

Splashy Stone



Granny and Grandpa hadn't been visiting for ages. Today they were finally coming. Mum was preparing all sorts of delicious dishes in the kitchen and had promised to prepare a huge beautiful cake as well.



Andy and Lucy were cleaning their room. Every time when Granny and Grandpa came to visit, everything had to be sparkling clean.



Granny had a funny habit of checking all the surfaces for dust with her finger. If her finger got dusty, then Granny shook her head and started scolding Mum:

“If I had allowed myself such untidiness back when I was young...” and all these other things she said. Everybody felt a bit embarrassed then. Some-

times Mum turned her head and stuck her tongue out towards the wall. This is why they had to clean everything before grandparents came, so that Mum wouldn't have to stick out her tongue towards the wall.



The worst thing was that when Granny shook her head too much, her neck got sore and nobody wanted that to happen. Little Lucy had once suggested:

“Listen, Granny, let me do the head shaking and you just do the grumbling. This way your neck won't get sore.”

That made Granny laugh and everyone was in a good mood again, all of a sudden. If Lucy had come up with something as funny every time, then everyone would have been happy all the time. But Lucy couldn't do it every time. Today, for example, it went exactly the other way around.



It all started when they had a row with Andy. Lucy said that witches were real and she could also perform magic if she really wanted to. Andy argued that all this talk about witches and witchcraft was pure nonsense and all the tricks that seemed to be witchcraft were actually just tricks, nothing else.



“Even all the tricks that magicians perform on TV and at the circus are just cheating. They are just so skilful.”

“You know nothing,” Lucy said and started thinking about how to pull such a trick on Andy that

would look like proper witchcraft. She went to the hall and crept under the coats hanging on the coat rack. She kept thinking and thinking.



And finally she came up with an excellent idea. She went outside and got a stone that was small enough to fit her palm.

“You know what, Andy?” she approached her brother.

“What?”

“Today I’m going to perform a magic trick with a stone.”

“How are you going to do that?” Andy asked, all excited.

“I’m going to make the stone splash water!” Lucy announced, looking proudly at her brother.



“A stone splashing water?” Andy couldn’t really believe her ears.

“Yes,” Lucy repeated. “I’m going to make an actual stone actually splash water!”

Andy would have liked to laugh but he couldn’t. He was very interested in how Lucy was going to make the stone splash water.



Finally it was lunch time and Granny and Grandpa were about to arrive. Mum and Dad had

finished everything and even dressed up.

When there was finally a knock on the door, Andy was the first to run to meet and greet their grandparents.



Grandpa had put on his Sunday suit and Granny was wearing a floral dress. They had brought home-baked pies and an apple cake. It was the most delicious apple cake in the whole world.

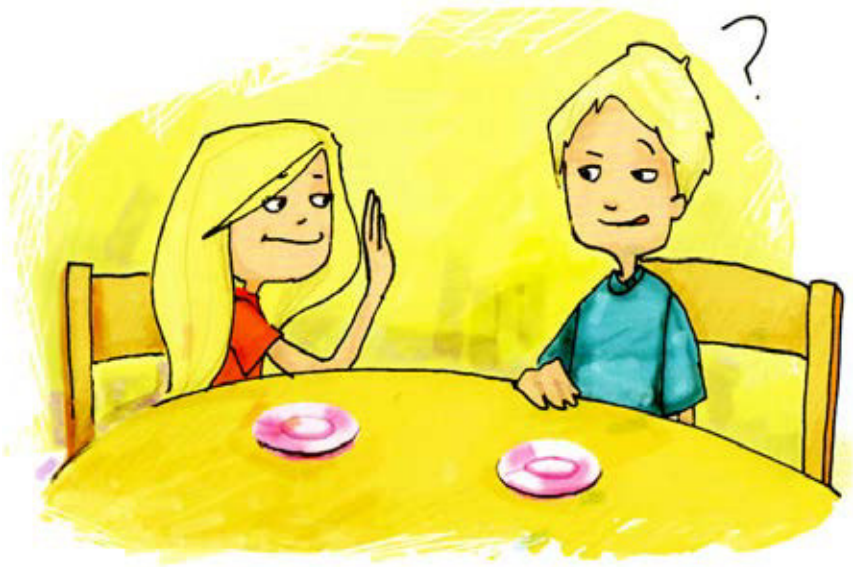
Tiny Madeline also waddled to the door and Grandpa lifted her high up to the ceiling.

