



## The magic hat

Shhhh! Silence please, we're in the library. There are so many great books to read that I never know which one to choose. Let's see this one looks good. It seems interesting.

All kinds of wonderful stories can be found in books: funny ones, sad ones, love stories and adventure stories... you just have to choose the one you like best; there's something for everyone. Then all you have to do is sit back, open the book and let your imagination color the pages as you turn them.

Shall we give it a try?

Let's see, it reads... Early one morning, Mohammad ran away from home. He was careful to make sure nobody saw him because if he got caught, he'd be done for. For three years Mohammad had been practically enslaved by a man who was so cruel that he would never let him go out; he kept him locked up day and night. Mohammad couldn't bear it anymore!

So he took advantage of the first chance he had to run away. He wanted to get out of the city as fast as he could and go into the desert, the only place where they wouldn't dare chase after him.

While fleeing, Mohammad dreamt of freedom and hoped to make a new life for himself.

But before he had lost sight of the city...a venerable old man suddenly appeared out of the blue, as if by magic.

"Where the devil has this man come from?" he wondered in amazement. "Could he have fallen from the heavens?"

No, he was no spirit. And he wasn't someone sent by that wicked man to catch him. This man was Abdelkarim, the wizard.

"Take this hat, Mohammad," said the wizard, "you'll need it. This hat is magical and will make you invisible every time you put it on."

Then the old Abdelkarim vanished into thin air.

Mohammad couldn't believe his eyes.

"Invisible? Invisible?" he muttered as he continued walking. "That man must take me for quite a fool. He's out of his mind..."

And as he laughed to himself, thinking about the wizard, Mohammad was getting farther and farther away from the city.

He walked on and on for hours, holding the hat in his hand until night began to fall.

"It's growing dark and I'd better find shelter," he thought as he saw the sky slowly fill with stars. "I can't spend the night outdoors. Desert nights are so cold I'd freeze to death."

When he started getting desperate and realized that he wasn't going to find a place to stay, he thought he saw some very tiny lights twinkling in the distance.

"If my eyes aren't deceiving me, I'm saved!" Mohammad cried out gratefully. "But what if it's the tent of the people who are looking for me? Or what if it's the desert guard and he arrests me for whatever reason?"

Mohammad was in a terrible state.

"I know," he exclaimed, "I'll try putting on the hat. Maybe it really is magical and will make me invisible. Let's see."

And no sooner had he put on the hat than Mohammed became invisible starting from the top of his head down to the tip of his toes.

"Wow! The wizard was right. It works!" cried Mohammad, happy as can be. "Since no one can see me, I'm going to take a look."

Mohammad walked towards the intriguing lights.

As he drew closer, he saw a magnificent palace appear in the distance; a wondrous sight right in the middle of the desert.

"Golly! What a beautiful palace! I wonder who lives there?" thought Mohammad without taking off his hat. "Since no one can see me, I'll go inside and take a look around. And maybe I'll find something to eat to build up my strength; I can barely stand up."

And without thinking twice, Mohammad entered the palace.

He crossed a labyrinth of halls and chambers until he opened a door and saw a girl sitting on a cushion engrossed in a book.

She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen in his whole life. She was Princess Shamira, the Emir's favorite daughter.

Mohammad was thunderstruck - it was love at first sight. He stood there gaping at her sure that she couldn't see him when, unexpectedly Princess Shamira said to him,

"Don't hide, Mohammad, I know you're here."

Mohammad exclaimed,

"But how can you see me if I'm invisible? How do you know my name?"

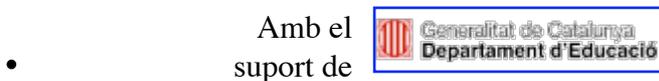
"I know it because it's all written in the pages of this book. You are the love I've been waiting for."

His heart filled with fear, Mohammad slowly took his hat off.

As soon as he became visible, Princess Shamira and Mohammad joined in a long and tender embrace.

See, books know everything. You can find out everything that has happened and everything that will happen in books. And this one ends by telling us that Princess Shamira and Mohammad will get married, have four children and live happily ever after.

*Script: J.M. Hernandez Ripoll*



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