

Grammar School within a stone's-throw of Priory Square, and had many companions amongst the boys, and had the busy life which falls to the lot of the modern schoolboy. They were not particularly elated at the thought of Nina's return; but the twins, Fred and Peach, were delighted, and spent their time making many preparations for the great event.

Nina had, all to herself, a very small room at the top of the big house. Her mother had given her this bedroom soon after her father's death, and when she was still quite a little child. Nina had ornamented the room after her own fashion; and, as she never did anything like anybody else, it had a quaintness and charm about it which can be better felt than described. It was not, strictly speaking, a pretty room. The walls, instead of being papered in the ordinary way with the ordinary modern and æsthetic paper, were covered all over with pictures. A good many of these pictures had been drawn by the little girl herself, and a good many by her favourite companions; but some had been cut out of the illustrated papers. One side of the room was devoted entirely to the representation of animals—animals of all sorts and sizes, of all kinds and degrees. Another wall represented fairies, gnomes, and brownies and sprites—some coloured, some in black-and-white. There were