

DESBERG & LABIANO

# BLACK OP 1



In the heart of the American empire...  
the CIA was helping to revive the Russian mafia.



# BLACK Op

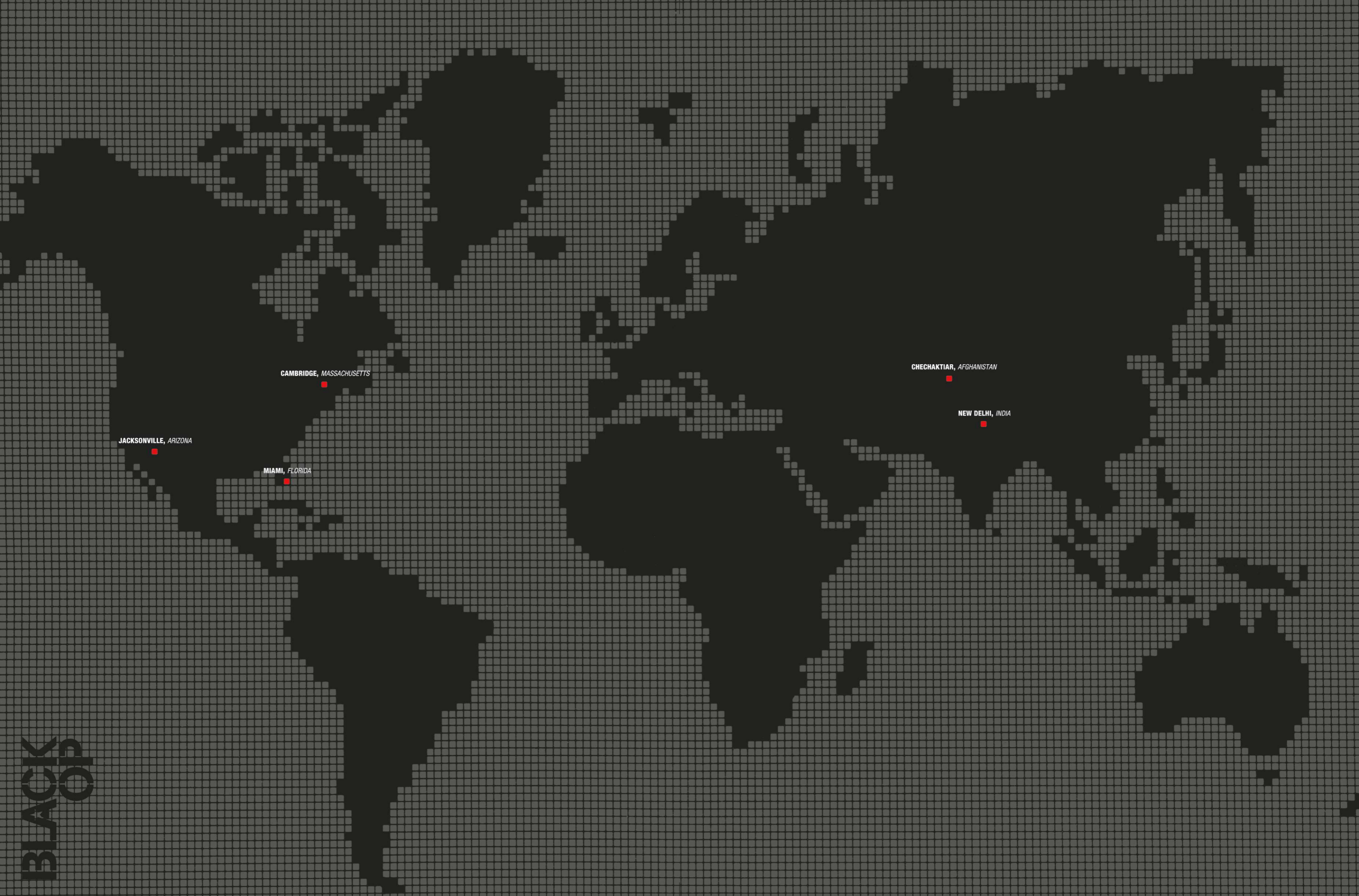
JACKSONVILLE, ARIZONA

MIAMI, FLORIDA

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

CHECHAKTIAR, AFGHANISTAN

NEW DELHI, INDIA





DESBERG & LABIANO

# BLACK OP 1



COLORIST :

JEAN-JACQUES CHAGNAUD



FOR TOM...  
HUGUES

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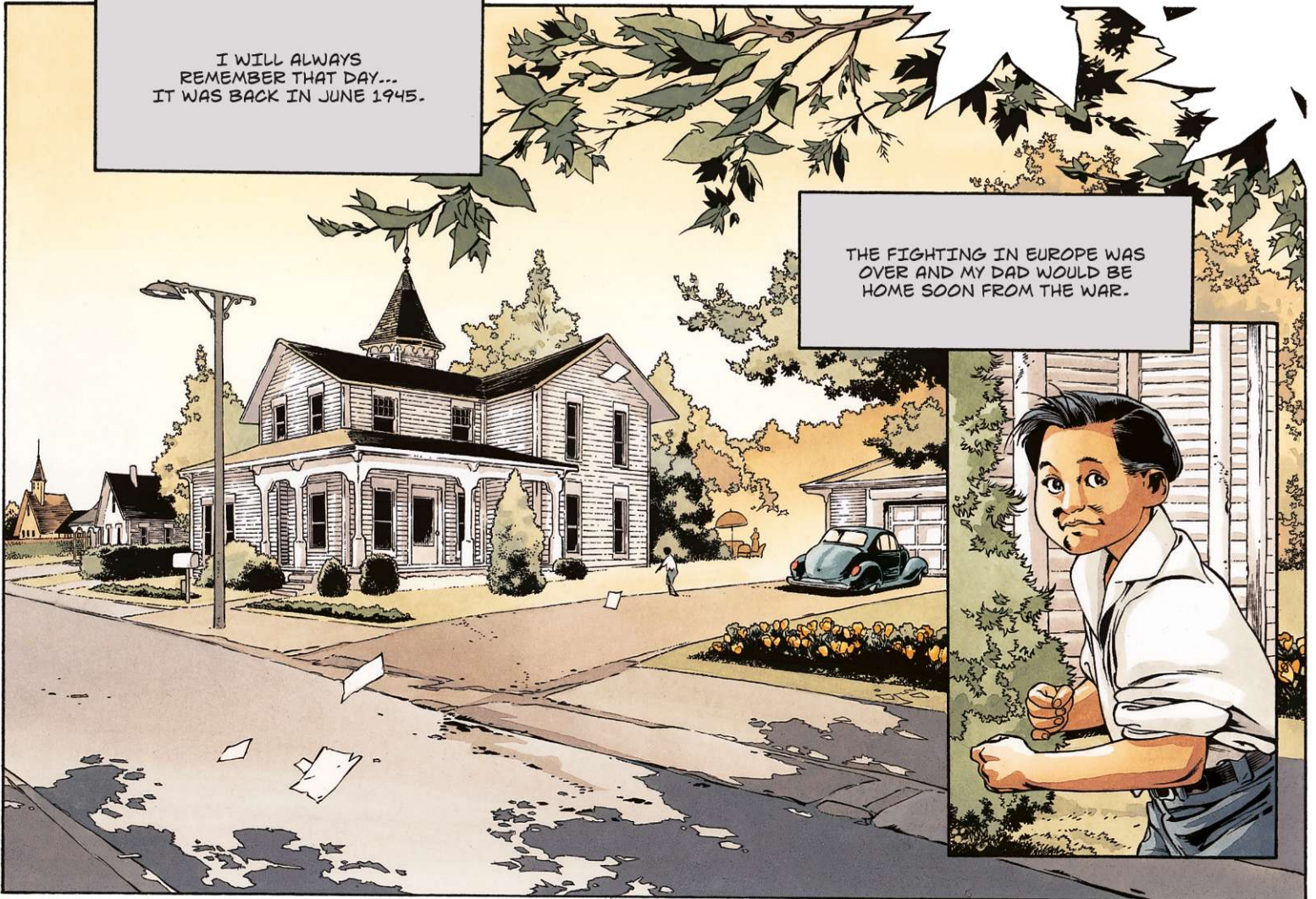
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**DARGAUD**



I WILL ALWAYS  
REMEMBER THAT DAY...  
IT WAS BACK IN JUNE 1945.

THE FIGHTING IN EUROPE WAS  
OVER AND MY DAD WOULD BE  
HOME SOON FROM THE WAR.



BAM!  
BAM!

I GOT YOU!  
YOU'RE DEAD,  
FLOYD!



YOU CHEATED!  
WE SAID NO GUNS.  
WE WERE ONLY PLAYING  
HIDE-AND-SEEK!

SO WHAT?  
I KILLED  
YOU. SO  
I WIN!

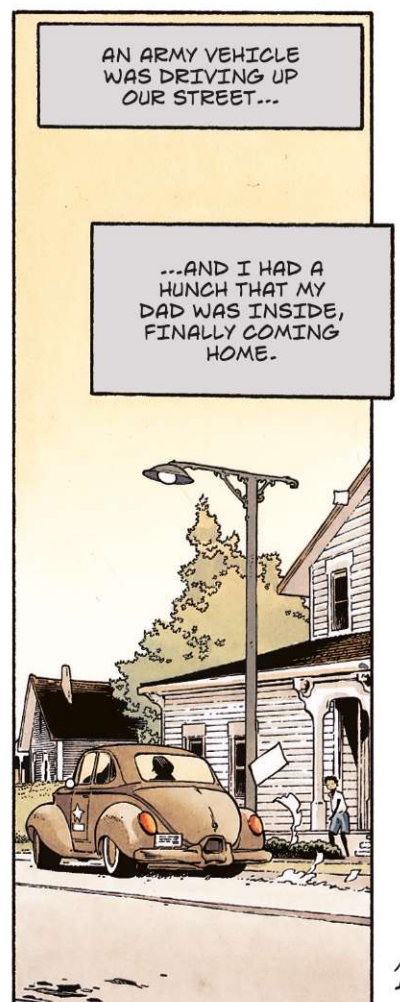


HOW COME  
IT'S ALWAYS  
HIS HIGHNESS  
FLOYD WHO HAS  
TO BE THE BEST,  
HUH? THIS TIME,  
I'M THE ONE WHO  
GOT TO CHANGE  
ALL THE RULES.  
AND I WON!



TOO  
BAD FOR  
Y--

BRAVO,  
TRENT. GO WIN  
BY YOURSELF.  
BUT I'M GOING  
BACK HOME.



AN ARMY VEHICLE  
WAS DRIVING UP  
OUR STREET...

...AND I HAD A  
HUNCH THAT MY  
DAD WAS INSIDE,  
FINALLY COMING  
HOME.



HOLLYWOOD AND ITS BLOCKBUSTERS HAD TAUGHT US TO TRUST OUR FEELINGS.

LATER, THE CIA WOULD TEACH ME TO LISTEN TO MY HUNCHES FIRST.

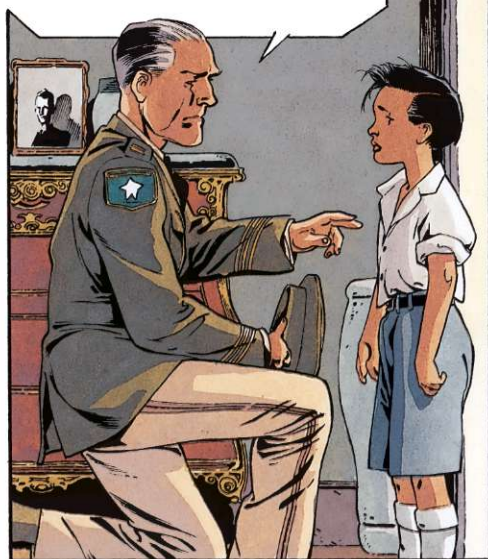


THE HUNCH WAS A GOOD ONE. IT DID HAVE TO DO WITH MY DAD.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES, MA'AM.



WHAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND, KID, IS THAT YOUR FATHER WASN'T KILLED BY THE NAZIS.



YOUR DAD WAS A HERO, HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST AMERICANS TO BE BETRAYED BY THOSE COMMIE BASTARDS.

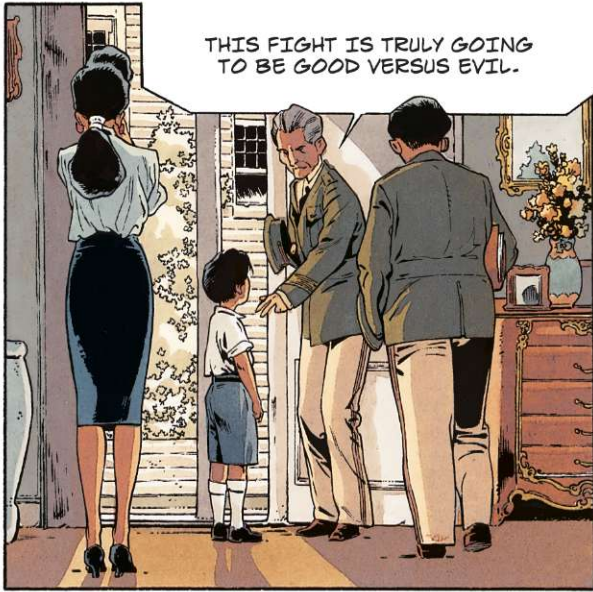


NOW YOU LISTEN GOOD, AND DON'T EVER FORGET THIS: FROM NOW ON, WE HAVE AN EVEN GREATER ENEMY.

THE REDS!



YOU GET IT, KID?



THIS FIGHT IS TRULY GOING TO BE GOOD VERSUS EVIL.



AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WIN IF WE WANT TO SAVE THE GREAT, BIG, AND BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN DREAM. NEVER FORGET THAT, KID!



OCTOBER 2003  
FLORIDA, USA



THINGS GOING WELL, LENNOX?

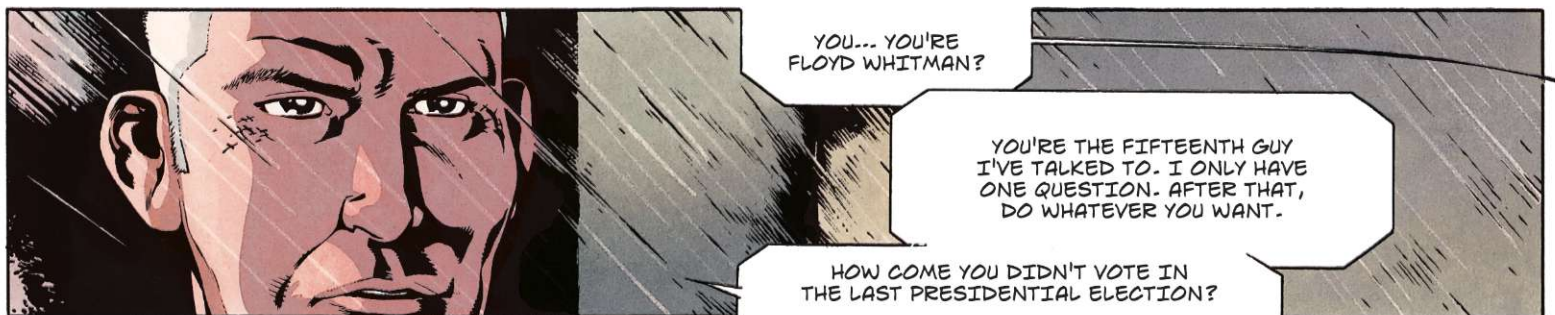


WHO ARE YOU, MAN!  
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AIN'T GOT NO POT OR CASH.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME, HUH?

THE ONLY PROBLEM I HAVE IS THAT YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY MESSAGES.

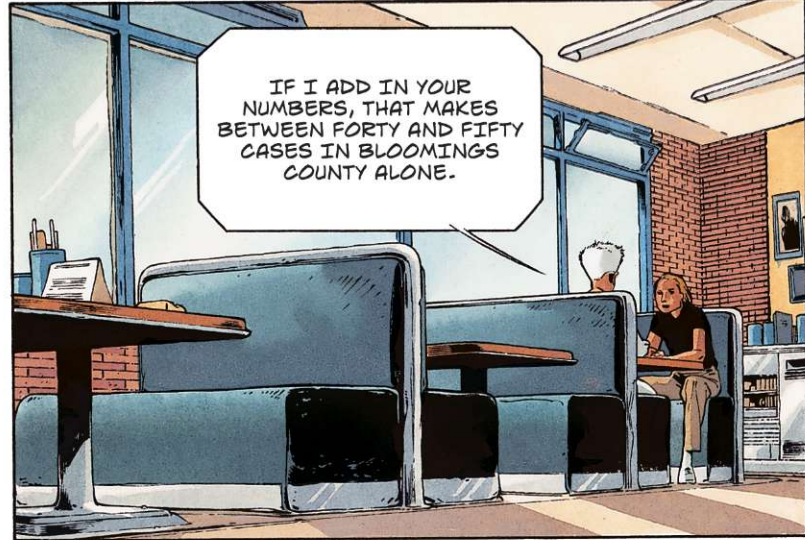


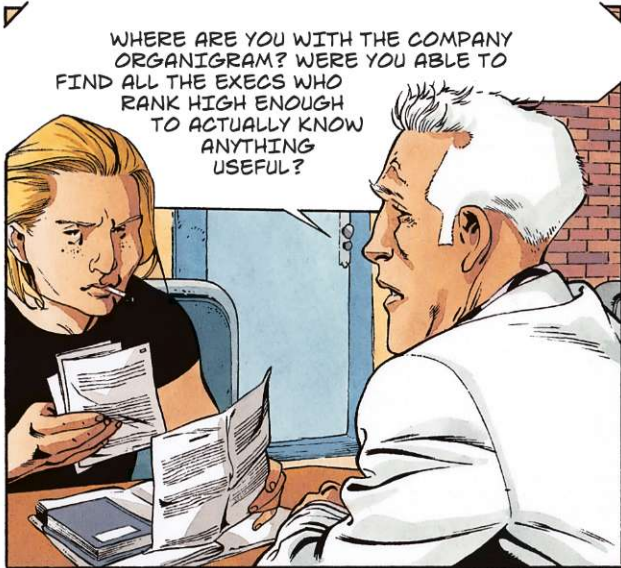
YOU... YOU'RE FLOYD WHITMAN?

YOU'RE THE FIFTEENTH GUY I'VE TALKED TO. I ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION. AFTER THAT, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T VOTE IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?







WHERE ARE YOU WITH THE COMPANY ORGANIGRAM? WERE YOU ABLE TO FIND ALL THE EXECs WHO RANK HIGH ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY KNOW ANYTHING USEFUL?



I LIKE THIS ONE. THEIR BEST LAWYER. DIVORCED. HAS A THING FOR HOOKERS AND COKE.



TOO HIGH UP. HE MAY BE TOUGH TO CRACK.



I HAVE A GUT FEELING ON THIS ONE: JEREMY MELWIN.

BRAND NEW CAR, BRAND NEW HOUSE. PROMISING.

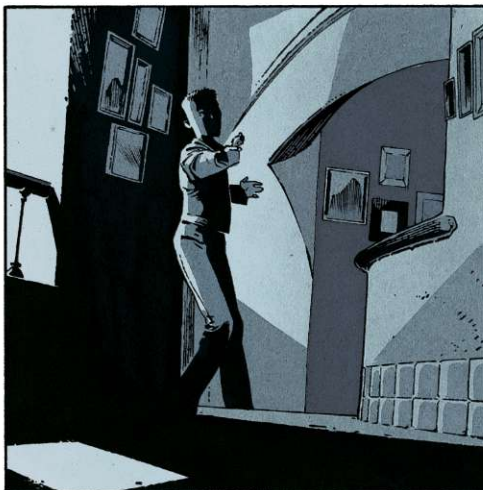


THESE HOUSES WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO BE FULLY AUTOMATED. ALARMS HAVE TO BE ACTIVATED ON EVERY WINDOW AND LINKED TO THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

I'D GUESS WE HAVE BETWEEN FIVE AND SIX MINUTES UNTIL A PATROL CAR GETS HERE.



BRING THE CAR AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.





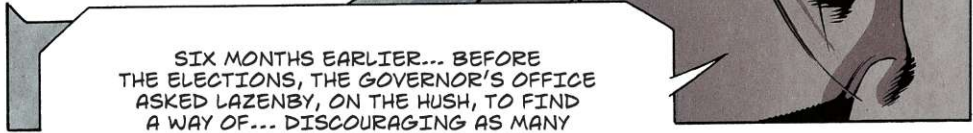
HOW MANY BLACKS DID LAZENBY CORP. REMOVE FROM THE VOTER LISTS, AND FOR WHAT REASON?



BLA... BLACKS VOTE 80% DEMOCRAT. THE STATE GOVERNMENT KNEW THAT... THE FLORIDA VOTE WAS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY TIGHT... AND WOULD NO DOUBT COME DOWN TO A FEW VOTES.



