

HAVANA SPLIT

BRRÉMAUD • VIC MACIOCI

1. WELCOME TO CUBA

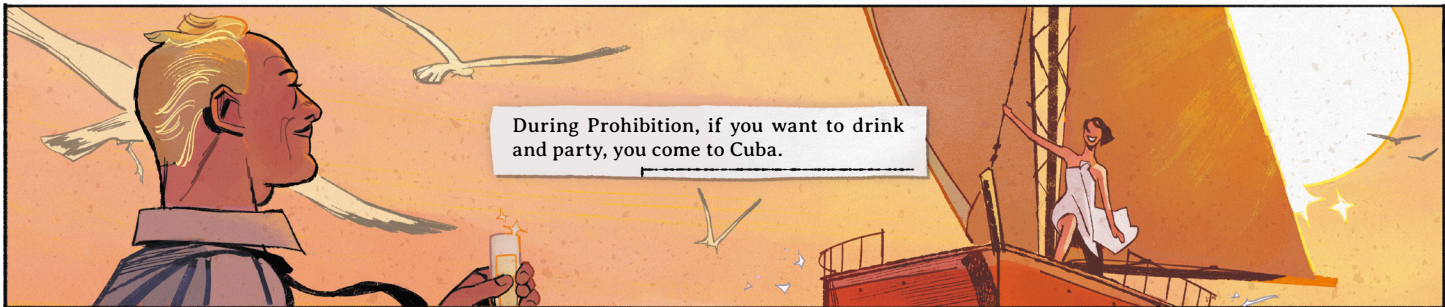


MAD CAVE®

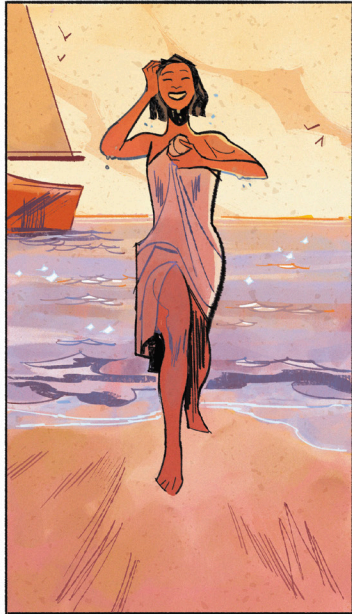
CUBA, 1928



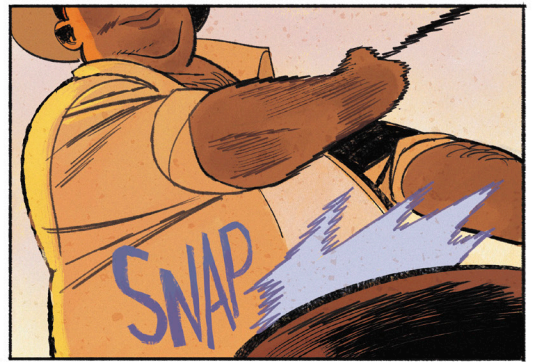
Bacardi ads invite tourists to escape the dry, alcohol-free United States.



