

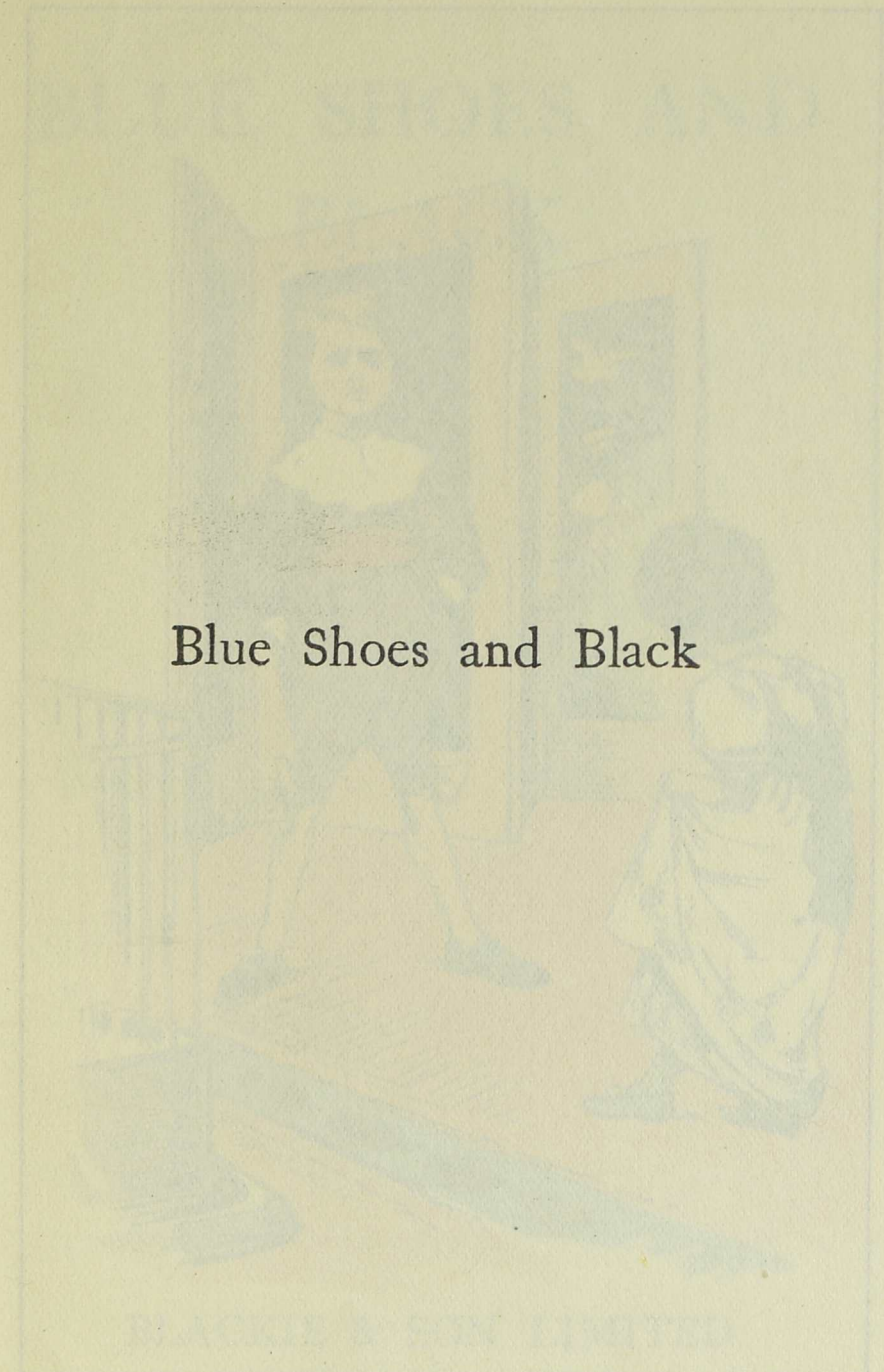
BLACKIE'S  
Coloured-Picture  
STORY-READERS  
FOR INFANTS



Blue Shoes & Black



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Blue Shoes and Black

BLACK & WHITE LIMITED

12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100



“DON'T MY SHOES LOOK LOVELY?”

