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opening extract from

# Petal and the Eternal Bloom (Enchanted World®)

written by

## Enid Blyton

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# Meet the Faraway Fairies




*Favourite Colour* – Yellow. It's a beautiful colour that reminds me of sunshine and happiness.
*Talent* – Light. I can release rays of energy to light up a room or, if I really try hard, I can use it to break out of tight situations. The only problem is that when I lose my temper I can have a 'flash attack' which is really embarrassing because my friends find it funny.
*Favourite Activity* – Exploring. I love an adventure, even when it gets me into trouble. I never get tired of visiting new places and meeting new people.




*Favourite Colour* – Blue. The colour of the sea and the sky. I love every shade from aquamarine to midnight blue.
*Talent* – As well as being a musician I can also transform into other objects. I like to do it for fun, but it also comes in useful if there's a spot of bother.
*Favourite Activity* – Singing and dancing. I can do it all day and never get tired.




*Favourite Colour* – Green. It's the colour of life. All my best plant friends are one shade of green or another.
*Talent* – I can speak to the animals and plants of the Enchanted World . . . not to mention the ones in the Faraway Tree.
*Favourite Activity* – I love to sit peacefully and listen to the constant chatter of all creatures, both big and small.




*Favourite Colour* – Pink. What other colour would it be? Pink is simply the best colour there is.
*Talent* – Apart from being a supreme fashion designer, I can also become invisible. It helps me to escape from my screaming fashion fans!
*Favourite Activity* – Designing. Give me some fabrics and I'll make you something fabulous. Remember – If it's not by Pinx . . . your makeover stinks!




*Favourite Colour* – Orange. It's the most fun colour of all. It's just bursting with life!
*Talent* – Being a magician of course. Although I have been known to make the odd Basic Bizzy Blunder with my spells.
*Favourite Activity* – Baking Brilliant Blueberry Buns and Marvellous Magical Muffins. There is always time to bake a tasty cake to show your friends that you care.



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# Contents


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Introduction | | 1 |
| Chapter One | Petal's Room | 5 |
| Chapter Two | An Explosion of Colour | 16 |
| Chapter Three | The Fields of Fancy | 25 |
| Chapter Four | The Eternal Bloom | 32 |
| Chapter Five | The Friends Separated | 42 |
| Chapter Six | A Friend in Need | 54 |
| Chapter Seven | An Unwanted Companion | 66 |
| Chapter Eight | The Absolute Worst | 75 |
| Chapter Nine | Petal in Peril | 88 |
| Chapter Ten | A Way Out? | 99 |
| Chapter Eleven | The Farewell | 107 |
| Chapter Twelve | A Special Surprise | 119 |
| Sneak Preview Chapter | | 134 |



# Introduction

*Tucked away among the thickets, groves and forests of our Earth is a special wood. An Enchanted Wood, where the trees grow taller, the branches grow stronger and the leaves grow denser than anywhere else. Search hard enough within this Enchanted Wood, and you'll find one tree that towers above all the others. This is the Faraway Tree, and it is very special. It is home to magical creatures like elves and fairies, even a dragon. But the most magical thing about this very magical Tree? It is the sole doorway to the Lands of the Enchanted World.*

*Most of the time, the Lands of the Enchanted World simply float along, unattached to anything. But at one time or another, they each come to rest at*

*the top of the Faraway Tree. And if you're lucky enough to be in the Tree at the time, you can climb to its very top, scramble up the long Ladder extending from its tallest branch, push through the clouds and step into that Land.*

*Of course, there's no telling when a Land will come to the Faraway Tree, or how long it will remain. A Land might stay for months, or be gone within the hour. And if you haven't made it back down the Ladder and into the Faraway Tree before the Land floats away, you could be stuck for a very long time. This is scary even in the most wonderful of Lands, like the Land of Perfect Birthday Parties. But if you get caught in a place like the Land of Ravenous Toothy Beasts, the situation is absolutely terrifying. Yet even though exploring the Lands has its perils, it's also exhilarating, which is why creatures from all over the Enchanted World (and the occasional visiting human) come to live in the Faraway Tree so they can travel from Land to Land.*

*Of course, not everyone explores the Lands for*

*pleasure alone. In fact, five fairies have been asked do so for the ultimate cause: to save the life of the Faraway Tree and make sure the doorway to the Enchanted World remains open. These are their stories . . .*



# Chapter One

## Petal's Room

'Oh honestly, you are impossible,' Petal scolded.

Every other bird, squirrel, chipmunk and tree frog in Petal's room waited its turn for the breakfast crumbs she gave them, but not the raven. The minute he got the chance, he swooped down, pushed everyone else out of the way and devoured as many morsels as possible, triggering screeching protests from the other creatures in the room.

'Enough!' Petal cried. 'Have I ever let any of you miss breakfast?'

One of the difficulties of talking to plants and animals was the noise. Petal's ears buzzed constantly with all kinds of chatter: magpies and starlings nattering about the places they

had flown; vines fighting over who was the longest; and diva blooms which clucked in annoyance at anything *daring* to look as beautiful as them.

At times like these, Petal was grateful that she could not read their minds. The very idea of adding their twittering thoughts to the babble of conversation that she could already hear gave her a headache.

'Petal! I need you!' Pinx cried as she soared in from above.

Petal's room had only three walls; the fourth wall and ceiling were wide open to nature, allowing a constant stream of creatures – as well as Petal's fairy friends – to flutter, crawl and skitter in and out.

Pinx was holding a piece of fabric, talking at top speed and poring over the blossoms in Petal's room.

