

My Little Margie

ANNOUNCER

And now: My Little Margie! As we look in on the Albright apartment, Margie and her father, Vern, are celebrating a reunion with two old friends, Hank Davis and his daughter, Babs. Hank and Babs have just moved back to town after living in Chicago for the past few years.

VERN

By golly, Hank, it's sure wonderful to get back together with you again.

HANK

I feel the same way, Vern. You're the best friend I ever had.

MARGIE

And Babs and I just made a vow never to be separated again.

BABS

That's right, Margie! I can't tell you how thrilled I am at this reunion.

HANK

Vern, friends like you are rare. I'll never forget the time I fell out of a canoe into the lake. You jumped in and saved me! Oh, what a pal!

VERN

Well, why shouldn't I save you? You had my pants on.

HANK

Remember that great time we had when we flew to Florida?

VERN

Oh, sure! Everything was wonderful but the flight. That airline hostess didn't like me.

HANK

How do you know?

VERN

She kept fastening my safety belt.

HANK

What's wrong with that?

VERN

. . . To the propeller?

MARGIE

Well, you men can amuse yourselves with your reminiscences, but Babs and I are looking forward to the future – especially the good times we're going to have in our club, The Young Debs.

BABS

Yes, I went to a meeting this afternoon with Margie; my first meeting in three years. It was terribly exciting.

HANK

What happened at the meeting?

MARGIE

Well, it started in the usual way – the President began by pounding with the gavel... and then I quickly made a motion.

VERN

What motion did you make?

MARGIE

I pulled my hand away. It was under the gavel!

BABS

Well, after that, it was decided to have a big dance, and both Margie and I were nominated for Chairman of the Dance Committee.

HANK

Rivals, huh? I hope it won't affect your friendship.

MARGIE

Never.

BABS

Never.

SFX: DOOR OPENS

MRS. ODETTTS

Hello-o!

VERN

Mrs. Odetts, you remember Hank and his daughter Babs?

MRS. ODETTTS

Sure!

VERN

Well, we're celebrating a reunion. Hank is my best friend!

MRS. ODETTIS

I once had a best friend. But I lost him.

BABS

How did you lose your best friend?

MRS. ODETTIS

. . . I married him. . . . Well, how is your reunion working out, Mr. Albright?

VERN

Great, great! Now listen, Hank, just for old times' sake, how about a game of golf tomorrow?

HANK

Fine! I'll beat you as badly as the last time we played.

VERN

Now wait a minute – you've got that all wrong. *I beat you.*

HANK

Vern, I remember the score distinctly. You shot a 99, and I shot an 84. You got into trouble on the 14th hole.

VERN

Now listen, Hank. You never were as good at golf as I was. I had the 84 – your score was 103!

HANK

Listen to the man! Vern, I don't mind your distorting the facts, but stop showing off in front of your daughter!

VERN

I'm not distorting, *you're* distorting! And *you're* showing off in front of *your* daughter! You're nothing but a . . . a distorter!

MRS. ODETTIS

Whoop! I'm getting confused. Which daughter? This daughter or that daughter?

HANK

You couldn't beat me a golf in a million years, you . . . you old fogey!

VERN

Why, you lame-brained, lop-sided knuckle-noodle! Are you calling me a liar?

HANK

Not yet, but it's a good idea! You're a liar!

VERN

And you're a phony loudmouth braggart. I hope I never see you again!

HANK

That goes double! Come on, Babs, let's get away from this miserable nincompoop!

SFX: DOOR SLAMS SHUT

MRS. ODETTIS

. . . Well! . . . Happy reunion!

MUSIC: BRIDGING SEGUE

VERN

Of all the ungrateful, coarse, boorish, obstinate people!

MARGIE

Dad! Calm down. Frankly, I think it was your fault. Why don't you bring him a little gift and make up with him?

VERN

A gift?

MARGIE

Certainly. His nickname is Sweet Tooth Davis because he eats so much candy, isn't it? Well, bring him a box of candy. He'd love it.

SFX: DOOR OPENS

FREDDY

Hi, Margie! Mr. Albright.

MARGIE

Hi, Freddy!

FREDDY

Margie, I was talking to Babs on the phone, and she said she was coming over to see you.

