

Ugly Ogre Sue

by Alan C. Elliott

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Once upon a time
When times were still few,
There lived an ugly ogre
By the name of Ogre Sue.

Sue loved to play.
She played most of the day.

In the woods
Where the trees grow tall
She played with the animals,
With one and with all.

She played with the beavers,
The hoot owls and cats,
Even with skunks and gophers and bats.

Once when Rob Robin fell from a tree,
Sue picked him up gently
As gently could be.

And once when Bob Beaver got caught in a trap,
Sue got him out quickly,
And everyone clapped.

All of the robins sang happy tunes,
The cats meowed,
And all the rats crooned.

The woods were alive with the sound of great gladness,
Yet Sue held within herself a great sadness.

Because in the evening when Sue came to her cave,
She would look in the mirror
And then she would say,

A wart on my nose,
Warts on my toes!
Hair like a mop,
A nose like a top,
Ears like a bat
A body that's fat
I'm Ugly Ogre Sue
Oh, what can I do?
Mirror tell me true,
What can I do?

The mirror never answered and Sue always cried,
But tonight someone saw what Sue tried to hide.

Her father Ogre Bill hugged his daughter so tight.
He told her everything would turn out all right.

“My daughter,” he said, “I know why you’re sad.
I once thought I was ugly, an ugly old dad.”

“I asked the mirror why it was so,
But mirrors don’t answer
Because they don’t know.”

“Just listen a minute and then you will see
As my father told me, and his father he,
And on down the line of the Ogre family tree
How I can be happy just being me.”

“There is no one else like me, no one anywhere,
I may look different, but that’s what makes me so rare.
For all of the persons, in all the world wide,
What counts is not outside. What counts is inside.
Beauty is not ears, nose, eyes, feet or hair,
Beauty comes from the heart, when love is alive there.
Forever and ever, as long as you live,
Love is the best kind of beauty you give.
Be who you are, and love who you be.
You’re a wonderful part of our family tree.”

Sue laughed with her father, and they danced all around,
They danced and sang with a wonderful sound.

Just then, Sue heard the flutter of wings,
A cat meowed and some birds started to sing.

And all of her friends from the dog to the hog,
From the rat to the bat,
From raccoons to loons,
They all came in singing a tune.

Sue's mom, Ogre Beth came pushing a cart
Filled with forest delights and Ogre-berry tarts.

"We love you, Ogre Sue!" they all sang in their song,
And everyone partied and stayed nice and long.

Now in the woods where the trees grow so tall,
Ogre Sue is the happiest Ogre of all.