



Series: The Magical Animal Fairies

Book: Rihanna the Seahorse Fairy

Adventure Lake

‘Oh, I’m really looking forward to going canoeing again!’ Kirsty Tate said eagerly to her best friend, Rachel Walker. The girls were carrying a lightweight canoe on their shoulders as they walked through the camp towards Adventure Lake. ‘But I’m going to try to keep my feet dry this time!’

Rachel laughed. ‘Yes it’s good fun, isn’t it?’ she agreed. ‘I’m glad we’ve got some free time this afternoon so that we can have another go.’

‘We’re not just here to have fun though, are we?’ Kirsty added, glancing around to check that none of the other campers were close enough to hear. ‘We’re trying to help our fairy friends, too!’

On the day the girls arrived at the adventure camp, the King and Queen of Fairyland had asked for their help to find the seven missing Magical Animals. These special young animals had amazing powers that helped to spread the kind of magic that humans as well as fairies could possess – the wonderful gifts of imagination, good luck, humour, friendship, compassion, healing and courage.

The seven Magical Animal Fairies spent a whole year training these youngsters before they returned to their families in Fairyland, ready to use their special talents to help everyone in both the human and the fairy worlds.

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However, spiteful Jack Frost was determined to put a stop to all this, simply because he wanted everyone to be as lonely and miserable as him. So he and his naughty goblin servants had kidnapped the Magical Animals and taken them to his Ice Castle. But the animals had managed to escape, and now they had hidden themselves away in the human world. Rachel and Kirsty were determined to find all seven Magical Animals before Jack Frost and his goblins did, and return them safely to Fairyland.

‘We’ve done quite well so far, haven’t we, Kirsty?’ Rachel remarked. ‘We’ve found Ashley’s dragon, Lara’s black cat and Erin’s firebird.’

Kirsty nodded. ‘I just hope we find the others before the end of the week –’ she began. But just then Trudi, one of the camp counsellors, came out of a nearby tent, and Kirsty and Rachel exchanged a warning glance. Both girls knew that *no one* in the human world could ever find out about the existence of fairies.

‘Ah, I see you’re off to Adventure Lake, girls,’ Trudi remarked with a smile. ‘Don’t forget to put your life jackets on, will you? And if you need any help, there are always lots of counsellors around the lake.’

‘OK, Trudi,’ Kirsty replied. ‘We’ll be careful.’

‘Well, the secret to fun and successful canoeing is teamwork,’ Trudi said, a twinkle in her eye. ‘So you two should be brilliant at it because you’re such good friends!’

Kirsty and Rachel grinned at each other as Trudi went off. ‘Not just good friends,’ Rachel laughed. ‘*Best* friends!’

Adventure Lake lay at the edge of the camp, the surface of the water rippling and shimmering in the sunlight. Carefully, Rachel and Kirsty laid the canoe down at the water’s edge and began to put on their life jackets.

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As they did so, Catherine, one of their room-mates, came running up to them.

‘Hi, you two!’ she cried, smiling happily. ‘Guess what? I just passed my swimming test!’

‘Well done!’ Kirsty said warmly.

‘That’s great, Catherine,’ Rachel agreed. ‘What are you doing for the rest of free time? Do you want to ride in the canoe with us?’

Catherine shook her head. ‘Thanks, but I’m going swimming with Emma, Natasha and Katie,’ she replied. ‘Now that I’ve passed my test, I’m allowed to swim out to the end of the floating dock.’ She pointed at the wooden dock that led from the shore and out across the lake. The rest of their room-mates were already splashing around there and shrieking with laughter.

‘Are you two coming to craft time later on?’ Catherine went on. ‘I think we’re making friendship bracelets.’

‘We definitely won’t miss that!’ Kirsty laughed. ‘We want to make friendship bracelets for you and all the other girls in our cabin.’

‘I think you’ll both get lots of bracelets back in return!’ Catherine said with a grin. ‘Have a good time canoeing. By the way –’ she winked at Rachel and Kirsty – ‘you’d better watch out for the mythical creature that lives at the bottom of the lake!’

Rachel and Kirsty glanced at each other in shock. What mythical creature did Catherine mean Kirsty thought, confused. Could it be one of the Magical Animals she and Kirsty were searching for? And how did Catherine know? Everything about Fairyland was supposed to be a secret!

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Catherine laughed. 'Don't look so serious, you two!' she teased. 'The lake creature is just an old legend, that's all. See you later!' And she ran off.

'Phew, I was worried there for a minute!' Rachel whispered to Kirsty, looking relieved as they clambered into the canoe.

'Me, too!' Kirsty replied, settling herself into the front seat. 'Ready, Rachel?'

They pushed themselves away from the bank with their paddles, and then set off across the water, rowing smoothly and rhythmically. The girls could see bright-blue dragonflies skimming across the surface of the lake, and there were lots of ducks quacking loudly, and occasionally dipping their heads underwater.

As Rachel and Kirsty passed by the floating dock, they waved at their friends and then paddled on.

'There are lots of campers enjoying the water today,' Rachel remarked, spotting several other girls in boats, canoes and kayaks. 'Shall we row across to the other bank, Kirsty?'

Kirsty nodded. When they eventually approached the opposite bank, she noticed a crescent-shaped cove among the rocks.

'Look, Rachel!' Kirsty pointed at the entrance to the cove. 'Shall we explore it?'

'OK,' Rachel agreed, 'But don't forget we have to be back at the camp for craft time.'

'Oh, we've got plenty of time,' Kirsty replied.

The girls rowed up to the entrance of the cove and peered inside.

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'I can hear splashing,' Rachel said, her eyes wide with excitement. 'Let's follow the cove all the way round, Kirsty – that splashing noise might be a waterfall!'

Kirsty shook her head.

'I've changed my mind,' she said with a shrug. 'The cove's OK, but I want to row around the rest of the lake.'

'That's *boring!*' Rachel complained. 'I want to explore the cove!'

'No way!' Kirsty snapped, turning round to glare at Rachel.

'Why should we do what *you* want?' Rachel retorted crossly.

Suddenly the girls stared at each other in shock. They had never, ever argued before!

'Sorry, Rachel,' Kirsty blurted out. 'I don't know what came over me!'

'I'm sorry too!' Rachel gasped, looking very ashamed. Both girls put their paddles down and hugged each other.

'That was horrible – I never want to argue with you again, Kirsty!'

'Me neither,' Kirsty agreed. 'Look, we've just got time to explore the cove *and* the rest of the lake.'

'Good idea,' Rachel agreed.

Swiftly the girls paddled along the crescent of the cove. As they rounded the curve, Kirsty spotted another canoe just ahead of them. She

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frowned as she stared at the little boat. The three passengers looked very familiar!

‘Rachel,’ Kirsty whispered urgently. ‘Goblins!’

Read the rest of *Rihanna the Seahorse Fairy* and discover what magic happens next!

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