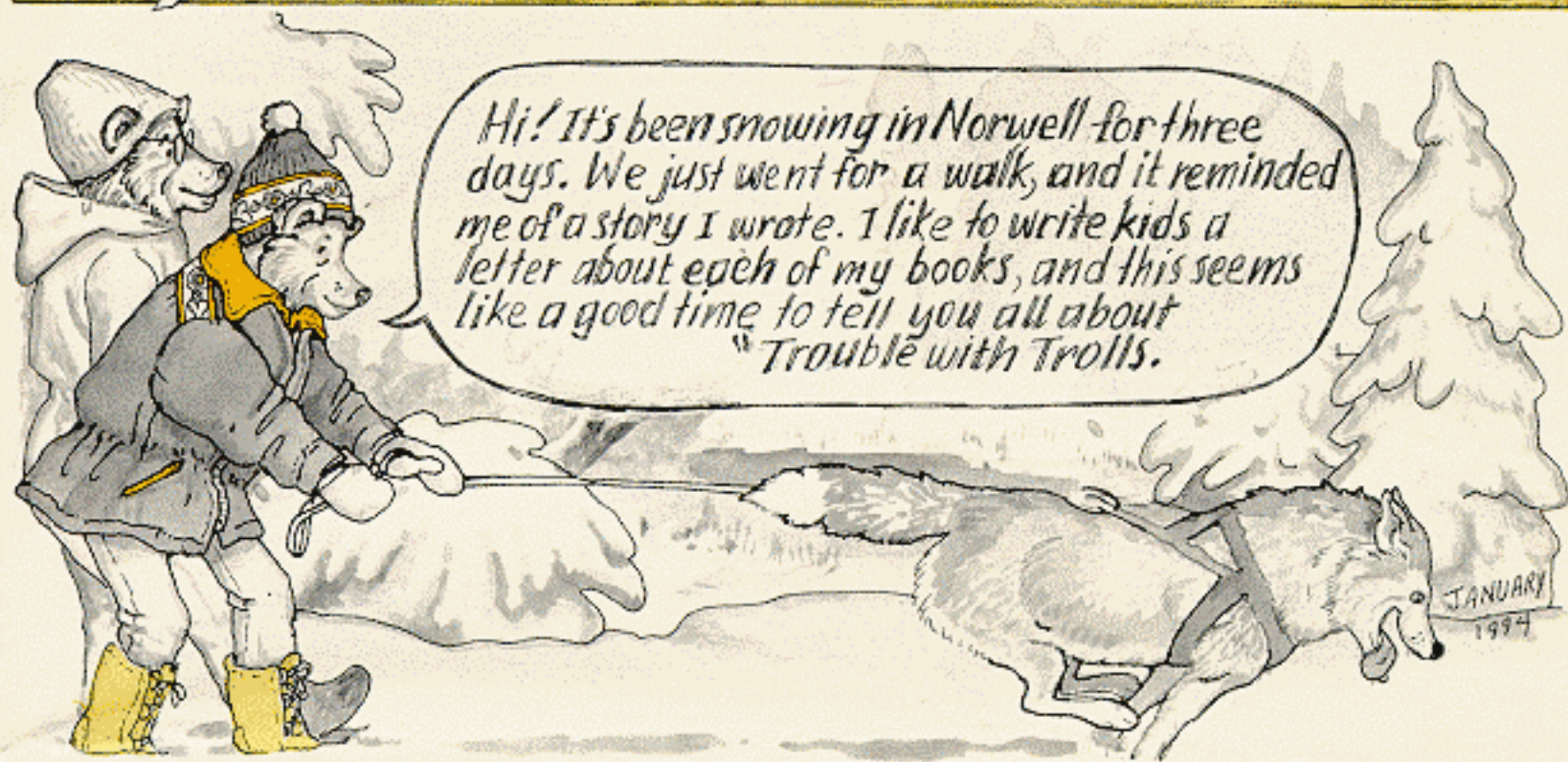


# Trouble with Trolls



*When I was six years old and learning to ski on Sugarloaf Mountain I never imagined that later I'd remember my experience and turn it into a children's book.*

