

ELLI PEONIDOU (Cyprus)

Summary:

I Tridymes kai i Magissa Nona Tous
(The Triplets and their Fairy Godmother)

(a fairytale for children of 8 years and over)

A poor woman loses her husband and two days later gives birth to girl triplets. Good Fortune hears the mother singing happily, despite her difficulties, and enters her hovel disguised as a beggar. The mother invites her to share her frugal meal and during their subsequent conversation Good Fortune reveals her true identity and becomes Godmother of the three girls, Fengareni, Meleni and Xefteri.

As a gift, Good Fortune leaves the girls' mother a coral box, telling her to look after it until they need it. The mother buries the precious box in the ground and she doesn't touch it for twelve years, until the moment she feels that she is about to die. It is then that she reveals the secret to the triplets before closing her eyes and wishing them to remain loving friends forever. The girls, alone now, open the box and a Spirit emerges from it to become their faithful servant. But the servant of which of the three? Selfishness and jealousy come between them for a while.

The story narrates the adventures of the triplets who, like all children, have special gifts but also weaknesses. Fengareni will be attracted to the theatre which she loves so much, Meleni will charm the King's son with her sweet voice and Xefteri will use her clever mind to get all three out of trouble when they find themselves in difficulty.