

Chloe's Birthday

by Judit Berg

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Chloe's Birthday

[illustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

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It is nearly Chloe's birthday. 'I shall invite my friends round to celebrate,' she tells Polka-dot dolly.

They sit down together to write and draw invitations for Heidi, Perry and Josh.

[illustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

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On the morning of her birthday Chloe wakes up early. How lovely! The guests are coming this afternoon.

Chloe is tidies up her room so that they will all have plenty of space to play in.

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She and Polka-dot also prepare a few snacks: They clean vegetables and put some fruit in a bowl.

Polka-dot dolly opens a packet of millet balls, Chloe pours all the crunchy treats into a big round bowl.

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Chloe draws pictures onto the glasses so that they don't get mixed up. She draws a horse for Heidi, Jingle for Perry and a car for Josh.

'What shall I draw on my own glass?' she thinks to herself.

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Bring-bringggg, goes the doorbell. At last, they are here! Chloe runs to open the door for her guests.

[illustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

Heidi, Perry and Josh have arrived. Let the games begin!

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First the children build a castle in the middle of the carpet. Polka-dot dolly will live in one of the towers and Jingle in the other.

[2xillustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

Then they build a kennel for Ruffles the dog, and a garage for Micky's favourite car.

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When they get hungry, they gobble up the crunchy apple slices, carrot sticks and millet balls.

Chloe pours raspberry syrup into the glasses.

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Finally, it is time for the cake, which everyone has been waiting for.

The children sing "Happy birthday to you" to Chloe.

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Chloe takes a deep breath, to blow out all the candles all at once. Hooray, she's done it!

[illustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

Then they try the cake. It is delicious. Everybody loves it!

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Finally, it is time for her presents. Heidi, Perry and Josh have clubbed together to bring something special for Chloe. She wonders what it is.

It's Chloe's favourite animal, a fox! Chloe is incredibly happy. She wanted a fox for ages!

[illustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

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[illustration containing the word Chloe first 'C' reversed] Chloe 3

It's getting late. It's time for the guests to say goodbye. Happy birthday, Chloe!

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The Fox's name

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Chloe is very happy with her new fox. But what to call it? Maybe 'Beau'?

'Beau is silly name,' says Polka-dot dolly.

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'How silky his fur is!' says Chloe, why don't we call him 'Silky'?

'That fox stinks!' grimaces Polka-dot. 'Let's call him 'Stinker'.

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The fox licks Chloe's face. 'He is so cute, he kissed me!' Laughs Chloe. 'How about calling him Sweetie?'

'Yuk!' says Polka-dot dolly angrily, 'I think it's disgusting.'

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Chloe is baking cakes for Polka-dot dolly and her new fox. She puts one piece on a small plate and sprinkles it with powdered sugar.

But Polka-dot is angry. 'I am hungry. Give me an extra cake, please!

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Chloe also makes cocoa. The fox likes it very much. He is so excited that he accidentally knocks over Polka-dot dolly's mug with his tail.

'My dress is covered with cocoa!' Cries Polka-dot dolly. 'We'll rinse it out,' consoles her Chloe, but Baby Polka-dot dolly runs away.

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Polka-dot is sulking. 'Chloe is only playing with the fox. She doesn't love me anymore, that's obvious. I'm going to run away!'

When no one is looking Polka-dot dolly slips out of the door with her things in a bundle.

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Chloe soon starts to look for Polka-dot. Where can she be?

They turn the house upside down, but to no avail. Polka-dot dolly has gone.

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Chloe knocks on Heidi's door. 'Have you seen Polka-dot?' 'No, she hasn't been here.'

She is not at Perry's, and Micky hasn't seen her either. Where could she have disappeared to?

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Polka-dot is moping under the elderberry bush at the end of the garden. She makes herself a little bed from leaves. It would be nice to go home, but it's so dark in the garden! Polka-dot dolly is scared.

Chloe is crying in her room. Poor Polka-dot! I wonder where on earth she can be?

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The fox is sitting in the window, sniffing. Suddenly, the wind carries some strange scents towards him. The smell of powdered sugar, cocoa and salty tears!

'Come on, Chloe! I'll find Polka-dot!'

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'Polka-dot dolly!' cries Chloe happily. 'At last, I have got you back!'

The fox is happy too. He snuggles up and licks Polka-dot's face. But Polka-dot is not angry because the fox found her!

'You know what, Chloe? Let's call him Snuggles!'

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