



The Brownie Story

This story was adapted from a tale told at the beginning of Brownie Girl Scouting in 1926.

Mary and Tommy lived with their Father and Grandmother in a small cabin in the woods. Their father worked very hard all day. Their grandmother was too old to do the house work. Their father tried his best to keep the house clean. But it was a lot after a full days work. Mary and Tommy didn't help very much. They just played all day long. One day, Grandma looked at the state of her messy house and said "What this house needs is a Brownie Elf or two." What's a Brownie Elf, Granny? Asked Mary. "Oh a Brownie elf is a very helpful tiny, little person." "Too small for you to see" answered Granny. She'd come in before the family gets up and do all sorts of chores. The she'd run off before anyone could see her. but we can hear her laughing and playing about the house sometimes if we really listen. Brownies only ever ask for love for the chores they do. "Oh, Granny where are the Brownies now?" asked Tommy. "Only the Wise Old Owl knows for sure my dear."

That night, Mary could hardly sleep. She kept thinking about the Brownie elves and if she could find one, how they could help her Grandma with the house. "There's an old owl living in the shed by the pond", she thought. If that's the Wise Old Owl, she could tell me where to find the Brownies!

Mary got out of bed and hurried to the shed by the pond in the woods. "Woo, woo" Mary herd from behind her. "It's an owl! Mary thought. "Maybe it's the one I'm looking for." Said Mary. Looking up, Mary saw the owl in a tree. "Hello Mrs. Owl, where can I find a Brownie to come live with us." she asked. "Well Mary", said the Owl. "I can tell you how to find one of the Brownies." "Go to the pond when the moon is shinning and turn yourself around 3 times while you say this charm." "TWSIT ME, TURN ME AND SHOW ME THE ELF, I LOOK IN THE WATER AND SAW _____". Then look into the pond and you'll find your Brownie." When you see the Brownie you'll think of a word the will end the Magic rhyme. Mary turned and ran to the pond. She slowly



turned herself around 3 times while she said the rhyme. "Twist me turn me and show me the elf, I look into the water and saw..." She stopped and looked into the pond. She saw only her face. "Belf, jelf, nelf melf!" All those words rhyme with elf but they didn't make any sense or mean anything. Suddenly she gasped. "Myself!" I see nothing but myself! I'm a Brownie!" Mary said. Mary went home and climbed back into bed.

Early the next morning, Mary told Tommy what had happened. Together the crept downstairs and did every bit of house work they could find to do before their Father woke up. Then they hid in the kitchen so he wouldn't see them. When Father came downstairs, he looked around and rubbed his eyes. The table was set, the floor was clean and the room was as bright and shinny as a new penny. At first, Father could not say a word. Then he ran to the foot of the stairs, shouting "Mother! Mother! Our Brownie has come back!" Thank Goodness!" Granny said, "Where is she?" "I want to thank her?" Father herd laughter coming from the kitchen. "It must be a Brownie Elf," he said as he opened the door to the kitchen. There he saw Mary and Tommy dancing around. "We're the Brownies! We're the Brownies! "What's this?" Father asked, with a twinkle in his eye. "Where are my Brownies?" We're the real Brownies Papa! Here we are! And with that Tommy and Mary ran into their Father's arms.