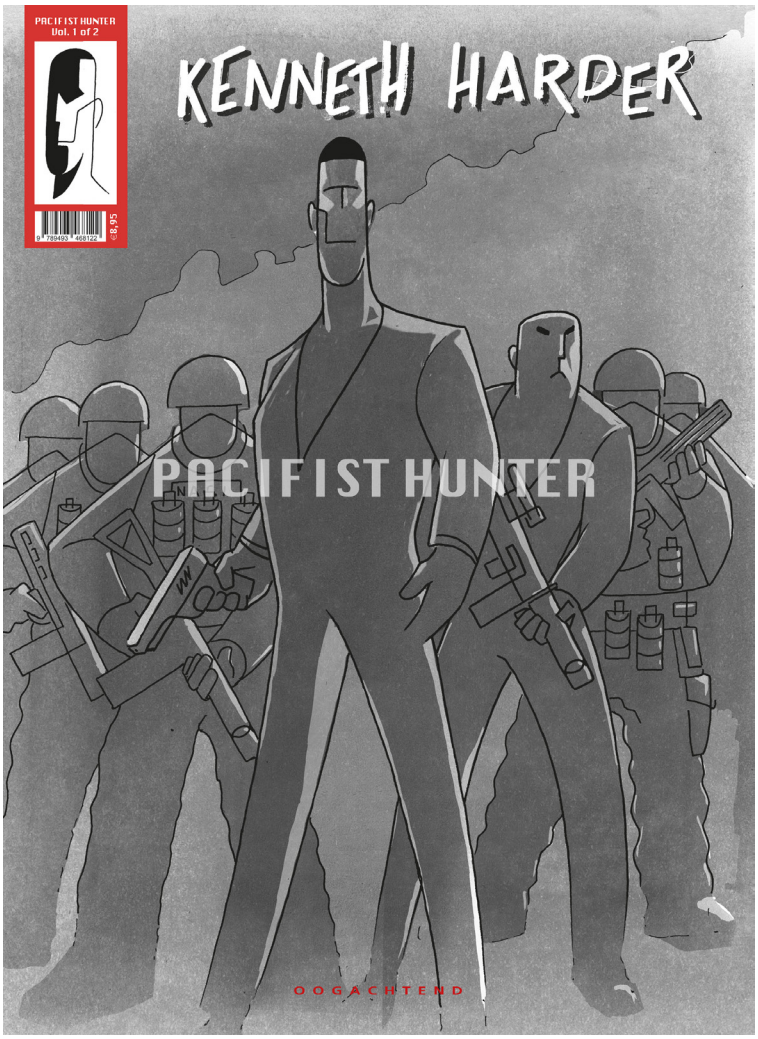


Visit www.letterenfonds.nl for information about translation grants.

Kenneth Harder

Hanco Kolk

Inspector Kenneth Harder specializes in cover-ups. Whenever an investigation should lead to an undesired outcome, he sets out to find alternative facts and spins the inquiry towards an acceptable culprit. He goes by the nickname The Red Herring, referring to the false clues in detective novels.

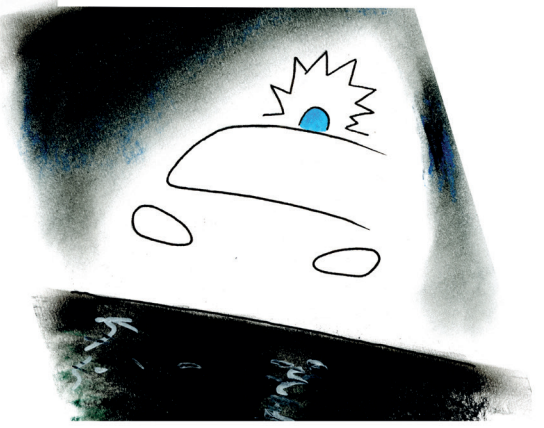
But when a mysterious organization starts to spread actual facts and unwanted proof, it demands the utmost of his skills to steer the plot into the right direction... and a lot of bullets.

