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Chapter One

Mary Helen was a little girl who lived in a modest home on a hill.



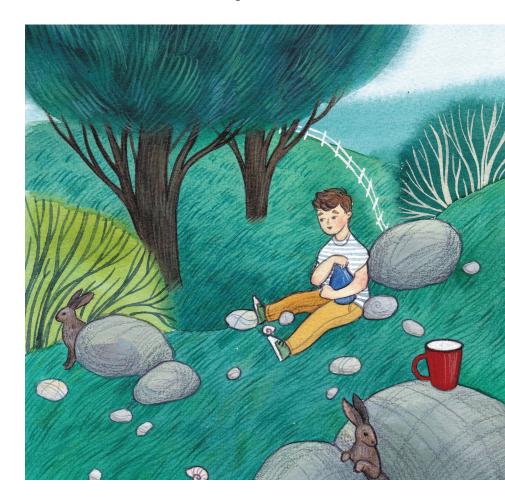
She lived with her mom, dad, older sister, Becky, little brother, Bert, and Peppy the dog.





At night she loved to look down at the valley and see the twinkling lights. Then she would look up at the sky and see many twinkling stars. And she felt happy.

Mary Helen helped her dad plant lots and lots of trees on their hill. That was so the dirt would not slide down and the house could stay on the hill.



She liked to play on the hill and hunt for rocks, shells, and roly polies. She collected them in old empty bottles with Bert.



Mary Helen loved going to school. She loved her teacher. She loved being in a class with her best friends, Joyce and Julie. They were twins. Mary Helen was also friends with Polly, Teresa, and Susie.



Chapter Two

Mary Helen loved reading books. Mostly she loved reading about horses. She also loved to color horses in her Old West coloring book. Her favorite horse to color was a bay horse, with a reddish-brown coat and black legs. This horse also had a black mane and tail. Mary Helen loved horses!

Mary Helen did lots of fun things with her dad. One of the best things was going to visit Mr. Bat. He had a big red barn, some chickens, a little pony, and a big horse.



He let Mary Helen and her dad visit, and she got to ride the pony. One time when Mary Helen was very small, Mr. Bat set Mary Helen up on the big horse.

