

Graded Readers

08

Heidi



Johanna Spyri

Frank



UP TO ALM-UNCLE

CHAPTER

1

It was a bright June morning in the mountains. The sun shone down on the hillside. A tall, strong-looking young woman climbed up a path from the village, holding a little girl by the hand. The child's name was Heidi, and the woman was called Dete. Though it was a hot day, Heidi was wearing two or three frocks, one on top of the other, and a thick red shawl, as if dressed for a very cold day. You could hardly see her under all those clothes, but she struggled¹ bravely up the hillside anyway.

Dete and Heidi had been climbing for more than an hour when they reached a little village called Dorfli. Here, another woman came running out of a house to meet Dete, saying, "Wait for me, I will come too!"

Dete waited. The woman, whose name was Barbel, looked at Heidi as she reached them and asked, "Is this your sister's daughter?"

"Yes," said Dete, "I am taking her up to stay with Alm-uncle."

"You must be mad!" Barbel exclaimed. "The

¹. struggled—walked with difficulty

old man will not allow any one near him. He won't take in this child."

"But he must! He is her grandfather, after all! I can't look after her any more. Anyway, I've taken care of her all these years. Now it's his turn!"

"Thank God I am not the child!" exclaimed Barbel. "He doesn't talk to anyone, and looks so frightening! No one knows anything about him here, but we all fear him." She looked at Dete and said carefully, "They say all sorts of terrible things about him here, you know." She was hoping that her friend would tell her everything about the old man.

Dete was willing to do so. She told her friend that Alm-uncle was the eldest son of a rich and respected farmer. He had gambled² and drunk away all the family's wealth, and his parents had died of grief when they found out. After that he had left his hometown, and there was no news of him for over ten years. People thought that he had joined the army. Anyway, he returned after many years with a young son but folks in the old town stayed away from them both. This made him so angry that he left the town and came to Dorfli, where everyone liked the boy,

2. gambled—played game of chance in hope of gaining money

Tobias. But no one trusted³ the old man here either, because of rumours⁴ that he had killed a man in another city.

"But we were related to him, so we called him Uncle and welcomed him," Dete said. "Everyone else in the village called him Alm-uncle because he lived up on the Alm."

"What happened to Tobias?" Barbel asked.

"Tobias married my sister Adelheid and lived in Dorfli, but he died soon after in an accident. Adelheid also died soon after giving birth to a daughter, and people blamed the old man's sins for this. Because of this, he now lives all alone on the Alm. My mother and I have looked after the girl ever since she was one year old. Mother died last summer, and now I have got a good job, so I must go."

Barbel heard all that Dete had to tell. She now said, "I have reached where I was going, so I will leave you." She went into a shabby hut, which looked as if a strong wind would blow it to bits. Peter, the goatherd, lived there with his mother and grandmother.

Heidi saw eleven-year-old Peter and the goats long before her aunt did. She climbed after him, but all the clothes she was wearing

3. trusted—had faith in; 4. rumours—stories that people hear that may or may not be true

made it difficult to climb. Suddenly, she stopped, sat down and took off her shoes and socks. Standing up, she began to remove the clothes she was wearing, one by one, till she was in her little petticoat. She piled up all her clothes neatly and ran quickly after Peter, chattering happily. Dete saw her now and cried out, "Heidi, where are your clothes? Where are your shoes? Why did you take them off?"

"I didn't need them," she said, pointing happily down the hill at the pile.

Dete was angry, and sent Peter down to fetch all the clothes, promising to give him a bright new coin. "Carry them up to the Alm, since you're going that way anyway," she told him. Peter happily took the coin and the clothes and followed Dete, the bundle under his left arm and his stick in his right hand. Heidi and the goats skipped joyfully by his side.

They reached the Alm in three-quarters of an hour. Alm-uncle was sitting outside his cottage, on a bench that faced the valley. He watched the group as it climbed up the slope. Heidi reached him first.

"Good afternoon, Grandfather," she said, holding out her hand.

"Well, well, what does this mean?" the old



man asked gruffly⁵ as he shook her hand.

Dete arrived just then. "This is Heidi, Tobias and Adelheid's child. She will be staying with you from now on."

Alm-uncle looked angrily at Peter, who was standing there watching, and said, "Be off with you now!" Peter ran away quickly. He turned to Dete again. "And what if the girl cries for you?"

"That is up to you, for I cannot take her with me," Dete replied. "If you cannot look after her, it's your responsibility, for you are now her nearest relative. But you cannot really add to

5. gruffly—rough in manner

the list of your wicked deeds by neglecting⁶ her, I know!"

The old man got up angrily at this. Dete was frightened by the expression on his face as he shouted at her.

"Be off! And don't show your face here again!" he roared.

Dete quickly turned and ran, calling out behind her, "Goodbye! Goodbye, Heidi!" And she ran all the way back to the village.

6. neglecting—not taking proper care of

GRANDFATHER'S HUT

CHAPTER

2

Heidi and her grandfather were now left on their own. Grandfather sat again on his bench and smoked his pipe and watched as Heidi began to look around her new home. She peered¹ into the goat-house, and then walked around the house. On the other side of the cottage stood three old fir trees, and Heidi listened to the wind blowing softly through their branches. She decided that she liked the sound very much. Finally, she returned to grandfather.

"All right, now bring your clothes inside and we'll put them in the cupboard," grandfather said.

Heidi obediently picked up the bundle of clothes and followed her grandfather inside. There was a big room with only a table and chair other than grandfather's bed. There was a big kettle hanging over the fireplace opposite the bed. Grandfather opened a cupboard near the bed. His clothes were on one shelf, and on another stood cups, plates and glasses. On the

1. peered—looked at something very closely for a long time

topmost shelf was some food.

Heidi quickly put her bundle as far behind grandfather's clothes as she could, and then turned to ask him, "Where will I be sleeping, Grandfather?"

"Wherever you want to," he said.

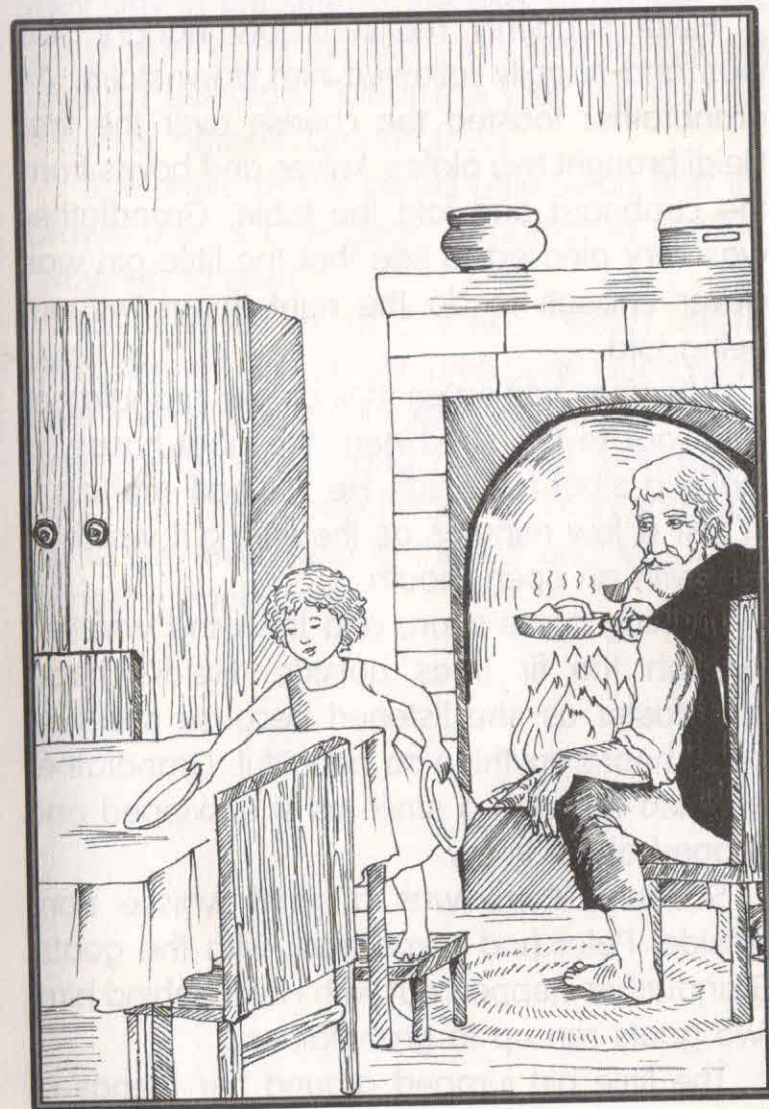
Heidi began to look around the cottage very carefully. She climbed up a wooden ladder standing beside grandfather's bed, and found herself in the hay-loft². There was lots and lots of fresh, sweet-smelling hay on the floor. A little window looked into the valley³ down below.

"Oh, this is lovely! I want to sleep here!" Heidi exclaimed in joy, and began to pile up the hay. "You must bring me a sheet for my bed, Grandfather," she called out.

Grandfather took two sheets from the cupboard for Heidi to use and climbed up to the loft. Heidi had made up a little bed for herself with the hay she had piled up. Grandfather used more hay to make the bed thicker and more comfortable and put a sheet on it. They placed the other as a top-sheet, and then stood back to admire the new bed.

"I wish it was night so that I could go to sleep right away," Heidi said happily.

2. hay-loft—space at the top of a house just below the roof for keeping dried grass; 3. valley—open land between hills



Grandfather smiled at her excitement. "I think we should eat first."

Heidi suddenly realized how hungry she was and happily followed him downstairs. As grandfather toasted the cheese over the fire, Heidi brought two plates, knives and bowls from the cupboard and laid the table. Grandfather was very pleased to see that the little girl was clever enough to do the right things without being told.

After they had eaten their dinner, grandfather went out to the shed near the goat-house to make a stool for Heidi. He finished making it in just a few minutes as the little girl watched him with an open mouth.

Evening came soon, and the wind whistled through the fir trees outside. Heidi's heart beat faster as she listened because she had never heard anything so beautiful. Grandfather watched her with a smile as she skipped and hopped about in joy.

Suddenly there was a shrill⁴ whistle from outside. Peter had come back with the goats. Grandfather stepped out with Heidi behind him. Two goats ran up to grandfather.

The little girl jumped around her friends of the morning, asking excitedly, "Are they ours,

4. shrill—very high and sharp sound

Grandfather? Do they always stay with us? Do they stay in the shed?" She was so excited that she hardly gave the old man time to say yes to each question. "What are their names? Tell me their names, Grandfather!"

"The white one is called Little Swan and the brown one is Little Bear," grandfather replied. "Now go to bed!"

Heidi nodded and said, "Good night, Grandfather! Good night, Little Bear! Good night, Little Swan!" She quickly ran back to the cottage and ate the bread and milk that grandfather had kept on the bench for her. Then she went up to her lovely bed in the loft and fell asleep almost immediately⁵.

5. immediately—at once

ON THE ALM

CHAPTER

3

The sun was shining brightly the next morning when Peter came with the goats. His loud whistle woke Heidi up. She was puzzled¹ for a moment because she could not remember where she was. Then she heard grandfather's deep voice and jumped out of the bed, thinking how nice it was to live on the Alm. She wanted to see grandfather and Little Swan and Little Bear again, so she dressed quickly and ran out of the cottage.

"Would you like to go to the pasture² with Peter?" grandfather asked her.

Heidi was overjoyed. She would like that best of all. She nodded eagerly.

"Wash yourself before you go," grandfather said, "or the sun will laugh at you when he looks down and sees how dirty you are." He pointed to a big tub full of water.

Heidi was so worried the sun would mock³ her that she went off to wash immediately. She splashed and scrubbed herself so much that

1. puzzled—confused; 2. pasture—grassland suitable for grazing animals; 3. mock—make fun of

she not only became very clean, but she also became very red! In the meantime, grandfather packed a huge piece of bread and an even bigger piece of cheese into Peter's bag for Heidi's lunch. They were now ready to leave.

The two children began to climb up the hillside. Heidi looked around happily at the beautiful slopes all around her. The little blue and yellow mountain flowers seemed to nod merrily at her as she passed. The child forgot all about Peter and even the goats as she walked



through the sea of waving flowers. She picked flowers all along the way until she had a big bunch that she wrapped up in her apron to take home with her.

They finally reached a little hollow in the side of the mountain, where Peter kept his bag. Heidi too put her apron, full of flowers, in the hollow to keep it safe from the wind. The two children then sat down on the slope and looked at the snowfields above them. Only the huge eagle broke the silence with its harsh cries.

After some time Peter stood up and started to whistle and call out loudly. Heidi was very puzzled, but only until she saw him take out the bag. It was lunchtime! All the goats came leaping down the rocks to where they were and Heidi skipped about with them as the boy laid out the food and milked Little Swan.

"Here, come and eat!" he called out. But Heidi only drank two bowls of milk and had a little of the bread that grandfather had packed for her, giving the rest to the boy.

"I've had enough, you eat the rest," she told him. Peter could not believe his good luck, for he was poor and did not get much to eat. But the food that Alm-uncle had packed for Heidi was enough to feed an army, or so the hungry boy felt! He thanked Heidi and then

gobbled⁴ up the bread and cheese.

The day passed quickly for both the children. Heidi had never seen anything as beautiful as the mountain slopes around her, and Peter had never felt so contented⁵ with the company and the food that he had. When evening fell they went down the hillside to grandfather's house, stopping only once. This was when Heidi stood and watched in wonder as the mountains and the rocks and the snow and the grass seemed to catch fire at the sunset.

"Oh, Grandfather, it was wonderful!" Heidi cried out when she saw him. "The mountains were on fire and the eagle screamed so loudly, and look at all the lovely flowers that I brought for you!" But when she unrolled her apron, all the flowers were drooping⁶.

"They would rather be in the sun, not tied up in an apron," the old man explained gently. Heidi decided never to pluck flowers again.

After this, Heidi went to the pasture daily. But on windy days grandfather did not allow Heidi to go up the mountains. Heidi did not mind because there was so much to do at home. She helped grandfather clean the hut, bring in

4. gobbled—ate hurriedly and noisily without chewing;

5. contented—happy with what one has; 6. drooping—bending

hay for the goats or stood and listened to the wind blowing in the fir trees. But Peter was miserable⁷ when Heidi did not come. It was very dull without her now, and it also meant that he had less to eat. Besides, the goats had become very fond of Heidi who spoiled them and they would not obey Peter.

7. miserable—unhappy

PETER'S GRANDMOTHER

CHAPTER

4

Days passed and the season changed. It was winter and Peter had to go to school. He found it very difficult to learn to read and write. Heidi asked him many questions about school, which Peter was unable to answer. One day, he came with a message from his grandmother.

"She would like you to come and see her sometime," he told Heidi. So, when the weather was a little better, grandfather took her to Peter's cottage.

"Go in now, and come straight home when it is evening," grandfather told her.

Heidi entered the cottage and found herself in a small dark room. A woman—Peter's mother—was sitting at a table and patching¹ Peter's jacket. An old woman was spinning in a corner.

"Good day, Grandmother. Here I am to see you," Heidi said.

The old woman groped² for the girl's hand. "So your grandfather brought you. How does

1. patching—repairing a tear in a dress by stitching a small piece of cloth over it; 2. groped—felt about



she look, Brigitta?"

