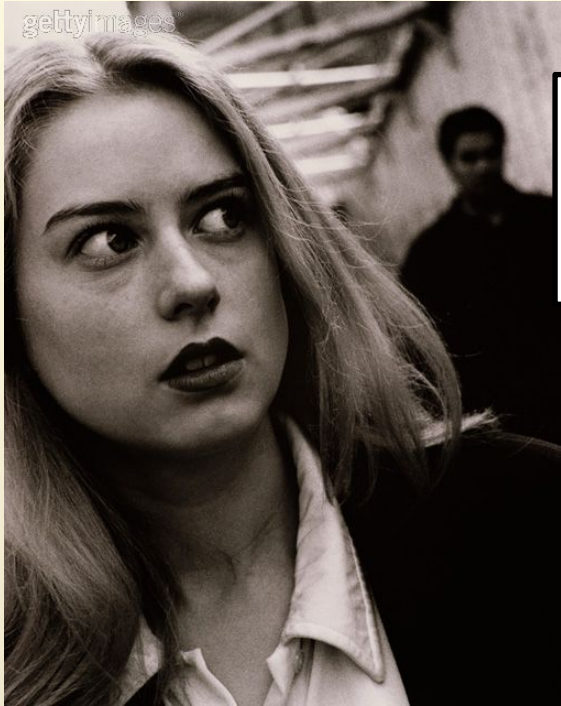


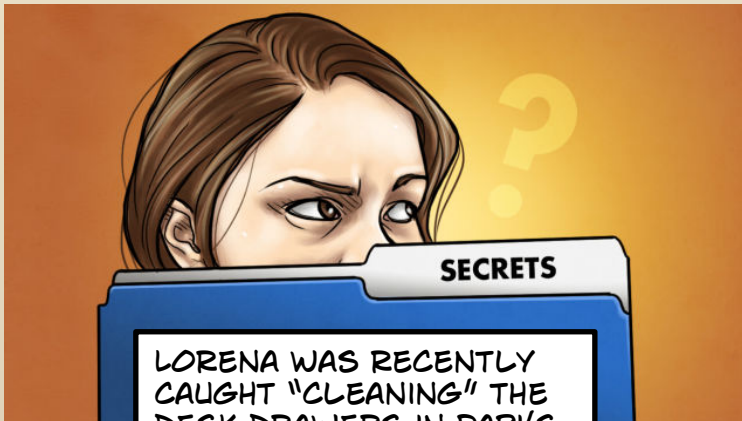
CHAPTER 5: MR. SMITH



HE'S A VERY POWERFUL GUY. AND HE LIKES GIRLS - YOUNG, PRETTY GIRLS. SO PARENTS WON'T LET THEIR DAUGHTERS GO OUT TO PUBLIC PLACES WHERE THEY MIGHT BE SEEN BY MR. SMITH. BECAUSE IF HE SEES THEM AND WANTS THEM, HE GETS WHAT HE WANTS.



SUSIE'S PARTY IS PLANNED FOR HER BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARY 27, WHICH IS PERFECT, AS THAT'S OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY.



LORENA WAS RECENTLY CAUGHT "CLEANING" THE DESK DRAWERS IN PAPI'S STUDY.



TIO TONI LAUGHS. BEST TO LAY LOW. BESIDES, HE HASN'T BEEN INVITED. ... IT WOULD LOOK BAD FOR THE AMERICAN CONSUL TO BE HOSTING A MAN WHO HAS ONLY JUST BEEN PARDONED BY THE GOVERNMENT.



PAPI AND MUNDIN SLIP OUT AND JOIN SOME MEN WHO HAVE CROSSED OVER FROM THE PARTY TO TALK TO TIO TONI.

MR. SMITH'S FRIENDS ARE HERE.



IN SECONDS, THE MEN TAKE OFF, SOME WITH TIO TONI INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE BACK OF THE PROPERTY, SOME FOLLOWING PAPI AND MUNDIN AT A RUN TOWARD OUR HOUSE.



"LONG LIVE THE CHIEF," A CHORUS OF VOICES ECHOES. BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, THE FIREWORKS EXPLODE, LIGHTING UP THE SKY. FOR A MOMENT, NIGHT TURNS INTO DAY AS MR. SMITH LIFTS A SMALL, SPOTTED HAND AND GIVES US A WEARY WAVE.