

FREEDOM'S CIRCUS



Chapter Two – by Kay Hively

It truly was a monkey on the gallery rail. Sarah had never seen a real monkey, only pictures of them in books. But where did it come from and how did it get up so high?

The monkey began to chatter at Sarah. Then, with another grin, it waved goodbye and dropped down onto the gallery out of sight.

Sarah raced down the narrow steps. Poppa, Mamma and Gabe were working in a flower bed by the lightkeeper's cottage. Sarah was so excited she could hardly talk. Finally, she was able to tell her family about the monkey.

Poppa took off his cap, leaned back, and looked up at the top of the lighthouse. Nothing was up there. The whole family walked around the lighthouse. No monkey could be found.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2005.

Gabe was disappointed. For this 8-year-old boy, life on Lighthouse Island was boring. While Sarah liked to play with her dolls or go down by the water, Gabe complained that he had nothing to do. He said it would be fun to have a monkey for a playmate.

Because they did not find the monkey, Sarah was embarrassed. She just knew a monkey had been on the railing, but she wasn't sure her family believed her. She could see doubt in their eyes.

Finding no monkey, Mamma and Poppa went back to work in the flower bed. Gabe took a small stick to play fetch with Prince. Sarah just wanted to get away from everyone so she decided to go pick berries. On the other side of the island was a berry patch. Mamma had filled two baskets yesterday. So, taking a basket from the kitchen, Sarah started for the berry patch.

Mamma reminded Sarah to be back before noon – and to stay away from the water. Sarah did not worry about getting lost. She could see the lighthouse from any place on the island. In darkness or in fog, she could see the light. On a pretty day, she could see the daymarks.

Sarah was glad to think about something besides the monkey. She liked picking berries, and she liked eating what Mamma made with them.

Soon she reached the berry patch and began picking. At first, it was hard to get much fruit in the basket. Because the berries were so sweet, she ate more than she collected to take home.

The bushes were filled with berries. Sarah could stand in one spot and pick all she wanted. She set her basket on the ground by her feet and used both hands to pull the berries off the bushes. Sarah was eager to take them home. Maybe, she thought, Mamma would let her help in the kitchen and they could make a pie.

Soon, the basket was almost full. Sarah reached to gather two last handfuls. But just as she bent over to put them in her basket, a hairy brown hand reached out of the bushes by her feet and grabbed some of the bright shiny berries. Before Sarah could do anything, the hand disappeared, and the monkey that Sarah had seen on top of the lighthouse went scampering away through the berry patch.

Learning Extensions – Things to Think About and Do

A. What kind of berries do you think Sarah was picking? Get a cookbook and find five different berry recipes. Which sounds the best to eat?

B. What is a daymark? Draw a lighthouse and design your own daymark.

Next Week: Chapter 3 – Coming to America