

Iffly Sney synopsis

Iffly Sney and the Tandlesham Nook is the story of twins Atom and Lunar, abandoned by their mother, on the edge of a forest. She tells them to find Old Mother Redbeard deep in the forest. Lost and alone, possible starvation is averted by the arrival of their brilliant babysitter, the giant Iffly Sney.

Atom and Lunar have a day of utter revelry and joy with Iffly, but by nightfall it's clear that Iffly also needs help, help only the children can give. So, on they must journey to seek out the legendary Tandlesham Nook, the dwelling place of the infamous Old Mother Redbeard.

What they find - quite literally - turns their world upside-down.

Text Sample

And so came the day at the back end of May
When young Atom and Luna were blithely at play
For Atom and Luna the twins had been named
A gift from the forest Mama often claimed

A gift from the willow and gnarled ancient oak
A gift and a burden handmade and bespoke
Eleven years old though they both clearly saw
Mama did not know what the children were for

She understood couture and money and things
She understood beauty and diamonds on rings
She even knew horses and magic of sorts
And a dozen fine princess in far foreign ports

Yet Atom and Luna did just as she bid
They danced and they sang and they whispered and hid
From the laughter at night and the screaming by day
So t'was no great surprise on that day late in May

When Mama appeared like as a vision in grey
To inform the two twins she was going away
For a month maybe more she was destined to go
To a clinic in Switzerland deep in the snow

'To meet with a doctor who knows of a slime
They say quite reverses the movement of time
And makes old things young and makes young younger still
Imagine that children, just think of the thrill'

The children asked why as they held back their tears
And all she could say to allay their worst fears
That the time would 'fly by and fall swiftly away'
On the coming arrival of 'dear Iffly Sney'

"Iffly Sney' said the children, whom, tell us, is he?"
'An old friend' said their mother 'and soon you shall see
He'll come when he comes and he'll leave when he likes
And he brings the best food and the finest of kites

'But what will we do if he doesn't arrive?'
'Be clever' said Mama 'you always survive
But if by some way you might find I'm mistook
Then journey you must to the Tandlesham Nook

It's deep in the forest, approach it by night
Look out for the signposts and green firelight
Stay close to the path and make sure you take care
For Old Mother Redbeard is lurking in there

Old Mother Redbeard ask her what you need
In the Tandlesham Nook but my darlings take heed
Run quick when the sun comes afore it takes hold
For by day she turns cannibal, so we are told

But fear not my sweetlings for all will be well
But as in all things, well, you never can tell
For life is an hourglass losing its sand'
And thus she departed for far Switzerland

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