

TRUE CRIME

COMICS

**BLAST
THE
RATS!**

MAY
10c




TRUE **CRIME** COMICS
WILL PAY YOU
**\$100.00
REWARD**

FOR INFORMATION LEADING
TO THE CAPTURE OF

**JAMES
KENT!**

**CROOK! MURDERER!
ESCAPED CONVICT!**

SEE DETAILS
INSIDE... 

YOU CAN REACH THE TOP!

Whether you want to be the most popular one in your crowd, or whether you seek fame and fortune . . . you CAN get what you want! And it may be EASIER than you think! These specially prepared books and courses make it a cinch to develop new skills and talents—in the comfort of your own home. Order YOUR copies NOW!

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At last! Frank Sinatra — The Voice himself — reveals the amazing secrets of his success. Now — thanks to this bookcourse written by Frankie himself — you can do wonders with your own voice! "Tips on Popular Singing" give you straight-from-the-shoulder instructions that show how easily you too can learn to sing. This may be your chance for new success and popularity!

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WHAT OTHERS SAY . . .

"Now I can read music as though it were plain words. I can't express my thanks to you." (J.G.)

"Your course is all you said it was and more." (W.F.) "I am teaching my children, and they find your course so very interesting." (Mrs. D.E.H.)

*Names supplied on request.

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If you can already play piano a little, here's a great opportunity! It's easy to learn how to beat out the

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"How to Dance." "Swing Steps."

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Cartoonists and comic strip artists are among the biggest money-makers in America today . . . and the demand for skilled cartoonists is increasing steadily! Develop your own talents! This amazing book shows how simple shapes and forms—which you can draw—can be put together to produce almost any object! . . \$1.50

MAIL COUPON NOW!

ALBERT PUBLICATIONS, Dept. HS-300
147 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N. Y.

Gentlemen: Rush me the books checked below. I will pay postman for them on delivery, plus postal charges.

To save postal charges, I enclose payment, in cash or money order. My books will be sent to me with all charges paid.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sinatra's Singing Secrets . . . \$1.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> How To Dance \$.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simplex Piano Course 1.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Swing Steps50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boogie-Woogie Is Easy 1.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tap Dancing50 |
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Name _____

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MONEY BACK IF NOT SATISFIED AFTER 3 DAYS' TRIAL

TRUE CRIME COMICS OFFERS

\$100.00 REWARD

FOR INFORMATION
LEADING TO THE
CAPTURE OF

JAMES KENT!

DRAWN FROM AN
ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH
OF **KILLER KENT**

STUDY HIS FEATURES!
MEMORIZE THEM!
**THEN LOOK
ABOUT YOU!**

HEIGHT, 5' 9"

HAIR-
BROWN

EYES-
BLUE

SENSITIVE
NOSE

WEAK
CHIN

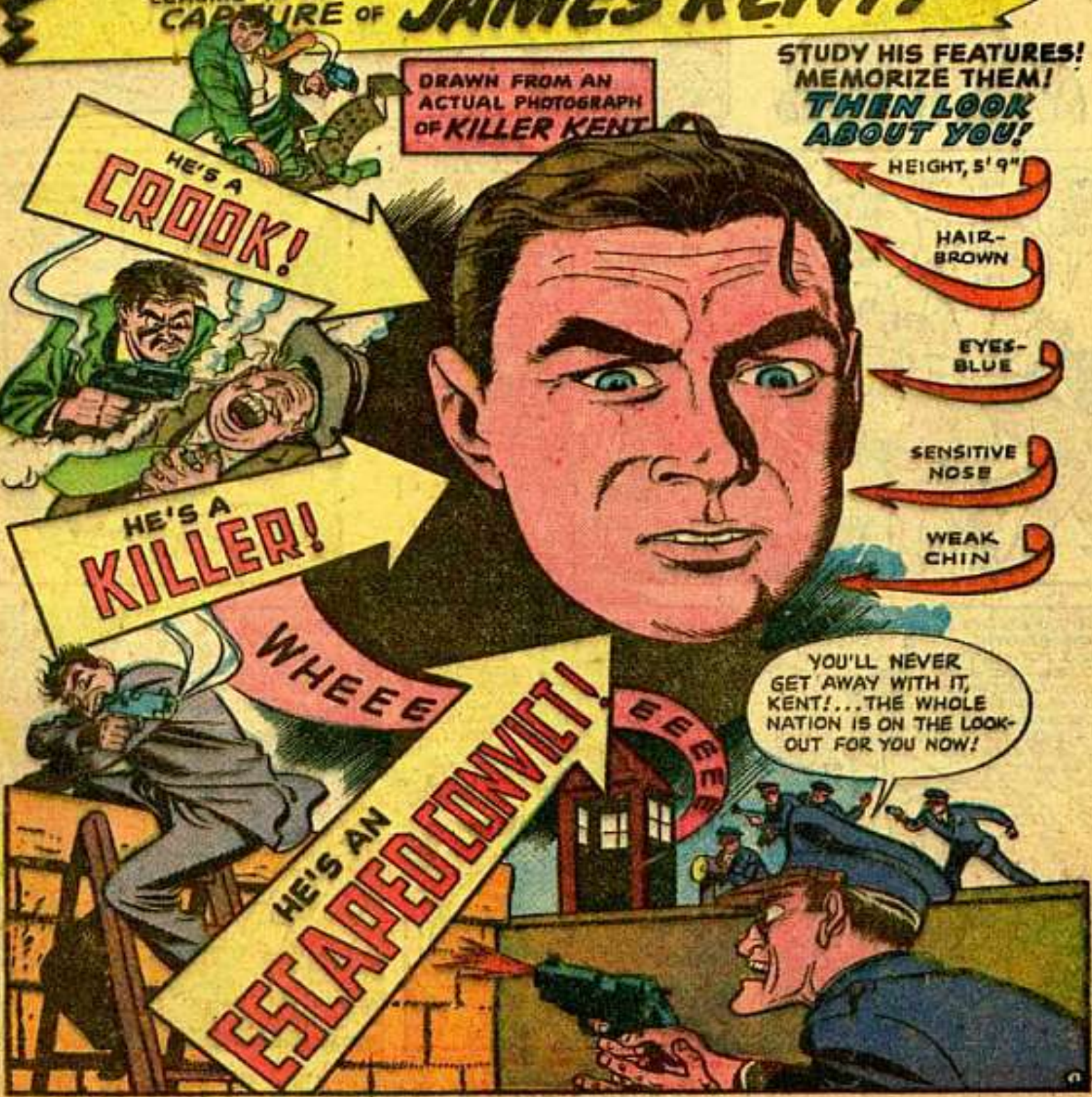
HE'S A
CROOK!

HE'S A
KILLER!

WHEEE

HE'S AN
ESCAPED CONVICT!

YOU'LL NEVER
GET AWAY WITH IT,
KENT!... THE WHOLE
NATION IS ON THE LOOK-
OUT FOR YOU NOW!



YES, WE'RE OUT TO GET YOU, **JAMES KENT**, WHEREVER YOU ARE! YOU'RE FREE NOW-- FOR THE MOMENT... BUT YOU CAN'T COMMIT **MURDER** AND GET AWAY WITH IT!! EVEN AS YOU READ THIS, THE LAW IS CLOSING IN! YOU ARE BEING TRACKED DOWN LIKE THE DIRTY WEASEL THAT YOU ARE! THE MEMORY OF YOUR COWARDLY DEED HAUNTS YOU DAY AND NIGHT! YOU'LL NEVER FORGET, JAMES KENT, BECAUSE WE'LL NEVER LET YOU!

REMEMBER **JOHNSTOWN, PA., KENT?**... QUITE A LADIES' MAN IN THOSE DAYS, WEREN'T YOU? AT LEAST YOU THOUGHT SO...

AW, SIT DOWN AND HAVE A BEER, SADIE... I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

BEER AN'TALK! GEE WHIZ AND GOSH-- ANIGHTY DO YA MEAN IT, JIMMY?... ALL THAT FOR ME? THINK YOU CAN AFFORD IT?

IN THE BACKGROUND, SMALL BOY! I GOT A DATE WITH **CHAMPAGNE!**

AH, SADIE DEAR, YOU LOOK RAVISHING TONIGHT!

I MIGHTA KNOWN IT'D BE HIM!

SET 'EM UP, HANK! THE DRINKS ARE ON ME, ALL!

OH, BOY! FREE FUEL!

LOOKIT THE **WAD ON 'EM!** NOW!

'S MATTER, KENT... YOU ON THE **WAGON?**

DID YOU EVER SEE KERN WITHOUT DOUGH?

NAW! HE'S AFRAID HE'LL HAVE TO TREAT IF HE HANGS AROUND!

AW NUTS!

DOUBLE SCOTCH, HANK!

THERE WAS THE MAN-- **GEORGE KERN**... YOU HATED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?... HIM AND HIS LOOSE AND PLENTY CASH! YOU WERE PLANNING **MURDER**, EVEN THEN, JAMES KENT! OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT THE SEEDS WERE THERE AND **GROW-ING!**

SAY! WASN'T THAT **GEORGE KERN** WITH YOUR GIRL?

MY GIRL?? THAT **GOLD-DIGGIN' GRAVE ROBBER?** WHY, I WOULDN'T GO WITH HER IF I WAS JOHN D! --AND I'D HAVE TO BE!

ARE YA SHOOTIN' POOL WITH ME OR AREN'T YA? C'MON!

BUT YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ANYONE, KENT... IT HURT YOUR SELFISH PRIDE TO BE THROWN OVER FOR A BAG OF MONEY... AND EVERYWHERE YOU WENT IT SEEMED THERE WERE **SADIE AND GEORGE** TO RUB IT IN.

OH, **GEORGE**. IT'S DEVINE!

DO YOU WISH TO CHARGE IT, MR. KERN!

TUT! TUT! NEVER BELIEVED IN SUCH THINGS-- **STRICTLY CASH--** THAT'S ME!

EVERY TIME SHE TURNED YOU DOWN, YOU CAME **ONE STEP** NEARER TO YOUR **TRUE SELF**, KENT THE **KILLER!**

SORRY, JAMES, I HAVE A **SPLUTTING HEADACHE** TONIGHT!

OKAY!... I GET IT... BUT THAT AIN'T WHERE HEACHES ME-- THE **OH M!**

SOMEDAY, I'LL BE **LOADED WITH DOUGH, SADIE!** WE'LL SEE WHO'S TOP DOG AROUND HERE!

SLAN

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS -- THIS IS IT!



SO YOU BROODED, AND BROODED...

UH, OH!... HERE COMES KERN WITH KENT'S GIRL AGAIN!

MY GOSH! HE'S GOT TOM CARLSON'S DAME, TOO!

I'D HATE TO BE IN KERN'S SHOES IF TOM FINDS OUT! NOW THERE'S A FIGHTER!

THEY CAN'T BE MUCH OF A CATCH IF IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE ONE DATE, KENT!

HAH! WHERE'S A FIGHTER?



ONE MORE DRINK AN' I'M GONNA SPLIT THAT FIFTY-CENT ROMEO INTO NICKELS AND DIMES!



OKAY, YA CHEAP CHEZZER, HERE'S WHERE I-- HUH?

SO THERE YOU ARE!! ETHEL, WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT GOING OUT WITH THAT GUY?

HOLY CATS... IT'S TOM CARLSON!

TOM!



I-I'M COMING, TOMMY!... HE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME-- HONEST! IT WAS ONLY FOR LAUGHS!

AND AS FOR YOU, KERN-- IF I EVER CATCH Y' WITH MY GIRL AGAIN, I'LL KILL YA!

TOM WILL, TOO! THAT BOY DOESN'T FOOL!

KILL? HMM... KILL!

BUT SHE CAME OF HER OWN FREE WILL-- ULP!



AT THAT MOMENT, YOU-- KILLER KENT WERE BORN! IT CAME TO YOU LIKE A FLASH-- THE WHOLE FIENDISH PLAN!



MAN, OH, MAN! CARLSON EVER BURNED UP!

AW, KERN WAS RIGHT! TH' DAME HAS A MIND OF HER OWN! IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.

Y' MEAN YOU CAN SIT AN' WATCH KERN SWIPE YOUR GIRL AND FEEL NOTHIN'?

ALL I SAY, ANY GUY WHO WOULDN'T FIGHT FOR HIS LOVE-- WELL...

THAT'S RIGHT, FOOLS... CARLSON'S A KILLER! KENT'S YELLOW! KENT WOULDN'T-- CARLSON WOULD!



PERFECT SET-UP WASN'T IT, KENT? PEOPLE WOULD SAY 'CARLSON DID IT!... HE THREATENED TO KILL KERN! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR HIM TO STEAL THE BAR-KEEP'S GUN AND...

NOBODY SAW ME!... GOOD!... NOW FOR MY OWN ALIBI... GOTTA BE SEEN AT THE RIGHT PLACES AT THE RIGHT TIME...



AND SO, THE NEXT NIGHT, YOU HAD A DATE-- NOT WITH SADIE-- SHE'D COME LATER!

LEAVING AT TEN O'CLOCK? WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, KENT?

AW, YOU NECK LIKE MY AUNT TILLIE! I'M GONNA HUNT ME UP SOME REAL WOO!



FLOWERS, MISTER?

NAH! TEN FIFTEEN! HE'S DUE PAST HERE ON HIS WAY TO GADIE'S ANY MINUTE! GEEZE... WHAT IF HE DONT STOP TONIGHT? HE'S GOT TO!

AH, HERE HE COMES!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



EVENIN' SIR -- THE USUAL CARNATION?

THANKS! --- WELL, WELL KENT! -- YOU A FLOWER LOVER TOO?

ONLY FOR FUNERALS AND SUCH! SAY IF YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO SADIE'S, HOW ABOUT A LIFT, DOWNTOWN?



AH, SADIE! -- LIKE TOM WHAT A WOMAN! YOU'VE BEEN MIGHTY DECENT ABOUT THIS, KENT. STEPPING ASIDE LIKE A GENTLEMAN! NOW SOME GUYS --

LIKE TOM CARLSON? YEAH, GUESS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN HE'S LUCKED!



LIKE I SAY, IT TAKES REAL COURAGE TO DO WHAT YOU'RE DOING, KENT!

OH, I DUNNO!



NOT TOO MUCH, KENT? YA B?# BILL-FOLD ROMEO!



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, KERN -- THANKS THREE THOUSAND BUCKS AND A DIAMOND RING'S WORTH!

IT'S TEN THIRTY! NOW TO PICK UP SADIE, -- FEED HER A FEW DRINKS IN PUBLIC -- AND CONVINCE HER SHE WAS WITH ME SINCE TEN O'CLOCK!



COME ON, BABY! YOU'RE NOT TURNING ME DOWN ON A DATE TONIGHT! WE'RE DOING THE TOWN! I'M LOADED!

WOW! -- I'LL SAY YOU ARE! -- BUT I'M EXPECTING KERN! I REALLY SHOULD! STAND HIM UP!

BUT YOU WILL, EH, SADIE?



SET 'EM UP, HANK! -- THE DRINKS ARE ON ME!

HUH? -- CAN THAT BE JIM KENT TALKIN'?

IMAGINE HIM SPENDING DOUGH! THIS NIGHT I'LL NEVER FORGET!



SO YOU THOUGHT I WAS SMALL PERTATOES, EH -- WELL, CAST YOUR EYES ON THAT!

OH, JIMMY! -- WHAT A DIAMOND! -- TOO BAD IT'S A MAN'S RING, AIN'T IT? AHEM!

