

FANNIE'S FUNNY BAG

by **Beth Slater Whitson**

Emma was a badly spoiled little girl. She cried on every occasion possible. Finally her sisters and brothers began to call her cry-baby, and leave her out of their games. Emma didn't like this, so she ran and told mother. Of course mother talked in such a kind, sweet way to the children about leaving Emma out of their play that she wasn't slighted any more. But she kept on crying to get her way about things just the same.

Then little Cousin Fannie came for a visit. She was so jolly and kind and sweet that for a few days even Emma laughed and forgot to be cross. One rainy morning the children had planned a picnic, but had to stay at home instead. Emma began to whine, and soon she was spoiling the play for the others who had set about doing other things because the rain stopped them from going on a picnic.

Fannie had been making a cap for little Bobby's soldier-doll, and when Emma began crying she looked up in surprise. "Don't mind Emma's crying," said Irma, smiling; "she always cries when she gets disappointed."

Fannie put the cap on the soldier doll, then she got up briskly. "I tell you what Emma needs; it is a Funny Bag, and I think it will cure her. I used to cry too, just like that."

Irma and the other children laughed. It didn't seem possible that sunny Cousin Fannie could ever have been a cry-baby like Emma.

"Get some old magazines and some scissors," said Fannie, "and then each of us will cut out the funny pictures and put them in a bag. We'll call it the Funny Bag, and Emma shall own it, and when she feels like crying all she has to do is get out the old Funny Bag, and it will make her laugh."

Emma dried her tears and was soon as busy as the rest looking for funny pictures. By noon a great many had been cut out and pasted on cardboard, and Fannie had made a cunning little bag out of some flowered cretonne.

It was still raining, so after lunch Emma was given the Funny Bag and told to show the pictures one by one. They were so funny that even mother came in to share the laughter. Emma said that she didn't care if they didn't get to go to the picnic, she'd had so much fun staying at home.

Now Emma is telling other little girls about the Funny Bag, and how it cured her a long, long time ago.