

# The Blue Bird

The children's own fairy tale, retold from the play of Maurice Maeterlinck, with pictures from the Artcraft photoplay, by Maurice Tourneur.

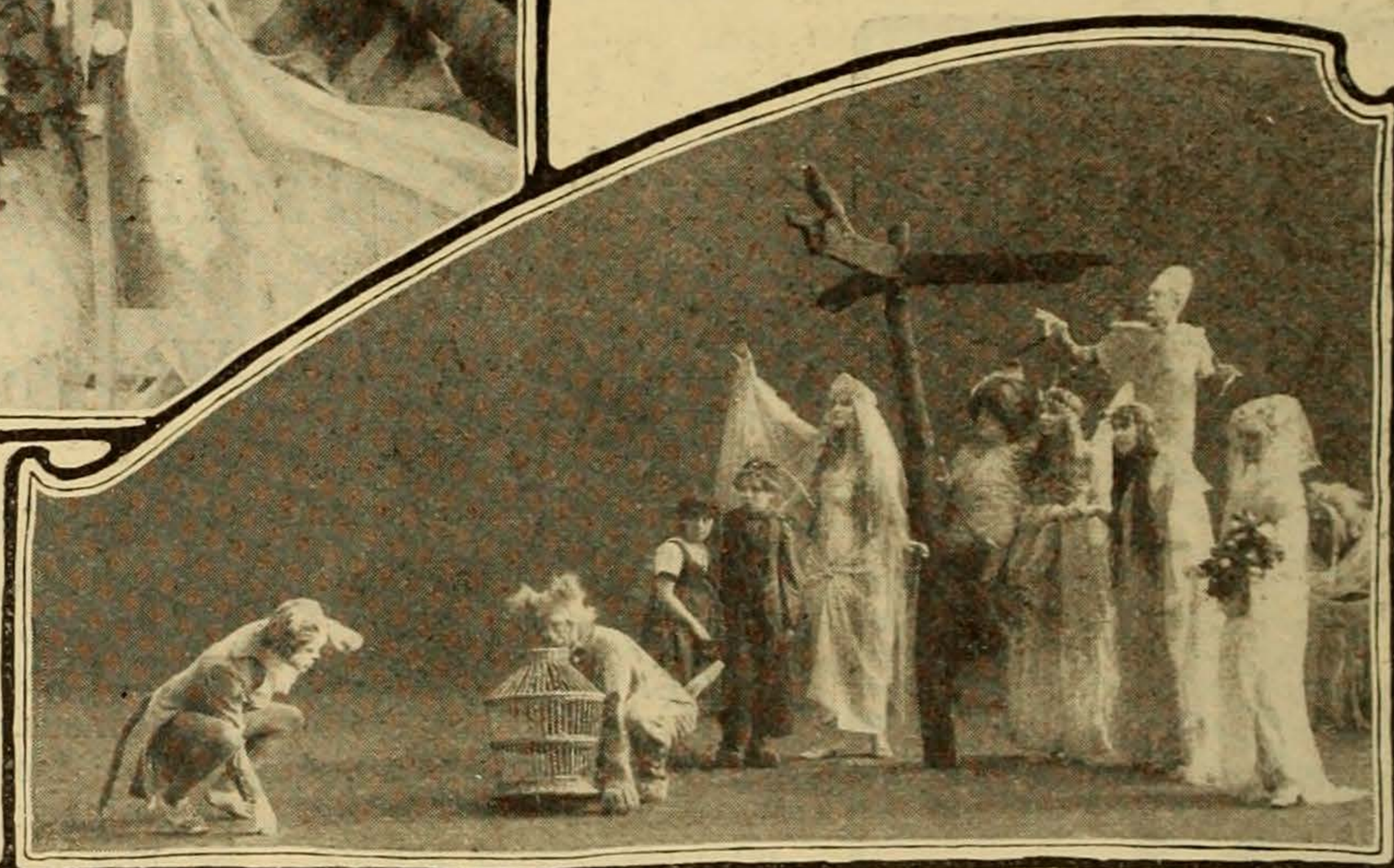
Parents—read this story to your children as you show them the pictures. Every child should know the message of "The Blue Bird."

