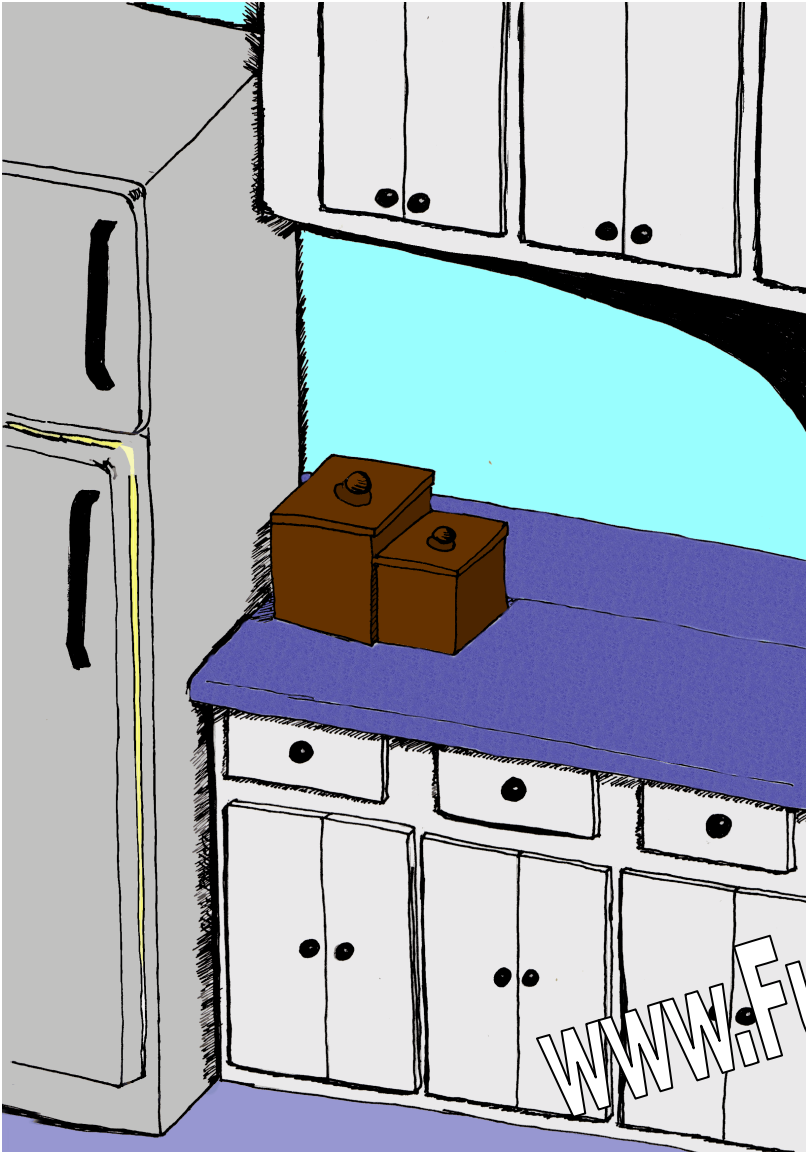


One cool spring night, after spending a long time doing some work, I finally got myself ready for bed. Everyone else was already asleep, so I tried to be as quiet as possible.

When I was just about ready to hop into bed I heard a strange noise coming from downstairs. Perhaps I had left the back door open again, I had to go check.





I looked in the kitchen, but there was nothing there that would make the noise. The fridge door was open, so I closed it and moved on.

Then I looked in my office. Sometimes the cat gets in here and knocks over stuff.