"She is delicate like her mother, but has her father's eyes and hair," Peter's mother replied.

Heidi was surprised. "Why do you ask, Grandmother? I am right here in front of you," she said.

"I can hear but I cannot see anything, my child," Peter's grandmother said.

"What if I open the window and let in more light?" Heidi asked worriedly.

"No, that won't help," grandmother murmured.

"In the summer...will you be able to see

in the summer?" the girl asked anxiously³. Grandmother shook her head.

"No, my dear I can never see the sun or the flowers again," she said sadly.

Heidi was very upset and began to cry. "Can no one help you? I will ask grandfather and he will make it light for you again," she sobbed. The old woman comforted her, and slowly she stopped weeping.

She began to tell grandmother how she spent her time with grandfather. She talked about the goats, the flowers and everything else of interest in her life. Grandmother listened to her happy chatter⁴ and did not notice how swiftly the hours flew by.

Suddenly the door opened with a clatter⁵ and Peter came in. Heidi realized that it was evening. She said goodbye and left for her home. Grandfather met her on the way and lifted her in his arms. As he walked home he listened attentively⁶ to Heidi.

"Grandfather, you must come and repair Peter's cottage. Everything in it shakes and rattles and frightens grandmother!" she exclaimed suddenly. Grandfather nodded and promised

3. anxiously—feeling worried; 4. chatter—non-stop talk; 5. clatter—sound of two objects striking together;

6. attentively—carefully

to repair the house the next day. From the following day the two of them went to Peter's house regularly. While the little girl chatted happily with grandmother, the old man set about repairing the cottage. Peter's grandmother was no longer afraid that the house would fall down on their heads.

TWO VISITORS TO THE ALM-HUT

CHAPTER 5

Winter passed and another summer, and it was soon the next winter again. Heidi was eight years old now and had learnt a lot. She learnt how to look after the goats, and Little Bear and Little Swan would follow her everywhere. But she did not go to school yet. Peter had already brought messages from the school-teacher in Dorfli twice this winter, asking Alm-uncle to send the girl to school. Both times Alm-uncle merely growled that he did not want to send the girl to school.

One sunny March morning, as Heidi ran out of the house she nearly bumped into a tall gentleman dressed in black. He looked at her kindly and asked, "Where is your grandfather?" Heidi led him to the table where grandfather sat making wooden spoons.

"Good morning, neighbour!" the visitor called out. The old man looked up in surprise and recognized¹ the priest from the church in Dorfli.

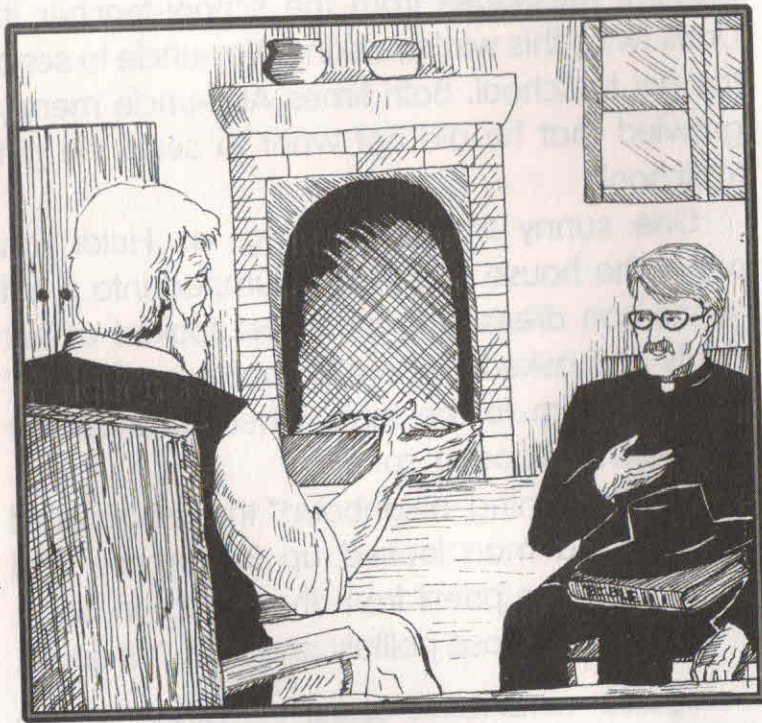
Grandfather rose politely and said, "Sit down,

¹ recognized—remembered seeing the person or thing earlier

please. Heidi, go see how the goats are doing." He waited for the visitor to have his say.

The priest began. He reminded Alm-uncle that Heidi was old enough to have gone to school a year ago, and wanted to know why the old man ignored² the reminders that the school-master had sent to him. When Alm-uncle told him that he did not want the child to go to school, he was very surprised.

"But the child will grow up wild and not learn to read and write! You are very foolish to refuse



2. ignored—took no notice of

to let her go to school!" he protested³.

"I will not allow a delicate child to walk down to the village for two hours in the snow! Her health will be in danger if she does." The old man was very firm.

"Then why not come to the village and live there in winter?" the priest asked. "Living in the mountains in the cold of winter is not good for you or her either, I'm sure!"

"I will not live down in the valley. The people there dislike me and I them," Alm-uncle said gruffly. "It is better for all of us that we stay apart."

"You are wrong, my friend," the visitor said gently. "The people there do not know you, that is all. If you come there to live, they will change on their own. You will also be very happy." He stood up. "Well, I hope that next winter you will come back to live in the valley with all of us."

Alm-uncle stood up too. "I know you mean well, but I will not come there, nor will I send the girl."

The visitor sighed, and went back down the hill.

Alm-uncle's visitor put him in a black mood⁴ for the rest of the day. He did not even take Heidi down to the cottage to see grandmother.

3. protested—objected; 4. black mood—bad mood

The next morning, Alm-uncle was in a better mood. But just as soon as the dishes were cleared away after their meal, another visitor arrived. This time it was Dete.

Dete was dressed like a fine city lady in a beautiful gown that swept the floor, and a hat with feathers in it. Alm-uncle looked at her in amazement⁵ as she began to talk very sweetly and flatter him.

"The child looks so healthy! I hardly recognized her!" The old man only glared at her. "But she must be in your way all the time! I was wondering what I should do with her, and I have finally heard of something that will solve all our problems. It will be a wonderful piece of luck for her. That's why I'm here today. I have even fixed everything."

She took a deep breath and continued. "The people I work for have some very rich relatives in Frankfurt. They have only one daughter, and she is an invalid⁶. A private teacher takes her lessons, but she finds it very boring. She would like to have a playmate of her own age, and her people are looking for a simple unspoilt child. I at once thought of Heidi, because if anything should happen to their own little girl, they won't

5. amazement—great surprise; 6. invalid—person disabled by illness or injury

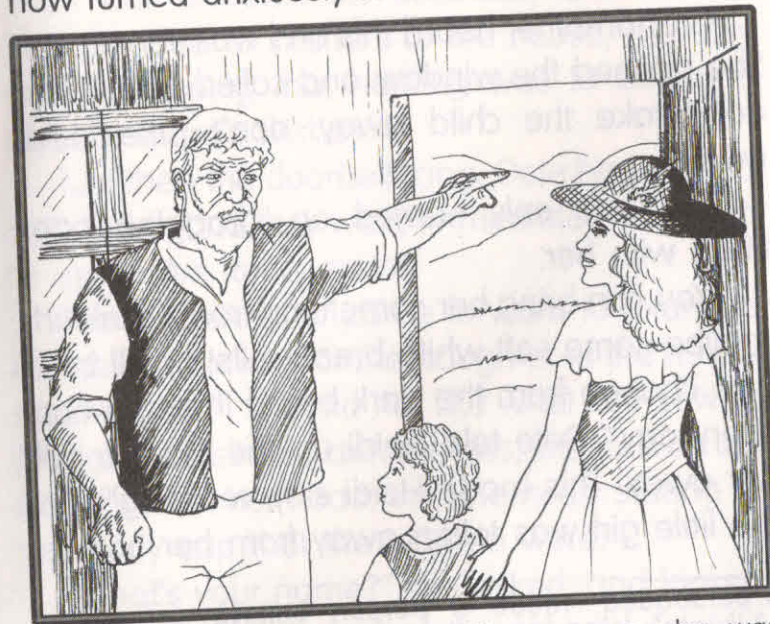
want to be without a child..."

She stopped as Alm-uncle interrupted⁷ her rudely. "I don't want to hear any more!"

Dete began to get angry. "I have heard that you don't send the girl to school! I have heard all about it in Dorfli! You won't even send her to church! Well, I'm her aunt and responsible for her, and the people will also support me!"

"All right then, take her and ruin her. And don't show me your face ever again!" grandfather roared.

Heidi had been watching all this while and now turned anxiously to Dete. "You have made



7. interrupted—started to talk while someone else was speaking

grandfather very angry."

"He'll get over it. Now bring your clothes and we will leave." Heidi refused but Dete persuaded⁸ her. "You can come back again whenever you want to."

Heidi reluctantly⁹ brought her clothes, and left with Dete. They met Peter on the way, and Heidi told him that she was going to Frankfurt. But Dete was in a hurry and did not let them talk properly.

Peter ran home and shouted, "She is taking Heidi away! Her aunt is taking Heidi away with her!"

Grandmother heard this and was very upset. She opened the window and called out, "Dete, don't take the child away, don't take Heidi away!"

But Dete only hurried on, dragging poor Heidi with her.

"You can bring her something from Frankfurt, maybe some soft white bread rolls! It will be a nice change from the dark bread that she eats every day," Dete told Heidi as she tried to pull her away. This made Heidi stop resisting¹⁰. So, the little girl was taken away from her home.

8. persuaded—made a person believe something;
9. reluctantly—unwillingly; 10. resisting—refusing to do what the other person wants

A NEW START FOR HEIDI

CHAPTER

6

In Frankfurt, Clara, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. Sesemann waited restlessly. She kept asking the woman in the room with her, "Isn't it time yet, Mrs. Rottenmeier?"

Mrs. Rottenmeier was the housekeeper and had looked after Clara ever since her mother died several years ago. Mr. Sesemann often went out of town on business, and so the lady decided all matters of the house, the only condition being that nothing was to be done against Clara's wishes.

Just then the doorbell rang. Dete had arrived with Heidi, and they were immediately taken up to meet Mrs. Rottenmeier.

The housekeeper came forward to examine the new playmate for the daughter of the house and frowned¹. She did not like what she saw: a little girl in a simple cotton dress, with a crushed straw hat on her head, unashamedly staring at the fancy cap that the woman wore.

"What's your name?" she asked, and looked even more offended when the girl said, "Heidi."

1. frowned—looked with a sign of anger on the face

"That cannot be your real name! What is your real name?"

Dete answered quickly, for she felt that Heidi would only make things worse, "Adelheid, after her mother."

Mrs. Rottenmeier frowned even more now. She felt that the child was much too young for Clara. When she asked Heidi if she could read and found that she couldn't, she was horrified. But Dete was very clever. When she saw that the woman did not really like Heidi, she quickly murmured² that she had to return to work, and ran down the stairs before Mrs. Rottenmeier could say anything more.

Clara had been watching all this while, and now she signalled to Heidi to come closer. "What should I call you?" she asked. "And has your hair always been short?"

"I am Heidi, and yes," she replied. She couldn't help adding, "I will go home tomorrow with some soft white rolls for grandmother."

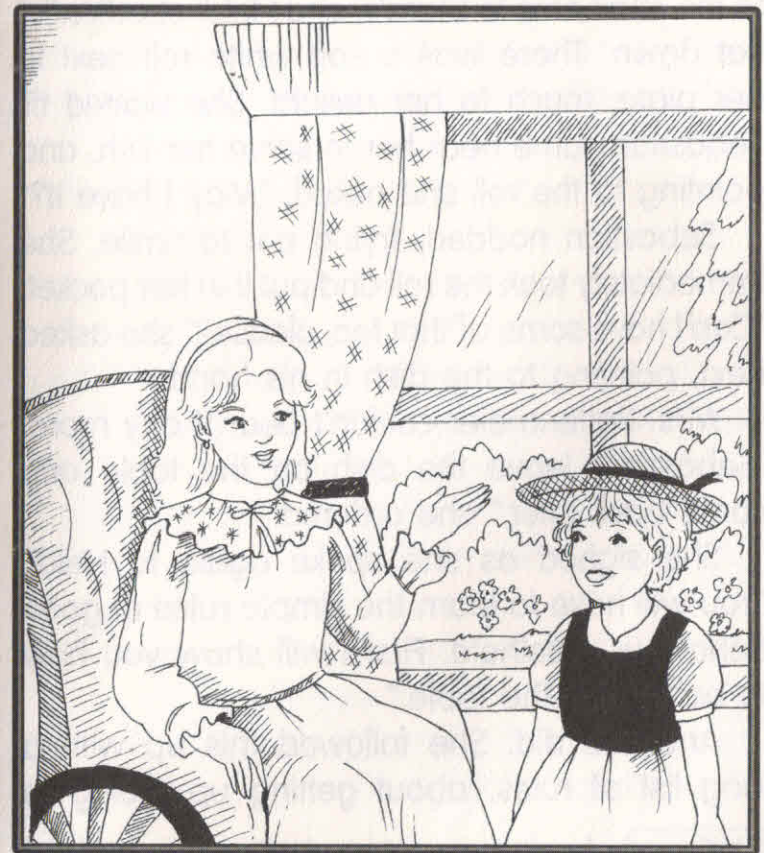
"How funny you are!" Clara exclaimed. "You are here to stay with me and study with me. I think it'll be fun since you don't know how to read at all. The classes are so long, because the tutor comes at ten and does not go till two! Even he feels sleepy, I know, because he hides

2. murmured—said something in a low voice

his face behind his book and yawns! But I don't dare to yawn. When I did, once, I was given cod liver oil! But it will be fun now!"

Heidi shook her head at the mention³ of her learning how to read. "I don't think I can learn."

"But you must! Everyone has to learn! Don't worry, my tutor is very kind, and will teach you very soon."



3. mention—speak briefly about something

Mrs. Rottenmeier returned just then, more annoyed than ever because she couldn't catch Dete. The butler⁴, Sebastian, also came in to help move Clara's wheel-chair to the dining-room. Heidi stared at him so hard that he asked, "Here, what are you looking at?"

"You look like Peter," she told him seriously.

In the dining room Mrs. Rottenmeier pointed to the chair next to Clara's, and Heidi obediently⁵ sat down. There was a soft white roll next to her plate, much to her delight. She waited till Sebastian came near her to serve her fish, and pointing to the roll she asked, "May I have it?"

Sebastian nodded, trying not to smile. She immediately took the roll and put it in her pocket. "Can I have some of that too, please?" she asked next, pointing to the dish in his hand.

Mrs. Rottenmeier couldn't bear it any more. "Sebastian, leave the dish on the table and come back later," she ordered.

She sighed as she spoke again to Heidi. "You will have to learn the simple rules of good behaviour, Adelheid. First I will show you how to behave at the table."

And she did. She followed this up with a long list of rules, about getting up, going to

4. butler—chief male servant; 5. obediently—willing to do what one is told

bed, entering and leaving a room, being tidy and shutting doors. Poor Heidi, she had been up since five o'clock that morning! She tried to pay attention but soon her eyes began to close. When Mrs. Rottenmeier finally finished her lecture⁶, Heidi was fast asleep.

