

Transcript for Story On Podcast: The Creature in my Candy - Starting with ACTION!

Chapter 1: Opening

Hello friends and welcome to Story On. I'm Laura, your host and I am so glad you are able to join us here today!

This is our last Halloween story of the month! We have had so much fun sharing Halloween stories with you. We hope you have enjoyed them too!

This story starts with action! Starting with action is a way of jumping right into the story and grabbing the attention of the audience as their brains scramble to figure out what is going on!

Let's get right to it!

[fading chime music]

Chapter 2: Story

This is the Creature in my Candy

[dramatic music]

Sarah ran quickly down the sidewalk and up the stairs.

She burst through the front door into the quiet lobby. She hurriedly made her way over to the elevator, her footsteps bouncing around the room like thunder.

She pressed the button repeatedly to call the elevator.

After what felt like eternity, there was a familiar ding and the elevator doors opened.

Sarah rushed aboard and frantically pushed the button to close the doors. "Come on, Come on! Close! Close!!!"

She didn't want anyone else coming to the elevator and slowing her down.

Phew! The doors closed and the elevator started slowly rising towards the fifth floor.

Sarah relaxed as she leaned against the side of the elevator, "Almost there. Home stretch," she reassured herself.

When the elevator door opened, Sarah was ready, with her keys in hand. She ran down the hallway, her unzipped jacket flapping behind her.

Moments later, she was greeting her mother, father and little sister inside their apartment. After the usual how was your day questions and answers, Sarah excused herself and scurried away to her bedroom.

She quickly closed her door and carefully took off her backpack. She placed it on her bed and cautiously unzipped the small front pocket.

Then, she gently reached in and pulled out a red and blue striped candy wrapper.

You know the kind where the ends are twisted and you pull them to open it?

She held the candy, balancing it in the palm of her hand, pausing to steady herself. "Ok, here we go! The moment I've been waiting for alllll day!" She cautiously untwisted the ends one at a time, being careful to keep the wrapper steady.

Sarah's heart pounded at what she saw. Her jaw dropped open.

She let out a quiet yelp, "What in the blue moon is that!?"

She quickly put the candy wrapper on her bed and took a couple of steps backward.

A tiny creature sat in the middle of the wrapper. Its arms were hugging its knees. Its eyes were wide as it looked up at Sarah.

"So my mind wasn't playing tricks on me! There WAS a tiny creature in my candy wrapper! You really are here!" Sarah said, her voice raising in excitement.

The tiny creature grumbled and covered its ears with its hands.

"Oops. Sorry," Sarah lowered her voice. Apparently her voice was super loud for this little creature, which made sense. "It's like I'm a giant!" Sarah whispered. The little guy looked uneasy. "Oh, but I'm not! I'm just a regular person...."

There was a knock on the door. "Sarah, dinner in 10 minutes. Are you doing your homework in there?"

"Ok, Dad! Sounds delicious! On it, yep! Got it! No need to come in!" Sarah winced. She stared intensely at the doorknob. "*Please don't turn, please don't turn!*" She breathed a sigh of relief when she heard her dad's feet shuffling down the carpeted hallway.

Sarah turned back to the little creature who continued to grumble and growl but in a kind of friendly way?

"It's ok, I'm not going to hurt you, I promise. I'm just going to look in my desk for a minute, ok?" Sarah thought she saw the creature's head nod. It was hard to tell from a distance since the little guy was so tiny.

Sarah slowly walked over to her desk and opened the drawer. She dug around for her magnifying glass.

Sarah returned to her bed and whispered "I'm just going to look at you through this magnifying glass, ok? It's just going to make it a bit easier for me to see you. It won't hurt or anything. You won't even feel it, ok?"

The tiny guy looked up.

As Sarah peaked through the magnifying glass, she could see it nodding.

Sarah was fascinated by what she saw. "Whoaaa. What in the world?!"

The little creature had a bald head, grey skin and bat shaped ears. Its nose was flat. It had some ripped orange cloth wrapped around it like a robe. And it was suuuuper tiny. Like about half the size of a finger. It breathed pretty loudly for such a tiny little thing and seemed to constantly be growling and grumbling but not in a threatening way.

"What are you!? And where in the world did you come from!?" Sarah wondered.

She noticed that the creature's lips started moving. It was talking. But Sarah couldn't hear. Hmmm maybe if she could get it closer to her ears....Sarah took a deep breath to gather her courage. The little guy didn't seem dangerous, despite its unusual appearance...