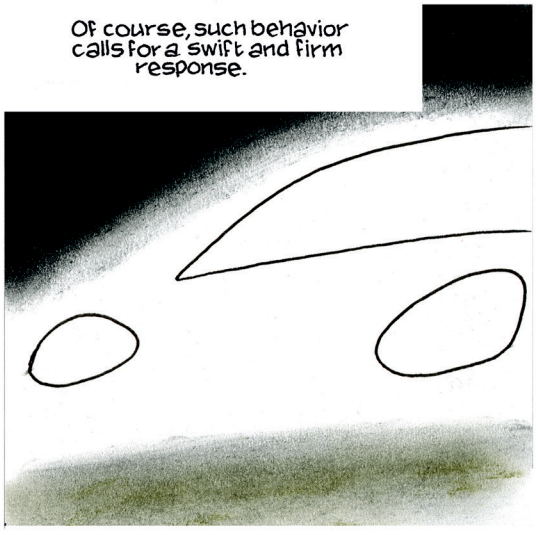
Hanco Kolk *is one of the most prominent Dutch comic artists, praised by both mainstream audiences and serious art circles. He is best-known for his humorous creations with collaborator Peter de Wit, with Kolk usually being the illustrator and co-writer. Among their works are the historical adventure comic 'Gilles de Geus' (1983-2003), the photo comic 'Mannetje en Mannetje' (1988-1995) and the newspaper gag comic 'S1ngle' (2000- ...). Kolk is equally renowned for his drawing style, which is linear and has become soberer and more refined over the years.*

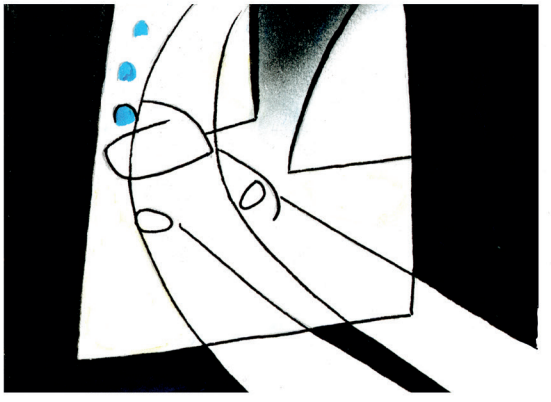
www.oogachtend.be
elaine@elami-agency.com

Original title : Kenneth Harder (Oogachtend, 2026. Softcover, 24x34. 32pp.)

We are living in a society that's under constant threat from democratic elements, like fact-checkers and other far-left terrorists.


They try to undermine the government by spreading information. They stop at nothing when it comes to communicating inconvenient truths.

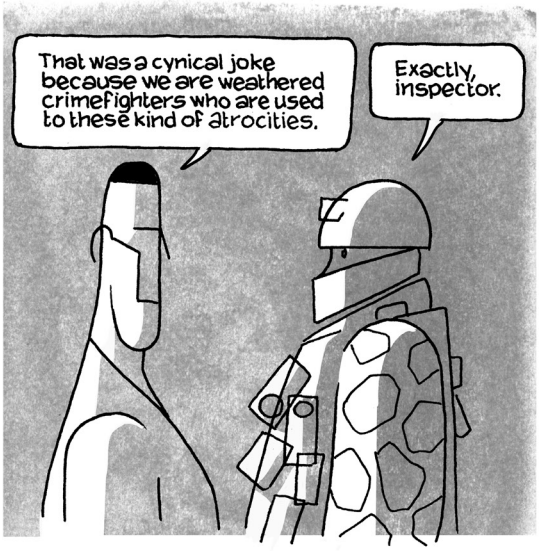

Of course, such behavior calls for a swift and firm response.


Whenever a crime has been committed, and the investigation starts to lean towards an unwelcome outcome...
...the police call for a specialist.

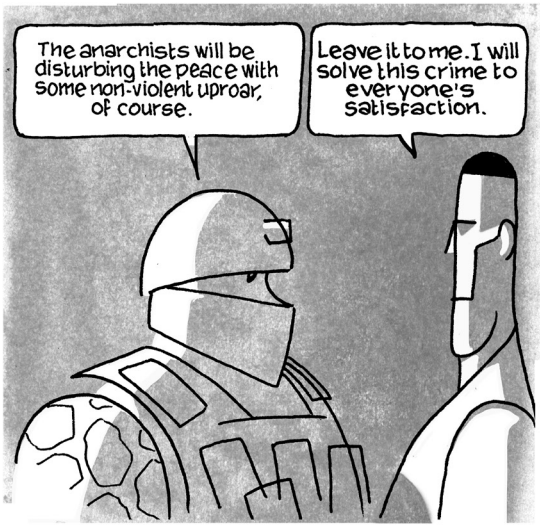
A mastermind who can produce clues and alternative facts, changing the course toward a more satisfying culprit.

