

SOUTH BOSTON, MA.
EARLY SUMMER, 4:33AM.

OH MY
GAWD, BOBBY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE
HOW LATE IT
IS. *HIC*

YOU'RE
TELLIN' ME?
I'M A ONE GOTTA
WORK IN THREE
HOURS.

BUT HEY,
IT'S COOL. MY LIL'
BRO ONLY GRADUATES
FROM HIGH SCHOOL
ONCE! GOTTA DRINK
TO THAT!

SO WHAT
IF IT TOOK 'IM
SIX YEARS?
LATE BLOOMER
'S'ALL...

AW, JEE-SUS
COLLEEN!
ALL OVER MY
PANTS...

FOR CHRIS'SAKE,
COLLEEN! YOU AIN'T
ABLE TO HOLD YER
LIQUOR DON'T
DRINK SO--

H-HELP...
PLEASE...

HUH?
WHO'S'ERE!?

HOLY
FRIGGIN'
S#!T!

COLLEEN,
CALL 911!

RETCH



6:15 AM

...S'LIKE I TOLD YOUR COP BUDDIES, THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. WE DIDN'T SEE NOTHING.

AN OFFICER WILL TAKE YOU HOME NOW.

MM-HMM. WELL, IF YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE, ANYTHING AT ALL, BE SURE TO GIVE ME A CALL.

ALL THE CRIME IN THIS CITY AND NOBODY EVER SEES A DAMNED THING.

CUZ IT'S USUALLY SAFER FOR 'EM THAT WAY.

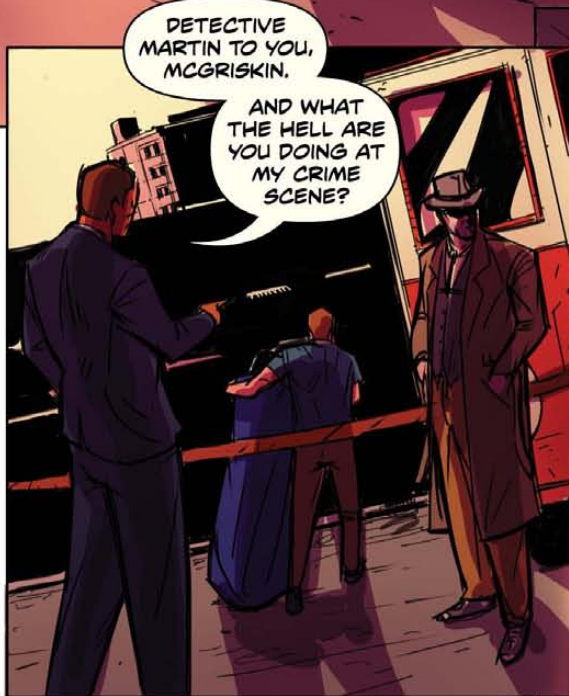


MCGRISKIN.

HOW YA DOIN', CHARLIE?

JACK HAMMER

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PART ONE: DIRTY DEEDS



DETECTIVE MARTIN TO YOU, MCGRISKIN.

AND WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING AT MY CRIME SCENE?



WHAT I WAS HIRED TO DO.



THAT IS EDDIE NEWMAN, ISN'T IT?

YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW IT WAS, NOW GET THE HELL OUTTA MY FACE.



CAN'T DO THAT, CHARLIE. THE MAN'S EMPLOYERS HIRED ME TO FIND HIM, AND I FIGURE THEY'RE GONNA ASK WHY HE'S TURNED UP DEAD.



MCGRISKIN, FOR ONCE KEEP YOUR SNOOPING TO YOURSELF OR I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD!



YEAH? CLASS FOUR SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES LICENSE SAYS OTHERWISE.

