

Jim Jarvis' Story

Jim Jarvis was a young boy, who used to live in a cottage. His mother [Annie] lived with Jim and his sisters; Emily, Lizzy and of course Jim's dad. Jim and his family lived in the countryside.

Jim and his family lived very happily; until sadly Jim's father died, so they had to move house. They gathered up all their belongings and headed out toward London. When they arrived at London, Jim, Emily, Lizzy and Annie rented a room to sleep, eat, talk and many other various things they normally did.

One day Jim's mum grew sick, so she had to skip work. Every day she grew more and more sick, and every day they more and more poor, until, they had one shilling left. Jim went to go and buy a meat pie from the meat pudding shop. On his way there, he saw lots of hungry boys and dogs waiting for food to drop. Jim brought a meat pie and ran quickly across the streets, whilst street boys and dogs try to run after Jim and snatch the meat pie out of his hands. Fortunately, Jim made it home before they could catch him. Emily, Lizzy and Jim ate the meat pie and then fell asleep, when a loud stomping woke them up...

Jim knew what the noise was. It was Mr Spinks [AKA the stick man]. The Stick Man came over knocking rapidly on the room door. The Stick Man slowly opened the door with a big "**CREAK!**" "I've come to take the rent!" demanded Mr Spinks, throwing out his hand. Jim's family had no money because they had used the last shilling. No answer. Mr Spinks was getting impatient and said, "Will you hurry up and give the money already!" "W-we d-don't have a-any m-money," Jim spluttered. The Stick Man answered; "No money, no room!" and with that Jim and his family set out once again. They gathered up all their belongings: rags for a blanket, Lizzy's old boots and a rocking horse that Jim's father made for him.

Annie led Jim, Emily and Lizzy to the big house, where Annie used to work. When they got there, Annie rang the doorbell; Jim could see a big boot scraper in a shape of a dog's mouth. On the other side of the doorway he could see a songbird in a cage. Jim decided not to scrape his boots just in case it decided to bite his feet off! Eventually the door flew open to reveal...Rosie! Rosie was Mrs Jarvis' friend; who she used to work with. "Annie?! What are you doing here? You know you can't work here; you've been sick for too long!" Rosie said with a confused expression plastered on her face. "I know, but I was hoping you could get a job for Emily and Lizzy?" Mrs Jarvis said hopefully. "You know I can't..." Rosie started. Annie looked so worried that Rosie had no idea what to do, she couldn't leave poor Annie with three children to look after, so she said, "I'll do it, but bear in mind I might lose my job and we will end up on the streets, but if it's that much to you then I'll do it!". Jim and Annie waved their goodbyes and left Emily and Lizzy at the big house.

Annie was still very ill. She and Jim trudged along the streets in silence. After a while they stopped for a moment by a statue of a man on a horse. They kept on going and stopping, going and stopping, until, Jim's mother could go no further. After a long walk, Annie decided to go to sleep. Jim was awoken by a deep voice saying, "Where d'you live?" Shocked, Jim sat up. His mother didn't wake up and Jim couldn't understand why. Then Jim noticed that his rocking horse was gone! "Someone stole my rocking horse!" Jim shrieked. "Give 'is horseback, It's, all he got ain't it? A pair of boots that's too big for 'im and a wooden horse!" a man said. There were bursts of laughter. "Get up" said a policeman, "And you, get up!" Jim stood up, but his mother lay still. "Take them to the Workhouse!" ordered the policeman. "One for the infirmary and one for school!". Jim was led through a passageway that led to a dark and gloomy room full of children. Jim had his hair cut, his cloths changed and got

washed with freezing cold water. His teacher said to him, "You can see your mother tomorrow, if you're good,". Jim had a long day of working, working, working. At the end of the day he and all the other boys got sent to sleep in small, tight boxes; Jim could only just fit in his! In the morning Jim asked the man that was washing him, "Can I see my mum now, the teacher said I could if I was good! And I was, I really was!". The man slowly turned to Jim and said, "You can't see your mum because...she's... dead!". Jim was about to go to back to his desk, then said, "Thank you, ...er?". "It's Joseph" said Joseph. "Thank you, Joseph!" said Jim sadly. Jim looked around the room. Everyone looked the same except for this one boy. Jim decided to talk to him. The noticed Jim and said, "Hi! My names Tip," said Tip. "Hi! My names Jim," said Jim. Though out a year or two they became friends. One day the teacher announced, "Big boys need to help the carpet beaters, because most of them are ill!" So, the big boys went to help. Jim said to Tip over the noise, "Go with the carpet beaters, then we can escape under all the carpets!" So, Jim and Tip secretly joined the big boys. They escaped under all the carpets until, Tip was gone! Tip was too scared of being caught, so he decided to run back!

