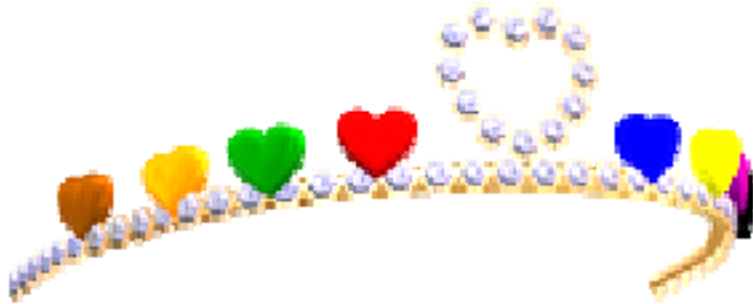


The Missing Jewels



Adapted from a story by Dixie Bahma

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Illustrated by Cheryl Briggs



Once upon a time there was a prince and princess. Their parents loved them very much but were very busy being the king and queen.



One day Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth went for a walk outside the castle walls. They did not tell their parents where they were going.



While they were walking they met two goblins. The goblins gave them lemonade and cookies to eat. The prince and princess fell asleep while they were eating.



When they woke up, Philip saw that the eight colored heart jewels in Elizabeth's crown were gone. As he watched the crown disappeared from her head. The goblins had stolen the jewels while the children slept.

Elizabeth began to cry. Without her jewels her magic crown did not spell the word Princess.

The prince and princess decided to look for the jewels.



Just then a beautiful ball of colors floated down from the sky. As it got closer, the children could see that it wasn't a ball of color, it was tiny girls with wings. There were nine in all, each a different color. One was wearing a gold dress.



The gold fairy asked "Princess, why are you crying?"

"The goblins stole the jewels from my crown. Now, my crown is gone." Elizabeth said.

"We cannot undo goblin magic" said the red fairy.

"But we can give you clues to help you find where the goblins hid your jewels," said the golden fairy.

The blue fairy said, "Look in the forest. You must find the letters to spell a color word. When you find the word then a fairy can help you find the jewel. You must find all of the colors before morning. When it is morning, the fairy magic will be gone.



When the children started walking, the fairies gave them magic powers. Elizabeth could talk to animals. Philip's sword could light up like a flashlight. He could also listen to trees talk.

Then all of the fairies blew kisses to the little prince and princess. When they blew the kiss, their colors went into the forest to look for the lost jewels. The tiny fairies became grey. They were very sad. The fairies flew away to look for the jewels. The gold fairy was sad. She wished her tiny fairies a safe journey.



Then a small dragon flew to her and sat on the tree she was sitting in.



The dragon changed into a beautiful wizard. The gold fairy told him about the missing jewels. He was very angry. He said, "I will go to the castle. When each jewel is found I will put it into the crown." He changed back into a dragon and flew away.



Elizabeth and Philip were hungry. Lunch was a long time ago. Philip began looking for food. He found an apple tree. When he pulled out his sword to cut down apples it began to glow with a bright light.

"It's almost..." Elizabeth said.

"like daylight" finished Philip. "But, who could have..."

"The fairies!" Elizabeth clapped her hands. "Oh thank you dear fairies." The children had learned the first gift of the fairies.



Philip went ahead of Elizabeth collecting food. She found a blueberry bush and started picking them. She heard something in the woods. Philip was too far to ask for help. What if the goblins were coming back? Suddenly a big bear appeared. The bear asked, "What kind of animal are you?"

"You can talk?" Elizabeth asked.

"I don't know," said the bear. "Are you a goblin? No, you are too big."

"I am Princess Elizabeth. I have never talked to a bear before." Elizabeth had just discovered her gift from the fairies.

Philip saw the bear and ran to help his sister. She told him the bear was a friend.

Because the bear was hungry Elizabeth gave him some blueberries. He told them, "This afternoon, a goblin threw something at me when I was eating blueberries. It hit me on the nose and rolled away."



The children wondered if it was one of the jewels. Elizabeth looked at her hands. They were blue from the berries. One hand had letters spelling B-I-u-e on it.



They looked around and found a large blueberry. Elizabeth squeezed it and the first heart shaped jewel popped out of the blueberry. Blue color swirled up into the sky and changed a tiny grey fairy back into a blue fairy. She told them they needed to keep looking for the other jewels.

Elizabeth said goodbye to the fairy and hugged the bear. She and Philip continued to look for the other jewels.



Elizabeth was still hungry so Philip cut down some apples. She filled her pockets with them. Philip cut an apple in half. He gave some to Elizabeth. When she started to eat it, she saw R-e-d spelled out on the apple.



