A briefcase with top-secret matter gets Kookie into water too hot to tread.
THE RUBY CAPER

To draw out the killer or killers who threaten the life of a pretty girl, Jeff Spencer puts himself in the deadly position of being a target for their guns.

BLAZE OF REVENGE

A plan of revenge against one man could cost the lives of many innocent persons, if Kookie and Jeff fail in their efforts to stop a hate-filled man’s savage plot.

THE MIX-UP

Solving cases for other people is the usual job for the detectives at 77 Sunset Strip; but when a gunman forces his way into Stu Bailey’s office and makes off with a briefcase, Stu and Kookie take on the job of solving their own case.
77 SUNSET STRIP

THE MIX-UP!

One evening as Kookie arrives at International Airport from San Francisco...

Look, Stu... I've got a date at the Papaya Room and I'm late now! I'll send my report over to your office by cab... okay?

Sure, Kookie! I'll be working late anyway! Sorry your plane was delayed!

Boy, if I don't hurry, Jeannie's going to be burning!

Gosh, I'm sorry! Are you all right?

Uh... yes... I think so...

Look, I'm really sorry... but I'm in a big rush!

Deliver this to 77 Sunset Strip... Mr. Stuart Bailey.

What?!! I've got the wrong case!

Yes sir!

There he goes! Hey-y-y!

Didn't hear me! I've got to get that case back!

Catch that blue convertible! Quick!

Hmm... Cookson... and just my luck... he's a private detective!

Right!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY... BUT IT SEEMS WE GOT OUR ATTACHE' CASES MIXED UP!

OH, YES/WHERE'S MINE? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH IT?

I... SENT IT ON TO MY OFFICE... IN A CAB!

WHY DID YOU DO A THING LIKE THAT? THAT'S MY PROPERTY! I'LL SUE! I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED! I'LL--

LOOK... PAY YOUR CAB OFF AND I'LL DRIVE YOU TO MY OFFICE, AND WE'LL STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT!

WE'D BETTER...!

EASY, MISTER!
BOY, I MIGHT AS WELL SCRATCH JEANNIE RIGHT OUT OF MY DATE BOOK!

IF I DON'T GET THAT CASE BACK, I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AS STU OPENS THE CASE AT THE OFFICE...

HMM? THESE ARE STRANGE-LOOKING REPORTS FROM KOKIE... SOME KIND OF PLANS... BUT FOR WHAT?

AND MOMENTS LATER...

KOKIE... WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU...

IT'S A LONG STORY, STU! WE KIND OF GOT MIXED UP, AND...

NEVER MIND THE EXPLANATIONS! JUST GIVE ME THAT CASE!

HEY ??? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'M NOT SURE I APPROVE OF THE KIND OF FRIENDS YOU GET MIXED UP WITH, KOKIE!
JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T CALL THE POLICE!

IF YOU'RE BOTH SMART YOU'LL STAY OUT OF THIS!

BOY! IS HE SOME KIND OF NUT?

UNLESS I'M WAY OFF BASE, HE'S A SPY, Kookie! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN TAIL HIM!

SEE HIM?

NO! I--

THERE HE GOES!

LET'S GET HIM!
Seconds later, the stranger flags a cab on a back street...

Kookie and Stu are too late...

We lost him!

Not quite, Dad! I didn’t drive a taxicab all summer for nothing...
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
I KNOW THE DISPATCHER AT THE CAB COMPANY...

HELLO, MAC?
LOOK, THIS IS KOOKIE. I GOT A BIG FAVOR TO ASK YOU. IT'S PRONTO-URGENT! LISTEN CAREFULLY. THIS IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...

CENTRAL DISPATCH TO FORTY-SEVEN...
OVER!

FORTY-SEVEN! WHAT'S THE RUB? I JUST REPORTED A PICKUP!

NO RUB! JUST WANT YOU TO REPORT IN WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR DROP-OFF! HAVE A SPECIAL TRIP FOR YOU!

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

NOTHING SPECIAL... HAPPENS ALL THE TIME! SOME BIG SHOT IN A HURRY, PROBABLY!

PRESENTLY...

OKAY... SO I JUST MADE THE DROP-OFF AT PICO AND EIGHTH. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, TOM! THIS IS URGENT. TAIL YOUR PASSENGER! SEE WHERE HE GOES... BUT BE CAREFUL!
WHAT'S TO TAIL? HE'S GOING INTO PHIL'S GYM... ON PICO!

OKAY! STAY THERE FOR FURTHER ORDERS!

PICO AT EIGHTH! RIGHT! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, MAC! HAVE YOUR DRIVER WATCH UNTIL WE GET THERE!

