

A Great Adventure

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Roger was a bored young man. He wished for adventure in his dull life. Instead, he had to sweep the porch, clean the windows, and help chop firewood. It was exceedingly dull. The most exciting thing that ever happened to him was if the bull chased him when he fed the cows. Nothing else seemed to stir him or get his heart moving.



He became a bit of a daydreamer, wishing for adventures and glorious battles. Where were his dragons to slay? Where were his beautiful maidens to rescue? Why couldn't something fascinating happen to him? He sighed and leaned on his rake, standing beside a pile of leaves. It was then that he heard a voice.

"Hey, big fella. Look down here."

He looked around, oddly amused that his dreams had manufactured some sort of sounds. With a fright, he noticed a small person wearing a green vest, a green pointy hat, curled-toe slippers, and some striped tights.

"Whatcha lookin' at? Haven't you ever seen an elf before?" The tiny voice demanded, sounding almost a bit irritated.

Had his brain managed to create this hallucination? Had all the boredom finally driven him crazy? "Are you talking to me?"

Grunting in frustration, the little elf began to stalk off through the leaves. The leaves were nearly as big as the elf was, so it was sort of comical to see her stomp off through them.

"Where are you going?" He asked in alarm, worried that his one chance for an interesting life was wandering off. He scooped the elf up in his hands, somewhat unceremoniously, and held the elf up close to his face, so he could see and hear it better.

"Eek!" The elf shrieked, clinging to his fingers for dear life. A fall from that height would likely be fatal for such a small thing. "How dare you handle a girl in such a brutish fashion?" She scolded, horrified by her mishandling.

"You're a girl elf." The realization dawned on him when he saw the elf up close.

She snorted and laughed. "Are there any other kind of elves?"

"I don't know. I've never met any..." He shrugged.

"Likely because of your poor manners and rambunctious ways."

"Can you do any tricks?" He wondered suddenly. Elves were reputed to be magical creatures, and he wondered if he'd stumbled across one who could grant wishes or summon pots of gold.

"Tricks?" She sounded offended. "What, am I some sort of puppy or toy to play with?" She snapped her fingers and suddenly, she was as tall as he was, and looking him straight in the eye.

"I'm sorry. I've just never met an elf before." Roger stammered as the beautiful, yet angry, elf girl glared at him. "I'm Roger, can we be friends?" Then, timidly, he added a, "Please?"

"Whatever for? All I wanted was to tell you to hurry up with the yard work. All this rustling of leaves is making it hard for me to sleep." She pointed over at a ring of toadstools where he noticed a tiny little matchbox bed.

"Oh." He said sadly, terribly disappointed at what she wanted. Here he'd been expecting some sort of great adventure. He sighed and picked up his rake once more, and began scratching at the ground with it in a most ineffective manner.

She rolled her eyes and snapped her fingers. In a flash, the leaves were in a tidy pile right beside him. Roger's eyes grew wide. "I'm Tippy the Elf. Nice to meet you. Now, if you can stop looking so forlorn and depressed, perhaps we can be friends. Okay?" She stuck out her hand.

Roger grinned and shook her hand. After that, life was not nearly so boring any more. Every day was a great adventure. It might not have dragons, monsters, and gallant knights, but an elf as a best friend was way better.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does Roger wish for?
 - A. a day off from chores
 - B. a best friend
 - C. an adventure
 - D. something good to eat

2. At the beginning, what was the most exciting thing that had ever happened to Roger?
 - A. the bull chased him
 - B. a dog attacked him
 - C. a bear roared at him
 - D. he found a gold coin

3. What happens when Roger is raking leaves?
 - A. A monster attacks.
 - B. A cute girl walks by.
 - C. He has a dream.
 - D. He hears a voice.

4. What did the elf girl want from him at first?
 - A. She wanted to be his friend.
 - B. She wanted him to finish his noisy yard work.
 - C. She wanted him to stop walking on her house.
 - D. She wanted to give him a year of bad luck.

5. How does Roger feel about life after making a new friend?
 - A. He thinks it's exciting.
 - B. He is still bored.
 - C. He is very sad.
 - D. He is sleepy.

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