CLEARLY. THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE ONLY WON BY AROUND THREE HUNDRED BALLOT PAPERS!



SIX MONTHS EARLIER... BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ASKED LAZENBY, ON THE HUSH, TO FIND A WAY OF... DISCOURAGING AS MANY DEMOCRAT VOTERS AS POSSIBLE.



WE USED A FEW... VAGUELY LEGAL JUSTIFICATIONS. I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW MANY CASES... THERE MUST HAVE BEEN LOADS OF THEM.

THEY ASSURED US THAT IT WAS ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE.



THE GOVERNOR IS A POWERFUL MAN... MAYBE EVEN A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ONE DAY.



AFTER THE ELECTION, THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING THAT ONLY A REPUBLICAN COULD DO.



YOU CUT IT CLOSE! LESS THAN FOUR MINUTES. WE MIGHT RUN INTO THE COPS!

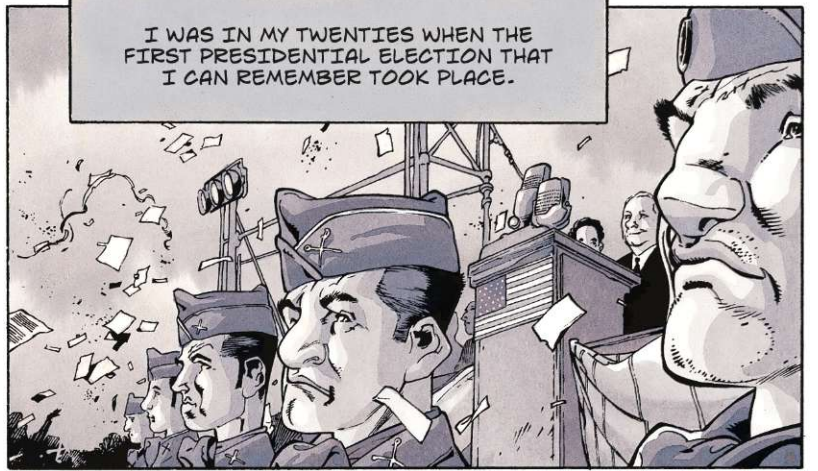


WE'LL MEET BACK AT THE MOTEL IN THREE DAYS. GET RID OF THIS CAR AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

ACCORDING TO HIM, IT WAS VITAL FOR THE U.S. THAT THE NEXT PRESIDENT BE A REPUBLICAN.



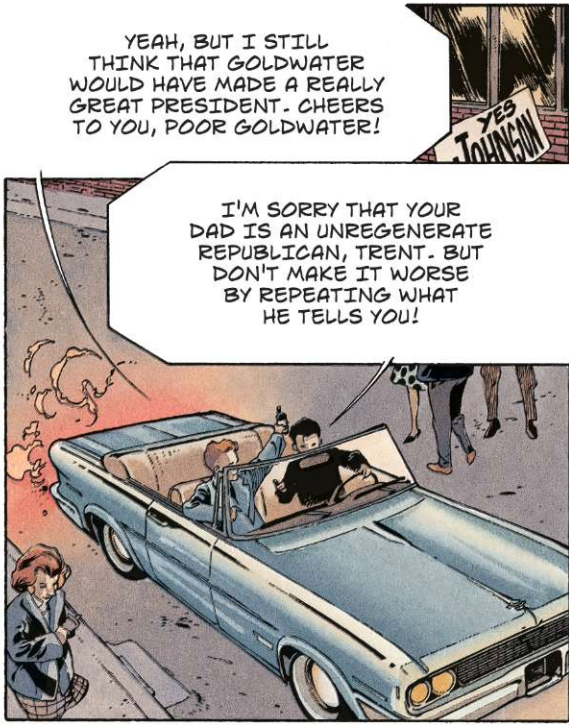
WHAT DECISION WOULD ONLY A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT BE ABLE TO MAKE?



I WAS IN MY TWENTIES WHEN THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION THAT I CAN REMEMBER TOOK PLACE.



KENNEDY WAS GONE, ALONG WITH THE DREAM OF A REJUVENATED AMERICA. BUT MOST COLLEGE KIDS SUPPORTED JOHNSON, FOR LACK OF A BETTER OPTION.

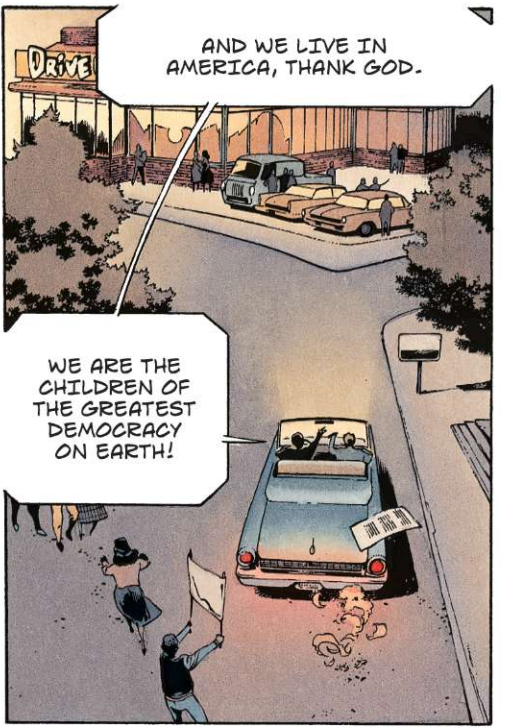


YEAH, BUT I STILL THINK THAT GOLDWATER WOULD HAVE MADE A REALLY GREAT PRESIDENT. CHEERS TO YOU, POOR GOLDWATER!

I'M SORRY THAT YOUR DAD IS AN UNREGENERATE REPUBLICAN, TRENT. BUT DON'T MAKE IT WORSE BY REPEATING WHAT HE TELLS YOU!



A CONSERVATIVE LIKE FUCKING GOLDWATER WOULD HAVE NEEDED TO CHEAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VOTES IN ORDER TO BECOME PRESIDENT.



AND WE LIVE IN AMERICA, THANK GOD.

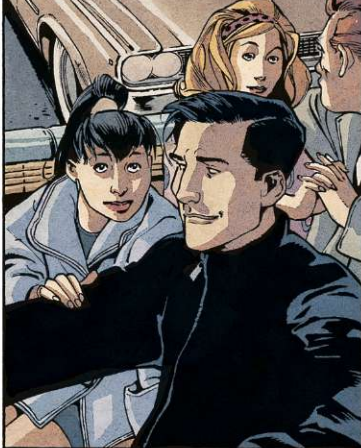
WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE GREATEST DEMOCRACY ON EARTH!

TRENT FOLLOWED ME TO COLLEGE. WE'D BEEN INSEPARABLE EVER SINCE WE WERE BOTH LITTLE KIDS.

YOU ALMOST MADE US WAIT, BOYS. THANKFULLY WE FOUND SOME BIG BEEFY GUYS TO KEEP US COMPANY!



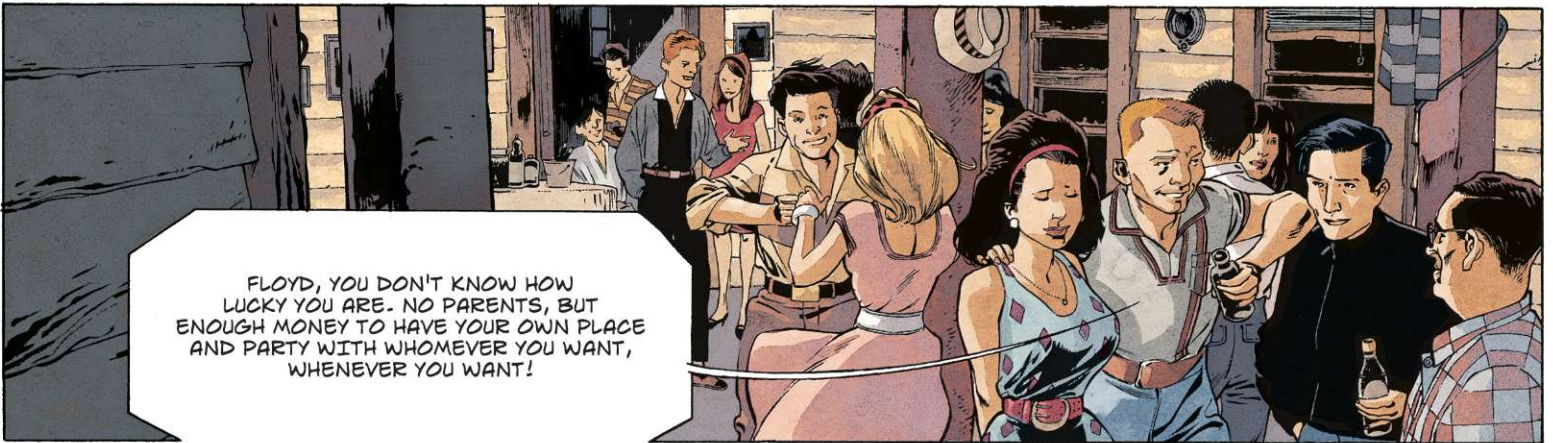
TO ME, IT FELT LIKE WE HAD NEVER BEEN SO FREE BEFORE. LIKE MY LIFE WAS SHAPING UP TO BE TOO EASY.



I FELT LIKE THAT BECAUSE WE SUCCEEDED AT EVERYTHING WE DID. SPORTS. SCHOOL. AND GIRLS, OF COURSE.



FLOYD, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE. NO PARENTS, BUT ENOUGH MONEY TO HAVE YOUR OWN PLACE AND PARTY WITH WHOMEVER YOU WANT, WHENEVER YOU WANT!



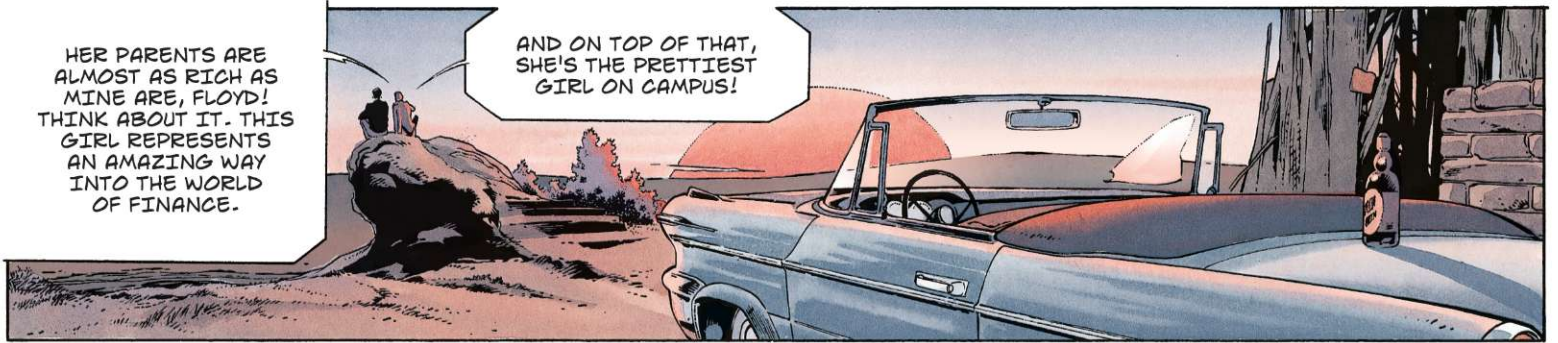
ARE YOU GUYS BEING SERIOUS? BOTH YOU AND TRENT REALLY SENT IN APPLICATIONS TO TRY TO JOIN THE CIA?



IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE, YOU'LL SEE!

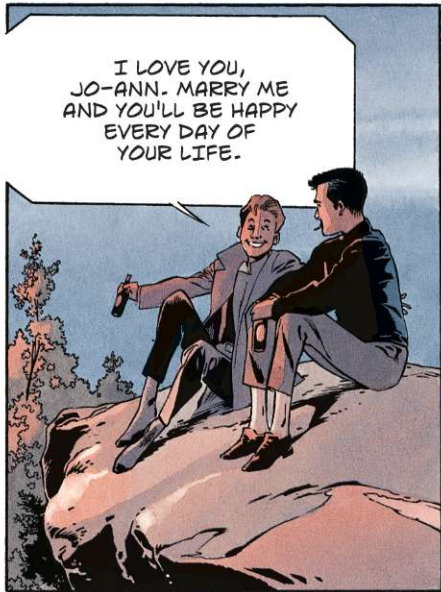
ACTUALLY, THAT'S OK WITH ME. AS LONG AS WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS TO GO FIGHT THOSE COMMUNIST SONS OF BITCHES!





HER PARENTS ARE ALMOST AS RICH AS MINE ARE, FLOYD! THINK ABOUT IT. THIS GIRL REPRESENTS AN AMAZING WAY INTO THE WORLD OF FINANCE.

AND ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S THE PRETTIEST GIRL ON CAMPUS!



I LOVE YOU, JO-ANN. MARRY ME AND YOU'LL BE HAPPY EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE.



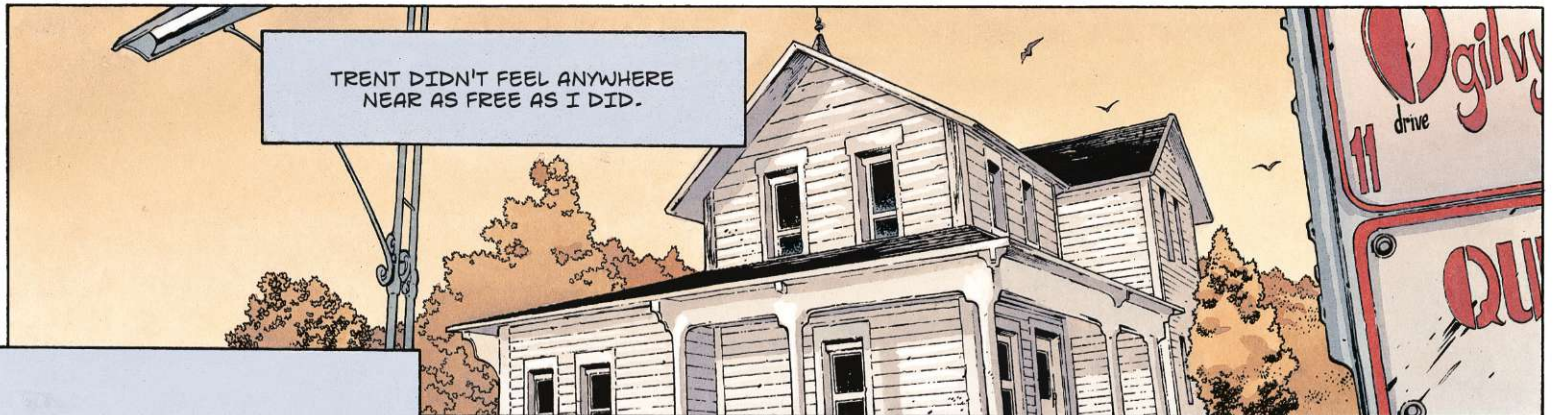
YOU KNOW WHAT, TRENT?

MOST OF THE TIME, YOU ARE THE MOST BORING GUY I KNOW. BUT WHEN YOU DRINK A FEW BEERS, YOU SUDDENLY BECOME INCREDIBLY ROMANTIC.

YOU SHOULD DRINK A LOT MORE OFTEN.

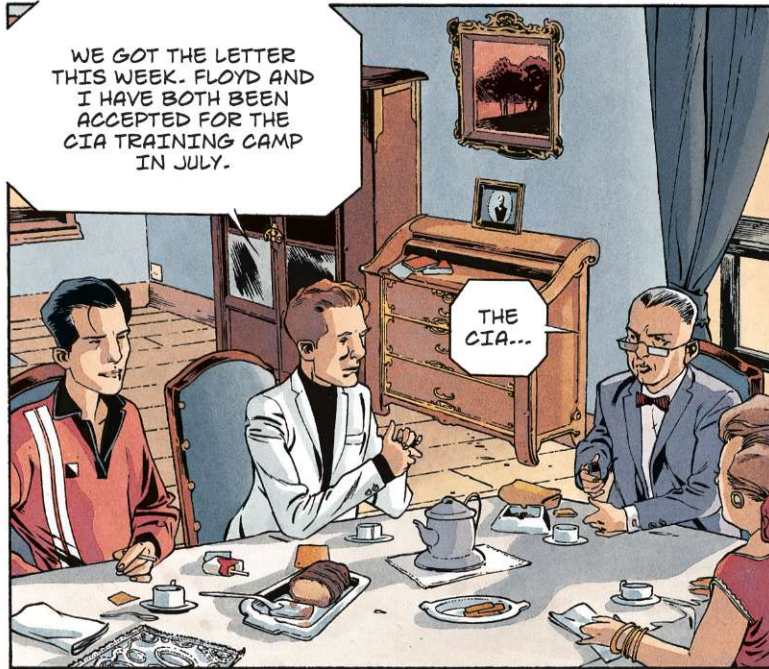
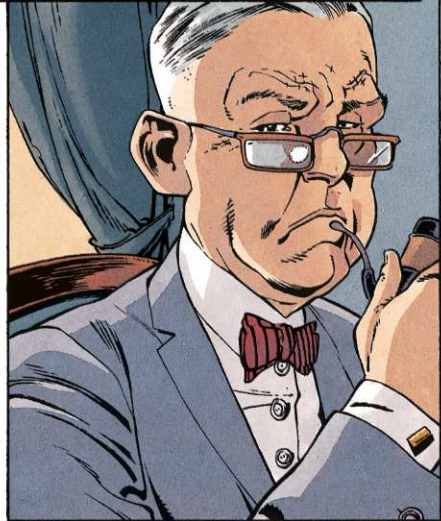


CHEERS!



TRENT DIDN'T FEEL ANYWHERE NEAR AS FREE AS I DID.

HIS FATHER HAD BUILT ONE OF THE BIGGEST BROKERAGE FIRMS ON WALL STREET. AND HE HAD PRETTY RIGID PLANS FOR HIS SON'S FUTURE IN MIND.

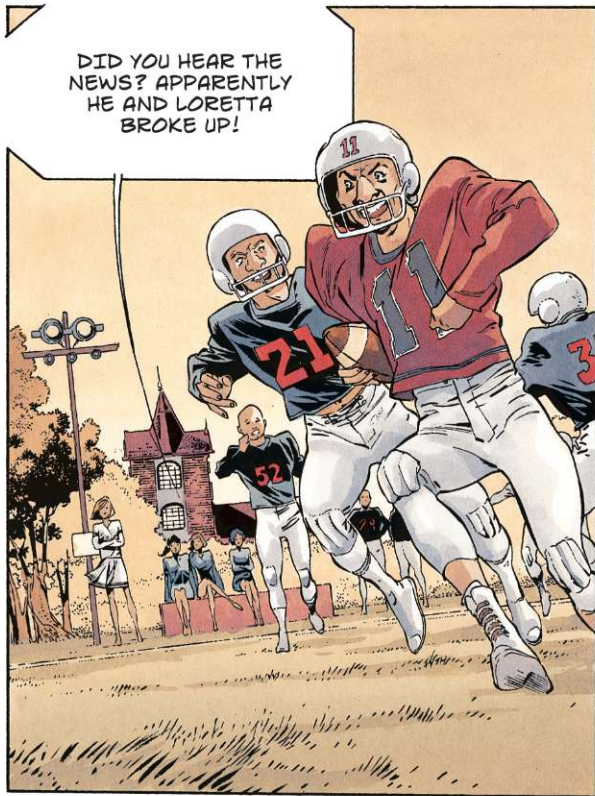


WE GOT THE LETTER THIS WEEK. FLOYD AND I HAVE BOTH BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE CIA TRAINING CAMP IN JULY.

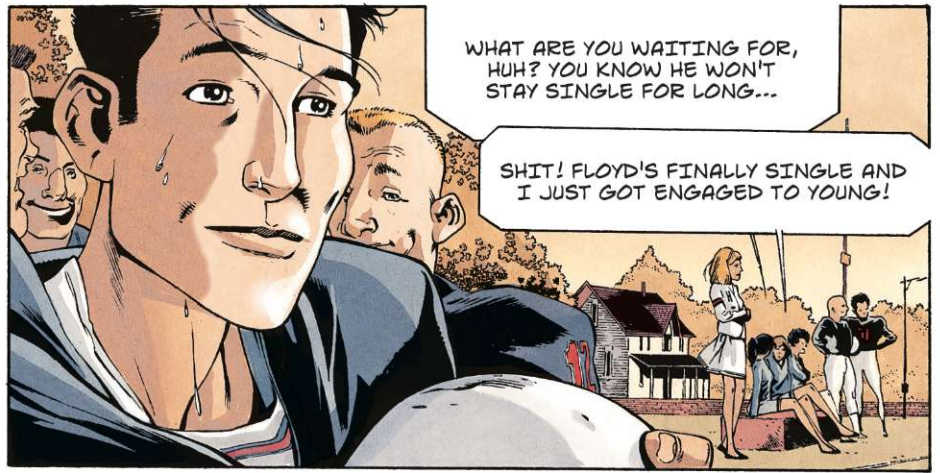
THE CIA...



