



MOIFE AND THE TOOTH FAIRY

By Gerri Hennessy

*Dedicated to my brave beautiful sister
Aine*

Aoife and the tooth fairy

Aoife woke, up peeked out from underneath her crisp white sheet and smiled. It was another beautiful day and Mummy had promised to fill the paddling pool if it stayed fine. She hopped gleefully out of bed and danced over to the window singing to her self. She climbed on a chair, opened the window, and leaned out as far as she could to catch all the wonderful smells of summer. The field next her garden had been mowed by Farmer Bob, so the air was filled with the lovely smell of freshly cut grass and the sound of all the birds making the most of the short grass to find worms. She had leaned out so far she felt the chair wobble beneath her, so she pulled her head and shoulders back inside before her mother caught her, she was always saying that one of these days she would fall out and ruin her lawn. Aoife giggled to herself as she remembered her father trying not to laugh when her mother has said that over the lunch table. He had leaned over ruffled her hair and winking at her as he said to her mother that such a little slip of a thing would float like a feather.

Mummy had left out her denim shorts and her pink frilly tee shirt, so she was quickly dressed and heading down stairs for breakfast. As usual her father sat at the top of the table with the newspaper spread out before him as he drank his tea, her mother was at the sink washing Aoife's favourite bowl that was covered in fairies and her matching cup, and soon she was sitting upon her stool munching on her favourite breakfast cereal. After a few minutes she felt a pain in her mouth, she swallowed her mouthful and put her finger to her mouth and felt her front tooth wobble. She smiled and then wobbled it again.

"Mummy, mummy", she cried "my tooth is loose, look"

Her mother smiled and knelt down to have a closer look.

"Yep", she smiled "that is definitely loose, looks like we will be getting a visit from the tooth fairy".

Aoife took a great big breath and tingled with excitement. Ever since her Uncle Jim had given her a book of fairy tails at Christmas 2 years ago she had been waiting for this to happen so she could meet a real fairy. She knew they were shy timid creatures and that only on special days could you see them. And what would be more special than losing the first tooth. She wobbled it again and grinned at her father.

"Don't force it now", he scolded "you will make it bleed. It will come out when it's ready".

"But daddy I want it to come out today so the tooth fairy will come tonight", she mumbled with her finger still in her mouth wiggling the tooth.

"Well don't say I didn't warn you when you have blood all over your lovely pink top", he said laughing.

At this he finished his last mouthful of tea and stood up

"Well I had better shoot off to work and leave my beautiful ladies to mind the house" he said as he picked Aoife up to swing her around.

"The tooth fairy will be here tonight la la la", he sang as she giggled and hit him on the arm.

"Put me down crazy Daddy", she begged "I'm dizzy".

Once her father was gone it was time to clear the breakfast table and clean the dishes. She loved helping her mother in the morning. She felt so grown up helping to dry the dishes and put them away and loved chatting with her mother about things that are so very important to 7 years olds. Like the caterpillar she had in a jar in the porch and what dolls she would bring to the garden to play in the pool with her. She knew that her mother thought these things were important too.

When they were finished her mother caught her up in her arms kissing her all over her face.

"My beautiful girl is so good to help her mummy", she said. "So now it's time to get the paddling pool ready, so lets get started eh?"

"Hooray", cried Aoife as she danced around the room. She rushed upstairs to gather all her friends who would join her in the pool, changed into her togs and dashed back down stairs, through the kitchen and out the back door with her arms full of dolls of all shapes and sizes. The sun was blazing out of a clear blue sky and the air was filled with the sound of the buzz of the insects and the song of the birds that were swooping over head.

The paddling pool had been set up just outside the back door, close to the tap for the hose and all the potted plants that her mother loved to nurture. Soon the pool was filled up enough and Aoife dipped in her toes which she quickly pulled back out with a squeal. "

Ohhh it's cold", she said as she hopped around on one leg. "I'll heat some water in the kettle to heat it up", laughed her mother. Aoife lay back on the grass cradling her head with one hand and wiggling her loose tooth with the other. "It's defiantly looser", she though gleefully. Just then she heard a sniffle, a very quiet sniffle but a sniffle all the same. She sat up quickly and glanced around.

