

JULIET AND THE FALL FESTIVAL

by
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On a small farm, on the side of a hill, in the southern part of the country, there lived a young girl named Juliet. Juliet was a shy quiet girl who loved to walk and play in the valley. She would run and jump and play for hours by herself. She enjoyed the sunshine and the breeze of wind that was always blowing between the tall hills on either side of her home.

The days always went by quickly in the summer. The flowers had come and died. The animals began to disappear to begin their hibernation, and the birds began to migrate to the south.

The time was turning into autumn, and the leaves on the trees were turning bright red and yellow. The smoke from the house lifted slowly into the sky and the smell of newly harvested crops filled the air.

It was the time of the festival, and people from all over the region would be going to the town to celebrate the holiday. Other than Christmas, the fall festival was the most exciting time of the year.

Juliet loved festival time, but because she was so shy, she always stayed at home to take care of the animals instead of going to the town with her family.

Her home was small but warm with love. Her parents and her brother would go to the festival every year; they would bring her gifts and tell her stories about the clowns and the other amusements. She wanted to go, but she was so shy she knew she would not

have any fun. It was good enough to hear the stories her family told. She would ask them to tell her more and more, and she told them to never leave out any details.

Juliet's friends were the farm animals. They had chickens, pigs, cows and sheep. She loved them and gave each one a special name. It was always very difficult for her when they sold one of the animals. When they had to prepare one of them for a meal she did not like it, but she knew it was the way life was on a small farm.

Juliet had many things to do around the house. She helped her mother in the kitchen to prepare meals. She was learning how to do the laundry.

She spent a lot time with her father as he repaired the fences and fixed his tools. It seemed as though Juliet liked these things better than her brother did.

Her brother liked school, and he would spend hours and hours reading his books and preparing his lessons for the next day.

Juliet did not attend school. She studied with her mother during her free time. She could read, write, and do her math. She was a bright student, but she did not like to go to school. She was so shy.

The festival was coming soon, and the family was preparing for the trip. There was so much they needed to do. Everyone was busy getting their things packed and ready to go. There was food to prepare, clothes to wash, dresses to be fashioned, shirts to be sewn, and plans to be made. They were all busy making preparations, except for Juliet. She helped her mom, but when her mother did not need her, she went out for a walk.

The day to leave came. Juliet was sad to see her family go, but she had done this before. She would watch over the house while the family went on the journey. They would be gone for three days. She was confident that all would go well while they were gone.

After her family left she began to do her chores. She had to make sure she fed the animals and cleaned the barn. She had to make her own food, and when she was done with that, she began to clean the house. While her parents were gone, she had to stay close to the house. It was not safe for her to go far from the house alone.

She finished her duties and then went to her bed. She had many pillows, stuffed animals, and toys on her bed. They made her feel safe when her parents were gone.

In the middle of the night, she heard a strange noise. It sounded like someone was at her door. She listened very carefully, and then the noise happened again. She slid off her bed onto the floor and crawled underneath it

The noise came again, and this time it was louder. Someone was trying to open the door. It was totally dark except for the light of the moon coming in through the window. She sat quietly watching the door wondering what might be there.

All of a sudden, the door flew open. In the doorway was a very big man. He had long curly hair and a long white beard. He looked around in the moonlight and found a candle on the table. When he lit the candle, Juliet slid further under her bed.

The man went to the cupboard and searched for food. He found some biscuits, ate all of them, and then he drank some water. He looked around the small house to see what else there might be to eat. He looked at Juliet's bed. He walked over and lay down on the bed. In a short time, he began to snore loudly.

Juliet crawled very quietly out from under her bed and found her shoes. She took her coat and quietly left the house.

At first, she was so frightened she did not know what to do. Then she decided the best thing to do would be to go and find her parents to let them know what was happening at home.

The horses were gone so she would have to walk to town. To begin with, she began to run, but she soon got tired. She walked and walked and when the sun was coming up, she arrived in the town. She was tired and dirty.

The townspeople said to each other, "Who's this girl? We've never seen her before."

She was asking everyone, "Where're my parents, where's my family?" but no one knew who she was so they were not able to help her.

She looked and looked for hours. Asking if people knew where her family was.

She got so tired she finally just sat down and began to cry.

The sheriff of the town came to her, and asked, "What's wrong little girl?"

"Someone has broken into our house, and I need to tell my parents so they can go home and make him leave," she sobbed.

