

We were on the doorstep of my very old house, with its creaking floor boards, endless rooms, silk wallpaper, glittering chandeliers and of course. The mould. I hated this house. it's so dark and dusty. I moved here a year ago when I started school at Essenhalm Grammar which is where I became friends with Helena, the most athletic and tallest person in our year, Lia who was always the lead role in any choir or play and Alice who could make even the saddest person laugh.

On Friday, we decided to have a sleepover at my house, so we all made the long walk home. We entered my room and flopped on the day bed and chatted for ages, laughing, giggling, gasping and snickering for what seemed like hours. Until the worst thing possible happened ...the boredom. We wandered downstairs where we came across a door I had never been in before, inside was a large library with walls of books so high that it reached the second floor, where there was a mezzanine.

"Omigosh!!!" Lia squealed,

"We should *definitely* look at some of the books here." Alice said, awestruck. We walked up the steps to the mezzanine, and on the side table was a book. It had a hard lilac cover and gold lettering that read "Adventures in Paperdenia." and a large, paper butterfly covering the corner of the book. We turned to the first page and read,

Once upon a time, four companions from another world entered Paperdenia...

As we read, the book started to leak pale purple fog, more and more came out until the whole mezzanine was covered.

"what's going on?!" protested Helena,

"Why is it foggy?" Lia asked, her voice quavering. The fog whirled around us faster and faster till I started to feel faint, spots started to crowd my vision and then I fell to the ground.

I woke up feeling light, and not just in my head, in my whole body, like I could float away any minute.

"Clara!" Alice screamed "You're paper!" she sounded confused, I was confused, I thought she was joking. I looked down at my hands, they *were* paper and looked like they belonged to a rat! They

looked like they had been folded into pointed tips, I glanced over at where her friends were sprawled on a small patch of flowers. Alice was green! She had turned into a paper frog with a flower sprouting from her head. Helena had the shape of sunset pink Llama with its thick, long neck and stubby feet, Lia was a small bird in dazzling blue colours.

We were in a strange place. The landscape looked a little like ours, except the hills and trees were made of parchment and in the distance was a small speck of civilization.

"Okay, *what* is going on." cried Helena, trying to stand up.

"I'm not okay with this, I don't know what I am, but it's not me." Lia complained.

"You're a bird, Lia. a paper bird." I said flatly

"Why can't I stand properly?" Helena yelled.

Confused, we needed to find out what was going on, where we are and how we got here. Most of those questions would be answered when we reached the houses which seemed to be a fair distance away. As I walked I noticed that a small paper butterfly followed us, much like the one on the front cover of the book.

We walked past small farmhouses dotting the meadows then the cottages turned to bungalows, then more and more houses began to surround us. As we reached a large stone bridge, the even larger gates started closing. We ran as fast as we could. "wait!" I cried "Let us in!" the gates halted to a stop, the gap close enough to squeeze through. Once in the gates we saw a fountain at the end of the path with a bookshop whose sign read '*happily ever after*'. we walked straight in.

Heat flooded my tiny body, a paper peacock sat behind the counter reading the same purple book, we hurried over to him and asked to take a look at the book, we flicked to the first page and just like magic, we were back in the library. It was happily ever after.