

Jákop the Little Forest Troll – Visiting with Biggá the Fairy

Mary Ailonieida Sombán Mari • Laila Labba (ill.)

Jákop the forest troll meets a fairy named Biggá, who asks him to join her on a voyage to the Fairy Kingdom. Once they make it there, they see all of the fantastic toys the fairies have to play with. They also spot the Flower King riding his silver reindeer, Silbon. When the Flower King waves to greet them, a gold coin rolls to the ground, and Jákop and Biggá have to go looking for him in the Fairy Kingdom to return his gold coin. Along the way, Jákop trips and hits his knee on a rock. The wound won't stop bleeding! Just then, the Flower King appears and heals Jákop's leg – there's no trace of the wound anymore! Jákop is so excited that he has to run around to check that his leg really is all better. He's so surprised and grateful that the Flower King offered him and Biggá such a unique lesson in magic! To think that the Flower King wanted to teach them how to heal. The Flower King is also overjoyed to have gotten his lucky gold coin back. Silbon is going to take Jákop and Biggá back to their home forest. The Flower King gives them a bag full of gold coins because they were nice enough to return his lucky coin.

Jákop the Little Forest Troll – Visiting with Biggá the Fairy is a children's book originally written in North Sámi with mythological fairytale figures. The book is about a little forest troll named Jákop who meets a fairy named Biggá and follows them on their journey to the Fairy Kingdom.

The story is about friendship, trust, dreams, and the feeling people or fairytale figures get when they manage to accomplish something. This book is based on traditional Sámi customs and beliefs and takes into account the unusual and surprising events that can sometimes happen to our people. Such events can be an everyday occurrence in many Sámi people's lives.

With this book, the author wanted to allow the reader to participate in exciting stories with the Sámi culture's unique mythology at its core. The story starts with a third-person narrator who introduces the main characters and their local environment. It is told chronologically through different events, but it also focuses on spirits and our gapmu – instinct – which emphasizes that we all have the ability to heal, but unfortunately, our ancestors haven't taught us everything, and we therefore don't know how to use all our gifts.



Uhca meahcceruollaš Jákop – Hálđaša Bikká guossis

December 2023 (original publication)

• 54 pages • Fairytale • 3–6 years

Marry Ailonieida Sombán Mari was born in Tana and grew up in Sirbmá. She is a well-known Sámi writer and cultural worker and now lives in Tromsø. Marry debuted in 1976 with the book *Ámmul ja alit oarbmaelli* (*Ámmul and the Blue Cousin*) – notable for Sámi literature as the first children's book written in Sámi. The book has since become a Sámi classic. She has written poetry, short stories, novels, and other fiction and non-fiction texts for adults. Her texts and poems have been featured in several anthologies in Sápmi, the Nordic countries, America, and Germany. Excerpts from her books have been translated into many other languages. Her authorship also includes plays that have been produced by the Sámi theater Beaivváš, as well as many others.

Laila Labba is an illustrator and visual artist from Karasjok, Norway. She has twice been nominated for the Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize. Laila studied at the Karasjok School of Art for two years and has a bachelor's degree in illustration from the University of Huddersfield. She has also worked as an intern for the Sámi Art Center in Karasjok. Laila has created beautiful, color images for several children's books.