



Emirosy

© The Dolls Dance



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**This book is dedicated to
My beloved niece, Sethmi**

Emirosy

Emily was a little girl who loved dolls very much. She had a closet full of dolls. Most of them were gifts received from her aunts and uncles, on her birthdays. Others were bought by her mother and father, when they took her shopping.

The oldest doll was Emirosy. She was very pretty. When Emily was very little, she used to love and care for Emirosy very much. But, when she received prettier dolls, she forgot her old Emirosy. So, the old doll became dirty and dusty.

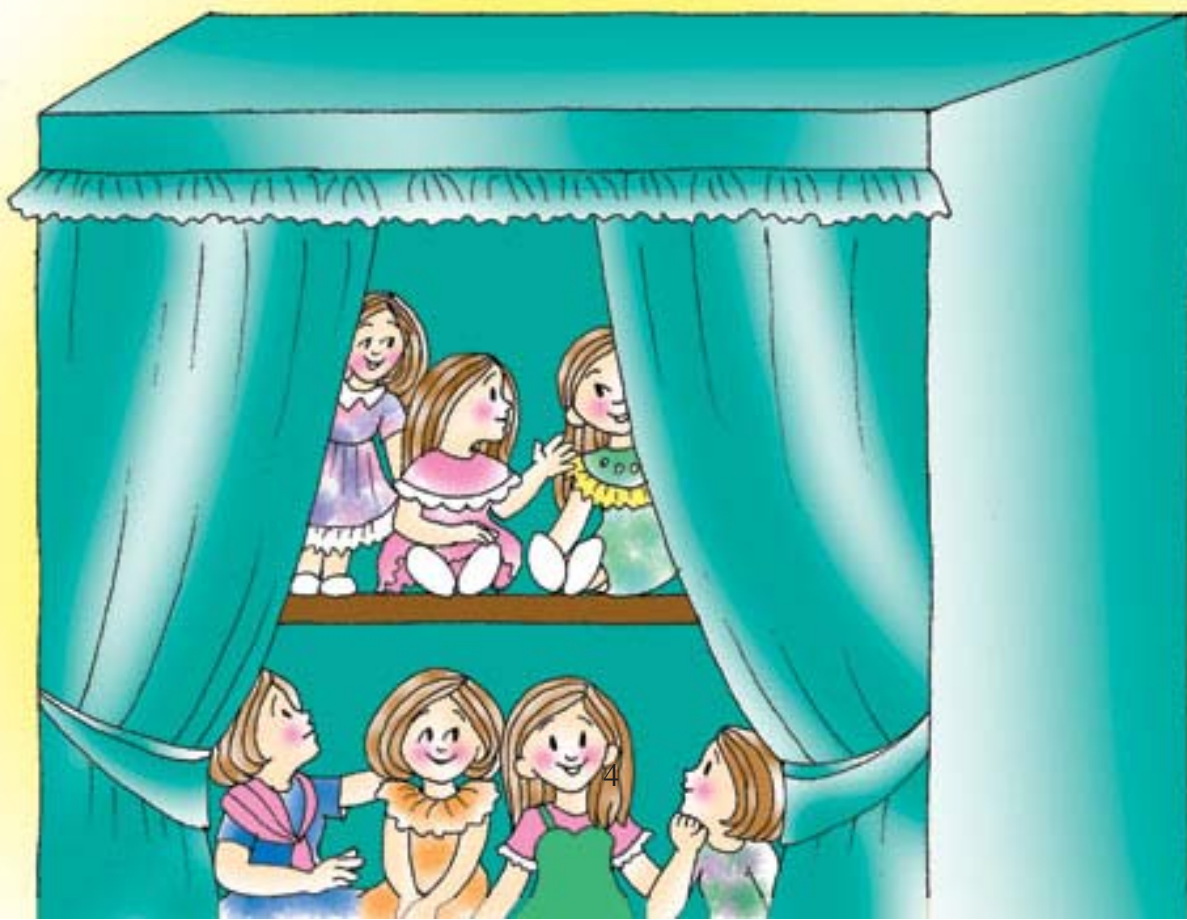


Emily's new dolls had lovely dresses. The dresses were especially made for the dolls, by her mother's tailor. And some of them were brought from overseas, by her father. They were very expensive. Some were made of fine silk and satin edged with golden thread. The dolls' clothes were so glamorous that they were good enough to wear for a Queen's Ball.



