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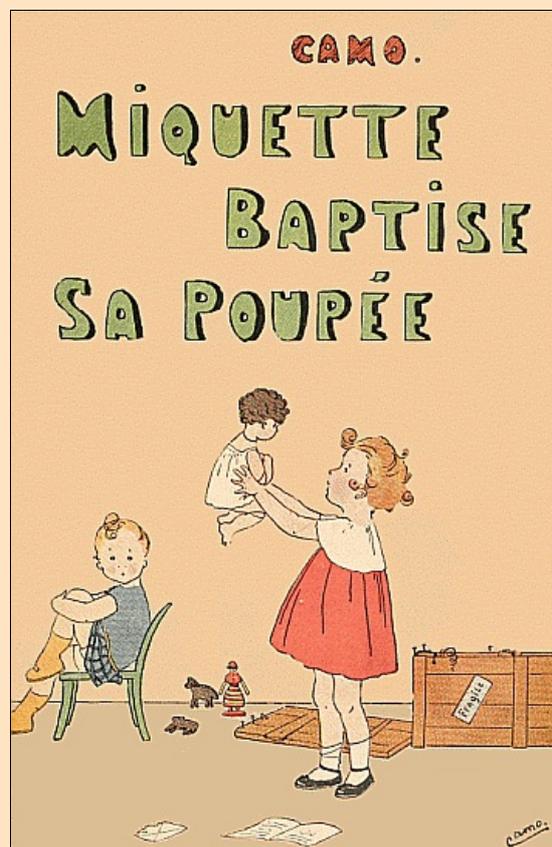
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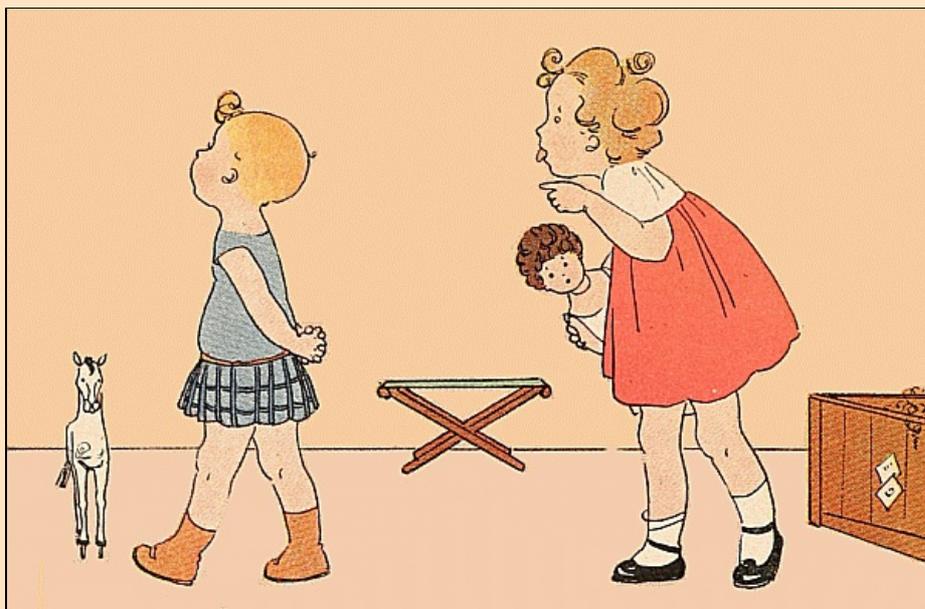
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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK MIQUETTE BAPTISE SA
POUPÉE ***

Miquette baptise sa poupée



Un beau matin, Miquette reçoit une caisse. Elle l'ouvre et reste en extase devant une magnifique poupée bouclée. Polo siffle d'un air indifférent.