"Was that you Mummy", she called out. But her she could hear her Mummy in the kitchen so she knew it wasn't her.

"That's funny", she thought to her self as she lay back down to wiggle the loose tooth in earnest. A few minutes her mother came out with the hot water and added it to the pool. "Horay", cried Aoife as she splashed around the little pool.

"Be careful and don't slip", she warned with a smiled as she went back into the house. Aoife was having a great time splashing and playing with all her dolls, throwing them high in the air and laughing delightedly as the water splashed back up at her. For a time she completely forgot about her tooth and the tooth fairy but gradually she got a bit cold and decided to stretch out on the grass in the sunshine.

As she warmed up she felt her tooth move again and started to wiggle it again determined she would make it fall out by that night. Suddenly she heard a sobbing noise. She sat up and looked around but again she couldn't see anyone. She listened carefully and one again heard a sobbing noise and a sniffle. Curiously she sat up and listened carefully. The sound seemed to be coming from among all the potted plants. She crept closer on her hands and knees peering between the pots and leaves. At first

all she could see was spiders and little bugs, but she pushed her was further in. Just then as she was wiggling the loose tooth with her tongue she saw something shimmering in front of her, but as she looked closer it disappeared.

"That's weird", she thought "where did it go?" She sat on the floor amongst the dry leaves and earth to think. Now she was puzzled, first the noise and then a shimmering thing that disappeared. It didn't occur to her to call for her mother as it had gone very quiet and almost magical. As she looked at where she saw the shimmering thing she, without realising it, put her finger into her mouth to wiggle the loose tooth, suddenly the shimmering appeared again, but this time started to take shape. As she sat there with her mouth open in surprise with her finger still on the tooth, the figure took shape. It was a fairy!!!! She was about four inches tall, with beautiful multicolour shimmering wings and long dark sparkling hair. Aoife gasped and jerked backwards and the little creature looked up with huge frightened eyes and ducked behind the plant pot. Slowly Aoife leaned forward and could see the fairy peeking around the side of the pot. Their eyes locked, Aoife's wide but curious but the fairy looked terrified.

"Oh please don't be scared", Aoife whispered "I won't hurt you".

The fairy blinked in shock.

"You can see me?" she gasped.

Oh yes, I can, are you really a fairy?" she whispered afraid to frighten this beautiful creature.

"Yes", the terrified little fairy said shakily. "I'm a tooth fairy

"A tooth fairy" said Aoife in surprise. "I wasn't expecting you until I put my first baby tooth under my pillow".

"Ah that makes more sense", said the fairy nodding wisely. "It's a magical time when you loose you first baby tooth, when the divide between the fairy world and the human world comes down".

The fairy stood up straight and walked towards the bemused Aoife with her tiny hand held out.

"My name is Amber", she said briskly "fully trained tooth fairy".

"Oh it's so nice to meet you", said Aoife taking the fairy's hand very gently. "My name is Aoife."

Well it's very nice to meet you too", the fairy smiled "To be honest I have only just passed the tooth test and you are the first human I have seen"

"Why are you here in the daytime? I always thought that ye came at night", asked Aoife gently so as not to frighten her again.

Amber's eyes filled with tears

." I've lost my wand", she wailed as the tears starting pouring down her cheeks.

"What am I going to do... they will take away my wings!!" Amber threw herself down beside the plant pot and continued to sob her heart out.

"Oh please don't cry", Aoife begged "maybe I can help you find it."

Amber lifted her head and looked up with watery eyes.

"Oh would you. Would you really", she asked shakily.

"Of course", Aoife assured her. "We can do it together. We need to do it they way that Mummy does it with me".

Amber sat up and wiped her eyes, gulped a bit, took a deep breath and smiled a wobbly smile.

"Ok", she said. "What do we do?"

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