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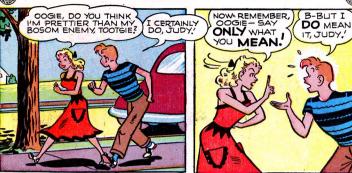










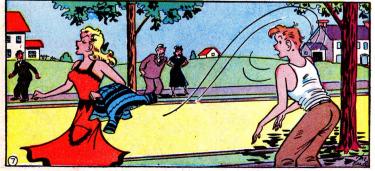


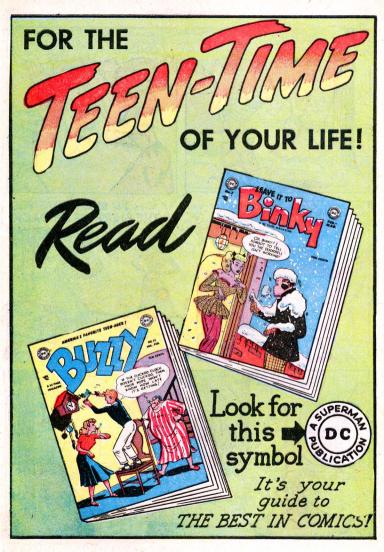
OH, I KNOW THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, YOU'RE DOING FOR ME! BUT THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE, JUDY! AND YOU KNOW, OOGIE, YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAY IS FOR YOUR OWN I'D DO ANY-THING FOR YOU!

WHY, I'D EVEN GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF MY BACK!

B-BUT I

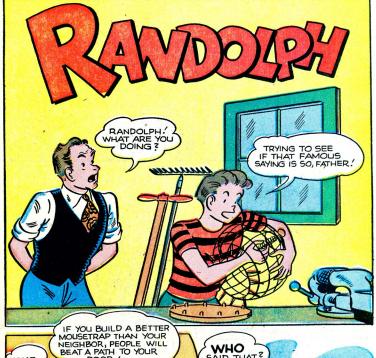
















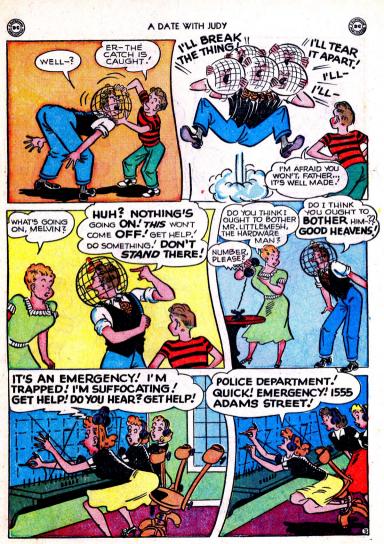








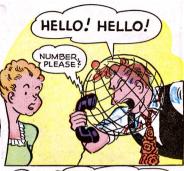






















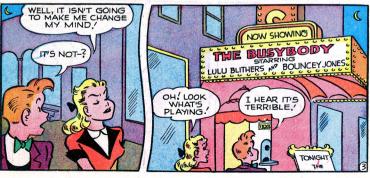






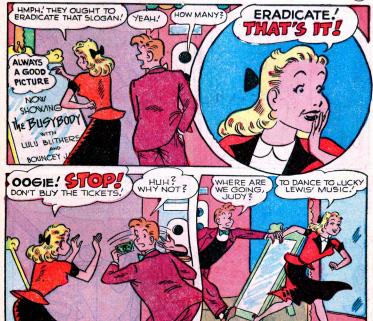
































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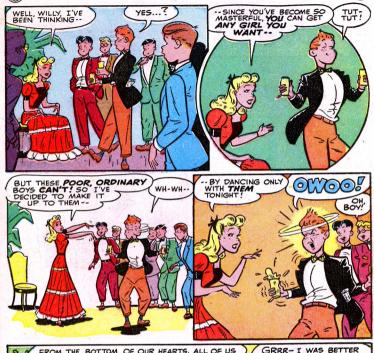


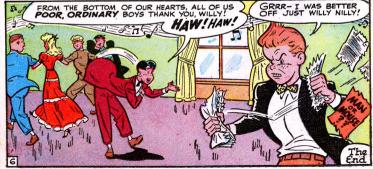












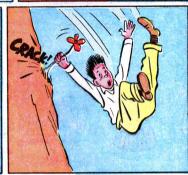


















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YOU'VE GOT YOUR

NERVE COMING LATE

FOR OUR DATE!

