



Book synopsis for the Trollheim series

(An illustrated middle grade series written by Arne Lindmo, illustrated by Ida Skjelbakken, published by Figenschou publishing in Norway)

THE APPEAL OF THE SERIES

- Fast paced and easy to read.
- Beautiful illustrations that perfectly match the stories being told.
- The series combines a modern, realistic setting with a hidden fantasy world underground, filled with creatures from ancient myth.
- Lots of action and tense battles.
- Sympathetic and diverse characters who form strong friendships and develop unique skills through magical gifts, experience, and training.
- Cool monsters: Hel (the goddess of death), Loki (evil deity who wants to conquer the surface world), The Midgard Serpent, The Fenrir Wolf, trolls, goblins, giant spiders, Arachne, werewolves, ice dragons, vampires, draugr (undead) and many more.
- Lots of witty dialogue that not only drives the plot forward like a movie but is also quite amusing.
- Every book has its own story to tell with a beginning and an end, but there is also a larger story being spun from book to book. Loki is the puppet master behind most of the evil schemes and certain abilities carry over, such as Tara's werewolf curse or Tobias' expanding knowledge of the arcane arts.

THE PREMISE

Book 1: Three kids explore a spooky mansion, discover its secrets, and battle ancient evil, while forging strong friendships in the process.

Book 2: The daughter of Hel infiltrates the class to take revenge on the kids for her mother's defeat.

Book 3: Trolls kidnap Tara's little brother and take him to Helheim. The kids also need to go there to concoct a cure for Tara's werewolf curse.

Book 4: Zira, their new vampire friend, wants to live a normal life and the kids help her fit in, but she gets into a conflict with the school's bullies. A girl falls in love with Adam. She steals a book on witchcraft to make a love potion but puts it to sinister use.



Book 5: Silje and Frank, who wound up in Helheim in the last book, are reported missing and a police investigation takes place in Trollheim. The kids go to find her, but an underground war is raging, and they must face Arachne, the spider queen. In addition, the lead police investigator is up to no good ...

THE CHARACTERS

Adam is tall and strong for his age. A physical and determined type with a troubled background. After his Moroccan father vanished six years ago, both he and his young, polish mother struggled to cope: Adam got into fights at school, and his mother started drinking. The move to Trollheim is an attempt for to get a fresh start on life. He is very independent due to his “loose” upbringing and feels a strong sense of duty to help and protect others.

Tobias is short and overweight, but smart and bookish. His two parents are very old, and the mother is overprotective and domineering. Perhaps due to this he has developed some anxiety and shyness. He is bullied at school for all his shortcomings and has become a loner. He is secretly in love with Tara, the one person at school who speaks to him.

Tara is part of a large family, sharing the home with her two Indian parents and her five siblings. She is outgoing and likes to tease and joke around. She is considered a tomboy by her peers and are shunned by the other girls in class. She is a loner despite her cheerful personality. She also struggles to get attention due to the chaotic and crowded nature of her home situation, and perhaps this is why she has coloured her hair purple, in an attempt to get noticed, though it is also her favourite colour.

Kark, a strong and gentle giant of a troll. He is the guardian of an ancient gate down to Helheim. After his adoptive, human father died, he has lived alone in Crow Castle, feeding himself through hunting and gathering at night. Dies at the end of the first book.

Book synopsis Trollheim 1: The Secret of Crow Castle.

THE PLOT

- Three 12-year-old outsiders meet on their way to school: Adam, Tara and Tobias.
- They pass an old, spooky, and deserted mansion in the forest and Tara challenges the others to go and knock on the door.



- She goes in but does not come back.
- The boys grow anxious during the day and return after school to look for her.
- Inside, they discover a troll and its lair, in a system of caves under the mansion.
- The troll leaves, and the children seize their chance to search for Tara.
- They find her in a locked cage. Tobias stays while Adam goes to search for her lost backpack, which contains her cell phone.
- During the search, Adam runs into the troll and tries to fight it with some lit firewood but is knocked out.
- Tobias manages to open the lock by hitting it with a large stone and escapes with Tara.
- But Tara refuses to leave Adam behind and convinces Tobias to go back before it is too late.
- Finally, the big misunderstanding is cleared up. The troll, named Kark, is actually gentle and kind. He has lived there for 200 years, guarding a secret gate which leads down to Helheim (like a portal), a place from myth and ruled by the evil deity Loki.
- He imprisoned the girl because he was afraid for her safety, as he has learned that three ancient monsters are coming to kill him that very night to steal the key to the gate.
- Kark asks the children for help. He gives them some ancient magical gear: A sword that slices through anything, a bow that cannot miss and a spell to craft firebombs.
- The three monsters appear, the “children of Loki” from ancient myth: The Midgard Serpent, The Fenrir Wolf and Hel, the queen of the dead.
- Through tense battles, the children manage to defeat them all thanks to their new powers, the troll, and some nifty cooperation tactics.
- The troll, however, is dying from a poison bite. As the sun rises, he asks the children to take on the responsibilities as gatekeepers. The sunrays turn him to stone and the children relaxes, realising they have become good friends during the ordeal.

