

AMELIA EARHART – THE PARK

By Carole L. Cooney

Amelia Mary Earhart's father was named Edward, her mother, Amy and her younger sister, Muriel. "Meelie" became Amelia's nickname because her sister couldn't say Amelia. This nickname lasted throughout her life.

Amelia and her sister acted in a tomboyish way. She told her mother at age seven that she wanted to ride an elephant. "No," said her mother. Soon Amelia found herself in the park riding a Ferris wheel instead.

Setting: The park

Characters:

Narrator

Amelia (Meelie)

Mother

Narrator: Amelia Mary Earhart was given the nickname "Meelie" by her baby sister who couldn't say the name Amelia. One day, Amelia was sitting on a park bench talking with her mother.

Meelie: Mother, I was looking at the encyclopedia and I saw big pictures of elephants. There were people riding them and it looked like fun.

Mother: I'm glad you were looking at the pictures in the encyclopedia. Those are such wonderful books because they have a lot of information. I'm proud of you, Meelie.

Meelie: Mother, would I ever be able to ride an elephant? Are people allowed to ride the elephants at the zoo?

Mother: I think only the elephant tamers can go near the elephants. They are still wild animals and you never know how they will react if you tried to ride one.

Meelie: But the pictures show people riding them and there doesn't seem to be any trouble.

Mother: Then those elephants must be trained to let people ride them.

Meelie: Could we go where there are tame elephants so I can ride one?

Mother: No, I don't think so...but I'll tell you what we *can* do.

Meelie: Will it be as exciting as riding an elephant?

Mother: I think it will be even *more* exciting and *more* fun.

Meelie: Mother! What is it?

Mother: How would you like to ride the big Ferris wheel with the sparkling lights?

Meelie: Oh, Mother! Could I? Could I?

Mother: Shall we go and do it?

Meelie: Now?

Mother: Yes, right now.

Narrator: Meelie and her mother walk across the park to the Amusement Center. There in the middle was a Giant Ferris wheel with sparkling lights. Meelie's mother bought the tickets and they sat together waiting for the wheel to start turning.

Meelie: What do we do now?

Mother: You'll see.

Narrator: The music began playing a merry tune and the wheel began to turn making Meelie's seat rise up into the air.

Mother: Hold on to the bar so you'll feel safe.

Meelie: Oh, Mother, we're going up into the sky! This is so exciting! It's like flying!

Narrator: Meelie would have more adventures that made her feel like flying until one day she piloted a plane and won many awards for her skill and bravery flying.