A Bit of Magic
It was a cold night.
Garbargum, the bad goblin, flew about the forest. He had slept all day. Now it was time to do something naughty. Garbargum flew over the forest. He came to a village.
In the village lived an old woman called Ma Irkee. She had a spinning-wheel. She spun thread and wove it into cloth. Ma Irkee was poor but very happy. She could make others happy too. All she had to do was touch her magic spindle and say the magic word, “Coo”. Garbargum did not like anyone to be happy. He thought, “I must take away the spindle.”
Some nights later Garbargum returned to the village. He flew to Ma Irkee's hut. He clapped his hands and became flat as a leaf. He now slid under the door.
Ma Irkee was asleep.
Garbargum found the spinning-wheel.
He took the spindle and away he went, out of the hut.
Day had dawned. Garbargum saw a woman milking a cow. He thought, “I’ll throw some pebbles into the milk. Oh, what fun!” But, strange to tell, he did not throw pebbles into the milk. Instead he touched the spindle. He also said, “Coo”. And the woman began to sing for joy. Garbargum felt happy too.
He flew to the village pond. Some boys were having a bath. Garbargum thought, “I’ll pinch one. And that will start a fight. Oh, what fun!” But he did not pinch anyone. Instead he touched the spindle. He also said, “Coo”. As if by magic, one boy thought of a game. They all began to laugh and play.
So Garbargum went round. He made everyone happy. He was happiest himself. When the sun rose high, Garbargum felt sleepy. He thought, “I must return the spindle to Ma Irkee.” Ma Irkee was sitting in front of her hut.
Garbargum stood before her. He said, “Ma Irkee, there’s your spindle. I’m very sorry I took it away.” Ma Irkee jumped up. She smiled and touched Garbargum with the spindle. She also said the magic word thrice, “Coo-coo-coo”. 
And now Garbargum is the nicest and the happiest goblin alive.
Titles in this series:
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- HOPPITY'S SONG
- PEACOCK AND THE HUNTER