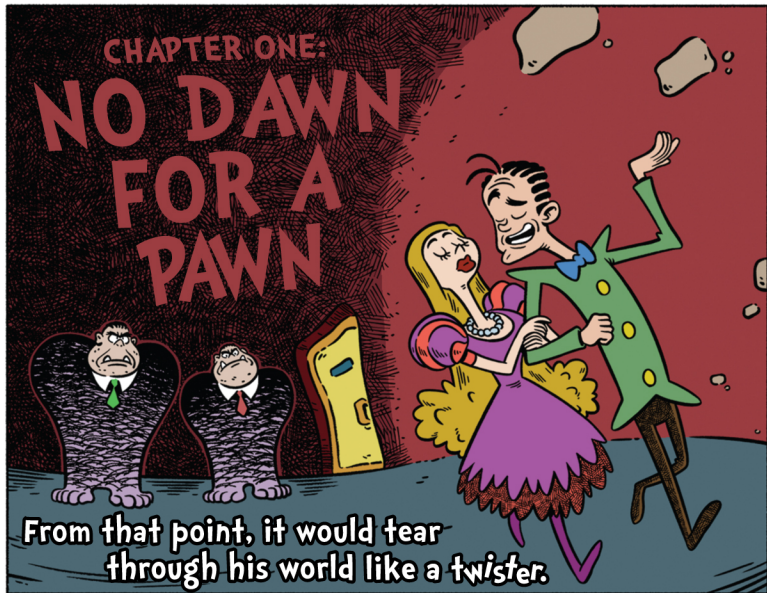


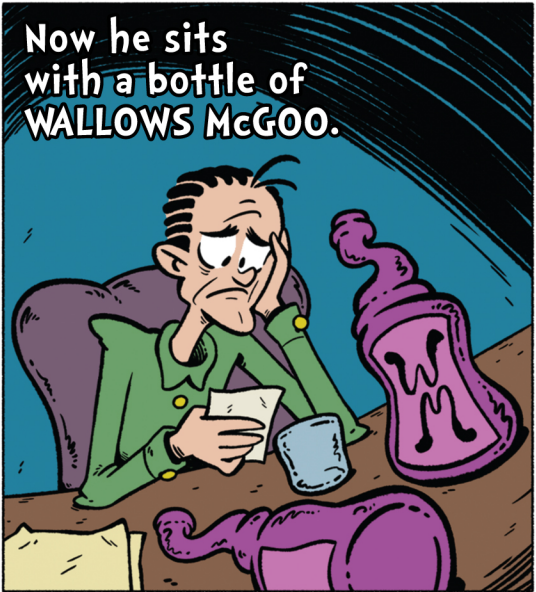
It starts,
as love
does.

Not with
NOISE
but a
whisper.



CHAPTER ONE: NO DAWN FOR A PAWN

From that point, it would tear
through his world like a twister.



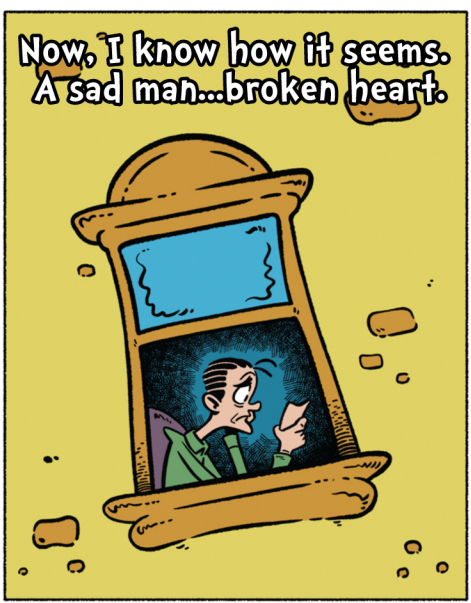
Now he sits
with a bottle of
WALLOWS MCGOO.



WHERE
HAS MY
LOVE
GONE?

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

Soak's
Ketch
Sew
Bu



Now, I know how it seems.
A sad man...broken heart.

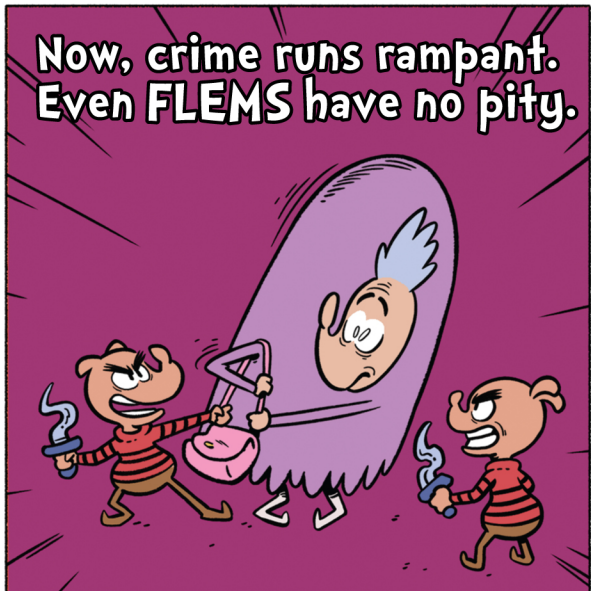


But to hear this whole tale,
let's begin at the start.

