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# HEDGE FUND

1. MONEY MEN









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# HEDGE FUND

A mostly unregulated investment instrument, not accessible to the general public and able to leverage its assets under management several times over to take advantage of certain market opportunities. Hedge funds have been responsible for ruthless speculative attacks against countries all over the world. There are over 10,000 hedge funds in existence today, of which 80% are located in tax havens. The largest are worth billions of dollars.



THERE ARE A THOUSAND WAYS  
I COULD START MY STORY.

MY BIRTH IN A PARIS  
HOSPITAL.



MY SHITTY EDUCATION  
IN THE SUBURBS.



MY FIRST FAILURES,  
MY FIRST BUSINESS,  
MY FIRST BANKRUPTCY.

OR THE DAY I MET THE BIGGEST  
BASTARD IN THE WORLD.



THERE'S A THOUSAND WAYS TO START  
THIS STORY... BUT ONLY ONE WAY TO END IT.

I'M THE ASSHOLE WHO  
RUINED YOU ALL.



CENTRAL, HONG KONG'S BUSINESS DISTRICT.



HELLO, MRS. WILSON? THIS IS FRANK CARVALE CALLING, WITH VISALIS. DO YOU HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

# HEDGE FUND

1. MONEY MEN





...YES, AND IT'S AN OFFER THAT ISN'T ON THE MARKET YET. WE ABSOLUTELY NEED TO SEE EACH OTHER, MRS. WILSON!



I HAPPEN TO BE HEADING TO YOUR AREA THIS AFTERNOON...

DOES 4:30 WORK FOR YOU? PERFECT, MRS. WILSON!



BY THE WAY, IS THERE SOMEWHERE I CAN PARK MY CAR?



HEY, FRANK! CAN YOU GET YOUR STUFF OUT OF HERE? I'M GONNA NEED THE OFFICE.



JUST A SEC!

GREAT, MRS. WILSON. THAT'S RIGHT, SEE YOU SOON!

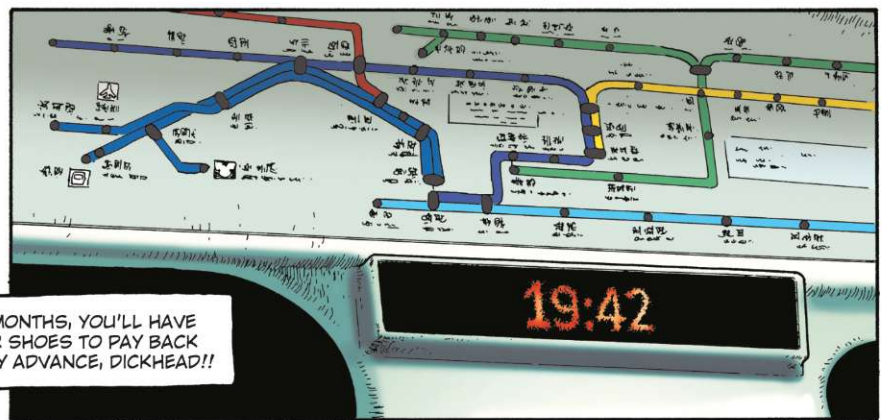
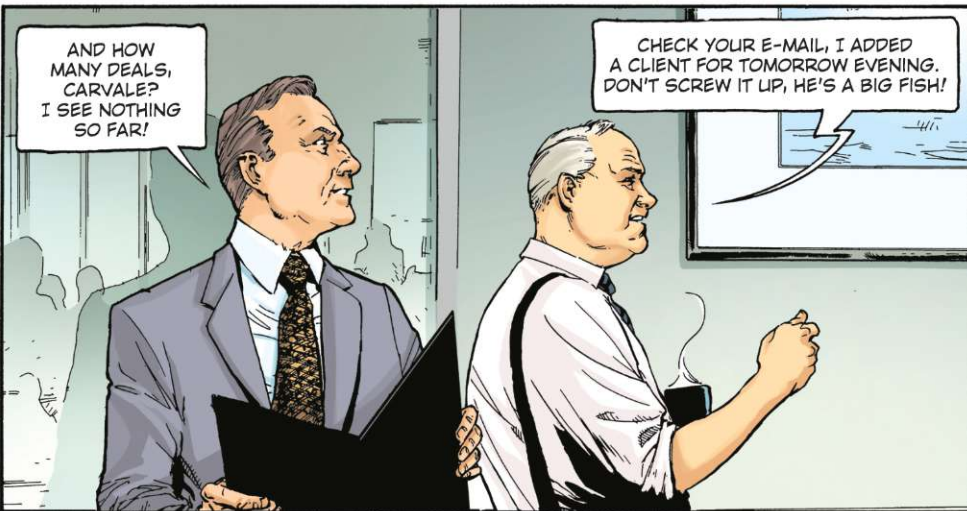
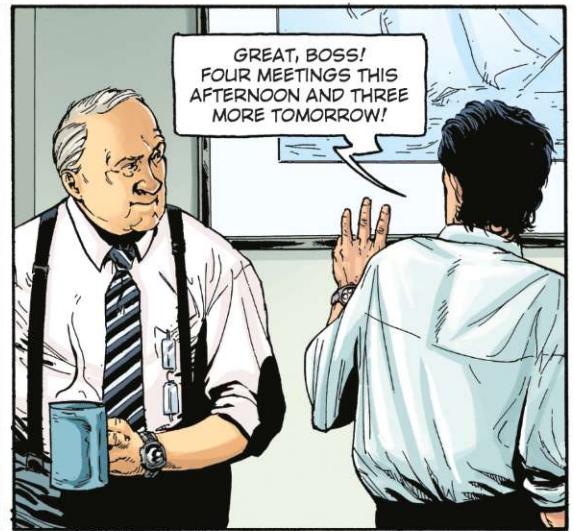


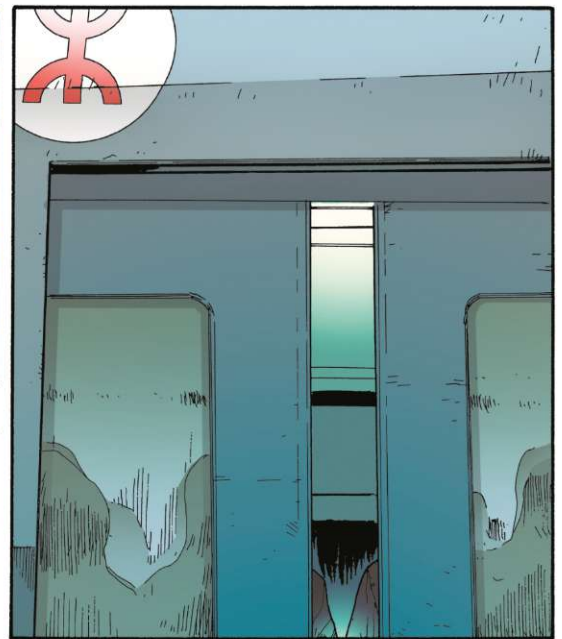
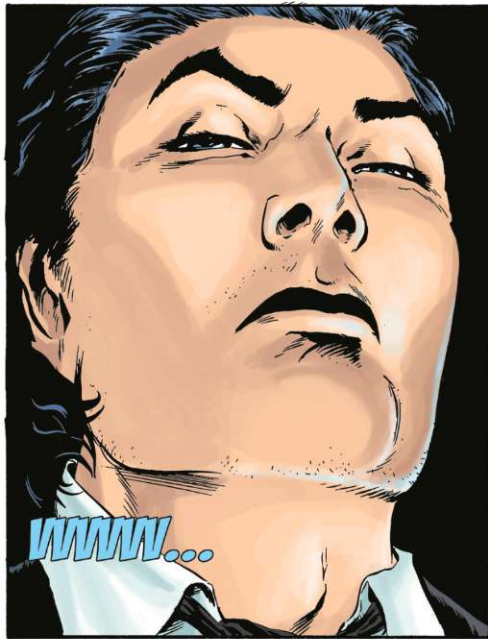
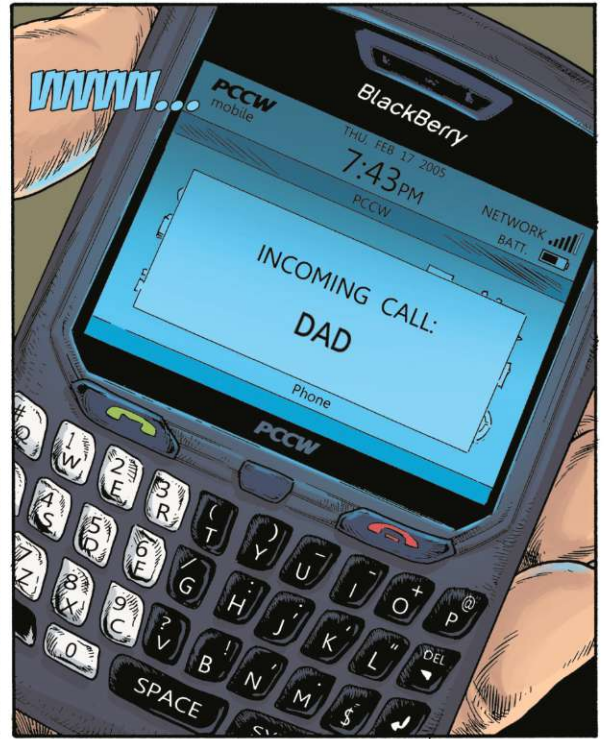
WAIT, YOU'VE GOT A CAR NOW?

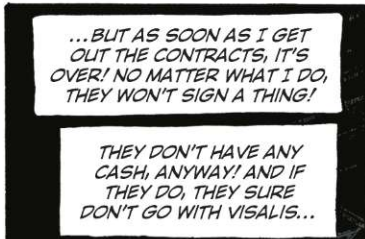
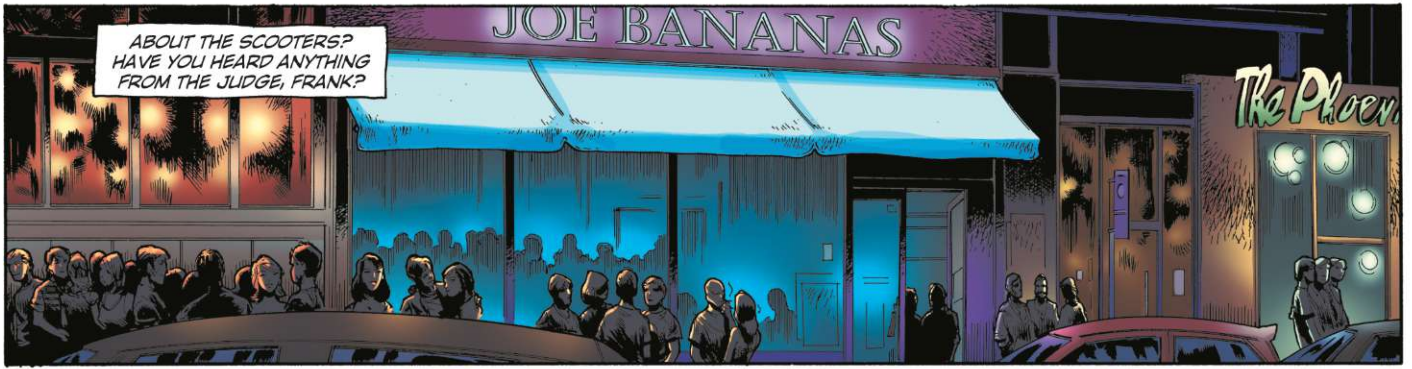
I WISH. THE IMPORTANT THING IS SHE THINKS I DO.

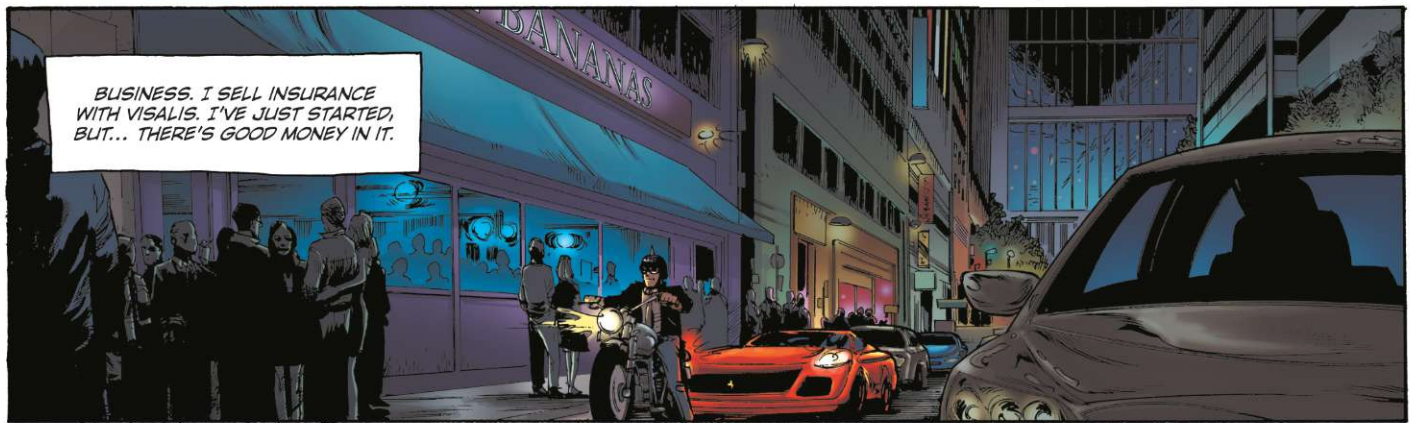


WOULD YOU BUY INSURANCE FROM A GUY WHO CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A CAR?











...I MEAN, I CAN SEE YOU'RE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, BUT...

LISA! T.J. JUST GOT HERE!!



THANKS FOR THE DRINK, HANDSOME!

T.J.!!



HEY, FUCKER... DIDYA REALLY THINK YOU'D GET ONE OF THE CATHAY PACIFIC GIRLS?

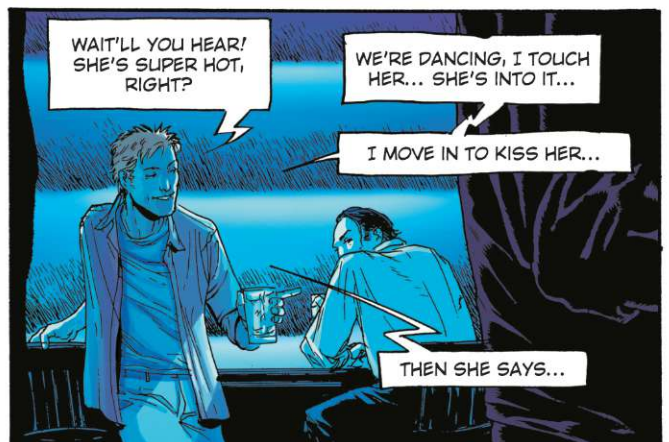
THEY'RE HERE FOR HUSBANDS, MAN, THEY'RE LOOKING TO SCORE BIG! YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

PSSH... JUST LOOK AT THEM RUN AFTER THOSE FUCKING TRADERS...



I DON'T KNOW WHY WE KEEP COMING HERE, THIS PLACE IS FULL OF ASSHOLES...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ALEX? WHERE'S YOUR GIRL IN THE RED DRESS?



WAIT'LL YOU HEAR! SHE'S SUPER HOT, RIGHT?

WE'RE DANCING, I TOUCH HER... SHE'S INTO IT...

I MOVE IN TO KISS HER...

THEN SHE SAYS...

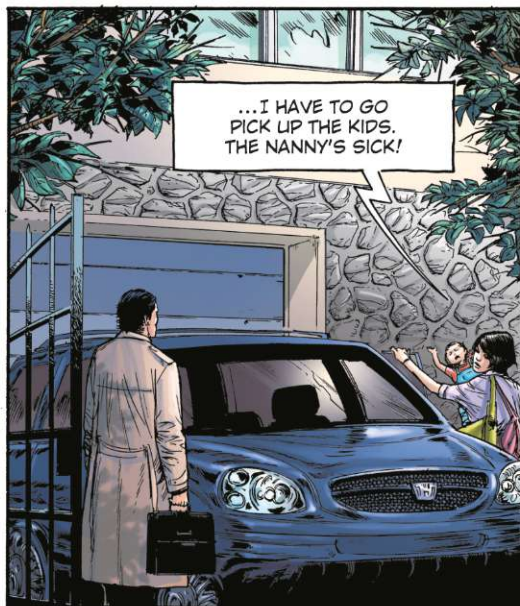


"IT'S ONLY A THOUSAND FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT..."



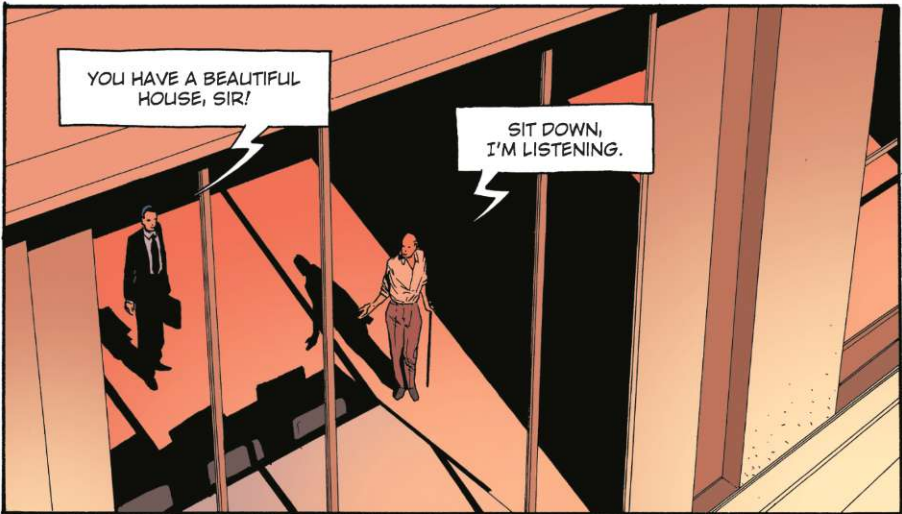
HA! HA! SAD TIMES!

SAD TIMES FOR YOU, MORE LIKE. SHE'S WAITING OUTSIDE... PAY UP, I TOLD YOU I WOULDN'T LEAVE ALONE TONIGHT!





THANKS FOR SEEING ME, MR. BILKAER!



YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, SIR!

SIT DOWN, I'M LISTENING.



RIGHT TO THE POINT, I LIKE THAT!

AT VISALIS, WE TAKE PRIDE IN OFFERING THE VERY BEST! AND I HAVE A NEW PRODUCT THAT IS REALLY EXCEPTIONAL!

