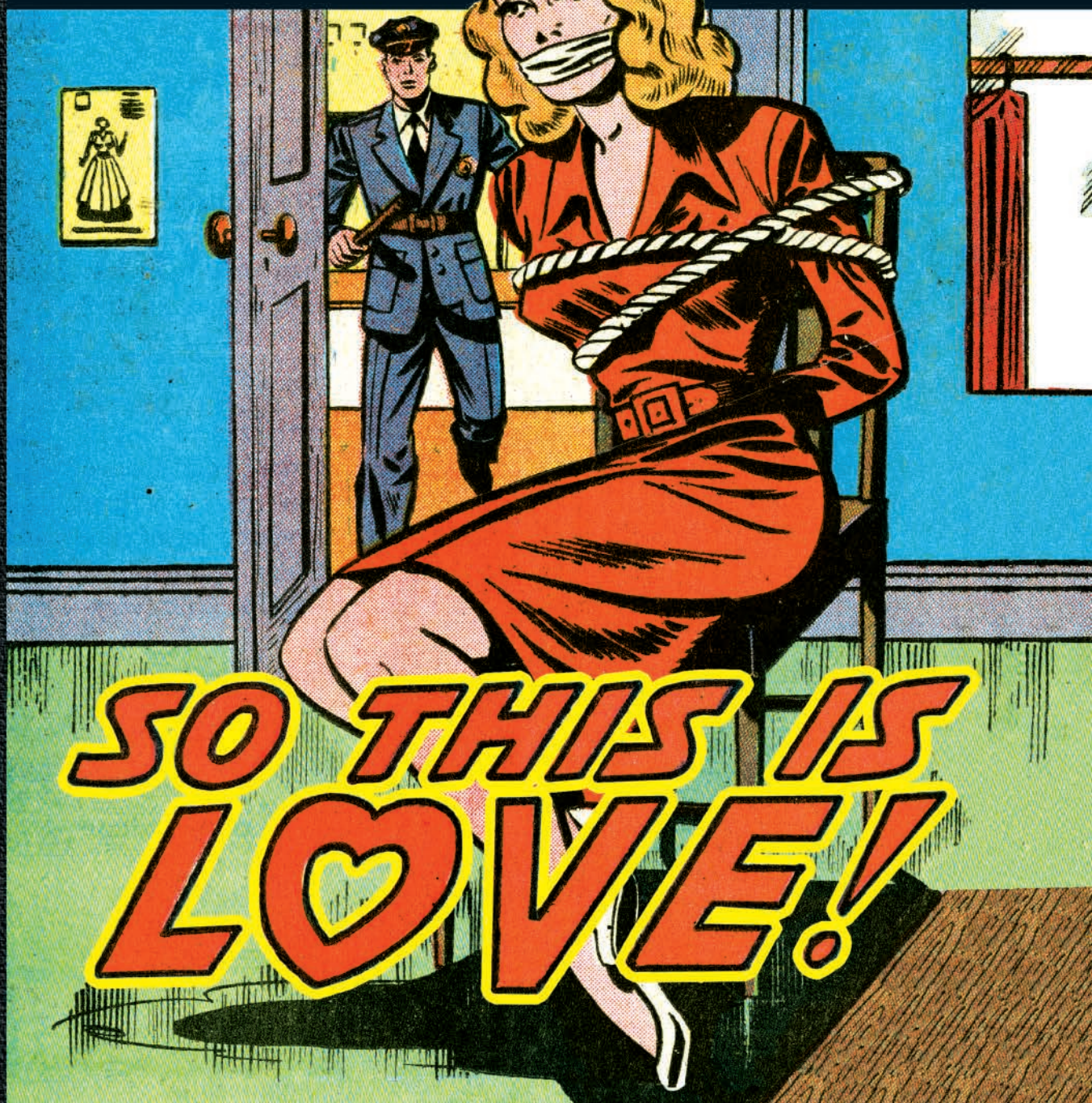


"DERANGED GENIUS!" —WIRED MAGAZINE

WEIRD LOVE™

Presented by
CLIZIA GUSSONI
and CRAIG YOE

Introduction by
REBECCA SEVRIN



SO THIS IS
LOVE!



