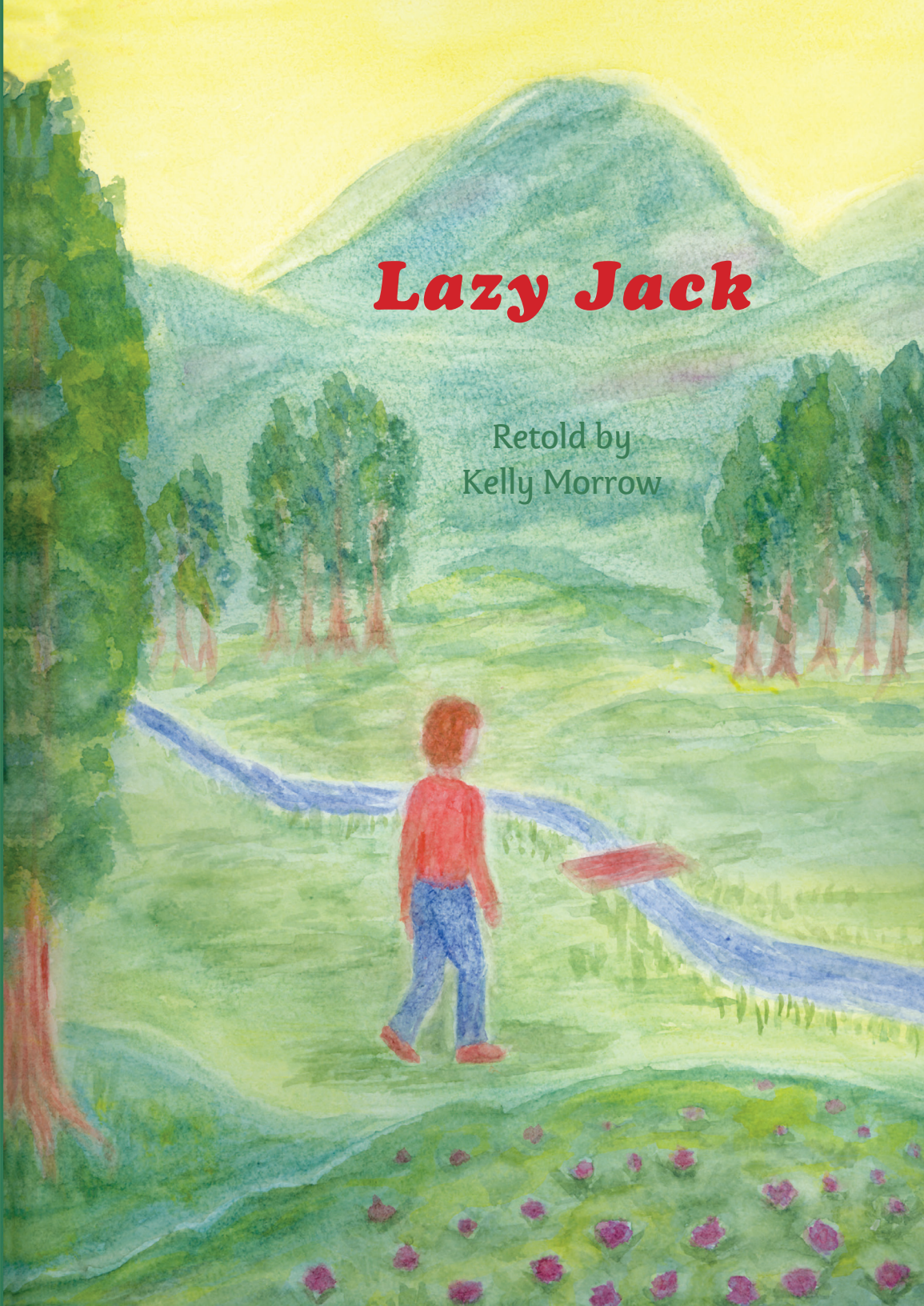


Lazy Jack

Retold by
Kelly Morrow



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Chapter I

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Jack. He lived with his mother. They were very poor. His mother made her living by spinning yarn.

