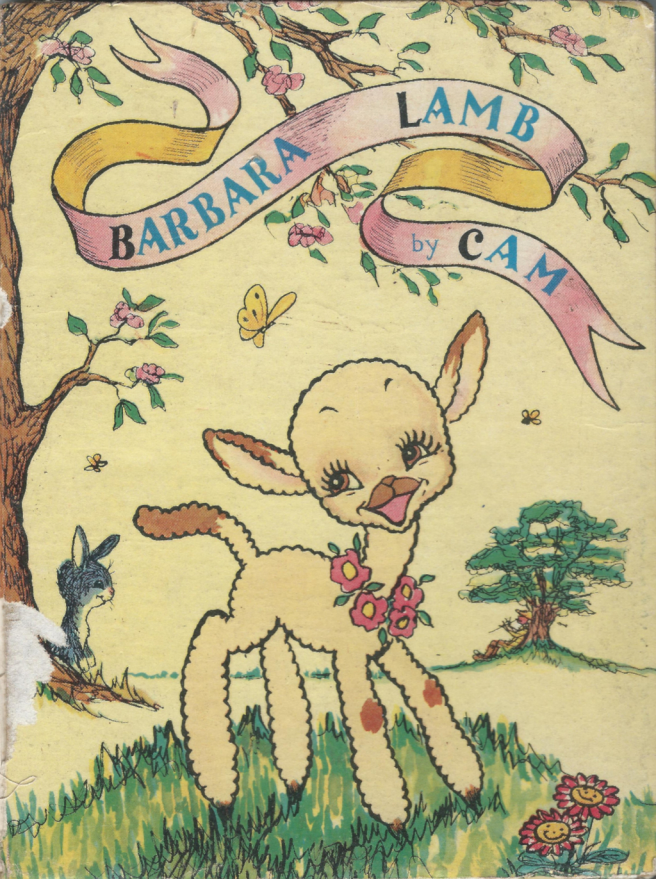


BARBARA LAMB
by CAM





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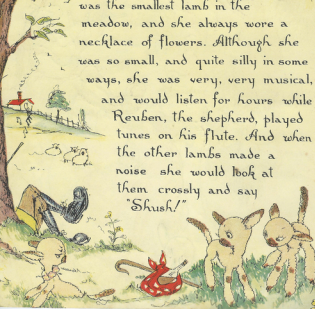
THE BLUEBIRDS were nesting when Barbara was born. The sun was smiling down at the other lambs gambolling in the meadow, and warming the buds so that they burst into flower. All the animals were happy in a new and friendly world.





BARBARA

was the smallest lamb in the meadow, and she always wore a necklace of flowers. Although she was so small, and quite silly in some ways, she was very, very musical, and would listen for hours while Reuben, the shepherd, played tunes on his flute. And when the other lambs made a noise she would look at them crossly and say "Shush!"






REUBEN sometimes told Barbara stories of famous singers who sang so beautifully that they brought tears to the people's eyes. Barbara thought how lovely it would be if she could sing as beautifully as that. She wanted to sing more than anything in the world. But when she tried it she could only make a funny sort of "baa-ing" noise, and the other animals made faces at her. So she crept quietly away by herself and dreamed of being a famous singer.





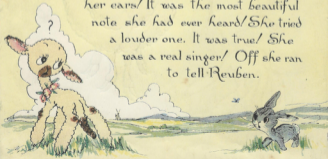
ONE

day she awoke from her dream to find standing before her a MAGIC golden ram with long, curly horns. The ram (who was the King of all the sheep) said that because she was the smallest lamb in the meadow he could grant her a wish. So Barbara said quickly "Please, Your Majesty, I should like to be a great singer and bring tears to people's eyes." "Very well," said the Ram. "But remember, if you catch cold your beautiful voice will vanish and you will be just an ordinary lamb again."





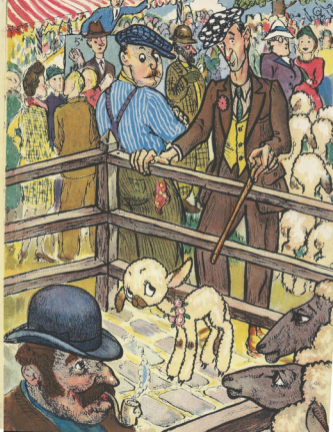
A moment later Barbara felt a light touch on the tip of her tongue and a feeling like fizzy lemonade running down her throat. When she opened her eyes the King had disappeared. At first she thought she had only been dreaming. But presently she opened her mouth and sang a tiny note. She could hardly believe her ears! It was the most beautiful note she had ever heard! She tried a louder one. It was true! She was a real singer! Off she ran to tell Reuben.





THEY were taken to market and put in a sheep-pen, and they hated it! Barbara tried to cheer them up by singing. She sang and sang, but it didn't do much good.

And when the farmers came round they bought all the other lambs, but not Barbara, because although she sang so beautifully she was not big and fat enough. Poor Barbara was dreadfully ashamed!





