



Mia
the Bridesmaid
Fairy

For Eloise Bishop,
a true friend of the fairies!

Special thanks to Rachel Elliot

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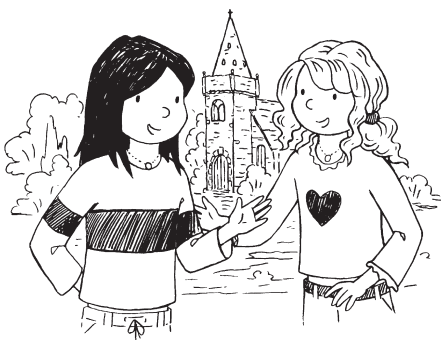
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Wedding Plans



“Isn’t it exciting that we’re going to be Esther’s bridesmaids?” Rachel Walker said happily.

“Yes—I can hardly wait for next Saturday!” replied Kirsty Tate, smiling at her best friend. “And it’ll be twice as much fun with you here!”

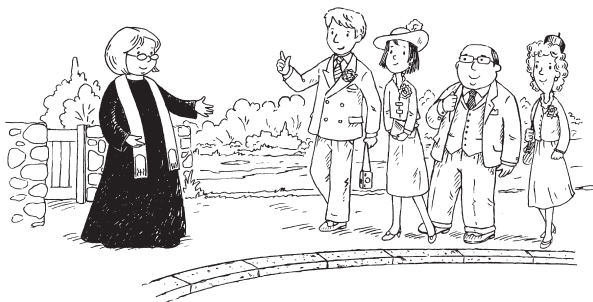
The girls were in Kenbury, the pretty





little village where Kirsty's cousin Esther had grown up. The sun was shining brightly and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. It was perfect wedding weather!

Esther, Mrs. Tate, and Aunt Isabel, Esther's mom, were in the nearby wedding dress store, but the girls had popped outside to look at the pretty church where Esther was going to get married.



“Oh, Kirsty, look!” cried Rachel.
“There must be a wedding today!”
People were arriving in their best





clothes, carrying cameras and little boxes of confetti.

“And there’s the pastor!” Kirsty added in excitement.

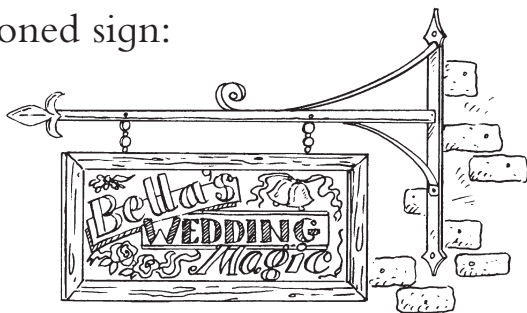
A lady in a long robe was standing near the church gate.

“Hello, girls,” she said, smiling. “Are you here for the wedding?”

“Not today,” said Kirsty, smiling back at her. “My cousin Esther is getting married here next Saturday, and we’re her bridesmaids.”

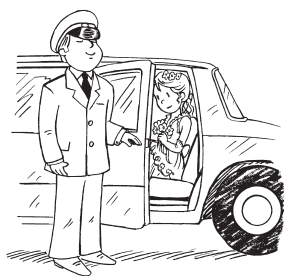
“We just got to see her wedding dress,” added Rachel.

She pointed at a little store across the street. Above the window hung an old-fashioned sign:





Rachel and Kirsty caught each other's eyes and grinned. They knew all about magic, because they shared an amazing secret. They were good friends with the fairies! They often helped them defeat mean Jack Frost and his naughty goblins.



A cream-colored car pulled up in front of the church, and a chauffeur jumped out and opened the back door.

Inside, the girls could see a woman wearing a beautiful white dress.

“It’s the bride!” Rachel exclaimed.

“See you next week, girls.” The pastor smiled. “I’ve got a wedding to perform!”

Rachel and Kirsty said good-bye and walked back to the wedding store.





“I love the dress in the window!” said Kirsty.

“Me, too,” Rachel agreed.

Under an archway of roses, an exquisite wedding dress was surrounded by bouquets of real flowers.

“Bella’s such an amazing dressmaker!” Kirsty said with a happy sigh.

Just then, Aunt Isabel popped her head out of the store’s front door.

“Girls, come back inside,” she said with a beaming smile. “Bella is ready for you to try on your dresses.”

Rachel and Kirsty hurried to the room at the back of the store. Bella held up two amazing dresses, and the girls’ eyes widened.

“Oh, they’re beautiful!” Rachel whispered.





The two best friends quickly got changed, giggling with excitement. Then they stood in front of the long mirror.

