

# IN THE BEGINNING

**W**hen I was Young, not very Young, but just Young Enough and not too Old, I was given a Book, which had photographs of places in the woods where fairies lived. I spent many hours in the forest looking for fairies, dragging my Book with me so that I could be sure I had the right plants. (My Book got very ragged, but it was for a good cause, as you shall see). I found Jack in the Pulpits, ferns, and running cedar, soft mosses and tall grasses and many kinds of flowers. My favorite flower was the Ladyslipper, which really looked like the softest, most dainty lady's slippers.

After much practice, I became good at Seeing fairies.

Seeing fairies took a lot of practice because you had to do it in a special way. The trick was to open your eyes very wide, while paying close attention to what might move at the corners of your eyes. Fairies were quicker than quick at disappearing when you looked straight at them, but if you sneaked a peek to the side while pretending you weren't, sometimes you could see them.

I began my fairy hunting in the woods. But as I became better at seeing them, I made a Curious Discovery. I found that there are many different kinds of fairies, and not just in the woods, either. I looked and watched and peered and listened. I found Indoor Fairies and Outdoor Fairies, Weather Fairies, Heather Fairies, and Fairies of all sorts of things.

Soon after making this Miraculous Discovery, I began seeing Gremlins and Trolls and Sprites and Elves. None of the things I discovered were much like the fairies and such that other Authors had revealed. Along the way, I met up with a few other Fairy Discoverers whom you shall meet in due time. As we made our Discoveries, we decided to write them down and catalogue them, in order that you might discover these creatures in your world, for we were sure you must have Fairies and Gremlins of your own.

# Big Rabbit's House

