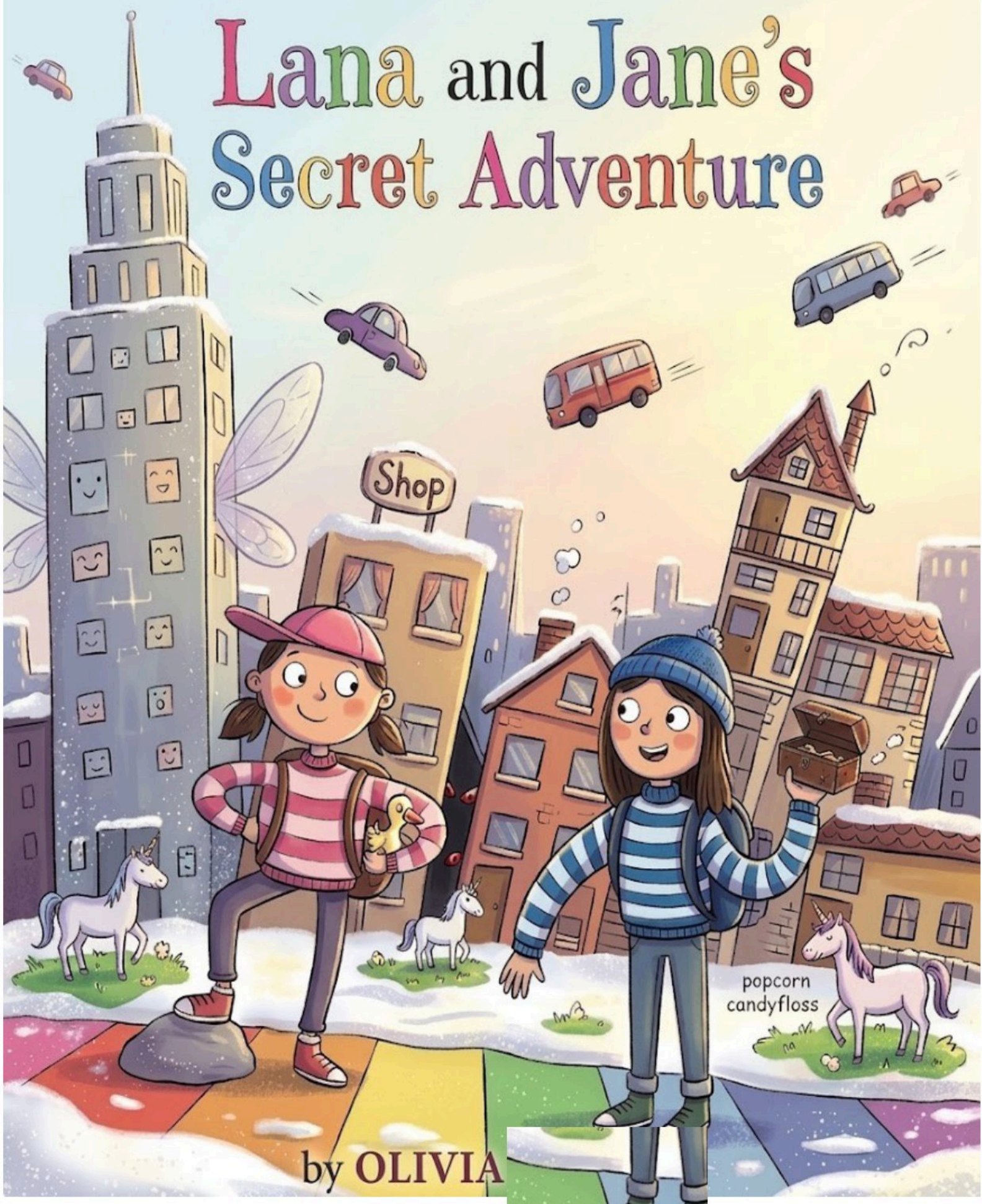


Lana and Jane's Secret Adventure



Chapter 1

In a twinkling town, Lana looked around and saw shops buried under giant, glittery mounds of white snow. Flying cars and buses swooped through the air, their horns blaring with loud *beeps*. Chatty skyscrapers stretched toward the clouds on delicate fairy wings, while gentle unicorns grazed nearby, munching on fresh green grass that tasted like sweet popcorn and candy floss.

