

Monica the Marshmallow Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.

To Aleka, with love

Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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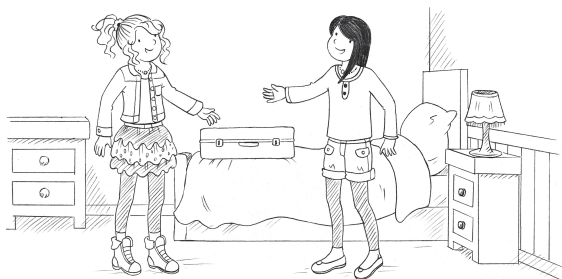
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A Magical Invitation



“Welcome back to Wetherbury!” said Kirsty Tate.

Her best friend, Rachel Walker, placed a raspberry-colored suitcase on Kirsty’s bed.

“I’m so happy to be here with you for the week!” she said. “I’ll unpack my things, and then we can go and play.”





As she reached out to open the suitcase, Mrs. Tate came in holding the phone.

“It’s your aunt Helen,” she told Kirsty.

Kirsty took the phone, and Mrs. Tate left the room. As Kirsty chatted with her aunt, a huge smile lit up her face, and Rachel hopped from foot to foot, longing to know what was being said. Aunt Helen worked at Candy Land, the candy factory outside the village, which Kirsty and Rachel thought just might be the best job in the world.

Kirsty hung up the phone and clapped her hands together.

“Rachel, Aunt Helen’s going to be here any minute,” she said, brimming with excitement. “She’s going to pick us up in the Candy Land van for a special trip.”

Rachel squealed, and the girls joined





hands and spun around
in delight.

“Do you think
she’s going to
take us to Candy
Land?” Kirsty said.



“If she does, I
wonder if we’ll
see the Sugar and
Spice Fairies again,” said
Rachel.

She and Kirsty shared a happy smile.
The last time they had seen Aunt Helen,
they had been caught up in a magical
adventure with their fairy friends.
Because they had promised to always
keep the secrets of Fairyland, they
couldn’t tell anyone else about their
adventures. It was always wonderful to



be able to talk about magic together.

Just then, Rachel's raspberry-colored suitcase started to glow. The clasps

rattled, and then the

suitcase burst open

and a tiny fairy fluttered out.

She was wearing

a buttoned

denim skirt,

a fluffy sweater,

and pink sandals,

and her shiny

brown hair swished

around her face.

"Hello, Rachel and

Kirsty," she said. "I'm Monica the

Marshmallow Fairy."

"It's amazing to meet you," said Kirsty.





“Welcome to Wetherbury . . . but what are you doing here?”

“I’m one of the Sweet Fairies,” said Monica, perching on the open lid of the suitcase. “I’m here to take you to the Candy Factory in Fairyland. The Sweet Fairies are hoping to speak to you—will you come?”

The girls exchanged a look of sheer delight. They had been to the Candy Factory before, and they knew that it was a magical place full of sweet fairy treats.

“Of course,” they said together.

“We always love visiting Fairyland,” Kirsty went on. “And luckily, time always stops in the human world while we’re there, so we’ll be back before Aunt Helen arrives to pick us up.”





“Great! I need you to sit on your bed, please,” said Monica, smiling.

Kirsty and Rachel sat down beside the suitcase, and Monica raised her wand. A flurry of tiny pink marshmallows danced around the girls, and they saw fairy dust sparkling as they shrank to fairy size. Their wings unfurled, and Monica fluttered down to join them.

“Hold hands, girls,” she said. “Let’s go to Fairyland.”

There was a sudden, sweet smell, and the tiny marshmallows danced faster and faster, lifting them into the air. Then Kirsty’s bedroom disappeared and the swirl of marshmallows slowed down. As the last marshmallows disappeared, they saw that they were standing by the Fairyland Candy Factory—in an orchard



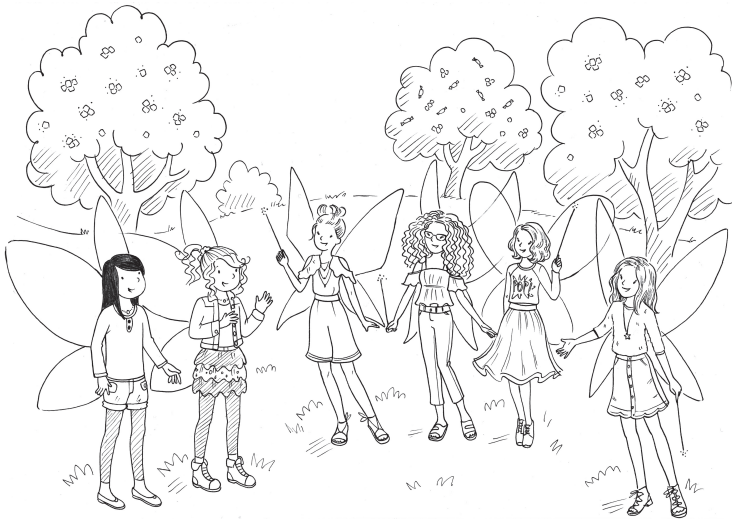


of delicious-looking trees.

“Oh, I love it here,” said Rachel, clapping her hands together. “I wish our yard had candy growing on the trees.”

“And these trees are always growing new treats to enjoy!” said another voice.

Three other fairies were standing in a clearing. When they saw Rachel and Kirsty, they smiled and fluttered their pastel-colored wings.





“These are the other Sweet Fairies,” said Monica. “Gabby the Bubble Gum Fairy, Franny the Jelly Bean Fairy, and Shelley the Sugar Fairy.”

“What is your job?” asked Rachel.

Monica held out a sparkly pink marshmallow.

“Each of us has a magical treat,” said Monica. “We use them to make sure that all the candy in Fairyland and the human world is sweet and delicious.”

The other fairies held out their hands, too. Franny had a glittering jelly bean. Gabby was holding a shiny strip of bubble gum, and Shelley had a sparkling packet of popping candy.

“What a wonderful job,” said Rachel, gazing around at the brightly colored trees and smiling. “I think this might be





my favorite place in Fairyland.”

“Of course, you already know about the Candy Factory orchard,” said Shelley. “You know many of our friends.”

She waved at a group of fairies who were working at the far end of the orchard.





“It’s the Sugar and Spice Fairies with Honey the Candy Fairy and Lizzie the Sweet Treats Fairy,” said Kirsty, also waving. “Oh, Monica, thank you so much for bringing us here again.”

