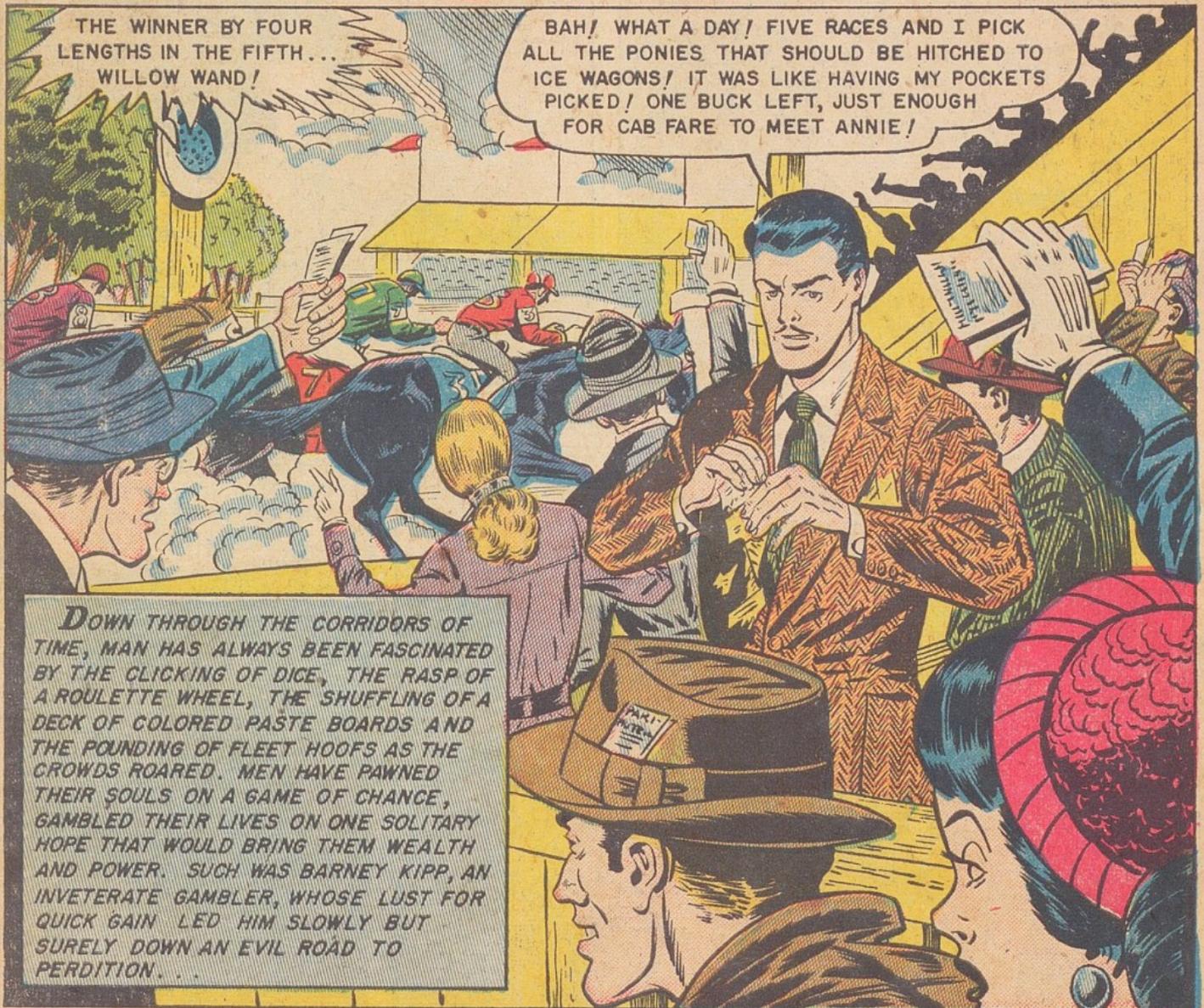


The MAN WHO PAWNED HIS SOUL



THE WINNER BY FOUR LENGTHS IN THE FIFTH...
WILLOW WAND!

BAH! WHAT A DAY! FIVE RACES AND I PICK ALL THE PONIES THAT SHOULD BE HITCHED TO ICE WAGONS! IT WAS LIKE HAVING MY POCKETS PICKED! ONE BUCK LEFT, JUST ENOUGH FOR CAB FARE TO MEET ANNIE!

