

Annie McMarvellous

By Josette Reeves

My name is Annie McMarvellous, and I'm a magician – just like my mum and dad. I've been learning magic since the age of four, and it was all going brilliantly until yesterday, when I had a little accident.

I asked my mum if I could practice making things disappear and she said, "Yes dear, but try it on something small, like a coin." So I ran up to my bedroom and got to work.

Even though I wore my tallest top hat and muttered all the right magic words, the coin just would not disappear.

"Hmmm, perhaps I need to try it on something bigger," I thought. Then I spotted Mrs Flops hopping around. Mrs Flops is Mum's favourite bunny and magic show assistant. I knew I really shouldn't, but I did.

I waved my wand over Mrs Flops and cried, "Abracadabra, Alakazam!"

POOF! Mrs Flops disappeared!

I tried so hard but I just couldn't make Mrs Flops return. Not even Mum or Dad could bring her back.

This morning they left for the McMarvellous Magnificent Magic Show. It's our biggest show of the year. I had been looking forward to it for ages, but Mum was so upset about having to go without Mrs Flops, I had to stay home.

I was mopping around worrying about never being a proper magician when I had a brilliant idea. I sneaked into Mum and Dad's secret magic room, where the book cases are stacked high with spell books. I hoped there might be a spell to bring back Mrs Flops – something my parents hadn't thought of.

I searched through loads of books until I found a really dusty old one. It made me sneeze, but something in it caught my eye:

Have you magicked something that will not return? Stand on your head and wiggle your feet and say these magic words:

Lost thing wherever you are

Be you near or be you far

Travel safely back to me

When I count to one, two, three!

Feeling a bit silly, I stood on my head, wiggled my feet and said the magic words. Nothing happened. I said them again. Still nothing. I tried once more. This time, I crossed my fingers and toes for extra good luck and shouted the words as loud as I could.

POOF! A confused-looking bunny appeared in a fluffy of fluff.

“Mrs Flops, you’re back!” I cried, squishing the bunny into a big hug. I don’t think she enjoyed being magicked away because she gave me a little nibble and wriggled out of my arms. Then she jumped right out of the window!

“Mrs Flops!” I yelled, but she didn’t stop. I raced after her.

We ran down the road, through the park, around the pond, and on and on. At one point she somersaulted over a boy on his bicycle! I’m sure she never used to be so acrobatic. Maybe the spell had given her special powers.

After a while I worked out she was heading for the town hall, where the McMarvellous Magnificent Magic Show was taking place!

She burst in through the front door with me close to her tail. The audience turned and stared – and Mum and Dad’s mouths gasped at the sight of Mrs Flops charging towards them, followed by me! Showing off her new gymnastics skills, Mrs Flops cartwheeled down the aisle, vaulted up the steps and leapt straight into Mum’s arms.

Gasping for breath, I dashed onto the stage and panted into the microphone, “Ladies and Gentlemen, meet Mrs Flops – the amazing acrobatic bunny!”

The crowd clapped and roared with approval. When the noise finally died down, Mum and Dad put their arms around me. Grinning, they announced, “And this, Ladies and Gentlemen, is our daughter – the Amazing Annie McMarvellous!”