People bustled through the streets, rushing to shop and work. Lana couldn't wait to leap ten meters down onto the gleaming rainbow footpath. She was usually cheerful, though everyone has off days. Whenever she spotted Mr. Banks or her neighbors, she would sing out, "Good morning!" Mr. Banks never replied; he was far too busy. Still, Lana kept right on jumping.

Suddenly, an eerie creaking sound echoed from the old, spooky house down the street. Lana cautiously crept inside. Out of nowhere, a massive wooden box appeared! Lana pulled open the lid, and an invisible ghost hissed out, making her squeal. A second later, a red-eyed zombie popped out of the box—except it wasn't a real monster at all. It was just her best friend, Jane!

Chapter 2

"Jane, why on earth were you in that box?" Lana asked.

Jane looked completely bewildered. *Zip!* went her computer brain, whirring to life. Suddenly, Jane started leaping uncontrollably like a wild kangaroo. Lana frowned, thoroughly annoyed by all the bouncing!

She marched out of the creepy house, hurried across the street, and ducked into a candy shop. *Bang!* A heavy object slammed into Jane, sending her swirling straight into an immense drift of powdery snow.

Lana and Jane tumbled head over heels down the street, rolled right through the Candy Land park, and landed *splash* in a messy duck pond. "Yuck!" groaned Lana, feeling green around the gills.

As they dried off, a delicious aroma wafted from the nearby bakery. They followed their noses inside to investigate. Sitting right on the counter was mermaid fish bread—their absolute favorite! They tried to sneak a closer look, but the baker mistook them for mischievous thieves and kicked them out onto the pavement. Lana and Jane stared hungrily through the glass, longing for a bite.

"I'm going back to the creepy house to play zombie again," Jane announced.

"No!" warned Lana.

Bang! Suddenly, a real zombie burst out of the box right in the middle of the village! Shopkeepers slammed their shutters, townspeople bolted their doors, and cafe owners locked up. Everyone was furious. Where had this monster come from? Lana and Jane sprinted for their lives, darting past busy shops and soaring skyscrapers with fairy wings.

Chapter 3

Lana and Jane rushed inside the wooden box to hide. Just as they squeezed in, a second box materialized right beside them. Lana pried the lid open,

expecting a magical surprise, but instead, a whole horde of zombies tumbled out!

The girls bolted. They ran as fast as their legs could carry them—past winged skyscrapers, through whimsical shops, across the park, and past the giant syrup pumping station. Jane felt terrible; she had only wanted some delicious mermaid bread, and now the whole town was in chaos!

Along the way, they spotted Mr. and Mrs. Banks enjoying a peaceful picnic by the riverbank. The zombies chased the girls all afternoon until they finally discovered a cozy shelter. Lana pulled a giant burlap sack of corn over them, and they drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, they woke up to a terrifying surprise: they were inside a lion's den! They tiptoed toward the exit, trying not to make a sound.

Crack! Jane stepped directly on a dry stick.

"Be quiet!" Lana whispered urgently.

A massive lion stirred, opened its jaws, and let out a thundering roar. Panicking, the girls zoomed out of the cavern and didn't stop running until they reached Lana's front porch.

"Phew! That was way too close to becoming lion chow!" gasped Lana.

Chapter 4

Lana and Jane carefully checked the yard to ensure no other dangers were lurking. Deciding the coast was clear, they strolled down to the local cafe to catch their breath.

"What a relaxing day," sighed Jane.

"I suppose so," Lana mumbled softly.

After finishing their drinks, they visited a bustling amusement park filled with characters from their favorite movies. Jane gushed over the Disney princesses, while Lana pointed out Winnie the Pooh.

Splash! Without warning, a huge wave erupted from the river ride. A tiny gosling named Little Kevin flip-flopped out of the water and landed flat on his belly on a nearby boat.

"Mama?" peeped the gosling.

"I'm not your mama!" squeaked Lana, gently placing him back into the water.

Jane's heart melted. "Can we keep him? Please?"

"No way," Lana said firmly.

Jane pulled the absolute cutest, saddest puppy-dog eyes she could muster.

"Oh, fine," Lana grumbled with a smile.

As they exited the park gates, an army of mini-monsters suddenly blocked their path, intent on capturing them for the Queen's kingdom. Lana and Jane bolted home, burst through the front door, and slammed it tight behind them.

