

"Amanda, Amanda, wake up. It's time to do your chores," said Mother. Amanda got out of bed with a sleepy grin on her face. She smelled the fresh bacon and eggs cooking in the kitchen. She hoped Mother was making buttery biscuits, too. They were her favorite because they were so warm and tasty. She got out of bed and quickly got dressed. It was still dark outside, so she turned on the light to find her shoes. She tied her long, brown hair into a ponytail. She would have to hurry if she was going to eat before starting her work.

The Carpenter family ate breakfast together every morning. It was sometimes hard to eat at 5:30. Amanda tried to enjoy her food because she knew she would need strength. Amanda's two brothers were in charge of feeding the horses, cleaning the barns, and tending the pigs. Mr. Carpenter worked in the fields with the heavy equipment, taking care of all the vegetables they grew. Amanda milked the cows, fed chickens, and collected eggs from the hen house. Mrs. Carpenter spent the day cleaning the house. She also was in charge of balancing the bank figures. It took hard work from everyone to run the large farm.

Amanda liked living in the country. Sometimes, though, she dreamed that one day she could visit the city. She wanted to wear a fancy dress and perhaps go to the movies.

Then her cousin, Pamela, called and asked her to come visit her in the big city. Amanda was so excited that she could hardly sleep that night. The next day, she packed her suitcase and hugged Mother and Dad good-bye. "I will see you in a few days," she told them.

Amanda arrived in the city late in the afternoon. She stared up at the tall buildings. She and Pamela went to the theater to watch a

movie. But Amanda began to feel homesick because she missed the country and her family so much.

That night, Amanda had a hard time falling asleep. The traffic was so noisy outside her window that she laid a pillow over her head. The next morning she had to wait for Pamela to wake up. Pamela slept until 7:00.

Amanda had a good time in the city, but she was ready to go back home. When she got home, she hugged Mother and Dad very tightly. "I had a lot of fun," said Amanda. "Thank you for letting me go. Now I know I like the farm better than the city. I really love being a farm girl."

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