

A3: The Shady Saloon - Final Comic

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What do you want to tell? What will happen?:

A detective will go to his favourite bar that is a local bar in the area, and vent to the bartender about a serial killer case, completely unaware that the bartender that is serving him is the exact killer he is looking for. While the bartender poisons him during the conversation.

Conflict and resolution:

The conflict is the detective Vince's hunt for the killer versus Price's hidden identity. The resolution is the death of the detective moments after the bar scene, allowing Price's identity to be hidden.

Persuasive point? Importance? Learn/Reflection?

The persuasive point is that tunnel vision can be fatal. People can overlook the situation even though they think they are in their comfort zones. The story shows readers to reflect on how easy it is to miss the truth when it is shown right in front of you.

Beginning:

Detective Vince enters the Shady Saloon, an old western-style bar in the city. He throws his confidential case on the bar and orders a whisky on the rocks for the bartender Price. As he starts venting to the bartender about the serial killer case he is working on.

Middle:

The detective describes the killer as a person who poisons their victims with an unidentified substance. As the bartender is serving the detective, he secretly poisons the detective's drink.

End:

Vince drinks the poisoned drink. As he connects the dots and finds out Price's true identity, the poison starts to take effect as it works its way through the blood. Then Vince reaches for his briefcase and runs away before it's too late. As he goes to start his car's engine, it is too late, and Price has already won.

Characters:

- Detective Vince - Brown moustache, short hair, beige trench coat, brown briefcase with red confidential stamp on it, with a tired posture.
- Price (Bartender) - Good posture, black vest, and button-up shirt with a ripped collar, with a silver belt and black pants. Black French curly moustache, black short side-parted hair.

Interactions - Price lets Vince do a lot of talking as he makes it seem like he is very busy cleaning and polishing glasses in the bar. Vince doesn't care to ask the bartender many questions unrelated to the case he's working on, as he is overwhelmed by it.

Scene:

Late-night midtown city bar with old orange lightning with the bar's sign in wood and orange neon saying "The Shady Saloon." Shadows of the characters are prominent, and the liquor bottles behind the bartender give just as much lighting as the few lightbulbs. Polished wood counters.

Actions:

The main actions will be Price mixing Vince's drink with a stir stick and him pouring poison in like it is salt. Also, Vince slamming his briefcase on his counter is a major action at the beginning of the story. The last major actions are Price swiping his briefcase off the counter, rushing out of his stool to the point where it falls down, slamming out the door and trying to start his car once he finds out who the killer really is.

Time:

A rainy night. Time can be shown as once the detective finds out who the killer is, a visual sound bubble of a lightning strike can happen.

Script:

Panel #	Description
1	Exterior of the Shady Shack bar with rain coming down, the neon sign glows
2	Interior of the bar, empty until detective Vince is introduced and is sitting at the counter Vince: "Get me a scotch on the rocks, Price"
3	Vince slams his wet, brown briefcase on the bar counter that has a big red confidential stamp on it. Price: "Rough night, eh, Vince?"
4	Price grabs the scotch bottle from the shelf behind him, which has hundreds of

	bottles. Vince: “Rough month, I’m looking for a ghost-man”
5	Price is pouring the scotch in a whiskey glass with one large ice cube. Price: Is it that “Creeping Death” killer the papers are talking about?
6	Price lays the drink down on the counter as Vince reaches for it. Vince: “Yeah...”
7	Vince is taking a big sip as he looks exhausted. Vince: “Four dead CEO’s in four weeks. The Autopsies looked like heart attacks...”
8	Close up on Price’s face, he looks interested but remains professional. Price: “And what did they find?”
9	Vince places his hand over his forehead with his elbow on the counter. Vince: “Polonium-210, some sort of chemical element, but it had been masked in drinks by aromatic bitters”
10	Price is peeling an orange peel and placing it into his metal cocktail shaker. Price: “Interesting... and you don't have any leads?”
11	Vince smirks and looks into his jacket pocket for a plastic bag with a piece of black, torn collar. Vince: “This was found at the last crime scene, not sure who it belongs to”
12	A close-up of Price’s eyes, frightened. Price: “Hmm, how are you so sure of its importance?”
13	Vince picks up his glass again. Vince: “It couldn’t have belonged to anyone but the killer when the last crime scene was investigated”
14	Price throws a cloth from behind the bar to cover his torn collar. Price: (to himself) “Wow, he must’ve been some clutz to not realise that”
15	Vince takes another big sip from his drink. Vince: “Uh huh... wait –achk (Vince chokes on his drink)
16	Vince slams his drink down and snatches off the cloth from Price. Vince “Oh my– the killer... It's you”
17	Vince snatched the briefcase and dashed out of the bar, slamming through the doors and knocking down the stool. Vince: Self thought, “I can't believe myself, how could I be so foolish?”
18	Vince reaches for his keys and gets in his vintage square-body sedan. He goes to

	start the car with his keys, and instantly, he grabs his chest hard. Vince: “achhhkkkk”
19	Final scene of a flashback of Price preparing his drink, but adding a salt-like substance to his drink.

*Gemini (Generative AI) was used to create the visuals.

*Panel script may not be aligned with comics.

References

Google. (2026). Gemini (April 2 version) [Large language model]. <https://gemini.google.com>