VERN

Babs coming here? Margie, I wish you'd be more choosy about your friends.

MARGIE

Dad, be reasonable. Just because you and Hank quarrel, doesn't mean Babs and I have to break up. Nothing will ever spoil our friendship. Not even the fact that we're running against each other for Dance Committee Chairman.

FREDDY

Oh, by the way, Margie. Babs said that if she's elected Chairman, she wants me to be on the committee. You think I should?

MARGIE

What a question! Freddy, you know I have an open mind. Babs is my friend. No matter who's elected Chairman, it'll be very nice if you serve.

FREDDY

Okay, I just wanted to check with you.

MARGIE

Freddy, I wish you'd be more self-reliant. Can't you do anything without checking with me first?

FREDDY

Of course I can. Well, I'd better go. I want to work out some plans for the decorations.

MARGIE

Well, don't get any crazy ideas. Before you do anything, be sure and check with me!

FREDDY

... Hah?

MUSIC: BRIDGING SEGUE

VERN

Hank, old pal, I'm sorry. I feel like a fool.

HANK

So do I, Vern, old pal.

VERN

After Margie bawled me out, I thought things over. I just had to come over here and make up with you.

HANK

I'm glad you did. I was about to do the same. And thanks for this box of candy, Vern! You're a great guy!

VERN

Aw, I hope you like the candies, Sweet Tooth, old boy! I just want you to know that I'm a real friend.

HANK

And I'm a real friend!

VERN

Why, if I had only one pair of shoes, I'd give one shoe to you. If I had a pair of bookends, I'd give one bookend to you. And if I had the two most beautiful girlfriends in the world –

HANK

You'd give one girl to me?

VERN

Well, I don't know. With some things you don't like to break up the set.

MUSIC: BRIDGING SEGUE

MARGIE

I'm so glad you came over, Babs! Honestly, aren't our fathers silly to quarrel ?

BABS

Oh, definitely. We're on the opposite sides of the fence, but we'd never fight, would we, Margie?

MARGIE

Never! Why, you're the best friend I've got.

BABS

And you're the best friend *I've* got.

MARGIE

We'll never break up.

BABS

Never.

MARGIE

No matter what happens.

BABS

No matter what.

MARGIE

. . . Babs, I'm going to withdraw my nomination. I want you to be Chairman of the Dance Committee.

BABS

No, Margie, I withdraw. I want *you* to have it.

MARGIE

Well, it doesn't mean a thing to me.

BABS

It doesn't mean a thing to me, either.

MARGIE

But I definitely want *you* to have it!

BABS (delighted)

Okay, I'll take it!

MARGIE (surprised)

You will?

BABS

Yes, of course. And thanks for stepping out.

MARGIE

(does annoyed tongue roll)

BABS (going off mic)

I'll see you later, Margie!

SFX: DOOR SHUTS

MARGIE (groans)

I hate her. I hate her, I hate her, I hate her!

SFX: DOOR OPENS

FREDDY

Hi, Margie! I just saw Babs leaving. I told her I got some swell ideas for the dance.

MARGIE

Freddy Wilson, you just forget that dance! Don't you *dare* serve with Babs Davis!

FREDDY

Hah?

MARGIE

Do you know what that creature did to me? She made me give up the nomination! She tricked me into it.

FREDDY

Gee, that's terrible!

SFX: DOOR OPENS

VERN

Oh, hi, Margie! I've got some news that'll really please you.

MARGIE (sullenly)

What news?

VERN

I got to thinking about what good friends you and Babs are, so I decided to make up with Hank.

MARGIE & FREDDY

What?!!!

FREDDY

Excuse me, I see a storm blowing up, and I'm heading for the cyclone cellar! Bye!

SFX: DOOR SHUTS

MARGIE (outraged)

You made up with Hank? With the father of that treacherous traitorous hussy who stabbed me in the back when I stuck my neck out?

VERN

What? . . . You had your neck stuck to your back?

MARGIE

I'll never forgive her! Never! She swindled me out of the Chairmanship! I'm her enemy for life! Maybe even longer!

VERN

Now hold it a second, Margie. I'd like you to be like Hank and me. We get along fine together. We never argue.

MARGIE

I know. Except when you're talking to each other.

