

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 23 – May 1950



Front Cover Observations

Overall Setting & Layout

The cover shows a bright outdoor grassy scene beneath a large tree with a textured brown trunk and leafy canopy. The sky is light blue with soft cloud shapes. Several small white flowers appear scattered across the grass.

Foreground Elements

A figure in a red dress kneels behind another seated figure wearing a black top and blue pants. The kneeling figure places a flower crown made of small white and yellow flowers on the seated figure's head. Both figures have simplified round facial features and dark hair shapes with thick outlines. The seated figure holds one hand relaxed at the side and sits on the grass with legs bent.

Background Elements

Behind the two central figures, a group of three additional characters stands near the tree watching the scene. The tree's branches frame the upper-left portion of the composition. The grass has darker green accents around the characters for depth.

Visible Text

- Top-left corner: "Dell Comic" box with "10¢" and "May".
- Title across the top: "**Marge's Little Lulu**" in large red and black stylized lettering.
- Right side: "**52 pages ALL COMICS!**"

Spine Area

The left spine shows a patterned design of colorful circles and flowers in red, white, blue, and green. Wear along the spine includes:

- Multiple small chips exposing white paper.
- Noticeable color breaks throughout.
- Abrasion along the entire length, especially near the top.

Condition Observations

- **Corners:** All four corners show rounding; top-right has a small crease.
- **Edges:** Moderate edge wear, especially along the right side and top.
- **Surface Wear:** Several non-color-breaking wrinkles and light creasing across the red dress area and lower right quadrant. Mild soiling near the bottom edge.
- **Color Quality:** Bright, well-preserved color throughout; no significant fading.
- **Structural Integrity:** No tears visible. Paper shows typical age-related toning along upper edges.
- **Gloss:** Low to moderate, consistent with period Dell printing.

Overall Impression

A colorful, appealing cover with moderate wear consistent with mid-grade Golden Age books: spine chipping, corner rounding, and scattered surface creases, but strong color and complete structure.

☑ Inside Front Cover Observations



Overall Setting & Layout

A full black-and-white 12-panel comic strip arranged in a 3 × 4 grid. The title “LULU” appears centered at the top. Panels feature a single figure interacting with a tall tree and its branches in an outdoor setting with grass and minimal horizon detail.

Panel Content Description

- **Top row:**
 - The figure climbs a tree and holds onto branches.
 - The figure runs toward the tree across open ground.
 - The figure begins climbing, using the trunk for leverage.
- **Second row:**
 - Multiple panels show the figure perched on high branches.
 - The figure shifts positions: standing, gripping, or leaning between limbs.
 - Branch shapes vary, showing forked limbs and angled supports.
- **Third row:**
 - The figure climbs down, moves along curved branches, and navigates openings in the canopy.
 - One panel shows the figure extending a leg toward a lower branch while maintaining hand support.
- **Bottom row:**
 - A small animal appears beside the figure at the base of the tree, watching upward.
 - The figure is shown descending or emerging from the leaves.
 - Final panel shows the figure walking away with arms lowered.

Background & Environment

- Tree varieties include broad leaves and forked branch structures.
- Simple horizon lines appear in some background panels.
- Ground plane shaded lightly.

Text Block

The publication block at the bottom lists:

- "Marge's Little Lulu, Vol. 1, No. 23, May, 1950."
- Publication information, printing location, and copyright lines.

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Heavy edge toning and darkening along the outer margins.
- **Corners:** Rounded upper-left and lower-left corners with mild creasing.
- **Edges:** Light fraying at the bottom, slight waviness along the right side.
- **Surface:** Clean interior line art with no stains, writing, or moisture marks.
- **Binding:** Inner margin intact with no tearing or staple pull visible from this angle.
- **Print Quality:** Strong, consistent linework; no ink bleed or uneven printing.

Overall Impression

A well-preserved interior page with expected Golden Age toning but strong structural integrity, clean artwork, and no significant defects beyond normal age wear.

☑ Centerfold Observations



Overall Setting & Layout

A full two-page interior spread composed of small, rectangular, full-color panels. The pages contain a continuous story sequence with characters interacting indoors—principally in a living room, doorway, and hallway environment. The centerfold seam is visible and intact, with both pages lying flat and colors aligned.

