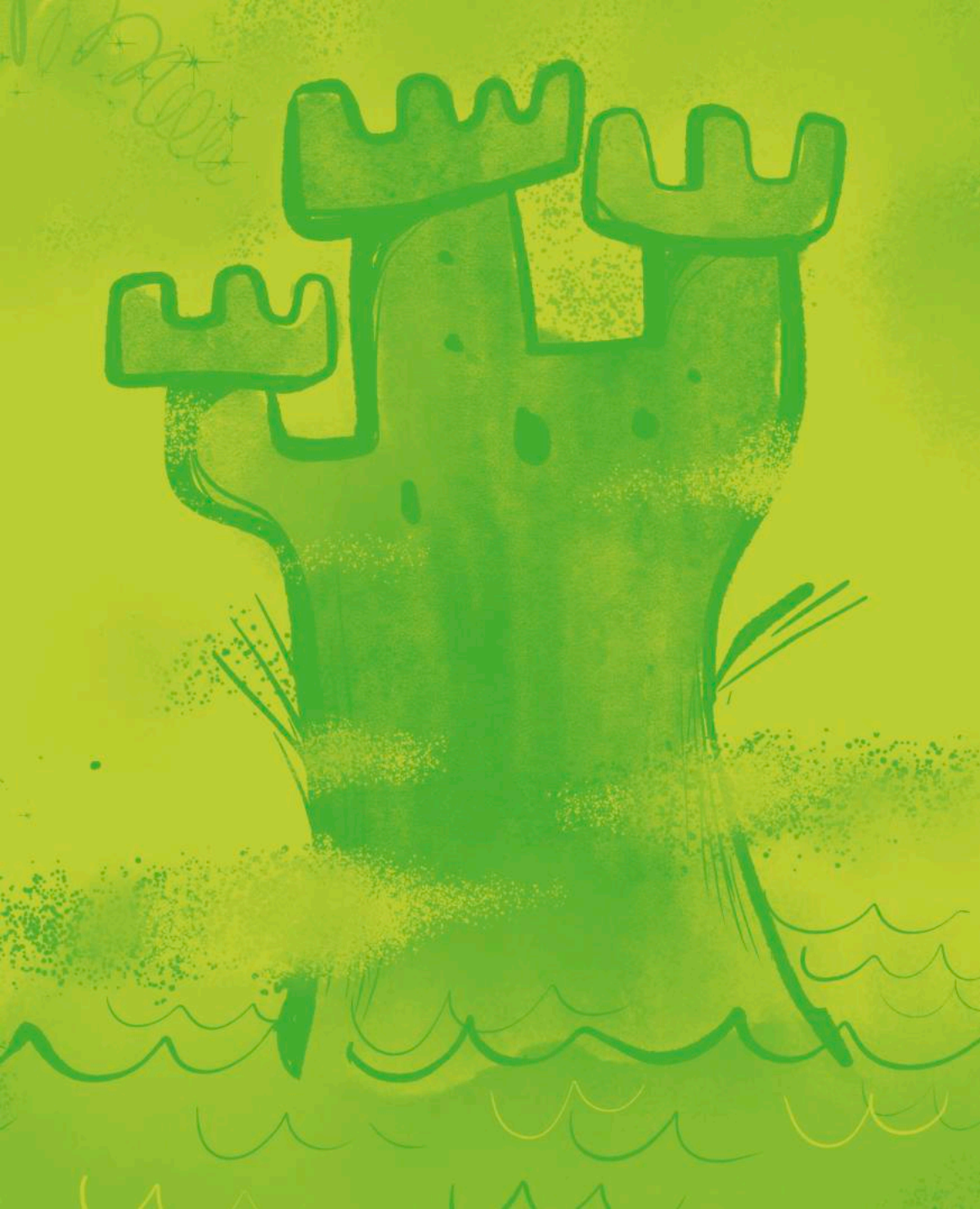


Jack the Fairy

THE WEEK THE BAD FAIRIES Escaped!





Here's to my beautiful children, Hope,
Alexander, Molly, Harry and Joe x

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark
of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

Text and illustrations copyright © Tom McLaughlin 2025

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published in 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored
in a retrieval system, transmitted, used for text and data mining, or used
for training artificial intelligence, in any form or by any means, without
the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly
permitted by law, by licence or under terms agreed with the appropriate
reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction
outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department,
Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-278720-0

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The manufacturing process conforms to the
environmental regulations of the country of origin.

Printed in XXXX

The manufacturer's authorised representative in the EU for product
safety is Oxford University Press España S.A. of el Parque Empresarial
San Fernando de Henares, Avenida de Castilla, 2 – 28830 Madrid
(www.oup.es/en or product.safety@oup.com). OUP España S.A. also
acts as importer into Spain of products made by the manufacturer.

Jack the Fairy
**THE WEEK THE
BAD FAIRIES**
Escaped!



Tom McLaughlin

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

MEET THE CHARACTERS



Jack

This is me! I'm Jack!
I'm ten years old.
Playing football with
my best mate Charlie
is the best.



Charlie

This is Charlie, my
best friend. She's ten
years old and LOVES
everything football!



Uncle Dave

This is Uncle Dave.
He's the BEST uncle
in the world!



