



# Lady in White



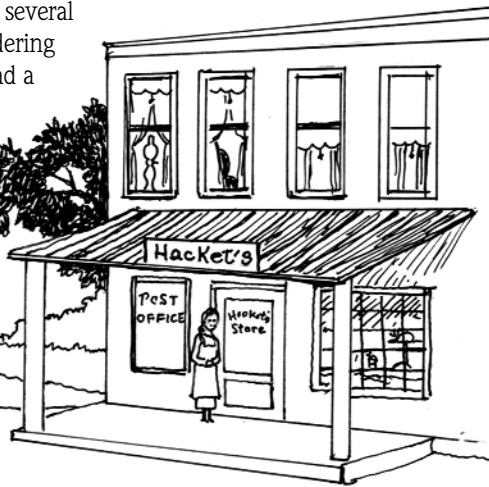
## Chapter Three – by Kay and Russ Hively

Sandy watched as the young lady from the train shook hands with Mrs. Smyth. Sandy looked at Judy and then they both bolted out of the station. Once they were away from the depot, the two girls stood on the street and talked about the young lady and their teacher. Could it be? Were they going to get a new teacher?

As the two girls were talking, Sandy heard her mother call from down the street. Mrs. Hacket was standing on the front porch of the family's store, which was near the depot. Sandy knew it was time to go home. The Hackets not only ran the store, they lived in an apartment on the second floor over the store.

Sandy said goodbye and told Judy she would see her tomorrow night. Hurrying down the street, Sandy tried to keep her shoes clean by walking around the mud puddles and horse droppings. As she walked home, Sandy could not help but think about the lady who had met her teacher at the depot.

When she got to the store, Sandy saw her father unloading a mailbag that had just come off the train. He operated the town's post office from the store. Everyone was always eager to get letters. Even now, several people were wandering in to see if they had a letter or package.



Inside the store, Sandy's mother was helping a lady purchase some fabric for a dress. Mrs. Hacket quickly put Sandy to work sweeping the floor. Sandy wanted to tell her mother what she had seen at the train station, but she knew they had to take care of the customers first. Her news would have to wait until supper.

Sandy liked working in the store. She got to see everyone who came to get mail or buy something. She did get tired of sweeping and dusting. With all the people coming and going, the store just never seemed to stay clean.

Once the store closed for the day, Sandy and her mother cooked supper. While she was setting the kitchen table, Sandy told her mother about the lady and her teacher meeting at the depot. Mrs. Hacket said she did not know anything about it, and warned Sandy not to jump to conclusions. Sandy also asked permission to go to Judy's house after supper tomorrow. Her mother cast a mischievous smile as she wiped her hands on her apron and then said Sandy could go.

Sandy had seen that smile before. She guessed that her mother knew what Judy had planned.

The next day Sandy worked at the store, cleaning and helping customers. Even as busy as she was, the day seemed to drag on forever. Sandy had many things on her mind. She thought about going to Judy's house for a surprise and about the lady in white who had come to town.

After she had eaten supper, Sandy raced across town. When she got to Judy's house she heard voices in the back yard. As she rounded the corner of the house, Sandy was shocked at what she saw.

## Things to Think About and Do

- A lady was buying fabric for making a dress. Have you ever seen anyone make something from fabric? Have you made anything from fabric? How are the pieces joined together?
- Mrs. Hacket told Sandy, "not to jump to conclusions." What does that mean? Why should a person not jump to conclusions.
- Read a headline from your newspaper and draw a conclusion about what the story will be about. Is drawing conclusions different than predicting?

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Next Week: Chapter Four – Creatures in the back yard.