(Sarah): "Is it ok if I pick you up? And put you next to my ear? I can't hear what you're saying..."

The little guy nodded and stood up. Sarah opened her palm and placed her hand next to the mysterious creature. It climbed onto Sarah's hand and crouched down, holding on to Sarah's thumb.

Its skin felt hard and cold. Sarah slowly raised it to her ear.

"Do you speak English, little guy? I'm Sarah, by the way. What's your name?...Do you have a name?!"

"[grumble] It's Zroiq. I'm Zroiq," the little guy responded timidly.

Sarah grinned excitedly. She could hear Zroiq's tiny voice! And it didn't sound scary! "Where did you come from!? How did you end up in my Halloween candy wrapper!?"

Sarah had first discovered Zroiq when she opened up her candy at school.

Her father had let her take a handful of leftover Halloween candy to eat during lunch and when she'd opened her last one, she'd discovered this little guy.

Sarah had quickly wrapped the candy back up and placed it in her backpack. Then she had anxiously waited for the school day to be done so she could take another look at home.

Sarah was so curious to hear about Zroiq and how he ended up in the candy wrapper! Sarah asked again, "Where did you come from, Zroiq? And why are you so small?!"

(Zroiq): "[grumble] I'm a House Goblin. We're like regular goblins but tiny and we live in human homes..."

(Sarah): "A House Goblin?! You live with humans?! Do you live in this building!?"

(Zroiq): "I...I don't know if I should tell you...my dad always says humans can't be trusted..."

"Can't be trusted!? But we're not scary. Humans are good, Zroiq! Me, I'm good. You can trust me!" Sarah smiled warmly and looked Zroiq straight in his beady little eyes. The more time she spent with Zroiq, the more comfortable she felt. He didn't seem scary at all! In fact, it was Zroiq who seemed a bit scared of Sarah.

Zroiq nodded slowly. "I live close by. There are a lot of House Goblins around here. But we stay in the shadows. We're not supposed to let you see us. That's how I ended up in the candy wrapper. I actually live here, in this home with my family. We share this apartment with you. Only you don't know you're sharing it with us...We come out at night, when you're all sleeping. We've been here for as long as I can remember. We've had a few close calls, but nothing major. Until this morning when your dad came into the kitchen earlier than usual for breakfast. We weren't expecting anyone and we couldn't get home before he turned on the lights. We had to take cover. I crawled into the candy wrapper. My sister and brother hid in the utensil drawer. And then I ended up going to school with you..."

Sarah was astounded. She had absolutely no idea she'd been sharing her home with a family of House Goblins!

She sat for a moment, shocked at the idea that as she slept, tiny goblins were quietly going about their lives in the very same space as her.

The sound of a quiet snuffle snapped her out of her thoughts and brought her back to reality.

Sarah looked into her hand. Zroiq was kneeling with his face in his hands. He was crying!

(Sarah): "Oh, why are you crying!? Don't cry! What's the matter??"

(Zroiq): "I..I need to get back to my family. They must be so worried about me. I need to tell them that I'm ok."

(Sarah): "Of course! I'm sorry, I was so shocked by the existence of House Goblins that I didn't even think about how you must be feeling! Good news, though. You guys live here, yeah!? So it should be easy for you to get back home, right!?"

(Zroiq): "That's ok. I've seen myself in the mirror. I understand your surprise! We do live here, in this apartment. But we only come out at night. During the day, we hide in a little gap in the floorboards. In the hallway on the other side of the kitchen. But there's no way I can make it there unnoticed with your whole family in the kitchen for dinner! [sob] I just really want to tell my family that I'm ok. Oooh they must be so worried! I really hope they don't come out looking for me! If they do, something could go horribly wrong! Like they could get stepped on or lost or...I don't know. We're just not supposed to come out when the humans are around!"

(Sarah): "Ok, don't panic. We can work together to get you back to your family. My family isn't scary. But I won't tell them about you guys. I promise. Let's get you to your family, ok?" Zroiq nodded quickly. "Ok."

Just then, Sarah heard footsteps shuffling down the hall.

"Quick! In my hoodie pocket!" Sarah scooped up Zroiq and placed him inside her pocket. It was kind of like a kangaroo pouch. She pulled one end open and peaked in. "Are you ok in there?" Zroiq gave her a thumbs up.

[knock knock] "Sarah? Dinner's ready." Her dad cracked the door open and looked in. "Oh good, you've already cleaned up your homework. Come to the table, honey. Don't want the pizza getting cold!"

