

Two Pair of Twinses

For W. H. M. by Ida M. Halliburton

THERE were one Pair of Twins already in the Town of Trees. They were Mrs. Kangaroo's Twins, and she had brought them up very carefully. They never soiled their clothes; they never tore them. They never raced or romped so their fur was never rumpled or their ears never out of order as you sometimes see rollicking, frolicking Kangaroo children get.

Their mother, Mrs. Kangaroo, washed and combed them each morning and they sat on a bench in the sunshine or walked in the shade until lunch. Then they took off their pinnies and took a nap. After their nap they sang songs or learned verses until tea time and after tea they went to bed.

Yes, indeed, this Pair of Twins were very, very well-behaved, they were very demure; and they were called Elisha and Elijah.

Now, whenever any of the mothers in the Town of Trees wanted to know anything about raising children or wanted a pinny pattern, they visited Mrs. Kangaroo, who liked to give advice and lend pinny patterns and whose Twins were so very very well-behaved, so very demure that they were models for all the other children in the Town of Trees.

Now one day Mrs. Kangaroo heard that there were new people come to live in the Town. These people, the Elephants, had a pair of Twins, of rollicking, frolicking Twins. But day after day passed, and Mrs. Elephant did not come to her for advice nor for pinny patterns, and Mrs. Kangaroo began to feel very slighted for she wanted to tell Mrs. Elephant how to raise Twins.

So one day she put new starched pinnies on Elisha and Elijah, and after telling them they must be very, very well-behaved, they must be very demure, she took one by each hand and started out to call on Mrs. Elephant with the frolicking, rollicking Twins. She looked very dignified as she walked along with an Elisha Twin by one hand and an Elijah Twin by the other and her eye glass dangling. They walked along so nicely that their little tails made careful marks like this *~~~~~* in the sand. If they had been frolicking, rollicking Twins, like the Elephant Twins, their tail tracks would have looked like this *~~~~~* and Mrs. Kangaroo would have been ashamed of them.

Now Mrs. Elephant who had finished her dinner, and had sent her rollicking, frolicking Twins out to play, was taking a nap. She rose when Mrs. Kangaroo knocked and hastily pushed a whole trunkful of soiled pinnies under the bed for her naughty Twins had been rollicking and frolicking with the laundry bag before they went out.

Then she opened the door and Mrs. Kangaroo introduced her Twins. Both Twins curtsied and sat down. They smoothed down their starched pinnies, folded their hands in their laps and began to be very, very well behaved, very demure as their mother had told them.

After waiting a long time for Mrs. Elephant to ask advice, which she did not, Mrs. Kangaroo asked to see the Twins who came when they were called, looking very, very soiled. Mrs. Kangaroo put on her eye glass and asked their names. Mrs. Elephant says, "I call them Dot and Dimple; but for short, I call this one Twinkly Toes, because she is so active on her feet." Now while her mother talked, Twinkly Toes kept looking at her feet and twirling her toe in the sand. "I call this one Twiddle Thumbs because she is so handy with her fingers"; and all the time Twiddle Thumbs kept twisting the corner of a very soiled pinny.

"Now, my dear Dot and Dimple," said Mrs. Elephant, "you may take Elisha and Elijah out to play."

"O," said Mrs. Kangaroo, "My dear Twins never play, but they may go out for a little walk, if they walk in the shade."

So the Two Pairs of Twinses started out and the two mothers settled down for a good talk.

But Twinkly Toes and Twiddle Thumbs couldn't bear to walk in the shade; they simply could not be very well behaved or

demure; so they led the very good little Twins down to the creek, where the mud was sticky and black, and the water was green and slimy.

Here they had built a raft and they asked Elisha and Elijah to go for a ride. "But how shall we get on?" asked both Twins at once, looking at their clean pinnies. "Why, we'll carry you." So each Elephant Twin took a Kangaroo Twin under her arm and carried them to the raft. But though the raft would hold one pair of Twins, it wouldn't hold two, and in a moment, Two Pair of Twinses were dumped in the green and slimy water and were clambering out on the black and sticky mud.

These well-behaved Kangaroo Twins were not half so sorry as you would suppose when they found their starched pinnies all mud and their hair all wet and rumpled. "Now," they said, "We can't get any dirtier, and we can play all we like." So the Two Pairs of Twinses sat all the afternoon and made mud pies with the black and sticky mud mixed with green and slimy water and put them in the sun to bake. Then they sat down and buried their feet and legs in the stickiest mud that was left, and so their mother's found them. But I'm not going to tell you the rest. Some people think the story just starts here.

"That was an ideal marriage, was it not?" "It certainly was. He couldn't afford to buy a car, and she was not able to keep a chauffeur for hers."—Baltimore American.

How She Got Even

A West Side young woman was commissioned by her father the other day to buy some neckties, says a writer in the Chicago Record-Herald.

She thought she knew exactly what he wanted. She was sure she knew what she wanted him to have, and in any event she did not need the assistance of the clerk. But the clerk had a great deal of advice to give, and he gave it in a flippant, aggressive manner which was most obnoxious to the young woman. Finally he brought out a line of gorgeous Ascots.

"There," he said, with an impertinently knowing smile, "I'm sure he'll like one of those. All the young men like them."

The girl glanced at them indifferently and then at the young man, as if she saw him for the first time. "Oh, he's not as young as you are," she said. "He's a full-grown man."



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