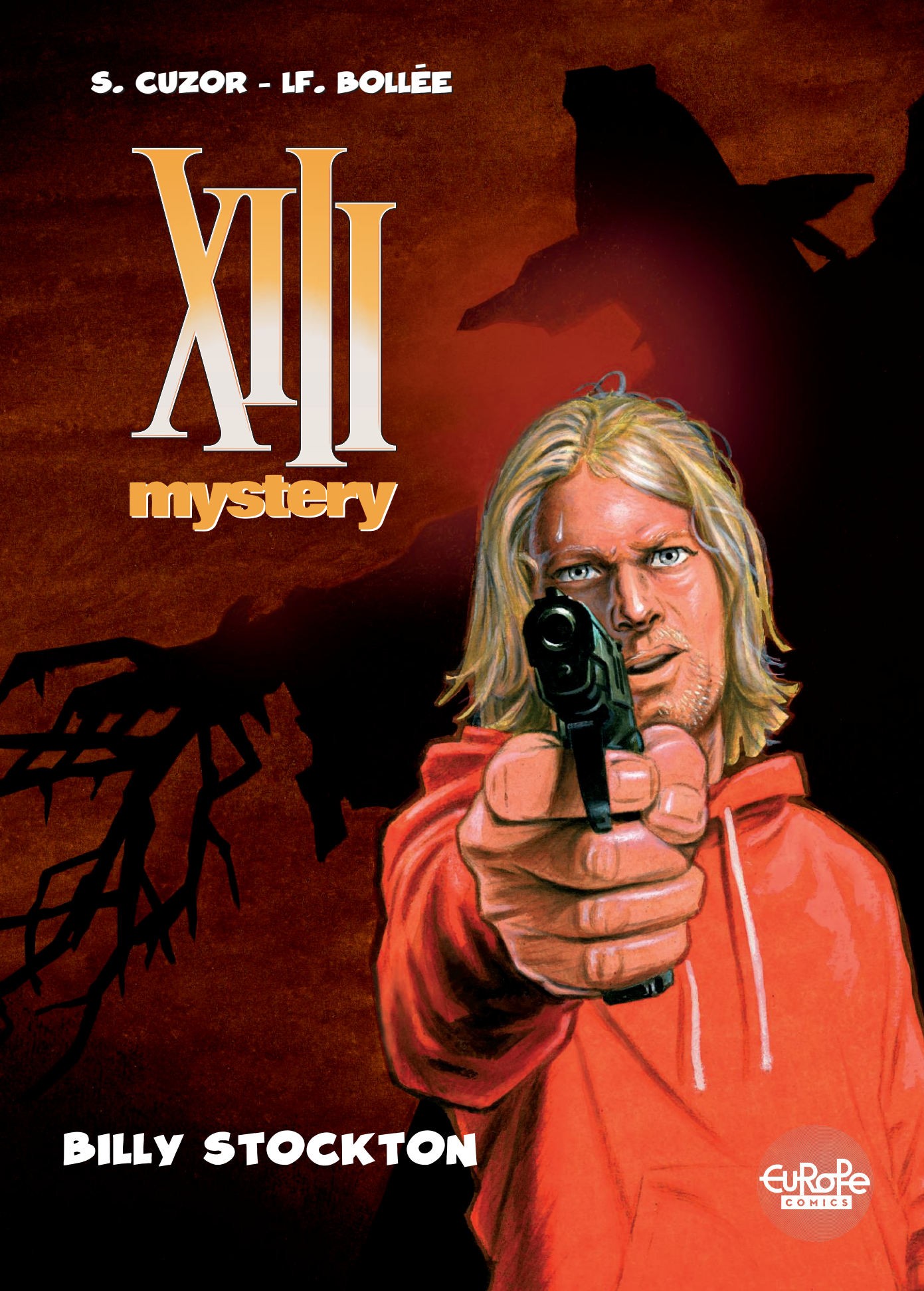


S. CUZOR - LF. BOLLÉE

XIII

mystery



BILLY STOCKTON

euRoPe
COMICS

The series XIII was created by WILLIAM VANCE and JEAN VAN HAMME.



S. CUZOR - LF. BOLLÉE

BILLY STOCKTON

XIII
mystery

Series overseen by Jean Van Hamme

Colours: Meephe Versaevel



**I wish to express my special gratitude to my son,
Tom, for agreeing, many times, to pose for the character of Billy.**

S. Cuzor

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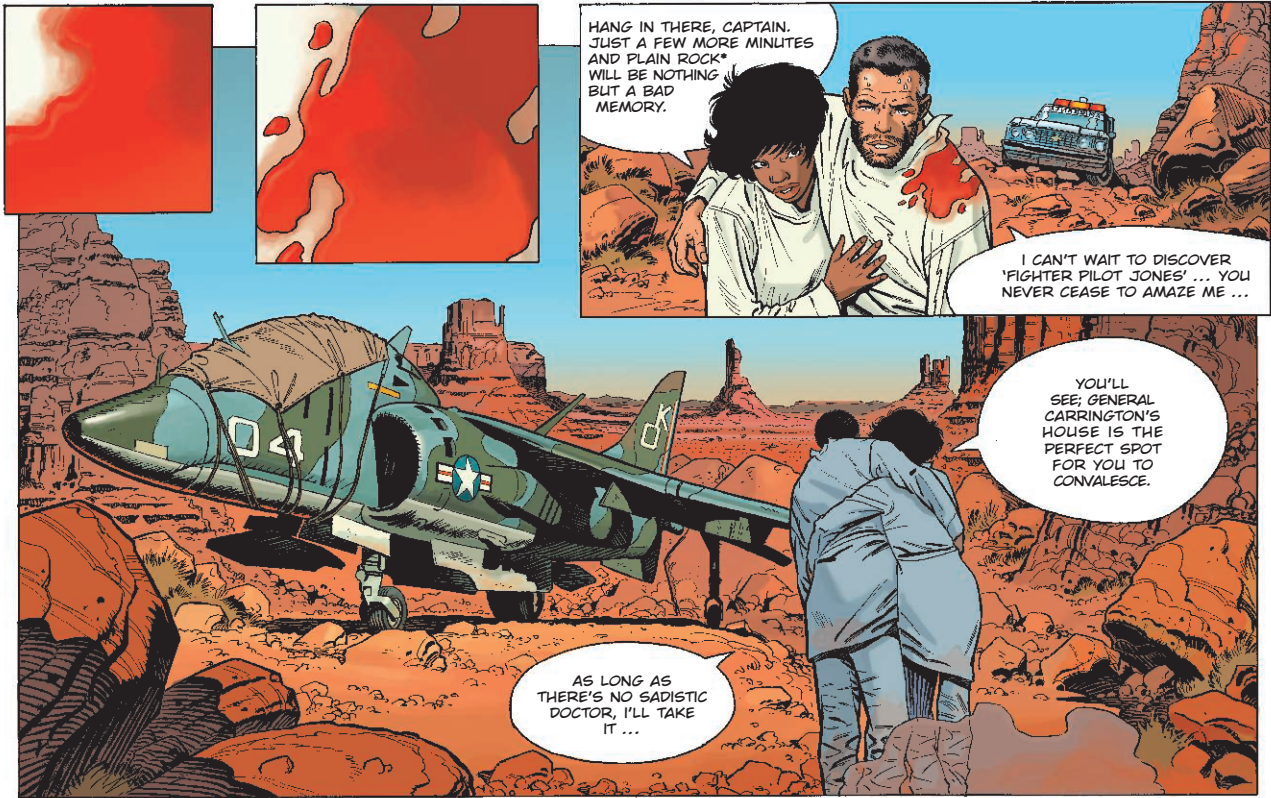
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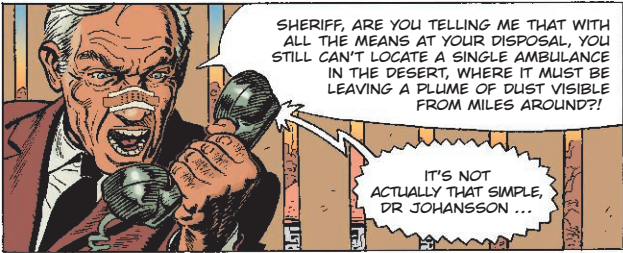


HANG IN THERE, CAPTAIN. JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES AND PLAIN ROCK* WILL BE NOTHING BUT A BAD MEMORY.

I CAN'T WAIT TO DISCOVER 'FIGHTER PILOT JONES' ... YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME ...

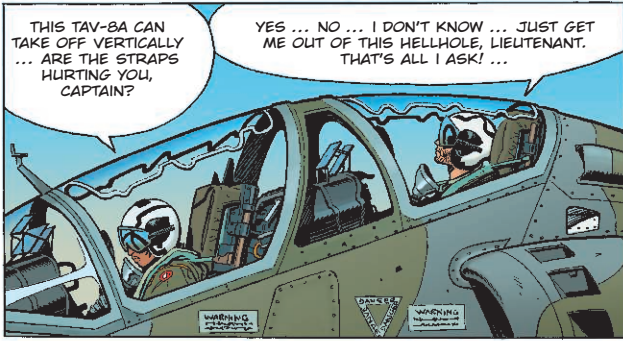
YOU'LL SEE; GENERAL CARRINGTON'S HOUSE IS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR YOU TO CONVALESCENCE.

AS LONG AS THERE'S NO SADISTIC DOCTOR, I'LL TAKE IT ...



SHERIFF, ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT WITH ALL THE MEANS AT YOUR DISPOSAL, YOU STILL CAN'T LOCATE A SINGLE AMBULANCE IN THE DESERT, WHERE IT MUST BE LEAVING A PLUME OF DUST VISIBLE FROM MILES AROUND?!

IT'S NOT ACTUALLY THAT SIMPLE, DR JOHANSSON ...



THIS TAV-8A CAN TAKE OFF VERTICALLY ... ARE THE STRAPS HURTING YOU, CAPTAIN?

YES ... NO ... I DON'T KNOW ... JUST GET ME OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE, LIEUTENANT. THAT'S ALL I ASK! ...



YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!

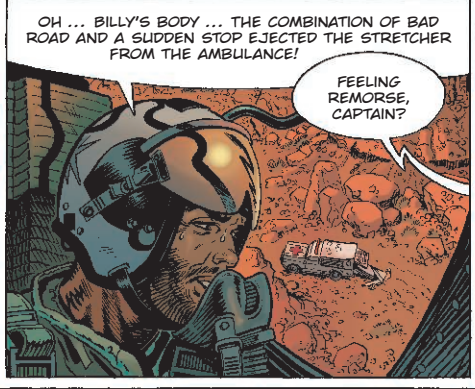


THANKS, JONES. I OWE YOU ONE ...

THAT YOU DO!

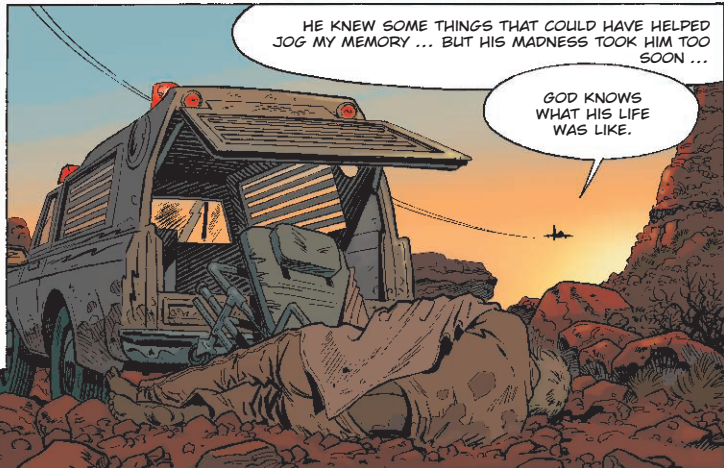
WHHHOOOOO

*SEE XIII VOL. 3: ALL THE TEARS OF HELL.



OH ... BILLY'S BODY ... THE COMBINATION OF BAD ROAD AND A SUDDEN STOP EJECTED THE STRETCHER FROM THE AMBULANCE!

FEELING REMORSE, CAPTAIN?

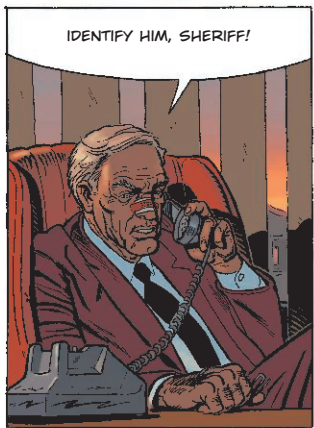


HE KNEW SOME THINGS THAT COULD HAVE HELPED JOG MY MEMORY ... BUT HIS MADNESS TOOK HIM TOO SOON ...

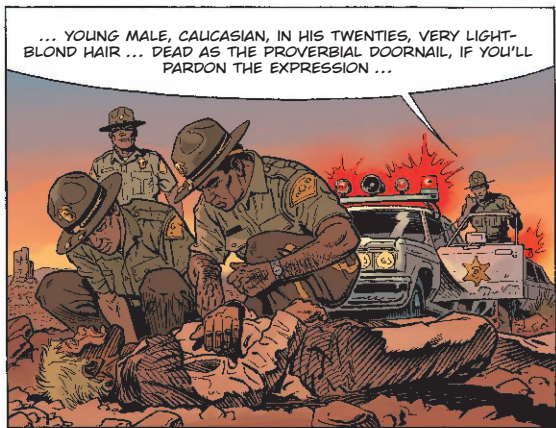
GOD KNOWS WHAT HIS LIFE WAS LIKE.



THAT'S AFFIRMATIVE, DOCTOR. IT'S THE AMBULANCE FROM SPRINGDALE HOSPITAL! EMPTY, OF COURSE, EXCEPT FOR A CORPSE THAT FELL OUT THE BACK ...



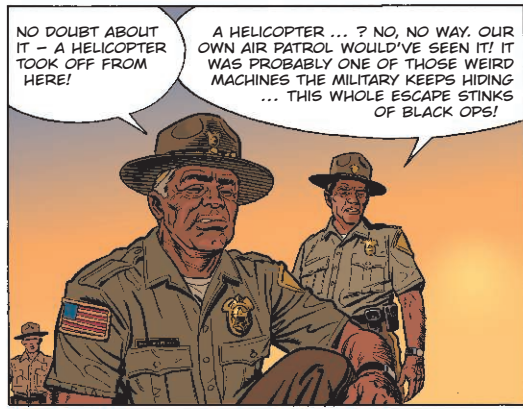
IDENTIFY HIM, SHERIFF!



... YOUNG MALE, CAUCASIAN, IN HIS TWENTIES, VERY LIGHT-BLOND HAIR ... DEAD AS THE PROVERBIAL DOORNAIL, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION ...

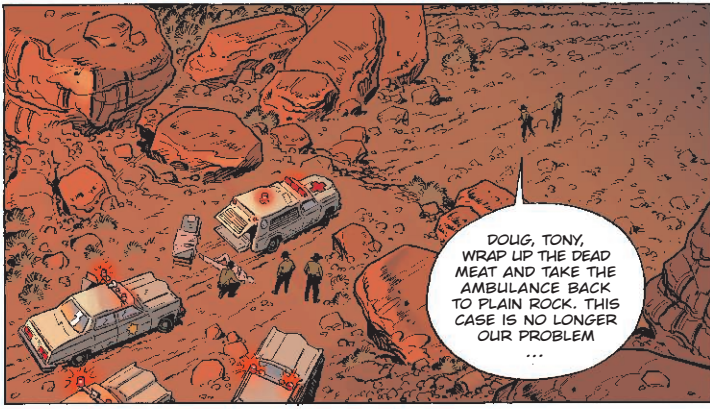


SHERIFF!
I FOUND TRACKS!
...

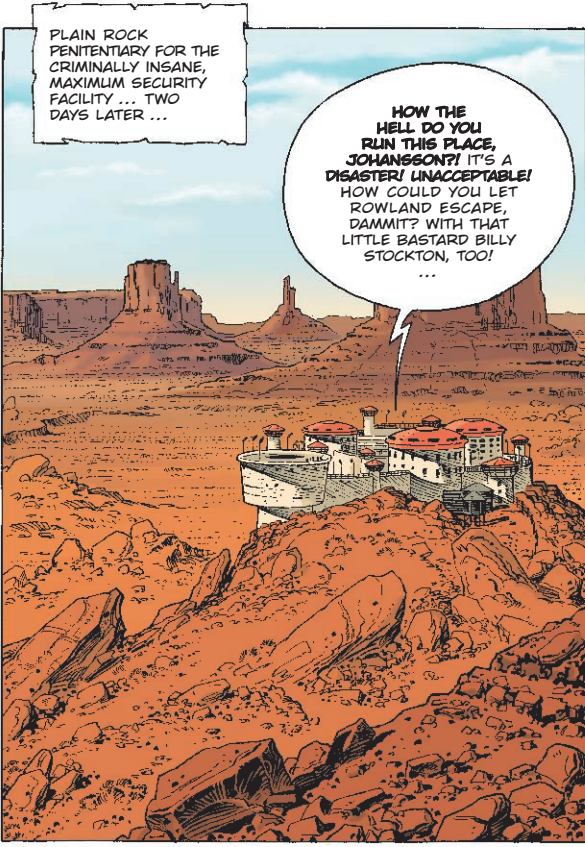


NO DOUBT ABOUT IT - A HELICOPTER TOOK OFF FROM HERE!

A HELICOPTER ... ? NO, NO WAY. OUR OWN AIR PATROL WOULD'VE SEEN IT! IT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE WEIRD MACHINES THE MILITARY KEEPS HIDING ... THIS WHOLE ESCAPE STINKS OF BLACK OPS!



DOUG, TONY, WRAP UP THE DEAD MEAT AND TAKE THE AMBULANCE BACK TO PLAIN ROCK. THIS CASE IS NO LONGER OUR PROBLEM ...



PLAIN ROCK PENITENTIARY FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE, MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY ... TWO DAYS LATER ...

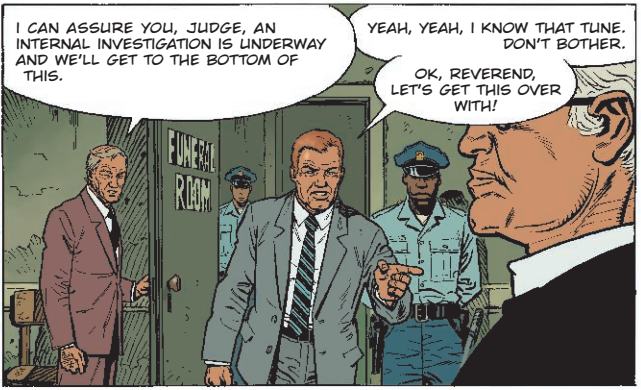
HOW THE HELL DO YOU RUN THIS PLACE, JOHANSSON? IT'S A DISASTER! UNACCEPTABLE! HOW COULD YOU LET ROWLAND ESCAPE, DAMMIT? WITH THAT LITTLE BASTARD BILLY STOCKTON, TOO! ...



NEED I REMIND YOU THOSE TWO WERE HERE FOR A REASON? THIS IS GOING TO HURT YOU, I PROMISE!

IF I COULD JUST EXPLAIN—

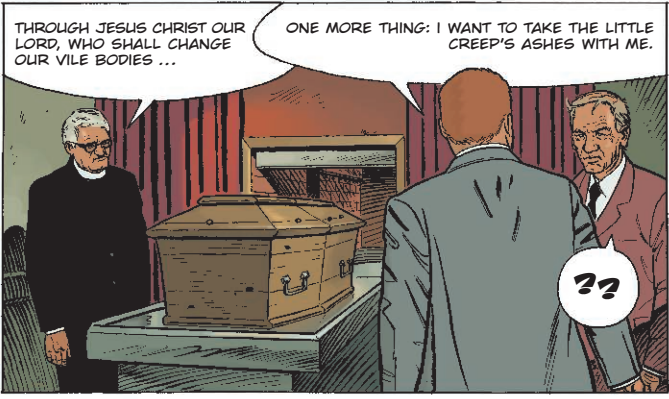
STOCKTON GOT OFF EASY IN THE END! YOU KNEW I WANTED HIM TO ROT SLOWLY AWAY IN ONE OF YOUR CELLS!



I CAN ASSURE YOU, JUDGE, AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY AND WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW THAT TUNE. DON'T BOTHER.

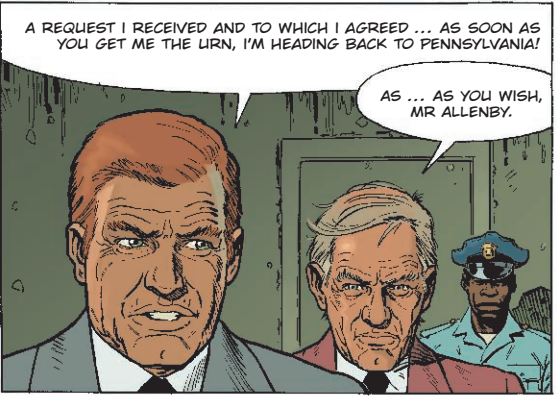
OK, REVEREND, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!



THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO SHALL CHANGE OUR VILE BODIES ...

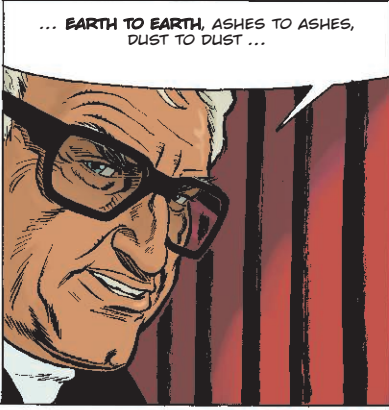
ONE MORE THING: I WANT TO TAKE THE LITTLE CREEP'S ASHES WITH ME.

??



A REQUEST I RECEIVED AND TO WHICH I AGREED ... AS SOON AS YOU GET ME THE URN, I'M HEADING BACK TO PENNSYLVANIA!

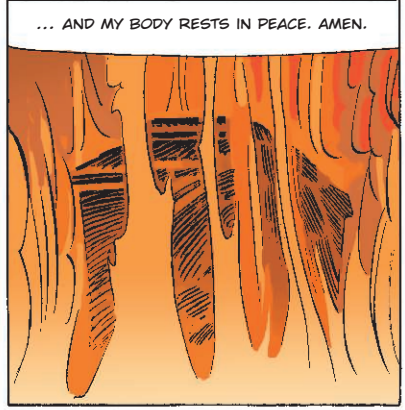
AS ... AS YOU WISH, MR ALLENBY.



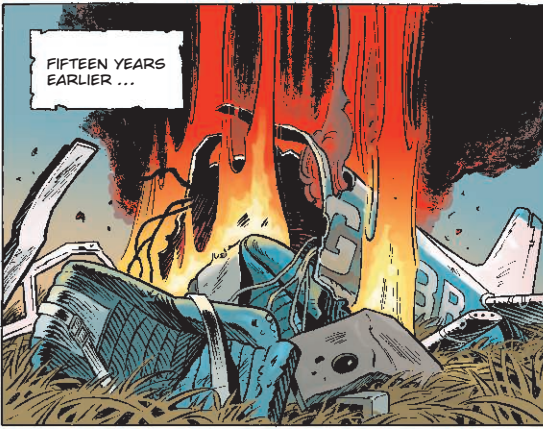
... EARTH TO EARTH, ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST ...



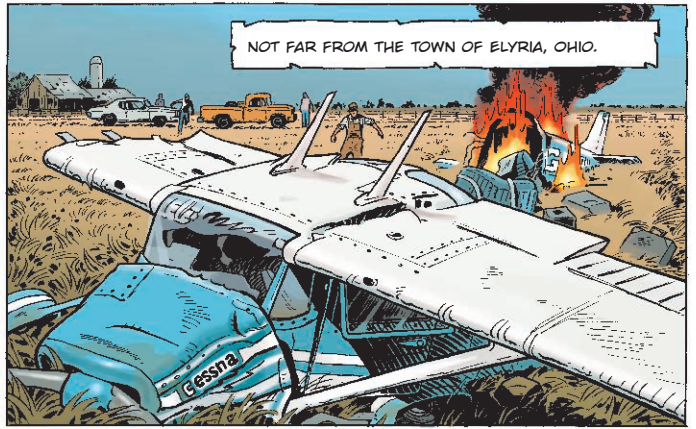
... MY HEART IS FILLED WITH JOY, MY SPIRIT WITH DELIGHT ...



