



Lady in White



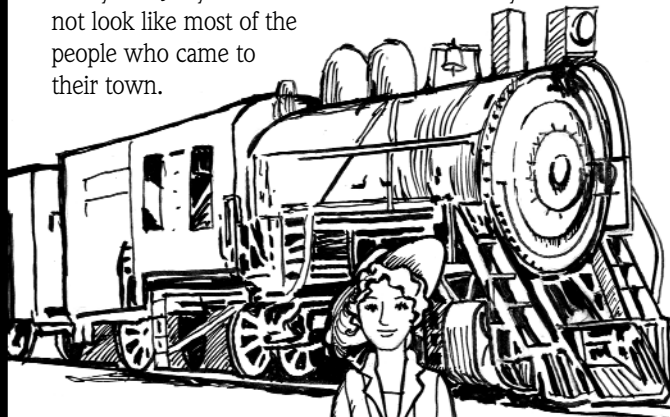
Chapter Two – by Kay and Russ Hively

Sandy and Judy sat on the bench and waited. As the train got closer to the station the whistle got louder. All the people in the station started getting up and moving outside. The stationmaster walked out onto the platform to signal the engineer who would pull the train into the station. The girls worked their way through the crowd to watch the train's arrival.

Sometimes, if the engineer misjudged the station, the train would make a hard jolt as it stopped. This time, however, the train rolled into the station and made a gentle stop.

The conductor stepped off the last car and put a small stool on the platform for the passengers to use as they got off the train. Immediately people started climbing down from the train to the platform. Friends and family met many of the people who were getting off the train. There was a lot of hugging and hand shaking as the passengers arrived. One of the last people off the train was a young lady dressed in white. The lady was carrying a purse and a big book.

Sandy and Judy looked at each other. This lady did not look like most of the people who came to their town.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Co-author Russ Hively lives in Newtonia, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.



The girls watched as she approached the depot agent. The stationmaster tipped his hat and the two spoke for a moment. Then the lady pointed to a small trunk and walked away.

Still curious about the lady in white, Sandy turned her attention to a loud noise coming from one of the freight cars. She looked to see what was happening. Men were unloading large crates and setting them onto wagons.

At the same time, other people and freight were being loaded on the train. Everyone was saying goodbye and waving out the windows once they got on the train.

Soon the workmen were gone and the train was ready to leave. The engineer gave a last toot of the whistle and the conductor walked along the train calling for everyone to get aboard. Then the conductor picked up his little stool and boarded the train.

Sandy looked around for the young lady who had gotten off the train. She was sitting alone on a bench in the station looking out a window at the town and its muddy streets. Her clean white dress stuck out from the rest of the crowd in the station.

Both Sandy and Judy thought the stranger looked like a teacher. Then Sandy had a new thought. Mrs. Smyth had said there would be a surprise for them at school on Monday. Could this lady be a new teacher? Sandy loved her teacher, Mrs. Smyth, and hoped she was not leaving the school.

As the girls stood in the station and talked about the lady, Judy stopped in mid-sentence. Her eyes widened and her jaw dropped open. Sandy turned around and saw the lady in white stand up and approach someone who had just come into the station.

Things to Think About and Do

- In this chapter, who were the two people who worked on the train? What did they do on the train? Do you think there were any other workers on a train in 1920?
- The train stays in the station for a short time. How do you think all the people and supplies can get off and on the train on time? Lay out a plan to do a job quickly.
- Unloading trains required lifting heavy cargo. Look through the Classified ads in your newspaper for jobs that today still require lifting heavy cargo.

STANDARDS: G4:3; S:1; G3:1; M:3

Next Week: Chapter Three – The stranger's friend.