6. lecture—long talk

AN EVENTFUL DAY

CHAPTER

7

When Heidi woke up the next day she couldn't remember where she was. Then she recalled¹ the events of the day before and realized that she was in Frankfurt. She got out of bed and went to the window to look out at the hills and the valleys. But she could not pull aside the heavy curtains.

By the time the girl went down for breakfast she was feeling like a bird in a cage. She was late and Clara was already there, looking much happier than she usually did. She was sure that the day would not be boring with Heidi there to talk to and join her in her lessons.

Breakfast was soon over, and Clara and Heidi were alone. Heidi asked, "Clara, how can I look right down to the ground?"

Clara was amused². "Why, you just have to open the windows and look outside. Ask Sebastian to open a window for you."

Heidi was so relieved to hear this that she happily began talking about her grandfather

1. recalled—remembered; 2. amused—found something funny

and the Alm and Peter and his grandmother. The tutor arrived in the meantime, and had to listen to Mrs. Rottenmeier complaining about the strange child who had come to the house. He consoled³ her as much as he could before joining the children.

Before many minutes had passed, however, Mrs. Rottenmeier heard a loud noise from the schoolroom. She came running to find the whole room in a mess. Heidi was not to be seen.

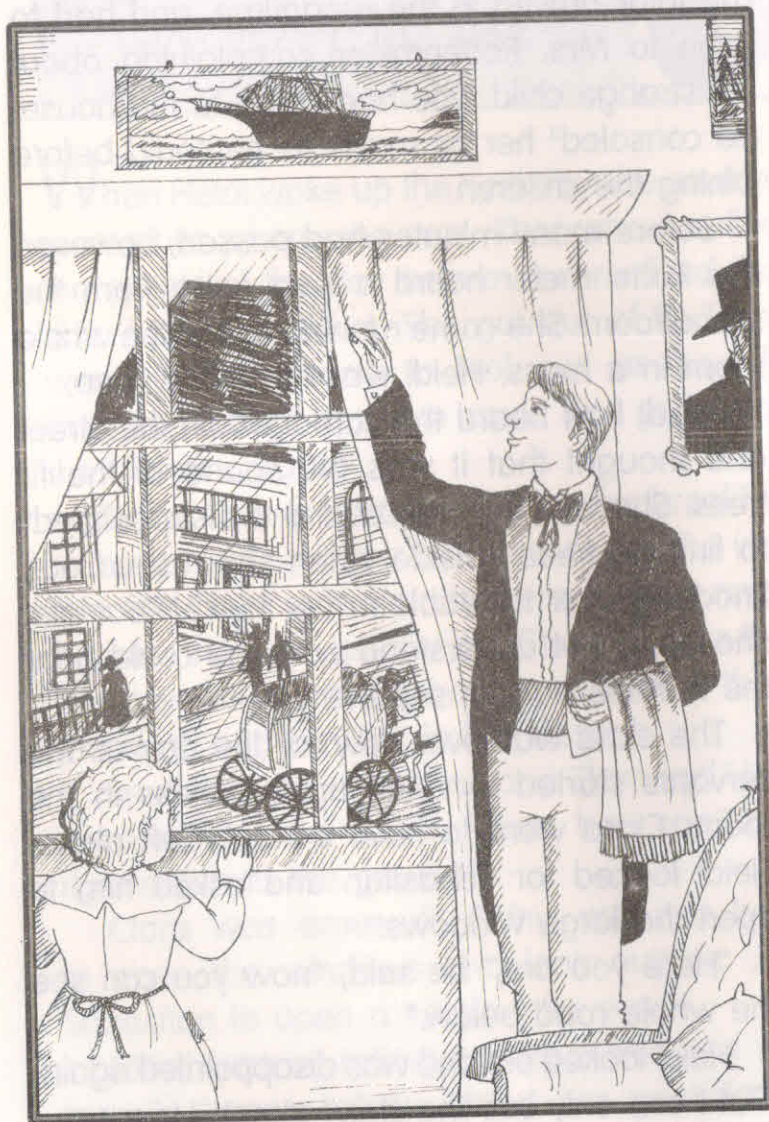
Heidi had heard the carriages on the street and thought that it was the sound of the fir trees. She was very puzzled and disappointed⁴ to find no trees outside when she rushed out, knocking over the table in her hurry. Poor girl, she could not understand why she could hear the fir trees but not see them.

The class was over now for the day as the servants started to clean up the mess in the room. Clara went to have a nap⁵. Left alone, Heidi looked for Sebastian and asked him to open the large windows.

"Here you are," he said, "now you can see the whole road below."

Heidi looked out and was disappointed again. "But I can only see the stony street! How can I

3. consoled—comforted; 4. disappointed—unhappy at not getting what one wants; 5. nap—short sleep



look at the whole valley?" she asked.

"You must climb up a high tower for that, like that church steeple⁶," he told her kindly. "From there you can see ever so far."

At that, Heidi raced down the stairs into the street. But once on the street, she could no longer see the church tower that she had seen so clearly from the house. She went up to a boy standing at the side of the road to ask him the way.

"I know a church with a high steeple," he mumbled. "But what will you give me for showing you the way?"

"What do you want?" Heidi asked him.

"Money," he said promptly. "I want two pence."

"I don't have any now, but Clara will give it to you," Heidi told him. "Now show me the way."

The boy took her to the church and waited as she rang the bell. The man who opened it was not pleased to see the two children on the doorstep, but when Heidi explained that she wanted see the valley, he allowed her to come in.

Heidi looked out of the window at the top of the tower but could only see roofs, steeples

6. steeple—tall tower above the church narrowing at the top

and chimneys. She went back down the stairs, feeling very sad. Looking at her unhappy face, the man told Heidi, "Come, I'll show you something else."

He took Heidi under the staircase and showed her a big cat and a basketful of tiny kittens. "Do you want to take them?" he asked her.

"Oh, yes please!" Heidi said. She put two kittens in her pockets to show Clara, telling the man to send the rest to Mr. Sesemann's house.

The boy was still waiting when she came out, and he now took her home. Sebastian was waiting for her at the door, and quickly pulled her in. "Mrs. Rottenmeier is very angry," he whispered to her.

She was very angry indeed. She got even angrier when she started scolding Heidi, and all that she heard in reply was "Meow! Meow!" "Leave the room," she nearly screamed.

"But I didn't..." Heidi began to say. "Meow, meow!"

"Heidi," Clara whispered, "stop mewling!"

"I am not mewling, it is the kittens," Heidi said desperately.

Mrs. Rottenmeier shrieked⁷, "Kittens! Cats! Keep them away from me!" and ran from the room.

⁷. shrieked—gave a loud, sharp cry

Sebastian came into the room. He smiled when he saw the little kittens' heads poking out of Heidi's pockets and said, "Come, give them to me, I'll find them a nice safe place to sleep."

The children obeyed, glad to have them away from Mrs. Rottenmeier. They slept well that night, knowing that the little creatures were all right.

MORE NOISE IN THE HOUSE

CHAPTER

8

The next morning, the bell rang loudly a little after the tutor¹ arrived. Sebastian opened the door to find the little boy who had taken Heidi to the church the previous day. He was holding a brass horn and had a tortoise crawling on his shoulder.

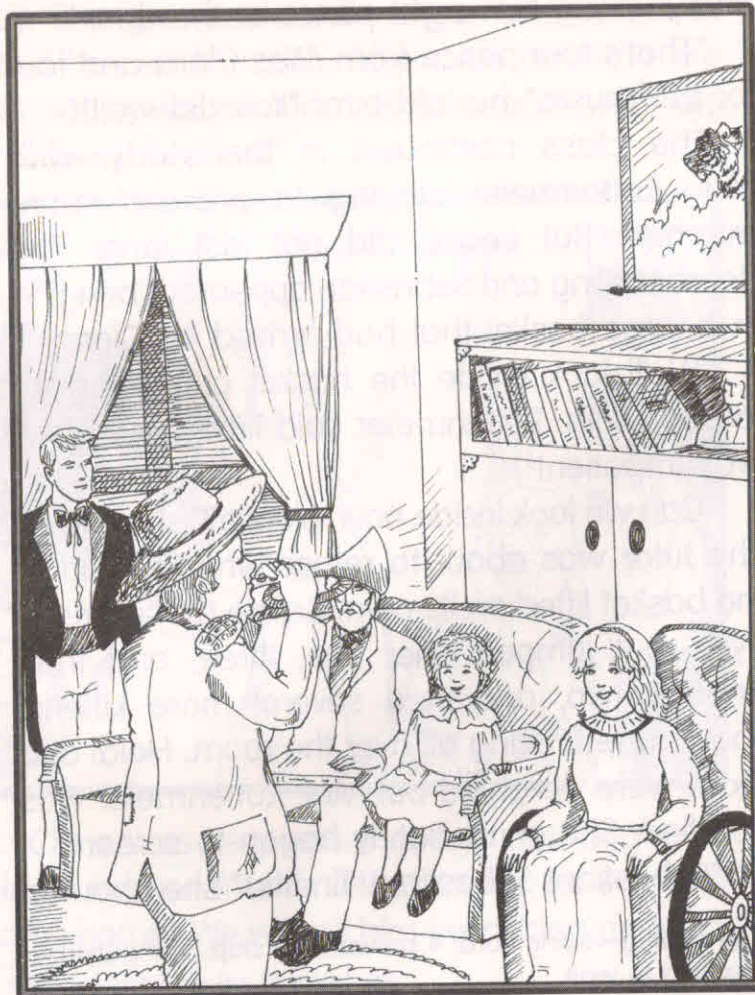
"I want to see Clara," the boy said boldly. "She owes me four pence, two pence for showing her the way to the church and two pence for bringing her back."

Sebastian immediately understood that he meant Heidi, not Clara. He smiled wickedly to himself as an idea struck him, and told the boy, "All right. Come with me but wait until I call you. Then you must begin playing a tune on your horn that will please the young lady very much." Now he went in and announced² that there was a visitor for Clara.

The girls were excited. "Oh, please let him come in," Clara begged her tutor. "Bring him in immediately, Sebastian," she said.

1. tutor—private teacher; 2. announced—say something loudly so that everyone present can hear

So it was that Mrs. Rottenmeier suddenly heard an instrument being played in the study. At first she thought that the sound was coming from the street, but it was too near for that. She rushed into the schoolroom to find a ragged little boy playing his music while the two girls



listened to him in wonder. The tutor looked as if he was struggling³ to speak. Crawling on the boy's shoulder was a dark tortoise.

"Sebastian," screamed Mrs. Rottenmeier, "take them away! All of them! Boy, animal and all!" Sebastian came in at last and took the boy away, giving him eight pence at the door.

"That's four pence from Miss Clara and four for the music," he told him. "You did well!"

The class continued in the study, with Mrs. Rottenmeier staying to prevent⁴ more mischief. But peace did not last long. The doorbell rang and Sebastian appeared, bringing in a large basket that had arrived for Clara.

"We'll look inside the basket only after the lesson," Mrs. Rottenmeier said firmly. But Clara was impatient⁵.

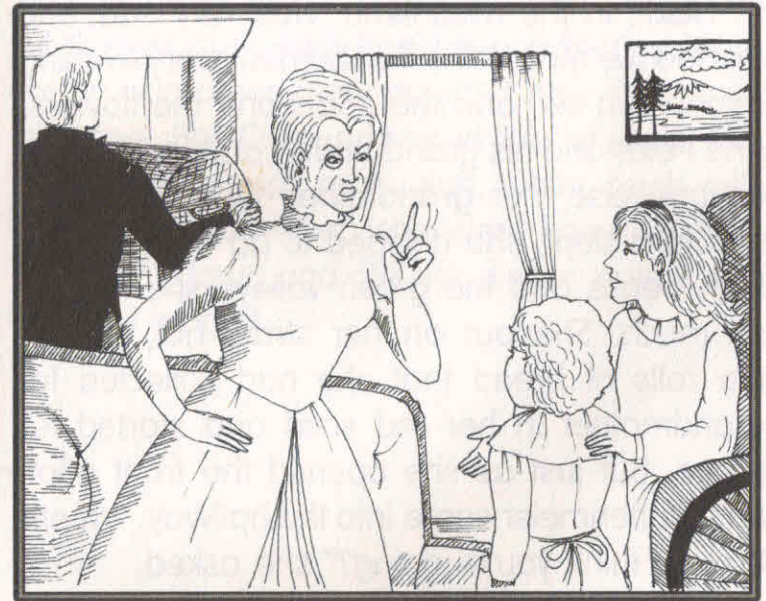
"Can we look inside now, please?" she asked. The tutor was about to refuse when the lid of the basket lifted on its own. Before his surprised eyes, out jumped one, two, three, and then another two, and then several more kittens. They started racing all over the room. Heidi and Clara were delighted but Mrs. Rottenmeier was horrified. She immediately began to scream.

"Sebastian! Sebastian! Tinette!" she shouted

3. struggling—trying hard; 4. prevent—to stop; 5. impatient—unwilling to wait

for the servants. She was too terrified to move from her chair until the basket of kittens was removed from the room.

After classes that day, Mrs. Rottenmeier asked questions and soon found out that Heidi was responsible⁶ for all the strange incidents of the day. She grew pale with anger and began to scold her, ending with, "If you do anything like this again, we will lock you in a room with rats and black beetles!"



Clara was very upset at this and began to plead for her friend. "Please wait for Papa to come home! We will tell him everything and he'll

6. responsible—to be blamed for

decide what to do with Heidi!" Mrs. Rottenmeier was forced to agree.

The days passed more quietly after this, but Mrs. Rottenmeier was not happy. She wanted, more than anything, to send Heidi home. But Clara was delighted with her companion, who would always liven up the classes with "Oh, it's shaped like an eagle!" or "It looks like a goat's horn!" when she saw some letter or the other.

Heidi, in the meantime, was very sad. She missed the mountains that burned every evening as the sun set, and the goats and the flowers, and Peter and his grandmother and, more than anyone else, her grandfather. One afternoon, as Clara slept, she decided to go home to the high peaks and the green valleys she missed so much. She put on her straw hat, put all the rolls of bread that she had collected for grandmother in her red scarf and started for home. But just as she opened the front door, Mrs. Rottenmeier came into the hallway. "Where do you think you're going?" she asked.

"Home," Heidi replied.

This made the woman very angry, and she began to scold Heidi for being an ungrateful⁷ child. "You can only think of ways to get into

7. ungrateful—not being thankful

mischief!" she ended.

This made Heidi cry. She began to talk confusedly about grandmother, and the goats, and Peter, and the great eagle, and the sunset in the mountains. Mrs. Rottenmeier looked at her and thought, "My God, the child has gone mad!" She immediately called Sebastian to take her up to her room.

Heidi was even quieter at dinner that night. Mrs. Rottenmeier had found the heap of stale⁸ rolls in her cupboard and had them all thrown out. Heidi had been collecting them for grandmother every day, but now they were all gone. But Clara promised the little girl that she could take as many soft, white, fresh rolls as she wanted when she went home. So she finally sat down and ate her dinner, a very sad little girl indeed.

