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## *Holly in the New Millenium*

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### *Holly in the New Millenium*

#### **Abstract**

Once upon a time Holly's grandmother used to fly about, playing hide and seek with the butterflies amongst the flowers. But that was then and now there was a whole new world with global warming that threatened flowers, butterflies and, ultimately, fairies of all sorts.

#### **Additional Keywords**

Story; Fiction; Susan Cornford

# Holly in the New Millennium

By Susan Cornford

Once upon a time Holly's grandmother used to fly about, playing hide and seek with the butterflies amongst the flowers. But that was then and now there was a whole new world with global warming that threatened flowers, butterflies and, ultimately, fairies of all sorts.

That was why they were holding this summit, with representatives of what humans called "supernatural" creatures from all over the world. Holly gazed around the fairy ring in the midst of the world's last great forest, pleased to see such a good turnout. She was not surprised to see a large contingent of yetis and sasquatches, as they inhabited the rapidly dwindling frozen places.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia, the local wood nymph, and the very air grew heavier as each group reported in turn. Even the mermaids, represented by the Frog Prince, were already suffering from desalination of the seas.

Finally they put forward any ideas for solving the problem, which took them a great deal less time. In the end, they voted for a world-wide fly-over to scatter fairy dust. This was intended to enchant the humans so they would all start doing environmentally-friendly things.

All the supernatural folk who knew even a little bit of chemistry were tasked with making extra supplies of fairy dust. Others, like Pegasus and the unicorns, transported stockpiles to the distribution points. It was set for the next full moon to ensure the best visibility for complete coverage of the planet.

Holly lined up proudly to take on her load of fairy dust and filled all her special pockets; the amount was carefully calculated to be the maximum that she could carry and still get airborne. They'd all been doing strength and stamina exercises to be super fit. The signal was given, and they all took off and scattered every last grain of the fairy dust over the earth.

The only problem was that several large volcanos then erupted and this ended up blowing most of the fairy dust out into space. Who was to know that it would give Hades an allergic reaction and make him sneeze? So, it was back to the drawing board.

After a long debate, the leprechauns agreed to donate all their pots of gold to help the cause. Brian suggested that they post challenges for humans on social media, with rewards at the end of the rainbow, for implementing the best "green" product or technique. This was all set to be put into place when they realized that, no matter how much it rained, there were no rainbows appearing anywhere in the sky. An emergency session was called to which Iris was invited. She explained that all of her rainbows were still there; they just couldn't be seen because the colors had been bleached out by the fairy dust.

Nobody could think of a single other way to magically help overcome the problems of the environment that they shared with humans. So, they sadly went home to make the best of what they had left whilst it lasted.

Holly sat on her trademark hollyhock and swayed back and forth in the breeze, humming softly to herself. One of the human children was in the garden as well, playing with her doll that sat in a small chair, facing the girl. "Now, Eve, you must pay close attention! We are going to put out all of our solar panels to absorb the energy from the sun. Then we'll divide our rubbish into the proper bins for recycling as much as possible. Finally, we can water the flowers because it's our rostered day for doing it. Remember, it's our job to save the planet, so your children will have somewhere beautiful like this to play."

Not long after that, each human child on Earth was paired with a magical "advisor" from the local area. It was everyone's best chance to live happily ever after.