

## Franny the Jelly Bean Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.

## To Aleka, with love

## Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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## Surprises



"This is a bumpy ride!" said Kirsty Tate with a laugh.

She and her best friend, Rachel Walker, giggled as they bounced up and down. Kirsty's aunt Helen patted the dashboard.

"I love this good old Candy Land van," she said. "Even if it is a little noisy and bumpy sometimes."

Candy Land was the candy factory just outside Wetherbury Village, and Aunt Helen was lucky enough to work there.

"Candy Land is my second favorite thing about Wetherbury," said Rachel.





"What's your favorite?" asked Kirsty.
"Staying with you, of course," said
Rachel with a grin. "It's always magical."

Rachel had come to visit Kirsty over the school break. Ever since they had become best friends, they had also been good friends with the fairies. Magic always seemed to follow them around when they were together. Sometimes they thought that it was as if their friendship cast a very special spell.

This time, Monica the Marshmallow
Fairy had whisked them away to the
Fairyland Candy Factory, where candy
grew on trees. They had met the other
Sweet Fairies, who used their magical
objects to make sure that all candy was
sweet and delicious. The fairies were
getting ready for the annual Harvest Feast,

and asked Rachel and Kirsty if they would like to come. But then Jack Frost had appeared with his goblins. He had stolen the Sweet Fairies' magical objects so that he could keep all candy for himself.

Kirsty and Rachel had helped two of the Sweet Fairies get their magical objects back, but there were still two more to find. However, today they had something else on their minds. They were on their way to see a boy named Tal, who volunteered as a dog walker at the Wetherbury Animal Shelter.

"I can't wait to see Tal's face when he finds out that he's a winner," said Kirsty.

Candy Land had been giving its Helping Hands awards to young people who did helpful things in the community. The girls had been helping Aunt Helen surprise the winners with special bags of Candy Land treats.

"What's inside Tal's Candy Land bag?" Rachel asked.

"Jelly beans," said Aunt Helen, smiling.



"Yum, I love jelly beans," said Kirsty.

"I brought along a small pack of them for you to share," said Aunt Helen. "You'll find them in the back of my seat."

Rachel put her hand into the pocket on the back of Aunt Helen's seat, and found the jelly bean pack. She opened it and chose a purple one.

"Grape is my favorite jelly bean flavor," she said, holding out the bag to Kirsty.

"Mine's strawberry," said Kirsty, choosing a pink one. "Thank you so much, Aunt Helen!"

Just then, Aunt Helen turned down a narrow, rutted lane. Kirsty squealed as the van went over a big bump in the road, shaking and rattling. It was even noisier than before. Smiling, the girls popped the candy into their mouths. But when they





tasted them, they got a terrible shock.

"Ugh," said Rachel.

"Yuck," said Kirsty.

Rachel pulled a tissue out of her pocket, and both girls put the jelly beans into it.

"That wasn't strawberry flavored," said Kirsty. "It tasted like sour milk."

"Mine was like rotten eggs," said

Rachel. "Oh no, what if Tal's jelly beans taste bad, too?"

"They're bound to," said Kirsty. "This is all Jack Frost's fault!"

They exchanged a worried look and then glanced at Aunt Helen. Because of the noisy van, she hadn't heard anything. And that was lucky, because the girls had promised never to tell anyone about Fairyland or the fairies.

Rachel and Kirsty knew exactly what was wrong with the jelly beans. The Sweet Fairies were still missing two of their magical treats. Without them, the Harvest Feast would be ruined, and so would Tal's bag of jelly beans.

The girls wanted to help, but they couldn't do it on their own.

Suddenly, Kirsty noticed something





unusual. The Helping Hands bag was glowing. The pink and white stripes shone as if each jelly bean inside the bag was a tiny light.

"That's magic," Kirsty whispered in excitement.

Rachel's heart was fluttering. No matter how many times she shared magical adventures with her best friend, every time was always just as thrilling

as their very first meeting with the fairies on Rainspell Island.

Smiling, she opened the bag, and out flew Franny the Jelly Bean Fairy.

Another magical adventure was about to begin!