

**DELL**  
Mystery

JUNE-AUG.

Still 10¢

NO. 1106

# 77 SUNSET STRIP

Kookie makes  
with an SOS when he is  
mistaken for a man  
marked for vengeance!



EFREM ZIMBALIST, JR.

EDD "KOOKIE" BYRNES

ROGER SMITH

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## KOOKIE'S CLOSE CALL

When Kookie borrows Stuart Bailey's new convertible to impress his girl friend, he soon discovers that his trip to joyville turns into panicsville when three desperate men stalk him...with guns loaded for vengeance!



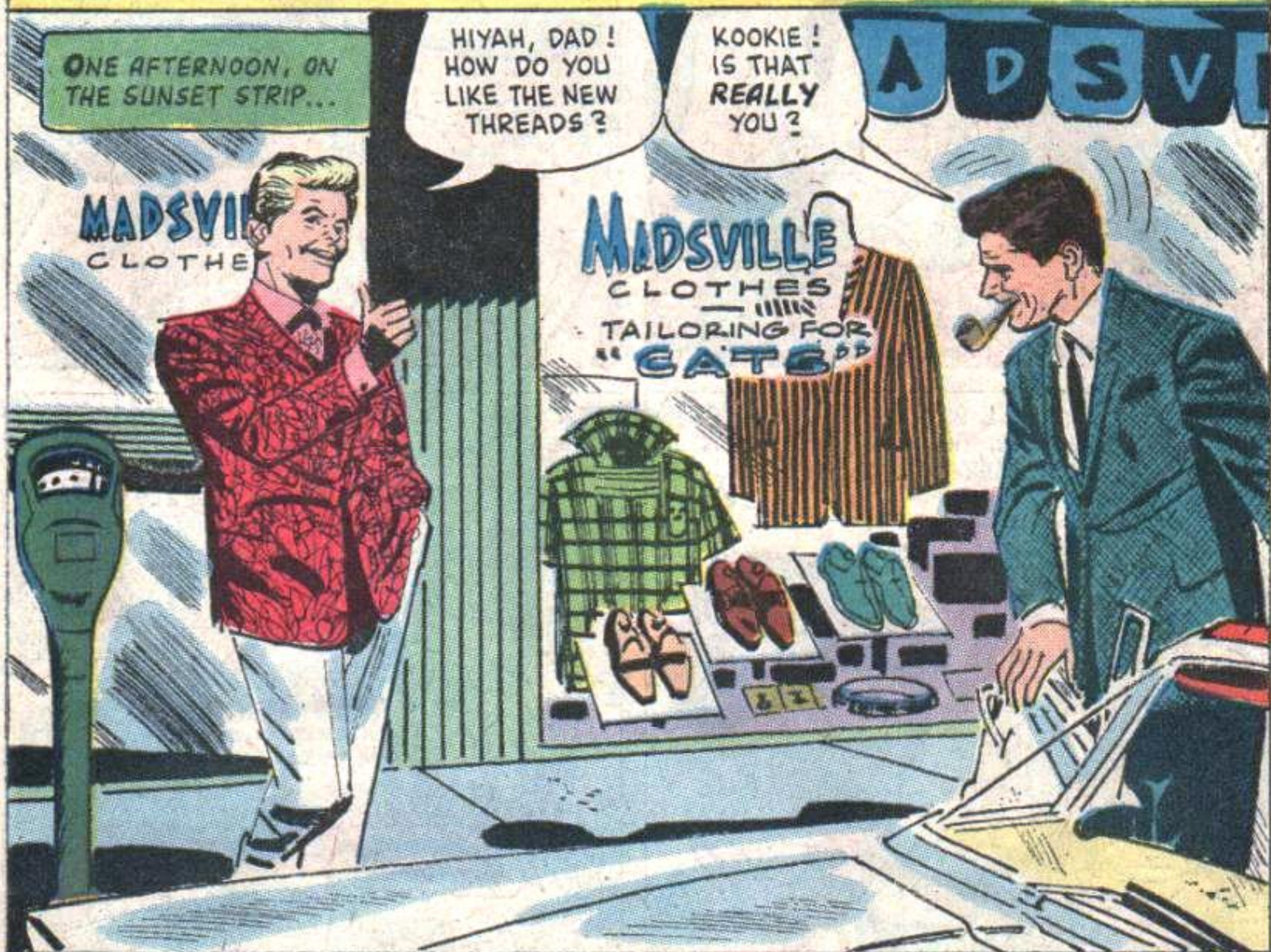
## LIGHTS...CAMERA...DANGER!

Kookie delivers a message to Stuart Bailey and Jeff Spencer, embroiling the trio in a movie studio investigation which turns into a nightmare of terror before they can find a phantom saboteur with more than sabotage on his mind!

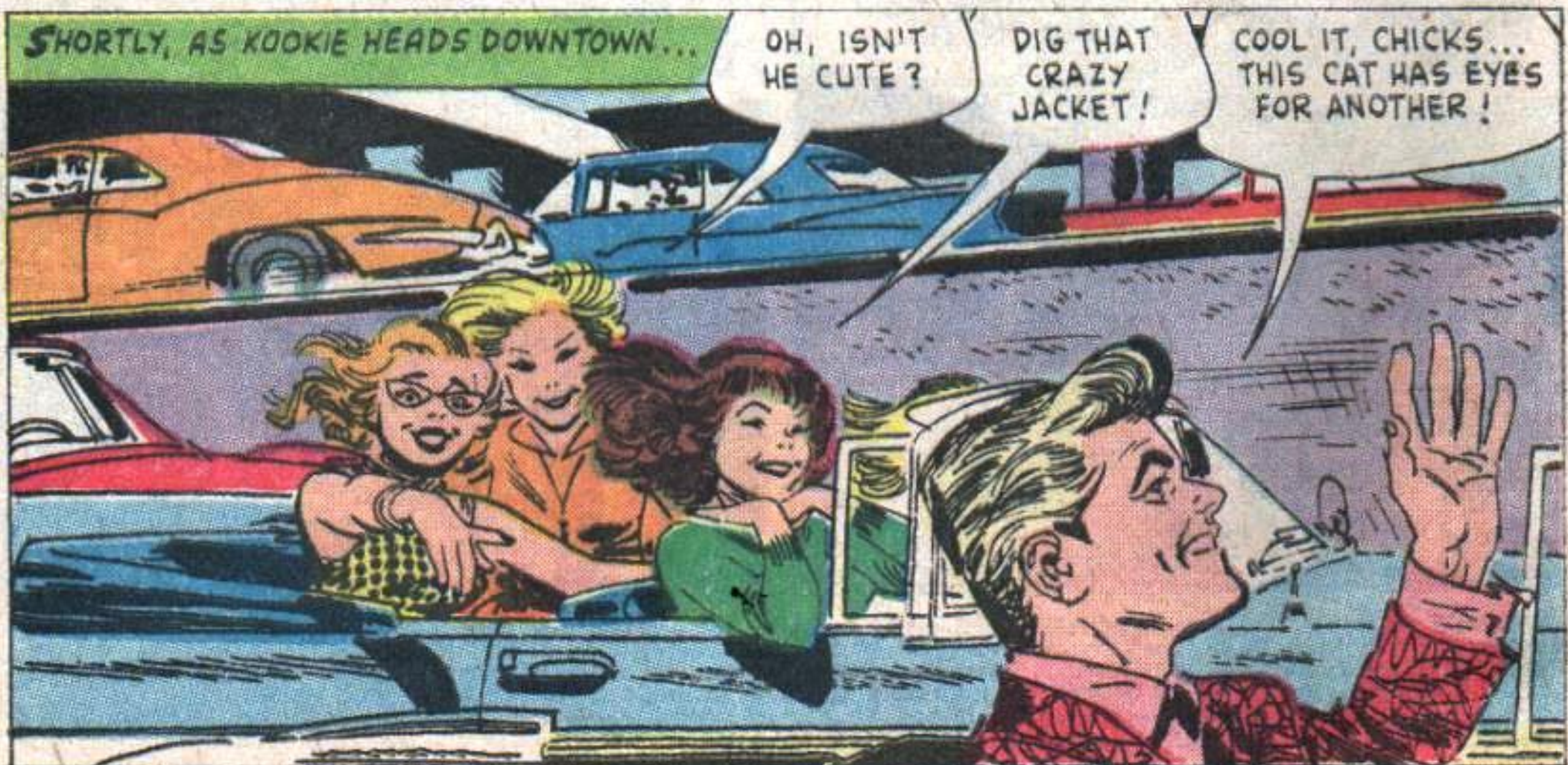
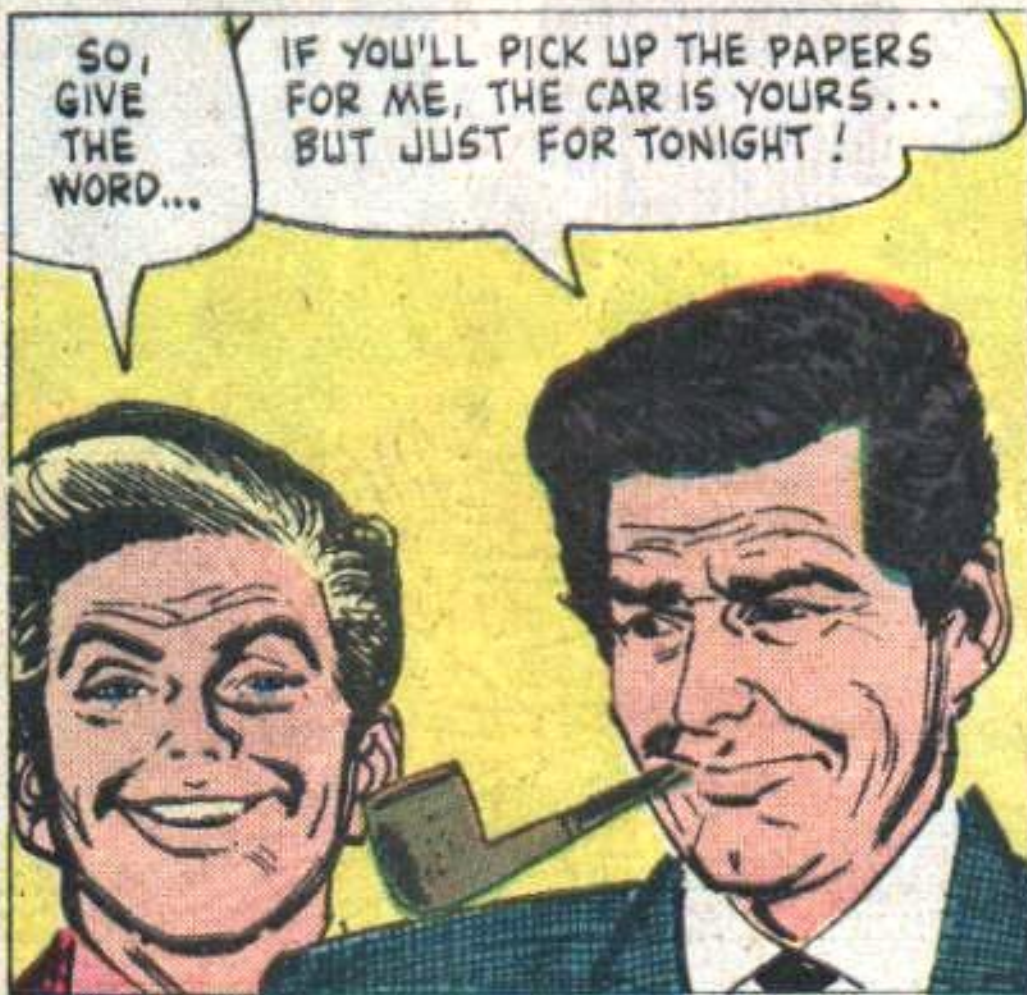


