



Series: The Ocean Fairies

Book: Ally the Dolphin Fairy

Off to Fairyland

Kirsty Tate and Rachel Walker stepped off the bus and blinked in the sunshine. The two girls were staying with Kirsty's gran in Leamouth for the spring holiday and today they'd come to Lea-on-Sea, a small seaside resort along the coast.

"I've got some shopping to do, so I'll meet you back here at midday," Kirsty's gran said, getting off the bus. "Have fun!"

"We will," Kirsty assured her. "See you later, Gran." Then she turned to Rachel. "Come on, let's go down to the beach!"

It took the girls just moments to walk down the sandy steps to the curving bay, which was packed with families enjoying the sun. The sky was a clear, fresh blue, and a breeze ruffled the tops of the waves.

"It's lovely," Rachel said, slipping off her shoes and wiggling her bare toes in the warm sand. She pointed to the far edge of the bay. "Let's go over there, shall we? It's a bit less crowded." The girls made their way across the beach, zigzagging between deckchairs, windbreaks and sandcastles.

Then Kirsty stopped walking suddenly and bent down. "Hey, look at this shell," she said, picking it up to show Rachel. "It's really sparkly."

Rachel peered at the fan-shaped scallop shell, which was a creamy-white colour with pink edging. And yes – tiny golden sparkles were fizzling all over it!

Rachel's heart quickened with excitement as she looked at Kirsty. "That looks like fairy magic," she whispered.

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“Just what I was thinking,” Kirsty replied, smiling. “Oh! And I can feel something underneath it, too.”

She flipped the shell over in her palm and both girls saw a tiny golden scroll tucked into it, tied with a pretty red ribbon. Rachel untied the ribbon and unfurled the scroll, then both girls leaned over to read the tiny writing there. “King Oberon and Queen Titania hereby invite you to the Fairyland Ocean Gala,” Kirsty read in a whisper. “Oh, wow!”

Rachel felt a rush of excitement. She and Kirsty had been to Fairyland many times now, and had enjoyed lots of wonderful fairy adventures, but the thought of visiting their fairy friends was always a treat. “What are we waiting for?” she said. “Let’s hide behind these rocks so nobody sees us – and go to Fairyland!”

Once they were hidden from view, Rachel and Kirsty opened the pretty golden locket they wore. The lockets had been a present from the fairy king and queen and contained magical fairy dust, which would transport the girls to Fairyland. Their fingers trembling with excitement, the two friends each took a pinch of the sparkling pink dust and sprinkled themselves with it.

Instantly, a glittering whirlwind spun up about them, and they felt themselves shrink smaller and smaller to fairy-size. Kirsty just managed to grab Rachel’s hand, as they whizzed around very quickly.

Then, after a few moments, the whirlwind dropped and the girls felt themselves lowered gently to the ground. “Another beach!” Rachel exclaimed in delight, gazing around. “A Fairyland beach!”

“And we’re fairies!” Kirsty cried, fluttering the beautiful gauzy wings on her back, loving the way that they shimmered all the colours of the rainbow in the sunlight.

The two friends were standing on the beach next to the Fairyland Royal Aquarium, an unusual building made of glass and stone, and the Gala was in full swing. Hundreds of fairies were dancing to lively music, competing in fun swimming races, enjoying boat rides, and tucking in to the most wonderful-looking ice creams.

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“There are the Party Fairies,” Kirsty said, spotting their old friends flitting about, making sure that everyone was having fun. “Oh, and there’s Shannon the Ocean Fairy!”

“Hello Kirsty, hello Rachel!” Shannon cried happily. “It’s lovely to see you again. These fairies are my Ocean Fairy helpers, who take care of the creatures in the Royal Aquarium – and throughout all the oceans, too!”

Shannon introduced the fairies – Ally the Dolphin Fairy, Amelie the Seal Fairy, Pia the Penguin Fairy, Tess the Sea Turtle Fairy, Stephanie the Starfish Fairy, Whitney the Whale Fairy and Courtney the Clownfish Fairy.

“Hi,” said Whitney, who was wearing a brightly patterned dress. “Have you been to one of our ocean parties before?”

“No,” Kirsty replied. “But this one looks great! Are you celebrating something special?”

“We hold a Gala like this every summer,” explained Tess, who had long blonde hair in two plaits. “It’s lots of fun, but important too. Shannon plays a tune on the Golden Conch Shell which ensures peace and harmony throughout the ocean for the whole year. It’s up there, look.”

Tess was pointing at a small stage in front of the Aquarium, with a table in the middle, covered in a midnight-blue velvet cloth. On top of the cloth sat a large golden shell, which glittered with magic.

“Talking of which...it’s about time I began,” said Shannon. She winked at Rachel and Kirsty. “Wish me luck!”

As Shannon walked onstage, a hush fell over the party. “Good afternoon, everyone,” Shannon said in her tinkling voice. “I hope you’re all having a lovely time at our annual Ocean Gala.”

“No!” came a bad-tempered voice just then. “No, I am not having a good time, actually!”

Rachel’s mouth fell open in shock as a grumpy-looking figure barged through the crowd and onto the stage. “Jack Frost!” she hissed. “What’s he doing here?” Kirsty bit her lip. Horrid

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Jack Frost was such a trouble-maker! “I don’t know,” she replied in a whisper, “but it looks like we’re about to find out.”

Read the rest of *Ally the Dolphin Fairy* and discover what magic happens next!

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