

# OLLIE AND STANLEY OWL

By Edith Weiss

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## CHARACTERS

OLLIE OWL	A wise old bachelor owl, character based on Oliver Hardy
FUMBLUS BUMBLUS BEEZ	An energetic clumsy bee, Ollie's best friend
BLATTABILIA BLUEJAY	A noisy, nosy bird who is Chairbird of the Rules Committee
STANLEY OWL	A lonely and lost little owl, character based on Stan Laurel
CHIRPIE	Blattabilia's newly hatched child
TWERPIE	Blattabilia's newly hatched child
BURPIE	Blattabilia's newly hatched child
WORKER BEE 1	Head of the Hive, like an army drill sergeant
WORKER BEES	Fumblus' co-workers, very efficient and gung ho.

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***Setting is deep in the woods. OLLIE's tree is onstage. Enter OLLIE the Owl.***

OLLIE: (*yawning*) Hello. Oh, what a beautiful sunrise! It's time for bed. I am so tired. (*settles in*) There. You do know owls are up all night and sleep all day, right? Okay, good night.

(*HE sleeps immediately. FUMBLUS runs onto stage, panicked.*)

FUMBLUS: OLLIE! OLLIE OWL!

OLLIE: What -

FUMBLUS: I've really done it now. Of all the stupid things I've done, this is the worst. Far and away the worst! I'm done. I'm finished! Ollie!!

OLLIE: What's the matter? What happened?

FUMBLUS: Ollie, you've got to help me.

OLLIE: What's wrong?

FUMBLUS: Oh, you're so kind and so wise, Ollie. I love you Ollie, I really do.

OLLIE: (*uncomfortable*) Well, thank you. Now what happened?

FUMBLUS: I need a hug.

OLLIE: (*very uncomfortable*) Ah -

FUMBLUS: (*hugs him*) There, I feel better. Ollie, do you know what happened?

OLLIE: No!

FUMBLUS: It'll be all over the woods! I'll be a laughingstock!

OLLIE: What happened, Fumblus?!

FUMBLUS: I was collecting honey for the Queen Bee. Everything was going great. And then, the whole bucket slipped out of my hand and the honey oozed all over the Queen Bee. She was covered, Ollie, completely covered with the sticky honey!

OLLIE: What did you do?

FUMBLUS: I left.

OLLIE: You left her there?

FUMBLUS: I panicked! I left her there, covered with honey, stuck to a stump, buzzing mad, and I ran over here. Oh, she's buzzing mad, Ollie. Mad at me! What'll I do?

OLLIE: You have to go back there, Fumblus, and get her off the stump!

FUMBLUS: But she's so mad, Ollie. She's so mad at me.

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OLLIE: You still have to go back and help her. She's your Queen Bee, you stuck her to the stump, you can't just leave her there!

FUMBLUS: But Ollie, she'll be madder when I go back than she was when I left! How mad can a bee be, Ollie?

OLLIE: I don't know! But the longer you wait, the madder she's going to be! Oh, this is a fine mess, Fumblus.

FUMBLUS: You're right. The honey will crystallize, and she'll be stuck in a cocoon of hard honey for all the rest of her days. With just her little bee head sticking out. Yelling at me. "Fumblus Bumblus Beez, you idiot! If I wasn't stuck in a cocoon of hard honey you'd be in big trouble!" I could just leave her there, Ollie, and she couldn't do anything to me.

OLLIE: Fumblus Bumblus Beez! You can't do that! It would be cowardly and wrong. And that's that.

FUMBLUS: I know. I don't want to be cowardly and wrong. I want to be brave and do the right thing! But- I'm scared.

OLLIE: Now you march right back there and face the music

*(Ominous music on piano or tape; Dum dum da dum dum da dum da dum da dum)*

FUMBLUS: The music of my doom, Ollie. I hear it.

OLLIE: It's the right thing to do!

FUMBLUS: You're right. I'll go. I know I'm clumsy and inept, but I don't want to be a coward too. I'll go now. Bye bye. *(starts to exit)*

OLLIE: Good luck, Fumblus, and good night.

*(Enter BLATTABILIA BLUEJAY, a noisy and nosy bird, carrying a large nest full of eggs)*

BLATTABILIA: There you are, Fumblus Bumblus!

FUMBLUS: Blattabilia Bluejay, I have no time to talk, I've got to go-

BLATTABILIA: I heard what you did to the Queen Bee! Everybody's talking about it!

FUMBLUS: Blattabilia, I was just going –

BLATTABILIA: Ollie!