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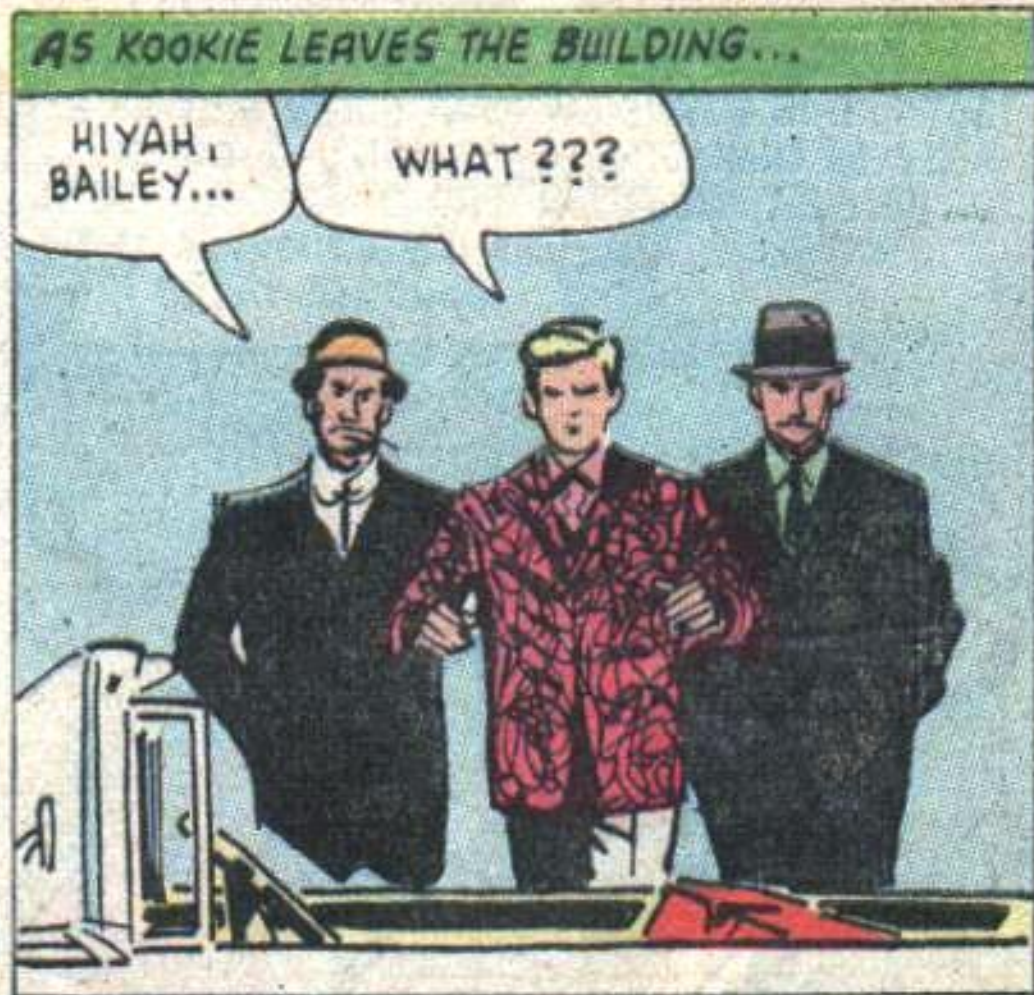
## KOOKIE'S CLOSE CALL













LOOK, I TELL YOU I'M  
NOT STUART BAILEY...I...

I SAID **KEEP  
QUIET!**



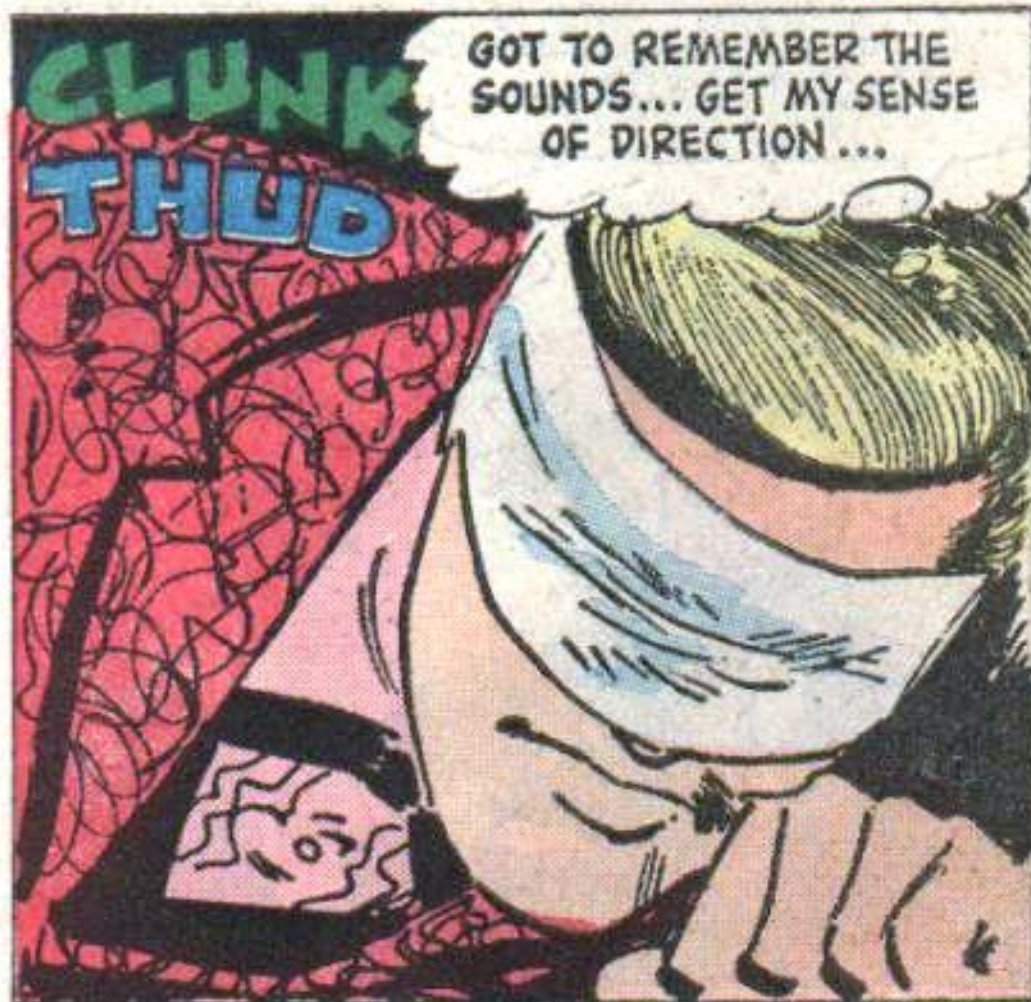
THIS IS SO YOU WON'T  
KNOW WHERE YOU'RE  
GOING, BAILEY! NOW  
GET DOWN ON THE  
FLOOR!

SEEMS A WASTE OF  
TIME TO ME...HE WON'T  
BE **COMING BACK**  
ANYWAY!



ACCORDING TO THE  
BOSS, THIS GUY IS  
A CLEVER CHARACTER  
... HE JUST **MIGHT**  
ESCAPE!

I DOUBT IT, DAVE! IN  
THAT SIREN SUIT HE'S  
WEARIN', I COULD  
BRING HIM DOWN WITH  
A PEASHOOTER AT A  
HUNDRED YARDS!



**CLUNK  
THUD**

GOT TO REMEMBER THE  
SOUNDS... GET MY SENSE  
OF DIRECTION...

**THE SUSPENSEFUL RIDE CONTINUES...**

HEY, TAKE IT EASY  
ON THESE CURVES...

QUIT WORRYING! I BEEN  
DRIVIN' FOR YEARS!





BENEATH A RAILROAD BRIDGE...



ACROSS RAILROAD TRACKS...



AND EACH MOMENT, KOOKIE TRIES DESPERATELY TO REMEMBER THE SOUNDS...

A WINDING ROAD...  
A TUNNEL... RAIL-  
ROAD TRACKS... GOT  
TO REMEMBER!



AND SOON...

WELL, HERE WE ARE!



END OF THE  
LINE, PAL...

JUST WALK SLOW...AND NO  
TRICKS!

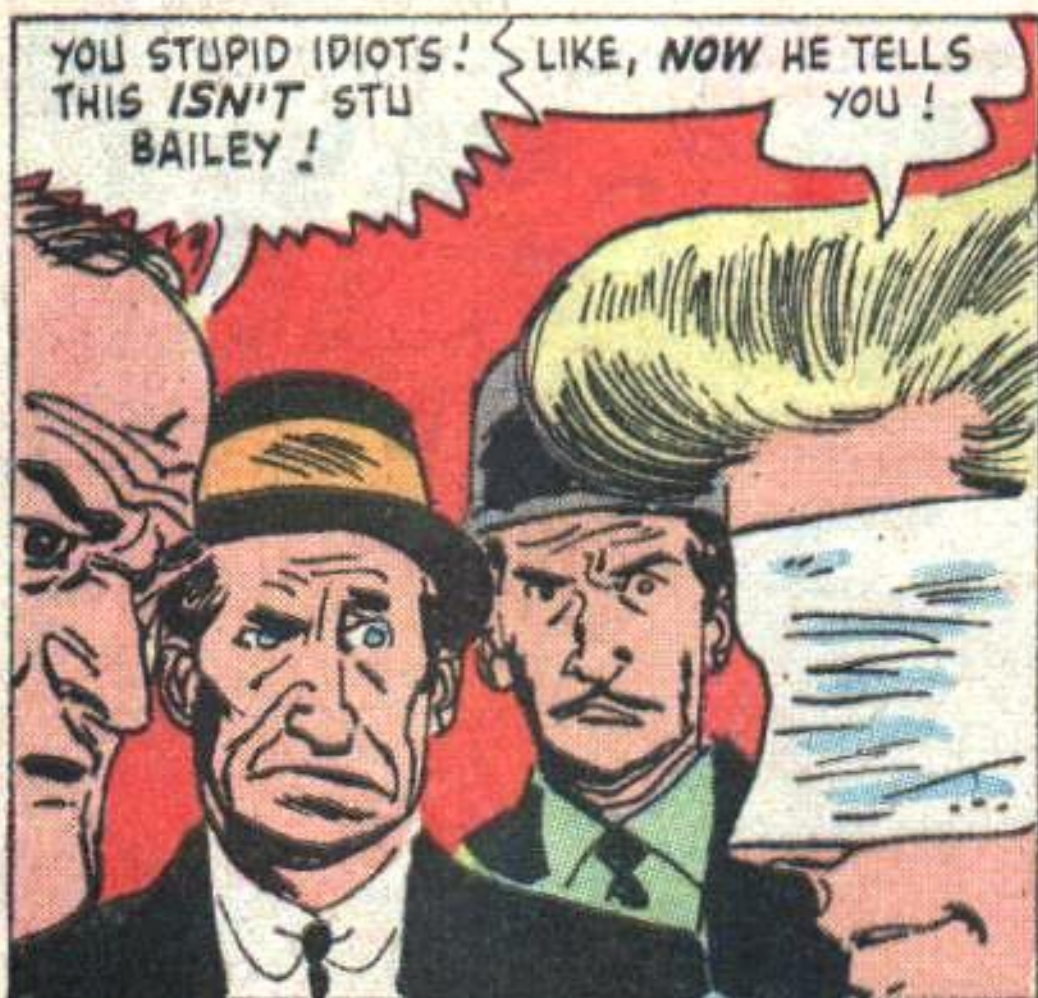


WHERE ARE YOU CATS  
TAKING ME — THIS  
PLACE SMELLS LIKE  
A BARN!

HA! HA! MAYBE  
THAT'S WHAT IT IS,  
BAILEY... AND YOU'RE  
A CHICKEN ABOUT TO  
GET THE AX!