*My sister Sophie and I would climb up the steep hill at the end of the Tote Road, one of the long trails coming down from the summit. It took an hour to climb up. When we reached the top, we turned around and skied straight down, letting our skis take us as fast as we could go. It only took three minutes to ski down. I never forgot the feeling of flying through the air. Thirty years later I put it in my book; it is how Treva escapes from the trolls!*



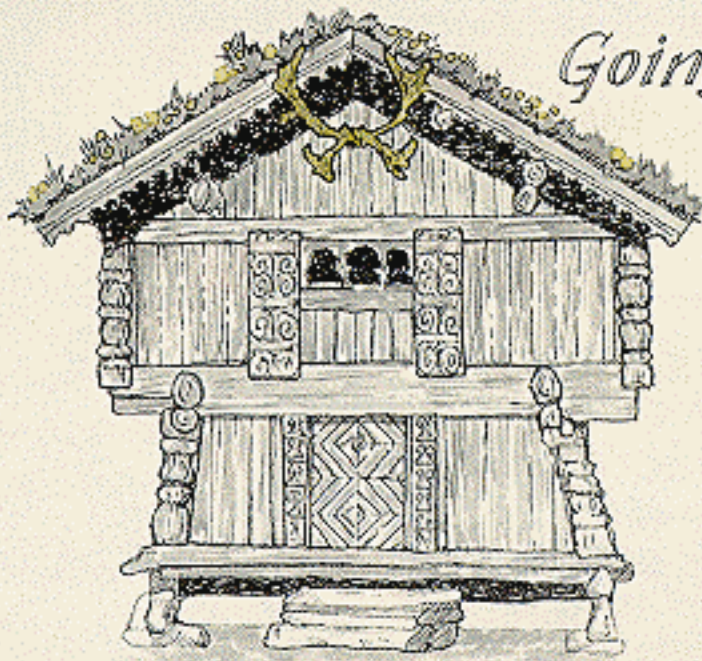
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## Going to Norway



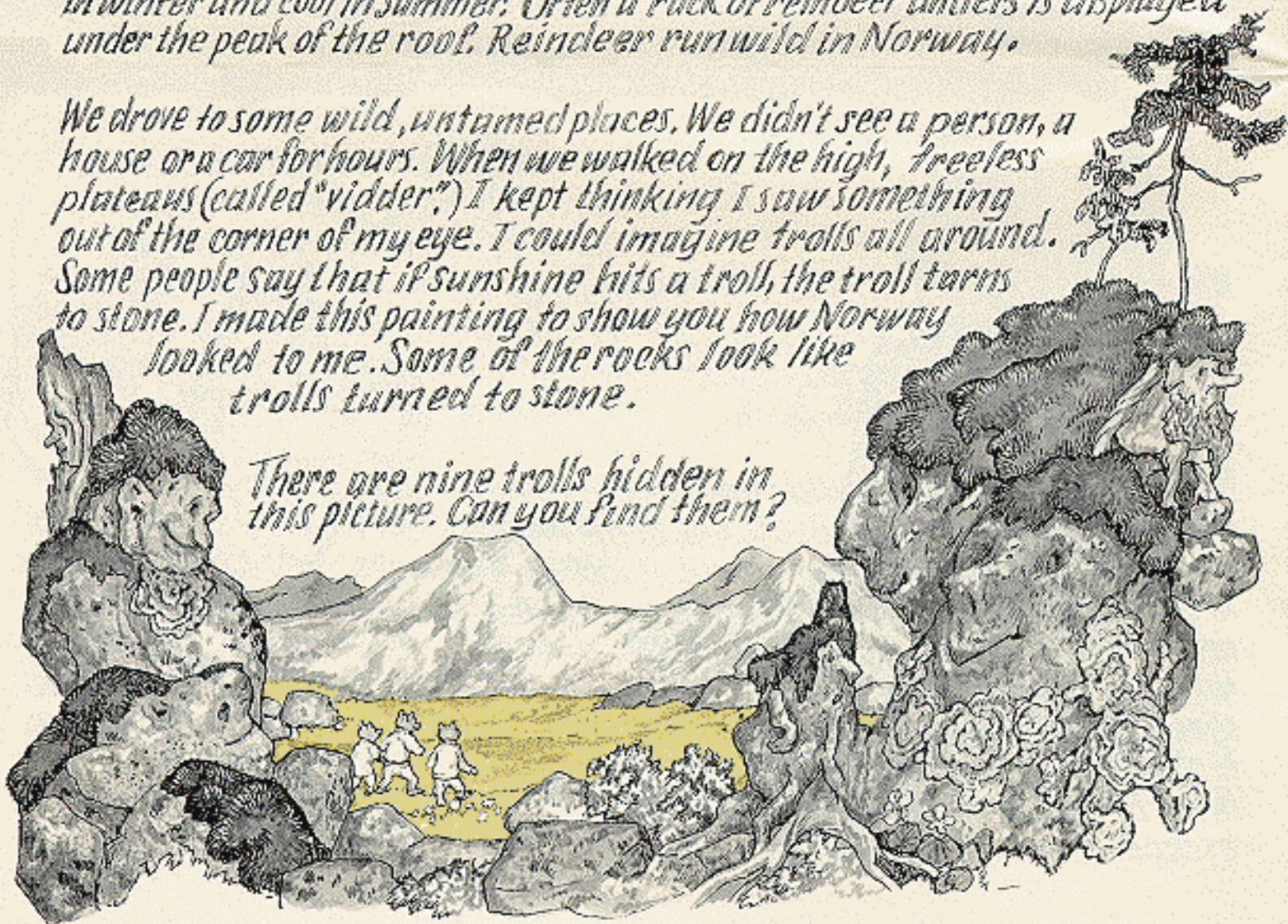
I get many ideas from travelling to different countries. After a trip to Norway, I was inspired to write three books. I've found that the details and the odd little things ones notices, help make a story convincing. In my mind, the story comes alive.

