

LACKADAISY

VOLUME 1



TRACY J. BUTLER







Lackadaisy Volume 1

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♣ LACKADAISY ♣



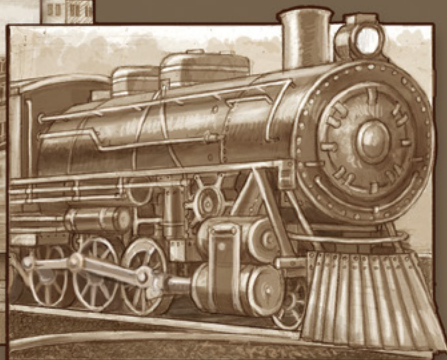
St. Louis



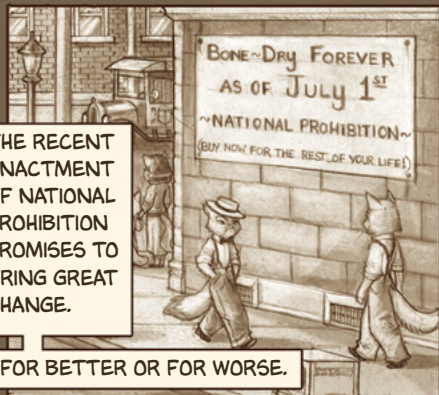
1920: LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND MISSOURI RIVERS, THE CITY IS ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST.



IT'S BOTH A BUSY RIVER PORT...



... AND A MAJOR TRAIN HUB.



THE RECENT ENACTMENT OF NATIONAL PROHIBITION PROMISES TO BRING GREAT CHANGE.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.



THE CITY'S ONCE PROSPEROUS BREWERIES STRUGGLE TO REMAIN IN BUSINESS.

MOST DO NOT SURVIVE.



BUT AN EMERGING UNDERGROUND INDUSTRY BEGINS FILLING THE GAPS ...



... OR THE TAPS, AS IT WERE.



MEANWHILE, RESTAURATEUR ATLAS MAY OWNS AND OPERATES A MODEST NICHE WITHIN THE CITY - THE LITTLE DAISY CAFE.



BUT HIS UNASSUMING ESTABLISHMENT HAPPENS ALSO TO BE A PORTAL INTO THE EXTENSIVE MAZE OF LIMESTONE CAVES BELOW ST. LOUIS.



AND BY ALL ACCOUNTS, ATLAS IS AN OPPORTUNIST.

SOON, THOUGH ST. LOUIS IS DRY ON THE SURFACE,
THERE'S A WELLSPRING UNDERGROUND.



A CLUB-SHAPED
PIN WORN UNDER
THE COLLAR OR
INSIDE THE LAPEL
GRANTS TRUST-
ED PATRONS
ACCESS TO THIS
SUBTERRANEAN
PLACE --



THE LACKADAISY SPEAKEASY.

...AND BECOMES THE
CITY'S MOST PROMINENT
BOOTLEG OPERATION.

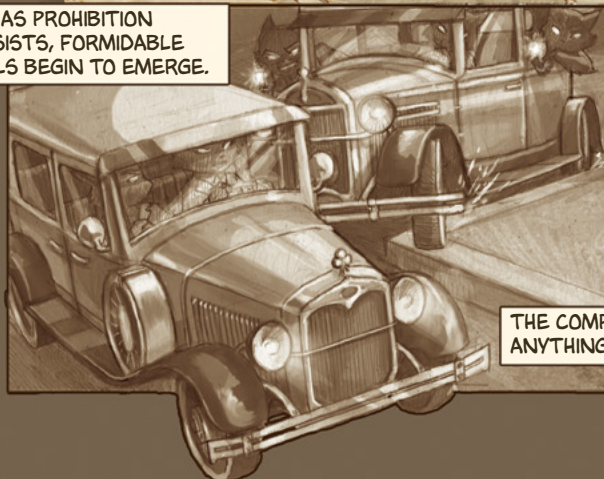
THE LOCATION OF ST. LOUIS IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY
MEANS ILLEGAL LIQUOR FLOWS
IN BY NUMEROUS ROUTES.

NEVER AT A LOSS FOR SUPPLY,
LACKADAISY PROSPERS...



ATLAS HAS A SMALL EMPIRE.

BUT AS PROHIBITION
PERSISTS, FORMIDABLE
RIVALS BEGIN TO EMERGE.



THE COMPETITION IS
ANYTHING BUT FRIENDLY.

ENEMIES LURK AROUND
EVERY CORNER.



AND IN 1926, ATLAS
MEETS A VIOLENT END.

LACKADAISY FALLS INTO THE HANDS OF HIS WIDOW --

MITZI MAY.

BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF HER INVOLVEMENT IN HIS DEATH.



AMIDST SHAKEN LOYALTIES AND MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM COMPETITORS, THERE IS A GREAT EXODUS OF CONSTITUENTS--

A NEAR FATAL BLOW FOR LACKADAISY ITSELF.

BY 1927, ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF ATLAS' CREW AND A HANDFUL OF STEADFAST PATRONS REMAIN. THE ORGANIZATION STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE.

AND SO, WHILE THE REST OF THE CITY AND MUCH OF THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS...



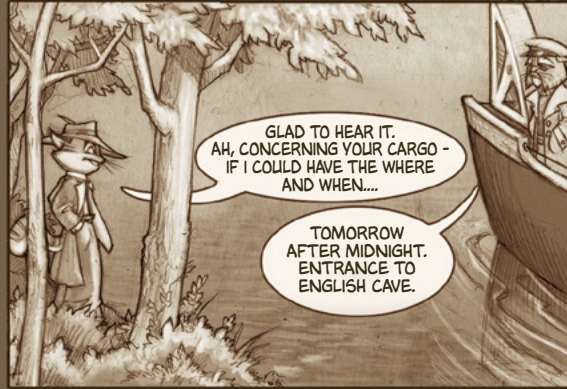
...CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS ARE
PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SPIRITS IN ST. LOUIS.



CAPTAIN KEHOE!
HOW'S OLD
MUDDY MISS'
TREATING YOU
THIS FINE
DAY?



DUCKY.



GLAD TO HEAR IT.
AH, CONCERNING YOUR CARGO -
IF I COULD HAVE THE WHERE
AND WHEN...

TOMORROW
AFTER MIDNIGHT.
ENTRANCE TO
ENGLISH CAVE.

AND WHATEVER QUARREL
YOU HAVE, SETTLE IT HERE.

I DON'T
WANT IT
ON MY
HANDS.



OH
HELL.



YOU? AGAIN?



C'MON! JUST HOW MUCH LIQUOR DO
YOU NEED TO SUSTAIN THAT RIVERSIDE SHANTY
YOU CALL AN ESTABLISHMENT?



ALL OF IT.

DIDN'T YOU
SWALLOW ENOUGH TEETH
LAST TIME WE TALKED
ABOUT THIS?

AS A MATTER
OF FACT, I DID ... BUT I
BET I STILL HAVE
MORE THAN Y--



YANK



OVER-DRESSED MOSQUITO.

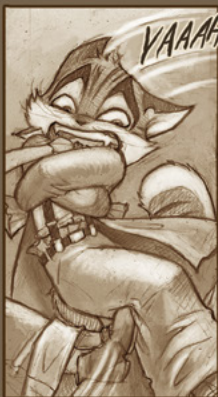


HEY, THAT'S A CLEVER TRICK...WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WE'RE GONNA GO FER A RIDE.



UH, THIS DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T BE MAKING THAT PICK-UP!



YAAAAH!



HRK!



WE GOT ANY ROPE OR ANYTHIN' IN THE TRUCK?

NAW.



GOT A TOOLBOX, THOUGH.



WHY THE SPECIAL TREATMENT, GLYS? COULDN'T YOU JUST BASH ME OVER THE HEAD WITH SOMETHING AND CALL IT A DAY?

WELL, AVRIL'S IN A BAD MOOD TODAY 'CAUSE ONE-A THE PIGS GONE MAD AND WE HAD TA SHOOT IT.



WHAM

OH.



I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU MY TRAVEL COMPANION.



I'LL CALL YOU FROTHY.

... FROTHY, WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE WE'RE GOING?





WELL, I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS IS SOMEWHAT MORE CREATIVE THAN I EXPECTED...



... FROM A BUNCH OF WITLESS RUBES!



I HOPE YOU BOYS ARE PREPARED TO BE DISAPPOINTED...

...BECAUSE BEING RUN DOWN BY SOMETHING CALLED THE SUNSHINE SPECIAL IS TOO IRONIC TO BE POSSIBLE.



SIGH SO... YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. KEHOE IS ALL YOURS.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I DO HAVE OTHER INDIVIDUALS TO BE HARASSED BY TODAY.

POINT? THERE AIN'T NO POINT CEPT TO WATCH YOU GET HIT BY THAT TRAIN.

EMERY HERE NEVER SEEN ANYTHIN' HIT BY A TRAIN B'FORE.

NOPE, NEVER.



REALLY? WELL, YOU'VE BEEN MISSING OUT. THE SPLATTER IS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD. IT'S REALLY QUITE, UH...

...SPECTACULAR.



AND, UH, SINCE IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION, WHY NOT MAXIMIZE THE CARNAGE? THAT IS, I THINK YOU MAY HAVE JUST ENOUGH TIME TO ADD A CERTAIN PIG TO THE MIX.



WELL, THAT'S AN IDEA.

CAREFUL. HE'S A TRICKY ONE.

NO HE AIN'T. HE'S AN IDIOT.

CAN'T TAKE A MAD PIG TO MARKET ANYHOW.



MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF TWO CRACKPOTS WITH ONE TRAIN.

...LIKE MA WOULD SAY.



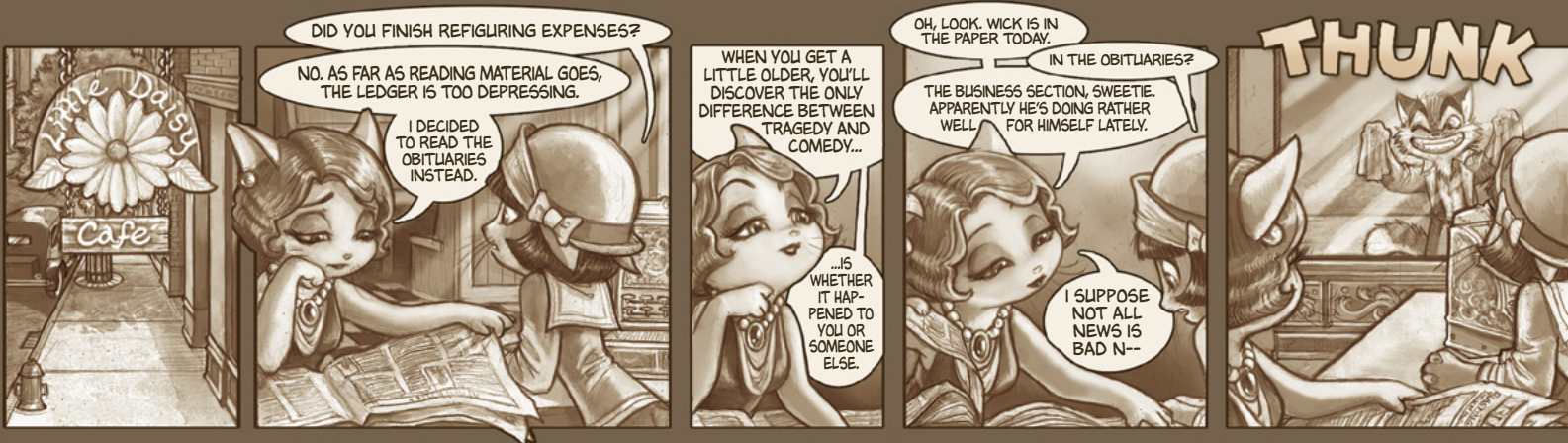
AND DON'T YOU MOVE FROM THAT SPOT OR I'LL SHOOT YOU, THEN WATCH YOU GET HIT BY A TRAIN!



I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH FOR ME, FROTHY.



DAMN! DURABLE MERCERIZED COTTON -SILK BLEND!



DID YOU FINISH REFIGURING EXPENSES?

NO. AS FAR AS READING MATERIAL GOES, THE LEDGER IS TOO DEPRESSING.

I DECIDED TO READ THE OBITUARIES INSTEAD.

WHEN YOU GET A LITTLE OLDER, YOU'LL DISCOVER THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRAGEDY AND COMEDY...

...IS WHETHER IT HAPPENED TO YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE.

OH, LOOK, WICK IS IN THE PAPER TODAY.

IN THE OBITUARIES?

THE BUSINESS SECTION, SWEETIE. APPARENTLY HE'S DOING RATHER WELL FOR HIMSELF LATELY.

I SUPPOSE NOT ALL NEWS IS BAD N--

THUNK



GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES! IT'S A LOVELY DAY OUT THERE ... FOR AN EXTRA-ORDINARILY LONG WALK...

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BRIEF RENDEZ-VOUS.

I'M SORRY, MISS M.

SOME OF THE LOCALS INSISTED ON SEEING ME REENACT "THE PERILS OF PALLINE."

OH! CUSTOMERS! I DIDN'T REALIZE WE ACTUALLY SERVED ANYONE HERE.

HELLO.

HOW IS YOUR LUNCH? ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR LUNCH?

OR WOULD YOU SAY IT'S MORE OF AN EARLY DINNER?

ROCKY, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU FRIGHTEN THE ELDERLY, COME TALK TO US OVER HERE.

WE'RE IN NEED OF ANY BUSINESS WE CAN GET. FINANCES HAVE HER LOOKING TO DEAD PEOPLE FOR A LAUGH.



OH, WELL. KNOWING KEHOE, THAT FREIGHT HAS AN UNUSUALLY HIGH CONTENT OF EMBALMING FLUID ANYWAY.

NO, NO! YOU MISUNDERSTAND! DESPITE APPEARANCES MISS M., TODAY HAS BEEN A, UH, UNEQUIVOCAL SUCCESS. I JUST ... NEED TO FIND THE CAR.

OH, HONEY, YOU LOST THE CAR? IT'S ALL WE HAVE LEFT BESIDES THAT OLD TRUCK I HAD TO SELL THE REST.

DON'T WORRY. IF I CAN JUST BORROW A CERTAIN SURLY SLOVAK FOR A BIT, I'LL GET IT RIGHT BACK.

THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF EMBALMING FLUID TO GO AROUND TOMORROW NIGHT.

CHECK IN THE GARAGE. IVY, YOU GO ALONG TOO. VIKTOR WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO THROTTLE HIM IN YOUR PRESENCE.

SURE!



