

# HANSEL AND GRETEL GO BAD

By Caitlyn Tilley

Once upon a time there was a small poor family who lived in the woods. The father Abraham, a young woodchopper was finding that he couldn't earn enough money to buy food so he thought of options such as getting rid of the children or even running away. His wife Ada, a grumpy, selfish woman who had no respect for herself or her family was annoyed that Abraham was doing nothing to help their situation.

The children loved their parents but wanted to live and enjoy a happy life so at midnight they formed a plan. "Gretel, my dear sister we must do something about our parents, for they might want to dispose of us," whispered Hansel. Gretel nodded in agreement and whispered back, "Hansel what if we took them on a picnic in the woods and then leave them with one piece of bread and then make our way back home." Hansel nodded in agreement and lay down next to Gretel sighing softly before he drifted off into a peaceful sleep.

The parents who had been listening were shaking in fear because they never thought that their own children could do such a horrible thing. Abraham sneaked out and grabbed handfuls of pebbles, stuffing them in his pockets before heading back into the house.

As the sun rose into the sky the parents woke up. The two children were still in their room. Hansel had always been tall and bulky like his father but the bulkier he was the more he needed to eat. Gretel, on the other hand, was short and thin making it easier for her to hid during games of hide and seek. Gretel had long ginger locks that were constantly tied into a tight plait that couldn't bring the shorter strands into the plait leaving them framing her porcelain face.



The children ran into the parent's room jumping up and down yelling excitedly, "It's a beautiful morning!" Gretel yelled in fake excitement. She wanted to add lets go for a picnic but Hansel had beaten her to it. Ada walked up to the window and looked out, she thought, "Yes it is a beautiful morning but I know what you will say," she opened her mouth and replied, "Yes my dear, it is a beautiful morning and Hansel I think that a picnic is a splendid idea." Ada knew that a picnic was a horrible idea but she had to say yes in fear that her children might hurt her.

As they walked deeper into the woods the father turned around and dropped pebble after pebble trying not to raise suspicion from the children soldiering on out front. "What are you looking for father?" Asked Gretel looking up at him with her bright hazel eyes. "Ah my darling girl I am back at the house to look for my dear white cat as he wants to say goodbye to me," replied the father. "You old fool!" Laughed Hansel. "That isn't your white cat, it is the morning sun shining on the chimney." The father hadn't been looking back at the house but at the small white pebbles he had been dropping.

They had reached the middle of the woods and Hansel demanded, "Mother, father, stay here while Gretel and I look for wood to build a magnificent fire to keep us warm till noon." The couple nodded and watched as the children disappeared into the forest, hand in hand.

As they waited for the children to return Ada became drowsy and fell asleep and not soon after Abraham fell asleep too. The children had not been collecting wood but had started their journey home skipping, hand in hand and singing. Once the parents woke it was night and the stars were sparkling overhead. Ada started to panic and started to cry. "Cry not dear Ada," comforted Abraham. "As when the moon is over our heads we will find our way back home." Abraham was right as when the moon arose the pebbles glowed pointing them in the right direction.

By morning the parents had made it home and to the children. The children were happy that Abraham was home but had hoped that maybe some beast could have eaten her up. They wanted them gone, Ada more than Abraham so they planned once again to take them on a picnic but to an area with thicker foliage and more trees. Ada and Abraham had heard the plans once again and decided to get pebbles again but the door was locked and the children had the keys. Ada began to cry and Abraham comforted her shaking figure as the night went on thinking about what was to come.

By morning the kids once again took their parents out of their bed and handed them some bread. Abraham crumbled the bread in a pocket and stopped occasionally to drop a morsel on the ground. "Why do you keep on looking back?" Asked Gretel, her hazel eyes shining in the sun. "I am looking back at my little pigeon as he wants to say goodbye to me." Hansel laughed at what his father implied and yelled back at his father, "Old fool! That isn't your little pigeon that is the morning sun shining off of the chimney." However Abraham still threw the small pieces of bread onto the ground.