But, poor Emirosy had only one old dress. She was too old and dusty for Emily to care about her anymore. Emirosy was put away in the attic and left all alone. The other pretty dolls were kept in a beautiful closet that was made especially for them, in Emily's bedroom.

One day, Emily's dolls had a fine idea. They thought of throwing a dolls' dance, on Emily's balcony. "Oh, that's a lovely idea," everybody said at once, and they were very excited.





They waited impatiently until nightfall and for Emily to fall asleep. As soon as Emily closed her eyes, all the dolls jumped from the closet and tiptoed to Emily's bedside to be sure she was fast asleep. They hurried across the room to the balcony and started arranging the dance floor.

They covered the floor with Emily's beautiful storybooks. Her mother's beautiful scarves were hung around the walls as tapestries. And her brother's marbles were made into shining chandeliers. They glittered like crystal, in the moonlight. The dance floor looked gorgeous.

All the dolls were invited to the ball. Emily's little sister's French dolls were also invited. They dressed up in their finest dresses, as if they were going to a royal ball at the King's court.

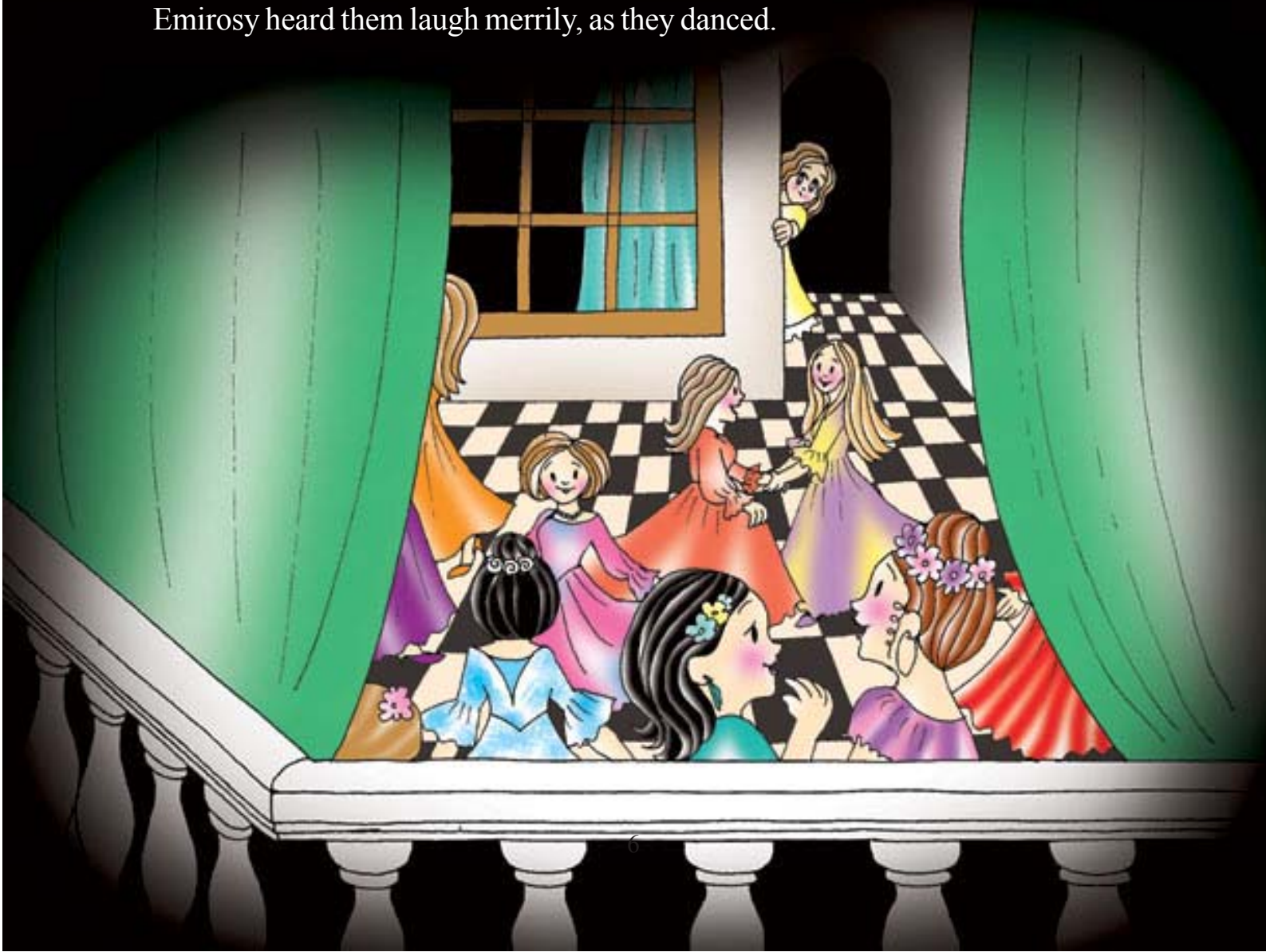
The dance floor was filled with many pretty dolls.
But there was only one who was not there,
on the dance floor.

