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♥ BURES
BOAHTIN ♥

Jákop the forest troll crept out of his home beneath a big birch tree in the woods. He had a nice, cozy house there. Jákop needed some fresh air and was looking forward to taking a trip to the spring to drink some clean, clear, cold water.

But first he wanted to joik* a little! Jákop loved joiking, running, climbing trees, and singing his heart out.

* A traditional form of Sámi singing



Jákop ran along the path through the forest, hopping in the air now and then. It was such a beautiful day, and Jákop was happy because the sun was shining so brightly. He greeted the sun by joiking it.

As he ran, he counted the white stones he saw on the path. Suddenly, he noticed something moving in the branches ahead. When he went to take a closer look, he saw a lone bluebell nodding in the wind – at least, that's what he thought.

Just as he was about to continue, he heard a faint voice:

"Hey, Jákop, is that you?"

He stared at the flower in surprise.

"Who said that?" he asked.

"Peek-a-boo, Jákop! Can't you see me?"

Someone giggled sweetly. It almost sounded like a fairy's laugh. A fairy girl was playing hide and seek with him!







Do you know what a fairy is?

It's almost like a little angel. Fairies have wings and some guard flowers. The spring fairy guards the spring. Every part of nature has its own little fairy guard to help and protect it – and of course to spread joy and fun. After all, it would be boring to be a flower all alone in a big, empty field. That's why it's good we have fairies in nature!

You might think you've never seen a fairy, but you definitely did when you were little.

Jákop couldn't see the fairy right away. He wondered how she knew his name.



Fairies love playing with small children, but only nice, well-behaved ones who don't hurt animals and like to sing and joik. And really, almost all children like doing those things!

Fairies are also friends with all forest dwellers, like trolls and other woodland creatures.

You might have seen one before, but you probably don't remember it, because fairies blow forgetting dust on human children as soon as they're done playing with them.

They try that on forest trolls, too, but trolls can be tricky! The forgetting dust doesn't always hit them because they manage to hop away. That's why trolls sometimes remember a little bit more. The fairies always remember everything, though, and that makes them laugh like crazy!



Jákop wondered what kind of forgetting dust or fairy dust he'd gotten in his eyes. He couldn't see anything, but he could still hear someone giggling nearby.

Then, Jákop remembered a clever trick for catching the fairies when they were trying to hide.

He squinted and looked around. There! He spotted the little fairy girl, Biggá, laughing so hard she was almost losing her voice.

"Hey," Jákop shouted. "I can see you now!"

Biggá cackled and shook her little head:

"But you're too late!"