# BLUE SHOES AND BLACK

BY

L. T. MEADE

BLACKIE & SON LIMITED

LONDON AND GLASGOW

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50 Old Bailey, London

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## Blackie's Coloured-Picture Story-Readers for Infants

**Beauty and the Beast.**

**Three Little Pigs.**

**Puss in Boots.**

**Rosebud.**

**Hop o' My Thumb.**

**Blue Shoes and Black.**

**The Three Bears and Golden  
Hair.**

**Buntie Boo.**

**Jack the Giant-Killer.**

**The Games we Play.**

**By the Sea and In the Fields.**

**Little Red-Riding-Hood and  
Jack and the Beanstalk.**

**Cinderella and The Babes in  
the Wood.**



1. Peter and Nessie stood by the fire one night. They felt very proud, for they were going to a party.

2. It was to be a grand party, and they had had many a talk about it.

3. Nessie was a little over five years of age; Peter was seven, and took great pains with his dress, but Nessie did not mind how untidy she was or what she wore.

1. "Do I look nice, Nessie?" he asked.

2. "Oh, how funny you are, Peter!" said Nessie. "Do you know what I think of you, Peter? That you are just a vain, silly boy, to think so much of your dress."

3. "Vain, silly boy, indeed!" said Peter. "Let me look at you: let me see if you are a girl that I can go to the party with."

4. Nessie showed him her white frock, with its broad, pale blue sash, and the wee bows of blue ribbon that tied back her curls.

5. She also showed him her pretty pale blue kid shoes, and



said, "Don't my shoes look lovely?"

1. "You are for all the world just like a baby," said Peter. "I wouldn't wear shoes like those—not for anybody. I am a man, and you are a baby."

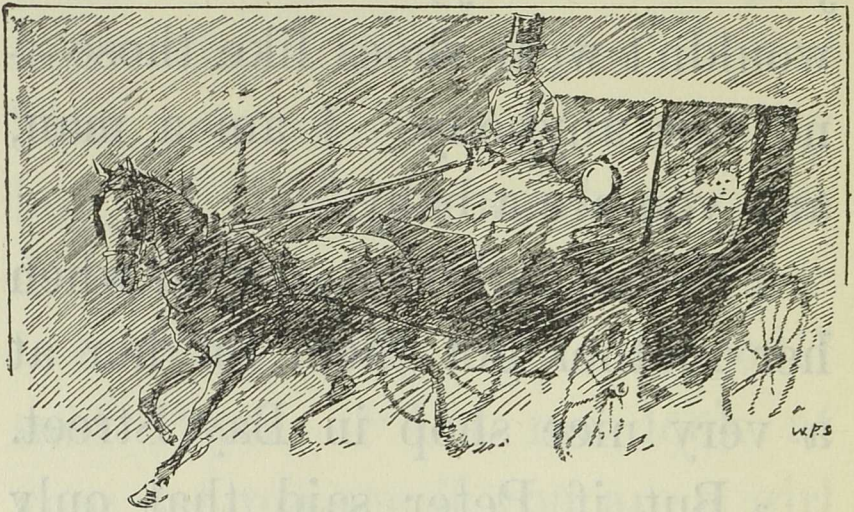
2. Nessie had been so glad when her mother got them for her at a very nice shop in Bay Street.

3. But if Peter said that only baby girls wore that kind of shoes, Nessie was not sure if she did right to have the shoes.

4. Just then the nurse came in. "Come, come, dears," she said, "the cab is at the door, and it is high time to be off. Nessie,

what a sweet pet you look! and Peter, you are quite a dear.”

