

TUBULAR TO THE MAX!

Rob Hanes

ADVENTURES



WCG
COMICS

No. 6

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Rob Hanes Adventures *primer*



New to the series?

Here's all you need to know...

ROB HANES

Rob is a globetrotting investigator for Justice International, a private detective, intelligence, and security agency. He's one of JI's newest agents—a spy-for-hire with a conscience. While the old guard at JI distrust the young upstart who came to the agency without previous military or intelligence training, Rob represents the face of the agency for the 21st century.



ISABELLE CORBEIL

A French intelligence agent attached to the European Union, she can be Rob's faithful ally on some cases and a fierce rival on others when their interests and goals clash.

See the *Rob Hanes Adventures, Vol. 0 trade paperback* and *RHA #6*.



ABNER MCKENNA

Abner is Rob's sometime partner, best friend and mother hen at JI. Strictly speaking, Abner isn't a field agent, and he likes it that way. The less work and danger the better, but he's also Rob's conscience and voice of reason. And if you get into a mess, there's no one better you can count on.



GABRIEL EVANS GIRARD

Girard is the director of JI's New York branch, and Rob's champion at JI. For the "new world order" and post-9/11 world, Girard liked what Rob brought into the agency. Gruff on the outside with a gooeey center, he's fiercely protective of JI and its agents

NICOLAI KORDA

Though he has no known criminal record and remains a shadowy figure, experts who monitor criminal activity around the world and across national borders believe Korda to be one of the most ambitious and dangerous of masterminds. Rob is one of the few people to have successfully pierced the protective firewall that Korda has carefully constructed around himself to conceal the extent of his criminal enterprise—a fact that has put him in Korda's crosshairs!

See the *Rob Hanes Adventures, Vol. 0 trade paperback* and *RHA issues #3, 6, 10, and 13*.



CLEMSON

Clemson is Korda's right-hand man and personal bodyguard. While even less is known about Clemson than Korda, he is believed to be a former U.S. intelligence agent turned rogue.

See the *Rob Hanes Adventures, Vol. 0 trade paperback, RHA #3* and *RHA #6*



AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FOR JUSTICE INTERNATIONAL, ROB HANES TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD ON ASSIGNMENT. ADVENTURE, DANGER, AND INTRIGUE AWAIT HIM AT EVERY TURN!

Story & Art by
Randy Reynaldo

THE FRENCH ALPS!

THE FRESH SNOW AND THE QUIET STILLNESS OF THE COLD WINTER'S NIGHT IS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY A SOLITARY FIGURE DARTING CRISPLY DOWN A LONELY MOUNTAINSIDE--

AS UNLIKELY AS IT SEEMS, THIS PICTURE-POSTCARD SETTING HAS BECOME THE LATEST BATTLEGROUND IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM.

AND, AS USUAL ROB HANES IS IN THE THICK OF IT!



The Hunt for Octavius Jebbru

ANOTHER
Rob Hanes
ADVENTURE!

LIKE ALL BUSINESSES, **JUSTICE INTERNATIONAL** IS NOT **IMMUNE** FROM **DOWNTURNS** IN THE ECONOMY... TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMPANY'S LATEST **POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT**...



A WEEK EARLIER..

ROBBY!
HAVE YOU SEEN
THE LATEST **MEMO**
FROM **UPSTAIRS**?
WE'RE IN FOR
MORE
CUTBACKS!

HOLD ON,
ABNER--I'M
RESEARCHING
THAT MISSING
SCIENTIST FROM
THE **NETHERLANDS**
WE WERE **HIRED**
TO FIND.

SO WHAT
IS IT THIS
TIME? NO MORE
FREE COFFEE?
HAVE THEY
RAISED THE
PRICES IN THE
VENDING
MACHINES?

IT'S MORE **SERIOUS** THAN
THAT, KID--BETTER LOOK
AT THIS **LIST**. THEY'RE
EVEN GONNA MAKE US FLY
COACH FROM NOW ON!



IN SHORT ORDER, ROB
AND HIS PARTNER,
ABNER MCKENNA,
ARE IN THE OFFICE OF J.I. NEW
YORK'S DIRECTOR,
GABRIEL EVANS GIRARD!

...MR GIRARD,
THESE NEW
POLICIES ARE
NUTS! WE
CAN'T DO
INVESTIGATIONS
ON THE
CHEAP!

MY HANDS
ARE **TIED**,
ROB.



IT'S FROM THE
SUITS UPSTAIRS.
WE HAVE LITTLE
SAY NOW THAT WE
BELONG TO
DRAKORP OIL.

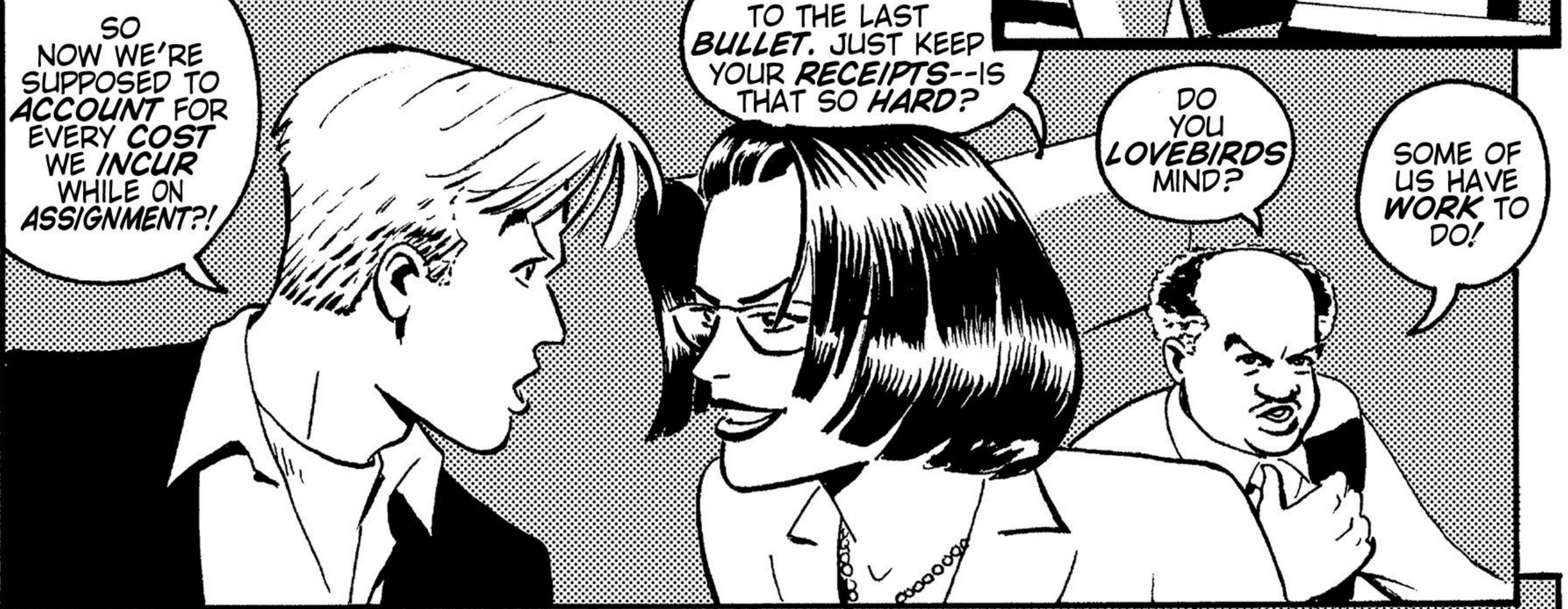


THAT'S RIGHT, HANES. THE DETECTIVES AT J.I. ARE SPENDTHRIFTS AND WE MEAN TO REIN IN COSTS!

RACHEL TALLY-- DRAKORP'S RESIDENT BEANCOUNTER. I SHOULD'VE GUESSED.

THE CLIENTS ARE UNHAPPY, HANES. IF WE DON'T CUT COSTS--

THEY'LL GO OUT AND GET CHEAPER BIDS FROM RIVAL AGENCIES!



SO NOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO ACCOUNT FOR EVERY COST WE INCUR WHILE ON ASSIGNMENT?!

TO THE LAST BULLET. JUST KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS--IS THAT SO HARD?

DO YOU LOVEBIRDS MIND?

SOME OF US HAVE WORK TO DO!

SOON, ROB AND ABNER FIND THEMSELVES WINGING THEIR WAY OVERSEAS (COACH OF COURSE)...



MORE PEANUTS, SIR?

YES, PLEASE!



WHAT? I LIKE AIRPLANE FOOD!

WAAA



PARIS!

MONSIEUR HANES, THANK YOU FOR ARRANGING THIS MEETING...

--THOUGH WE MUST ADMIT, THIS IS A RATHER UNUSUAL CHOICE FOR A BUSINESS LUNCH!

Voulez-vous des pommes frites avec cela?

IT'S A LONG STORY...

JUST TELL US ABOUT THE MAN YOU HIRED US TO FIND-- OCTAVIUS JEBRU!



WE PREFER TO KEEP THAT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL FOR NOW!

OR, AS YOU AMERICANS MIGHT SAY-- "NO QUESTIONS ASKED!"

BUT IF YOU LOCATE HIM, WE WILL BE VERY GRATEFUL!

IT'S YOUR DIME.

WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF WE FIND ANYTHING...



GEE, ROBBY, WHADDYA MAKE OF ALL THIS?

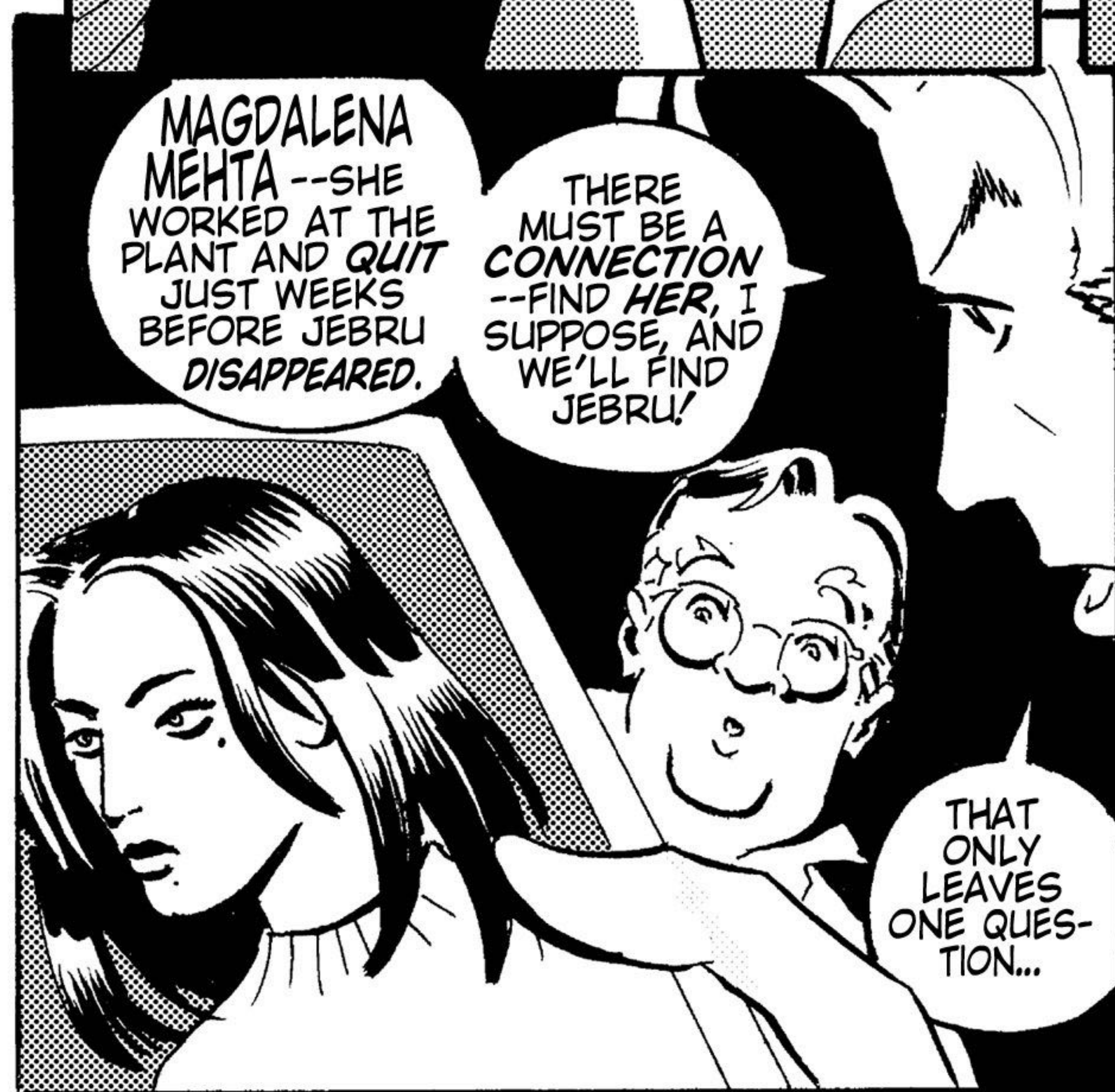
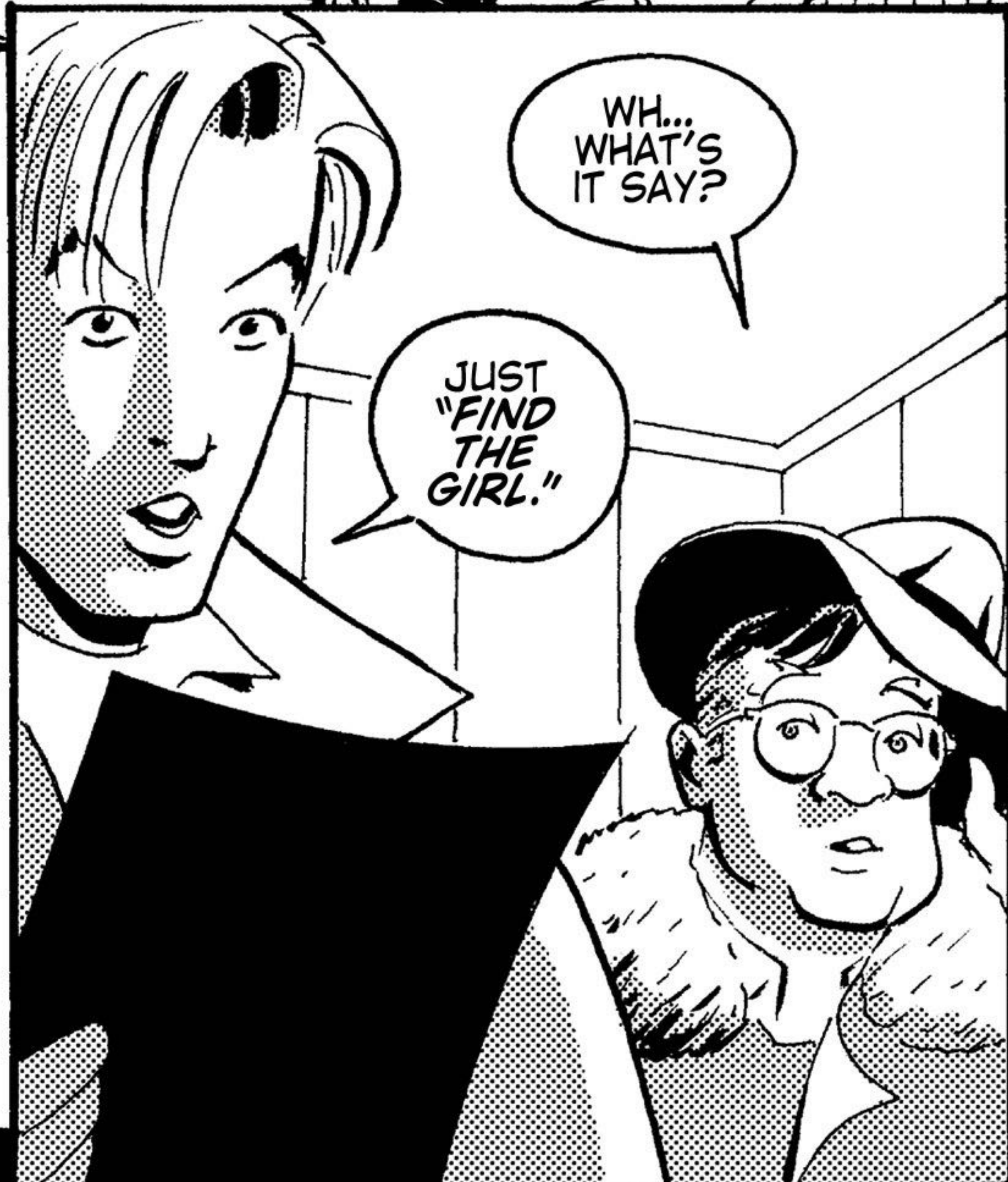
I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE JUST HIRED GUNS!