DOWN THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF TIME, MAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY THE CLICKING OF DICE, THE RASP OF A ROULETTE WHEEL, THE SHUFFLING OF A DECK OF COLORED PASTE BOARDS AND THE POUNDING OF FLEET HOOFS AS THE CROWDS ROARED. MEN HAVE PAWNED THEIR SOULS ON A GAME OF CHANCE, GAMBLED THEIR LIVES ON ONE SOLITARY HOPE THAT WOULD BRING THEM WEALTH AND POWER. SUCH WAS BARNEY KIPP, AN INVETERATE GAMBLER, WHOSE LUST FOR QUICK GAIN LED HIM SLOWLY BUT SURELY DOWN AN EVIL ROAD TO PERDITION...



AS BARNEY LEFT THE FENWAY RACE TRACK...

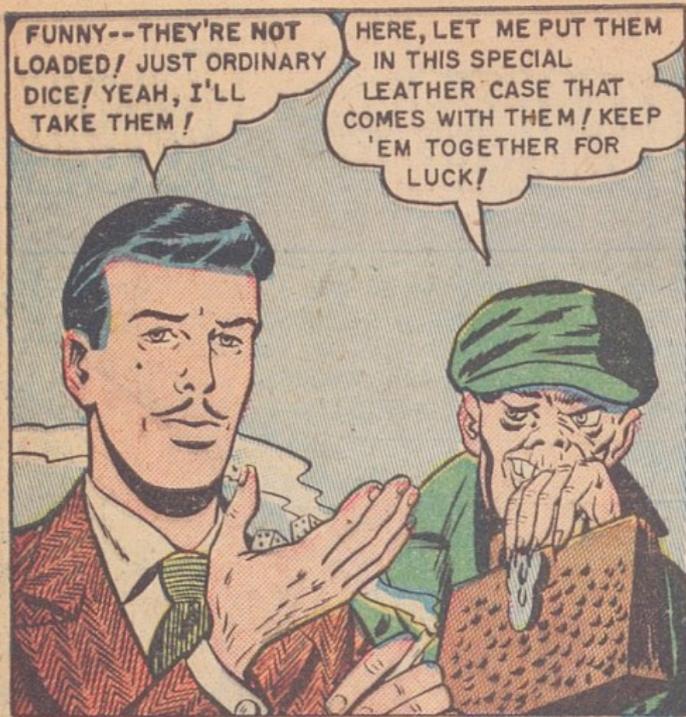
STEP RIGHT UP AND WATCH ME ROLL THESE SENSATIONAL DICE... ABSOLUTELY INFALLIBLE! A GUARANTEED WINNING COMBINATION! WATCH ME ROLL A SEVEN! FOR ONLY A BUCK!

AAAH, THEY MUST BE LOADED!



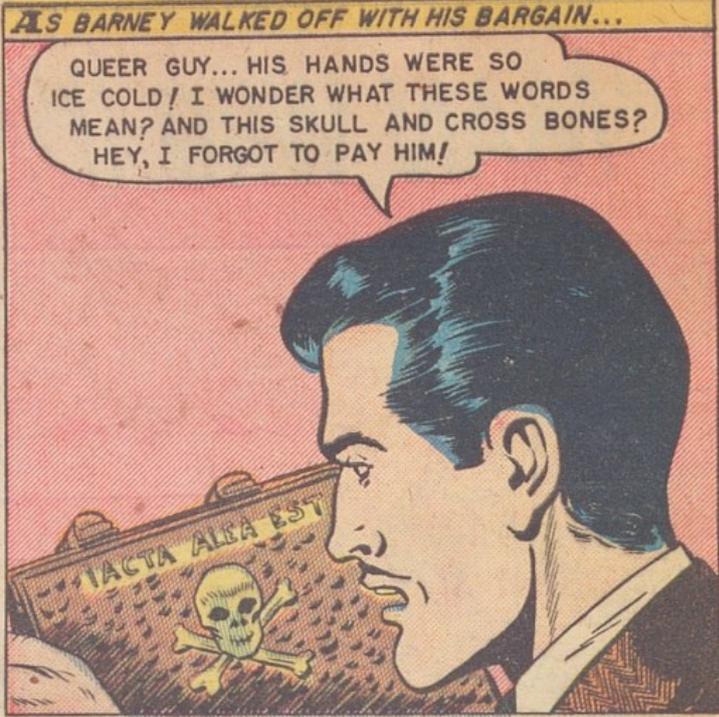
YOU SAW ME ROLL SEVEN, SEVEN, AND MAKE MY POINTS RIGHT BACK AT SIX AND NINE! 7769! THAT'S HOW THEY'LL WORK FOR YOU, MISTER, OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

LEMME SEE THEM DICE!



