

CRIME DEPT.: A FOG LIES THICK ON LONDON, GIVING A LONELY, EERIE QUALITY TO THE NIGHT SOUNDS!... THE OMINOUS CHIMING OF BIG BEN... THE FOOTSTEPS OF SOMETHING SCUTTLING BY... THE HOLLOW CLACK OF DR. WHATSIT'S HEAD COMING IN CONTACT WITH A LAMPOST AS HE RUSHES THROUGH THE FOG TO SEE HIS OLD FRIEND...

SHERMLOCK SHOMES!



BILL ELDER



AHA! THERE'S THE OLD RASCAL'S SHADOW ON THE WINDOW SHADE NOW, SMOKING HIS SHAG TOBACCO ... A PERFECT TARGET FOR ARTY-MORTY, SHOMES'S ARCH-ENEMY!



BY JOVE! THERE'S ARTY-MORTY NOW!



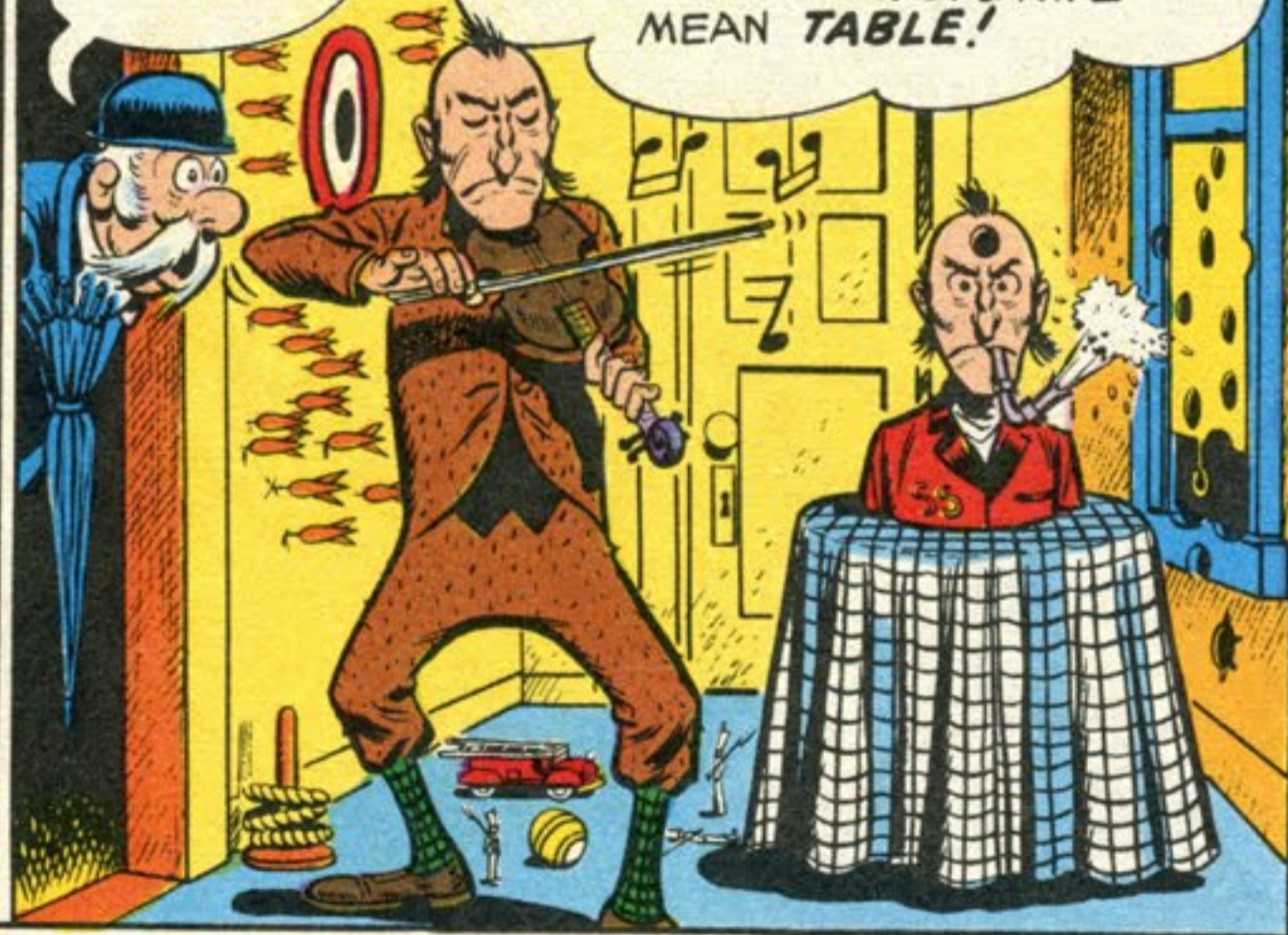
BLAM
BLIM
BLAM

... LITTLE DOES ARTY-MORTY KNOW THAT THAT SHADOW IS MERELY CAST ON THE WINDOW SHADE BY A LIFELESS STATUE... A REPLICA OF SHERMLOCK SHOMES!



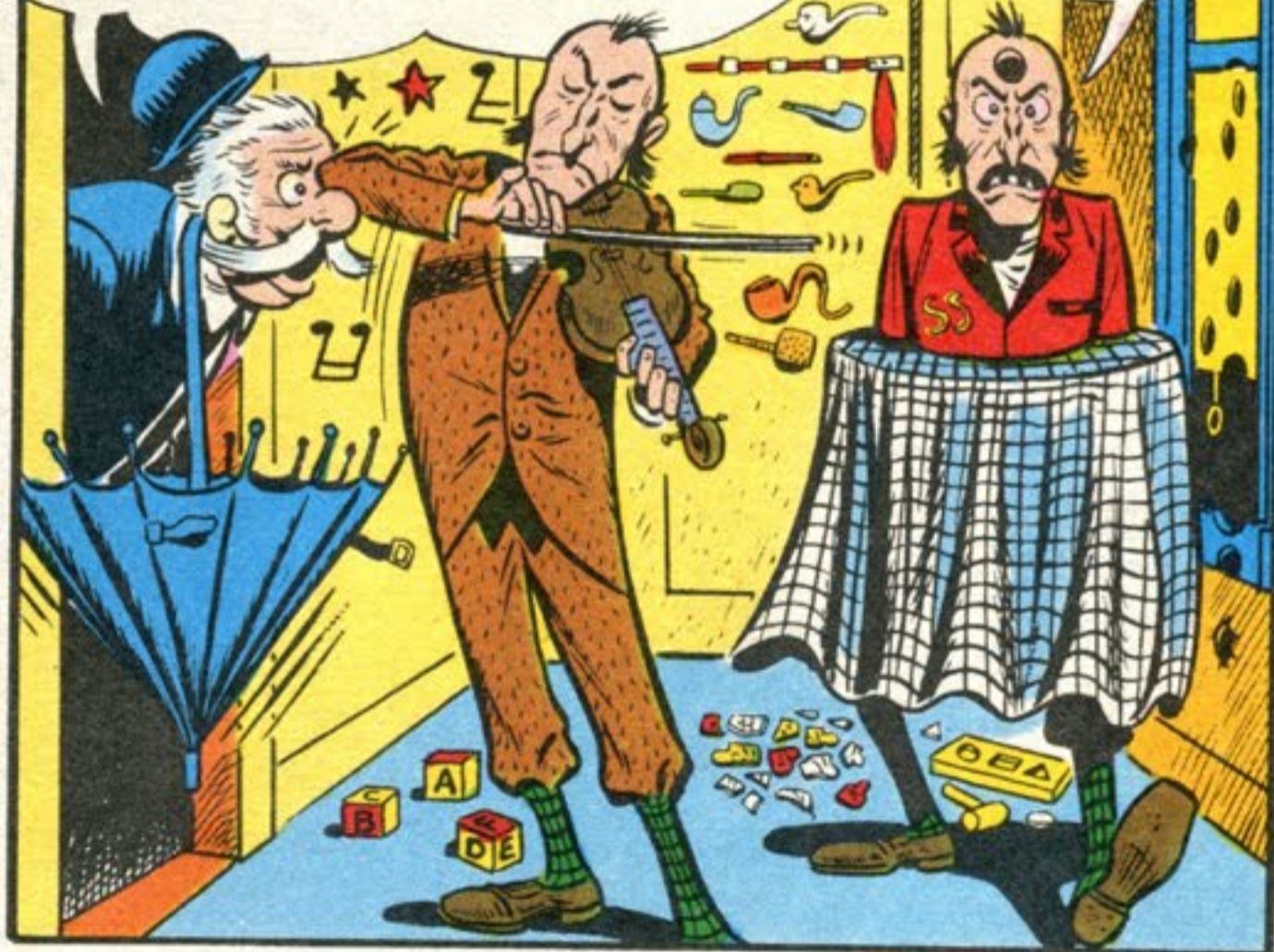
AH, SHOMES! PLAYING THE VIOLIN AS USUAL TO HELP YOU THINK!