SAY HERE'S OUR HOTEL!



WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

134



SOMEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, ON THE YACHT OF NICOLAI KORDA, INTERNATIONAL CRIMELORD AND ROB'S ARCH NEMESIS!



CLEMSON!

YES, MR. KORDA...



ANY HEADWAY IN LOCATING JEBRU? IT'S IMPERATIVE WE FIND HIM FIRST!



I WAS JUST HEADING TO PARIS TO TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF.

EXCELLENT. BESIDES, I KNOW THE DIVERSIONS HERE HOLD NO INTEREST FOR YOU...

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE ARAB QUARTER OF PARIS...



Ms. MEHTA-- COME WITH US!



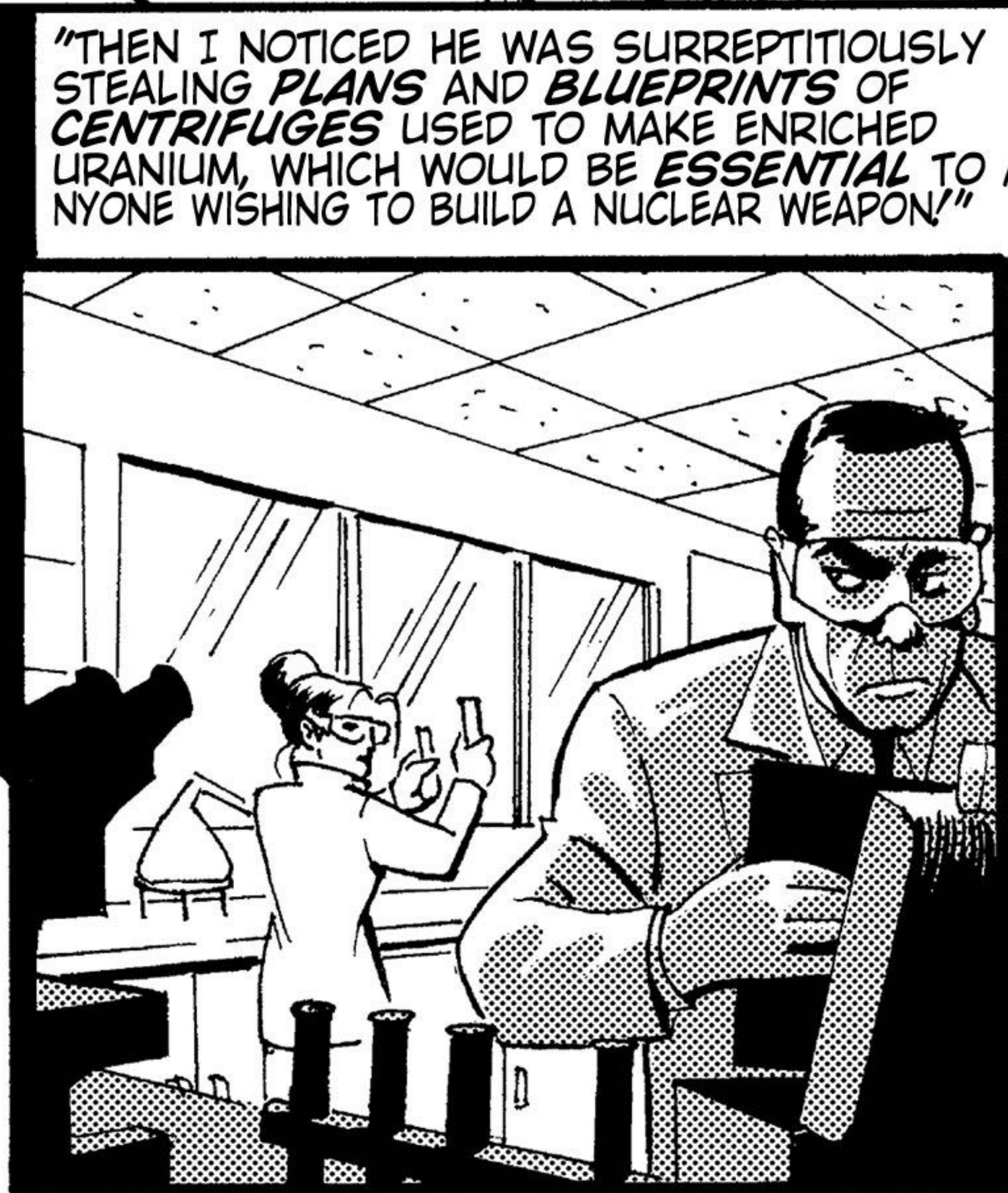
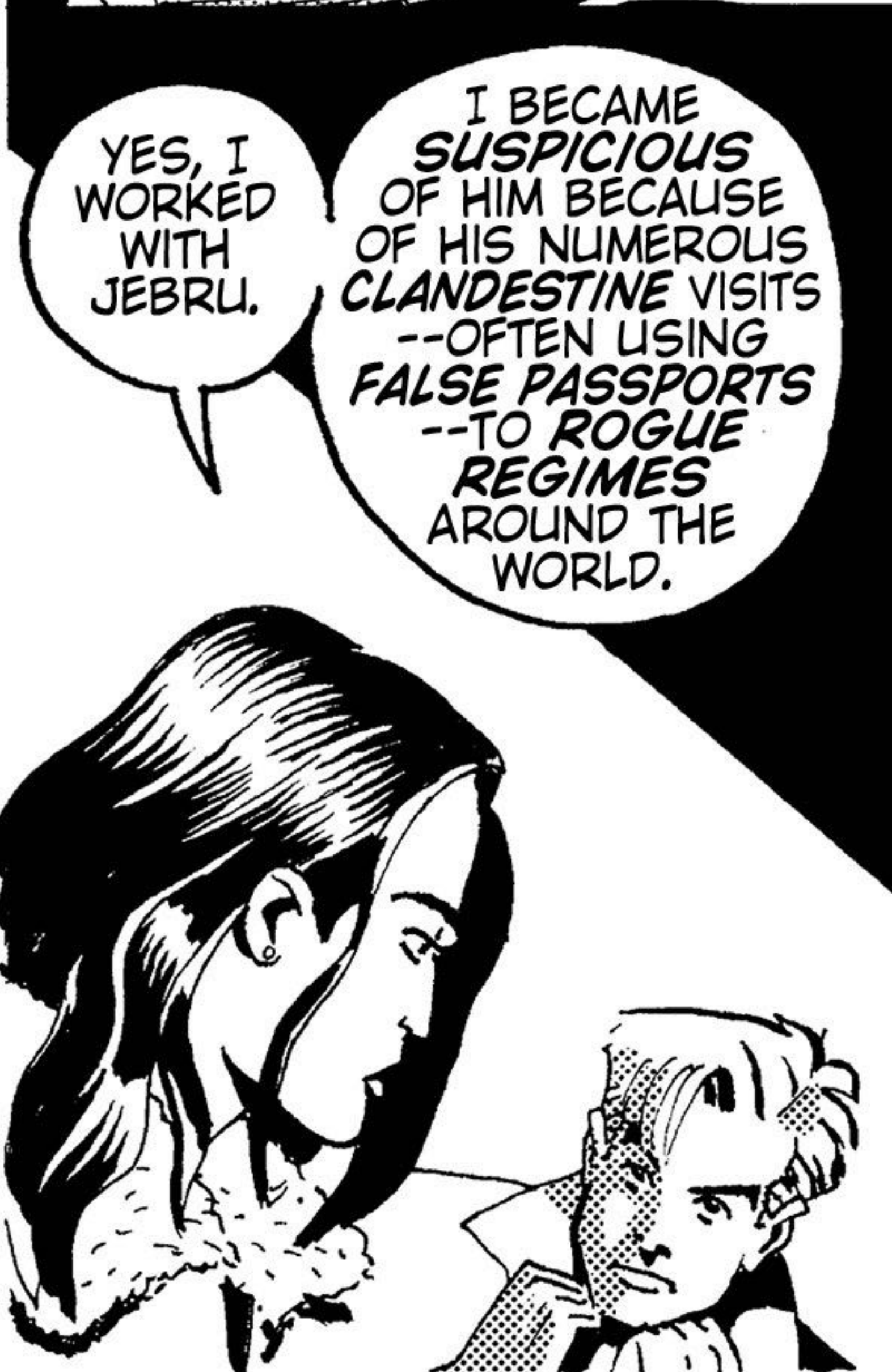
WH...WHO SENT YOU?

I THINK YOU KNOW...



POW!

NOT TONIGHT, BOYS!



"THEN I NOTICED HE WAS SURREPTITIOUSLY STEALING PLANS AND BLUEPRINTS OF CENTRIFUGES USED TO MAKE ENRICHED URANIUM, WHICH WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO ANYONE WISHING TO BUILD A NUCLEAR WEAPON!"

THE MEN YOU SAVED ME FROM NO DOUBT CAME AT JEBRU'S REQUEST, MAKING GOOD ON HIS THREATS...

THANKS FOR THE INFO...

I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY HOTEL...

I PROMISE YOU I'M GOING TO STOP JEBRU!

MONSIEUR, THE YOU HAVE A CALL!

? WHO KNOWS I'M--

HANES? I HEAR YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME INFORMATION.

I HAVE A LEAD FOR YOU...MEET ME AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS--ALONE.

WHO CALLED?

IT APPEARS I HAVE MY OWN "DEEP THROAT."

LET'S GET YOU TO MY HOTEL!



DON'T GO, ROBBY! IT'S A TRAP!

DON'T WORRY, OLD-TIMER--

YOU KNOW HOW CAUTIOUS I AM!

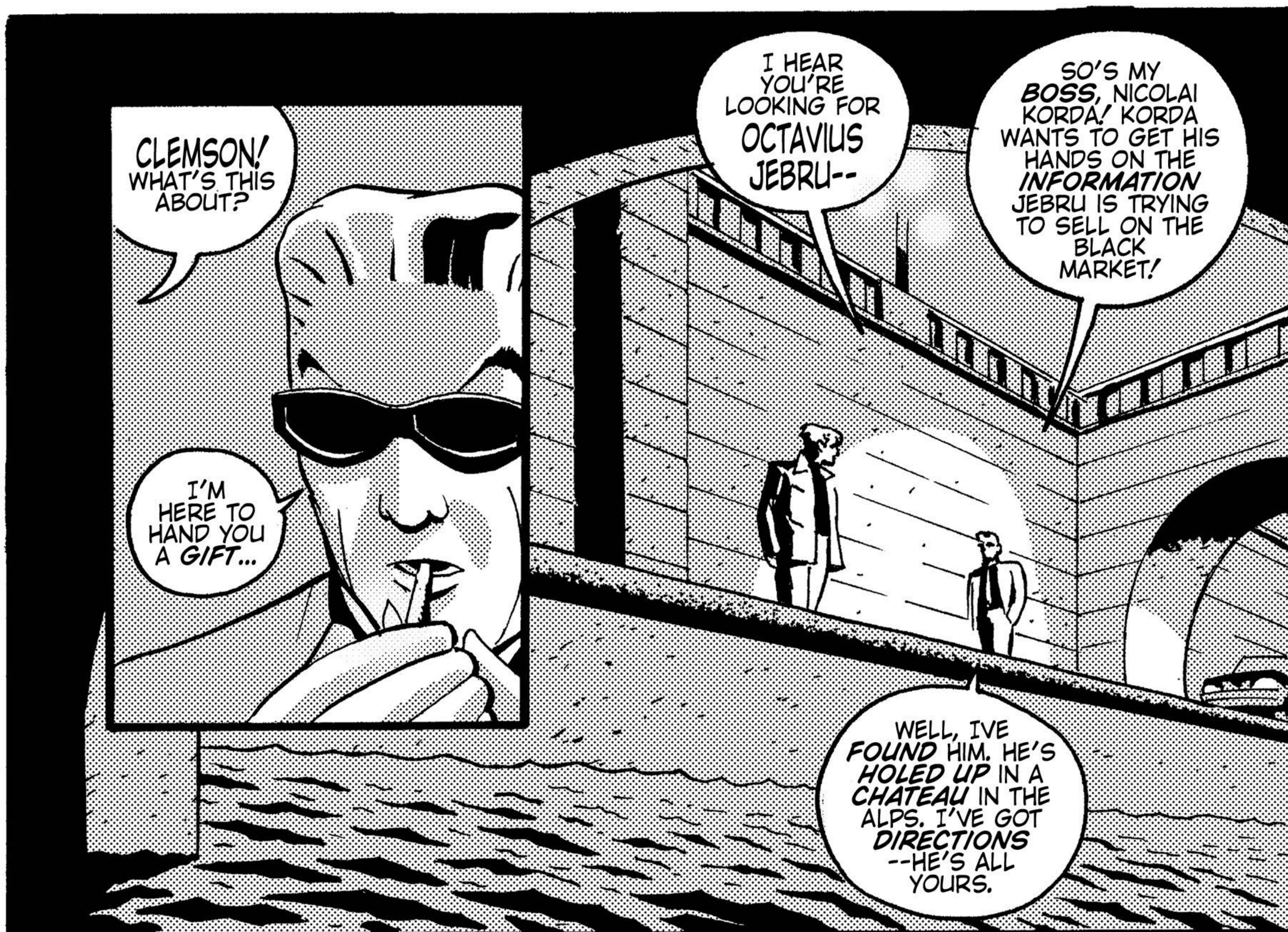
PLEASE, MR. HANES--BE CAREFUL!

