



BETSY McCALL TRIMS A TREE FOR HER FRIENDS

Today I helped Mommy with the Christmas baking. We started early in the morning and made dough, cracked nuts, sliced fruit for pies and baked a big batch of gingerbread cookies. Mommy said we were lucky to have so much good food to eat—and that gave me a GREAT idea. “Since Christmas is for sharing, let’s decorate the little fir tree in the backyard with things that birds and squirrels and our other animal neighbors would wish for on Christmas day,” I said. When Merry and Kerry heard my idea, they joined

in. Using a needle—carefully—we threaded cranberries, raisins and popcorn on strands. They made the most beautiful Christmas garlands I’d ever seen! Then we covered the sides of small paper cups with pretty wrapping paper, and filled them with walnuts and seeds. When we were finished, we all ran out to decorate the

tree. Mommy gave us pieces of suet to hang, and we wrapped the garlands from limb to limb. Around the base we spread a roll of cotton (Daddy called it insulation for their nests). And under the tree we placed our “gifts.” But something was missing. “Of course, of course,” I shouted as I ran into the house. At the tree’s very tip-top, with red ribbon, I tied a gingerbread cookie—my very favorite one—shaped like a star. It was the finishing touch. But the best part is that now the tree’s decorated with birds as well!



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