YOU KNOW HOW WHEN VIKTOR LOOKS AT YOU, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S SEARING A HOLE THROUGH YOUR FACE?

WELL, I HAVE A THEORY ABOUT THAT.



BY HAVING TO PASS THROUGH THAT SINGULAR OCULAR OF HIS...

...THE, UH, HATE ENERGY HE RADIATES EXPERIENCES SOME SORT OF AMPLIFICATION IN A MANNER NOT UNLIKE STIMULATED EMISSION AS, UH, EINSTEIN DESCRIBED IT, RESULTING IN A KIND OF HIGHLY INTENSIFIED...



...GLARE BEAM.



VIKTOR!

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TODAY! BUNCH OF YOKELS A TRUCK AND ME TO THE AND I HAD BE A PIG TO GET OUT--

OH! I NEED TO SHOW YOU MY SHOES! MY DAD SENT MONEY SO I COULD BUY SOME BOOKS I NEED FOR THE SUMMER SEMESTER BUT I SAW THESE AT FAMOUS-BARR WHILE I DRINKING FOR SOME HAT



NOISE NOISE NOISE

NO.



NO? BUT VIKTOR, WE DIDN'T EVEN ASK A QUESTION.

UH, I JUST NEED SOME HELP GETTING THE CAR.



COULD YOU, PLEASE--?

NOT NAOW. I'M BUSY.



?

I WAS HOPING IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS, VIKTOR!

YAAIGH! BAD KNEES! GET OFF!

HOW ABOUT IF I BEND YOUR FINGERS THE WRONG WAY? HOW ABOUT THAT??

I'LL CRUSH THE AIR OUT OF YOUR LUNGS, YOU BIG ORNERY OX!

OKAY? WAS THAT A 'YES'? AND YOU AREN'T GONNA KILL HIM, RIGHT?

UH, YA. AREN'T GONNA KILL HIM, RIGHT. GET OFF.

OKAY, DIEVKA. GET OFF.



WELL, HE'S ALL YOURS. SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO ROUGH HIM UP A LITTLE BIT, BUT REALLY, HE'S JUST A BIG TEDDY BEAR ONCE YOU--

VIKTOR! PUT THE WRENCH DOWN - YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T!

AHEM I, UH, HAVE A BIT OF A DILEMMA, VIKTOR. AS FORTUNE WOULD HAVE IT, THERE'S A PICK-UP TOMORROW NIGHT. BUT TO THE CONTRARY, UH, FORTUNE-WISE, UH, IT SEEMS I'LL HAVE A GAGGLE OF BELLIGERENT CLODHOOPPERS TO CONTEND WITH, AND, SO, WELL ...

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD HAVE SOME VALLUABLE ADVICE OR PERHAPS SOME WORDS OF INSPIRATION FOR YOUR YOUNG PROTEGE.

QUIT.

QUIT?? I CAN'T QUIT, VIKTOR. WHO WOULD BE LEFT TO BRING MISS M. HER GIN AND WHISKEY AND... COFFIN VARNISH?

HAOW CAN I HELP WHEN YOU ARE SO MUCH LIKE, EH... SPAGHETTI NOODLE?

I'M LIKE A SPAGHETTI NOODLE?

YA, SKINNY. NO MAH-SCLE.



THAT IS WHY YOU COME BACK LOOKING ALWAYS LIKE YOU GOT HIT BY A TRAIN.

...SAYS THE ONE-EYED MAN WITH KNEES THAT DON'T BEND.

ONE OF THEM BENDS, SOMEVHAT. AND THAT IS AFTER SEVEN YEARS AT THIS YORX.

WELL, MY RECORD FOR NOT GETTING HIT BY TRAINS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD. I KNOW I'VE BEEN IN A LOT OF SCRAPES SINCE I STARTED, BUT I'VE SURVIVED THEM ALL WITH MINIMAL, UH...

WITH, UH...

HEY, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I COULD FIND A PIG FARM AROUND HERE, WOULD YOU?

SOMEWHERE BY THE RIVER?
NO?

LIHHH...

WHAT WAS I, UH--?







GOOD EVENING, DEAR.



IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW SEDGWICK SABLE IS HAVING A NEW QUARRY BLASTED JUST WEST OF HERE, BETWEEN THE TWO RIVERS.

THERE'S QUITE A LIST OF DIGNITARIES ATTENDING THE, ... UM, CHRISTENING.

I SUPPOSE THAT CALLS FOR A SPECIAL INVITATION?



THEY'RE BLOWING SOMETHING UP, AFTER ALL. WHAT BETTER REASON TO CELEBRATE?

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK



YES?



YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL CONVERSING SO INDISCREETLY WITH THE PORTRAITURE, MISS M.

PEOPLE ARE LIABLE TO THINK YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN A CAN OF CRICKET JUICE.



OH, ROCKY...

A-HEM COME ON IN.



I FOUND YOUR ADDING MACHINE.

THANK YOU, SWEETIE.



ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD YOU CAME.

YOU ARE?



YOU'RE STILL CERTAIN YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON THAT FREIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT? WE MAY HAVE SOME IMPORTANT GUESTS, AND I CAN'T KEEP WATERING DOWN THAT WATERED-DOWN WHISKEY WE'VE GOT LEFT.

ABSOLUTELY.



AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE I GOT MY HAT BACK, AND THE CAR, BUT BECAUSE VIKTOR GAVE ME SOME INVALUABLE, UH, BECAUSE, WELL, HE SEEMED TO SUGGEST THE TROUBLE IS THAT I'M THE WRONG KIND OF NOODLE.

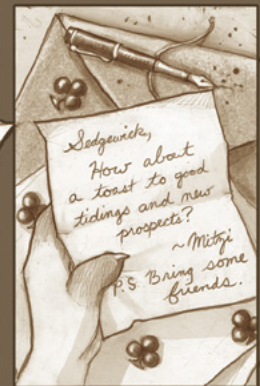
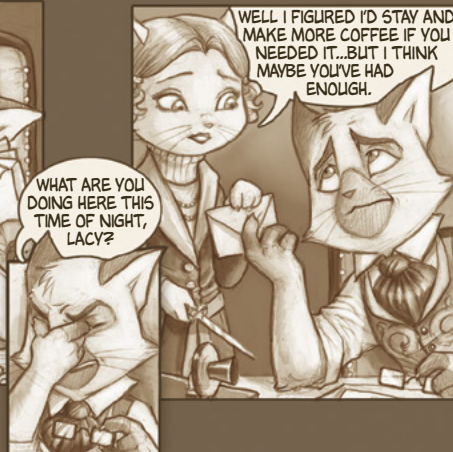
TOMORROW, I'LL BE MORE LIKE ... LINGLINE!



MM-HMMM.



THE UNION TRUST BUILDING. IT'S GETTING LATE, BUT THE DOORMAN SHOULD TAKE IT - IF YOU COULD JUST DROP IT OFF ON YOUR WAY TO ... WHEREVER IT IS YOU LIVE.



meanwhile...

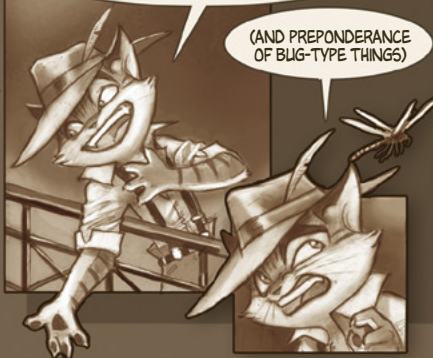
OLD MAN RIVER!



THAT SEEMS FAR TOO AUSTERE A NAME FOR SOMETHING MADE OF MIRTH AND RAGE. O, ROILING RED-BLOOD RIVER VEIN, IF CHIEF AMONG YOUR TRAITS IS AGE, YOU'RE A WILY, CONVOLUTED SAGE.

IS "OLD" THE THING TO CALL WHAT RINGS THE VERNAL HEART OF WESTER-LORE: WHAT BRINGS US BRASSY MYTH-MADE KINGS...

(AND PREPONDERANCE OF BUG-TYPE THINGS)



TO CHALLENGE TITANS COME BEFORE? DEMILURGE TO TRY AT AWALON-ONCE-MORE!



AND WHAT AUGUST VITALITY IS YOUR WIDE AORTA STREAM YOU MUST HAVE HAD TO OVERSEE ALCHEMIC CHANGE OF TIMBER BEAM TO IRON, BRICK AND ENGINE STEAM!



YOUR LIMBER WHISKEY WATERS LANCE THE PRIDEFUL, SOBER SOVEREIGNTY OF FAULT-HALOED TEMPERANCE AND WILT HER SELF-SURE COUNTENANCE; YES, RIGHTEOUSNESS IS VANITY, BUT YOUR SPORT'S FOR IMPS, NOT ELDERLY.

SO IF THERE'S A NAME FOR MIGRANT MASS OF VETERAN FRIVOLITY THAT SNAKES THROUGH SEAS OF PRAIRIE GRASS AND GROVES OF SUMMER SASSAFRAS ...

A NAME THAT FLOWS AS ROGLISHLY AS GYPSY WATERS, FAST AND FREE ...



IT'S YOUR REAL NAME, MISSISSIPPI.



ENCORE?







I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO BENT ON ENFORCING THE LAW LAWFULLY ANYWAY. YOU COULD ALWAYS TAKE UP VIGILANTISM.



IS THAT WHAT YOU DO?



SURE. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY REASON YOU COULDN'T CALL IT THAT.

WELL, THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.



CLASSY!

WHY ARE THERE BOTTLES ALL OVER THE GROUND?

BECAUSE, FRECKLE, THESE PHILISTINES DON'T KNOW HOW TO RUN A RESPECTABLE BUSINESS.



AS ROGUE UPHOLDERS OF ALL THAT IS JUST, WE'RE OBLIGED TO TAKE ACTION.

WELL LOOKIT THAT! THEY'RE BUYING OFF THE RIVER AND THEY'VE GOT THEIR OWN STILL.



HEE HEE HEEES
OH...



WHAT AVARICE!



HEY! WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU--?



AUGH!



AAAAAUUUUGGHHH!



STOP!
THROW IT! THROW IT!



NO, I
MEAN THIS
DIRECTION.

KSSH



HA!
VOOMF



PERFECT!
THINGS ARE
LOOKING UP.



ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO
IMPROVISE, FRECKLE.

THAT'S RULE
NUMBER ONE
FOR JAZZ
PLAYERS AND
VIGILANTES
ALIKE.



AND ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED GAWKING,
FEEL FREE TO HELP ME PUSH!



WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES HAPPENED?

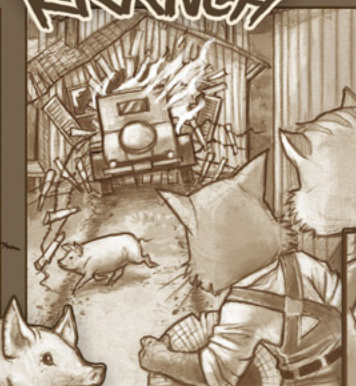
GET ME SOME MORE
BUCKETS!
THAT GODDAMMED
MOSQUITO SHOWED
UP AND NEARLY SET
THE BARN ON --



--FIRE.



KRRNCH



FORGET THE
BUCKETS. GET ME
A SHOTGUN.



WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED. I MISSED THE BARN COMPLETELY.

WAS THAT THEIR HOUSE?



HM. THAT'S STRIKE TWO. ONE SHOT LEFT - WE'D BETTER NOT LET IT GO TO WASTE.



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS, UH...



ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY LOGIC?



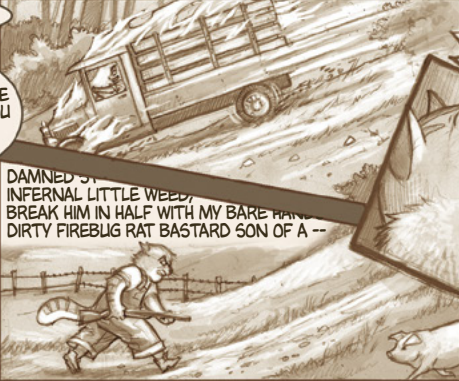
I'LL JUST HAVE TO STEER THIS TIME.



I KNOW YOU WISH YOU COULD COME ALONG TOO--

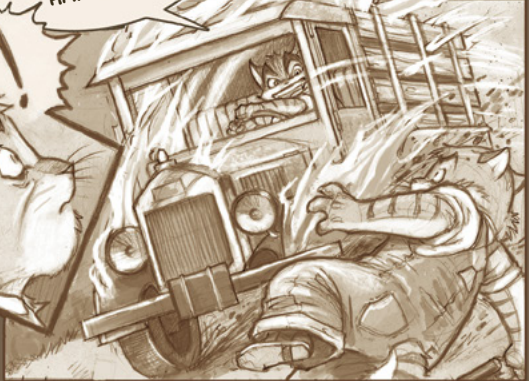
THE PASSENGER SIDE IS ON FIRE.

--BUT YOUR MOTHER'LL CANE ME IF I BRING YOU HOME ALL MUDDIED UP.



DAMNED S... INFERNAL LITTLE WEED, BREAK HIM IN HALF WITH MY BARE HANDS. DIRTY FIREBUG RAT BASTARD SON OF A --

HEY! WATCHIT, HAYSEED!



RECKLESS
PEDESTRIANS!

KGGCHT

KRANCH

EVSSH

RMMM

BOMPF

SPLOOSH

VFOOONF

HEH.

HA-HA

HAHA-HA

HA

HA

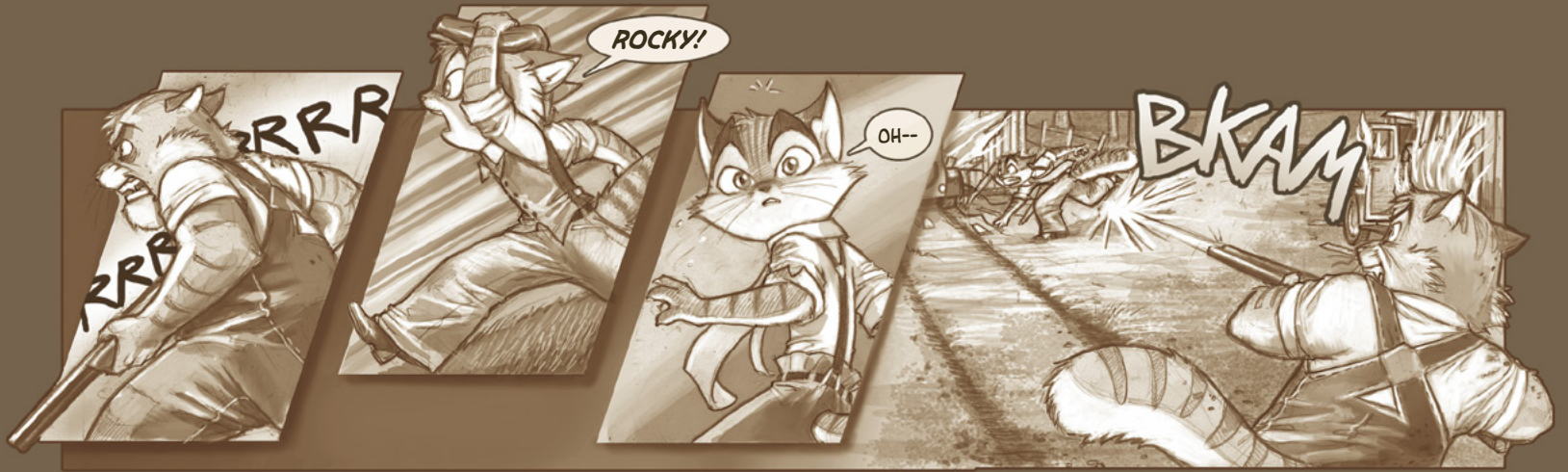
HA-AH

AHA

HAA

HA

THA



HEHEHE

HAHAA!



