

DARK HORSE
COMICS

#1
\$2.50 U.S.
\$3.00 Canada

HERBIE



WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, YOU ASK? WHY ARE HERBIE AND DAD LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES WHILE MOM PURSUES A CAREER OF GLAMOR AND RICHES? HOLD ON TO YOUR LOLLIPOPS, HERBIVORES--THE AMAZING TRUTH LIES IN THE TREMBLING TALE WE COULD ONLY CALL...

the MOST BEAUTIFUL MOM in the WORLD!

WORDS AND
PICTURES BY
JOHN
BYRNE

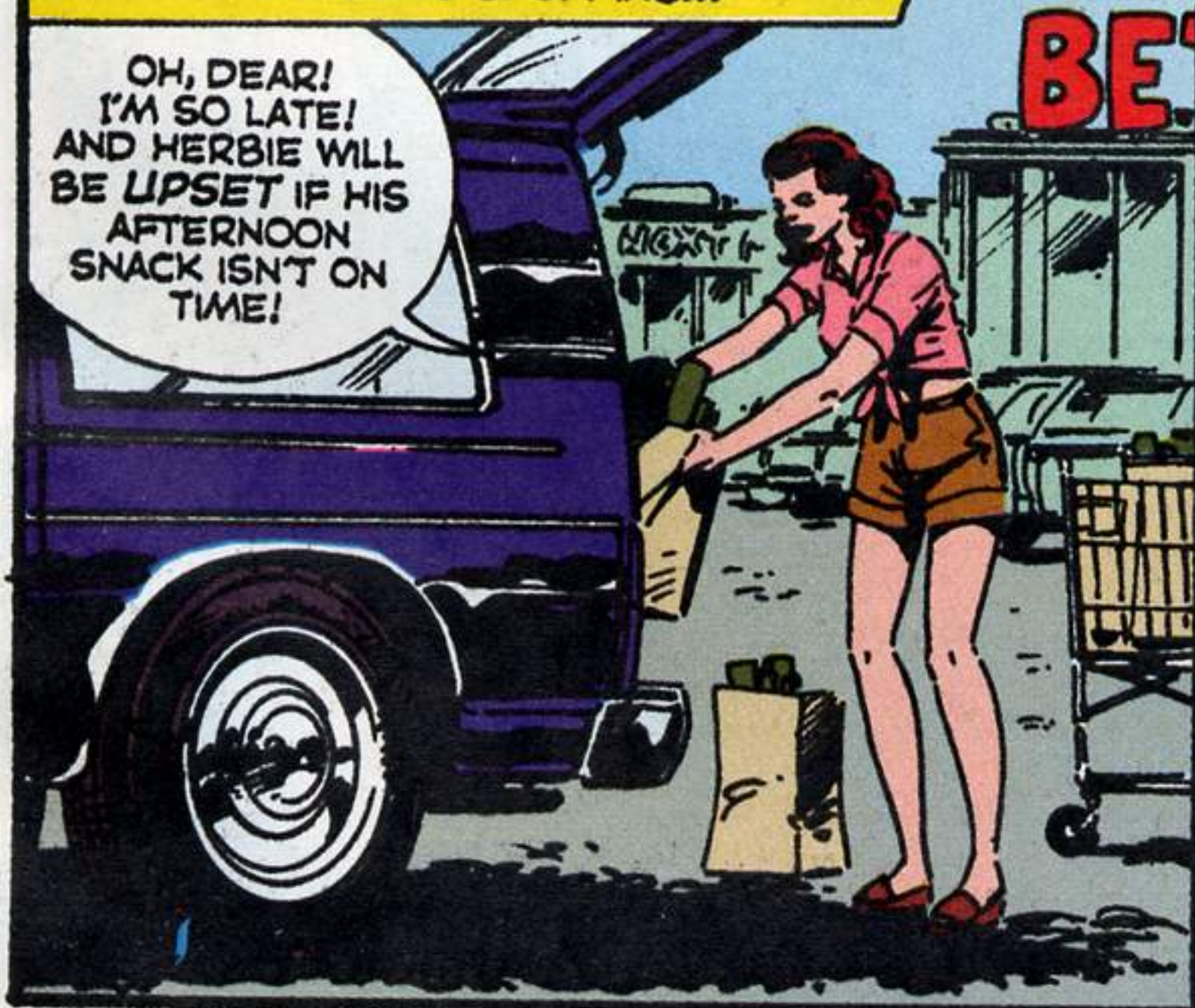
HONEY!
PLEASE COME
HOME! WE
NEED YOU!

HMPH!
DON'T NEED
ANYONE, BUT
MUST DO SOME-
THING--DAD'S
COMPLETE
WRECK!



OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE BETA SHOPPER PLAZA, NOT FAR FROM THE POPNECKER HOME, AS MRS. POPNECKER HURRIES HOME AFTER A BUSY AFTERNOON'S SHOPPING...

