

"HOW THE KING FOUND A HAPPY HOME"
from pages 7-12, "The Story
Shop," by Mary C. Odell, Judson
Prass, Chicago, 1937.

Warm summer afternoon. Everyone
cross. King scolded queen, she ladies
in waiting, they the page, page played
trick on cook, she burned roast. Only
Princess content, & all frowned on
her for it.

King said, "This must stop. Got
to reform. Send me a messenger."
King, very round & warm, wiped head
with red handkerchief.

Page & messenger came in, messen-
ger bowing, and trying not to grin
as thought king's face could not have
been redder if handkerchief color had
run.

King told messenger about his dis-
content with unhappiness, & to go
throughout land looking for a happy
home. Messenger bowed, backed out
of room, and started. Then whistled,
& little black dog appeared, wagging
tail as if wanting to be on his way.
Someone else came, too, the Prin-
cess, running & out of breath.

Said she was going too. Messenger shook his head and said "never, can't be bothered with a princess." She smiled, and said, "Oh, I left in my place a playmate who looks like me, and I'll never be missed. Now, will you take me, or must I command you to?"

Messenger looked at her and little dog, said "Will never do," but took her by hand as she passed out the gate, little dog following. Turned corner & saw big house with big trees & lovely gardens. Messenger thought this would be a happy, perfect home. Princess said "There's the gardener, he will tell us. Ask him." Messenger told gardener they were looking for a happy home, but gardener scowled at little black dog running down his freshly raked path, and told them that only person living here was old Mrs. Hornby who never went out for fear she would meet some common people. This didn't seem to be the place, so they went on.

Another house, large, no garden. Maid sweeping porch. Little dog, asking for bone in his way, ran up with tail wagging. Maid hit him

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with broom, but did not see Princess or messenger. They gathered little dog in arms & left.

Next, small house, with small boy & sister in front playing in a wagon. Thought this must be the place, when little boy jerked wagon on purpose and upset his sister. So they went on.

Then out into country, where roads were shady & flowers grew. Princes made daisy wreath for messenger & buttercup chain for the little black dog. After while little dog led them into tiny green yard with tiny brown old house, but clean. On porch they found a mother rocking a curly-headed baby boy to sleep. "Oh," she said when she saw the little black dog, "What a darling!" Then, seeing princes & messenger, "Good afternoon. Baby just asleep. You wait, & I'll get some lemonade, because it's hot." While gone, sound of happy voices, & little boy & girl about as big as the princess came carrying small basket. "Oh, I didn't know you were here," said girl. "And look at that little dog," said boy, "Isn't he a dandy!" Princess smiled, not knowing what to say, & messenger said, "It is very warm, isn't it?"

"Is It?" said little girl. Hadn't noticed, for Tommy & I had so much fun hunting eggs for mother in barn. Did have fun, didn't we Tommy?" Tommy nodded. They little girl & boy sat on steps beside Princess & smiled proudly at their baby brother. Mother returned with a pitcher of sweet lemon aid and a bowl of milk for little black dog.

"See, he never woke up," whispered Princess. "Oh, he's a good baby," smiled the woman. "I don't know how we every lived without him, or my two helpers here. Father & I are so happy."

"Eh?" said the messenger. Did you say happy?" & he winked at the Princess. "Tell us why you are so happy."

"That's easy," laughed the woman. Though our home is small & we have little money, we are happy because we love each other. The more we do for each other & our neighbors, the happier we are; and our little home sometimes seems like a palce." "Yess indeed," said Tommy and Sue.

Princess felt like saying "Oh No," but knew they wouldn't understand.

"We must be going," said messenger. After thanking them & saying goodbye, ~~w~~ started back to palace, knowing they had found a happy home.

When king heard about it, folded his red pocket-handkerchief, & with queen went to see that family. Once a week for a year they paid visit to that little home in they country, until at last they understood the secret of happiness, and passed it on to the ladies in waiting, the page and the cook. And the Princess laughed continually, as she played about the palace with the messenger and the little black dog, who remained as her playmates.

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