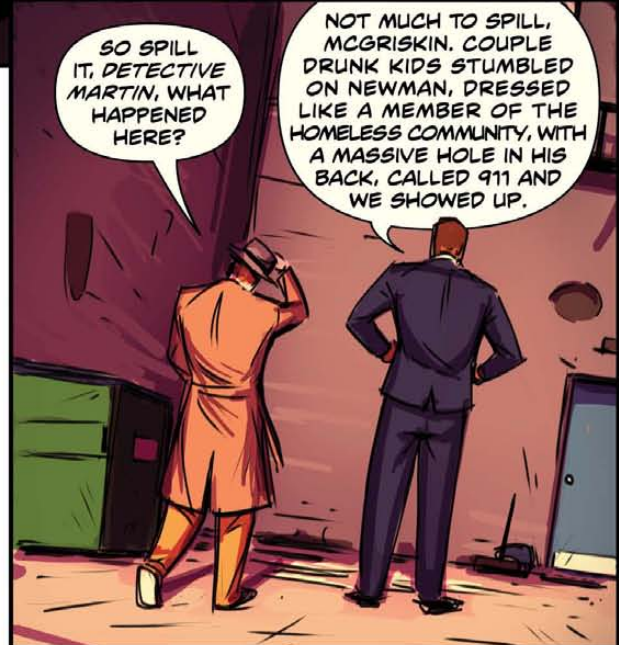
BASICALLY, YOU WANT ME TO GO AWAY, FASTEST THING TO DO IS ANSWER A COUPLE QUESTIONS.



WALK WITH ME, HAMMER.

ONLY IF YOU DON'T CALL ME THAT. JACK HAMMER WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

THEN DON'T CALL ME CHARLIE.



SO SPILL IT, DETECTIVE MARTIN. WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

NOT MUCH TO SPILL, MCGRISKIN. COUPLE DRUNK KIDS STUMBLED ON NEWMAN, DRESSED LIKE A MEMBER OF THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY, WITH A MASSIVE HOLE IN HIS BACK, CALLED 911 AND WE SHOWED UP.



UH HUH. ANY IDEA WHY A MAN WITH A MILLION DOLLAR TOWNHOUSE WAS MADE UP LIKE A DERELICT?

NO.



ONE LAST THING... YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT KILLED THIS GUY?

YOU KNOW DAMNED WELL IT WAS POWERS.



I DO?

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS POWERS?

WHAT THE HELL ELSE DO YOU KNOW OF THAT COULD PUT A FOOT-WIDE SMOKING HOLE THROUGH A MAN'S TORSO?



YOU'D BE SURPRISED, DETECTIVE MARTIN.

SEE YA AROUND.

DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME, MCGRISKIN! WE AREN'T DONE YET. WHAT DO YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T TELLING ME?



I KNOW YOU HEARD WHAT I SAID, MCGRISKIN AND I--



AND I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD GUY WHO THINKS HE HAS TO PLAY HARD ASS AND STRONG ARM EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN TO GET ANYTHING DONE.

BUT DON'T TRY TO PLAY THAT CRAP ON ME, DETECTIVE MARTIN, BECAUSE I GUARANTEE MY ARM IS STRONGER THAN YOURS.



I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

14TH FLOOR OF THE
TECHNOTRENDS CORP BUILDING,
DOWNTOWN BOSTON.

MS.
GORSCH?

COME IN,
DONNA.

I JUST
GOT A CALL
FROM MARCUS.
HE SAID MCGRISKIN
HAS FOUND EDDIE
NEWMAN, BUT THE
POLICE FOUND
HIM FIRST.

HE'S,
UM... HE'S
DEAD.

OH,
MY...

THANK YOU,
DONNA. YOU MAY
GO BACK TO
WORK. IT LOOKS
LIKE I HAVE SOME
ARRANGEMENTS
TO MAKE.

THE
POLICE...?

MR.
BELTRAM? YES,
I JUST RECEIVED
WORD...

YES...
MM-HMM...
YES, APPARENTLY
NEWMAN'S BEEN
FOUND. DEAD.

DEAD? WHAT
A SHAME. SUCH A...
DANGEROUS CITY
WE LIVE IN.

MAKE THE FUNERAL
ARRANGEMENTS PLEASE,
MS. GORSCH, AND SEND
OUR CONDOLENCES TO
ANY FAMILY MR. NEWMAN
MAY HAVE HAD. YES.
GOODBYE.

HEH.
HEHE...

A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO...

C'MON, JACK HAMMER, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY - THIRD ROUND'S THE CHARM.

