

Special thanks to Kristin Earhart

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ISBN 978-1-338-15772-7

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 17 18 19 20 21

Printed in the U.S.A. First printing October 2017 40



Michelle the Winter Wonderland Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.





"It was so nice of your mom to invite me on this trip," Rachel Walker said to her best friend, Kirsty Tate. She looked out at the blue waves churning around the ferry and took a deep breath.



"The trip was my mom's prize for winning a painting contest. It was for her favorite travel website," Kirsty explained. Kirsty was proud of her mom. Mrs. Tate's oil painting was beautiful—a stunning close-up of the details of a deep green pine-tree branch, dusted with crystal-white snow. The painting's background was of the serene landscape of snow-covered hills. "I've never been to Snowbound Island before, and this is the weekend of their famous Winter Wonder Festival."

"I've never been to a winter resort, either, but the photos on the website looked almost exactly like your mom's painting," Rachel said.

"Maybe that's why she won!" Kirsty mused. "You know, my mom said she



was looking forward to sleeping in and having breakfast in bed, but I'm just excited to get out in the snow."

"I know. We haven't had any snow at home at all."

Even though it was well into December

and almost time to celebrate the winter holidays, the weather had been dreary and rainy.

"My dad checked the forecast. They've had tons of snow on the island," Kirsty said.

"I think he was right," Rachel said, pointing.