8. stale—not fresh

THE MASTER AND ANOTHER GRANDMOTHER

CHAPTER 9

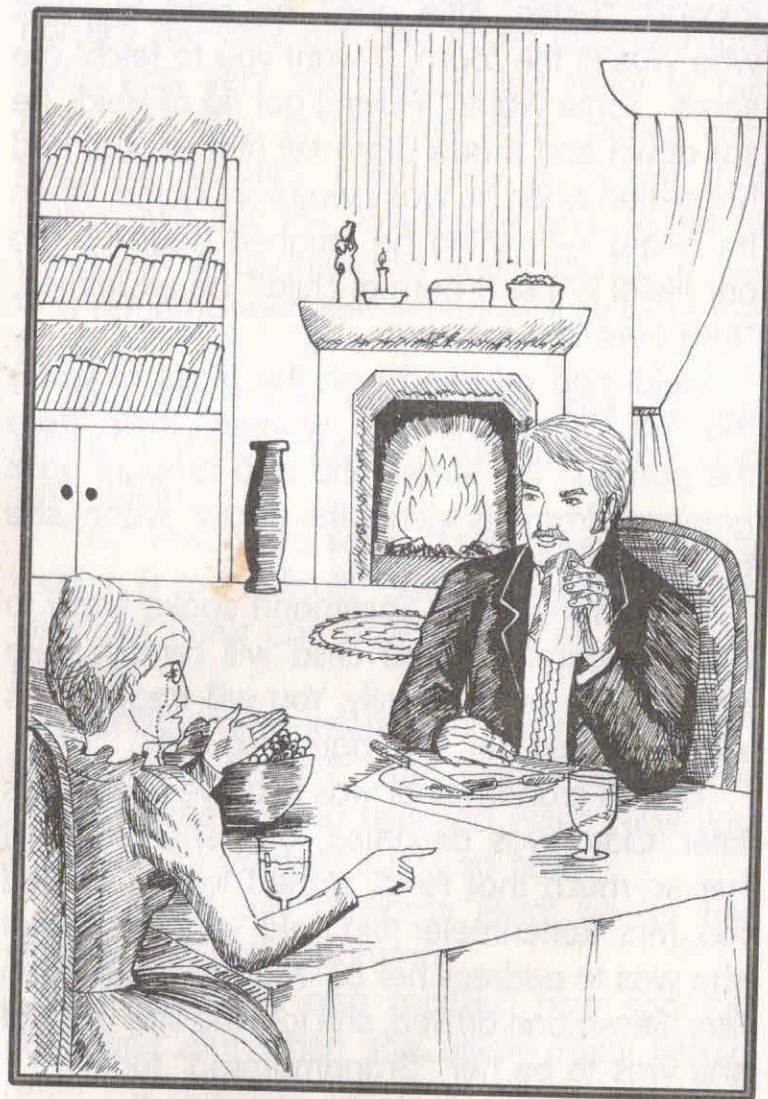
There was great excitement¹ in the house a few days later. Clara's father, Mr. Sesemann had come home. He was to be followed by his mother, Clara's grandmamma. He went into the study to greet his little daughter as soon as he arrived, and also met Heidi for the first time. Later, when he was having his lunch, Mrs. Rottenmeier came and sat opposite him, looking very solemn².

"What's the matter, Mrs. Rottenmeier?" asked Mr. Sesemann. Mrs. Rottenmeier immediately started complaining about Heidi. She told him how much trouble the girl had caused ever since she came, and finally added, "I am sure that girl is not right in her mind!"

Mr. Sesemann was surprised and alarmed. He did not mind high spirits³, but if the child was mad she could harm Clara. He decided to speak to the tutor.

The tutor, however, refused to say anything clearly. After half an hour of trying to find

1. excitement—happiness and activity; 2. solemn—serious;
3. high spirits—mischievousness



out if the man thought that Heidi was ill, Mr. Sesemann gave up. He went to Clara instead. "Listen, little one," he said to Heidi who was in the room, "I want you to fetch⁴ me some...some water." Having got rid of Heidi, he sat down and made Clara tell him all that had happened when he was away from home. When he heard everything he laughed heartily⁵. "So our Heidi is just a normal child!" he exclaimed. "And here she is now."

Heidi had returned with the glass of water that Mr. Sesemann had wanted, fresh from the pump in the street. She also brought back greetings from his friend, the doctor, whom she had met there.

That evening, Mr. Sesemann spoke firmly to Mrs. Rottenmeier. "The child will remain here and be one of the family. You will treat her as such," he told her. She agreed quietly.

Clara's grandmother was to arrive a few days later. Clara was delighted, and she talked of her so much that Heidi started feeling excited too. Mrs. Rottenmeier told Heidi very strictly that she was to address her as "Madam", but when Mrs. Sesemann arrived, she told the little girl that she was to be her "Grandmamma" too.

4. fetch—to go and bring something; 5. heartily—in a happy and cheerful manner

Mrs. Sesemann was a very wise lady and soon found out that Mrs. Rottenmeier did not like the little girl. She could also see that Heidi was very sad. She called Heidi to her room one day, to give her some books with beautiful pictures. Heidi saw a picture that looked just like the Alm-house and began to cry quietly. Grandmamma understood that she was remembering something very close to her heart.

"See this book, Heidi," she said. "It has beautiful stories that you can read over and over again."

"No," Heidi said sadly. "I will never learn to read. It is too difficult." She told grandmamma all about Peter and how difficult he found his lessons.

Grandmamma listened to her and decided to teach her herself. "You haven't learnt how to read because you believed Peter. Now you must see for yourself if it is so hard."

From that day onwards Heidi began her classes with grandmamma.

Grandmamma also realized how sad the child was. But when she asked Heidi would never say anything, because she did not want to be thought ungrateful. She would only cry into her pillow at night, when she was alone

and no one could hear her.

Grandmamma called her one day. "When you have no one to help you, and nobody to talk to, Heidi, there is always God. You can tell Him everything, and He will listen to you," she told Heidi quietly. "Even if it seems as if He has not heard you, He has, and will give you what you want when the time is right." Heidi thought about it, and prayed to God that night, begging that she could go home to grandfather.

A little over a week later, the tutor spoke to grandmamma about Heidi. "It is a miracle⁶, Madam," he began in his usual way. "I had never expected..."

"Do you mean Heidi has learnt to read?" grandmamma asked, smiling. The tutor nodded speechlessly.

That evening, at the dinner table, grandmamma put the book with beautiful pictures next to Heidi's plate. Heidi glowed with happiness as she was told, "It's yours now, for always."

After that she would read aloud stories from the book every day. Her favourite story was about a shepherd boy who fought with his father and left home, and returned many

6. miracle—extraordinary happening

years later. The father forgave the son, and they lived happily ever after. This story had pictures that reminded her of her home in the Alm, and she never got tired of reading it.

THE HOUSE IS HAUNTED¹

CHAPTER 10

Grandmamma left a few days later, and the children were very sad. The house seemed so quiet and empty without her that the children felt quite lost.

The next afternoon, Heidi suggested that she read to Clara. But the story that she picked up was a very sad one about a dying grandmother. Heidi, who took everything she read to be absolutely² true, began to cry loudly. She thought that the grandmother on the Alm had died. Nothing that Clara said would comfort her. She felt that if something terrible happens while she was so far away, she would never be able to go home and see her dear ones again.

Mrs. Rottenmeier entered while all this was going on, and snapped³, "Adelheid, if you don't stop this immediately, I'll take that book away from you forever." Heidi stopped at once. She never cried again, no matter how sad she felt.

1. haunted—believed to be visited by ghost; 2. absolutely—completely; 3. snapped—spoke quickly and harshly

She lost her appetite⁴ and grew thin and pale. At night, she would lie in bed thinking about her grandfather and her home on the Alm.

The days went by but Heidi could hardly tell if it was summer or winter. All she saw of the outside world was the grey walls and roofs, and never any hills or flowers. When spring came, she knew that Peter would be climbing up to the Alm with the goats. But she only sat in her lonely little room, and shut her eyes against the sunshine outside.

Then strange things began to happen in the Sesemann house. The servants started finding the front door wide open. Nothing was missing or stolen, but the door would always be wide open, no matter how carefully it was bolted and locked at night.

At last Sebastian and John, another servant, said that they would stay up one night and see what happened. Mrs. Rottenmeier gave them a pair of Mr. Sesemann's pistols so that they would be able to defend⁵ themselves if the need arose.

That night, the two men chattered together at first but as time passed, they started to feel sleepy. John dozed off but suddenly woke up. It was well after midnight. "Come, let us see

4. appetite—desire for food; 5. defend—fight against attack

what's going on," he said to Sebastian.

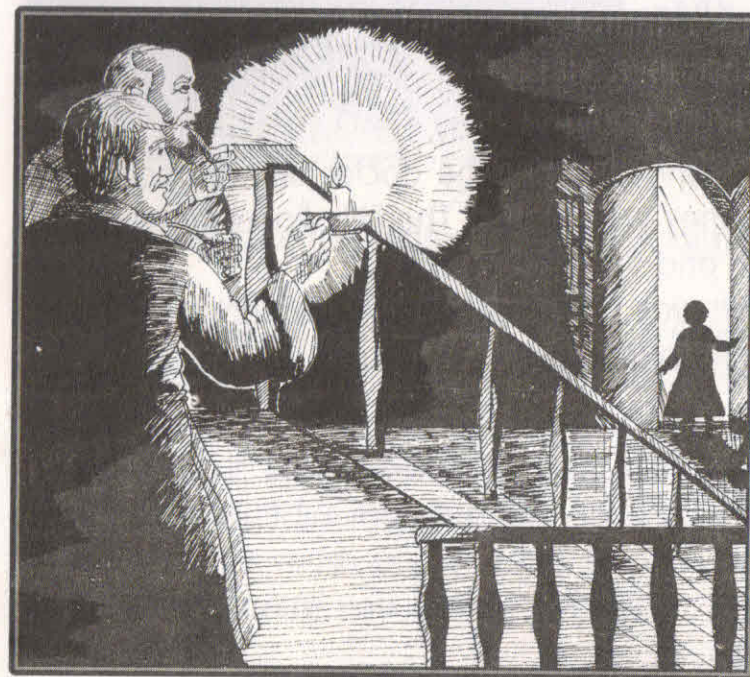
The two of them went into the hall, but a soft breeze blew out their candle. By the time Sebastian lit the candle again and turned around, John was as white as a sheet. "The door was wide open," he gasped⁶, "and a white figure was standing there. Then it vanished⁷."

Sebastian also began to shake with fear. For the rest of the night, the two of them sat close to each other, moving from their place only when it was daylight. Then they went and told Mrs. Rottenmeier what they had seen.

Mrs. Rottenmeier was very frightened when she heard their story and straight away wrote a letter to Mr. Sesemann. She wrote that everyone in the house was in great danger, and asked him to return home immediately. But Mr. Sesemann treated this very lightly. Then Mrs. Rottenmeier told Clara about the ghost, and she began to scream for her father.

When Mr. Sesemann heard of this he came home at once. He questioned Sebastian, thinking that the butler might have played a trick in order to scare the housekeeper. But Sebastian swore that he was telling the truth. Mr. Sesemann finally decided to stay up at night himself to see the

6. gasped—caught breath with an open mouth; 7. vanished—disappeared



ghost. He sent for his friend, the doctor, so that together they could catch the mysterious⁸ prowler⁹.

The doctor laughed heartily when he heard about the ghost. But he agreed to sit up with his friend and watch. Late into the night they sat smoking their pipes, but they heard no sound. As the clock struck one, the doctor suddenly sat up straight.

"What noise is that?" he asked. The front door was being unbolted. The two men went

8. mysterious—difficult to explain; 9. prowler—person moving quietly looking for something

out into the hall, where the moonlight streamed in¹⁰ through the open door. A little white figure stood in the doorway.

"Who's there?" the doctor demanded loudly as they went closer. The little figure gave a little cry and turned around.

It was Heidi, standing there trembling in her white nightgown and bare feet.

10. streamed in—flowed in

HEIDI LEAVES FOR THE ALM

CHAPTER
11

"Why, it's your little water-carrier!" exclaimed the doctor.

"Why have you come downstairs, child?" asked Mr. Sesemann. Heidi shook her head, trembling. "I don't know," she whispered¹.

The doctor said quietly, "I'll deal with this, Sesemann. Wait for me here." He took the girl upstairs to her room and put her back in her bed. "Where were you going?" he asked her gently.

"I wasn't going anywhere, I was dreaming and when I woke up, I was at the door," she replied.

She told him how she dreamed the same dream every night, that she was back home with grandfather. She would hear the trees rustling and rush out to open the door of the Alm-house, but would wake up in Frankfurt.

The doctor listened to her quietly. "Don't you like Frankfurt?" he asked.

"Yes," said Heidi, but the way she said it made it sound like "No".

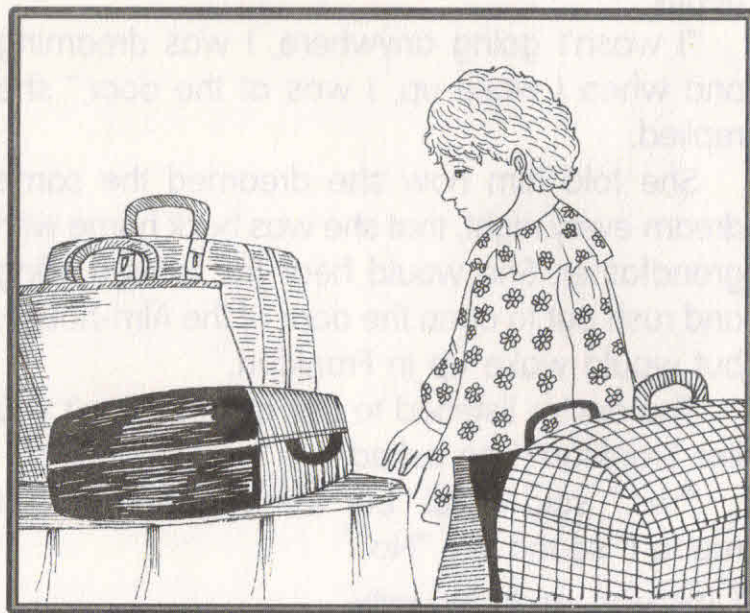
1. whispered—spoke very softly

The doctor asked her some more questions. Some of them made her cry, so he told her to go to sleep. "Everything will be fine tomorrow, when you wake up," he said and she slept.

The doctor returned to Mr. Sesemann. "The child walks in her sleep," he told him. "She wants to be home again so badly that she has become ill. Send the child home tomorrow."

Mr. Sesemann was very upset. "I will send her home if you say so, but only after you make her healthy again, Doctor! I can't send her back ill!" But the doctor persuaded him that it was the best thing to do.

Mrs. Rottenmeier was woken up during the



night and told to make preparations² for a journey. All the servants were woken too, and everything was made ready. Heidi's trunk was packed, and the carriage was taken out. Heidi was woken up and dressed.

In the meantime Clara was wondering what the matter was. Everything was so noisy this morning! Her father soon appeared and told her what was happening and why. Clara was very sad to hear that her friend was to return home. But she agreed to the plan when she was told that it was the only way that her friend would be better again.

