

COMIC PAGE BY PAGE PLOT

The Two Men, the Bag and the Forgotten Knife By Mallory Raley

ACT ONE

Page 1: Ronny stands near the front door leaning on the host stand with a bored look on his face. He checks his watch. It's 8:30pm and the Pizza Pit will be closing soon. It's been a slow night and only a few customers remain in the gaming areas behind him. Two large men in black suits make an entrance. Despite the late hour, one of the men wears sunglasses (that he has no intention of removing). The other man sports a snazzy fedora and carries a black bag over his shoulder. Ronny perks up at the sight of the customers and greets them with great enthusiasm. Sunglasses Guy holds his hand out with a twenty-dollar bill folded in his palm and asks for a discrete table out of the way.

Page 2: Ecstatic at the generous tip, Ronny cheerfully makes his way to the nearly empty gaming console area. He sits the men at a table in a dark corner and lists off the current pizza specials of the day. Fedora Guy places the black bag on the table and rudely interrupts Ronny, explaining that they aren't here for pizza. Sunglasses Guy asks if William Wallace is in the gaming casino. Ronny hesitates, nervously running his fingers through his hair, and asks why they want to know.

Page 3: Fedora Guy leans across the table menacingly and says they're all old pals and that he wants to give him a big surprise when he leaves the casino. Ronny stares at the men wide-eyed, unsure if he should tell them or not. Finally, Sunglasses Guy slides another twenty across the table. Ronny grabs it and confirms that William is in the gaming casino and that he usually leaves around this time each night. Sunglasses Guy and Fedora Guy smirk at each other. Fedora Guy asks that Ronny signal them as William leaves the gaming casino. Ronny nods enthusiastically, shoving his recent earnings in his pant pocket.

ACT TWO

Page 4: Ronny stands at the entrance to the all-ages gaming area. He's chatting with Becki about the strange (and slightly intimidating) men he just seated and their interest in William. Behind them, a few oddball kids punch away at various games. Becki expresses heartfelt concern for William, wondering if

these men are here to harm him in some way. Ronny rolls with this and starts listing off possible scenarios. Is William a mobster? Maybe he's CIA? He's a gambler – maybe he owes money to a loan shark and these guys are here to collect.

Page 5: We're seeing pictures inside Ronny's imagination: A rough-n-tough William stands as a mobster with his arms crossed and a cigar in his mouth. A suit-wearing, gun-toting William poses as a sleek CIA agent. The final one shows William how he truly is, a gambler, only he's running with a duffel bag full of cash. Now we're inside Becki's imagination, which is similar to what Ronny pictured only William is much more attractive and muscular in her head (think over-the-top Harlequin Romance novel cover attractive).

Page 6: Back in real life, Sunglasses Guy is waving down Ronny. Ronny hurries over to them and politely asks what he can do for them. Sunglasses Guy asks if they can borrow a large knife. Fedora Guy pats the bag and explains that they forgot to bring one. He adds that the larger the knife, the better – even a butcher's knife will do just fine. Ronny nods nervously and runs off.

Page 7: Ronny runs to Becki about the knife request, certain that it will be used as a murder weapon. We see inside Ronny's imagination again: Fedora Guy drives a butcher knife through William's chest, while Sunglasses Guy watches with glee. Inside Becki's imagination we see a similar image, only it's an attractive, bare-chested William.

Page 8: Ronny and Becki barge into the gaming casino. William plays the slot machine and barely looks their way as they enter. Ronny and Becki crowd him and simultaneously tell him about the scary men, the mysterious bag and the requested knife. William shows no emotion as he receives this information.

Page 9: Without a word, William makes his way out of the gaming casino and toward the men. Becki pleads that he leave through the employee exit in the back but William ignores her. Ronny grabs William's arm but he just shrugs it off.

ACT THREE

Page 10: Splash Page – Sunglasses Guy and Fedora Guy stand at their table and shout "Happy Birthday, Willy!" Sunglasses Guy holds his arms out, his sunglasses nearly bouncing off his face with excitement. Fedora Guy happily displays a sheet cake hidden in the black bag.

Page 11: Willy embraces the two men while Ronny and Becki observe with shock on their faces. Willy, Fedora Guy and Sunglasses Guy chitchat about his birthday. Fedora Guy pulls out a box of candles and starts lining the cake with them. While Fedora Guy lights the candles, Ronny and Becki stand back and talk about how they completely misread the situation.

Page 12: Sunglasses Guy and Fedora Guy start singing a hearty rendition of "Happy Birthday" to William. Ronny and Becki join in and William blows out his candles. Sunglasses Guy asks Ronny where that knife is they requested. A little peeved, Ronny walks off to find a knife to cut the cake.