

THE ELF THIEF

by Rich Wingerter

The story of an elf who must give up his plans for a bright future when he's captured by a human who demands the unthinkable.

Summary

A young elf named Gyoff enjoys stealing from the nearby human village. One night, humans Johan and Gwendolyn catch him in their house.

Johan is a blacksmith. He chains Gyoff up in his shop to work the bellows, with an iron band around his neck. Gyoff bedazzles the blacksmith's young daughter, Elskan, with magic. When someone steals Elskan's doll, Gyoff sings and dances to comfort her.

Gyoff tries to free himself by casting pain into Johan. Johan commands the band around Gyoff's neck to tighten until the elf gives up. Finally, Gyoff begs for his freedom, and Johan takes Gyoff to Gwendolyn. She says she's tired of things disappearing in the night. Elves sneak in and steal them. Instead, she wants gifts.

Johan demands the elf bring gifts for all the humans, and Gyoff agrees. But he doesn't intend to keep his promise. In fact, he steals a candlestick as he runs away, back to the safety of the elf world.

Once there, however, he discovers the other elves shun him. His love for the elfa Arabelle and the support of his family and friends motivates him to change. Gyoff finds he sincerely wants to reform.

To do that, he must struggle against his own inclinations and a band of evil elves. With the help of loved ones, he reforms. He and Arabelle find Elskan's doll, and he returns it.

When Gyoff learns about Christmas, he finds his true calling: to bring gifts to children at Christmas. *Shh! Keep the secret.*

Audiences

The Elf Thief appeals to parents and children of all ages. It lets them in on a huge and important secret. It is a tale of redemption and potentially an example for others.

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