Then a little grey fairy came flying. She flew around the big apple. Elizabeth picked it up and squeezed. The red jewel came out. Red color went up into the sky. The little grey fairy became red.



The children left the tiny fairy and continued walking. They saw a lot of tiny little lights moving toward them. As they came closer the children saw they were lightening bugs. They kept flying toward the children and then back away from them. The children followed them to see where they were going.

They flew to some dandelions and then the fireflies grouped together to spell Y-e-l-l-o-w.



Elizabeth began to search the flowers and picked up a white puffy one. She blew it and yellow flew up into the sky. The yellow heart shaped jewel was there. Then, the yellow in the sky, began to cover a tiny fairy standing on a branch next to Elizabeth.

“Please hurry and find the other jewels. My sisters are waiting and my mother must be getting worried. Good luck to both of you.”



Elizabeth and Philip hurried on their way. Elizabeth heard voices saying, “Come here. Come here.” All Philip heard were frogs because he did not have the fairy magic that let him talk to animals.

The children followed the voices until they came to where the frogs were in the water. One frog said “Kiss me!”

“I won’t,” said Elizabeth. “Philip what do I do now? I can’t kiss a frog.”

Then Elizabeth heard another voice, “Hug him.” Another grey fairy came out of the trees.



Elizabeth carefully picked up the frog and gave a little squeeze.

“Harder,” said the fairy.

Elizabeth gave a hard squeeze. The warts on his back began to glow and letters appeared. g-r-e-e-n. The frog’s mouth opened and out popped a green jewel. Green color swirled into the sky. The green covered the little grey fairy. When the green was gone the fairy’s dress was green again.

“Hurry,” the green fairy told them.



✎ The children hurried away from the water. Suddenly, Elizabeth yelled out, “A Fairy Ring.”

Philip looked confused. “What?”

“A fairy ring. Remember the stories? “See a ring of mushrooms and know a fairy must be near.”

Elizabeth stepped into the circle. As she looked around she saw that there were letters on some of the mushrooms. B-r-o-w-n.

“Look,” she whispered, “look how much bigger this one is.”



She picked up the large mushroom and began to squeeze. Brown color came out of the mushroom. Then the brown heart jewel popped out.
A bird flew up with a little fairy on its back. As they watched the grey fairy became brown again.
Once again the fairy told them they needed to hurry.



The children continued walking through the forest. As they walked, they began to feel a vibration. Soon they could see a river running through the woods. It was too big to swim across. They didn't know how to swim very well, anyway.

They stood looking at the river wondering how they would cross it. A large animal came out of the bushes. It was their friend, the bear.

"I can't take you across the river," said the bear. "it is too deep. But I know who can." The bear let out a loud roar and an owl flew over.



It was a large owl. The children climbed on its back and it flew them over the river. While they flew over the bear went down the river to find a place where it would be safe for a bear to cross. When they landed the owl said, "Go to the old burnt oak tree. The bear will be waiting to help you."



As they were going bugs began flying around them. They were very annoying. The children kept swatting at them but they didn't go away. Then they saw birds coming at them.

"Fantastic," Philip said. "Purple Martins, they love to eat bugs."

Instead of coming to help the children the birds flew to a plum tree. "Elizabeth, look at the three birds on that branch. There is something on their wings."

"P-u-r-p-l-e. They spell purple!" Elizabeth said quietly so she didn't scare the birds away.

Suddenly the birds flew away. The children went to the branch where the birds had been. There was a beautiful purple plum.



Elizabeth was surprised when a grey fairy flew up. "You found the purple jewel?" she asked. "I think so," said Elizabeth. "I was just going to give it a squeeze." "Try it," said the fairy. "I'm tired of being grey. I want to be my own color again." Elizabeth squeezed the plum as hard as she could. Suddenly purple came out of it and flew up into the sky. Then the purple heart jewel popped out. The tiny fairy was very happy as her dress became purple again.



The children hurried to find the next jewel. Then they saw some things flying in the sky. They came at the children.

“Bats!” yelled Philip. When the bats were closer they saw that there were goblins on their backs.

Elizabeth started talking to the bats. “We don’t want to hurt you. We are afraid of the goblins. What can we do so we don’t hurt you?”

“If you can catch the largest bat, the goblins will disappear and you will find something very special.”

Elizabeth was afraid but she saw a puddle of water. Bubbling up from the water she saw letters.

B-l-a-c-k .

She wasn’t afraid any more.



