



“Rich?” said the farmer.

“Very rich,” said the bear. “I’ll look after her well, I promise. Tell me on Thursday if you agree.”

Well, the family was so poor they had to agree. On Thursday, Astrid found herself clinging to the bear’s stiff white fur as he padded away from the farmhouse.

## Chapter 2

### At the castle



All day long they travelled. Then, as night fell, they came to a steep cliff. Or was it the wall of a castle? Soon they were in a splendid hall made of the finest gold and silver.