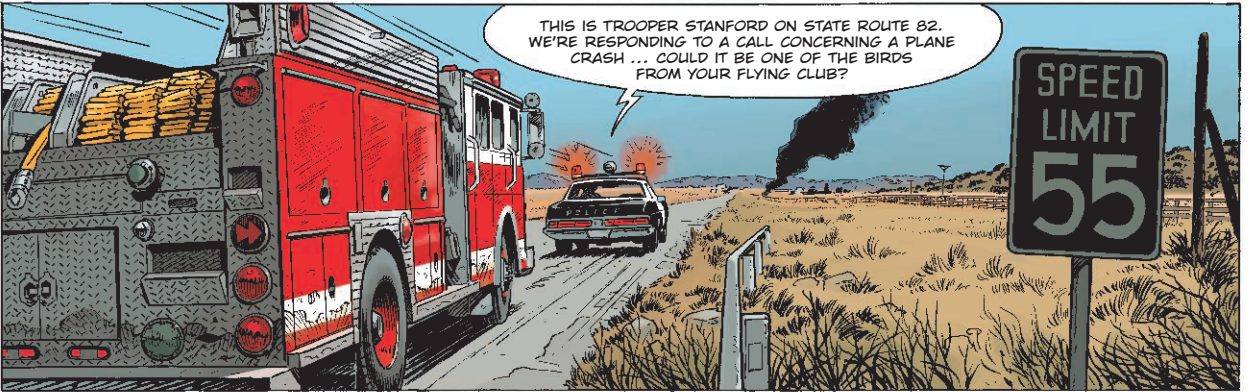
... AND MY BODY RESTS IN PEACE. AMEN.



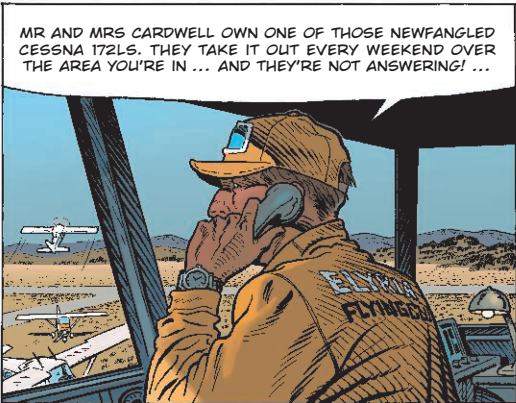
FIFTEEN YEARS EARLIER ...



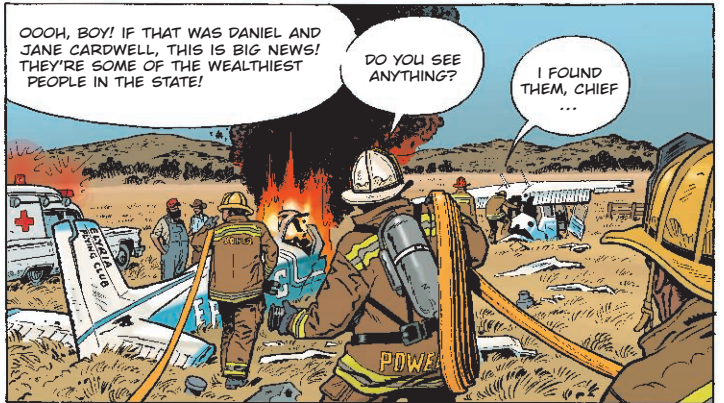
NOT FAR FROM THE TOWN OF ELYRIA, OHIO.



THIS IS TROOPER STANFORD ON STATE ROUTE 82. WE'RE RESPONDING TO A CALL CONCERNING A PLANE CRASH ... COULD IT BE ONE OF THE BIRDS FROM YOUR FLYING CLUB?



MR AND MRS CARDWELL OWN ONE OF THOSE NEWFANGLED CESSNA 172LS. THEY TAKE IT OUT EVERY WEEKEND OVER THE AREA YOU'RE IN ... AND THEY'RE NOT ANSWERING! ...



DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?

I FOUND THEM, CHIEF ...

OOOH, BOY! IF THAT WAS DANIEL AND JANE CARDWELL, THIS IS BIG NEWS! THEY'RE SOME OF THE WEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN THE STATE!



DEAD! ... BOTH OF THEM!



HEY!!! OVER HERE, QUICK! THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE!



HEAVENS!! IT'S A CHILD!! WE NEED TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE ASAP!



HE'S BREATHING!

CALL CLEVELAND RIGHT NOW! WE HAVE A FOUR- OR FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY FOR THE ER, PROBABLY THE CARDWELL SON. THEY NEED TO BE READY WHEN WE GET THERE!



PREPARE A SOLUTION OF ETIFOXINE 3.5° AND SMG OF MORPHINE! HE'S IN SHOCK!

YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT, KID! HANG IN THERE!



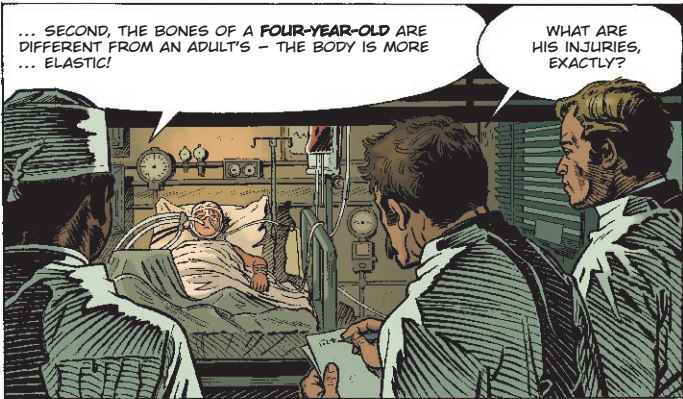
DR JENKINS? ... WE'RE WITH THE OHIO TRIBUNE. HOW IS THE CARDWELL BOY DOING?

I JUST FINISHED OPERATING ON HIM. THIS IS PRETTY CLOSE TO A BONA FIDE MIRACLE!



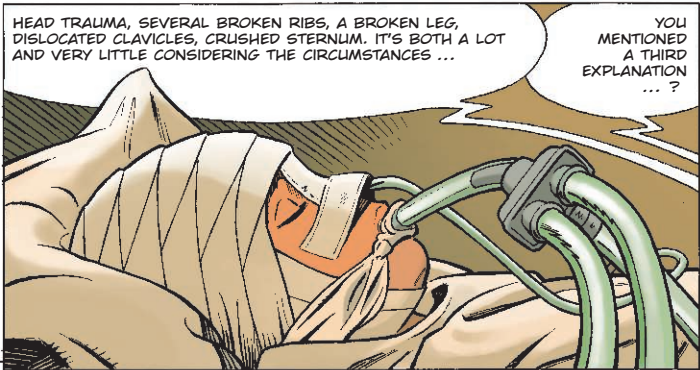
I CAN SEE ONLY THREE REASONS FOR THAT CHILD TO STILL BE ALIVE ...

FIRST, HE WAS IN THE BACK WHEN THE PLANE CRASHED ...



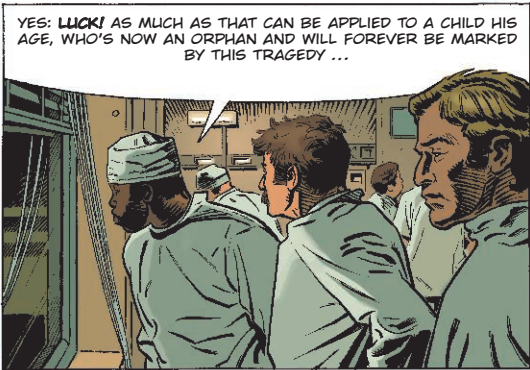
... SECOND, THE BONES OF A **FOUR-YEAR-OLD** ARE DIFFERENT FROM AN ADULT'S - THE BODY IS MORE ... ELASTIC!

WHAT ARE HIS INJURIES, EXACTLY?

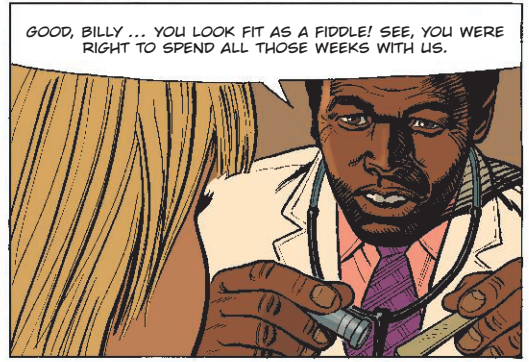
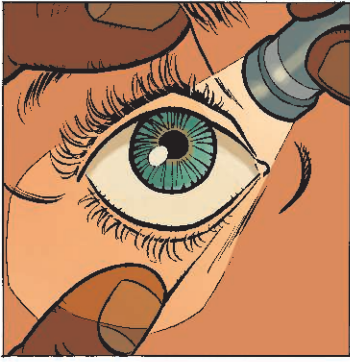


HEAD TRAUMA, SEVERAL BROKEN RIBS, A BROKEN LEG, DISLOCATED CLAVICLES, CRUSHED STERNUM. IT'S BOTH A LOT AND VERY LITTLE CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES ...

YOU MENTIONED A THIRD EXPLANATION ... ?



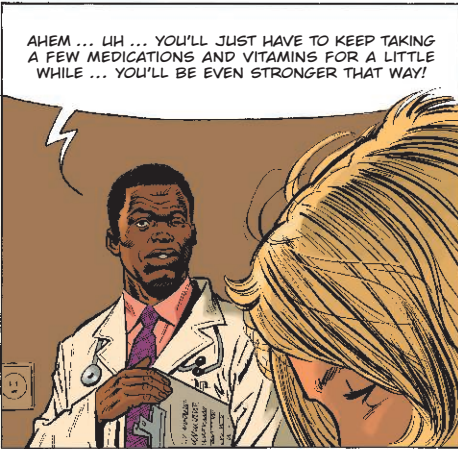
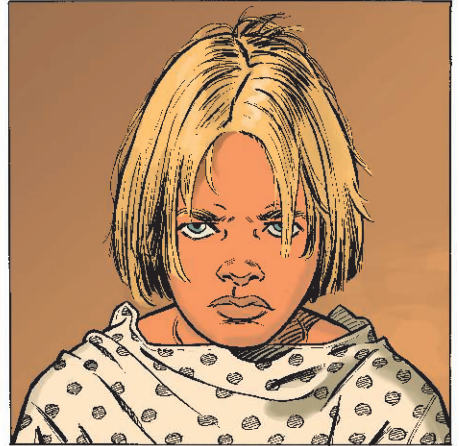
YES: **LUCK!** AS MUCH AS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO A CHILD'S AGE, WHO'S NOW AN ORPHAN AND WILL FOREVER BE MARKED BY THIS TRAGEDY ...



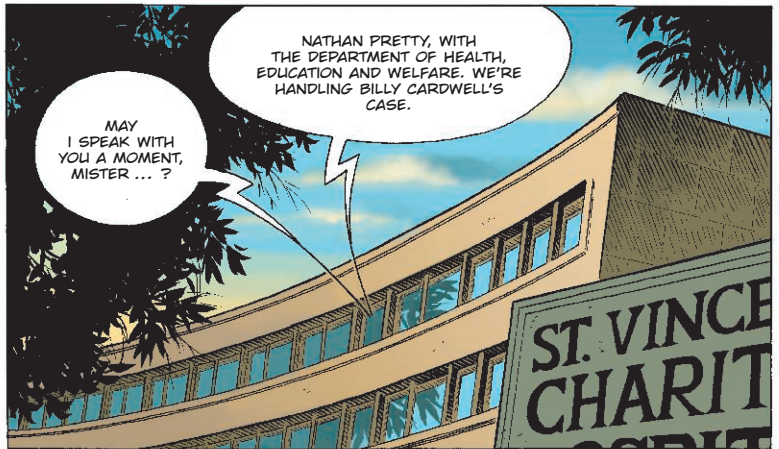
GOOD, BILLY ... YOU LOOK FIT AS A FIDDLE! SEE, YOU WERE RIGHT TO SPEND ALL THOSE WEEKS WITH US.



YOU'RE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL TODAY, THOUGH. THAT'S GOOD NEWS, ISN'T IT? AND IF YOU EVER HAVE A PROBLEM, ANYTHING, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME. I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU, ALL RIGHT?

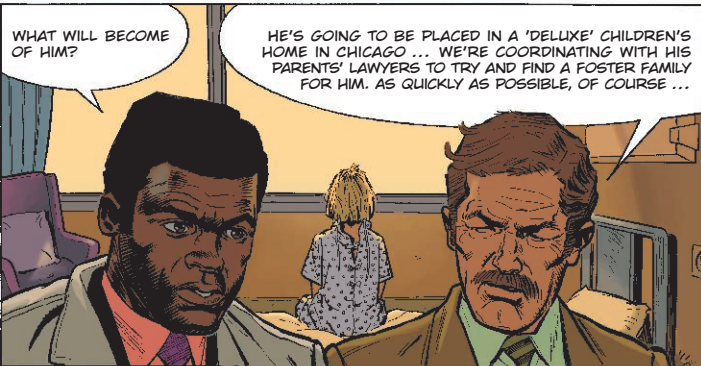


AHEM ... UH ... YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP TAKING A FEW MEDICATIONS AND VITAMINS FOR A LITTLE WHILE ... YOU'LL BE EVEN STRONGER THAT WAY!



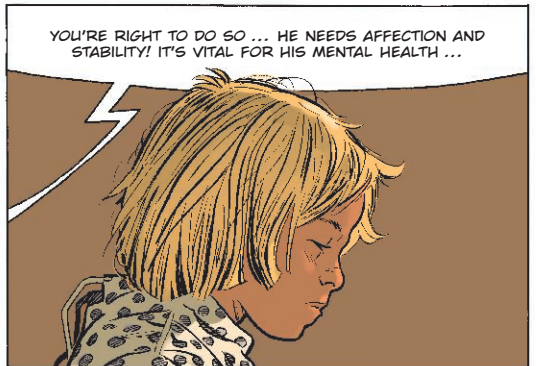
MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU A MOMENT, MISTER ... ?

NATHAN PRETTY, WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, WE'RE HANDLING BILLY CARDWELL'S CASE.

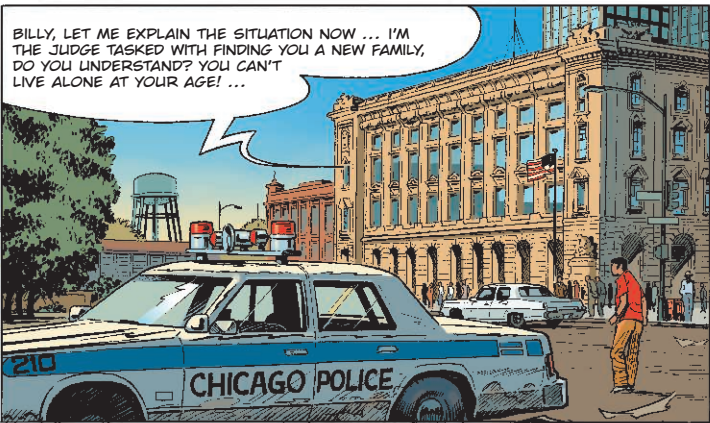


WHAT WILL BECOME OF HIM?

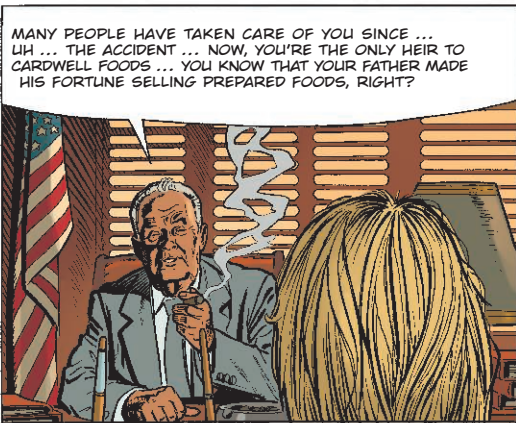
HE'S GOING TO BE PLACED IN A 'DELLIXE' CHILDREN'S HOME IN CHICAGO ... WE'RE COORDINATING WITH HIS PARENTS' LAWYERS TO TRY AND FIND A FOSTER FAMILY FOR HIM. AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE ...



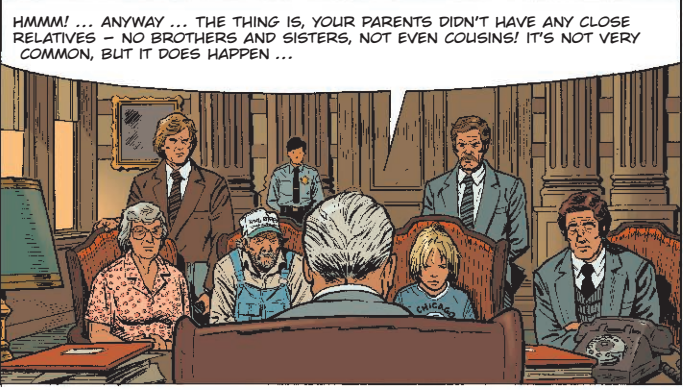
YOU'RE RIGHT TO DO SO ... HE NEEDS AFFECTION AND STABILITY! IT'S VITAL FOR HIS MENTAL HEALTH ...



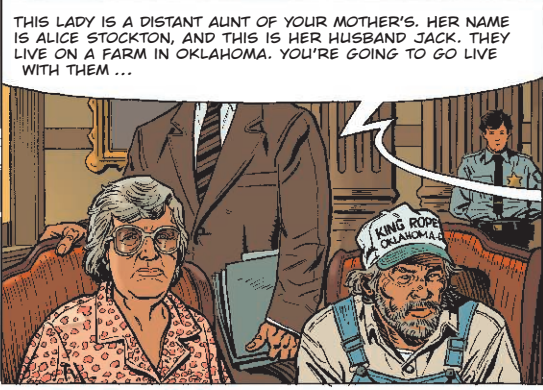
BILLY, LET ME EXPLAIN THE SITUATION NOW ... I'M THE JUDGE TASKED WITH FINDING YOU A NEW FAMILY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU CAN'T LIVE ALONE AT YOUR AGE! ...



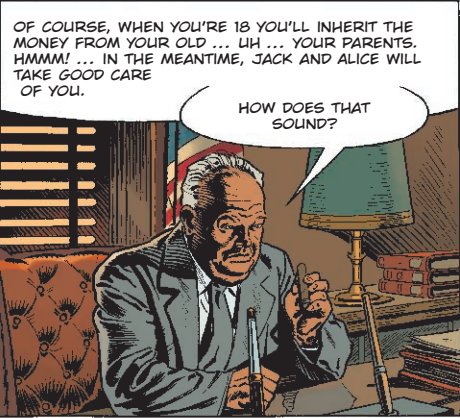
MANY PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN CARE OF YOU SINCE ... UH ... THE ACCIDENT ... NOW, YOU'RE THE ONLY HEIR TO CARDWELL FOODS ... YOU KNOW THAT YOUR FATHER MADE HIS FORTUNE SELLING PREPARED FOODS, RIGHT?



HMMM! ... ANYWAY ... THE THING IS, YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T HAVE ANY CLOSE RELATIVES - NO BROTHERS AND SISTERS, NOT EVEN COUSINS! IT'S NOT VERY COMMON, BUT IT DOES HAPPEN ...

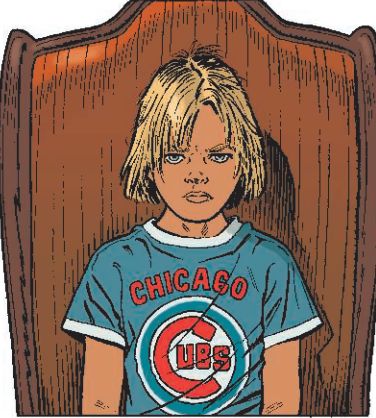


THIS LADY IS A DISTANT AUNT OF YOUR MOTHER'S. HER NAME IS ALICE STOCKTON, AND THIS IS HER HUSBAND JACK. THEY LIVE ON A FARM IN OKLAHOMA. YOU'RE GOING TO GO LIVE WITH THEM ...

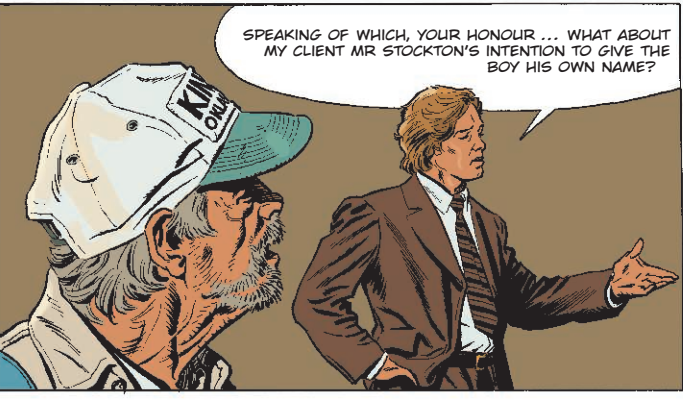


OF COURSE, WHEN YOU'RE 18 YOU'LL INHERIT THE MONEY FROM YOUR OLD ... UH ... YOUR PARENTS. HMMM! ... IN THE MEANTIME, JACK AND ALICE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.

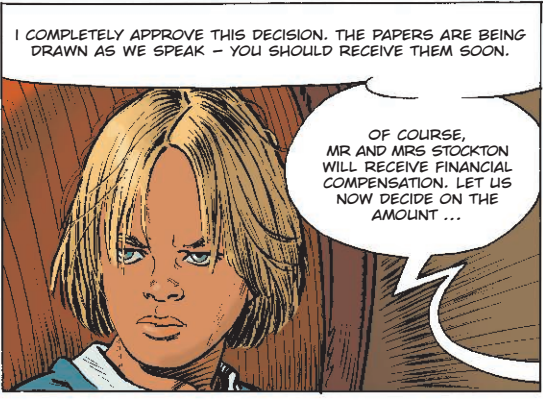
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?



BILLY ... IT'S LIKE YOU HAVE A NEW MOM AND A NEW DAD! YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND ...

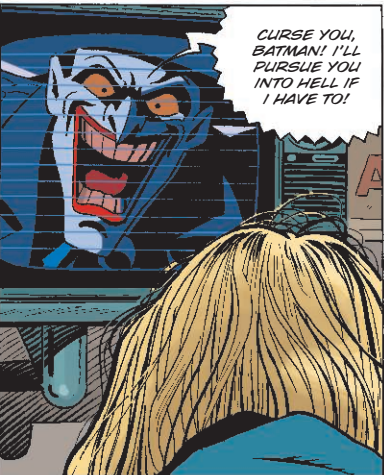
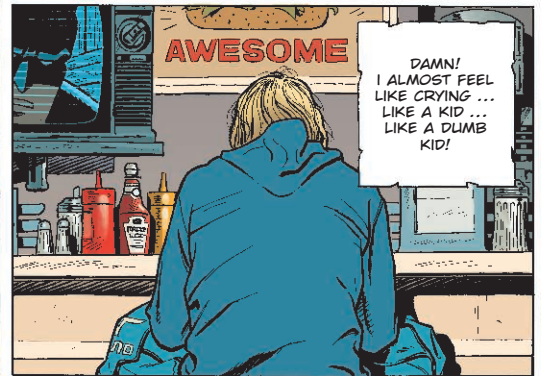
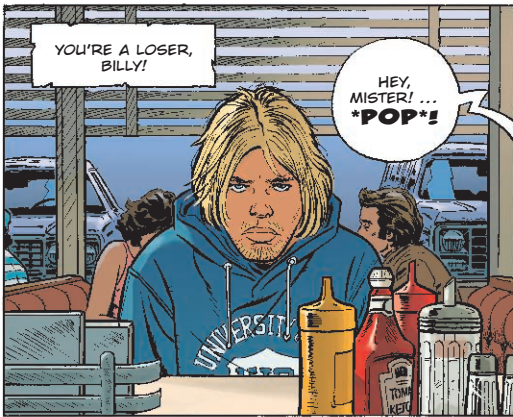


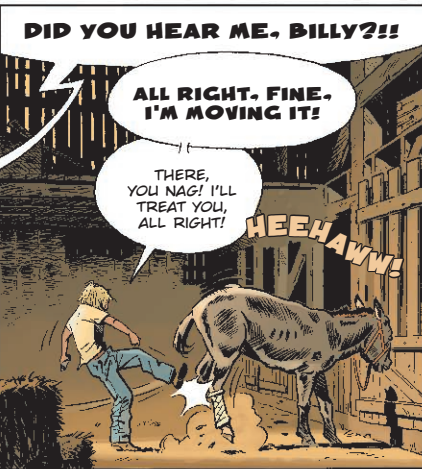
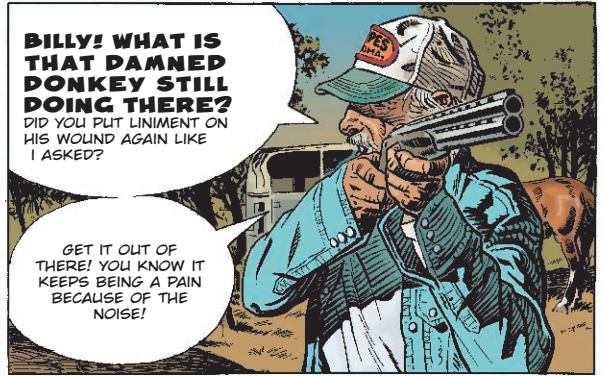
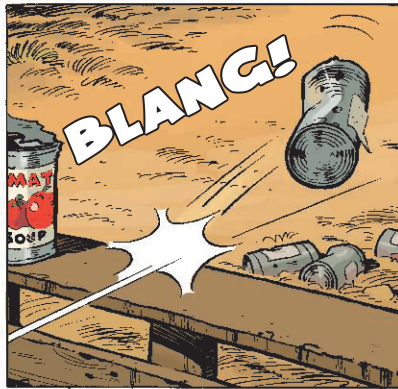
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOUR HONOUR ... WHAT ABOUT MY CLIENT MR STOCKTON'S INTENTION TO GIVE THE BOY HIS OWN NAME?

