

*A story of family,  
friendship, revenge, and  
the sacrifice of a loving  
mother.*

## The River Fairies

by J. P. Fisher

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# THE River Fairies



J. P. FISHER

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## Chapter 1: The New Arrivals

Mother had a thick streak of purple that ran through her long red hair. This may sound a bit unusual, but not to anyone who knew her. And she viewed it as a blessing - a reminder of her past, and how she needed to keep her daughters safe.

Protecting her children was always on Mother's mind. A threat had been made against her when she was young; one which she knew would be carried out one day. She and Father diligently searched until they found the exact home that would make a perfect fortress for their family. It was an older house located on the edge of the city, far from the river, where the fairies lived.

When they first moved in, Father painted the worn, yellow-framed house a violet color, which was exactly what Mother wanted. Violet with a bright, white trim. Purple had always been her favorite color; lavender, to be exact.

The house was the most unusual building on the block. It was set up in quite the contradictory style of most homes because the upstairs was the downstairs and the front was in the back. Rather, the kitchen and living room were on the upstairs floor and the bedrooms were on the first floor of the home. And as most front doors face the street, this front door faced the backyard. There was no real reason for its opposite design. It's just the way it was.

The peculiarity was what Mother liked most about this place. Its uncommon layout would confuse someone who might want to sneak in. It also allowed Mother to watch over her girls more thoroughly. They would not be able to leave their house without her seeing them.

A large porch encircled the home which had two distinct yards; one upper and one lower, the latter complete with a children's train and track, a treehouse with swings beneath it, a spring-water drinking fountain, and a fat pompous cat named Rosie, who thought she was the protector of the home.

But most importantly, surrounding this curious residence was a fence with a large locked gate. It served to protect its inhabitants from stalking dangers which Mother feared might be lurking outside, waiting to harm her family.

For the past few months, the young family had been preparing for the birth of a new child. Father put up the fourth swing under the tree house, precisely lining it up with the other three. He wanted everything to be perfect for Mother, his three young daughters, and their new baby sister.

The time had finally arrived for Father to bring Mother and the new baby home. Father quickly phoned his sister, Sarah, to come and stay with the girls. "Sarah, it's time – the baby is on her way!" said Father.

Sarah replied, "Wonderful! I'll be there in five, Paul!" And in no time, Father was heading to the hospital, while his anxious daughters worked excitedly, tidying up, and crafting special decorations for the arrival of their new baby sister.

"Come on you guys," said Lydia, the oldest sister. "They'll be bringing the baby home any minute now. Clean up your rooms as Aunt Sarah told us to. She is outside working in Mother's gardens, so it's up to us to make this place shine. We don't want our house to look shabby or like we didn't do anything while Mother was gone."

Mockingly, Rachel and Joely rolled their eyes at their sister, but obeyed her command, picking up clothing, toys, and crayons that had been scattered about their messy bedrooms, easily overlooked while Mother was away.

"How about we decorate with some of the paper dolls I made yesterday?" said Joely. "They are so colorful and will brighten up the baby's room. It will look so fancy when the baby meets us! Paper dolls with different dresses; some with lace, some with flowers... they are all so beautiful!" Lydia shook her head as Rachel helped Joely hang the paper dolls. As much as she loved her sisters, Lydia sometimes thought they were a bit on the childish side.

The three sisters were excited to be getting a fourth. Their mother had gone to the hospital three weeks prior as she was having some difficulties with her pregnancy. Aunt Sarah filled in while she was gone, but there was no substitute for their mother. After being separated for weeks, the girls were anxious to have their mother back and to meet their new sibling.

"I am so excited for them to get home! I can't wait to see Mother and the baby!" said Joely.

Rachel responded, "Well, I can't wait to start eating regular food again! Those meals that Aunt Sarah makes are awful! If I eat one more bite of oatmeal, I think I will puke!"

Joely ran to the kitchen and pulled out the container of oatmeal. Knowing Aunt Sarah was outside and couldn't see her, she quickly dumped out the container into the garbage pail and pulled the large box of "Sugar-O's" forward that had been pushed to the back of the pantry shelf. With a broad smile on her face, Joely exclaimed, "It looks like the oatmeal has gone on vacation!"

"I bet the baby will look just like me!" declared Rachel, who had brown eyes and matching brunette hair. "Since you two have green eyes and red hair, this one *needs* to look like me!" Rachel looked more like Father, while Lydia and Joely resembled their mother's side of the family.

"Well, no matter who she looks like, we will love her all the same. I can't wait to meet her! Now come on and keep working! They will be here any minute!" ordered Lydia, eyeing the baby's room to make sure things were just right.

The excited girls giggled and scurried about, preparing for the big event. With the help of their river fairies, the house was cleaned in no time. Spinel and Zircon, the red and blue fairies, flew around the bathroom, scrubbing it thoroughly and with ease. Spinel's red glow whizzed around the bathtub so fast that she looked like a red tornado. "Awesome!" said Lydia to her fairy friend. "I knew you would help us out!"

