

To Lara, with love

Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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Faith the Cinderella Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.



“Another beautiful day at Tiptop Castle!” exclaimed Rachel Walker, throwing open the window and breathing in the crisp morning air.

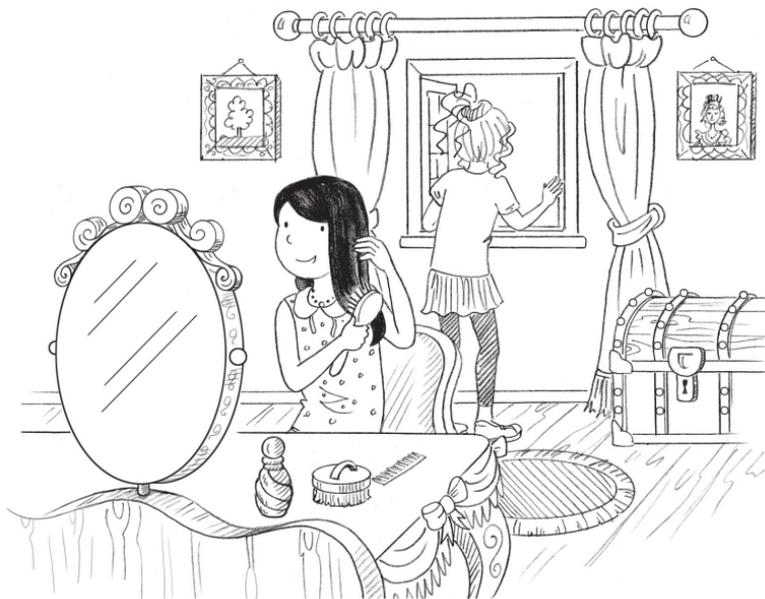
She was looking out of the bedroom that she was sharing with her best friend, Kirsty Tate. They had been having a fun





time at the Fairy Tale Festival, and they couldn't wait for this morning's ballroom-dancing lesson.

"I can't believe how lucky we are," said Kirsty, who was brushing her hair at the beautiful vanity table. "It's amazing that the festival is being held here, so close to Tippington—and we've made some great new friends."





Lots of children were staying at the castle, and there were fun fairy tale activities to enjoy every day. Tippington was Rachel's hometown, and Mrs. Walker had arranged this special treat for them while Kirsty was visiting during spring vacation.

"It was so much fun dressing up yesterday," said Rachel, thinking of their fairy outfits. "I wonder what adventures today will bring!"

"Magical ones, I hope," said Kirsty with a happy smile.

On their first day at the castle, the girls had met their friend Hannah the Happily Ever After Fairy while they were exploring. They had shared many adventures in Fairyland, because they were good friends with the fairies, and





they were thrilled when Hannah whisked them off to meet some very special fairies: the seven Fairy Tale Fairies.

The fairies gave the girls *The Fairies' Book of Fairy Tales*. It was a wonderful collection of the girls' favorite fairy tales, but when they looked inside, the pages were blank.

Thinking about the fairies' shocked faces, Rachel felt a pang of worry.

“It would be wonderful to be able to help another of the Fairy Tale Fairies,” she said.

Kirsty nodded. Right after the girls met them, the fairies had discovered that Jack Frost had stolen their magic objects. Without them, the characters in their fairy tales fell out of their stories and got

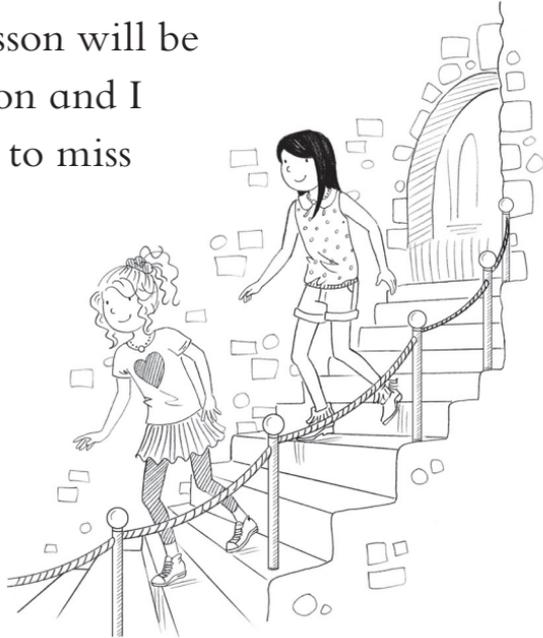




lost! Jack Frost was planning to rewrite the fairy tales to star him and his goblins, and he had taken the fairies' objects to the human world.