CLEVER TRICK THAT... CASTING A SHADE SHADOW OF SHERMLOCK SHOMES WITH A SHTATSHUE SHTANDING ON A SHABLE... BLFT... SPUT... I MEAN **TABLE!**

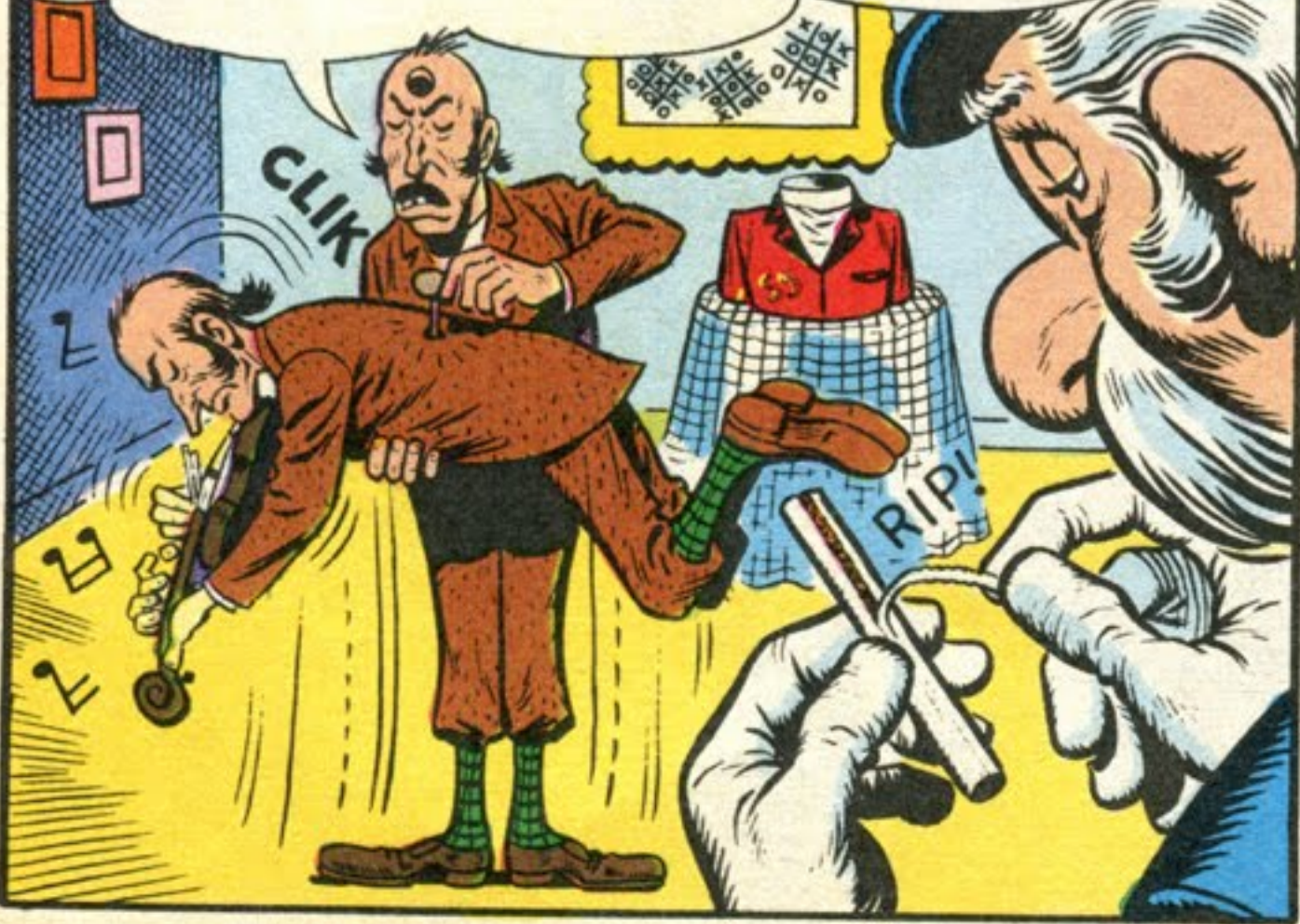


... LITTLE DID ARTY-MORTY KNOW THAT THAT SHADOW IS MERELY CAST BY A LIFELESS STATUE... A REPLICA OF YOURSELF!

... WRONG AGAIN, WHATSIT!

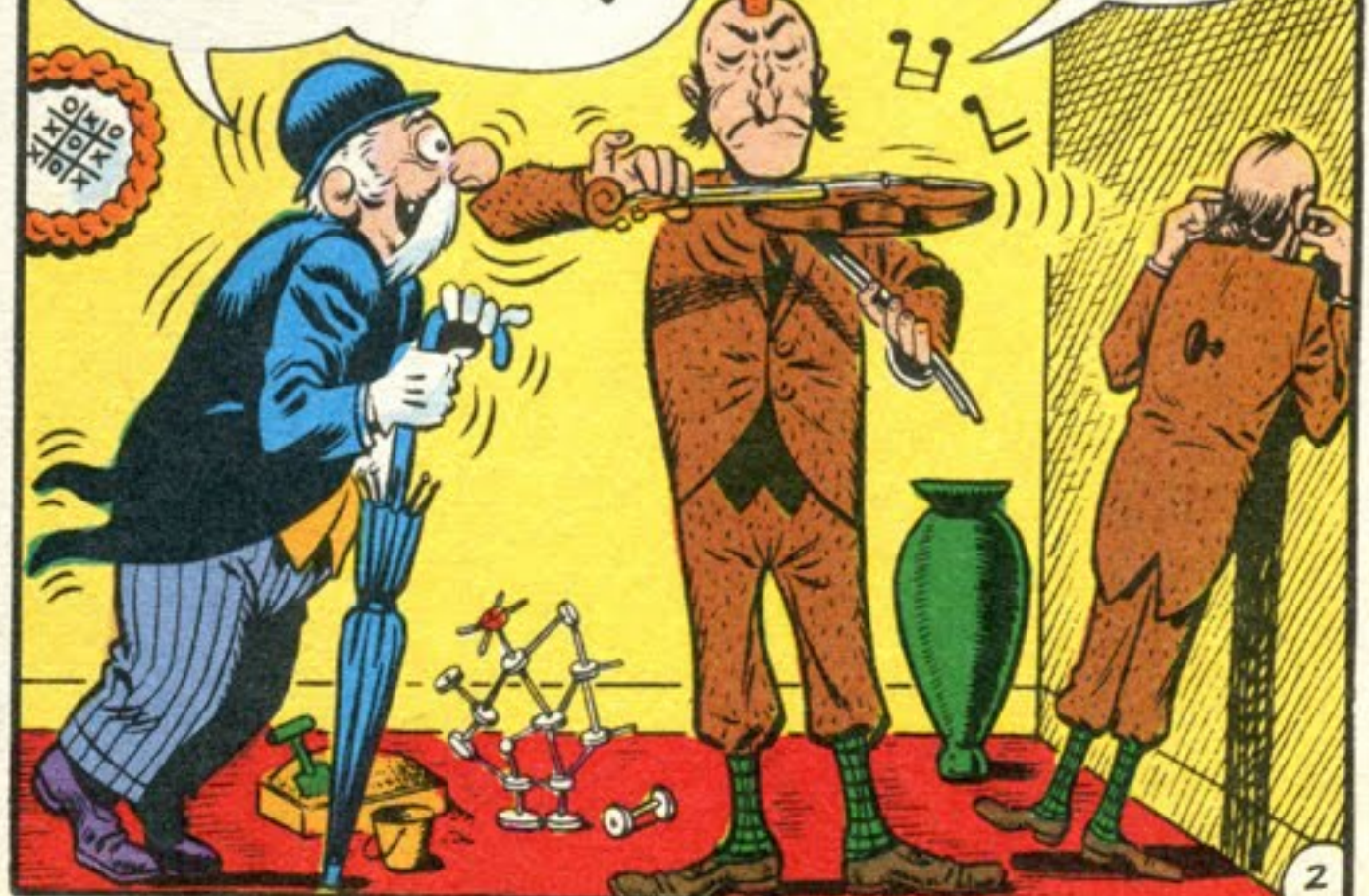


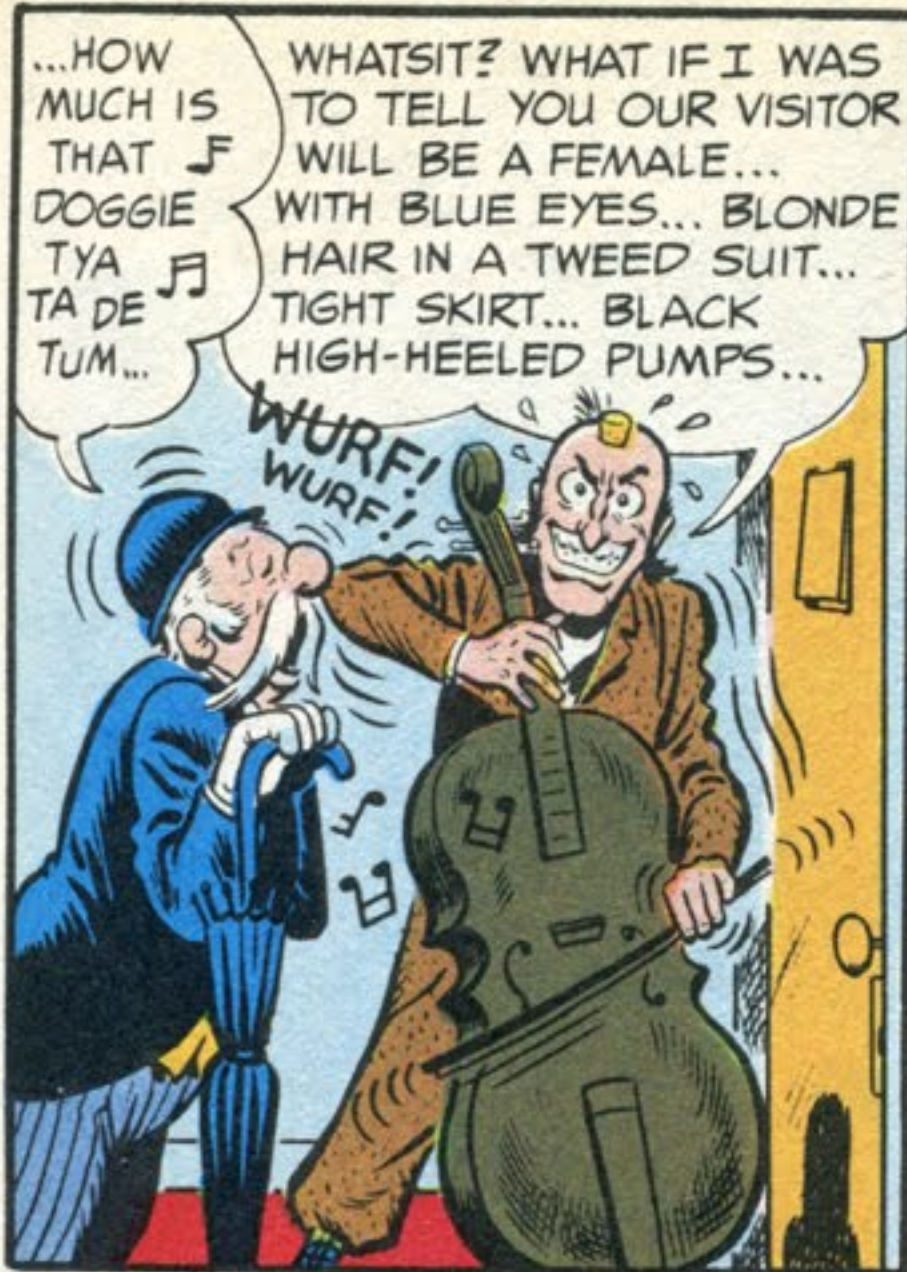
THE STATUE IS REAL!... THE VIOLIN PLAYER IS A LIFELESS STATUE... A REPLICA OF MYSELF, CLEVERLY MANIPULATED BY WATCH-WORKS TO MOVE ABOUT AND TO PLAY THE VIOLIN!... ARTY-MORTY HAS FOILED ME AGAIN!



