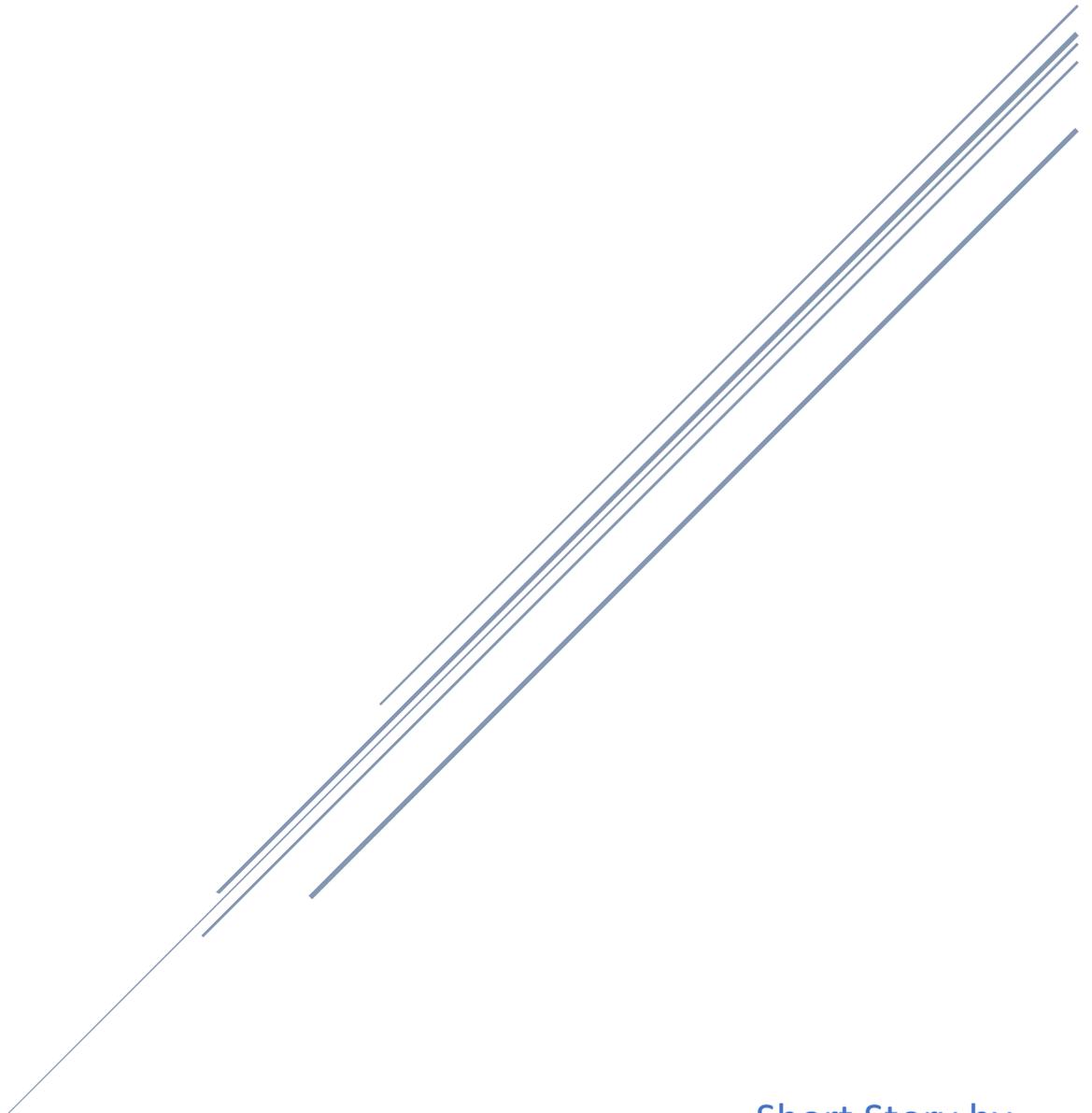


# THE LITTLE LIGHT SNUFFER

R. J. Davies



Short Story by



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## The Little Light Snuffer

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Ashley couldn't believe her luck they were real! She knew it. Her older brother told her fairies weren't real, but she found one. Watching it quietly the fairy didn't see her.

