



Robyn
the Christmas Party
Fairy

by Daisy Meadows

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Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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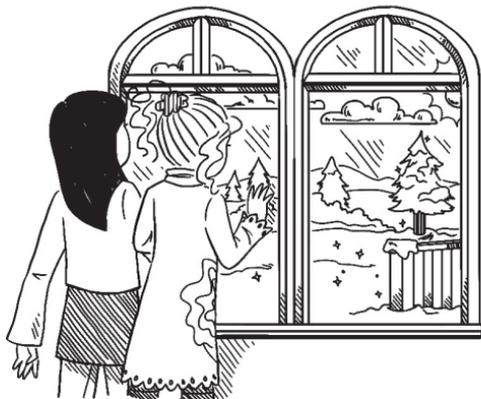
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Crazy Crackers



“I’ve never seen frost look so beautiful,” said Rachel Walker, gazing out of the Town Hall window.

“It’s a perfect Christmas Eve morning,” agreed her best friend, Kirsty Tate, as she joined Rachel at the window.

The bright winter sun made everything outside the window sparkle. Kirsty’s





hometown, Wetherbury, looked as if it had been covered with glittery white icing. The girls and their families were spending Christmas there together this year.

“The party tonight is going to be amazing.” Rachel smiled. “And helping organize it makes everything even more fun!”

She turned around, watching the preparations going on all over the hall. Lots of people from the community had come together to throw a special Christmas party. The girls and their families were thrilled! The food and decorations were looking wonderful, but the highlight of the party was definitely going to be a beautiful ballet performance.

Mrs. Tate saw the girls by the window and smiled at them.





“Come on, you two, there’s work to do!” she said. “We have a lot to finish before the party. Could you start setting the tables for the feast?”

Several long tables had been pushed together to make a big square in the center of the hall. Mrs. Tate gave the girls a cart piled high with tablecloths, place mats, napkins, silverware, and glasses.





“Don’t forget to put a Christmas cracker at each place setting,” she said. “The crackers are in a box on the bottom of the cart. I can’t wait to pull them apart at the party and see the toys inside!”

“I’m so excited about the Christmas party,” said Rachel. “Just think, people all over the world are doing exactly the same thing we are right now—getting ready for Christmas.”

“Not everyone!” said Kirsty. “At school, we’ve been learning about other holiday traditions from around the world, like Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, and how people celebrate Christmas in all different countries.”

The girls worked quickly, laying out the bright-red tablecloths and beautiful





place settings. Soon the tables looked very festive, with gold napkins and sparkling glasses.

“Just one more thing to do,” said Rachel, peering into the box.

“Time to put out a cracker for each guest!”



As she picked up one of the crackers, it gave a loud bang. Rachel squealed and dropped it.

“What’s the matter?” cried Mrs. Tate, hurrying over to the girls. “What happened?”

“I’m OK! I was just surprised,” said Rachel. “This cracker went off all by itself!”



“How strange,” said Mrs. Tate, taking the cracker and looking at it closely.

“It must be broken.”

Suddenly, they heard another small bang from inside the box.

“I’ve never had Christmas crackers that went off by themselves before.” Kirsty frowned.

Mrs. Tate opened her mouth to reply,





but just then one of the other volunteers groaned loudly.

“This tinsel isn’t sparkly at all!” she said, holding up a long string of golden tinsel. “It’s just dull. It looks terrible!”

“These decorations won’t stay up, Mrs. Tate,” called another volunteer from up on a ladder. “It doesn’t seem to matter how many thumbtacks I use, they just fall down.”

Mrs. Tate gave a heavy sigh and hurried off to deal with the new problems.

“Maybe I can figure out what’s wrong,” said Rachel, picking up the broken Christmas cracker. She peered into one end of it like a telescope and gave a little gasp. A beautiful little fairy was sitting cross-legged inside!

