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Opening extract from  
**Skeleton Key Graphic Novel**  
Written by  
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Johnston**

Illustrated by  
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Takasaki**

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ALMOST THERE,  
GENTLEMEN.  
RIGHT ON TIME.



GOOD.  
HOW MANY ARE THERE  
WAITING FOR US?

SEE FOR  
YOURSELF...

CAYO ESQUELETO,  
CUBA



...JUST HIM.



THAT RUNWAY LOOKS  
VERY *NARROW*. CAN YOU  
LAND IN THIS *STORM*?

JUST *WATCH* ME, CARLO.  
BUT BRACE YOURSELVES,  
IT'S GONNA GET *BUMPY*...



*skveeech*



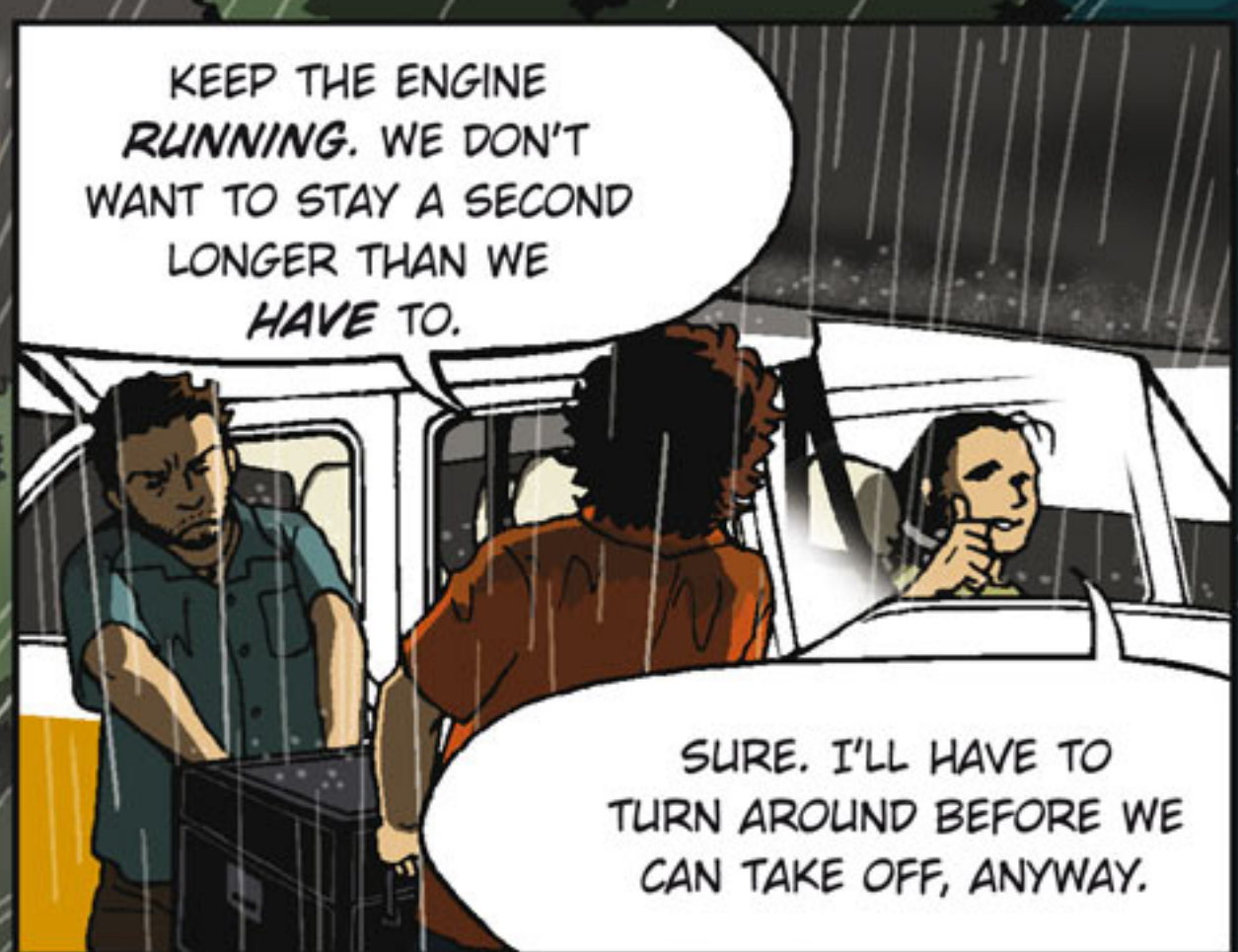
THERE.  
EVERYBODY  
OK?