Left Page (IMG_0806 – left side)

Panel Content & Scene Description

- Multiple figures interact inside a domestic setting.
- Background elements include:
 - A sofa with red upholstery
 - A cushioned chair
 - A framed wall picture
 - A doorway with a visible wooden frame
 - A small desk or table supporting items
- Panels show physical movement:
 - A figure kneeling or bending on the floor
 - Figures running or leaning forward
 - Seated conversation scenes
 - Gesturing with arms, pointing, or extending legs

Text & Dialogue (selected examples)

Visible speech balloons include:

- "I hope you two lovebirds will be very happy to-gether!"
- "Don't try to stop me!"
- "I can't do that, Tub, he's my guest!"
- "HEY!!"
- "Plenty of room, Tub!"

All text is fully readable, with word balloon outlines crisp.

Interior Condition

- **Toning:** Moderate-heavy tan toning consistent with Golden Age newspaper, darker at the edges.
- **Edges:** Outer edges slightly rough but intact.

- **Corners:** Rounded; lower-left corner slightly soft.
 - **Surface:** Clean; no stains, pen, pencil, or crayon.
 - **Color:** Bright, saturated tones—reds, yellows, and blues strong; no major fading.
 - **Gutter:** Fold-down center shows mild darkening but **no tearing or detachment**.
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Right Page (IMG_0806 – right side)

Panel Content & Scene Description

- Scenes show multiple figures speaking indoors, sometimes near hallways or rooms with light blue walls and door moldings.
- Furniture includes:
 - A dining table or serving table with glasses and bottles
 - A staircase railing visible in one panel
 - A sofa or low seat in earlier segments
- Characters display physical gestures such as pointing upward, leaning forward, and walking toward or away from each other.

Dialogue (selected examples)

- "I'll go right after I finish eatin'!"
- "You won't get anything to eat unless you both shake hands an' make up!"
- "I feel awful funny—Tub and I never used to be like this!"

Speech balloons are well-printed with consistent black outlines.

Interior Condition

- **Toning:** Similar deep beige/ochre toning along edges; uniform across panels.
 - **Edges:** Right-side outer edge clean with mild waviness.
 - **Corners:** Rounded but undamaged.
 - **Surface:** No stains or foxing; only light age speckling.
 - **Color:** Very strong saturation across clothing and backgrounds.
 - **Binding:** Staples remain tight; page lies flat without stress tears.
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Overall Centerfold Impression

A well-preserved interior centerfold with:

- Strong, vivid color
- Fully attached pages
- No tears, chips, markings, or moisture staining
- Only typical Golden Age toning and minor corner softening

Structurally, this is a clean, stable centerfold consistent with a solid mid-grade Golden Age interior.

Back Cover Observations

I JUST LOVE TO MAIL ALL MY FRIENDS A FREE GIFT
Little Lulu

Marge's Little Lulu comics

Dear Friends:

We just posed for five of the cutest pictures and I want to send a set of them to all the boys and girls who read this magazine.

The pictures are a scream! They are the funniest of the gang that I have ever seen. Your set will not cost you a single penny. It comes to you FREE with a subscription to LITTLE LULU Comics. You will receive 12 big issues for only \$1.00.

Goodbye now until next month, Tubby and I will be looking for you!

Little Lulu

KIDSI SUPPLY OF THESE BEAUTIFUL PICTURES IS LIMITED. BETTER HURRY AND SEND FOR YOUR SET RIGHT AWAY, BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE!

1 yr. 12 issues \$1.00
2 yrs. 24 issues 1.85
3 yrs. 36 issues 2.70

5 6½" x 7¾" full color illustrations of Little Lulu and her friends **FREE**

Be the first to get your set of pictures. RUSH BACK FORM ON OTHER SIDE TODAY.

Like millions of boys and girls who read DELL COMICS every month, I hope you got a lot of fun out of this issue of LITTLE LULU.

No matter what Tubby and his gang may be up to, she has always had something up her sleeve to out-smart them. She always has the last laugh! You just can't put anything over on Little Lulu!