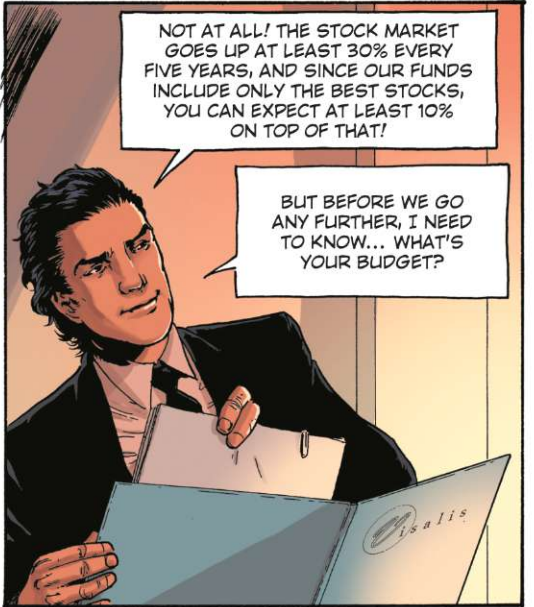


HERE IT IS... OUR OPTIMAL V PLAN!

A DYNAMIC FUND, 100% EQUITIES!



EQUITIES... THAT'S A BIT RISKY, ISN'T IT?



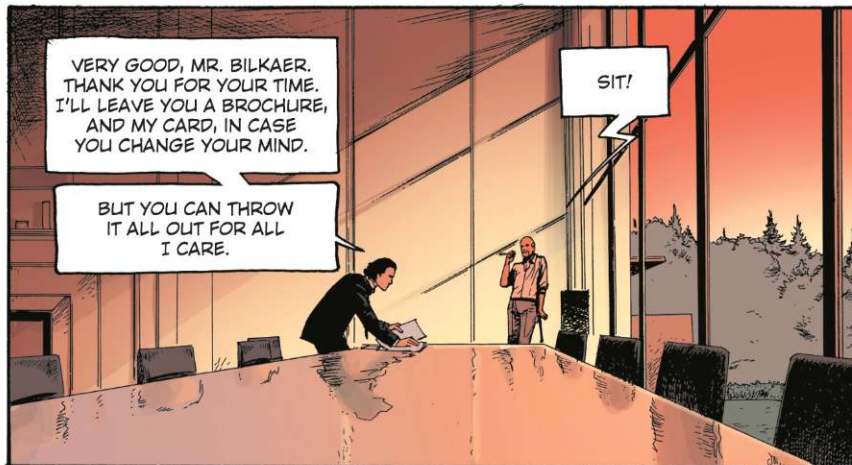
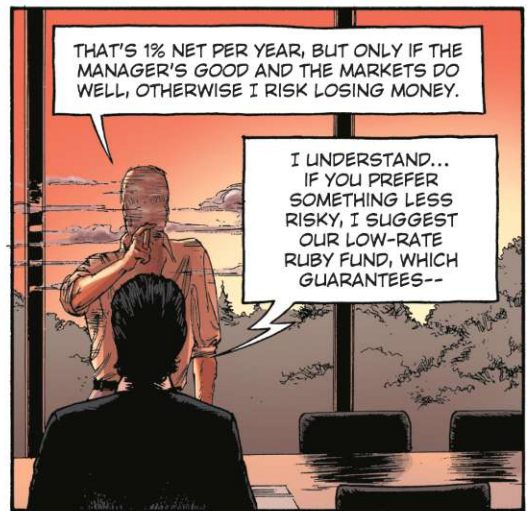
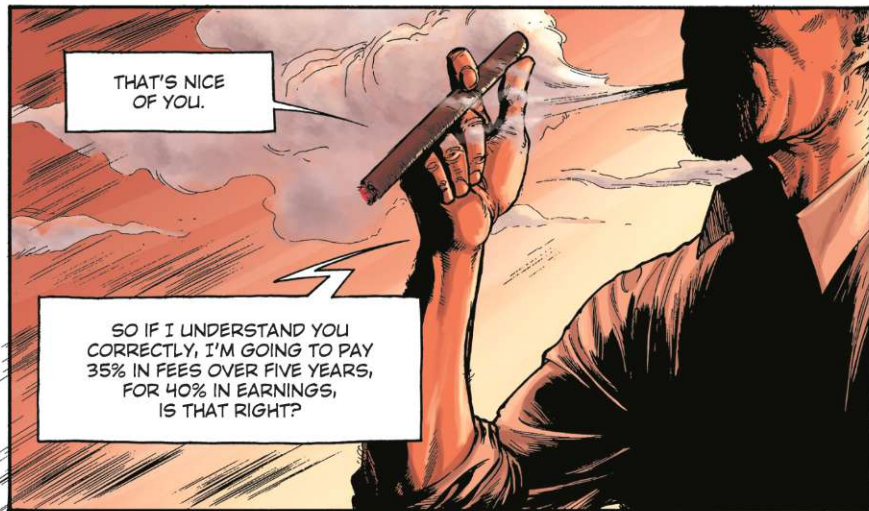
NOT AT ALL! THE STOCK MARKET GOES UP AT LEAST 30% EVERY FIVE YEARS, AND SINCE OUR FUNDS INCLUDE ONLY THE BEST STOCKS, YOU CAN EXPECT AT LEAST 10% ON TOP OF THAT!

BUT BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, I NEED TO KNOW... WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?



300 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS.



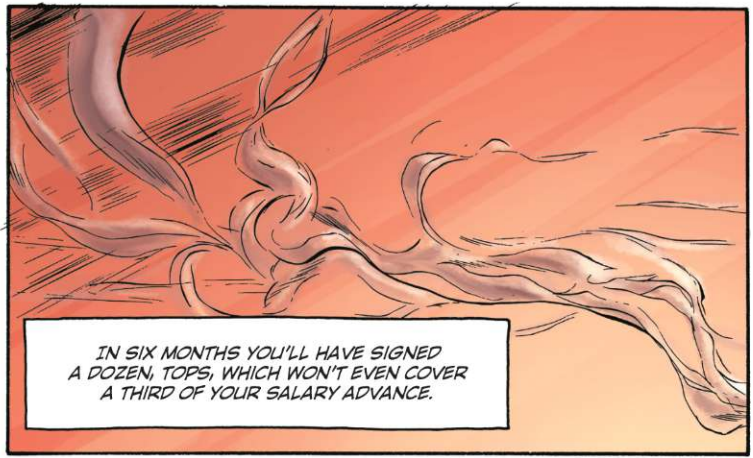




NOW LISTEN UP, YOU LITTLE SHIT. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU.



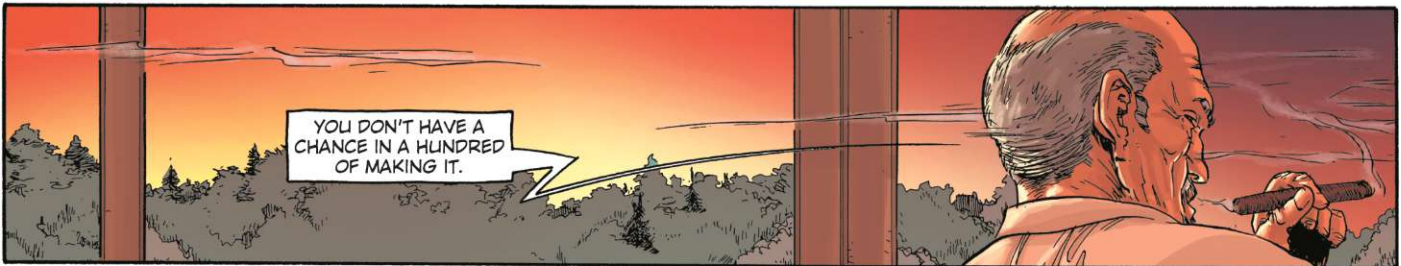
YOU'LL KEEP TRYING TO OFFLOAD YOUR SHITTY CONTRACTS ON IDIOTS WHO DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT FINANCE, HOPING TO GET YOUR 500 BUCKS IN COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR.



IN SIX MONTHS YOU'LL HAVE SIGNED A DOZEN, TOPS, WHICH WON'T EVEN COVER A THIRD OF YOUR SALARY ADVANCE.



YOU'LL LAST TWO YEARS, THEN THE BOSS'LL ASK FOR HIS DUE. HE'LL WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR RESIGNATION AND YOUR CLIENT PORTFOLIO, WHICH HE'LL PASS ON TO SOMEONE MORE QUALIFIED THAN YOU.



YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE IN A HUNDRED OF MAKING IT.



YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, MR. BILKAER?! I'M MEANT FOR BIG BUSINESS! BUT THEY ONLY GIVE ME GRUNT WORK. THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE!



LISTEN... YOU HAVE MONEY! LET ME TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU! I'M MEANT FOR THIS, I KNOW IT!

TRUST ME, YOU WON'T REGRET IT, I SWEAR!

I JUST NEED A BREAK!



GOODBYE, YOUNG MAN.



HEY, KATE, SMELLS GOOD! WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?



I WAS DEFROSTING SOME SHRIMP.



YOU'RE MAKING ME HUNGRY...

OH FUCK, IT'S EMPTY.

SHIT!



FUNNY HOW THE FRIDGE DOESN'T REFILL ITSELF, HUH, ALEX?

I KNOW, BUT I NEVER HAVE TIME...



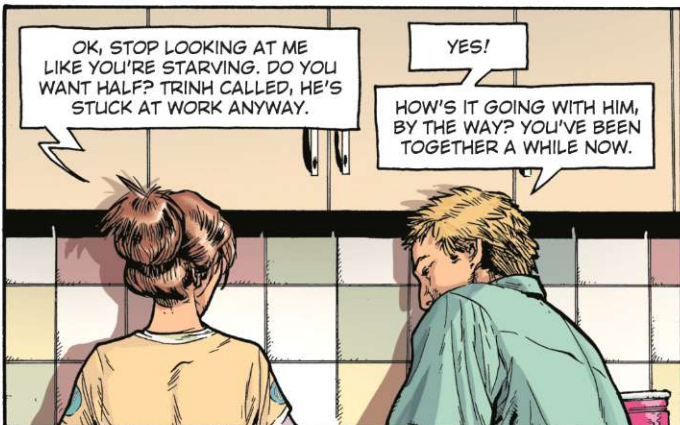
YOU FIND TIME TO GET DRUNK WITH FRANK.

SO WHO WAS THAT CHICK YOU CAME HOME WITH LAST NIGHT?



OH, HER... FORGET IT... HIGH-MAINTENANCE, YOU KNOW THE TYPE...

TOO BAD, SHE WAS PRETTY... SLUTTY, BUT PRETTY.



OK, STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE YOU'RE STARVING. DO YOU WANT HALF? TRINH CALLED, HE'S STUCK AT WORK ANYWAY.

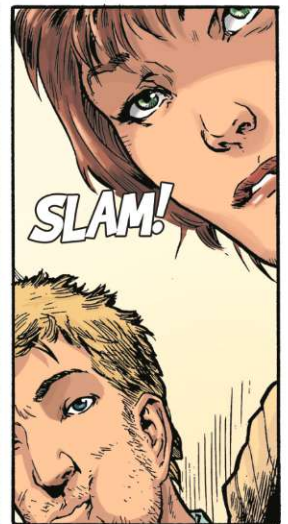
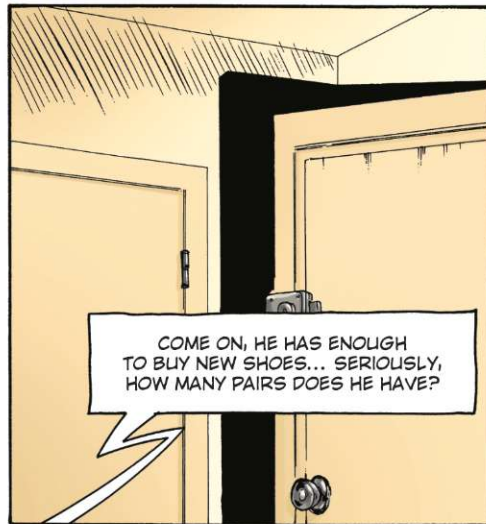
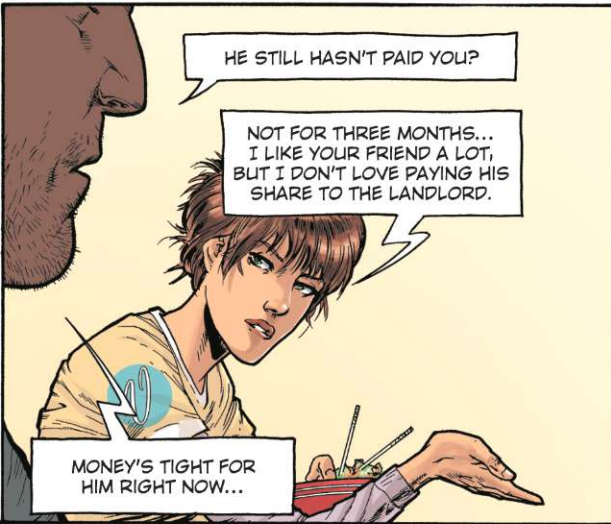
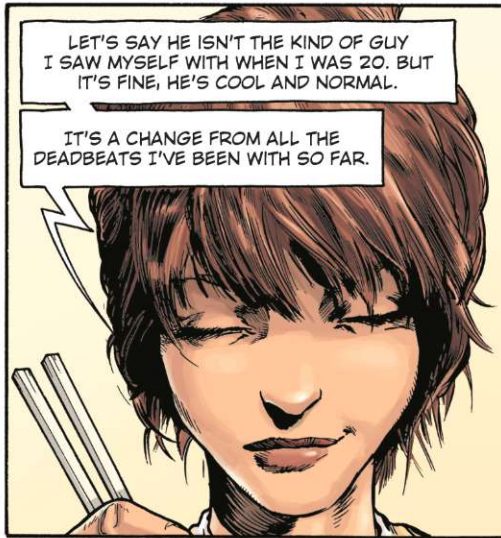
YES!

HOW'S IT GOING WITH HIM, BY THE WAY? YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER A WHILE NOW.



YEAH, IT'S COOL... WE LIKE THE SAME MOVIES, THE SEX IS GOOD, AND HE WANTS KIDS. WORKS FOR ME.

MAYBE I'LL SETTLE DOWN AFTER ALL.





300 MILLION... THEN NOTHING!

FUCK...

I GET NOTHING!



FRANK... I'M SORRY, BUT ALEX AND I WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT RENT...



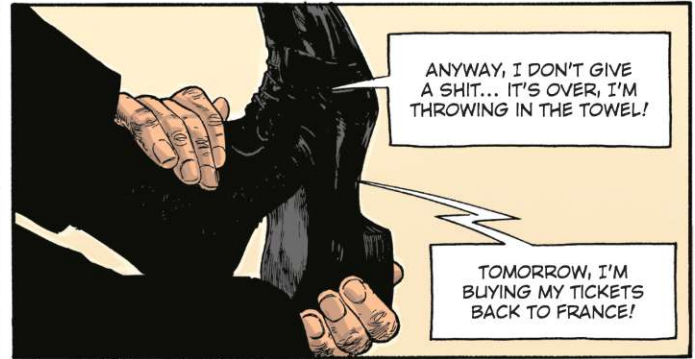
RENT?! I GOT NO CASH, OKAY?? IF YOU WANTED MONEY, YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED A LAWYER IN NEW YORK! GOT THAT, KATE?!



YOU'RE DRUNK, FRANK. I THINK YOU SHOULD--

I SHOULD WHAT? BE LIKE HER? QUIT MY AMAZING JOB AND TAKE CARE OF CRIPPLED KIDS TO GIVE MY LIFE MEANING?

PATHETIC...



ANYWAY, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT... IT'S OVER, I'M THROWING IN THE TOWEL!

TOMORROW, I'M BUYING MY TICKETS BACK TO FRANCE!



STOP BEING STUPID. YOU'LL GET BUSTED IF YOU GO BACK AND YOU KNOW IT. SO CALM DOWN, GO TO BED, AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, OK?

VVVVVVV!



VVVVVVV!  
BEEP!



HELLO?!



WHO? YES, I--

WHAT...? NOW?



ALRIGHT... YOU CAN COUNT ON ME... THANK YOU!

BEEP!

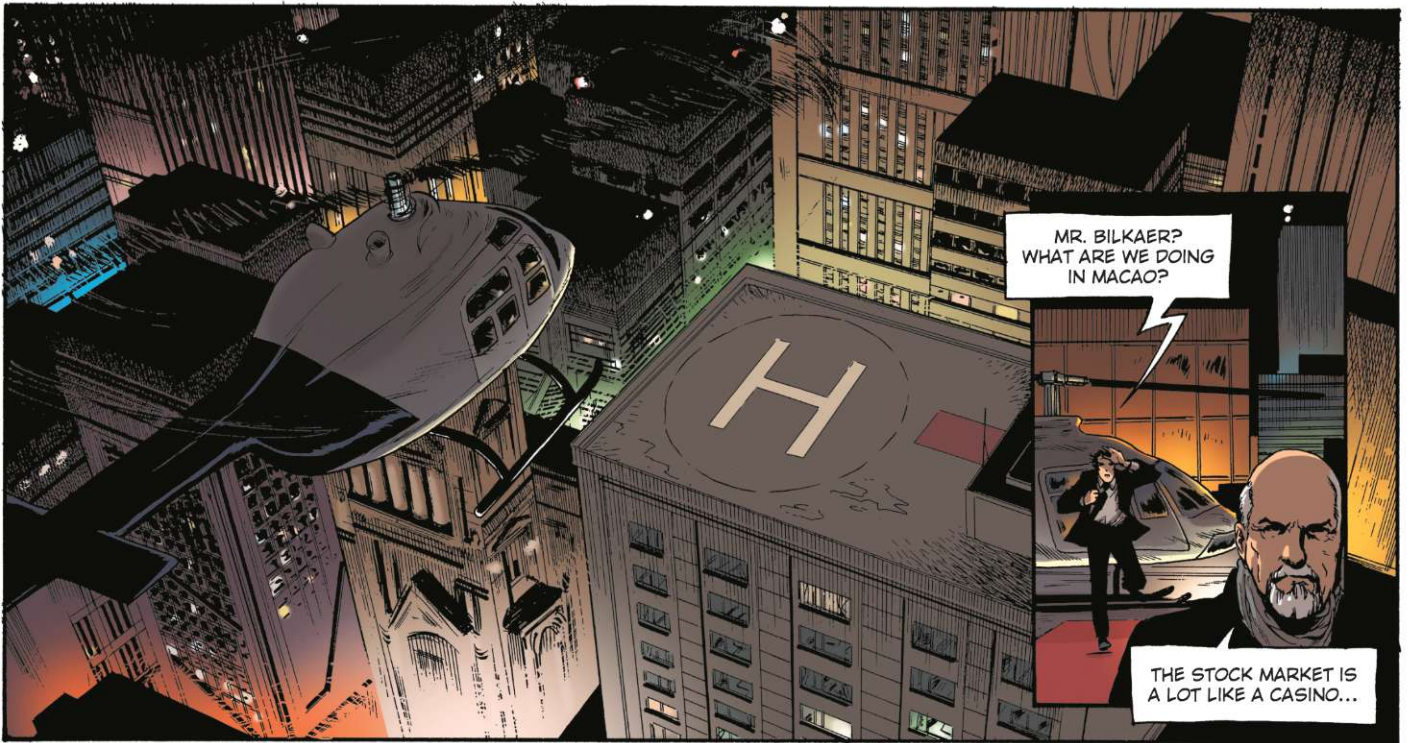


WHO WAS THAT?

