

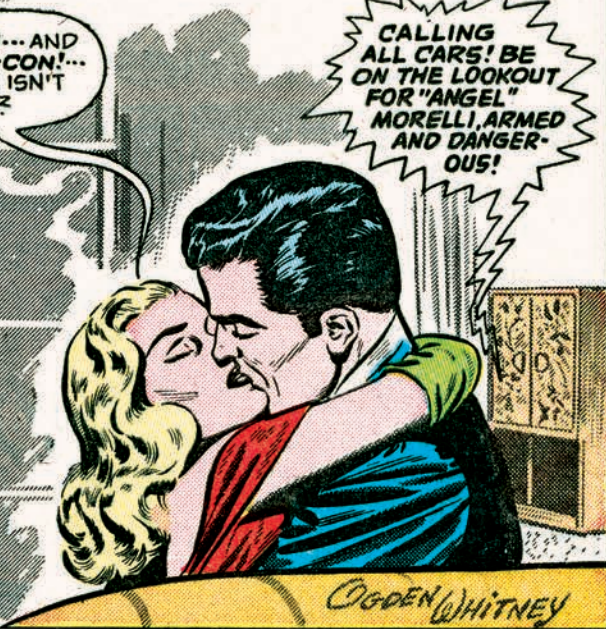
"GO AHEAD, STARE AT ME...AND DON'T BOTHER HIDIN' THAT SNEER! OH, I'VE LEARNED TO TAKE IT ALL THE YEARS OF MY LIFE...THE PRYIN', MOCKIN' GLANCES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU, SO SECURE IN YOUR VIRTUE...SO READY TO CONDEMN PEOPLE LIKE ME! AND HOW I WISH I COULD SAY I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK OF ME...BUT WHO AM I KIDDIN'? NOW, WHEN IT'S TOO LATE, I'VE LEARNED TO CARE A LOT! THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA TELL YOU HOW IT WAS WITH ME...SHOW YOU EVERY DIRTY, ROTTEN THING THAT I'VE FACED! THEN MAYBE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE CAN BE SUCH A THING AS A...

JAILBIRD'S ROMANCE!



LOVE... AND A SHE-CON!... FUNNY, ISN'T IT?

CALLING ALL CARS! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR "ANGEL" MORELLI, ARMED AND DANGEROUS!



OGDEN WHITNEY

"FUNNY THING, FATE...PICKIN' UNLIKELY FOLKS FOR UNLIKELY NICHES IN LIFE! THESE FOUR, FOR INSTANCE...WOULDN'T YOU PICK 'EM FOR THREE HARD CASES AND ONE SWEETNESS-AND-LIGHT?"



"SUCKER! NO.1, TEACHER...NO.2, MINISTER'S WIFE...NO.3, SOCIAL WORKER! AND NO.4? NONE OTHER THAN ME, LITTLE ANGEL MORELLI... THE ONE THEY CALL THE MOST HARDENED WOMAN CRIMINAL OF THE PAST DECADE! HARD...AND MAYBE A LITTLE PATHETIC, TOO..."

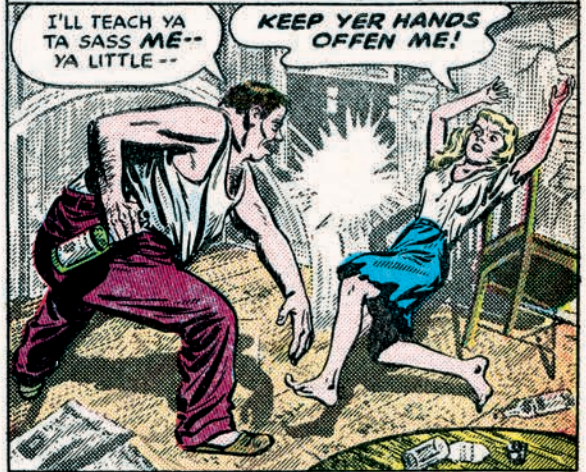
I'D HATE TO MEET HER IN A DARK ALLEY! JUST A MAD-DOG KILLER, THROUGH AND THROUGH!



"WELL, READER, HOW ABOUT YOU... SCARED OF ME, TOO? UH-HUH... AND WONDERIN' HOW COME THINGS LIKE ME EVER CAME TO BE! FOR THE ANSWER, LET'S TURN BACK THE CLOCK TO ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AGO... BACK TO NEW YORK'S TENEMENT DISTRICT! IF A KID'S INSTINCTS WERE RIGHT, THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHANCE TO FLOURISH HERE... ESPECIALLY IF SHE WAS HUNGRY!"



