

The World Behind The Door

Hi, I'm Ella. I'm an ordinary girl and I live on a regular housing estate with my mum, sister Ava and our dog Roxy – it took a lot of persuasion to get Roxy because Mum is funny about our furniture – but on Wednesday, something extraordinary happened.

I was taking Roxy for a walk in the forest at the edge of the estate along the little gravel path when some way down I noticed a pinkish glow coming from between the trees.

Wandering into the depths of the huge forest, Roxy racing ahead, I searched for the pink light I'd seen when from out of nowhere a little wooden door appeared, surrounded by gnarly green vines of ivy and sugar pink roses.

I walked around it. There was nothing on the other side. Nothing at all. Slowly, I put my hand to the golden door handle and twisted...

When I opened the door a purpley-silver blob shimmered from within. It looked like...could it be...a portal? I scooped up Roxy, which was hard because she kept scampering away, and cautiously stepped inside.

On the other side was what looked like some sort of secret garden but nothing like the one I'd seen in the film or read about in the book.

It was far more enchanting.

There were tiny little rocks piled up to about my waist, they looked like mini cliffs with incredible bubbling waterfalls whooshing down them and swans swimming in the huge crystal-clear lake below. And there were more flowers and plants than I'd ever seen before in all the colours of the rainbow. It was magical.

And floating around me I saw little pixies in all shades of purple, pink and blue. They were so perfectly pretty, I had to get back and tell Ava.

But where was Roxy? I had been so distracted that I hadn't noticed her run off. She must have seen a rabbit or a bird.

I looked down and saw my spaniel's tiny pawprints in the grass, muddy against the lush greenness. I followed the trail but they could go on for miles. Roxy was a fast little dog!

I started calling for her but that didn't work so I sat down and did what any 11 year old who had just lost the family dog would have done: I cried.

Suddenly, I felt something gently nudge me.

I looked up and saw a beautiful white unicorn. I gasped in surprise. It bent down, waiting for me to climb on its back, and we trotted through the magical world until we found Roxy chasing a bluebird.

'Naughty dog!' I scolded before hoisting her up onto my lap.

The unicorn carried us back to the wooden door and we stepped back through the shimmering purple haze onto the gravel path again.

I was bursting to tell Ava about the world behind the door.

Excited about my secret, I turned around for one last look...but the door was gone.