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# ELF AND SPLOT

## THE FIRST MIDDLE

*“Wake up!” said Splot in a loud and commanding voice. Elf stretched and paid attention immediately and was aware that Splot had something of importance to share. Splot led them further into the forest, past the hanging branches of green, over the textured ground deeper until the light changed colour and the sounds took on a special quality. They came to a clearing. The space was warm and inviting and Elf spent many moments wondering how it came to be and theorising about the purpose of the space. Elf tried to understand how this particular clearing had come about. Splot remained still and seemed to be appreciating the atmosphere for all its qualities.*

*After a while, a commotion approached. First the commotion was a chill in the air, and then came a special sound and the light in the sky seemed to change. Elf grew more and more fearful of the noise and the shadows that were appearing. The atmosphere changed. Elf hid and watched as Splot remained centred in his location. Large monsters appeared from the shadows that looked like things that Elf thought an Elf should recognise. One monster made frightening faces, another scary sounds, and several other monsters moved in erratic and upsetting ways. Their sounds grew louder and they became more ferocious and threatening. Elf was fearful of the monsters. Splot remained solid. The monsters grew more threatening.*

*With arms extended, Splot gestured to the creatures and invited them closer. Elf watched, transfixed as the monsters advanced. Splot remained centred, Elf continued to be scared. As Elf watched, the monsters neared Splot and began to shrink in size and reduce their volume. The expressions changed and Splot invited the monsters further. Elf was transfixed as he saw all the monsters jump up onto one or other of Splot’s shoulders. Their expressions changed and they seemed to be talking to Splot. Splot was clearly listening and giving them*

*instructions. Elf wondered what they were saying to each other and over the coming moments began to realise he had witnessed something special.*

*“Follow me!” said Splot enthusiastically, “we have much to explore together.” Elf followed willingly, the promise of what lay ahead was too much for him to ignore.*