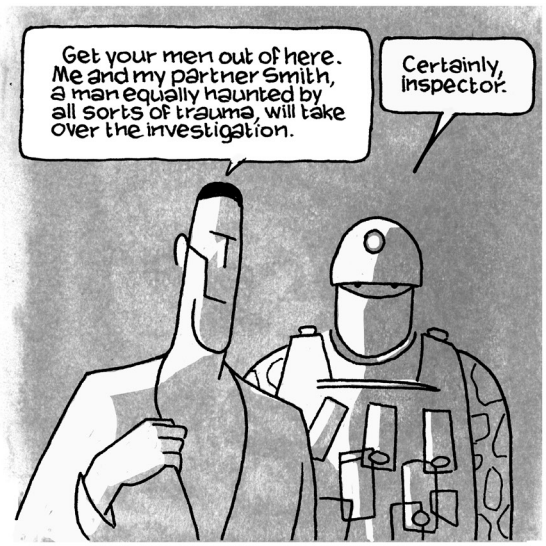
And that's where I come in.
Inspector Harder, complicated man with an extensive backstory, homicide.

The victim's name is Hank Splitter, sir. A far-left liberal investigative reporter.
Well, he can investigate the afterlife now.


That was a cynical joke because we are weathered crimefighters who are used to these kind of atrocities.
Exactly, inspector.

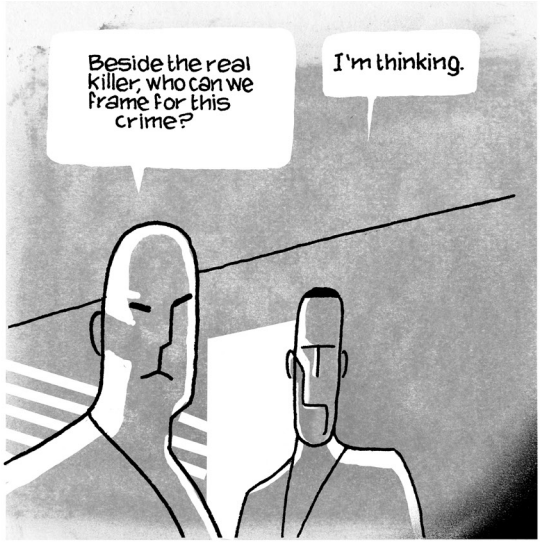
This is the man who shot the domestic terrorist Hank Splitter.
Nice to meet you, sir. How do you do?
Fine, thank you


The anarchists will be disturbing the peace with some non-violent uproar, of course.
Leave it to me. I will solve this crime to everyone's satisfaction.

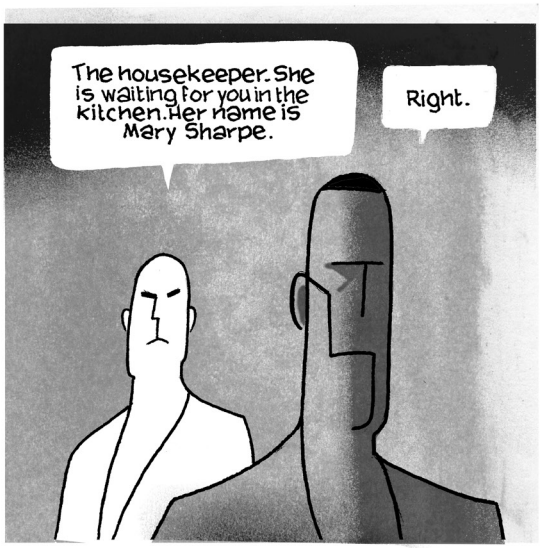

Get your men out of here. Me and my partner Smith, a man equally haunted by all sorts of trauma, will take over the investigation.
Certainly, inspector.

