



# Hansel & Gretel

This book Belongs To: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Once upon a time, there was a brother and sister called Hansel and Gretel. They were so very poor, their parents didn't have a single cent. They couldn't even buy a tiny piece of chocolate! They were all so hungry that one night the father said to the mother that they had suffered enough. They couldn't just sit around, watching their children die of hunger. So, it was decided. The next day at dawn, they would abandon the kids in the middle of the forest.**



**Hansel and Gretel, who couldn't fall asleep because they were so hungry, overheard their parents' plans and were terrified. That night, neither of them slept a wink.**

**At sunrise, Hansel and Gretel were all dressed, their hair neatly combed, and ready to go out for a walk.**

**Since the children knew their parents' secret plans, they decided to drop crumbs of bread behind them as they were led deeper and deeper into the forest. They thought this trail would help them find their way back home.**



**But they were mistaken because once they had been left alone, Hansel and Gretel couldn't find a trace of the crumbs they had dropped along the path.**

**The birds had eaten them all up!**

**Lost and frightened to death in the middle of a totally unfamiliar forest, Hansel and Gretel began to wander about aimlessly, until they came upon a**

**very strange house.**

It was very strange, indeed. The whole house was made out of chocolate: the roof, the walls. everything was chocolate. And the door and the window were decorated with candy.



When they realized it was made of chocolate, the children's mouths began to water and they ran to the house, ready to devour the whole place.

But, suddenly, just as they were about to take a big bite out of the house, a very old, ugly witch appeared, carrying a broomstick.

"Who are those kids who want to eat up my house?" asked the witch. "What do you two little brats think you're doing? You won't eat a thing; I'm the one who is going to eat you all up! Ha, ha, ha!"

When the witch saw that Hansel was so skinny--just skin and bones--she decided to lock him in a cage and fatten him up before cooking him in the big pot.

She made Gretel do all the housework. Then one day the witch ordered her to put a big cauldron of water on the fire.



It was time to eat Hansel.

When everything was ready, the witch let her guard down for a split second, and Hansel and Gretel were able to escape. They ran across the field. They



ran and ran as fast as their legs could carry them.

After a while, Hansel and Gretel saw that they were out of danger. They had left the chocolate house way behind them.

And the witch was left without her supper...

and the cauldron with nothing but boiling water.

But little Hansel and Gretel were once again lost in the middle of the forest.

"Where are we?" asked Gretel.



"Which way should we go?" said Hansel.

Suddenly, when they thought they were more lost than ever, they heard a far-off voice calling out to them.

"Hansel! Gretel!"

They could hardly believe their ears! The voice they heard off in the distance was their father's!

"Forgive me, children, please forgive me," said the father. "I promise you we'll never ever abandon you again."

And so, Hansel and Gretel went home again with their father and they lived happily ever after.

**THE END**

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