C'MON. LAUGH! YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT WASN'T FUNNY.

I WAS COUNTING HOW MANY LAWS WE BROKE.



UH, WELL, I KNOW IT WASN'T LAWFUL PER SE, BUT I FIND THE SCOPE OF THE LAW CAN BE RATHER LIMITING.

WHAT'S LAWFUL DOESN'T ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH WHAT'S RIGHT, FRECKLE.

AND THAT WAS VERY RIGHT.



OH.



HEH.



HAH!



WAIT! NO! I HAVEN'T BEEN IN ANY TROUBLE SINCE -- I MEAN I'M A GOOD -- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A-



HAHAHAHAHA EEP



SEE THAT? YOU'RE MAKING PROGRESS ALREADY.



I'M GONNA GET YOU A SANDWICH. YOU'VE EARNED IT.

...OKAY.





OH, I'M SORRY.
NAPKINS ARE OVER THERE.
MY LUCKY TIE!



...LIKE I WAS SAYING. I SHOULD GET
YOU HOME. YOUR MOTHER IS
PROBABLY GETTING BORED WITHOUT
MORE LAUNDRY TO DO ANYWAY.



LH, WHY DON'T YOU HEAD
UPSTAIRS BEFORE SHE ASKS TOO
MANY QUESTIONS? I'LL DISTRACT HER
WITH DIRTY LAUNDRY.



THERE Y'ARE.
HOW WAS YOUR
AFTERNOON?



INTERESTING AS A BAG
OF DIRT. IT WOULD BE KINDER TO
SPARE YOU THE DETAILS.



WELL, WAS IT
PRODUCTIVE AT LEAST?
HMM? AND DID YEAT?

YES.

CAGEY THING...



YOUR COAT IS
STILL DRYIN' ON THE LINE
IN THE BACKYARD, BUT HERE'S
THE VEST AND SHIRT Y'LEFT
ME WITH LAST WEEK.



OH, GOOD...
BECAUSE I GOT COFFEE-SYRUP ON THIS ONE
AND THIS TIE IS ALL A MESS.

WHAT IS IT MAKES Y'THINK I
EXIST TO DO YOUR LAUNDRY?



DON'T WORRY.
SOMEDAY WHEN YOU'RE
CANONIZED THE MATRON SAINT OF
CLEAN CLOTHES AND TIDY SKIVVIES,
YOU'LL KNOW IT WAS WORTH
ALL THE TOIL.

AND I'VE
GOT SOME
WORK TO
ATTEND TO
LIKEWISE,
SO I'LL
BE ON MY
WAY...

WELL DON'T RUN OFF THIS TIME WITHOUT BENDIN' DOWN TO KISS YOUR ALINT GOODBYE FIRST.

OF COURSE.

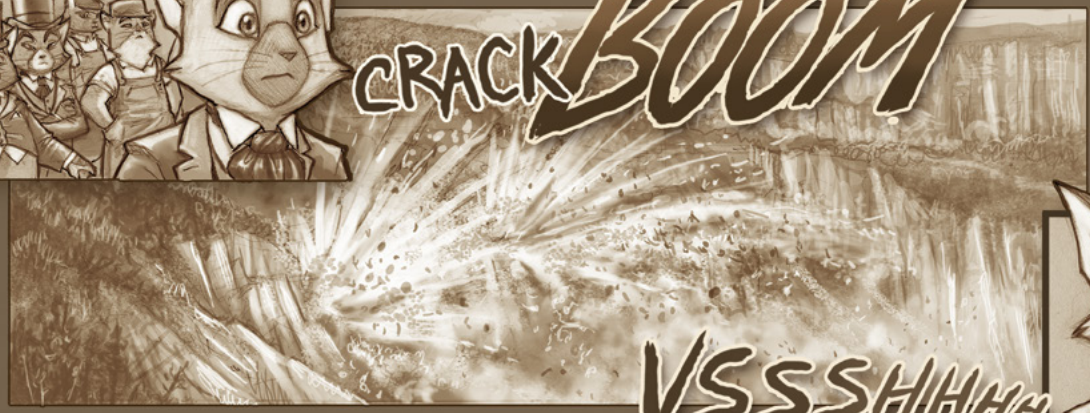


IF Y'DON'T WANT TO BE MARTYRED, YOU'LL FIND A PATRON SAINT O'KEEPIN' YOUR SMART MOUTH SHUT.

OKAY-LOVE-YOU-BYE!



CRACK BOOM

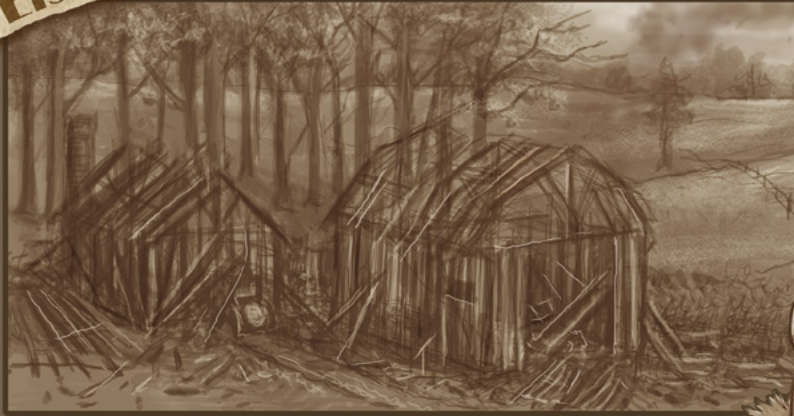


VSSSHHHH





Elsewhere



...WHERE YOU BEEN ALL DAY, EMERY?

I WAS PLAYIN' CHECKERS AND SHOOTIN' AT SQUIRRELS WITH BENJY JESSUP.



HAD FUN, DID YOU?



...UH-HUH. BUT WHAT HA--



YOU'RE USELESS AS A ONE-LEGGED MULE AROUND HERE.

SAVE YER FIGHT.

PLONK

I SAID SAVE IT!

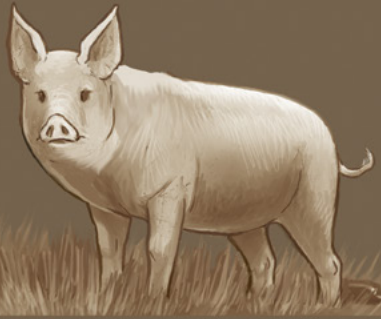
YOU STUPID ADDELEPATED LOIT! DIDN'T YOU SMELL THE SMOKE?



WHAT IN THE HELL FOR, AVRIL? WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? WE GOT NOTHIN LEFT IN THE WORLD BUT THESE COL-PLA BUCKETS... AND NOW THIS ONE'S ALL DENTED.

THAT AIN'T TRUE. I BEEN THINKIN' WE GOT SOME PEOPLE OWE US A FAVOR OR TWO.

THEY WAS HERE AGAIN JUST TH' OTHER NIGHT...



Just the Other Night





EVENIN'

HEY, SALEAU.
YOU PIGS ARE
HUNGRY TONIGHT?



'CAUSE OUR NEW FREN
HAD HISSELF A GRAN TIME PLAYIN'
LAK A BUTCHER.

... BUT NOW HE GOT NO LAG
ROOM BAG DARE.



OH, WELL THAT AIN'T
NO PROBLEM.

THEM PIGS'LL EAT ANYTHIN'



HEAR DAT?

ANYTING.

WE TOL' YOU.



CHARMING.
I'LL WAIT IN
THE CAR.



AND DON'T
EXAGGERATE, NICO. IT WAS
NOTHING SO INDULGENT
AS A GRAND TIME.

IT'S MERELY
WORK ETHIC.



EMERY, YOU GO FETCH
BENJY JESSUP AND HIS TRUCK.
WE'RE GONNA TAKE A RIDE
DOWNTOWN.





OH! YOU LOOK NICE TONIGHT, MISS M.

THANK YOU, SWEETIE. HAND ME THAT BUTTERKNIFE?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL DOLLED UP AND WAITING AROUND UPSTAIRS?

YOU HAVEN'T HIRED ANOTHER POOR BOY INTO MEETING YOU HERE, HAVE YOU?



UH, NO - OF COURSE NOT, MISS M. I'M JUST... DOING SOME READING FOR CLASS BEFORE I HEAD DOWN.



CLICK

WHAT A STUPID THING YOU ARE. WHICH PROFESSOR ASSIGNS YOU READING FROM MCCLURE'S, HONEY?



HOW'S THE CROWD TONIGHT, HORATIO? IS IT A CROWD TONIGHT?

...MAYBE MORE OF A SMATTERING.



SIGH



SO TELL ME, VINEGAR TOM, WHERE'S YOUR TUXEDO?

I THINK YOU'D LOOK RATHER SHARP IN IT.



MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'S POSSIBLE WE'D SEE SOME BUSINESS AT THE BAR TONIGHT IF YOU LOOKED MORE LIKE THE BARTENDER...

... AND LESS LIKE THE ANGRY MAN LOOMING IN FRONT OF THE LIQUOR.



NO DICE, HUH?



WELL, WHAT ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE WE WENT TO HAVING YOU FITTED? THAT TAILOR WE COERCED INTO WORKING FOR CHEAP - WE PRACTICALLY KIDNAPPED HIM AND --

WHAT?

OH, WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T EXPECT YOU'D REMEMBER THAT. WE HAD TO GET YOU REMARKABLY DRUNK JUST TO TAKE YOUR MEASUREMENTS.



REALLY, WHAT'S SO AWFUL ABOUT WEARING A TLX? HORATIO'S WEARING HIS - LOOK HOW DAPPER.

OKAY? SEE? I MAKE A COMPROMISE.

THAT WASN'T A COMPROMISE, VIKTOR. THAT WAS A THREAT. YOU ALWAYS GET THOSE CONFUSED.

I LIKE MY TLX. IF YOU GAVE IT A CHANCE, I THINK MAYBE YOU'D ENJOY WEARING YOUR

I THINK MAYBE I'D ENJOY WEARING IT TO YOUR FUNERAL.

I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO POINT ARGUING WITH YOU IF WE HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING WORTH SERVING ANYWAY. WHERE'S ROCKY?



ZIB!

ZIB!

HEY, ZIB!

HEY, WHAT?



WHAT TIME IS IT?? I THINK I HAFTA LEAVE!

CRIMINY. SETTLE DOWN. WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GET YOURSELF A WATCH?



IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO THE WITCHING HOUR, KIDDO...

BUT BEFORE YOU HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE, HUMOR ME -

JUST WHAT MADE A LAD LIKE YOU VOLUNTEER TO GO RUNNING HOOC AROUND IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT?

WELL, I...

OOPS, DID YOU SEE THAT? ONE OF MY STRINGS IS BROKEN.

...

ALRIGHT. I'M GLAD WE SETTLED THAT.

GO ON. GET OUTTA HERE. MOONLIGHTER.

I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE, MISS M. NO HANG-UPS THIS TIME. I THINK I'M GETTING BETTER AT THIS.



OH, THERE YOU ARE, SWEETHEART. GOOD LUCK. IT'S NICE THAT I DON'T HAVE TO TWIST EVERYONE'S ARMS ABOUT DOING THEIR WORK.

I WILL GO TOO.

VIKTOR, WAIT. THAT'S NOT YOUR JOB ANYMORE. I NEED YOU HERE AT THE BAR.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO OUT THERE ANYWAY? LIMP INTO ACTION IF SOMETHING HAPP---

NEVERMIND...

YOU KNOW THERE'S TROUBLE WHEN THE BAND OUTNUMBERS THE AUDIENCE ...



SO LEVEL WITH ME, BOSS. DO I GET TO SPEND MY HUMBLE WAGES ON BAD HABITS THIS WEEK, OR SHOULD I BE INVESTING IN SOME TRAIN TICKETS FOR MYSELF AND THE BOYS?

NO NEED TO BE SO DRAMATIC. LOOK - THINGS AREN'T AS BAD AS THEY SEEM.



WELL HALLELUJAH FOR UNWITTING BENEFACTORS.

STILL, IT'S A LITTLE SAD WHEN OLD FRIENDS WIND UP IN YOUR CROSSHAIRS, EH?

