

The Unhappy Golliwog

Mrs. Kath Walker, a 41-year-old aborigine, of 19 Myrtle Street, Buranda, Brisbane, and who comes from Stradbroke Island in Queensland, has displayed considerable talent as a painter, author and poet.

BY KATH WALKER

Now, rather footloose after having been a member of the WRAAC in the Army for some time, Kath feels she has a message to tell on behalf of her people. This is the theme of most of her work.

Gerri Golliwog lived in a shop, with lots of other toys. There was a tin soldier, a beautiful doll, a Teddy bear, a rocking horse, a spinning top, a drum, and an electric train. They lived on the first floor of a big store. Now most of the toys were happy toys, but poor old Gerri Golliwog was not happy, in fact, he was terribly unhappy. There he sat, all alone in the corner, all by himself and every night he would cry himself to sleep. As everyone knows, when the clock strikes twelve, in the middle of the night, the toys get up and romp around the floor. They play all sorts of games and make such a noise, but when daylight comes they go back to their places on the shelves and stay, until the clock strikes midnight, or until someone buys them.

But poor old Gerri Golliwog did not play and romp with the other toys and that is why he was so unhappy. You see the other toys used to laugh at him and say nasty things about him. They would not let him join in their games because they said his face and hands were black and that he did not wash himself. This was not true of course because poor old Golliwog was just born like that. He did wash himself and often but no matter how much he tried he just could not wash the black off his face. Poor Golliwog, how sad it all was. He even thought of running away, but then he knew it was wrong to run away. He hoped someone would help him, so that the other toys might let him join their games.

Now the Fairy Queen, who watches over everything that is going on in toyland, saw how unhappy Golliwog was and wondered why, so she called two of her fairies to her and said: "Fairy Snow-Dream and Fairy Chocolate-Cream, fly away to the store and find out what makes Gerri Golliwog so unhappy."

Now Fairy Snow-Dream had beautiful golden hair and her skin was as white as the snow. Fairy Chocolate-Cream had long curly hair right down her back and it was as dark as night. Her skin was the colour of rich chocolate. The Fairy Queen had lots of white and chocolate coloured fairies in her kingdom and they all lived very happily together. She thought that Fairy Chocolate-Cream could help Gerri Golliwog more than any fairy could. So holding aloft their magic wands off they flew towards the big store and as they alighted on the window-sill of the store window the clock struck the hour of midnight. They peeped in and saw the toys jump from their shelves and form a

circle and dance round in a ring. But poor old Gerri Golliwog sat in his corner just looking so sad.

"Hello, Gerri Golliwog," said Fairy Chocolate-Cream.

Golliwog looked up with tears in his eyes.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I am Fairy Chocolate-Cream. The Fairy Queen knows you are unhappy and has sent Fairy Snow-Dream and myself to find out why you are so unhappy. What makes you so unhappy, dear Gerri Golliwog?" she asked.

Poor Golliwog sat there with more tears in his eyes.

"The other toys won't play with me," he said.

"Why?" asked Fairy Chocolate-Cream.

"Because my skin is black, they do not like me," he sadly replied.

"But my skin is black too," said Fairy Chocolate-Cream, "and everyone in fairyland loves me. Don't they Fairy Snow-Dream?"

"Of course we all do," replied Fairy Snow-Dream quite shocked by this lack of manners of the other toys.

"I'll tell you what, you will play with Fairy Chocolate-Cream and myself and we will dance together."

Gerri Golliwog could not believe his ears.

"You mean you will both dance and play with me?" he asked.

"Of course we will," said both the fairies together.

"Come along you are wasting time you know."

Gerri Golliwog smiled and jumped off the shelf and took hold of the fairies' hands and off they went round and round until Golliwog was quite dizzy.

Now, when the other toys saw who Golliwog was dancing with they stopped their game to watch.

Fairy Chocolate-Cream and Fairy Snow-Dream turned to all the other toys.