

Nicole the Beach Fairy

Special thanks to Narinder Dhani

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“Isn’t it wonderful to be back on Rainspell Island again, Rachel?” Kirsty Tate said happily, gazing out over the shimmering blue-green sea. “It hasn’t changed a bit!”

Rachel Walker, Kirsty’s best friend, nodded. “Rainspell is still as beautiful as ever,” she replied as the two girls followed the rocky path down to the beach. “This is one of the most special places in the whole world!”

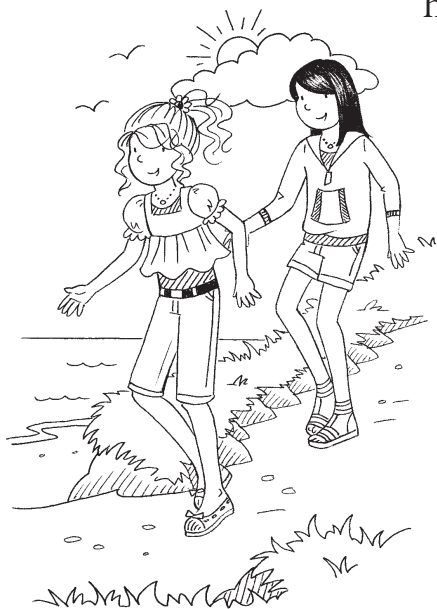




The Tates and the Walkers were spending school break on Rainspell Island. Even though it was fall, the sky was a clear blue and the sun was shining brightly, so it felt more like summer.

Kirsty and Rachel couldn't wait to get to the beach and dip their toes in the ocean.

"You're right, Rachel," Kirsty agreed, her eyes twinkling.



"After all, this is where we first became friends!"

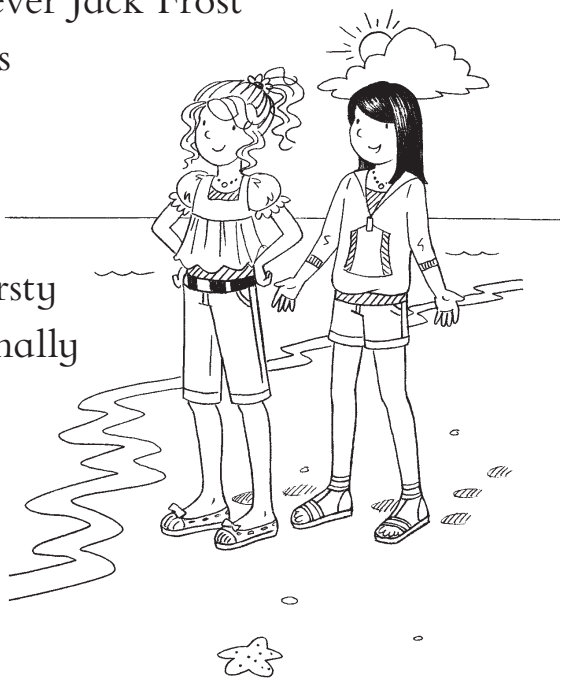
"And we found lots of other amazing friends here, too, didn't we?" Rachel laughed.



Kirsty and Rachel shared a magical secret. During their first visit to Rainspell Island, they'd met the Rainbow Fairies, who had been cast out of Fairyland by Jack Frost's wicked spell. Since then, the girls had gotten to know many of the other fairies. Their tiny, magical friends asked Rachel and Kirsty for help whenever Jack Frost and his goblins were causing trouble.

"This is gorgeous!" Kirsty said as they finally reached the beach.

The golden sand seemed



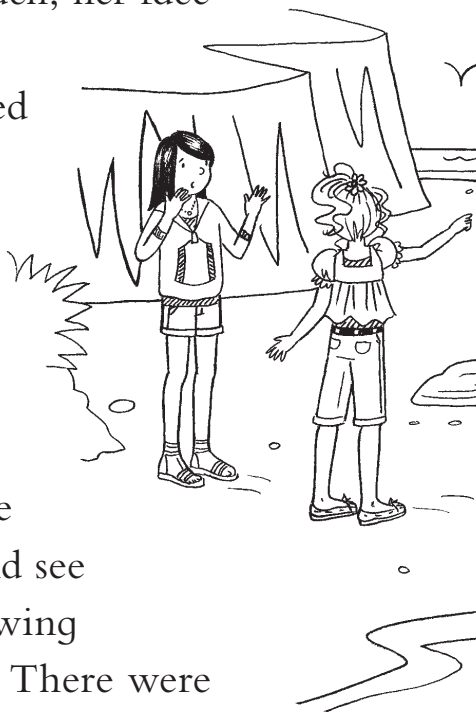


to stretch for miles into the distance. Seagulls soared in the sky, and Kirsty could smell the fresh, salty sea air. “Should we explore the rock pools?” she suggested.

But Rachel didn’t reply. She was looking down the beach, her face clouded with dismay.

“Haven’t you noticed the litter, Kirsty?” she asked, pointing ahead of them.

Kirsty stared at the golden sand more closely. To her horror, down near the water’s edge, she could see some plastic bags blowing around in the breeze. There were





also some soda cans and empty water bottles floating in the ocean.

“Oh, Rachel, this is awful!” Kirsty exclaimed. “I don’t remember seeing *any* litter last time we were here.”