FUNNY-- THEY'RE NOT LOADED! JUST ORDINARY DICE! YEAH, I'LL TAKE THEM!

HERE, LET ME PUT THEM IN THIS SPECIAL LEATHER CASE THAT COMES WITH THEM! KEEP 'EM TOGETHER FOR LUCK!



AS BARNEY WALKED OFF WITH HIS BARGAIN...

QUEER GUY... HIS HANDS WERE SO ICE COLD! I WONDER WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN? AND THIS SKULL AND CROSS BONES? HEY, I FORGOT TO PAY HIM!



HE'S GONE, AND I'VE ONLY HAD MY BACK TURNED A FEW SECONDS! I'LL ASK THE COPPER!



I'VE STOOD HERE TWO HOURS AND NO HUCKSTER HAS BEEN HERE! PEDDLERS AIN'T ALLOWED AT THE TRACK! ARE YOU TRYING TO KID ME?

N-NO-- JUST FORGET IT!



BARNEY LEFT IN CONFUSION...

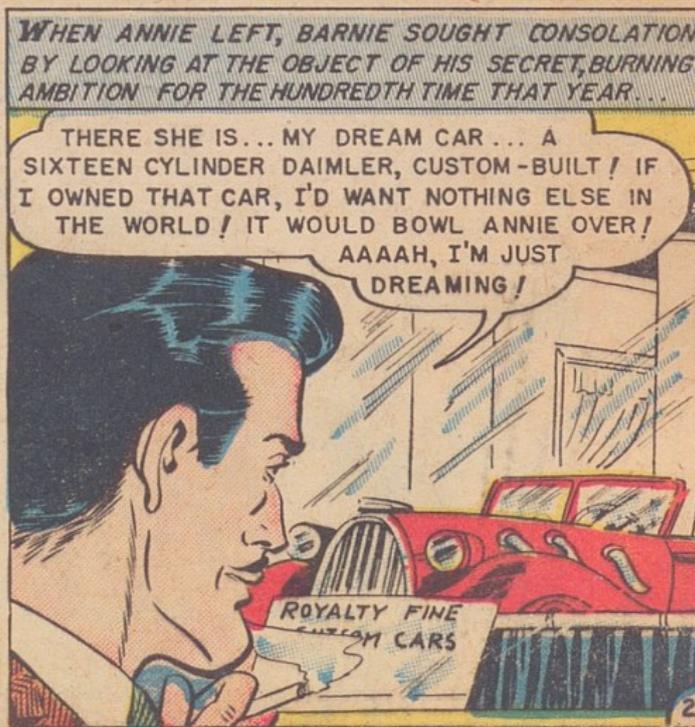
ANYHOW, I'M A BUCK TO THE GOOD! I'LL GIVE THESE DICE A TRY IN THE NEXT GAME I PLAY! NOW I GOTTA MEET ANNIE...



SOON...

I COULDN'T HELP IT, ANNIE! IF I HAD WON, WE WOULD BE GOING TO THE COHAMA CLUB FOR DINNER!

YOU PROMISED ME A DOZEN TIMES YOU'D STAY AWAY FROM THE TRACK! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! YOU ARE JUST A CHEAP GAMBLER!



WHEN ANNIE LEFT, BARNIE SOUGHT CONSOLATION BY LOOKING AT THE OBJECT OF HIS SECRET, BURNING AMBITION FOR THE HUNDRETH TIME THAT YEAR...

THERE SHE IS... MY DREAM CAR... A SIXTEEN CYLINDER DAIMLER, CUSTOM-BUILT! IF I OWNED THAT CAR, I'D WANT NOTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD! IT WOULD BOWL ANNIE OVER! AAAAH, I'M JUST DREAMING!

LATE THAT NIGHT, BARNEY WAS SUDDENLY JOLTED FROM HIS SLEEP...