**BOYS** and girls, wouldn't it be perfectly splendid to be in a Fairy Tale—to be *written into one*? Haven't you always rather wanted to? Now you're going to hear the nicest fairy tale of all—the story of Tytyl and Mytyl, two little peasant children who left their home and their father and mother to go on a quest for the Blue Bird—

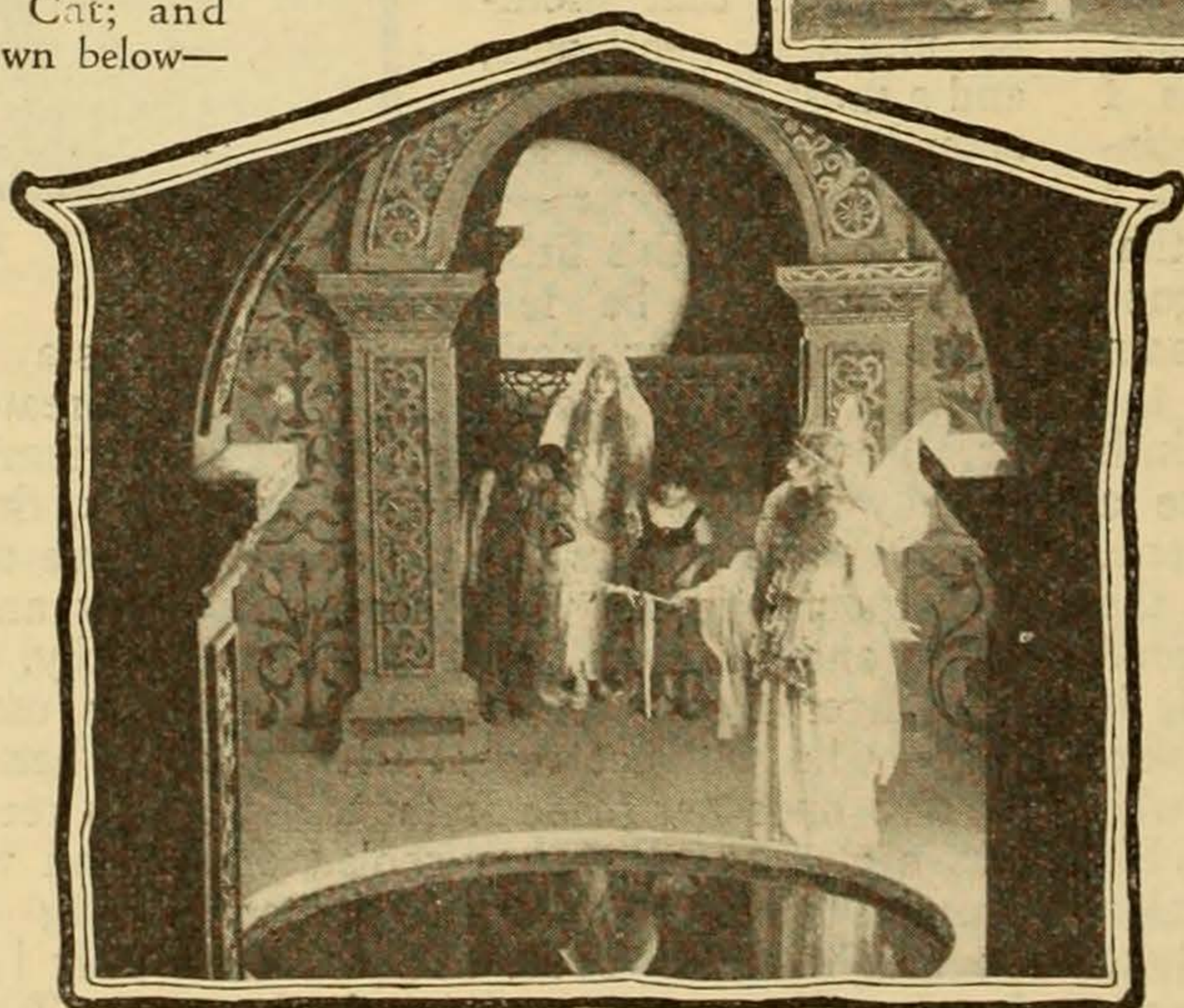
("the Blue Bird" is just another way of saying "Happiness," you know). It is a tale of Things-as-They-Really-Are. A strange tale, in which Things and Animals and Elements are turned into people. Tytyl and Mytyl are put to bed as usual one night—it's Christmas Eve—but they steal to the window and watch a merry party of wealthy children at the big house across the way. They are enjoying the party almost as much as if they were there, when a Fairy named Berylune appears before them and gives Tytyl a diamond which, when he turns it, changes Things into Beings. Then they start out on their search for the Blue Bird. This story has been put into pictures; and it is told so you can understand. And here's a secret—you are Tytyl, or Mytyl; and you are hunting for the Blue Bird. This is *your own* Fairy Tale!



