

but Mr. Strickland would be home in a few weeks more, and Julie must be a little prepared.

"I wish I could remember something; but my head feels so queer, you know. Sometimes I think I'm going to remember it all, then it goes away so quick."

"That was the fever, lovey; you had it very bad. Try not to remember anything," Martha gently urged; and Julie, with a patient smile, would give up thinking at all.

If her head didn't feel so queer, she said, she would be very happy, she thought, for everybody was very kind—both auntie and Uncle John. A small white kitten was allowed to come and play upon her bed, and its antics and its funny ways always made Julie laugh.

"That's right," cried Martha, laughing too. "Laughing will make you well." And Julie seemed to get well very fast after that and was soon able to leave her room, and would follow Martha about everywhere, just as the dead Julie had done.

Julie was never tired of hearing about papa. She knew all about her little history now, and puzzled why she couldn't remember it in any way.

Had she really lived there nearly all her life with Martha at the farm? Martha said they had lived together in a tiny cottage before; perhaps it was that time she was trying to think about, and could never remember at all. But papa would soon be home.

With anxious eagerness Julie was looking forward now for him, and it was the thought of his coming that made her get well so soon. The mists would all clear up when he came back, and she wouldn't be always trying to remember something else.

"Is it to-day, auntie?" she asked, as soon as she opened her eyes on the long looked for morning. "Is papa coming home to-day?"

"Yes, my pet," said Martha, in a rather quavering voice.

"Aren't you glad, auntie?" asked Julie, wonderingly. "You don't look very glad."

The tears began to roll down Martha's cheeks. "I'm glad for you, my pet, but sorry for myself. I'll be so lonesome when my Julie's gone."

A shade fell over Julie's face as she stroked poor Martha's hand. "Don't cry, don't cry!" she urged. "I'll come to stay with you again, you know. Papa will let me come if I ask him."

"Bless you! bless you!" cried Martha, crying more and more. Ah, she had more to cry about than the thought of losing Julie!

But she must not waste time in tears; there was plenty to do to-day. The house must be made quite spick and span to receive the expected guest, and plenty of work for her willing hands seemed to take the trouble out of her mind.

Poor little Julie! She saw that Martha was very much perturbed, and it made her almost guilty to be so happy herself when somebody else looked sad; so she tried to make up in her own little way by helping as much as she could, and fetched and carried for Martha all day long.

He was coming at seven o'clock;

it would be quite dark when he came, and John Gerring was to have an early tea to get off to meet him in time at the station seven miles away.

"Uncle John hasn't taken the trap and horse," said Julie, who had watched him start off in his Sunday clothes.

"No dear," said Martha, "they will drive home in a cab;" and she put on Julie's smartest pinnie—it was the other Julie's pinnie, of course—brushed out the long fair hair afresh, and sat down with her by the parlor fire, seeing with half pleasure and half sadness how the pensive little face was lifted up.

"They've come!" cried Julie, springing up: "I hear the carriage wheels," and she stood for a moment with her hands upon her heart—it seemed to thump so loud. Would she remember everything now? Would papa make it all quite clear?

For a moment Martha seemed turned to stone, and sat as if she were glued to her chair; then the blood came rushing to her face again, and she got upon her feet.

"Lovey, don't come into the draught," she said; "I shall bring Mr. Strickland in here."

(To be continued.)

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