

LITERARY PAGE

The Christmas Gift

By VIRGINIA STONE

"Loretta," Mrs. Devante addressed her only daughter, "I have something to tell you."

"Yes?"

"You remember Mrs. McDonald? She's a missionary in China."

"I think so," responded Loretta. "I just received a letter from her asking me if it were possible for me to keep a young Chinese girl during the Christmas holidays. The girl's parents were killed in an air raid in Woosung. Her parents were quite wealthy. Mrs. McDonald said she is an unusually smart girl. She's about your age and grew up until New Year's Day. Mrs. McDonald will have arrived here and will take her. How would you like this?"

"Mama, I was hoping we could have one Christmas all to ourselves. Do we have to take her?"

"Oh! I like to," Mrs. McDonald had done so much for me. "Oh—oh right, but I can see I'm not going to like this a bit!" With that, Loretta left the room, shrugging her shoulders.

A few days later they were waiting at the docks for the Chinese girl. As the gangplanks were lowered, Loretta peered through the crowds for what looked like a girl who would be a dinky, yellow-skinned, squint-eyed girl, with black stringy hair. No figure of this description did she catch sight of, however. Finally she noticed a shy, somewhat frightened young girl among those coming down the gangplanks. When she reached the dock the girl looked round, puzzled with all the hustle and bustle. Then her eyes met Loretta's. Before Loretta realized what she was doing, she had darted toward the strange girl, who asked in her foreign accent "Miss Loretta Devant?"

"Yes."

"I am Wang Lu Senhua."

"How do you do?" Loretta said rather curtly.

"How do you do?" Wang Lu said carefully.

Mrs. Devante joined them, and they were soon on their way to the Devante home.

Loretta, who was made jealous

easily, began to resent Wang Lu's presence soon after she arrived. Mrs. Devante thoughtfully helped Wang Lu with different little things pertaining to the American customs, and Wang Lu learned quickly. Meanwhile Loretta's temper was rising. She, who had had all the attention formerly, resented not being the center of attraction.

At dinner Wang Lu eyed the silverware perplexedly.

"What are those?" she asked. Loretta laughed. What a dumb question, she thought to herself. But Mrs. Devante patiently taught the girl, who had never eaten with anything but chop sticks, how to use a knife, fork, and spoon.

For the next few days Loretta became even more envious of the girl. All her schoolmates crowded about to ask questions about China.

Wang Lu enjoyed it all immensely—until they asked her about the fighting. Then she closed her mouth tightly, and a far away look came into her eyes. She was a boy who lived at Shore-by-the-Sea. After a knight of this town had killed Richard's father, the boy ran away with another girl that became his friend. This friend was a sissy. They lived in the woods and found the hiding-place of John Amend-All, the leader of the Black Arrow gang. All the money in the gang had been wringed in some way by the knight of Shoreby. When they were together, and later Richard found out it was a dame named Joanna, the wife of the Black Arrow gang. When he heard that they had joined to kill him, Richard ran away and joined the Black Arrow gang. They avenged the death of his father, and married Joanna, whom he dearly loved."—Cathy Doby.

"MYSTERY TALES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS"

By Elva S. Smith.

(Reviewed by Virginia Loder)

Young people who like to read mystery stories would enjoy reading "Mystery Tales for Boys and Girls." This book contains twenty-six selections, five divided into mystery tales and story poems about hidden treasures, ghosts, haunted houses, and strange enchantment. With trained knowledge and great care, the author has gathered these stories and poems into one volume. They range from "The Gold Rug" by Edgar Allan Poe, to "Avalunga's Knight by Enquiry." The book is for boys and girls from fourteen years of age upward.

"KATHY"

By Josephine Daskham Bacon

(Reviewed by Ellen Hearne)

The story of Kathy and her drama by Josephine Daskham Bacon tells of the most interesting adventures girls have while going through four years at Smith. Much of the story takes place in the Catskills in the small village where Kathy spends her vacations. There, with her two friends, she opens a tearoom to earn money for her educational fund.

Although Kathy knows who her parents are, she does not know of her relationship to Barbara until she discovers by accident a worthless looking pin that contains a family jewel. It is exciting to follow and see just what happens to Kathy, "Wyo", Barbara and Lance.

"WILL ROGERS"

By P. J. O'Brien

(Reviewed by Anne Bickett Parker)

"Will Rogers," by P. K. O'Brien, should certainly be ranked among the best of biographies for boys. No of special interest to boys. No boy could hope for a place for the one lived by Will Rogers. O'Brien has made a life of him, cry with him, and when you read the part about the fatal

He flew through the air with the greatest of ease, but the funny part was he forgot his trapeze!

He was not the only one who forgot his trapeze!

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Book Reviews

Editor's note: Concerning books, we would say that there are reviews—and reviews. This is a recent parallel report that thought our readers might enjoy. Who wrote it? That's for you to decide. We'll admit, however, that it is quite characteristic of the writer.

"BLACK ARROW"

By Stevenson

"I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone. All the characters have at least three names, and most characters are over six. The author uses one name one time and another the next time, and you can't tell who is who. This book is about England when knights were bold and a man wasn't a man until he killed his enemies and stole some gold. After he did this, his reward was some fair damsel that he had captured and stolen some gold. She was often married at least twice before he got her, and then she had hopes of marrying again. Sir Richard Jack Matcham Shelton (his name at the end of the book) but just plain Richard at the start) was a boy who lived at Shore-by-the-Sea. After a knight of this town had killed Richard's father, the boy ran away with another girl that became his friend. This friend was a sissy. They lived in the woods and found the hiding-place of John Amend-All, the leader of the Black Arrow gang. All the money in the gang had been wringed in some way by the knight of Shoreby. When they were together, and later Richard found out it was a dame named Joanna, the wife of the Black Arrow gang. When he heard that they had joined to kill him, Richard ran away and joined the Black Arrow gang. They avenged the death of his father, and married Joanna, whom he dearly loved."—Cathy Doby.

Modeling Planes As a Hobby

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By C. B. EFIRD and BOBBIE AUSTIN

Building and flying model airplanes is becoming recognized as a sport for old as well as young. Modeling airplanes affords an opportunity for young men to show their accuracy in assembling mechanical devices out of small parts. It affords also a knowledge of how to be near, when friends and loved ones are near. To wish you joy and cheer.

May Christmas joy come to you. To some poor soul that is gay. To him that hears the chime bells. And loves the merry chime bells. Snow at Twilight

By Louise She

Day is done and shadows of All the trees seem very blue. Snow is lying on the ground. Where in spring the flowers found.

The sun is setting on the day. The crystals tarry in a row. Some like the break at the best. I'll take the time when the rest.

Snow at Dawn

(By Sunshine Under-

The sun is setting in the sky. The blanket has almost gone. And out upon the ground. Lies a day of snow.

The evergreens are laden. While the snow is falling. God has put the flowers down. Under the white snow so deep.

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