

Little Orphan Annie

WHY COULD ANYONE WISH TO HARM LITTLE ANNIE? WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING? HURRY! PERHAPS CONSTABLE PINCHER WILL HAVE SOME NEWS OF HER-

SHE WAS CARRIED AWAY LAST FRIDAY NIGHT- AND NOT A SINGLE TRACE OF HER YET-

HUSH- THE CHIEF IS TALKING TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE, IN EVERY TOWN, FOR A HUNDRED MILES-

HELLO, CHIEF- YES, THIS IS CHIEF PINCHER, AT COSMIC CITY- STILL NO NEWS THERE, BUT WE'VE GOT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CAR-

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT- TELL ME AGAIN ALL YOU SAW, MRS. FUTILE-

ANNIE WAS COMING HOME ALONE LATE, FROM THE STORE- SANDY AND I WALKED DOWN THE STREET, TO MEET HER- WE HAD JUST SEEN HER, NEARLY A BLOCK AWAY, WHEN THE BIG, BLACK CAR STOPPED BESIDE HER, AND SOME ONE PULLED HER INTO IT AND AWAY THEY DASHED-

I CAN'T FIGURE WHAT MOTIVE ANYONE WOULD HAVE FOR SUCH A THING-

YOUNG PINCHPENNY HAD A GOOD REASON TO HATE ANNIE-

YES- BUT HE'D NEVER DARE GO THAT FAR- ANYWAY, HE'S BEEN OUT O' TOWN, FOR NEARLY A WEEK-

YES- OLD PINCHPENNY AND ELMER BOTH LEFT FOR TH' CITY, TH' MIDDLE O' LAST WEEK-

WHILE, FAR AWAY, IN A LONESOME CLEARING, THE COLD MOON SHINES DOWN ON LITTLE ANNIE, BOUND HAND AND FOOT-

WELL, I'M SURE IN A REAL JAM THIS TIME- THEY SAY IF I'LL TELL 'EM WHERE THAT KNIFE IS, THEY'LL TURN ME LOOSE- HUR- I'M NOT THAT SIG A SAG- THEY'LL NEVER DARE LET ME GET AWAY ALIVE-

AW, WHY WASTE ANY MORE TIME WITH THE LITTLE SMART ALECK-

WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU JUST ONE MORE CHANCE- TELL US WHERE YOU HIDE THAT KNIFE AND WE WILL TURN YOU LOOSE-

SO YOU WON'T TALK, EH? WELL, WE'RE THROUGH FOOLIN'- YOU'LL TALK NOW IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S HEALTHY, OR ELSE----

NOBODY'LL EVER MISS YOU- OUT WITH IT- WAHRE'S THAT KNIFE?

WHOOF!

THE INFERNAL LITTLE SPIT-FIRE- IT'S NO USE- MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF HER AND GET AWAY FROM HERE- BUT WE MUST LEAVE NO TRACE-

YOSS HER OVER THAT CLIFF- INTO THE RAPIDS- NO ONE COULD EVER PROVE A THING, EVEN IF SHE WERE FOUND-

THE SAME COLD MOON THAT LOOKS DOWN ON COSMIC CITY AND ON THE LONELY CLEARING, LOOKS DOWN ON SOMETHING ELSE- SOMETHING FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE WOLF, WHO WAS HIS FATHER-

A FORK IN THE ROAD- A PAUSE, BUT ONLY FOR AN INSTANT- WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED INSTINCT? IN SOME MANNER, BEYOND OUR KEN, THE DOG KNOWS WHICH WAY HIS BELOVED MISTRESS HAS BEEN BORN-

INTERESTINGLY HE TAKES THE RUTTED NARROW TRAIL INTO THE WOODS- WHILE HUMANS MILL ABOUT IMPOTENTLY IN COSMIC CITY, SANDY HAS ACTED- OUTDISTANCED BY THE CAR, HIS STEADY LOPE HAS NEVER FALTERED- NOW A MOON-FLECKED SHADOW HEARS THE CLEARING- WILL HE COME IN TIME? AND WHAT CAN A SPENT AND WEARY DOG DO AGAINST TWO ARMED AND DESPERATE MEN?

