

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

Abbott™

CHAPTER ONE JUST MY IMAGINATION

Written by
SALADIN AHMED

Illustrated by
SAMI KIVELÄ

Colored by
JASON WORDIE

Lettered by
JIM CAMPBELL

Designer
MICHELLE ANKLEY

Associate Editor
CHRIS ROSA

Editor
ERIC HARBURN

ABBOTT Created by
SALADIN AHMED

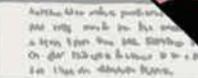
Covers by
**TAJ TENFOLD &
MICAELA DAWN**

Unlocked Retailer Variant Cover by
TULA LOTAY

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DETROIT, 1972



NIXON STEPS UP BOMBING, DETROITERS DEPLOYED

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS



WALLACE

SEGREGATIONIST WALLACE WINS MICHIGAN

LAST FEW DAYS

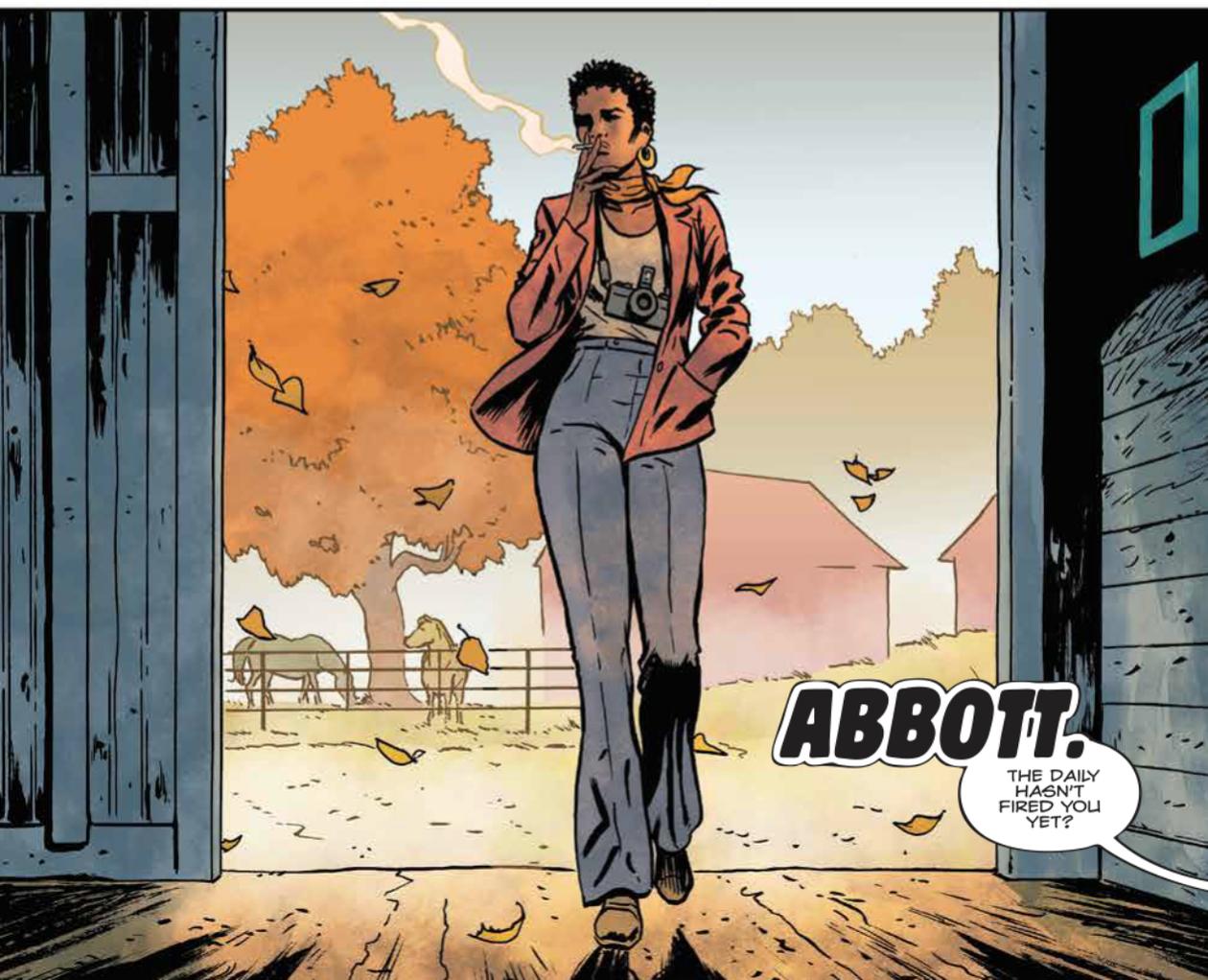
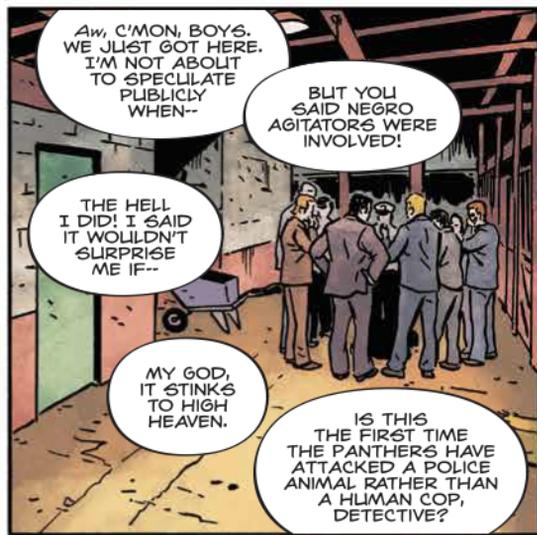
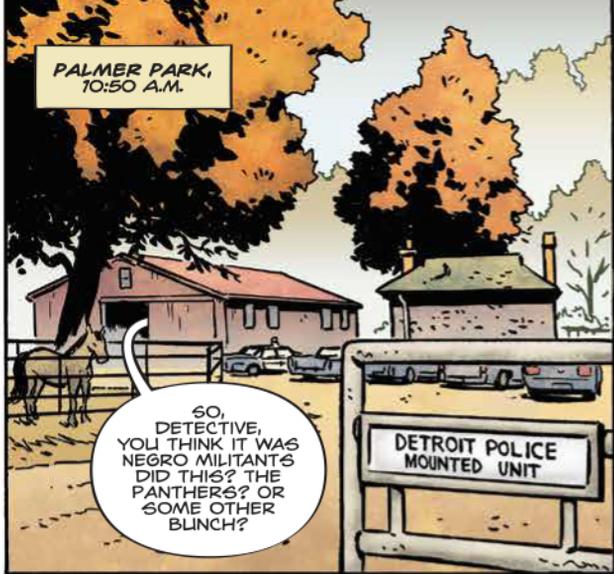


