Maria M.

GILBERT HERNANDEZ



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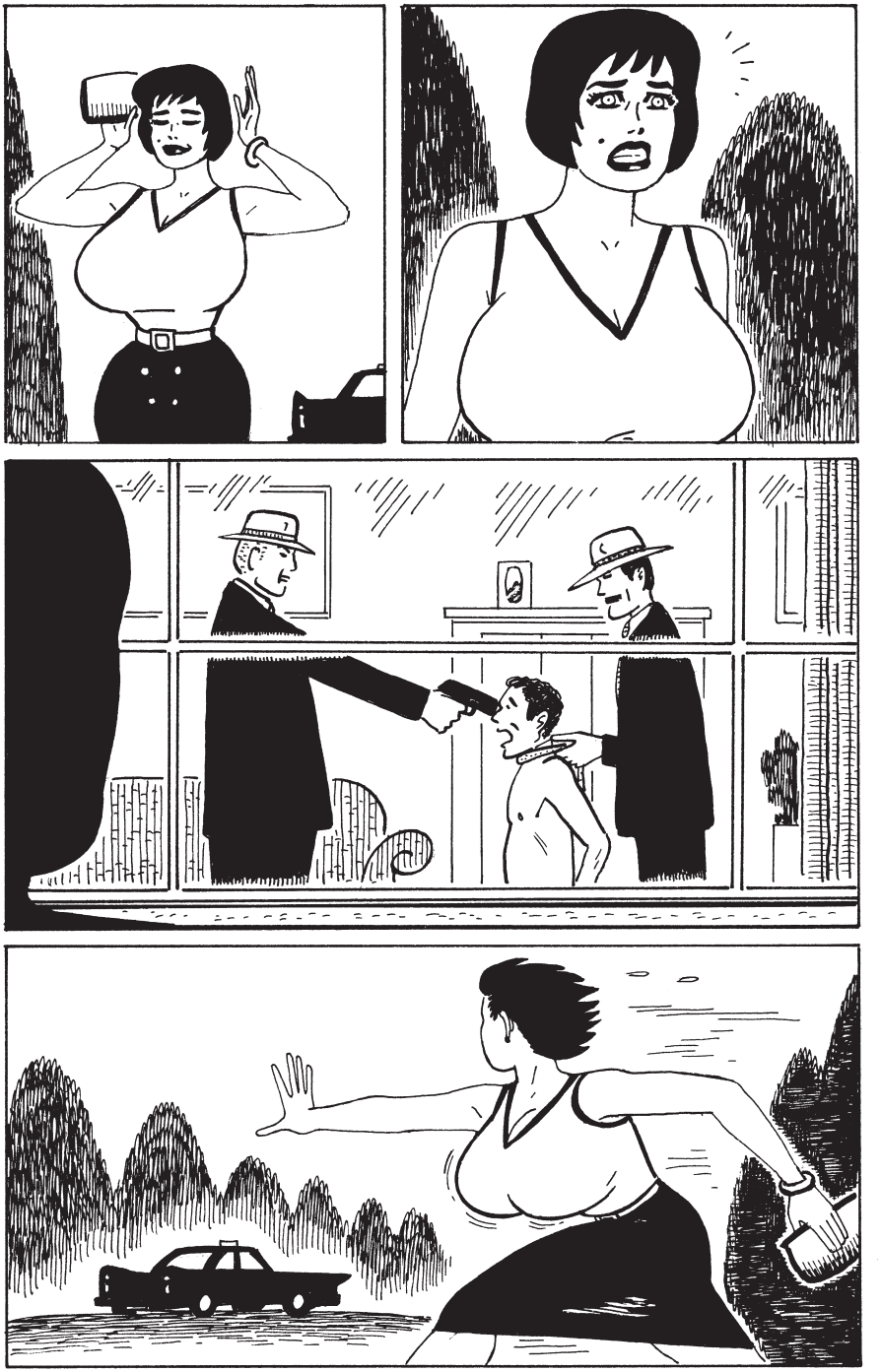
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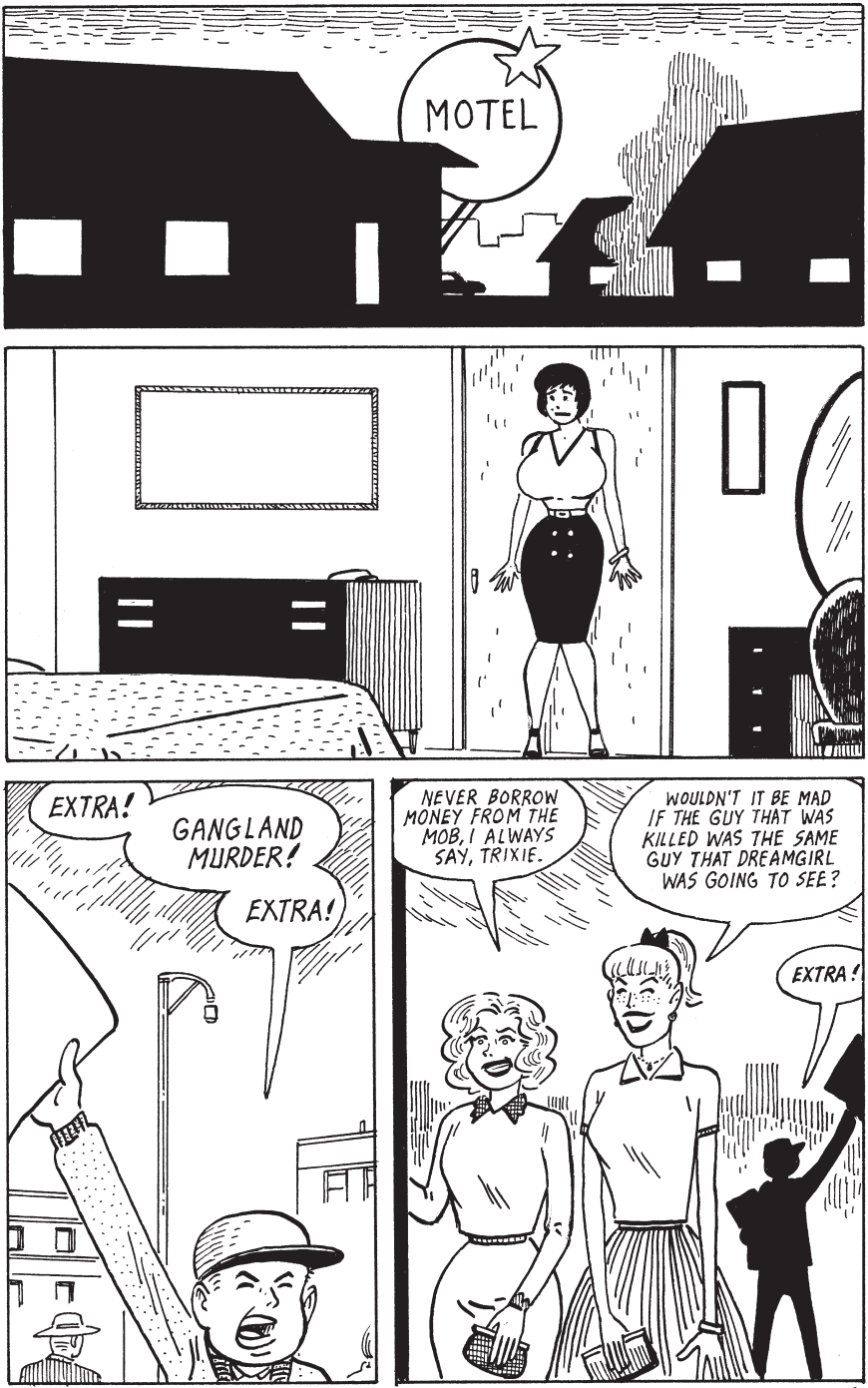
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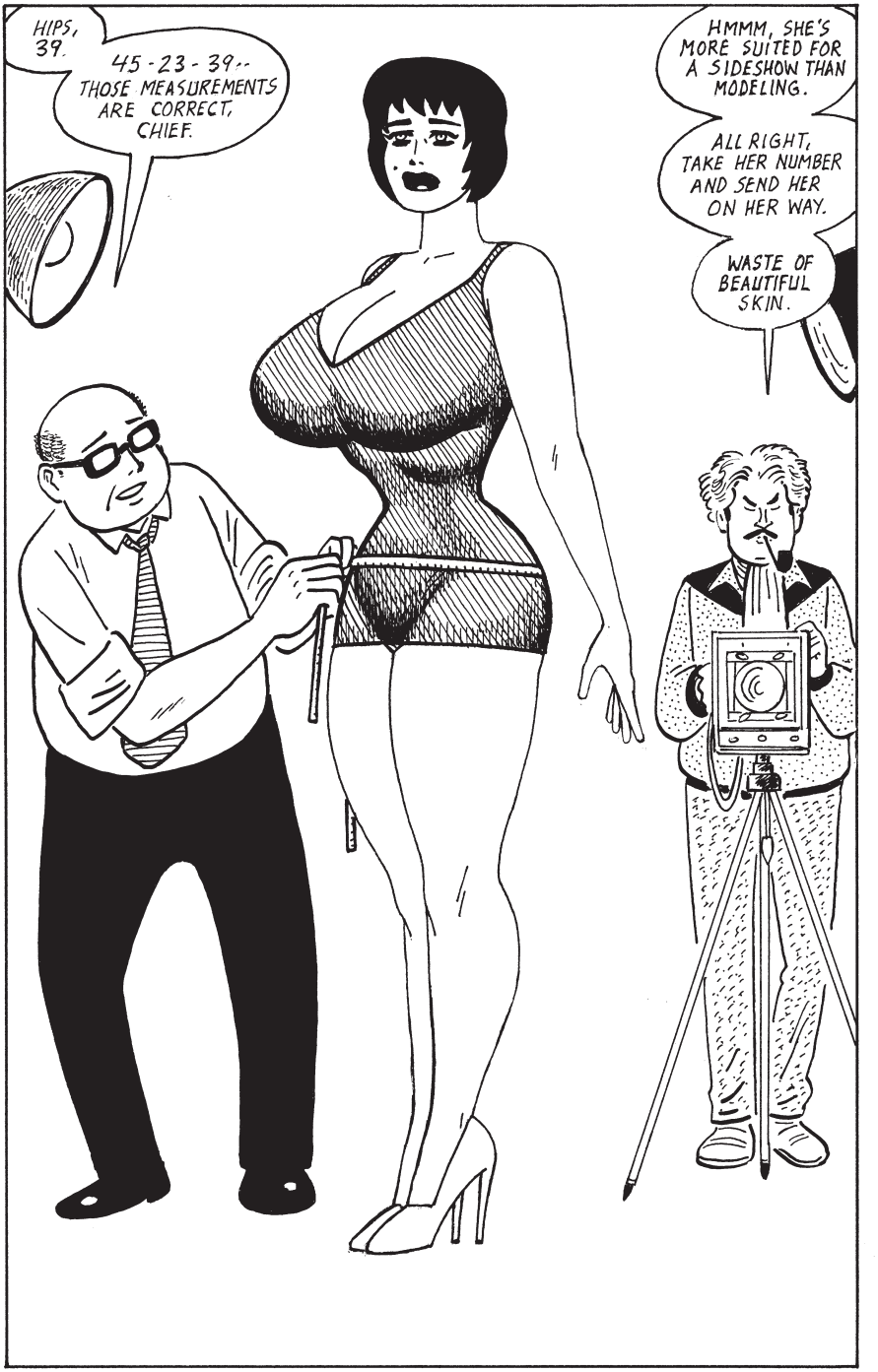

MARIA M.
by
GILBERT 'BETO' HERNANDEZ
BASED ON A TRUE STORY


NEW
1957
EXPLOITATION BEGINS HERE
HAWP! THEY ALWAYS PRETEND THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AT FIRST!
OVER HERE, HONEY!
DON'T WORRY, SUGAR!
THEY'VE GOT A NICE CROWBAR HANDY THAT'LL HELP SQUEEZE JUST ABOUT ANY GIRL'S FIGURE INTO ONE OF THE COSTUMES!


HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW SHE REALLY WAS JUST WAITING FOR A CAB?
SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO MEET HER RICH BOYFRIEND WHEN YOU TWO DRAGGED HER IN HERE.
AS FOR YOU TWO KIDNAPPERS — COME BACK TOMORROW.
OH SURE, WE'VE ALL GOT RICH BOYFRIENDS WAITING.
THAT ONE MIGHT. SHE'S FRESH OFF THE BOAT AND SHE'S WEARING PERFUME THAT WEIGHS IN AT ABOUT A HUNDRED BUCKS A BOTTLE.
TAXI




MOTEL
EXTRA!
GANGLAND MURDER!
EXTRA!
NEVER BORROW MONEY FROM THE MOB, I ALWAYS SAY, TRIXIE.
WOULDN'T IT BE MAD IF THE GUY THAT WAS KILLED WAS THE SAME GUY THAT DREAMGIRL WAS GOING TO SEE?
EXTRA!


HIPS, 39.
45-23-39... THOSE MEASUREMENTS ARE CORRECT, CHIEF.
HMMM, SHE'S MORE SUITED FOR A SIDESHOW THAN MODELING.
ALL RIGHT, TAKE HER NUMBER AND SEND HER ON HER WAY.
WASTE OF BEAUTIFUL SKIN.


AHA. I KNEW THAT SHE WAS REALLY COMING HERE!
SORRY, BUT THANK YOU FOR COMING IN, MARIA.
THEY'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR GIRLS AT THE BOOM BOOM ROOM, SEN-YOR-EETA.
HEY, C'MON, SHE UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH!
AW GEE, I'M SORRY, HONEY. I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
SHE'S HERE ALONE IN OUR COUNTRY--NO RICH BOYFRIEND, NO MONEY, NO NOTHING.
TRIXIE AND I KNOW ABOUT THE NO MONEY PART, MARIA!
PAM AND I CAN HELP YOU FIND AN APARTMENT CHEAP.


THE RAIN IN SPAIN...
DE RAIN EENZ PAIN...
AND I TELL HEEM, I TELL DAT FOREMAN BOSS LADY, I TELL HEEM TO FUCK OUT!
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IN YOUR REVIEW IF THAT LITTLE SCENE WAS IN A MOVIE, CLYDE?
HA HA!
TRUTH IS FUNNIER THAN FICTION!
ANY-BODY FOR ANOTHER?


AND A ONE AND A 2...
STEP, TURN, BACK TO ONE AND A 2..
AAAGH!
YOU IN THE MIDDLE!
OUT!


SOME MEN WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU, MARIA.
The FUTURE of TRAVEL
SOME MEN..?
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY..?
THEY SAID THEY'RE FROM THE OLD COUNTRY.
OH OH...
UNLOCK THE BACK DOOR EXIT BECAUSE I'M SNEAKING OUT OF HERE WHEN I GET THE CHANCE.
MARIA'S SUPPOSED ACQUAINTANCES FROM THE OLD COUNTRY ARE LOCAL HOODS.
THE KIND THAT MARIA WOULD BE WISE TO AVOID.


VERY NICE. YES, MADAM.
MARIA, WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR CUSTOMER, PLEASE COME INTO MY OFFICE.
YES, MEESTER BERG?
PLEASE COME IN, MARIA.
YOU DON'T SAY NO TO ME!
YOU'RE FIRED!


THE LIGHTS IN AMERICA SHINE MORE BRIGHTER TO ME NOW, JEEM.
NO LIGHT CAN ILLUMINATE THE WORLD AS YOU DO, MARIA.


MARIA, TABLE ELEVEN!
HOKAY, I GET!
CAN I TAKE YOUR ORDER?
JEEM?
MARIA?
JIM, YOU KNOW THIS.. GIRL?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I COME HERE ALL THE TIME? SURE, I DID!
YOU SAID YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HERE!
MARIA'S JUST ONE OF THE BOYS!
SURE!
IT BURNS! IT BURNS!
MARIA!
MARIA, YOU'RE..
AN IDIOT, I KNOW!


IN 3RD PLACE:
MARIA MARTINEZ!
IN 7TH PLACE:
MARIA..
AND IN 9TH..


13TH PLACE.
SIGH.
I GIVE UP.
AW, FORGET THIS RACKET, MARIA.
CALL THIS NUMBER.
MISS HOLLYWOOD BEACH
OK OK, SO I TRY EVERYTHING I KNOW, OK? SO NOW I TRY WHAT I DON'T KNOW, HUH?
SURE, MARIA--WHAT ELSE CAN A GIRL OF YOUR AMPLITUDE DO WELL?
HOW ABOUT SAVING THAT KIND OF BULLSHIT FOR YOUR MOVIE REVIEWS, CLYDE, ALL RIGHT?
WELL...


ALL RIGHT NOW--GIVE IT TO ME...
THERRRRE IT IS--THERE'S THAT PRETTY SMILE!
VLADIMIR!
WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH!
OK, MOM, OK!


NO, THEY TURNED DOWN THE PHOTOS, TOO! YEAH, EVEN THAT CRUMMY SLEAZEBALL RAG!
I HAD TO SELL THE PHOTOS FOR NEXT TO NOTHING TO SOME OBSCURE MAGAZINE IN SPANISH OF ALL THE··
SO MARIA WON'T SEE ANY MONEY, YOU'RE SAYING?
MONEY?! I FIGURE SHE OWES ME FOR STUDIO TIME!
THEN YOU KEEP FIGURING OUT.
LOSE A COUPLE DOZEN POUNDS AND MAYBE WE'LL TALK AGAIN, MARIA.
OH SHUT UP, VLAD! MARIA'S MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS!
SHAME. WASTE OF PERFECT SKIN.
FORGET HIM, MARIA.
I GOT US A JOB.


C'MON, GIVE IT TO HER LIKE YOU MEAN IT!
I AM RIGHT-HANDED, OK?
OH, WELL, SHALL WE REARRANGE THE LIGHTING AND ENTIRE SET TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS, MISS-MISS COLBERT OF HOLLYWOOD?
MY NAME SHE IS ZOMBA, MEESTER--NOT COAL BARE!

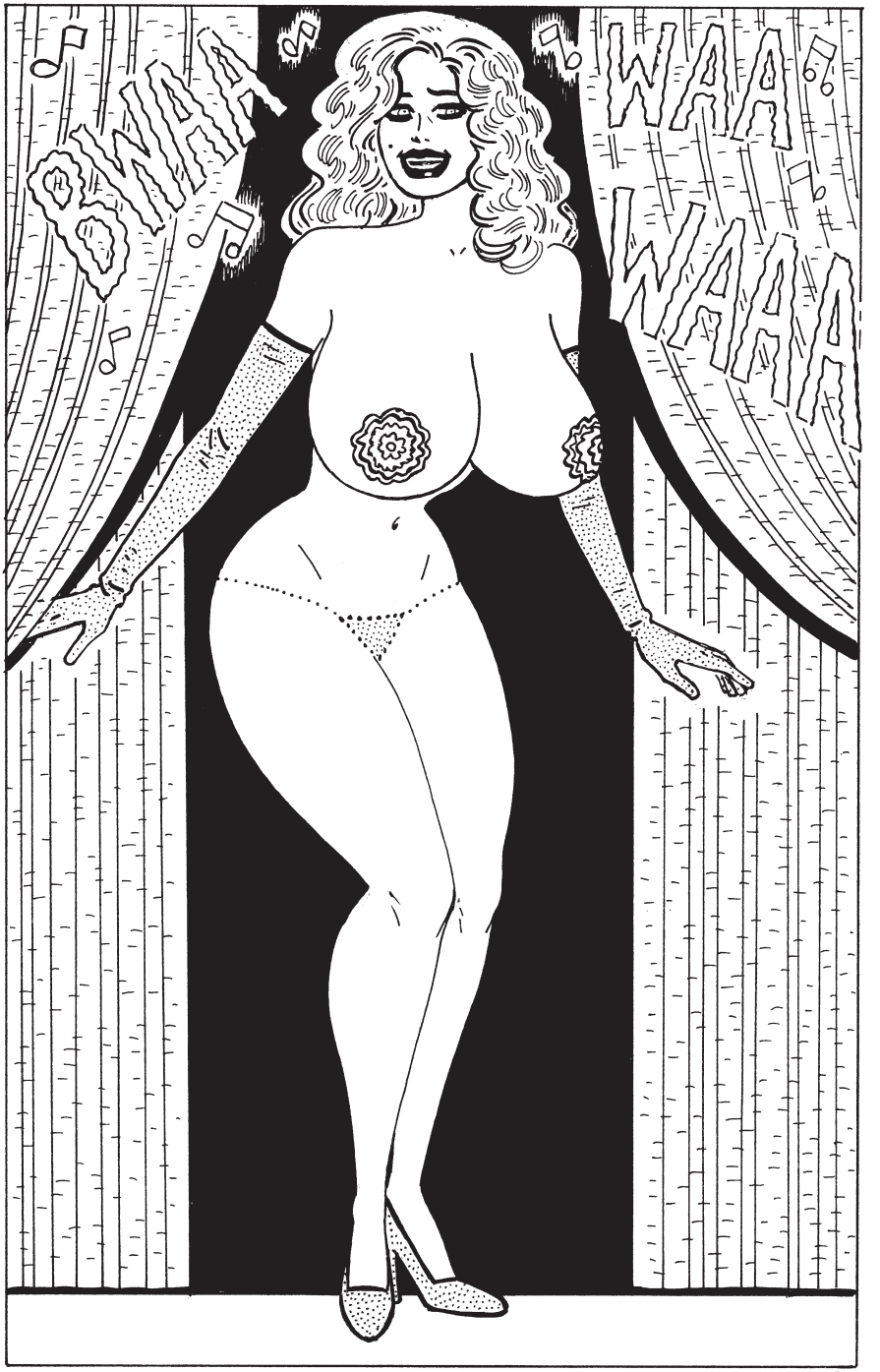

WHEN I FIND US A JOB, I FIND US A JOB, HUH, MARIA?
MY NAME SHE IS ZOMBA.
HEY! SHUT UP, HUH?
OK, ZOMBA-- TRIXIE'S YOUR LONG-LOST SISTER AND YOU'RE ANGRY WITH HER FOR BEING AWAY FOR SO LONG.
YOU JOKE.
BUT YOUR SECRET FEELINGS FOR HER BEGIN TO SURFACE FROM WITHIN YOU.
YUCK.
MAYBE WE TIE HIM UP, TRIXIE.
I SAID SHUT UP!!
YOU!!

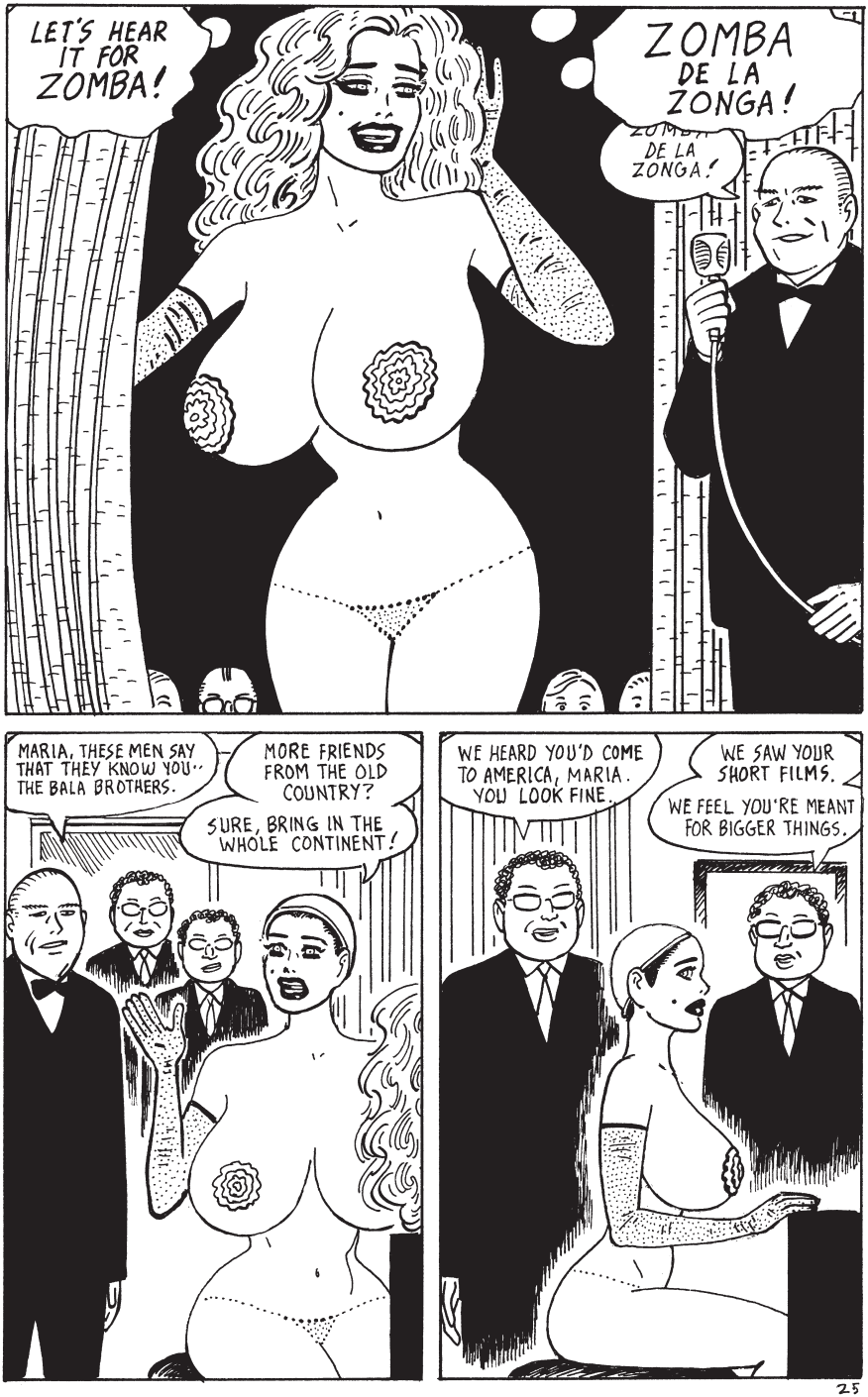

TRIXIE, YOU'RE FIRED!
AAH, FUCK YOU.. I QUIT!
YOU'LL DO BETTER WITHOUT HER.
YOUR SKIN...
WE'LL STICK WITH THE RED-HAIRED WIG.
OK, MARIA--NOT TOO FAST..
HUH?
UH, OK.
OK, YOU FIND SOMETHING FROM BEHIND A ROCK..?
AH, THE OLD HIDDEN WHISKEY BOTTLE TRICK.
ALL RIGHT, NOW PUT IT DOWN AND WALK BACK TOWARD THE WATER.


THAT'S IT, BABY—SWING 'EM.
AAY!
SHIT, THAT'S A BODY, ALL RIGHT.
WE'D BETTER GET THE COPS.
YECCH.
THE ILLEGAL DRUG BUSINESS IS FAST BECOMING MORE PROFITABLE EVERY DAY AND COMPETITION IS GETTING NASTIER AND NASTIER IS ALL.
YEAH...THE COPS DIDN'T LOOK TOO SAD ABOUT THE BODY.


HA HA HAA
HA HAAA
SHIT!
MARIA, YOUR SKIN...
HA HA HAA!


OH!
AH!
UH!
UH!
UH!
THOSE FETISH FILMS THAT YOU MADE WITH IVAN AND CABO DON'T DO YOU JUSTICE, MARIA.
YOUR SKIN NEEDS TO BE SEEN IN PERSON TO BE BELIEVED.


WAA
WAAA


LET'S HEAR IT FOR ZOMBA!
ZOMBA DE LA ZONGA!
DE LA ZONGA!
MARIA, THESE MEN SAY THAT THEY KNOW YOU.. THE BALA BROTHERS.
MORE FRIENDS FROM THE OLD COUNTRY?
SURE, BRING IN THE WHOLE CONTINENT!
WE HEARD YOU'D COME TO AMERICA, MARIA. YOU LOOK FINE.
WE SAW YOUR SHORT FILMS.
WE FEEL YOU'RE MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS.


THIS IS A FEATURE FILM, MARIA, NOT A SCHOOL PLAY!
YOU BE CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK, EH? I AM DE STAR, REMEMBER!
THEN ACT LIKE A STAR, HUH?
A STAR WOULD BE CONFIDENT-- NOT LOOKING LIKE SHE'S LOST!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT WEARING A WIG.
THE STAR COMES OUT WHEN YOU WEAR A WIG.
NO WIG-- JUST ME.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN!
OK, PEOPLE-- THE BIG RAPE SCENE IS NEXT!


"A DEPRAVED, GRADE-Z TURKEY FEATURING THE SUPREMELY UNTALENTED, YET NOT ENTIRELY UNAPPEALING, BOVINE BOMBSHELL MARIA MARTINEZ."
HOLLYWOOD TRADE
YOU CALL THIS HACK CRAP CRITICISM, CLYDE?
SLOWLY, LEFT TO RIGHT.
NOT TO WORRY, PAM-- THEY'VE DECIDED NOT TO RELEASE MARIA'S LITTLE EPIC AFTER ALL.


AND FOR MY ESPECTACULAR FINISH:
CRACK!
WOW!
HA HA!


NOW, HAD YOU CRACKED A WALNUT WITH YOUR BELLY IN YOUR MOVIE, I MIGHT'VE WRITTEN A DIFFERENT REVIEW, MARIA.
I TRY, BUT THEY SAY TOO VULGAR.


VA VAA
VOOM
APPARENTLY HER MOVIE-MAKING EXPERIENCE WAS SO UNPLEASANT THAT SHE WANTS NO PART OF IT ANY MORE.
OUR LOSS.
CAPTAIN VALDEZ OF POLICE, EH?
MARIA M., FROM PARTS UNKNOWN, I BELIEVE?
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR REPUTATION WITH HANGING AROUND ALL THESE SHADY CHARACTERS?
EXIT
I'M NOT IF YOU AREN'T.


I'M SORRY, SEÑORITA-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND DISRESPECTFUL.
YOU LISTEN UP, MR. COP WISEGUY!
THE PEOPLE AT THE CLUB LOOK OUT FOR ME!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING WITH THEM?


THE CLOSER I AM TO THOSE PEOPLE, THE CLOSER I CAN WATCH THEM.
IF THEY'RE DOING CROOKED STUFF THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW.


TELL ME SOMETHING THAT'S TRUE.
WELL... I'M UNABLE TO HAVE KIDS.


I GUESS IT CAN'T HURT TO HAVE AN HONEST COP AROUND.
DO YOU KNOW ANY?


THIS IS CAPTAIN VALDEZ OF POLICE.
OH OH. I'M PARKED IN THE RED ZONE.


NICE NEW HIGH-END APARTMENT FOR A GAL THAT JUST RETIRED FROM A BRIEF BURLESQUE CAREER.
AND SHE'LL BE DOING BETTER AND BETTER NOW THAT A FEW OF THESE ACQUAINTANCES FROM THE OLD COUNTRY ARE LOOKING OUT FOR HER NEEDS.


AS LONG AS SHE KEEPS GRADUATING TO A HIGHER CLASS OF SUGAR DADDY.
I FEEL HONORED THAT WE HAD A PRIVATE SHOWING OF MARIA'S WALNUT CRACKING TRICK.


SHE'S NOT OUR LITTLE GIRL ANY MORE.


I LOVE YOU, MARIA.
I-I LOVE YOU, MARIA.
I LOVE YOU, MARIA.
RIIII ING
THAT'LL BE MY WIFE.
HIM?
HIM?!
YOU SAID YOU LOVE ME!


KSH
YOU CHEAT!
SH
I NEVER SAID I'D LEAVE MY WIFE FOR YOU, MARIA.
YOU THINK I'M CRAZY?
OK, WHEN I SAY ACTION, YOU BEND OVER AND..
SHE ONLY TOOK THIS SMALL PART TO FORGET FAILED ROMANCES, I UNDERSTAND.
SHE SIMPLY HASN'T MET THE RIGHT MAN.


OH, NO DATE WITH ME TODAY. TODAY I AM FREE FROM MEN..
TCH. YOU CAN AFFORD IT!
IF I MEET ONE MORE PERSON FROM THE OLD COUNTRY-- THEY ALL MOVED TO HERE, I THINK.
OH.. SHOOT, I FORGOT THE.. CLYDE, COULD YOU AND MARIA RUN DOWN TO THE STORE?
SOME OUTFIT, MARIA--YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST NOW WALKED OFF THE SET OF YOUR MOVIE.
OH-OH, NO, CLYDE--NO MOVIES NO MORE, OK?
HEH.
YOU ARE BIG AND FINE AND ALL WOMAN, MARIA.
HOTEL MERIDIAN, ROOM 17, 6 O'CLOCK TUESDAY.


NOW, WAS THAT THE WORLD'S QUICKEST QUICKIE, OR WHAT?
TAKES A TWO-TIMER TO KNOW, TRIX!
HA HA!
IF YOU'RE NOT THERE ON TUESDAY AT SIX, I'LL TELL TRIXIE THAT YOU THREW YOURSELF AT ME.
MOTEL
AHH...
YOU DO LOOK LOVELY IN THAT.


THAT'S A CUTE TRICK, CRACKING WALNUTS WITH YOUR BELLY, MARIA.
YOU ALMOST MAKE IT AN ART.
IT IS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT.
THE ARTIST'S BURDEN IS THAT HE CAN'T COMPLETELY SHUT OUT HIS EMPATHY FOR ANOTHER ARTIST'S STRUGGLE.


THE CRITIC MUST SHUT OUT ANY AND ALL SYMPATHY AND FOCUS ON THE ARTIST'S WORK, NOT THE ARTIST'S EXPERIENCE.
THE OPEN-MINDED ARTIST CAN'T AFFORD THE CRITIC'S LUXURY OF THROWING OUT THE BABY WITH THE BATH WATER.
KNOCK KNOCK
AH.
PUTTING THE CRITIC ON A SUPERIOR INTELLECTUAL LEVEL THAN THE ARTIST.
OH.
YES, AH, HOW CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
MY COMPANY DISTRIBUTES THE LADIES' BEDTIME WEAR THAT YOU HAVE ON NOW.
YOU GIVE IT CLASS IT NEVER HAD BEFORE, MARIA.
IT'S MY SKIN...
MY MILKY, SILKY SMOOTH SKIN...
MY MILLION-DOLLAR SKIN...


17
THE POLICE DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS TO WHO..
BEFORE THIS CLYDE AND I TALKED ABOUT MOVING TO THE DESERT...
MARIA, I JUST CAN'T HAVE EVERY GUY THAT MAKES A PASS AT YOU TAUGHT A LESSON.
WHY NOT?

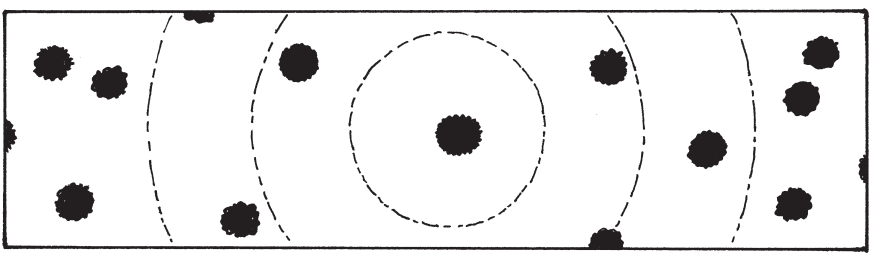

I MET MARIA WHEN SHE WAS FEATURED IN A SMALL MOVIE THAT I BACKED AS A FAVOR TO THE PRODUCER.
SO I'M A SUCKER FOR A PRETTY GIRL.
I'M ONLY A MAN, AFTER ALL.
MARIA CAME ALONG JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR ME, SON.
I WAS SO LONELY...
GORGO, WHEN YOUR MOTHER DIED, I PROMISED MYSELF THAT I WAS DONE WITH WOMEN FOR GOOD.
DAD, YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE.
THAT'S WHAT I'M ALWAYS TELLING DAD!
CONTRADICTING YOUR OPEN DISAPPROVAL OF MY MARRYING MARIA, HERMAN?
I NEVER SAID THAT, DAD!
I JUST SAID GORGO MIGHT NOT LIKE IT.


