

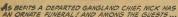
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THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR QUEEN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS ...

THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS IT WAS BRANNIGAN WHO PULLED THAT CUTE TRICK ON NICK CARDONI, DAD! HOW COME YOU HAVEN'T CRACKED DOWN ON BRANNIGAN ?







MEANWHILE! A LONELY WHARF NEAR







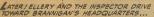














BUT AS THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION ...

















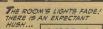
MEET TOMMY THE SWAMI, INSPECTOR; TAKE IT FROM ME, THIS MUG IS STRICTLY ON TH' UP-AN'- UP!

YOU SPEAK TO THE DEAD, EHZ

D-DEAD? PLEASE, INSPECTOR! DON'T MENTION CORPSES TO ME! I'VE A WEAK STOMACH!







S-SPIRIT OF NICK CARDONI ... IF Y-YOU ARE IN TH' ROOM ... (GULP) ... MAKE YOUR-SELF KN-KNOWN ...

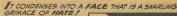




EEE-EEK! THE ... THE SPIRIT OF C-CARDONI ... IS AMONG US ...







BRAD BRANNIGAN ... YA RAT! I'VE COME BACK GRAVE TA GIT EVEN! NICK CARDON!



























Y'SEE, I'D BEEN WANTIN' TO QUIT TH' RACKET FER A LONG TIME, AN' PULL A FADE' BUT I WAS IN PRETTY DEER...MY BOYS NEVER WOULD HAVE LET ME PULL OUT WITH TH' BOODLE AN A WHOLE SKIN! YER BOMBING GAVE ME MY CHANCE...



REVENGE! NO ONE TRIES TO BLOW NICK TA BITS AN'GITS AWAY WITH IT! I PUT SOME PHOSPHORUS ON MY FACE ... AN' STUCK AROUND TA GIT EVEN WITH YER MOB!

































COMEDY COP

TIKE MALONE had been a cop, one way and another, for forty years. Thirty years of pounding a beat on the force, ten years as a bank guard at the Second National. In his thirty years of pavement pounding for the city, Mike had never risen above the rank of patrolman. His title of guard at the bank was more of a courtesy title than anything. Although he carried a gun strapped to his imposing middle, Mike's duties were simply to help harassed suburban matrons to the proper teller's window, and to direct loan seekers to the proper vice president. In four decades of what he loved to refer to as "police work" Mike had never heard a shot fired in anger. Needless to say, he had never fired his Police Special at anyone, friend or foe. To be truthful about it, it's just as well, because Mike couldn't hit the broad side of a barn, let alone a member of the criminal classes engaged in a nefarious undertaking.

Mike was a comedy cop. His ample belly and bandy legs were never meant to be encased by a neat blue uniform. His feet, bunioned with the callouses of forty years, moved with a flat, shuffling, yet gingery tread. They were tender and his walk showed it. His ammunition belt, weighted down by his holster, was worn in the manner made famous by comedy sheriffs in Western movies. In summer, his shirt had a way of climbing up out of his trousers, giving him the appearance of being one of the less presentable members of the Russian G.P.U. Mike's superiors on the city police force had early in his career-reached the conclusion that

his greatest field of usefulness consisted in guiding school children across the street. At the bank, the most glowing tribute on his personnel record read: "His appearance leaves much to be desired. Reflexes slow. Old ladies seem to like him."

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In his private life, Mike had two loves — his grand-daughter, Kitty, and novels of detection. Kitty had one flaw in Mike's mind—she was always trying to improve his appearance. On the other hand, such fictional heroes of the detective industry as Lord Peter Wimsey and Hercule Poirot, had no faults at all. They were sleuths without peer and without reproach. Mike loved their adventures and wished that he could be like them. Alas, as he himself admitted, he lacked the little grey cells.



Kitty's latest assault on Mike had taken the form of an expensive shaving lotion which she had given the old man for his birthday. It was expensive, beautifully packaged, and extremely fragrant. As Kitty loved to say, it was exclusive. And Mike loved it. He never used it, he just loved it. Every morning, after his bath and shave, Mike would take the beautiful little bottle from the bathroom shelf, sniff it with wild abandon and vast appreciation, then sorrowfully replace the stopper and return the bottle to its shelf.

"It's beautiful," he'd murmur, regretfully, "but it's not for the likes of me." He did think, though, that Hercule Poirot might have used it, and having used it, lived up to it. This particular day at the bank had passed quietly. It was just a few minutes of three when Mike smelled something utterly delicious in the air. It was his favorite shaving lotion. He was turning his head to see whatever man of distinction used this heavenly scent when the roof fell on his skull and the lights went out.