Now Heidi was told that she was returning home. She was so happy when she heard the news, that she could hardly breathe. She ran upstairs to tell Clara.

She found her friend packing some pretty dresses for her, and a basketful of white rolls for Peter's grandmother. Heidi ran to her room to fetch her book that grandmamma had given her, and her old red shawl. These too she packed away. The children were so excited with the preparations that for a while they forgot to be sad.

As Heidi and Sebastian were leaving in the carriage, all her new friends waved them on

2. preparations—arrangements

their way. "Please thank the kind doctor for me," Heidi called to Mr. Sesemann. Finally the carriage rolled away.

Now that Heidi was returning to the Alm and her grandfather, she was afraid once again. "Sebastian, will grandmother still be alive?" she asked anxiously. "Of course, little one," Sebastian replied. But Heidi would only be sure when she saw her again.

Finally, they reached the town at the foothills. From here they had to take a cart to Dorfli. Now Sebastian started worrying. He was afraid of heights, so he was very pleased to find a man going there. It was the baker from the village. As soon as Sebastian made sure that he could be trusted to look after the little girl, he put her into the cart along with her trunk. He gave her a little bag and a letter for her grandfather and waved her goodbye.

The baker began to talk to Heidi. Like everyone else in the village, he was very curious³ about the child and her grandfather. When he heard that the girl had left a rich man's house in Frankfurt to return to the Alm, he was very surprised. He was even more surprised at Heidi's delight at being back.

"I like being with grandfather up on the Alm,

3. curious—eager to know

more than anything else in the world," she said happily.

When the cart reached Dorfli, Heidi jumped down quickly. "Thank you. Grandfather will fetch the trunk later," she shouted and began climbing the hill as fast as she could.

BACK HOME AGAIN

CHAPTER

12

Heidi ran all the way up to Peter's cottage. When she finally reached it, she opened the door but could not say anything because she was shaking with excitement.

"Dear Lord," said grandmother from her corner, "that sounds just like Heidi had opened the door. Who is it?"

"It is I, Grandmother," Heidi called and ran to her. "I have come back!"

At first the old lady was too surprised to say anything, then as she stroked¹ Heidi's curls, she said joyfully, "It is her, her hair and her voice! Thank God, she has come back!" and she cried for joy.

"Don't cry, Grandmother. I have returned and won't go away again. And you don't have to eat the hard dark bread any more. Look what I have brought for you, look!" Heidi piled the heap of fresh, soft, white rolls on her lap.

Grandmother felt the rolls and then the girl's hair, and said, "Glad though I am to have them, I am even happier to have you here again."

1. stroked—moved one's hand gently over something

Brigitta spoke now. "Mother, if you could see Heidi now, you would hardly know her! She is wearing such fine clothes and such a fine hat!"

Heidi immediately took off her hat and gave it to Brigitta. "Take it please, I don't want it any more!" She quickly took off her pretty frock and wore her old red shawl again. "Now I can go to grandfather, he might not know me in those clothes." She wished them "Good night" and ran out of the cottage.

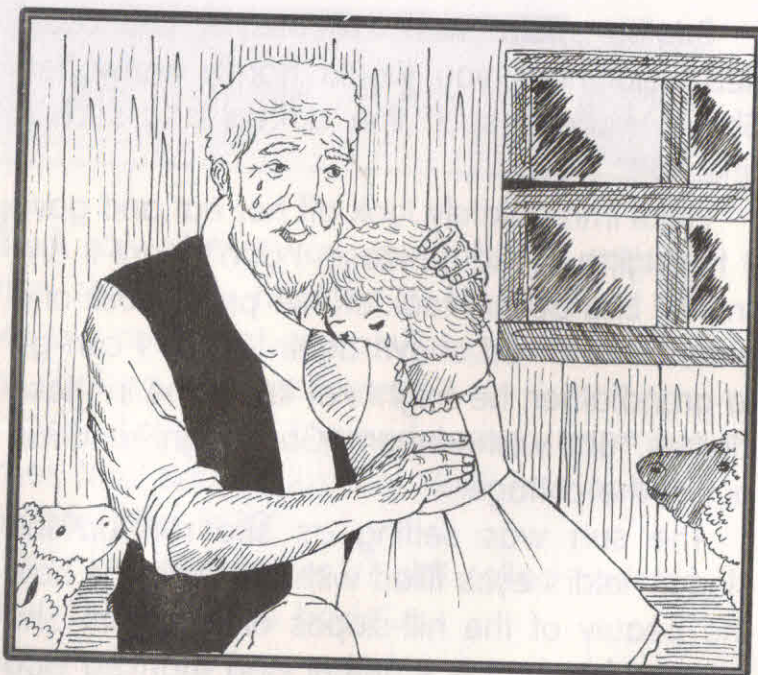
The sun was setting as she ran up the slope. Heidi's eyes filled with tears as she saw the beauty of the hill-slopes once again. She pressed her hands together and thanked God with all her heart for letting her come back to the Alm after all.

The tops of the fir trees came into view, and then the cottage. Grandfather was sitting on the bench as usual, smoking his pipe. Before he could realize what was happening, Heidi had dropped everything and rushing to him, had flung² her arms round his neck.

"Grandfather! Grandfather! Grandfather!" was all she could say.

For the first time in many years, Alm-uncle's eyes were wet with tears. He wiped his eyes

2. flung—threw with force



before speaking. "So you have come home again, Heidi. Did they send you away?"

"Oh, no, Grandfather, you mustn't think that!" Heidi began. She told him how nice the Sesemanns were, and how much Clara loved her. But she missed her home so much that the doctor and Mr. Sesemann decided to send her back. She then remembered the letter, and pulled it out. "Perhaps this will tell you everything," she said. She also gave him the bag.

Grandfather handed the bag back to her, for it was full of money, and said, "That is yours to do what you will." He read the letter and put

it in his pocket. "You can buy yourself a proper bed with that money." But Heidi wanted her old hay bed. They finally agreed to keep the money in the cupboard for whenever Heidi needed it.

Heidi followed grandfather everywhere that day, very happy to be back with him. They had dinner that night, two very happy people.

Later, a whistle sounded outside. It was her old friend, Peter! And all the goats too.

Peter stared at her as if he couldn't believe his eyes. Heidi laughed at him. "Don't you know me any-more, Peter?"

Peter gulped³ and finally said, "So you're back. Will you come up to the pasture tomorrow?"

"Not tomorrow but the day after. Tomorrow I must see grandmother."

"I'm glad you're back," Peter said at last, smiling happily.

When Heidi went to bed that night, she felt very peaceful. Grandfather checked on her many times that night, afraid that she may walk in her sleep. But she slept very soundly. Now there was nothing that would make her wander⁴ about at night. She had seen the mountains and heard the wind in the fir trees. She was finally home.

3. gulped—made a swallowing noise; 4. wander—go from place to place aimlessly

THE FORGIVING FATHER

CHAPTER 13

The next day, Heidi went over to Peter's cottage. She found that grandmother was only eating one roll a day because she didn't want them to be over soon. "Don't worry, Grandmother," said the girl. "I'll write to Clara and she'll send you as many rolls as you want." But Brigitta shook her head.

"They will get hard and stale," she said. "The baker in Dorfli makes them but I don't have the money to buy them."

"I know!" exclaimed Heidi. "I have lots of money! I'll tell him to make them for grandmother every day. She can even have two on Sundays, and Peter will bring them from Dorfli!" She was so happy with the idea that she could hardly sit still.

As Heidi chattered happily, she suddenly saw grandmother's hymn¹ book. She said excitedly, "Grandmother, I can read now. Shall I read you a hymn from your book?"

Grandmother was surprised and delighted. "Oh, yes. Read me the one about the sun." And

1. hymn—song of praise or thanks to God

Heidi read the hymn aloud. Grandmother had not felt so happy since a long, long time.

When Heidi returned to the Alm-hut with grandfather that evening, she told him her plan about the rolls. Grandfather said, "You'll be able to buy her rolls for many years!"

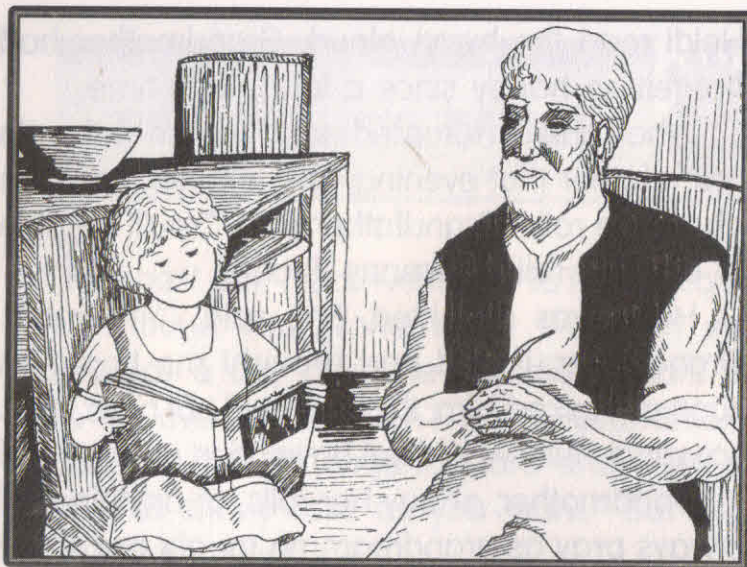
Heidi was delighted. She said, "You know, Grandfather, if God had brought me home as soon as I asked Him, things would not have been so wonderful! I would not have been able to read to grandmother, or buy her rolls, or anything! I'll always pray as grandmamma taught me, and I will know that God will ultimately² do whatever is best for me and everybody! We will pray every day to Him so that He will never forget us!"

"What if someone has forgotten God, Heidi?" Grandfather asked seriously. "God will have forgotten him too. He can never go back!"

"Oh, no, Grandfather! You can always go back! Grandmamma says so, and so does the beautiful story in my book," said Heidi, and showed grandfather the story when they reached home.

It was Heidi's favourite story. It was about a boy who had everything at home, where he looked after his father's flock. But he asked for his share in his father's wealth so that he could

2. ultimately—finally



go out in the world and be his own master. He soon spent all that he had, and had to herd cattle so that he would earn enough money to eat. He wept bitterly³ when he thought of all that he had had at home, and what a bad son he had been.

"I'll go home and ask my father if he can forgive me," he thought. He returned, sure that his father would be very angry. But the father saw him coming, and immediately ran forward to hug him. "Let us all celebrate⁴," said the father. "This son of mine was lost, but he is found again!"

3. bitterly—in great pain; 4. celebrate—make merriment on a happy event

"Is it not a beautiful story, Grandfather?" asked Heidi when the story was over. Almuncle had been listening quietly. Now he nodded, but seemed to be deep in thought. That night, when Heidi lay asleep in her bed, grandfather climbed to the loft. There was a peaceful look on her face and her hands were folded together as though in prayer. Grandfather knelt beside the hay-bed and bowed his head in silent prayer, as tears rolled down his cheeks.

BELLS RING OUT

CHAPTER 14

Early the next morning, grandfather woke Heidi saying, "Put on a nice frock, Heidi, we are going to the church today."

Heidi quickly put on a new dress and came down. She clapped when she saw grandfather, saying, "Oh, Grandfather, I've never seen you look so nice!" He was dressed in black trousers, a long coat and had a hat on his head.

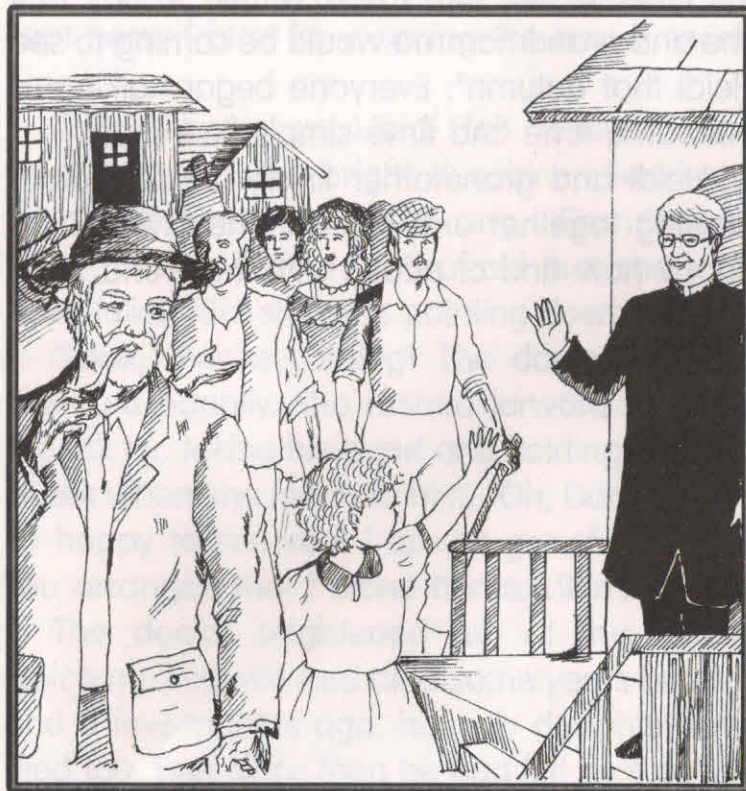
The church bells were ringing out loudly as they went down the mountain. They went into the church and sat down to listen to the hymns. By the time the hymns were over, everybody was turning to look at them and whispering, "Look, it's Alm-uncle!" But they all stopped when the priest began his sermon¹.

When the church service was over, the old man walked with the young girl to the priest's house. The village people saw him go in and gathered² around in excited little groups. They began talking of how well he had looked after the little girl, and how much the child loved

1. sermon—a religious talk given in the church; 2. gathered—collected

him. They began to feel very friendly towards Alm-uncle.

In the meanwhile, Alm-uncle was talking to the priest. He told him that he had decided to take his advice and move to the village in the winter. The priest was very happy when he heard this. He welcomed him warmly and promised that the old man would not regret³ his decision.



3. regret—feel sorry for

Alm-uncle now came out of the house to find many people gathered there, waiting for him. "Good to see you back, Uncle!" "How nice to see you again, Uncle!" they all called. He smiled at them all and the man and the girl began to climb up the hill again. They reached Peter's hut, and grandfather went in for the first time.

Peter rushed in noisily while they were there, bringing Heidi a letter from Clara. Heidi read the letter aloud. Clara had written to say that she and grandmamma would be coming to see Heidi that autumn⁴. Everyone began talking at the same time and time simply flew past.

Heidi and grandfather finally left for home, walking together arm in arm. They were both happy now and at peace with the world.

4. autumn—the season before winter

A VISITOR TO THE ALM

CHAPTER 15

Time passed. Soon the Sesemanns would be visiting the Alm, and Heidi was looking forward to seeing them again. She stopped going to the pasture with Peter because she thought that they might come when she was away. She kept herself busy by cleaning the house many times over.

Today, however, Heidi felt restless. She went out into the bright sunshine. Suddenly, grandfather heard her shouting, "Grandfather, come, come!" He ran out, afraid that she may have fallen. But she was pointing down the hill.

"Look, they're coming! The doctor is first!" she said happily. She rushed forward to greet the doctor, taking his hand and holding it to her cheek when she reached him. "Oh, Doctor, I am so happy to see you! I am so grateful to you! You arranged that I come home, didn't you?"

