

## Mimi and Lisa - Garden

### (synopsis)

Blind Mimi and mischievous Lisa are extraordinary friends. They live in a building full of interesting neighbours, and since they know so many of them they're really looking forward to the collective autumn house cleaning. Everyone's getting rid of old stuff to make room for new stuff. But blind Mimi doesn't want to throw anything away. She likes her old things. They form part of her safe home. Yet Lisa is delighted to get rid of her old ball. She's looking forward to the new one her mother promised. She throws the ball away but misses the rubbish container. Where could it have fallen?

While searching for the ball, the girls chance upon a door to a mysterious garden where a garden gnome lives. This Magic Gardener explains the wonders of natural cycles, guides them through autumn decay, winter rest, spring growth, and summer fruiting. He shows how to ripen apples just with a touch of his magic wand. Lisa's old red ball is hidden among the apples. The gnome touches the ball as if it too were a big red fruit. But quick as a flash Lisa snatches the ball and throws it where it belongs – into the container. Suddenly the discarded things start moving, as if alive. The garbage takes the form of a rattling Monster: playful and naughty. It jumps into the garden and mischievously shows off for the children. Being big and clumsy, its playful intentions easily turn into doomful outcomes. The girls first play with the Monster, but even they can't stop it when it starts acting up. The Magic Gardener summons the elements to help, but amidst their climatic frenzy the Monster accidentally swallows him. The girls must find him and stop the elements. Crawling into the Monster's belly, they fall head-over-heels into its cavernous depths and find themselves among the odds and ends and trash. They recognise discarded objects that bring up nice memories. Finally, they find the gnome. The elements begin to quieten down - the rains stops its last drops and the thunder rumbles no more - but from the Monster's belching bowels a faint thud still resounds. Inside a leaky basket, Lisa has discovered her trusty old ball. When she retrieves it, everything starts to fall apart and the Monster crumbles. Quick-witted Mimi replaces the ball in the basket, and the Monster stands and breathes once more. For the ball has become none other than its very heart.

Now they leap from the Monster's belly, but only to find a quite devastated garden on the outside. There's nothing else for it: everyone simply must join forces to save it! The Monster uses all the unwanted stuff to dig, spade and compost. The girls chip in as much as they can. But since apple trees grow very slowly, the Magic Gardener and his wonderous wand come to a green-fingered rescue: the apple seeds germinate and grow until they're wise apple trees again. The garden has been revived.

The neighbours are summoned by the Monster's triumphant roar. Now who could that creature be? Within the Monster they discover their chucked away odds and ends, and they realise that everything can be reused by someone else. As things are reclaimed from him, the Monster slowly shrinks... it has already given so much of itself away. Eventually only the red ball remains, so the Monster bounces with ease: like a lively, happy little bird eager to play.

And the neighbours, Mimi and Lisa are happy to have rediscovered their old forgotten garden's beauty and charm.

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