

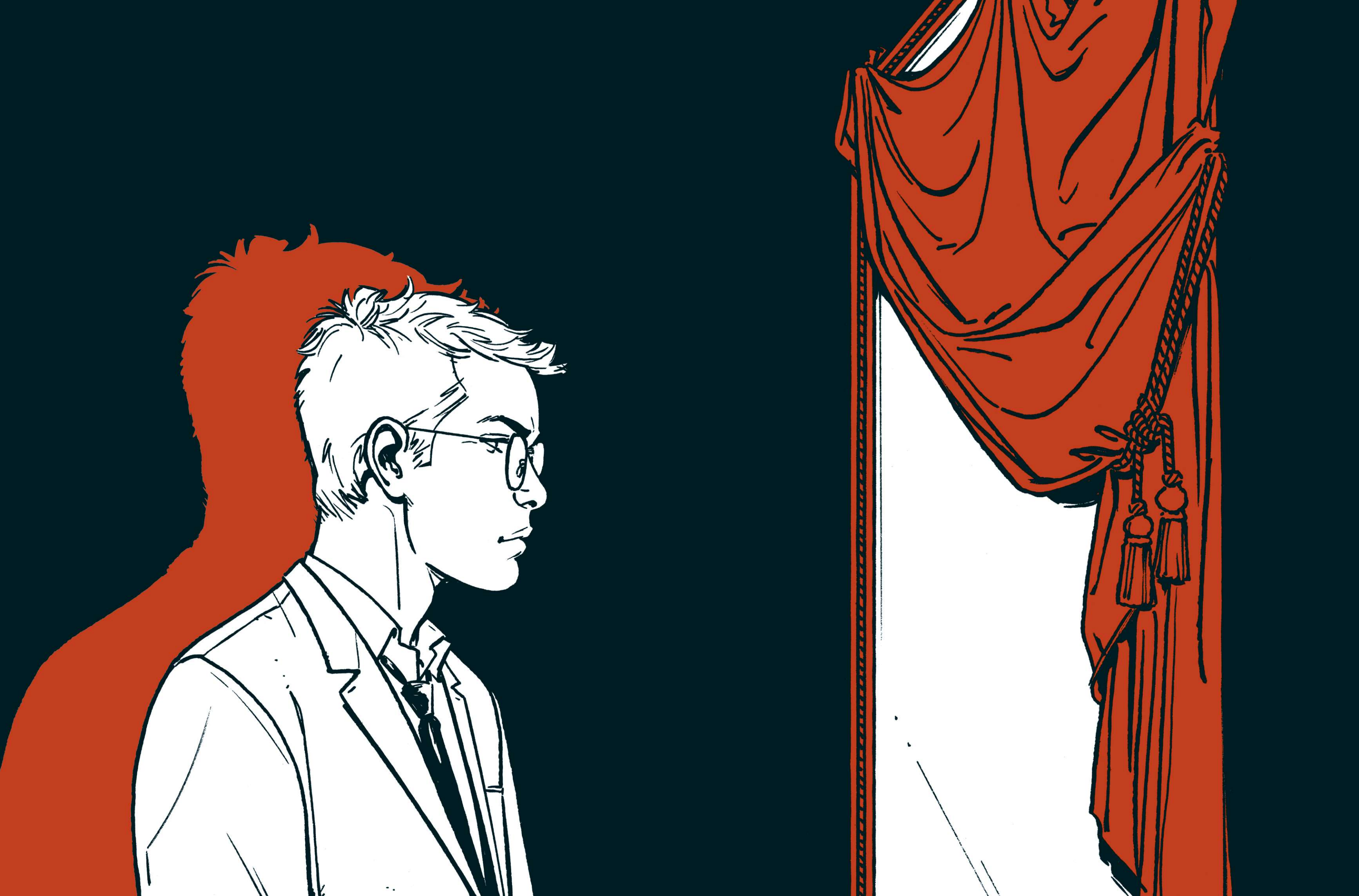
BOISSERIE | GUILLAUME | JUSZEZAK

# DANTES

1. The Fall of a Trader



Europe  
COMICS





BOISSERIE | GUILLAUME | JUSZEZAK

# DANTES

## 1. The Fall of a Trader

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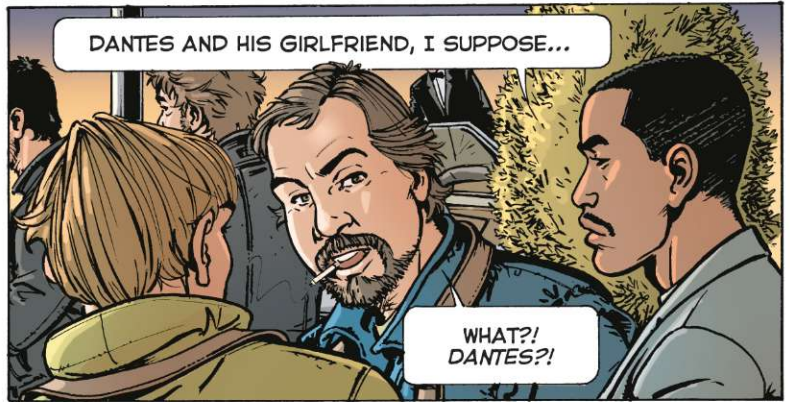
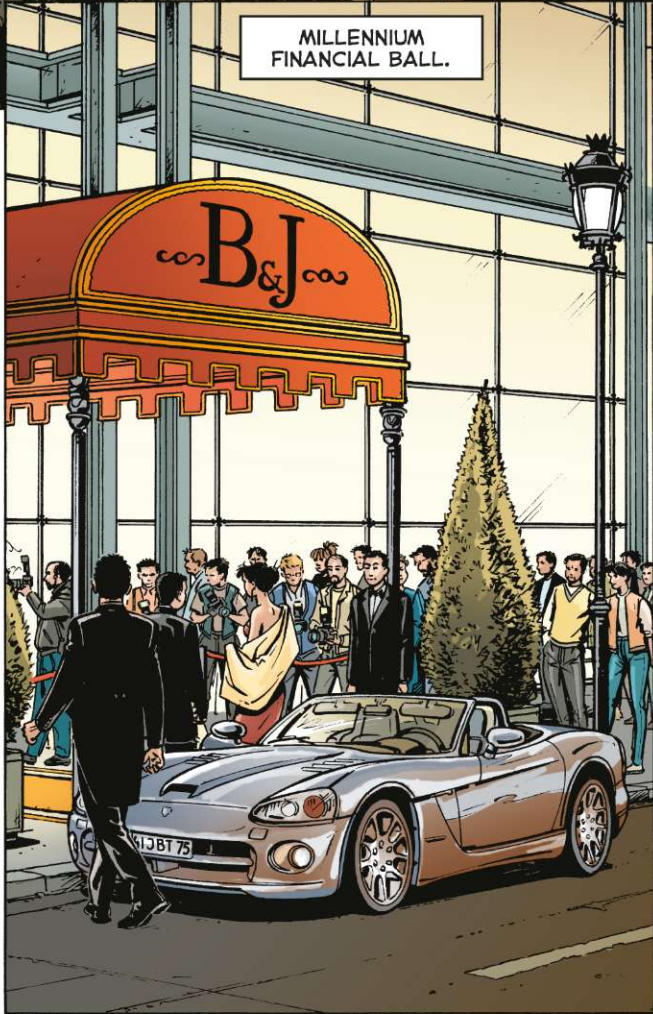




PARIS,  
MAY 2000



MILLENNIUM  
FINANCIAL BALL.

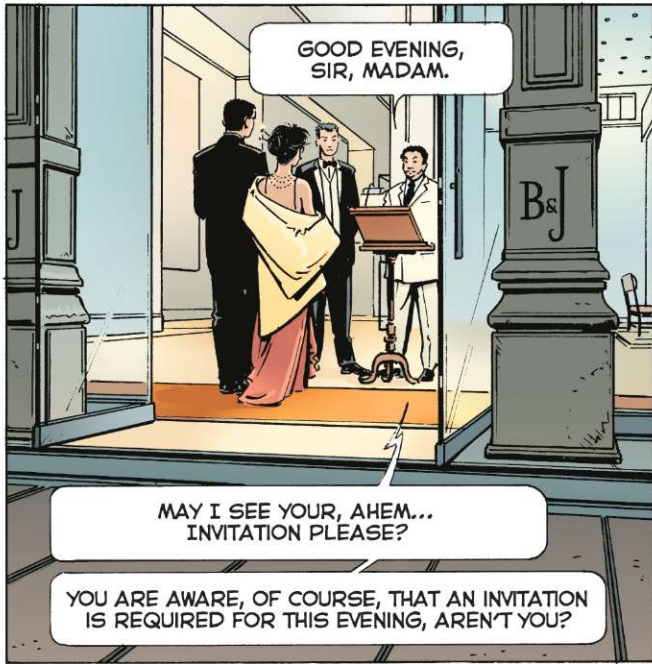


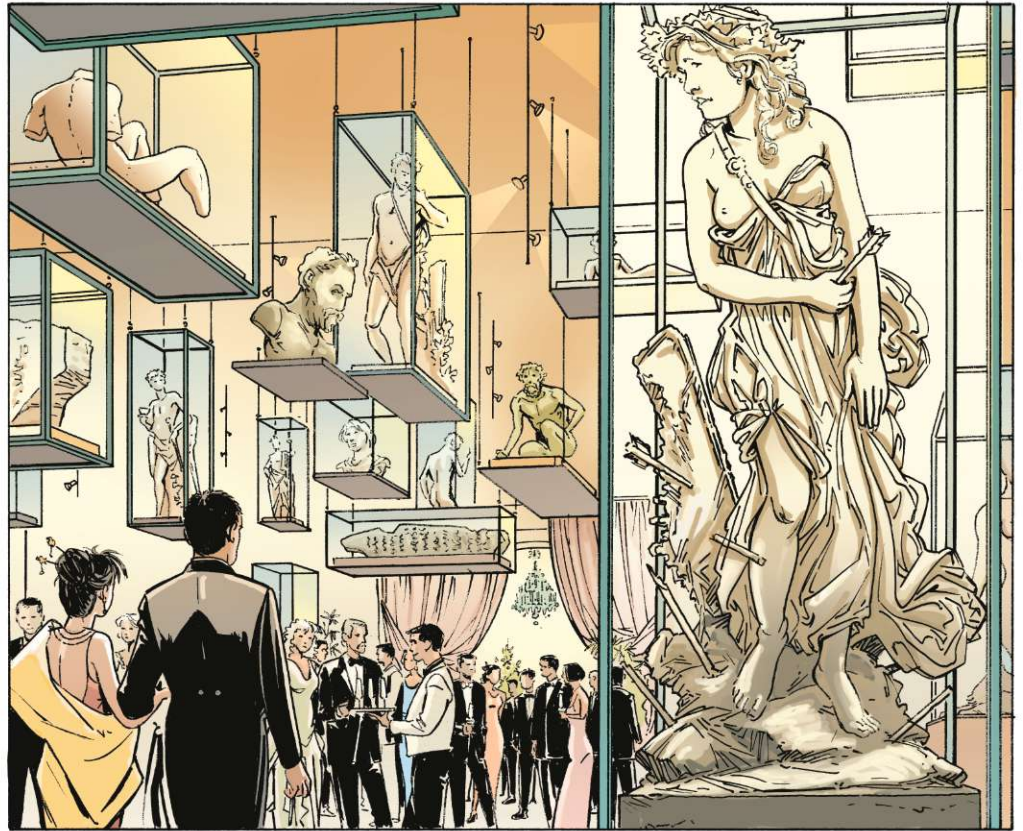
HOLY CRAP, THIS IS  
THE FIRST TIME EVER!

NOBODY HAS EVER  
SHOT HIM BEFORE!

QUICK! IT'S THE PHOTO OF THE YEAR!











12 YEARS EARLIER, AT THE BGC HEAD OFFICE.

ALEXANDRE!

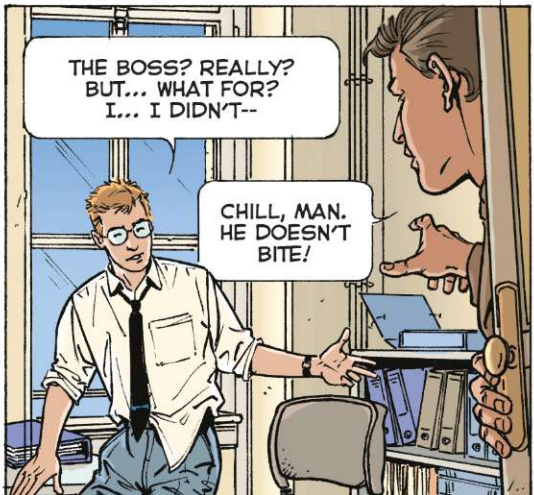


YES?! WHAT IS IT?!



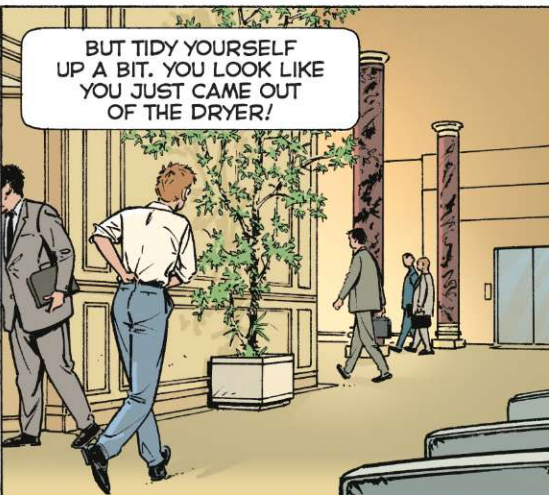
HEY, WAKE UP, MAN! SAINT-HUBERT WANTS TO SEE YOU IN HIS OFFICE.

ADESSO!

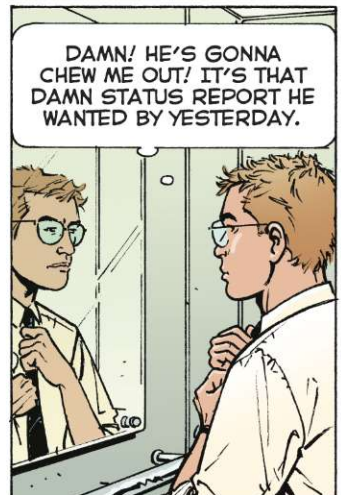


THE BOSS? REALLY? BUT... WHAT FOR? I... I DIDN'T--

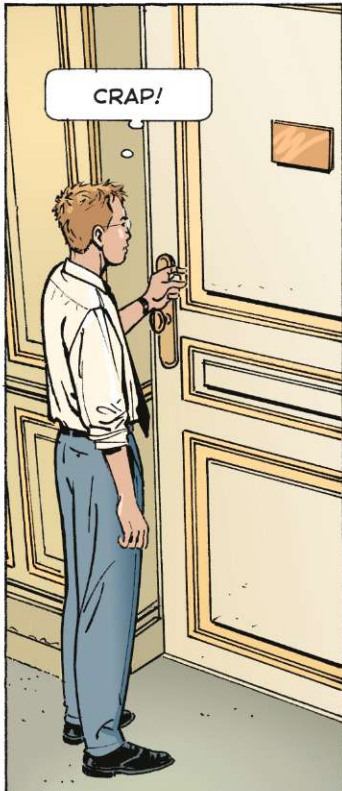
CHILL, MAN. HE DOESN'T BITE!



BUT TIDY YOURSELF UP A BIT. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST CAME OUT OF THE DRYER!



DAMN! HE'S GONNA CHEW ME OUT! IT'S THAT DAMN STATUS REPORT HE WANTED BY YESTERDAY.



CRAP!

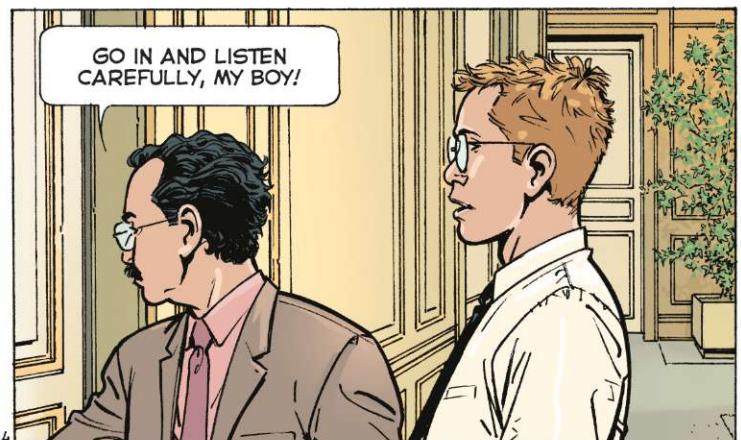


WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GO ON IN, HE'S WAITING FOR YOU.

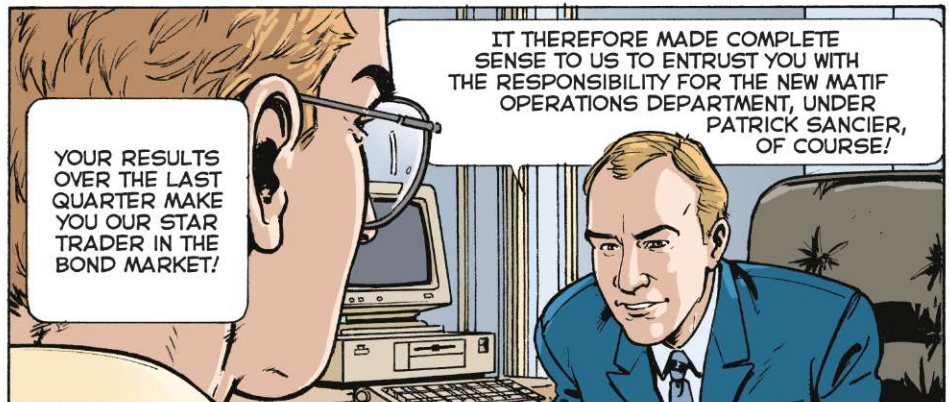
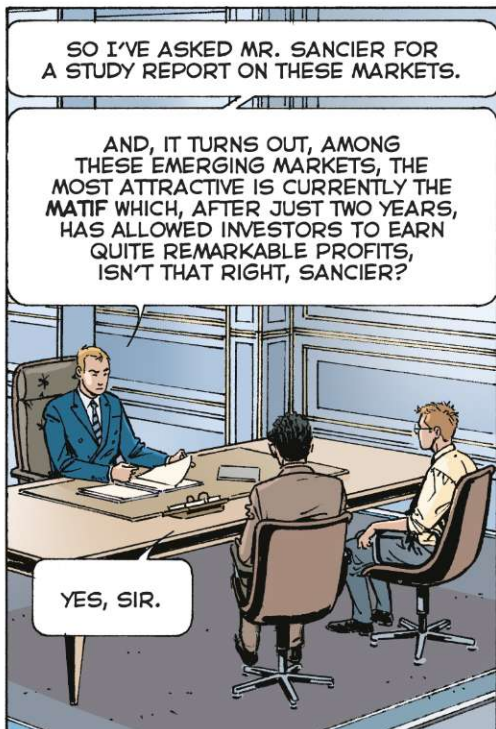
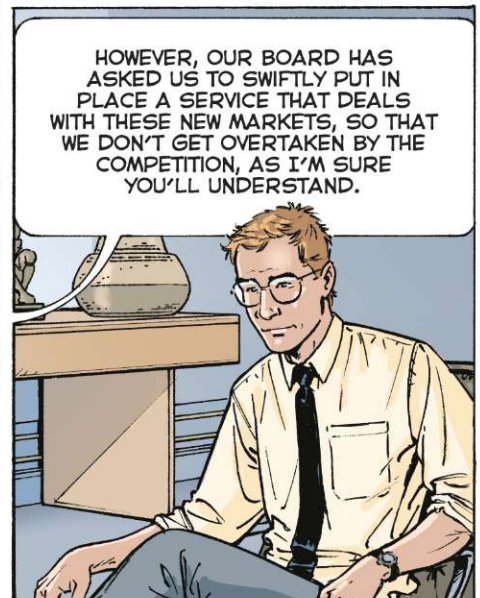
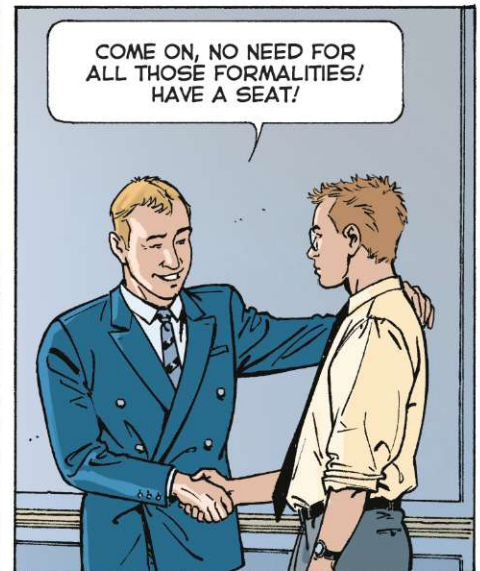
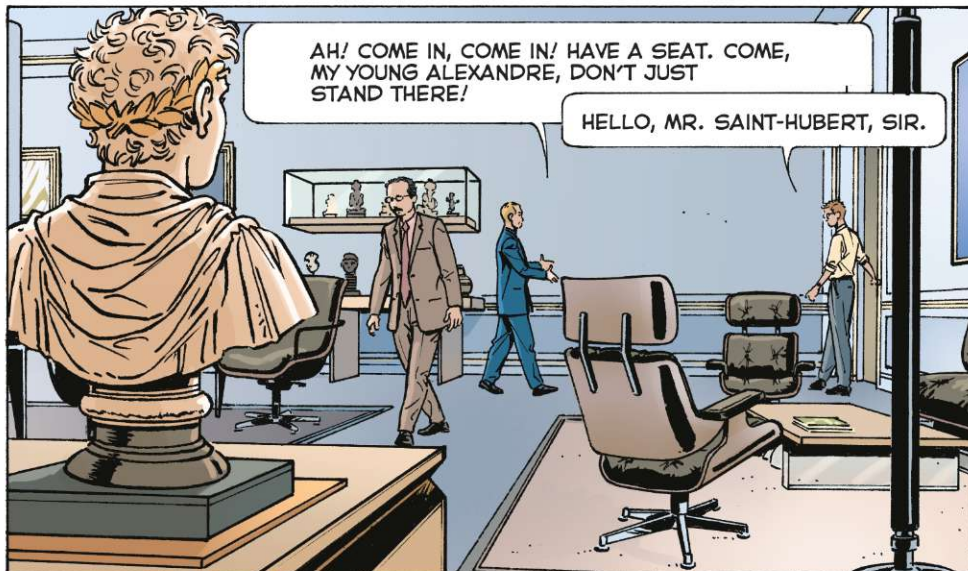


AH, PATRICK... YOU'RE HERE TOO? IT'S ABOUT THAT STATUS REPORT, RIGHT?

