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Maggie Sparks: Maggie Sparks and the Monster Baby

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# MAGGIE SPARKS

AND THE  
MONSTER  
BABY



**STEVE SMALLMAN**  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
**ESTHER HERNANDO**

Sweet  
Cherry

MAGGIE

That's me!



BAT

The coolest  
chameleon  
EVER.



MUM

Super smart.  
Bakes great cookies.

DAD

Writes a lot.  
Cannot bake cookies.





**ALFIE**

Stinky and  
annoying.

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**GRANDAD**

My favourite  
wizard in the world!



**ARTHUR**

My best friend.

# CHAPTER 1

Maggie Sparks was a witch. A small, curly-haired, freckle-faced witch, who was usually full of mischief and fizzing with

**MAGIC.**

But not today.  
Today she  
was worried.



Grandad Sparks, Maggie's favourite person in the whole world, was looking after her while Mum and Dad were away. She should have been as happy as a witch who'd worked out the secret to an excellent slime spell. But she wasn't.



Grandad could see that Maggie was worried. Even Bat, her pet chameleon, had changed colour to Worry White to match Maggie's mood.

'Don't worry,' said Grandad Sparks. 'Mummy and Daddy will be home soon!'

'That's what I'm worried about!' cried Maggie.

Mum and Dad had gone to the hospital to swap Mum's big tummy for a baby. They'd been gone for **AAAAAAAAAGES.**

'What do they want a baby for?' said Maggie. 'What's the matter with me?'

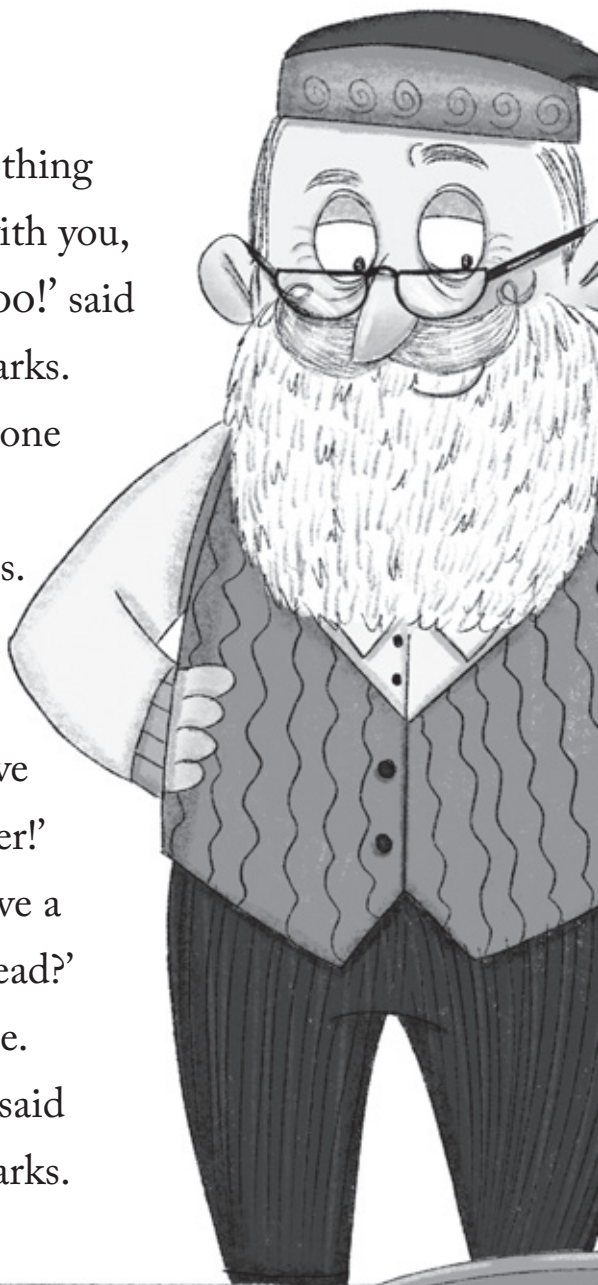


‘There’s nothing the matter with you, Maggie Moo!’ said Grandad Sparks. He gave her one of his warm, crinkly smiles.

‘But think what fun it will be to have a baby brother!’

‘Can’t I have a goldfish instead?’ asked Maggie.

‘Well, no,’ said Grandad Sparks.



‘But you’ll be able to play with your brother.’

‘I could *play* with a goldfish,’ said Maggie.

‘Yes, but one day,’ Grandad Sparks went on, ‘you’ll be able to do *magic* with your brother!’

