

## **'FAUBUS', A FABLE FOR MODERN TIMES.**

**(Based on Charles Mingus' 'Original Faubus Fables').**

The Fairy Queen ruled the Enchanted Forest, Faubus, a land of peace and happiness. She was benevolent, ensuring that all pixies and fairies led happy, peaceful lives. Some fairies were red and others were white; all the pixies were green. The pixies spent their days sleeping, before dancing in the moonlight when night fell. The fairies loved the pixies because they kept the forest safe while they were sleeping.

The traditional enemies of the fairies and pixies were the goblins, who lived in the nearby swamps. Their ruler, 'The Great Orange Goblin', or GOG, as he was known, promised to 'drain the swamp' to improve the lives of the goblins. As time passed, it became clear to the goblins that the rule of GOG had not brought any significant changes. The only thing which had changed was the building of a new palace, known as 'GOG's gateway', a name created by GOG, who argued that any goblin who was fortunate enough to be allowed to enter his palace would be gaining access to paradise.

Realising that his popularity was ebbing away, unlike the waters of the swamp itself, GOG produced a new plan. He would invade Faubus, claiming it for himself. No goblin had ever visited the land, so GOG, in his ignorance, believed it was only inhabited by fairies. The goblins were sworn to secrecy. Despite this, word spread, reaching the ears of the Fairy Queen. So, one night, which felt like first thing in the morning for the pixies, she gathered together the pixie clan.

'You all know that we, the fairies, love you, the pixies. We are different, but that does not divide us.' There was a murmur of assent.

'I must ask you all to keep everything I tell you a secret. Tomorrow night, GOG's army of goblins will come into our land, believing that we, the fairies, will be asleep. They will come to invade, taking our land as theirs. Tonight is the night when we, the fairies, will look to you, our pixie sisters and brothers, to help us save this land which belongs to us all.' The pixies, still in shock, dispersed. They understood their duty.

That night, as the Fairy Queen had said, GOG's goblin army swung through the trees to attack, while GOG and his family rested in their palace, imbibing Goblin gin, something not permitted for ordinary goblins. But the pixies had hatched a cunning plan, together with the fairies. They had posted signposts saying 'Fairy Castle', which pointed towards the back of GOG's palace.

Unwittingly, in the dark, the goblins, who had never set foot beyond their own land before, invaded the wrong palace. They entered a place that they had never been permitted to enter by their ruler, who had preserved it solely for himself, his family and their servants. The goblin army then proceeded to destroy everything they saw, as GOG and his family lay sleeping in their drunken stupors.

The rest, as they say, is hysteria.