WHAT REPORT?



GO IN AND LISTEN CAREFULLY, MY BOY!





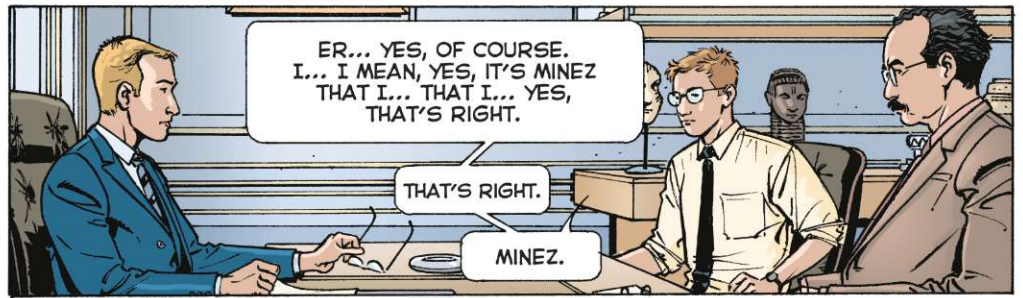
AND DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T BE ALONE!

WE'RE GOING TO SET UP A SOLID TEAM FOR YOU TO MANAGE.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, SOME TIME AGO YOU SENT US AN APPLICATION FOR ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS WHO FOLLOWED THE SAME CAREER PATH AS YOU. I HAVE HIS FILE HERE...

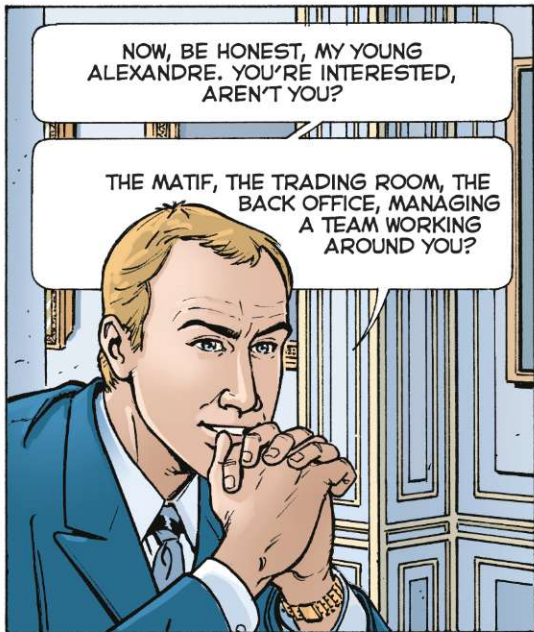
...MINEZ, THIERRY MINEZ, IS THAT RIGHT?



ER... YES, OF COURSE. I... I MEAN, YES, IT'S MINEZ THAT I... THAT I... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

MINEZ.



NOW, BE HONEST, MY YOUNG ALEXANDRE. YOU'RE INTERESTED, AREN'T YOU?

THE MATIF, THE TRADING ROOM, THE BACK OFFICE, MANAGING A TEAM WORKING AROUND YOU?

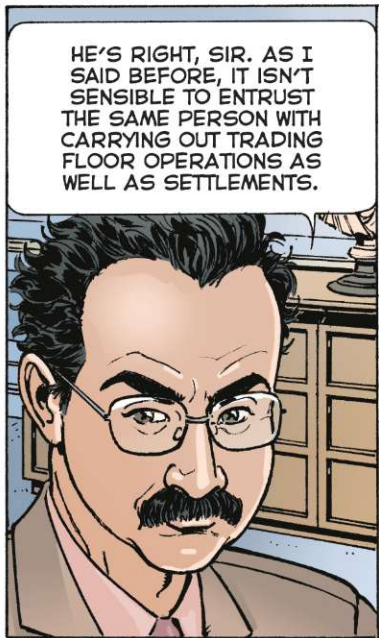


YOU MEAN I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH THE TRADING FLOOR AND THE BACK OFFICE?

I'M NOT SURE THAT--



YES, I KNOW NORMALLY YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN CHARGE OF BOTH OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME. BUT YOUR FRIEND AND YOUR TEAM WILL BE THERE TO HELP YOU. AND YOU TOO, RIGHT, SANCIER?



HE'S RIGHT, SIR. AS I SAID BEFORE, IT ISN'T SENSIBLE TO ENTRUST THE SAME PERSON WITH CARRYING OUT TRADING FLOOR OPERATIONS AS WELL AS SETTLEMENTS.

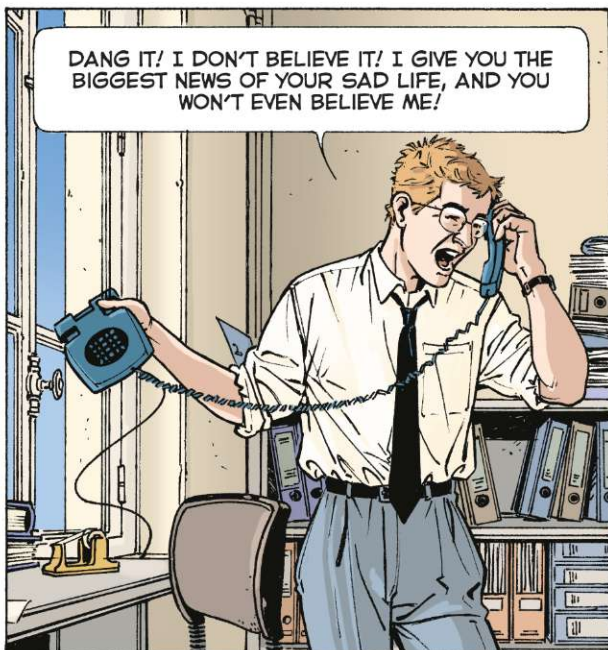
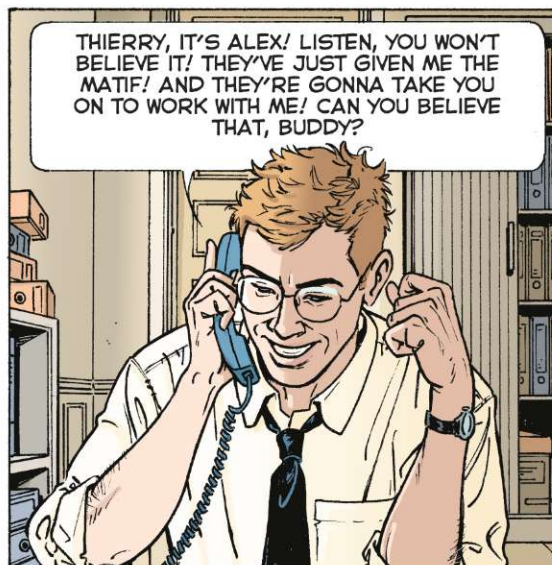
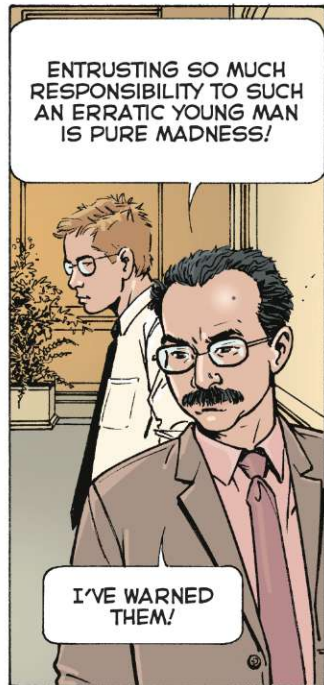


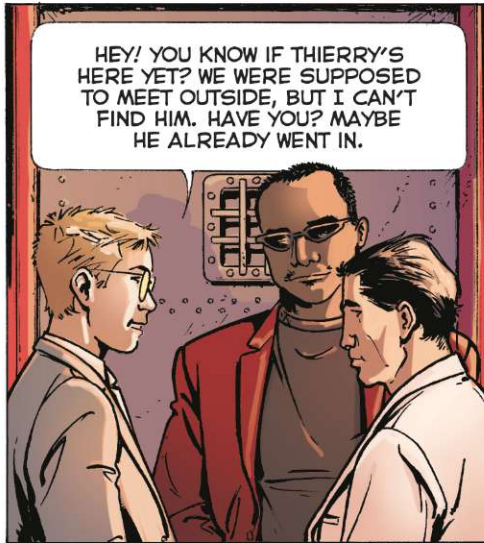
I KNOW THAT!

BUT IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY, JUST TO GIVE US TIME TO PUT EVERYTHING IN PLACE AND TO SEE IF THE INVESTMENT IS REALLY WORTH THE BOTHER.



I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IRON OUT THE DETAILS TOGETHER!  
AND DON'T HESITATE TO COME SEE ME IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS!





HEY! YOU KNOW IF THIERRY'S HERE YET? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET OUTSIDE, BUT I CAN'T FIND HIM. HAVE YOU? MAYBE HE ALREADY WENT IN.



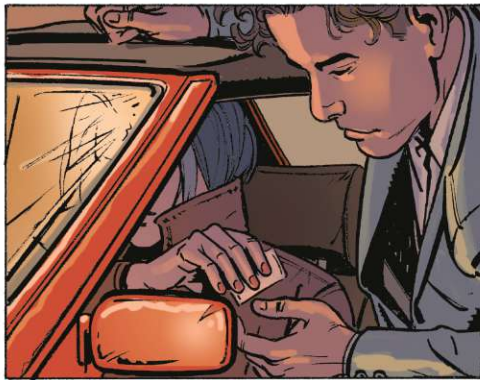
YEAH, YEAH, DON'T WORRY. YOUR FRIEND'S HERE, BUT HE DIDN'T COME IN...

...HE'S CHATTING.



WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING OVER THERE?

AND WHO'S HE TALKING TO?



WHERE WERE YOU? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR TWENTY MINUTES!

ARE YOU REALLY GONNA CAUSE A SCENE?

I WASN'T FAR AWAY!



HEY! TITI! WHAT THE HELL? ARE WE GOING OR WHAT?



COME ON, AMIGO, LET'S BLOW THE ROOF OFF THIS PLACE! YOU CAN TELL ME THE WHOLE CRAZY STORY! THE NIGHT IS OURS!

YOU MEAN THE WORLD IS OURS!

FOUR MONTHS LATER, AT THE BANQUE GÉNÉRALE DE CRÉDIT ET D'INVESTISSEMENT HEAD OFFICE.

IS IT A PROBLEM FOR YOU? I WORK LIKE A BEAST, DON'T I? ARE YOU MAD AT ME FOR SOMETHING?

NO, NO, NOT AT ALL! I WAS TALKING ABOUT MYSELF!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, BUT ME, WITH THE JOB WE HAVE, I JUST CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THAT EVERY NIGHT ANYMORE!

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME OUT LAST NIGHT? I SWEAR, YOU REALLY MISSED OUT! THE GIRLS WERE HOT AS HELL, MAN!

ANYWAY, I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED TO HANDLE IT, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT... YOU SHOULD GET SOME FOR YOURSELF!

NO, THANK YOU!

HEY THERE.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO GET SOME NEW TALENT IN HERE!

THIERRY!

HELLO, I'M MARION TAGHER. THEY TOLD ME TO GO TO HUMAN RESOURCES.

MARION... WHAT A PRETTY NAME! AS IT HAPPENS, MY FRIEND AND I NEEDED A NEW BABY-SITTER. DID THEY SEND YOU?

SORRY, MISS, HE'S NOT ALL THERE...

HOW LONG UNTIL WE LEAVE?

AN HOUR. ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE THE FILES AND WALK TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

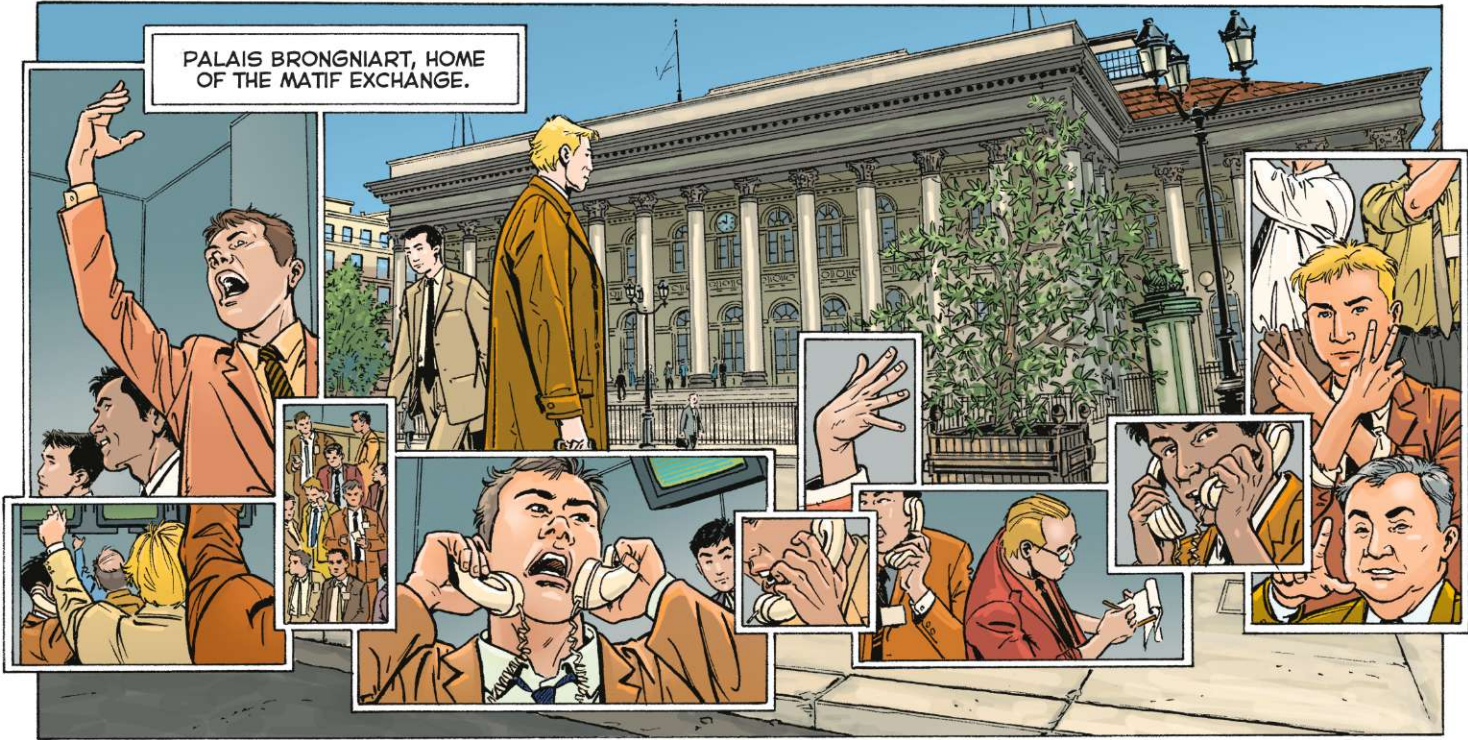
HOLD ON, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HOT ON HER!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

GOODBYE, MISS!

DON'T BOTHER, SHE'S A STUCK-UP BITCH!

YOU KNOW YOU CAN BE A REAL DOUCHEBAG AT TIMES!

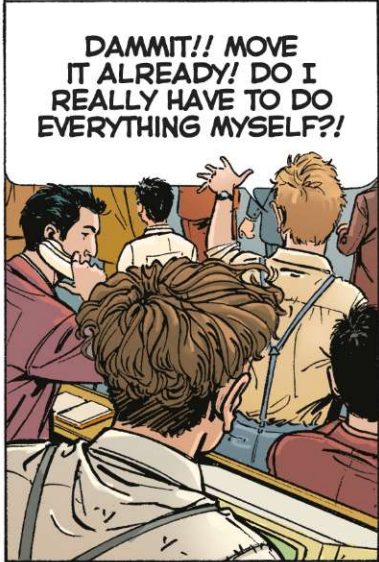


PALAIS BRONGNIART, HOME OF THE MATIF EXCHANGE.



NOW WE'VE SOLD THOSE 600 DAMN CAC 40 CONTRACTS, THEY'D BETTER MAKE THE MARKET FALL FOR ME!

OTHERWISE WE'LL BE SCREWED AND GOOD OLD SANCIER WON'T GO EASY ON US!



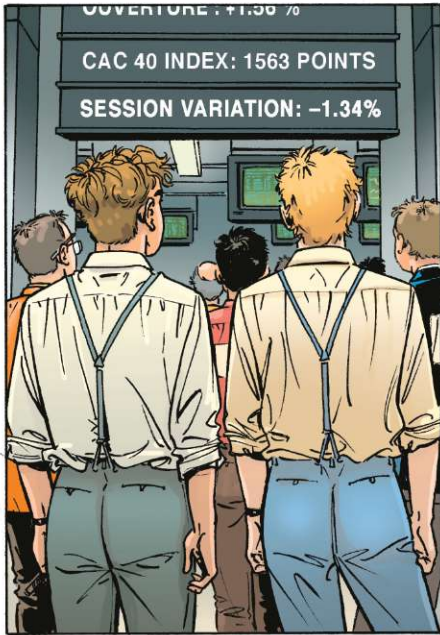
DAMMIT!! MOVE IT ALREADY! DO I REALLY HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF?!



Maturity	Buy	Volume	Sell	Volume
Y	1.530	-	1.525	600
M	1.521	-	1.522	-
D	1.519	-	1.515	-

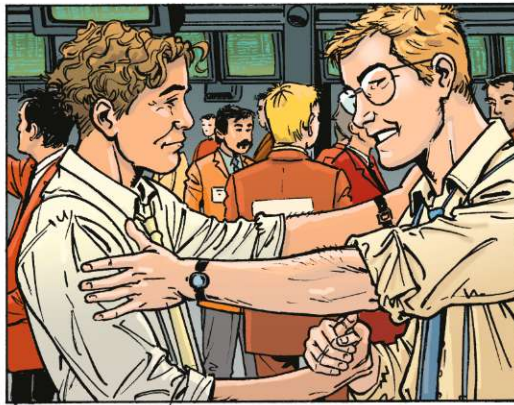
Maturity	Buy	Volume	Sell	Volume
Y	1.530	600	1.525	-
M	1.521	-	1.522	-
D	1.519	-	1.515	-

**BONG!**

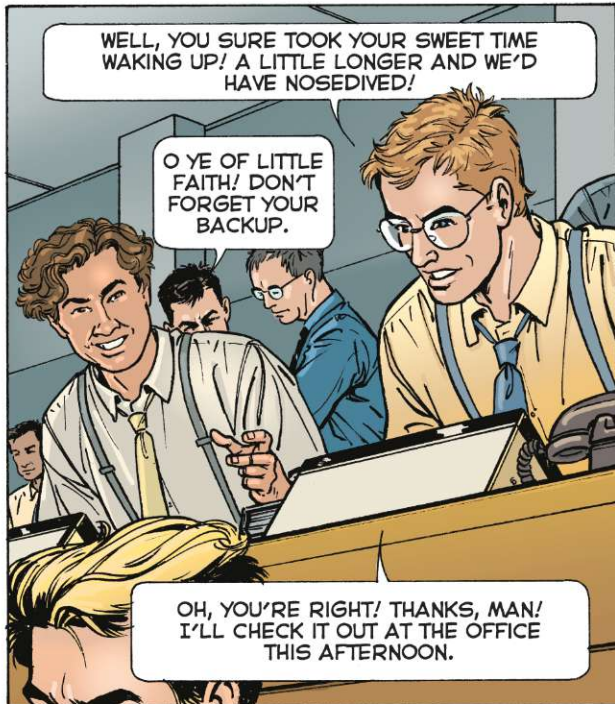


COVERTURE: +1.56 %  
CAC 40 INDEX: 1563 POINTS  
SESSION VARIATION: -1.34%

SESSION VARIATION: -1.34%



HEY, GUYS, WE'RE DOING WELL, BUT IF I HADN'T COME DOWN TO THE FLOOR, YOU'D HAVE LEFT ME IN THE SHIT!



WELL, YOU SURE TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME WAKING UP! A LITTLE LONGER AND WE'D HAVE NOSEDIVED!

O YE OF LITTLE FAITH! DON'T FORGET YOUR BACKUP.

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT! THANKS, MAN! I'LL CHECK IT OUT AT THE OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON.



HEY! MR. SANCIER!



CAME TO SEE YOUR TWO STAR TRADERS TRIUMPH?



ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE EXPRESSION "PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL," MR. MINEZ?