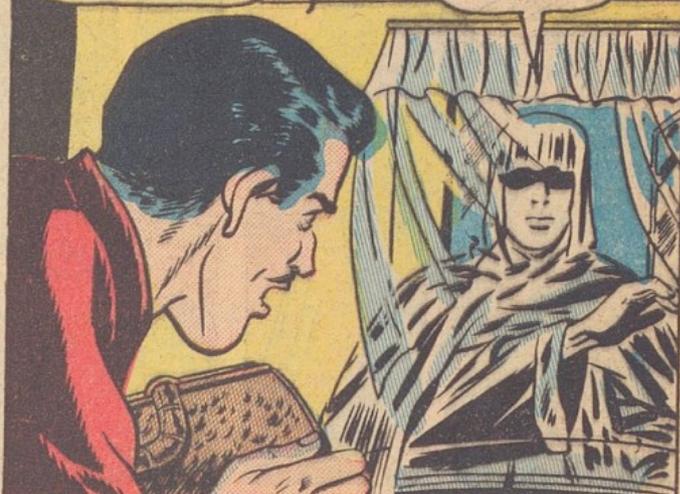
WH—WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

BARNEY KIPP, THERE IS STILL TIME TO RETREAT FROM THE EVIL PATH YOU HAVE EMBARKED ON! THE DICE ARE TAINTED! CAST THEM AWAY AND CLEANSE YOUR HANDS OF THEIR CURSE!



NO! I AIN'T GIVING THEM UP UNTIL I FIND OUT IF THEY WORK! SOMEBODY SENT YOU TO SNATCH 'EM FROM ME! GET OUT OF MY ROOM!

I SEE THE VOICE OF FATE FALLS ON DEAF EARS! I WILL GO-- BUT REMEMBER MY WARNING!



IT'S GONE! FATE IT CALLED ITSELF, AND SAID THE DICE WERE CURSED! I MUST BE GOING DAFFY... UNLESS I DREAMED THE WHOLE THING?



THE NEXT EVENING, BARNEY WENT TO A FAVORITE WATER-FRONT HANGOUT...

AWRIGHT, PUSH OVER AND MAKE ROOM FOR ME, FELLERS! I FEEL HOT TONIGHT!

ALL WE WANT IS YOUR MONEY, BARNEY! YOU ROLL NEXT!



BARNEY'S LUCK HELD AS THE DICE RATTLED INTO WINNING SEVENS AND EFFORTLESS POINT CASTS OF SIXES AND NINES!

HE'S GOT THEM DICE HOOODOOED! HE HASN'T LOST A ROLL IN HALF AN HOUR! I'M FLAT BUSTED!

NINE'S MY POINT! I GOT FIFTY DOLLARS THAT SAYS I MAKE IT IN ONE ROLL!



SUDDENLY, AT THE PIER'S EDGE...

NINE IT IS, ON THE FIRST ROLL! HA HA! COME TO PAPA, BANKROLL!

JUMPIN' SNAKE EYES! LOOK AT THIS SLIMY THING COMING OUT OF THE WATER! YAAAAAY!



GIVE ME BACK MY DICE! THEY BELONG TO ME! JUST BEFORE THE OSWEGO GANG GOT ME, I RAN MY STREAK INTO A MILLION! GIVE THEM BACK TO ME!

OVER MY DEAD BODY! THEY BELONG TO BARNEY KIPP NOW!





GIVE THEM BACK!
OWWW!

BACK WHERE
YOU CAME FROM,
YOU ROTTING
GHOUL!



HA HA! IACTA
ALEA EST...
THE DIE
IS CAST!
HA HA!

WHY, THAT'S
WHAT'S PRINTED
ON THE CASE!
THIS GETS CREEPIER
EVERY DAY! BUT
THE DICE SURE
WORK!



AGAIN, AS BARNEY STROVE FOR
SLEEP THAT NIGHT...

YOU
AGAIN?

BARNEY KIPP, YOU HAVE
TAKEN ONE MORE STEP
ON THE ROAD TO PER-
DITION! YOU PLAYED AND
WON WITH THE CURSED DICE
TODAY, BUT THERE IS STILL
TIME TO TURN BACK!

BARNEY'S RAGE OVERCAME HIS FEAR.

