

CHAPEAU MELON ET BOTTES DE CUIR

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Purdey, my dear, you must return to the prison...

You're right. Dear Mike will be in need of comfort.

For what crime has Mike Gambit been incarcerated? He was chosen to keep the company of a person of interest...

And not a moment too soon! Nine long years. But tomorrow, I'll be rich.

You're leaving tomorrow, then, Bradley?



The Mystery of Planet "Y"



Gambit! To the visiting room!



Hello, Mike! You look superb!

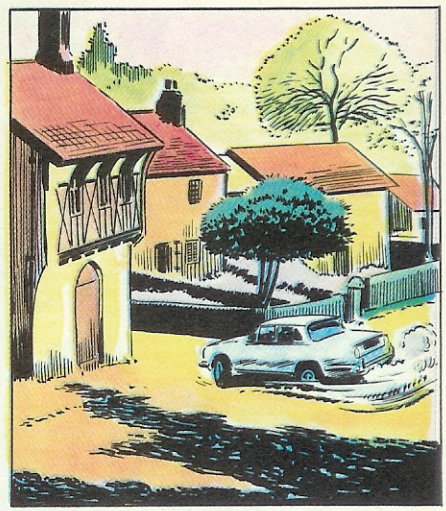
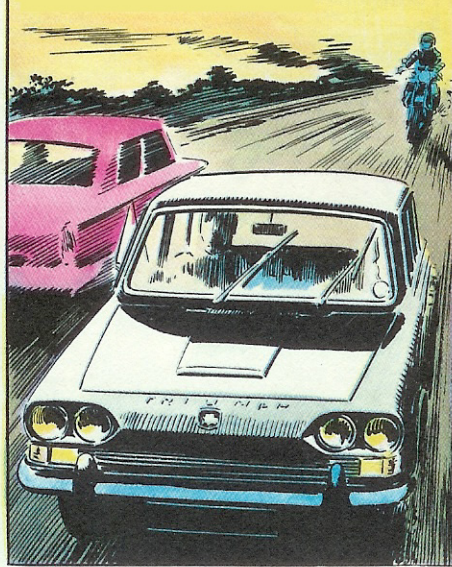
Very funny, Purdey. I can recommend it if you need a rest...



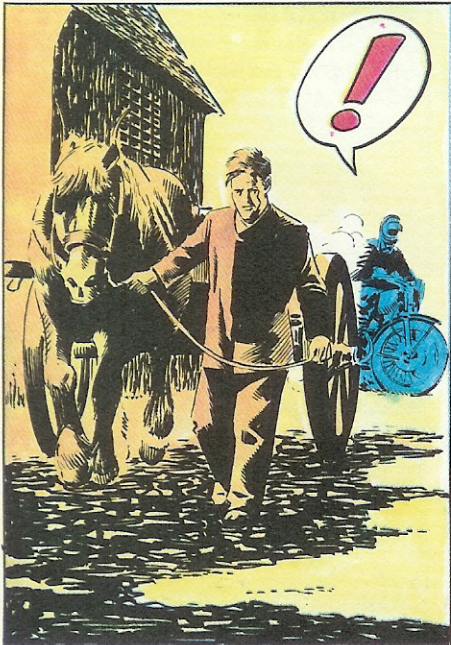
Joking aside, our man leaves tomorrow. Stay close to him.

The next day, at dawn, Bradley walks out of prison a free man.

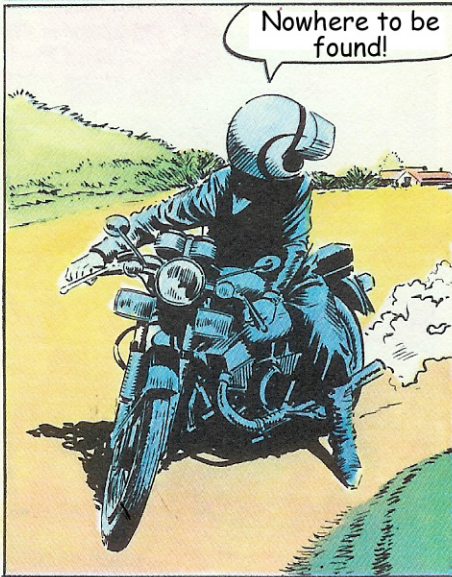
Purdey has hardly any trouble shadowing the man...