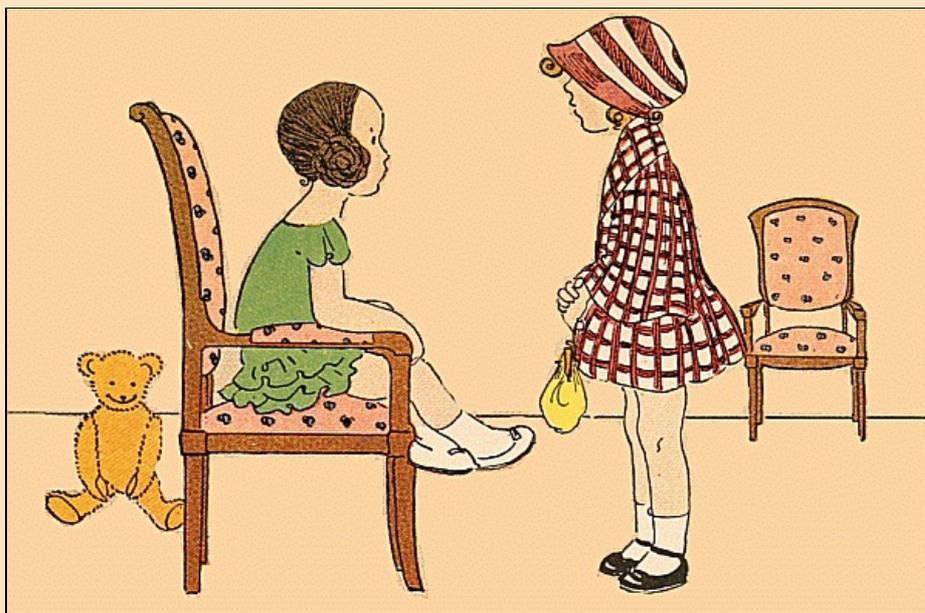


—Tu vas voir, mon petit, si tu feras longtemps le dédaigneux, dit Miquette. Je vais faire le baptême de ma poupée, et je parie que tu seras bien content si je t'invite.



Miquette se pare de ses plus beaux atours pour aller chercher ses amis.

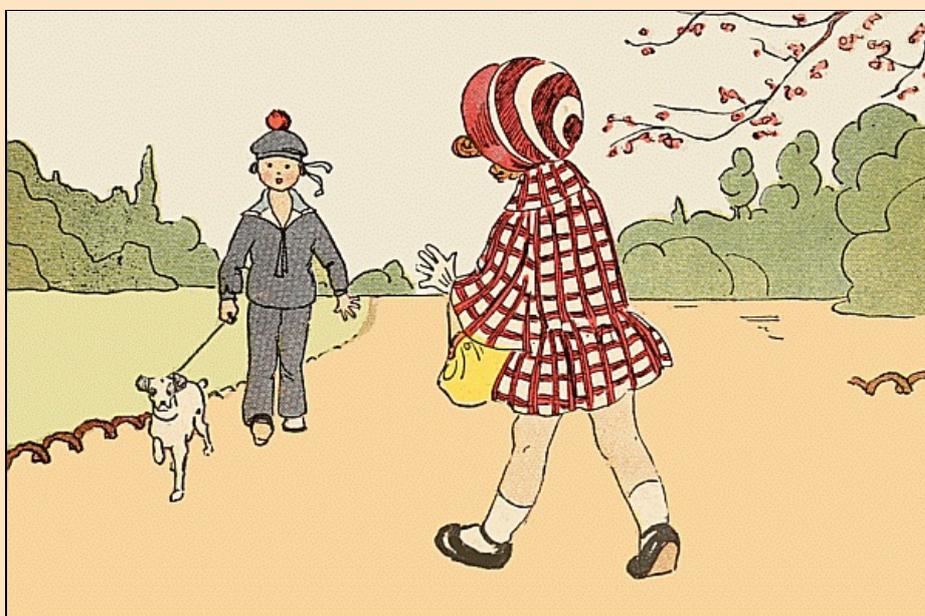
«Je ne suis vraiment pas mal» se dit-elle en contemplant sa toilette dans la glace.



