

# ELVES

... with pointed caps, green and yellow  
... es turned up in front. When they get  
... e bow legged. . .



You have probably seen an elf without realizing it. Often when in the woods or fields, or even a village, something moves, or flickers at the corner of your vision and you turn and look and there's nothing there. That was an elf.

Now, what do elves actually do?

Well, they flit a lot. They flit here and there, up and down, round and about. If you saw them, you would hardly know they were there. You might think you saw a flash, or perhaps a yellow bird, or a green butterfly, or an autumn leaf sliding to the ground. One thing you can count on. If an elf doesn't want to be seen, you won't see him or her.

Yes, there are lady elves as well as male elves. Elves are in every respect like humans, except as they grow old, they tend — especially the males — to become bowlegged.

Elves live in Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, England, Jutland, Schlesweigh-Holstein, Lichtenstein, and across Northern Europe to the Elbe. No elf has ever been spotted on the far side of the Elbe. It is believed they were all chased back by the Mongols.

How does one conduct oneself in the presence of an elf? If you have reason to believe that there is an elf watching you, the first thing is to give no sign. They are easily alarmed.

fields. You can see the hay crushed down where the elves have passed, or in a ring, where they've danced.

Some people don't believe that elves dance, simply because they've never seen them. Actually, they whirl around in ring, holding or touching hands, their feet sometimes several inches above the ground.

They don't like to be stared at. It is best to look away and view them only through the side of the eye. That way they don't become alarmed. If they become alarmed, they can do unpleasant things. Such as make you turn blue, or, in extreme cases, change you into a piece of cheese for a short while.

Spotting an elf is an art. First, you only notice a hazy spot against a background of leaves or grass, or perhaps a hedge, brick wall or old board fence. Gradually, an outline becomes clear as the elf slowly materializes. If the elf

knows what you are doing, he tends to become rather purple with pent-up emotion. They are very shy and find it embarrassing to looked at.

Elves are sometimes seen in strange places: sitting on top of tall buildings, church steeples, clock towers, on top of a bus, in an elevator. An elf was once seen in a cocktail bar, enjoying himself, until of course, the other customers found out he was there.

Basically, elves are much like the rest of us. They are kindly, and will help creatures in distress,

such as releasing animals from traps, or feeding birds in winter. Most elves in fact, carry a little pouch with birdseed in it for that purpose.

Never be afraid of an elf. If you see an elf, simply smile and wait for the elf to make the first move. Only rarely will an elf speak. Usually, an elf's voice is high and birdlike to the human ear. Later, when you get used to it, the sound is quite pleasant. If you run into an elf on your travels, be nice to it. You never know when you might need a friend.

## Merry Christmas

## Joyeux Noel

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