1. “Oh, I do want to see that



tree; don't you, Nessie?" said Peter.

2. “Yes, ever so much,” said Nessie.

3. Soon the cab drew up at the large house, where the party was to be held.

1. The nurse got out first, helped the children to get out, and then walked up the broad steps to the large hall.

2. Peter went with her, but somehow or other Nessie was left a little behind, among some children who were coming up at the same time.

3. When Nessie was about half-way up, she saw the face of a small, ragged girl, who was about her own age.

4. This girl was looking at Nessie's pale blue shoes—the lovely shoes that Peter did not like.

5. She said, “Oh, my word!

aren't they nice! Oh, missie, they are lovely!"

1. At once Nessie made up her baby mind. She saw the girl's own shoes. They were ragged and full of holes, it is true, but Nessie had only time to see that they were black.

2. The other children pushed past her into the hall, but Nessie stayed behind.

3. "Take them," she said, taking her pretty blue shoes from her feet, and giving them to the girl. "Take them, and give me yours."

4. No one had seen her give her shoes to the poor girl, and no one saw that she was walking in her



"TAKE THEM AND GIVE ME YOURS"

pretty blue socks, with the girl's shoes in her hand.

1. But they were not baby shoes; Peter would sit beside her now.

2. The nurse had been sent upstairs with Peter. She was half-way up when she missed Nessie.

3. "Oh, I must run down for my little girl!" she said. "Where is she?"

4. But she was told that the little girls had to go to another room, and she would find Nessie waiting for her in the hall downstairs.

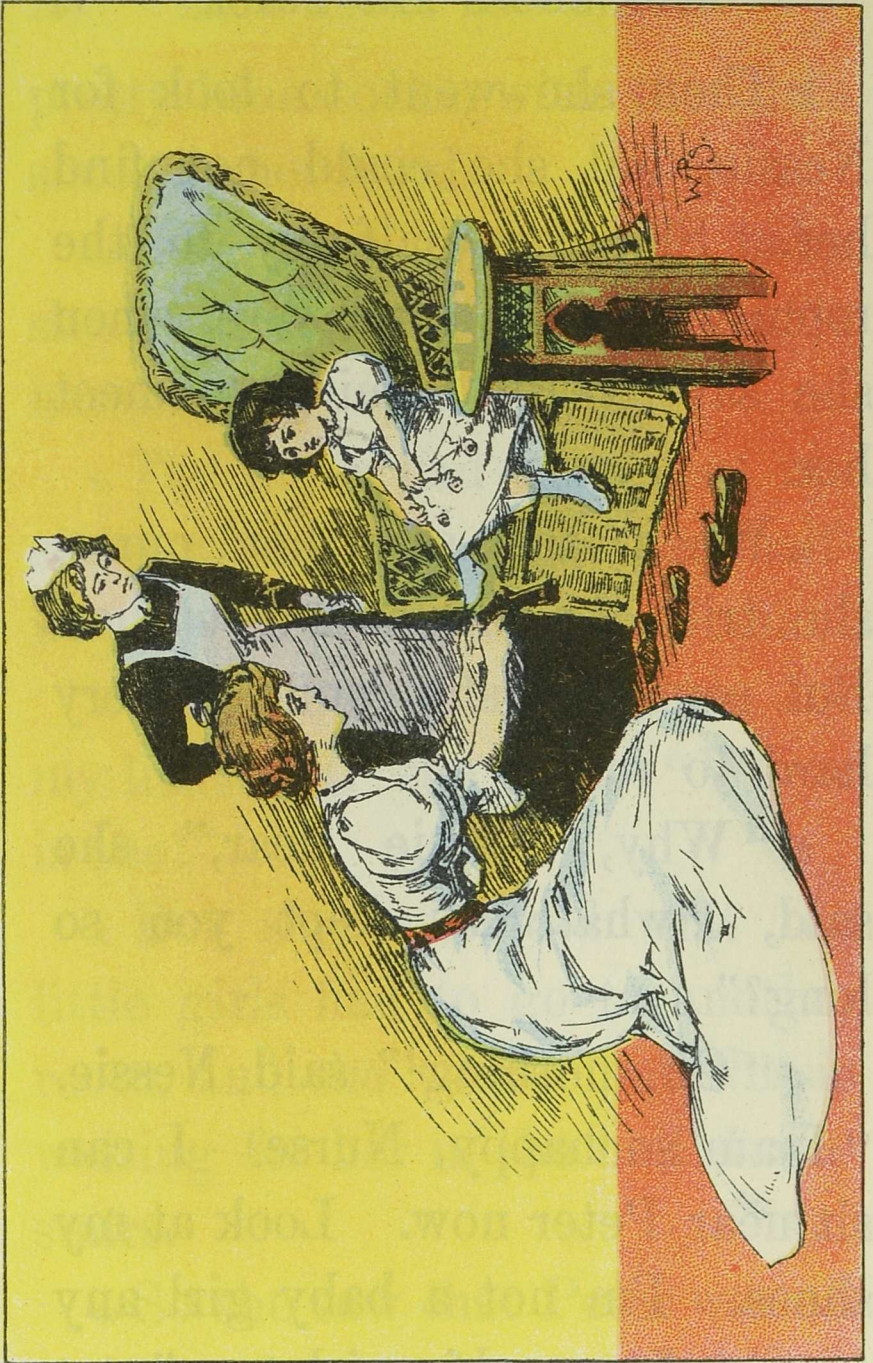
5. So she saw that Peter was all right, and went down with him.