Book synopsis Trollheim 2: The Avenger from Helheim

THE PLOT

- Adam, Tara, and Tobias have started to use the old mansion as their private “club house”. They are taking their new responsibilities seriously and goes to investigate claims about weird tracks in the forest.



- They find the tracks which Tobias identifies (through a book from Crow Castle) as the tracks of goblins, smaller trolls than Kark, but still a great danger.
- They are ambushed by three goblins and their pet wolf.
- They survive the fight but gets injured. Tara accidentally shoots Adam in the arm, Tobias explodes a firebomb too close and gets burned, while Tara gets a pigtail chopped off.
- They go home, where we get a glimpse of their homelife and the different problems they must deal with.
- Adam gets so upset about his situation that he decides to sleep at Crow Castle that night. He meets Tobias, who has gone there to get away from his domineering mother for a while.
- They are attacked by a draugr (kind of a ghoul or zombie). Nothing they do seem to work, even after Tara shows up. But Tobias manages to learn their weakness from a book: fire. So, they throw and shoot burning logs and sticks to defeat it. But where did it come from?
- They all decide to sleep at Crow Castle for the night, taking turns being on guard. In the morning, Tara asks Adam to join her for a meeting with the new girl in class: Helen.
- They find and meet Helen, who seems weird, with old-fashioned clothes and strange speech patterns.
- At school, things get stranger as they meet a scary substitute teacher, named Victor, who claims to be the father of Helen. Their old teacher was found dead last night in the forest, killed by a wolf.
- Victor and Helen invite everyone in class to her upcoming birthday party.
- Helen follows the kids in secret after school but gets found out. Tara is highly suspicious while Tobias, somewhat smitten with Helen's flirtation, defends her.
- At the birthday party, a game of "truth or dare" goes wrong when Helen dares Tobias to kiss Tara. He runs off in tears with Helen just behind. Adam and Tara want to follow, but Victor demands to have a chat.
- Victor gets them into another room and locks the door! He is not Helen's father but her servant. Helen is the daughter of Hel and wants revenge for her mother's death. Victor is a werewolf and starts transforming.
- A fight breaks out. Luckily, Tara, who had puzzled together the clues, had prepared a silver arrow, but misses and gets bitten.
- Adam manages to defeat the beast with the help of the silver.



- They storm off to search for Tobias and Helen. Tara is scared that the bite might turn her into a werewolf.
- Helen has tricked Tobias through mind games to take her to Crow Castle. She also tricks the gate key away from him. She turns the petrified statue of Kark into another draugr and commands it to attack Tobias.
- Tobias tries to run but gets pushed down a well. Through some quick thinking and a bit of luck, he finds the components to make a firebomb, which he manages to blow up the draugr with.
- Adam and Tara arrives at Crow Castle where they continue their search. They find the magic gate open, and Tobias trapped in the well.
- They help him up, but grief-stricken with shame and regret, he tears loose and runs after Helen through the gate, to get the key back.
- Adam and Tara gives chase and catches up to Tobias in time to confront Helen, inside a cave with countless skeletons, remnants from an ancient battle between the armies of Loki and Thor.
- Helen reveals magic powers connected to ice and snow. She conjures forth an ice monster for Adam to fight while attacking Tara with sharp icicles from the ceiling.
- Tara gets hit in the chest and seems to die, but instead transforms to a fierce werewolf.
- Tara rips the ice monster apart but is not able to get around Helen's ice magic.
- However, while they were busy, Tobias stole Helen's components to make draugr and resurrects the ancient skeletons with the command to attack Helen.
- The kids manage to get back and close the gate in the face of a terrified Helen, surrounded by the undead.
- They return to Crow Castle to take care of an exhausted Tara. Tobias reads up on werewolves and discovers that she will go back to normal in the morning but will turn back to a beast every full moon unless they find the components to a medicine.

Book synopsis Trollheim 3: Subterranean Mission

THE PLOT

- Tara is afraid that she will hurt her friends and family when she transforms to a werewolf.
- Tobias has gathered all they need for the medicine except one thing: an extinct mushroom, but his books tell of its existing in Helheim.