WE'RE FINE.  
AND THERE'S *THE*  
GENERAL. MARC,  
ARE YOU *READY*?




I THINK SO.

*RELAX*, MY FRIEND.  
THERE ARE TWO OF US,  
AND WE'RE BOTH *ARMED*.  
HE'S JUST AN *OLD MAN*.



KEEP THE ENGINE  
*RUNNING*. WE DON'T  
WANT TO STAY A SECOND  
LONGER THAN WE  
*HAVE TO*.


SURE. I'LL HAVE TO  
TURN AROUND BEFORE WE  
CAN TAKE OFF, ANYWAY.



GOOD EVENING.  
YOU HAD NO TROUBLE  
GETTING HERE?

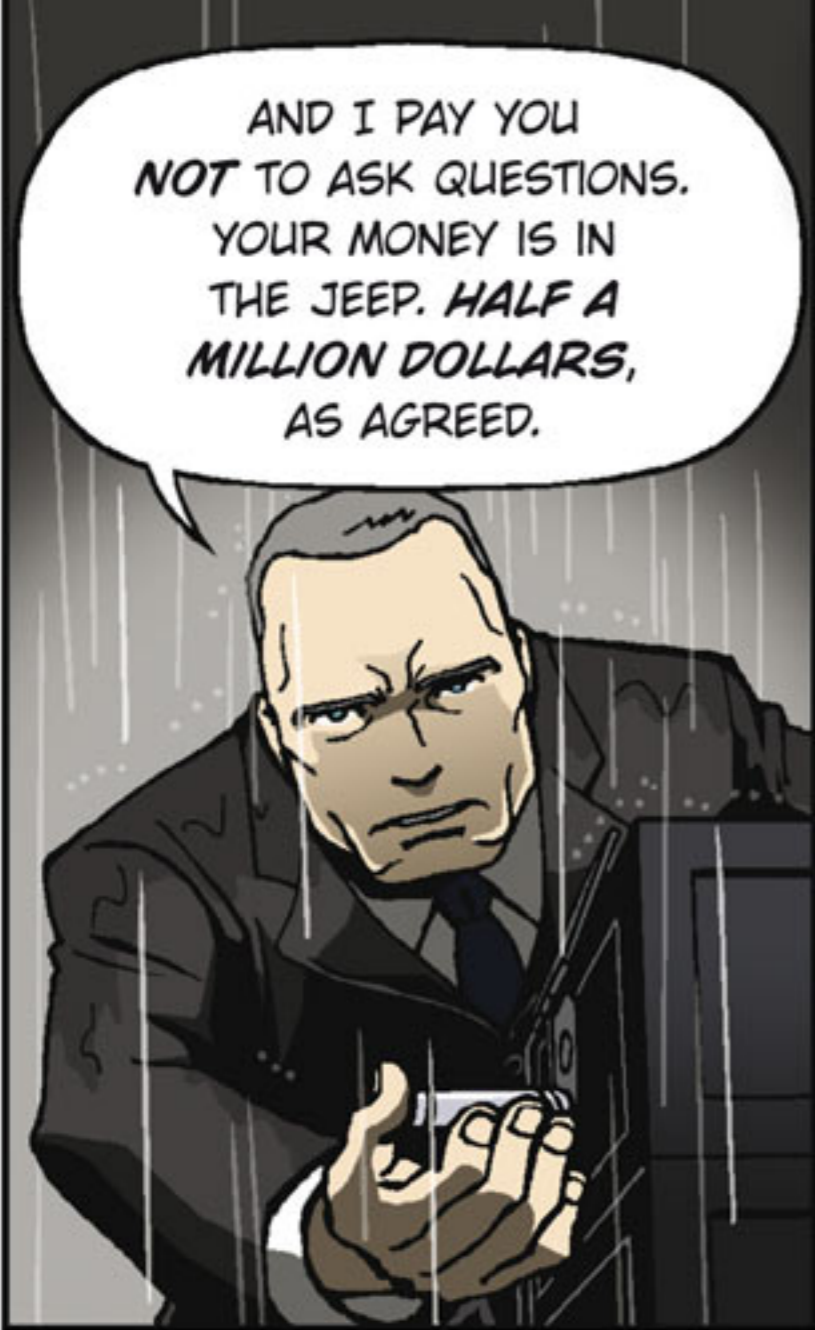
NONE AT *ALL*,  
GENERAL.

