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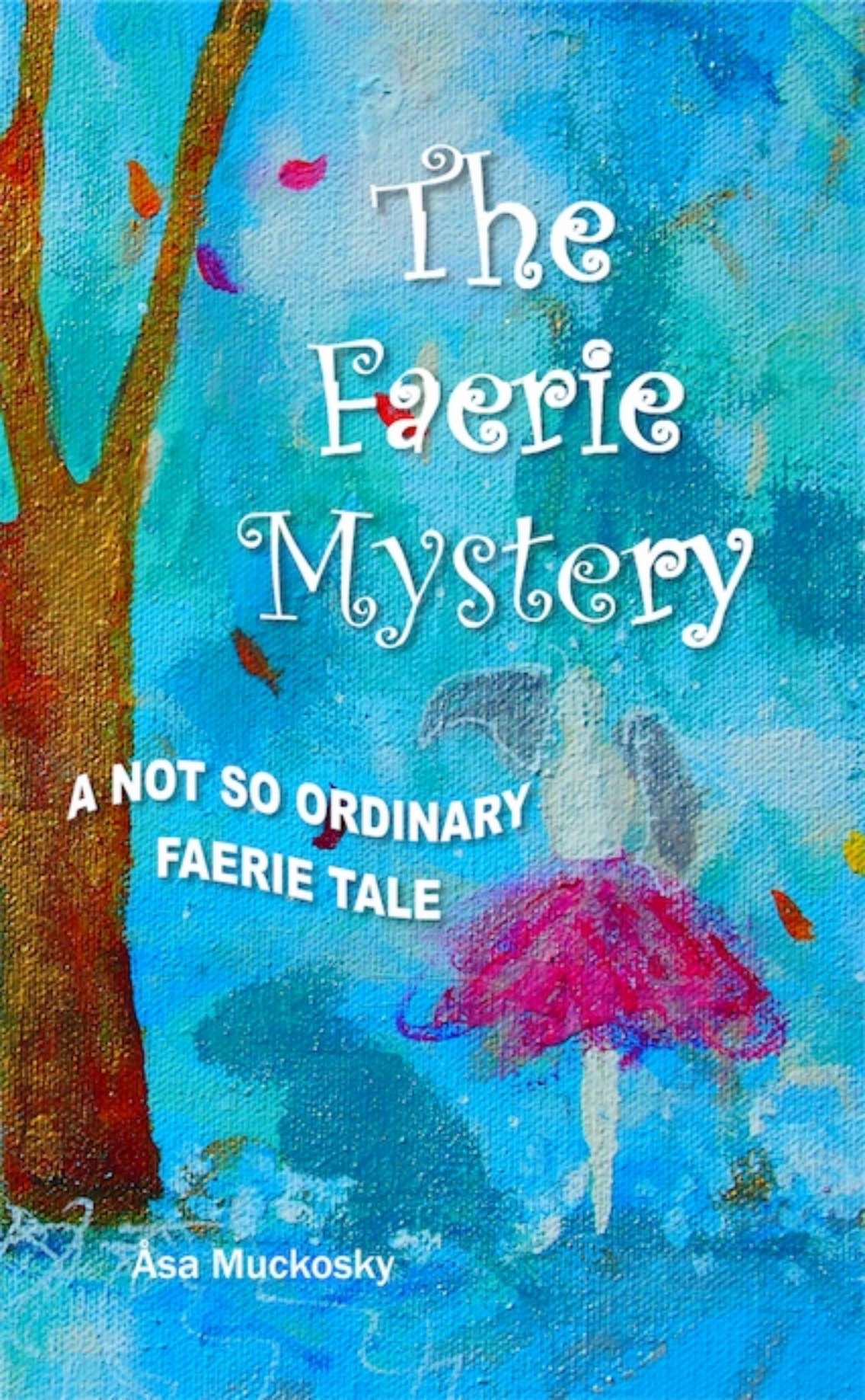
THE FAERIE MYSTERY: A NOT SO ORDINARY FAERIE TALE

by Asa Muckosky

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The Faerie Mystery

**A NOT SO ORDINARY
FAERIE TALE**

Asa Muckosky

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First Edition

The Faerie Queen stands tall among her people. Her voice carries all the way to the back of their gathering, strong and confident. She speaks of times to come, of changes she has noticed in the air, in the scent of their beloved woods, of what would happen to planet earth if they do not interfere.

“There are things we can do” she says, “if we are willing. Things we can do to preserve our home and way of life.”

“We can cross over, make ourselves known to a select few of the humans and in this way guide the inhabitants of the earth to a better way of living. This would require some of us to take on the shape of an animal on earth, perhaps a dog or a cat, to guide and direct their humans towards making contact with us.”

And so it is, on a magic filled night with a sky wrapped in stars, the dog Raven is born. In the same town on the same night Samantha and her family sleep soundly in their cozy house on a quiet street, unaware of the arrival of their new family member. No one notices the movement in the house, the breath of fresh air with its scent of deep woods, moss and wildflowers, as a thin layer of faerie dust is sprinkled around the house. As quietly as it appears the breath of air makes its way back outside, creeping out through the cracks around the doors and windows leaving behind a faint smell of daisies.