- Tobias has researched a new spell, which can make his soul switch places with a mouse and back again.
- Tobias gifts Tara a gemstone that could help her retain control as a werewolf.
- Tara goes home to babysit her little brother, Bablu.
 - Goblins attack her at home.
 - She defeats them, but a large troll kidnaps her little brother during the fight.
 - Upset, she runs to Adam and Tobias to get help.
 - Together they follow the tracks and find a cold cave in the forest which leads underground. Perhaps another path to Helheim?
 - The trolls have set up an ambush, but a pale girl with red eyes and silver hair comes to the rescue. She dispatches the trolls with her twin silver daggers.
 - The girl can smell Tara's werewolf curse and wants to kill her, but the kids plead for mercy and tell her of their plans to cure her.
 - The pale girl, named Zira, agrees to help, and takes them home.
 - The kids discover that she lives with an adult man she calls "father" while the trolls all call him "Odin" because he has lost an eye and is a fierce fighter.
 - He remains a mystery but as they dine together, it is revealed that Zira is a vampire, turned at the age of 12. Also, it turns out that she was the daughter of the previous owner of Crow Castle, two hundred years ago.
 - Zira agrees to assist the children in liberating Tara's brother.
 - They take a short cut to Helheim down a very long and twisting slide. It is a one-way ticket as it cannot be climbed, but they plan to exit through the magic gate.
 - They find the troll city, with Loki's tower at its centre.
 - They wait until Loki and his ice dragon fly away, before entering, pretending to offer a trade: the key for Taras's brother, but they actually expect being captured by the trolls and put in a cell. The plan is to first get close to Tara's brother, who is also imprisoned there.
 - They find Tara's brother and put their escape plane in motion, which consists of having Tobias switch places with his mouse, sneak out of the cell and steal the guard's keys.
 - Zira uses her vampire powers to lure a horde of rats into the tower to create chaos and aid in their escape.
 - Eventually the kids get out of the tower and hijack a mammoth for discreet transportation to the cave where the portal back home is located.



- Unfortunately, Tobias is too weak to climb the rope ladder up to the tower on the mammoth's back and falls. They are revealed and every troll in the vicinity attacks.
- Entangled in the rope, Tobias is being dragged along, while Adam tries to steer the mammoth away from their pursuers.
- Eventually they wind up next to the entrance of the exit cave, but the way is blocked by an angry, large troll (who lost his friend to them earlier) and his pet polar bear.
- The fight is won, largely thanks to Tara being able to transform to a werewolf (using the gemstone).
- Zira, however, sees the transformation as a threat and wants to kill her before she goes feral.
- Adam defends Tara, but she loses control, turns feral and attacks him!
- When all seems lost, Tobias declares his love to her and begs her to turn back to normal. This triggers a transformation back and all seems well.
- They walk into the cave and finds the gate home as well as the skeletons and Helen from book 2, all lying around, seemingly dead.
- Suddenly Loki and his huge dragon lands, having received word of their escape. His power seems unstoppable, but Tobias remembers that he turned all the skeletons into draugr the last time and commands them now to attack!
- While Loki and his dragon is occupied with smashing the draugr, the kids manage to slip out the gate and lock it.
- They are home and safe again.
- It's Christmas and they have gathered at Crow Castle for a celebration. Tara gets the werewolf medicine as a present, while Zira gets to see her old bedroom from when she was a child of 6, tidied and cleaned.
- She cries as she remembers toys and other mementos from her past.

Book synopsis book 4: Vampires and Demons

THE PLOT

- Zira wants to live a normal life again despite being a vampire, so they put make-up on her (and contact lenses) and takes her to school.
- First day of school for Zira goes awry. She stops a bully from being mean to Tobias by breaking his finger!
- It's Valentine's Day and in arts & crafts they are tasked with writing and decorating Valentine cards.
- Adam and Tara get cards, but from who?



- The kids want to show Zira a movie, as she has never done so before. They choose “Dracula” so they can ask her about the vampire myths.
- There is a knock on the door and Silje, from class is there. She wants to talk to Adam and reveals that the Valentine card was from her.