No cat

“He must be upstairs asleep with everyone else.” I said to myself

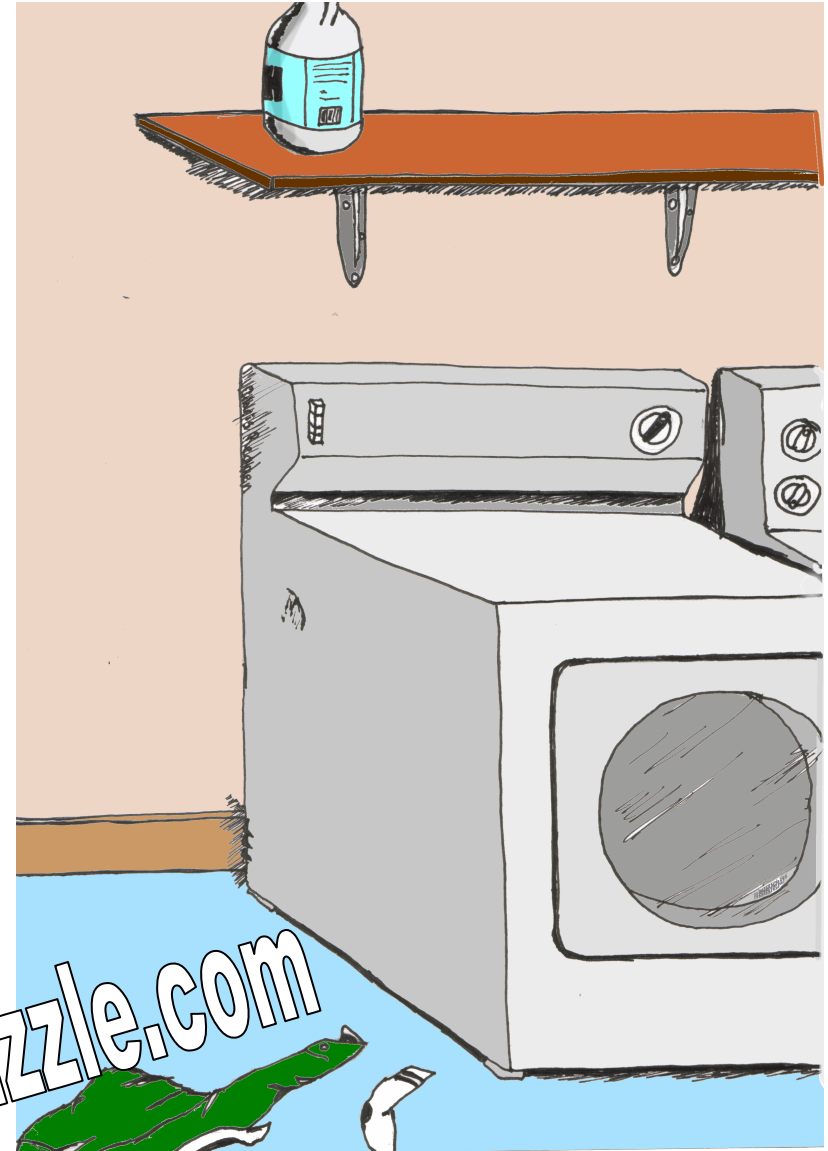
Then I heard the noise again.

