

Erica and the Wild Haggises by Uncle Ally.

Erica was going to see farmer Tattiebogle to get some tumshies so as they could be cooked and mashed to make neeps to have with tea that night. Erica knew the proper name for tumshies was turnip, but most folk said tumshie and she liked the sound of it better.

Suddenly, Erica heard very loud bangs. Just then farmer Tattiebogle came running down the path. The poor man was in an awful state, "Did you see any of them?" he asked Erica.

"Did I see any of what, Farmer Tattiebogle?" said Erica.

"It's the haggises, they're running wild in the tumshie field. I have been splat-splating them with my porridge gun, but there's just too many of them. Oh deary-deary me, I just don't know what I'm going to do."

"I'll help you farmer Tattiebogle." Erica said and they went back to the tumshie field and chased haggises for ages and ages, but it was no good because as they chased haggises out of the front of the field, other ones came back in again behind them.

Haggises are round creatures slightly smaller than a cat. They have three legs, two on one side and one on the other. The one leg is shorter than the other two so as they can go up around the mountain's slope. Every year they start at the bottom and go all the way up to the top.

It takes a haggis all year to get up the mountain. When they get to the top they fall off and tumble down the mountainside to end up in poor old farmer Tattiebogle's tumshie field.

Erica could see that they weren't getting anywhere other than all hot and sweaty from chasing the wild haggises, "I'll go and see if I can get us some more help," she said and ran back home as fast as she could.

Farmer Tattiebogle had run out of porridge pellets, so went away to have a nice wee cup of tea. He had just finished it when he heard an awful lot of wailing and groaning like some big bad monster was coming.

The wild haggises heard it as well and they all ran away up the mountain, far, far too frightened to come back. Farmer Tattiebogle laughed when he saw the monster. It was Erica playing her dad's bagpipes. She couldn't play them very well, so they made a terrible noise which scared all the haggis away.

Farmer Tattiebogle was very pleased and said that he would need to get some bagpipes so's he could protect his tumshies from the wild haggises. He gave Erica the biggest tumshie in the field. Erica knew it would make great neeps, because when you're given something for free it always tastes better.