AHA, SHOMES! YOU'RE PUTTING VIOLIN TO CHIN! YOU'RE GOING TO THINK!... BY JOVE! MY FAVORITE CLASSICAL TUNE... "DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW"!

WHATSIIT? WHAT IF I WAS TO TELL YOU THAT IN A FEW MINUTES WE SHALL HAVE A VISITOR...





...HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE TYA TA DE TUM...

WHATSIT? WHAT IF I WAS TO TELL YOU OUR VISITOR WILL BE A FEMALE... WITH BLUE EYES... BLONDE HAIR IN A TWEED SUIT... TIGHT SKIRT... BLACK HIGH-HEELED PUMPS...

WURF! WURF!



CONFOUND IT, SHOMES! HOW THE DEUCE CAN YOU DEDEUCE ALL DIS?

SILK STOCKINGS... LONG EYELASHES... BRIGHT RED LIPS... A TERRIFIC BUILT...

WHAT IF I WAS TO TELL YOU THAT SHE WILL KNOCK ON THE DOOR IN A MOMENT!

KNOCK NOK!



COME IN, MY DEAR!

SLURP!



HO, HO! THAT'S RICH! IT'S MRS. GOWANUS, THE LAND-LADY!

OH DEARIE ME, MR. SHOMES! H'I DIDN' THINK YEW CARED... KISSIN' MY HAND LIKE THAT... AN' JUST AFTER ME CLEANIN' H'OUT THE CESS-POOL!

SACKS 10TH AVE.



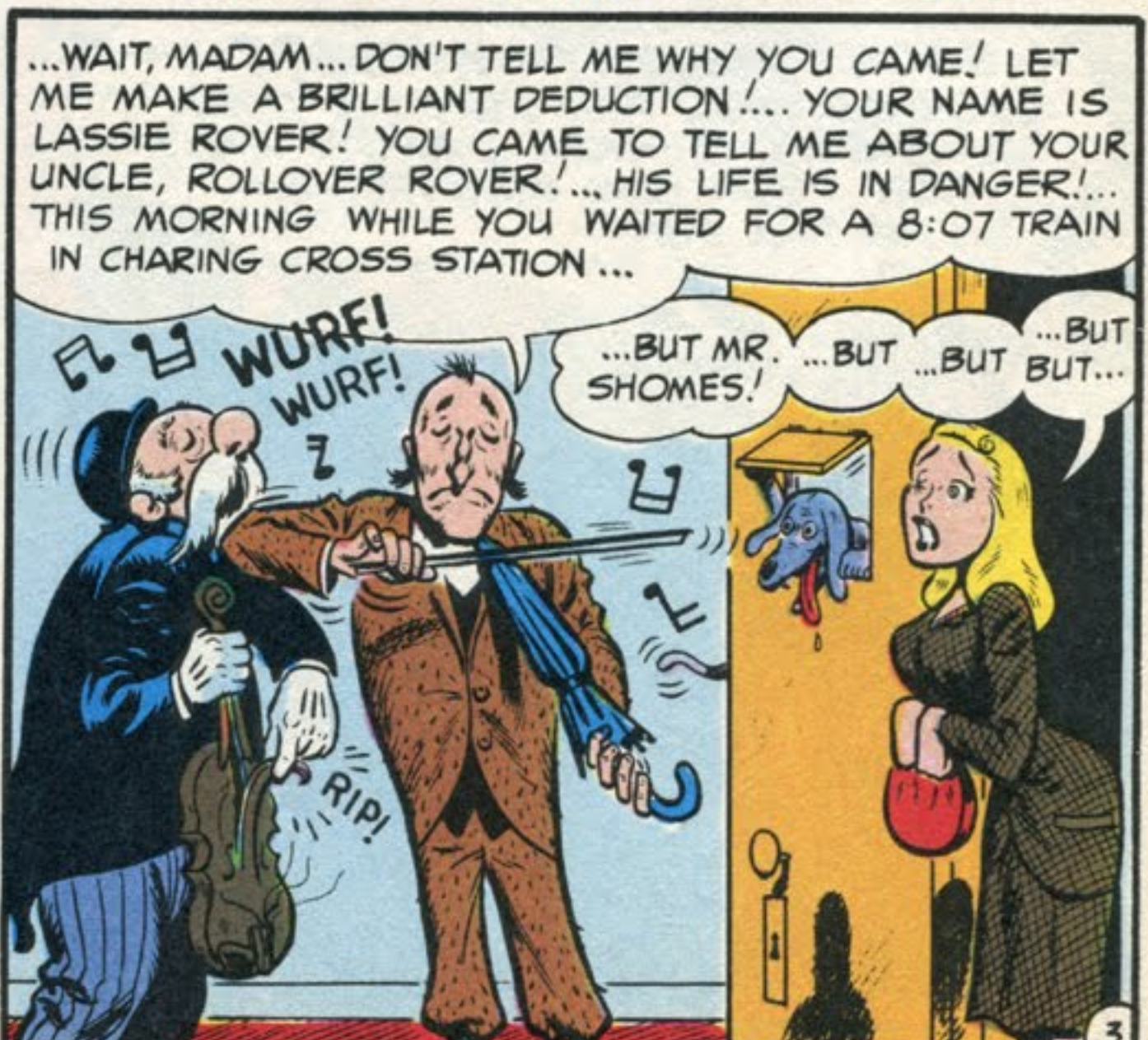
WE'D MAKE A LUVLY COUPLE WE WOULD, MR SHOMES... YEW PLAYIN' THAT THERE BANJO WHILE I CLEAN H'OUT THE CESS-POOL!

EXCUSE ME, SIR! DOES SHERMLOCK SHOMES, PRIVATE EYE LIVE HERE?



HAH! SEE? SEE?... JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU!... SEE?... FEMALE!... BLONDE HAIR!... SEE, BOY?... HAH! DIDN' I TOLD YOU?... DIDN' I??

...MR. SHOMES...



...WAIT, MADAM... DON'T TELL ME WHY YOU CAME! LET ME MAKE A BRILLIANT DEDUCTION!... YOUR NAME IS LASSIE ROVER! YOU CAME TO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR UNCLE, ROLLOVER ROVER!... HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER!... THIS MORNING WHILE YOU WAITED FOR A 8:07 TRAIN IN CHARING CROSS STATION ...

WURF! WURF!

...BUT MR. SHOMES!

...BUT BUT...



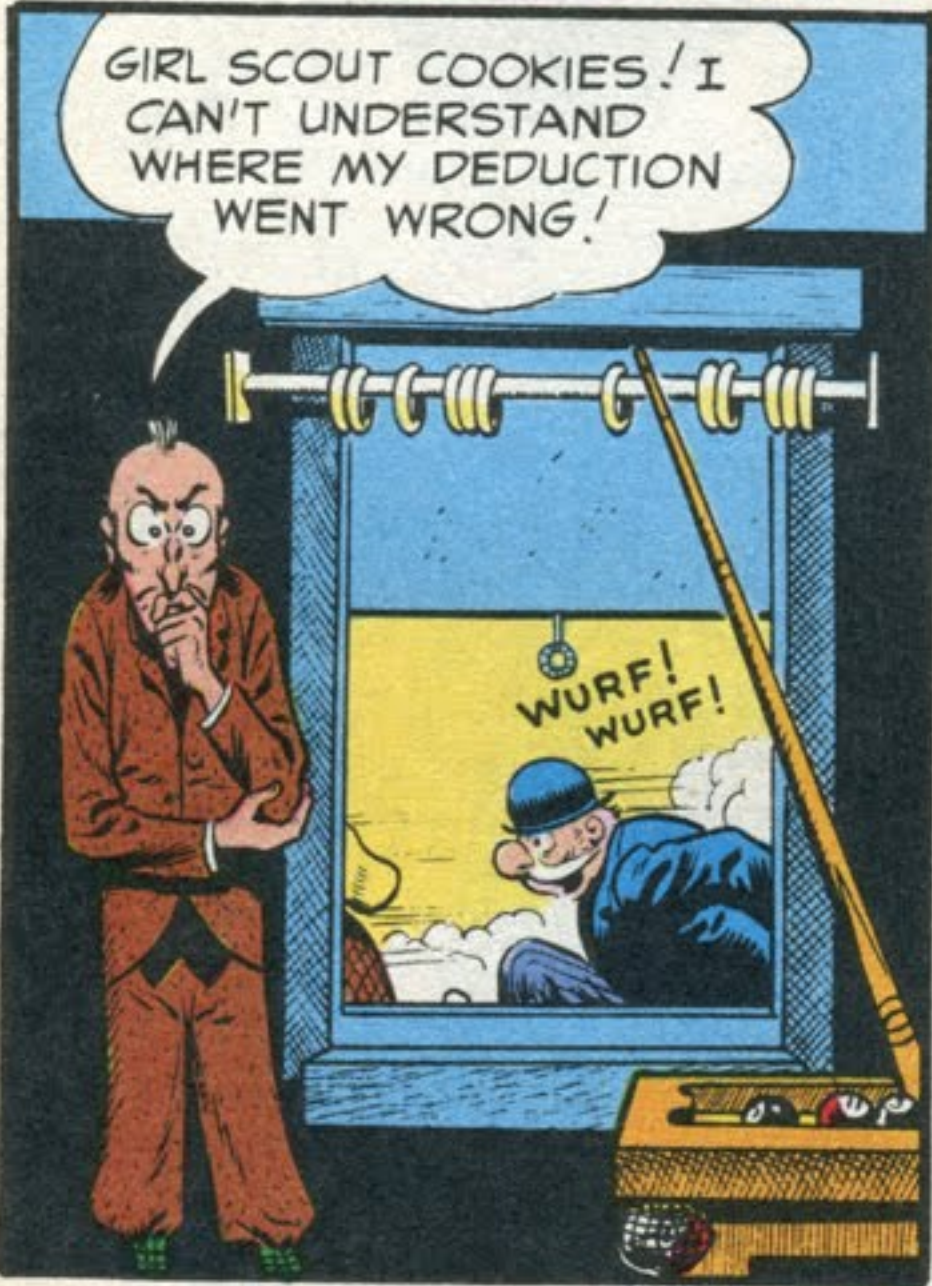
...YOU WERE CHEWING ON A CHICLET AT THE TIME... TUTTI FRUTTI, I BELIEVE...