OH, DEAR!
I'M SO LATE!
AND HERBIE WILL
BE UPSET IF HIS
AFTERNOON
SNACK ISN'T ON
TIME!



BUT, AS MRS. POPNECKER BACKS OUT OF THE NARROW SPACE...

OH,
NO!!

MY
CAR!!



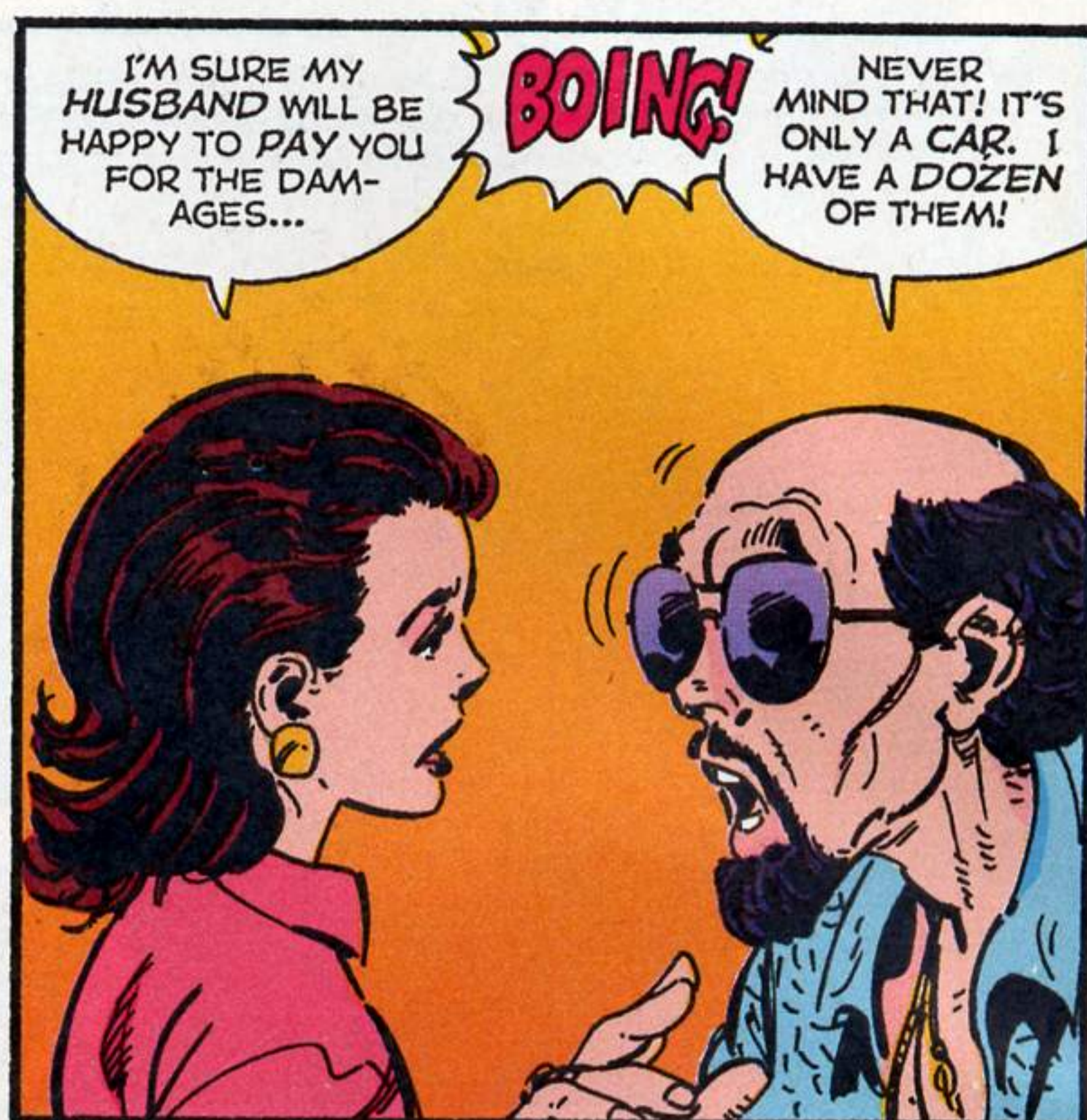


YOU IDIOT!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY...

MY...

I... I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.



I'M SURE MY HUSBAND WILL BE HAPPY TO PAY YOU FOR THE DAMAGES...

BOING!

NEVER MIND THAT! IT'S ONLY A CAR. I HAVE A DOZEN OF THEM!



YOU HAVE... A DOZEN CARS? YOU MUST BE VERY RICH!