1—Just before the children start on their search for the Blue Bird. Here are their companions—look! There at the left is Bread, come to life—a fat; pompous old man; and next is Water, a tearful girl. Behind Water is Sugar, a sweet sticky fellow—each of his fingers is a stick of candy; but too much of him at a time makes one ill. Next is the Fairy Berylune, with her arm about Milk, gentle, timid Milk. See the Cat, up there? Crafty Cat; and there's the Dog, down below—the faithful dog, who stands by Tytyl through thick and thin. And at the right is Fire—one can't play with him, you know; he's a dangerous fellow.



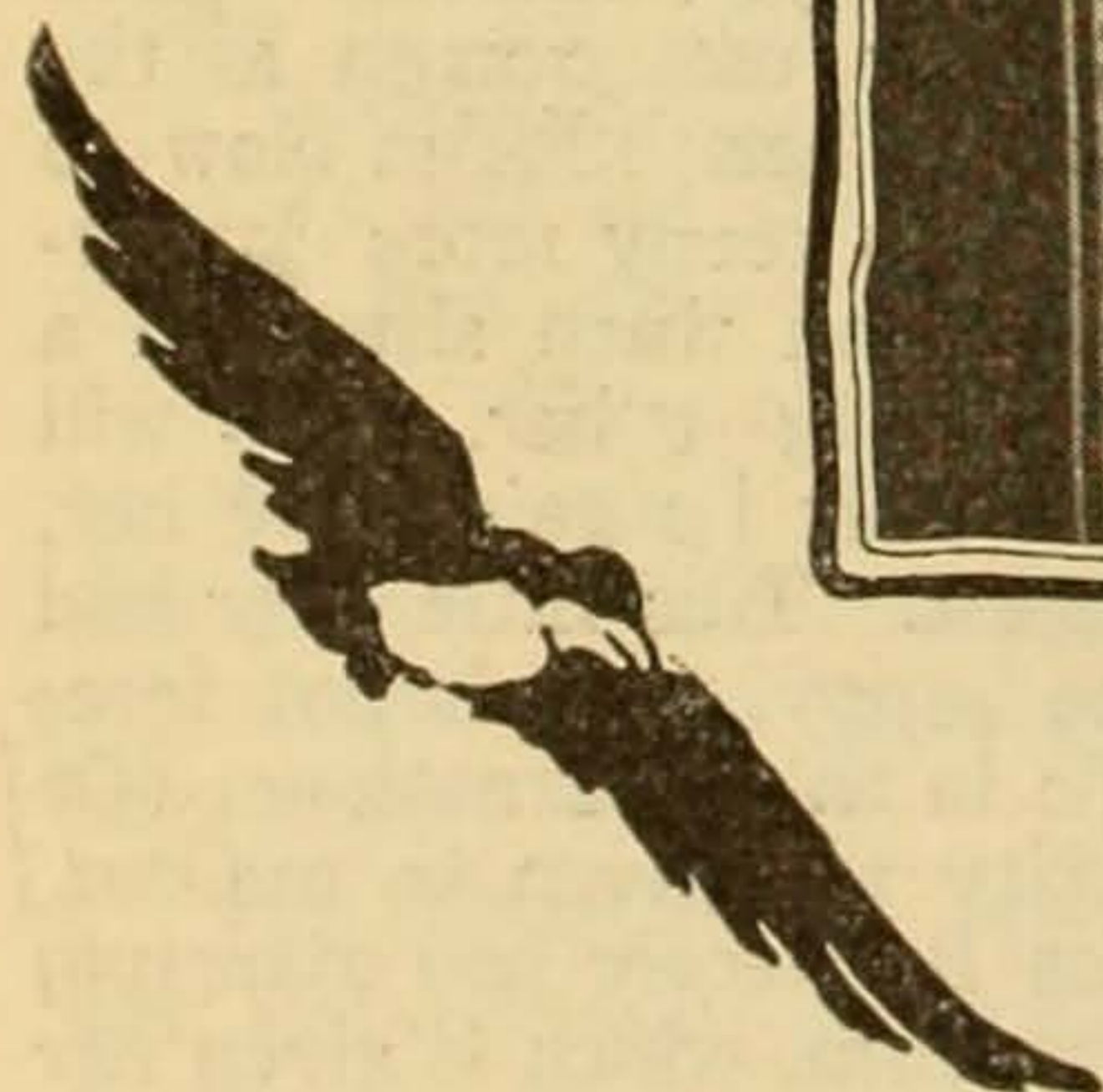
3—On the way to the Palace of Night. "The first place you must search for the Blue Bird of Happiness is the Underground Palace of Night, where I may not enter," says Light. The Cat goes on ahead to warn the Queen of Night that the Live Children are coming to hunt for the Blue Bird. The Dog, you see, has the cage all ready for it.



