

THIEF OF THIEVES



MARTINBROUGH4/11

SERRANO

PROLOGUE.
THREE WEEKS AGO.



**CHAPTER ONE, THE THIEF AND HIS APPRENTICE
THREE WEEKS LATER.**



CELIA,
SOME HELP
HERE.

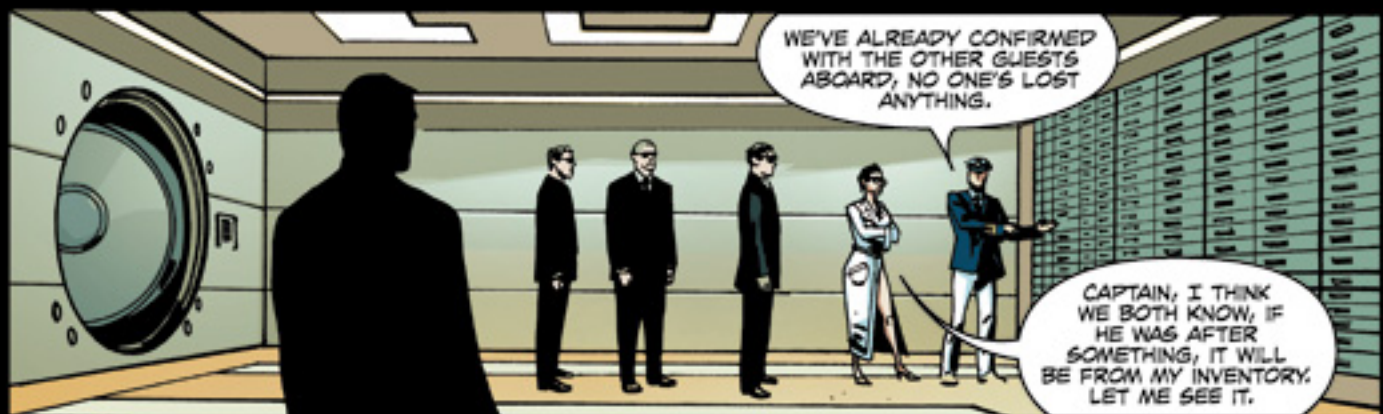
OF COURSE,
REDMOND,
LIGHTS.

NO,
WAIT--

NICE TRY,
ASSHOLE.
DON'T EVEN
THI--!

THUMP!

DON'T SHOOT,
FELLAS. I
SURRENDER.







THIS IS VIGGO,
THE HEAD OF MY
PERSONAL SECURITY.
HE WILL BE HITTING
YOU NOW.



WHERE
IS THE
PEARL?!!!



COUNTESS, A-- A WORD,
PLEASE. I ALREADY
TOLD YOU, WE'VE
SEARCHED HIS PERSON.
FOUND NOTHING.
I DOUBT--

CAPTAIN, WHEN
I CAME ABOARD THIS
VESSEL I MADE VERY
CLEAR JUST HOW PRECIOUS
THAT CARGO WAS. YOU
ASSURED ME THAT NO ONE
COULD GAIN UNAUTHORIZED
ACCESS TO YOUR SAFE. AND
NOW, I AM LOOKING AT
A MAN WHO YOU SAY HAS
GAINED UNAUTHORIZED
ACCESS TO YOUR SAFE.

