

New friends

By Jonah Stanage

Once upon a time, in a land known as Fantasi, there lived a family of trolls. The trolls lived in Trollstown and their family was made up of Papa troll, Mama troll, and their son, Trolly. Trolly had lots of friends in Trollstown and he was very happy. Until one day, Papa troll decided they needed to move to a new city. Trollstown was running out of opportunity and the troll family needed a fresh start. Trolly hated this idea. He did not want to leave all his friends behind. He, however, had no choice. So the next day the troll family moved away to the city of Fantasi Square.

This city was different than any other city that Trolly had ever seen. There were not just trolls. In fact, Trolly barely noticed any trolls at all. There were Trolls, humans, dwarves, and gnomes, there were even elves! This was a diverse city. Trolly did not know if he would fit in. Trolly unpacked his things in his new house and went downstairs for dinner.

During dinner, Trolly's mom told him that tomorrow he would go to school. Terrified, Trolly shook his head in disapproval. The last thing that Trolly wanted to do was go to school. He would be the new kid. No one would like him. He didn't even know anyone there. How was he going to fit in? Surely, his parents really did not expect him to go to this new school.

Trolly's mother reassured him that everything would be alright. She told him that he would make lots of friends and that there was nothing to worry about. Mama troll helped Trolly pack his bag for school and then tucked him into bed. She sang him his goodnight song and kissed him on the forehead. As she turned out the light, she blew him a kiss, and said, "Goodnight Trolly." As the door closed shut, Trolly drifted off to sleep.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! The alarm sounded. Trolly woke in a flash and jumped out of bed. He was nervous for his first day of school. He ran to the bathroom, quickly brushed his teeth, and put on his clothes, finally ready to begin his day. Dashing down the stairs, Trolly sat down for breakfast. Despite the fact that he did not know if he had the stomach for food, he quickly scarfed down his eggs and bacon, knowing that it would help him get through the tough day ahead. Kissing his mom and dad goodbye, he ran out the door, eager to get his first day over.

Trolly sprinted down the sidewalk. He wanted to make sure he got to class on time. As Trolly approached the school, he began to feel butterflies in his stomach. Full of fear, he was unsure if he could impress all his new classmates. Anxious, Trolly walked to his classroom and opened the door, noticing a plethora of children. Trolly could barely believe his eyes, never in all his life had he seen a classroom so full. Trudging up to the teacher, he shyly introduced himself. The teacher made an announcement to the class saying, "Class this is our new student, Trolly. Everyone give him a big warm welcome." In a chorus of voices the class replied to the teacher, "Hi, Trolly!!" Excited, Trolly waved to the class. He took his seat in the empty chair and pulled out his notebook.

Glancing around the room, Trolly eyed each of the students. There were several human boys and girls. They all appeared extravagant, clothed in fancy fabrics and jewelry. Thinking to himself, *I'll never fit in with those kids*, he drew his attention to another group of children. These kids were trolls just like him! Delighted, he decided these were the kids he would approach at recess.

Suddenly the bell rang and class was dismissed for recess. Trolly ran outside with the other students. When they arrived outside, Trolly saw the biggest playground he had ever seen. Ecstatic, Trolly ran to play with a group of trolls he recognized from his class. However, when

he neared the group of children, his excitement died down. They began to point and snicker. What was wrong? Was there something on his face? Trolly did not know what was the matter. Baffled, Trolly bleated “Hi there! Would you like to play with me?” Instead of responding, they all just ran off and laughed. Trolly was confused and began to walk towards a different group of students. This group of students were a group of elves. When he addressed them, they looked shocked. Finally, when Trolly tried asking to play, they ran off giggling and pointing, causing him to become depressed.

He began to notice something, however. All of these groups weren't playing with him. The elves would not play with him; neither would the trolls. Afraid of denial, Trolly did not even consider approaching the human children. There were a few gnomes but they were too small to play with. Trolly looked to see if there were any dwarves around, but he did not notice any. Discouraged, Trolly walked over to a lone swing and sat down.

Trolly felt like crying, but he knew if he did he would be made fun of even more. This day was turning out to be a real mess. No one would play with him; no one even liked him. Trolly would go home and tell his parents. They would not make him go to a place where nobody liked him, would they? Full of despair, Trolly began to walk to the door to go inside. When all of a sudden, a voice called out,

“Hi there!”

Shocked, Trolly turned around. To his surprise, standing behind him was a friendly looking dwarf boy.

