

The Chameleon's Surprise Party



Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN

The Chameleon's Surprise Party

Yavuz DEMİRKİRAN



In a sunny garden filled with bright flowers, Charlie the chameleon lived in a cozy bush. He had a red party hat with a yellow pom-pom and a tiny blue satchel for invitations. Charlie loved his best friend, Mabel the tortoise, who was kind and wise. Tomorrow was Mabel's birthday, and Charlie wanted to plan a big surprise party.



Charlie practiced hiding in the leaves to test his camouflage. When he got excited, his green skin turned red like the roses. When he felt nervous, he turned brown like the tree bark. 'I must remember to stay visible when I talk to my friends,' he said. But his colors kept changing, and he worried they might not see him.



Charlie made a list of everything needed: balloons, a cake, and music. He skipped to find Pip the mouse, who wore a yellow apron full of ribbon scraps. 'Pip, I need your help!' Charlie called. But as he spoke, he blended into the grass, and Pip looked around, confused. 'Who said that?' Pip squeaked, twitching her whiskers.



Charlie tried again, but his excitement made him turn bright yellow like a sunflower. Pip stared at the flower and said, 'I didn't know sunflowers could talk!' Charlie sighed and moved to a blue bench. 'It's me, Charlie!' he said, turning blue. Pip gasped. 'Oh! I didn't see you there. Your camouflage is too good!'



Next, Charlie visited Bernard the owl, who wore a green bow tie and carried a clipboard. Bernard was practical and liked making lists. 'Bernard, can you help with the party?' Charlie asked. But just then, a shadow fell, and Charlie turned grey like the stone wall. Bernard blinked his golden eyes. 'Hello? Is someone there?'



Charlie waved his tail, but it looked like a twig. Bernard hooted softly. 'I hear a voice, but I can't see anyone.' Charlie stepped into the sunlight, turning green again. 'It's me!' he said. Bernard adjusted his bow tie. 'Charlie! You keep disappearing. We need a better way to communicate.' Charlie nodded, feeling a bit silly.



Charlie decided to write everything down. He pulled a tiny pencil from his satchel and made a clear list: 1. Balloons. 2. Cake. 3. Invite everyone. He showed it to Pip, who read it quickly. 'Great idea!' she squeaked. 'I'll gather ribbons for decorations.' Charlie smiled, but then he turned pink with excitement and vanished into a pink flower patch.



Pip looked around. 'Charlie? Where did you go?' She searched under leaves and behind rocks. Charlie tried to stay still, but his color kept shifting. Finally, he popped out. 'I'm here!' he said. Pip laughed. 'You're like a magic trick!' But Charlie felt frustrated. His camouflage was causing too many mix-ups.



Meanwhile, Bernard was making a schedule. He flew to the oak tree where Charlie waited. 'We need to assign tasks,' Bernard said. Charlie started to explain, but his nerves made him turn brown like the bark. Bernard looked right past him. 'Charlie? Are you there?' Charlie groaned. 'I'm right here!' he said, turning bright orange with frustration.



Bernard jumped. 'Oh! There you are. We must solve this. Your colors change so fast that we lose track of you.' Charlie hung his head. 'I know. I get excited or nervous, and then I blend in.' Bernard patted him with a wing. 'Don't worry. We'll figure it out together. Let's ask Mabel for advice—she's wise.'



Charlie visited Mabel, who sat in her mossy shell with a purple shawl. 'Mabel, I want to plan a surprise party for you, but my camouflage keeps hiding me from my friends.' Mabel smiled gently. 'Charlie, friendship takes effort. You need to communicate clearly. Tell your friends exactly what you need, and ask for help.' Charlie nodded, feeling hopeful.



Charlie gathered Pip and Bernard. 'I have an idea,' he said, turning bright green with confidence. 'Let's use a signal. When I'm about to change color, I'll wave my tail twice.' Pip clapped. 'Perfect! And I'll wear my yellow apron so you can always find me.' Bernard added, 'I'll keep the clipboard and check our progress.' They all agreed.



With a clear plan, everything went smoothly. Pip tied ribbons everywhere, Bernard checked off tasks, and Charlie delivered invitations. Whenever Charlie felt his colors shifting, he waved his tail twice, and his friends spotted him right away. They worked together, laughing and chatting. The garden buzzed with excitement as the surprise took shape.



On the day of the party, Charlie hid behind a bush and waited for Mabel. When she arrived, everyone shouted, 'Surprise!' Mabel's amber eyes sparkled. 'Oh my! What a wonderful celebration!' Charlie turned pink with joy, but this time, his friends saw him clearly. They cheered and clapped, and Charlie felt proud of their teamwork.



The party was full of laughter. Pip played music on a tiny leaf, Bernard told funny stories, and Charlie danced with Mabel. The cake was delicious, and balloons bobbed in the breeze. Charlie realized that sharing his plans had made everything better. 'Thank you, friends,' he said. 'Working together made this party perfect.'



As the sun set, Mabel hugged Charlie. 'You planned a wonderful surprise, even with your color changes.' Charlie smiled. 'I learned that friendship takes effort and clear communication. And asking for help makes everything better.' From that day on, Charlie always waved his tail when he felt his colors change, and his friends always saw him.