DO YOU MIND FILLING ME IN, PAD? WHAT'S THIS SPY BIT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

THAT ATTACHE CASE YOU PICKED UP BY MISTAKE WAS FULL OF SOME INTRICATE PLANS FROM AN ELECTRONICS PLANT IN SAN FRANCISCO!

YESTERDAY, A REPORT CAME IN THAT SOME TOP SECRET PLANS WERE STOLEN FROM THE SAME ELECTRONICS PLANT IN SAN FRANCISCO... IT ALL TIES UP!

USING THE CAR TELEPHONE, STU REPORTS TO LIEUTENANT GRANT AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT...

THANKS, BAILEY! I'LL SEND A PATROL CAR RIGHT OVER... AND I'LL GET THERE AS SOON AS I CAN!
Stu and Kookie arrive before the police...

Yessir... I peeked inside! There's just one other fellow with him! They've been looking over some papers together!

Thanks! You've been a big help!

They've put the plans back in the case... and they're about to go out the back way!

We could never make it around to the alley in time to head them off! Only one thing to do, Stu...

CRAAASH!

This time it's no accident, friend!

Careful, muscle's! You'll strain yourself!
POW!

WHUMP!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT BANG-MACHINE FOR ONE NIGHT!

WHAP!

WHEN LIEUTENANT GRANT GETS HERE, HE'LL HAVE A NICE LITTLE PRESENT WAITING FOR HIM!

TOO BAD WE DON'T HAVE SOME RED RIBBON TO TIE THEM UP WITH!

THE COLOR MIGHT CLASH, KOKIE! I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT WHEN THEY WAKE UP THEY'RE GOING TO FEEL MIGHTY BLUE!

THE END
77 SUNSET STRIP

BLAZE OF REVENGE

This gasoline bomb will do the job?

I'm only sorry I can't stay to watch it burn!

The alarm is sounded. But by the time the first fire engine arrives, the building is ablaze...
SURE A LUCKY THING NOBODY'S INSIDE!
KEEP BACK! STAY BEHIND THE LINES!

WE'LL HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL ANY MINUTE, NOW!
ANY IDEAS ON THE CAUSE, CHIEF?

TOO EARLY TO SAY... CIGARETTE LEFT BEHIND... WIRING SHORT... COMBUSTION IN TRASH... COULD BE A NUMBER OF THINGS!

BUT A SHORT TIME LATER...
LOOKS LIKE PART OF A GASOLINE BOMB!
THEN IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE AN ARSONIST ON OUR HANDS!

THE NEXT MORNING AT 77 SUNSET STRIP...
DID YOU READ THIS, JEFF?

ARSON SUSPECT HOLLYWOOD FIRE
HEARD IT ON THE LATE NEWS LAST NIGHT! HAVE THEY FOUND THE GUY YET?

NO... HE DIDN'T LEAVE A CLUE OTHER THAN THE BOMB FRAGMENTS!

GET YOUR HATS, MEN! WE'VE JUST BEEN HIRED FOR A NEW CAPE!

YOU'RE FINDING CUSTOMERS ON THE STREET NOW, Kookie?

OUTSIDE... A BIG LIMOUSINE IS WAITING TO TAKE US TO THE SUITE OF L.R. HOLFIELD!

HOLFIELD? THAT'S SOME CLIENT... MUST BE WORTH A COUPLE MILLION!

YOU TWO TAKE IT! I'VE GOT TO FINISH UP SOME REPORTS!

ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, Kookie?

NOT THE SLIGHTEST! BUT WHEN A MILLIONAIRE LIKE HOLFIELD CALLS... WE ANSWER!
Shortly, in the penthouse hotel suite of L.R. Holfield...

Gentlemen, I'll get right to the point!

The building that burned last night belonged to me!

I want to hire you to find who set that fire!

But why us?

You have insurance investigators... police... why a private organization?

Maybe this letter will explain why! I got it this morning!

"Holfield... that fire last night was just a beginning! There'll be plenty more! The next one is Tuesday!"
IF THIS WERE TO GET INTO THE NEWSPAPERS THERE'D BE PANIC! PEOPLE WOULD BE MOVING OUT OF THOSE BUILDINGS BY THE HUNDREDS!

TUESDAY IS TWO DAYS FROM NOW! IF YOU FAIL TO FIND HIM BEFORE THEN, I'LL SPREAD THE WORD ALL OVER TOWN!

I'LL EVACUATE, IF NECESSARY... BUT UNTIL THEN, I'LL KEEP IT QUIET!