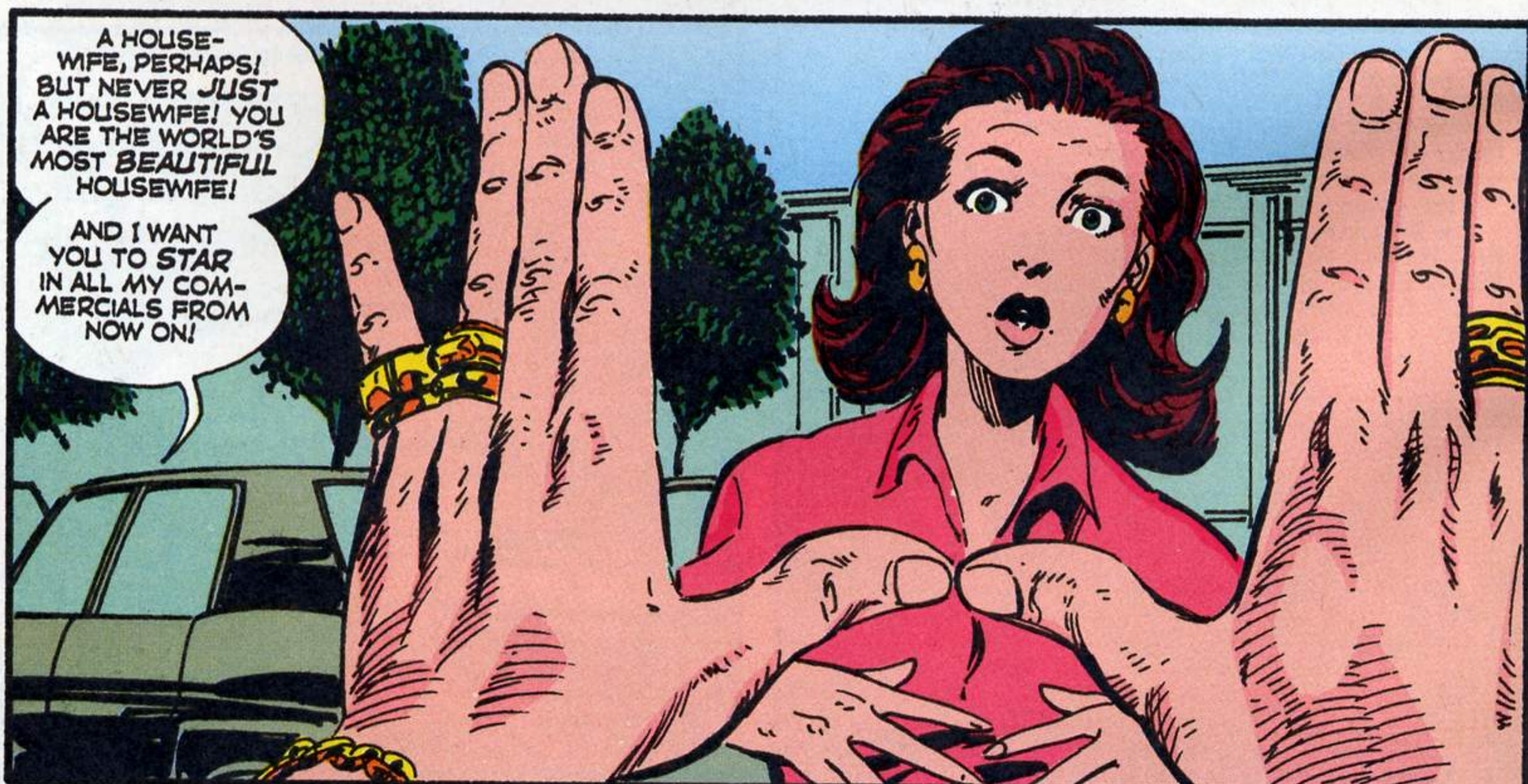
BUT OF COURSE I AM! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? I AM PIERRE PAULO PASTRAMI!

I AM THE WORLD'S GREATEST DIRECTOR OF TELEVISION COMMERCIALS!



BUT, WHO ARE YOU? I MUST KNOW YOUR NAME!

ME? OH, I'M NOBODY. JUST A HOUSEWIFE...



A HOUSEWIFE, PERHAPS! BUT NEVER JUST A HOUSEWIFE! YOU ARE THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOUSEWIFE!

AND I WANT YOU TO STAR IN ALL MY COMMERCIALS FROM NOW ON!



GOOD NEWS FOR MRS. POPNECKER, YOU MIGHT SAY. BUT HOW WILL HER FAMILY REACT?

TELEVISION COMMERCIALS?!? BUT IF YOU'RE OFF STARRING IN TELEVISION COMMERCIALS, WHO'LL DO THE HOUSEWORK?

WELL... I SORT OF THOUGHT MAYBE YOU AND HERBIE COULD HELP OUT...



HELP OUT?? YOU EXPECT ME TO CLEAN AND WASH AND COOK? OUT OF THE QUESTION!

WHY, I'M THE MAN OF THE HOUSE! I CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO DO SUCH THINGS!

NOW WHAT?



HERBIE! YOU MAY BE A FAT LITTLE NOTHING, BUT I KNOW YOU'LL BACK ME ON THIS!

