

## Content

Even though Emma knows that her grandmother has bad 'stomach cancer' and will die from it, she doesn't want to do anything to help her grandma. So she tries to convince the doctors to make Grandma healthy again, to persuade Grandma to have chemotherapy done, and to invent her own medication. When Emma sees that none of this helps, she tries unsuccessfully to scold the cancer. As a last resort to help Grandma, Emma tries to reconcile with cancer and be nice to him. When the cancer does not go away, Emma has to realize that it is time to say goodbye to her beloved grandma. Together Emma and her grandmother remember all the wonderful days they spent together.

The book "Grandma Stays in the Heart Forever" is the first book of the planned Emma series. In contrast to the well-known series for children,

the Emma series is supposed to deal with problems and fates with which the children themselves are confronted. The stories are intended to enable the children to identify with Emma to some extent, so that they may be able to better process or cope with their own destinies.

## **Chapter**

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>In the waiting room</b>      | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>On the hospital corridor</b> | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>In the hospital room</b>     | <b>13</b> |
| <b>In the doctor's room</b>     | <b>19</b> |
| <b>The herb garden</b>          | <b>41</b> |
| <b>The letter</b>               | <b>55</b> |
| <b>Alois</b>                    | <b>61</b> |
| <b>Memories with grandma</b>    | <b>71</b> |
| <b>Funeral</b>                  | <b>79</b> |
| <b>Natural burial</b>           | <b>89</b> |

## **Extract**

### **In the waiting room**

“Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock.” Emma sits in the hospital waiting area looking at the big, round clock with its red second hand. She has been waiting here for more than half an hour. Actually, they had wanted to visit Grandma like every Saturday as before, but Grandma has been in the hospital for a long time. Emma’s mom has said that Grandma is not feeling well at the moment and needs a lot of rest.

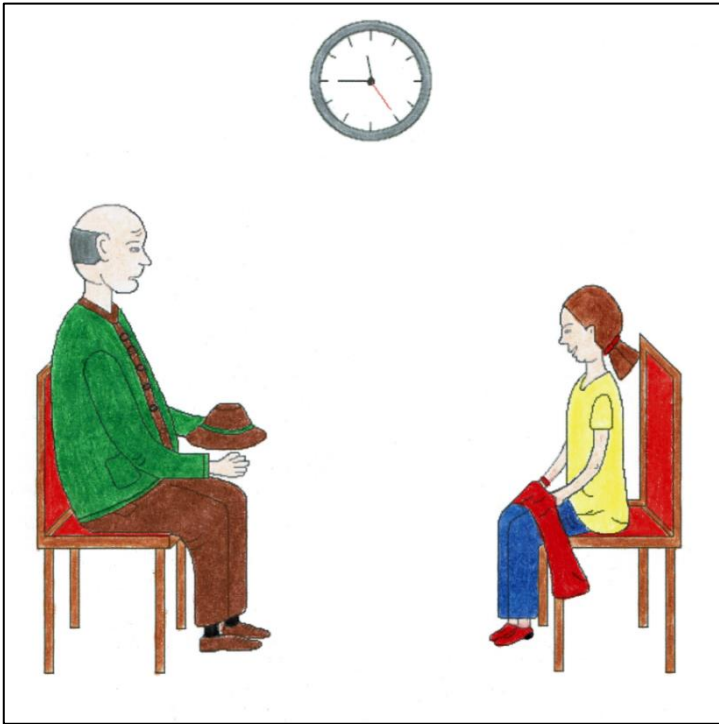
An elderly gentleman with a hat enters the waiting area. “Hello, young lady,” he greets Emma warmly. “Hello, sir,” Emma replies in a friendly way, too. The older gentleman sits down opposite to Emma. “Alone here?” he asks her. Emma shakes her head, “No, I’m still too small for that. I’m only five.” Emma lifts her right

hand up and spreads her fingers apart. “Look, I’m that old!” she announces to the older gentleman. “Well, then you are really too small to be alone here,” he says. “Yes, I would say so,” Emma says. Emma looks at the clock again, then she shares, “My grandma has cancer.” “Cancer,” repeated the older gentleman, “ah, that’s not good.”

