



with Jill Haywood

(adapted from a classical story by Rudyard Kipling)

befriend - fer-se amic
rather than - en contes de
louder - mes fort
seeds - llavors
woollen - de llana
midwife - llevadora



Avui en Story Time escoltarem una història basada en un conte de fades d'Escòcia. Està ambientat a prop de la frontera d'Anglaterra i no gaire lluny d'on vivia jo. El poble es diu Hawick

Fairy Friends

It is a good thing to befriend the fairies, as this story shows.

Once upon a time a poor farmer from Jedburgh was on his way to Hawick. There was a regular market in Hawick where many farmers bought and sold their sheep. The farmer knew he would have a better chance of getting a good price for his sheep at the market in Hawick, rather than selling them locally. He and his wife had 12 sheep and the man was taking 6 to sell so that he could have money to buy seeds to plant and flour to make bread.

The farmer was very cold. He wrapped his blue and green scarf round his neck to keep warm. He had been walking with his sheep for a long time and was tired and cold but suddenly he heard voices, female voices but he could see no-one.

How strange. He stopped and listened. The voices were louder but there was no-one with him on the road. There was no-one in the fields near the road. The voices were definitely female and they sounded happy. He could hear laughter but could not hear any words.

He listened very carefully and soon he was able to hear a little more.

“The baby, the baby. It is nearly here. It is so fast. We will not have time to reach home.”

“A baby born on this night will be very lucky!”

“Oh this is so wonderful!”

There was a lot of laughter. The farmer was very confused. He could hear the voices clearly now but he could not see anyone. Where were the women who were talking? Where was the woman who was having a baby? This was all very strange.

He heard the voices again.

“The baby is here. There baby is here. What shall we do? We have no blanket to wrap the baby! We need a blanket. The baby will be so cold!” The voices sounded very worried.

Suddenly the farmer was able to see a dozen tiny fairies at the side of the road and one fairy held a tiny naked baby.

Despite the cold, the farmer immediately took off his warm woollen scarf and held it out to the fairies. The fairies took the scarf and vanished.

The man continued his journey to the market and was not sure if he had dreamed of the fairies or if they had been real - but he knew his scarf had gone. Perhaps he had lost it by the road.

The fairies had his scarf and were watching the farmer.

He made a wonderful deal at the market and was paid a lot of money for his sheep. He bought many sacks of flour to make bread and some fresh vegetables to take home to his wife. He also bought lots of seeds to plant.

Later that year when he planted the seeds, the fairies secretly watched him and they cared for the seeds, using their magic to help them grow. Each year the fairies returned and helped the farmer. His flock of sheep grew from 6, to 15, then 25 and a few years later the farmer had 100 sheep, 12 cows, several pigs, many hens and his crops were all healthy and strong. The farmer was no longer poor. One day his wife announced that she was pregnant and the farmer was going to be a father. He thought about the tiny fairy baby and was happy thinking about his own child.

The following spring, the farmer's wife had twins. A lovely baby girl and a strong baby boy. When the midwife left, the farmer heard voices in the bedroom and returned to his wife. She was alone with the babies but next to each baby was a beautiful blue and green scarf.