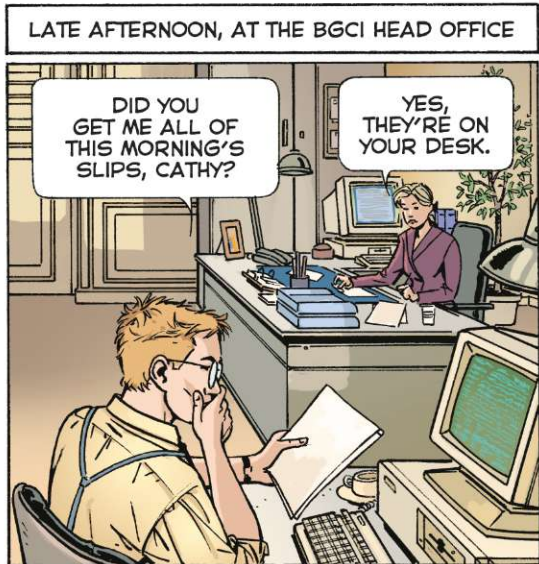


BOAST AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE IF THAT IMPRESSES OUR DIRECTORS!

AS FOR ME, I'LL JUDGE YOU BY YOUR END-OF-YEAR RESULTS.



NO PROBLEM! WE'LL HAVE A KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE!



LATE AFTERNOON, AT THE BGC HEAD OFFICE

DID YOU GET ME ALL OF THIS MORNING'S SLIPS, CATHY?

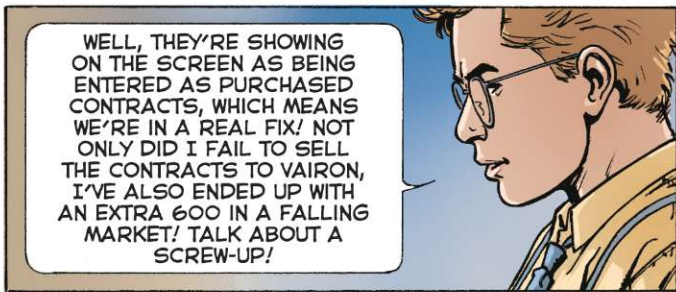
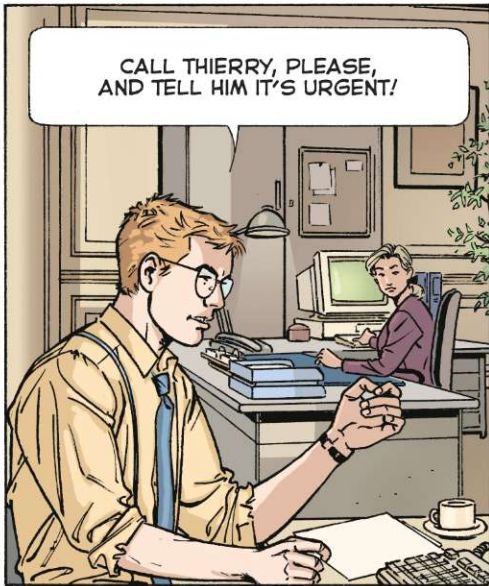
YES, THEY'RE ON YOUR DESK.



WAIT, WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

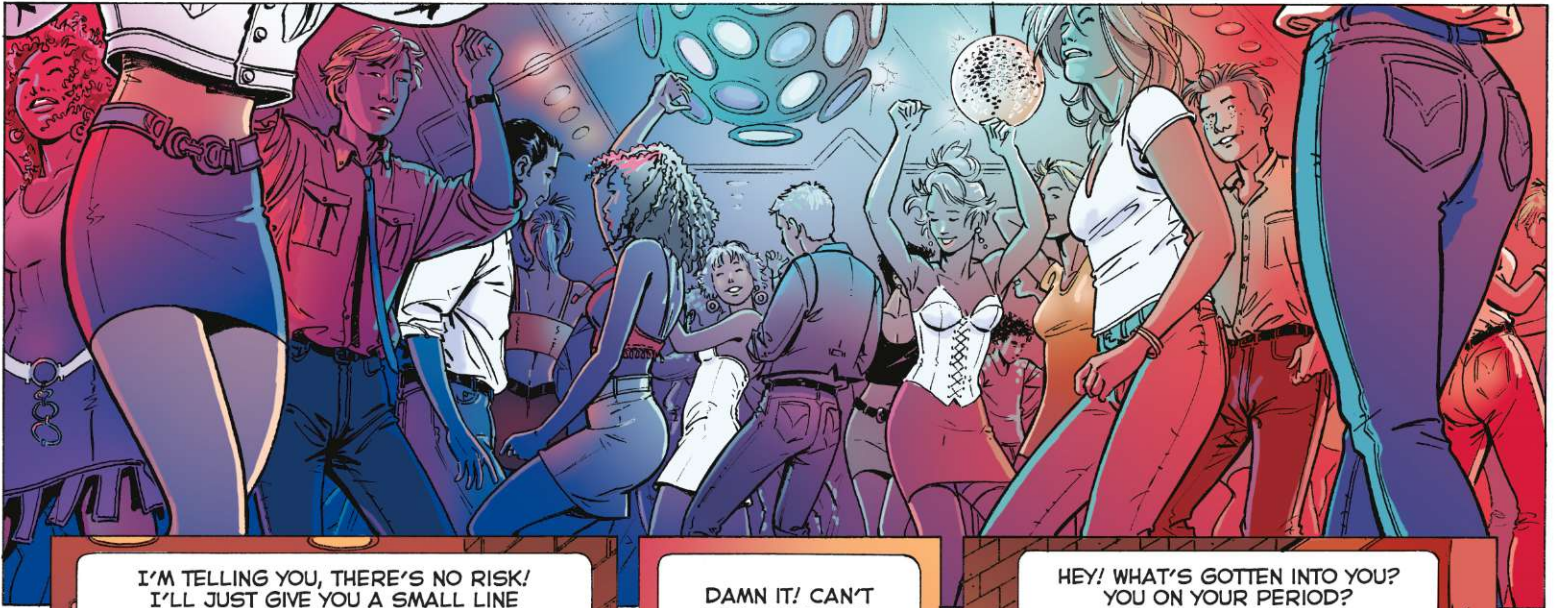




I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET GUYS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY BODY!

YOU'RE SUCH AN ASSHOLE! GIVE ME YOUR CLIENT'S DETAILS QUICK SO I CAN SORT EVERYTHING BEFORE SANCIER CAN STICK HIS NOSE IN!





I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S NO RISK!  
I'LL JUST GIVE YOU A SMALL LINE  
AND YOU'LL SEE!

NO,  
HONESTLY, I  
DON'T WANT  
ANY.

IT'LL GET YOU  
GOING, HONEY!



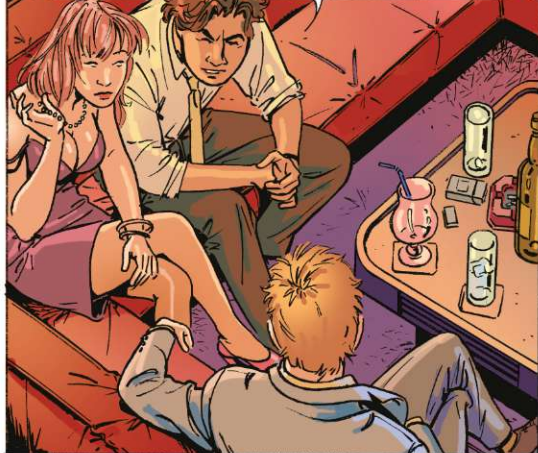
DAMN IT! CAN'T  
YOU LEAVE HER  
THE HELL ALONE?!  
THAT'S THREE TIMES  
SHE'S TOLD YOU  
SHE DOESN'T WANT  
ANY OF YOUR SHIT!



SO LEAVE HER BE!

HEY! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?  
YOU ON YOUR PERIOD?

INSTEAD OF SITTING THERE, LOOKING  
AT ME LIKE AN IDIOT, YOU SHOULD BE  
FINDING YOURSELF A CHICK TO TAKE  
CARE OF YOUR--



YOU'RE SUCH  
AN ASSHOLE!  
I'M OUTTA HERE.  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
GET A CAB HOME.



DON'T GET  
ALL BENT OUT OF  
SHAPE! I'M SORRY.  
DON'T BE A DICK.  
COME SIT DOWN!



LEAVE ME ALONE, WILL  
YOU?! I NEED TO SPEAK TO  
SOMEONE.



HEY THERE! IT'S MARION, RIGHT? DO YOU  
REMEMBER ME? FROM THE BANK... YOUR FIRST  
DAY...

OH YEAH, YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THAT  
BLOCKHEAD WHO THINKS HE'S SO FUNNY.

YES,  
THAT'S  
ME! I'M  
ALEXANDRE  
AND--



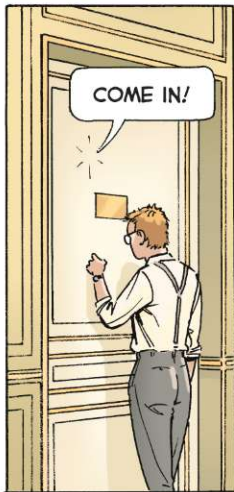
AH, HE'S  
HERE TOO?

WHO?



I TOLD  
YOU, I DON'T  
HAVE IT!

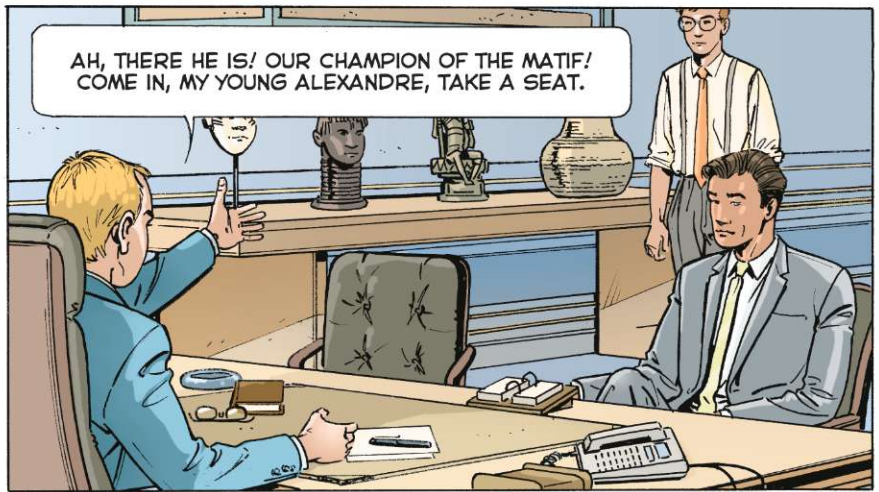




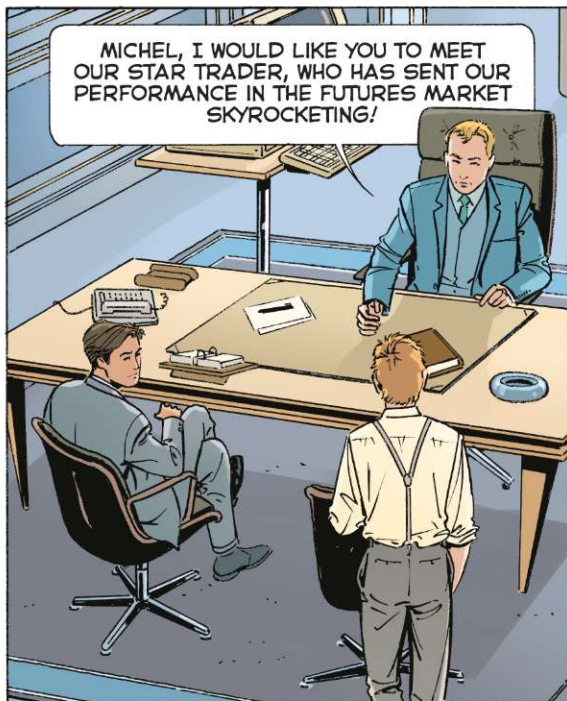
COME IN!



YOU ASKED TO SEE ME, SIR?



AH, THERE HE IS! OUR CHAMPION OF THE MATIF! COME IN, MY YOUNG ALEXANDRE, TAKE A SEAT.



MICHEL, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET OUR STAR TRADER, WHO HAS SENT OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE FUTURES MARKET SKYROCKETING!



HELLO, SIR...

A REAL CHARMER, RIGHT?

YOU'D NEVER GUESS THIS YOUNG MAN SPENDS HIS NIGHTS AT THE POLICE STATION!



YOU'RE RIGHT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT, MY YOUNG ALEXANDRE! YOU HAVE TO ENJOY YOUR YOUTH!

BUT LET'S FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT.

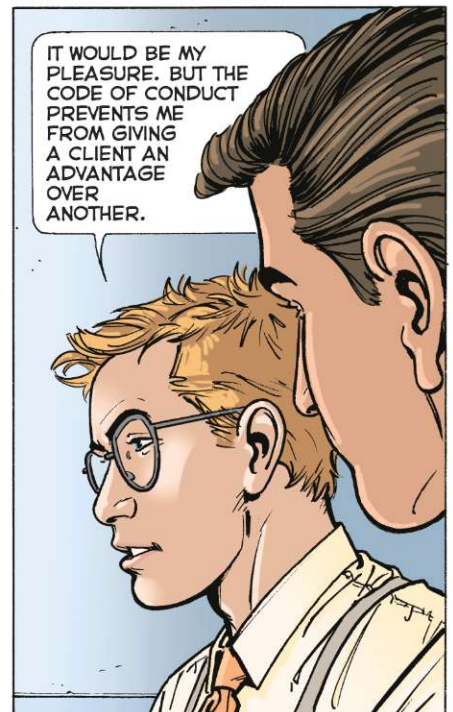
THAT'S NOT WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE.



I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MICHEL BONNEFOND.



MICHEL WANTS TO GET INTO THE FUTURES MARKET AND WOULD LIKE IT IF YOU COULD HANDLE HIS BUSINESS WITH, SHALL WE SAY, PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT...



IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE. BUT THE CODE OF CONDUCT PREVENTS ME FROM GIVING A CLIENT AN ADVANTAGE OVER ANOTHER.



A PLEASURE! JEAN HAS TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU AND THE EXCELLENT WORK YOU'RE DOING WITH YOUR TEAM.



I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT FAIRNESS AND YOUR RESPECT FOR REGULATIONS, BUT I REMIND YOU THAT WE OURSELVES ARE MAKING AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULES BY KEEPING YOU WITH US, IN SPITE OF YOUR TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO APPLY THE RULES TO THE LETTER...

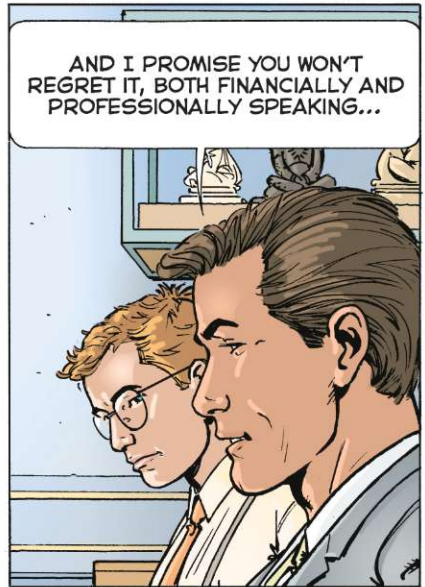


BUT, SIR, YOU KNOW IT WAS A MISTAKE AND THAT I--



LISTEN, ALEXANDRE, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE. I SEE YOU AS A TRUSTWORTHY MAN OF FLAWLESS PROFESSIONALISM. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED.

IT'S THE REASON WHY I WANT YOU TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE OF MY BUSINESS.



AND I PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY SPEAKING...



HOWEVER, IF MY OFFER DOESN'T INTEREST YOU, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE.

DON'T BOTHER! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR ACCOUNT, EVEN IF--

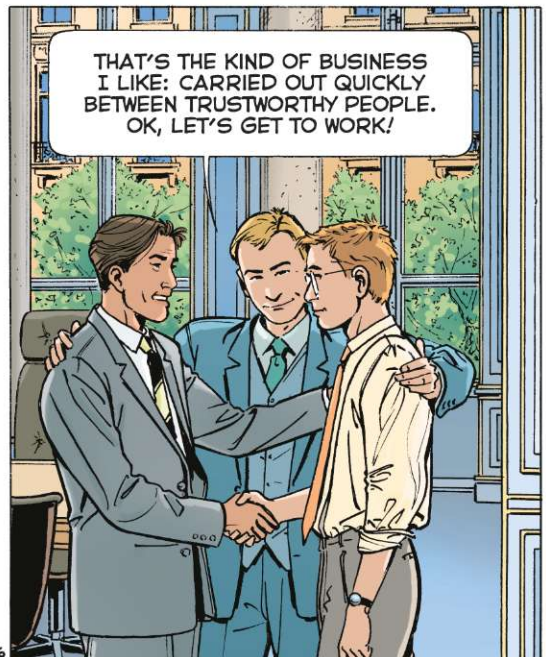


GOOD! YOU SEE HOW EVERYTHING WORKS OUT BETWEEN REASONABLE PEOPLE! AND, AFTER ALL, THERE IS AN EXCEPTION TO EVERY RULE!

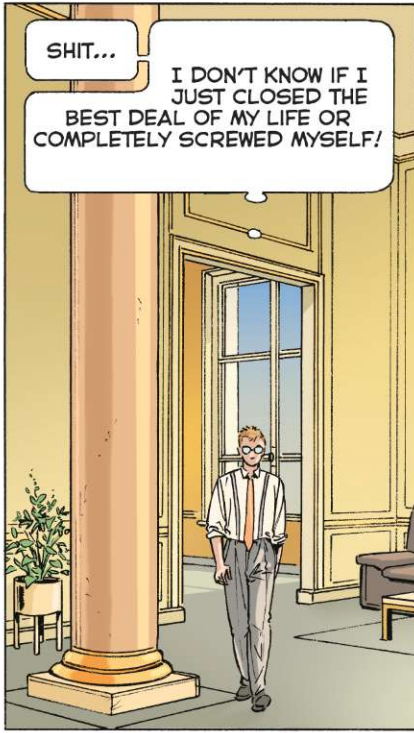
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO NOW IS WAIT FOR MR. BONNEFOND TO CALL AND TO DEAL WITH HIS ORDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



DON'T WORRY, ALEXANDRE. EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, TRUST ME!



THAT'S THE KIND OF BUSINESS I LIKE: CARRIED OUT QUICKLY BETWEEN TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE. OK, LET'S GET TO WORK!



SHIT...

I DON'T KNOW IF I JUST CLOSED THE BEST DEAL OF MY LIFE OR COMPLETELY SCREWED MYSELF!



ANYWAY, I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE. IT WAS THAT OR BE SHOWN THE DOOR IN THE FUTURE!

A GODDAMN FUTURES MARKET...



HEY, ALEXANDRE! THEY LET YOU OUT?

MARION!

UH... YEAH.

I... THEY DIDN'T KEEP US,



I'M GRABBING A COFFEE. DO YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES?

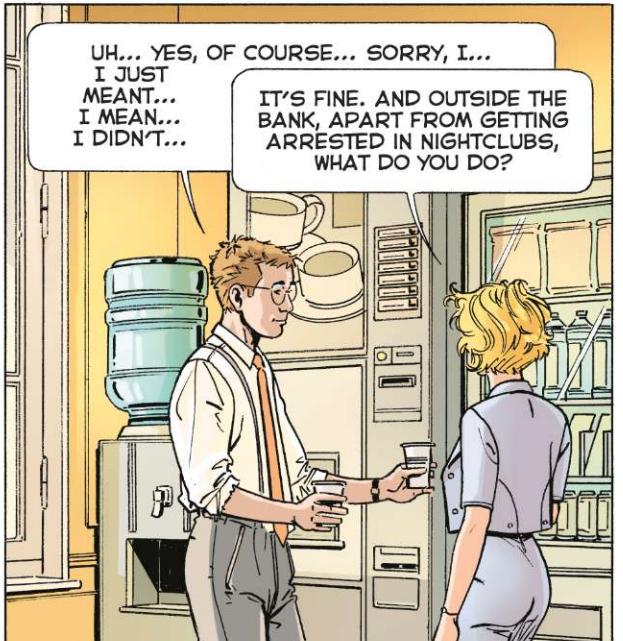
YES! OF COURSE! A LITTLE PICK-ME-UP IS JUST WHAT I NEED!



SO, WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE COMPANY?

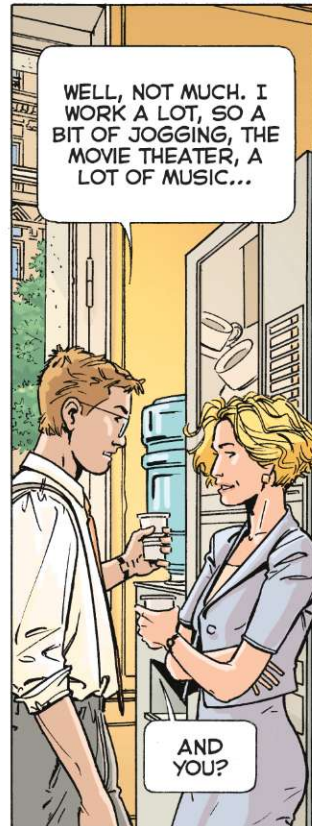
I HANDLE THE FUTURES MARKET, THE MATIF. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS.

YES I DO! I TRY TO KEEP ON TOP OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMPANY.



UH... YES, OF COURSE... SORRY, I... I JUST MEANT... I MEAN... I DIDN'T...

