





her friend. “Alex,” she said, “I told you about Stella Starkeeper and my bracelet’s power.” She jangled the charms. “Don’t you remember flying in the sky with me, looking at the clouds?”

He nodded. “Yeahhh, but I still think there’s a scientific —” He stopped, because Cassie was gazing past him. “You’re not listening!”

“Sorry,” said Cassie. “I just noticed some people visiting Bert.” She pointed down the hill that led into the town of Astral-on-Sea. A big green truck towing a horse trailer was pulling into Bert’s stables. His donkeys lived at the stables when they weren’t giving children rides on the beach.

“Let’s go and see what’s happening,”