

## I MYSELF

Percy was a little boy. Just like many boys and girls, he never wanted to go to sleep on time. He liked to sit near the fireplace and listen to fairy tales his mother told. The house was warm and cosy in the evening, especially near the fireplace.

“Percy, it’s time to go to bed,” his mum said one evening.

But Percy thought that it was too early to sleep and he argued with his mum.

“I don’t want to sleep!” answered Percy.

His mum was tired from arguing every day and she said:

“Sit alone by the fire and the Old Fairy will come and take you because you don’t listen to your mother.”

“I don’t care! I’m not afraid of old fairies!” answered Percy.

During those ancient times, there used to be a little brownie in each house. Every night he would come to clean the house while everyone slept. Percy’s mother always left him a jar of cream as thanks. In the morning, the jar was always empty. The brownie who helped Percy’s mother was kind and friendly, but his mother, the Old Fairy, was very bad and she didn’t like people.

At first Percy was glad that he stayed alone by the fire, but soon the fire died down and it became dark. Percy was worried.

Suddenly, the brownie jumped out from behind the fireplace. Percy was scared. And the brownie was very surprised to meet Percy.

“What’s your name?” asked Percy.

“Myself. And yours?”

Percy thought that it was a joke and he wanted to play a joke, too.

“My name is I, Myself.”

“Catch me, I Myself!”

Then they started running and playing near the fire. The brownie was quick like a cat and it was difficult to catch him.

Running near the fireplace, Percy accidentally touched the coals in the fireplace, and one of them fell on the brownie’s foot. The brownie cried aloud.

“Who has hurt you?” the Old Fairy asked from the fireplace. “Now, I come and take him away.”

Percy was very scared and ran off to his bed.

“I Myself,” said the brownie.

“So why are you crying so loud and don’t let me sleep! You’ve got yourself to blame!” And then she took the brownie back into the fireplace.

After that, the brownie never came again, but Percy always went to sleep after his mum’s first request.