

The Witch's Hat Has a Shop Inside

Midnight Mischief Club

By J. Ladis and Haley Dell

Little Story Magic



The witch had her coat, her broom and a very important invitation. She did not have her boots. Rain drummed on the doorstep. “I cannot attend a puddle party in my socks.”



Moth noticed a light beneath the witch's hat. A tiny window had opened in its brim. Behind the glass, Mister Button was arranging a shop. “Have you always had a tenant?”



The witch lifted the hat onto the table. A staircase unfolded. Inside stood shelves of splendidly useless things and a sign: EXCHANGES ONLY. “A giggle buys a hook. A gust buys a box. Something enormous buys something small.”



“I need my boots.” “No boots today. A lovely hook?” The witch gave him a giggle. He caught it in a jar. She used the hook to pull back a curtain.



Behind it stood two tall red vases, a closed cupboard and a basket full of doorknobs. Something inside the cupboard sneezed. “My boots have never sneezed.” Moth wasn't looking at the cupboard. She was looking at the vases.



The witch offered a gust for a box to stand on. Mister Button opened his jar too soon. Whoosh! Labels flew. Doorknobs rolled. A feather duster tumbled from the cupboard, sneezing. The curtain wrapped around his head.



Moth caught the curtain. The witch set the box over the runaway jar. Quiet returned, except for a giggle bubbling on the shelf. “Why do your vases have laces?”



The witch looked closely. Her boots had been filled with paper flowers. “Those are mine!” “Oh! They came down through the hat lining. I thought they were flowerpots.”



He emptied the flowers and returned the boots at once. He offered back the giggle and the gust as well. “Keep the giggle. Put a lid on the gust.”



“Could I have something enormous for the lid?” The witch gave him an enormous frown. He found a lid immediately. Moth had to turn away to hide her smile.



Booted at last, the witch put on her hat. A tiny shop bell jingled above her ear. “No deliveries while I'm dancing.” Inside the lining, Mister Button turned his sign: BACK AFTER THE PARTY.

Little Story Magic

The Witch's Hat Has a Shop Inside

By J. Ladis and Haley Dell.

© 2026 J. Ladis and Haley Dell.

Illustrated working edition - October 2026.

A digital reading edition. Whole-book creative review, device testing, retailer conversion and print preparation remain separate.