Chapter One

It's Raven who finds the pendant first. Or rather he seems to sense it's there, hidden underneath last years old leaves and the spring flowers in the forest. It's Friday afternoon and we are on one of our usual walks through the trail behind our house.

My dog Raven leads the way on the forest path, his black coat glistens in the few rays of sunshine breaking through the trees. The forest smells strongly of damp dirt and moss and the newly arrived leaves are a brilliant green. Crocuses are popping up among the cranberry plants and I glimpse splashes of purple as we walk. We arrive at a small clearing that I have never seen before, which is kind of strange because Raven and I walk back here all the time. He barks happily as he races around in circles.

"What are you barking at boy? Did you see a squirrel or something?" My worn running shoes pad softly on the grass as I aimlessly poke around the clearing. The

wind takes hold of my chocolate coloured hair and whips it around my face.

I see something sparkle among the old leaves on the ground, and bend down to take a closer look. A silver chain pokes out from the leaves and the dirt; I grab hold of it and pull it out. The silver chain holds a fairy pendant, exactly like the one my brother Dawson had given me for Christmas last year.

Is this pendant mine I wonder, and if so what on earth is it doing here? Had I worn it the other day when I took Raven for a walk? I don't think so; I don't remember wearing it for quite a while and I don't think I've ever been to this spot even. Maybe it isn't mine. Maybe somebody has one exactly like it.

I walk over to a giant birch tree that seems to preside over the rest of the trees around the clearing, and sit down on the ground leaning my back against it. It feels good sitting and Raven lays down beside me, panting lightly and wagging his tail. His warm body leans up against mine and I feel his heartbeat against my leg. I run my hand over his jet black shiny coat and I examine the necklace again. A frown wrinkles my face, as I try to figure out how it ended up on the ground in the forest behind my house. The little faerie pendant sparkles in the sunlight as I hold it up in front of me.

I remember it clearly, opening up the little present from Dawson on Christmas morning, thinking it would

just be another goofy gift from my brother. Instead it's this beautiful little faerie pendant on a delicate silver chain. It was so unexpected, but kind of sweet. This thoughtful gift from Dawson, my older brother who usually won't give me the time of day.

"Well I guess we better get home Raven." I quickly get to my feet sliding the necklace into my pocket. Raven jumps up beside me and starts to run ahead as we make our way through the winding trail towards home.

"What's for dinner" I yell as soon as I get in the back door. Our roomy kitchen smells good and I realize how hungry I am.

"Oh Samantha, you're back. Just in time for dinner. I made some pizza," Mom answers with a smile. "Hope you're hungry." She bends down to open the oven door to peek at the pizzas. A wonderful scent of melted cheese and spices escapes the oven.

"I think I can eat two pizzas by myself tonight" I say as I run up the stairs towards my room almost crashing into Dawson who's taking the steps two at a time on his way down.

"Whoa there Sam! What's the hurry?"

I ignore him and go straight to the dresser in my room where I keep my jewelry in a wooden box. I open the lid and rummage around for my faerie necklace, but it isn't there. I pull the necklace I found in the woods out of my pocket and carefully place it in the box.

I sit down on my bed with the jewelry box in my hands. I move some papers and notes with this weekend's homework aside. *Really. Homework on a weekend. That's so lame!* I sigh as I think about it. I really don't feel like doing homework this weekend. My thoughts go back to the mystery in my hands as I contemplate how on earth my necklace had appeared in the woods.

I have no idea how it had gotten to the clearing, but I'm certain it is mine. I try to remember the last time I wore it. It was right after Christmas, and when school started again I remember taking it off, because I didn't want to lose it.

I study the necklace in my jewelry box; the little silver faerie has a few shiny sparkles on her wings and the silver chain is just the right length to fit around my neck. In the box there's also the ring that my mom and dad gave me when I was five, and the bracelet with three little charms hanging off it that my best friend Jenna gave me last year for my birthday.

Why was my necklace in the woods? I can't imagine anyone stealing it from me and then dropping it there. Who would do such a thing?

The door to my bedroom suddenly is pushed open and Raven comes in. He lies down in front of me and puts his furry head on his paws. He fixes his big brown eyes on mine and stares at me, kind of like he's trying to

tell me something. Sometimes I swear he knows exactly what I'm thinking, or he stares at me long enough that he gets me to do whatever it is he wants, which is usually a walk or his dinner. We've had Raven now for almost two years. He came to us as a puppy when one of our neighbour's dog had a litter of these adorable lab cross puppies. The mom is a black lab and we don't know who the dad was, but Raven looks like a black lab with a bit longer hair than normal. He's the cutest dog ever and the minute I saw Raven, when he was only about a week old, I knew he was ours. It took a bit of work to convince mom and dad to agree to adopt him, but I think they love him just as much as I do.

“What do you think Raven? How did my necklace end up in the woods?” Raven just stares at me with his beautiful brown eyes.