Don't miss the adventures of Little Lulu and Tubby and their friends during the coming year. Every issue will be packed with loads of fun and side-splitting laughs. And, of course, we know you will get a great kick out of reading Little Lulu's "DIRTY" and other exciting short features every month.

To make sure that you will not miss a single issue, mail subscription form on other side of this page right now. Saves you money. You get 12 big issues for only \$1.00.

Overall Setting & Layout

A full-page subscription advertisement featuring illustrated figures, a mailbox, promotional text blocks, and a strip of small color pictures across the bottom. The design uses large bold lettering, angled text panels, and a mix of handwriting-style fonts and standard print.

Foreground Elements

- A figure in a red outfit stands beside a green **U.S. MAIL** mailbox mounted on a wooden post, placing an envelope into the slot.
- Another smaller illustrated character appears in the lower section, pointing toward the subscription offers.
- A third character in a red outfit appears near the bottom right, gesturing upward.

Primary Text Elements

- Large angled headline:
"I JUST LOVE TO MAIL ALL MY FRIENDS A FREE GIFT – Little Lulu"
- A printed letter-style panel addressed "Dear Friends" discussing free pictures available to readers.
- A promotional paragraph describing comics enjoyment and noting characters and story content within the series.
- A speech balloon below states the supply of free pictures is limited and encourages quick participation.

Subscription Price Box (Lower Left)

Yellow background box with 3 offers:

- **1 yr., 12 issues — \$1.00**
- **2 yrs., 24 issues — \$1.85**
- **3 yrs., 36 issues — \$2.70**

Bottom Image Strip

A row of **five small color illustrations** (each 6½" × 7¾" as indicated by the text) featuring playful scenes with recurring characters.

- Included note: **"5 full color illustrations of Little Lulu and her friends — FREE."**

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Uniform medium-to-darkening around edges, especially top and left; typical Golden Age aging.
- **Corners:**
 - Top left rounded with slight crease.

- Top right rounded, minor abrasion.
- Bottom corners moderately worn but intact.
- **Edges:**
 - Left edge shows rubbing and small pressure marks near the spine.
 - Top and right edges mostly clean with minimal roughness.
- **Surface:**
 - Light scuffing in blank areas; a few small speckled age spots.
 - No stains, moisture ripples, pen, pencil, or handling marks noted.
- **Color Quality:**
 - Strong, bright reds, yellows, greens, and blues.
 - Black text and linework sharp and evenly printed.
- **Structural Integrity:**
 - Page lies flat with no tearing.
 - No missing material, no dents, no folds affecting readability.

Overall Impression

A clean, vibrant back cover with solid color strength and no structural damage, affected mainly by typical corner rounding, light scuffing, and expected Golden Age toning.

☑ Inside Pages Observations

(You uploaded **five** inside-page photos. All observations below correspond to each page in the order received.)

📄 Inside Page 1 (IMG_0793.jpeg)



Overall Setting & Layout

A full-color, nine-panel page set entirely indoors. Panels show multiple figures interacting around a sofa, chair, and open floor space. Backgrounds include simple walls, doorframes, and carpeting with minimal decorative detail.

Panel Content

- Physical comedy: rolling on the floor, pulling, lifting, and sudden movement.
- Figures seated and repositioning themselves on a sofa.
- A standing figure gesturing emphatically.
- A repeated conflict over who will sit where and who is allowed near whom.
- Lively verbal exchange with overlapping speech balloons.

Notable Props & Setting Elements

- Red sofa with angled backrest.
- Upholstered chair behind the action in early panels.
- Wooden baseboards, picture frame, and doorway outlines.
- Circular rugs and carpeted spaces suggesting a living-room setting.

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Heavy even toning, darkest at left and bottom edges.
 - **Corners:** Rounded; lower corners have mild dulling.
 - **Edges:** Slight fraying; no chips or tears.
 - **Surface:** Clean; no stains or markings.
 - **Gutter:** Visible but stable—no tearing or stress lines.
 - **Color:** Good saturation with minimal fading of reds and flesh tones.
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📄 Inside Page 2 (IMG_0797.jpeg)



Overall Setting & Layout

A six-panel full-color page titled "**Junior detective tubby**" with a rectangular banner across the top reading "**Marge's LITTLE LULU**". The scene takes place outdoors beside a long yellow wooden fence and transitions briefly to a darker blue wall.