THE GUY WITH 300 MILLION. HE WANTS...



...TO SEE ME.



MR. BILKAER?  
WHAT ARE WE DOING  
IN MACAO?



THE STOCK MARKET IS  
A LOT LIKE A CASINO...



IT'S A MONEY GAME. YOU  
HAVE TO PAY TO PLAY.

EVENING,  
MR.  
BILKAER.



AND IT'S A GAMBLE: THE  
MORE RISKS YOU TAKE, THE  
MORE PROFIT YOU MAKE.



IT'S A GAME OF  
LUCK AND STRATEGY.  
LEAVE THINGS TO  
CHANCE AND YOU'RE  
SURE TO LOSE.



BUT IT'S A GAME FIRST AND  
FOREMOST. SO THE QUESTION  
I HAVE FOR YOU IS...

...DO YOU LIKE  
TO PLAY, FRANK?



YEAH, I LIKE GAMBLING. WELL, I'VE BEEN TO A CASINO BEFORE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN...

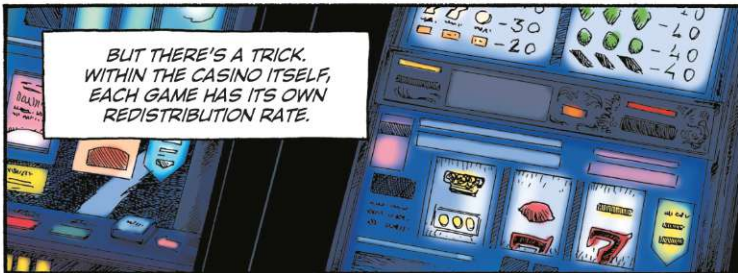


THEN YOU KNOW THE BASICS! EVERY CASINO IN THE WORLD IS FULL OF RETIREES BETTING THEIR SAVINGS, TOURISTS IN SHORTS, AND SEASONED GAMBLERS. ALL THAT CHANGES IS THE RATE OF RETURN ON THEIR BETS.

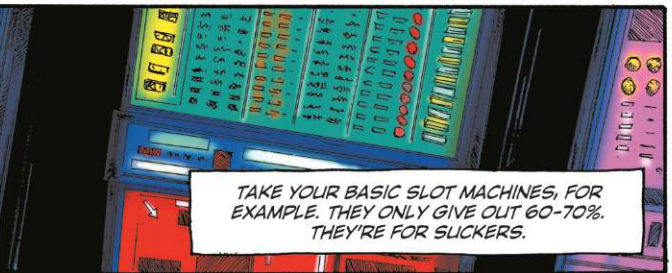


MACAO'S LAWS REQUIRE CASINOS TO GIVE BACK 85% OF WHAT PLAYERS BET.

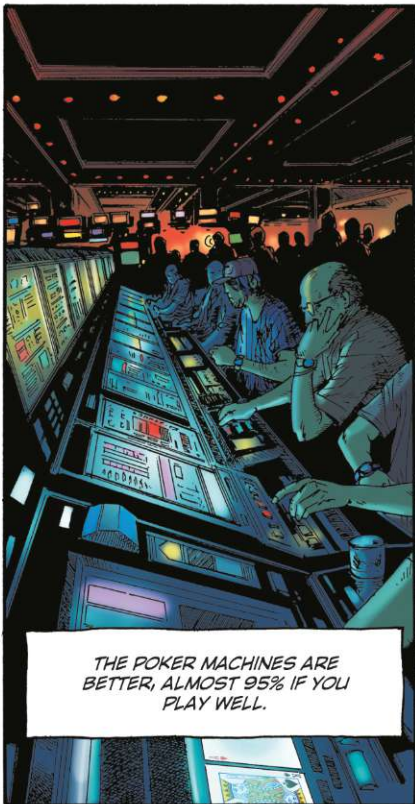
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CASINO MAKES 15%, BETWEEN THOSE WHO HIT THE JACKPOT AND THOSE WHO LEAVE WITH NOTHING.



BUT THERE'S A TRICK. WITHIN THE CASINO ITSELF, EACH GAME HAS ITS OWN REDISTRIBUTION RATE.



TAKE YOUR BASIC SLOT MACHINES, FOR EXAMPLE. THEY ONLY GIVE OUT 60-70%. THEY'RE FOR SUCKERS.



THE POKER MACHINES ARE BETTER, ALMOST 95% IF YOU PLAY WELL.



BUT BLACKJACK IS THE BEST. PLAYERS WHO KNOW HOW TO OPTIMIZE THEIR STRATEGY CAN GET CLOSE TO 99%.



YOU'LL NOTICE THAT NO MATTER WHAT, THE HOUSE ALWAYS WINS.



TWENTY BLACK, EVEN AND HIGH!

OKAY, I GET IT, BUT WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS, MR. BILKAER?

BLACK AGAIN?! JESUS CHRIST, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!



THE OTHER DAY, YOU ASKED ME TO ENTRUST YOU WITH MY MONEY, RIGHT?

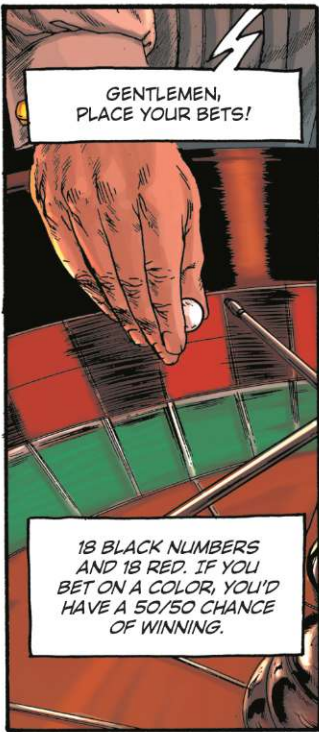


20,000 DOLLARS, FRANK. I WANT YOU TO MAKE A BET FOR ME.



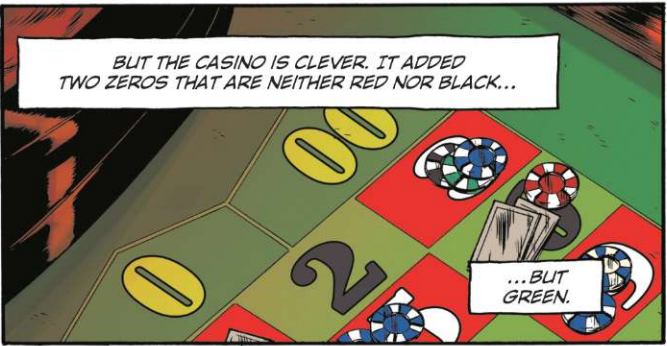
20,000...? YOU'RE CRAZY, I CAN'T DO THAT!

OH BUT YOU CAN! BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO PLAY FOR ME TO WIN. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY AMERICAN ROULETTE?



GENTLEMEN, PLACE YOUR BETS!

18 BLACK NUMBERS AND 18 RED. IF YOU BET ON A COLOR, YOU'D HAVE A 50/50 CHANCE OF WINNING.

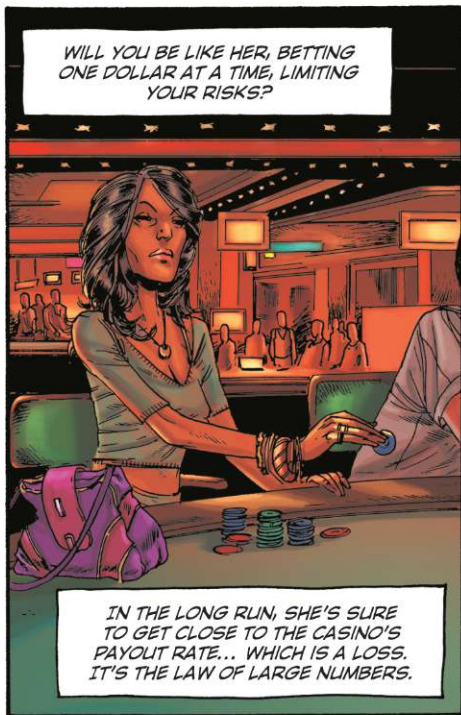


BUT THE CASINO IS CLEVER. IT ADDED TWO ZEROS THAT ARE NEITHER RED NOR BLACK...

...BUT GREEN.



18 CHANCES TO WIN... BUT 20 CHANCES TO LOSE! THAT IMBALANCE MAKES THE CASINO RICH AND INVARIABLY RUINS THE PLAYER... SO, WHICH STRATEGY WILL YOU CHOOSE?



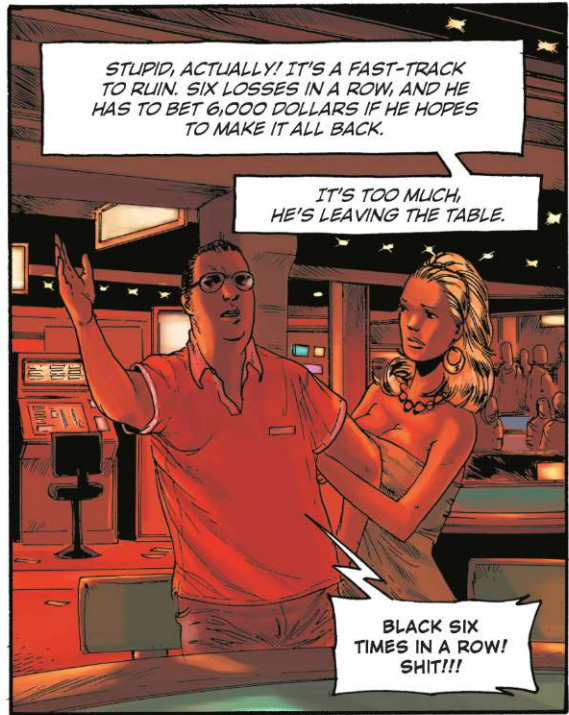
WILL YOU BE LIKE HER, BETTING ONE DOLLAR AT A TIME, LIMITING YOUR RISKS?

IN THE LONG RUN, SHE'S SURE TO GET CLOSE TO THE CASINO'S PAYOUT RATE... WHICH IS A LOSS. IT'S THE LAW OF LARGE NUMBERS.



OR HIM? HE STARTED WITH 100 DOLLARS AND DOUBLED HIS BET EACH TIME HE LOST. ONE WIN AND HE'LL BREAK EVEN.

NOT BAD...



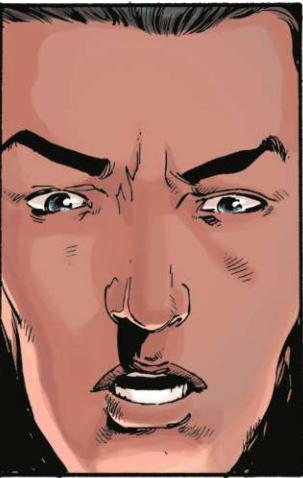
STUPID, ACTUALLY! IT'S A FAST-TRACK TO RUIN. SIX LOSSES IN A ROW, AND HE HAS TO BET 6,000 DOLLARS IF HE HOPES TO MAKE IT ALL BACK.

IT'S TOO MUCH, HE'S LEAVING THE TABLE.

BLACK SIX TIMES IN A ROW! SHIT!!!

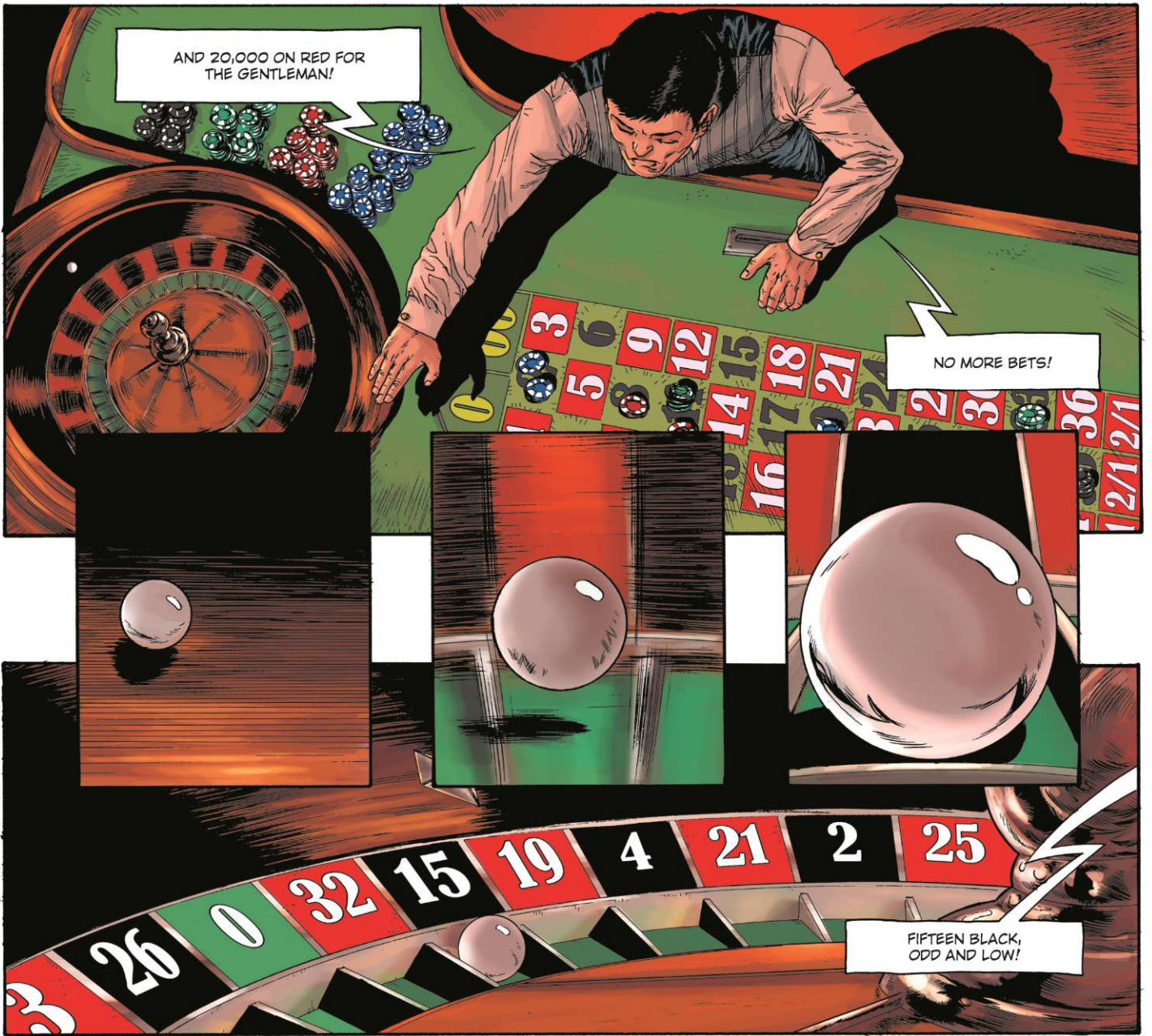


SO? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO ON! BET FOR ME!



20,000 ON RED!







WHY SORRY? YOU DIDN'T DO TOO BAD. YOUR INSTINCT TOLD YOU TO MAKE TWO DECISIONS: ONE GOOD AND ONE BAD...



YOU WERE RIGHT TO BET IT ALL AT ONCE. THAT COULD WORK IF YOU GOT LUCKY, EVEN IF OVER TIME NO ONE CAN BEAT THE ODDS.



YOUR MISTAKE WAS THINKING THAT AFTER SIX BLACKS, CHANCE WOULD GIVE YOU A RED. IT'S CALLED "THE GAMBLER'S FALLACY." BUT THE BALL HAS NO MEMORY. EVERY SPIN IS INDEPENDENT. IF IT KEEPS BEING BLACK, YOU SHOULD PLAY BLACK: SOMEONE'S RIGGED THE WHEEL.



NOW, TWO THINGS: I CALLED A FRIEND AT THE ROYAL BANK OF HONG KONG. YOU START AS A TRADER FOR THEM TOMORROW.



AND THIS IS TO BUY YOURSELF A DECENT SUIT.



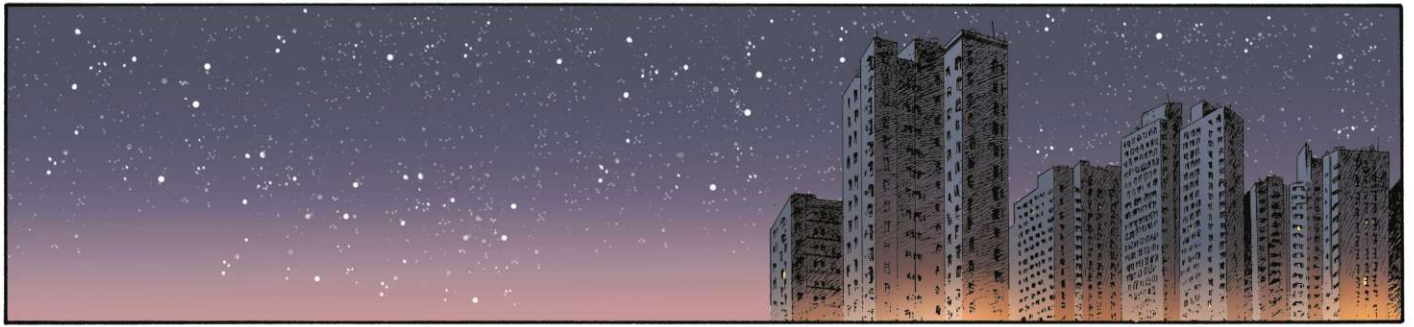
MR. BILKAER... I JUST LOST YOU 20,000 DOLLARS... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?



I NEVER LOSE MONEY. THE CASINO BELONGS TO ME. SO DON'T ASK WHY. ASK YOURSELF HOW.



HOW WILL YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THIS CHANCE YOU'VE WAITED FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE?





SO YOU'RE THE NEW GUY? I'M ANDREW. YOU MUST HAVE PULLED SOME SERIOUS STRINGS TO GET IN HERE...



I SPENT THREE YEARS CRUNCHING NUMBERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR. OK! I'LL FILL YOU IN...

THIS IS THE PROP DESK, WHERE WE PLAY WITH THE BANK'S OWN CAPITAL.



