

## BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR MOTHER

*A New Idea for Boys and Girls*

"OH!" cried Dolores in a voice which sounded very much as if she were ashamed. "Tomorrow is Mother's birthday and we forgot all about it."

"I didn't forget," said Pedro. "I did know it was her birthday. We must do something for Mother. What can we do?"

"We could have a birthday cake. How many candles would there be on Mother's cake?" asked little Juanita.

"We couldn't make her a cake. Mother always makes the birthday cakes herself," Dolores replied.

"But can't we give her a gift of some kind?" asked little Juanita. Dolores and Pedro looked very thoughtful.

"We haven't any money," said Dolores.

"I have five centavos," offered Pedro, but he knew that wouldn't buy a gift.

"There are some centavos in my coconut shell bank," said Juanita.

"We should have saved our money," commented Dolores regretfully.

"If I had any money," said Pedro, "I know what I'd give Mother. I saw the picture in the mail-order catalogue which we just received through the mail. It's a wrist watch with diamonds all around it. I'll show you."

He found the mail-order catalogue. "There!" he said, displaying the picture of a very beautiful watch. "Wouldn't that be grand for Mother?"

"Let's see what else we'd give her if we had the money," suggested Dolores. "Here's a lovely set of silver spoons."

"Yes, but, Dolores," objected Pedro, "if we bought her that present it would be for all of us, because we'd all eat with the spoons. My present would be just



for Mother."

"Well, then," said Dolores, "I'll hunt for something else. Here's a lovely handbag. I know Mother would like it."

"I want something for Mother, too," said little Juanita. "I will find something in this magazine."

"All right, little sister," Dolores said. "How would you like this necklace? It's a beautiful string of pearls."

"No," replied Juanita.

"Then here's a pretty basket of flowers," said Dolores. "Mother loves flowers."

"No," said Juanita. She turned some more pages of the magazine.

"Here's what I'm going to give her," she decided. "This beautiful white satin dress with a long train and flowers and a veil."

"But Juanita, dear," laughed Dolores, "this is a dress for a bride. It wouldn't do for Mother."

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"Well, anyway it's just what I'm going to give her," insisted Juanita with determination.

"That's all right, Juanita," said Pedro. "We are just pretending. We don't have any money to buy things. It would take lots of money to buy this dress."

All the children looked very sad. It was too bad for Mother to have a birthday and not get any gifts."

Suddenly Pedro's face lighted up with a smile.

"Dolores," he cried. "Let's cut out these pictures and give them to Mother and tell her they are what we'd give her if we had the money. Then she'd know we didn't forget her birthday."

"Oh, yes, Pedro," said Dolores. "We could paste them on cardboard and put them on the breakfast table. It is a splendid new idea."

The children went right to work. Very carefully they cut out the wrist watch and the handbag and pasted them neatly on white cardboard.

"Juanita," coaxed Dolores, "won't you choose something else for Mother instead of a wedding dress?"

"No," said Juanita firmly. "This is a beautiful

dress—just the kind I want to give her. I'm going to give Mother the bride's dress."

So the picture of the bride in her white satin gown with the train and the veil and the flowers had to be cut out.

"We could have a birthday cake, too," said Dolores. "Here's a picture of one covered with candles in this housekeeping magazine."

"We don't know whether or not it has the right number of candles," objected Pedro.

"That doesn't matter, Pedro," said Dolores. "There are just enough candles to make it look pretty."

The children got up early the next morning, slipped into the dining room, and arranged the pictures around Mother's plate. They put the picture of the birthday cake in the middle of the table.

How surprised Mother was when she came to the table!

"These are the gifts we wanted to give you if we'd had the money to buy them," explained Pedro.

"What a beautiful watch!" said Mother. "And such a lovely handbag!"

She laughed when she saw the wedding dress. "This is the most beautiful dress that I have ever had,"

she exclaimed.

"We're sorry we didn't have the money to buy real gifts," said Dolores.

"Why, these are lovely," insisted Mother. "It isn't the gift itself that counts, but the loving thoughts that make us want to give gifts."

"You didn't see your birthday cake," said Dolores.

"That's a very beautiful cake," exclaimed Mother. "I'm going to make one exactly like it today and we'll each have a piece for supper."

## AN ADVENTURE IN . . .

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face. When I heard his laughter, I laughed also, and began to enjoy the free ride which the shark was giving us. For about three-fourths of a mile the shark pulled our vinta with unabated speed. My only fear was the possibility of the rope breaking. "Don't fear, son, our rope is very strong," my father said. "It is strong enough to send us to Borneo," he added, laughing merrily.

After almost two hours, the rope began to loosen, and our boat began to lessen its speed. We knew that the shark was losing strength. Shortly after, our vinta stopped moving. My

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