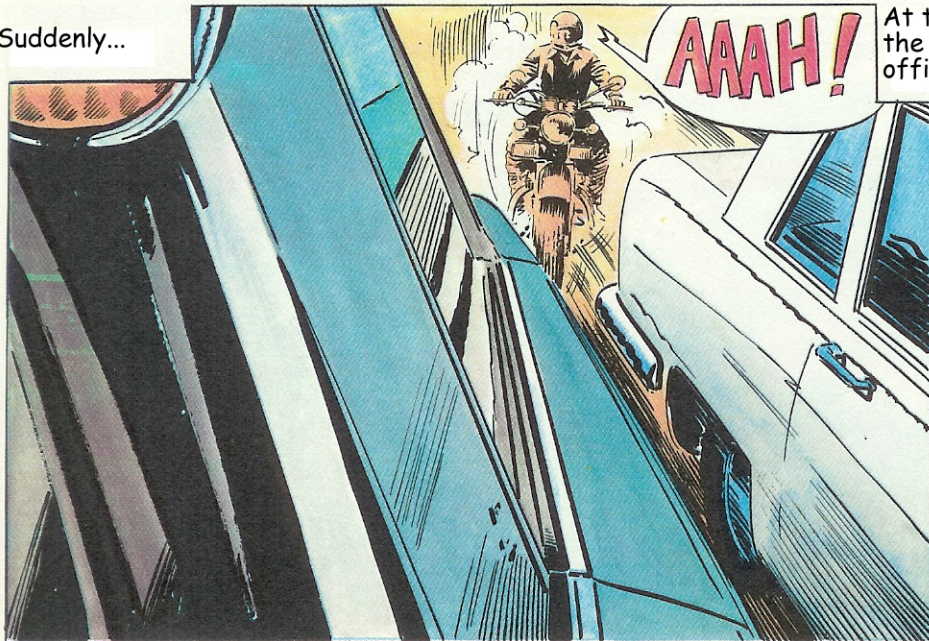
But at the entrance of a village, Bradley cuts abruptly to the right.



After an hour's search...



Suddenly...