OVER THERE IS THE RISK DEPARTMENT, WHERE THEY MAKE SURE WE ALL COMPLY WITH POLICY. AND BEHIND YOU IS THE ARBITRAGE DESK, UNDER THE COMMAND OF--



WHO'S MR. HUNDRED MILLION, HUH? I TOLD YOU I'D BREAK THAT TAKEOVER BID, YOU LOSERS!

HE WANTS US TO CALL HIM "MR. HUNDRED MILLION," BUT EVERYONE CALLS HIM CAMPBELL.



GOOD THING I'M HERE TO MIND THE STORE, SHIT!

ANDREW! TAKE THE REINS, I'M GOING FOR A SMOKE.

I CAN'T, I'M TRAINING.

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOUR TRAINING! CHRIST, WHAT'S THE POINT? MORONS TRAINING MORE MORONS!?



REAL ASSHOLE, HUH?

HE SCORED BIG BY BETTING DANONE STOCK WOULD DROP WHEN THERE WERE RUMORS OF A TAKE-OVER BY PEPSICO. BEEN UNTOUCHABLE EVER SINCE.

HERE, SIT DOWN. JOHN'S DESK IS FREE. GO AHEAD, TAKE A SEAT!



THERE'S MOVEMENT ON CISCO.

I'LL TAKE 30,000 AT 32!

IT'S STILL SELLING!

I'M STILL PAYING ON FUJI!

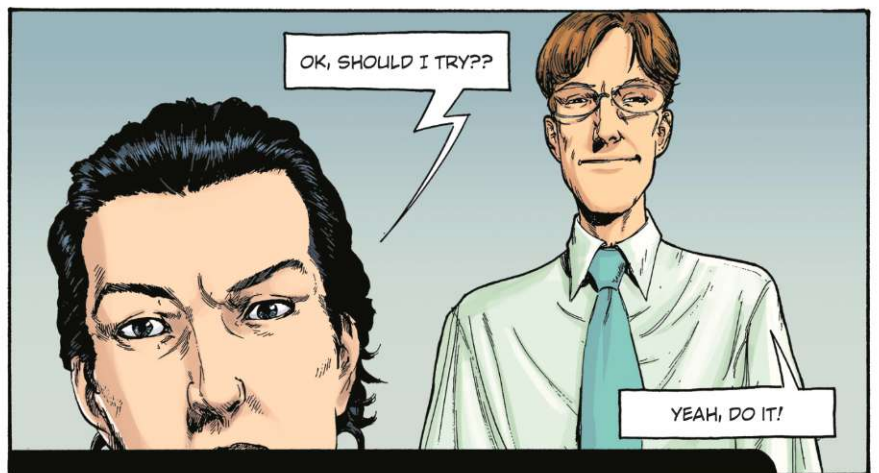
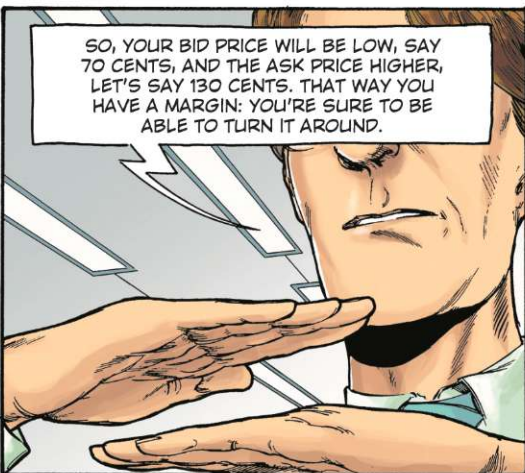


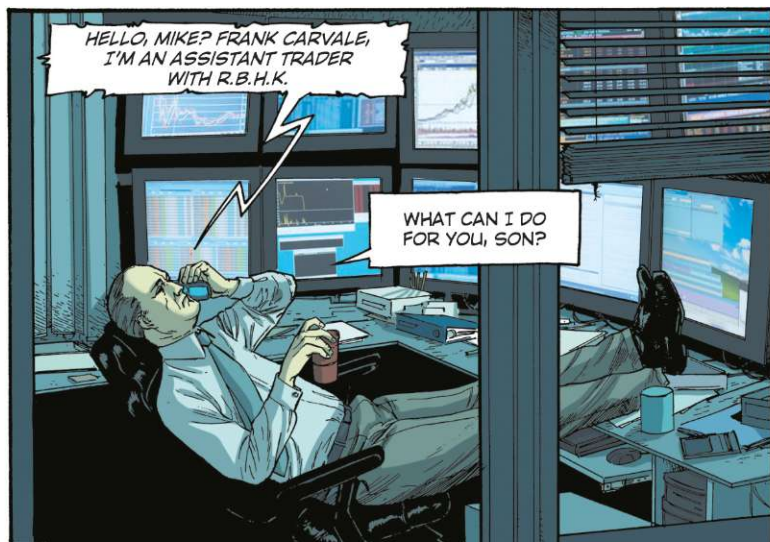
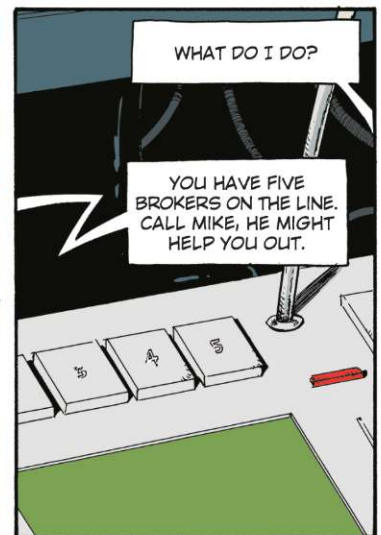
HELLO, JOHN?!



UHH... NO, NOT JOHN, THIS IS FRANK.

I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, CHICKY-POO!! I NEED A PRICE ON HARIBO!







LISTEN, SON, I DON'T HAVE A PRICE. LAST TIME I HEARD, IT WAS TRADING 65-70. BUT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A LOSER WHO'S STUFFED AT 90 ON THE MARKET.

YEAH, YEAH, I HEARD THAT TOO... THANKS, I'LL GET BACK TO YOU. CLICK!



WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



IF THE PRICE IS 65-70, THAT MEANS THERE'S A GUY WILLING TO PAY 65 CENTS A BAG.

BUT I PAID 90 FOR THEM!

OFF AT 65.

YEP! AND I ADVISE YOU TO SELL THEM AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE THE PRICE COLLAPSES.



MIKE, YOU STILL THERE? OKAY FOR 65!!!

I SAID I'M OFF! IT'S TOO LATE, IT'S JUST BEEN TRADED. LAST HEARD AT 50-55, TRADED AT 50. I'LL GET BACK TO YOU.



WHAT?!

HANG ON! I HAVE A FIRM BID AT 40 CENTS FOR 5,000. WANNA TRADE?



YES! 5,000 YOURS AT 40!

DONE! IN THE BAG! NEXT BID IS 10 CENTS PER BAG, IF THAT CAN HELP YOU OUT. YOU IN?



WHEN I PAID 90? AT THAT PRICE, I'D RATHER EAT THEM 'TIL I DIE! CLICK!

FUCK, I'M DOWN 7,000 FUCKING DOLLARS... FOR FUCKING CANDY!



YOU'LL GET 'EM TOMORROW!



HI, I'M TJEERD.  
OR T.J. IF YOU PREFER.

YOU'RE THE SELLER?  
NO WAY, WHERE'D YOU  
GET THEM ALL?



A GIRLFRIEND. FACTORY  
PRICE, FIVE CENTS A BAG.

LET'S GO, GUYS! SONYA LEE  
FROM CATHAY IS MEETING US  
AT THE YELTSIN!



WANNA COME?

FORGET IT, I'M  
BROKE. DON'T HAVE  
TWO COINS TO RUB  
TOGETHER.



DON'T WORRY!  
WITH EVERYTHING  
I GOT FROM YOU...

...DRINKS ARE ON  
ME TONIGHT!



BRING US THREE BOTTLES OF BUBBLY!

OH, GO AHEAD AND MAKE IT FIVE!



YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY  
SCREWED ME WITH YOUR  
GUMMY BEARS...

DON'T FREAK OUT! IN A  
WEEK, YOU'LL HAVE MADE IT  
BACK THREE TIMES OVER...

HEY, LOOK WHO IT IS!





CAMPBELL! THIS IS FRANK, HE'S GOING TO WORK WITH US!

IF YOU WANT TO BE HIS PAL, GIVE HIM GUMMY BEARS, HE EATS THEM BY THE TON!



HASN'T ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOUR STUPID GAMES ARE ILLEGAL?

HA HA! HE'S FURIOUS. THE OZZIES GOT KICKED OUT OF THE CUP BY THE SPRINGBOKS\* LAST NIGHT...

\*SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY TEAM.



WE DESTROYED THEM, IT WAS QUITE A SIGHT!

YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, T.J.?!?



FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, WE DIDN'T EVEN LET YOU BUNCH OF NAZIS ON OUR FIELDS!

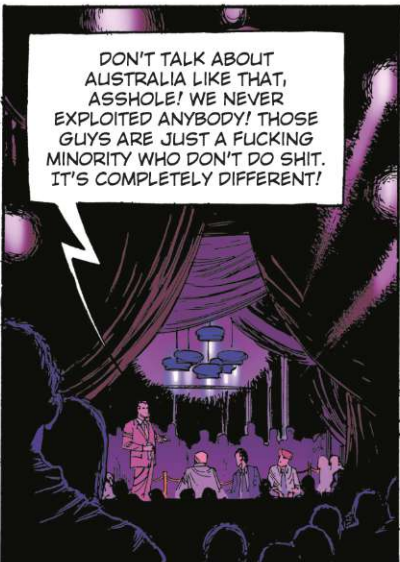


WHY BRING UP ANCIENT HISTORY? APARTHEID IS LONG OVER.

WE'VE GOT BLACK PRESIDENTS NOW!



HOW ARE YOUR ABORIGINALS DOING? WASHING YOUR HUMMERS?



DON'T TALK ABOUT AUSTRALIA LIKE THAT, ASSHOLE! WE NEVER EXPLOITED ANYBODY! THOSE GUYS ARE JUST A FUCKING MINORITY WHO DON'T DO SHIT. IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!



MINORITY? THERE WERE 300,000 OF THEM BEFORE THE COLONISTS ARRIVED... HOW MANY ARE LEFT? 2,000?



YEAH, YEAH, GO FUCK YOURSELVES! AND YOU, ANDREW, YOU'D BETTER BE AT YOUR DESK AT 8:00 SHARP!

COME ON, CAMPBELL, NO ONE'S JUDGING YOU... I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO STAND THE DIDGERIDOO EITHER.



HEY, YOU SURE KNOW YOUR FACTS, EINSTEIN!



YEAH, IT'S MY ROOMMATE KATE. SHE DOES HUMANITARIAN WORK, A LAWYER FOR AN NGO AGAINST ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES, YOU KNOW THE TYPE...

SHE GOES ON AND ON ABOUT THAT KIND OF SHIT.

AND YOU PRETEND NOT TO CARE. THAT MEAN YOU WANT TO BANG HER?



NAH, SHE'S PRETTY... BUT SUPER UPTIGHT. AND SHE'S GOT A GUY ANYWAY.

SERIOUSLY, ANDREW, I DON'T GET HOW YOU PUT UP WITH THAT ASSHOLE CAMPBELL. COME WORK WITH US! GROW A PAIR AND TAKE SOME REAL POSITIONS!



HE'S NOT THAT BAD, REALLY... AND MY THING IS ARBITRAGE. MAKING A PROFIT OFF MARKET ANOMALIES, EXPLOITING PRICE DIFFERENCES... I'M GOOD AT IT.



I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT GONNA SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE AT THE R.B.H.K. PROP DESK! AS SOON AS I CAN, I'M STARTING A FUCKING HEDGE FUND!

HEDGE FUND?



FORMULA ONE, MAN! ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, NO STUPID REGULATIONS! AND THE BANK LENDS YOU SEVERAL TIMES THE FUND'S ASSETS: MORE DOUGH, FEWER RULES, MAXIMUM LEVERAGE ON YOUR POSITIONS, AND YOU MULTIPLY YOUR PROFITS!



TWO YEARS LIKE THAT, AND YOU'D NEED TEN LIFETIMES TO SPEND ALL YOUR CASH!

T.J.! THE LOVE OF MY LIFE!!!

HEY SANDY, DID YOU MISS ME?



TONS...

HEY! YOU SEEM HAPPY... DON'T MOVE, YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME UNDER YOUR NOSE.



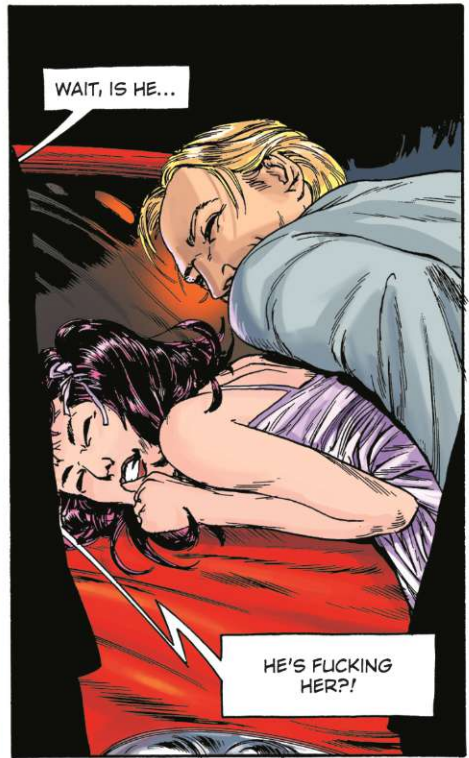
I'LL GO GET MORE CHAMPAGNE.



TWO MORE BOTTLES, PLEASE.



HEY! HOW'S IT GOING?







CLICK ... WHO IS STILL STRUGGLING AGAINST HIS ENEMIES!



AND AT 8:30, SANDY WILL BE ON LIVE TO TELL US WHO WON THE VAMPIRE COSTUME CONTEST!



AND NOW, KIDS, HERE'S OUR FAVORITE HERO: NARUTO!



WELL SHIT. OK...



**DING DONG**

WILL THE YOUNG NINJA SUCCEED IN THIS NEW... CLICK!



DELIVERY FOR MR. CARVALE!



THAT'S RIGHT, SIGN THERE... THANKS! ROYAL BANK, VERY GOOD BUSINESS! ALWAYS DELIVER CANDY AGAIN!



THIS MORNING'S BEEN CRAZY! WHAT NOW?

**DZZZ DZZZ**



HELLO, DAD?



YEAH, I KNOW, DAD, I SHOULD HAVE CALLED SINCE I GOT HERE, BUT...



NO, I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY, THAT'S ALL.



YEAH, I'M FINE, DON'T WORRY...



THINGS ARE GOING REALLY WELL FOR ME HERE, YOU KNOW? I FOUND A GREAT JOB.

IN A BANK, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? I'M A TRADER, DAD! COOL, HUH?



WHAT EXACTLY DO I DO?

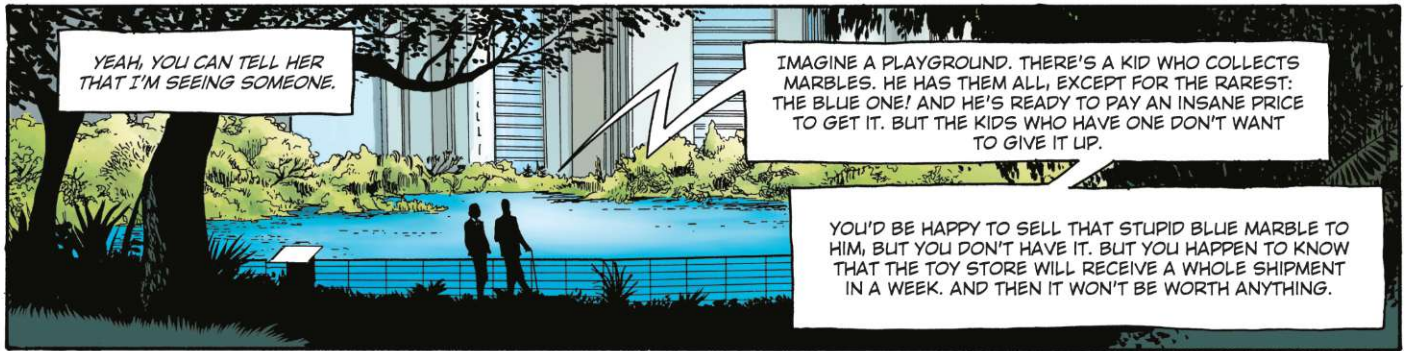
NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU KNOW THE MARKETS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE A MONKEY MAKING RANDOM BETS IF YOU DON'T HAVE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION.

SO DON'T LISTEN TO RUMORS! IT ISN'T THE MAN WHO HEARS THE RUMOR WHO GETS RICH. IT'S THE MAN WHO STARTS IT.



I'M MAKING MONEY. LOTS OF MONEY.

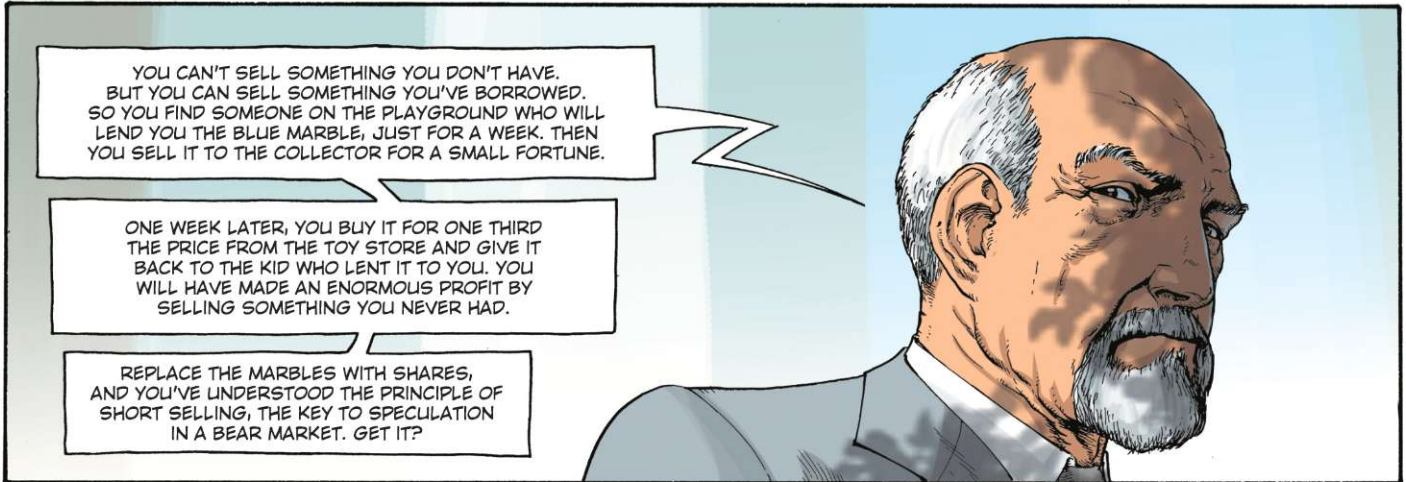
DO I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND? HA HA! MOM WANTS TO KNOW?



