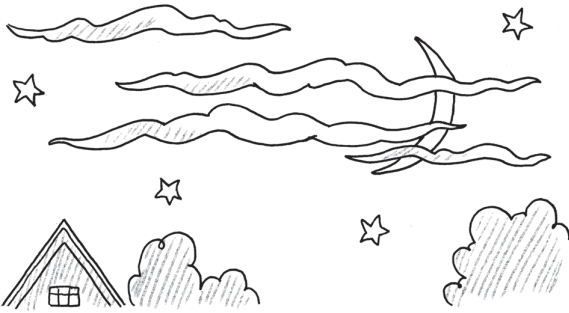




Chapter One

An Unexpected Visitor



The crescent moon was half hidden behind wispy clouds, the midnight sky glimmered with stars, and Rachel Walker lay asleep in her bed. She was dreaming of her many magical adventures in Fairyland. Most people can only dream of such a thing. But Rachel had often

visited Fairyland in real life. Only her best friend, Kirsty Tate, shared the wonderful secret that they were friends with the fairies.

“Rachel!”

The loud whisper broke into Rachel’s dreams. Her eyelids flickered.

“Rachel!” came the whisper again.

Rachel frowned and opened her eyes. It sounded like Kirsty. But how *could* it be? Kirsty was miles away at home in Wetherbury.

“I must have dreamt it,” Rachel murmured, closing her eyes and sinking back into sleep.

“Rachel!”

The voice was louder, and this time Rachel felt sure that she hadn’t imagined it. She sat up and stared around the

room. Who was speaking to her? She crossed her fingers. Please, *please* let this be the start of a new adventure!

“Hello?” she said.

There was an answering patter on the windowpane, like tiny drops of rain. Rachel jumped out of bed, her heart thudding with excitement. She ran to the window and flung open the curtains.



Moonlight spilled into the room, and Rachel gasped. Kirsty was outside, fairy-sized, fluttering her gauzy wings against the glass.

Rachel's fingers trembled eagerly as she turned the handle and opened the window. Kirsty slipped inside.



“Brrr, it’s cold out there,” Kirsty said, rubbing her arms.

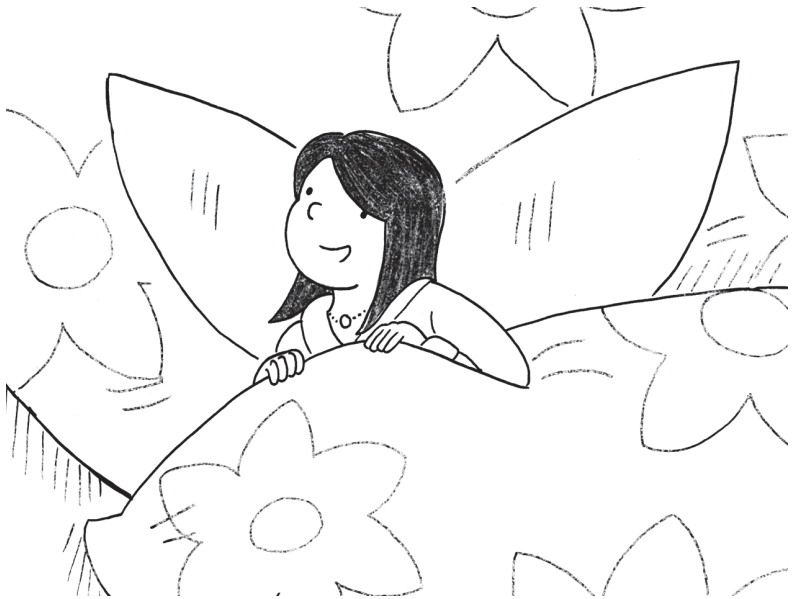
She was wearing pyjamas and a dressing gown. Rachel pinched herself to check that she wasn’t still dreaming.

“How did you get here?” she asked.

“And why are you fairy-sized? What’s happened?”

Kirsty flew to Rachel’s bed and snuggled under the corner of her duvet.

“I was asleep until about ten minutes ago,” she said. “Then I felt something tugging on my earlobe. It was Elisha the Eid Fairy.”



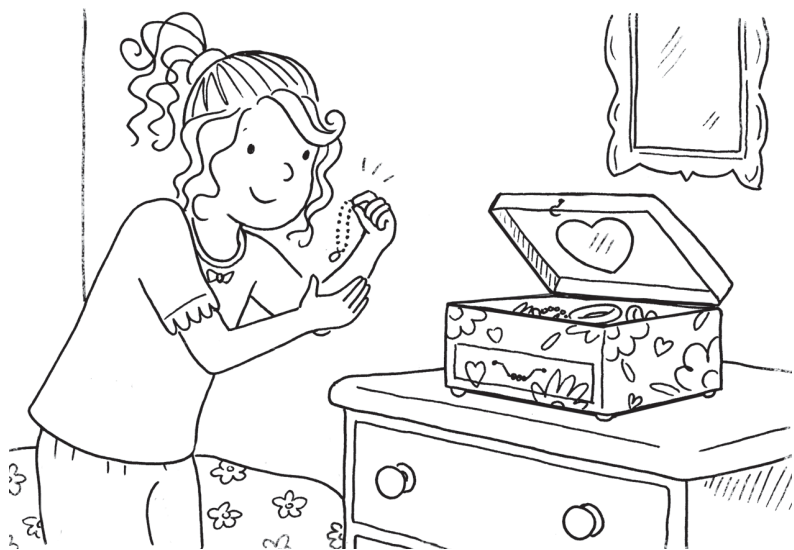
“Of course,” said Rachel breathlessly. “The new moon is in the sky. Eid starts tonight!”

Usually, the fairy adventures that Rachel and Kirsty shared lasted no more than a few days. But their most recent adventures had been very different. Jack Frost and his goblins had stolen the Festival Fairies’ magical objects to create his own festival, Frost Day, and now festival days all through the year were in danger of being ruined. The girls had helped the fairies at Diwali and at Hanukkah, but there were two enchanted objects still to find.

“Elisha said that the Festival Fairies need to talk to us,” said Kirsty. “She wanted us to come to Fairyland straight away. She turned me into a fairy and

then waved her wand to bring us here to Tippington. But when the sparkles faded, Elisha wasn't with me. Rachel, she's vanished!"

Rachel darted towards her dressing table. She opened her jewellery box and took out the locket that Queen Titania had given her. Inside was a pinch of sparkling fairy dust.



“There should be just enough magic here to carry us to Fairyland,” she said.

Rachel pulled on her dressing gown and then sat beside Kirsty and sprinkled the fairy dust over her own head. She felt a familiar tingle down her spine as she



shrank to fairy size. Pearly wings opened on her back, and she reached for Kirsty's hand.

“Please take us to the Festival Fairies,” they said together.

Instantly, the room was filled with little specks of dazzling light that danced in the air like fireflies and clung to their hair and clothes. Soon, Rachel and Kirsty were shining from head to toe. Then the light grew even brighter, and Rachel's bedroom completely disappeared.