

To Sarah B, a true friend
Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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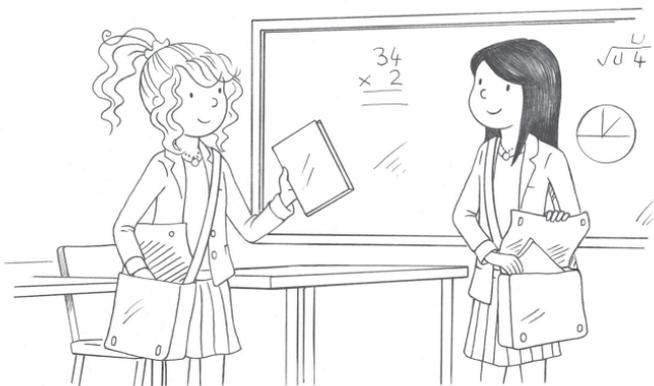
Alison

the Art

Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.



“Lunchtime already!” exclaimed Rachel Walker, closing her math book. “I wonder what kind of sandwiches Mom packed today.”

“I can’t believe I’m really here at school with you!” Kirsty Tate said with a smile.





Rachel nodded happily. Being in the same class as her best friend really was a dream come true! Kirsty normally went to school in Wetherbury, but heavy rain over the summer had flooded the classrooms. Now the school was closed for a week while the damage was repaired.

Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Walker had been chatting on the phone when Rachel came up with the idea of inviting Kirsty to Tippington. By the end of the call it was decided—Kirsty would stay with the Walkers for the week and go to school there. At first Kirsty had felt a little nervous about starting the school year somewhere new, but the thought of sitting next to her best friend in every class was so exciting! Since she'd started





yesterday, she'd loved getting to know Rachel's school. Everybody had been really friendly, apart from the pair of naughty goblins that had joined the class pretending to be new boys! Only Kirsty and Rachel had figured out who the screeching voices, pointy noses, and green uniforms really belonged to.

“Get out of my way!” yelled one of them now, barging to the front of the class.

“Nope!” grunted the other. “I’m getting *my* lunch first!”





Kirsty's teacher, Mr. Beaker, frowned at the noisy pair.

“Settle down, please,” he said sternly. “You'll cause an accident if you push and shove.”

The goblins were fighting so loudly they didn't hear a word Mr. Beaker said. As they struggled to get through the door, they bumped into a table, knocking over a stack of cardboard boxes. Egg cartons, paper towel rolls, and empty tissue boxes tumbled all over the floor. Kirsty and Rachel rushed to pick them back up again.

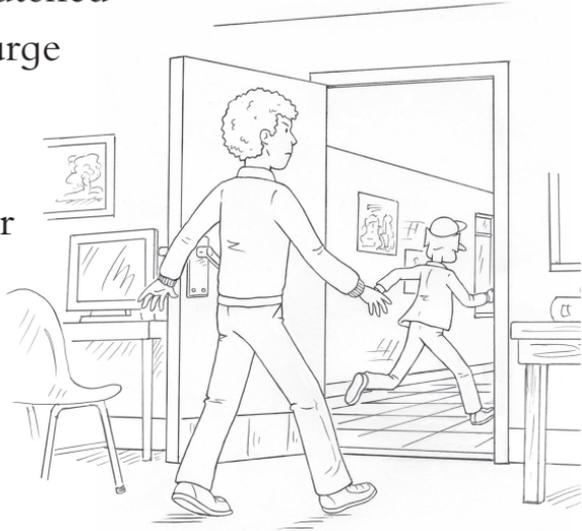




“Those awful goblins!” whispered Rachel. “I hope they don’t cause any more trouble.”

Kirsty watched the pair barge out of the room with Mr. Beaker on their heels.

“I have a horrible feeling they might,” she said ruefully.



During one of their first classes together, the girls had met someone amazing—Marissa the Science Fairy. Kirsty and Rachel had been friends with





the fairies ever since their first trip to Rainspell Island. The girls were always ready to help them outwit Jack Frost and his army of goblin servants. This time, however, Jack Frost really had gone a step too far. He'd sent his goblins to steal four magical gold star badges belonging to the School Day Fairies—Marissa and her friends Alison the Art Fairy, Lydia the Reading Fairy, and Kathryn the Gym Fairy. He had a rotten plan in mind for the badges, too. The vain Jack Frost had set up his own school for goblins, filled with classes all about him!

The poor School Day Fairies had been dismayed. They needed their badges to make subjects interesting and help lessons run smoothly. Until the





precious objects were back where they belonged, classes in Fairyland and the human world were in trouble.

“I don’t want another science lesson like yesterday,” said Rachel, giving a little shudder. The morning had been full of mishaps until Kirsty and Rachel had figured out what was happening. The rowdy new boys had turned out to be two of Jack Frost’s naughtiest students, a pair so full of mischief that they’d even been expelled from his goblin school! Before leaving Jack Frost’s frozen kingdom, the goblins had stolen all four magical badges and fled to the human world. Kirsty and Rachel had managed to return one badge to Marissa, but they still needed to find the other three.

“We have to be ready for anything,”





said Kirsty, picking up an armful of cardboard. “If the goblins are still in school, the badges must be here somewhere, too.”



“But Marissa said that King Oberon and Queen Titania will be visiting the Fairyland School in a few days,” remarked Rachel with a sigh. “We have to get the badges back before then.”