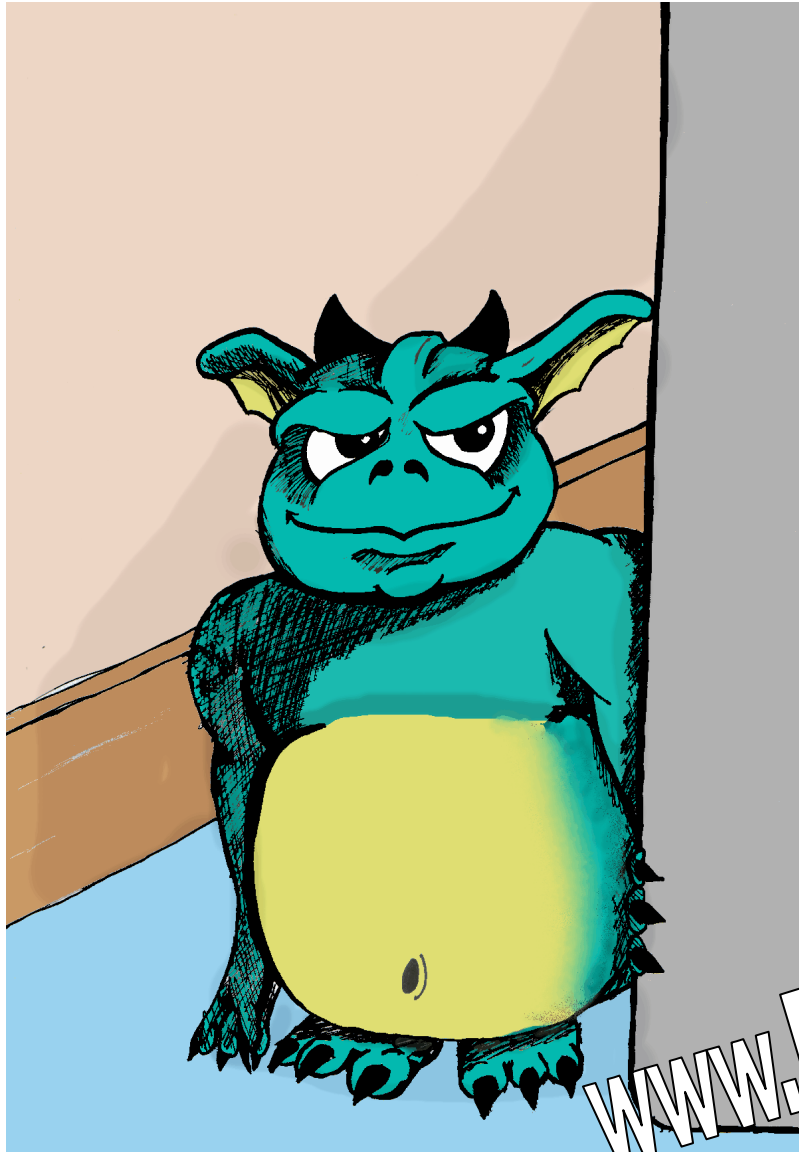


I checked the backdoor, and it was shut tight. I wondered what had caused that strange sound.

Then I heard it again, it was coming from down in the laundry room.

I went down and looked around, but I didn't see anything.





I heard that noise again it was coming from behind the dryer.

“It must be a mouse” I said to myself as I looked behind the dryer. I didn’t find a mouse, but I found a funny looking toy.

“I don’t remember seeing you before” I said to the toy as I picked it up “where did you come from?”

www.FuzzWuzzle.com

I was not expecting what happened next.

This strange little toy in my hand looked up at me and said, “Hi, I’m Gribble, I live here in the house.”

I was shocked. I almost dropped this funny little toy.

“Oh, I’m not a toy, I’m a gremlin,” He smiled at me with his strange little face, “we help out around here, it’s really amazing that you guys even try to get along without us”.

