

**READER 1:** In the Canadian province of Alberta, high in the Rocky Mountains, there once lived a young husband and wife. The happy couple owned and operated a small cosy inn, or hotel, which was nestled between the mountain peaks in a peaceful, snowy valley.

**READER 2:** The inn was well known for its comfortable rooms and delicious food, for the young wife was an excellent housekeeper and accomplished cook.

**READER 3:** Many guests visited the inn, slept contentedly on the soft downy pillows, ate large satisfying servings of the tasty home-cooked meals, and went away to tell their friends everything! I suppose that is how the tricky mountain elves first heard about the place, but none of us humans will ever know for sure.

**READER 4:** Now, according to the story, one day a plump, jolly woman with eyes the size of saucers walked into the inn and registered as a guest. The woman wore a long spring green coat. As she signed the guest book, the woman questioned the young wife about food and serving sizes.

**WIFE:** "Oh, please don't worry about food,"

**READER 1:** laughed the young wife.

**WIFE:** "I've more groceries in the larder than Alberta has beef! Our inn is well known for its generous servings. You'll be well fed here, and that's a promise!"

- READER 2:** Upon hearing this, the woman's saucer-like eyes seemed to twirl in their sockets. She smiled, and shouted,
- READER 3:** "Then this is certainly the inn of my dreams!"
- READER 4:** The woman turned upon the spot where she stood, and immediately disappeared.
- READER 1:** The young wife looked high and low, but the strange woman in the coat as green as a spring leaf, had vanished. Then the sound of a thousand tiny footsteps filled the inn. There was
- ALL:** RUNNING, RUSHING, RUSHING, RUNNING – EVERYWHERE!
- READER 2:** The young wife knew exactly what had happened, for her own mother, a retired innkeeper herself, had spoken of just such an occurrence.
- WIFE:** "Husband, come quickly! We said it could never happen here, but the tricky mountain elves have invaded our inn. And I registered them! Oh, what have I done? What have I done?"
- READER 3:** The young husband, who had been out shovelling snow, ran to his wife's side just in time to hear a loud thump-thump-thump sound above his head. Then he heard
- ALL:** RUNNING, RUSHING, RUSHING, RUNNING – EVERYWHERE!