...BUT MR. SHOMES! I DIDN'T COME TO TELL YOU **NUTTIN'**! I'M JUST SELLING COOKIES...



...GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FROM DOOR TO DOOR! BUT I THINK **YOU** NEED YOUR MONEY MORE THAN THE **GIRL SCOUTS!**

...BYE!



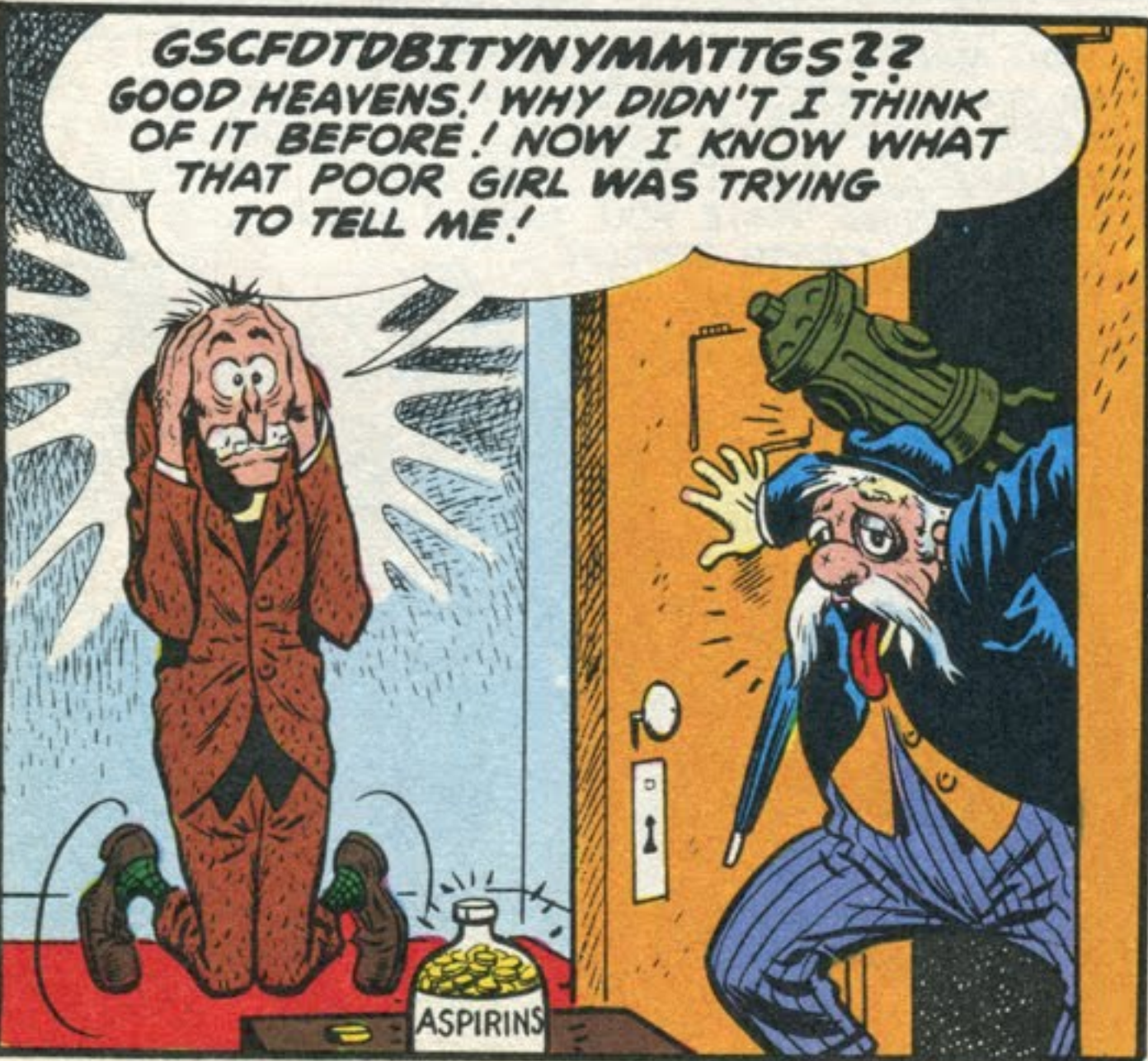
GIRL SCOUT COOKIES! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHERE MY DEDUCTION WENT WRONG!



...AND YET... SOMETHING BOTHERS ME AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT! ...**AHA!**... NOW I KNOW!... I'VE GOT MY LEFT SHOE ON MY RIGHT FOOT!



...HUMM... WHAT WAS IT SHE SAID? HUMM!... **WAIT A MINUTE!** WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE THE FIRST LETTER FROM EACH WORD OF HER SENTENCE! BY JOVE... THAT SPELLS **GSCFDTDBITYNYMMTTGS!**



GSCFDTDBITYNYMMTTGS?? GOOD HEAVENS! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE! NOW I KNOW WHAT THAT POOR GIRL WAS TRYING TO TELL ME!



WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN NOT TO UNDERSTAND!... A MAN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!... AH, WHATSIT! I AM GLAD YOU ARE STILL HERE! YOU CAN JOIN ME IF YOU LIKE, BUT **HURRY** OR WE MAY BE TOO LATE!



I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF WE'RE NOT IN TIME, WHATSIT! HURRY! HURRY, MAN!

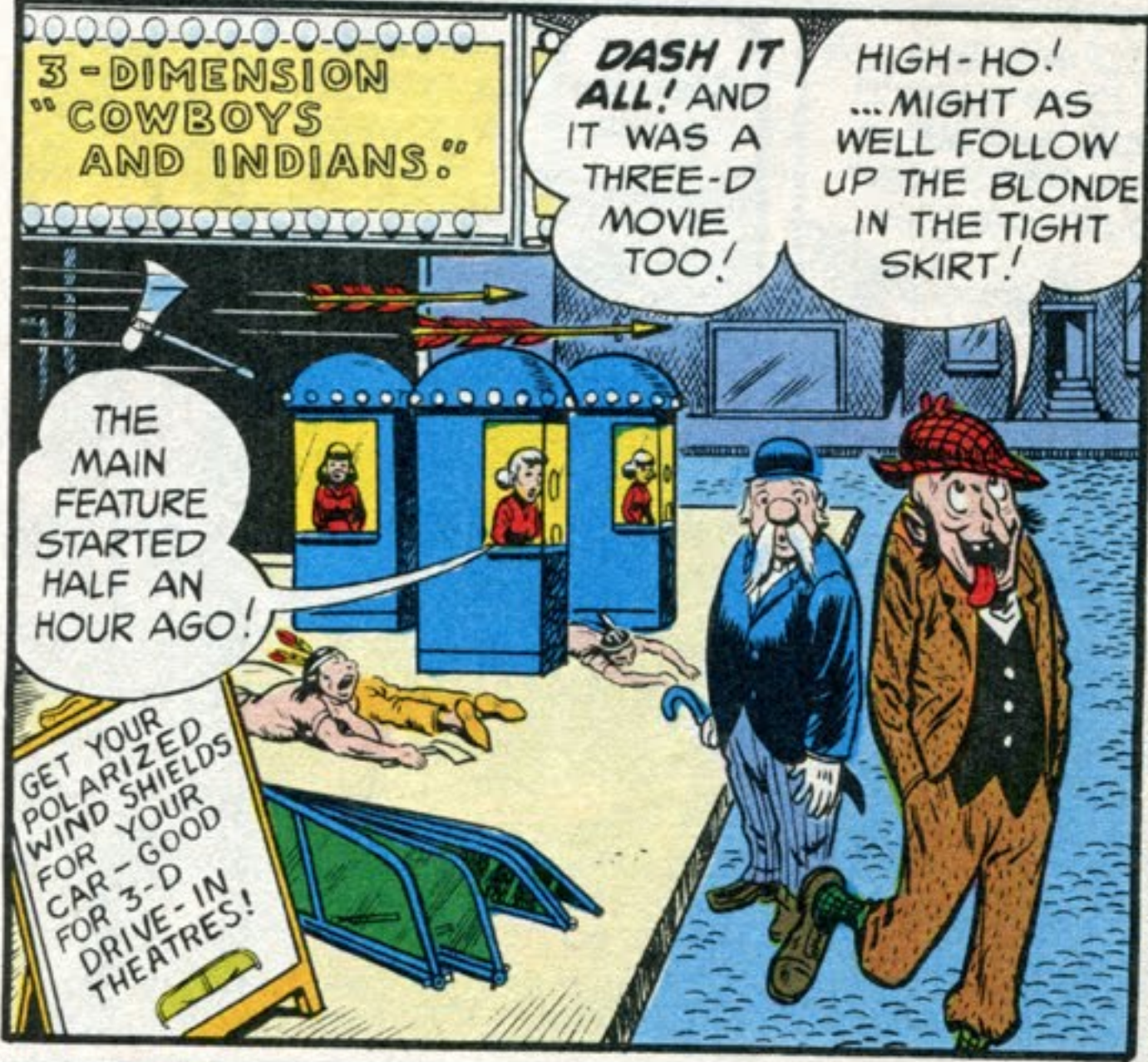


PRAY, WHATSIT! PRAY THAT WE GET THERE IN TIME! PRAY THAT WE ARE NOT TOO LATE, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!



HUZZAH, WHATSIT! THERE'S THE PLACE UP AHEAD!... YOU THERE! TELL ME... T-TELL ME, ARE WE TOO LATE?

YES! YOU'RE TOO LATE!



