

Session/Game: Private Dicks-4 **Date:** June 24, 2026
#4: The Case of the Heisted Bombs Part 2: Scone Hag Triumphant
Campaign Date: March, 1947, Week 2

The McNulty Agency:

Richard Eric Magnum (Craig)
Rangeley Wade Melman (Bob)
Palmela Hansbury (Andrew)
Pudge Matheson (Pete)
Remington Monroe IV (Adam)

Judge: Dave N.

Prologue

The office front door was open and the reception room looked like it had fought a wrestling match with a crocodile and lost. No sign of Madeline except her note pad for phone messages. The pad was wadded up and shoved into a heating vent near the door, while the phone was yanked out of the wall and hung by its cord from the ceiling fan. You got the feeling that somebody both wanted something and didn't like you.

Log:

March 8

Morning

The dicks arrive at the McNulty Agency Office and find that the reception room had been ransacked. They search the place and find Madeline's phone memo pad shoved into a vent with the top four pages having been crudely torn off. Pudge does the old pencil trick and finds that the last message had said "Tell 'em Chopper called." They find the other three pages among the refuse about the room. One said "Mary Headline called for Magnum—PISSSED." The other two were about the phone bill and an exterminator appointment.

Rangeley checks in with Max Sheinbaum, accountant up the hall, but he hadn't noticed anything. Pudge chats with Wilson Smith, the insurance guy across the hall who says that the agency door was open when he got in early in the morning and suggests strongly that the dicks need some good renter's insurance. Lomax the locksmith wasn't in, and nobody wanted to talk with the dentist. Palmela straightens up the ransacking and organizes the papers. Magnum calls Mary Headline who chewed him out thoroughly for letting her get scooped on the crate recovery when he promised her an exclusive. When Rangeley gets back, he examines the files, he discovers that the section of the tax files that had all the agency employees' addresses and other personal information was gone.

The team began to worry for their safety, but more so for Madeline who had never shown up at the office (hence there was no coffee) and wasn't answering her home phone. They began to put together a search plan when she called them from a drugstore in the Factory District. The crew piled into Pudge's sedan and headed to pick her up.

On their way down, in Center City, the car is pulled over by a sheriff's cruiser. County Detective Bart Barshinger and 2 deputies order them all out of the sedan and vigorously remind Magnum that he was supposed to go see Barshinger to answer questions about the McCrory's shooting from several weeks ago, Magnum agrees to drop by that afternoon.

They pick up Madeline at the Factory District drugstore and get her story. She had been kidnapped the night before (on her way home from a delightful Bob Hope movie) by a maniacally laughing guy who shoved her head in a sack, tied her up, and rifled through her handbag. He had taken all her money, except for the nickle she kept in her shoe for emergencies and also the key to the McNulty Agency front door. He dumped her behind some garbage cans at a weld shop across from the drug store. They question her thoroughly and eventually under their prompting, she realizes that the kidnapper's voice was the same as the "Chopper" who had called Friday afternoon.

They search the area around the garbage cans. Some greasy kids offer to help them look for a dollar, but they shoe them away. They do discover another of the round wooden tokens with a purple O on one side and "Oswego Transit Service" on the other.

They drive back to River View. First they drop Madeline at home, giving her the rest of the day off. Then they go to check out Rangeley's house to make sure that the mysterious Chopper hadn't set a bomb or anything there, but it was clear.

Afternoon:

The detectives decide to split up and settle some business and chase up some clues.

Remmy and Magnum go to the courthouse and manage to alienate D.A. Sanford Townsend and further alienate Barshinger (both of them were nervous fellows). Magnum and Remington did prevail on the point that an openly carried shotgun didn't need a concealed carry permit. However, Magnum tried to play the veteran card with Barshinger, who wasn't having it as he was one too. Then Magnum claimed that no one in the office ever told him about Barshinger's visit, which Barshinger didn't believe. Then Magnum claimed that he was spooked because 2 fake sheriff's deputies had tried to assault him; this was wrong (they were fake city cops—see Case File 2) and was damned foolish, since until that moment law enforcement hadn't connected the gunfire in River View on February 22nd with the McNulty Agency (despite Pudge's fever dream to the contrary), but now they do, Magnum and Remmy were allowed to leave, but reports are flying from the county detectives to the city police.

Meanwhile, across the street at city police H.Q., Palmela and Pudge arrive to meet Palmela's friend Detective Johnny Slam. An aggressive drunk breaks free of some lazy Irish cops and tried to smash Palmela, but Pudge and the cops beat him down. After a brief conversation about scones (which Pudge commented were just a trick to get people to eat tasteless wood) Palmela asks Slam about the mysterious "Chopper." Slam reveals that Chopper is an infamous hitman known for pushing old ladies in wheelchairs down the stairs and shooting guys to ribbons with a tommy gun. He does a lot of jobs in the city, but doesn't live here between contracts.

