

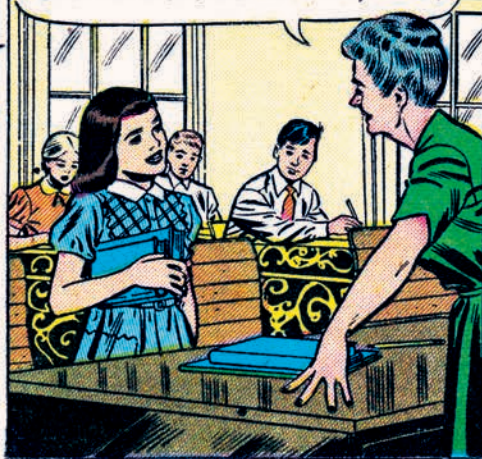
Arms reaching for me, lips waiting for my kisses, eager eyes looking at me... but not with love! Not with love! I was only a girl to be parked with on the back roads late at night, to be kissed and then forgotten. I felt ashamed and degraded, and yet I seemed helpless in my struggle to avoid...

Backroads Romance



I THINK MY TROUBLE STARTED IN GRADE SCHOOL WHEN I FIRST DISCOVERED THAT I WAS DOOMED TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF MY OLDER SISTER MARTHA. ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL THE 8TH GRADE TEACHER SAID...

SO YOU ARE ALICE HARPER! I REMEMBER YOUR SISTER MARTHA VERY WELL - ONE OF THE BEST STUDENTS I EVER HAD. LET'S HOPE YOU DO AS WELL, ALICE!



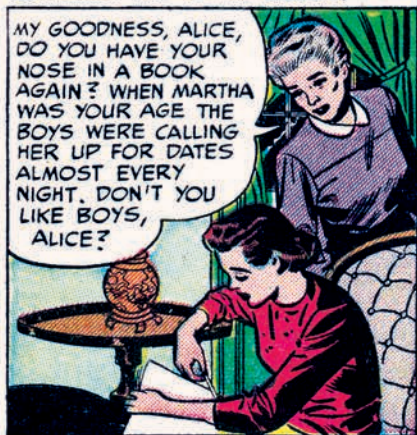
I DIDN'T DO AS WELL AS MARTHA HAD... I NEVER DID ANYTHING AS WELL! WHEN MARTHA GOT MARRIED AND MOVED TO ANOTHER TOWN, I THOUGHT I COULD LIVE MY OWN LIFE. BUT IN HIGH SCHOOL HER SHADOW WAS DARKER THAN EVER...

YOUR SISTER MARTHA MADE A GREAT RECORD HERE. SHE WAS PRESIDENT OF HER CLASS, PRESIDENT OF THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY AND EDITOR OF THE ANNUAL. SO WE'RE EXPECTING BIG THINGS FROM YOU, ALICE!

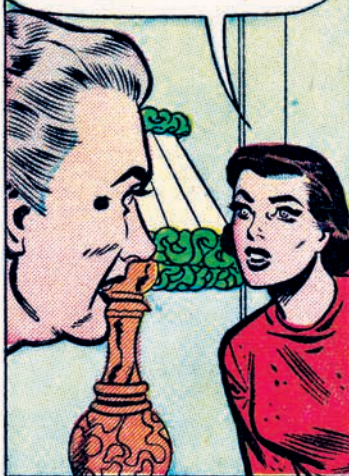


I WAS NO LEADER IN SCHOOL THE WAY MARTHA HAD BEEN. I WAS NOTHING...JUST A CIPHER. BUT THE HARDEST THING TO BEAR WAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT EVEN MOTHER KEPT COMPARING ME TO MY SISTER.

MY GOODNESS, ALICE, DO YOU HAVE YOUR NOSE IN A BOOK AGAIN? WHEN MARTHA WAS YOUR AGE THE BOYS WERE CALLING HER UP FOR DATES ALMOST EVERY NIGHT. DON'T YOU LIKE BOYS, ALICE?



I DON'T LIKE BOYS! I DON'T LIKE SCHOOL! I HATE THE WHOLE WORLD!



ALICE! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? NOTHING. I SOBE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!