YOUR MOTHER WANTS TO LEAVE HOME AND BECOME A BIG HOLLYWOOD STAR! BUT I SAY NO!

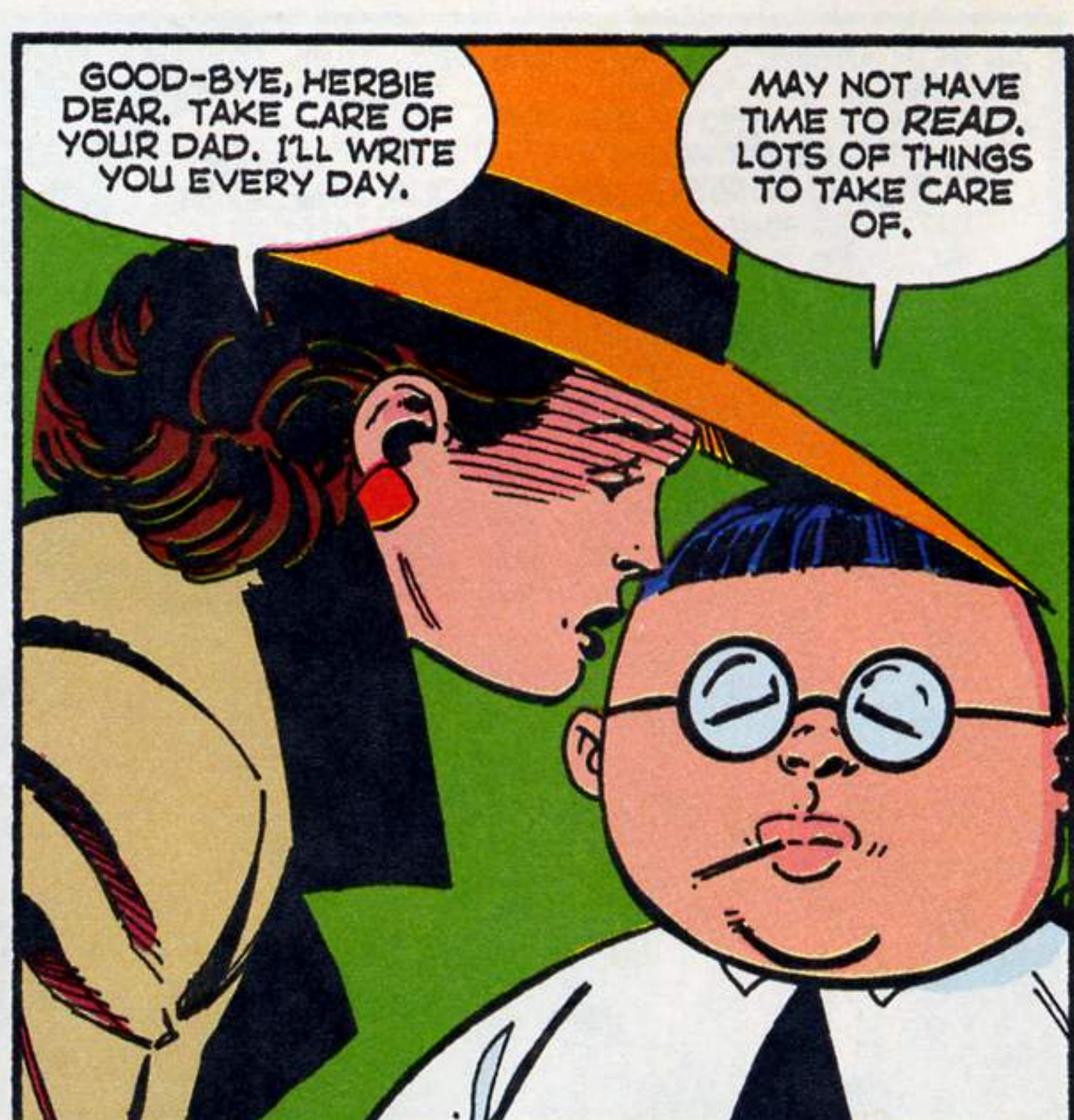
MAKE NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. CAN TAKE CARE OF SELF.



AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING...

PLEASE! YOU CAN'T GO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE US!

BUT I MUST. THIS IS A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME REAL MONEY, SO WE CAN FINALLY AFFORD ALL THE THINGS WE'VE DREAMED OF!



GOOD-BYE, HERBIE DEAR. TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAD. I'LL WRITE YOU EVERY DAY.

MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO READ. LOTS OF THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF.

AND SO THE MEN OF THE POPNECKER HOUSE ARE SET ADrift ON THE CRUEL SEA OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THINGS DO NOT GO SWIMMINGLY...

HOUSEWORK!
HOUSEWORK!
HOUSEWORK!

I CAN'T
STAND IT ANY-
MORE! I HAVE
IMPORTANT
MATTERS
TO CONSIDER!