Dedicated to the most weird and wonderful lovers we know,
Mike and Andrea Howlett.

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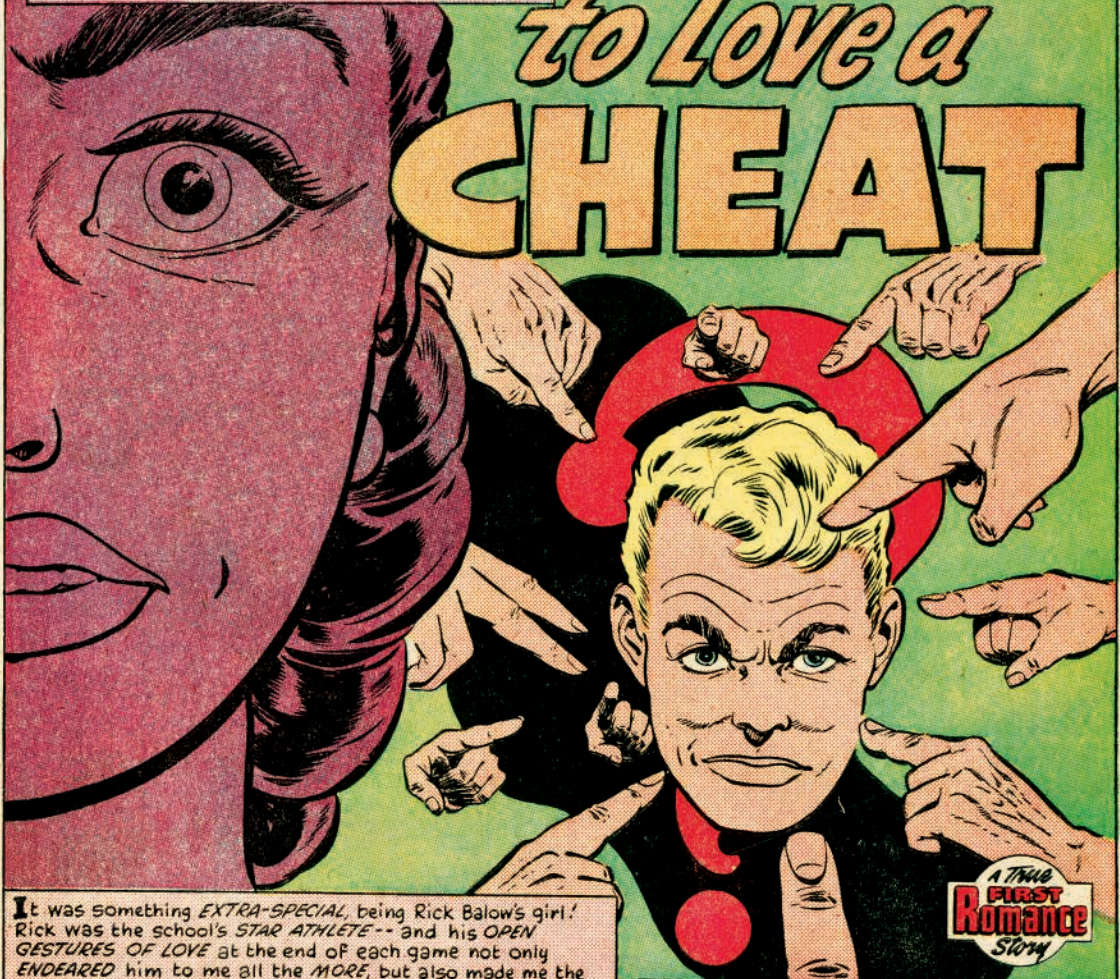
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A PALL OF DISGRACE AND SHAME HUNG OVER THE BOY I LOVED!! AND I HAD TO FACE THE TERRIBLE QUESTION--SHOULD A GIRL ALLOW HERSELF...

to Love a CHEAT



It was something EXTRA-SPECIAL, being Rick Balow's girl! Rick was the school's STAR ATHLETE-- and his OPEN GESTURES OF LOVE at the end of each game not only ENDEARED him to me all the MORE, but also made me the ENVY of all the OTHER girls...