www.FuzzWuzzle.com

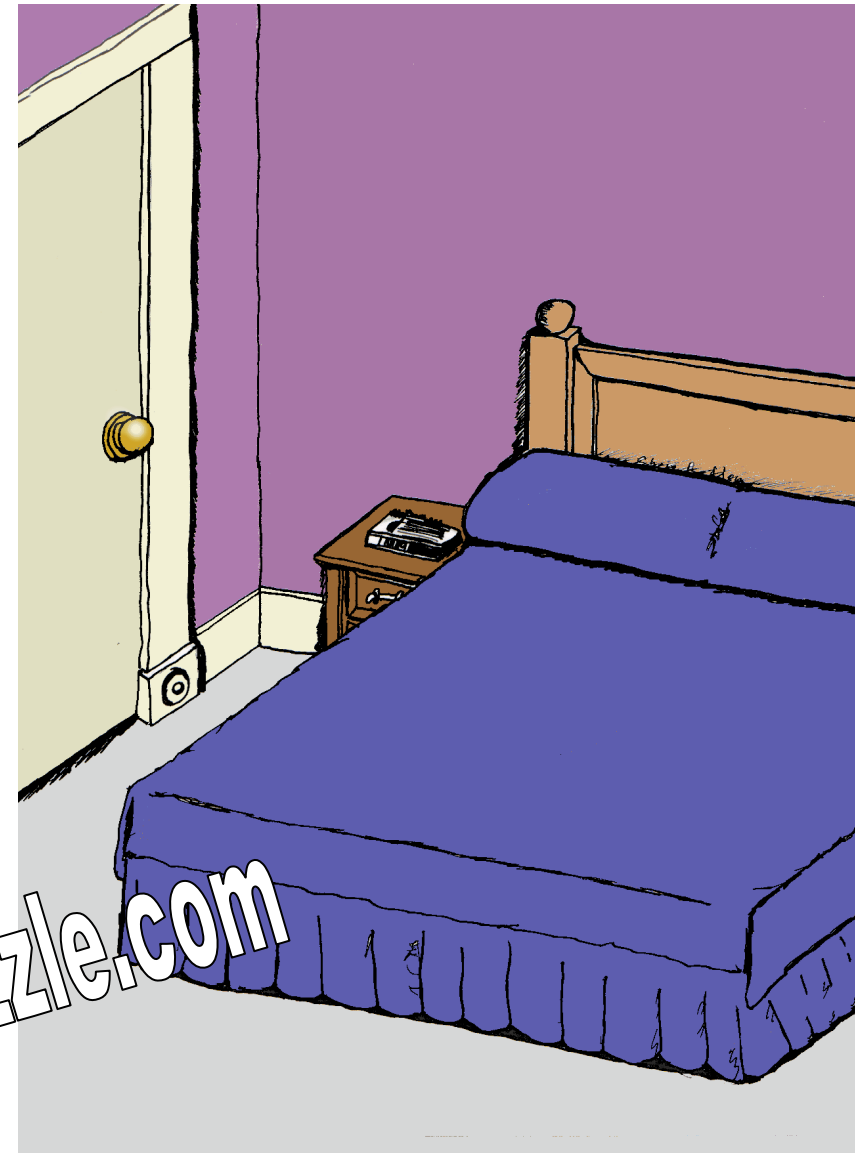


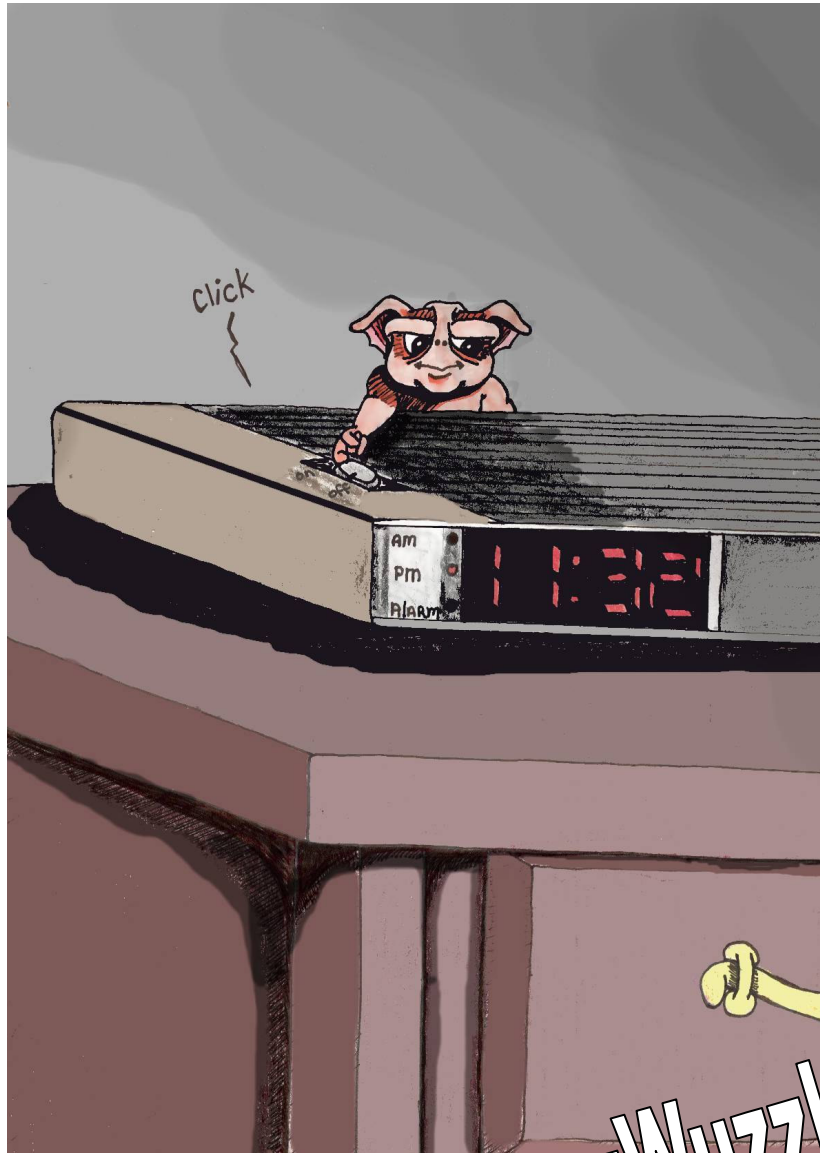
“You mean there’s more than one of you?” I was still surprised “How come we haven’t seen you before?”

“Well we hide during the day, we don’t want to get stepped on you know.” He laughed.

“Take Buzz for example, he lives in your bedroom, he helps you guys out as much as possible....”

“My bedroom?” I asked.





