The Three Brothers



A Grimm Brothers Tale retold by Carmel Reilly

Illustrated by Chantal Stewart

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Title	*The Three Brothers*
Levels	23–24/25
Running words	1048

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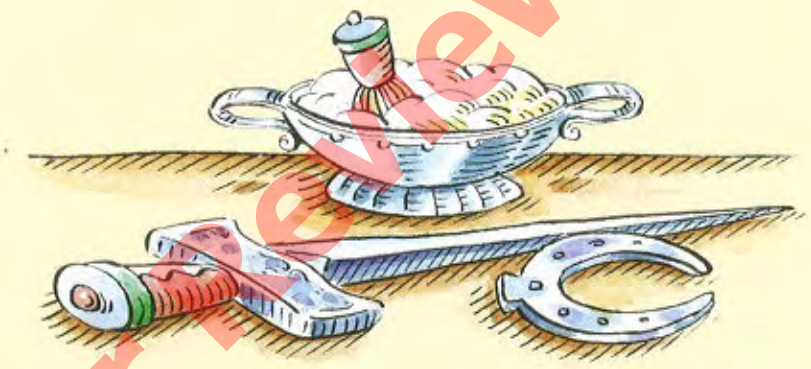
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Chapter 1

The Family House

Long ago, a man and his three sons lived in an old house on the edge of a village. The man's wife had died many years before, and he had brought up his children alone.

One day, when the boys were almost grown up, he called them to him.

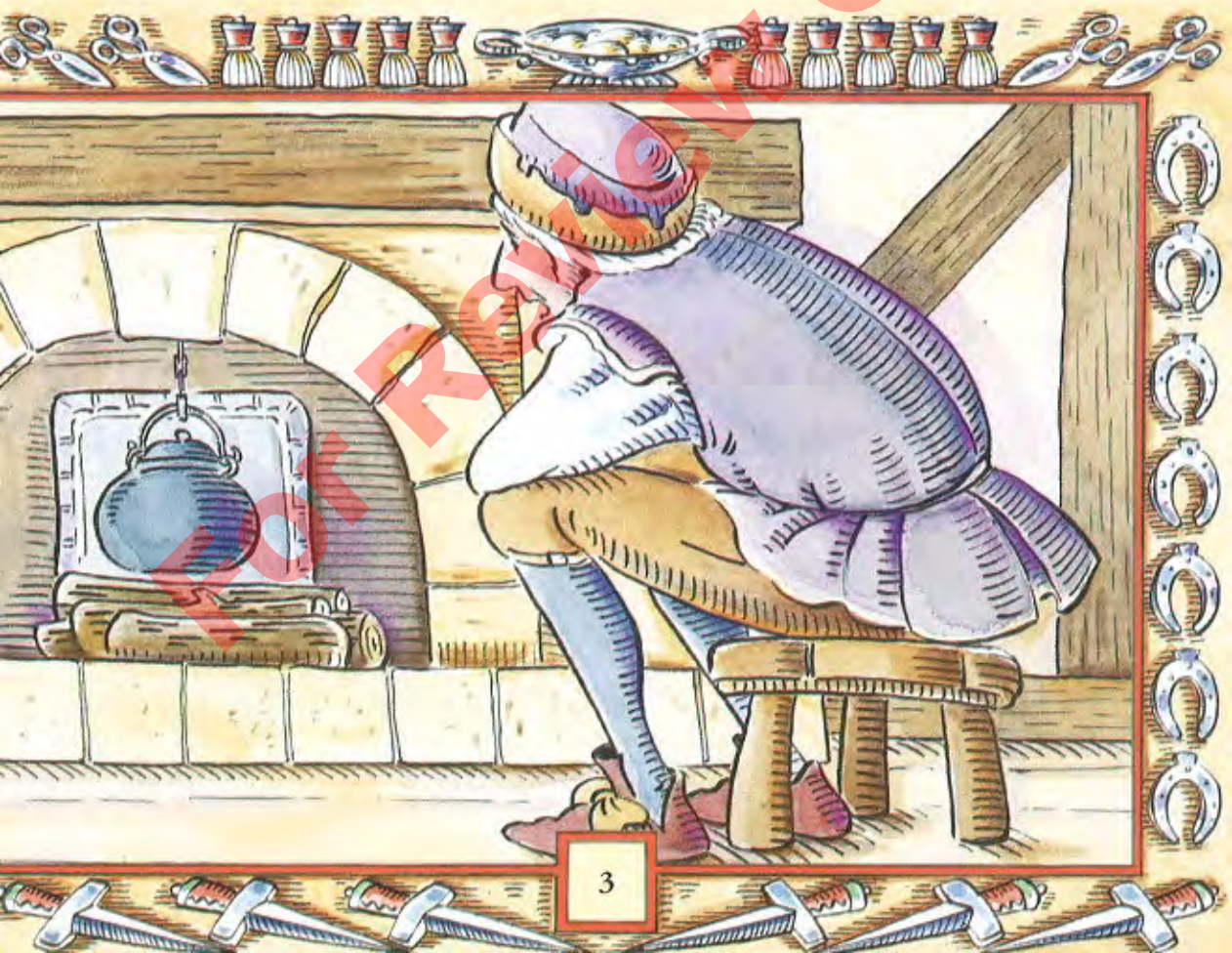


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"Come and sit down. I need to talk to you," he said.

