

Boss Ralphie

...continued from page 18 asked Ariel. "Bugsy Sullivan." Moans of discord filled the space. "That guy? He's nothing but take. He has absolutely no clue. One of my crew had to watch him once---he stole the cash box from a Girl Scout cookie sale. You don't have a chance Ralphie, all that Sullivan guy ever sees is himself," said Gabe.

"That may be true, but that's the job," said Ralphie. "Well, it is the Kid's birthday tomorrow and everybody knows that the Kid has a soft spot for thieves. Not too big a surprise there. Maybe Bigz wants to give this guy a break as a present for the Kid. But Ralphie, this thief, this Sullivan guy, he's a lost cause. We've had meetings about him---he's a write off guy. I think you're getting set up," said Mikey.

As Mikey finished speaking Finch, the new angel who would assist in the assignment with Ralphie, showed up. "So," said Finch as he swaggered into the place, "we're going to the mattresses are we?"

Ralphie and Finch stood in a dimly lit alley a few feet away from a large brick home where a man had half way squeezed himself into a basement window.

"That's him, Finch. That's our boy," said Ralphie. "Not exactly your humanitarian type, is he?" Finch replied.

"There's always room for change, Finch. You should know that," said Ralphie.

"Yeah, change. The Jello of the soul. And there's always

room for Jello," replied Finch, "I just hope this guy doesn't have Jello in the head."

"Let's get to work," Ralphie said as he moved toward the man. He could see the thief struggle to worm his way into the window that was just a little bit too small for him. Ralphie came up to him and nudged the man's leg with his foot.

"You need some help, buddy?" he asked.

The man stopped struggling to get into the window, and after a moment of pause, began to work his way out. When he was fully out, he stood and looked at the two men standing in front of him.

"Oh, hey guys. I...lost my keys to the door, and...I was just trying to get in," said the thief.

"Now Bugsy, let's not get all wrapped up in lame stories. And we always had you pegged as a second story guy," said Ralphie.

Bugsy Sullivan, a life long thief, looked at Ralphie in a quizzical way.

"Do I know you, pal?" he said.

"No, but I know you, and I know you don't live here and you know the people who do live here have gone out and you also know there's a lot of expensive gifts inside that you have the intention of stealing."

Bugsy Sullivan realized he was nabbed. It wasn't the first time and it wouldn't be the last. Came with the territory. You got pinched on occasion, but there were worse criminals out there and a B&E charge in Philadelphia was an easy wrap to get out of.

"I'm just getting mine, okay pal. If you're cops then arrest me, but spare me the lecture. I've

heard it before," he said. Ralphie smiled at the thief. "No man, we're not cops, we're angels," he said.

Bugsy Sullivan looked at the two men and he realized what was going on and he knew there was only one thing to do. He took off running down the alley faster than he had ever run before. He looked over his shoulder to see the two crazy guys still standing there.

"Got ourselves a runner," said Finch.

"Yep, I hate it when they run," replied Ralphie.

Five blocks away, Bugsy Sullivan stopped running and leaned against the graffiti covered cinderblock wall surrounding a grade school. He had run flat out and was panting heavily. His hands were on his knees and he watched his steamy breath go into the cold night. He looked up and in the glow of a street light he could see a light snow fall.

"You're fast, Bugsy," came the voice from his left. Ralphie and Finch were standing there smiling. The thief looked over with disbelief---they were not there a second ago. He took off running again.

"Does this happen all the time?" asked Finch.

"Sometimes," replied Ralphie.

"You'd think there would be an easier way," said Finch.

"Yeah, you'd think so wouldn't you, but then again this guy has a lot to run from," said Ralphie. They caught up with Bugsy Sullivan again as he leaned against a panel truck a few more blocks away. He was still panting heavily. Then he ran again. The angels showed up again. And again he ran. After running four times he gave up. He could run no further and

looked around exhausted at the snowflakes fluttering about in the darkness.

"You alright Bugsy?" asked Ralphie.

"I give up, I can't run anymore. I'll have a heart attack," the thief said.

"You gotta have a heart first, Bugsy," said Ralphie, "and in that department you are quite lacking."

"Who are you guys?" asked Bugsy. Neither man was breathing hard and he knew there was something very strange going on. But he couldn't run any further right now, he needed time to rest and think.

"Like I told you before, we're angels," said Ralphie. Bugsy Sullivan looked at them both, again with disbelief. "And what do you want with me?" he asked.

"Well, my friend, you have a task to accomplish. We're here to make sure you do it," said Ralphie.

"What the hell...." said the thief.

"That could be an option for you, buddy," said Finch.

"Why me? If you guys are angels, why can't you help some kid by yourselves?" Bugsy asked as his breath was coming back to him.

"Because that's not how it works. When Bigz give you a job, how he wants it done is how it has to be done. And right now the job is to get you to where you have to be, and then you have a job to do, and by doing this job you might even have the opportunity at a better life for yourself," Ralphie said.

"It's an offer you can't refuse," chimed in Finch.

"What's a Bigz?" asked the thief.

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Crafty Christmas Gift

My dear friends and family, Somewhat embarrassing to admit but Christmas will be tight this year. I will be making bedroom slippers for you all as gifts. Please let me know your sizes. You'll most likely agree that it's a splendid idea, and should you wish to do the same, I've included the instructions below.

How to make bedroom slippers out of maxi pads: You need four maxi pads to make a pair. Two of them get laid out flat, for the foot part. The other two wrap around the toe area to form the top. Tape or glue each side of the top pieces to the bottom of the foot part.

Decorate the tops with whatever you desire, silk flowers (this is most aesthetically appealing), etc.

- * Soft and Hygienic
- * Non-slip grip strips on the soles
- * Built in deodorant feature keeps feet smelling fresh
- * No more bending over to mop up spills
- * Disposable and biodegradable
- * Environmentally safe
- * Three convenient sizes: (1.) Regular, (2.) Light and (3.) Get out the Sand Bags.

Here is a photo of the first pair I made. Aren't they nifty?



Awaiting your response. It's crucial that I get your right size.

Thanks,
Your crafty friend

Read the continuation of this story in the next issue of the Coconut Telegraph due out January 1st.