



Further side stories from the book  
Hob Hill – The Beginning.

It is recommended that you read the book  
first to understand the whole story.

Loxi  
And  
Tin



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*How did Loxi end up at the hill with Tin?*

Loxi loves to explore beyond the walled garden, but her father Herb does not approve. The garden provides safety for the Hobs, with large spaces to roam and lovely herbs and vegetables to eat. Although Loxi is grateful for the comfortable home and safety, she yearns for adventure.

Today her friend Tin, a curious, wandering hob with no home, invited her to see something he had never seen before! Loxi was thankful to be on the outside of the walled



garden as she followed Tin, who was



Tin

striding ahead. Loxi looked up to see the dark canopy of trees above. They had reached a dense part of the woods that shrouded everything in

subdued light, even though it was a bright sunny day.

"It's not far now, I hope it's still there," said Tin.

While walking through the undergrowth filled with plants and grasses, all kinds of thoughts entered Loxi's head, as she tried to guess what Tin wanted to show her.

Tin slowed down, putting his hood up to keep his pale skin hidden. Loxi always wore her hood up as she had bright, blonde hair that could easily be seen by



Tall-Ones (humans). Loxi began to feel nervous, having never travelled this far south of the walled garden before.

They both crept underneath a bush, shielding them from the bright sun. Having reached the edge of the woodland, they could see the land opened out to a large, lush, green field. Loxi rubbed her sore eyes as she focused on the view. Ahead, a few Tall-Ones were running around, laughing. Loxi smiled as she watched them.

“What are they doing?” she asked Tin.

“When I passed early in the day, I heard them talking, they are chasing a game.”

“Chasing a game!” Loxi replied excitedly.

Tin searched the vivid, blue sky. “There it is, look Loxi,” as he pointed up high.

Loxi shielding her eyes from the brightness asked, “Oh, my fruitfulness, what is it?”



“It is a bird, the Tall-Ones have to keep hold of it, but I have never seen a bird like that before,” replied Tin.

“It looks horrid with its sharp teeth and red eyes. No wonder they have to keep a hold it looks like it would happily eat anything!” Loxi said.

It swooped down towards them, then shot back up into the air.

“I think it has seen us, Loxi,” said Tin nervously.

As soon as he said this, it fell from the sky, quickly gaining speed, coming closer and closer. A loud crashing sound echoed above as Tin and Loxi quickly crouched down with their eyes closed. Then there was silence.





The Hobs opened their eyes to see red eyes staring back.

“Hide!” shouted Tin.

They both ran, hiding in the middle of a large bush, keeping safe within its many leaves sprouting from the centre.

A man and boy ran towards them. The Hobs became very frightened.

“Oh, it’s ripped, it won’t fly now,” the young boy said to his father as he picked it up.

His father replied, “Kites are made from thin material and do not last long. We will buy you another from the toy shop. Come on, let’s join in with rounders the sky looks like it might rain soon.”

The hobs waited silently until the humans had moved far away.

Loxi turned to Tin, “Thank the goodness of the land, it’s a toy.”

“A toy?” asked Tin.

Loxi explained, “The Tall-Ones make the toys and have fun with them.”



“Oh, I see, I wonder how it flies?”

“I never knew toys could fly, but now we know what a kite is! Thank you, Tin, for showing it to me. We no longer have to feel afraid when we see a large bird with red eyes and sharp teeth flying above,” laughed Loxi, feeling relieved.

“What wonder we see in the land,” replied Tin.



Loxi and Tin carefully and slowly walked back north to the walled garden. Remembering hiding places as they travelled in case they need to hide quickly from any dangers. They still felt a little jumpy after their encounter with the kite. A strong gust of wind blew them back a little, and the sky grew dark very quickly.



"I do not think we will get back to the walled garden before the storm is here; we need to find shelter," said Tin nervously.

Not much time had passed when large drops of rain began to fall, and Tin raised his hood to protect his head.

"Loxi, we can go to the hill it is just over there," Tin said reassuringly.

"The hill?" asked Loxi, but Tin did not hear as the wind was taking their voices away.

Their little feet splashed through the soggy ground. The leaves hung low with the weight of the water, wetting the Hobs even more.

Tin could see the hill ahead. "Nearly there, Loxi!" he shouted above the wind.

The Hobs held each other's hands as the wind became stronger, making it harder for the Hobs to stay on their feet. Puddles began to appear, and the Hobs had no choice but to wade through with the water now reaching their knees.



The water suddenly became shallower, and the ground began to steepen as Loxi found herself climbing up a steep hill, slipping in the mud as she went. Finally reaching the top, Loxi followed Tin to a hole in the thick, long grass to the right of a tree.

Tin ushered Loxi inside the dark hole that led to tunnels going deep into the hill.

"Follow me, Loxi," said Tin rushing ahead to the eating-room.

In the middle, the long dining table took most of the space. Neat, tidy shelving and a small table hugged one side, with two halves of a conker shell, one filled with water and the other with fresh berries.

"This room is amazing," said Loxi.

"Amazing? The words you use Loxi is 'amazing' to me!" smiled Tin.

Loxi sat down on one of the sturdy stools, wafting the bottom of her wet dress, trying to dry herself.

"Ipp made all of this," Tin explained.



"Who is Ipp?" asked Loxi curiously.

"He is from Hob Glen, the Tall-Ones broke his home, and he made a new one in this hill," replied Tin.

"He is good at making furniture," said Loxi.

Tin replied, "We both have our own homes here in the hill, Ipp calls his, a rest-room."

"I thought you didn't like to stay in one area for long?" Loxi asked.

"I like the hill, it feels like home, so I may stay for a few long days," Tin replied.

"I think it will be lovely for you, Tin," Loxi said reassuring him.

Tin showed Loxi around inside the hill with its many tunnels and rooms until finally reaching Ipp's rest-room.

Loxi spoke as she sat on the bed, "It is so comfortable! I would love to meet Ipp."

Tin replied, "Ipp is like you, open to the land and its mysteries. Let us go back



to the eating-room, I will make you some berry juice."

While Tin squashed berries in the water to make the juice, Loxi asked, "What is Hob Glen like?"

Tin thought for a moment before replying, "many trees grow in the glen with grasses and wildflowers. I have only walked through a few other days and never met the other Hobs living there."

"I am not allowed to visit the glen," Loxi said in an upset tone.

At that moment, a soft gush of wind came into the eating-room. The hobs went to the surface, but as they approached the entrance, the wind blew in stronger. Outside the hill, a constant wind battered the plants and trees. Large drops of rain fell, making the plants look like they are doing a merry dance. Loxi shivered at the thought of being out in the storm. The Hobs made their way back to the safety of the rest-room.



"I am so happy we made it here safely. I hope all the Hobs out in the land have found shelter," Loxi said, concerned.

"I am going to my home now; I still need to dry. You can use Ipp's rest-room," Tin said while making his way out.

"Thank you, Tin."

"You are welcome, Loxi," Tin replied happily.

Loxi finished her berry juice and made her way to Ipp's rest-room. Admiring the room, Loxi decided to try the comfy bed again. As she snuggled down into the soft, moss mattress, Loxi never intended to fall asleep...





*After the storm, Ipp returns from Hob Glen to find Loxi sleeping in his bed!*

This story continues in the book, *Hob Hill – The Beginning*. If you have not already read the book and would like to know what happens, please visit [here](#) for further details.

Thank you for reading!