



Series: The Magical Animal Fairies

Book: Leona the Unicorn Fairy

### **Spooked!**

**'Isn't this great, Kirsty?' Rachel Walker twisted round in her saddle to smile at her best friend Kirsty Tate. 'I'd only ever been horseriding once or twice before, but now I just love it!' And Rachel patted her chestnut pony, Sparkle.**

**'Me too,' agreed Kirsty, who was on a beautiful black pony behind Rachel.**

**The girls had been having riding lessons ever since they arrived at camp but this was the first time they'd been on a trail ride through the forest. 'I think it's because Sparkle and Tansy are so sweet. They don't mind if we do something wrong!'**

**'Keep following the trail, everyone,' called Susan, their riding instructor, from the back of the line. There were several other campers on ponies in front of and behind Kirsty and Rachel. 'It will lead us back to the camp eventually.'**

**'I can't believe we've only got a day and a half left at camp,' Rachel sighed as the ponies ambled on through the forest. It was cool and shady under the trees, but beams of sunlight dappled the grass here and there. 'We've had such a good time, haven't we, Kirsty? We've tried hiking, orienteering, bird-watching and caving, and we've made some great friends.'**

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**But Kirsty wasn't really listening. She was staring around, peering through the trees on either side of the trail.**

**'Sorry, Rachel,' she said quickly. 'I was just seeing if I could spot anything unusual...'**

**Rachel smiled. She knew exactly what Kirsty was looking for! On the day the girls arrived at camp, the King and Queen of Fairyland had asked for their help. Kirsty and Rachel had discovered that Jack Frost and his goblin servants had kidnapped seven magical young animals from the Magical Animal Fairies. These animals had the power to spread the kind of magical qualities that every human and fairy could possess – the magic of imagination, luck, humour, friendship, compassion, healing and courage. It was the fairies' job to train the Magical Animals for a whole year to make sure they knew how to use their magic properly. Then the animals would use their incredible powers to bring happiness to both the human and the fairy worlds.**

**But Jack Frost was determined to disrupt the Magical Animals' training because he didn't want *anyone*, humans or fairies, to be happy. So with the help of his goblins, Jack Frost had stolen the animals from Fairyland and imprisoned them in his Ice Castle. But the young animals had managed to escape and had hidden themselves away in the human world. Jack Frost had sent his goblins to find them, but the Magical Animal Fairies had asked Rachel and Kirsty to help them track down the animals and return them safely to Fairyland.**

**'Remember what Queen Titania says, Kirsty,' Rachel whispered, 'It doesn't always help to look for magic. You must let the magic find *you*!'**

**'I know,' Kirsty replied, 'But it's so difficult! I just want to find Leona's unicorn and Caitlin's ice bear. I'm worried about them because they haven't learned how to use their magical powers properly yet.'**

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**‘We’re doing OK, though,’ Rachel pointed out. ‘We’ve already found Ashley’s dragon, Lara’s little black cat, Erin’s firebird, Rihanna’s seahorse and Sophia’s snow swan.’**

**‘That’s true,’ Kirsty said with a smile. ‘Let’s just enjoy the trail ride and wait for the magic to come to us!’**

**Rachel nodded. ‘Look, Kirsty, there’s another fox,’ she said, catching a glimpse of russet brown between the trees. ‘That makes two we’ve seen now.’**

**‘Yes, as well as three rabbits and six squirrels!’ Kirsty replied. ‘There’s lots of wildlife around here, isn’t there?’**

**Suddenly, without any warning at all, the pony in front of Rachel and Kirsty gave a frightened little neigh and reared upwards. Lauren, the camper riding the pony, gasped with fright.**

**‘Quick, Rachel!’ Kirsty cried urgently, spotting a side path to her left. ‘Down here!’**

**Swiftly Kirsty and Rachel pulled Tansy and Sparkle off the trail and down the side path to avoid a collision. Meanwhile Lauren got her pony, Sky, under control again.**

**‘Are you all right, girls?’ called Susan, trotting towards them. ‘Looks like Sky got spooked by something.’**

**‘I’m fine,’ said Lauren, patting Sky’s neck. Rachel and Kirsty nodded in agreement.**

**‘Good thinking, you two,’ Susan went on, smiling at them. ‘You got your ponies out of the way just in time.’**

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As the riders moved on again, Kirsty and Rachel turned their ponies around to rejoin the main path. But then, Kirsty saw a sudden flash of bright green in the undergrowth around her. Immediately she turned to her friend.

‘Rachel!’ Kirsty gasped. ‘I just saw something green – and it definitely wasn’t anything leafy!’

‘Do you think it was a goblin?’ Rachel whispered, alarmed. ‘Maybe there’s more wildlife in this forest than we thought!’

‘It *could* have been a goblin that scared Lauren’s pony,’ Kirsty suggested.

‘We’ll check it out,’ Rachel said. ‘Let’s hang back and join the end of the line.’

The girls waited until the other campers had ridden past, and then they trotted back onto the trail some distance behind them. They kept a sharp look-out for goblins, but didn’t see anything.

Then Rachel heard a rustling in the bushes. Before she could say anything to Kirsty, two goblins jumped out onto the path, right in front of them!

Read the rest of *Leona the Unicorn Fairy* and discover what magic happens next!

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