Afterwards, I waited for Rick ... we were going to the school VICTORY DANCE...



HELLO, MY DARLING! I WONDER IF YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU--HOW ENVIOUS ALL THE OTHER GIRLS ARE

OH, DARLING, I'M SO PROUD! YOU CLINCHED THE SCHOOL'S PLACE IN THE REGIONAL PLAY-OFFS WITH THAT WINNING BASKET!

LISTEN TO THE GAL! YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW IT, HON? BUT IT WAS LUCK--JUST SHEER LUCK...



ELLEN-- WOULD YOU MIND TERRIBLY IF WE SKIPPED THE DANCE? I OUGHT TO GO HOME AND STUDY FOR MID-TERMS! I'M WAY BEHIND...

OH, RICK-- MUST YOU? I-- I'M WEARING THIS DRESS SPECIALLY! YOU CAN STUDY TOMORROW AFTERNOON...



OF course we went to the DANCE! And I had a GRAND TIME--but Rick's spirits seemed DARKENED by a VAGUE SHADOW OF WORRY...

NOW TELL THE TRUTH, MR. HERO! WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS INSTEAD OF A TEXTBOOK?

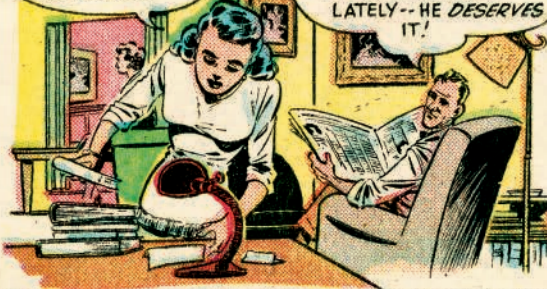
YOU KNOW I WOULD, DARLING. BUT I-- AHH, NEVER MIND! LET'S DANCE-- AND HAVE FUN!



We didn't make a date for the FOLLOWING night, because Rick had to WORK. So I stayed HOME and STUDIED HARD for the coming exams until late in the evening. Then...

OH! MY! THAT'S ENOUGH BOOKWORKING FOR TONIGHT! THINK I'LL RUN DOWN TO THE DRUG STORE, DADDY. RICK WILL BRING ME HOME...

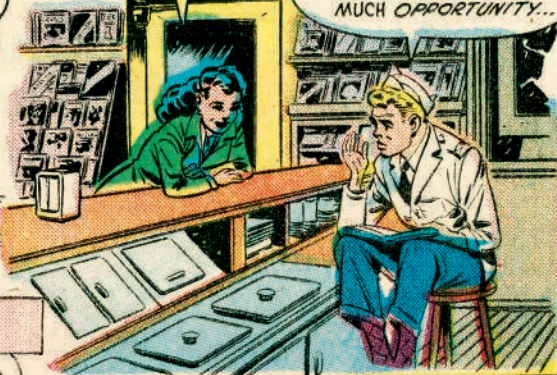
ALL RIGHT, HONEY. GIVE THAT BOY OF YOURS A HUG FOR ME! THE WAY HE'S BEEN SPARKING THE SCHOOL TEAM LATELY-- HE DESERVES IT!



Rick worked four evenings a week... He was SAVING MONEY to augment the ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP he hoped to win in order to go to college! My Rick was a WONDERFUL GUY...

HEY! IS THIS THE SERVICE A CUSTOMER GETS? WHAT ARE YOU-- A CLERK-- OR A BOOKWORM HERE?!

HUH--? OH, HELLO HONEY-- I DIDN'T SEE YOU COME IN! I'M TRYING TO STUDY FOR EXAMS-- BUT I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY...



I chattered BLITHELY with him for an hour-- until CLOSING TIME -- and then...

