

The  
TALE  
of a  
TROLL'S  
TAIL

by  
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Wandering twisted paths through northern forests are the trolls. Many tales tell of their ferocity and their appetites. These tales are all true, for the trolls tell the same tales.



But there is another side to trolls. Trolls also share tales of wisdom, of gentleness and of magic. After all, trolls live for centuries.



Elder trolls look very different from young ones. A troll's body twists and warps as they live tale after tale until they blend into the world.



Look closely, for trolls hide among the trees and the earth. This is how they hunt. Some trolls carry large, flat stones to place over streams, hoping an animal will use the bridge.



Unlike trolls, the little fairies are always beautiful. They flit and dance like leaves in the wind or sparkles on water.

Faerie glamour comes from their songs. With it they create illusions and mischief. They love tricking the big, slow, lumbering, ill-tempered trolls.

But trolls practice a magic of their own....

For trolls are magical creatures. They use magic by telling tales, conducting rituals, and playing games. One such ritual, telling the tale of a young troll, is written here:

Everyone brings a stone and a leaf and gathers around a water-filled bowl. The troll who brought the bowl says, "The young troll sets out to see the world."



Trolls then take turns adding to the young troll's tale. Every troll tells of a difficult choice, an obstacle or a challenger. The troll then drops their stone into the water and tells how, instead of solving the problem, the young troll chose foolishly, stumbled, or lost their temper.



The first troll then says,  
"And so the young troll  
became part of the world."

This game is dedicated to

Brian & Wendy Froud  
(writers and illustrators of  
Trolls)

&

Peter Cristen Asbjørnsen

&

Jørgen Moe

(For De tre bukkene  
Bruse)

(aka Three Billy Goats  
Gruff)