COME AND MEET THE WOMAN WHOSE REPUTATION YOU SAVED.
BLAM
SOME HOBBY OF HERS, EH?
IT'S LIKE SHE WAS BORN WITH A GUN IN HER HAND.
ANOTHER BULLSEYE!
IT TOOK ME 27 SHOTS TO DO IT, BUT I DID IT!
MARIA, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY BOY, GORGO!
MARIA!
BL/AM
BL/AM

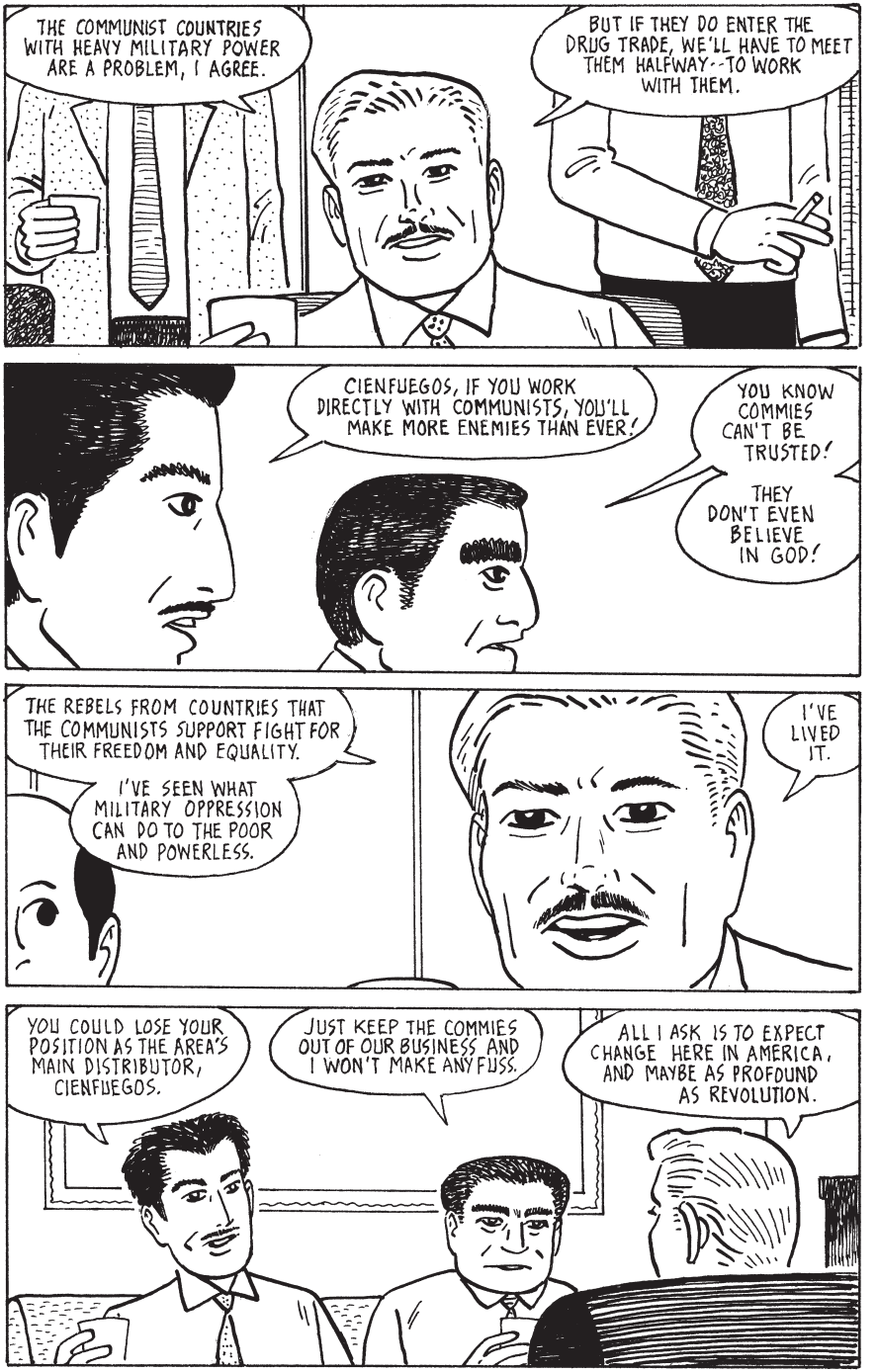

ALL DONE WITH YOUR WORLD TRAVELS, EH?
YOUR FATHER NEVER STOPS TALKING ABOUT YOU.
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER, EXCEPT WITHOUT GLASSES.


GORGO WAS THE ONE THAT FIXED THAT LITTLE PROBLEM YOU HAD WITH AN UNWANTED DATE, MARIA.


YEAH...
YOU CAN PROBABLY SCARE JUST ABOUT ANY PERSON AWAY WITH JUST YOUR STARE.




PRETTY ROUTINE STUFF GOING ON IN THERE.
MY DAD LIKES ME TO BE AROUND, CHUY.
AND THESE NEW STREET DRUGS ARE STRONGER NOW, SEÑOR RUIZ?
SAFER, SEÑOR CIEN-FUEGOS.
MORE DANGEROUS.
TUNGA'S WORRIED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL TAKE OVER THE DRUG TRADE.
INSTEAD OF MISSILES TO DESTROY US, THEY'LL DO IT BY ADDICTING AMERICA'S YOUTH TO DRUGS.


THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH HEAVY MILITARY POWER ARE A PROBLEM, I AGREE.
BUT IF THEY DO ENTER THE DRUG TRADE, WE'LL HAVE TO MEET THEM HALFWAY--TO WORK WITH THEM.
CIENFUEGOS, IF YOU WORK DIRECTLY WITH COMMUNISTS, YOU'LL MAKE MORE ENEMIES THAN EVER!
YOU KNOW COMMIES CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
THEY DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN GOD!
THE REBELS FROM COUNTRIES THAT THE COMMUNISTS SUPPORT FIGHT FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY.
I'VE SEEN WHAT MILITARY OPPRESSION CAN DO TO THE POOR AND POWERLESS.
I'VE LIVED IT.
YOU COULD LOSE YOUR POSITION AS THE AREA'S MAIN DISTRIBUTOR, CIENFUEGOS.
JUST KEEP THE COMMIES OUT OF OUR BUSINESS AND I WON'T MAKE ANY FUSS.
ALL I ASK IS TO EXPECT CHANGE HERE IN AMERICA, AND MAYBE AS PROFOUND AS REVOLUTION.


I'M WITH TUNGA - WE TAKE CARE OF THE STREET-DEALING END AND YOU THE DISTRIBUTION, SO LONG AS IT REMAINS A FREE ENTERPRISE.
LET'S KEEP AMERICA FREE!
I'VE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.


MY SON AND I AGREE WITH CIENFUEGOS.
RIGHT, DAD.
CHANGE IS CERTAIN AND THE ONLY WAY TO PROFIT FROM IT IS TO RECOGNIZE OPPORTUNITY WHEN IT COMES, GENTLEMEN.


YOU TOO, BALTAZAR? WELL, I CAN ASSURE YOU AMERICA FEELS DIFFERENTLY ABOUT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE INSTIGATED BY COMMIES.
YOU MAY END UP ALONE WITH YOUR RADICAL ATTITUDE, CIENFUEGOS.


I'LL NEVER BE ALONE BECAUSE MY SONS HAVE MY BACK, GENTLEMEN.
HERMAN AND GORGO ARE READY TO TAKE OVER FOR ME AT ANY TIME AND THEY'RE NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.


YOU BOYS BEEN WITH MY DAD LONG?
I WAS HIRED ALMOST A YEAR AGO.
7 MONTHS FOR ME.
BEST BOSS I'VE EVER WORKED FOR.
I HEAR YOU NEVER USE YOUR GUN.
HE'S NEVER HAD TO.
GORGO, YOUR DAD'S ON THE PHONE FROM THE OFFICE.


GORGO ALWAYS CARRIES HIS GUN, BUT HE PREFERS TO USE HIS HANDS.
HE'S GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE.
MR. TOUGH GUY.
EVERYTHING OK, DAD?
GOOD, SON, GOOD.
OBREGON AND BALTAZAR HAVE HIT IT OFF JUST FINE, SON.
GOOD.. BALTAZAR USUALLY DOESN'T LIKE ANYBODY NEW TO THE AREA.
THE POLICE DON'T BOTHER AS LONG AS WE KEEP UP APPEARANCES AND GIVE THEM THEIR CUT.
NICE, INNOCENT FRONT FOR A DRUG TRAFFICKER, CAPTAIN.
BUT A LADIES' INTIMATE APPAREL DISTRIBUTOR?
AS GOOD A COVER AS ANY.
1242


ANY NEW COMMUNIST LEADERS WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN NEW BOSSES TAKING OVER POWER FROM THE OLD BOSSES, DAD!
THE NEW ORDER WILL BE OPPRESSING THE PEOPLE WITH A NEW NAME IS ALL!
ALL REMAINING TO BE SEEN, M'BOY.
TV
THE COMMUNISTS WILL EVOLVE INTO THE NEW NAZIS, DAD. MARK MY WORDS!
NOT IF THE CONSERVATIVES BEAT THEM TO IT.
YOU'RE WISE TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT ABOUT POLITICS AROUND HERE, FRANKENSTEIN.
THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WILL PROVE TO BE THE RIGHTFUL POWER FOR KEEPING AMERICA STRONG!
SHALL I MARK THOSE WORDS AS WELL?
THE TIME AND MONEY I WASTED SENDING YOU TO COLLEGE.

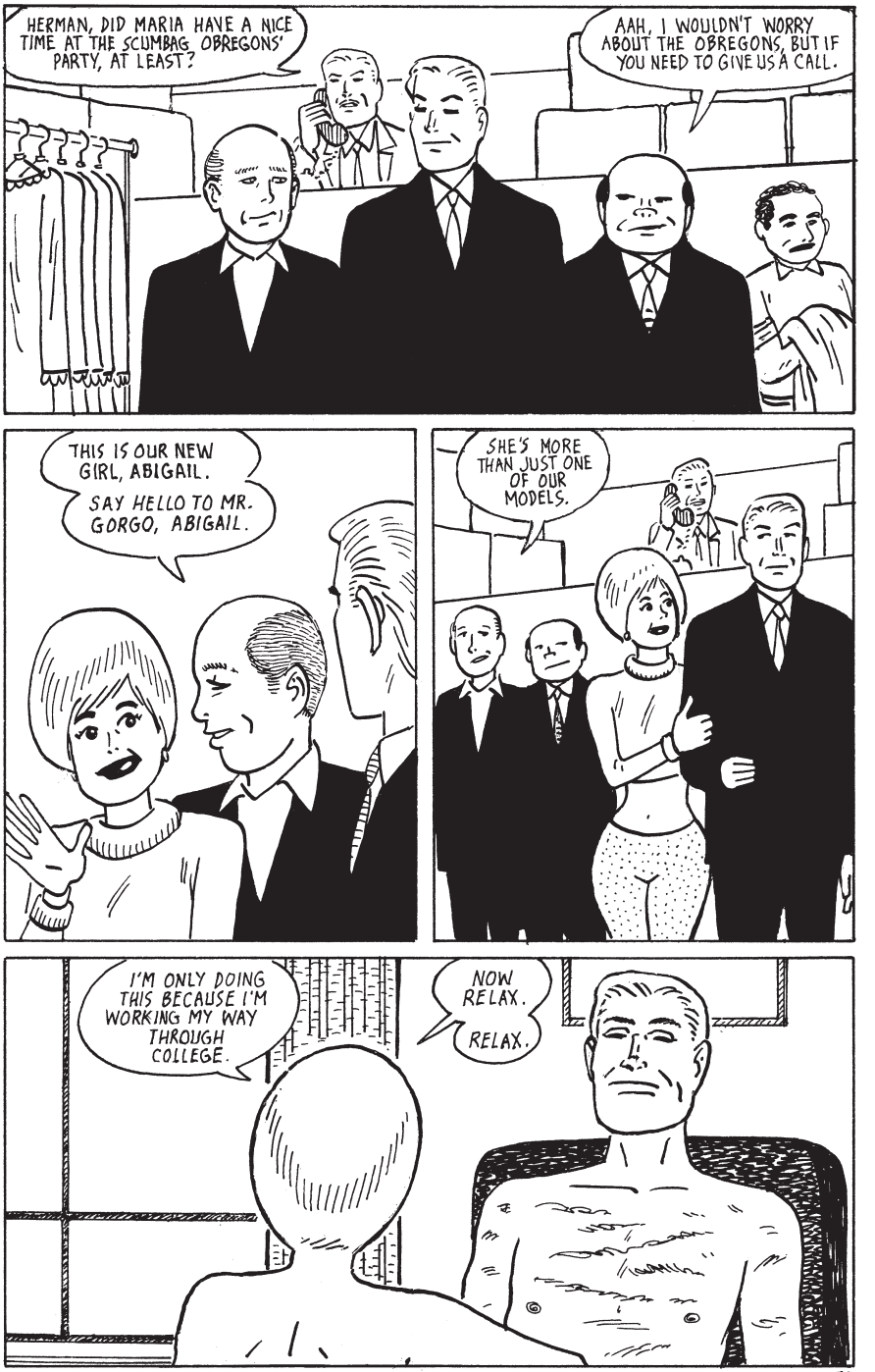

BUT, I·· DAD, YOU··
THAT'S ENOUGH, HERMAN.
TALK ALL THE POLITICS THAT YOU WANT TO IN FRONT OF A MIRROR.
C'MON, GUYS.
THAT'S A PRIVATE TALK BETWEEN THE FAMILY.
AH, OK, CHUY.
IF THERE'S ANYBODY THAT WOULD MAKE A GOOD POLITICAL LEADER, IT'S YOU, GORGO.
WE NEED A MAN OF ACTION, NOT A BLOWHARD.
PRESIDENT GORGO DOES FEEL GOOD ON THE TONGUE.


WELL!
I'D WEAR MORE OF YOUR LADIES' BEDTIME CLOTHES IF I COULD FIT INTO THEM, LUIS.
I'LL TELL HERMAN TO LET THEM KNOW AT THE FACTORY.
HERMAN WAS HIS MOTHER'S BOY--BAD AT SPORTS, GOOD AT SCHOOL.
GORGO WAS-- IS MINE.
HE'S STRONG, MARIA. HE ABIDES.
HE'S NEVER MADE ME UNHAPPY, THAT BOY.


OH, YOU'VE MET POLICE CAPTAIN VALDEZ?
I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
HE'S A WELL KNOWN RACKET-BUSTER, THEY USED TO CALL THEM.
HE SEEMS THE TYPE.
BUSTING UP EVERYBODY'S FUN.
NEWS 5
AUW.
AUW.
AW...
ALWAYS CHECK TWICE TO MAKE SURE THE GUN ISN'T LOADED!
I ALWAYS DO.
THINK I'M CRAZY?


MY FATHER AND GORGO ARE AT OUR GARMENT WAREHOUSE AND SEND THEIR APOLOGIES.
I WANT TO TALK TO THE OBREGONS ALONE, CHUY.
OK.
IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, CHUY.
MARIA, I'M JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY.
IF YOU MAKE ONE MORE PASS AT ME, I'M TELLING MY HUSBAND, COP!

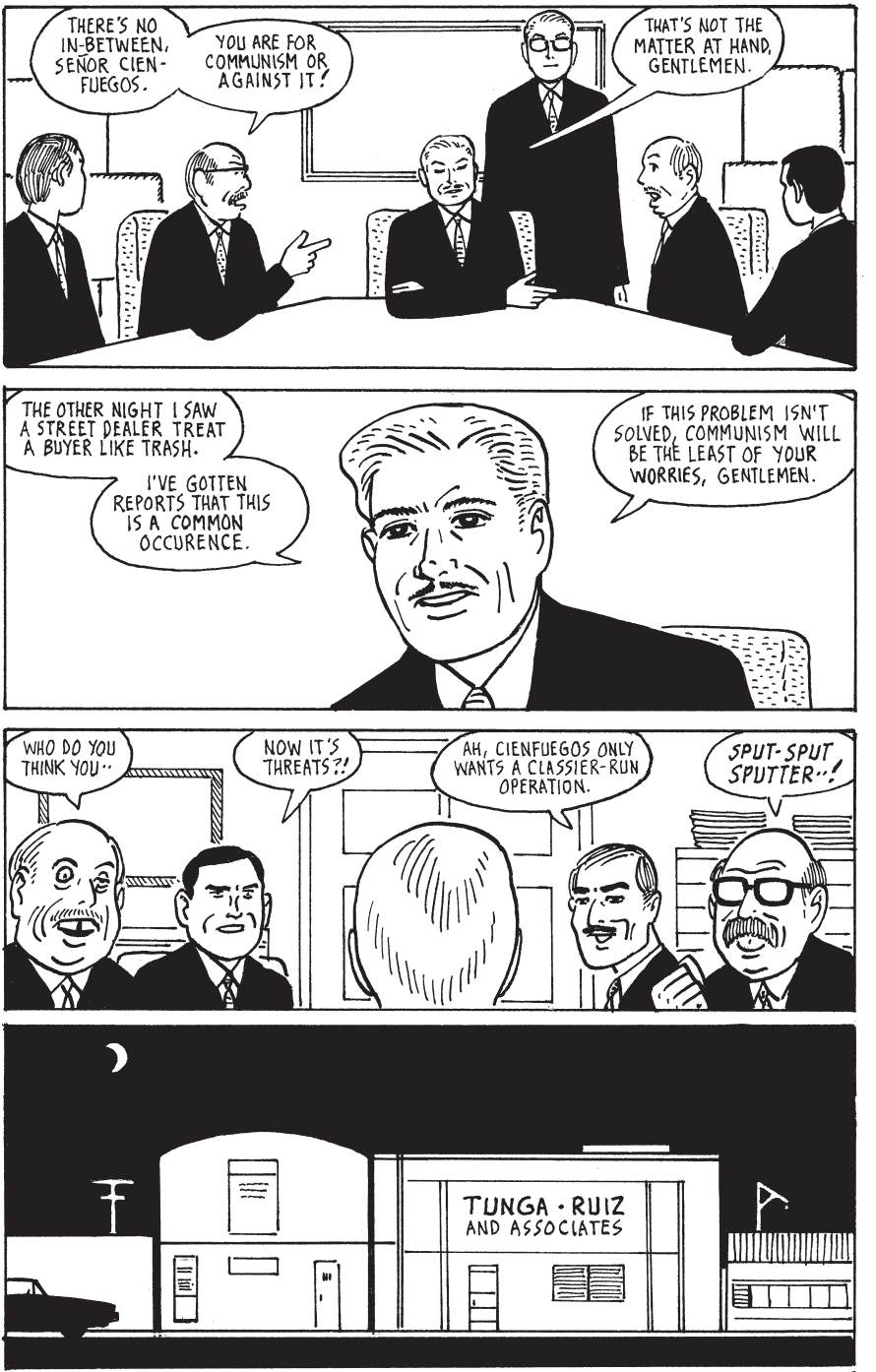

YOU WOULD TOO, I'M SURE.
FORGET IT, I WON'T..
HA!
YOU WON'T, ALL RIGHT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HERMAN'S HAVING A SERIOUS TALK WITH THE OBREGONS.
I FUCKING HATE THOSE OBREGONS..YOUR DAD FUCKING HATES THOSE OBREGONS AND YOU SUCK UP TO THEM!
I ONLY TALKED TO THEM IN REGARDS TO THEIR PLANS FOR WORKING IN DAD'S TERRITORY.
HERMAN, YOUR FATHER TOLD YOU GUYS NOT TO TALK BUSINESS IN FRONT OF ME!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER GROWING UP TOGETHER.
TALK ABOUT THAT!
AVERAGE CHILDHOOD, I SUPPOSE.
MM. I'LL BET.

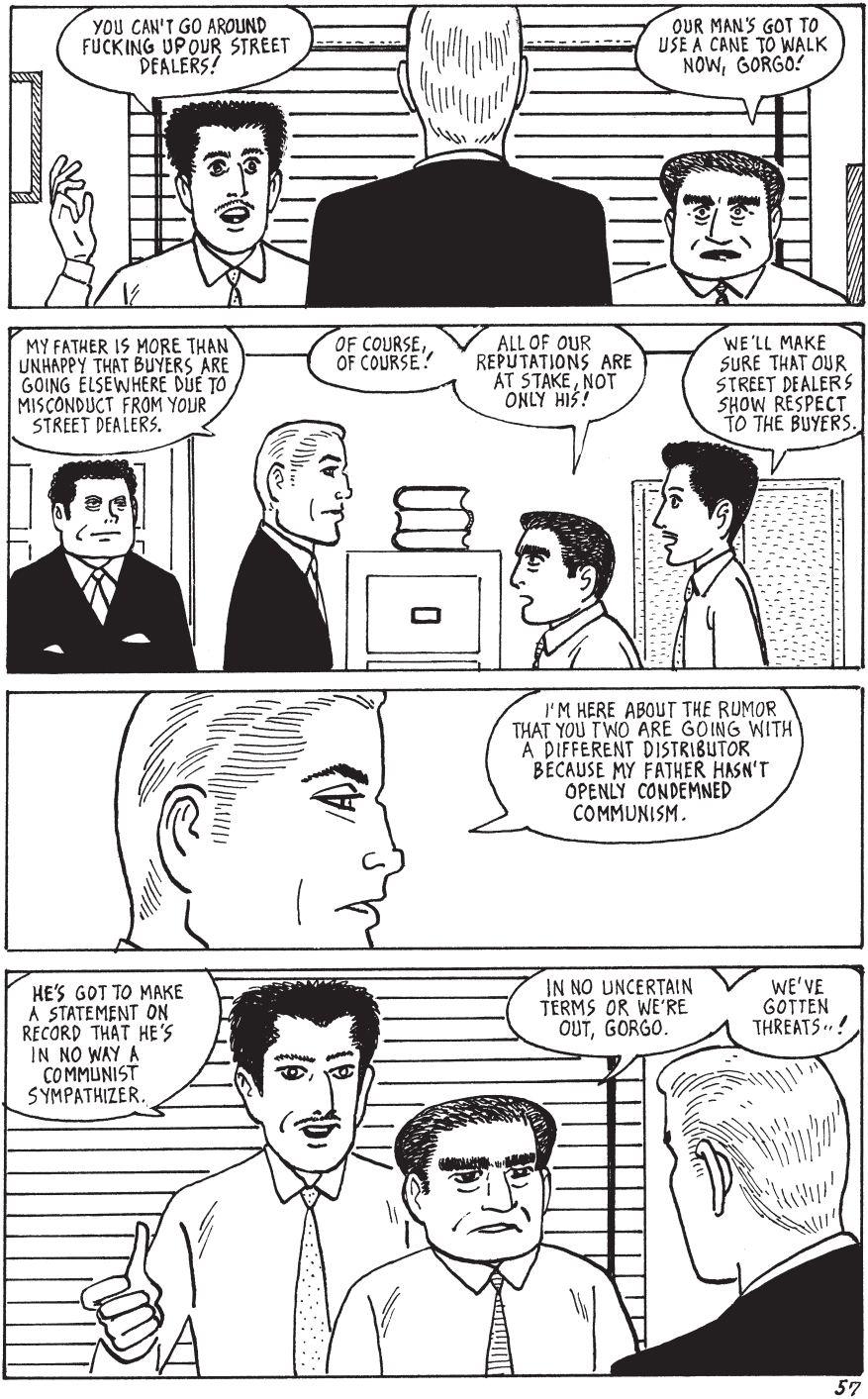

HERMAN, DID MARIA HAVE A NICE TIME AT THE SCUMBAG OBREGONS' PARTY, AT LEAST?
AAH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE OBREGONS, BUT IF YOU NEED TO GIVE US A CALL.
THIS IS OUR NEW GIRL, ABIGAIL.
SAY HELLO TO MR. GORGO, ABIGAIL.
SHE'S MORE THAN JUST ONE OF OUR MODELS.
I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I'M WORKING MY WAY THROUGH COLLEGE.
NOW RELAX.
RELAX.


THE OBREGONS WANT TO EXPAND THEIR OPERATIONS ALONGSIDE OURS WITHOUT PERSONAL CONFLICTS.
DAD...
THEN WE KILL THEM NOW.
IF WE WORK WITH THEM, EVERYBODY COULD AVOID A LOT OF TROUBLE.
THERE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE IF WE KILL THEM.
IT'S ONLY BUSINESS, DAD, AND WE CAN'T KEEP THEM FROM EXPANDING WITHOUT SERIOUS TENSION BETWEEN US.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN.
THEY'LL BE THE ONES SLEEPING WITH ONE EYE OPEN, HERMAN.
OH, PLEASE, PLEASE GOD-- LET THE OBREGONS SLIP UP, OH, PLEASE GOD..!



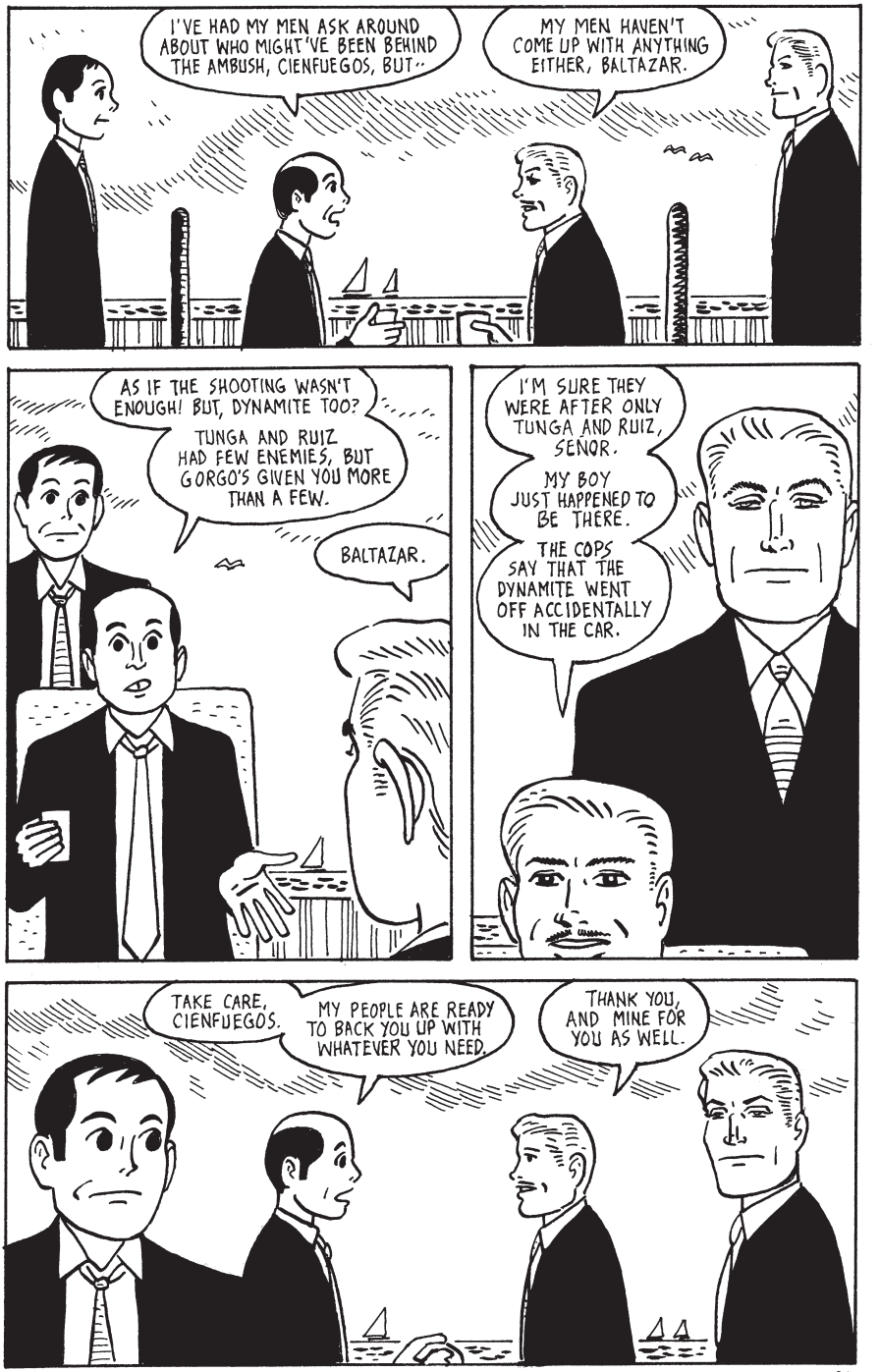

OH, YOU JUST WANT TO TALK?
LET'S STEP AROUND THE CORNER.
YOU'D BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH THE OTHER DEALERS.
DAD, I'D PREFER YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY MORE MEETINGS IN YOUR OFFICE.
I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IN THAT OLD, BEAT-UP OFFICE.
I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS AT HOME WHILE MARIA'S THERE, SON.


THERE'S NO IN-BETWEEN, SEÑOR CIEN-FUEGOS.
YOU ARE FOR COMMUNISM OR AGAINST IT!
THAT'S NOT THE MATTER AT HAND, GENTLEMEN.
THE OTHER NIGHT I SAW A STREET DEALER TREAT A BUYER LIKE TRASH.
I'VE GOTTEN REPORTS THAT THIS IS A COMMON OCCURENCE.
IF THIS PROBLEM ISN'T SOLVED, COMMUNISM WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, GENTLEMEN.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU··
NOW IT'S THREATS?!
AH, CIENFUEGOS ONLY WANTS A CLASSIER-RUN OPERATION.
SPUT-SPUT SPUTTER··!
TUNGA · RUIZ
AND ASSOCIATES


YOU CAN'T GO AROUND FUCKING UP OUR STREET DEALERS!
OUR MAN'S GOT TO USE A CANE TO WALK NOW, GORGO!
MY FATHER IS MORE THAN UNHAPPY THAT BUYERS ARE GOING ELSEWHERE DUE TO MISCONDUCT FROM YOUR STREET DEALERS.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE!
ALL OF OUR REPUTATIONS ARE AT STAKE, NOT ONLY HIS!
WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT OUR STREET DEALERS SHOW RESPECT TO THE BUYERS.
I'M HERE ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT YOU TWO ARE GOING WITH A DIFFERENT DISTRIBUTOR BECAUSE MY FATHER HASN'T OPENLY CONDEMNED COMMUNISM.
HE'S GOT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON RECORD THAT HE'S IN NO WAY A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER.
IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS OR WE'RE OUT, GORGO.
WE'VE GOTTEN THREATS..!


VROOM...

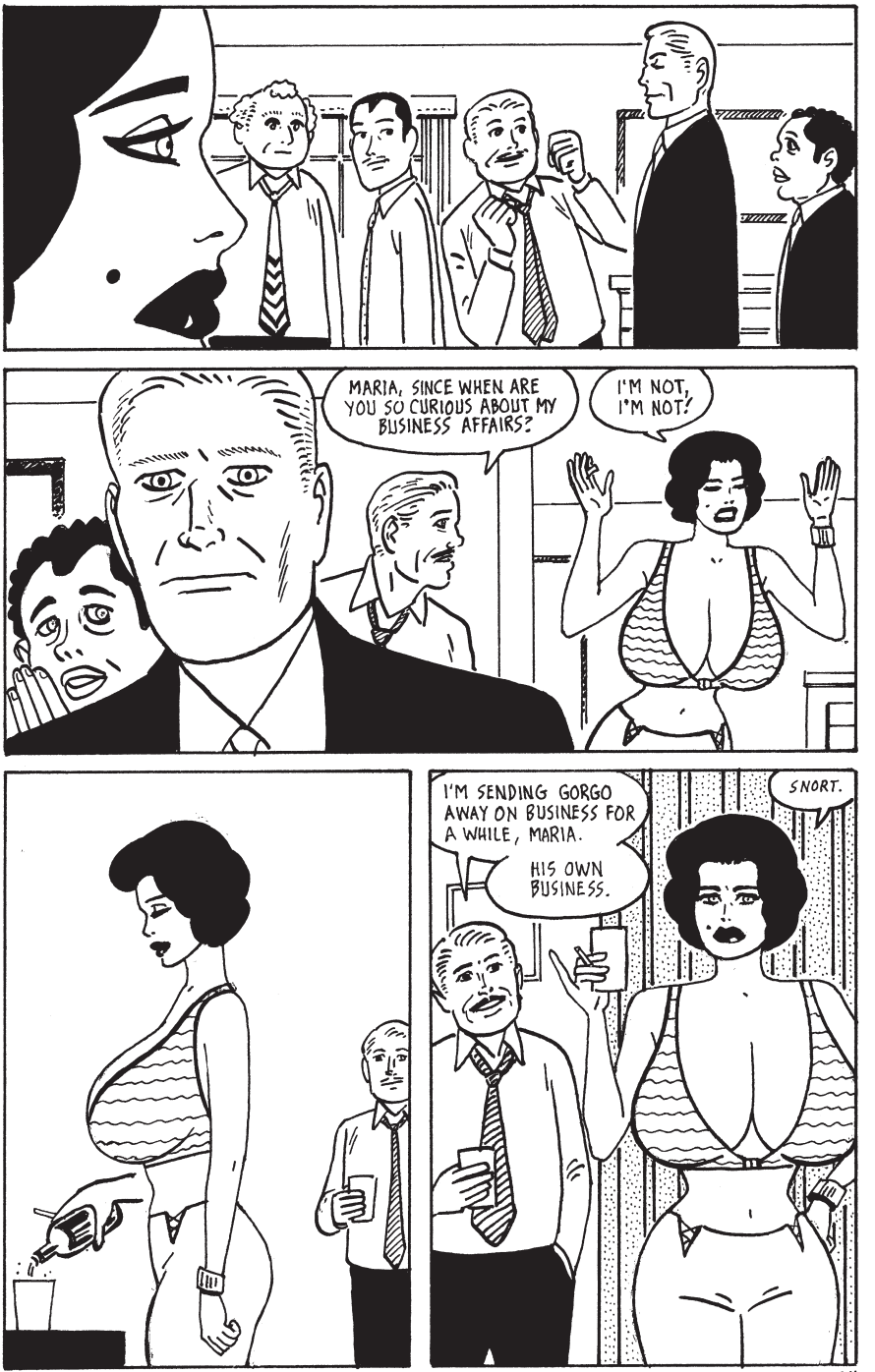

MY GOD.

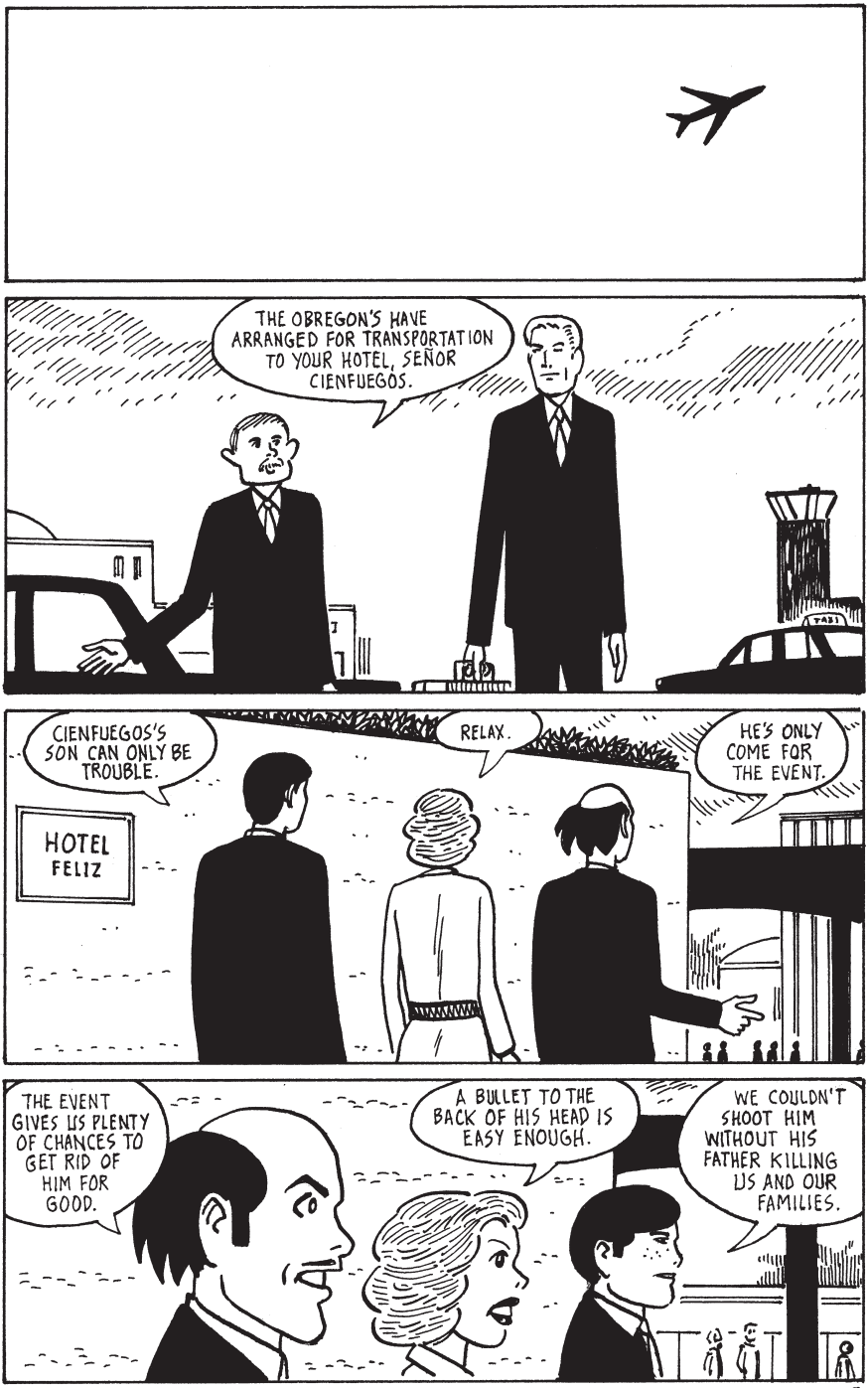

I'VE HAD MY MEN ASK AROUND ABOUT WHO MIGHT'VE BEEN BEHIND THE AMBUSH, CIENFUEGOS, BUT..
MY MEN HAVEN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING EITHER, BALTAZAR.
AS IF THE SHOOTING WASN'T ENOUGH! BUT, DYNAMITE TOO?
TUNGA AND RUIZ HAD FEW ENEMIES, BUT GORGO'S GIVEN YOU MORE THAN A FEW.
BALTAZAR.
I'M SURE THEY WERE AFTER ONLY TUNGA AND RUIZ, SEÑOR.
MY BOY JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
THE COPS SAY THAT THE DYNAMITE WENT OFF ACCIDENTALLY IN THE CAR.
TAKE CARE, CIENFUEGOS.
MY PEOPLE ARE READY TO BACK YOU UP WITH WHATEVER YOU NEED.
THANK YOU, AND MINE FOR YOU AS WELL.