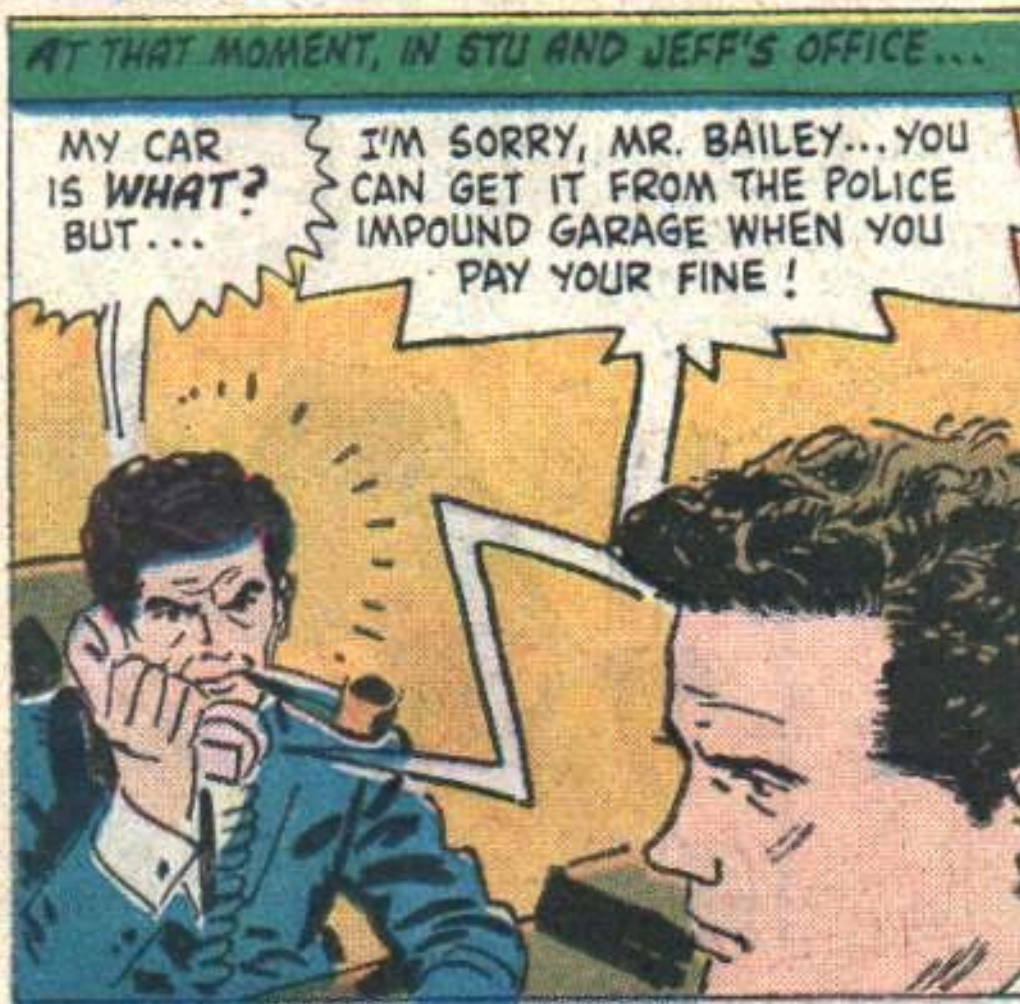
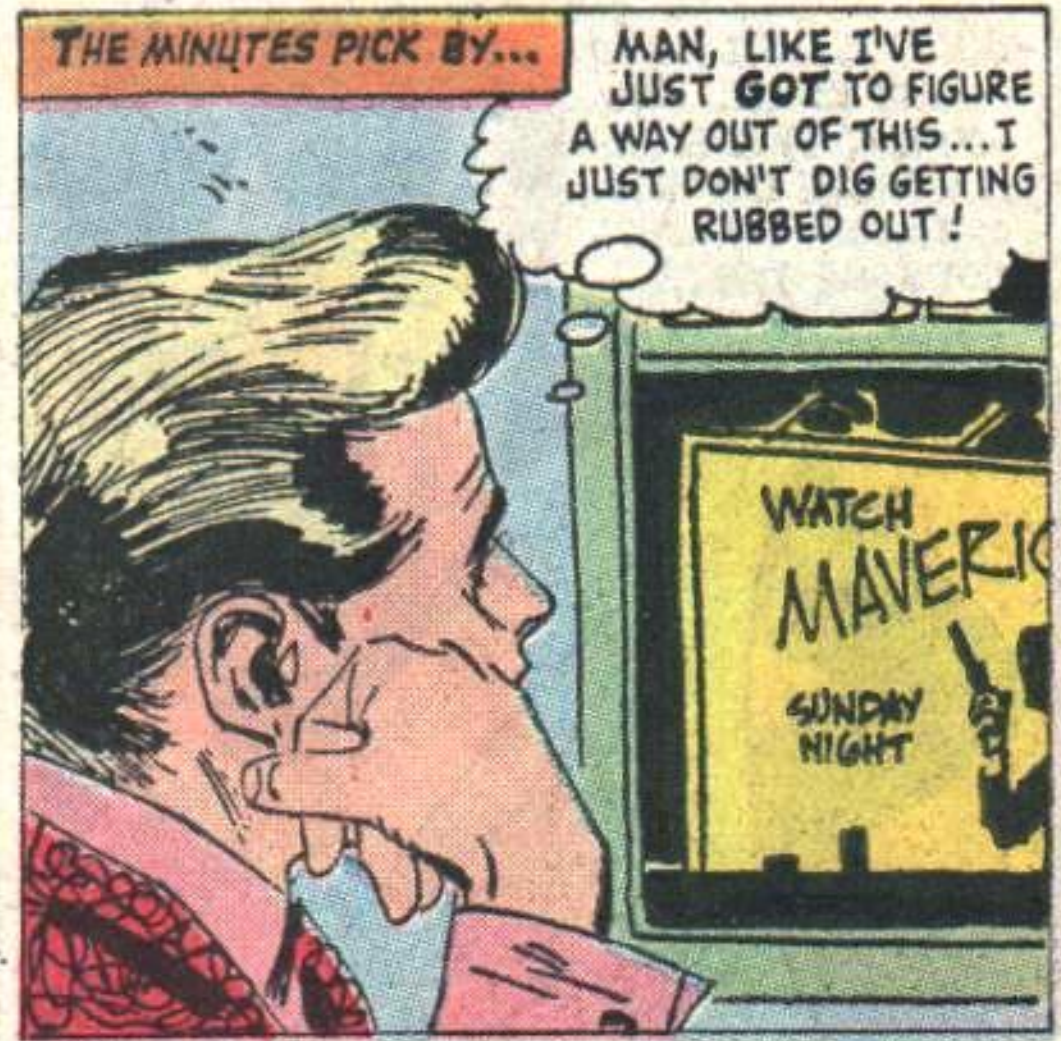














THAT'S WHAT I WOULD  
LIKE TO KNOW...I'M  
GOING TO CALL EVERY  
NUMBER I CAN THINK  
OF TO FIND HIM...HE'S  
GOT SOME **TALL**  
EXPLAINING TO DO!



IN THE DINGY APARTMENT WHERE HE IS BEING  
HELD, KOOKIE HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS  
ON HIS MIND THAN STU BAILEY'S CAR...

WHAT TIME IS IT?

TEN-THIRTY...AN HOUR  
AND A HALF TO GO...



WATCH HIM, DAVE...EDDIE  
AND I ARE GOING OUT TO  
GET A BITE TO EAT!

WE'LL BRING  
YOU A  
SANDWICH...



THE PRECIOUS MINUTES TICK BY...

MAN, I SURE WISH  
THAT CAT WOULD  
TAKE HIS EYES OFF  
ME FOR JUST **ONE**  
**MINUTE!**



IF I COULD  
JUST GET TO  
THAT FIRE  
ESCAPE...



KOOKIE GETS AN IDEA...

THAT LAMP CORD...  
IF I CAN JUST  
REACH IT WITH  
MY FOOT...











GET INSIDE... WE'LL  
COVER EVERY INCH OF  
THIS BUILDING!

WE'VE GOT TO  
FIND HIM!



I BETTER MAKE  
A FAST PHONE  
CALL... JUST IN  
CASE I DON'T  
MAKE IT!

**KOOKIE CALLS STU BAILEY'S OFFICE...**



WHERE HAVE  
YOU BEEN? I'VE  
BEEN TRYING  
TO CALL —

COOL IT, DAD... AND LISTEN  
CLOSE! A GUY NAMED LOU  
MILLER GRABBED ME... HE  
THOUGHT I WAS YOU!



LOU MILLER?  
WHERE ARE YOU?

IN SOME CRUMMY APARTMENT...  
BUT DON'T ASK ME WHERE!  
AND MILLER AND HIS GUNS  
ARE LOOKING FOR ME RIGHT  
NOW!



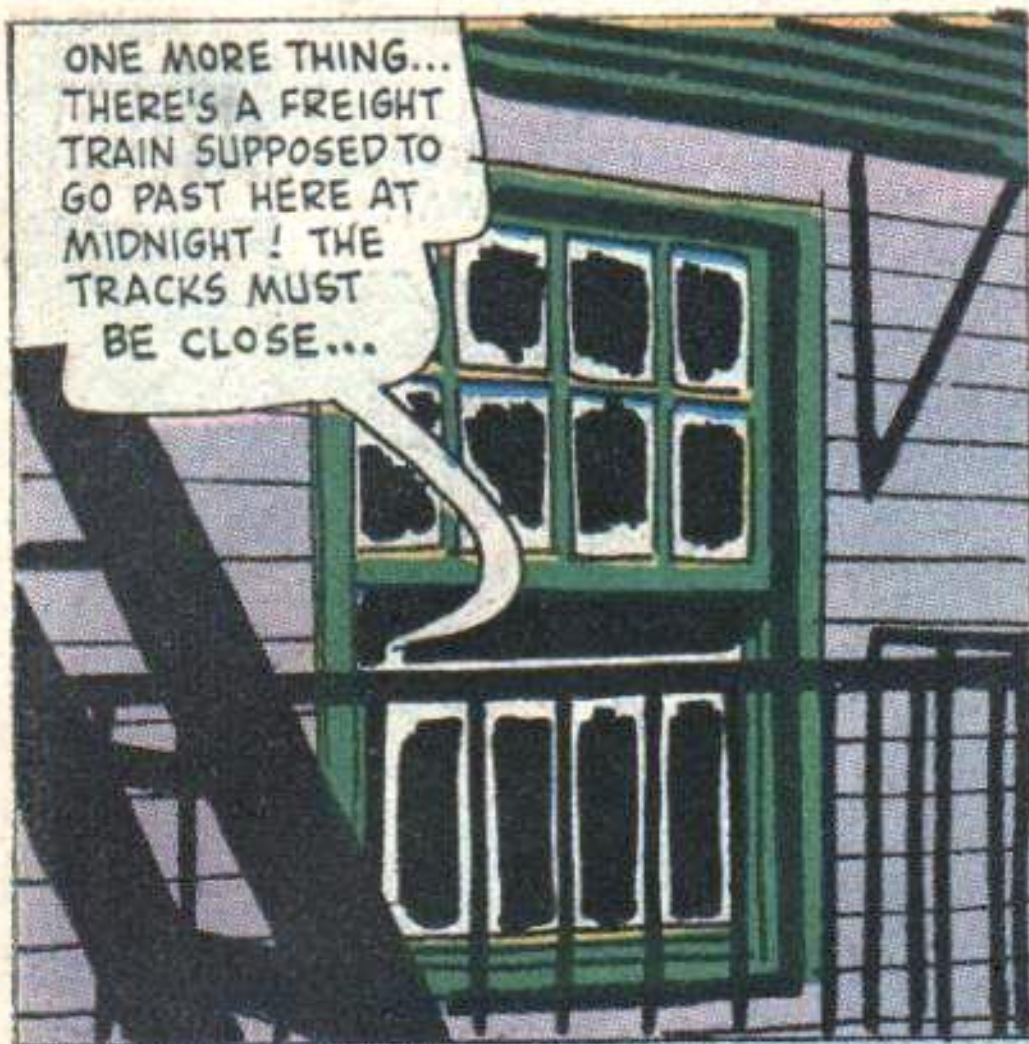
I CAME DOWN A  
WINDING HILL...  
WENT THROUGH  
A TUNNEL...  
CROSSED SOME  
RAILROAD  
TRACKS...



AND I'M IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING ACROSS  
FROM A FLASHING NEON SIGN...  
IT READS: **EXCITEMENT AND  
ADVENTURE! WATCH  
MAVERICK SUNDAY NIGHT!**

THAT'S ALL  
YOU CAN  
TELL ME?











MOMENTS LATER...

THIS  
MUST  
BE IT...

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH  
APARTMENT? AND MAYBE  
HE GOT OUT ON HIS OWN...