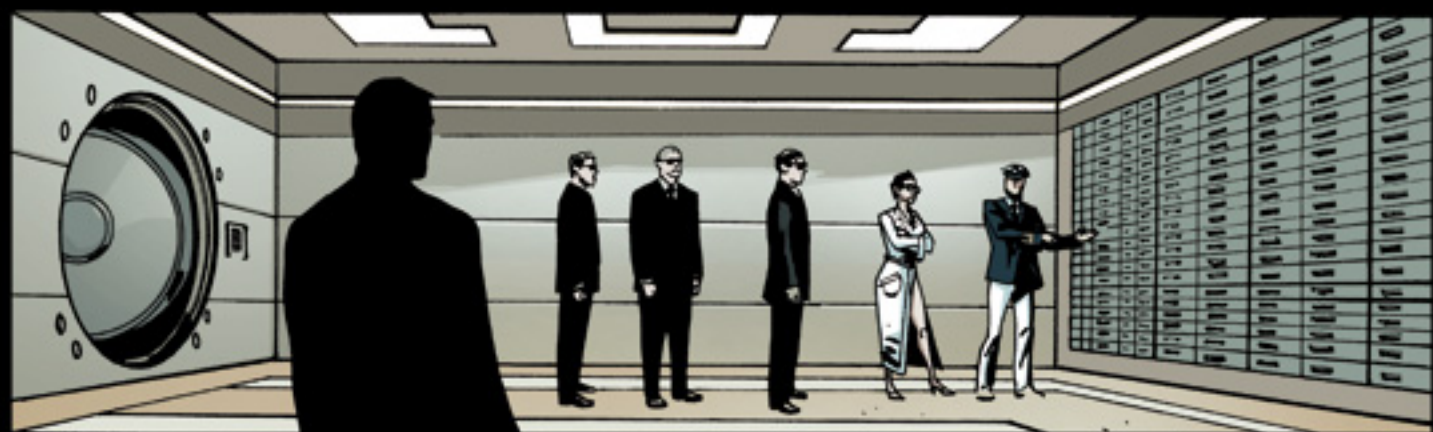


I UNDERSTAND THAT, MA'AM--
BUT THIS IS AN AMERICAN SHIP.
WE HAVE LAWS. WE CAN HOLD
HIM, AND WE CAN QUESTION
HIM, BUT... WE CAN'T
TORTURE HIM.

OF COURSE...
OF COURSE YOU
CAN'T. I FORGET
SOMETIMES HOW
MUCH... SIMPLER
THINGS ARE IN
MY COUNTRY.



I'LL TAKE
HIM HOME
WITH ME.





HOW CELIA AND REDMOND MET. OR, HOW TO STEAL A CAR.





I BET. FIRST OFF, YOU'RE GOING AFTER THE WRONG RIDE.

NICEST IN THE LOT. NOT THAT I'M COMPLIMENTING.



I'M SURE IT IS. BUT IT'S ALSO CUSTOM. YOUR FENCE-- YOU DO HAVE A FENCE RIGHT?

DUDE, C'MON--

YOUR FENCE NEEDS FACTORY PARTS.



MAY I?

...



NOW, IF YOU'RE REALLY COMMITTED TO STICKING WITH THE CLASSIC COAT HANGER HERE, YOU DO NEED TO BUY AMERICAN. MOST JAPANESE CARS OPEN SIDWAYS.



FROM THERE, YOU NEED A SCREWDRIVER TO GET SOME ROOM TO PLAY WITH, AND--



THEN YOU JUST NEED TO APPLY SOME ZEN TO IT.



THERE WE GO. CAR IN THREE STEPS.

OH MY GOD, THAT IS AMAZING! NOBODY ON YOUTUBE COULD DO IT THAT FAST. I CAN'T--



WHOO!

BUT THAT'S NO WAY TO MAKE A LIVING.

HEY!



IT'S MESSY. IT'S GOT TOO HIGH A MARGIN FOR ERROR, AND IT ONLY WORKS ON OLDER MODELS. DINOSAURS WERE PROBABLY VERY EASY TO STEAL FROM, TOO, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THEY'RE ALL DEAD. BESIDES, IF YOU'RE THIS BAD AT ENTRY, CAN'T IMAGINE YOUR WIRE WORK. NO, WHAT *YOU* WANT TO DO--



TAKE A LOOK AROUND.



YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN ECONOMY CAR, ANY MAKE IS FINE. CLEAN, IN GOOD CONDITION, GENERAL UPKEEP. ALARM LIGHT OFF-- NO MATTER HOW EASY PRESSING A BUTTON ON A KEYCHAIN IS, FORTY-SIX PERCENT OF DRIVERS NEVER ACTIVATE IT.



LOOK IN THE BACK. YOU SEE A PURSE, WOMEN'S CLOTHING, ANYTHING THAT SUGGESTS THE DRIVER IS FEMALE?