The drawing on the left is of a Norwegian "loft" or "stabbur." It is used to store food for people and animals. When the loft is built on legs, it keeps mice from getting in.

Did you notice Treva's farm in my book? In the olden days many farms looked like hers. I went to the Norsk Folkemuseum (Norwegian folk museum) to see houses like this. In the countryside, you can still see cabins with sod roofs. Flowers and grass growing on the roof are a pretty sight. It keeps the cabin warm in winter and cool in summer. Often a rack of reindeer antlers is displayed under the peak of the roof. Reindeer run wild in Norway.

We drove to some wild, untamed places. We didn't see a person, a house or a car for hours. When we walked on the high, treeless plateaus (called "vidder") I kept thinking I saw something out of the corner of my eye. I could imagine trolls all around. Some people say that if sunshine hits a troll, the troll turns to stone. I made this painting to show you how Norway looked to me. Some of the rocks look like trolls turned to stone.

There are nine trolls hidden in this picture. Can you find them?



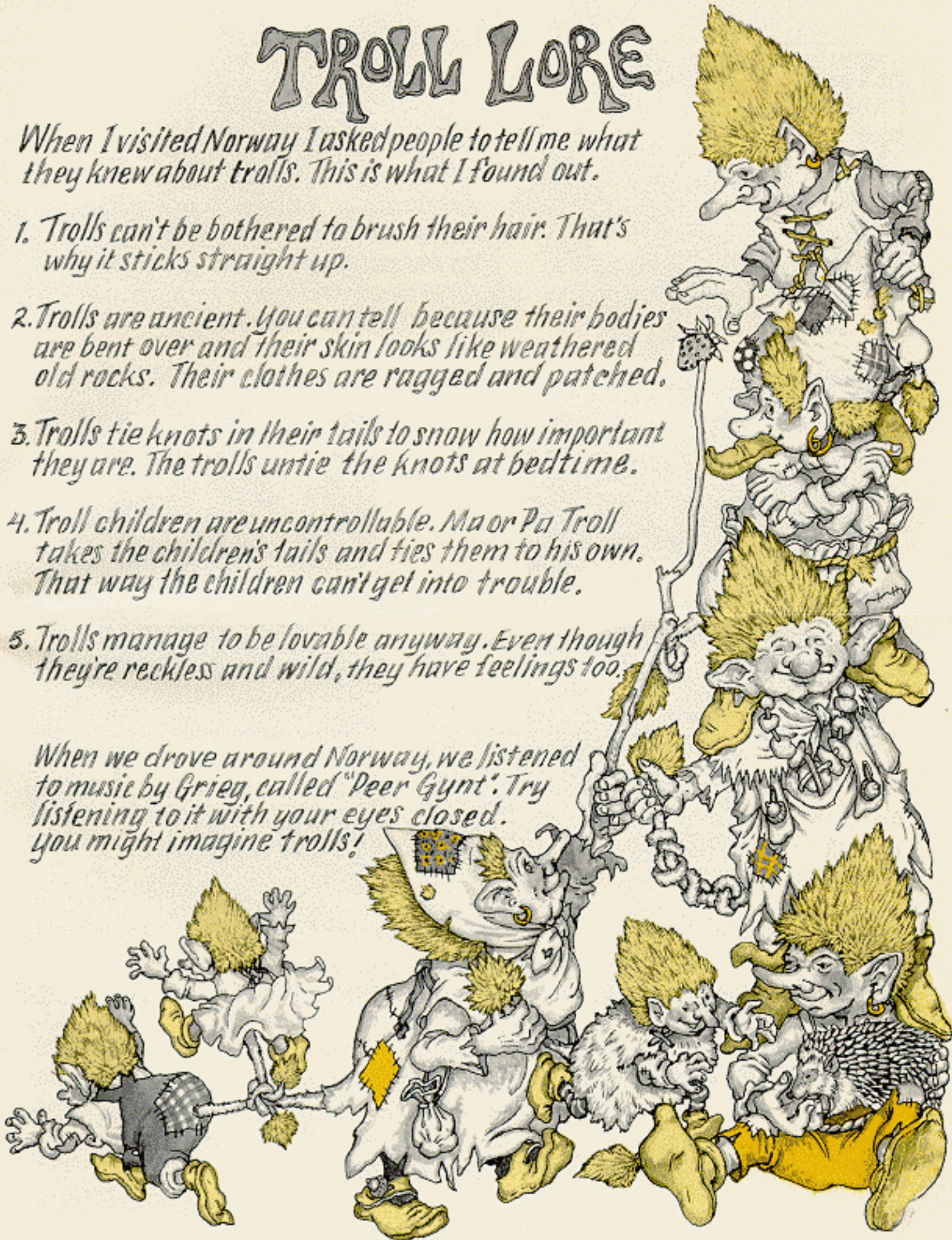


# TROLL LORE

*When I visited Norway I asked people to tell me what they knew about trolls. This is what I found out.*

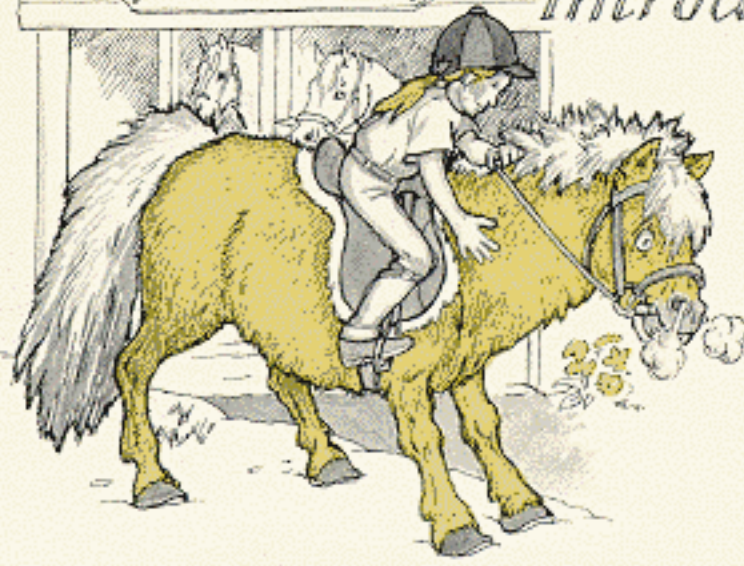
- 1. Trolls can't be bothered to brush their hair. That's why it sticks straight up.*
- 2. Trolls are ancient. You can tell because their bodies are bent over and their skin looks like weathered old rocks. Their clothes are ragged and patched.*
- 3. Trolls tie knots in their tails to show how important they are. The trolls untie the knots at bedtime.*
- 4. Troll children are uncontrollable. Ma or Pa Troll takes the children's tails and ties them to his own. That way the children can't get into trouble.*
- 5. Trolls manage to be lovable anyway. Even though they're reckless and wild, they have feelings too.*