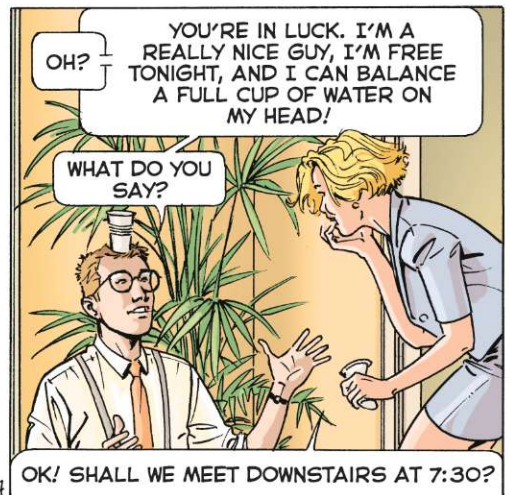
IT'S FINE. AND OUTSIDE THE BANK, APART FROM GETTING ARRESTED IN NIGHTCLUBS, WHAT DO YOU DO?



WELL, NOT MUCH. I WORK A LOT, SO A BIT OF JOGGING, THE MOVIE THEATER, A LOT OF MUSIC...



ME? I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE NICE TO ASK ME OUT FOR DINNER...



OH? YOU'RE IN LUCK. I'M A REALLY NICE GUY, I'M FREE TONIGHT, AND I CAN BALANCE A FULL CUP OF WATER ON MY HEAD!

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

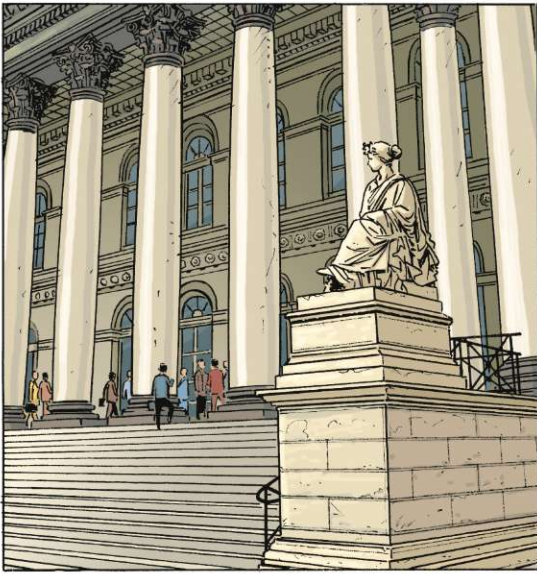
AND YOU?

OK! SHALL WE MEET DOWNSTAIRS AT 7:30?



AH, I FEEL LIKE THIS STORY'S GOING TO COME BACK TO HAUNT ME...

A FEW WEEKS LATER.

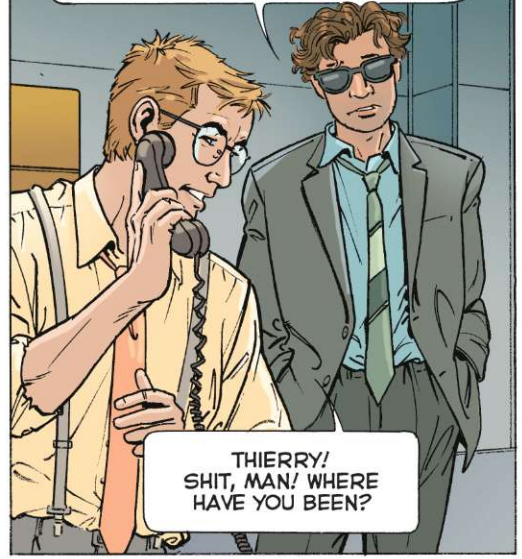


DAMMIT, THIERRY!  
PICK UP THE GODDAMN  
PHONE!

I'M WARNING YOU,  
IF I DON'T HEAR FROM  
YOU IN A HALF HOUR,  
I'LL--



YOU'LL HAVE ME SHOT, RIGHT?



THIERRY!  
SHIT, MAN! WHERE  
HAVE YOU BEEN?

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU FOR TWO HOURS!  
HAVE YOU SEEN THE STATE YOU'VE COME TO WORK IN?!



YOU'RE REALLY  
LOOKING FOR  
TROUBLE! ARE  
YOU STILL HIGH,  
OR WHAT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!  
HE REALLY DOESN'T  
GIVE A DAMN ABOUT  
ME! AND HE'S  
SMOKING!

I CAN'T PUT UP  
WITH HIS BULLSHIT  
MUCH LONGER!



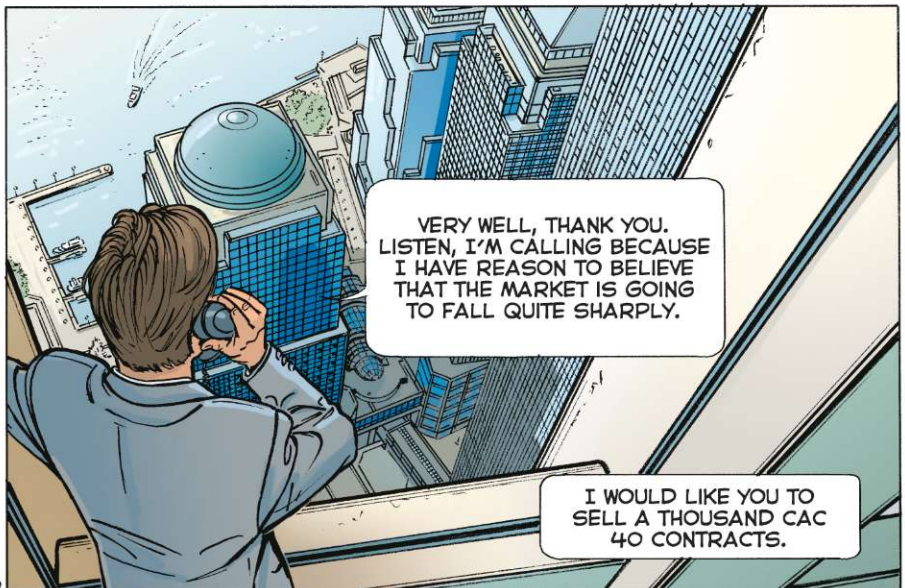
HEY, THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'RE  
NOT MY MOM OR MY BOSS! SO  
LEAVE ME ALONE AND GIVE ME  
THE ROAD MAP.



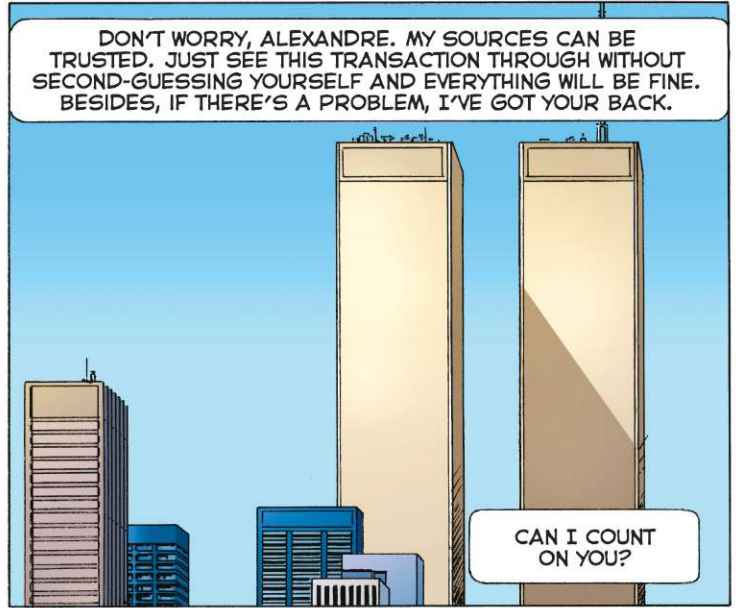
HELLO?! MR. BONNEFOND!  
YES, IT'S ALEXANDRE!  
HOW ARE YOU?



VERY WELL, THANK YOU.  
LISTEN, I'M CALLING BECAUSE  
I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE  
THAT THE MARKET IS GOING  
TO FALL QUITE SHARPLY.



I WOULD LIKE YOU TO  
SELL A THOUSAND CAC  
40 CONTRACTS.





THAT EVENING, THE BGCi BACK OFFICE.

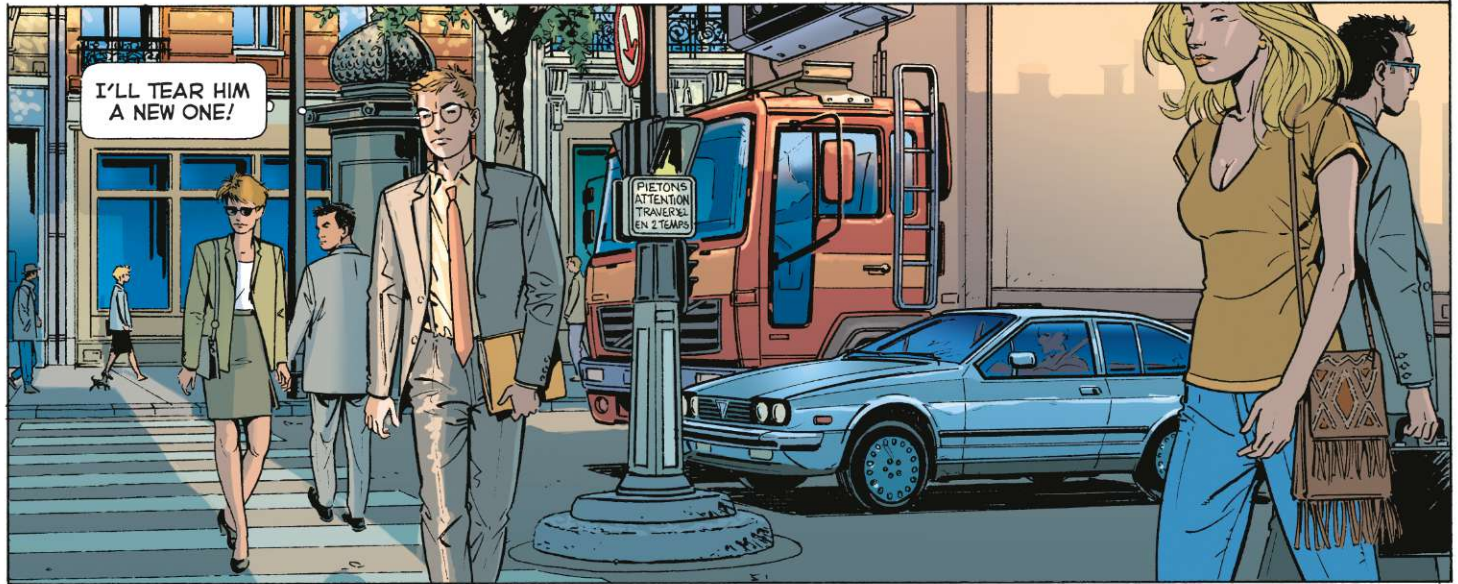
OH NO! IT CAN'T HAVE HAPPENED AGAIN! WHAT IS THIS SHIT?!

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

THE CONTRACTS THIS MORNING FOR BONNEFOND. I TOLD THIERRY TO SELL THEM, AND THAT IDIOT BOUGHT THEM! WHERE IS HE?

I KNOW HE LEFT. YOU'LL NO DOUBT FIND HIM AT THE BAR.

I'LL TEAR HIM A NEW ONE!



WHERE IS THAT IDIOT? AHA!

ALEX! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

PUT DOWN YOUR DRINK AND COME WITH ME.

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY WITH--

I COULDN'T CARE LESS IF YOU WERE WITH THE POPE OR THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND!

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

HEY! MY JACKET! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

WAIT HERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!





WELL, DID YOU FIND HIM?

WHAT DID HE SAY?

YEAH, I FOUND HIM.

OK, LISTEN TO ME, CATHY...



YOU'RE GOING TO OPEN AN ERROR ACCOUNT FOR ME. WE'LL CALL IT PI AND GIVE IT THE NUMBER... 3-14-15-92.



YOU'RE GOING TO TRANSFER THE ORDERS THAT THIERRY AUTHORIZED INTO THAT, PLUS A THOUSAND ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS SO THAT WE CAN HONOR BONNEFOND'S ORDER... AND...

...AND THEN YOU'LL MAKE A CAPITAL CALL IN THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACTS TO COVER MY END-OF-MONTH POSITIONS.



AND AS SOON AS I CAN, I'LL UNWIND THESE POSITIONS AND WE'LL CLOSE IT.

ALL THE SAME, IT'S NOT EXACTLY REGULATION...



SAINT-HUBERT TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY: THERE ARE RULES AND EXCEPTIONS...

SO I'M OBEYING MY ORDERS.



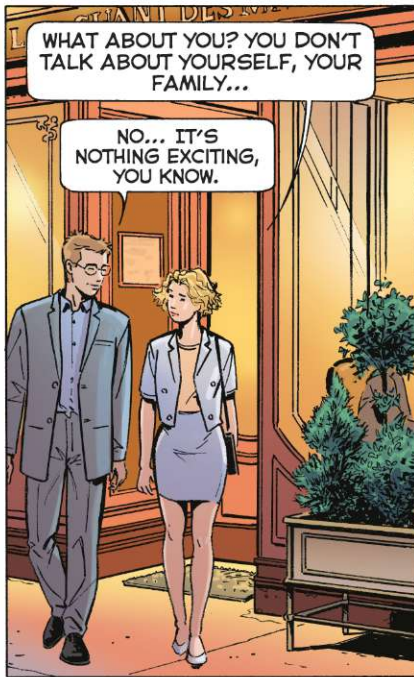
MR. SAINT-HUBERT! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU! YES, VERY WELL! NO PROBLEMS!

HE'LL BE VERY HAPPY, NO DOUBT!

YES! ME TOO! GOODBYE, SIR.

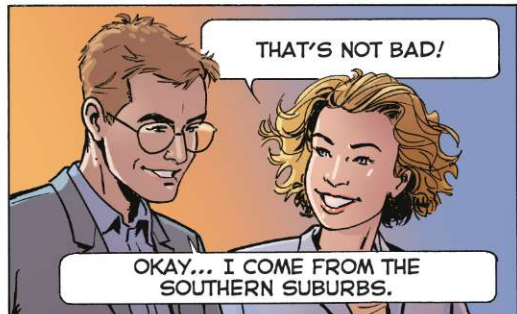


YOU WERE RIGHT, HE TOOK THE BAIT. NOW WE JUST NEED TO PULL GENTLY ON THE LINE UNTIL IT'S TIME TO DRAG HIM OUT OF THE WATER! WARN OUR MAN. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PARTY...



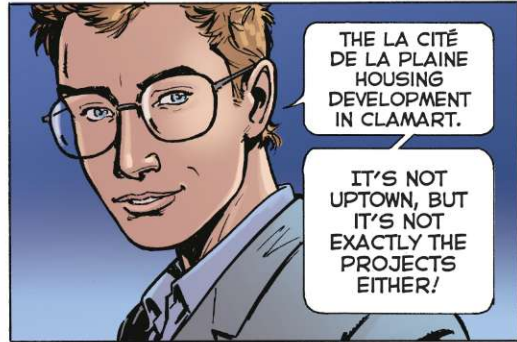
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY...

NO... IT'S NOTHING EXCITING, YOU KNOW.



THAT'S NOT BAD!

OKAY... I COME FROM THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS.



THE LA CITÉ DE LA PLAINE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN CLAMART.

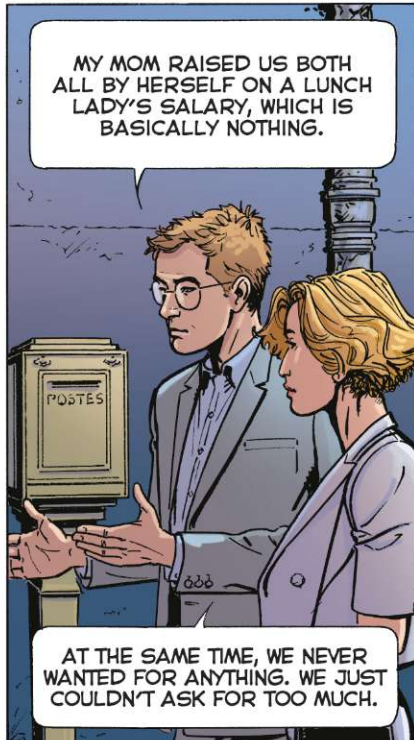
IT'S NOT UPTOWN, BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE PROJECTS EITHER!



IN FACT, EVERYTHING WAS FINE UNTIL MY SISTER WAS BORN. SHE HAS CP.

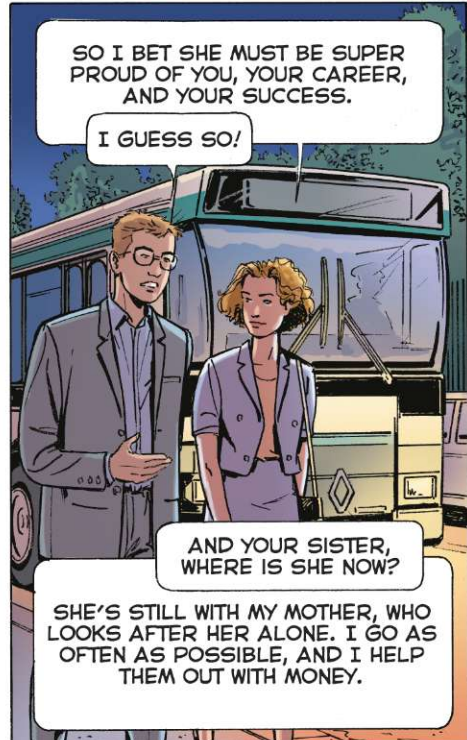
WHAT'S THAT?

CEREBRAL PALSY. MY DAD WASN'T HAPPY, SO HE TOOK OFF.



MY MOM RAISED US BOTH ALL BY HERSELF ON A LUNCH LADY'S SALARY, WHICH IS BASICALLY NOTHING.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE NEVER WANTED FOR ANYTHING. WE JUST COULDN'T ASK FOR TOO MUCH.



SO I BET SHE MUST BE SUPER PROUD OF YOU, YOUR CAREER, AND YOUR SUCCESS.

I GUESS SO!

AND YOUR SISTER, WHERE IS SHE NOW?

SHE'S STILL WITH MY MOTHER, WHO LOOKS AFTER HER ALONE. I GO AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, AND I HELP THEM OUT WITH MONEY.



I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME ALL THAT. I'D THOUGHT THAT, ASIDE FROM THIERRY, YOU HAD NOTHING ELSE IN YOUR LIFE! HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM, ANYWAY?

FROM KINDERGARTEN. WE'VE BEEN INSEPARABLE EVER SINCE.



SUCH LOYALTY! IT'S EVERYTHING A GIRL DREAMS OF!

REALLY?

REALLY.



A FEW WEEKS LATER.



YES?  
THIERRY?!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME--

WHAT?!

OKAY, I'M COMING.



WHAT'S HAPPENED?

IT'S THIERRY. HE'S AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM. I HAVE TO GO GET HIM.

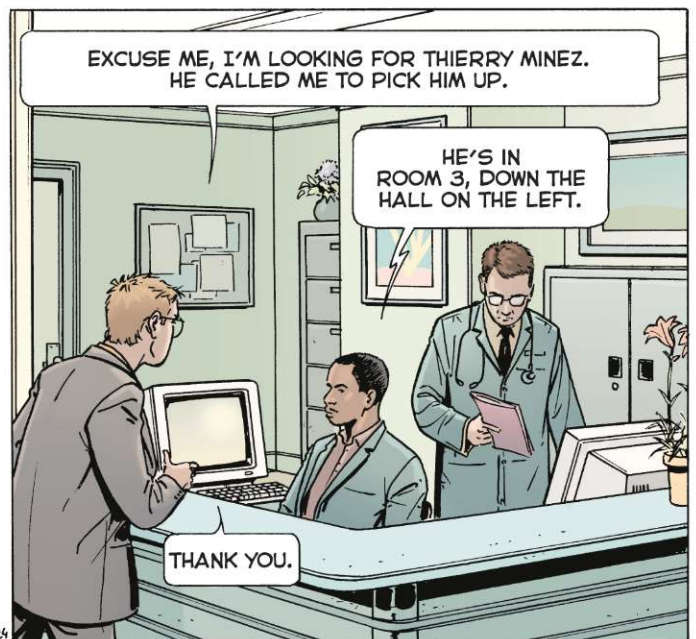


YOU HAVE TO? HOLD ON, YOU'RE NOT HIS DRIVER! HE CAN TAKE A CAB!



HE'S IN DEEP SHIT AND HE NEEDS ME! IF I'D CALLED HIM, HE'D COME.

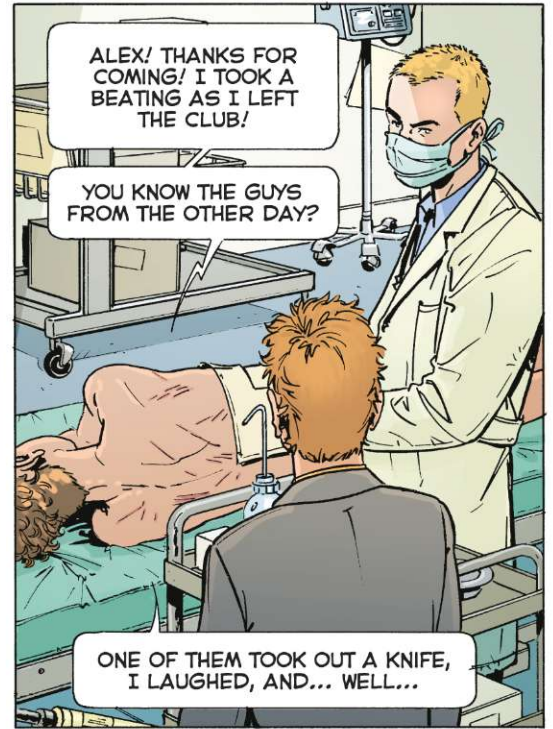
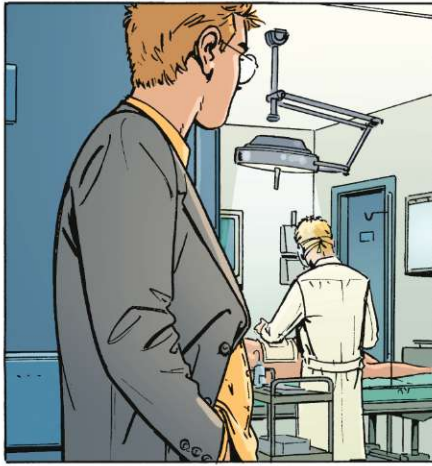
SEE YOU SOON. I'LL BE QUICK!