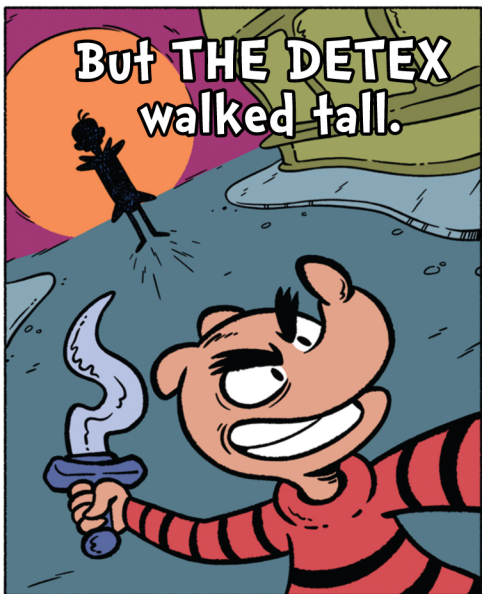
The county and its streets
were safe once--and pretty.



Now, crime runs rampant.
Even FLEMS have no pity.



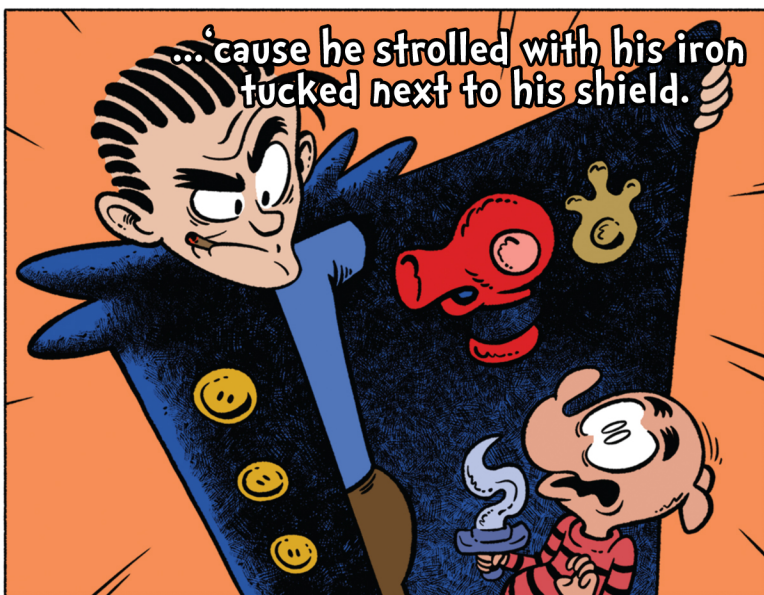
But THE DETEX
walked tall.



Down no street
would he yield...

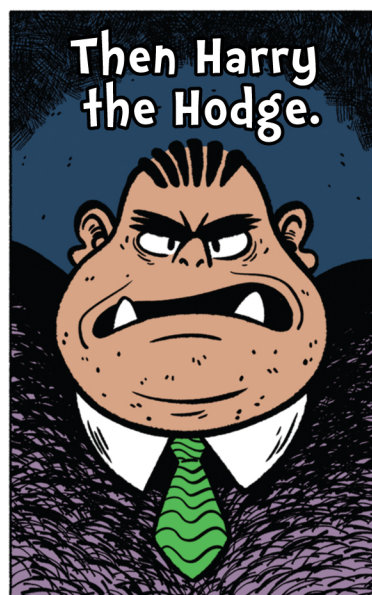
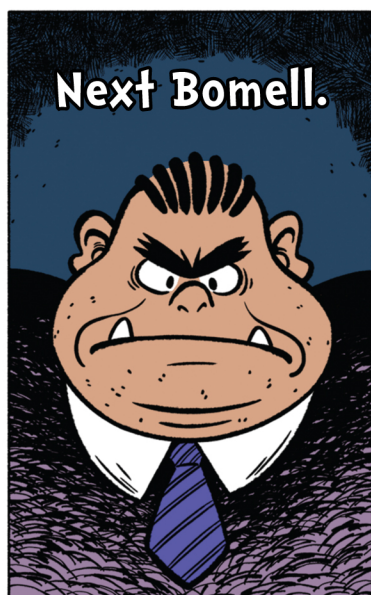


... 'cause he strolled with his iron
tucked next to his shield.



On this
day, like
all days...

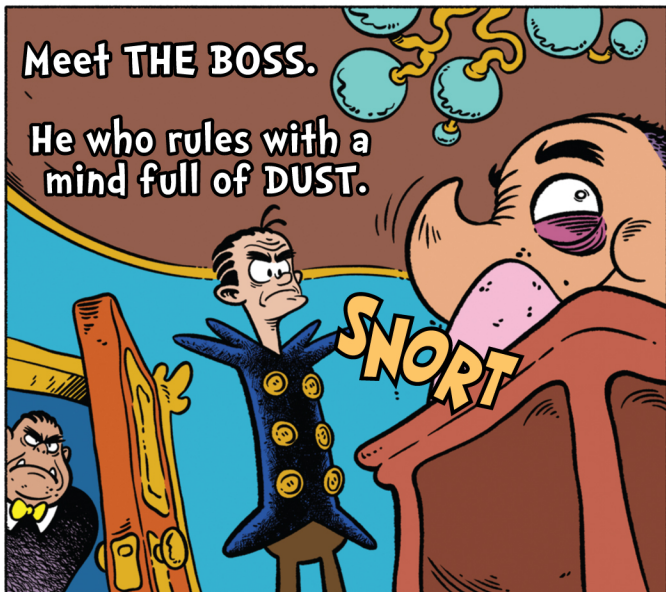






Finally,
Rocko.