✓ Rachel frowned. “We’ve been learning about the environment and being green at school,”

)) she told Kirsty. “And

our teacher says

that plastic is

one of the most

dangerous

things for sea

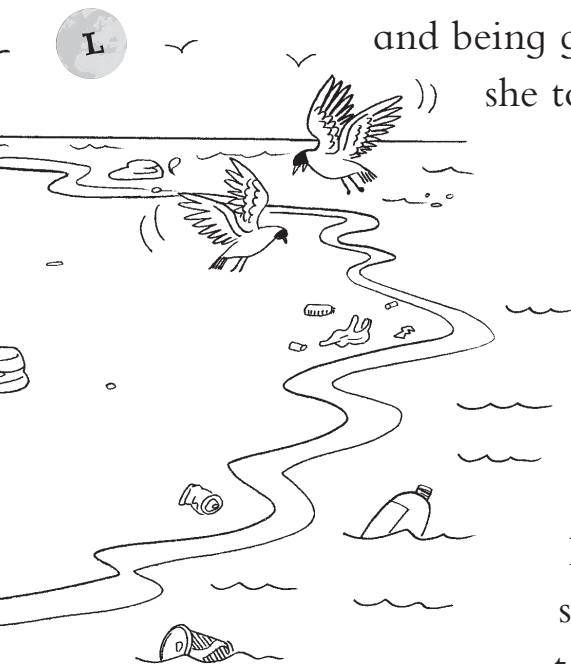
creatures,

because it can

kill them if they

swallow it or get

tangled up in it.”



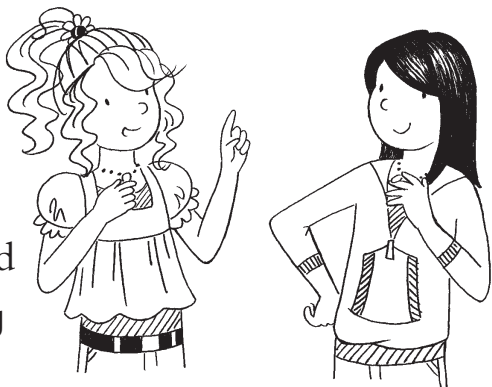


Kirsty shaded her eyes and looked farther down the beach. She could see even more litter strewn across the sand.

“Rachel, we have to do something about this.” Kirsty had a determined look on her face. “Rainspell Island is beautiful, and we have to keep it that way. We’ll need help, though — and I know just where we can get it!”

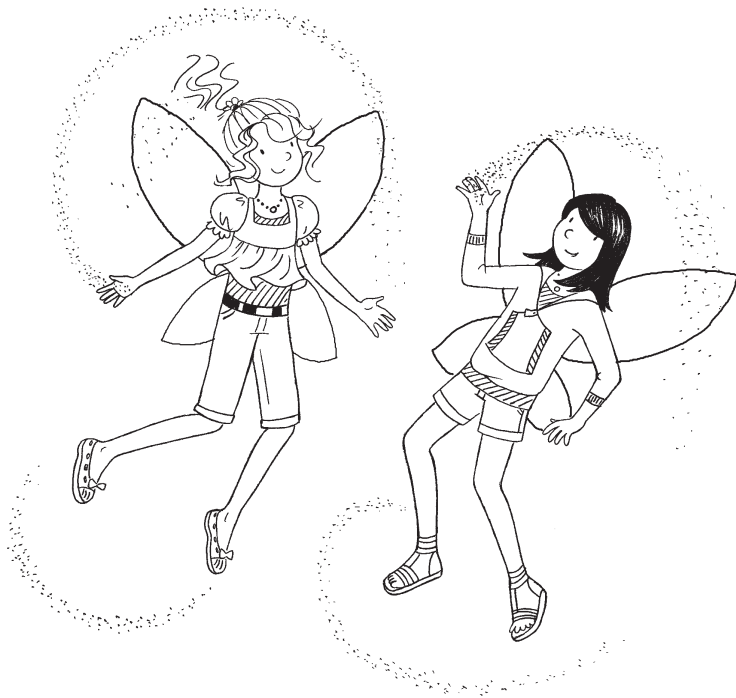
Rachel’s face lit up. “Fairylnd!” she burst out excitedly.

Kirsty nodded. Quickly, the girls opened the magical lockets they wore around their necks. They each took out a pinch of fairy dust.





Rachel and Kirsty sprinkled the dust over themselves, and instantly they were surrounded by a mist of rainbow-colored sparkles that lifted them off their feet. The two girls spun through the air, shrinking down to fairy-size.





A few seconds later, Kirsty and Rachel tumbled gently onto the emerald lawn outside the pink and white Fairyland Palace. To the girls' delight, they saw that the king and queen of Fairyland and their frog footman, Bertram, were already waiting for them.

"Hello, girls," Queen Titania called with a welcoming smile.

"We knew that you were on your way!"

"Sorry to turn up so unexpectedly, Your Majesties,"

Rachel said.

"But this time we need *your* help!"

Kirsty added.





“You’re always welcome in Fairyland, girls,” Queen Titania replied with a sweet smile. “You are our dearest friends!”

“Now, how can we help you?” asked King Oberon.

Rachel took a deep breath. “Well, it’s about Rainspell Island,” she began.

Quickly, Rachel explained how she and Kirsty had found lots of litter on the beach.





“And it’s not just Rainspell Island,” Kirsty added. “The whole human world needs help with the environment.”

The king and queen looked dismayed.

“We’ve heard about these problems,” King Oberon said with a sigh. “But even though we’d like to help, our magic isn’t powerful enough to fix them all.”

Queen Titania whispered something in the king’s ear, and the two of them talked for a moment in low voices. Then the queen turned to Rachel and Kirsty.





“Girls, we have a plan!” she announced. “Today is the Fairyland Wand Ceremony — and you’re invited to join us.” She turned to Bertram. “Please tell the seven fairies currently in training to meet us immediately by the Seeing Pool.”

As Bertram hopped away, Kirsty turned to Rachel.

“The Fairyland Wand Ceremony?” Kirsty whispered, looking very curious. “I wonder what *that* is?”

