

Romeo and Samurai

Two Alpacas in the Worlds of Wonder An Adventure on an Enchanted Farm

The Invisible Duck Saleslady

The path wound clearly through the tall grass, marked by little signs placed at funny, uneven spots. Some read: "Maybe this way!" or "You're almost going the wrong way!"

"I hate this!" whispered Samurai.

"I love this!" said Romeo, sniffing the air. It smelled of yummy peppermint and freshly baked waffles.

Suddenly, Zilla stopped. "Here we are," she said.

"Where?" asked Samurai.

"Right here!" quacked a voice directly into his ear.

Samurai leaped to the side! "WAAAH! Who was that?!"

"Me!" said the voice. "I'm Enna. The Duck Saleslady. I specialize in things you can't see!"

Romeo blinked. "You're... invisible?"

"Exactly!" replied Enna. "It's a tiny side effect of my very best product: portable invisibility! Unfortunately, I tried it on myself."

A quiet splash sounded, and something gurgled into an invisible bucket. "I sell things you can't see but still really, really need," she explained. "Like curiosity, imagination, courage, and silliness! All fresh! All hand-picked!"

"You sell... feelings?" asked Samurai, sounding doubtful and a little suspicious.

"No, concepts!" said Enna proudly.

Romeo leaned in, curious. "Got anything for feeling tired?"

"Of course! I recommend: the invisible nap! Just one dose—and your mind drifts far, far away!"

PLOPP! Then—snoring! From Romeo! Standing up!

"Okay, that was super fast and a little bit creepy!" said Samurai.

"And what would you like?" Enna asked him.

"I... uh... nothing?" stammered Samurai.

"Then you'll get something very rare: accidental determination! It shows up by surprise!"

"I really don't want anything!" shouted Samurai.

"Too late! Already packed!" Enna laughed.

An invisible package landed on his back. It sparkled just a tiny bit—even though you couldn't see it!

Zilla smiled.

Enna rummaged through an invisible basket. "I've got something here for Tilli. Take-home glitter! It hasn't been picked up since yesterday."

Samurai looked at Zilla. "No one's seen her. But everyone's been waiting for her."

Zilla nodded slowly, then raised her head—clear and steady. "Tilli would never just stay away. Not without a good reason. Something happened."

Samurai looked at her. "What do you mean?"

Zilla didn't answer right away. Then: "I don't know. But I'm going to find out!"

For one heartbeat, no one said a word.

Then Zilla took a deep breath, stood tall—and her voice sounded a little more like herself again: "I knew this would get exciting! Enna always knows what you're not even looking for!"

Enna gave Romeo an invisible pat on the back. "You should hurry! Soon the ground will open. And then—things will really begin to shine!"

"What does she mean by that?!" cried Samurai.

"You'll find out when you keep going," whispered Enna—and then she vanished!

Zilla looked down the shimmering path. "I think it's time for a little magic from below!"

