

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

*...in which the friends magically change places
in space.*

The wall was red-green: the old brickwork was overgrown with moss and ivy so thick that not a single brick was visible in its entirety.

"According to the coordinates, it must be around here somewhere," Marty said and stopped in front of the wall.

"Are you sure?" Luna asked and looked at the wall doubtfully. "It doesn't look like there's any kind of a portal here at all."





"No, but my navigational tools and the coordinates I found in the old records say this is where it is," Marty replied.



"Well, let's see," Astro carefully lifted the ivy, which revealed solid brickwork underneath.

"Maybe we were wrong after all?" Luna hesitated.

"Maybe the portal only opens only at certain times," suggested Alex.



"What if the ivy gives the illusion that the portal isn't there? I've read about this property of some plants," Bella said.

"It says in the book that you can only see the portal after you cast a spell, but you can only walk through it after another spell," Marty said.

"So let's do it!" Astro suggested. "You found both spells, right?"

"Yes," Marty replied, "but the problem is, there were two spells, and I don't know which one opens the portal and which one makes it visible."

"It doesn't matter! If we're in the right place, we'll just be transported into the magic forest. If we're in the wrong place, then nothing will happen," Astro insisted.

"It would be nice to see where we're going. At least it won't be so scary," Luna grumbled in dissatisfaction.

"Oh, please!" Astro brushed her off. "Come on, Marty, let's do the first spell!"

Astro walked over to Marty, and together, practically in one voice, they recited:

"See the wall and see the forest,

Go through shadow and be honest!"

Immediately Marty and Astro were lifted up, swirled in a whirlpool of air, and sucked right into the wall.

Before Luna, Bella, and Alex knew it, their friends were gone.

"Oh, my gosh!" Bella was astonished.

"What do we do now?" Luna wondered.

Alex stood silent, staring at the wall in wonder. Finally, he said:

"We don't know the second spell, but the first one worked. Then we need to speak it out loud."

"Scaaaaaary," Luna groaned. "What if we can't go back?"



"If we've already agreed to take part in this, we can't turn back now," Alex said confidently.

"Yes, Luna, we can't leave our friends," Bella agreed. "Besides, I think it would be an interesting adventure!"

"Stop! Stop! Don't do this, my friends!"

All three turned to see Le O'Capri rushing toward them.

"Ohh... It looks like we've been caught in the act, on top of everything," Luna said in frustration.

"We should disappear before he gets here," suggested Alex, who didn't want to be caught red-handed, either.

"That's a good idea," Bella agreed.

"It's scary here and there, so let's run away," Luna concluded, shifting from one paw to another.

"Let's all say the spell together," Alex suggested.

They all said in one voice:

"See the wall and see the forest,

Go through shadow and be honest!"

The young friends were picked up by a whirlwind and sucked into the brick wall. And the ivy covered the place where they'd been swept into even more tightly.





When Le O'Capri ran up to the wall, there was no one near it.

"Oh, I'm too late! I'm too late! They had done something irreparable. How can I save them now?" The distraught leopard exclaimed loudly.

"You will go after them and guard them until they find what they are looking for," said an owl in a nearby tree.

"What? You're here? Did you see everything?"

"I did. Sometimes owls see more than they're supposed to."

The owl came down from the tree and pulled out a small book from under her wing. It was titled, "Everything You Need to Travel Between Worlds." With a slight flick of her wing, the owl opened the book to the right page and said:

"Read this spell," and she pointed to the right line.

"See the wall and see the forest,

Go through shadow and be honest!"

Brave Le O'Capri read the spell without any hesitation. Immediately, a small whirlwind picked him up, twisted him in the air a bit and sent him into the wall, or rather through it, so fast that only the ivy fluttered, as if in a light breeze.

"Well," the owl slammed the book shut and put it under her wing, "it's time for me to go to the magic forest, too. It's been so long since I've visited it," she said to herself.

"Fly into the forest through the wall,

Be invisible to them all!"

The owl cast a spell and immediately disappeared into thin air.