LET'S FINISH IT THIS ROUND, HUH?

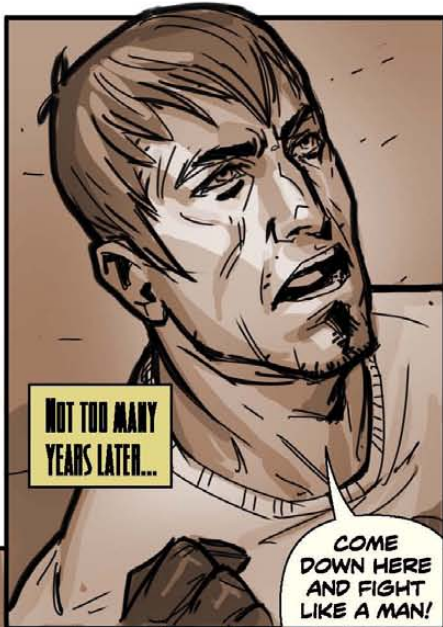
WHATEVER YOU SAY, HAMMER.

POW!

GLH!

CRASH!

WE'RE DONE. I'M GOIN' HOME.



MID-AFTERNOON.



GOD DAMNED INTERCOM.

BIZZT

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE, THE DREAMS OR THE FACT I LIVED IT.

AND IN OTHER NEWS, SENATE HOPEFUL STAN GOODMAN ADDRESSED A GROUP OF...

YEAH?

YOU HAVE A VISITOR, MR. MCGRISKIN.

WHO?

A MS. GORSCH FROM TECHNOTRENDS CORP.

OKAY, GIMME FIVE MINUTES THEN SEND HER IN, RAMONA.

GOD BLESS RAMONA HARO. I'D NEVER KEEP UP WITH THE MINUTIA WITHOUT HER AROUND.

...SUBJECT OF SUPER HUMAN RIGHTS CAME UP, TO WHICH MR. GOODMAN RESPONDED...

SMART AS A WHIP, EFFICIENT AS A BULLET, AND EASY ON THE EYES TO BOOT. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE CPAS ACROSS THE HALL TRYING TO CUT COSTS, I'D NEVER EVEN KNOW SHE EXISTED.

"I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT WHILE I THINK THINGS MAY HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND IN THE PAST..."

COSTS ME A COUPLE HUNDRED BUCKS A WEEK TO SHARE HER SERVICES WITH THEM, BUT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO AFFORD A SECRETARY OTHERWISE, AND MAN ALIVE DOES SHE MAKE MY LIFE EASIER.

"...LET'S REMEMBER THAT POWERS OR NOT, THESE ARE STILL HUMAN BEINGS, AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT FOR NOW."



MS. GORSCH,
LOVELY TO SEE YOU.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO
COME DOWN HERE
YOURSELF.

I JUST
WANTED TO
THANK YOU IN
PERSON FOR
YOUR HELP IN...
THE MATTER
AT HAND.



I'VE ALSO
BROUGHT YOUR
PAYMENT.



MUCH
APPRECIATED,
MA'AM, BUT
THE JOB'S NOT
DONE YET.

BUT IT
IS... YOU'VE
FOUND EDDIE
NEWMAN.



POLICE PRECINCT FOR DISTRICT
E-6, SOUTH BOSTON, MA.

YES, I UNDERSTAND... I KNOW YOU HAVE - NO, I DON'T THINK MY CASE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS.

LOOK, I GOTTA LET YOU GO.

COME IN.

YOU OKAY IN HERE, MARTIN? HALF THE PLACE HEARD YOU SHOUTING A MINUTE AGO.

NO, NOT REALLY. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO GO WITH ON THIS DAMNED CASE, AND NOW THE M.E. TELLS ME THEY CAN'T EVEN GET TO THE VICTIM FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG.

TOP IT ALL OFF, THAT DAMNED P.I., JACK MCGRISKIN, SHOWED UP AT THE CRIME SCENE ALMOST AS SOON AS I DID THIS MORNING. HE ASKED ME SOME QUESTIONS, BUT I SWEAR TO GOD HE ALREADY KNEW EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW.

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE MCGRISKIN, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO...

