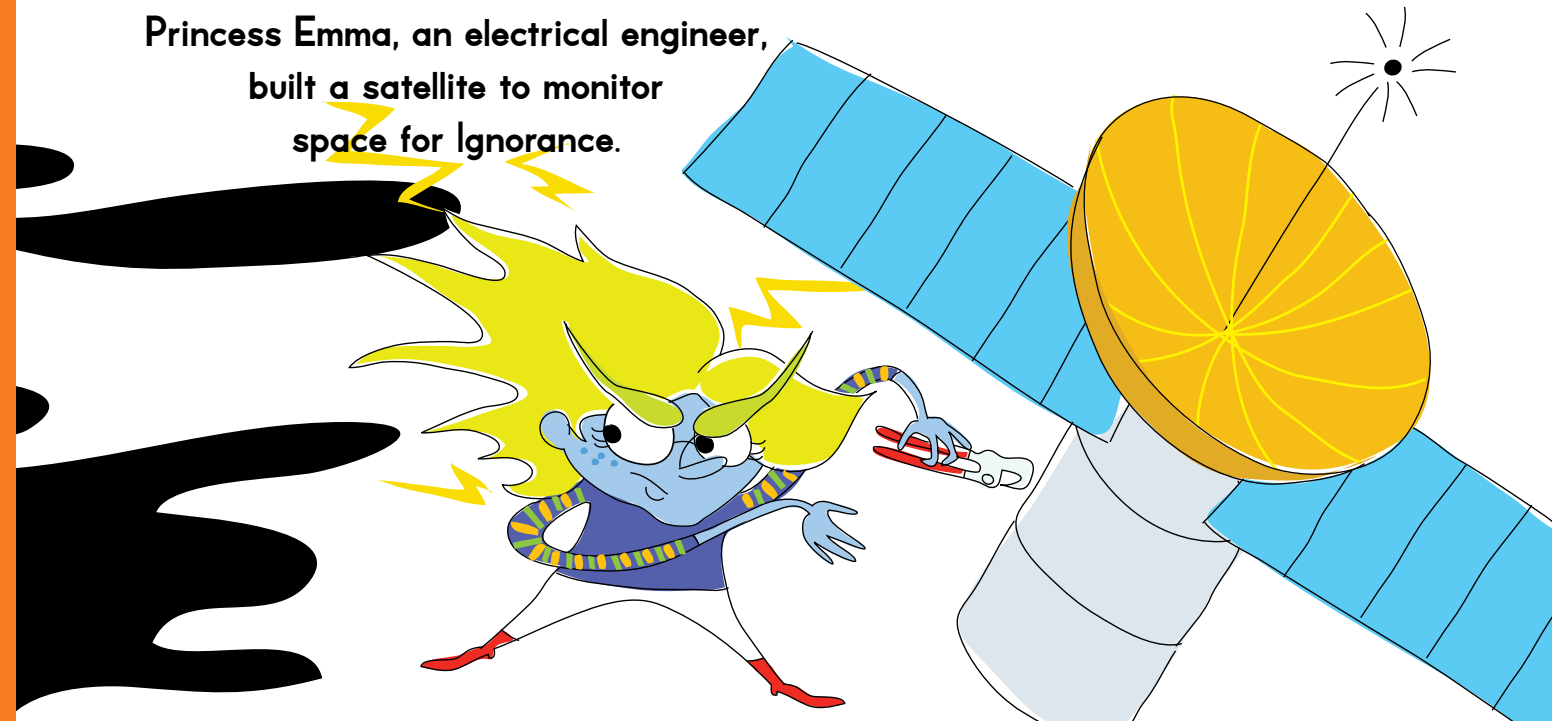
The girls took their fairy godfather’s advice
and put their own strengths,
talents and skills to work in order to save
the planet from Ignorance.

“We can do it!” they shouted.



Abigail put her aerospace, aeronautical
and astronautical engineering skills
to the test and designed a rocket
to explore space for Ignorance.

Princess Emma, an electrical engineer,
built a satellite to monitor
space for Ignorance.



Dear Parents:

Thank you for considering this book for your daughters (and sons) about STEM careers—science, technology, engineering and math. STEM careers include science (biology, chemistry, medicine, pharmacy), technology (computer science, programming, informatics, database administration), engineering (mechanical, electrical, chemical, aerospace, civil, design), and math (actuarial science, biomathematics, cryptography, even teaching).

As a STEM career professional (a pharmacist), along with being a first generation college graduate in my family, I wrote this book because I wanted to give back to the community that has given me so much and create a book for young girls to get introduced and excited about careers in these four extremely important areas regarding current and future employment.

