I do

# Edit and improve together

Once I had to go back to the orphanage before I could head to the city.

It was hard.

You know when you've survived a fire and saved a girl from certain death and have to go all the way back up a mountain to the orphanage you've just escaped?

That’s what happened to me.

we do

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Zelda is nice enough: she's kind, she likes my stories, she's fun. Unfortunately, when you're on a journey to find your parents and book hating people keep burning things, those attributes are just not enough.

I decide to share the small amount of bread Mr Kopek gave me – I let her pick a piece off first. She nearly takes it all. I don't say anything, she's only little; maybe her parents didn't have time to teach her about sharing. Stop it Felix. I can't be thinking about parents right now, I need to make a plan. None of my other plans had included a small child who won't stop crying.

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Suddenly, I hear shouting. I can't tell what they're saying but recent experience tells me shouting people is probably not a good sign. "Zelda! Quick! I need you to hide under here!" I whisper through gritted teeth. She does exactly as I ask which I know is hard for her because she hated the straw sticking in her back and really doesn't like the dark. Maybe she can tell from my voice that I'm worried?

I peek over the haystack, I can see people, maybe the people who own the field? Ah yes, they must be out on their morning walk to look at the sheep. With guns. Now I remember there are no sheep in this field- no time to worry about that, the quite sobs from the haystack are getting louder and the haystack is starting to shake. I move the hay aside push my way in so I'm covered and squashed up next to Zelda.

"Please don't cry, we have to stay really still – like we're playing hide and seek."

"They should have told us and counted to ten if we were playing hide and seek – don't you know anything?" Zelda says.

I don't have time to respond as the voices are getting louder. I close my eyes and hold my breath as the voices and footsteps seem to go right past us and begin to get quieter.

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We wait longer than we need to before emerging from our hiding place. The time in the haystack has helped me make my decision: I have no choice. With a heavy heart I give Zelda the last bit of water.

“Come on,” I say. “It’s a long journey up the mountain and we want to try get there before my friend Dodie eats all the soup.”

we do

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we do

Write again - for display - as a book

I do

Read up to page 73

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