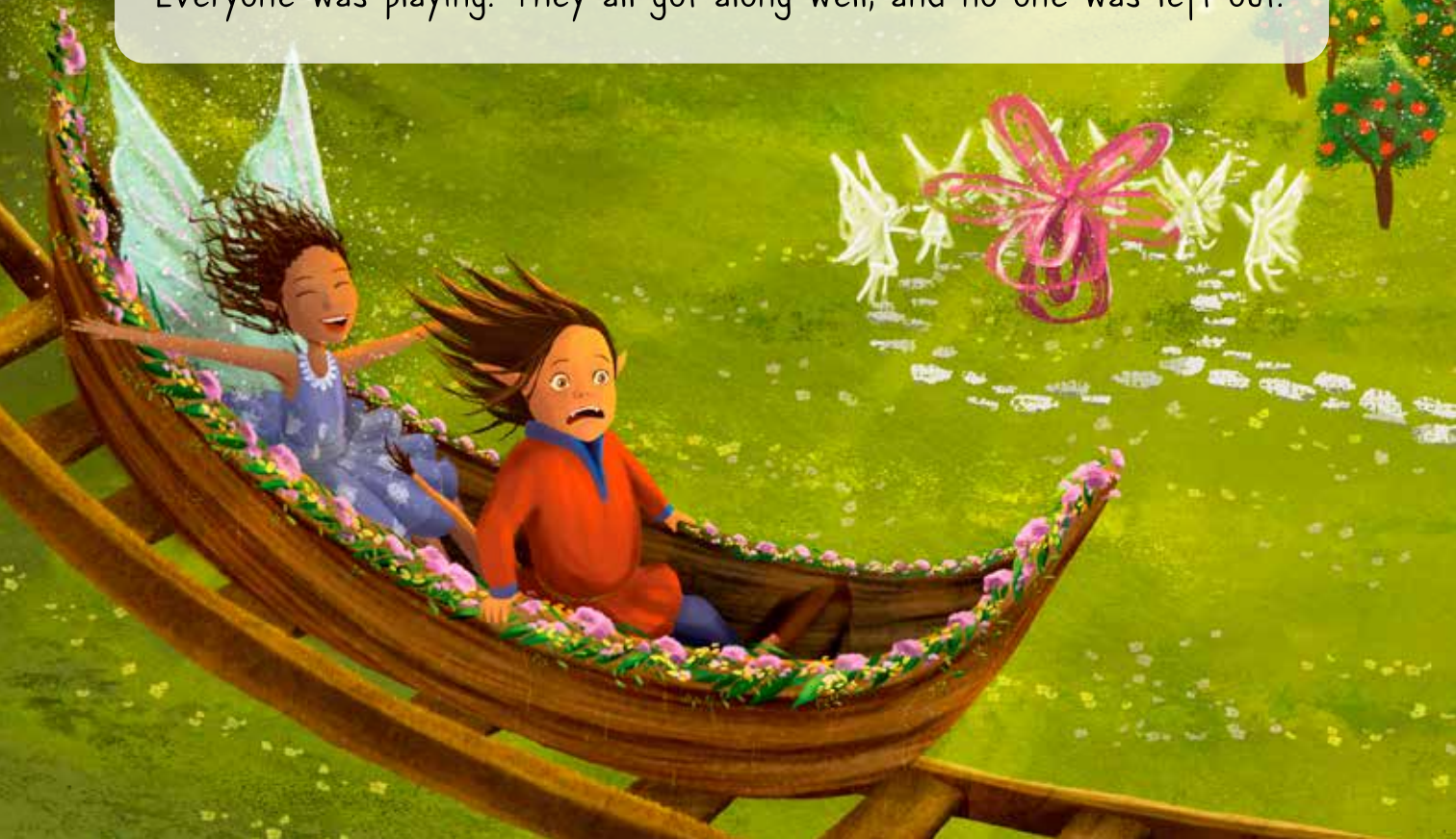


Jákop stood in the field, panting and looking for the Fairy Kingdom.
But he couldn't see anything.

"Let's roll down the hill and see who gets to the bottom first!" Biggá said.
I guess she wants to play a little, Jákop thought. He wanted to get to the Fairy Kingdom as soon as possible, but rolling down the hill *did* sound like fun. Biggá was already tumbling down, and Jákop hurried after her. He didn't want to be last again!

Oof, you get so dizzy when you roll like this! His stomach turned and he squeezed his eyes shut.
You've probably tried this too – spinning and spinning until you fall, and then swoosh, you're somewhere far away before everything goes back to normal. This is the exact moment when you can enter the Fairy Kingdom, and that's precisely what happened to Jákop.
Suddenly, he was there!

The Fairy Kingdom was beautiful. Thick green trees basked in the warm yellow sun, and the air was calm. There was a big amusement park in the distance. A giant carousel spun slowly, and tall castles shimmered – some of them even seemed to be swaying. There were shiny, colorful swings full of little fairies in the park where they had built sculptures from all kinds of flowers. They smelled so sweet that Jákop felt a little dizzy, but at the same time, he felt more energized than before. Everyone was playing. They all got along well, and no one was left out.





