

The Trolls' Cabin

By Hannah Gradjansky

In a big yellow farmhouse surrounded by cow fields lived a girl with a mind of her own. Her name was Ruby Rose Robinson, but she much preferred to be called Luna. Once school got out for summer Luna would explore for hours.

Every morning her mom would come into Luna's room and ask, "Luna, it's a new day today. Would you like to invite someone over to play?"

And every morning Luna would shake her head and say, "I am going on an adventure today, all by myself!"

Luna jumped out of bed, dug through her dresser drawers to find the perfect shirt and hand-me-down shorts from her older brother. Next she ran to her bathroom, climbed up on a stool and peered into the mirror. Once she had her hair in pigtails, she slid down the banister and took a seat at the breakfast table. She shoveled her cereal into her mouth and gulped down her orange juice.

"Done!" She exclaimed, slamming her juice glass on the table.

Luna ran out the back door and down the porch steps. She skipped across the driveway and into the creek.

"Luna, you need your shoes," her mother yelled after her, but Luna was off in her own world.

She was too young to cross the busy street. Instead she walked under the street, through a very secret passage. She waded through the cool water and into the tunnel under the road. Carefully, Luna made sure to pick up her feet because she did not like to stub her toes. It was

dark in the tunnel, so she walked toward the light at the other end. Once out of the tunnel she climbed up a ladder and onto a grassy field. She skipped across the field, stopping at an apple tree to grab herself a snack. Then she continued on.

She walked up a long hill and into the forest. There in the trees was a small cabin.



Luna knocked on the door three times. Bang, bang, bang. A scuffling came sound came from inside the house.

“Who is it?” asked a gruff voice.

“It’s me, Luna.”

The latch was undone and the door opened a crack. Luna saw a pair of eyes peer out at her. She smiled. The door quickly opened all the way and an arm reached out pulling Luna into the cabin. Then as quickly as it had opened, the door was shut tight.

A short woman stood in front of Luna. She was not much taller than Luna. “It’s okay to come out,” the small woman said, beckoning to others that were hiding. “Luna came to visit us.”

“Luna!” said a soft high-pitched voice as a small girl with long blonde braided hair appeared from behind a curtain.

“Hi, Buttercup.”

Then two others appeared from behind a door– a stout boy who was exactly the same height as Luna, and an older man with a big belly who was a few inches taller than the short woman. They greeted each other. Then Buttercup grabbed a basket off a hook on the wall and took Luna’s hand.

“Mom, is it ok if we go flower picking?” Buttercup asked.

“Yes, just don’t let anyone see you.”

“Promise we won’t,” piped up Luna.

The two girls slipped out the front door and into the forest to pick wild flowers. They knew the forest well, because it was their playground during the summer. Luna chased Buttercup through the trees and Buttercup chased Luna.



When they were out of breath they found a patch of flowers to rest in. They made each other flower wreaths to wear and picked large bouquets to take home to their moms.

As the sky began to darken into dusk, Luna and Buttercup placed the flowers in the basket and slowly made their way back to the cabin. At the door they said their goodbyes and Luna took the bouquet she had made from the basket. Then she walked back down the hill, across the field, into the creek making sure not to stub her toe, through the tunnel and into her house where her mom had just finished making dinner.

“Here,” Luna said as she handed her mom an armful of flowers.

“These are beautiful, thank you! Now come wash up and then set the table for dinner.”

“Okay,” said Luna reluctantly.

She pulled a stool over to the sink and washed her hands. Then she grabbed a stack of four plates from the cupboard and set the table. Her mom brought the food to the table and told Luna to get others for dinner.

Luna turned around in her chair and yelled, “Dad! Sam! It’s time for dinner!”

Once everyone was seated at the table, they began to eat. After the plates were cleared from the table, Luna went up to her room to get ready for bed. She pulled a stack of books from the bookcase and began to read. At 8 o’clock Luna’s mom came in to tuck her into bed and turned off the lights.

Luna woke with a start early in the morning to a horrible grumbling sound. She looked out her window towards the little cabin, to see a big machine slowly moving up the hill. Luna leapt from her bed and raced out of the house still in her nightgown. She raced as fast as her little legs could carry her through the tunnel, across the field and up the hill. Luna ran so fast that she didn’t have time to stop herself before she ran straight into the cabin’s front door. She banged frantically on the front door, but no one answered.

They must be hiding in the forest, she thought. What will I do?

Luna sat down in front of the cabin and thought. Finally she came up with a plan, but first she needed her families help so she ran back home.

“Mom!” Luna frantically yelled as she flung open the front door.

“What’s wrong?” Luna’s mom asked

“There... there is a big machine and its are going to destroy the trolls’ home,” stammered Luna.

“What trolls, honey? There aren’t any trolls.”

“Yes, there are! They are my friends and we need to help them,” Luna demanded as she grabbed her mom’s hand, pulling her out the door. “You have to help me.”

“Luna, I have things I need to do this morning.”

“NO! You need to help me,” Luna demanded.

“Okay. I will help you, but first you need to calm down.”

Luna dragged her mom up the hill to the trolls’ cabin. They arrived just in time. The big machines were about to knock down the first tree.

“Stop!” Luna cried as she ran toward the bulldozer.



The driver stopped just in time and climbed down from the cab.

“Little girl, I am going to need you to move,” He said bending down to look Luna in the eyes.

“Nope!” Luna said placing her hands on her hips.

“Luna, you need to move so this man can go back to work,” said her mom as she tried to move Luna out of the way.

Luna kicked and screamed. Finally, her mom let her go and Luna ran up the ladder and into the cab of the big machine before the driver could catch her. She locked the cab door and buckled herself in. Then she pulled the key out and stuck it in her shoe.

Her mom knocked on the door, “Let me in, please.”

Luna shook her head. Then the driver tried to get her to open the door, but again Luna shook her head.

“I am sorry. My daughter says there are trolls that live in that cabin and she wants to make sure that the cabin isn’t disturbed,” Luna’s mom explained to the driver.

“I was told that no one lived in the house and that it needed to go,” said the driver.

As Luna over heard what the driver said, she got an idea. She opened the cab door, climbed down from the machine and ran into the forest. When she returned the four trolls were with her.

“I told you there were trolls that lived in the cabin,” Luna stated proudly.

“I see you were telling me the truth. Would you like to introduce me?” asked Luna’s mom.

“Yes. Mom, this is Buttercup, Ivy, River and Star,” Luna said as she pointed to the different trolls.

Luna’s mom bent down, “Hi, I am Sue.”

“It’s nice to finally meet you, since Luna has told us so much about you,” said Star.

The whole time Luna was introducing her mom to the trolls, the driver stood back and watched with a stunned look on his face. When the conversation slowed, he tapped Luna on the shoulder.

“What do you want?” asked Luna as she turned around.

“I am going to call my boss and tell him that people do live in the house, so I can’t wreck it,” he informed Luna.

“Thank you! Oh, and here is your key,” Luna said excitedly handing the driver the key.

The driver climbed into the cab, started the machine and drove it back down the hill. Luna thanked her mom for her help and gave her a big hug. Then she and her mom joined the trolls in the cabin for a cup of tea.