



MARIA'S *many* COLORS

BY
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WOOD



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

Chapter One

On a little brown town on top of a hill lived a girl named Maria. Maria's house was made of rough brown stones. The goats in her yard had coarse brown hair. Maria's dress was scratchy, patchy, and very, very brown.

Brown was not Maria's favorite color.

Six days of the week, Maria awoke with the sun. The yellow rays warmed her as she brushed her brown hair and put on her dress and sturdy brown shoes.

After her breakfast of brown bread and goat cheese, Maria went out into the yard to milk the goats, feed the brown chickens, and fill her basket with brown speckled eggs.

But on Sundays, Maria hopped out of bed before the

sun came peeking over the hills. Maria loved Sundays for one little reason and one big reason. The little reason was that on Sundays, Maria got



to wear a special dress. The fabric was pure white, but her mother had used every color of thread in her sewing basket to decorate the dress. Bright bunches of roses,



bluebells, daisies, and lilies
grew up the front and along
the collar, their green leaves
twisting together. Scarlet
parrots and golden finches
soared on the sleeves.



Maria loved that dress,
and she loved her mother
for the many days and
nights she had spent bent
over the dress, her silver
needle flashing in the light.

The big reason Maria
loved Sundays was that
Sundays meant church, and
church meant songs and
prayers and friends and
colors—so many wonderful
colors. The windows in the
church were stained glass,

which means they were like beautiful paintings. When the sun shined directly through one of the windows, the whole church was filled with heavenly light.





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Maria's world is brown, brown, brown! That is, except for her beautiful Sunday dress, and the wonderfully-colored stained glass windows at church. When a storm causes a tree to fall and shatter the precious windows, Maria wants to do something to help earn enough money to replace them. Her ideas, her hard work, and her generosity bring beautiful colors and joy to the entire community.

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