HEY, IT'S MY JOB!

THAT EVENING, THE RIVER SEINE...

COME FORWARD, HANES--SLOWLY!

AND KEEP YOUR HANDS IN VIEW!



CLEMSON!
WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT?

I HEAR
YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
OCTAVIUS
JEBRU--

SO'S MY
BOSS, NICOLAI
KORDA! KORDA
WANTS TO GET HIS
HANDS ON THE
INFORMATION
JEBRU IS TRYING
TO SELL ON THE
BLACK
MARKET!

I'M
HERE TO
HAND YOU
A GIFT...

WELL, I'VE
FOUND HIM. HE'S
HOLED UP IN A
CHATEAU IN THE
ALPS. I'VE GOT
DIRECTIONS
--HE'S ALL
YOURS.



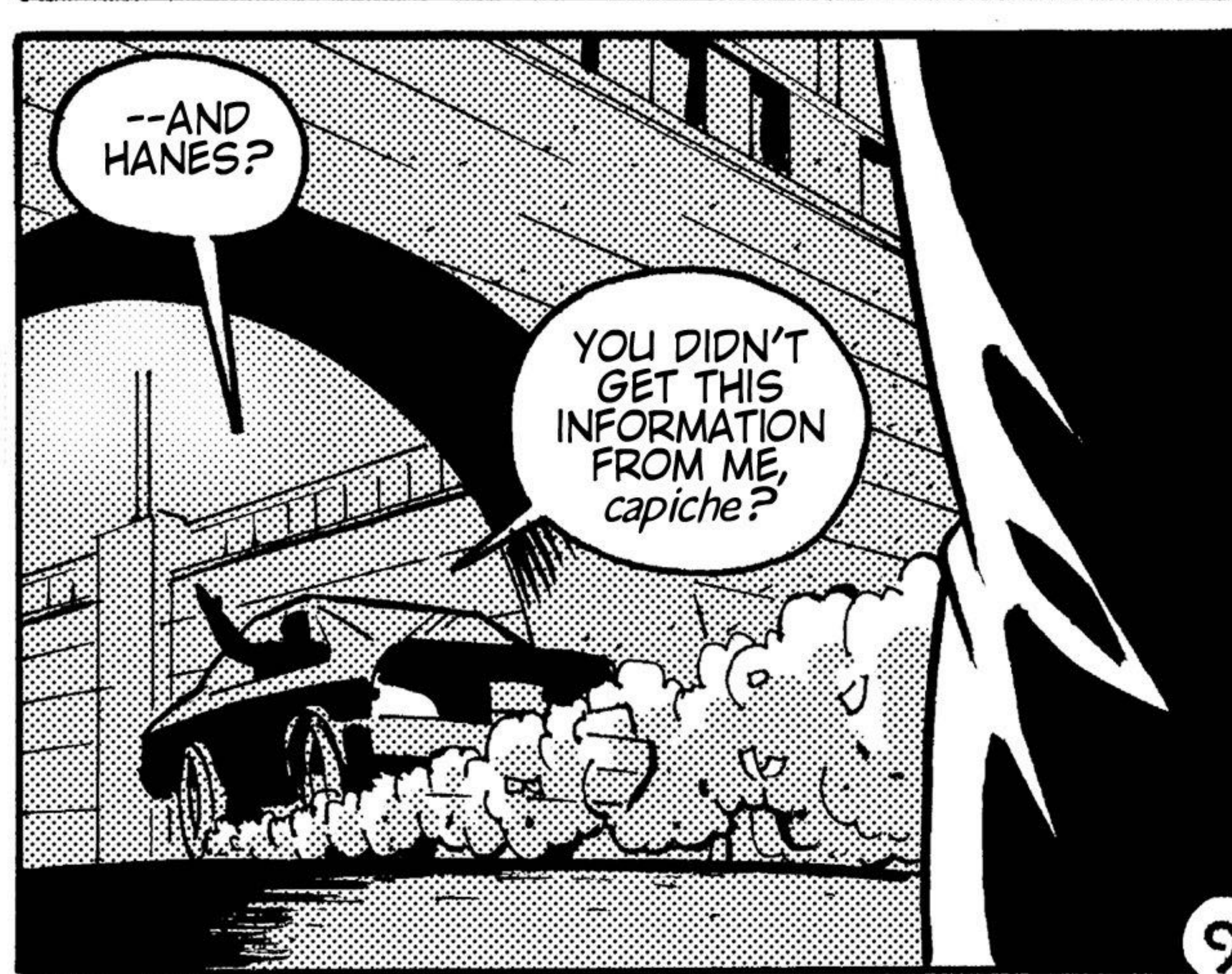
I DON'T
GET IT! WHY
ARE YOU GIV-
ING HIM
UP TO
ME?

WHATEVER
YOU MAY THINK
OF ME, HANES, I'M
STILL AN AMERICAN--
AN EXPATRIATE LIKE
YOU. I DON'T WANT
WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION ENDING
UP IN THE WRONG
HANDS EITHER!



SO LET'S JUST
SAY THIS IS MY
CONTRIBUTION
TO THE WAR ON
TERRORISM.

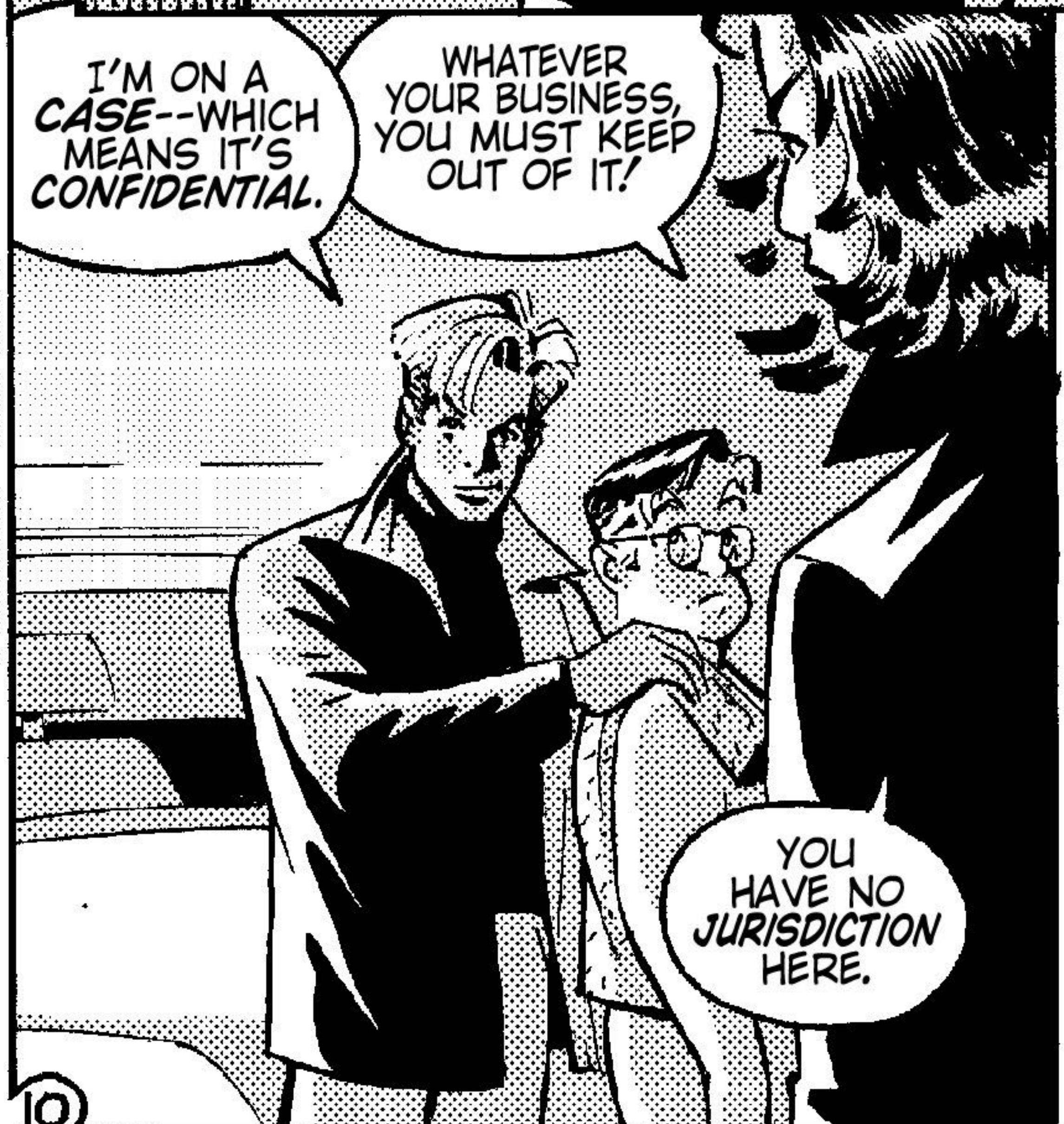
I'VE
DONE MY
GOOD DEED
--NOW
YOU DO
YOURS.