The doctor brightened¹ up at this loving welcome. His wife had died some years before, and a few months ago, his only daughter had died too. Ever since then he had felt as if all the

1. brightened—looked happier

light and happiness in his life had gone forever. He had come to tell Heidi that her friend was not well enough to travel, and so would not be coming. It made him feel very bad, because he could picture the girl's disappointment. But here was the child greeting him as if he was the best friend that she had.

"Let us go to your grandfather, Heidi," he said. But Heidi stayed where she was, looking down the hill behind him. "Where are the others?" she asked.

The doctor told her how ill Clara was and that she was not coming. But she and grandmamma would be here in the spring².

Heidi listened to him and was very sorry that her friends weren't coming. Then it occurred to her that the doctor was here, and this cheered her up. She saw that he looked thinner and sadder than when she had seen him last, and wanted to comfort³ him.

"Oh," she said, "it won't be long before spring! They'll be here before you know it!" She returned to grandfather, holding the doctor's hand.

The grandfather was waiting for them at the cottage. He had heard so much about the doctor that he felt as if he already knew him. The two

2. spring—season that follows winter; 3. comfort—to take away pain

men immediately began to talk to each other like old friends. Then the doctor remembered that Clara had sent Heidi several gifts, and he told her that there was something coming from Frankfurt that would give her great pleasure. Heidi waited eagerly to see what it was that her friend had sent her.

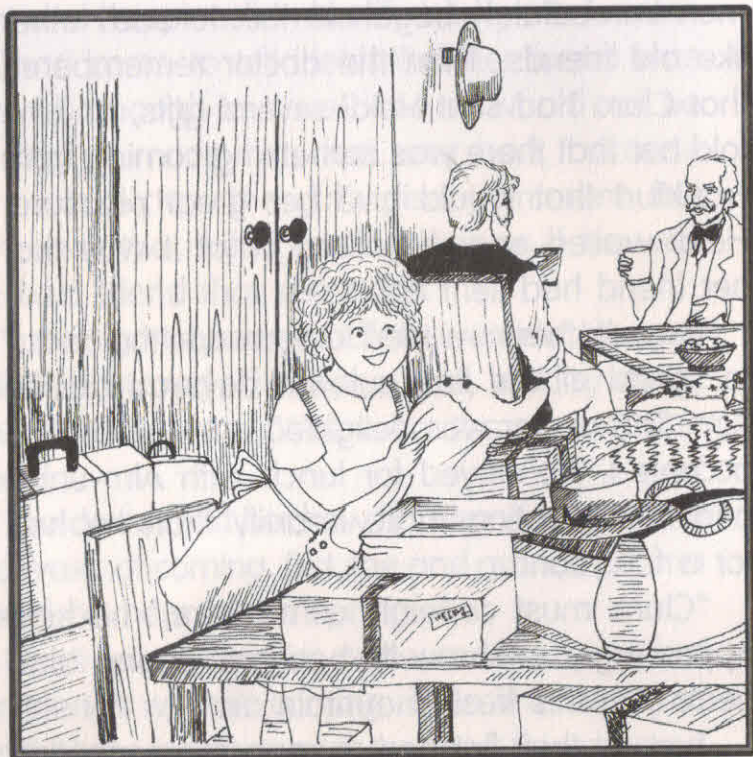
Grandfather now tried to persuade the doctor to spend all the fine autumn days up on the Alm. The doctor was delighted at the idea and accepted. He stayed for lunch with Alm-uncle and Heidi, eating more heartily than he had for a full year.

"Clara must certainly come here," he said approvingly⁴. "She will become strong and healthy in this fresh mountain air."

Just as they finished, a man came panting up the hill with a big bundle on his back. This was the package⁵ that had come from Frankfurt. "Now, child," said the doctor, "see your treasures for yourself."

Heidi began to open and unwrap each item, squealing⁶ and skipping with joy as she saw what each one was. There was a big cake and a thick warm shawl for grandmother, a packet

4. approvingly—to say and feel that something is good for you; 5. package—box in which many things are packed; 6. squealing—making a long shrill sound



of tobacco for grandfather, a warm coat with a hood for Heidi, a delicious sausage⁷ for Brigitta, and a whole lot of little packets that were surprises for Heidi.

After unpacking all the gifts, Heidi finally came to the doctor and said seriously, "Your presence has given me the greatest pleasure, Doctor."

When the doctor set out to return to his hotel in Dorfli, Heidi and grandfather accompanied⁸

7. sausage—minced meat stuffed in a round skin for eating;

8. accompanied—went with him

him half way down the hill. They were taking the gifts to Peter's cottage. Grandmother and Brigitta were surprised and delighted to see the lovely gifts.

So the doctor stayed in Dorfli for the whole of September. He went up to the Alm every morning. Sometimes he went up to the pasture with Heidi. On other days he went out with Alm-uncle, who became his good friend.

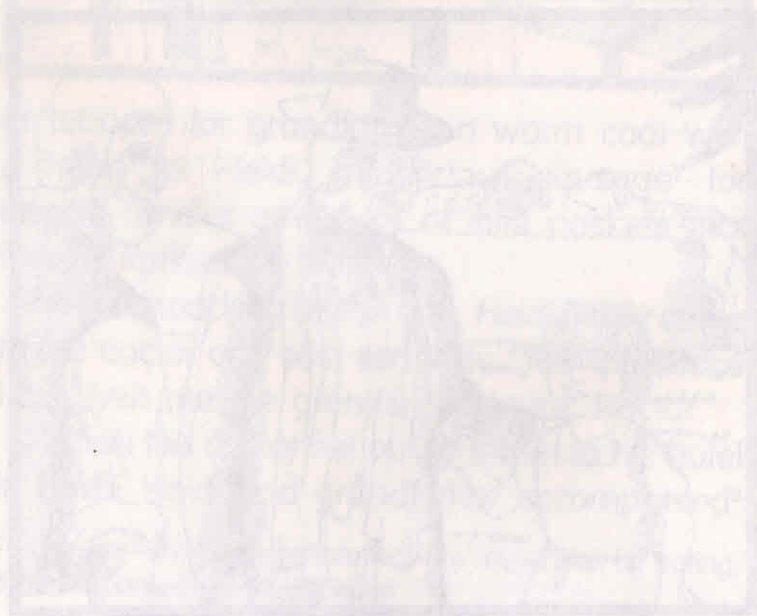
Finally, the day came when the doctor had to leave. He felt very sad while saying goodbye, because now Alm seemed to him like his own home and Alm-uncle and Heidi like his family. When Heidi saw the sadness in his eyes, she



began to cry and wanted to go with him.

The doctor tried to comfort her. "My dear Heidi," he said, "you will become ill again if you leave your beloved mountains and fir trees. But promise me that if I am ever ill and lonely, you will come and stay with me." Heidi promised immediately. She loved the doctor almost as much as her grandfather.

So the doctor left Dorfli for Frankfurt, feeling much happier than when he had come. The beautiful mountains that Heidi loved had given him back his health and happiness.



WINTER IN DORFLI

CHAPTER 16

It was another winter in Dorfli. Alm-uncle and Heidi had moved down to the village. They were staying in a huge house that had been empty for a long time. It had needed a lot of repairs, which Alm-uncle had carried out in the autumn.

Now that the snow lay thickly all over, it was difficult for Heidi to go and see grandmother often. At times Peter could not come down to attend school. He had to wait till the snow froze hard. But Heidi went to school regularly.

One day Peter finally managed to come down to Heidi's house from the cottage. His sledge¹ took him too far from the school, so he did not attend class. He came to the grandfather's house instead.

Grandfather saw him and told him, "If your sledge passes the school when you should be inside it, you will get what you give your goats when they run anywhere they like." Peter took a moment to understand that grandfather meant

1. sledge—carriage which moves on two long pieces of metal or wood on ice or snow

that he would get a beating if he did not go to school.

Grandfather continued, "Now that you're here, take Heidi up with you to meet your grandmother. You can bring her down again in the evening." Peter was very pleased.

Heidi was very happy to see grandmother again. But she was troubled when she saw that grandmother was in bed with a thin sheet and her new shawl around her.

"Grandmother," she began, "your pillow goes downhill, not uphill." She remembered her warm, soft bed with the high sloping pillows in Frankfurt.

When it was evening, Heidi said goodbye to grandmother and returned home. She thought how much grandmother missed her reading out to her when she couldn't go up to the cottage. Then she had a bright idea, and went to bed quite peacefully.

Next morning when Peter came, Heidi rushed to him. "Peter, you are going to learn how to read!" she exclaimed. "Then you can read hymns to grandmother when I can't come."

When Peter began to grumble² about the idea, Heidi was furious³.

"I heard your mother say that she'll send you

2. grumble—complain in a low voice; 3. furious—very angry



to school in Frankfurt, and the teachers there are very strict. You'll have to go there even when you are grown up, and everyone will laugh at you because you are so big and still can't read!" Peter shivered at the idea.

"All right," he said sulkily⁴.

So Heidi began to teach Peter the alphabet. She brought out a book that Clara had sent her, and began to read from it. Once Peter knew the meaning of what he was going to read, it was a little easier for him to spell it out and read it.

The book had a rhyme that taught the

4. sulkily—show of bad mood without speaking

letters. It was full of threats⁵ and secret hints that frightened Peter so much that he began to try very hard to learn.

Every time Peter stopped to argue, Heidi would remind him that grandfather might actually carry out the threats in the rhyme. So Peter learned faster than he thought he ever could.

One evening Peter was able to finally go home and say, "I can do it now. I can read." He read a hymn to grandmother, just as Heidi said he must. His mother and grandmother stared at him in wonder all the while.

The next day, it was the teacher's turn to be amazed. When it was Peter's turn to read, he said as usual, "Well, Peter, must we pass you again, or will you try?" To his surprise, Peter read the lines without fumbling⁶.

"How did this miracle happen?" exclaimed the teacher.

"It was Heidi," Peter answered.

"You have started coming to school regularly, too," said the teacher. He couldn't believe this was the same Peter that he had tried to teach for so many years. "What has brought the change?"

5. threats—suggestion of punishment one gets for not carrying out an order; 6. fumbling—making mistakes or stopping repeatedly

"Alm-uncle," he responded⁷.

By evening everyone in the village knew what a good influence⁸ Heidi and Alm-uncle were.

Now Peter read a hymn to grandmother every night, just as Heidi had told him to. But he never read a second one, and grandmother never wanted him to. Somehow, she never seemed to understand the hymns so well as when Heidi read them to her. This was because Peter was lazy about reading to grandmother. If a word was too long or too difficult, he left it out. He thought that grandmother wouldn't notice, since there were already so many words anyway!

7. responded—answered; 8. influence—effect a person has on another

CLARA ARRIVES

CHAPTER

17

May came. Heidi was very happy. She was on the Alm again. Grandmamma and Clara were coming from Frankfurt, and grandfather had built new chairs for them.

Peter had brought a letter from Clara a few days before. Clara had written to say that they would leave Frankfurt soon and she was looking forward to seeing Heidi and her grandfather and Peter and the goats. Peter was not happy to hear this news, but Heidi was filled with happiness.

When Heidi went to tell grandmother that the people from Frankfurt were coming, she did not look very happy either. She was afraid that they might take away her dear Heidi once more.

May passed and June was also nearly over. One morning, Heidi gave a loud cry that brought grandfather running out of the shed.

They both stood and looked down the mountain path. A strange group was making its way up. Two men were carrying a young girl

in a sedan chair¹. A lady on a horse followed them. Another man came behind them all, pushing an empty wheelchair before him. The guests had arrived.

Heidi sprang forward to greet them, and Clara hugged² her eagerly. Grandmamma was also made to feel welcome. Everybody felt they were the best of friends, even grandfather and grandmamma. They had all heard so much about each other. Grandmamma was very pleased to see Heidi looking rosy and healthy, unlike the last time that she had seen her.

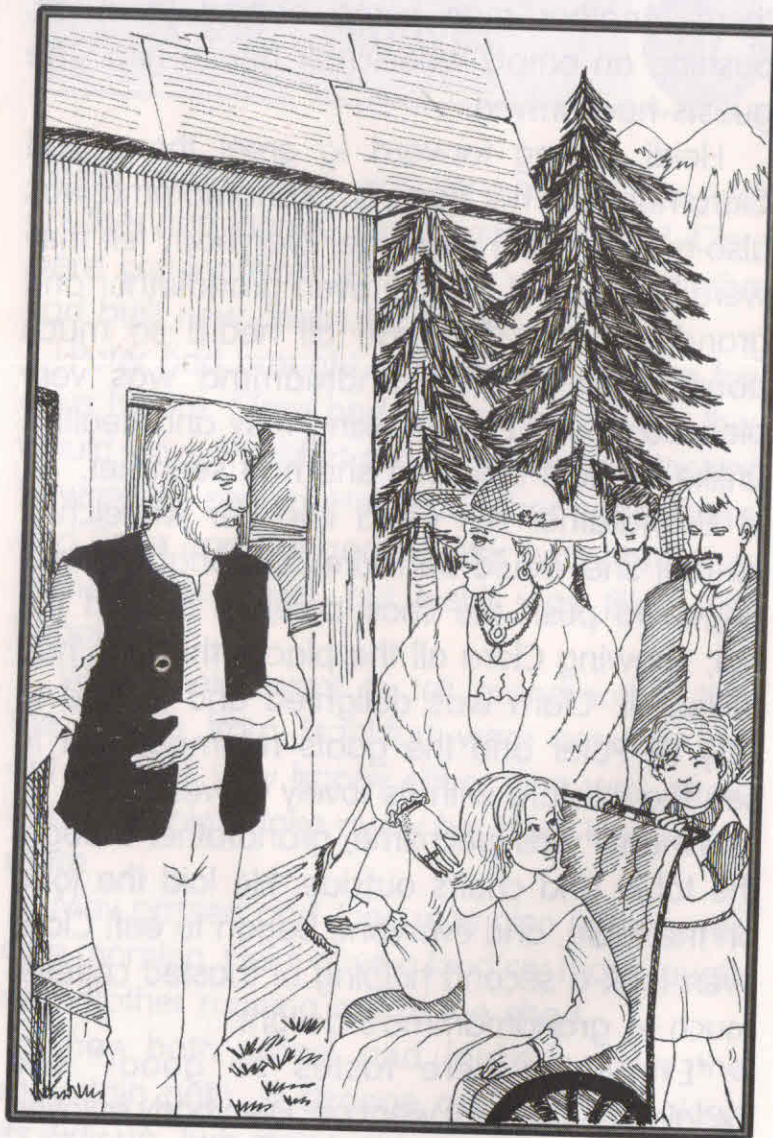
Grandfather put Clara into her wheelchair so that she would be more comfortable. Heidi began to push the chair carefully around the hut, showing Clara all the places that she had talked of. Clara was delighted and longed to stay till Peter and the goats returned, and to see the pasture with its lovely flowers.

When it was lunchtime, grandfather brought the table and chairs outside. He laid the food on the table, and everyone began to eat. Clara even took a second helping of toasted cheese, much to grandmamma's delight.

"Everything here tastes so good!" she exclaimed. And so it went on. Everybody enjoyed

1. sedan chair—chair carried on poles by two men;

2. hugged—held tightly to show love



the meal and the company.