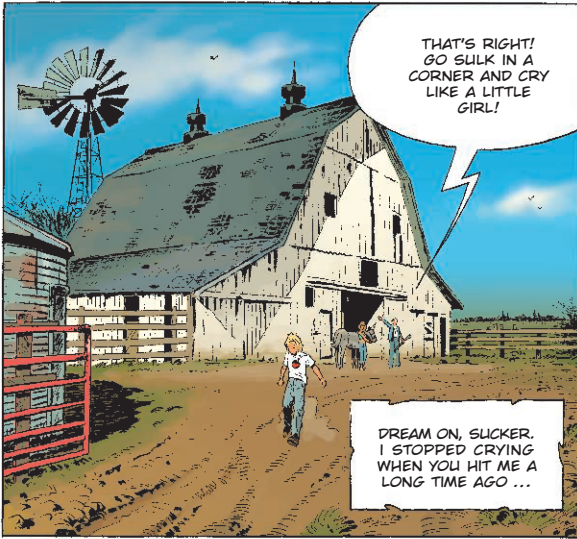


I COMPLETELY APPROVE THIS DECISION. THE PAPERS ARE BEING DRAWN AS WE SPEAK - YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THEM SOON.

OF COURSE, MR AND MRS STOCKTON WILL RECEIVE FINANCIAL COMPENSATION. LET US NOW DECIDE ON THE AMOUNT ...







THAT'S RIGHT!
GO SULK IN A
CORNER AND CRY
LIKE A LITTLE
GIRL!

DREAM ON, SUCKER.
I STOPPED CRYING
WHEN YOU HIT ME A
LONG TIME AGO ...



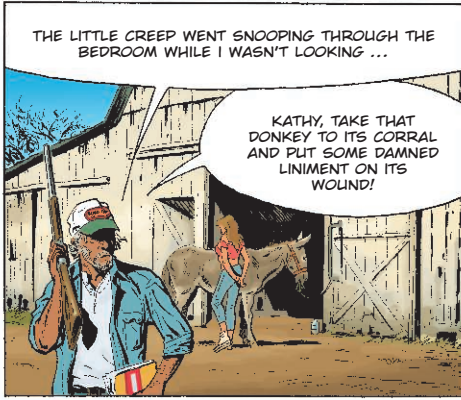
WHAT'S GOING
ON OUT HERE?
I CAN HEAR YOU
HOLLERING FROM
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE HOUSE!



IT'S ALL BILLY'S
FAULT AGAIN, MOM!
DON'T YOU WORRY.
DAD GAVE HIM A GOOD
BEATING! HE WON'T
BE BUGGING US
FOR A WHILE!
HA! HA! HA!

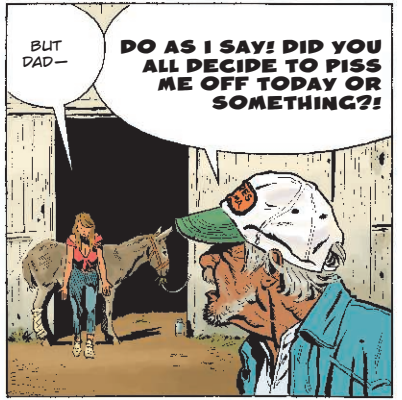


TO THINK OF ALL
THE LOVE WE GIVE THAT
BOY, AND HE CAN'T EVEN
DO ANYTHING RIGHT!



THE LITTLE CREEP WENT SNOOPING THROUGH THE
BEDROOM WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING ...

KATHY, TAKE THAT
DONKEY TO ITS CORRAL
AND PUT SOME DAMNED
LINIMENT ON ITS
WOUND!



BUT
DAD—

**DO AS I SAY! DID YOU
ALL DECIDE TO PISS
ME OFF TODAY OR
SOMETHING?!**



**'WE DON'T
STRIKE THE
ANIMALS
HERE!'**
YEAH, RIGHT!
BUT KIDS ARE
FAIR GAME,
APPARENTLY!



BE PATIENT,
BILLY. ONE
DAY YOU'LL
GET AWAY
FROM HERE!



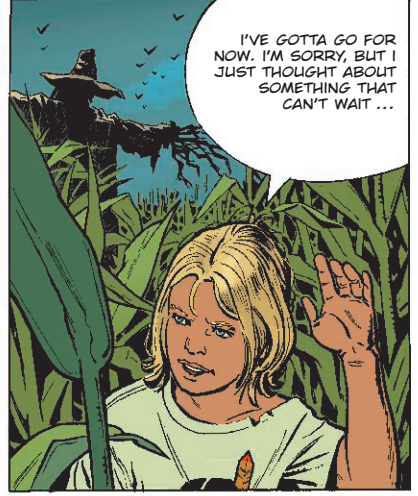
WHAT AM I TO
THEM?



IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'RE STILL BETTER OFF WITH THEM THAN IN AN ORPHANAGE, AREN'T YOU? LOOK AT THE SILVER LINING!



EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. HERE YOU ARE, NICE AND COMFY, BASKING IN THE SUN, WITH NO ONE BARKING ORDERS AT YOU ALL DAY LONG ... I LIKE YOU, THOUGH. YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, YOU KNOW!



I'VE GOTTA GO FOR NOW. I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT SOMETHING THAT CAN'T WAIT ...



I NOTICED THAT LITTLE JERK A FEW DAYS AGO ... HE ALWAYS COMES TO THE CREEK TO DRINK. I JUST HAD TO RUB HIM OFF!

SPLOOSH!



THAT STINKING CAT!



CRAAK!

?

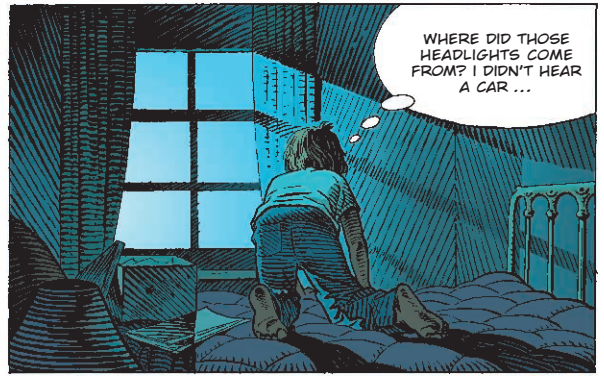


?



NO WAY! KATHY AND THAT SAD LOSER GAVIN?! LOOK AT THEM, GOING AT IT LIKE DOGS ... GROSS! MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE!





HOT DAMN! IT'S LIKE I'M IN AN ALIEN INVASION MOVIE!

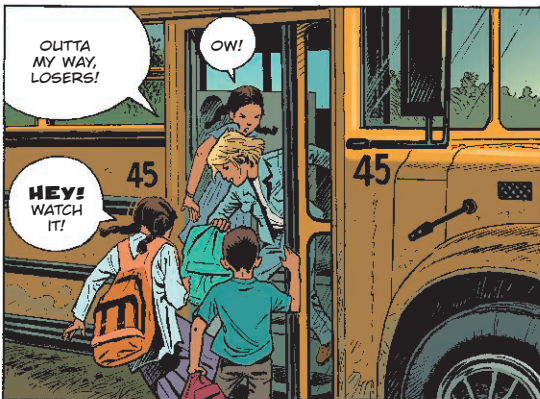
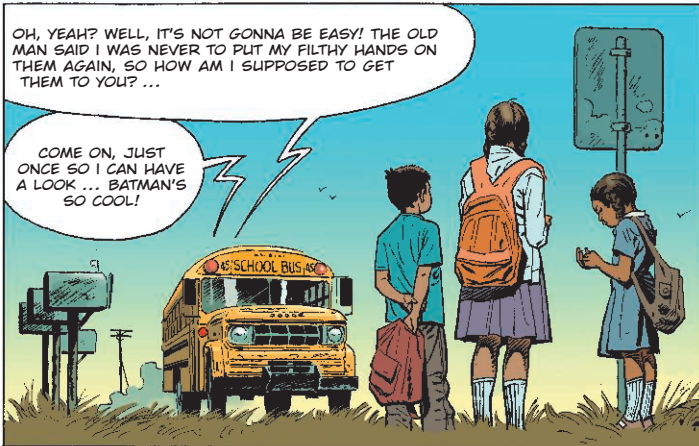
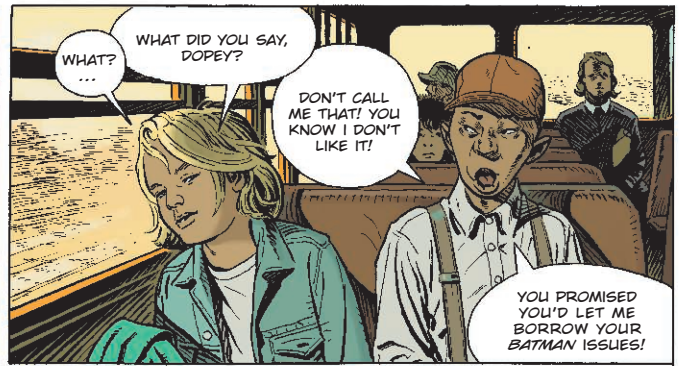
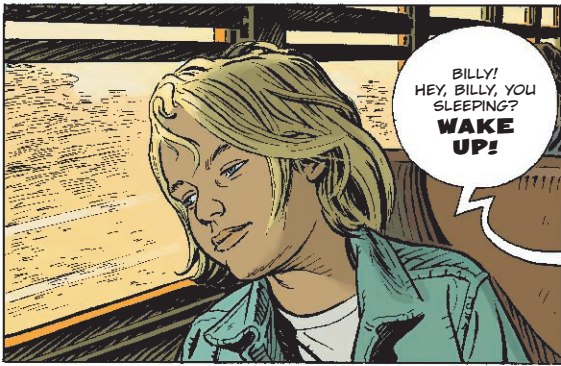


SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON IN THOSE WOODS.



HUH ...

... IT'S GONE AGAIN!
...



WHAT THE HELL, SERGEANT ROBERTSON? DID YOU THINK WE PUT YOU IN THESE WOODS FOR A LITTLE VACATION!?



DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU TO READ A COMPASS?!! YOU'RE TEN MILES FROM THE RENDEZVOUS POINT - AND EIGHT HOURS LATE!



I ... I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN! I—

THIS IS A SURVIVAL EXERCISE. NOT A GODDAM PICNIC!!! WHEN YOU'RE PLANNING ON HAVING A BARBECUE INSTEAD OF KICKING YOUR OWN ASS IN GEAR, YOU'VE MISSED THE DAMNED POINT!

YOU'RE OUT, SERGEANT! **DISMISSED!**

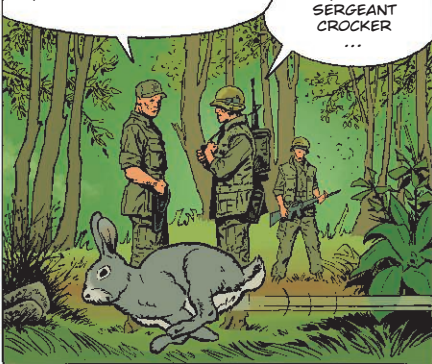


AND LET THAT INNOCENT CRITTER GO, YOU DIMWIT!



SIR, YES, SIR!

HOW MANY MORE TO PICK UP, LIEUTENANT?



JUST THE ONE, CAPTAIN. SERGEANT CROCKER ...

DAMMIT! IT'S NOT LIKE HER, LIEUTENANT ... SHE'S ONE OF OUR BEST!



NOT TO MENTION YOUR FUTURE WIFE ... DON'T YOU WORRY, CAP. WE'LL FIND HER!

WELL. WELL! WE GOT OURSELVES A SPY!



AAAH!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE, KID. **IT'S DANGEROUS!!** IN FACT, SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL?



SCHOOL'S OUT TODAY!

AND THIS IS MY HOME! I DO WHATEVER I WANT HERE!





I'M NOT SCARED!

I'M NOT SCARED OF THE DARK!

I'M NOT SCARED OF BE ALONE IN THE DARK!

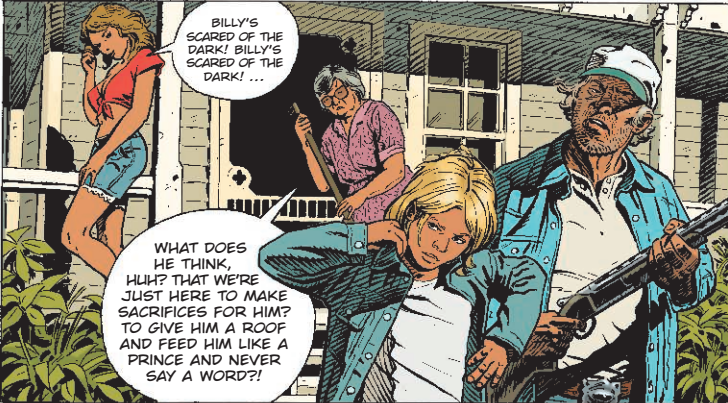


SCUMBAGS! STINKING BASTARDS! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! YOU WILL!



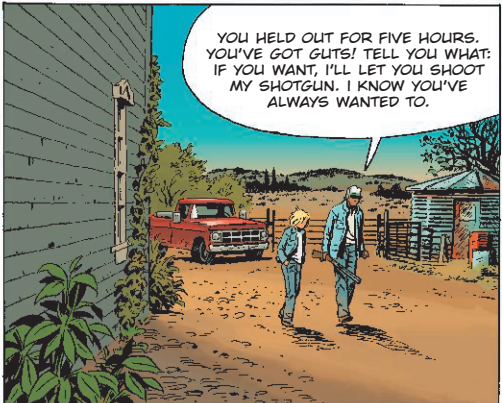
ALL RIGHT, BILLY. YOU CAN COME OUT!

SORRY, BOY, BUT YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVED! YOUR AUNT AND I, WE'VE GOT PRINCIPLES - AND SKIPPING SCHOOL'S A SIN IN OUR BOOK! IN FACT, IT'S THE KIND OF STUPID STUNT I SUGGEST YOU NEVER TRY AGAIN ...



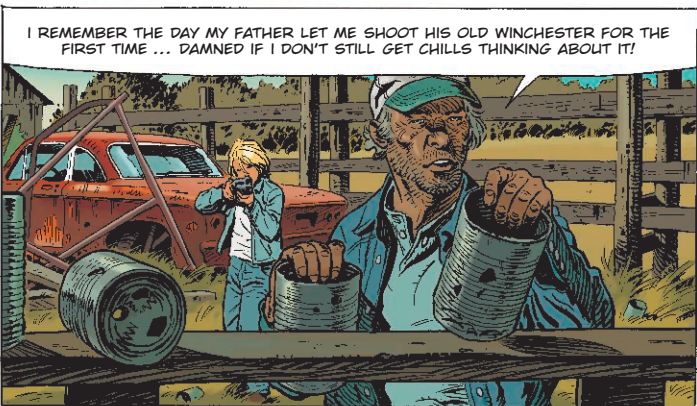
BILLY'S SCARED OF THE DARK! BILLY'S SCARED OF THE DARK! ...

WHAT DOES HE THINK, HUH? THAT WE'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR HIM? TO GIVE HIM A ROOF AND FEED HIM LIKE A PRINCE AND NEVER SAY A WORD?!

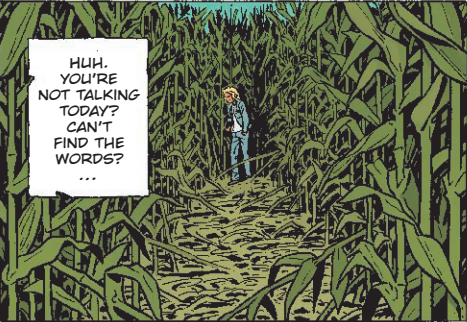
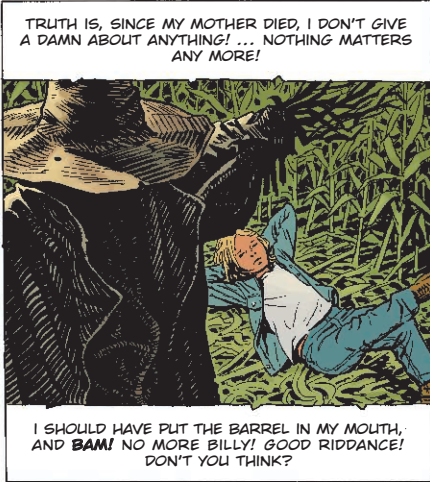
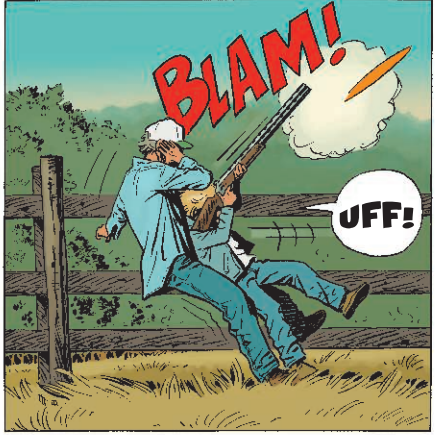
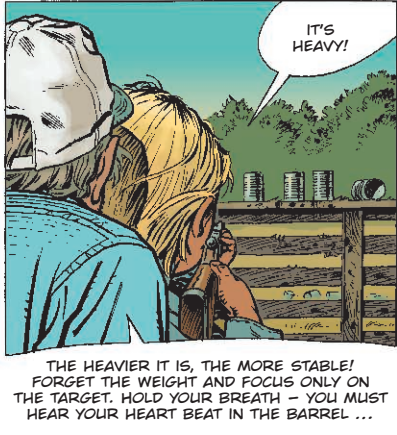
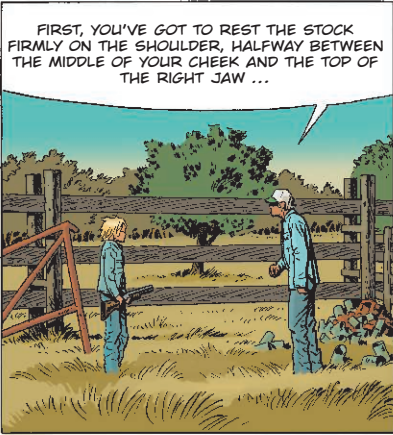


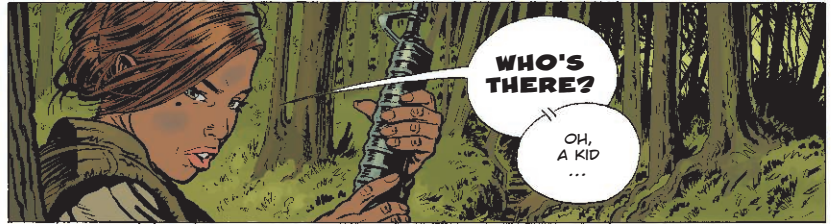
YOU HELD OUT FOR FIVE HOURS. YOU'VE GOT GLUTS! TELL YOU WHAT: IF YOU WANT, I'LL LET YOU SHOOT MY SHOTGUN. I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO.

THAT'S A BROWNING CITORI 525, OVER-AND-LINDER BARRELS, STEEL RECEIVER, OIL-FINISH WALNUT STOCK AND SCHNABEL FOREARM. RESPECT IT.



I REMEMBER THE DAY MY FATHER LET ME SHOOT HIS OLD WINCHESTER FOR THE FIRST TIME ... DAMNED IF I DON'T STILL GET CHILLS THINKING ABOUT IT!





YOU'RE A GODSEND, KIDDO! I'M HURT ... I NEED YOU TO HELP ME!



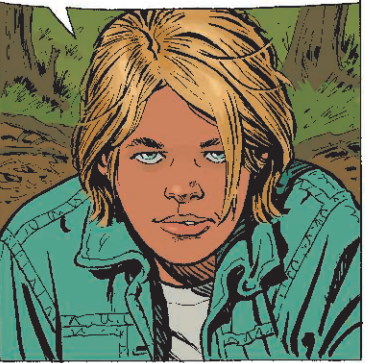
I HAVE A NASTY GASH IN MY BELLY AND IT'S GETTING PRETTY INFECTED ...

WHOA! YOU'RE BLEEDING A WHOLE LOT! ARE YOU A REAL SOLDIER?



SERGEANT CROCKER, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION. I'VE BEEN STUCK HERE FOR 24 HOURS, UNABLE TO MOVE. I TOOK A BAD FALL. THE CAPTAIN AND HIS MEN MUST BE LOOKING FOR ME.

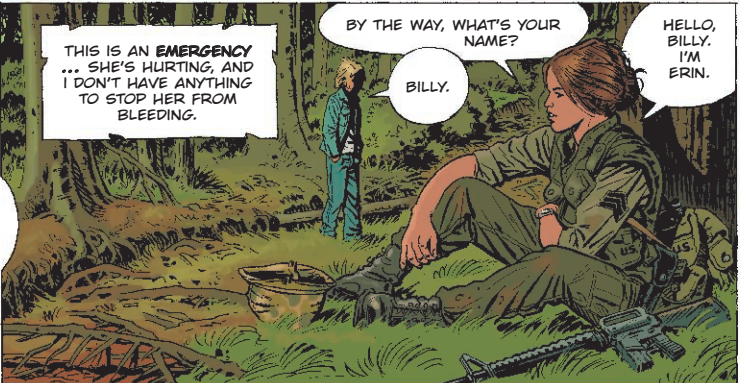
DON'T EXPECT THEM ANY TIME SOON, THEN - I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE AROUND.



CRAZY! SHE'S GOT THE SAME BEAUTY MARK, IN THE EXACT SAME SPOT!

NO ONE AT ALL?

NOT A SOUL - AND I KNOW THESE WOODS LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!



THIS IS AN EMERGENCY ... SHE'S HURTING, AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO STOP HER FROM BLEEDING.

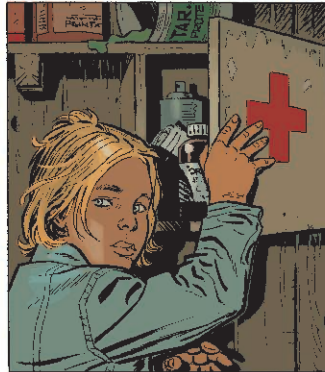
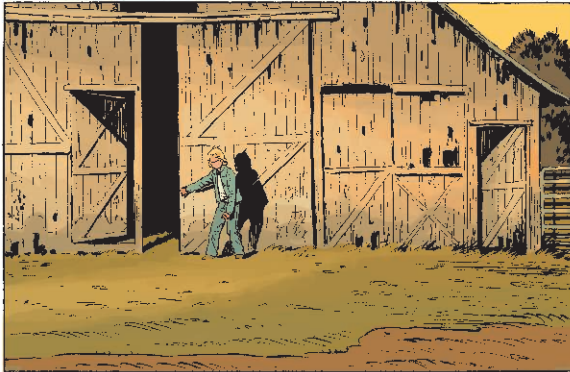
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

BILLY.

HELLO, BILLY. I'M ERIN.



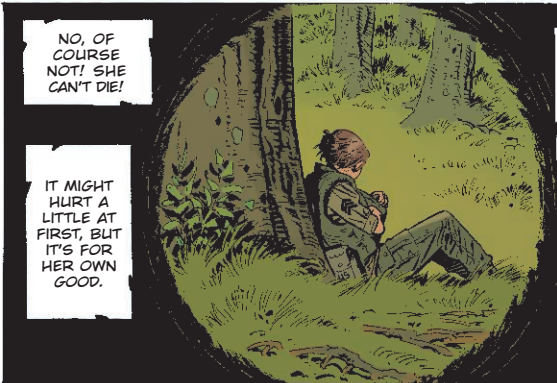
ERIN ... FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD THAT NAME! KINDA WEIRD FOR A GIRL.



SHE'S ALONE IN THE WOODS, LIKE SOME SMALL, WOUNDED ANIMAL. I'M THE ONLY ONE SHE CAN COUNT ON. I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HER.

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, BILLY? THIS STUFF IS DANGEROUS. IT'S MEANT FOR HORSES.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON A HUMAN BEING! ... **DO YOU WANT HER TO DIE?**



NO, OF COURSE NOT! SHE CAN'T DIE!

IT MIGHT HURT A LITTLE AT FIRST, BUT IT'S FOR HER OWN GOOD.

ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT HER TO GET BETTER TOO QUICKLY ...

