



Chapter Five - by Kay Hively

It was a sad mess that Emily and her mother had to clean up under the clothesline. All the hard work that had been done to wash the clothes had been now wasted. As Emily gathered up the muddy clothes, all she could think about was what a bad day it had turned out to be. Being lost in a cave was bad and now all the clean laundry was ruined.

With the willow basket full of dirty clothes, Emily and her mother started back to the house. But, once again, Emily heard people running up the alley. This time it was Sheriff Martin with several men, all carrying guns.

The sheriff called out to Emily and her mother, asking if they had seen two men fleeing up the alley. Mrs. Todd said that two men had rushed through the yard and sent all her laundry into the dirt. She told the sheriff that if he caught the men, he should bring them back to her house and make them do the wash again.

But the sheriff was not interested in dirty laundry. He said the two men had robbed the bank of almost all the money in town.

As Emily listened to the sheriff, she thought about how glad she had been to be rescued by the two men. Now what should she do? They had saved her life. Should she help the sheriff find them and put them in jail?

Finally, Emily spoke up and told the sheriff that she might know where to find the men. He asked Emily to take him and his posse up to the cave where the robbers might be hiding. Emily said she couldn't lead them to the cave because her mother would not let her leave home.

Desperate to catch the men and get the money back, the sheriff told Mrs. Todd this was important to the entire town. The sheriff promised to take care of Emily and make sure she didn't go into any cave or get hurt in any other way. He said he would take care of her the same as he would his own daughter.

Mrs. Todd realized how important it was for Emily to help, so she agreed to let her go with the sheriff up to the bluffs.

Soon Emily was leading the entire posse. As she hurried along, Emily smiled to know that things could get as exciting in town as they could on a riverboat. But, at the same time, Emily wanted to do something to help the two men who had saved her life. What a dilemma!

After a few minutes, Emily found the cave where she and her friends had been lost that morning. Sheriff Martin took Emily aside and made her sit down behind a big rock so she would be safe. Then the sheriff and his men lit torches and started into the big cave.

Emily peeked over the top of the rock to see what was going to happen.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2005.

Things to Think About and Do

- A. Because the bank robbers had rescued Emily and her friends, should she help the sheriff find them? What would you do if you were Emily?
- B. Using a dictionary, learn the definitions of these words:
 1. willow
 2. sheriff
 3. posse
 4. dilemmaLearn to spell the words so you can use them at home or in school.

STANDARDS: G1:2; G2:3; G3:4; G4:1; CA:1; SS:6;

Next Week: Chapter Six – Returning a favor