

CHAPTER 1

My first view of Bly was a **pleasant** surprise. I had met my new employer in London, and he had given me the idea that Bly was a dark, old house. In fact, it was set in the beautiful countryside and, on a fine summer's day, looked very **welcoming**. Mrs Grose, the housekeeper, met me at the front door. She was holding the hand of a pretty little girl, with golden curls. My new job as **governess** was to take care of the little girl and her brother because their parents were dead. Their uncle had employed me, but he wasn't interested in looking after the children.

'I'm so happy to see you, miss,' said Mrs Grose. 'I've been looking after little Flora all on my own, and I'm happy that you're here to take control now.'

Little Flora was a beautiful child, and I didn't understand why Mrs Grose seemed so happy that I was going to take care of her.

A **servant** showed me to my bedroom, and I couldn't believe how lucky I was. The room was huge with beautiful curtains and a nice bed. There was a small white bed for Flora at the foot of my bed. From the window, I could see the lawn and flower beds in front of the house.

pleasant (adjective) good, nice, friendly

welcoming (adjective) nice

governess (noun) a woman who lives with a family and is paid to teach their child in their home

servant (noun) someone who is paid to do household or personal duties



'I'm so happy to see you, miss,' said Mrs Grose.

I had supper with Flora and Mrs Grose. The child sat between us and ate bread and milk while I asked Mrs Grose about Flora's brother.

'Miles is at **boarding school**,' she told me. 'He's rather young to be there, but he has no parents, so what could we do? He'll be home for the summer on Friday.'

'Is he as attractive as Flora?' I asked.

'Oh, yes, miss,' smiled Mrs Grose. She was very proud of the two children.

'Then I'll go to the station with Flora to meet him,' I decided.

'A very good idea, miss,' said Mrs Grose.

The next day, I allowed Flora to be my guide in my new home. She showed me every room, every staircase and all her secret places. She even showed me the two strange towers at each end of the house. The house was not so special, but I saw it through Flora's eyes, and it seemed exciting and interesting.

I was surprised when I received a letter from my employer in the afternoon. There was a second, unopened letter in the envelope. It was from the headmaster of Miles's school. I couldn't believe what I read, and I took it straight to Mrs Grose.

boarding school (noun) a school where students can live

‘The headmaster has **dismissed** Miles from his school,’ I told her.

‘What do you mean?’ she asked. ‘The holidays start next week.’

‘Yes, but Miles won’t be able to go back. Look!’ I gave her the letter from the headmaster.

Mrs Grose put her hands behind her back, and her round cheeks became red. She was embarrassed. ‘It’s not for me, miss,’ she said.

I realised my mistake. Mrs Grose could not read.

‘What has Miles done?’ asked Mrs Grose. ‘Is he really bad?’

‘The headmaster doesn’t give any details,’ I said. ‘He just says Miles can’t go back. He must think Miles is a danger to others.’

‘What! That can’t be true, miss. He’s only ten years old!’ said Mrs Grose and she suddenly started crying.

‘Have you ever seen him being naughty?’ I asked.

‘Of course!’ she replied. ‘He’s ten years old!’

‘Tell me about the last governess,’ I said.

‘She was young and pretty, like you, miss,’ said Mrs Grose. ‘But she left.’

‘What do you mean?’ I asked.

dismiss (verb) to remove a child from school

‘She became ill and went home to her family. She didn’t come back, and my master told me that she was dead. It was rather strange,’ Mrs Grose explained. I didn’t ask any more questions.

Miles was indeed a beautiful little boy. He had golden curls, like his sister. He was **confident** and smiled sweetly as he shook my hand at the station. We drove home, and after he had gone to his room to unpack, I went to find Mrs Grose. She seemed pleased to see me.

‘He’s a **charming** little boy,’ I said.

‘Didn’t I tell you so, miss?’ Mrs Grose said.

‘But why did the headmaster send that letter?’ I was **confused**.

‘I don’t know. What will you say to him?’ Mrs Grose looked worried.

‘Nothing,’ I replied. ‘I can’t imagine that he’s done anything bad, so I’ll say nothing to him or to his uncle.’

‘Will you answer the letter from the headmaster, miss?’ asked Mrs Grose.

‘No. I will not,’ I said.

confident (adjective) having a feeling that you can do something well

charming (adjective) very attractive and beautiful

confused (adjective) unable to understand or think clearly

Mrs Grose held out her arms and we hugged like sisters. It was clear that we understood each other.

All through the long summer days, I took care of the two children. After they went to bed, I had an hour to myself and I often used to walk in the grounds of Bly. I loved being with the children, but I also appreciated the time I had to myself. I walked around the place and daydreamed about meeting a man, a stranger or a friend. Then, one day, I saw someone on one of the towers. It was a man, but it wasn't anyone I knew or recognised. He looked at me and I looked back, but neither of us said anything. Who was he? How long had he been in the house?



Mrs Grose held out her arms and we hugged like sisters.

Quiz-2

Complete these sentences with the correct relative pronoun.

1. The man sold me the car has disappeared.
2. Is this the rabbit he got for his birthday?
3. I don't know boots are under the chair.
Are they yours or mine?
4. I'm not sure bag this is on the sofa.
5. I will give a prize to the first person completes
the puzzle.
6. This painting, your grandmother loved, is up
for sale.
7. Is this the bus stops in town?
8. I don't know keys are hanging up in the hall.
9. "Is he the gentleman with you wish to meet?"
she asked.
10. The lady left suddenly is a police officer.
11. That is the dog always barks at the postman.
12. The question makes no sense is on page 4.

VOCABULARY QUIZZES

Quiz-1

Complete the sentences with the words below.

altered	arranged	avoid	disappeared	dismissed
exclaimed	frighten	nodded	pretended	whispered
shrieked	stared	protect		

1. The man not to hear his wife when she called out to him.
2. The girl when the mouse jumped out of the drawer.
3. I at the sunset until the sun had completely disappeared.
4. She a meeting with him so she could ask him questions.
5. The teacher the class and then closed the classroom door after they left.
6. The man his name on the letter. The secretary had spelt it incorrectly.
7. I wore sun cream to me from the burning sun.
8. The man crossed the road quickly to the fast car.
9. "Shh! We must be quiet in the library," the girl.
10. "Stop! The car has hit the tree!" mum.
11. The mist as quickly as it had arrived that morning.
12. The actors wore masks to the audience at the theatre.
13. My teacher to me when she wanted me to start singing on stage.

Quiz-2

Complete the sentences with the words below.

miserable	unwelcoming	frightened	pure	charming
fond	confident	pale	still	dreadful
teased	trusted			

1. She felt sad and when she had to move house.
2. He was that he would pass the test because he had worked hard.
3. Although many years have passed, she is still of him.
4. The hotel was cold, and the staff were very rude and when we arrived that morning.
5. The prince was polite and to the beautiful princess.
6. She looked and ill when we saw her in hospital.
7. All was There was no breeze, and the leaves on the trees didn't move.
8. I was when I couldn't see my young son in the large crowd.
9. What a mistake! She gave all her money to the wrong woman.
10. The necklace was made of gold and it was very heavy.
11. She the neighbour to look after all of her children.
12. "The sunburn on your nose makes you look like a clown," dad.