IS THAT IT?



ONE KILOGRAM  
OF *WEAPONS-GRADE*  
*URANIUM*. ENOUGH TO  
DESTROY A *CITY*.

I WOULD BE  
INTERESTED TO  
KNOW *WHICH CITY*  
YOU HAVE IN MIND.



AND I PAY YOU NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS. YOUR MONEY IS IN THE JEEP. HALF A MILLION DOLLARS, AS AGREED.



ABOUT THAT ... OUR FRIEND IN MIAMI SENDS HIS APOLOGIES, BUT SMUGGLING HAS BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT RECENTLY. THERE WERE EXTRA EXPENSES.

A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS EXTRA.



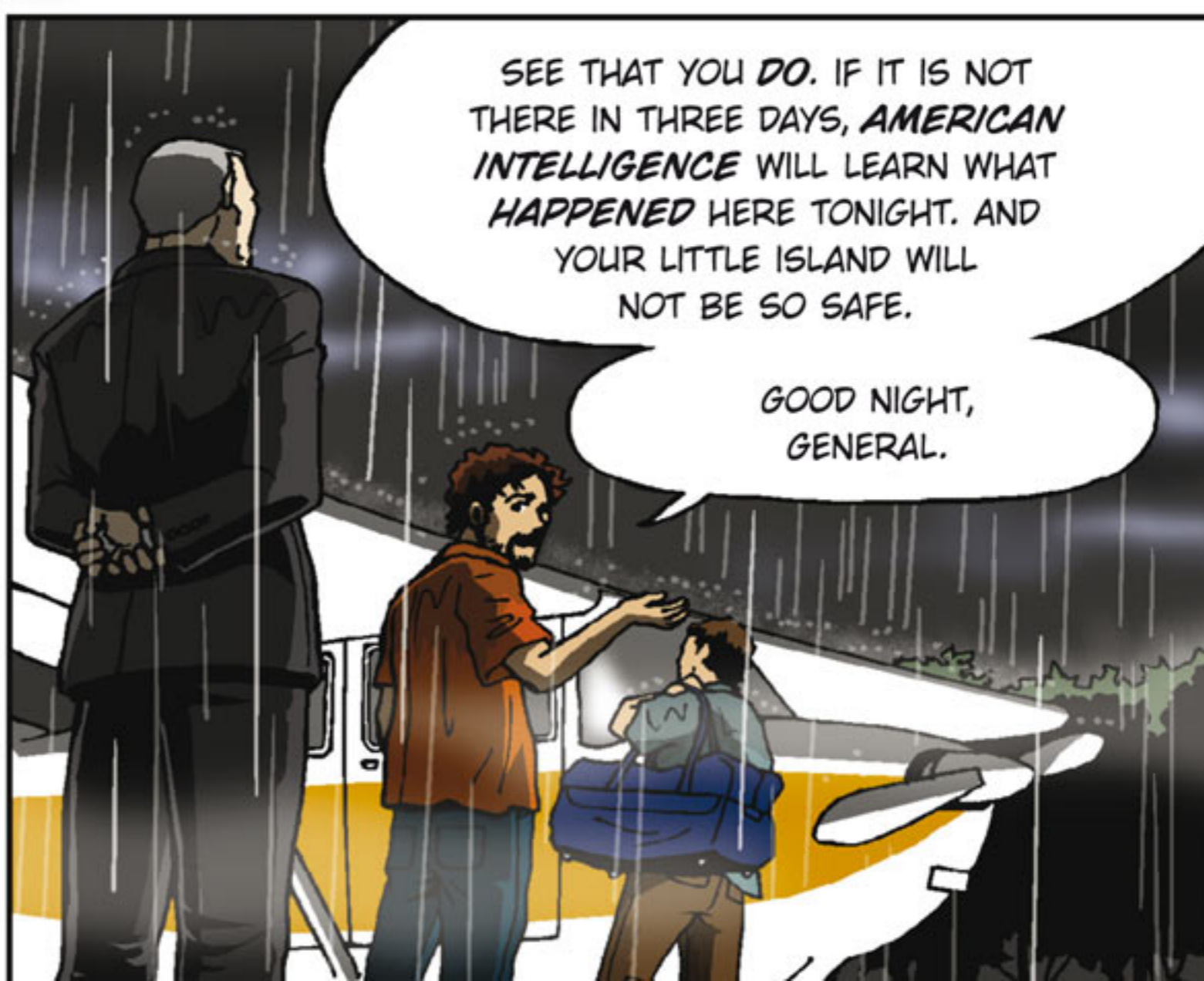
THAT IS UNFORTUNATE.

UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU, GENERAL. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MUST PAY.



I SEE.

I WILL HAVE TO RAISE THE MONEY. I CAN TRANSFER IT TO THE SAME ACCOUNT AS BEFORE.



SEE THAT YOU DO. IF IT IS NOT THERE IN THREE DAYS, AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE WILL LEARN WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT. AND YOUR LITTLE ISLAND WILL NOT BE SO SAFE.

GOOD NIGHT, GENERAL.



GOOD NIGHT,  
GENTLEMEN. *ENJOY*  
YOUR FLIGHT.



LET'S TURN THIS  
THING *AROUND...*

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THE *LIGHTS*?!



IT'S THE *GENERAL!*  
HE'S TRYING TO STOP  
US LEAVING!



WAIT ... *THERE* YOU GO.  
PROBABLY JUST THE  
STORM DISRUPTING THE  
ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

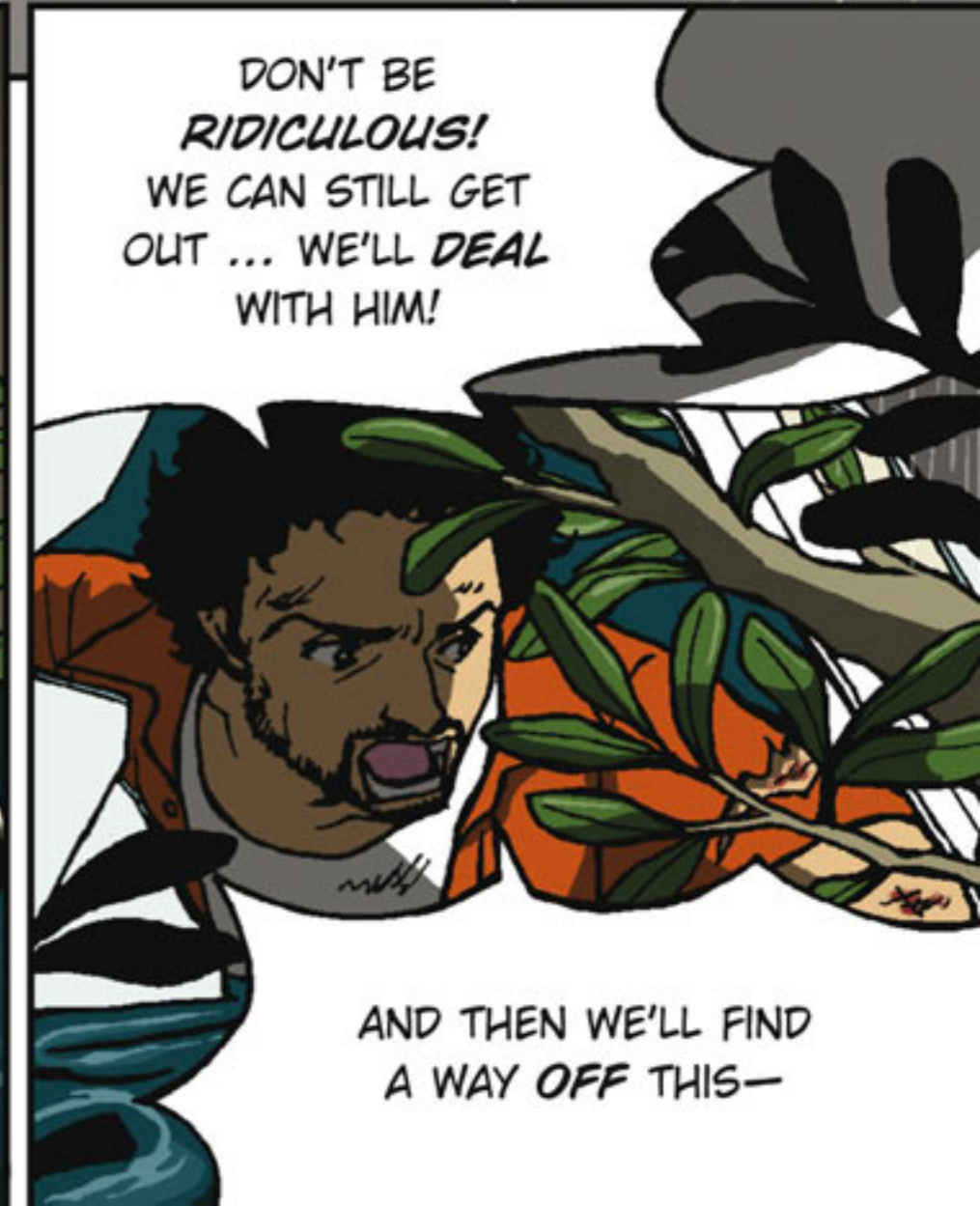
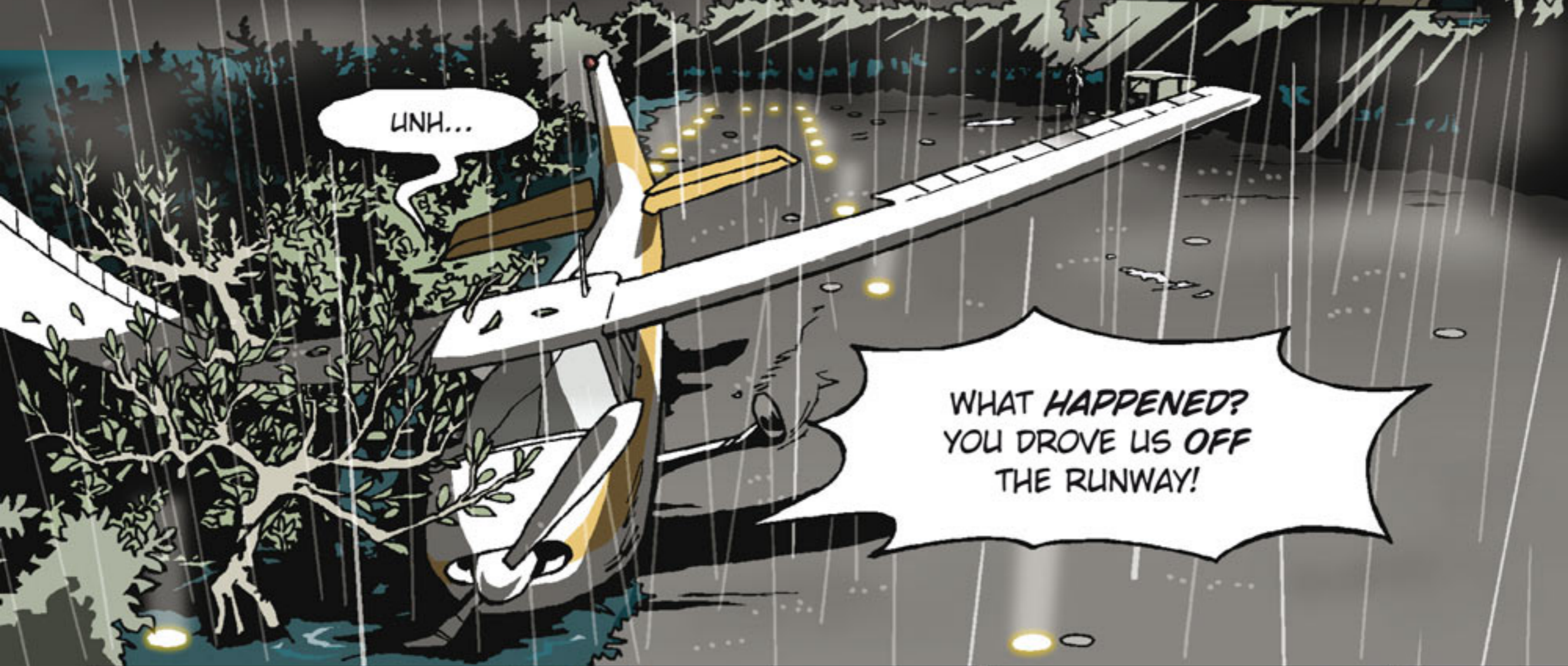
I'LL FINISH  
TURNING THE PLANE,  
THEN WE CAN GO.