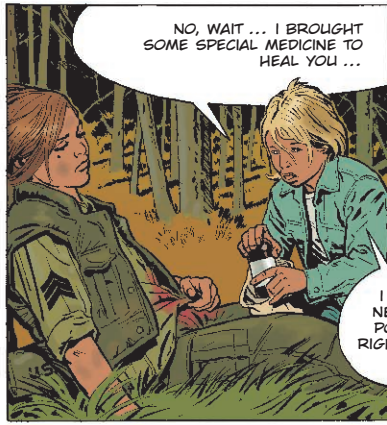
I WANT HER TO STAY WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER!



THE OTHER SOLDIERS CAN'T FIND HER.



I'M GETTING WEAKER BY THE MINUTE ... YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO TELL SOMEONE, BILLY! ...



NO, WAIT ... I BROUGHT SOME SPECIAL MEDICINE TO HEAL YOU ...

I JUST NEED TO POUR IT RIGHT OVER ...



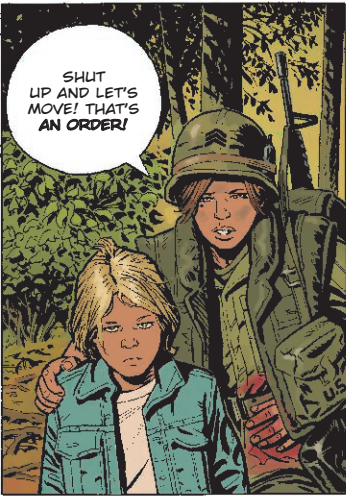
AAAAAAA!

ARE YOU NUTS?! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?



OH, LORD, IT BURRRNS! IT'S HORRIBLE! ... HELP ME GET UP ... RIGHT NOW!

WHAT? BUT ... YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO—



SHUT UP AND LET'S MOVE! THAT'S AN ORDER!



OHhh ... I ... I FEEL DIZZY ...

I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP ...

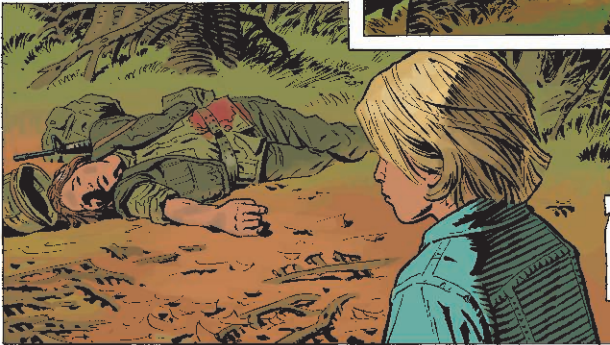


WE ... WE NEED TO GET OUT OF THE WOODS ...

THE C ... CAPTAIN! MUST CONTACT HIM ...

OH, GOD ...

?



YOU'RE STAYING WITH ME, ERIN.



YOU'RE NEVER LEAVING ME!

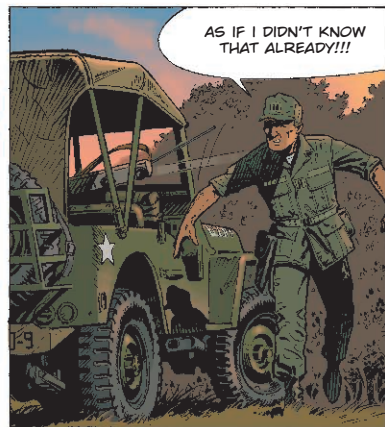


NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN. NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT!

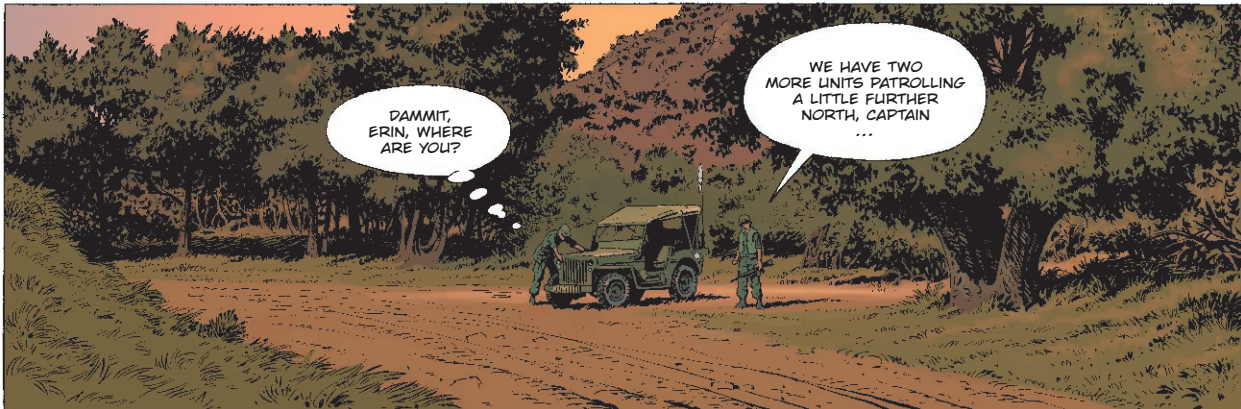
KEEP LOOKING!



TOO MUCH VEGETATION, SIR, AND IT'S GETTING DARK NOW. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FROM UP HERE - IT'S UP TO YOU ON THE GROUND! ...



AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ALREADY!!!



DAMMIT, ERIN, WHERE ARE YOU?

WE HAVE TWO MORE UNITS PATROLLING A LITTLE FURTHER NORTH, CAPTAIN ...

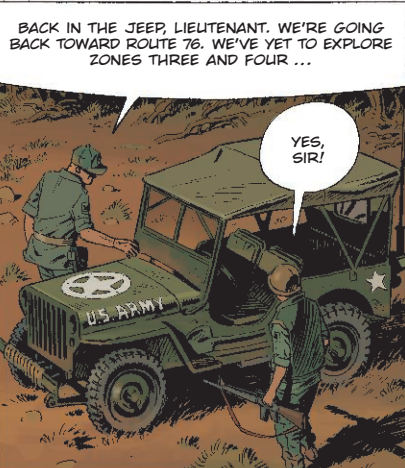


THAT'S RIGHT - AND WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING? THE LONGER IT TAKES, THE MORE DANGER SHE'S IN ... **FIND HER. GODDAMMIT!**



I'VE NEVER LOST A MAN IN AN OPERATION. I'M NOT ABOUT TO ABANDON A SERGEANT I'M DUE TO MARRY - NOT DURING A SIMPLE EXERCISE!

B ... BOB ... BOBBY ...

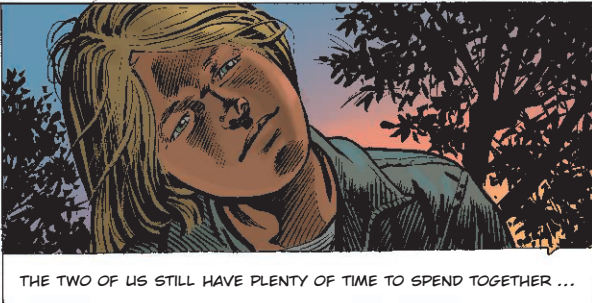


BACK IN THE JEEP, LIEUTENANT. WE'RE GOING BACK TOWARD ROUTE 76. WE'VE YET TO EXPLORE ZONES THREE AND FOUR ...

YES, SIR!



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN - ROUTE 76 IS CLEAR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WOODS!

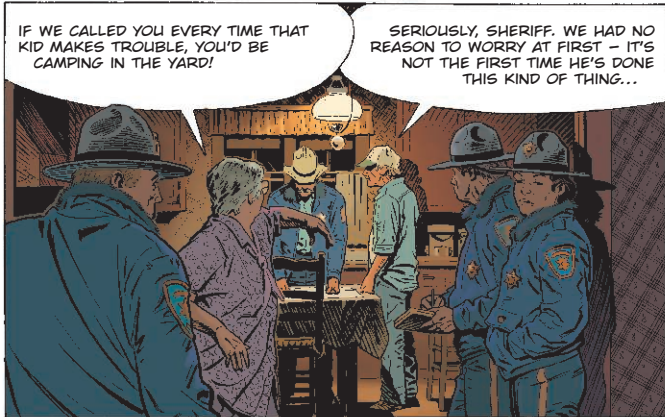


THE TWO OF US STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO SPEND TOGETHER ...



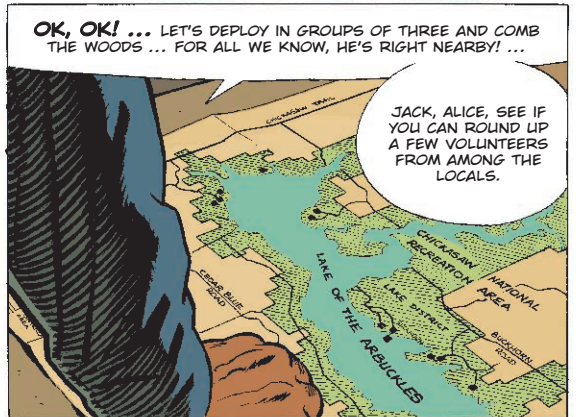
WHAT? HE'S BEEN MISSING FOR TWO DAYS?

AND YOU'RE ONLY TELLING US NOW?!



IF WE CALLED YOU EVERY TIME THAT KID MAKES TROUBLE, YOU'D BE CAMPING IN THE YARD!

SERIOUSLY, SHERIFF. WE HAD NO REASON TO WORRY AT FIRST - IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME HE'S DONE THIS KIND OF THING...



OK, OK! ... LET'S DEPLOY IN GROUPS OF THREE AND COMB THE WOODS ... FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE'S RIGHT NEARBY! ...

JACK, ALICE, SEE IF YOU CAN ROUND UP A FEW VOLUNTEERS FROM AMONG THE LOCALS.



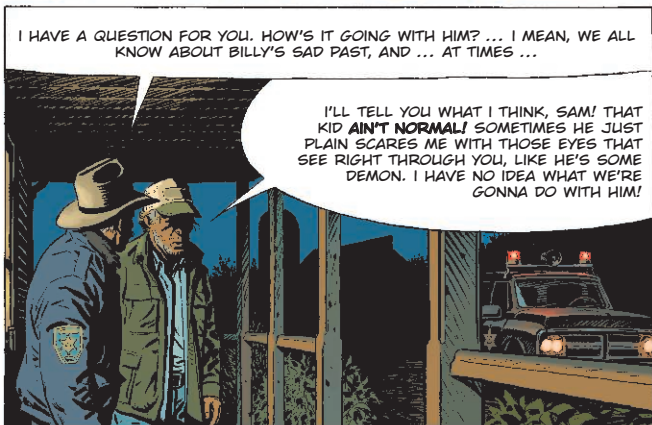
THE ARMY'S ON MANOEUVRES IN THE AREA ...

... SO DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU MEET SOME SOLDIERS!



I'M READY - LET'S GO! HE'D BETTER WATCH OUT IF I FIND HIM FIRST!

LEAVE YOUR SHOTGUN ON THE RACK, JACK! THERE'S NOTHING THAT NEEDS SHOOTING TONIGHT!



I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU. HOW'S IT GOING WITH HIM? ... I MEAN, WE ALL KNOW ABOUT BILLY'S SAD PAST, AND ... AT TIMES ...

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK, SAM! THAT KID **AIN'T NORMAL!** SOMETIMES HE JUST PLAIN SCARES ME WITH THOSE EYES THAT SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU, LIKE HE'S SOME DEMON. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO WITH HIM!



LET'S TRY TO FIND HIM, JACK - AND HOPE HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING STUPID ...



HMMMM
...

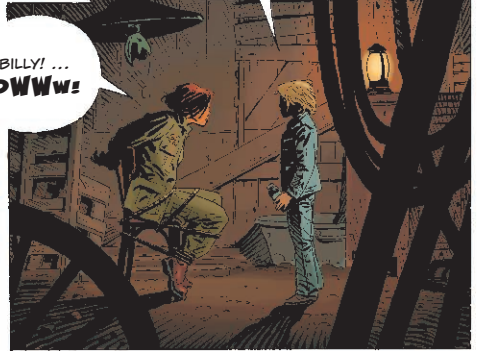
IF YOU MOVE, YOU'LL START BLEEDING AGAIN!
AND I'LL HAVE TO PUT ON MORE LINIMENT!



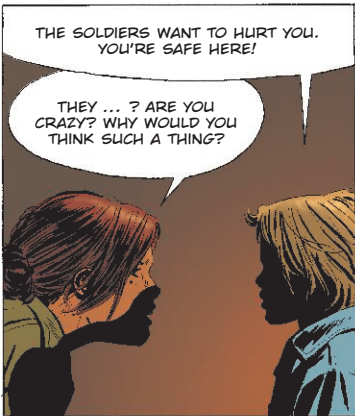
WHAT ... ?
WHERE AM
I?



WHY ...
WHY AM I
TIED UP?



BILLY! ...
OWWw!



THE SOLDIERS WANT TO HURT YOU.
YOU'RE SAFE HERE!

THEY ... ? ARE YOU
CRAZY? WHY WOULD YOU
THINK SUCH A THING?

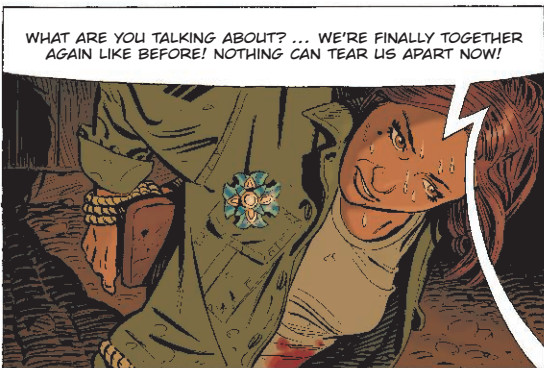


DON'T CALL ME CRAZY!
I SAW THEM ON THE TV! THEY WERE KILLING
PEOPLE IN THE WOODS! THEY CAN'T FIND US!

WHAT?! ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT ... **VIETNAM?**
IS THAT IT? THE
WAR'S BEEN OVER
FOR MORE THAN
A YEAR!



LINTIE ME RIGHT NOW! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD, BILLY, BUT YOU CAN'T
KEEP ME PRISONER!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ... WE'RE FINALLY TOGETHER
AGAIN LIKE BEFORE! NOTHING CAN TEAR US APART NOW!



**I LOVE YOU,
MOM!**



BILLY!
...
BILLY!

WHERE THE DEVIL IS THE LITTLE CREEP HIDING?



MAYBE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO HIM.

YEAH, RIGHT! I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH THAT KID RIGHT FROM THE START! WE SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE JUDGE ...

AND FORGET ABOUT THE SUPPORT MONEY?



BILLY!

GAVIN! WE'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT LOOKING FOR THAT LITTLE TWERP, ARE WE? NOT WHEN WE COULD BE HAVING SOME FUN INSTEAD ...

BILLY. CAN YOU HEAR US?



KNOW WHAT I MEAN ... HONEY?



WHAT IF HE'S DEAD?

BITE YOUR TONGUE!



WHOA!

?!!



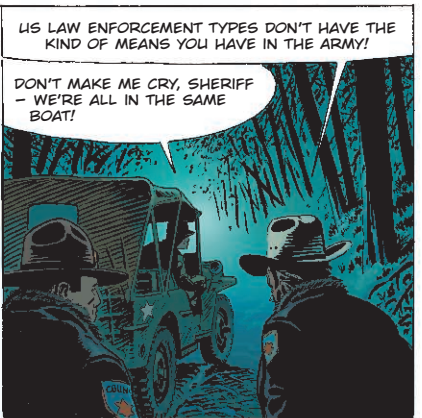
YOU MUST BE SHERIFF LOGAN! CAPTAIN ALLENBY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, FROM EASTERN CREEK BASE.

DID YOU COME HERE STRAIGHT FROM WEST POINT, BOY? AROUND HERE, EVERYONE CALLS ME SAM.



WHILE SWITCHING CHANNELS, I STUMBLED UPON YOUR CONVERSATION, **OLD-TIMER** ... HAVE YOU FOUND THE KID?

HAVEN'T FOUND JACK!

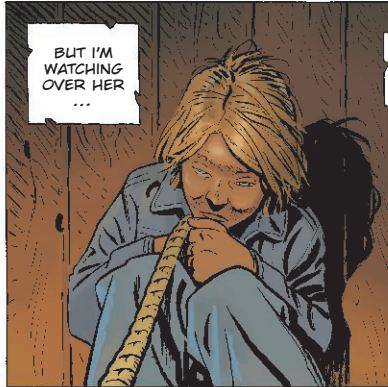


US LAW ENFORCEMENT TYPES DON'T HAVE THE KIND OF MEANS YOU HAVE IN THE ARMY!

DON'T MAKE ME CRY, SHERIFF - WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!



SHE'S
FALLEN
ASLEEP.



BUT I'M
WATCHING
OVER HER
...



I...



DID YOU GET ANY SLEEP,
SAM? WHERE ARE YOU?

ALL KIDS
LOVE ABANDONED
CABINS!

NEAR JOE FINN'S
CABIN - THE OLD FOREST
RANGER ... IT POPPED
INTO MY MIND LAST NIGHT
AND I WANTED TO CHECK
IT OUT MYSELF BEFORE
GOING BACK TO THE
STATION ...



OVER HERE, CAPTAIN!
WE FOUND SOMETHING!



SERGEANT CROCKER'S DOG TAGS ... BURIED,
ALONG WITH HER RIFLE AND PACK! ...

OH, LORD ...
ERIN ...



I KNEW
WE'D FIND YOU
EVENTUALLY!

COME ON,
BILLY, GET-
?!

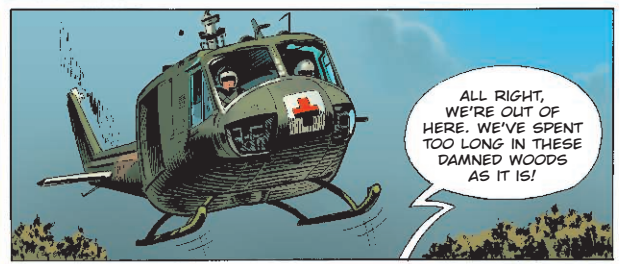


SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, CAPTAIN. SHE'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE!

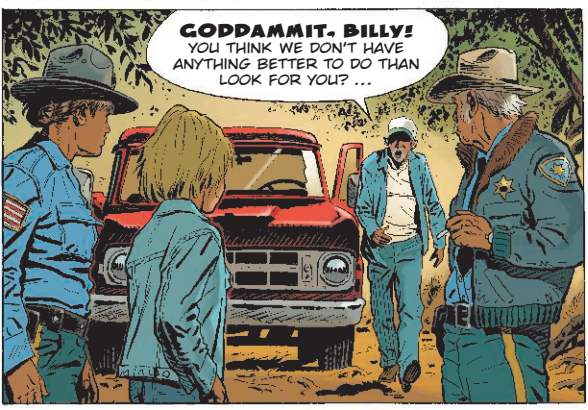
AND THIS WAS A SIMPLE EXERCISE ... SAVE HER, DOC! THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING.



HANG IN THERE, ERIN! YOU'RE GONNA BE OK!



ALL RIGHT, WE'RE OUT OF HERE. WE'VE SPENT TOO LONG IN THESE DAMNED WOODS AS IT IS!



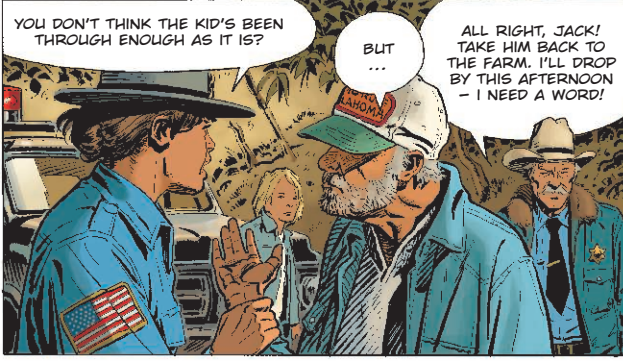
GODDAMMIT, BILLY! YOU THINK WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO THAN LOOK FOR YOU? ...



I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOUR RUNNING AWAY AND—



NO!



YOU DON'T THINK THE KID'S BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH AS IT IS?

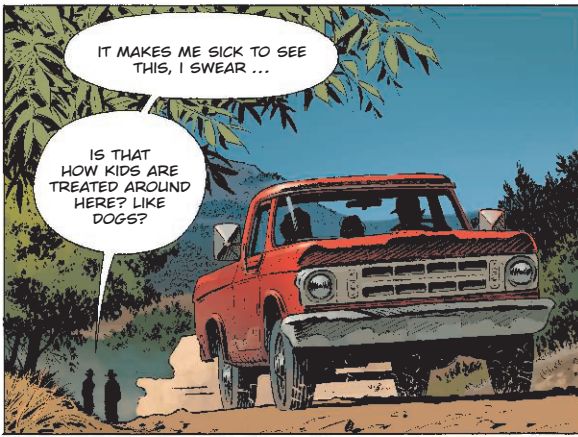
BUT ...

ALL RIGHT, JACK! TAKE HIM BACK TO THE FARM. I'LL DROP BY THIS AFTERNOON — I NEED A WORD!



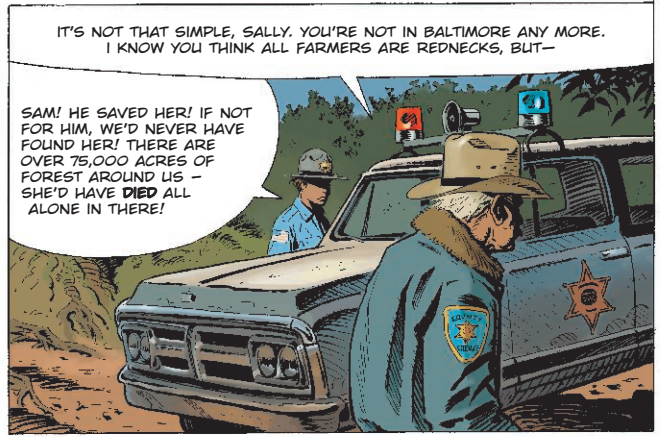
GET IN THERE, YOU! THIS ISN'T OVER!

?



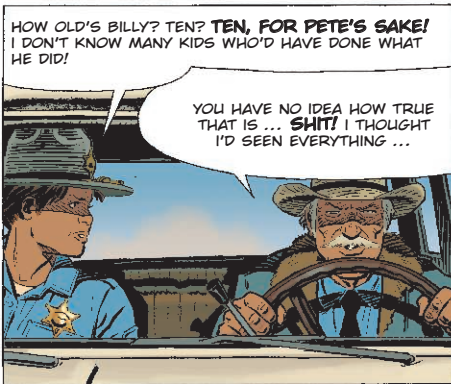
IT MAKES ME SICK TO SEE THIS, I SWEAR ...

IS THAT HOW KIDS ARE TREATED AROUND HERE? LIKE DOGS?



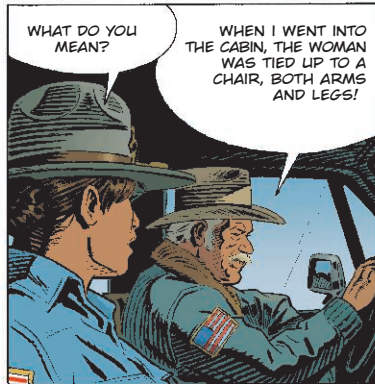
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, SALLY. YOU'RE NOT IN BALTIMORE ANY MORE. I KNOW YOU THINK ALL FARMERS ARE REDNECKS, BUT—

SAM! HE SAVED HER! IF NOT FOR HIM, WE'D NEVER HAVE FOUND HER! THERE ARE OVER 75,000 ACRES OF FOREST AROUND US — SHE'D HAVE DIED ALL ALONE IN THERE!



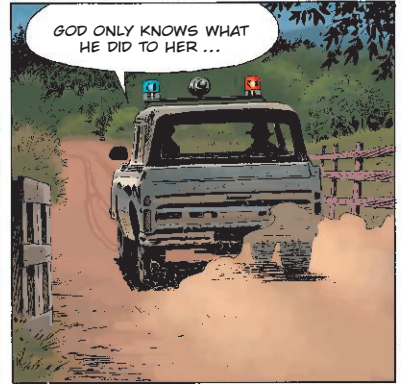
HOW OLD'S BILLY? TEN? **TEN, FOR PETE'S SAKE!** I DON'T KNOW MANY KIDS WHO'D HAVE DONE WHAT HE DID!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TRUE THAT IS ... **SHIT!** I THOUGHT I'D SEEN EVERYTHING ...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHEN I WENT INTO THE CABIN, THE WOMAN WAS TIED UP TO A CHAIR, BOTH ARMS AND LEGS!



GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT HE DID TO HER ...



THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE!

THE SHERIFF TOLD THOSE STINKING STOCKTONS EVERYTHING. THEY TALKED ABOUT ME FOR HOURS.