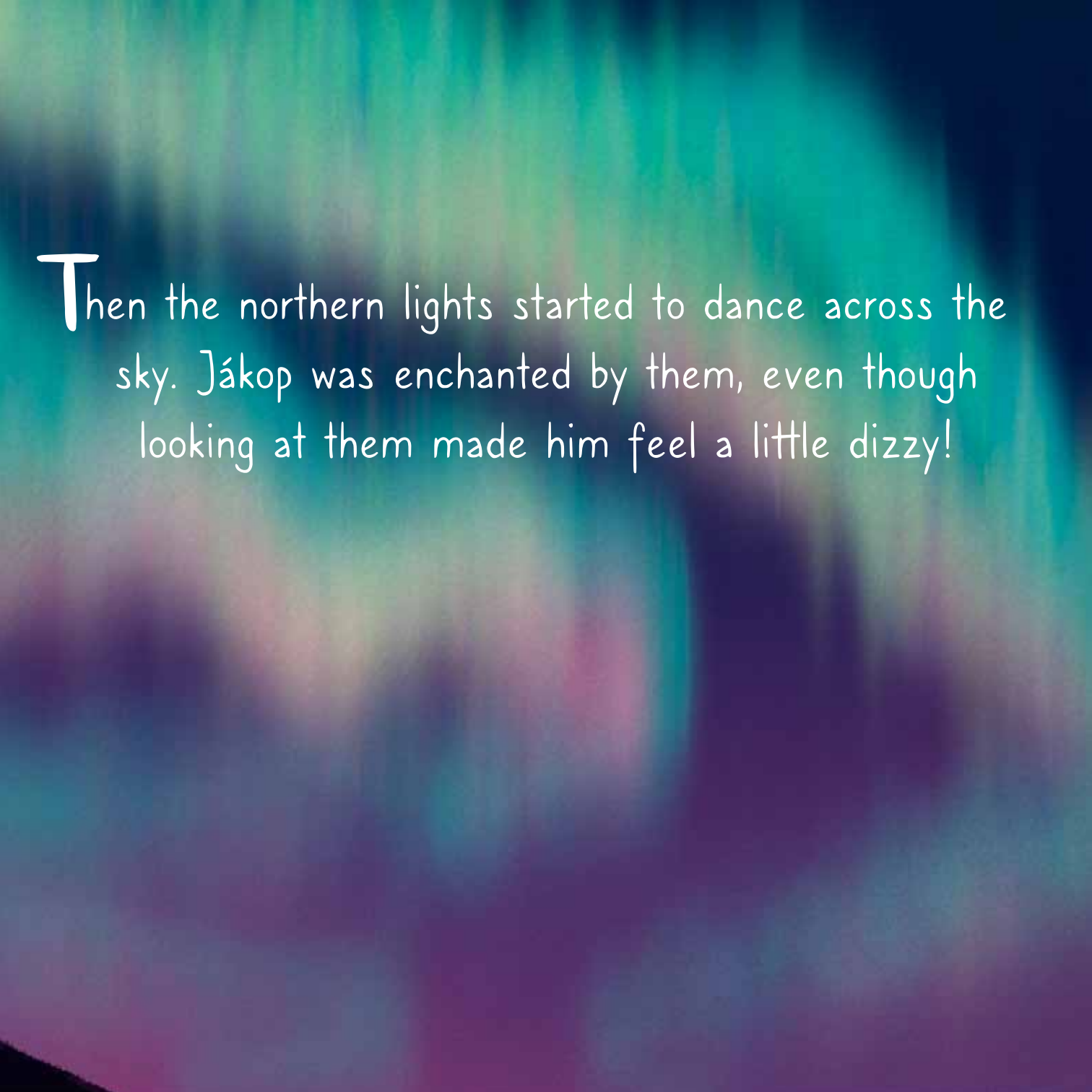
Joyful cries echoed from the colorful play castle, which was so tall that it almost looked like it was melting into the clouds. As he walked over to the castle, the sky started changing colors and he spotted a constellation.



Then the midnight sun rose.







Then the northern lights started to dance across the sky. Jákop was enchanted by them, even though looking at them made him feel a little dizzy!

"Look," Biggá said suddenly.

Jákop turned – and there, shining like silver, stood an enormous reindeer. An incredibly handsome man was sitting tall on its back, a garland of flowers draped over his shoulders.

"Oh," Biggá sighed. "That's the Flower King, riding his reindeer. He wears a golden crown and rules over all the flowers and flower fairies."

They waved eagerly. The Flower King greeted them with a wave of the hand, and a large gold coin rolled over to their feet. Before they could call out to tell the Flower King he'd dropped something, the reindeer had already vanished into the trees.

"Oh no! What do we do?"



Máttaráhkká was making soup, and it had just finished boiling when they arrived. They said hello, and she greeted them with a big, warm hug. They settled in right beside her, eager to taste the soup she offered them.

They started eating Máttaráhkká's soup, which was so delicious they couldn't help but eat three helpings each!

Now they had to make sure they didn't eat more than their fair share, but Máttaráhkká just laughed and said they would be even faster than before. She was more than happy to feed them.

Afterward, they sat by the fire, full and happy. Their bellies were so full that they even dozed off a little!



Jákop had to run a little bit, both to cheer himself up and to check if his foot was okay.

"The pain is gone!" he said happily, running around with joy because his foot had been healed.

How did the Flower King manage to take my pain away? Jákop wondered. Isn't that difficult?

The Flower King, who seemed to be reading his thoughts, smiled and said, "It's not hard at all! You have these powers, too. Everyone does. You just have to learn how to use them. I can teach you some other time."

Wow, the Flower King was really offering to teach them magic!

They thanked him wholeheartedly and were already looking forward to coming back.