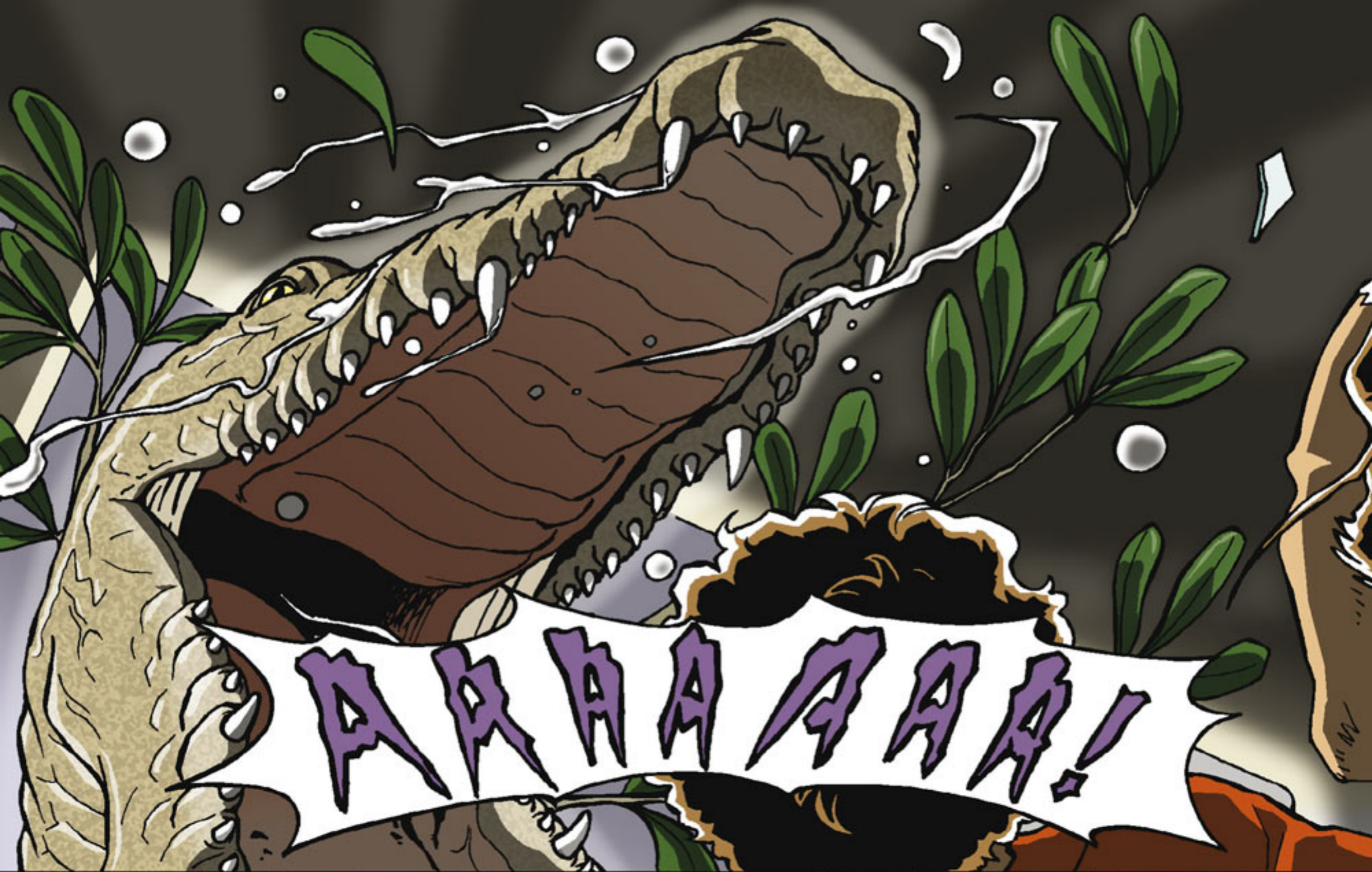
HURRY. THE SOONER  
WE ARE IN THE AIR, THE  
HAPPIER I WILL BE.