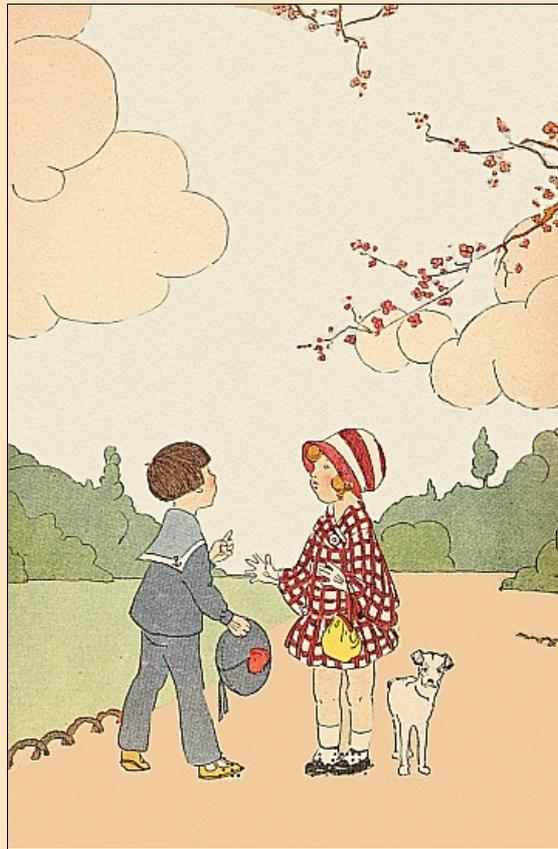
Tout d'abord, Miquette se rend chez sa petite cousine Jabotte.

—Veux-tu être marraine de ma nouvelle fille; on fera le baptême ce soir?

Jabotte accepte avec joie.



En chemin, Miquette voit venir un de ses petits camarades de jeux, le turbulent Bobby et son inséparable Gyp.



—Bonjour Bobby, veux-tu être le parrain de ma poupée?

—Oui, dit Bobby, à condition que tu invites aussi Gyp.

—Entendu!



En sortant du cours de dessin, Miquette arrête son amie Rita:

—Y aura-t-il beaucoup de gâteaux au goûter? demande Rita.

—Mais oui, dit Miquette.

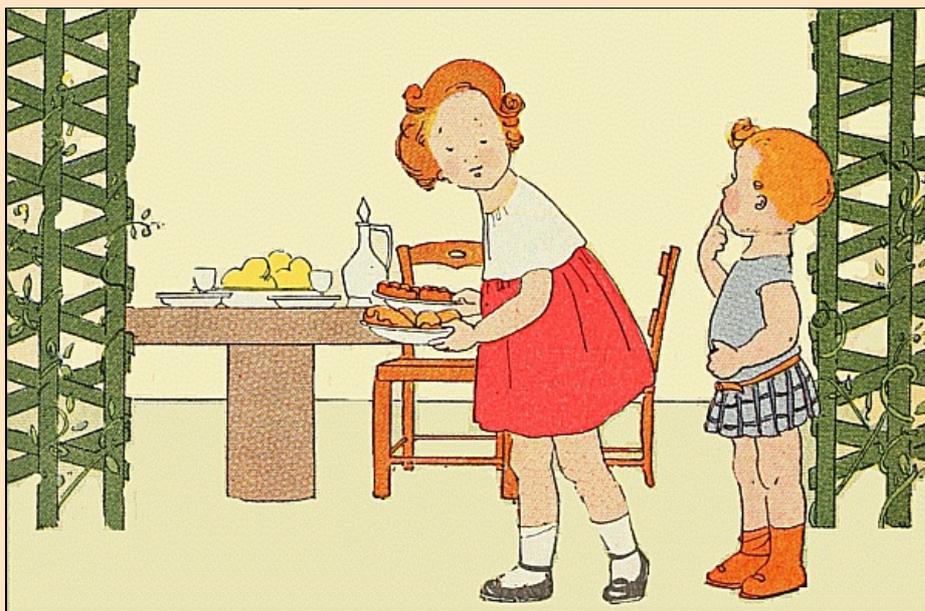
—Oh! alors je viendrai sûrement, déclare Rita.



En rentrant chez elle, Miquette s'arrête chez le pâtissier pour acheter quelques friandises. Mais elle reste perplexe devant toutes les bonnes choses étalées devant ses yeux.



Miquette se décide enfin à prendre quelques brioches, des éclairs et des tartes aux cerises. Elle rentre chez elle en courant.