“Sure, he’s quite a busy fellow. He makes sure that when you get chilly you get the blankets. Of course then your wife gets cold and Buzz has to take them off you and put them on her. If you could just stay the same temperature all night, he’d have things a whole lot easier.

“Then there’s that weird noise thing in your room. Why do you have that thing, every morning it makes noise, wakes you up, you’re all grumpy and sleepy. On nights he’s not moving your blankets all over the place for you guys he gets a chance to shut that noise box off.”

“He’s the one who turns off my alarm clock?”

“Is that what you call it? Anyway, when he turns that off, you have all sorts of energy in the morning, you wake up running.”

“So are there any others?” I asked.

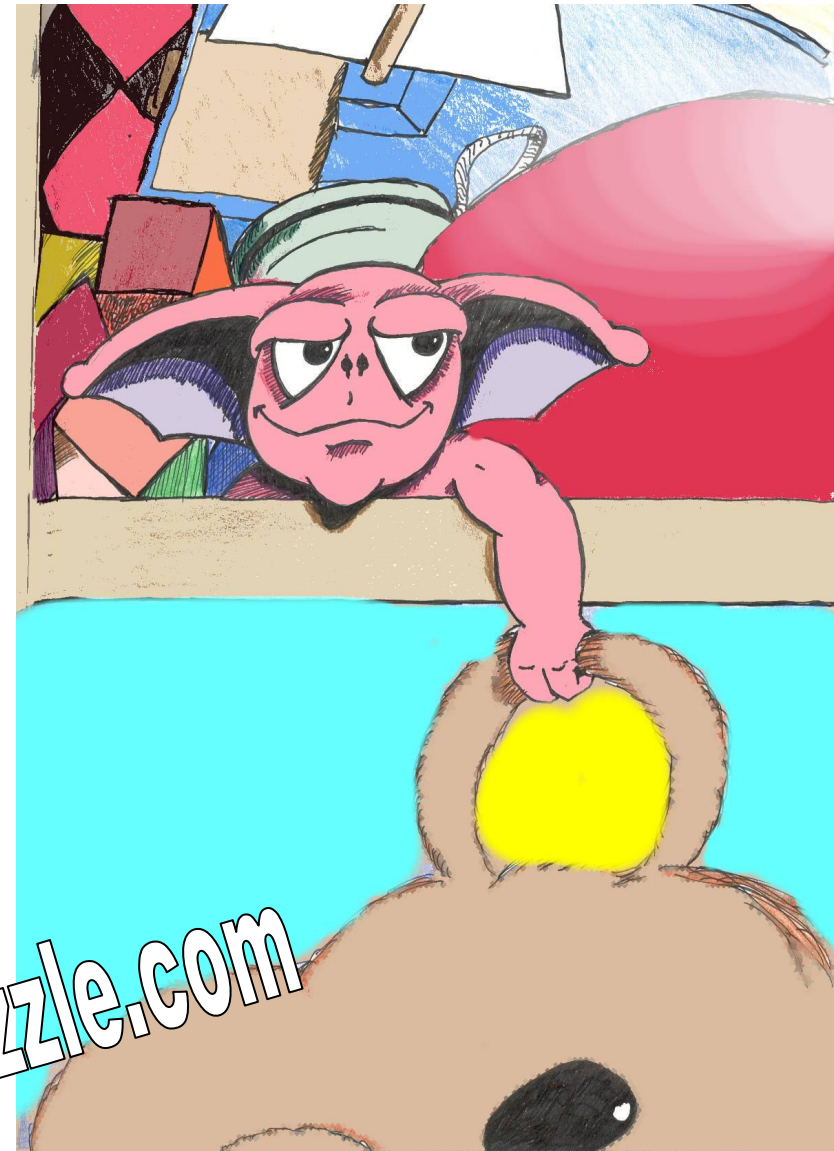
“Sure there are, there’s Sumfin in your kids’ room.”

