

LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY

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PLEASE, DEAR... DON'T CRY ANY MORE... NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS... IF ANNIE HAD MET WITH AN ACCIDENT, WE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO HEAR IT!

BUT WHEN I THINK OF HER ALONE... PENNILESS... HELPLESS... I.. I..



TRY AND LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE PICTURE. THE CHILD HAS COURAGE AND LOVE FOR ALL LIVING CREATURES IN HER HEART. THAT WILL PROTECT HER LIKE A SHINING SUIT OF ARMOR. I BELIEVE...



I KNOW SHE HAS FAITH AND COURAGE, BUT SHE IS SUCH A LITTLE GIRL, A YOUNG INNOCENT CHILD, FALSELY ACCUSED OF ARSON, FELONY... DRIVEN OUT INTO THE WORLD BY STUPID, MALICIOUS SCANDAL-MONGERS...

WHEN I THINK OF THAT EVIL-MINDED BUSYBODY, MISS SNEARY...



SHE'S PAYING A BITTER PRICE FOR ALL HER GOSSIP AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS;... SINCE THE TWO TRAMPS CONFESSED THEY ACCIDENTALLY STARTED THE FIRE, MISS SNEARY IS ASHAMED TO LEAVE HER OWN HOUSE SHE HAS LEARNED A LESSON ALL GOSSIPS MUST LEARN... AND...



LOOK, ZERO... WE'RE COMIN' TO A TOWN. I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED AN' HUNGRY AN' THIRSTY... BUT PRETTY SOON I'LL BETCHA EVERYTHING WILL BE SWELL... I WAS KINDA GETTIN' THE WIM-WAMS



BUT I WAS THINKIN' LOTSA FOLKS AIN'T GOT NO MONEY AT ALL AN' I GOT A QUARTER, AND THAT'S BETTER THAN NOTHIN'-AN' YOU GOT A SWELL LICENSE THAT SEZ YOU'RE WORTH TWO DOLLARS!



GEE! AIN'T THE WATER SWEET AN' COOL? IT TASTES BETTER'N AN ICE CREAM SODA. I DRANK SO MUCH WATER I AIN'T THIRSTY NO MORE. I AIN'T EVEN AS TIRED AN' HUNGRY AS I WAS. I WISHT I KNEW WHO BUILT THIS SPRING. I'LL BETCHA IT WAS A TERRIBLE SWELL PERSON



IT'S FUNNY HOW MANY NICE PEOPLE THERE IS IN THE WORLD. EVEN IF I MET WHOEVER PUT THIS SPRING HERE, I WOULDN'T KNOW 'EM SO I COULDN'T THANK 'EM. BUT THEY DON'T CARE. THEY JUST DID IT 'CAUSE THEY WANTED TO DO SOMETHING NICE FOR EVERYBODY



THAT'S WHY I AIN'T SO VERY MAD AT MISS SNEARY FOR TELLIN' LIES AN' SAYIN' I SET FIRE TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE. MR. MARTIN SEZ NATURE PUTS WEEDS IN GARDENS TO MAKE FOLKS SEE HOW NICE FLOWERS ARE. I GUESS MISS SNEARY IS JUST A WEED THAT'S MAD, 'CAUSE SHE AIN'T A FLOWER!



N. A. FOWLER 7-17