“Sam, come get the phone, it's Jenna,” mom calls from downstairs. I hadn't even heard the phone ring. I'd been in such deep thought about the necklace mystery.

Jenna is my best friend in the whole world. As long as I can remember she's been my friend. Ever since that first day of kindergarten when Jenna discovered that we both had the same backpacks and came to sit beside me. She told me that we were like sisters because of our backpacks. We've been best friends ever since.

“Hi Sam, what's up?”

“Nothing much, just something weird happened when I took Raven for a walk.”

“What?”

“Do you want to come over after supper, and I’ll tell you?”

“OK, I’ll be there soon then.”

“OK, see ya.”

Jenna and I are both in Ms. Darby’s grade 5 class at North Wind Elementary school, and we have been in the same class since kindergarten. Lately though, life has just gotten so busy it seems like we hardly ever see each other anymore. We’re getting more homework every day and I have soccer practice or games usually three times a week. Jenna has dance almost every day after school. Sometimes it’s hard to find time just to hang out, and I miss that. I miss the fun we had last year, when we weren’t quite so busy, and life was a little less serious. Not so much homework and when school was just easier.

“So I took Raven for a walk after school today,” I say later as I’m sitting down on my bed across from Jenna. “We went to this clearing in the woods behind my house. I don’t think I’ve ever noticed it before but it’s a super nice spot. Raven really likes it there for some

reason. Anyway when we were there I found my faerie necklace on the ground.”

“How do you know it’s yours?” Jenna absentmindedly holds my favourite teddy bear in her lap, playing with his arms.

“I checked my jewellery box when I got home and it wasn’t there.”

“Maybe you dropped it last time you went in the woods.”

“That’s the thing Jenna. I haven’t worn it for ages, and I definitely wasn’t wearing it last time I took Raven for a walk, and besides I’ve never been to this place before.”

“So what are you saying? That it magically transported itself there and then you found it?” Jenna grabs my teddy bear and playfully throws it at me.

“Something like that.” I catch the teddy bear and put him back in his spot resting on my pillow. “Look, I don’t know. I think it’s pretty weird too, but I don’t know how to explain it. Why don’t we go there right now, and I’ll show you where I found it.”

We quickly grab our sweaters. It’s a bit cooler outside now in the evening and I holler to Mom, that we’re taking Raven for a walk and will be back soon.

Raven is happy to go out again and runs ahead of us. It seems like he knows where to go and bounds along the overgrown path leading to the clearing in the woods.

We run behind him trying to keep up and are panting slightly when we reach the clearing.

“Hey, this is nice, look at this old tree in the middle. It’s huge!” Jenna exclaims as she tucks a strand of strawberry blond hair behind her ear and surveys the area. “Where did you find the necklace?”

“Right over there, under the leaves” I answer her.

“And you said you've never been here before?”

“That’s right. I walk back here all the time with Raven, but for some reason I’ve never seen this clearing before. Not that I can remember anyway.”

“That’s pretty strange. It’s not very far from your house either. I mean it’s strange that you’ve never came here before.”

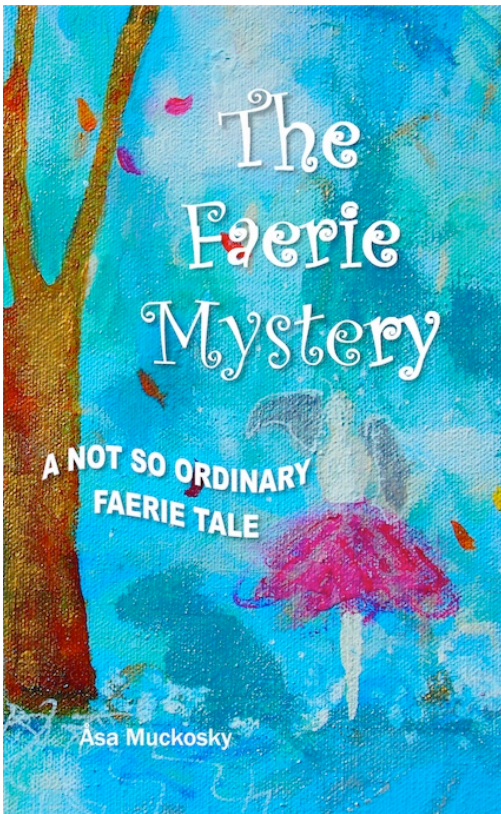
“I know.”

Jenna and I look at each other and I feel a shiver come over me. I don’t like the thought of someone maybe stealing my necklace and bringing it out here. It just doesn’t make sense, but how else would it have gotten here? The sun still hovers over the treetops, but won’t be around much longer and the shadows from the trees are stretching out their arms almost as if they are trying to touch us.

“Ohmygosh” Jenna suddenly exclaims. “It’s already 8:30. I better get home before my mom sends out a search party. I’m supposed to be home by eight.”

“Yeah, me too. Do you want to come back here tomorrow?” I say, as we start walking back home.

“Sure, we have to try to figure this out. It can’t be a coincidence that you found your necklace here. Something’s up and I want to find out what it is.”



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