

Little Orphan Annie

TODAY WE FIND MR. BLABBLE IN A LITTLE TROUBLE --- LURED FROM HIS HIDING PLACE BY CECIL'S STORY OF SEEING ANNIE ON THE STREET, HE ENTERED THE "HAUNTED HOUSE" HOPING TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DOWNFALL --- THOUGH ARMED, HE FOUND HIMSELF A FEEBLE MATCH FOR POOR OLD MR. BLADE--AND THE UNSEEN "SPIRITS"--- SO NOW, AMONG THE GENDARMES--

BRITTELEWIT'S PAL, WERE YOU? YOU SURE WERE WITH HIM TILL THE END - HIS END - YOU SAW HIM OFF IN STYLE-

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T HAVE ONE O' YOUR LEGS IN THAT SACK WITH HIM SO YOU COULDA MADE IT A THREE-LEGGED RACE TO THE GREAT DIVIDE--

I'M AS INNOCENT AS A BABE - I SWEAR IT, ON MY HONOR -

HA! HA! HE SWEARS IT ON HIS "HONOR" -

HAD A DEAL ON WITH HIM, DIDN'TCHA?

WEREN'T SATISFIED TO SPLIT - YOU WANTED IT ALL -

HED COLLECTED TWO HUNDRED GRAND - YOU KNEW IT -

I'LL NOT SAY A WORD TILL I'VE TALKED TO MY ATTORNEY -

YOU KILLED HIM FOR IT, DIDN'TCHA?

O.K. - LET HIM TALK TO HIS LAWYER -

HE'S GOT TIM SILVERFISH, THE SMARTEST CRIMINAL LAWYER IN THE BUSINESS - HE'S NEVER YET LET A CLIENT BURN -

I AGREE ON THE "CRIMINAL" PART OF THAT REMARK -

BLABBLE MUST BE SCARED - YEAH - THINKIN' OF TH' CHAIR - HE'S SMOKIN' ALREADY -

INNOCENT, EH? BALONEY! THEN WHY CALL ME? LISTEN - YOU'RE IN PLENTY JAM - IF YOU COME CLEAN, MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU - BUT TRY TO KID ME AND I'LL LET YOU FRY - TALK FAST!

ALL RIGHT - I KILLED HIM - HE KNEW TOO MUCH - HE WAS SET TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME - I HAD TO DO IT - SELF-DEFENSE -

SURE - AND THAT TWO HUNDRED GRAND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT - YOU LET THE COPS GET THAT - WELL, THIS'LL COST PLENTY - SEE? FIFTY THOUSAND ON THE LINE TO GET THE BALL ROLLING -

YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THE BIRDIES - I'M A POOR MAN -

YEAH? AND I'M A PATIENT MAN - FOR THE LAST TIME - GIVE ME THE KEY TO THE RIGHT DEPOSIT BOX, AND I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE ON THE CUFF TOMORROW - TRY TO KID ME ANY MORE AND YOU CAN ROT HERE -

AND I THOUGHT I HAD A SURE-FIRE RACKET -

ALL RIGHT - I'LL GIVE YOU A NOTE TO MY MAN, CECIL - HE'LL GIVE YOU THE RIGHT KEY -

THAT'S BETTER - NOW DON'T WORRY - AS TO YOUR CRACK ABOUT "RACKETS" - WITH THE BEST OF LAW ON YOUR SIDE, PAL, IT'S NEVER A "RACKET" - HA! HA! SEE YOU TOMORROW -

IT'S IN THE PAPERS - HE'S GOT TIMOTHY J. SILVERFISH TO DEFEND HIM - THE MAN WHO'S NEVER LOST A MURDER CASE -

HM-M-M--- WELL, THERE ALWAYS HAS TO BE A FIRST TIME - WHAT'S THAT OLD SAYING? "YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL" -

SILVERFISH HAS GIVEN QUITE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS - CITES BLABBLE'S SPOTLESS REPUTATION - CLAIMS A FRAME-UP, THIRD DEGREE, POLICE BRUTALITY - SAYS IT'S AN OUTRAGE - HINTS A DOUBLE OF BLABBLE'S WAS THE KILLER - SAYS HE'S DONATING HIS SERVICES TO UPHOLD TOTTERING JUSTICE --- WHAT A MAN!

BUT MR. BLABBLE DID DO IT - MR. CHAIN AND ALL THOSE POLICE SAW HIM DO IT - HOW COULD ANYBODY BE FOOLED INTO THINKIN' HE DIDN'T DO IT?

SOME PECULIAR THINGS CAN HAPPEN, ANNIE - THE BATTLE FOR JUSTICE IS NEVER OVER - TIMOTHY J. SILVERFISH IS A VERY CLEVER CHAP -

IT'S CLAIMED OF OVER A HUNDRED MURDERERS HE'S HAD AS CLIENTS NOT ONE HAS EVER BEEN EXECUTED - ALL BUT A FEW HAVE GONE COMPLETELY FREE -

YES - FREE OF ANY PUNISHMENT FOR THEIR BEASTLY CRIMES - FREE TO HARM OTHERS - OH, HE'S MADE A RECORD, ALL RIGHT - YES, INDEED - QUITE A RECORD, ISN'T IT?

Maw Green

THANKFUL? FOR WHAT? ANOTHER YEAR - MORE WRINKLES AND GRAY HAIR AND ACHES AND PAINS? EVERYTHING AT THE STORES HIGH AS A KITE? RENT BOOSTED - TAXES UP A FEW MORE NOTCHES?

ASSESSORS, COLLECTORS AND INVESTIGATORS? BIRDS TAKIN' POLLS AND SURVEYS? BRISK YOUNG THINGS DROPPIN' IN UNASKED TO SOLVE ALL MY PROBLEMS? BE THANKFUL?

AND THE MAIL FULL OF QUESTIONNAIRES? AND MY JOHN'S HOURS SO SHORT HE'S UNDER FOOT HALF THE TIME - PHOOIE! AND I SHOULD BE THANKFUL, EH?

WELL, SURE AND YOU'VE GOT NO ME-NOP-O-LEE ON THE PESTY THINGS IN LIFE - BUT WHY HARP ON UNPLEASANT SUBJECTS - THINK O' YER FOINE SONS AND YER ROSY CHEEKED DARTER -

AND JOHN'S GOT A JOB - AND YEVE GOT A GOOD HOME AND WARM CLOTHES AND THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY - AND BEST O' ALL, YEVE GOT HEALTH! FAITH AND WIT' ALL THIM THINGS TIS A SIN TO BE ANYTHING BUT THANKFUL!