Chapter 5

Lana slowly cracked the front door open—a whole swarm of mini-monsters was waiting right on the porch! Jane thought they looked adorable, but the little creatures were mischievous and tried to tackle them.

Lana and Jane broke into a sprint toward town. Panicking, they zipped past the cafe, ducked through the stone archway, and ran straight to Jane's house. Just as they ducked inside, Jane gasped.

"Wait... where is Kevin?"

They had left the gosling back at Lana's! They sprinted back as fast as they could, only to find the house empty.

"He must have escaped!" Jane cried, her heart sinking.

Worried sick, they searched every nook and cranny for the little bird. As they rushed down an alley, they tripped over something soft. It was Kevin! Standing beside him was another gosling named Elise. They were holding wings—he was completely in love!

Jane scooped them both up in a giant hug. "How sweet!"

Lana rolled her eyes, but then something caught her eye on the cobblestones: an envelope containing a riddle.

What stands in the centre, has 4 rings, and 4 bars?

Lana scratched her head, totally stumped. Jane leaned over to read it, equally puzzled.

Chapter 6

Lana pondered the mystery until a spark lit up in her mind. "The sun!" she shouted, sprinting toward the open square.

They looked up, but the sunlight was blinding, so they quickly put on their sunglasses. Tucked under a bench, Jane spotted a small note instructing them to head to the central park.

When they arrived, something glinted brightly under the sun rays—a treasure chest! Lana opened the lid, expecting shiny gold coins. Jane reached in to grab a handful, but Lana caught her wrist.

"Wait! This looks like authentic pirate treasure," Lana warned. "It isn't ours. Put it back." Jane reluctantly returned the shiny coins.

At the bottom of the chest, they found their next clue: *Go to the riverbank.*

They hurried down to the water, but the bank was entirely empty. Puzzled, they ran home to study their notes. While thinking out loud, Jane blurted out a clever idea. They raced back to the river, searched behind a large willow tree, and retrieved a small, rusty metal box.

Chapter 7

Lana pried open the rusty box, but it appeared completely empty. Frustrated, they tossed it aside—and suddenly, a mystical stranger stepped out from the shadow of the box!

"Find the next clue, and a grand surprise awaits you at the park," the man chimed, vanishing into thin air before they could ask a single question.

Jane cheered and started running toward the park, but Lana grabbed her hood. "Hold on! We don't even know *which* park he meant. We have to find the clue first."

They began searching the surrounding grass. Suddenly, the ground gave way—Jane had triggered a hidden trapdoor!

"Ahhh!" screamed Jane as she slid into a shallow pit.

As she landed, a piece of parchment fluttered down beside her. Jane smoothed it out and read aloud:

Find Romeo in Rome, and Rome is in Italy.

The very next morning, the girls caught a flight to Italy. "Halt!" called a polite voice at the airport terminal. A tall guard checked their passports before letting them hail a taxi into the city. They scoured the busy streets of Rome, but Romeo was nowhere to be found.

Chapter 8

Lana spotted an ancient, crumbling temple sitting right beside a house marked with Romeo's name. They stepped into the cool, shadowed interior and found a dusty spellbook resting on a stone altar. Lana tucked it into her backpack, thinking it might come in handy.

They hurried next door and knocked loudly on Romeo's front entrance. Nobody answered.

"Something feels off," Lana murmured.

Just then, an elderly woman opened the shutter. Romeo's grandmother looked glum as she wiped away a tear. "Romeo is gone," she whispered.

"Whaaaat?!" shrieked Lana, her eyes wide with shock.

As they stood on the steps feeling thoroughly crestfallen, a friendly genie popped out from the dusty book and handed them a sealed scroll. It read:
When life moves forward, nothing remains unchanged.

Jane scratched her head. "That doesn't make any sense!"

Lana stroked her chin. "It's another clue—it must be linked to Romeo."

"Would you like some help with that?" chirped a tiny voice.

Lana jumped a mile high. "Whoa!"

"Hi! I'm Chit Chatty!" beamed a bright little chatterbox. They waved hello and immediately set off to search the neighborhood, completely forgetting to invite Chit Chatty along.

Chapter 9

Chit Chatty trailed behind them silently, doing her best to keep up. The girls were so wrapped up in solving the mystery that they hadn't even properly introduced her to the team!

