

THE GOBLIN BENEATH THE SAND

BY AMELIA CAMPBELL

In 2007 lived a carefree girl with wavy, golden locks of hair. Her name was Hilda and she was quite adventurous as one would suppose. Sometimes her parents questioned her knowledge, but she was quite smart. Often, she would wander off into the woods, not to be seen for hours, maybe days. Hilda did this because she liked to escape from the monstrous cityscape. She felt unsafe and was bossed around by police constantly yelling at her to get out of the broad road, but out there there was no limit. She made friends with rocks because everyone couldn't keep up with her pace. Hilda made shelters out of flexible sticks if she had to stay the night, but importantly she always brought a compass to find her way back home.

This particular day, Hilda discovered what she thought was a lake, but that wasn't the case. She started to dig a hole close to the glass-like lake so sudden ripples of fresh, clean water would rush into a pocket and make a kiddie pool. Then something really weird happened. About a third of the way done she felt something not rock hard, but not squishy almost like a human. Hilda dug with her hands and she started to see an olive green color. When Hilda unearthed the whole specimen, it created shivers down Hilda's spine. She jumped back, sweaty palms and all, in wonderment. She slowly crawled back to the hole to study it more. Laying there was a creature with a brown pair of overalls with tons of stains on it. It had a long pointy nose with a wart. It looked like baby Yoda.

She was amazed at the sight. Hilda picked up the creature and examined it. It turns out that it was a goblin! Hilda rushed back home, but she made sure that no one would see it for fear that they would call animal control and take it away. When she got home she snuck into her room and unwrapped the lifeless body and set it on her bed. Hilda waited, every minute felt like forever. After 30 minutes, the goblin awoke and jolted up and started to run everywhere. He knocked down trophies, he knocked down her posters, and broke her stool. The goblin was small, half the size of Hilda so he could run really FAST. It was like killing a bat with a bow, it's so fast and tiny, basically impossible. After a few minutes she caught it. It was a squirming child in a tantrum. Hilda shook him until you could see spirals in his eyes.

"Who are you?" asked Hilda cautiously. "I'm William Carter of the goblin family," he said in a stern voice, "And you?" Hilda was surprised that the goblin could speak. "Oh, me? I am Hilda Tomas from the human family" Hilda said jokingly. "A human." William said backing up, knees wobbling. William started to run again, but not in random directions, away from Hilda. Hilda thought, "What could have happened with the races of Goblins and People?" Hilda caught William again and again, always squirming like a child. "Look, something happened with both of our races but I don't know what," she said, trying to be louder than the constant screaming of William. The screaming came to utter silence. It stayed quiet for a while, but then Hilda broke the silence. "Look, I don't know what happened, maybe you can tell me and we can fix it together" Hilda said. William nodded. Hilda sat on her untidy bed and listened. William told her what happened to both of the races and it was scary, so scary in fact that I could not tell you. "So you're basically saying that both races had war and the human races won?", Hilda said. "Yes, they tore down our city, but it should be rebuilt now" William said.

"Then let's go!" Hilda said, excited. "If you insist, okay, let's go!" William said. They both went out of the room, into the hallway. "To go back, you are going to have to keep a low profile" Hilda said, trying to be quiet. "What can I do?" William asked. Hilda pulled out the brown cloth sack from behind her back. "This" Hilda said. "That is ugly excuse for a bag, I am not going in there," William said. "You must!" Hilda said. Hilda picked up William and stuffed him in the bag and threw him behind her back. William was punching the bag all over. When they got to the forest, Hilda dropped the bag and William got out. They started walking to the lake where Hilda found William, but when they arrived she saw no city. "Where is this city that you were talking about?" Hilda asked. "Here, but it's underwater," William said. William was chanting something and his eyes started to glow bright blue. The wind started to pick up. It was so strong that it took Hilda off her feet. A magical city rose from beneath the water. "No city, huh Hilda?," William joked. Hilda's eyes filled with amazement as she saw the

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towering city. All the goblins big and small, rushed out of the water to the land, but when they saw Hilda they pointed spears at her. "Look, guys I didn't take part in your little war you had," Hilda said. "Yeah, Hilda is right so back down she's nice," William said. The goblins backed down, but they stood their ground. "Well, this is it, you're home," Hilda said. "Well thank you," William said. Then something lit up in his mind. "Hey, maybe we can see each other again," William said. "How?," Hilda said. William threw her a watch-like thing. "What's this," Hilda said, studying it. "It's a communicator, just something goblins use," William said, with a smile on his face. "Okay, thank you!" Hilda said, running off into the distance.

Now every Friday after school, Hilda goes to the same lake and they play together.