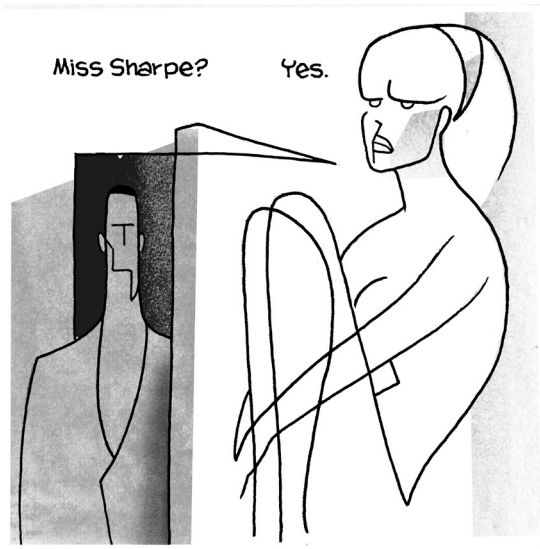
I hope that you'll find a suitable killer, sir.
Don't worry.
I always do.

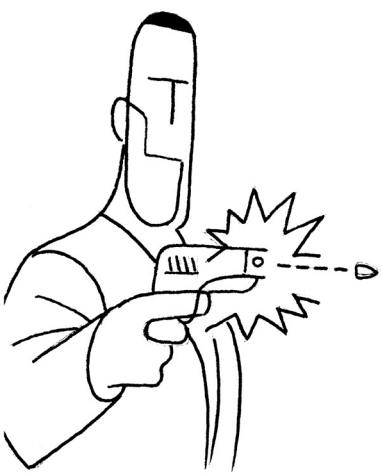
I am Smith, the loyal sidekick. It will be hard to cover this killing up, inspector.
Right.