QUIET AN ASSIGNMENT! DO WE TAKE IT, JEFF?
YOU'LL BE PAID WELL FOR YOUR SERVICES!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST! FIRST, WE'LL HAVE TO ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS!

WE'LL WANT TO SEE YOUR FILES... KNOW YOUR ENEMIES... YOUR BACKGROUND, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT CAN HELP US!

START QUESTIONING, GENTLEMEN! IT'S YOUR MOVE FROM HERE ON!

HOURS LATER... ...AND THAT'S ABOUT IT! AS FOR MY CAREER, IT'S BEEN HARD WORK, SOME LUCK... AND A LOT OF ENEMIES!

HOLFIELD TAKES JEFF AND KOKIE TO HIS MAIN OFFICE... ALL THE FILES ARE HERE! THE LISTS OF PROPERTIES, TENANTS, CORRESPONDENCE, EMPLOYEE FILES... THE WORKS...

AND WE HAVE JUST TWO DAYS TO DO A MONTH OF WORK!
THE TEDIOUS WORK BEGINS...

I'LL START ON THE COMPLAINT FILE! YOU WORK ON THE EMPLOYEES FIRED WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS!

IF WE CAN MATCH THIS HANDWRITING, WE'LL HAVE OUR FIREBUG!

Yeah... but that's a big if.

PRESENTLY...

Here are the names of all the fired employees! I'll start checking them out!

...and have a copy of this threatening letter made on the stat machine, then bring it back!

As good as done!

Kookie gets to work...

Yeah, I used to work for Holfield! So what?

So what were you doing last night, Dad... like, between ten and eleven o'clock?
I WAS AT A UNION MEETING ALONG WITH ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED OTHER GUYS! YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT EASY!

AND... HARRY? LAST NIGHT? ARE YOU KIDDING, MISTER? HE'S BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TWO WEEKS!

SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU, MA'AM!

Yeah, okay... thanks!

Again...

You say Bill Demming shipped out three days ago!

That's right! He's on his way to Singapore! Be back in about two months!

Nothing yet... and I've only got three more names on my list! Looks like I might not hit pay dirt!

But on the next call...

Danny Kirk? Yeah... but he moved two weeks ago... right after he lost his job! Mad as hops, he was!
Here’s his forwarding address! He wrote it down for me!

Thanks!

The writing matches the threatening letter!

Yessir! He left here saying he’d never have to work for old L.R. Holfield again!

He said he’d get even somehow, but that was probably just big talk!

Yeah... but it looks like he’s trying!

I’ve got something, Jeff! A fellow named Danny Kirk! He’s moved to 419 Bay Street!

Stay where you are, Kookie! I’ll pick you up in about an hour!

Later...

I phoned Lieutenant Grant at headquarters... he’ll meet us at the Bay Street address! I also looked up Kirk’s employment sheet... he was a troublemaker all the time he worked for Holfield!

Sounds like he’s our man, all right!
WE'RE A LITTLE LATE, FELLOWS! THE LANDLORD SAYS KIRK LEFT HERE ABOUT AN HOUR AGO!

OH, NO!

THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT! I CHECKED HIS ROOM... FOUND AN EMPTY GAS CAN!

LIKE I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE, LIEUTENANT, HIS LETTER SAID THE NEXT FIRE WAS TUESDAY, AND —

SURE, JEFF... AND TUESDAY STARTS AT ONE MINUTE AFTER MIDNIGHT TONIGHT! I KNOW!

YOU GIVE ME A LIST OF EVERY BUILDING HOLFIELD OWNS! WE'RE GOING TO COVER THEM ALL IF MY WHOLE DEPARTMENT HAS TO WORK DOUBLE SHIFTS! YOU, TOO!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

ALMOST MIDNIGHT, JEFF!

YEYAH! AND IT LOOKS LIKE A LONG, HOT NIGHT! YOU'D THINK THE LIEUTENANT COULD HAVE PUT US IN A BUILDING THAT HAD AIR CONDITIONING!
A short time later, from the roof of an adjoining building, a figure stealthily climbs through a warehouse window...

Jeff! Up there!

Get him, Kookie! I'll try to put this fire out!

Look out!

Stop! You can't get away!
THEN STOP ME, WISE GUY!

END OF THE LINE!

HOW'D YOU KNOW I'D STRIKE HERE?

WE DIDN'T... AND IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED WHERE YOU HIT!... ALL OF HOLFIELD'S PLACES WERE RIGGED TO TRAP YOU!

WHOOSH!

HERE'S OUR MAN JEFF... DANNY KIRK! HE JUST ADMITTED HE SET THE FIRE TO GET EVEN WITH HOLFIELD FOR HAVING HIM FIRED!