GET OUT OF HERE AND
STOP HAUNTING ME, OR
I'LL... AAAAR, IT
SAILED RIGHT
THROUGH HIM!

FOOLISH CREATURE!
REMEMBER, YOU ARE
DIGGING YOUR OWN
GRAVE!



ALTHOUGH SHAKEN BY FATE'S WARNING, BARNEY
COULDN'T RESIST A REALLY BIG GAME THE NEXT
EVENING...

BRRR,
THIS IS SOME PLACE
TO HOLD A BIG LEAGUE
CRAP GAME! IT
GIVES ME THE
SHAKES!

IT'S ONLY A FRONT FOR THE
GAMBLING THAT GOES ON!
COME IN AND MEET THE
BIGGEST RACKET CHIEFS IN
TOWN!



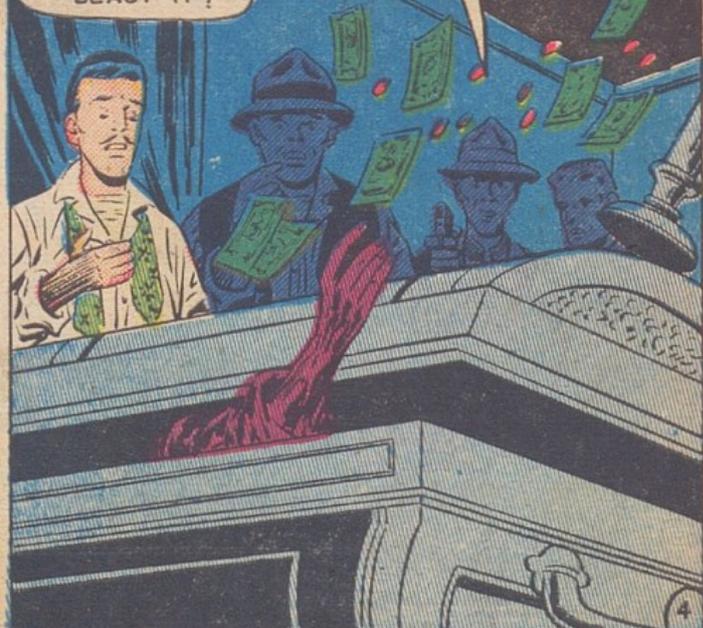
BARNEY QUICKLY GREW ACCUSTOMED TO THE
STRANGE SURROUNDINGS, AS HIS DICE BEAT OUT
A WINNING TATTOO...

SIX IS THE POINT!
I GOT A THOUSAND
WHICH SAYS I
MAKE IT IN
ONE ROLL!

I'VE WATCHED THAT
CHARACTER ROLL FOR AN
HOUR! THE DICE KEEP
COMING SEVEN, SEVEN AND
RIGHT BACK ON THE POINTS
SIX AND NINE! HE AIN'T
WALKIN' OUT OF HERE ALIVE,
WITH ALL MY DOUGH!



WHAT'S COMING OUT OF THAT COFFIN?
GRAB A LIGHT, LEFTY! I'M GONNA
BLAST IT!





THE DICE...THEY BELONG TO ME! GIVE 'EM BACK!

YAAAR, IT'S EDDIE GORE! I KILLED HIM FIVE YEARS AGO, AND RAN HIM OVER! HE'S COME BACK! THE SHOTS DON'T STOP HIM! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BANG
BANG



FINDING HIS EXIT BLOCKED BY THE STALKING TERROR, BARNEY BROKE HIS WAY OUT...

GET AWAY FROM ME! ARGHHH!

GIVE ME BACK MY DICE!

KRAAS



LATER, BACK IN HIS HOTEL ROOM...

TWENTY THOUSAND SMACKERS! MORE THAN ENOUGH TO BUY ME MY DAIMLER! B-BUT THE DICE! THEY'RE COVERED WITH BLOOD!



THE NEXT DAY, BARNEY WAS IN HIS GLORY...

