

Annie

THE GREATEST CHAMP SOME DAY WILL FIND ANOTHER SHARPER WIT; IT ALWAYS MAKES THE DEVIL LAUGH TO SEE A BITER BIT." (C.G. LELAND)

HERE! HAVE SOME MORE COLD WATER... I'LL GET YOU A DIPPER OR GLASS OR SOMETHIN'!

SKIP TH' FANCY STUFF! JUST COLD WATER! MAYBE IT'LL PUT OUT TH' FIRE... GLUB... GLUB... GLUB...

AH-H-H... THAT'S BETTER... OH-H-H... THOSE TWO STRANGERS! I SHOULD'A' KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY MY SPECIAL TEA ON THEM...

SO THEY SWITCHED CUPS ON YUH, EH? WOW, WERE YOU OUT COLD WHEN LISSA AND I FOUND YUH HERE!

COLD? I'LL NEVER BE COLD AGAIN! NOT INSIDE! AH... YI-H!

BUT THE TWO STRANGERS! TELL ME AGAIN WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE... BIG GUYS, YOU SAID?

BIG! HA! TH' LITTLE ONE WAS SEVEN FEET TALL... SANTA CLAUS WHISKERS... KINDLY, TWINKLIN' EYES... THAT'S WHAT FOOLED ME, I GUESS... WHAT A SUCKER HE MADE O' ME!

HM-M... YEAH! HE COULD OUT-SMART ALMOST ANYBODY IF HE WAS TH' ONE I FIGGER... AND TH' OTHER ONE?

HE WAS OVER EIGHT FEET TALL... I TOOK HIM FOR SOME CIRCUS GIANT... FANCY TURBAN! BIG CURVED KNIFE STUCK IN HIS SASH... EARRINGS... EYES LIKE A BIG CAT; IF I'D ONLY PAID ATTENTION TO HIS EYES...

YEAH! I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

B-B-BUT ANNIE! DO YOU KNOW WHO THEY WERE?

COULD BE! IT SURE SOUNDS LIKE A COUPLE O' PALS O' MINE...

WELL, THEY KNOW YOU... HERE... THEY LEFT THIS... SAID TO "GIVE IT TO ANNIE..."

EH?... B-BUT WHAT IS IT?... JUST A LITTLE PARCEL...

AFTER TH' JOB THOSE TWO DID ON ME, I'D BE AFRAID TO TOUCH IT... BUT GO AHEAD... OPEN IT...

EH? WHADDAYUH KNOW? A LITTLE BITSY WHISTLE... LOOKS LIKE A GREEN DRAGON... AND A NOTE... BETTER READ THIS 'FORE I DO ANY TOOTIN'...

ER... THAT'S WHAT TH' GIANT SAID... BUT AFTER SAMPLIN' MY OWN SPECIAL TEA, I SORT O' FORGOT...

"LITTLE PRINCESS... HAVE NO MORE FEAR IN THE ROBBERS' TREASURE CAVE... GUARD THIS WHISTLE... WHEN IN DANGER, USE IT..."

EH? WHO'S IT FROM? WHAT'S HIS NAME?

HE DOESN'T SAY... BUT NOW I BET I KNOW HOW COME THAT TOUGH PARTY, WHO CHASED US WITH A KNIFE, CAME TO SUCH A HORRIBLE END...

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AND DON'T HATE THOSE GUYS, GYPSY BELLE! THEY WERE ONLY JOKIN'... THEY KNEW YOU'RE MY FRIEND... YOU STARTED IT WITH YOUR TRICK TEA, YOU KNOW...

HEH-HEH! THEY SURE MADE ME LOOK LIKE A BUSH LEAGUE MAGICIAN! WHO-O-IE... HAND ME THAT ICE WATER AGAIN! WILL I EVER GET THIS FIRE OUT O' MY STUMMICK?

HAROLD GRAY

Maw Green

5-29-49

SEE THAT TRAMP CHASIN' ME? HE MUST BE DRUNK!

HM-M-M... YIS... EITHER DRUNK...

...OR JUST PLAIN CRAZY!

HAROLD GRAY

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