

To Tabitha, Verity, and Thalia, from the fairies

Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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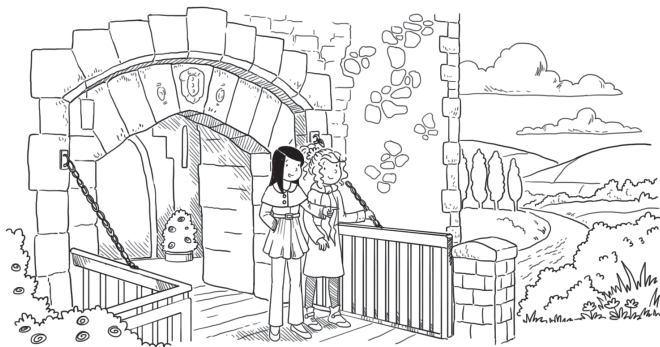
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Julia the Sleeping Beauty Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.



Rachel Walker rested her hand on the drawbridge chain of Tiptop Castle and looked down at the moat below. Her best friend, Kirsty Tate, was standing beside her, gazing at the green lawns and flower gardens that surrounded the castle. They had paused halfway across the drawbridge to admire the view.





“I feel like a princess standing here,” said Kirsty in a dreamy voice. “It’s just like something out of a fairy tale!”

“We’re so lucky to be able to stay here for the Fairy Tale Festival,” said Rachel, as the spring breeze ruffled her blond hair.

It was spring vacation, and Kirsty was staying with Rachel for a very special reason. Tiptop Castle was a beautiful old castle on the edge of Tippington, and this year it was hosting the famous Fairy Tale Festival.

“I can’t wait to see all the people dressed up as fairies and fairy tale characters,” said Kirsty.

“I wonder if we’ll meet any *real* fairies,” said Rachel.

The girls shared a happy smile. They

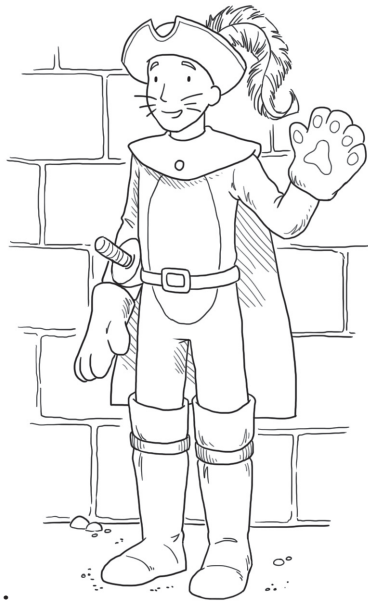




had been friends of the fairies ever since they met on Rainspell Island, and had shared many amazing adventures.

“Come on,” Kirsty said. “Let’s go inside.”

The castle gatehouse was decorated with twinkling white lights. Inside was a festival organizer dressed as Puss-in-Boots. He waved his paw at Kirsty and Rachel, and then stroked his whiskers.



“Welcome to Tiptop Castle!” he said in a deep voice.

“What are your names?”