“No, my mom said you can die from that,” replies Emma. “That’s unfortunately right,” says the older gentleman. “Cancer is a bad guy, a really bad guy,” Emma says angry. The older gentleman looks at the floor thoughtfully. Emma first thinks to herself but then asks the older gentleman, “Why are you here? Does your grandma also have cancer?” He shakes his head and answers quietly, “No, not my grandma...my wife has cancer.” Then Emma continues, “And did your mom put you here now, too?” Emma looks at the older man with big eyes. He laughs but then gets serious again, “No, little girl. My

parents are long dead. They died before you were born.” Emma raises her eyebrows. “Then you are an orphan,” she says with a start. The older gentleman has to laugh again. “Yes, that’s the way to say that. You are pretty smart for such a little girl,” he notes. “My mom and dad always say I’m pretty smart,” then Emma hesitates for a moment, “but they also say that sometimes I talk a lot and am fidgety. That’s why Daddy sometimes calls me Whirlwind,” she adds. “But are not all little girls your age like you?” asks the older gentleman. Emma muses, “I do not know. The kids in my Kindergarten class are sometimes a bit different. But that does not matter. I still play with them,” Emma laughs. “Do you have any children?” Emma wants to know. “No, unfortunately, my wife and I did not have any children,” the older gentleman replies. “That’s probably sad because then you’re all alone and nobody plays with you,” Emma says. She then offers, “If you want, we can play together. You

can swing on my swing in the garden or slip on my slide. You just have to take care with your big legs so you do not hurt yourself.” The older gentleman smiles again broadly.



At that moment, Emma’s mother comes in the door, greets the older gentleman, and then turns to Emma, “Are you coming, little one? You can

go to Grandma.” Emma hops from her chair, “Oh, great! Is grandma better?” she wants to know from her mother. Her mother shakes her head, “No, Emma, unfortunately not.” Emma asks, “She is not getting well anymore, is she?” Her mother shakes her head again, “No, Emma, she will not get better.” Emma looks at the older gentleman, then asks, “What’s your name?” The older gentleman averts his eyes from Emma’s mother and answers, “My name is Alois.”

“Alois,” Emma repeats, “that’s a funny name you have there.” Emma wrinkles her nose. Alois laughs, “This is not a funny name. That’s an old name,” he tries to explain to Emma. “Well, then you have a funny old name.” Emma hesitates for a moment and then adds, “But you’re still nice.”

“Thanks,” Alois replies, “I’ll gladly give back the compliment.” Emma’s eyebrows contract with thought. Then she asks, “What’s a compliment?” Alois smiles and replies patiently, “That’s when you say something nice to someone.”

“Then I’ll pay Grandma a compliment, too. Maybe she will be happy about that,” Emma declares. Alois nods, “Definitely, Emma. Most people are happy about compliments.” Emma adds, “Then you also have to compliment your wife, so she’s happy too, right?”

“Yes, I do”, says Alois. Emma smiles, “That’s nice.”

Emma goes to the door, turns around again, and beckons, “Take care, Alois.” Alois waves back and answers, “You too, little Emma.” Sighing, Alois stays behind. “A little grandchild, that would have pleased Erna,” he says quietly to himself. “Erna...”



## On the hospital corridor

Excited Emma runs across the hall. She is very happy to see her grandmother again. She was not allowed to visit her grandmother the last time because she was too weak. Emma thinks, “If Grandma has been too weak for a visit the last three times, but she is even worse today, why can I see Grandma today?” Just as she asks the question to her mother, she begins, “Emma, if we go to Grandma’s room now, Grandma will look a little different than you’re used to.” Emma’s mom thinks about how she can prepare her daughter for the sight. Was it really the right decision to take Emma to the hospital? Should not she remember her grandma as she knew her? Emma notices her mother’s hesitation. Carefully, Emma asks, “Did Grandma cut her hair?” Emma’s mother shakes her head. “Maybe she has new glasses?” Emma continues. Once again, Emma’s mother shakes her head. Emma thinks

hard. Then she remembers, “Papa has seen a documentary because there was also a woman cancer. She did not have any hair left.” Emma pauses, then continues, “Does Grandma not have any hair anymore?”

