



In a Minute

Except for just one thing, Olivia Grey was as nice a little girl as anyone would find. But whenever her mother called her to do something, she always answered, "in a minute." Often the minute would be five or ten, or if her mother did not call two or three times, she might not come at all.

At last Mrs. Grey decided that this habit of Olivia's should be fixed and finally it was. It happened this way: Olivia was planning to spend a couple of weeks with Uncle Ray and Aunt Helen. Uncle Ray was coming for her on the train, but she did not know just what day. She was upstairs reading when he came, and her mother met him at the door. First, mother asked him to be very quiet, and then told him all about Olivia's habit of saying, "in a minute." What did he think would cure her? Together they soon thought of something.

Waiting till about train-time, but still leaving Olivia plenty of time to get ready, Mrs. Grey called just once. Back came the old answer, "in a minute!" Fifteen, twenty, then thirty minutes passed, but Olivia was deeply into a storybook and had forgotten. "And now," said Uncle Ray at last, "I must go quickly to catch the train. Tell Olivia that I am very sorry she couldn't get ready."

Soon Olivia herself came downstairs, and remembering that her mother had called her, asked what she wanted. "Nothing at all now, dear," was the answer; "but Uncle Ray had come for you, and I called you to get ready to go. He waited as long as he could, but had to hurry away before you came." Olivia went to her room crying. But after all, her mother was right and Olivia knew it. That night she said, "Mother, that's the last time I'll ever say, 'in a minute.'" And Olivia kept her promise. She had learned her lesson well. And when Uncle Ray came for her again in a few weeks, she was ready on time. ♦