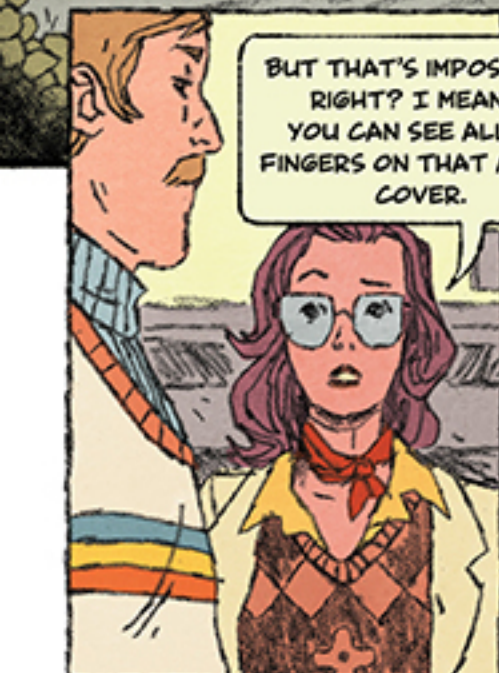




WAIT A SECOND--
TREAD LIGHTLY HAD
HIS FINGERS
CHOPPED OFF? SIX
MONTHS BEFORE HE
SHOWED UP ON 52ND
STREET?


MMM.




BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
RIGHT? I MEAN--
YOU CAN SEE ALL HIS
FINGERS ON THAT ALBUM
COVER.



I KNOW.
BUT IT
HAPPENED.



OKAY. LET'S SAY IT DID
HAPPEN. HOW DO YOU
EXPLAIN HIM RETURNING
FROM HAWAII WITH ALL
OF HIS FINGERS, PLAY-
ING BETTER THAN HE'D
EVER PLAYED BEFORE?



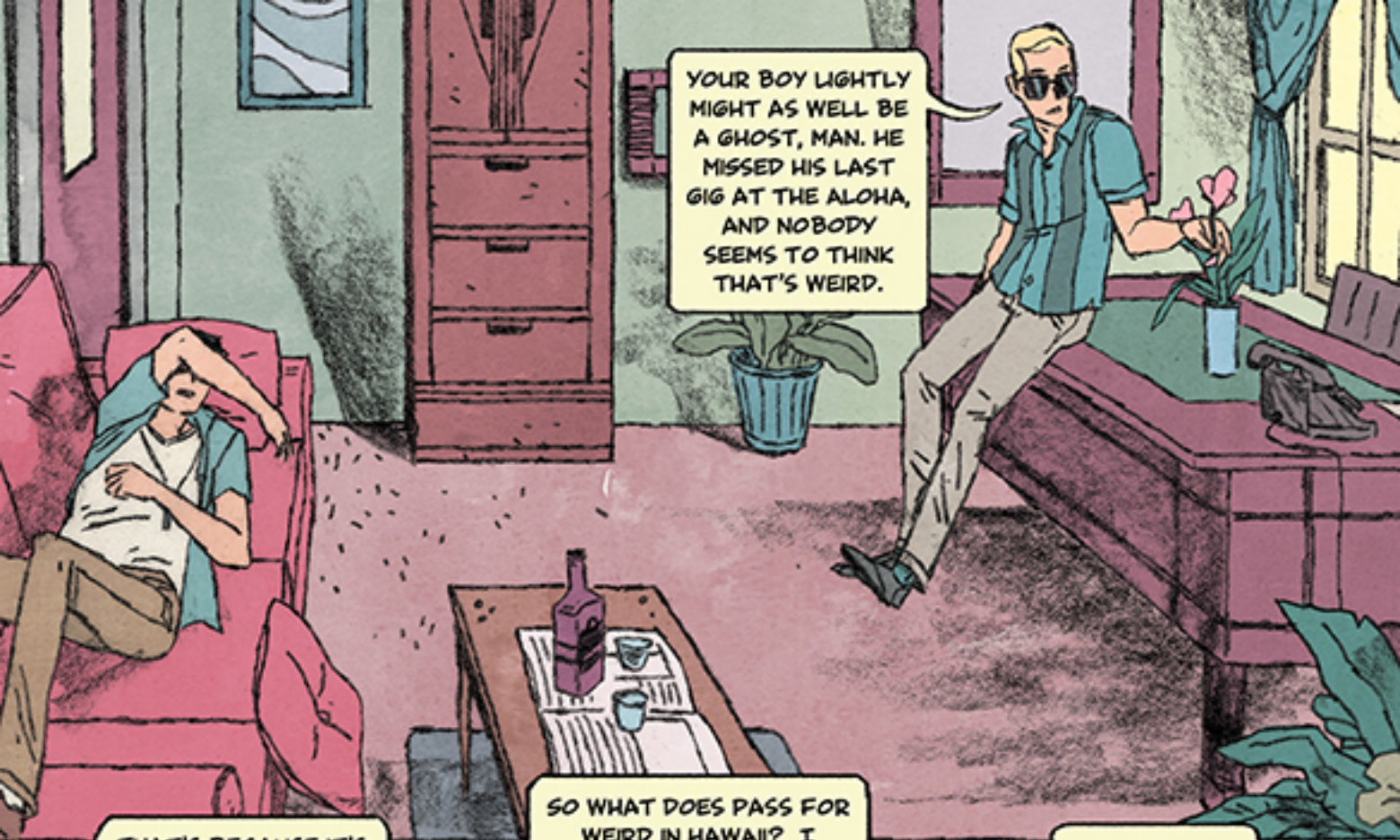
I CAN'T. BUT
IT DIDN'T TAKE
ME LONG TO
REALIZE THAT
THINGS IN
HAWAII WERE
NEVER EASY
TO EXPLAIN.

