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THE THANKSGIVING WHEN EVERYTHING GOT MIXED UP

By Mrs. Bessie Hastings
(with illustration #4)

"And now here's your long-range Thanksgiving weather forecast. New Yorkers can expect snow flurries. Here in Mid-City we are going to have some rain. The people in Florida will enjoy a warm, sunny holiday," the weather man was saying on T. V.

"Mother," Jane called, "Did you hear that it will be warm and sunny in Florida for Thanksgiving? I sure wish we could go there to be with Grandmother since she can't come here!"

"We all wish that, Jane. And there has been a last minute change in the plans at your father's office. He may be able to get more time off for the holiday and we can still go. He will know today, and he promised to call as soon as he finds out."

All day Jane stayed close to the phone. There was a call from Aunt Edith. There was a call from their groceryman and a call from mother's missionary circle chairman, but no call from Jane's father.

When her father came home, Jane did not run to meet him. She was too disappointed because he hadn't phoned.

"Jane! Mother!" called father, "Pack your suitcases. We're going to Grandmother's house after all! I just found out before I came home so I didn't take time to call."

Jane came running, "Oh, Daddy, it's such a good surprise! And you know how Grandmother loves surprises!"

"She sure does, Jane, but I think she might want to make special plans for Thanksgiving. Since it's too late to write her, we'll send her a telegram. Now let's all get busy. We leave early in the morning!"

Jane had fun in the car on the way to Florida. She played with her doll, Saucy, and cut out paper dolls. Jane and her parents played a game. Each one tried to be the first one to find all the letters in the alphabet on the roadside signs.

"I'm going to hug Grandmother so tight," said Jane, "I can hardly wait!"

When they finally drove up to Grandmother's house, Jane dashed out of the car up to the door. She rang and rang the doorbell, but no one answered. "She isn't home," Jane shouted to her parents who were getting things from the car.

"I'm sure she's not far away," suggested mother. "Mrs. Allen next door has a light on. Let's ask her where Grandmother is."

Mrs. Allen was startled as she answered the door. "My, my! What are you doing here?" she asked, "Why your Grandmother decided to surprise you with a visit. She left early in order to stop by and visit her sister on the way!"

"Then she didn't get our telegram, I suppose," sighed Father.

"Oh, dear. And we were going to surprise her!" Jane was almost in tears. "Now our Thanksgiving is ruined."

"I'm sure sorry your plans didn't work out. I keep a key to your Grandmother's house," offered Mrs. Allen. "If there is anything else I can do for you, please let me know!"

"Thank you, Mrs. Allen. We must get some rest now. Perhaps we can work things out in the morning," suggested mother.

The sun was shining brightly when Jane woke up the next day. Mother had Grandmother's picnic basket out on the kitchen table.

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"What are you doing with that picnic basket?" asked Jane sleepily.

"Well, your father and I were just talking over our problem. We thought that since we were in Florida we might as well stay for a while and enjoy it. How would you like to have a Thanksgiving picnic and hunt shells on the beach today?"

"I guess it would be all right. Will we have any turkey and pumpkin pie? And what about Grandmother? Where will she eat Thanksgiving dinner?"

"I'm sure Aunt Edith will take good care of Grandmother and we'll have to pretend we have turkey and pumpkin pie today! Now, would you bring the thermos jug over here please?"

Jane and her parents hiked along the shore and picked up shells. They sat and watched the beautiful blue-green water and the white-tipped waves. When they sat down to eat their Thanksgiving picnic, they thanked God for the good time they were having. They asked Him to care for Grandmother.

As the family drove back from the picnic, Jane said, "That's what I call having fun on Thanksgiving day!"

Later in the evening Grandmother telephoned. After she talked to father and mother, she asked to speak with Jane. "I'm sorry our surprise turned out to be a double one, Jane," said Grandmother. "But I'm glad you had a good time at the beach today. Your Aunt Edith and I prepared a Thanksgiving dinner for your pastor and his family. Since his children and his wife have been sick, I think our food cheered them up. Say, how am I going to get to see you, Jane? Will it be all right if I stay here until you get back?"

"It sure will," answered Jane excitedly. "I can show you my shell collection and tell about all the other things I've been doing. I'm glad you had a good Thanksgiving Day too in spite of the mixup!"

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THE FRIENDLY WAY
By Wanda Allen Moore

Donnie has a train and track,
And Peter has a car
That runs in circles on the rug
And never goes too far.

I have a football that we use
When we go out to play.
As friends we share all that we have;
It is the friendly way.

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