magic mates
and the Holiday of Horrors

Jane West
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Meet the Magic Mates

The Magic Mates are best friends – but that doesn’t mean they’re all alike.

**The sporty one:** can climb trees, surf and take on the boys at their own game – and win.

**Travels by:** running!

**Loves:** trendy tracksuits, open skies and sandy beaches.

**Hates:** standing still.

**Name:** Izzie

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**The girly one:** uses her mobile for networking and planning her social life.

**Travels by:** Mum’s car (her personal chauffeur).

**Loves:** pink and her Magic Mates.

**Hates:** breaking a nail.

**Name:** Meena
**Name: Ginger**

**The ginger one:** you don’t wanna mess with this feisty gal – the Kung Fu and quick quip queen!

**Travels by:** push-scooter.

**Loves:** Jackie Chan and her Magic Mate pals.

**Hates:** nail extensions.

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**Name: Jo**

**The clever one:** uses her brains and quick wit to talk her way out of trouble. Sometimes she’s a bit too quick.

**Travels by:** bicycle and is designing a pair of motorised rollerblades.

**Loves:** Jacqueline Wilson, Cathy Cassidy and Albert Einstein.

**Hates:** being called ‘geek’, ‘nerd’, ‘swot’ or ‘boffin’.
Name: **Ellie**

**The fashion-conscious one:** can tell her Prada from her Asda and knows how to accessorise.

**Travels by:** limousine, of course! (But only in her dreams.)

**Loves:** shopping.

**Hates:** anything to do with getting dirty; anyone who upsets her Magic Mates.

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Name: **Yash**

**The funky punky one:** the ‘alternative’ one of the gang who hugs trees, people and furry animals.

**Travels by:** skateboard.

**Loves:** having a good time.

**Hates:** bullies.
The Magic Mates are off on their holidays. It wasn’t easy deciding where to go because they all like doing different things. But Izzie’s mum thinks she has the perfect solution – Aunty Viv’s caravan by the seaside. It sounds wonderful: sun, sea and sand, and all the Magic Mates together.
Izzie   Look! I can see the sea!
Meena   And the sun is shining.
Jo      We must be nearly there.
Izzie   Mum said Aunty Viv would meet us at the station and take us to the caravan.
**Aunty Viv** Hi, Izzie. These must be your friends. Hello, everyone. I can tell you’re going to have a good week.

**Jo** Did the weather on TV show sunshine?

**Aunty Viv** I haven’t got a TV – but I read it in my crystal ball.

**Yash** Pardon?
Izzie  Aunty Viv is … a bit different.

Aunty Viv  That’s me! Well, who wants to be the same as everyone else?

Ginger  Too right!

Ellie  Are we going in your van?

Aunty Viv  Yes. This way, girls.

Meena  At least it’s not a broomstick.
The girls climb in the van and soon they’re bumping down a country road. The windows are down, and they can smell the sea.

**Aunty Viv** Here we are, girls.

**Meena** Oh, it’s so beautiful!
Are we staying in that caravan?

**Aunty Viv** Yes, it’s all yours for a whole week, but my friend, Mrs Pengelly, is just over there in the farmhouse. Here’s her phone number, just in case.

**Izzie** Wow, thanks, Aunty Viv!
Aunty Viv There’s a tap outside, and you can wash in the stream. It’s not too cold. You can get fresh milk, eggs and bread from Mrs Pengelly every morning. And if you leave her a list, she’ll get you some food from the supermarket, too. Oh, and you’ll find I’ve put some chocolate and fruit juice in the caravan already.
Izzie Thanks, Aunty Viv.
You’re the best!

Aunty Viv If you need anything,
just give me a call
or Mrs Pengelly can help you.

Ellie Do you have a telephone?

Aunty Viv Yes, but you can borrow
my crystal ball if you like.

Izzie You’re teasing us!
Aunty Viv Just a bit!
   Oh, one thing
   I should say,
   don’t go down
to the house beyond the lake –
   they’re not too keen on visitors.
   And don’t worry if you hear
   any howling. Have a good
   holiday, girls!

Ellie I hope she was joking
   about the howling!

Meena I hope she was joking about
   washing in the stream!
Jo

I don’t think so. There’s no shower in here, just six bunk beds and a little cooker. Er, Meena, I don’t know how to tell you this, but the loo is in that shed under the tree.

Meena

Outside?

Izzie

It’s a caravan – everything is outside.

Ginger

It’ll be fun.