DON'T WORRY, BABY! FROM NOW ON I'LL BE GETTING YOU PLENTY OF THINGS!

DEED, DEED DEED KENT! -- DEED DEED MUSTA BE IT RICH! -- DEED DEED

DEED -- DEED DEED WHERE'D HE GET THE CASH? DEED -- DEED



YESSIR, AG OF TEN O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT, YOU'RE MINE! REMEMBER THAT!

SURE, HON! YOU'RE MY TEN O'CLOCK BABY!



A PERFECT SET-UP. WASN'T IT! YOU HAD THE TIME, THE PLACE AND THE GIRL FOR AN ALIBI! -- YOU EVEN HAD TOM CARLSON IN LINE TO TAKE THE RAP FOR YOU! --

SAY! -- WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

GET DRESSED, CARLSON! -- THE CHIEF WOULD LIKE A CHAT WITH YOU AT HEADQUARTERS!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS -- THIS IS IT!

YOU HATED KERN, DIDN'T YOU, CARLSON?

HE HAD MONEY AND YOUR GIRL! TWO THINGS YOU WANTED!

CAN YOU DENY YOU THREATENED TO KILL HIM?

YOU USED THE BARKEEP'S GUN TO DIVERT SUSPICION!

ISN'T IT A FACT YOUR TEMPER HAS GOTTEN YOU INTO TROUBLE BEFORE?

OUT WITH IT, CARLSON. YOU KILLED KERN!

NO! NO! I DIDN'T DO IT! I SWEAR!

THINGS WERE GOING GREAT WEREN'T THEY, KENT? JUST THE WAY YOU PLANNED! CARLSON WAS IN THE CLINK AND YOU WERE IN THE CLEAR! BUT WERE YOU?

♪ DUM-DE-DUM! ♪ HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!... NOW IT'S SADIE CALLING ME FOR A DATE! HAHA!

HERE'S YOUR BOY, SADIE, PIE! ??? WELL FER-??

THERE HE IS, OFFICERS! THERE'S THE DOG WHO KILLED GEORGE KERN!

COME ALONG, KENT.

S'WATTER? YOU CRAZY SADIE? I WAS WITH YOU THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER!

YOUR "TEN OCLOCK BABY" AM I? YOU MEAN YOUR TEN THIRTY ALIBI! YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT IF I HADN'T FINALLY REMEMBERED GEORGE KENT'S RING!

OH, NO!

YES, KENT, THE ONE TINY SLIP THAT ALL CRIMINALS MAKE HAD HAPPENED AND THAT DAY IN COURT YOU SAW YOUR ALIBI CRUMBLE!

HE CAME FOR ME AT TEN THIRTY THAT NIGHT - LOADED WITH DOUGH-ER MONEY - AND WEARING KERN'S DIAMOND RING!

HE KNEW WHERE I KEPT MY GUN IN MY BARROOM OFFICE!

THAT'S THE MAN!... HE ASKED MR KERN FOR A LIFT WHEN MR KERN STOPPED TO BUY FLOWERS!

LIES! LIES! ALL OF 'EM, LIES!

SO, IN DECEMBER, 1944 YOU WERE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT, BUT YOU COULDN'T FACE IT LIKE A MAN, RAT THAT YOU ARE! YOU HAD TO GET OUT!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU COULD GET US OUT OF THIS SEWER? IT'S BEEN FIVE MONTHS, AND--

KEEP YOUR PRESSURE DOWN, KENT! IT TAKES TIME TO SAW THESE BARS WITH A NAIL FILE!

HOW I'VE LIVED FOR THIS NIGHT! HOW MUCH FURTHER?

OKAY! JUMP! NOT A DICK IN SIGHT!

HEY!

JIGGERS! WE'RE SPOTTED!

SHUT UP AN' TRAVEL!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



HE'S GAININ'!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE
IT! WE--

ONE OF US
GOTTA HOLD 'EM
OFF-- AND IT
AIN'T ME!

HALT
OR I'LL
SHOOT!

HEY!



GO AHEAD!...
GET TH'OX ISD!
I WON'T RUN
AWAY, S' HELP
ME-- I'LL BE
GLAD TO GO
BACK TO SEE
THAT DOUBLE-X
KENT GET
HIS!

HE'LL BE BACK!
YOU JAIL BIRDS ARE
LIKE **NOMING**
PIGBONS-- FLY THE
COOP ONCE IN A
WHILE -- SOAR AROUND
A BIT, THEN SLAP INTO
ANOTHER POLICE NET--
AND IT'S BACK HOME
AGAIN! YOU'LL SEE!

HA, HA,
HA, HA!



SO YOU'RE "FREE" AGAIN,
JAMES KENT! FREE AS
A BIRD! THAT'S WHAT YOU
THOUGHT, WASN'T IT? HOW
DOES IT FEEL-- THIS FREE-
DOM -- RUNNING... EVER
RUNNING-- WONDERING
WHO?-- HOW? --
WHEN?-- WHERE?



THAT WOMAN!
SHE
RECOGNIZES
YOU!

BUT,
MISTER, I ONLY
ASKED--

GOTTA
GET AWAY!
SOME OTHER
CITY, MAYBE!



WHAT WAS
THAT NOISE?
COPS!!

MROW!

A-A C-CAT!
THAT'S ALL!
A B-BLACK
CAT! PANTS...
GET OUT!
G'WAY!



**EYES, EYES
EVERYWHERE!**



AND SOON THE EYES OF THE
LAW WILL FIND YOU, JAMES
KENT! NO, YOU'RE NOT FREE--
YOU KILLED A MAN AND YOU'RE
GOING TO PAY THE PENALTY!
**YES, YOU--
JAMES KENT!**

ONCE AGAIN, TO THE
READERS OF
TRUE CRIME COMICS,
WE ASK YOUR AID IN
CAPTURING THIS DANGEROUS
CRIMINAL! IF ANY
OF YOU KNOWS THE
WHEREABOUTS OF
JAMES KENT,
CONTACT THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT IN
SOMERSET, PA.
IMMEDIATELY--
AND REMEMBER--
WE WILL PAY
\$100.00 REWARD
FOR INFORMATION
LEADING TO HIS
CAPTURE SO BE ON
THE ALERT!

THERE IS ONLY ONE **TRUE CRIME COMICS** -- THIS IS IT!

MURDER

MORPHINE AND ME!

EDITOR'S NOTE...

THIS IS A MUST!

ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE A STORY COMES ALONG THAT IS SO POWERFUL, SO DYNAMIC, IT MUST BE HEARD!!!...

SUCH A STORY IS MARY KENNEDY'S OWN TRUE ACCOUNT OF HER CAREER IN SCUMLAND'S VILEST ENTERPRISE -- THE DOPE RACKET!

BY ALL MEANS READ IT!

THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A DOPE SMUGGLER BY MARY KENNEDY

I'M GONNA TELL YOU THE WHOLE UGLY TRUTH! -- ABOUT THE ISLE OF THE DEAD -- THE DERELICTS OF DRUGS -- THE MURDERS AT WHOLESALE -- AND ME IN THE MIDDLE!!! WHO WAS THE **BIG BOSS** OF IT ALL? YOU'LL NEVER GUESS, BROTHER -- NOT IN A MILLION YEARS!

YOU CAN CALL ME A TRAMP -- A BUM! BUT I'M GETTIN' THIS OFF MY CHEST AND YOU'RE GONNA LISTEN, SEE?

ISLE OF THE DEAD

REAL POLICE CASES
Every Story TRUE!

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF INNOCENT PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE TRUE STORIES OF THIS TRUE MAGAZINE, THE NAMES OF ALL THE VILLAINS ARE FICTITIOUS!

WHY AM I TELLIN' YOU ALL THIS? I DUNNO... EVER GLIM THE FACE OF A DRUG ADDICT? IT DOES SOMETHIN' TO YA! THE HORRIBLE, GAUNT MASK OF YELLOW... EYES SUNK DEEP IN THE SKULL HOLES, SUCKIN' TH SKIN INTO WRINKLED WHIRLPOOLS OF AGONY! Y JUST DONT FORGET PICTURES LIKE THAT! TAKE THAT EVENIN' IN L.A. FRINSTANCE.....



MARY! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! WONT LAST THE NIGHT IF I DONT GET MORE — MARY!! WAKE UP!!



G'WAY! LEMME DIE! SEE YA INNA MORNIN'!!

PLEASE, MARY! I RAN SHORT TODAY! BEEN CALLIN' YOUR NUMBER EVERY HOUR... BUT NO ANSWER!! TONY THAT LIAR, SAID YOU'D LEFT TOWN! WHY THE BRUSH? YOU CANT DROD ME NOW! YOU'VE GOTTA TRUST ME!

OH... YOU! (YAWN) TONY MUST BE SLIPPIN' LETTIN' A SICK HOPPY JUMP HIM FOR MY ADDRESS AND LATEN-KEY! LIKE I SAID BEFORE. NO CASH. NO DOPE!



GIMME A BREAK! GROAN! Y KNOW I CANT WORK WITH THIS PAIN TEARING MY INSIDES OUT! I'LL PAY BACK EVERY CENT, ONLY I GOTTA HAVE THE MORPHINE!!

WE'VE TRIED YOUR WAY BEFORE, HOPHEAD! ONE NEEDLE-FULL OF JOY-JUICE AND YOU GET SO SATISFIED WITH THE WORLD YOU FORGET YOUR OBLIGATIONS! NO, WE'LL DO IT MY WAY FOR A CHANGE!



YOU SIMEY LEECH! I'VE LOST MY HOME, MY WIFE, JOB-EVERYTHING! TRADED THEM IN FOR A LOUSY SHOT IN THE ARM! A LITTLE RELIEF FROM THE AGONY THAT SCREAMS FOR MORE AND MORE! AND NOW AFTER YOU'VE BLED ME DRY, YOU TELL ME...

OKAY! OKAY! THERE'S A PACKAGE BEHIND TH DRESSER- HELP Y'SELF! I'LL SQUARE IT WITH THE BIG BOSS SOMEHOW!



YES MARY KENNEDY... YOU TRY TO SQUARE THINGS WITH THE BIG BOSS!

P-PUT TH NEEDLE DOWN!! NO!



OLESON! VOT DAT VAS?? IT SOUND LIKE JANE!

BURGLARS MAYBE! YIGGERS! MY GUN... AY BANE LEFT IT DOWNSTAIRS!

STOP SHAKING AND GET UP! SHE'S, MAYBE NIGHTMARES HAVING!



YOU ALLRIGHT, JANE, YA? NO-LIKE AY SAID. SHE'S DREAMING THINGS AGAIN!! OH, DEAR!

WAIT'LL TONY COMES! HE'LL FIX— DONT DO IT! I'LL... I'LL...



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!



TONY!
TONY!!
HELP!!

NO, IT'S ME-OLIE JOHNSTON! YOUR FRIEND!!— MAMA, YOU TELL HER! YOUR VOICE SHE LIKES!

NO TIME FOR TALKING... TIME FOR GRABBING QUICK BEFORE SHE YUMPS!



??! M-MRS. JOHNSTON! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A RACKET LIKE THIS? OH... ER... SORRY! I THOUGHT—

SUCH DREAMS, YOU POOR TING! HERE... TIME AY PUT UP CLEAN CURTAINS ANYWAY!... THAT OLIE! ONCE HE SAW A MOVIE MAN THROW WATER ON FACE OF GIRL WHO WAS OUT OF HER HEAD—NOW EVERYBODY GETS A BATH

AY TANK AY FIX JANE SOME HOT TEA!



GEE... I MUSTA BEEN PRETTY ROUGH! DID I... AH... SAY ANYTHING?

NOW, YUST FORGET DREAMS AND THIS TONY SOMEBODY! HOT TEA FOR THE NERVES AND YOU BANE SLEEP BETTER, YA?



WH-WHAT'S TH' USE? IT ONLY COMES BACK AN' BACK AN' BACK!

JANE, DEAR... EVER SINCE YOU COME TO ROOM HERE, YOU SAY NOTHING, BUT AY SEE! MAYBE NOW YOU LIKE TO TALK?... SOMETIMES IT HELPS, TALKING!



WHEN I THINK OF IT I HAFTA LAUGH! IT WAS GONNA BE SO EASY!... ALL I HADDA DO WAS CHANGE MY NAME AND ADDRESS AND START OFF FRESH... LEAVE MARY KENNEDY, KANSAS CITY—THE WHOLE MESS— AND WALK AWAY CLEAN!... MAH!! WOULDN'T TONY LOVE TO SEE HIS BROKEN-DOWN MOLL, NOW! YEAH, WE'D BOTH HAVE A GOOD YUK!



THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN KANSAS CITY IS TH' LAST PLACE YAD EXPECT T'MEET A GANGSTER, IT WAS THAT CRAWLING WITH G-MEN! BUT THEY WERE LIKE NUTHIN' TO TONY PETRILLO! HE USTA BRASS RIGHT INTO PAPA PONNICI'S RESTAURANT, THERE, AN' JUST SIT—NOT SAYIN' A WORD—STARIN' AT ME!! HE'D GET ME SO WEAK IN THE KNEES I COULD HARDLY SERVE...

PAPA, IF YOUR SON CAN WHIP UP FORMULAS LIKE YOU CAN COOK, HE'S A CINCH FOR THE CITY CHEMIST'S SPOT! HOW'S FOR SOME PIE?

AH, JOSEPHI, HE'S A WAN BUSY BOY! YOU SEE HOW MUCH BETTER THE CITY WATER, SHE'S TASTE SINCE THEY MAKE HIM ASSIST-CHEMIST? ATSA MY JOE! ALLA TIME HE'S A WORK HARD!

MARY, FIXA PIE FOR MIST' INSPECTOR!

YES, PAPA— OH!... I- I'M SO SORRY!



HERE... LET ME! GEE, HOPE IT DOESN'T LEAVE A SPOT! GUESS I WASN'T WATCHING— WHAT I... I...

THE MANSA WAIT FOR HIS PIE, MARY!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!



I STOOD THERE LIKE A NINNY... HEART POUNDIN'... KISSING HIM WITH MY EYES... BREATHING HIS BREATH... SOMEWHERE A VOICE SAID...

NEVER MIND MARY... KEEP THE PIE!

BUT I NEVER HEARD! YET, WHEN TONY WHISPERED... IT RANG OUT LIKE BELLS...



TONIGHT AT EIGHT!
B- BUT YOUR NAME, I DON'T EVEN KNOW
NAME'S TONY!
TONIGHT AT EIGHT!
WH- WHERE?
NIGG-O CAFE!
BUT...
BE SEEM' YA HONEY EYES!



MARY, WHY YOU NO GIVA INSPECT HAYES DA PIET SAY... YOU RED LIKA BEET! SMATTA? YOU SICK, SOMETHING?

HUH?? OH... YEH... I, ER, D-DON'T FEEL SO GOOD, PAPA!... W-WOULD, Y-MIND IF I SORTA TOOK TH' AFTERNOON OFF?

JUS' GOTTA VISIT A BEAUTY PARLOR BEFORE 'T NIGHT!

THUMB! THUMB! THUMB!



THERE'S ACTION FOR YA! FIVE MINUTES I'D KNOWN THE GUY AND ALREADY HE HAD ME TELLIN' LIES! BUT THAT'S HOW IT WAS! I PUT ON MY BEST AND RAN TO HIM, DRENCHED IN GALLONS OF DARING PERFUME...

...AND THEN CAME PAPA DONNICI AND THIS JOB! WHICH BRINGS ME UP TO YOU... TONY!... WHAT'S WITH YOU?

