

Princess Alice carried Best's box into the dining room, and put it on the floor beside her.

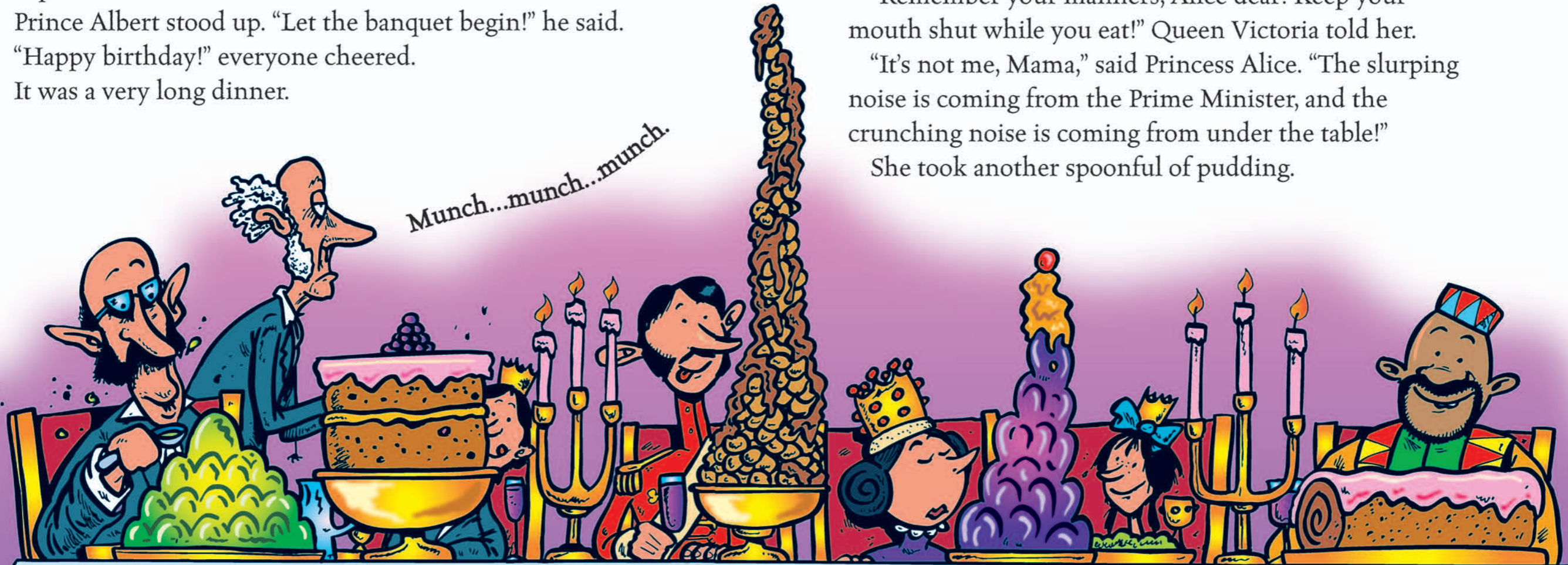
Prince Albert stood up. "Let the banquet begin!" he said. "Happy birthday!" everyone cheered. It was a very long dinner.

*Chomp...chomp...chomp.*

"Remember your manners, Alice dear! Keep your mouth shut while you eat!" Queen Victoria told her.

"It's not me, Mama," said Princess Alice. "The slurping noise is coming from the Prime Minister, and the crunching noise is coming from under the table!" She took another spoonful of pudding.

*Munch...munch...munch.*



The guests ate and ate and ate. At last, it was time for dessert. The table was covered with silver dishes piled high with raspberry jellies, chocolate puddings and strawberry ice cream.

*Slurp...slurp...slurp.*

*Crunch...crunch...crunch...*

