

"Journalists are detectives for the people."
—WAYNE BARRETT

Abbott™

CHAPTER ONE JUST MY IMAGINATION

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DETROIT, 1972

NIXON STEPS UP BOMBING, DETROITERS DEPLOYED

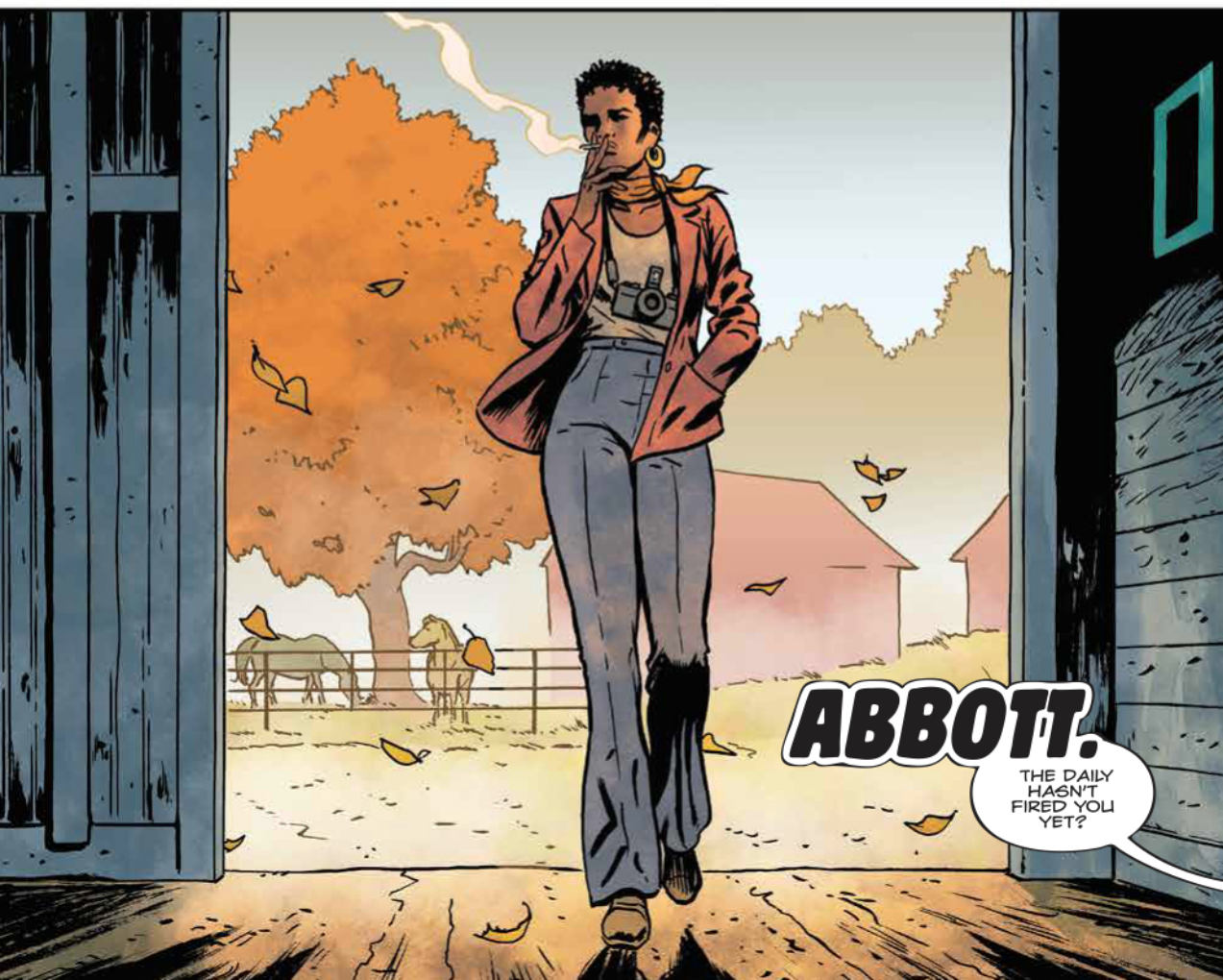
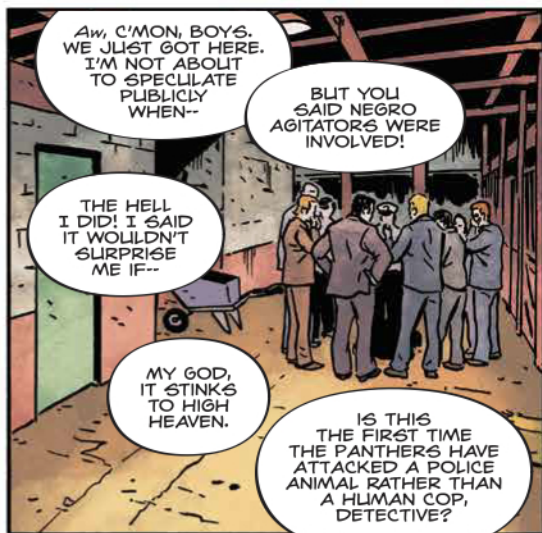
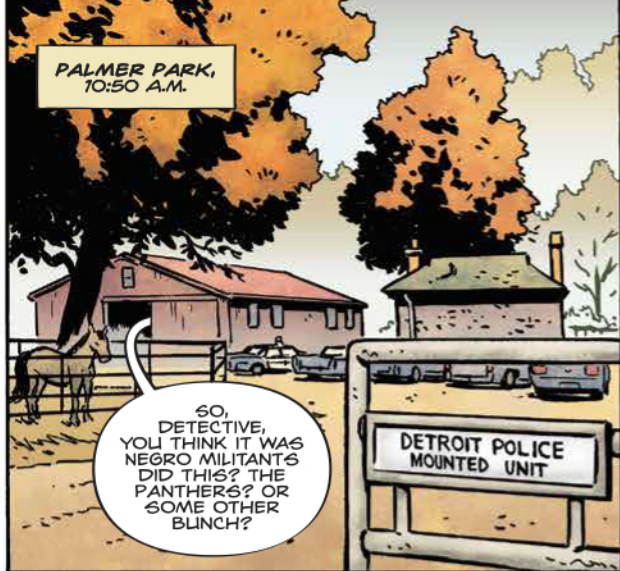
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