If only she could show Bobby that he was wrong. Looking down at her butterfly box and net that she was holding. She wondered if she should. Fairies didn't like to be captured. She was pretty sure of it.

Ashley always tried to be a good girl and she did pretty good at it according to her Daddy. Mommy was little tougher but being five was really hard work.

Making the quick decision even though she was sure the fairy wasn't going to like it. Ashley used the butterfly net and caught the fairy off guard. As fast as her little fingers would go, she opened the hatch and dropped the fairy inside just like Bobby showed her. Sliding the lid shut and latched it.

The fairy looked surprised.

"Sorry but I have to show Bobby that you are real," carefully she headed back up the hill to her backyard where her brother was sitting under a tree practicing his soccer moves.

"Bobby! ... Bobby! Look I got a fairy!"

"Not now Ash, I'm busy."

"But Bobby just look," she insisted.

He sighed heavily and eyeballed her. "Fine, let me see your little fairy."

She proudly held out the box in front of her showcasing the fairy who did not look impressed ... no, her fairy looked incredibly angry.

"What the hell is that?" his eyes went wide.

"A fairy, I told you they were real."

He approached her and took the box cautiously. "That can't be real." he was about to open the box.

"No! Wait! I want Mom and Dad to see too before we let it go."

"Ash I don't think this is a fairy, but I don't know what it is."

"Bobby look it has little fairy wings and a face. She looks like a mini human."

"Yeah but ... come on let's show Dad."

She followed her big brother inside as he called for their parents. They came running. Their father was the first one to take the box and he held it up.

The fairy inside the box looked really annoyed.

"It looks agitated dear maybe we should just let it go outside," mom suggested.

"Are you kidding! No one has ever seen anything like this, I need to take some pictures of it." Mom held the box as Dad got his camera. He snapped a few pictures and loaded them on his laptop. We could see the fairy up close and zoomed in. The red glowing eyes and fangs were not like the fairy pictures Ashley was used to seeing on TV.

They sat the box on the kitchen table. The big people were all talking, and Ashley watched as the fairy started glowing.

The lights and all the electricity went out. Dad and Mom got up and went about checking their cell phones.

"Mine was fully charged," Mom was telling Dad. "I just took it off the charger."

"Mine's not working either," Dad grumbled.

Someone knocked at the door frantically. It was our neighbour Mary Smith. She was extremely upset. All the electricity went off in her home too as well as her husband's pacemaker, she couldn't call out and she needed help.

Dad rushed over to Mary's home, Mom and Mary followed.

Bobby stood by the door and called out to a couple neighbours. It was all the same, even the vehicles wouldn't start. Nothing seemed to be working.

Ashley watched her fairy as he stopped glowing, he just smirked at her.

"Did you do that?" Ashley asked.

He nodded."

Do you understand me?"

He nodded again.

"You are a fairy, right?"

He shook his head no.

"What are you then?"

He held out one hand a ball of bright light appeared. Then with his other hand he snuffed out the light. It was gone!

"How did you do that?" she stared in awe.

He shrugged his little shoulders winked at her and smiled.

Her brother stood in the doorway with his mouth hanging open.

"Did you see the magic trick Bobby? Did you see it?"

"Ah Ash ... ah ... ah....," he grabbed her hand and pulled her away from the table then quickly he picked up the butterfly box and carried it outside to the backyard. Placing it gently on the patio table he unlatched the box and slid it open a crack then ran back inside the house with the fairy hot on his heels. Slamming the screen door shut. It was the only thing separating them. "Go away, go home," Bobby shooed it away. "No Bobby, that's my fairy friend," Ashley tried to open the door to let her friend back in. "No Ash, that's isn't a fairy and it's the thing that caused all the electrical things to shut off. It's not your friend."

Ashley watched as Bobby closed the door to keep Ashley's fairy outside. Her fairy waved, did a backward summersault and then flew away.

"What was he?" Ashley rubbed the tears from her eyes.

"I don't know but I don't think it was a good thing. Come on, let's go check on Mom and Dad."

"Alright," she grumbled. She decided she wasn't going to tell anyone where they lived it was going to be her secret.