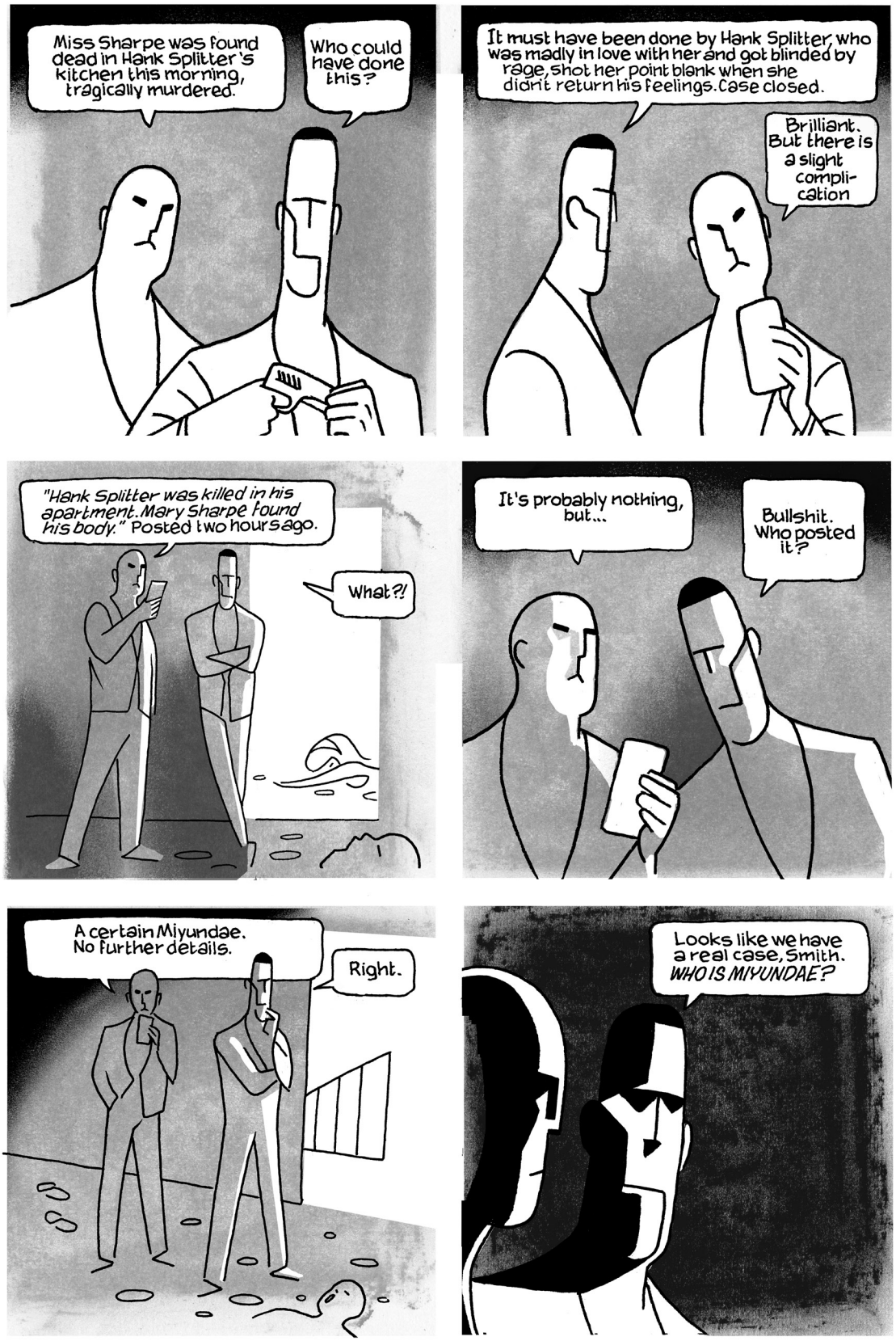

Beside the real killer, who can we frame for this crime?
I'm thinking.

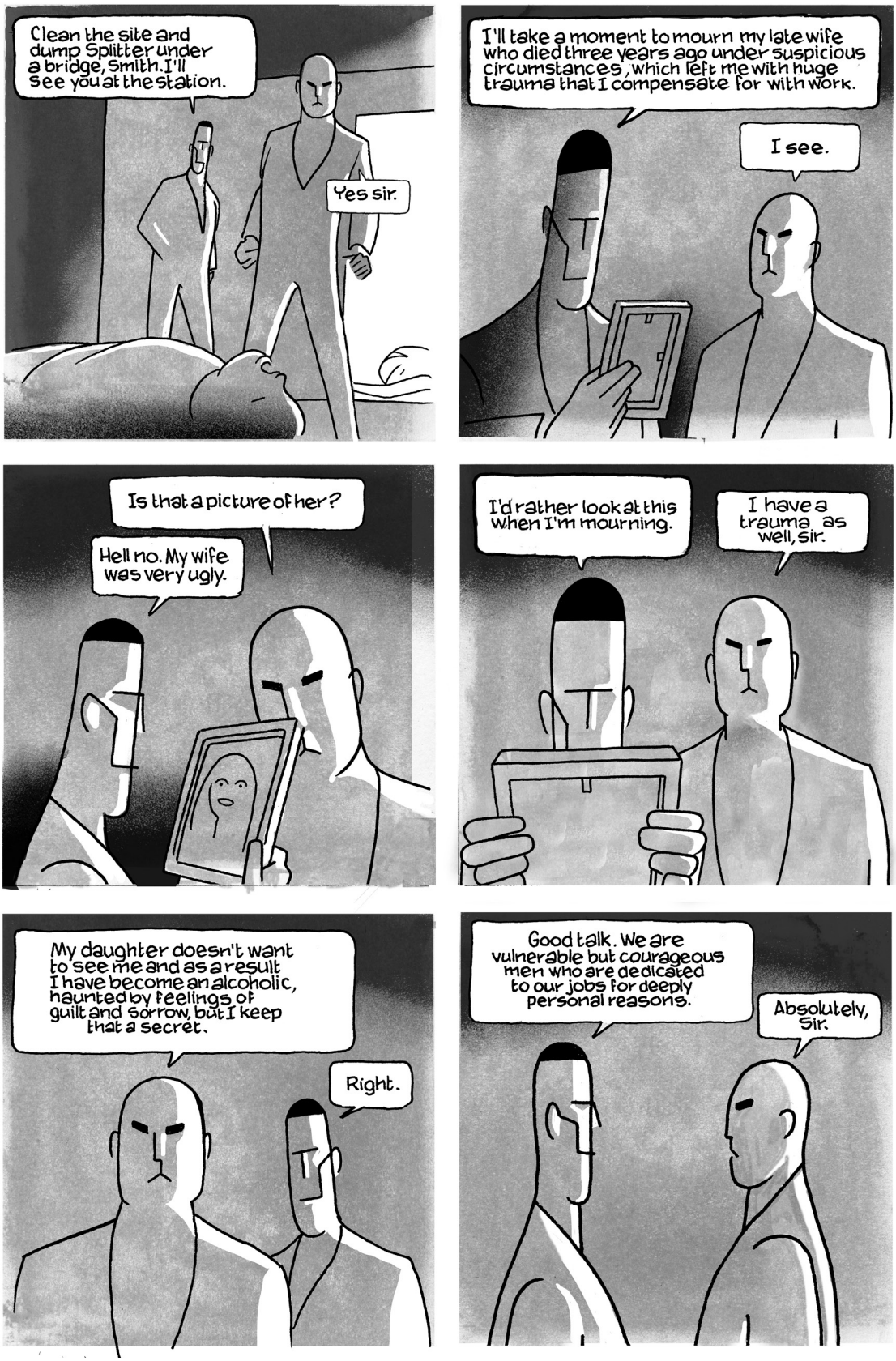
Luckily there were no witnesses to the actual shooting
Right. Who found the body?


