



The Christmas Eve Dog by Patience Eden

HEY did not have very much money. In fact, they had very little. If you had peered into Ma Grady's worn pocketbook you would have seen only a two-dollar bill and a few stray coppers. This represented three months' careful saving for Christmas. The Gradys were poor and there were seven of them. Pa Grady was killed in an accident three years ago, since when Ma Grady and Susie and Bill had worked hard to keep the family together. But all the hardship in the world could not dampen the spirits of that fighting family.

Susie Grady was a plucky fifteen, and got small jobs of looking after the neighbors' babies, or coming in as a mother's helper. Bill Grady was twelve. He picked up odd quarters in all sorts of clever ways. Ma Grady, that rosy, smiling, battling woman, had her big arms in the suets from morning until night. She did the washings of half the town.

And so Christmas Eve came. And Ma Grady stepped down to where the stores were and expended her two dollars and a few coppers on gifts for her family. In the meantime Susie and Bill were busy about a Christmas tree. Bill had bought it at a great reduction because it was so ugly.

Susie paused in draping a bit of tinsel on a branch. "Don't you hear a crying?" she asked.

"Haven't got time to listen to the wind," growled Bill, who was feeling too important to be bothered with trifles.

Susie went on with her work. Then—"But I do hear something, sure as the world!" she insisted. Bill grunted and stood off to squint up his eyes at some cotton he had just arranged like snow.

"It's a scratching sound and a whine. I'm going to see." Susie slipped into the hall. She opened the door. There, shivering on the sill, was the coldest, littiest dog she had ever seen in her life. It had long, silken ears and the biggest brown eyes imaginable.

"Why, your poor little beastie!" Susie gathered him up in her arms. A grateful pink tongue lapped her face. A cold little body pressed against her warm neck. She hurried back to the Christmas tree.

"Look! Look what I've found!" Bill came over to examine the dog. "Cute little fellow, ain't he?" he conceded. "Guess he's one of them new-fangled kind; a Chinese Pekingese. Wonder why he came to our door?"

The children stood patting the new treasure. And the wee dog made tiny snortings of pleasure, wriggling and squirming with delight. The Christmas tree was forgotten.

"Don't get him to barking or it will wake up the other kids!" warned Susie.

For half an hour the two children played with the small stranger. Bill and Susie had never seen such a



The Two Children Played With the Small Stranger.

friendly little creature. They began to think of him as their own—as a Christmas gift come especially for them.

A loud rapping on the door. A rapping as of a cane knocked smartly against the panels.

"Mercy!" said Susie, "who's that?" And she flew to answer it.

"Have you seen?" asked a man's voice, a deep, businesslike voice, "a small dog about here?"

"Why—" stammered Susie, "why—eh—"

A sharp little bark from the other room.

"Ah," said the stranger, "I perceive that you have. Allow me to enter and retrieve my property."

Before Susie could say a word the big man had pushed by her and was in the room where the Christmas tree stood.

Bill had the dog tight in his arms. There was an expression on the boy's face of dogged determination. He looked as though nothing in the world

could separate him from this new-found happiness.

"Yes," said the stranger, "that is the little fellow. He got away from me while I was giving him a walk. The mistress would be wild if I lost him. I'll have to teach him a lesson." He reached the dog.

"No, no!" cried Bill. "We found him and took him in. He's ours!"

"Why, Bill," said Susie, "you mustn't speak that way!"

The man laughed. "I don't wonder you want him—he's a cute little tyke. But I must take him back home. I'm to drive the family to a party tonight and I'm late now."

But Bill relinquished his hold of the dog not a whit. "You can't have him! He's mine!"

As the big man in a driver's livery took a step forward his glance fell on a framed photograph. For an instant he blinked very fast. Then he scrutinized the picture more closely. His formal speech lapsed into natural expression. "By gorry if that ain't the spittin' image of me oldest brother Tim. Tim Grady, or I'm a liar!"

Bill and Susie stood spellbound. The little dog made a snuffling sound with his nose.

Just at this moment who should come puffing in the door but Mrs. Grady herself, her arms laden with packages, her face rosy with the cold. "Mother!" screamed Bill and Susie at once, "mother! Here's a man who lost a little dog!"

Mrs. Grady set her bundles on a chair and came in. The very breath of clean outdoors came with her.