"YEAH, THAT'S HOW IT STARTS SO OFTEN... HUNGER! IT'S A PRETTY HARD THING FOR HONESTY TO STAND UP BEFORE THAT! AND AS FOR THOSE OTHER WONDERFUL QUALITIES WHICH SOCIETY CHERISHES... WELL, IF THERE WERE ANY TENDERNESS OR MERCY WITHIN A KID, HER DRUNKEN FATHER COULD SOON BEAT IT OUT!"



'GOOD TIMES? HEY, WHAT IS THIS... THE SALVATION ARMY? WE DIDN'T KNOW A PARTY FROM A PICNIC! BUT WE DID HAVE US A LITTLE BASEMENT CLUB-HOUSE... AND I'D ALWAYS LIKED ALFIE MCCABE, WHO RAN IT...'



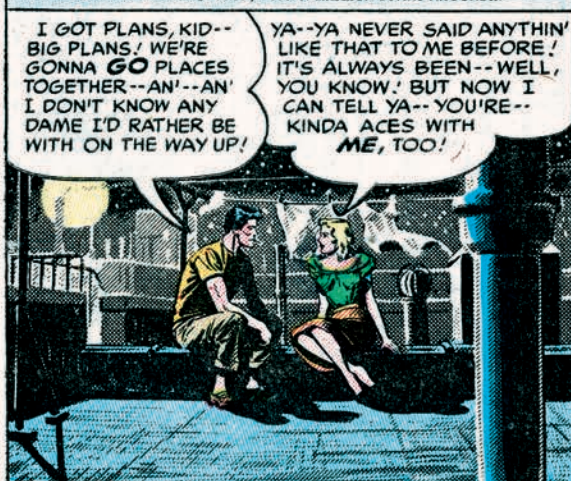
"YEAH... I WASN'T HARD TO LOOK AT AS TIME WENT ON! THAT'S WHAT ALFIE THOUGHT... BUT HE DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE THINKIN' SO!"



"THINK YOU LEARN VIRTUE WHEN YOU GROW UP LIKE I DID? WHAT A LAUGH! YOU WANT THINGS... AND HOW ARE YOU GONNA GET 'EM? ME, I WAS LUCKY... THERE WAS ALWAYS ALFIE AROUND TO HELP! IT WAS HIM WHO TAUGHT ME SHOPLIFTIN'... IF YOU CAN STAND THAT AWFUL WORD..."

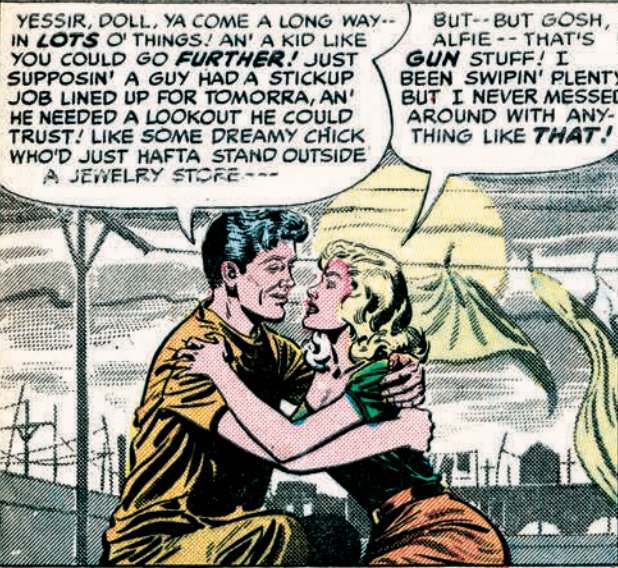


"OH, THERE WAS LOTS HE TAUGHT ME... HE WOULDA DONE ANYTHIN' FOR ME, ALFIE WOULDA! BY THE TIME I WAS EIGHTEEN, WE HAD OUR JOBS DOWN TO A SYSTEM, AND WE WERE PRACTICALLY IN THE DOUGH! AND ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH STICKS MOST IN MY MIND WAS THAT ONE NIGHT... UP ON THE ROOF, WITH A MILLION STARS AROUND..."



