

The Sofa Has Set Sail!

Impossible Days

By J. Ladis and Haley Dell

Little Story Magic



Hippo’s birthday cake was ready: three wooden blocks, pink paper icing and a felt candle. John put it on a tray. Julia pointed across the blue rug. “Hippo’s island is over there.”



They climbed aboard the sofa and raised a tea-towel sail. Its cushions became a ship, and the rug rolled into an enormous sea. On his armchair island, Hippo waved a very small flag. “Birthday delivery coming through!”



John paddled with a wooden spoon. The ship turned in a circle. Hippo’s island slid behind them. “We’re going the wrong way!” Julia dipped a flat cushion into the water like a rudder. Together, they turned the ship toward the flag.



Ahead stood Sock Rocks, with sharp, stripey points. There was a wide passage on the left and a narrow gap on the right. “The cake needs room.” They took the wide passage. The felt candle scarcely wobbled.



Eight woolly arms rose beside the ship. A sock octopus peered over the rail. John hugged the tray. “You can’t have the birthday cake!” The octopus’s arms drooped.



“But you can come to the party.” Julia made it a paper hat. The octopus put the hat on one arm, then held up seven more. “That is a lot of hats.”



A curtain-whale sneezed. WHOOSH! Their sail ballooned. The tray skidded, and the cake leaned sideways. “Smaller sail!” John folded the sail while Julia steadied the tray. The ship slowed.



At last, Hippo’s flag fluttered just ahead. But a strip of swirling water kept the ship from reaching his island. “My cake!” The octopus stretched an arm toward the island. Then another. It had made a wonderfully woolly bridge.



Julia held the tray level. John guided it along the bridge, past each careful curl, until Hippo could reach it. “One birthday cake. Three blocks. Still standing!”



Hippo blew out the felt candle. John and Julia made the cheering noises. The sea became a blue rug again, but the party was only beginning. Julia made seven more hats. As for the octopus, it wore all eight party hats.

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