2—The first place the children visit is the Fairy Berylune's own Palace—a beautiful place where they see many strange things. Besides the Fairy and Tytyl and Mytyl there is Light—radiant and kind, who is to accompany them all through their journey.

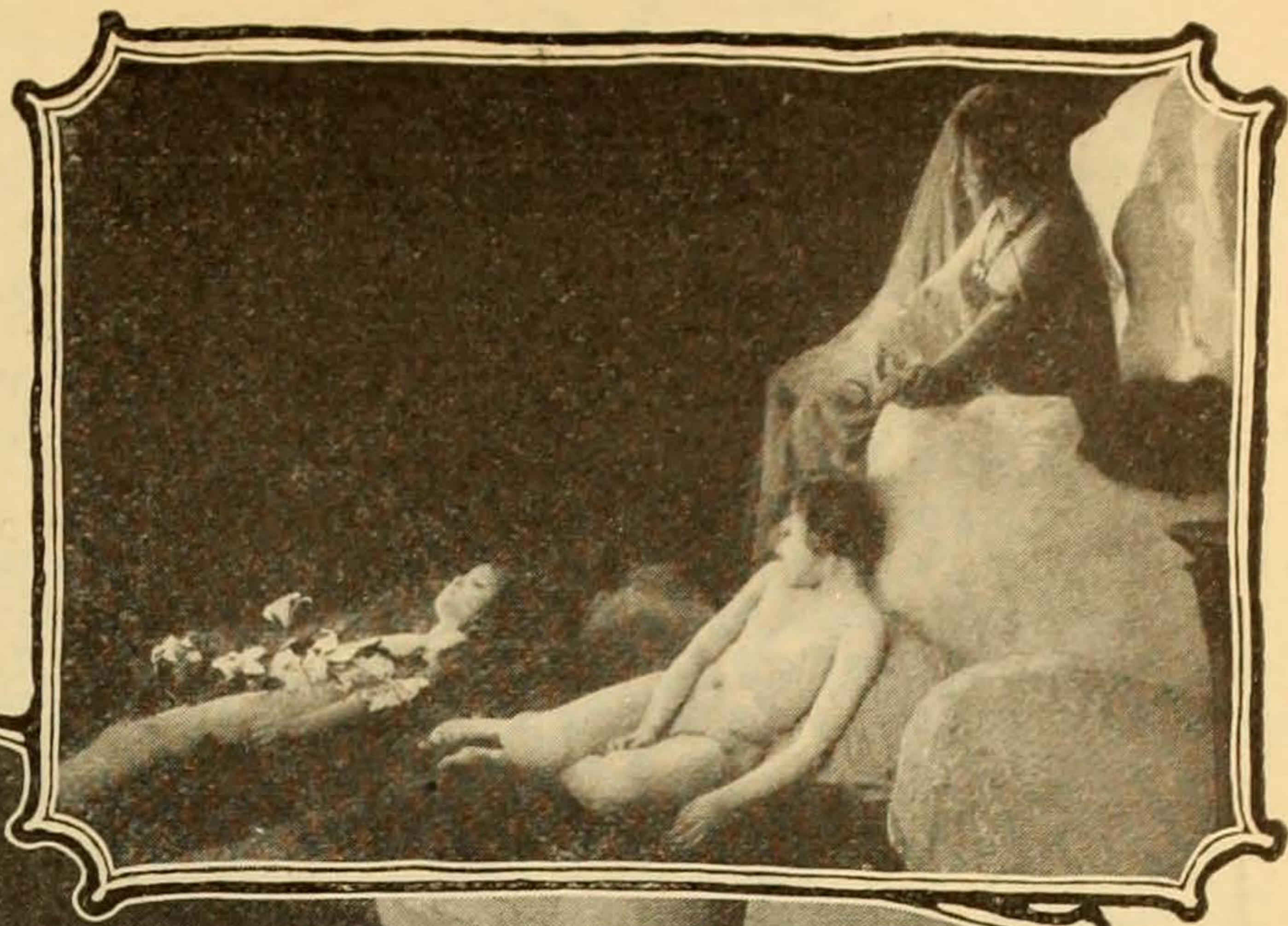


4—The children, with their faithful friend the Dog, approach the Palace of Night. Mytyl is a bit frightened at the place, but Tytyl is not afraid;—why, later on he faces bravely the terrible Wars, and the Sickesses, and the Ghosts which the Queen of Night keeps locked up inside her Palace.





