

JACK NOIR

A comic by

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Panel 1 - Int. Motel Room -- From above we see a double-bed, side table and upright dresser -- The one window casts a lattice beam of light on the bed to reveal a red-headed woman on her side and a man on his back staring at the ceiling -- The sheet covers them to their waist -- She is naked and he wears a 'wife-beater' white tank -- Clothing is strewn about on the floor.

CAPTION:
New York City 1925

CAPTION:
"How did I get here?"

CAPTION:
"I've been in this room a hundred times. But not exactly this room.

Panel 2 - Same -- The man now sits on the edge of the bed with his head in his hands.

CAPTION:
"Cheap perfume, stale booze and rank sweat.

CAPTION:
"I never remember their names.

CAPTION:
"Babe. I call them all Babe.

Panel 3 - Same - The man is standing and has one leg in a pair of trousers and is balancing to get the other leg.

CAPTION:
"It always helps to retrace my steps.

Panel 4 - Ext. Deck of a ship - A boy (6) holds the hands of a well-dressed woman and a dapper gentleman (60) that points to the Statue of Liberty with the New York skyline in the distance.

CAPTION:
"I came from London with me Mum and Grampy Jack in 1888.

Panel 5 - Ext. New York Street -- The boy plays stick ball with other kids on a tree lined street -- His mother waves from the steps of an upper-class brownstone building.

CAPTION:

"Grampy had retired as a physician of the Royals and set us up quite nicely in New York.

Panel 6 - Ext. The boy is bent over to pick up his ball by an alleyway -- A prostitute looks to proposition him with her skirt pulled up to show a bare leg -- Her head is back in laughter with ugly teeth -- The boy has a horrified expression.

CAPTION:

"The working girls were everywhere back then.

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Panel 1 - Int. Harvard Medical School -- The boy has grown to a handsome young man -- He stands at a stainless steel table with a cadaver -- He looks down, wide-eyed, with a look of disgust and curiosity.

CAPTION:

"Grampy pulled some strings and was able to get me into Harvard Medical School.

Panel 2 - Ext. Harvard Graduation Ceremony -- The young man and all the other graduates toss their caps into the air in celebration.

CAPTION:

"Even though I graduated bottom of the class, I was now a Harvard Doctor of Medicine.

Panel 3 - Int. Graduation Party -- The young man is drunk -- He's cornered and is getting very close to a sorority girl that is equally tipsy.

CAPTION:

"That night I met Tiffany. We went back to my room.

Panel 4 - Int. Dorm Room -- Tiffany is naked under the covers with the sheet pulled up to her shoulders -- She has one hand pointing and the other up to her mouth as she laughs.

TIFFANY:
Tee-Hee!

CAPTION:
"It didn't go that well for either of us.

Panel 5 - Ext. Dark Alleyway -- The young man propositions a prostitute -- A medical bag is at his feet.

CAPTION:
"From then on, I stuck to humorless women.

Panel 6 - Ext. Dark Alleyway -- It's many years later and the youth is gone -- The man propositions a red-headed prostitute -- A medical bag at his feet.

CAPTION:
"Tonight was no different.

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Panel 1 - Int. Motel Hallway -- The red headed prostitute has a hand on his butt and points to his medical bag at his feet while he fumbles the key in the door.

RED HEAD:
What's in the bag?

MAN:
Toys.

Panel 2 - Int. Motel Room -- Close-up profile of the man's face as he bites his lip -- His expression is a cross between ecstasy and effort.

MAN:
Ungh!

CAPTION:
"The inevitable climax to the evening.

Panel 3 - Same -- The man, now fully dressed, is seated on the edge of the bed -- Elbows on his knees, he leans forward to think.

CAPTION:
"Leaving is the hardest part.

CAPTION:
"Especially on the right terms.

Panel 4 - Same -- The man lightly pats the hip of the woman.

CAPTION:

"I'm always afraid that they'll wake.

MAN:

It's not you...

Panel 5 - In the foreground we finally see the woman's face: Her eyes are open and glassy and her throat is cut -- In the background, the man is framed and silhouetted in the doorway -- He carries the medical bag in one hand and places a fedora on his head with the other.

MAN:

...it's me.

CAPTION:

"I often wonder what Grampy Jack would think.

CAPTION:

End