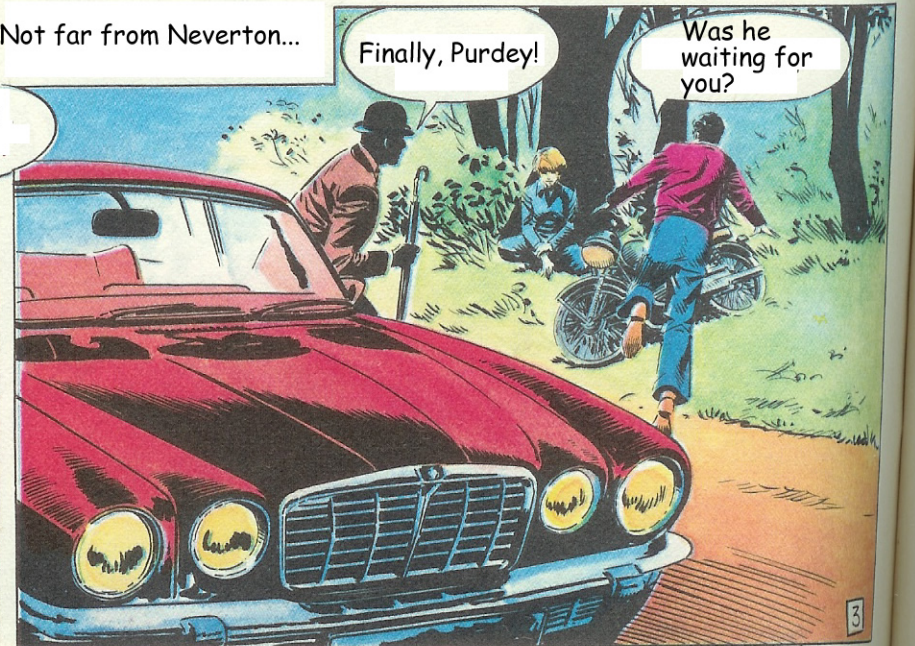
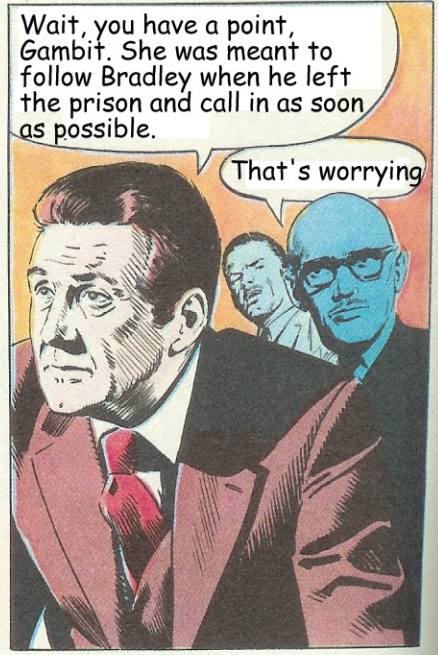
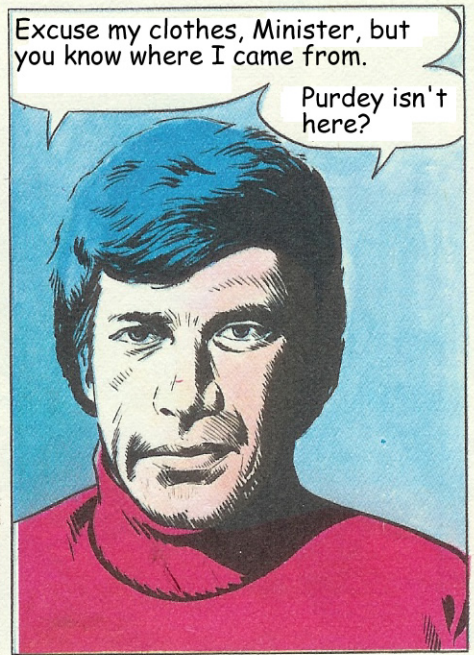


At that moment, in the Minister's office....

Bradley has been in prison for 9 years for espionage.

For some weeks, he has flooded me with letters stating he has something to sell.





Purdey gives an account of her "accident," and her blow, finding all the attention unpleasant...