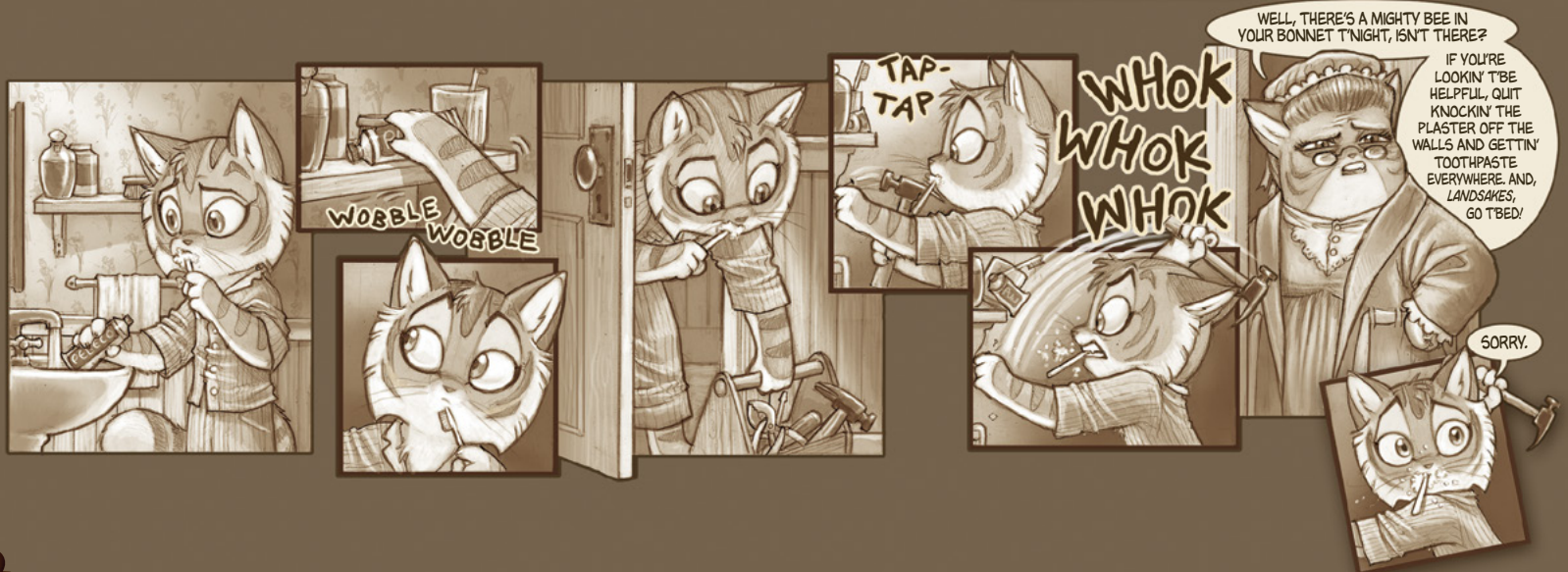
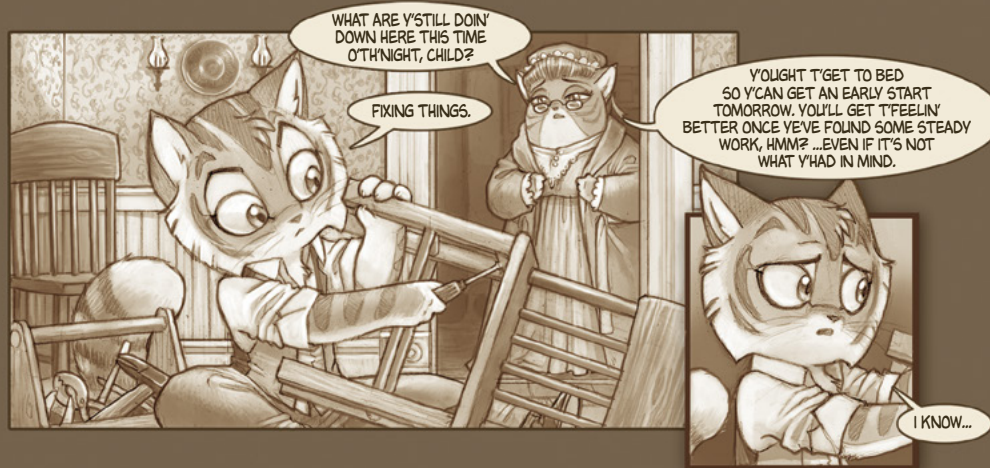


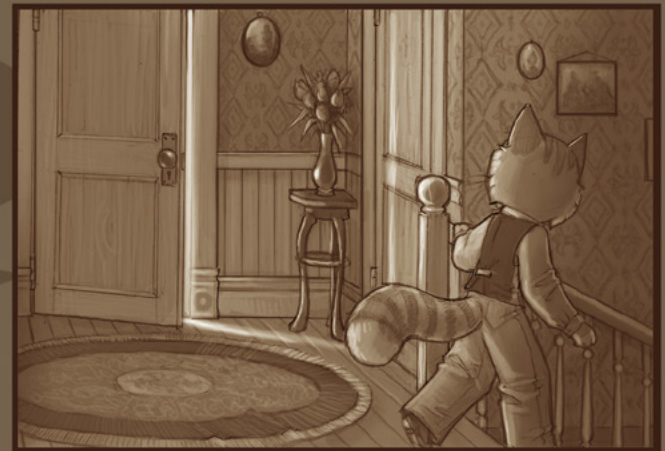
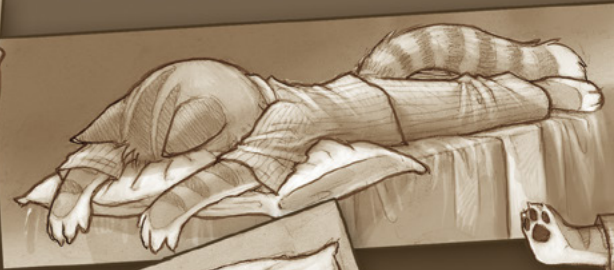
YOU'RE AN INCORRIGIBLE PESSIMIST, ZIB. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

GO GET MOZZIE TO PLAY SOMETHING CLASSY ON THE PIANO FOR OUR GUESTS.



...SURE.







"...WELL, DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE?" THE JUDGE ASKS. CUDDY WOBLES AND SAYS NOTHING.

GETTING IMPATIENT, THE JUDGE SHOUTS "FOR DRINKING WHISKEY!"



SO CUDDY STARES AT HIM, IN DISBELIEF. FINALLY HE SAYS, "WELL, OKAY. LET'S GET STARTED."

HAH!

WE CAN TELL YOU'VE GOT A LOSING HAND WHEN YOU START TELLING STORIES...

IT WAS A JOKE, NOT A STORY. I'M TRYING TO CHEER MYSELF UP.

IT'S ONLY CALLED A JOKE IF IT'S FUNNY.

IF I MAY INTRUDE, WHAT'S THEIR STORY?

WHO? THE SAVOYS? WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST?

IF I'M TO BE WORKING WITH THEM LONG-TERM, PERHAPS IT WOULD BEHOVE ME TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.



I'D ASK THEM MYSELF, BUT I CAN SCARCELY DECIPHER WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.

HE-HE, WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE WE DREGGED THEM UP OUT OF THE SAVOYS...

THEY'D BEEN PROWLING AROUND, HIJACKING CONSIGNMENTS COMING UP RIVER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

MORE THAN ONCE THEY SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE, SCARED THE HOLY BEJEEZUS OUT OF OUR BOYS AND MADE OFF WITH OUR CARGO.



FRUSTRATING AS ALL HELL, BUT DAMN IF THEY WEREN'T GOOD AT IT...



WELL, AS IT TURNED OUT, THEY WERE WORKING FOR SOME NO-NAME BACKWOODS OPERATION. SO RATHER THAN RISK GETTING A BUNCH OF PEOPLE KILLED TRYING TO CHASE THEM DOWN, WE SET ABOUT ACQUIRING THEM FOR OURSELVES.

SINCE THEN, THEY'VE BEEN PUTTING THEIR TRICKS TO USE SWEEPING THE PATHS CLEAR FOR OUR RUNNERS...



...AND THEY'VE MADE PRETTY EFFICIENT WORK OF IT.

A LITTLE CUTTHROAT PERHAPS, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY PARTIES EAGER TO CONTEND WITH US ANYMORE FOR THE BETTER SPIRITS FLOWING INTO THIS PLACE.



IT'S BECOME DIFFICULT TO KEEP THEM BUSY SOME NIGHTS, IN FACT, THAT ALLOWS US TO FOCUS SOME ATTENTION ON OTHER VENTURES.



THAT, MY SWARTHY FRIEND, IS WHY THEY'RE DOUBLING AS YOUR ACCOMPANIMENT LATELY.



EXCUSE ME. THOSE RUBES ARE STILL LINGERING ABOUT THE LOBBY, MR. SWEET. I FIGURED THEY'D HAVE GIVEN UP BY NOW, BUT THEY'RE DEMANDING TO SEE YOU BEFORE MIDNIGHT.



WHY'S THAT? DO BUMPKINS TURN INTO PLUMPKINS AFTER MIDNIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT THEY'RE STARTING TO GET ROWDY. YOU WANT US TO TOSS 'EM OUT?



NAH. MY FRIENDS HAVE ROBBED ME OF ALL MY CHIPS ANYHOW. IF IT'LL PREVENT A RUMPLUS, I'LL MEET... WHAT'S-HIS-FACE, THE ANGRY ONE, IN MY OFFICE.

...AND MY SHADOW IS TWO STEPS AHEAD OF ME.



SINCE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF MY COHORTS, I WANTED TO DISCUSS OUR AGENDA. I PREFER KNOWING IN ADVANCE WHAT'S NEXT.

I DON'T KNOW ANY SOONER THAN YOU DO. 'NIGHT MANAGER' MEANS LITTLE MORE THAN 'MESSENGER' IN THIS CASE, I'M AFRAID.



ARE WE AT LEAST GOING IN A PARTICULAR ORDER?

I KNOW YOU LIKE ORDER, BUT THE ORDER HERE IS OF A SOMEWHAT BUREAUCRATIC NATURE. AN UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT TO THE GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF AN ESTABLISHMENT, NO?

...AND WHILE WE WAS PUTTIN' THAT FIRE OUT, THEY SET THE CARS ON FIRE AND ONNA THEM BLEW UP THEN THE OTHER TORE THE FENCE UP, AND CRASHED THROUGH THE HOUSE WHILE IT WAS STILL BURNVN, SO THE WHOLE HOUSE BURNT UP AND COLLAPSED AND



THEY NEARLY RAN ME DOWN WITH MY OWN FLAMIN' TRUCK AND HIT THE BARN WITH IT AND DROVE THROUGH THE STILL. THEN THE BARN CAUGHT ON FIRE AND THEN IT EXPLODED AND THE PIGS WENT AN' RAN OFF AND

NUT ZIPPER?



NO, THANK YOU.

WELL, UH, MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES REGARDING THE LOSS OF YOUR PIGS AND TRUCKS AND WHATNOT... BUT I DON'T RECALL SETTTLING YOUR MOONSHINER DISPUTES EVER BEING PART OF OUR LITTLE ARRANGEMENT.



IT DON'T MATTER. YOU OWE US! YOU BEEN USIN' OUR LIVESTOCK AND HAVEN'T PAID A LICK FOR IT YET.



MATTER-A-FACT, THAT ONE NEXT TO YOU THERE WAS BY JUST THE OTHER NIGHT IN THE CAR WITH THEM FELLAS ALL HATCHETED UP AND...



HATCHETED UP?

HA!

YOU FELL FOR THE HATCHET JOKE? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? NO ONE FALLS FOR THAT.



I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SOME SORT OF TRADITION AROUND HERE...

TELL ME, DID YOU ARRANGE THE PIECES IN, UH, ALPHABETICAL ORDER?



...WELL, "A" IS FOR AMYGDALA, MR. SWEET.

IT'S A SHAME MR. HELLER, MISSED HIS CALLING ON THE VALDEVILLE CIRCUIT, ISN'T IT?



HE HAS OTHER TALENTS, THOUGH, WHICH HE'S USED RECENTLY TO PROCURE SOME WARES FOR US IN GOOD FAITH. WE HAVE A SURPLUS, SO... PERHAPS WE CAN BE OF SOME VERY INDIRECT ASSISTANCE.



WELL, IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, CAPTAIN KEHOE...

HONEST TO GOODNESS - YOU'RE A REAL PEACH.

YOU SEEM A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE ME AGAIN, ACTUALLY...

... BUT YOU'LL BE SEEING PLENTY MORE. I'M AFRAID YOUR OTHER CLIENTELE HAVE GONE OUT OF BUSINESS... FORCIBLY... IN A BLAZE OF GLORY.

BUT THAT'S JUST HOW A, UH, FREE BLACK MARKET WORKS, ISN'T IT?

BESIDES, WHAT SORT OF HERETIC WOULD I BE TO LET LADY DIONYSUS DOWN?

FOR SHE KEEPS THE CONTUMACIOUS KEY, TO OUR SANCTUARY UNDERGROUND AND RETAINS THE SHADY SANCTITY OF THE ROYAL RYE AND BARLEY CROWN.

YET FURTHER, SHE'S COMMENSURATE WITH HER DISTILLER'S CHARITY. HER VERY AURA IS AN OPIATE - THE ELECTRIC-FEVER REMEDY. TO BE MEADOWSWEET INEBRIATE, IS TO BREATHE HER SMOKE FELICITY.

YOU DRIVE FROM INSIDE THE TRUCK.

STILL I COULD OTHERWISE PROSELYTIZE ABOUT THE GONG-SOUND OF HER LOOK, ABOUT THE MOONSHINE-POTENT SIGHS, AND THE WARM NARCOTIC OF

HGKK

WE KNAVES PARTAKE KNAVE-ERRANT TRIALS TO BRING HER BOTTLED OFFERINGS. IT'S OUR PRIVILEGE GOING DRASTIC MILES TO AID IN HER ADMINSTRINGS OF MERCY METERED IN TUMBLER-VIALS.

RIGHT, SORRY. MISS M'S DONE A LOT FOR ME, YOU KNOW? I JUST GET A LITTLE, UH, SENTIMENTAL, WITH HER BEING IN A VULNERABLE SPOT THESE DAYS...



VULNERABLE AS LIKE BEAR TRAP.

LIKE A BEAR TRAP??

YA.
LIKE A BEAR TRAP, IN A BOX FULL AF BUNNIES.

IN A BUNNY-BOX??

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT THAT'S PRETTY GOOD ALLITERATION.

WATCH VERE YOU ARE GOING.



I BET YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A POET.



I'LL BE BACK WITH SOME INDIVIDUALS OF LESS NOODLY CONSTITUTION TO HELP CARRY EVERYTHING DOWNSTAIRS.



RRRRMM
THUD



THE LIGHTS JUST WENT OUT,
YOU THINK THEY SEEN US COMIN'?

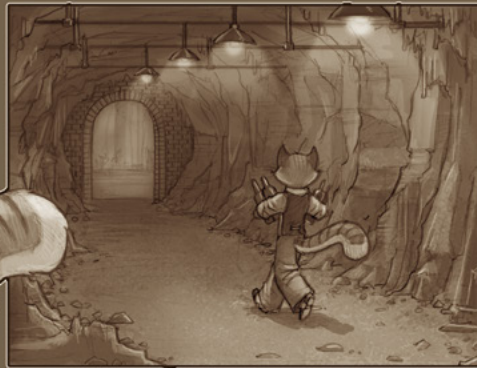


I DON'T CARE.









LITTLE WONDER WICK LIKES THIS PLACE - IT'S MADE OF ROCK.

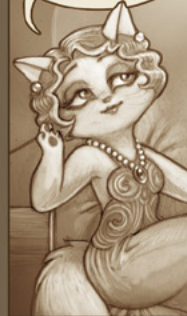


WELL, THAT LENDS IT A SORT OF NOVELTY APPEAL.