Son petit frère Polo la regarde d'un œil curieux pendant qu'elle prépare le goûter dans la tonnelle.



Aussi, pendant que Miquette est allée s'habiller, Polo fait main basse sur les gâteaux. Il ne s'arrête que lorsque les assiettes sont vides. Bien sûr il aura une indigestion!



Miquette descend en grande toilette.

—Vois, si je suis belle, dit-elle d'un air modeste.

Polo est un peu honteux de sa figure barbouillée et de ses mains pleines de crème.



Mais il n'est plus temps d'aller se changer, car voilà déjà la marraine chargée de nombreux cadeaux. Miquette la prend par le cou:

—Viens voir ma poupée chérie!



—Regarde ce que je t'ai apporté, dit Jabotte en dépliant un charmant bonnet et une robe de baptême. Donne ta fille que je lui mette toutes ces belles choses.



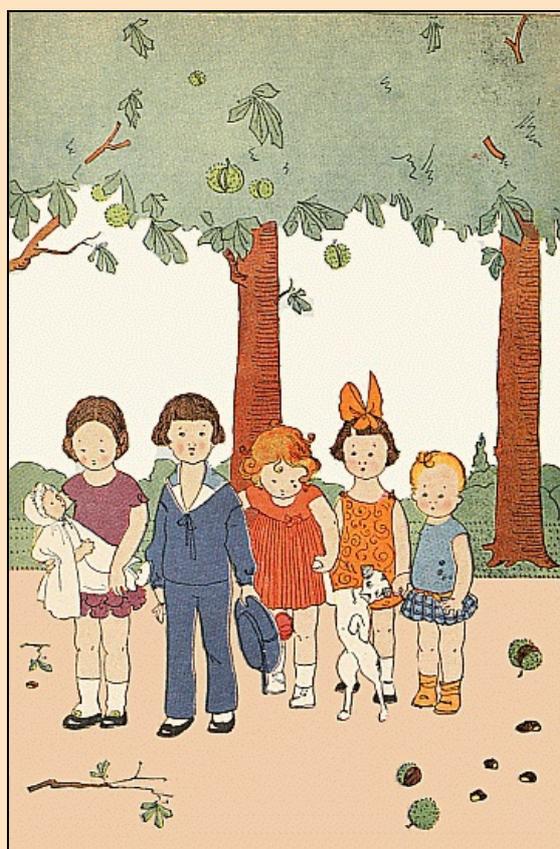
L'arrivée de Bobby, un peu bruyante, avec Gyp, fait sursauter les petites filles:

—J'apporte rien, déclare Bobby en retournant ses poches, parce que j'ai dépensé tous mes sous à la Foire.



Voici enfin Rita. Polo court à sa rencontre. Il a un faible pour cette bonne grosse qui aime tant les sucreries, comme lui:

—Viens Rita, tu seras ma cavalière!



Le cortège se forme, Jabotte portant la poupée. Comme les cavaliers ne sont pas assez nombreux, Gyp fait l'office d'un monsieur.



Bobby prétend nommer la poupée: Bobine. La marraine proteste avec énergie.

—Tiens! dit Bobby furieux, en jetant de l'eau à la poupée, voilà comment je la baptise!



—Oh!!! s'écrient en chœur les invités, et on pose la poupée dans l'herbe pour courir après le coupable qui se sauve à toutes jambes.

