

THE CASE OF THE PURPLE

When Pig went to visit Duck, he found Duck crying.

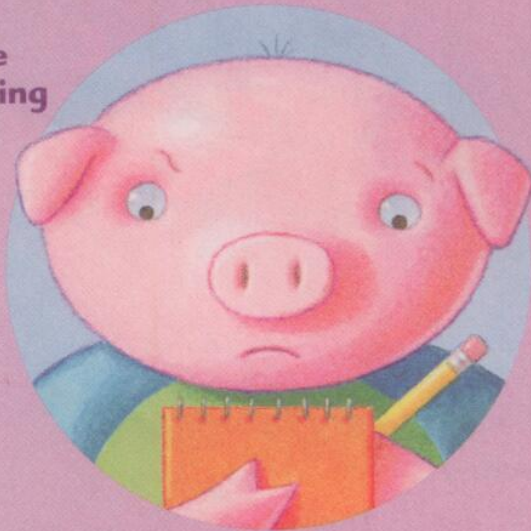
"What's the matter?" asked Pig.

"Qu-Qu-Waack," wailed Duck. "I've lost my party invitation!"

Pig wondered who could be having a party. Pig *loved* parties. But he said, "Don't cry, Duck. I'll help."

"Thank you," sniffed Duck. "I must find it. The invitation says there will be cake with chocolate icing."

"Tell me everything you did today."



"That does sound nice," said Pig. He happened to love cake with chocolate icing. Pig wondered to himself why *he* hadn't gotten an invitation to the party.

"Where did you last see it?" he asked.

"It was on my kitchen table this



morning," said Duck. "It was beautifully written on purple paper. It said there will be *balloons*."

Pig loved balloons. But he put this out of his mind. He had a case to solve.

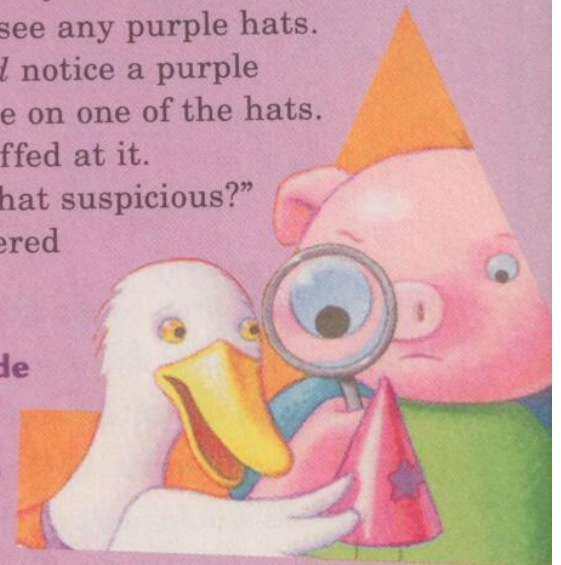
"There, there, Duck," said Pig. "Maybe you accidentally used your invitation for something else. Tell me everything you did today."

"Well," said Duck, "I made some paper hats."

The paper hats were lined up on the table. There were blue hats and pink hats and yellow hats. Pig didn't see any purple hats. Pig *did* notice a purple smudge on one of the hats. He sniffed at it.

"Is that suspicious?" whispered Duck.

"I made some paper hats."

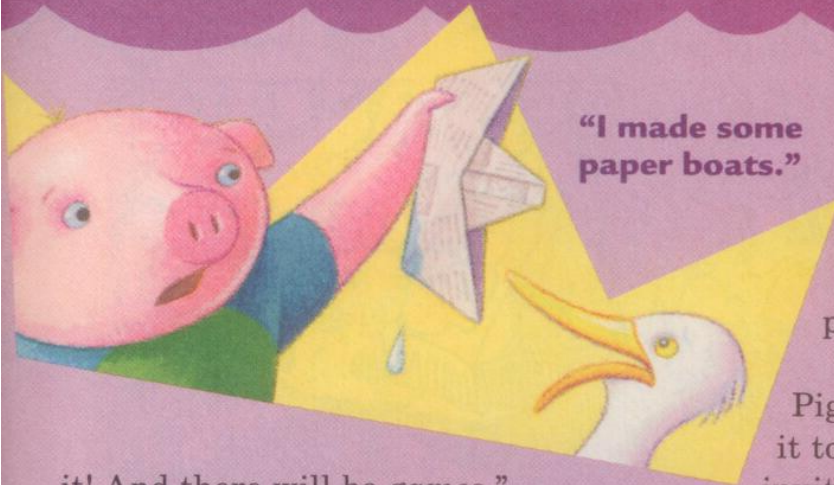


"No," said Pig. "It's grape. You must have had toast and jam for breakfast."

"Oh!" sobbed Duck. "We'll never find

PARTY PAPER

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"I made some paper boats."

it! And there will be *games*."

Pig, who was very good at games, sighed. "What did you do next?"

"I made some paper boats and tested them in the sink."

Pig examined the paper boats. They were a bit soggy, but Pig could tell that they had been made from an old newspaper, not a purple party invitation.

"Then what?" asked Pig.

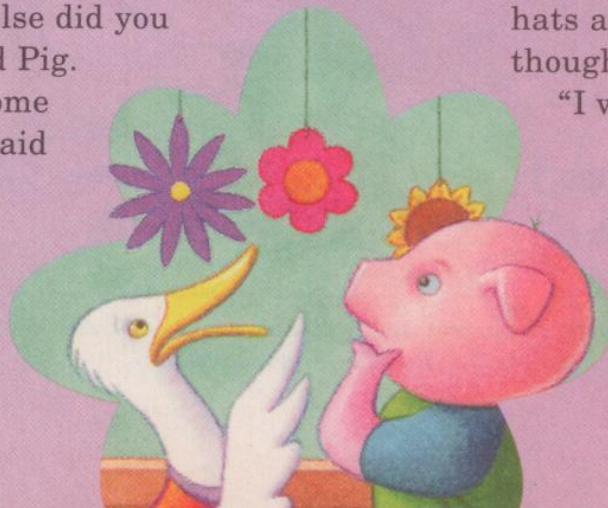
"I cut out paper flowers," said Duck.

Pig looked at the bright paper flowers that Duck had hung on the windows. There were some very nice purple ones, but none of them were made from Duck's party invitation.

"What else did you do?" asked Pig.

"I did some baking," said Duck.

"I cut out paper flowers."



Pig walked slowly around Duck's kitchen. Then he picked up Duck's cookbook, *Party Recipes from around the Pond*. Pig spied a tiny bit of purple sticking out.

"I think we've found it, Duck!"

Pig pulled the paper out and gave it to Duck. "You used your invitation as a bookmark!"

"Oh, *thank you*, Pig," cried Duck.


"You are a good, clever friend." Then he handed the invitation back to Pig. On the top it said "To Pig."

"I thought you said it was *your* party invitation," said Pig.

"Yes," said Duck.

"It's an invitation to *my* party. I made it especially for you, Pig. I hope you can come."

Pig thought of balloons and cake, of paper hats and boat races. He thought of his best friend, Duck.

"I would love to," he said. 



"I did some baking."

