

PICKLES

by AL HARTLEY

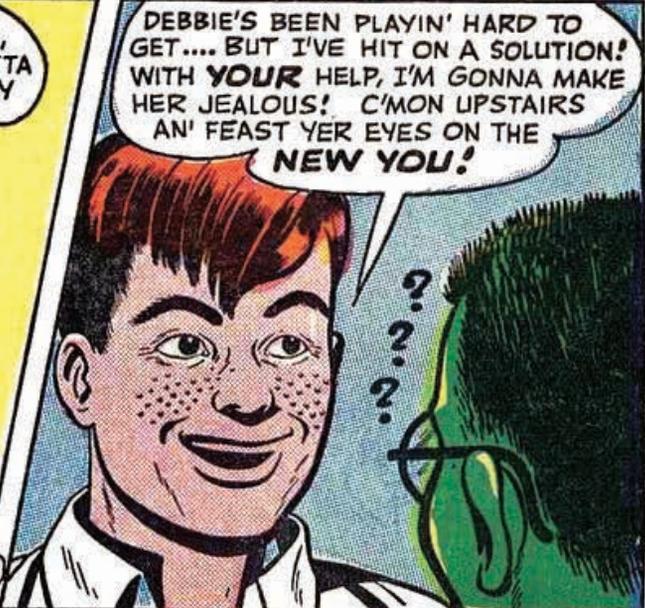


Imagine Cupid with a beau and error... Think he could score a hit? Here's a solid story that'll send you-- all about PICKLES, the Miracle Boy-- and DEBBIE, his snuggle-bunny-- and BINKIE, who-- Well, why should WE give it away? **START READING!**



WHAT'S UP, PICKLES? YOU SOUNDED **EXCITED** ON THE PHONE!

IT'S **ROMANCE**, BINKIE! YOU GOTTA HELP ME BRING MY LOVE-LIFE INTO FOCUS!



DEBBIE'S BEEN PLAYIN' HARD TO GET.... BUT I'VE HIT ON A SOLUTION! WITH **YOUR** HELP, I'M GONNA MAKE HER JEALOUS! C'MON UPSTAIRS AN' FEAST YER EYES ON THE **NEW YOU!**

???



And so, with the help of his sister's clothes...

HMM... MORE UPHOLSTERING, BINKIE... YOU'RE STILL TOO SKINNY!



CAN I HELP IT IF I'M THE STURDY MASCULINE TYPE?

MAH FRAN'... ALL THAT'S A THING OF THE PAST!



THAT'S BETTER! NOW, OFF WITH THE CHEATERS --- AND ON WITH THE LIPSTICK AND WIG!



TERRIFIC! WHEN YOU START PLAYING UP TO ME TONIGHT, THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER WILL HAVE DEBBIE EATING OUT OF MY HAND!



I GET THE SETUP --- I'LL BE A TORRID VAMP, HUH? HMMM... JUST A BIT MORE MASSACRE ---

MASCARA, BINKIE! HAW-HAW!



That night ---

HI, DEBBIE!

THIS FRENCH WILL SLAY HER!

JE T'ADORE!



SHUT IT, YOURSELF! YOU OPENED IT!



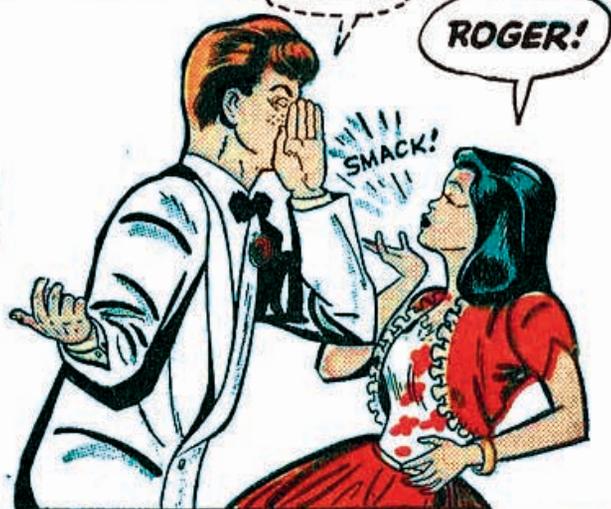
OH, SAY! -- THANKS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL ORCHID.... IT STILL HAS SOME DEW ON IT!

WELL, ER... IT'LL BE PAID FOR IN FULL NEXT WEEK! LET'S GO!

At the dance...

DEBBIE'S CHECKING HER CAPE! AS SOON AS SHE COMES OUT, TURN ON THE CHARM, BINKIE!

ROGER!



SMACK!



HUSTLE YOUR BUSTLE, DEB! WE'RE MISSIN' SOME SOLID JIVE!



OH, HELLO, PICKLES!

HMF!



WOW! BINKIE'S PUTTING THIS OVER WITH A BANG! I'VE GOTTA DO AS GOOD....

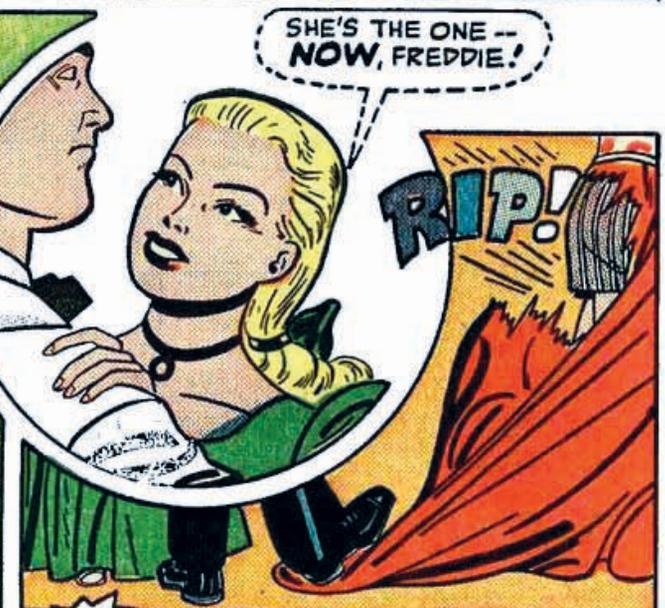
SKIP THAT! WHAT MATTERS IS THAT I'M HERE! TONIGHT, LOVER!

OH -- AH --- WHEN DID YOU BREEZE IN?



AHEM! DEBBIE, THIS IS -- ER...

CUDDLES L'AMOUR -- HERE TO RAISE SOME SPARKS IN AN OLD FLAME! RIGHT, PICKLE-WICKLE?







WHY...IT'S BINKIE!



GULP! I'VE B-BEEN EXPOSED, P-PICKLES... AND YOUR SCHEME, TOO!



THAT WAS GREAT STUFF, PICKLES! I'M FREDDIE MARTIN, DEBBIE'S COUSIN! YOU NOT ONLY GAVE US A LAUGH, BUT YOU CONVINCED DEB THAT ANYONE WHO'D TRY A SCHEME LIKE THAT MUST BE SIMPLY CR-RAZY ABOUT HER!...



BUT YOU TWO HAVEN'T DANCED TOGETHER YET... YOU'RE WASTING GROOVY MUSIC!



ISN'T THIS BETTER THAN DANCING WITH BINKIE?

GULPS... AND HOW, SNUGGLE-BUNNY!



And so--

OKAY-- FIFTY BUCKS AND I'LL KEEP THE WIG ON. BUT TOMORROW NIGHT, I WANT A NEW DRESS.

--AND SHOES!

LORRIE

By Al Hartley

