

Willow and North were playing outside with twelve Arctic hares. They were in two teams, playing a game of Don't Step on the Track.

The Arctic hares tried to hop across the field without stepping on any tracks already in the snow. If they stepped on a track, they were out.

The winning team was the one that could get more hares to the other side successfully.





North and Willow were the game referees. They each rode on the backs of the hares, calling out any hopper that stepped on a track.

Charm was in a nearby field. She could hear all the laughter. And she could hear all the arguments!

“You’re out, Fluff Foot!” called North. She thrust her thumb out.

“Hey, I only touched the track with my toe!” Fluff Foot protested.

“Even a toe counts, Fluff Foot,” North said firmly.

Charm was digging holes in the snow in that nearby field. She wanted to make the most of the few hours of daylight she had today.

She was cold and exhausted. But she did not want to take a break.



CHAPTER 2

THE MAGIC ROPE

Charm was searching for rare plants hidden under the snow. She needed them to make a new Magic Thread.

At the Autumn Celebration ceremony, the Arctic Fairy Queen gave Charm a Magic Thread. It shimmered with rainbow colors in the light. It would bring magic to whatever item Charm sewed it into.



To replace her Magic Thread, Charm would need to weave a new one. She was taught the process by the Arctic Fairy Queen, in a rhyme. Charm learned it by heart.

Rainbow moss, shimmering bright.
Rainbow lichen, so rarely in sight.
A feather from a snowy owl.
Master of flight.
With the heart must be given.
Never asked for or taken.
Woven together,
Under the Northern Lights.