"Mrs. Grady," said the man, "could your name be Nora Finnegan?"

Mrs. Grady smiled. "It could—and it is!"

"Well," said the man, and a queer, shy look passed over his face, "maybe you won't be welcoming me—but I'm Tim's youngest brother, Tom. I ran away from home when I was sixteen. I've been pretty near all over

the country. Just came to work for Mrs. Platt in October—right here in this town. I lost track of my family—but I did hear about Tim's death. I was in California then, I'm awful ashamed—"

The heart of Mrs. Grady was a large one. She forgot as easily as she forgave. And it took her only a few minutes to make this big youngest brother of her husband very much at home.

"You was always his favorite," she said, "and he used to worry about you a lot. Are ye married?"

"No," confessed Tom Grady, "not I. And by the livin' soul of St. Patrick, I'll lend a shoulder in this house! I've had a hard time, Nora, and you've done a fine job by the kids. It'll be grand to come here my nights off. I was feelin' terrible lonesome this Christmas. I have most of the day tomorrow and you bet I'll hike it over here, as fast as I can. Will ye invite me?"

Susie slipped a shy hand into her new uncle's big fist. Bill moved nearer, his eyes round with bewilderment. He still held the little dog tight in his arms. "Can you bring the dog to visit, too?" he asked.

"I don't know about that, but I do know that I can buy another dog just like him for a lad I've just found—a boy by the name of Bill."

The Gradys had a merry Christmas—the merriest Christmas for years. Big Tom romped with the children like a boy. And barking away with all his exuberant might was a brown and white dog with large eyes and a plume of a tail—"To Bill with a Merry Christmas from his Uncle Tom" had been on the tag that came with the new puppy.

"Bedad, a fine day!" sighed Mrs. Grady. "Tis maybe I can give up a dozen washins or so and tend to me family. That Tom is a whale of a lad for helpin'."

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CHRISTMAS HOLLY

THERE are four kinds of Christmas holly, two of which are not in reality a true holly. First, native American holly, grown along the eastern and southern Atlantic coast from Cape Cod to Texas for about 50 to 100 miles inland. Second, European holly (more glossy and larger leaved), grown in Oregon for Christmas decoration. Third, California holly; this is not a true holly. California holly is known as toyon or Christmas berry. The leaves are nearer like the mountain laurel, and the plant is grown along the coast of California and in the foothills. Fourth, Oregon holly, or Oregon grape; the leaf is similar to the true holly, but it is not a holly. It is the native barberry.

costume is completed by a navy blue felt toque surmounted by a turquoise blue velvet puff, arranged, or rather "chiffonne," with the art found only in the really good establishments. Sometimes two or three shades of color are combined in one dress, following the example set by flowers, such as hortensias, begonias and convolvulus.

It has been suddenly discovered that fullness can be made to bring out the line. This is done by cleverly contrived contrasts. First of all, fullness is put into the sleeves to bring out the shoulder and accentuate the slenderness of the wrist. Then we have a set of tucks that swell out and fall softly, leaving us to imagine the grace of what is under all this drapery.

Fullness has now made its appearance in the back, where a slight blouse effect enhances the recovered waistline, the shape of the hips and the elegant tapering of the limbs.

Used in front, fullness gives full value to lights and shadows and makes the general effect of the outline slenderer. As it is put chiefly in the apron part of the skirt, it gives the bust a juvenile look.

New Evening Coats

Evening coats of small-patterned metal brocade are straight of line and while fur appears in wide bands about the sleeves, the collar is usually of the material itself and is small and close fitting

Velvet in Favor for Winter Wear

Popular Material Promises to Hold Good Throughout Season.

The principal conclusion at which one arrives this season is that velvet is chiefly in favor, asserts a fashion correspondent in the Kansas City Star. A clever woman could not be better pleased, for she knows nothing lovelier or more becoming than this royal material, which lends itself to all styles, and with which draperies, dresses and wraps can all be made. A good many smart women failed to resist the temptation to show off their new otter and golden breitschwanz coats early in the season. The principal novelty consists of furs of all kinds which have had the natural colors taken out of them and transformed into shaded-off tints. Hitherto Dame Fashion has shown some respect for the natural beauty of fine furs. She has now taken to disguising them in much the same manner as she makes up her face. We have gone even beyond this point, and furs are now dyed as if they were worn materials. Pink, white and mauve ermine are rather surprising, and so are rabbit skins endowed with all the colors of the rainbow.

