## **Tooth Trouble** Written and Illustrated By Sylvia Fletcher

Once upon a time, there was an orphan girl named Miranda. She was 6 years old and lived in a tiny cottage near a river. She really, really wanted to lose a tooth! One day Miranda bit a hard cracker and went to drink some water from the river. When she did, her tooth fell out into the water and was flowing down the stream! "My tooth!" she exclaimed. Miranda wanted her tooth, so she went to look for it.

Along the way, she met a mermaid. The mermaid had long black hair and a long blue tail. Miranda told her what had happened. The mermaid said, "Losing teeth is normal. I hope you find it!" and gave her a cloth for her bleeding gums.

After that, Miranda met a dentist. He had a long white coat and short brown hair. Miranda noticed his teeth were very clean. She told him the same thing she had told the mermaid. The dentist said, "I clean and check your teeth!" and cleaned Miranda's teeth.

Then, she met an Ogre. He said, "Brush and floss your teeth to keep them healthy," in a low voice. "My teeth aren't very clean because I never brush or floss." Miranda thanked him and hurried on her way.

Miranda walked and walked. She had just stopped to drink from the river when she met a small troll. He waved something at her, yelling "Rah Rah!" in a baby voice. Miranda wasn't afraid and just stared at him. "What are you holding?" she asked. "Rah! My toothbrush! Rah!" said the baby troll. Then he said, "I have to brush my teeth to keep them clean!" He gave Miranda a toothbrush, said "Rah!" and then he ran away.

The sun was beginning to set when Miranda met a fairy. She said not to eat too much candy and to eat healthy foods. She told Miranda she had a great smile, and because she was a fairy, and was magical, she made Miranda grow a new tooth immediately and made her old tooth appear in her hand. Miranda said thank you and goodbye, and went home.

She did exactly what the creatures told her to do: visited the dentist, brushed and flossed her teeth, and didn't eat too much candy. And she remembered that losing teeth is normal! Miranda and all the creatures lived toothily ever after.









