

THE MAGNIFICENT ADVENTURES OF

*Falafeling*

THE BRAVE AND KINDHEARTED

*The Magnificent Adventures of Folutjing*

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First Edition

Printed in the United States

Paperback: 978-1-64111-595-7

Hardcover: 978-1-64111-594-0

eBook: 978-1-64111-596-4

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## FOLOTJING

Folotjing! Folotjing! What are you?

Where do you live, and what do you do?

“I’m an itty bitty Dwendi,<sup>1</sup> and I live in a tree.

“I’m as small as a hamster with a little round belly.

“I’m as plump as a cherry and soft as a marshmallow.

“I’m fragrant like a mango, and I’m sharp as an arrow.

“Nature is my mother; I’m the best at what I do.

“My heart is in my garden; I love rainy days too.”

<sup>1</sup> A *dwendi*, also known as a *duende*, is an enchanted creature in Filipino folklore. They are tiny and magical beings, and only small children can see them. They bring good luck or bad, depending on the type you encounter. As a young boy, I was mesmerized by stories about these creatures, and I used to pretend I had one for a friend.





## SAVED BY THE TRAP

One day in the forest, as Folotjing was playing,  
the wolf pounced on him and rushed away running.  
With excitement, he snarled, “Dinner is good tonight!”  
Folotjing was just too small, too weak to raise a fight.

But the rushing wolf tripped and was caught in a trap.  
And Folotjing knew he could escape through the gap.

The wolf feared he’d be doomed to hang on a tree.  
Today’s the last day, he dreaded, that he should ever see.





## THE BEAR AND THE FISH BONE

On a quiet morning after eating a hearty wedge,  
Folotjing went to gather pebbles near the river's edge.  
Winter is coming; his pebble fence needed fixing.

With the cold wind blowing, his  
fireplace needed mending.

Swiftly a giant, furry paw snatched him from behind  
and shook him in the meanest way, a deed most unkind.

"Good morning, breakfast!" growled  
the monstrous brown bear.

"You may be small in size, but you're as plump as a pear."







As Folotjing dangled from the claw of his captor,  
he hung by his wits; he thought fast as a raptor.

“Before you eat me, oh kingly bear, please  
consider what I have to say.

“Why waste your time on me when  
in the river is a grand buffet?

“I may look plump and juicy, but really I am tiny.

“It’s all just my puffy clothes, but inside I’m so skinny.

“There, in the grand river, swim a great plenty of fish.

“Fresh, cold, and fat—a most mouthwatering dish!

“So don’t waste your time; the sun is rising high.

“Those fish will not wait, and they will soon leave you by.

“If you find it in your heart to kindly set me free,

“I may help you someday; you never  
know when you’ll need me.”