EXCUSE ME, I'M LOOKING FOR THIERRY MINEZ. HE CALLED ME TO PICK HIM UP.

HE'S IN ROOM 3, DOWN THE HALL ON THE LEFT.

THANK YOU.



ALCOHOL HASN'T TOTALLY ANESTHETIZED YOU, IT SEEMS!

ALEX! THANKS FOR COMING! I TOOK A BEATING AS I LEFT THE CLUB!

YOU KNOW THE GUYS FROM THE OTHER DAY?

THIERRY? WHAT HAPPENED?

ONE OF THEM TOOK OUT A KNIFE, I LAUGHED, AND... WELL...

YOUR FRIEND GOT LUCKY. THE BLADE SLID OFF HIS RIB!

KEEP AN EYE ON HIM TONIGHT. HE NEEDS REST. GOODBYE.

WHAT DID HE MEAN?

WHAT WERE THOSE MARKS ALL OVER YOUR BODY?

I DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS BEING A PUNCHING BAG FOR, BUT TELL HIM TO BE CAREFUL ALL THE SAME.

WELL, WHEN THE FIRST ONE HIT ME, I FELL AND THE OTHERS KICKED THE CRAP OUT OF ME ON THE FLOOR.

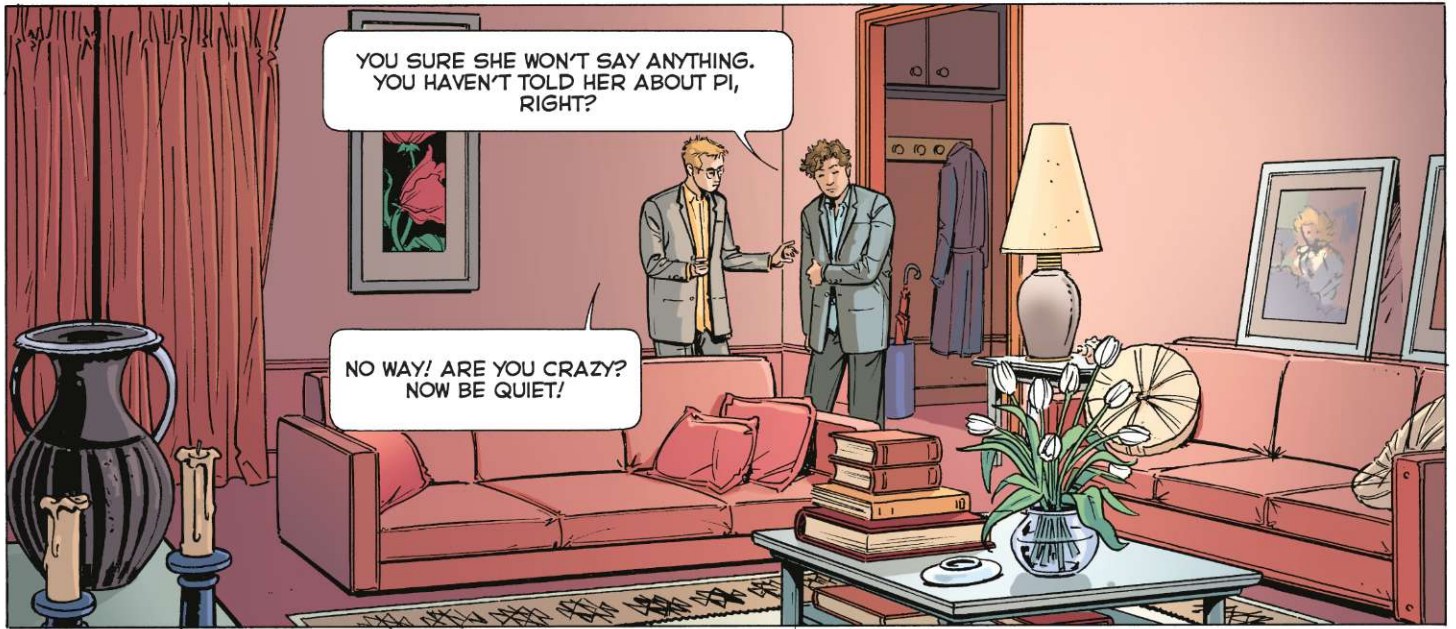
STOP! ALL THAT WASN'T FROM TONIGHT!

DAMN IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO, BUT BE CAREFUL! I DON'T THINK THE BANK WOULD BE TOO HAPPY!

DON'T WORRY, IT'S UNDER CONTROL. THE DOC GAVE ME A WEEK OFF.

AND YOUR CLOTHES ARE SPOTLESS!

AFTER THAT, I SWEAR, I'LL CLEAN UP MY ACT!



YOU SURE SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HER ABOUT PI, RIGHT?

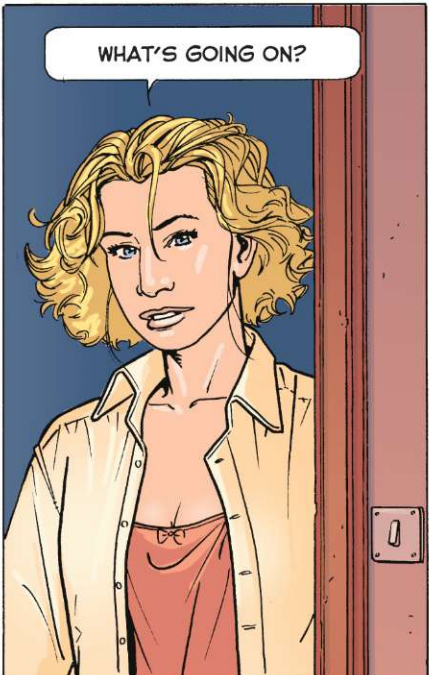
NO WAY! ARE YOU CRAZY? NOW BE QUIET!



GET ON THE COUCH AND TRY TO SLEEP IT OFF. I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TOMORROW MORNING. FOR NOW, GET SOME REST.



GEEZ, WHAT AN IDIOT...



WHAT'S GOING ON?



OH NO! NO WAY!

ALEXANDRE?



AH SHIT, IT HURTS.

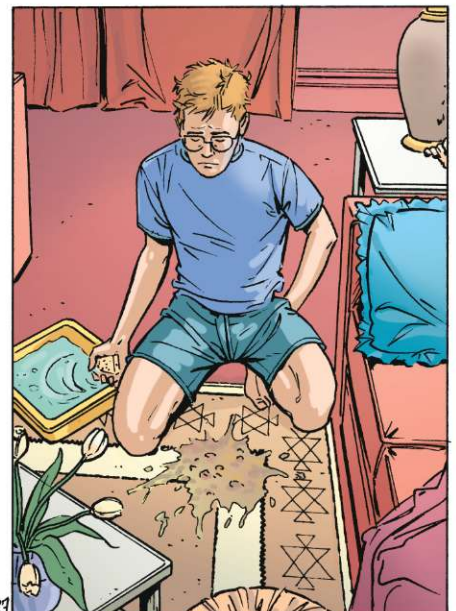
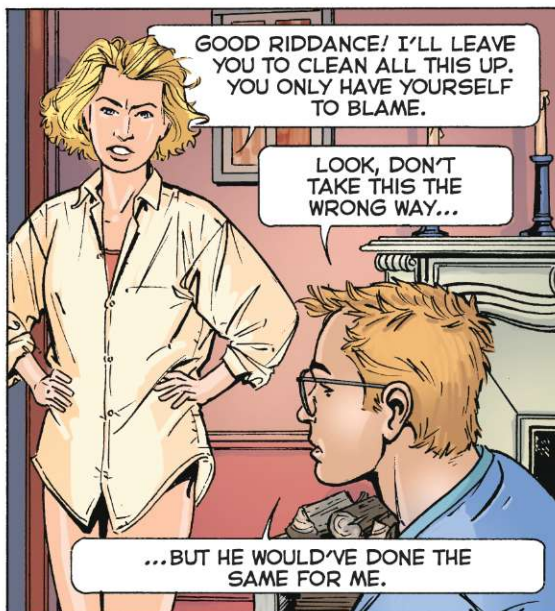
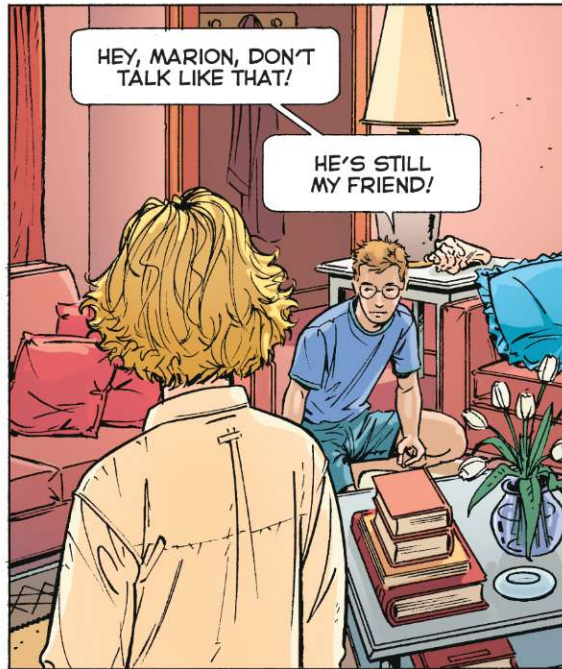
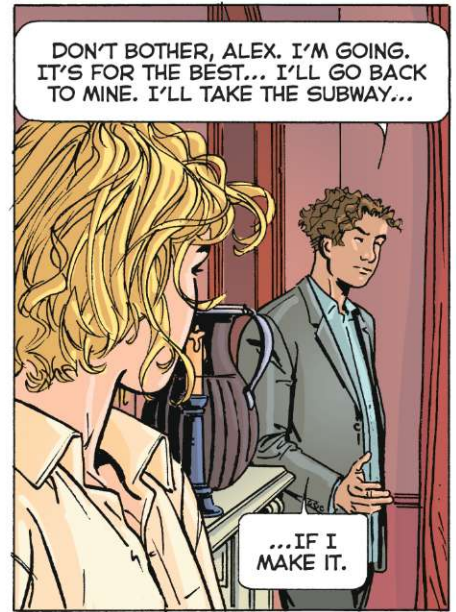
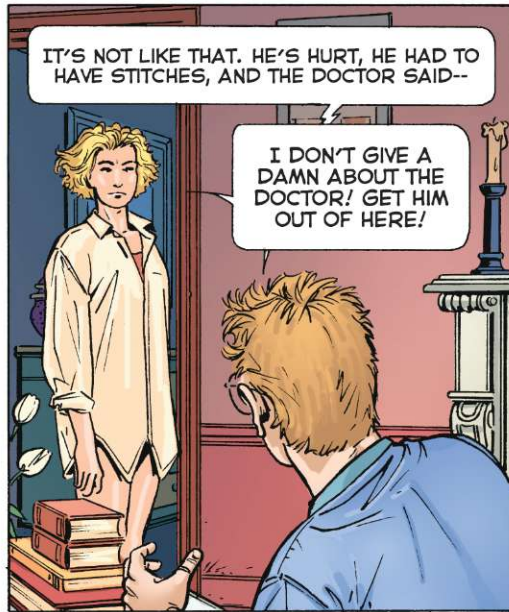
WE'LL GO TO THE BATHROOM! I'LL CLEAN UP.



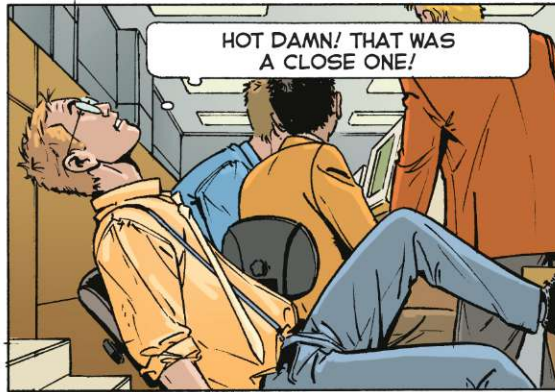
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE?



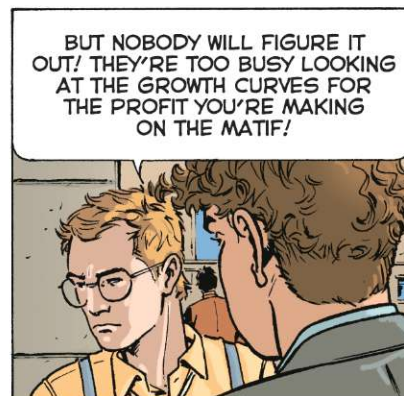
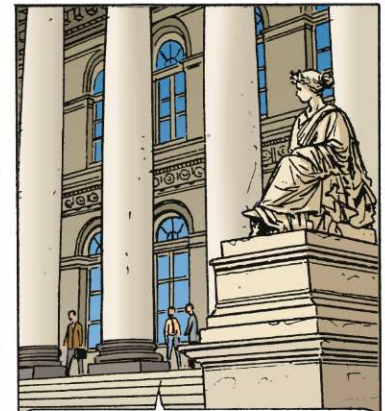
AH, MARION, WAIT... I'LL EXPLAIN. I HAD TO BRING HIM HERE. THE DOCTOR SAID--

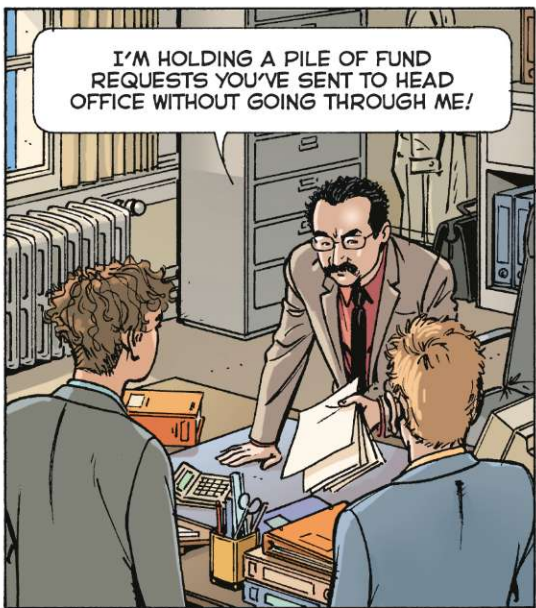






OH, OKAY! IT'S BEEN RADIO SILENCE FOR A WEEK, I COULD  
HAVE DIED AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE CARED. AND I COME  
BACK JUST TO GET IT IN THE NECK! IF I'M BOTHERING  
YOU SO MUCH, I CAN GO HOME, YOU KNOW!







THESE YOUNG GENTLEMEN ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR ESTABLISHMENT!



AND WHEN YOU HAVE YOUNG MEN OF SUCH QUALITY, YOU DON'T THROW A WRENCH IN THE WORKS. ON THE CONTRARY, YOU DO EVERYTHING TO KEEP THEM!



GENTLEMEN, THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR PERFORMANCES ON THE MATIF, WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS LIKE NEVER BEFORE ON THE STOCK MARKET! THE SHORT-TERM PROFITS YOU'VE MADE ARE IMPRESSIVE!

BUT--



AS A RESULT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU AN ADDITIONAL, THOROUGHLY DESERVED, BONUS FOR YOUR SERVICES!



BUT, SIR...

YOU... I... I MEAN, THANK YOU. IT'S TOO... WELL, NOT TOO... I... I MEAN...



COME, COME! WE'RE THE ONES THANKING YOU!

AND MICHEL BONNEFOND INFORMED ME THAT HE IS MOST PLEASED!



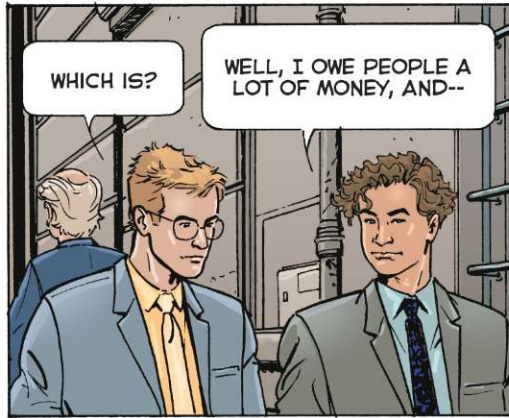
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! AND LIVE A LITTLE!



ARE YOU COMING FOR A DRINK TO CELEBRATE?

CELEBRATE WHAT?

THAT I'M BACK! AND THE BONUS! I'VE ALREADY GOT AN IDEA WHAT TO SPEND IT ON.



WHICH IS?

WELL, I OWE PEOPLE A LOT OF MONEY, AND--



HOLD ON, I THOUGHT YOU'D QUIT SCREWING UP!

CLEARLY THAT'S EASY FOR YOU!



EVER SINCE YOU SHACKED UP WITH MARION, YOU DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE!



BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU! AND ANYWAY, EVER SINCE YOU'VE BEEN WITH HER, I DON'T MATTER ANYMORE!

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M IN SHIT UP TO MY NECK AND I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP?!



BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME?

I COULD HAVE HELPED YOU, BUT IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING, THEN I CAN'T.



IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE. WITH WHAT WE JUST GOT, I EASILY HAVE ENOUGH TO BAIL MYSELF OUT AND BUY MYSELF A LITTLE GIFT!



ARE YOU KIDDING?! THE PI ACCOUNT IS STILL MAJORLY IN THE RED! SO THE PRIORITY IS FILLING THE HOLE SO WE CAN CLOSE IT, GOT IT?!

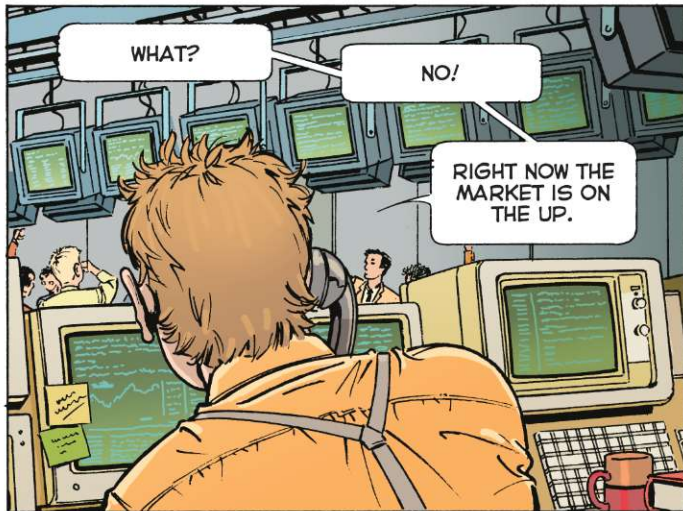
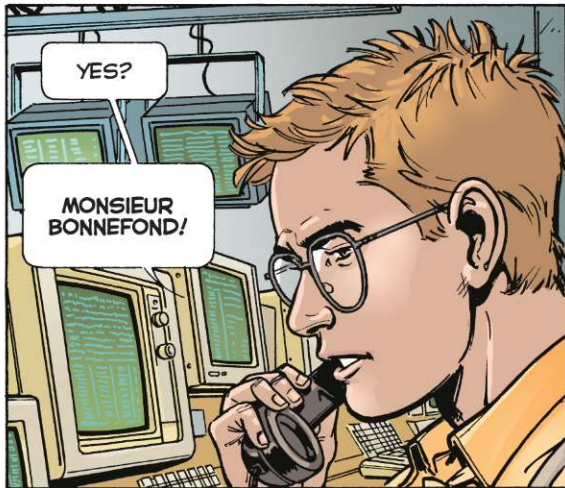


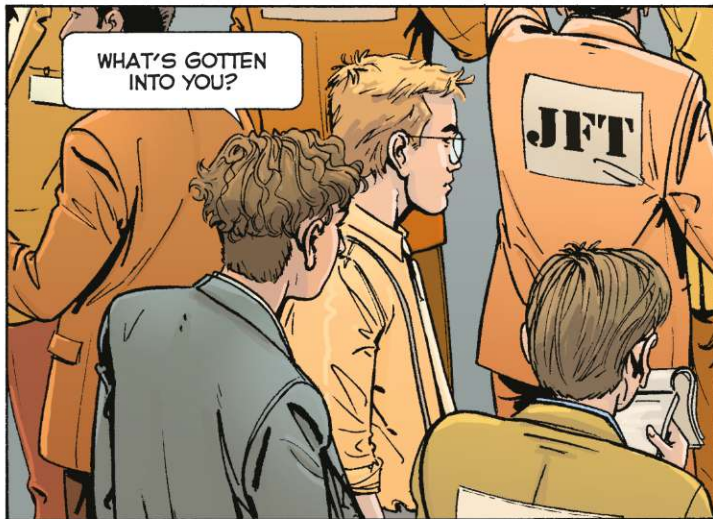
WELL, I GOTTA GO. THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME.

WE'LL TALK LATER, OKAY?









WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?



NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!  
JUST DO AS I SAY!



I'M SELLING!



I'M SELLING!



I'M SELLING!



