



*Dedicated to Fred, Charlotte, Scarlett and Sylvia...
and all the big and little fairies in our lives – A.M.G. & L.W.*

Dedicated to my beloved parents – Tatsiana & Uladzimir – N.M.

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FAEDOM

Enter the Fairy Realm



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WELCOME TO FAE DOM

Fairies are the heart and soul of the enchanted world of the fae. They share this enigmatic realm with a panoply of mythical beings and beasts. Fantastic and familiar, they inhabit the woods, meadows and streams of all the fairy tales we have come to love through the ages.

ELVES

Elves are a supernatural race of immortal beings. They may be small in stature, but they have enormous magical powers. First mentioned in Germanic mythology, their legends have passed into Scandinavian, Celtic and English lore. In modern times, Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* saga popularised the elvish tradition. Today's elves are best known for their efforts in making Christmas a magical season for humans, especially children.

DWARVES & GNOMES

Both dwarves and gnomes are small, human-like creatures with magical powers who prefer to dwell in forest burrows. They have been celebrated for their dedication to protecting Snow White from her evil stepmother, but they aren't always as forthcoming when it comes to human interactions. Their main purpose is to safeguard their buried treasure from greedy human hands.

MERFOLK, SELKIES & KELPIES

Close companions of the fairies of the ocean and sea, these aquatic creatures have populated many myths centred around the treacherous powers of the watery realm. Most often, they have been known to charm naïve sailors with their heavenly voices and beauty, dragging them down to their deaths at the bottom of the sea.

THE WITCHERY

The witches, wizards and magicians of this world live between the fae and earthly realms, weaving a hybrid magic that draws upon the rare resources and ancient wisdom hidden throughout the Cosmos.

FAE KNIGHTS

They are the original guardians of Fae Dom. Their main task is to keep humans out of the realm. Armed with incredible strength and possessing the heart of a lion, any knight of this order will stop at nothing to protect Fae Dom from earthly interference, slaying giants, dragons and evil kings in their wake.

GIANTS & OGRES

As gargantuan figures that have struck fear into the hearts of children over millennia, they have a rather grisly reputation. However, they aren't always so terrible and there are quite a few giants and ogres in Fae Dom who are as kind and generous as can be.

FAUNS & CENTAURS

These mythical creatures possess the torso and head of a human, but the lower body parts and legs of a goat or horse. They have appeared in thousands of legends throughout the centuries as both liberators and antagonists. Fauns play instruments and never miss a party, while the more serious centaurs will fiercely guard their territory to protect their loved ones from encroaching beasts and monsters.

FAE BESTIARY

Fae Dom would be a truly desolate place without its magical menagerie of mythical beasts, from the legendary unicorn and the resilient phoenix to the fearsome dragons, griffins, basilisks and sphinxes that eternally guard the best-kept secrets of this magical realm.

FAIRIES...

Fairies were born of the spark that illuminated the darkness as the Universe came into being many billions of years ago. They are the ancient fates, destinies, guardians, guides, gatekeepers, muses and messengers who have forged a bridge between the enchanted realm of magic and mysticism and the material world of nature and human civilisation.

These mystical heroes have been at the centre of epic mythologies, passed through the oral traditions of folk cultures across the globe over countless generations. The earliest written records of fairies include Ferdowsi's epic poem *Shahnameh* at the turn of the tenth century and the numerous fae that feature in medieval iterations of the Arthurian legends, to Shakespeare's own dramatic ode to the fae in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* four hundred years ago. And of course, there are the fairy tales that have been immortalised by countless retellings, the most famous of which were set down on paper by the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen. Even Oscar Wilde compiled his own collection of charismatic fairy stories. Fairy tales have left an indelible mark on our world, transporting us to a place of imagination and wonder, while lending a vital lesson on human foibles and follies.

As charismatic and ageless as the Earth itself, the fae are our most valiant guardians and protectors, stopping at nothing to punish those who pollute and pillage our wonderful planet. Fairies have long been known for their mischief, conjuring up unusual circumstances and even sudden misfortunes to trip up their human neighbours. Their magic has piqued our curiosity through the ages, leading many astray in futile attempts to solve impossible mysteries or loot hidden fairy treasures. In a more trivial sense, fairies are often the ones to blame when household items go missing, or a recipe inexplicably goes wrong.