THEY TALKED ABOUT REFORM SCHOOLS, THEY EVEN TALKED ABOUT PRISON! ... BUT THE SHERIFF DIDN'T WANT THE PUBLICITY IT WOULD ALL BRING — A RICH ORPHAN KID, MISTREATED BY HIS FAMILY, THAT WOULD ATTRACT NEWS REPORTERS LIKE VULTURES AND ALL THAT ...

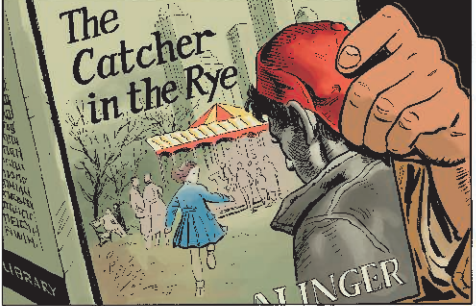


AND BESIDES ...

... I'M NOT DONE WITH THEM!

ANYWAY, JACK AND ALICE LOVE MONEY TOO MUCH TO SEND ME AWAY!

"THE HAT ONLY COST ME A BUCK. THE WAY I WORE IT, I SWUNG THE OLD PEAK WAY AROUND TO THE BACK - VERY CORNY, I'LL ADMIT, BUT I LIKED IT THAT WAY. I LOOKED GOOD IN IT THAT WAY."



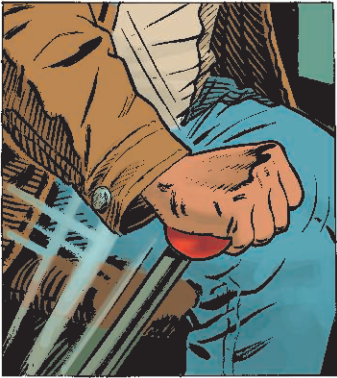
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BILLY! HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?

FOURTEEN, APPARENTLY ...

TODAY IS A BIG DAY!



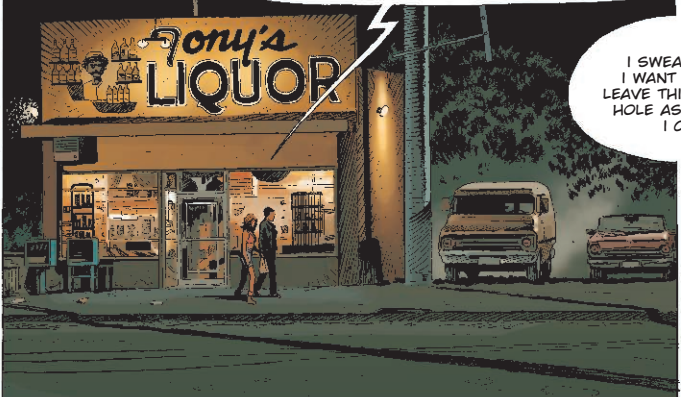
IT'S HARVEST DAY!





I'M ALMOST 21, AND WHAT HAVE I DONE WITH MY LOUSY LIFE? ...

SHIT, EVER SINCE MY DAD DIED IN THAT ACCIDENT, MY MOM'S BEEN A TOTAL NUTJOB - AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON MY ADOPTED BROTHER! WHAT A PSYCHO!



I SWEAR - ALL I WANT TO DO IS LEAVE THIS STINKING HOLE AS SOON AS I CAN!

HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME?



WHAT ABOUT YOU? DON'T TELL ME YOU GET OFF ON WASHING CARS ALL DAY LONG FOR THAT ASS-HOLE BOSS OF YOURS?!

YEAH, WELL, I NEED THAT JOB, YOU KNOW? ... I DON'T HAVE A DOLLAR TO MY NAME!



YOU'VE GOT BETTER THAN DOLLARS, HONEY - YOU'VE GOT ALL THIS! AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME WITH ME.

DAMN, KATHY, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MOTIVATE A-



'FROM THE BEGINNING I KNEW THAT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU THAT I CAN'T FIX WITH MY HANDS ...'

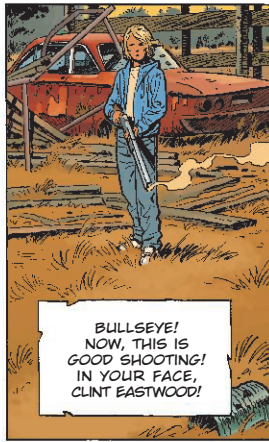
MARVIN? ... WHAT ... WHAT DID YOU D-



SHUT UP, WHORE!

'FEELS TO ME LIKE IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER MY FACE ... CAN YOU SEE IT, JOKER?'





BULLSEYE!
NOW, THIS IS
GOOD SHOOTING!
IN YOUR FACE,
CLINT EASTWOOD!



YOU'VE COME TO
SAY GOODBYE,
BILLY? IS THAT
IT?

YEP. I'M DONE WITH THE
BACKEND OF OKLAHOMA!



I'M TAKING
THE OLD
MAN'S GUN.
HE OWES
ME THAT
MUCH!



MR STOCKTON? ... MICHAEL OWEN.
I'M A LAWYER FROM CHICAGO. THESE
GENTLEMEN ARE ADMINISTRATORS
FROM CARDWELL FOODS ...

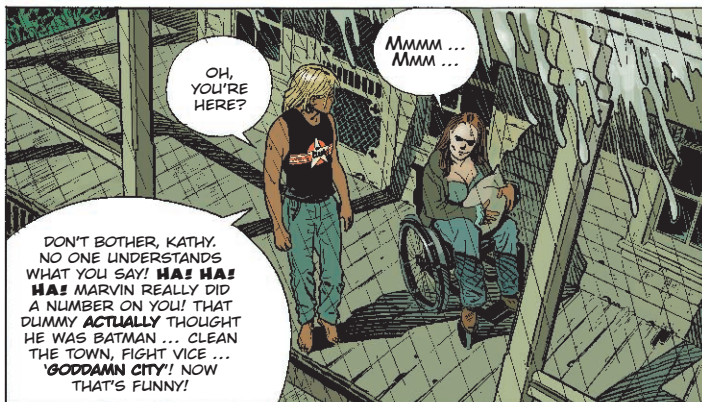
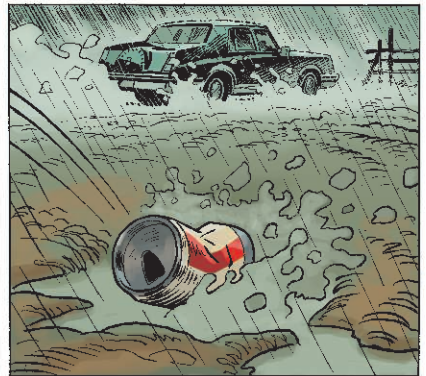
I KNEW RIGHT AWAY IT WAS THEM
... THEY WEREN'T USED TO BEING
UP TO THEIR ANKLES IN SHIT!



I CELEBRATED
MY 18TH
BIRTHDAY A
WEEK AND
TWO DAYS
AGO. THEY'RE
HERE TO TELL
ME I'VE HIT
THE JACKPOT
- THE
INHERITANCE.



I'M RICH, AND
FREE TO DO
WHAT I WANT
FROM HERE
ON.



OH,
YOU'RE
HERE?

Mmmm ...
Mmm ...

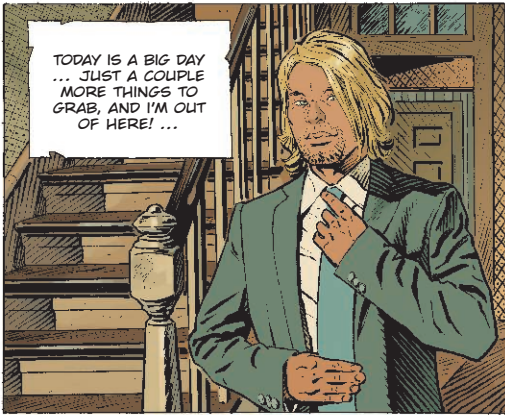
DON'T BOTHER, KATHY.
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS
WHAT YOU SAY! HA! HA!
HA! MARVIN REALLY DID
A NUMBER ON YOU! THAT
DUMMY ACTUALLY THOUGHT
HE WAS BATMAN ... CLEAN
THE TOWN, FIGHT VICE ...
'GODDAMN CITY!' NOW
THAT'S FUNNY!



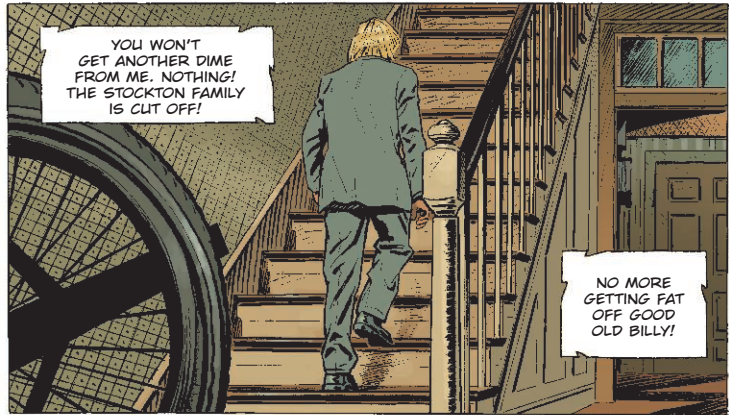
I HEAR THEY
LOCKED HIM UP IN
A LOONY BIN WHERE
HE BANGS HIS HEAD
AGAINST THE WALLS
ALL DAY ...

Mmmm ...
Mmmm ...

WATCH IT
- YOU'RE
DROOLING!



TODAY IS A BIG DAY ... JUST A COUPLE MORE THINGS TO GRAB, AND I'M OUT OF HERE! ...



YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER DIME FROM ME. NOTHING! THE STOCKTON FAMILY IS CUT OFF!

NO MORE GETTING FAT OFF GOOD OLD BILLY!



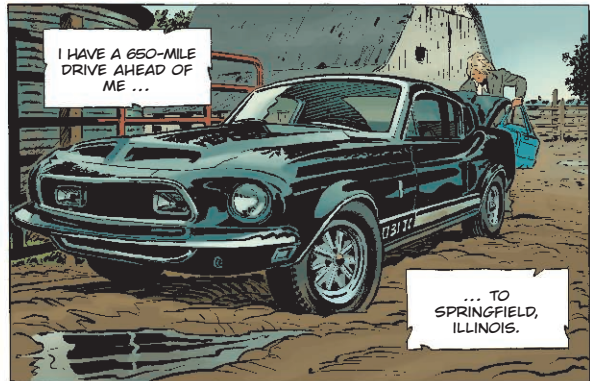
AUNT ALICE? ARE YOU NAPPING?



WELL, I'M GOING. SO LONG!

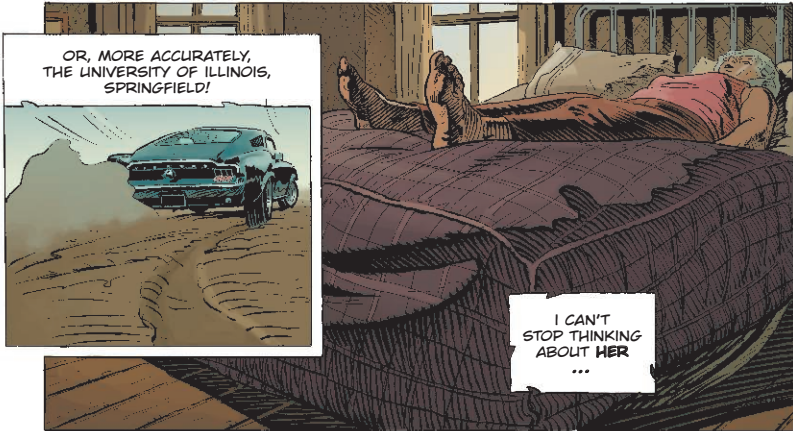


AND NO HARD FEELINGS, RIGHT?



I HAVE A 650-MILE DRIVE AHEAD OF ME ...

... TO SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

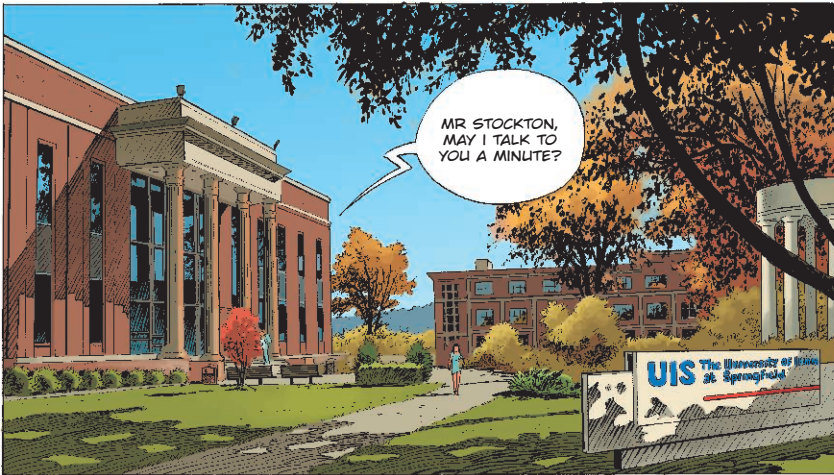


OR, MORE ACCURATELY, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, SPRINGFIELD!

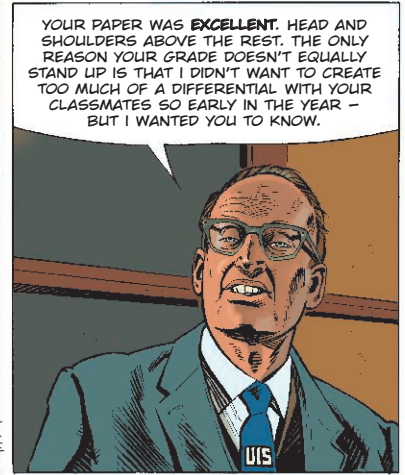
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER ...



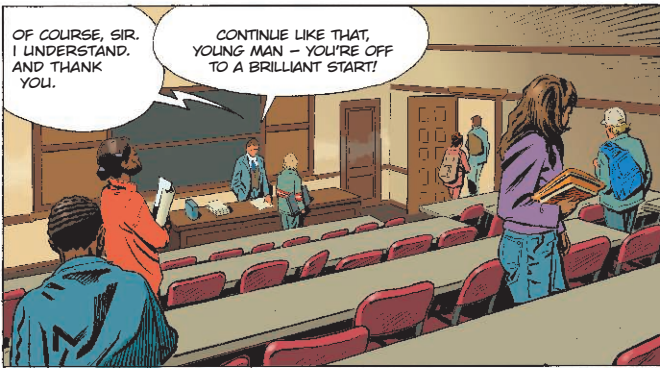
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE TO DO, NOW!



MR STOCKTON,
MAY I TALK TO
YOU A MINUTE?

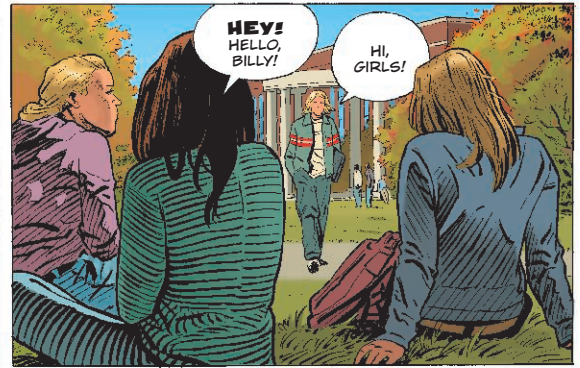


YOUR PAPER WAS **EXCELLENT**. HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST. THE ONLY REASON YOUR GRADE DOESN'T EQUALLY STAND UP IS THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO CREATE TOO MUCH OF A DIFFERENTIAL WITH YOUR CLASSMATES SO EARLY IN THE YEAR - BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW.



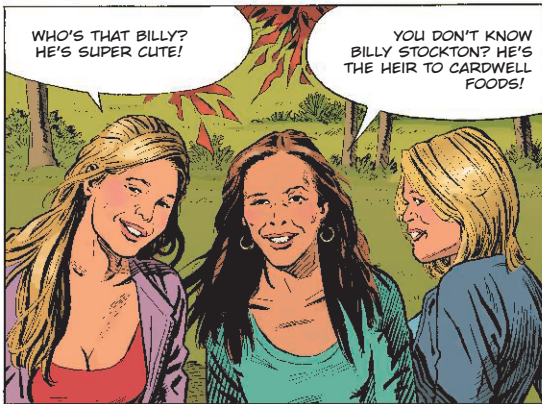
OF COURSE, SIR. I UNDERSTAND. AND THANK YOU.

CONTINUE LIKE THAT, YOUNG MAN - YOU'RE OFF TO A BRILLIANT START!



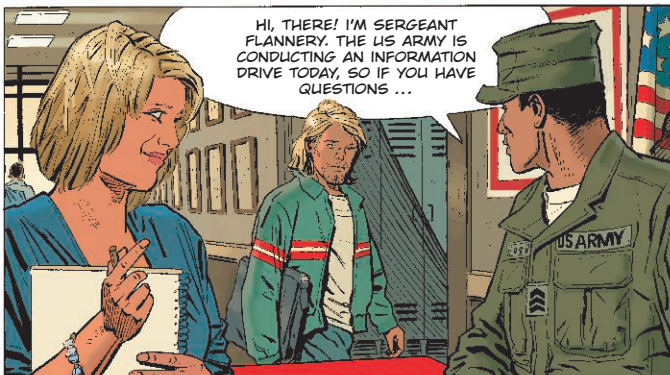
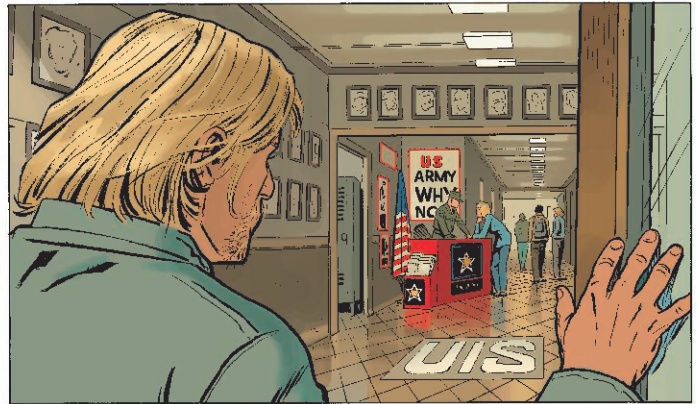
HEY!
HELLO,
BILLY!

HI,
GIRLS!



WHO'S THAT BILLY?
HE'S SUPER CUTE!

YOU DON'T KNOW BILLY STOCKTON? HE'S THE HEIR TO CARDWELL FOODS!



HI, THERE! I'M SERGEANT FLANNERY. THE US ARMY IS CONDUCTING AN INFORMATION DRIVE TODAY, SO IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ...



THANKS, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOUR CONVERSATION WITH THIS LOVELY LADY ...



OH, I WAS JUST TELLING THE SERGEANT THAT MY BROTHER'S THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF SANDOWN, THE NEARBY BASE!



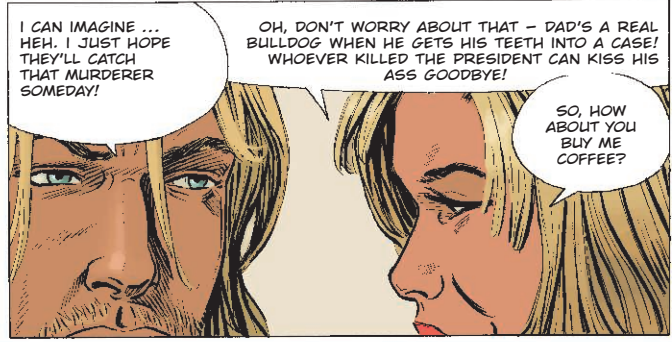
OH, YEAH? GOOD FOR HIM! MY NAME'S BILLY ...

... STOCKTON! YES, I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN THE CAMPUS PAPER ...



OH, OK ... I KNOW WHO YOU ARE TOO ... JOANNE ALLENBY, RIGHT?

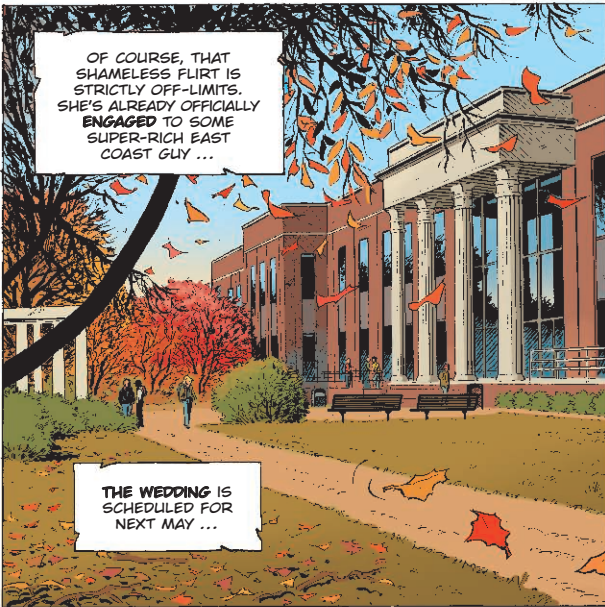
MERCY! LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT! THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN HEARING LATELY - 'HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF THE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF THE SHERIDAN ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION?' IT'S EXHAUSTING!



I CAN IMAGINE ... HEH. I JUST HOPE THEY'LL CATCH THAT MURDERER SOMEDAY!

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT - DAD'S A REAL BULLDOG WHEN HE GETS HIS TEETH INTO A CASE! WHOEVER KILLED THE PRESIDENT CAN KISS HIS ASS GOODBYE!

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU BUY ME COFFEE?



OF COURSE, THAT SHAMELESS FUIRT IS STRICTLY OFF-LIMITS. SHE'S ALREADY OFFICIALLY ENGAGED TO SOME SUPER-RICH EAST COAST GUY ...

THE WEDDING IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MAY ...

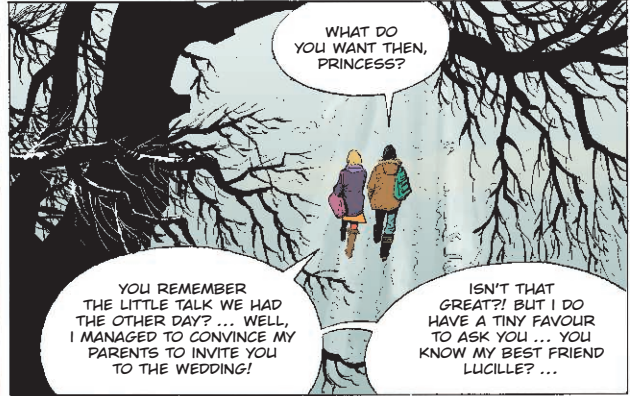


BILLY! HEY, SWEETIE!



HEY JOANNE! NEED MORE HELP WITH THE APPLIED PHYSICS CLASS?

OF COURSE NOT! ... DO YOU REALLY THINK I'LL HAVE ANY NEED FOR THAT ONCE I'M MARRIED, SILLY?



WHAT DO YOU WANT THEN, PRINCESS?

YOU REMEMBER THE LITTLE TALK WE HAD THE OTHER DAY? ... WELL, I MANAGED TO CONVINCHE MY PARENTS TO INVITE YOU TO THE WEDDING!

ISN'T THAT GREAT! BUT I DO HAVE A TINY FAVOUR TO ASK YOU ... YOU KNOW MY BEST FRIEND LUCILLE? ...

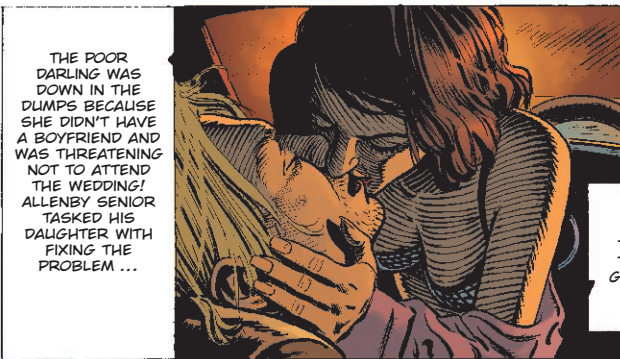


WAIT ... I'M NOT SURE THAT—

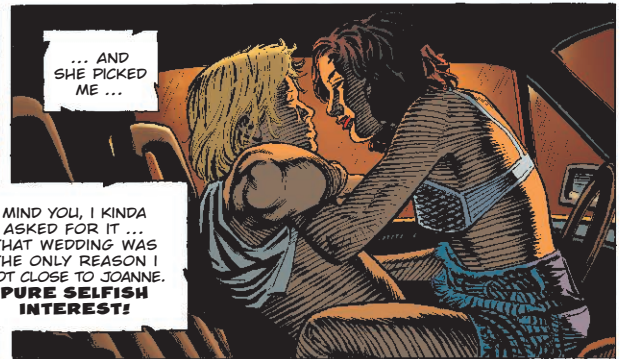


COME ON, BILLY ... WE BOTH WANT IT, DON'T WE?