"Who are your parents little girl? I have never seen you before." The sheriff asked her.

"My dad is Tom Garnett and my mother is Mary," she replied.

"Ah, then you must be Juliet, their daughter. I'm glad to meet you. Your parents are staying at the Flying V Hotel on Sixth Street. I will take you there," the nice policeman told her.

When they got to the hotel they found out the Garnetts had already left for the festival activities in the town.

The sheriff and Juliet went looking for her parents. When they found them, they were at the concert in the park listening to the orchestra playing music.

Her parents were very surprised to see Juliet in town. They noticed her dirty nightgown and how tired she looked.

"What's the matter Juliet? What are you doing here?" her parents questioned.

Juliet told her parents what was happening back at the house. Her parents decided they needed to leave immediately. They asked the sheriff to go with them to help get the man out of their house.

The sheriff said "No".

He had to take care of the town during the festival.

The family got their things from the hotel and loaded the wagon for the trip home. Mr. Garnett bought a gun in case he needed to use it to remove the man from their home.

The trip seemed to take a very long time. The road was rough, and the horses were tired from the journey the day before.

Juliet fell asleep in the wagon.

Soon the house was visible over the hill. There was smoke in the chimney.

Someone was still there. Mr. Garnett got out of the wagon and told the others to stay together and be very quiet.

Mr. Garnett walked slowly up the road toward the cabin on the hill. When he got to the house, he slowly entered. Nothing happened. There was silence for what seemed like a long time.

Then ‘BOOM’, a gun shot went off.

The family jumped at the sound of the gun. They looked toward the house where they saw their father waving at them to come to up the road. Mother took the reins of the wagon, and drove the horses to the house.

“Come inside quick,” said father. “There is someone in our house I want you to meet.”

The family went inside and sitting in the chair was the old man. He was smoking a pipe and drinking coffee.

Mr. Garnett said to his family, “This is my father. He’s your grandfather. He knew we were going to go to the festival so he did not think anyone was home. He wanted to surprise us by coming to visit. He’s so sorry that he scared you Juliet. You were so brave to do what you did. We are all proud of you!”

Juliet was relieved and gave her grandfather a big hug. She just stayed in his arms until she fell asleep again.

The family decided to get a dog so if someone came to the house again it would scare them away.

The next year, at festival time, Juliet went with her family to town. She found out it was not such a scary place after all.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. breeze _____ | a. police officer |
| 2. hibernation _____ | b. jesters, funny people |
| 3. clowns _____ | c. daily tasks, duties |
| 4. amusements _____ | d. facial hair |
| 5. region _____ | e. inn, guesthouse |
| 6. details _____ | f. gentle wind |
| 7. chores _____ | g. facts |
| 8. beard _____ | h. long winter sleep |
| 9. hotel _____ | i. arcades, entertainments |
| 10. sheriff _____ | j. area, district |

TRUE OR FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Juliet's friends were the farm animals. | T / F |
| 2. Mr. Garnett was Juliet's father. | T / F |
| 3. The old man did not have a beard. | T / F |
| 4. Juliet liked to sleep with her dog. | T / F |
| 5. The animals needed to be fed every day. | T / F |
| 6. The sheriff did not listen to Juliet. | T / F |
| 7. The town was very close to the house. | T / F |
| 8. Juliet rode the horse to the town. | T / F |
| 9. The man was the children's grandfather. | T / F |
| 10. The old man liked to drink coffee. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What was the celebration called? _____
 - a) Christmas
 - b) Fall Festival
 - c) Autumn Holiday
 - d) Juliette's birthday

2. What scared Juliette? _____
 - a) a wolf
 - b) a bear
 - c) an old man
 - d) the moon

3. How did Juliette get to town? _____
 - a) she rode a horse
 - b) she went in the wagon
 - c) she ran
 - d) she flew in an airplane

4. Why did Juliette not go to school? _____
 - a) she was a bad student
 - b) she was so shy
 - c) she hated her classmates
 - d) she was very sick

COMPREHENSION: (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. What did Mr. Garnett buy to protect his family?

2. What was Juliet's mother's name?

3. Where did her parents go when they left her alone at home?

4. What chores did Juliet do for her mother?

5. What kind of animals did her family have?

6. Who helped Juliet find her parents?

7. Who was the man in her house?

8. How long did it take Juliet to get to town?

9. What was the name of the holiday they were celebrating?

10. What did Juliet do the next year?
