



Polly  
the Party  
Fun Fairy

To Molly May Britton,  
the party girl of Perry Barr

Special thanks to  
Narinder Dhami

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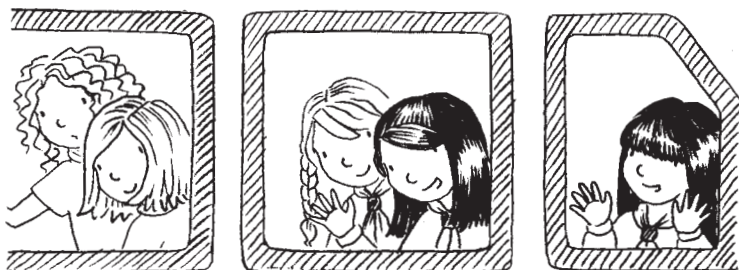
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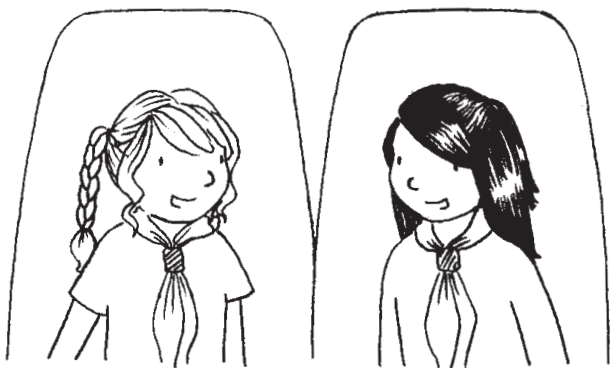
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“Good-bye, Mom!” Kirsty Tate called, waving from the school bus packed with Explorers as it pulled away from the school.

“Good-bye, Mrs. Tate!” Rachel Walker, Kirsty’s best friend, shouted. She was waving, too.

As the school bus made its way through the village, Rachel turned to Kirsty.



“Isn’t it great that your Explorers leader is letting me come to your mini-jamboree?” she said happily.

“Well, you *are* staying with me this week, so there’s no way I’d leave you behind!” Kirsty laughed. “And you’re an Explorer, too, even if you’re not in our troop.”

Rachel nodded. Both she and Kirsty were wearing their Explorer uniforms. “I’m really looking forward to this,” she said eagerly. “What did you do last year?”



“We met up with another troop of Explorers—just like we’re doing this time—so there were lots of us,” Kirsty explained. “We played games, ran races, and there were prizes, too. Then we roasted marshmallows around the campfire.” She grinned. “It really was just a big party in the woods!”

Rachel’s eyes opened wide. “A party?” she gasped. “You know what that means. . . .”

Kirsty clapped a hand to her mouth. “Oh, I didn’t realize!” she said. “We’ll have to be on the lookout for goblins!”





Even though Kirsty and Rachel seemed just like all the other Explorers on the bus, the two girls had a special secret. They had become friends with the fairies! Now, whenever their fairy friends were in trouble, Kirsty and Rachel tried to help.

Trouble usually came in the shape of cold, prickly Jack Frost and his goblins. Now Jack Frost was doing his best to ruin the secret party for the fairy king and queen's 1000th anniversary. The seven Party Fairies were helping with the preparations. Jack Frost was trying to stop them by sending his goblins into the human world to ruin as many parties as they could! Then, when the Party Fairies came flying to the rescue, the goblins would try to steal their magic party bags



for Jack Frost. He planned to use the Party Fairies' special magic to have a fabulous party of his own.

“Yes, we'll have to keep our eyes open,” agreed Rachel, as the school bus came to a stop in a large clearing in the woods. There were already lots of Explorers milling around. The other troop had arrived! “We can't let the goblins steal any of the Party Fairies' magic bags,” she added firmly.



“And we won't let them



ruin our day, either,” Kirsty declared, looking determined.



Mrs. Talbot, Kirsty’s Explorers leader, opened the door of the bus. “Here we are, girls,” she said with a smile. “Put your bags under that big tree, and then we’ll start with some races.”

The Explorers on the bus cheered as they jumped to their feet. Rachel and Kirsty were the last to leave. As they stepped off the bus, they both looked carefully around the clearing for any signs of goblin trouble, but they couldn’t see anything out of the ordinary.

“There are lots of places for goblins to hide here,” Kirsty whispered to Rachel,







as they put their bags under the giant oak tree.



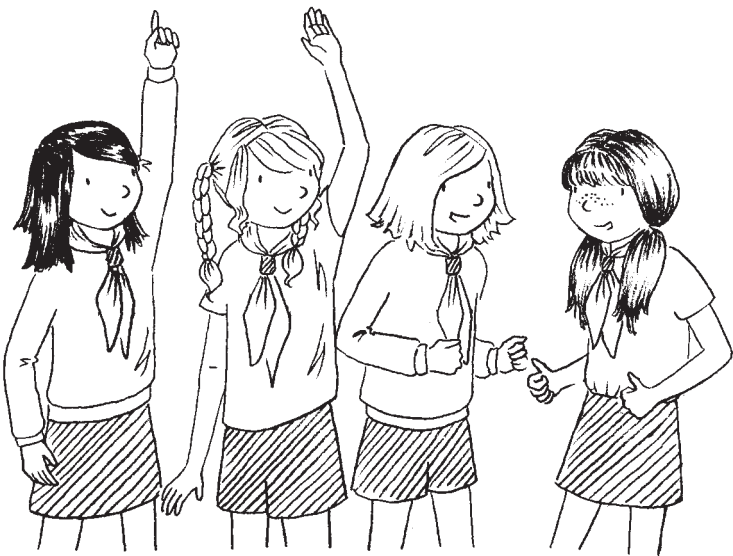
“Gather around, girls,” called Mrs. Talbot, who had been chatting with the other Explorers leader, Mrs. Carter. “We’re going to start with an obstacle course. We need four volunteers from each troop.”