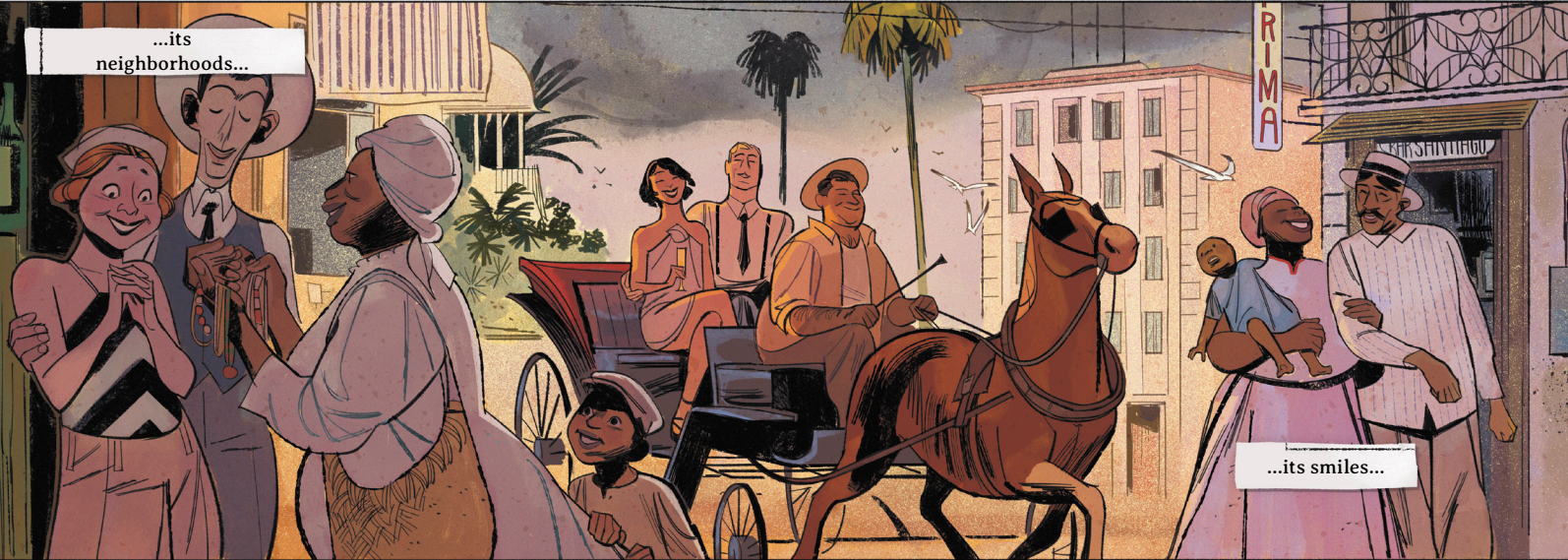
During Prohibition, if you want to drink and party, you come to Cuba.



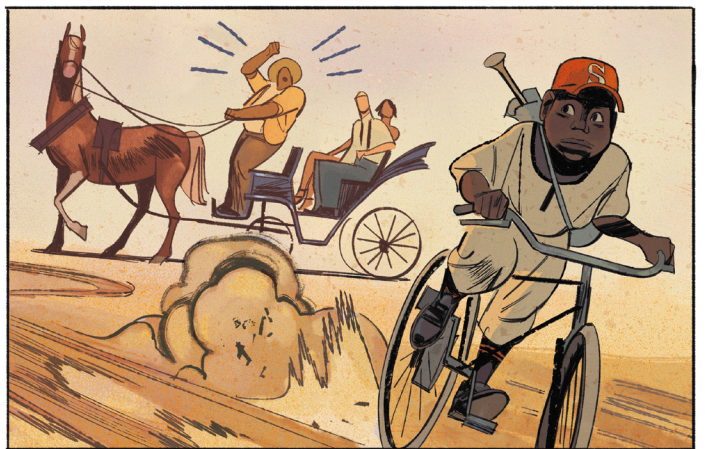
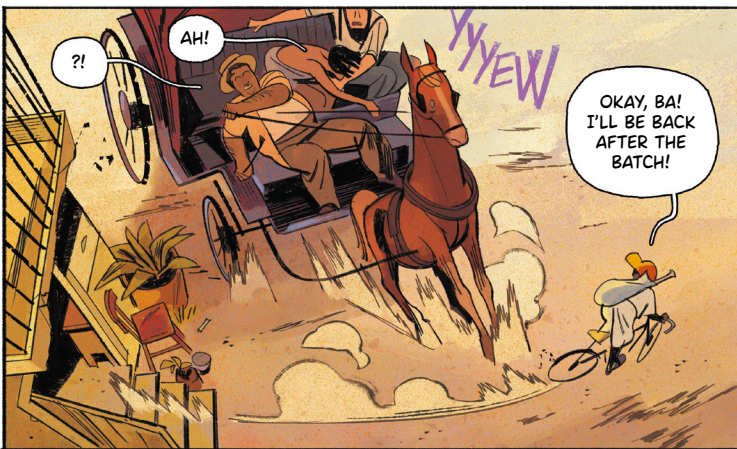
Cuba, with its beaches and mansions...



...its neighborhoods...



...its smiles...



...its local police...