It was no one else but poor old Emirosy.
She was not invited, because she didn't have
any fine clothes suitable for such a grand party.
She waited in the attic, all alone.
She was very sad.

Her eyes brimmed with tears.
All the others were dressed glamorously
and had gone to the party, leaving her behind.
She couldn't bear being in the attic all by herself.



She stepped down from the attic and her feet were pulled to the balcony.
“How beautiful!” Emirosy was very excited. She looked around with eager
eyes. It was the loveliest sight she had ever seen. The dolls were swaying on
the dance floor, like glistening feathers. The sequins and precious stones on
their lovely dresses glittered in the moonlight.
Emirosy heard them laugh merrily, as they danced.



She walked to the dance floor quietly and wistfully. But as she walked in, everybody turned around in dismay. Some of them ignored her and pretended they didn't know her. She smiled at them innocently, but no one returned her smile. None of them wanted to be friends with her. They turned away and danced with others.

She stood at the side of the dance floor, hoping someone would invite her to dance. She gazed at them, yearningly. But no one even looked at her.



Emirosy became very sad.
Some of the dolls looked
at Emirosy's dress scornfully, and giggled.
She felt ashamed.
Tears ran down her cheeks.
She couldn't stand it any longer.
She turned and ran back to the attic, crying.
She threw herself across the bed
and cried even more.
She cried and cried her heart out.
The pillow became wet with tears.
She couldn't bear hearing the music
coming from the balcony.
Their merry giggles echoed in her ears.





She couldn't bear being isolated in the attic any more.

"If only I could see it..."

She stepped down from the attic and tiptoed to the balcony again.

But she did not go to the dance floor.

She hid behind a tapestry and peeped through the scarves wistfully, to watch the dance.

"Oh! How beautiful!" sighed Emirosy.

She would love to be out there and dance with the other dolls.

Her heart pounded with grief.

She couldn't bear watching it any more.

It brought tears to her eyes again.

She stepped back,
covering her face with her hands
and trying to hold back her sobs.





As she stepped away, she bumped into someone who was also looking through the scarves, right next to her.

“Oh, I’m sorry!” Emirosy murmured and bowed her head humbly. But then, she suddenly looked up at the stranger.

“Oh!!” It was a beautiful fairy.

She had been watching secretly beside Emirosy.

She had seen the dolls’ dance, when she flew over the garden.

The fairy looked at Emirosy puzzled.

“Why are you peeping through the curtain?

Why don’t you go inside and dance?”

asked the little fairy, as she watched Emirosy’s drawn face.

Big tears rolled down from Emirosy’s eyes.

Emirosy looked down at the floor.



“I...I’m not invited to the dance, because I don’t look good enough. And I don’t have fine clothes.” She began sobbing again.