CITY ON THE EDGE

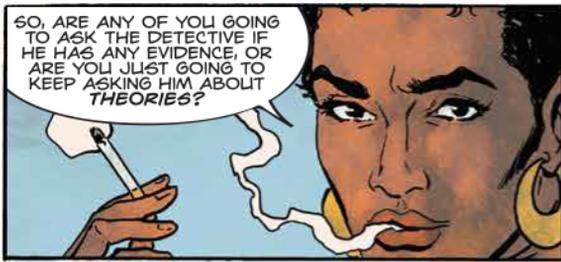
BY ELENA ABBOTT



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

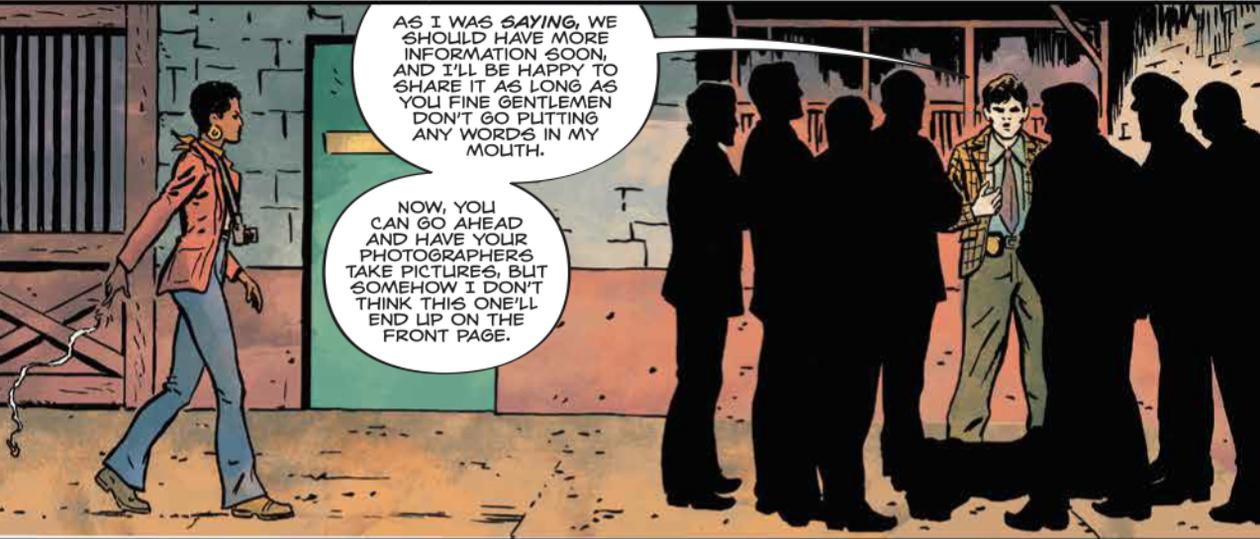


SO, ARE ANY OF YOU GOING TO ASK THE DETECTIVE IF HE HAS ANY EVIDENCE, OR ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP ASKING HIM ABOUT THEORIES?



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.





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, WARDELL. 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--