MORE THAN NOVELTY - I THINK IT HAS A CERTAIN GRANDEUR TO IT.

YOU SHOULD SEE IT WHEN THERE'S A CROWD. IT RESONATES LIKE A CATHEDRAL.



I HATE TO SEEM RUDE, MADAM, BUT YOU'VE BEEN SOUNDING LIKE YOU'RE SELLING SOMETHING.

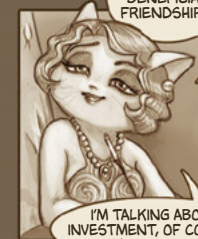


I'M NOT SOLICITING, MR. CHURCH. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, THINK OF THIS MORE AS ... AN OVERTURE.

... TO EVENTUAL SOLICITATION?



TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FRIENDSHIPS.



I'M TALKING ABOUT INVESTMENT, OF COURSE, MR. CHURCH.

IN WHAT? CRIMINAL REPUTATIONS?



WELL, UNDENIABLY, IT TAKES SOME GUMPTION TO INVOLVE YOURSELF IN BUSINESS LIKE THIS, BUT RISK AND REWARD GO HAND IN HAND, DON'T THEY?

ALMOST AS MUCH AS RISK AND DISASTER.

DON'T LET CHURCH'S BULLYING GET TO YOU. HE'LL COZY UP IF YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE RETURNS.



I'VE DEALT WITH WORSE, REALLY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THEM ALONG.



MY PLEAUGH!



HELLO WICK. SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
HOWAREYA?
WHAT'S THE RUMPLUS?



HEH...GOOD, THANKS. GREAT.
WHAT'S THE WHAT?

OH...WICK YOU REMEMBER ROCKY, DON'T YOU? FROM THE BAND?

YES, UH, HARD TO FORGET A FACE LIKE ...THAT.

FORGIVE ME - MY FRENCH IS TERRIBLE, BUT I BELIEVE WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS CALLED THE CAMBOUIS BRUN REPUGNANT.



AND FOR THOSE WITH A MORE DELICATE PALATE, L'EAU RANCE DE RAT.

FROM THE BAND, YES, BUT TONIGHT I AM HERE TO RECTIFY THIS LAMENTABLE LACK OF LIBATION, LADYSHIP.

WE HAVE SOME SPECIAL SELECTIONS FOR YOU TODAY, SIR.



THAT IS THE WHISKEY OR THE WHISKEY

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, GENTLEMEN.

I GOT IT. I DID GOOD, YEAH?

YOU DID GOOD.

TRY NOT TO HORRIFY THE GUESTS, HONEY.

MISSISSIPPI SPECIAL, MA'AM!



IS THAT WHAT KEHOE CALLS IT? LET'S HOPE THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT TASTES LIKE MISSISSIPPI WATER.

I HOPE NOT. THERE'S A LOT OF IT. VIKTOR COULD USE SOME HELP GETTING IT DOWNSTAIRS, IN FACT.



WELL, THIS'LL EITHER LOOSEN THEM UP OR KILL THEM. WORST CASE, I'LL JUST HAVE TO RUMMAGE THROUGH THEIR POCKETS.



YOU CAN GET THE REST OF THE BAND TO HELP VIKTOR UNLOAD.



WHAT? BUT WE COULD HURT OURSELVES LIFTING HEAVY THINGS...

...AND THEN WE'D BE USELESS.

INDEED. THESE ARMS WEREN'T DESIGNED FOR MANUAL LABOR. I'M AFRAID I'M RELEGATED TO THE ARTS.



BUT YOU'RE LESS LIKE SPAGHETTI. BESIDES, SHOULDN'T WE REVEL IN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SUFFER FOR OUR ART?

ZIB, GO SUFFER FOR YOUR ART.



YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR SUFFERING IS SOMEWHAT UNSETTLING.



IN FACT, HUH, THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS NEW PASTIME OF YOURS. JUST DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY.

SCREWY. I MEAN DON'T DO ANYTHING SCREWY.

YOU KNOW - NUTTY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CARRIED AWAY"?

DEFINE "SCREWY".

NUTTY?

I WISH I COULD SAY THIS HAS BEEN A REASSURING CONVERSATION.

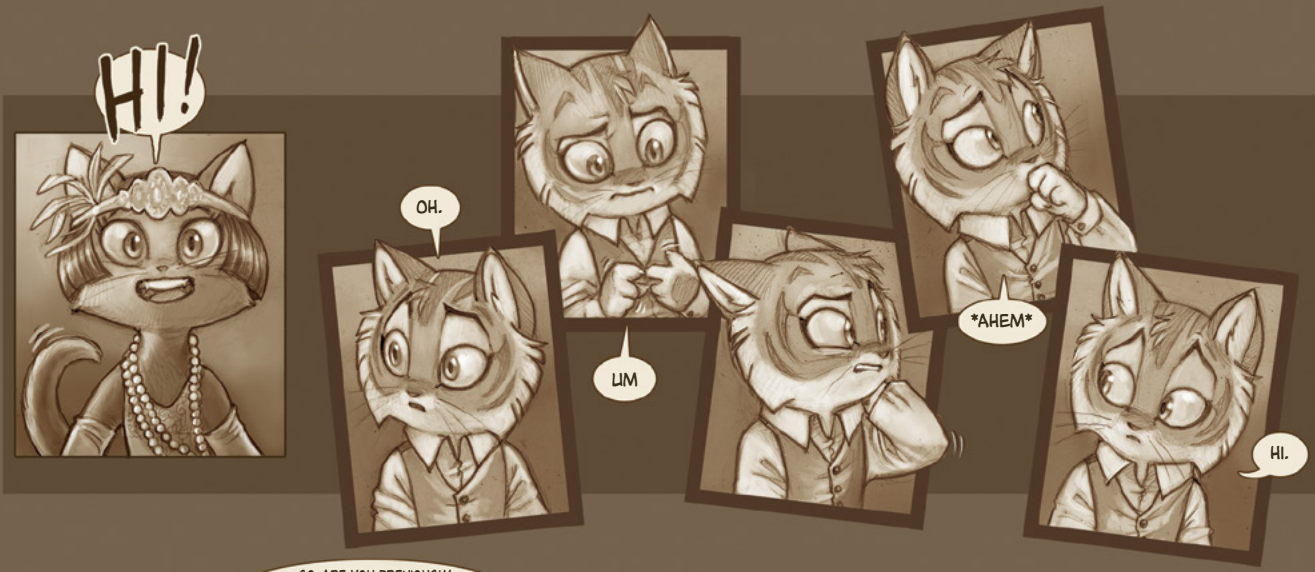


HELP HAS ARRIVED!



COLIGH CELLAR DOOR!





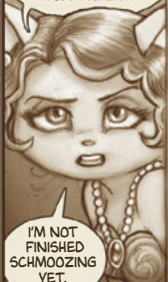




NO, IT'S NOT AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS.



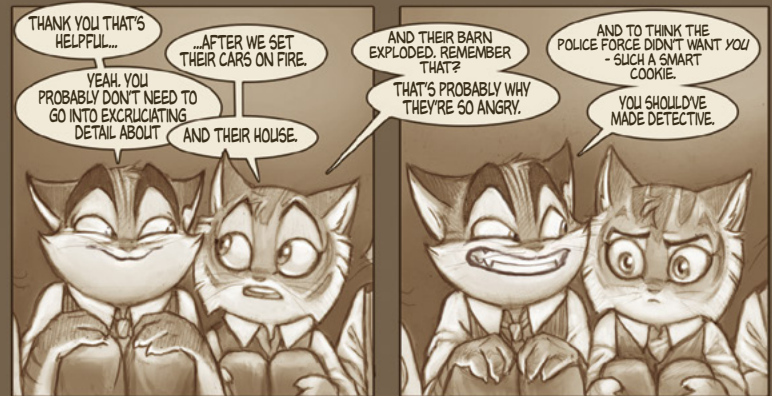
NO. EVERYONE IS NICE AND AGREEABLE NOW THAT THEY'VE GOT ALCOHOL. EVEN THE RUDE ONE STOPPED COMPLAINING.



IF YOU NEED TO SAVE FACE, TELL THEM THERE'S A FIRE OR SOMETHING.







CRACK



GO!
BACKSTAGE!



RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT



WHICH WAY?

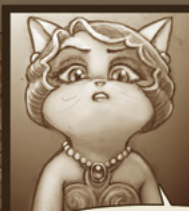
CHING

UHH, THE
STOREROOM-
LEFT?



BY MYSELF?

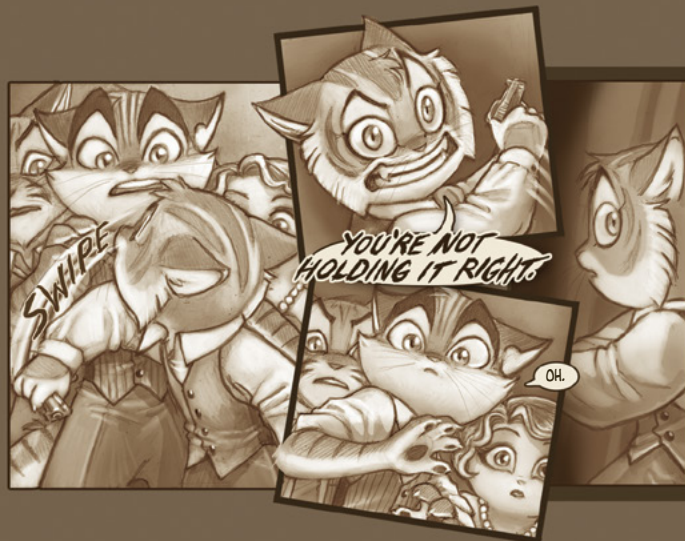
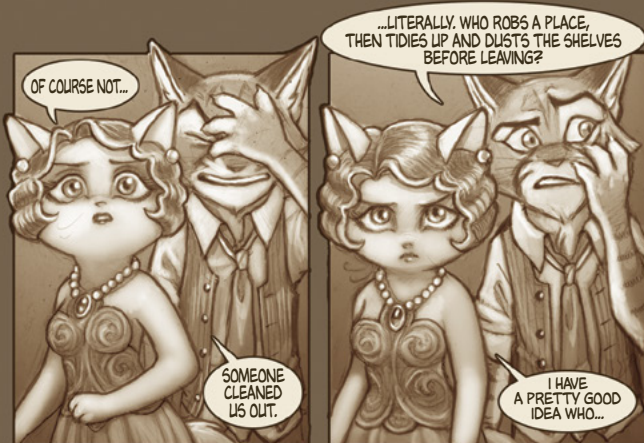
IT DON'T MATTER,
THEY'RE RUNNIN' LIKE
RABBITS 'CAUSE THEY'RE
OUT-GUNNED.

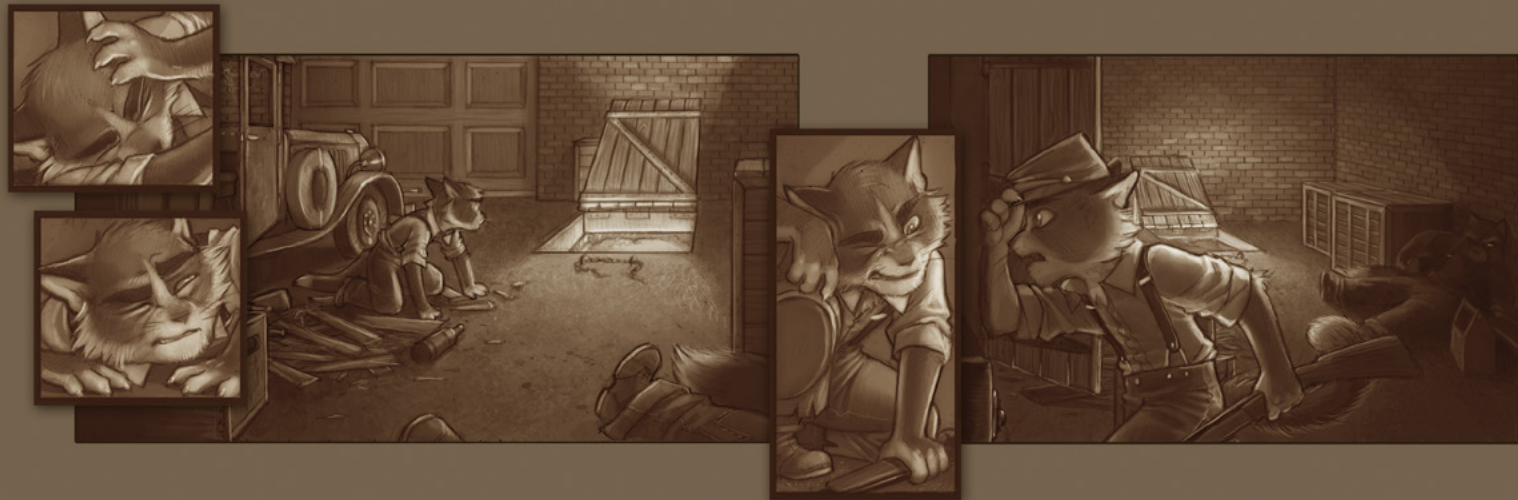


IT'S ALREADY UNLOCKED...



YOU'RE SURE YOU
DIDN'T HOCK THE ARSENAL ALONG
WITH EVERYTHING ELSE?







CLICK-KLAK CLICK-KLAK



CLICK KLAK



HEY!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING??

DON'T YOU POINT THAT AT HIM!

GIT OFF!

AUGH!



KICK

KICK

KICK



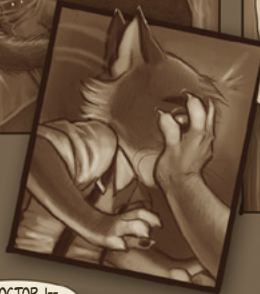
BAM

EEE!



FWOK





GAK-K PLEASE!





DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE GUNFIRE COMING FROM THE NEXT STREET OVER.

JUST SOMEONE'S CAR BACKFIRING. I'M SURE.



YOUR GOOD JUDGEMENT ABOUT NIGHT SPOTS REMAINS DUBIOUS NEVERTHELESS.

ARE YOU COMING?

CLICK-KLAK CLICK-KLAK



NO. I'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF YOUR VITRIOL AND NOT ENOUGH DRINK TO TOLERATE MORE, MY FRIEND. MY OWN DRIVER SHOULD BE ALONG SHORTLY.

I DON'T THINK I COULD STOMACH ANY MORE CHIVALRY ANYWAY. GOOD NIGHT TO YOU, WICK.

GOOD NIGHT, CHURCH.



OPERATOR. I NEED YOU TO CONNECT ME TO LEO QUACKENBUSH.

