

## **The Neat Woman**

Once there was a small neat woman who lived in a small neat cottage in a small neat village on the edge of a small neat forest. Everything in the small neat woman's life was just right. She had a small neat garden that produced beautiful red tomatoes that were just right. Every day she walked the small neat path to the small neat village to exchange her tomatoes for meat, cheese, and milk for her supper, which was just right.

One day as the small neat woman was returning from market, she spied a gold coin by the side of the road. She was so excited. She picked it up and began dreaming of the wonderful things she might buy. "Oh, this is just right!" she said. "I will buy a grand house in town. I will buy a cow and chickens and pigs."

But she forgot to watch where she was going. She tripped over a branch and dropped the gold coin. When she picked it up, it was silver. "Well, this is just right," said the small neat woman. "I enjoy my little house. I don't need all those things. I will buy some curtains for my windows."

But it was a warm day and her palms began to sweat. When she looked down again, the coin had turned into a copper pot. "Oh, this is just right!" said the small neat woman. "In this pot I can make a wonderful stew that will be just right."

When she got to her gate, she set down the pot to open it. When she turned to pick up the pot, it had turned into a rock. "Oh, this is just right!" said the small neat woman. She used the rock to prop open her gate. The small neat woman went into her small neat house and made herself a small neat supper. That was just right.

You have heard a lot of stories. You may find gold or silver or a rock in them, but whatever you take away with you will be just right.