OH! I SUPPOSE IT WAS MY FAULT THAT YOU WERE LATE!







ER-MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO REPEAT THE STORY ONCE MORE, SO I GET IT STRAIGHT, I'LL LISTEN CAREFULLY OVER ANOTHER

SODA!



I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE, RANDOLPH! COME BACK AND LET ME KNOW IF JUDY FORGIVES ME!





















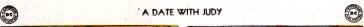




















# Judy Discovers Oogie



JUDY sat on the veranda steps knitting a sweater for Oogie. With each stitch the frown on her face grew deeper. Suddenly, she threw the sweater down on the steps beside her and propped her chin glumly on her hand.

"What's the matter, dear?" called Mrs. Foster from the wicker chair where she sat reading. "Something wrong with your knitting?"

"Not SOMETHING, Mother . . . EVERY, THING?" complained Judy, jumping up with dramatic suddenness. "It's so utterly and completely boring! The same thing over and over—knit one, purl two, knit one, purl two—Why, I know exactly what's going to happen rows ahead of where I am! It's so unexciting, so dull, so—so exactly like Oogie! Why, I know just what he's going to say six sentences ahead of what he's saying and just how he's going to say it! Mother, why can't he be worldly, mysterious, romantic, devastating—?"

"Oogie's kind of young to be like that, don't you think, Judy?" smiled Mrs. Foster.

"Oh, I don't know," said Randolph, coming up the veranda steps. "Look at me-worldly, mysterious, romantic, devastating—and I'm lots younger than Oogie! Judy's right, Mother—it's not Oogie's age . . . it's Oogie that's the trouble with Oogie!

"Randolph," said Judy icily, "if you're so mysterious, will you kindly make a bigger mystery out of yourself by disappearing right this minute?"

"Okay!" said Randolph, going into the house.
"But when I'm gone, you'll wish you had been
nicer to me!

"I don't understand you, Judy," said Mrs.

Foster, laying aside her book. "I think Oogie's a fine boy. You just don't understand him."

"Mother, if you don't understand me, how can you possibly understand what I understand?"

"Well," laughed Mrs. Foster, as she went into the house, "I'll be able to answer thatquestion when I finish that book I'm reading —it's supposed to tell you everything about people. Meanwhile, I still like Oogie!"

Judy picked up her mother's book. It was called UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE. "Hmm!" she murmured. She curled up in the wicker chair and opened the book to Chapter One.

It was several hours and six chapters later that the sound of loud and cheerful whistling roused Judy from her absorption in the book. She looked up to see Oogie coming jauntily up the walk toward her. She watched him intently. He looked happy. Very happy. Almost too happy. "AHA!" breathed Judy. She flung the book aside and rushed to meet him.

"Boy, am I glad to see you, Judy!" he said. "You're-"

"Oogie!" interrupted Judy. "Poor Oogie! You don't have to pretend in front of me! You may fool the rest of the world, but you can't fool me! I understand you!"

"Y-you do?" gasped Oogie, a perplexed look replacing his happy grin.

"Yes, Oogie, I can see that you're just acting happy, because deep down inside you're really

desperately unhappy about something!"

"B-but, Judy-"

"Naturally, I expect you to deny it, Oogie... Nobody admits it at first. But, Oogie, I'm

your true friend. . . . You can tell me all!"

"Gosh, Judy! I feel fine—I mean I felt—that is, I've never been happier in my life—er—I was happy until—aw, gee whiz!" Oogie finished with a helpless and unhappy shrug.

"See?" said Judy triumphantly. "Just as I expected! One minute happy, the next minute said. That's just the way it goes. You're all mixed up psychologically!"

"I'll say!" croaked Oogie. "I'm COMPLETE-LY confused!"

"Aha!" exclaimed Judy. "Now we're getting somewhere! You admit it openly! A state of complete confusion! You are in the dread clutches of some terrible inner complex, Oogie! Something must have happened to you a long time ago . . . when you were a little boy . . . something you can't remember, because the memory of it is so far deep down inside you! But it's there all right, causing all this confusion!"

"Gosh!" gulped Oogie. "Sounds bad!"

