

*The Magic of Little Bear*  
*The middle child*



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*BoAnn*

*Dedicated to our children*  
*and our first grandchild!*

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## *Welcome!*

Yes, welcome... to a magical adventure that proves that everything is possible and that will give you a new outlook on the present. I will take you along for the ride to amazing fairy-tale places, both in the past and in the now. You'll experience familiar and new things and you'll discover how you can use magic in those situations to make your life that much happier.

All is well. When you're happy, everything just feels easier and all your dreams can come true. Oh, isn't that a great thought? Dreams coming true? They can! You see, we're here to enjoy our lives as if it's an endless holiday of fun filled days and great adventures. All those adventures, big and small, will help you grow. I'm here to guide you and... to wish you a happy holiday!

Come with me, it's time to start! Let me tell you everything...



## *The middle child*

Saskia is a sweet girl, a little quiet and eleven years old. She usually wears her blonde hair in a ponytail, which her mother fixes for her every morning. When daddy does it, Saskia doesn't really like it, because he puts the ponytail right on top of her head! Dad likes her hair that way, but she thinks it looks silly. Saskia has one older sister, Kristien, who's always getting up to mischief. Kristien already goes to high school and she's very busy and talkative. Piet is Saskia's younger brother. He just turned one year old, so he's still in diapers and is learning how to walk. Saskia and her family live in a terraced house in a lovely little village in Frisia. She likes to play in their garden; a big field surrounded by trees and a small stream with a wooden board going across it. In the meadow on the other side are two beautiful horses, whinnying and grazing contently.

Saskia is sitting on the swing made by her dad. He is quite the handyman; he also built a sandbox and the rabbit home where her rabbit Pluisje lives. He was a birthday present and she has to take care of him, of course. Pluisje is a very fluffy rabbit, so that's where

his name came from. Saskia watches the horses, standing next to each other, and a little farther away is the farm of farmer De Vries. There are several black-and-white cows in the field next to it. Just behind the farm is the dike, with the sea behind it, which you can smell all day long. Sometimes Saskia goes there with Neighbour to scout for things that washed ashore. He is a beachcomber, and he takes all kinds of things home with him. They always find something. Boards, for instance, that Neighbour gave to dad to build Pluisjes home with. Saskia likes searching for feathers of seabirds, her collection is quite big, and one day they found a buoy and a plastic bottle with a note inside. A message in a bottle! Saskia and Neighbour once sent a note that way, out to sea, for someone else to find.

“Sas,” mom calls, “Dinner!”

“I’m coming, mom!” Saskia replies from the garden.

Saskia goes inside and sits down at the dinner table. Her brother Piet is already in his high chair and Kristien is talking nineteen to the dozen again. She’s talking about school and annoying teachers, who mess things up. Dad is nodding every now and again.



‘My teacher is kind of nice.’ Saskia thinks, and she watches her family quietly. Mom gives her a dinner plate and says: “Enjoy your meal.”

Saskia looks at her dinner dish. Spinach, yuck. Kristien is talking to dad, and mom talks to little Piet, who gibbers back between the spoonsful mom is feeding him. He is messing with his food, so slowly but steadily everything turns green from the spinach. Saskia watches them, slowly eating her own dinner.

“Dad, Pluisjes home needs to be cleaned.” she says, but dad doesn’t hear her, because Kristien keeps on chatting.

“Mom?” she asks, but her mother is busy with little Piet, who has the spinach in his hair and on his face now. Saskia eats her spinach, but she’s trifling with her food. Somehow the spinach is hard to swallow.

“Carry on, I’ve got more to do today.” mom complains, looking at her. Mom and dad are very sweet, but they’re always busy.

“Oh, mom, Pluisjes house needs...” Saskia starts, but mom interrupts her.

“Not now, Sas, finish your dinner and go play.”

Piet is green all over now, jeez... Kristien is still in deep conversation with dad about school and all kinds of topics. Saskia