YES ST. LOUIS COUNTY.

DR. QUACKENBUSH! WE HAVE AN INJURED PARTY AND --

OH SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO YELL.

YES, I KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS. IT'S URGENT.



IVY. PEPPER. ATLAS'S GODDAUGHTER.

YES. I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT I NEED TO CALL IN THAT FAVOR...



OH. YOU DON'T? ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE I THOUGHT --

YOU KNOW YOU'RE AWFULLY LIPPITY FOR A HORSE DOCTOR PARADING AS A--



SO... WE OWE YOU? WELL I'M CERTAIN IT WAS JUST AN OVERSIGHT.

LHM... HOW ABOUT CASH THEN?

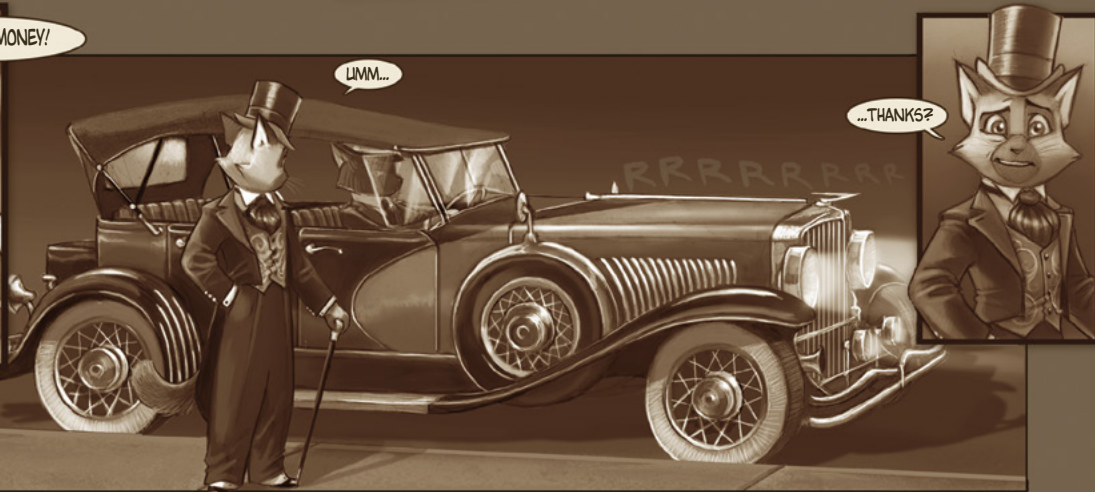
RIGHT, IN FULL.



OF COURSE I HAVE IT.



YOU HAVE MONEY!



LHM...

...THANKS?



NO, I MEAN I NEED SOME OF IT.

FOR A GOOD CAUSE.



HEH, DID YOU TAKE UP WITH THE SISTERS OF MERCY SINCE I WAS HERE LAST, UH, MISS PEPPER?



WHAT ARE YOU COLLECTING FOR EXACTLY?



A BIG, ONE-EYED LUNK WITH A LUNGFUL OF BUCKSHOT.



...THAT'S A NEW ONE.



I MEAN VIKTOR. THERE WAS A LITTLE... ACCIDENT... OF SORTS. THE HORSE DOCTOR'S ON HIS WAY, BUT--



HORSE DOCTOR?

UH, WOULDN'T THE CUSTOMARY THING BE TO TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL? WE COULD DRIVE HIM TO THE NEAREST--



THEY ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS AT HOSPITALS... AND THEN THERE'S THE PROBABLE *AHEM* OUTSTANDING WARRANTS AND...



THE WHAT? THIS ALL SEEMS RATHER UNORTHODOX. ARE YOU SURE --

IT'D ALL SEEM RATHER UNCHIVALROUS IF MISS M. FOUND HER BARTENDER HAD SNIFFED IT BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO DUMBFOUNDED TO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL.



OH... YOU HEARD ALL THAT, HUH?



WELL, I SUPPOSE I DUG MY OWN GRAVE, THEN, DIDN'T I?



IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE LATER THAN EXPECTED, BIX. WHY DON'T YOU GO ON HOME? I'LL JUST CATCH A CAB.

SO YOU WAIT HERE AND WHEN THE DOCTOR SHOWS UP, JUST HAND HIM A FISTFUL OF CASH AND SEND HIM OVER TO THE GARAGE.

HELL IF I KNOW.



UH, RIGHT... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ANYWAY? IT'S BEEN A STRANGE EVENING.



CLICK-KLAK

CLICK-KLAK

CLICK



VIKTOR.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? I TOLD YOU TO STAY HERE.
DON'T PRETEND YOU CAN'T HEAR ME.



LEO'S COMING TO SEE YOU, SO BEHAVE YOURSELF. TRY NOT TO DISLOCATE HIS ARM OR ...

...SOMETHING...



CAN'T GET DOWN THE STAIRS, HUH?

POKE POKE

SEE? THIS IS WHY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TENDING THE BAR NOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING UP HERE ANYWAY.



HEY, WHAT BECAME OF THAT SCRUFFY CHARACTER WAVING THE GUN AROUND?

UHHH. I LET HIM GO.



LET HIM GO? JUST LIKE THAT?

I PAT HIM ON HIS HEAD FIRST. BYE-BYE. THANK YOU FOR VISIT

COUGH
VE HAFF LUNCH SOMETIME.



NO YOU DIDN'T. ...REALLY?

NO.



WELL, WHERE IS HE THEN?

I DON'T KNOW. VANISHED LIKE, EHH-- WHAT'S HIS NAME? WHO DOES ALWAYS THOSE TRICKS.

HOLDINI?

VA HOLDINI.

VIKTOR... SOMEONE NEEDS TO TEACH YOU HOW TO TELL A DECENT LIE.

HOW FAR WE GONNA GO, AVRIL? THERE AINT NO LIGHT BACK HERE.

...AND WHATEVER WE'RE WALKIN' ON'S HURTIN' MY FEET.

JUST OLD BONES. PECCARIES OR SOMETHIN'.

HEH... MOSTLY.

HA HA HA HAA

YOU HEAR THAT? WHAT IN THE HELL IS THAT?

THAT LAUGHING IDIOT AGAIN.

AIN'T NO LIVING THING OUGHTA MAKE A SOUND LIKE THAT. DAMN SURE WE WON'T BE LAUGHIN' WHEN I SHOOT 'EM OFF HIS FACE.

HAA HA

HA HA HA

WHAT?

FOLLOW THE NOISE.

THERE!

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

JUST AN ECHO. THERE AINT NO ONE IN--

AUGH!

WHERE'D THAT--?

MOVE! GO!

CHAK

HA HA HA

RAT-TAT-TAT

HAA HA HA

RAT-TAT-TAT



THAT WAY, THAT WAY!

WHUMP



THERE HE IS!

GOTDAMN, IT AIN'T HIM, IT'S TH' OTHER ONE.



WHERE'D HE GET A CHOPPER FROM?

I DUNNO, JUST KEEP MOVIN' TILL I SAY.



YOU JUST GIT READY TO POP THE LITTLE BASTARD WHEN HE COMES AROUND THE COR--



UM...



--NER--



HAY SMACK

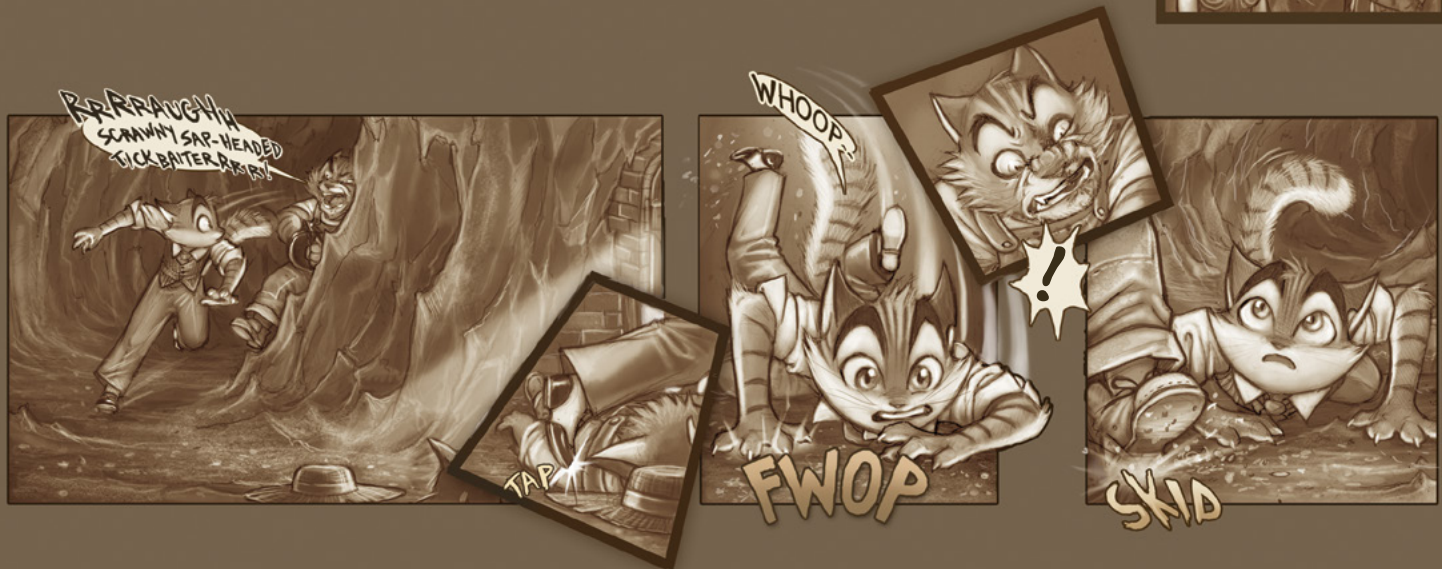
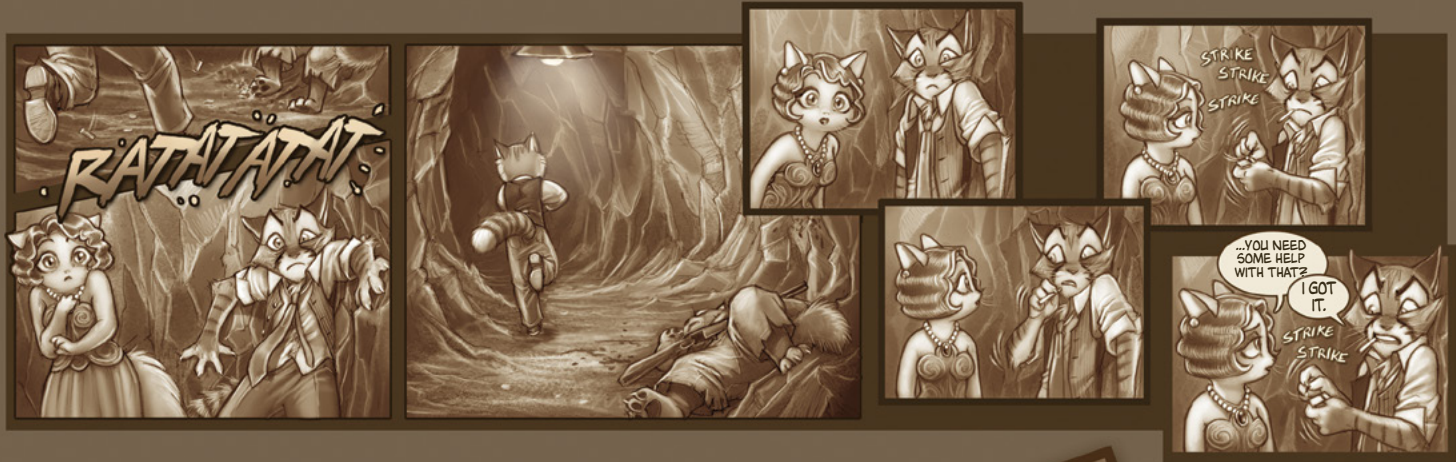
YOU!



RATATATAT



PRAAUGH ROTTEN GRINNING BLACK GUARD M'GONNA SHOOT YOU IN HALF. YOU WRETCHED LITTLE STICK-LEGGED PANSY-TOE MILKSOP SON-OF-A--







FRECKLE!



FRECKLE?

FRECKLE WAIT!
HANG ON! WE NEED TO CHAT!



AAAUGH OH GOD!
I DON'T WANT A SANDWICH!

I'LL MAKE YOU A SANDWICH!



THUNK!
HOW DOES THIS OPEN?

WHERE'S THE LATCH?

THUD

SMASH



WATCH IT, FANCYPANTS!



OH, BOY, IT'S OLD LIZZIE.
IT'S GONNA TAKE YOU TEN MINUTES TO START
THAT THING COUSIN. YOU MIGHT AS
WELL TALK TO ME!

I FEEL SICK.



WELL, THAT'S A START.
NOW, INSTEAD OF DOING SOMETHING RIDICULOUS
LIKE GIVING US ALL AWAY TO YOUR FRIENDS
DOWN AT THE STATION...

KRANK

...LET'S JUST
TAKE A DEEP BREATH
AND LAUGH IT OFF
JUST LIKE BEFORE,
RIGHT?



YOU KNOW
HA-HA!

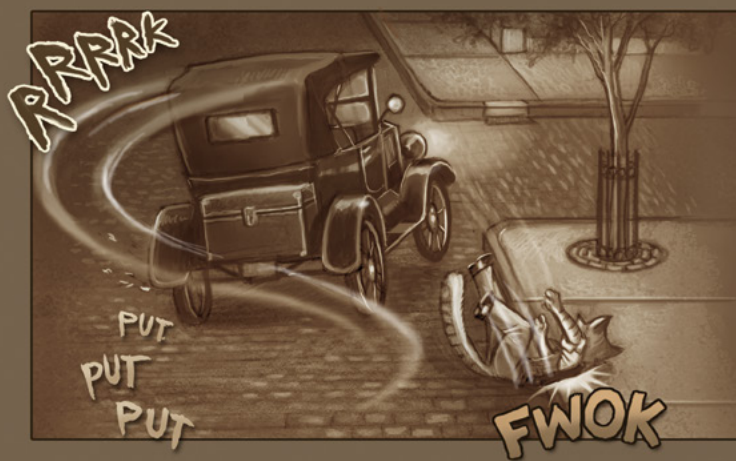
HUUAGHHH!

'COUGH'
'COUGH'

UHH... CLOSE ENOUGH
I SUPPOSE.



TO BOTH
OF US.



SEE THAT? DOUBLE-OUGHT. I TOLD YOU.



...WHY IS HE SMILING
LIKE THAT, LEO?

OH, I SHOULD'VE WAITED
FOR THE AUDIENCE TO ARRIVE.
I COULD'VE TAKEN BETS.