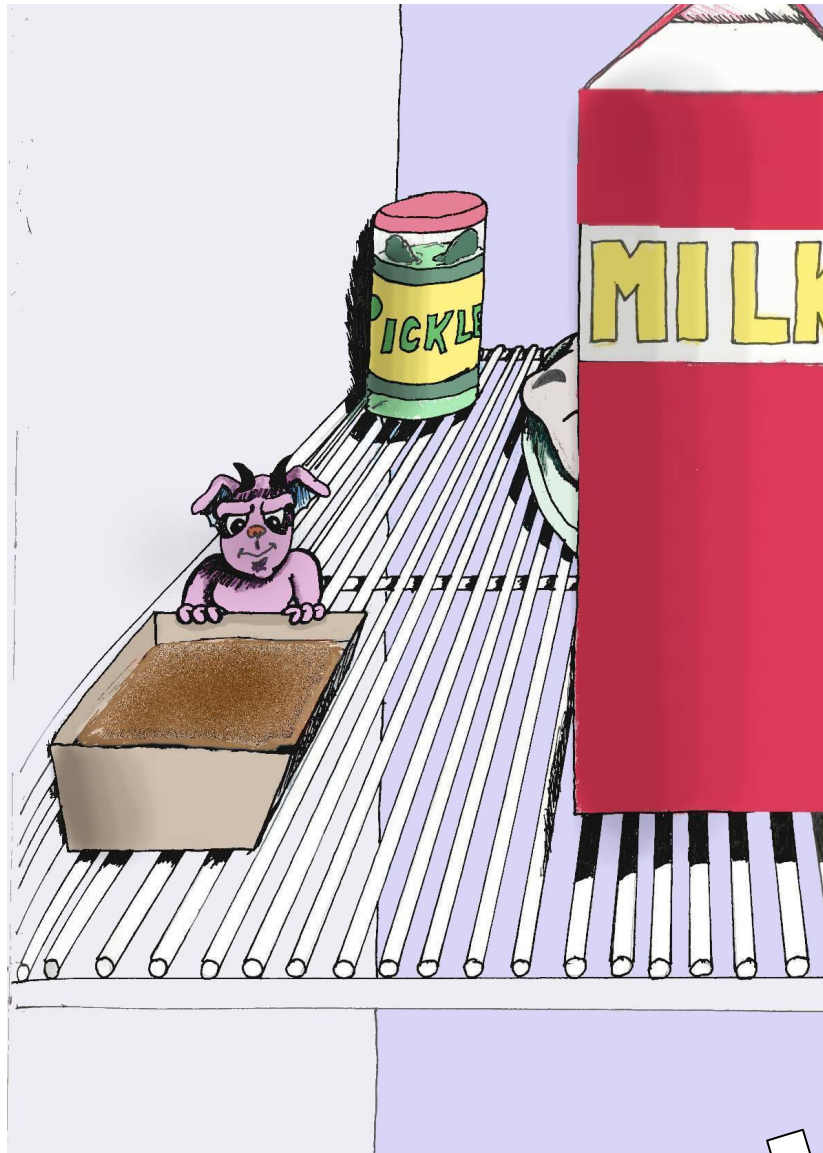
“You mean you don’t know what’s in my kids’ room?”

“Sumfin is his name. Unfortunately, he sometimes wakes you kids up when he’s working.” Gribble said, “Your kids know him, I’m sure they told you about him more than once.”

“My kids know about you guys?” I was surprised.

“I think so, I’ve heard them say ‘Sumfin woke me up’ and ‘Sumfin made a mess in my room’, so he must have introduced himself when he put their toys out where they can find them.”





“Then there’s Wazzat, he lives in the kitchen. He sorts through all of your food, makes sure that you don’t get to some of the things before they ripen.”

“Ripen?” I asked “Do you mean like the bananas on the counter?”

“Oh no, he likes to move the stuff you tend to get into before their due date, like mayonnaise and pickles. You bring these home and they’re clearly marked with a date that you should open them, but you never wait, always getting into them way too soon.” Gribble said, almost scolding me. “Plus there’s all the food he tries to grow for you that you keep throwing out. Usually right after he gets a good fuzz crop growing on the old food you left behind.”



“Okay” I said “who else is here”

“Well there’s a very playful gremlin named Hetch, he wanders all over the house, constantly putting things back for you guys. If your bank card and keys were meant to be kept in your pocket, then they wouldn’t fall into the couch on their own every chance they get.

“Poor Hetch has to keep going to your coat or pants and take them out and put them in the chairs and couches when you don’t take the time to sit and let them go back on their own.”