I CLEARLY NEED TO
DO MORE RESEARCH
ON THIS MASAKI
CHARACTER.



SO.

WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT?

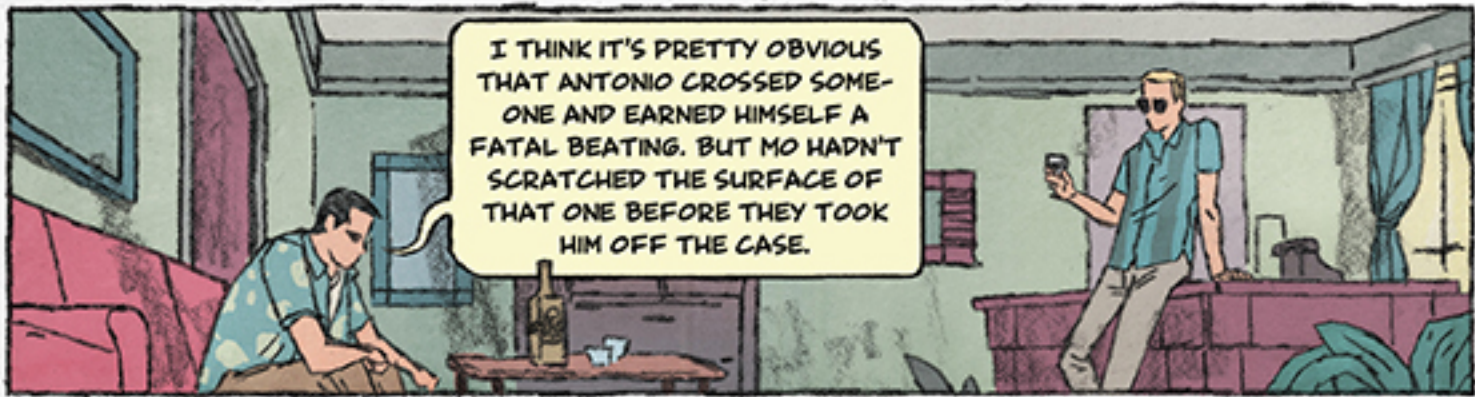


YOUR BOY LIGHTLY MIGHT AS WELL BE A GHOST, MAN. HE MISSED HIS LAST GIG AT THE ALOHA, AND NOBODY SEEMS TO THINK THAT'S WEIRD.

