

By:Emilia I.

Hope

A long time ago there lived a girl named Violet who lived in a cottage right outside the nearest town with her mother, and two siblings. She had a little sister named Lizzie who was five years old and a little brother named James who was three. The family did not have much money, but they were happy with what they had. Their father was in the next town over working his job and sleeping in the house of his employer, but he would always come home to the family on weekends.

One day Violet was doing chores when she noticed her usually happy mother looking forlornly at a paper she held in her hands. Violet walked over to her mother and asked her what was wrong.

"We have some overdue bills," answered her mother. "My quilting business barely makes enough money to pay the bills."

"Didn't Dad send money from his job yesterday?" asked Violet.

"Normally, he would have, but I just got word that he was fired. The letter he sent me said that he would return home in a couple of days after he took care of some unfinished business."

*Fired!* Violet thought. How would her family survive? She knew her mother did not make much money, and that without her father's support their family would not last longer than two weeks. Violet finished her chores and went up to her room to think of a solution. Just then James and Lizzie bounded into her room, hand in hand. James looked up at her proudly.

"Lizzie was trying to reach her pencil that fell through a crack in her bed, but she could not reach it. I got it for her, because my hand was small enough to fit through the crack!" he announced proudly.

"Great job James!" Violet replied, her mind wandering back to her family's dilemma. All of the sudden she had an idea. If her father could not earn money for her family, she would. She could get a job! She went to bed thinking about how she would start her job search the next day.

Violet woke up to the sun bursting through her curtains and her mother calling her name. She quickly ran downstairs to the kitchen to see what her mother wanted.

"Good morning, Violet," her mother said. "I am running out for an appointment with one of my clients and to visit your father. Apparently he needs help with some of his last minute paperwork. I will be home at about 7:00. I need you and Lizzie to stay home from school today so you can watch James."

"Alright mother," Violet replied happily. She was excited because this would be a perfect opportunity to find a job. As soon as her mother left the house she ran up to her siblings room and told them to get ready.

"What are we getting ready for?" whined Lizzie. "I want to sleep."

"If you do what I tell you to," replied Violet, "you can be in charge of James." Immediately Lizzie's face lit up. She loved bossing people around. Violet helped her siblings get dressed and eat breakfast and soon they were walking on the road into town. Violet told both of her siblings to be on their best behavior wherever they went that day.

"Where are we going?" asked James.

"Isn't it obvious?" Lizzie replied. "We are going to..., where are we going?"

"We are going to find a job," Violet replied.

A short while later they came upon a stable. Violet went inside and asked if there were any jobs available there. She found out that they needed someone to clean and groom the horses. She was shown to three large horses and was given instructions on how to wash and groom them. Immediately she set to work washing a horse named Champ. She told her siblings to stay in the stable and in eye distance of her. They both found a wooden barrel to turn over and sit on. Lizzie also loved to talk, so she talked about anything and everything while she waited. Soon though, Violet noticed that she did not hear any talking anymore. She turned to the barrel where

her siblings had sat, but no one was there. She searched the whole stable in search of them, but found nothing. Frantically she dashed out into the street and called out their names. Just then she noticed them across the street with a group of children playing their favorite game. She ran over to them and asked them why they had left the stable. They told her that they were bored and had wanted to play. She took their hands and led them back to the stable telling them to stay put. She was about to get back to work when her employer called her over to him.

“Where have you been?” he asked furiously.

“I am sorry sir,” she answered. “My siblings ran out onto the street and I had to go after them. “You are not allowed to leave your position!” he shouted. With that he fired her.

Violet, James and Lizzie continued their walk through town in search of a job. After a while they found a mother trying to control her triplets. Violet walked up to her and offered to help her control them. The mom graciously accepted. Using techniques she had learned from her past experience with Lizzie and James, she gently calmed the children and rounded them up. The relieved mom thanked Violet and asked her if she had anything to do. Violet told her that she was on the search for a job to earn money for her family. The mother asked if she would consider working for her.

“I know it might not be an ideal job,” the mother said “but I have so many errands to run and things to do, and you seem to manage the children wonderfully. Plus, it would be a paying job.”

“Actually, I would love to work for you. It would be perfect for my siblings because they would have something to do and would not get in trouble,” Violet replied happily. The lady led everyone to her house and explained where everything was to Violet. With that, she left the house. Violet took care of the children for a long time, and that night went home with a check. Her mother was very surprised but happy with what her daughter had done, and Violet continued her job for a long time, earning her family good money. Everybody lived happily ever after in the cottage.