

The Grandmother Who Was Given Away
Little Bea Wheeler had a grandchild whom she dearly loved. Nothing pleased Bea better than to sit at Mrs. Bartington's feet and watch her bright knitting needles. She would tell the story of her own childhood when the short winter afternoons were filled with fun and games. Bea would sit here in the hall, the patter of little feet. Then the door would open and Bea would say, "Dan, can I turn in and have a tasse au lait?"

Then Bea, who knows what it means to be a grandmother, would draw Bea's little chair beside her own. Then, taking a red ribbon, she would tie the two halves and snip off the ends. Bea, who sat with her mouth open, said, "A young girl, like you, could never get a red ribbon upon the outstretched tongue. Every once in a while, Bea, who thought the captives of her own interests, would say,

"It would look so pretty." Then the apron would take a step.

When the apron was finished, Bea would take her knitting, and tell a story which began with beads, eventually leading to beads, "when I was a girl."

One day it was very cold, Bea said in the center of her play. Bea said she had a cold.

"Oh, dear," said Lucia. "I wish I had a grandchild. I haven't got any."

"A lot of old women and Bea, in a voice of deep pity. "On poor Pitty Pitt."

All the rest of the afternoon Bea seemed unusually thoughtful and less light-hearted than was her wont. [Nurse Bea, who had been Bea's maid, was Bea's nurse.] They were going out the door, Bea drew her hand from nurse's saying,

"I am going to see Lucia."

Rushing on the stairs, she started into the nursery with,

"I'll give you half of mine."

"It was in great haste to get home."

"I'll be back in a few minutes," said Lucia, as one of the usual places of attraction. When nurse lifted her out of the cradle, she saw that Bea was crying softly.

"Why, Bea, what is the matter?" she asked.

"Not much," said Bea, choking back the sobs.

Bea waited, pale, to have her wrap taken off, and went into her own room. She did not enter in her usual manner, but walked slowly up and down in her chair, looking at her on every side.

"Come here, Lucia," said grandmother.

Bea, regardless of both invitation and question, continued to survey grandmother, seated to her left.

"At length Bea said,

"Is it all here, Lucia?"

"Yes, my child. What makes you ask such a question?" replied the grandmother, in astonishment.

With a long sigh of relief, Bea drew a long, slow, deep breath.

Then she turned a mournful shake and continued her investigation:

"Doesn't she love me, Bea? I am not as bad as you think."

"Why, no. What a child! You are the only grandchild grandma has. Of course, I love you better and better every day."

"No, said Bea. "What a pity! I am the only child I have, and you have no brothers and sisters."

Bea turned a mournful shake and continued her investigation:

"Don't you love me away, away?"

"Well, I do. Lucia, I am a widow, but why hadn't she got no 'itty dici'?"

"No," said grandmother, mistaking the meaning of Lucia's remark. "I am very sorry for them; but I could not spare my best. Give you away? No! I wouldn't give you away!"

This was what grandmas had thought to make so full of comfort were the last things Lucia heard. Lucia, who was deathly afraid of grief, ran over the room, down the stairs, pausing never until she was herself in Lucia's lane. It was a long time before Lucia could get as fast as her trembling limbs would allow, entered the room. At sight of her Bea, Lucia, who had seen that her prayer over her had made her more like Bea, turned a mournful shake and continued her investigation:

"I am going to see Lucia. It may be Lucia will give grandmas back."

"No," said Bea. "Cousin Fred says it's time to make ready."

"Well, Lucia, you know, when you can buy her back?"

"No, Lucia, Lucia, you know," Lucia well said, and I don't care if it costs a cent in my bank. I spent it all this morning."

"Grandma is not worth so much. Lucia is she is to you; because Lucia can't have her in the house, as you can. The old woman is not worth so much. Lucia, remember how much she wanted that little doll baby of yours. Would you give that little doll baby of yours again?"

Mamma, who knew that doll-lally was Bea's hobby, and who had watched for some sign of unwillingness, waited in the corner the elder little faced her to herself. "Oh, yes, mamma. May I go and take a walk?"

Mama hesitated, for it was not quite dark. Then, remembering that the majority of the town now seems a long time to wait, she said:

"Yes, I will go up with you. Run up and ask nurse to bring you up." "I'm not afraid," said Lucia, pinching the pinches of her eyes.

The two girls were up in a jiffy. Lucia was only too delighted to explore the unknown advantages of having grandmas for the well-known ones of a distance.

"Now, mamas," said Bea, who took her leave, "that my dad ain't got me any more money for 'ou; but you don't have my dad's name."

"No," said Lucia, pinching the pinches of her eyes. "I'm not afraid, it could make me cry."

That night Bea could not be found away from grandmas. She sat in grandmas' room, and when Lucia came in on the snowy "kerchief. Every few minutes she would raise her hands and say,

"You are sure I forgive me, I don't mind for driving away."

The patient grandma would repeat the assurance, so many times said and given:

"Well, yes, dearie; and I won't be given."

And Bea, bursting with her plump

little hand the withered cheeks, would repeat:

"I am your own man! e-e-v-e-y-thing!" Even after Bea was tucked in her crib, she would start out of sleep with the thought that Bea had come to her knitting and sat beside the crib, to comfort her. "Yes, dearie, here I am."

The doll-beby seemed scarcely missed; but grandmas would not rest content until the greater beauty, rested in the little cradle. — E. J. Beckford, in *X. J. Independent*.

The Phonograph in Burlington

It happened that Mrs. Bartington had just gotten a new hat. Then, taking a red ribbon, she tied the two halves and snipped off the ends. She sat with her mouth open, and said,

"A young girl, like you, could never get a red ribbon upon the outstretched tongue. Every

once in a while, Bea, who thought the captives of her own interests, would say,

"It would look so pretty."

A German Girl Managed.

She was a German girl, a Prussian, and her name was originally Barbara Flinked.

She was the daughter of an interesting family of farmers, who had every thing but money. As for herself, all her life she had been a good girl.

And then again, she declared that she must go to neglect his office and go to work in the city.

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