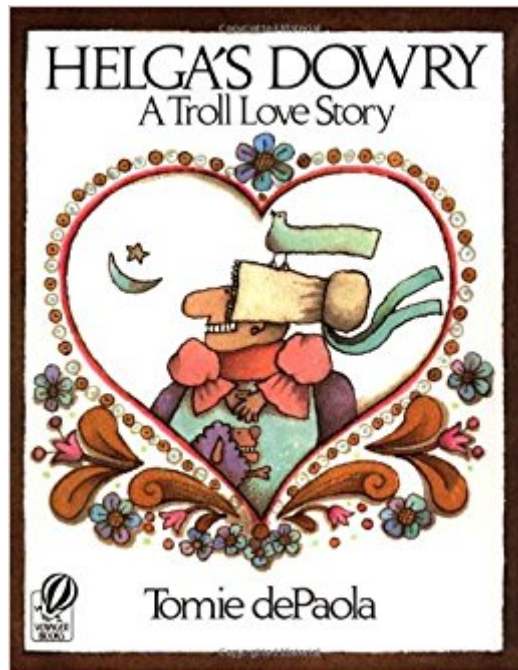




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Helga's Dowry: A Troll Love Story



Synopsis

Helga, a troll, must somehow acquire a dowry with which to marry or, by the god Odin's command, be doomed to wander the earth forever. Richly colored pictures capture the droll humor of [Helga's] clever, determined fight to garner impressive riches.

---Booklist

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD640L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Sandpiper; 1 edition (September 1, 1977)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0156400103

ISBN-13: 978-0156400107

Product Dimensions: 10 x 8 x 0.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,549,096 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European #203 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Norse #46793 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Tomie dePaola (pronounced Tommy da-POW-la) is best known for his books for children. He's been published for over 40 years and has written and/or illustrated nearly 250 books, including *Strega Nona*, *26 Fairmount Avenue*, *The Art Lesson*, and *Christmas Remembered*. Over 15 million copies of his books have sold worldwide.

A great little book in which Helga goes out and earns the money for her dowry after the prince tells her they can't marry without a dowry. Helga decides she's clever enough to earn her own dowry and succeeds. A nice little story about a girl who sets a high goal, works hard, and gets what she wants. And it's not the prince.

I remember listening to this story as a child, and loving it so much. I'm so glad I can share it with my friends and younger children now; I hope they love it as much as I did.

This was one of my absolutely favorite books as a child, and I still love reading it to my daughters. Helga is beautiful but poor, and her sweetheart chooses to marry the plain but rich Inge unless Helga can earn a dowry worthy of him. (You can see where this is going, right?) Helga is devastated and heads down into the human world to earn her own dowry. While the humans she interacts with are lazy and vain, and there is a small moral there, the greater moral is Helga realizing her own value. And she's not the only one. Someone has been keeping an eye on her, and though Helga has earned her dowry, it turns out she didn't really need it anyway. There is nothing not to love about this book. :)

This story is about Helga, Lars, Old Sven, and Inge. Helga is a troll who wants to get married to Lars. She can't marry Lars because she has no dowry (or any property, like a house, cows, or money) because she is an orphan. So, Lars decides that he is going to ask Old Sven what to do. Old Sven says that he should marry his daughter, Inge. Lars says that he will marry her, but he will wait for Helga to come back with some dowry. Helga decides to go to the Land of People to get some money or dowry. She works for the people and gets what she needs, except land to live on. She is almost done with the task she had to do, but the Inge did something that made her stop. To find out what happens, read the book! I think that overall, this book was good. I especially love the ending.

This is a simple children's book that has the feel of an old Norwegian fairytale, with cameo appearances from one-eyed Odin and the trolls of Scandinavian folklore. Helga is a troll who takes matters into her own hands and creates a dowry for herself to marry by...to hilarious result. Cited by some as a work of feminist fairytale but really just a great tale with an awesome moral, this is a must for any child's bookshelf, girl or boy. Your kids will remember it all their lives: I haven't seen the cover in 20 years, but I pictured it perfectly just before I searched for this page. J. Lyon Layden
The Other Side of Yore

A spunky but impoverished female troll wants to marry, but she needs a dowry to do it--so she gets to work. This is a great, funny variation on your usual fairy tale. Helga is a determined, hard-working heroine, who is rewarded for solving her own problems. The story is pretty simple, but obviously it's a good message. This is a great book for little girls who will soon be reading chapter books about princesses who rescue themselves. There may be lots of chapter books with active heroines, but it's a pretty rare find for picture books. We need more stories like this one. Of course, since it's by

Tomie De Paola, the illustrations are great, too.

I can't tell you how much I love Tommie dePaola for giving us a heroine that young girls can hope to emulate. Helga does not need a Prince to give meaning to her life. She HAS a life! And, she is complete on her own and within herself. You GO, Girl!

A great story about true love. Is true love a good dowry, or caring about someone? Typically great illustration from Tomie De Paola.

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