BUT presently she to sing again just to keep her while she was singing along came a very important had yellow gloves and a shiny hat and a big cigar, and he said he had never heard a lamb sing so beautifully before.



began spirits up, and gentleman from the city. Me and he said he had never



AFTER he had listened to her a little more he asked Barbara politely if she would care to come along to the city with him. Barbara said she would be delighted. So he showed her to his beautiful car, and they drove away together to the city. The gentleman, whose name was Mr Robinson, said that Barbara should have her name up in golden lights. Barbara was terribly excited!



AND IT ALL CAME TRUE!

A few weeks later Barbara sang on the stage at Mr Roberson's theatre, and the people cheered and cheered. And although it was too dark to see for certain, Barbara felt quite sure they all had tears in their eyes. She was very, very happy as she thought how splendid it was to be a success, and so different from other lambs. But she DID wish Reuben could have heard her.

BARBARA
THE WONDER LAMB
WITH THE
GOLDEN VOICE.





FAN
MAIL



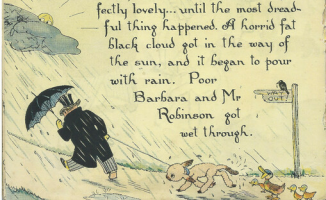
SHE became famous in next to no time, and when she walked with Mr Robinson in the park the people used to stare, because they all knew she was Barbara the lamb with the Golden voice. She had the loveliest dressing-room and people sent her flowers and lots of letters. She was **VERY** happy, but still she didn't quite forget the meadow where she had played.





WELL, one day Barbara said she would like to go to the Zoo. So kind Mr Robinson at once said he would take her. They saw the elephant and the lion, the giraffes and the camels, the penguins and monkeys and bears. It was all perfectly lovely...until the most dreadful thing happened. A horrid fat black cloud got in the way of the sun, and it began to pour with rain. Poor

Barbara and Mr Robinson got wet through.





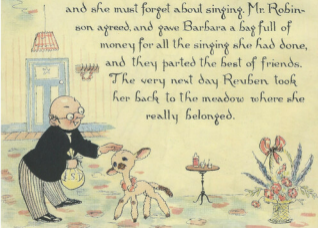
BARBARA CAUGHT COLD!

She sniffed and sneezed, and although she gargled like anything it didn't do any good. That night she found her lovely voice had vanished, just as the Golden Ram had said it would. She was just a little lamb "baa-ing" rather hoarsely, and the people laughed instead of having tears in their eyes. She went sadly to her dressing room, knowing she would never sing again. But suddenly a head appeared round the door...



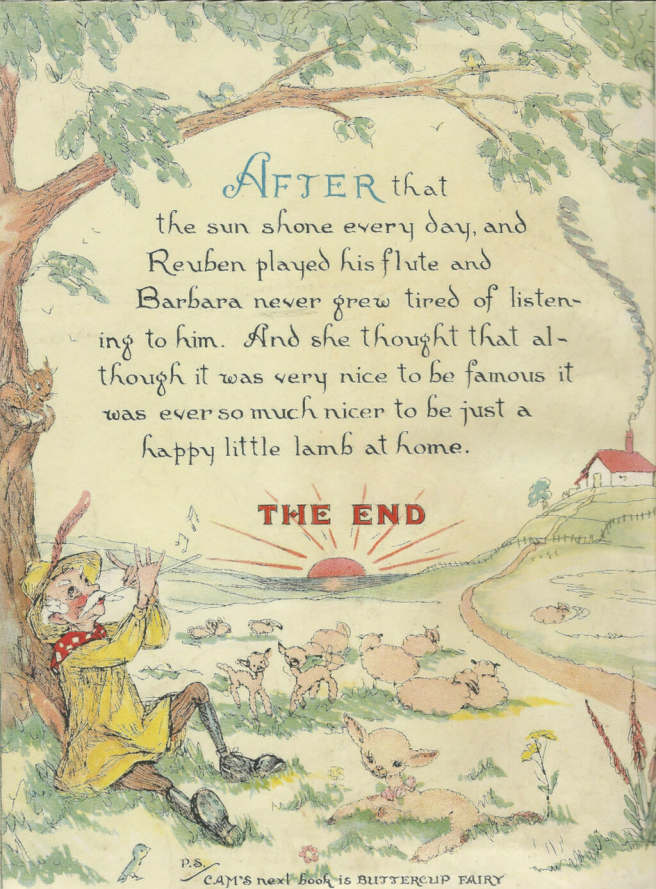


It was Reuben, the shepherd! Barbara was so glad to see him that all in a minute she was happy again. Reuben said he would take her back to the meadow, and she must forget about singing. Mr. Robinson agreed, and gave Barbara a bag full of money for all the singing she had done, and they parted the best of friends. The very next day Reuben took her back to the meadow where she really belonged.



THE sun was setting when they reached the meadow, but there was still time to have the most lovely coming-home party. Reuben played his flute, and Barbara thought it much more beautiful than her singing (when she had been able to sing). And when at last she fell asleep, a happy and contented little lamb, she had no dreams at all.





AFTER that
the sun shone every day, and
Reuben played his flute and
Barbara never grew tired of listen-
ing to him. And she thought that al-
though it was very nice to be famous it
was ever so much nicer to be just a
happy little lamb at home.

THE END

P.S.

CAM'S next book is BUTTERCUP FAIRY

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