The Witch Next Door

When Beth accidentally breaks her mum's favourite vase, she can't find a broom to sweep it up with! She sees the strange old next-door neighbour's broom outside, so she borrows it. But when she grabs hold of the broom, something strange happens—it starts to fly! Beth knew there was something odd about her next-door neighbour but could she really be a witch?



Book Band
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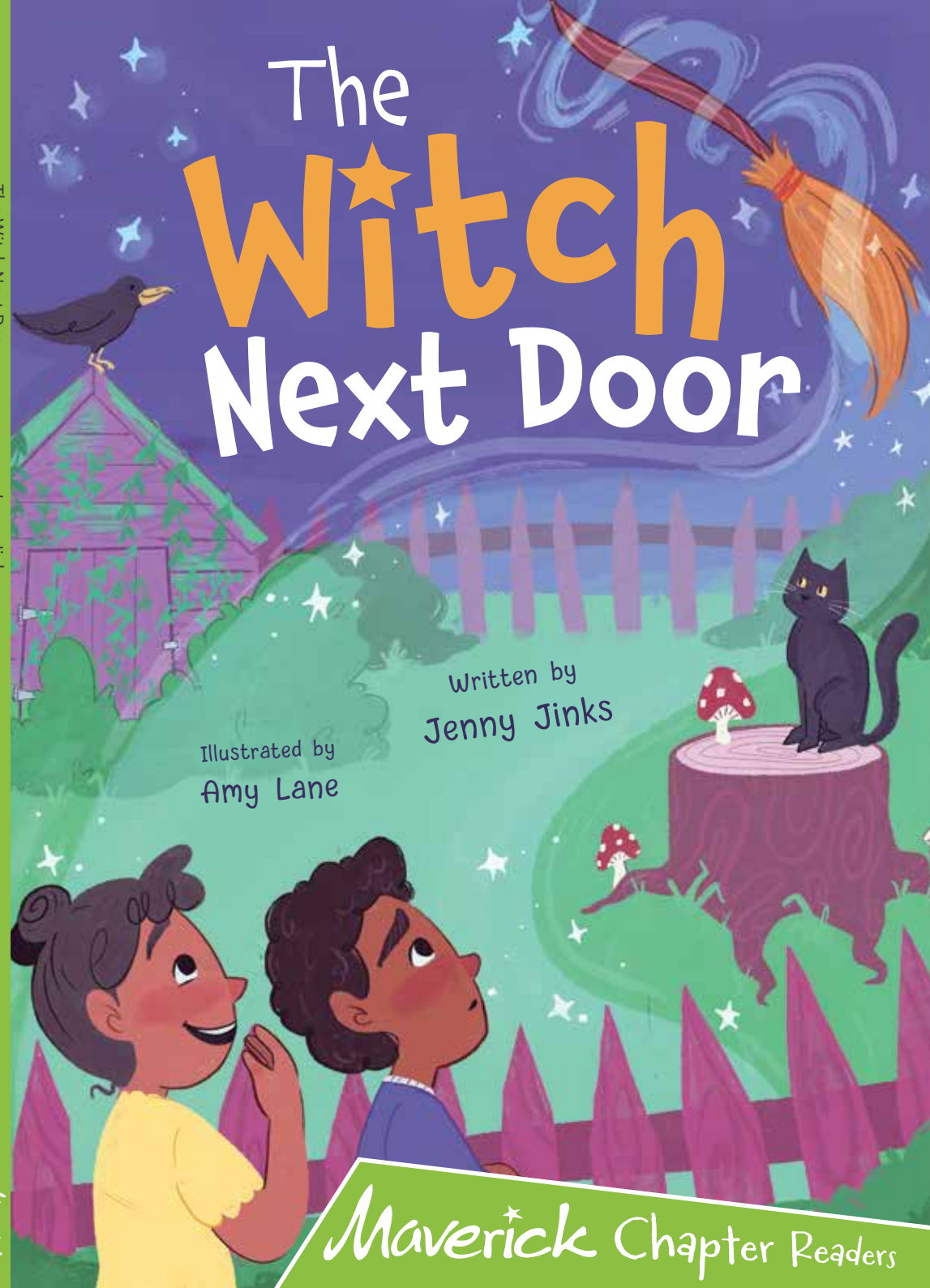
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© Jenny Jinks

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Lime

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For Review Only

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Chapter 1

"Catch this!" Ollie shouted.

The ball whizzed way out of Beth's reach, and got stuck in a tree.

Beth could hear Ollie laughing as she scrambled up the tree to fetch it. She could see right into next-door's garden from up there. Beth shuddered. She was sure the old lady who lived there was really a witch. If only she could prove it.

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She dragged her eyes away from the creepy house, grabbed the ball, and jumped to the ground.

Right, thought Beth. *Let's see him catch this.*

Beth threw the ball as hard as she could. It spun right past Ollie, and straight through the open kitchen window.

CRASH!



Beth and Ollie rushed inside. Mum's favourite vase lay smashed on the floor.

"Oh no," Beth moaned.

"Maybe she won't notice it's missing?" Ollie said. "Quick, let's clean it up!"

They hunted for a broom, but couldn't find one anywhere.

"How can your mum not own a broom? She's the neatest person ever!" Ollie said.

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Beth shrugged. It was true, Mum kept the house spotless. They must have a broom somewhere.

Beth remembered seeing a broom propped against the house next door. It would be okay if they borrowed it, wouldn't it...?

"Are you kidding?" Ollie screeched when she told him her plan. "You want to *steal* from a *witch!* She'll probably curse you and turn your skin purple!"

"It's only borrowing," Beth pointed out. But Ollie still refused to come.

So Beth headed next door, alone.



Chapter 2

Beth looked at the old, run-down house. She knew she should ring the bell and ask to borrow the broom. But she really didn't want to, and it didn't look like anyone was home. Besides, she would return it before anyone even knew it was gone.

Beth crept round to the side gate. It opened with an eerie CREAK!

There was the broom, leaning against the house.

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