“There isn’t much time,” agreed Kirsty.





“Time for what?”

The friends spun around. Mr. Beaker had walked back into the classroom! Rachel’s cheeks turned red. She hoped that the teacher hadn’t overheard their conversation—nobody else knew about the fairies. Before she could think of an answer, Kirsty piped up.

“I was just telling Rachel that it’s time to go out to the playground!”

Mr. Beaker nodded, then sat down at his desk.

“Thanks for picking up those boxes, girls,” he said gratefully.





“I’ve been collecting them all summer.”

“What are they for?” Rachel wondered aloud.

Now Mr. Beaker was the one looking mysterious.

“It’s for a special art project,” was all he would say. “You’ll find out more after lunch.”

Kirsty and Rachel exchanged excited smiles. Art was one of their favorite subjects!

As soon as they’d eaten their sandwiches and fruit, Rachel took Kirsty out to the playground.

“Look, Amina and Adam are over there!” cried Rachel, pointing to her friends.

“Should we go say hello?” suggested Kirsty.

Amina and Adam were in a quiet





corner, kneeling side by side on the blacktop.

“Mr. Beaker said we could use chalk to create some playground art,” explained Amina, “as long as we wash it off every Friday.”

“Or it rains first!” Adam grinned, pointing up to the sky.



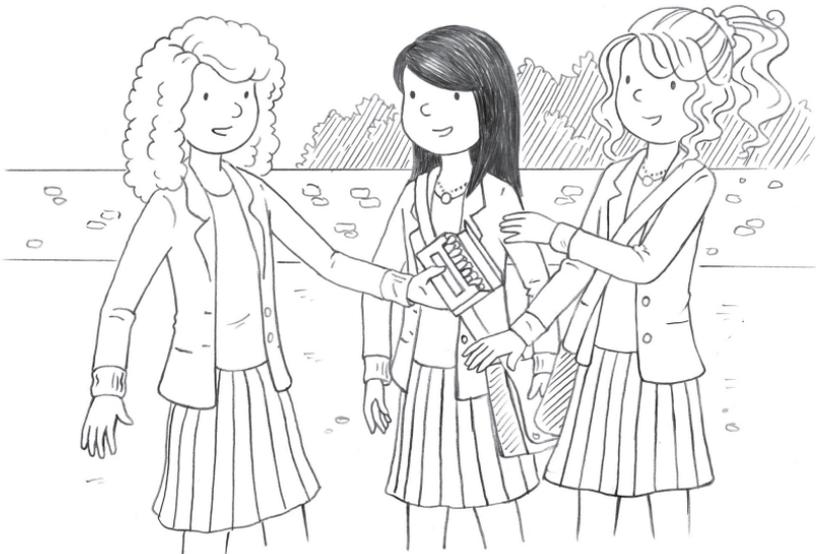


Amina handed a box of chalk to Rachel and Kirsty. “Want to try?”

The girls replied at once. “Yes, please!”

“I know just what to draw,” declared Rachel, pulling out a piece of red chalk. “A fairy!”

She imagined Ruby the Red Fairy

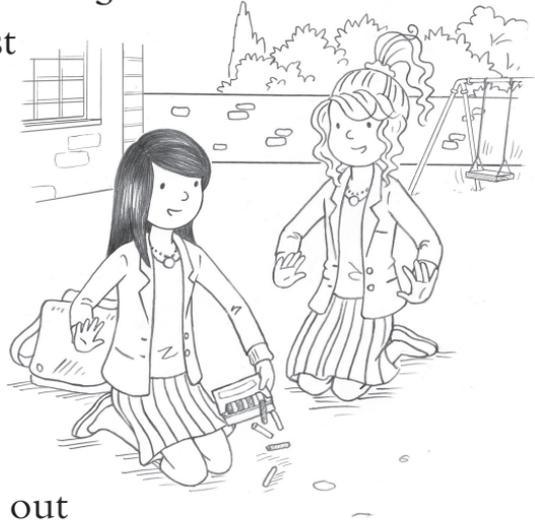




fluttering in the sky.

She could just picture the shape of her dainty wings and the rosebuds in her hair.

Next to her, Kirsty tipped out the rest of the colors of chalk.



“Why don’t I draw a rainbow for the fairy to fly over?” she suggested.

Rachel beamed. She couldn’t help but notice the secret twinkle in Kirsty’s eye! Soon the girls’ chalk picture began to take shape.

“Something’s not right,” said Rachel, standing back to look at it better.



Somehow Ruby's cheerful face had creased up into a frown! Her wand was crooked, too.

“My poor rainbow.” Kirsty sighed.
“It's turned into a smudgy mess!”

Amina and Adam weren't doing much better. They had tried to draw a happy farmyard scene, but it had just come out as scribbles.

“I don't want to do this anymore,” said Adam, putting down the chalk and standing up. “Let's go play on the swings.”





Amina followed him, leaving Rachel and Kirsty by themselves.

Rachel wrinkled her nose. “I would never draw Ruby without a smile,” she remarked. “Do you think this has something to do with the missing badges?”

“Y-yes!” stuttered Kirsty, grabbing Rachel’s arm and pointing down at her chalk rainbow.

Rachel gasped. The blurry pinks, yellows, and blues had started to shimmer and glow! A magical haze billowed over the ground, glinting with colorful twinkles. A tiny dot in the middle started to get bigger and bigger until . . . *ting!* A magical fairy appeared!

