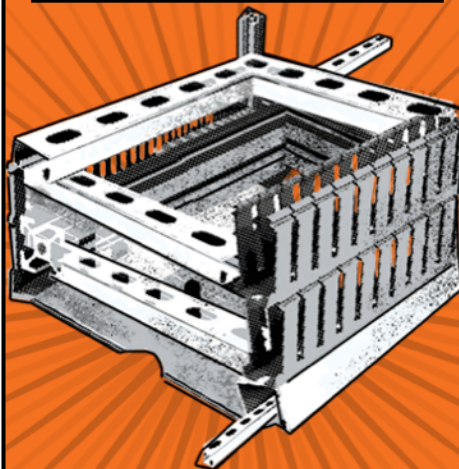
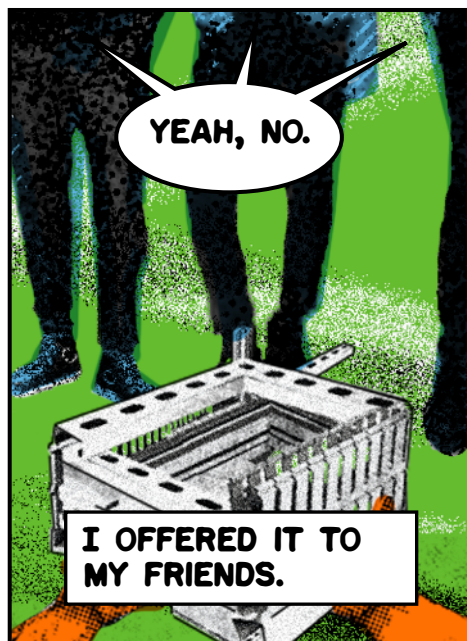


THE FALCONER

IT WAS JUST THE THING!



YEAH, NO.



I OFFERED IT TO MY FRIENDS.

I OFFERED IT TO THE CHEF.

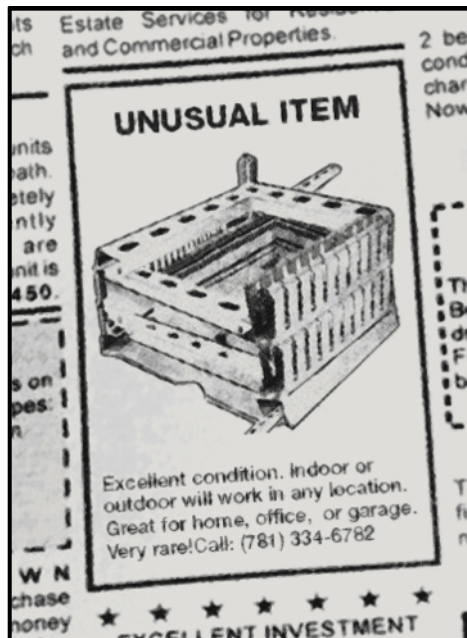
SEE, YOU CAN STORE COOKING THINGS...AND...

NO.

I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THIS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM. THIS WAS A ONE OF A KIND ITEM! IT MUST BE WORTH A FORTUNE!

IT AT LEAST HAD TO GO TO A GOOD HOME.

I FINALLY PUT AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NEWSPAPER.