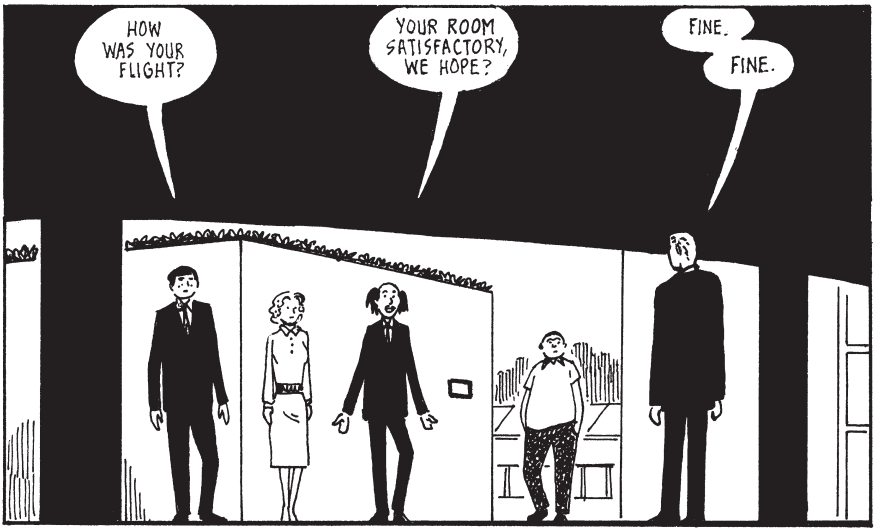

THAT FUCKING ASSHOLE.
THAT STUPID FAKE SINCERITY IN HIS STUPID POPPED EYES.
ONE DAY BALTAZAR WILL SLIP AND THOSE STUPID FUCKING BUG EYES WILL BE BROUGHT TO ME ON A PLATE.
SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SHOOTING AND HAND GRENADES?
MARIA, DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF WITH RUMORS AND LIES.
IT WAS ON THE TV NEWS, LUIS.
GANGLAND MASSACRE THEY CALLED IT.
MAYBE LIVING WITH YOU ISN'T AS SAFE AND SOUND AS YOU KEEP PROMISING IT IS.

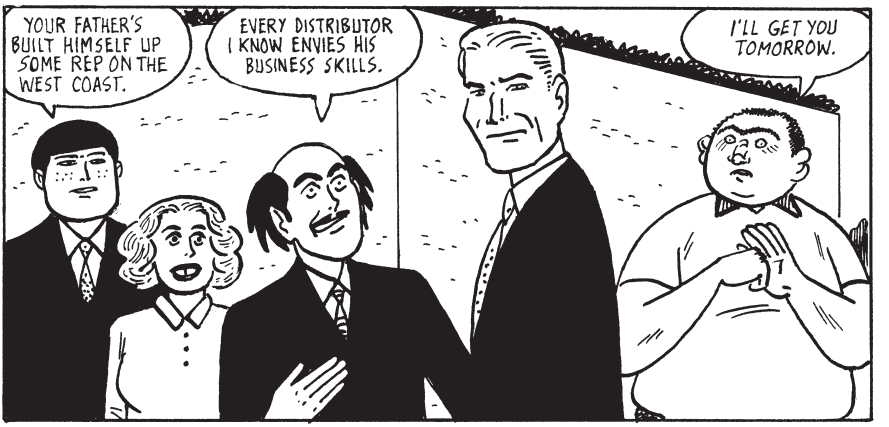

BAM
BAM
BAM
OH, HI!
I'M A PRETTY GOOD ACROBAT, HUH?

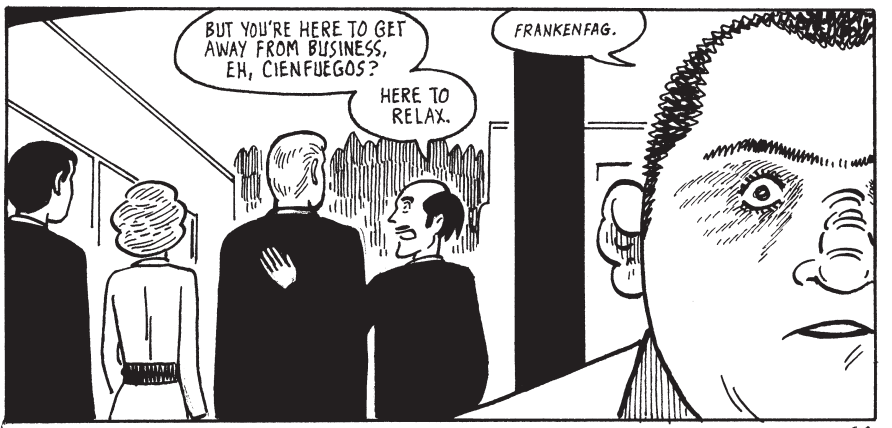

OH, DON'T WORRY--I DON'T BRUISE THAT EASILY, DESPITE MY HAVING MILKY SILKY SMOOTH FLAWLESS SKIN.
MILKY SILKY SMOOTH
SEE?
POOKKKK..

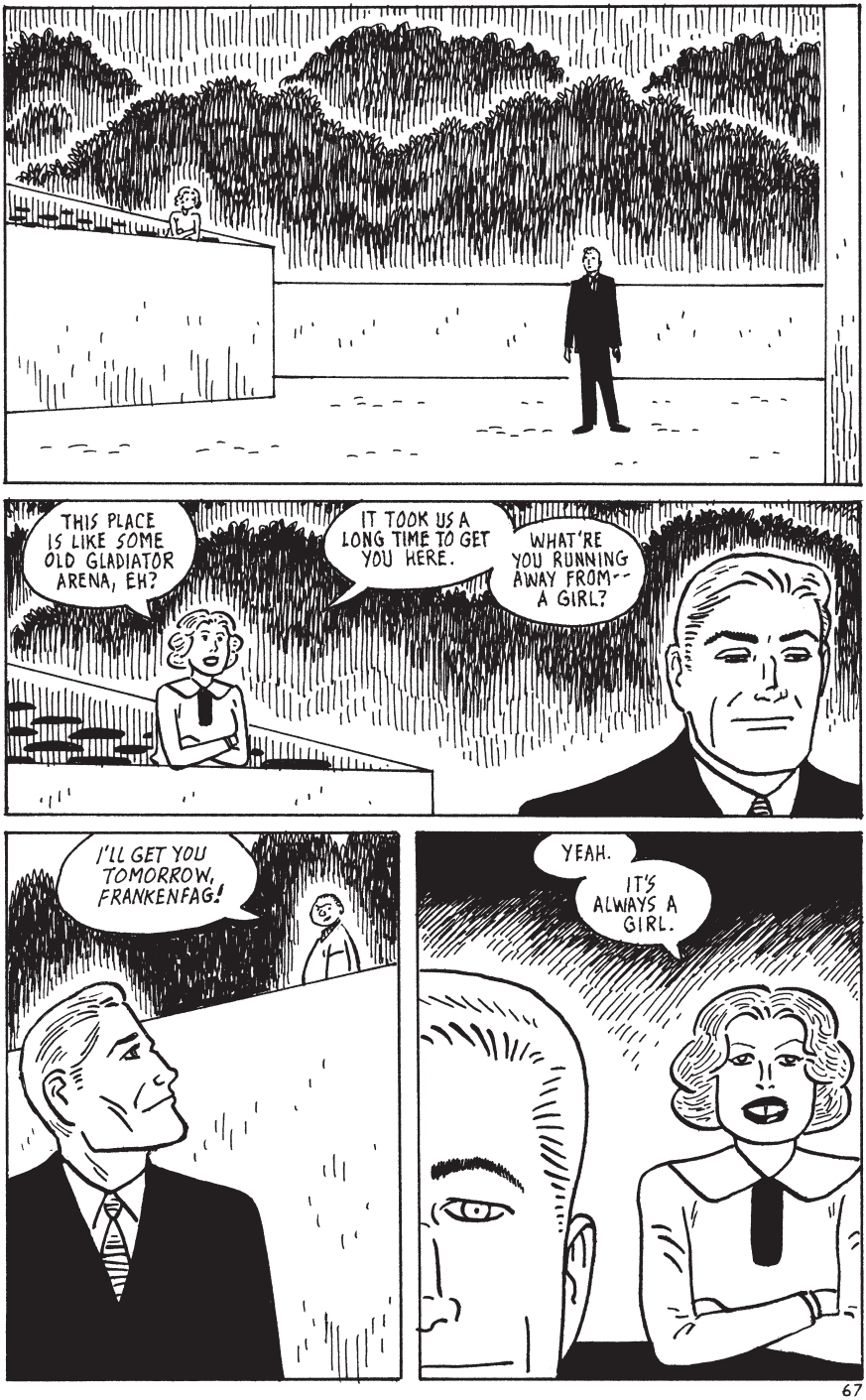

MARIA, SINCE WHEN ARE YOU SO CURIOUS ABOUT MY BUSINESS AFFAIRS?
I'M NOT, I'M NOT!
I'M SENDING GORGO AWAY ON BUSINESS FOR A WHILE, MARIA.
HIS OWN BUSINESS.
SNORT.

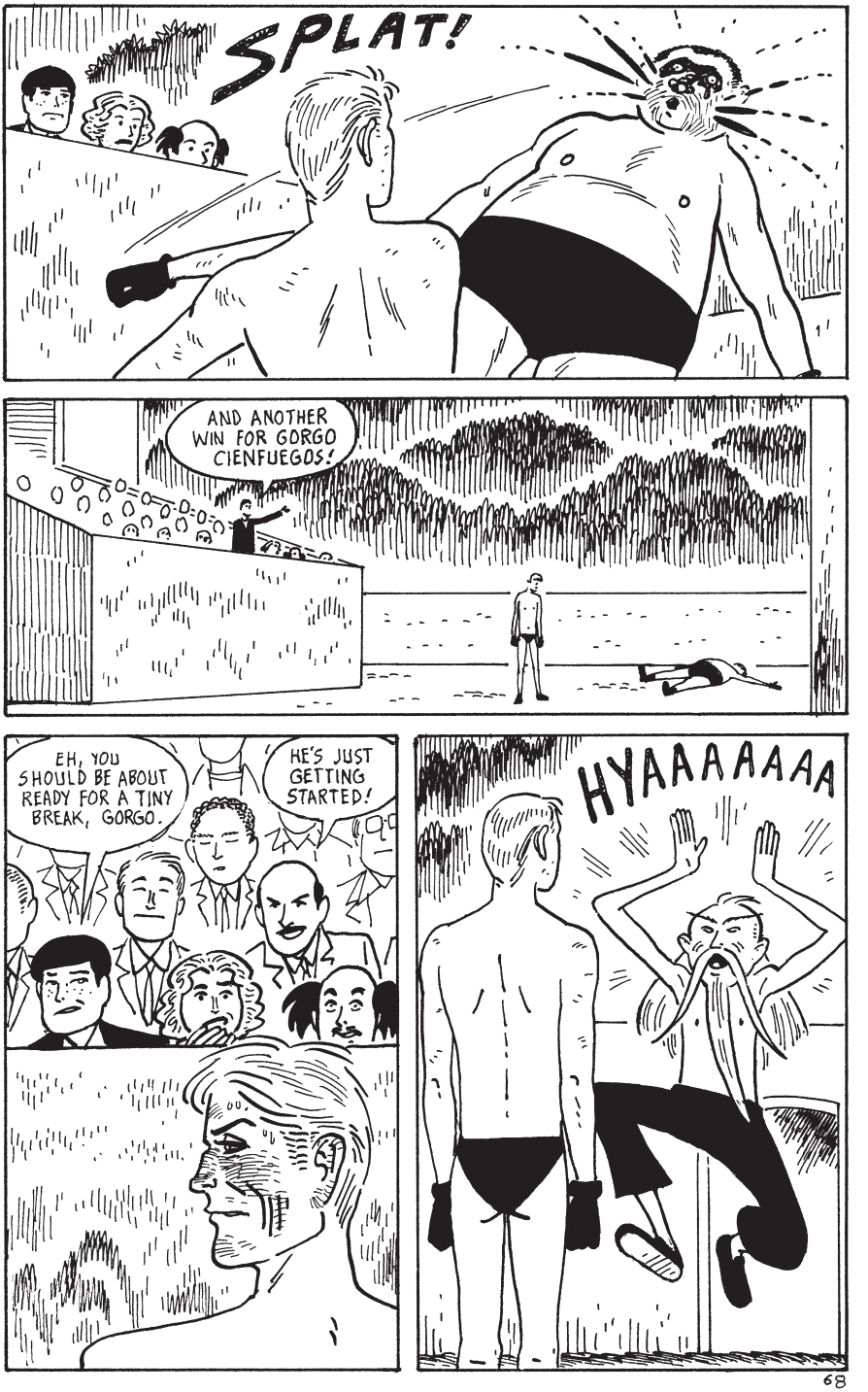

THE OBREGON'S HAVE ARRANGED FOR TRANSPORTATION TO YOUR HOTEL, SEÑOR CIENFUEGOS.
TAXI
CIENFUEGOS'S SON CAN ONLY BE TROUBLE.
RELAX.
HE'S ONLY COME FOR THE EVENT.
HOTEL FELIZ
THE EVENT GIVES US PLENTY OF CHANCES TO GET RID OF HIM FOR GOOD.
A BULLET TO THE BACK OF HIS HEAD IS EASY ENOUGH.
WE COULDN'T SHOOT HIM WITHOUT HIS FATHER KILLING US AND OUR FAMILIES.

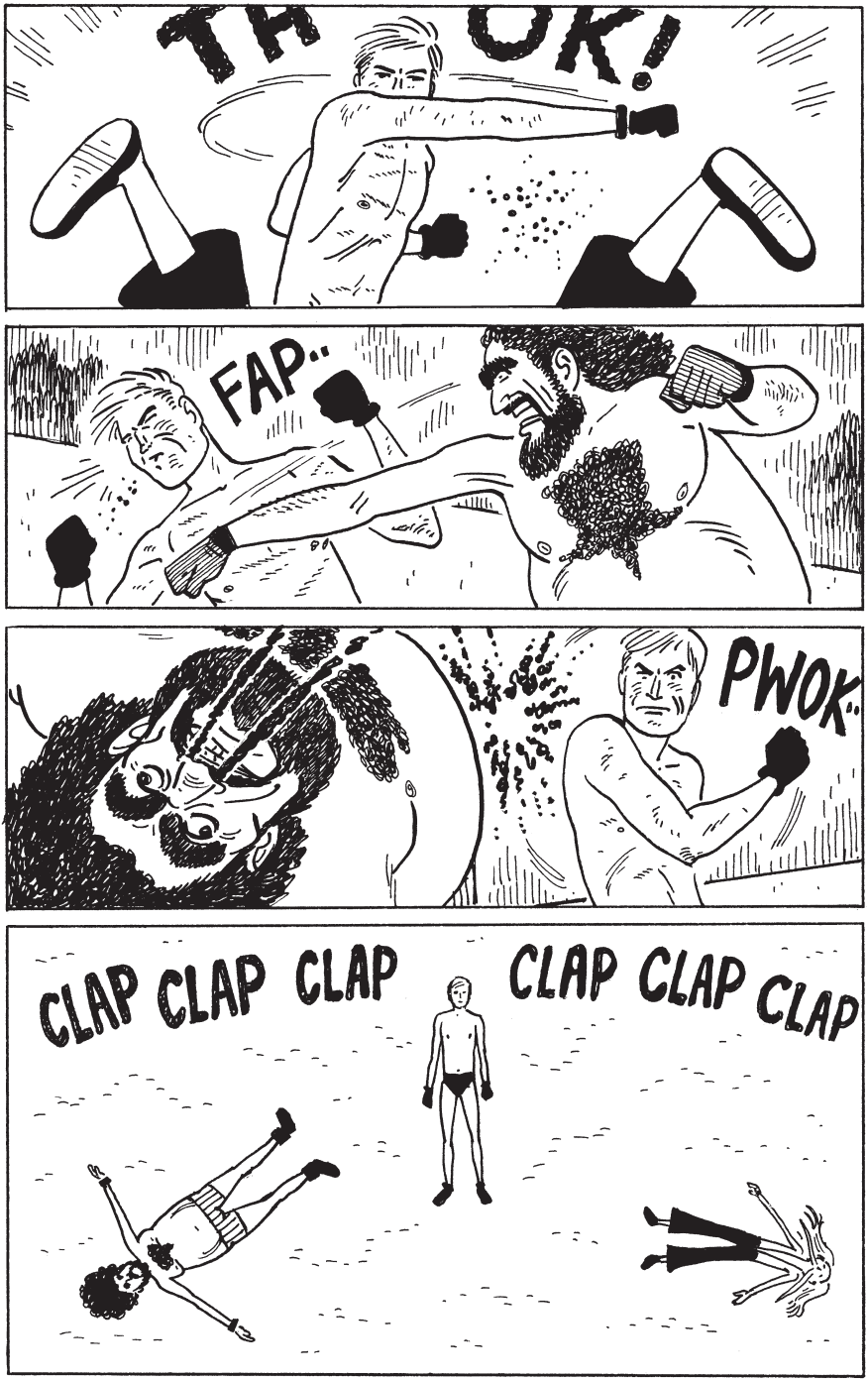

HOW WAS YOUR FLIGHT?
YOUR ROOM SATISFACTORY, WE HOPE?
FINE. FINE.

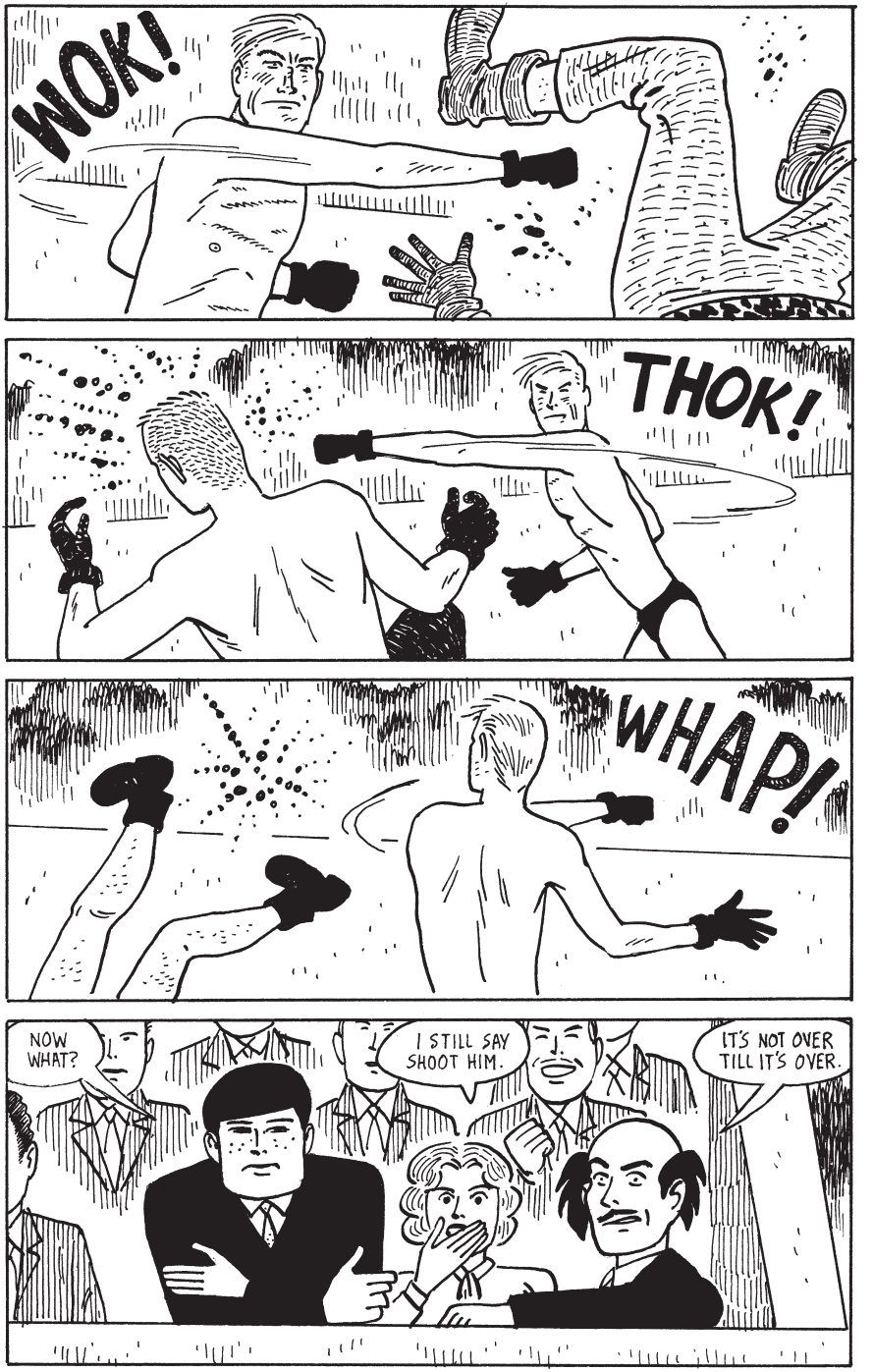

YOUR FATHER'S BUILT HIMSELF UP SOME REP ON THE WEST COAST.
EVERY DISTRIBUTOR I KNOW ENVIES HIS BUSINESS SKILLS.
I'LL GET YOU TOMORROW.


BUT YOU'RE HERE TO GET AWAY FROM BUSINESS, EH, CIENFUEGOS?
HERE TO RELAX.
FRANKENFAG.

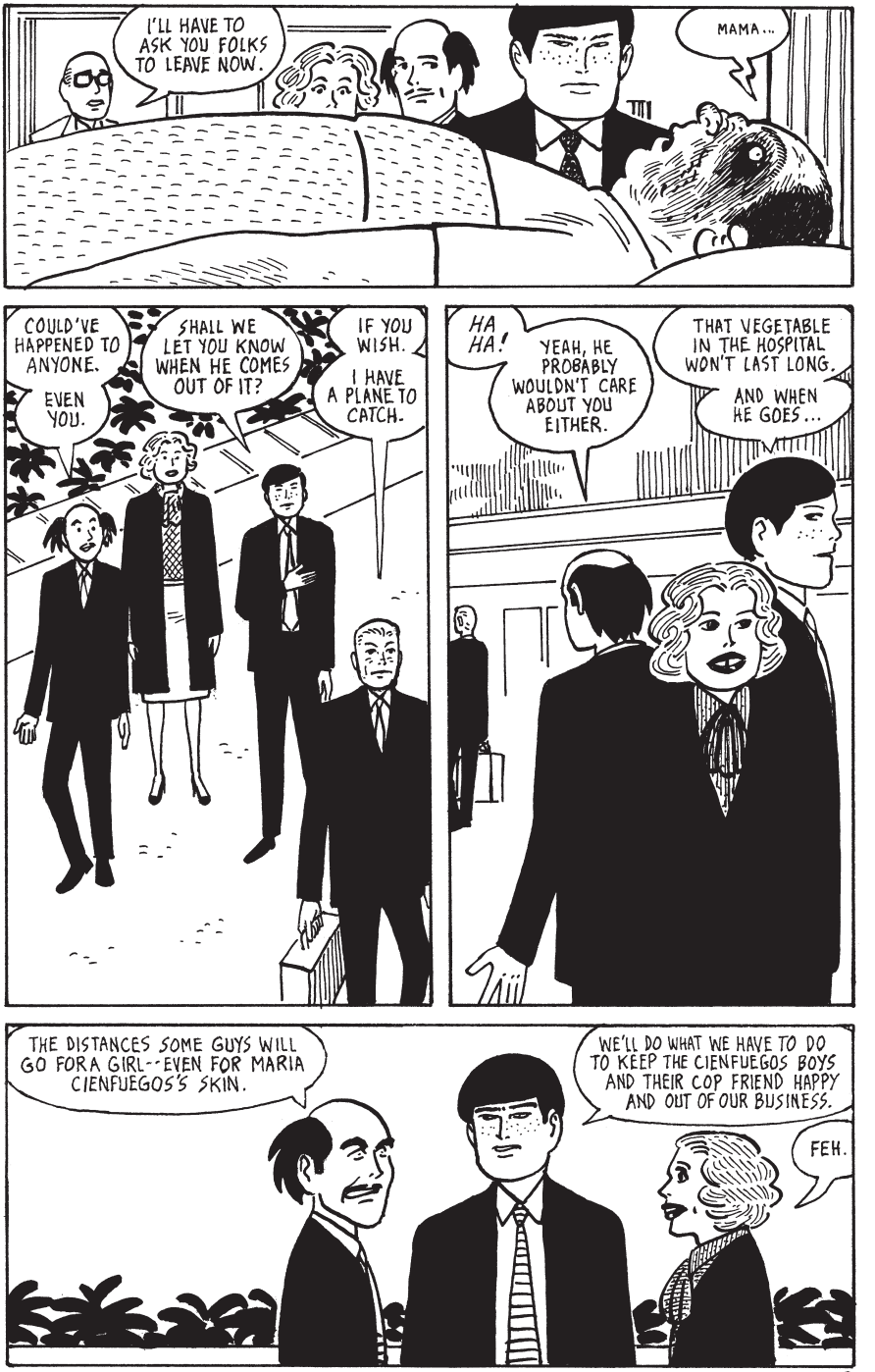

THIS PLACE IS LIKE SOME OLD GLADIATOR ARENA, EH?
IT TOOK US A LONG TIME TO GET YOU HERE.
WHAT'RE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM-- A GIRL?
I'LL GET YOU TOMORROW, FRANKENFAG!
YEAH.
IT'S ALWAYS A GIRL.


SPLAT!
AND ANOTHER WIN FOR GORGO CIENFUEGOS!
EH, YOU SHOULD BE ABOUT READY FOR A TINY BREAK, GORGO.
HE'S JUST GETTING STARTED!
HYAAAAAAA


TH OK!
FAP..
PWOK..
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP


WOK!
THOK!
WHAP!
NOW WHAT?
I STILL SAY SHOOT HIM.
IT'S NOT OVER TILL IT'S OVER.


FOMP!
HUR HUR!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HUUAAH...
THAT'S OVER ENOUGH FOR ME.
MILKY SILKY SMOOTH


I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU FOLKS TO LEAVE NOW.
MAMA...
COULD'VE HAPPENED TO ANYONE.
EVEN YOU.
SHALL WE LET YOU KNOW WHEN HE COMES OUT OF IT?
IF YOU WISH.
I HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH.
HA HA!
YEAH, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT YOU EITHER.
THAT VEGETABLE IN THE HOSPITAL WON'T LAST LONG.
AND WHEN HE GOES...
THE DISTANCES SOME GUYS WILL GO FOR A GIRL--EVEN FOR MARIA CIENFUEGOS'S SKIN.
WE'LL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO KEEP THE CIENFUEGOS BOYS AND THEIR COP FRIEND HAPPY AND OUT OF OUR BUSINESS.
FEH.


THOSE THREE OBREGON SCUM.
THE EVENT RUN BY THOSE FUCKING SELF-IMPORTANT PIMP SCUM.
AT LEAST OUR WOMEN HANDLERS KNOW THEIR PLACE!
THE OBREGONS STAYED OUT OF THE WAY MOST OF THE TIME, DAD.
THE OBREGONS CALLED AND DOUBLED THEIR USUAL ORDER OF OUR LADIES' WEAR FOR THEIR OWN CALL GIRLS, DAD.
MARIA DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE TO KNOW WHERE YOU'D GONE.
GOOD.
NICE TO SEE YOU BACK IN ONE PIECE, HANDSOME.
LET THE PARTY RESUME!




SEÑORA CIENFUEGOS, WHAT DO YOU LADIES TALK ABOUT ALL DAY?
SAME AS YOU MEN.
MONEY, CRUSHING OUR ENEMIES, MONEY...


DO YOUR EYES ALWAYS POP OUT OF YOUR HEAD?
ONLY IF I'M INTERESTED IN SOMETHING.
AND RIGHT NOW I'M INTERESTED IN GETTING INTO THE MOVIE BUSINESS.
OH, THEN YOU'LL DO FINE IN A BUG-EYED MONSTER MOVIE.
I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU RETURN TO FEATURE FILMS.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
MY RETURN TO NEW "FEATURE FILMS" SOUNDS LIKE A FANCY WAY OF SAYING "LONGER STAG MOVIES."
YOU HEARD HER.

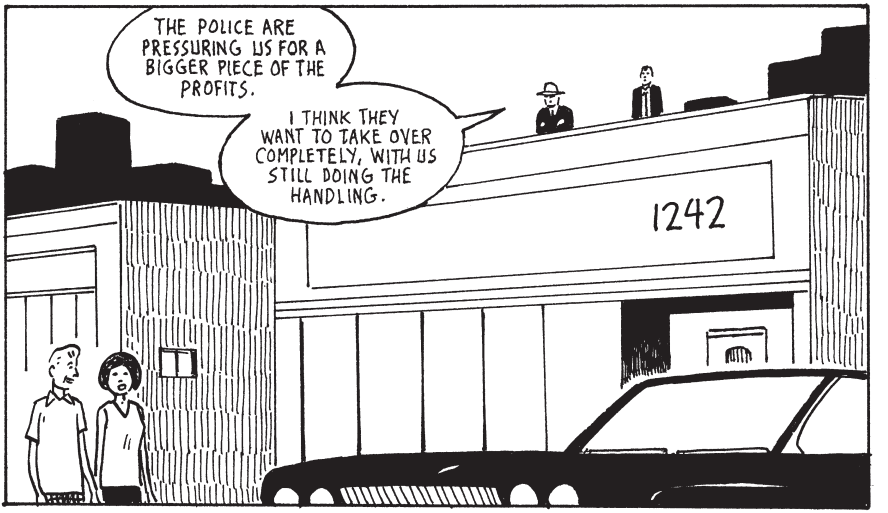

DEATH TO THE RED PLAGUE!
BLAM BLAM
I AM PREPARED TO DIE!
ARE YOU?

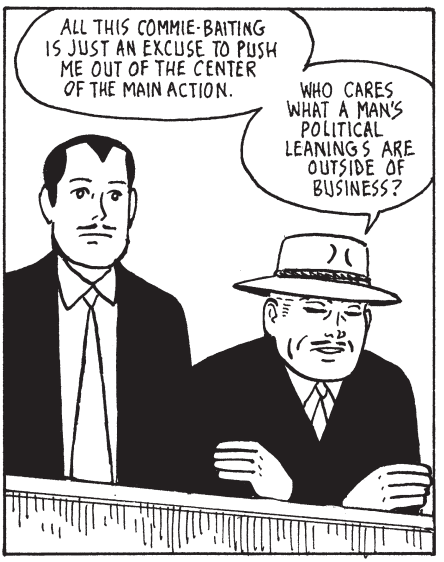

EVEN A MORE THOROUGH BACKGROUND CHECK MIGHT NOT HAVE GIVEN US ANY GOOD REASON TO SUSPECT HIM, MARIA.
WE'RE NOT MIND READERS.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
IF HE HAD ANY ASSOCIATES, I'M SURE THEY'VE RUN FOR THE HILLS BY NOW.
AS LONG AS THOSE HOODS KEEP THEIR KILLING BETWEEN EACH OTHER, THE PUBLIC NEED NOT WORRY.
NAH, THERE'S NOTHING GOOD PLAYING AT THE MOVIES EITHER-- I ALREADY CHECKED.
I GUESS I'LL JUST STICK AROUND HERE FOR CARDS WITH THE BOYS.
LOCAL VIEW
STAR


PLEASE, DON'T!
THEN WHAT WAS ALL THAT SMILING FOR?
SMILE FOR ME NOW!
PLEASE, I JUST FELT SORRY FOR YOU, AND..
YOU FELT SORRRR..


DID YOU KILL HIM..?
GOOD AND DEAD, THE RAT BASTARD.
THE ATOMIC SECRETS ARE SAFE, BUT WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET.
LOOKED LIKE HER VOICE WAS DUBBED BY SOMEBODY ELSE.
THAT TYPE OF DISTRACTION TAKES AWAY FROM THE ARTISTRY.
DOUBLE FEATUR
2ND BIG FEATURE
TO LIE IN SHADOWS
CERT X
STARRING MARIA M.

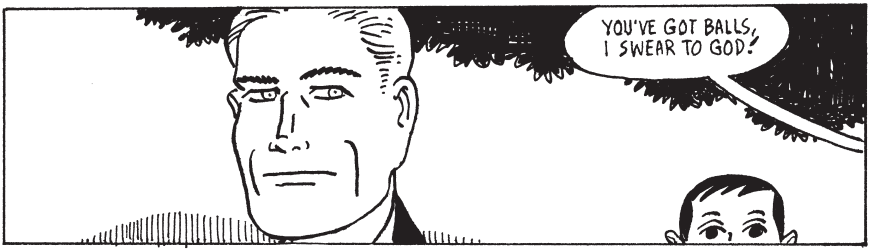

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MOVIE WAS ACTUALLY PLAYING DOWNTOWN AFTER ALL THIS TIME.
MY EPIC FEATURE.
I'M SURE NOBODY AROUND HERE WENT TO SEE IT.

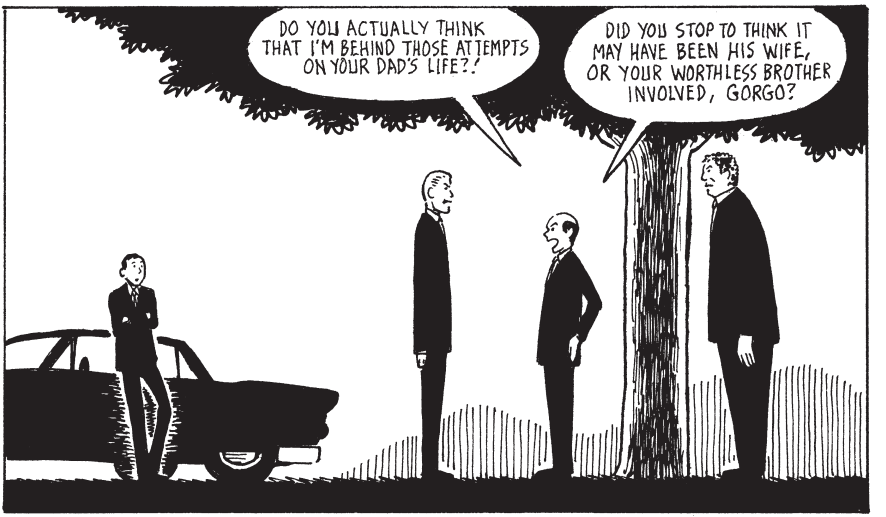

THE POLICE ARE PRESSURING US FOR A BIGGER PIECE OF THE PROFITS.
I THINK THEY WANT TO TAKE OVER COMPLETELY, WITH US STILL DOING THE HANDLING.
1242


ALL THIS COMMIE-BAITING IS JUST AN EXCUSE TO PUSH ME OUT OF THE CENTER OF THE MAIN ACTION.
WHO CARES WHAT A MAN'S POLITICAL LEANINGS ARE OUTSIDE OF BUSINESS?


DEATH TO THE CORRUPTING UNHOLY LEFTIST FRONT!


WH--?
MARIA WON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, ALRIGHT, SON?
RIGHT, DAD.
YOU FIRE AND HIRE NEW GUYS LIKE NOTHING, LUIS.
I KNOW, DON'T GET NOSY.
MARIA, YOU DO REMEMBER POLICE CAPTAIN VALDEZ?


YOU'VE GOT BALLS, I SWEAR TO GOD!


DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT I'M BEHIND THOSE ATTEMPTS ON YOUR DAD'S LIFE?!
DID YOU STOP TO THINK IT MAY HAVE BEEN HIS WIFE, OR YOUR WORTHLESS BROTHER INVOLVED, GORGO?


