

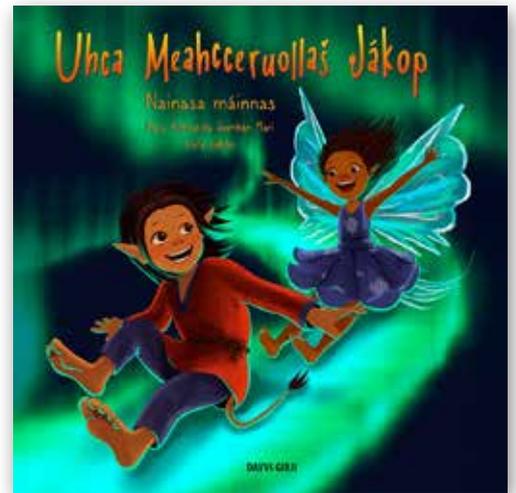
Jákop the Little Forest Troll – The Secret of the Northern Lights

Mary Ailonieida Sombán Mari & Laila Labba (ill.)

Jákop the Little Forest Troll – The Secret of the Northern Lights is a children's book about Sámi mythological creatures and powers. An omniscient narrator begins this book's story with the main characters, Jákop the Little Forest Troll and Hidden Fairy Girl Biggá, in her local forest where they are staying, a short distance from the great silver birch, where Jákop the Little Forest Troll lives. With this book, the author wants to provide the opportunity for all readers to participate in exciting Sámi stories where Sámi mythology in particular takes a central role.

Jákop had happily kindled a fire one autumn evening just before dark, and just when Jákop intended to begin thanking Máttaráhkká, the Earth Mother, Hidden Fairy Girl Biggá comes flying by. Together, they thanked Máttaráhkká three times, like Hidden Fairy Girl Biggá said they should. They pressed their foreheads to the earth, breathed slowly, and pictured in their heads a beautiful, healthy, bountiful Earth with peace, happiness, and prosperity for all.

The reader follows Jákop the Little Forest Troll and Hidden Fairy Girl Biggá's journey to visit the Northern Lights. According to Sámi beliefs, the Northern Lights are extremely powerful and it is a rare privilege to be their guest. This is why children are usually taught during their upbringing to show humility and fear the power of the Northern Lights. This is also a story about friendship and trust, especially daring to trust yourself and your own strengths, even if you might not have learned to awaken and control your own gifts in the beginning. The reader will experience the feeling that arises within us as people – or in fairy tale creatures like Jákop the Little Forest Troll and Hidden Fairy Girl Biggá – when we manage to master a skill or carry out an accomplishment. This story is based on Sámi folk beliefs, and in it have been included strange and wondrous events that can sometimes even happen to us humans. Such things can be day-to-day occurrences for many Sámi.



Uhca meahcceruollaš Jákop – Nainasa máinnas

February 2026 (original publication)

- 64 pages • Fairytale • 6–9 years
- ISBN 9788232905430

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.