

Magic Behind the Waterfall

by Emily Dowsett, age 8

It was a breezy summer's day and two friends, Zoe and Lilly, were playing in Zoe's garden on the swings. They were not sisters, but they were the best of friends and they looked alike. Zoe had long brown hair and usually wore it in two perfect braids. She wore a neat navy skirt and a crisp white top with a love heart logo. Lilly wore her brown hair in one neat braid with a similar blue skirt and a pink shiny top.

Both girls eventually got a little bit bored of playing on the swings and they decided to go for a calm walk in their local forest. The two young girls later found a waterfall. Zoe looked into the crystal clear water, knowing that there must be some way to cross the river. Sure enough, large, cracked stepping stones caught Lilly's beautiful, sapphire eyes.

"Zoe, look!" Lily exclaimed. "There are some old cracked stepping stones planted at the bottom of the water!" She showed them to Zoe and they jumped across them to the other side. When they got there, they saw a cave and Zoe wanted to go in but Lilly thought it was a bad idea because it was dark and eerie. Zoe ran to it and went inside. Of course, Lilly raced in after her and once she found her Lilly was just as amazed as Zoe. They were standing in a magical unicorn land filled with pastel coloured unicorns. Both girls were shocked and speechless as they didn't think that unicorns were real. Instead of enjoying the moment, they just stood there with their mouths wide open. Suddenly, one of the unicorns started to talk to them, she had a soft and gentle voice. Zoe and Lilly screamed out of fear but at the same time out of excitement. They replied with a simple 'hello'. The unicorn offered them a tour of their land and the girls followed her. "This is a great adventure" whispered Zoe to Lilly.

Towards the end of the day, the girls were playing with the unicorns having a great time. They had helped brush their manes and been rewarded by a ride on their backs. They had flown above the unicorn world and seen the magical features. But, their fun was interrupted by an ear-piercing beeping sound and unicorns were running around chaotically. The girls were scared they may be trampled on. "What's happening?" asked Lilly "I don't know, let's go ask" replied Zoe. Both girls walked over to the unicorn who had first greeted them when they arrived. She told them they needed their help to find a missing unicorn because their magic would be lost without every unicorn accounted for. One of the youngest unicorns, called Snow, had disappeared and not been seen for the day. "No magic?" shouted both girls in unison.

The girls took to the air without hesitation, on Sunshine and Waterfall, to search from the sky. The two unicorns searched across the land but Snow was nowhere to be seen. After an hour they had to give up as the flight was exhausting and they needed a rest.

Lilly had another idea, for them to visit the places Snow loved in the hope of finding her before the night came. The unicorns shared her favourite places and the girls went from one to another to look for her but returned empty-handed.

Finally, Cloud, the oldest unicorn in the land, remembered that all of the younger unicorns had trackers in their hoof bracelet for when they learned to fly alone. There was a small chance that Snow still had her bracelet on. They rushed to the Uni-library to search on the tracker device. Much to their relief, Snow still had her tracker in on her but it showed them that she was in desperate need of their help. The flashing unicorn on the device showed that Snow was deep inside a dip in the mountainside.

They didn't know what they would find when they got to Snow, so they packed some blankets and food along with some first aid equipment.

It was a quick journey to the mountain but Snow was hidden on the mountainside and it took some time to find her. When they did they saw that she had a cut in her wing and she was very cold. They encouraged her to eat and used the blankets to warm her up. With all of their might, they managed to lift her out and get her to safety. They bandaged her wing and carried her to bed for some much-needed rest. She was very weak but she managed to whisper 'thank you'.

Lilly and Zoe stayed for a little while longer with their new friends, celebrating the safe return of Snow. They had a small tea party until it was time to return home themselves. The unicorns didn't want them to leave and they presented them both with a special locket filled with magical dust to revisit the Unicorn land whenever they wished.

The girls made their way back to the cave and crossed the waterfall and found themselves back in the forest with Zoe's garden in the distance. "Did that really happen?" Zoe questioned Lilly. "Yes, what an amazing adventure, let's go back tomorrow."