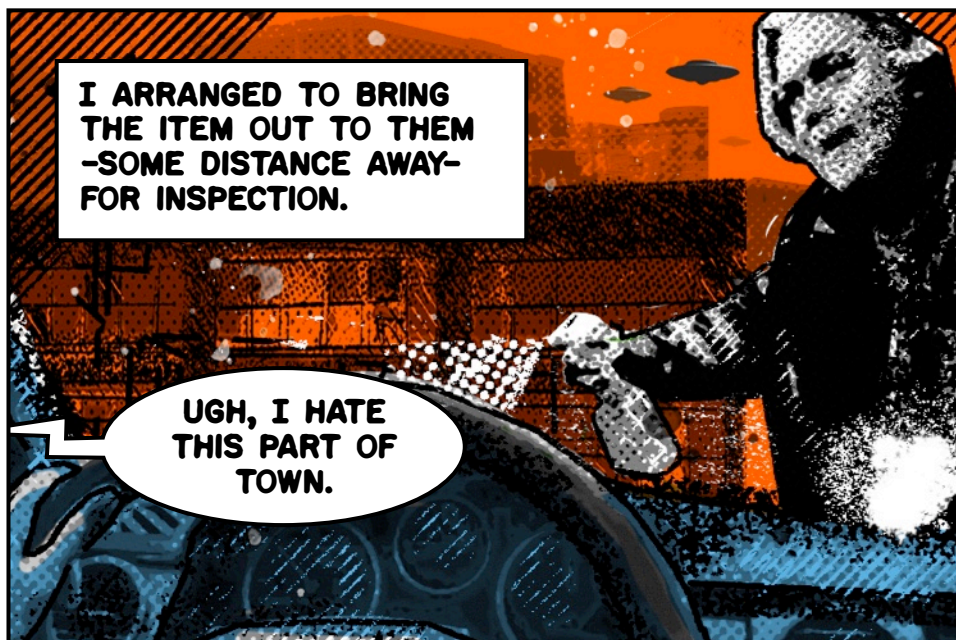


SOON, I WAS CONTACTED BY AN INTERESTED PARTY.

I ARRANGED TO BRING THE ITEM OUT TO THEM -SOME DISTANCE AWAY- FOR INSPECTION.

UGH, I HATE THIS PART OF TOWN.

THEY CALLED THEMSELVES "THE FALCONER".



THEY WERE WAITING
AT THE ARRANGED
LOCATION.



BUT SEEMED
HESITANT AND
UNINTERESTED.



WE THINK YOU
WANT HIM.

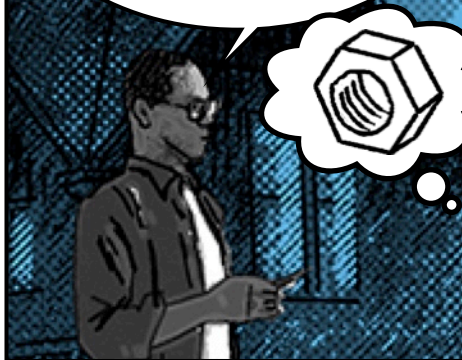


I AM THE ONE THEY
CALL "THE FALCONER".

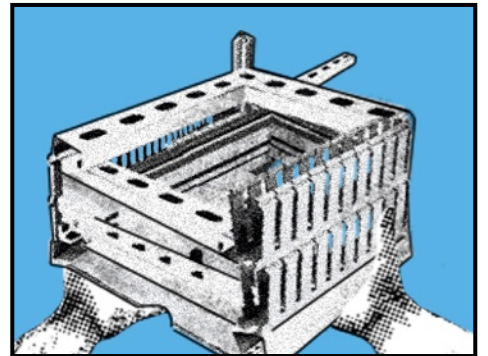


AH.

I AM SORRY FOR
THE ELABORATE
RUSE, BUT FOR
SECURITY
PURPOSES, IT
MUST BE SO.



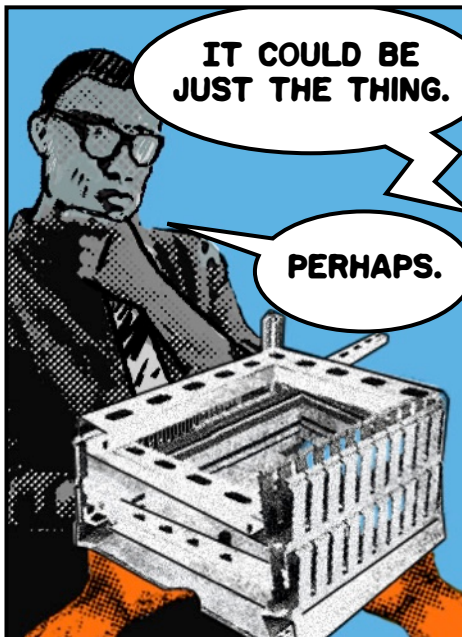
OK, WELL, HERE IT IS.



HMM.



