



RED RIDING HOOD

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ELVAH KARSHNER

CHILDREN'S BOOK
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*There was a lonely cabin
Within a dark, old wood,
And in it, with her mother
There dwelt Red Riding Hood*



*The tall old trees above them
Their winter fire supplied
When Autumn's flaming sunsets
From their red leaves had died.*





*The rippling brook; their water
From far off mountains brought;
And prattled of their summits
In icy statues wrought.*



*For them; the squirrels hoarded
Their nuts in hollow trees;
And pounds of sweetest honey
Were made them by the bees;*

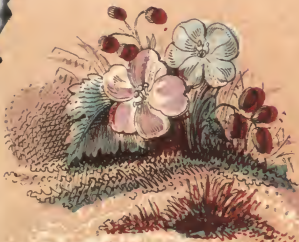




*To gather these together
Was work enough to do;
Little Red Riding Hood thought so,
An' so, no doubt, would you.*



*Blushing beneath her fingers
Looked up the berries red;
The flowers seemed to know her
And listened for her tread.*





*For she was good and loving
And beautiful as good,
With daily acts of kindness,
Little Red Riding Hood.*



*Afar off, in the forest,
There lived her grandam old;
And she was poor and needy,
And often sick and cold.*



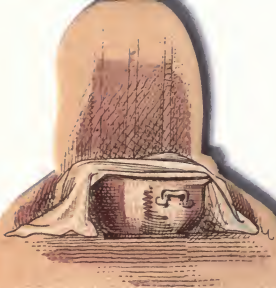


*And once a week, her grandchild
Would walk the lonely wood,
And carry little bundles
Of faggots and of food.*



*One morn the mother started
The maid upon her way,
And said, "now you must carry
To grandmamma to day."*





*'This little pot of butter
I've churned so nice and sweet;
And mind not stop and prattle
With any one you meet!'*



*Then through' the shady forest
The little maiden went;
And though her steps were fleetest,
The day was well nigh spent;*

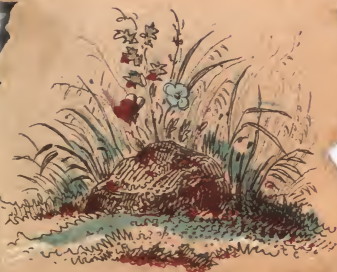




*When nearly through her journey,
An old, gaunt Wolf she spied,
Who wagged his tail, and humbly
Came walking by her side;*



*And said, "my little maiden,
How very fair you are!
You really look quite handsome!
Where do you walk so far?"*





*Forgetful of her mother,
She stopped and told him where;
Then said the Wolf, so cunning,
"What is it that you bear?"*



*Forgetful of her mother,
She stood and told him what;
'Tis butter, for my grandma,
Packed nicely in this pot."*





*Then said the Wolf, 'good by dear;
Perhaps we'll meet again!'*

*Then swiftly on he hastened
Swiftly through dale and glen,*



*And running reached before her
The cabin grey and old;
Her grandmamma was absent—
He quickly did unfold*



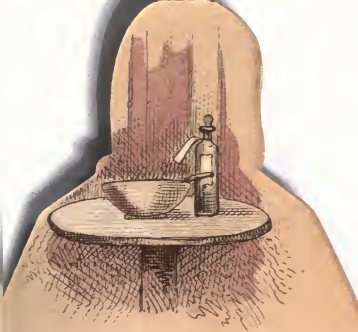


*Himself in cap and night gown
Then quickly on the bed,
Closely upon the pillow
He laid his grizzly head:*



*Red Riding Hood soon entered;
"O, grandmamma, see here!
A little pot of butter!"
Where is my grandma dear*





*"Here," said the Wolf, well feigning,
Her grandma's voice, so weak;
'I'm here, so sick my darling,
That I can scarcely speak!'"*



*'Take off your clothes my darling,
Upon the bed come lie;
When you are here beside me
I'll be better by and by!'"*

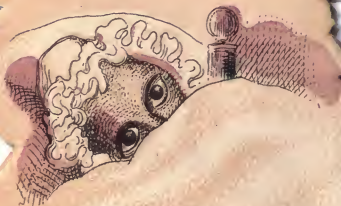




*Red Riding Hood obeyed her
And got upon the bed;
'O grandmanina how altered
You are!' she quickly said*



*'O what GREAT EYES my grandma!
They never looked so before—
'That's to see you better my darling,
The larger, to see you more!'*





*'What a GREAT NOSE my grandma
It never looked so before!'
That's to smell you better, my darling;
The larger to smell you more!'*



*'And what GREAT ISLANDS my grandma
They never looked so before!'
That's to hold you tight my darling
And to hug you more and more!'*



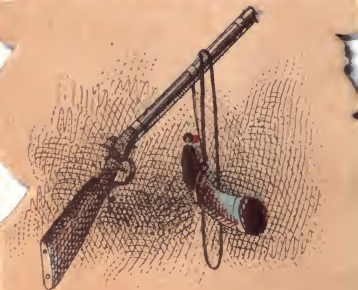


*What a GREAT MOUTH my grandma!
As large as your tin cup!"*

*"That's to open wide my beauty
And then to eat you up!"*



*Then he opened his great mouth wider
To eat her like a bird
But at the dreadful moment
A hunter's gun was heard*

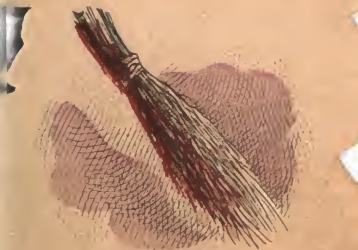




*The Wolf fell dead and bleeding –
Then grandma hastened in –
For she had seen the peril
The danger that had been!*



*Red Riding Hood wept sadly
And sorrowed more and more,
That she'd disobeyed her mother –
Which she never did before.*





*And she thought with fear & trembling
Of the death that came so near!
And she said the fright had taught her
To mind her mother dear.*



*Then listen, all ye children,
And mind your mother's word!
For the great WOLF, men call EVIL
Is prowling round unheard!*







Written & Designed by **LYDIA L. VERY.**

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