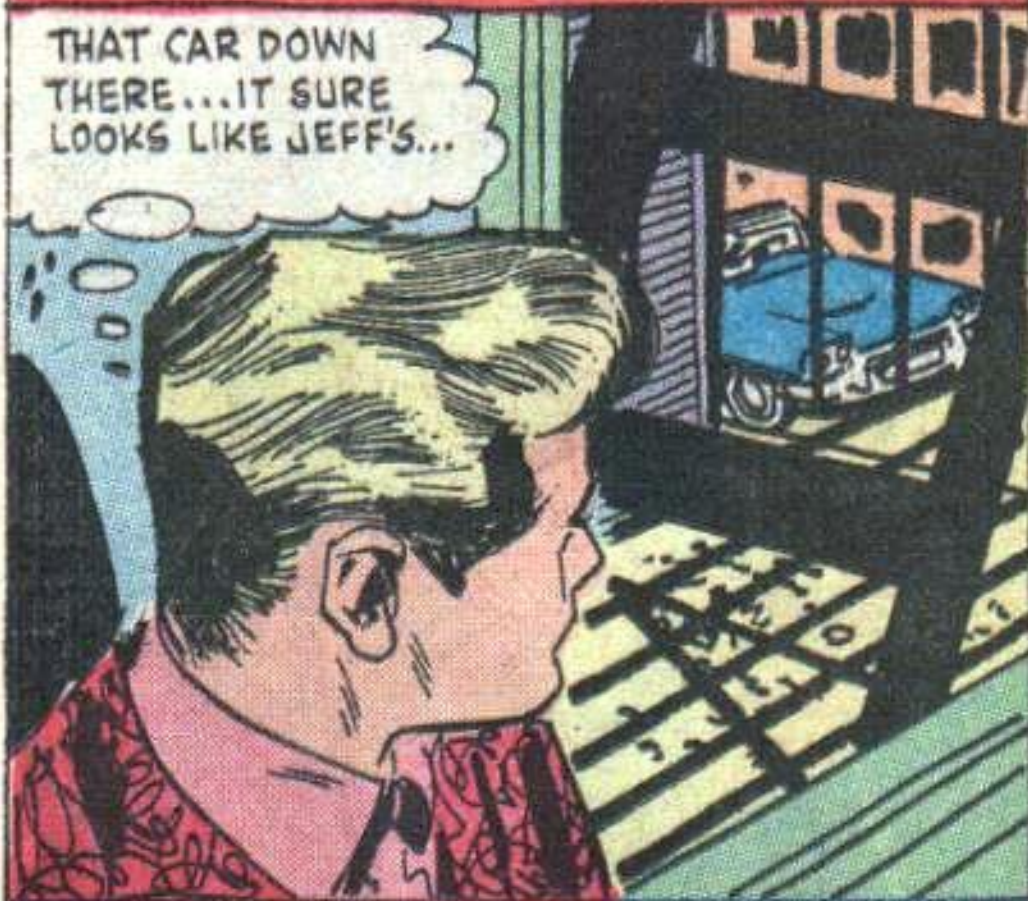


WE'LL HAVE TO  
COVER THEM ALL  
...BECAUSE  
MAYBE HE  
**DIDN'T**  
GET OUT!



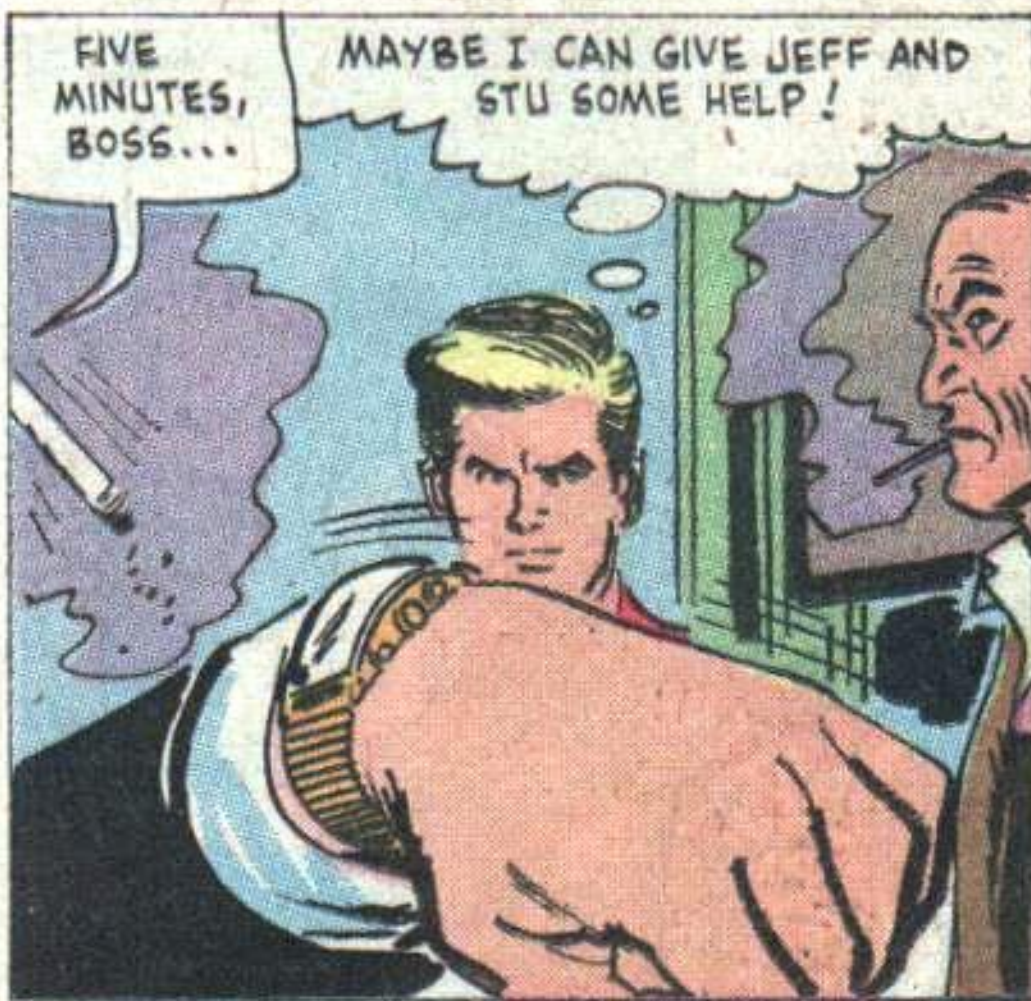
MEANWHILE...UP IN THE APARTMENT...

THAT CAR DOWN  
THERE...IT SURE  
LOOKS LIKE JEFF'S...



FIVE  
MINUTES,  
BOSS...

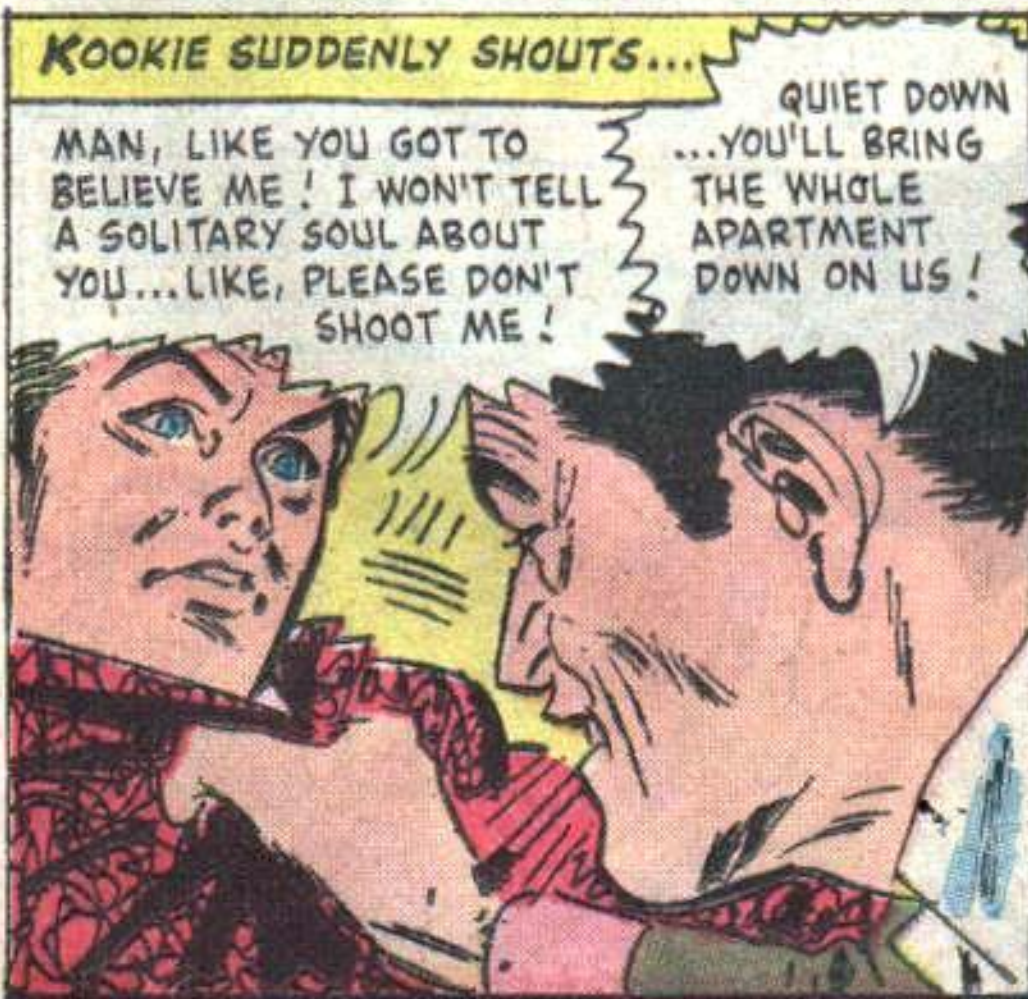
MAYBE I CAN GIVE JEFF AND  
STU SOME HELP!



KOOKIE SUDDENLY SHOUTS...

MAN, LIKE YOU GOT TO  
BELIEVE ME! I WON'T TELL  
A SOLITARY SOUL ABOUT  
YOU...LIKE, PLEASE DON'T  
SHOOT ME!

QUIET DOWN  
...YOU'LL BRING  
THE WHOLE  
APARTMENT  
DOWN ON US!

