



## Pippa and the Missing Mug

Israel





Pippa, the most cheerful barmaid in the Whispering Woods Tavern, polished her favorite, extra-large mug until it gleamed. This wasn't just any mug; it held her famous sparkling berry juice, loved by all the forest folk. She beamed, ready for a busy day of serving smiles and sweet sips.



The tavern buzzed with laughter and chatter as Pippa zipped between tables, her pigtails bouncing. She carefully placed her special mug, brimming with frothy pink juice, on the counter for a moment to fetch a fresh batch of fizzy berries. A tiny shadow darted past, unnoticed.





"Oh dear!" Pippa exclaimed, her eyes widening in surprise. Where had her magnificent mug gone? It wasn't on the counter, nor under it, and certainly not behind the giant pickle barrel. Her happy smile turned into a puzzled frown.





Pippa, determined, began her search right away. She peered under stools and behind tall patrons, asking if anyone had seen a very large, very shiny mug. A friendly, bushy-browed badger pointed a paw towards the bustling kitchen door.





Following the badger's clue, Pippa tiptoed into the warm, doughy-smelling kitchen, a place she rarely visited. She peeked behind sacks of flour and around bubbling pots, her eyes scanning every nook and cranny. The kitchen was usually so orderly, but today, something felt different.





Near a stack of freshly baked pies, Pippa spotted it! A faint trail of shimmering, purple glitter led from a spilled berry and disappeared under a small, unused cupboard. Her heart fluttered with excitement; this was definitely a clue!





With a soft giggle, Pippa carefully opened the cupboard door. Inside, not a giant beast, but a tiny, mischievous little pixie with twinkling wings was trying to lift the enormous mug. The pixie was so small, it could barely get its arms around the shiny vessel.





The pixie squeaked with surprise, dropping the mug with a soft thud. It had been trying to use the giant mug as a swimming pool, complete with a tiny leaf raft floating inside. Pippa couldn't help but chuckle at the sight.





Gently, Pippa reached in and retrieved her mug, which was now filled with a bit of water and a few floating leaves. She gave the pixie a friendly wink, and the little creature, no longer startled, gave a shy, apologetic wave. Perhaps it just wanted a grand bath!





Mug safely back in hand, Pippa returned to her post, her smile brighter than ever. She quickly refilled it with her sparkling berry juice, ready to serve her delighted customers. Even a small adventure couldn't keep Pippa from her happy work for long!