YEAH, YOU CAN TELL HER THAT I'M SEEING SOMEONE.

IMAGINE A PLAYGROUND. THERE'S A KID WHO COLLECTS MARBLES. HE HAS THEM ALL, EXCEPT FOR THE RAREST: THE BLUE ONE! AND HE'S READY TO PAY AN INSANE PRICE TO GET IT. BUT THE KIDS WHO HAVE ONE DON'T WANT TO GIVE IT UP.

YOU'D BE HAPPY TO SELL THAT STUPID BLUE MARBLE TO HIM, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE IT. BUT YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT THE TOY STORE WILL RECEIVE A WHOLE SHIPMENT IN A WEEK. AND THEN IT WON'T BE WORTH ANYTHING.



YOU CAN'T SELL SOMETHING YOU DON'T HAVE. BUT YOU CAN SELL SOMETHING YOU'VE BORROWED. SO YOU FIND SOMEONE ON THE PLAYGROUND WHO WILL LEND YOU THE BLUE MARBLE, JUST FOR A WEEK. THEN YOU SELL IT TO THE COLLECTOR FOR A SMALL FORTUNE.

ONE WEEK LATER, YOU BUY IT FOR ONE THIRD THE PRICE FROM THE TOY STORE AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE KID WHO LENT IT TO YOU. YOU WILL HAVE MADE AN ENORMOUS PROFIT BY SELLING SOMETHING YOU NEVER HAD.

REPLACE THE MARBLES WITH SHARES, AND YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLE OF SHORT SELLING, THE KEY TO SPECULATION IN A BEAR MARKET. GET IT?



NO, NOTHING SERIOUS, I THINK.



AND ANYWAY, I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.

YOU WANT TO KNOW THE KEY TO SUCCESS?

TAKE THREE COMPANIES AND DIG. GET TO KNOW THE ENGINEERS, THE GENERAL DIRECTORS...

JOKE AROUND WITH A DRUNK STAFF MEMBER IN A STRIP CLUB, THAT'S WHAT'LL GIVE YOU THE INFORMATION ADVANTAGE YOU NEED TO GET AHEAD OF THE MARKET.

YEAH, ALEX IS FINE!



HE LET ME STAY WITH HIM FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT I'M MOVING OUT NOW.

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, FLUCKER!

DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET RID OF ME JUST LIKE THAT...

YOU'RE NOT OFF THE HOOK FOR THOSE THREE MONTHS OF RENT.



I HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO, TOO MUCH TO LEARN.

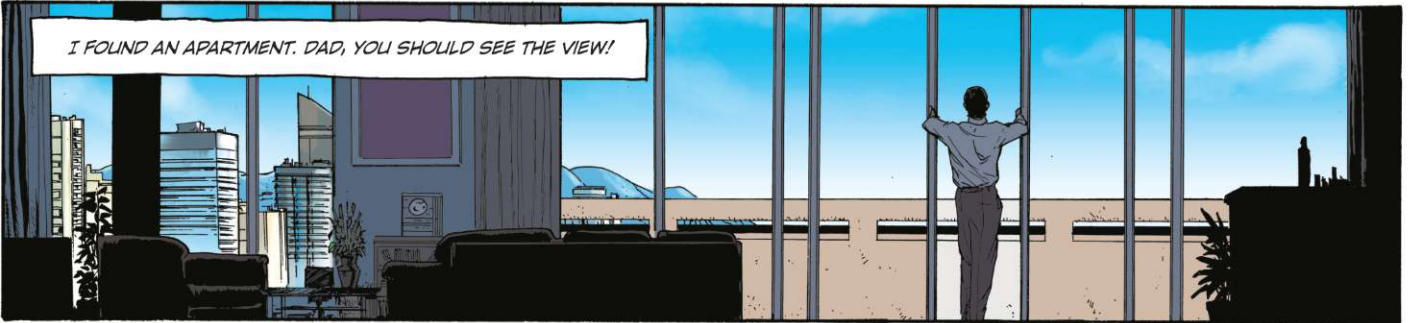
THERE: BOLTON CROPS! IF YOU HEAR THAT A COMPANY IS GOING TO PUT OUT A NEW, DOUBLE-STRENGTH INSECTICIDE FOR COTTON PLANTATIONS, YOU CAN INVEST IN THE COMPANY, OF COURSE. BUT ABOVE ALL...

...YOU SHOULD BET THAT COTTON WILL GO DOWN, BECAUSE PRODUCTION WILL DOUBLE AND THE PRICE WILL COLLAPSE.



NOT BAD, SON, NOT BAD.

THE SECRET IS FORESIGHT, ALWAYS BEING AHEAD OF THE MARKET. DURING THE GOLD RUSH, YOU KNOW WHO MADE A FORTUNE? NOT THE GOLD DIGGERS, BUT THE GUYS WHO SOLD SHOVELS AND PICKAXES.



I FOUND AN APARTMENT. DAD, YOU SHOULD SEE THE VIEW!



YEAH, I REALLY LIKE IT HERE...

I KNOW, I KNOW, BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL PAY IT ALL BACK. TELL THE JUDGE I'M GOOD FOR IT, I JUST NEED SOME TIME, OK?



YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE LIFE I HAVE HERE! NOBODY CAN!

WE HAVE THE COMPANY YACHT FOR SATURDAY, YOU COMING?





ALRIGHT, GIVE MOM A KISS FROM ME!



CALL YOU LATER, BYE!



WHO WAS THAT?



MY DAD.

**BEEBEEP**

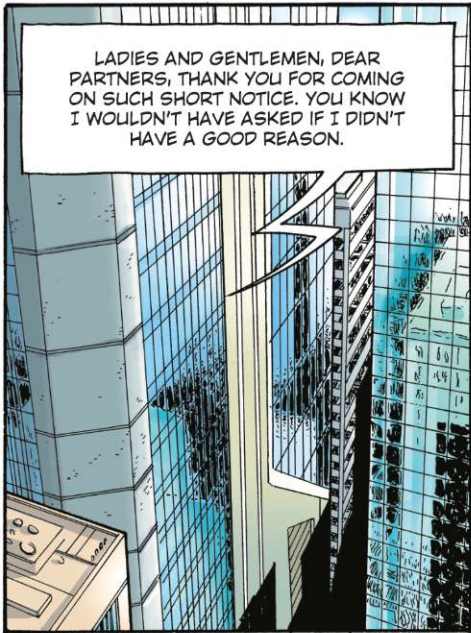
WHAT DOES HE WANT NOW?



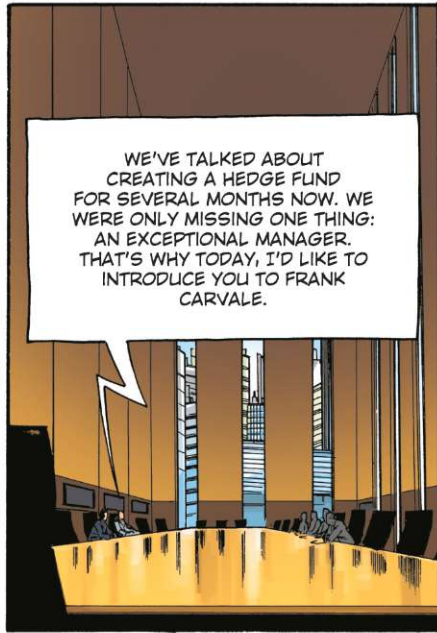
YES, MR. BILKAER?



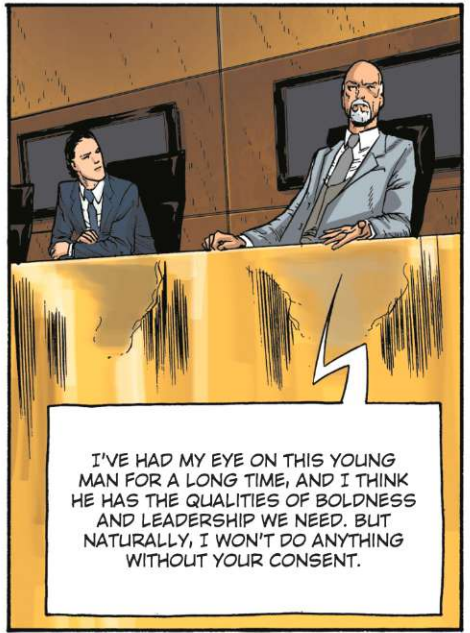
THEY'RE HERE. MEETING IN MY OFFICE, TOMORROW AT NOON. YOU SHOULD GET TO BED.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DEAR PARTNERS, THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED IF I DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD REASON.



WE'VE TALKED ABOUT CREATING A HEDGE FUND FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW. WE WERE ONLY MISSING ONE THING: AN EXCEPTIONAL MANAGER. THAT'S WHY TODAY, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO FRANK CARVALE.



I'VE HAD MY EYE ON THIS YOUNG MAN FOR A LONG TIME, AND I THINK HE HAS THE QUALITIES OF BOLDNESS AND LEADERSHIP WE NEED. BUT NATURALLY, I WON'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.



HMM... YOU'RE VERY YOUNG, FRANK. ONLY EIGHT MONTHS ON THE TRADING FLOOR, AND YOU THINK YOU'RE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION?

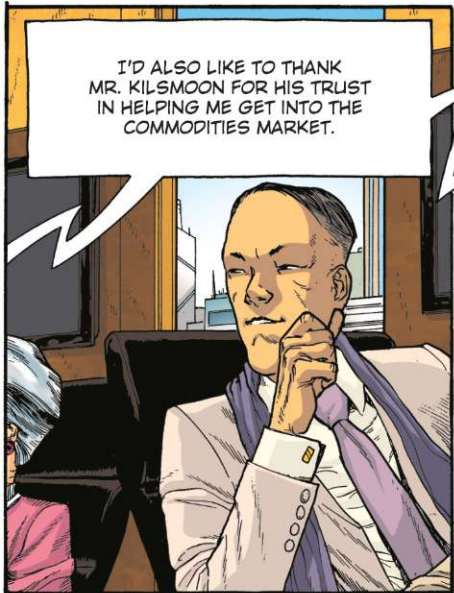


SEEMS LIKE YOU CLIMBED THE LADDER FAST, MY BOY.



IT'S RARE TO BE GIVEN SUCH A CHANCE, AND I'VE WORKED HARD NOT TO WASTE IT. I SPENT THE FIRST MONTHS MASTERING BASIC MARKET MECHANISMS. THEN, THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS THAT ALLOW US TO WORK THEM. AFTER CUTTING MY TEETH ON SOME ARBITRAGE, I STARTED MY FIRST LARGE-SCALE OPERATION.

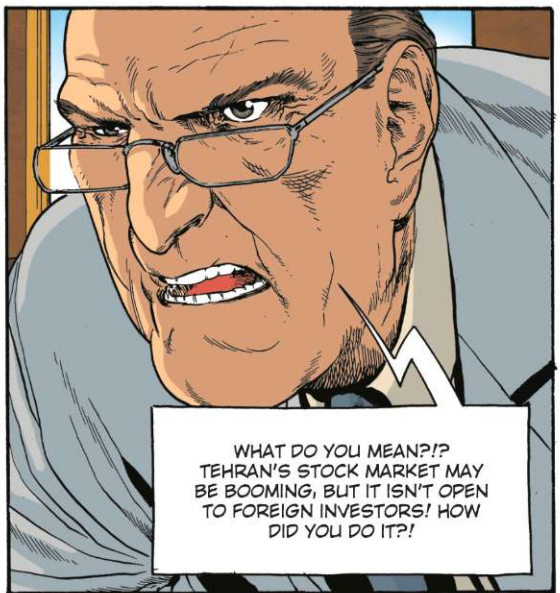
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE LIMITED FOOD TAKE-OVER? FIVE MILLION IN PROFIT. OR THE RUN ON ALUMINUM TWO MONTHS AGO? NINE MILLION IN PROFIT.



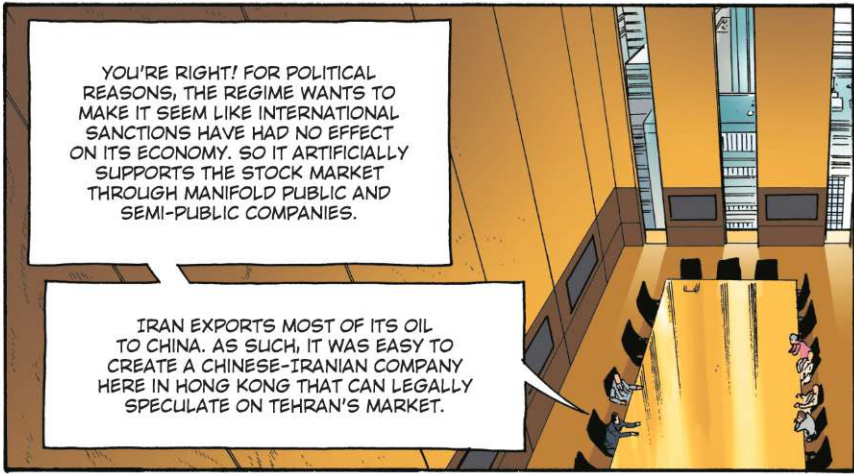
I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK MR. KILSMOON FOR HIS TRUST IN HELPING ME GET INTO THE COMMODITIES MARKET.



AND BY INVESTING IN THE IRANIAN STOCK MARKET, I GENERATED SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS LAST MONTH.

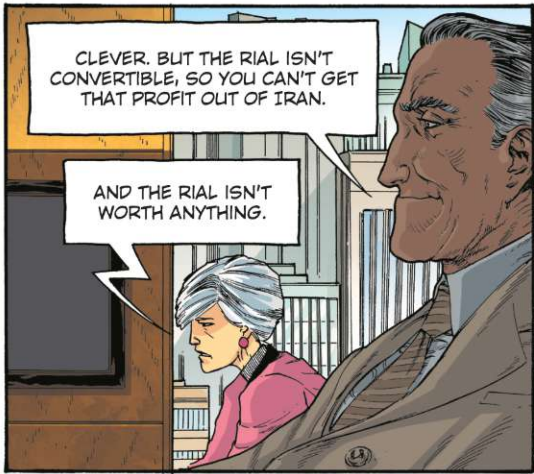


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!? TEHRAN'S STOCK MARKET MAY BE BOOMING, BUT IT ISN'T OPEN TO FOREIGN INVESTORS! HOW DID YOU DO IT?!



YOU'RE RIGHT! FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THE REGIME WANTS TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS HAVE HAD NO EFFECT ON ITS ECONOMY. SO IT ARTIFICIALLY SUPPORTS THE STOCK MARKET THROUGH MANIFOLD PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC COMPANIES.

IRAN EXPORTS MOST OF ITS OIL TO CHINA. AS SUCH, IT WAS EASY TO CREATE A CHINESE-IRANIAN COMPANY HERE IN HONG KONG THAT CAN LEGALLY SPECULATE ON TEHRAN'S MARKET.



CLEVER. BUT THE RIAL ISN'T CONVERTIBLE, SO YOU CAN'T GET THAT PROFIT OUT OF IRAN.

AND THE RIAL ISN'T WORTH ANYTHING.

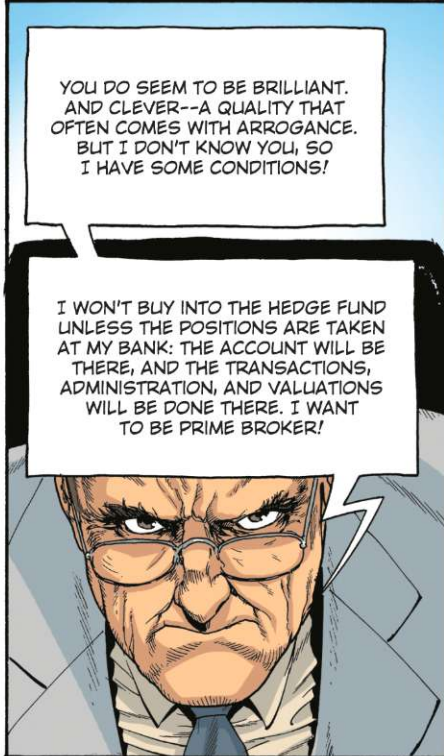


TRUE... EXCEPT FOR BUYING LOCAL PRODUCTS! AND THAT'S CONVENIENT BECAUSE IRAN IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST OIL PRODUCERS ... WE JUST HAVE TO BUY THEIR BARRELS, WHICH, ONCE ACROSS THE BORDER, CAN BE SOLD IN DOLLARS, WITH AN EXCHANGE PROFIT TO BOOT.



YOUR EXPLOITS ARE CERTAINLY IMPRESSIVE. HOW IS IT THAT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU?

ASK YOUR BROKER WILKINSON WHO SAVED HIS BID DURING THE LAST RUN ON GOLD.



YOU DO SEEM TO BE BRILLIANT. AND CLEVER--A QUALITY THAT OFTEN COMES WITH ARROGANCE. BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU, SO I HAVE SOME CONDITIONS!

I WON'T BUY INTO THE HEDGE FUND UNLESS THE POSITIONS ARE TAKEN AT MY BANK: THE ACCOUNT WILL BE THERE, AND THE TRANSACTIONS, ADMINISTRATION, AND VALUATIONS WILL BE DONE THERE. I WANT TO BE PRIME BROKER!



THAT'S FINE WITH ME, SO LONG AS YOUR COLLEAGUES DON'T OBJECT, BUT YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE ME TEN-TO-ONE LEVERAGE! YES, THAT'S A MINIMUM, I MUST BE ABLE TO INVEST TEN TIMES THE INITIAL AMOUNT.

TEN-TO-ONE?! NO WAY! WHO DO YOU TAKE US FOR?!