HONEY, IT'S 11 O'CLOCK-- TIME TO CLOSE UP-- RICK! YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING TO ME!...

WHA?... OH-- SURE I AM, HONEY! I WAS JUST GLANCING THRU MY MATH BOOK FOR TOMORROW'S EXAM. THAT'S ALL...



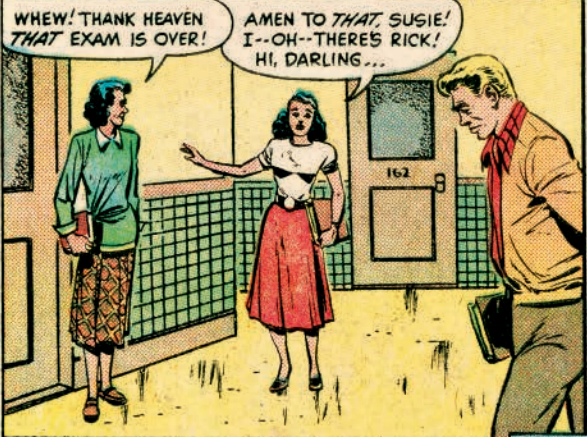
I waited while he closed up-- and then he walked me home...

MMMMM... DARLING-- IF YOU DO HALF AS WELL WITH THE MATH MID-TERM AS YOU DO WITH YOUR GOOD-NIGHT KISSES, YOU'LL PASS HIGH!

WELL-- LET'S HOPE SO, ELLEN... LET'S-- HOPE-- SO!!



Next day, when we had the big math test, I said a SILENT PRAYER for Rick! If he PASSED it, he was almost CERTAIN to get the SCHOLARSHIP...



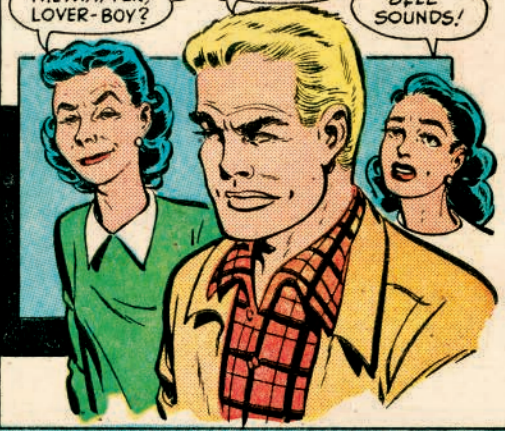
WHEW! THANK HEAVEN THAT EXAM IS OVER!

AMEN TO THAT, SUSIE! I--OH--THERE'S RICK! HI, DARLING...

WELL! YOU'RE A GLOOMY-LOOKING GUS! WHATEVER IS THE MATTER, LOVER-BOY?

AHH, LET ME ALONE, WILL YOU, SUSIE!

HEY-- NO FIGHTING TILL THE BELL SOUNDS!



I had never SEEN Rick so NERVOUS and IRRITABLE! I could TELL that something was WRONG--REALLY wrong...

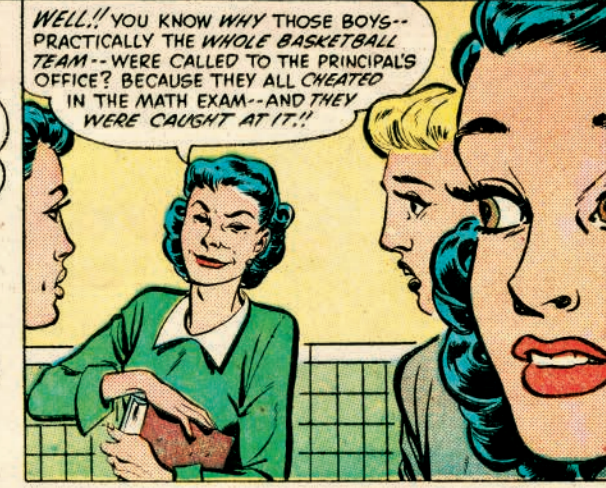


RICK, HONEY-- WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ATTENTION! THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE TO REPORT AT ONCE TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE--BALOW, JONES, MORTON, FRANKS...

THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER! I KNEW IT! THEY'VE FOUND OUT!...

He walked away from me, looking like a man FACING DEATH! I didn't know what to MAKE OF IT until a half hour later, when Susie dropped HER BOMBHELL...



WELL!! YOU KNOW WHY THOSE BOYS-- PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE BASKETBALL TEAM-- WERE CALLED TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE? BECAUSE THEY ALL CHEATED IN THE MATH EXAM--AND THEY WERE CAUGHT AT IT!!

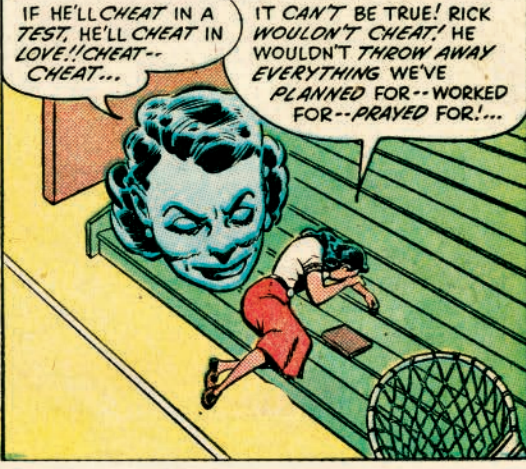
Susie's eyes GLEAMED with VICIOUSNESS and EXCITEMENT! She was the SCHOOL GOSSIP! And THIS was the most SENSATIONAL news she'd had for MONTHS!! The BASKETBALL TEAM caught for CHEATING--Rick included! I stared at her--UNBELIEVING--DUMBFOUNDED...



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR PRECIOUS RICK NOW, ELLEN?? DON'T FORGET-- IF HE'LL CHEAT IN A TEST-- HE'LL CHEAT IN LOVE, TOO!!

SUSIE-- STOP IT! I-- I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYMORE!!

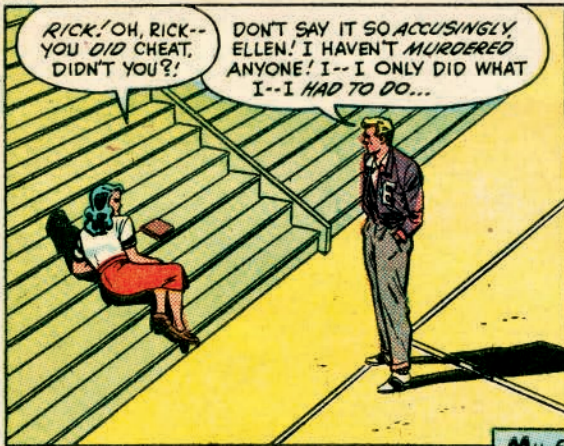
I fled into the EMPTY GYM to ESCAPE her... I wanted to be ALONE--I wanted to THINK--I wanted to DO SOMETHING about the sudden PAIN and BEWILDERMENT in my heart...



IF HE'LL CHEAT IN A TEST, HE'LL CHEAT IN LOVE!! CHEAT-- CHEAT...

IT CAN'T BE TRUE! RICK WOULDN'T CHEAT! HE WOULDN'T THROW AWAY EVERYTHING WE'VE PLANNED FOR--WORKED FOR--PRAYED FOR!...

Then Rick walked *SLOWLY* into the gym--and I knew it *WAS TRUE!!* One look at his Face *TOLD ME--IT WAS TRUE--* he *HAD CHEATED!!*



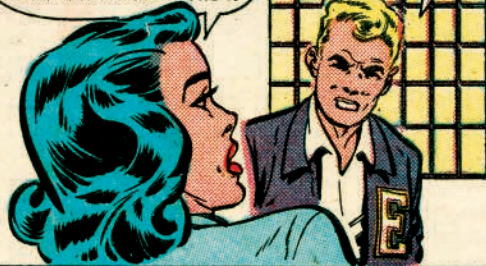
RICK! OH, RICK-- YOU DID CHEAT, DIDN'T YOU?!