The last of the
guards in The Lodge.



Meet THE BOSS.
He who rules with a
mind full of DUST.

SNORT



YOU'RE
HERE.

FINALLY!

SNIFFS
A
COHORT
I CAN
TRUST.



With them right where
he wanted, he'd soon
bring them down.
To make good
on his vow...

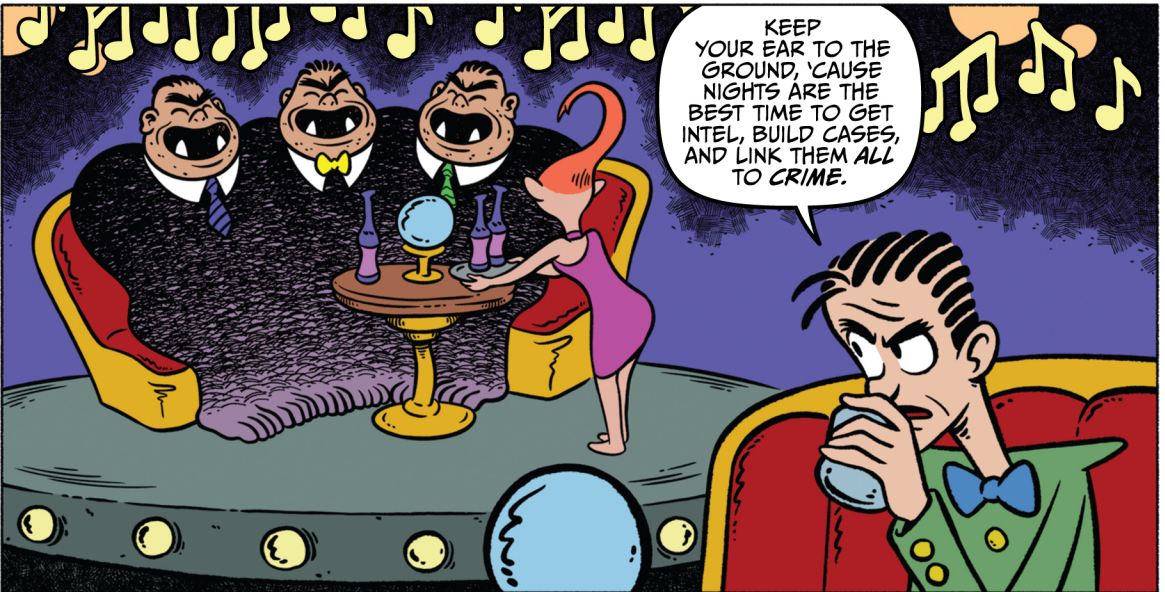


...and to clean
up this town.

"Let nothing distract from the task that's at hand," he says to himself while enjoying the band.



KEEP YOUR EAR TO THE GROUND, 'CAUSE NIGHTS ARE THE BEST TIME TO GET INTEL, BUILD CASES, AND LINK THEM ALL TO CRIME.



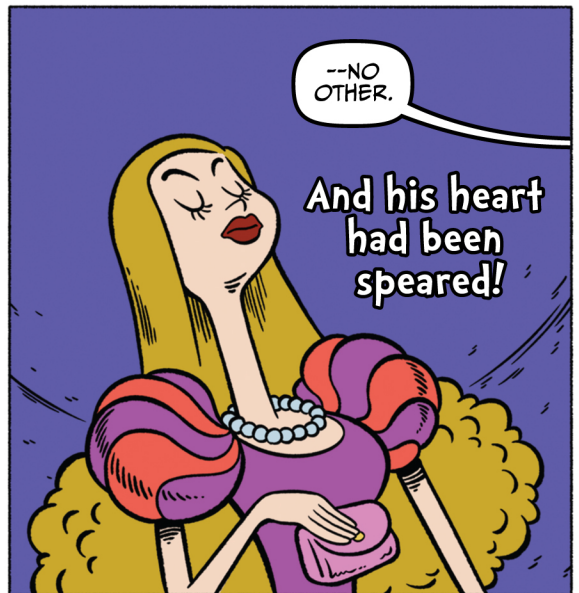
And THAT'S when it happened. An angel appeared!

