



Hansel and Gretel



Story retold by Bev Evans



Once upon a time there
were two children called
Hansel and Gretel.

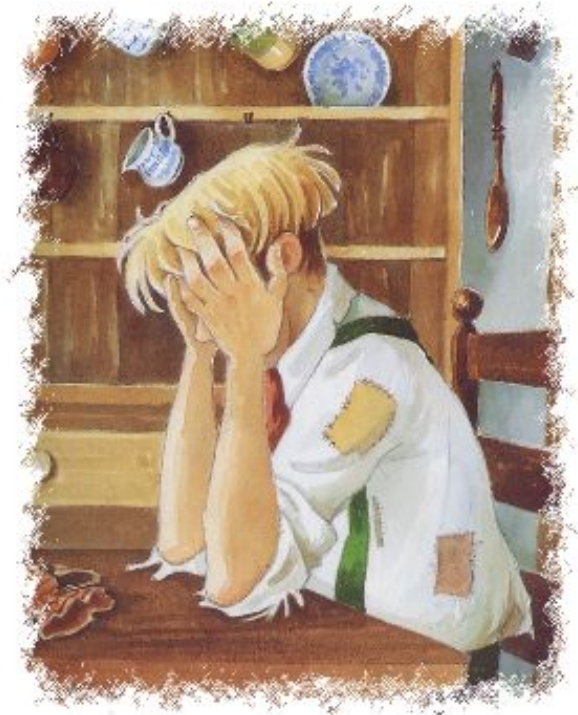
They lived in the forest
with their father and
stepmother



Hansel and Gretel's father worked as a woodcutter.

A woodcutter did not get much money, and Hansel and Gretel's stepmother liked to go shopping.

They were very short of money and Hansel and Gretel's father was very worried.



One day he came home from work and sat at the table with his head in his hands.

But his wife had a plan.



She told the woodcutter
he must get rid of his
children.

With two less mouths to
feed their money worries
would be over.

Hansel and Gretel were
listening at their
bedroom door.



They knew that their
stepmother always got
her own way and they
were very frightened.

Hansel had an idea.

The next morning he went out and collected some stones.

After breakfast Hansel and Gretel's stepmother suggested they all go for a walk in the forest.



While they were walking Hansel dropped the stones along the path.



When they were deep in the forest their stepmother told them to sit and wait.

She told them that she was taking their father to pick some berries for a picnic.

She was not telling the truth! Soon night came and Hansel and Gretel were alone in the forest.



But Hansel's plan had worked. They could follow the stones all the way home.

When they arrived home, the woodcutter was overjoyed!



Their stepmother, however, was very cross!



Later that night, she told the woodcutter he must try to get rid of the children again!

The following day the children were locked in the cottage all morning.

Their stepmother did not want Hansel collecting stones again!

At lunch time their father took them for a walk in the forest again.

Hansel quickly put something in his pocket.

As they walked along Hansel dropped breadcrumbs along the path.





The woodcutter was very sad to leave his children in the forest, but he did not want to upset his wife.

He led the children to a place in the forest with plenty of shelter and berries to eat.

Finally he walked away.

Hansel was not worried!

He told Gretel what he had done but, when they looked along the path, there was no sign of the bread crumbs.

They had been eaten by the birds and animals in the forest.

This time Hansel and Gretel had no way of getting home!

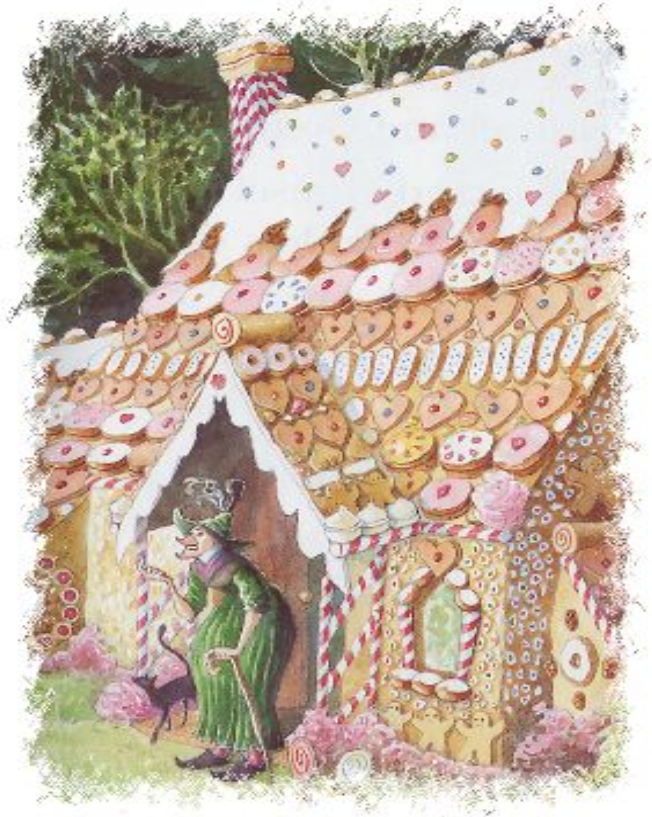


Hansel and Gretel walked
and walked through the
forest.

Eventually, they came to
an amazing house!

The house was made of
gingerbread and
decorated with sweets,
icing and lollipops.

And standing by the
house was a strange old
woman.



The woman invited the
children inside.

But the old woman was very cruel.



She locked Hansel in a cage: she wanted to fatten him up and eat him!

She showed Gretel the oven where she was going to cook Hansel.



Gretel decided to trick
the old woman!



She told the old woman
that Hansel was too big
to fit in the oven.

The old woman leaned
forward to take a closer
look...



...and Gretel pushed her
into the oven!

Gretel unlocked the cage so Hansel could get out.



They had a quick look around the gingerbread house.

Gretel found a chest full of gold coins.



The children decided to set out for home, bringing the chest with them.

After a long walk through the forest, Hansel and Gretel eventually found a path they recognised.

They ran excitedly along the path and finally saw their home in the distance.

There, outside the cottage, was their father.



Their stepmother had left. Now the three of them could, finally, live happily ever after.

The End

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