



A Message from the Secret Kingdom



“I wish we didn’t have so much homework to do,” sighed Ellie Macdonald as she walked home from school with her friends. “I’ve got to write a story for English and I don’t know where to start!”

“Let’s all do our homework together at my house,” suggested Jasmine Smith. “We can put some music on and help one another.”



“Great idea,” agreed Summer Hammond, linking arms with Jasmine and Ellie. “Even homework can be fun when you do it with friends.”

“I wouldn’t go that far.” Ellie grinned, her green eyes twinkling. “But it’s better than doing it on your own.”

Laughing, they all made their way to Jasmine’s house and hurried into the kitchen.

A big bag of chocolate cookies and a note were sitting on the kitchen table. Jasmine picked up the note and read it out loud:

“Hi, Jasmine, I’m sure you’ve brought Ellie and Summer back with you, so share these with them! There’s some homemade lemonade in the fridge as well. See you at five. Mom.”



“Your mom’s so nice!” said Summer.

Jasmine smiled. “I wonder what made her think you’d be with me?”

“Yeah, you would think we spent all our time together,” joked Ellie.

Summer giggled. She, Jasmine, and Ellie all lived in a little town called Honeyvale, and went to the same school. They had been best friends since they were little, and they went over to one another’s houses so often that they all felt like home!

Jasmine opened the fridge and took out a big jug of lemonade while Summer grabbed three glasses and a plate.

“Now, let’s deal with our homework,” said Jasmine, putting everything on a tray and leading the way upstairs. “Then we can start having some real fun.”



“Hey, you’ve got the Magic Box on your dressing table!” exclaimed Ellie as they all spilled into Jasmine’s bedroom, which was quite small, but beautifully decorated. The walls were a gorgeous hot-pink color, and red floaty netting hung down over the bed.



“I didn’t want to miss a message from the Secret Kingdom!” Jasmine said.



They all looked at the beautiful wooden box. It was covered with intricate carvings of fairies and unicorns, and had a mirrored lid studded with six green stones. It looked like a jewelry box, but it was *much* more than that.

“I slept with it under my pillow last time I was taking care of it!” Ellie laughed.

The girls had found the Magic Box at a school rummage sale, when it had mysteriously appeared in front of them. It belonged to King Merry, the ruler of the Secret Kingdom.

The Secret Kingdom was a magical world that no one knew existed — no one except Jasmine, Summer, and Ellie! It was a beautiful crescent moon-shaped island, where mermaids, unicorns, pixies, and elves all lived happily together.