WHY NOT, AFTER ALL... IT MAY TURN INTO AN INTERESTING PATH TO POLITICAL OFFICE!

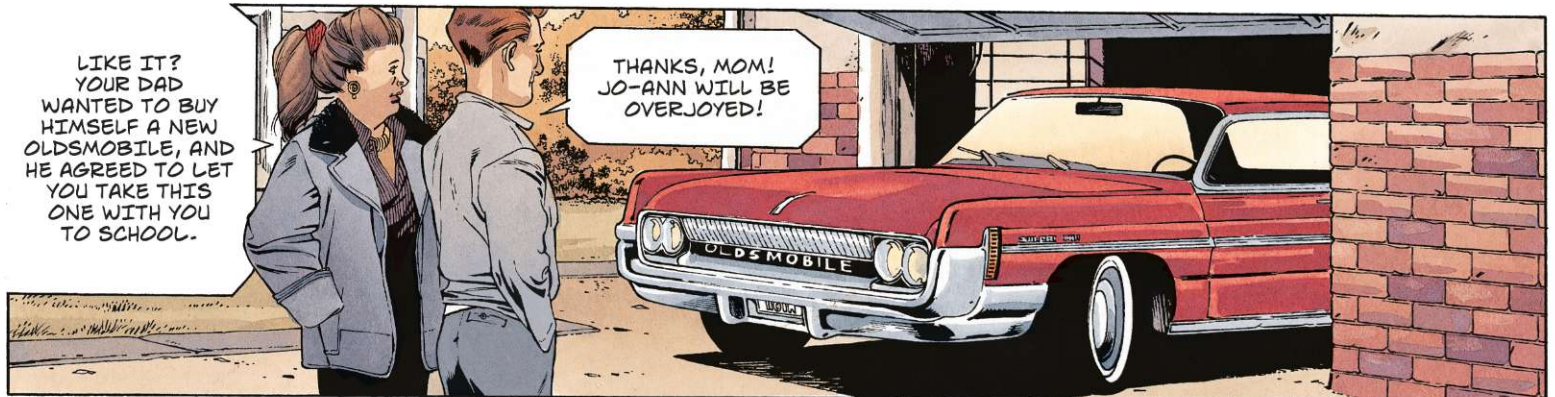
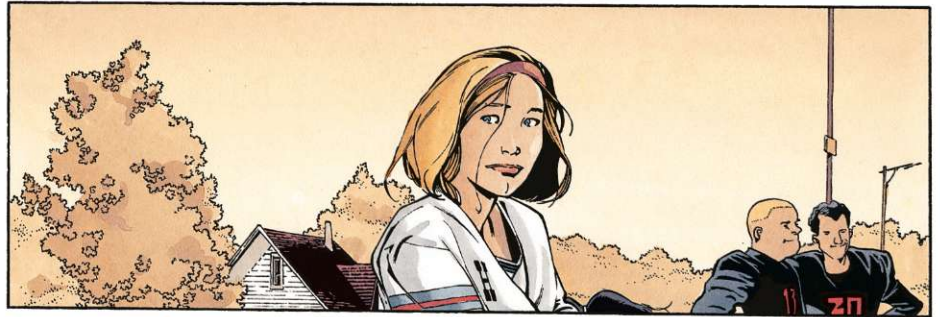


DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? APPARENTLY HE AND LORETTA BROKE UP!



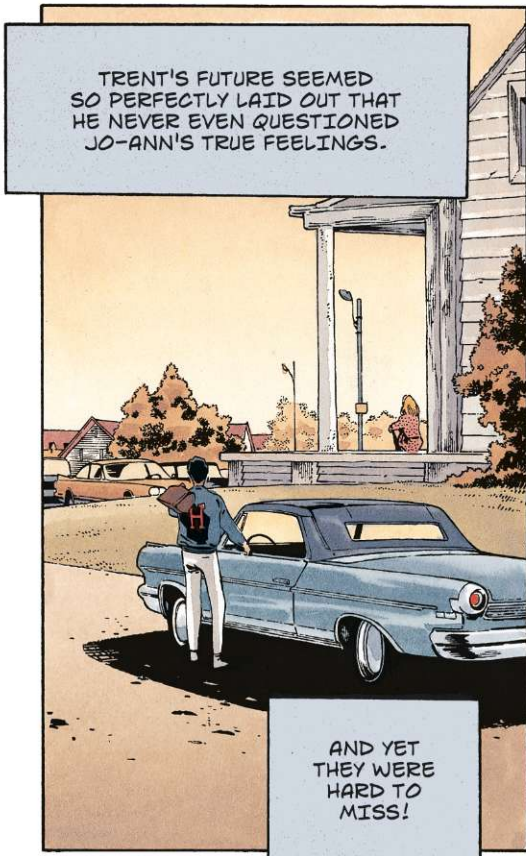
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, HUH? YOU KNOW HE WON'T STAY SINGLE FOR LONG...

SHIT! FLOYD'S FINALLY SINGLE AND I JUST GOT ENGAGED TO YOUNG!



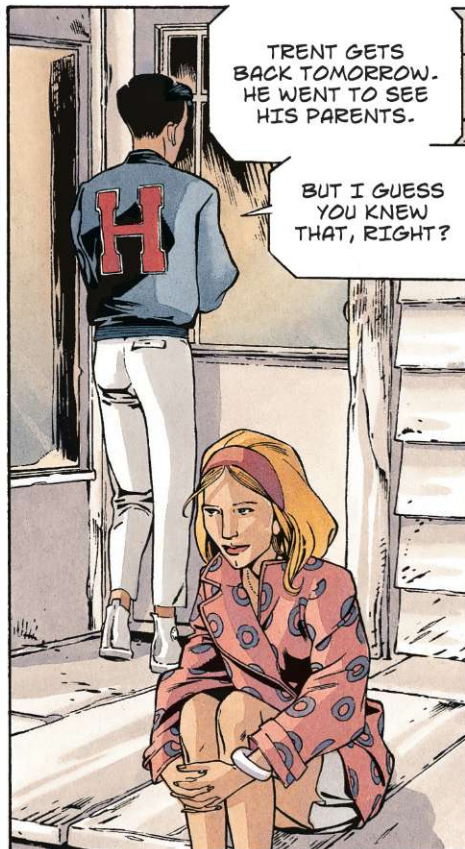
LIKE IT? YOUR DAD WANTED TO BUY HIMSELF A NEW OLDSMOBILE, AND HE AGREED TO LET YOU TAKE THIS ONE WITH YOU TO SCHOOL.

THANKS, MOM! JO-ANN WILL BE OVERJOYED!



TRENT'S FUTURE SEEMED SO PERFECTLY LAID OUT THAT HE NEVER EVEN QUESTIONED JO-ANN'S TRUE FEELINGS.

AND YET THEY WERE HARD TO MISS!



TRENT GETS BACK TOMORROW. HE WENT TO SEE HIS PARENTS.

BUT I GUESS YOU KNEW THAT, RIGHT?



I GUESS SO, YEAH.

BUT TO BE HONEST...

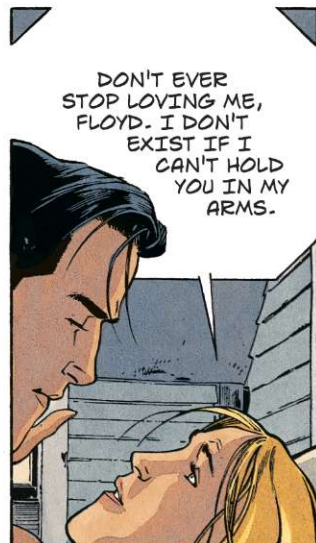
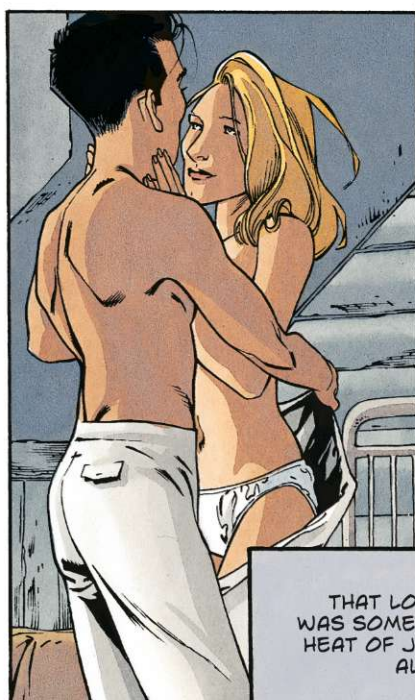
...I COULDN'T CARE LESS.







I THINK THAT I NEVER REALLY GAVE THAT MUCH THOUGHT TO MY FEELINGS EITHER.



DON'T EVER STOP LOVING ME, FLOYD. I DON'T EXIST IF I CAN'T HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS.

THAT LOVE TOOK OVER ME. THERE WAS SOMETHING ABSOLUTE ABOUT THE HEAT OF JO-ANN'S BODY, SOMETHING ALL-ENCOMPASSING.

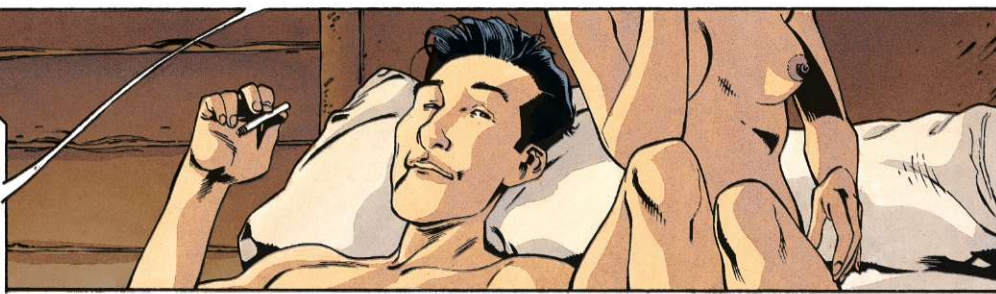


WHAT'LL WE TELL TRENT?

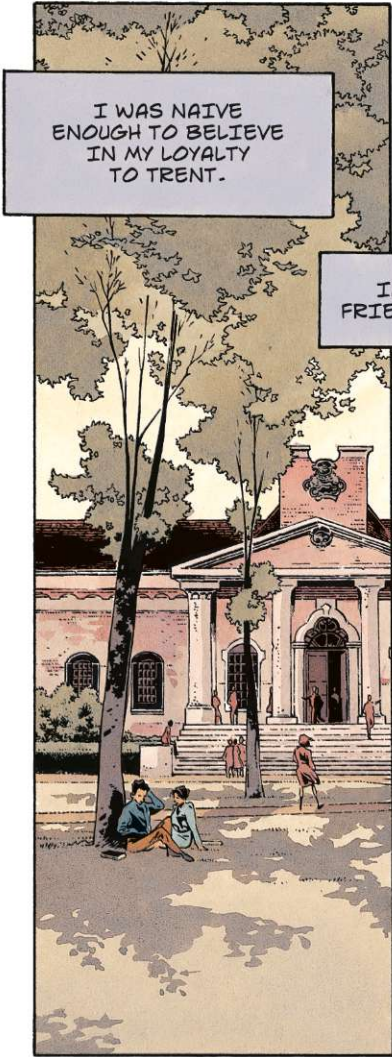
THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NOTHING BETWEEN US. I WARNED HIM FROM THE BEGINNING NOT TO DELUDE HIMSELF.



SINCE THE BEGINNING, YOU'RE ALL I'VE DREAMED ABOUT, FLOYD. AND EVEN IF YOU MAKE A HUNDRED TRIPS AROUND THE WORLD, I PROMISE YOU, YOU'LL NEVER FIND A WOMAN WHO CAN LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN.

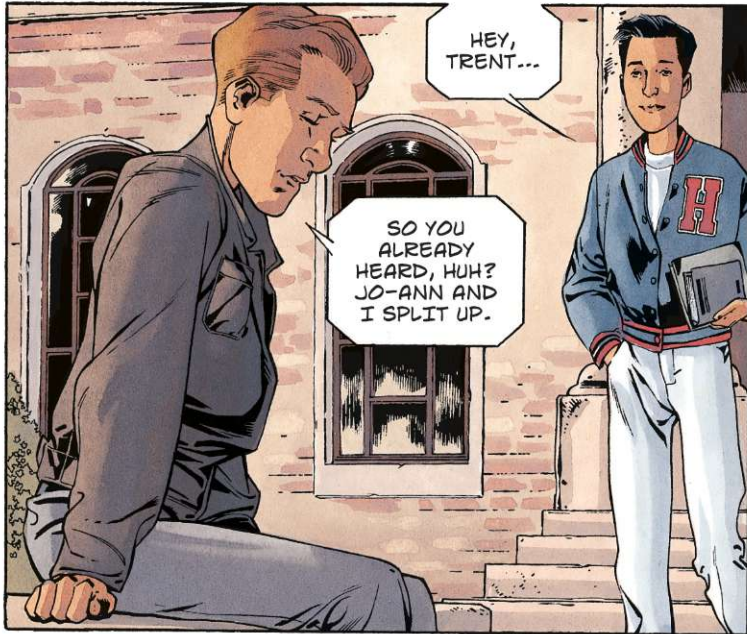


BUT AS FOR ME, I WANT TO MAKE A HUNDRED TRIPS AROUND YOU! COME HERE!



I WAS NAIVE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE IN MY LOYALTY TO TRENT.

IN OUR FRIENDSHIP.



HEY, TRENT...

SO YOU ALREADY HEARD, HUH? JO-ANN AND I SPLIT UP.



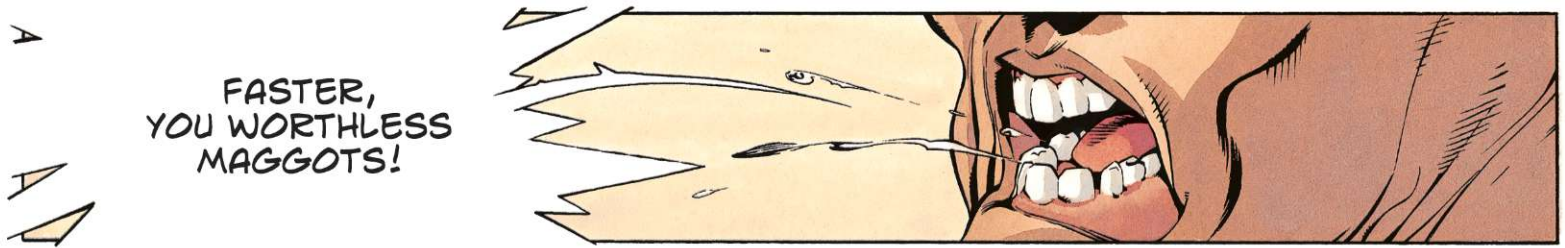
FORGET ALL THAT. IT'LL BE WORTH IT, I PROMISE YOU. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BLAST OVER THERE.

IT'S GONNA BE GREAT!

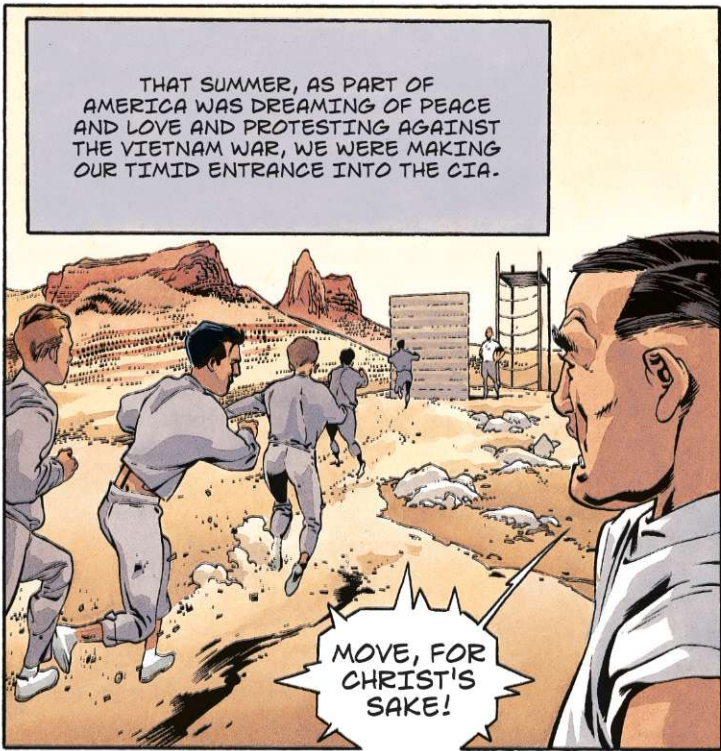


AND THE BEST PART? HER REASONS. HER HIGHNESS WANTS TO GO TO LAKE TAHOE THIS SUMMER, AND AS I'M GOING TO CIA CAMP... WELL, SHE'D RATHER CALL IT QUILTS!

THANKS, CIA!



FASTER, YOU WORTHLESS MAGGOTS!



THAT SUMMER, AS PART OF AMERICA WAS DREAMING OF PEACE AND LOVE AND PROTESTING AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR, WE WERE MAKING OUR TIMID ENTRANCE INTO THE CIA.

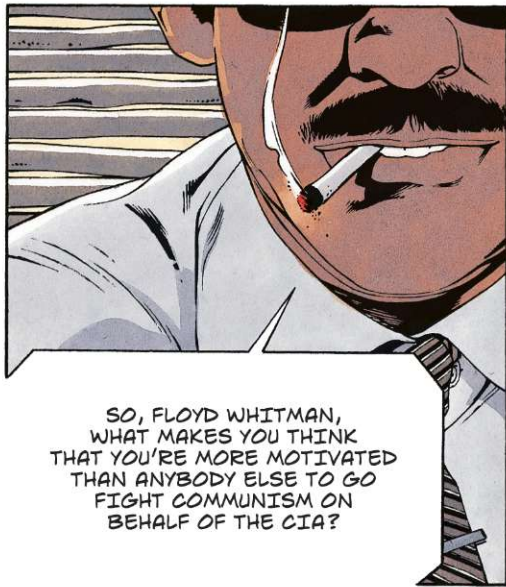
MOVE, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!



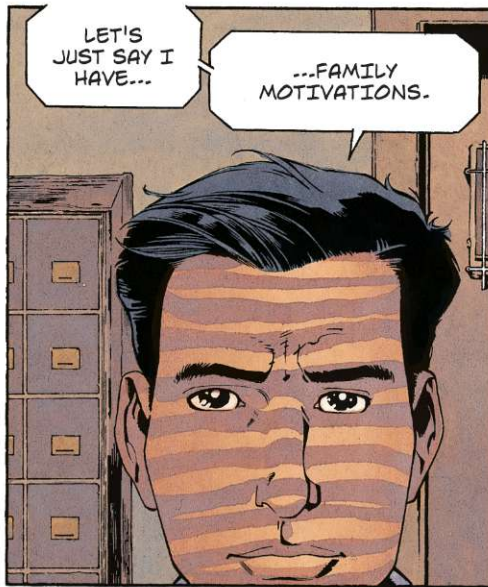
HOWEVER, YOU'LL ALL FIT IN NICELY OVER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POETRY WRITING AND FLOWER PICKING!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BECOME FIELD AGENTS LIKE THAT, FELLAS!



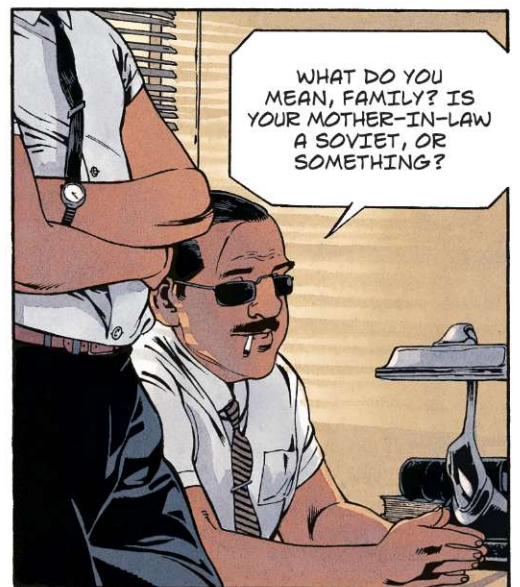


SO, FLOYD WHITMAN, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE MORE MOTIVATED THAN ANYBODY ELSE TO GO FIGHT COMMUNISM ON BEHALF OF THE CIA?

