

# PATSY

A Dramatic reading

by  
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PATSY  
A Dramatic reading

Kate Douglas Wiggin

Arranged from the book, "The Story of Patsy."

It had been a long wearisome day at the Free-Kindergarten, and Miss Kate was alone in the deserted room. Eighty pairs of tiny boots had clattered down the stairs and another day was over. The little teacher, tired and exhausted, found a momentary forgetfulness in sleep.

Suddenly she was awakened by an apologetic cough. She sat up in astonishment for quietly ensconced in a small chair was the weirdest apparition ever seen in human form. He had a shrunken, somewhat deformed body, a curious melancholy dirty face and such a head of dust-colored hair that he might have been checked for a door mat. His sole redeeming features were two big pathetic, soft brown eyes, so appealing that one could hardly meet them without feeling instinctively, in one's pocket for a biscuit or a ten cent piece.

At length Miss Kate wakened to her duties as hostess.

"Well sir, did you come to see me?"

"Yes I did. I knowed you for Miss Kate the minute I seen you."

"How was that?"

"The boys said you was kind of a pretty lady with tously hair."

"I'm very much obliged to the boys."

"Kin you take me in?"

"What here in the kindergarten?"

"Yes, I been waitin' this long while to git in."

"Why my dear, we have only little children."

"Well, I'm nine by the book, but I ain't more'n six, long o' my loosin' them three years. I lost them on the back stairs. My father, when he was drunk, pitched me down and my back was most broke in two so I couldn't get out of bed for ever and ever so long, 'till just now."

"Why you poor child, who took care of you?"

"Mother, she minded me when she wasn't out washin'."

"Well, and did she send you here today?"

"However could she? She's dead. I supposed you knowed that."

"What is your name?"

"Patsy."

"Patsy, what?"

"Patsy nothin'--just only Patsy. The boys call me Humpty Bumpy and Rags but that's sassy."

"But all little boys have another name, Patsy."

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---