I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BLAME YOU, SEÑOR BALTAZAR, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO ACCUSE HIS WIFE...
YOU PEOPLE ARE JUST LOOKING TO START UP SOMETHING WITH ME!


WELL, YOU CAN START WITH MANDOPAPER.
I HIRED HIM TO CLEAN HOUSE.


LET HIM GO, MANDO PAPER.
I DON'T CARE IF THE CAPTAIN OF POLICE IS AN OLD FRIEND--I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE STATION FOR QUESTIONING!
HE CAN CALL ME ON THE PHONE, OR SEND ME HIS QUESTIONS BY MAIL!
I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG!
MARIA, YOU'RE NOT BEING ARRESTED, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.
I HATE FUCKING COPS WITH A VENGEANCE!
THE COPS ONLY WANT TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ON THE JOB TO APPEASE THE NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLIC.
HEH.


MARIA, PLEASE COME INSIDE FROM THE BALCONY.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
THERE!
HUFF HUFF
NOW I'M READY FOR THE COPS!
ALL I KNOW IS THAT MY HUSBAND RUNS A LADIES' WEAR BUSINESS, OK?
YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT!
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE DONE NOW, SEÑORA CIENFUEGOS.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION, SEÑORA.
BUNCH OF BULLSHIT, LIKE CHUY SAID.
NOW GO ARREST SOME BAD GUYS.


THE VEGETABLE DIED THIS MORNING, CAPTAIN VALDEZ.
ALL RIGHT.
GORGO IS GOING TO MEET ME HERE.
YES, SEÑOR.
COMMUNISM IS SLAVERY!
LONG LIVE FREEDOM!
BLAM!

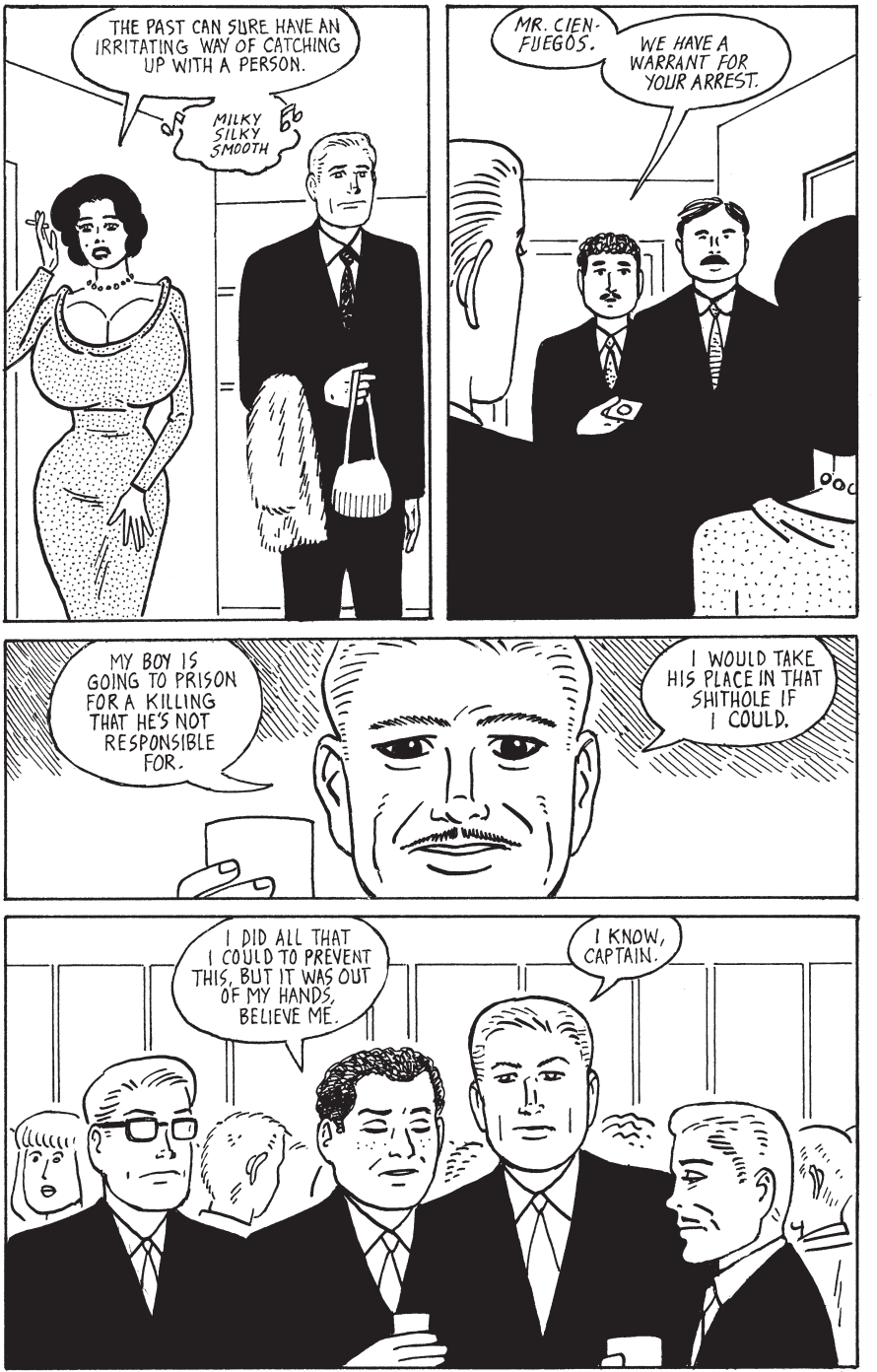

WHY ISN'T THE MOTOR RUNNING?!
START THE CAR, IDIOT!
13
AMATEUR.
YOU'D THINK THEY'D FIND SOMEBODY TO GET THE JOB DONE BY NOW.
THEY WON'T.
THEY.
MAYBE I'D DO BETTER IN PICKING YOUR MEN.


MARIA, DON'T CRY--I'M ALL RIGHT.
I-I'LL KILL THEM! I'LL KILL THEM ALL!
MARIA, DON'T...


13
13


FIRST, OUT OF NOWHERE, THAT MOVIE I MADE PLAYS IN TOWN AFTER ALL THIS TIME.


NOW THAT DOCTOR SAYS THAT HE RECOGNIZED ME FROM SOME DIRTY MAGAZINE THAT I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS IN.


THE PAST CAN SURE HAVE AN IRRITATING WAY OF CATCHING UP WITH A PERSON.
MILKY SILKY SMOOTH
MR. CIEN-FUEGOS.
WE HAVE A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST.
MY BOY IS GOING TO PRISON FOR A KILLING THAT HE'S NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR.
I WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE IN THAT SHITHOLE IF I COULD.
I DID ALL THAT I COULD TO PREVENT THIS, BUT IT WAS OUT OF MY HANDS, BELIEVE ME.
I KNOW, CAPTAIN.


5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SOCKING A GUY TO DEATH?
IT WAS NEVER PROVEN.
YOU'RE NOT DRINKING?
YOU NOTICED.
WHEN HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ME TAKE A DRINK?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER.
GORGO DOESN'T DRINK EITHER.


THE DOCTORS DID ALL THEY COULD TO SAVE THE V-FIGHTER'S LIFE.
WE'RE SORRY, CIENFUEGOS.
THE OBREGONS SET UP THE EVENT--THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
BUT--
OH, DON'T WORRY, BALTAZAR--I HAVEN'T ANY PROOF!
YET!
YOU'RE WISE IN LETTING IT PLAY OUT ON ITS OWN, CIENFUEGOS.
MY PEOPLE ARE HERE IF YOU NEED US, SEÑOR.
GOOD LUCK.
THANKS.
CLICK


MARIA, WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE AWAY FOR MOST OF THE 5 YEARS.
I JUST HATE TO THINK OF YOUR BROTHER IN THAT PLACE.
THEN DON'T.
STILL NOT A PEEP FROM CIENFUEGOS.
HE KNOWS THE SCORE.


OOF..!
OOF..!
I GOT SOMETHING YOU'LL WANT TO SEE.


CHILI
THE POLICE STILL WANT TO TALK TO ME?
DO YOU THINK I CAN SNEAK A HAND GRENADE IN MY PURSE?
JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS, MARIA.
SHE SURE LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOUR OLD MAN'S WIFE, DON'T SHE, HUH?
CHILI
ZOMBA

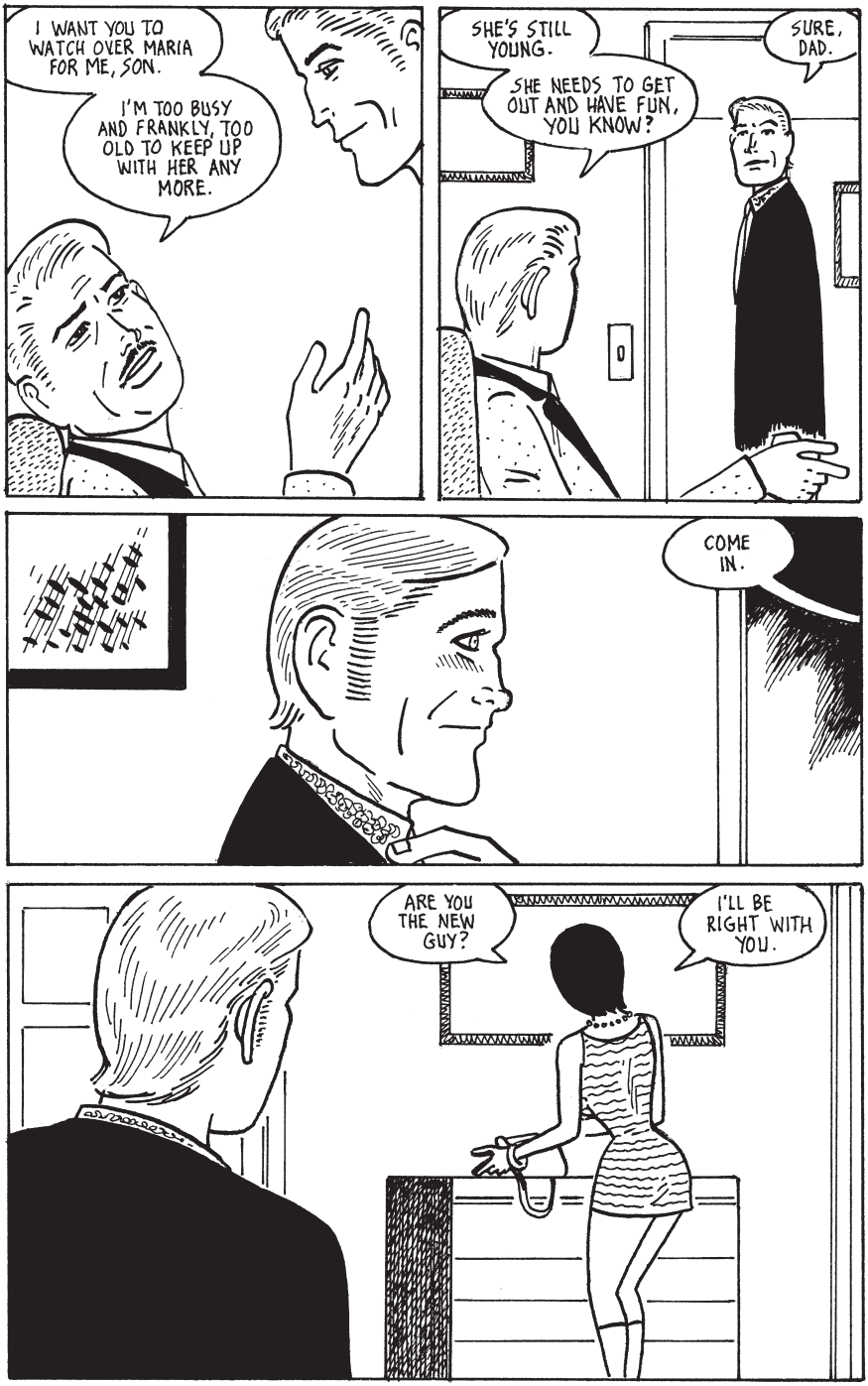

DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK IN IT, EH?
MAYBE IF SHE WAS A BLONDE, HUH?
AH WELL.
ZOMBA
TRASH FOR THE TRASH.


C'MON, YOUR PEOPLE HAVE PROTECTED CERTAIN INMATES BEFORE!
WELL, MAYBE I'M ONLY A POLICE CAPTAIN, BUT MY FRIENDS ARE..
RIGHT, RIGHT.
LOOK, I'M WITH SOMEONE RIGHT NOW, AND..
RIGHT.
I'LL CALL LATER.
INTERRUPTIONS.
GOD, JUST LIKE IN THE MAGAZINE, EXCEPT BETTER.
SILLY.. YOU SAW ME PERFORM ON STAGE IN JUST PASTIES AND A G-STRING.
THIS IS DIFFERENT.
WHAT MAGAZINE?
ENOUGH QUESTIONS.


YOU'D BETTER BE TELLING THE TRUTH THAT YOU CAN'T GET ME PREGNANT.
MY BALLS ARE AS EMPTY AS YOUR HEAD.
NO, I DON'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE MAGAZINE OR... I JUST REMEMBER YOU IN IT AND... WHERE DID I PUT IT?
I'LL BET MY WIFE GOT A HOLD OF IT.
MARIA, I'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO AT THE PRECINCT, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR STEP-SON IS SAFE IN PRISON.
I NEVER POSED FOR ANY PICTURES IN A MAGAZINE.


YOU DON'T COME HERE TO BE REASSURED THAT YOUR STEP-SON STAYS SAFE IN PRISON...
WITH GORGO AWAY IN PRISON, CAPTAIN VALDEZ IS SAFE TO HAVE HIS WAY WITH MARIA.
WE ARRANGE THAT AND THE POLICE ARE OFF OUR BACKS.
SO SIMPLE.


I HAVE TO SAY THAT YOUR YEARS IN THE JOINT HAS GIVEN YOU THE REST YOU NEEDED.
COUGH COUGH
YOU LOOK GOOD, DAD.
AH, I'M UP AND DOWN AS USUAL, RIGHT, DR.?
YOUR FATHER'S NOT A YOUNG MAN ANY MORE, SEÑOR GORGO.
YEAH, MARIA AND THE BOYS INSISTED THAT I GET THIS PRIVATE DOCTOR TO KEEP ME ALIVE, I GATHER.
I SEE HIM MORE OFTEN THAN I SEE MARIA, ACTUALLY.
NOW THAT BALTAZAR AND THE OBREGONS HAVE FORMED THEIR ALLIANCE, I'M ON MY TOES.
MARIA...


I WANT YOU TO WATCH OVER MARIA FOR ME, SON.
I'M TOO BUSY AND FRANKLY, TOO OLD TO KEEP UP WITH HER ANY MORE.
SHE'S STILL YOUNG.
SHE NEEDS TO GET OUT AND HAVE FUN, YOU KNOW?
SURE, DAD.
COME IN.
ARE YOU THE NEW GUY?
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.


OK, YOUR JOB IS TO TAKE ME TO WHERE I WANT TO GO AND NO COMPLAINTS!
UNDERSTOOD?
YES, MARIA.
YOU MEAN, YES MA'AM, DON'T YOU, BOY?
WHERE DO YOU GET THE NERVE TO CALL ME..
OH..!


I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW.
IT'S REALLY YOU, HUH?
IT'S ME, MA'AM.
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME! NOBODY TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE GETTING OUT!
I DO PREFER YOU TO THE OTHER GUYS YOUR DAD HAD WATCHING ME.
AND NO STORIES ABOUT YOUR YEARS IN THE PEN, OK? JUST DROP ALL THAT SHIT AND ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM, HUH?
AND DON'T CALL ME MA'AM!
GORGO AND I ARE OFF, BABY. WE'VE GOT TO PAINT THE TOWN RED AND MAYBE BLACK, TOO.
HAVE FUN, LOVE.


C'MON, LURCH!
YEAH, WE JUST WANT HER AUTOGRAPH!
THAT DUMB MOVIE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY RECOGNIZED ME FROM THE OLD DAYS.
I LOST A GOOD 25 POUNDS WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, IF YOU HADN'T NOTICED.
I NOTICED, MARIA.


IT'S JUST A LITTLE DIZZINESS, EH, DR.?
JUST A LITTLE REST IS ALL.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR HURRY TO LEAVE ALL THE TIME?
STRANGE THAT YOUR DAD'S BEEN HAVING DIZZY SPELLS SINCE YOU'VE BEEN BACK.
HIS DOCTOR'S LOOKING AFTER HIM, MARIA.
OH, YOU!


OH, I'M NERVOUS WITH YOU WATCHING ME WHILE I'M TRYING TO SHOP.
PUT THAT STUFF DOWN AND GO OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE BIT.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
YES, MARIA.
UNLESS YOU WANT THE BITCH TO SEE YOUR HEAD ROLL, YOU'LL COME QUIETLY INTO THE ALLEY, PAL.
I'M A 'NAM VET, SO DON'T TRY ANYTHING, SPIC.
GO AHEAD.
THIS WAY.

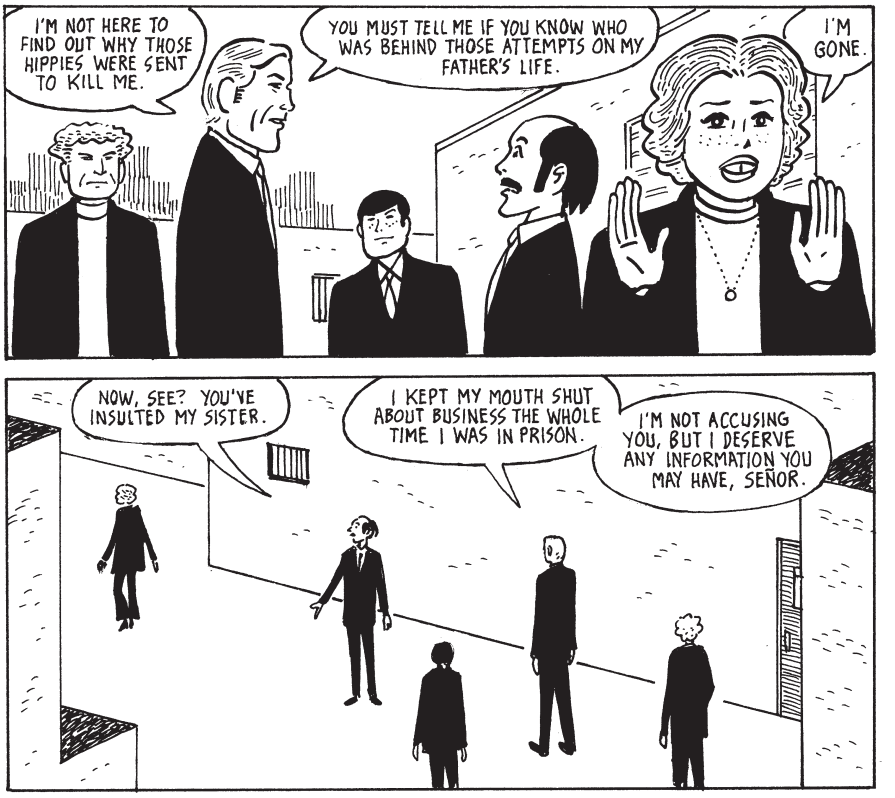

YOU WETBACK GREASER. COMMIES NEED SOME REAL AMERICAN EDUCATING.
WHERE..?
TSK.
I AM AMERICAN.


OH, BOO HOO!
HAVE I BEEN ABANDONED?
AH, I'M RIGHT HERE, MARIA.
CARRY MY BAGS, SIR?
OH..OH, YES, OF COURSE.
HEY, IF YOU DID NOTICE THAT I'M 25 POUNDS THINNER THAN WHEN YOU FIRST MET ME, WHICH WAY DO YOU LIKE ME BETTER?
JUST AS YOU ARE, MARIA.
WELL, WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE? YOU ALMOST EXPRESSED SOME AFFECTION FOR ME!
DON'T HURT YOURSELF SHOWING YOU CARE ABOUT ME IN ANY WAY.
YES, MARIA.


LUCKY FOR US, THE COW'S A LUSH, PATRICE.
CHARLIE, QUIET-- SOMEONE MIGHT HEAR YOU.
MY OTHER SON? GORGO WILL BE HERE IN A LITTLE WHILE. HE HAD SOME BUSINESS TO DO DOWNTOWN.


ANOTHER FOR THE BIRTHDAY GIRL?
WHY NOT?
TODAY I AM 37 AND NEVER BEEN KISSED.
37 BECOMES YOU, MARIA.
DO I KNOW YOU?
WE'RE FRIENDS OF YOUR HUSBAND'S FRIENDS.
CAN I GET YOU ANOTHER DRINK?
HM?
WAIT..!


SIT, DAD--TAKE IT EASY.
JUST A CHEST CRAMP FROM THE KNIFE AND BULLET WOUNDS, SON.
AMBULANCE IS ON THE WAY!
OH, ANOTHER OF MY SILLY DIZZY SPELLS, MARIA--NOTHING.
OH, LUIS!
CIENFUEGOS SURE TOOK LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE THAT SEIZURE.
DON'T WORRY, TAD WILL WAIT TILL WE GET THERE.
ALL RIGHT.

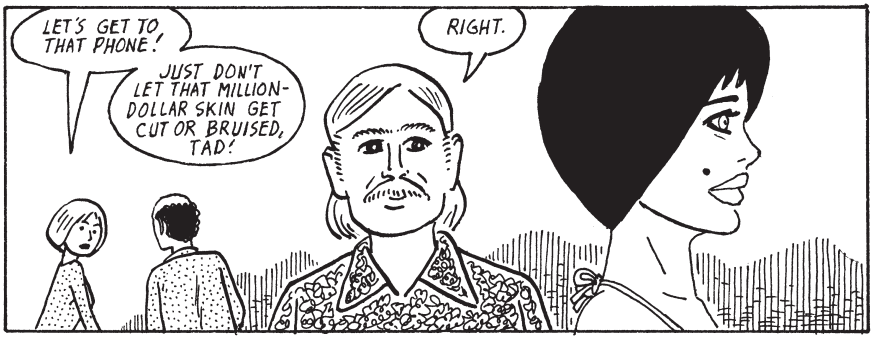

I'M NOT HERE TO FIND OUT WHY THOSE HIPPIES WERE SENT TO KILL ME.
YOU MUST TELL ME IF YOU KNOW WHO WAS BEHIND THOSE ATTEMPTS ON MY FATHER'S LIFE.
I'M GONE.
NOW, SEE? YOU'VE INSULTED MY SISTER.
I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT ABOUT BUSINESS THE WHOLE TIME I WAS IN PRISON.
I'M NOT ACCUSING YOU, BUT I DESERVE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE, SEÑOR.
JAVIER WILL SHOW YOU HOME, GORGO.
GIVE ME THE KEYS TO THE CAR.
WHAT?

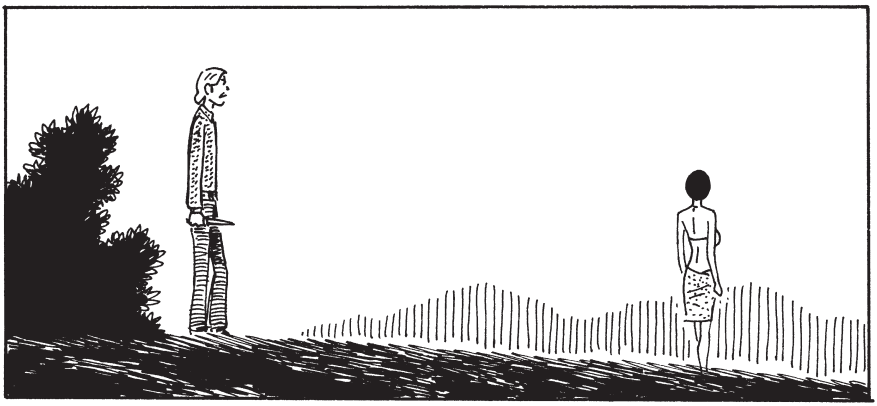

GARAGE
DAILY RATES
AA!
AAA!
MY BUSINESS WITH THE OBREGONS IS DONE, CHUY.
GORGO, YOUR DAD'S IN THE HOSPITAL!
I STAYED HERE TO WAIT FOR YOUR CALL!
WH...
WHAT HOSPITAL?!

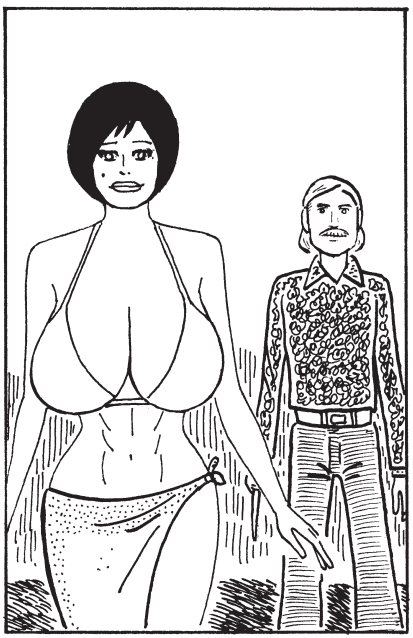

HE'S IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER, BUT WE'D LIKE TO KEEP HIM OVERNIGHT FOR OBSERVATION.
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MARIA.
EH, A GORGO ON THE PHONE?
I'LL TAKE IT, HERMAN.
GORGO?
IT'S VALDEZ.
YEAH, YOUR DAD'S OK.
POISON? THE DOCTORS THINK IT'S JUST ONE OF HIS DIZZY SPELLS.
MARIA'S HERE WITH YOUR DAD
KEEP YOUR EYE ON HER AND I'LL GET THERE RIGHT AWAY.

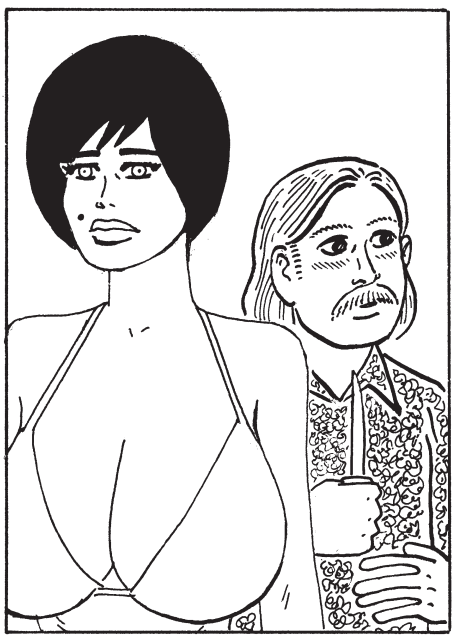

HOSPITAL
THERE SHE IS!
THE DRUG'S WORKING!
I'LL GRAB HER!
MARIA, COME WITH ME.

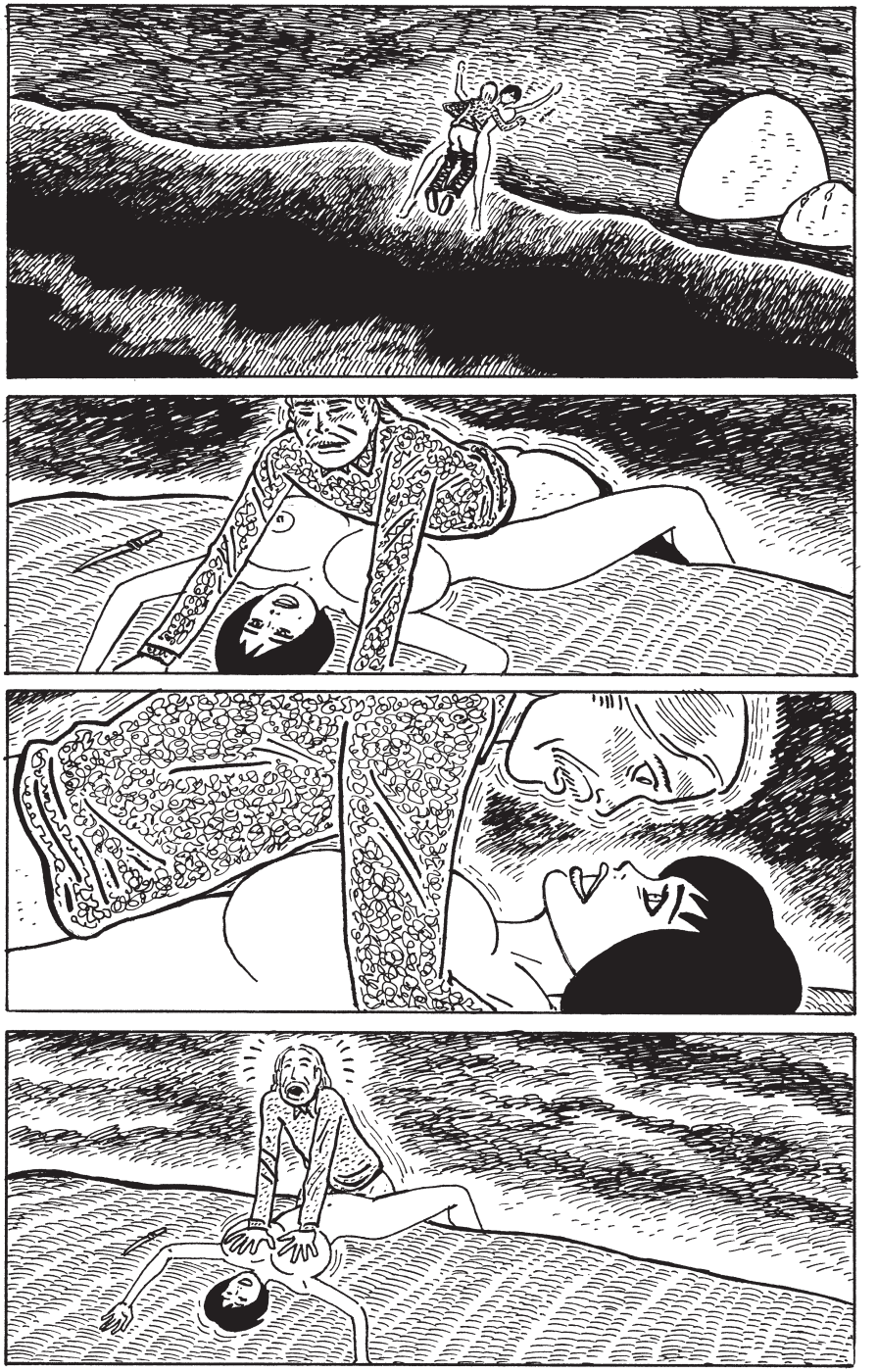

CHARLIE, WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED TO THE COAT AND HAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING TO COVER HER UP?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BRINGING THAT SHIT, PATRICE.
DO YOU THINK THAT THEY'LL PAY A MILLION TO GET HER BACK?
IF THEY REFUSE, THEN SHE'S ON HER WAY TO BECOMING A SEX SLAVE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.


LET'S GET TO THAT PHONE!
JUST DON'T LET THAT MILLION-DOLLAR SKIN GET CUT OR BRUISED, TAD!
RIGHT.

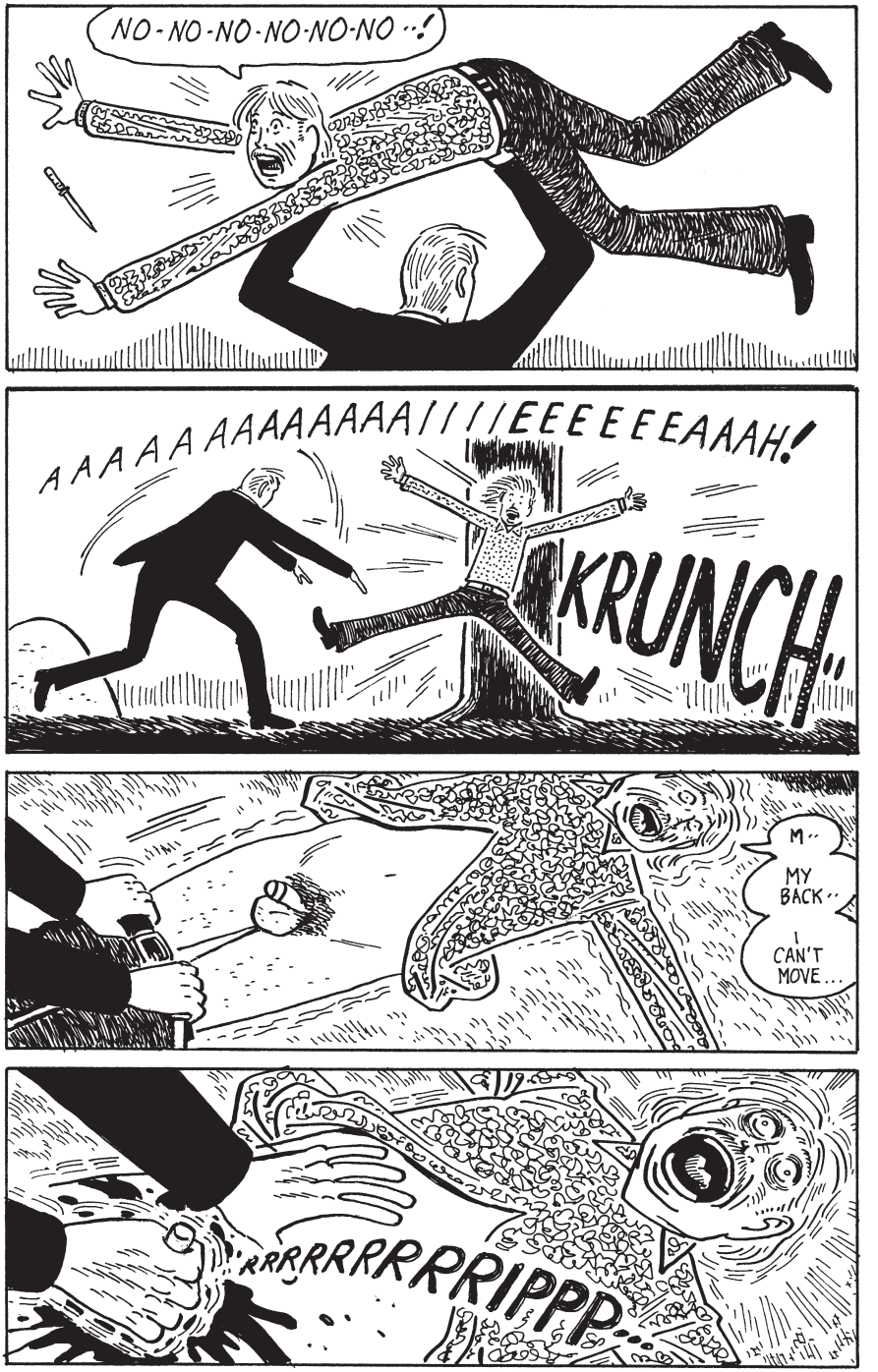


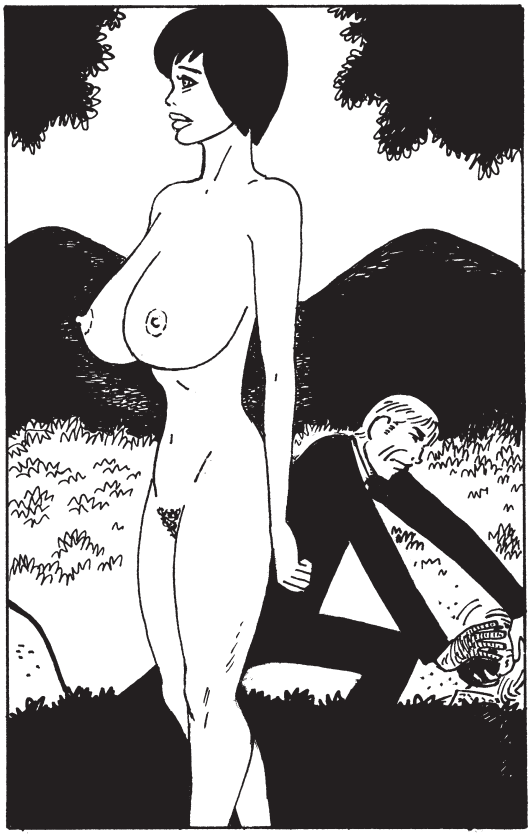




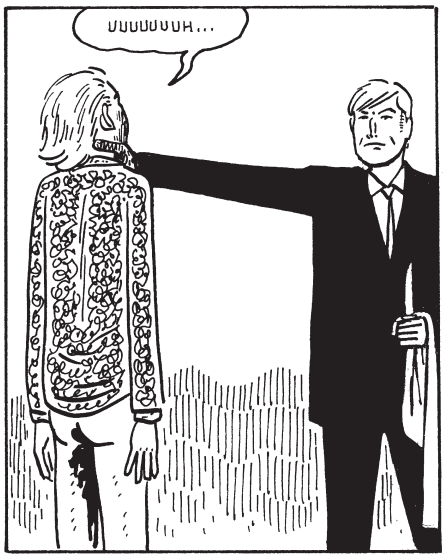



SHIT, WHAT DID I DO WITH YOUR BATHING SUIT?
CAN'T TAKE YOU BACK LIKE THIS!


NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO..!
AAAAAAAAAAA!!!!EEEEEEEAAAH!
KRUNCH..
M..
MY BACK..
I CAN'T MOVE...
RRRRRRRRRRIPPP...




GRUURGH..
GUUUUH...
GGG:::


UUUUUUUH...


UUUAAAIIIIIEEAAA..


OH, GOD.
OH. GOD.
OH, GOD.
WHUUUH..
BWAHHH..
.....
I'M-I'M
SORRY,
MARIA...
MARIA...
M...
MANDOPAPER.



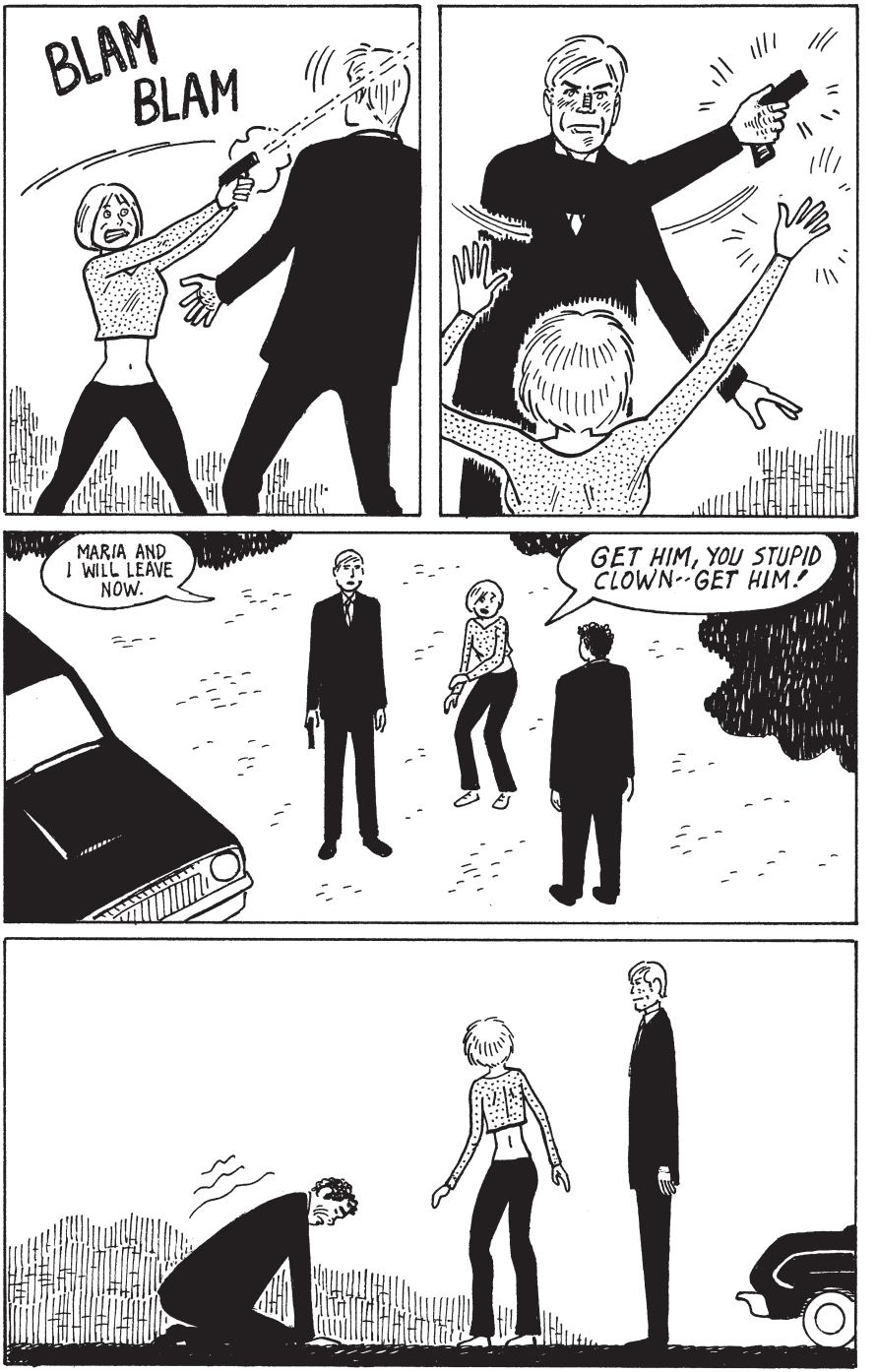







IT'S THE WIFE, AND SHE'S ALONE!
BUT WHERE'S TAD?
CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY TO DO ANYTHING RIGHT!
STAY WITH HER--I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT'S UP WITH TAD.
FIRST NOBODY ANSWERING THE PHONE, NOW THIS.
TAD'S ALWAYS BEEN RELIABLE.


MANDOPAPER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHERE'S TAD AND CHARLIE?!
GIVE ME THE KEYS TO YOUR CAR.
BLAM BLAM BLAM!
THE KEYS.
WHAT? CHARLIE..?
I HAVEN'T GOT THE KEYS! CHARLIE'S GOT THEM!
THEN LET THE GIRL GO.
WE HIRED YOU TO HELP US, MANDOPAPER! YOU KNOW THAT IF THE DEAL WENT SOUR, WE KILL THE FUCKING BITCH!
LET MY STEPMOTHER GO.


BLAM
BLAM
MARIA AND I WILL LEAVE NOW.
GET HIM, YOU STUPID CLOWN--GET HIM!


BALTAZAR ASSURED US THAT YOU WERE THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB, MANDOPAPER!!
GO GET THEM!

IT NEVER HAPPENED, MARIA.
NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW.
NOBODY-- NOT EVEN YOU.

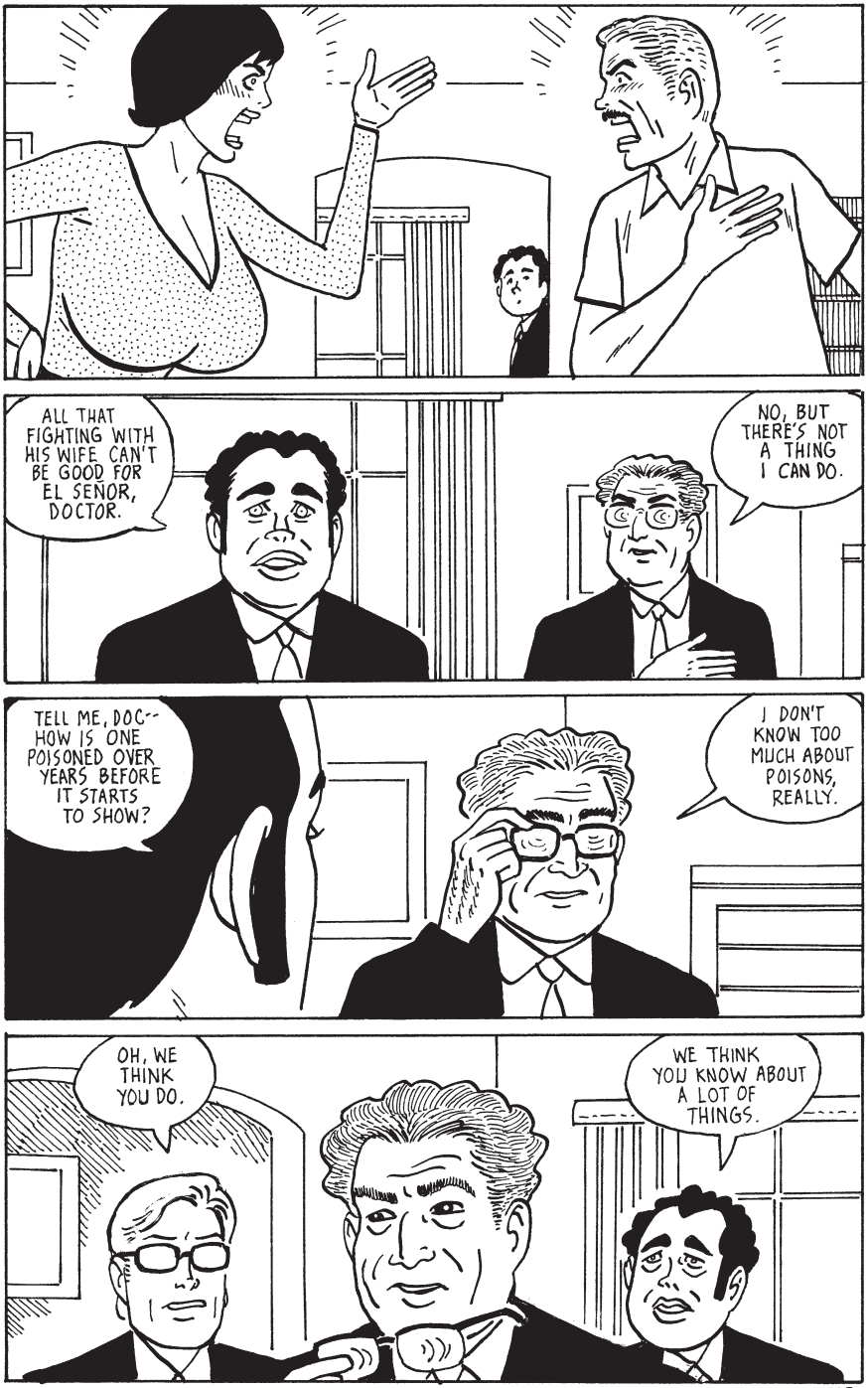

YOU WORTHLESS SACK OF SHIT!
NOW WE'RE FUCKING DEAD!


OWWW..


AAUUUAAAA··!
CHARLIE?
TAD...
UUUUUUHHH··
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO··
AAAAH··!

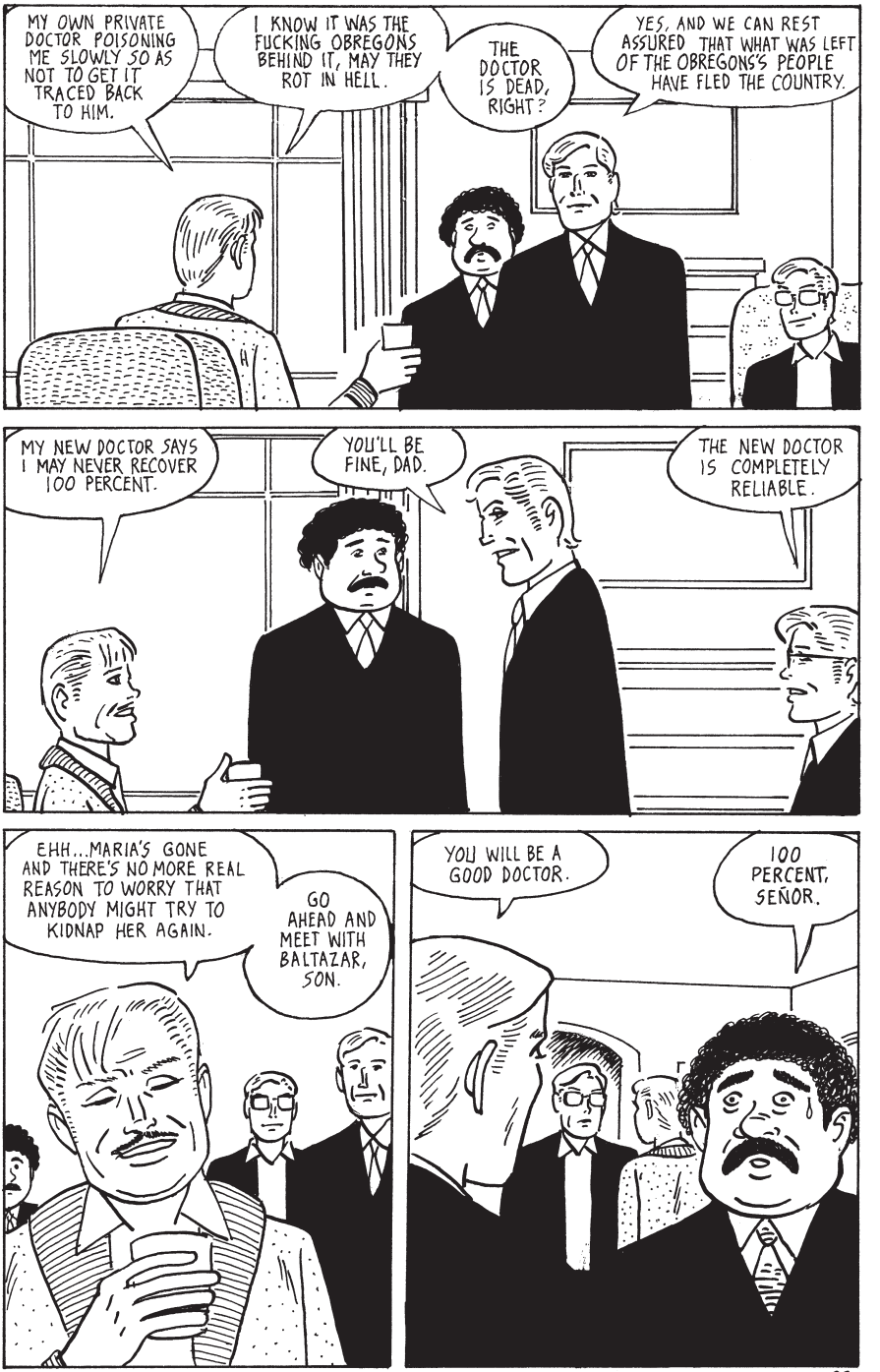

AHH...
MARIA, EL SEÑOR IS AWAKE NOW.
OH...I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP..?
WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD GONE.
INDIGESTION, KNIVES, BULLETS-- NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM YOU.
LUIS, I-I CAN'T TAKE THESE SCARES ANY MORE, I CAN'T.. I CAN'T..!
MARIA...

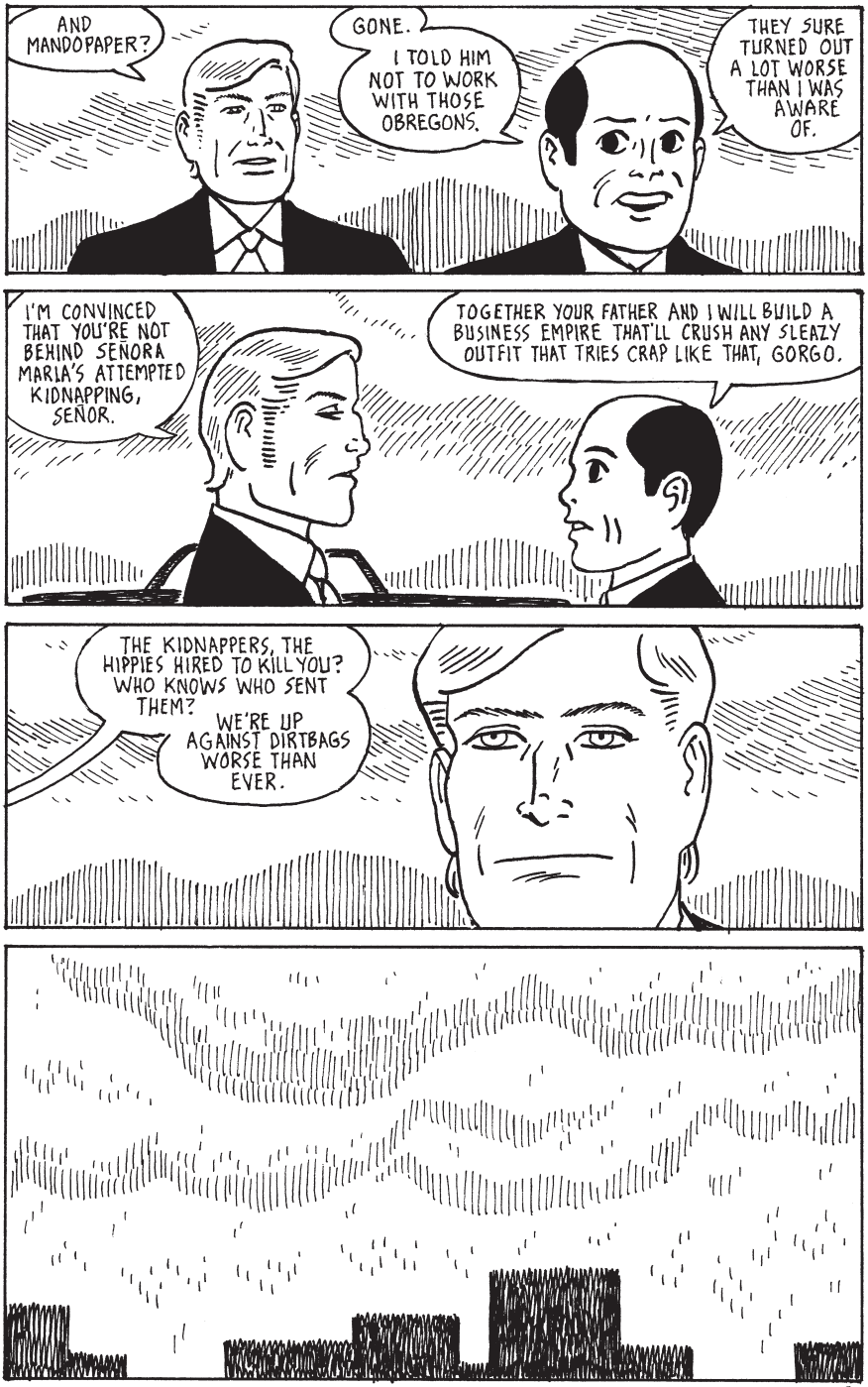

BAR
MILKY SILKY SMOOTH
SINCE WHEN DO YOU DRINK?
SINCE I'M A BIG FUCKING FAILURE.
THOSE PEOPLE THAT TRIED TO KIDNAP MARIA WERE THE FAILURES.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
BE PROUD THAT YOU GOT TO THEM BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE MARIA.


ALL THAT FIGHTING WITH HIS WIFE CAN'T BE GOOD FOR EL SEÑOR, DOCTOR.
NO, BUT THERE'S NOT A THING I CAN DO.
TELL ME, DOC-- HOW IS ONE POISONED OVER YEARS BEFORE IT STARTS TO SHOW?
I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT POISONS, REALLY.
OH, WE THINK YOU DO.
WE THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.


GGGGUURRH...
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST KEPT YOUR TONGUE HAD YOU GIVEN US A NAME, DOCTOR.
EEEAA..
DON'T LET HIM DIE RIGHT AWAY.
WRAP HIM AND HIS DICK AND BALLS UP SEPARATELY.
DUMP HIM IN FRONT OF A GRADE SCHOOL.
NO, HE NEVER GAVE US A NAME, HERMAN.
I DON'T THINK HE KNEW WHO HIRED HIM TO POISON YOUR DAD.
ALL RIGHT, CHUY.
YOU BOYS STAY OUT OF TOWN FOR A FEW DAYS.
YEAH.
GOOD.


TAXI
MARIA AND I HAVE COME TO THE DECISION THAT IT'S BETTER THAT SHE AND I PART WAYS.
IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS MARIA CHANGED, BOYS-- SHE'S BEEN NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ALONG WITH.
I REALIZE THE PLOT TO KIDNAP HER WAS-- WELL, SHE WANTED OUT AND NOW SHE'S OUT.
I HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR-- I RUN A BUSINESS...

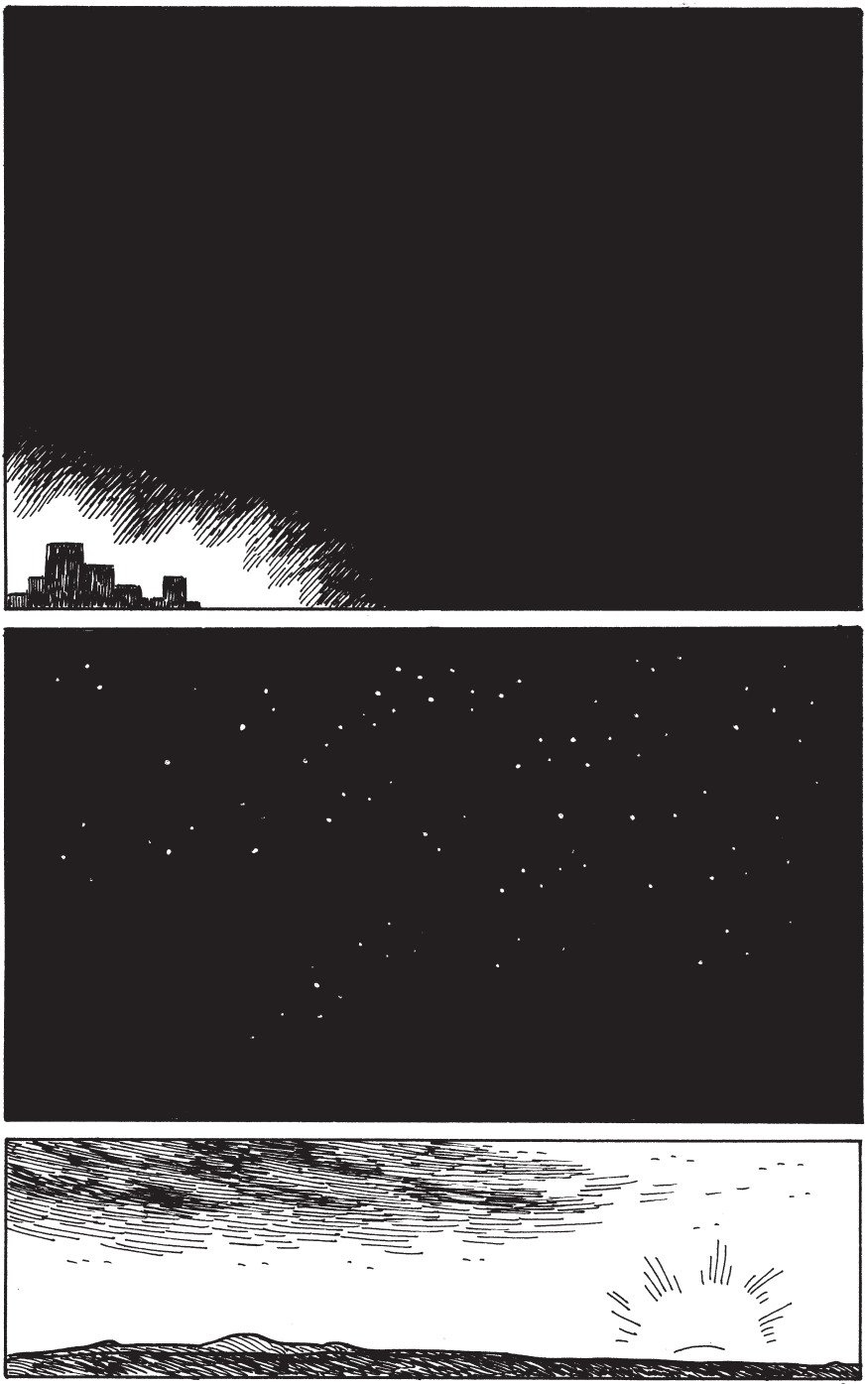

MY OWN PRIVATE DOCTOR POISONING ME SLOWLY SO AS NOT TO GET IT TRACED BACK TO HIM.
I KNOW IT WAS THE FUCKING OBREGONS BEHIND IT, MAY THEY ROT IN HELL.
THE DOCTOR IS DEAD, RIGHT?
YES, AND WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE OBREGONS'S PEOPLE HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY.
MY NEW DOCTOR SAYS I MAY NEVER RECOVER 100 PERCENT.
YOU'LL BE FINE, DAD.
THE NEW DOCTOR IS COMPLETELY RELIABLE.
EHH...MARIA'S GONE AND THERE'S NO MORE REAL REASON TO WORRY THAT ANYBODY MIGHT TRY TO KIDNAP HER AGAIN.
GO AHEAD AND MEET WITH BALTAZAR, SON.
YOU WILL BE A GOOD DOCTOR.
100 PERCENT, SEÑOR.


AND MANDOPAPER?
GONE.
I TOLD HIM NOT TO WORK WITH THOSE OBREGONS.
THEY SURE TURNED OUT A LOT WORSE THAN I WAS AWARE OF.
I'M CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE NOT BEHIND SEÑORA MARIA'S ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING, SEÑOR.
TOGETHER YOUR FATHER AND I WILL BUILD A BUSINESS EMPIRE THAT'LL CRUSH ANY SLEAZY OUTFIT THAT TRIES CRAP LIKE THAT, GORGO.
THE KIDNAPPERS, THE HIPPIES HIRED TO KILL YOU? WHO KNOWS WHO SENT THEM?
WE'RE UP AGAINST DIRTBAGS WORSE THAN EVER.


I JUST COULDN'T BE THERE ANY MORE.
ALL THE RUMORS OF KILLINGS, OF--
TCH, DID I SAY RUMORS?
REPORTS, I MEAN.
I LIKE IT HERE, SO NICE AND QUIET-- FAR AWAY FROM ALL THE-- WELL.
YOUR FATHER GAVE ME ENOUGH MONEY TO LAST ME A WHILE, GORGO.
I HAD TO LEAVE HIM, GORGO!
HOW COULD I EXPLAIN BEING PREGNANT? YOUR FATHER ISN'T ABLE TO HAVE ANY MORE CHILDREN!
I WASN'T WITH ANYBODY ELSE, I SWEAR!


YOU TOLD ME THAT THEY NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO KIDNAP ME...
GOD...
I DON'T REMEMBER, I DON'T REMEMBER, I DON'T REMEMBER, HOW OR WHEN.
I JUST THOUGHT I WAS PUTTING ON WEIGHT, I JUST THOUGHT...
BY THE TIME I FOUND OUT I WAS PREGNANT, IT WAS TOO LATE FOR AN ABORTION.
JUST... NEVER LET YOUR FATHER KNOW ABOUT THE BABY, JUST...
PROMISE...
TAKE CARE OF YOUR FATHER.


GORGO.
DAD WAS JUST ASKING WHERE YOU'D BEEN.
I DIDN'T TELL HIM YOU'D GONE TO SEE MARIA.
YOU'D BETTER NOT SEE HER AGAIN.
DAD WILL KNOW.
LET HER GO, GORGO.

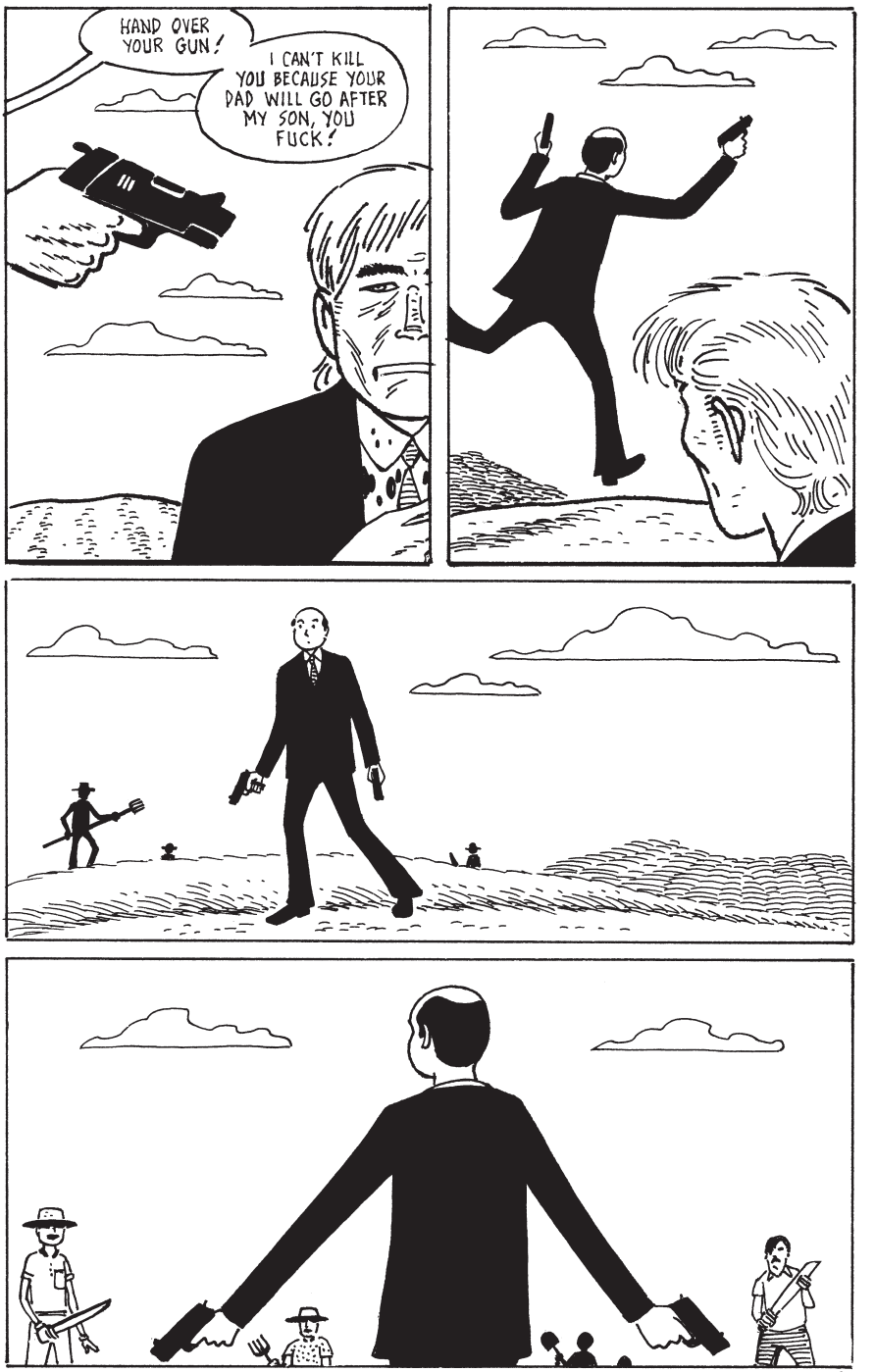


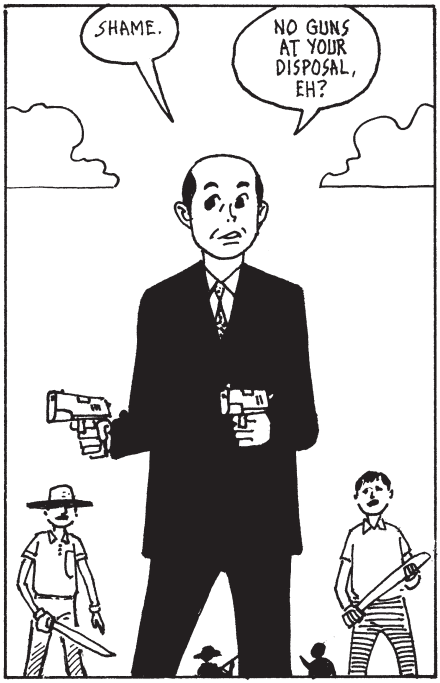

NOBODY CAN TRUST ANYBODY ANY MORE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, MY DAD'S WORKING CLOSER WITH FORMER COMPETITORS IN THE DRUG BUSINESS.
MY DAD AND LUIS CIENFUEGOS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO REBUILD TRUST WITHIN THE MARKET.


CIENFUEGOS'S SON GORGO AND MY FATHER ARE MEETING NOW AS I SPEAK.
BIG DOINGS, I'M SURE.
ALL BORING AND USELESS BULLSHIT, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
AND AMID ALL THE BULLSHIT HAS BLOSSOMED THE MOST LOVELY OF FLOWERS.
C'MON, MARIA!
SHOW US WHAT NATURE GAVE YOU!
THE EYES OF A MOVIE STAR.


THIS FARM USED TO BE A COVER FOR THE OBREGON'S OPERATIONS, GORGO.
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO STORE OUR GOODS, AND SINCE THE FARMWORKERS ARE ILLEGALS, THERE WON'T BE ANY RATTING US OUT TO THE COPS.
BALTAZAR, HOW CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT THOSE WORKERS WON'T TALK TO THE POLICE, WHETHER THEY'RE ILLEGALS OR NOT?
I HAD MY MEN LET THE ILLEGAL WORKERS KNOW TO FEAR US WORSE THAN ANY COPS, GORGO.

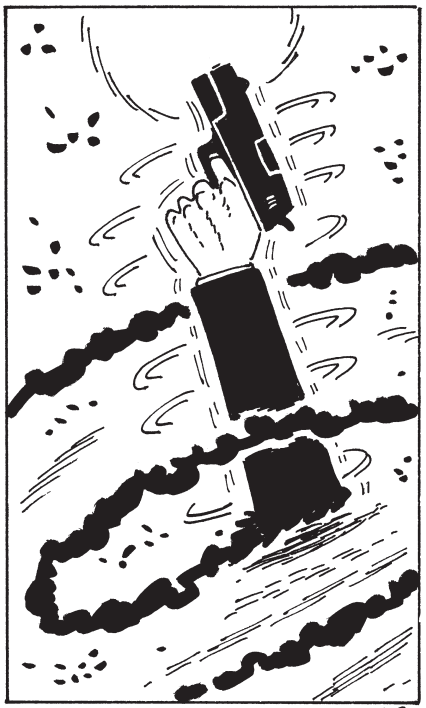

SPLANK
HOW COULD YOU NOT SEE IT?!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN ROLLED DOWN THE HILL!
BLAM BLAM BLA..
SEÑOR BALTAZAR, IT'S A SET UP, CAN'T YOU SEE?
AAAA!
BLAM.. BLAM..

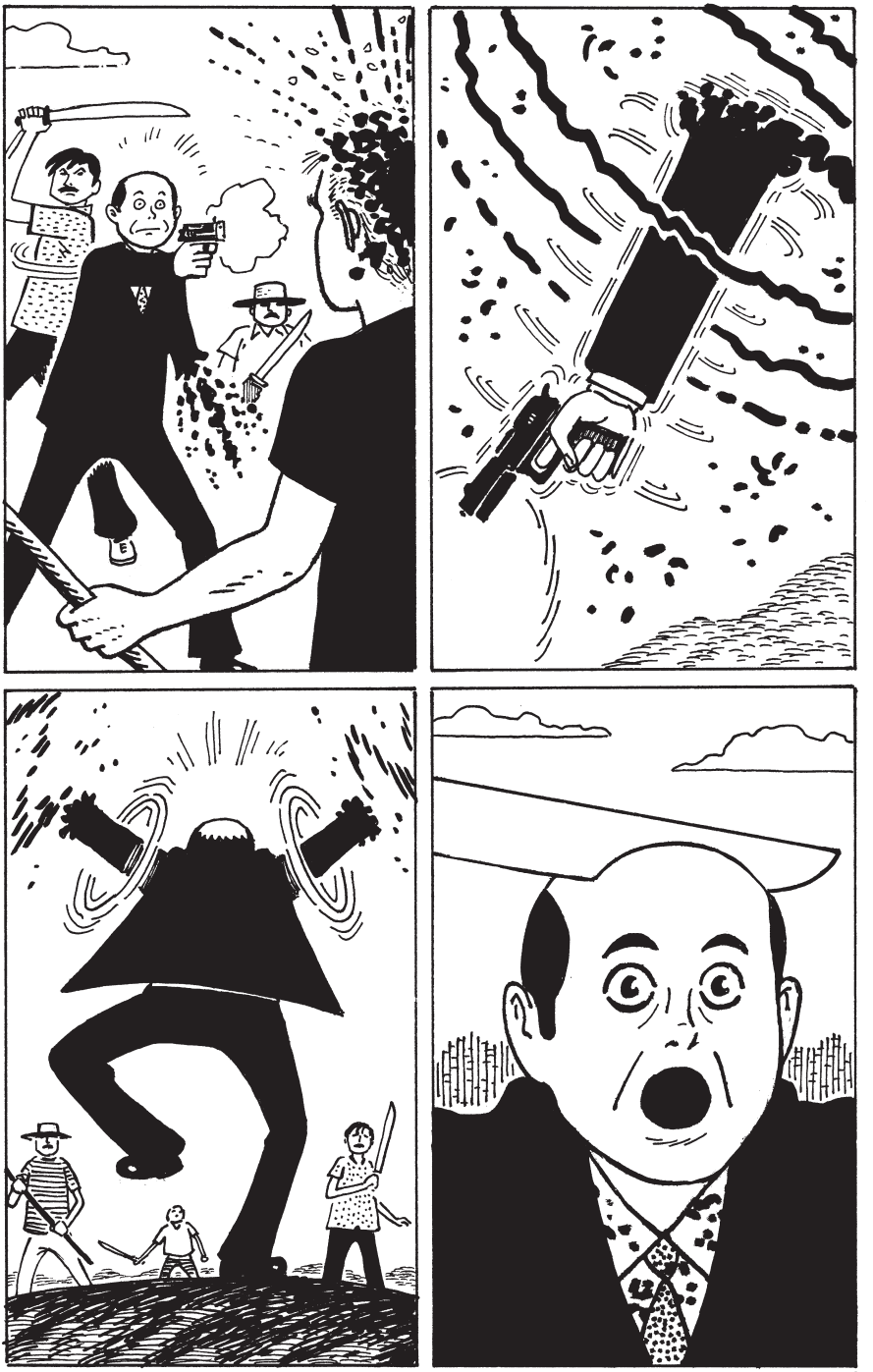

HAND OVER YOUR GUN!
I CAN'T KILL YOU BECAUSE YOUR DAD WILL GO AFTER MY SON, YOU FUCK!