The housekeeper. She is waiting for you in the kitchen. Her name is Mary Sharpe.
Right.

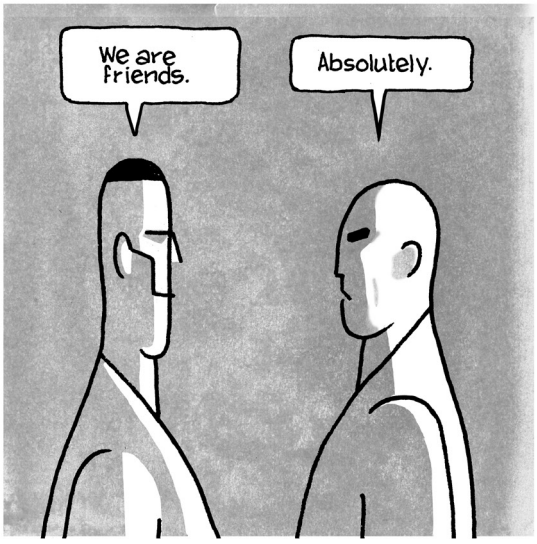

Miss Sharpe?
Yes.

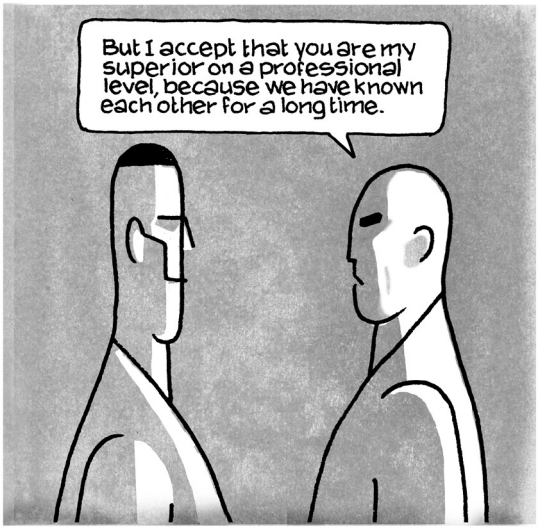


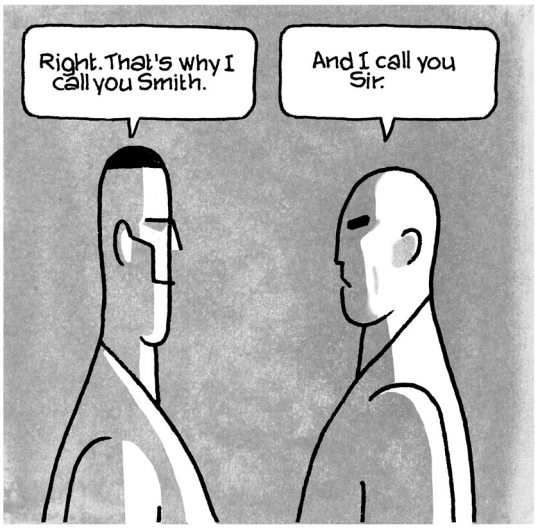

Miss Sharpe was found dead in Hank Splitter's kitchen this morning, tragically murdered.
Who could have done this?
It must have been done by Hank Splitter, who was madly in love with her and got blinded by rage, shot her point blank when she didn't return his feelings. Case closed.
Brilliant. But there is a slight compli-cation
"Hank Splitter was killed in his apartment. Mary Sharpe found his body." Posted two hours ago.
What?!
It's probably nothing, but...
Bullshit. Who posted it?
A certain Miyundae. No further details.
Right.
Looks like we have a real case, Smith. WHO IS MIYUNDAE?