*When we drove around Norway, we listened to music by Grieg, called "Peer Gynt". Try listening to it with your eyes closed. You might imagine trolls!*





## Introducing Treva!



I'd like you to meet the other characters in *Trouble with Trolls*. Treva is modeled after Abbie Sullivan. I met her and her brother and sisters – Robby, Ashley and Mollie at the horse barn where I ride in the Berkshires. I knew by the way she handled her pony that Abbie would be a match for trolls. She was calm, but determined!



Here is a photo of Abbie, and a painting of her from the book. Can you see how they are alike? I didn't worry if my paintings didn't look exactly like Abbie. My goal was to make my character, Treva believable.

When I was a kid, many of the children in the stories I read, were saved by a rescuer. Sometimes magic would save them. I wanted to write a story about a girl who used her creativity to save herself!



### Meet Dot!

Dot is the smallest character in my book. You might not have noticed her. When the hedgehog moves in, she hides! Can you tell me where? If you write me the answer, I'll send you a little prize.



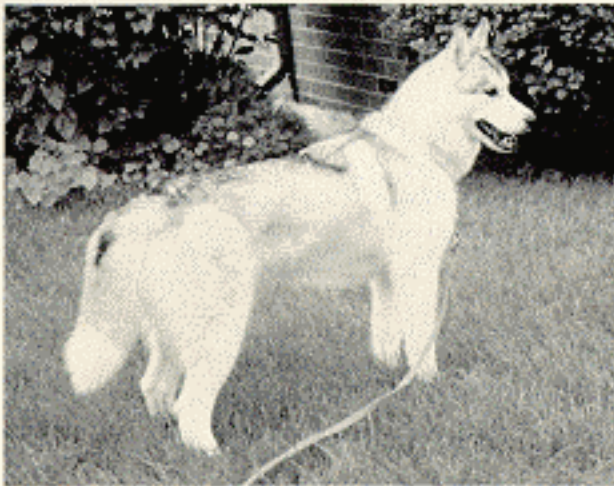
## *Meet Tuffi!*

*Tuffi's real name is Laika. She belongs to my friend Lee Gern. I thought Laika's silver coat and eyes of different colors would add to Tuffi's character.*

*Laika is a Siberian husky. They are bred to pull sleds and they come from Russia.*

*It's cold and snowy in Norway, and I thought a Husky would be happy living there. Huskie's thick coats keep them warm and their paws are like snowshoes, with fur between their toes.*

*I'm Karnovanda's Laika Groznyi! And I'm pleased with myself. My first name is for the kennel I was born in. My second name means "working dog" in Russian, and my third name means "great".*



*We have a husky named Perky Pumpkin. She added to the Tuffi character also. In the photo, my husband Joe is trying to pose Perky. She's supposed to look excited at seeing trolls. Her first name is for her personality, her second name is for her color. Lee named her dog, Laika after the dog who became the first Russian space traveller also.*

*Do you have any pets? I'm not surprized when our pets appear in my stories. They always seem like they have a story to tell.*

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## Here's the Hedgehog!

At the end of *Trouble with Trolls*, Treva gets her dog back, and the troll family is left without a pet. But I felt sorry for the trolls. In the borders, I gave them the perfect pet, a hedgehog! A hedgehog is a perfect pet for a troll because

1. A hedgehog hibernates and doesn't mind sleeping underground.
2. There's plenty to eat in the troll tunnel—mushrooms and bugs.
3. A hedgehog can curl up into a ball. The rambunctious trolls can't hurt it when they play roughly.
4. A hedgehog has bristly, prickly hair just like trolls do. When a hedgehog curls up beside a troll, he feels right at home!



For two years we had our own hedgehog. Her name was Hedga, and her nicknames were Pudge and Buffalo Gal. Every night we let her roam my studio. Then she would find our slippers and bite them. Who knows why? She liked to come out of her house and greet us. She ate dry cat food and for a treat, mealworms. I picked those worms up with tweezers.

Getting to know Hedga made it easy for me to create a character for my book.