Romeo's grandmother called out from her balcony, mentioning that the next clue was hidden near the city fountain. Seconds later, the genie popped up again, confirmed the fountain location, and vanished with a *poof*.

They ran to the fountain, but the basin was empty except for the splashing water. Lana reached into the pool, searching blindly.

"What if the genie trickery got us?" cried Jane, panicking. "What if the paper dissolved?"

Lana's fingers brushed against something crisp beneath the rim—a waterproof sticker holding a secret note!

"I found it!" Lana cheered, peeling it free. She unrolled the slip and read:

Crunchy cookies are delicious, with sweet icing spread all around. Decorate your treat with joy!

"Hmm," Lana pondered. "That sounds like the bakery!"

They dashed down the cobblestone street to the local Italian bakery. The air smelled heavenly.

"Mermaid bread!" gasped Jane, her mouth watering.

Jane was as keen as mustard to buy a slice, but Little Kevin waddled forward and shook his head. "We're not here to snack, Jane. We have a job to do."

"Kevin is right," Lana agreed. "Clue first, treats later."

Suddenly, a loud sob echoed from the doorway. It was Chit Chatty, looking thoroughly left out! Feeling awful for ignoring her, Lana and Jane ran over to give her a proper hug and apologize.

CRASH! A glass display shelf rattled against the wall. The commotion pointed Lana right toward a hidden wooden ledge next to the counter. Tucked behind a tray of biscotti was their next clue:

Visit the local greengrocer before the doors lock for the night!

Lana zoomed down the avenue like a hungry cheetah.

Chapter 10

Lana was still daydreaming about warm mermaid bread when Chit Chatty tapped the dusty spellbook. "Look! The diary mentions a quiet garden near Romeo's family home!"

They followed the ancient map through a stone archway, expecting a gloomy graveyard, but found themselves in a bright, bustling courtyard filled with flowers. A huge crowd was gathering around the courtyard entrance. Lana, Jane, and Chit Chatty squeezed through the front row—and standing right in the center was Romeo, alive and well!

"Romeo! Romeo!" Jane squealed, jumping up and down.

"So... you aren't dead after all?" asked Lana, blinking in surprise.

"It was all a giant surprise party!" Romeo laughed happily. He handed out colorful wrapped packages to everyone in the crowd. Lana unwrapped hers to find a stylish new backpack she had been eyeing for months.

Chapter 11

Everyone searched the courtyard to see what grand prize Romeo had won for pulling off the surprise. Jane accidentally tripped over a loose flagstone, sending a wooden panel sliding open to reveal a glowing treasure chest!

Romeo blushed, a bit shy about all the attention, but the crowd cheered. Inside the chest was a trophy and a custom T-shirt that read: *World's Best Hide-and-Seek Champion!*

They threw a mini disco right there in the courtyard, dancing under the fairy lights before heading out for a celebratory feast. Romeo truly was the most amazing champion in town!

Chapter 12

"We should probably head back to Tinkle Town," Chit Chatty said, checking the time.

Romeo longed to come along and explore, but Tinkle Town was all the way in Australia, and his parents needed him home in Italy. Lana smiled as an idea struck her. "Why don't your parents come to Australia with us for a holiday?"

The very next morning, the whole crew headed to the airport. Lana, Jane, Chit Chatty, Kevin, Romeo, and his family boarded a massive plane. Lana sat next to Jane, Chit Chatty sat beside Kevin, and Romeo sat with his parents.

When they landed at the Australian airport, Lana hailed a large taxi to carry their luggage. They piled in and drove straight to the Tinkle Town bakery.

As Lana reached for a fresh loaf of mermaid bread, the baker hurried over with a warm smile. "I am so sorry about earlier, girls! I realized you weren't robbers after all."

They brought their bread to the counter, scanned it, and paid. Just then, the bell above the door chimed, and Mr. Banks walked in. Lana waved cheerfully and tipped her hat.

Mr. Banks smiled back and said, "Good afternoon, girls!"

Tinkle Town Chronicles

Lana and Jane's Secret Adventure

Lana and Jane explore the fantastical, snow-dusted streets of **Tinkle Town**, cars fly and fairy wings adorn skyscrapers! Follow their quest to find the mystery box from **IMAGE**, uncover the town's sweetest secrets, and dodge the playful red-eyed shadows. An adventure full of **popcorn candyfloss** and **unicorns** awaits!

by **OLIVIA HUANG**

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