NO... DON'T EVEN SAY IT...

...YOU CONSIDER ASKING HIM FOR HELP?

SIGH OH, I'VE CONSIDERED IT...









20TH FLOOR OF THE TECHNOATRENS CORP BUILDING, DOWNTOWN BOSTON.

MR. BELTRAM, SIR.

YES, SPEAK.

I JUST GOT BACK FROM JACK MCGRISKIN'S OFFICE...



EXCELLENT, THE MATTER'S PUT TO BED THEN I ASSUME.

N-NO, ACTUALLY. MCGRISKIN PLANS TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING. HE SAID HE HATES IT WHEN PEOPLE DIE ON HIM.



YOU EXPLAINED THE JOB WAS DONE WHEN NEWMAN WAS FOUND?

YES, SIR, OF COURSE.

THEN IT APPEARS WE'VE MISJUDGED MR. MCGRISKIN. ANOTHER PATH WILL NEED TO BE TAKEN. LEAVE ME.



SIR, I APOLOGIZE DEEPLY. I HAD NO IDEA HE WOULDN'T LET THIS DROP. FROM ALL WE KNEW HE WAS--

I SAID "LEAVE ME" AND I MEANT IT, MS. GORSCH. DO NOT MAKE ME TELL YOU AGAIN.

YES, SIR, I'M VERY SORRY, SIR.







KEEP THE MOTOR RUNNING, I DON'T PLAN TO BE LONG.

WANT SOME BACK-UP?

SLAM



FOR ROMANO? HEH, GOOD ONE.

I'LL BE BACK.



MAY I HELP YOU, SIR?

NO, THANKS. JUST HERE TO SEE ROMANO.

OH, I SEE.

YEP, I WON'T BE NO BOTHER.



NA-KO-KO-K



WHAT?

JACK MCGRISKIN, I NEED TO TALK TO ROMANO.

DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT...?



IT'S ALRIGHT, VIRGIL. JACK IS AN ACQUAINTANCE.

THANKS, I GUESS.



TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE, JACK?

I NEED INFORMATION. I NEED TO KNOW IF, AND WHERE, A MAN NAMED EDDIE NEWMAN LIKES TO GAMBLE IN THIS TOWN. AND WHO WITH.



RIGHT TO THE POINT, AS ALWAYS, JACK. NO PLEASANTRIES WITH YOU, ARE THERE?

I'M AFRAID I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FILE ON AN E. NEWMAN. MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME FIND IT...?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



PLAY THE GAME, JACK! YOU'LL ENJOY LIFE MORE...

WHAT DO YOU WANT, ROMANO?



FINE, HAVE IT YOUR WAY. MAKE ME AN OFFER, HAMMER.

TWO LEGAL BACKGROUND CHECKS...



ABSOLUTELY NO-

...AND THE NEGATIVES FROM '97.



YOU HAVE THOSE...?



I SURE DO.

DEAL. LET ME MAKE SOME CALLS.



I CAN TAKE YOU TO THE DOOR, JACK. IT'S NO PROBLEM.

THIS IS FINE. DON'T WANNA CALL ANY ATTENTION TO MYSELF.



AT LEAST LET ME GO WITH YOU, JACK!

I WORK ALONE, STU. JUST HEAD BACK TO MY OFFICE AND HAVE RAMONA CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE WEEK.