1. Then she went to look for Nessie, but she could not find her. She was half-way to the room where the girls were, when she saw Nessie coming to meet her.

2. When she saw her nurse, she tried to run and meet her. But somehow she found it very hard to run.

3. "Why, Nessie dear," she said, "what has kept you so long?"

4. "Oh, nothing!" said Nessie. "I am so happy, Nurse. I can sit near Peter now. Look at my shoes. I'm not a baby girl any more. I am a big girl now."



“YOU MUST WEAR THESE, NESSIE,” SAID NURSE



1. Nurse looked down at the poor girl's ragged shoes. Alas! the poor shoes were not even black; they were all mud, and one of them had a hole in the side, and the other had a broken lace, and they were much too large for Nessie.

2. "Oh, Nessie!" said Nurse, "what have you done? Where have you put your sweet little shoes?"

3. "I gave them to a poor girl," said Nessie. "Peter said they were only shoes for babies. I am all right. Come along now, Nurse—I want to find Peter."

4. Nurse took her back to the

room. "My dear!" she said, "why ever did you do this?"

1. "I am not a baby when I have these shoes," said Nessie.

2. "You must take them off at once," said the nurse; and she asked one of the maids if she could get a pair of shoes for Nessie.

3. "I am so sorry, miss," she said; "but these are the only shoes I can find in the house. I hope a pair of them will fit little missie."

4. "You must wear these, Nessie," said Nurse. "I won't say anything more about it, pet; you didn't know any better, and

it was very wrong of Peter to laugh at the shoes. Now, come, we are very late.”

1. When tea was over, the children were taken down into the great hall, where the Christmas tree stood.

2. On that tree were fairy dolls and all sorts of little animals—dogs, cats, and bunnies. Besides these there were balls, and beads, and many other bright things.

3. When Nessie saw the tree, she thought she was in a dream.

4. Nurse now asked Nessie to sit beside a little boy who was near them.

5. “No, no, Nurse,” said Nessie.

“I must sit near Peter. I am not a baby girl any more. Look at my shoes, Nurse.”

1. Nessie had her own way, and Nurse said, “Sit here and I will try and find Peter. Of course you and he must be together. Ah, and there he is! If you are quick, you will find a seat by his side. Come along, dear, come at once.”

