



Lady in White



Chapter One – by Kay and Russ Hively

Sandy Hacket sat at her school desk and wondered what her friend Judy had in mind for tomorrow night. Judy had asked Sandy to meet her after supper on Saturday. Judy would not say what they were going to do, but Judy was Sandy's best friend and they always had fun. The two girls were 8 years old, always together and looked alike. They both had long red hair, blue eyes, and freckles. Some people in town called them "The Twins."

Not knowing what Judy was planning made Sandy's mind churn out all kinds of ideas about what was going to happen tomorrow night.

Just before the school day ended, Sandy's teacher, Mrs. Smyth, told the students that on Monday there would be a surprise for them. All the children, including Sandy, looked at each other and wondered what the surprise would be.

When school was over, Sandy made her way to the front door trying to avoid the annoying younger boys who always tried to irritate her. Once outside, Sandy and Judy headed to the train station.

"The Twins" loved to go to the depot. The train station in every small eastern Kentucky coal mining town was a center of activity

in 1920. It was the place where new people and new things came to town. Roads in the area were few in number and were not very good. So, almost everything came and went on the train. The girls wondered from day to day what would be on the train. They had seen a circus, brass bands, traveling preachers and all kinds of equipment for the mines roll into town on the daily train.

On their walk to the depot, Sandy tried everything she could to get Judy to tell her what was going to happen Saturday night. Even though it was just one day away, Saturday seemed like a long way off to Sandy. But Judy held firm and would not even give her a hint.

Boxes, crates and luggage were piled on the train station platform when the girls got to the depot. Sandy saw a mailbag sitting on the platform, ready to leave on the train. She knew her father, the postmaster, had filled it with letters and packages today while she had been in school.

When the girls entered the depot, the stationmaster was talking to a man who was waiting for the train. The girls wiped the soot and coal dust off one of the big wooden benches so they could sit and wait for the train. As they chatted and giggled, Sandy noticed the depot agent occasionally looking at the wall clock, checking the time. The depot agent was very proud that the train arrived on time, and he worked hard to make sure it always left his station on time.

Off in the distance the long shrill of a train whistle sounded. Sandy wondered what might be on the train today.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Co-author Russ Hively lives in Newtonia, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.



Things to Think About and Do

- Sandy lives in a coal mining town. What is coal? How is it formed? What is coal used for today?
- Sandy lives in Kentucky. Find Kentucky on a map. List all the states that border Kentucky. How many states border Kentucky?
- Look through your newspaper for different types of transportation referenced in stories and advertisements. What is the most common in your community?

Next Week: Chapter Two – Surprise on the train.