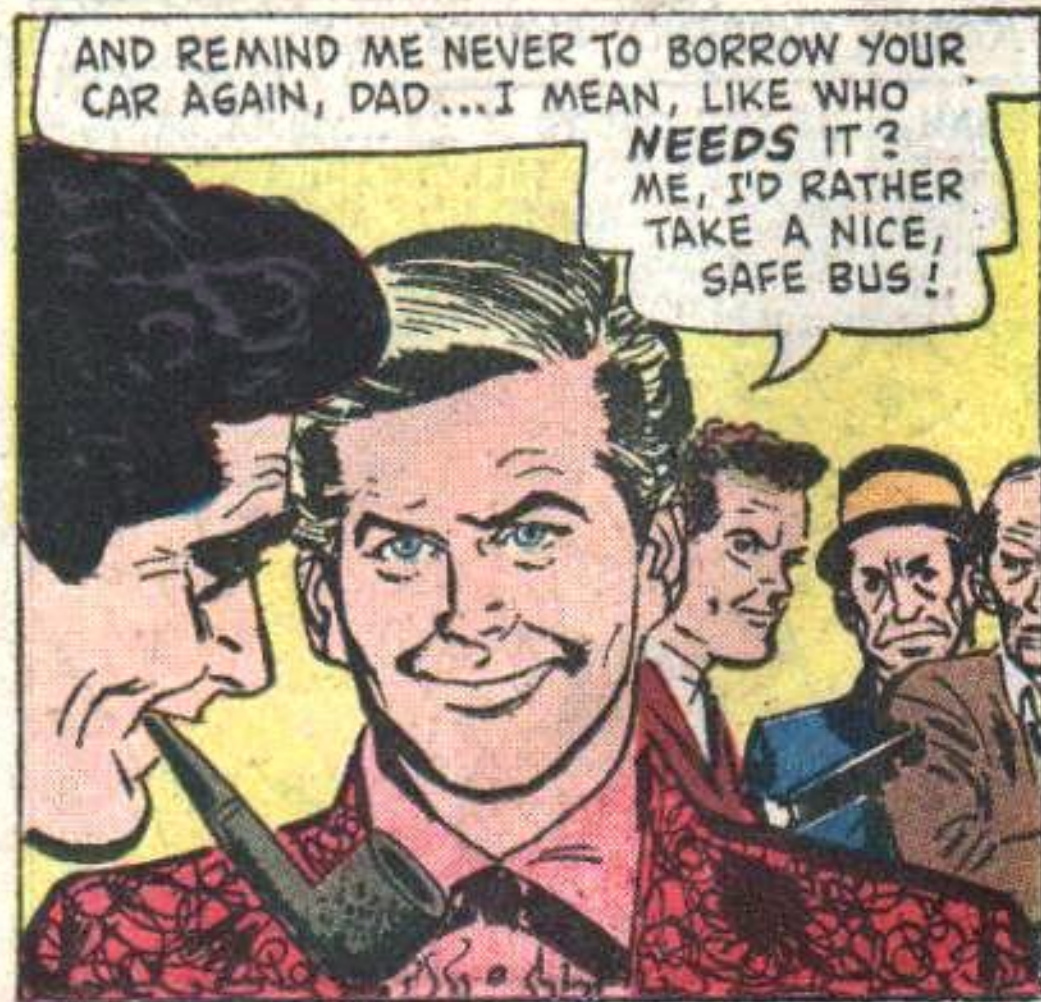
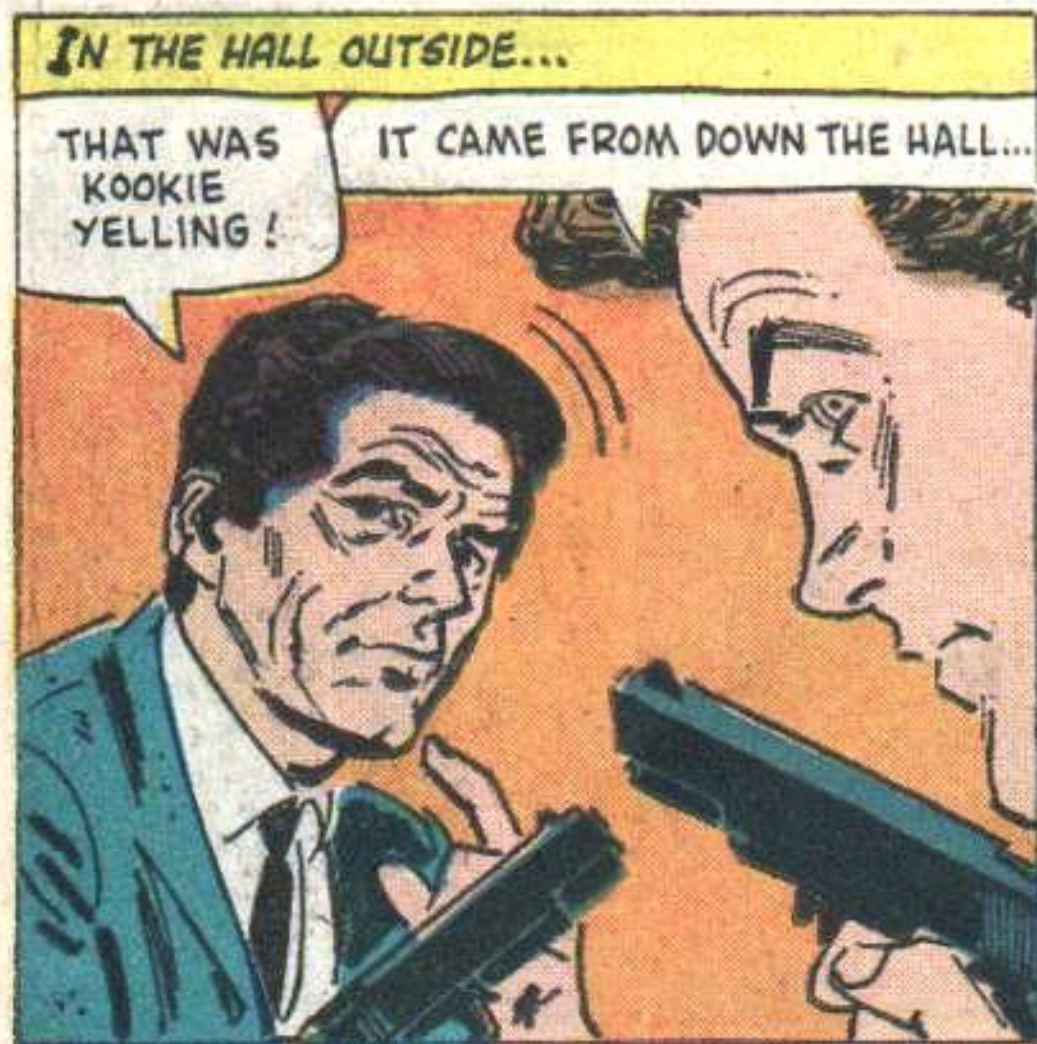


BUT, DAD, YOU JUST CAN'T  
SNUFF OUT A CAT LIKE ME!  
I JUST —

JUST A COUPLE  
MINUTES, KID...  
AND IT'LL ALL  
BE OVER!









# 77 SUNSET STRIP

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, DANGER

IT IS EARLY MORNING AS KOOKIE LOCKS UP THE PARKING LOT AT DINO'S AND PREPARES TO HEAD FOR HOME...

IF YOU'RE STILL WAITING FOR SOMEONE, DAD, YOU'RE TOO LATE! EVERYONE HAS SPLIT!

IT'S **YOU** I'M WAITING FOR, YOUNG MAN ...YOUR NAME IS KEEKIE, ISN'T IT?



THE HANDLE'S KOOKIE, DAD... WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?

MY EMPLOYER ASKED ME TO SPEAK WITH YOU...

HERE'RE TEN DOLLARS FOR YOU... AND AN ENVELOPE TO BE DELIVERED TO A MR. BAILEY OR MR. SPENCER...

TEN BUCKS FOR, **THAT?** YOUR EMPLOYER MUST BE LOADED!

THE GENTLEMEN I MENTIONED ARE **FRIENDS** OF YOURS, AREN'T THEY?

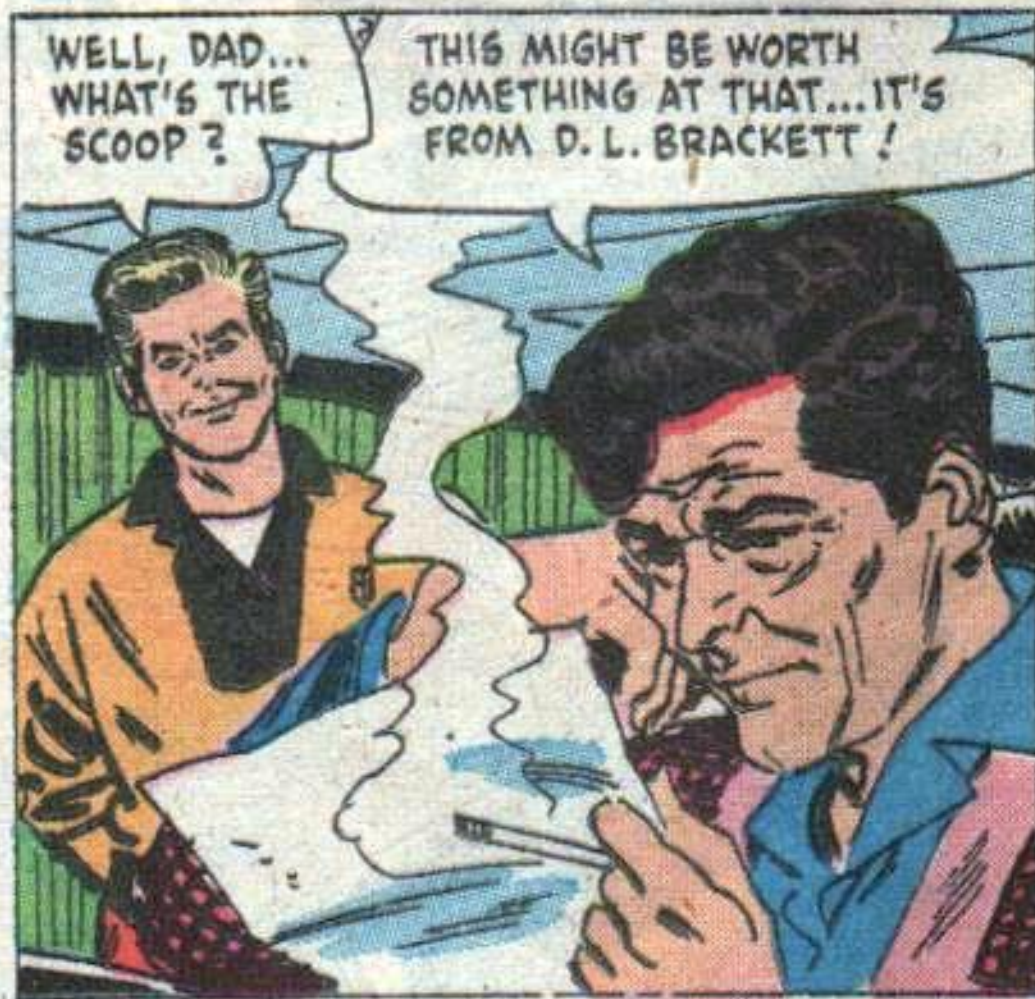
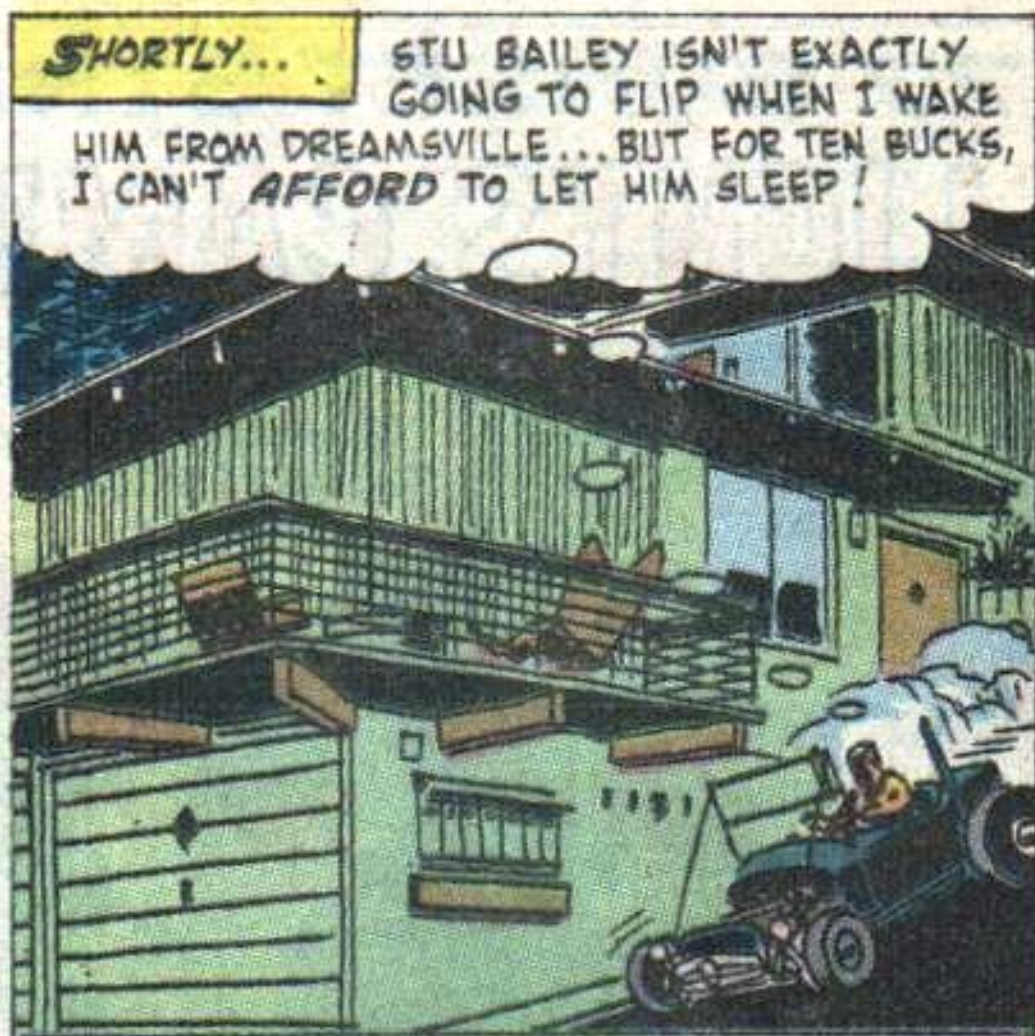
SURE... BUT THEY'VE GOT AN OFFICE RIGHT NEXT DOOR!