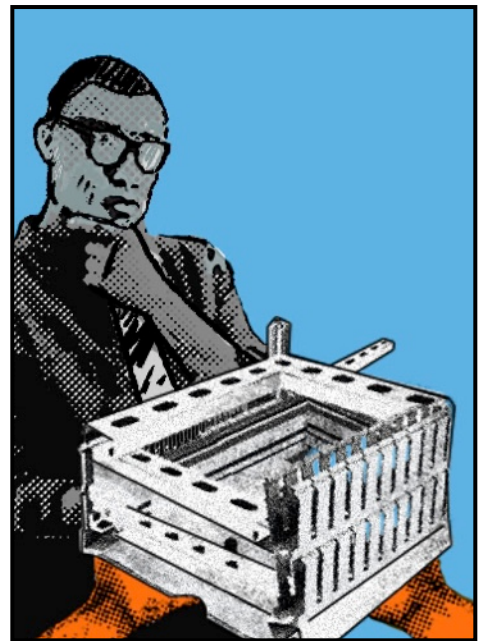
IT COULD BE
JUST THE THING.



PERHAPS.

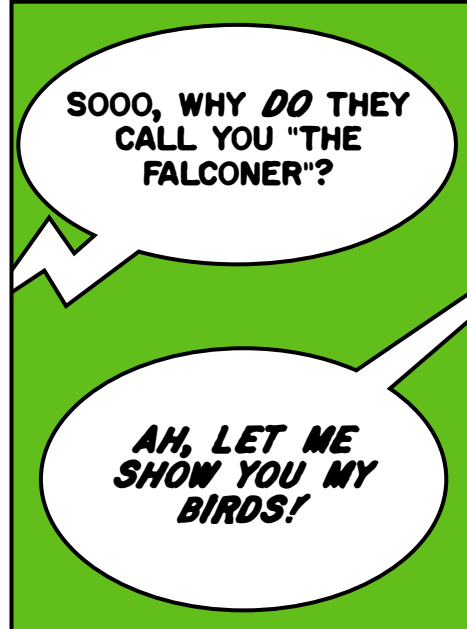
I'LL NEED TO
EXAMINE IT
OVERNIGHT. YOU
CAN COME BACK
TOMORROW.





I WAS EXTREMELY IRRITATED. I HAD A GOOD MIND TO PACK UP MY BELONGINGS AND LEAVE.

SLOWLY, I COOLED OFF.





THE INTERIOR OF HIS HOUSE HAD BEEN CONVERTED TO AN IMMENSE AVIARY.

RAPTORS OF ALL VARIETIES SWOOPED AND DARTED INSIDE THE CAVERNOUS SPACE.

WOAH.



YOU WILL HAVE A CRAFT-BEER.

ER, THANKS.