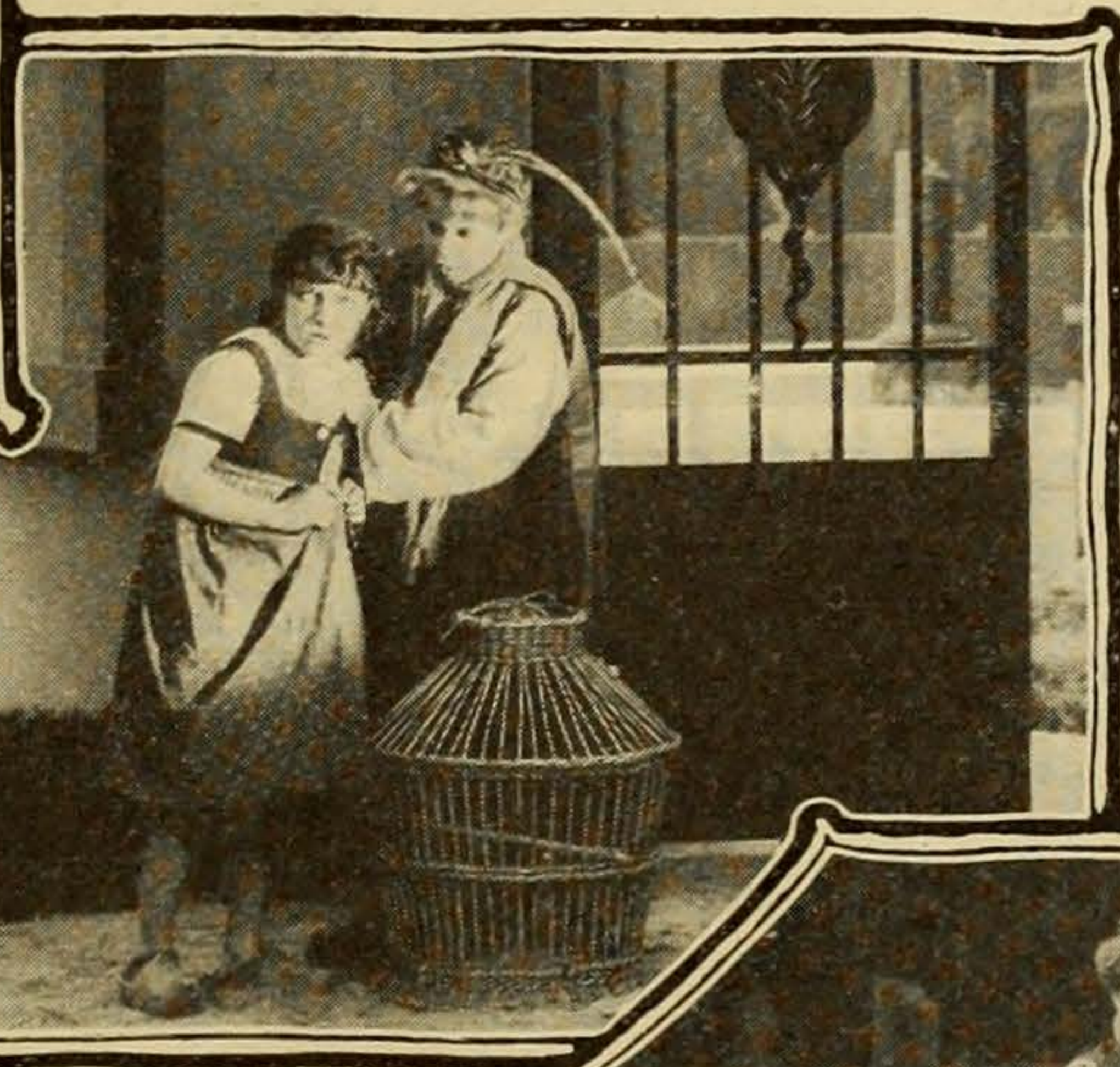
5—This is the Queen of Night with her twin children, Sleep and Death. The Queen finally consents to Tytlyl searching for the Blue Bird in her Palace; and to his joy, he finds not one Blue Bird, but many — more than he can carry!



6—The children leave the Palace of Night, and rejoin Light. They show her all the birds they caught —but Light tells them that these birds are dead. They were only the blue birds of the dreams that live on the rays of the moon and die as soon as they set eyes on the sun.