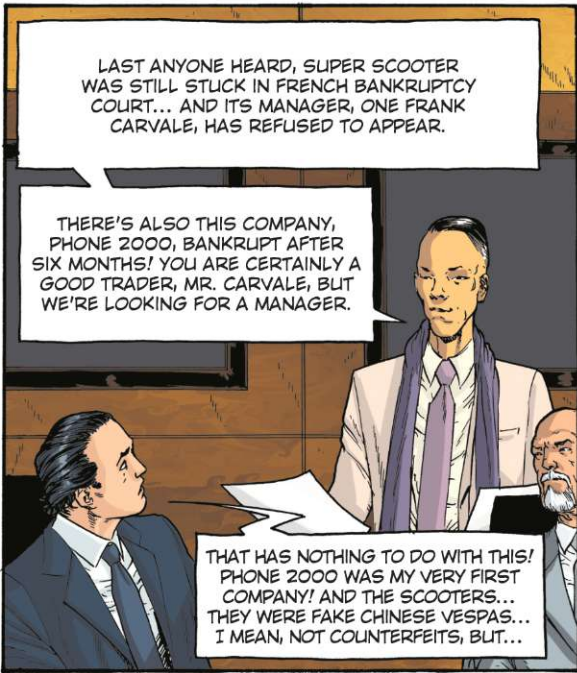


CONSIDERING YOU ARE BOTH THE CUSTODIAN AND A PARTNER OF THE FUND, EDDY, IT SEEMS FAIR ENOUGH. YOU'LL HAVE YOUR EYE ON IT FROM START TO FINISH. YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW IF ANYTHING IS OFF.



MMM... ALL OF THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE JUST PERFECT... EXCEPT THAT I DID A LITTLE DIGGING.

IN TERMS OF MANAGING A COMPANY, YOU'VE BEEN FAR FROM EXEMPLARY, MR. CARVALE. HERE, I PRINTED OUT A LITTLE MEMO FOR EVERYONE ABOUT SUPER SCOOTER, A FRENCH COMPANY.



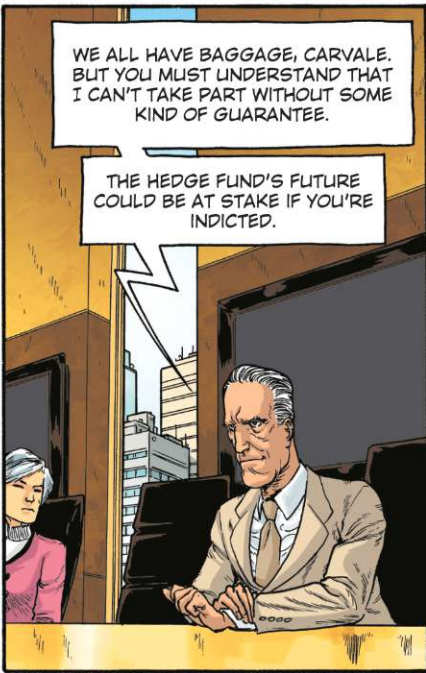
LAST ANYONE HEARD, SUPER SCOOTER WAS STILL STUCK IN FRENCH BANKRUPTCY COURT... AND ITS MANAGER, ONE FRANK CARVALE, HAS REFUSED TO APPEAR.

THERE'S ALSO THIS COMPANY, PHONE 2000, BANKRUPT AFTER SIX MONTHS! YOU ARE CERTAINLY A GOOD TRADER, MR. CARVALE, BUT WE'RE LOOKING FOR A MANAGER.

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS! PHONE 2000 WAS MY VERY FIRST COMPANY! AND THE SCOOTERS... THEY WERE FAKE CHINESE VESPAS... I MEAN, NOT COUNTERFEITS, BUT...



MY FRIEND ALEX WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF IMPORTING THEM FROM HONG KONG, BUT THEY GOT STUCK IN CHINESE CUSTOMS. I WAS NEVER ABLE TO SHIP THE PRE-ORDERS, AND EVERYONE BLAMED ME.

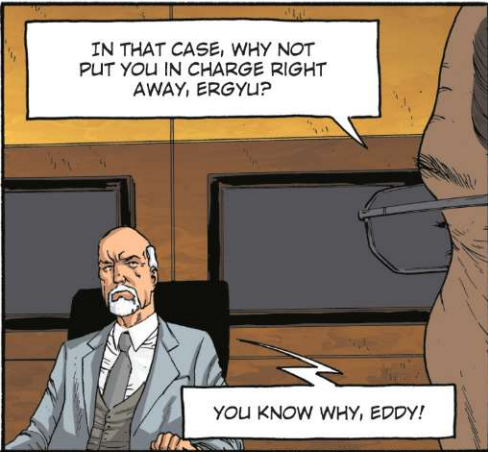


WE ALL HAVE BAGGAGE, CARVALE. BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN'T TAKE PART WITHOUT SOME KIND OF GUARANTEE.

THE HEDGE FUND'S FUTURE COULD BE AT STAKE IF YOU'RE INDICTED.



NO PROBLEM! I CAN SIGN A SPECIAL CLAUSE! IF I COME UNDER LEGAL INVESTIGATION, THEN PERHAPS... MR. BILKAER COULD TAKE OVER MANAGING THE FUND. DOES THAT WORK FOR YOU?



IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT PUT YOU IN CHARGE RIGHT AWAY, ERGYLU?

YOU KNOW WHY, EDDY!



I UNDERSTAND, YES. SORRY...



LISTEN, ALL OF YOU! I WANTED TO BE A PUBLIC FIGURE, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT COST ME! MY NAME CANNOT APPEAR ANYWHERE. IF I ACCEPT THIS CLAUSE, IT WILL ONLY BE TO PROVE THE COMPLETE TRUST I PUT IN FRANK!

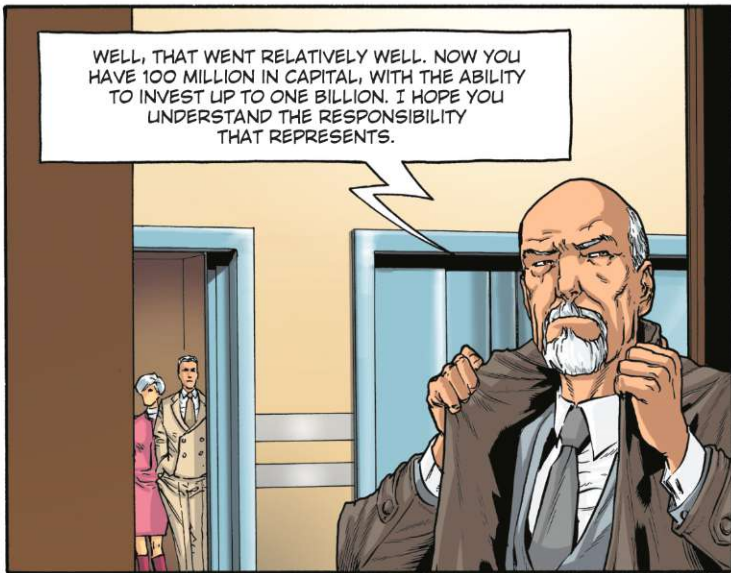


I WON'T FAIL YOU, MR. BILKAER, YOU HAVE MY WORD.

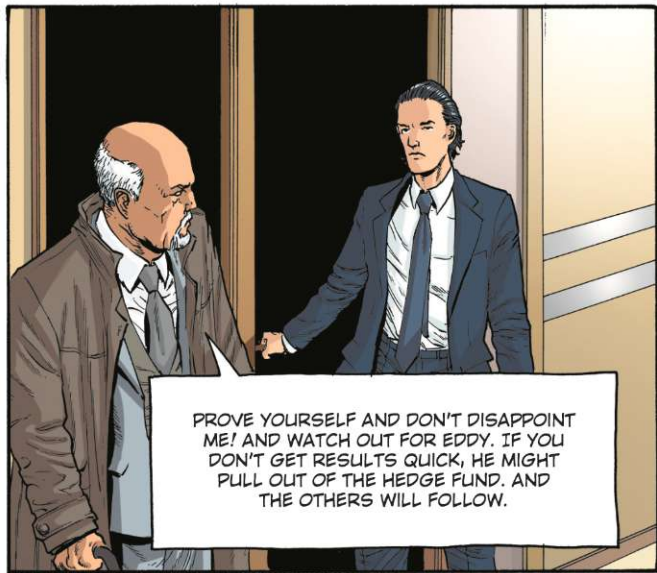
SO, IT SEEMS WE ALL AGREE. LET'S MOVE ON TO THE SEED MONEY.



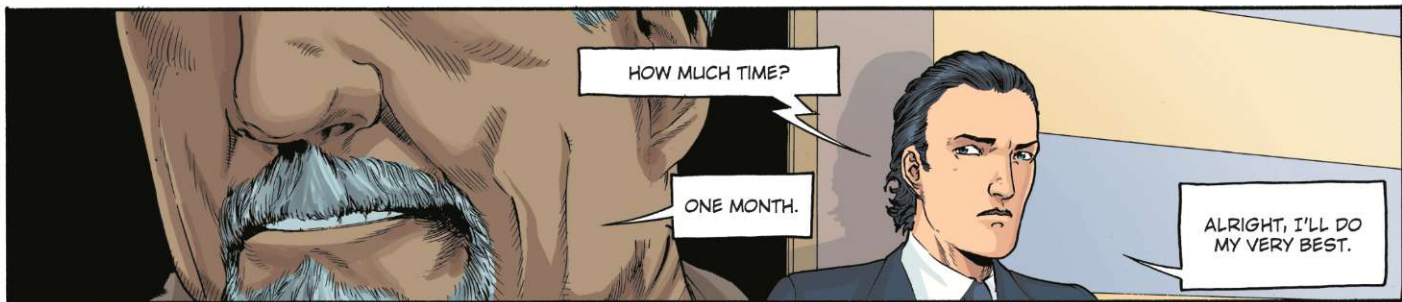
I SUGGEST THAT EACH OF US CONTRIBUTES AN INITIAL INVESTMENT OF 20 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS. DOES THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE?



WELL, THAT WENT RELATIVELY WELL. NOW YOU HAVE 100 MILLION IN CAPITAL, WITH THE ABILITY TO INVEST UP TO ONE BILLION. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT REPRESENTS.



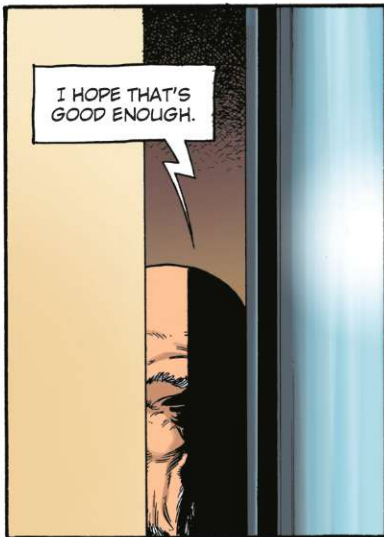
PROVE YOURSELF AND DON'T DISAPPOINT ME! AND WATCH OUT FOR EDDY. IF YOU DON'T GET RESULTS QUICK, HE MIGHT PULL OUT OF THE HEDGE FUND. AND THE OTHERS WILL FOLLOW.



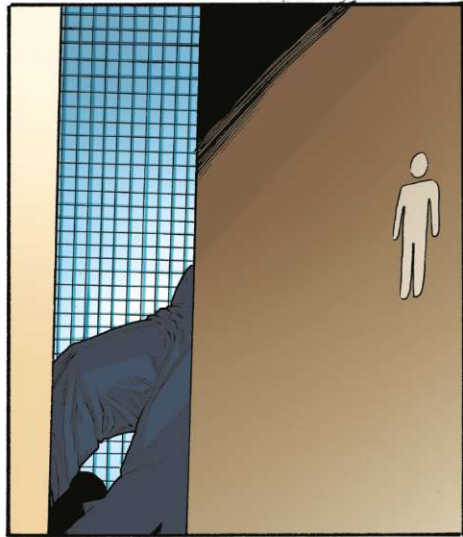
HOW MUCH TIME?

ONE MONTH.

ALRIGHT, I'LL DO MY VERY BEST.



I HOPE THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

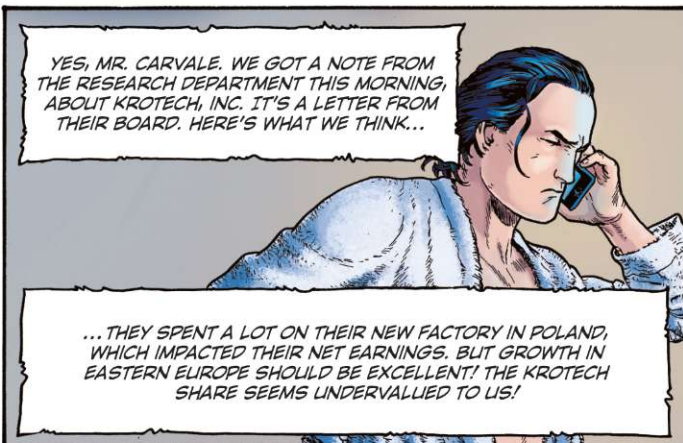
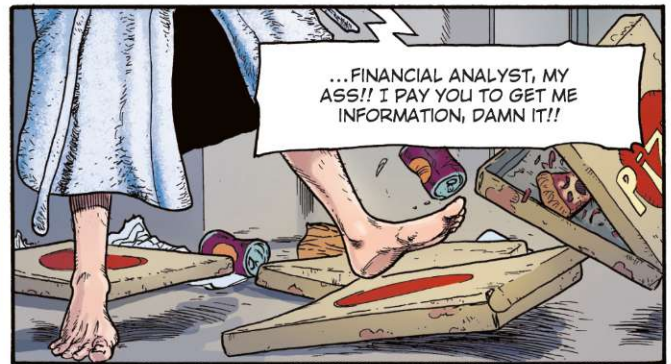
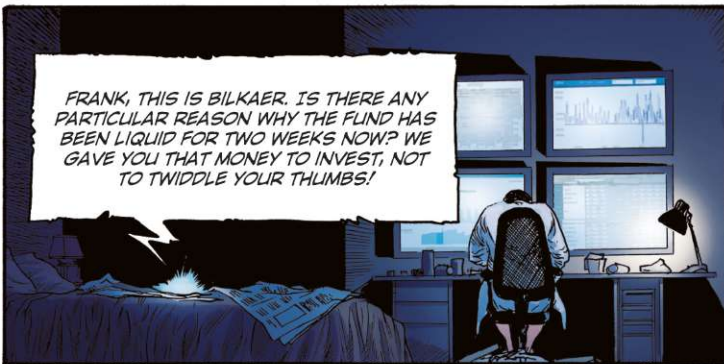
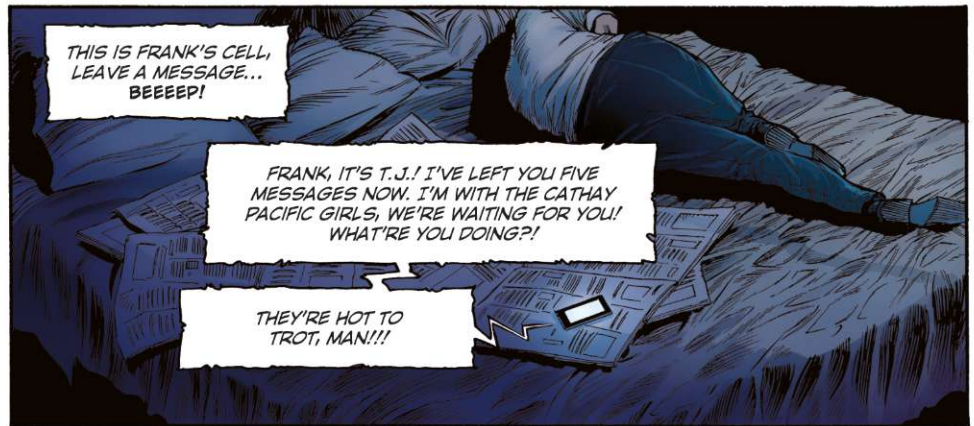
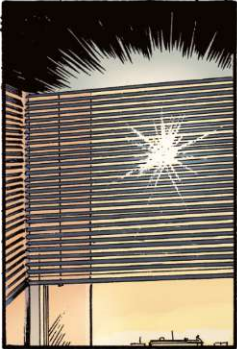


WUURGH...



FUCK...

...A BILLION!





BEEP...  
HI FRANK, IT'S  
ALEX...



IT'S TOO BAD, WE NEVER SEE  
EACH OTHER SINCE YOU MOVED  
OUT... CALL ME, AND LET'S GO  
GRAB A DRINK SOMEWHERE!

YOU CAN ALL  
GO TO HELL.



Drafts  
 Personal  
 Travel  
 3 more ▼

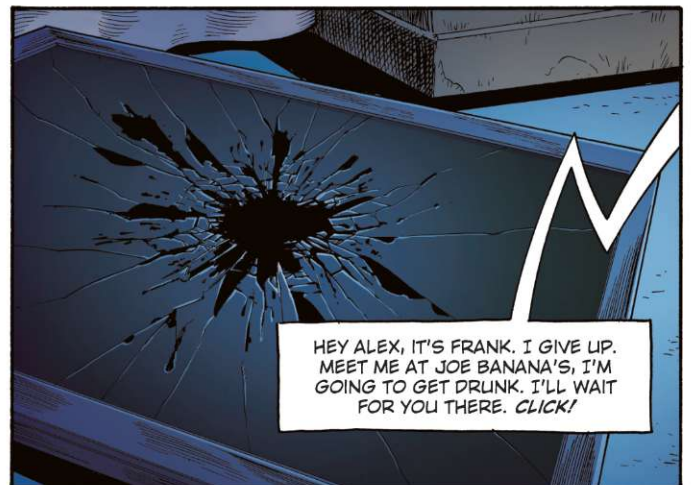
☆ E\_Bilkaer to me show details 10:44 PM (3 minutes ago) Reply

Still no transaction. I don't know what's going on and I don't like it. Ultimatum: the board meets next Monday to decide whether we leave you in charge of the hedge fund. You have three days.



BEEP... YOU'VE REACHED ALEX, KATE  
AND TRINH! WE'RE NOT HERE AT THE MOMENT,  
LEAVE A MESSAGE. CIAO! BEEP!

FUCK,  
COME ON!!



HEY ALEX, IT'S FRANK. I GIVE UP.  
MEET ME AT JOE BANANA'S, I'M  
GOING TO GET DRUNK. I'LL WAIT  
FOR YOU THERE. CLICK!



...SERIOUSLY, WHAT WAS T.J. THINKING? THAT I'D LET A CHANCE LIKE THAT GO? TOO BAD FOR HIM, IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!

HEY, LOOK! A GHOST!



HOW'S IT GOING, MAN? IT'S BEEN A WHILE! YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED! HAVE A SHOT, IT'LL DO YOU GOOD!

HI ANDREW, IS T.J. HERE?



I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S COMING... HE'S STUCK AT HIS DESK! HAD A DEAL THAT WENT BAD...

CAMPBELL! YOU ASSHOLE!!



THAT'S THE LAST TIME YOU'LL SCREW ME, GOT IT, YOU BASTARD?!



CALM DOWN! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AS SOON AS I TRY TO PUSH A STOCK, THAT ASSHOLE SELLS A TON OF IT SHORT! THEN THE PRICE CRASHES AND HE RAKES IT IN!!



HEY, PAL! I DO WHAT I WANT. WHEN I SEE SOMETHING COME UP, I GO FOR IT!

