

GRETA AND PETER
IN
GOOD LUCK LAND

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## GRETA AND PETER IN GOOD LUCK LAND

L.KIRBY-PARRISH



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RIGHT here by the water They call Zuyder Zee, Little Greta and Peter, Two children, we see, Whose home is the cottage So cosy and wee.



Their father was kind,
And their mother was sweet;
She tripped to and fro
With such fast flying feet
To keep the wee cottage
So clean and so neat.



Far out on the water, So wide and so blue, Their father went sailing Quite all the day through To bring home fresh fish, As all fishermen do. "Little Greta and Peter, Help mother today," Said father, and kissed them And then sailed away: "When the work is all done Is the best time for play."

"Come, children," cried mother,
"The fire's burning low,
The oven grows cold
And the pot bubbles slow,
So bring me some firewood;
Pray make haste to go,"



So Greta and Peter,
At mother's command,
Went here and went there
Seeking wood, hand in hand,
But fell sound asleep,
After while, on the sand.

And while they were dreaming, Oh my, and ah me, They cried: "Mother, wait, Such a queer boat we see, The queerest that ever Sailed on Zuyder Zee."

And then, in a dream,

They pushed out from the shore
In a little bark boat

With the tiniest oar,
And thought of the firewood
And mother no more.





The waves bore them far
On the blue Zuyder Zee,
Till they hailed the queer boat
They had sailed out to see,
The most wonderful, wonderful
Boat that could be.



For it glittered like gold, Like a great golden shoe, And the sea-nymphs it bore, And mermaids for a crew, Hailed Greta and Peter As children they knew.

Cried Greta and Peter:
"We came out to see
The Queen of the Mermaids;
Please tell us if she
Sails not this queer boat
On the blue Zuyder Zee."

Then forth came the queen
With sea-spray in her hair,
And kissed them both kindly
And welcomed them there,
And off they set sail
For Good Luck Land so fair.



"Please, what is Good Luck Land, And where may it be?" Cried Greta and Peter, "And what will we see?" "Tis down," said the queen, "In the blue Zuyder Zee." Then down sank the boat
At the mermaid's command,
Down, down through the water
To reach Good Luck Land,
And they all stepped ashore
On a beach of white sand.

Through pink coral forests
The Queen Mermaid led,
And showed them pearl oysters
Asleep in their bed,
And little sea horses,
Some white and some red.



And when it grew dark
All the star-fish came out,
Like stars in the night time,
And shone all about,
While jolly sea urchins
Would chatter and shout.

"See, Greta and Peter,"
The Queen Mermaid said,
"How the pearl oyster works
Over there in his bed,
And the star-fish shine bright
In the sea overhead.

That's why it's Good Luck Land, For each does his share, So each one has plenty Of play time to spare." And then the Queen Mermaid Ouite vanished in air.



"Why, Greta, why, Peter!"
Again mother's cry
They heard, and waked up
On the warm sand and dry
To see the sun shining
Far up in the sky.

Then off for the firewood
They scampered away;
"For if we do our share,
As we should, every day,"
Said Greta, "dear mother
Will have time for play."





"Why, Greta, why, Peter!"
Cried mother that day,
"So long were you gone,
Tell me, where did you stray?"
"We've been in Good Luck Land,
Dear mother," said they.



"And, mother, we've learned There is time and to spare For you and for us, And for folks everywhere, As there is in Good Luck Land If each does his share." The End.

