

Session/Game: Private Dicks-2 **Date:** June 10, 2026

#2: A Case of Truth and Consequences

Campaign Date: February, 1947, Week 4

The McNulty Agency:

Richard Eric Magnum (Craig)

Rangley Wade Melman (Bob)

Palmela Hansbury (Andrew—Absent)

Pudge Matheson (Pete)

Judge: Dave N.

Prologue

Madeline handed the office phone over to Melman, "It's for you, Rangley."

"Thanks....Hello" he grumbled to her and the phone, respectively.

"Hey, Melman, it's me, Johnny Toxic from the Coroner's Office. The Coroner is raging with righteous anger at the Mike Forest killing at the Broadly McCrory 5 and 10. He's going full inquest and has even gotten the Sheriff to assign some county detectives to the case. I just wanted to warn you to expect a visit and eventually a subpoena."

No sooner had he put down the phone, when it rang again.

"Melman, it's Suds. I ain't never seen the boss so angry. I'd get out of town if I was you! Gotta go!"

Log:

Chapter One: Investigation in the Afternoon

Rick Magnum was wondering why the coroner was so bothered by the shooting of a couple of junk-selling hoodlums, so he put in a call to Mary Headline at *The Evening Report*. She was out on a big story about a railroad heist, so he left a message. After ruminating for a bit, he decided to see if he could track Mary down, and drove his jeep down to the Freight Station in the Factory District. Freighty Joe in the shipping office hadn't seen her and suggested tha he check the accounting office. Magnum catches up with Headline outside accounting and they have a chat, She says that the Coroner, Richard Pemberton, appears so straight and clean that it makes everyone kind of sick, so if he excited about the shooting it's probably a whole "sense of justice" thing. She also tells him that she's trying to blow the lid off an incident concerning bomb parts going missing from the railroad. Magnum offers to help, but she made it clear that an ace newshound doesn't need his help.

Meanwhile, while Pudge waits at the office, Rangley Melman takes the bus to Coroner's Office and talks to Johnny Toxic. Johnny tells Melman that Pemberton is a complete straight arrow and general pain in the ass for insisting that everything is right, correct and serves Justice. Melman and Toxic agree to meet in the evening at the Jazz Hole to hear some cool jazz and chase some tail.

After Melman gets back to the agency, but before Magnum does, County Detective Bart Barshinger, arrives at the office and asks to see the weapon permits from Melman and Magnum. Barshinger is incredibly irritable and nervous the entire visit. Pudge keeps him in reception and tries to ply him with liquor, to no avail. Eventually, Pudge goes back to the

conference room and gets Melman's carry permit and takes it out to show Barshinger. The county detective examines it carefully and writes down the information, saying that it looks all good and proper. However, he is a little put out that Magnum's permit isn't shown to him (because in fact he doesn't have one) which fact Pudge explains that Magnum is out and has it with him. Barshinger leaves promising that he will be back soon if they don't bring the permit down to the courthouse. Pudge has Madeline the secretary call the County Detective office to find out if Barshinger is real, and it does check out.

Chapter Two: A Night on the Town

Melman, Pudge and Magnum take Pudge's sedan to the Jazz Hole to meet up with Johnny Toxic and hear the jazz go down. It's Tuesday night and so The Spiffy Gang was playing, and boy did they suck, especially the xylophone player. While Pudge plays a few sets on his trumpet with them, poorly, Melman goes to have a few drinks with Toxic, but then drops him like a hot potato when a cute beatnik chick and then Brenda Lovely come in. Magnum drinks quietly at the bar next to Stooly McFly. Working his famous smooth charm, Melman is soon strolling out of the club with a bottle of rye and Brenda Lovely. They go back to her crappy apartment in the carriage house of a decrepit mansion cut into flats, in Old Spire. He has to listen to her boring dame story about how she works at Pawn Baron and used to live in a nicer apartment carved out of another Old Spire mansion, but was kicked out when "the original owner" took possession. Then, after a while, it, being 1947, everything fades to black.

When they get sick of the Jazz Hole, a comparatively easy thing to do, Pudge and Magnum decide to get a tour of Downtown, the hippest ward in the city. Pudge calls up Mary Wheels, a tough dame taxi driver he knows, and when she arrives, he and Magnum climb aboard. They get re-familiarized with Downtown and discover that Wheels thinks that only Pollack Stan from Popeton and Ray Fickes from Broadly are likely have the nerve and the crews to pull off the bomb part heist from the railroad. They wind things up in Downtown and ride back to Old Spire to get Pudge's car.