VERN

You're bitter. Now tell me, is Babs angry at you?

MARGIE (considering)

No. I'm the one who's angry at her.

VERN

Then she doesn't really dislike you?

MARGIE

Well, no, not that I know of.

VERN

Margie, since it's all so one-sided, don't you think that you might have been a little hasty? Just don't expect *your* feud to affect my friendship with Hank. Hank is the truest friend a guy ever had, and we expect to remain together forever.

SFX: DOOR OPENS

HANK

Vern, I want to talk to you. (yells) You know I'm allergic to walnuts!!

VERN

Allergic to walnuts?

HANK

Every one of those candies you gave me was a chocolate-covered walnut! I never realized it until I bit into a few of them, and then I broke out into a rash!

VERN

Oh, but Hank, believe me – I never knew –

HANK

You did it on purpose, just to get me to start scratching, and . . . ooohhhhhhhh (in agony) . . . there goes that itch again!

SFX: SCRATCHING SOUND, EXTENDED

HANK (in relief)

Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

VERN

Aw, Hank, honest, I'm sorry about –

HANK

I should have been suspicious the minute you came up with that candy! If I ever see you again, I'll punch you right in the nose!!! Goodbye!

SFX: DOOR SLAMS, THEN, SCRATCHING SOUND

MARGIE

Boy, you can hear him scratching all the way down the hall, Dad. What was that you were telling me about Hank being the truest friend a guy ever had?

VERN

Oh, be quiet!

MUSIC: BRIDGING SEGUE

SFX: DOOR OPENS

HANK (sheepishly)

Vern . . .

VERN

Oh, *you* again!

HANK

Vern, old buddy . . . I'm sorry. I shot off my mouth without thinking. I realize now you didn't know about my allergies.

VERN

Of course I didn't!

HANK

I'm a hot-tempered old sap. I want to apologize, and just to make it up to you, here's a little gift for you!

VERN

Hank! Your championship bowling ball!

HANK

That's right! Custom made by master craftsmen! The finest bowling ball you can get! And I want you to have it. Here!

VERN

Oh boy! Let me wrap my hand around it! There! What a feel! What a balance! Thanks a lot, Hank, old buddy! You're a real pal! The best friend I ever had!

MARGIE

I'll put the ball in the closet for you, Dad. Let me have it.

VERN

Here, Margie! . . . Uh oh. I . . . I can't get my fingers out of the holes!

MARGIE

Well, pull!

VERN

I *am* pulling! Umph! Ernf! No, they're stuck tight!

HANK

Pour some oil in the holes. That'll lubricate your fingers.

MRS. ODETTES

Here! I've got some olive oil. Hold still!

SFX: OIL GLUGGING OUT OF A BOTTLE, THICK

MARGIE

Now pull.

VERN (straining)

Unnnngh! Errrrgh!

SFX: POP!

VERN

Oh, darn it, the oil splattered all over my suit. Now look at me! I'm covered with olive oil!

MRS. ODETTES

Now stick some lettuce in your ears, and you'll look like a salad.

MARGIE

Dad, your hand is still stuck!

VERN

I know. Oh, darn you, Hank Davis, you did this on purpose! You knew my fingers would get stuck! You're just trying to get even!

HANK

Well, that's gratitude for ya! I'm sorry I lowered myself to even speak to you again! Goodbye!

SFX: DOOR SLAM

VERN (yelling)

And don't come back!

SFX: DOOR OPENS AGAIN AND SLAMS SHUT FOR THIS:

HANK

I won't!

MARGIE

Dad, how are you ever going to get that ball off your hand?

VERN

Who knows? It's stuck tight! While everyone else has fingers on the end of his wrist, I have a ball!

SFX: DOOR OPENS

FREDDY

Hi, Mr. Albright. Babs just told me her father was coming up here to be friends with you again. Congratulations! Put your hand out, I'd like to shake it! . . . My, what a big fist you have!

MUSIC: BRIDGING SEGUE

MRS. ODETTTS

Margie, I hear your father finally got that bowling ball off his hand. How did he do it?

MARGIE

He hit it against a very hard object, and it cracked open.

MRS. ODETTTS

A hammer?

MARGIE

No. Freddy's head!

MUSIC: BIG FINISH ENDING