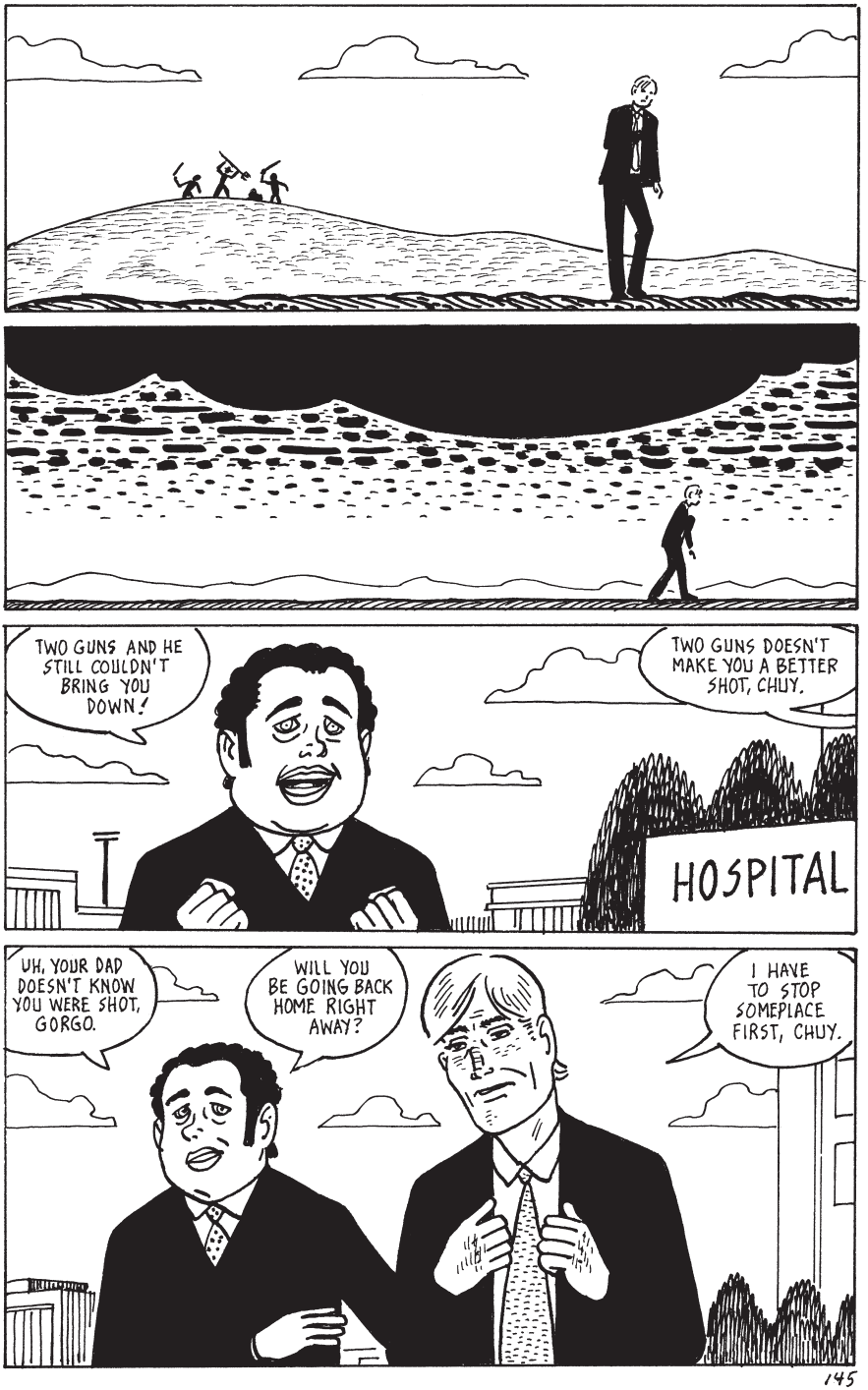

SHAME.
NO GUNS AT YOUR DISPOSAL, EH?

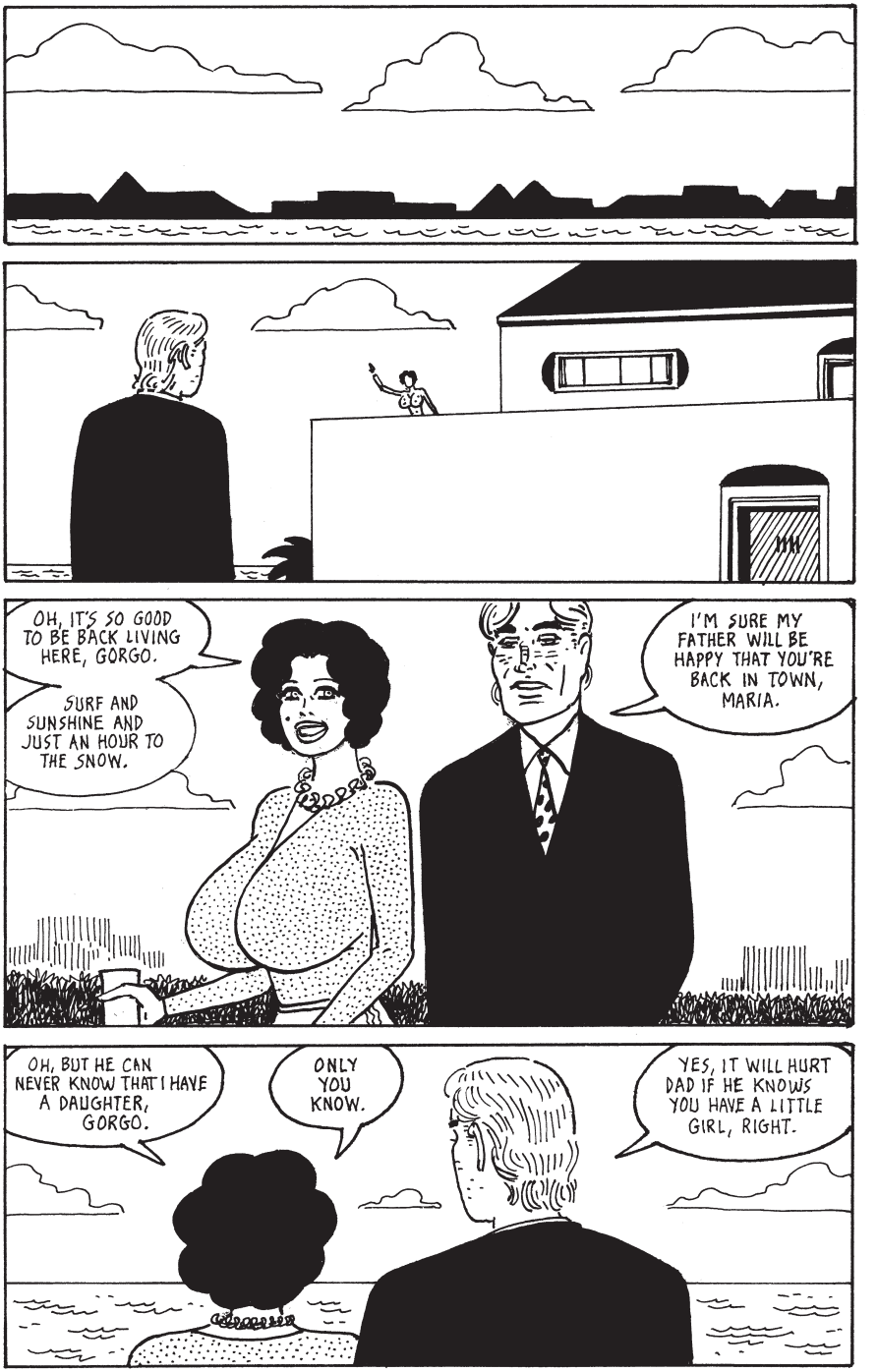






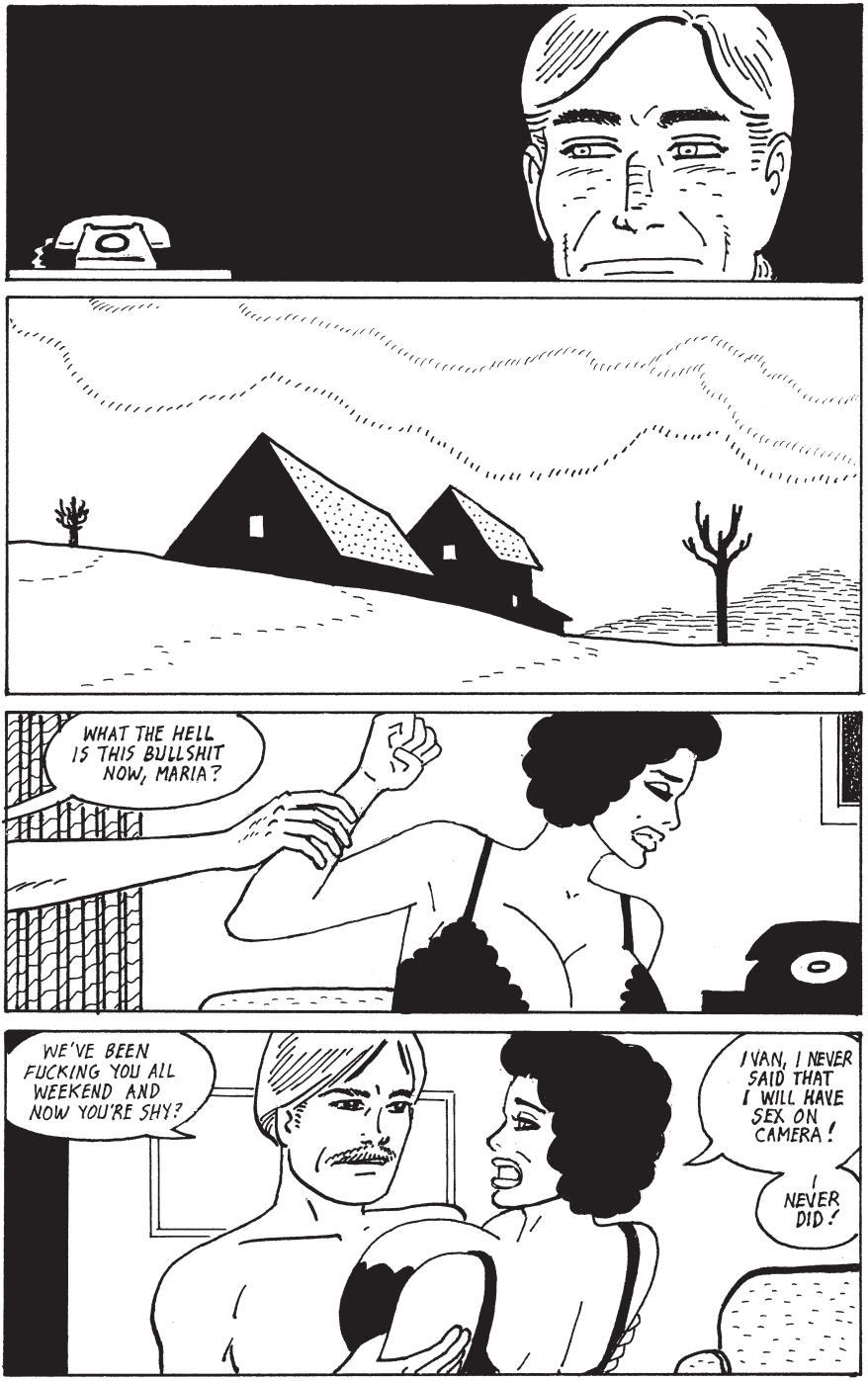



TWO GUNS AND HE STILL COULDN'T BRING YOU DOWN!
TWO GUNS DOESN'T MAKE YOU A BETTER SHOT, CHUY.
HOSPITAL
UH, YOUR DAD DOESN'T KNOW YOU WERE SHOT, GORGO.
WILL YOU BE GOING BACK HOME RIGHT AWAY?
I HAVE TO STOP SOMEPLACE FIRST, CHUY.


OH, IT'S SO GOOD TO BE BACK LIVING HERE, GORGO.
SURF AND SUNSHINE AND JUST AN HOUR TO THE SNOW.
I'M SURE MY FATHER WILL BE HAPPY THAT YOU'RE BACK IN TOWN, MARIA.
OH, BUT HE CAN NEVER KNOW THAT I HAVE A DAUGHTER, GORGO.
ONLY YOU KNOW.
YES, IT WILL HURT DAD IF HE KNOWS YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIRL, RIGHT.


SHE'S STAYING AT A NICE PLACE.
I SEE HER OFTEN.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE BOTH HAPPY, MARIA.
YEAH.
I'M PRETTY HAPPY HERE WITH MY NEW FRIENDS AND SOME OLD ONES, AS WELL.
PRET-TY HAPPY.
I GOT OFFERED A NEW MOVIE, GORGO!
A GOOD ONE FOR REAL THIS TIME!
I'LL CALL YOU AND LET YOU KNOW HOW IT'S COMING ALONG!
GET USED TO ME CALLING YOU OFTEN, OK?

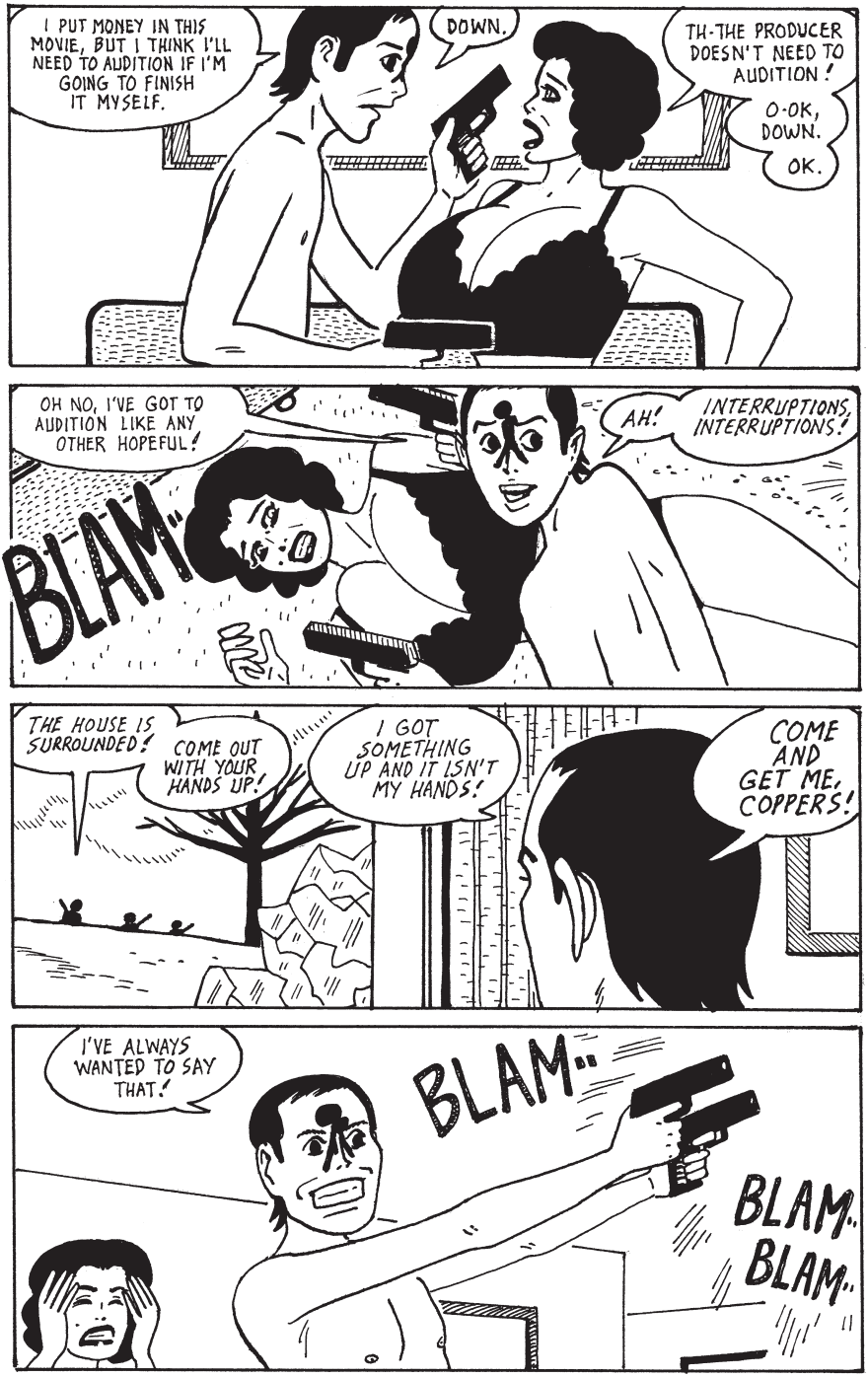

BALTAZAR AND HIS STUPID POPPED EYES MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES, AND GOOD RIDDANCE.
BALTAZAR, THE OBREGONS ARE OUT OF THE WAY OF OUR BUSINESS FOR GOOD.
AH, MY OLD OFFICE, BOYS.
I UNDERSTAND THAT BALTAZAR'S SON IS IN SOME BUSINESS OF HIS OWN, TOTALLY UNRELATED TO HIS FATHER'S BULLSHIT.
AND I'M ASSURED THAT THE OBREGON WOMAN WILL REMAIN IN HIDING, DAD.
NO BLOOD WILL EVER BE SHED IN THIS OLD OFFICE OF MINE, BOYS. IT'S OUR SANCTUARY, A PLACE FOR REFLECTION AND FORWARD THINKING.
I HEAR MARIA'S BACK IN TOWN SOMEPLACE.
I DO HOPE SHE'S HAPPY WITH HER LIFE NOW.
YES, I KNOW THAT PLACE.
IT'S JUST OUTSIDE TOWN, UP NEAR THE SKI RESORT.
I WANT TO LEAVE, BUT THEY WON'T LET ME!
WH..?
MARIA, ARE YOU IN ANY DANGER?
NEVER MIND.
CLICK


WHAT THE HELL IS THIS BULLSHIT NOW, MARIA?
WE'VE BEEN FUCKING YOU ALL WEEKEND AND NOW YOU'RE SHY?
IVAN, I NEVER SAID THAT I WILL HAVE SEX ON CAMERA!
I NEVER DID!

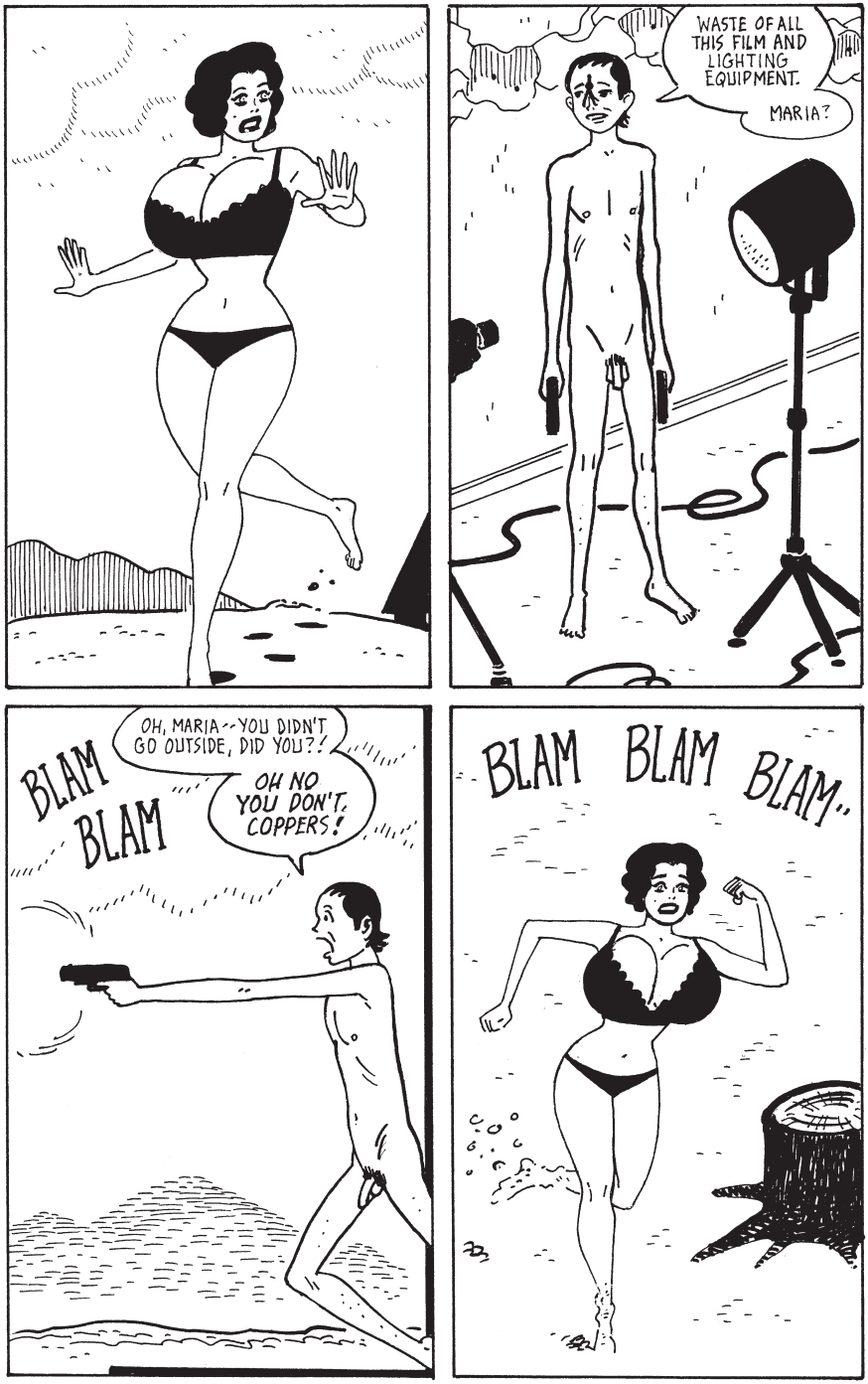

KA-BLAM!
YOU DIRTY FUCKER!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
WHERE ARE YOU...?
BLAM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IVAN SHOT YOU!
AH, HE TRIED TO TAKE THE MOVIE AWAY FROM ME!


WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT?
LET'S FINISH THAT MOVIE!
WE'LL SHOOT AROUND ALL THE BLOOD SPLATTER.
CABO, YOU'RE HURT!
I'LL GET THE CAMERA ROLLING AND THEN YOU AND I CAN FINISH THE LAST SCENE.
YOU'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL.
I'VE GOT A LOT INVESTED IN THIS MOVIE, MARIA.
NOW TAKE OFF YOUR UNDERWEAR AND GET IN FRONT OF THAT CAMERA!
AW, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THE RUMOR THAT WE WERE GOING TO KILL YOU ON FILM FOR REAL AT THE END, DID YOU?


I'M THINKING THREE'S A CROWD, EH?
BLAM"
BLAM..
HAW!
TWO GUNS, JUST LIKE DAD! HE WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD!
DUMBSHITS THOUGHT I WAS DEAD, HA!
IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND, MARIA.
NOW WHERE WERE WE?


I PUT MONEY IN THIS MOVIE, BUT I THINK I'LL NEED TO AUDITION IF I'M GOING TO FINISH IT MYSELF.
DOWN.
TH-THE PRODUCER DOESN'T NEED TO AUDITION!
O-OK, DOWN.
OK.
OH NO, I'VE GOT TO AUDITION LIKE ANY OTHER HOPEFUL!
BLAM..
AH!
INTERRUPTIONS, INTERRUPTIONS!
THE HOUSE IS SURROUNDED!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
I GOT SOMETHING UP AND IT ISN'T MY HANDS!
COME AND GET ME, COPPERS!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT!
BLAM..
BLAM..
BLAM..


OH, YES.
LET'S PUT MONEY IN THE BANK!
AWH...
IF YOUR OLD HUSBAND COULD SEE YOU NOW!
AH..
AAH..
AH--
AH..
AH..
AH..
WAAUH, HE'S GOT TO BE MISSING THAT!
MARIA, WAIT!
WATCH ME TAKE OUT THOSE PIGS!
LET HER GO!
IT'S BALTAZAR JR. WE WANT!


WASTE OF ALL THIS FILM AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT.
MARIA?
OH, MARIA--YOU DIDN'T GO OUTSIDE, DID YOU?!
OH NO YOU DON'T, COPPERS!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM..


MARIA, COME BACK!
DIE, COPS!!
OH, SHIT.
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
KA-BLAM..
BLAM..
BLAM..
BLAM..
BLAM..


I KNEW...
I JUST KNEW THAT IF I RAN OUT OF THERE, YOU'D FIND ME AND TAKE ME AWAY TO SAFETY.
I JUST KNEW...
I KNEW THAT AFTER WE TALKED ON THE PHONE, I HAD TO GET UP HERE RIGHT AWAY.
AT THIS POINT IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER IF THOSE WERE REAL COPS OR NOT.
IS THERE A PHONE I CAN USE?
DOWN THE HALL.
ESTOQUE MOTEL.
OK, GORGO. WE CAN GET THERE BEFORE YOU DO.
AW, DO I HAVE TO FUCK GORGO AGAIN?
NO, YOU STAY HERE - AND IT ISN'T GORGO THAT'S GOING TO GET FUCKED.


MOTHER, PLEASE!
I HAVE A DATE WITH A RICH GUY!
IT CAN WAIT, JOSIE.
I'M LOANING YOU OUT TO A COUPLE OF GORGO'S FRIENDS.
I WANT TO KEEP GORGO'S DAD OFF MY BACK, OK?
I'M NOT FUCKING NOBODY NAMED GORGO.
MADAM OBREGON, I'LL TAKE HER RICH GUY DATE!
WELL?
TAKE IT, TAKE IT.
FUCKING HAG MADAM OBREGON PIMPS OUT HER OWN DAUGHTER.
SOME PEOPLE JUST GOT NO DECENCY.


IVAN AND CABO WERE THE FIRST TIME.
SECOND TIME I WAS RAPED WAS BY WHOMEVER GOT ME PREGNANT.
NEXT TIME WAS IVAN AND CABO AGAIN, THEN BALTAZAR JR., SORT OF...
WE'RE HERE.
@TEL
I'LL BE A COUPLE OF DOORS DOWN.
THOSE MEN ARE WITH ME--THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY STOCKED THE REFRIGERATOR EARLIER.
FEED YOURSELF AND YOUR GIRL.
GET SOME REST.


THE TWO FILM MAKERS
IVAN AND CABO WERE THE FIRST TIME
THE SECOND TIME I WAS RAPED WAS BY WHOMEVER GOT ME PREGNANT




FOOD.
MOMMY.
ACH!


HONEY, WHY ARE YOU UP FROM BED?
THIRSTY.
GET A GLASS OF WATER.
CAN'T REACH.
MOMMY.
HONEY, GO BACK TO BED AND I'LL BRING IT TO YOU.
NOT SLEEPY.
NOT SLEEPY.
OK...

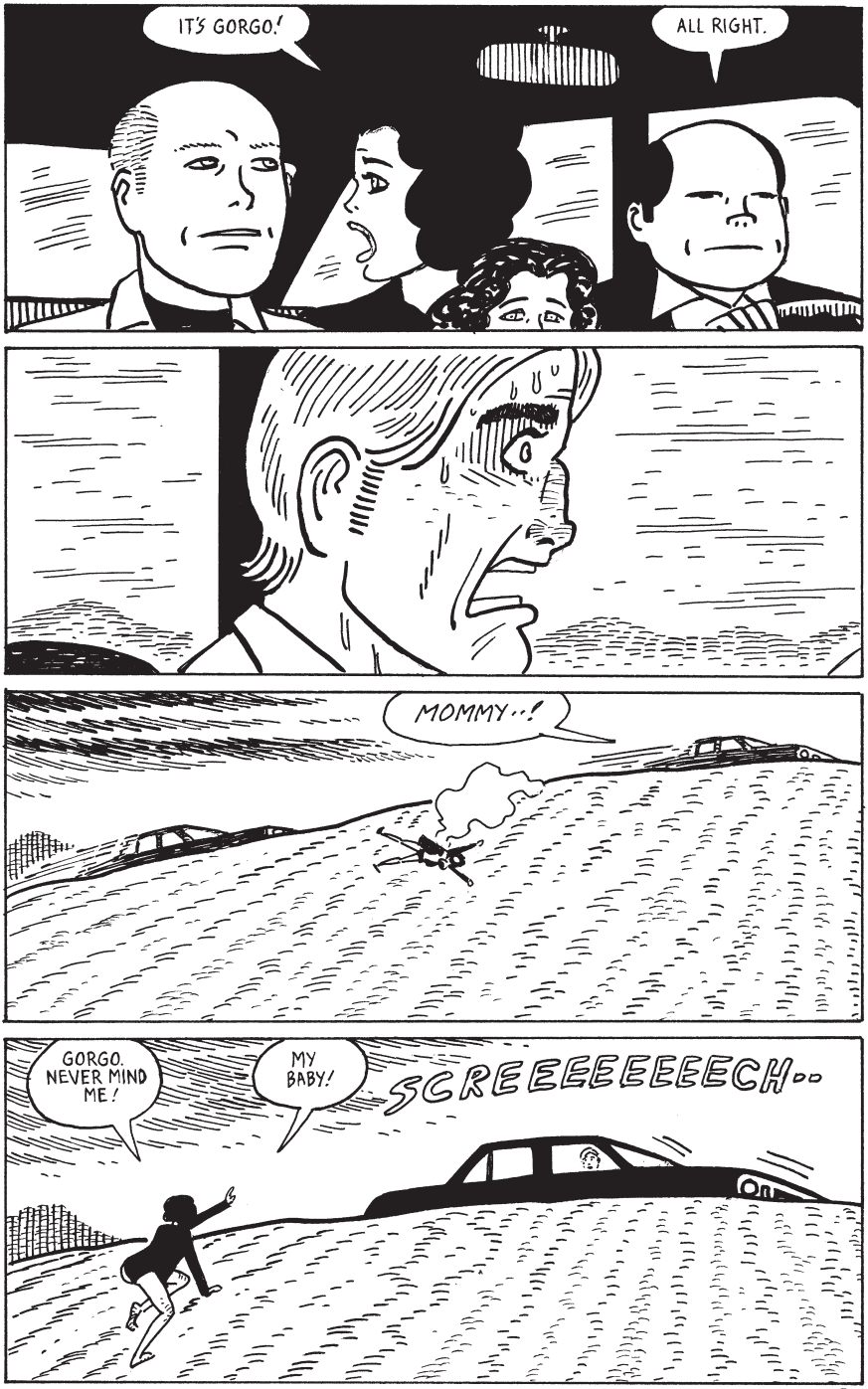

MOMMY...
HONEY, I WANT YOU TO GET DRESSED NOW.
WE HAVE TO GO.
I WANT MILK.
YOU GO AHEAD AND GET IT YOURSELF LIKE A BIG GIRL, OK?
EW, YUCKY STINKY!
THE MILK'S NOT YUCKY.

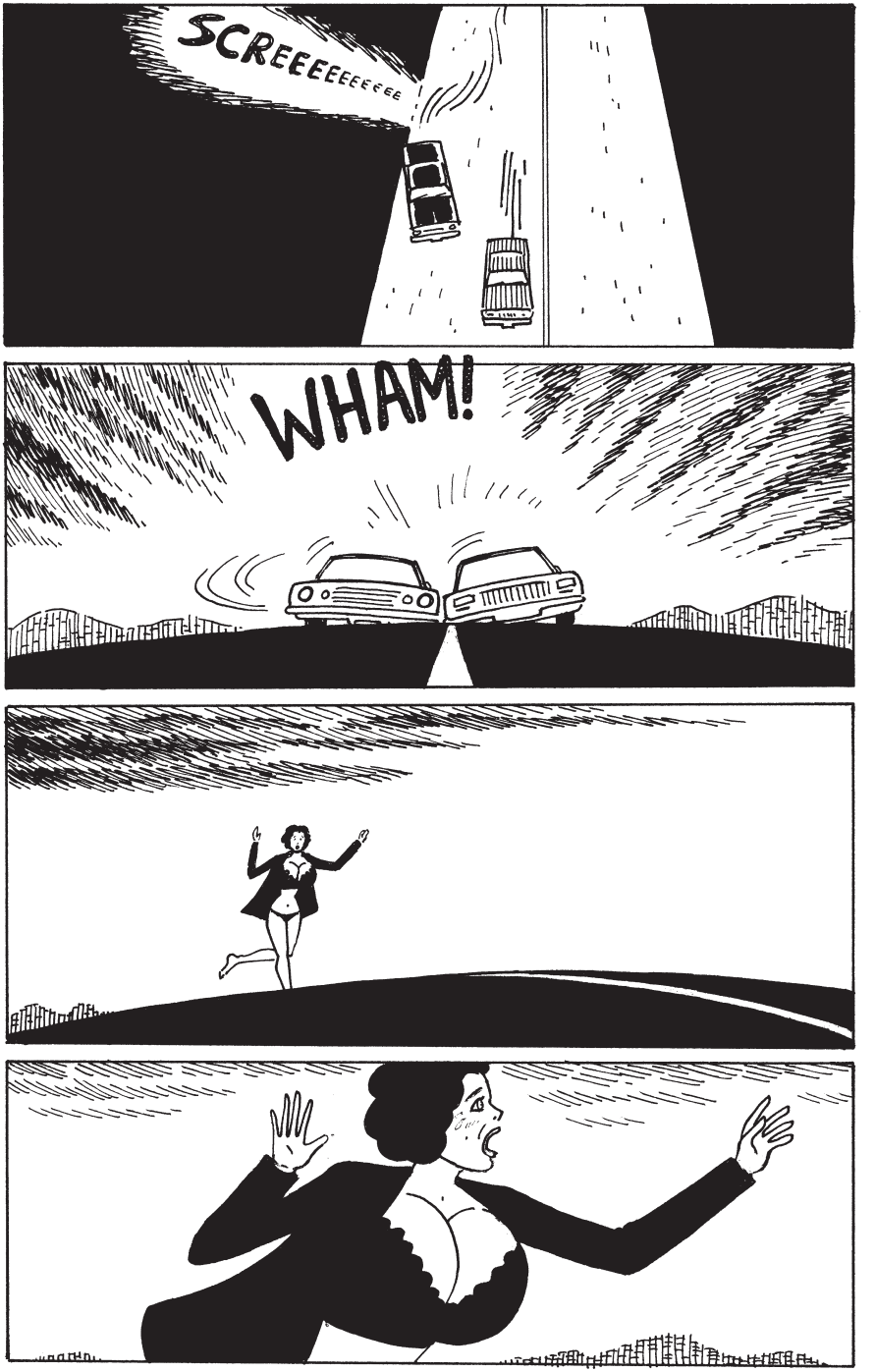

IS THAT A PRESENT FOR ME?
NO, HONEY.. TRASH.
NOW GET DRESSED. WE'RE GOING.
I'M SCARED ALONE IN THE ROOM.
MOMMY HAS TO TALK ON THE PHONE IN PRIVATE, SO PLEASE GET DRESSED NOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHOSE HEAD IT IS, BUT IT'S A HEAD, ALL RIGHT?
GORGO, PLEASE..!
MOMMY...


GET FUCKING DRESSED!
PLEASE.
GET DRESSED.
GET DRESSED BECAUSE THE MAN WILL BE HERE FOR US IN A MINUTE, HONEY.

