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Opening extract from

Hansel and Gretel

Written & Illustrated by

James Marshall

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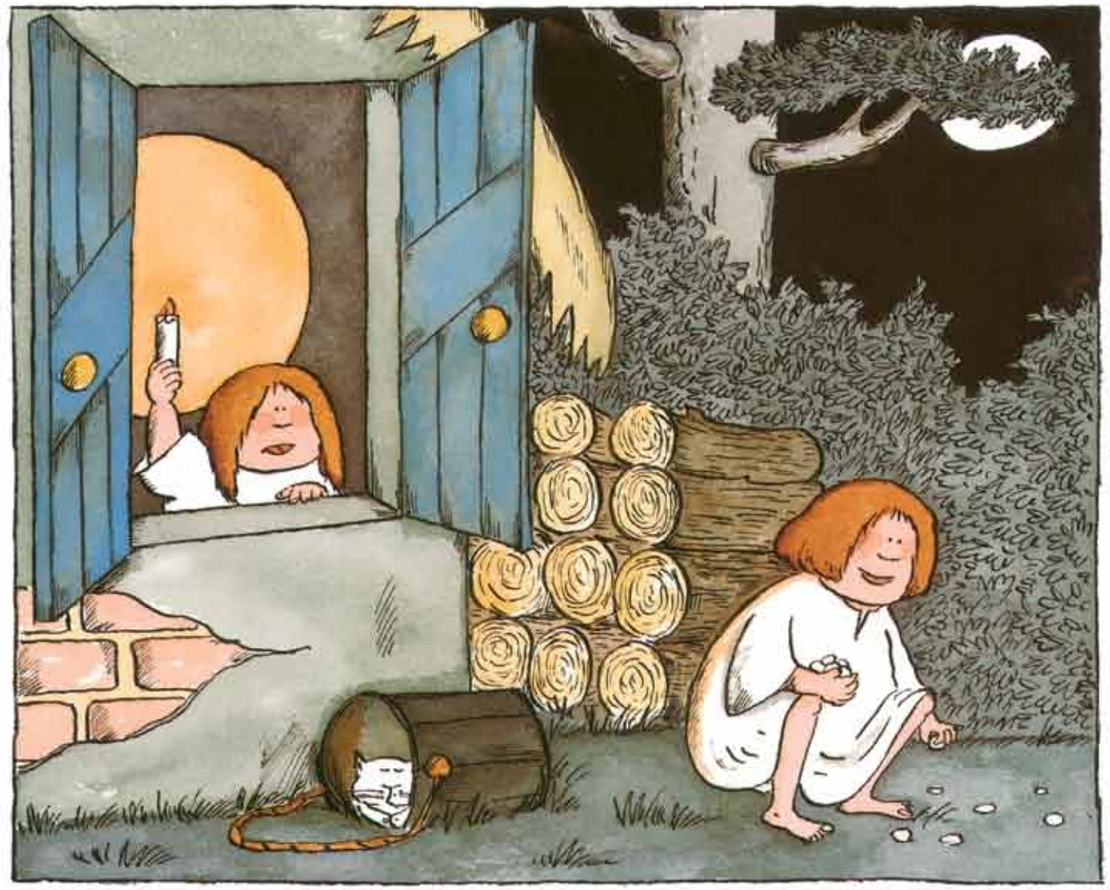
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One night when the woodcutter was tossing and turning and
worrying about how to feed his family, his wife revealed a plan.
"Listen to this," she whispered in her husband's ear.
"We will take the children into the woods,
give them a bit of bread, and leave them there."
"Never!" cried the woodcutter.
But his wife badgered and badgered.

"My poor children!" cried the woodcutter.
"I know what's best, you fool!" said his wife.
"Oh dear," whispered Gretel.
"Don't worry," said Hansel, "I'll take care of us."
And slipping out into the moonlit night,
he gathered up as many white pebbles as he could find.
"What are you doing?" said Gretel.
"You'll see," said Hansel.



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"Up, you lazybones!" cried the woodcutter's wife early the next morning.

"It's time to go to the forest to fetch wood."

And she gave Hansel and Gretel a crust of bread.

"Save it for lunch; it's all you'll get."

The family set off.

In a short while Hansel stopped and turned around.

Soon he did it again.

"Why are you lagging behind, Hansel?" asked his father.

"I'm looking back at my white kitten on the roof," said Hansel.

"You donkey!" snapped the woodcutter's wife.

"That's not your kitten, that's the morning sun on the chimney."

They entered the vast forest.



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