



Gwendolen and the Golbins of Kells

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A calm and cozy summer evening. The sky was scarlet and pale. The street was simply uncrowded and still. The rasping of dry leaves came from the near meadow.

"Why shade shrinks, Papa" Gwendolen, who was struggling to keep up with her father for evening jogging, asked with her squeaky voice.

Nick went silent. What a puzzling question!
"Mmmm... that is... um... shade, hey look at the candy shop. Something new have arrived. Hurry." He increased his speed to avoid Gwendolen's question.

Nick hardly escaped from Gwendolen's latest and puzzling question. It was one of her favorite hobbies. She always used to ask such tongue-twisting question. But this one was something special. "Why shade shrinks"?!
They started towards the home, Nick with a pile of boxes ~~with~~ brand new "Jelly Toffees" and Gwendolen with a large lollipop in her mouth (Nick's idea to keep her silent).

During the dinner, Gwendolen repeated the

same question, to her mother.

"Mama, why shade shrink?"

Nick got his toast stuck in his throat.
Janet turned towards him blinking blankly.
The curious eyes of 4-years-old Ewendolen
was waiting for her answer.

Nick hiccoughed and left the table, with
face expression of a ~~escaping~~ thief, escaping
from a bank, pretending to be in a call
with his boss.

"Well, sweet heart, I... have some heavy
work... in the kitchen; I ~~can~~ shall answer
you tomorrow" Janet said in panic.

"Why shade shrink?". This question was
echoing in the mind of little Ewendolen
all the night. She lied on the bed; eyes
open for hours. "Where would I get answers
for that...?". After hours, she fell asleep.

"Hey, what are you doing, this is dangerous"
"Keep quiet dude, we will be fine"

"If the humans watch us, our race itself
ends here"

"Shut up your mouth, you coward"

Gwendolen slowly opened her tiny eyes to look at the source of the voice. Even though, it was very low, she could hear it clearly. It came from the open window of her room. Without making any noise, she got into her feet. She didn't know what was the time or how she woke up at the moment. The moonlight glowed in the darkness.

She slowly crawled to the window and peeped out. She could see the shadow of two figures still talking to each other. They looked more like tall goblins. They had long ears and nose, but to her surprise, they had hair.

She had read about magical creature who was greedy of gold and great builders and black smith with short body and bald head.

Gwendolen moved her eyes toward the ~~same~~ source of the shadow. Due to her curiosity, he had climbed on the window. Suddenly, she lost her balance and fell into the grassy backyard.

The two persons went silent. ~~They~~ ~~the~~ tiny rat escaped from ~~the~~ the bushes. The

two intruders resumed the conversation
were digging something.

Uwendolen slowly raised her head and
look at them. They weren't tall and
The magic of light had been making them
tall. Two tiny, green goblins who ~~looked~~
was digging halted and took something shiny
from the mud. 'A soda cap!'

Who are they? What are you gonna do
with a soda cap? Questions rushed into
her mind. She wasn't aware about the
dark night. "And -

"Look, who we have got here!" a squeaky
sound came from her behind whose made
her to jump.

she turned around and found small
goblin standing behind her with a small
bag. The goblin was only ^{upto} the size of her
knee. No she could see a goblin clearly.
They had tiny long noses, long ears, large
eyes and purple hair. They wore just trousers.

Uwendolen was thunder struck. The other
two goblins also joined this goblin.

"So... say for... interrupting you. Hi, I'm
Uwendolen. Nice to meet you guys"

The goblins stood still without any facial expression. Then, one of them came towards her and said in his squeaky low voice: "Will you say about us to your parents?"

"Of course not. I won't say any word about you" she beamed to them.

"Well, we are goblins. I'm Todd, this is Crock and this Nymph." The goblins smiled. "You need answer for your question, right?"

"How do you know about ~~your~~ my questions" Eweldon asked to Todd ~~surprised~~ excitedly. "I had heard it in the evening, and... we are the answer" said Todd smugly.

"What!? You 'are' the answer. What does that mean?" ~~Will~~ Can I come with you to watch your home?" she requested to the goblins.

They immediately round up and discussed something. Then they splitted and the goblin named Nymph took out a ~~something~~ something which appeared to be a blue solution in a small

glass tube.

"One condition" said Nymph "You must give your whole soda cap collection to us."

"Sure." Agreed Ewendolen.