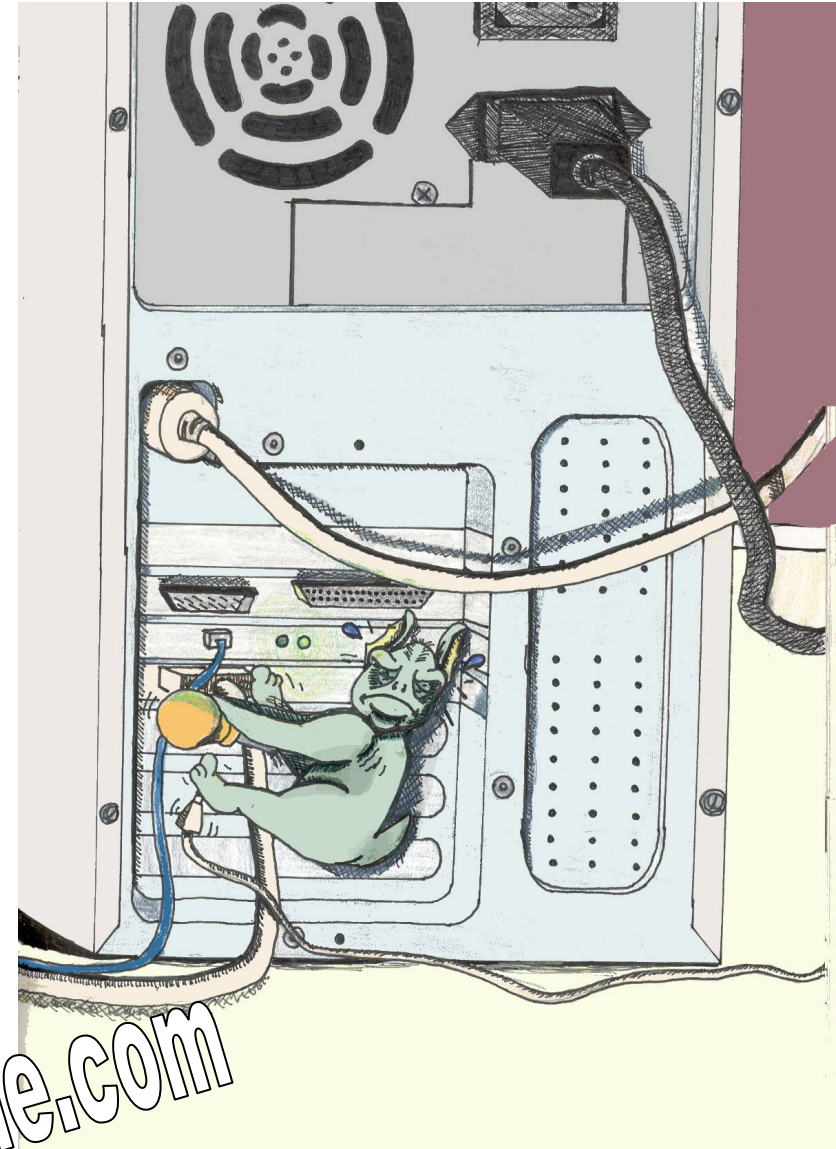
I grinned, so many times I couldn’t find my keys, only to find them in the couch.

“All the things he has to put away, crumbs, hair elastics, loose change, it’s a wonder you don’t lose this stuff forever.”

“Then of course there’s Juju. He stays on top of all of your appliances and electronics in the house.

“He works very hard at making sure all things are running the way they should. Moving things around on the computer so that they don’t get bored and stop working, improving your toasters so that they do the job they’re supposed to. It’s a lot of work for one gremlin to handle you know.

“Especially that computer, did you know he gets on there every night and starts cleaning out all of that information you don’t need anymore. You never use anything in the operating system folder. He spends hours on hours removing that stuff for you.”



www.FuzzWuzzle.com

“I forgot to mention Woohoo, he lives in your sing-room”

“I don’t know what you mean by sing-room” I said.

“You know the room where you go behind the curtain and turn on water and practice your singing. He likes to help you reach those high notes, he’s never known why, but when he makes the water spin in the funny sink, you sing high behind the curtain.

“Plus he saves you time when you clean your teeth, all that you would waste unscrewing caps from tubes, all done for you and squeezed in the center so that you can pick it up easier.”

“You mean the bathroom, I wondered who did those things” I said.



www.FuzzWuzzle.com

“What do you do Gribble?” I asked.

“Me, well I have the best job of all,” said Gribble with a big grin “I stay down here most of the day, re-linting the laundry. Plus I get to taste test the socks to make sure they’re not poisonous.

“Usually it’s just a nibble in the heel, or a nibble on the toe. Sometimes I have to check both and take a couple of bites from each end.”