LIKE
WHAT'S FOR
DINNER.



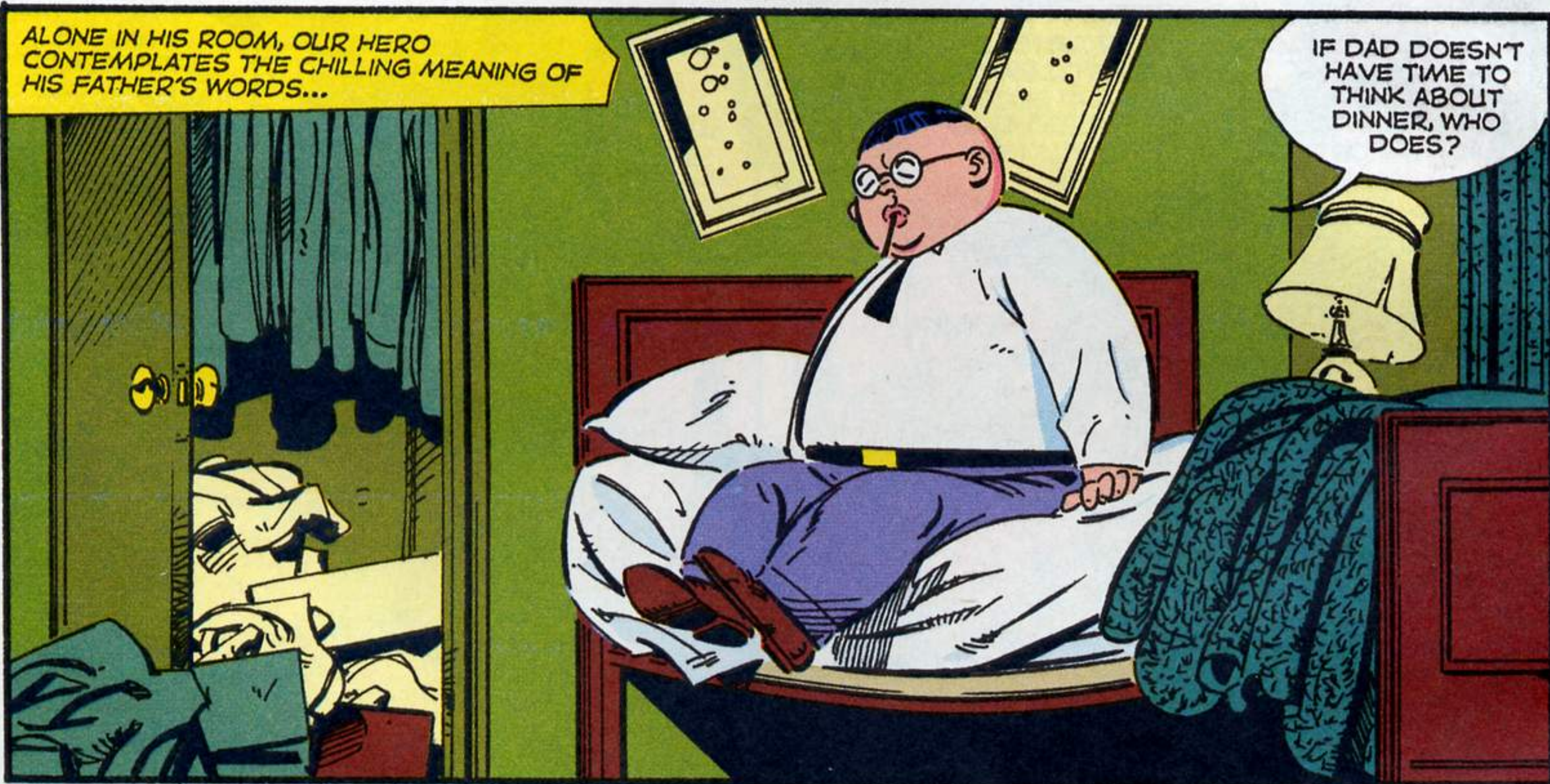
DINNER?
I DON'T HAVE TIME
TO THINK ABOUT
DINNER! IF YOU
WEREN'T SUCH A
FAT LITTLE NOTHING
YOU'D UNDERSTAND
THAT!!

NO TIME
TO THINK ABOUT
DINNER?



ALONE IN HIS ROOM, OUR HERO
CONTEMPLATES THE CHILLING MEANING OF
HIS FATHER'S WORDS...

IF DAD DOESN'T
HAVE TIME TO
THINK ABOUT
DINNER, WHO
DOES?

