

Young People

The Fairy's Visit

It was several days before the brother Bears and our three little friends, Geof, Chrissie and Jack set off on their visit to the Land of the Good Fairies. This time the Bears arrived in their airship, which came floating gently down on the grass plot in front of the nursery windows.

The three children shouted with delight as they saw the two friendly Bears alight from the airship, and immediately began to beg for "rides," all talking together at the top of their voices.

"Why, of course," answered Bear, "that is what we have come for. Come along, we have far to go, and must not waste any time." While Bear was speaking Forbear was busy unstrapping a suit case, out of which he pulled three lovely little fur coats and caps. They were made exactly like the coats that the Bears always wore themselves.

"You will feel cold you know when we get up high," explained Forbear as he helped Geof into the largest of the three coats. When all the children were dressed up in the coats and caps they looked for all the world like three more Teddy Bears, for there was very little to be seen of their faces.

In they climbed, and away they went and strange as it may seem they did not feel the least bit afraid as the airship sped upwards.

"This is the airship we always take children in," said Bear, "it is a very safe one for them and we never have an accident. That is the name we have given it," he went on, pointing with his paw to a white flag floating aloft, on which was embroidered in gold letters the word "Trust."

The journey seemed all too short for the three little travellers. They felt that they should like to go on and on in this wonderful airship, but good things must come to an end sometime even when you are on your way to Fairyland, and it seemed to them only a short time before the Bears called their attention to a bright light shining just ahead of them.

"What is that?" asked Geof. "That,"

explained Bear, "is the sun shining on the gate of Good Fairy Land. I expect you have heard that it is made of ivory and gold, but very few grown-up mortals ever behold it, and those who do are so entranced with the sight that they find themselves unable to describe it to anyone else, and so it is seldom talked about in your land."

By this time they had gently descended to a beautiful stretch of green grass outside the gate. The children's eyes were quite dazzled by the wonderful beauty of what they saw before them. The gate was shining and gleaming in the sun, and in and out of it passed beautiful little fairies, all seeming to be busy about something, and yet playful and happy as they skipped along. A group of fairy children espied the Bears as they and the earth children stepped out of the airship. They came running to meet them calling out "Welcome! Welcome! to the Land of the Good Fairies."

Now when the children had taken off their coats just before getting out of the airship, a strange thing had happened. Although they knew nothing of it they came out of those coats tiny and wee, so that when they met the fairy children, they all seemed about the same size and felt quite at home.

After the fairies had given the children a loving greeting, one of them who seemed to be a sort of leader among them, turned to Bear and asked him if he wanted any wings for his little visitors.

"Not at present, thank you, Kind-heart," answered Bear.

"What a pretty name," thought Chrissie as she heard this, and something in the little fairy's face as she gazed at her reminded her of the first fairy she had ever seen, that dear and gracious Fairy Love who had visited her on that dreary afternoon days ago. She turned eagerly to Bear and Forbear:

"Oh, please," she cried, "Do first of all take us to see your sister Fairy Love."

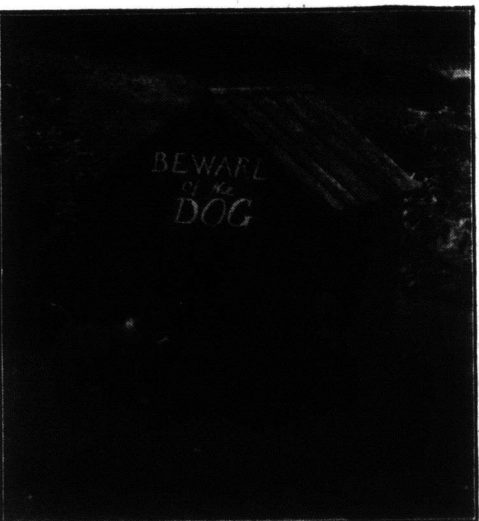
"Why, yes, certainly," said Bear, "you will all like to see her I know, and Kind-

heart will lead the way; you know she is one of the Maids of Honour to Love."

They passed under the Fairy Portal, and, oh, what a different scene met their eyes from what had greeted them in bad Fairyland. Here were beautiful gardens, fountains, trees and flowers, and so many lovely things that the children seemed quite bewildered.

"How clean and pure everything seems!" gasped Chrissie, hardly knowing that she spoke aloud.

"Yes," said Forbear, "we are very particular about our town. Fairy Love is always sending out her little servants to tidy up anything unclean or ugly that may get blown over from your earth world, or carried in on the feet of our fairy messengers. There are two of her little helpers," he went on, pointing to two little boy fairies dressed as pages in a livery of blue and silver. Their names shone in silver letters on the left arms of their blue tunics, and Chrissie read aloud, "Forgive and Forget." "They are brothers you know," said Bear, "like we are" nodding his head at Forbear. "Forgive is such a bright quick little worker; Forget is not quite so quick as his brother sometimes, but Forgive will help him with his work if he gets a little slow, and they are the best of friends."



While they were talking they had been nearing the beautiful home of Fairy Love. It was the prettiest house you could imagine, and the door always stood wide open so that anyone could go in and rest when they liked. Kind Fairy Love was always ready to help any of her fellow fairies, and was always busy, as she had told Chrissie at their first meeting, trying to help the little earth girls and boys who needed her. Just now she happened to be at home, and welcomed the three children and her two brothers, Bear and Forbear, with gracious kindness.

"So your three little friends really want to get to know me better do they?" she said to Bear and Forbear. "Ah, you good boys, that is some of your doings, I expect," she went on, hugging the two Bears fondly. "Well, you must all stay to dinner with me, and then you can have a look round our beautiful land."

"You have a great deal to see," said Fairy Love as they rose from the dinner table. "I think it would be best for you each to have some wings, and then you will be able to get about quite fast."

Now you all know what it feels like to be fitted with a new coat or dress, but I don't suppose you have ever had a pair of wings tried on. Certainly it was a new experience for the three children, and they were each wondering in their heart whether they would not be afraid to try to use them. But they had forgotten for the moment that they were in Fairyland, and there strange things happen, and difficult things are made easy. No sooner were the three children fitted with a pair of wings each, than Fairy Love called to Fairy Kindheart to take them for a tour round Fairyland.

"But aren't you -oming," said Chrissie, turning to Bear and Forbear.

"You don't really need the Bears any more to-day," said Fairy Love, "Kindheart will be a splendid guide, and I want to send my brothers to some children I know who are always quarrelling over their toys, they shall come to you another day if you want them."

It was wonderful how easy the children found it to fly after Fairy Kindheart as she started off and called them to follow. It seemed to be no work at all, but they

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