I'M NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE LOOT, BUT YOU COULD DELIVER IT YOURSELF IN THE MORNING AND SAVE THE TEN!

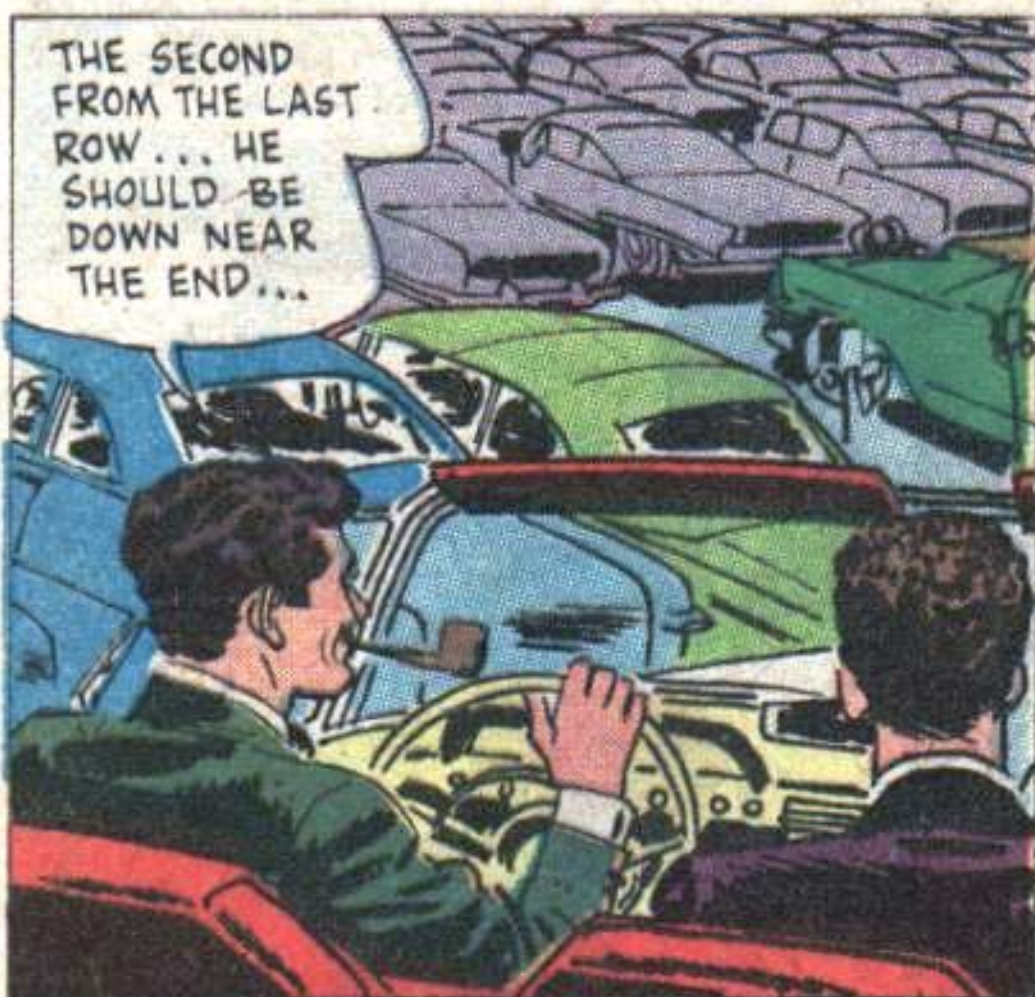
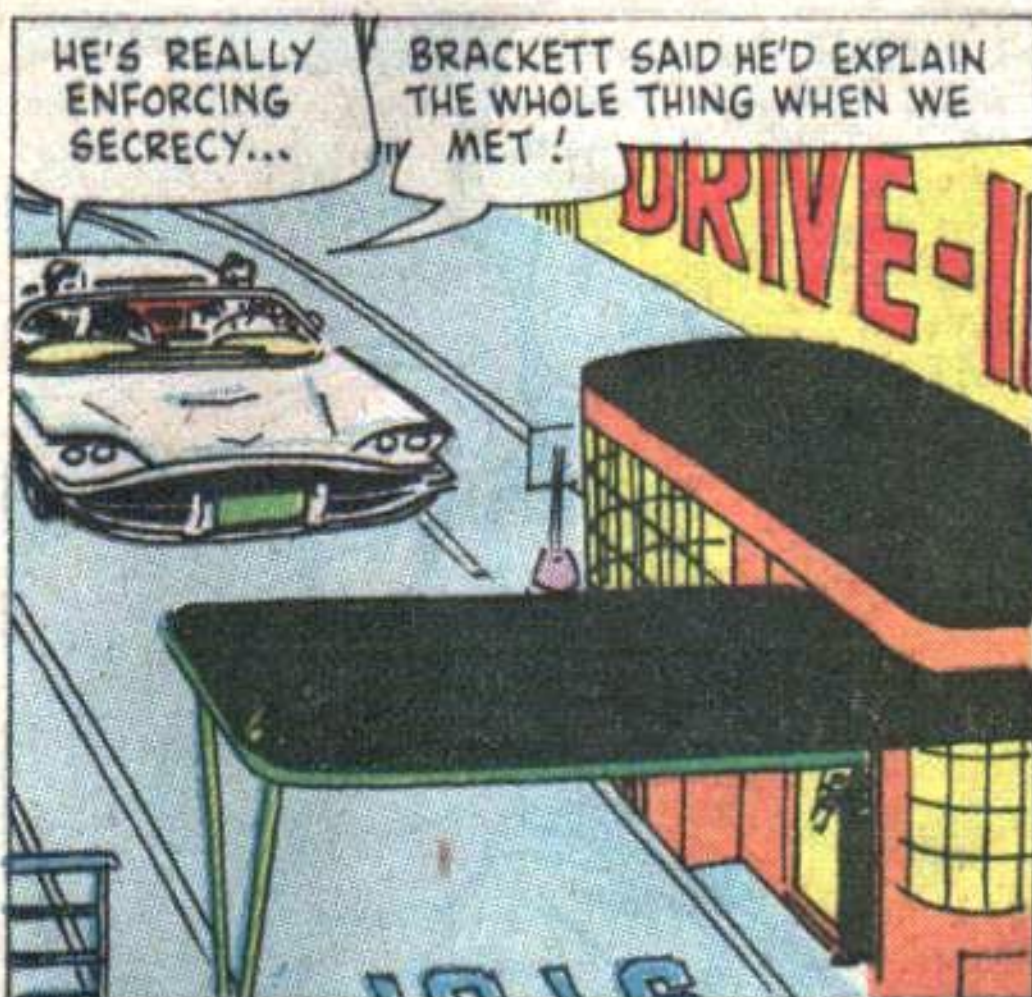
IT MUST BE DELIVERED **NOW!**















MR. BAILEY...AND  
MR. SPENCER?

THAT'S RIGHT...

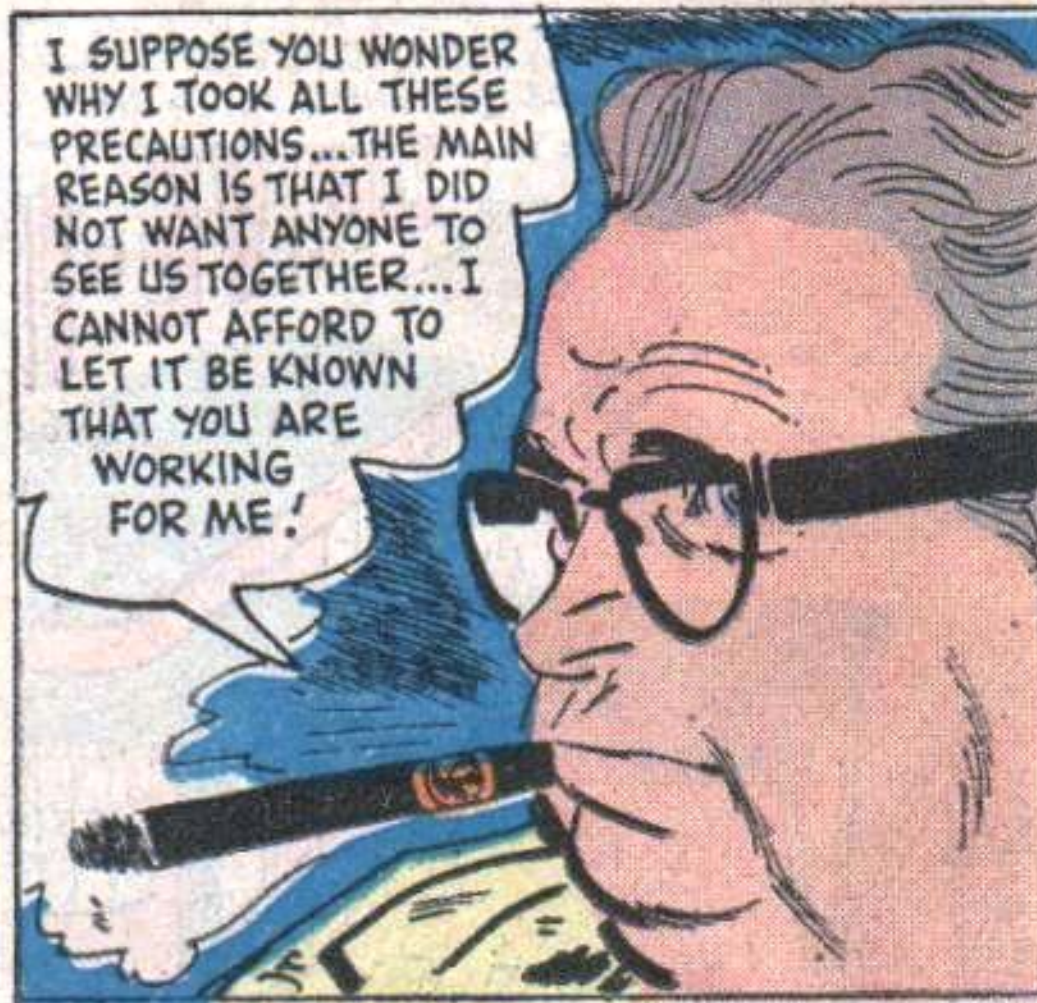


I'LL WAIT IN YOUR  
CAR...YOU MAY GET  
INTO MR. BRACKETT'S  
CAR...

