

The book cover features a vibrant, whimsical illustration. In the center, a young girl with short brown hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and polka-dot pants, stands on a grassy field, looking surprised with her hand to her chin. To her right, a black cat with green eyes sits alertly. The background is a magical forest scene with a large tree on the left, a tree trunk with a large pink tongue sticking out on the right, and a body of water with glowing blue spheres and sparkles. Small green creatures are visible on the left, and purple flowers and mushrooms are in the foreground. The title 'THE Moonlight MYSTERY AGENCY' is written in a large, stylized font at the top, with a moon replacing the letter 'O' in 'Moonlight'. Below the title, the subtitle 'The Puzzling Paw Prints' is written in a purple, cursive font.

THE Moonlight MYSTERY AGENCY

The Puzzling Paw Prints

Little
Gems

VASHTI HARDY

Illustrated by Agnes Saccani



For Shania, with hugs





The Puzzling Paw Prints

VASHTI HARDY

Illustrated by
Agnes Saccani

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This book is in a super-readable format for young readers
beginning their independent reading journey

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This book contains FSC™ certified paper and other controlled
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CONTENTS

1	Worry Pants	1
2	The Way to Moonlight	13
3	BIG, BIG, BIG Paws	27
4	The Growler	41
5	Broken Branches	55
6	Flufferhug	65
7	No More Worry Pants	79



CHAPTER 1

Worry Pants

The sun shone in Hana's garden.
Hana sat on a picnic rug with her
little brother, Arlo.

Arlo was looking at butterflies and
bees with Dad.

It was a perfect day, except for one thing. Hana felt worried about starting a new year at school.

She would be in a new class. There would be a new teacher, new children and a new classroom.



“I don’t want to go back to school,” said Hana suddenly. “I think I’ll stay at home. In fact, I’ll leave school and go to work on a farm.”

Dad looked up from the flower patch. “You’re too little to leave school.”



Hana frowned. “But maybe I won’t like my new class.”

“You need to show Arlo what to do,” said Dad. “He starts nursery tomorrow.”

“No nursery! Yuk nursery!” said Arlo. He crawled over to Hana on the picnic rug. He frowned just like her.

Dad shook his head. “You two are a pair of worry pants.”

“What are worry pants?” asked Hana.

“You two are.” Dad smiled. “It means you worry too much.”

Dad bit into his apple – *crunch!* “Wait and see. Perhaps you’ll love your new class and Arlo will love his nursery too.”

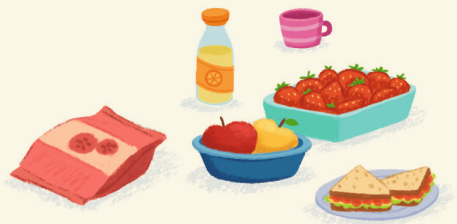
Hana thought for a moment. “No, I won’t.”

Arlo cried and said, “Yuk nursery,” again.

Dad sighed. “Why don’t you enjoy the garden picnic for now? You can see how you feel tomorrow.”

But Hana knew she’d feel the same.

*



That night, Hana went to bed and pinned her moon badge on her fluffy pyjamas.

The badge was a present from a cat called Ace. Ace was a talking cat, and he'd come to Hana's bedroom window one night. He'd given her the moon badge and invited her to join the Moonlight Mystery Agency.

That night they'd gone on an adventure together to solve a mystery in a magical land called Moonlight. It had been the best night ever.

Hana loved being a detective. She wished it would happen again. She didn't want to think about starting a new class at school.



The moon rose over the rooftops.
Hana hugged her favourite teddy – a
cat called Tibby.

What if Ace never came again? She
felt full of worry.

Hana looked up at the ceiling. It was
midnight blue with gold stars.

She closed her eyes and thought about Ace until she fell asleep.

A tinny tap of claws on her window woke her up.