

'Tis the
season in
Radiant
City...

...Record
snow and
ice—

—and a
string of
senseless
stabblings."

SAME AS
THE OTHERS.
NOT ROBBERY...
ALWAYS IN THE
MORNING.

"I had been
running late
all morning.
First there
was the
latest murder.
I had to spend
some time at
the scene of
the crime.
Fortunately,
it was right
on the way to
my next stop.

IT'S
LIKE THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
IS CURSED.

AND...

IT'S OBVIOUS
WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
WE HAVE TO KEEP
A LID ON THIS.

YOU
DIDN'T TELL
THAT REPORTER
ANYTHING, DID
YOU?

NO, SIR.
SHE WAS IN
A RUSH
ANYWAY.

BAUBLES
★
THE WORLD'S
BUSIEST STORE

BAU
★
THE WO
BUSIEST

"I barely had time to pick up Poppa's gift before meeting him at the terminal."



DO YOU HAVE YOUR CLAIM CHECK?

HERE, I'M IN A HURRY, PLEASE.

"So, I didn't really have time to make small talk with any of Santa's helpers."

"But when I saw a familiar face-- a particular face--I couldn't resist."



MERCEDES?

STONE?

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU GOT OUT OF CUSTODY--

WITH YOUR HELP.

YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER--

OH, PLEASE, I'VE PUT ON A TON OF WEIGHT. MY HAIR HASN'T QUITE GROWN BACK--GOOD THING THIS JOB COMES WITH A WIG.

VERMILION LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

HA! IT'S JUST FOR THE HOLIDAYS. NEED THE EXTRA COIN, THIS YEAR.

HERE YOU ARE, MA'AM. MERRY--ER-- HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

EEP!

SAY, DO YOU EVER SEE-- um, MISTER--

LOOK, HONEY, I HAVE TO RUN. LET'S CATCH UP.

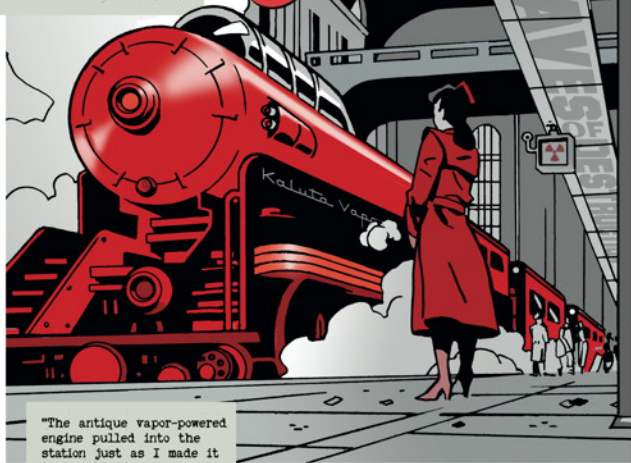
SURE, MAYBE COCKTAILS--

COFFEE, I'LL CALL YOU. BYE.

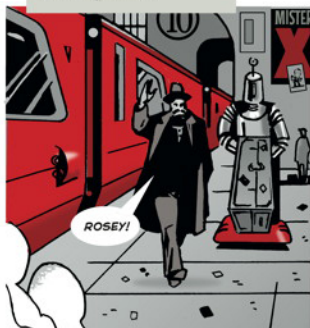
"Fortunately the Aeolian Express was late. Poppa gets irritated when he has to wait. And he's a master at guilt. So at least I would be spared the old rabbi's lecture—
—on this subject, anyway.

Rosetta Stone

GIRL REPORTER in



"The antique vapor-powered engine pulled into the station just as I made it to the platform."





SO.
THIS CITY...
I REMEMBER
WHEN IT WAS NEW
AND SHINY. NOW,
NOT SO MUCH.

MY APARTMENT
ISN'T FAR. BUT THIS
STEAMER IS KINDA HEAVY
FOR THIS WEATHER. WE
CAN GRAB A HACK AT
THE CORNER...

STILL,
THE SNOW
COVERS
THE CRACKS
NICELY, EH?



ding
ding
ding



MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
HENRY.

CLUNK
CLUNK

MIZ
STONE...



WHAT?
I'M TRYING
TO STAY OFF HIS
NAUGHTY LIST
THIS YEAR.

OY.



221B
RUNYON
SQUARE.

ONE BLOCK?
STILL GOTTA
CHARGE YOU
FULL FARE
LADY.

YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANY HOLIDAY
SPIRIT?

I'M ON
DUTY.