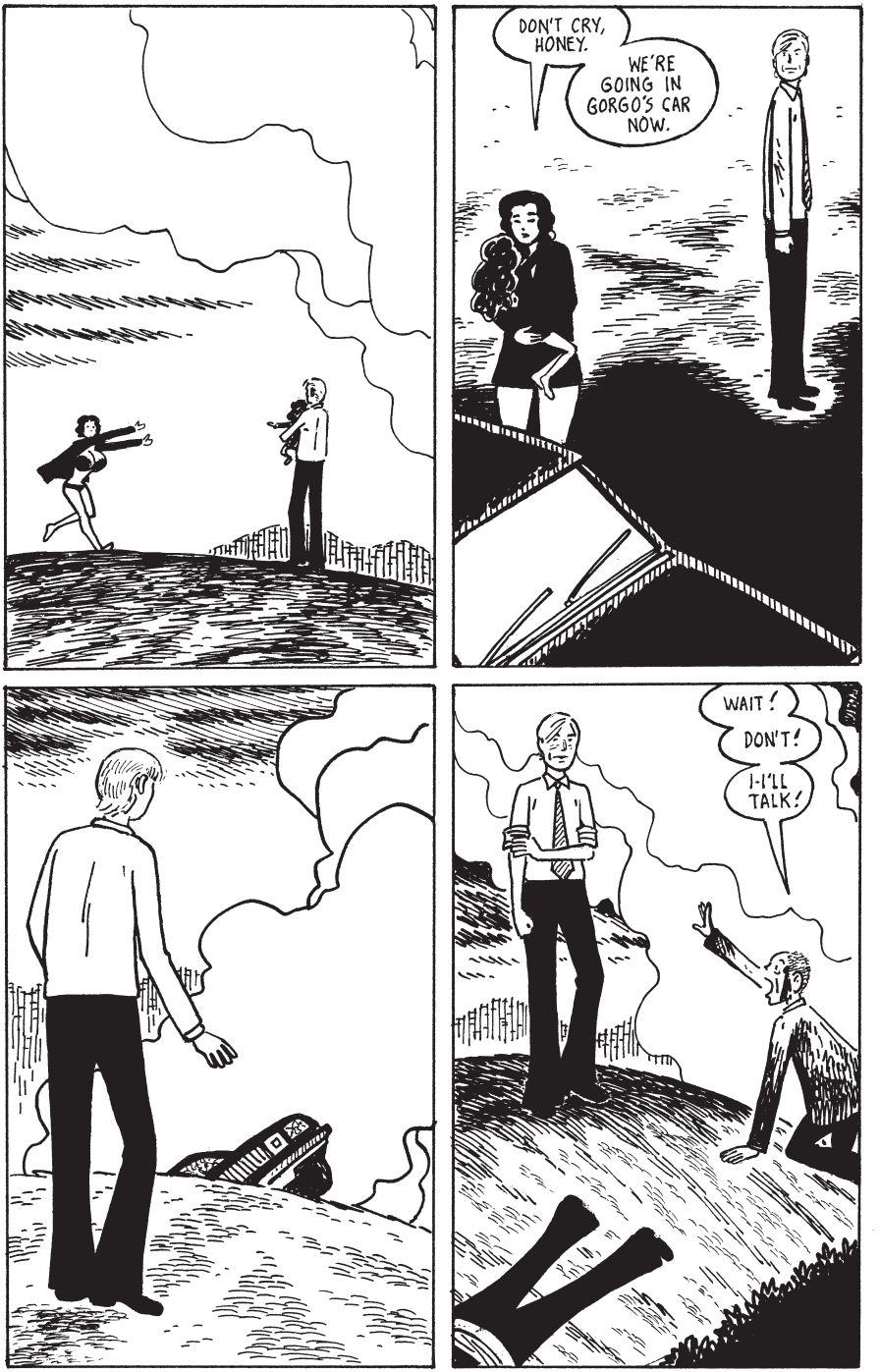

I'LL GET RID OF IT.
GET IN THE CAR AND I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.
YOU'LL BE GETTING IN OUR CAR INSTEAD, SEÑORA MARTINEZ.

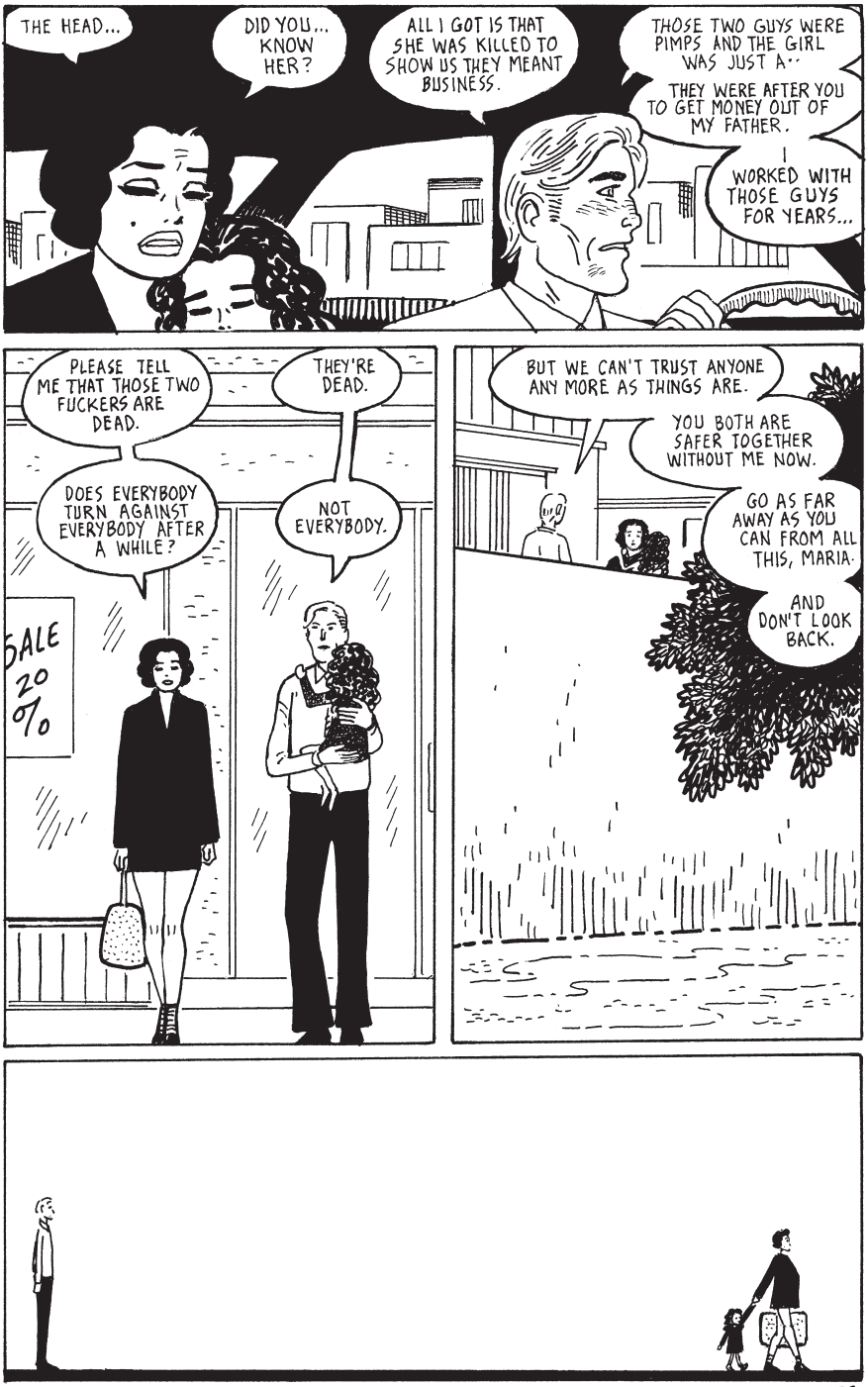

VROOOM..!
MARIA..?
SHHHHH.. IT'S OK, BABY..SHHH..


IT'S GORGO!
ALL RIGHT.
MOMMY..!
GORGO, NEVER MIND ME!
MY BABY!
SCREEEEEEEEECH..

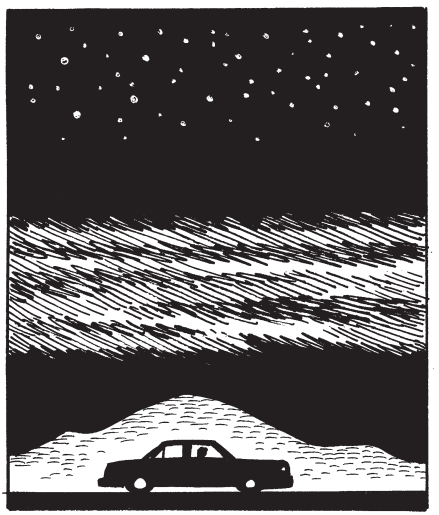

SCREEEEEEEEEE
WHAM!


OH, NO.
NO!
NO!
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE
KRUNCH..
GORGO..?


DON'T CRY, HONEY.
WE'RE GOING IN GORGO'S CAR NOW.
WAIT!
DON'T!
I-I'LL TALK!

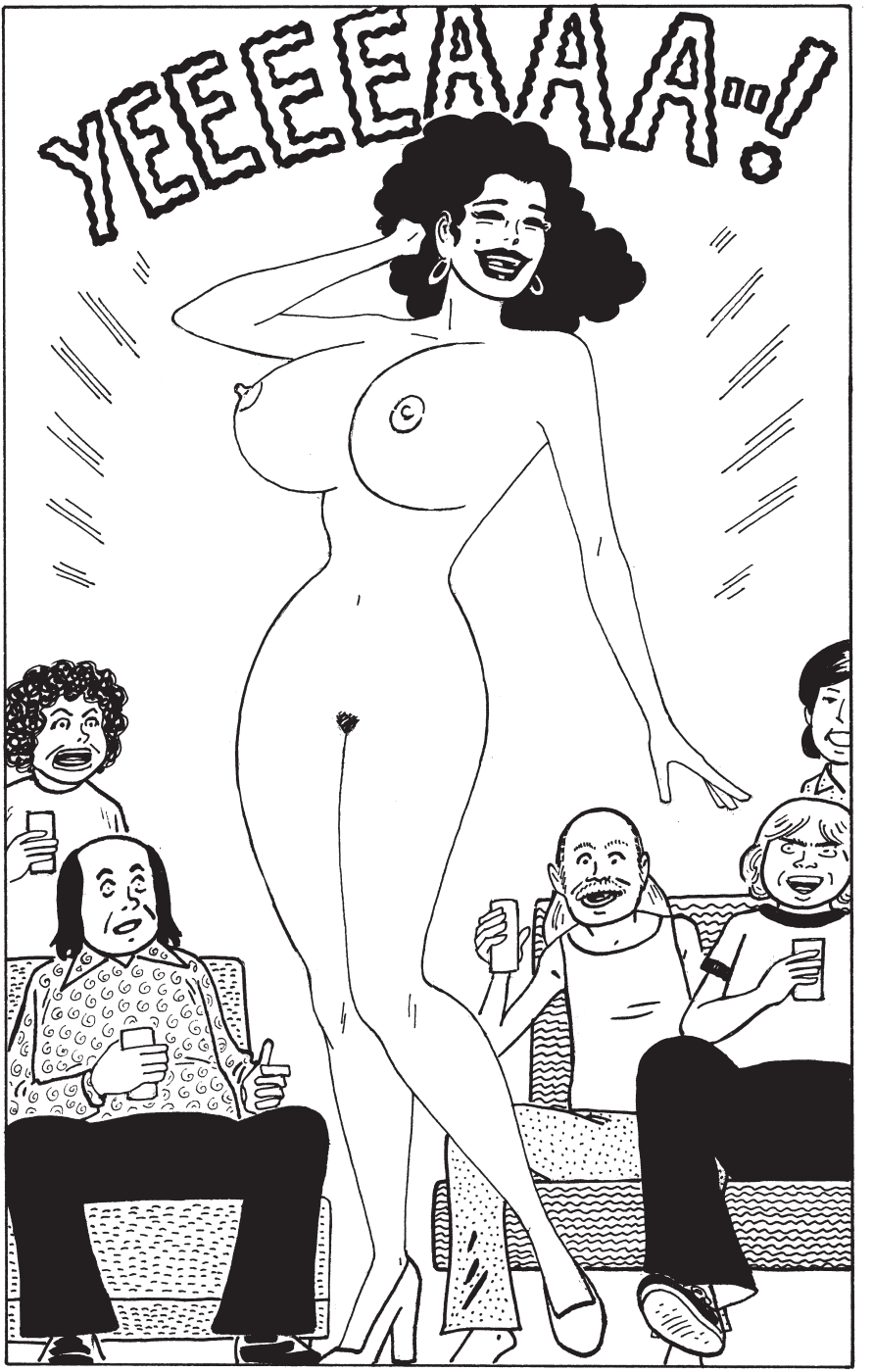

THE HEAD...
DID YOU... KNOW HER?
ALL I GOT IS THAT SHE WAS KILLED TO SHOW US THEY MEANT BUSINESS.
THOSE TWO GUYS WERE PIMPS AND THE GIRL WAS JUST A..
THEY WERE AFTER YOU TO GET MONEY OUT OF MY FATHER.
I WORKED WITH THOSE GUYS FOR YEARS...
PLEASE TELL ME THAT THOSE TWO FUCKERS ARE DEAD.
THEY'RE DEAD.
DOES EVERYBODY TURN AGAINST EVERYBODY AFTER A WHILE?
NOT EVERYBODY.
SALE 20 %
BUT WE CAN'T TRUST ANYONE ANY MORE AS THINGS ARE.
YOU BOTH ARE SAFER TOGETHER WITHOUT ME NOW.
GO AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN FROM ALL THIS, MARIA.
AND DON'T LOOK BACK.



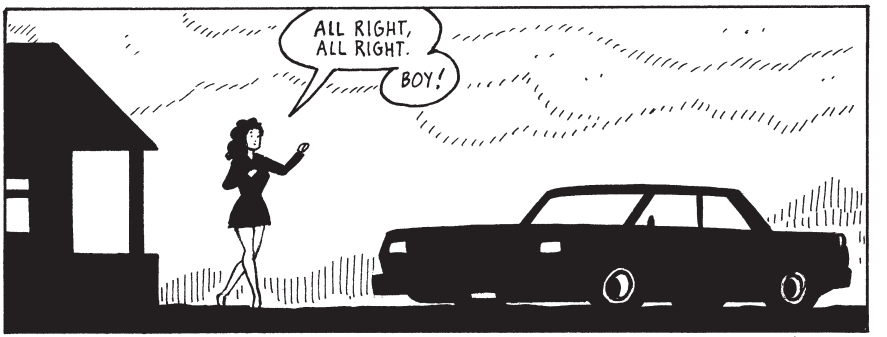




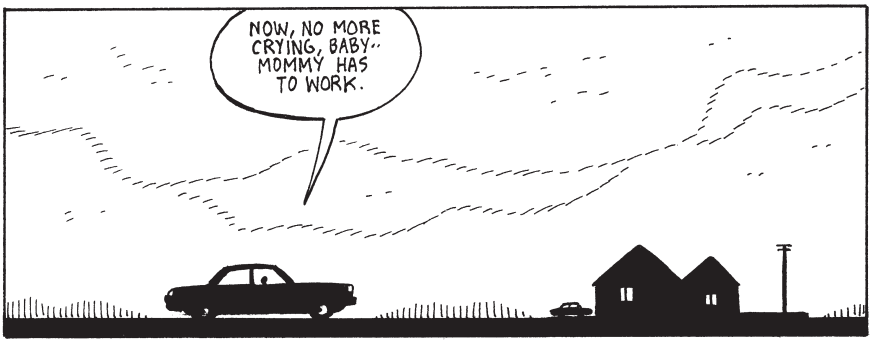

Z


YEEEEAAAA..!


VERY NICE SMOOTH ROUND THINGS IN THIS ROOM, EH, BOYS?
SMOOTH ROUND, SMOOTH ROUND.
HEY, THERE'S SOME KID IN YOUR CAR CALLING FOR YOU, ZOMBA.
TIME FLOWS WHEN YOU HAVE SO MUCH FUN, BOYS.
AWWWW!

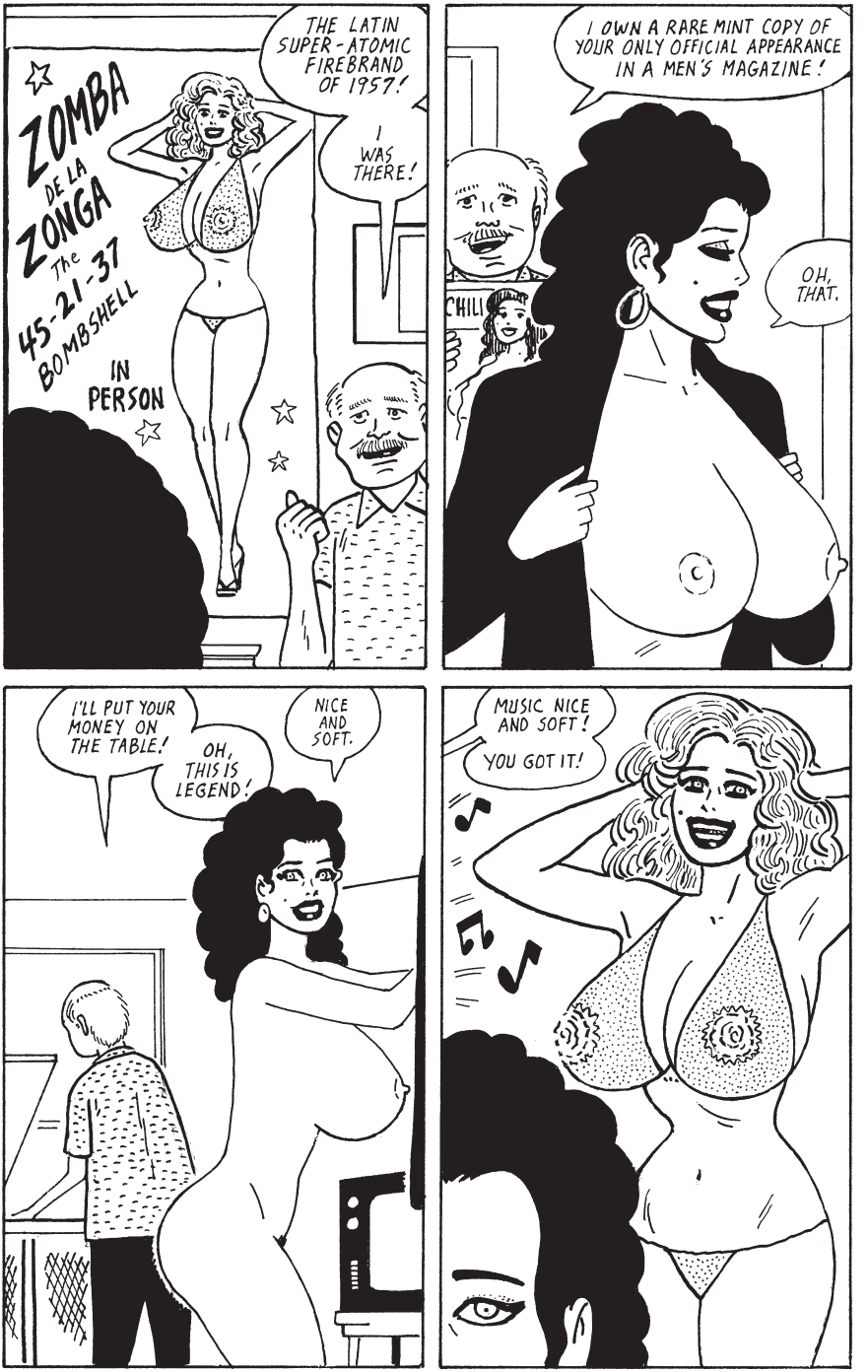

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
BOY!


I DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE SO LONG IN THERE, HONEY.
I'LL BE QUICKER NEXT TIME.


NOW, NO MORE CRYING, BABY.. MOMMY HAS TO WORK.


ONE HOUR.
ONE HOUR.


AIEEE!
LOYOLA, LOYOLA, LOYOLA, LA LA LA..
HI!
HELLO. PLEASE, COME IN.
CAN I GET YOU A DRINK?
A COLA IS FINE.

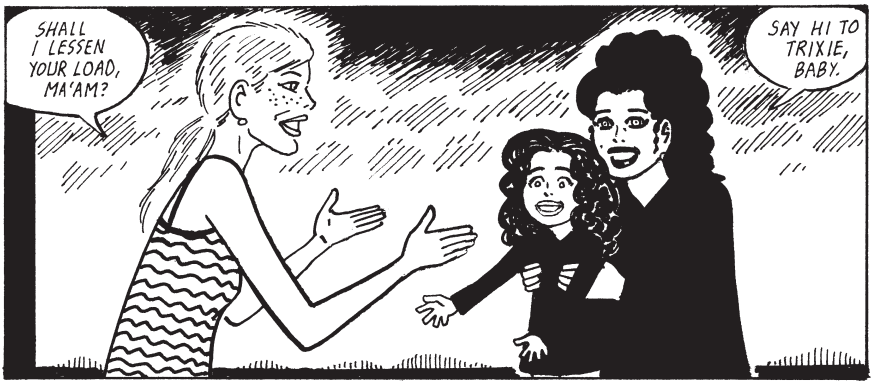

ZOMBA
DE LA
ZONGA
The
45-21-37
BOMBSHELL
IN
PERSON
THE LATIN SUPER-ATOMIC FIREBRAND OF 1957!
I WAS THERE!
I OWN A RARE MINT COPY OF YOUR ONLY OFFICIAL APPEARANCE IN A MEN'S MAGAZINE!
OH, THAT.
I'LL PUT YOUR MONEY ON THE TABLE!
OH, THIS IS LEGEND!
NICE AND SOFT.
MUSIC NICE AND SOFT!
YOU GOT IT!


GOOD NIGHT, SWEET PRINCE.
Z




NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL LIVING UP TO A REPUTATION.
THANK YOU.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DENISE.
THANKS.
WELL.
BACK TO REALITY.
MM.

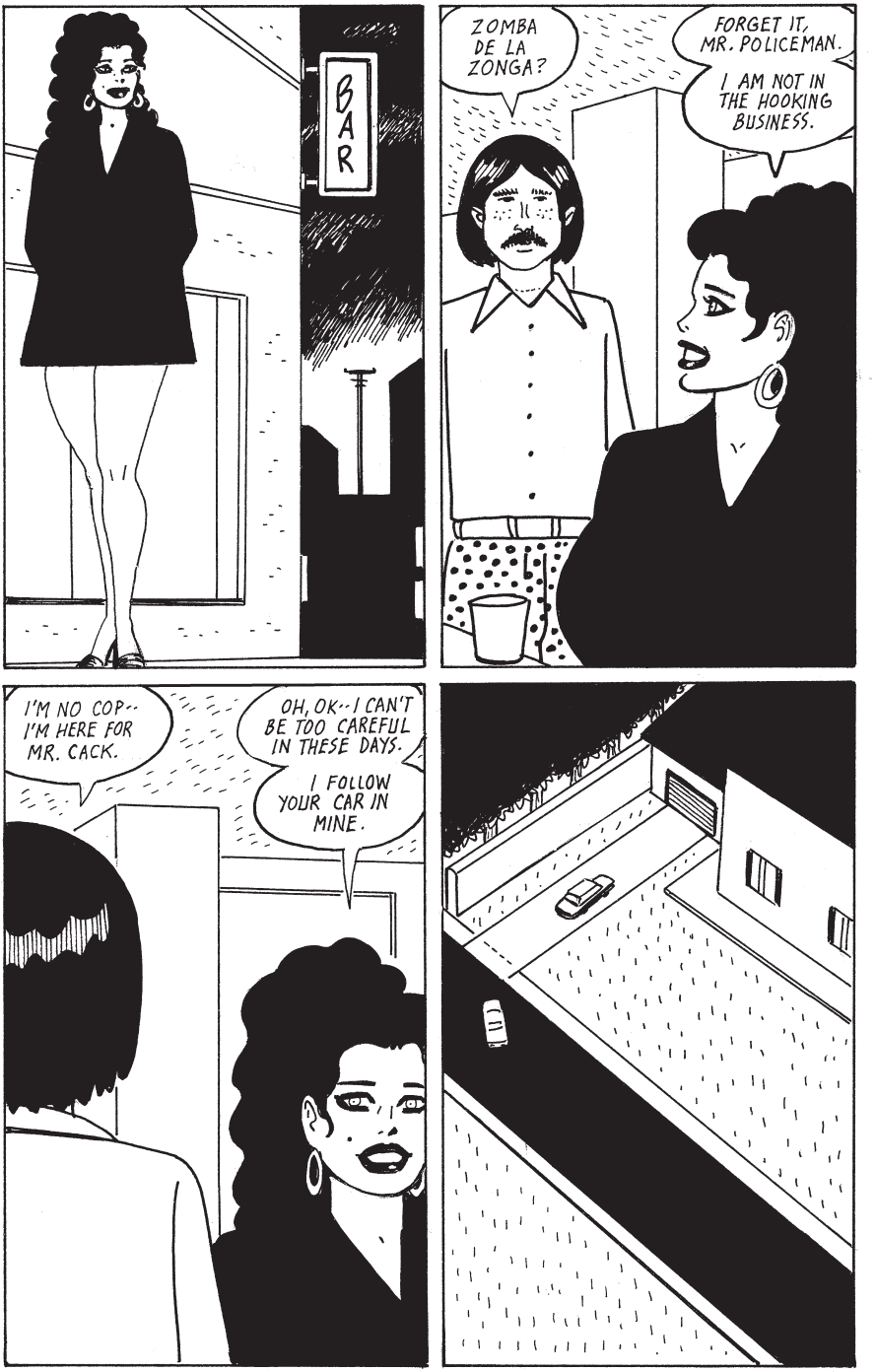



SHALL I LESSEN YOUR LOAD, MA'AM?
SAY HI TO TRIXIE, BABY.


LOOK WHAT TREASURE I'VE GOT, HONEY.
HI, CLYDE.
HEY, MARIA.


WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER AS LONG AS YOU NEED.
HOPEFULLY THAT WON'T BE LONG.

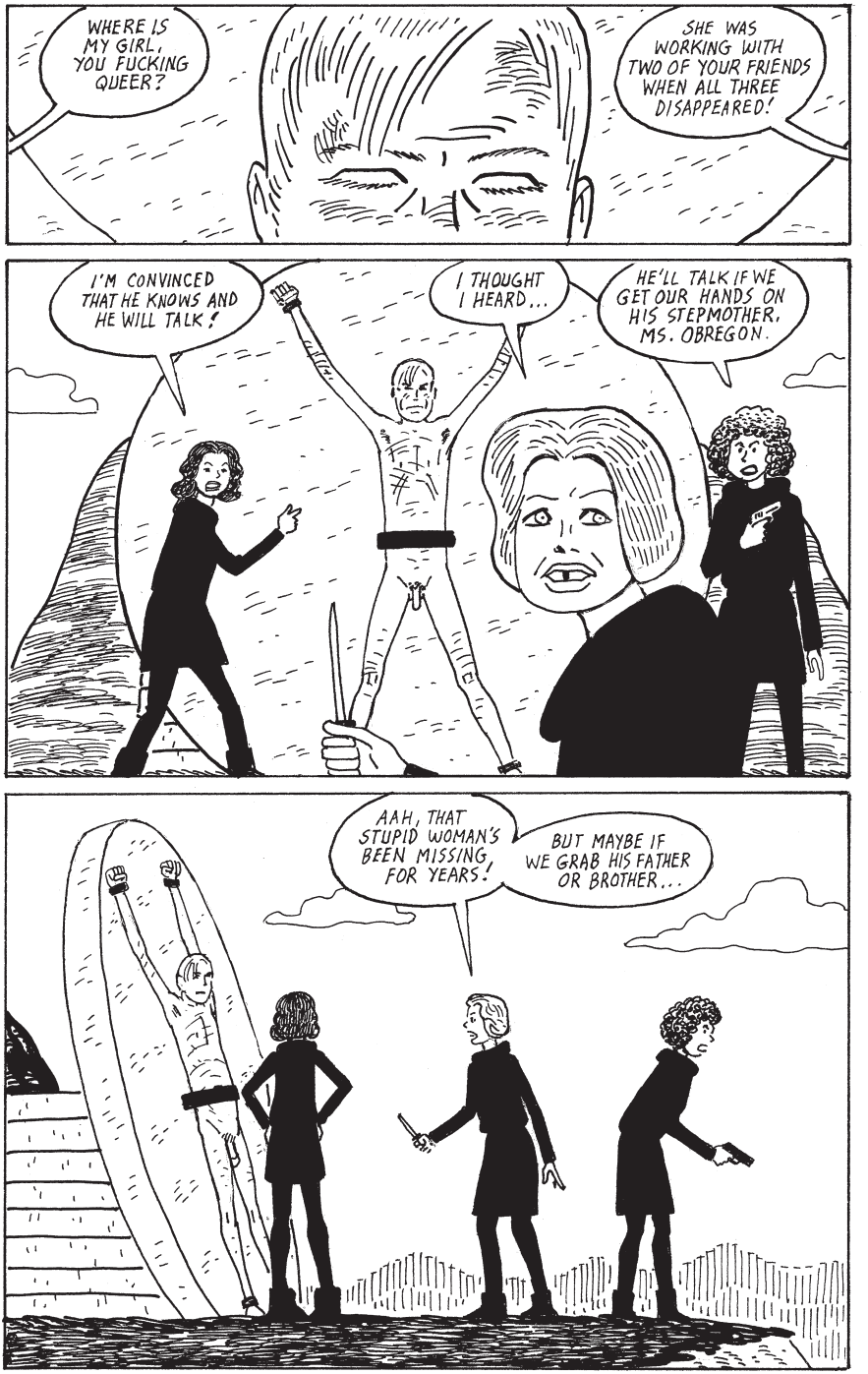

MOMMY, DON'T GO.
HONEY, I'VE GOT TO WORK FAR AWAY BUT I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU SOON.
YOU'LL GO TO A NICE SCHOOL HERE AND WE'LL WRITE EVERY DAY.
OK, MOMMY.
SHE'LL BE FINE.
TAKE CARE.
BLESS YOU BOTH.


BAR
ZOMBA DE LA ZONGA?
FORGET IT, MR. POLICEMAN.
I AM NOT IN THE HOOKING BUSINESS.
I'M NO COP.. I'M HERE FOR MR. CACK.
OH, OK.. I CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL IN THESE DAYS.
I FOLLOW YOUR CAR IN MINE.

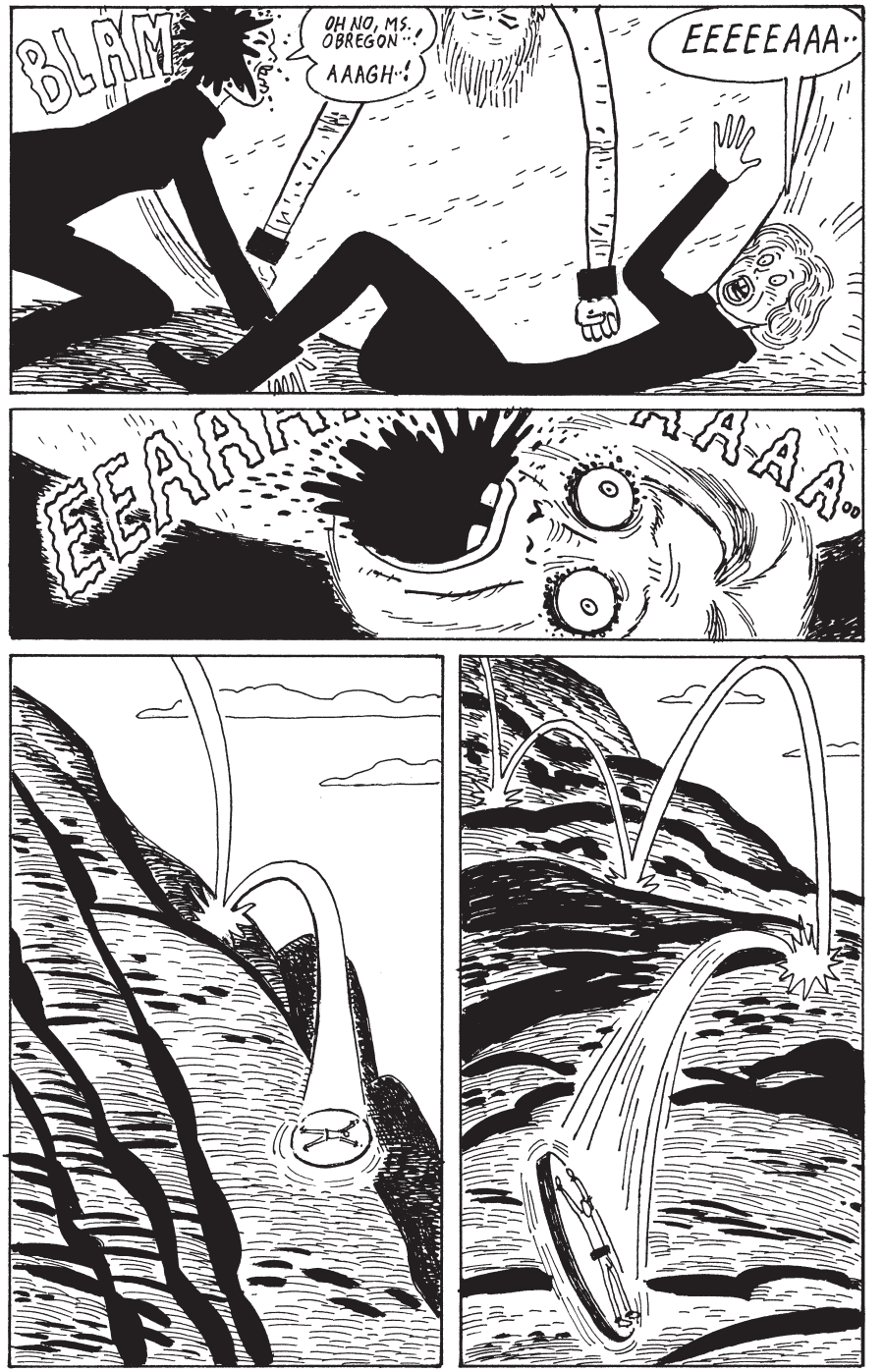

I BE OUT IN A MINUTE.
DAD, THIS IS ZOMBA.
THIS LITTLE SHIT IS YOUR DAD?!
YOUR... SKIN... IS... LE-GEN-DAR-Y...
OH, A STROKE VICTIM, EH?
GET ON THE GROUND, GIMP!
YOUR... SKIN... IS... EVEN... MORE.. BEA-U-TI-FUL... THAN... LEGEND... CLAIMS...
OH, SHUT UP YOUR MUMBLING AND TAKE IT MY HEEL!
YEAAHH, I HEAR YOU LIKE IT.


PLEASE... LET... ME...
FEEL... SKIN...
PLEASE...
OH, WHAT A BORE!
LET... ME...
PLEASE...
TSK, WIMP.
A SLUG COULD TAKE IT BETTER THAN YOU.
....
THANK YOU, MISS ZOMBA, BUT YOU'D BETTER GO BEFORE THE POLICE AND CORONER ARRIVE.
CORONER..?
OH.
OH, NO--HE DIDN'T..!


HE WANTED TO DIE THAT WAY.
YOU WON'T BE IMPLICATED IF YOU GO NOW.
YOU DID NOT KILL HIM.


WHERE IS MY GIRL, YOU FUCKING QUEER?
SHE WAS WORKING WITH TWO OF YOUR FRIENDS WHEN ALL THREE DISAPPEARED!
I'M CONVINCED THAT HE KNOWS AND HE WILL TALK!
I THOUGHT I HEARD...
HE'LL TALK IF WE GET OUR HANDS ON HIS STEPMOTHER, MS. OBREGON.
AAH, THAT STUPID WOMAN'S BEEN MISSING FOR YEARS!
BUT MAYBE IF WE GRAB HIS FATHER OR BROTHER...

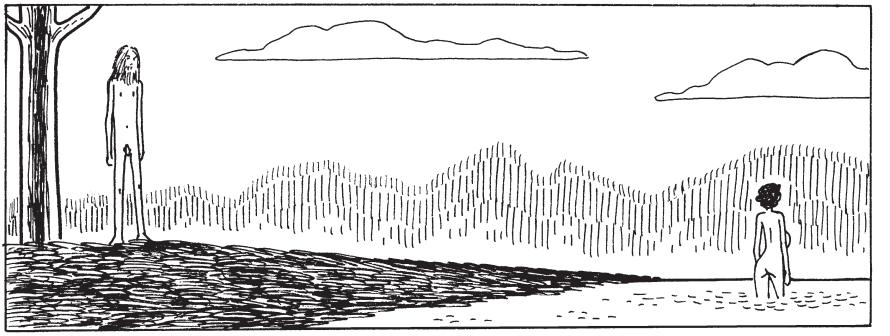

MY OWN MISSING GIRL IS ACTUALLY MY DAUGHTER, GORGO!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT!
POLICE COMING UP THE HILL!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WE'LL ROLL HIM DOWN ON THEM!
HA!
BLAM!
AAH!
THEY GOT GLORIA!
ROTTEN PIGS!