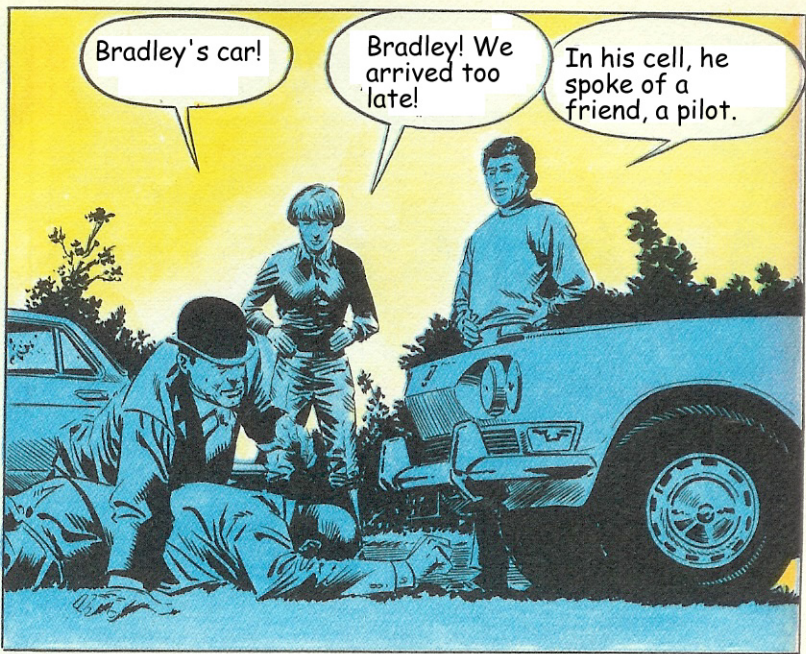


Bradley went this way. Follow me!

Bradley's car!

Bradley! We arrived too late!

In his cell, he spoke of a friend, a pilot.



I lost track of him for more than an hour...more than enough...

...to see the pilot and leave him a message.



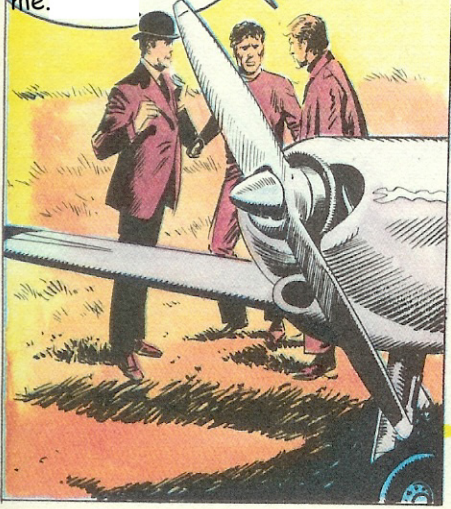
By happy coincidence, a tourist plane lands near the village.

Let's go see this man. You go home, Purdey, and forget all about it.



Poor Bradley! He wanted a clean slate...He entrusted a parcel for his daughter to me.

What?



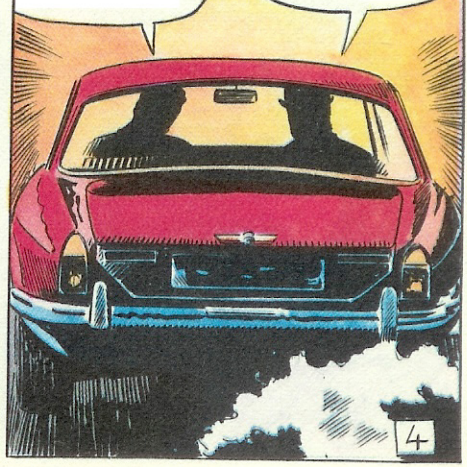
Nothing special. A paperback. "The Mystery of Planet 'y'."

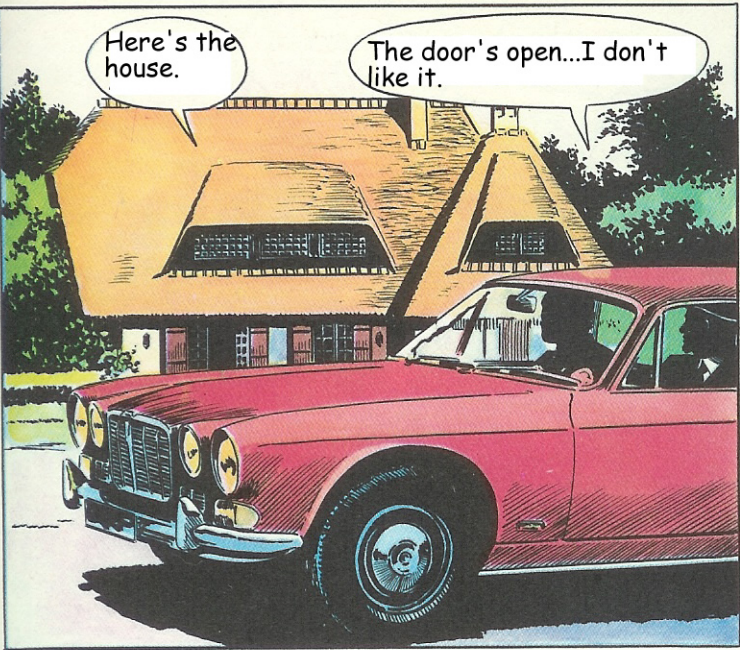
Quick, give us his daughter's address!