They are the Sprites, Pixies, Sidhe, Sith, Brownies, Greencoats, Yarthkins, Spunkies, Spriggans, Tylwyth Teg, Rusalkas, Sylphs, Selkies and Nymphs of European legend. They are the Mazikeen of Jewish tradition and the Feu follet of Cajun beliefs. They are the Miru of Maori legend and the Menchune of Hawai'i. They are the Nünin'hi of the Cherokee, Jogah of the Iroquois, the Alux of the Mayas and Chanques of Mexico. They are the Vættir of Norway, the Encantado of Portugal, the Kashyali of the Roma, the Peri of Persia, the Hu Hsien of China, the Aziza of the Dahomey mythology of West Africa and they are close kin of the mystical Djinn of Asia.

...AND FAUNA

The Fairies of Faedom belong to an ancient order known as the Elementals: Earth, Water, Fire and Air. From the iridescent glint of a waterfall and the mysterious allure of the forest, to the divine melody of a song, they are the incarnation of natural, earthly spirits – plant, animal, even human, and everything in between. Yet those who are familiar with their mercurial ways will know that they would vehemently refuse to be so neatly boxed into categories. After all, the Moon Fairy's magic may be bound to the Earth, but the tidal pull she leans into links her to the sea. The Neon Fairy might glow as bright as a star, but the airiness of her spirit is what fuels her glamour and light. And while these mysterious beings may appear to be made of flesh and blood, unlike mortals, some of the fae can live forever and hold powers that go beyond the limits of the natural world. Like the elements, fairies hold the power to create and to destroy.

Trooping fairies wander about the Earth in boisterous cavalcades of merriment, but some are quite solitary and prefer to dwell alone. No matter their type, most fairies will make themselves scarce at the sight of a human. They will make an exception for children, especially those who have shown themselves to be kind, pure of heart and respectful of the natural order of things. Fairies will even go out of their way to protect a child who has been hurt or lost in the wilderness, often risking their own safety for the life of a small human.

To spot a fairy, you must prove your good intentions and find a portal between the earthly realm and the world of the fae, either through space or through time. There are many magical entrances to Faedom but the most common ones can be found in the hollow of a tree or a glowing fairy ring. Picking the right time is crucial. Portals will appear at the hinges of the day, month or year – such as dawn or dusk, the full moon, the equinox or the solstices. These are the liminal spaces where the veil between the spirit and material worlds momentarily disappears, giving us a glimpse at the scintillating forces behind the wonders of the natural world.

Welcome to the mystical realm of Faedom.



ROWAN: THE TREE FAIRY
ROSIE, PEONY & AZALEA: THE FLOWER FAIRIES
ESMERALDA: THE MOSS & MEADOW FAIRY
NIAH: THE CAVE FAIRY
SORELLA: THE MOUSE FAIRY
LUNELLA: THE MOON FAIRY



EARTH FAIRIES



Born of ancient rock and soil, the Earth fairies are grounded and tenacious. Their spirits are as resolute as the trees and as delicate as the petals of a rose. Their roots are deeply anchored to the ancient history of the Cosmos, setting the rare foundations for life in the vastness of our Solar System. These fairies are the original architects of the world, sculpting the rugged landscapes of our planet into the cliffs, caves and coves that we have come to love so well. They bring about abundance, cultivating the ground and unearthing the riches of our planet. Their natural harmony strives to protect and nurture the treasures of this world, fighting a magical war against the greedy few who aim to pillage the Earth's sacred legacy.

THE TREE FAIRY

ROWAN

Rowan is a gentle giantess who towers over many of the smaller fae in her kingdom. She is a pillar of immovable strength and intelligence who embodies the natural order and magic spirit of the forest, captivating everyone who enters its bounds.

Though she is by far the most ancient forest spirit, Rowan's true age remains a secret. Every few thousand years, she perishes and is swiftly renewed, to reign over her tree kingdom once more. Her infinite arms stretch up to the sky, beckoning the clouds to share their rain with the forest. Rowan's long, twisted locks of hair change from green to gold with the seasons, crowned with a swirling ring of leaves. This crown joins with those of all the elders in her community, creating a royal canopy that provides shade for the creatures of the forest floor, allowing just enough sunlight to trickle in to feed the younger trees.

As the mother of the forest, Rowan provides shelter to all its creatures, big and small. She nurtures those who are hungry with fruits, leaves, seeds, nuts, sap, maple syrup, birch juice and mushrooms. She offers sanctuary to anyone running from danger – yet she will set traps for all villains who dare to invade her sacred forest. She guards the enchanted hollows of the wood that serve as portals between the human world and the fairy realm, making sure that no one can cross over and endanger the existence of the fae.

Like most faeries, Rowan is wary of humans and their intentions, but she does have a special fondness for children, helping them to climb her branches and catching them before they fall. Any child who feels anxious or unwell can place their hands upon the rough bark of any tree in the forest to feel her strength and support, and her mere presence has the power to raise the spirit. In truth, humans could not live without her life-giving breath of oxygen or her sustainable gifts of food, shelter and warmth.