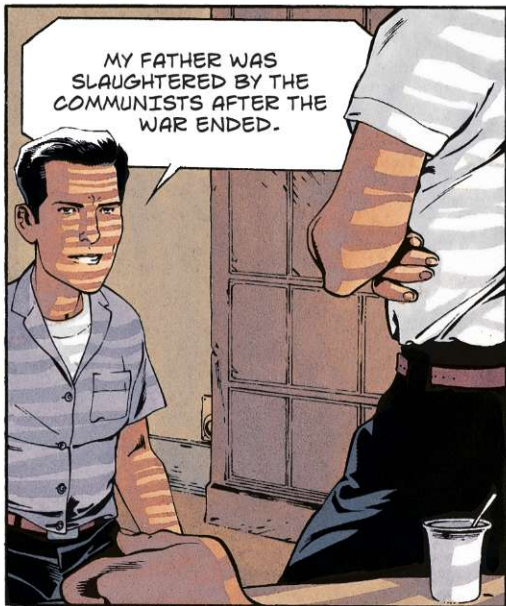


LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE...

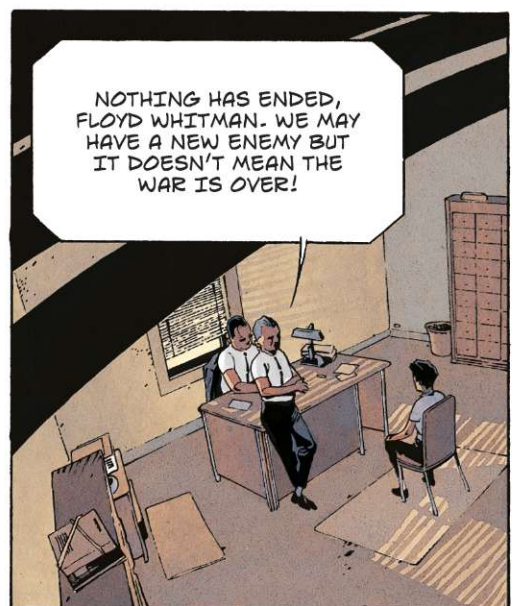
...FAMILY MOTIVATIONS.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FAMILY? IS YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW A SOVIET, OR SOMETHING?



MY FATHER WAS SLAUGHTERED BY THE COMMUNISTS AFTER THE WAR ENDED.



NOTHING HAS ENDED, FLOYD WHITMAN. WE MAY HAVE A NEW ENEMY BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN THE WAR IS OVER!



ARE YOU DOING THIS ON PURPOSE?!



YOU SEE THE TARGET, WHITMAN?

AND YOU SEE ME?

SO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE TO HIT?

WELL THEN SHOW ME!!!





YOU MISSED OUR ONLY CHANCE TO TAKE ONE OF THEM OUT. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY MORE OF THESE LUNATICS I CAN STAND.

THREE BEERS, TRENT. WITH A LITTLE IMAGINATION, I'M CONVINCED YOU'LL START TO LIKE THEM.



NAIVELY, I HAD ALSO BELIEVED THAT JO-ANN WOULD ACCEPT MY REASONS.



THAT WE NEEDED TIME TO PRESERVE OUR FRIENDSHIPS AND OUR FEELINGS.



ONE DAY, TRENT RECOGNIZED JO-ANN'S HANDWRITING ON A LETTER THAT WAS ADDRESSED TO ME. AND THEN, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

*my love,  
forgive me, I can't take it anymore. You don't want me to write too often, so how can I tell you that I must see you! Floyd, I beg of you, take me in your arms soon.*

...HE MUST HAVE CAUGHT ON.

*Meet me on saturday night at Patriot's, that restaurant you told me about. We have so many "trips" to take, my love!*





STOPPING BY PATRIOT'S WAS A GREAT IDEA.

IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE RESTAURANTS.



I'M SORRY, JO-ANN.



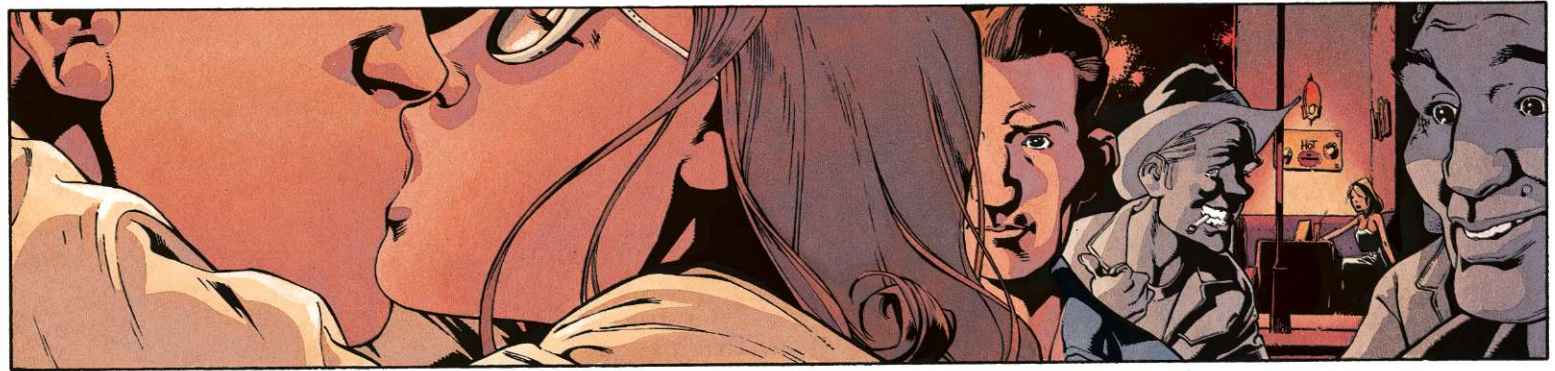
IT WAS SO EASY TO FIND A GIRL WITH A CRUSH ON FLOYD. AND THEN HINT TO HER THAT HE FELT THE SAME WAY.



YOU KNOW WHAT I LOVE MOST HERE? THE ROOMS UPSTAIRS ARE CHEAPER THAN THE DAILY SPECIALS!



WHICH WORKS OUT NICELY, AS I CAN'T WAIT TO EAT YOU UP!  
ARE YOU IN CHARGE OF TESTING THE SEXUAL PROCLIVITIES OF THE AGENCY'S NEW GUYS OR SOMETHING, CANDY?

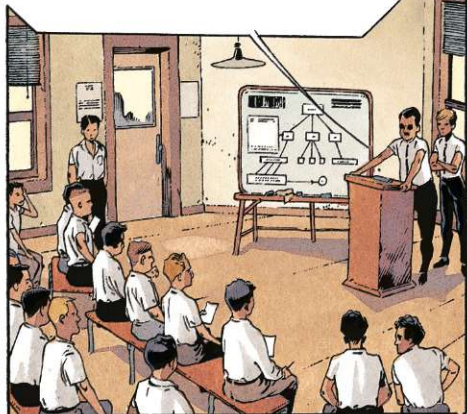




IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, JO-ANN DIDN'T RESPOND TO ANY OF MY LETTERS.

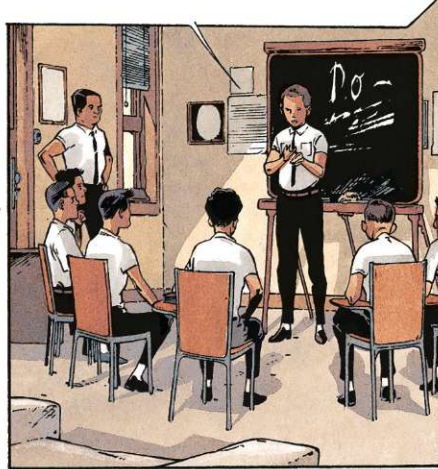
WHEN I TRIED TO CALL HER, I FOUND OUT THAT SHE HAD SUDDENLY LEFT FOR A VACATION IN EUROPE.

THE DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE - THE D.I. - IS ABOVE ALL THE ANALYSTS' DOMAIN. THEIR JOB IS TO EVALUATE THE VALUE OF THE INTELLIGENCE THAT THEY RECEIVE.



ANALYZING ALL OUR INTELLIGENCE IS OBVIOUSLY VITAL. WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL EXPERTS FROM COUNTLESS DISCIPLINES...

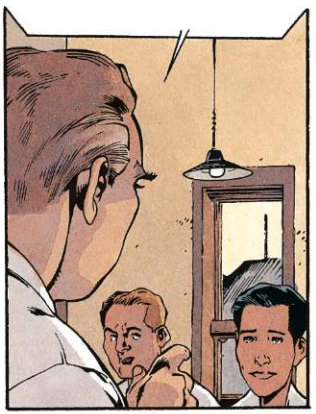
...WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK ON EMBASSY DISPATCHES, PRESS REPORTS, AND THE ENTIRE CATALOG OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS!



BELIEVE ME, THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY KNOW THE TRUTH ARE OUR AGENT HANDLERS. BECAUSE WE PUT THEM AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION.

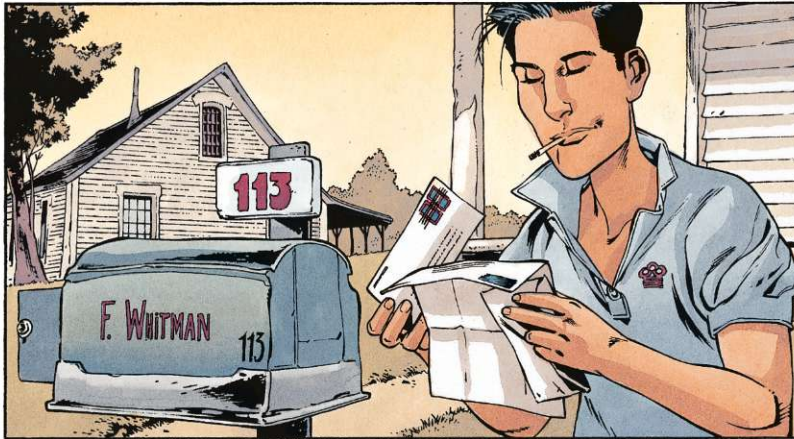
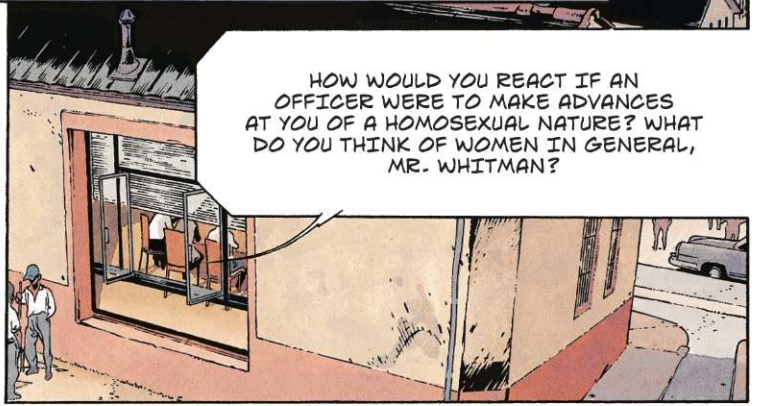
IF WE EVER BEAT COMMUNISM, IT'LL BE BECAUSE THESE MEN FOUND ITS ACHILLES' HEEL!

BUT THE SINEWS OF WAR IS CLEARLY THE INTEL ITSELF. THE CIA'S TRUE RAISON-D'ETRE, AND THE REALITY IN THE FIELD, IS THE D.O., THE DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS!





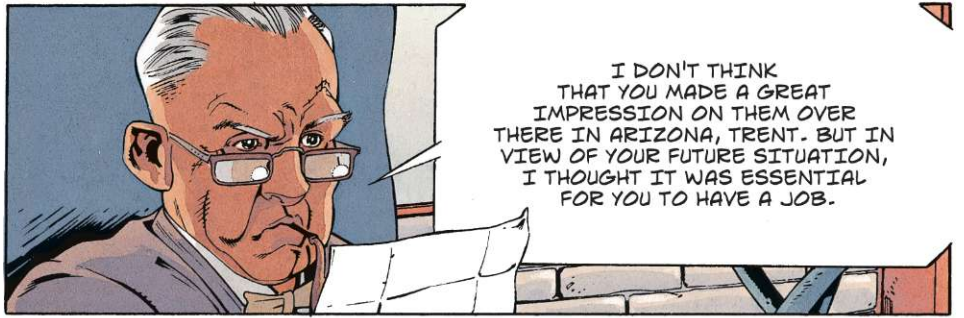
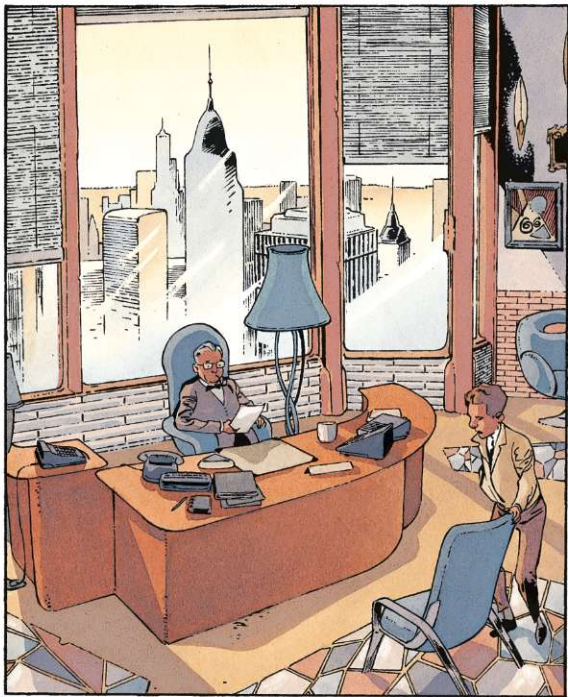
NEAR THE END OF SUMMER, I RECEIVED TWO, EQUALLY DEFINITIVE LETTERS.



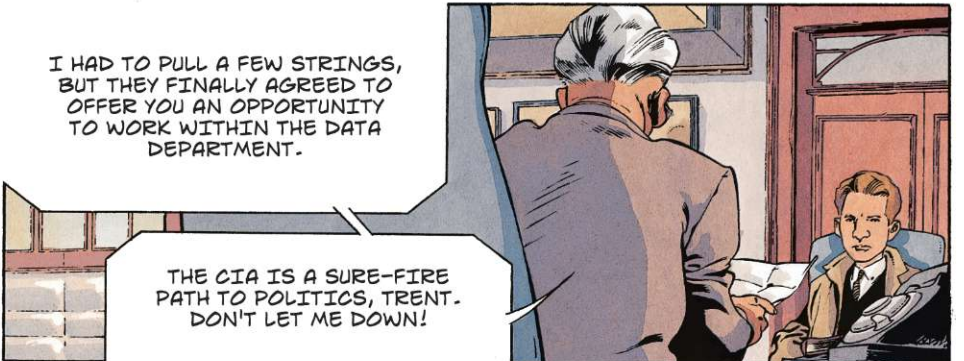
Howe  
Langley,  
Virginia .

Dear Mr. Whitman,  
We have the honor of offering you a position in the Directorate of Operations. You will find attached a plane ticket to New Delhi. You are expected on October 16.

Best regards,



I DON'T THINK THAT YOU MADE A GREAT IMPRESSION ON THEM OVER THERE IN ARIZONA, TRENT. BUT IN VIEW OF YOUR FUTURE SITUATION, I THOUGHT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR YOU TO HAVE A JOB.

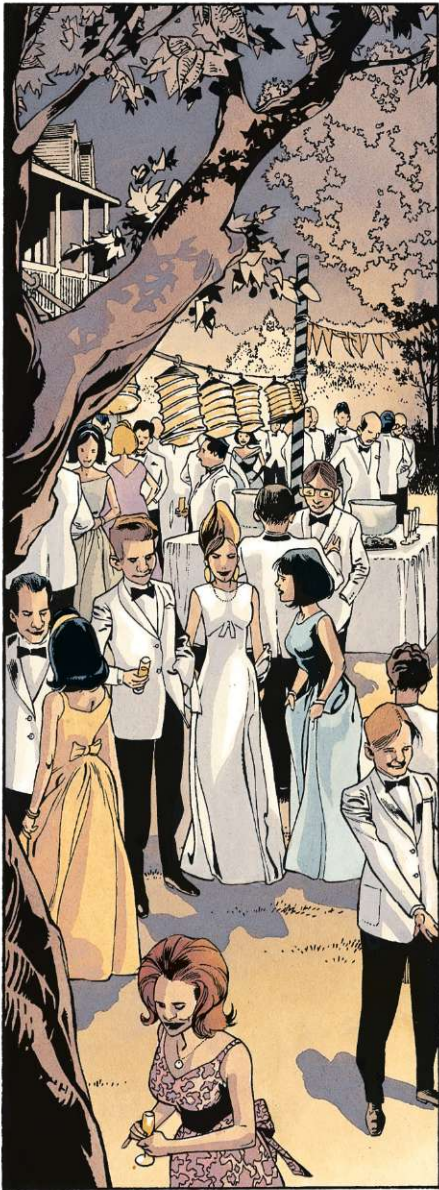


I HAD TO PULL A FEW STRINGS, BUT THEY FINALLY AGREED TO OFFER YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITHIN THE DATA DEPARTMENT.

THE CIA IS A SURE-FIRE PATH TO POLITICS, TRENT. DON'T LET ME DOWN!

Mr. & Mrs. Lance MANGOLD  
Mr. & Mrs. George JACKELL  
are delighted to invite you to the wedding of  
JO-ANN and TRENT  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9  
1965





MY DEAR FRIEND TRENT, SINCE WE WERE KIDS, I'VE BEATEN YOU AT RUNNING. AT BASEBALL. I GOT MY FIRST HANGOVER BEFORE YOU. AND HAD MY FIRST CAR ACCIDENT BEFORE YOU.



BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WON THE HEART OF THE PRETTIEST GIRL ON CAMPUS.



YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR WHITE DRESS, JO-ANN.

I WANT TO FORGET ALL THIS, FLOYD.



TAKE ME IN YOUR ARMS, AND PLEASE DON'T EVER LET ME GO.

JUST SAY THE WORD, FLOYD. ONE WORD...

...AND I'LL GO WITH YOU, RIGHT NOW. ANYWHERE YOU WANT!







YOU COULD MAKE A HUNDRED TRIPS AROUND THE WORLD, BUT YOU'LL NEVER FIND A MAN WHO CAN MAKE YOU AS HAPPY AS TRENT CAN. I'M SORRY, JO-ANN...

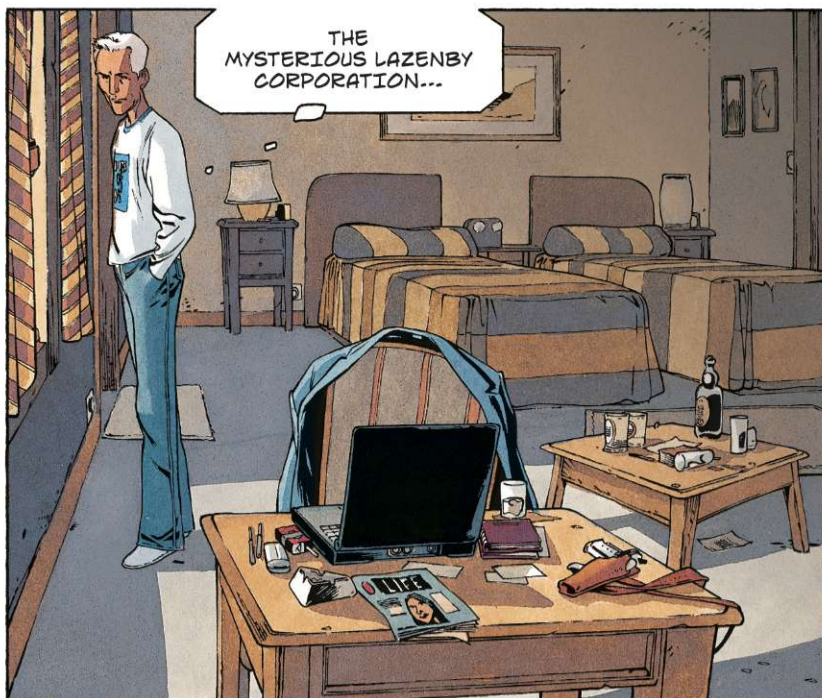
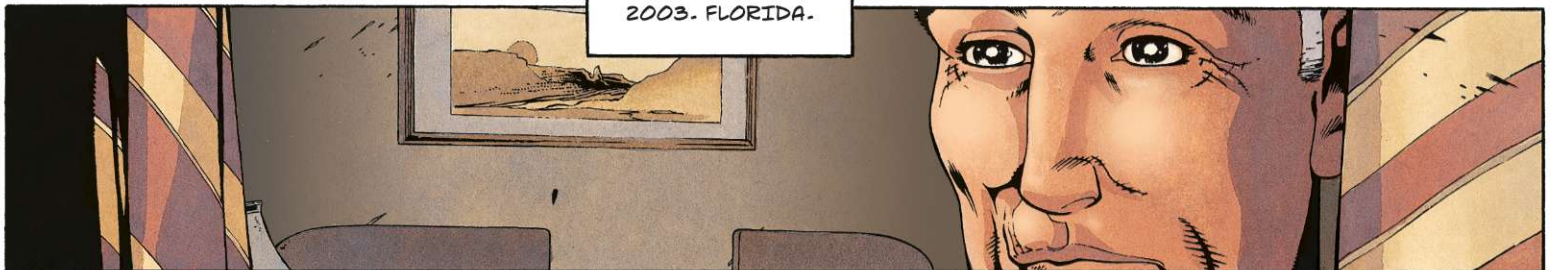
...FOR EVERYTHING.