“We should go down to the ballroom,” said Kirsty, looking at her alarm clock. “The ballroom-dancing lesson will be starting soon and I don’t want to miss a second!”

The girls hurried down the spiral staircase, still thinking about their





fairy friends. So far, they had helped Julia the Sleeping Beauty Fairy and Eleanor the Snow White Fairy get their magic objects back. Now Sleeping Beauty and her prince and Snow White and the seven dwarves were all back inside their worlds. But there were still five magic objects left to find, and many more fairy tale characters to return to their stories.

The best friends ran all the way through the castle, but Kirsty paused when they reached the ballroom. Rachel stopped, too.

“Are you OK?” she asked in concern.

“What if I’m not





good enough?” said Kirsty, sounding suddenly nervous.

“That’s why we’re having lessons,” said Rachel, squeezing her hand.

“Anyway, it’s just for fun. Don’t worry!”

She pushed open the door and stepped inside. The first thing she saw was a young woman standing on a stool, polishing one of the gold-framed mirrors that lined the walls.



“Hello,” said Rachel as Kirsty followed

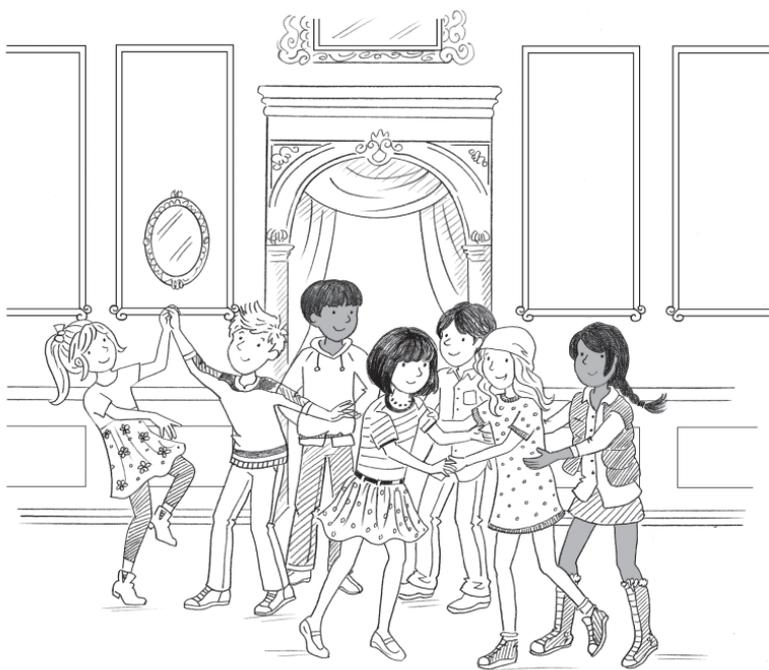


her into the room. “Are we in the right place for the dance lesson?”

The young woman turned and gave them a beautiful smile.

“I think so,” she said in a longing voice. “The others are over there—it sounds like lots of fun!”

She waved her rag toward the far end of the ballroom, where a small group of





children were giggling and dancing around.

“Thank you very much,” said Rachel, wondering why the young woman wasn’t joining in with the lesson.

She and Kirsty went to join the others, and then one of the festival organizers entered the room, dressed in a beautiful silver gown.

“Hello, everyone!” she said. “I’m Rosie, your dance instructor for this morning. I hope that this beautiful ballroom will inspire you to dance like true fairy tale princes and princesses!”

