

# A Child's World



## THE DOLL'S HOUSE

Katherine Mansfield

*(approximate reading time 18 minutes)*

- ▶ Dear old Mrs Hay came to stay with the Burnell family
- ▶ in the country. When she got home, she sent the children a doll's house. It was so big that the driver and Pat carried it into the courtyard; and there it stayed, propped up on two
- ▶ wooden boxes beside the stable door. No harm could come of it as it was summer, and perhaps the smell of paint would
- ▶ wear off by the time it had to be taken in. 'Sweet of old Mrs Hay, of course; most sweet and generous!', said Aunt Beryl. But, really, the smell of paint coming from the doll's house was quite enough, in Aunt Beryl's opinion, to make anyone seriously ill – even before the sacking was taken off; and when it was . . .

- There stood the doll's house, painted a dark, oily, spinach green, picked out with bright yellow. Its two solid little
- ▶ chimneys, which were glued on to the roof, were red and
  - ▶ white, and the door, which gleamed with yellow varnish, was like a little slab of toffee. Four windows, real windows, were divided into panes by a broad streak of green. There was actually a tiny porch, too, which was painted yellow, with big lumps of congealed paint hanging along the edge.