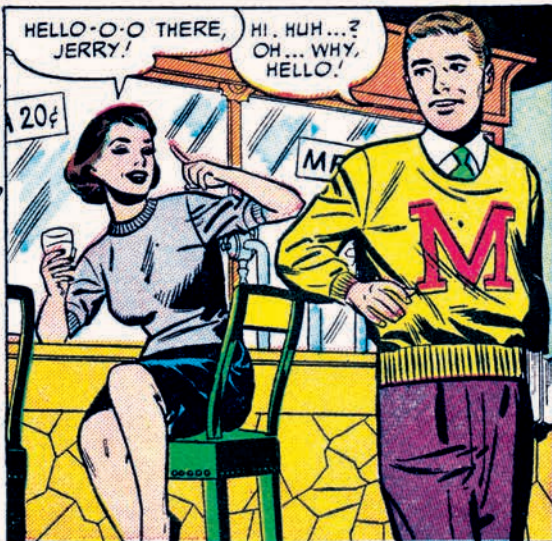
EVERYBODY FEELS SORRY FOR ME BECAUSE I'M NOT AS SMART AS MARTHA... OR AS PRETTY... OR AS POPULAR! OK... I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL HAVE DATES, TOO — JUST LIKE MARTHA! I'LL HAVE LOTS OF DATES FROM NOW ON!

I'D READ STORIES ABOUT HOW SOME GIRLS GOT DATES AND I DETERMINED TO TRY THE SAME METHOD. I'D GIVE THE BOYS THE OLD COME-ON! NEXT DAY AT THE "SWEET SHOP"...



HELLO-O-O THERE, JERRY!

HI. HUH...? OH... WHY, HELLO!



YOU'RE ALICE HARPER, AREN'T YOU? FUNNY, BUT SOMEHOW YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.

MAYBE I AM DIFFERENT, JERRY!



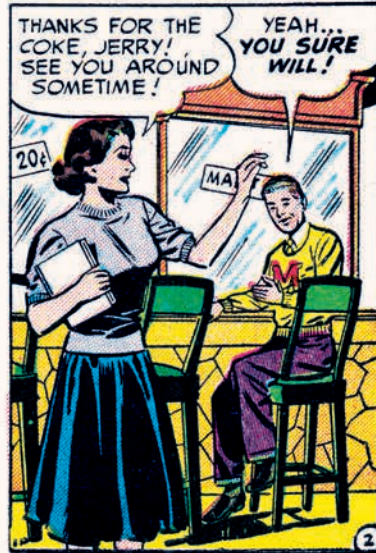
MAYBE I JUST DISCOVERED WHAT LIFE'S ALL ABOUT...

WELL... AH... I GULP... HAVE A COKE, HUH?



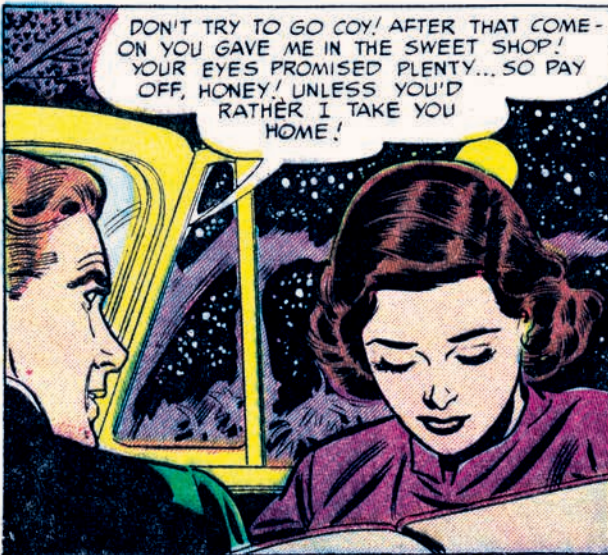
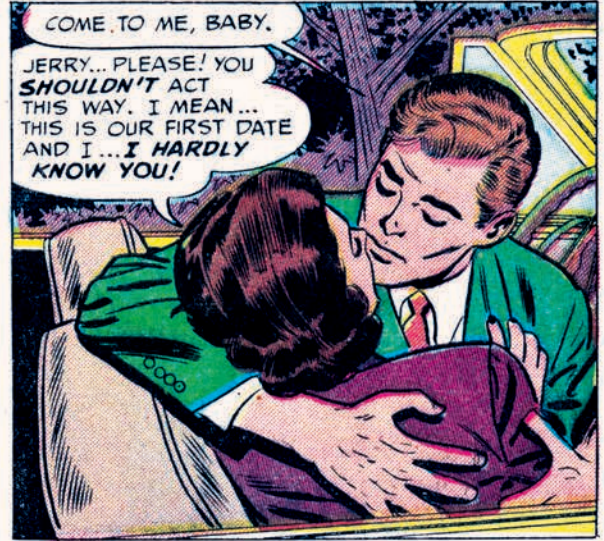
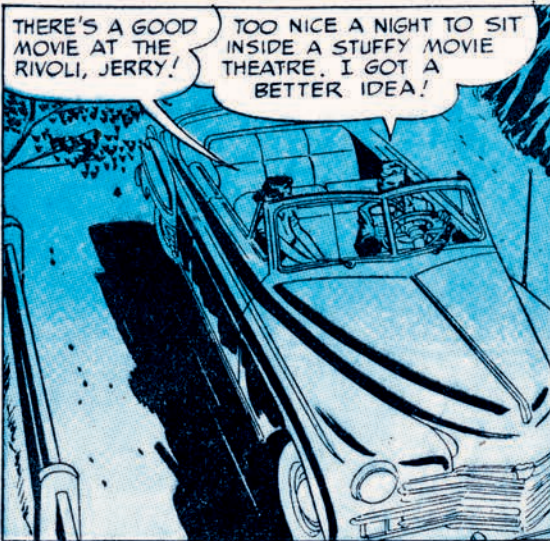
THANKS FOR THE COKE, JERRY! SEE YOU AROUND SOMETIME!