AND HE ALSO MADE IT HOTTER FOR US THAN IT ALREADY WAS! IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE FOR A LONG COOLING-OFF PERIOD!

THE END.
HAVING DINNER WITH YOU HAS BEEN A PLEASURE, RUBY... BUT THERE HAS TO BE A REASON FOR IT! COME ON... TELL ME?

I NEVER COULD FOOL YOU, COULD I, JEFF?

IN MY BUSINESS, IF I GET FooLED TOO OFTEN, I'D BE OUT OF BUSINESS!

AND BECAUSE YOU'RE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS, I NEED YOUR HELP!

SOUNDS SERIOUS! TELL ME... WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

I AM SERIOUS! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME!

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

I WISH I DID, BUT HAVEN'T THE VAGUEST IDEA!
"I HAVE TO KNOW IT ALL IF I'M TO HELP... START AT THE BEGINNING AND TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENED!"

"IT ALL STARTED TEN DAYS AGO..."

"I WAS DRIVING ON WILSHIRE WHEN SOMEONE TOOK A SHOT AT ME..."

"TWO DAYS LATER, I WAS BARELY MISSED BY A BIG SEDAN... I DIDN'T SEE THE DRIVER'S FACE..."

"THEN YESTERDAY, I RECEIVED A PACKAGE BY SPECIAL MESSAGER..."

"SPECIAL DELIVERY, MA'AM!"

"THANK YOU!"

"I WAS SUSPICIOUS BY THAT TIME, SO I THREW THE PACKAGE ONTO THE BEACH..."

"KA-POW!"

...SO TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, I FINALLY GOT THE MESSAGE!

"RUBY, WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE TO THE POLICE WITH THIS?"

"BECAUSE I'M SCARED, JEFF! BECAUSE I COULDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING!"

"I HAVE ONE THEORY, BUT YOU MIGHT NOT THINK I'M RIGHT!"
YOU TESTIFIED AT HARRY DANSONY'S TRIAL, AND IT WASTHAT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO, AND HARRY'SSTILL IN PRISON!

BUT THAT I KNOW... BUT HE GOT FIVE TO TEN YEARS, AND HE'S ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE IN TWO WEEKS. MAYBE HIS FRIENDS ARE TRYING TO GIVE HIM A "COMING-OUT PRESENT"...

YOU!

OH, JEFF, IT Couldn'T BE!

I COULD BE WRONG, RUBY, BUT DANSONY'S A DANGEROUS MAN. I DON'T THINK FIVE YEARS IN PRISON HAVE CHANGED HIM ANY!

YOU MAY BE RIGHT. I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY, JEFF!

HEAD OUT WILSHIRE TO BEVERLY HILLS! I'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO TURN!

YES, SIR!

WE'VE GOT A TAIL. THERE'S A SAWBUCK IN IT FOR YOU IF YOU LOSE HIM!

CONSIDER IT DONE. JUST HOLD ONTO YOUR HAT!
Within five minutes, the "inducement" got results...

Good work! Now take us to Wilshire! I'll tell you where to stop!

Thanks, buddy! Anytime!

Here you are, friend! You earned every cent of it!

What a beautiful view, Jeff! The private detective business must be good these days!

It is! And I hope you like my apartment... because it's going to be your home for the next few days!

It is? What about you?

I'll stay at my club! You'll be safe here!

Lock the door! Don't open it for anyone, and don't answer the phone! I'll get my messages through my exchange!

All right, Jeff! You're the boss!
AFTER CHECKING IN AT THE CLUB, JEFF LOOKS UP AN EX-JOCKEY NAMED BOOTS, WHO USED TO WORK FOR DANSON...

I'M KIND OF OUT OF TOUCH WITH DANSON'S BUNCH, SPENCER! I'VE BEEN LEGIT, YOU KNOW!

STILL I FIGURE YOU GET A LITTLE INFORMATION, AND I'D LIKE TO BUY ABOUT FIFTY DOLLARS' WORTH.

OKAY, ASK IF I KNOW THE ANSWER, IT'S ALL YOURS!

SOMEONE'S MADE RUBY STONE A TARGET! I WANT TO KNOW WHO!

DANSON HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING FOR HIM! COULD BE ANY OF THEM!

GIVE ME SOME LIKELY NAMES, I'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE!

START WITH FRENCHY DUVAL... HE OWES DANSON A LOT OF FAVORS! THERE'S AL BOGGS! HE STILL RUNS FOR THE DANSON ORGANIZATION!