Zircon's gleaming blue light glided across the bathroom floor, shining it with enthusiasm. Her blue glow made the tiles look like a gleaming swimming pool. When the blue fairy saw her reflection in the tiles, she could see how messy her hair had become, so she took a moment to smooth it back into place, while she admired her appearance.

"Oh, my goodness!" Rachel said to Zircon. "I have never seen this floor so shiny. It looks like a mirror – I can even see my face in it!"

"*Row amate wa!*" the blue fairy replied, still trying to manage her hair. Rachel laughed as she watched Zircon peering into the tiles, finally pleased with the image looking back at her.

The girls and their fairies laughed and joked as they hurriedly raced about, putting out fresh towels and soaps, trying to complete the finishing touches on time.

With the help of Beryl, the yellow fairy, Joely continued making the paper dolls and decorating the baby's room. "Beryl, can you help me hang this picture above the baby's bed? I think she will like this one with the cat on it."



Using her fairy magic, Beryl hung the drawing of the large cat on the wall behind the baby's crib. As Joely turned to look at it, she let out a loud chuckle when she noticed that Beryl had hung it upside down.

"Oh Beryl, you are so funny! Now we'd better fix that picture before the baby gets here. It looks silly enough, since I drew it using Rosie as my model!" laughed Joely.

The small yellow fairy mimicked back to her friend, "*Woo rittel zee!*" Rosie, who had been prowling around, supervising the clean-up activities, slowly crept past Joely and Beryl, smugly looking up at them as if she knew they had just insulted her.

As the last of the toys were being stored away, the girls heard footsteps upstairs in the living room. They quickly scampered up the staircase and headed toward the front door. Father burst into the room, searching for his daughters, with his usual cheerful smile, ever constant on his face.

"Hello, my princesses! We're home! Aunt Sarah said you have been just wonderful! I knew I could count on you to be good for her." The girls rushed to their parents and hugged them, squealing with delight to meet their new baby sister. Aunt Sarah smiled too, thrilled to be sharing in their excitement.

Mother's face glowed upon seeing her daughters. "My little darlings! I've missed you so much," she said to them, welcoming their reunion with her warm embraces.

"Hey, Paul! Bring that sweet baby over here and let me take a look at her!" Aunt Sarah called out to her brother. Holding the swaddled, warm bundle, Father tiptoed with the baby to Aunt Sarah. The children rushed over too, anxious to get a glimpse of their new sister. The cooing baby looked up and smiled at the giggling girls as they gathered around her.

"Isn't she beautiful?" said Joely.

"See, I told you she'd have brown hair like me. And I think her eyes might be brown, too!" cheered Rachel.

Lydia just smiled at her, fondly touching the baby's face. "Mother, may I hold her next? Please? I think I can do it," she said.

Filled with pride, Mother replied, "Of course you can, Liddy. Let's sit on the sofa and Aunt Sarah can put her on your lap. You are six years old now and definitely big enough to hold a baby."

Lydia sat back on the green velveteen sofa, waiting to hold the baby. Her eyes lit up when Aunt Sarah gently lifted baby Marta and placed her tenderly on her lap.

Aunt Sarah stepped back and admired the contented family. "Well, I can see that you have a lot of celebrating to do, and I've got to get going. My poor little Dodger has been home by himself all day. That pup just doesn't know what to do without me!" she said as she winked at her brother.

"Thank you, Sis," said Father, hugging his sister appreciatively and handing her a bouquet of flowers. "You're the best sister ever!"

Sitting up straight, Lydia held tightly onto her baby sister. "She's so sweet and small...and she smells so good," Lydia said, lovingly looking into the baby's face.

Mother smiled at Lydia, and then glanced over at her other daughters. "Everything feels just right," she said calmly. "We are home, everyone is safe and happy, and we are all together." Feeling grateful, Mother said, "I am so thankful for this wonderful moment. I wish things would stay like this forever."

Father returned the smile and squeezed his wife's hand. "Me too, Mother. I couldn't be any happier than I am right now." He leaned his face next to hers and kissed her on her forehead. Glancing above the girls' heads, Father exclaimed, "And here come the fairies to greet

the new addition to our family! Look at them! I've never seen them so excited!"

Over the happy family flew the three brightly-colored fairies, spinning around like lighted, whirling tops. When the River Fairies arrived, their twinkling lights made the house look as if it was decorated for Christmas. Red, blue, and yellow beams flickered around the room, while the River Fairies twirled about the family.

"Yay, the fairies are here! They've come to see baby Marta!" shouted Rachel, as she leaped up to chase the fluttering lights. The sisters danced in circles and followed the fairies across the room. Whenever the fairies were around, the girls became so wound up, the house appeared to be bouncing up and down.

"Beryl," laughed Joely, glowing from the yellow reflection of her fairy, "you always make me laugh." Beryl, the sparkling golden nymph, jumped onto Joely's nose, which tickled Joely, making her laugh even harder.

"Look at Zircon!" Rachel cried out. "She's doing somersaults and flip-flops!" The blue, florescent creature buzzed around Rachel's head, and then calmed down, softly landing on her shoulder. "She's so talented," Rachel said as she put out her hand to her. Zircon glided downward, resting in Rachel's palm. "What would we ever do without our river fairies?"

