



Series: The Green Fairies

Book: Milly the River Fairy

A Fairy Afloat

“Ooh, it’s definitely colder than yesterday,” Rachel Walker said, as she and her best friend Kirsty Tate strolled through Rainspell Park.

“I can’t believe we were so warm on the beach at the start of the week – and today we’re all wrapped up in our woollies!”

Kirsty grinned at Rachel. “And I can’t believe we were swimming in the sea with Coral the Reef Fairy a few days ago,” she said in a low voice. “Imagine how freezing cold the water must be right now!”

Rachel shivered at the thought. “She’d have to use a *lot* of fairy magic to keep us warm today, wouldn’t she?”

The two girls smiled at each other as they walked on through the park.

It was the autumn half-term, and they were both here on Rainspell Island for a week with their parents. Rainspell Island was the place where Kirsty and Rachel had first met. They’d shared a very magical summer together, and now this holiday was turning out to be every bit as magical!

“Oh, I do love being friends with the fairies,” Kirsty said happily, thinking about all the exciting adventures they’d had so far. “We really are the luckiest girls in the world, Rachel.”

“Definitely,” Rachel agreed. Goldenbrown leaves were tumbling from the trees in the park every time the wind blew, and she noticed just then that some of the trees were already bare.

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“Well, it’s certainly windy enough today to sail our boats, anyway,” she said, as a yellow horse chestnut leaf floated down and landed at her feet.

She glanced at the paper boat she was holding. The girls had each made one back at their holiday cottage that morning. “They’re going to whizz along with this breeze behind them.”

“Here’s the lake,” Kirsty said as they rounded a corner and saw the stretch of blue water ahead of them. She held up her own paper boat and raised an eyebrow at Rachel.

“Mine is going to be the fastest, you know.” Rachel laughed.

“No chance!” she retorted.

The two girls had decorated their boats with felt-tip pens and they were bright and colourful. Kirsty’s was red and gold, and she’d written *Autumn Spirit* along one side of it.

Rachel had coloured hers pink and lilac, and had called it *Magical Mist*.

As they reached the water’s edge, both girls set their boats carefully down on the surface, and watched them float away. A gust of wind blew them straight ahead, and Kirsty and Rachel cheered as the boats sailed quickly towards the middle of the lake.

“Go, go, *Autumn Spirit*!” Kirsty cried. “Let’s run round to the other side of the lake so that we can catch them as they come in,” Rachel suggested.

The girls sprinted along the path that circled the lake, making they checked on their boats every now and then. When the path rejoined the lakeside, the girls stopped expectantly, scanning the water to see where their boats had got to.

Then Kirsty let out a cry of dismay. “Oh no, look, Rachel! There’s a tyre sticking right out of the water – and our boats are heading straight for it. They’ll get stuck there!”

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Rachel opened her mouth to reply, but then noticed something else. Something very exciting! "Kirsty, have you seen who's standing on your boat?" she cried. "It's Milly the River Fairy!"

Read the rest of *Milly the River Fairy* and discover what magic happens next!

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