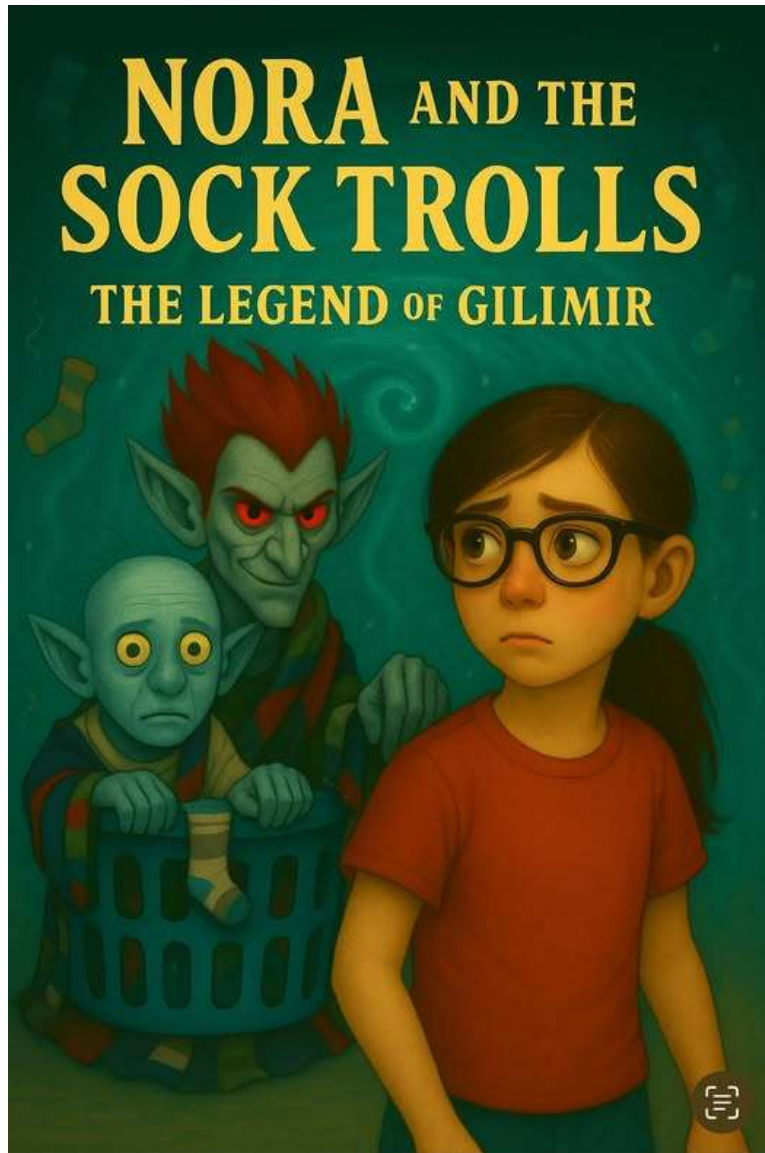


# Nora and the Sock Trolls: The Legend of Gilimir.



1.)

Beep! Beep! Beep! The alarm clock grew louder and louder. Nora sprang from her bed, knocking into her bedside table causing her glasses and alarm clock to go crashing to the floor.

"It's Monday Toby!!!!" exclaimed Nora to her less than enthusiastic golden retriever still lying in his bed. Nora picked up the clock and put it back on her bedside table, then she placed her round thick framed glasses on her face.

Normally, Nora was not much of a morning person, much less a Monday person, but this was no ordinary morning, and it was certainly no ordinary Monday. This Monday marked the last Monday of the school year.

Nora ran over to her closet and rushed to pick out her outfit for the day. She combed her long brown hair and threw it up in her usual ponytail. Nora then opened her top drawer of her dresser to grab a pair of socks, but all she saw was a few crinkled up candy wrappers that she had smuggled into her room a few weeks ago. They must all be in the laundry, she thought to herself. Nora closed the drawer, then hurried downstairs to grab some breakfast.

After scarfing down two fried eggs and two buttermilk pancakes, (much to the disgust of her mother) Nora raced right back upstairs to brush her teeth. Nora was moving so quickly she did not notice her older brother, Victor, emerge from his room. Nora collided with Victor right in front of the bathroom door. Nora fell hard to the floor, Victor barely budged. Victor was a large athletically built boy with short brown hair; he was the star lacrosse player for the high school team as a junior, but at home, he was Nora's nemesis.

