

# *The Blue Cave*

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Once there was a cave deep inside a rocky crag. It was a blue cave and it lived quietly within itself.

By and by a green gnome with a red hat found the cave and made it his home. Gnomes are busy creatures and he couldn't sit still for very long. He gathered his carving tools and began to hammer: tap! tap! tap! A beautiful crystal appeared, with glistening sides and pointy top. He carved another one, and another, until the cave was full of shining crystals.

Then he took out his painting brush and painted them purple, violet and amethyst. He stood back and admired his work. "Lovely, lovely, lovely," he said. "But there's one last thing I have to do."

He fetched his carving tools again, and tap! tap! tap! he carved a window. Now he could see the green grass and green trees and green hills and golden sun. He was delighted with what he had done.

One day a lady gnome with a blue dress and yellow cap came walking by. She stuck her head in the window and said, "Will you marry me?"

And he did marry her, and they lived happily ever after in that cave.