

# Forest Legends

## Leprechauns

By Tea Orsi



## Leprechauns

What a name! Who might these woodland creatures be? Don't worry, recognizing them is easy! Leprechauns are those little men dressed in green who are so popular in Ireland. They have pointed ears and bright orange beards and hair.



Lots of legends revolve around them. The most famous one concerns the pot of gold that leprechauns love to hide at the end of the rainbow (and that everyone would like to find).



These creatures are always on the move and they're also a little mischievous (actually, a lot!). They're even very funny. No one knows what their houses look like, but they're sure to be full of pots and pans and fantastic treasures.



Leprechauns also have one very important job: they are the skilled shoemakers to the fairies. They love to fix shoes, boots and sandals of all kinds.



It's incredible, but true: some leprechauns hate wearing green. They wear red instead. It certainly doesn't bring out their beard and hair.



The keep their abundant treasure in stout of black pots.  
Mostly gold coins polished to perfection.





## **The Legend of The Two Brothers**

### **Ireland**

This story comes straight from Ireland, the land of leprechauns! It struck us because, in addition to highlighting the mischievous character of the wee orange-bearded men, it also shows a positive trait that few people know about: their generosity.



One day, two brother were walking through a forest so large that they got lost. After walking for a long time, they realised the sun was starting to set, so they decided to rest near a hawthorn bush. Little did they know, however, that hawthorn is the favourite habitat of fairies and leprechauns (we didn't know either before reading this story).



Just as they were about to fall asleep, the clearing was filled with little leprechauns, dancing in the moonlight.



One of them walked over to the brothers and invited them to join the party, offering them two pieces of coal. "Keep them in your pocket until morning," he said.



The brothers didn't want to disappoint him (who knows what tricks he might have played on them out of spite). So, they joined in the dancing and had a great time!



In the morning, they remembered the lumps of coal.  
Quickly they went through their pockets  
and...surprise! Instead of coal, they each found a  
handful of gold coins!

The older brother decided to wait until they ran into  
the leprechaun again and ask him for more coal. The  
younger brother was satisfied with what he had and  
decided to go home.



The leprechaun returned to the older brother and left him another small piece of coal. But when the boy put his hands in his pockets, hoping to discover more gold coins, what did he find instead? A handful of coal! And that wasn't the end of it! the coins from the first night had disappeared! Disappointed, the boy returned home.



“You were too greedy and the leprechaun punished you!”  
scolded his brother.

He then handed him some of his coins, sharing them like a  
good younger brother. From that day on, the older brother  
learned to be happy with what he had.





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