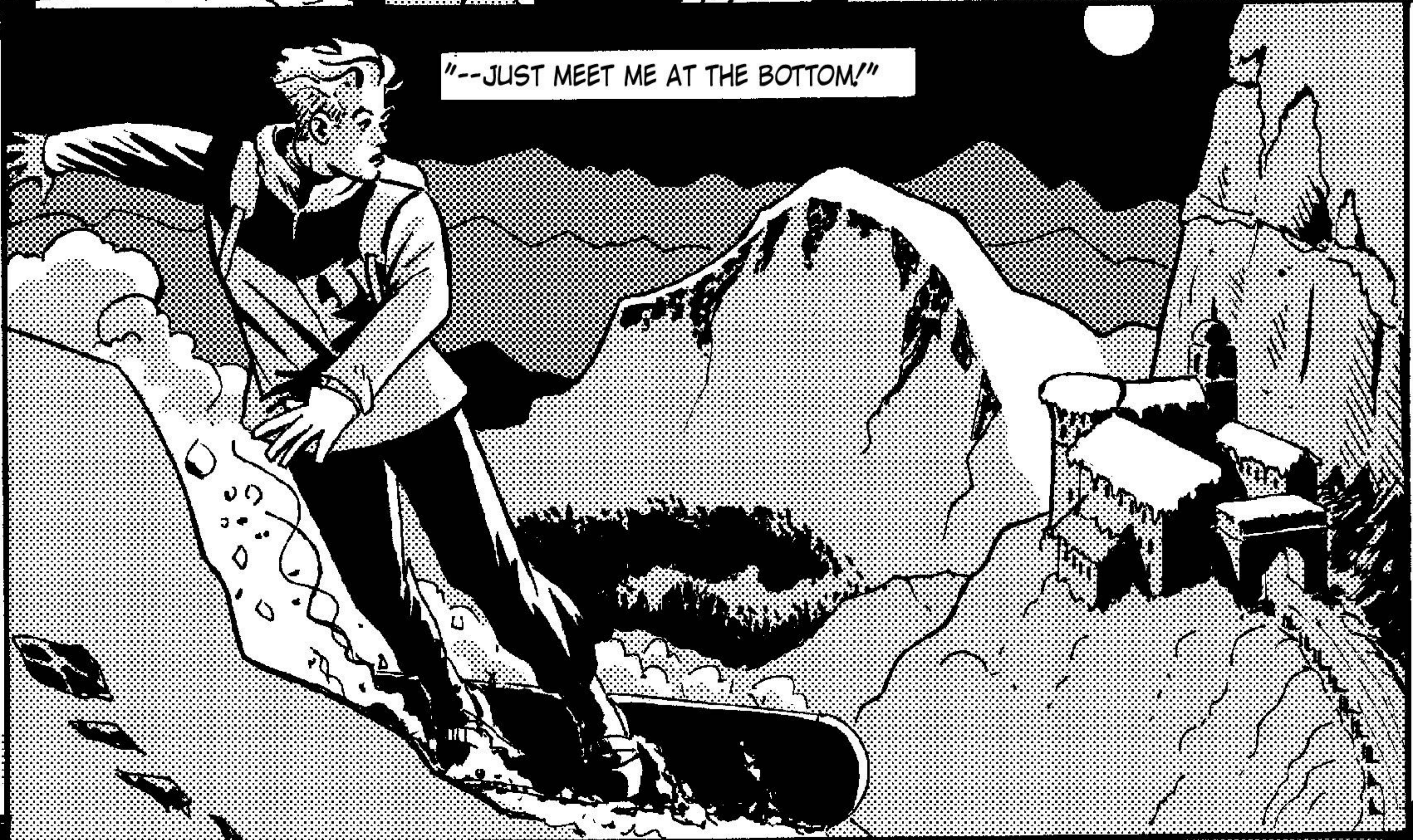


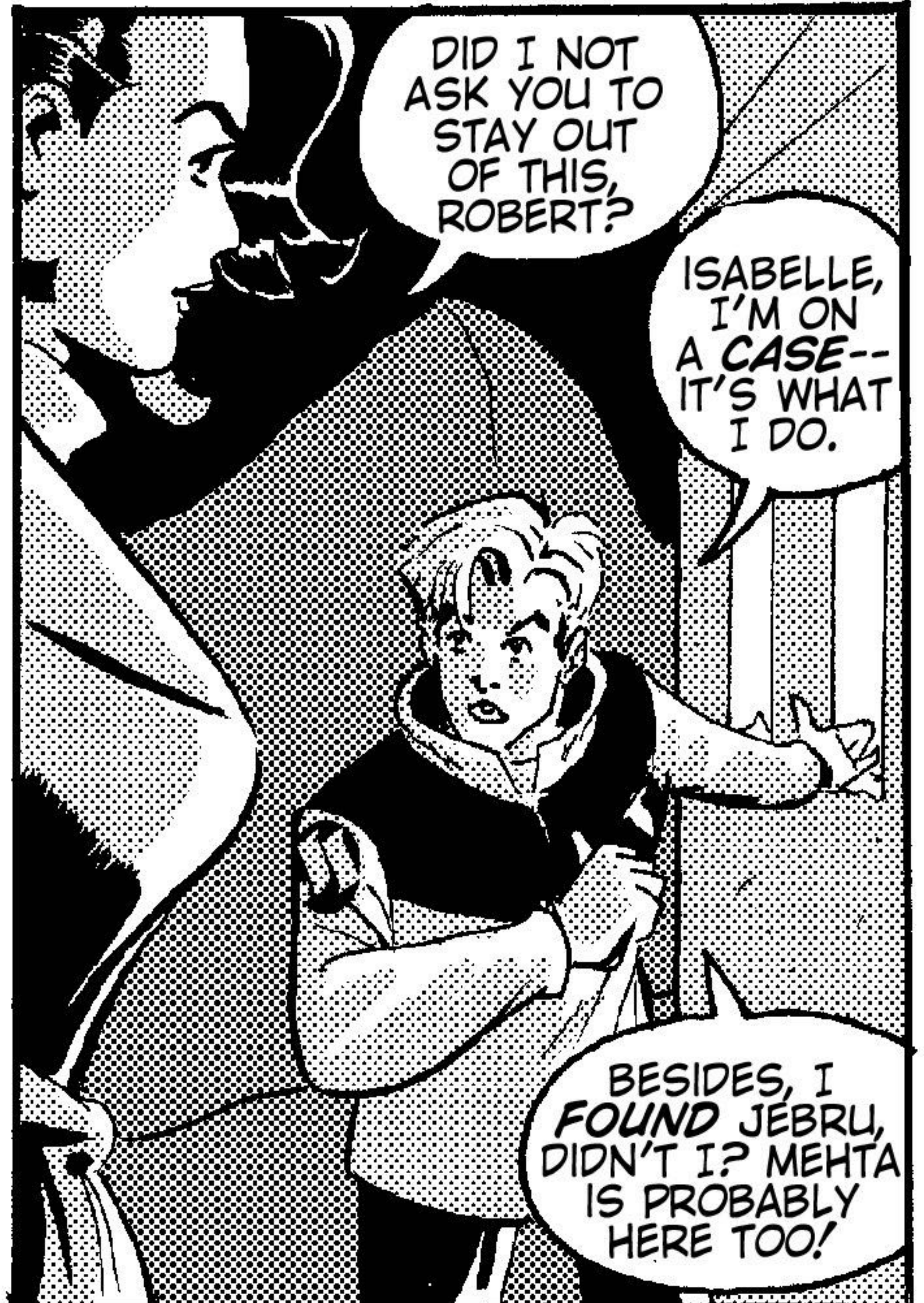
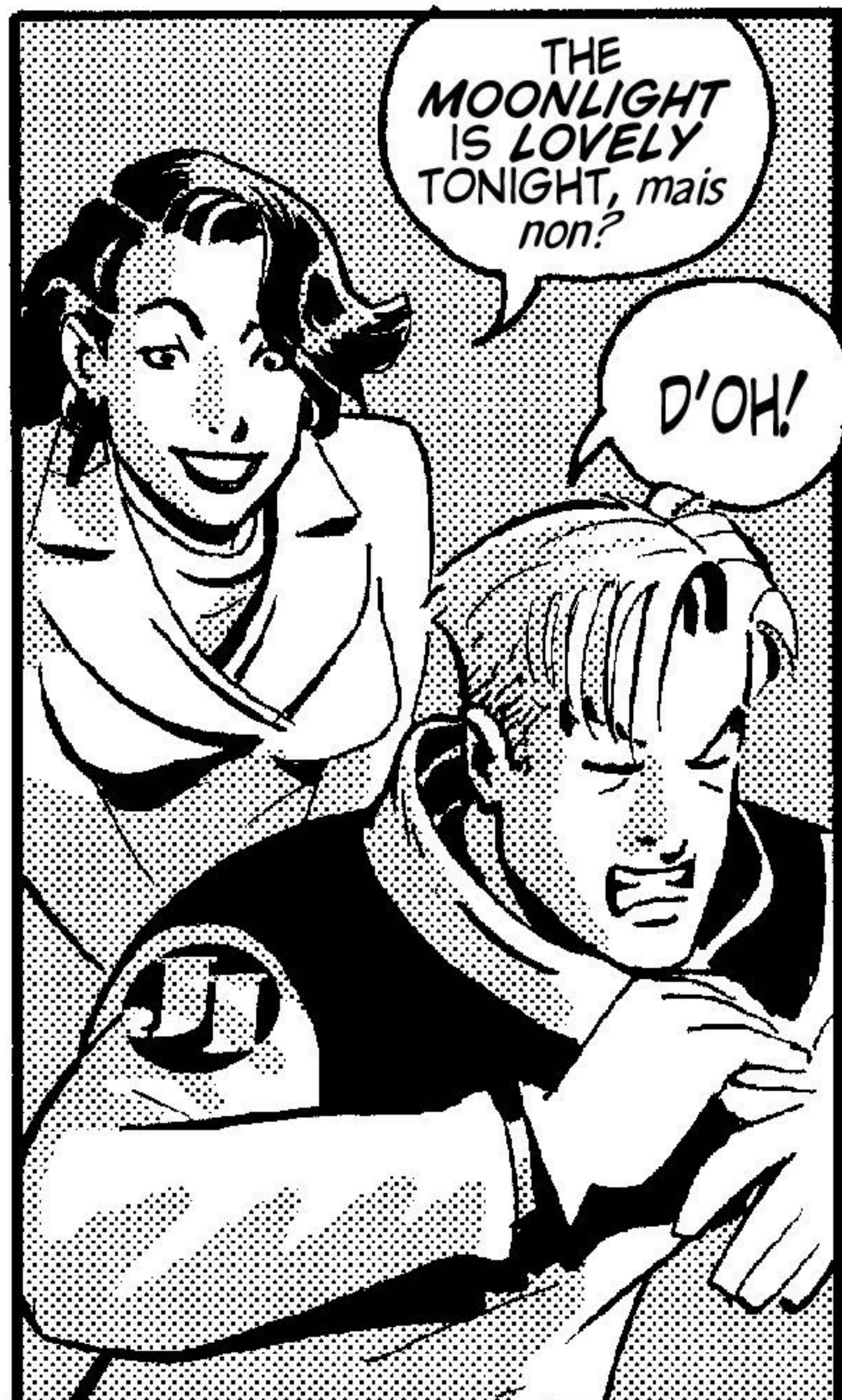
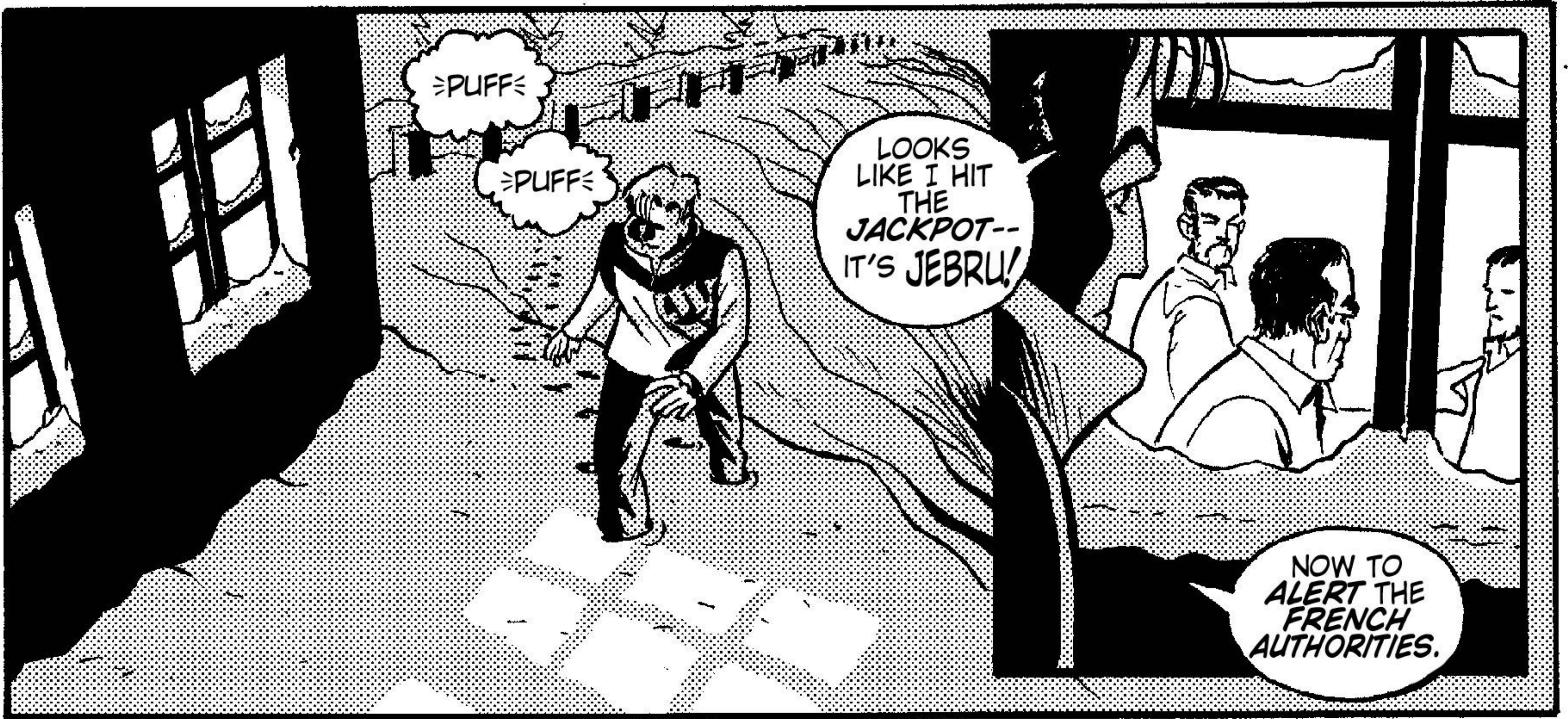
--AND
HANES?

YOU DIDN'T
GET THIS
INFORMATION
FROM ME,
capiche?

BUT AS ROB APPROACHES HIS HOTEL...









MAGDA!
YOU HAVE
GUESTS!

MR.
HANES?!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

WE'VE
COME TO
RESCUE
YOU, Ms.
MEHTA...



QUITE
DRAMATIC.
LIKE A SCENE
FROM OUT OF
THE CINEMA!

HOWEVER,
THIS TIME
THERE WILL
BE NO
HAPPY--



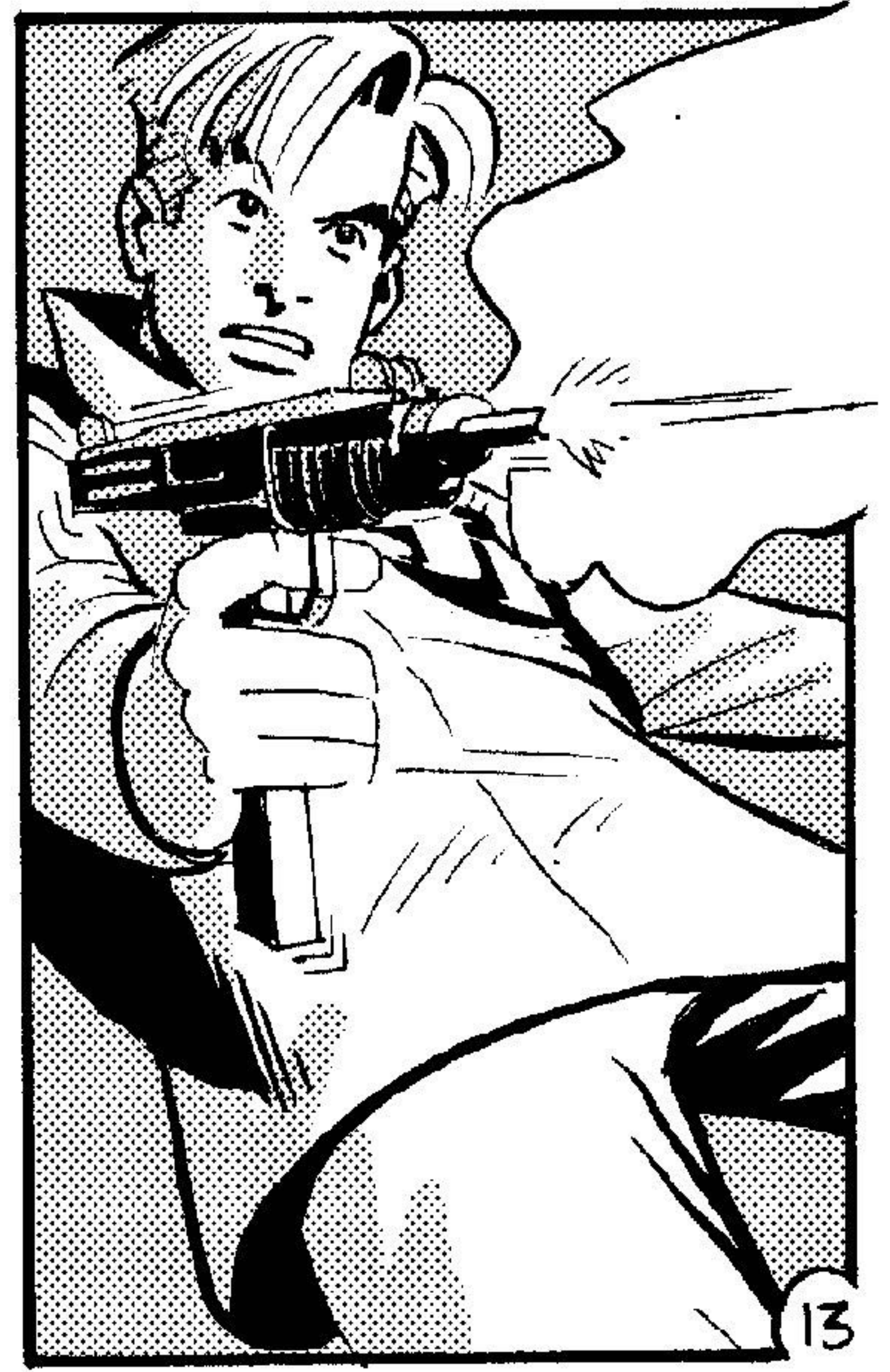
EH?