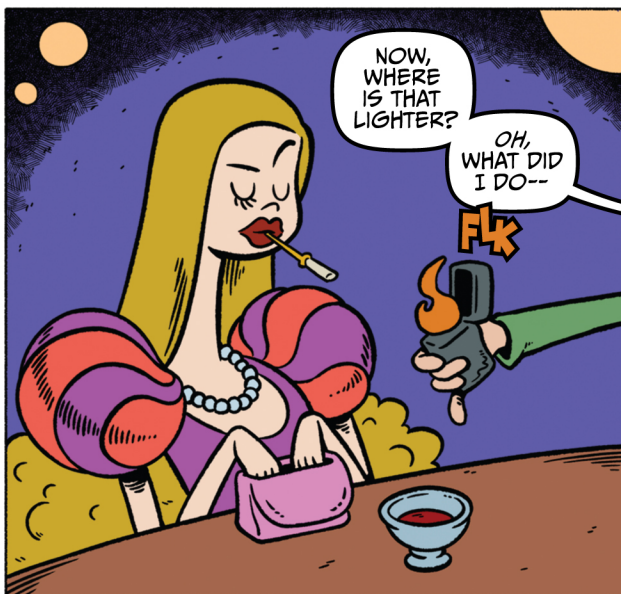
SHE'S LIKE N--



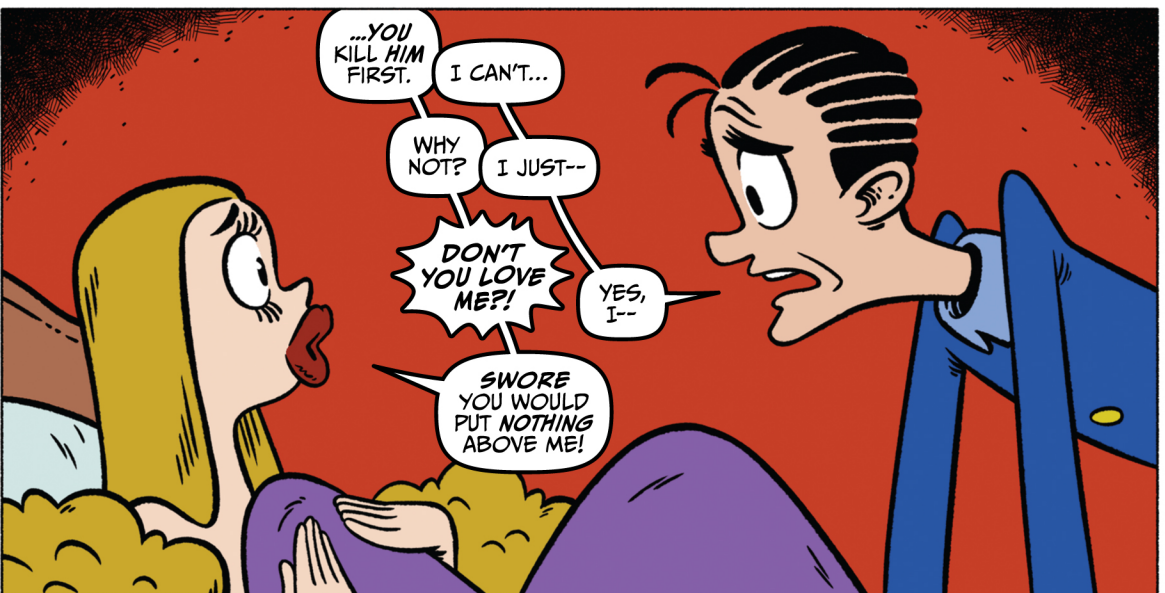
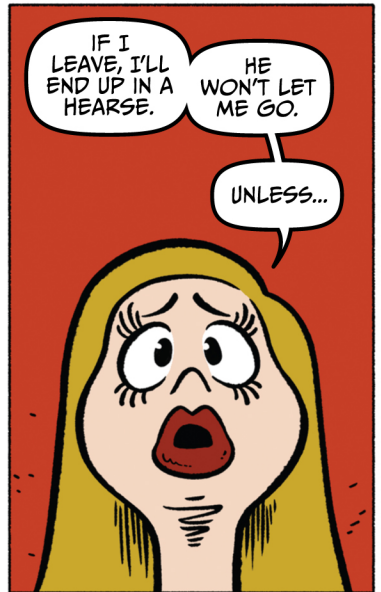
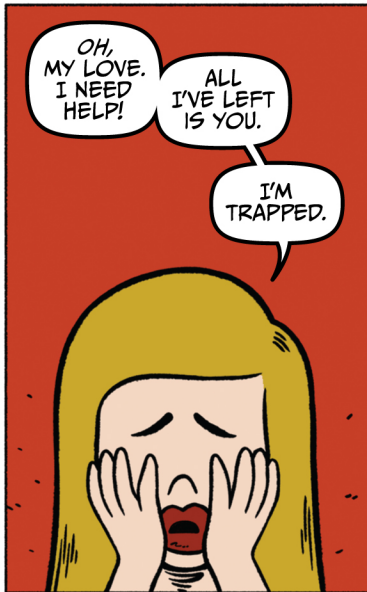
--NO OTHER.