NOT AS MUCH AS I AM, FLOYD. I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT WERE POSSIBLE TO HATE SOMEONE THIS MUCH!



2003. FLORIDA.



THE MYSTERIOUS LAZENBY CORPORATION...



IN THEORY, IT'S A LAW FIRM THAT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE LEGAL CASES AT THE SAME TIME AS... WHY NOT... ADVISING PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE.



AND YET... THE BULK OF THEIR WORK SEEMS TO BE FOCUSED ON BUYING UP REAL ESTATE.

MAPLE  
CONDOMINIUMS,  
OCEAN DRIVE, MIAMI...  
KEYVIEW MANSION,  
STARLIGHT HOTEL,  
WEST MIAMI BEACH

A WHOLE BUNCH  
OF OCEANFRONT  
PROPERTIES!



I PUT OUT  
SOME FEELERS  
OVER AT LAZENBY.  
TWO GUYS ARRIVED  
FROM NEW YORK.  
THEY SPENT OVER AN  
HOUR QUESTIONING  
THE LAWYER.



I TOLD YOU TO GET RID OF  
THE CAR THREE DAYS AGO,  
WAITS. LAZENBY'S LAWYER  
IS SURE TO HAVE SEEN  
US SPEEDING AWAY IN IT.



WE HAVE A BIGGER  
PROBLEM.

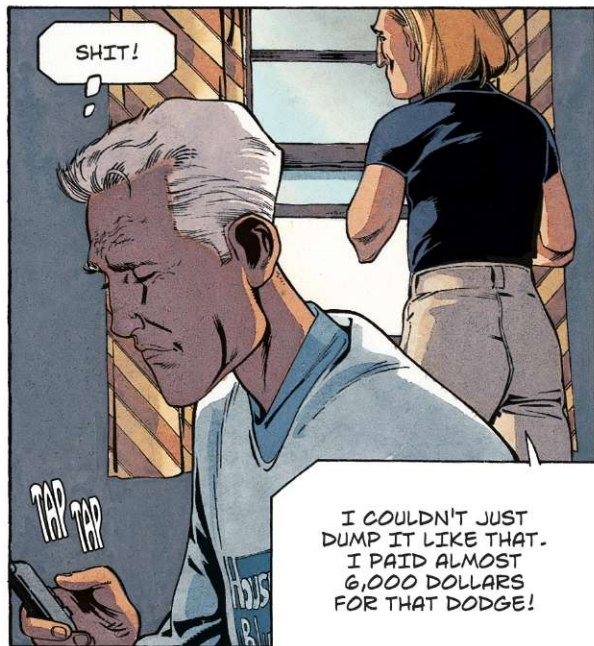
I CAUGHT A LOOK AT  
THEM WHEN THEY LEFT.  
THESE GUYS AREN'T COPS!

SO LAZENBY HASN'T  
CALLED THE POLICE?



SHIT!

I COULDN'T JUST  
DUMP IT LIKE THAT.  
I PAID ALMOST  
6,000 DOLLARS  
FOR THAT DODGE!

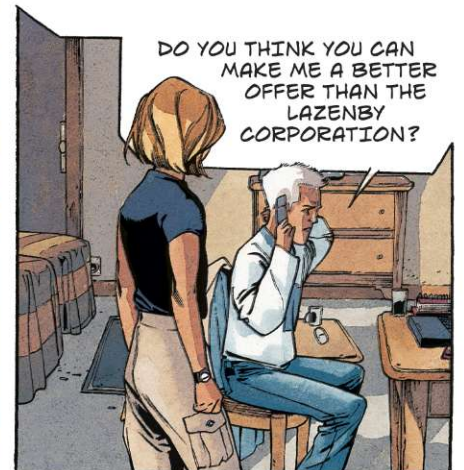


RALPH JENSYN,  
PARADISE REAL  
ESTATE. HOW CAN  
I HELP YOU?



HELLO MR. JENSYN. I'M IN  
A BIT OF A HURRY. I HAVE NO  
CHOICE BUT TO SELL ONE OF MY  
HOUSES ALONG OCEAN DRIVE.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN  
MAKE ME A BETTER  
OFFER THAN THE  
LAZENBY  
CORPORATION?

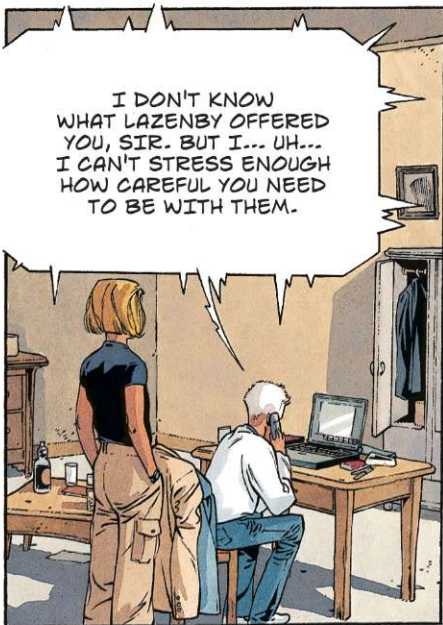




A BROWN DODGE?

HMM...

I HAVEN'T HAD A CLIENT WITH A BROWN DODGE IN AT LEAST 25 YEARS.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT LAZENBY OFFERED YOU, SIR. BUT I... UH... I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW CAREFUL YOU NEED TO BE WITH THEM.



NATURALLY, THEY HAVE... CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO DRAW FROM, BUT...



BELIEVE ME, I HAVE ZERO SYMPATHY FOR THESE PEOPLE.

WHO'S BEHIND THEM, MR. JENSYN?

UM, WELL... YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?



THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT THEY, UM... THAT THEY HAVE ANOTHER LAW FIRM IN PHILADELPHIA, WHICH IS OWNED BY A BANK IN LEBANON, A BANK CONTROLLED BY...



...BRIGHTON BEACH'S RUSSIAN MAFIA!



?



RUSSIAN MAFIA?

THE TWO GUYS I SAW LEAVING THE LAZENBY OFFICES?



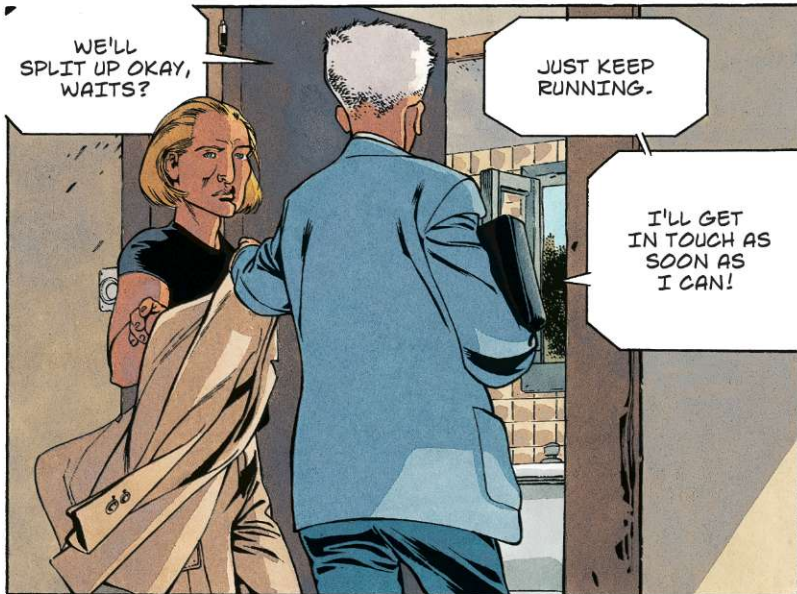
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE ASAP!

GO AHEAD, GET GOING! NOW!



TRUST ME.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THESE RUSSIAN MAFIA HITMEN ARE CAPABLE OF!

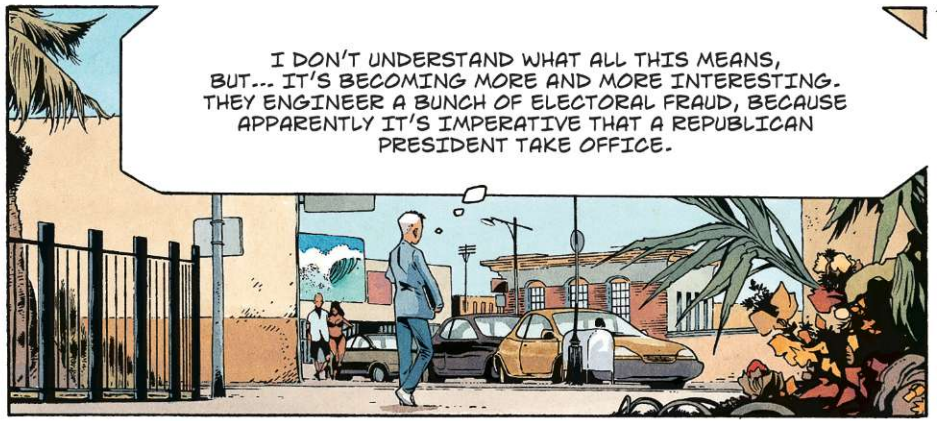


WE'LL SPLIT UP OKAY, WAITS?

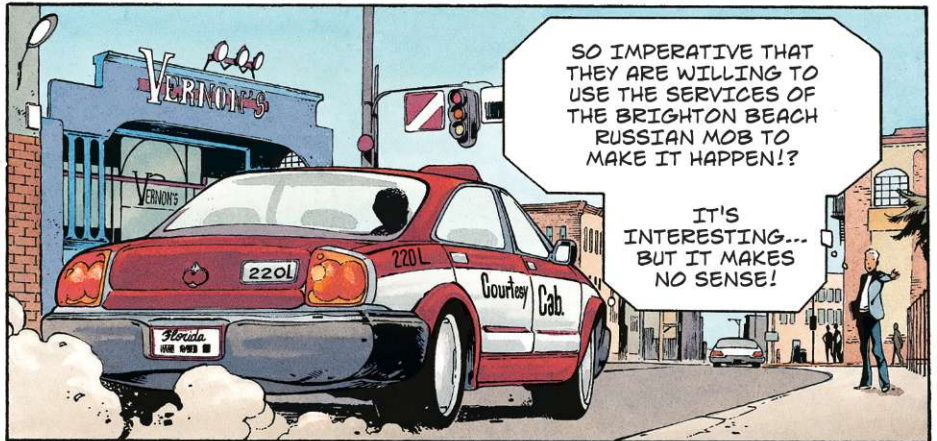
JUST KEEP RUNNING.

I'LL GET IN TOUCH AS SOON AS I CAN!



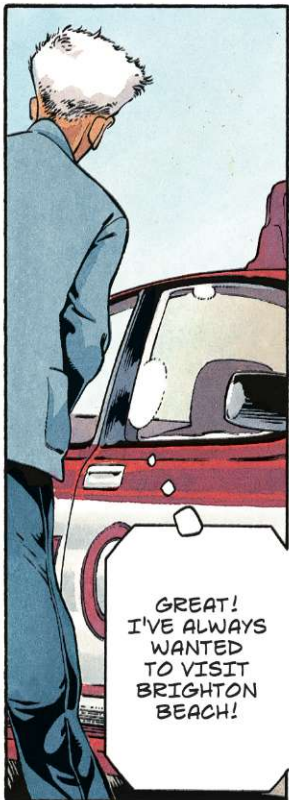
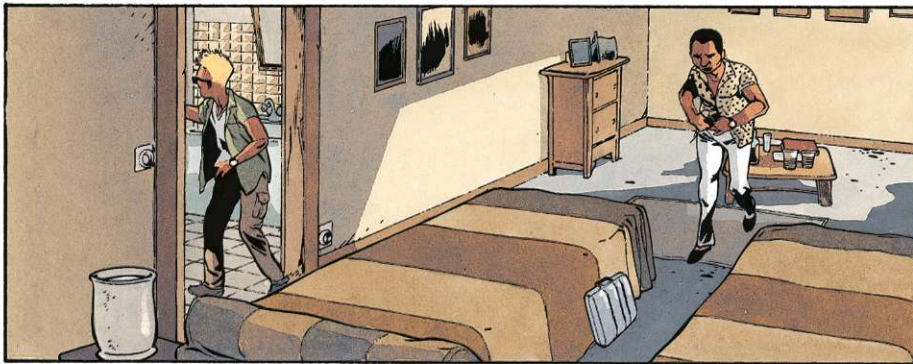


I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ALL THIS MEANS, BUT... IT'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING. THEY ENGINEER A BUNCH OF ELECTORAL FRAUD, BECAUSE APPARENTLY IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT TAKE OFFICE.



SO IMPERATIVE THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO USE THE SERVICES OF THE BRIGHTON BEACH RUSSIAN MOB TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!?

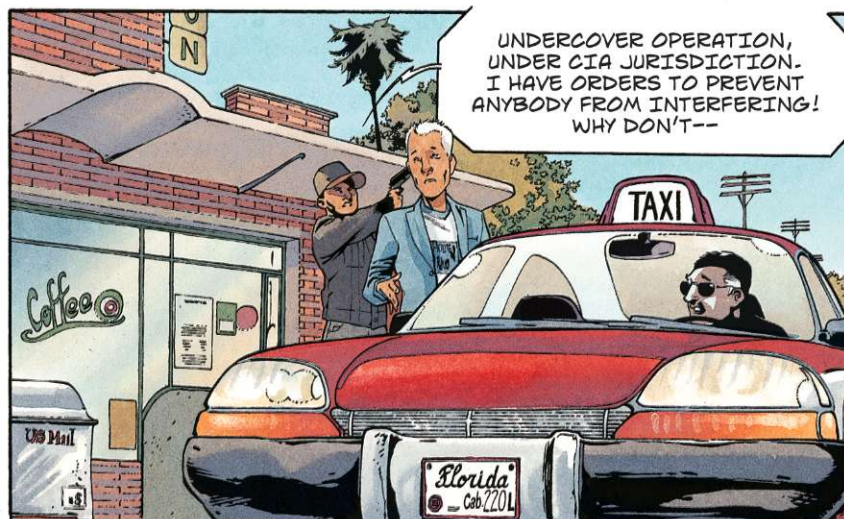
IT'S INTERESTING... BUT IT MAKES NO SENSE!



GREAT! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT BRIGHTON BEACH!



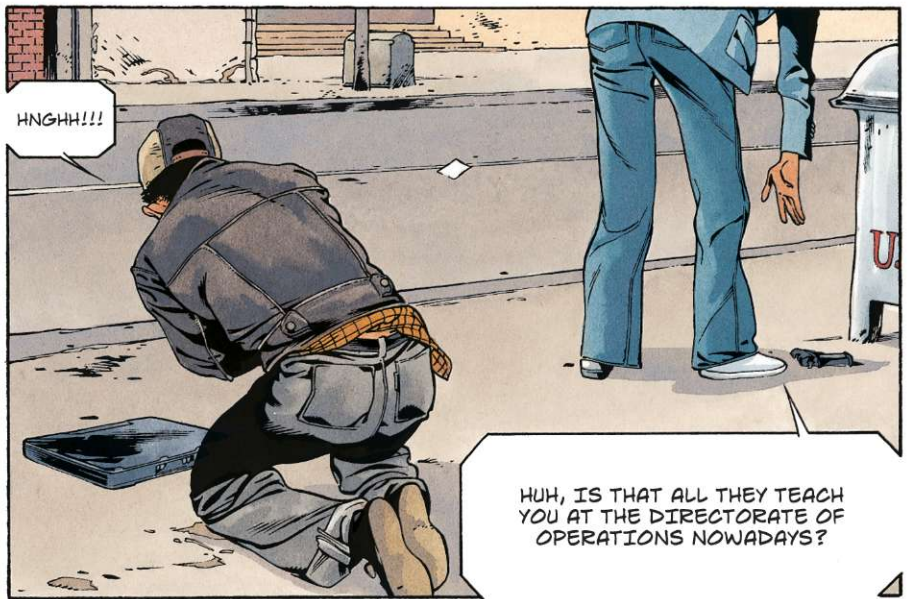
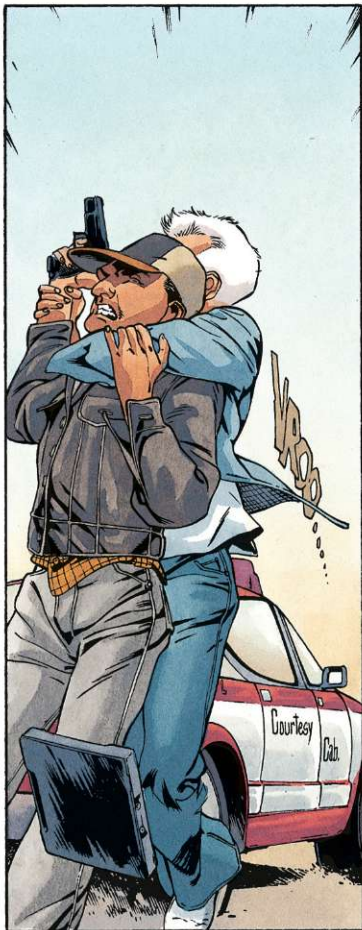
FREEZE! DON'T MOVE!



UNDERCOVER OPERATION, UNDER CIA JURISDICTION. I HAVE ORDERS TO PREVENT ANYBODY FROM INTERFERING! WHY DON'T--



?



SIG-SAUER.  
STANDARD  
ISSUE FOR  
THE FBI... AND  
THE CIA!

HNGHH!!!

HUH, IS THAT ALL THEY TEACH  
YOU AT THE DIRECTORATE OF  
OPERATIONS NOWADAYS?

WE'RE ON AMERICAN SOIL.  
THE CIA HAS NO BUSINESS  
INTERFERING HERE.

I'M JUST  
FOLLOWING ORDERS.  
DO YOU EVEN REALIZE  
WHAT IT IS YOU'RE  
MEDDLING WITH  
HERE?!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL  
FIND OUT. BUT YOU  
CAN DELIVER THIS  
MESSAGE TO YOUR  
BOSSSES...

...FLOYD  
WHITMAN IS  
BACK!

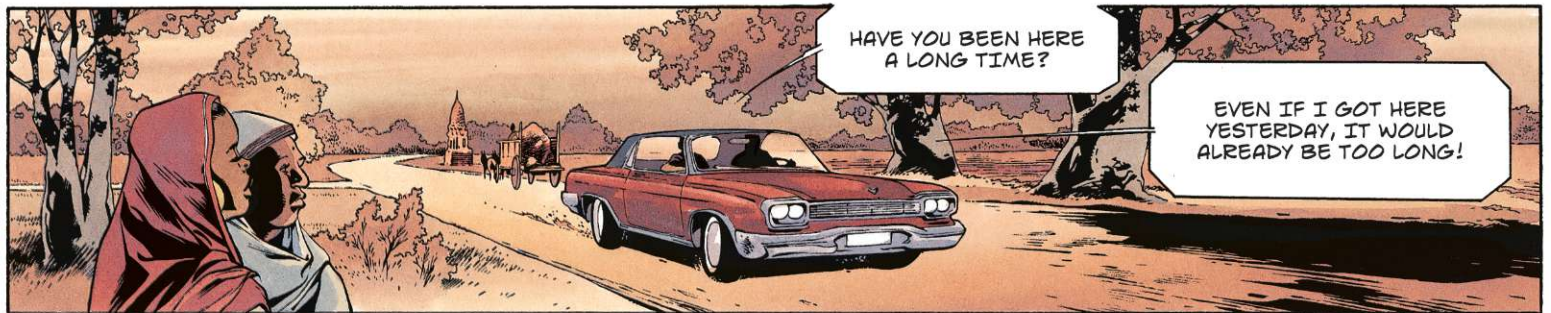


MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT LANDED ME IN NEW DELHI, ONE BEAUTIFUL OCTOBER DAY IN 1965.



EVERYONE CALLS ME BIG BOB RAY. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE PART OF MY TEAM.

AND BY TEAM, I MEAN JUST THE TWO OF US!



HAVE YOU BEEN HERE A LONG TIME?