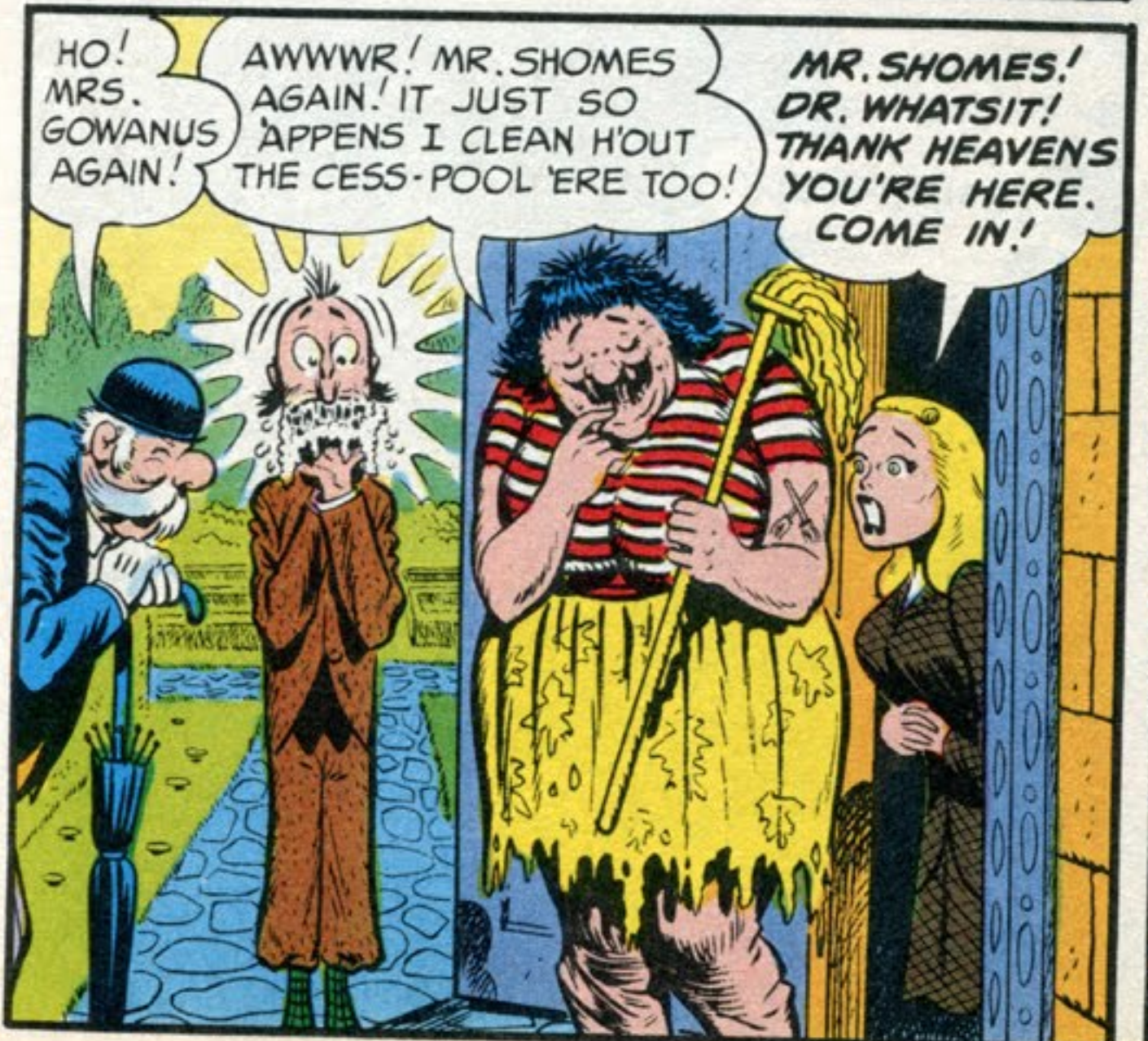
DASH IT ALL! AND IT WAS A THREE-D MOVIE TOO!

HIGH-HO! ...MIGHT AS WELL FOLLOW UP THE BLONDE IN THE TIGHT SKIRT!



AHA! MY SENSE OF DEDUCTION TELLS ME SHE LIVES HERE! RING THE BELL LIKE A GOOD FELLOW, WHATSIT!

...HA, MISS! WE MEET AGAIN!... YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE SO QUICKLY! YOU SEE, I WAS THINKING OF PURCHASING A GIRL SCOUT COOKIE!



HO! MRS. GOWANUS AGAIN!

AWWWR! MR. SHOMES AGAIN! IT JUST SO APPENS I CLEAN H'OUT THE CESS-POOL 'ERE TOO!