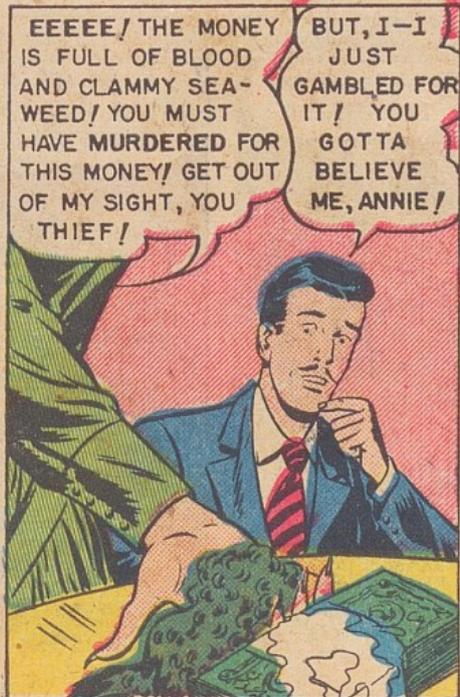
IT KNOCKS THEIR EYES OUT! THIS DREAM BOAT CAN PULL AWAY FROM ANY CAR ON THE ROAD! WAIT TILL ANNIE SEES THIS!



ANNIE WAS STARTLED AT BARNEY'S SUDDEN WEALTH...

BUT WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS MONEY, BARNEY? IT COULDN'T HAVE COME FROM HARD WORK!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'VE GOT A SURE THING THAT COINS IT! THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM!



EEEE! THE MONEY IS FULL OF BLOOD AND CLAMMY SEA-WEED! YOU MUST HAVE MURDERED FOR THIS MONEY! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, YOU THIEF!

BUT, I-I JUST GAMBLER FOR IT! YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME, ANNIE!



SO BARNEY LOST HIS BEST GIRL, THE THING HE HAD WANTED ALMOST AS MUCH AS THE DAIMLER...

I NEVER SAW SUCH A STUBBORN FEMALE! WELL, I STILL GOT THE CAR AND A BANKROLL! FROM NOW ON, IT'S NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR BARNEY!

AS BARNEY STEPPED FROM THE CAR, SUDDENLY...

WHAT, AGAIN? YOU STAND ON THE WHY DO YOU BRINK OF DISASTER, HOUND ME BARNEY KIPP! I CAN LIKE THIS? SEE YOUR EVIL END, IF YOU DO NOT REPENT AND TURN BACK!



DOES THIS LOOK LIKE I'M GOING TO THE DOGS? IF I'M GOING TO THE CLEANERS, AT LEAST IT'LL BE IN A LIMOUSINE!

I HAVE MADE MY LAST PLEA, FOOLISH MORTAL! GO TO YOUR DOOM!



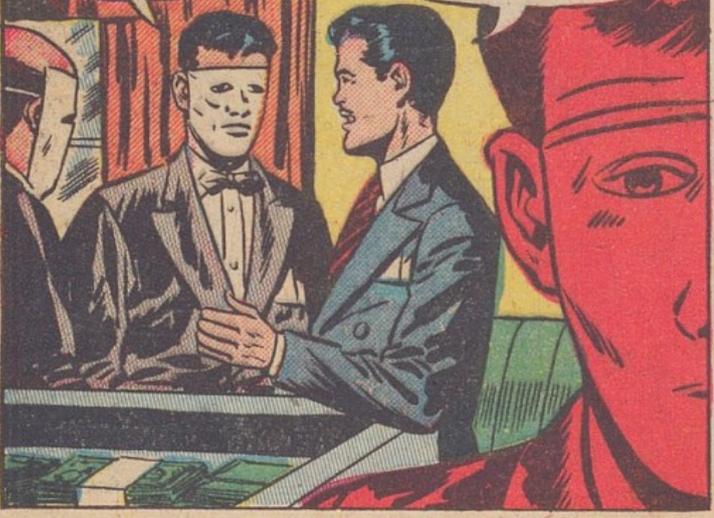
WHEW, I'M GLAD I'M RID OF THAT WINDBAG, FATE! HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MY BUSINESS TAKES ME EVERYWHERE! SAY, I HAVE JUST THE GAME YOU'RE INTERESTED IN... SELECT COMPANY, BIG STAKES, AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED! JUST TRY ROOM 1407 IN THE HOTEL!



BARNEY COULD HARDLY RESIST, AND THE PLACE WAS REALLY PLUSH...

YOU WONDER AT THE MASKS? WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE IDENTIFIED! SHALL WE PLAY?
I DON'T CARE! FOR THE STAKES YOU GUYS NAMED, I'LL PLAY AGAINST THE DEVIL HIMSELF!