“Have you ever found a poisonous sock?” I wondered.

“Not yet, but sometimes you have to eat a whole sock to be sure. If you don’t mind, I do have work to finish.” said Gribble as he hopped out of my hand and into the pile of laundry. I couldn’t see him anymore.



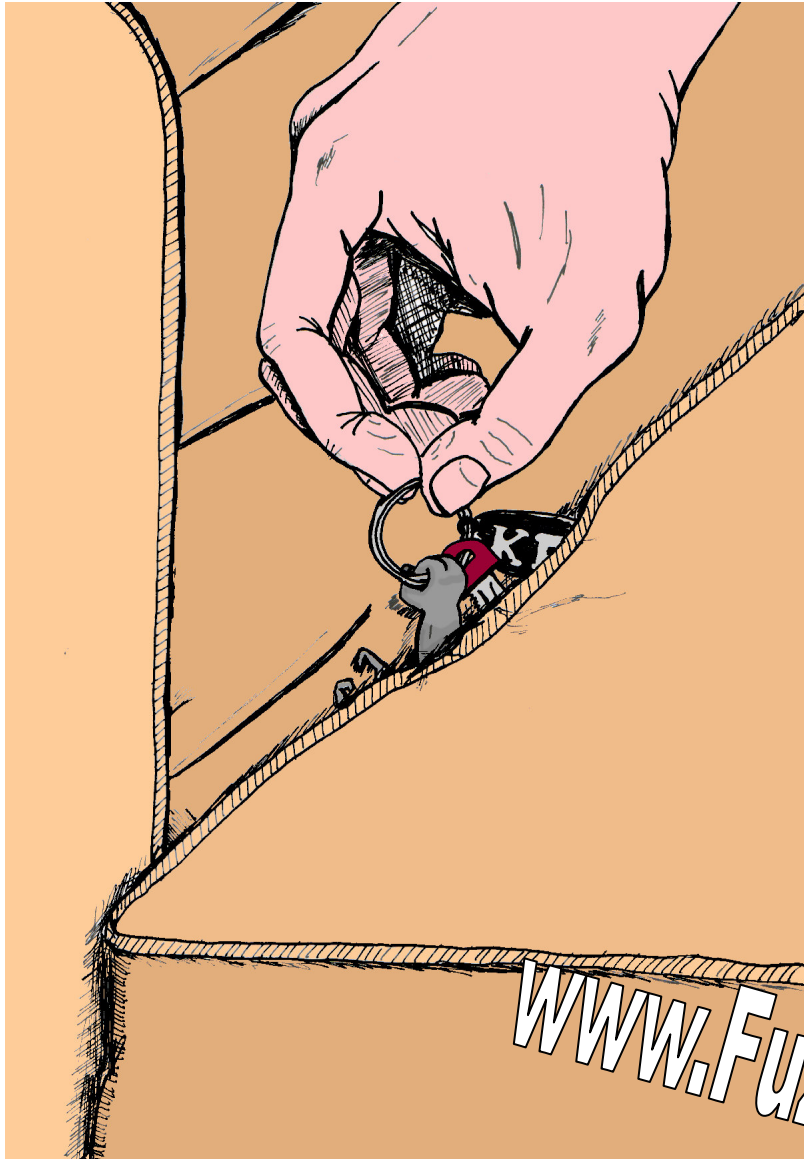
I don't remember having gone to bed after my visit with Gribble, but when I woke up the next morning I was in my room, the alarm clock hadn't gone off this morning and my wife was almost late getting off to work.

I wondered if it had all been a dream. Gremlins wandering around my house seemed funny now that I think about it.

I looked at the hole in the toe of my sock and wondered how funny it would be if the gremlins were real. Imagine such a silly thing.

I finished my cup of coffee and got myself ready to go to work myself. If only I could find my car keys.





“They couldn’t be” I said to myself. I reached down behind the cushion of the couch and sure enough I felt my car keys.

As I pulled them out, they seemed to be stuck on something. Almost as if they were being pulled back into the couch.

“It’s okay Hetch,” I said with a smile “I promise to put them back when I’m done with them.”

Such a silly notion, but the keys came free from whatever had snagged them.

I looked again at the couch, the hole in my sock, thought about the alarm clock not going off and the mess in the kids’ room.

Maybe I wasn’t dreaming after all.

www.FuzzWuzzle.com