



The Wishing Sky

Soon they left the woods behind and came out into an open place, high on Big Hill. Madison saw sky all around her.

"Let's sit on that boulder," said Noanie.

Madison climbed onto the huge rock. "This looks like a boat. We can pretend we are sailing through the sky," she said, lying back and looking up. Glittering stars peeked out from the darkness and winked at her.

"Now we must wait for the Wishing Sky," said Noanie.

The wind whistled around Big Hill.

I am the captain of this ship, Madison thought. I will sail through the sky and find a shooting star.

Red lights flashed overhead. "What's that?" asked Madison.

"Just an airplane," said Noanie.

Madison wiggled on the hard rock. "May I have a cookie?"

"You can have one when you see a shooting star," Noanie said.

Madison looked up at the stars and waited. "Noanie, if I make a wish, will it come true?"

"Your wish comes true if that star lands on Earth," Noanie replied.

"How will I know?"

Noanie laughed. "When the wish comes true, of course."

Flash! A star streaked across the sky leaving a silver trail.

"Hurray!" Madison shouted. "I saw one! The Wishing Sky is here!"

She closed her eyes and made a wish.

"Hurray! Now you get a star." Noanie gave her a cookie.

As she ate her cookie, Madison gazed at the sky. It was like a sparkling sea.

Madison pretended her ship was floating through the night to faraway worlds.



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Whirr! "There's another one!" said Madison, pointing. "Where do shooting stars come from, Noanie?"

"Shooting stars aren't really stars at all. They are meteors—pieces of stone and dust that get in our way as we sail through space," Noanie said.

5 "They don't look like plain old rocks," said Madison. "They glitter like fireworks."

"That's because they burn up as they fall toward Earth. The sparkles we see are burning stones as they stream through the air."

Madison steered her make-believe ship through rocky places in the sky.

10 Another meteor flashed. "I made a special wish on that one."

"Here's a star you can eat," Noanie said, handing her a cookie. Noanie ate one, too.

"These stars are yummy," said Madison.

Noanie reached into her pocket. "Give me your hand."

15 Madison held out her hand, and Noanie dropped something cool into her palm. Noanie turned on the flashlight so Madison could see. "This is a meteorite—a shooting star that fell to Earth," she said. "But don't try to eat it!"

In Madison's hand was a small black rock. It felt smooth, but it had holes and marks on it. She turned the stone over and over. "Where did this come from?"

20 "I found it when I was a little girl," said Noanie. "This kind is called an iron. I would like you to have it to remember our night on Big Hill."

"Thank you, Noanie." Madison put the stone deep in her pocket. "Now I have my own piece of the Wishing Sky."

As Madison and Noanie munched on star cookies, Madison's ship sailed
25 through the starry sea, and the Wishing Sky sparkled all around them.