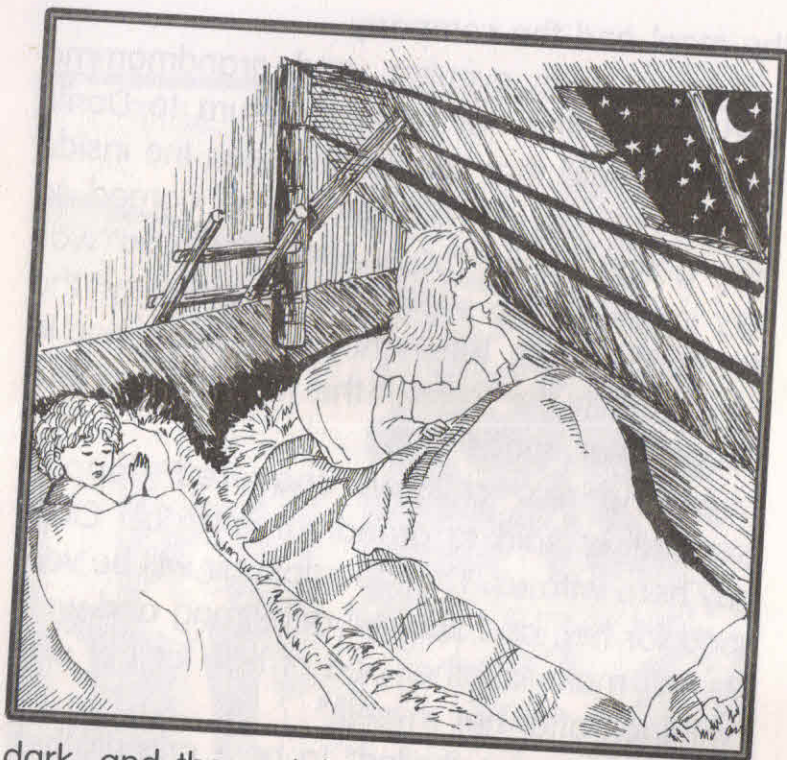
Soon it was evening, and grandmamma said it was time for them to return to Dorfli. But Clara said that they hadn't seen the inside of the cottage, so grandmamma agreed to stay a little while more. Grandmamma was very impressed to see how tidy and cosy³ the little cottage was. When they saw Heidi's bed in the loft, with the view of the mountains, Clara clapped her hands in joy.

As the two children chattered happily, grandfather said to grandmamma, "Let Clara stay here with us. The mountain air will be very good for her, and she will get strong and well. We will make another bed of hay for her and I will look after her myself."

The girls were thrilled⁴ to hear grandfather. Grandmamma also smiled, and she said, "You have said just what I was thinking." So it was decided that Clara would stay on at the Alm and grandmamma would return to take her away after four weeks.

The girls went to their beds very happy to be together again. They said their prayers and went to sleep. Heidi fell asleep at once, but Clara lay awake for a while. She had never seen the stars at home because she never left the house after

3. cosy—comfortable; 4. thrilled—excited



dark, and the curtains were always drawn at night. She looked at the twinkling stars till she fell fast asleep.

The next day Clara woke early and dressed quickly so that grandfather could carry her down the ladder. Heidi woke up too and she followed as soon as she could. Just as they finished breakfast, Peter arrived with the goats.

Grandfather took Peter aside to give him instructions⁵ about the goats for the next few weeks. But he soon noticed that Peter looked

5. instructions—orders

upset and extremely annoyed.

The reason for this was soon explained. He wanted Heidi to go along to the pasture, but Heidi wouldn't leave her friend. He scowled⁶ fiercely⁷ and went away, shaking his fist at the wheelchair. When he came down in the evening, he wouldn't return the girls' greetings. He just scowled and chased the goats down the hill.

At dinner that night, Clara ate even more than she had before. Grandfather smiled with satisfaction to see the girls eating heartily.

So the days passed happily for everyone except Peter. Heidi and Clara wrote to grandmamma regularly. Grandmamma surprised them one day by sending them two proper beds, complete with sheets and mattresses.

Three weeks of the four were over. Every day now, when grandfather carried Clara out to her chair, he asked her, "Won't the little daughter try to stand on the ground?" Clara always tried to please him but would cry out in pain and fear. But every day, grandfather let her stand just a little bit longer without her noticing.

Each day as they sat in the bright sunshine, Heidi would describe the beautiful pastures and the climb up to them. Clara longed to see the lovely flowers, the roses and bluebells. One

6. scowled—looked angrily; 7. fiercely—dangerously

day, Heidi suddenly jumped up and ran to grandfather.

"Can we go to the pasture tomorrow?" she asked. Grandfather nodded.

"But Clara must do me a favour⁸, too. She must try her best to stand." So Clara promised.

Peter grumbled like an angry bear when Heidi told him in the evening. But his bad temper didn't worry the girls; they just heard the flowers and the eagle saying "Come! Come!"

8. favour—to do something for someone

AN UNEXPECTED EVENT

CHAPTER

18

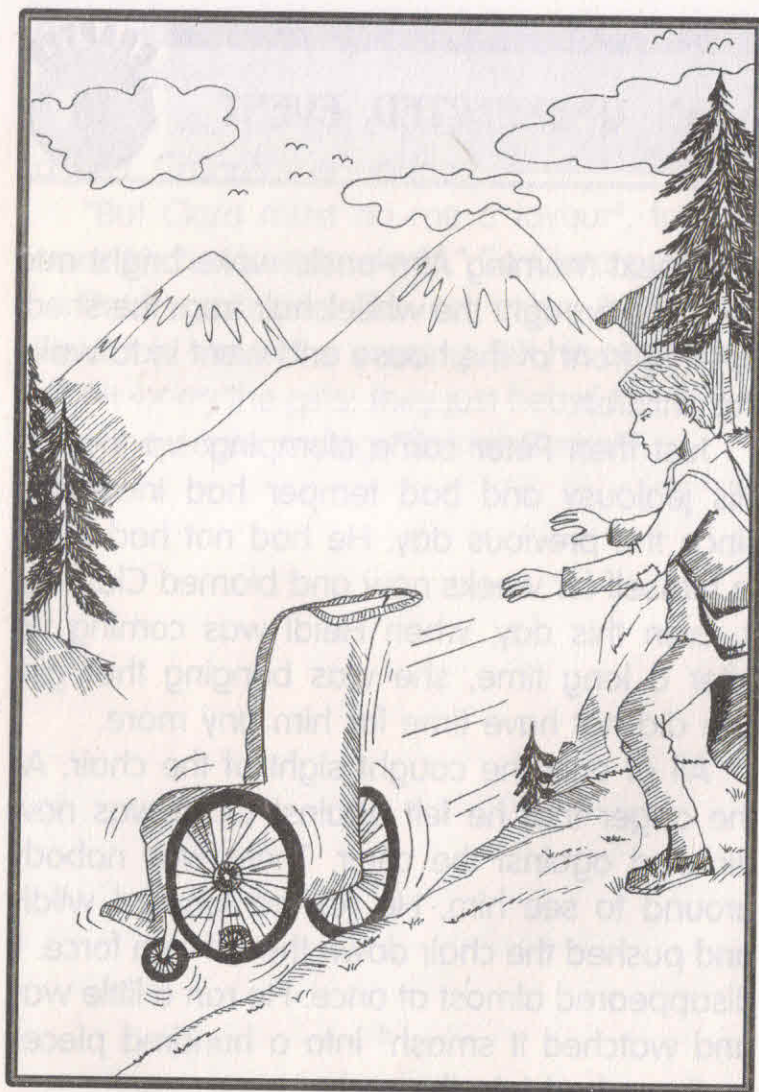
The next morning Alm-uncle woke bright and early. He brought the wheelchair from the shed, put it in front of the house and went in to wake the children.

Just then Peter came stomping¹ up the hill. His jealousy and bad temper had increased since the previous day. He had not had Heidi to himself for weeks now and blamed Clara for it. Even this day, when Heidi was coming up after a long time, she was bringing that girl. She did not have time for him any more.

All at once he caught sight of the chair. All the anger that he felt against Clara was now directed against the chair. There was nobody around to see him. He rushed forward wildly and pushed the chair down the hill with force. It disappeared almost at once. He ran a little way and watched it smash² into a hundred pieces as it crashed into the rocks.

Peter was quite satisfied now. The stranger would have to leave, because she couldn't move

1. stomping—stamp the feet while walking; 2. smash—break into pieces



about without the chair. Heidi would be free to come to the pasture with him again, just like before. It did not occur to him that he had done something wrong. He ran up the hillside happily.

Heidi came out and did not find the chair. Then Alm-uncle came to look for it. But it wasn't there. "Maybe the wind blew it down," called Heidi, looking all over for the chair. Clara hoped with all her heart that Heidi was wrong, because that would mean that she would have to return home.

Grandfather said, "We will go to the pasture, just as we planned." He wrapped some rugs around Clara, picked her up in his arms and began to climb up the mountain slope. Heidi followed, with an arm around each goat.

They reached the pasture to find Peter already there. Grandfather was angry and scolded him for not stopping at the house. He asked him about the chair, but Peter said he knew nothing.

Grandfather now laid the rugs on the ground and set Clara on them, and made her comfortable. He gave instructions that he thought were necessary about the girls' lunch, and then left for the Alm-hut.

The hours went by and the two girls were never so happy. The goats came and rubbed their heads against Clara's shoulder as if she were an old friend. They sat there and enjoyed themselves thoroughly³.

Heidi remembered her favourite flower patch

3. thoroughly—completely

on the hillside and began to wonder if it was as beautiful as last year. She could no longer resist⁴ going there. Leaving a little goat with Clara for company, Heidi went to see the flowers.

Heidi reached the patch and gasped with delight. The whole hillside seemed to be covered with gold. She turned and ran back to Clara in excitement. "You must come and see it, it is so beautiful!" she exclaimed. "I think I can carry you there, don't you?"

But Clara shook her head. Heidi looked around for Peter now. She saw him at last.

Peter was sitting above them on the hillside, still not able to believe that the girl had come. He had destroyed⁵ the chair so that she would leave Heidi and go home, and what happened? She came up to the pasture and Heidi just sat and talked to her.

Heidi came hurrying up to where he sat. "Help me carry Clara, Peter!" she called. When he did not respond, she threatened him, "Come and help me, or I'll do something that you won't like at all, I can tell you!" She only meant that she wouldn't share their lunch with Peter as she had planned. But Peter thought that she knew what he had done to the chair. Maybe she'd go

4. resist—try to stop oneself; 5. destroyed—broke something so that it is of no use anymore

and tell Alm-uncle about it! He was so scared at this thought that he got up at once.

Heidi dragged⁶ him to where Clara was sitting. They both took an arm and helped Clara up to her feet. Heidi thought that they could carry Clara to the flower patch, but it was not at all easy. Clara was quite heavy, and the others were too unequal in height. She tried to help them by putting one foot forward and then another, but was too scared.

"Put your foot down firmly," Heidi suggested. Clara obeyed, and found that it was less painful. She tried again, and then again. Suddenly, she exclaimed, "Heidi, look! I can do it! I can walk!" And indeed she could. With every step that she took, she felt safer and safer.

They soon reached the slope with the flowers and sat down among the flowers. Clara looked around her and was silent. She had never seen anything so beautiful and did not have words to say what she felt. She also felt that she may be able to walk like everybody else, and the thought was wonderful. Peter lay down and went to sleep.

Later the three of them returned to the pasture and ate their food. Though Peter ate as much as usual, he did not enjoy himself

6. dragged—took him without his wishes

because he felt afraid.

Grandfather appeared soon afterwards. Heidi rushed to him as soon as he came, telling him that Clara had finally walked. Grandfather smiled happily at Clara and told her, "You tried your best and you won!"

Clara nodded. Those early moments of pain had been worth bearing after all!

SURPRISES

CHAPTER 19

Next morning, grandfather suggested that they invite grandmamma to the Alm. The children were very excited because they knew that they had a great surprise in store for her. Finally, they all agreed that they should wait for another week. By then Clara would be able to walk with only Heidi's support.

So it came about that grandmamma was invited to the Alm-hut. They said that they had something new and exciting to show her but they did not say what it was. Grandmamma replied soon, and Peter brought the letter up. He was so afraid nowadays that even Heidi was struck by it.

"Why does Peter act as if he expects to be beaten, Grandfather?" she asked. "He must have done something he shouldn't," grandfather replied.

Soon grandmamma arrived. She screamed with joy when she saw Clara walking towards her, holding on to Heidi's arm. Clara had become as round and rosy as her little friend.

For some time grandmamma sat silently

and stared at her granddaughter. After that she couldn't stop thanking grandfather.

"Oh," she suddenly said, "but I must ask my son to come here! How can we send a telegram?"

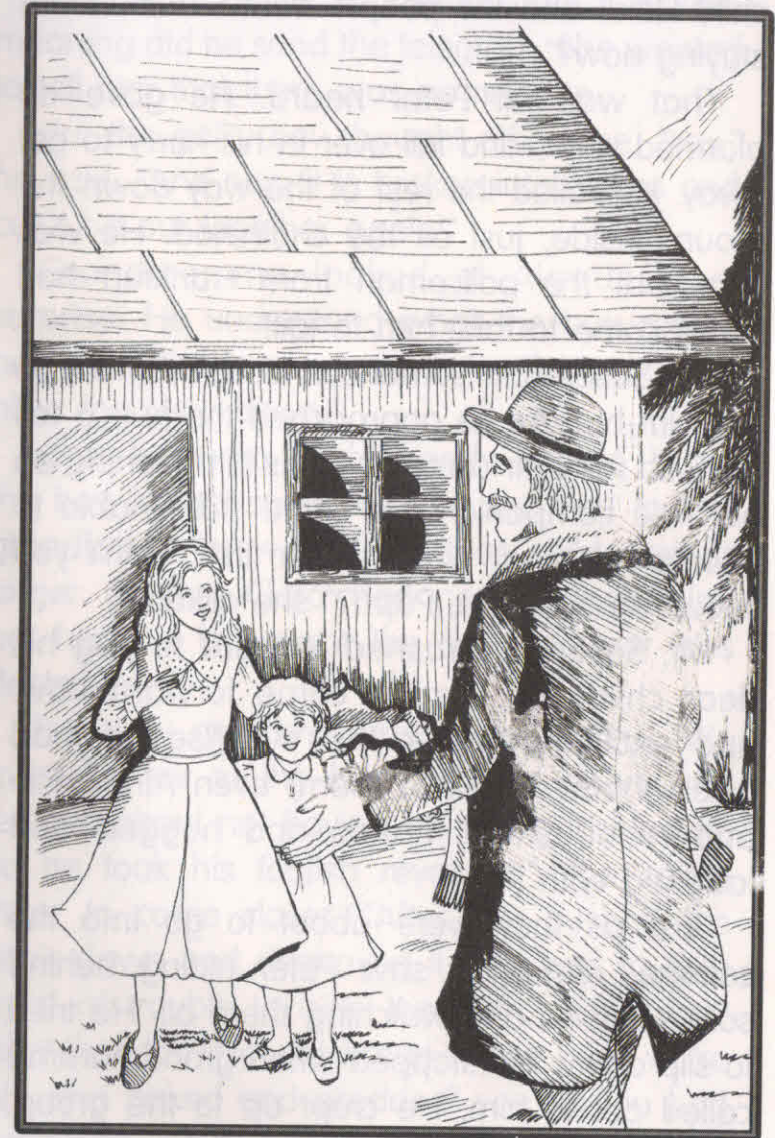
Grandfather whistled for Peter at once. He came running down from the high rocks and took the paper with the message written on it. He started off for the post office in Dorfli, relieved that no policemen had arrived so far.

