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DIRK GENTLY'S

HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY



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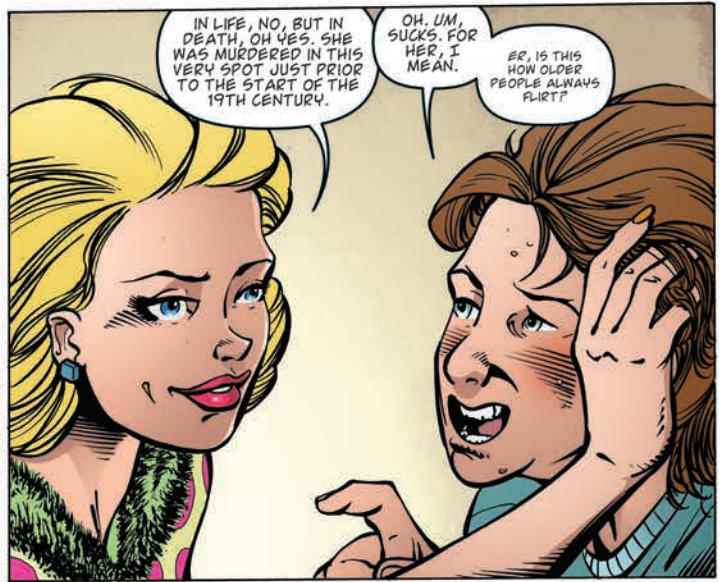
**THE HOTEL
DEL CORONADO
STAIRWELL.**

HAMISCH, ENIGMATIC WOULD-BE-PARTNER TO DIRK GENTLY, THINKS HE'S MAKING TIME WITH AN INTERESTED FEMALE SUITOR.

RATHER, HE'S MARKING TIME, AS ESTELLE PARSNIP, ONE OF THE COPYCAT KILLERS, SIZES UP HER LATEST PREY.

I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY OF KATE FARMER AT THIS HOTEL, AREN'T YOU, HORNISH?

YEAH, IT'S ACTUALLY HAMISCH. AND NO, I DON'T KNOW KATE FARMER. ANYONE SPECIAL?



IN LIFE, NO, BUT IN DEATH, OH YES. SHE WAS MURDERED IN THIS VERY SPOT JUST PRIOR TO THE START OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

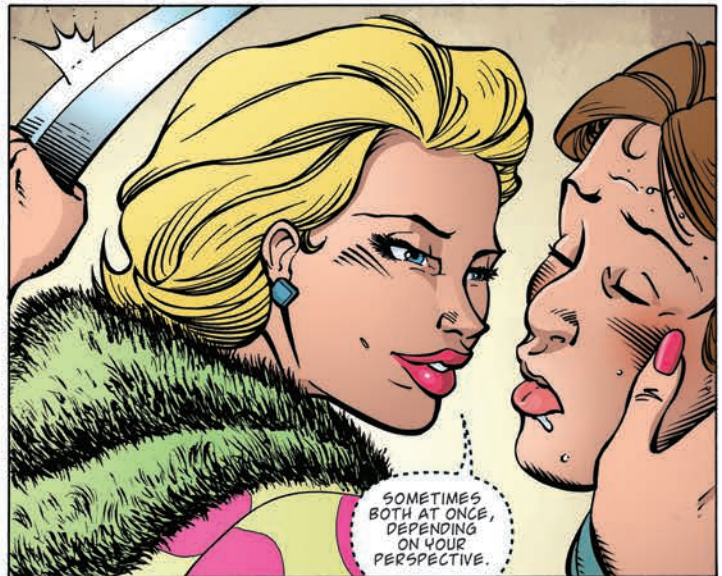
OH, UM, SUCKS. FOR HER, I MEAN.

ER, IS THIS HOW OLDER PEOPLE ALWAYS FLIRT?



