MANJU'S MAGIC MUDDLE

CHITRA SOUNDAR
ILLUSTRATED BY VERÓNICA MONTOYA



BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY

BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK
29 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland

BLOOMSBURY, BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION and the Diana logo are trademarks of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

First published in Great Britain in 2021 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Text copyright © Chitra Soundar, 2021
Illustrations copyright © Verónica Montoya, 2021

Chitra Soundar and Verónica Montoya have asserted their rights under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as Author and Illustrator of this work

This is a work of fiction. Names and characters are the product of the author's imagination and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publishers

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: PB: 978-1-4729-7088-6; ePDF: 978-1-4729-7085-5; ePub: 978-1-4729-7084-8; enhanced ePub: 978-1-4729-7087-9

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

Printed and bound in China by Leo Paper Products, Heshan, Guangdong



All papers used by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc are natural, recyclable products from wood grown in well managed forests and other sources. The manufacturing processes conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin

To find out more about our authors and books visit www.bloomsbury.com and sign up for our newsletters

Chapter Five

As the genie disappeared, Manju was lifted up too. Uh oh! She must have been sitting on his shawl.

Cumin clung on to Manju tightly. *Cats are not meant to fly*, he thought.

WHOOSH!



In a swirl of rainbow haze and sparkling fog, the genie whooshed along. But his sneezing made the ride quite bumpy.
"Maybe we're going to a magical kingdom," whispered Manju. "Or to a pirate ship with girl pirates."
I'd make a great pirate cat, thought Cumin.
BUMP!



The fog cleared. It wasn't a kingdom or a pirate ship. They were inside a room at the retirement centre.



"Hello, Genie," said a voice. "My name is Mrs Rose Cox."

"Aaachooo!" replied the genie. "Hello Mrs Close Fox!"

"Miaow!" Cumin hid behind Manju.

This wasn't going well at all.

Chapter Six



Manju stepped out from behind the genie. “Hello Mrs Cox,” said Manju. “Genie isn’t feeling well today.”

“Oh bless him,” she said.

“I can do that,” said the genie, clicking his fingers.

A chess set appeared on the table.

Mrs Cox gasped.