

**THE LITTLE
WHITE BIRD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649012176

The little white bird by J. M. Barrie

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J. M. BARRIE

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BY
J. M. BARRIE

HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO
1913

16/621
4/5/21



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1913

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CHAPTER I

DAVID AND I SET FORTH UPON A JOURNEY

SOMETIMES the little boy who calls me father brings me an invitation from his mother : ' I shall be so pleased if you will come and see me,' and I always reply in some such words as these : ' Dear madam, I decline.' And if David asks why I decline, I explain that it is because I have no desire to meet the woman.

' Come this time, father,' he urged lately, ' for it is her birthday, and she is twenty-six,' which is so great an age to David, that I think he fears she cannot last much longer.

' Twenty-six, is she, David?' I replied. ' Tell her I said she looks more.'

I had my delicious dream that night. I dreamt that I too was twenty-six, which was a long time ago, and that I took train to a place called my home, whose whereabouts I see not in my waking hours ; and when I alighted at the station a dear lost love was waiting for me, and we went away together. She met me in no ecstasy of emotion, nor was I surprised to find her there ; it was as if we had been married for years and parted for a day. I like to think that I gave her some of the things to carry.

Were I to tell my delightful dream to David's mother, to whom I have never in my life addressed