Yash

It’s an adventure.
Things That Go Bump in the Night

It’s the first night and Meena wakes up. It’s dark and she can hear rain on the caravan roof. Worse still, her sleeping bag is getting wet. The caravan is leaking.
Meena  Oh no! I’m being rained on!  
It’s making me want to go to the 
loo. I don’t want to go out to that 
horrid shed in the rain by myself.

Izzie  Meena! You woke me up.  
What’s the matter?
Meena I hate it here! The loo is outside, there’s no shower, the field has turned into a bog and now I’m getting rained on in bed! If we stay here any longer, they’ll need to rescue us by boat!

Izzie I’ll phone Mrs Pengelly. She’ll come and get us. At least her house should be dry.

Izzie picks up her mobile phone. But there’s a problem.

Izzie Oh no!

Meena What now?

Izzie I can’t get a signal. We’ll have to go to Mrs Pengelly’s house.

Meena I’ll come with you.

Izzie You’ll get soaked.
Meena  I’m already soaked but I’m not letting you go off in the dark by yourself. I’ll write a note to let the others know where we’ve gone in case they wake up.

The girls pull on some shoes and coats and head off to the farmhouse carrying torches. It’s hard to see with the rain blowing in their faces. Soon they are lost.
Meena  Where’s the farmhouse?
Izzie  I don’t know. We must have missed it in the dark.
Meena  But that’s impossible.
Izzie  If we walk up the hill, we might be able to see it.
The girls are cold and wet and fed up. It doesn’t look like it can get any worse – but it can. They jump when they hear something howling.

**Meena** Aaaaaaaaaaagh!

**Izzie** What was that?
Out of the Frying Pan …

Meena and Izzie have been scared by something howling. It sounds big. And it sounds like it’s close.

Meena I’m scared!

Izzie Me too. At least the rain has stopped.

Meena Yes, ’cos it really helps to see what’s about to eat you!
Izzie  We’re not going to be eaten. There haven’t been any wild wolves in Britain for ages.

Meena  What about bears?

Izzie  There aren’t any bears either.

Meena  What about lions?

Izzie  Sssh. I heard something.
A loud howl echoes across the fields.

**Meena**   Can we run now?

**Izzie**   Yes! This way!
The girls run as fast as they can. Suddenly Izzie stops and Meena almost bumps into her.

**Meena** Why have you stopped running?

**Izzie** I’ve got a signal on my phone!

**Meena** Thank goodness!

**Izzie** Mrs Pengelly, it’s Izzie. The caravan is leaking, everything is wet and we’re lost! Can you come and get us?

**Mrs P** Oh dear. I’ll come out to find you. I’m so glad your phone works – you can’t always get a signal in the caravan.

**Izzie** We had to go outside.
Mrs P  Do you know where you are?

Izzie  Er … not exactly.
We thought we knew how to get to your house, but we got lost.

Mrs P  What can you see, Izzie?

Izzie  Not a lot. Oh, hang on.
There’s a big house near a lake …
Mrs P  No, no, NO!
   Don’t move, I’ll …

Izzie  Oh no! Stupid phone.
   Don’t cut out again now!
But it’s too late. A huge wolf is grinning at them. And it has very sharp teeth.

**Meena**  You’re good with animals.
Talk to it.

**Izzie**  I’m good with animals, not monsters. Er … good boy.
Sit. Stay … I don’t think it’s working.
The girls are really scared. The monster wolf is coming closer.

**Meena**  Let’s run for it!

**Izzie**  No, that’s the worst thing you can do. He would think you’re afraid.

**Meena**  He’d be right!
The wolf’s eyes glow yellow in the moonlight. Izzie thinks that screaming might be a good idea. Meena is thinking about fainting. Then they hear a voice.

**Mrs P**  Down, Grizzly. Leave those poor girls alone. Girls, don’t be scared of the wolf. He won’t hurt you. He’s just being nosey.
Meena Izzie, I told you I heard a wolf. You said there weren’t any wild wolves!

Mrs P Grizzly isn’t a wild wolf. He lives at the animal centre by the lake, but he gets out sometimes.
Izzie  So that was why Aunty Viv told us to keep away from here.

Mrs P  Yes, because Grizzly gets scared if there are too many people around. There aren’t any wild wolves left in Britain. Even if there were, they’d be more afraid of you.

Meena  I’m not sure about that!
Izzie Why do you call him ‘Grizzly’? It makes him sound scary.

