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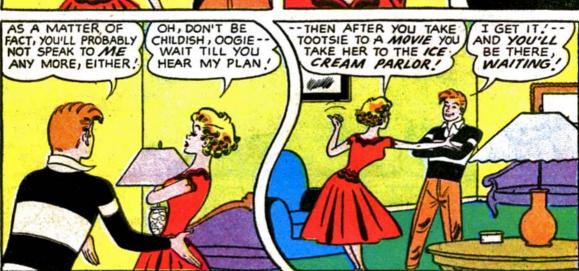
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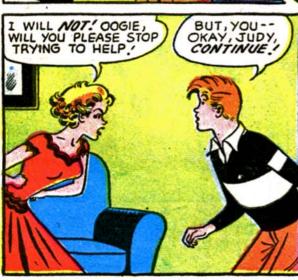




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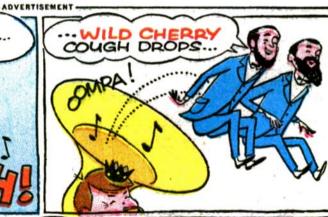










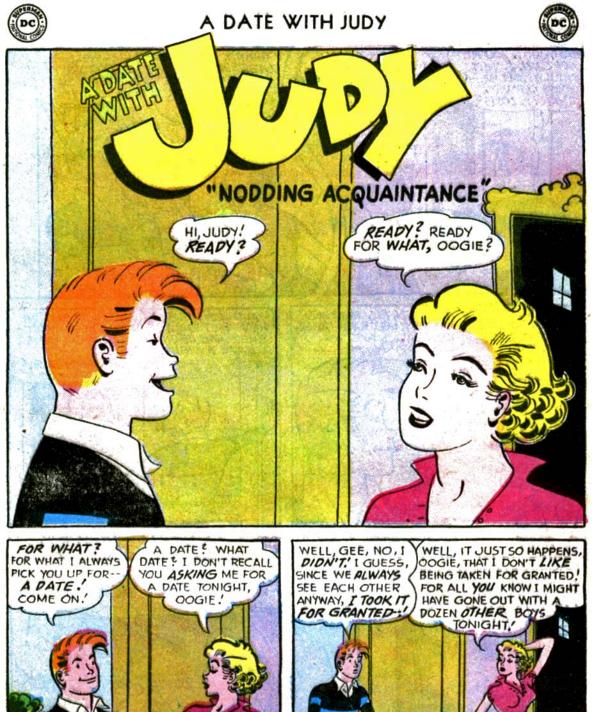




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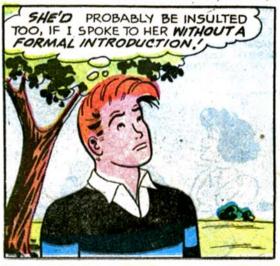






































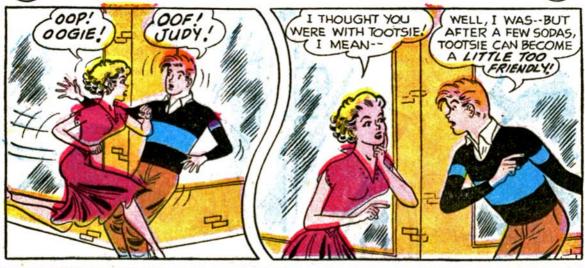






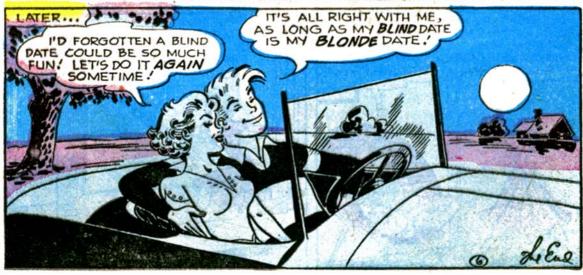












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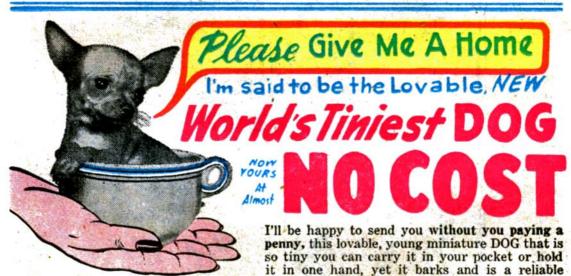
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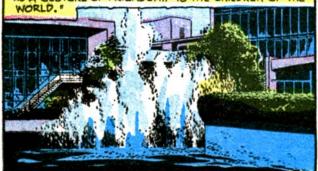
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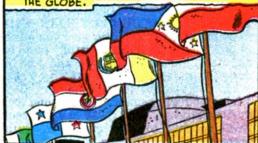
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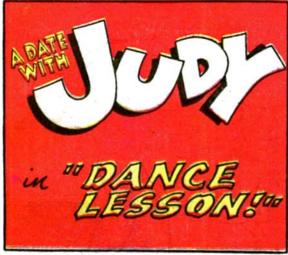
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Springtime for Judy



RANDY looked up from his reading long enough to take in a view of Judy staring out the window in a blue, blue mood. "Something bothering you?" he asked, an amused twinkle flirting at the corners of his eyes. He knew Judy and her moods.