"What is it, Father?" asked the oldest son.

"I am growing old," said his father. "I am worried about what will happen to you when I die. I don't have a lot of money to leave you. I only have this house."



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The sons looked around at the house they had grown up in. They loved this house. They felt sad at the thought that they might have to leave.

The father looked at his oldest son. "I don't think it's fair to pass this on to you just because you are the oldest," he said.

Then he looked at his two other sons. "This house is our family home. It has belonged to us for hundreds of years, and I cannot sell it. I can't see a way of dividing it up. Therefore, I must leave it to just one of you – but how will I choose which one?"

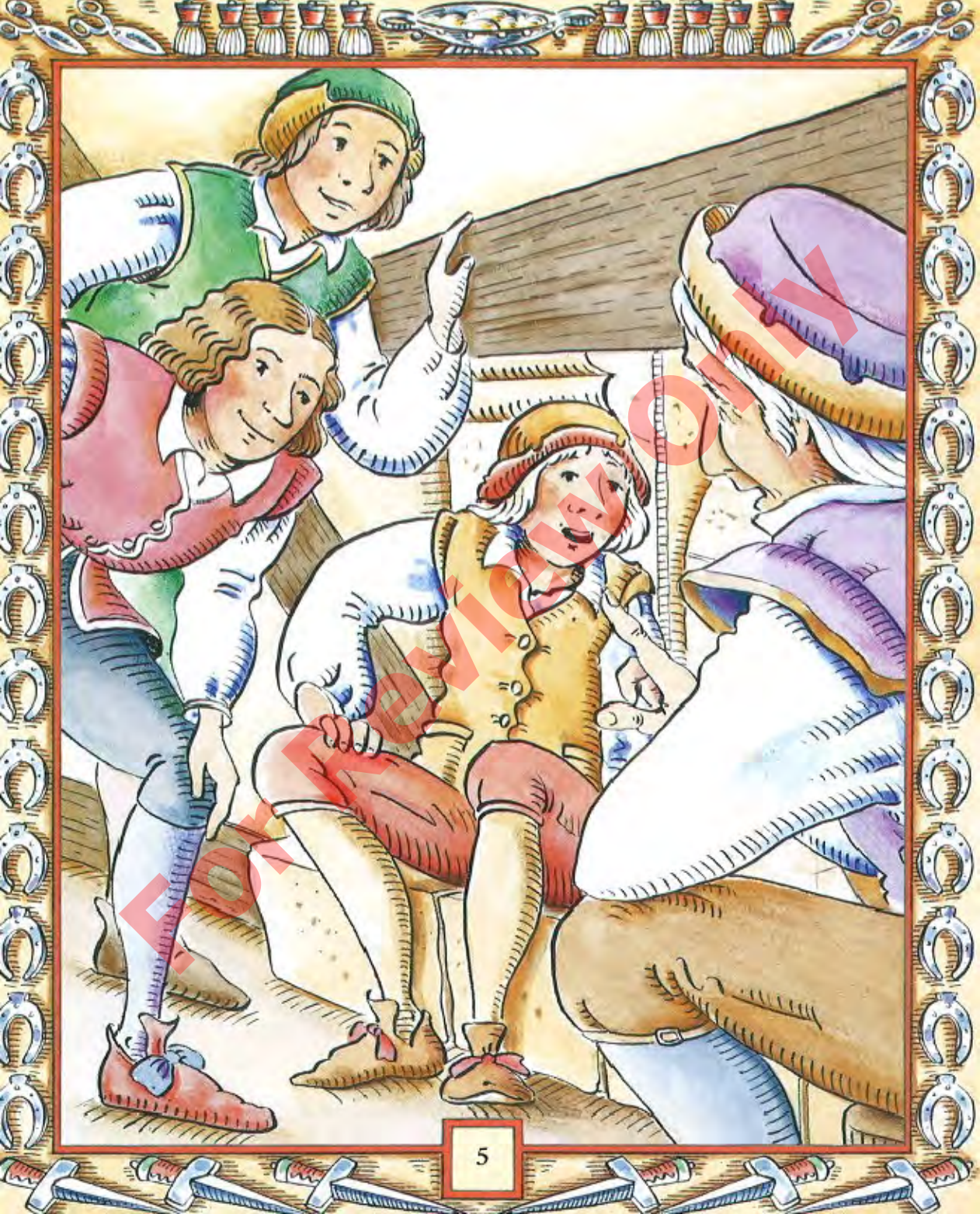
The sons looked at him anxiously. They wondered what he was going to do.

"I have decided on a plan. Each of you should go out into the world and learn a trade or a special skill. When you come back, the one who is able to impress me the most will inherit the house."

"That sounds fair," said the second son. He felt happy that he would have a chance to own the house.

"Yes," agreed the other two, thinking the same thing.

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Chapter 2

Learning a Skill

Over the next few weeks, the sons thought about what they would like to do. The oldest son decided to become a farrier. That is someone who looks after horses. The second son wanted to be a barber. The youngest son thought he would learn to be a swordsman.



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Finally, they left the house to make their way in the world. They went to find people who could teach them their trades. Before they left home, they agreed that they would meet again in five years' time. Then their father would be able to choose who was the most skilful of the three brothers.



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