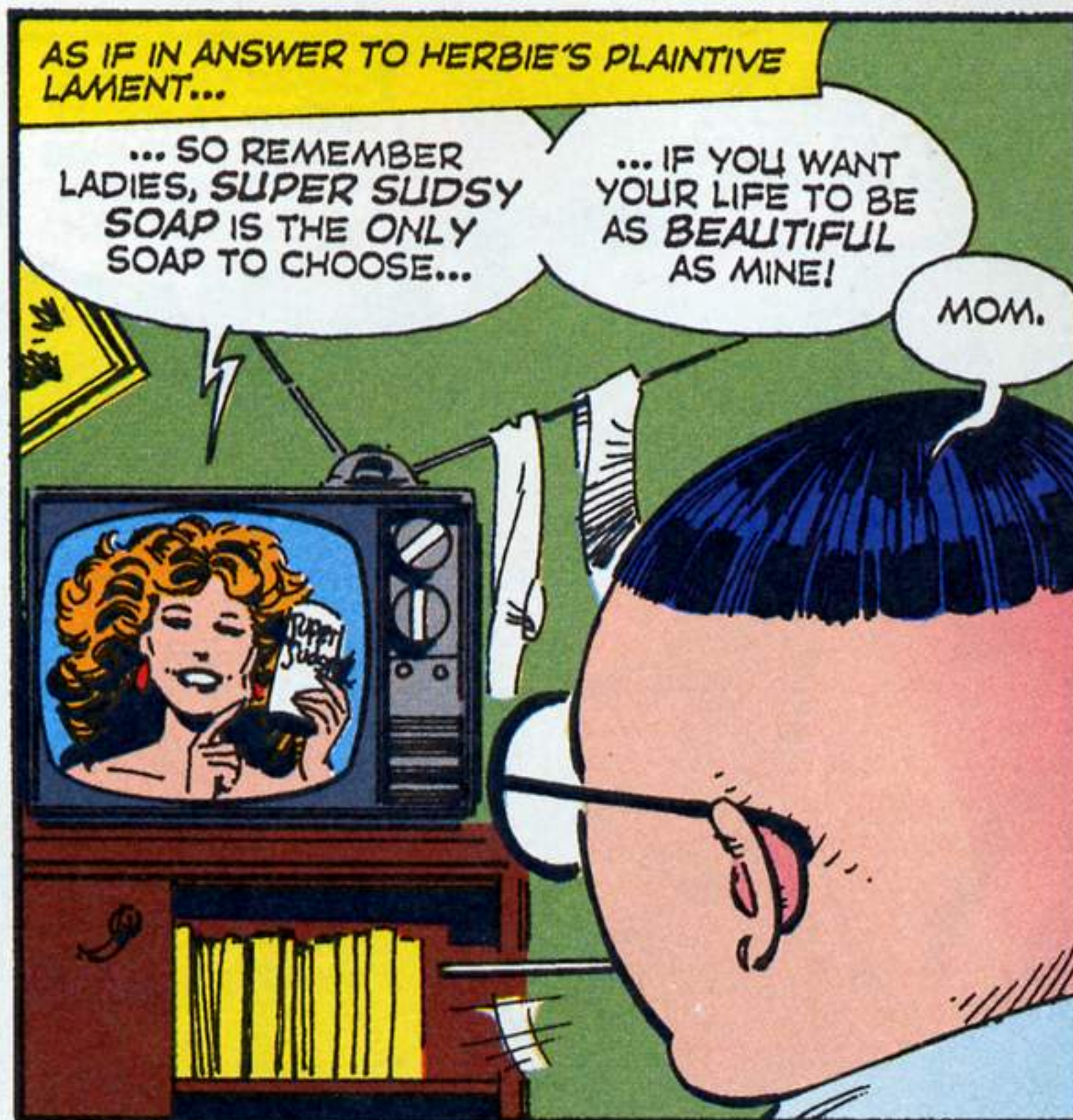


AS IF IN ANSWER TO HERBIE'S PLAINTIVE
LAMENT...

... SO REMEMBER
LADIES, SUPER SUDSY
SOAP IS THE ONLY
SOAP TO CHOOSE...

... IF YOU WANT
YOUR LIFE TO BE
AS BEAUTIFUL
AS MINE!

MOM.



HATE TO ADMIT
IT, BUT DAD WAS
RIGHT. CAN'T GET
ALONG WITHOUT
MOM TO TAKE CARE
OF THINGS.

TIME FOR
FAT FURY
TO TAKE
HAND.



AND SO, IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL OF IT, HERBIE IS ZOOMING OVER THE CITY, IN SEARCH OF THE LOCATION OF PIERRE PAULO PASTRAMI'S LATEST COMMERCIAL EXTRAVAGANZA.

MOM WANTS TO MAKE COMMERCIALS SO SHE CAN HELP OUT WITH FAMILY FINANCES.

SO WON'T QUIT HIGH PAY JOB IF I JUST ASK.

SO... HAVE TO FIND WAY TO SABOTAGE CAREER!

NOW, IN THIS SHOT YOU'LL BE USING JIFFO WONDER WAX TO POLISH THIS DIRTY OLD CAR AND MAKE IT LOOK BETTER THAN NEW!

SOUNDS LIKE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY. JUST WAIT UNTIL CAMERAS ROLLING, AND...

