

Prose/Honorable Mention  
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### Emily's New Blessing

"Cock-a-doodle doo," the rooster called from the yard. Emily sighed, "He had just interrupted a wonderful dream." She looked out the window and saw their family's award winning cow, Bethany. Emily got out of bed, grabbed her plaid shirt and blue overalls. She got dressed and headed outside to milk Bethany, but something was wrong. Bethany was mooing like crazy and acting really spooked.

"Mamma, Papa, Suzie get out here! Something's wrong with Bethany!" Emily yelled.

Mom, Dad, and Emily's little sister Suzie came running from the house. "I think she's sick", said Emily with a worried look on her face.

Emily's mama in her thick southern accent said, "Beth's not sick, she's pregnant".

"Daddy, what is pregnant?" Suzie asked her father.

"It means Bethany's going to have a baby", he replied.

"A baby!" Suzie exclaimed happily, she was glad to know she wouldn't always be the youngest.

"When will the baby come?" Emily asked.

"Well from the looks of it the baby's coming now!" answered their mother.

Suzie, Mamma, and Papa tried to pet Bethany to calm her, but she wouldn't let any of them touch her. "If she won't let us touch her, you're going to have to help deliver the baby, Em" said dad.

Emily's face turned white and she looked as if she were about to puke. "What, I can't deliver a baby!" Emily said in shock. "I'm just a kid!" Emily was now breathing heavily and a bunch of thoughts swirled around in her head all at once. Bethany mooed in pain and all the thoughts in Emily's head disappeared. There was only one thing she needed to think about, and that was Bethany. "I'll do it," said Emily in her toughest voice.

Her parents looked so proud. At that moment Emily was proud of herself, too. All her worries were gone and she wasn't thinking about how or what she was going to do, but she was just thinking about how to get sweet Bethany out of pain. Bethany was now lying on the floor mooing uncontrollably.

"There's the head!" Mama said.

"Oh boy, this just got real," replied Emily. It was kind of scary until Emily got the hang of it. The baby calf was out and Bethany gave it its first bath by licking it. To Emily's surprise, the

calf got up and walked wobbly around. Since Emily had delivered the calf her parents let her choose a name. This made Suzie mad because she wanted a baby Suzie Jr.

“It took me a while but I finally know what I will name her,” Emily said proudly, “Cally!” she announced. Emily’s entire day had been leading up to this. The best part about Cally was her calmness. During the whole birth she had never cried once. She was excited to see the new world, and was not scared. Now Cally was calmly sitting in Emily’s lap looking at the world around her. At this moment Emily felt so happy, excited, and proud of herself all at once. This feeling felt so wonderful. Emily and Cally fell asleep on the porch swing, thanking God for their blessings.