

The Glowing Gem

Celia Grove

“On a dark and scary night...” I started.
“No! Scar, you know I hate scary stories!” Carter, my little chipmunk friend, said.

“I’m on summer break, so I want to get good sleep.” He started walking away, but I could easily catch up to him. I was a human.

“Can we at least go to the hangout spot?” I asked. “Please?” He had a contemplative look on his face.

“Oh, alright, as long as your parents aren’t wondering where you are.”

My face lit up. With things complicated at home, it was nice to get away for a little while. Carter is also helping me through it.

Hi, I’m Scarlett, but people call me Scar. I’m 12 years old and grew up in Wisconsin, in a little town called Cedarburg. I’ve lived here my whole life, but I’ve always looked for adventure and magic. And that’s when I met my best friend, Carter. He’s a chipmunk, but it doesn’t bother me. He always says he first spoke to me because he saw good in me or whatever. But I’ve made human friends, too, just not as awesome as Carter. Carter has been really helpful lately, because my parents are always fighting, and one day they broke the news to me that they were getting a divorce. It hasn’t happened officially yet, but home has never been the same.

I picked up Carter, and I ran to our hangout cave. We found it when I was 6. It was all gray rock, like a normal cave, but Carter and I made it better. We put up strings of light all over, which made the cave glow. We put a big bean bag chair for me, and I DIYed a tiny bean bag chair for Carter. We had blankets for me, and I also DIYed one for Carter. There was a

curtain that we pulled over the mouth of the cave when we were in it, so that the light wouldn't be seen out of the cave. My parents knew about the cave, but not about Carter.

I set Carter down, and he immediately jumped into his bean bag chair.

"Ahhh. I love this thing." I laughed.

"Ya, I'm surprised it hasn't split open in 5 years."

He looked at me. "So, how long are you planning to stay here?"

I picked up a blanket and wrapped myself in it. "As long as I have to." All of a sudden, the string lights went out, and the cave went dark.

I ran over to the curtain and pulled it open, giving us the moonlight. Carter was still sitting in his bean bag, but past Carter there was a tiny green light. Very easy for the eye to miss.

"Well, I guess that's a sign. Off to bed for you." He looked where I was looking and saw the green light.

"Carter, what do you think it is?" I asked him.

He walked over to it. "Looks like there's a tiny hole here."

I looked at him. "Carter?" I called.

"Ya?" He turned to me. "I think you have to go in the hole." "No." He

walked away from the hole and started for the mouth of the cave.

“Carter, please? I told you I’ve always wanted adventure.” I ran in front of him, blocking his path.

“You want adventure, not me. I hate the dark and everything spooky.” I looked back at the green light, then to him.

“Don’t you live in a dark hole?” He looked embarrassed.

“Yes, but that doesn’t mean I like it.” He looked me in the eyes. “Can we do this tomorrow?” He yawned.

“No! We have to do it in the dark so that we can see the light! Also, if you go in there, it won’t be pitch black, you’ll have the green light thing.” Carter scoffed.

“We don’t even know what that is.” I stared at Carter, and as fast as I could, I scooped him up. “Hey! Put me down! You said you wouldn’t do this anymore!” He screamed. I didn’t listen. I ran to the crack in the wall.

“Please, Carter? I won’t let you down until you go in the hole.” He sighed.

“Fine, as long as this is the first and last time.” He nodded, and I set him down. He slowly started walking his way into the hole.

“You got this, Carter. I believe in you!” He looked back one more time before he disappeared into the darkness, his body blocking the green glow. A few minutes passed, and I heard nothing or saw anything. I was starting to get worried. How far did the tunnel go? Then I heard a scream,

“AHHHHHH,” I panicked.

“Carter! Carter, are you okay!” I heard some scruffling and out came Carter with a green gem! “Carter! What was the screaming about? Are

you
all right?" He gave me the gem.

"I'm fine. There were lots of big spiders in there! I got stuck in a web!" I laughed. "Ya, haha, it's very funny." He frowned.

"Sorry, Carter, it's just, don't you live with bugs in your hole?" Carter started walking over to his bean bag chair.

"I do, but again, I don't like it." He plopped down on his bean bag chair. I looked down at the gem in my hand. It glowed in the night; it was the prettiest thing I've ever seen.

"Thanks, Carter. This will go in our collection in my room." He nodded.

"So, does this mean we can go to bed now?" He yawned.

"Yes, Carter. Let's go." We started walking out, and once I said goodbye, I went to my room to go to bed. I placed the glowing rock on my shelf with the other things Carter and I have found. I got into bed, feeling accomplished and adventurous. As long as I had Carter, I would be okay.