



1. Noisy Village

MY NAME is Lisa, and I am a girl, as I have already told you. I have two brothers, who are both older than I am. Karl is eleven years old and Bill is ten. Soon I'll be ten myself, but so far I'm only nine.

We live on a farm called Middle Farm, because it is between two others. The other two are called North Farm and South Farm. Anna and Britta live at North

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Farm, and they are girls too. Britta is eleven and — what luck— Anna is just my age.

A boy named Olaf lives at South Farm. Between his farm and ours is a large linden tree whose branches touch both houses at the upstairs windows. When the boys want to visit each other, they just climb through the tree.

Because there are so many children around making noise all the time, everyone calls the three farms Noisy Village. They are in a row like this:



My picture doesn't show our barn or the lake or the school, so you'll just have to imagine what they look like.

Sometimes we three girls play by ourselves without the boys, and sometimes the boys play without us. But usually we all play together, because most games are more fun when there are six instead of only three.

Olaf has a little sister named Kerstin who is still too

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little to play with us. She is only a year and a half old, and I can remember when she was born. That's the first thing I want to tell you about.