



What was I Scared of?

By **Dr. Seuss**

What was I Scared of?



Well...

I was walking in the night
And I saw nothing scary.
For I have never been afraid
Of anything. Not very.



Then I was deep within the woods
When, suddenly, I spied them.
I saw a pair of pale green pants
With nobody inside them!

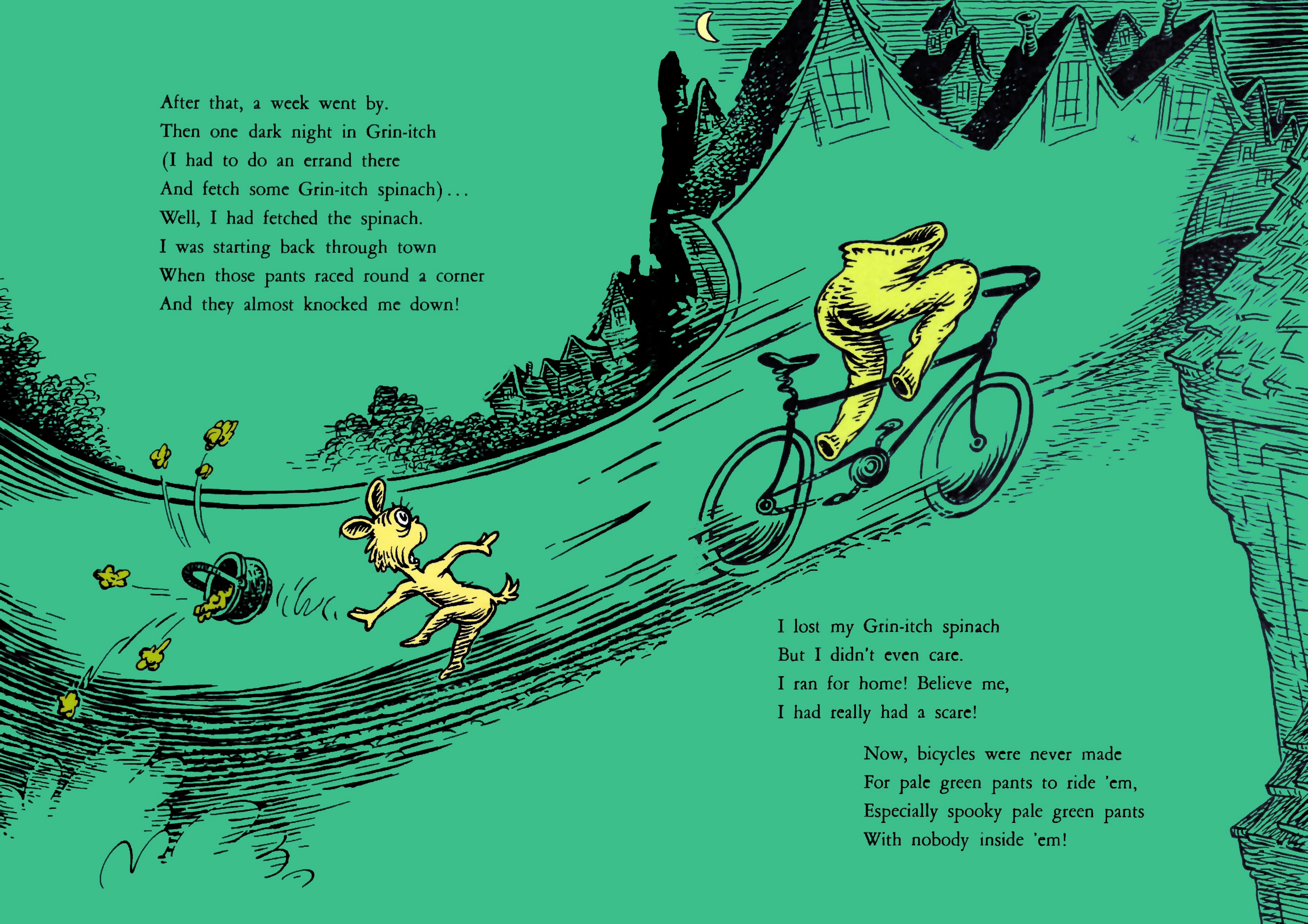
I wasn't scared. But, yet, I stopped.
What *could* those pants be there for?
What *could* a pair of pants at night
Be standing in the air for?



And then they moved! Those empty pants!
They kind of started jumping.
And then my heart, I must admit,
It kind of started thumping.


So I got out. I got out fast
As fast as I could go, sir.
I wasn't scared. But pants like that
I did not care for. No, sir.

After that, a week went by.
Then one dark night in Grin-itch
(I had to do an errand there
And fetch some Grin-itch spinach)...
Well, I had fetched the spinach.
I was starting back through town
When those pants raced round a corner
And they almost knocked me down!




I lost my Grin-itch spinach
But I didn't even care.
I ran for home! Believe me,
I had really had a scare!

Now, bicycles were never made
For pale green pants to ride 'em,
Especially spooky pale green pants
With nobody inside 'em!



And the NEXT night, I was fishing
For Doubt-trout on Roover River
When those pants came rowing towards me!
Well, I began to shiver

and by now I was SO frightened
That, I'll tell you, but I hate to...
I screamed and rowed away and lost
My hook and line and bait, too!

A whimsical landscape with a path leading to a brickel bush. The path is a light brown, textured line that winds from the bottom left towards the right side of the image. On the left side of the path, there is a large, bushy plant with a thick, dark brown trunk and a dense, rounded top of light brown, spiky leaves. In the center of this bush, a small, round, yellow face with large, dark eyes and a small, open mouth is visible. To the right of the path, there are several more bushes of varying sizes, all with similar spiky, light brown foliage. The background is a pale, hazy blue with some faint, dark, horizontal lines suggesting a distant horizon or a body of water. The overall style is that of a classic children's book illustration, with a focus on texture and color.

I ran and found a Brickel bush.
I hid myself away.
I got brickels in my britches
But I stayed there anyway.

I stayed all night. The next night, too.
I'd be there still, no doubt,
But I had to do an errand
So, the *next* night, I went out.

I had to do an errand.
Had to pick a peck of Snide
In a dark and gloomy Snied-field
That was almost nine miles wide

I said, "I do not fear those pants
With nobody inside them."
I said, and said, and said those words.
I said them. But I lied them.



Then I reached inside a Snide bush
And the next thing that I knew,
I felt my hand touch someone!
And I'll bet that you know who.





And there I was! Caught in the Snied!
And in that dreadful place
Those spooly, empty pants and I
Were standing face to face!

I yelled for help, I screamed, I shrieked.
I howled, I yowled, I cried
“Oh save me from these pale green pants
With nobody inside!”



I never heard such whimpering
And I began to see
That I was just as strange to them
As they were strange to me!

But then a strange thing happened
Why, those pants began to cry!
Those pants began to tremble.
There were just as scared as I!

I Put my arm around their waist
And sat right down beside them.
I calmed them down.
Poor empty pants
With nobody inside them



And, now, we meet quite often,
Those empty pants and I,
And we never shake or tremble.
We both smile
And we say
"Hi!"





The **Star-Bellied Sneetches** think they're **much** better than the **Plain-Bellied Sneetches**. But they're about to discover that it's what's **inside** that **really** matters!

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