The fairy felt very sorry for her.

“Oh, please don’t cry, I’ll give you this dress of mine. You may wear it and go to the dance. They may not recognize you, but please make sure to return it before dawn, because I have to go back to the fairyland before morning. Otherwise, I’ll be in trouble. And don’t forget, you must not speak a word,” said the fairy kindly, wiping Emirosy’s tears away.

Emirosy’s face brightened with happiness.

“Oh, really? Oh....!! You are so kind.”



The fairy dressed Emirosy in her beautiful, glistening dress and put on Emirosy's old dress quickly. She combed her unruly hair until it shone with moonbeams. "Emirosy, you look gorgeous, even prettier than a fairy," said the fairy, placing her glittering tiara on Emirosy's head.



Emirosy looked prettier than a princess, indeed. Her golden hair bounced as she walked. Her pretty face glowed, as she smiled. Her eyes glittered in the deepest blue and seemed to be filled with sparkling stars. She was speechless with happiness. Emirosy stepped into the dance floor quietly. She looked very graceful, just like a princess from heaven.



As she walked to the dance floor, everyone stopped and stared. They were stunned and gazed at Emirosy with their eyes wide. They couldn't recognize who she was. "She must be a princess from a far away land," said all the dolls as they ran forward to welcome her.

Emirosy smiled sweetly.
She was treated like royalty by all of the dolls.
Her jeweled tiara sparkled and her dress
glittered in the moonlight, as thousands of stars
shone down on it.
Some of the dolls looked at her enviously.



All those who ignored and ridiculed her earlier,
wanted to be with her and talk to her.
“Please tell us where you came from?
And may we know your name?”

She was showered with questions. But she couldn’t answer any of them.
She smiled at them and nodded.
She was surrounded, and all the dolls wanted to dance with her.

Emirosy moved with them to the dance floor. She swayed like a golden feather,
as she danced. She giggled with joy and danced merrily until her small feet
ached. She danced to her heart’s content. She danced the whole night, until
dawn began to arrive.





When it was about to sunrise, she looked around.
“Oh! It’s almost morning. I must go back.”

Emirosy stopped dancing at once
and hurried across the floor.

“Please don’t go, please stay with us,”
The dolls pleaded and tried to stop her.

But, she escaped from them and ran to the edge of the balcony.
All the others ran to her and took hold of her. She couldn’t move at all.

It was almost sunrise. If Emirosy didn’t go back to the fairy and exchange
dresses the fairy would be in a lot of trouble. Emirosy didn’t want the fairy
who helped her so much, to get into any trouble.

“Please princess, please don’t go. We would love to be your friends.
We are proud of having a princess as a friend,” said all the dolls.