YEAH... YOU SURE WILL!

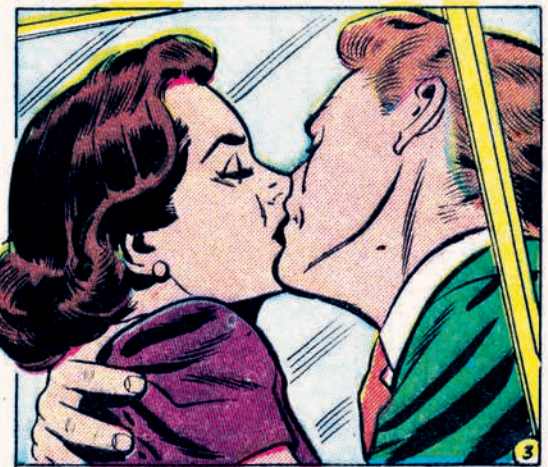




JERRY CALLED FOR ME THAT EVENING IN A CONVERTIBLE!



MOTHER HAD BEEN SO HAPPY THAT I HAD A DATE... I COULDN'T LET HIM TAKE ME HOME. I **COULDN'T** BE A FAILURE ON MY FIRST DATE! AND AFTER ALL, WHAT HARM COULD A KISS DO?



THE NEXT DAY I MET JERRY IN SCHOOL...



AS I PASSED BY, MY EARS BEGAN TO BURN.



LET THEM TALK! LET THE WHOLE SCHOOL KNOW ABOUT IT—I DON'T CARE! IT'S BETTER TO BE TALKED ABOUT THAN IGNORED!

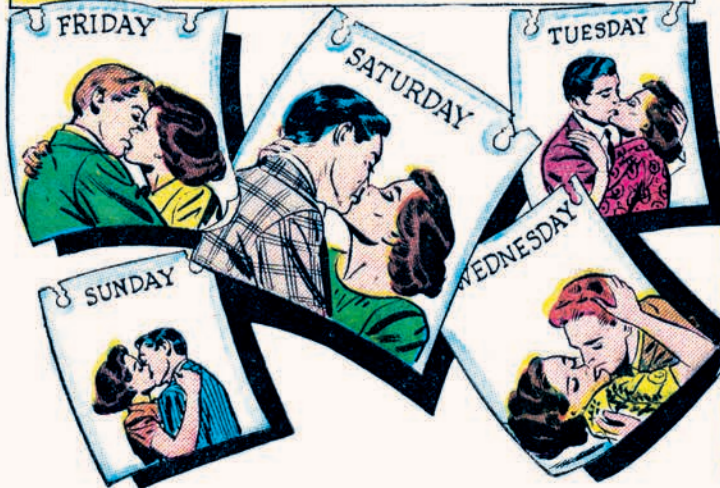
THE NEXT WEEK END, THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN... AND MOTHER WAS PRACTICALLY BUG-EYED WITH EXCITEMENT!



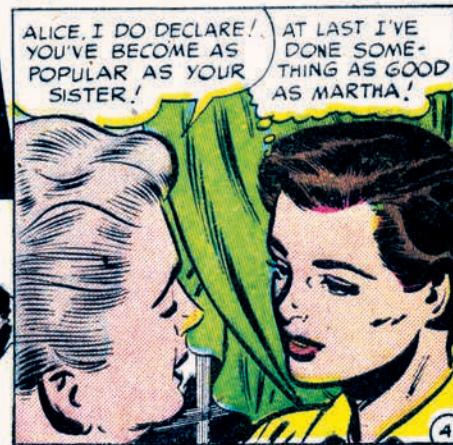
ALICE, IT'S FOR YOU, DEAR! MY GOODNESS, THE **THIRD** CALL THIS EVENING!

I'M ALREADY DATED UP FOR BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY EVENING. BUT I SUPPOSE I COULD SEE HIM IN THE AFTERNOON!

AS THE WEEKS WENT BY THE PHONE BEGAN TO RING MORE AND MORE. IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME THING... BOYS WHO WANTED TO PARK AND NECK...