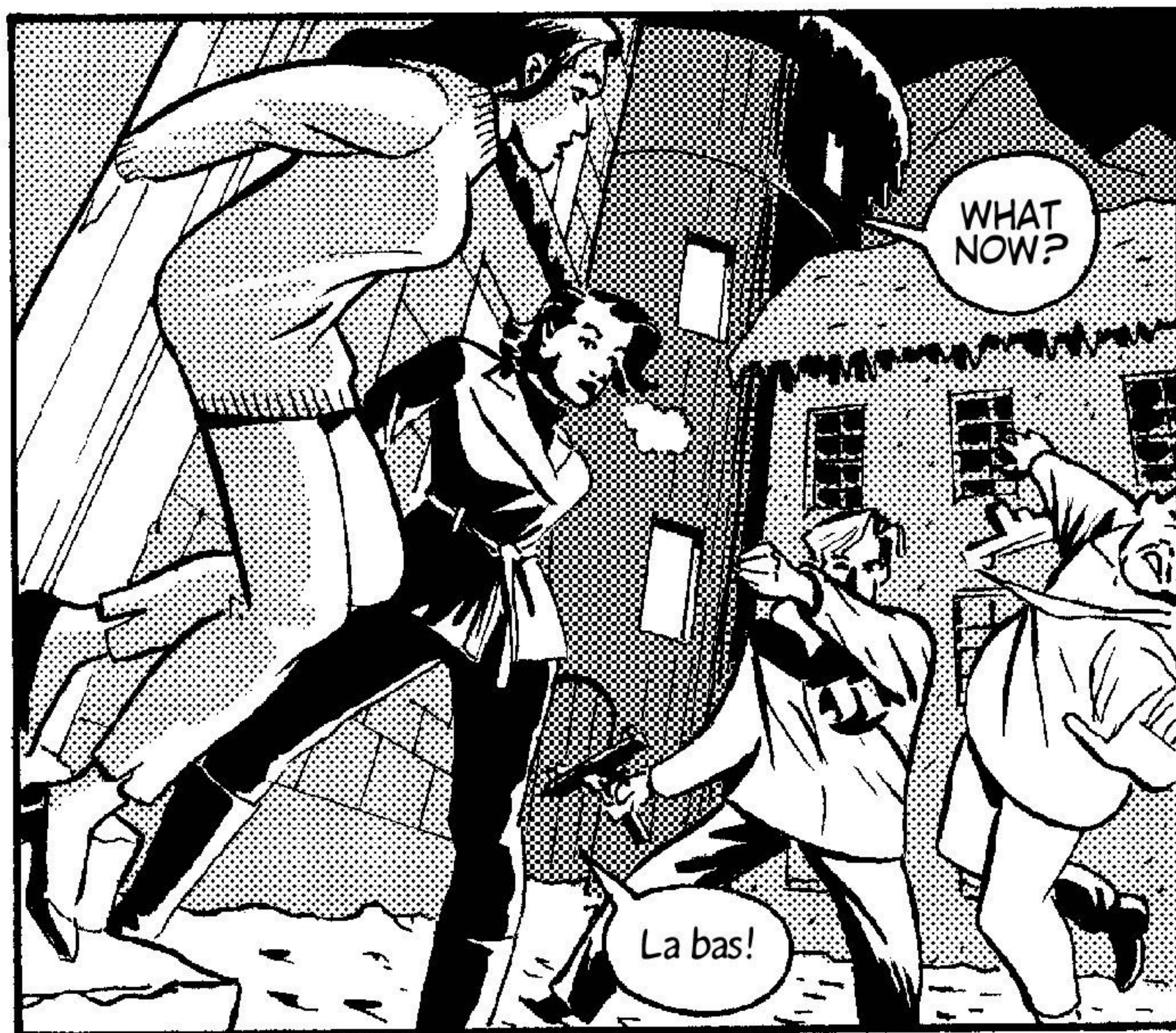
ROBERT!
THE
GUN

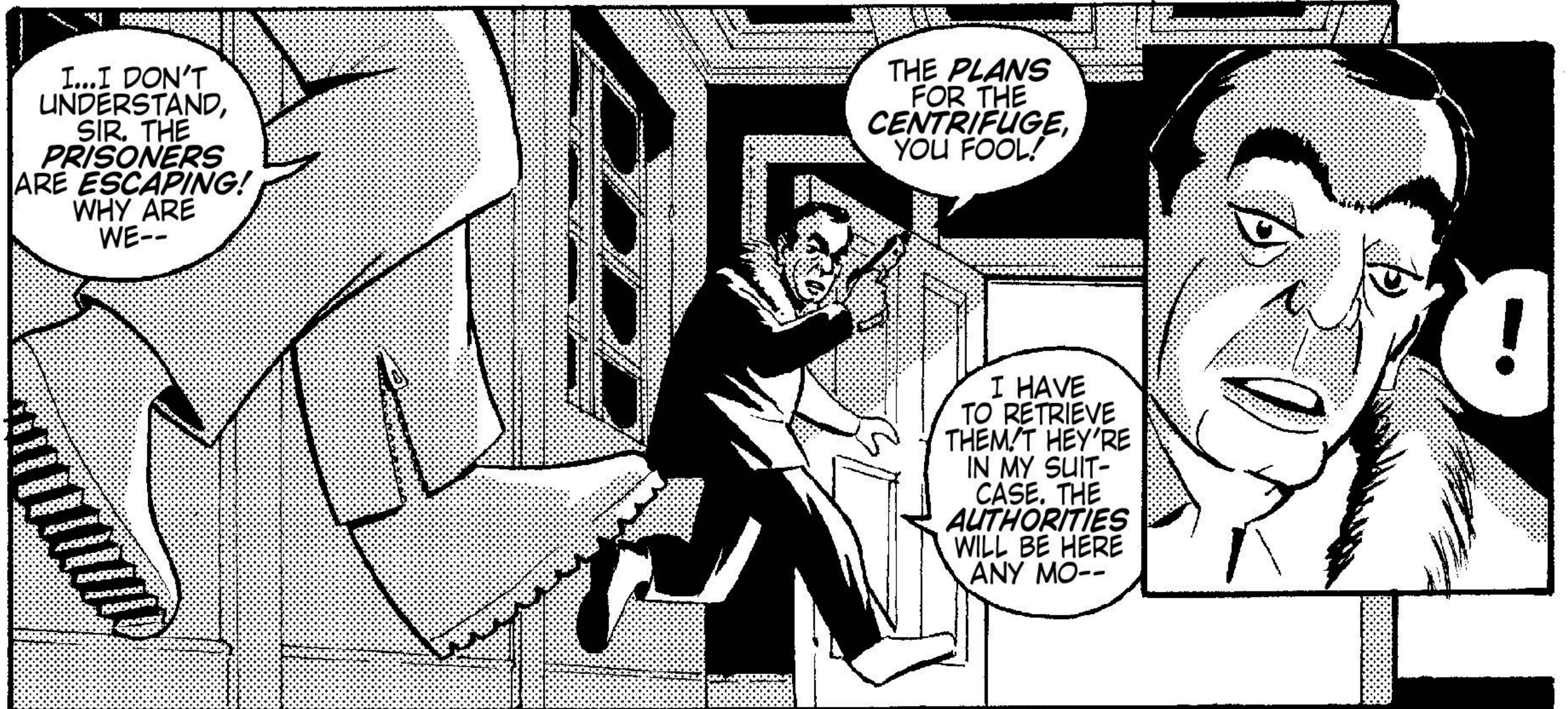
!

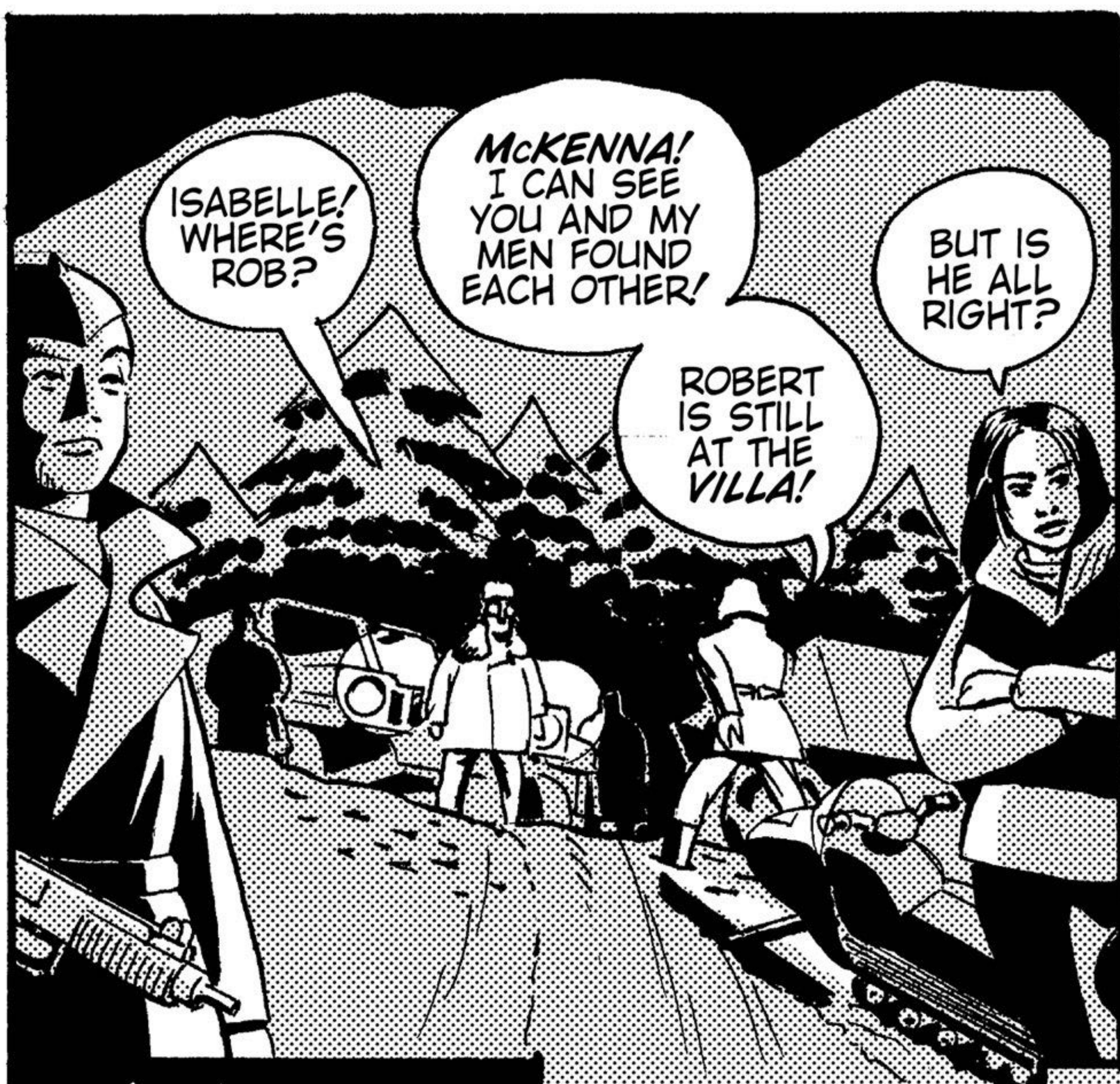


WAY
AHEAD
OF
YOU!