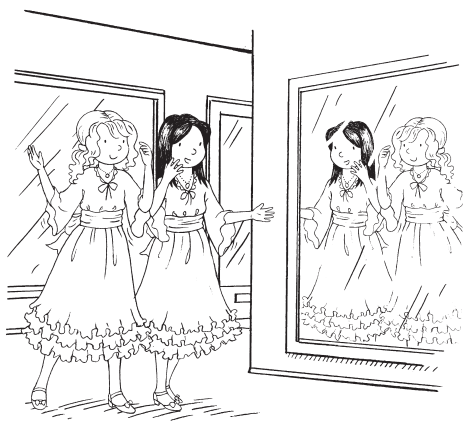
“Oh, girls, you look fabulous!” cried Aunt Isabel.

“Just like princesses!” Esther added.

The dresses were pale blue, and they shimmered

and sparkled with hundreds of tiny silver beads. Soft frills made the gowns swirl around the girls’

legs, and the sleeves were made from fine blue silk. They fluttered when the girls moved their arms.





“They’re just like fairy wings!” Kirsty whispered to Rachel.

Bella checked to make sure the dresses fit properly, and made some small alterations.

“Thank you, girls,” she said eventually. “You can get changed now.”

“Our dresses are just gorgeous,” sighed Rachel, smiling at Bella. “We love the one in the window, too. Is it waiting to be picked up?”

“No,” said Bella. “It’s a copy of one of my favorites, which I made a long time ago. I just couldn’t bear to part with it, so I made another!”

“Wow, you must have made hundreds of dresses,” said Aunt Isabel. “And I bet you know everything there is to know about weddings!”





“I’ve learned an awful lot,” agreed Bella. “I love all the old traditions, and bridesmaids are one of the oldest traditions of all! It’s their job to help



things go smoothly for the bride.”

Rachel and Kirsty exchanged happy looks.

“What other wedding traditions are there?” Rachel asked.

“Do you know what a bride is supposed to carry up the aisle to bring her luck?” asked Bella. “Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a penny in her shoe.”

“There’s nothing wrong with a little





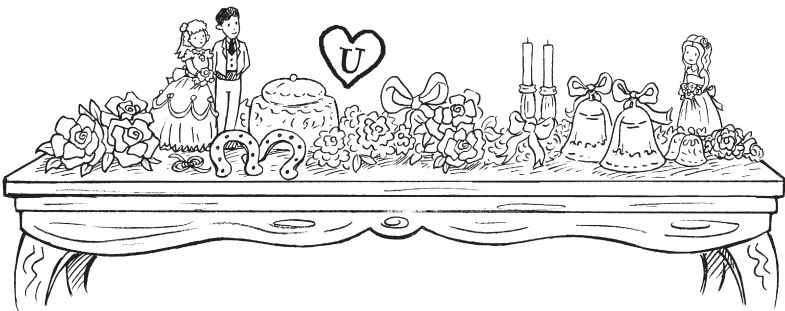
extra luck,” said Esther, who had been trying on tiaras in front of the mirror. “Girls, will you be in charge of finding me these four ‘somethings,’ and a penny?”

“We’d love to!” Rachel said eagerly.

“Oh look, Rachel!” Kirsty exclaimed.

“Let’s start over there!”

At the front of the store, along the window, was a low table filled with wedding accessories.





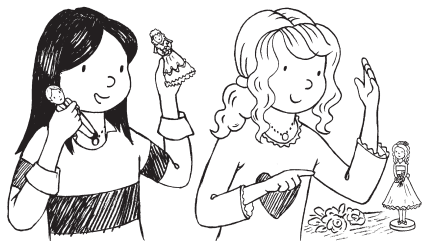
The girls dashed over to it, while Mrs. Tate, Esther, and Aunt Isabel stayed at the back of the store.

“Look at these little bride and groom figures,” said Kirsty. “They must go on the top of wedding cakes!”

“And here’s a little bridesmaid figure!” cried Rachel in delight. “Oh, Kirsty, I can’t wait to be a bridesmaid!”

“Me neither,” Kirsty agreed.

“How about if Esther borrows the pretty dragonfly pin your mom’s wearing for her something old?” Rachel suggested.



“That’s perfect!” agreed Kirsty. “It’s been in the family for years, so it’s definitely old



enough! Now we just have to think of something new, something borrowed, and something blue.”

“And the penny for her shoe,” Rachel reminded her. “Oh, Kirsty, look!”

She gave her best friend a nudge that made her squeak in surprise. The bridesmaid figure on the table had started to glow!

