

## Teeth

When one of her milk teeth fell out, Mum said, 'Put it under your pillow tonight, and while you're asleep the Tooth Fairy will come and give you 20p.'

In the morning the tooth was gone, and there was 20p, just like Mum had promised.

Not bad.

The next tooth that fell out was bigger, and she thought it ought to be worth more. You couldn't do much with 20p. 50p was more like it. Or even a pound.

But there was only 20p under her pillow in the morning. It wasn't fair. The Tooth Fairy was *mean*.

When the third tooth came out, she wrote a note.

*'Dear Tooth Fairy,'* it said. *'20p isn't enough. I want one pound. Or even two.'*

In the morning, she looked eagerly under her pillow. The note had gone. And there was 20p.

She was very cross, so she decided on a plan.

Out came another tooth, and under her pillow it went. But this time she only pretended to be asleep. At midnight, a teeny creature appeared. It had gossamer wings, and it was carrying a teeny bag. It felt under the pillow with a teeny hand, and –

*'Gotcha!'* she cried. The Tooth Fairy squealed and wriggled, but she didn't let go.

*'Didn't you get my note?'* she demanded. *'I want more money for my teeth!'*

*'It's not allowed!'* gasped the Tooth Fairy. *'Rules are rules – 20p per tooth!'*

*'I want more!'* she growled. *'If you don't give it to me, I'll squash you!'* She squeezed, to show what she meant.

*'Look,'* spluttered the fairy, *'I'm only doing my job! I can't give you more money unless you give me more teeth! Two pounds, at 20p a tooth – that's...ten teeth!'*

*'All right,'* she said. *'Come back tomorrow night. And make sure you've got money with you, or else.'*

That night, she took Grandad's dentures from the bathroom. Loads of teeth there – she'd get at least two pounds! She put the dentures under her pillow and went to sleep feeling pleased with herself.

In the morning she stuck her hand under the pillow –

*'OWWWW! OH, HELP! MUM!'*

The dentures had snapped shut on her fingers, and they wouldn't come off. Grandad found a two-pound coin under his pillow. He never worked out where it came from.

She had to go to hospital to have the dentures removed. Her fingers hurt for weeks.

And under her pillow there was a note, in teeny writing.

*'That'll teach you,'* it said.

It did.

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