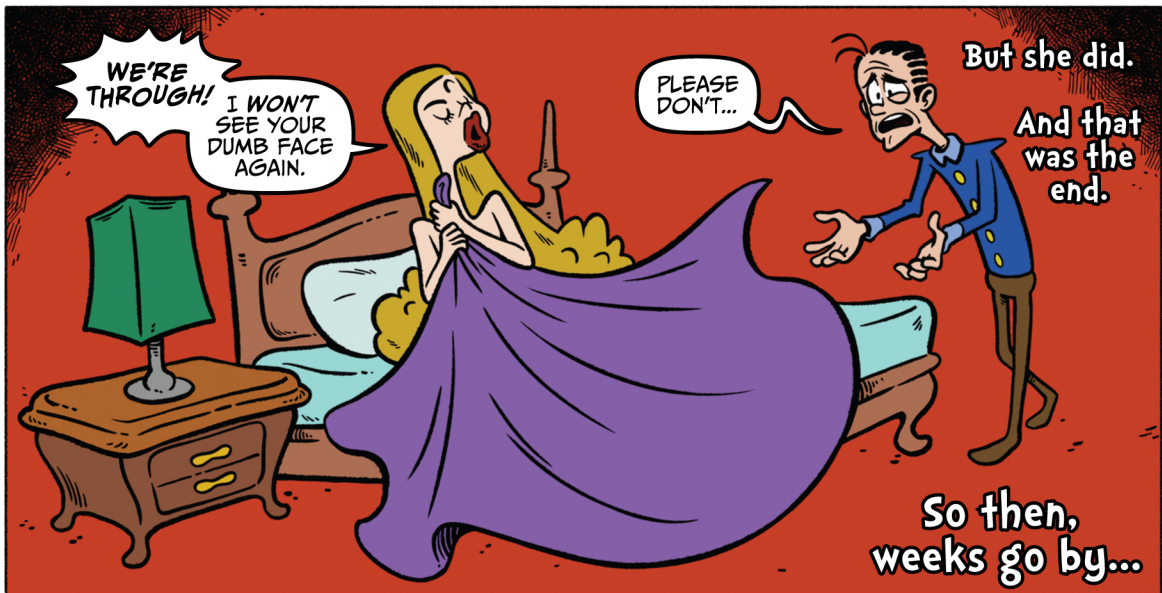
And his heart had been speared!





Time passes. How it flies when you're falling in love.
When you find that soulmate, you'll put nothing above.





WE'RE THROUGH!
I WON'T SEE YOUR DUMB FACE AGAIN.

PLEASE DON'T...

But she did.
And that was the end.

So then, weeks go by...

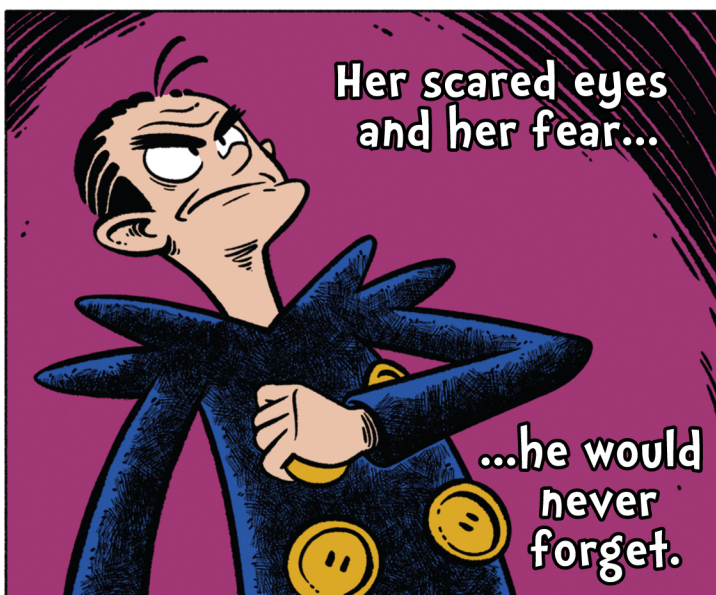


Not a sight.
Not a clue.
He just sits, and he stews over Wallows McGoo.



WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN?

Was his biggest regret.



Her scared eyes and her fear...

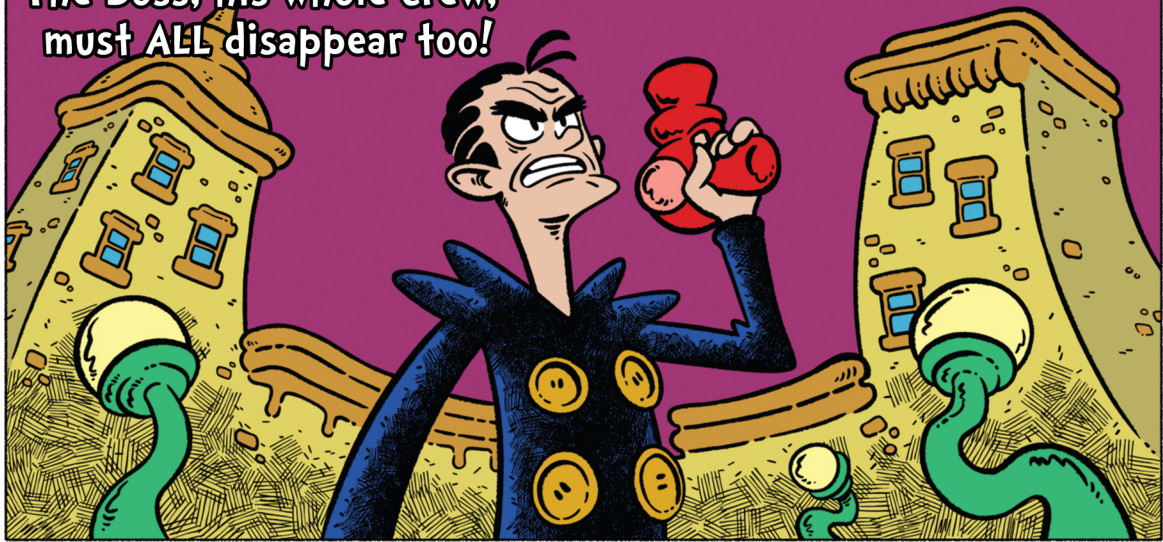
...he would never forget.