Rangeley takes the bus to Popeton to see Timski and Momma Mary. Momma doesn't know anything about anyone named Chopper, but does prepare the to-go order of perogi and sausage for Pudge. Rangeley throws Reliable Timski 50 cents and rides back to the office.

Evening:

All 5 of the McNulty crew headed over to *Gentlemen Prefer Jazz* in Center City to enjoy their evenings.

Pudge kicks it on the trumpet up on stage with with *Carmine Dupris and the Jazzy 4* and gives one of best public performances yet. He's is button holed by a sharp-dressed business man from the audience who warns him that he had heard Randy Spire, the county Recorder of Deeds say about the McNulty dicks that they were lawless ruffians and should be put down like mad dogs.

Rangely ran into Brenda Lovely again and bought her a few drinks. He asked if she had seen Ray Fickes at her job at the Pawn Baron. She said that Fickes had been in a pawned a punch of silver and gold objects last week. He asks if he could stop by to check what address he had used and she suggested that her place was real close to the shop and he could get to the shop easily from her place first thing in the morning when it opened. Fade to black.

Meanwhile, Palmela was minding her business at the bar, enjoying the music of the poors. However, her peace was disturbed by a certain Sondra Hacks, wife a distinguished banker, who confronted her and accused her of trying to steal her husband. Drinks were thrown, slaps were slapped, insults hurled. Sondra went as far as calling Palmela a scone hag. When the monumental dame fight was finished, Sondra was defeated and begging for mercy.

While Magnum was busy doing something close to nothing, Remington runs into his pal Johnny Spats, a crackerjack insurance salesman from Spire Insurance. They talk a little bit about the Bomb Parts Case. Spats lets it drop that buzz from the claims adjusters was that Pollack Stan was spotted stopping in Down Town on the night of the robbery, but the confirmation wasn't strong.

After the excitement of the Pudge performance and the dame fight, everyone except Rangeley went home, Pudge crashing at Rangeley's empty house.

Day 9

Morning:

Rangeley talking with Brenda strolls into *The Pawn Baron* first thing in the morning. Brenda pointed out Spire Manor, the location of her former flat, which now had been restored to its mansion like splendor by Randy Spire. While Brenda started work and searched for Fickes' address on the pawn tickets, Rangeley wasted the boss' (Mr. Barone) time and distracted him. Unfortunately, Fickes had used the Jazz Pitt as his address on the tickets. So there was no new information.

Remington and Pudge drive down to Popeton to look up Remington's pal Johnny Dice, a no-account gambler. Dice was familiar with Pollack Stan and his cousins. Stan had 8 cousins in town, four of whom were the Wonski brothers.

Rangeley goes to see Momma Mary at Sausage Time again. She confirms that the 4 Wonski brothers were cousins of Pollack Stan (through his sister Elvira) and his other 4 cousins were named Volski (through his 3 brothers). All of the cousins live in Popeton.

After Rangeley reports in, Palmela stakes out Spire Manor and spots Randy Spire leaving in his chauffeured Cadillac. Later she sees a package delivery man bring a box to the door and it being received by a fancy butler.

Magnum stays in the office to work the phone. He orders flowers for Mary Headline, and sends the roses with an apology note.

Afternoon

Pudge checks in with Mary Wheels, but she can't provide any new information about the night of the heist in Downtown.

Palmela and Rangeley go to the railroad passenger depot and try to see if the robbers had left a crate in the passenger baggage check room. The clerk was both kind of thick but also cruel and unbending. When they tried to bribe him, he stole their money. They did manage to find a crumpled claim ticket and get their hands on a random suitcase, but it didn't really help. They gave up and went back to the office. Now, whether robbing the railroad freight terminal

and then hiding some of the stolen goods in the passenger station of the same railroad would have been a genius move or deeply stupid is hard to judge.

While Magnum sat around the office drinking coffee, Remington headed down to Downtown to talk to his police pal Sgt Johnny Lawson. He had no records of arrests for any of the cousins or anyone suspicious on the night of the heist. Lawson and Remington discussed who might have hidden the crate for Stan in Downtown, Lawson said that lots of people in Downtown owe Pepperello, the Pittsburgh mafia loan shark and associate of Stan, a whole lot of money and one of them might have a reason to hide something for him.

The detectives all rendezvoused at the office in the end of the afternoon to decide whether that night would be business or jazz...