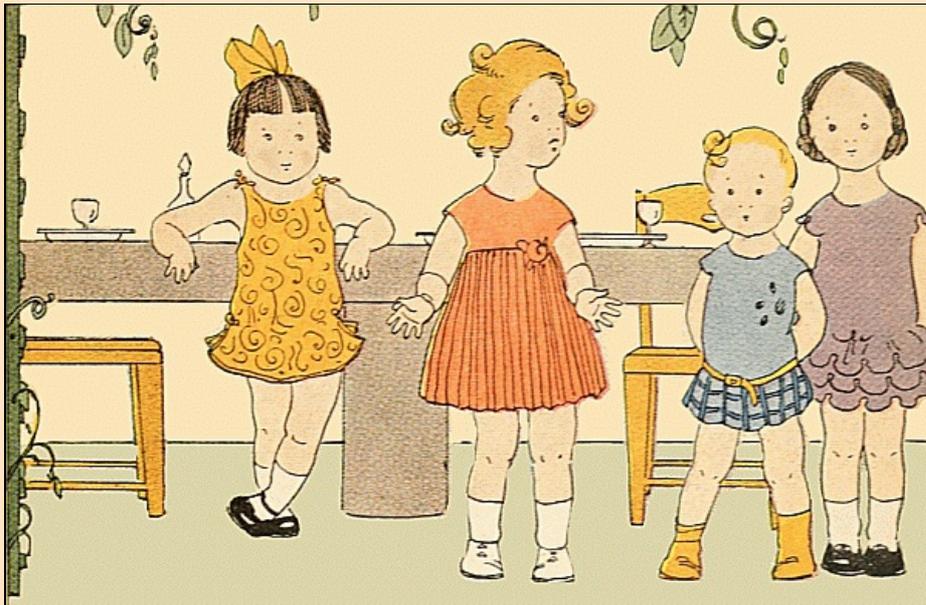


Abandonnant Bobby, les invités se dirigent vers la tonnelle pour se restaurer. Polo reste prudemment à l'écart, se demandant ce qu'il arrivera lorsqu'on aura découvert son larcin.



Les petites filles restent consternées devant les assiettes vides. La gourmande Rita a bien envie de pleurer.

Polo se tient coi.



—Voulez-vous que nous dansions un peu pour nous consoler? dit Miquette.

Les figures s'éclaircissent et l'on dit «oui» à l'unanimité!



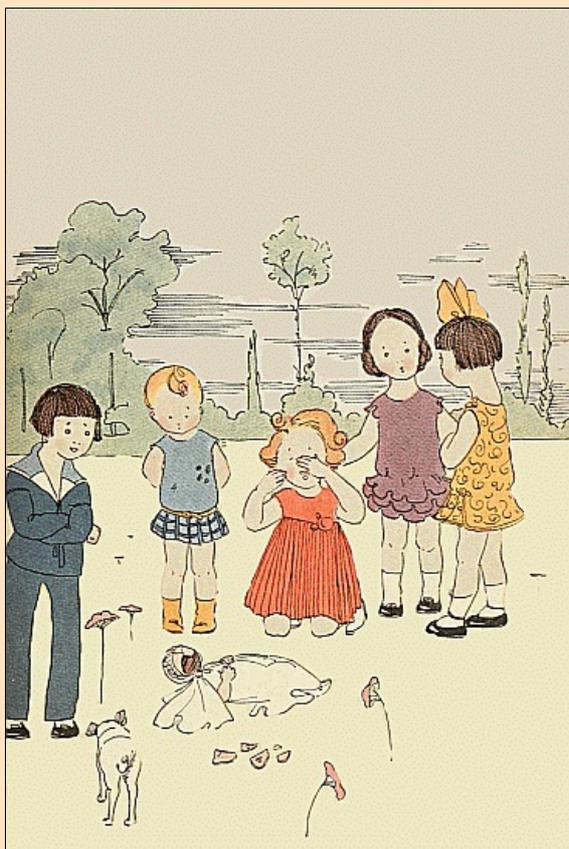
Le chagrin est bien vite oublié. Polo exécute des pas de fantaisie, croyant déjà être quitte de son méfait.



Au beau milieu des réjouissances, on voit arriver Gyp sautillant avec la poupée. Le bon toutou veut danser aussi.



Mais un affreux bruit de porcelaine brisée fait accourir les invités. Gyp reste stupide devant les débris de la poupée.



Miquette éclate en sanglots et chacun reste silencieux. Gyp, cause de tout le mal, courbe le nez devant les remontrances de Bobby.



Triste fin de fête. Les amis se séparent. Miquette emporte les débris de sa pauvre fille, tandis que Polo commence à ressentir le mal au cœur causé par sa gourmandise.

LES AVENTURES DE MIQUETTE

Déjà parus:

L'ESCAPADE DE MIQUETTE
MIQUETTE BAPTISE SA POUPÉE
MIQUETTE ET POLO
L'AVENTURE DE POLO

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