EH? ME? OH, I'M JUST A NORMAL GUY! SMUGGLE A LITTLE POPE... MURDER A FEW PEOPLE! YOU KNOW... DULL STUFF LIKE THAT!

SURE YA C'N REMEMBER HIS PUSS?

LIKE BORIS KARLOFF! LET'S AMBLE!



HAHA! SURE! AND YOUR GRANMA WAS A FOREIGN SPY! ...???. GEE, DID I SAY SOMETHIN' WRONG??

UH, DO ME A FAVOR, KID... SKIP TO THE POWDER ROOM FOR A MIN! I JUST REMEMBERED AN IMPORTANT PHONE CALL!



OW! T T



DID ESTHER GORDON SEND YOU HERE?

F'CRIPES SAKES, TONY!

WE ONLY C-COME IN FER A... OLG: DRINK!!

YEAH... WHAT'S A IDEA?



IF I WASN'T ANCHORED WITH A DAME... NOW CRAWL BACK UNDER THAT G-M-I-X? SETTIN' HEN, GORDON, AND STAY THERE!!

I AIN'T USED TO HOLDIN' BACK... LET ME... NOT YET! NOT NOW!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



OHAY BABY! SORRY ABOUT THE BRUSH, BUT... YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... **BUSINESS BEFORE BROADS!**

SHUCKS, I DIDN'T MIND! ...**TONY! YOUR HAND!**

IT'S NOTHING! PINCHED IT IN THE PHONE-BOOTH DOOR! GET YOUR COAT! CAN'T TALK IN THIS BOILER WORKS!



...MY MIND'S MADE UP, INFANT!... NO USE ARGUING... TOMORROW, YOU QUIT THAT **HASH HOUSE** AND SIGN UP WITH ME!

BUT I CAN'T WALK OUT ON PAPA DONNICI LIKE THAT! HE'S BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO ME! GEE-YUNNERSTAN, DON'T YA? IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO, BUT...



...BUT, GOSH, YOU TAKE A GIRL'S BREATH AWAY! IF YOU'D ONLY GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME... I... I... MIGHT... BE...

SABLES! CARS! CAVIAR!!



TONY YOU'RE TH **SUBBORNEST**— BUT **SWEETEST**... MAM AM AM...



HOT DOG!! THIS WAS IT... JUST THE TWO OF US... **PARTNERS!!** COZY, HUH? ... **CRAZY WAS THE WORD!!!**

ANYWAY, I TOLD PAPA DONNICI! HE WAS SWELL ABOUT IT...



A **HUNNA DOLLAS A WEEK??** MARY, IT'S A **WUNNARFUL!** YOU TAKA THIS JOB BEFORE PAPA, HE TAKE IT **HIMSELF!** AW... FOR WHY YOU CRY?... SHE'S NO TIME FOR FEEL BAD!

IF... IF ONLY YOU WERENT S-SO NICE... SHY I-I'LL DROP IN TOMORROW AN TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT! ...GULP! G'BYE, PAPA, AN' GOD BLESS YOU!



HI, BOSS!!

HOW DO I LOOK?

YOU WAITIN' LONG?

GEE, I'M SO EXCITED!

JUST WHAT IS THIS JOB?

PRIVATE SEKATARY I BET?

WHOA, NOW! ONE AT A TIME! **BABY YOU'RE LETHAL!** PERFECT FOR THE PART!! **STEP IN!!**



EEEK!!

HULLO! COUGH?



WHY, HON! IS THAT ANY WAY TO GREET ONE OF MY BEST CUSTOMERS?... **MR CUSHING, MISS KENNEDY!** NOW, RUN ALONG, YOU TWO, AND HAVE A PLEASANT EVENING!

BUT... BUT, **TONY!** AREN'T YOU COMIN' I MEAN... THIS JOB I SORTA THOUGHT I'D BE WITH YOU!

WHAT WE NEED HIM FOR? ... BH, TONY? **HAW HAW H-cough-cough**



SO THAT'S IT!! **NURSEMAID TO A BUNCH OF TIRED BUSINESS MEN!** AND **THIS-JUH'S-WRECK**... WELL, HOW TIRED CAN YUH **GET??**

YESSIR, BY GOL, **TONY SURE CAN PICK 'EM!** COUGH... COUGH!

WHUPS! SORRY, SPORT!



BUT IT'S AN HONEST LIVING... AND I'LL BE NEAR TONY!... GEE... WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING T'NIGHT?

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



BUT AS WEEKS WENT BY, I SAW LESS AND LESS OF TONY... AND MORE AND MORE OF HIS "CUSTOMERS"! IT WAS ONE MAD MISERY-GO-ROUND.

DANCE LIKE A CLOUD YE DO!

HI YA JUICY!
OH YOU HUNK OF STUFF!

MAYBE TOMORROW... MAYBE TONY'LL TAKE ME OUT MAYBE...

YUM YUM!

WHERE YA BEEN ALL MY LIFE?

SWEETSH LIL GAIL INNA WORL!
HUBBA HUBBA!

AW CHON! HAVIA DRINK!

IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME... WINE AN DINE... HOME AT TWO... AND HANG-OVER TIL NOON! SURE, THE PAY WAS GOOD, BUT THE PACE WAS KILLIN'!! SWEET LITTLE MARY WAS WILTING!. FINALLY, ONE NIGHT IT HAPPENED I CRACKED!!...



YOU CANT QUIT ME, BABY!.. WHY, YOU'RE MY RIGHT ARM! IF IT'S MORE MONEY YOU WANT

MONEY! MONEY!!

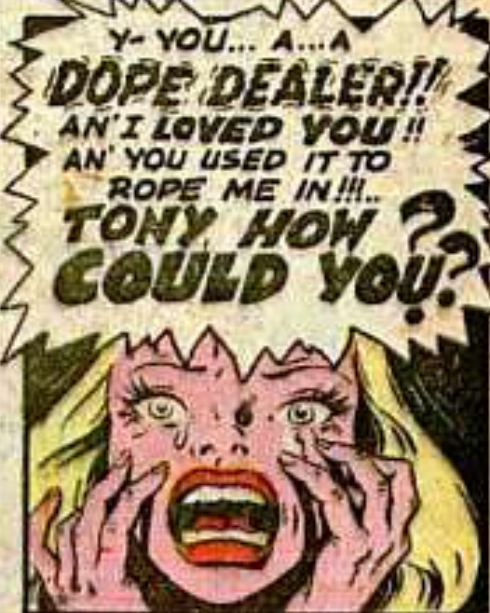
THERE AINT ENOUGH IN FORT KNOX TO MAKE ME GO OUT WITH THOSE CRUMS AGAIN! GET SOME OTHER SUCKER TO SET-UP YOUR SALES! I'M THROUGH!!



ALRIGHT, YOU DUMB SAP, I'M GIVING IT TO YA SQUARE!! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR DATES WERE DOING? PEDDLING DOPE!! RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE! YOU WERE JUST A FRONT!

NO! IT ISN'T TRUE!! YOU'RE LYING JUST TO...

YOU'RE IN IT AS DEEP AS I AM, TOOTS-- FOR KEEPS!!



Y-YOU... A... A DOPE DEALER!! AN' I LOVED YOU!! AN' YOU USED IT TO ROPE ME IN!!! TONY, HOW COULD YOU?



LOOK... TONY!.. LET M-ME GO!... I WONT TELL ANYONE!... I PROMISE!!! I'LL GO AWAY!... Y-YOU WONT NEED ME -- NOT NOW!! PLEASE!!

IF I WAS IN THE PRIVER'S SEAT MAYBE I WOULD! BUT YOU GOT ME WRONG, KID... I'M JUST A SMALL COG IN THIS RACKET! THE BIG BOSS WOULD EAT US BOTH ALIVE IF YOU TRIED THE REAR EXIT!!



SO LETS MAKE THE BEST OF IT, KID!... TELL YOU WHAT... MAYBE I CAN GET YOU A BETTER SPOT-- AT MORE MONEY, TOO!

YEH, LETS MAKE LOTSA DOUGH! THATS ALL THAT COUNTS, AINT IT?



OH, I HATE YOU! HATE YOU!

A LOTTA FOLKS FEEL TH' SAME WAY, SISTER! WELL, LETS GET THIS OVER WITH!

WAIT! IF THAT AINT OPPORTUNITY KNOCKIN', I NEVER HEARD IT' C'MON!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



ESTHER, IT'S A MATCH! WE'RE TAKIN' OVER CORDOVA ISLAND AND THE DOPE RACKET NEXT WEEK, RIGHT? SO WE NAB TONY'S MOLL, AND EASE IT AROUND SHE'S JOINED UP WITH US...

HE'S SO BURNED. HE FOLLOWS HER TO CORDOVA... AWAY FROM KANSAS CITY... AWAY FROM NOSEY COPS... A NICE QUIET FUNERAL!!

HMM... COULD BE! COULD BE!



YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERIN' ABOUT CORDOVA ISLAND... IT'S A SMALL ISLAND IN THE RIO GRANDE RIVER THAT BELONGS TO NEITHER THE U.S.A. NOR MEXICO! IT'S TH' CLEARING-HOUSE FOR MOST OF THE DOPE SMUGGLED ACROSS THE BORDER! WHOEVER CONTROLLED THIS OUTLAW STATE CONTROLLED THE DOPE RACKET!!...

HOW SOON I WAS TO SEE THE UGLY HORROR OF THIS PLACE! TONY'S AWFUL REVELATION HAD STUNNED ME! I MUST ESCAPE!... BUT HOW?! I WAS DESPERATE...

PAPA DONNICI! HELL HELP ME... HE'S GOT TO!!

THAT'S HERE! GET SET!



IN YUH GO!

HELP! POLICE-NINNI!



OKAY, ESTHER! NEXT STOP CORDOVA!!

WH-WHAT IS THIS?? IF IT'S SOME TRICK OF TONY'S—

RELAX, KID! WE WON'T HARM YA! IT'S TONY WHO'S ON TH' SPOT! AND FROM WHERE I SIT, LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE GLAD TO HELP US!



HELP YOU K-KILL TONY?? NO!! NEVER!! OHNN—

I THOUGHT Y SAID TH' GUY? THAT SHE'D DO ANYTHING TO GET HIS HIDE?

BUT SHE SAID IT!! I HEARD A LOT YOU KNOW ABOUT WIMMEN!



WH-WHERE AM I??

YA BEEN ASLEEP FER HOURS! NOW, BE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL OR—

THERE'S MAXIE'S CAR AHEAD!

OKAY, BOYS! WE JOIN FORCES AND STORM ALL OVER CORDOVA!

EL PASO TEXAS 3 MI



MAXIE, YOU READY? MAXIE!!! HUBBY!!

HOLY—! OUR PLAN LEAKED OUT!!

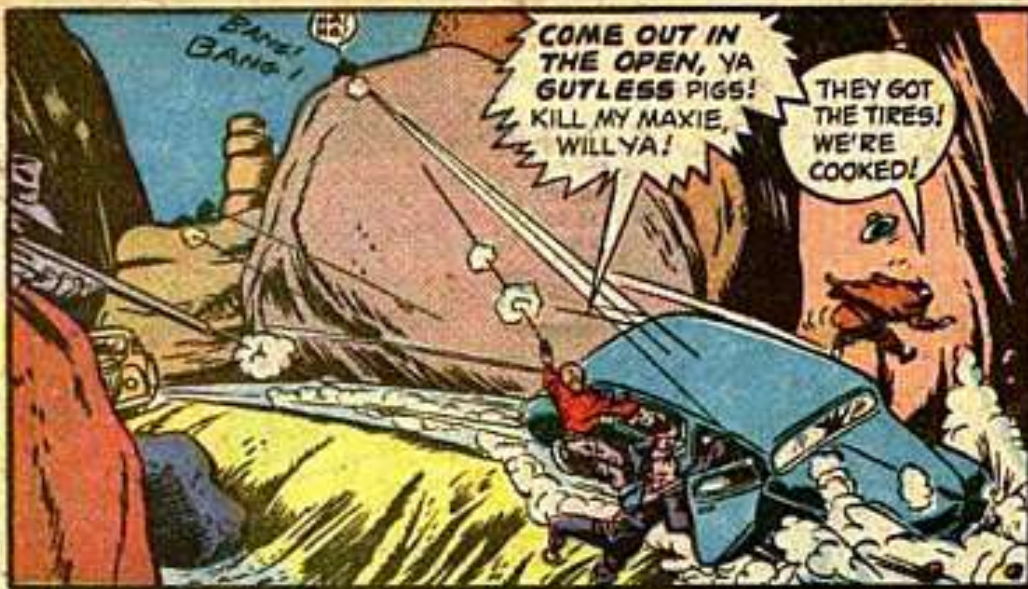


AGH!!

IT'S AN AMBUSH! TO TH' CAR!!

SO LONG, HONEY! I'LL GET 'EM FOR YA... I'LL KILL 'EM ALL!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!



COME OUT IN THE OPEN, YA GUTLESS PIGS! KILL MY MAXIE, WILLYA!

THEY GOT THE TIRES! WE'RE COOKED!



KID... I'M GIVIN' YOU A BREAK!... **CRAWLOUTTA HERE!** OUTTA THE RACKETS FOR **KEEPS!** SOB... IT... IT DON'T MAKE FOR A HAPPY MARRIED LIFE! ... SOB...

GET GOIN'! I.. WANNA BE ALONE!... SOB

OH, MAXIE!

Y-YEH!



I CRAWLED A MILLION MILES THAT NIGHT... BRUISED BATTERED, AFRAID... BUT THE HOPE OF FREEDOM KEPT ME GOING!... **HERE WAS MY CHANCE TO BREAK AWAY!** AFTER HOURS OF HIDING, I VENTURED OUT ON TO THE HIGHWAY, HITCH-HIKED A RIDE INTO EL PASO AND THEN REGISTERED AT A HOTEL.

...AND T-T'MORROW I'LL TAKE A TRAIN SOMEWHERE... **ANYWHERE,** AN' BREATHE FRESH AIR... AN' SMELL GREEN GRASS AGAIN...

OH, THANK YOU UP THERE!... **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**



THAT'S IT, MARY-- PRAY! PRAY HARD!

WHO--?? **TONY!!**



THERE'S A RUMOR GOIN' 'ROUND THAT YOU JOINED ESTHER GORDON'S MOB! A VERY **OBVIOUS** RUMOR!

IT ISN'T TRUE, TONY!... LISTEN TO ME!

CRACK.



IT WAS A **PLANT** TO DRAW TONY DOWN TO **CORDOVA** WHERE HE'D BE TAKEN CARE OF NICE AND EASY-LIKE-- **WASN'T IT?**

IF YOU'LL ONLY LET ME EXPLAIN... **OW!**



EXPLAIN? SURE! I'M A REASONABLE GUY! -- I'LL GIVE YOU 'TIL **THREE** TO TALK THIS GUN OUT OF **BLOWING YOUR HEAD OFF!** TALK FAST, RAT!

I DIDN'T HAVVA THING TO DO WITH IT, TONY!

ONE!

ESTHER AND HER MOB KIDNAPPED ME AND FORCED ME TO COME WITH THEM!

TWO!

TONY YA GOTTA BELIEVE ME!

THREE!!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!



I DIDN'T DO IT!.. I COULDN'T DO IT!... C-CAN'T YOU SEE WHY?... I STILL LOVE YA, YA DOG!