Sarah quickly followed her dad down into the kitchen. She looked down the hallway. She really wished she had been able to talk more with Zroiq about some kind of plan before her dad had come. Oh well. This way will be more interesting.

Sarah took a seat at the round table. Everyone had their own special place where they always sat. It was kind of like assigned seating at school.

Sarah smiled as she looked around. She realized that her place was opposite the hallway where ZroiQ and his family lived. That meant that Sarah could distract her family so they were all looking at her, while also keeping an eye down the hallway to make sure ZroiQ got back safely to his family. Perfect!

She carefully reached her hand into her pocket and ZroiQ climbed on. She placed her hand on her knee and ZroiQ climbed out and slowly scooted down Sarah's leg till he was under the table.

Sarah waited a few minutes. She needed to give ZroiQ enough time to get out from underneath the table and into the open space of the hallway before she started distracting her family. She didn't know how long she could hold their attention.

Sarah wiggled her foot anxiously. Then, out of the corner of her eye, she saw movement. If she didn't know any better, Sarah would have thought it was a bug of some sort. But that was no bug. It was ZroiQ. He'd made it out of the kitchen and was entering the hallway.

"Oh!" Sarah said loudly. Everyone had been silently eating their pizza. It was delicious and they were all very hungry.

"What is it Sarah?" asked her mom.

Her dad and sister looked at her expectantly as they slowly chewed.

(Sarah): "Ummm...in school today we were talking about...funny things people can do with their faces."

"Huh. Interesting topic..." her dad said. He crossed his eyes and scrunched up his nose. Everyone giggled.

Sarah snuck a peek down the hallway. ZroiQ had already made it to the floorboard and was lifting it up. House Goblins could move pretty quickly! Two heads popped out from the hole. His family! Sarah smiled.

Then she looked back at her family. All eyes were on her. Right, funny faces. She cleared her throat..."Ahem... Yeah, I realized that I can do something pretty cool with my eyebrows!"

"Yeah? What's that?" asked her little sister.

“Wiggle them!” Sarah answered a little too enthusiastically. She was having a hard time keeping an eye on ZroiQ and having a conversation with her family.

“Hello? Sarah? Are you going to show us or what!?” asked her little sister.

Straight ahead, Sarah saw ZroiQ lower the floorboard as he disappeared under it. Phew. He made it! They were all safe in their hiding spot! Sarah quickly raised and lowered her eyebrows.

“Huh!? That’s not special! We can all do that…” commented her sister. “See!?” she demonstrated.

“Oh yeah, oops…” Sarah hunched in her chair. She was relieved that ZroiQ had made it back to his family’s spot safely, but she also felt disappointed. Would she ever see ZroiQ again? The idea of living in the same space with a family of House Goblins and not even seeing them again was just really disappointing.

After dinner, Sarah finished her homework and went to bed. It took her a while to fall asleep. She kept thinking about ZroiQ and the House Goblins and wishing she could somehow get a message to him. Then, at some point, she fell asleep.

Suddenly, a familiar grumbling sound brought her out of her slumber. She opened her eyes and sprung up out of bed. There, on her nightstand, stood ZroiQ.

But not just him. His whole family was standing there! They thanked her for helping ZroiQ make it home safely and asked if it would be ok if they visited her at night once in a while. Sarah happily agreed before crawling back into bed and falling into a deep and peaceful sleep.

In the days that followed, Sarah enjoyed discovering little surprises and messages hidden around her home from ZroiQ, and she would leave little treasures for him as well.

At some point, the House Goblins and Sarah decided to tell Sarah’s family about their secret little roommates. Her family was fascinated by these little creatures and welcomed them to make themselves more comfortable now that they no longer had to live in secret.

The two families continued living together happily for many years to come.

The End

Chapter 3: Discussion

And there you have it! House Goblins and humans, living together in harmony.

How would you feel about House Goblins living in the floorboards of your home!? Or, if you found one in your candy wrapper!?

Can you write your own story about House Goblins!? Or another little creature that could be hiding in a candy wrapper!?

When you write your story, try starting with action! Then, share your story with a friend, your family or me laura@storyonpodcast.com

[cheerful closing theme starts]

That's our show for today!

I'd like to say a big thank you to Alina, who played Sarah. Thanks, Alina!

If you would like to support Story On, you can give us a five star review wherever you get your podcasts. And don't forget to tell your friends about us!

We will be taking a short break from the show but I promise we will be back soon with more fun stories.

In the meantime, make sure to subscribe to Story On so you'll know as soon as we're back to it! Until next time!

[music fades]