WHY DOES THAT MATTER?



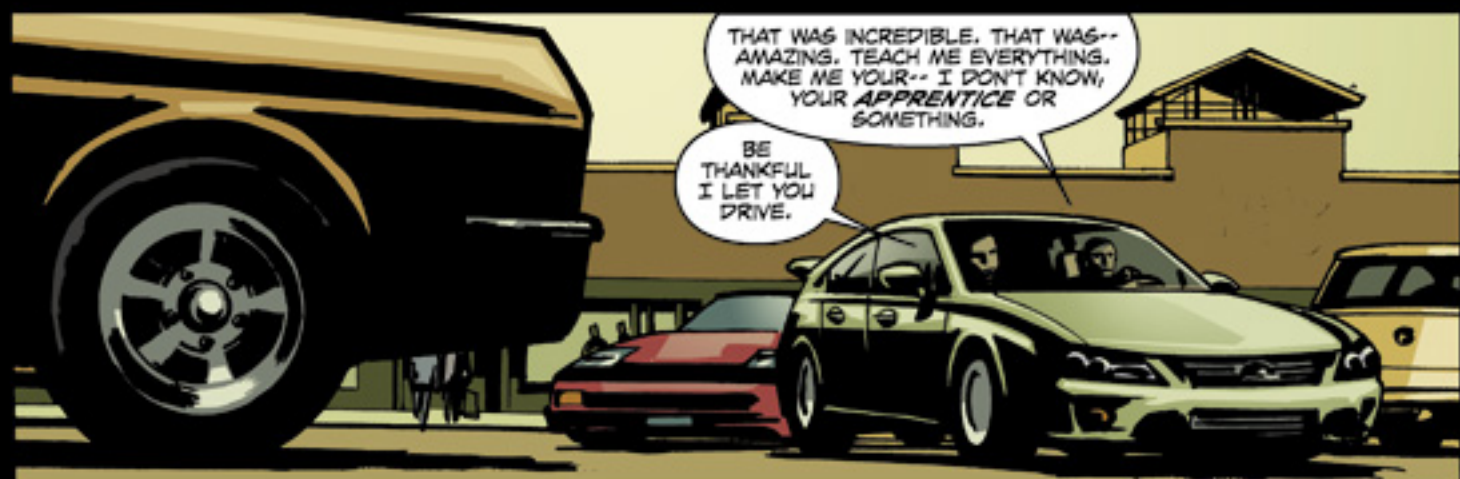
FEMALE DRIVERS TAKE THEIR CARS IN FOR SERVICE MORE REGULARLY. THEY DRIVE MORE CAREFULLY AND ARE IN LESS ACCIDENTS, MEANING THE PARTS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS IN BETTER SHAPE. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY--



THEY'RE BETTER PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES.



ONE IN SIX AUTOMOBILE OWNERS NOW STORE EMERGENCY KEYS UNDER THEIR CARS. COMBINE THAT WITH THE FORTY SIX PERCENT THAT DON'T TURN ON THEIR ALARMS, AND PRETTY MUCH ANY LOT HAS AT LEAST ONE CAR SOMEONE'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO GET YOU TO STEAL.



THAT WAS INCREDIBLE. THAT WAS--
AMAZING. TEACH ME EVERYTHING.
MAKE ME YOUR-- I DON'T KNOW,
YOUR APPRENTICE OR
SOMETHING.

BE
THANKFUL
I LET YOU
DRIVE.



I'M
SERIOUS.
I WANT TO
LEARN.

WHY IS A
GIRL LIKE YOU
SO EAGER TO
BE A THIEF?

I GOT
STUDENT
LOANS.



WHAT
DID YOU
STUDY?

POLITICAL
SCIENCE.

SO A
NATURAL
BORN
THIEF,
THEN.

AND A
KID.



AND
WHERE ARE
YOU TAKING
ME?

