

BOBBIE COLEMAN - 12 years old. A young girl from the hills of Tennessee who learns more in a matter of days than she will her whole lifetime.

BOBBIE COLEMAN

(she presents herself to WILLA FAY)

So whadda ya think? Put that down and look. I got on my best get-up and I moved my stockings 'round so the holes hardly show. Lookin' pretty darn good, if I say so myself. Don't tell Ma I just cussed, 'kay? Why you standing there looking so down-mouthed? You know I wish you could come with me. Ain't my doing the ol' Reverend's got some bug up his rear and won't let you out of the house when somethin' this amazin' come into town. Your Pa don't have to be that strict. I am so durned excited! Oh, I cussed again. The heck with it. Whoo hoo! I can't believe it. The circus. My very first circus. Just looking at the posters made me feel all gushy inside. Dirk says it's beautiful. Not like the county fair up in Johnson City. That's all just pigs and pies and blue ribbons. Nope. He says it's like a window opens up and you fall right into a different world. Like that Alice girl in that book. A wonderland. Is that how it feels? Like a wonderland? Oh, I forgot. You never been to a circus. Don't know how you got grown up and never seen a circus. Dirk says he dreamed about it all last night. I didn't dream on it. Wouldn't let myself. Too afraid I'd dream so big I'd be disappointed by the real thing. So I didn't dream on it or even think on it. I want it to be so special. I want it to be bigger and better than anything my mind could come up with. 'Course that's gonna be a hard task. My mind...it's starting to spin with pictures. Nope. Nope. Shuttin' 'em off. No pictures. Nothin' to spoil it. Off Off Off.