

# Chapter 1

## A Last Adventure



“I can’t believe it’s the last day of our holiday,” said Lei, her brown eyes filling up with tears as she dived into the tent. “And then I won’t get to see you both until next summer!”

Squeezing in after her, Cora nodded, and put an arm around her American cousin. “It sucks!”



“But we can still call and video chat,” Isabelle reminded them. She was already in the tent, scribbling away in her diary. “We’ll have to, because I won’t be able to talk about Blossom Wood with anyone else, and there’s no way I’ll be able to keep it in!”



“Girls, where are you?” Cora’s mum’s voice floated through the tent. “It’s our last night. Come and join us!”

Cora's face fell. "Oh no," she whispered. "We won't get a chance to go to the cove now!"

“Maybe we could sneak away before anyone sees us?” suggested Isabelle.

“Time doesn’t pass while we’re in Blossom Wood, remember, so we’d only be gone for the time it takes to get down to the cove and back...”

Lei stuck her face out of the tent, then turned back to her cousins. She shook her head, revealing the pink braids beneath her long dark brown hair. “Everyone’s outside. Even my sister!”

“Come on, girls, what are you doing in that tent?” asked Lei’s mum.

“Um ... just, um ... talking – I’ll be





“We might have to eat them untoasted if I can’t get the fire to start,” Cora’s dad groaned. He got up and bent down to the firepit, poking it with a pair barbecue tongs.

“What’s wrong, Dad?” Cora asked, wrapping her thick cardigan around her. The sun was going down, turning the sky

a beautiful pinky-purple colour, and it was getting chilly on the hilltop campsite.

He sighed and stared at the pile of logs. “It just won’t light properly. I think we need more kindling.”

“We can help with that!” Lei shouted, a bit too loudly.

All their parents turned to look at her. “Wow, you’re keen,” said Lei’s dad. “Do you know where to find some?”

Lei nodded like a woodpecker and grabbed Isabelle’s and Cora’s hands. “Yes, we do, don’t we? Down near the trees by the lake, right?”

“Oh, yes,” said Cora, quickly understanding Lei’s plan. “There are loads of twigs and things down there.”

Isabelle looked around and spotted an empty picnic hamper. “We’ll be able to collect loads in this!” she said, sweeping







thought of seeing their woodland friends, and the beautiful forest. She wondered what would be happening there today, and what time of year it would be. Even though it was summer in their world, the seasons were often different in Blossom Wood. Last time they were there it was



themselves in a puddle of water and saw that they were unicorns. She wished she could go back in time and live all of their adventures again.

Isabelle noticed her cousins' downturned mouths and squeezed both of their hands. "Hey, don't be sad. We've got to enjoy this! And who knows, maybe we will be able to come back again one day."

Cora smiled at her optimistic cousin, hoping she was right, and decided to take her advice. She had to enjoy this – especially if it was their last visit.

They reached the cove, which was like a shallow cave set into the hillside. At the back, the hoof prints were waiting for them. Still holding hands, Cora, Isabelle and Lei each stepped into a set, and Isabelle set down the hamper.

Immediately, their feet fizzed with warm magic, which began spreading up their legs and through their bodies. Bright white light flashed all around them, forcing them to shut their eyes.

“Blossom Wood, here we come!” yelled Lei.

