

Maya and the Friendly Halloween Adventure

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Maya pulled on her favourite witch costume and looked in the mirror with a huge grin. Her pointy black hat sat perfectly on her long curly black hair. She grabbed her orange candy pail and ran to the front door, excited for the best Halloween night of her entire life.



The neighbourhood was magical. Orange and purple lights twinkled on every porch. Kids in costumes laughed and ran along the leaf-covered street. Maya skipped happily from house to house, collecting chocolates and gummy worms until her pail grew wonderfully heavy in her hand.



Then Maya noticed a narrow path leading into a grove of tall trees decorated with glowing paper lanterns. A little wooden sign said 'Friendly Forest — Trick-or-Treaters Welcome!' Maya tilted her head curiously, looked back at the safe glowing street, then took one brave step forward onto the path.



Between the glowing lanterns, something small and white bobbed toward Maya. It giggled softly — a friendly, bubbly sound like a happy hiccup. Maya blinked. It was a tiny round ghost, no bigger than a basketball, with big blue eyes and a wide cheerful smile floating right before her.



'Hi! I am Glow!' the little ghost said, doing a happy spin in the air. 'I love Halloween! Will you explore the Friendly Forest with me?' Maya laughed with relief and nodded eagerly. 'Yes please!' she said. Together they floated and skipped deeper into the softly glowing, wonderful forest.



They reached a clearing where friendly carved pumpkins of every size sat in a wide circle, each one glowing a different colour — pink, blue, green, and gold. 'These are the Wishing Pumpkins,' Glow explained. 'You can whisper a kind wish into one and it will come true tonight!'



Maya kneeled down beside a glowing golden pumpkin and cupped her hands around her mouth. She whispered her wish very carefully. Glow pressed two stubby little arms together in excitement. The pumpkin's golden glow pulsed once, twice, and then a warm sparkle drifted up into the night sky.



Suddenly the sparkles swirled together and a tiny, friendly black kitten appeared, blinking sleepily and wearing a little bow tie. Maya gasped with pure joy. 'Your wish was kindness,' Glow said softly, 'so the forest gave you a friend!' The kitten stepped forward and bumped its head against Maya's hand.



Glow led Maya and the kitten to a tall hollow oak tree that had been turned into a little Halloween sweet shop. A friendly old owl in a tiny apron handed out caramel acorns and moon-shaped cookies. Maya filled a corner of her pail and shared every single cookie with Glow.



As they walked back through the lantern-lit path, Maya and Glow played a game of shadow shapes on the glowing trees. Maya made a rabbit and Glow made a wobbly star with stubby arms that made them both giggle until their tummies hurt. It was the silliest, loveliest game.



At the edge of the Friendly Forest, Maya turned to say goodbye. Glow floated close and hugged her gently — soft as a cloud and warm as a blanket. 'Happy Halloween, Maya,' Glow whispered. Maya hugged back as carefully as she could and promised to return next Halloween.



Maya skipped home under a sky full of stars, candy pail swinging, tiny kitten trotting beside her. She curled up in bed that night with a heart full of happy. She looked at the stars through her window and smiled, already dreaming about next Halloween with her glowing little friend.

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