



**Series:** The Dance Fairies

**Book:** Saskia the Salsa Fairy

### Fun at the Fiesta

“See you later, Mum,” Kirsty Tate said, as she and her best friend, Rachel Walker, got ready to leave the house.

“Four o’clock, in front of the Village Hall,” Mrs Tate reminded the girls. “I should have finished my work by then. I’m sure you’ll have a great time at the fiesta. I can’t wait to see all the dancing and costumes. Now, girls, promise me that you’ll stick together; it’s going to be very busy.”

“We will,” Kirsty promised. Then, as she and Rachel set off down the road, she added to Rachel, “Of course we’ll stick together. Isn’t that when we have all our best adventures?”

Rachel grinned. “I hope we have another one today,” she replied.

Rachel was staying with Kirsty’s family for half-term and the girls were having a very exciting week. A *fairy* exciting week, in fact, because they were helping the Dance Fairies find their missing magical ribbons.

The Dance Ribbons helped dancers perform their best throughout Fairyland as well as all around the human world, but Jack Frost, a bad fairy, had stolen the ribbons in order to make sure his goblin servants would dance well at his parties.

The Fairy King and Queen had heard about the stolen ribbons, and they’d been to Jack Frost’s ice castle to get them back.

Unfortunately, Jack Frost had seen them coming, and he had immediately cast a spell to hurl all the ribbons into the human world, with a goblin to guard each one.

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While the ribbons were missing, dancing was going wrong in Fairyland and all over the world.

Luckily, Kirsty and Rachel had helped the fairies find the Ballet, Disco, Rock 'n' Roll, Tap Dance, and Jazz Ribbons, and these ribbons were now safely back with their rightful fairy owners.

There were still two dance ribbons out there somewhere, though, and the girls were keen to track them down.

"The Salsa Ribbon is still lost," Kirsty said, as they walked towards the centre of the village, where the fiesta was taking place. "I wonder if the goblin guarding it will be attracted to the salsa music and turn up at the fiesta today. I hope so."

Rachel was nodding. "If he's anything like the others, having the ribbon will just make him want to dance, dance, dance," she agreed. "And with all that salsa music playing, I bet he won't be able to resist."

The girls had been surprised at first to see that the goblins who were guarding the dance ribbons could dance really well. In fact, dancing seemed to be the only thing they wanted to do, and any time they heard a tune connected with their particular dance ribbon, seemed drawn to the music.

The fairies had explained to the girls that it was actually the ribbons' magic that made the goblins dance so well. The power of the dance ribbons was so strong that they made anybody nearby dance wonderfully well – even clumsy goblins!

Kirsty glanced around. "Well, I hope the goblin with the Salsa Ribbon does turn up," she said quietly. "That way we might be able to get the ribbon away from him and safely back to Saskia the Salsa Fairy," she added. "If we don't, the salsa dancing is going to be ruined today!"

At that moment, the girls turned the corner into the high street. For a second, they completely forgot all about goblins as they both took in the sight before them.

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The high street looked amazing: colourful banners and streamers had been strung up everywhere, bobbing balloons were pinned to the lampposts, and, lining the street, the girls could see tented pavilions and stalls selling food and drink.

Music was playing, everyone was smiling and there seemed to be a great buzz of excitement in the air.

“This is brilliant!” Rachel said, her eyes shining as she gazed around.

Kirsty grabbed her hand. “Come on,” she said eagerly. “Let’s go over to the museum, where the parade is going to start. It might be fun to see everyone getting ready.” “OK,” Rachel agreed. “And let’s keep our eyes open for a goblin!”

As they walked towards the museum, they came across a group of friends gathered around a papier-mâché piñata. The piñata was in the shape of a pineapple and it was dangling from a tree branch.

Each person was taking it in turns to put on a blindfold and whack the piñata with a stick, hoping to crack it open and release the goodies inside.

“There’s Lucy!” Kirsty said, spotting one of her school friends and waving. Lucy smiled and called them over.

“Do you want to have a go?” she asked.

“Ooh, yes, please,” Kirsty said at once, hurrying up to the piñata.

Rachel followed and was given the blindfold to tie around her friend’s eyes. Then Rachel and Lucy turned Kirsty around three times before putting the stick in her hand.

Kirsty tottered dizzily towards where she thought the piñata was and bashed it with the stick as hard as she could. Crack! The pineapple split open and hundreds of sweets, small toys and glitter tumbled to the ground.

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Everyone cheered and crowded around to gather up the treats. Rachel was just about to join them, when she suddenly noticed a tiny spark of light shoot out of the piñata and up into the air. She knew that it couldn't be a sparkly piece of glitter, as it was flying up and not down.

"That's strange!" Rachel said to herself, and then an exciting thought struck her – *Could it be a fairy?*

**Read the rest of Saskia the Salsa Fairy and discover what magic happens next!**

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