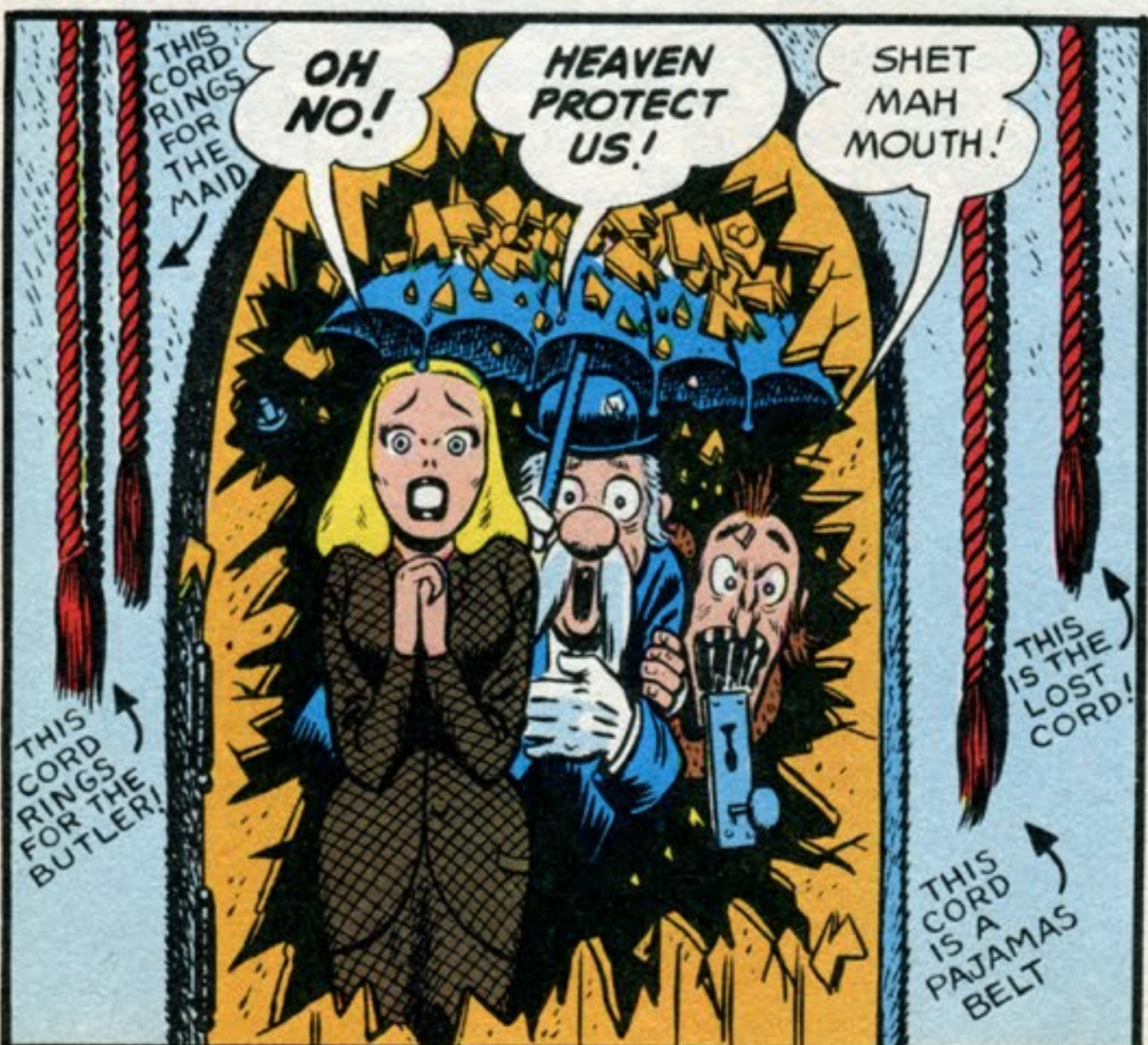
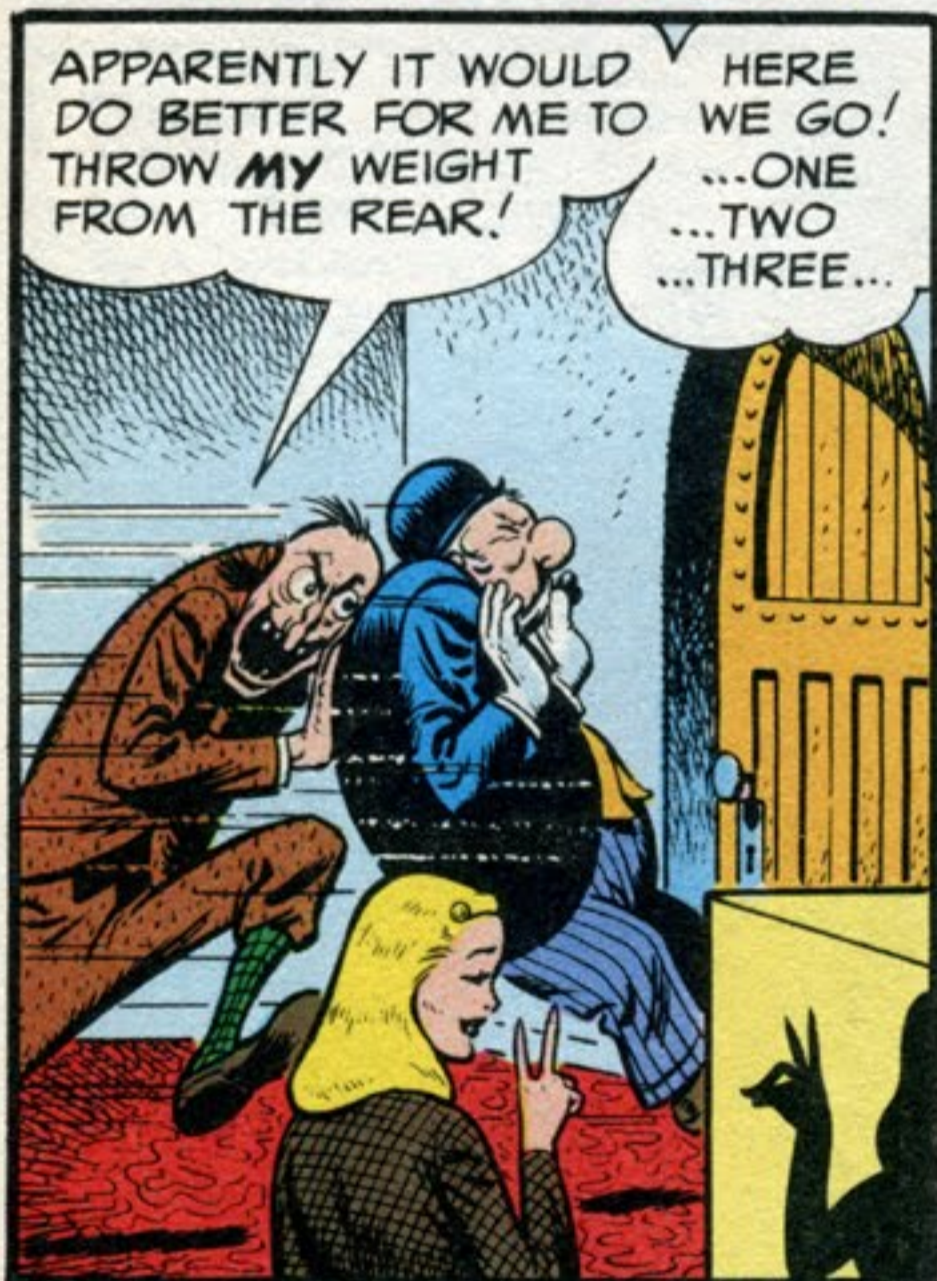
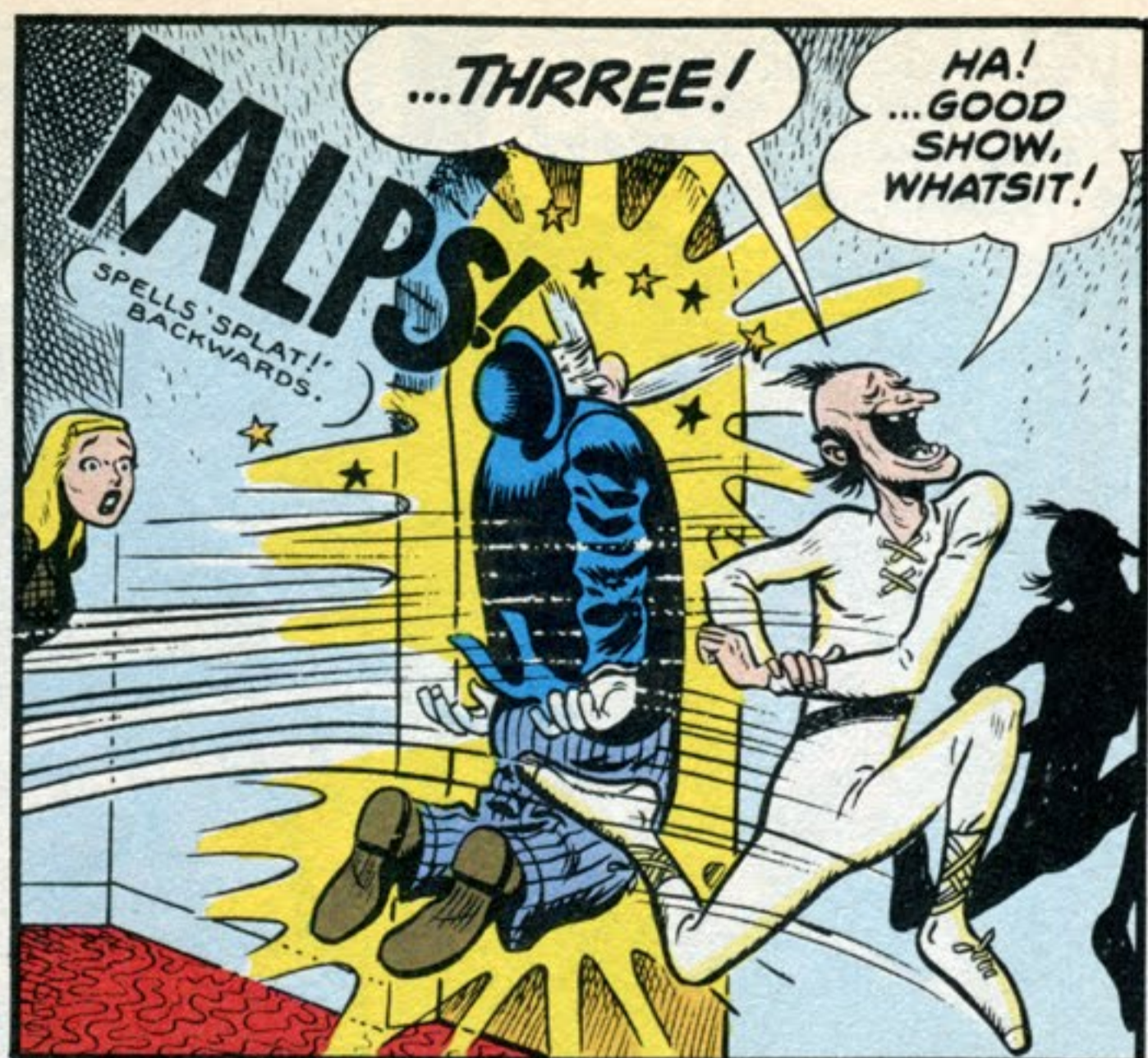
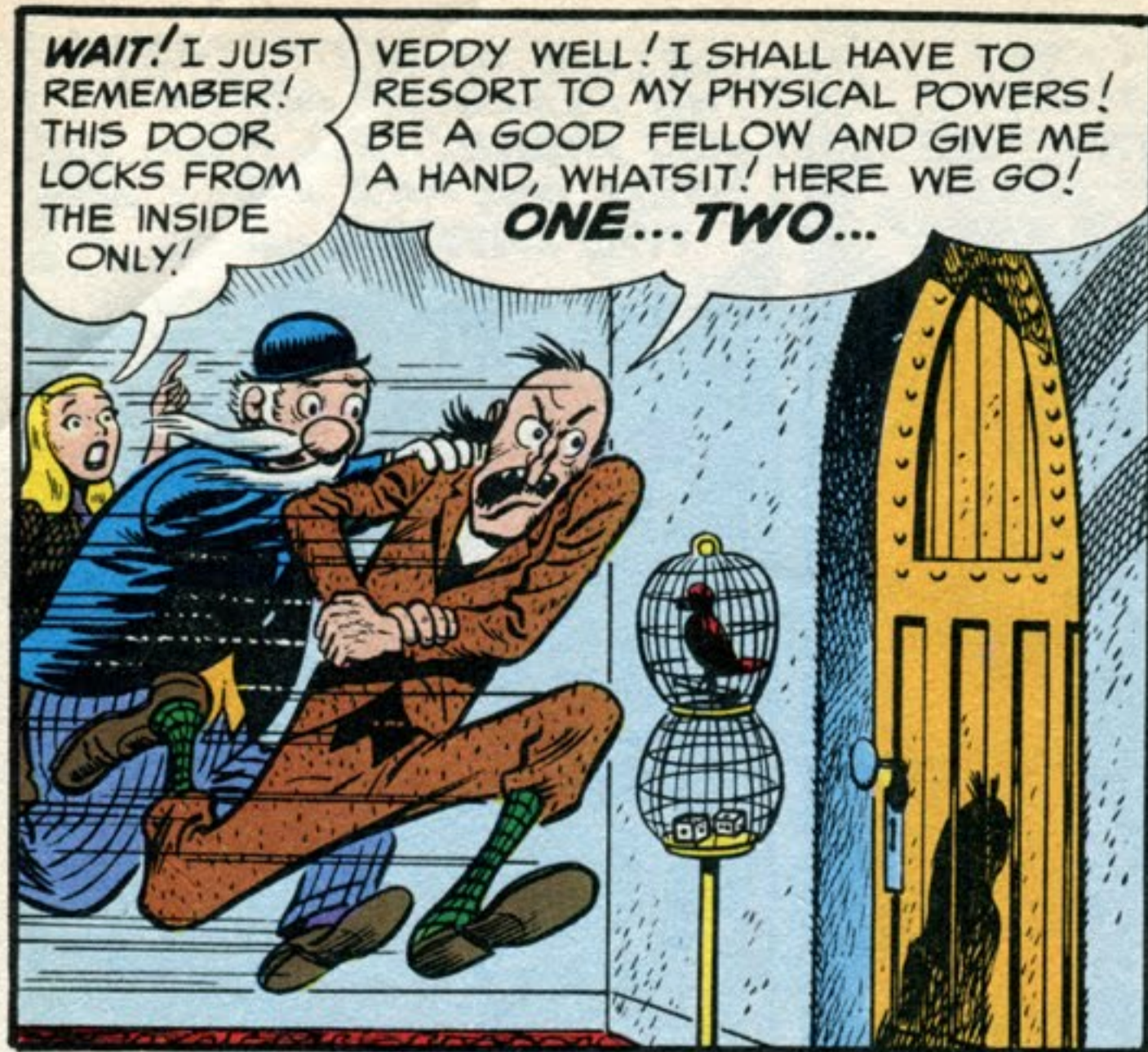
MR. SHOMES! DR. WHATSIT! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE. COME IN!