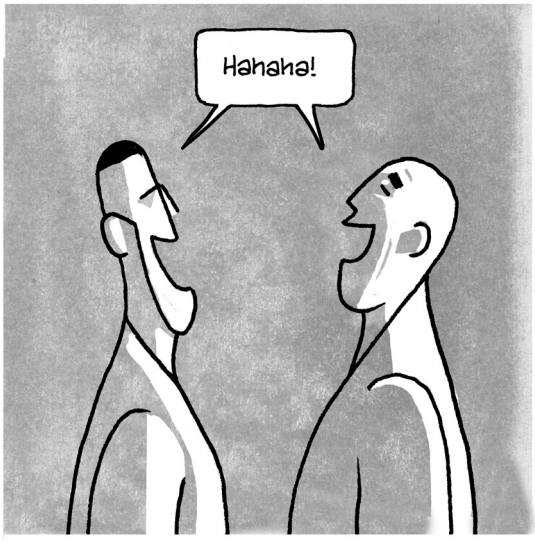

Clean the site and dump Splitter under a bridge, Smith. I'll see you at the station.
Yes sir.
I'll take a moment to mourn my late wife who died three years ago under suspicious circumstances, which left me with huge trauma that I compensate for with work.
I see.
Is that a picture of her?
Hell no. My wife was very ugly.
I'd rather look at this when I'm mourning.
I have a trauma as well, sir.
My daughter doesn't want to see me and as a result I have become an alcoholic, haunted by feelings of guilt and sorrow, but I keep that a secret.
Right.
Good talk. We are vulnerable but courageous men who are dedicated to our jobs for deeply personal reasons.
Absolutely, Sir.

But that doesn't stop us from cracking a joke from time to time.
Hahaha!


We are friends.
Absolutely.


But I accept that you are my superior on a professional level, because we have known each other for a long time.


Right. That's why I call you Smith.
And I call you Sir.


Hahaha!

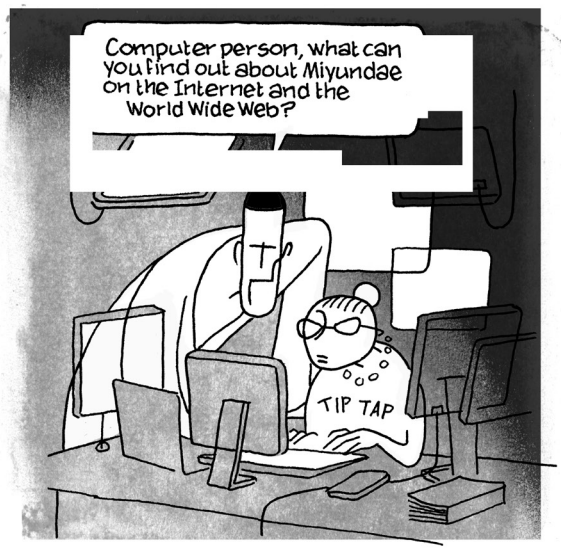
See you downtown, Sir.
Right.

As soon as Smith was gone I hailed a car
Stop! Police!

I checked the post. It was just as bad as I expected

Hank Splitter was a far-left liberal democrat who got what he deserved, but that didn't matter anymore.
Who is this Miyundae?

Welcome to the police station, sir! Everyone here admires you and thinks you're a very good crime fighter, even though you are always grumpy and not very talkative.


Computer person, what can you find out about Miyundae on the Internet and the World Wide Web?
TIP TAP

He seems to be well protected by all kinds of complicated ICT stuff but I will try to find a way around it.
Right.
TIP TAP

Inspector, the chief wants a word with you.
I will be right over. Keep me posted, computer person.

You wanted to see me, chief?
Yes, Kenneth. I am calling you by your christian name because you are like a son to me.

I know. My father was your partner in the force but he got killed on a mission and you could have saved him but you didn't.
And I still feel guilty about it. Sit down.

Mary Sharpe was killed in Hank Splitter's apartment. Mr. Splitter has disappeared, but Smith will track him down. Good work.
Yes.

But someone called Miyundae posted the alternative chain of events on the socials and it is gaining momentum. Look.
What the...