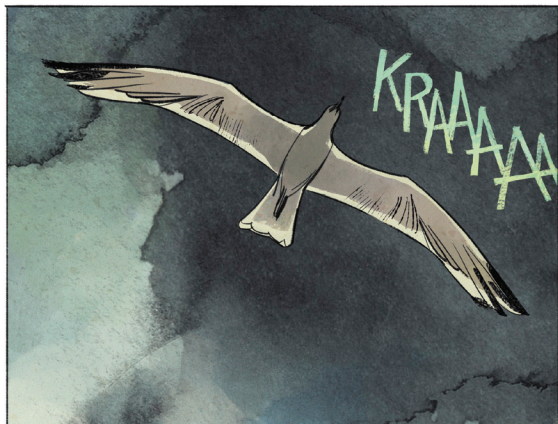
...its scents...



MMM...



KRAAAA



CRAP!



...its baseball fields...



YOU'RE LATE, YOUNG MAN!

IT AIN'T BY FAULT, SEÑOR!
I'B SIIICK!



The 1920s: the American-Cuban honeymoon. For better...



...and for worse!

1929

Democracy in Cuba is complicated. In 1929, President Gerardo Machado seeks reelection despite promising he wouldn't.



Why not, after all?

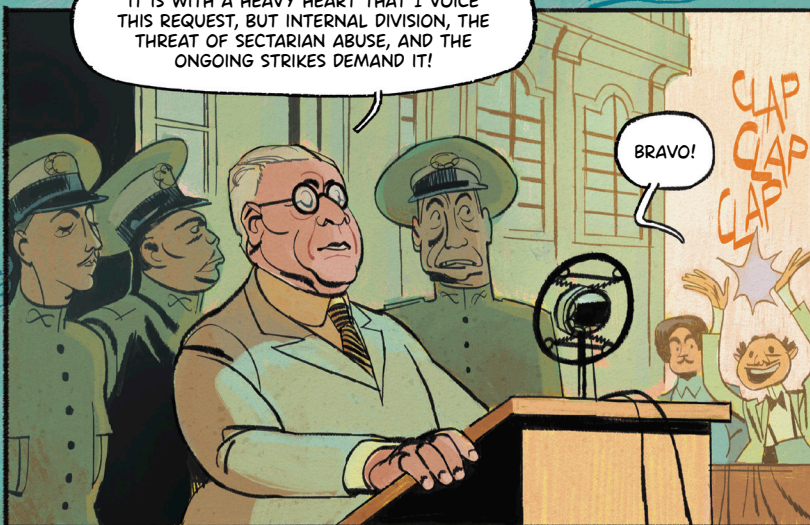


CUBA

IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I VOICE THIS REQUEST, BUT INTERNAL DIVISION, THE THREAT OF SECTARIAN ABUSE, AND THE ONGOING STRIKES DEMAND IT!