LUCILLE WINSLOW. TWENTY YEARS OLD. ALSO A STUDENT AT UIS. HER FATHER IS THE CEO OF THE CONSORTIUM OF MIDWEST BANKS. A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE ALLENBYS ...

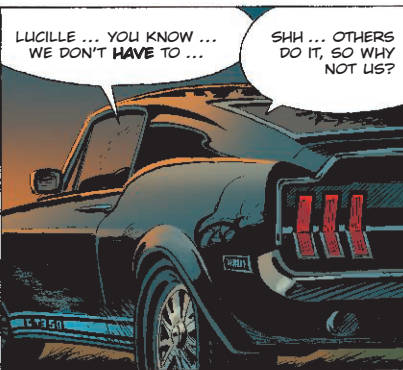


THE POOR DARLING WAS DOWN IN THE DUMPS BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND AND WAS THREATENING NOT TO ATTEND THE WEDDING! ALLENBY SENIOR TASKED HIS DAUGHTER WITH FIXING THE PROBLEM ...



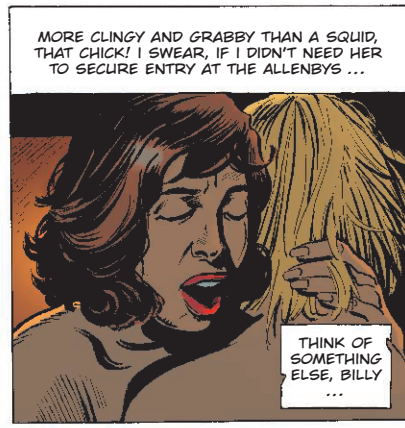
... AND SHE PICKED ME ...

MIND YOU, I KINDA ASKED FOR IT ... THAT WEDDING WAS THE ONLY REASON I GOT CLOSE TO JOANNE. **PURE SELFISH INTEREST!**



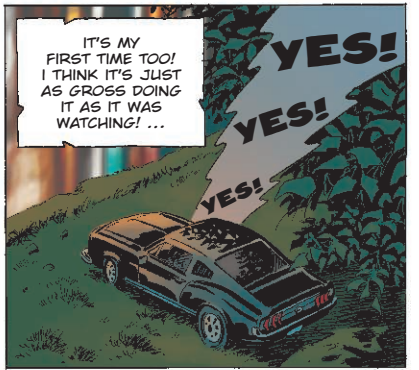
LUCILLE ... YOU KNOW ... WE DON'T HAVE TO ...

SHH ... OTHERS DO IT, SO WHY NOT US?

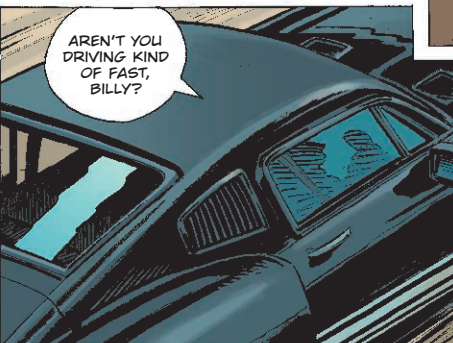


MORE CLINGY AND GRABBY THAN A SQUID, THAT CHICK! I SWEAR, IF I DIDN'T NEED HER TO SECURE ENTRY AT THE ALLENBYS ...

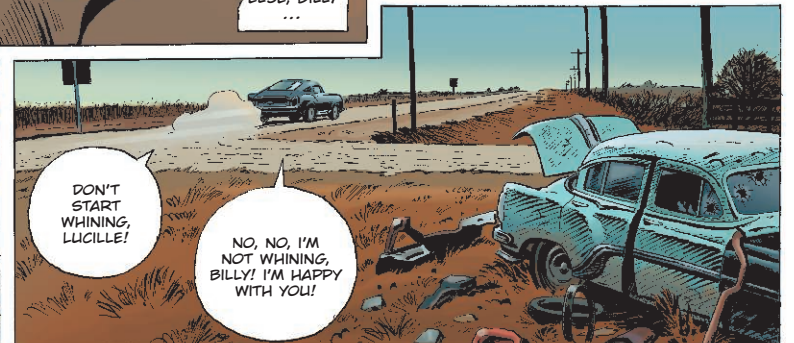
THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE, BILLY ...



IT'S MY FIRST TIME TOO! I THINK IT'S JUST AS GROSS DOING IT AS IT WAS WATCHING! ...

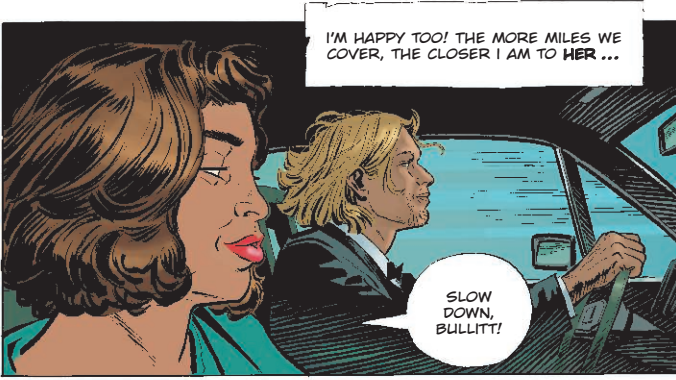


AREN'T YOU DRIVING KIND OF FAST, BILLY?



DON'T START WHINING, LUCILLE!

NO, NO, I'M NOT WHINING, BILLY! I'M HAPPY WITH YOU!



I'M HAPPY TOO! THE MORE MILES WE COVER, THE CLOSER I AM TO HER ...

SLOW DOWN, BULLITT!

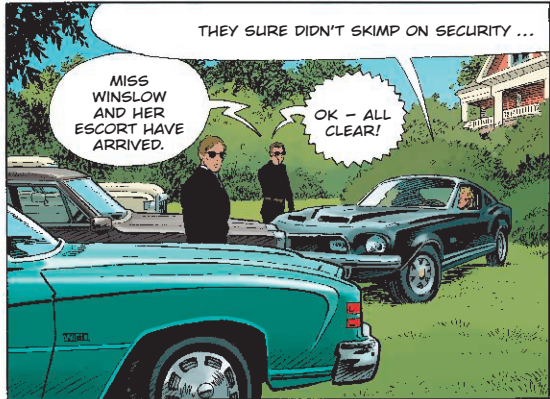


ALL RIGHT, I'M SLOWING DOWN. HAPPY? ... WE'RE HERE, ANYWAY ...



ABSOLUTELY, MISS WINSLOW. YOUR SPACE IS RESERVED IN THE GUEST PARKING LOT.

THANKS!



THEY SURE DIDN'T SKIMP ON SECURITY ...

MISS WINSLOW AND HER ESCORT HAVE ARRIVED.

OK - ALL CLEAR!



'HER ESCORT'? WHY NOT HER CHAUFFEUR, WHILE THEY'RE AT IT? BUNCH OF GOONS!

RELAX, BILLY. THEY'RE JUST DOING THEIR JOB.



LUCILLE! BILLY! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU!

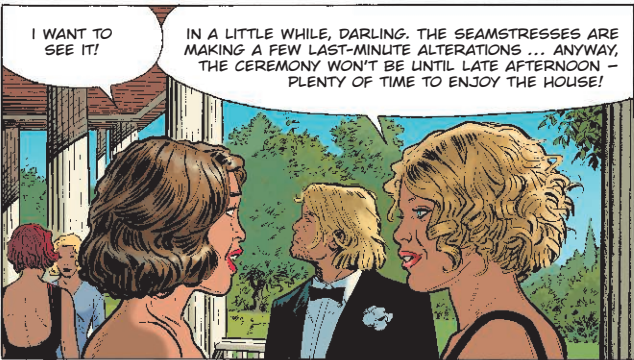
JOANNE! MY GOODNESS - IT'S YOUR BIG DAY!



OH, I'M SO EXCITED!

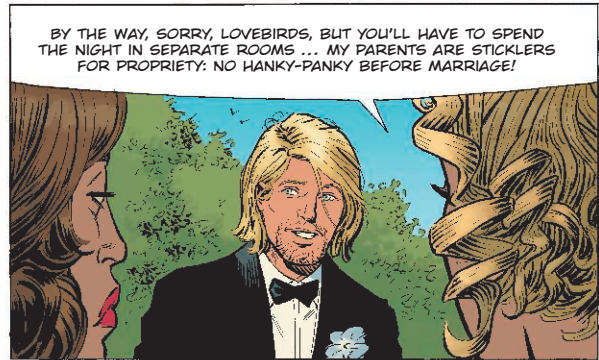
SO AM I!

PREPARE TO BE DAZZLED - MY DRESS ARRIVED FROM PARIS YESTERDAY! IT COST A FORTUNE!

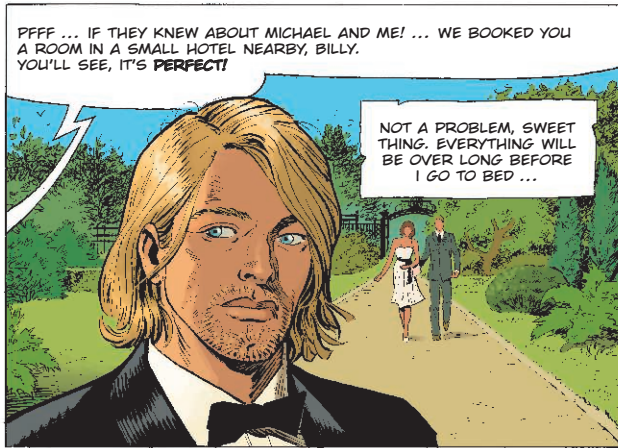


I WANT TO SEE IT!

IN A LITTLE WHILE, DARLING. THE SEAMSTRESSES ARE MAKING A FEW LAST-MINUTE ALTERATIONS ... ANYWAY, THE CEREMONY WON'T BE UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON - PLENTY OF TIME TO ENJOY THE HOUSE!

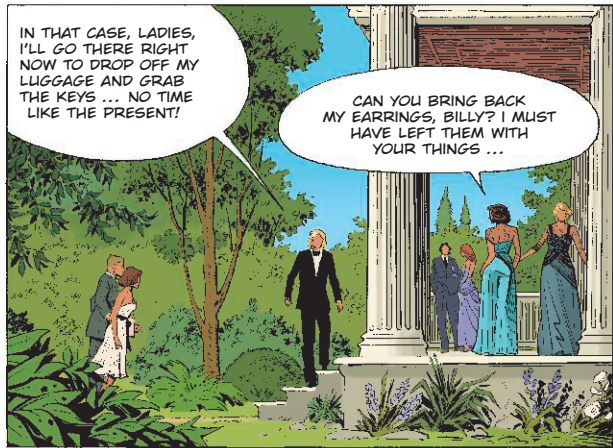


BY THE WAY, SORRY, LOVEBIRDS, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN SEPARATE ROOMS ... MY PARENTS ARE STICKLERS FOR PROPRIETY: NO HANKY-PANKY BEFORE MARRIAGE!



FFFF ... IF THEY KNEW ABOUT MICHAEL AND ME! ... WE BOOKED YOU A ROOM IN A SMALL HOTEL NEARBY, BILLY. YOU'LL SEE, IT'S **PERFECT!**

NOT A PROBLEM, SWEET THING. EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER LONG BEFORE I GO TO BED ...



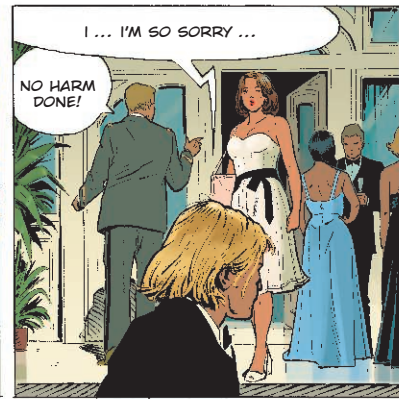
IN THAT CASE, LADIES, I'LL GO THERE RIGHT NOW TO DROP OFF MY LUGGAGE AND GRAB THE KEYS ... NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!

CAN YOU BRING BACK MY EARRINGS, BILLY? I MUST HAVE LEFT THEM WITH YOUR THINGS ...



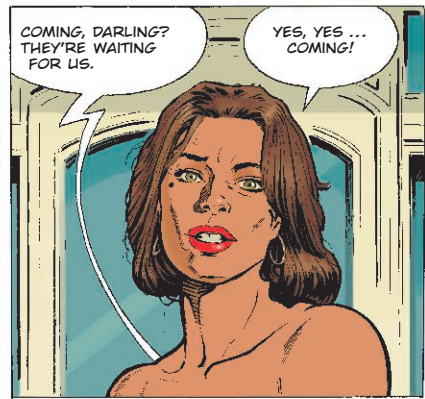
OWW!

OOPS!
... I'M SORRY!



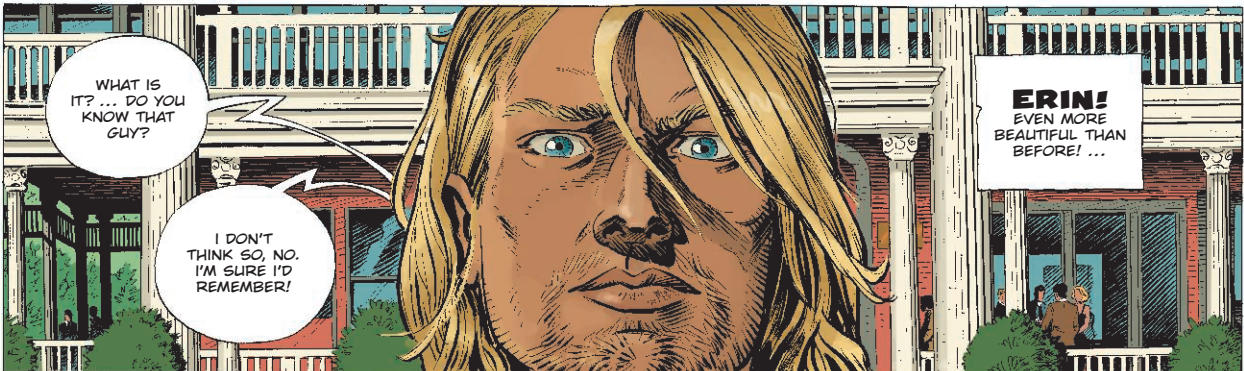
I ... I'M SO SORRY ...

NO HARM DONE!



COMING, DARLING? THEY'RE WAITING FOR US.

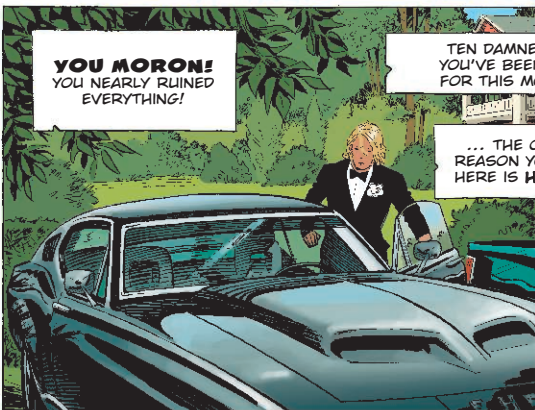
YES, YES ... COMING!



WHAT IS IT? ... DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY?

I DON'T THINK SO, NO. I'M SURE I'D REMEMBER!

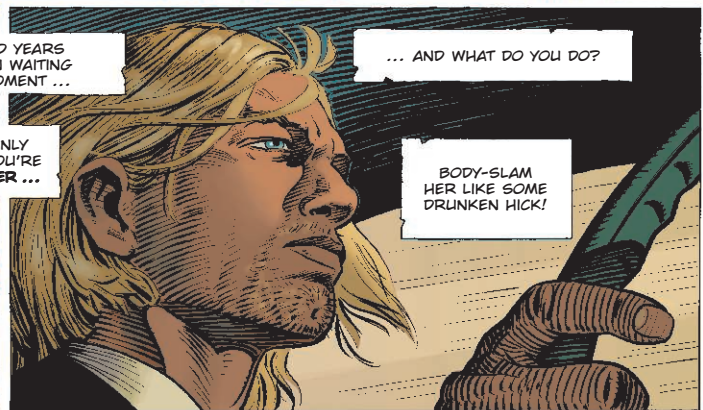
ERIN!
EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN BEFORE! ...



YOU MORON!
YOU NEARLY RUINED EVERYTHING!

TEN DAMNED YEARS YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT ...

... THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE HERE IS HER ...

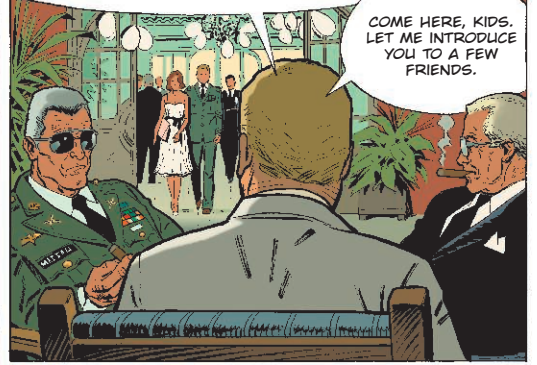
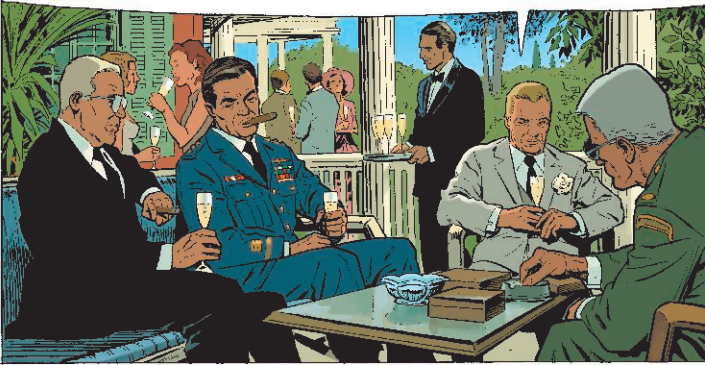


... AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

BODY-SLAM HER LIKE SOME DRUNKEN HICK!

... BUT IT IS THE USUAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, MY FRIEND! THERE IS QUITE A BODY OF JURISPRUDENCE ON THE MATTER. A DECREE WAS EVEN ISSUED BY THE STATE OF—

OH, BUT I SEE MY SON BOBBY AND HIS CHARMING WIFE COMING!



COME HERE, KIDS. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A FEW FRIENDS.

BOBBY, YOU KNOW CALVIN WAX, OF COURSE — SPECIAL ADVISER TO PRESIDENT GALBRAIN ...

HOW ARE YOU, SIR?

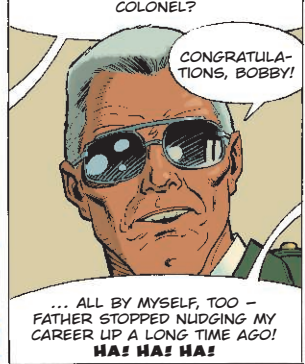
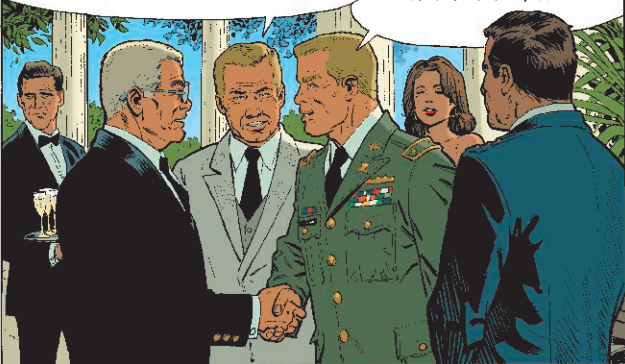
I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET GENERAL STANDWELL ...

A PLEASURE!

... AND MY OLD FRIEND COLONEL MCCALL! DID I TELL YOU MY SON HAS JUST MADE LIEUTENANT COLONEL?

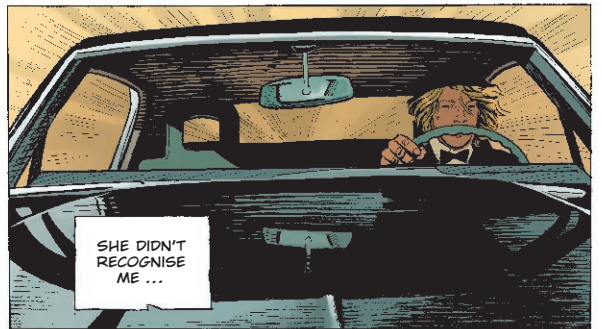
CONGRATULATIONS, BOBBY!

... ALL BY MYSELF, TOO — FATHER STOPPED NIDDING MY CAREER UP A LONG TIME AGO!
HA! HA! HA!



GENTLEMEN, THIS IS MY LOVELY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, ERIN ALLENBY ... WHO WAS RECENTLY PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN!

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME BLUSH, IRVING ... WHAT A LOVELY DAY, ISN'T IT, GENTLEMEN?



SHE DIDN'T RECOGNISE ME ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, SIR? AND THE LATEST CONTRAS* OFFENSIVE?

WE SUPPORT THEM, OF COURSE, BUT WE MUST REMAIN DISCREET ...

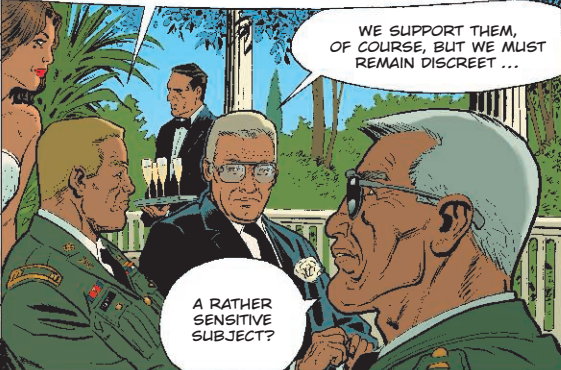
A RATHER SENSITIVE SUBJECT?

CHAMPAGNE?

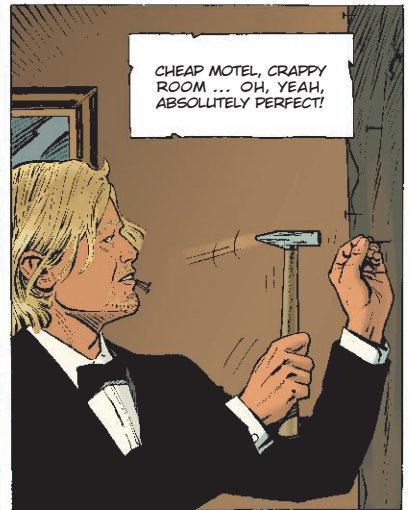
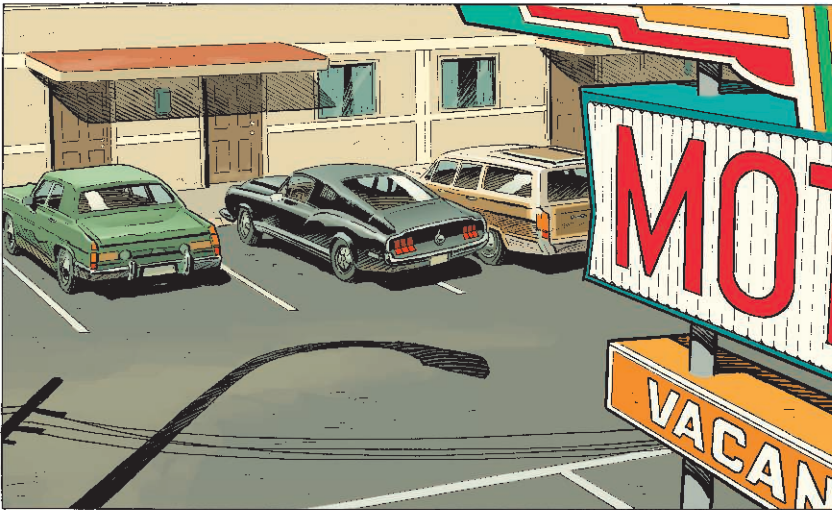
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY WHISKY INSTEAD, PAL?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, BOBBY, I'LL GO SEE JOANNE ... I'LL LEAVE YOU MEN TO TALK!

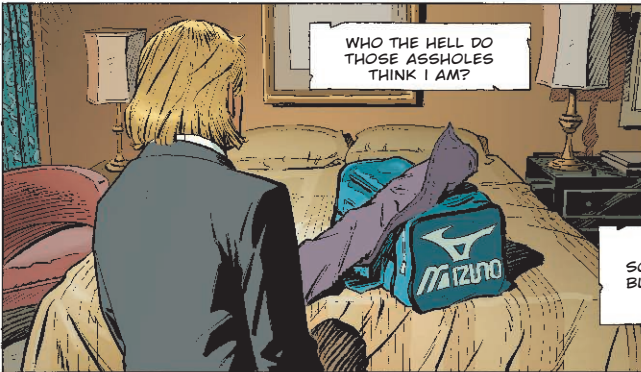
OF COURSE, DARLING.