THAT'S ARBITRAGE, BABY! AND I MAKE THE BANK A LOT MORE MONEY THAT WAY THAN YOU PROP TRADERS DO!



I'LL KILL HIM, THAT IDIOT! THREE TIMES NOW HE'S FROZEN THE MARKET SO THAT I CAN'T EVEN LAUNCH SPECULATION ON A STOCK!

YOU KNOW, T.J., IT'S LIKE THEY SAY IN THE MOB: NOTHING PERSONAL, JUST BUSINESS!



FUCK... THAT BASTARD'S RUINING MY REPUTATION! HE NEVER GOT OVER THE FACT THAT I FUCKED A CHICK ON HIS FERRARI. HE'LL RUIN ME IF HE KEEPS THIS UP...

CHEERS... AT LEAST WE'LL BOTH BE OUT OF A JOB.



HEY! FRANK?!





KATE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I GOT YOUR MESSAGE. ALEX CAN'T COME, BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU NEEDED SOMEONE.

CAN I GET YOU A DRINK?



THANKS! SO WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? SURVIVING WITHOUT ME?



SHIT! MY EX-BOSS FROM VISALIS... I QUIT OVERNIGHT WITHOUT NOTICE! DON'T LOOK AT HIM...



HI FRANK! CHAMPAGNE AND A NICE SUIT? THINGS MUST BE GOING WELL!! BILKAER SURE KNOWS HOW TO PICK 'EM!



BILKAER?! ERGYU BILKAER? YOU KNOW HIM?

A LITTLE! HE CALLED ME AT THE AGENCY ONE NIGHT, THE BIG BOSS, CAN YOU IMAGINE?



BILKAER? HE OWNS VISALIS?



YEAH, THE HOLDING COMPANY AND A BLUNCH OF OTHER STUFF, TOO. SO HE ASKS ME TO SEND FRANK CARVALE TO HIS HOUSE! MY WORST SALESMAN!

SORRY, BUT YOU WERE.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, I TRIED TO SEND HIM A PRO: BUT NO, YOU WERE HIS MAN! HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW THOUGH, SO I PUT HIM IN YOUR PROSPECTS WITHOUT SAYING A THING.



NEXT DAY, HE TOLD ME YOU WERE QUITTING TO WORK FOR HIM! AND LOOK AT YOU NOW, A REAL CHAMPION!

MY WIFE AND I WERE GOING TO GRAB A BITE, CARE TO JOIN US?

UHH... THAT'S NICE OF YOU, BUT WE WERE JUST HEADED TO MY PLACE...



YOUR PLACE?

YEAH, I SAID THAT TO GET RID OF HIM... DO YOU MIND?



NO. JUST LET ME FINISH MY CHAMPAGNE.



DO YOU HAVE... PROTECTION?

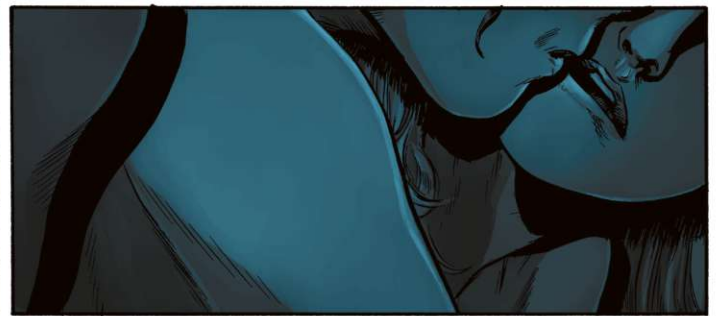


SHIT! I WAS GONNA BUY MORE...

I WANT YOU SO BAD...



JUST BE CAREFUL, OK?



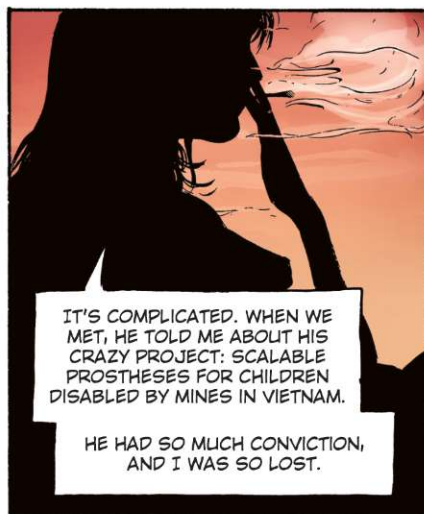
THREE YEARS AT THAT PACE AND IT WAS OVER, I BURNED OUT. I COULDN'T TOUCH A CASE WITHOUT HAVING AN ANXIETY ATTACK...



SO I QUIT THE LAW FIRM, LEFT NEW YORK, AND JOINED THE DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS BRANCH IN ASIA.

THAT'S WHERE I MET HIM... TRINH, I MEAN...

ARE YOU STILL TOGETHER?



IT'S COMPLICATED. WHEN WE MET, HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS CRAZY PROJECT: SCALABLE PROSTHESES FOR CHILDREN DISABLED BY MINES IN VIETNAM.

HE HAD SO MUCH CONVICTION, AND I WAS SO LOST.

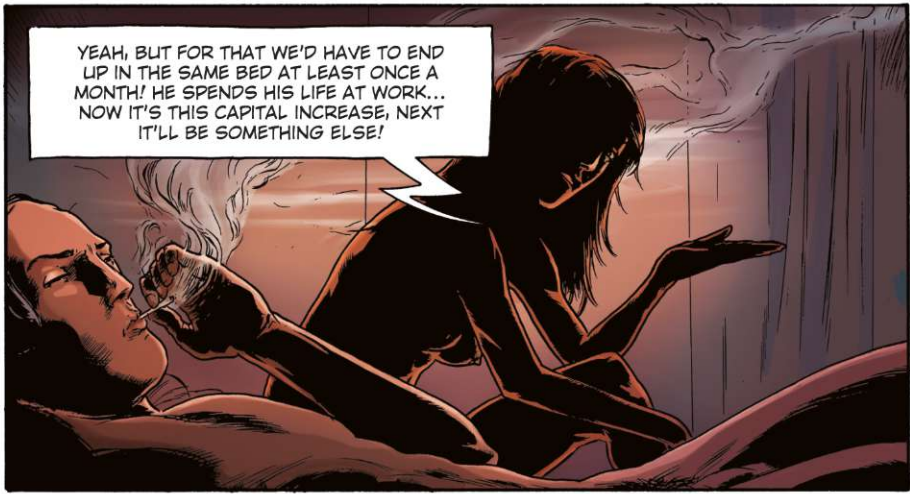


I GAVE IN RIGHT AWAY.



TWO MONTHS LATER, I LEFT MY JOB AND WE TEAMED UP TO LAUNCH NEOPROSTHESIS. IT WAS GREAT... AND IT TOOK OVER EVERYTHING ELSE.

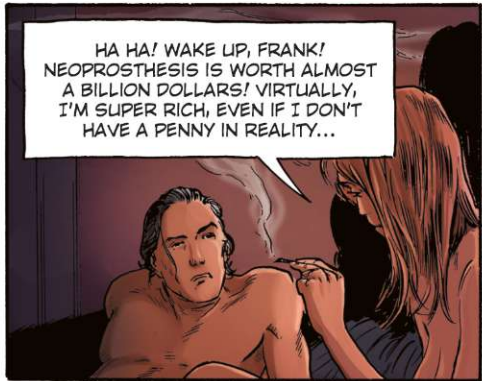
DIDN'T YOU WANT KIDS WITH HIM?



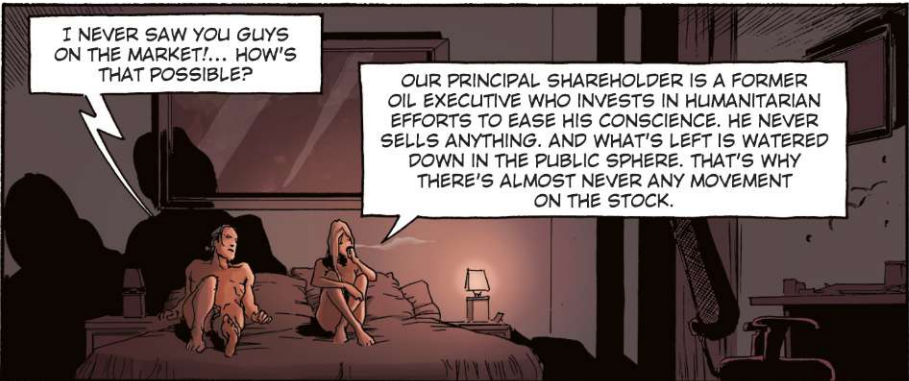
YEAH, BUT FOR THAT WE'D HAVE TO END UP IN THE SAME BED AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH! HE SPENDS HIS LIFE AT WORK... NOW IT'S THIS CAPITAL INCREASE, NEXT IT'LL BE SOMETHING ELSE!



SERIOUSLY, YOUR COMPANY IS THAT BIG?! YOU'RE ALREADY LISTED?



HA HA! WAKE UP, FRANK! NEOPROSTHESIS IS WORTH ALMOST A BILLION DOLLARS! VIRTUALLY, I'M SUPER RICH, EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE A PENNY IN REALITY...



I NEVER SAW YOU GUYS ON THE MARKET!... HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?

OUR PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER IS A FORMER OIL EXECUTIVE WHO INVESTS IN HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO EASE HIS CONSCIENCE. HE NEVER SELLS ANYTHING. AND WHAT'S LEFT IS WATERED DOWN IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE. THAT'S WHY THERE'S ALMOST NEVER ANY MOVEMENT ON THE STOCK.



SO HARDLY ANYONE KNOWS WHAT THE COMPANY'S REALLY WORTH. THAT COULD DISCOURAGE NEW BUYERS. TRINH IS COMPLETELY FREAKED OUT. WE TOOK ON HUGE COMMITMENTS WITH OUR CHINESE SUPPLIERS. IF THE CAPITAL INCREASE FAILS, WE'RE SCREWED. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO IMAGINE...



WAIT A SEC... WHICH MARKET ARE YOU ON?

THE H.K.S.E... WHY?

THE H.K.S.E.?!  
\*HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE



WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

I GOTTA GO! I'LL CALL YOU, OK? MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!



FRANK?! FUCK, IT'S 4 AM!!



SHUT UP, T.J.! DO YOU WANT TO STICK IT TO CAMPBELL OR NOT?

LISTEN, THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

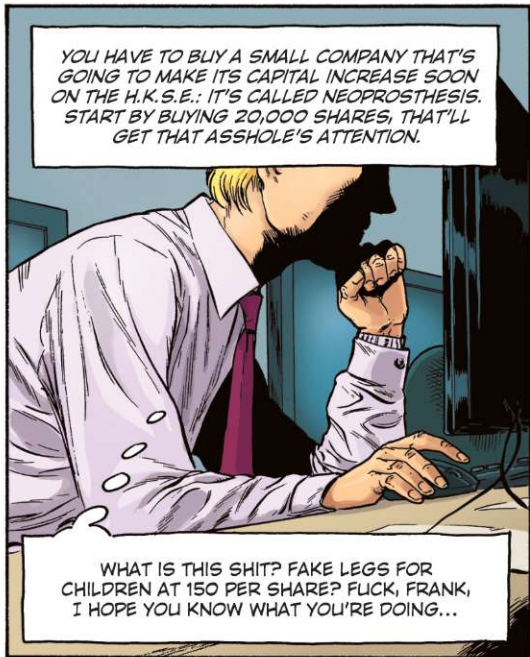


LISTEN CAREFULLY, T.J.! CAMPBELL GETS TO HIS DESK AT 7:30 SHARP. YOU HAVE TO BE THERE BEFORE HIM, GOT IT?



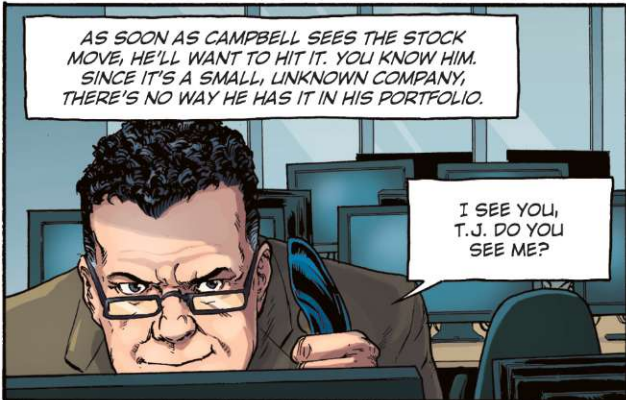
IT'S CRUCIAL THAT YOUR OPERATION SHOWS UP ON HIS RADAR.

YOU'RE EARLY, T.J.! THAT AFRAID OF LOSING YOUR JOB?



YOU HAVE TO BUY A SMALL COMPANY THAT'S GOING TO MAKE ITS CAPITAL INCREASE SOON ON THE H.K.S.E.: IT'S CALLED NEOPROSTHESIS. START BY BUYING 20,000 SHARES, THAT'LL GET THAT ASSHOLE'S ATTENTION.

WHAT IS THIS SHIT? FAKE LEGS FOR CHILDREN AT 150 PER SHARE? FUCK, FRANK, I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING...



AS SOON AS CAMPBELL SEES THE STOCK MOVE, HE'LL WANT TO HIT IT. YOU KNOW HIM. SINCE IT'S A SMALL, UNKNOWN COMPANY, THERE'S NO WAY HE HAS IT IN HIS PORTFOLIO.

I SEE YOU, T.J. DO YOU SEE ME?



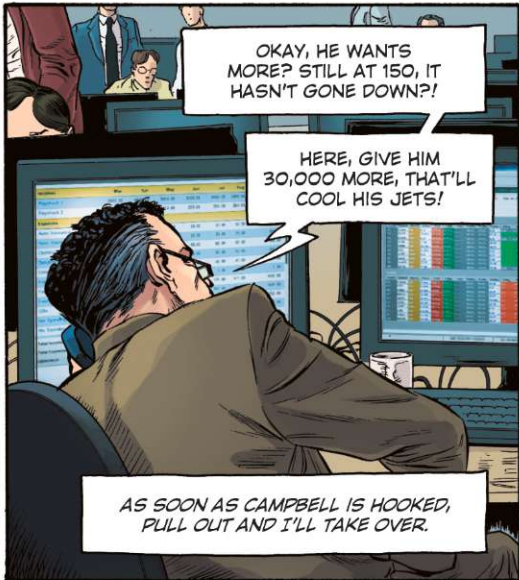
SO HE'LL CALL HIS FAVORITE BROKER TO SHORT-SELL YOU THE SHARES.

HEY, PAL! WHAT'S THE PRICE ON NEOPROSTHESIS?

150 FOR 20,000? YOU GOT 'EM!!



HE'LL WAIT FOR THE STOCK TO FALL. INSTEAD, YOU BUY A BLINCH MORE AT THE SAME PRICE.



OKAY, HE WANTS MORE? STILL AT 150, IT HASN'T GONE DOWN?!

HERE, GIVE HIM 30,000 MORE, THAT'LL COOL HIS JETS!

AS SOON AS CAMPBELL IS HOOKED, PULL OUT AND I'LL TAKE OVER.



JUST MAKE SURE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL THE ONE BUYING IT ALL.

WHO'S GOT NEOPROSTHESIS?! COME ON! EMPTY YOUR POCKETS! I'LL TAKE THEM, I WANT THEM!



CAMPBELL? IT'S IRVIN...

WHAT DO YOU WANT, ASSHOLE?!

NEOPROSTHESIS STILL ISN'T GOING DOWN... I HAVE AN OFFER AT 150... FOR 100,000 MORE SHARES!!!



SHIT, FRANK!  
WHAT'RE YOU PLAYING  
AT?! ARE YOU REALLY  
GOING TO BUY UP THE  
WHOLE MARKET?!



YEP! AND BELIEVE ME, CAMPBELL'S  
GOING TO FEEL IT. I HAVE ENOUGH  
TO BUY EVERYTHING HE WANTS TO  
SHORT-SELL ME.

IN THE MEANTIME, HOLD  
YOUR POSITIONS AND DON'T  
SELL HIM ANYTHING DIRECTLY!  
WE'LL CORNER HIM WHEN HE  
HAS TO FORK OVER  
THE SHARES!



STILL 150?! IT HASN'T MOVED?  
YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE THIS STOCK  
CRASH, YOU GOT THAT, PAL?!

HE WANTS ANOTHER  
100,000? GO FOR  
IT, GIVE HIM MORE!



DONE, CAMPBELL! AND  
LOOK, HE ALWAYS PAYS,  
THAT IDIOT!!

SEND THAT ASSHOLE  
100,000 MORE SHARES!!  
HE'S STILL PAYING 150?



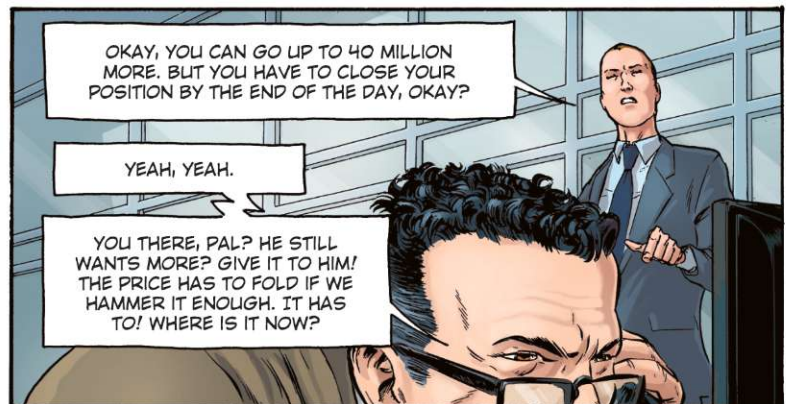
EXCUSE ME, CAMPBELL... YOU  
JUST USED 60 MILLION DOLLARS  
IN FOUR TRANSACTIONS...

REMEMBER, WE DON'T  
OWN THOSE SHARES...  
THAT'S A LOT.



YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF PUSSIES IN  
THE RISK DEPARTMENT! I'VE GOT ALL  
DAY TO FIND THEM ON THE MARKET,  
ONCE I'VE MADE THE PRICE CRASH.

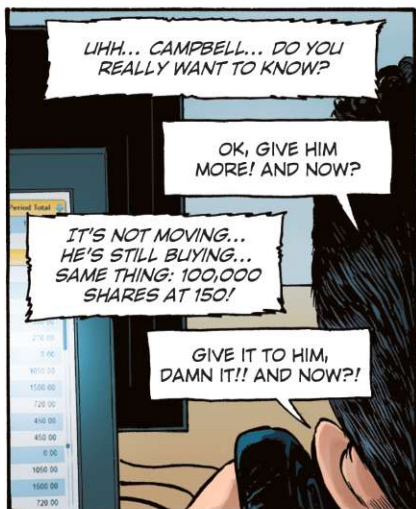
RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT A LITTLE  
SHIT WHO WANTS TO PLAY WITH  
"MR. HUNDRED MILLION," SO  
LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU HEAR?



