

LITTLE LEON
By Diana F. Johnson

A dog from a wealthy family finds the true meaning of home when he runs away to join the circus.

LITTLE LEON escapes from his lavish lifestyle of limousines and supper on his sterling silver dish to follow a circus parade to Madison Square Garden while his family searches for him in New York City. At the circus, Leon wears a little yellow raincoat and the other clowns chase him with a hose. Leon looks like a little clown in a warm fur coat because he walks on his hind legs and loves to wear different hats. Tempers flare when Leon tries to share the Lion's meat and the Lion doesn't want to share. Leon's owner, MR. MCCLOSKY comes to the circus with his small niece and they pay particular attention to the new circus star. Mr. McClosky realizes that the performer in the little yellow raincoat is Leon! While in the dressing room, Leon looks into his mirror and sees his reflection and asks himself, "What is my home?" He imagines in the mirror his supper in the silver dish, but it is Mr. McClosky's loving hand that fills the dish with food. He remembers his solid gold basket bed, but realizes that it's warm and safe. Can Leon find his way back now that he knows what it means to be part of a family before the circus leaves town? All of these ideas spin in his head and when Mr. McClosky comes down to see him, Leon, grateful and happy again, returns home with Mr. McClosky.

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