Mrs Bellingham

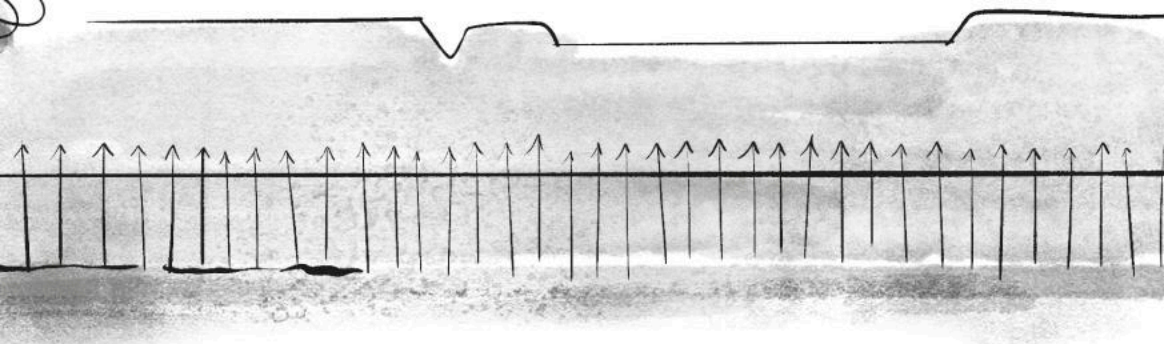
This is our teacher. She loves
springing tricky tests on us!



Mum

This is my mum.
She always knows how
to make me laugh.





Chapter 1

Kick-About

‘This is for the international championship of football, the greatest prize in the history of the game, the . . .’

‘HURRY UP!’ I yell.



‘You’re interrupting—if anything, you’re slowing me down,’ Charlie shouts back at me. ‘I need to build up the tension. I’m going Top Bins!’

We’re in the park, having a before-school kick-about, because . . . well, why wouldn’t we?

‘Top Bins?’ I ask.

‘Yeah, the top corner. Top Bins—that’s what



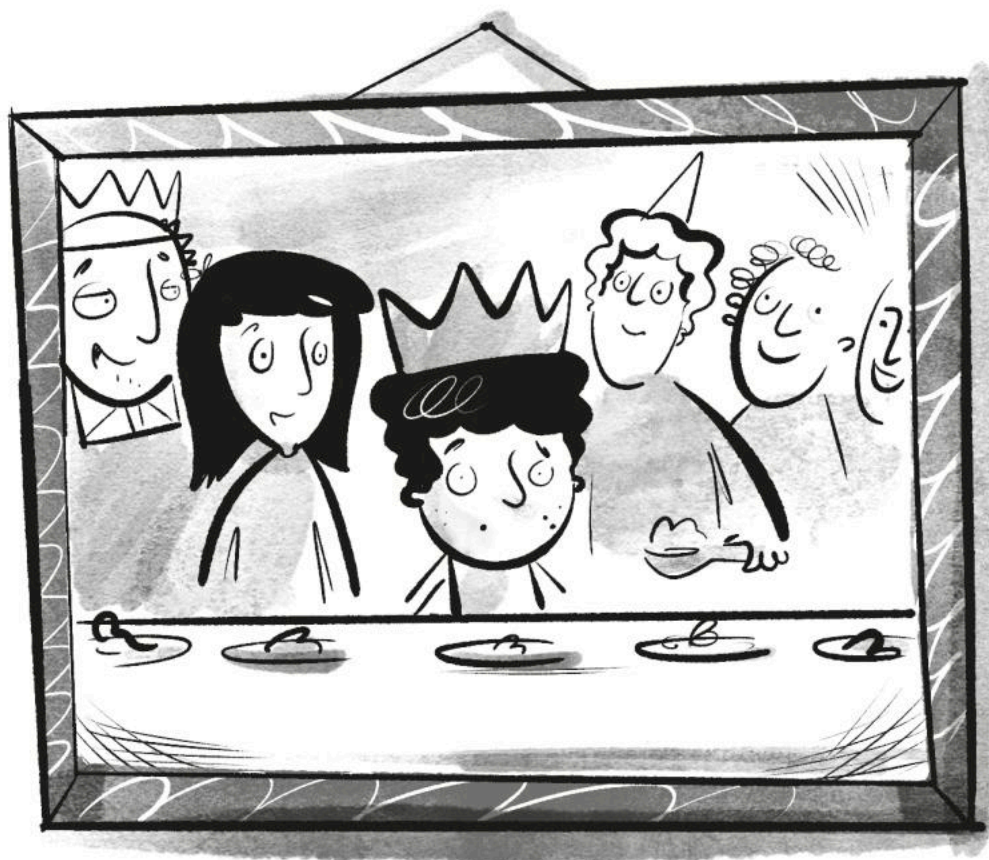
it's called. Now, where was I?' Charlie asks.

Charlie is my oldest and best friend, which is why I'm standing in goal with my arms aloft as she practises kicking the ball past me for the millionth time this morning. Suddenly I have an idea. What if I use a bit of magic? Just a little bit . . .

I'm Jack, by the way, and I'm your average ten-year-old really. I spend my time gaming, hanging out with my mates and trying to find the best chicken shop in London—I've narrowed it down to seven . . . teen. I'm pretty normal, except for this one thing. On my tenth birthday, I turned into a fairy. Yep, that was quite a birthday surprise, let me tell you. One day I'm dreaming of flying down the wing for United, the next I'm flying with my actual wings. It turns out



that everyone in my family is a fairy: my mum, my dad—everyone, even weird Aunt Val! Everyone has a weird aunty, don't they? Well, mine celebrates Christmas once a week. Imagine that—with all those Brussels sprouts, she probably doesn't need wings to fly, if you know what I mean!



Where was I? Oh yes, magic. I have a wand, because I'm a fairy. I have wings too, which pop out of my back every time I pinch my nose and blow, like I'm trying to pop my ears. But the greatest thing about being a fairy is that I can use magic to get out of sticky situations! Like stopping a free kick. I grab my wand from my back pocket.