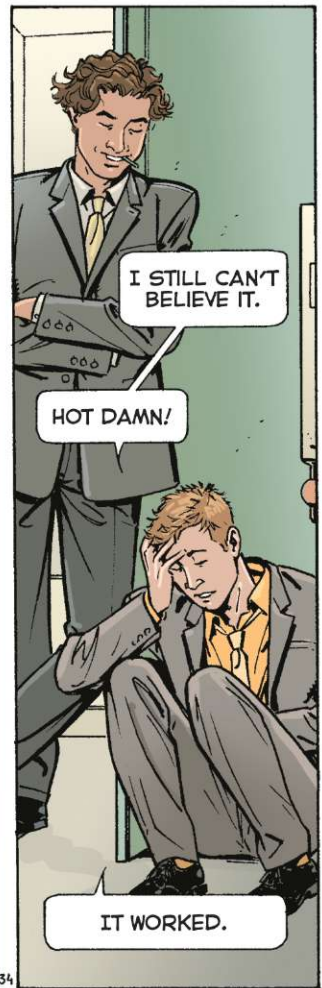
I'M SELLING!

**B  
O  
N  
G  
!**



YOU SHOULDN'T GET YOURSELF SO WORKED UP!

WE CAME OUT OF THAT AMAZINGLY WELL  
AND WE SCREWED THEM ALL!



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

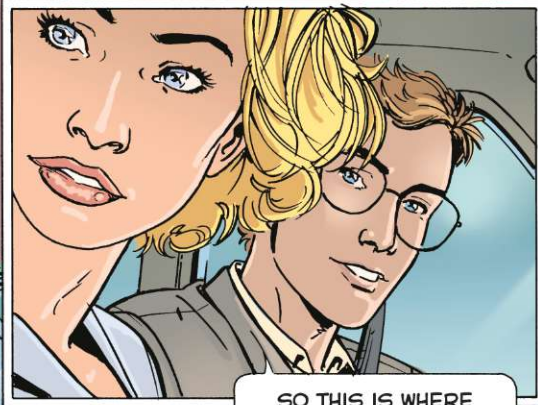
HOT DAMN!

IT WORKED.



LA CITÉ DE LA PLAINE, CLAMART.

HERE WE ARE!

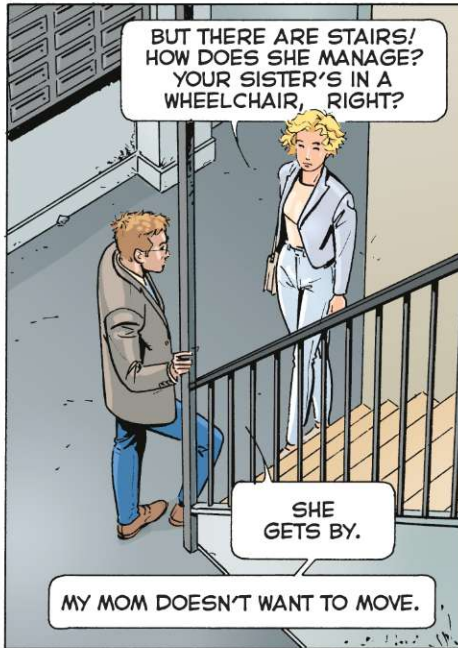


SO THIS IS WHERE YOU GREW UP?



YEP, IN THIS BUILDING.

AND THAT'S WHERE THEY STILL LIVE.



BUT THERE ARE STAIRS! HOW DOES SHE MANAGE? YOUR SISTER'S IN A WHEELCHAIR, RIGHT?

SHE GETS BY.

MY MOM DOESN'T WANT TO MOVE.



BUT I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP TRYING TO CONVINCE HER. ESPECIALLY NOW I'M EARNING A BIT MORE MONEY...

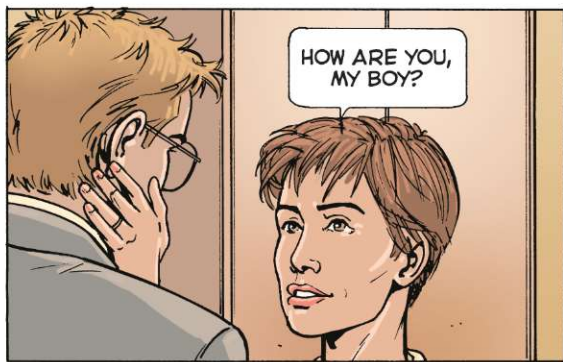


YOU'RE HERE! COME IN, COME IN!



MOM, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MARION. SHE WORKS AT THE BANK TOO, AND--

WELCOME, MARION. YOU CAN CALL ME SUZANNE.



HOW ARE YOU, MY BOY?



NATHALIE! IT'S YOUR BROTHER!

AND LOOK WHO'S WITH HIM!

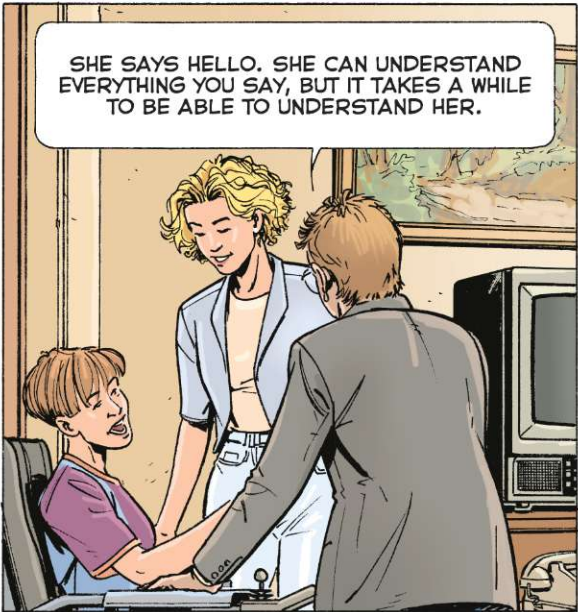




HELLO, SWEETHEART! LOOK, I DIDN'T COME ALONE! THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, MARION.



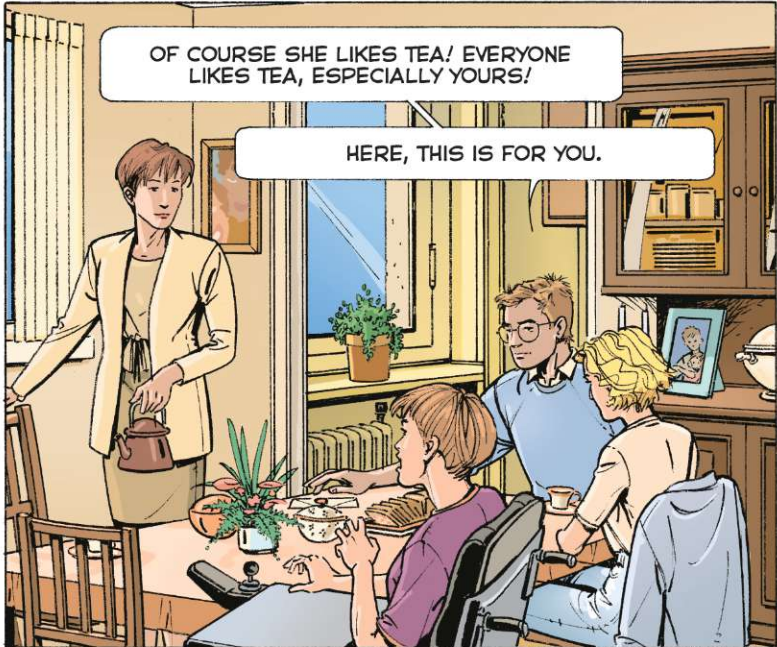
MA... ON! ^LO!



SHE SAYS HELLO. SHE CAN UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING YOU SAY, BUT IT TAKES A WHILE TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HER.



OKAY. IT'S REALLY LOVELY TO MEET YOU. ALEXANDRE HAS TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.



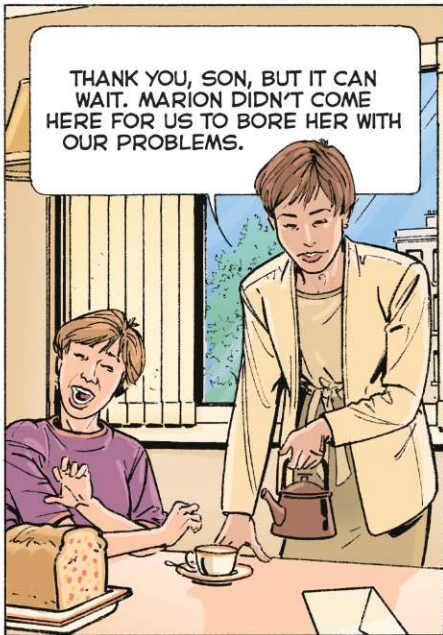
OF COURSE SHE LIKES TEA! EVERYONE LIKES TEA, ESPECIALLY YOURS!

HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU.



COME SIT AT THE TABLE, I MADE SOME TEA.

DO YOU LIKE TEA, MARION?



THANK YOU, SON, BUT IT CAN WAIT. MARION DIDN'T COME HERE FOR US TO BORE HER WITH OUR PROBLEMS.



DON'T WORRY, SUZANNE! ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT ALEX IS HELPING YOU AS BEST HE CAN!



YOU'RE KIND, MARION, BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU NOW!

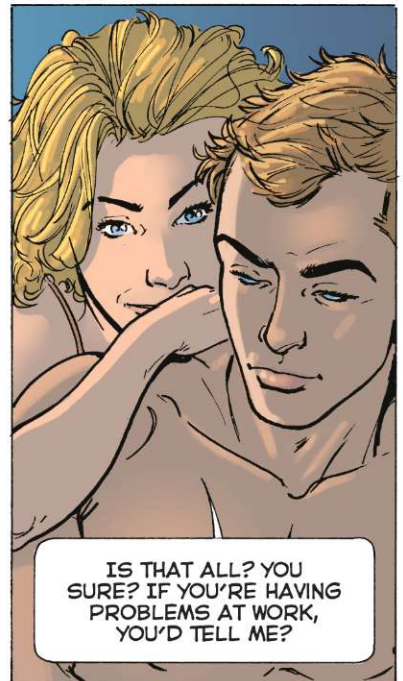
SO, YOU MET EACH OTHER AT THE BANK, IS THAT RIGHT?



YOU OKAY? YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN SINCE WE GOT BACK FROM YOUR MOM'S. IS SOMETHING WRONG?



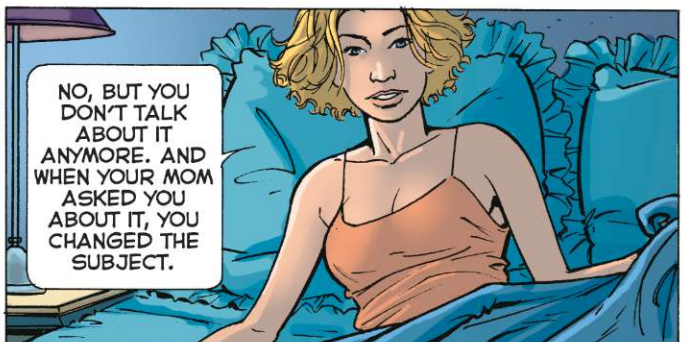
NO, NO, EVERYTHING'S FINE. IT JUST MADE ME FEEL WEIRD. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE INTRODUCED SOMEONE TO MY MOM AND MY SISTER, AND I CAN IMAGINE WHAT THAT MEANS TO THEM.



IS THAT ALL? YOU SURE? IF YOU'RE HAVING PROBLEMS AT WORK, YOU'D TELL ME?



AT WORK? NO, WHY? HAVE YOU HEARD SOMETHING?



NO, BUT YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE. AND WHEN YOUR MOM ASKED YOU ABOUT IT, YOU CHANGED THE SUBJECT.



I JUST DON'T WANT TO BORE HER WITH ALL THAT. SHE'S LIKE ALL MOTHERS, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, SHE WORRIES FOR NOTHING.



WHY? IS THERE SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT?



NO! OKAY, QUESTION TIME'S OVER.

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE PRACTICAL SECTION!





MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989

ALEX!



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU ALL WEEKEND! DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE WALL STREET CRASH?

OF COURSE! BUT I WASN'T AT HOME. WELL, NOT AT MINE.

I'M THIRSTY AS HELL!

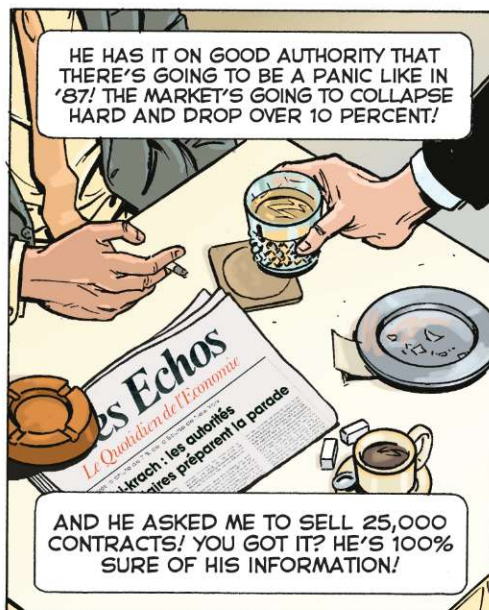


WAITER, GET ME A DOUBLE WHISKY! POR FAVOR!

TAKE IT EASY! WE HAVE WORK TODAY AND WE CAN'T SCREW UP!



LISTEN, BONNEFOND CALLED MY HOUSE THIS MORNING TO AVOID THE INTERNAL LINE AT THE MATIF AND THE WIRETAPS.



HE HAS IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A PANIC LIKE IN '87! THE MARKET'S GOING TO COLLAPSE HARD AND DROP OVER 10 PERCENT!

AND HE ASKED ME TO SELL 25,000 CONTRACTS! YOU GOT IT? HE'S 100% SURE OF HIS INFORMATION!



AWESOME! YOU KNOW WHAT? LET'S DOUBLE UP AND OFFLOAD 50,000! IT'S A SURE THING!

THAT WAY, WE'LL GET ALL OUR MONEY BACK AND BE ABLE TO CLOSE THE PI ACCOUNT AND WE'LL MAKE A KILLING!



ARE YOU CRAZY?! DON'T YOU GET WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF IT GOES WRONG?

HOLD ON. THERE'S NO PROBLEM HERE!



EVERY TIME HE'S GIVEN YOU A TIP-OFF, IT'S BEEN A CAKEWALK!

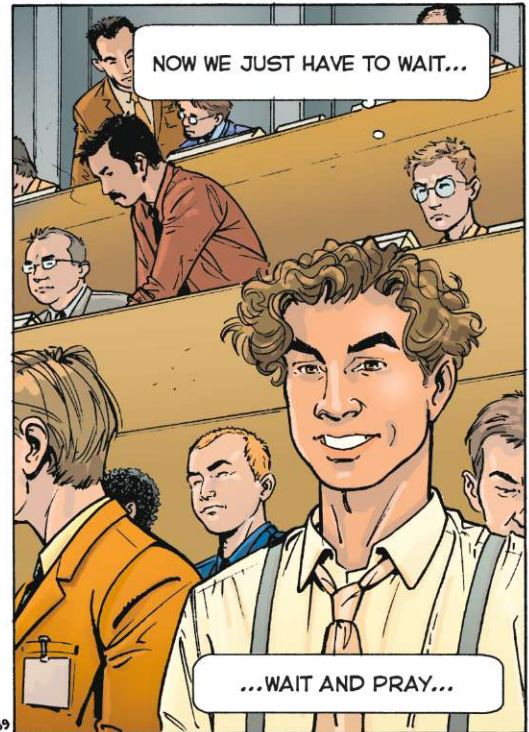
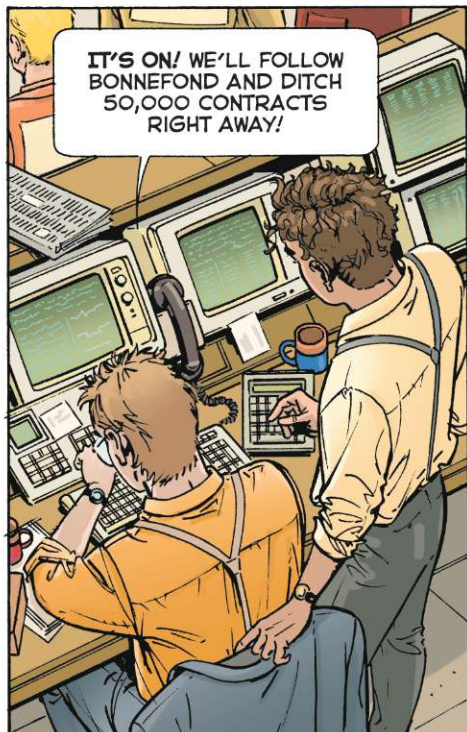
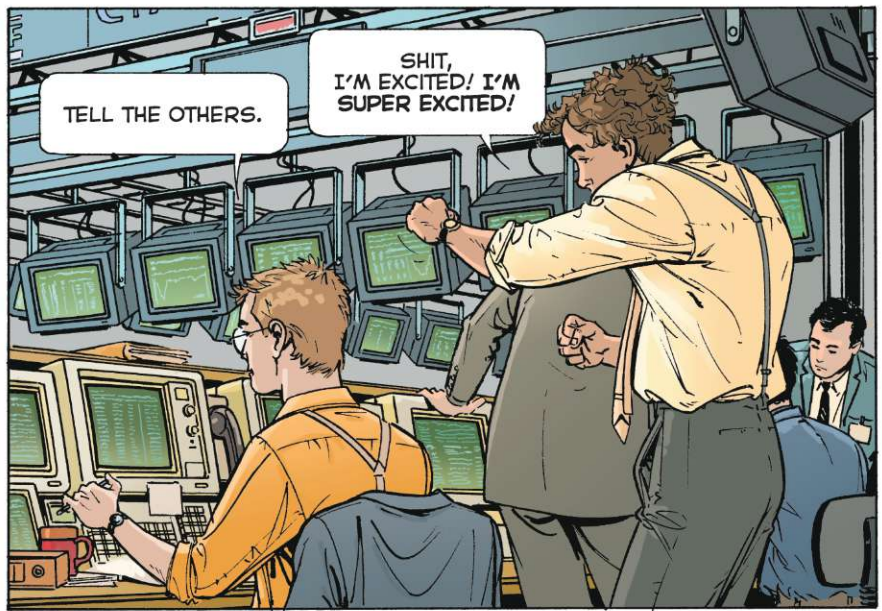
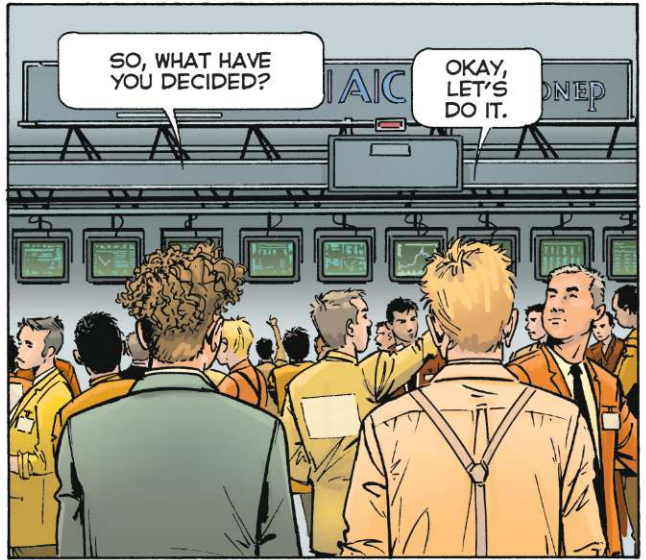
DO YOU REALLY THINK A GUY LIKE THAT WOULD TAKE SUCH A RISK IF HE WASN'T SURE ABOUT WHAT HE'S DOING?



NO, IT'S TOO MUCH! WE CAN'T FOLLOW HIM. AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THE LEGAL ISSUES!



OK, IT'S TIME. WE GOTTA GO!



16.10.89



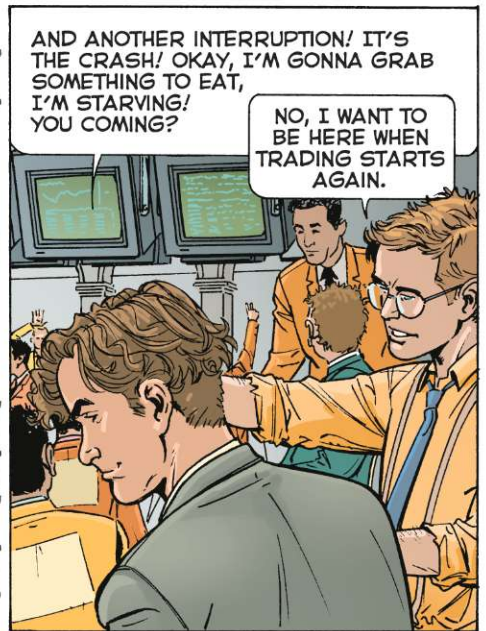
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16.10.89



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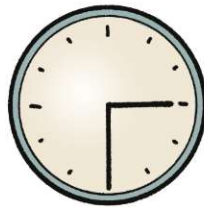
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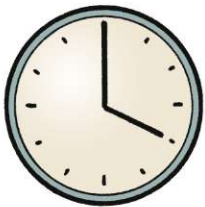
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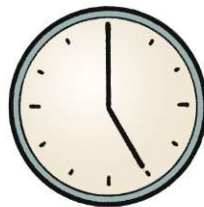
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SESSION  
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CAC INDEX  
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16.10.89



SESSION  
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CAC INDEX  
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YES. HE PROMISES EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

HE TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY.

WELL? DID YOU GET HIM? DID YOU SPEAK TO HIM?