Panel Content

- A figure discovers repeated graffiti reading “**LULU LOVES TUBBY**” on fence boards.
- Various angles show the figure examining, scrubbing, walking, and looking upward.
- A transition panel shifts the scene to a blue-painted brick wall with the same graffiti.
- Final panel shows a taller figure walking past while the central figure reacts.

Background Elements

- Long fence planks with nail markings and wood grain outlines.
- Light-green grass at the bottom edge of several panels.
- A blue brick wall with red mortar lines in final panels.
- Simple ground shading, minimal texture.

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Moderate brown toning along the margins; interior panel color remains bright.
 - **Edges:** Slight waviness at right edge; bottom edge smooth.
 - **Corners:** Rounded, with upper right faintly creased.
 - **Surface:** Clean; no staining, ink smearing, or pencil marks.
 - **Color:** Strong yellows and reds; blue wall remains vivid.
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Inside Page 3 (IMG_0808.jpeg)



Overall Setting & Layout

A nine-panel interior sequence showing characters navigating indoor hallways, doorways, and front-room spaces. All dialogue relates to reconciling disagreements and negotiating food/refreshments.

Panel Content

- Figures walking through a hallway with light teal walls.
- A dining/serving area appears with a countertop holding glasses and plates.
- Scenes of discussion, raised eyebrows, gesturing, and crossing arms.
- Panels showing the characters leaving and returning between rooms.

Background Elements

- Closed door with dark-colored molding.
- Couch with orange upholstery.
- Countertop with stacked plates and cups.
- Simple floors with light gradient shading.

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Heavy Golden Age toning with darker brown at top.
- **Edges:** Clean, no tears.
- **Corners:** Slightly softened.
- **Surface:** Good print stability; no stains or foxing.
- **Gutter:** Centerfold edge clean; no creases or breaks.
- **Color:** Bright, even saturation across all panels.

Inside Page 4 (IMG_0810.jpeg)

Overall Setting & Layout

A full-color page with eight rectangular panels showing a clubhouse, yard, and outdoor navigation areas. The page contains one “NO GIRLS ALLOWED” sign as part of the environment.

Panel Content

- Characters run across outdoor grass past bushes, sidewalks, and fences.
- Figures gather inside a clubhouse with wooden walls and built-in bench furniture.
- Characters strategize about other characters' movements, including a picnic plan.
- A variety of motion—running, pointing, leaning forward, and crouching.

Background Elements

- Clubhouse interior with green wall paneling and wooden flooring.
- A fire hydrant, sidewalk pavers, hedges, and distant building outlines.
- Trees and shrubbery in the foreground and background.

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Warm brown toning with slightly darker left margin.
 - **Edges:** Worn but intact, no missing paper.
 - **Corners:** Rounded; lower right slightly blunted.
 - **Surface:** Very light scattered speckling; no moisture damage.
 - **Color:** Excellent preservation of outdoor greens and blues; printed lines remain sharp.
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Inside Page 5 (IMG_0809.jpeg)

Overall Setting & Layout

A nine-panel diner/restaurant scene featuring a long service counter, interior seating, and multiple figures eating or conversing.

Panel Content

- Characters seated at a diner counter ordering foods such as roast beef, mashed potatoes, stew, franks, and pie.
- Several large plates of food shown consumed rapidly—repeated “gobble chop chomp gulp” text appears.
- Interaction between serving staff and diners includes hand gestures, reaching for plates, and clearing dishes.
- Characters look at seated figures who are eating quickly or commenting on appetite.

Background Elements

- Long yellow service counter.
- Red stools.
- Chef figure behind the counter with plates stacked nearby.
- Light blue rear wall and service window shapes.

Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Heavy toning with darker shading near spine; interior bright.
 - **Edges:** Slight abrasion along outer edge; no tears.
 - **Corners:** Rounded; upper left slightly dog-eared.
 - **Surface:** Clean; no stains or pencil marks.
 - **Color:** Strong color; reds, yellows, and blues remain vivid.
 - **Binding:** Inner margin stable, no stress tears.
-

☑ Overall Inside Pages Impression

These five interior pages show:

- Consistent **medium-to-heavy toning** typical of 1950 newsprint.
- Strong **color preservation** throughout, with vivid saturation.
- **No tears, writing, staining, foxing, or moisture exposure** on any page.
- **Corners rounded** but intact.
- **Staple/gutter areas stable** without separation.
- **Print quality excellent**, with even ink distribution.

Overall, this is a solid, clean interior block for a Golden Age humor comic, matching prior issues in your collection.

☑ Spine Observations



Overall Setting

The comic is photographed lying horizontally on a wire rack, showing a clear side-profile of the spine from top to bottom. This angle reveals curvature, spine wear, cover lift, and structural alignment.

Spine Shape

- A **visible spine roll** is present, leaning toward the front cover.
- The front cover arches upward slightly, while the back cover sits lower along the rack surface.
- The roll is moderate, consistent with repeated handling or long-term storage pressure.

Spine Surface Condition

- The patterned spine strip shows **multiple color breaks** from top to bottom.
- Several small **chips** and abrasions along the entire spine edge expose lighter paper beneath.
- Generalized rubbing visible where the patterned color layer thins or lifts.

Staple Region Visibility

- Although staples are not close-up here, slight **bulging** along expected staple locations indicates their presence beneath the cover layer.
- No outward bumps suggesting staple protrusion.

Cover Alignment & Lift

- Slight **cover lift** toward the front edge indicates mild warping or relaxation of the paper over time.
- Back cover appears flatter with less curvature.

Edges & Corners

- Spine corners show mild fraying and rounding.
- Top spine corner slightly roughened; bottom spine corner more compressed but intact.

Structural Integrity

- No complete spine splits visible in this angle.
 - No detachment or gapping between cover and interior block.
 - Spine remains connected and structurally sound despite cosmetic wear.
-

Staples Observations



Upper Staple (IMG_0813.jpeg)

- **Metal Condition:**

The staple is firmly seated and lies flat against the spine surface. The metal shows **light oxidation**, visible as slight darkening but without flaking or pitting.
 - **Surrounding Paper:**
 - Noticeable **paper stress and fiber lift** around the exit point.
 - A small **tear with frayed fibers** appears directly below the staple, extending into the yellow portion of the patterned spine.
 - Color layer around the staple hole shows **abrasion and minor chipping**, exposing lighter paper below.
 - The patterned spine graphics remain mostly intact despite wear.
 - **Structural Stability:**

Staple remains tight with **no separation**, and the cover is held securely in place.
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Lower Staple (IMG_0814.jpeg)

- **Metal Condition:**

Metal is slightly dulled, showing **mild oxidation** but no significant rust migration onto surrounding paper.
 - **Surrounding Paper:**
 - Paper immediately adjacent to the staple shows **abrasion and small flakes of color loss**, particularly in the yellow flower graphic.
 - A small **indentation** is visible above and to the right of the staple hole.
 - Light fraying is present but does not extend into a tear.
 - Spine pattern is worn but intact in this region.
 - **Structural Stability:**

Staple lies flat and remains fully attached; no looseness or page pull is visible.
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Brittleness Test Observations



Overall Behavior

The lifted page forms a smooth, even arc with **no cracking, no flaking, and no audible or visible snap** along the bend line.

Edges & Fibers

- The outer edge shows **heavy Golden Age toning**, but the paper fibers remain cohesive.
- No edge fragmentation, powdering, or chipping.
- Corner remains intact despite oxidation.

Surface & Flex Response

- Surface flexes cleanly without creating new crease lines.
- No color-layer breaks along the interior artwork.
- Under-page shows the same uniform toning, also bending without fracture.

Structural Integrity

- No splitting between layers of the sheet.
- No micro-tears at the bend point.
- Paper retains pliability and resilience consistent with well-preserved 1950 newsprint.

Brittleness Rating: 8 / 10 (aged but fully flexible)