

On the farm
with
Harry

BOOK 3 -- *Milestones*

A
"Read a Book To a Kid"
Book

By
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Prologue

In case our story is new to you, *On the Farm with Harry* centers around four-year-old Harry and his parents, Robert and Jennifer Martin. They moved in February from Chicago to a small, twenty-two acre farm in Wisconsin near the town of Lake Ivanhoe.

The Martin family is a family of faith. You will find them asking for guidance and protection throughout, and expressing genuine love for their neighbors.

Since their move, they've purchased a small flock of black Fava chickens. The hens are just beginning to lay eggs, giving Harry the idea of marketing the excess. Perhaps a roadside stand? Dad says he'll think about it.

Adding to the livestock, they just recently acquired three Jersey cows which have since had calves, and are now providing milk and cream for the family. Dad, Mom, and Harry each chose and named a cow and calf. Harry named his cow Honey; the calf he named Princess.

The family then voted. Honey became the "bell cow" for the growing herd. [A group - or herd - normally follows a bell cow; Honey seemed pleased with her position, shaking her head to have the cowbell ring.]

Shortly after the move, Stormy, a beautiful English Shepherd puppy, joined the family. She's now six months old, and a constant companion to Harry. Then, at Harry's fifth birthday [he turned five on June 3], one of his new friends, Jeremy, presented him with a gray kitten which he named Misty.

So, with dog and cat, some forty or more chickens, and six cows the family farm continues to grow.

Dad (Robert) is a mechanic and inventor; Mom (Jennifer) is the homemaker. She plans to begin home

schooling Harry. Other mothers hearing this, are voicing their interest. They would like their children to join Harry as students in Jennifer's project. One small problem -- she's pregnant! Schooling must be put on hold. And so we begin another adventure.



1. It's Time

“Dad!” Harry yelled, swinging the front screen door open while motioning frantically with his arm. “Mom says ‘come quick’! She says ‘it’s time’!”

“I’ll be right there!” Dad responded. He dropped his toolbox and drill into the bed of his pickup. Then he drove the short distance from the white entrance gate, down the long driveway, to the front door.

Rushing in, he found Mom leaning against the kitchen bar, smiling up at him. “I had my first contraction about twenty minutes ago, Dear, and my water broke ten minutes ago.”

“Is that so?”

“Plus,” she sang out as she grabbed the banister to climb the stairs, “our little rascal is beginning to drop. I can feel the shift. So I think it’s time.”

“Sounds like it,” Dad agreed. “Have you called Gloria?”

“No. You do it. I’m heading upstairs to shower and change into something dry and comfortable.”

As he dialed the number of the midwife they had been dealing with, Harry stared, wide-eyed, at Mom as she disappeared upward. Then he turned to Dad.

“Are we having the baby today, Dad?”

“Looks that way, Son.” Then into the phone, “Yes, hi, Mrs. Rawlings, this is Robert Martin. It looks like . . . yes, I think it will happen today. Two hours?” Dad checked his watch -- 12:40 p.m. -- “Great. We’ll see you. Thanks, Gloria.”

Harry was all smiles. He danced up and down, gleefully, clapping his hands. “Yay! We’re having a baby!”

He turned to his pup. “Stormy, we’re having a baby brother or sister! We don’t know yet, but we’ll know real soon. We’re really having a baby, huh, Dad? Are we going to the hospital? Jeremy says babies are born in the hospital. Who is Gloria, Dad?”

“Ha! Slow down, Harry. Not all babies are born in a hospital. Some are born at home. Some are even delivered by taxicab drivers or policemen on the way to a hospital.

“Our baby will be born at home. Gloria Rawlings is a certified midwife. That means she is trained and qualified to deliver babies carefully and safely. We chose her shortly after we knew Mom was pregnant. She’s very experienced, and she’s very nice.”

“I hope she gets here in time,” Harry’s worried dark eyes searched Dad’s face for reassurance.

“She will,” Dad smiled tussling Harry’s mop of bushy, dark brown hair. “But let’s pray she does.”

He put his arm around Harry’s shoulder and thanked their Creator for being with Mom during the pregnancy and delivery. He then asked that the baby be healthy and perfect.

Harry joined in by asking that the midwife get there on time. They both finished their prayer with an “amen”.

Turning to his son, Dad said, “You will like Mrs. Rawlings, Harry.”

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REMEMBERING

1. Where was Dad when Harry yelled at him?
2. What did Mom mean by saying, “It’s time?”
3. Why did Mom go upstairs?
4. Why was Harry worried?
5. What did Dad and Harry pray for?
6. What does certified mean?