2. Now Nessie began to hurry. When she got to his side she said, “Peter, Peter! I am not a baby now. Look, look, Peter!” and she pushed out one of the ugly, very ugly, much too big, black shoes.

1. "You are a fright!" said Peter, and he turned his back on poor Nessie.

2. "I won't cry," she said to herself, "for then Peter will think that I am a baby."

3. Two very pretty girls, dressed all in white, came forward and said that Father Christmas had given them something for the children, and now all the lights in the room were going to be put out. But those on the tree were to be left in.

4. Peter got a box of tools off the tree, and then Nessie's name was called.

5. "Go along, and be quick,"

said Peter, giving her a little push. "Why, you'll fall in those big shoes."

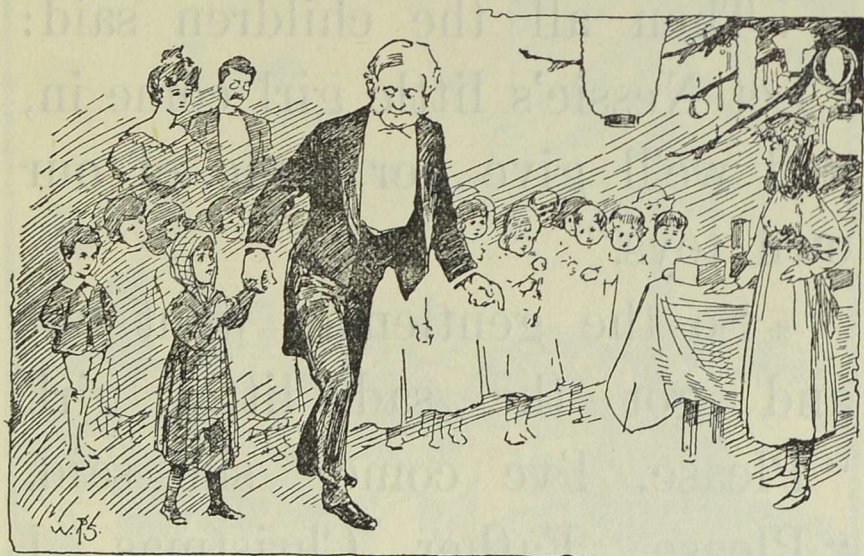
1. At last she got to the tree, where the girl in white gave her—oh! of all things in the world—a fairy doll, a doll with wings, that made her look as though she must fly away, and on her feet a pair of blue shoes.

2. Just then Nessie heard a tap at the window, and, looking up, she saw the face of the ragged girl to whom she had given the pale blue shoes.

3. "Oh, let me in! let me in!" cried the little girl. "If it's Father Christmas that is giving

the things away, I'm sure he has one for me too."

1. The pretty lady in white held



up her hand and said "Hush!" to all the other children.

2. "O, O, *do* let her in!" cried Nessie. "Why, she's my girl, my girl with the blue shoes."

3. Then a gentleman came forward and said. "Shall the little

ragged girl come in? Perhaps Father Christmas has a toy for her here.”

1. Then all the children said: “Let Nessie’s little girl come in, and we’ll give her some of our own toys.”

2. So the gentleman went out and got the sad little girl. “Please, I’ve come,” she said. “Please, Father Christmas, I want my toy.”

3. Nessie was the first to go up to her. She gave her her own fairy doll.

4. When the other children saw what Nessie did, they were kind to the little girl too.





THE CHRISTMAS TREE

1. "Please," said Nessie later, "why have you not got my blue shoes on your feet?"

2. The ragged girl stared. "Would I wear them!" she said. "Why, little missie, I mean to keep the blue shoes for ever and ever."

3. Peter and Nessie became as great friends as ever. Peter saw that his little sister was not a baby after all, for she had done better at the party than he had. Indeed he was quite proud of his little sister now.



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