

The title "MAGGIE SPARKS" is centered in a stylized, black, serif font. The word "MAGGIE" is on the top line and "SPARKS" is on the bottom line. The letter "G" in "MAGGIE" has a small star above it. The letter "P" in "SPARKS" has a small star above it. The text is surrounded by a circular arrangement of decorative elements: several five-pointed stars of varying sizes, spiral patterns, and several oval shapes with dark spots, resembling ladybugs or planets. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, cartoonish, grey creature with large eyes, a long tail, and a small body, appearing to be jumping or running towards the center.

MAGGIE
SPARKS

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Maggie Sparks: Maggie Sparks and the Monster Baby

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MAGGIE SPARKS

AND THE
MONSTER
BABY



STEVE SMALLMAN
ILLUSTRATED BY
ESTHER HERNANDO

Sweet
Cherry

MAGGIE

That's me!



BAT

The coolest
chameleon
EVER.



MUM

Super smart.
Bakes great cookies.

DAD

Writes a lot.
Cannot bake cookies.





ALFIE

Stinky and
annoying.



GRANDAD

My favourite
wizard in the world!



ARTHUR

My best friend.

CHAPTER 1

Maggie Sparks was a witch. A small,
curly-haired, freckle-faced witch,
who was usually
full of mischief
and fizzing with

MAGIC.

But not today.
Today she
was worried.



Grandad Sparks, Maggie's favourite person in the whole world, was looking after her while Mum and Dad were away. She should have been as happy as a witch who'd worked out the secret to an excellent slime spell. But she wasn't.



Grandad could see that Maggie was worried. Even Bat, her pet chameleon, had changed colour to Worry White to match Maggie's mood.

'Don't worry,' said Grandad Sparks. 'Mummy and Daddy will be home soon!'

'That's what I'm worried about!' cried Maggie.

Mum and Dad had gone to the hospital to swap Mum's big tummy for a baby. They'd been gone for
AAAAAAAAAGES.

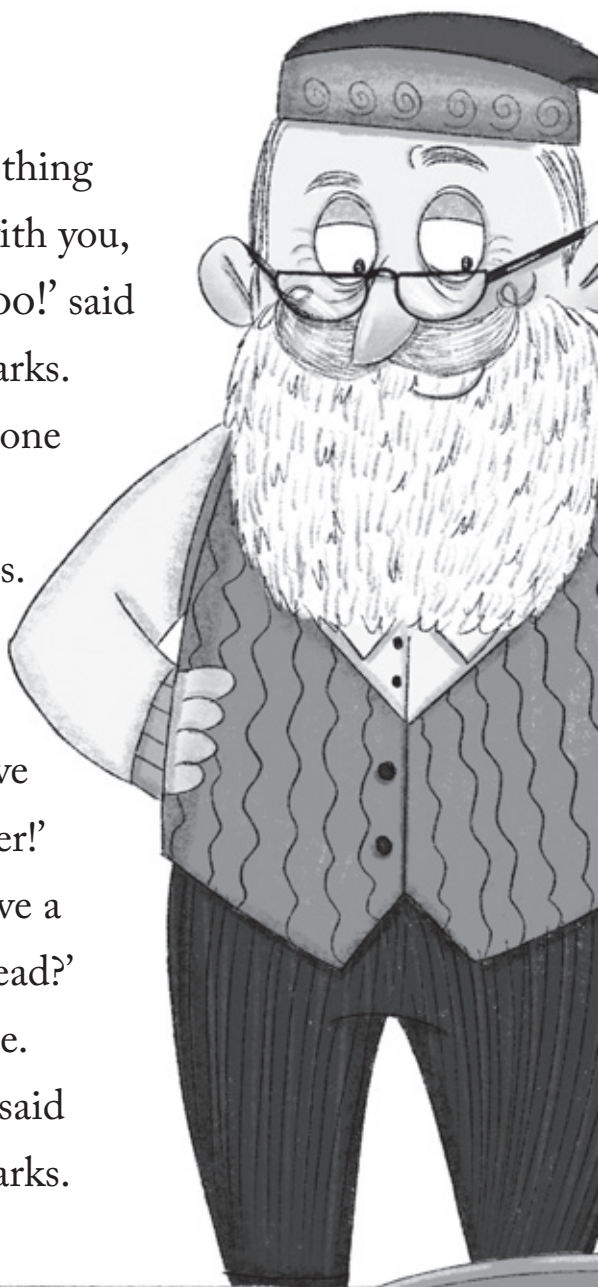
'What do they want a baby for?' said Maggie. 'What's the matter with me?'

‘There’s nothing
the matter with you,
Maggie Moo!’ said
Grandad Sparks.
He gave her one
of his warm,
crinkly smiles.

‘But think
what fun it
will be to have
a baby brother!’

‘Can’t I have a
goldfish instead?’
asked Maggie.

‘Well, no,’ said
Grandad Sparks.



‘But you’ll be able to play with your brother.’

‘I could *play* with a goldfish,’ said Maggie.

‘Yes, but one day,’ Grandad Sparks went on, ‘you’ll be able to do *magic* with your brother!’