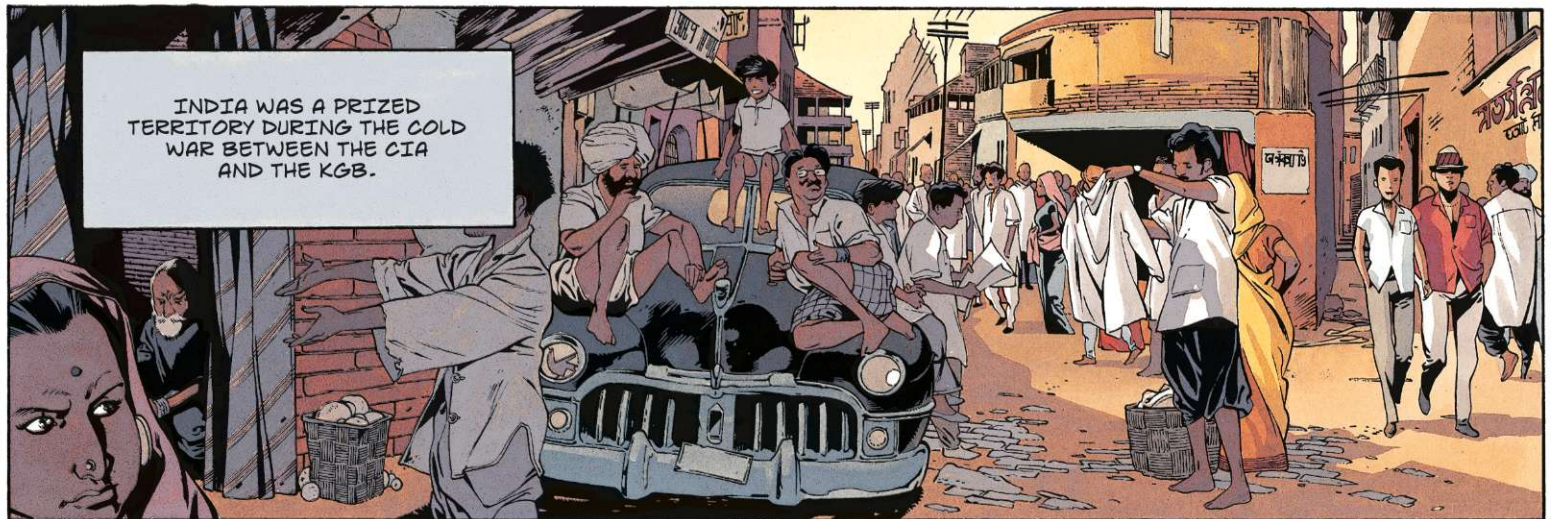
EVEN IF I GOT HERE YESTERDAY, IT WOULD ALREADY BE TOO LONG!



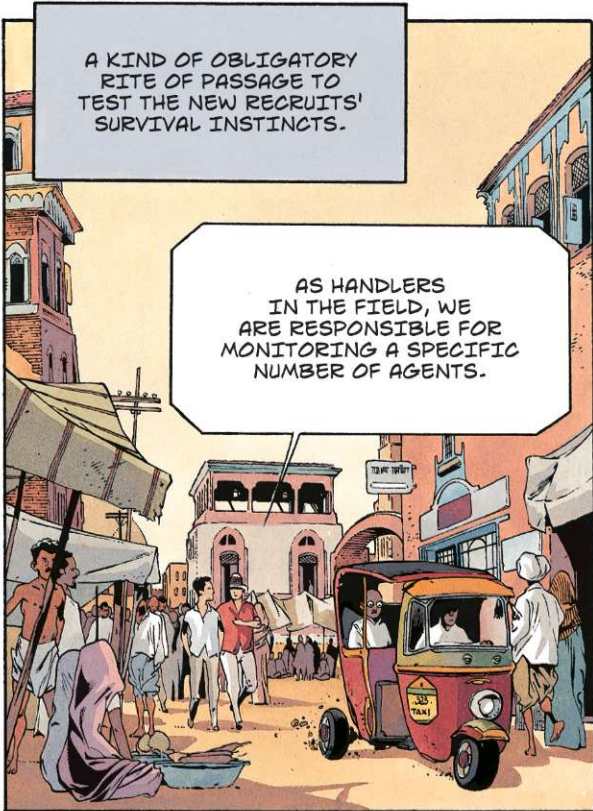
THERE MUST BE SO MANY AMAZING THINGS HERE?

WELL IF YOU LIKE CURRY, MOSQUITOS, THE SMELL OF SWEAT, SWELTERING NIGHTS WITHOUT FANS...

...YOU'LL BE ALL SET.



INDIA WAS A PRIZED TERRITORY DURING THE COLD WAR BETWEEN THE CIA AND THE KGB.



A KIND OF OBLIGATORY RITE OF PASSAGE TO TEST THE NEW RECRUITS' SURVIVAL INSTINCTS.

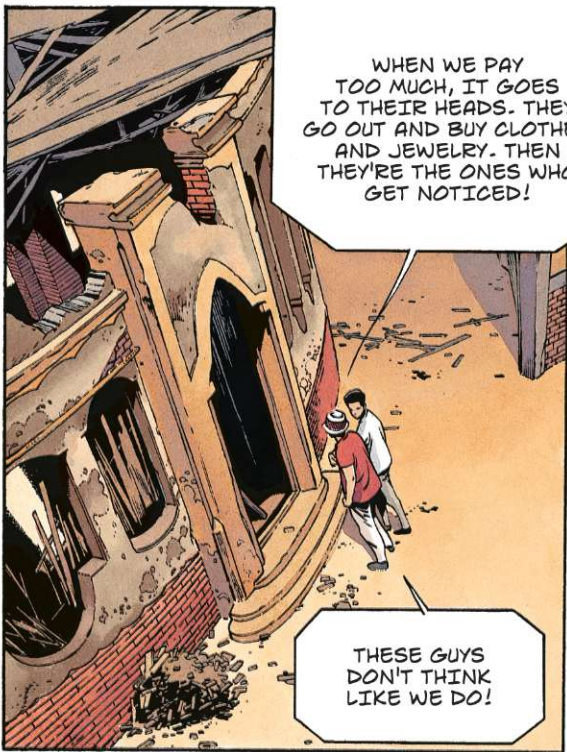
AS HANDLERS IN THE FIELD, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF AGENTS.



THEY'RE LOCAL GUYS. THEY CAN GO TO PLACES THAT WE CAN'T WITHOUT BEING NOTICED. LIKE MINISTRIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS.



OBVIOUSLY, WE PAY THEM FOR THIS. BUT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. WELL, I DO, IN ANY CASE.



WHEN WE PAY TOO MUCH, IT GOES TO THEIR HEADS. THEY GO OUT AND BUY CLOTHES AND JEWELRY. THEN THEY'RE THE ONES WHO GET NOTICED!

THESE GUYS DON'T THINK LIKE WE DO!

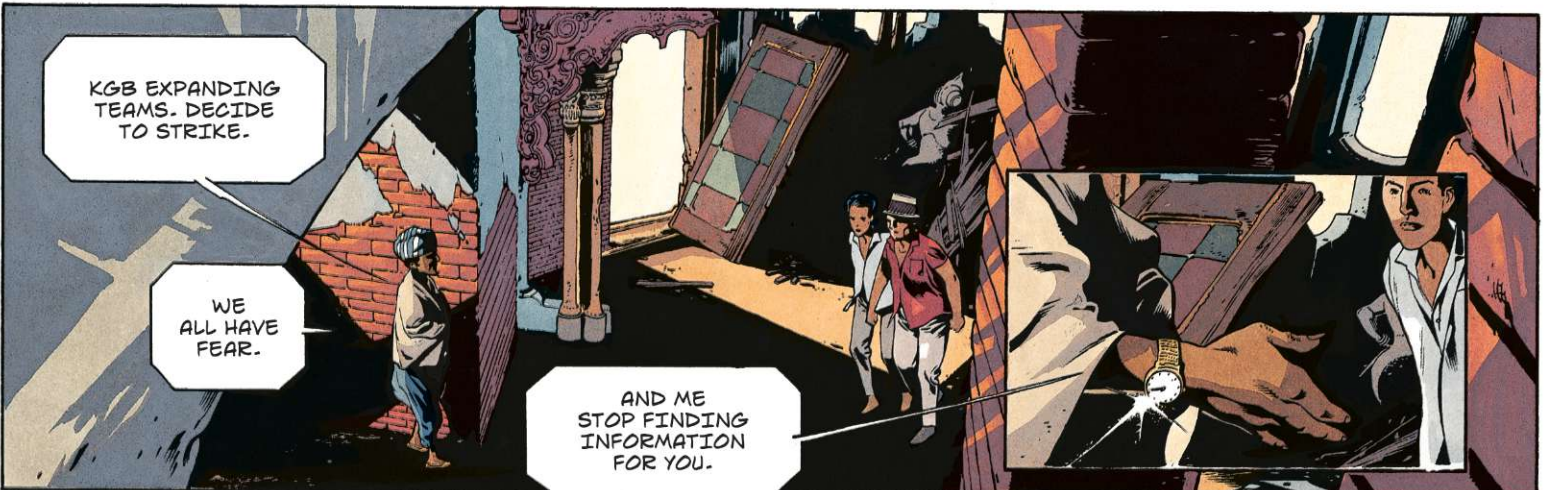


RAJAH?



MISTER RAY?

NEWS NOT GOOD, MISTER RAY. PROBLEMS WITH THE RUSSIANS.



KGB EXPANDING TEAMS. DECIDE TO STRIKE.

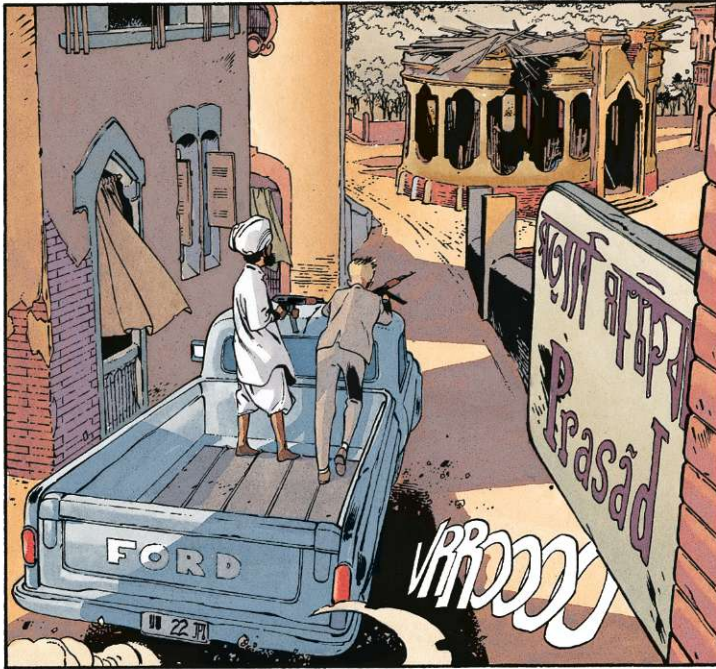
WE ALL HAVE FEAR.

AND ME STOP FINDING INFORMATION FOR YOU.





RAY... ON HIS WRIST... THE WATCH!



PROOO



SONOVA--!? IT'S A TRAP! GET DOWN!



NOW!

TA-TA-TA!



TA-TA-TA!



YOU OK, FLOYD?



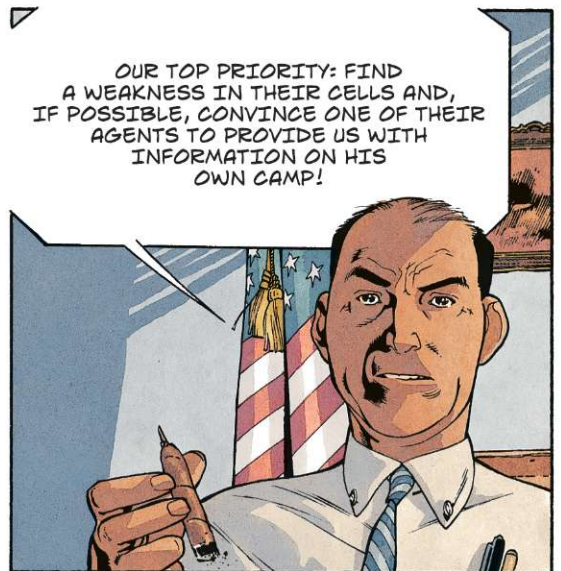
I'M... I'M OK!

THOSE WERE MY FIRST DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH ACTUAL COMMUNISTS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY HATED US, THE DISGUSTING CAPITALISTS.

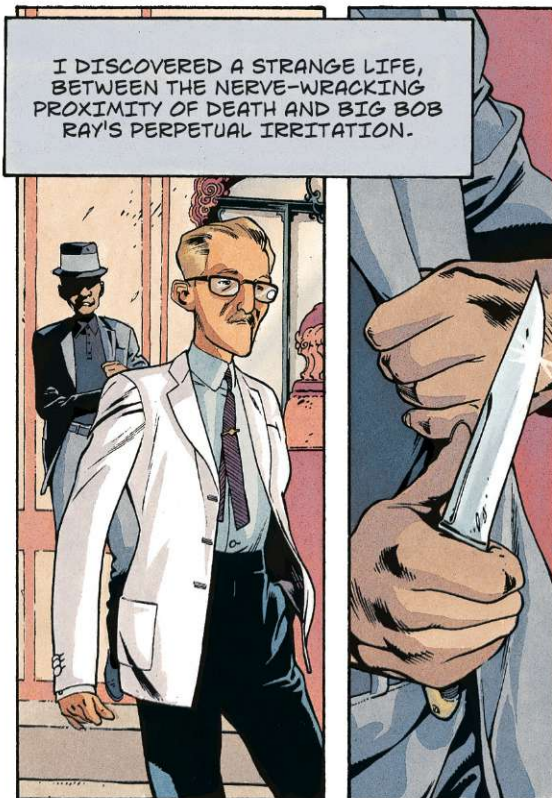


A NEW HEAD OF THE KGB CELL HAS JUST ARRIVED.

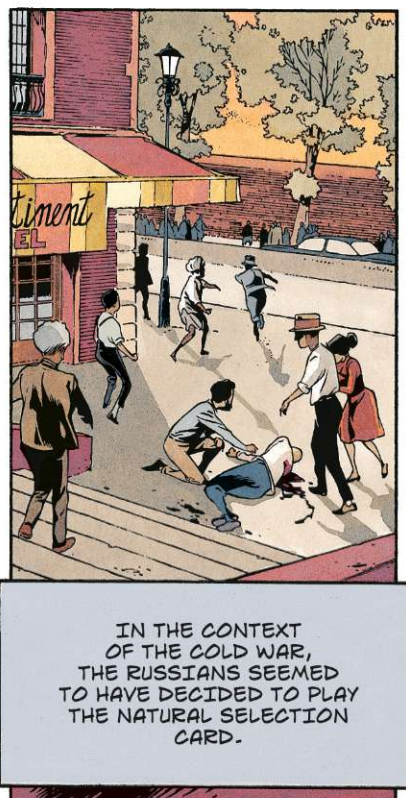
A BULGARIAN WHO WANTS TO SHOW THE KREMLIN WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF. IN ONE WEEK, HE'S ALREADY COST US THREE HANDLERS.



OUR TOP PRIORITY: FIND A WEAKNESS IN THEIR CELLS AND, IF POSSIBLE, CONVINCE ONE OF THEIR AGENTS TO PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION ON HIS OWN CAMP!

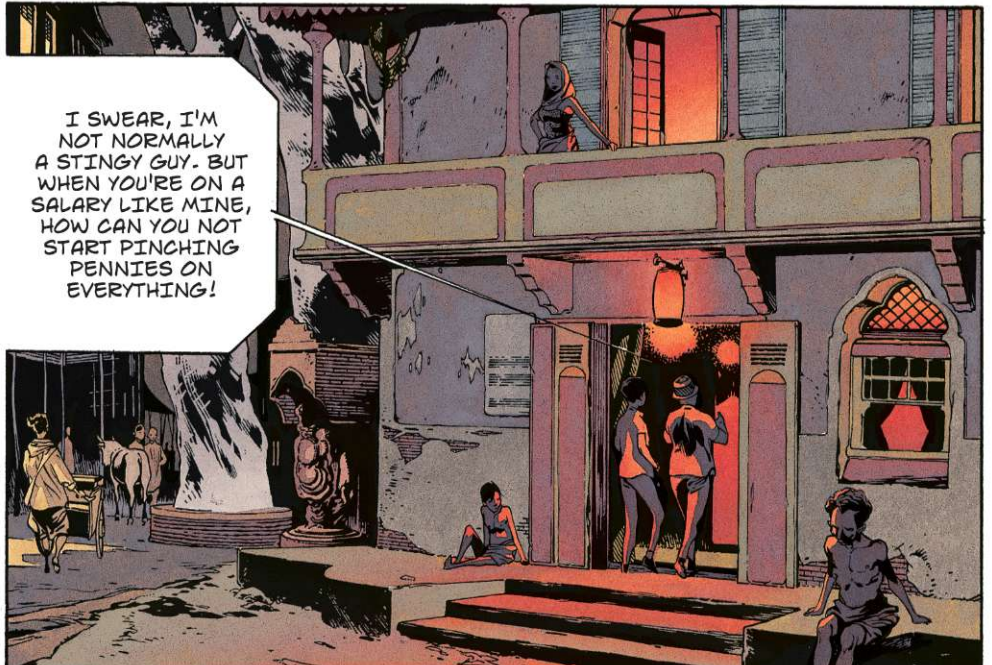


I DISCOVERED A STRANGE LIFE, BETWEEN THE NERVE-WRACKING PROXIMITY OF DEATH AND BIG BOB RAY'S PERPETUAL IRRITATION.



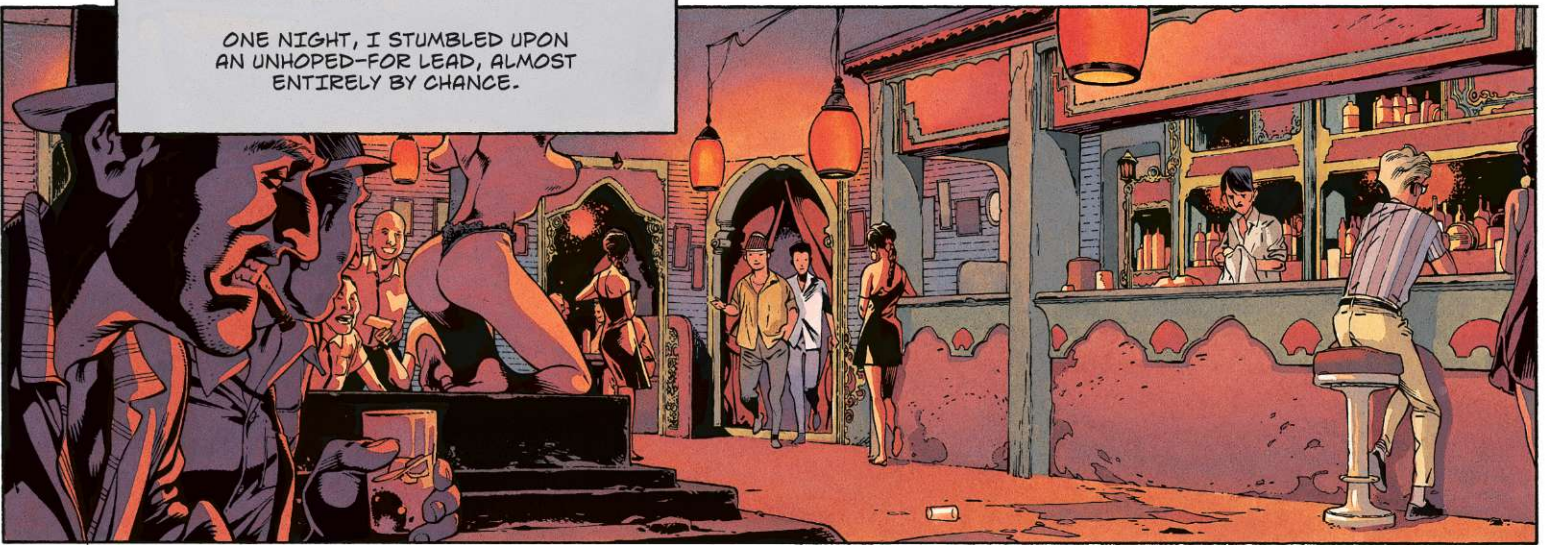
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COLD WAR, THE RUSSIANS SEEMED TO HAVE DECIDED TO PLAY THE NATURAL SELECTION CARD.

AND WITH EACH ATTACK, RAY INCREASINGLY BELIEVED THAT HE WAS BEING POORLY COMPENSATED FOR THE RISKS HE WAS TAKING.