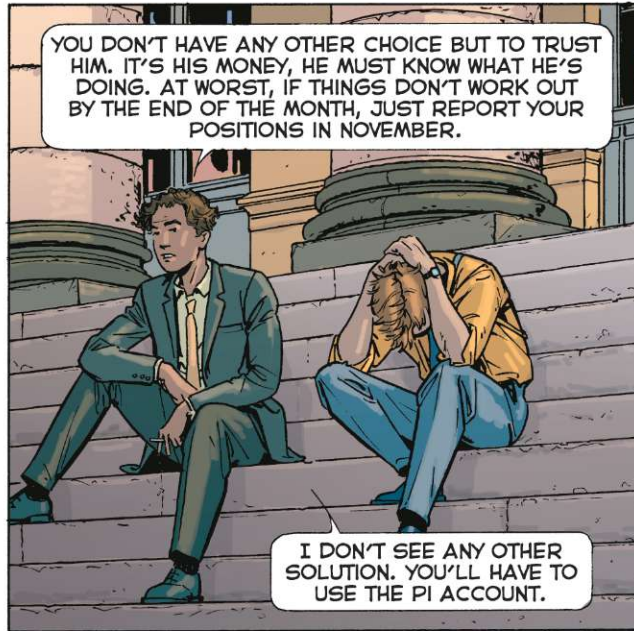


THAT'S A GOOD ONE! WHAT IF THE MARKET DOESN'T BEGIN TO DROP?

HE SAID THE LULL IS ONLY TEMPORARY AND THAT IT'LL FALL AGAIN.

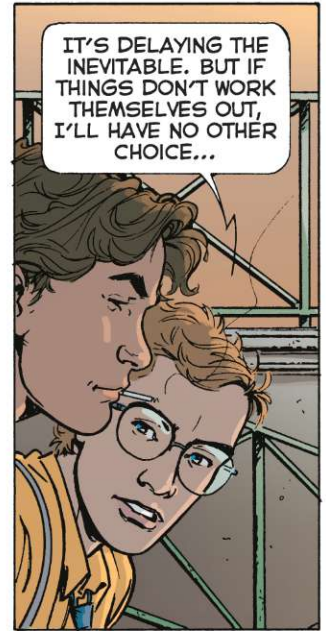


DAMN IT! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO YOU! WE'RE IN SOME SERIOUS SHIT. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN FIX THIS!



YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE BUT TO TRUST HIM. IT'S HIS MONEY, HE MUST KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING. AT WORST, IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT BY THE END OF THE MONTH, JUST REPORT YOUR POSITIONS IN NOVEMBER.

I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER SOLUTION. YOU'LL HAVE TO USE THE PI ACCOUNT.



IT'S DELAYING THE INEVITABLE. BUT IF THINGS DON'T WORK THEMSELVES OUT, I'LL HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE...



JEAN! YES, IT'S MICHEL! I JUST GOT IT. IT ALL WORKED PERFECTLY. THEY EVEN EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS!



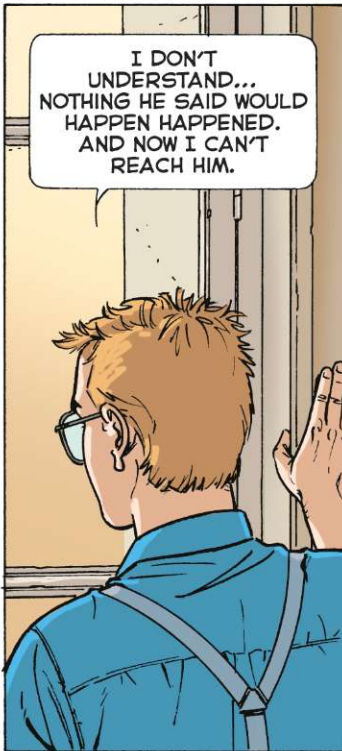
EXCELLENT! I'LL GO INFORM THE PRESIDENT RIGHT AWAY. HE'LL BE MOST PLEASED! SEE YOU SOON, MY DEAR FRIEND.



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO MR. BONNEFOND.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE STILL CAN'T BE REACHED. I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR OVER TEN DAYS NOW AND--

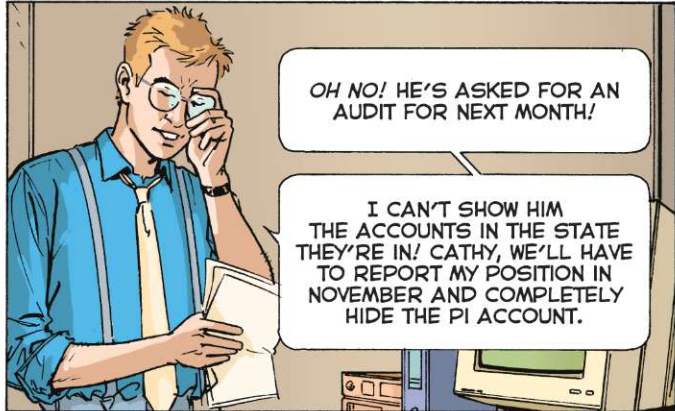
NO, I DON'T HAVE A MESSAGE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND... NOTHING HE SAID WOULD HAPPEN HAPPENED. AND NOW I CAN'T REACH HIM.



PATRICK SANCIER LEFT YOU A NOTE IN YOUR OFFICE THIS MORNING. HAVE YOU READ IT?



OH NO! HE'S ASKED FOR AN AUDIT FOR NEXT MONTH!

I CAN'T SHOW HIM THE ACCOUNTS IN THE STATE THEY'RE IN! CATHY, WE'LL HAVE TO REPORT MY POSITION IN NOVEMBER AND COMPLETELY HIDE THE PI ACCOUNT.



AS YOU WISH, BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO PUT YOU IN THE CLEAR.



IN FACT, I SHOULD REMIND YOU THAT YOU HAVE A MEETING WITH LUCIE MONDRAN, THE JOURNALIST FROM TRADING FLOOR ECHO.



I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SEE HER. POSTPONE THE INTERVIEW!



THAT'LL BE THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE PUSHED IT BACK. AND BESIDES, SHE'S ALREADY WAITING FOR YOU DOWN IN THE LOBBY.

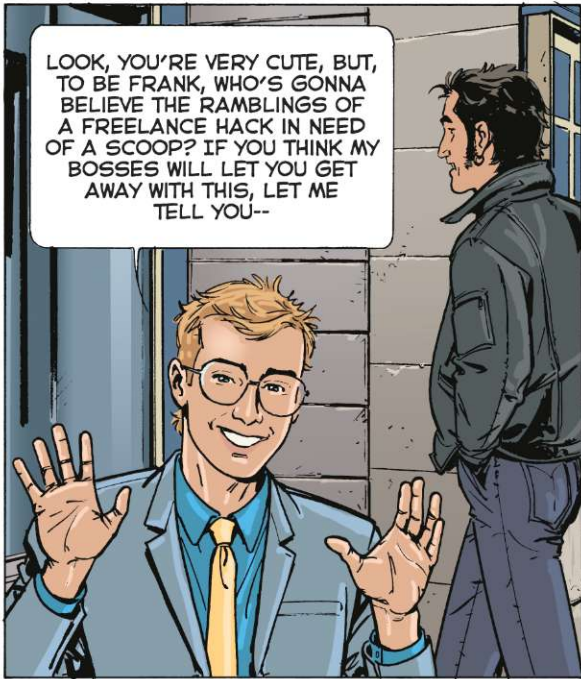


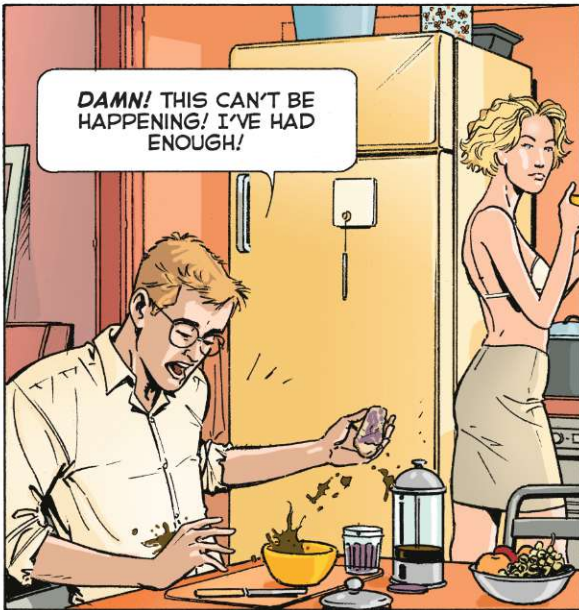
DAMMIT! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! AND THIERRY STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP!

FINE, I'LL RUSH THROUGH IT, AND THEN WE CAN GET BACK TO WORK!





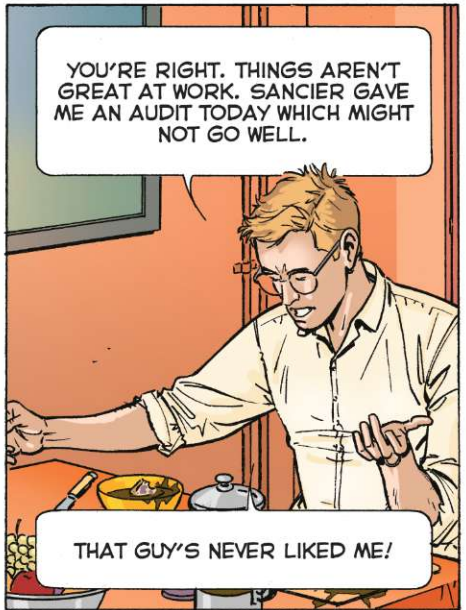




DAMN! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

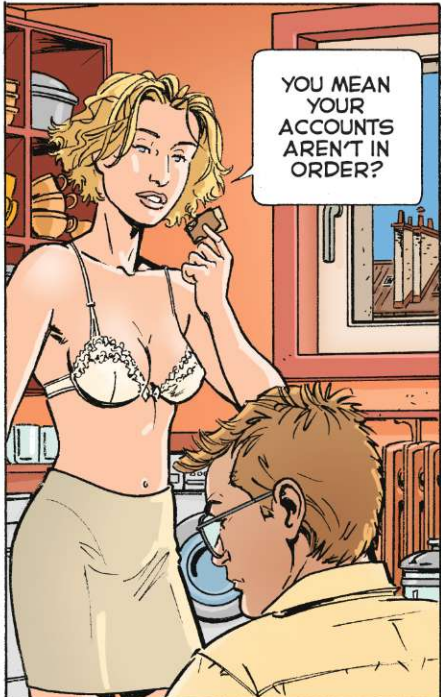


WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU GETTING ALL UPSET OVER A SLICE OF BREAD, OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?

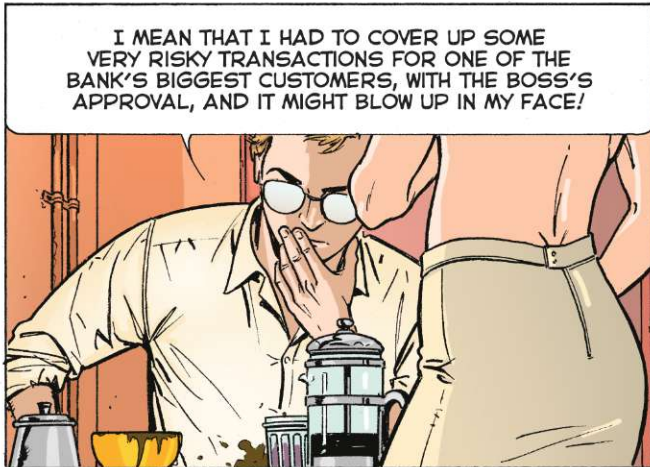


YOU'RE RIGHT. THINGS AREN'T GREAT AT WORK. SANCIER GAVE ME AN AUDIT TODAY WHICH MIGHT NOT GO WELL.

THAT GUY'S NEVER LIKED ME!



YOU MEAN YOUR ACCOUNTS AREN'T IN ORDER?



I MEAN THAT I HAD TO COVER UP SOME VERY RISKY TRANSACTIONS FOR ONE OF THE BANK'S BIGGEST CUSTOMERS, WITH THE BOSS'S APPROVAL, AND IT MIGHT BLOW UP IN MY FACE!



NO. HE'S NOT INVOLVED IN ALL THIS.

THEN WHAT IS IT?

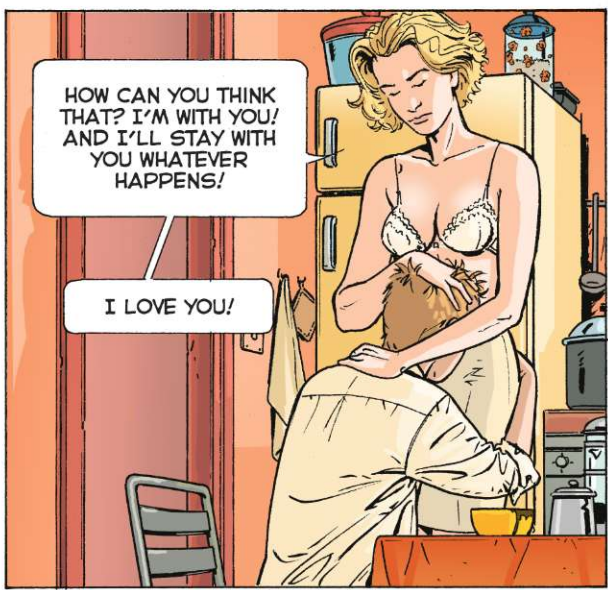


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU DIDN'T DO IT TO COVER FOR THIERRY, RIGHT?



I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE. YOU'D HATE ME IF YOU KNEW EVERYTHING. AND I'M SURE THAT'S GOING TO END UP HAPPENING!

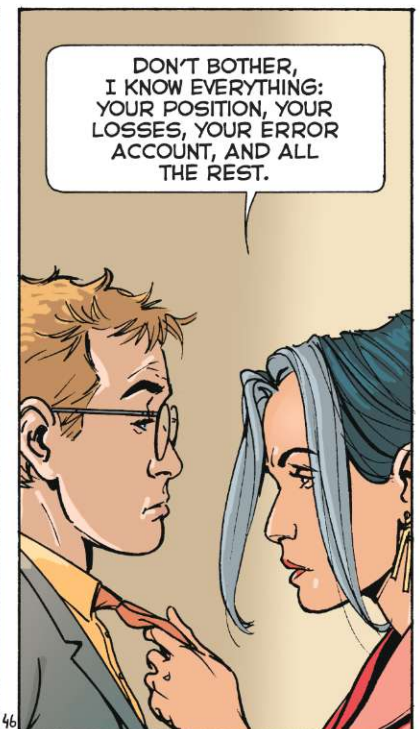
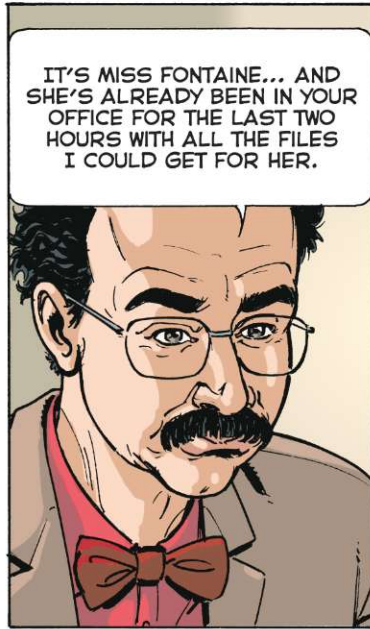


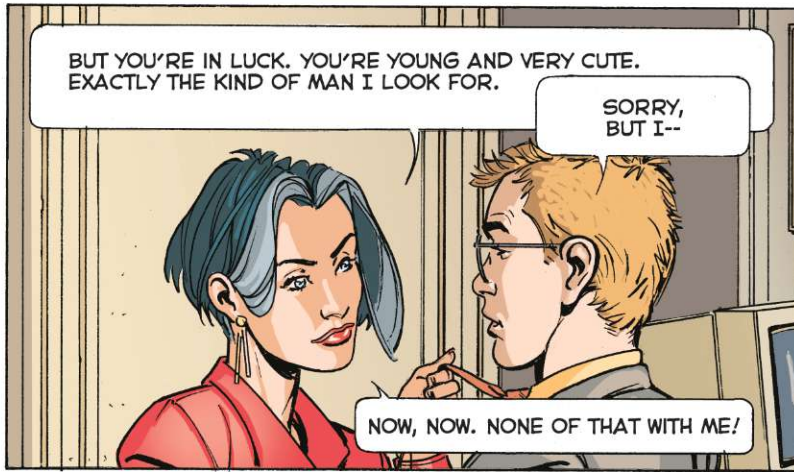
HOW CAN YOU THINK THAT? I'M WITH YOU! AND I'LL STAY WITH YOU WHATEVER HAPPENS!

I LOVE YOU!



I HAVE TO GO, AND I NEED TO CHANGE MY SHIRT.

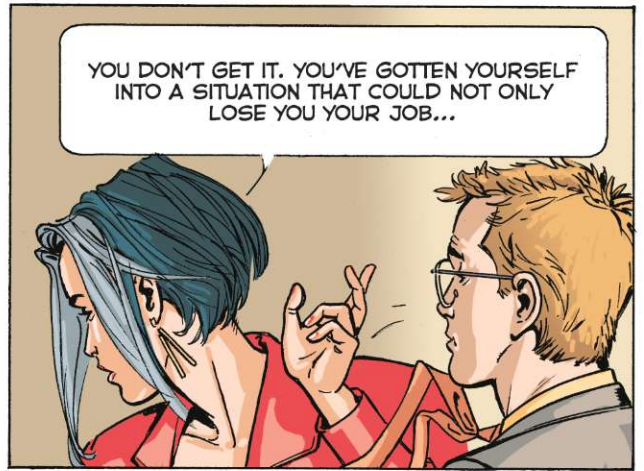




BUT YOU'RE IN LUCK. YOU'RE YOUNG AND VERY CUTE. EXACTLY THE KIND OF MAN I LOOK FOR.

SORRY, BUT I--

NOW, NOW. NONE OF THAT WITH ME!



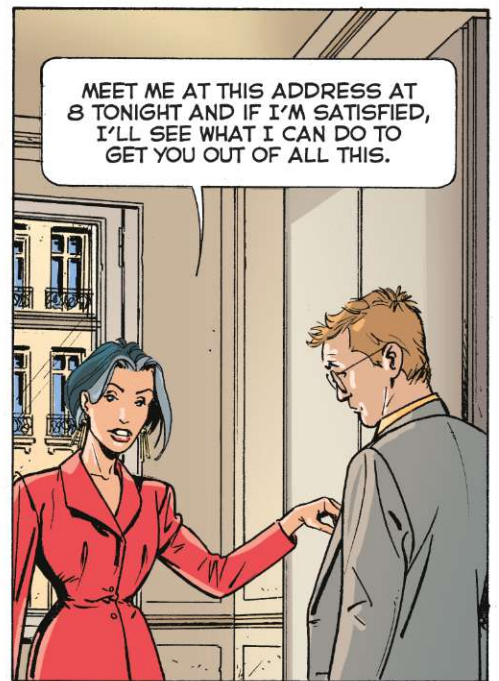
YOU DON'T GET IT. YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO A SITUATION THAT COULD NOT ONLY LOSE YOU YOUR JOB...



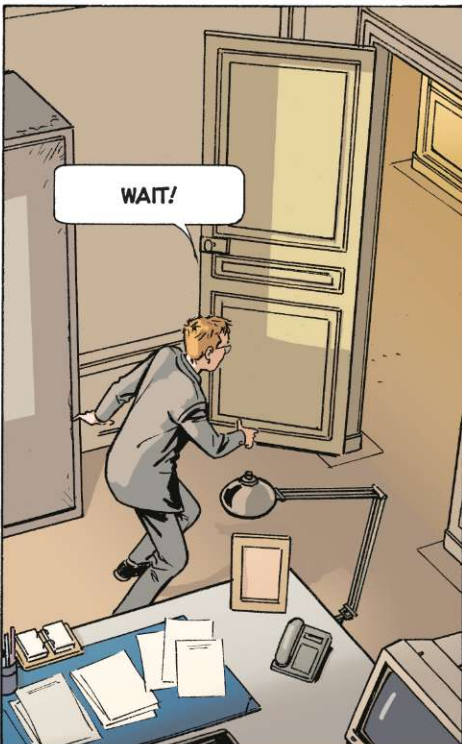
... BUT COULD LEAD YOU STRAIGHT TO JAIL IF I REVEAL THE EMBEZZLEMENT YOU'VE CARRIED OUT.



SO I'M OFFERING YOU AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WILL COST YOU VERY LITTLE, BUT WILL BRING YOU A GREAT DEAL, BELIEVE ME.



MEET ME AT THIS ADDRESS AT 8 TONIGHT AND IF I'M SATISFIED, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO GET YOU OUT OF ALL THIS.



WAIT!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAN?



YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN THE DEVIL!



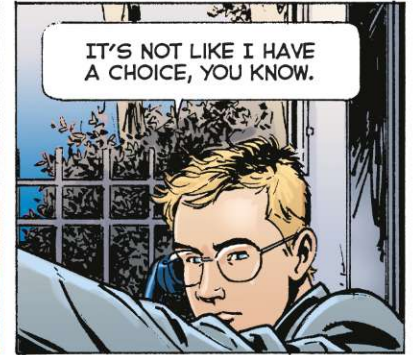
MARION?  
YES, IT'S  
ME...



WHERE ARE YOU?  
I'VE BEEN WAITING UP!  
HOW DID IT GO TODAY?



FINE, FINE, I'LL TELL YOU LATER.  
UH... I WON'T MAKE IT BACK TONIGHT.  
THERE'S A PARTY, AND SAINT-HUBERT  
WANTS... WANTS ME TO...



IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE  
A CHOICE, YOU KNOW.



OKAY!  
IT'S A PITY YOU  
DIDN'T LET ME  
KNOW EARLIER,  
I COULD HAVE  
GONE OUT WITH  
ISA.



ARE YOU SURE  
YOU'RE OKAY?