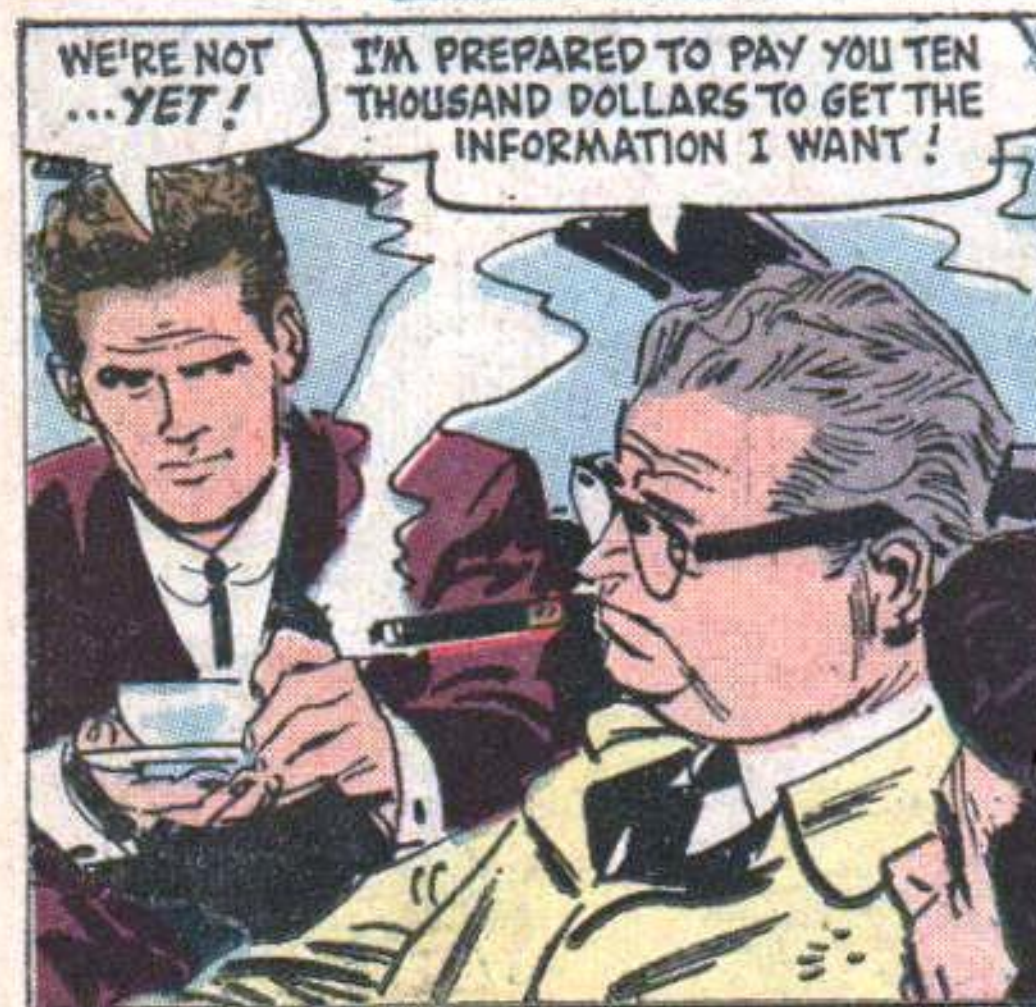


HAVE SOME  
COFFEE,  
GENTLEMEN?

THANKS...WE CAME AS  
FAST AS WE COULD!

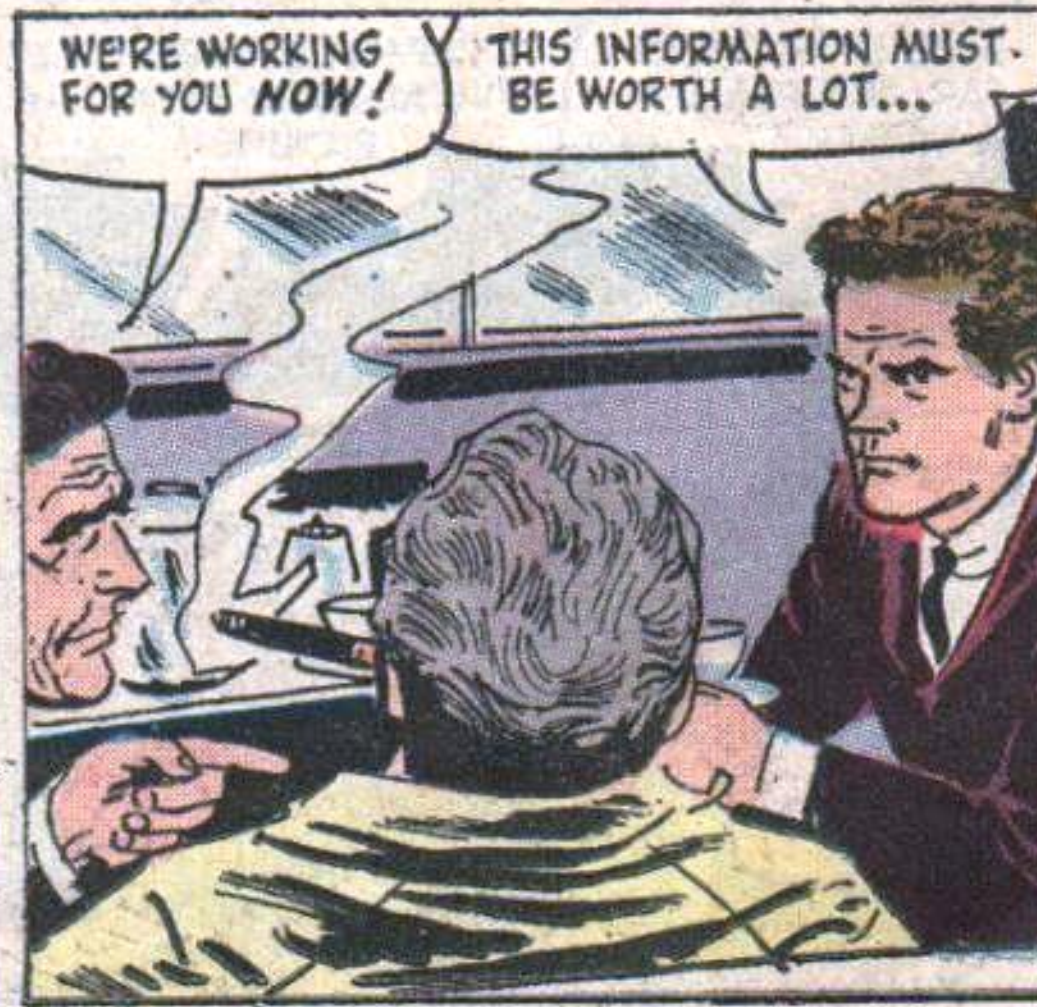


I SUPPOSE YOU WONDER  
WHY I TOOK ALL THESE  
PRECAUTIONS...THE MAIN  
REASON IS THAT I DID  
NOT WANT ANYONE TO  
SEE US TOGETHER...I  
CANNOT AFFORD TO  
LET IT BE KNOWN  
THAT YOU ARE  
WORKING  
FOR ME!



WE'RE NOT  
...YET!

I'M PREPARED TO PAY YOU TEN  
THOUSAND DOLLARS TO GET THE  
INFORMATION I WANT!



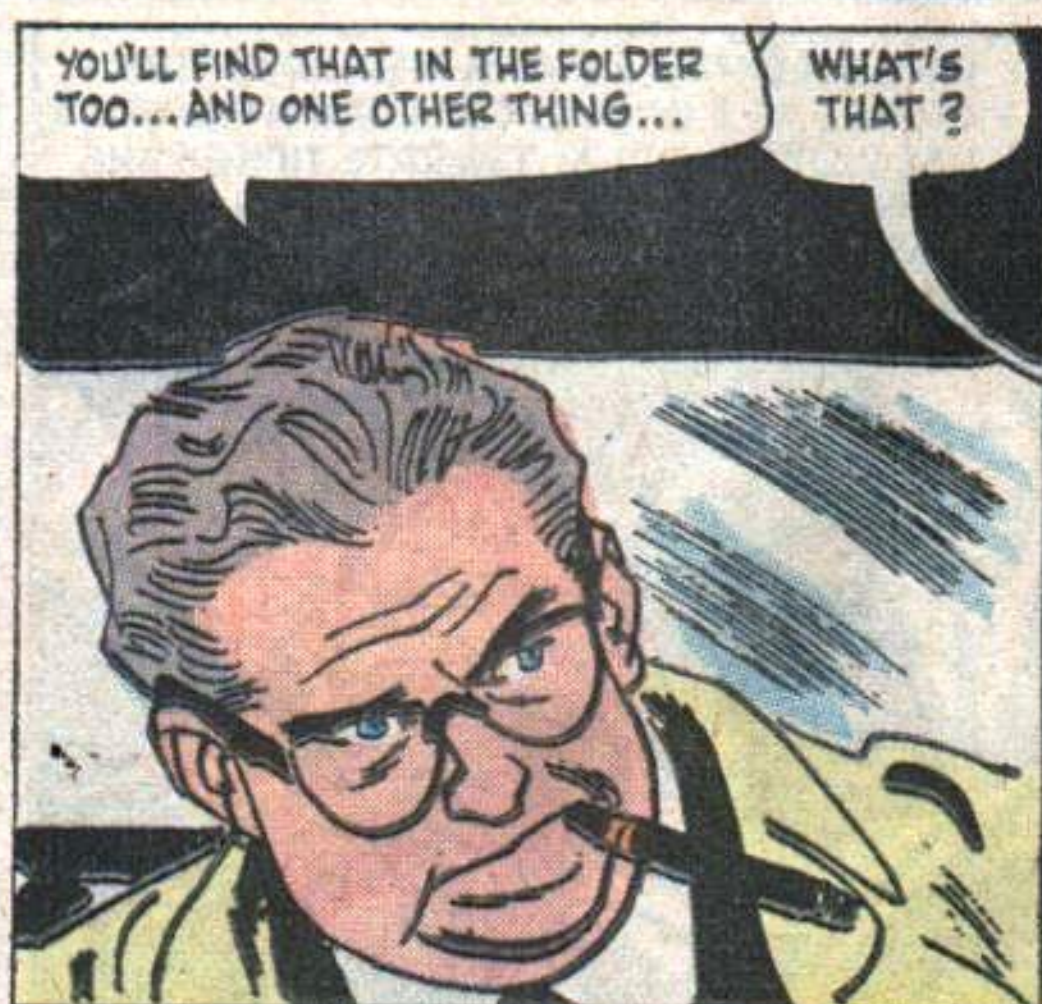
WE'RE WORKING  
FOR YOU NOW!

THIS INFORMATION MUST  
BE WORTH A LOT...











MY DAUGHTER HAS A  
ROLE IN THE PICTURE  
...SMALL BUT IMPORTANT  
TO THE CAREER SHE  
SEEMS TO WANT! SHE'S  
GOING BY THE NAME  
OF ZIVA EDEN!

OH, YES! I READ  
ABOUT IT IN VARIETY!  
SHE TOOK ANOTHER  
LAST NAME SO SHE  
WOULDN'T BE ACCUSED  
OF TRADING ON THE  
BRACKETT  
FAME!

SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL...  
AND TALENTED... BUT SHE'S  
ONLY TWENTY... AND HAS A  
LOT TO LEARN ABOUT THE  
BUSINESS!

WHAT HAS ALL  
THIS GOT TO DO  
WITH YOUR  
TROUBLE, MR.  
BRACKETT?



I'M AFRAID WHOEVER IS  
CAUSING THE TROUBLE  
MIGHT TRY TO HARM  
ZIVA... I WANT YOU TO  
KEEP A SPECIAL EYE  
ON HER!

ANYTHING YOU SAY!  
FOR TEN THOUSAND  
DOLLARS, WE'LL KEEP  
A VERY SPECIAL  
PRIVATE EYE ON  
MOST ANYONE!

YOU START TOMORROW,  
GENTLEMEN! THE CALL  
IS FOR SEVEN! REPORT  
DIRECTLY TO WARDROBE!

WE'LL BE THERE,  
MR. BRACKETT!



