



Elf Road

(TfW model text)

Poppy had always been curious. One sunny afternoon, she was walking down Elf Road when she saw something unusual. In the brick wall, there was an ancient, wooden door. The metal handle was shaped like a dragon's mouth. Gently, she turned it and the door creaked open.

Inside, there was a huge, dark hall. On an enormous table, someone had set out a great feast with thick slices of juicy chicken, huge bowls of green salad, glass jars of fresh fruit and silver plates of sweet puddings. Hundreds of tiny people were serving steaming pies, scarlet strawberries like gleaming embers and tall glasses of creamy drinks. They were dressed in curious clothes with scarlet cloaks, yellow shoes and crimson caps. Poppy tried to talk to the tiny people but they did not say a single word!

In the middle of the table, there was a glittering dragon carved out of ice and in its beak she could see a folded piece of paper.

"Look where you wish,
but don't touch a dish."

So, Poppy wandered further into the hall, walked past a great fireplace and, at the end, she found a crystal cupboard. Amazed, she opened the door and inside was a golden apple sitting on a silver plate. It smelt so sweet and her mouth was so dry that she picked it up and took a bite. The glistening apple tasted of sunlight! At that very moment, Poppy gasped because she had remembered what she had been told.

Instantly, she could hear a thousand mocking voices ringing in her ears like sharp, clanging bells. Poppy shuddered and ran from the echoing sound. Clutching the apple, she dashed through the dark hall, past the great table with the tiny people running behind her. Just in time, she found the wooden door that led her back to her own world.

Amazingly, two very strange things happened after Poppy reached home. First, Poppy planted the apple pips. One grew into a beautiful tree with blossoms of silver and apples of gold that glowed like tiny suns. Her mother said that the fruit tasted sweeter than starlight itself. Secondly, poor Poppy never found the door again even though she walked up and down Elf Road many times. At school, they said that Poppy was always lost in her daydreams. She dreamed of dark halls, fantastic feasts and golden cupboards. Sadly, that other world had disappeared and Poppy never found her way back again. Well, at least, Poppy never found her way back ...