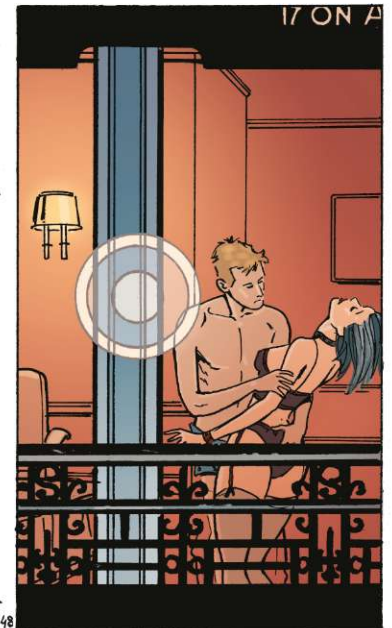
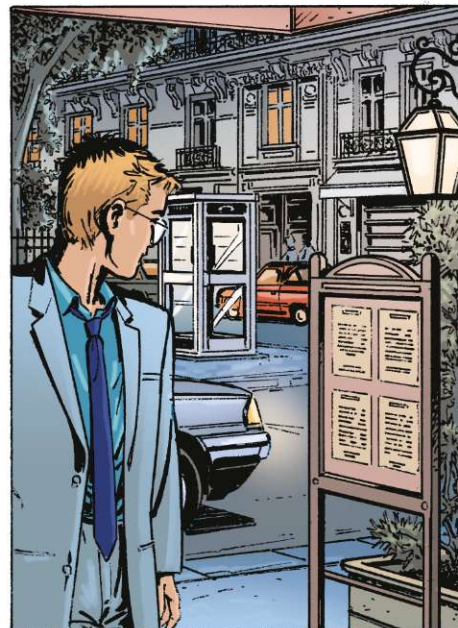
THAT CAR!



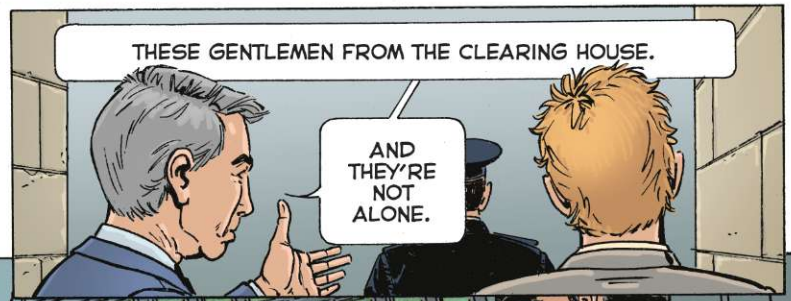
YEAH,  
YEAH, IT'S FINE!  
GOOD NIGHT,  
HONEY.

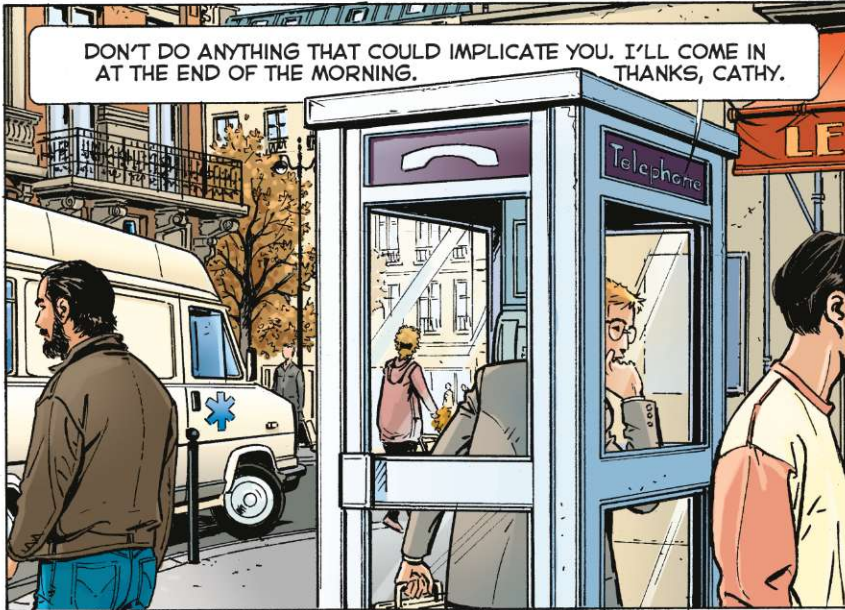


IT'S FINE, ALRIGHT...  
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S  
WHORING HIMSELF OUT  
TO SAVE HIS SKIN!



17 ON A





DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT COULD IMPLICATE YOU. I'LL COME IN AT THE END OF THE MORNING.  
THANKS, CATHY.



MARION TAGHER...

ALEX?! WHERE ON EARTH ARE YOU? EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR YOU!



I'M... OUT... IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU OK?

WHAT'S ALL THIS THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT EMBEZZLEMENT?



THERE ARE RUMORS FLYING AROUND THAT THE BANK WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY ITS DEBT! DID YOU DO THAT?

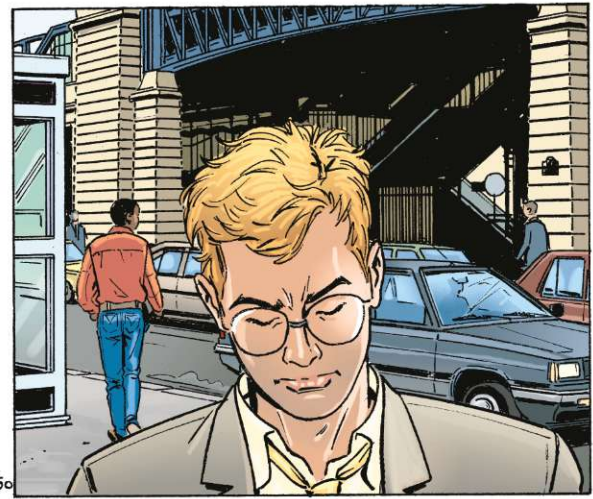


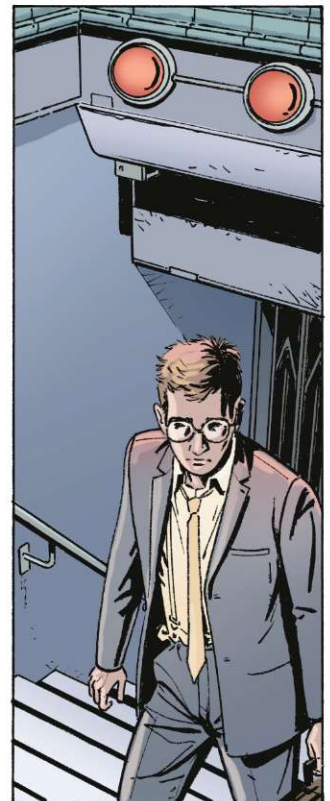
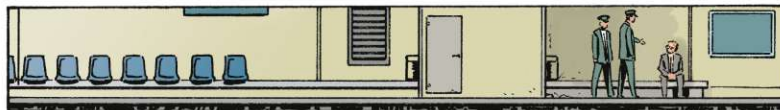
NO... DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING. IT'LL ALL WORK OUT!



I HAVE TO GO...

I LOVE YOU!

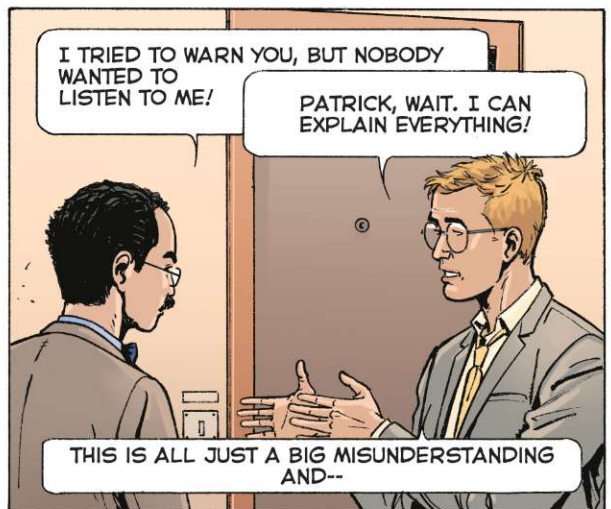




ALEXANDRE!  
WAIT!



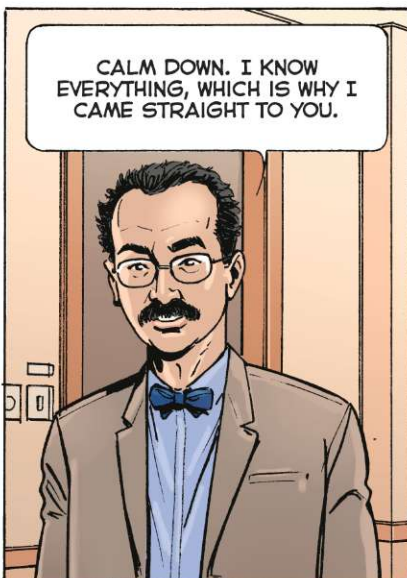
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE!  
YOU'VE LEFT A REAL MESS  
BEHIND YOU!



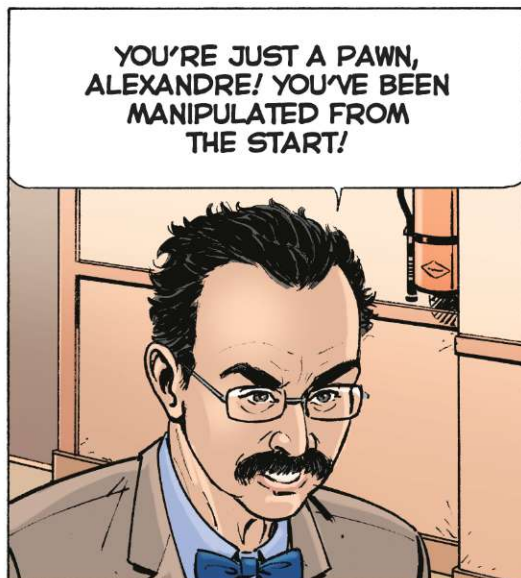
I TRIED TO WARN YOU, BUT NOBODY  
WANTED TO  
LISTEN TO ME!

PATRICK, WAIT. I CAN  
EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

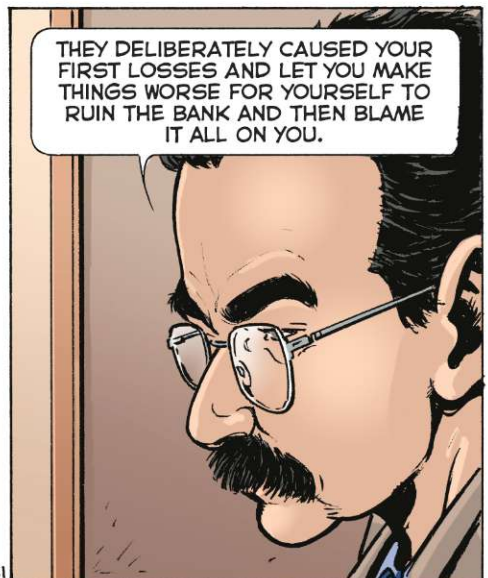
THIS IS ALL JUST A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING  
AND--



CALM DOWN. I KNOW  
EVERYTHING, WHICH IS WHY I  
CAME STRAIGHT TO YOU.

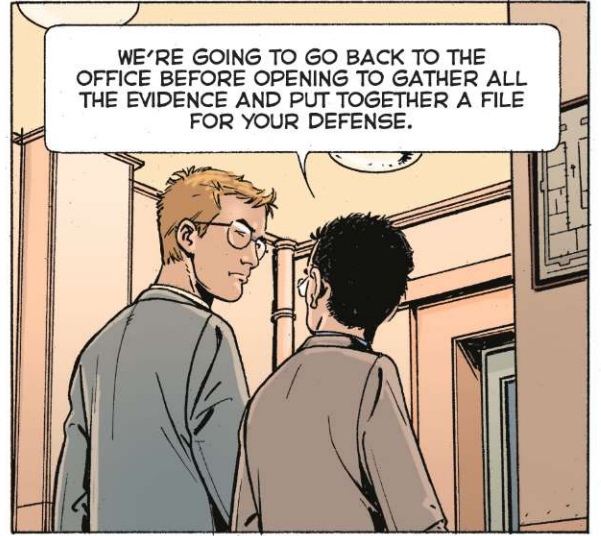
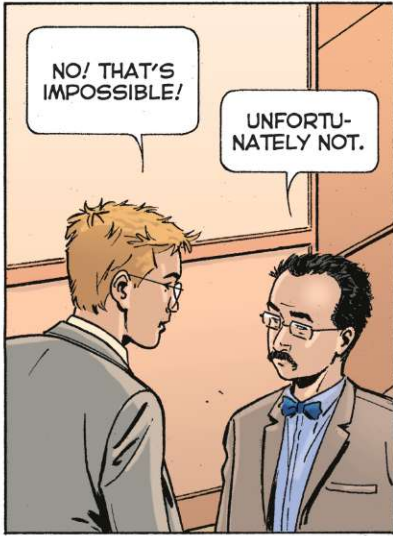


YOU'RE JUST A PAWN,  
ALEXANDRE! YOU'VE BEEN  
MANIPULATED FROM  
THE START!



THEY DELIBERATELY CAUSED YOUR  
FIRST LOSSES AND LET YOU MAKE  
THINGS WORSE FOR YOURSELF TO  
RUIN THE BANK AND THEN BLAME  
IT ALL ON YOU.







**THE FALL OF A TRADER**  
 by Lucie Mondran

As incredible as it may seem, the collapse of the BGCi appears to be the work of a single man, a trader fast-tracked to the futures market, without any supervision from the bank's managing authorities, whose eyes were glued to the incredible profits

PARIS, 2000.

AND HERE THEY ALL ARE, TWELVE YEARS LATER, DRINKING TO MY HEALTH!

WELL, MY DEAR LUCIE, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS DANTES? YOU'RE THE JOURNALIST. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KNOW EVERYTHING!

YOU'RE MISTAKEN, MR. SAINT-HUBERT, WE DON'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU IN YOUR MINISTRY. AND IT'S NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING! WE COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING ON HIM!

UNTIL THIS EVENING, CHRISTOPHER DANTES WAS A MYSTERY, ALMOST A MYTH.

HIS FORTUNE, HOWEVER, IS NO MYTH. DO YOU HAVE AN ESTIMATE, SYLVIE?

MARION, IS SOMETHING WRONG, DEAR?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CHAMPAGNE...

DON'T WORRY, THIERRY... I'M FINE, THANK YOU.

MY FIRM PUTS IT HIGHER THAN ANYTHING YOU COULD IMAGINE, MICHEL.

WOULD YOU LIKE A GLASS?

PLEASE. THANK YOU, ISAAC.

LET'S RAISE A TOAST...

...TO THE NIGHTMARE AWAITING THEM!

END OF VOLUME 1  
BOISSERIE, GUILLAUME  
JUSZEK & NARDIN  
2007

## GLOSSARY

### For rookie brokers

**Back office:** the departments in financial institutions entrusted with handling the administration required to carry out orders and transactions correctly, namely settlements and clearances.

**CAC 40 index:** officially launched on June 15, 1988, to reflect changes on the Paris Stock Exchange, the CAC 40 index (whereby CAC stands for "Cotation Assistée en Continu" or Continuous Assisted Quotation) tracks the 40 largest stocks on the Paris Stock Exchange, based on capitalization and liquidity.

**Clearing house:** the financial institution responsible for monitoring traders' positions on derivatives markets and in return eliminating risks.

**Derivatives market:** a market that makes it possible to manage the risks associated with fluctuations in values, all while taking buying or selling positions with limited capital outlay. The futures market is a derivatives market.

**Error account:** an account opened by a financial institution to record transaction errors resulting from operations carried out by this institution for the account of a third party or its own account. This account must not be used for other purposes and must be audited as soon as possible.

**Futures contract:** a firm commitment to buy or sell an agreed number of financial assets (shares, bonds, indexes, etc.) at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future.

**Futures market:** a market in which standardized contracts that allow all kinds of financial assets (currency exchanges, interest rates, stock indexes, raw materials, etc.) to be bought or sold with settlement and delivery at a later date.

**Margin call:** the security deposit required by the clearing house when an investor on the derivatives markets is in a situation of potential loss.

**Market index:** the weighted average of values of a sample of securities listed on the market, chosen for their representativeness, which makes it possible to track changes on the market over time.

**Matif:** a regulated market opened on February 20 1986 on which futures contracts such as interest rate futures, bond futures, financial futures, stock indexes (CAC 40), and raw materials are bought and sold using standardized contracts.

**Palais Brongniart:** a neoclassical building surrounded by a Corinthian colonnade peristyle, construction of which began in 1807 by French architect Alexandre-Théodore Brongniart (1739–1813) and which was completed in 1826 by his colleague Étienne-Éloy Labarre (1764–1833) to house the Paris Stock Exchange. Owned by the city of Paris, following the total automation of the market it was converted into a conference, seminar, and reception center, managed by Nyse Euronext.

**Position:** the exposure of a trader's account to the risk of fluctuation of prices at a given moment. It can be owned (a long position) or sold (a short position).

**Trader:** an employee in a financial institution who handles the transactions on financial markets (shares, bonds, derivatives).

Although this story is obviously very freely, albeit respectfully,  
inspired by Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte-Cristo*, any resemblance  
to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

To the Merisiers.

**PB**

To Marithé, Mari-Wenn, Maël, and Yann-Aël for their support and their patience.  
To Bernard and Sabine, without whom this would never have all come together. To Éric Stalner, who knows why.

**PhG**

To Thomas,  
to Jean-Baptiste  
to Christophe,  
to my mother.

Thank you for being there.

**EJ**

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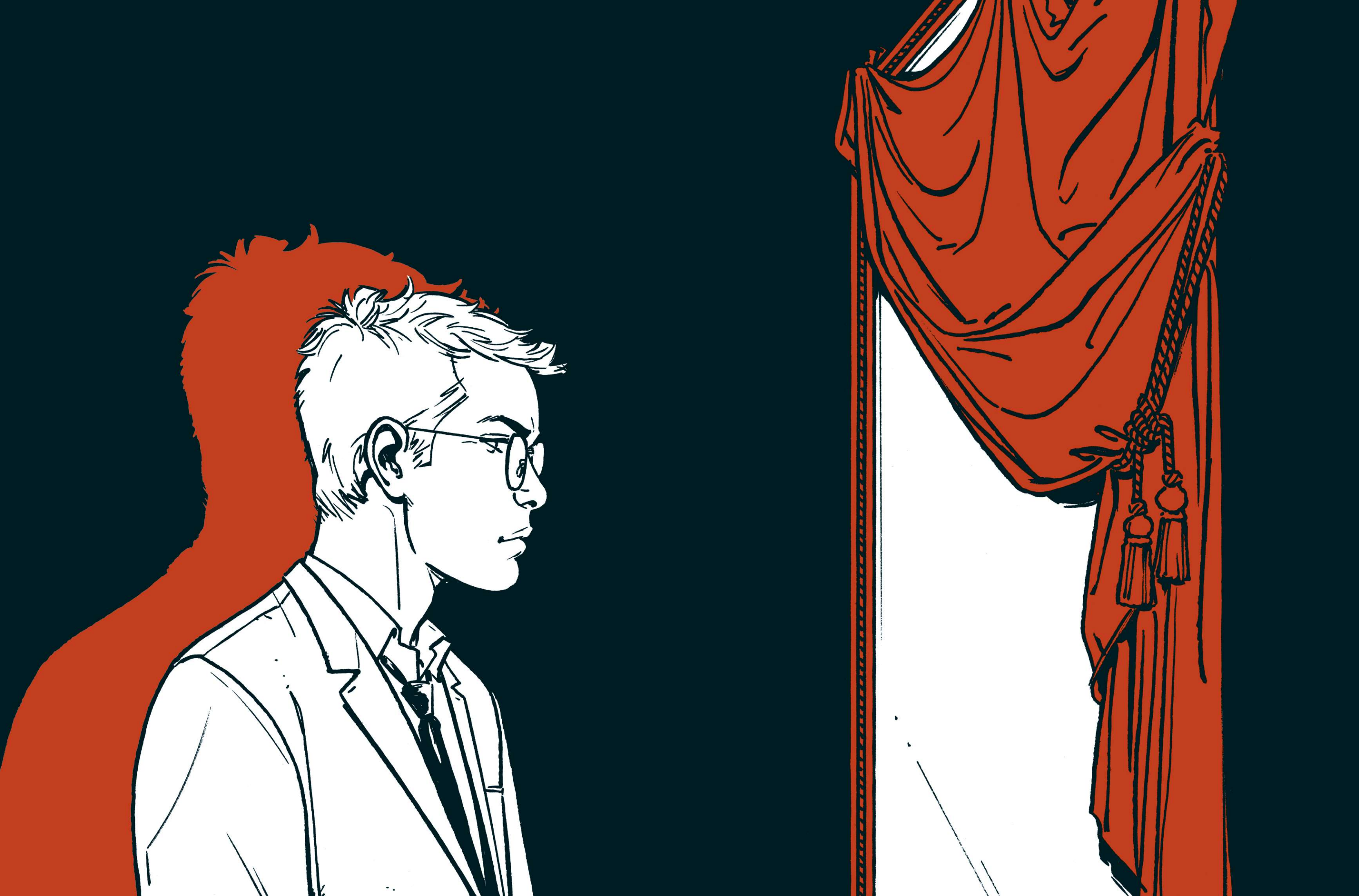
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**DARGAUD**







# PARIS

2000

Christopher Dantes, a businessman as rich as he is mysterious, makes his first public appearance at the Millennium Financial Ball, coming face to face with the people involved in a plot that took place twelve years earlier.

1988

In the merciless world of the stock exchange, Alexandre, a young trader, finds himself caught in the middle of a game of scheming and manipulation that will lead to his downfall.



**VENGEANCE HAS NO PRICE,  
BUT IT HAS A NAME: DANTE.**