Mrs P It’s supposed to be a joke, because Grizzly is really a bit of a scaredy cat.

Izzie You might want to work on your jokes, Mrs Pengelly!
I’m just not sure how you got here when you were trying to find my house.

We got in a bit of a muddle when the caravan started leaking. You are closer than Aunty Viv, so we tried to phone you. We had to go outside. Then I lost the signal on my mobile. We just got lost in the dark.
Mrs P  My house is just beyond the trees, there, look. Let’s go and get dry.

The girls arrive at Mrs Pengelly’s. As they sit by the fire in the warm kitchen toasting marshmallows, their adventure doesn’t seem so scary.
Mrs Pengelly

Oh, you poor dears!
You’ve had quite an adventure.
I bet that silly Grizzly gave you a scare.

Izzie        You could say that!
Meena  It was really scary when we heard him howling.

Mrs P  What do you mean? Grizzly doesn’t howl. He never has.

Izzie  Well, there was something howling out there – and it wasn’t just Meena!

Mrs P  Oh, I’m sure you imagined it. More tea, dears?
Meena and Izzie look at each other. They are both thinking the same thing. It’s time to call Aunty Viv to rescue all the Magic Mates and take them to her cottage by the sea. Now *that* sounds more like a holiday from heaven rather than a holiday of horrors!
Jane West has never had a holiday quite like that one, but she knows how spooked you can get if you sit round a camp fire and swap ghost stories or horror stories …

Jane West:

lives by the beach in Cornwall
likes taking her dog Pip paddling in the sea
loves bodyboarding
has worked in an art gallery, a bookshop and a school.

Now she’s a writer, and has had great fun writing about the Magic Mates. She hopes you liked reading about them.
Wolf Facts

Dogs and wolves are closely related.

Wolves come in many shapes, sizes and colours. Some wolves are white (the ones who live in snowy areas); others are brown, grey or black.

Wolves can run as fast as 30 miles per hour.

Wolf cubs are born with blue eyes. Their eyes turn yellowy-orange as the cubs grow up.

A wolf’s sense of smell is 100 times better than a human’s.
Wolves howl to greet one another.

Wolves are good swimmers.

The last wild wolf in the UK lived over 250 years ago.

Wolves are related to dogs, but they’re not dogs. You can’t have a wolf as a pet.

If you want to find out more wolf facts, go to: [www.everythingwolf.com](http://www.everythingwolf.com) or [www.wolftrust.org.uk](http://www.wolftrust.org.uk).
# Wolf Lingo

| **cub** | baby wolf |
| **howl** | how wolves ‘talk’ over long distances |
| **pack** | the wolf’s family and friends |
| **prey** | what a wolf eats: usually smaller animals such as rabbits |
| **lone wolf** | an outcast wolf who lives by itself, like Grizzly. A lone wolf rarely howls. |
Do you know the ancient legend about the twin boys, Romulus and Remus?

Some say that their dad was Mars, the Roman god of War!

The two baby boys were left by themselves in a forest. They were found by a wolf who felt sorry for them. She fed them with her own milk and looked after them. The boys grew up into strong men.

One day, the brothers had a big fight and Remus was killed. After this, Romulus founded a new city. It became the capital city of Italy and was named after him: Rome.

Nobody knows if that story is true, but at least the wolf in it was a goodie!
Izzie’s Favourite Wolf Jokes

Why did the chicken cross the road?
To escape from the wolf.

Why did the wolf cross the road?
He was chasing the chicken!
How do wolves eat?

They wolf it down!

What do you get when you cross a wolf with a glove?

I don’t know, but I wouldn’t want to shake hands with it.
Wolf Quiz

1. Can wolves swim?
2. Are a wolf’s eyes blue?
3. Is the city of Rome named after a wolf?
4. Is a wolf’s sense of smell 50 times better than a human’s?
5. Do wolves make good pets?
How did you score?

0-1 You must be a lone wolf!

2-3 You’re not a member of the pack yet.

4-5 You’re the leader of the pack!

Answers

1 Yes.

2 Only when it is a cub, then they turn yellowy-orange.

3 No. It’s named after a man called Romulus.

4 No. It’s 100 times better.

5 No. They’re wild animals.
Magic Mates books are available from most booksellers.

For mail order information please call Rising Stars on 0871 47 25 010 or visit www.risingstars-uk.com
A dark and stormy night in a cold, leaky caravan is not Meena’s idea of a good time. It can’t get any worse – or can it? What’s that howling noise out there?