It's strange. Bradley hadn't seen his daughter for nine years, and the first chance he gets...

...it's to send her a book in the mail. It's a code, without a doubt.





Here's the house.

The door's open...I don't like it.



Miss Bradley?

No answer. Let's go in.

Bound to a chair and gagged, Miss Bradley can't respond...



Thank you, but you've arrived too late.

The book?



A man came, barely half an hour ago...he took it.



The book is surely in code...your father had no choice but to send it to you.

No...ah, here! A photo...

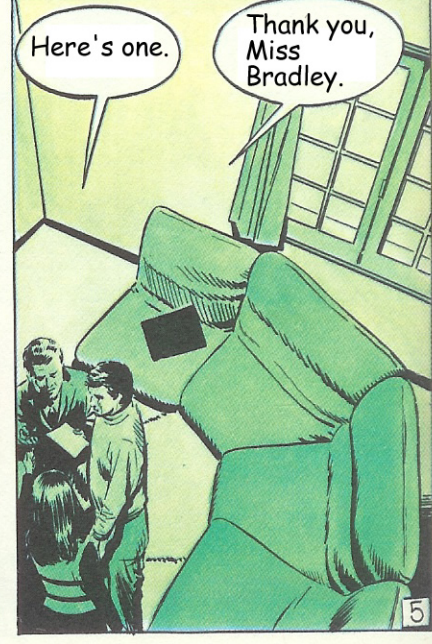


He sent it to me from prison a long time ago. It was meant, he said, to insure my future, in case something went wrong.



Gambit, this man to the right, with the two officers...

It needs to be looked at through a magnifying glass.



Here's one.

Thank you, Miss Bradley.



Returning home, Purdey starts her exercises, thinking on all the details of this curious affair.





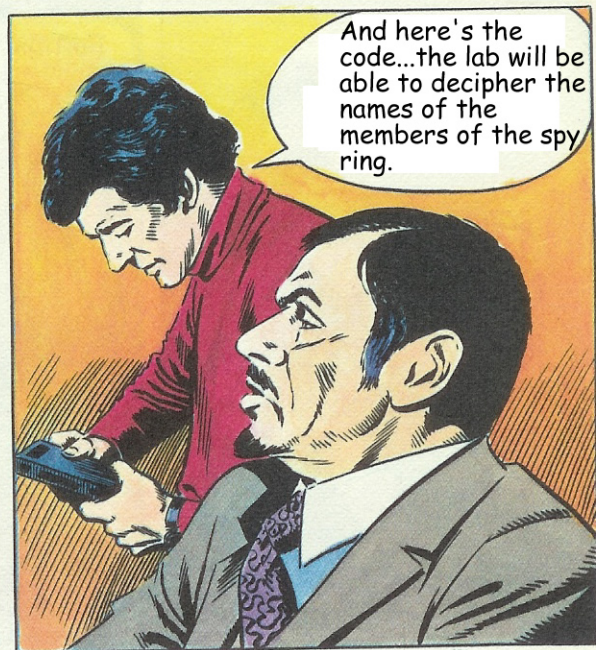
It's you who will oblige me, my dear.



Drop your gun, Rachewski.



Purdey, I'd like to present to you Colonel Rachewski..the colonel is the head of a spy ring in Great Britain.



And here's the code...the lab will be able to decipher the names of the members of the spy ring.



Bradley was writing to the Minister. You knew he would unmask you and have you sent to prison.

I have nothing to say,

Oh, John, does this mean I can use expenses to replace my Aunt Peggy's vase?

Not for unnecessary expenditures, Purdey!



P. Claffier 7/44