

Trouble Est Trouble

(two pages)

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PAGE 1 (four panels)

1: We open to the inside of the office of Hermes Valentine, private eye and detective. The room is covered in stark shadows, like a set right out of an old noir movie. The door is wide open, and the light from the outside pours in with a hard edge. Hermes is sitting at his desk in the foreground, papers and pens scattered over the top. At the open door is strikingly beautiful woman. She is dressed in a sequin outfit, her hands on resting on her hips. She has a mysterious, seductive air about her.

HERMES [caption]

Nights like this don't happen as often you'd think. Tall, leggy dames like her don't show up every night.

WOMAN

You're Hermes Valentine, right?

HERMES

Depends on who's asking.

2: The woman walks across the office towards Hermes. She sways as she glides from the door. Her eyes are locked in the direction of Hermes. He seems unsure, trying to read the woman, but never letting up his hard boiled gruff expression. Along the wall are pictures, frame newspaper clippings, and short bookshelves with only one or two books in them.

HERMES [caption]

She made her way through my office, gliding along like smoke in a bar.

WOMAN

Hermes Valentine, the man who caught the Nissio brothers?

Stopped Lady Issin from getting away with millions?

HERMES [caption]

Women like her are always trouble.

3: The woman stands at the opposite side of Hermes' desk. She is leaning over, curiously playing with a pen on the detective's desk. Her breasts are prominent as she leans in, allowing Hermes to see into her cleavage. The woman looks at the pen, seemingly not noticing his leering.

WOMAN

The one all the girls and boys talk about in the Red Ribbon?

4: The woman looks up, turning her side to Hermes, and starting to lean her butt on the edge of the desk.

HERMES

All right. You got me. I'm Hermes.

HERMES [caption]

My reputation led her here, but I didn't have a clue why. What did she want? Why was she here?

PAGE 2 (five panels)

1: The woman leans backwards on the edge of the desk, her head pointed up as she tilts her face towards the reader.

HERMES [caption]

She was holding all the cards. A looker like her probably always does.

WOMAN

So, you're really THAT Hermes Valentine?

HERMES [off-panel]

Of course I am, sweetheart. The one and only.

But, I haven't gotten your name yet.

2: The woman leans in closer to Detective Hermes. Her eyes are demure and mysterious., seducing him with just a look. Hermes is steady, but feeling the pressure of this woman.

WOMAN

Elizabeth Mazza.

Detective Elizabeth Mazza.

3: The tension breaks. The woman has turned and is facing Hermes directly. Her eyes have changed; they are stern and focused, a wry smile has replaced her seductive smirk. She has one arm still firm on the desk, supporting her weight. The other hand is raised up, holding a folder to Hermes.

WOMAN

And, you, Mr. Valentine, have been served.

4: Hermes is examining an open folder. The file in front of him reads: DIVORCE.

WOMAN

Your now ex-husband says, "He can't wait to see you in court".

5: Hermes lowers the folder, and watches as the woman leaves his office. She walks out unlike before; confident and hard boiled.

HERMES [caption]

Women like her are always trouble.