Kirsty nudged Rachel. “That sounds like fun,” she said. “Should we volunteer?”

Rachel nodded, and they both put their hands up.

“Jenny and Emily,” said Mrs. Talbot, pointing at two girls. “Oh, and Kirsty and your friend, Rachel—you can be our team!”

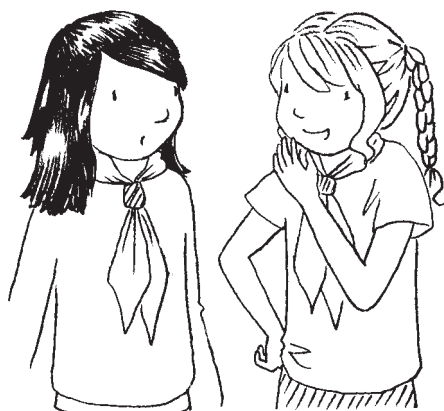




Kirsty, Rachel, and the other girls watched closely as Mrs. Talbot showed them the course. First, they had to run along a wooden balance beam. Then they had to scramble under a net, run along the top of a row of overturned buckets, and make a shot through a basketball hoop. To finish, all four members of the team had to jump into a rubber boat and row across the wide stream that flowed along one side of the clearing.

“It looks hard,” Kirsty said, nervously.

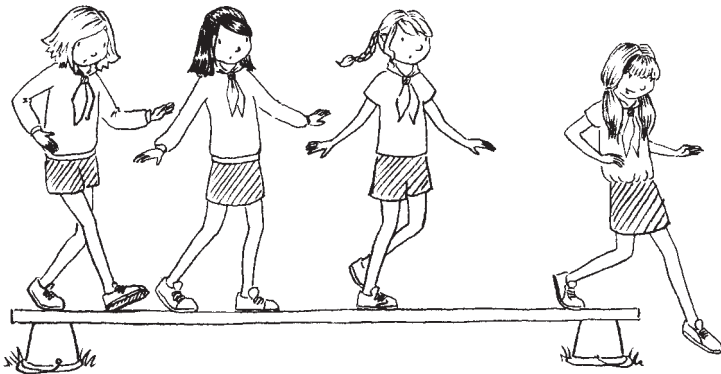
“Not as hard as trying to outwit goblins!” Rachel replied with a laugh.



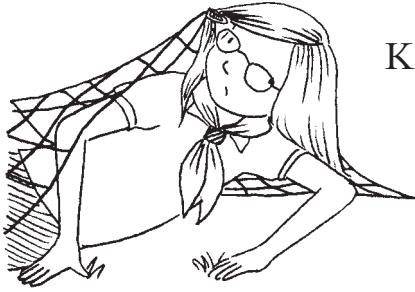


As the two teams lined up, the other Explorers began cheering for their teammates. Mrs. Carter blew her whistle, and they were off!

Jenny ran lightly along the beam first, followed by Rachel, Kirsty, and Emily.

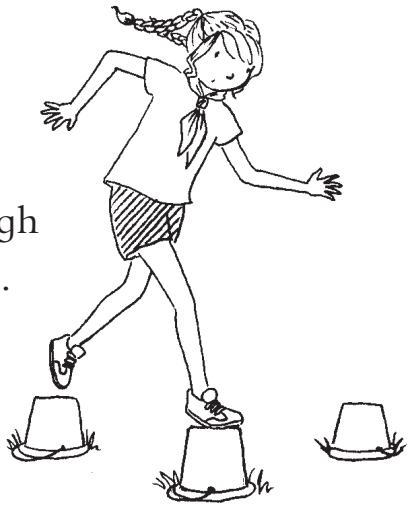


“If anyone falls off, they have to go back to the beginning of the plank and start again!” Mrs. Talbot warned. But both teams made it across safely.



Then they began to wiggle under the net. Rachel and Kirsty's team pulled ahead slightly, as one of the Explorers on the other team got her barrette caught in the mesh. By the time she was free, Rachel and Kirsty's team had already run along the row of buckets, and was trying to shoot baskets through the basketball hoop.

"I'm horrible at this," Emily said anxiously to

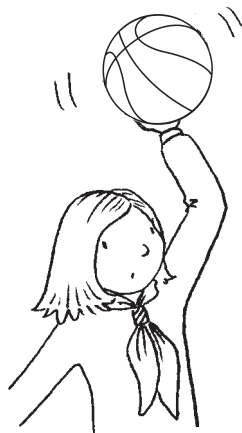




Kirsty, as they watched Jenny and then Rachel make baskets with their first shots.

“Don’t worry,” Kirsty replied. “Just do your best.”

But after Kirsty had scored, it took poor Emily six more tries to get her basket. By then, the other team had almost caught up with them.



“Quick, into the boat!” Rachel shouted.

They all jumped into the little inflatable boat and grabbed the paddles. But as they pushed off from the bank, the other team was running up to their own boat.



“Paddle harder!” shouted Jenny, as they made their way to the middle of the stream.

“They’re right behind us!” Kirsty gasped, glancing back.

Then, suddenly, she felt cold water seeping into her sneakers. Surprised, she looked down. Water was pouring into the boat, and she could hear the hissing sound of air escaping as the boat began to deflate. It had sprung a leak!