NO, GUESS YOU COULDN'T HAVE COOKED IT UP AT THAT. ANY DAME WHO'D FALL FOR ME IS TOO DUMB TO THINK! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!.. IF ESTHER GORDON OR ANY OF HER GOONS ARE STILL AROUND, THIS AIN'T A HEALTHY PLACE TO BE!



WHERE ARE WE GOIN'?

CORDOVA! REMEMBER? --THE ISLAND ESTHER HAD IDEAS ABOUT?... HA, HA! THAT SURE MUST HAVE BEEN A SWELL RECEPTION OUR BOYS HAD FOR HER. THERE'S NOT MUCH GOING ON, THE **BIG BOSS** AIN'T HEP TO!



HERE WE ARE! STEP ACROSS THIS BRIDGE AND IT'S **SAFETY** OR **DEATH**, DEPENDING ON A GUY'S STANDING WITH THE **BIG BOSS!**

H- HOW DO I STAND, TONY? D-DID HE HEAR THAT RUMOR, TOO?-- ABOUT ME LEAVING YUR?

I WAS JUST COMIN' TO THAT, KID!



...IF HE HASN'T HEARD, OKAY! SWELL! BUT IF HE HAS AND TONY DOESN'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, TONY'S LIFE AIN'T WORTH NUTHIN'!

TONY! YOU BROUGHT ME OUT HERE JUST TO--

SNAP!



THAT'S RIGHT, KID!... I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE... ARG... RISKS...

BANG!

WHA--?



OUT OF NOWHERE THEY POPPED! TONY'S MEN ON THE ISLAND AND ESTHER GORDON'S REORGANIZED MOB ON THE MAINLAND-- AND TONY AN'ME IN THE MIDDLE--

TAKE 'EM, BOYS! THIS IS FOR MAXIE! BLAST 'EM!

TONY!... F-FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... TONY!

AGH!

TAT TAT TAT

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



IF--IF I CAN ONLY GET HIM B-BEHIND... ROCK OUT OF... FIRING LINE...

GRON!



WH-WHY DID YOU DO IT?... I... I WAS GOING... TO KILL YA... YA COULD HAVE...

YOU SAID I WAS DUMB... RECKON THIS PROVES IT-- OH!... G'NIGHT, T-TONY! IT'S--IT'S PAST M-MY BEDTIME...



THEN I WAS DREAMING... OF MURDER AND MORPHINE... TONY AND THE BIG BOSS CHASING ME... BEARING DOWN... CLOSER CLOSER... UNTIL...

BANG! YOU'RE DEAD!

EEK!



?? HUH?... WH... ?? TONY!... IS THE... SHOOTER OVER YET?

HA, HA! HOURS AGO! ESTHER'S GOONS ARE LAYING ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE! IT WAS A ROUTE!... AND-- OH, YES-- THE BIG BOSS DIDN'T HEAR THAT RUMOR! YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR WITH HIM-- AND ME AFTER LAST NIGHT!

HERE'S SOME NEW DUDS! FRESH UP AND MEET ME OUTSIDE! GOT A SURPRISE!



REMEMBER THAT NEW JOB I PROMISED YOU, MARY? HERE IT IS-- MEET THE PROFESSOR!

HOW'JA DO?

MY, YOU'RE QUITE A DIFFERENT LOOKING GIRL THAN THE POOR CREATURE OF LAST NIGHT!

I WON'T BE SEEING YOU FOR AWHILE, KID-- GOT BUSINESS IN K.C.; BUT YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS!



CORDOVA ISLAND IS THE NUCLEUS OF A VAST ORGANIZATION, MISS KENNEDY... AND NATURALLY, IT REQUIRES A LOT OF BOOKKEEPING-- WHICH SHALL BE YOUR DUTY!

NOW, HERE IS OUR-- DRUGSTORE! YOU WILL KEEP RECORDS OF ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING SHIPMENTS!



THEN, TOO, THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH A STRONG HOUSEHOLD REQUIRES QUITE A CROUCHING ARMY! THERE WILL BE PAYROLLS TO MEET!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS -- THIS IS IT!



YOU'LL HAVE A TIME KEEPING UP WITH OUR EVER-CHANGING PERSONNEL AT FIRST. WE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP **HELP ON CORDOVA!** IF IT ISN'T WAR CASUALTIES, IT'S THE DOPE RUNNERS-- ALWAYS TRYING TO STEAL OUR GOODS-- DISCOURAGING ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE QUIET, MISS KENNEDY! THINKING PERHAPS?

(UGH)... H-HOW DO YOU GET AWAY WITH IT? I MEAN THE LAW-- DON'T THE AUTHORITIES GIVE YOU TROUBLE?



THE BIG BOSS IS THE LAW HERE! THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT ISLAND! NEITHER UNCLE SAM NOR MEXICO CAN TOUCH US! HERE A MAN CAN MURDER AND **BE MURDERED** WITHOUT FEAR OF PROSECUTION! WELL! I'VE TALKED ENOUGH! READY FOR WORK, MISS KENNEDY?

EH?... I-I GUESS SO!
AND I LEFT A GOOD JOB DANCING WITH DERELICTS FOR THIS!



EVERY MINUTE ON THAT COFFIN-ISLE PROVE ME ANOTHER PEG INTO MY HOPELESS DESPAIR... I WAS LOST! A FROG HAS A **HAIR-LIKE** CHANCE TO ESCAPE THE **BIG BOSS** WHOEVER HE WAS! THE ONLY HALF-WAY CIVIL PERSON THERE WAS THE PROF; FINALLY AFTER WEEKS THERE, HE--

PACK YOUR LIPSTICK, MISS KENNEDY... JUST GOT ORDERS TO TAKE YOU BACK TO KANSAS CITY. ANOTHER PROMOTION FOR YOU!

GOLLY, DO YOU MEAN --? (SPL) ER-- YES, PROFESSOR!



AND SO, WE RELUCTANTLY BID LEAVE TO THE ENCHANTING ISLE OF THE DEAD, MISS KENNEDY, WHATEVER SIDETRACKED YOU INTO A RACKET LIKE THIS?

LOOK WHO'S ASKING! YOU WITH **HARYARD** POURIN' OUT YOUR MOUTH! THE **POT** CALLS THE **KETTLE** BACK!



ME, I'M IN IT FOR WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE? **COLD CASH... AND I LOVE IT-- SEE?**

WHO ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE, ME-- OR OH, WELL...



YOU WILL RELAY SHIPMENTS DIRECTLY FROM YOUR APARTMENT, MISS KENNEDY. TONY WILL INSTRUCT YOU FURTHER... AND DON'T FORGET IF YOU EVER NEED ANY HELP--

SURE! I'LL RUN **RIGHT TO YOU** THE MIN MY **ELECTRIC DISHWASHER** GOES ON THE FRITZ! **GOOD BYE, MR. WHISKERS!**



OH, HOW I WANTED TO POUR MYSELF OUT TO HIM -- TO TELL HIM THE **TRUTH!**... BUT THE GUY WAS **TOO SMOOTH!** SUPPOSING HE WAS JUST **TESTING** ME? MAYBE HE WAS THE **BIG BOSS** HIMSELF? ANYWAY, I WASN'T WORKING WITH TONY LONG WHEN **ANOTHER JOLT** CAME --

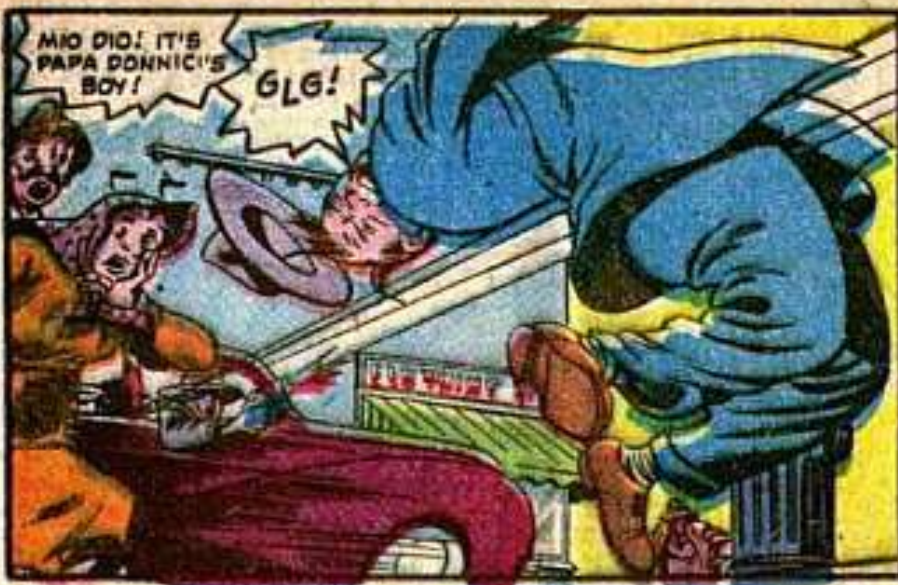


HALLO, JOSEPH! HOW'S THE BUDDING CHEMIST THESE DAYS? PAPA DONNICI TELLS ME --

HA! YOU KNOW DAD, ED! WHATEVER HE SAYS I'M DOING IT'S HALF THAT GOOD!

WAIT LL HE GETS A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN.

THERE IS ONLY ONE **TRUE CRIME COMICS** -- THIS IS IT!



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



TONY!...THE LID'S BLOWN OFF! THEY GOT THE BIG BOSS! THEY'RE HABBING EVERYBODY! WE'RE COOKED!

HOLY JUMPIN'-- YOU MEAN IT?



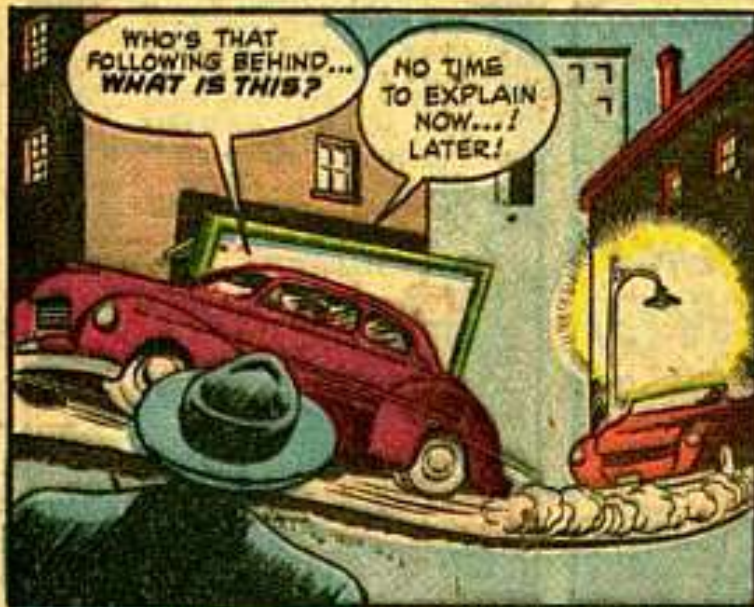
GMXXI@!!... OKAY! SO LET 'EM GET ME! THEY CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING IF NOBODY SQUEALS! THE ONLY ONE WEAK ENOUGH TO SOUND OFF IS MARY KENNEDY AND I'LL FIX HER!



MISS KENNEDY? TONY WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY! IT'S MOST URGENT!

TONY SAID RIGHT NOW!

TONY?... WHY SURE! GEE I WAS WONDERIN' IF HE'D FORGOTTEN! WAIT'LL I STRAIGHTEN OUT MY FACE!



WHO'S THAT FOLLOWING BEHIND... WHAT IS THIS?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW...! LATER!



... WELL FER GOSH SAKES!

GET IN HERE!



WH-WHO ARE YOU??...TH' PROFESSOR! WITHOUT HIS BEARD!! BUT I THOUGHT-- WHERE'S TONY?

SORRY I TRICKED YOU, MISS KENNEDY, BUT I WAS, AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T COME FOR ME! YOU'RE IN GRAVE PERIL!

HUH??



MY REAL NAME IS JACOBS... FEDERAL NARCOTICS BUREAU! THE WHOLE DOPE RING IS BEING ROUNDED UP... AND TONY PETRILLO WOULD LIKE TO SILENCE YOU AS A STATE'S WITNESS FOR GOOD!

WHAT? I DON'T BELIEVE IT! TONY KNOWS I--

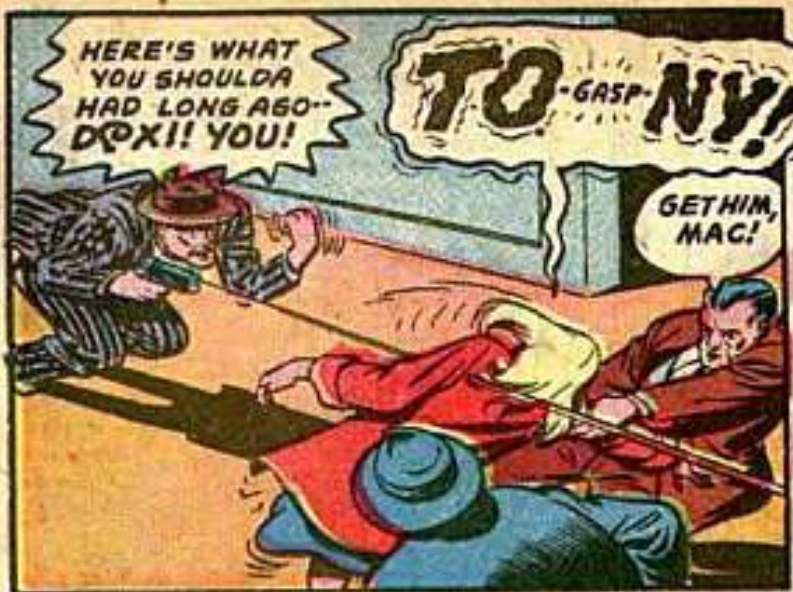
HE SAW US LEAVIN' HER PLACE, CHEP, BUT I THINK WE LOST HIM!



YOU SPEWING STOOL!! COULDN'T WAIT TO RAT ON ME, COULD YOU?

T-TONY!! YOU'RE MAD! I WOULDN'T SQUEAL ON YOU--!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD'VE HAD LONG AGO--
DOXI! YOU!

TO-GASP-NY!

GET HIM, MAC!



YOU, TOO, COPPERS!
I'LL KILL--
KILL...

H--HONEST, TONY... YOU KNOW... HOW IT IS... WITH ME...



HE'S DEAD, MISS KENNEDY... THE MAN YOU LOVED-- WHO WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU! PERHAPS NOW YOU'LL BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES!

YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID NOW! WE HAVE ALL THE OTHERS IN CUSTODY!

Y-YOU KNOW WHO THE BIG BOSS IS?



THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE GANG-- TO FIND OUT! BUT THE REAL TIP-OFF WAS THE KILLING OF JOSEPH DONNICI! WE FOUND THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT, MISS KENNEDY! IT WAS ESTHER GORDON'S REVENGE AGAINST THE BIG BOSS, WHO WAS--

**PAPA DONNICI!
NO! NO!**



HE WAS MY FRIEND!! EVERYBODY'S FRIEND! HOW MANY TIMES I NEARLY WENT TO HIM FOR HELP!.. AND ALL THE WHILE HE-- HE-- OH, GEEZE... AIN'T THERE ANYONE IN THE WORLD YA CAN TRUST??