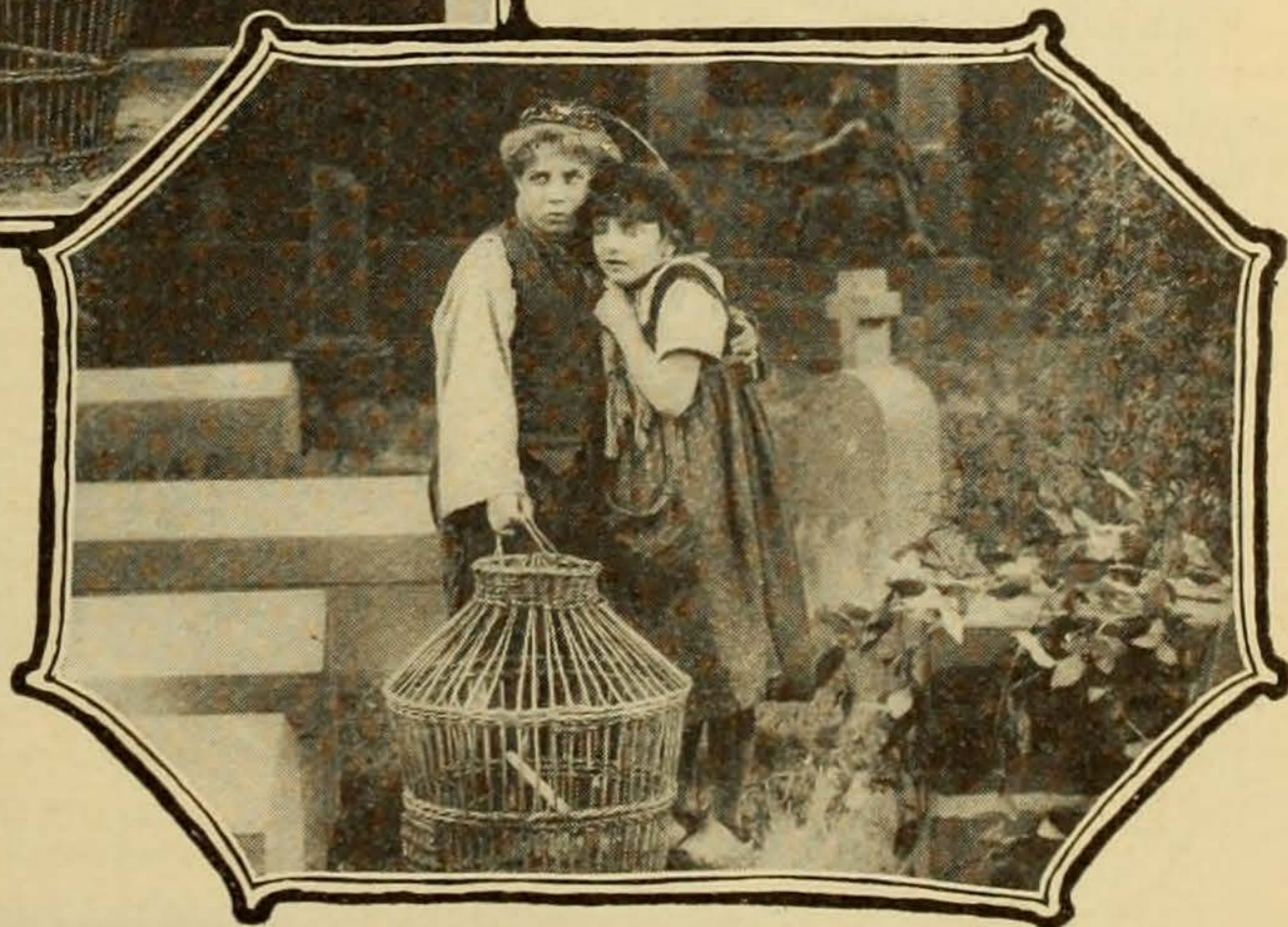
7—Light and the children in the Enchanted Forest, which they next visit. When Tytlyl turns his diamond, the trees come to life, and try to do harm to the children because their father is a wood-cutter, the enemy of all trees. But Tytlyl turns the diamond again and the trees become Things again.



8—Tytlyl and Mytyl then visit the Graveyard of the Happy Dead. At the stroke of midnight, the gates swing open. Mytyl is afraid, and wants to run away; but Tytlyl comforts her, and together they go in.



9—After Tytlyl has turned the diamond, the graves of the Happy Dead open. To the surprise of the children, the graveyard is blooming with flowers. They look about them for the tombs; there are none, only flowers. "Where are the dead?" asks Mytyl. "There are no dead," Tytlyl replies. All this, without finding the Blue Bird.



10—The two children return home. Bread, Fire, Water, and Milk have returned to their old forms. The Dog and the Cat have lost their tongues. Light, of course, is with them; but they do not always see her. Then Mytyl takes from it's cage a bird which they have owned, to give it to a little neighbor who is ill—and to their joy the children discover it is blue! After all their searching—to find the Blue Bird—Happiness—at home. They hadn't noticed the bird was blue, before. Funnier yet, their mother said they'd been dreaming—that they had never been away from home at all!