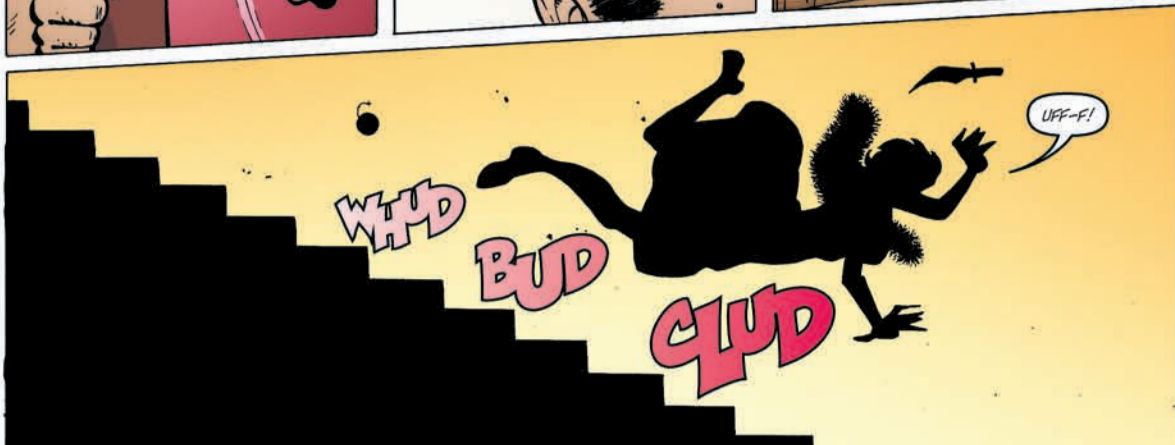
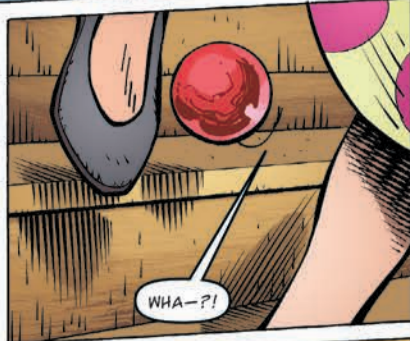
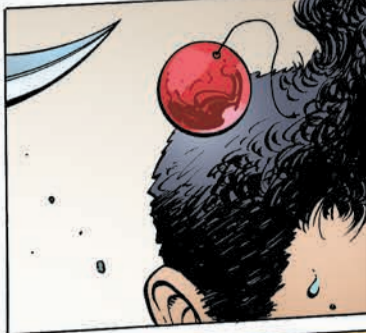
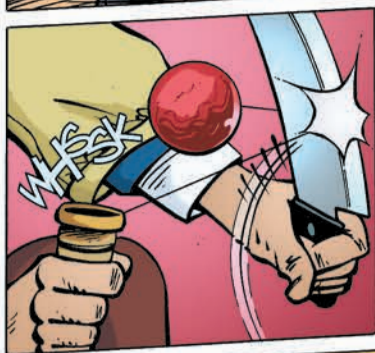
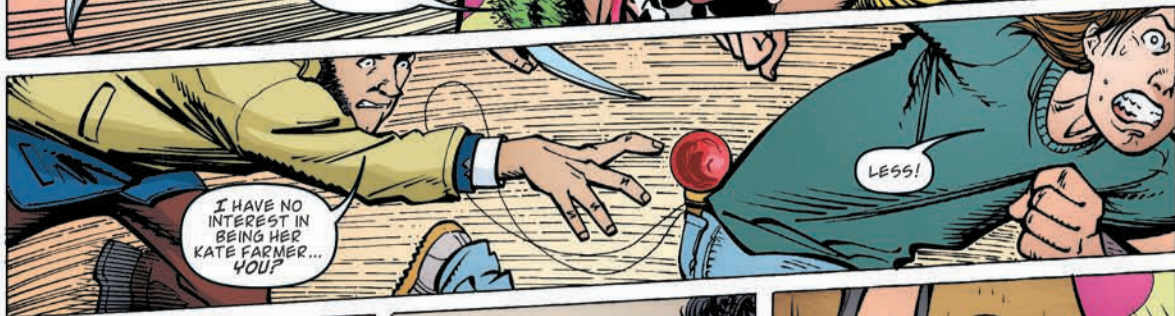
I FIND THE DARKER SIDE OF LIFE TO BE INTOXICATING; AROUSING.

KATE FARMER WAS LIVING PROOF THAT BOTH GOOD AND BAD THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN STAIRWELLS.



SOMETIMES BOTH AT ONCE, DEPENDING ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE.









MADAM, PLEASE, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS, YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

SIR? WE'VE HAD NOISE COMPLAINTS INVOLVING A CURIOUSLY ATTIRED MAN MUCH LIKE YOURSELF...

FOUL DEEDS—AND RATHER TARDY ROOM SERVICE, I MUST SAY—ARE AFOOT HERE!



WAIT, WHAT IS CURIOUS ABOUT MY ATTIRE?

THE COAT. SAN DIEGO. SUMMER.

NOW, YOU WERE SAYING? WAS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THE SUITE?



WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION, THE ICE MACHINE IS LOCATED FRIGHTFULLY FAR FROM THE ROOM.

DIRK, THE POLICE!

PLEASE HAVE HER CALL THEM.



RIGHT.

OF MORE PRESSING CONCERN THAN UNFORTUNATELY PLACED ICE-MAKERS IS, THIS HOTEL NEEDS TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO IT ALLOWS IN.

OF THAT, I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.



NOT ONLY ARE YOUR STAIRWELLS FRIGHTFUL, BUT THERE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A DISTINCT GAS LEAK IN THE SUITE UPSTAIRS, OF A MOST SEVERE NATURE.

MY ASSOCIATES AND I WOULD NEVER INTERACT WITH THE SORT OF RIFF-RAFF WE'VE HAD TO CONTEND WITH HERE, LET ME TELL Y—

FRIEND DIRK, IS THAT YOU?!