ALL RIGHT,  
GENTLEMEN, HERE  
WE GO. BACK TO  
*CIVILIZATION!*

Vrrrrrr





AAAAA!

CROCODILES!

Krunch!



Splash!

AAAAAAH!

"WHICH CITY",  
INDEED. SUCH...

Krunch!



"...LIMITED MINDS."







**GOOOOAL!**



GOOD SHOT, ALEX!

I KNEW THERE WAS A **REASON** I PICKED YOU FOR THE FIRST TEAM!

**CHELSEA, LONDON**



THANKS, MR WISEMAN. I WON'T LET YOU **DOWN** WHEN WE PLAY!

I...



ALEX? WHAT'S THE **MATTER?**



NOTHING, SIR. THIS WON'T TAKE A **MINUTE**.



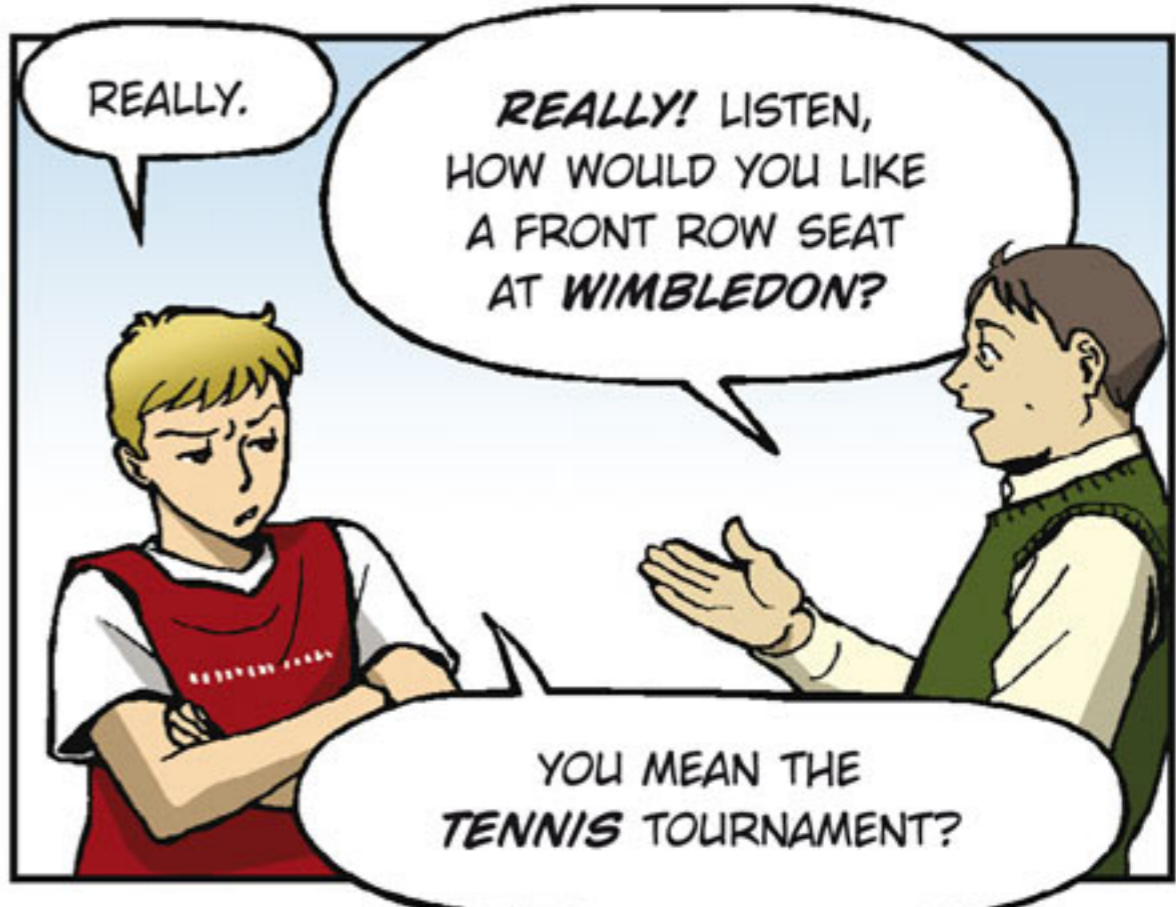
ALEX! WHAT A *SURPRISE!*  
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR TEAM  
PRACTISED *HERE*. *BARKER*  
AND I OFTEN WALK—

COME OFF IT,  
MR CRAWFORD, WHAT  
DO YOU *WANT?*



I TOLD YOU ALREADY,  
I'M NOT *INTERESTED*  
IN *MIG* ANY MORE. I'M A  
SCHOOLBOY, *NOT* A SPY.

ABSOLUTELY,  
OF *COURSE!* NO, I'M ...  
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO  
WITH THE, UM, *COMPANY*.



REALLY.

*REALLY!* LISTEN,  
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE  
A FRONT ROW SEAT  
AT *WIMBLEDON?*

YOU MEAN THE  
*TENNIS* TOURNAMENT?



THAT'S RIGHT. I'M  
ON THE COMMITTEE OF  
THE *ALL-ENGLAND*  
*TENNIS CLUB*. I CAN  
GET YOU IN.

WHAT'S THE  
*CATCH?*



THERE *ISN'T* ONE,  
NOT *REALLY*. BUT...

...LET ME EXPLAIN.  
IT WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.