Maw Green

WHERE YER GOIN', YUH RUBBER-NOSED LUNK HEAD-

A BODY TAKES HER LIFE IN HER HANDS, CROSSIN' A STREET THESE DAYS-

YEOW!

WHAT ARE YE TRVIN' TO DO? MURDER SOMEBODY? TOOT YER HORN-

NOW'S ME CHANCE- THEY'VE GOTTA BE PRETTY GOOD, TO CATCH MAW GREEN-

THERE- SAFE AT LAST ON THE SIDE WALKS- NOW, LET THIM CRAZY DRIVERS TRY TO HIT ME-

OUCH! WHY DON'TCHA WATCH WHERE YER GOIN'-

CLUMSY OLD DAF- OW, MY POOR SHIN- AND I THOUGHT I WAS SAFE- LUCKY THAT DAME WASN'T TAKIN' HER KID FOR AN AIRIN' IN A TRUCK-

THE CREW OF THE GOOD SHIP WIMSI ARE SHIPWRECKED ON AN ISLAND, WHILE AFRICAN NATIVES AND WILD BEASTS DOUBTLESS GROW IMPATIENT AWAITING THEIR ARRIVAL, AND SKEEZIX WHIMPY AND SPUD LIKEWISE GROW IMPATIENT-

GASOLINE ALLEY

GOLLY, I'M GETTIN' SICK OF EATIN' COCONUTS AN' BANANAS!

AN' I FEEL I'M GROWIN' A SHELL ON MY BACK FROM EATIN' TURTLE EGGS, WHIMPY.

WHAT WOULDN'T I GIVE TO SEE A MOVIE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO GO EXPLORIN' BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO GETTIN' SHIPWRECKED ON A LITTLE ISLAND LIKE THIS?

SURE, IF WE'D GOT SHIPWRECKED ON THE COAST OF AFRICA WHERE WE STARTED FOR WED HAD SOME PLACE TO GO.

I AIN'T HOMESICK BUT GOLLY, I'D LIKE TO SLEEP IN A BED TONIGHT!

I FIGURE WE'RE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN CUBA AND SOUTH AMERICA- NOW TO GET TO AFRICA-

AW FORGET AFRICA. I WANT TO GO BACK HOME.

I AIN'T HOMESICK BUT I SURE MISS THE OTHER KIDS- GOOTCH AN' SCRAM AN' CLARENCE

LOOK! BOTTLES AN' A KEG AN' TIN CANS!

GEE, SPUD! SOMEBODY'S BEEN HERE.

I'M PROUD OF YOU, SKEEZIX! YOU'RE A KEEN DETECTIVE.

THESE GOALS ARE STILL SMOKING.

THEY CAN'T BE WILD NATIVES OR SAVAGES OR ANYTHING.

SEE HERE! THEY SMOKED CIGARETTES!

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! A SHIP IN THE COVE.

AN' THERE'S A SMALL BOAT PUSHIN' OFF FROM SHORE.

HEY! HI!

WAIT!

WHERE IN HECK DID YOU KIDS COME FROM?

WE GOT SHIPWRECKED HERE.

GEE, MISTER, TAKE US ALONG AN' LET US GET HOME WILL YOU?

HOP IN, YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE SKIPPER.

THAT WILL BE SWEET BUT WE'LL HAVE TO TIE OUR BOAT ON BEHIND THE SHIP.

AN' WE'VE GOT A GOAT.

IT'S LUCKY FOR YOU KIDS WE PUT IN HERE FOR WATER, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN MAROONED HERE FOR MONTHS.

THEY'RE CASTAWAYS ON THE ISLAND, CAP, SO I BRUNG 'EM ALONG.

CAN'T YOU TAKE US HOME CAPTAIN?

HOME? WHERE'S HOME? WE'RE BOUND FOR AFRICA!