



**Series:** The Dance Fairies

**Book:** Bethany the Ballet Fairy

### Fairies in a Whirl

"I'm looking forward to this!" exclaimed Rachel Walker to her best friend, Kirsty Tate. "I love ballet."

"Me, too," Kirsty agreed, raising her voice above the noise of the train as it rattled over a bumpy bit of track. "I've never seen *Swan Lake* before."

"I've heard that this is a fantastic production," Kirsty's mum said. "The scenery is supposed to be gorgeous."

"Well, let's hope it keeps Dad awake!" Kirsty laughed, glancing at her dad who was fast asleep in the corner seat. "I'm so pleased you could come, Rachel. Wasn't it lucky that your school finished for half-term the day before ours? You wouldn't have been here in time to come with us otherwise."

Rachel nodded. Because their families lived quite a long way apart, she was staying with Kirsty for the whole week of the half-term holiday.

"We'll be in London soon," said Mrs Tate, as the train drew into a station. "This is the last stop before we get there."

Kirsty stared out of the window as the train slowed. Suddenly her attention was caught by a flash of icy blue streaking past the window.

Puzzled, Kirsty leaned forward for a closer look. To her amazement, she saw seven little fairies being tumbled through the air by a tiny icy whirlwind.

As Kirsty watched, the fairies landed safely in one of the baskets of flowers suspended from the station roof.

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Kirsty and Rachel knew a lot about fairies because the two girls shared an amazing secret. They were best friends with the fairies, and had often helped them to defeat mean Jack Frost and his naughty goblin servants, who were always causing trouble.

Now it looked as if their fairy friends might need the girls' help once more.

Almost bursting with excitement, Kirsty glanced at Rachel. But she could see that her friend hadn't noticed anything.

"Mum, I'm feeling hungry," Kirsty said quickly. "Do you think Rachel and I could go and get some biscuits from the buffet car?" Mrs Tate nodded.

"But not too many," she warned. "Remember we're going out for dinner after the show."

Kirsty nodded as she and Rachel got up from their seats. "Rachel, I've just seen *Seven* fairies on the station platform!" Kirsty gasped, as soon as they'd left the carriage.

Rachel looked thrilled. "Seven fairies!" she exclaimed. "Where?"

"Right here!" Kirsty said, pulling down the window that lay directly opposite the basket of fairies.

"Hello!" she called softly, hoping the fairies would hear her.

The fairies were dusting themselves off among the pansies, but at the sound of Kirsty's voice, one of them looked up and saw the girls. Her tiny face lit up, and a moment later all seven fairies were zooming over to join Kirsty and Rachel. They flew inside the train and Kirsty shut the window.

"You're Rachel and Kirsty!" declared one of the fairies, happily. "I've seen you with the King and Queen in Fairyland."

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The girls smiled at the tiny fairy, who was dressed in a sparkling white tutu and pink ballet shoes.

“I’m so pleased you’re here,” the fairy went on. “We’re the Dance Fairies. I’m Bethany the Ballet Fairy, and this is Jade the Disco Fairy, Rebecca the Rock ‘n’ Roll Fairy, Tasha the Tap Dance Fairy, Jessica the Jazz Fairy, Saskia the Salsa Fairy and Imogen the Ice Dance Fairy.”

Rachel and Kirsty smiled at the fairies, feeling quite dazzled by their gorgeous outfits. The fairies managed to smile back, but the girls could see that their eyes were sad and their sparkling wings drooped.

“Has something gone wrong?” asked Rachel.

Bethany nodded. “It’s Jack Frost!” she announced miserably. “He’s just cast a spell to throw us out of Fairyland and into the human world. That’s why we’re here. But, worst of all, he’s stolen our magic Dance Ribbons!”

**Read the rest of Bethany the Ballet Fairy and discover what magic happens next!**

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