FWOOWF

THE FAT FURY'S INSUPERABLE BREATH SENDS A HUGE CLOUD OF DUST OVER THE SHOOTING LOCATION...

NO! NO! NO!

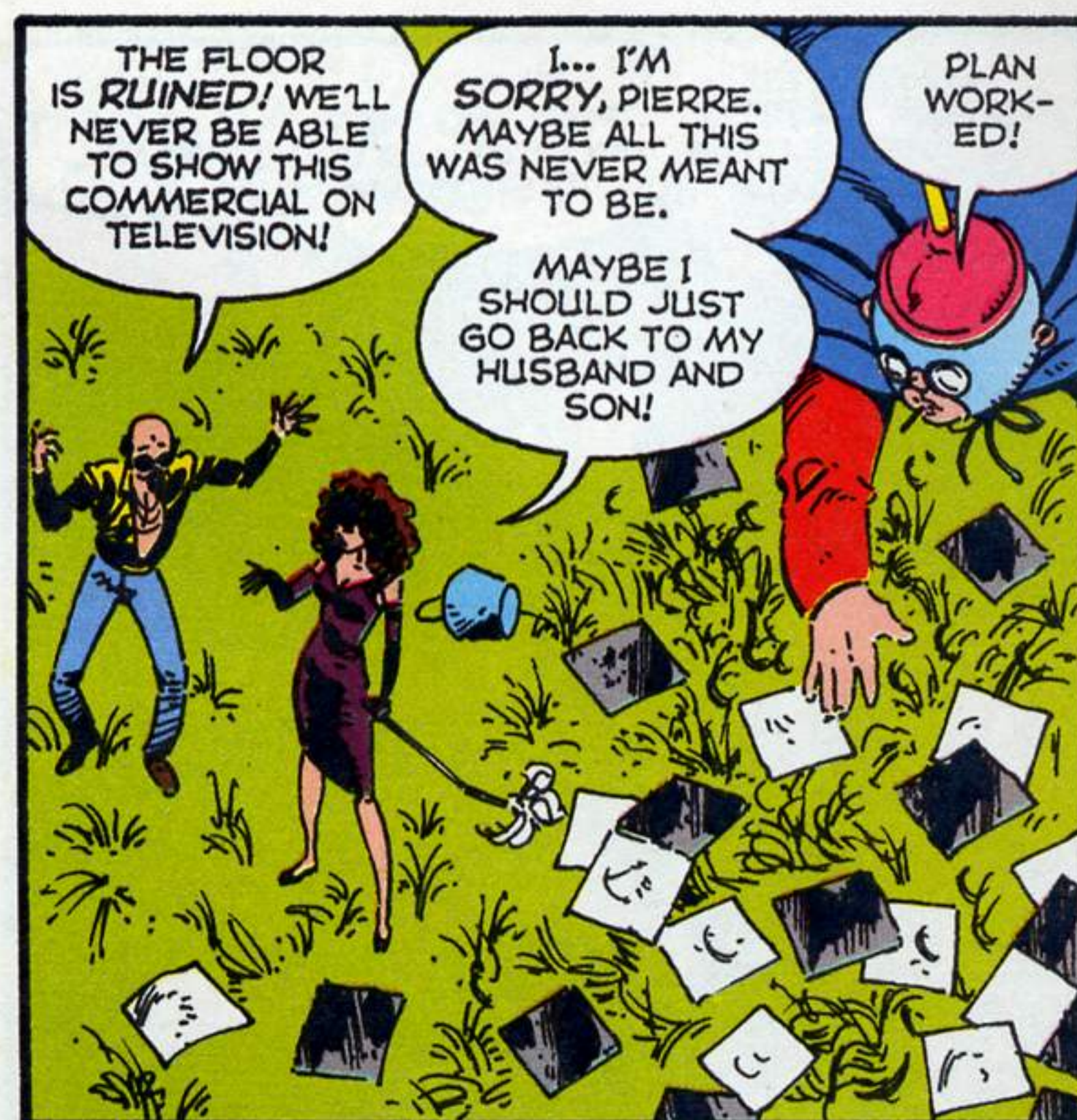
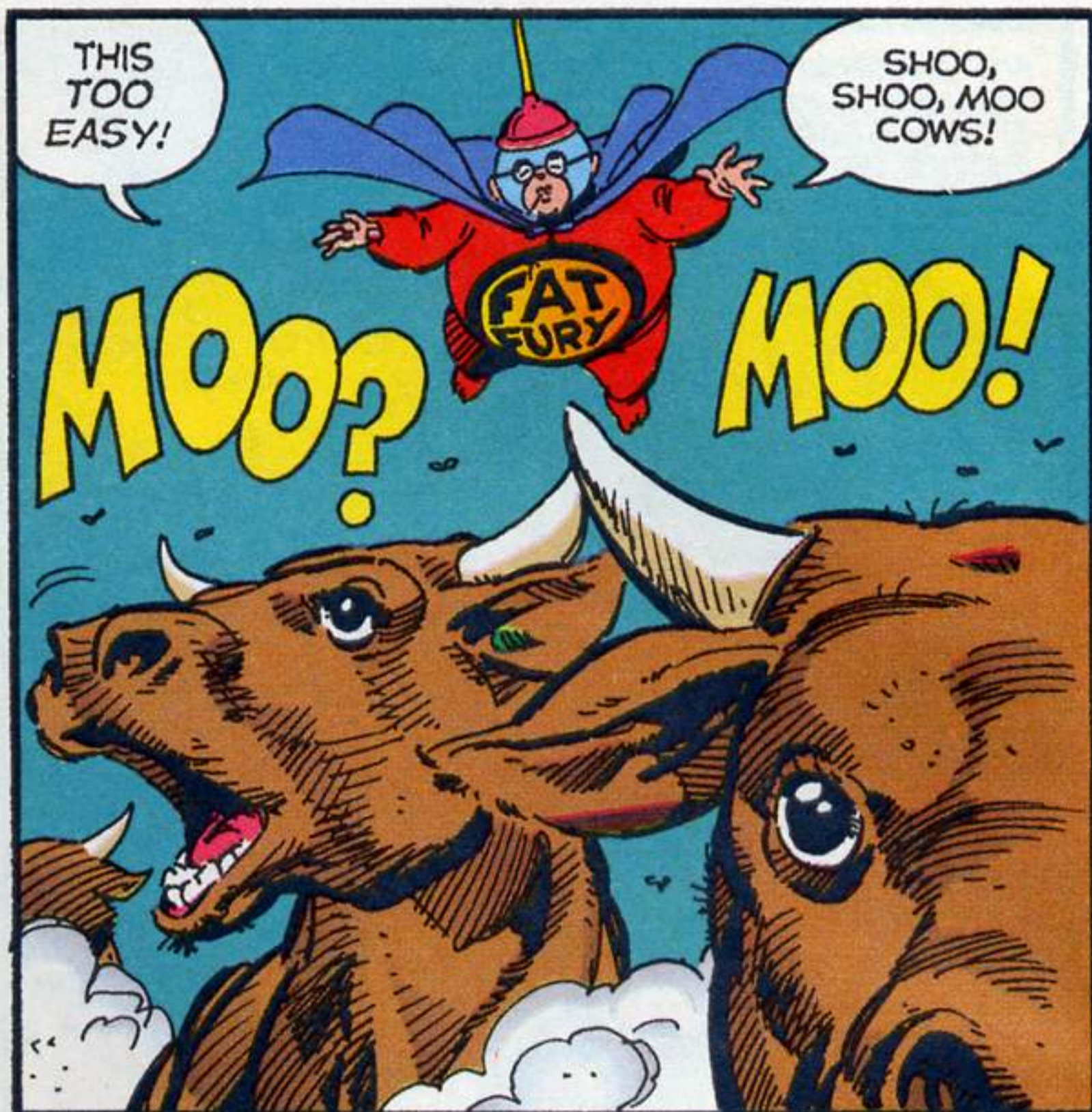
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE CAR LOOKS EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE!

