

end

## Mysterious Mabel

*Yesterday was the strangest day of my life so far. Let me tell you about it...*

I had been at the local Carnival all day with my best friend, Sally. It was starting to get dark, and finally the firework display was going to start. I love fireworks, but Sally was a little wary about them. Then suddenly it began, the first firework shot up into the sky before exploding and becoming many beautiful, brightly-coloured lines lighting up the dark sky. I looked behind me to see if Sally was enjoying the spectacle as much as I was, but she wasn't there, she had gone. I looked all around for her, but I couldn't see her anywhere. I admit I was feeling really cross by this time. If she had decided to go home I wish she would have told me. I spent so much time looking for her that I did not realise that the Carnival was over and the crowds had dispersed. I looked at my watch I nearly freaked, it was already 9:30 pm, the time I should be home by and as usual my phone battery was flat! I think it was this fact that led me to be reckless and gave me the strangest experience.

I set off to go home and decided to take a short cut among the country lanes. I had been in the park many times and thought I knew the place well, but that was during the day time. The whole place looked different in the dark and I was soon lost, alone and getting very frightened. There was no one around and it was dark and very strange. I felt so uneasy as though something terrible was going to happen to me. I don't easily spook but I truly felt I was not alone. The noise from the woods surrounding me were so eerie, scrambling and screeching, the trees in the dim light looked like malevolent witches fingers reaching out to

grab me as I walked. I began to whimper with fear when suddenly at my side was a woman dressed in an ancient costume as many of the stall holders had been in that day. "Whatever ails you maid?" she asked, I loved the way she was staying in character and replied "I am so lost and in so much trouble, I don't know what to do"

"Fear not and follow me nothing is a do that can't be sorted."

Although she was a stranger and I should have been wary, I felt that I could trust her and side by side we walked along the dark and strangely chilly lanes and I noticed she was not wearing any shoes although this fact did not seem to bother her or effect her stride. Her very presence was comforting and suddenly all my fear left me and I was sure I could hear the busy main road ahead. Sure enough the lights of the main road came into view and I knew immediately where I was. "Thank you so much" I began to say turning to my companion but I was alone and she was no longer in sight.

I rushed to the road and the nearby phone box to phone mum to explain what had happened and to ask her to collect me as I was suddenly so cold again.

Mum arrived and although she was cross about the flat phone battery was so relieved that I was safe. I explained about my strange companion through the park and my mum looked at me in astonishment "Well, I suppose it could have been a stall holder but your friend sounds like Lady Mabel, the local legendary lady who lived at the park hundreds of years ago"

*Well, maybe I will see Lady Mabel again someday, or maybe not, but I will always remember the sadness in her eyes and the warmth of her heart.*