“Oh my little baby princess!”



“Do come in, please,” Mum said, “the lunch is ready!” Once everyone had sat at the table, Andy whispered to Lucy:

“Where is your stone then? Why don’t you show everyone how it splashes water?”



Lucy got down the chair and went to the children’s room. She took a big piece of grey plasticine and modelled it into a round stone-like ball. Then she pressed it flat and modelled a large ball, like an egg, which was hollow inside. She only left one hole at one end. Then she crept quietly to the bathroom and filled the ball with water from the tap. Then she shut the hole and made several tiny holes with a match. Now the plasticine ball looked like a watering can, only the water didn’t come out of it unless you squeezed it.



“This is it,” Lucy felt pleased with herself and stepped triumphantly into the kitchen. Everybody looked at her with a surprise.



“Now I’m going to perform an unseen magic

trick for you!” She stretched out her hand holding the real stone. The other hand with the plasticine ball she hid behind her back.



“This is a stone, right?” she asked everyone. Grandpa smiled and touched the stone.

“This is a stone alright. A real stone.”

“And I will make this real stone splash water,” Lucy said, cunningly blinking her eyes. The room got so quiet that it seemed as if everyone was holding their breath.



Little Lucy put the hand with the stone behind her back and swapped it for the plasticine ball. Then she stretched out her hand again and squeezed it as hard as she could.

Water splashed all over Grandpa's Sunday suit, Granny's floral dress, the pies and even the delicious apple cake, just like bursting out from a fountain. Lucy herself was also quite startled as she

hadn't planned on splashing so much water. Pretty locks on Granny's forehead were wet and dripping, Grandpa's suit looked as if it had been left outside to the rain.



“Oh my god!” Lucy muttered and before anyone could say a word, she was gone. She quickly crawled under the bed in children's room and kept very quiet. She could hear Grandpa saying the things he usually said when he fell or hit his elbow.

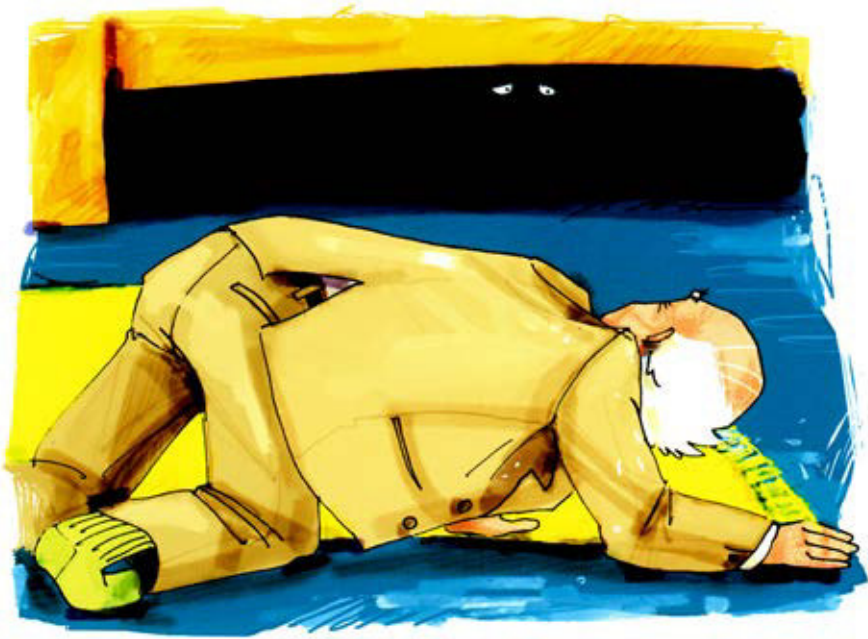


She could also hear Mum apologizing and little Madeline giggling. In a short while, though, Lucy heard how Dad went to the hall toilet and then heard his suppressed gales of laughter. Lucy couldn't really understand why certain things made some people angry but got other people laughing.



Finally Grandpa entered the room and came down on his hands and knees, peeking in the darkness under the bed.

“Come out, I’m not angry.” he said in a quiet and calm voice. And Lucy came out. Grandpa was smiling and, indeed, he didn’t seem to be angry.



Lucy felt a little bit embarrassed, though. She didn't feel like being a witch for a very long time now.



THE END