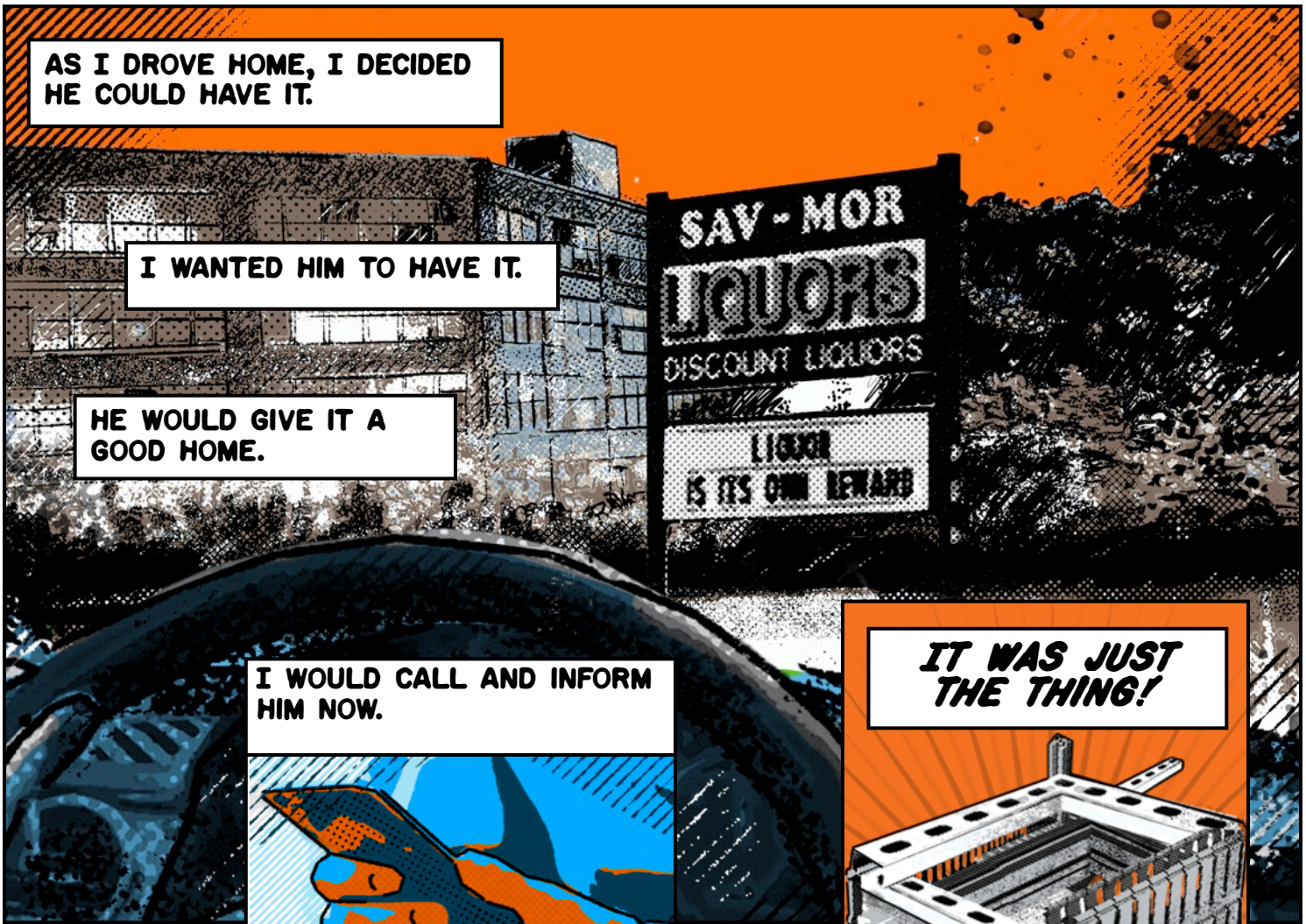
STRANGE AS HE WAS, I WAS BEGINNING TO LIKE THIS FALCONER.

WE SPENT THE AFTERNOON WITH HIS BIRDS AND HE ENLIGHTENED ME ON MANY ASPECTS OF AVIAN LIFE AND BEHAVIOR.

I TOOK MY LEAVE, FEELING MUCH BETTER ABOUT LEAVING MY ITEM IN HIS CAPABLE HANDS OVERNIGHT.



SEE YOU TOMORROW!

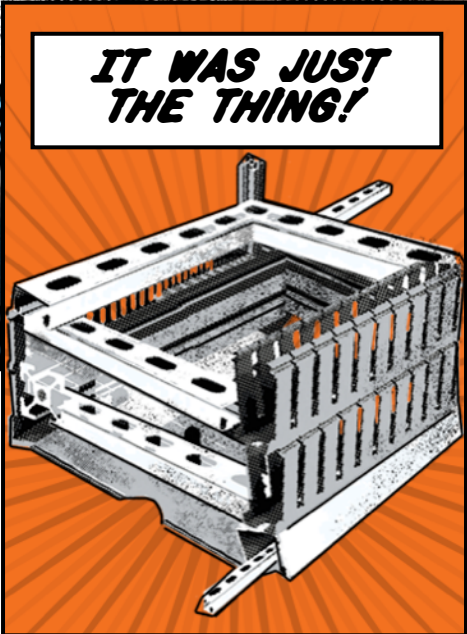


AS I DROVE HOME, I DECIDED HE COULD HAVE IT.

I WANTED HIM TO HAVE IT.

HE WOULD GIVE IT A GOOD HOME.

I WOULD CALL AND INFORM HIM NOW.



IT WAS JUST THE THING!