



**Series:** The Magical Animal Fairies

**Book:** Sophia the Snow Swan Fairy

### **Into the Darkness**

**Kirsty Tate bit into a warm, sticky marshmallow and smiled. Bliss! It had been another fantastic day at the adventure camp where she and her best friend, Rachel Walker, were staying for a week. The sun was going down and everyone was sitting around a fire, singing songs and toasting marshmallows.**

**‘I’m having such a brilliant holiday,’ Kirsty said happily to Rachel.**

**‘Me too,’ Rachel agreed. Then she lowered her voice. ‘Especially with our new fairy friends!’**

**Kirsty smiled at her words. She and Rachel shared an amazing secret. They had met lots of fairies and had all sorts of exciting adventures with them! This week, they were helping the Magical Animal Fairies find their lost animals, after Jack Frost had stolen them. The girls had already helped the fairies find a young dragon, a magic black cat, a firebird and a seahorse...but there were still three animals left to track down and return to Fairyland.**

**‘Listen up, guys!’ said a voice just then. Kirsty and Rachel turned to see Trudi, one of the camp counsellors, standing on a tree stump. ‘There’s such a wonderful full moon tonight, we’re going to set off on a night hike. I’ve got something very special to show you all. Could you get into pairs, please?’**

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The campers immediately scrambled to pair up. Kirsty and Rachel went together, of course, and grinned at one another. They always had their most exciting adventures when it was just the two of them!

Two other counsellors, Edward and Lizzy, began passing out torches.

‘Why are we going hiking in the dark anyway?’ a girl called Anna wanted to know.

‘Nature looks very different at night-time,’ Edward told her. ‘All kinds of birds and animals come out that you don’t see in the day. And the surprise waiting for you at the end of the trail will definitely make the walk worth it!’

When everyone was ready, the campers set off, torchlights bobbing across the shadowy grass. First they went through some dark woods, and Rachel and Kirsty kept close together as they heard strange scufflings all around them. Twigs cracked beneath their feet and Kirsty stumbled on a long, twisted root. It was a relief to come out from under the trees and into the open, where the moonlight shone silver on everything and lit the path ahead.

‘It’s so pretty,’ Rachel marvelled, as they walked alongside a bubbling stream. The moonlight glittered on the water as it rushed along.

‘And look at that little swan!’ Kirsty exclaimed. ‘It’s so beautiful with the lights reflecting on its white feathers – almost as if it were shimmering.’

Rachel stared thoughtfully at the swan. The little bird did seem to be glowing in the darkness, its gleaming white feathers sending sparkling reflections into the water all around it.

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**‘I think it *is* shimmering,’ Rachel whispered, clutching Kirsty and pulling her away from the path, so that the other campers could overtake. ‘Shimmering ...as if it were magical.’**

**Kirsty felt her skin prickle with excitement, and she peered closely at the swan. ‘I think you’re right,’ she said, when she and Rachel were alone. ‘That must be the Magical Snow Swan!’**

**Read the rest of *Sophia the Snow Swan Fairy* and discover what magic happens next!**

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