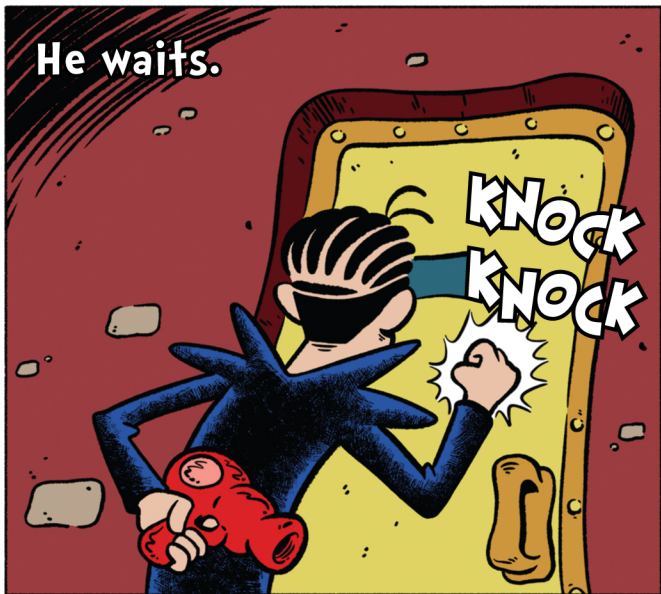
One more sip of McGOO.

It's now clear what to do.

The Boss, his whole crew,
must ALL disappear too!



He waits.



Hommel
answers
the door.



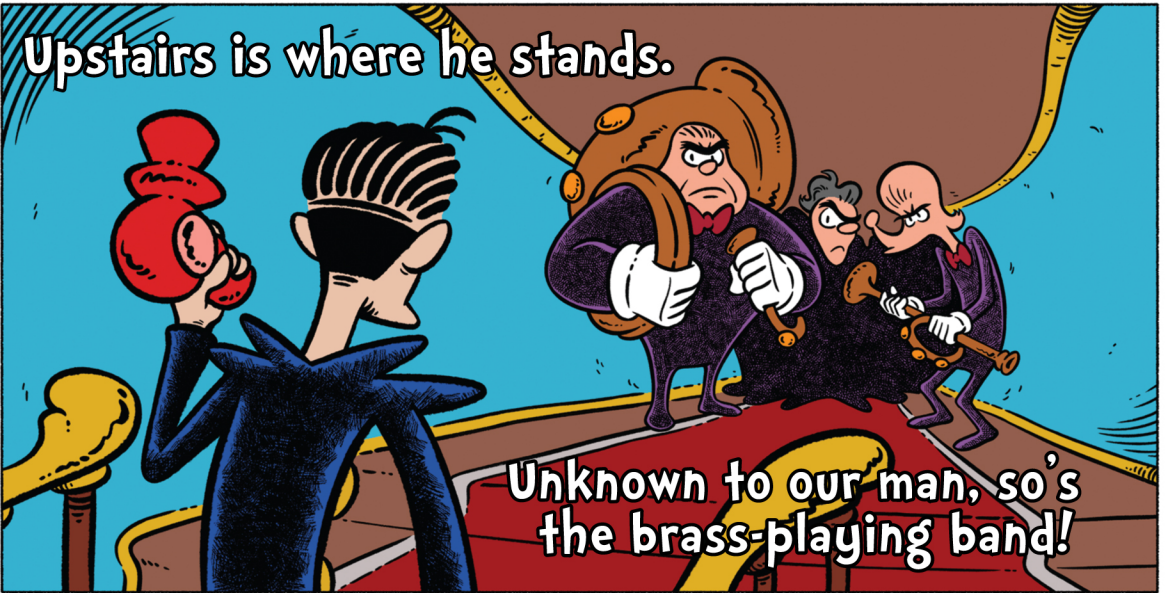
Poor fool.



Now he's dead
on the floor.



Upstairs is where he stands.



Unknown to our man, so's the brass-playing band!

The Boss starts to sob.



THIS IS IT!
NOW I'M DEAD!



As what sounds like a mob...