AFTER CHECKING OUT THREE OF THE FIVE NAMES BOOTS GAVE HIM, JEFF LOCATES FRENCHY DUVAL IN A DOWNTOWN GYM...

JEFF SPENCER! KIND OF OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT, AREN'T YOU?

JUST SLUMMING, FRENCHY! IT HELPS TO KEEP MY FEET ON THE GROUND!
KEEP BEING FUNNY AND YOU'LL WIND UP IN AN ALLEY SOME NIGHT!

MAYBE, FRENCHY... BUT YOU WON'T BE THE ONE TO PUT ME THERE!

THE WAY I GET IT, YOU'RE NOT SO GOOD AT GETTING RID OF ANYBODY THESE DAYS... NOT EVEN PRETTY WOMEN!

I'M BUSY! BEAT IT, SPENCER! NOW, GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I GET MAD!

SAY, IS THAT BLACK COUPE OUTSIDE, YOURS?

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME RIGHT! I SAID GET OUT!

AND I MEAN NOW!!

YOU SHOULD—(UMPH! KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, FRENCHY)

BOP!

TELL HIM HE KNOWS WHERE TO FIND ME IF HE WANTS ANOTHER ROUND! I'LL BE AT THE HOLLY CLUB!
Al Boggs is next on the list, and Jeff finds him at his headquarters in the Holly Club...

I heard you were snooping around, Spencer! You got here fast!

So I'll ask you straight out... How do you figure in the attempts on Ruby Stone?

You must be kidding! Murder's out of my line!

Oh? I thought maybe you'd graduated from being an all-round flunky!

Now look, Spencer! Don't have to listen to that kind of talk!

That's right... you can do the talking! Is Harry Danson behind Ruby's trouble?

If I knew I wouldn't tell you! The way I hear it, Harry's still in prison!

But did he send out the orders to get rid of Ruby, while he is still in prison with a foolproof alibi?

Get your information somewhere else, you get nothing from me!

Okay, Al... if you decide to talk, I'll be at my apartment, and you can call me. Here's my card!
Later at Night, Jeff returns to his apartment to check on Ruby...

Have you had any luck, Jeff?

I've inquired around enough to worry a lot of people! Unless I'm wrong, one of them will be paying me a visit tonight!

You mean you took me off the spot by putting yourself on?

Whoever is after you is going to want me out of the way first!

Stay in the other room! I'll be waiting for them out here!

Please be careful, Jeff!

After two hours of waiting, there is a click of the doorknob...

Click!
MOVE A WHISKER AND YOU'RE THROUGH, BOYS!

I WARNED YOU --!

BAM!

C U I K!

DON'T SHOOT! I GIVE UP!

AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE OUT WITH THE ANSWERS I WANT... RUBY, COME ON IN! CALL THE POLICE WHILE I LISTEN TO WHAT THESE BOYS HAVE TO SAY!

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT DANSON, SPENCER! HE DID WANT RUBY DEAD BEFORE HE WAS PARoled!

...AND YOU MADE SURE HE WON'T EVER BE PAROLED!

L a t e r . . .

JEFF... I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

JUSt MAKE OUT THE CHECK, RUBY... THAT'S ALL THE THANKS I NEED!

THE END
IT’S MANSLAUGHTER

Involuntary...
when the killing is unintentional, resulting from great negligence or a result of a minor crime.

Voluntary...
when the killing is the result of an act done in sudden anger or passion, due to being sufficiently provoked by the killer’s victim.

IT’S MURDER

Murder...
when the killing is done with express or implied malice aforethought. In many states the offense is divided into two degrees, the first degree carrying a more severe penalty.

Murder in the first degree...
when the killing is done willfully, deliberately, with premeditation, or is especially cruel.

Murder in the second degree...
in all other instances, when a human life is taken intentionally and unlawfully.
Spies and counterspies are active in business and industry, as well as in international situations. The secrets of a firm's new design, formula, or product are generally well guarded, but sometimes information, vital to the firm's very existence, leaks out. In the hands of a rival, this information can spell disaster.

Thus, huge sums are lost each year in highly competitive businesses, as contracts are cancelled, plans are pirated, and valuable employees are enticed away.

Often the informer is the innocent dupe of a competitor's spy; sometimes he is a trusted employee, who plays the game for personal profit or revenge.

The characters and habits of top men are of special interest to a rival's agent. This knowledge can point the way to gaining the confidence of an unsuspecting executive... and can even lead to blackmail.

But counterespionage flourishes, too... a spy is set to catch a spy! Thus, clever and daring men and women match wits, creating a great deal of intrigue in the everyday but rarely humdrum world of business!