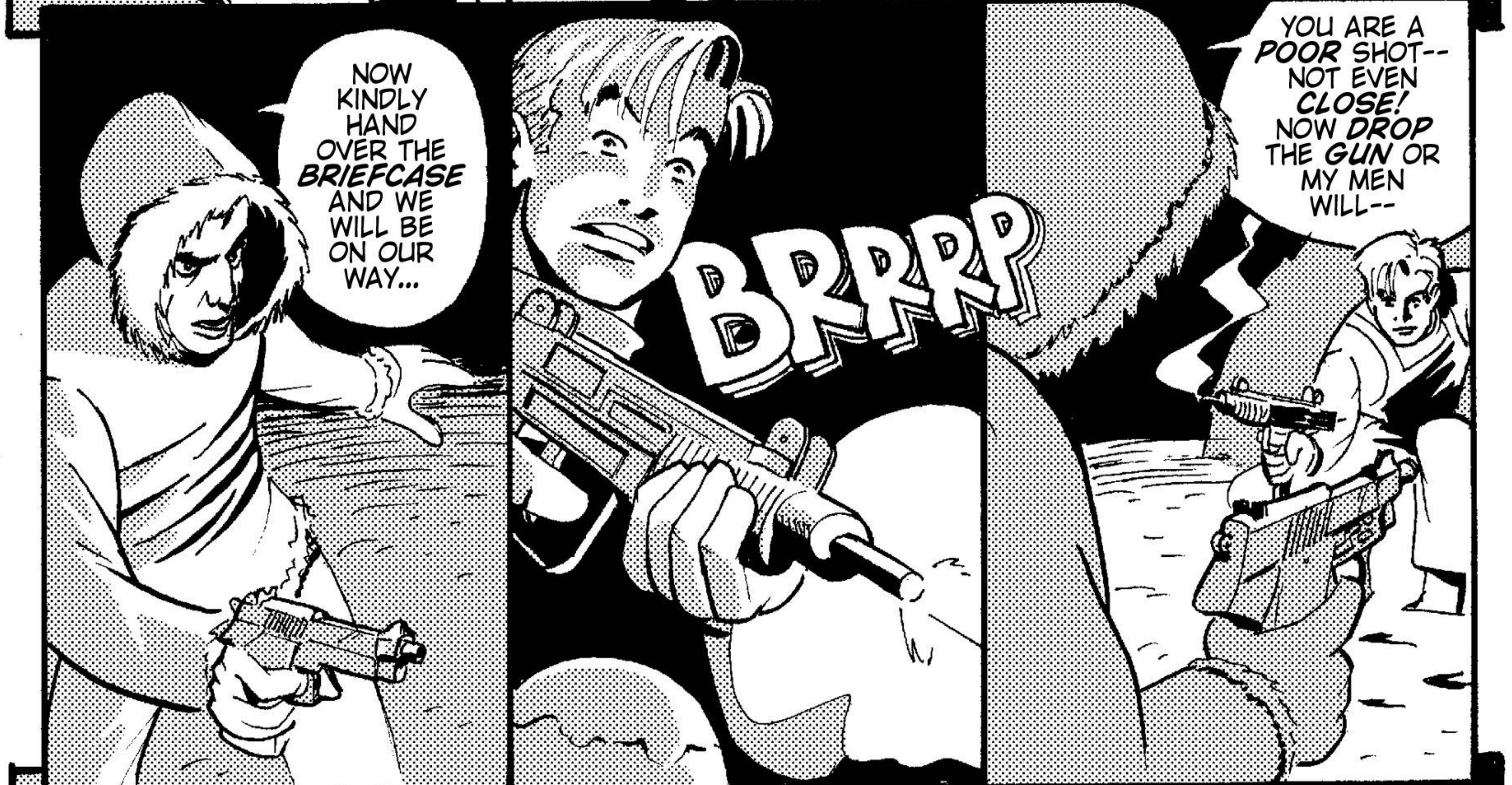






I COMMEND YOUR PERSISTENCE, YOUNG MAN...

BUT I HAVE INDULGED YOU LONG ENOUGH--



NOW KINDLY HAND OVER THE BRIEFCASE AND WE WILL BE ON OUR WAY...

BRRRRP

YOU ARE A POOR SHOT-- NOT EVEN CLOSE! NOW DROP THE GUN OR MY MEN WILL--

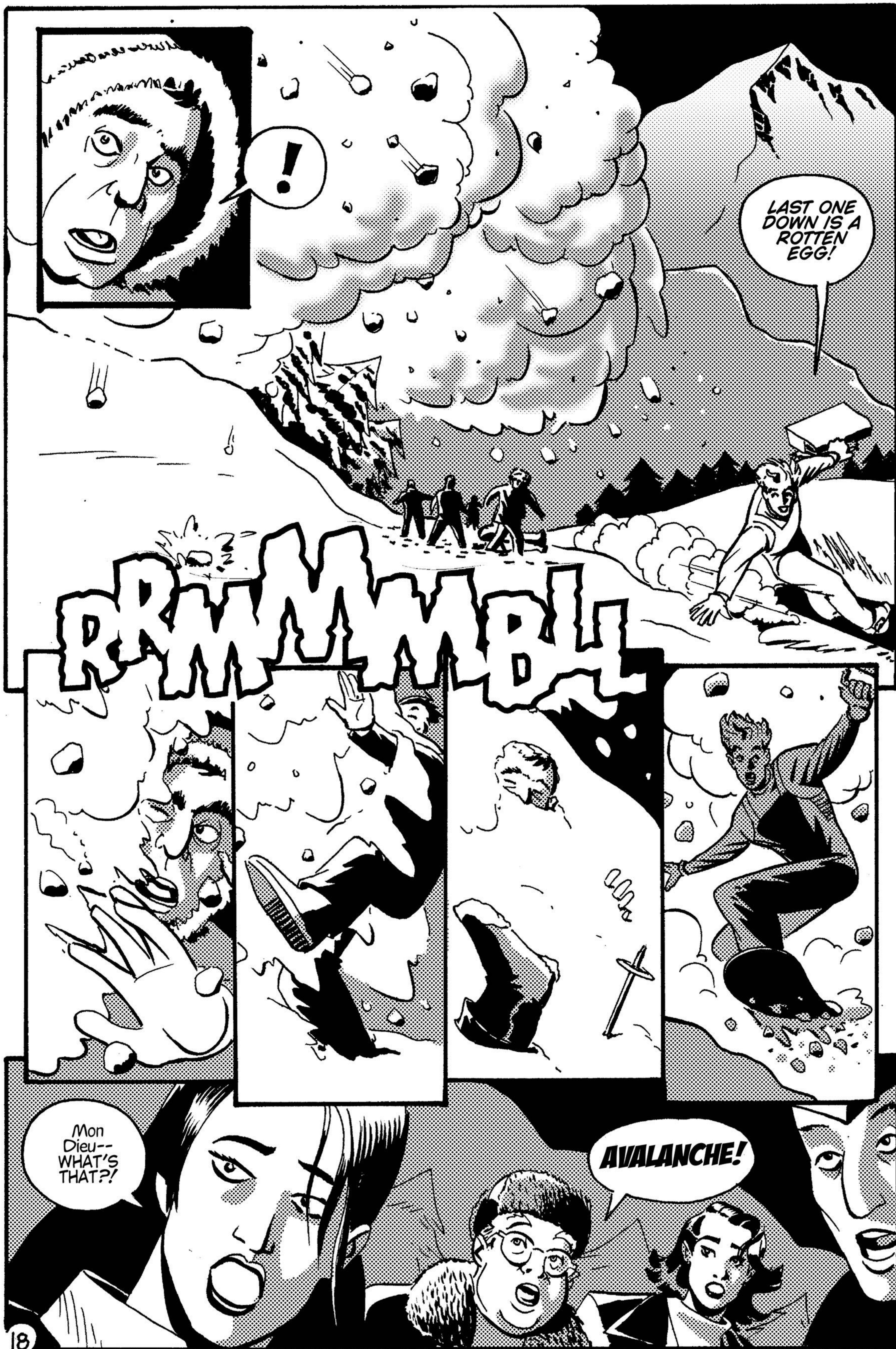


I WASN'T AIMING AT YOU--



"I WAS AIMING FOR THAT!"

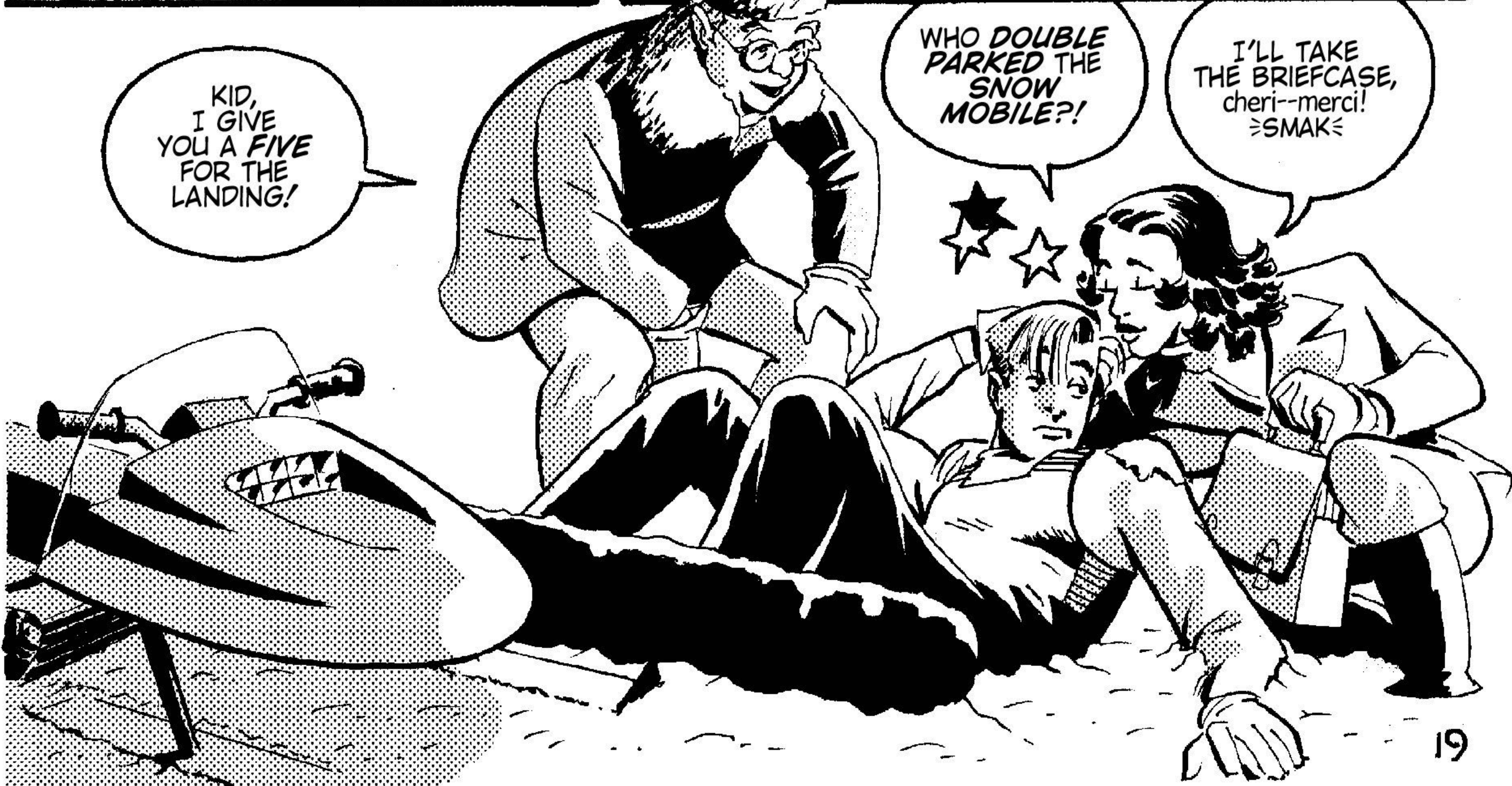
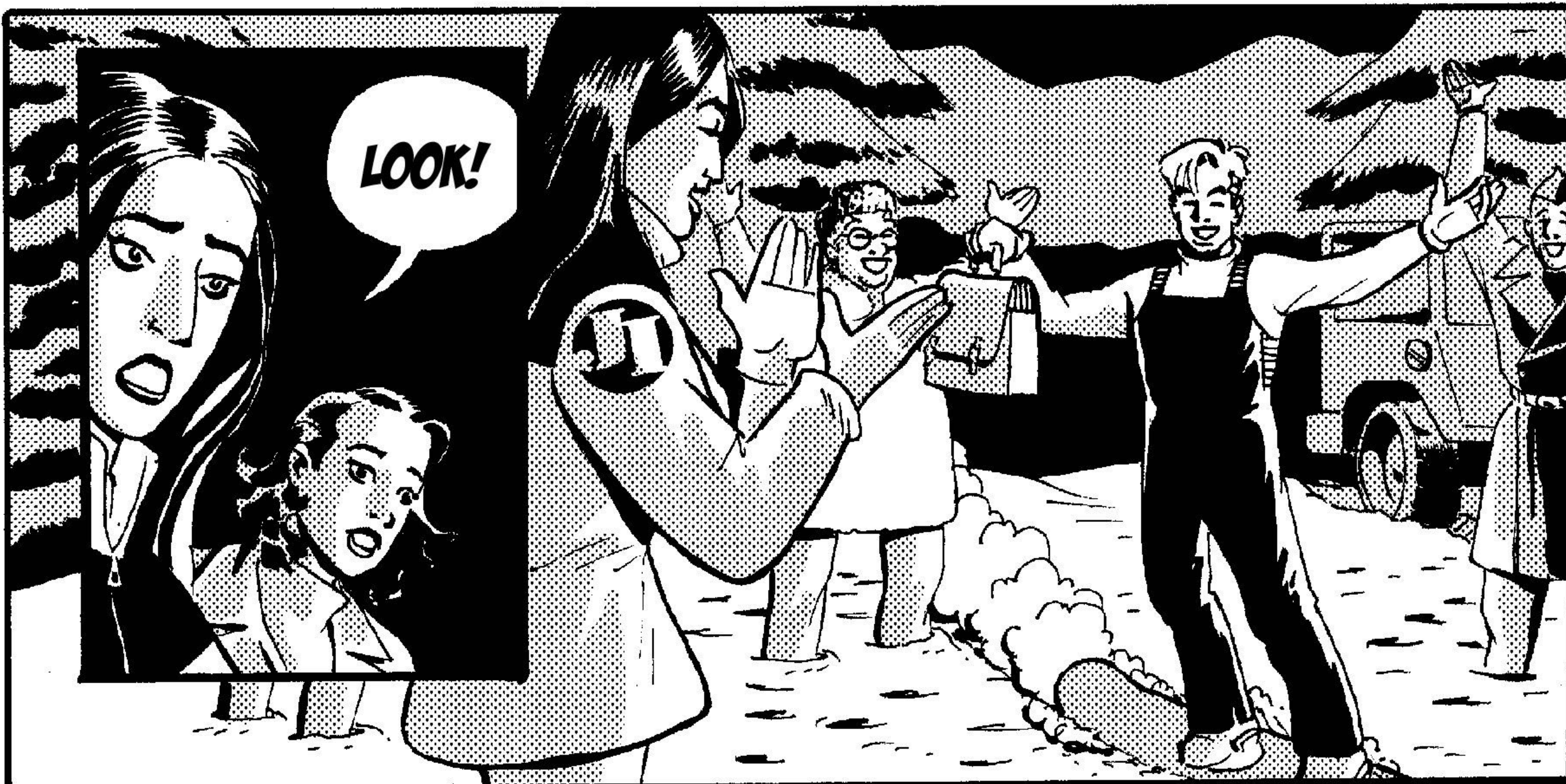
THE DISCHARGE FROM ROB'S WEAPON STARTS AN AVALANCHE!



LAST ONE DOWN IS A ROTTEN EGG!

RRRRMMMBL







TWO DAYS LATER, AT PARIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

EXCELLENT WORK, MR. HANES! THANK YOU FOR FINDING MONSIEUR JEBRU!



--AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, FOR RECOVERING THE BLUEPRINTS!

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK!



I TOO AM GRATEFUL, ROBERT!

HMPH! I SEE SOMEONE ELSE HAS JOINED THE ROB HANES "FAN CLUB"!

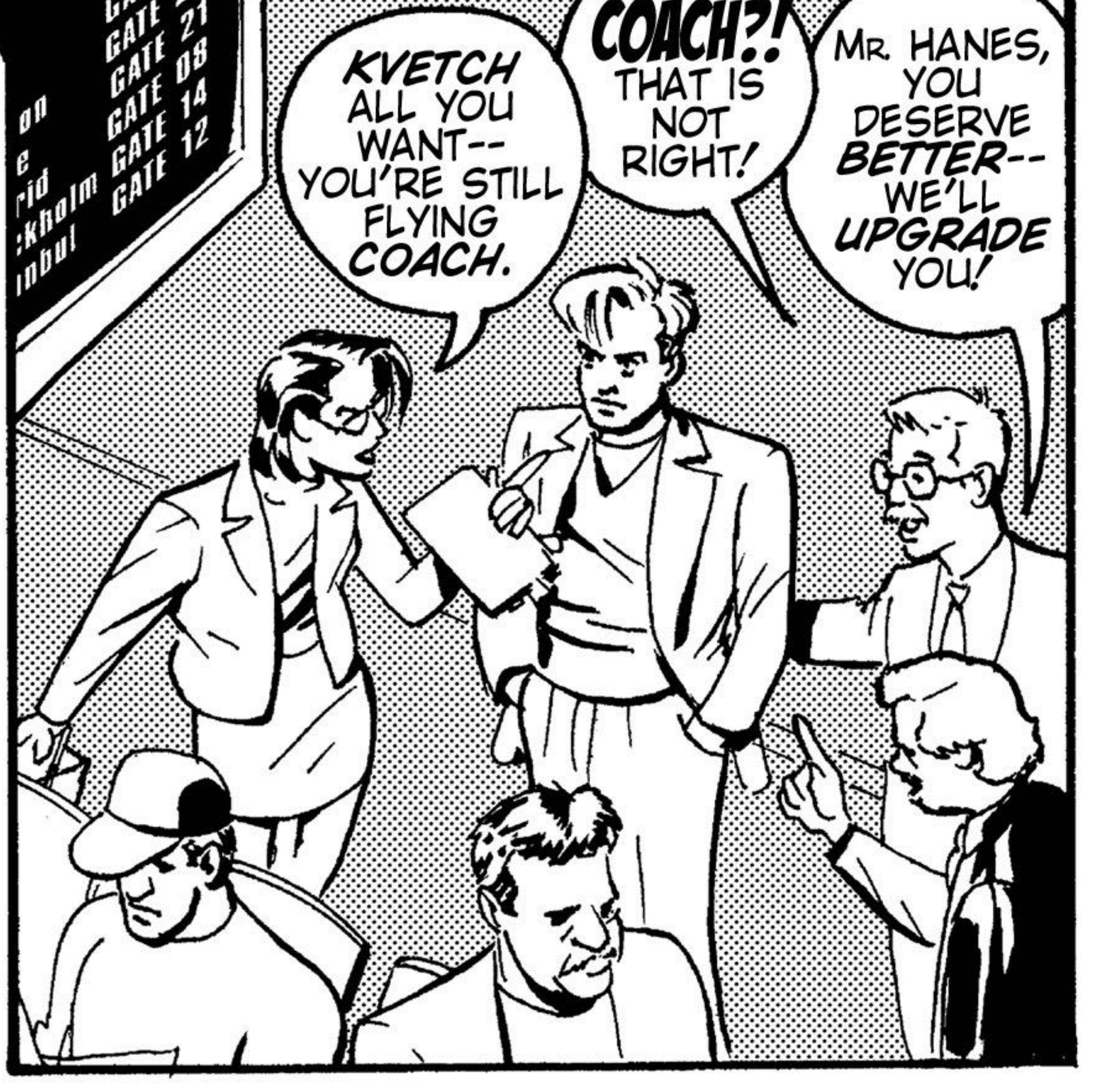


TALLY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

CONDUCTING AN AUDIT OF JI PARIS. I SEE WE'RE ON THE SAME FLIGHT BACK!



GOOD! YOU CAN CARRY MY RECEIPTS!



KVETCH ALL YOU WANT-- YOU'RE STILL FLYING COACH.

COACH?! THAT IS NOT RIGHT!

MR. HANES, YOU DESERVE BETTER-- WE'LL UPGRADE YOU!



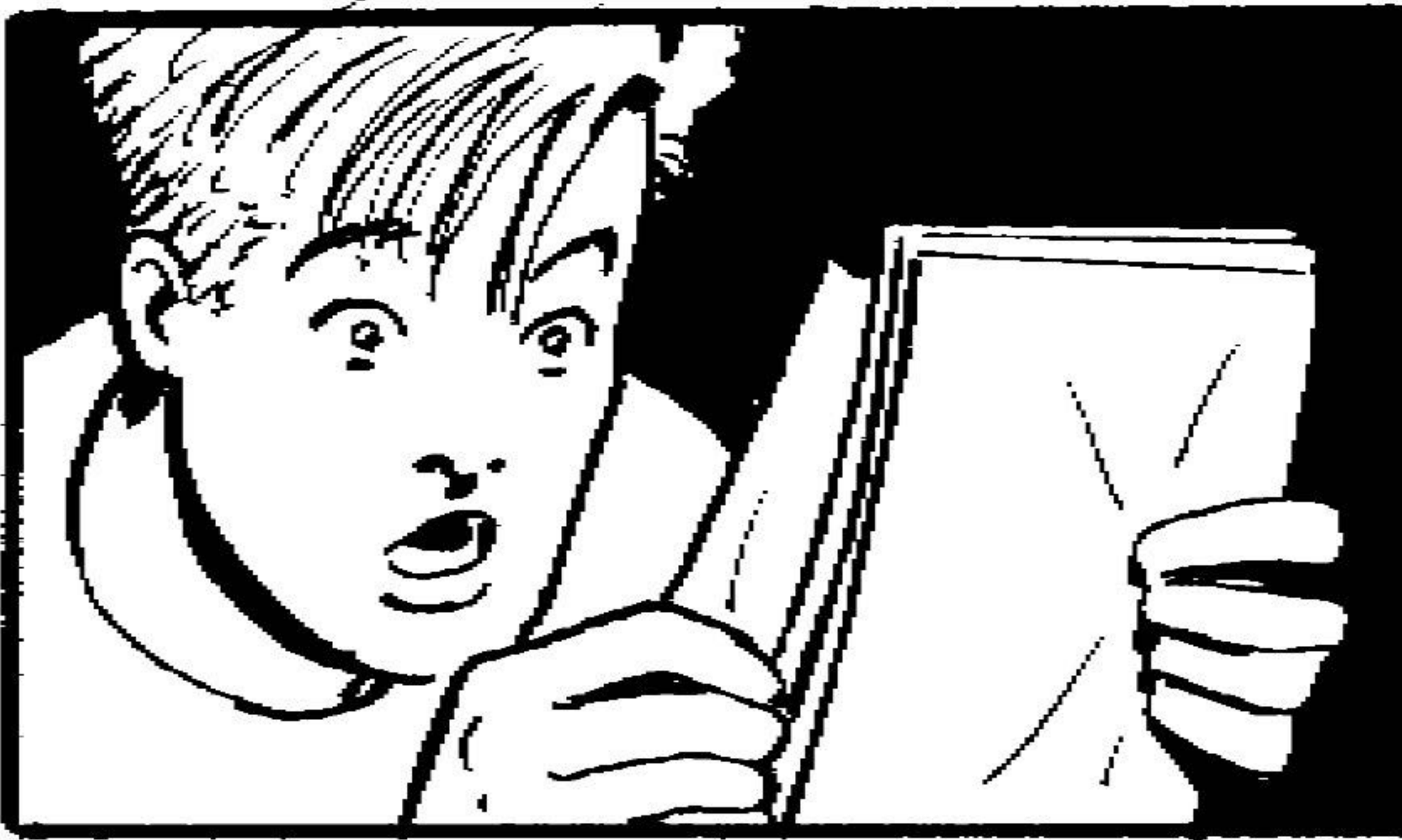
SOON, IN FIRST CLASS...



AND IN COACH...

NUTS, M'AM?

NEXT ISSUE: "DEATH ON THE MOORS"!



The first thing I want to make clear is that I'm a skier, not a snowboarder!

I make this disclosure in acknowledgment of the fact that the relationship on the slopes between skiers and snowboarders isn't always so smooth! Fortunately, my proficiency on skis has made it easy for me to co-exist on the slopes happily with fellow snowboarders.

I have always wanted to do a story involving skiing. When writing this story, however, I realized having Rob running in ski boots just wasn't feasible. Anyone who's skied will know it's practically impossible to run in ski boots. The time it would take to run, take off your shoes, put on ski boots, and hop on skis with armed gunmen in hot pursuit strained all credibility, even for me. Snowboard boots, in contrast, are more functional to walk in.

The "villain" this issue, Octavius Jebru, was loosely inspired by Abdul Qadeer Khan, sometimes called "the father of the Pakistani atomic bomb." It was through Khan's efforts that Pakistan became a nuclear power. In the process, Khan also has become a hero both in his home country and throughout the Muslim world.

In the wake of 9/11, Khan gained notoriety when he was identified by Western intelligence agencies as having provided technical information and expertise related to nuclear capability to various rogue nations and other groups, in a manner very similar to that ascribed to the character of Jebru in this issue. Though Khan was never identified as a political or religious extremist, he likely became involved in these activities both for profit and nationalistic pride. (By the way, Jebru's last name was taken from one of my favorite *Spirit* stories, "Hamid Jebru.")

In February 2004 (some time after I had already completed this issue's story), Khan "confessed" at a news conference on Pakistani television that he had indeed illicitly transferred such information, and apologized to the nation for his actions. The next day Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf pardoned Khan, effectively ending any further investigation into the episode.

LINER NOTES

Though Khan was certainly culpable, it's widely believed that Khan could have implicated many senior officials in Musharraf's government as aiding in the transfer of the information. Musharraf's pardon not only protected Khan from any punishment or further responsibility, but also effectively ended any inquiry into the matter and helped the government avoid further scandal.

One final note: the character of Rachel Tally, Justice International's resident "bean counter," was introduced in *Adventure Strip Digest* #4, in a story entitled "Hostile Takeover."

This issue of *Rob Hanes Adventures* has been trumpeted as "a return to the basics."

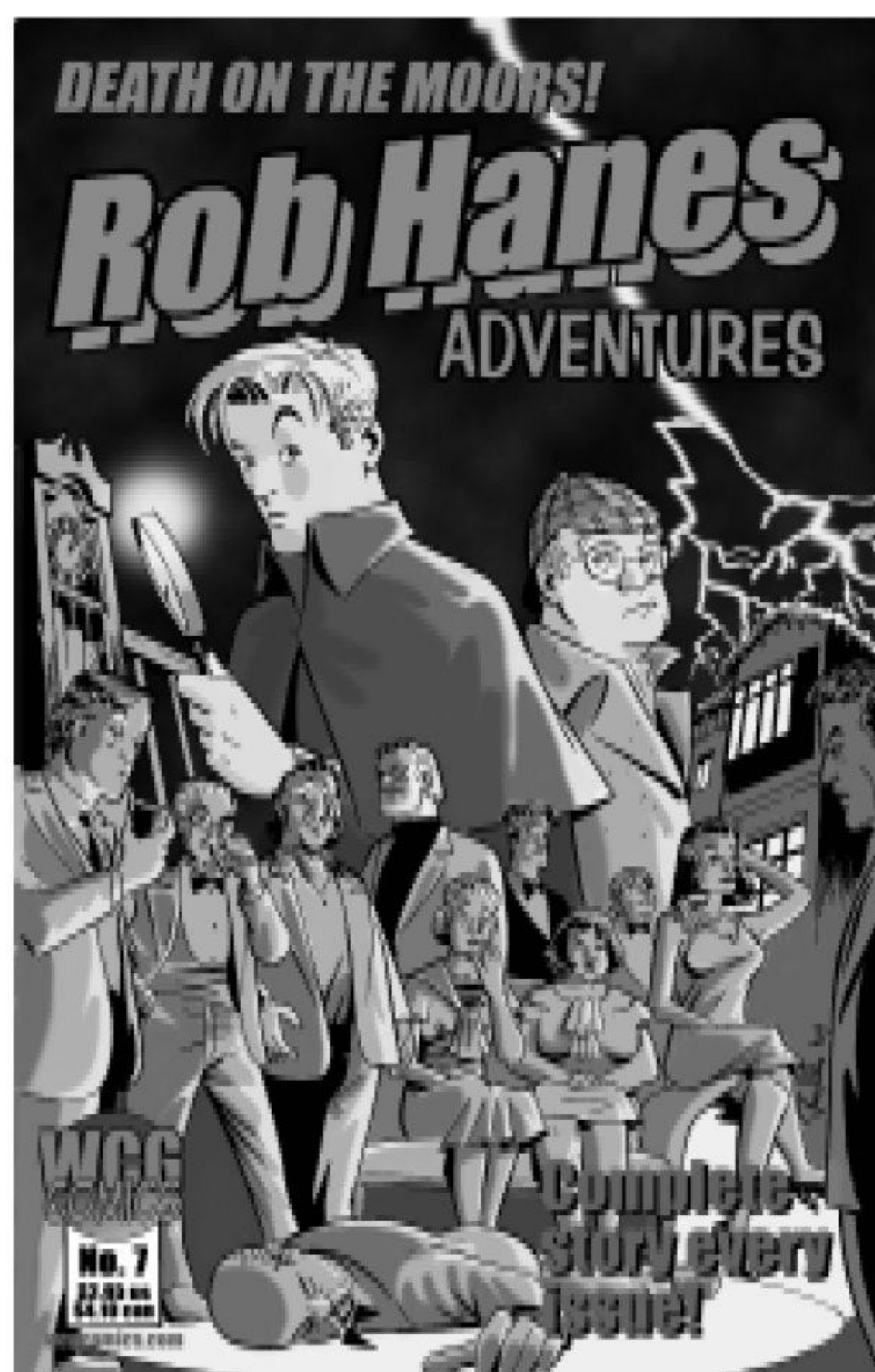
Anyone who is familiar with the series, including its earlier *Adventure Strip Digest* incarnation, will know that humor has always played an important role in the strip. Though I certainly would never characterize *Rob Hanes Adventures* as a comedy, I do generally consider the series "light-hearted," and one that never takes itself too seriously. Having said that, I must confess I feel that the Glowworm storyline — which concluded last issue — got me a bit off track. Though the story arc actually took up only a few stories in continuity, the original plan called for a longer story arc and led me to a start work on several stories that were eventually aborted. These false starts consist of upwards of 50 pages of unused/unpublished art (see, I HAVE been busy)! Given the time it takes me to complete a story, I realized I was getting bogged down and wasn't able to do other kinds of stories. Realizing the story arc was taking me away from my original vision for the series, I decided to simply conclude the Glowworm storyline last issue. Be assured, though, that I will be revisiting Rob's past in the future.

