



Spring 2016

Where did the time go? Abigail had been keeping so busy over the winter between building snowmouses (like snowmen), knitting for friends and family, quilting, baking, playing, reading, sleeping, writing letters, that she didn't notice how quickly time had passed. But then she did. Outside her house under the floorboards at the Pine Grove School House, were the first signs of Spring...little buds on the big trees could already be seen. And then, she looked down and more signs came into view. She saw tiny piece of green leaves on a crocus bulb slowly peeking out of the soil and the snow had not even melted all away yet! But not matter, saying good-bye to one season was saying hello to another and Abigail LOVED the Springtime!

She knew that she would be seeing old friends again, the ones that hibernated over the winter, and welcoming new ones as Spring babies would be born on the nearby farm along with other woodland creatures. Ah, Spring...just the smell of the sweet air, the sight of butterflies aloft, pretty flowers and of course, yummy things coming up in the vegetable gardens. Spring also meant being outside more and going on some new adventures. And Abigail LOVES adventures too!

In another week, all the snow had melted and the landscape was once again filled with color and the chirping of birds that returned from their annual migration. Abigail was ready to go exploring so she put on her new hat, made from young tulip leaves tied together at the top. In this hat, Abigail looked like an upside down flower. In her mind, it was not only high fashion, but also good camouflage as hungry hawks would be flying overhead and this cap of green on her head helped her blend into the scenery. She put a light cape across her shoulders, picked up her straw basket holding her lunch, and off she went in search of something new to explore.

Keeping a watchful eye on the sky for predators, Abigail decided to set off uphill behind the school house to the Marcus Thompson farm; he was the brother of Oliver Thompson of Sunrise Farm. There was a big barn at this farm and Abigail was friendly with the farm animals there. She entered the barn through a notch in the barn siding and looked around. She saw Mr. Thompson's horse and went over to say hello. They chatted for a while and laughed about some funny memories. Just then, the barn door opened and in walked Mr. Thompson. Oh my! Abigail dove under the hay in the stall so she wouldn't be seen and hoped dearly that the horse or the man wouldn't accidentally step on her. He took his horse out of the stall and saddled her up. The horse signaled to Abigail to climb up the nearby stacked bales of hay and jump onto the horse's mane and hide underneath.

Suddenly, with a kick to the horse's sides, they were off! But where? They trotted down the dirt road back toward the school house and they cut across Oliver Thompson's fields. Now the horse was at full gallop and Abigail was holding on for dear life! She couldn't decide if she was more afraid or having more fun! Then Mr. Thompson pulled gently back on the reins and slowed the horse down to a gentle pace. They were almost at his destination...the post office to mail some handwritten letters.

They pulled up to a small red house near Allen's Crossing, a flag station for the railroad, which was the local post office. Mr. Thompson tied his horse to a post, and went inside to mail his letters and chat with Mr. Judd, the Postmaster. While the horse was getting a drink of water from the trough, Abigail poked her head out from under her mane. "Wow", she said, "that was scary fun!" She couldn't wait for the ride back home. The horse conveniently stopped for a nibble of grass at Abigail's house. As Mr. Thompson looked at the sunset, Abigail slid down the horse's neck and was safely home.