THIS IS
WHERE MY
FENCE IS--



HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

PULL OVER. YOU'RE GONNA GET US BOTH KILLED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!! THE GUY SAYS HE'LL PAY GOOD MONEY FOR--



"THE GUY" IS GONNA PULL A PIECE ON YOU TWO SECONDS AFTER HE SEES KEYS AND YOU'LL BE WALKING HOME FROM HERE, IF LUCK SHINES ON YOU-- LOOK, HERE'S THREE THOUSAND FOR THE CAR, ALL RIGHT? IT'S MINE NOW.

ARE YOU SERIOUS? THAT'S LIKE TWICE WHAT HE WAS GONNA GIVE ME--

WASN'T GOING TO GIVE YOU.



YEAH, BUT-- LOOK, MAN, I'M GRATEFUL AND ALL, REALLY, I AM. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I NEED. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, JUST HOPE EVERY TIME I TRY TO LIFT SOMETHING SOME TALL, MYSTERIOUS STRANGER GUY SHOWS UP AND BAILS ME OUT?

YOU ASKED ME WHY I WANT TO DO THIS? IT'S CAUSE EVERY TIME I LOOK AROUND I SEE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE STUPIDER AND MEANER AND LAZIER THAN ME GETTING MORE, AND ALL I WANNA DO IS TAKE IT FROM THEM. LIFE'S NOT FAIR? COOL, STOP TELLING ME TO PLAY FAIR THEN.



I WORK HARD, I LISTEN, AND I LEARN FAST. BEYOND THAT, I GOT NO MORAL COMPASS. SHOW ME WHAT TO DO.



YOU REALLY HAVE A KID?

BACK HOME... WHY REDMOND NEEDS AN ASSISTANT



I TOLD YOU BACK THEN I DIDN'T NEED AN ASSISTANT.

APPRENTICE, YOU TOLD ME BACK THEN YOU DIDN'T NEED AN APPRENTICE, AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME WE'D BE SLEEPING TOGETHER.



WE'RE NOT SLEEPING TOGETHER.

BUT I THINK I'VE MADE IT VERY CLEAR WE COULD.

ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS DIRECT ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT?

PLEASE, OVERDRAWN, OVERWROUGHT SEXUAL TENSION IN THE WORKPLACE-- NOT SO MUCH FOR ME. THIS ISN'T WHO'S THE BOSS.



I'M THE BOSS.

NO... THE TV SHOW, WHO'S THE BOSS. MALE HOUSEKEEPER, WANTS TO HOOK UP WITH THE SINGLE MOM HE WORKS FOR? MONA? ALYSSA MILANO? JESUS, DIDN'T YOU WATCH TV IN THE EIGHTIES?



I STOLE A LOT OF TVs IN THE EIGHTIES.



ANYWAY, WE
NEED TO TALK
ABOUT THE
DUBAI JOB.

WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

WE NEED
TO TALK ABOUT
THE FACT THAT
YOU'RE NOT
TALKING ABOUT
IT. ARNO IS
PISSED.



I'M STILL
WORKING OUT
A FEW SMALL
DETAILS.

REDMOND, YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH
THE GUYS THREE WEEKS
AGO. IT'S GREENLIT. WE'RE
A MONTH BEHIND SCHEDULE
NOW. ARNO'S FRONTING A
HALF MILLION DOLLARS FOR
THE OPERATING BUDGET AND
YOU'VE GOT A NINE-MAN
TEAM PASSING UP WORK OUT
THERE. YOU CAN'T JUST
SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR
ON EVERYONE--



LOOK, IT'LL BE FINE. I'LL
CALL ARNO. WE'LL SET
SOMETHING UP FOR NEXT
WEEK. I JUST NEED A
LITTLE MORE TIME TO
SORT SOME THINGS OUT
ON MY OWN, THEN
EVERYTHING WILL BE
RIGHT AS RAIN.

RIGHT
AS
RAIN.



THEY'RE IN
THERE WAITING
FOR ME, AREN'T
THEY?

THE UNEXPECTED MEETING AN UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENT





WHAT'S
THE NEWS
ON DUBAI?



ARE WE
GREENLIT?



WHEN
DO WE GET
MOVING?



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
FACE?





I QUIT.



S. M. B. + SERRANO 2/13/11