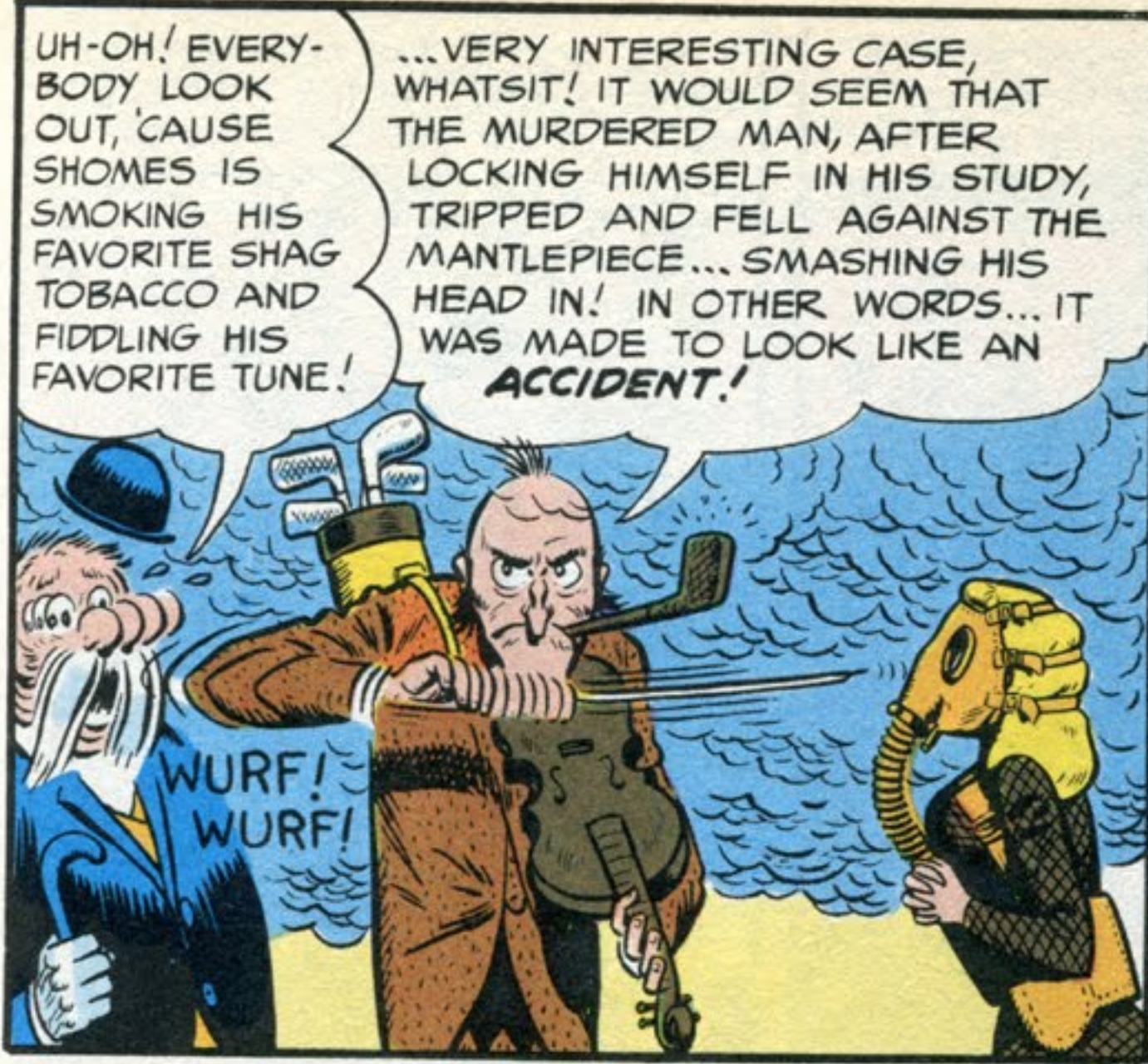


MY UNCLE HAS BEEN IN HIS STUDY ALL DAY LONG! THE DOOR IS LOCKED! I CAN'T GET IN! I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING!

HUMM! ...WHAT ABOUT USING A KEY?

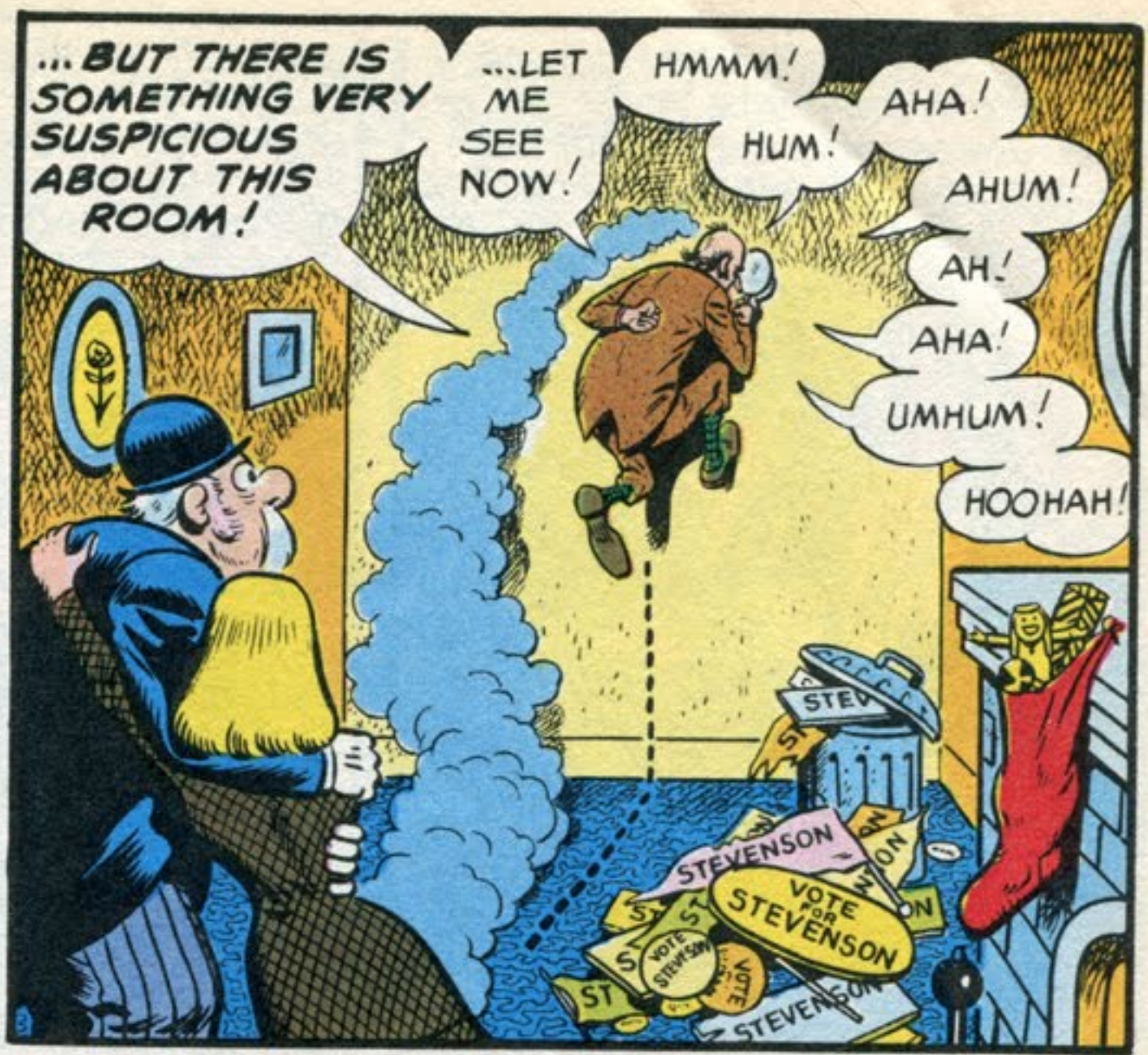
A KEY! GAD, MR SHOMES! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!





UH-OH! EVERYBODY LOOK OUT, 'CAUSE SHOMES IS SMOKING HIS FAVORITE SHAG TOBACCO AND FIDDLING HIS FAVORITE TUNE!

...VERY INTERESTING CASE, WHATSIT! IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE MURDERED MAN, AFTER LOCKING HIMSELF IN HIS STUDY, TRIPPED AND FELL AGAINST THE MANTLEPIECE... SMASHING HIS HEAD IN! IN OTHER WORDS... IT WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE AN **ACCIDENT!**



... BUT THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS ROOM!

...LET ME SEE NOW!

HMMM! HUM!

AHA! AHUM! AH! AHA! UMHUM! HOOHAH!

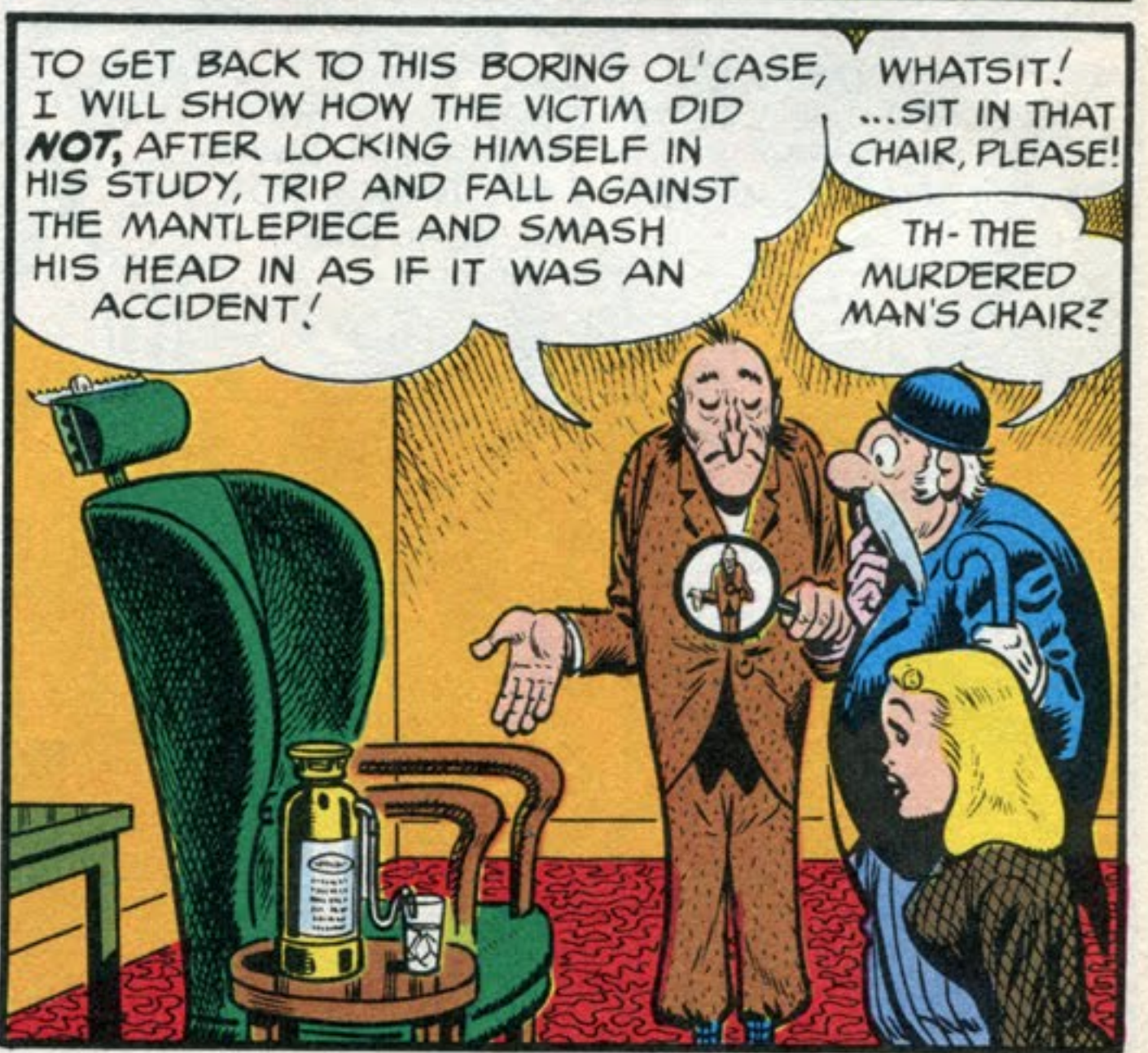


IT IS EXACTLY AS I SUSPECTED!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED EXACTLY!

