

1 YOURS TRULY, JOHNNY DOLLAR

2 The First Edition Matter

3
4 Written by Michael Wheeler

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12
13 **CAST:** **ANNCR**
14 **JOHNNY**
15 **PAT MCCRACKEN** **Universal Adjustment Bureau**
16 **BUTLER**
17 **PRESTON WALKER** **Publisher**
18 **LUDLOW** **Assistant**
19 **SARAH** **Wife**
20 **LT. DOLAN** **Chief Detective**
21 **SGT. BRANNIGAN** **Police Detective**
22 **BEALS** **Burglar**
23 **BIGGERSTAFF** **Forger - English Accent**
24 **MAID**
25 **WAITRESS**

1 ANNCR From Seattle - Live!

2 SFX TELEPHONE RING -- PICKUP

3 JOHNNY Johnny Dollar.

4 PAT (FILTER) Hi Johnny. Glad I caught you in. It's Pat
5 McCracken, Universal Adjustment Bureau. I
6 need--

7 JOHNNY Sorry, Patsy. Save your breath -- I've got
8 a date with a trout.

9 PAT (FILTER) But, Johnny--

10 JOHNNY No buts! The cabin's already rented; the
11 guide is booked. Paid in advance. I was
12 halfway out the door when the phone rang. I
13 knew I should have just kept going.

14 PAT (FILTER) Come on, Johnny. It's only a fish.

15 JOHNNY (PAINED) Oh, Patsy!

16 PAT (FILTER) Could I possibly interest you in a nice King
17 Salmon instead?

18 JOHNNY (PAUSE) Well, now, that's a fish of a
19 different color. Okay, I'm not hanging up.

20 PAT (FILTER) From what I hear, they grow 'em pretty big
21 in Seattle. As long as you're going to be
22 out there anyway, I could stake you to a day
23 or two of salmon fishing.

24 JOHNNY I have the cabin booked for a week.

25 PAT (FILTER) (PLEADING) Johnny!

26 JOHNNY Refresh my memory, Patsy. Did I just call
27 you?

28 PAT (FILTER) All right, all right! A week, then! If you
29 can sort this mess out, you'll deserve it.

30 JOHNNY Dust off your checkbook and get out your
31 pen. I'll be right over.

32 MUSIC: OPENING THEME - FADE FOR

1 **ANNCR:** Live from Historic Pioneer Hall in Seattle,
2 Washington, American Radio Theater presents
3 an original production, featuring America's
4 fabulous free lance insurance investigator,
5 the man with the action packed expense
6 account --

7 **JOHNNY** Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar.

8 **MUSIC** THEME UP AND OUT

9 **JOHNNY** To Pat McCracken, Universal Adjustment
10 Bureau from special investigator, Johnny
11 Dollar. The following is an account of
12 expenses in connection with my investigation
13 of the First Edition Matter. Expense
14 account item number one: A buck and a
15 quarter, cab fare to your office.

16 **SFX** DOOR KNOCK

17 **PAT** Come on in, Johnny.

18 **SFX** FOOTSTEPS - DOOR CLOSE - FOOTSTEPS

19 **JOHNNY** Well, Pat, what is it you've got for me that
20 rates an all expense paid fishing trip to
21 the great American northwest?

22 **PAT** A one million dollar headache is what I've
23 got.

24 **JOHNNY** Ouch!

25 **PAT** Ouch indeed. You've heard of J. Preston
26 Walker?

27 **JOHNNY** J. Preston Walker. Yeah - magazine
28 publisher, world traveler, multi-
29 millionaire.

30 **PAT** Collector.

31 **JOHNNY** Collector?

1 PAT Art, coins, stamps, antiquities. You name
2 it. I happen to know he has a dinosaur
3 skeleton on display in his foyer.

4 JOHNNY A dinosaur!

5 PAT Yep. A Tyrannosaur to be exact. And now
6 he's about to "collect" on a one million
7 dollar claim from Allied Indemnity.

8 JOHNNY That's a headache, all right. What's the
9 claim for?

10 PAT A book. Walker also collects rare books and
11 manuscripts. One of his prize holdings
12 turned up missing last week and Allied is on
13 the hook for the loss.