"Watch it squirt!" Victor shouted at his younger sister.

"Sorry Vic, I didn't see you there." Nora responded as she picked herself off the floor.

Victor walked into the bathroom and locked the door behind him. Just a moment later Nora heard the water from the shower hitting the empty tub.

"Come on Vic!" Nora tried yelling through the door at her annoying older brother.

"I can't hear you, there's a door in the way" Victor shouted back.

"Can you please let me in so I can at least brush my teeth?" Nora pleaded.

Nora rested her head on the door waiting for a response, but all she heard back was the tone-deaf singing that Victor always did in the shower.

Nora, giving up on getting into the bathroom for the moment, headed back downstairs toward the laundry room in search of some socks. Nora searched high and low but could not find any that passed the sniff test.

"Mom!" Nora shouted up the stairs. "I need socks!"

"What happened to all the socks I just bought you?" Nora's mom yelled back.

"If I knew that I wouldn't be asking you." Nora muttered to herself.

"What was that?"

"Nothing!" Nora shouted in a forced cheerful tone.

"Guess it's a flip flop kind of day." Nora said as she headed to the hallway closet.

Finally, Victor emerged from the bathroom, and Nora was able to quickly brush her teeth and run out the door. Normally, Nora walked with Victor to school, but today Nora wanted to get there early so she could hang out with her friends before the first bell rang.

As Nora arrived, she quickly saw her friends Tracy and Mary hanging out at the picnic tables in the front lawn.

Tracy was a tall thin girl with long sandy blonde hair and braces. Mary was a short stocky girl and had dark brown hair that didn't go past her shoulders.

"Hey guys!" Nora shouted to her friends as she approached them.

"I thought we were all going to try and show up early today." Said Mary in her dry snarky tone.

"Yeah, I know, but Victor had to be annoying as always and lock me out of the bathroom."

"Is everyone all set for camp this year?" Tracy eagerly asked her two friends.

"I can't wait!" Nora exclaimed.

"Me either." replied Mary "We finally get to be junior camp counselors!"

Being a junior camp counselor was a special privlidge that was only given to campers that were in high school, it was something every camper dreams to do one day. For three whole weeks the junior camp counselors help run the camp and are in charge of all the activities.

"It is going to be the best summer ev-." Just then the bell rang before Nora could finish her thought.

All the kids headed inside to begin their last week of school.

As the last bell of the day rang, Nora hurried out of the school and headed home. Once home, Nora was greeted by her mother standing in the kitchen with her hands on her hips (which was never a good sign). Nora's mom was tall and skinny with curly brown hair and bright red lipstick on her lips, she always wore small gold hoop earrings and a half dozen gold bracelets on her wrists. Nora's mom took great pride in her appearance, always sure to do her make up and look her best even when she wasn't leaving the house. This made Nora's unkempt style absolutely maddening to her.

"Miss Nora Claire." Nora's mother said sharply, using her middle name (also not a good sign). "I have searched high and low and cannot find any of those new socks!"

"That is what I was trying to tell you this morning mom, but don't worry I decided it was a flip flop day anyway." Nora responded dismissing her mother's anger while displaying her bare foot to her mom.

"Oh good! I'm glad YOU decided it was a flip flop day." Nora's mom replied sarcastically. "You realize socks cost money, and there isn't just some kind of magic sock fairy that fills your drawers up whenever you don't have any, right?"

"How cool would that be though?" Nora answered back snickering to herself as she peered into the fridge looking for something to eat.

"I told your father to pick you up some more on his way home from work, if any of those socks are missing by the end of the week there will be consequences young lady." Nora's mom stated sternly.

"Ok mom, I get it. All the socks will be present and accounted for by the end of the week." Nora then headed to her room to start on her homework.

Later that night, Nora's father pulled into the driveway and entered through the front door, he was a short thick man with dark brown hair and a perfectly trimmed mustache. At one time he was quite the athlete (or so he constantly told his kids), but that was hard to believe now as his belly hung over his waistline. He walked through the kitchen gave Nora a kiss on her head and handed her the new socks. Nora immediately ran upstairs and took each pair out of the package and placed them gently in her top dresser drawer.

"One week guys, we can do this" Nora told her socks before closing the drawer.