Once again Jim was back on the streets. He eventually thought of what to do. He was going to find Rosie, she would know what to do, right? Jim helplessly ran in every corner in every street, until he found the right house. He rang the doorbell. "Ding, dong" rang the doorbell, and out came an unfamiliar lady. For a moment Jim thought he had got the wrong house, but then he remembered the boot scraper and the songbird in a cage, so he asked the strange lady, "Can I see Rosie?" "Who is Rosie?" said the lady. "Rosie and Judd?" Jim asked slightly confused. "Oh, the one that I have replaced, His Lordship found out she was hiding two street girls and she got sacked!" said the lady trying to close the door, but Jim's foot stood in the way. "Do you know where she is now?" Jim asked hopefully. "Yes,

you can stay here and go with Lame Betsy on her way in the morning,” said the lady letting Jim inside to sleep. In the morning Lame Betsy came and took Jim to Rosie. He knocked on Rosie’s door. Rosie opened the door and saw Jim. She said could stay, but he had to sleep in the shed. Rosie lived with her grandparents and they were not allowed to know about Jim. The next day Jim met a boy with red hair. He made a living selling bootlaces he found or stole when people are not looking. They made friends. Jim helped Rosie by skipping to attract people to buy Rosie’s shrimps and whelks. The street boys called him skipping Jim. One night, Rosie went to get Jim some tea, after Rosie left the shed door, someone opened the door Jim thought it was Rosie coming back, but instead it was Rosie’s grandfather and there was another man beside him. “Here, take him!” said Rosie’s grandfather, “Come on, get up and work with Grimy Nick!”.

So, Jim was sent to work with the mean, old Grimy Nick. Grimy Nick was mean and horrible to Jim. One day Jim was so hungry he asked Nick, “Nick, I-I think y-you forgot to give me food?” Jim said hesitantly. “Here!” Nick said throwing scraps of food on the floor. Jim did not give in. That night, Jim ran for it and it was an epic... FAIL! Snipe bit Jim and had a massive bite mark on his leg. In a few years, Jim was still very injured. Jim worked all day digging coal. This time he had planed everything out. Once Nick came back from the Ale House, Nick fell into the coal and Jim put big pieces of coal on top of the hatch. Before this happened, Nick put a rope around his neck so he could not escape again. Jim cut the rope with a sharp piece of coal and tied it on Snipe. Then Jim ran as fast as he could go.

Jim ran away only to find a dog, but not a bad one like Snipe. Jim followed the dog to find...JUGLINI’S CARAVAN?! Jim thought, “Hey, maybe they’ll let me stay with them?” so he knocked on the caravan door, “Knock, knock, knock!” out came

Mrs Juglini! Jim asked if he could stay with Mrs Juglini. She said yes. When she asked where Jim lived, he totally lost it and said he might have killed Grimy Nick! Later that day Jim was at the circus, when he saw *Grimy Nick* and Mrs Juglini pointing at Jim. Nick gave Mrs Juglini some sort of coin.

Jim ran as fast as he could go. He saw a sign to London and thought, "I'll go see Shrimps, that's what I'll do!". He ran and ran until he eventually reached the city.

He asked the street boys if they knew where Shrimps was. The other street boys showed where Shrimps lay. Shrimps looked very different from before, he was as pale as chalk and looked very ill. Shrimps lay asleep on the crates filled with hay. The boys on the street mentioned something about Dr Banardo's ragged school. The only school Jim had been to was the one in the workhouse, so he didn't want to go to another school after all that. One day Shrimps' illness got worse, he thought if Dr Banardo's name has "Dr" on it, maybe he was a doctor. Jim felt for Shrimps' hand, but his hand was cold. Shrimps was dead. Jim knew if he didn't do something fast, he would end up the same.

Jim knew it would be better for his education, so he went to the ragged school. In the classroom the surroundings were very different compared to the one in the workhouse. The room was bright and vibrant, where as the school in the workhouse it was dull and gloomy. At the end of the day Dr Banardo told Jim to go home. Jim explained that he had home or a family. Dr Banardo asked Jim if there were other boys like this. Jim answered "Yes". Dr Banardo told Jim to show him the other homeless boys.

Jim climbed up to the top of the market; Dr Banardo closely followed behind Jim. There Dr Banardo saw lots of homeless boys huddled up together on the roof of the market. Because of

this, Dr Banardo made a home for homeless boys and girls and never rejected a homeless boy or girl.

THE END!