



**Book:** Kylie the Carnival Fairy

### **The Carnival Begins**

"This is exciting!" Rachel Walker exclaimed to her best friend, Kirsty Tate. "I've never been to a carnival before."

"Sunnydays is the best carnival of them all," Kirsty replied. "It visits Wetherbury every year at the end of the summer holidays. I'm so glad you're staying with us, so that you can come too."

The girls were standing with Kirsty's parents and a large crowd of people outside the gates of the carnival showground.

There was a buzz of excited chatter as everyone waited for the Grand Opening. "Which ride will you go on first, girls?" asked Mr Tate.

"I don't know," Kirsty said, peering through the gates. "There are so many!"

She could see a Ferris wheel, dodgems, spinning teacups and many more. There were also stalls offering sweets and games like hoopla and hook-a-duck.

"Look, Kirsty!" Rachel nudged her friend as a man in a red coat and a black top hat appeared behind the gates.

"He must be the Carnival Master," Kirsty explained. "It's time for the Grand Opening!" The crowd cheered loudly.

"Ladies and gentlemen," boomed the Carnival Master. "Welcome to Sunnydays, the most magical carnival in the world!" And he threw open the gates with a flourish. "Follow me!"

Rachel and Kirsty hurried inside the showground eagerly, along with the rest of the crowd.

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“Let the carnival magic begin!” announced the Carnival Master, sweeping off his top hat and pointing it at the Ferris wheel. Immediately the great wheel began to turn.

The crowd gasped.

Then the Carnival Master waved his hat at the teacups, which began to spin in a blur of bright colours.

“It is magic!” gasped a little girl near Kirsty, as the rides sprang to life. Rachel and Kirsty smiled. They knew all about magic. The two girls had become friends with the fairies, and helped their tiny friends whenever cold, spiteful Jack Frost and his goblin servants were causing trouble.

A loud drumbeat echoed through the air. “It’s the parade!” Kirsty cried.

There was a clash of cymbals and a band, led by a man in a smart blue uniform, marched towards the crowd. The Band Leader wore a blue peaked cap, trimmed with gold braid, and carried a rainbow-coloured baton.

As the spectators cheered, he tipped his hat to them and twirled his baton. Immediately, the band struck up a merry tune.

“This is great,” Rachel said as the band marched past. “Look, there are dancers and acrobats.”

Behind the band came dancers in blue and gold dresses, with long satin ribbons in their hands which they twirled and twisted as they danced. Acrobats jumped and tumbled, handing out party poppers in between cartwheels.

Kirsty and Rachel were delighted to get one each. “There are jugglers too!” Kirsty pointed out.

The jugglers wore red and white jester’s hats with bells on, and carried colourful juggling balls.

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“Oh, dear!” Rachel sighed as one of the jugglers dropped all his balls at once. “I think they need a bit more practice.”

Kirsty frowned as another of the jugglers stumbled into one of the acrobats. “They’re not very tall, are they?” she said. “Perhaps they’re children. That would explain why they’re not very good at juggling yet.”

But then Kirsty glanced down at the jugglers’ feet. Their shoes were huge – much too big for children’s shoes!

Kirsty peered closely at the jugglers as they paraded past. Although their hats hid most of their faces, she could just make out that they had long, green noses.

“Rachel!” Kirsty whispered, her heart pounding. “Those jugglers aren’t children. They’re goblins!”

**Read the rest of Kylie the Carnival Fairy and discover what magic happens next!**

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