"HOW I WISH YOU COULDA BEEN THERE TO SEE AND HEAR, ALL YOU WISE GUY HYPOCRITES WHO'VE CALLED ANGEL MORELLI... WHAT WAS IT? OH YES... AN ANTI-SOCIAL ANIMAL! THERE WASN'T ANYTHIN' ANTI-SOCIAL ABOUT ME THEN... WITH ALFIE'S ARMS TIGHT AROUND ME AND MY HEART BEATIN', BEATIN' AWAY LIKE CRAZY! IF I WEREN'T AN ANIMAL, SOMEBODY MIGHTA EVEN THOUGHT I LOVED THE GUY!"





YESSIR, DOLL, YA COME A LONG WAY-- IN **LOTS** O' THINGS! AN' A KID LIKE YOU COULD GO **FURTHER!** JUST SUPPOSIN' A GUY HAD A STICKUP JOB LINED UP FOR TOMORRA, AN' HE NEEDED A LOOKOUT HE COULD TRUST! LIKE SOME DREAMY CHICK WHO'D JUST HAFTA STAND OUTSIDE A JEWELRY STOFF---

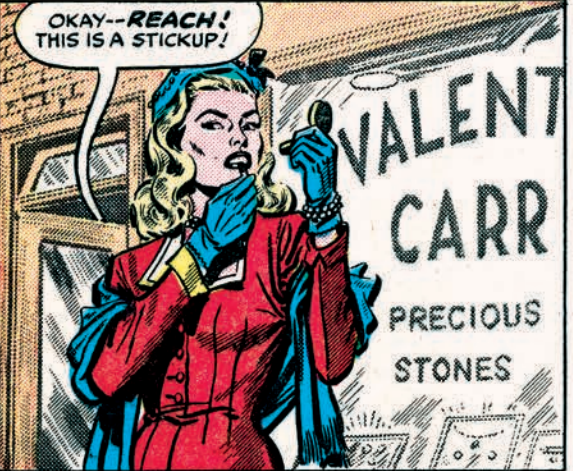
BUT--BUT GOSH, ALFIE-- THAT'S **GUN** STUFF! I BEEN SWIPIN' PLENTY, BUT I NEVER MESSED AROUND WITH ANY-THING LIKE **THAT!**



ALL I'VE DONE FOR **YOU--AN!** YA TURN OUT **CHICKEN!** OKAY, SISTER, I'VE HAD IT! THERE ARE PLENTY O' DAMES WHO'LL JUMP AT THE CHANCE TA TEAM UP WITH ME--**I'M THROUGH WITH YA!**

NO, NO--I--I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT! COME BACK, PLEASE-- I MUSTA BEEN **CRAZY!** I WANNA STRING ALONG ON THAT JOB--IF--IF YA'LL ONLY LET ME---

"SO THAT'S THE WAY LITTLE ANGEL STARTED HER SUCCESSFUL CAREER! I ASK YOU...TAKE A LOOK AT ME, AND TELL ME...WOULD YOU EVER HAVE SUSPECTED WHAT I WAS FRONTIN' FOR? WOULD YOU HAVE KNOWN THAT INSIDE I WAS QUAKIN' WITH TERROR?"



OKAY--REACH! THIS IS A STICKUP!

"BUT TIME PASSED, AND SO DID THE TERROR! I WAS A VETERAN NOW, AND NOTHIN' SCARED ME! WHAT A TEAM WE WERE, ME AND ALFIE...AND HOW THEY LOOKED UP TO US IN THE PROFESSION..."



HERE'S TA **ALFIE McCABE** --A REAL OPERATOR!

BETTER MAKE IT TA ANGELA HERE--**THE NERVIEST LITTLE SIDE-KICK AROUND!**

CHECK! BOY, I COULD USE A MOLL LIKE THAT!

"LOOKIN' BACK, IT WAS LIKE SOMETHIN' FROM ANOTHER WORLD! WE WERE RIDIN' THE CREST OF A WAVE, THE TWO OF US, AND NOTHIN' WAS TOO GOOD! I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT RITZY CAR...CHAUFFEURED BY DANNY REGAN, ALFIE'S COUSIN..."



NOW WHERE TO, ALFIE?

LOOK, JERK, I DON'T CARE IF YOU **ARE** RELATED! WHILE YER WORKIN' FOR ME, IT'S **MR. McCABE**, SEE?

"DANNY WAS MORE THAN A JERK...HE WAS A PROBLEM! LIKE THIS, FOR INSTANCE..."



AW, C'MON, **MR. McCABE!** FOR OLD TIMES SAKE, CANT CHA PUT ME NEXT TA SOME EASY DOUGH? I COULD HELP YA ON A JOB MAYBE--

YA AIN'T GOT THE PHYSIQUE, PUNK--OR THE GUTS EITHER! SO QUIT PESTERIN' ME!

