

10-2-2013

The Princess and the Goblin

Maggie Mason Smith

Clemson University, mason5@clemson.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "The Princess and the Goblin" (2013). *Publications*. 73.

https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs/73

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.

MacDonald, George. *The Princess and the Goblin*. Illus. Arthur Hughes. New York: Puffin Books, 1964. Print.

PZ8.M1754 Pr 1951

“There was a legend current in the country that at one time they lived above ground, and were very like other people. But for some reason or other, concerning which there were different legendary theories, the king had laid what they thought too severe taxes upon them, or had required observances of them they did not like, or had begun to treat them with severity, in some way or other, and impose stricter laws; the consequence was that they had all disappeared from the face of the country.” – page 2-3

In keeping with the king’s orders, eight-year-old Princess Irene has never been outside at night before. But one day, when the princess and her nurse stray too far from home, they find themselves out after dark and in fright, lose their way. The two are soon pursued by goblins, an entire race of which live in caverns underneath the kingdom, and of whom the princess was previously unaware. A young boy leaving work in the mines finds the princess and her nurse, and teaching them that the goblins hate verse of every kind, sings them safely home.

Princess Irene is grateful to the boy, Curdie, for helping her home; however, with the assistance of her magical great-great-grandmother, some thread, and a ring, Irene will soon be saving Curdie from the goblins instead. But before the princess finds him, Curdie discovers the goblins have conspired against the kingdom above and may have already begun to set their plot into motion. Ultimately, it will take the cleverness and the courage of both Curdie and Princess Irene to save the kingdom by thwarting each of the goblins’ wicked plans.

George MacDonald’s classic, though lesser-known tale of Princess Irene, Curdie, and the goblins is surprisingly profound; readers will find the princess sheltered though wise for her age, the young miner industrious and conscientious in all aspects, and the resentful goblins to be pitied for – despite being the final cause of – their plight. Aside from a sometimes predictable plot, MacDonald creates a captivating world filled with lively characters who espouse a compelling message. *The Princess and the Goblin* is a must-read for all lovers of fantasy.