

To book lovers everywhere
Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”

Copyright © 2014 by Rainbow Magic Limited.

All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Inc., *Publishers since 1920*. SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc. RAINBOW MAGIC is a trademark of Rainbow Magic Limited. Reg. U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and other countries. HIT and the HIT logo are trademarks of HIT Entertainment Limited.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc., Attention: Permissions Department, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of the author’s imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

ISBN 978-0-545-85207-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

16 17 18 19 20

Printed in the U.S.A.
First edition, July 2016

40



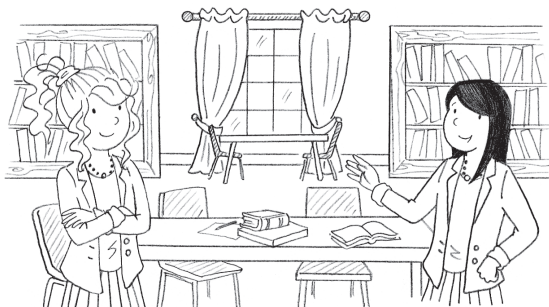
Lydia
the Reading
Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

SCHOLASTIC INC.



Backward Books



“I love the smell of libraries, don’t you?”
said Kirsty Tate.

She took a deep breath and looked
around at the bookshelves of the
Tippington School library. Her best
friend, Rachel Walker, smiled at her.

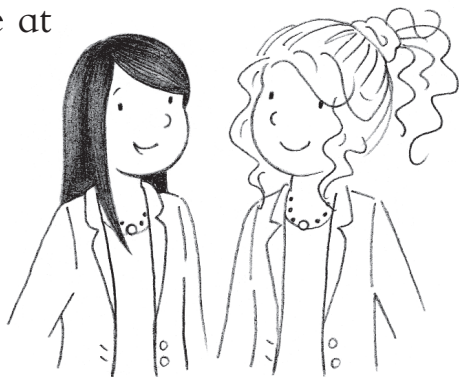
“I love having you here at school with
me,” she said. “I wish it was for longer
than a week!”





It was only the third day of the new school year, and it had already turned into the most fun and exciting time at school that Rachel had ever known. She had lots of friends at Tippington School, but none of them were as special as Kirsty. She had often wished that they could go to the same school. Then Kirsty's school had been flooded, and the repairs were going to take a week. So for five happy days the best friends were at school together at last.

“It's turning into quite a week, though,” Kirsty replied with a grin.





Rachel knew that Kirsty was talking about the extraordinary secret they shared. From the time they had met on Rainspell Island, they had been friends of Fairyland. Even though they had often had magical adventures since then, it was always thrilling to meet brand-new fairy friends. And on the first day of this school year, they had been introduced to the School Day Fairies.

“I wonder if we’ll see any of the School Day Fairies today,” Kirsty whispered.

Before Rachel could reply, her teacher clapped his hands together to get everyone’s attention.





“I want each of you to choose a book to read,” said Mr. Beaker. “Then write a few sentences about what you think of the book. All the book reports will be included in the display for the school superintendent’s visit.”

“What kind of book should we choose?” asked Adam.

“Try to pick something that you think will transport you to another world,” said Mr. Beaker. “I love reading, and the best books are the ones where the story comes to life. The people should seem as real to you as your best friend.”

The children started to wander around the library, browsing the shelves.

“Be brave in your book choice,” Mr. Beaker went on. “It might be exciting to pick something that you wouldn’t





normally read. Surprise yourself!”

There was a loud crash, and Amina and Ellie jumped back from the shelves they had been browsing. Three heavy books had almost landed on top of them.

“Please be careful,” said Mr. Beaker.

“But they just fell off the shelf,” cried Ellie. “We didn’t touch them!”





“Mr. Beaker, this book is stuck shut,” said Adam, who was trying to look at a mystery story. “I can’t open it.”



Rachel had just chosen a book called *The Princess in the Tower*. But when she opened it, none of the sentences made sense. She blinked a few times, wondering if her eyes were playing tricks on her. But there was definitely something very strange about the book.

“Everything is backward,” she whispered to Kirsty. “Listen to how the story begins: ‘After ever happily lived Rose Princess.’ Something bad has





happened in here. The books are all wrong—and I bet I know why.”

Kirsty knew exactly what her best friend was thinking. This was all happening because of Jack Frost’s goblins!



When the girls had met Marissa the Science Fairy on the first day of school, she had whisked them away to Fairyland. There, the other School Day Fairies had explained that Jack Frost had stolen their magical gold star badges. Without them, lessons would be messed up and boring.

“Jack Frost has caused so much trouble





for the School Day Fairies,” Kirsty said in a low voice. “We’ve helped Marissa the Science Fairy and Alison the Art Fairy get their badges back, but we have to find all four of them to make sure everything is perfect for the royal visit.”

Queen Titania and King Oberon were planning to pay a visit to the fairy school. The fairies wanted everything to be perfect for their beloved king and queen, but without their magical badges, the royal visit would be a disaster. Not only that, but school in the human world would be ruined, too.

Jack Frost had used the magical badges to open a school for goblins, where he was teaching them all about himself. He thought it was the only subject worth





learning! But when he had expelled two of his students for misbehaving, they had stolen the magical badges from him and taken them to the human world.

And right now, those pesky goblins were in Tippington School!