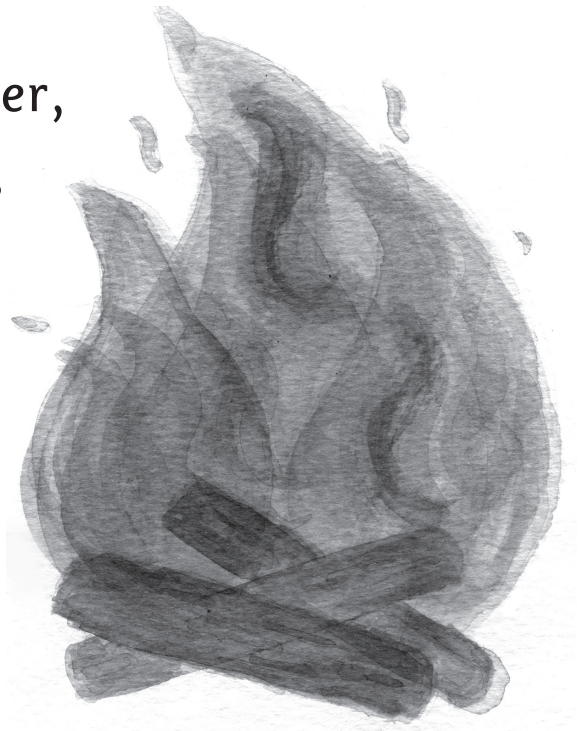
Jack did not help his mother at all. He did no work. He did not help his mother spin. He did not bring in wood

for the fireplace. He did not help cook food. He did not wash the dishes. He did not sweep the floor.

In spring, Jack ran in the fields.

In summer, he sat in the sun.

In fall, he played in the leaves.



In winter, he sat near the warm fireplace.

His mother would try and try to get him to help. He would not do anything. So, his mother called him Lazy Jack.

At last, one day, she told him that if he did not begin to work, she would not let him live there any longer.

Chapter II

So, Jack went out to work for a farmer the next day. The farmer paid him three pennies. Jack never had money before, so he did not keep the pennies safe. On the way home, he crossed a bridge over a stream. He dropped the pennies and lost them.

“Dear me, Jack!” said his mother, “You should have put the pennies in your pocket.”

“I’ll do that next time,” said Jack.

The next day, Jack went to work for another farmer. The farmer gave Jack a jar of milk for his pay.

Jack took the jar and put it



into the large pocket of his jacket.

He walked home.

The milk spilled all over his jacket. There was no milk when he got home.

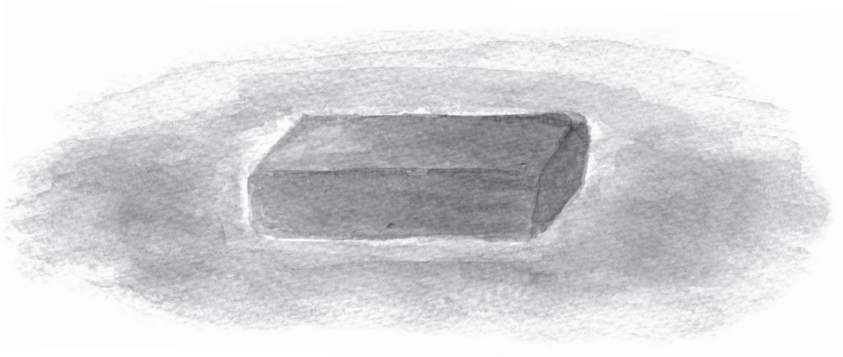
“Oh my, Jack!” said his mother. “You should have carried the jar on your head.”

“I’ll do that next time,” said Jack.

Chapter III

The next day, Jack went to work for another farmer. He gave Jack cream cheese for his pay.

In the evening, Jack put the cheese on his head and went home. By the time he got home, the cheese was ruined. Part of



it had fallen off. Part of it had melted into Jack's hair.

“You silly fellow, Jack!” said Jack's mother. “You should have carried it carefully in your hands.”

“I'll do that next time,” said Jack.

The next day, Jack went to work for a baker. She had nothing to give him but a large tom-cat. Jack carried the cat

carefully in his hands. But, the cat scratched him so much that Jack had to let him go.

