

**THE SEARCH FOR THE
STAR: A TALE OF LIFE
IN THE WILD WOODS**

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The Search for the Star: A Tale of Life in the Wild Woods by Edward Willett

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EDWARD WILLETT

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“ Harry started back toward the gap.”— Page 207.

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A Tale of Life in the Wild Woods

BY
EDWARD WILLETT

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THE SEARCH FOR THE STAR.

CHAPTER I.

THE STAR AND THE SEARCHERS.

"Yes, Harry, it is settled. We shall go and search for the Star."

"That's so, Ben; and wouldn't it be funny if we should find it!"

"Funny would be no name for that, my boy. It would be wonderful—and it shall be wonderful. We will make the search for the Star something to talk about."

"It is not settled that you are to go," broke in a matronly young woman, in a corner of the room—a bright and handsome young woman, who did not look old enough to be the mother of Ben Halstead, though she was, and Ben had turned his sixteenth year.

"Come, now, mother," mildly pleaded Ben.

"I say that it is not settled that you are to go. I have not given my consent."

"Conditionally, you have."

"But not positively; and the more I think of it, the more I object to the plan."

Harry Russell, Ben's cousin, an orphan, and a year younger than Ben, put in his word.

"I don't see what you have to say about it, aunt Kate, anyhow. This is the business of Her Royal Sweetness. It is her errand that we are going on, and she sends us. Isn't that so, Little Sweet?"

"That is just so, Harry," answered a curly-haired and blue-eyed girl of six, who spoke quite as plainly as any of her elders, and with a positiveness that announced her as a home despot.

"That is just so, Harry. You and Ben are going to find the Star and bring it back to me, and I shall be ever and ever so much obliged to you."

"Dear me!" exclaimed Mrs. Halstead. "Do you happen to know, Miss Hettie, where those two boys propose to go to, and what they expect to do? How would you like to hear that your brother Ben and your cousin Harry had been eaten up by bears in the big woods?"

"I think they are big enough to eat the bears now," calmly replied Little Sweet.

This remark was received with roars of laughter, and no person laughed louder than a tall and brown-bearded man, who had just come to the room, and stood in the door-way with his arms folded.

He was Hiram Halstead, the father of Ben and Hettie, whom everybody in that house loved and looked up to.

"Those are brave and big words to come from young lips, Little Sweet," said he; "but I don't see why they should not be true words. I killed and helped to eat a bear before I was as old as either of those youngsters, and