

BETSY'S CHRISTMAS AT GREAT-GRANDMA McCALL'S



Great-Grandma's attic is like an old-fashioned toy shop, and I love it! It has a wonderful smell, like spices and camphor and old leather. And a HUGE trunk filled with adorable old dolls, some of wood, some china, some cloth and some covered with kidskin.

Their dresses are long, with lace-trimmed petticoats and PANTALOONS. "Mama made most of them," Great-Grandma said. "Johnny-Boy—your grandpa, I mean—used to play with that old train. And so did your daddy, when he was younger than you." She took the dolls out so-o-o carefully and placed them around—one on a sofa, one on a darling rocker, one in an ANCIENT doll carriage, which had a fringed top that bobbed like crazy when I wheeled it around. Daddy wound



up a funny boy on a tricycle. "Now, let's see if there's any life in this old fellow. I almost wore him out when I was a kid." The little iron legs began to jerk, and *whoosh*, the tricycle raced so fast that Daddy jumped, shouting and laughing, out of its way. The thing I love best



is the old dollhouse. It looks just like the house Great-Grandma lived in years and years ago. There are little lace curtains in all the windows, and it's filled with simply beautiful furniture. When I was my cousin Linda's



age, the old house used to be taller than I; now I'm a little taller than it! Up on a shelf, I found a box of Christmas-tree ornaments, *ages* old—a silly little bird with a long feather for a tail and another with a shivery spun-glass tail, a little glass trumpet, a zillion angels, a wooden clown on a string. We took the box downstairs to the living room. One by one, Daddy and I hung them on the tree—glass birds flying, glass fruits shining, angels bobbing, the dolls and the train on the floor around it. Mommy hung chains of cranberries and popcorn on the branches. Then in came Great-Grandma with a music box, playing carols, and all of us hushed to hear its gentle music.



Betsy's dress-up dresses are dreamy. The first is a silk-and-cotton stripe



The second is a cotton lace; the last is printed Dacron-and-cotton voile