

DREAM KEEPERS

MAP TO STARLIGHT HOLLOW



REBECCA LEWIS-OAKES

ILLUSTRATED BY
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with her own lemon–orange drink that looked like a sunrise.

Paisley blushed. ‘Yes, this is my Moon Wood sketchbook,’ she said. ‘And I found this gold pen, which is just perfect for the Dream Essence, so I’ve been drawing the tree over and over again.’

The Dream Tree was the source of all the magic in Moon Wood, and it connected the dream town to Sunny Wood. It grew right out of the Moon Wood apothecary and there was a mini version in Joya’s Sunny Wood shop. When it bloomed, its flowers released golden Dream Essence – the magic that created sweet dreams.

Bella’s jaw dropped when she saw the drawing. ‘You’re so talented!’

Paisley blushed again. ‘It’s just practice,’ she said modestly.

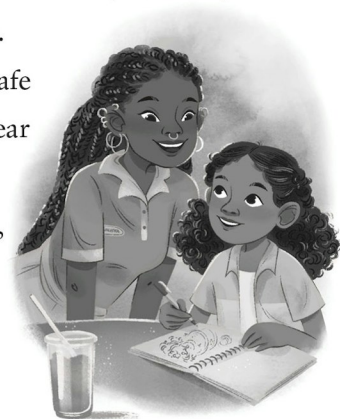
‘It is not!’ said Mai, slurping her slushie.

‘You’re amazing – but the Dream Tree is a pretty magical subject, I’ll give you that!’

Paisley smiled. When they’d first arrived, Moon Wood had been overgrown and uncared for – it had been a long time since any Dream Keepers had been called to the magical town. The Dream Tree didn’t even have leaves, let alone the sparkingly beautiful flowers that now covered it. But when the four girls had started caring for the wood again, it came back to life, fuelled by the power of their friendship.

At that moment, the cafe owner, Portia, came to clear a table nearby.

‘Enjoying the slushies, girls?’ she asked. She had super-long braids, like Paisley’s mum had,



but she wore six hoop earrings in each ear and a nose ring, which her mum definitely didn't have. Portia pointed to Paisley's sketchbook. 'Ooh, I love that tree! I was thinking of getting something beautiful designed on the wall over there. Do you think you could paint it big, like a mural?'

Paisley's eyes nearly popped out of her head. 'What, me?' she squeaked. 'Paint a mural? Here?'

Portia laughed. 'Why not? Think about it,' she said as she headed back to the counter.

Bella clapped with joy. 'Paisley, you have to do it! That would be so cool!'

'Maybe we'd all get free slushies for life if you did!' said Mai, slurping the dregs of her drink. 'Ouch, brain freeze!' she giggled.

The friends were wowed by the idea of leaving their mark on Sugar Scoops in Sunny Wood. Full of excitement, they discussed designs for Paisley

to use as they finished their drinks.

Still chatting about how to paint a giant Dream Tree, Paisley and her friends said goodbye to Portia, and the Sugar Scoops doorbell tinkled as they left the cafe to go home.

Mai spun round and blew the girls a kiss. Then, with a huge wink, she said, 'See you tonight! Sweet dreams!'

Paisley waved and said 'Sweet dreams!' to her friends. It was what they always said when they planned to put their magical tokens under their pillows before they went to sleep, so they could meet up in Moon Wood.

Paisley smiled and hugged her sketchbook tight as she headed down the lane to her house. She might have travelled to lots of cool places, but her friends made Sunny Wood the best place she'd ever lived!





Paisley was still humming ‘I Can Sing A Rainbow’ as she put her key in the front door. She was about to call out ‘I’m home!’ but heard loud noises from down the hall, so she took off her shoes and tiptoed towards the kitchen.

‘We can’t tell them yet – it’s not finalised,’ her mum was saying.

A pot clanged on the stove and the kettle whistled as it boiled. Paisley wondered what wasn’t finalised. Did her parents have a surprise for her and her brother?

Brandon’s birthday *was* coming up. Maybe Mum and Dad were going to take them to the amusement park after all. Brandon was adamant he was tall enough for the biggest roller coasters now and he was desperate to go on every ride.

‘They’ll be excited, though. They love moving!’

Dad replied. ‘It’s all a big adventure.’

‘*You* love moving,’ Mum countered. ‘And I’m proud of you for getting promoted, but we need to take a minute to decide how to tell them.’

Dad chuckled and Paisley could hear him give Mum a kiss. ‘You’re right. We’ll sort out a proper plan and then we can tell them.’

Paisley couldn’t move her feet even if she tried. She was frozen, stuck stock still.

Move?



Leave Sunny Wood?

Paisley didn't know what to do. She couldn't tell her parents that she'd been eavesdropping. But she also couldn't unhear what she'd just heard.

Suddenly the kitchen door creaked, jolting Paisley out of her shock. She ran as quickly and quietly as she could upstairs.

What was she going to do?

Paisley worried about it all evening. At dinner, when Mum asked why she was so quiet, she shrugged it off. She daren't say anything in case she blurted out what she'd overheard. She couldn't even concentrate on drawing. And, worst of all, Paisley was so distracted that at bedtime she forgot to put her pressed white rose token under her pillow, and slept fitfully throughout the night instead of meeting her friends in Moon Wood.



Fatima

Paisley! Where were you last night?

Mai

Yeah! We missed you!

Bella

Quill missed you too

Paisley

...

Mai

Helloooo? Are you there???