A large bat flew to her. She grabbed it and held on tight. It was trying to get away so Philip came to help. Together they squeezed. Out popped the black jewel and black color swirled around until it landed on a tiny fairy.



The tiny fairy was crying.
“Please don’t cry!” Elizabeth cried.
“I’m worried about my little sister! This is the first time she has helped. She is so tiny and our mother is far away and worried. You must hurry or it will be too late for her to help you.”
“What can we do?” asked Elizabeth.
“I’m not allowed to tell you. All I can say is watch the trees... they know the way.”



Then the bear came up and the owl flew near them. "If it will help," the bear said, "you can ride on my back with Philip and rest."

"Don't worry," Elizabeth said. "We will get your sister. We will get to her before it is too late."

The children climbed on the bear's back.

"You can't tell me how to help your sister but can I ask what color she is?" Elizabeth asked.

"Yes, it is fine to ask. My little sister is orange. Well, right now she is grey but she is supposed to be orange."

The children thought and thought. Where was there orange in the forest? Then Philip remembered that the fairy said to watch the trees.

"Trees!" Philip called out. "Do you know where we will find the orange fairy?"

"You will find her in the pumpkin patch just past the forest," one tree replied. "Watch the trees and they will guide you."



Elizabeth thanked the tree and then both children climbed onto the bear. The children went through the trees following the owl who was flying above them. They were all looking for the pumpkin patch. As they reached the edge of the forest the children saw that morning was coming. They had to get the last jewel before it became morning or the fairies would never have their magic again.



Suddenly they saw the pumpkin patch. The children got off the bear and hurried to look for the orange jewel. As Elizabeth was looking at the leaves she saw letters. O-r-a-n-g-e.

There were many pumpkins. Elizabeth didn't know which pumpkin hid the jewel .

"Little orange fairy," Elizabeth called. "We need your help."

As she looked around she saw the tiny fairy. The fairy was stuck in the vines that the pumpkins grew on. She wasn't moving. "Philip, please help me!"

"You have to squeeze the pumpkin first," Philip said. "The sun is coming up. If you don't find the jewel first, you will never find it."

"No! We have to save the little fairy. Her mother and sisters are waiting for us to bring her home. They helped me. I have to help them." Elizabeth began trying to remove the vines from the tiny fairy.

"Let me cut them!" Philip said.

"No, you might hurt her."

"I won't Elizabeth. You have to trust me."



Philip laid down on the ground and very carefully used his sword to cut the vines around the little fairy. Soon she was free but she was still not moving.



Elizabeth began to cry. They were too late to help the orange fairy. Philip started to cry too.



Then there were colors in the sky. All of the fairies were there.

"I'm so sorry," Elizabeth told the golden mother fairy. "It's my fault. I shouldn't have left the castle without asking. Then the goblins could not steal my jewels."

The golden fairy looked into Elizabeth's eyes, "Do not worry. Because you and Philip tried to help my littlest fairy instead of getting the last jewel she will be fine."



Then the little fairy opened her eyes and saw that Elizabeth was crying. “Elizabeth, can’t you find your pumpkin?” Then she pointed to the pumpkin where she had been. “Here is your pumpkin.”



It was very big, so Elizabeth asked all of the fairies to help her squeeze it. The pumpkin broke open and out popped the orange heart jewel and orange color swirled into the sky. It swirled around until it landed on the littlest fairy who then became orange again.



Then there was a loud noise. The owl told the children, "The goblins did not win. They are weak no and they are yelling because they are upset. They cannot hurt you now." Then the owl flew away.



The children climbed on the bear and started to look for home. The fairies flew next to them. Soon they were at the edge of the forest and the beautiful owl was waiting.



“Children it is time to go home,” the owl said.

“Yes it is. Thank you everyone for all of your help,” Elizabeth said. She began to cry.

“Will I ever see all of you again?” she asked.

“Yes, you will,” answered the owl. He asked the fairies to go with the children and tell their parents that the forest was a safe place now. The goblins were gone, so the children would be safe if they played in the forest.

“We can come to the forest to see the fairies now?” asked Elizabeth.

“Yes,” said the owl, “but you must tell your parents!”

Elizabeth smiled, “I promise!”

“Me too!” said Philip.



The fairies kissed Philip and Elizabeth on the cheek, then they flew up into the sky. They made a beautiful rainbow.”

“Follow the rainbow,” the owl told them. “It always ends at the castle. Your crown is waiting for you at the castle.”



Elizabeth and Philip stepped into the rainbow
and the magic took them home.