Skirts may be a trifle longer or show a tendency toward a higher waistline, but some are even, shorter than the summer dresses, as close-fitting as one could wish and with waists varying like a barometer and either going up gradually to the natural place, long ago abandoned, or descending almost to the knees.

In reality, women are charmed with the eclecticism of fashion. There is no longer any tyranny. Everyone can show herself under aspects as varied as the feminine mind. Every observant eye has noted the reversion to the bolero (kept away from the waist by braid or fur trimmings) and also certain novelties in blouses and sweaters, as well as some wraps which are made shorter in front than at the back. The idea is no doubt to bring out the curves of the body, but the effect is to accentuate their absence. Cleverly cut corsets and cunningly contrived waist arrangements enable the modern woman to suppress the form of which her grandmother was so proud.

She also likes the ingenious combination of groups of pale blue Tifina plaits alternating with strips of navy blue, also plaited, on a skirt. The corsage, made of the same plain crepe, is slightly bloused over a kid waist belt with cubist designs in two shades of blue. This charming and very Parisian

Evening Gowns Are of Two Different Fabrics

Many of the new evening gowns are made of two different fabrics, observes a fashion correspondent in the New York Times, usually of two different colors, as they are in a gown from Paton that forms the basis of a beautiful black and white ensemble. The slightly bloused-in-back waist of this gown is in a supple white velvet, and the skirt, draped with an up-in-front line, of black velvet with a startling flash of white where a fan plait of white velvet is set in at the front. Three stripes of two-inch crystal bead banding mark a deep U-shaped yoke on the bodice front and swings loose at the back to form a capelle outline.

Completing this distinctive ensemble is a coat of black velvet cut with a cape back and collared with ermine. A startling note is the use of ermine as lining, regal ermine usually meeting with a respectful consideration not accorded to linings. An ensemble of this type was made for the queen of Rumania.

Suede Calf Leggings for Blustery Weather

Suede calf leggings have been designed to be worn for outdoors on chilly winter days. The leggings are fashioned of deep-pile suede calf that is soft in texture and rich in appearance. It is, however, designed or marked in reptilian effects. Some of them are trimmed with edgings of another leather in the same or a contrasting color. Fancy buckles, rows of bone buttons or zipper-like fastenings make the choice easy and simple according to the individual idea regarding the manipulation of such articles of apparel. Another interesting feature of these leggings is the fact that they may be had in all the new fabric colors, including tan, brown, gray, green, blue and black.

Fur Trimmings on Coat Add Note of Distinction

Fur trimmings on coats are the rule rather than the exception this season, and the use of fur is marked by discretion and restraint. Even in instances where it is employed with the most lavish hand the effect is always distinguished and in perfect taste. On the other hand, for those who prefer to wear a separate neckpiece, there are any number of models devoid of fur. They attract attention by reason of their skillful cut and meticulous finish.

Stitching, usually of the same tone, is brought into play as an important detail of ornamentation.

Use Coconut Oil Soap to Soften Hard Water

The hard water problem is one that is faced in many sections of the United States. In such cases it is almost impossible to get a cleansing suds with soaps that will work well in soft water. An easy way of overcoming the hard water difficulty is to use any soap made of 100 per cent coconut oil. The use of such a soap softens the water and produces a quick and generous suds, cleans thoroughly and rinses easily. Using coconut oil soap is better than depending upon unsanitary cisterns as a means of securing soft water.

Buckles Great and Small

Nowadays buckles great and small are all the rage in Paris. After choosing an expensive shoe in dooskin or kid at one of the fashionable "bootiers," the Parisienne next goes over to the special shoebase to choose a buckle to match. In the cheaper boulevard stores, too, about 60 per cent of the models are decorated with a buckle.

Gray Fox Trimming Adds to This Squirrel Coat



Marian Nixon, leading lady in motion pictures, wears a beautiful gray squirrel coat trimmed with gray fox on collar and cuffs. She also wears a periwinkle-blue velvet hat with ermine and carries a handsome bead bag.

The Kitchen Cabinet

Promotion comes to him who sticks unto his work and never kicks; Who watches neither clock nor sun To tell him when his task is done; Who toils not by a stated chart, Defining to a jot his part, But gladly does a little more Than he's remunerated for.