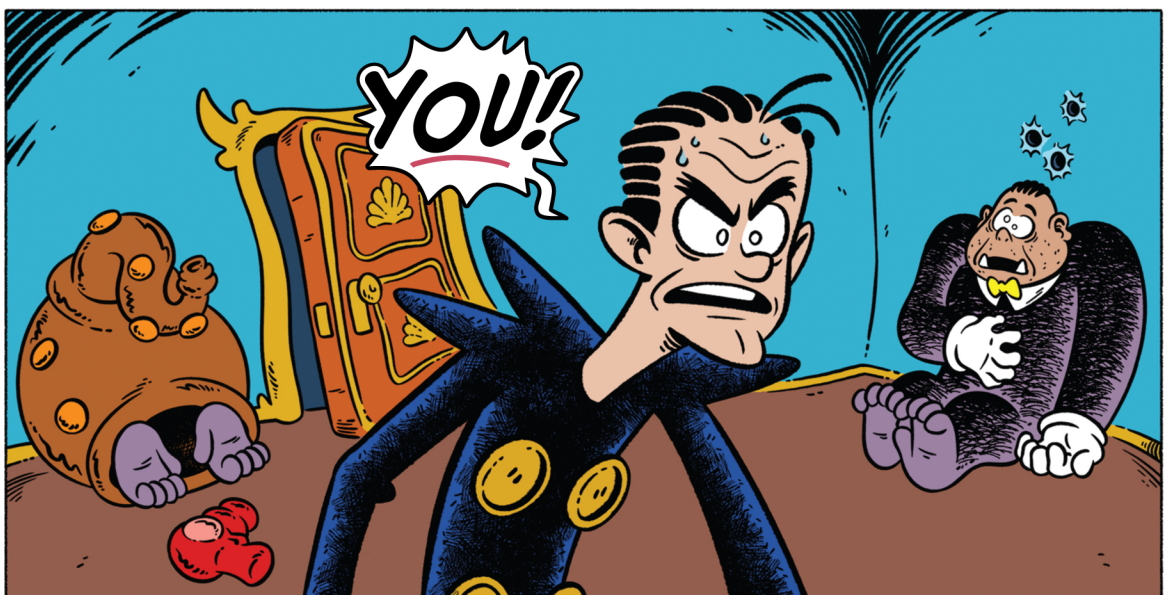
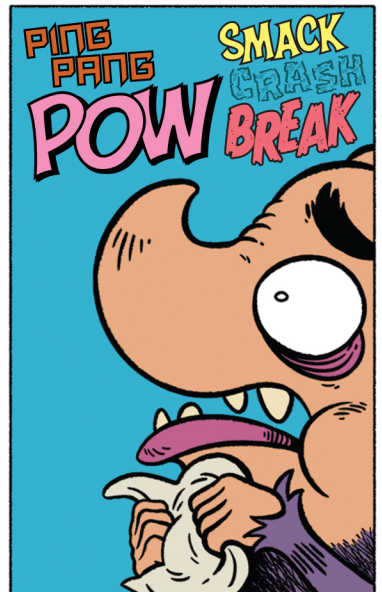
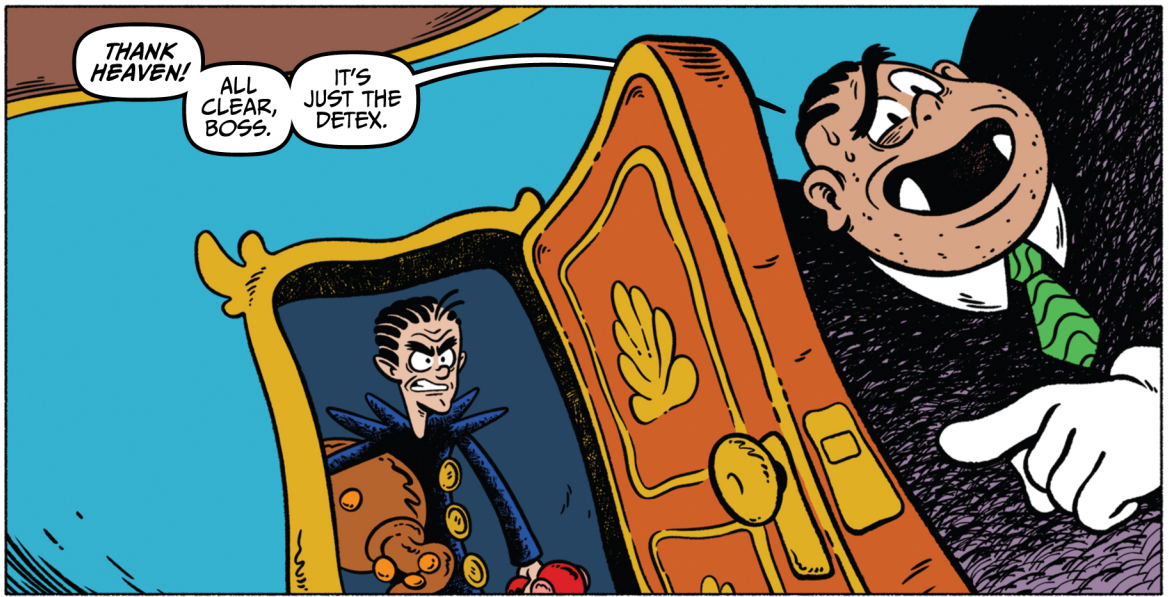
...hurries forth for his head.