“But Emma, Grandma still has her hair. The woman in the documentary got chemo, and that’s why her hair fell out.”

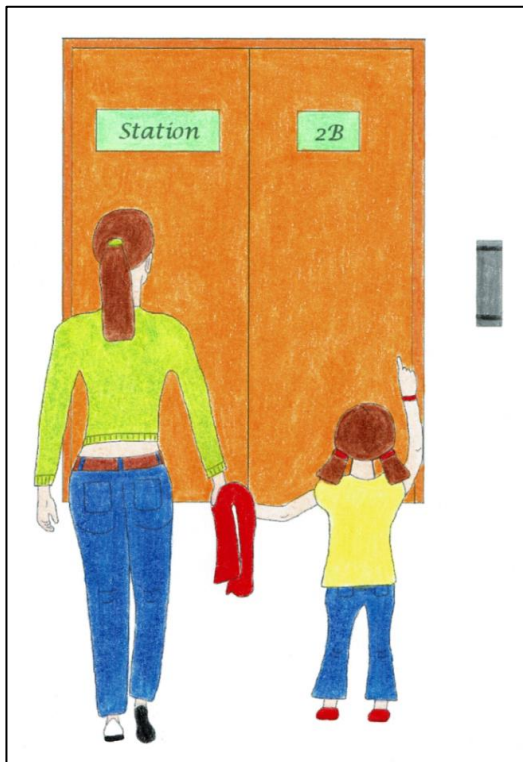
“Did grandma not get chemo...chemotherapy?” Emma asks. The mother shakes her head, “No, Emma, Grandma has a very bad cancer. You cannot cure it. Besides, Grandma...” Emma’s mother hesitates, “Grandma is a bit older. She does not want to have chemotherapy.” Emma puts her little hands on her hips and scolds, “Grandma is not old!”

“Ok, not that old. However, she does not want to do chemo because she does not want to suffer. In addition, the cancer is already well advanced,” Emma’s mother tries to explain. Emma beams, “But that’s good. If the cancer is

already well advanced, it means that he soon will be completely gone.” The mother thinks, “No, Emma, that’s not what it means.” “Yeah, how is that meant then?” Emma asks impatiently. “Emma, if the cancer is already well advanced, it does not mean that it goes away...” “But?” Emma interrupts her mother. “It just means that the cancer has become so much that you cannot get it away anymore. You cannot heal it anymore,” Emma’s mother tries to explain to her daughter. “But you just said that Grandma does not want to have chemotherapy because Grandma is too old! Then you can still cure Grandma. She just has to do the chemotherapy and then the cancer goes away,” Emma notes firmly. The mother sighs, “Emma, the chemotherapy...this is a very powerful drug that would run through Grandma’s body. Grandma feels so weak that she does not want to.” The mother hesitates, but then continues, “In addition, the cancer, as I have already explained

to you, is very advanced, that the doctors assume that Grandma would not become well again. And then comes Grandma's age. So, all that matters, which is why Grandma decided against chemotherapy. Can you understand that?" Emma's mother looks at her daughter sadly. How she would like to spare her daughter all this. Again, the thought of whether it was the right decision to take Emma to the hospital with her. For days she thought about it. Imagined how Emma would react at the sight of her grandmother. What if her grandmother was suddenly gone and she could not say goodbye? "I still do not think Grandma is old and that's why she can do it," interrupts Emma. "Grandma always manages everything. I'm going to tell her now that she's going to do a chemotherapy so she can recover!" Emma's mother sighs. She knows full well that when her daughter has something in her head, she tries everything to reach her goal. "In this case, unfortunately, it will

not be possible!” she thinks. Emma is determined to drive the cancer away from her grandmother. “Besides, what does 'bad cancer' mean here? If someone is angry, he gets scolded and then he has to apologize. If you do not do that, I'll scold the cancer and then apologize and leave.”



Outside the door she turns to her mother again, “Well, and so that's clear, if Grandma’s cancer has apologized and gone, I’ll scold Alois wife’s cancer!” Without waiting for an answer, she knocks on the door and opens it. Determined, Emma enters the room.