"It is bad, Oogie," agreed Judy. "But don't worry—Pil cure you!" She pushed him into the wicker chair. "Now, all you have to do is shut your eyes, let your mind wander, and say out loud anything that comes into your mind! I'll analyze what you say, and then we'll know what the trouble is!"

Oogie closed his eyes, while Judy listened intently. "Ahem!" he said.

"That's fine for a start, Oogie," said Judy, by way of encouragement. "Now try to remember more—say whatever comes into your mind—no matter how trivial it seems. It may be a clue that will help me unravel the mystery of the inner Oogie!"

"Uh-uh-"

"Yes, Oogie-? Go on, go on . . . !"

"Uh-er-"

"Tell me more, Oogie. . . . Hurry!"

"-er-urrumphh-!"

"OOGIE PRINGLE!" said Judy, looking angrily from side to side. "How can I unravel you if you don't co-operate? I'll give you just one more chance... And this time you'd better tell me whatever it is you've forgotten, even if you don't remember it! Now, shut your eyes and let your mind wander. !"

There was a moment of tense silence. Sud-

denly Oogie sat bolt upright, his eyes opened wide. "I've got it!" he yelled. "I just remembered the first time I felt confused like this! It was—"

"NO, NO—NOT THAT WAY!" cried Judy.
"Tell me the RIGHT way! Shut your eyes and
tell me the picture you see in your mind of
that long-forgotten event! All right, go ahead
—I'm listening!"

"Uh-uh-I see a time . . ." said Oogie, "many, many years . . . ago . . ."

"Yes, Oogie . . .? Yes, yes . . .?"

"...a little boy ... named ... Oogie ..."
"Ooooh!" squealed Judy. "That's a clue,

Oogie, that's definitely a clue!"

"... meets ... a little girl ... named ...
Judy ..."

"Yes, Oogie ...? Oogie, yes—yes, Oogie ...?"

"... from then on ... nothing ... but ....
CONFUSION ....!"

"Oh, Oogie! You utterly wonderful boy!" searched Judy. "Do you realize what you've said? Pm the cause of all your confusion, Oogie! I am! Me! All those terrible, fascinating complexes lurking through the inner Oogie are there because of me! Why, that's the most wonderful compliment I've ever been paid!"

Some time later, Mrs. Foster and Randolph wandered out on the veranda again and found Judy, alone once more, knitting vigorously and happily on the sweater for Oogie.

"Why, Judy!" exclaimed Mrs. Foster. "I thought you were bored with knitting!"

"Bored? Why, Mother, how could I possibly be bored when I'm knitting for the most divinely devastating, romantic, mysterious man ever to come into my life—namely, Mr. Oogie Bringle! You were right, Mother—the trouble before was that I just didn't understand Oogie. But now that I do understand him so completely—" Judy stopped suddenly, an unhappy look erasing her sunny smile. "Ooooh!" she squealed, throwing down her knitting. "I just thought of something! Now that I understand Oogie, he isn't a mystery any more! He-he's just like this sweater again!"

"Oh, but you're so wrong!" said Randolph
"Oogie may not be a mystery, but anything
you knit is bound to be!"







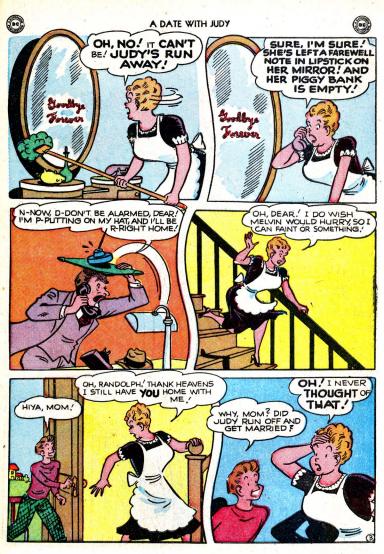




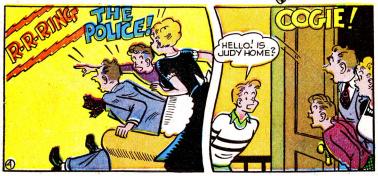












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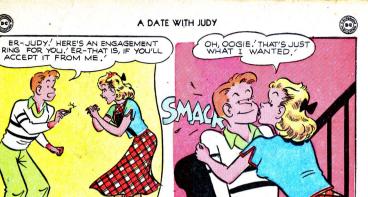
















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