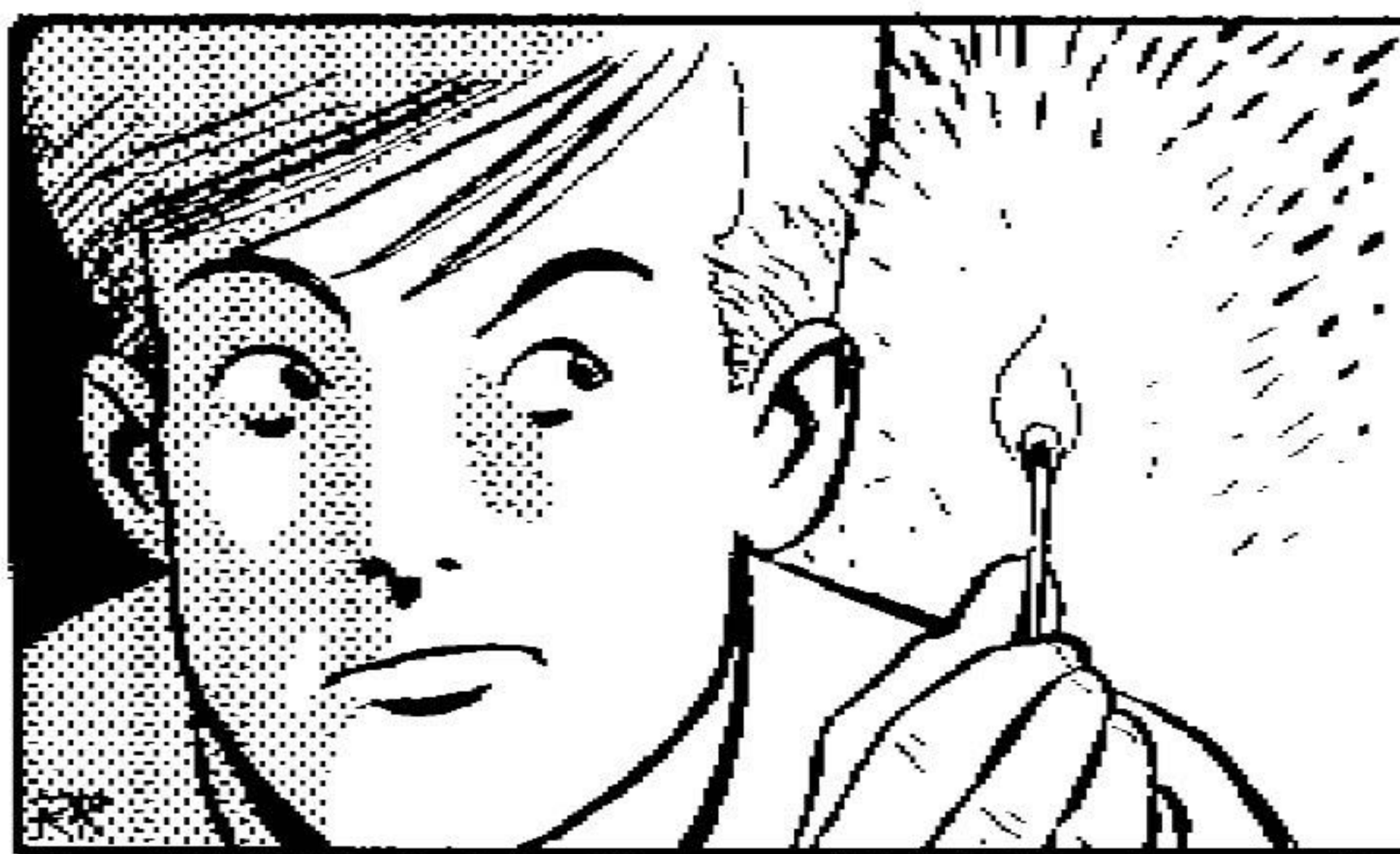
So to reiterate, this issue features a return to the basics. In addition to reaffirming the series' commitment to stand-alone stories, "The Hunt for Octavius Jebru" contains the kind of mix of character, adventure, and humor that I always

envisioned for the series. Next issue begins a series of stories that have been on the boards for years. In coming issues, you'll find a greater mix and variety of genres and storylines that I hope will make the series fun and memorable for readers, and unique among the many comic-book series lining the shelves!

Anyway, stick around and see!

NEXT ISSUE: *While visiting an English manor, Rob finds himself out of his depth when his host is found unconscious after a brutal assault, and he is asked to solve an old fashioned drawing room mystery! Coming Dec. 2004!*





HANES BRIEFS

Send your letters & e-mails of comment to hanesbriefs@wgcgcomics.com, or

Hanes Briefs
c/o WCG Comics
10736 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 403 (PMB)
Culver City, CA 90230-4969

NOTE: A special advance edition of this issue of **ROB HANES ADVENTURES** was produced for the 2004 Comicon International in San Diego, so some people had an opportunity to read both issues before the direct-sales edition of this issue appeared...

I read issues 5 and 6 of your comic books. I loved them! Especially the one on the budget cuts at Justice International. It was hilarious. Jack got to read them too. He said that he's been reading your books for a few years now and your staging and storytelling have just been getting better all the time. We were reading your bio at the end of the book and realized that you've been doing the strips since high school? That's real dedication. We're truly impressed.

Julie Yeh
Los Angeles, CA

*Julie is the writer/creator of the Xeric Award winning graphic novel, **Poppie's Adventures**, which is available at your local*

*comic-book store or directly from her publishing company, Way Out Comics, at poppiesadventures.com. The artist of her book, Jack Hsu, just launched his own mini-series, **893**. More information about his series can be found online at 893comics.com.*

*Yes, Rob Hanes' roots go back to the 1970s! It was originally envisioned as a syndicated adventure strip by a starry-eyed junior high school student. A sample of this early crude effort appeared in the **Rob Hanes Archives** trade paperback.*

To: Hanes Briefs"
(nyuck nyuck nyuck)
Thanks for the copies of **Rob Hanes Adventures** issues 5 and 6 (duly noted that this is a Special Advance Preview Edition—I may be the first person to get a WCG CGCed).

Let me, in particular, express admiration for your ability to actually present an entire self-contained story in one issue of your book and for your

FEATURED RETAILERS

A regular feature of my earlier series, **Adventure Strip Digest**, was "Retailer's Corner," a shout-out and plug for retailers who carried and supported **Rob Hanes Adventures**. Note that this feature is now available online at <http://wgcgcomics.com/featuredretailers.html>. If you're a retailer who would like to be included, simply send e message to WCGComics@wgcgcomics.com!

determination to do this as much as possible from now on. Speaking as one of the people responsible for (however inadvertently) spreading the misapprehension that a story has to be hundreds of pages long in order to "work," I think we're long overdue for a few people to tack away from that particular wind system and remind folks how much is possible to cover in 20 pages. So far you and Batton Lash (*Wolff & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre*), but there have to be a few more candidates on the way.

I was interested to read in the back of issue 6 that you had upwards of 50 pages of unused/unpublished art as the Glowworm plot thread threatened to burst all bounds. Just a suggestion, but I think it might be interesting to publish them at some point (or at least post to your website) along with suitable wry "don't let this happen to you" commentary on how this does tend to happen in our post-*Contract with God* graphic novel universe. You throw in a few lines of dialogue or a red herring (or a character named "Red" Herring with three lines of dialogue) and you just bought yourself another six months of work two years down the road to tic off that particular plot thread,

Anyway, your creative continence made for a jaunty little narrative. Fun fun fun 'til daddy takes the T-square away.

Dave Sim
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada

What a great idea. As someone who knows that one of the first rules of the art business is to recycle work as much as possible, I should have thought of it myself! I'm often looking for interesting "filler" both for the comic-book and the website, and you just opened a whole new world!

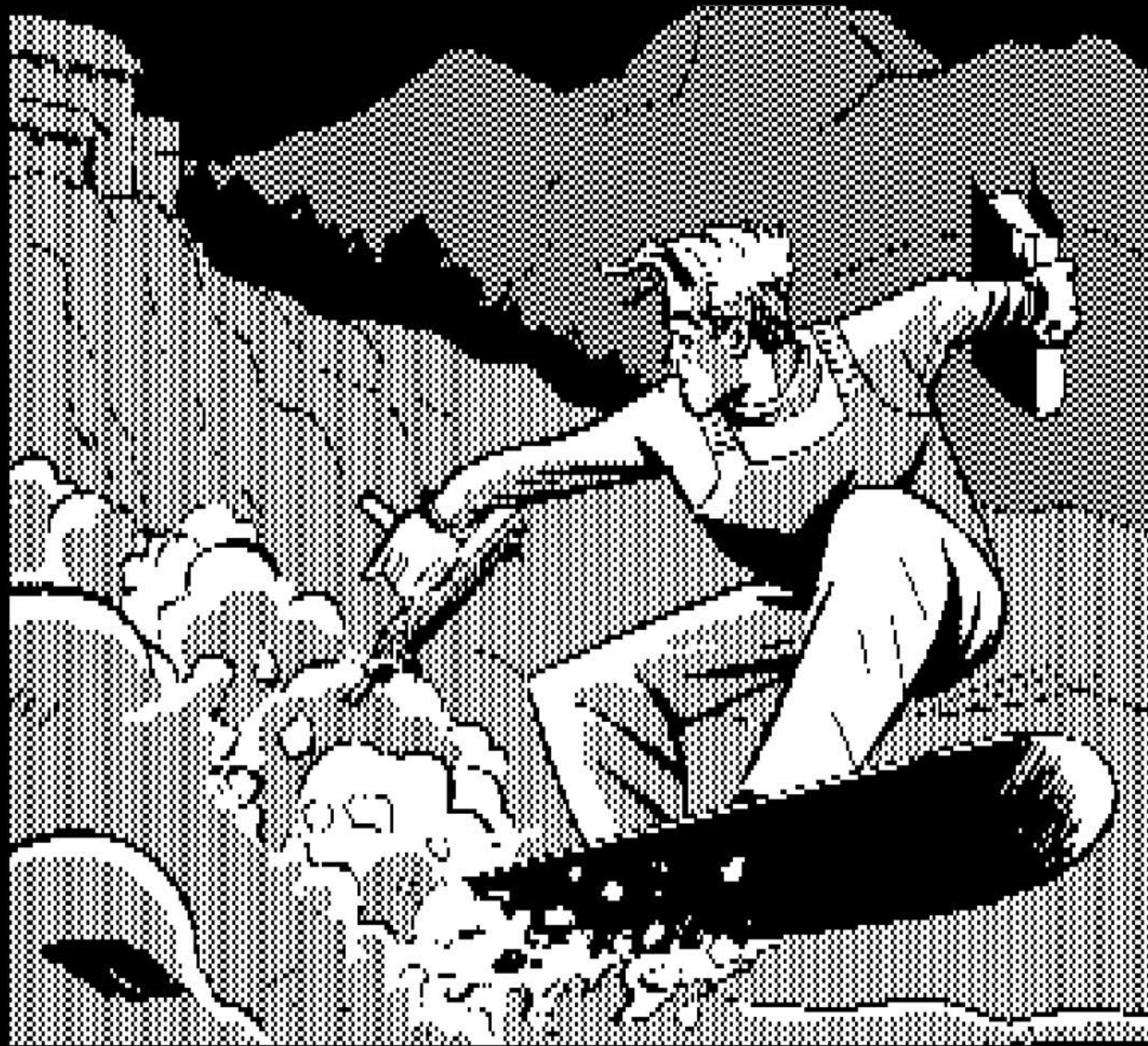
*Dave, of course, is the writer-artist-creator of **Cerebus the Aardvark** which concluded earlier this year with issue 300, as planned. Dave's achievement as the writer-artist on the same series (with an assist from Gerhard) is unparalleled in the comic-book industry, let alone the annals of self-published independent comics, and deserves every accolade. As I mentioned in a letter published in the **Comics Buyers Guide** earlier this year congratulating him, the primary reason that he has succeeded and survived, when others have not, is because he has maintained a regular schedule, and delivered his book on time, month in and month out. As any publisher, retailer, creator, and comic-book reader can tell you, this constant presence is one of the keys to publishing success. Dave was one of the first self-publishers, and set the "gold standard" for the rest of us who followed in his footsteps.*



ABOVE: Here I am with my daughter Peri at the WCG Comics/ROB HANES ADVENTURES booth at the 2004 Comicon International in San Diego. For more pictures from the show (and past comicons and events), visit my photogallery at wgcgcomics.com!

*For the most up-to-date news and announcements about **Rob Hanes Adventures**, join our e-mail newsletter at wgcgcomics.com!*

WCG Comics is a past Xeric Grant Award Winner and Russ Manning Award Nominee



Join ROB HANES in THE HUNT FOR
OCTAVIUS JEBRU!

A nuclear scientist with ties to terrorists has disappeared and is believed to be hiding in the French Alps. Rob Hanes of the private investigation firm Justice International has been hired to find him. Unfortunately, the agency also is undergoing budget cuts. Which begs the question—can an investigation be conducted on the cheap?

In this story of action, intrigue, beautiful women, and humor, this issue of ROB HANES ADVENTURES signals a return to the roots that has made the series a hit among fans and pros alike!

**“[Rob Hanes writer/artist] Randy Reynaldo is, putting it simply,
THE talent most deserving of wider recognition in comicdom. ”**

— Toni Isabella, Comic Buyer’s Guide columnist