

Preface

How....

Once upon a time, long ago, four little girls begged for bedtime stories. Every night, from room to room, with the goodnight kiss, came the plea, Please, Daddy, another story. And after I ran out of Daddy and Grampa and Great-Grampa stories, after telling them all over and over

again until they wore out, I began making things up. Just on the fly, relying on traditional themes and motifs of the Celtic and Germanic folk traditions, I would start a tale not knowing where it would end. Many of them didn't go anywhere, but a few seemed worth telling again and again, and gradually they grew into something I thought worth writing down. I typed them up in a manuscript, which I made copies of and gave as keepsakes to the girls and to others in the family.

A few weeks ago, as her contribution toward recovery of my personal work after a tragic fire, my cousin sent me a copy I had given her for her daughter way back when, and looking at the tales again these decades later, I thought them worth editing and putting up in a little book. So I offer

them now, not because I think they are great contributions to the world of literature, but because the little girls and their cousins have children, and soon grandchildren, who might enjoy hearing the tales as much as their mothers and grandmothers did. And perhaps other little girls will enjoy them, too.

And so I now toss these tales to the world, hoping that somewhere some little girl will beg for a bedtime story and some daddy will find in these pages some few moments of magic to send his little sweetheart to her dreams.

BAT, January 2008