BUT... BUT ALL I DID WAS POLISH IT LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO!

ALL RIGHT! IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU ARE STILL THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MOTHER!

I'LL SIMPLY FIND ANOTHER PRODUCT FOR YOU TO ENDORSE!

HMPH. PLAN DIDN'T WORK.



IT TAKES A LOT TO FLUMMOX THE FAT FURY, BUT HERBIE IS VERY CLOSE TO THE END OF HIS TETHER...

WHAT TO DO?
WHAT TO DO?
MOM WANTS TO
COME HOME BUT
BIG DIRECTOR
WANTS HER TO
STAY!

NOW, THIS WILL
BE A VERY EASY
SHOT. ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO IS GIVE THIS
WINDOW A GENTLE
WIPE WITH WONDO
WINDO WASHO...

LAST
CHANCE!
LAST LOLLIPOP!

HARD TO
FIND
CINNAMON.

BUT MUST
MAKE
ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE!

OH!!

SKRA

BEAUTY!
MY BEAUTY!
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

YOU WERE
NOT HURT BY
THE FLYING
GLASS?

NO. I'M
FINE. BUT THIS
REALLY IS THE
LAST STRAW.

MY ACTING CAREER
IS SUDDENLY TURNING
OUT TO BE FAR MORE
DANGEROUS THAN
I WOULD EVER HAVE
EXPECTED!

I'M GOING
HOME TO
MY
FAMILY!

PLAN...
SPANTS
WORKED!

BUT, ONCE AGAIN...

NO! I WILL HIRE
A STUNT PERSON
TO DO ALL THE
PHYSICAL ACTION!

ALL YOU
NEED TO DO IS
SMILE AND WAVE
AND BE THE
WORLD'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL
HOUSEWIFE!

OH,
NO!