"...AND LIKE THIS...WHEN ALFIE WASN'T AROUND!"



CLEANIN' ALFIE'S GUN FOR 'IM, EH? THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TA SEE--A GIRL WHO'S NICE AN' ACCOMMODATIN'!

LOOK, CHARACTER, I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF YOU TO KNOW YOU ALWAYS GOT AN **ANGLE!** WHAT'RE YOU AFTER?



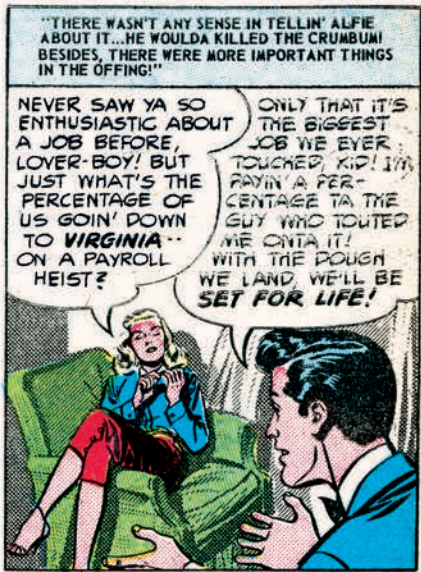
AW, C'MON, RELAX-- HE'S NOT AROUND! I BEEN NUTS ABOUT YA SINCE I CAME WORKIN' FOR ALFIE --IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY, ANYWAY---

IT IS, ISN'T IT? SO YOU WON'T MIND MY ACTIN' LIKE ALFIE WOULD!



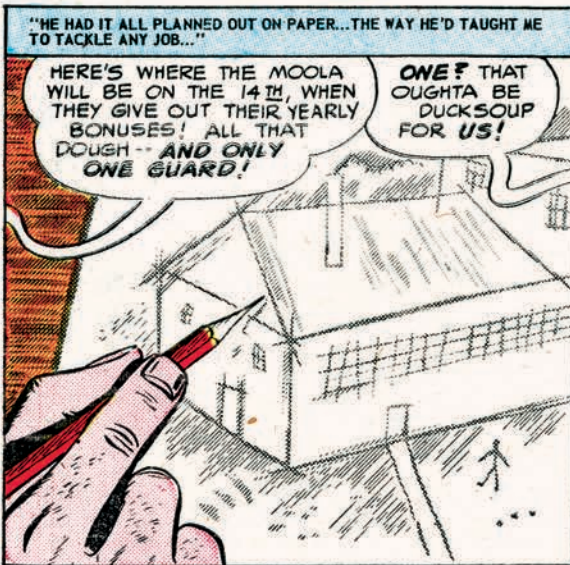
STICK TO BEIN' A CHAUFFEUR, RAT-- AND DON'T TRY TO CRASH MY LEAGUE!

OH-HHH!



NEVER SAW YA SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A JOB BEFORE, LOVER-BOY! BUT JUST WHAT'S THE PERCENTAGE OF US GOIN' DOWN TO VIRGINIA -- ON A PAYROLL HEIST?

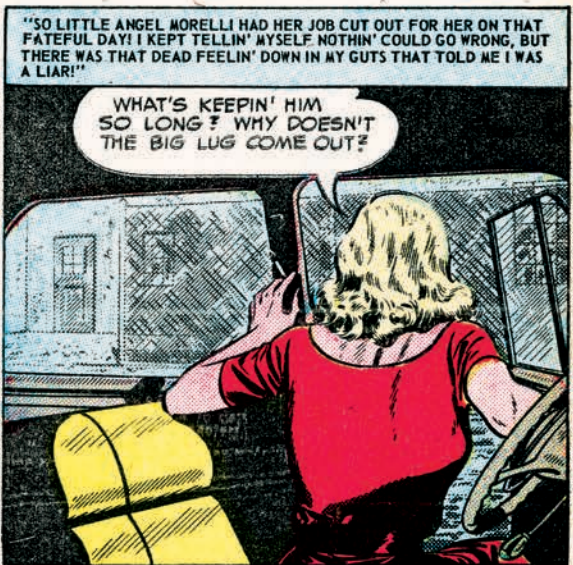
ONLY THAT IT'S THE BIGGEST JOB WE EVER TOUCHED, KID! I'M PAYIN' A PER-CENTAGE TA THE GUY WHO TOUTED ME ONTA IT! WITH THE DOUGH WE LAND, WE'LL BE SET FOR LIFE!



