



**Journey  
to  
Riches**

A winter scene with a castle and snow-covered trees. The castle is a large, multi-towered structure with red flags on top, set against a light blue sky with snowflakes. The foreground is a snowy field with a wooden fence and several trees covered in snow.

**This story is based off of the Brother's  
Grimm Fairy Tale:**

# **Star Dollars**

Once upon a time a long time ago, in a land far away, lived a young woman named, Rhonda, and her dog named, Fritz. Rhonda was very poor, and one day she decided that she would need to leave her cottage to find work.



So, Rhonda used all the flour she had left in the house to bake five loaves of bread. She put them in a basket, put on her coat, grabbed a blanket, and headed out on the chilly Spring day to start her journey to the village.



The first day of her journey was quite enjoyable for her. The day was warm and sunny. The forest was peaceful, and beautiful choruses were sung from the songbirds in the trees. When she stopped for the night, she was mesmerized by the gorgeous, glowing northern lights that filled the sky. She and Fritz ate half a loaf of bread for supper and saved the other half for breakfast.





The next day was long, boring, and a bit chilly as Rhonda walked from dawn to dusk in the forest. As dusk began to darken the sky, Rhonda noticed two little boys, sitting next to the stream with their dog.

Rhonda went over to talk to the boys. She found out that they had wandered too far away from their home while following a deer and would not make it back before nightfall. They had both decided to spend the night by the stream, so that they wouldn't get lost in the darkness, but the younger boy cried that he was so hungry he might die. So, Rhonda decided to share her bread with the boys.



The boys were very grateful, and it made Rhonda happy, when she saw them happy. Still, she worried a little that her and Fritz might not have enough food to get them to town.



**It is always grand,  
to lend a helping hand!  
Stand proud in any land,  
Cause caring's never banned!**

**So, when you see a need,  
Always help, indeed!  
You can take the lead,  
To help make kindness succeed.**





**That night when Rhonda stopped to sleep, she stared up at the sky and started to count the stars. There were so many that she couldn't begin to number them. She just stared and let their gentle twinkling lull her to sleep.**

**~Twinkle twinkle star bright!~**

**~You lighten night!~**

**~You give delight!~**

**~For you are right ~**

**~To shine your light~**

**~And vanquish fright~**

**~From darkest night~**

**~Far out of sight.~**

The next morning, Rhonda started out on her hike a little mad at herself. She had tried to discipline herself to ration her last two loaves of bread. However, she had been so hungry when she woke up, that she had eaten nearly a whole loaf and given the last little bit of it to hungry Fritz. So, they continued on, with one loaf of bread left for two days worth of journey.



**A little after noon, Rhonda happened upon a woman sitting next to the stream praying for a little food. She asked for just a little to get her through the next three days until her son returned from hunting.**



Rhonda felt so sorry for the pleading woman that she gave her her last loaf of bread. The woman thanked her with tears in her eyes. Rhonda's stomach growled as she walked away, but her heart was filled with warmth from helping the little old lady.





**That evening a cold wind blew in, the weather turned cold, and snow began to float down from the sky. Along the way, Rhonda saw a man, wearing only a sweater but no coat, shivering next to a tree.**



Rhonda felt so bad for the shivering, shaking man that she tossed him her blanket and kept walking. He yelled, "Thank you!" while furiously pulling it open, unfurling it, and huddling underneath it.



**When Rhonda came upon a spot sheltered from the wind, she decided to stop for the night. Leaning on a tree, she was a little cold, and more than a little bit hungry. She gazed up at the night sky and began counting the stars, but before she could count to three she was fast asleep.**



**The next morning it started snowing again, and by midday, snow covered the ground.**



As night began to fall, Rhonda came upon a woman, traveling with her little girl, yet neither of them had a coat.



Without saying a word, Rhonda walked up to the little girl, put her coat on her and then continued walking. "Thank you!" Shouted the little girl.



After a while, Rhonda noticed the little girl and her mother were following her. So, she waited for them to catch up and began talking to them. She found out that they were both traveling to the same town and that they, too, were out of food and money.



**Both women decided it was too cold to stop for the night without a coat, so they kept walking. Then, around midnight, all kinds of stars started shooting through the sky.**



**They watched in amazement as stars streaked through the trees and then exploded into beautiful gemstones around them. They hurried to gather the valuable stones and collected them in Rhonda's basket.**

Once the basket was full, the stars stopped shooting from the sky. The fiery stars warmed the air as they shot through it, and the gems were hot enough to keep Rhonda warm, after she stuffed some in her pockets.



The group made it to town just as dawn was lightening the day. Rich with their treasures from the sky, the group journeyed with a new hope that they would each be destined to live happily ever after.



Happily ever after for me?  
Happily ever after, can it be?  
Things are different, I see.  
To make a new life, I am free.  
In this basket I hold,  
Riches above that of gold!  
Oh, what I can do when they're sold!  
I make my life, so I'm told.  
I will be very much bold.



My heart will stay warm, never cold.  
I'll be giving while young and when old.  
Friends close to my heart I will hold.  
I won't fit into life's boring old mold.  
I'll be sweet. I'll be kind. I'll help others  
shoulder their load.  
Yes, this will be my life's code.