She rushed to her window, entered the room and ~~returned~~ returned with a large plastic jar full of soda caps.

'O-M-G. It's awesome. I'm gonna buy a new house' Nymph jumped with excitement. "What you guys are gonna do with this useless soda caps?" Enquired Ewendolen.

"Well, this is our currency ingredient. We live underground. We have many magical powers. We didn't vanish only because you are a child. We have the ability to change soda caps into gold coins" Todd explained and showed something which appeared to be a golden button.

"Cool". And my answer. Why shade shrinks?" Ewendolen demanded. She had forgotten where she was and it was time and about her collection for her question.

"We are your shadows" ~~the~~ Todd replied to her beamingly.

“What... I don't understand. You are shadows?!”

“Yeah” The goblins were hard to recognise each others. They almost looked same.

“How? How you can be shadows? I have my own shadow. Look.” She pointed to the grass floor which was blank in the moonlight.

“My shadow. I lost my shadow” she said under her breath and then noticed a fourth goblin beside her.

“~~She~~ is your shadow, Nola” And this goblin was pretty and appeared more like a girl.

“And” continued Todd “she informed about you to me”

“But how” Gwendolen asked in panic.

“Well humans don't have shadows. In the day, we turns into your shadows. And in the night we turns into our real form and returns to our life” Todd continued

“~~At~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ Actually, during day we are

sleeping. We leave our body behind and
soul spirits and turn into shadows of
Each goblin is assigned to a specific house.
Nola to you, Nymph your Dad, Crook to your
Brother and I to your neighbour John.

"After sunset, we come back to our body
and lead our life underground. Our magical
powers keep us invisible from humans. But
you can see us above here."

"But why does your shrink" Ewendolen
asked to goblins in bewilderment.

"We are tall at morning and evening
of your but shrink in the noon. This is
because our ~~body~~^{spirits} gets weak in the
strong sunlight. Later, we regain our shape".
Answered Todd.

"But, how you can be shadow, after ~~sun~~
sunset in the light of electric bulbs" asked
Ewendolen.

"Each of us have an instrument named
'Boggastox' which makes an artificial
shadow for you in the night. Nola found
her Boggastox is still working lately. Thus she
stopped it and have arrived to warn us."

== Todd ended with a large sigh.

Gwendolen stood still for few minutes. She didn't speak anything. The goblins spoke between them and examined to soda cap she gave to them, with excitement and satisfaction.

"You guys are total awesome. Thank you very much for answering my question and ~~and~~ to Nola for being my shadow." said Gwendolen slowly, taking some of the soda caps and gifting it to Nola.

Nola made a smile on her tiny face.

"Do you still insist to visit our place?"

asked Todd
"Sure" Gwendolen replied.

The other goblin started to talk about it.

And then Todd ~~gave~~ placed to the yellow solution in tiny glass bottle.

"What is this?"

"This is a potion which keep you the size of ours when you get in to our burrows" explained Todd

Gwendolen carefully opened the tiny bottle
repeated the

and slipped the solution along her
It was good to taste. With a blink,
plants around her had turned much taller
larger. Her house appeared to be like a
large mountain.

"Wait. How can I regain my size" Gwendolen
asked terrified

Nymph took another pill bottle, this with
red colour, and passed it to her. "When you
are out, you can use this to become larger."
Nymph added.

"But, what my parent think about me"
asked Gwendolen doubted fully.

"Don't worry about that. I ~~can~~ can make
your parent sleep for extra 5 hours with
my magic" said Nola with a ~~wide~~ gleeful
face.

"Ok, they let's leave. Nola, you take care
of her. What are your name... kwan... to ...
lan?" Asked Todel. He is supposed to be
their leader.

"It is "Gwendolen", corrected Gwendolen.

"OK. Guys follow me" Todel lead them to



the foot of a large tree with a tiny burrow under its large roots. Gwendolen follow them with Nola. They entered into the burrow. And then suddenly, the goblins' hair started to glow in the darkness

"That's cool" ~~she~~ said Gwendolen.

After few minutes they came to an opening. A vast place, lit with some sort of mystic light emitting from a large glass ball. It was very busy place. It was same like human's live. Shops, time houses all made of large mushrooms. It possessed goblins of every ages.

Gwendolen stood there, her eyes wide and mouth dropped.

Todel came to her and said in proud voice "Welcome to our world, The Kells!"