



Mom tottered out of the teacup. “It’s your birthday,” she said. “You can choose whatever ride you want.”

Cassie couldn’t help thinking about how lucky she was to live in Astral-on-Sea. Her home, Starwatcher Towers, was on top of



a cliff that overlooked the whole town and the beach, too. Even though she had no brothers or sisters to play with, there was always so much to do—exploring rock pools, collecting pretty shells, building sandcastles . . . and now the Fun Fair had arrived in town! Cassie thought the rides were even more fun than the birthday party she'd had yesterday.

“What should we try next?” asked Mom.
“The scrambler? Or the bumper cars?”

Cassie couldn't decide. Then she spotted a small tent, glistening silver in the sunshine. A sequined curtain covered the entrance, with a sign above it that read:

Lucky Dip!

“What's a lucky dip?” asked Cassie.