14 JOHNNY That's a big hook!

15 PAT Very. What's worse, the policy had only
16 been issued a little over a month before the
17 heist. If Allied didn't already insure a
18 few hundred other items in the collection,
19 I'd suspect J. Preston Walker, himself. So
20 far the police have come up empty handed.
21 You're experienced with these kind of things
22 so Allied wants you to go out there and see
23 if you can turn up something they might have
24 overlooked.

25 JOHNNY (SARCASTIC) I'm sure the Seattle PD will
26 appreciate the help.

27 PAT That's why Allied asked for you, personally,
28 Johnny. Because you're subtle.
29

1 MUSIC BRIDGE

2 JOHNNY Expense account item two, \$87.50, airfare to
3 Seattle. I arrived at Boeing Field late in
4 the day, but took a chance and called
5 Preston Walker on the telephone. He agreed
6 to see me that evening at his home. I
7 rented a car and checked into a hotel. I
8 just had time for a quick bite before
9 driving out to the Walker estate. It was a
10 huge mansion on top of a hill. The double
11 doors were eleven feet high, ornately carved
12 mahogany. (CONTINUES)

13 SFX KNOCK ON SUBSTANTIAL DOOR - DOOR OPENS

14 JOHNNY They were opened by a picture perfect butler
15 right out of central casting.

16 BUTLER Yes?

17 JOHNNY I'm Johnny Dollar, here to see-

18 BUTLER Yes, of course, sir. Come right this way,
19 Mr. Dollar. Mr. Walker is expecting you.

20 SFX FOOTSTEPS UNDER

21 JOHNNY (NARRATING) You were right, Patsy. Right
22 there in the foyer stood a 23 foot tall
23 Tyrannosaurus Rex. The floor was Italian
24 marble. So was the staircase to the second
25 floor. The walls were covered with
26 paintings by the Dutch Masters and there was
27 a houseplant potted in what I'd give odds
28 was a Ming dynasty vase.

29 SFX DOOR KNOCK - OPEN

30 BUTLER Mr. Dollar is here, sir.

31 WALKER (TERSE) Well, show him in.

1 **JOHNNY** (NARRATING) Walker was a big man whose
2 presence dominated the spacious room. He
3 was seated in a leather chair with an
4 oversized brandy in one hand and a cigar to
5 match in the other.

6 **WALKER** Sit down, Mr. Dollar. Sit down. Sarah,
7 make yourself useful for a change and get
8 Mr. Dollar a drink.

9 **JOHNNY** (NARRATING) Sarah - Mrs. Walker - was a
10 petite redhead with big brown eyes. She
11 looked like she belonged on a magazine
12 cover. She smelled good, too.

13 **SARAH** What can I get you, Mr. Dollar?

14 **JOHNNY** Um. Scotch, neat - thanks.

15 **SFX** POURING DRINK

16 **SARAH** Good choice.

17 **WALKER** So, Mr. Dollar, you're with Allied
18 Indemnity? I don't suppose you've brought
19 me a check?

20 **JOHNNY** No, sir. I'm not an adjuster.

21 **WALKER** I figured as much. Hotshot lawyer sent to
22 find some way to weasel out of paying off,
23 then, I suppose.

24 **JOHNNY** No, sir. I'm an investigator.

25 **WALKER** Investigator? What use do I have for an
26 investigator now? Those Keystone Cops, who
27 pass for our police department, have been on
28 the case for over a week with nothing to
29 show for it. If you ask me, my Gutenberg is
30 long gone, probably already out of the
31 country by now.

32 **JOHNNY** Gutenberg?

1 **LUDLLOW** Bible, Mr. Dollar. The stolen volume was a
2 first edition Gutenberg Bible printed in
3 1455 -- one of only a handful that are
4 complete and intact.

5 **WALKER** My assistant, Carl Ludlow.

6 **JOHNNY** Mr. Ludlow.

7 **LUDLLOW** (MOURNFULLY) It was magnificent! Hand
8 illuminated - gold leafed - the centerpiece
9 of Mr. Walker's rare book collection. No
10 amount of money can ever compensate for its
11 loss. Such a tragedy.

12 **WALKER** Bah! Stop whining, Carl. It was a book. A
13 rare one to be sure - that's why I owned it
14 - but it's just a book.

15 **JOHNNY** If it was just a book, why did you buy it in
16 the first place?

