MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

The Halloween Costume Lost-and-Found

A missing dragon tail, a box of mix-ups, and a very quiet surprise under the rail.



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CHAPTER 1

Where Is the Dragon Tail?

Pip bounced into the glowing hall. Tonight was the costume parade! "Look, Aunt Fern!" Pip spun around. "I'm a dragon!" Aunt Fern smiled. Then she blinked. "Pip, dear... where is your tail?" Pip looked back. The little tie hung loose. The padded blue tail was gone. And the parade started soon!

Something Is in the Crate!

Pip's tummy felt tight, like a sock tied in a knot.

"Let's not rush," said Aunt Fern. "Try the lost-and-found crate by the door. That's a box where lost things wait to be found."

Pip dug in. Mittens. Scarves. One sticky sock. Then Pip's paw touched something long and soft.

"My tail!" Pip pulled it out.

But wait. This tail was curly. It was green. It had orange spots.

It was not a dragon tail at all.



IN THIS PICTURE
A tail at last! But it's green, curly and spotty.

IN THIS PICTURE
Pip gives the curly tail back, and Moss beams.



A Sniffly Little Dinosaur

Then Pip heard a sniffle.

A tiny mouse in a green dinosaur suit stood nearby. He kept twisting around to look at his bare back.

Pip looked at the curly tail. Pip could keep searching alone. But this tail was not Pip's.

Pip knelt down. "Is this yours?"

The mouse gasped. "My dinosaur tail! I'm Moss. Thank you!"

Giving it back felt warm inside, like cocoa.

"Now let's find YOUR tail," said Moss. "Together!"

The Mystery Gets Bigger

Moss leaned close and whispered. "Your tail isn't the only thing missing."

Pip looked around the hall.

Hazel the squirrel had only one butterfly wing. Bramble the badger patted his head. His moon hat was gone! Juniper the rabbit touched her neck. Her red ribbon with the little bell was missing.

Aunt Fern pulled a small table into the middle of the room. "This will be our search headquarters," she said. That means the main spot where the searching starts.

Pip's eyes grew wide. This was a real mystery!





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CHAPTER 2

Finding, Sorting and a Clue

Pip looked down. Near the low costume rail lay something folded and shimmery. It was orange and purple! "My wing!" cried Hazel. Pip had an idea. "Can we use it to sort things on?" Hazel nodded. Together they spread it flat, like a picnic blanket. What else was hiding nearby?

A Hat Full of Buttons

Moss squeaked. "Look! Something yellow!"

Tucked by the rail's leg was a felt hat shaped like a crescent — a skinny curved moon, like a banana.

"My moon hat!" Bramble hugged it tight.

Just then, a button popped off Juniper's pumpkin. Ping! Another rolled off a pirate coat.

"Buttons keep escaping," said Pip.

Bramble grinned and flipped the hat over. "It can be a bowl until the parade!"

Plink, plink. In went the buttons.

IN THIS PICTURE

Bramble's upside-down moon hat catches every runaway button.



IN THIS PICTURE
One small jingle, and Juniper's ears shoot straight up!



A Tiny Jingle

Pip reached under the rail. Out came a red ribbon.

Jingle-jing! A little brass bell swung on the end.

Across the hall, Juniper's long ears shot straight up. Juniper spun around in the round pumpkin costume and hopped over, bounce, bounce, bounce.

"That's my bell! I'd know that jingle anywhere!"

Pip handed it back. Juniper beamed.

Pip felt a warm flutter inside, like a happy moth. It was not the tail. But it still felt good.

> **WOW FACTS**
> Really true: rabbits can turn each long ear on its own, to catch sounds coming from different directions.

Everything in Its Place

Back on the wing-mat, the team got busy.

The button-hat went in one corner. A stray glove went in another. A felt star sat all alone.

"Whose glove is this?" asked Hazel.

"We'll find out," said Moss. "Everything belongs to somebody."

Nobody kept a single thing that wasn't theirs. Not even the sparkly star.

The mat was filling up. But Pip's back still felt empty. Where was that tail?

IN THIS PICTURE
Neat little groups wait on the wing-mat for their owners.



IN THIS PICTURE
Wing, hat, ribbon. All by the rail. Pip's ears perk up.



Pip Starts to Wonder

Pip sat back on the floor and thought.

The wing was by the rail. The hat was by the rail's leg. The ribbon was right underneath it.

When things keep turning up in the same spot, that's a pattern. And a pattern is a clue!

"Things don't have legs," Pip whispered. "They can't walk there on their own."

So why was everything by that low, shadowy rail?

Pip's ears perked up. Pip had an idea.

Something Under the Rail

Pip crouched down low and peeked into the gap under the costumes.

It was dim in there, like under a bed. There was a soft heap of scarves and fabric.

Then Pip blinked. The heap moved. Up, then down. Up, then down. Slow and gentle, like it was breathing.

Pip's heart went thump. But it was a curious thump, not a scared one.

"Moss," Pip whispered. "Come here. Quietly."

IN THIS PICTURE
Under the hanging costumes, a cozy heap rises and falls.