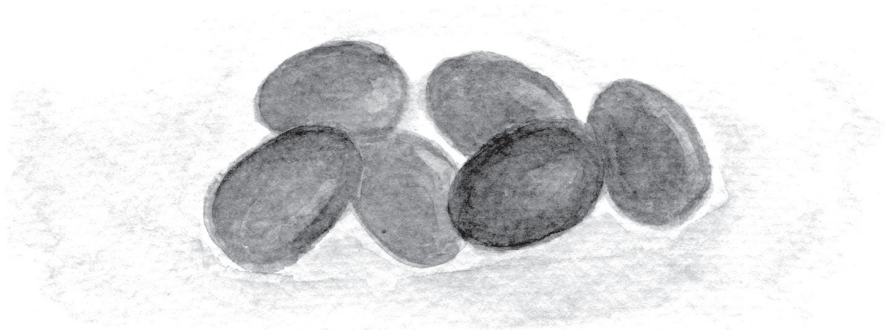
When he got home, his mother said, “You fool, Jack! You should have tied a string around his neck and let him follow you home.”

“I’ll do that next time,” said Jack.

Chapter IV

The next day, Jack went to work for a chicken farmer. The farmer paid him with six eggs.

Jack tied a string, the best he could, to the eggs and let them trail behind him in the dirt. By



the time he got home, only bits of egg shells were left.

His mother, now upset, said, “Jack! You should have carried them carefully in a basket.

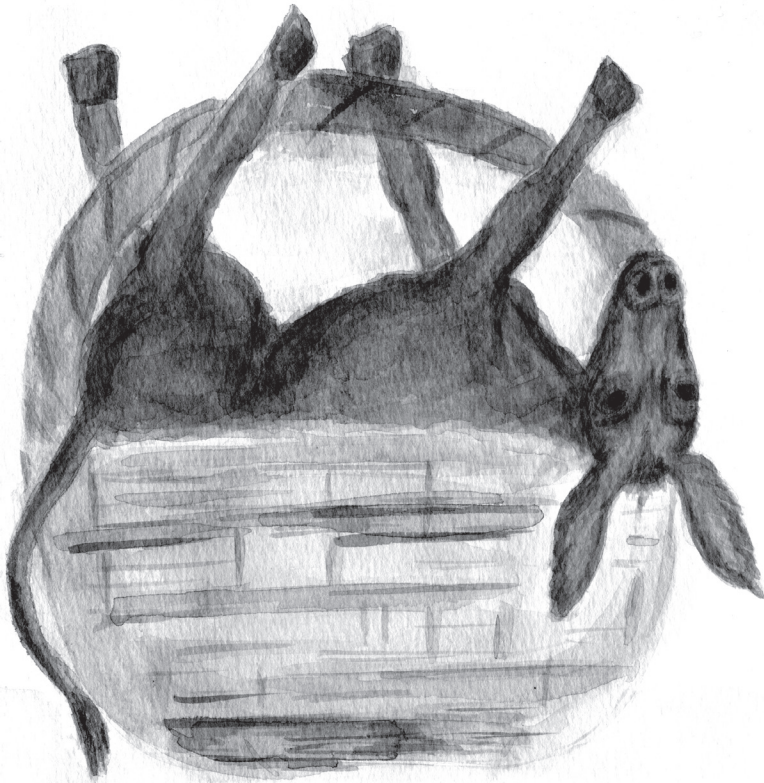
“I’ll do that next time,” said Jack.

Chapter V

The next day, Jack went to work for a cattle-keeper. He gave Jack a donkey for his work. Jack found it hard to get the donkey in a basket.

At last, he did. He began walking slowly home, carefully carrying the basket with the donkey in it.

Now, it happened to be, that on the same road that Jack was walking home, there lived a rich man with his only daughter. She



had never spoken in her life. She
had never laughed in her life.
The doctors said she would never
speak until somebody made her
laugh.

The young woman was
looking out the window when
Jack passed by carrying the
donkey in a basket and its legs
sticking up in the air. The sight
was so funny that she burst into
a great fit of laughter. Then, she
could speak.

Her father was very happy. He asked Jack to come to meet his daughter. They were soon married.

Thus, Jack soon became a rich gentleman after all. They lived together happily in a nice house, never lacking anything. Jack's mother lived with them too, in happiness for the rest of her life.

Lazy Jack

Jack goes out in the world to earn a living on his own. He tries to do what his mother tells him to do. But it does not always work out quite right!

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