IF I LIVE A MILLION YEARS, I'LL NEVER GET IT!...
PAPA DONNICI!...
I TURNED STATES WITNESS AND HELPED SEND HIM AND HIS SLIMEY CREW UP THE RIVER! ME?... I GOT THE LONGEST SENTENCE OF ALL-- THREE MONTHS IN JAIL AND A LIFE TIME OF REGRET! I'LL NEVER BE FREE!

JANE-- ER, MARY! YOU KNOW WHAT RY TANK?



TELL YOUR STORY, TO THE WORLD!... JUST THE WAY YOU TELL IT TO ME! MAYBE YOU BANE HELP KEEP OTHER FOOLISH GIRLS FROM MAKING SAME MISTAKE-- MAYBE THEN YOU FEEL BETTER, YA?

IF-- IF ONLY I COULD!.. OH, MRS., DEAR SWEET JOHNSTON! I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU! AND BELIEVE ME, HERE'S A GIRL WHO REALLY KNOWS NOW WHAT LOVE IS!



SO THAT'S IT-- JUST AS MRS. JOHNSTON GOT IT. MEBBE NOW I CAN SLEEP... MEBBE NOT... BUT IF MY STORY CAN SHOW SOME UNTHINKING SOULS THE FOOLISH FOLLY OF CRIME, I RECKON IT'LL BE WORTH IT! Y'UNNERSTAND?

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS -- THIS IS IT!

THERE IS ONLY ONE **TRUE CRIME COMICS** — THIS IS IT!



MURDER IS A SHORT ROAD!

A TRUE CRIME FEATURE

THE TWO boys, one a youngster with wavy brown hair, the other slightly older and a redhead, wandered carelessly through the streets of Chicago's Northwest side. They stopped before a prosperous-looking home and chatted casually, pointing to the house. A neighbor watched them from across the tree-lined street, wondering what they were up to. Then the neighbor turned away and forgot all about it.

But the next day the owner of the house reported to the police that the place had been burglarized. Five hundred dollars in cash and six hundred dollars worth of clothing had been taken!

Ten days later another burglary took place in the same district. This time \$1,250 in War Bonds and a thousand dollars worth of clothing were reported missing... and a neighbor told police a redhead and a young brown-haired boy had been seen lounging about

the looted premises!

The local precinct station put out an alarm for the two boys answering the neighbors' description. "They're just youngsters, apparently," the police captain in command remarked. "Two more kids starting out on the road to crime. I hope we can get them before the young fools go too far!"

But the captain's hopes were not to be realized. A month after the burglaries, police were called to the great Stevens Hotel, in downtown Chicago. A maid had opened a closet door and screamed hysterically at the sight of a battered body inside... the body of a young, red-haired boy. He was dressed in gay red and yellow pajamas... and he had been beaten and then stabbed to death.

A broken chair leg, a smashed light bulb and a discarded blackjack told the police there had been a struggle before the boy died. And the hotel management reported that the young redhead

was one of the two boys who had checked into that room a few days before, under the names Harold Gordon and Robert Levitus. The manager couldn't tell which name belonged to which boy, but whoever the victim's roommate was, he was now definitely missing.

Trying to find out something about the two youngsters, detectives investigated further. They had registered as coming from New York City, so a query was sent to the eastern city's police department. But the murder itself gave sleuths a multitude of things to think about. The boys' clothes for instance... a dozen new suits, in two different sizes. Plentiful, expensive linens, indicating that these boys had plenteous funds, whoever they were. But there was a puzzling thing about the shirts: they were variously initialed, some with M. S., others with D. J. C. Neither of these could possibly stand for either

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!

Harold Gordon or Robert Levitus?

Two more clues filled in the police picture of the background for juvenile murder: First was a hair ribbon and bobby pin, found on the floor. That meant one thing . . . a girl was involved. And when you're dealing with hot-headed, mixed-up youngsters, a girl can mean trouble!

The other clue was even more revealing . . . under the clothes in the dresser drawers was found a whole pile of treasures, watches, bracelets, rings, necklaces, and the like. Some of it was valueless costume jewelry, whose bright glitter might fool a couple of young amateur crooks. But the value of the whole trove amounted to several hundred dollars. The police captain on the Chicago Northwest side soon knew that at least one of his suspected burglars would not be troubling him again!

But the police still didn't know who the boys really were. The dead redhead might be Gordon or Levitus. Or he might be M. S. or D. J. C. The hotel people were not much help. A bellboy reported that the redhead seemed about sixteen or seventeen years old, and the leader of the two. Both were flashily dressed and "tried to act tough." An elevator operator described a fifteen or sixteen-year-old girl, brown-haired and pretty, who had visited the room on the seventh floor.

The two boys, the hotel switchboard operators said, had made thirty-four outgoing calls in the brief period they had occupied the room. They had received thirteen. The police set about

checking the phone numbers on the hotel records. Practically all of them turned out to be located in the swanky North Side section of Chicago, in private homes. After repeated inquiries, the detective in charge found no one who knew a Harold Gordon or Robert Levitus. Then at last the officer found what he was looking for.

A young girl answered the phone, giving her name as Shirley Allen. Yes, she knew Gordon . . . "Flash" Gordon, she called him. But his real name was Morton Stein. M. S.! Cautiously the policeman hinted that she had visited the boy at the Stevens Hotel. The girl readily admitted it, saying there was no harm in it. His friend Donald Edwards had been there, too.

This was a new name to the police. Shirley Allen gave them the home address of Morton Stein's family, however. And she agreed to come down to police headquarters, accompanied by her mother, to identify the body. Yes, she sobbed hysterically, the red-headed murder victim was Morton Stein. She also cleared up the mystery of the second set of initials. They stood for Donald Jay Cook, the real name of the boy who called himself both Don Edwards and Robert Levitus. "He was in some kind of trouble," Shirley told the police between sobs.

She gave the officers a rhinestone bracelet, obviously a part of the burglary loot found in the dresser drawer of the hotel room, which she said Morton had presented to her. The New York po-

Appear at once TALLER



For years I was called "Shorty" until I saw your book. I was disappointed at first but after I read it I was convinced. I am now 5'11" and my wife is 5'4". My friends are all taller than I was before. I feel like a new man.

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lice also had reported that they were looking for a couple of boys called Gordon and Levitus in connection with some robberies in that city. The trail of the youthful crime team was now clear.

"They quarreled, because Donald objected to Morton giving me the bracelet!" Shirley further related. There was the murder pattern, complete at last! The authorities issued a nation-wide alert for the capture of teen-ager Donald Jay Cook. Wanted for Murder!

And eventually, a little more than four months after the discovery of the redheaded boy in the Stevens Hotel, young Cook was picked up in New Orleans, driving a stolen car. He soon broke down and confessed the whole sordid story . . . his meeting with Stein in a correction school, their career of robbery and burglary together, and then the final fatal quarrel in the hotel room.

It had begun over the gift to Shirley of the bracelet. Morton had resented Donald's interference, and remained sullen and quarrelsome until the next day. Then the bitterness between them had flared anew.

"Stein made a lunge at me and I grabbed the blackjack," young Cook related. "I knew it was either kill or be killed. After he fell, I stabbed him, I left the hotel and took a bus for Dallas."

More fortunate than most murderers, Donald was permitted to enter a plea of guilty of manslaughter. He was sentenced to seven to fourteen years in prison.

But will young Donald, who might have been executed, have learned any lesson when he comes out of prison, still a comparatively young man? Will his own career and the short, tragic one of his young friend have changed him into an honest man? The answer to the question lies in many unknown quantities, such as his experience in prison, his own character, and what awaits him when he gets out. If it is the same thing that he had before he began his career of crime . . . uncertainty, a disrupted home, embittering poverty . . . the chances are not good.

(Continued on page 48)



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DEMONS DANCE ON

THE MOST HORRIBLE
CRIME IN HISTORY!

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? WHO WERE THE HORRIBLE CREATURES OF THE SHADOWY MOOR WHO PREYED UPON HAPLESS TRAVELLERS, TERRORIZED THE COUNTRYSIDE? THE GRUESOME TALE OF THEIR BLOOD-CURLING DEEDS IS NOT A LEGEND, NOT A GHOST STORY. IT REALLY HAPPENED IN SCOTLAND, JUST A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO. MEN ACTUALLY WHISPERED OF THE UNDEAD THINGS, THE HORRIBLE PHANTOMS OF THE NIGHT, THAT ROAMED THE MOORS OF GALLOWAY FOR TWENTY YEARS, SPREADING TERROR AND DEATH! NO ONE WHO LIVED HAD SEEN THEM! NO MAN COULD SAY WHAT THEIR TERRIBLE FORMS WERE, WHETHER DEMONS OR SPAWN OF THE DEVIL!!!

I WARN YOU, SIR, YOU'D BETTER STAY HERE AT MY INN TONIGHT! IT'LL BE DARK IN HALF AN HOUR AND NO ONE CAN CROSS THE MOORS AT NIGHT! THE CREATURES OF TERROR RULE THERE, BELIEVE ME!

AY, SIR, IF YOU DARE VENTURE OUT THERE AT NIGHT THE EVIL SPIRITS WILL SURELY TAKE YOU. FOR MANY YEARS NO ONE IN THESE PARTS HAS DARED TO GO OUT AT NIGHT!

STEP ASIDE! I HAVEN'T ANY TIME FOR YOUR SILLY SUPERSTITIONS!

THE RED BULL INN

A HORRIBLE UNEARTHLY SCREAM SHRIEKS OUT OF THE DARK. THE HORSE REARS IN TERROR—

JOCK—QUIET BOY! JOCK! HELP!

EE E A A A GH!

—IN THE SAME INSTANT... AS THOUGH RISING OUT OF THE VERY EARTH... DARK FORMS POUNCE ON THE BODY—

NO, NO! GO AWAY— LEAVE ME ALONE!!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!

GALLOWAY MOOR!



NO, NO, SIR! IT IS NOT SILLY SUPERSTITION! DOZENS OF TRAVELLERS HAVE VANISHED, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN! YOU MUST NOT GO! THE DEMONS! THE DEMONS!



HA, WHAT DO THEY THINK I AM, A CHILD? HOW COULD I, A PRACTICAL, INTELLIGENT MERCHANT OF EDINBURGH, IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, BELIEVE THEIR OLD WIVES TALE ABOUT GHOULS AND GOBLINS PROWLING THE MOORS! BIDDYAP FASTER JOCK! I'LL BE SAFE IN BED BY MIDNIGHT!

FOR AN HOUR THE BRAVE MERCHANT RODE DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE MOORS. HE LAUGHED SCORNFULLY AS HE LISTENED TO THE SHRIEKING OF THE NIGHT WIND, WHICH IGNORANT LOCAL PEASANTS NO DOUBT MISTOOK FOR THE SCREAMS OF AGONIZED SOULS, WHEN SUDDENLY...



JOCK... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?



AAAAAAGH!

AT DAWN LOOK IT'S THE HORSE OF THE MERCHANT WHO WAS HERE LATE YESTERDAY! THE ANIMAL HAS RETURNED WITHOUT HIM!

I WARNED HIM NOT TO GO OUT THERE BUT NO, HE SAID I SPOKE NONSENSE! HE WILL NEVER RETURN... I'M SURE OF IT! LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, HE HAS VANISHED FOREVER ON THE TERRIBLE MOORS!

PAPA, MAYBE HE FELL OFF HIS HORSE, HUH, PAPA?

NO SON, FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS TRAVELLERS HAVE BEEN VANISHING ON THE MOORS WITH NEVER SO MUCH AS A BLEACHED BONE LEFT BEHIND AS A CLUE! NO ONE EVER KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM. IT ALL BEGAN WITH SAWNEY BEANE AND HIS BRIDE... THEY WERE THE FIRST VICTIMS!



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!

BUT WHY SHOULD THE ODD DISAPPEARANCE OF ONE YOUNG COUPLE BE FOLLOWED THROUGH THE YEARS BY A DELUGE OF OTHERS? HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN? WELL, LET'S GO BACK TO THE TIME WHEN...



SAWNEY DEAR, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH TERRIBLY IN LOVE, MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ELOPED! I'M AFRAID FATHER WILL BE AWFULLY ANGRY!

AW, POPPYCOCK, MARY, WE'RE MAN AND WIFE NOW! NOTHING CAN PART US!

WHAT? THIS SCOUNDREL YOUR HUSBAND? NEVER WHILE I LIVE! WHY, I'D RATHER SEE YOU DEAD THAN MARRIED TO HIM!



ALAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? SHE'S OUR ONLY DAUGHTER, CALM YOURSELF!

FATHER, PLEASE! I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE UNLESS I COULD BE WITH SAWNEY!

YOU WERE RIGHT, MARY! WE MUST FLEE! HE'LL KILL US BOTH IF HE EVER CATCHES US!

STOP! MARY COME BACK! WHERE ARE MY HOUNDS... MY GUN... I'LL TRAIL YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH IF NECESSARY! I'LL HUNT YOU TILL MY DYING DAY!



MARY! ALAN!



SAWNEY, LISTEN! THE HOUNDS ARE ALMOST UPON US! WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM MY FATHER! WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO! WE'LL SURELY BE CAUGHT... OH SAWNEY WHAT'LL WE DO?

PLEASE, MARY, DON'T BE AFRAID! WE HAVE ONE CHANCE! IF WE CAN REACH THE GALLOWAY MOORS, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HIDE OURSELVES IN THE MIST!



WE MADE IT, SAWNEY... WE MADE IT! WE LOST HIM! WE CAN'T EVEN HEAR THE DOGS ANY MORE! BUT I'M SO TIRED... WE'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR SO LONG! I JUST WANT TO LIE DOWN AND... OH! WHAT'S THAT?

JUST THE MOANING OF THE WIND, MARY. WE'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF FINDING SHELTER IN THE CLIFFS ALONG THE SHORE! WE'LL HEAD IN THAT DIRECTION!



I CAN'T GO A STEP FURTHER, I...

LOOK... UP THERE! A CAVE. SEE, I TOLD YOU WE'D FIND SOME KIND OF SHELTER ALONG THE SHORE! WE CAN STAY THERE FOR THE NIGHT!



COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, THEY BOTH FALL INTO A DEEP SLEEP. AT DAYBREAK THEY AWAKE AND...

WE'RE TRAPPED! THE OCEAN HAS RISEN RIGHT UP TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE CAVE! WE'LL BE DROWNED, SAWNEY!

NO, MARY, DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THE TIDE HAS COME IN! WHEN THE TIDE RECESSES WE CAN GET OUT! THIS IS WONDERFUL! YOUR FATHER WILL NEVER FIND US HERE! YES, WE'LL MAKE THIS CAVE OUR HOME!



THE TIDE IS OUT. THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FORAGE SOME FOOD FOR YOU DEAR. WHAT WOULD YOUR MAJESTY PREFER? CHOICE STEAKS, OR TENDER HUMMING BIRDS? HA, HA!

GO ON WITH YOU, DARLING, YOU'RE JOSHING ME... ANYTHING WILL DO!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!

BUT THERE WAS NO FOOD TO BE HAD THE FIRST DAY... SECOND... THIRD... AS THE DAYS PASSED THEIR HUNGER GREW MORE FIERCE, WHILE THEIR STRENGTH EBBED. THEN, ON THE SEVENTH DAY...



HOW CAN WE SURVIVE? NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SEARCH I CAN'T FIND A SINGLE SCRAP OF FOOD. MARY IS FEVERISH! SHE'S DYING! NO MATTER HOW WEAK I AM, I MUST GO ON! I CAN'T FAIL TODAY... I CAN... AH! A LONE TRAVELLER! AND HIS POUCH FAIRLY WEIGHS HIM DOWN! IT MUST CONTAIN FOOD!