DON'T SAY IT SO ACCUSINGLY, ELLEN! I HAVEN'T MURDERED ANYONE! I-- I ONLY DID WHAT I-- I HAD TO DO...

Try to imagine the thing you *CHERISH* most in the world suddenly turning to *ASHES* before you...and you'll have *SOME IDEA* of how I felt at that moment...

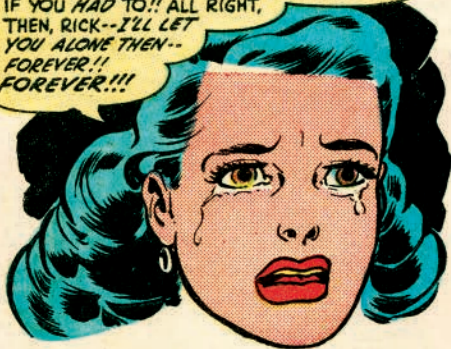
"WHAT YOU HAD TO DO"?! WHY DIDN'T YOU *STUDY* FOR THE TEST--SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO CHEAT?! WHAT ABOUT YOUR *SCHOLARSHIP--THE CHAMPIONSHIP--THE...*

FOR HEAVENS SAKE, ELLEN-- LET ME ALONE, LET ME ALONE!! I TELL YOU I HAD TO DO IT! I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND THAT!!



My *FURY* had flared *SUDDENLY* and *BITTERLY*--and the *HIDEOUS SUSPICION* Susie had planted in my heart had *BURST OUT!!* I ran *BLINDLY* out of the gym, the *WHOLE WORLD CRASHING* around me...

YES-- YOU HAD TO CHEAT! I GUESS *SUSIE WAS RIGHT!!* YOU'D CHEAT ON ME, TOO-- IF YOU HAD TO!! ALL RIGHT, THEN, RICK-- I'LL LET YOU ALONE THEN-- FOREVER!!! FOREVER!!!



I CAN'T TRUST HIM-- SO I--(sob)-- DON'T DARE TO LOVE HIM!! I--OH! WHO'S THAT?...

OKAY! SO WE'RE THROUGH! BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, TOOTS!...

YOU CAN'T TELL ME ANYTHING, TED FRANKS! YOU-- YOU CHEAT!

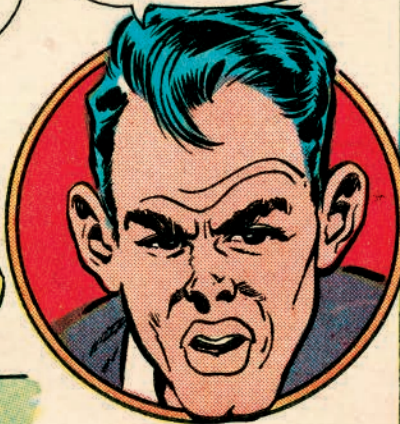


It was a *LOUD, FURIOUSLY ANGRY* conversation... I couldn't help *OVER-HEARING IT* and *RECOGNIZING* the voices...

I CAN TELL YOU *THIS--* THAT EVERY ONE OF US GUYS HAD TO CHEAT BECAUSE YOU DAMES WOULDN'T GIVE US TIME TO *STUDY!!* YOU DIDN'T CARE THAT WE HAD TO PRACTICE EVERY AFTERNOON! WE STILL HAD TO DATE YOU EVERY NIGHT TO KEEP YOU!! WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO *STUDY...*



BUT YOU *GIRLS* NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! OH, NO!! YOU WANTED TO GO OUT--HAVE FUN--SHOW OFF THE CHAMPS!! SO NOW WE'RE CHUMPS-- THANKS TO YOU!!!



I tiptoed away in a *DAZE*... my *HEAD* was *SPINNING*...and my *HEART* was *THROBBING*-- with *SHAME* and *GUILT*...

