

Mythical Mountain

By Ashlyn Morfin

I was running late for work and I couldn't find my keys. I had looked everywhere for them. I had to be at work in 25 minutes, and it took me 10 minutes to get there. Ugh... where could they be? At the last moment, when I was about to give up, I finally found them. They were under my pillow. Yup, you heard me, under my pillow. *It's been a tough morning*, I thought to myself. I guess I'd better get to work.

I grabbed my backpack, lunchbox, and water bottle. I said bye to my cat, Cinder. I called her Cinder Block because that's what she reminded me of. She was gray and had white markings. I was getting ready to walk out the front door, when I saw a mysterious box. Intrigued, I brought the box in and set it on the counter. I read the label on the box and it read, "To: Ashlyn Morfin." *That's me!* I thought *Who sent this?*

I suddenly remembered how late I was to work. *Should I open it or go to work?* I thought hard to myself. Something told me to open it...to miss work. I went outside and looked around for anyone who may have left it. No one was near. I went inside, got the scissors, and opened the box halfway.

Cinder was purring at me. *Was this the right thing to do?* I decided that it was. It had my name on it. I continued to open the box, and inside, I found a tiny village. It had houses, houses, and more houses. It had buildings with signs for the hospital and grocery store. I saw people walking around and doing their daily activities. I saw parks and schools, too! I also saw some very pretty mountains. The strange thing was that they weren't human. They were little fairies and gnomes. Some were even what looked like little aliens. This little world was beautiful! Inside this world there was a place that said "Home of the Guardians." *This must be the castle the king and queen live in*, I thought to myself.

I discovered a note taped on the side of the box that said, "Drink Me, Drink Me." There was a bottle with what looked like blue sugar. I drank the sugar without even thinking about it. I felt weird and kind of dizzy. I looked around and realized I was now a gnome with long, braided brown hair. I felt something in the pocket of my yellow and green dress. It was another bottle with pink sugar. It said "Drink me if you want to grow." *This must be the potion I drink to get back to normal*, I thought to myself.

I suddenly started walking to the castle that read “Home of the Guardians.” As I walked to the castle, the fairies, gnomes, and aliens all greeted me. It seemed as though we were very good friends. They even knew my name. I reached the castle and knocked on the door. A servant opened it and led me to the king and queen. I was very nervous.

I was a few steps from the door and the servant told me, “the king and queen are very nice.” I sure hoped so. I was now in the same room as the king and queen. They greeted me as if they knew me. They asked me, “who are you? Where do you come from?”

I told them, “my name is Ashlyn and I come from a different world.” They were very amazed and welcomed me to stay in their world. Sadly, I told them I could not stay. They explained to me that this world they lived in is called “Mythical Mountain.”

I thought about the mountains I saw on my way to the castle. It made sense. I told them how I found a box on my doorstep and how it was their world. They were very amazed. There was then a long silence between us. The king asked me, “Can we stay at your house?” Could I keep them safe at my house? I wondered. The king wanted me to keep them in their box and protect them for as long as I could.

I thought about it and in the end I said, “yes!” He then asked me for one more thing. I could not let anyone see them. I said, “yes!” again.

The king pulled out a necklace with a blue stone in the middle. He handed me the necklace and told me that it would start glowing if they needed help. Lastly, he handed me a purse-like bag that was full of the pink and blue sugar. I said, “Thank you.” Then, I said good-bye to the king and queen.

They told me “thank you, too. You saved us.”

As I was walking away, I took out the pink sugar and drank it. In a flash, I was sitting on my couch. Cinder looked at me with her eyes wide open. I then remembered the promise I had made to the king and queen of Mythical Mountain. I quickly closed the box back up and put it in my closet on the very top shelf. I somehow knew that they were safe and happy there. I wore the necklace everyday from that day forward. I knew Mythical Mountain’s well-being depended on it!