FOOD! FOOD! THE TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE IS OVER! MY MARY IS STARVING, BUT I CAN FEED HER NOW! THE POUCH! THE POUCH! I MUST TAKE IT TO HER! I MUST OPEN IT FOR JUST ONE LOOK AT FOOD...



NO...NO... IT CAN'T BE! THERE ISN'T ANY FOOD IN HERE, ONLY BITS OF RIBBONS AND LACE, NOT EVEN A DRY CRUST OF BREAD!



HOW CRUEL CAN THE FATES BE? AAH! I HAVE MURDERED A MAN AND I STILL HAVEN'T A BIT OF FOOD TO BRING (SOB) TO MY STARVING MARY! (SOB)



FOOD...YES... THERE IS SOME FOOD. IT'S... IT'S H-HORRIBLE! BUT WE MUST HAVE FOOD! IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER!



IS THAT YOU, SAWNEY? HAVE YOU BROUGHT ANYTHING TO EAT? I'M SO HUNGRY... ANY KIND OF FOOD... ANYTHING. IF I DON'T HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT SOON I WILL DIE, SAWNEY!

YES, MARY... I AM BRINGING FOOD...

YES, MAD WITH HUNGER, MARY AND SAWNEY BEANE WERE DRIVEN TO THE MOST DREADFUL CRIME POSSIBLE BY MAN... WORSE THAN ROBBERY... WORSE THAN MURDER ITSELF... **CANNIBALISM!** THEY STARTED AS NORMAL HUMANS, BUT DAY AFTER DAY... YEAR AFTER YEAR... THEY BECAME MORE AND MORE SAVAGE!



THEIR CHILDREN - **BEASTS!**

YES, A BAND OF INHUMAN THINGS, DEMONS IN BODILY FORM, DID INFEST THE MOORS OF GALLOWAY... THE BEAST-LIKE OFFSPRING OF MARY AND SAWNEY BEANE! PITILESS, SAVAGE, BLOOD-THIRSTY THEIR REIGN OF TERROR MADE THE MOORS A PLACE OF HORROR TO WHICH NO SENSIBLE PERSON DARED VENTURE! FOR YEARS THE LEGEND OF THE GALLOWAY DEMONS GREW. NO ONE BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE HUMAN, EXCEPT ONE MAN...

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT! 4

YES, MARY'S FATHER, A MAN AS SAVAGE AND UNRELENTING AS THE DEMONS THEMSELVES, HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD DEFIED HIM. YEAR AFTER YEAR HE GREW MORE BITTER, BEATING THE WIFE WHO HAD BORNE THE LOST DAUGHTER... AND EVERY DAY FOR TWENTY YEARS HE WENT OUT TO SEARCH FOR THEM AND THE TOWNSFOLK CALLED HIM MAD... EVEN THE MINISTER, WHO HAD MARRIED SAWNEY AND MARY, FELT THE BITTER FURY OF HIS UNRELENTING HATE...



HOW DARE YOU TELL ME NOT TO SEARCH FOR YOUR WORTHLESS DAUGHTER, YOU HAG! JOSEPH, BRING THE GUNS AND DOGS!



COMING, MASTER! YOU, MINISTER! YOU'LL RUE THE DAY YOU MARRIED THOSE TWO!



MAYBE THEY'RE HIDING OVER THE NEXT HILL, SURE... THAT'S IT... THE NEXT HILL! I'LL GET YOU! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME!

HIS INSANE PASSION HAS SNAPPED HIS MIND. HE'S A RAVING MADMAN! I'M GOING BACK... IT'S ALMOST DARK... I'M NOT GOING TO INVITE THE DEMONS TO CATCH ME

BUT THE MASTER TURNS ON HIS OWN SERVANT, SCREAMING THAT THEY WON'T GIVE UP THE SEARCH UNTIL HE SEES THE ELOPERS DEAD. JUST THEN A SHRIEK RENTS THE AIR...



MASTER... MASTER... WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?



HA!!! THE DEMONS! I TOLD YOU, MASTER! WE'RE LOST!



A WOMAN COMING AT ME! THEY AREN'T DEMONS... THEY ARE HUMAN!

THAT FACE... I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE! OH, NO... IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE... BUT IT IS! MARY, IT'S MARY!



KILL-L-L!

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, MARY? IT'S YOUR FATHER! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY ARE YOU COMING AT ME THAT WAY? I'M YOUR FATHER! THOSE TEETH... THEY'RE LIKE FANGS... KEEP AWAY...



THE OLD MAN GOES DOWN UNDER THE SAVAGE ONSLAUGHT. FOR A MOMENT THE HUMAN BEASTS, SENSING THE KILL, TURN AWAY FROM THE TERRIFIED SERVANT. JUST ONE OF THE "DEMONS" LUNGES AT HIM...



AAAGH!

YOU WON'T GET ME! TAKE THAT!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!



WITH THE ONE BEAST SHOT THE SERVANT MAKES HIS ESCAPE...

WAKE UP, EVERYBODY! THE DEMONS ATTACKED US AND KILLED MR DUFF! BUT THEY AREN'T DEMONS, THEY'RE HUMANS! DO YOU HEAR ME? THEY AREN'T SPIRITS! THEY'RE MAN-EATING HUMANS!

YOU ROWDY, MUST YOU DO YOUR CELEBRATING IN THE STREETS! GO UP TO THE TAVERN WHERE YOU BELONG.

THE MAN DOESN'T SEEM TO BE OUT OF HIS MIND, BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS THEY ARE EVIL SPIRITS!

'SPIRITS' IS RIGHT! AND HE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD ABOUT AS MUCH AS HE CAN HOLD!



I TELL YOU IT'S TRUE! IN FACT DURING THE STRUGGLE, IN MY MY MASTER'S LAST GASPS FOR LIFE, HE DELIRIOUSLY SCREAMED THAT HIS OWN DAUGHTER WAS ONE OF THE ATTACKERS!

MAYBE HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH!

LOOK, ONLY HUMAN FORCE COULD HAVE BATTERED THIS MAN AS HE IS!



SOME OF YOU GET THE BLOODHOUNDS AND CATCH UP WITH US. THE SERVANT WILL TAKE US BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK AND WE'LL PICK UP THE TRAIL FROM THERE!

HURRY AFTER AN ORGY LIKE THAT, THE SCENT SHOULD STILL BE VERY STRONG!



THE AROUSED VILLAGERS GATHER FROM ALL SIDES, ARMED WITH CLUBS AND TORCHES, THEY SET OUT TO SCOUR THE MOORS. THE DOGS PICK UP THE TRAIL WHERE THE SERVANT LEADS THEM, AND SOON THE SEARCHERS COME TO A CERTAIN CAVE ON THE SHORE...

LISTEN TO THAT WEIRD HOWLING!

A YAAAAAIIA!
E BEEEEAAH!



ATTACK!
KILL OR CAPTURE THEM! DON'T LET ONE ESCAPE!



THE FIGHT WAS BITTER BUT NOT PROLONGED... THE BEANE TRIBE, PRIMITIVE SAVAGES THAT THEY WERE, COULD NOT COPE WITH AN ORGANIZED FORCE OF DETERMINED MEN....

SEIZE THEM! TIE THEM UP!

SMASH THE FIENDS! THEY'LL PAY FOR THEIR HORRIBLE CRIMES



AFTER THEY WERE SUBDUED AND TAKEN TO TOWN, THERE WAS NO TRIAL. SAWNEY BEANE AND HIS FAMILY HAD LIVED BY THE LAW OF THE BEAST AND SO THEY DIED

THAT WAY AS THEIR AGONIZED SCREAMS MINGLED WITH THE CRACKLING FLAMES, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE FATHER'S FATE ALSO WAS DESERVED. IT WAS HIS OWN FANATICISM THAT LED TO THEIR DOWNFALL... -- FOR IT WAS HIS BITTER HATE WHICH LED TO THE ELOPEMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!

Boston's BLOODY



FIRST IT'D BE
**BIG PHIL
CAPPOLLA**
BLASTING
AWAY—

NOW,
BOYS— NO
TEARS! YOU'LL
ONLY SINK
THE BOAT
FASTER!
HAW!

PHIL PHIL!
YOU'RE A
SMART GEE.
LET US LOOSE
AN' WE'LL HELP
YA GET FLAK
OURSELVES!

Y-YEAH—
W-WE'D
RATHER
W-WORK
FER YOU
ANYWAY!

FROM POLICE FILES
*Every
Word
TRUE!*



A COUPLE
MORE MILES
OUGHTA DO
TH' TRICK!

IT BETTER!
THESE ~~SMALL~~
GRAVEL ROADS
ARE TOUGH
ON TIRES!

SUPERB!
EVEN BIG PHIL
WILL ADMIRE
THIS JOB... IF HE
LIVES LONG
ENOUGH TO
IDENTIFY THE
MEAT!

BUT YA GOTTA
ADMIT, THERE'S
NOTHING LIKE
'EM FOR
ERASING
FACES!

THEN
**LITTLE MIKE
TURK**
WOULD COME
ROARING BACK!



AND SO IT WENT
WITH PHIL AND MIKE!
THE MARTIN VS MCCOY
FRACAS WAS AN OLD-MAID'S
GUILTING PARTY COMPARED
WITH THE SAVAGE BUTCHERY
OF THESE TWO RIVALS
FOR BOSTON'S
UNDERWORLD
THRONE...

UNTIL →

IF WE HADNT SEEN THE ACTUAL POLICE FILES, WE WOULDNT HAVE BELIEVED THIS STORY! BUT BIG PHIL AND LITTLE MIKE AND THEIR WANTON, RUTHLESS GANG-WAR ARE WRITTEN IN BLOOD ON THE POLICE BLOTTER OF BOSTON

YOU'VE NEVER READ OF SUCH DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE-OF SUCH HATE AND CRIMINAL PASSION!

BIG PHIL LIVED FOR HATE-HE LIVED TO KILL!

LITTLE MIKE DIDNT START THINGS, BUT WHEN HIS POWER WAS THREATENED, HE FOUGHT BACK-WITH HOT LEAD AND COLD STEEL!



GET BACK TO THAT WINDOW, PUNK! YOU CAN STILL HOLD A GAT!

HE'S BLEEDIN' PRETTY BAD, PHIL! WANT ME TO CALL DOC SWANSON?

NINE-THIRTY! THERE GOES MY DATE FOR TONIGHT!

BUT I AM, NUTS!

OUCH! WATCH THEM SCISSORS, STELLA! AN' SINCE WHEN DOES TONY'S HEALTH CONCERN YOU?



WHEW! WHATTA NIGHT! HOW'S RED?

STONE DEAD! PHIL, WHERE'S ALL THIS GONNA END? IT'S COSTIN' US MORE TO BUCK MIKE TURK THAN WE TAKE IN!

AND WITH THIS NEW SCALISI MOB GETTIN' BIG IDEAS LIFE AINT GETTIN' EASIER!

SMUTTER WILLIE, TURNIN' YELLA!



LOOK AT THEM! KILLERS... ALL OF 'EM! SURE THEY'LL DO STEALIN' AND MURDER... BUT IT'S GOTTA BE PEACEFUL... NO KICK-BACKS, Y' UNDERSTAND? NOW SCRAM, BEAT IT!! AND AS FER THAT LITTLE FARCE, TURK... I'LL NEVER GIVE IN TO HIM... NEVER!

OKAY, PHIL, OKAY!



BUT THE NEXT DAY...

MIKE BOY!, ME OLD PAL MIKE TURK! HOW ARE YA, ANYWAY?

HEAVENLY DAYS! PHILLIP CAPPOLLA! COME IN!

MIKE, YA GETTIN' MARRIED?

ME? OH, HA/HA! NO, THAT'S MY SISTER SALLY! SHE'S REHEARSIN' FOR THE BIG STEP TOMORROW... SALLY, MEET MR. CAPPOLLA!

WHAT DOES HE WANT?



SO WHAT'CHA SAY CHIME, THANKS. BOSTON'S A BIG TOWN, WHY SHOULD WE BE RABBLIN' EACH OTHER AROUND WHEN THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM FOR BOTH OF US?

I LIKE YOU, PHILLIP! AND YOU'RE RIGHT, SUPPOSING WE SPLIT THE TOWN IN TWO... GAMBLING INTERESTS ON THE NORTH SIDE ARE YOURS, AND I'LL HANDLE THE SOUTH!

IT'S A DEAL!



HA HA HO! WONDERFUL! THIS IS... HA HA... PRICELESS! BIG PHIL CAPPOLLA LICKING LITTLE MIKE'S BOOTS! OH HOW IT MUST HAVE HURT!

MIKE, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY BALL WITH HIM?

WE'LL SEE NOW RUN ALONG TO YOUR PARTY AND LEAVE PHILLIP TO ME!



TH' SMUG LITTLE RAT! I'D SOONER TAKEN POISON! HOW AM I GONNA BREAK TH' NEWS TO TH' GANG, AFTER SPOUTIN' OFF LAST NIGHT? UGH! NEED A GOOD STIFF DRINK!



BUT DON' THINK I'M GIVIN' W'T MIKE PERMINENT, NO SHIR! IT'S ONLY TIL WE GET RIDDA SCALISI'S MOB-AN' WILLIE, YOU'RE TAKIN' CARE OF SCALISI T' NIGHT! HOWSH THE SHOULDER TONY?

COMIN' ALONG!

WERE WITH YOU 100% PHIL! WHAT HOTEL DID YA SAY HE WAS AT?



AS SALLY TURK AND HER FIANCE, ANGELO OLIVIER RETURN FROM THEIR PARTY, A MAN IN THE STREET HAILS A TAXI...

TAXI!

LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S ASKIN' FOR US!



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT! ®



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT! ④



SO LONG, BREAKING!

...I BETTER LAY LOW FOR AWHILE, BUT I'LL HEAL-UP, BIG PHIL... THEN YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING SNAKE, LOOK OUT!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

IMAGINE THIS SQUIRT, FISHER, I THINK HIS NAME IS, TRYING TO LACE YOU UP BY GOING OVER A COUPLE OF BANK STATEMENTS! HAW, AINT THAT A LAUGH!

NOT WHEN YOU DO TH' CACKLIN' TONY!

OH, THERE YOU ARE, RICKERT! HOW'D YA COME, BY TH' SUEZ CANAL?

WHAT'S UP, PHIL?



I DON'T LIKE IT! IF THIS GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANT FINDS THE SLIGHTEST EVIDENCE OF TAX EVASION, YOU'RE IN TROUBLE... AND YOU CAN'T BRIBE FEDERAL JUDGES, PHIL... IT LOOKS BAD!

A HUNDRED GRAND A YEAR I'M PAYIN' THIS LEGAL SHYSTER... AN' ALL HE CAN SAY IS, IT LOOKS BAD... GET OUT... YOU TOO, PUNK, I'LL DO MY OWN THINKIN'!

PUNK... ONE OF THESE DAYS.



ASSASSINS, ALL AROUND ME... I SEEN THEIR EYES... THEY WERE LOVIN' IT... WATCHIN ME SWEAT... SOMEBODY WISED-UP TH' T-MEN AN' SOMEBODY IS GONNA DIE!

COMIN' PHIL!

STELLA! C'MERE!

LO' SWEET!

STELLA I HATE HIS OUTS!



YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST ANYMORE, BABY! I GOT A JOB JUST YOUR SIZE... BETTER RUN HOME AN' TAKE TH' GLAMOUR OFF... SUP INTO SOMETHING LIKE WHAT A BANK CASHIER'S WIFE WOULD WEAR!

