

A PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES

BOOK

By Mrs. O. F. Walton

Contributed by Johanna

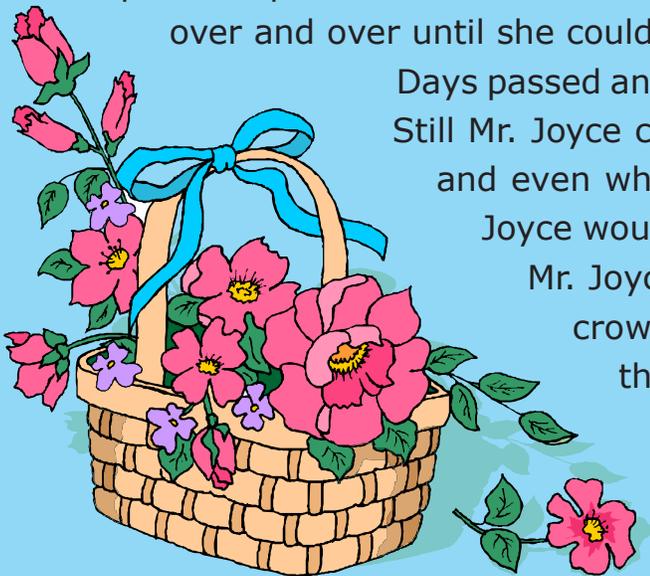
NOOK

Rosalie Joyce lived with her mother in a traveling caravan. Her father put on plays at the different circuses that they traveled to. They would travel with other performers until they reached a town where they would set up a circus for the people who lived there.

Rosalie's father, Augustus Joyce, was not a kind man towards his young daughter and wife. As I mentioned before, Mr. Joyce put on plays that he wrote himself. These plays were silly and frivolous and meant nothing. His wife was often sick and had to stay in bed. She was so sick that she could not act her part in the play that her husband assigned to her. Rosalie tended her mother during the day, but when evening came, her father made Rosalie act her part in his plays.

One day, while in a certain town, an old man knocked on their wagon door. Rosalie answered his knock and let him in. He gave Rosalie a picture of a Shepherd holding a lost lamb and under the picture it said, "*Rejoice with Me, for I have found My sheep which was lost. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*" Then the man told them about the Good Shepherd and how He looks after us because we are His sheep. After he left, Rosalie hung the picture up on the wall where she could see it and say the verse to herself over and over until she could say it by heart.

Days passed and Rosalie's mother grew weaker and weaker. Still Mr. Joyce continued to make Rosalie act in his plays - and even when her mother was the least bit better, Mr. Joyce would force her mother to act a part. One night Mr. Joyce came and said firmly that he had a large crowd that night and he could not disappoint them, so his wife had to act. Rosalie spent the whole day seeing to her mother's every want and need and making sure that she was well rested by the time of the play. Her mother asked Rosalie to read her some



chapters of the little Testament that she had.

When it was time for the show to begin, the curtain rose and Rosalie's mother went on top of the stage and began to say her lines. After a few minutes, she broke down and fell on the stage. Rosalie rushed to her mother's side and soon the doctor was there. Her mother was taken away to her own wagon and the play continued on without her. Rosalie was heart-broken when they told her that her mother had died.

When Mr. Joyce learned of his wife's death, he decided to leave the circus and he found a boarding house where they could spend the winter. The owner of the house was a woman whom Mr. Joyce married after a while of living there. A few weeks later, he was missing for most of the afternoon and evening. Later, it was found out that he had died on the street.

What will happen to poor little Rosalie? Will she be sent away to an orphanage? Does she ever see again the man who gave her the picture? You will have to read the book for yourself!

I liked this book because it really shows you that God **is** the Good Shepherd and we are the sheep and no matter what we have done, He will come get us and will forgive us. He is always with us and He is always watching over us no matter what we are doing. So, be encouraged and may God bless you!