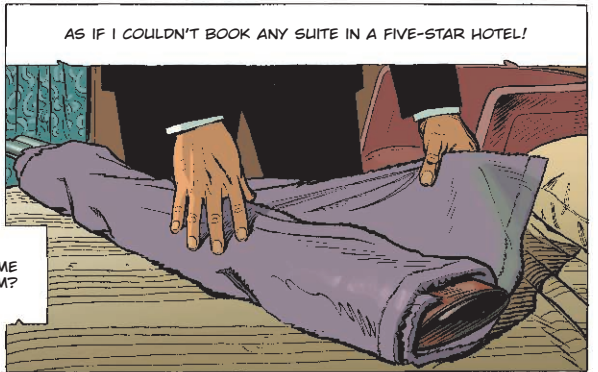
*US-BACKED AND -FUNDED RIGHT-WING REBEL GROUPS OPPOSED TO NICARAGUA'S SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN THE 80s



CHEAP MOTEL, CRAPPY ROOM ... OH, YEAH, ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!



WHO THE HELL DO THOSE ASSHOLES THINK I AM?

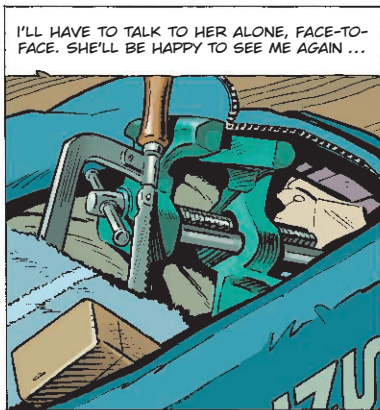


AS IF I COULDN'T BOOK ANY SUITE IN A FIVE-STAR HOTEL!

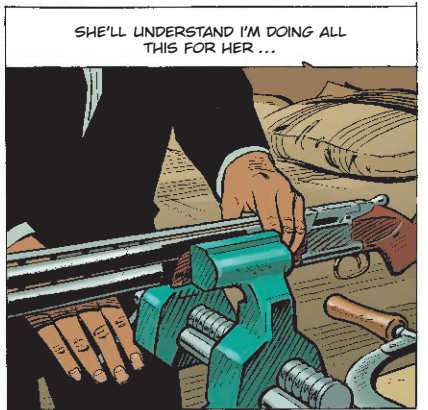
SOME BLUM?



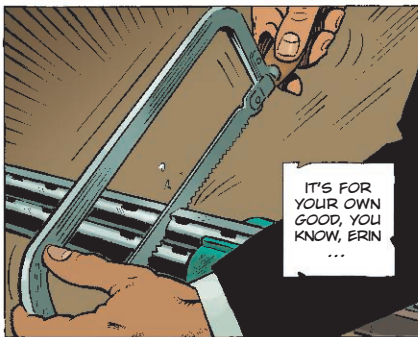
SCREW THOSE ARMY TYPES!



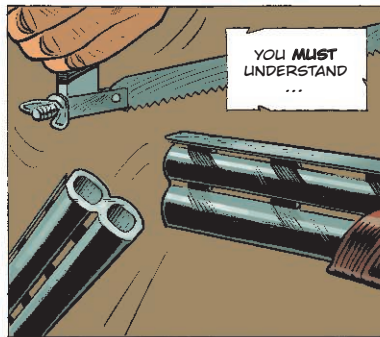
I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO HER ALONE, FACE-TO-FACE. SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE ME AGAIN ...



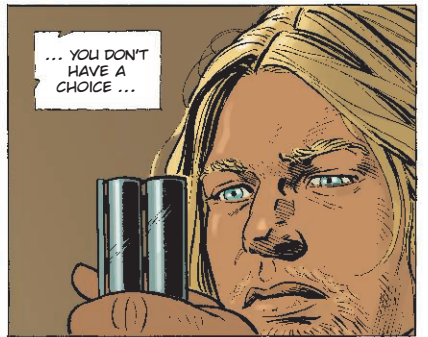
SHE'LL UNDERSTAND I'M DOING ALL THIS FOR HER ...



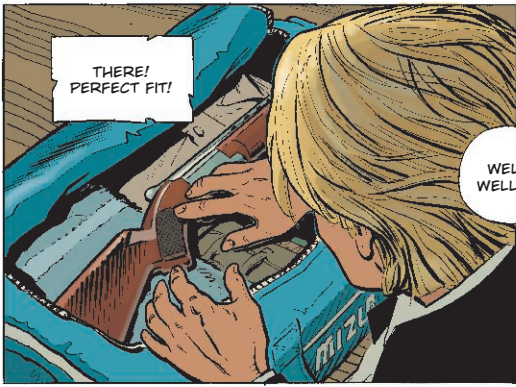
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, YOU KNOW, ERIN ...



YOU **MUST** UNDERSTAND ...

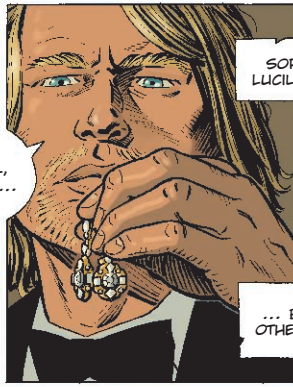


... YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ...



THERE!
PERFECT FIT!

WELL,
WELL ...



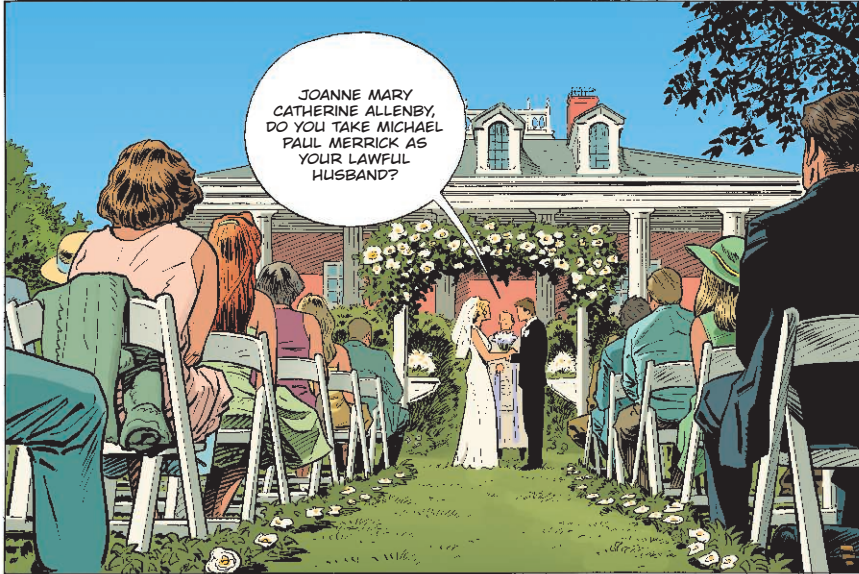
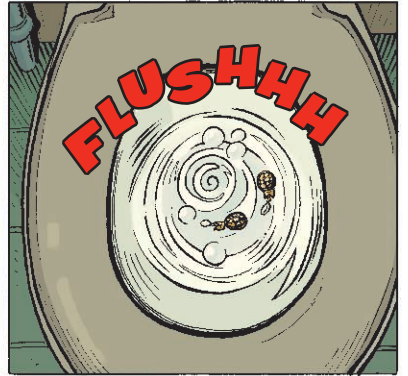
SORRY,
LUCILLE ...

... BUT I HAVE
OTHER PLANS! ...



*'I'M GOING WITH
YOU, BILLY! I'M
NEVER LEAVING
YOU. I PROMISE ...'*

**YOU'D
BETTER
SAY JUST
THAT,
ERIN!**



JOANNE MARY
CATHERINE ALLENBY,
DO YOU TAKE MICHAEL
PAUL MERRICK AS
YOUR LAWFUL
HUSBAND?



I WAS SO SURE THEY WERE WITH
YOUR THINGS ...



I DO!

♪ I LOVE YOU, BABY, AND IF IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, I NEED YOU, BABY ...



... AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT IN POLITICS, THE ENDS CAN EASILY JUSTIFY THE MEANS!

A DOUBLE WHISKY - STEP ON IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT! ENOUGH OF THOSE NEGRO RIOTS AND THE TYRANNY OF UNIONS!

♪ IT WAS A TEENAGE WEDDING ...



MAY I ASK YOU FOR A DANCE?

... AND THE OLD FOLK WISHED THEM WELL ...



SURE, WHY NOT?

SO, WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT BUMPING INTO PEOPLE?

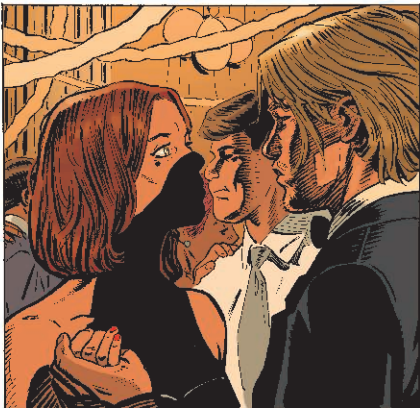
OH, YOU REMEMBER ME? ...



WHAT DO I DO ... ? WELL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, I TRY TO MAKE AMENDS.

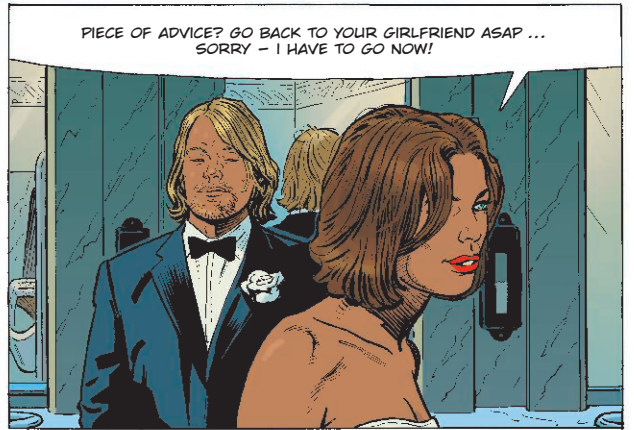
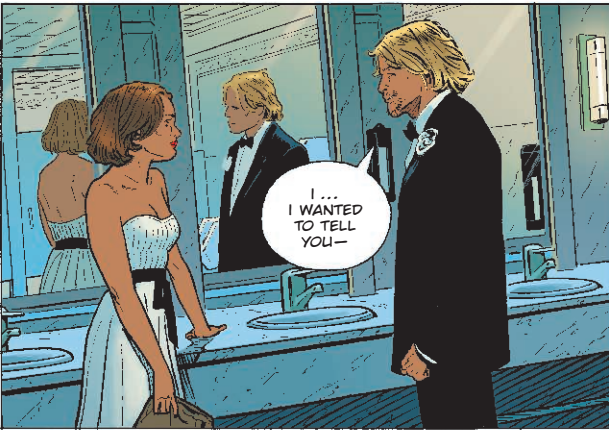


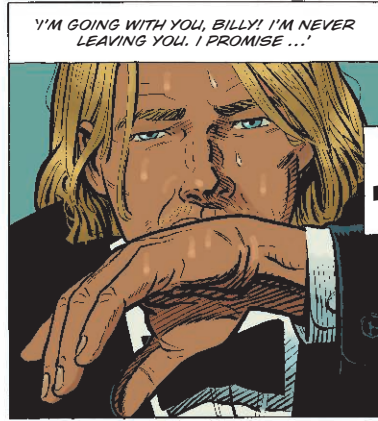
♪ 'C'EST LA VIE', SAY THE OLD FOLKS, IT GOES TO SHOW YOU NEVER CAN TELL ...



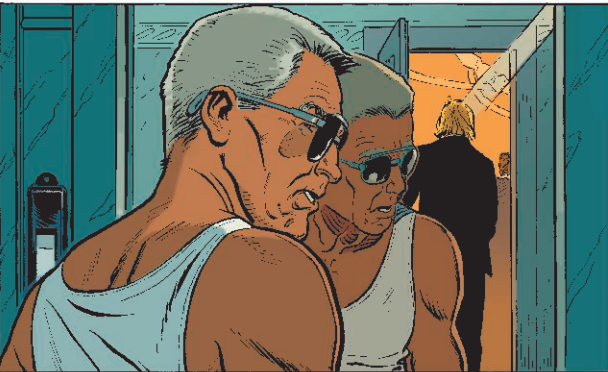
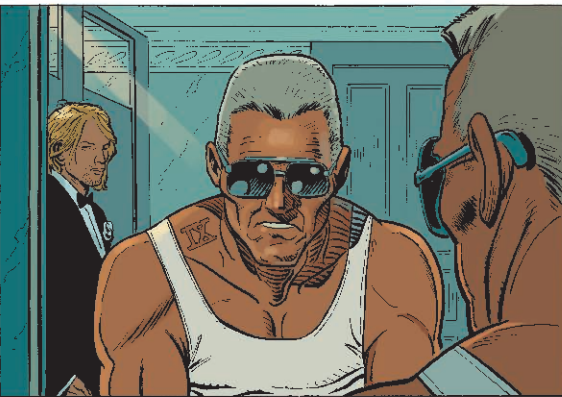
THANKS ... IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME ...

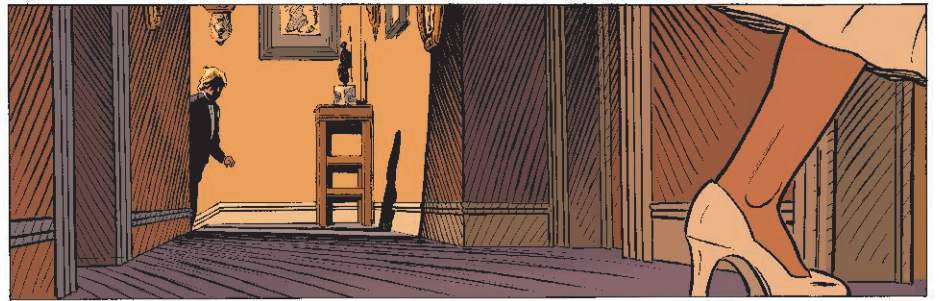
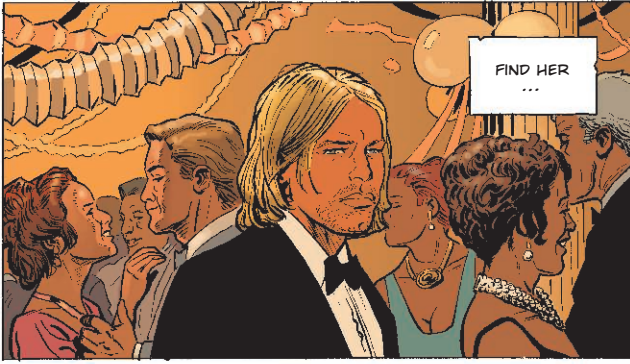


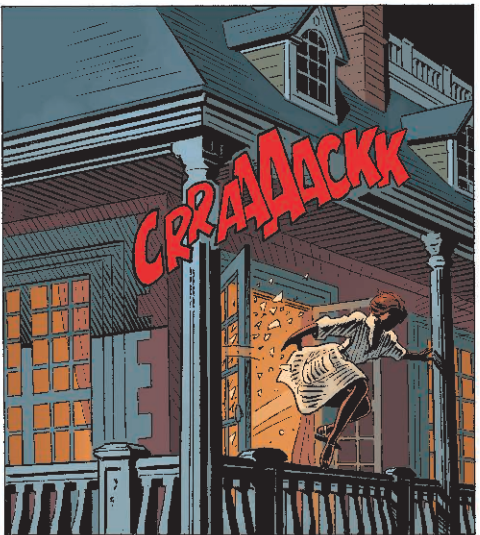
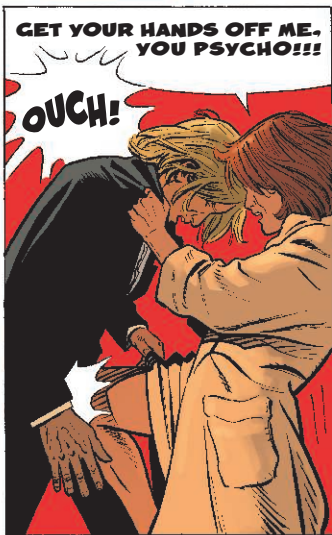
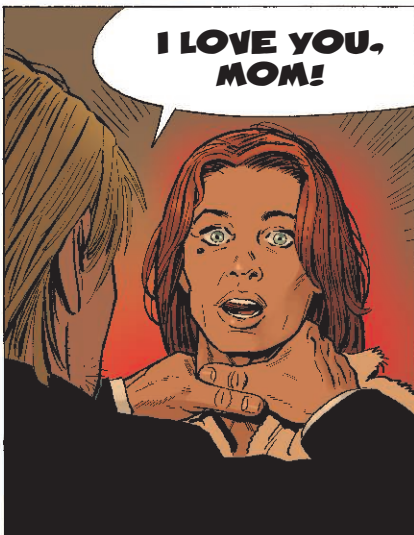
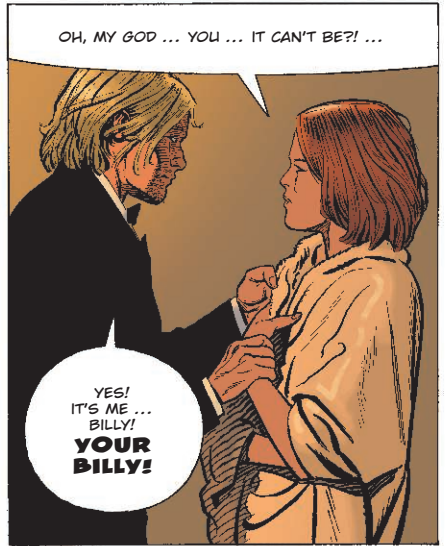
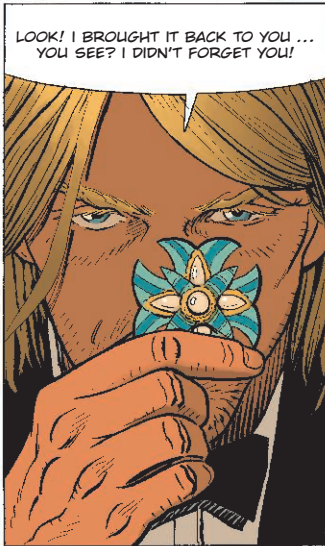
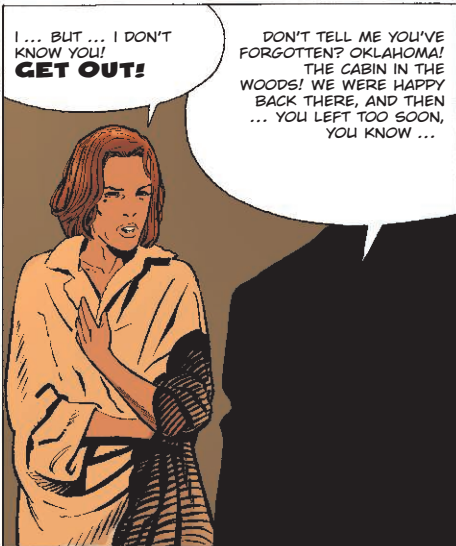




SHE SHOT ME DOWN!









OWW ... ER ...
ERIIIIIN!



SWEET
JESUS ... IT
HURTS ...



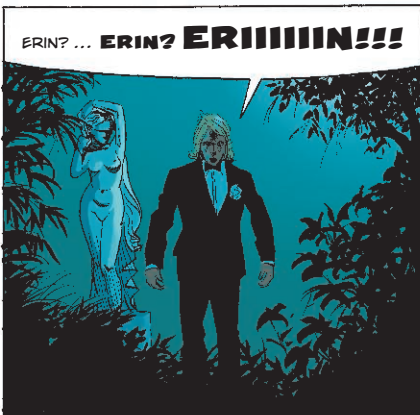
**ERIN ... I
... I FORBID
YOU TO
LEAVE!**



**YOU
CAN'T RUN
AWAY FROM
ME AGAIN!
COME
BACK!!**



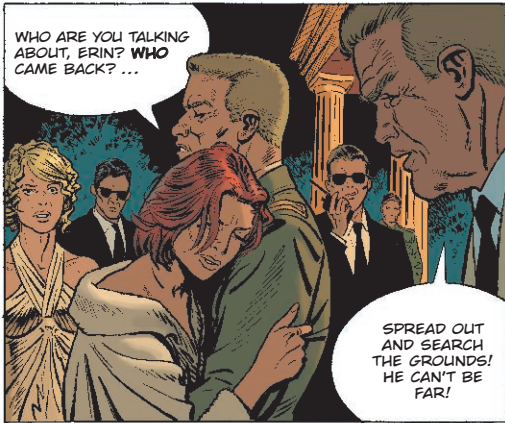
I'VE GOT IT
ALL WORKED OUT
... WE'LL BE HAPPY
TOGETHER, LIKE BEFORE
... I HAD DAD'S PLANE
REPAIRED ... WE'LL
GO FLYING ON
WEEKENDS ...



ERIN? ... ERIN? **ERIIIIIN!!!**



YOU CAN'T REJECT
ME, MOM ...

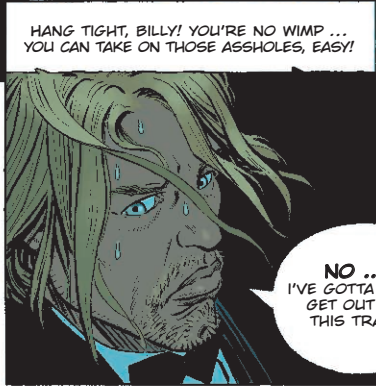




I'M SURE HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE THICKET! LET'S GO! ...



... AND SURROUND HIM!

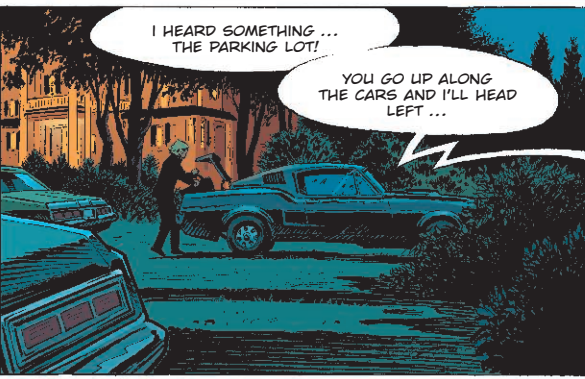


HANG TIGHT, BILLY! YOU'RE NO WIMP ... YOU CAN TAKE ON THOSE ASSHOLES, EASY!

NO ... I'VE GOTTA RUN! GET OUT OF THIS TRAP!

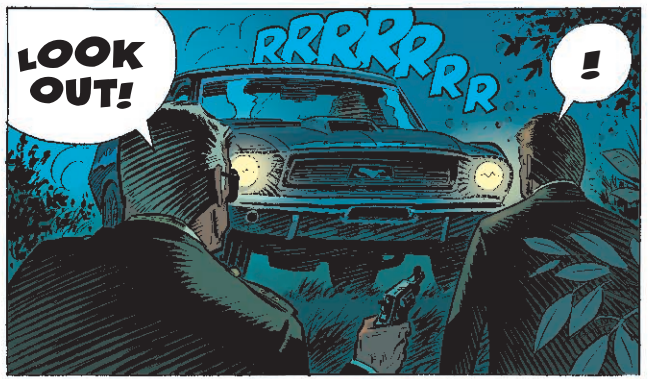


YOU'RE A LOSER, BILLY! A PATHETIC LOSER!



I HEARD SOMETHING ... THE PARKING LOT!

YOU GO UP ALONG THE CARS AND I'LL HEAD LEFT ...



LOOK OUT!