Chapter 3: A Warranted Conflict

Since they had no idea where Melman had gotten to, Pudge and Magnum took Pudge's car back to the agency, so Magnum might get his jeep and drive home. When they pulled up to the Piney Joe's building, they saw that the lobby door was open and the lights on their office's story hallway were on.

Pudge and Magnum creep up and get the drop on 2 city cops standing in front of the McNulty office. The cops show a search warrant, that looks legit to Pudge and was signed by Judge Preston and demand that they put down their guns and surrender. Pudge complies (although he has no gun), but Magnum flees down the stairs and out into the night. As Pudge is being handcuffed, Magnum continues to flee around the building but noticed that there was no police vehicle anywhere nearby, only a sketchy panel van.

Magnum, with the shotgun retrieved from his jeep, takes up position behind the van. When the cops are bringing Pudge around the corner toward the van, Magnum shoots and wounds one of them (Bob Myers). The second cop (Red Thompson), runs to cover at the corner of the building, firing but missing Magnum. Pudge takes off running and hides behind the van with Magnum, while the wounded Myers flees in the opposite direction toward the front of the building.

Magnum shoots the tire of the van with his shotgun and then flees into the alley nearby. Pudge jumps into the driver's seat of the van and starts it up. Red Thompson, however, shoots Pudge with his revolver, but Pudge manages to keep going. Myers reaches the front of the building, only to run into Melman getting out of a cab.

Despite the shot-up tire, Pudge runs down Thompson in the van, bruising him. Magnum continues to hide in the alley and Melman captures Myers. Thompson misses his next shot at Pudge. However Pudge brings the fight to a close by running over Thompson as he tries to escape, killing him.

Magnum gets the key and unlocks Pudge's handcuffs and Pudge throw's Thompson's body into the back of the van. Melman hauls Myers up to the office, locks him up and interrogates him. Myers reveals that Myers and Thompson weren't cops at all, but were gangsters in stolen uniforms working for Ray Fickes. They were sent to murder Melman and Magnum in revenge for them killing his man Mike Forest and queering the heroin deal. He also reveals that a round wooden token with a purple "O" on one side and the words "City of Oswego Transit System" on the other, is used as a recognition sign. Fickes's gang had just gotten these in the last few months when Fickes signed up with a highly secret major outfit. It's said that certain other gangs, some cops, some members of the county and city government will covertly help members who show the token.

As Magnum drives the van a few blocks on the damaged tire, Pudge searches Thompson's body. He finds the warrant and snatches it up. When they've gone a couple of blocks they park in an alley and begin to change the tire, to the sound of cop sirens responding to the gun shots. Melman, meanwhile gags Myers, locks up the building and turns off the lights.

Chapter 4: A Fevered Dream

While Magnum and Pudge are changing the van's tire, Pudge faints from the blood loss from his bullets wound. In his semi-conscious state, Pudge dreams that a cop car has cornered them. The cop first asks about whether they heard the gun shots, which he and Dream-Magnum deny. Then the cop, Dream-Clancy, asks about the shotgun damage to the tire, which dream-Magnum denies that to be that. Then Dream-Clancy notices the blood smear from Thompson across the hood. Pudge starts to panic about the body in a cop's uniform and the warrant in his own pocket. Finally, Dream-Magnum points out to Dream-Clancy Pudge's bullet wound, from the gun shot they never heard. Luckily, the dream terror was so great that it snapped Pudge back to consciousness.

Chapter 5: Clean-Up

Pudge and Magnum drive the van to the river and dump it and Thompson's body into the water. When they have trudged back to the office and met up with Melman, they all nail Myers into a crate drive him over to Fickes's lair at the Jazz Pit and dump him off there. Rather than trying to get a good night's rest at the miserable flophouse where he lives in Popeton, Pudge crashes in Melman's house in River View, while Magnum enjoys a night cap at his fancy apartment in Uptown Heights. In the morning, after a swell breakfast of eggs, bacon, a short stack and a cup of joe at the River View Diner, Pudge is feeling much better.