



The Troll With no Heart in His Body

By Lise Lunge-Larsen

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As tall as trees and as ancient and rugged as the Norwegian landscape from which they come, trolls are some of lore's most fascinating and varied creatures. Some live under bridges, others deep inside caves. They can carry their heads under their arms or hide their hearts inside wells. They can walk across oceans and fly over mountains. Trees and shrubs may grow from their heads, and their noses can be long enough to stir soup. There are troll hags, troll daughters, and elderly, shrunken trolls. Old or young, they are quarrelsome, ugly, and boastful, and they love to trick princesses and children. To defeat them, children must rely on the strengths of their humanity-persistence, kindness, pluck, and willingness to heed good advice

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The Troll With no Heart in His Body By Lise Lunge-Larsen Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Norwegian-born storyteller Lunge-Larsen scoured her homeland's literary landscape for this stellar collection of nine troll tales, many of which will be unfamiliar to American children. Ugly, greedy, fierce and dimwitted, trolls provide admirable subject matter, and Lunge-Larsen spins her stories with enthusiasm. The other characters are memorable, too, from the feckless Butterball, a boy who outwits his captor (a hungry troll hag who carries her head under her arm) to the familiar trio of goats in "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." A Nordic flavor permeates the customary folktale elements present here (such as kidnapped princesses and magical quests) and each tale ends with the Norwegian refrain "Snipp, snapp, snute/ Her er eventyret ute! (Snip, snap, snout/ This tale's told out!)." Short introductions and afterwords for every entry expand on troll lore. Readers learn, for example, that trolls will burst and turn into stone when exposed to sunlight, and that Edvard Grieg's famous "In the Hall of the Mountain King" for Henrik Ibsen's Peer Gynt refers to the trolls of Norway's Dovre Mountains. Bowen (Antler, Bear, Canoe) fills the slightly narrow pages of this oversize volume with striking woodblock-print compositions and border motifs; according to an illustrator's note, her work draws on ancient carvings as well as early-20th-century art from Norway. Their rough-hewn, almost primitive quality belies the sophisticated use of color and line. A noteworthy addition to the folktale shelf. Ages 5-12. (Sept.)

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From Library Journal

Grade 2-5-Nine Norwegian tales that feature ugly, dim-witted giants who live inside mountains or under bridges, as in "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," the best known of these tales. In fact, the majority of the stories here will be unfamiliar to American audiences. Trolls readily capture children to eat for dinner ("Butterball"), steal princesses and hold them captive to rub their aching heads ("The Boy Who Became a Lion, a Falcon, and an Ant"), and covet human possessions ("The Handshake" and "The Boy and the North Wind"). Lunge-Larsen has fashioned her retellings largely from the folktales collected by Peter Christian Asbjirnsen and Jirgen Moe in the early 1800s. She includes detailed source notes for each selection, a bibliography, and an insightful introduction that discusses her experience with trolls. The retellings retain the power of the originals and don't shy away from the violent nature of several of these stories. Each tale is accompanied by a full-page illustration, several smaller images, and decorative borders that underscore the plot. Bowen's colorful woodcuts-with their folk-art sensibilities-evoked traditional Norwegian decorative art and architecture. The interplay between the art and the text is outstanding. Because of its readability, tellability, and strong visual presentation, this collection should have wide and enduring appeal.

Denise Anton Wright, Alliance Library System, Bloomington, IL

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From [Booklist](#)

Known as the "troll lady" in Minnesota where she lives, Lunge-Larsen mines her Norwegian heritage in this collection of nine stories. The title story and the "Three Billy Goats Gruff" will be familiar to many children, and eager youngsters will probably recognize or immediately grasp many elements in the other stories. Short introductions, a bibliography, and source notes supplement a nice collection of troll lore and expand on the tales: Trolls are giant creatures, often with multiple heads, and it is easy to outsmart them if you listen carefully and keep your own wits about you; if you look closely, you can find troll remains in old and gnarled tree roots. Beautifully colored woodcuts, contributed by Betsy Bowers, render troll, landscape, pattern, and hero in muscular, elegant design. The stories read aloud well, and each ends with a traditional Norwegian trope: "Snip, snap, snout, / This tale's told out!" *GraceAnne A. DeCandido*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Howard:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They can be reading whatever they get because their hobby is actually reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book when they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Troll With no Heart in His Body.

Lanell Sessions:

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Miranda Durkee:

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