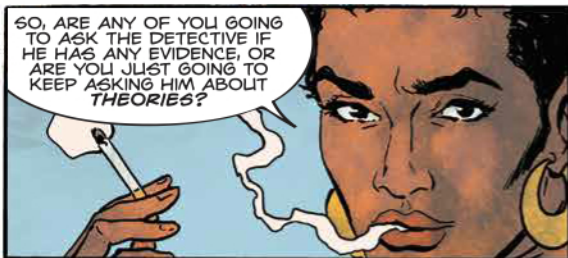
SEGREGATIONIST WALLACE WINS MICHIGAN

CITY ON THE EDGE

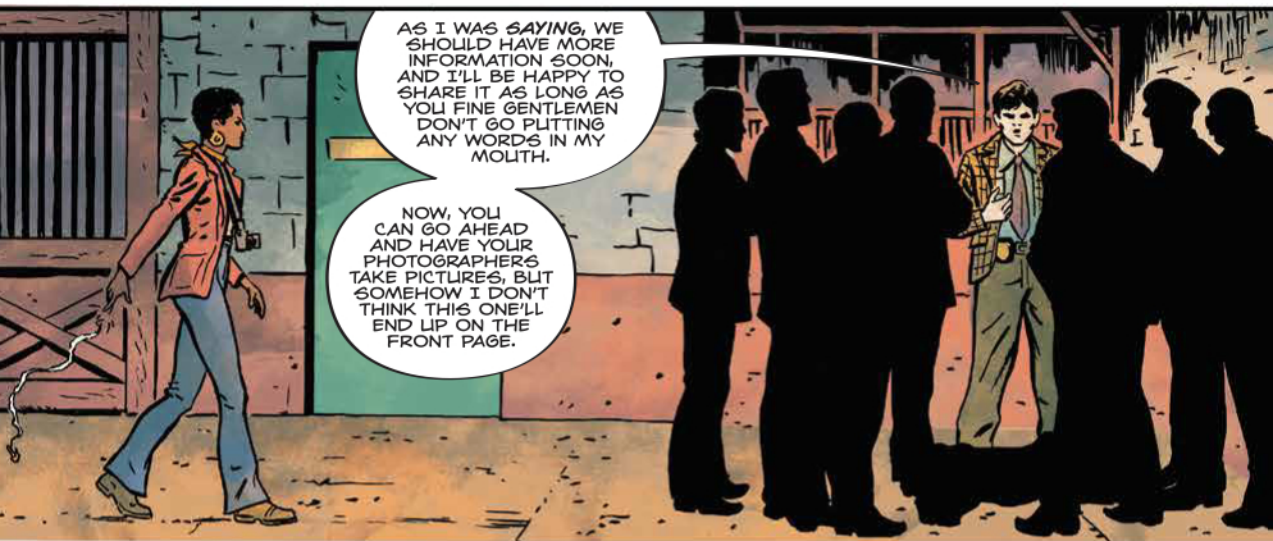
BY ELENA ABBOTT

Tensions between police and Detroit's black citizens thickened yesterday as demonstrators gathered at city hall to protest the killing of 14-year-old





SO, ARE ANY OF YOU GOING TO ASK THE DETECTIVE IF HE HAS ANY EVIDENCE, OR ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP ASKING HIM ABOUT THEORIES?



AS I WAS SAYING, WE SHOULD HAVE MORE INFORMATION SOON, AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHARE IT AS LONG AS YOU FINE GENTLEMEN DON'T GO PUTTING ANY WORDS IN MY MOUTH.

NOW, YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND HAVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS TAKE PICTURES, BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THIS ONE'LL END UP ON THE FRONT PAGE.



HOLY CRAP, ABBOTT, FRED'S GOT YOU TAKING YOUR OWN PICTURES NOW? THAT'S RIDICULOUS. HE GIVING YOU ANY KIND OF BUDGET?



HELLO, MURRAY. IT'S NOT FRED, IT'S THE HIGHER-UPS. SOMEONE DIDN'T CARE FOR MY POLICE BRUTALITY STORIES. I'M BEING PUNISHED.

THAT'S TOO BAD. YOU'RE A GOOD REPORTER, ABBOTT. A DAMN GOOD REPORTER. BETTER THAN THE LITTLE @#%\$ I'M WORKING WITH NOW.



THANK YOU, MURRAY. AND YOU'RE THE BEST CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER IN DETROIT.

NOW YOU'RE JUST FLATTERING ME.