YOU NAME, I DO, PHILSY!



later...

...I'M HE! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

MR FISHER, MY HUSBAND IS A CASHIER AT THE CARVER BANK! HE'S AFRAID TO TALK TO YOU DOWN THERE, BUT IF YOU'D COME TO OUR HOUSE... HE KNOWS SOME VITAL INFORMATION ON THE CAPPOLLA CASE...



WE'VE PLENTY ON CAPPOLLA ALREADY, MRS...

RILEY!

OH, YES, WINDOW FOUR... BUT EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!

MY CAR'S RIGHT OUT-SIDE!



WHA... MMPPF...

WHAT DID YOU SAY, MR. FISHER? YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK PLAINER THAN THAT... AND PLENTY!



SO! IT WAS MIKE TURK, SIC'D THE LAW ON TH' BOSS! TCH! TCH! AND AFTER PHIL GOIN' OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE SO NICE...

OH! I-I-I'LL NEVER W-WALK AGAIN...

HOW TRUE! KINDA HATE TO DO THIS... YOU'RE A SPUNKY L'L FELLER... BUT ORDERS IS ORDERS!



NOTHING PERSONAL, Y' UNNERSTAND!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



...AND YOU WERE THE JERKS WHO WANTED ME TO PLAY PATTI-CAKE WITH TURK! "BE DIPLOMATIC," Y' SAID! I'VELL WELCOME BACK TO MY OWN PERSONAL BRAND OF STRATEGY!

SHADDUP!

BUT PHIL... I'M BUYIN' A CERTAIN RESTAURANT TOMORROW AND BY A STRANGE COINCIDENCE MIKE EATS THERE REGULARLY! NOW GET THIS...



SOON AFTER...

EVENING, LEVIS! LET'S SEE... THURSDAY... THAT'S POT ROAST, RIGHT?

THE NAME IS THOMPSON, SIR! LEWIS LEFT FOR FLORIDA... HIS HEALTH, YOU KNOW!



OH? NO, I DIDN'T KNOW... SORRY TO HEAR IT! NICE CHAP, HE WAS! WELL, THAT'S NOT GETTING ME ANY FULLER... LET'S START OFF WITH A BOWL OF MINSTRONE!

COMING RIGHT UP, SIR!



ALLRIGHT, MIKE TURK... WE'RE GOIN' FOR A NICE LITTLE RIDE!

BE RIGHT WITH YOU LADS, AS SOON AS I FINISH MY SOUP. MMM... DELICIOUS! WON'T YOU SIT DOWN?

OR WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE IT HERE NOW?



NO... I GUESS YOU'RE IN A HURRY... (SLURP, SLURP) THAT'S THE TROUBLE TODAY... (SLURP) PEOPLE HURRYING, RUNNING AFTER TRAINS, GULPING FOOD...

HUH?



NOW!

...A TRAP! SAMMY! ROZ! C'M ON OUT AN... OOH!

AAH!

...G... GIVE... US... A... HAND...

TH' WAITERS MINE!



SOMETHING WENT WRONG! OH, M'ARM! GHA! TONY'S GOT TH' CAR KEYS... GOTTA RUN FOR IT...

HA/HA! LET HIM GO PUT A NICKEL IN THE JUKE BOX!

MIKE... ZIP'S LEAVIN'! SHALL I...?



NOW, YOU TWO JIG! THAT'S IT! FINE!

EYEW! WE QUIT! HAVE A HEART!

GRAB YER PARTNER... SASHAY' ROUND AND DOZY DO...

HO HO, HA, HA! STOP IT BOYS... HA HA! STOP IT!



OMIGAW! JA EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT?

IF ONLY PHIL COULD'VE BEEN HERE!

HO HO! RUN ALONG YOU JOKERS... HEE HEE! I WANT TO FINISH MY SOUP!

HO HO HEE HEE

HAW HAW

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT! ©



THEY'RE STILL ALIVE... CALL THE AMPULANCE... SMATTER MIKE... YOUR AIM SLIPPING?

GENTLEMEN, I REITERATE... I WAS AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER! IT WAS AWFUL! THESE HOODLUMS CAME IN AND...

YEAH, WE KNOW! BUT MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN THEY COME TO... YE THEY DO!



THERE HE GOES! FREE AS AIR... NOT ONE OF HIS VICTIMS WOULD SING... AND HE KNEW IT!

WUXTRY! READ ALL A 'BOUT TH' 'BIG GANG WAR!

I MUST SEND SALLY TONIGHT'S EDITION... SHE'LL BE GLAD TO HEAR I'M ON TH' JOB... HERE BOY!



A WEEK LATER...

GEE... EVER SINCE THAT FIGHT Y'VEEN GLOOMIN'... I NEVER SEEN YA ACT LIKE THAT BEFORE... IF YOU'D ONLY HOLLER AT ME OR SHAWT ME OR SOMETHING! ...ER, HOW'S TONY AND THE REST...

I DUNNO... IT'S TOOK SOMETHN' OUTTA ME. I WORKED HARD TO BUILD THIS ORGANIZATION... AND NOW COPS RAIDIN' MY GAMBLING JOINTS, MY BEST RODS LAID UP AND THIS TAX THING DUE TO POP... IT'S KIND OF HARD TO GET STEAMED UP OVER ANYTHING NOW!



PHIL! I GOT SOMEONE HERE I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN... PICKED HER UP AT THE TERMINAL... FRESH IN FROM FLORIDA.

WELL, WELL! SALLY TURK! I TAKE IT BACK STELLA... THERE IS STILL ONE GUY I CAN GET MAD OVER... CHERE YOU!

I'VE LIVED FOR THIS MOMENT...



IF MY BROTHER WAS MORE LIKE ME... YOU'D BEEN SUCKIN' DAISY ROOTS LONG AGO!

LOOK OUT! SHE'S GOT A GUN! DON'T SHOOT! HEAVENS TO BETSY! OH, DEAR!



AW, YOU DROPPED IT... LOOK... I'LL SHOW YA HOW TH' THINGS WORKS... ULP!

HOLD IT PHIL! YOU'RE COVERED!



SALLY, YOU CRAZY LITTLE FOOL! I COULDN'T FIND YOU AT THE STATION AND GUESSED THE REST! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME BACK?

P. POOR ANGIE LYING DEAD... AND HIM... ALIVE... IT DROVE ME NUTS, I HAD TO!

ONE SIDE LAW! I'M GONNA DO YA A FAVOR! LEMME AT THAT STINKIN' LOUSY... GIRL'S!!

WE'D LIKE TO, PHIL...



...BUT RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT ORDERS... DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON!! YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT FOR, I SUPPOSE?

SEE, HONF MIKE DIDN'T LET YOU DOWN... SOME-TIMES IT'S BETTER TO LET THE LAW HANDLE THINGS!

GUESS IT'S BETTER THIS WAY... HIM ALIVE I MEAN. HE'LL SUFFER MORE WHILE ROTTING IN PRISON! MAYBE NOW ANGIE CAN REST IN PEACE!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!

BIG PHIL CARPOLLA CAME TO TRIAL A MONTH LATER, AND...

— I HERESY FINE YOU \$200,000, AND SENTENCE YOU TO THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T DO IT! RICKERT TELL THIS CRUMBY COURT KIMONO OFF! TELL HIM, HE CAN'T DO IT!

QUIET, FOR HEAVENS SAKE!

THAT DOG! THAT YELLOW DOG, RICKERT... SKIPPIN' TH' COUNTRY AN' LEAVIN' ME FLAT! LISTEN GET THE GANG TO BANKROLL ANOTHER LAWYER AND...

PHIL, I... THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN IN STIR... REMEMBER WILLIE POULPOLO? HE'S TOP DOG IN THE RACKET'S NOW... HOOKED UP WITH SCALISI'S OLD MOB AND RAN YOUR BOYS INTO THE SEWER... EVEN 'MIKE TURK'S LEFT TOWN!

WELL, I'LL BE...!! ALL RIGHT, I'LL SERVE MY SENTENCE... IT WON'T TAKE LONG... BUT KEEP TH' GANG TOGETHER! WHEN I GET SPRUNG WE'LL OWN THE CITY! WILL YA TELL 'EM THAT, SWEETS?

S... SURE... PHIL! I-I HAVE TO RUN, NOW!

I-I COULDN'T DO IT, TONY... I WENT IN THERE TO LAUGH IN HIS PUTRID FACE... TO WATCH HIM SQUIRM WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOU AND ME! BUT I WAS PETRIFIED EVEN BEHIND BARS HE WAS BOSS!

I KNEW WHEN YOU WENT IN IT'D BE LIKE THAT! NO! NOT UNTIL HE'S SEWED UP FOR KEEPS, CAN IT EVER BE JUST YOU AND ME!

TWO YEARS OF PLOTTING SCHEMING AND GOOD BEHAVIOR AND PHIL WAS...

FREE! GANGWAY, YOU PUNKS-- I'M COMIN'!

STELLA! MY OWN LITTLE STINKER! YA WAITED FOR PHILSY! BLESS YUH!

HI YA, PUNK! READY FER SOME REAL DOUGHT? HAW HAW!

H-H PHIL

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

IT'S STRAIGHT UP FROM HERE ON, KIDS! BUT FIRST WE NEED FINANCES, SO WE START OFF WITH A FEW HOLD UPS... THEN THE PROTECTION RACKET... BUY A GAMBLING JOINT, TWO, THREE... FOUR... PRETTY SOON THE TOWN IS OURS!

— THEN WE GET WILLIE POULPOLO, MIKE TURK AND ALL THE OTHER SCUMS WHO GAVE ME THE TRIPLE CROSS! SOUND GOOD?

P-PERFECT, PHIL!

SWELL!

SO IT BEGAN... THE LAST DESPERATE GRAB FOR **POWER!** CARPOLLA PROVE HIS MEN HARDER... FASTER... HOLD-UP AFTER HOLD-UP!

STEP IT UP! WE GOT A DOZEN OTHER CALLS TO MAKE TONIGHT!

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, PHIL? WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME!

AN I THOUGHT THIS WAS CALLED 'EASY' MONEY!

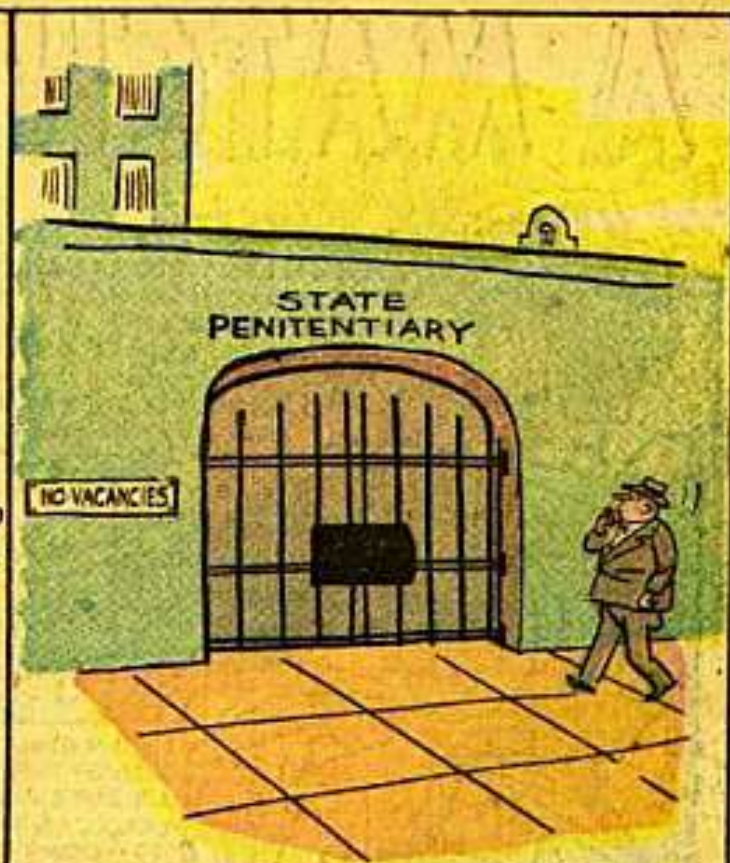


AND PAY THEY DID! EVEN THOUGH BIG PHIL NEVER LIVED TO CLAIM HIS VENGEANCE, THE UNDERWORLD PAID OFF FOR HIM--ON A COLD CLEAR NOVEMBER DAY, TONY POMO FOUND HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE--IN A GUTTER, WITH A KNIFE IN HIS BACK! AND STELLA FOUND HERS, DRESSED IN A CEMENT KIMONO AT THE BOTTOM OF A RIVER... BUT SMALL CONSOLATION IT WAS TO PHIL THERE IN HIS CELL, HE HAD LOST THE ONLY TWO THINGS HE LOVED STELLA AND MONEY--AND STELLA AND TONY WERE STILL TOGETHER--

IN HADES!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!

"OH, CLANCY, I COULD
STAY LIKE THIS
FOREVER!"



CRIME ON MY HANDS



"NOT A CENT OVER TEN THOUSAND, NOW - I DON'T
WANTA GET IN TOO HIGH AN INCOME BRACKET."

A MATCH FOR SATAN

NEIL BOWMAN HAD THE GIFT OF GAB - AND IT FLOWED UNENDINGLY, NO MATTER HOW OFTEN HE PUT IT TO USE - MOST OF THE TIME, FOR ALIBING HIS WAY OUT OF THE JAILS THAT HIS HULKING SIZE (SIX FOOT, FOUR INCHES OF BONE AND MUSCLE) CONSTANTLY STUMBLER HIM INTO IT COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN A MATCHSTICK IN HIS MOUTH AT BIRTH IN PLACE OF A SILVER SPOON BECAUSE IT GOT HIM THE SAME RESULTS, FOR IT SEEMED SO LONG AS ONE DANGLED FROM HIS TWISTED LIPS HIS LUCK WAS INVINCIBLE. THAT IS, UNTIL THE MATCHSTICKS BECAME THE SOLE EVIDENCE THAT SENT HIM SCREAMING TO THE HOT SEAT



WAL, WAL, SO THIS IS COLUMBUS, OHIO! THE BIG TOWN WITH LOTS A LITTLE GUYS! THIS'LL BE EASIER PICKING THAN HOODWINKING THOSE HICKS BACK IN OL' KAINUCKY!

I BEEN AXED TO DELIVER THIS FOR J.R. JAFFE AND COLLECT \$ 75.00 ITS-- OOPS, IT SLIPPED!

YOU SLIPPED TOO, RUBE! THAT OLD TELEPHONE BOOK RACKET WON'T WORK I'M CALLING THE POLICE!

I AIN'T DONE NUTHIN, MISTER, HONEST! A FELLOW OUTSIDE SAID HE'D GIVE ME \$5.00 IF I DELIVERED IT AND COLLECTED THE MONEY! DON'T CALL THE LAW, PLEASE!

WE-L-L-L YOU DON'T LOOK TOO BRIGHT! SO MAYBE IT'S TRUE IF YOU TAKE MY ADVICE YOU'LL GO BACK TO THE HILLS WHERE YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR CLASS HERE!



THET CITY SLICKER DIDN'T SCARE ME NONE, BRRR! EFFEN WE WERE ALONE I'D HAVE BASHED HIS HAID IN RIGTH THEN AND THAR BUT I'M PLAYING IT SMART, AH'LL FO'GIT THET PACKAGE ANGLE AND WORK THE SMALLER TOWNS. NO USE RUSHIN' MY LUCK NONE!