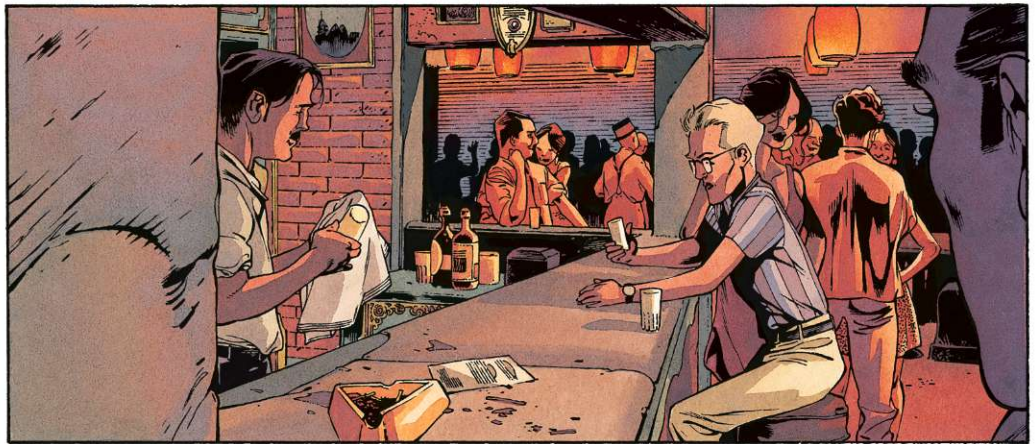
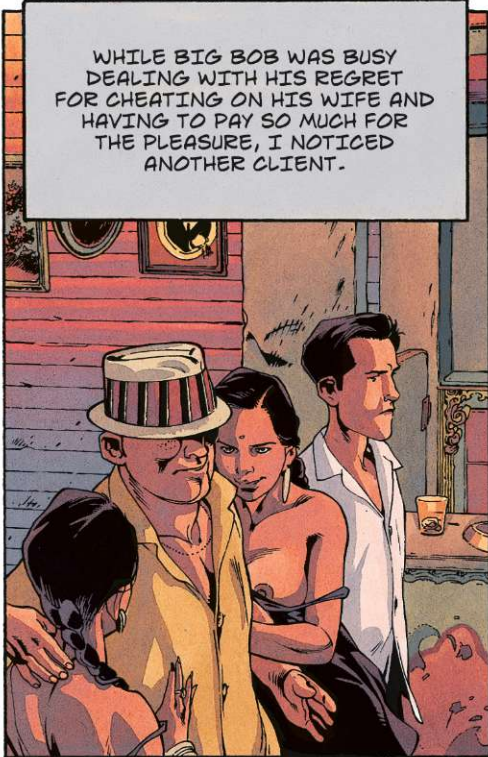


I SWEAR, I'M NOT NORMALLY A STINGY GUY. BUT WHEN YOU'RE ON A SALARY LIKE MINE, HOW CAN YOU NOT START PINCHING PENNIES ON EVERYTHING!

ONE NIGHT, I STUMBLED UPON AN UNHOPED-FOR LEAD, ALMOST ENTIRELY BY CHANCE.



WHILE BIG BOB WAS BUSY DEALING WITH HIS REGRET FOR CHEATING ON HIS WIFE AND HAVING TO PAY SO MUCH FOR THE PLEASURE, I NOTICED ANOTHER CLIENT.

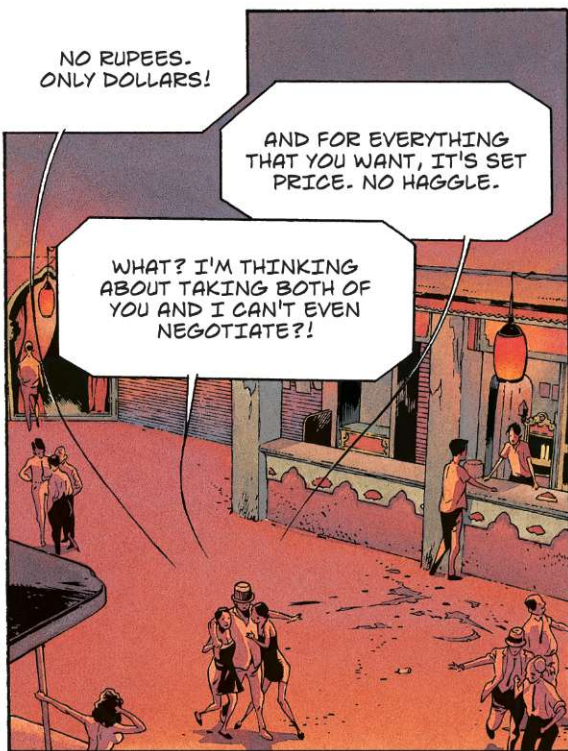


I'VE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE, IN THE FILES FROM THE EMBASSY.

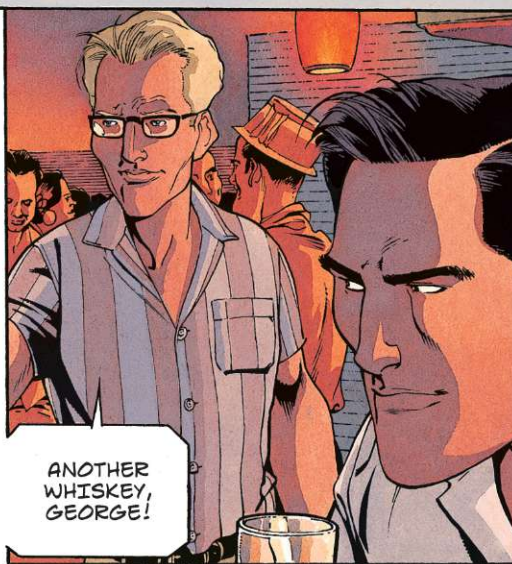
NO RUPEES. ONLY DOLLARS!

AND FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU WANT, IT'S SET PRICE. NO HAGGLE.

WHAT? I'M THINKING ABOUT TAKING BOTH OF YOU AND I CAN'T EVEN NEGOTIATE?!

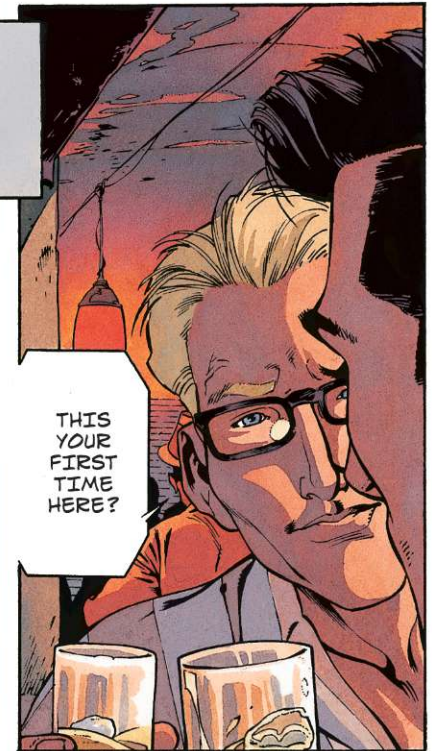


THIS GUY WAS SUPPOSEDLY WORKING FOR THE OFFICE OF SOCIALIST COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. BUT OF COURSE THE KGB WAS HIS REAL BOSS.



ANOTHER WHISKEY, GEORGE!

THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?





EVEN IF IT WERE,  
IT WOULD ALREADY  
BE TOO MANY.



VLADEN  
NECHKOV.  
I WORK IN  
IMPORTS-  
EXPORTS.



FLOYD WHITMAN.  
WHAT DO YOU  
IMPORT-EXPORT?

ANYTHING THAT CAN BRING  
IN MONEY, I SUPPOSE.



ARE YOU RUSSIAN?  
IT CAN'T BE EASY FOR YOU  
TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH  
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

IN ENGLISH, YOU SAY:  
A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT  
A MAN'S GOTTA DO.



BUT AS FOR ME, I THINK THAT A  
MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT OTHERS WON'T  
NECESSARILY DARE TO DO!



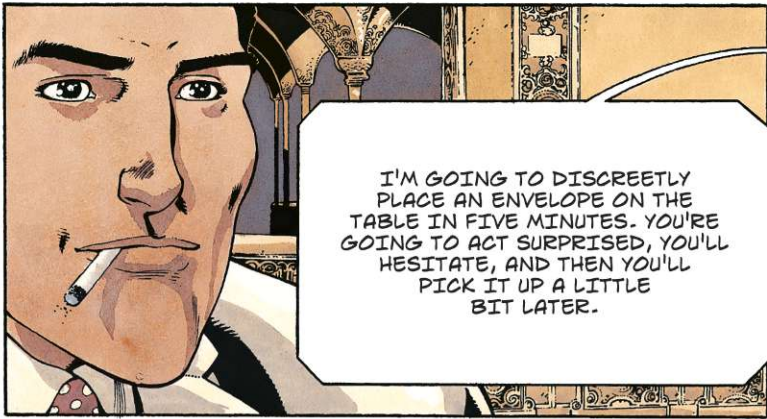
THE INTELLIGENCE ON NECHKOV  
CREATED AN INTRIGUING PORTRAIT.



NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE.  
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT,  
THE KGB, IMPORTS-EXPORTS, AND  
ONE OR ANOTHER TRAFFICKING  
GROUP IN THE USSR.



BACK THEN, MY ONLY  
GOAL WAS TO CONVINCE  
NECHKOV TO SUPPLY ME WITH  
INTELLIGENCE ON THE KGB'S  
OPERATIONS WITHIN INDIA.  
IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN...



I'M GOING TO DISCREETLY PLACE AN ENVELOPE ON THE TABLE IN FIVE MINUTES. YOU'RE GOING TO ACT SURPRISED, YOU'LL HESITATE, AND THEN YOU'LL PICK IT UP A LITTLE BIT LATER.



THE KGB LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN BECAUSE THEY THINK THAT I CAN BUY YOU. ONE OF OUR MEN IS WATCHING YOU. HE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU'VE TAKEN THE MONEY.

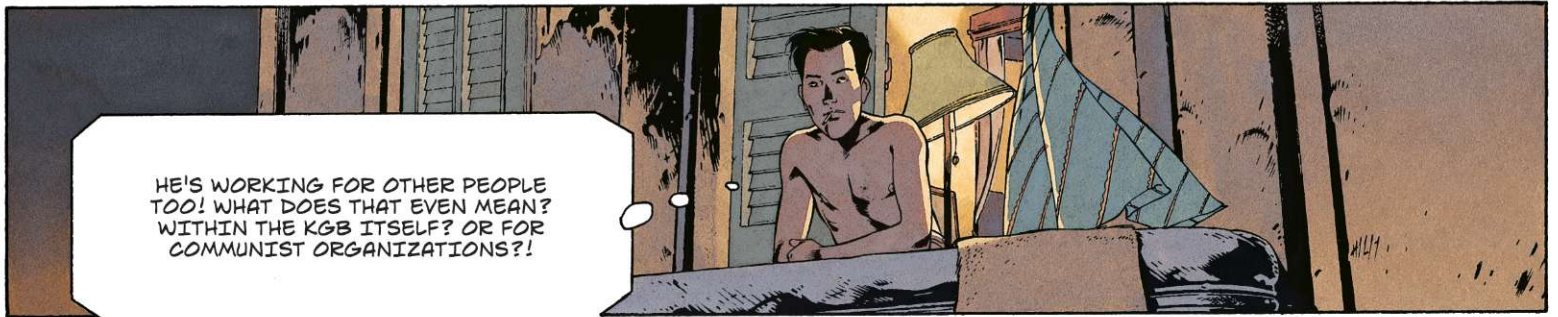


I'M GUESSING I GIVE YOU BACK THE MONEY AFTER?

THAT'S RIGHT, WHEN YOU LEAVE. I WORK FOR THE KGB, BUT ALSO FOR OTHER PEOPLE, FLOYD. PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARED TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU.



DO YOU FEEL LIKE DOING BUSINESS, FLOYD?

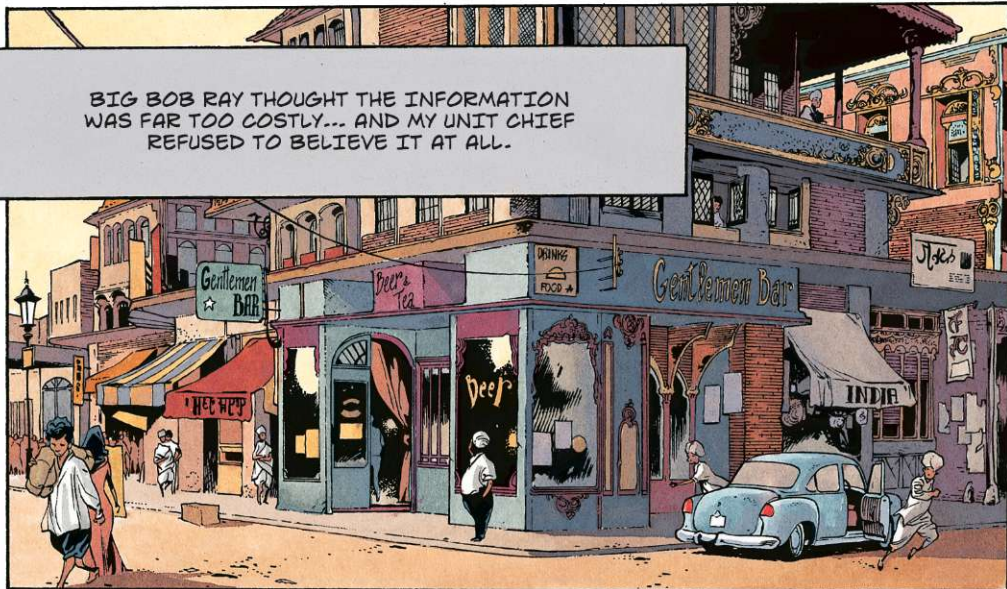


HE'S WORKING FOR OTHER PEOPLE TOO! WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? WITHIN THE KGB ITSELF? OR FOR COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS?!



NECHKOV SUPPLIED ME WITH SOME INTELLIGENCE ON OPERATIONS ORDERED BY THE BULGARIAN, WHO HAD DECIDED TO PLAY HARBALL AGAIN.

BIG BOB RAY THOUGHT THE INFORMATION WAS FAR TOO COSTLY... AND MY UNIT CHIEF REFUSED TO BELIEVE IT AT ALL.





UNTIL NECHKOV OFFERED ME SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY!



COME WITH ME, AMERICAN BOY?



YOU HAVE A MESSAGE... UP THERE, ON THE ROOF.



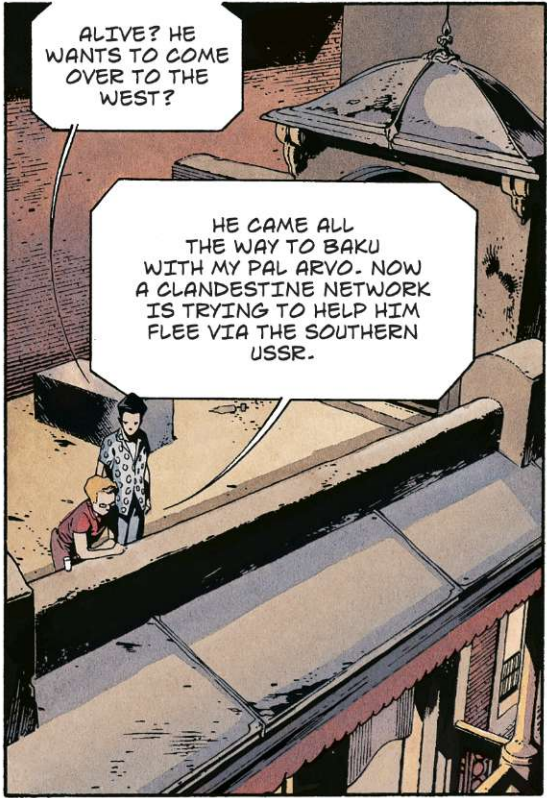
THANKS, MAYA...

PRETEND TO HAVE SOME FUN IN YOUR ROOM. THIS WON'T TAKE US LONGER THAN TEN MINUTES!



A RUSSIAN SCIENTIST. VERY SMART. NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?



ALIVE? HE WANTS TO COME OVER TO THE WEST?

HE CAME ALL THE WAY TO BAKU WITH MY PAL ARVO. NOW A CLANDESTINE NETWORK IS TRYING TO HELP HIM FLEE VIA THE SOUTHERN USSR.

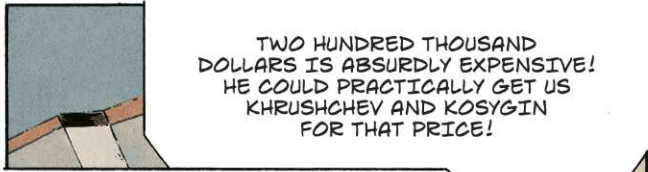


I NEED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

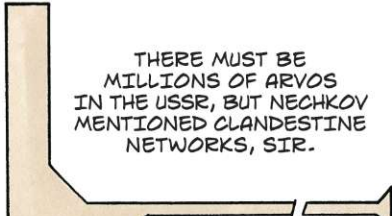


SOMETHING ABOUT THE LOOK ON NECHKOV'S FACE CONVINCED ME THAT I SHOULDN'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS.

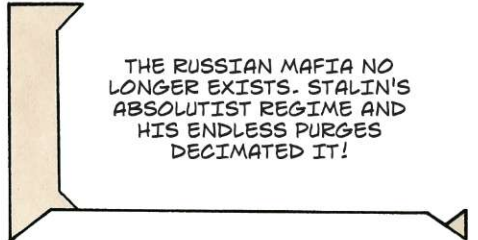
WITHOUT A DOUBT THE FEELING THAT THIS COULD BE THE BREAK WE'D BOTH BEEN WAITING FOR!



TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IS ABSURDLY EXPENSIVE! HE COULD PRACTICALLY GET US KHRUSHCHEV AND KOSYGIN FOR THAT PRICE!



THERE MUST BE MILLIONS OF ARVOS IN THE USSR, BUT NECHKOV MENTIONED CLANDESTINE NETWORKS, SIR.



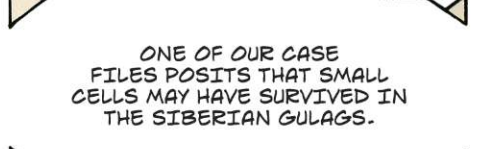
THE RUSSIAN MAFIA NO LONGER EXISTS. STALIN'S ABSOLUTIST REGIME AND HIS ENDLESS PURGES DECIMATED IT!



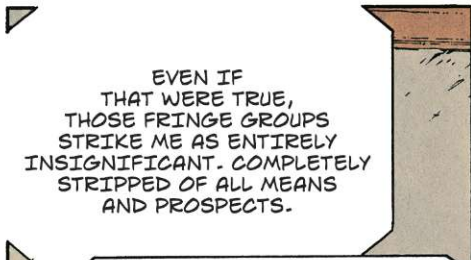
NECHKOV HAS CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE THE KGB, I'M SURE OF IT. I FOUND A TRACE OF AN ARVO IN THE ARCHIVES, ARVO TRETCHOUK.



ARVO TRETCHOUK IS LISTED AS A POSSIBLE MEMBER OF THE RUSSIAN MAFIA!



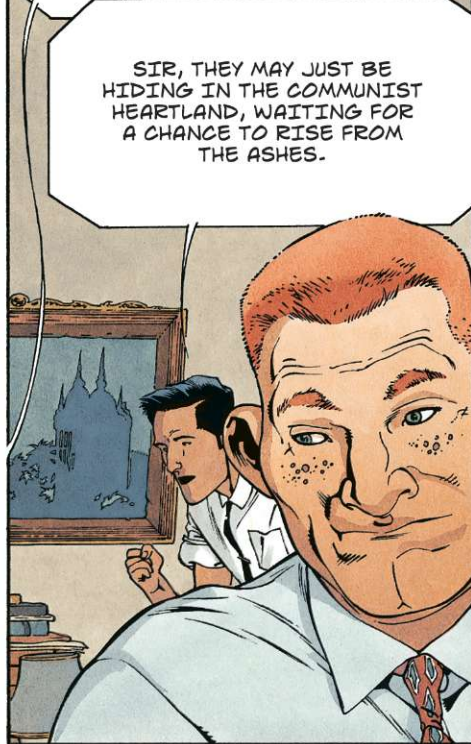
ONE OF OUR CASE FILES POSITS THAT SMALL CELLS MAY HAVE SURVIVED IN THE SIBERIAN GULAGS.



EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, THOSE FRINGE GROUPS STRIKE ME AS ENTIRELY INSIGNIFICANT. COMPLETELY STRIPPED OF ALL MEANS AND PROSPECTS.



YOU WANT TO GO FOR IT, HUH? IF BY SOME MIRACLE YOU BRING THE SCIENTIST BACK...

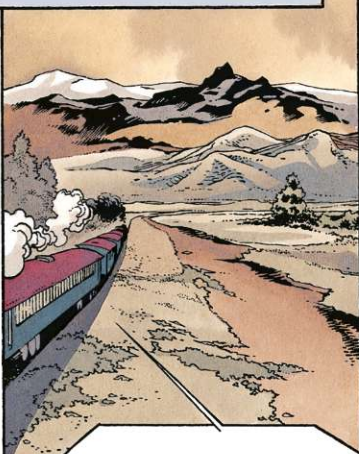


SIR, THEY MAY JUST BE HIDING IN THE COMMUNIST HEARTLAND, WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO RISE FROM THE ASHES.