BARNEY'S WINNINGS MOUNTED. BUT SUDDENLY, A SCUFFLE ENSUED...

HEY, LEGGO! THEY'RE MY DICE AND IT'S STILL MY TURN TO ROLL!
YOU LIE! THEY BELONGED TO ME FIRST! GIVE THEM BACK!
AAARRR! MINE, I SAY! I KNEW THEM LONG AGO!



AS THE FURY OF THE FIGHT MOUNTED, SUDDENLY THE MASKS RIPPED OFF...

NOOOO! STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE ALL DEAD MEN! AEEEEEE!
THE DICE! GIVE US BACK THE DICE!



BARNEY TOOK THE ONLY AVENUE OF ESCAPE...

I MADE IT--AND I'VE GOT THE DICE! I'M GONNA PUT MILES BETWEEN ME AND THOSE FIENDS!



WITH A GRINDING OF GEARS, BARNEY GOT THE POWERFUL CAR UNDER WAY, BUT SUDDENLY...

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CAR? THAT WAS A FINE BUNCH OF GHOULS YOU SENT ME TO!

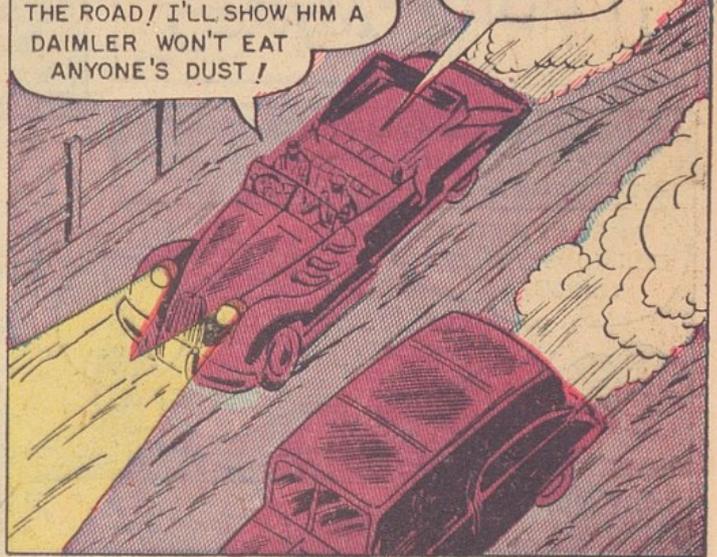
I'LL JUST GO ANYWHERE YOU GO! THOSE MEN? WELL, YOU CAN'T BE CHOOSY ABOUT THE COMPANY YOU KEEP IN YOUR PROFESSION!



AN HOUR LATER, ON THE OPEN ROAD...

HEY, HOW DO YOU LIKE HIS NERVE! PULLING PAST ME LIKE THAT, AND HOGGING THE ROAD! I'LL SHOW HIM A DAIMLER WON'T EAT ANYONE'S DUST!

I'LL BET YOU NEVER OVERTAKE HIM, BARNEY!



I'M HITTING A HUNDRED NOW, AND ONLY COASTING! I'LL PUT MY FOOT DOWN ON THE FLOOR! BETTER HOLD ON!



GET READY TO PAY OFF... AAARRR! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!

HA HA HA! YES! I AM SATAN, THE DEVIL-- AND I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU, BARNEY KIPP!



BARNEY NEVER SAW THE CONCRETE MILESTONE...

AIEEEE!

HA HA HA HA HA!



AS THE DUST SETTLED...

I'LL TROUBLE YOU FOR THE DICE, BARNEY! YOU WON'T HAVE ANY MORE USE FOR THEM WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

SEE WHAT YOUR LUST FOR THE DICE HAS DONE, BARNEY? IT HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THE EDGE OF THE GRAVE!



BARNEY NEVER EVEN NOTICED THE LICENSE NUMBER ON THE OTHER VEHICLE, NOR THAT IT WAS A HEARSE!

IACTA ALEA EST! THE DIE IS CAST! HA HA HA!

THERE HE GOES, THE MASTER OF EVIL, TO TRAP ANOTHER VICTIM! THERE ARE MORE "BARNEY KIPPS" IN THIS WORLD FOR HIM TO FATTEN ON... TOO MANY WHO WOULD NOT HEED THE WARNING VOICE OF FATE!



THE END