OKAY, YOU CAN GO UP TO 40 MILLION  
MORE. BUT YOU HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR  
POSITION BY THE END OF THE DAY, OKAY?

YEAH, YEAH.

YOU THERE, PAL? HE STILL  
WANTS MORE? GIVE IT TO HIM!  
THE PRICE HAS TO FOLD IF WE  
HAMMER IT ENOUGH. IT HAS  
TO! WHERE IS IT NOW?



LHH... CAMPBELL... DO YOU  
REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

OK, GIVE HIM  
MORE! AND NOW?

IT'S NOT MOVING...  
HE'S STILL BUYING...  
SAME THING: 100,000  
SHARES AT 150!

GIVE IT TO HIM,  
DAMN IT!! AND NOW?!



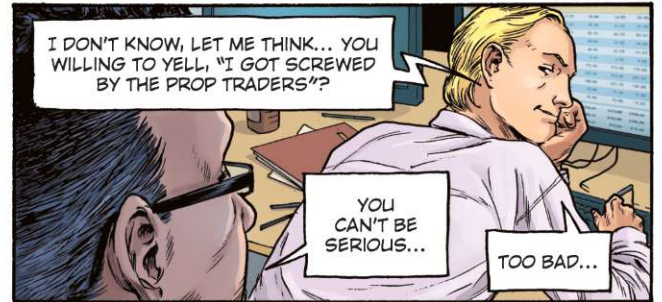
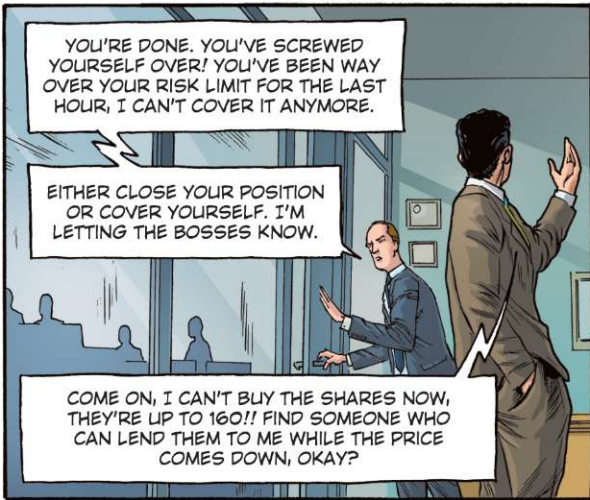
WAIT... NO, NOTHING FOR  
NOW... YOU KNOCKED HIM  
OUT, I THINK... NO MORE  
BIDS!

YES! I TOLD YOU  
I'D SCREW THAT  
MOTHERFUCKER!!!



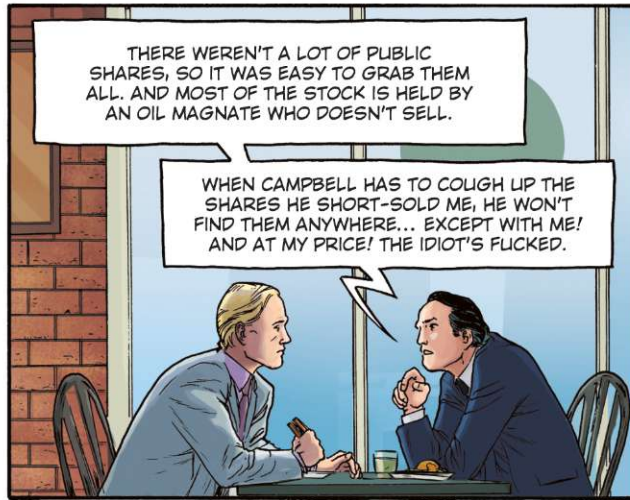
AH SHIT... NO! IT'S ON  
AGAIN! PAYING 160!  
NO LIMIT!! SERIOUSLY,  
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

CAMPBELL, CAN  
I TALK TO YOU?



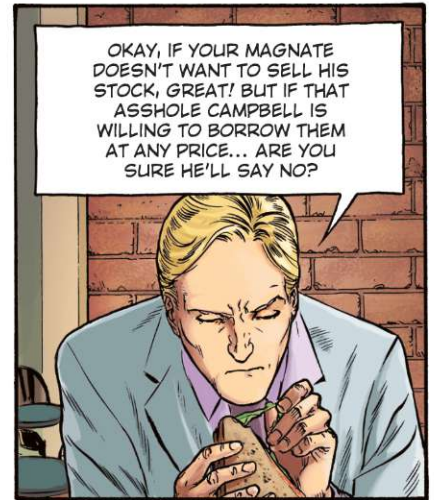


FUCK! YOU SHORT SQUEEZED CAMPBELL? SERIOUSLY? YOU'VE GOT BALLS THE SIZE OF MELONS, MAN!



THERE WEREN'T A LOT OF PUBLIC SHARES, SO IT WAS EASY TO GRAB THEM ALL. AND MOST OF THE STOCK IS HELD BY AN OIL MAGNATE WHO DOESN'T SELL.

WHEN CAMPBELL HAS TO COUGH UP THE SHARES HE SHORT-SOLD ME, HE WON'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE... EXCEPT WITH ME! AND AT MY PRICE! THE IDIOT'S FUCKED.



OKAY, IF YOUR MAGNATE DOESN'T WANT TO SELL HIS STOCK, GREAT! BUT IF THAT ASSHOLE CAMPBELL IS WILLING TO BORROW THEM AT ANY PRICE... ARE YOU SURE HE'LL SAY NO?



I DON'T KNOW OF A BIG SHAREHOLDER WHO'LL REFUSE A BUNCH OF CASH WITHOUT RISK.

I UNDERSTAND, MR. CAMPBELL. BUT I'M SORRY, NEOPROSTHESIS IS A STRATEGIC POSITION. OUR PRUDENTIAL RULES ARE STRICT, WE DON'T LEND THOSE SHARES, THERE'S NO POINT IN--

WHAT?! FALSE LIMBS FOR KIDS, A STRATEGIC POSITION? WHO DO YOU TAKE ME FOR!? GO FUCK YOURSELF!



GET RID OF THIS LOSER FOR ME AND CALL JASON COX, THE CEO. I'M NOT GONNA DEAL WITH A FUCKING OPERATOR!

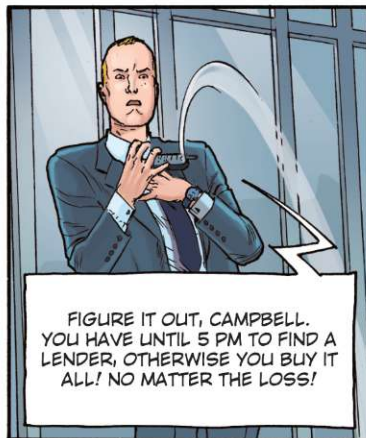


FIGURE IT OUT, CAMPBELL. YOU HAVE UNTIL 5 PM TO FIND A LENDER, OTHERWISE YOU BUY IT ALL! NO MATTER THE LOSS!



IT'S URGENT! TELL HIM IT'S JUST A LOAN! 500% INTEREST! FOR TWO DAYS! HE CAN'T REFUSE THAT!!

SORRY, MR. CAMPBELL, I HAVE ORDERS NOT TO BOTHER MR. COX.



OH! YOU'RE IN LUCK, HE JUST FINISHED HIS ROUND. STAY ON THE LINE.



MR. CAMPBELL? 500% FOR TWO DAYS, FINE. I'LL LET YOU WORK OUT THE DETAILS WITH MY OPERATOR.

MR. CAMPBELL, ARE YOU THERE?

BEEEEEEEEP





CAMPBELL!  
INSTRUCTIONS  
FROM THE BIG  
BOSS: IT'S OVER,  
CALL YOUR  
BROKER, CUT  
YOUR LOSSES!



HELLO...  
IRVIN? WHAT  
PRICE TO GET  
OUT?



WE DON'T HAVE ANY OFFERS...  
I SEE ONLY 5,000 SHARES,  
AT 170, NOTHING ELSE.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?  
IT'S NOT 5,000 SHARES  
I'M MISSING, IT'S 700,000!  
FIND ME A FUCKING OFFER,  
THE BANK'S LICENSE IS  
ON THE LINE!

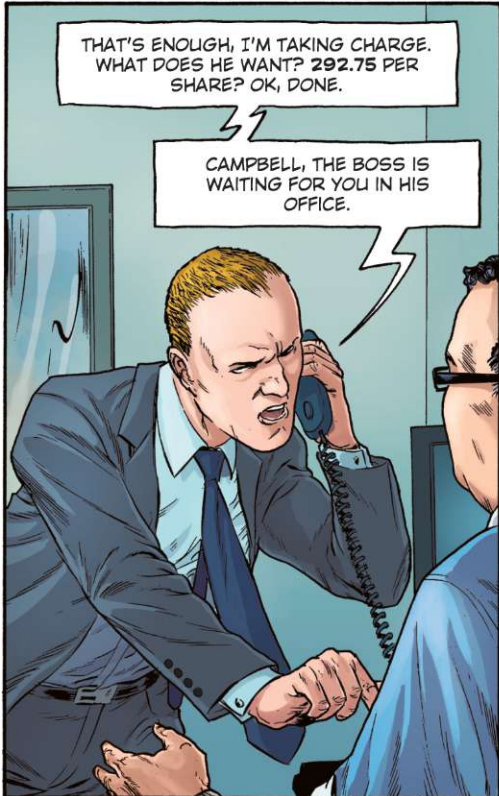


WAIT! YEAH,  
CAMPBELL, I HAVE  
AN OFFER!!!



IT'S THE BUYER...  
HE WANTS TO SELL  
YOU EVERYTHING.

I THINK YOU  
GOT SQUEEZED,  
MY FRIEND.



THAT'S ENOUGH, I'M TAKING CHARGE.  
WHAT DOES HE WANT? 292.75 PER  
SHARE? OK, DONE.

CAMPBELL, THE BOSS IS  
WAITING FOR YOU IN HIS  
OFFICE.



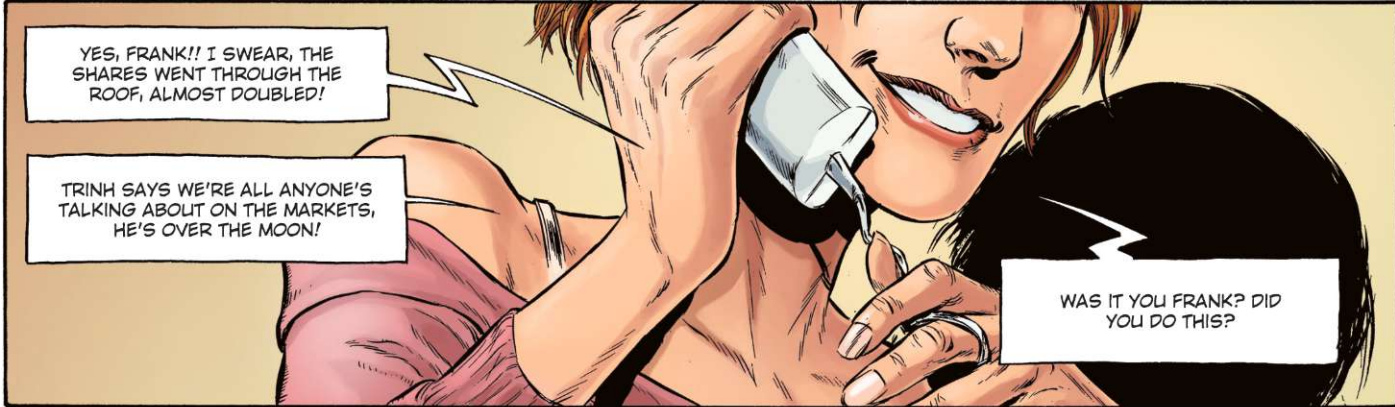
TWO HUNDRED NINETY-  
TWO THREE QUARTER?!  
WHAT KIND OF A PRICE IS  
THAT? IS THIS A JOKE?



I THINK THAT THERE'S A  
GUY ON THE OTHER SIDE WHO  
JUST TOOK YOU FOR 100  
MILLION DOLLARS EVEN.

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY  
HOW MUCH YOU'VE COST  
THE COMPANY...

... "MR. HUNDRED  
MILLION"!



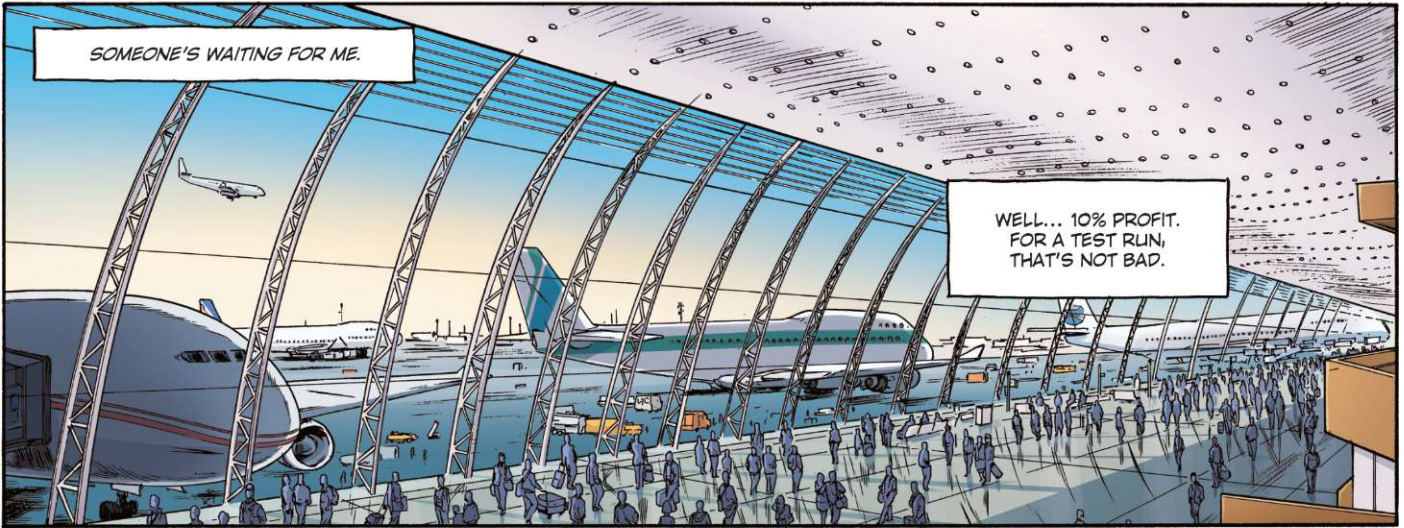
YES, FRANK!! I SWEAR, THE  
SHARES WENT THROUGH THE  
ROOF, ALMOST DOUBLED!

TRINH SAYS WE'RE ALL ANYONE'S  
TALKING ABOUT ON THE MARKETS,  
HE'S OVER THE MOON!

WAS IT YOU FRANK? DID  
YOU DO THIS?







SOMEONE'S WAITING FOR ME.

WELL... 10% PROFIT. FOR A TEST RUN, THAT'S NOT BAD.



NOT BAD? THAT'S ALL?! 100 MILLION IN PROFIT IN TWO DAYS AND YOU SAY "NOT BAD"?!  
3



NOT TWO DAYS, ONE MONTH! I GAVE YOU THAT MONEY A MONTH AGO. AND GIVEN THE RISKS YOU TOOK, 10% IS JUST "NOT BAD."



WHAT? YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SCHEME?



WELL, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THIS LITTLE DEAL GOT YOUR NAME OUT THERE.

NOW IT'S TIME TO PLAY WITH THE BIG BOYS.



HONG KONG IS OVER, WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK NEW YORK.



EVER HEARD OF SUBPRIMES?

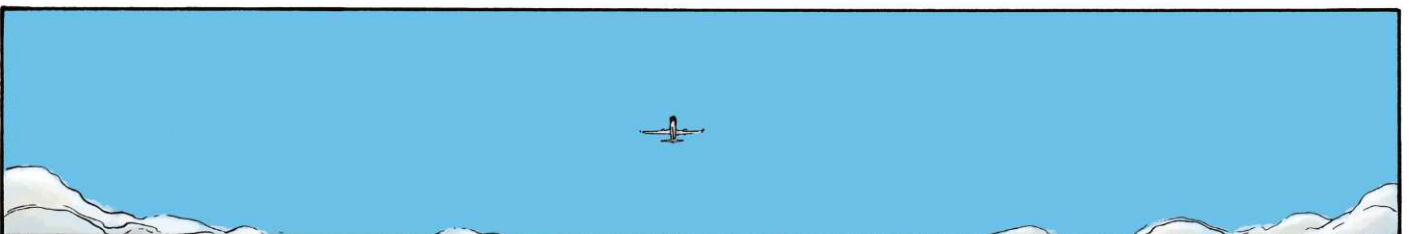


**BRUTAL DROP FOR NEOPROSTHESIS AT MARKET OPEN**

By Erwin Broderick

HKSE - Once again, it was the Royal Bank of Hong Kong that opened hostilities just after markets opened, liquidating its position in NeoProsthesis, which immediately dropped 85%. Panic is spreading among the small shareholders who were attracted to the stock when it first came on the market two years ago precisely because its business focus - closely tied to humanitarian NGOs - seemed to keep it safe from any large-scale speculation. But the RBHK joined the fray yesterday, buying up massive quantities of the share as huge sums changed hands although the price remained unchanged. NeoProsthesis seemed to benefit from supply on the market. This other had buyers seemed to disappear and uneasiness among scale of the drop, a second meet to determine first rise in value vital for the financial growth of NeoProsthesis bet that the drop Prosthesis' success story short-lived.

*www... www...*



**END**  
of book 1



Thanks to Philippe, who managed to get me interested in even the most arcane details of international finance; to Patrick, for his enormous talent; to Régis, a stylish old satyr with a heart of gold; to François, for encouraging us when this book was nothing but an idea; and to Gauthier and Camille for their unfailing support from the beginning.

TRISTAN ROULOT

A big thank you to Régis Loisel.

PATRICK HÉNAFF

For Jacqueline, Blanche, Raphaël, Marie, and Julien, my first readers and critics, who are never far from my mind whenever I write a story.

For Jean-Pierre Soto: an old friend and stock market accomplice, a crypto-anarcho-communo-alterglobalist, and a rebel without a cause, in addition to being the most talented and upstanding trader I've ever met.

Finally, thanks to Tristan and Patrick for their talent and perseverance.

PHILIPPE SABBAH

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Frank Carvale is arrogant,  
ambitious, and willing to do anything  
it takes to get ahead. He's clever, too,  
but maybe not as clever as he thinks.  
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big break he needs—or the biggest  
mistake of his life.

*A financial thriller set at the heart  
of the international economic crisis.*