

LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY

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YOU'RE MY LAWYER... I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO EAT OR SLEEP SINCE ANNIE ROONEY DISAPPEARED - I CONFESSED TO THE WARDEN THAT I HAD LIED WHEN I SAID I KNEW ANNIE'S PARENTS WERE ALIVE



IT WAS A FALSE STATEMENT I MADE IN THE HOPE IT WOULD KEEP THEM FROM ADOPTING HER

I WARNED YOU THAT YOU WERE PLAYING WITH FIRE

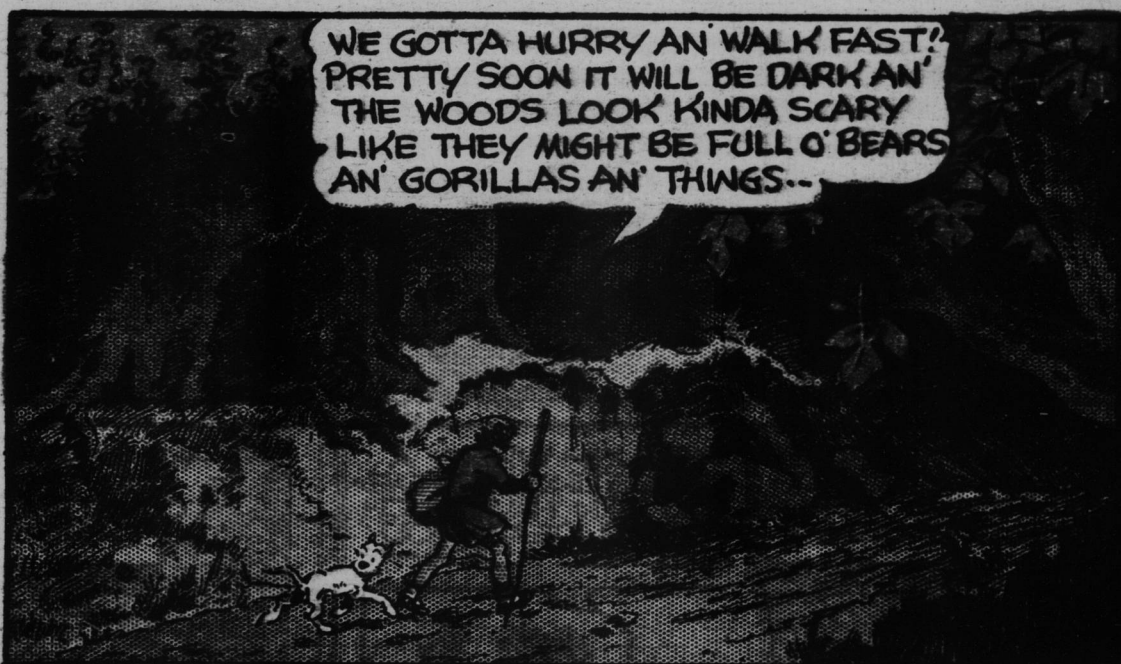


NOW THAT THE CHILD HAS VANISHED - THEY THINK I KNOW WHERE SHE IS - THEY EVEN INFER I KIDNAPED HER

IF YOU ARE INNOCENT YOU HAVE NO CAUSE TO WORRY



NO CAUSE TO WORRY? MY DAUGHTER, FLORA, SPENDS ALL HER TIME CRYING AND BLAMING ME - AND MRS. McMACK, THAT TERRIBLE PERSON, THREATENS ME WITH BODILY INJURY THE FIRST TIME SHE...



WE GOTTA HURRY AN' WALK FAST! PRETTY SOON IT WILL BE DARK AN' THE WOODS LOOK KINDA SCARY - LIKE THEY MIGHT BE FULL O' BEARS AN' GORILLAS AN' THINGS...



LOOK, ZERO! LOOK! THERE'S A HOUSE... GEE, WE'RE LUCKY - THE SKY'S GETTIN' SO DARK IT MIGHT BE GONNA RAIN - BUT IF WE KIN STAY IN THE HOUSE OR BARN - WE WON'T HAVE NOTHIN' TO WORRY 'BOUT



GEE! IT SEEMS KINDA CREEPY!! THE DOOR WAS WIDE OPEN - I KNOCKED AN' HOLLERED, "HELLO," AND YOU BARKED, BUT NOBODY ANSWERS - HONEST - I WISH IT WASN'T SO DARK!



OOO-OH! A WOMAN ON THE FLOOR! MAYBE SHE'S DEAD!



SHE AIN'T DEAD - 'CAUSE HER HAND FEELS WARM - BUT SHE MUST BE AWFUL SICK... I CAN'T WAKE HER - I WISH SOMEBODY WOULD COME AN' HELP ME TO HELP HER!