BANTON, OHIO

THIS HYAR'LL BE A CNCH THROUGH THET SKY LIGHT THAR AN' THE WHOLE DAY'S TAKE IS IN THET CASH REGISTER WHO'S THET?



O.K. BUB, BACK DOWN EASY WITH YOUR HANDS UP!



WITH HIS ILL-FITTING CLOTHES, NEIL BOWMAN SEEMED ALMOST LIKE A CLOWN. BUT HE WAS REAL, TRAGICALLY, TERRIBLY REAL! AND ALTHOUGH HIS APPEARANCE WAS COMICAL, TRUE CRIME COMICS BRINGS YOU HIS STORY TO PROVE THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT CRIME!



OFFICER DONEGAL REPORTS THAT WHILE MAKING HIS ROUNDS, HE FOUND YOU ATTEMPTING ILLEGAL ENTRY THE CHARGE IS ATTEMPTED BURGLARY HAVE YOU YER HONOR, IT'S ANYTHING TO SAY?

A MISTAKE I KIN EXPLAIN EVERYTHIN' IT WAS HALLOWE'EN AND I WAS ASTPOLLIN' BY THE BUILD-IN' WHEN SOME KIDS DONE AXED ME T'PUT A GATE ON TH' ROOF ' Y' KNOW HOW T'IS JEDGE, AH'M JEST A BIG KID AT HEART SO AH CLIMBED UP, JEST A BOUT THEN TH' OFFICER 'PEARED AN TH' KIDS MUSTA SPOTTED HIM FUST CUZ WHEN AH LOOKED FER THEM THEY WAS GONE WITH THE GATE 'THEY'S THE TRUTH, S'HELP ME!

NEIL'S GIFT OF GAB SET HIM FREE ONCE AGAIN, SO WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN HIS GUB TONGUE HE WAS OUT FOR BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS COLUMBUS, OHIO AGAIN AND AUTO-MOBILE THEFT!!

HA, HAAA' NUTHIN' TO IT ' I JEST STEPS IN THE CAR AND DRIVES IT AWAY ' BIG THINGS ARE AHEAD OF ME NOW'

CRASH

NEIL BOWMAN, YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF CAR THEFT ' I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO FIFTEEN YEARS IN THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

UB, GUB, MUMBLE, MUMBLE.

MONTHS LATER

BOWMAN YOUR CASE HAS COME UP BEFORE THE PAROLE BOARD FOR REVIEW BUT I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN POSSIBLY OFFER YOU ANY HOPE

OH, I'M SORRY, SIR, I DIDN'T HAVE THE MIND TO-- BUT YOU SEE-- WELL IT RE-MINDS ME OF MY MAW!

WHAT IS IT, BOWMAN, WHY ARE YOU STARING AT THAT PICTURE ON MY DESK?

WHY, AS A MATTER OF FACT THAT IS MY MOTHER'S SWEETEST LADY IN THE WORLD.

SHE SHORE 'T BE ' GOLDINGED IF SHE AIN'T THE IMAGE OF MY MAW ' YOU SEE THAT WAS WHY I STOLE THAT CAR BUT NO I WOULDN'T WANT THET TO INFLOECE TH' BOARD I WAS GUILTY AND AH'LL SERVE MY TERM.

PLEASE, BOWMAN, TELL ME ' ANY MAN WHO KNOWS THE LOVE FOR A MOTHER, COULDN'T HAVE THE MIND OF A CROOK.

WAL, I'LL TELL YOU BUT Y'GOTTA PROMISE NOT TO TELL ANYONE ELSE ' ON THE DAY I STOLE THE CAR MY MAW TOOK VERY SICK ' SHE MOANED AND SUFFERED SUMTHIN' AWFUL ' FEARING IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES AFORE SHE'D PLUMB KICK OFF, I RAN AND JUMPED IN THE FIRST CAR I CAME ACROSS ' IF I DROVE BACK REAL FAST THAR MIGHT STILL BE TIME TO TAKE HER TO THE HORSEHOPITAL AN' SAVE HER-- BUT Y'KNOW THE REST.

YES, YES BUT TELL ME MAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MOTHER?

AFTER THE CRASH I WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR DAYS ' WHEN I AWOKE I LEARNED THAT SHE KICKED- I MEAN DIED. I FAILED HER ' SOB

BOY, DID I SNOW THAT PAROLE BOARD INTO LETTING ME OUT! I'M REALLY SPROUTIN' NOW BUT IN ORDER TO CRASH THAT BIG TIME I NEED MORE EDUCATION I GOT IT - I'LL TEAM UP WITH MY BROTHER ACE, HE WORKS THE BANKS.



NEIL LISTENED TO ACE AND FOR ONCE THINGS WENT SMOOTHLY. IN THEIR FIRST JOB ON A SMALL TOWN BANK - - -

REACH FOR THE CEILING! ALL OF YA! NO PEEPG OR ITS CURTAINS! START COLLECTING OUR WITHDRAWALS, PARTNER-- FER CRYING OUT LOUD, NEIL, YOU ALMOST KNOCKED THE GUN OUT OF MY HAND!



GEE! EXCUSE ME, ACE!

ACE, THAT WAS LIKE TAKIN' CANDY FROM A BABY AN' LOCKING THEM IN THE VAULT GIVES US A HEAP OF TIME FOR A GETAWAY!

YEAH, BY THE TIME THE COPS GET TO PUZZLIN' OUT THIS STICKUP - WE'LL HAVE THE NEXT TOWN ON ICE!



I FEEL 'BOUT THREE TIMES BETTER, ACE - 'CAUSE THIS COLLECTION 'PEARS LIKE THREE TIMES MORE'N THE FIRST! M-M-M-- MEBBE WE'LL SPLIT FER GOOD! I KIN SWING THESE DEALS M'SELF AND TWO HAIDS AIN'T BETTER THAN ONE AT GRAVY SHARIN' TIME!

GOOD! THAT WILL HOLD US 'TIL THE EXCITEMENT COOLS OFF, WE BETTER SPLIT UP FOR A WHILE!

SO NEIL WENT ON HIS OWN AND ... YEP, YOU GUESSED IT - HE BUNGLED A BANK JOB! THE JUDGE MUST HAVE BEEN 'DEAF' BECAUSE NEIL COULDN'T TALK HIM OUT OF A LIFE SENTENCE!

BOY OL' BUTTER FINGERS, THAT'S ME! EF I EVER GIT OUTTA THIS H'YAR COOP THAR'LL BE NO MORE BLUNDERS 'CAUSE THAR AIN'T A 'GONNA BE ANY WITNESSES! BUT FUST AH AIM T'FLY THIS COOP! LEMME SEE ... AH GOT IT!



WHAT'S UP? WHY THE DOC? THE BIG LOON IN CELLS IS GOING OFF HIS TROLLEY. BEEN EATING MATCHES AND REFUSING HIS MEALS! THEY'LL PROBABLY TRANSFER HIM TO SOME ASYLUM! GOOD RIDDANCE TOO! HE LOOKS UGLY!



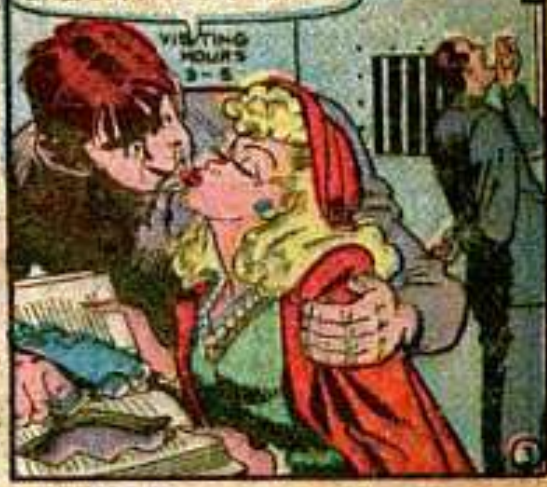
SO NEAL WAS GIVEN A NICE 'PADDED' RUMPUS ROOM' AT THE ASYLUM IN ANOTHER PART OF THE STATE.

HERE YOU ARE, MATCHHEAD AND BY PLAYING NICE WE'LL LET YOU HAVE VISITORS SOMETIME!



I GOTTA KEEP UP THE ACT NOW, BUT BROTHER YOU'RE NUMBER ONE ON MAH LIST! HOPE MAH GIRL KIN GIT TO SEE ME SOON!

STAN' CLOSUH - MAKE LIKE WE'RE IN LOVE OR SUMETHIN! O.K. GOT IT! NOW BEAT IT AN' HAVE THE CAR DOWN THE ROAD T'NIGHT! AH'M MAKIN' A BREAK AT CHOW TIME!



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



HERE'S YOUR DINNER, NAPOLEON! NO MATCHES BUT I'LL SLIP YOU A TOOTHPICK AFTER SO'S YOU CAN CELEBRATE YOUR GIRL'S FIRST VISIT! WHAT'S HER NAME-- UGH--

NUFF SAID, WISE GUY! I WISH'T I COULD STAY TO GIVE YOU A REAL GOIN-OVER BUT I GOT A DATE!



JIMINY, DAISY, DIDJA HAFTA PARK SO NEAR THE COOP? DOYA WANNA QUEER THE WORKS?

AW, DON'T BE SO JITTERY, BIG BOY! YER OUT, AINTCHA?



WHERE TO, NEAL HONEY-- I KNOW A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE WHO--

YUH WOMEN ARE ALLA SAME, ALWAYS WANTIN' T'GIT HITCHED! THE ONLY PARDNER I WANT, GAL, IS THIS GUN-- 'CEPTIN' A FEW YOUNG PUNKS TO RUN ERRANDS!



YEAH, SURE, THEY'S IT! ALL I GOTTA DO IS EDJOOOCATE THESE PUNKS IN THE FINER POINTS OF THE PERFESSION AND THEN TAKE 'EM OUT AN' GIT 'EM SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE!

GOT A MATCH, DAISY?

BOWMAN "COLLEGE" ACCEPTED THREE STUDENTS AND AT THE END OF THE COURSE....



THIS IS A STICK-UP, DON'T MOVE! O.K. YOU SQUIRTS I TAUGHT YUH ALL I KNOWS... THIS IS YOUR FINAL EXAM! PASS IT AN' YUH GITS YER DIPLOMAS! GRAB TH' DOUGH, KID!

WHAT'S THE I-- --- UGHHH!

HEY- QUIT MOVIN'! WHY YOU...



WHY YOU--

SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE TOO! C'MON, PUNK, GIT TH' LEAD OUT OF YUH BRITCHES!

GEE, NEIL YOU'VE KILLED THEM BOTH!



IT'S ALL C-C-CLEAR! AIN'T BEEN ANY HEAD-LIGHTS FOR THE LAST FIVE MILES!

WE DID ALL RIGHT DIDN'T WE, NEAL?

YEAH, YEAH, I'M STOPPING! I THINK IT'S 'BOUT TIME WE HELD GRADJOOATION EXERCISES!



I SEE SOMETHIN' YELLOW CRAWUNG UP YOUR BACK, FRANK! I'M GONNA KNOCK IT OFF!

DON'T, NEIL! NO--- NO--- AWRREN!



HE FLUNKED THE FINAL EXAM! ANYONE ELSE DROPPIN' OUTA THE COURSE?

OKAY, GET OUT AND SHOVE 'IM IN THE LAKE YONDER' YEAH, AN' LETS GIVE 'IM A PURTY HAIDSTONE' TIE THAT ROCK TO HIS NECK

NO.. NO, N-NEIL 'ULP- WE'RE RIGHT WITH YOU'

H-H-HE HAD IT COMIN', BOSS, D-DIDN'T HE?



MEANWHILE BACK AT THE STORE....

THE OTHER ONE'S GONE BUT I THINK WE CAN SAVE THIS ONE'

DO YOUR BEST, DOC! MAY- BE HE CAN TELL US WHO THE BUTCHERS WERE!

HMM, HERE'S A MATCH --"ALL CHEWED UP" MIGHT BE A LEAD'



THE GUY CAME TO AT THE HOSPITAL BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT THERE WAS A BIG CROOK AND THREE SMALL ONES THE BIG ONE DID THE SHOOTING' ANYTHING WITH THE MATCH, CAPTAIN?

WELL, WE HAVE A REPORT OF THE SALIVA TEST BUT IT DOESN'T HELP MUCH UNTIL WE CAN COMPARE IT WITH THE SUSPECT'S SALIVA. GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS!



THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE NOT LONG IN COMING 'NEIL AND HIS HENCHMEN PURSUED THEIR MURDEROUS COURSE AND LEFT NO TRAIL OTHER THAN A FEW MATCHES WHICH TESTED THE SAME AS NO. 1

HOLD-UPS!

MURDER!

ARMED ROBBERY!



SEVERAL WEEKS LATER... WE'RE GETTING A ROASTING FROM THE NEWSPAPERS BUT IT WILL QUIET DOWN NOW!

WELL, THEY'RE WILLING TO HELP US WITH A LITTLE PLAN I WORKED UP. THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL TELL THE STORY'

HOW COME?



THINGS GETTING QUIET IN THE NEWS-PAPERS, NEAL?

YEAH, WE'LL START ACTION AGIN' SOON AN' THIS TIME WITH BANKS. THAT OTHER PUNK LOUIE WILL BE SORRY HE DIDN'T SIT IN FER HIGH STAKES 'STEAD O' SKIPPIN' ---MM---HMM---AH'M CHANGIN' MY MIND 'BOUT BANKS! GET THIS'

DUE TO THE MANY HOLD-UPS OF PAYROLL TRUCKS IN THIS AREA ALL "MONEY VEHICLES" WILL NOW BE ROUTED THROUGH KENTUCKY. IN ADDITION, TO HELP AVOID FUTURE HOLD-UPS ALL SUCH VEHICLES WILL HAVE DESIGNATED STOPS ALONG THE HIGH-WAY AT LONESOME GAS STATIONS OR DINERS, KEEPING CLEAR OF LARGE CITIES WHERE HOLD-UP GANGS CONGREGATE

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS - THIS IS IT!

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE CRIME COMICS — THIS IS IT!

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MURDER IS A SHORT ROAD

(Continued from page 25)

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, believes that the greatest cause of juvenile delinquency lies in the unfortunate home life of so many youngsters today. And the Morton Stein murder case would seem to bear him out.

Morton was the charge of a widowed mother, a frail, helpless woman who could not manage her headstrong son, or discipline him as he needed. She had done her best, but had to give up when, after a long record of truancy, the red-headed sixteen-year-old had been sent to the Montefiore Correction School.

Young Cook had been the offspring of an even more disrupted home. His own father had died, and his mother had married again. Then the step-father died, too, and the mother was left alone with her son and a seven-year-old daughter to support. She had gone to work in a war plant. But Donald, bitterly resentful of his poverty and lack of security, had also become a habitual truant. Eventually, he, too, had been sent to the Montefiore School, where he had met Morton Stein and they had planned their career of crime together.

"Broken homes, neglected parents, immorality in the home, lack of discipline in the home and emotional instability," says Mr. Hoover, "are the chief contributing causes to the delinquency of young people."

"Instances of juvenile delinquency being inspired by any one cause are extremely rare," the head of the F. B. I. goes on. "But in nearly every case investigated a delinquent adult contributed to the delinquency of the juvenile through example, laxity, poor home management, derelict training, or failure to discharge definite responsibilities."

The hardworking police can work to capture criminals after a crime is committed, but it is the responsibility of parents and homemakers to really stop juvenile crime at its source!

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