He was very frightened about what he had done to the wheelchair, because he had heard someone in the village talking about it. The man had said that the chair was very costly, so the owners were sure to call the police. Peter was now afraid that he would be arrested² any time.

Peter climbed down the mountain over the grass and the rocks. He had a paper in his hand. As the boy climbed down the hill, he saw a man climbing up the path. It was Mr. Sesemann, who had come to give his daughter a surprise. But Peter did not know this. When Mr. Sesemann called out to him to ask for directions to the Alm-hut, he was terrified³.

"Come here, boy," Mr. Sesemann said to

1. telegram—short message sent by telegraph; 2. arrested—taken to prison; 3. terrified—filled with fear



him. "Tell me, is this the way to where the child Heidi and the people from Frankfurt are staying now?"

That was all Peter heard. He gave an alarmed yelp⁴, and fell over in his hurry to get away. He rolled the rest of the way down the mountainside, just as the chair had. He was sure that the policeman from Frankfurt had finally come to take him to jail!

Mr. Sesemann somehow found his way to the Alm-hut. As he approached the hut, a tall girl with fair hair came towards him leaning on her little companion. He stood still, unable to believe his eyes. Clara spoke first. "Don't you know me anymore, Papa?" she asked.

Mr. Sesemann rushed forward to hug his dear child. His mother came forward now, and exclaimed over the surprise he had given them all. All of them, even Alm-uncle and Heidi, shook hands and hugged and laughed with joy.

Just as they were about to go into the cottage, Alm-uncle saw Peter hiding behind some bushes and watching them all. He tried to slip away, but stopped when grandmamma called out to him. He crept up to the group, almost frozen with fear. "Now I'll be arrested

4. alarmed yelp—sharp shrill cry of fear and shock

and sent to jail," he thought. "It's all over."

"Did you do it?" grandmamma asked, meaning did he send the telegram. She wanted to tell him that there was no need to.

But the guilty boy thought otherwise. "Yes," he said. "And now it is broken into pieces and can't be put together again!"

Grandmamma looked at Alm-uncle in surprise. He understood what the boy meant and said, "I think we now know the wind that blew the chair down."

Grandmamma could hardly believe it but the boy looked so guilty⁵ that she had to. But grandfather knew that he was right. Peter's anger against Clara had not escaped him, nor had his fear since the day the chair was destroyed.

But now grandmamma spoke again. "We must be fair to the boy. He was angry and jealous about not having his friend to himself, so he took his foolish revenge⁶." She called Peter to come closer. "After you pushed the chair down and destroyed it, you had to take a lot of trouble to hide the truth, didn't you? After that, the little watchman in your heart woke up, and poked and prodded⁷ you till you had

5. guilty—responsible for a wrong doing; 6. revenge—repay a wrong doing; 7. prodded—pushed with something pointed

no peace at all. Isn't that how you felt?" Peter nodded miserably⁸.

"But something good finally came of it, because Clara learnt how to walk. So you see Peter, God turns evil into good for the one who was to be harmed, and only hurts the wrongdoer. Remember that from now on," grandmamma explained.

Peter answered unhappily, "Yes, I will." He had felt so terrible the last few days that he was willing to do anything he was told.

Grandmamma continued, "Everything is all right now and the whole matter is settled. Now, what would you like to have as a token from us? You shall not feel that we blame⁹ you anymore. What will you have?"

Peter stared in surprise. He spoke a little fearfully again. "I also lost the paper," he said, meaning the telegram.

Grandmamma laughed. "That's right. Confess¹⁰ any wrong immediately. Now what do you want?" Peter began to get excited at the thought of a gift. He said, "A penny!"

Grandmamma gave him many coins from her purse. "There are as many pennies here as there are weeks in a year, so you will be able

8. miserably—with an unhappy feeling; 9. blame—to hold responsible; 10. confess—to admit

to spend a penny a week for a whole year." Peter's eyes shone at the thought.

Now Peter went leaping over the rocks, happy and carefree again. He no longer had to worry about going to jail!

PROMISES TO MEET AGAIN

CHAPTER 20

In the Alm-hut later in the evening, grandfather, grandmamma and Mr. Sesemann were talking. Mr. Sesemann could not thank grandfather enough for all that he had done for Clara. But grandfather wanted no thanks. "I am overjoyed at the child's recovery on the Alm, and any trouble has been repaid by that," he said.

He thought for a few minutes, for he could see that Mr. Sesemann wanted to do something to show his gratitude¹. "I only have one worry in the world. Heidi will have nothing and nobody once I am gone. Promise me that she will never have to go out and work for strangers for a living."

Mr. Sesemann promised. "Heidi is like my own child, and I will look after her. But I must also tell you that she doesn't lack friends. The doctor is one of them, and he's going to come here next month. He will live here in the mountains, because he has regained his lost happiness here with you and Heidi. So you see, she will have two of us to look after her."

1. gratitude—being thankful

Grandfather was satisfied and very happy to hear this. His dear Heidi would be safe as long as she had such loving protectors².

Grandmamma now called Heidi. "I want to give you something, Heidi. Is there anything you particularly³ want?" she asked.

Heidi nodded. "I would like my bed from Frankfurt, with its three high pillows and thick cover, so that grandmother may have it. Then she won't lie with her head going downhill, or wear her shawl in bed because she is cold!"

Grandmamma agreed immediately. She was touched⁴ that the child always thought of ways in which she could make others' lives happier.

Heidi was delighted at the thought of the bed arriving soon, and wanted to tell grandmother at once. Grandmamma decided to accompany her, and later send a telegram from Dorfli about the bed.

They reached the little cottage and went in. Grandmother sighed when she heard that Heidi was with the Sesemanns. "It is true then! They are taking her away again!" she thought sadly.

Heidi rushed to her. "Grandmother, the bed will be here in two days," she exclaimed,

2. protectors—people who protect; 3. particularly—more than is usual; 4. touched—to have soft feelings

hugging the old woman.

Grandmother smiled a little sadly. "How wonderful," she said. "I wish I could be happy that you are going away Heidi."

Grandmamma heard her. She explained in her kind voice that Heidi would be staying on the Alm, but they would visit her regularly. Grandmother's face lit up when she heard this.

The Sesemanns stayed for a while more to talk to grandmother. Then they continued their journey down to the valley. They were to leave the next morning and had to make arrangements for the trip.

Next morning, the Sesemanns left for Frankfurt. Clara was sad about leaving the Alm where she had been so happy. Only the promise that she could return the next summer cheered her up.

Some days after they had left, a package arrived from grandmamma for the grandmother. It contained warm clothes of all sorts, so that grandmother would never have to sit shivering⁵ with the cold in winter.

The doctor also came to live in Dorfli. He bought the house where Heidi and Alm-uncle had lived in winter, so that they all could stay

5. shivering—shaking with cold

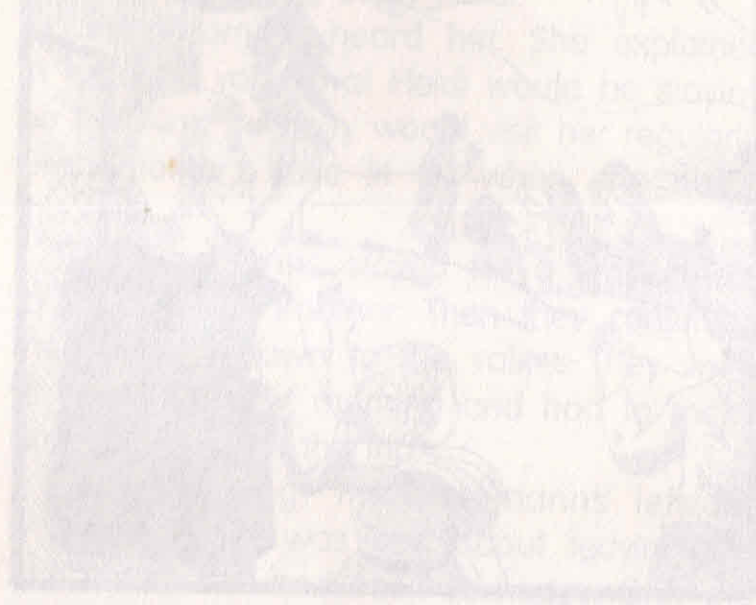


together. He and Alm-uncle became the best of friends. Heidi was their greatest joy and they often discussed her future⁶. It was the doctor's dearest wish to be a father to her, and finally, one day, he suggested that he would adopt⁷ her as his daughter. The grandfather was touched by this, and felt that he no longer needed to worry about his little granddaughter.

Heidi had come to the Alm some years

6. future—time that is yet to come; 7. adopt—legally take another's child as one's own

ago, friendless and with hardly any family of her own. Now, she had many people who loved her dearly, and who were as dear to her as any family could have been.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



CHAPTER 1

1. Where was Aunt Dete taking Heidi?
2. Why did people in the village call the old man Alm-uncle?
3. Who was Peter?
4. Why did Heidi remove the clothes she was wearing?
5. What did Heidi do on reaching Alm-uncle's cottage?

CHAPTER 2

1. What could Heidi see in her grandfather's cupboard when he opened it?
2. Where did Heidi want to sleep? With what did she make her bed?
3. What did the grandfather do after they had their dinner?
4. What were the names of the two goats?

CHAPTER 3

1. Why was Heidi puzzled for a moment the next morning?
2. What did grandfather pack for Heidi's lunch?

3. Why did Heidi decide never to pluck flowers again?
4. What did Heidi do at home on the days she did not go to the pasture?

CHAPTER 4

1. Why did grandfather take Heidi to Peter's cottage?
2. What was Peter's mother doing when Heidi entered the cottage?
3. Why was Heidi very upset on meeting grandmother?
4. What did Heidi ask grandfather on their way back from Peter's cottage?

CHAPTER 5

1. Who was the visitor Heidi met one sunny March morning?
2. What did the priest remind Alm-uncle?
3. Why did grandfather not want to send Heidi to the school down in the village?
4. Who was the other visitor the next day?
5. Why did Dete want to take Heidi away with her?

CHAPTER 6

1. Who was Mrs. Rottenmeier?

2. Why did she frown on seeing Heidi?
3. What did Clara tell Heidi about the tutor?
4. Why did Heidi stare at Sebastian when she first saw him?
5. What were the rules set by Mrs. Rottenmeier that Heidi was supposed to follow?

CHAPTER 7

1. What made Clara look much happier than she usually did?
2. What was the noise that Mrs. Rottenmeier heard from the schoolroom?
3. Why was Heidi disappointed when she looked out from the window?
4. What could Heidi see from the window at the top of the tower?
5. What did Heidi bring home in her pockets?

CHAPTER 8

1. What were the two things the little boy had with him?
2. What did Sebastian ask the boy to do when he came inside?
3. Why did Sebastian give the boy eight pence though he had asked for only four pence?
4. How did the lid of the basket lift on its own?
5. Why was Heidi very sad? What did she decide to do?

CHAPTER 9

1. What was the reason for excitement in the house?
2. What did Mrs. Rottenmeier tell Mr. Sesemann about Heidi?
3. Why did Mr. Sesemann decide that Heidi was just a normal child?
4. What did Mrs. Sesemann give Heidi when she called her to her room one day?
5. What did grandmamma tell Heidi about God?

CHAPTER 10

1. Why did Heidi begin to cry while reading out a story to Clara?
2. What strange things began to happen in Mr. Sesemann's house?
3. What did Mrs. Rottenmeier write to Mr. Sesemann?
4. At first Mr. Sesemann treated the matter lightly. Why did he later come home quickly?
5. What did Mr. Sesemann and his friend see that night?

CHAPTER 11

1. What was the dream Heidi saw every night?
2. After talking to Heidi, what did the doctor advise Mr. Sesemann?

3. What all did Clara pack for Heidi to take home?
4. Why did Sebastian ask the baker to take Heidi to Dorfli?
5. Why was the baker surprised?

CHAPTER 12

1. On opening the door Heidi could not say anything. Why?
2. Why did Heidi take off her pretty frock and wear her old red shawl again?
3. What did Heidi give grandfather on meeting him?
4. What did Peter say on seeing Heidi?
5. Why did grandfather check on Heidi frequently that night? What did he find?

CHAPTER 13

1. Why was grandmother eating only one roll a day?
2. What did Heidi tell grandmother on seeing her hymn book?
3. Who had taught Heidi to pray?
4. Why did Heidi believe that one could always go back to God?
5. What did grandfather do after seeing Heidi's peaceful looks when she was asleep?

CHAPTER 14

1. How was grandfather dressed that Sunday morning?
2. Why were the people in the church turning around to look at grandfather?
3. What did Alm-uncle tell the priest?
4. What did Clara write to Heidi in her letter?

CHAPTER 15

1. How did Heidi keep herself busy while waiting for the Sesemanns to visit the Alm?
2. Why did the doctor come to the Alm instead of Clara and grandmamma?
3. What made the doctor agree to spend all the autumn days up on the Alm?
4. What were the gifts that were sent from Frankfurt?
5. What promise did the doctor take from Heidi while going back to Frankfurt?

CHAPTER 16

1. Why was it difficult for Heidi to go and see grandmother often?
2. When Peter came to grandfather's house instead of going to school what did the grandfather say?
3. Why was Heidi troubled on seeing grandmother

in bed?

4. Why did Heidi want Peter to learn how to read?
5. How did the villagers come to know that Heidi and Alm-uncle were a good influence?

CHAPTER 17

1. Why was grandmother not happy on hearing that the people from Frankfurt were going to come?
2. Why was grandmamma very pleased to see Heidi?
3. What reason did grandfather give for Clara to stay with them?
4. How do we know that Peter did not like Clara coming to the Alm?
5. What favour did grandfather ask from Clara?

CHAPTER 18

1. What was Peter upset about?
2. How did Peter satisfy his anger?
3. How was Clara taken to the pasture?
4. How did Heidi persuade Peter to help her carry Clara?
5. What was the great surprise Clara got as she was being helped by Heidi and Peter?

CHAPTER 19

1. Why did Clara and Heidi decide to wait another week before inviting grandmamma to the Alm?
2. Why did grandmamma sit silently and stare at her granddaughter?
3. As Peter climbed down the hill, whom did he meet?
4. What did Mr. Sesemann do on seeing Clara coming towards him?
5. Why did grandmamma want to be fair with Peter when she learnt that he had destroyed the wheelchair?
6. What was the good thing that happened after Peter destroyed the chair?

CHAPTER 20

1. What was grandfather's only worry in the world?
2. When grandmamma asked Heidi whether she wanted anything in particular, what did she ask for?
3. Why was grandmamma touched?
4. Though Clara was sad on leaving the Alm, what cheered her up?
5. Who adopted Heidi as his daughter?