WHEN I STOPPED TO THINK ABOUT IT, I FELT CHEAP AND ASHAMED. BUT I WAS WORKING TOWARD A GOAL... AND I ACHIEVED IT A FEW MONTHS LATER WHEN MOTHER SAID...

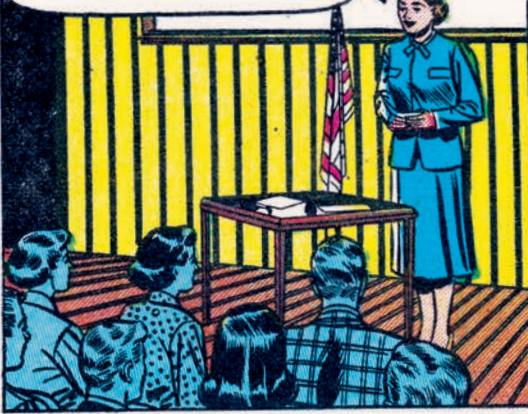


ALICE I DO DECLARE! YOU'VE BECOME AS POPULAR AS YOUR SISTER!

AT LAST I'VE DONE SOMETHING AS GOOD AS MARTHA!

THAT SPRING CAME THE BIG SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR—THE SPRING FESTIVAL. IT WAS A COMBINATION JUNIOR-SENIOR DANCE AND A CLASS REUNION FOR THOSE WHO HAD BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FIVE YEARS. WHEN PLANS WERE ANNOUNCED AT ASSEMBLY, EVERYBODY BUZZED WITH EXCITEMENT.

OUR SPRING FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 10TH. I WILL NOW READ THE NAMES OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES. REFRESHMENT, JANICE TOMPKINS. DECORATIONS, WILLIAM HARTLEY. ENTERTAINMENT...



AFTER ASSEMBLY...

THE SPRING FESTIVAL! OH, GOLLY, I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR FOR THIS!

ISN'T IT EXCITING?

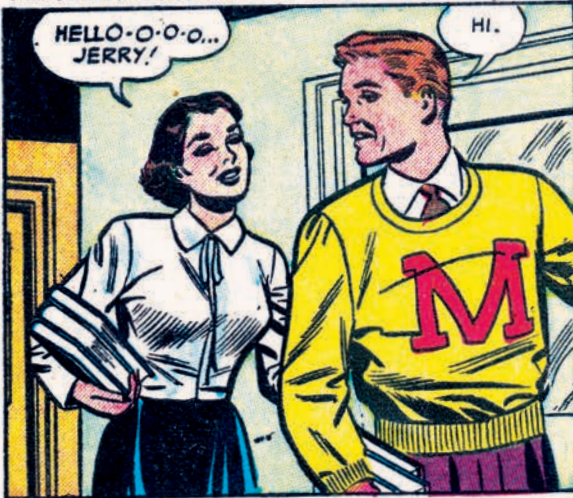
MOTHER SAYS I CAN HAVE A FORMAL—BLUE TAFFETA!



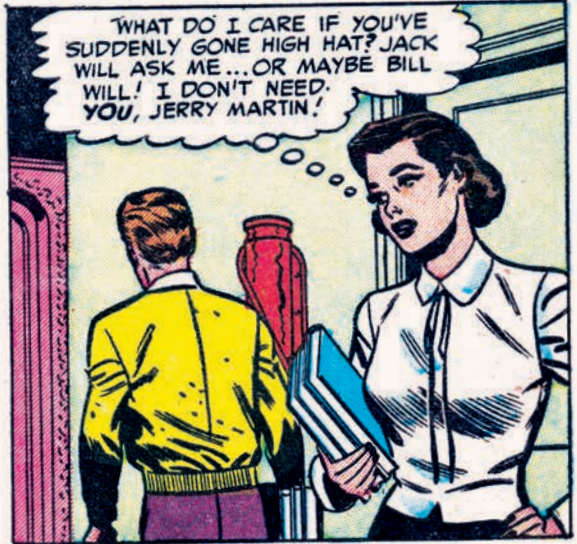
I BEGAN TO WONDER WHO WOULD ASK ME TO THE FESTIVAL. I HOPED IT WOULD BE JERRY...

HELLO-O-O-O... JERRY!

HI.



WHAT DO I CARE IF YOU'VE SUDDENLY GONE HIGH HAT? JACK WILL ASK ME... OR MAYBE BILL WILL! I DON'T NEED YOU, JERRY MARTIN!



THE DAY OF THE SPRING FESTIVAL CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER...

EDDIE WILLIAMS JUST ASKED ME TO THE SPRING FESTIVAL!

I'VE GOT A DATE WITH SAM!

NORMAN!



FINALLY I HAD TO FACE THE BITTER TRUTH... NOBODY WAS GOING TO ASK ME TO THE FESTIVAL!

I HATE THEM! SOB! I HATE THEM!

