

Beatrice: Annie?

Annie: (Her voice cheerful.) Here, Beatrice.

Laura: There's a present. We bought you a going-away present, Annie!

Anna: We did, we did, where's the present?

Beatrice: Don't go, Annie, away.

Emma: Alice has it. Alice! Where's Alice?

Alice: Here I am!

Emma: Where?

Alice: Here! (Alice gives present to Annie.)

Annie: I have it. I have it, everybody, should I open it?

Children: Open it! Everyone be quiet! Do, Annie! She's opening it. Ssh! Is it open, Annie?

Annie: It's open.

Alice: It's for your eyes, Annie. Put them on, Annie! Cause Mrs. Hopkins said your eyes hurt since the operation. And she said you're going where the sun is fierce.

Annie: I'm putting them on now.

Beatrice: Don't go, Annie, where the sun is fierce.

Laura: Do they fit all right?

Annie: Oh, they fit just fine.

Emma: Did you put them on? Are they pretty, Annie?

Annie: Oh, my eyes feel hundreds of percent better already, and pretty, why do you know how I look in them? Spendiloquent. Like a racehorse!

Alice: There's another present! Beatrice! We have a present for Helen, too! Give it to her, Beatrice. Here, Annie! It's for Helen. And we took up a collection to buy it. And Laura dressed it.

Annie: It's beautiful!

Laura: So don't forget, you be sure to give it to Helen from us, Annie!

Annie: I promise it will be the first thing I give her. If I don't keep it for myself, that is, you know I can't be trusted with dolls!

Beatrice: Don't go, Annie, to her.

Annie: Beatrice, dear. I don't *want* to go.

Beatrice: Then why are you going?

Annie: Because I'm a big girl now, and big girls have to earn a living. It's the only way I can. But if you don't smile for me first, what I'll just have to do is _____

Beatrice: What?

Annie: Put you in my suitcase, instead of this doll. And take *you* to Helen in Alabama!