When Mike came to, he was on a couch in the President's office with a compress on his head. The room was full of the bank's officers, policemen and newspapermen. From the jumble of questions shot at him, and the general tone of the conversation, Mike gathered that a swift-moving, professional gang of bank robbers had entered the bank at closing time, held it up, and escaped with over \$100,000 in cash. The men wore plain, nondescript clothes, and kept handkerchiefs pressed on their

faces and their hats pulled low. Nobody could make any identification. The rogues' gallery photo-

graphs of known bank robbers were useless. No one

had really seen the men.

His head clearing, Mike rose unsteadily to his

"The one that socked me," he said. "He used Feather Heather!"

The room was convulsed with laughter. Good old Mike, the Comedy Cop! But the general opinion was that this was no time for comedy.

"He used WHAT?" roared a Captain of Detectives.

"Feather Heather," stuttered Mike. "It's a perfume... I mean a perfume for men... I mean."

Mike really had them in the aisles, now. "Look." he mumbled self-consciously. "It's a shaving lotion... an expensive one. I use it myself... that is, I smell it, sort of ..."

The Captain of Detectives said something about a concussion and getting the poor old buzzard to a hospital.

"Feather Heather's expensive and exclusive," screamed Mike. "There's only one place in town sells it, and at the price they charge, I'll bet they don't sell much of it!"

At last Mike's message penetrated. Two men were dispatched, with an armful of rogues' gallery photographs, to the specialty shop which carried Feather Heather. Sure enough, not many bottles had been sold. Yes, the clerk had sold a bottle to one of the men in these photographs. This one here. It had been delivered and he had the—ah—gentleman's address on file.

The Feather Heather purchaser was at home with a group of his gentlemen friends when the police broke in. No guns were drawn, as the bandits had their hands full of currency, which they were dividing.

Mike was a hero for a few days, and was quietly given a handsome reward by his employers. He enjoys telling Kitty that he can't ever use the Feather Heather now, because he associates it with crime and rascality.

And best of all, when he settles down of an evening for a good read, he feels now that he mixes with Lord Peter and Hercule not as a worshipper, but as an equal, and a somewhat critical equal, at that.













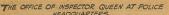


















THAT WOULD BE AN EASY
EXPLANATION, BUILT TOOENIT
HOLD WATER, WE DO
KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT
SHE WAS AFFLICTED
WITH AN INCLINABLE,
PAINFUL ALIMENT...

WHICH MIGHT
TO THAT MIGHT
NOTED TO THE BUILT
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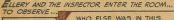






































BUT BEFORE BROMLEY CAN ACCOMPLISH HIS FIENDISH DESIGN ... ELLERY ARRIVES ...





























YOU USED THESE UNFORTUNATES AS KILLERS WITHOUT PAY IN A SORT OF MURDER, INCORPORATED SET-UP WITH CHAIN-LETTERS-OF-DEATH TRIMMINGS! IF SOMEONE WANTED ANOTHER PERSON KILLED AND. WERE WILLING TO PAY WELL FOR THE DEED, YOU WOULD MAIL A SOCIALLED CHAIN-LETTER TO ONE OF YOUR DUPES AND HE WOULD COMMIT THE MURDER UNDER THE FALSE IMPRESSION HE WAS KILLING ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE "LEGION WHO WANTED TO DIE!"



PROBABLY YOU WERE PAID BY A POLITICAL RIVAL OF ANDERSON'S FOR HIS DEATH. SOLLY YOGURK PAID FOR THE MURDER OF TOMMY RYAN. TODD CHALMERS, OF COURSE, PAID FOR THE ATTEMPTED



THE OLD LADY WHO KILLED ANDERSON WANTED TO DIE BECAUSE OF HER INCURABLE ALIMENT, ENRIGHT COULDN'T FACE CONTINUING TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS WRETCHED LIFE IN AN IRON-LUNG, CHANCES ARE, BROMLEY'S BUSINESS WAS SUFFERING IRREPARABLE PINANCIAL REVERSES AND HE DIDN'T CARE TO, LIVE IF HIS BUSINESS











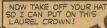












TAKE OFF MY CAP? NO!
I GET HEAD COLDS EASY—
AND RIGHT NOW MY HEAD
IS PLENTY HOT!































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und then he got a



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