WELL, IT IS POSSIBLE I'M HOPING YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT THE POLICE KNOW HERE, SINCE NO ONE ELSE WILL.



NOTHING, ABBOTT. THEY'RE TRYING TO PIN IT ON NEGROES, BUT THEY GOT NOTHING, FAR AS I CAN TELL.

MOTHER OF GOD, THIS THING SMELLS AWFUL.

clk WHRRR clk WHRR

FWASH



2ND AVENUE,
12:47 P.M.

BROADWAY'S BLACK STAR DINER

...AND
YOU THINK
HE CAN BEAT
ALI? ARE
YOU JIVING
ME?

WE'RE TALKING
MUHAMMAD ALI,
NOW, RIGHT? NOT
ALI THE OLD ARAB
WITH THE LIQUOR
STORE?

YOU LOST
YOUR MIND,
MAN. I'LL TAKE
THAT BET.

MISS
ELENA!

HELLO,
EVERYONE.

HERE SHE
IS, THE BLACK
LOIS LANE! THE
VOICE OF THE
PEOPLE! THE
USUAL, MISS
ELENA?

YES,
WARDEN.
THANK
YOU.

NO
DISRESPECT,
MISS ELENA, BUT WHY
DO YOU ALWAYS ORDER
THE SAME THING? MY POPS'
OMELETTES ARE GOOD, BUT
THEY AIN'T *THAT* GOOD.

HABIT, YOUNG
MAN. ORDER. IT'S
WHAT KEEPS
CHAOS AT
BAY.

WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T BE
EATING IN RESTAURANTS ALL
THE TIME. YOU SHOULD
HAVE SOMEONE TAKING
CARE OF YOU
AT HOME.

I KNOW YOU
DON'T COOK, BUT
IT'S ALMOST 1973! THE
WORLD IS CHANGING. YOU
COULD FIND YOURSELF A
BROTHER WHO ISN'T
AFRAID OF AN
INDEPENDENT
WOMAN...

A YOUNG
BROTHER. A
BROTHER WHO
RESPECTS YOUR
JOURNALISTIC
TENACITY. A
BROTHER WHO KNOWS
HOW TO
COOK...

WELL,
MERCY MERCY
ME! YOUNG MAN,
YOU ARE ADORABLE.
BUT I'M ALMOST
TWENTY YEARS
OLDER THAN
YOU.

THAT DON'T
MEAN--