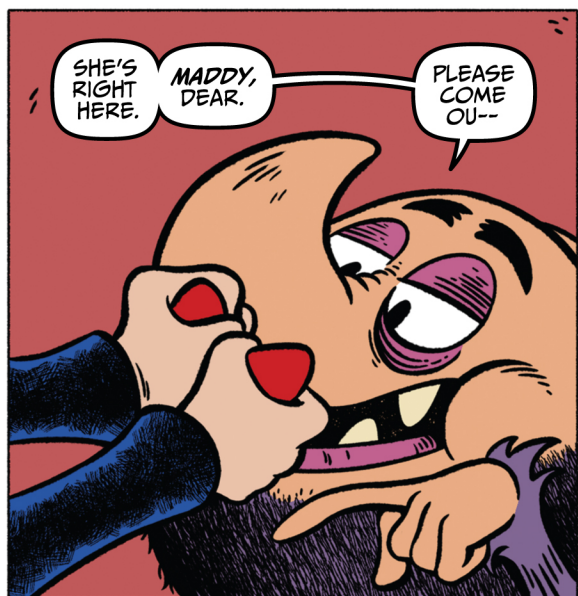
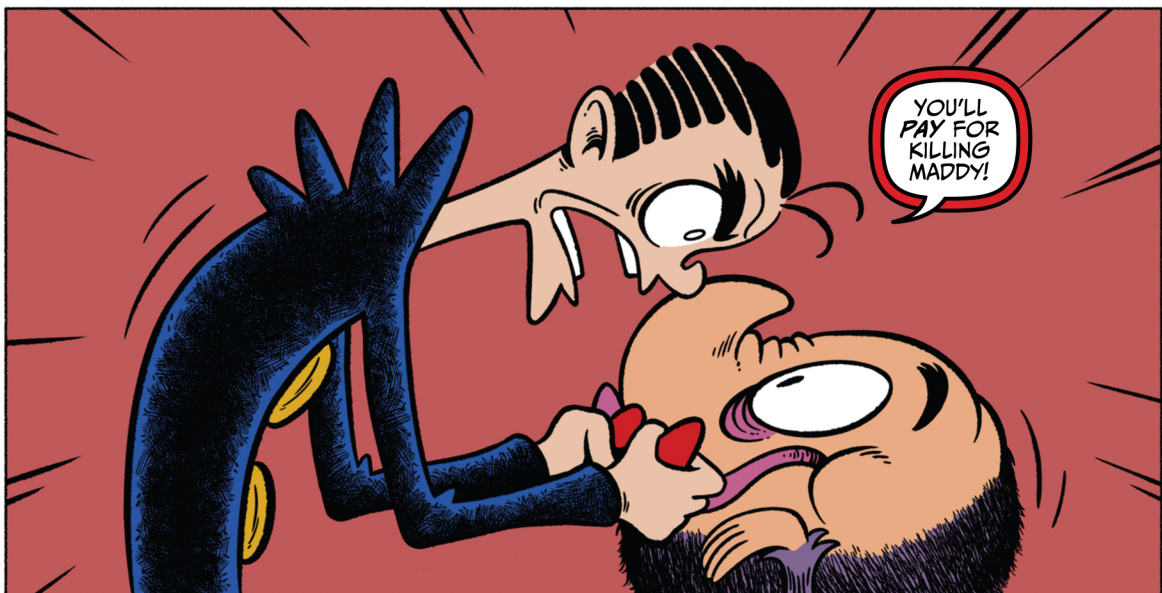
Then...silence.

The knob shakes.

The Hodge goes to check.







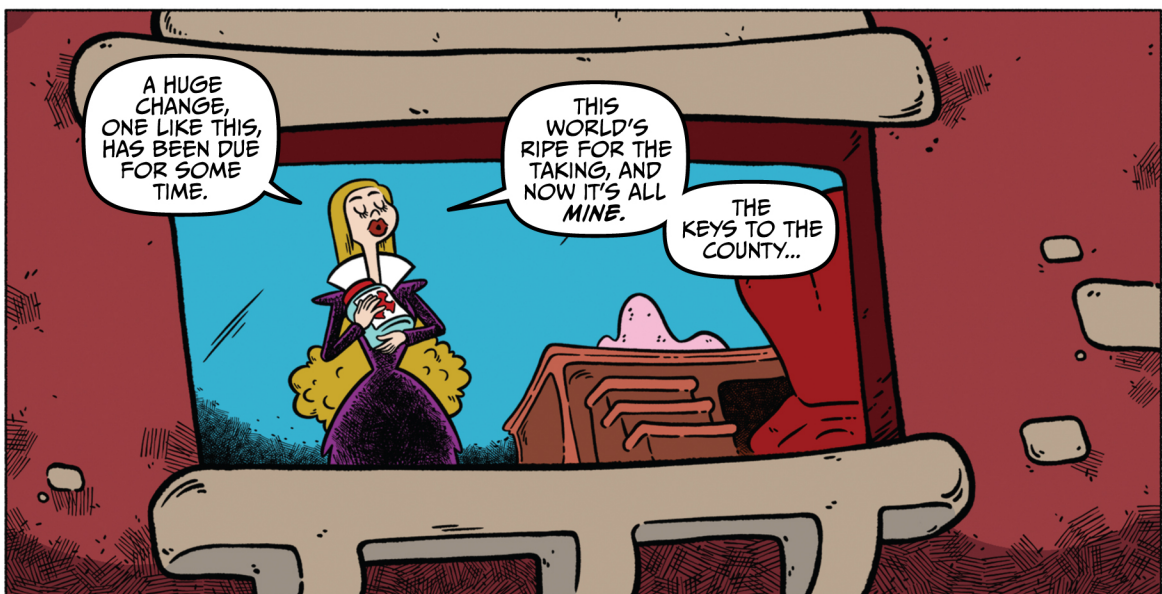




...YOU'LL BE GONE.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU...

...MY GOOD LITTLE PAWN.



A HUGE CHANGE, ONE LIKE THIS, HAS BEEN DUE FOR SOME TIME.

THIS WORLD'S RIPE FOR THE TAKING, AND NOW IT'S ALL MINE.

THE KEYS TO THE COUNTY...



...I'LL HAVE OVERNIGHT.

AND THE WAY TO THEIR HEARTS?

I'LL HIDE THAT IN PLAIN SIGHT.