KATHERINE WOODFINE

Little Gems



Lottie the Little WONDER

With illustrations by ELLA OKSTAD



Lottie *the* Little WONDER

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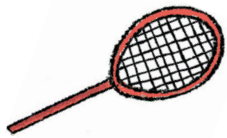
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Chapter 1

Lottie and Her Family

A long time ago, in a big house in the north of England, there lived a little girl called Lottie.

But Lottie didn't like being called a "little girl". She didn't like being called "Lottie" much either. It was a name you might give to a doll or a fluffy kitten.

Her proper name was Charlotte. Lottie liked that much better. It sounded grand and grown up. But, no matter how many times she asked them to call her Charlotte, the rest of the family kept on calling her Lottie.

Lottie had a big family. There was Mother, of course. There was her sister, Ann, and her brothers, Anthony and William. There was Harriet, the maid, and Jane, the cook.



Lottie was the youngest and smallest of them all, as her brothers often told her. But Lottie didn't feel small. She knew she was just as important as anyone else.

Lottie and her family lived in a house called Edgeworth. It was a big house, full of patterned rugs and china vases, carved tables and ticking clocks.

Lottie's father had bought Edgeworth when Lottie was just a baby.

He had been a very rich man, who had made lots of money bringing cotton across the sea in big ships from America to the port of Liverpool.

But Lottie didn't know anything about ports or ships or the sea.

She didn't know much about her father, either. He had died when Lottie was small, and she didn't really remember him.

It was Mother who ran things at Edgeworth. She was in charge, and everything was always exactly as she liked it.