The children led their parents further into the woods where it always seemed to be dark as night. The parents had never been to this part of the woods before and once they got there it seemed to get darker and darker. They suddenly came to a clearing and sat down on the bright green grass. The children again disappeared to look for wood and for another magnificent fire. Ada shared her piece of bread with Abraham who had scattered his on the way before lying down to look up into the trees.

Ada fell asleep soon after the sun started to set and Abraham looked at the sun once more before drifting off into a peaceful sleep. By midnight, the moon had risen and the children were nowhere to be seen. Ada exclaimed, "The brats have once again left us. What shall we do?" Abraham was

looking pale in the moonlight and responded, "We shall follow the breadcrumbs that I scattered and we shall scold the children once we get home." They looked and looked for the pieces of bread but none could be found as thousands of birds had swooped down and eaten them in a small amount of time.

Once morning had passed and the two parents had not found home, Ada's short legs were dragging and she was complaining. Abraham, on the other hand, was walking strong out front. After two mornings they had given up hope and walked aimlessly around the woods. Then over the top of the tall trees they saw it. A triple choc fudge mansion standing tall over all the green and brown of the woods.



They ran over and ripped pieces off piece by piece and they ate it filling their empty stomachs. Inside the house came a trembling voice, "Fee-fi-fo-fum I smell the blood of some German men." It boomed shaking the mansion and scaring the two, they built up enough courage to yell back. "We are lost! Please help us Lord! Please take us in and let us feast!" The door was flung open and out came a little hunched over lady with a walking stick, she exclaimed, "Oh dear! I am so sorry, if I knew I wouldn't have said all of that. Come in and eat all you want." The two rejoiced and ran inside eating everything in sight, but if they had heard what the lady had said next they might have wanted to run the other way as the lady was a witch with a taste for flesh.

The witch cackled, "You are mine my scrumptious ones, try you might to escape my sight, then be eaten to end your life!" The parents ate more and more not caring how much they gained. By night the old woman had set out two comfortable beds for Ada and Abraham and the old witch sent them to bed to start digesting the sweet food that they had eaten.

The old witch crept slowly into their room and looked at how plump Ada was, with her power she took Ada into the stables and as much as she tried to scream no one could hear all the way out there in the cold, dark smelly stables. The witch yanked Abraham out of his bed and bellowed, "Get up you lazy cow and fetch some water and food for your wife as once she is fat enough I will eat her!" Abraham wept but did as the witch commanded in fear that he would be first.

The witch would check on Ada every day and would feed her the most scrumptious of foods but then the witch stopped and Abraham was ordered to go and check on her and when he did he screamed. Ada was dead and as he prayed to the lord the witch was licking her lips, satisfied by her meal. An oven was prepared and Abraham was asked to check it but saw what the witch had in mind.

He asked, 'How am I meant to do it, how do I get in?' "Silly goose, the door is big enough even I can get in myself." She trudged up and thrust herself into the oven and Abraham gave her a mighty shove that drove her into the oven and then fastened the bolt. Oh how the witch howled, but Abraham ran and the godless witch was burnt to death.

He ran and ran until he ran out of puff. He slowed to a walk and wandered about until he came to a great stretch of water and in the water he saw great jewels and coins. He grabbed handfuls of the precious stones until he couldn't hold no more. He walked through the still stream and he saw in the distance the house in which he stayed.

The gems were weighing down his drenched clothes as he trudged towards his home. He could see smoke rising from the chimney and he could hear laughter and smell some form of cookie. He ran as fast as he could to the house to pause before knocking on the door. He breathed in and paused opening the door. The laughter stopped and the two children stopped before yelling in excitement. They hugged each other and Abraham emptied his pockets of the precious gems, the kids gasped and hugged him tight no worried what punishments were to come. They became the richest family in all of Germany and they lived happily ever after.