



Series: The Rainbow Fairies

Book: Ruby the Red Fairy

The End of the Rainbow

'Look, Dad!' said Rachel Walker. She pointed across the blue-green sea at the rocky island ahead of them. The ferry was sailing towards it, dipping up and down on the rolling waves. 'Is that Rainspell Island?' she asked.

Her dad nodded. 'Yes, it is,' he said, smiling. 'Our holiday is about to begin!'

The waves slapped against the side of the ferry as it bobbed up and down on the water. Rachel felt her heart thump with excitement. She could see white cliffs and emerald green fields on the island. And golden sandy beaches, with rock pools dotted here and there.

Suddenly, a few fat raindrops plopped down on to Rachel's head. 'Oh!' she gasped, surprised. The sun was still shining.

Rachel's mum grabbed her hand. 'Let's get under cover,' she said, leading Rachel inside.

'Isn't that strange?' Rachel said.
'Sunshine *and* rain!'

'Let's hope the rain stops before we get off the ferry,' said Mr Walker.
'Now, where did I put that map of the island?'

Rachel looked out of the window. Her eyes opened wide.

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A girl was standing alone on the deck. Her dark hair was wet with raindrops, but she didn't seem to care. She just stared up at the sky.

Rachel looked over at her mum and dad. They were busy studying the map. So Rachel slipped back outside to see what was so interesting.

And there it was.

In the blue sky, high above them was the most amazing rainbow that Rachel had ever seen. One end of the rainbow was far out to sea. The other seemed to fall somewhere on Rainspell Island. All of the colours were bright and clear.

'Isn't it perfect?' the dark-haired girl whispered to Rachel.

'Yes, it is,' Rachel agreed. 'Are you going to Rainspell on holiday?'

The girl nodded. 'We're staying for a week,' she said, 'I'm Kirsty Tate.' Rachel smiled, as the rain began to stop. 'I'm Rachel Walker. We're staying at Mermaid Cottage,' she added.

'And we're at Dolphin Cottage,' said Kirsty. 'Do you think we might be near each other?'

'I hope so,' Rachel replied. She had a feeling she was going to like Kirsty.

Kirsty leaned over the rail and looked down into the shimmering water. 'The sea looks really deep, doesn't it?' she said. 'There might even be mermaids down there, watching us right now!'

Rachel stared at the waves. She saw something that made her heart skip a beat. 'Look!' she said. 'Is that a mermaid's hair?' Then she laughed when she saw it was just seaweed.

'It could be a mermaid's necklace,' said Kirsty, smiling. 'Maybe she lost it when she was trying to escape from the sea monster.'

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The ferry was now sailing into Rainspell's tiny harbour. Seagulls flew around them, and fishing boats bobbed on the water.

'Look at that big white cliff over there,' Kirsty said. She pointed it out to Rachel. 'It looks a bit like a giant's face, doesn't it?'

Rachel looked, and nodded. Kirsty seemed to see magic *everywhere*.

'There you are, Rachel!' called Mrs Walker. Rachel turned around and saw her mum and dad coming out on to the deck. 'We'll be getting off the ferry in a few minutes.'

'Mum, Dad this is Kirsty,' Rachel said. 'She's staying at Dolphin Cottage.'

'That's right next door to ours,' said Mr Walker. 'I remember seeing it on the map.'

Rachel and Kirsty looked at each other in delight.

'I'd better go and find *my* mum and dad,' said Kirsty. She looked around. 'Oh, here they are.'

Kirsty's mum and dad came over to say hello to the Walkers. Then the ferry docked, and everyone began to leave the boat.

'Our cottages are on the other side of the harbour,' said Rachel's dad, looking at the map. 'It's not far.'

Mermaid Cottage and Dolphin Cottage were right next to the beach. Rachel loved her bedroom, which was high up in the attic. From the window, she could see the waves rolling onto the sand.

A shout from outside made her look down. It was Kirsty. She was standing under the window, waving at her.

'Let's go and explore the beach!' Kirsty called.

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Rachel dashed outside to join her. Seaweed lay in piles on the sand, and there were tiny pink and white shells dotted about.

‘I love it here already!’ Rachel shouted happily above the noise of the seagulls.

‘Me too,’ Kirsty said. She pointed up at the sky. ‘Look, the rainbow’s still there.’ Rachel looked up. The rainbow glowed brightly among the fluffy white clouds.

‘Have you heard the story about the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?’ Kirsty asked.

Rachel nodded. ‘Yes, but that’s just in fairy stories,’ she said.

Kirsty grinned. ‘Maybe. But let’s go and find out for ourselves!’

‘OK’, Rachel agreed. ‘We can explore the island at the same time.’

They rushed back to tell their parents where they were going. Then Kirsty and Rachel set off along a lane behind the cottages. It led them far away from the beach, across green fields, and towards a small wood.

Rachel kept looking up at the rainbow. She was worried that it would start to fade now that the rain had stopped. But, the colours stayed clear and bright.

‘It looks like the end of the rainbow is over there,’ Kirsty said. ‘Come on!’ And she hurried towards the trees.

The wood was cool and green after the heat of the sun. Rachel and Kirsty followed a winding path until they came to a clearing. Then they both stopped and stared.

The rainbow shone down on to the grass through a gap in the trees. And there, at the rainbow’s end, lay an old, black pot.

Read the rest of *Ruby the Red Fairy* to find out what magic happens next!

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