OLLIE: Hello, Blattabilia. *(tips hat)*

BLATTABILIA: I've got great gossip. Because of Fumblus Bumblus, the Queen Bee has been stuck to a stump for days, buzzing in the middle of a puddle of honey!

FUMBLUS: Not days, Blattabilia- it just happened an hour ago!

BLATTABILIA: And she was ossified, ossified by the honey!

FUMBLUS: She's not ossified, she's just sticky!

BLATTABILIA: Is too ossified.

FUMBLUS: Is not ossified.  
BLATTABILIA: Ossified!  
FUMBLUS: Not ossified!  
BLATTABILIA: Ossified!  
FUMBLUS: Not ossified!

*(Simultaneously)*

BLATTABILIA: Ossified! Ossified! Ossified! Ossified! Ossified!  
FUMBLUS: Not ossified! Not ossified! Not ossified! Not ossified!  
OLLIE: Will you two stop it! Please, Blattabilia, Fumblus, let's not argue!  
FUMBLUS: Okay. I hate to argue. Especially since I don't know what ossified means.  
OLLIE: It means turned to bone. So she can't be ossified because bees don't have bones. Whoever heard of bee bones?  
BLATTABILIA: I knew that. Anyway, Fumblus started it. I just stopped by to show you my eggs, which should be hatching any day now.  
FUMBLUS: Awwww. They're so cute.  
BLATTABILIA: *(picking one up)* Oh dear! They're getting cold! Warm them up, won't you, Fumblus? *(hands nest to FUMBLUS)*  
FUMBLUS: Ummm-uhhh- *(unsure of how to warm them up, FUMBLUS settles on blowing on the eggs. Lifts each egg, blows on them like one would on one's hands.)*  
BLATTABILIA: Fumblus, what are you doing?  
FUMBLUS: I'm trying to keep these eggs warm without actually sitting on them.  
BLATTABILIA: Oh, for goodness' sakes! Give me those! Well, I can't stand around here listening to you gossip all day; I'm almost out of worms! Bye bye, Ollie. And you, Fumblus, better rescue that Queen Bee and let poor Ollie get some sleep! *(exits)*  
FUMBLUS: The Queen Bee! I almost forgot! I've got to go! Bye, Ollie!  
OLLIE: Good bye Fumblus! Finally, some peace and quiet!

*(FUMBLUS begins to exit, OLLIE settles in to sleep, enter BEES from same place FUMBLUS exited, forcing him back onstage. HE joins in the chanting.)*

WB 1: We're worker bees and that's no jive  
WORKERS: We're worker bees and that's no jive  
WB 1: Putting honey in the hive!  
WORKERS: Putting honey in the hive!  
WB 1: Who is our leader?  
WORKERS: Queen Bee!

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WB 1: And how do we feed her?

WORKERS: Honey!

WB 1: Gimme a buzzzz!

WORKERS: Bzzzzzzz!

WB 1: Gimme another buzz!

WORKERS: BZZZZ!

WB 1: Ten Hut! At ease! We have found Fumblus Beez!

FUMBLUS: Hello.

WB 1: Look at him, Workers. That is one sorry specimen of beedom right there. Bees are brave! Bees are ferocious! Even bears are afraid of bees! Bees rule!

WORKERS: Bees rule!

WB 1: What do we have to do?

WORKERS and FUMBLUS: We have to save our Queen Bee!

WB 1: Say it loud and say it proud!

WORKERS and FUMBLUS: We have to save our Queen Bee!

WB 1: About face! Left, left, left –

*(FUMBLUS waves bye to OLLIE.)*

Eyes front Fumblus! Left, left, left-

FUMBLUS: Bye, Ollie!

*(Exit BEES and FUMBLUS)*

OLLIE: Poor Fumblus. He wasn't cut out for life in the bee machine. Now, I have got to get some sleep!

*(As OLLIE falls asleep, from offstage we hear very loud. . .)*

STANLEY: AAAAOOOOOOOOOO! Ruff fuff fuffff Pffff! Peeeeewww!

EHEHEHEHEHEHEH! Needeep gnnngngngngngngngngn!

OLLIE: What? What now? Whooo is that?

*(As OLLIE starts to investigate, little STANLEY gets behind him, unseen by OLLIE, and starts mimicking him. Finally OLLIE turns quickly and sees STANLEY; is startled, sizes him up. STANLEY mimics him)*

OLLIE: Who are you?

*(STANLEY mimics every gesture OLLIE makes, OLLIE becomes more and more discomfited.)*

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