- Adam does not know how to respond, but Zira cuts through and says that Silje is not good enough for him. Silje breaks down crying and runs away, but manages to steal a book, the “black book”, infamous for containing witchcraft.
- Later, everyone goes home, and Zira stays at Crow Castle to sleep in her coffin, but Tobias spots Silje and her brother on his way home. Her brother is Frank, the bully who had his finger broken. He sees that Silje has a book and suspects it to be stolen.
- Tobias returns to check on what book is missing, but sees Frank and his gang going there as well, probably to seek revenge on Zira ...
- Tobias runs ahead to try and warn Zira, but she is a deep vampire slumber.
- The boys break into Crow Castle and discovers the truth about Zira while Tobias is hiding under the bed.
- All the boys panic and leave except Frank and Roger. Their plan is to kill the vampire.
- Tobias tries to stop them and accidentally pushes Frank out the window, while Roger is stopped when Zira wakes up. She runs after him and leaves Tobias to himself.
- Tobias wants to check what Silje want the book for, so he uses the spell where he changes into mouse form and enters her house to spy.
- There he discovers that Silje tries to make a love potion to use on Adam but fails. Her brother Frank is home, as the fall out the window was softened by lots of snow. Frank tells her that Zira is a vampire and since Silje sees her as a rival in the pursuit of Adam ...
- Silje uses witchcraft from the book to get in touch with “the devil” (Loki, in Helheim). She asks for help to defeat the vampire. Loki promises great strength and hands them a potion, if Silje can help him steal the gate key from Tobias.
- Tobias panics and wants to leave, but is trapped by a cat ...
- The day after, Adam and Tara wonders why Tobias is gone. They go to pick up Zira and sees the carnage at Crow Castle.
- They find a grave outside marked “Roger” and fear that Zira has killed him. Fortunately, he was buried alive inside the coffin.



- They dig him out and gets him warm. He promises to not tell and begs for forgiveness. Adam and Tara understand what has happened and think that Zira has gone “home” to the cavern underground.
- At home, Tara learns that the body of Tobias has been found and that he is in a coma!

- Adam and Tara agree to try to get Zira back. In the underground tunnels they are almost eaten by giant spiders.
- Eventually they find Zira in her old home and have a talk. They agree to give surface life a new chance.
- It is revealed that the one-eyed man is Adams long lost father, and that he is in hiding and fighting trolls because a prophecy says that he or some relative of his will defeat Loki. Therefore, Loki has been targeting him for assassination.
- The kids return home and get a text from Silje asking why the body of Tobias was found in her garden. The kids realise that maybe Tobias was messing around with his spell. They go to investigate.
- Silje and Frank has laid a trap for Zira and throws a bucket of garlic oil on her.
- Zira collapses and Frank drinks the potion he got from Loki. The potion turns him into a monster with great strength, but he is horrified by this as it was not what he expected. Silje stops herself from drinking her share.
- Silje locks herself into the bathroom with the Black Book and summons a mirror portal to complain to Loki about the unintended consequences of the potion.
- Loki demands that she throws the key through the portal (which she found on the body of Tobias earlier). Adam breaks into the bathroom in time to stop her.
- Loki gets mad and sends small demons through the mirror portal to kill them all.
- One of the demons pulls Silje through the portal and into Helheim. Her screams snap her brother Frank out of his despair, and he follows through the portal.
- While fighting the demons in the bathroom, Tara and Adam discovers how to close the portal.
- The last demon is defeated, and the portal is closed with Silje and Frank trapped in Helheim.
- Zira slowly recovers from the garlic bath and uses her vampire senses to locate Tobias the mouse, trapped in a water bottle, guarded by a cat.



- They take the mouse to the hospital where it can break the spell. Tobias returns to his old self and Tara gives him a Valentine Card of his own, claiming she just found it at school.
- Tobias is happy but comments on the childish drawing and misspelling of words until Tara snaps and hits him over the head with the bouquet of flowers, indirectly revealing her to be the author of the card.

The planned book 5 starts with ...

- The kids feel guilty that Silje is trapped in Helheim. They want to go and rescue her.
- There is a police investigation of the disappearance of Silje and Frank. They have found Silje's diary in which she has written about a vampire at school.
- The police think there is a connection and tries to unmask this vampire "pretender". They place guards around the school and intend to interview every pupil and check if they have (fake) fangs.

Fangs that Zira cannot hide ...

The book's monsters: Arakhne, queen of the spiders, have crawled to Helheim from the Greek part of the underworld. Tired of getting nowhere with Hades, she is trying to use her giant spiders to invade Helheim instead. All-out war breaks out between her spiders and Loki's army. Silje and Frank is caught in the crossfire! Also, it turns out that the head of the police investigation is a greedy, violent man and is willing to stop at nothing to cash in the reward for finding the missing kids, and he suspects that Adam is his ticket to their whereabouts ...