"Oogie," said Judy flatly. "He makes me so mad!"

"Oh?" said Randy, with the show of interest expected of him in a crisis like this. "And just what did he do?"

"It isn't what he did," complained Judy. "It's what he didn't do! Or doesn't do, rather! He doesn't pay enough attention to me! Well, what I'm trying to say is that he's just not attentive to me, the way a boy's supposed to be attentive to his best girl—you know, make her feel she's somebody special!"

"Hm!" said Randy, putting as much of a sympathetic note into his voice as possible. "Maybe he expects you to take it for granted! After all, you know he likes you!"

"Know? Know?" exclaimed Judy. "I don't know it at all! Just because he told me so yesterday and the day before and the day before that, it doesn't necessarily mean that I know it today! After all, to a woman a compliment is like trying to hold a snowflake on her tongue—it's gone as soon as she tastes it!" Judy looked unhappily out the window at the falling snow, as if each flake were a compliment that Oogie

should have given ber, but hadn't.

into the conversation, "be patient! Spring is just around the corner—and you know what happens then! A young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love!"

"Spring?" exclaimed Judy. "I don't want to wait till spring for Oogie to give some sign that

to introduce the conventional note of philosophy

he's still interested in me! I want to see it now! I want springtime this very minute! I want Oogie to call me NOW—not next May!"

Randy got up and went to the phone. He

dialed a number and waited through several rings. "Oogie?" he said at last. "Call Judy." Then he hung up. "See?" he said with great self-satisfaction as he walked back to his seat. "It's so simple—if you just know how!" The phone rang. "Your call, Judy! It's Oogie!"

"Randolph Foster! If you think for one minute that I'm going to answer that trumped-up call of Oogie's, you're sadly mistaken! YOU answer it and tell Oogie that I have no intention of speaking to him on the phone! Er—and at the same time you might suggest that he er—come over here, instead!"

"That's what I like about you, Judy," grinned Randy, going toward the still ringing phone. "You never push a guy off the end of a dock without first making sure you've got a rope

Fifteen minutes later Oogie put in a breathless appearance at the Foster's front door, duly

around his waist to pull him back with!"

stamping the snow off his feet and handing Randy his outdoor riggings before going in to greet Judy in the living room. "I can tell, Judy." he said at first sight of her, "you've got some-'thing on your mind! Let's hear it!" "Very well, Oogie-I suppose frankness is the

best policy in a case like this, so I'll get right to the point. You don't care for me any longer, do you?"

Oogie stared at her non-plussed for a moment. "Where'd you ever get an idea like that, Judy?"

he exclaimed. "You know I care for you-a whole lot!"

Oogie. "Boy, that's a laugh!"

"But you never write poems to me," Judy pointed out in a hurt tone, "the way Elmo does to Tootsie!" "Elmo writes poems to Tootsie?" whooped

"I'm not laughing!" said Judy severely.

"That's because you never read the poems!" howled Oogie.

"Oh, yes I did!" corrected Judy. "And they were lovely, even if they didn't rhyme too well! They certainly showed his heart was in the right place, at least!"

"Aw, Judy, you know I can't write poetry!" protested Oogie, sobering suddenly. "At least

not in the wintertime! I've got to have balmy breezes and blooming treeses around to inspire me. Hey-how was that for a little impromptu rhyming?"

"Not-funny-not-funny-at-all-!" Judy measured out her words with ominousness. "And besides, winter has nothing to do with it! Soooo -write me a poem Oogie-NOW!"

Oogie looked over at Randy for help, but Randy could only shrug back. Long experience had taught him that when Judy was like this, there was nothing to do but give in. Wordlessly, but with a compassionate pat on the shoulder. Randy brought Oogie a pencil and a pad of paper. Painfully, with much evidence of inner

struggle, Oogie began writing while Judy sat

waiting. At last he finished and handed Judy

the paper. "No, Oogie-read it to me," she com-

Miserably, Oogie cleared his throat and began to read . . . "Winter, spring, summer, fall ... I love Judy best of all!"

manded. "Out loud!"

want you to keep saying that to me the rest of

"Er-no, no, no," Oogie hastened to say. "What I mean is that-aw, Judy-what's the use? When I'm near you, I can't think straight, I can't talk straight, I can't see straight! That's the way you affect me!" A sudden smile spread across Judy's face.