The dwarf spoke again saying, “I’m Darwin! You must be the new kid I keep hearing about.”

Trolly smiled and replied, “Yes, that’s me. Hi, I’m Trolly.”

Darwin was a tiny dwarf, only about three feet tall. He had long red hair and a small mustache was beginning to grow on his upper lip. He wore an old stained shirt and some worn out pants that had holes in the knees. The two looked at each other and smiled. They ran off together to play on the slides. They chased each other up and down for what seemed like an eternity until, the bell rang. They lined up next to each other and laughed. They did not say anything, but somehow they both knew that they were going to be great friends.

For the rest of the day, Trolly and Darwin sat next to each other, and every chance they had they talked to each other. They helped each other in subjects that the other was not good at. Trolly was overjoyed that he had made such a good new friend. At the end of the day, Trolly and Darwin exchanged contact information and said goodbye to each other, doing their new secret handshake. Trolly could not wait to tell his parents about his new friend. He was so happy he almost could not contain himself.

Trolly opened the door and immediately began reciting his day to his parents. They were surprised to hear that his new friend was a dwarf. They had never known any dwarves before. A little concerned, they were still happy for their son. They knew he would make a new friend. Trolly ate his dinner, did his homework, and then jumped straight into bed. He wanted the next day to come so badly, he could not wait to see his new friend. Trolly closed his eyes and fell asleep.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Trolly jumped up as soon as the alarm sounded. He finished his morning routine, ate his breakfast, and then ran out the door. When Trolly got to school, however, his excitement faded. He looked at the front of the school where a group of kids had gathered. In the middle of the group of students was Darwin! The other kids were yelling at him and calling him names. They were making fun of him for being friends with Trolly. Trolly

quickly ran into the group yelling, “Hey! Stop that. Leave him alone!” He did not want to see his friend being bullied.

The two quickly ran away from the other students and went to class. Darwin thanked Trolly for getting him out of that situation. Trolly said, “Of course we’re friends; that’s what friends do.” Darwin began to cry. He had never had a friend before. When he explained this to Trolly, he reassured Darwin that they were friends and that it did not matter what other people said.

The bell rang and class began. The teacher started to explain that the students would work in groups of three for their new group project. She explained that she would make the groups herself. When she was done grouping the students, Darwin and Trolly noticed they were in the same group. They were thrilled to be together. Their joy was short lived, however, because also in their group was the leader of the group of students who had been making fun of Darwin: a human girl named Katie. She looked at them with disgust, proclaiming “I do not want to work with these two losers.”

After class, Darwin and Trolly walked up to Katie and asked, “When do you want to work on the project?” Katie responded, “I don’t care, you two will be doing all the work anyways.” She stormed off towards her house, leaving the two boys alone. Darwin and Trolly did not know how to react. Confused, they began to walk away.

Trolly asked, “Why do you think she is so mean?”

Darwin just shrugged. He had never known anyone to be so mean. Trolly and Darwin decided they would work on the project without Katie. On their way home they started thinking of what they would base their project on. Trolly thought *I want to work on the history of Fantasi*

Square. Letting his thought come to life he explained to Darwin, “I want to work on the history of our town.” Darwin smiled saying, “That sounds fun. Let's do it!”

When they arrived at Darwin’s house to work on the project, they were relieved to be home from school. They went upstairs to work on the project in Darwin’s room when all of a sudden the doorbell rang. They ran downstairs and opened the door. Upon opening the door, they were both hit with a shocked feeling. Standing in front of the door was Katie! They asked, “What are you doing here?”

She responded, “I felt horrible for the way I have been treating the two of you today.” The boys were stunned. She continued, “I was just so jealous of you two. You both just met and you are already excellent friends, and, well, you see, I have never had any friends before.” She began to cry.

She sniffled, “No one ever plays with me. I have been left out from the rest of class ever since I came to this school. I do not even go to recess anymore because no one will play with me.”

Astonished, the boys welcomed her in the house and told her that she could be their friend. In unison they explained, “There is always room for one more. We would be glad to have you as our friend.” With a twinkle in her eye, Katie stepped in the house and accepted their offer.

The next day at school the three of them walked in together. They received many shocked faces from all the other students at the school. People from all over the school came up to the three friends and asked if they could be friends too. Then all at once Trolly, Darwin, and Katie exclaimed, “The more the merrier!!” And from that day forth everyone in Fantasi Square middle school were best friends.