



LITTLE STORIES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

NENE AND THE WHITE KITTEN

by Mother Joy

LITTLE Nené had no friends. She had no playmates. The boys and girls would not play with her. They were older than she. Sometimes she would look at their toys. She would watch them play. The other girls would say,

"Go away. You do not know what we are doing. You are only a baby."

Nené was sad. Sometimes she cried. She had no toys. Her mother was poor and could not buy toys for her. She would take a stick. She would take a piece of rag. Then she would make a rag doll. She would call it "Nené." She would say to it:

"Nené, you must be a good girl. I am going out to work. I shall bring home something to eat."

By and by Nené would tell the rag doll, "You must say, 'Yes Mother. But I want a playmate. The other girls do not like to play with me'."

One day Nené was sitting at the foot of the stairs. She was sad. She had nobody to play with. She wished a kind fairy would give her a playmate.

Soon she heard a soft but long "meow". She looked back. She saw a little kitten. It was thin and very dirty. It looked gray. It tried to get up, but it could not. It was very hungry.

"Meow!" It cried again and looked at Nené.

Nené picked up the kitten.

"You poor kitten. You look hungry and sick."

Nené gave the kitten some rice and water with a little salt.

"Eat this," she said, "I am sorry there is no fish in the house."

After a while Nené washed the kitten. She used a piece of soap and much water. After the bath, the kitten became white all over. It had a yellow spot on the head.

"You pretty thing!" Nené cried with joy and kissed the kitten.

"I shall name you 'Maganda'."

Nené was very kind to Maganda. She gave it a part of everything she ate. She gave it a bath every day. She let it sleep on her mat at her feet.

Maganda grew to be a big cat. It loved Nené very much. It followed her about the house. Nené was never sad again.

A week before Christmas, Nené's big sister said,

"Nené, our school will hold a fair. Our teachers told us to take our pets to school. My classmates will take dogs, chickens, and pigs. Let me take Maganda."

"Yes, Yes! But you must tell your teachers that Maganda is mine."

(Please turn to page 104)

Nené and the White Kitten

(Continued from page 87)

"Yes" the sister said, "I shall write your name on a tag. We shall tie a golden ribbon around its neck and hang the tag from it."

Nené clapped her hands happily. She took Maganda in her arms and skipped around.

In the morning of Christmas Eve, the town people went to the schoolhouse. There was a program. There were singing and dancing. The children were very happy. Nené and her sister were there too. They went around to see the pets brought by the children. They heard the happy "meow, meow" of a cat.

Nené ran to the cage where the call came. Yes, it was Maganda.

"Sister, Sister! Come. What does this paper say?" Nené shouted.

Her sister read this:

"First Prize.

Most beautiful pet.

Won by Nené Cruz."

That evening everybody in Nené's home was happy. Maganda was very happy too. Nené gave her mother a bill for ten pesos.

Maganda jumped about saying,

"Meow, meow, meow."

She wanted to say, "Look at me. I was the most beautiful cat at the fair. I won ten pesos."