



A SCOTTISH DREAM COME TRUE

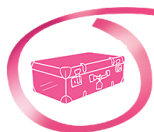
Colette placed the last clip in her fur and **smiled** in satisfaction.

“There!” she squeaked. “I’m ready!”

She went to join the Thea Sisters in the room they had been sharing for a few weeks. But instead of finding her four best friends, she found only one.

“Where are the others?” **Colette** asked Violet, who was happily **stuffing** a backpack with a blanket, a travel pillow, and a camera.





“Nicky is **feeding** the horses before we go,” Violet explained. “Pam is in the kitchen making sandwiches, and Paulina —”

Before Violet could finish her sentence, the door flew open and Paulina entered, a **MAP** in her paws.

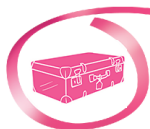
“For our picnic, Miss Kerr suggested we take the trail into the woods a few miles from here,” she announced, excitedly pointing to a spot on the **MAP**. “She says there’s a peaceful clearing with a *lovely* stream running through it.”

“That sounds so beautiful!” Colette said, sighing wistfully. She **LOOKED** out the window at the bright emerald-green grass and the sheep, cows, and ponies that Nicky was feeding for the last time. “Oh, I’m so sad to be leaving Scotland already. **This vacation went by too quickly!**”



Ready to go?

I'm ready!



“You’re right, Coco,” Paulina agreed, “but it’s not over yet!”

“Exactly,” Violet added. “Let’s enjoy the days we have left.”

The friends **smiled** as they reflected on the wonderful vacation. It wasn’t very long ago that Colette, Paulina, Violet, Nicky, and Pamela were at Mouseford Academy thinking about how they would **spend** their summer, when Paulina found an ad that seemed **perfect** for them.

Do you want a different kind of vacation?

Scotland is waiting!

Stay at an organic farm for free! In exchange, you’ll help us take care of the garden and animals.

The Thea Sisters were excited by the idea

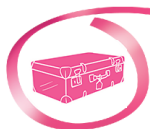
of visiting a beautiful farm where they would learn to take care of sheep and horses.

They immediately got in touch with Miss Kerr, the owner of the farm. Then they booked their **flight** from Whale Island and, in a short time, found themselves driving through the **green** countryside on their

SCOTLAND



Scotland is one of the four regions that make up the United Kingdom, along with Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. It covers the northern third of the island of Great Britain, and its landscape is rich with striking mountains, blue lakes, thick forests, and golden beaches. The famous Scottish Highlands region is known for its wild nature and beautiful castles.



Yum . . . shortbread!

way to Miss Kerr's farm. **That's how their very special summer started!**

When the Thea Sisters arrived at the farm, Miss Kerr greeted them warmly and made them feel right at home with some of her delicious shortbreads — Scottish **butter cookies** —

and *cranachan*, a **traditional** dessert made with raspberries, oats, honey, and cream.

Taking care of the garden and the animals was, of course, work, but it was also fun. Nicky in particular had



Seals on the Scottish coast.

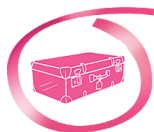
really **taken to** two of the ponies on the farm. Plus, the five friends had rented an SUV and visited the **surrounding** areas, where they explored breathtaking **WATERFALLS**, **CAVES**, **bays**, and **castles**.



A charming Scottish castle.

The vacation had gone by in a flash, and they were almost at the end. Miss Kerr had suggested that the mouselets rest and **visit** all the things they hadn't seen before they had to leave. So that day the Thea Sisters had organized a **relaxing** picnic, and now they couldn't wait for their adventure.

"We have enough **sandwiches** for a week!" Pam exclaimed as she returned from



the kitchen holding a basket of food, napkins, and utensils.

“And I’ve loaded the backpacks with everything we need,” Violet said.

“Great!” Colette exclaimed. “Now let’s get Nicky and go!”

This will be the best picnic!