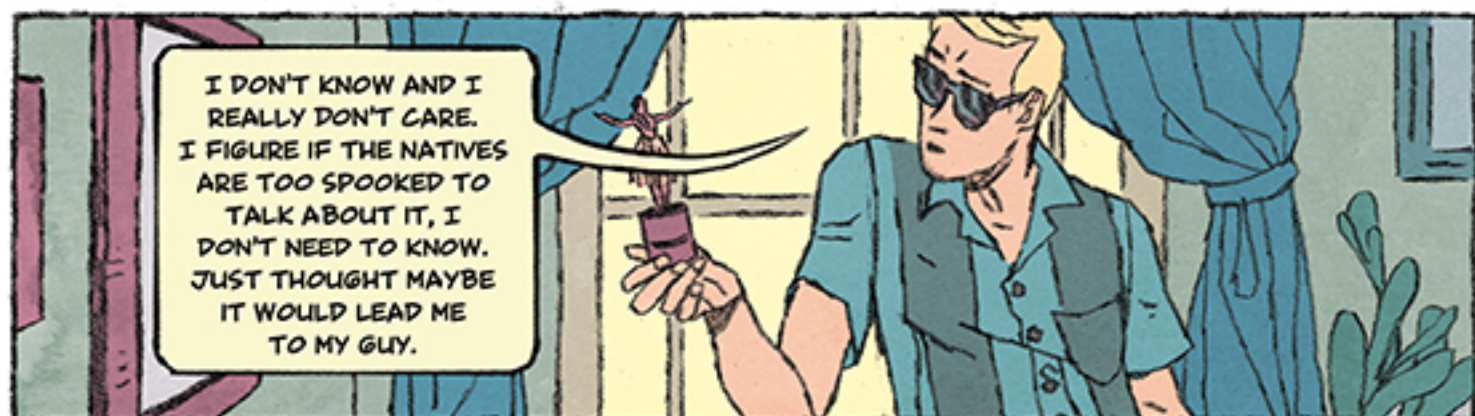
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S NOT WEIRD. THINGS MOVE AT A DIFFERENT SPEED OUT HERE, MIKE. AND HOW MANY JAZZ MUSICIANS DO YOU KNOW WHO WATCH CLOCKS OR CALENDARS?

SO WHAT DOES PASS FOR WEIRD IN HAWAII? I MANAGED TO CONNECT WITH SOME OF THE LOCAL SMALL-TIMERS AND THEY'RE ALL SCARED TO DEATH OVER SOME LOCAL BOSS THEY WOULDN'T EVEN NAME. SOME THOUGHT MAYBE LIGHTLY WAS IN BED WITH HIM.

LOCAL BOSS? I WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE.



I THINK IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT ANTONIO CROSSED SOMEONE AND EARNED HIMSELF A FATAL BEATING. BUT HE HADN'T SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF THAT ONE BEFORE THEY TOOK HIM OFF THE CASE.



I DON'T KNOW AND I REALLY DON'T CARE. I FIGURE IF THE NATIVES ARE TOO SPOOKED TO TALK ABOUT IT, I DON'T NEED TO KNOW. JUST THOUGHT MAYBE IT WOULD LEAD ME TO MY GUY.



OH--HI.

HEY HEY.

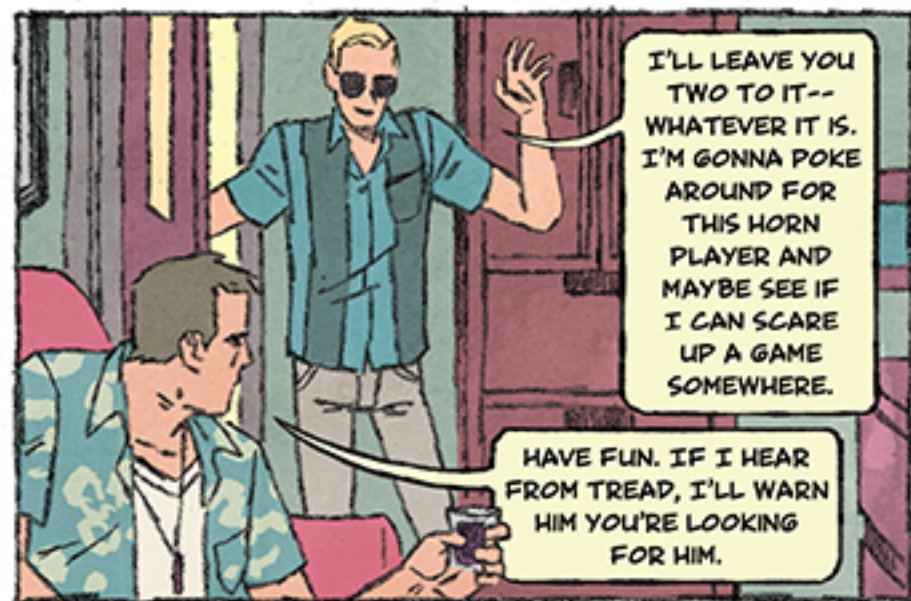


KAHAMI. MEET MIKE BYRD. MIKE BYRD IS MY BROTHER. HE WAS JUST ON HIS WAY OUT.



HI, MIKE.

WELL HELLO, KAHAMI.



I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO TO IT-- WHATEVER IT IS. I'M GONNA POKE AROUND FOR THIS HORN PLAYER AND MAYBE SEE IF I CAN SCARE UP A GAME SOMEWHERE.

HAVE FUN. IF I HEAR FROM TREAD, I'LL WARN HIM YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HIM.