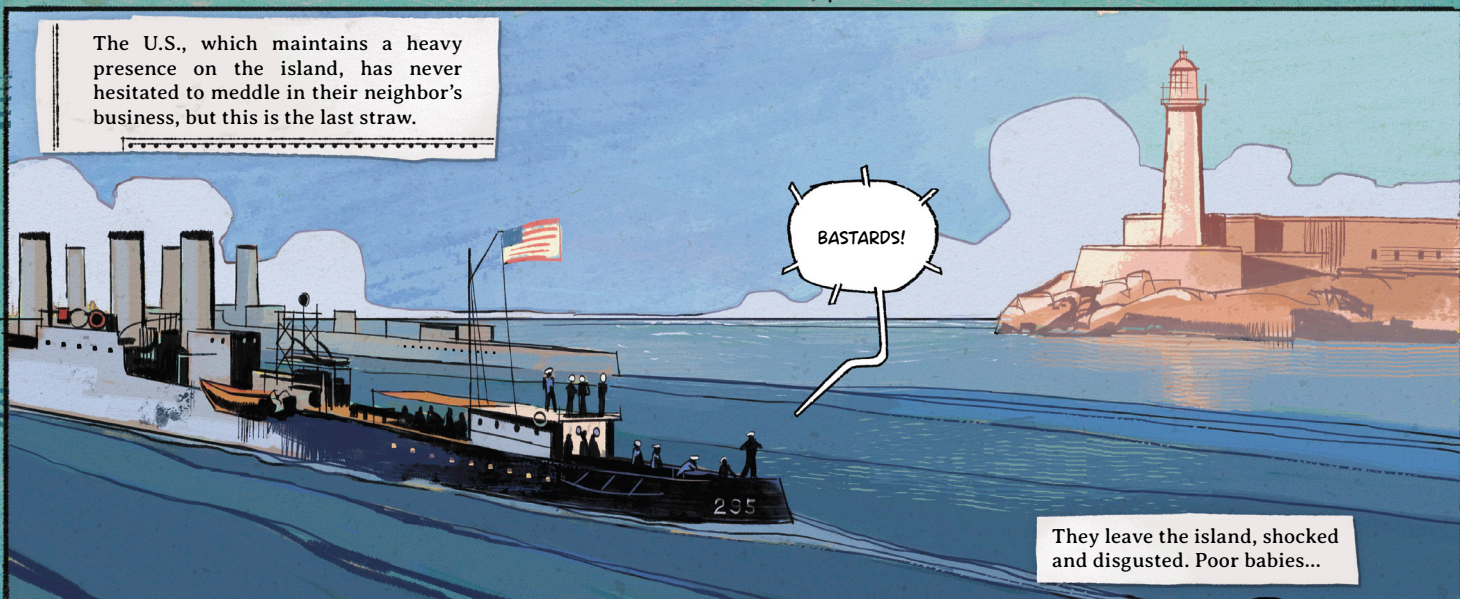
BRAVO!

Naturally, the opposition is against it, but Machado doesn't care. The Communists and the unions are hit hard, and the crackdown leads to hundreds of deaths.



The U.S., which maintains a heavy presence on the island, has never hesitated to meddle in their neighbor's business, but this is the last straw.

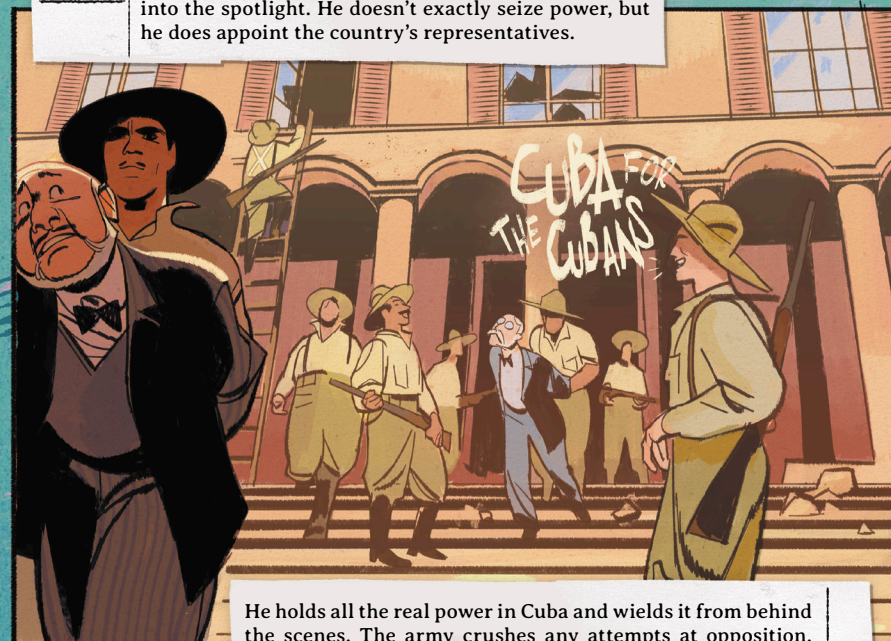
BASTARDS!



They leave the island, shocked and disgusted. Poor babies...

1933

The army rebels, and Machado flees. Fulgencio Batista, a sergeant and self-proclaimed colonel, steps into the spotlight. He doesn't exactly seize power, but he does appoint the country's representatives.



He holds all the real power in Cuba and wields it from behind the scenes. The army crushes any attempts at opposition, and puppet governments remain staunchly pro-American.



The worst part? It works, in a way. Despite the brutal repression, real social progress is achieved: women's suffrage, minimum wage, paid vacations, health insurance, unemployment benefits, social security...