Wondrous Wands



The wood of the rowan and other tree species is believed to have magical properties. If you come across a nice stick, pick it up and offer thanks to its tree. Bring it home, then decorate it with leaves and ribbons to create your own wondrous wand. Draw the Tree Fairy's symbol on a piece of paper and wrap it around the bottom of the stick.

Inscribe her nurturing energy by chanting:

Forest spirit, we call on your powers to protect us and bring us joy!



TREE OF LIFE

Trees are sacred in many religions and mythologies, including the Bible's Tree of Life and Buddha's Bodhi tree. In Ancient Greece, dryads represented tree spirits, and worldwide, the spirits have diverse names, such as Thailand's Nae-Nae, Madagascar's Rakapila and Lithuania's Lauva.

NATURAL NETWORKS

Scientists have found that trees are connected by a mycorrhizal network of roots and fungi that allows for the transfer of water and nutrients between them. This evolutionary feature ensures that each sapling has a maximum chance of surviving to adulthood, even with limited access to resources. Trees can be 'fed' through this 'wood wide web'.

FOREST BATHING

In Japan, the wellness practice *Shinrin-yoku*, or 'forest bathing', involves inhaling chemicals called phytoncides, released by trees during woodland walks. Researchers have found this can enhance mood, creativity and even physical health, including reducing blood pressure and boosting the immune system.



ROSIE PEONY & AZALEA

FLORA & FAUNA

Insects and flowering plants have developed together over millennia in a process known as co-evolution. The bright colours and intense fragrances that characterise many species of flowers evolved to attract tiny pollinators who assist in transporting their seeds in exchange for a nutritious helping of nectar. Various species of birds and even bats also engage in this tasty trade-off.

CHARMING BOUQUETS

Throughout history, flowers have been associated with emotions and intentions. In Victorian England, roses depicted love, while lilies were meant to represent purity. The act of giving someone flowers signified a meaningful social interaction, or a symbol of affection, romance or sympathy, depending on the flower or bouquet. Even today, giving flowers as a gift remains a special gesture.

FLOWER FACE

The Welsh legend of Blodeuwedd tells the story of an enchanted woman created from the flowers of lemons, meadowweet and the oak tree by the magicians Math and Gwydion. Her name is a combination of the Welsh words *blodau* (flowers) and *gwydd* (dew). When she betrays her husband and tries to have him killed, she is turned into an owl by the magicians as punishment and banished from appearing in the daylight.

THE FLOWER FAIRIES

The Flower Fairies are the world's tiniest and most devoted gardeners, cultivating every seedling until it blooms in a sudden burst of soft petals. They work closely with the birds, bees, butterflies and insects of the Earth to help fill the world with a dynamic spectrum of colours and scents. In exchange, they offer their little friends nourishing meals of nectar and pollen.

For these vibrant beings, there is no such thing as too much colour. They joyfully embellish Earth's rocky landscape with every possible hue, from the softest pink, lilac, yellow and white to bold fuchsia, crimson, deep purple and velvety black. In spring they cover the forest floor with a thick carpet of wildflowers, climbing to the very tops of the trees to sprinkle branches with lush clusters of fragrant blossoms.

While certain flowers and their fairies are shy, such as Buttercup and Petunia, others such as Orchid, Poppy and Penny are overwhelmingly expressive and dramatic. Some flower fairies prefer to come out in the dark, such as the Queen of the Night, dancing beneath the stars and basking in the moonlight. At dawn, these nocturnal fair wrap themselves up in their silken petals as birdsong lulls them to sleep, while Daisy and Morning Glory rise to the sky as the early Sun's rays light up the world.

There is nothing Flower Fairies enjoy more than a garden party, when they can don their prettiest dresses and most flamboyant hats, celebrating their natural beauty with boisterous bouts of singing and dancing. Their steps trace out fairy rings through fields and forests, forging a botanical link between the fair and earthly realms.

There are thousands of Flower Fairies inhabiting every sun-dappled island and continent known to humankind. Always out and about, these fairies are easy for humans to spot, but will vanish in a flash of colour and intoxicating scent. Legend has it that they may even leave behind some fairy treasure for children to find in a cluster of cowslips.

Flower Power

Take a walk through a nearby park or garden and whisper a wish to the Flower Fairies to win their favour and bestow your day...

Roses and jasmine for friendship and love,

A pop of pansies for a lucky penny.

Irises for wisdom and hydrangeas for energy.

Azaleas for elegance and poise,

Lavender for a restful night's sleep.

Remember to thank the fairy for listening to your wish.