THE ANSWER, MADAM,
IS CHLORAL HYDRATE.

ENOUGH
TO DROP
A HORSE.

I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT TRICK...

WELL, IT'S NOT GENERALLY GOOD PRACTICE TO DO THAT TO SOMEONE WITH A SUCKING CHEST WOUND. BUT THIS ONE NEARLY RELIEVED ME OF MY ARMS LAST TIME I WAS HERE.



...WHICH WASN'T SO LONG AGO.

MM. WE SEEM TO BE STUCK IN A ONE-SIDED FEUD WITH A RELENTLESS FORMER ASSOCIATE.



I'M SORRY, VIKTOR. FIRST YOUR GOOD KNEE, AND NOW THIS...

IT'S BEEN A ROUGH YEAR, HUH?



MAYBE AT LEAST NOW YOU'LL STOP PUTTING UP SUCH A FIGHT ABOUT STAYING IN THE BAR, HONEY....

HONEY WON'T BE DOING ANYTHING FOR AWHILE, EXCEPT MAYBE ENJOYING A NICE BOLT OF PNEUMONIA.



HUH??



YOU ALREADY DID, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN - BY ALL MEANS.

I DID?

SIGH AS LONG AS WE'RE BEING FRANK WITH EACH OTHER... I CAN'T PAY YOU RIGHT NOW, LEO.



WELL, THE CONFUSED-LOOKING GENTLEMAN IN THE CAFE DID.



OH.



WICK?







WELL, TOP O' THE MORNIN' TO YOU, DEAR AUNT.

ROARK, WHAT'RE Y'DOIN' HERE THIS EARLY?



OH, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE FOUND THE JOB FOR HIM.

WHAT? WHAT JOB?

JUST LOOKING FOR THE BOY. YOU HAVEN'T, UH, SPOKEN TO HIM YET TODAY, HAVE YOU?

TAKE THAT RIDICULOUS HAT OFF WHILE YOU'RE IN THE HOUSE.

AND NO. HE'S STILL IN BED. BUT Y'MIGHT AS WELL GET HIM UP. HE'S SUPPOSED T'BE OUT FINDIN' WORK.



To BE CONTINUED...

LACKADAISY

Sketchbook



Lackadaisy Cardshark, 2007

LACKADAISY: EARLY CHARACTER CONCEPTS

Calvin "Freckle" McMurray



LACKADAISY: EARLY CHARACTER CONCEPTS

Rocky Rickaby



CRAZY
VOODOO



LACKADAISY: EARLY CHARACTER CONCEPTS

Miss Mitzi May



Mordecai Heller



Ivy Pepper



Sedgewick "Wick" Gable



LACKADAISY: EARLY CHARACTER CONCEPTS

Nicodeme "Nico" Savoy



LACKADAISY: EARLY CHARACTER CONCEPTS

Serafine Savoy



BAR M1918
(sawed off barrel)



LACKADAISY: COLOR ART



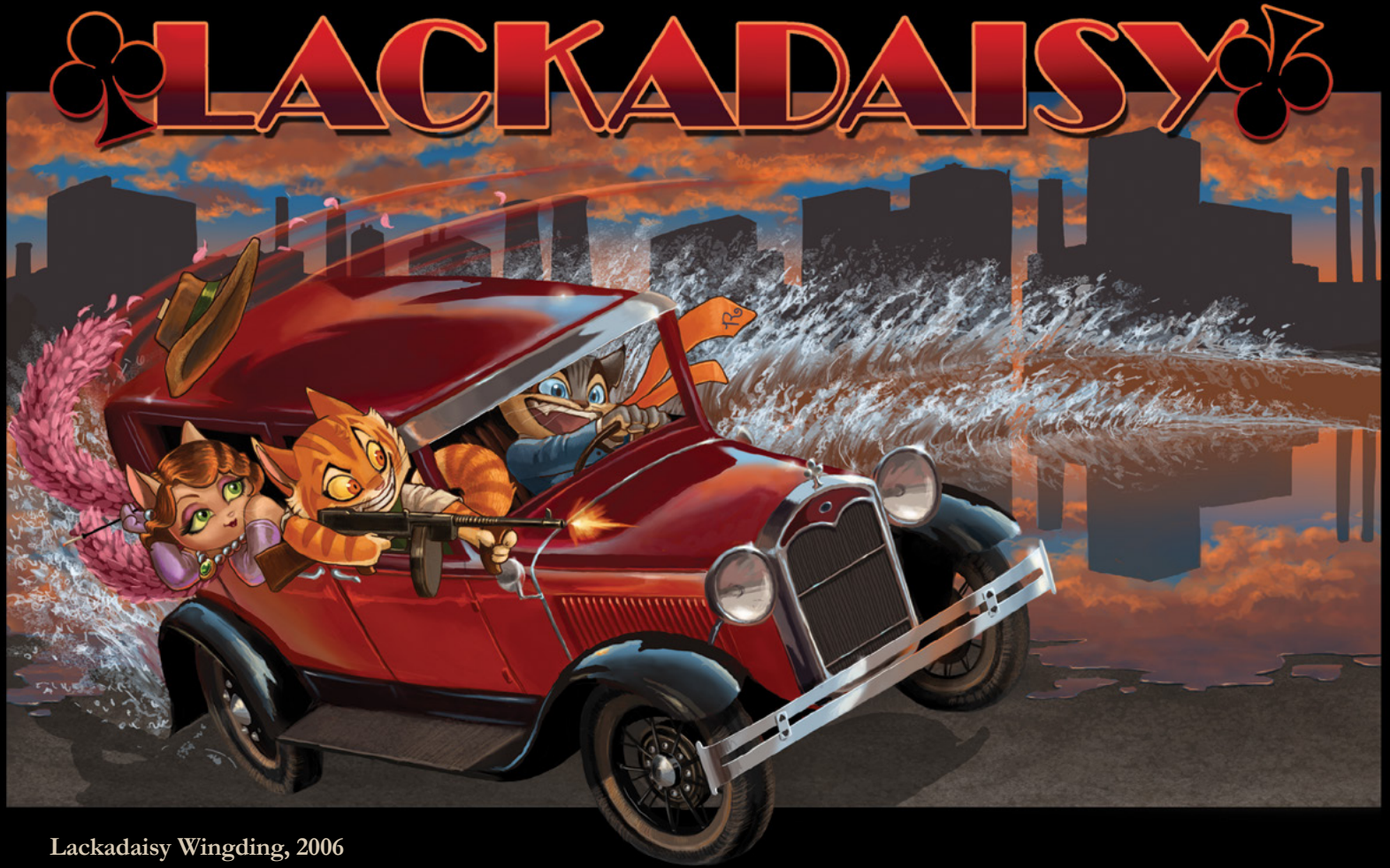
LACKADAISY: COLOR ART



LACKADAISY: COLOR ART



Lackadaisy Harlequin, 2007



Lackadaisy Wingding, 2006

LACKADAISY: COLOR ART



Lackadaisy Voodoo, 2007

LACKADAISSY: COLOR ART



Lackadaisy Clockwork, 2008

LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS

This combination of painting and comic was a sort of ode to childhood, when one's own backyard is a great wilderness. Navigating youth itself, with its unrelenting series of little traumas, is perhaps the most treacherous part of the adventure, though. Even good intentions can get you in trouble. - Tracy



LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS



LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS



Not much about Rocky and Freckle's relationship has changed since boyhood. Ostensibly, for Freckle, developing that acrobatic prowess of his was something of a survival technique. - Tracy

LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS



This was the very first comic I drew while the idea for Lackadaisy was still very much in development. The style was a little rough around the edges at this point, but I think it's still representative of the quintessential Rocky and Freckle. - Tracy

LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS



Back in the day, Viktor and Mordecai worked together. I imagine this made for some interesting (if not disturbing) conversations. - Tracy

LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS



More of the sociopathic adventures of Viktor and Mordecai. (The language Viktor is shouting in is Slovakian.) - Tracy

LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS



This little comic featuring Rocky, Freckle and Wick was drawn in the early development stages of the project while I was researching the colorful vernacular of the Jazz Age. For the unsavvy, it seems slang was just as incomprehensible back then as it can be in modern times. - Tracy

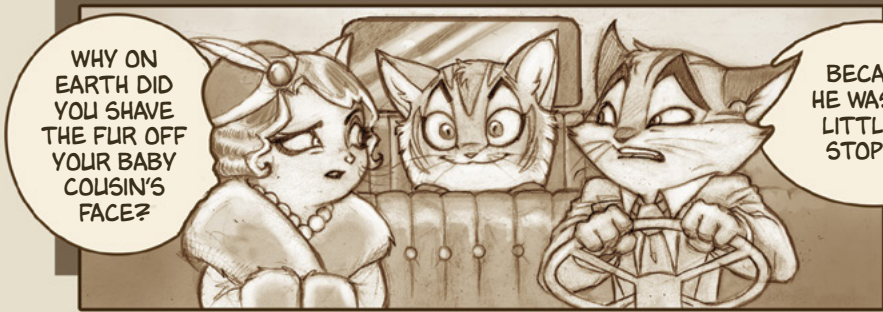
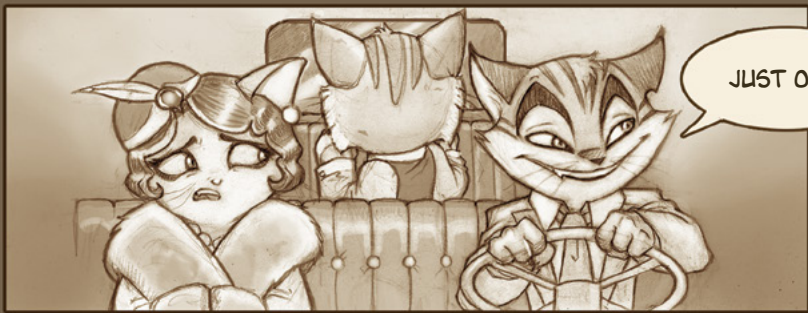
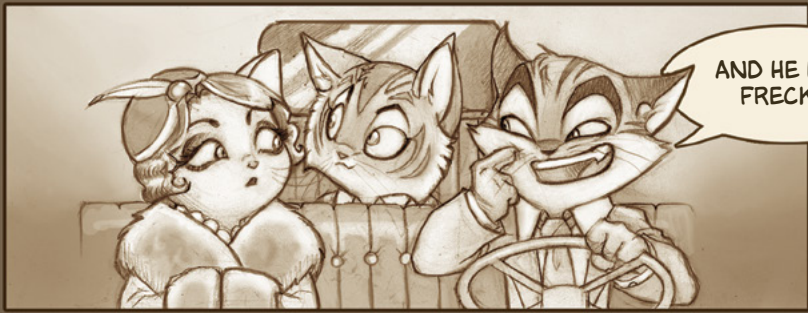


LACKADAISY: MINI-COMICS

Chit~Chats Time with Viktor



And Thus Concludes
Non~Sequitur Time
with Rocky



One of the early comics – a little exposition about Freckle's name. - Tracy

LACKADAISY: TUTORIALS



TO BEGIN DRAWING, WE'RE GOING TO START WITH SOME BASIC SHAPES.

BUT NOT THESE SHAPES. THESE ARE 2-D LOSER SHAPES AND THEY DON'T DESERVE OUR ATTENTION.

...INSTEAD WE'LL USE THESE 3-D LOOKING SHAPES -- THE TYPE YOU'RE MADE TO DRAW IN SCHOOL ART CLASSES WITH SELDOM ANY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY. THEY ARE PROFOUNDLY MYSTERIOUS...



UNTIL NOW! THEY'RE PART OF THE CURRICULUM LARGELY BECAUSE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTALS OF DRAWING IS THAT EVERYTHING IS CONSTRUCTED OF BASIC SHAPES.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN USE THEM TO MAKE BUNNIES AND STUFF.

WHEN YOU THINK OF THE SHAPES AS 3-DIMENSIONAL, DIFFICULT THINGS LIKE FORE-SHORTENING BECOME A MATTER OF SIMPLE SHAPE PERSPECTIVE.



PIECED TOGETHER INTO AN ARMATURE, SUCH SHAPES ARE HANDY FOR LAYING OUT GUIDELINES FOR CHARACTER DRAWINGS.



YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE AN ORDEAL OF IT, THOUGH. YOU CAN JUST SKETCH YOUR GUIDELINES THE HALF-ASSED WAY LIKE I DO.

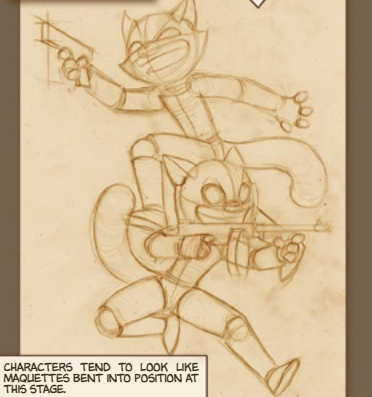
IN SHORT, THIS IS A CONCISE WAY TO MAP OUT POSTURE AND PROPORTIONS FOR YOUR DRAWING BEFORE DOING ANY HARDCORE DETAIL WORK.

FOR MORE LIES AND MISINFORMATION, READ ON TO PART TWO.



FOR FORMAL PIECES OF ART, I USUALLY EXPERIMENT FIRST WITH SOME THUMBNAILED DRAWINGS TO WORK OUT A COMPOSITION.

ONCE I KNOW WHAT DIRECTION I'M HEADING WITH THE DRAWING, I SKETCH OUT THE GUIDELINES USING THOSE BASIC SHAPES.



CHARACTERS TEND TO LOOK LIKE MAQUETTES BENT INTO POSITION AT THIS STAGE.

WHEN ROUGHED OUT, ROCKY AND FRECKLE'S HEADS ARE BASICALLY SPHERES WITH WINDY-DING SHAPES STAPLED ON THE SIDES.



WITH MY INITIAL GUIDES IN PLACE I START DRAWING CLOTHING ON TOP.



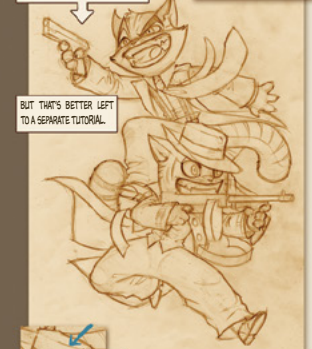
IN AN UNPRECEDENTED STROKE OF BENEVOLENCE, I HIGHLIGHTED THE NEW LINES IN BLUE HERE SO THEY'D BE EASIER TO DISCERN.



I USE THE 3-DIMENSIONAL ASPECT OF THE GUIDELINES TO DETERMINE THE CONTOURS OF THE CLOTHING AND HOW THE WRINKLES WILL BEHAVE.

