## The Christmas Goblin and the Elfling



Once, two elves were putting their elfling to bed. It was a dark and snowy night. The mother elf designed toys and the father elf made them. Since it was almost Christmas they had worked hard getting ready for Christmas Eve when all the toys would be given to kind and generous children. They said, "Good night, Dear", gave the elfling a kiss and went to bed.



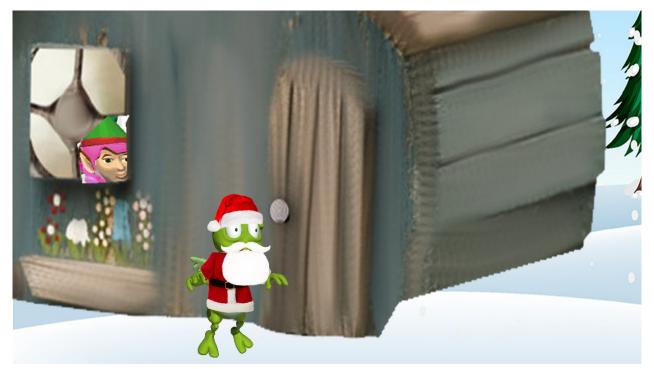
In a minute, the elves were sound asleep as they were exhausted. But then, a knock came on the door. The elfling sprang out of bed to see what was the matter. She asked, "Who is it?". A squeaky voice replied, "Santa, I have a gift for you." She became suspicious.



Her mother had told her not to open the door for strangers. This 'Santa' sounded very strange. She said, "How do I know you are Santa?" The goblin did his best to imitate Santa's laugh, "Ho, Ho." The elfling thought, "Hmmm, Santa does not laugh, 'Ho Ho'. He laughs 'Ho Ho Ho'. One 'Ho' is missing".



She ran to the window and looked out. The snow had stopped and the moon lit the scene like it was midday so she could see clearly. It was a Christmas Goblin. He was trying to get in the house so he could steal any gifts that were under the tree. She yelled, "You're not Santa, Where is your red hat and coat and your beard!? And you surely don't laugh like Santa!" The goblin grumbled and wandered away.



Before she could get to bed another knock came at the door. This time she looked out the window first. It was the goblin again, dressed in a red coat and hat with a fake Santa beard. She laughed and made a plan.



She went to her room, opened the window and climbed on the roof. She rolled a big snowball to the edge of the roof . She called out, "Santa, come around back and I'll let you in." The goblin started around the side of the house and headed for the back door. And what do you think happened?



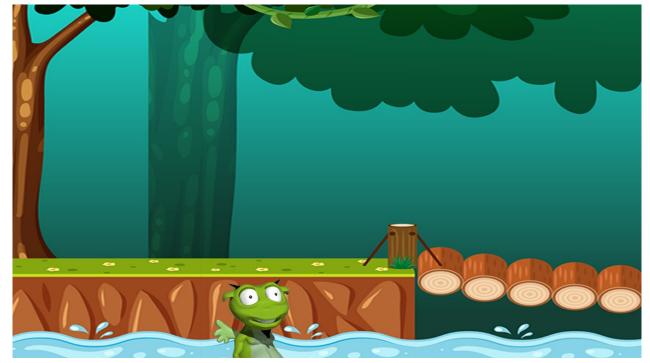
The elfling rolled the giant snowball off the roof just as the goblin came near. The snowball covered the goblin and he looked like a snowman. All you could see were his eyes. The elfling chuckled, ran back in the house and went to bed.



The North Wind and the Man in the Moon had been watching all this. The Man in the Moon said, "Ha, goblins are no match for elflings. Elflings are too smart."



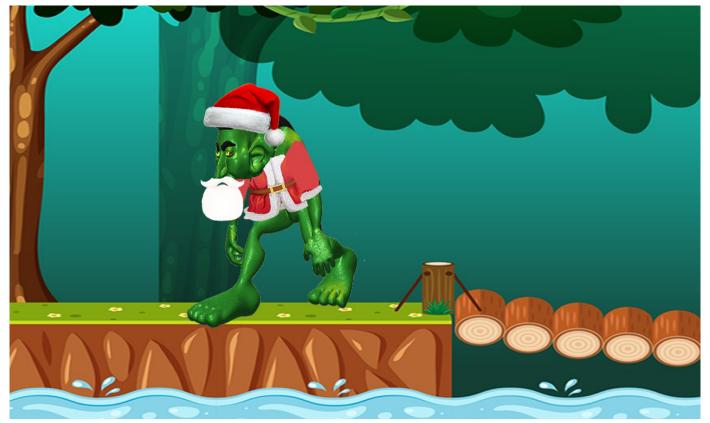
The North Wind began to laugh. He laughed harder and harder and the wind began to blow harder and harder. The wind blew all the snow off the goblin. Then it blew all his Santa clothes and beard off too. The gust lifted him up in the air and carried him far away.



The North Wind kept laughing and soon the goblin was in the Enchanted Forest. He landed in a river near a bridge. A troll lived under the bridge.



After getting his bearings, the goblin climbed out onto the bridge. The troll climbed onto the bridge too and bellowed, "Who is that climbing onto my bridge?" The goblin took one look at the troll and flew back to the North Pole as fast as he could. Luckily for him the North Wind had stopped laughing and the wind had died down. The Man in the Moon lit his way back and laughed at the silly goblin.



The troll put on the Santa hat, coat and beard that had landed near the bridge. How do you think he looks?



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