SEASONABLE SWEETS

Very few, young or old, refuse sweets. Children crave them, and two or three pieces after a meal will satisfy the craving and provide the heat-producing and energy-building elements their young bodies require.

Salt Water Taffy.—Put one and one-fourth pounds of sugar, one and one-fourth pounds of white sirup and one pint of water in a saucepan and stir until boiling begins. Wash down the sides of the saucepan with a damp cloth and continue boiling to the brittle stage. Take from the fire, add a tablespoonful of butter, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of salt and turn out on greased marble or platters. When cool enough to handle, two persons can pull it. Work in the coloring and flavoring while pulling. Cut into small pieces with shears and roll in waxed paper.

Raisin Clusters.—Take two cupfuls of granulated sugar, one tablespoonful of cocoa and one-half cupful of milk. Boil just six minutes, counting the time the bubbling begins. Add a tablespoonful of butter and one cupful of raisins, stir enough to mix and drop by spoonfuls on waxed paper.

Peanut Cream Fudge.—Cook to a soft ball two-thirds of a cupful of cream, two cupfuls of brown sugar, one-half teaspoonful of salt and one heaping tablespoonful of peanut butter. Beat until creamy and pour into a buttered tin. Cut into squares.

Peanut Brittle.—Put one cupful of granulated sugar into an iron frying pan and stir until it forms a sirup, push back from the flame and stir in one cupful of peanuts which have been skinned and heated in the oven, add a teaspoonful of butter and a pinch of soda. Turn out as thinly as possible in a greased dripping pan. When cold break into pieces.

Puffed Rice Brittle.—Boil together one cupful of sugar, one-half cupful of water and a teaspoonful of vinegar for five minutes, add two tablespoonfuls of sirup, one tablespoonful of butter, one-half teaspoonful of salt and boil to the brittle stage. Add puffed rice, with peanuts if desired; stir in as thick as possible. Put out in a greased dripping pan to cool.

Orange Pie.—Bake a rich pastry shell and when cool fill with orange jelly. Cover with whipped cream sweetened and flavored and serve cold.

Honey Dishes

Honey is the nectar of flowers gathered by the bees and ripened by them in the hive. The nectar is changed in the honey sac so that it finally becomes delicious flavored honey. Honey being a natural sweet is easy of digestion.

From honey will keep better, more moist and better flavored than those prepared from sugar or molasses.

Oberlin Honey Layer Cake.—Take two-thirds of a cupful of shortening, one cupful of honey, three well-beaten eggs, one-half cupful of milk, two cupfuls of flour and one and one-half teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Bake in layers and fill with whipped cream sweetened and flavored with strained honey.

Honey Tea Cake.—Take one cupful of strained honey, one-half cupful of sour cream, two eggs, one-half cupful of shortening, two cupfuls of flour, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, a little salt; beat well and bake in a moderate oven.

Honey Cookies.—Take one cupful each of honey, sugar, shortening and sour cream, add three well-beaten eggs, a teaspoonful of soda, a teaspoonful of flavoring and flour to roll.

Pumpkin Pie.—Take one cupful of well-cooked brown pumpkin, add one-half cupful of honey, two eggs, one pint of rich milk, one teaspoonful of ginger, a grating of nutmeg, a fourth teaspoonful of cinnamon, salt and a few drops of lemon extract. Bake slowly.

Honey Butterscotch.—Take one cupful of butter, two cupfuls of sugar, two cupfuls of strained honey, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, boil ten minutes, pour into buttered pans and mark off into squares.

Honey Pudding Sauce.—Take one cupful of honey, one-fourth cupful of water, one tablespoonful of butter, a pinch of cinnamon and nutmeg and the juice of one lemon. Boil all together fifteen minutes.

Honey Candy.—To one quart of honey take six tablespoonfuls of butter, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar and boil until it hardens in water. Flavor with two teaspoonfuls of lemon extract and one-half teaspoonful of soda. Pour into buttered pans to cool. Mark off into squares before too hard.

Her Idea

While she was motoring with her father little Audrey saw beside the road a car which had been wrecked and stripped of everything that could be removed.

"Oh, papa," she cried with a merry laugh, "just see what the mosquitoes have done to that poor old fiver."—Kansas City Star.

We do not count a man's years until he has nothing else to count.—Emerson.

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