

The Tree of Joy

Located somewhere in Mammoth Cave National Park, the Tree of Joy manufactures joy for the world using a magical recipe that includes the following ingredients: orange sherbet, forty-five sparkling smiles, September starlight, a pound of sweet pickles, twenty-four phrases of Beethoven's *Für Elise*, lime and raspberry candy chews, two dozen whispers of butterfly wings, the sound of an enchanted millipede tap dancing on a snare drum, a single berylline hummingbird feather, whipped cream mixed equally with butterscotch, the sound of babies laughing, and the smell of two cherry pies baking together in the same oven. Joy contains four less-concrete ingredients as well—mystery, preference, subjectivity, and a certain amount of the experience of joy itself. The Tree of Joy produces joy spores, which are then spread over the earth by tiny, elfin-like creatures called Gledé. The Gledé reside in the Tree of Joy, along with many other magical creatures and plants.