

The Rainbow Rock

by Fiona Duthie 2011

Deep in the forest lived a little gnome. He loved his forest home and all his companions that shared the forest with him. He would go for a walk each day, and see the silent strength in the stones on the ground. He would see the fresh greens of the plants and trees as they grew, and the rich browns as they returned to the earth. He would see the animals move through the forest, some fast, some slow, some in summer, some in winter, some all year round. And from the top of his hill, he could see down to the village where the people lived, and see their busy activity in the day, and the quiet twinkling of their lights at night. Little Gnome was happy when he saw these things. He knew all was well with the world. And if Little Gnome ever started to worry or become scared, he would go for a walk and hold his rock in his hand. Oh yes! Little Gnome had a special rock that he carried always in his pocket; a special rock that had been given to him by a wise old gnome, who had told him, "This rock is constant and true. Hold your rock in your hand and let the light in your heart sing. Then you can carry your light in this rock, and you will feel safe." Little Gnome treasured his special rock and carried it with him, always.

One day, Little Gnome was out on his walk when he heard some sounds coming from behind a tree. He crept closer to hear more, and peeked around the tree to see a young boy sitting on a stone, crying. "Why do you cry?" asked Little Gnome. The young boy jumped when he heard the voice, but saw the gentle face of Little Gnome and answered, "I am so sad. I have lost my happiness. I am lost in the forest and I am so alone."

Little Gnome looked kindly at the young boy. He had felt like that before. "You are not alone. I am with you now."

The young boy stopped crying, just a little, and sobbed. "But I am still lost in this forest and I don't know how to get home."

Little Gnome looked kindly at the young boy. He had felt like that before. "You are not lost now. I have found you and will help you find your way home."

The young boy stopped crying completely. "But I am still sad. I have lost my happiness."

Little Gnome looked kindly at the young boy...and thought for minute. He had felt like that before. "Finding your happiness can be a tricky business! Try not to think about your worries. Come with me on a walk through this forest. Little Gnome showed the young boy the strong and silent stones, the fresh and green plants, the rich and brown earth, and the running, hopping, flying and quietly watching animals. Then he showed the young boy the top of the hill, from where he could look down and see the way to his village below. Little Gnome had an idea. He reached into his pocket and pulled out his special rock. "This helps me to remember that I am always in company and can find my way. Maybe I can share it with you." Little Gnome took a deep breath and broke open his special rock- and all the hope and light and love that was in his heart, shone out in layers of colours from the rainbow rock. He passed one half to the young boy, who tucked it carefully into his pocket, thanked the Little Gnome and started down the path to the village, a smile on his face and a spring in his step. And Little Gnome smiled in wonder at the Rainbow Rock he had carried for so long without truly knowing it's secret, and he knew all was well with the world.