AT ABOUT THIS STAGE, MY DRAWING BEGINS TO LOOK A LITTLE LIKE UNRAVLY PASTA. IF YOURS DOES TOO, THAT'S OKAY. THE PASTA WILL BE DISCIPLINED.

FOR CLEAN-UP I USE A KNEADED ERASER TO ELIMINATE THE GUIDES THAT ARE NO LONGER USEFUL TO ME... SORT OF LIKE HOW I TREAT MY FRIENDS.



BUT THAT'S BETTER LEFT TO A SEPARATE TUTORIAL.



SOME GUIDES (SUCH AS THOSE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE HERE) I LEAVE IN PLACE BECAUSE THEY HELP EMPHASIZE SHAPE.



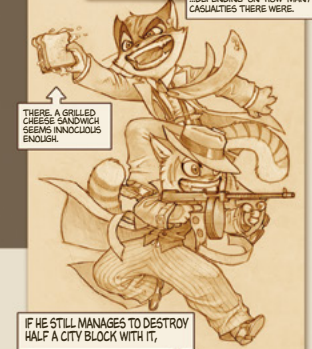
NEXT I SOLIDIFY THE LINEWORK. I'VE ALSO ADDED SOME SIMPLE SHADING HERE FOR A BIT OF CONTRAST.

OH, DON'T FORGET THE PINSTRIPE.

AND IF YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE THERE MIGHT STILL BE TIME TO FIX IT...



...DEPENDING ON HOW MANY CASUALTIES THERE WERE.



THERE'S A GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH SEEMS INNOCUOUS ENOUGH.

IF HE STILL MANAGES TO DESTROY HALF A CITY BLOCK WITH IT,

I'LL JUST FIND SOME WAY TO RATIONALIZE. BUT THAT'S ALSO A SEPARATE TUTORIAL.

"Lackadaisy How-to-Draw" – a comprehensive study in putting inexcusable nonsense to paper. - Tracy

Digital Kvetching Time

A PAINTING TUTORIAL ADVENTURE WITH MORDECAI! (HURRAY)

THIS TUTORIAL RATHER RUDELY PRE-SUPPOSES YOU'RE USING ADOBE PHOTOSHOP AND THAT YOU KNOW WHAT THE HECK LAYERS ARE.



STEP 1 - I BEGIN SKETCHING WITH BASIC SHAPES AND GUIDELINES. I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT DETAILS AT THIS STAGE. IT'S ALL ABOUT GENERAL FORM, POSE AND PROPORTION.



STEP 2 - I START SOLIDIFYING THE FACIAL FEATURES AND ROUGHING IN DETAILS LIKE FABRIC FOLDS. I STRENGTHEN THE IMPORTANT LINES, BUT I LIKE TO LEAVE THE GUIDELINES IN PLACE FOR REFERENCE.



STEP 3 - HERE I CLEAN UP THE SKETCH, ERASING GUIDELINES I NO LONGER NEED AND ANY STRAY MARKINGS. OCCASIONALLY I DISCOVER AT THIS STAGE THAT MY DRAWING IS PEERING DISDAINFULLY AT ME, BUT I TRY NOT TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THAT.

HE'S JUST CRABBY, BECAUSE I'M INTERRUPTING HIS MORNING TEA.

FEH.



STEP 4 - KEEPING IN MIND THE PLACEMENT OF THE LIGHT SOURCE I'VE CHOSEN FOR THIS PICTURE, I BEGIN DEFINING THE SUBJECT'S DIMENSION WITH SHADOW. THIS IS THE BEGINNINGS OF THE UNDERPAINTING - A SORT OF MAP FOR LIGHTING AND A FOUNDATION FOR COLORS TO LAY ON TOP OF.

I USUALLY WORK WITH LOW OPACITY HARD AND SOFT EDGED BRUSHES RIGHT ON TOP OF THE LINEWORK SINCE I DON'T WANT IT TO BE PART OF THE FINAL PRODUCT. IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR LINEWORK, YOU CAN WORK IN LAYERS BENEATH IT. OR SET THE LAYER THE LINE ART IS ON TO MULTIPLY.


SURFACES FACING AWAY FROM THIS LIGHT SOURCE - SUCH AS THE UNDERSIDE OF MORDECAI'S CHIN AND THE BACK OF HIS RIGHT ARM - WILL BE SHADOWED.



STEP 5 - WITH THE LIGHT SOURCE STILL IN MIND, I ADD THE HIGHLIGHTS TO THE UNDERPAINTING. I'VE USED SEPIA TONES BECAUSE I WANT THE OVERALL PAINTING TO BE TWINGED WITH THAT COLOR. UNDERPAINTINGS CAN BE ANY COLOR, THOUGH, AND DON'T NEED TO BE MONOCHROMATIC. FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU WERE PAINTING A FOREST SCENE, YOU MIGHT DO YOUR UNDERPAINTING IN SHADES OF GREEN AND YELLOW TO ACCOUNT FOR THE WAY THE LIGHT COMING THROUGH THE GREENERY SUFFUSES THE WHOLE ENVIRONMENT --

YOU'RE RAMBLING

SORRY.



STEP 6 - NOW I START APPLYING COLOR IN A NEW LAYER ON TOP OF THE UNDERPAINTING. I RECOMMEND USING LOW OPACITY BRUSHES - THE IDEA ISN'T TO COMPLETELY MASK THE UNDERPAINTING, ALLOWING SOME OF IT TO SHOW HELPS UNIFY YOUR COLOR PALETTE.

THE GHOSTLY IMAGE ON THE RIGHT IS ALL THE COLOR I'VE ADDED SO FAR. AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S MOSTLY TRANSPARENT SO THAT SOME OF THE UNDERLYING SEPIA TWINGES THE WHOLE IMAGE.



STEP 7 - HERE I'VE CONTINUED ADDING COLOR TO BRING OUT THE STRONGER HIGHLIGHTS. I'VE ALSO USED SOME SMALLER BRUSHES TO ADD SUBTLE TEXTURE TO THE FLUR AND THE FABRIC OF THE WAISTCOAT.



STEP 8 - THE PAINTING WAS STILL LOOKING RATHER FLAT, SO I'VE ADDED SOME BACKLIGHTING, WHICH CAN BE FROM A LIGHT SOURCE BEHIND THE SUBJECT OR FROM THE AMBIENT LIGHT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THE SUBJECT OCCUPIES. HERE I'M USING A TRACE OF BLUE CONTOUR FOR DEPTH. THE LIGHT IMPLIES A SPACE BEHIND THE SUBJECT AND PULLS IT ... EXCUSE ME ... PULLS HIM FORWARD FROM THE BACKGROUND SO THAT HE NO LONGER APPEARS SO FLAT. (UNFORTUNATELY, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF HIS PERSONALITY.)

AHEM. ALSO, IT'S USUALLY A BETTER IDEA TO PLAN YOUR ENTIRE COMPOSITION FIRST SO THAT YOU DON'T END UP TRYING TO PAINT A BACKGROUND AROUND YOUR SUBJECT OR SQUEEZE IN HACKNEYED BITS OF ENVIRONMENT AS I'VE DONE WITH THE TABLE TOP HERE...

A NON-DESCRIPT SNEARPNICE TOUCH I DON'T REALIZE YOU WERE AN ABSTRACT ARTIST.



LASTLY, NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HUMILIATE YOUR SUBJECT MATTER, PARTICULARLY THE UPTIGHT ONES WHO CAN'T KEEP THEIR PETTY CRITICISMS TO THEMSELVES.

HMM. I LIKE THIS LOOK. IT BRINGS OUT THE RUGGED INDIVIDUALIST IN YOU.

...I'LL BRING OUT A HIGH CALIBER SEMI-AUTOMATIC THAT YOU DON'T GET AT ME WITH ANYTHING WITH PETULANT LITTLE MESHUGGENEH.

THE END

This is a brief explanation of my approach to digital painting for colorized Lackadaisy artwork. Mordecai makes for rather indignant subject matter. - Tracy

Notes and References

Page 2 - The riverboat pictured here resembles a Streckfus Steamer, one of the vessels that would have been characteristic of the St. Louis Mississippi riverfront at the time. Riverboats of this type were famous in part for featuring live musical acts in the early days of jazz as they traveled up and downriver.

Page 2 - National Prohibition, enacted in 1920, marked the illegalization of the manufacture, distribution, and import of alcohol (for consumption) in the United States as established by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution and outlined by the Volstead Act. Rather than quell the prevalence of alcohol as a means of business and pleasure, however, the legislation transformed it into an underground enterprise and a trend of unprecedented organized crime followed. Unpopular, and largely considered a failure, the amendment was repealed in 1933.

Page 2 - The Limestone Caves winding beneath St. Louis are a reality, though in recent decades many of the caves have been destroyed by highway construction and filled in by building demolition.

Page 4 - The Spirit of St. Louis, named for the city of St. Louis and piloted by Charles Lindbergh, was the first plane to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. The famous flight was made in May of 1927 between New York and Paris.

Page 5 - The zoot suit Rocky is sporting is something of an anachronism. Although the very first zoot suits seem to have evolved out of the jazz culture of the late 1920's, they were much more a style of the 1930's and 40's when this distinct look carried with it a connotation of social rebellion.

Page 5 - English Cave is located in part beneath St. Louis' Benton Park. It reportedly had several secret manmade entrances in the south part of the city, but perhaps for safety concerns, known entrances seem to have been officially sealed off.

Page 7 - The Sunshine Special was a passenger train that ran on the Missouri-Pacific railroad between Austin, St. Louis and Little Rock from 1915 through the 1950's.

Page 9 - The Perils of Pauline was a popular action-suspense serial during the silent film era. One of Pauline's perils, of course, was being tied to railroad tracks.

Page 9 - Embalming fluid was one of a number of unsavory alcoholic products commonly used to cut bootleg liquor during Prohibition, occasionally with deadly results.

Page 10 - Albert Einstein published a paper entitled "Zur Quantentheorie der Strahlung" in 1917, predicting "stimulated emission", the eventual basis for laser physics.

Page 10 - Famous-Barr for most of the twentieth century was a major St. Louis department store with its flagship location at the ornate Railway Exchange Building. Recently, the chain was bought out by the Midwest division of Macy's, Inc.

Page 13 - The Union Trust Building was built in 1893, but is now better known to St. Louisans as 705 Olive. With its steel frame, it counts among the nation's earliest skyscrapers.

Page 15 - Old Man River is one of the Mississippi River's common nicknames.

Page 15 - Eads Bridge, built in 1874, largely with Carnegie steel, spans the Mississippi between Missouri and Illinois. Originally, it hosted trains, trolley cars and foot traffic. Today, it accommodates road traffic on top and the St. Louis Metrolink on the rail lines.

Page 16 - Roark is Rocky's proper name.

Page 18 - Homemade stills were commonly used to manufacture moonshine. They were also quite the fire hazard.

Page 20 - The electric ignition was a feature of most vehicles manufactured after 1920. Prior to that, cars were started primarily with a hand crank.

Page 27 - The St. Louis Bond Issue of 1923 was a large-scale civic undertaking to revitalize city growth, which included paving and widening roads and which, in ensuing years, saw the construction of new hotels, hospitals, plazas and the implementation of electrical streetlights for the whole of the city.

Page 27 - The Mayfair Room was St. Louis' first five-star restaurant. It opened in 1925 with the Wyndham Mayfair Hotel.

Page 29 - The Cajun dialect is a mix of multiple languages, predominantly English and Cajun French (a distinct dialect of Continental French).

Page 31 - McClure's was a once prominent political and literary magazine that saw the conception of muckraking journalism. A writing staff exodus eventually led to its transformation into a women's magazine in the 1920's.

Page 36 - The Browning Automatic Rifle, or BAR, was designed by John Browning and originally manufactured during WWI where it saw use as a light machine gun. The weapon's rapid rate of fire, comparative stopping power and ability to penetrate car bodies is perhaps what made it a famous favorite of the Barrow Gang in later years.

Page 37 - A nut zipper obliquely refers to an old fashioned chewy peanut-flavored candy called a Squirrel Nut Zipper® (proprietary of NEC-CO®). It's also eponymous of the band of the same name.

Page 38 - "Lady Dionysus" is an over-romanticized metaphorical name Rocky uses to describe Mitzi, not, as some readers have indicated, a mistakenly feminized reference to the deity himself.

Page 39 - The Thompson Sub-machine Gun, or Tommy Gun, was initially developed during WWI according to the designs of Gen. John T. Thompson. As the war ended before the new weapon made it to troops overseas, however, it instead became indelibly linked with a much different sort of warfare that afterwards played out among gangsters and law enforcement in the era of Prohibition.

Page 40 - "Success and glory are in the advance; disaster and shame lurk in the rear." -- Maj. Gen. John Pope, addressing his troops prior to the Second Battle of Bull Run, 1862.

Page 44 - "Cellar door" was, according to J.R.R. Tolkien, one of the most beautiful phrases in the English language. I don't suppose it remains true in this context. (Tolkien, J. R. R. "English and Welsh." 1955.)

Page 45-46 - The Lindy Hop, the Charleston, and the Breakaway were all popular dances of the time. The Lindy Hop (for which Charles Lindbergh was the namesake) was perhaps the longest-lived, as it evolved and remained popular into the swing era of the 1940's.

Page 47 - A raid in this case refers to a surprise incursion by either police or Prohibition Agents - an exclamation that would probably have cleared any speakeasy in a matter of minutes.

Page 55 - The Duesenberg J model, produced by the Auburn Automobile Company, was actually not introduced until 1928.

Page 58 - A peccary is a mammal resembling a pig and fairly common in the wilds of the Americas. An array of different bones have been discovered in the St. Louis caves, probably the result of animals (some long extinct) falling in through cracks or sinkholes in the ground above. (Hubert and Charlotte Rother. *Lost Caves of St. Louis*. St. Louis: Virginia Publishing Company. 1996)

Page 62 - Quicklime, or calcium oxide, applied to a body can rapidly render it visually unidentifiable. As such, aside from its practical uses, it's been a player in many a shady situation. Contrary to popular belief, though, it won't tend to destroy a body completely. Rather, the resulting formation of adipocere has a preserving effect.

Page 64 - Double-ought commonly refers to a buckshot pellet size of approximately .33 inches in diameter.

Page 64 - Chloral Hydrate is a depressant that was used as a sedative prior to the development of barbiturates and, likewise in the past, was often utilized in veterinary medicine as a general anesthetic.



UNTIL NEXT TIME...

“WHAT’S LAWFUL DOESN’T ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH WHAT’S RIGHT...”



“AND THAT WAS VERY RIGHT”

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