Nora watched her socks like a hawk all week and made it all the way to Thursday without incident. Thursday afternoon, after she had returned home from school, Nora casually tossed the socks she had worn that day into the laundry room just before heading up to her bedroom. As Nora was lying in her bed listening to music, Victor suddenly and violently kicked the door open, nearly knocking it off its hinges.

"NORA TELEPHONE!" Victor yelled obnoxiously, as if he wasn't standing directly in front of her.

Nora ripped the phone away from her brother.

"Hello?" Nora answered

"Nora, it's Tracy"

"Hey Tracy, what's up?"

"Big news, big, big news!!!" Tracy said frantically

"What is it? And please try to breathe." Nora joked to her friend.

"I was at my brothers tumble class with my mom today, and Derek Thompson's little brother is in the same class. Derek's mom and my mom got to talking and my mom told Derek's mom about our summer camp. One thing led to another, and Derek's mom is looking to enroll him in camp this year!" Tracy blurted out in one breath.

"Derek Thompson?!?!?! THE Derek Thompson?!?!?!" Nora exclaimed.

"YES!!!" Tracy screamed.

Derek Thompson had been Nora's crush ever since he moved to the neighborhood in the third grade, but she feared that Derek never even knew she existed. Derek was always the most popular, the most athletic, and if you asked Nora the best looking boy in school.

The girls decided that they would once again try to get to school early in hopes of seeing Derek before school to confirm the news. The girls could have easily talked all night, but Victor picked up the other house phone and started dialing and belching into it obnoxiously until the girls decided that they had enough and would talk more tomorrow.

Nora laid in her bed staring up at the ceiling.

"Derek could be coming to my summer camp." Nora said to herself clutching her pillow tight against her chest.

If the rumor was true and Derek was coming to summer camp this year, this could finally be her chance to get him to notice her.

"This is going to be the best summer ever." Nora said just before turning on her side and falling asleep.

Nora woke up on Friday morning well before her alarm clock was to go off. She turned to her side table very slowly and unplugged her clock from the wall so it would not wake

Victor. She quietly got ready for school. Nora tip toed downstairs and grabbed a banana for breakfast, then quietly snuck back up. Step by step, each stair seemed to creek louder than the last. As Nora got just about half way up the stairs she heard two loud steps coming from inside Victor's room. He was awake and he was already much closer to the bathroom than Nora was since his room was just the next door down the hall. Nora raced up the stairs keeping her eyes locked on the door to Victor's bedroom, when she saw the knob starting to turn. Victor emerged from his room, groggy and half asleep. Nora shot past him as he yawned and stretched in the doorway. She was finally going to beat Victor to the bathroom. Nora stopped in front of the bathroom door. "I did it!" She exclaimed proud of herself.

But before Nora could take a step inside, Victor slid across the wood floor in his socks launching Nora to the floor and out of the bathroom doorway.

"Hip Check!" Victor shouted, followed by a cruel laugh.

Victor once again slammed the door shut behind him and locked it. Nora got up angered by the cruelty of her older brother. She went to the door and shouted through once again, but like last time she was drowned out by the familiar loud obnoxious singing she had grown so accustomed to.

Nora finished getting ready and ran off to school, once again later than she had planned.

"Did I miss him?" Nora asked as she approached her friends.

"Not yet." Tracy replied eagerly looking at each car that pulled up.

"Do you not own an alarm clock?" Mary asked Nora.

"It was Victor again, he lives to make my life miserable."

"That's his mom's van!" Tracy shouted pointing to a maroon-colored van pulling up to the curb.

The girls watched as Derek exited the van and headed toward them. He ran his hand through his perfectly styled black hair, the light from the sun hit his steely blue eyes in exactly the right way, and a flawless pearly white smile completed the package. It was like a slow-motion scene from a movie, Nora was in a trance.

"Hey Derek!" Tracy yelled in his direction. "I heard you might be coming to summer camp this year, is it true?"

"Yeah." Derek answered seemingly annoyed. "My mom thinks I need to spend my summer outdoors instead of parked in front of my video games. It's going to be the worst summer ever."

"Summer camp is so much fun, especially since we are all going to be junior counselors this year." Tracy replied.

"So you all are going?" Derek asked the three girls.

"Yep." Mary answered.