RRRRRRR

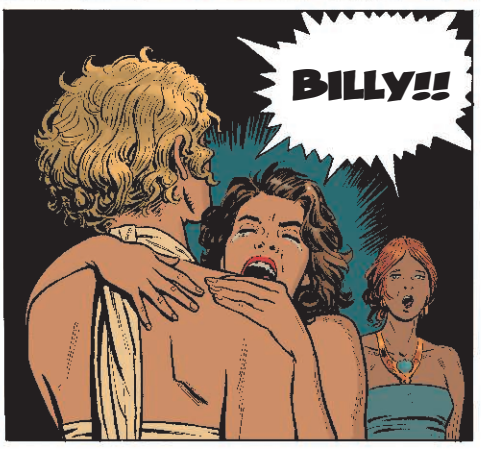
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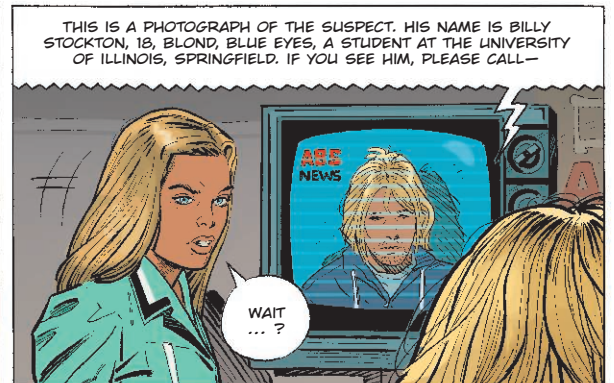
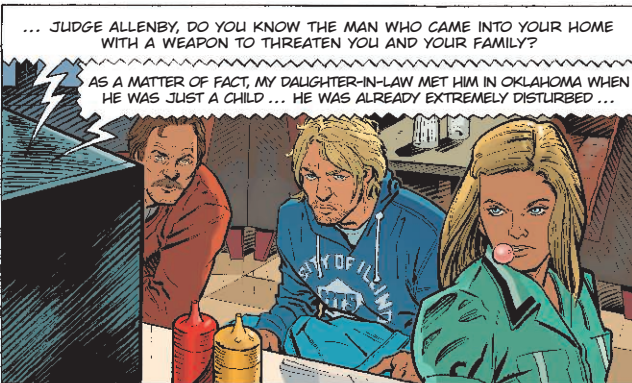
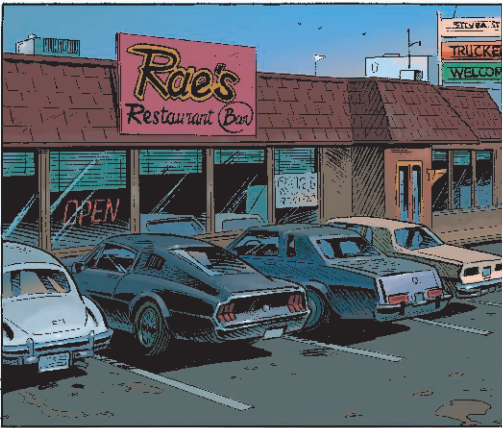
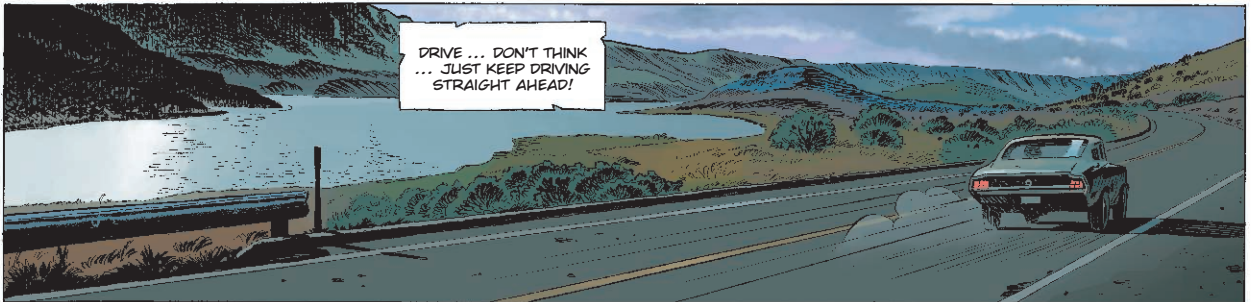
WRRROOOAAA

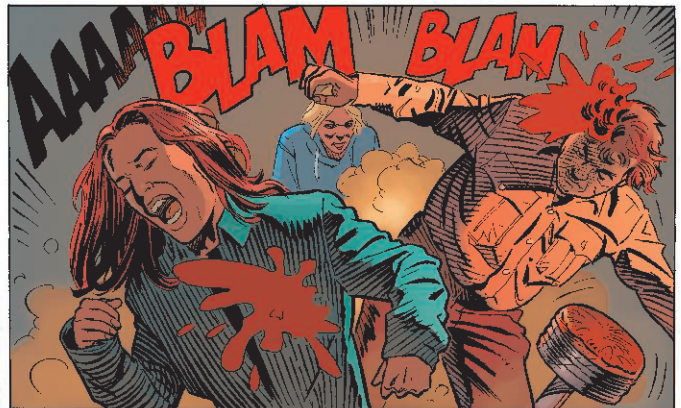
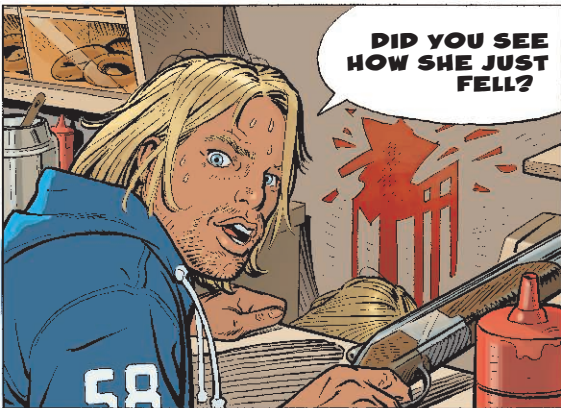
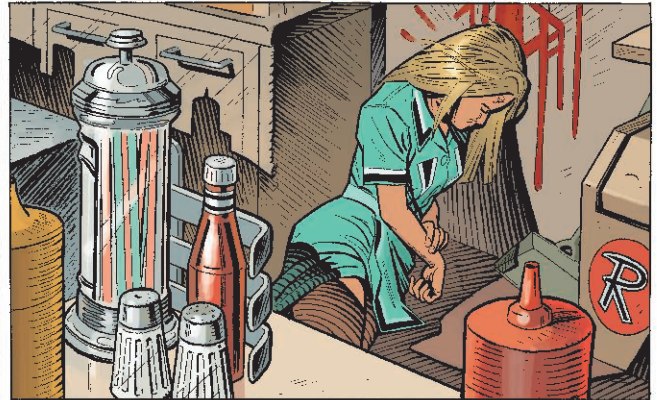
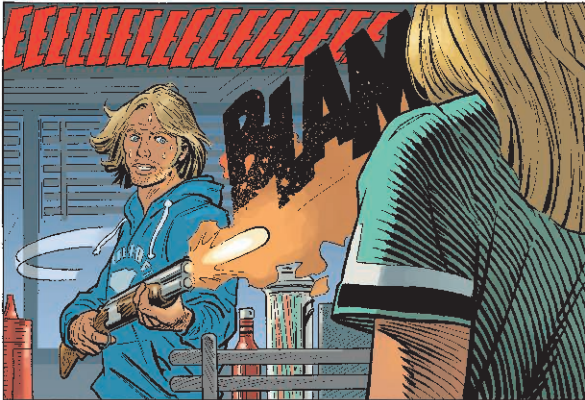
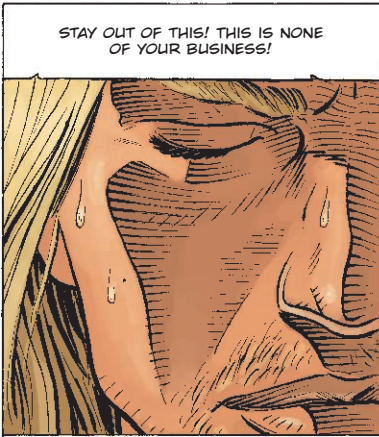
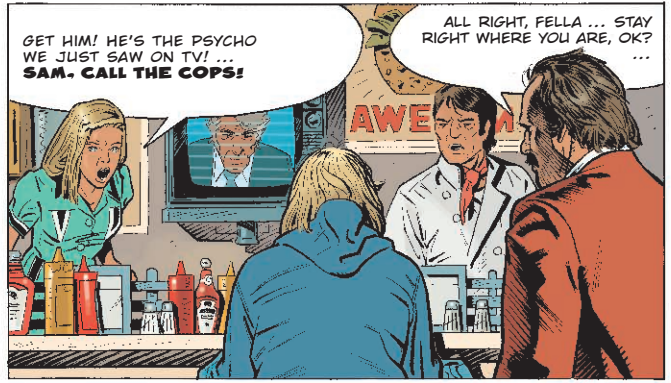
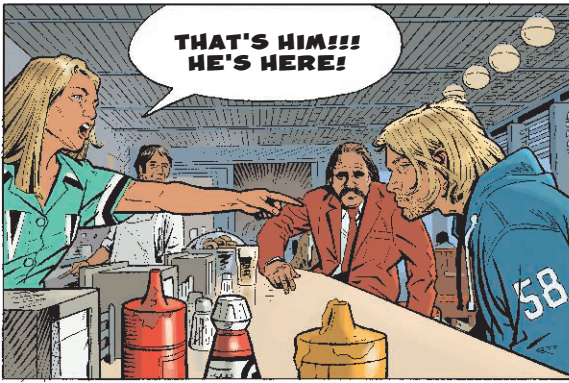
BLAM BLAM

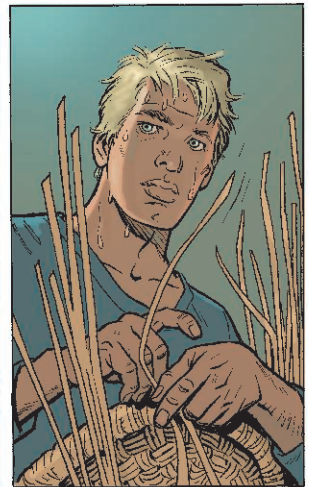
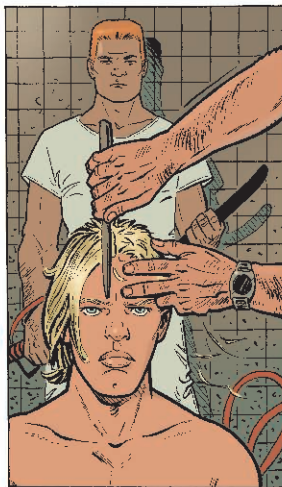
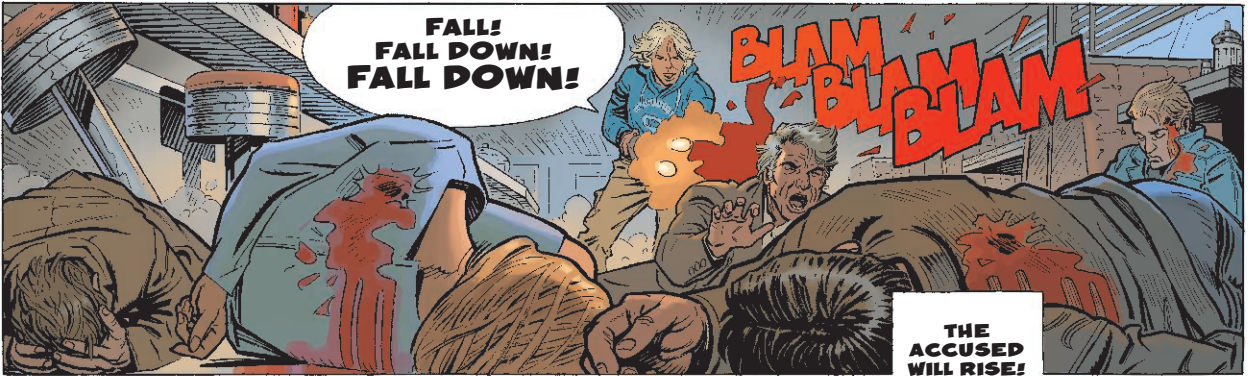
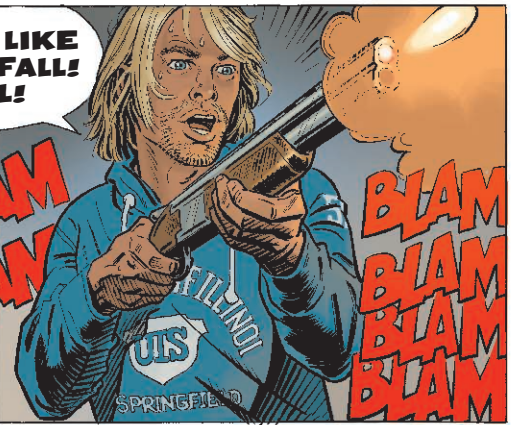
BANG BANG

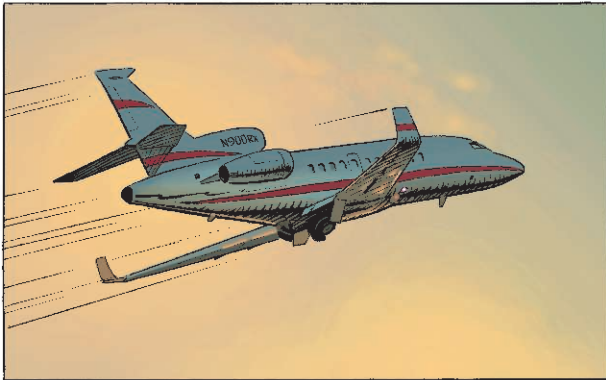


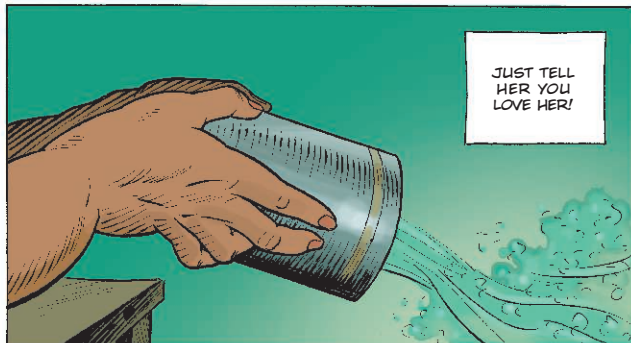
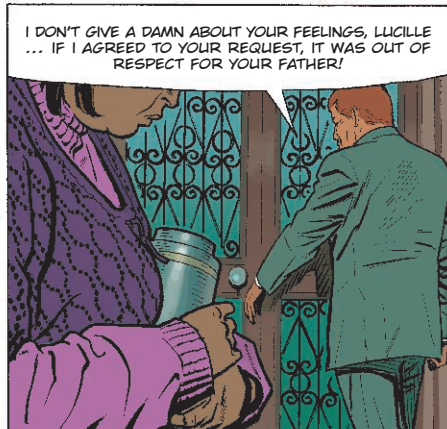
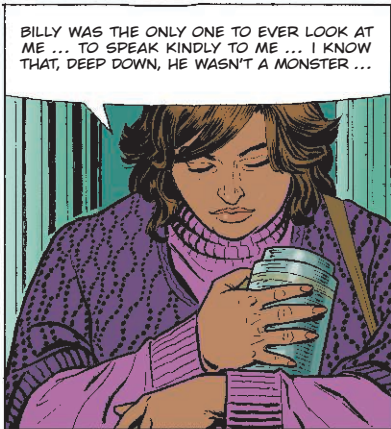
BILLY!!

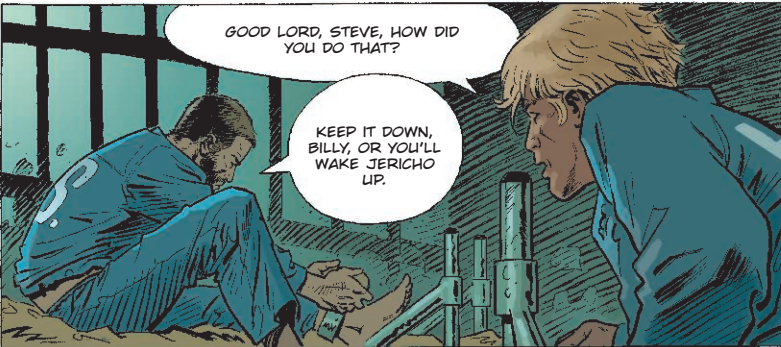






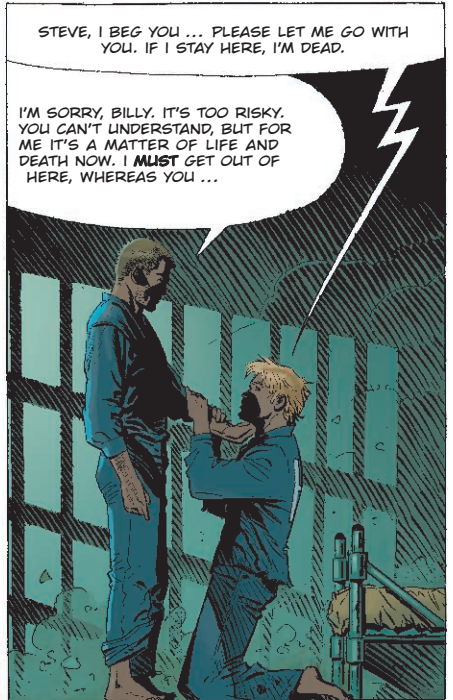






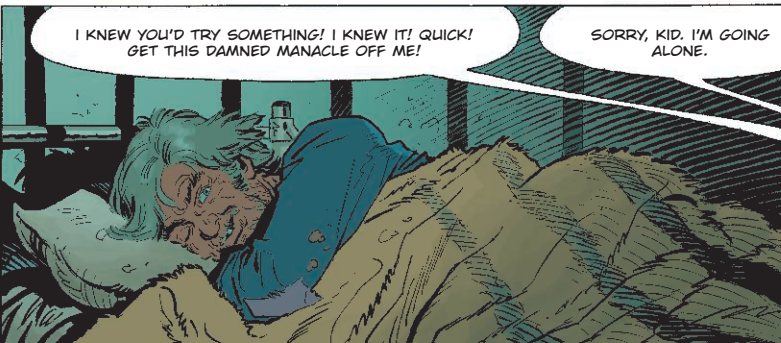
GOOD LORD, STEVE, HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

KEEP IT DOWN, BILLY, OR YOU'LL WAKE JERICHO UP.



STEVE, I BEG YOU ... PLEASE LET ME GO WITH YOU. IF I STAY HERE, I'M DEAD.

I'M SORRY, BILLY. IT'S TOO RISKY. YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT FOR ME IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH NOW. I **MUST** GET OUT OF HERE, WHEREAS YOU ...



I KNEW YOU'D TRY SOMETHING! I KNEW IT! QUICK! GET THIS DAMNED MANACLE OFF ME!

SORRY, KID. I'M GOING ALONE.



... WHEREAS I DON'T MATTER, IS THAT IT? I'M NOT A MEMBER OF YOUR DAMNED CULT!

OH, YEAH ... YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST ONE I'VE SEEN WITH A ROMAN NUMERAL TATTOOED ON HIS SHOULDER! ... DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING, HUH?



WAIT, WHAT? ... WHAT DID YOU SAY? ... **WHERE? WHEN?**



YEAH, RIGHT! WHAT DO I GET OUT OF TELLING YOU, HUH, IF I'M LEFT TO ROT IN HERE?

HEE, HEE, HEE! FINISHED!



WHAT'S TO SAY YOU'RE NOT JUST SPINNING ME A YARN SO I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME? ... I COULD SNAP YOUR NECK RIGHT HERE, KID!

I NEED SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE, BILLY!

HHHHHH ... OK, OK! ... IT ... IT WAS AT A WEDDING A FEW MONTHS AGO ...



THIS GUY BARGED INTO THE BATHROOM AFTER SPILLING WHISKY ALL OVER HIMSELF ... HE TOOK OFF HIS SHIRT, AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT ...

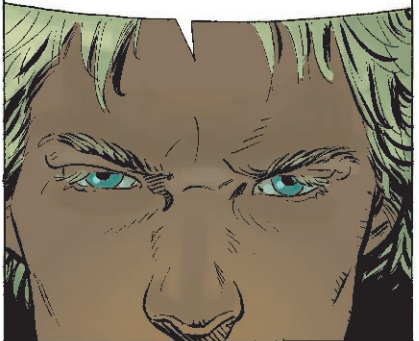


DO YOU REMEMBER THE TATTOOED NUMBER?



I DIDN'T STICK AROUND. BESIDES, IT WAS FLIPPED IN THE MIRROR ...

ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT HE'D COME FROM WASHINGTON. ONE OF THOSE ASSHOLE SOLDIERS WHO CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WANT. HE WASN'T THE ONLY BIG CHEESE INVITED TO THAT WEDDING EITHER. THERE WERE A BUNCH OF OTHERS ... BUT I'LL TELL YOU THE REST ONCE WE'RE OUTSIDE. QUID PRO QUO, STEVE!



FINE, YOU WIN. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

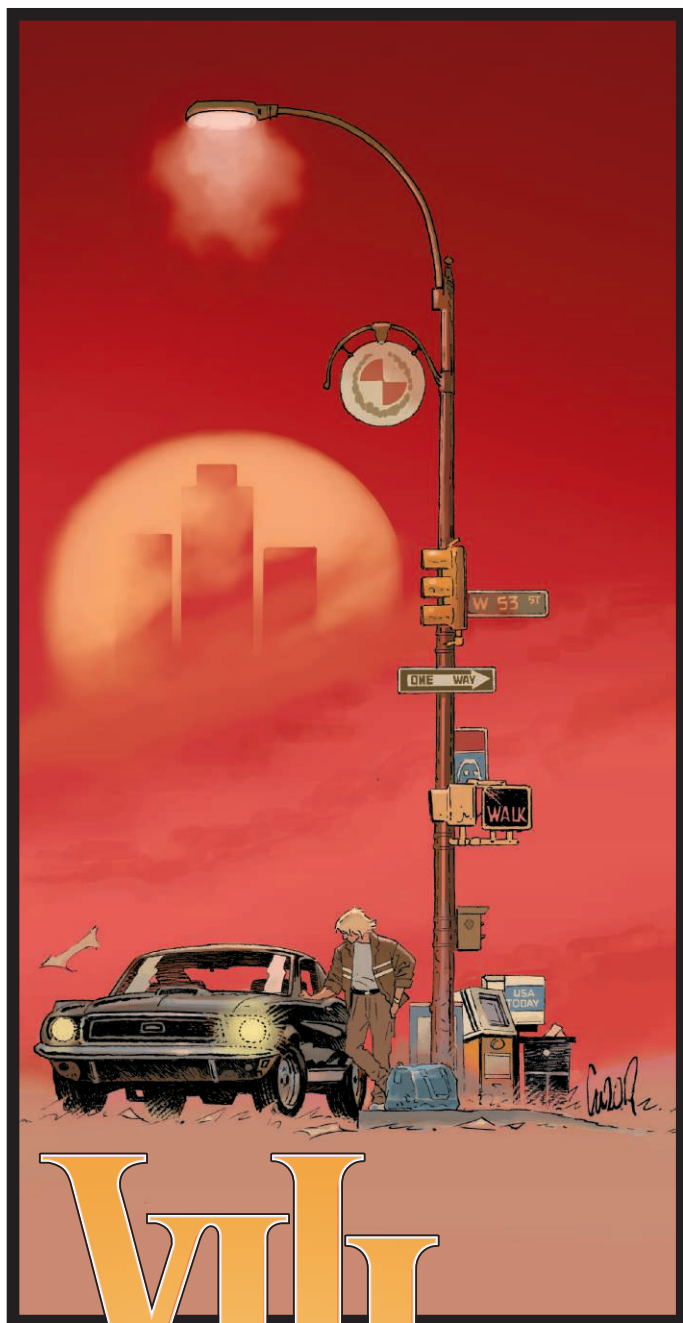


HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ...

SONOVABITCH! SLIMY BASTARD! PIG!



... TO BE CONTINUED IN XIII VOL. 3 ALL THE TEARS OF HELL.



XIII

mystery

XIII MYSTERY

- 1 - THE MONGOOSE (R. Meyer – X. Dorison)
- 2 - IRINA (P. Berthet – Corbeyran)
- 3 - LITTLE JONES (E. Henninot – Yann)
- 4 - COLONEL AMOS (F. Boucq – D. Alcante)
- 5 - STEVE ROWLAND (R. Guérineau – F. Nury)
- 6 - BILLY STOCKTON (S. Cuzor – LF. Bollée)

COMING SOON

- 7 - BETTY BARNOWSKY (S. Vallée – Callède)
- 8 - MARTHA SHOEBRIDGE (C. Wilson – F. Giroud)

XIII

FIRST CYCLE

W. Vance – J. Van Hamme

- 1 - THE DAY OF THE BLACK SUN
- 2 - WHERE THE INDIAN WALKS
- 3 - ALL THE TEARS OF HELL
- 4 - SPADS
- 5 - FULL RED
- 6 - THE JASON FLY CASE
- 7 - THE NIGHT OF AUGUST THIRD
- 8 - THIRTEEN TO ONE
- 9 - FOR MARIA
- 10 - EL CASCADOR
- 11 - THREE SILVER WATCHES
- 12 - THE TRIAL
- 13 - TOP SECRET
- 14 - RELEASE THE HOUNDS!
- 15 - OPERATION MONTECRISTO
- 16 - MAXIMILIAN'S GOLD
- 17 - THE IRISH VERSION (Artwork: J. Giraud)
- 18 - THE LAST ROUND

SECOND CYCLE

I. Jigounov – Y. Sente

- 19 - THE DAY OF THE MAYFLOWER
- 20 - THE BAIT
- 21 - RETURN TO GREEN FALLS
- 22 - THE MARTYR'S MESSAGE
- 23 - JASON McLANE'S INHERITANCE

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