

## Bessie Smith

### "Pinchbacks - Take 'Em Away"

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Girls, I wanna tell you about these sweet men  
These men goin' around here tryin' to play cute  
I'm hard on you boys, yes sir!

I fell in love with a sweet man once  
He said he loved me too  
He said if I'd run away with him  
What nice things he would do  
I'd travel around from town to town  
How happy I would feel  
But don't you know he would not work  
Girls, take this tip from me

Get a working man when you marry  
And let all these sweet men be  
Child, it takes money to run a business  
And with me I know you girls will agree  
There's one thing about this married life  
That these young girls have got to know  
Say, if a sweet man enter your front gate  
Turn out your light and lock your door

Yes, get a working man when you marry  
Let all these pinchbacks<sup>1</sup> be  
Child, it takes money to run a business  
And with me I know you girls will agree  
And if this panic stays on much longer  
I'll hear all these young girls say  
That it's a long way to Oklahoma  
But these little pinchbacks, take them away

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Note 1: pinchbacks, pinchbecks in modern day spelling, an alloy of copper and zinc used especially to imitate gold in jewelry. Also, something counterfeit or spurious. In the context of the song it is used for men who give their lovers cheap fake gold jewelry.

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