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CHAPTER 3

A Quiet Nest and a Sitting-Down Parade

The heap wiggled. Out peeped a tiny pointed nose. Then two dark eyes. It was a very small hedgehog, curled in a nest of scarves and felt. "I'm Thimble," she whispered. "It got so loud. The soft things felt safe." Pip's tummy felt soft and warm. Pip knew that feeling too. But how could they help?

Aunt Fern Gets Down Low

Pip tiptoed to the middle of the hall. "Aunt Fern," Pip whispered, "someone needs a kind grown-up."

Aunt Fern did not fuss. She did not say, "Come out right now." She just sat down on the floor, cardigan and all.

"Hello, Thimble," she said softly. "The noise can be a lot, can't it? What might help?"

Thimble's nose twitched. "Somewhere soft," she whispered. "And quiet."

> **WOW FACTS**
> Really true: when hedgehogs feel worried, they curl into a tight, spiky ball to feel safe.

IN THIS PICTURE
Aunt Fern sits right down on the floor to talk softly with Thimble.



IN THIS PICTURE
A bench, some cushions, and a blanket make a calm corner for Thimble.



A Corner Made of Cushions

"I know just the spot," said Aunt Fern. She slid a long bench across the floor. Now it made a little wall by the big amber window.

Pip carried a fluffy cushion. Moss carried one too, though it was bigger than he was. Hazel brought a folded blanket.

Thimble padded out of her nest. She stepped onto the blanket and let out a long, happy sigh.

Now the costume pieces could go home.

Look What Was Underneath

Now it was time to give things back. The scarves went into the lost-and-found crate. Pip tipped the buttons out of the moon hat and gave it to Bramble. He popped it on. Juniper's bell jingled as she hopped with joy.

Last came the wing, still spread on the floor as a sorting mat. Pip and Hazel lifted it up like a curtain.

Pip gasped. There lay a padded blue tail with yellow spikes!

"My dragon tail!" Pip laughed. "It was here all along!"

IN THIS PICTURE
Under Hazel's wing, Pip's blue dragon tail has been waiting all along.



IN THIS PICTURE
Thimble holds out her orange ribbon while Pip swishes the dragon tail.



A Parade Where Everyone Sits

Aunt Fern tied Pip's tail on with a neat loop. Swish!

"Shall we march?" asked Bramble. Then he looked at Thimble's corner.

"Let's have a sitting-down parade," said Pip. So everyone sat in a circle. Moss wiggled his dinosaur tail. Hazel fluttered both wings. Pip gave the dragon tail a big swish.

Thimble clapped from her cushions. Then she untied her little orange ribbon. "For you," she whispered. "Thank you for finding me gently."

Folded Up, Tucked In

At home, Pip folded the dragon costume very carefully. The tail went on top, curled up like a sleepy cat.

Pip set Thimble's orange ribbon on the bedside table. It looked small and bright, like a tiny smile.

Under the covers, Pip thought about the busy hall. About the quiet corner. About a tail that was waiting under a wing.

And about a brand-new friend.

Pip yawned, and smiled, and drifted off to sleep.

IN THIS PICTURE
Pip's costume rests on the chair as Pip reaches for Thimble's ribbon.



Check your wonder

1 **What did Pip do when Pip found Moss's curly green dinosaur tail?**

- **A.** Kindly gave it back to Moss
- **B.** Kept it to wear instead
- **C.** Hid it under the costume rail

2 **What clue helped Pip solve the mystery?**

- **A.** Muddy footprints on the floor
- **B.** Everything kept turning up by the low costume rail
- **C.** Aunt Fern saw who took the costumes

3 **Why was Thimble the hedgehog hiding in a nest of costume scraps?**

- **A.** She wanted to steal the costumes
- **B.** She was cold and needed a blanket
- **C.** The noise of the party was too much for her

4 **How did the party change so that Thimble could feel safe and join in?**

- **A.** Everyone went home early
- **B.** They made a quiet cushion corner and had a sitting-down parade
- **C.** They moved the parade outside

ANSWERS 1-A 2-B 3-C 4-B

1. Pip gave the tail back, even though it wasn't the blue dragon tail Pip was hoping for, and then Moss joined the search. 2. Pip noticed all the lost things were found near the low rail, so Pip peeked underneath. 3. The busy hall felt too loud for Thimble, so she made a cozy hiding nest. 4. Aunt Fern and the children built a quiet corner, and everyone enjoyed a gentle sitting-down parade.

New words

costume
Special clothes you wear to dress up as someone or something else, like a dragon.

lost-and-found
A box where people put things they find, so the owners can come and get them back.

clue
A little hint that helps you solve a puzzle.

nest
A cozy, round bed made of soft things, like the one a bird builds out of twigs.

parade
A happy show where everyone takes turns showing off, often by marching, or sometimes by sitting!

headquarters
The main spot where a team meets and plans what to do next.

hedgehog
A small, round animal covered in short, prickly spines, like a tiny walking pincushion.

keepsake
A small thing you keep to help you remember a special day or friend.

Where we looked

This story didn't come from any book or website. It came straight from imagination, made just for you.

Goodbye, Pip and Moss, and goodnight, little Thimble, snug in your quiet corner. Pip is sleeping with an orange ribbon tonight. What do you think Thimble might dress up as next Halloween?

THE END

If your hall got too loud and busy, where would your quiet, cozy nest be?

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