

**WHAT KATY DID – by Susan Coolidge** (adapted by A.D. Winkel)

Five of the six Carr children were perched on top of the roof, like chickens on a roost. It was one of their favourite places. It was only a low roof but if you let go, you could scrape slowly down over the warm shingles to the ground. It ruined their shoes and trousers, but what of it? Shoes and trousers, were Aunt Izzie's affair; theirs was to slide and enjoy themselves.

Twelve year old Katy was inside, darning stockings and hating every minute of it, but as the eldest of the children, she had to help Aunt Izzie with some of the household chores.

Clover, next in age to Katy, sat in the middle keeping holding onto Baby Phil who sat next to her. Clover was a fair, sweet dumpling of a girl, with thick pig-tails and short-sighted blue eyes, which seemed to hold tears, just ready to fall. People were always taking her part. Once, when she was still little, she took Katy's doll, and when Katy tried to get it back, Clover held fast and would not let go. Dr Carr, heard nothing but the pathetic tone of Clover's voice, as she said: "Me won't! Me want dolly!" and, without stopping to inquire, he called out sharply: "For shame, Katy! Give your sister her doll at once!" which Katy, much surprised, did; while Clover purred in triumph, like a satisfied kitten.

Elsie, a thin child of eight was next in line. Poor little Elsie was the "odd one" among the Carrs. She didn't belong exactly to either the older or the younger children. Her great desire and ambition was to be allowed to be with Katy and Clover but they didn't want her, and used to tell her to "run away and play with the children," which hurt her feelings very much.

Next came Dorry and Joanna. Dorry was six and a pale, pudgy boy, with rather a solemn face. Joanna, whom the children called "Johnnie," was a square, splendid child, a year younger than Dorry. These two were great friends, though Dorry seemed like a girl who had got into boy's clothes by mistake, and Johnnie like a boy who, in a fit of fun, had borrowed his sister's dress. As they all sat there chattering and giggling, the window above them suddenly opened, a glad shriek was heard, and Katy's head appeared. In her hand she held a heap of stockings, which she waved triumphantly.

"Hurray!" she cried, "all done, and Aunt Izzie says we may go. Are you tired of waiting? I couldn't help it, the holes were so big, and took so long. Hurry up, Clover, and get the things for the picnic! I will be down in a minute."