Mother watched the fairies as they flew around the room. "The fairies are here to perform the *Augli* ceremony! This is when they assign a fairy companion to the baby. It was done when each of you were born. Watch them as they choose a fairy for baby Marta!" said Mother enthusiastically.

"Wazzle gizzle fa!" exclaimed the red fairy. Spinel was more tranquil than the other fairies. She had been around the family longer and was the oldest of the family's fairies. Spinel's personality was more

serene, while Zircon and Beryl liked entertaining the family with their silly antics.

*"Chizzle whaz gee!"* sang the blue fairy. Zircon was the most fun-loving of the three fairies, an exact match for Rachel. The two shared many inside jokes and enjoyed playing mischievous pranks on the family.

*"Azzle fitzle te!"* squawked the fidgeting yellow fairy. Golden Beryl was creative and carefree. She flew around the girls, writing their names above their heads with her yellow light. Joely watched her with awe; she was completely charmed with the abilities of her winged-friend.

Lydia looked over at Spinel, her glowing red guardian. Spinel peacefully glided toward the arm of the green couch, then took her position on Lydia's knee, like a contented bird at home on her perch. Lydia listened to Spinel cooing softly, admirably watching the fairy give direction to the others.

*"Suuuu, suuuu, suuuu,"* Spinel murmured in a soft whistling sound. Lydia recognized this hum as Spinel's chant to calm the other fairies. Lydia had a close bond with her red fairy, feeling they were both the leaders of their own exclusive clans.

The three fairies hovered over the baby. Spinel rested on Marta's head for a moment, holding a purple cocoa-berry over the child. In her tranquil and soft voice, she proclaimed, *"Ooh ka dena dettle dono,"* which in human words meant, *"She is wise for such a young one."* With the red fairy's blessing, the color of the purple cocoa-berry began to change to an emerald green.

The blue fairy was next to bless the baby. Flying over the baby, Zircon landed upon Marta's arm, chanting, *"Ooh ka lettell ren. Te mynaho me."* Zircon's blessing meant, *"She has a very brave spirit. I can feel great strength within her."* The blue fairy flew toward the baby's face, kissing her gently on her cheek.

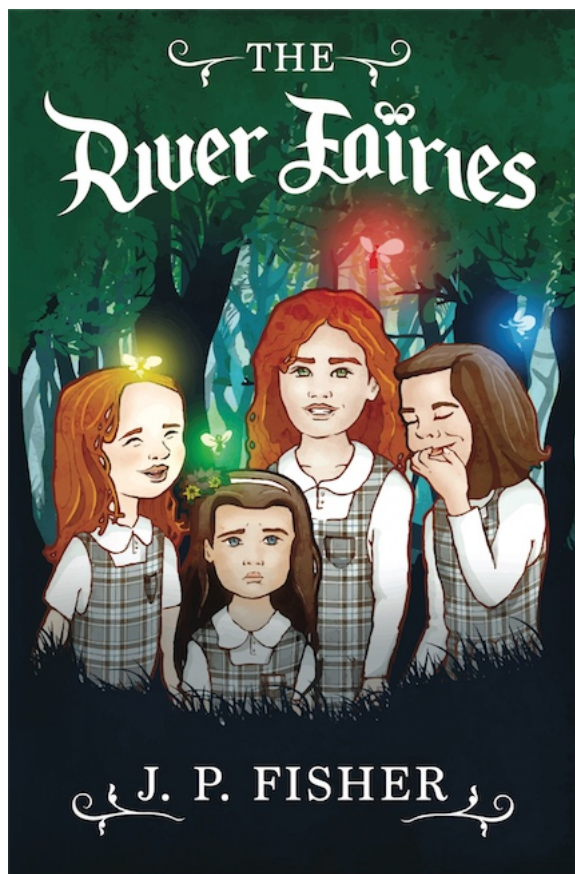
The third blessing came from the yellow fairy, Beryl. She flew to baby Marta's chest, steadily settling over her heart. "*Ooh ka amare zebottle tim. Zeinto sisto dobo redae,*" said Beryl. Her blessing meant, "*She will be independent, but very loving. This is the sign of a deeply caring soul.*"

As the ceremony continued, a fourth glowing light entered the room. "*Meez deezle woo!*" shouted the green fairy. The newest fairy, who had been assigned to baby Marta, was Sphene, a green fairy. She was tinier than the others and appeared to be floating, coasting toward the child like a light, gentle breeze. Sphene was a perfect match for the new baby girl.

Touched by the sentimental ceremony, tears of joy rolled down Mother's face. "They have given our little Marta their blessings and assigned her a fairy," she said lovingly.

Father touched the baby on the head. "You are officially one of our girls, Marta! Hoorah! The pairing ceremony of the River Fairies is complete! We will mark this day as a holiday! So come on, my dear girls. Let's make our *Pancake Spectaculars* to celebrate this day of festivities!" he said to his daughters.

Father and the girls, accompanied by their fairies, headed to the kitchen to make the sweet breakfast favorites. The delighted girls began pulling out the pans and ingredients from the cupboards to begin the baking. Father looked at his joyous family and sighed, wiping away a tear of his own as he relished the tender moment with his family.



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