

**Bug Someone**  
**By Carole L. Cooney**

*Bugging someone* is a popular African-American idiom that comes from the 1960s. The word *bug* comes from *baga* and *bugal*, which are words in the West African languages that mean “to annoy.” It is an expression used when people are pestering you.

**Setting:** Macy’s third floor: Dish and Glassware

**Characters:**

Narrator

Cynthia

Alison

Bridget

**Narrator:** It is holiday time. Best friends, Cynthia and Alison, are roaming through Macy’s at the Mall looking for the perfect gift for Mother’s Day.

**Cynthia:** Does your Mother really like those glass figurines?

**Alison:** I guess so. Mom does have a whole shelf of them. (looking up from a beautiful glass swan) Oh, no! Look whose coming? Quick, let’s go to the restroom.

**Narrator:** The girls dash to the restroom and wait few minutes, then very nonchalantly, walk out and return to the glassware department.

**Bridget:** (sneaking up behind) Hi! Alison. Hi, Cynthia! What are you doing in *glassware*? (laughing) Isn’t it too early to start a collection? I thought only *older* women liked that stuff.

**Alison:** Oh, Bridget. Where did you come from?

**Bridget:** I’m just running around the mall and when I saw you two, I thought I’d stop and tell you the latest. It’s okay, if I just walk with you so I can talk?

**Alison:** I’m sorry but we’re trying to buy a gift for our mothers and we don’t have much time. Sorry, we’ve got to go.

**Bridget:** Wait a minute, Alison. There’s something I want to tell you.

**Alison:** Couldn’t you tell me tonight. Just call me. Okay? See ya.

**Cynthia:** (walking away) See ya around.

**Narrator:** The friends take the escalator to the second floor. Waiting at the bottom is Bridget.

**Bridget:** Ha, ha! I beat you. (laughing) Come on. Let’s go get some ice cream at the Frozen Spoon.

**Cynthia:** Sorry. Let’s do it another time.

**Alison:** Bridget, we’ve got to really hurry. The stores will close and we need to get our presents.

**Bridget:** I know. *I’ll* help you find what you’re looking for. Just tell me what it is.

**Alison:** We don't know exactly what we're looking for - *that's* the problem.

**Narrator:** As Bridget rattles off a number of items, the girls shake their heads, "No".

**Bridget:** How about perfume? No? Clothes? No? Shoes? No? Flowers? I know! A book! No?

**Cynthia:** (interrupting) Alison, what time is it? I've got to be home by 3:00. I'm getting really nervous.

**Alison:** Oh, it's 2:30. That means we've got to get out of here!

**Bridget:** Well, I'll just walk with you to the exit.

**Alison:** *Please* don't. Cynthia, I think we'd better run.

**Cynthia:** Okay.

**Bridget:** Hey! Where are you going? To catch a train?

**Cynthia:** No! To catch a plane!

**Narrator:** The cousins have finally escaped from Bridget and are walking slowly into the *far* entrance of the Mall.

**Alison:** That was fast thinking. "To catch a plane." What were you thinking?

**Cynthia:** Just about anything. Anything to get away from Bridget. She was really bugging us. Doesn't she have better things to do?

**Alison:** I don't know. (big sigh) I'm tired.

**Cynthia:** Me, too.

**Alison:** I'm glad we still have tomorrow to shop. Do you want to go to a mall far away from here?

**Cynthia:** Good idea. I wonder why you'd want to do such a thing?

**Narrator:** The girls giggle as they walk to the bus stop. It's a short walk. They board the crowded bus, sit down and look across the aisle. They elbow each other and look at the floor. Guess who's there?