"HE HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT ON PAPER...THE WAY HE'D TAUGHT ME TO TACKLE ANY JOB..."

HERE'S WHERE THE MOOLA WILL BE ON THE 14TH, WHEN THEY GIVE OUT THEIR YEARLY BONUSES! ALL THAT DOUGH-- AND ONLY ONE GUARD!

ONE? THAT OUGHTA BE DUCKSOUP FOR US!



"SO LITTLE ANGEL MORELLI HAD HER JOB CUT OUT FOR HER ON THAT FATEFUL DAY! I KEPT TELLIN' MYSELF NOTHIN' COULD GO WRONG, BUT THERE WAS THAT DEAD FEELIN' DOWN IN MY GUTS THAT TOLD ME I WAS A LIAR!"

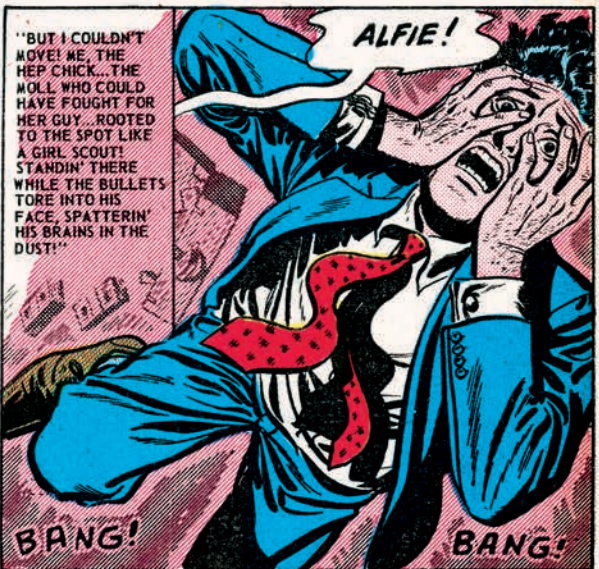
WHAT'S KEEPIN' HIM SO LONG? WHY DOESN'T THE BIG LUG COME OUT?



"YES, IT WAS TROUBLE...WRITTEN IN GUNSHOTS! I FELT A SCREAM TEAR AT MY THROAT AS IT HAPPENED...IN A CONFUSED BLUR OF MOTION..."

THE CAR! GET THE CAR STARTED, ANGEL!

BAM! BAM!



ALFIE!

"BUT I COULDN'T MOVE! ME, THE HEP CHICK...THE MOLL WHO COULD HAVE FOUGHT FOR HER GUY, ROOTED TO THE SPOT LIKE A GIRL SCOUT! STANDIN' THERE WHILE THE BULLETS TORE INTO HIS FACE, SPATTERIN' HIS BRAINS IN THE DUST!"

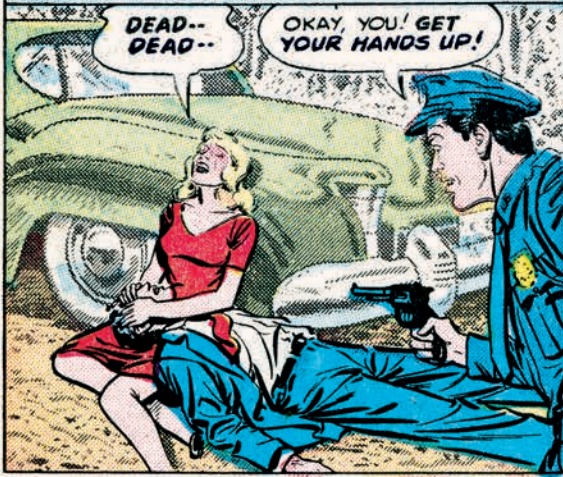
BANG!

BANG!

"LAUGH, WHY DON'T YOU... SAY, 'I TOLD YOU SO!' WHAT A DOPEY SIGHT I MUSTA BEEN... SITTIN' THERE LIKE A JERK... SCREAMIN' MY HEART OUT FOR THE BLOODY MESS WHOSE LIPS USED TO KISS MINE! OH, TELL ME TO SHUT UP, SOMEBODY... TELL ME I'M A HARDENED CRIMINAL, THE KIND THAT HASN'T GOT HUMAN FEELIN'S..."

DEAD-- DEAD--

OKAY, YOU! GET YOUR HANDS UP!