IT-- IT'S THE *TRUTH!* AND I-- WE *ALL--* WERE TOO *SELFISH* TO SEE IT! THE BOYS HAD TO CHEAT-- BECAUSE WE-- THE *GIRLS--* CHEATED THEM OF THEIR *STUDY TIME!*...



I could think of only *ONE THING*..that I had to *FIND RICK* and tell him I *UNDERSTOOD* and was *ASHAMED* of what I had *DONE* to him!! I searched all over the school, and when I came back to the gym...

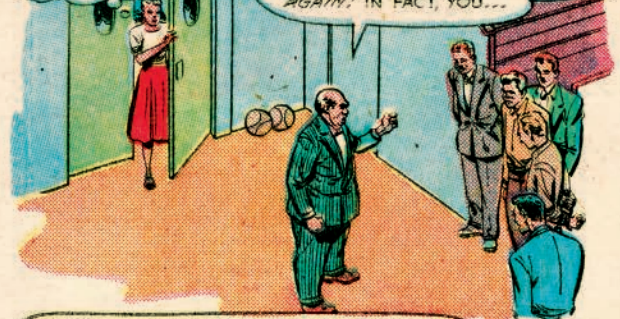
I knew, suddenly, what I had to do--to win Rick's *FORGIVENESS*--to see *JUSTICE* done! It took all my *COURAGE* to step Forward and *SPEAK*--but my love for Rick somehow gave me that courage!...

OHH! IT'S THE *PRINCIPAL*--
TONGUE-LASHING THE
WHOLE TEAM---

THERE IS NO *POSSIBLE*
EXCUSE FOR THIS *MASS CHEATING*!!
NONE OF YOU WILL *EVER PARTICI-
PATE* IN *SPORTS* IN THIS *SCHOOL*
AGAIN! IN *FACT*, YOU...

PLEASE, MR. *JAMESON*--
THERE IS AN
EXCUSE, SIR...

WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO
SAY CAN WAIT, *YOUNG*
LADY! YOU HAVE *NO RIGHT* TO
COME *BARRING* IN HERE *NOW*...



BUT IT *CAN'T* WAIT, SIR! BECAUSE *THESE BOYS*
AREN'T THE *CHEATS*! WE *ARE*--THE *GIRLS* WHO
GO WITH *THEM!* WE *NEVER ALLOWED* THEM
TO *STUDY*...

The *WHOLE MISERABLE* story poured from my lips--how I had
IGNORED Rick's gentle hints about *STUDYING*... how *ALL* the girls
had done the *SAME THING*... and as I spoke, Mr. Jameson's Face
changed from *ANGER* to *SURPRISE* and then--when I had *FINISHED*--
to a kind of *ADMIRATION*...



MISS *HOLMES*--THAT'S THE MOST
EXTRAORDINARY CONFESSION I'VE EVER HEARD! I *STILL*
DON'T *CONDONE* THE *CHEATING*, OF *COURSE*--BUT--WELL--
MAYBE *THOSE BOYS DO DESERVE* ANOTHER *CHANCE*!!



He strode from the gym--and for a moment there was
UTTER SILENCE! Then, abruptly, the team burst into *CHEERS*
and *RUSHED* at me with outstretched *ARMS*...



WHATTA *GAL!* LEMME
AT THAT *PRINCESS!*
SHE'S A
LIFESAVER!

ALL RIGHT, YOU *GUYS*--*HANDS OFF!*
IF YOU WANT HER *KISSED*--I'LL
DO IT! I'M HER *GUUY!*

OH, *RICK*--*RICK*--
MY *DARLING*...



THEN YOU-- YOU *FORGIVE* ME?

THERE'S ONLY *ONE THING* I DO WHERE
YOU'RE *CONCERNED*,
HONEY--AND
THAT'S *LOVE*
YOU--*NOW*
MORE THAN
EVER!

And that's my true story! So remember, girls--when
YOUR *guy NEEDS* YOU most, *DON'T LET HIM DOWN!*
Make sure--*VERY SURE*--that the *FAULT* doesn't lie
with YOU instead of *HIM!*

THE
END