Lexi
the Firefly
Fairy
The sun was setting and the evening was growing cooler at Camp Stargaze. Rachel Walker zipped up her fleece and tucked an arm through Kirsty Tate’s to keep warm. Rachel and Kirsty were best friends, and their families were on vacation together for a week. Exciting
things always seemed to happen when the two girls got together. So far, this vacation was already looking like another very magical one!

Kirsty and Rachel were gathered with about twenty other kids at the edge of the campsite. There was going to be a special nighttime walk, and everyone was chatting happily as they waited for it to begin.

“Is everyone ready? Let’s go into the Whispering Woods!” called Peter, one of the camp counselors. Kirsty and Rachel walked with the rest of the group into the forest. It was cool and
dark underneath the leafy trees. Kirsty turned on her flashlight and pointed it ahead. The tall trees swayed in a gentle breeze, and their leaves really did seem to make a whispering sound. “It’s creepy being here in the dark, isn’t it?” she said to Rachel.

“Yeah, it is,” Rachel replied, glancing around. “It makes you wonder what’s hiding in those shadows.”

“Whoooo-oooo-ooooo!”

Rachel and Kirsty clutched at each other as they heard a ghostly wailing behind them. They spun around to see two
boys, Lucas and Matt, laughing so hard they were doubled over. “Gotcha!” Matt cackled.

“Your faces! You looked terrified!” Lucas added, his eyes sparkling with mischief.

Kirsty and Rachel laughed, too, once their hearts had stopped racing. Then Rachel had an idea, and she winked at Kirsty. “Oh, my goodness!” she said, pretending to gasp in fright. “Look up there—those two glowing eyes. They’re staring down at us!” The boys gazed at
the tree where Rachel was pointing—and now it was their turn to look scared.

“No way!” Matt yelped in alarm. Shining out of the darkness were two gleaming lights that looked exactly like the eyes of a wild animal.

“What do you think it is? A mountain lion?”

“Hmmm,” said Kirsty, pretending to think. “It looks like it’s a really dangerous... firefly. Actually, two fireflies!” She and Rachel giggled. The glittering lights in the tree were only a couple of flickering
fireflies—there was nothing scary or dangerous about them!

Peter, the leader, had overheard. “Wait until we get to the Twinkling Tree,” he said. “It always has tons of fireflies around it. It’s pretty high up, so you can see the lights of the fireflies from far away. It attracts other fireflies to it.” He grinned. “When they’re all twinkling on the branches, it looks like it’s decorated for Christmas. Or like it’s a tree that’s full of fairy magic!”

Rachel and Kirsty smiled at one another. They knew all about fairy magic! They were friends with the
fairies, and often helped them—especially if the horrible Jack Frost and his sneaky goblins had been up to their usual tricks!

The group started climbing a hill, but Matt suddenly stopped walking. “What was that? I just heard something,” he said, shining his flashlight into the dark bushes.

Kirsty rolled her eyes at Rachel. “Matt, are you trying to scare us again?” she asked.

Matt shook his head. “No, honestly! I heard a rustling sound in the bushes. Listen!” The girls stopped and listened. Matt was right—there
was a rustling noise close by. “Are there bears out here?” Lucas wondered. He sounded nervous.

Peter smiled and shook his head. “No,” he said. “It’s probably just a badger. There’s nothing to worry about.”

Rachel, Kirsty, Lucas, and Matt all aimed their flashlights toward the bushes. Rachel hoped it was a badger—she’d never seen one before.

“There’s a face!” Lucas cried out, pointing. He gulped. “I saw a face . . .
but it was green. What could that be?”

Matt started joking about aliens, but Peter remained calm. He explained that it was probably just animals moving around in the green leaves, and that it had only *looked* like a face. Still, Rachel and Kirsty exchanged a worried glance. They were pretty sure the green face didn’t belong to an alien or an animal, but something much worse: one of Jack Frost’s goblins!