"IT WAS A HOLIDAY FOR THE LOCAL COPS, AND THEY MADE THE MOST OF IT! THEY HAD A BIG TIME GUN MOLL, AND THEY'D LEARNED HOW THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO ACT FROM THE MOVIES! THEY HADN'T HAD FUN LIKE THIS FOR YEARS!"

YA MUSTA PULLED OTHER JOBS IN VIRGINIA, DIDN'TCHA? TALK UP, OR --

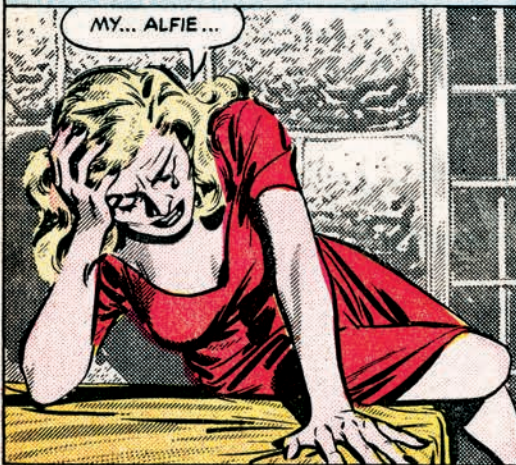
MAYBE SHE WAS THE DAME IN THAT RANDALL STICKUP! WERE YA?

WHO DO YA THINK YOU'RE UP AGAINST -- A CAMPFIRE GIRL? CHECK WITH THE NEW YORK COPS-- THEY'LL TELL YA ANGEL MORELLI KEEPS HER MOUTH SHUT!



"YEAH, LITTLE ANGEL KEEPS HER MOUTH SHUT... UNTIL SHE'S BACK IN HER CELL, VOMITIN' AT THE MEMORY OF BLOOD AND OOZIN' BRAINS... CRYIN' HER STUPID EYES OUT FOR HER MAN... FOR WHAT THEY'D BEEN TO EACH OTHER, THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN..."

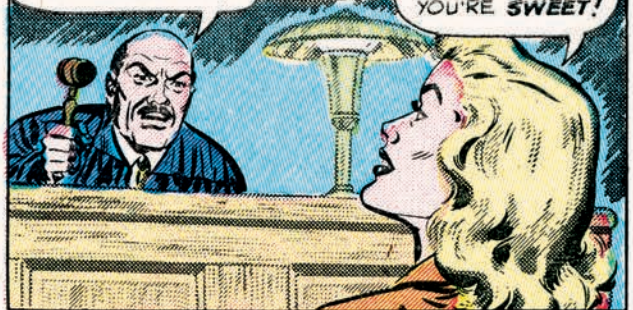
MY... ALFIE ...



"WELL, THIS WAS IT! I CAN JUST SEE YOU GOODY-GOODIES GETTIN' A BIG CHARGE OUTA ME ENDIN' UP WHERE YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT I WOULD... AT A JUDGE'S BENCH! BUT IF YOU THINK I WHINED, PLEADED FOR MERCY... YOU'RE NUTS!"

I WISH THAT THE SENTENCE I'M HANDING DOWN COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SEVERE -- BUT YOUR KIND HAS THE CUNNING TO RETAIN COUNSEL THAT CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW! THEREFORE I CAN ONLY SENTENCE YOU, ANGELA MORELLI, TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN THE STATE PENITENTIARY!

THANKS, DOC-- YOU'RE SWEET!



I'VE SEEN YOUR TYPE BEFORE -- THINK YOU'RE TOUGH! THEY'LL BREAK THAT SPIRIT OF YOURS IN HERE, SISTER-- THEY GOT WAYS!

WANNA BET? NOTHIN' THEY CAN DO WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO ME-- AND I'LL BE OUT AND ON TOP OF THE HEAP WHILE YOU'RE STILL WORKIN' FOR DIMES!



"FIVE YEARS! YEARS AS A NUMBER... SHUFFLIN' AROUND A COMPOUND WITH OTHER NUMBERS! YOU CONCENTRATE ON LEFT FOOT, RIGHT FOOT... YOU TRY NOT TO THINK..."

C'MON! PEP IT UP!



"FIVE YEARS... OF BACKBREAKIN' WORK, BUT YOU WELCOME IT! WATCH THAT IRON GO, BACK, FORTH! KEEP YOUR EYE ON IT... CLOSE ... AND DROWN OUT THE MEMORIES OF SILKEN CLOTHES AND LAUGHTER! DROWN OUT... HIM!"