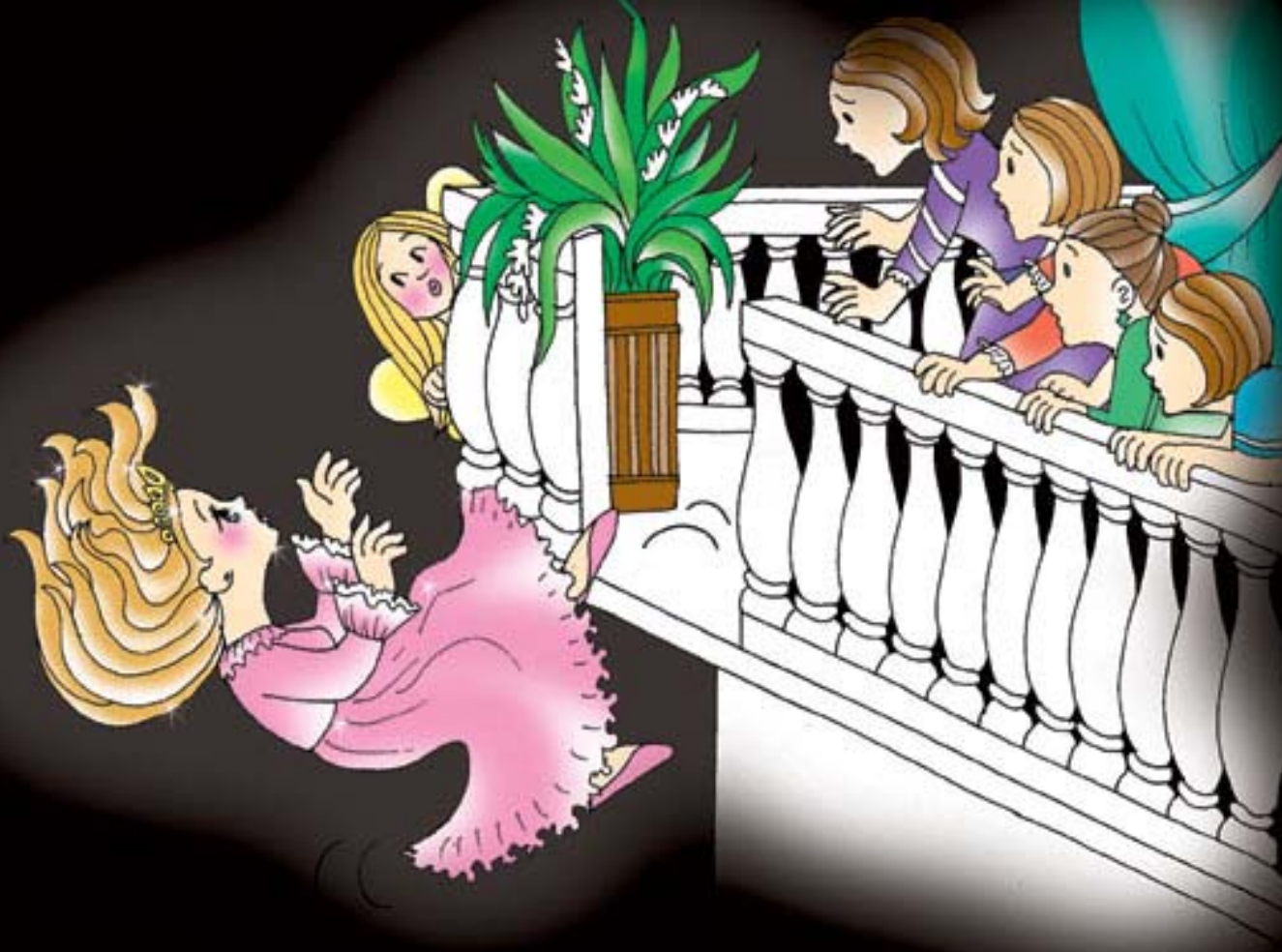
“Princess? Oh no, my dear friends,”

Emirosy couldn’t help saying.

“...I’m not a princess at all.

I’m just the same old Emirosy, from the attic.”





“What? Emirosy from the attic?” they said. “That’s not possible. The Emirosy we know, doesn’t have such fine clothing,” they said in amazement.

“No, I don’t have any fine clothes. I borrowed these from a fairy who came to see the dolls dance. And now I’m hurrying back because I have to return the clothes to the fairy before sunrise. Please let me go,” Emirosy told them, humbly.

“What? Is that you, Emirosy? In borrowed clothes?” they said.

“What a shame to us dolls!”

All the dolls shouted at her and pushed her away.

“A---Ah....!!” As they pushed her, she slipped and fell from the balcony.

“Oh, no! Please!”

She screamed, as she fell from the balcony.

The fairy, who was watching everything from behind the balcony, flew to her instantly.

She caught Emirosy in her arms and carried her back up to the balcony.

The fairy was very angry.



The dolls gathered at the railing in amazement.

“Emirosy is such a sweet doll,”
the fairy said to all the other dolls.

“She deserves to be in fairyland.

I will take her there with me.

Only sweet people with good virtues
can go to fairyland.

Those who treat others meanly
and without respect can never go there.

So, you should learn to be kind and nice
to others, the way Emirosy does,
regardless of their appearance,”
said the fairy kindly.

And, away she flew to fairyland,
with Emirosy.