'I was out there trying to make the most fantabulacious sash that just screamed,

"WOW!" and it wasn't screaming at all, it was whimpering, and clearly a Pinx sash *cannot* whimper, and then BOOM! it came to me exactly what it needs: flowers! And where can I find the best flowers?' Pinx's eyes widened as she came to a fuzzy, orange-leafed bush with giant blooms bursting with fuchsia and teal. '*Here*!' she cried, and began plucking flowers as quickly as she could.

Petal winced as the bush (whose name was Imogene) gave a shrill scream.

'You tell that fairy she has no right to pick my blooms without asking first! Maybe we should see how she likes it when I snag my thorn on one of her silly dresses!'

'This is perfect, Petal!' Pinx cried. 'Thanks – you're the best!'

'*You're* the best?' Imogene spluttered. 'Did *you* raise thirty-seven flowers from bud to bloom? Did *you* –'

'No, *you* did, Imogene,' said Petal, 'and if

you hadn't done such a spectacular job, Pinx wouldn't want your flowers at all. If you ask me, it's a compliment.'

Petal smiled as Imogene stammered, unable to argue with this logic. But her satisfaction was immediately interrupted by . . .

'Petal, prepare for a Piece of Prestidigitation of Preposterously Prodigious Proportions!' Bizzy cried as she flew in.

'What does *that* mean?' Petal asked.

'I have a great new spell!' Bizzy translated, raising her arms with a flourish and making all her bangles rattle. 'Watch as I turn this patch of small flowers into Titanic Towers of Treelike Treasures!'

Bizzy saw Petal's confused look and explained, 'I'm going to make them taller!'

A look of doubt crossed Petal's face.

'That is, if you think they won't mind,' Bizzy added.

'Mind?' a flower cried. 'We'd *love* to be taller!'

The whole patch clamoured for Bizzy to get on with her spell immediately.

'Go for it,' Petal said.

Bizzy closed her eyes, concentrated and then cried, 'Flahwahh-groo, flahwahh-graa, flahwahh-groodle-oodle-grow!'

'AAAAAHHHHH!' came the horrified screams of thirty blooms.

'Hmmm,' Bizzy winced, looking at her handiwork. 'I don't think I got the spell quite right. Instead of "taller", the flowers got . . .'

'*Teal*er!' the flowers wailed.

The previously yellow blossoms were now a bright shade of greenish-blue that made them look more sickly than beautiful.

'Oh no, here we go again,' sighed a rose.

Petal turned and saw Melody flying in. Melody knew that plants liked music, and she often sang to them. Unfortunately, Melody didn't realise that certain lilies and roses were very particular about the *volume* of the music.

‘Can’t someone turn her down?’ huffed a lily.

‘Oh, no!’ came a sudden cry from the daffodils.

Silky was flying towards them. Silky adored daffodils, but she had a habit of putting her whole nose deep inside the bloom to inhale its scent . . .

‘Hasn’t she ever heard of personal space?’ cried Daffo, one of the taller blooms.

Petal laughed as she hovered in the middle of her room, surrounded by the squeals of the plants, the background chatter of the animals and the voices of her friends. Life in the Faraway Tree was never dull for a second. It didn’t matter to her that there was always a dilemma or an argument taking place somewhere. She was happy to let it all wash over her. It was her ability to remain serene, calm and loyal that made everybody in the Faraway Tree love her.



'AH . . . AH . . . *ACHOOO*!'

The wind from the sneeze blew several of Imogene's blooms off Pinx's sash.

'My sash!' Pinx cried, zooming into the air with her hands on her hips. 'Whoever did this has about five seconds to confess!'

A giant nose peeked out from between several stalks of bamboo.

'Sorry,' Cluecatcher said as he pushed his way into the room. 'I'm allergic to bamboo.'

Witch Whisper was behind Cluecatcher, and the sight of them made Petal suddenly attentive because she knew . . .

'There's a new land at the top of the Tree!' Silky cried.

'Yes,' Witch Whisper confirmed, 'and it's one in which your help, Petal, will be very important.'

'*Me*?' Petal asked.

'It's the Land of Flora,' Cluecatcher said. 'It's populated solely by plants.'



'A Positively Perfect Petal Place!' Bizzy grinned.

'The Talisman there is the Eternal Bloom,' Witch Whisper continued, 'a beautiful flower that never wilts. You need to bring it back to the Vault before the Land moves away from the Tree . . . and before Talon finds it.'

'Assuming Talon ever escaped the didgeridoo in the Land of Music,' Melody giggled.

The other Fairies giggled too . . . until they noticed Witch Whisper frowning at them.

'Talon is stronger than you think,' she said. 'You have had success against him, but each success only makes him angrier. He feeds on that fury, and grows more powerful every time. I warn you not to underestimate him . . . or it could be your undoing.'

Witch Whisper smiled and looked into the eyes of each fairy. They could all see the confidence that burned there. Despite her warnings, she had faith that they could succeed.

'You must get ready,' she said. 'As soon as The Land of Flora settles at the top of the Tree, Talon will start searching for the Eternal Bloom.'

Although Talon did not enter Lands by the Faraway Tree's Ladder, his magical transportation abilities were very limited. He could only magic himself into a Land that

had stopped moving, and there was only one thing that could attach itself to a Land and make it stop – the Faraway Tree.

'So . . . are you ready?' Witch Whisper asked.

Petal thought about the Land of Flora. It was exactly the kind of place that she had dreamed of visiting when Silky first told her about the mission, and she felt a shiver of excitement race through her body. She beamed at Witch Whisper.

'I can't wait,' she said.