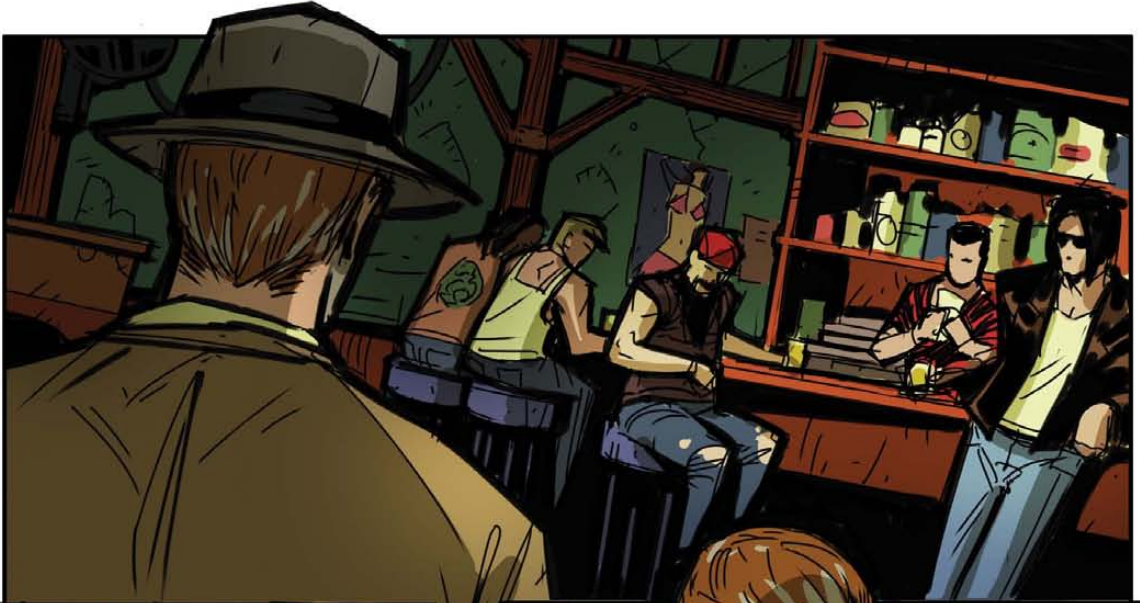
AND SHE KNOWS WHAT TO PAY YOU SO NO FUNNY S#%T, YOU LITTLE WEASEL.



STU'S A GOOD GUY. I GIVE HIM CRAP CUZ HE'S A LITTLE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, AND HE'S ALWAYS GOT SOMETHING GOING ON THE SIDE BUT I KNOW HE'D GET MY BACK IF I ASKED HIM. HELL, WHO AM I TO TALK ABOUT "ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES?"



STILL, HE'S A WHEELMAN NOT A FIGHTER. NOT REALLY SURE HE'D BE MUCH HELP EVEN IF I DID WANT IT.





REALLY?
AIN'T NO SIGN
OUT FRONT
SAYS SO.

REALLY.
AND WE DON'T NEED
A SIGN, SO IF YOU
DON'T WANT TROUBLE
I SUGGEST YOU
GET MOVIN'.



WELL,
AREN'T YOU
A FRIENDLY
BUNCH?

HOW'D I GO
ABOUT JOINING
YOUR LITTLE CLUB
SO I CAN FINISH
MY DRINK?



HAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

YOU GOTTA
BE TOUGH AS HELL,
MAN. C'MON, I AIN'T
PLAYIN'. GET UP
OUTTA HERE NOW.



YEAH?
AND WHO'S
THE TOUGHEST
GUY HERE?

ME.



CRACK!

WRONG.
I AM.



ANYONE ELSE OR CAN I FINISH MY DAMNED DRINK?!



##\$! YOU, MAN! YOU CAN'T COME IN OUR PAD AND--

SETTLE, PLEASE.



LEGGO MY - OH... YESSIR... SORRY...



MR. MCGRISKIN, COME WITH ME PLEASE.


TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

THERE ARE EASIER WAYS TO ANNOUNCE YOUR PRESENCE THAN ANTAGONIZING THE PATRONS, YOU KNOW.



WHAT FUN WOULD THAT BE?

INDEED.



SO WHAT KINDA OPERATION'S FELIPPE GOT HERE? THE GAMBLING ON SITE OR WHAT?

ROMANO SAID HE'D ARRANGED A SIT DOWN, BUT I ONLY KNOW YOUR BOSS BY REPUTATION.

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY. INTRODUCTIONS WILL BE MADE AND YOU'LL BE TOLD WHAT YOU NEED TO BE TOLD.



AFTER YOU, MR. MCGRISKIN.



HEY, WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON HERE?

SAW!



NICE OF YOU TO STOP BY, JACK HAMMER.

SHAME YOU WON'T BE WITH US LONG. HEEHEEHEE!

MAYBE I SHOULD RE-THINK THE WORKING ALONE THING...

CONTINUED!