"We go every year." Said Tracy smiling

"What about you Nora?" Derek asked

Nora, who had yet to say a word since Derek walked over, was caught off guard by the direct question. Nora's mind went blank, and she blurted out the first thing that came into her head.

"I'm Nora." She said turning instantly red from embarrassment.

"She will be there." Tracy said throwing her arm around Nora, trying to save her friend from further embarrassment.

"Maybe this summer won't be so bad after all then. I'll catch you guys later." Derek said as he started walking into the school.

"That was so embarrassing." Nora said covering her face with her hands.

"It wasn't that bad." Tracy said trying to comfort her.

"It was pretty bad." Mary chuckled as she grabbed her back pack and headed into school.

That Friday was the longest day in the history of school days. Nora watched the clock like a hawk, and at times it seemed as if time was moving backwards. Nora would look at the clock then over at Derek who sat two rows to her left. Nora tried distracting herself by doodling in her notebook, many of which ended up being different fonts of Derek's name. Once doodling no longer held her interest, Nora started making a list of all the things she wanted to do at camp this summer, including telling Derek how she felt about him. Nora glanced back at the clock; this was it, the final minute. Nora's eyes widened as the second hand came closer and closer to the twelve. The bell rang, and all the students poured out of their classrooms.

"Have a great summer!" Nora's teacher yelled at her students, but most of them were already long gone. Nora met up with Tracy and Mary as they made their way out of the building.

"Can you believe it!?" Tracy exclaimed. "We are officially high schoolers!"

"I'm just glad Nora didn't die from embarrassment today." Mary said laughing again to herself.

"Gee, thanks Mary." Nora said sarcastically.

"Death from embarrassment is a real thing, look it up." Mary smugly replied.

"All I know is I am going to start packing for camp tonight!" Tracy said barely able to control her excitement.

"Me too, I can't wait!" Nora shouted. The girls went their separate ways toward their homes.

Nora walked up her driveway and entered the front door, where she saw Victor sliding down the railing to the stairs.

"OOOOO someone's in trouble." Victor said with a big grin on his face as he passed by his sister.

"What did I do now?" Nora asked.

"Nora Claire!" Nora's mom shouted from the kitchen. Nora could feel her mother's anger in her voice.

"Yes mother?" Nora answered sheepishly as she walked toward her mom, and quite possibly her doom.

"What is this?" Nora's mom asked holding a sock in her right hand.

"I believe that is a sock." Nora answered cautiously, unsure if this was the answer her mother was looking for.

"Very good, now where is the other one?" Nora's mom asked appearing to get even more angry.

"It was in the laundry with that one, I swear." Answered Nora.

"Well it is not there now, and socks don't just magically disappear little lady." Nora's mom said in a sharp aggitated tone.

"I don't know what happened to it, but I know I put both of them in the laundry room yesterday once I got home from school." Nora said trying not to further anger her mother.

"I told you if you did not have all of these socks by Friday there would be consequences. Since you have proven that you are not responsible enough to keep a pair of socks together for one week, then I do not believe you are responsible enough to be a junior camp counselor."



"No mom, you can't do this, please!" Nora pleaded with her mother.

"I'm sorry Nora, but you have left me with no choice." Nora's mom responded as she crossed her arms.

Tears started to form in Nora's eyes. Without another word, Nora turned and ran up the stairs and slammed the door to her bedroom behind her.

Nora sat on her bed letting her tears fall onto her comforter. Her summer was now ruined, and for something Nora knew wasn't even her fault. This got Nora to thinking, if it wasn't her fault then whose could it be? Someone must have set her up, and only one name came to mind, Victor. If she wanted any chance of going to summer camp she would have to prove her innocence and fast.

After a while, Nora's mother entered her room to say goodnight.

"I know I am the last person you want to see right now, and I know you are upset, but please try to understand there is a lesson to be learned here." Nora's mom said in a gentle tone.

"I understand, but I do have a question." Nora said.

"Yes dear?"

"If I find the missing sock will you allow me to go to camp?" Nora asked.

"If you find that sock I will call the camp counselor and tell them you will be there bright and early on Monday morning for the start of camp." Nora's mother answered. Nora's mother then gave Nora a kiss goodnight on the forehead and exited the room.

Once she was sure that her mother was gone, Nora hopped out of her bed and ran over to her desk.

"No time to rest Toby, I have to get to the bottom of this." Nora said to her trusted companion who was gnawing on a bone in his bed.