



Lady in White



Chapter Six – by Kay and Russ Hively

Sandy could not believe it. On the bench next to Dr. Worten was the young lady from the train station. Judy and her parents were sitting just two rows in front of the doctor and the lady in white.

Dr. Worten was a bachelor. He lived alone in a little apartment above the newspaper office. He was a tall thin man who always wore a black suit and carried a little black bag. Sandy liked Dr. Worten. Every time she was sick or hurt, he gave her a piece of candy when the doctor visit was over.

Sandy's mind began to churn. Why was the lady in white sitting by the doctor? Did he know her, or had she just come to church and sat next to him? Sandy took another quick peek at the two of them. They were quietly talking to each other. Sandy wondered what they were saying.

As the Hackets moved down the aisle to their seats, Sandy looked at Judy and her parents. Judy's eyes widened once she saw Sandy. Judy raised her hand and pointed in the general direction of Dr. Worten and the young lady. Sandy gave her a small nod to let her friend know she had seen the two together.

Before she sat down, Mrs. Hacket wiped the soot from the church bench and laid a blanket down for the family to sit on. When everyone was seated, Rev. Butler rose from his bench and slowly walked to the pulpit. He looked pale and thin.

Once the pastor reached the pulpit and started to speak, he began coughing. Sandy knew that he and his family had been sick all spring. Finally, with some help from a deacon, Rev. Butler was able to finish the church announcements.

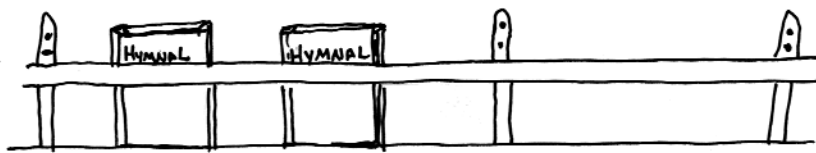
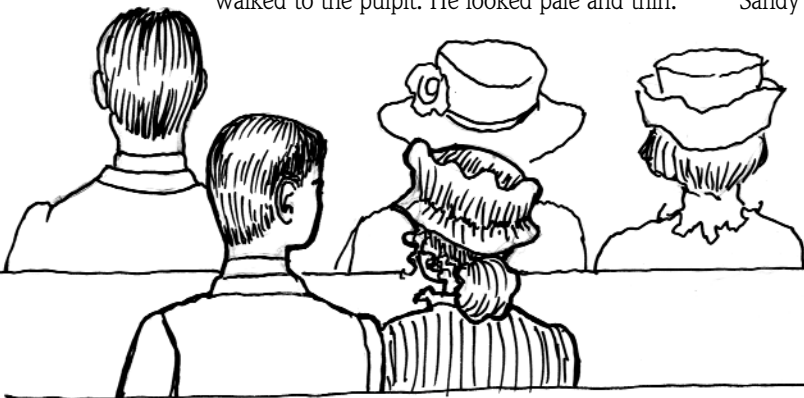
During hymn time Sandy watched the pianist. She could not figure out how anyone could remember what keys to hit to make the right sounds. It looked like there were hundreds of keys and there were also foot pedals to worry about. But she loved to hear the music that came from the piano.

While the congregation was singing, there was a lot of coughing in the church. It came not only from the pastor, but also from the people in the congregation. To Sandy, it seemed like everyone was sick. The pastor had trouble all during the sermon. Time after time, he would have to stop to catch his breath or cough.

When the service was over, Sandy's family moved toward the door, shaking hands with their friends along the way. Sandy slipped through the crowd to find Judy. When the two got together, Judy whispered that she had heard the lady's name was Miss Lamb. But that was all she had learned.

When the girls got to the front door of the church, Sandy saw Miss Lamb walking back toward the center of town with someone Sandy knew.

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Billie Goforth-Stewart

Things to Think About and Do

- Reverend Butler was the leader of the church. People have different titles. List some titles people can have. Hint: There are at least three titles in this chapter.
- Sandy watched the pianist. Find a piano and count how many keys there are. Is this an even or odd number? What color are they?
- Newspapers often list times for different church services. Does your newspaper? Make a graph of all the service times. What is the most common time?

STANDARDS: G4:3; CA:1; G1:3; M:1

Next Week: Chapter Seven – Another mystery.