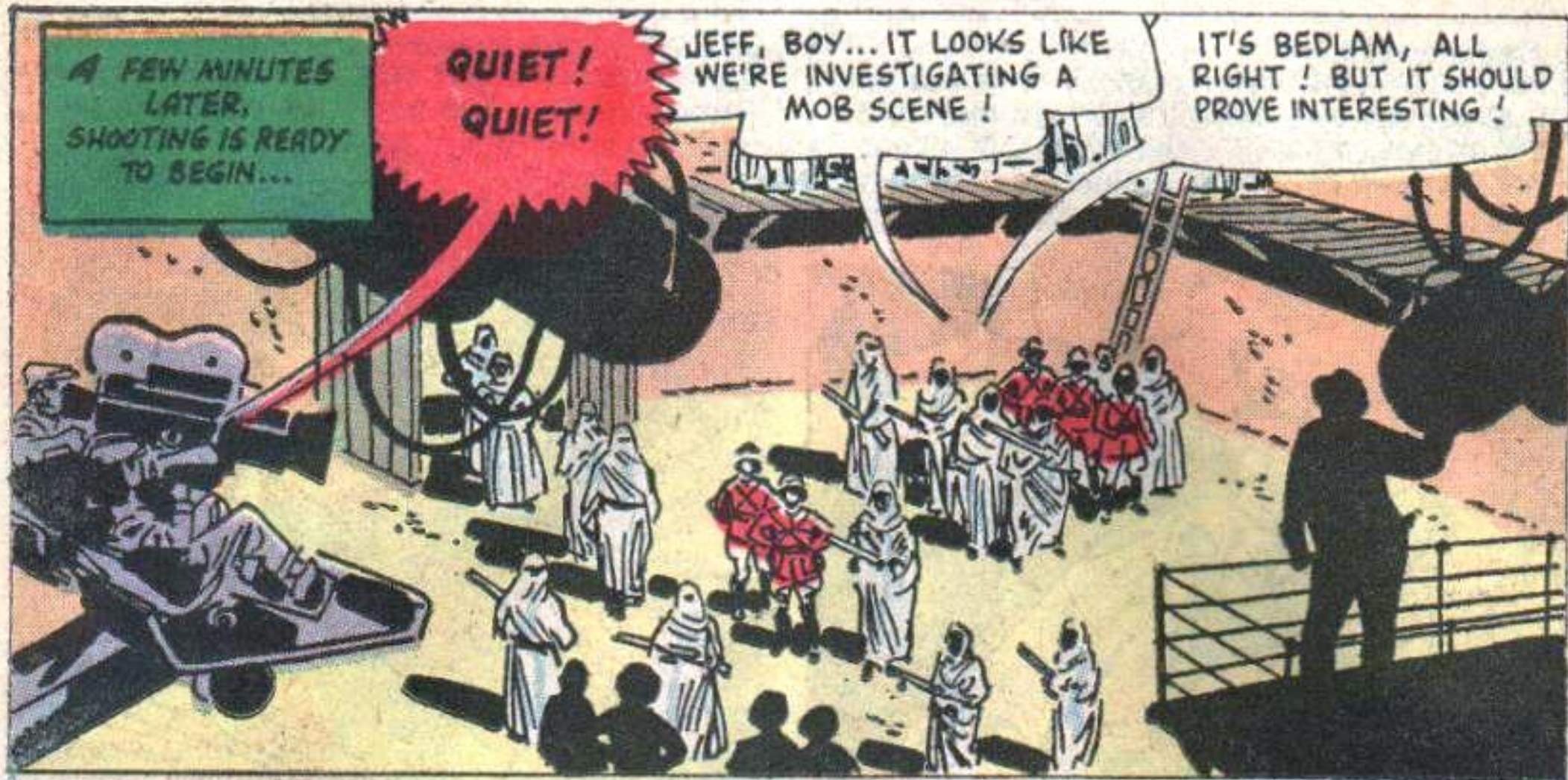
EARLY NEXT  
MORNING,  
JEFF AND STUART  
REPORT TO COLOSSAL  
PICTURES AND  
ARE COSTUMED  
AS ARAB  
WARRIORS.  
THEN THEY  
HEAD  
FOR THE SOUND  
STAGE  
ALONG WITH  
OTHER  
EXTRAS...

STEP LIVELY, FOLKS! THE  
DIRECTOR'S BEEN YELLING  
HIS HEAD OFF FOR SHOOTING  
TO BEGIN!

TAKE IT EASY, POPS! WE'RE IN NO HURRY!  
THE LONGER THE PICTURE, THE FATTER THE  
PAY CHECK!







A FEW MINUTES  
LATER,  
SHOOTING IS READY  
TO BEGIN...

QUIET!  
QUIET!

JEFF, BOY... IT LOOKS LIKE  
WE'RE INVESTIGATING A  
MOB SCENE!

IT'S BEDLAM, ALL  
RIGHT! BUT IT SHOULD  
PROVE INTERESTING!



NOW IN THIS SCENE, THE ARABS HAVE STORMED  
THE WALLS OF THE OUTPOST! THERE IS HAND-  
TO-HAND FIGHTING! WE'RE WAY BEHIND  
SCHEDULE, SO MAKE  
IT LOOK GOOD THE  
FIRST TIME!



COME ON, YOU TWO!  
GET ON OVER WITH  
THE OTHERS!

YESSIR! YESSIR!  
WE'RE GOING!



THE DIRECTOR CALLS, 'LIGHTS,  
CAMERA, ACTION' AND THE  
CAMERA GRINDS AS THE BATTLE  
SCENE GETS UNDERWAY...

COME ON! MAKE IT LOOK REAL!  
YOUR FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIVES!



EASY, FRIEND!  
THE DIRECTOR'S  
ONLY KIDDING!  
THIS IS JUST  
A PICTURE!

SORRY, OLD  
MAN! LOST  
MY HEAD!

UGH! THIS IS WORSE  
THAN WORKING FOR A  
LIVING! YOU DO IT  
ALL THE TIME?

JUST WHEN I NEED  
THE LOOT, DADDY-O!



ALL RIGHT, YOU BRITISH SOLDIERS...PUSH  
THEM BACK! RUN FOR FREEDOM, YOU  
ARABS! OVER THE WALL! THROUGH THE  
GATE! THE DAY IS WON FOR THE BRITISH!

BUT WE SHALL RETURN,  
MIGHTY ONE! ALLAH  
BE PRAISED!

COOL IT, YOU POOR  
MAN'S PROPHET! THE  
MAN SAID SPLIT!



CUT! THAT WAS  
FINE, KIDS! JUST  
FINE! TAKE A  
BREAK!

WHEW! I'M GLAD  
MOMMA DIDN'T RAISE  
ME TO BE AN ACTOR!

LET'S MINGLE WITH THE CREW  
WHILE THEY'RE SETTING UP  
THE NEXT SCENE! MAYBE  
WE CAN GET A LEAD!

RIGHT, O  
BEARDED  
ONE!





MOVE THAT BOOM IN CLOSER! GET ZIVA EDEN AND ROCK RIVERS! WE'LL GET SOME CLOSE-UPS OF ROCK DEFENDING ZIVA FROM THE ENEMY!

YESSIR! RIGHT AWAY!



MISS EDEN, MR. RIVERS...YOU'RE IN THE NEXT SCENE! WHERE THE PRINCESS IS DEFENDED FROM THE USURPERS!

RIGHT, OLD CHAP!



OKAY...BRING ME DOWN A LITTLE!

RIGHT! HERE YOU COME!



STU! THAT CAMERA BOOM IS FALLING!

LOOK OUT!



CRAASH

OHHHHHH!







MY ARM! I  
THINK IT'S  
BROKEN!

TAKE IT EASY! THEY'LL  
GET YOU TO A DOCTOR RIGHT  
AWAY!



FIRE! ILLNESS!  
INJURIES! NOW NO  
CAMERAMAN! I  
CAN'T STAND IT!

THE CAMERA'S A TOTAL  
WRECK!



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT  
HAPPENED! SOMETHING  
MUST HAVE GONE WRONG  
WITH THE HYDRAULICS!

LOOKS LIKE A  
FLUID DRAIN  
BOLT CAME OUT!



SURE  
ENOUGH!  
IT FELL  
RIGHT  
OUT!

OR WAS LOOSENED BY SOMEONE!  
KEEP YOUR EYES OPENED, JEFF!  
THE BOY WE'RE AFTER IS GETTING  
SERIOUS! SOMEONE'S LIABLE  
TO GET KILLED!



I'VE GOT TO SEE MR.  
BRACKETT! SEND EVERY-  
ONE HOME FOR THE DAY!  
WE WON'T BE DOING  
ANY MORE  
SHOOTING!

OH, POOR FATHER!  
EVERYTHING SEEMS  
TO BE GOING WRONG  
...AND THIS PICTURE  
MEANS SO MUCH  
TO HIM!



EASY NOW, ZIVA! LET'S GET  
OUT OF THESE COSTUMES AND  
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!

THANK YOU,  
ROCK!

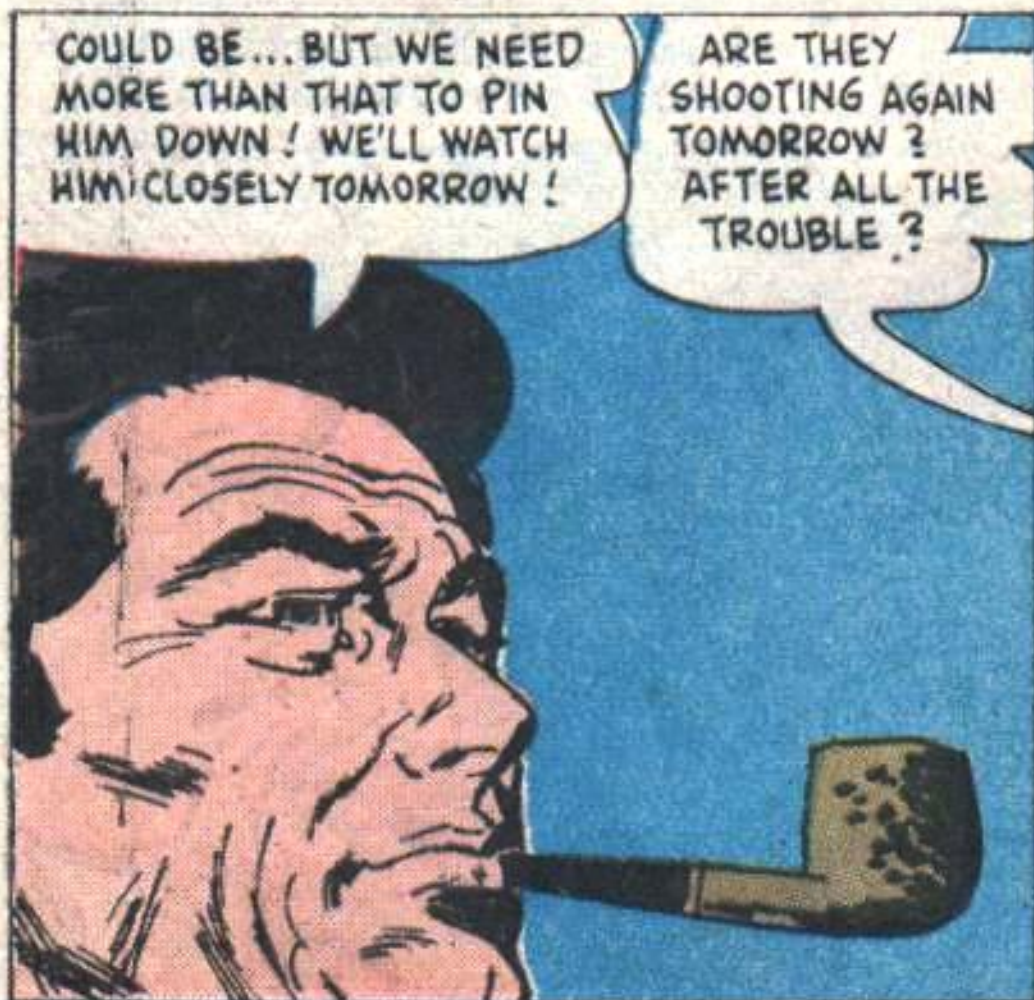




















HOLD IT, HART!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



YOU'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER...

**WHAM**



YOU CHANGED THOSE GUNS, DIDN'T YOU?

SHE...SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...I...I COULD HAVE MADE HER HAPPY... BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN!



SHORTLY...

YOU MEAN YOU WERE HIRED BY MY FATHER? YOU'RE DETECTIVES?

YES, MA'AM... AND BELIEVE ME, IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN BEING ACTORS!



LATER...

THANK YOU BOTH...AND PARTICULARLY FOR SAVING MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE!

THERE'S ONE MORE THING WE WANT IN PAYMENT, MR. BRACKETT...SOME TICKETS TO THE PICTURE! THERE'S A CAT WE KNOW NAMED KOOKIE...IF HE DOESN'T SEE US, HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT!

**DELL**  
COMIC

A PLEDGE TO PARENTS

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# GRAPEVINE CLUES



Private investigators use many methods to gather and send out information, and the "grapevine telegraph," which means messages transmitted from person to person by word of mouth, is often used effectively.



Searching for clues, an investigator, working undercover, sometimes quietly mingles with known associates of the person he is seeking, to learn the group's latest grapevine news and pick up a trail.



Or, to flush out his quarry, the detective will deliberately impart information via the grapevine, knowing it will quickly reach the person.



The term, grapevine telegraph, originated during the Civil War and compares the way verbal news travels to the growth of a grapevine, whose tendrils rapidly reach out in many directions and slightly resemble the then new telegraph wires.



Today there are many means of speedy communication, but the grapevine telegraph still persists in every community. Sometimes the information it relays is false, but it continues to be an extremely effective method of spreading news remarkably fast.



# KOOKIE'S CATCH