"Really?" she asked, immensely pleased.

"Really," answered Oogie, immensely confused. "A very sad state of affairs," said Judy, smiling

"BRAVO! BRAVO!"

fellow-just great!"

other, Oogie!"

without reason!"

flies out the window!"

trouble.

Randy, hoping a show of enthusiasm would in-

fluence Judy in Oogie's favor. "That's great,

"Hm!" said Judy, contemplatively. "Hm! It's

"Another?" Oogie groaned, but with resigna-

tion picked up the pencil again and set to work. Ten minutes later he was finished. "No

matter when or what the season . . . I love Judy

"Even better!" applauded Randy. "You've got

talent, boy-yessir, real talent!" He glanced at

Judy's face and lapsed into silence. There was

something brewing there and it looked like

"Just what do you mean, Oogie," she said icily, "about loving me 'without reason?' Are you

implying that there's nothing about me that's

loveable?-that there's no reason to love me?"

didn't mean that at all! What I meant was that

when it comes to loving you, common sense

"Wha-a-at---?" shrieked Judy. "You mean that

anybody who loves me is out of his mind?"

"Of course not, Judy!" Oogie protested. "I

not bad-for a starter, anyway! Write me an-

shouted

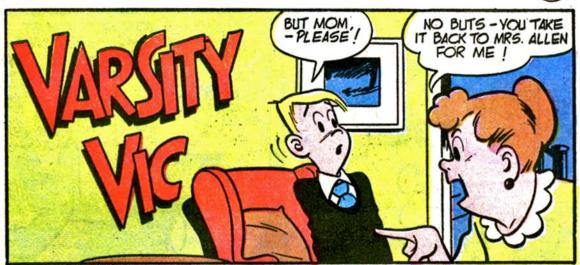
even more. "Very," affirmed Oogie morosely. "Oogie, look at me-" said Judy, "look at me and say just one nice thing and I'll drop the matter for the day!" Oogie looked at her. His eyes were as soft as a worshipful puppy's. He smiled the smile

of a contented dreamer. His whole face glowed with love of Judy. "Gosh!" he breathed. "Oh, Oogie," said Judy happily, "that's the most beautiful compliment I've ever heard! I

our lives!" "Gosh!" chanted Oogie. "Gosh, gosh, gosh!"























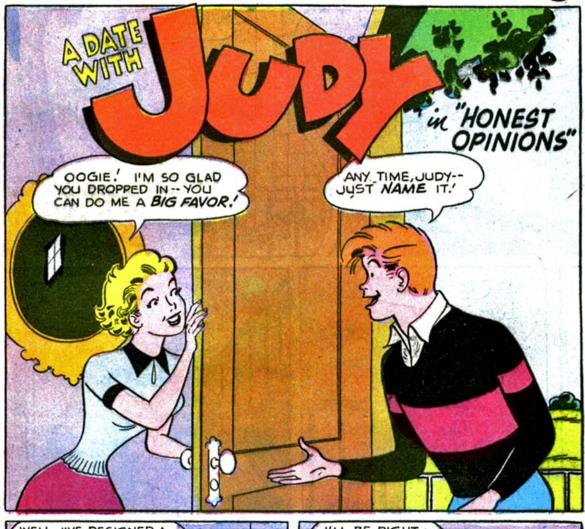






































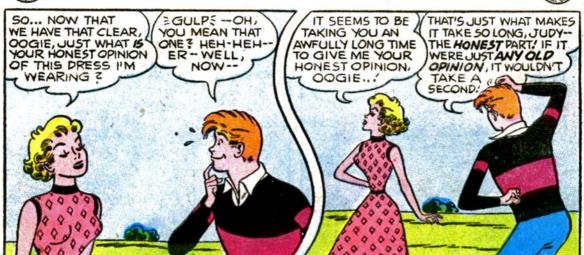






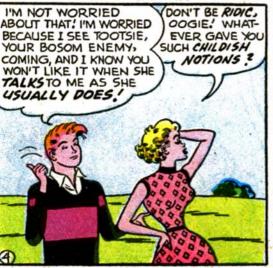








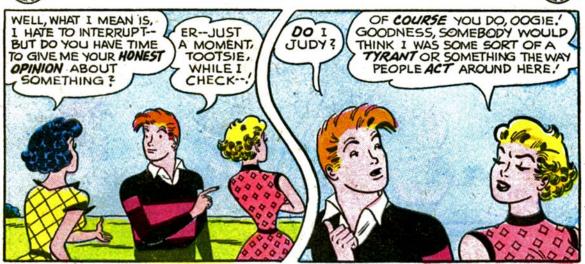




































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