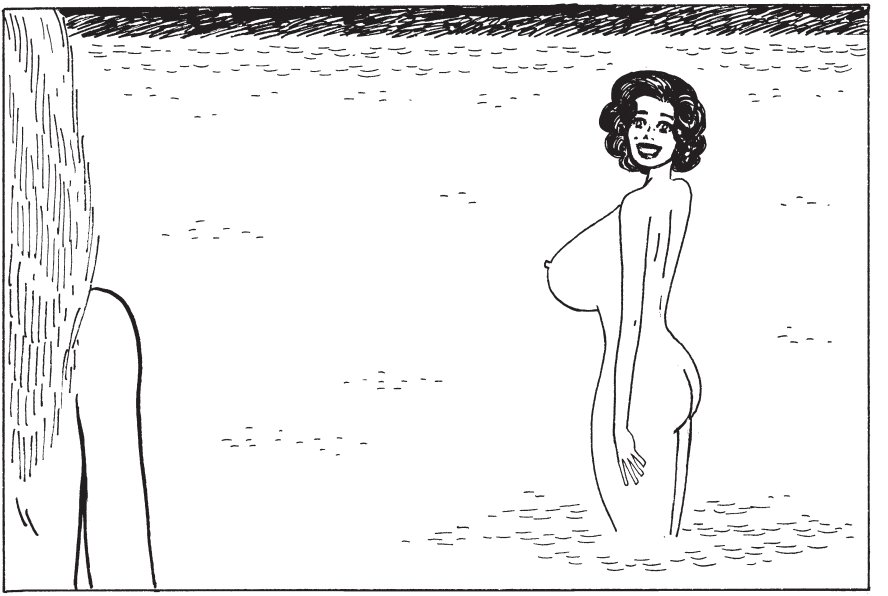

BLAM
OH NO, MS. OBREGON..!
AAAGH..!
EEEEEAAA..
EGAAH
A-A-A..


WE CAN ASSURE THE CHIEF THAT THIS MESS IS THE LAST OF THE OBREGONS!
HE SAID NOT TO BOTHER WITH GORGO, WHEREVER HE IS.



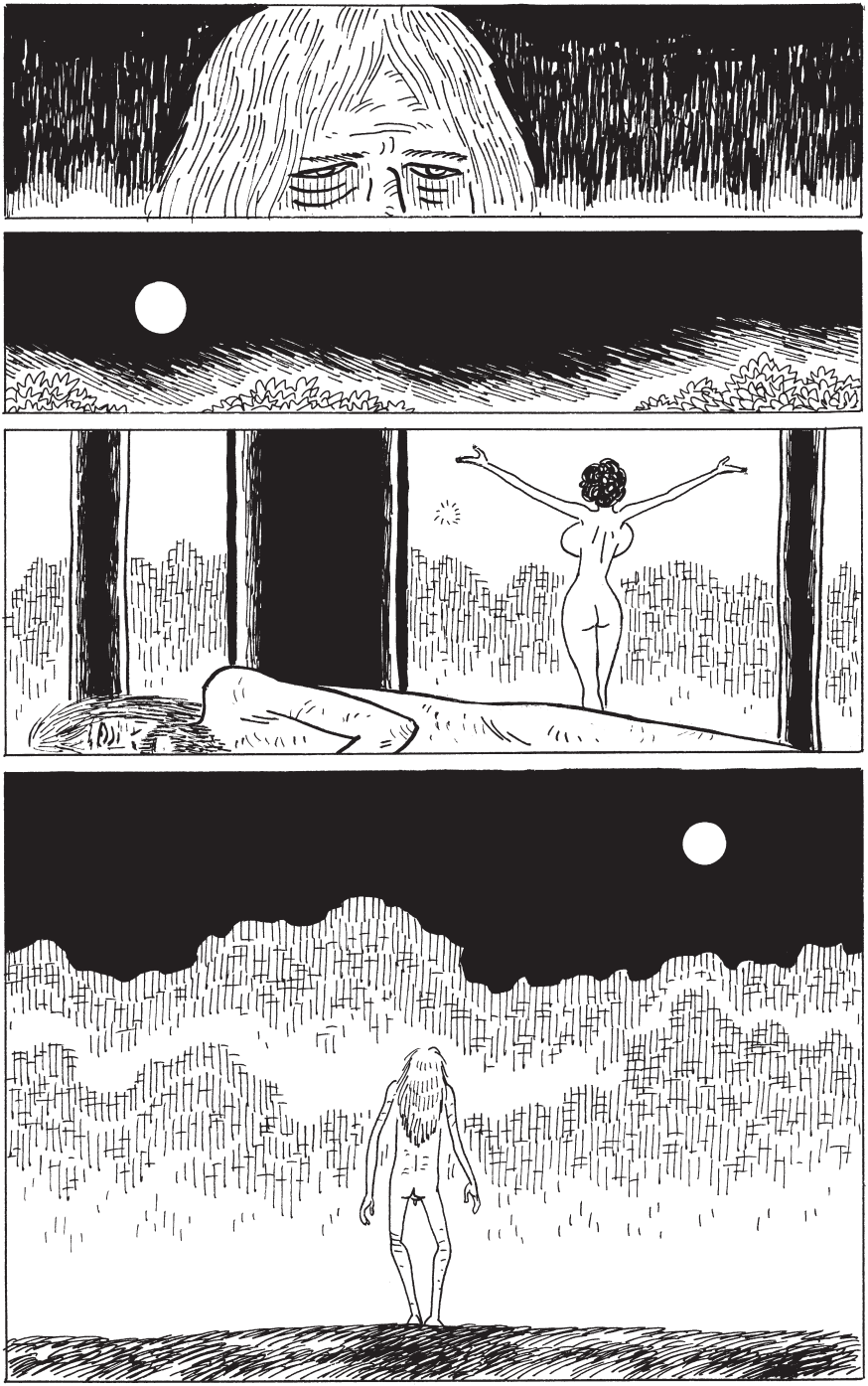

LET'S GO SEE IF THE WILD MAN IS REAL!
DON'T GO DOWN THERE!
THERE'S NO WILD MAN.
IT'S JUST BUMS SLEEPING DOWN THERE NOW AND THEN.














BUT FOR HOW LONG?
I FIGURE HE'S BEEN LIVING DOWN THERE FOR SOME YEARS.
HEY, POPS--DON'T BE SCARED.
I BROUGHT YOU SOME CLOTHES BECAUSE IT'LL BE GETTING PRETTY COLD SOON.
HEY.
DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT GOING BACK HOME?
BACK TO THE PEOPLE THAT LOVE YOU?
YES...
I MISS LOVE...


HI!
HI.
NOW YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR OLD SELF, GORGO!

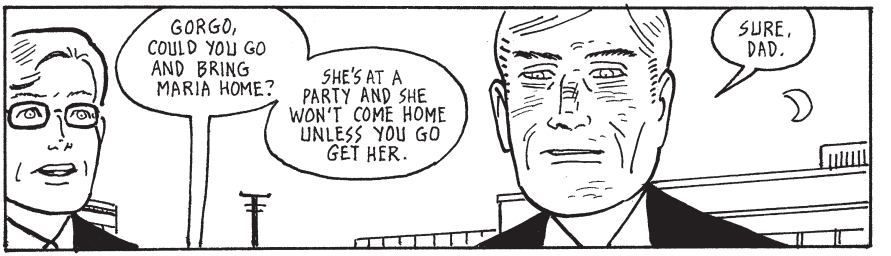

CAPTAIN VALDEZ.
YOUR FATHER WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU, GORGO.
AHH, ALL THE ATTEMPTS ON MY LIFE, THE POISONS HAVE CAUGHT UP TO ME, SON.
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME, I'LL GET WELL, YOU'LL SEE.
SURE, DAD.
AND I'M HOME TO STAY.
SHE'S OUT BACK.
YOUR BROTHER'S HOME TO STAY, HERMAN.
GORGO'S HOME.
YES, DAD.

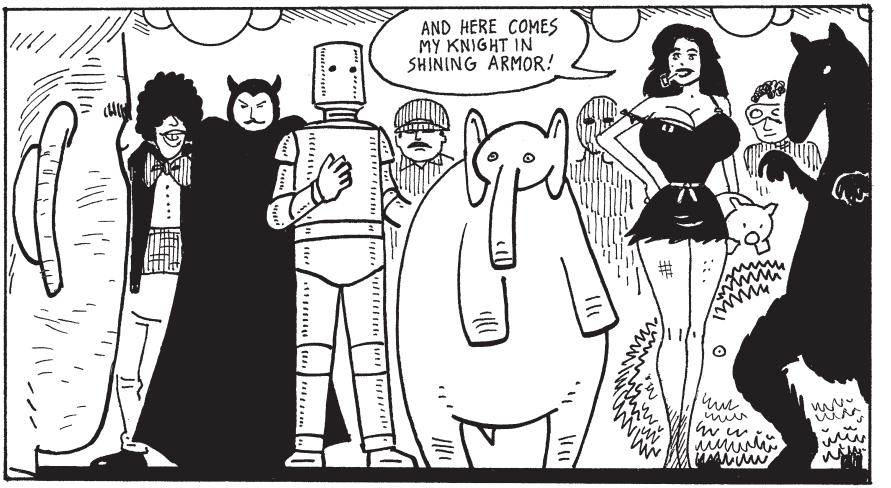

PANG!
HEARD YOU WERE BACK AGAIN.
IT'S BEEN 13 YEARS, GORGO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE TALKING TO YOU.


13 YEARS.
GET SOME REST, LOVE.
GORGO'S HOME-- MY BOY IS HOME.
13 YEARS.
IT TOOK 13 YEARS FOR YOUR DAD'S ENEMIES TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY.
13 YEARS OF TAKING ANY JOB I COULD TO SURVIVE.
13 YEARS FOR MY DAUGHTER TO GROW UP AND GET OUT ON HER OWN.
AS SOON AS SHE WAS 18, I PACKED UP AND RETURNED HERE.
I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD YOUR DAD ABOUT HER, SO YOU'D BETTER NOT SAY ANYTHING.


YOUR DAD WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE ME AS IF ONLY A WEEK HAD PASSED, NOT 20 YEARS.
I KNOW THE DEAL.
AS LONG AS YOU WERE AWAY, YOUR DAD'S ENEMIES WOULD BACK OFF.
I'M SORRY, I'LL SLOW UP A BIT.
HEY, YOUR BROTHER KNEW ABOUT MY DAUGHTER FOR YEARS AND HE NEVER SAID A WORD TO ANYBODY.


YOUR BROTHER'S RELIABLE.
I CAN TRUST HIM WITH KEEPING HIS MOUTH SHUT.
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AND BRING MARIA HOME, DAD?
NO, LET HER HAVE HER FUN, SON.
AH, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO BURNED DOWN MY OLD OFFICE, BUT I DON'T CARE.
AT LEAST NO BLOOD WAS LOST.
KEEP OUT
I'M HAPPY TO BE COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BUSINESS, BOYS.
NO MORE VIOLENCE.
I WANT YOU BOYS OUT COMPLETELY AS WELL, AND I WANT YOU TO STAY OUT EVEN AFTER I'M GONE.


GORGO, COULD YOU GO AND BRING MARIA HOME?
SHE'S AT A PARTY AND SHE WON'T COME HOME UNLESS YOU GO GET HER.
SURE, DAD.


AND HERE COMES MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!


I DIDN'T THINK YOUR DAD WOULD MIND IF I CAME HERE BY MYSELF.
HE ONLY WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY.

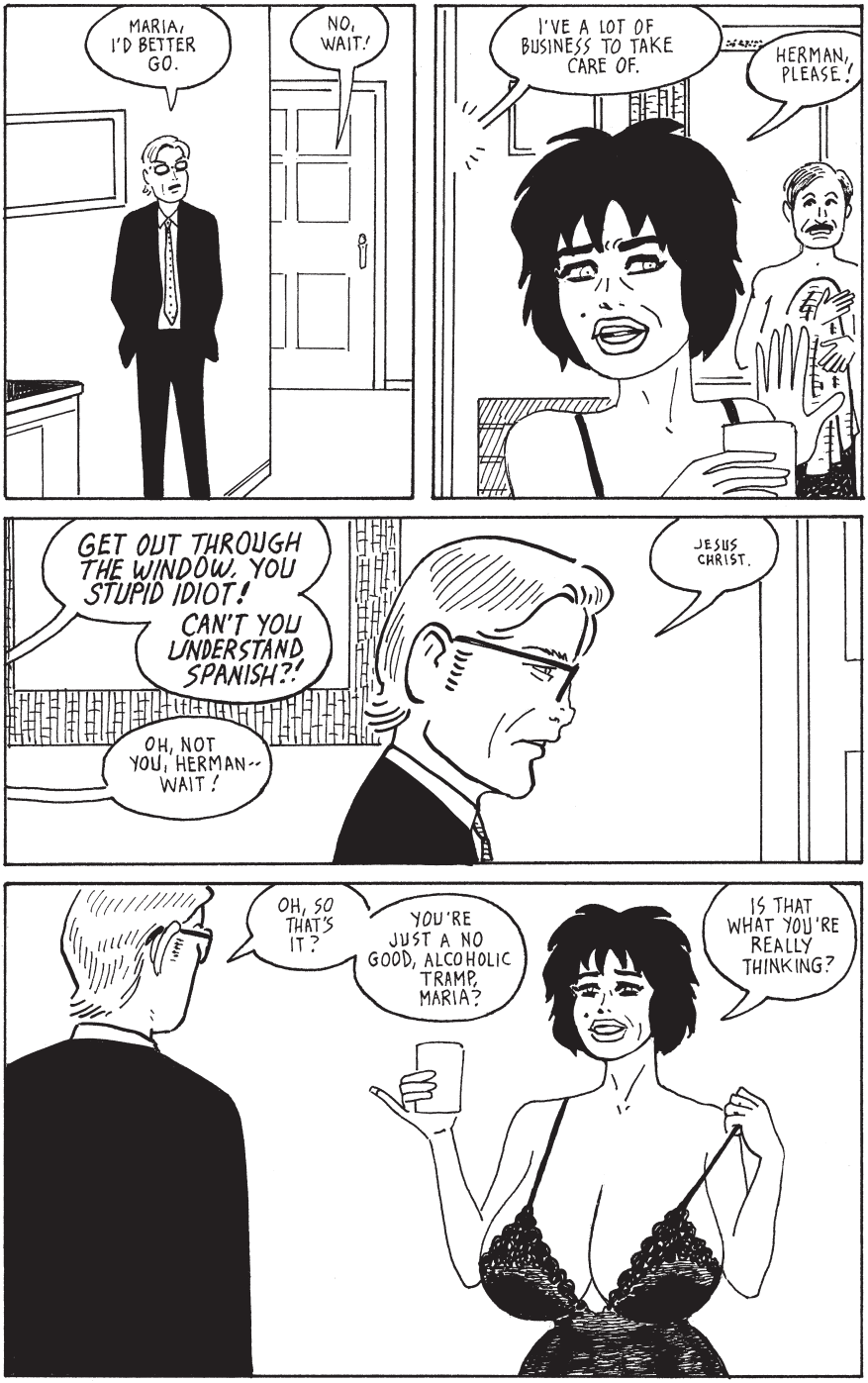

FOOF
I DETECT SOME SERIOUS HOSTILITY IN YOUR VOICE.


ALL RIGHT, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS CORSET.
LET'S GO.
YES, MARIA.
I ASK AND YOU ABIDE.
SO RELIABLE.
SINCE YOUR DAD'S BEEN OUT OF THE BUSINESS, IT'S BEEN SO QUIET.
YOU STAY OUT OF IT FOR GOOD, TOO, GORGO.
IT'S FOR THE BEST, MARIA.


WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING?
HOME.
PLEASE CALL ME IF THERE'S ANY CHANGE.
YOU GET OUT OF HERE, TOO, WITH YOUR SOUR MONSTER FACE!
GO!
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN HE'S DEAD!
SHOULDN'T BE LONG.

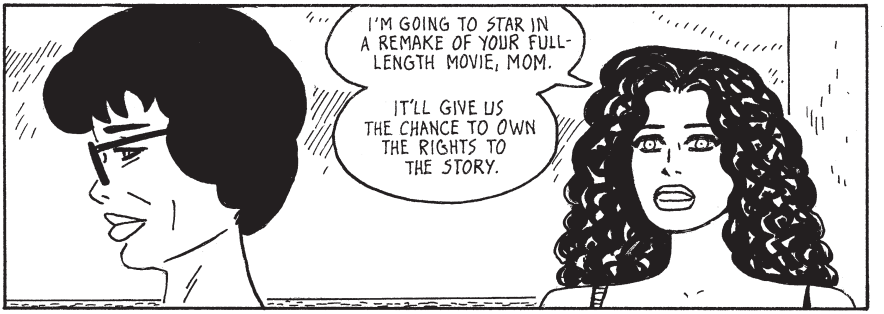

YOU'LL STAY, WON'T YOU, CHUY?
YES, MARIA.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HOME WITH YOUR HUSBAND?
HA, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM OR HOW I ENDED UP HERE!
I STILL FUCKING HATE COPS.
MARIA...

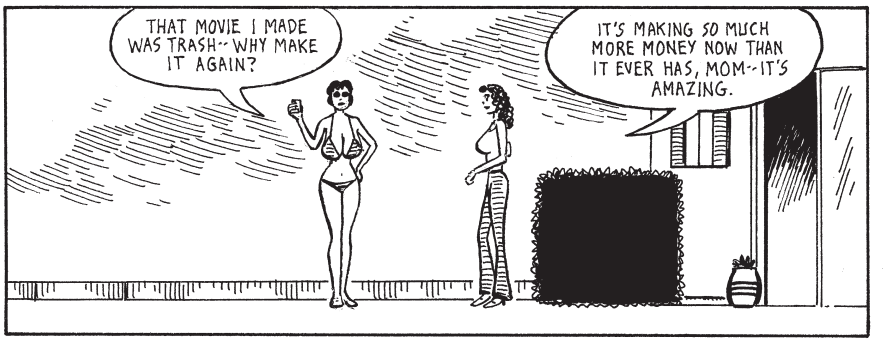

PLEASE STAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.


MARIA, I'D BETTER GO.
NO, WAIT!
I'VE A LOT OF BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.
HERMAN, PLEASE!
GET OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW, YOU STUPID IDIOT!
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND SPANISH?!
OH, NOT YOU, HERMAN-- WAIT!
JESUS CHRIST.
OH, SO THAT'S IT?
YOU'RE JUST A NO GOOD, ALCOHOLIC TRAMP, MARIA?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE REALLY THINKING?


H··
H··
HERMAN··
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
AUW·AUWW!
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
195.
THAT'S 143 TIMES MORE THAN DAD FUCKED YOU.
THAT'S 195 MORE TIMES THAN GORGO EVER HAS.
YOU KNOW IT'S LIKELY THAT GORGO WAS ADOPTED···
DAD WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT, THOUGH.
ADOPTED...

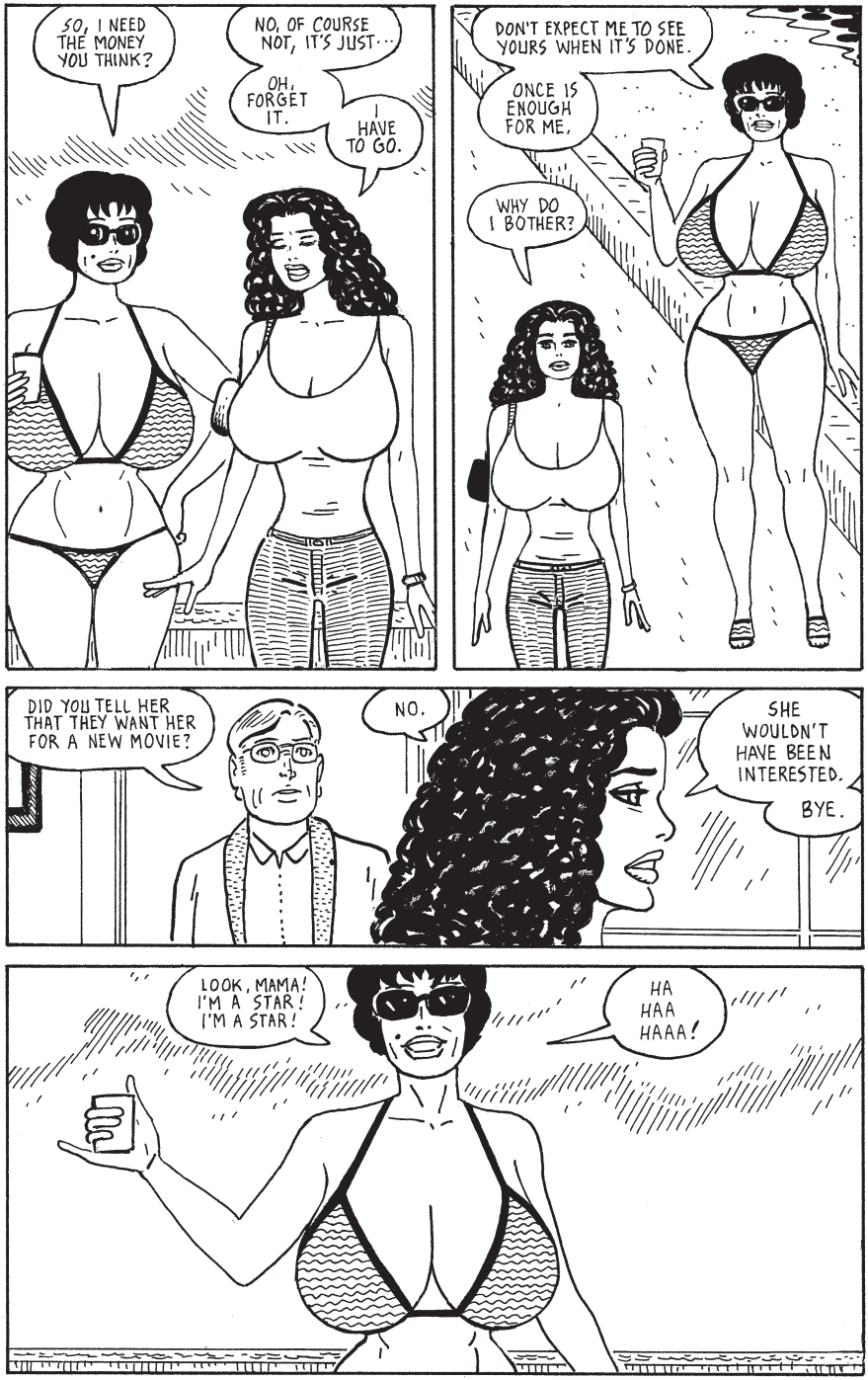

WELL, OUR NEW BUILDING'S STILL A MODEST FIT, BUT THAT'S THE HUMBLE IMAGE THAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS.
MODESTY IS MY MIDDLE NAME!
YOU'VE TAKEN UP YOUR OLD MAN'S BUSINESS AND HIS WOMAN AS WELL, HERMAN!
WELL, DAD HASN'T SAID MUCH ABOUT IT SINCE HE'S DEAD!
MARIA, I HOPE THAT SORT OF TALK DOESN'T GET BACK TO GORGO.
AND WHERE'S HE BEEN, HERMAN?
SOMEWHERE JUST LIVING OFF HIS PART OF THE INHERITANCE, I'M SURE.
TO THE NEW BUILDING!
TO LUIS CIENFUEGOS!
THE NEW BUILDING!
TO A NEW DAY!


I'M GOING TO STAR IN A REMAKE OF YOUR FULL-LENGTH MOVIE, MOM.
IT'LL GIVE US THE CHANCE TO OWN THE RIGHTS TO THE STORY.


THAT MOVIE I MADE WAS TRASH-- WHY MAKE IT AGAIN?
IT'S MAKING SO MUCH MORE MONEY NOW THAN IT EVER HAS, MOM--IT'S AMAZING.


THAT MOVIE YOU MADE SO MANY YEARS AGO IS NOW A MIDNIGHT CULT FEATURE! PEOPLE LOVE YOU IN IT!
CAN'T IMAGINE WHY.


THEY WANT YOU TO APPEAR IN PERSON AT SCREENINGS, MOM.
FAN REPORTERS ARE ALWAYS ASKING ME FOR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH YOU!
WELL, THEY CAN FORGET THAT, ALL RIGHT?
AND DON'T TELL THEM WHERE TO FIND ME!

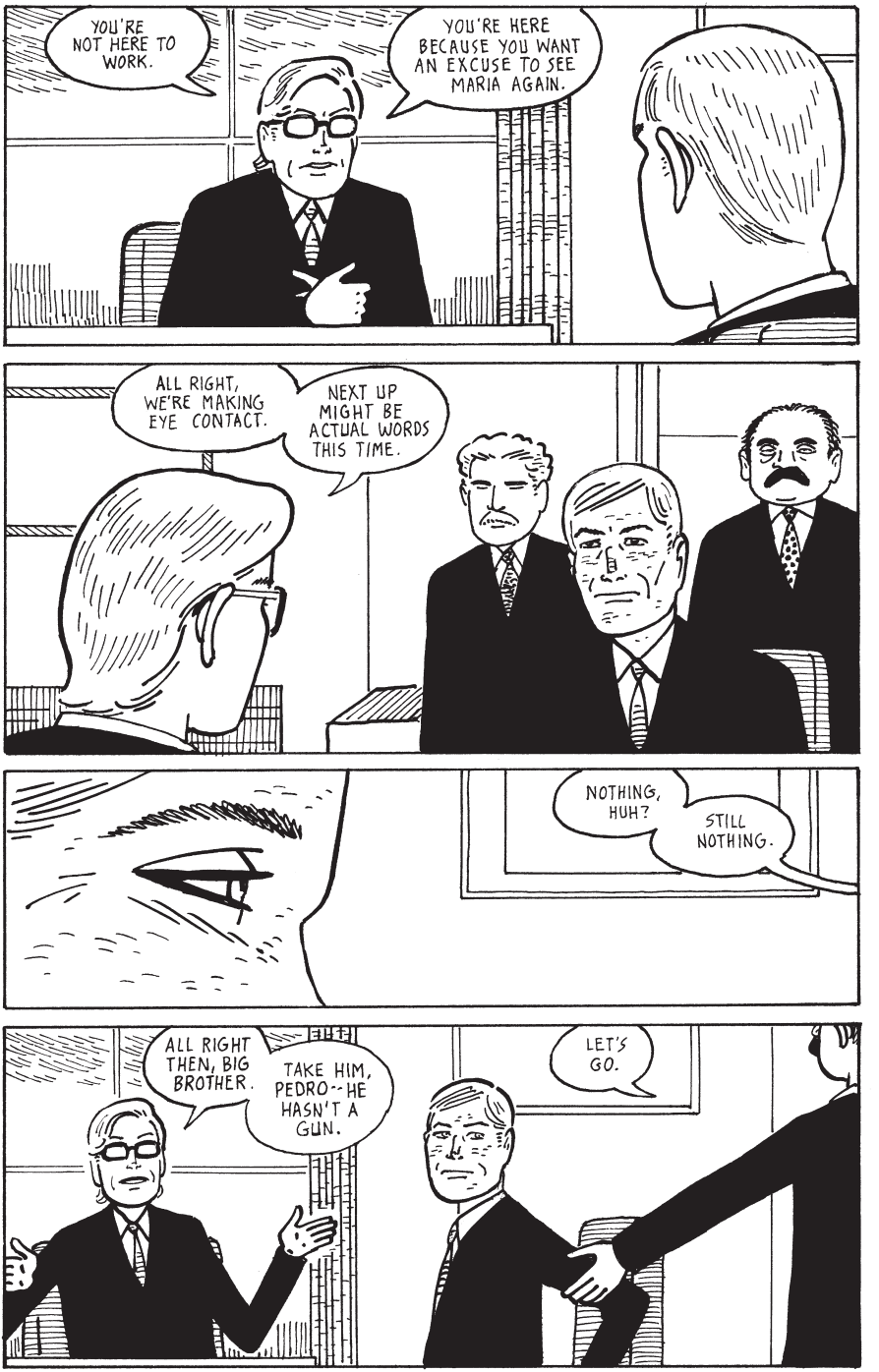

SO, I NEED THE MONEY YOU THINK?
NO, OF COURSE NOT, IT'S JUST…
OH, FORGET IT.
I HAVE TO GO.
DON'T EXPECT ME TO SEE YOURS WHEN IT'S DONE.
ONCE IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
WHY DO I BOTHER?
DID YOU TELL HER THAT THEY WANT HER FOR A NEW MOVIE?
NO.
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN INTERESTED.
BYE.
LOOK, MAMA! I'M A STAR! I'M A STAR!
HA HAA HAAA!


L
THEY WANT ME TO BE IN A NEW MOVIE?
DO YOU THINK I'M-- I SHOULDN'T BE IN ANY MOVIES ANYMORE?
I NEVER SAID THAT.
YOUR FATHER, HE--
OH, FORGET IT-- I'M NOT DOING IT!
OK.
YEAH, HERMAN'S RUNNING THE BUSINESS WITH A NEW OFFICE.
BUT WHY ARE YOU GOING BACK WITH HIM?
I MISS THE LIFE, CHUY.


GORGO IS MEETING WITH ME TODAY.
THERE'S A GHOST FROM THE PAST!
WELL, HE'S FINALLY ADMITTING THAT HE'S NOTHING WITHOUT YOU, HERMAN.
THEY ALWAYS COME BACK, MARIA--A LITTLE MORE HUMBLE, A LITTLE MORE RESPECTFUL.
ADMITTING DEFEAT, ADMITTING WHO'S BOSS.
YES, AT THE NEW BUILDING.
OK, GOOD.
JUST A LITTLE HOUSE CLEANING, CAPTAIN.
I WANT EVERYBODY THERE.
OH, DON'T WORRY; IF GORGO'S GOT A GUN, WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HIM WHEN HE ARRIVES.




OH, HELLO, MARIA.
I JUST CAME IN TO SAY HELLO.
SORRY, WE'RE STILL GETTING THIS PLACE IN ORDER, MARIA.
YOUR HUSBAND'S OFFICE IS DOWN THE HALL TO THE LEFT.


YOU'RE NOT HERE TO WORK.
YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT AN EXCUSE TO SEE MARIA AGAIN.
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE MAKING EYE CONTACT.
NEXT UP MIGHT BE ACTUAL WORDS THIS TIME.
NOTHING, HUH?
STILL NOTHING.
ALL RIGHT THEN, BIG BROTHER.
TAKE HIM, PEDRO--HE HASN'T A GUN.
LET'S GO.

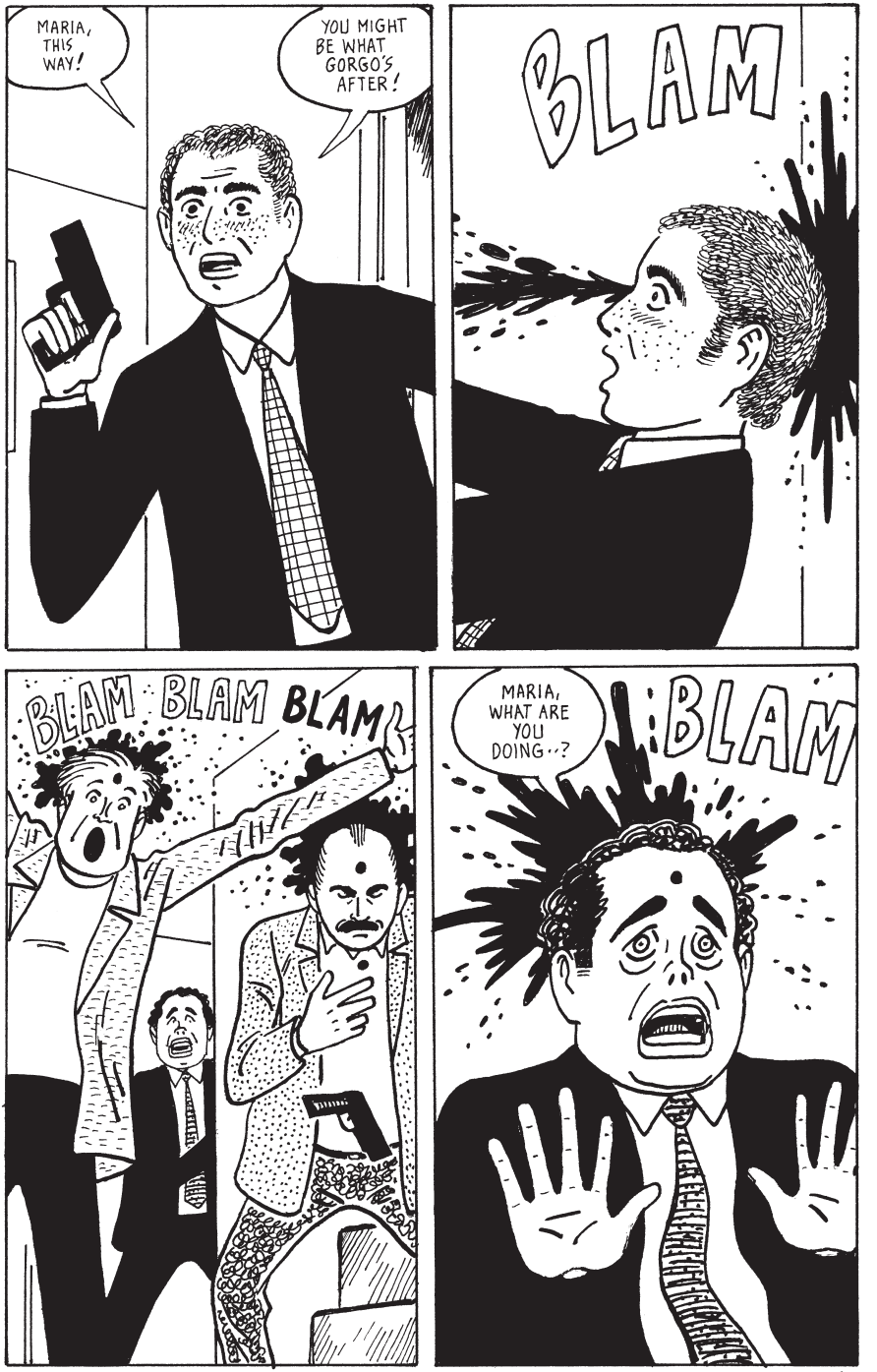

HEY, EVERYBODY!
I JUST CAME BY TO SEE HOW THE PLACE IS SHAPING UP!
GORGO!
HOW NICE TO SEE YOU!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
OH, GORGO-- COULD YOU HELP ME WITH SOME SHOPPING?
I ALWAYS MAKE BETTER DECISIONS WITH YOU THERE!
GORGO--HAS TO GO WITH THESE MEN, MARIA.
OH OH, WELL, THEN I'LL GO WITH THEM!


FWAK..
KRAK..
BLAM..
BLAM..
BLAM..
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WHY ARE THEY TRYING TO KILL GORGO?!
HE-HE'S THE ONE THAT POISONED DAD, MARIA!


HE WHAT?!
GORGO WAS BEHIND ALL THE ATTEMPTS TO KILL DAD, AND..
MARIA, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
GORGO, NOBODY'S GOING TO LET YOU GET OUT OF THIS BUILDING ALIVE!
COME ON OUT!
YOU FUCKED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU FUCKED GORGO!
OH GOD, YOU DID!
Y-YOU FUCKING PIG, YOU..
HERMAN..!


KA-BLAM!
Y-YOU ONLY CAME TO..
PASS GORGO THAT..
GUN..?
KA-BLAAM!
6


MARIA, GO BACK INTO THE OFFICE!
GORGO'S ON THE LOOSE AND IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S GOT A GUN!
BLAM"
BLAM"
BLAM BLAM
HE'S OVER HERE!
NO, OVER HERE!


MARIA, THIS WAY!
YOU MIGHT BE WHAT GORGO'S AFTER!
BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
MARIA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING..?
BLAM


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF




HUFF
....
GORGO..?
CAN YOU WALK?
YES...
BUT I CAN'T SEE...


SEÑORA...!
DOWN!
BAM
BAM
BAM


THERE STILL MIGHT BE MORE OF THEM.
C'MON.
MARIA.
SHHHHH...
IT'S OK.
IT'S OK.


The
End

GILBERT HERNANDEZ

Born in 1957, Gilbert Hernandez enjoyed a pleasant childhood in Oxnard, California, with four brothers and one sister. The siblings were, in Gilbert's words, "born into a world with comic books in the house" — Archie, Marvel, and *Dennis the Menace*. A further strain of comics DNA was added later when an older brother smuggled R. Crumb's *Zap* into the house.

Gilbert's childhood enthusiasm for comics was equaled only by his teenage appetite for rock and roll ('50s, '60s, '70s, punk). Both he and his brother Jaime created eye-catching poster art for local bands like the Angry Samoans, Agent Orange, Black Flag, and others through the early '80s.

Initiated by older brother Mario and bankrolled by younger brother Ismael, Gilbert and Jaime created *Love and Rockets* #1 in 1981. It may have been a very small, black-and-white affair, but almost a quarter of a century later, the series is regarded as a modern classic and the Hernandez brothers continue to create some of the most startling, original, and intelligent comic art to be seen since the '60s underground boom.

Gilbert lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with his wife and daughter.

A brutal, original graphic novel crime noir from comics legend Gilbert Hernandez (*Love and Rockets*). Femme fatale Maria M.'s life south of the border is a sordid cacophony of sex, drugs, and power. She emigrates to America in search of a better life, only to find that it takes more than a change of scenery to break the cycle of violence...

"Hernandez has become the medium's David Lynch or Guy Maddin, rolling his personal obsessions and freewheeling abstractions into stories that present as pulp, then take some very weird turns."

— The A.V. Club

"Hernandez is one of the great craftsmen of modern comics."

— The New York Times Book Review



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