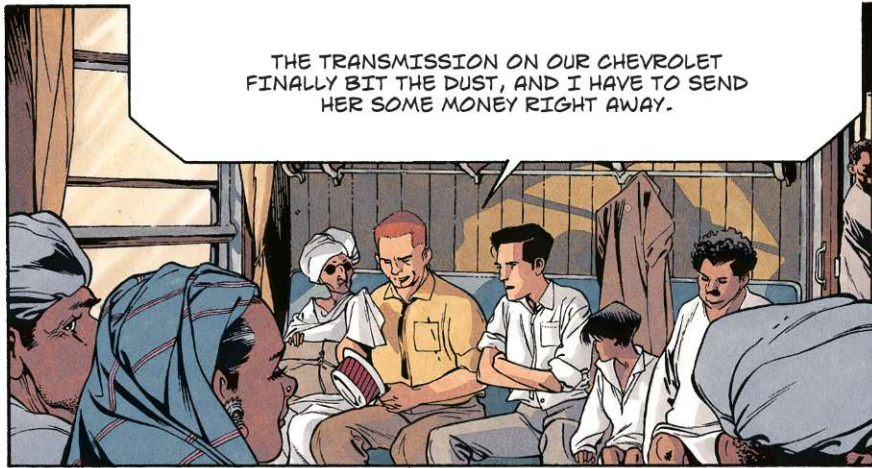
...I'LL THINK ABOUT UNBLOCKING THE DOLLARS!

AT THE LAST MINUTE, NECHKOV HAD DECIDED TO HEAD OUT WITH US TOWARD KASHMIR AND TAJIKISTAN.



I WAS FORCED TO BUY ECONOMY-CLASS TICKETS. MY WIFE SENT ME A LETTER LAST WEEK.

THE TRANSMISSION ON OUR CHEVROLET FINALLY BIT THE DUST, AND I HAVE TO SEND HER SOME MONEY RIGHT AWAY.



BIG BOB RAY WAS DRIVING HIMSELF CRAZY TRYING TO SNIFF OUT A TRAP, AND GREW MORE AND MORE ANXIOUS THE NEARER WE GOT TO THE RUSSIAN BORDER.



WHAT IF YOUR NECHKOV'S BOSS TOLD HIM: COME BACK WITH THOSE TWO CIA IDIOTS AND I'LL UNBLOCK THE RUBLES?



I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS GUY. MAYBE HE'S PLANNING ON ASKING FOR A RANSOM FOR US.

STOP WORRYING. WE HAVE THE MONEY FOR YOUR TRANSMISSION.



THE MEETING WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN SOME BACKWATER, IN MOUNTAINS BURIED BY SNOW AND OBLIVION.







I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A GODDAMN TRAP! AS IF BY CHANCE, WE BREAK DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, AT THE MERCY OF ANYBODY!

THIS IS A TRAP! I KNOW TRUCKS, AND THIS ONE WAS THE BEST VALUE FOR MONEY.

THE BORDER IS FURTHER DOWN, LESS THAN AN HOUR'S WALK. I'LL FIND US ANOTHER VEHICLE AND WILL MEET YOU IN TOWN LATER.



IF NECHKOV HAD WANTED TO BETRAY US, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER IN DELHI!



RAY, THINK! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RENTED THIS TRUCK!

JESUS, RAY! WE COULD HAVE SPENT AS MUCH AS WE WANTED!



YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU ARE GETTING ON MY DAMN NERVES, WITH YOUR PRETTY-BOY FACE AND SUPREME SELF-CONFIDENCE!

I HAVE NEVER TAKEN SO MANY RISKS!



I LEAVE MY WIFE ALONE BACK HOME, I HAVE BILLS FOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES WAITING TO BE PAID OFF, AND SOMETIMES I DON'T SEND IN MY TAX RETURNS ON TIME, BUT I HAVE NEVER TAKEN SO MANY RISKS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE BEFORE!





IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOLDIERS LIKE THOSE WHO KILLED MY FATHER.



THE WAR WAS OVER. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO ALL FALL INTO ONE ANOTHER'S ARMS.



THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF HOUSES. ANY ONE OF THEM COULD BE THE SPOT FOR OUR RENDEZ-VOUS!



IN WASHINGTON, A COUPLE OF GENERALS HAD UNDERSTOOD WE STILL HAD ENEMIES THAT WERE FAR MORE DANGEROUS.



THEY WANTED TO PRESS ON, CROSS THE BORDER AND GO STRAIGHT FOR MOSCOW.

FLOYD, YOU LEAVE THAT BORDER WHERE IT IS! WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP THIS DAMN SCIENTIST AND GET OUT OF HERE ASAP. GOT IT?



PSSSSST!

?



WH... WHAT DO WE DO? WE DON'T SPEAK RUSSIAN OR ANY LOCAL DIALECT.



HOURS! MANY HOURS WE WAIT! WHERE IS TRUCK?



SOVIET SOLDIERS ON ALERT. THEY MAYBE KNOW. SEARCHING ACROSS TOWN!

OUT OF TIME. YOU COME NOW!



SCIENTIST LEAVE WITH YOU, RIGHT AWAY.

GIRL TOO.

ARE YOU CRAZY? NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL.

THE SNOW IS COMING DOWN EVEN HARDER. WE'LL HAVE NO CHANCE WITH HER!

MAMA TEACHING SOME ENGLISH WORDS TO ME... FOR VOYAGE. SHELTER IN WEST. TAKE LOVNA, MISTER. I BEG OF YOU!

LISTEN, WE RAN INTO A PROBLEM... A TECHNICAL ONE, WITH THE TRUCK. WE NEED TO GO PART OF THE WAY ON FOOT AND MEET UP WITH NECHKOV.

SHE'S MY SECRETARY'S DAUGHTER. I ONLY SAID I WOULD TRY. DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, BUT WE'RE LEAVING NOW.



DO NOT LOSE THE ROAD. GO STRAIGHT AND ALWAYS STAY ON ROAD!



YOU FREEDOM, MISTER. YOU WEST!



THEY ASSURED ME THAT THE CIA WOULD SEND ITS BEST MEN AND THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE ARRANGED DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL!

THIS DAMN COUNTRY! EVEN IN THE MIDWEST THERE ARE TRUCKS TO CLEAR THE ROADS!



A SNOWPLOW, THAT HAS TO BE GOOD, RIGHT?

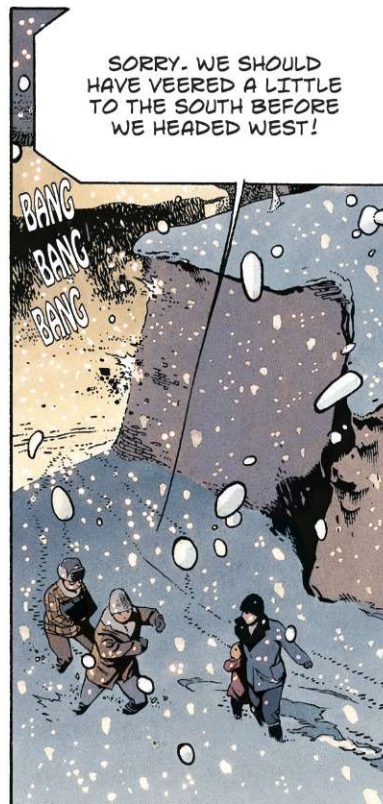


RAY...

SON OF A...! YOU'RE WALKING TO THE BORDER! RIGHT AT THEM!



HALT! DON'T MOVE! THAT'S AN ORDER!



SORRY. WE SHOULD HAVE VEERED A LITTLE TO THE SOUTH BEFORE WE HEADED WEST!

BANG  
BANG  
BANG



BANG  
BANG  
BANG  
BANG



HOLD ON, WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT, LITTLE LOVNA. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT!

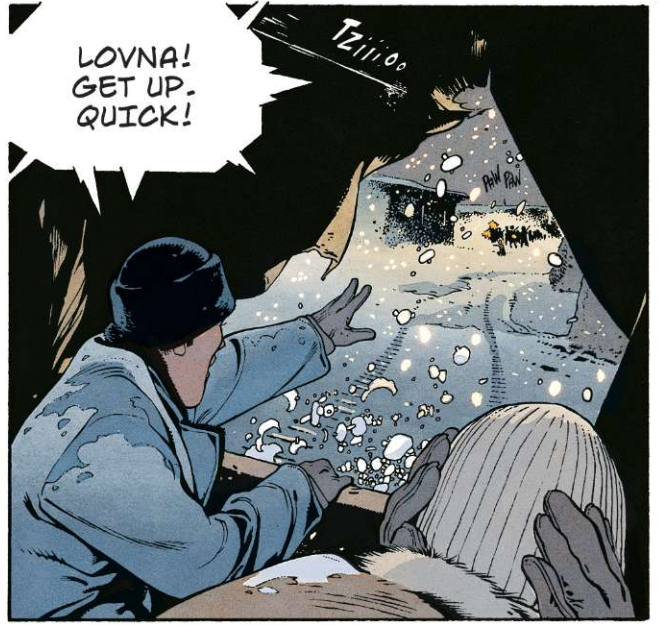
BANG  
BANG  
BANG



YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN, WITH YOUR PRETTY FACE AND YOUR DUMB SELF-CONFIDENCE?

IF I EVER GET A HOLD OF THAT SON OF A BITCH NECHKOV...







IT ALL DISAPPEARED QUICKLY IN THE SNOW. THE BORDER, THE SOLDIERS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE MISSION. AND WE ACCOMPLISHED IT.



WILL THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BE SATISFIED WITH OUR LITTLE MISSION?

WELL? HAPPY?



SO, TRUST ME NOW?

I THINK THAT WE ARE FINALLY READY TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU.



VLADEN, IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP WITH THE TRUCK, WE WOULDN'T HAVE STOOD A CHANCE.

I SAVED YOUR LIFE, I'M YOUR FRIEND, FLOYD.



GIVE ME TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS...

...AND YOU WILL BE MINE.



NOW THIS IS A GOOD PARTY. THAT RUSSIAN DOESN'T GET HOW MUCH THIS WILL COST HIM, BUT IT'S A VERY GOOD PARTY!



HAVE YOU SEEN CASABLANCA, FLOYD? IT WAS MY FIRST AMERICAN FILM, IN AN UNDERGROUND THEATER IN MOSCOW. DO YOU REMEMBER THE END?

"I THINK THIS IS THE BEGINNING..."

"...OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP!"



NEW YORK, 2003.

YOU USED TO BE KNOWN AS THE MOST WELL-INFORMED JOURNALIST AT THE NEW YORK TIMES. HAVE THINGS REALLY CHANGED?

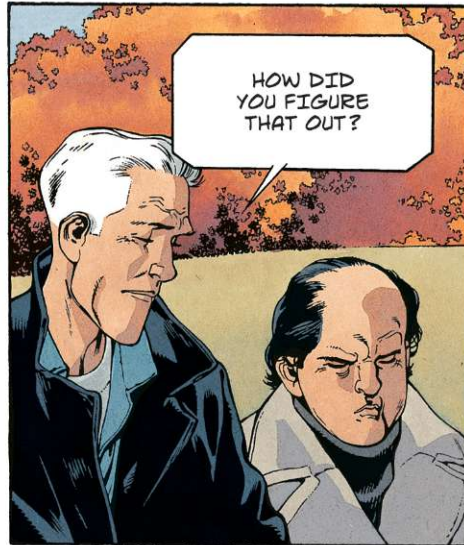




LISTEN, FLOYD. AT THE TIMES, WE HAD TWO GUYS WHO WORKED FOR MONTHS ON THE RUSSIAN MAFIA.



WE KNOW THEY DIDN'T DO A GOOD JOB.



HOW DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT?



SIMPLE. THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.



WELL, I DISCOVERED THAT THE RUSSIAN MAFIA VERY ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE ELECTION OF A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT.



WHY DECIDE TO SUDDENLY BECOME INVOLVED WITH AMERICAN POLITICS?

ISAACS, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE BRIGHTON BEACH BRANCH NOWADAYS? WHO'S THE BOSS?



WE DON'T KNOW MUCH. NAME'S ILLITCH. NO DOUBT AN ALIAS. SCARY AS HELL. HE HAS CONTROL OVER EVERYONE.

BUT NOT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT!



STAY AWAY FROM BRIGHTON BEACH, FLOYD. LEAVE THEM TO THEIR DIRTY REAL ESTATE DEALS AND THEIR TAX FRAUD. THE BASTARDS WILL CRASH AND BURN ALL ON THEIR OWN!



FLOYD...

I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU STILL LOOKING SO GOOD. VERY HAPPY! DO YOU REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS?



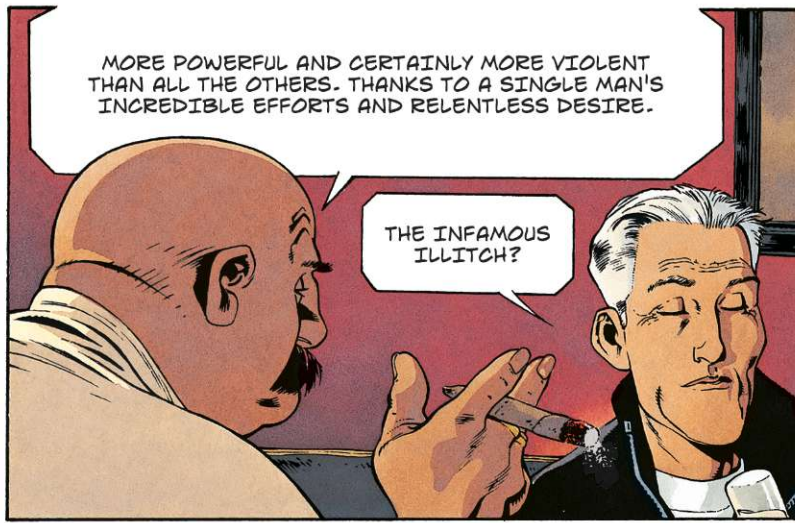
YOUR RESTAURANT IS THE BEST IN NEW YORK CITY.

THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY EATS HERE. IF ANYBODY KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE MAFIA, IT'S ALWAYS GONNA BE YOU, ALWA.



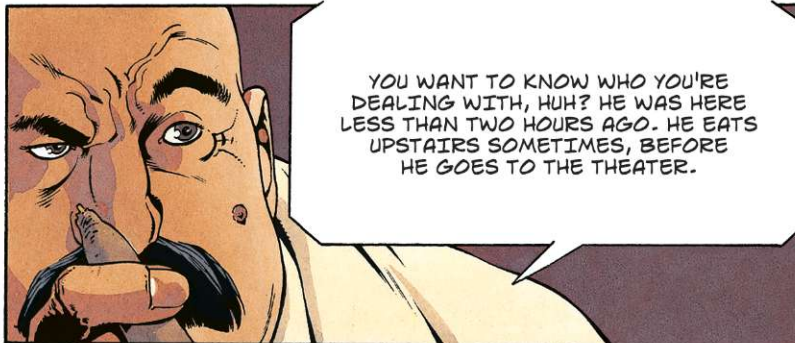
YOU REALLY WANT THE TRUTH, FLOYD?

THE RUSSIAN MAFIA IS NOW THE BIGGEST CRIMINAL GROUP IN THE U.S.!



MORE POWERFUL AND CERTAINLY MORE VIOLENT THAN ALL THE OTHERS. THANKS TO A SINGLE MAN'S INCREDIBLE EFFORTS AND RELENTLESS DESIRE.

THE INFAMOUS ILLITCH?

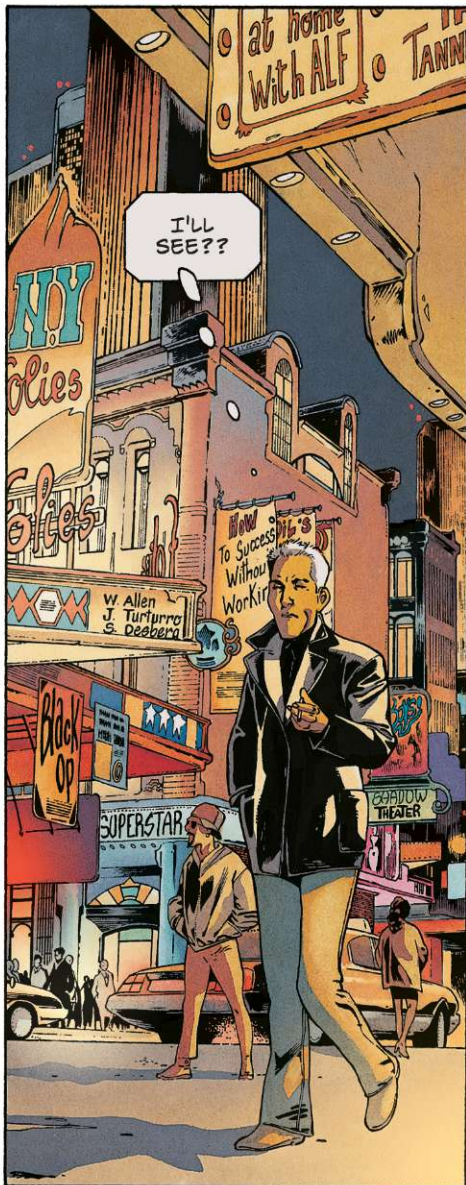


YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH, HUH? HE WAS HERE LESS THAN TWO HOURS AGO. HE EATS UPSTAIRS SOMETIMES, BEFORE HE GOES TO THE THEATER.



HEAD DOWN TO BROADWAY TO WHERE THE SHOWS LET OUT. THERE'LL BE A BLACK LIMO. YOU'LL SEE.

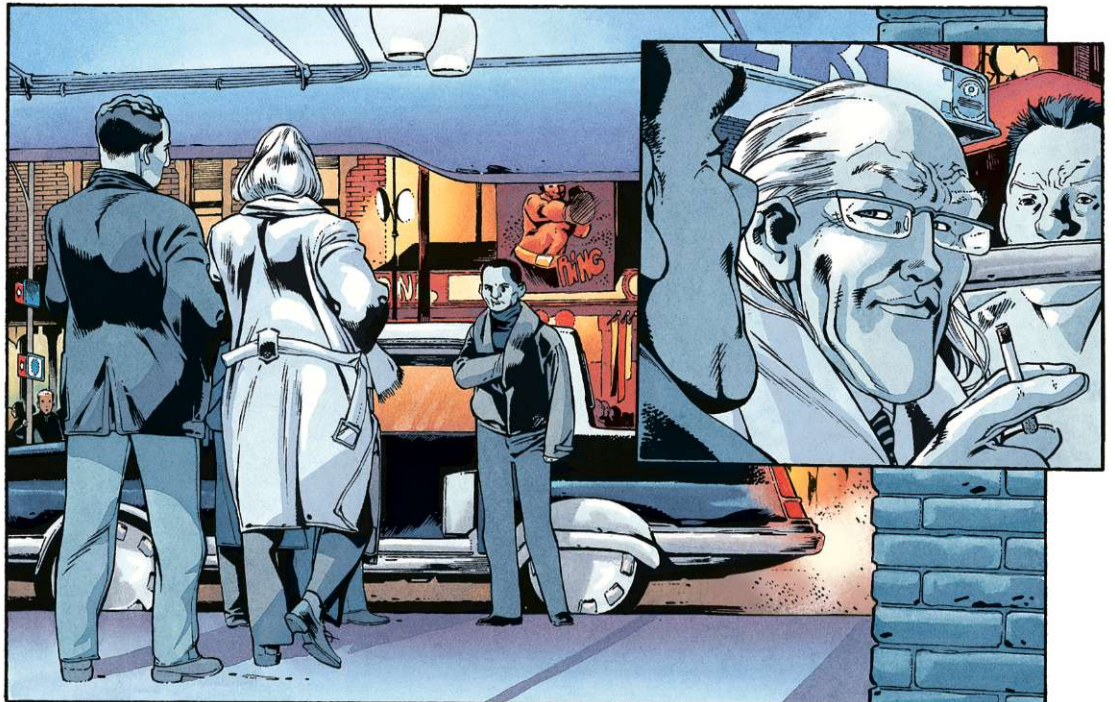
AND THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE FOR GOOD!



I'LL SEE??



NEW YORK CITY  
T11th ONE



END OF EPISODE 1

LABIANO-DESBERG

COLORIST: J.J. CHAGNAUD

OCTOBER 2004



# BLACK Op

JACKSONVILLE, ARIZONA



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS



MIAMI, FLORIDA



CHECHAKTIAR, AFGHANISTAN



NEW DELHI, INDIA



**BLACK OP** At the core of the American paradox – a rigid and puritanical sense of morality versus the complete lack of scruples when it comes to defending national supremacy – two childhood friends embark on a perilous CIA mission as the Cold War rages: revive the Russian mafia to better fight communism from within. The United States has always excelled at creating its own worst enemies.

