

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

HEIDI

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A Footpath Winds up the Mountain.

Chapter 1

The Journey up the Mountain

The Swiss town of Mayenfeld lies at the foot of a mountain range whose rugged peaks tower high above the valley below. Behind the town a footpath winds gently up the mountain.

One sunny June morning, a tall, strong woman was climbing up the path. She had a bundle in one hand and held a little girl about five years old by the other hand. The child's cheeks were flushed and sunburned, and she was wearing two dresses, one on top of the other. She looked like a shapeless

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bundle of clothing trudging uphill on a pair of shoes.

After climbing for almost an hour, they reached a little village called Dorfli. This was where the woman used to live, and the people of the town remembered her and called to her from their houses. She did not answer, but continued on her way until she reached a house at the very end of the main street. There a voice from inside called to her:

“Half a minute, Detie, and I’ll come with you if you’re going any farther.”

Detie stood still, but the little girl sat down on the ground.

“Tired, Heidi?” Detie asked her.

“No, but I’m very hot,” the child answered.

“We’ll be there soon. Just keep going, and we’ll be there in an hour.”

At that moment a plump, pleasant-faced woman came out of the house and joined them. The little girl got up and followed as



Climbing Up the Path