



Series: The Magical Animal Fairies

Book: Ashley the Dragon Fairy

The Adventure Begins!

‘Bye, Mum, bye Dad!’ Kirsty Tate yelled, waving as her parents’ car pulled away.

Her mum, who was in the passenger seat, rolled down the window. ‘See you next week,’ she called. ‘And have a wonderful time, both of you!’

Kirsty grinned at her best friend, Rachel Walker. ‘We will!’ both girls chorused.

A whole week away, at an outdoor adventure camp – it was going to be just perfect!

‘Hi guys,’ came a voice from behind them. They turned to see a tall, smiling girl with long brown hair, whose red T-shirt had ‘Adventure Camp Counsellor’ printed on it in yellow letters. ‘You must be Kirsty and Rachel,’ she said. ‘I’m Lucy, one of the counsellors here. I’ll take you to your cabin, OK?’

Kirsty and Rachel followed Lucy along a path, feeling very excited. They passed though a small wooded area where Rachel spotted a squirrel bounding up one of the pine trees, and then out to a huge sunny meadow with rolling hills beyond it. There were wooden cabins dotted here and there, each with colourful curtains at the window and brightly painted front doors. Music floated from some of the cabins, and Kirsty and Rachel could see clusters of other campers having fun. There was a basketball ring

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attached to one of the trees and a group of boys were shooting hoops. A couple of girls were messing about on skateboards outside another cabin, laughing and chatting.

‘Here we are,’ Lucy said just then, veering away to a cabin on the right. It had a light blue door and blue gingham curtains at the windows. ‘I’ll let you unpack, then I suggest you explore the camp to get your bearings. There are maps everywhere, so you won’t get lost. We’ll all be going on a caving trip in about an hour, OK?’

Kirsty and Rachel thanked Lucy, then entered the cabin feeling curious and excited about their home for the next week. There was a bunk bed and four single beds, a separate bathroom and a couple of posters on the wall. Rachel hurled herself onto the lower bunk and Kirsty dumped her cardigan on the top bunk to bag it.

‘Wow, look at this,’ Kirsty said, spotting a timetable. ‘Canoeing, horseriding, swimming... There’s so much to do here!’

‘I can’t wait to meet the other girls in our cabin,’ Rachel said, smiling. ‘And you never know... We might even make some new fairy friends while we’re here, too!’

Kirsty beamed at the thought. She and Kirsty were good friends with the fairies, and had had lots of adventures with them. Magical things just seemed to happen whenever the two of them got together!

‘Come on, let’s explore,’ she suggested. ‘We can unpack later. I’m dying to look around!’

Rachel agreed, and the girls left their bags and headed out into the sunshine again.

There was a large building in the centre of the campsite with a sign above the double doors that read ‘Clubhouse’. Near to it was a wooden

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signpost with arrows pointing in different directions – one said ‘Canteen’, another read ‘Sports Pitches’ and a third said ‘Outdoor Ampitheatre’.

‘Look, there’s a map here’, Rachel said, pointing to a colourful sign in a glass case, just outside the clubhouse. She and Kirsty strolled over to it.

‘Ooh, a waterfall,’ Kirsty said, showing Rachel on the map.

‘And there are the stables,’ Rachel noticed. She blinked. The sun was shining very brightly onto the glass case, making it sparkle. She shielded her eyes. Suddenly the light seemed dazzling!

Kirsty was blinking and looking away too. ‘The sun is so strong,’ she commented. ‘I wish I had my sunglasses!’

Rachel was about to reply when another voice was heard. ‘Kirsty! Rachel! This is King Oberon. The fairies need your help. Please use your magic lockets to come to Fairyland as soon as you can!’

Rachel gasped. So the sparkling light from the glass case was fairy magic! She grabbed Kirsty’s hand and pulled her around the side of the clubhouse, where nobody could see them.

‘Come on,’ she said, fiddling with the catch of the special locket she always wore around her neck. ‘Oh, I hope the fairies are all right!’

Kirsty was busy with her own locket. Inside there was some magical fairy dust, given to them by the Fairy Queen herself. They each took a pinch and sprinkled it over themselves, then held hands as a magical sparkly whirlwind began spinning around them. Another fairy adventure was beginning!

Read the rest of *Ashley the Dragon Fairy* and discover what magic happens next!

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