...AS I EXACTLY SUSPECTED... THERE ARE TERMITES IN THIS HOUSE!

...NOT THAT IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS CASE, BUT YOU SHOULD CATCH TERMITES BEFORE THEY BEGIN TO SWARM!



TO GET BACK TO THIS BORING OL' CASE, I WILL SHOW HOW THE VICTIM DID NOT, AFTER LOCKING HIMSELF IN HIS STUDY, TRIP AND FALL AGAINST THE MANTLEPIECE AND SMASH HIS HEAD IN AS IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

WHAT'SIT! ...SIT IN THAT CHAIR, PLEASE!

TH-THE MURDERED MAN'S CHAIR?



HO HO!... COME NOW, WHATSIT! I'M JUST USING YOU TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE MURDER HAPPENED! NOTHING CAN POSSIBLY HAPPEN TO YOU!

NOW!... YOUR UNCLE WAS NO DOUBT SITTING THERE IN HIS WING CHAIR!

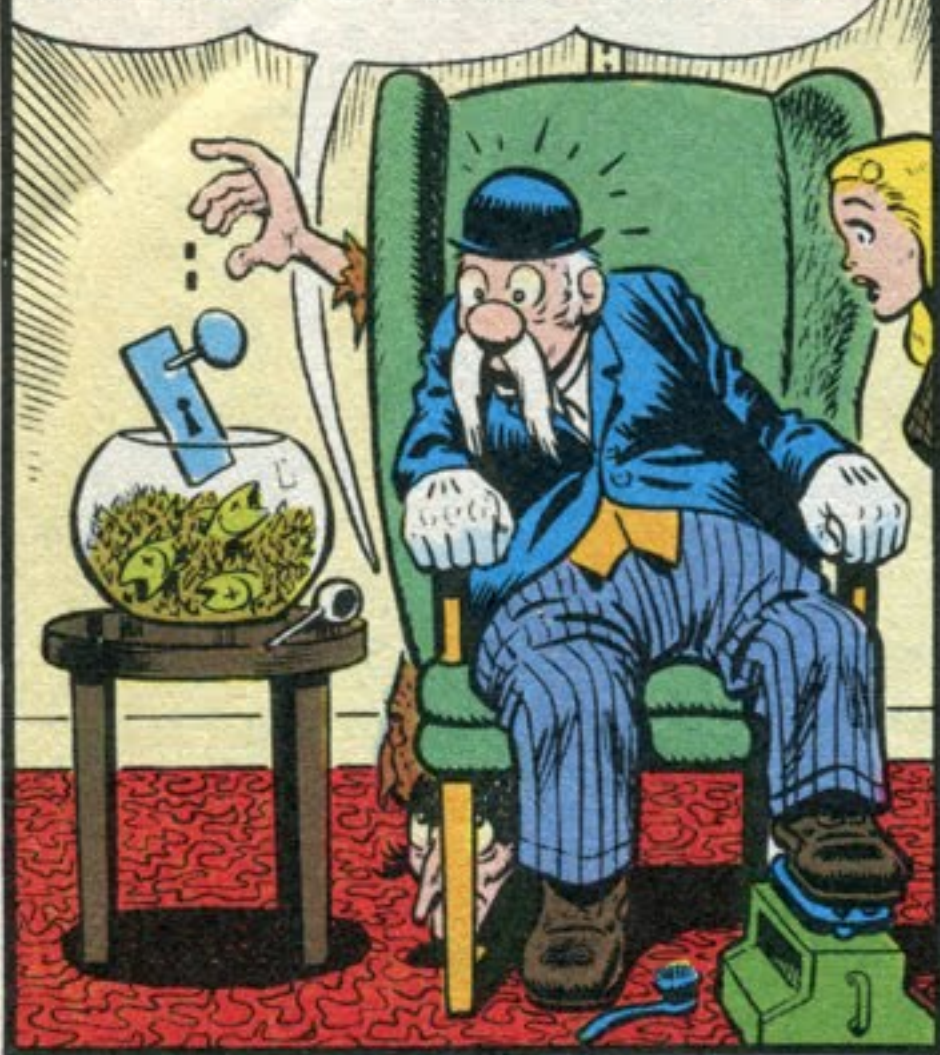


THE MURDERER KNOWING YOUR UNCLE USUALLY RETIRED TO THE STUDY TO READ, ENTERED UNSEEN BY WAY OF...HEH...HEH... THE **CHIMNEY!**



THE ROARING FIRE IN THE FIRE-PLACE PRESENTED NO OBSTACLE SINCE THE MURDERER QUIETLY PUSHED THE LOGS ASIDE BEFORE COMING THROUGH!

THE MURDERER THEN VERY CLEVERLY SLIPPED A DUPLICATE DOOR-KNOB MECHANISM INTO THE MURDERED MAN'S JAR OF SHAG-TOBACCO!



IMAGINE THE MURDERED MAN'S SURPRISE WHEN HE TRIED TO STUFF THE DOOR KNOB INTO HIS PIPE! THIS WAS THE MOMENT THE MURDERER HAD BEEN WAITING FOR!

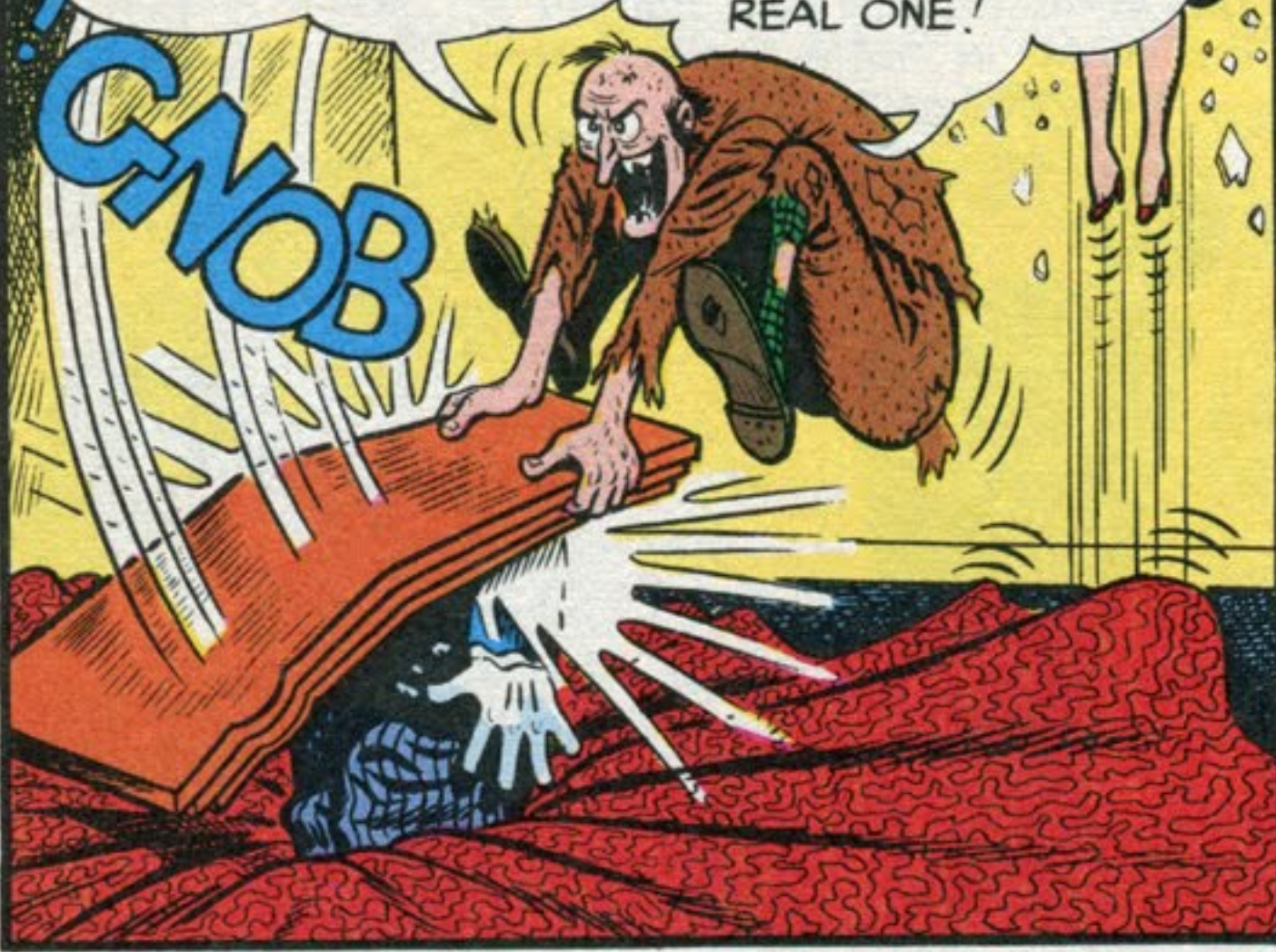


IF YOU NOTICE, THE MANTLEPIECE COMES LOOSE! AS THE MURDERED MAN STUDIED THE DOOR KNOB, GETTING HIS FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT, THE MURDERER STEPPED OUT...



... AND DEFTLY BASHED THE VICTIM ON THE HEAD WITH THE MANTLEPIECE!

... THEN WITH GLOVED HANDS, HE SUBSTITUTED HIS DOOR-KNOB MECHANISM FOR THE REAL ONE!



THE MURDERER THEN LOCKED THE DOOR, REPLACED THE BURNING LOGS, AND STOLE QUIETLY UP THE CHIMNEY AND INTO THE NIGHT, MAKING IT LOOK AS IF THE MURDERED MAN, AFTER LOCKING HIMSELF IN HIS STUDY, TRIPPED AND FELL AGAINST THE MANTLEPIECE ... SMASHING HIS HEAD IN!



... AND THAT MURDERER IS YOU, MADAM... ARTY-MORTY IN DISGUISE!... CAH-MON, ARTY... TAKE OFF THAT WIG! SCOTLAND YARD IS ON THE WAY! YOU MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS!



THE WAY I WAS KILLED... AFTER LOCKING MYSELF IN MY STUDY, I TRIPPED AND FELL AGAINST THE MANTLEPIECE... SMASHING MY HEAD IN! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

SHOMES! SCOTLAND YARD ARRESTS YOU FOR THE MURDER OF DR. WHATSIT! WE WARN YOU... ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL BE HELD AGAINST YOU!