Also, I'm alarmed by the abysmal statistics about the lack of women currently in STEM careers, including the following facts:

- Women make up less than 25% of the entire STEM workforce in the U.S. as I write this.
 - Among college graduates, men outnumber women in nearly every science and engineering major.
 - 89% of engineers are male, currently, and in some fields of engineering, the percentage of women drops to the single digits.
 - Girls who are interested in STEM fields are actually interested in many subjects and career opportunities—STEM is just one area of interest among many.
 - African American and Hispanic girls have high interest in STEM, high confidence and a strong work ethic, but have fewer supports, less exposure and lower academic achievement than Caucasian girls.
 - Nearly one-third of students with a STEM major or career interest will be the first in their families to attend college.
 - Male students are over three times more likely to be interested in STEM majors and careers, compared to female students.
- But, the interest in STEM careers for girls is decreasing and girls are actually becoming even less engaged in these career options:
- The number of women earning computer science degrees plummeted from 1985 to 2010—from 14,431 to 7,306 in the U.S.
 - While the gender gap in STEM interest has remained relatively steady over the past 20 years, it is now increasing at a significant—and alarming rate.
 - Female student interest in science was previously increasing at a rapid pace, but seems to have peaked.
 - The growth, by 2018 of STEM jobs will be in computer science (71%), traditional engineering (16%), physical sciences (7%), life sciences (4%)

and mathematics (2%), yet, the majority of female STEM students are interested in biology and life sciences, which do not correlate to the areas of extreme growth mentioned by 2018 (computer science and engineering).

The academic literature and studies support the following:

- To get girls excited about STEM, you have to reach them before middle school, when their interest in math and science often wanes,
- One of the biggest challenges in K-12 education is getting girls and kids in general interested in making things.

I wrote this book for girls aged 5-9 to introduce them to the wide range of options for future careers. Furthermore, I did want to engage princesses that solved their own problems and 'saved themselves', rather than waiting for someone else to save them. While every girl loves a good princess story (myself included), we need more tools, books and resources available to positively encourage girls to solve their own problems.

Last, I wanted to write this book to continue the dialogue on programming and support for girls interested in learning more about STEM careers. I've started a document that anyone can view: <http://bit.ly/STEMPrincess>, which lists places online to allow girls and their parents to dig even deeper into STEM camps, after school programs and resources to explore and engage beyond the four corners of this book. I'm passionate about growing this list; if you have or know of a great program, camp or class that I did not mention for girls interested in any area(s) of STEM, feel free to drop me an email at: pharmllc@gmail.com and I will be happy to add it to the list.

Regardless, good luck to your girl(s) and boy(s) interested in STEM careers. I've worked in a STEM field now for 20 years, and I love it!

All the best,
Erin



RESOURCE GUIDE FOR GIRLS & STEM TO LEARN MORE:

<http://bit.ly/STEMPrincess>

About the Kickstarter/Crowdfunding Program with the STEM Princess Project

This project (Project #STEMPrincess online—at Kickstarter as “Getting Girls Excited About STEM: A Children’s Book Project”) was funded in part by a Kickstarter campaign in October, 2013 - not to produce the book, but instead to give enough copies of this book to each public library in the state of Indiana. Through the following generous financial backers, we exceeded our goal to get copies of this book funded for Indiana public libraries. We are grateful to all who supported this project, which in turn exposes even more girls to STEM careers. Thank you!

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Also, I’d like to thank the following people who supported the #STEMPrincess project on Kickstarter in other ways—by spreading the word via media: Inside Indiana Business, Drug Topics Magazine, Pete the Planner, Indy Politics & Abdul-Hakim Shabazz, Local Lady of Richmond, and Stark Reality Check. Also, we had a real-world #STEMPrincess all grown up and living happily ever after video series to support the campaign, and thanks to the following real-world STEM Princesses all grown up who shared their stories! Kristin Eilenberg, Lodestone Logic; Tasha Phelps, Phelco Technologies, Inc.; Dr. Nichole Wilson, Community Health Network; Dr. Julie Koehler, Butler University CPHS; Shelley Myers, Simplee Wellness; and Kate Gundlach, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing.

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Thanks to all the teachers, girls and moms who helped with the resource guide and feedback on this book, including but not limited to: Dr. Julie Koehler, and Heather, Emma and Lindsey Hatcher.

Last but certainly not least, I need to thank my family, who helped me in countless ways for this project, along with the amazing Pam Fraizer, who illustrated this book.



Erin L. Albert

is a pharmacist, writer, entrepreneur and professor at Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. A STEM Princess all grown up and living happily ever after herself, she and her cat Jack currently live on planet Earth.



Pam Fraizer

is a graphic artist, illustrator, and owner of FraizerDesigns, LLC.