17 **WALKER** I'm a collector, Mr. Dollar. I collect
18 rarities. - works of art, books,
19 antiquities. There's nothing to compare
20 with the feeling, knowing you possess
21 something unique and beautiful that no one
22 else can have. Once I decide a piece
23 belongs in my collection, the price is
24 immaterial.

25 **JOHNNY** That must cost a lot of money.

26 **WALKER** Yes, but I have a philosophy: Nothing is
27 too good for those of us who can afford it.

28 **JOHNNY** Or too rare.

29 **WALKER** Indeed, but the Gutenberg isn't all that
30 rare -- not one of a kind. I can buy
31 another.

1 JOHNNY With a million dollars of Allied's money you
2 probably can. But if it's all the same to
3 you, my employer would prefer to hang on to
4 the million bucks. And if we can recover
5 that Bible, they can.

6 WALKER I suggest that you talk to the police, then,
7 Mr. Dollar. And good luck to you.

8 JOHNNY I plan to do just that first thing tomorrow
9 morning.

10 WALKER Talk to the "detective" on the case.
11 (SARCASM) He's a real Mensan! -- Ludlow,
12 what was his name?

13 LUDLOW Brannigan. Sergeant Brannigan.

14 MUSIC BRIDGE

15 JOHNNY Next morning, bright and early, I went down
16 to Police Headquarters, where I met a
17 Lieutenant named Dolan, in charge of the
18 Detective Bureau. As expected, I received a
19 warm welcome.

20 DOLAN (CONTEMPT) Special Investigator Johnny
21 Dollar. So, what makes you special, Mister
22 Dollar?

23 JOHNNY Come on, Lieutenant. It's nothing personal.
24 If you were looking at a million dollar hit
25 you'd want a few more eyeballs focused on
26 the problem, too, wouldn't you? I'm
27 licensed. I'm bonded. And I'm certainly not
28 here to get in your way--

29 DOLAN See that you don't.

30 JOHNNY --But Allied Indemnity is paying me to give
31 it a second look and I've got to give them
32 something for their money.

1 DOLAN Pay pretty good, do they?

2 JOHNNY I generally manage to make the rent.

3 DOLAN Yeah, I bet you do. (LONG PAUSE) Well,

4 you're not going to have much of an

5 opportunity to milk this one, Dollar. Tell

6 me, was it a long flight?

7 JOHNNY Hartford to Seattle? Yeah, about 11 hours.

8 Why?

9 DOLAN Because while you were moseying out here to

10 lend us the benefit of your great expertise,

11 we closed the case. The burglar is in

12 custody. Sergeant Brannigan is bringing him

13 in as we speak.

14 JOHNNY Why, that's wonderful, Lieutenant. Great

15 news.

16 SFX TELEPHONE RINGS - PICKUP

17 DOLAN Dolan. - Oh, hello Brannigan. (PAUSE)

18 Yeah? (PAUSE) (EXCITED) What? You gotta be

19 kidding me... Stay right there. I'm on my

20 way down.

21 SFX TELEPHONE HANG-UP

22 DOLAN Well, Dollar, It looks like I may have

23 spoken too soon.

24 JOHNNY Oh?

25 DOLAN It may not be so wonderful, after all. Come

26 with me. Maybe we can get some use out of

27 those expert eyeballs of yours.

28 MUSIC BRIDGE - CONTINUE UNDER NARRATION

29 JOHNNY (NARRATING) We left Lieutenant Dolan's

30 office, down two flights of stairs to the

31 basement, then down a narrow hallway. The

32 sign on the door said "Booking".

1 **SFX** DOOR OPENS - FOOTSTEPS

2 **DOLAN** All right, Brannigan. What's the problem

3 here?

4 **BEALS** You got nothing. That's what the problem

5 is.

6 **BRANNIGAN** Shut up, you. Take a look there,

7 Lieutenant. What do you see?

8 **DOLAN** A Bible. Obviously the one stolen from

9 Preston Walker's home.

10 **BEALS** Says you.

11 **BRANNIGAN** I told you to shut up. Pipe down or I'll

12 clobber you. Yeah, it looks like the stolen

13 Bible all right. Just like the one in the

14 photos we got from the insurance company.

15 **JOHNNY** Are you saying this isn't the same book?

16 **BRANNIGAN** Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. Either way,

17 it's not what it's supposed to be. Who are

18 you, anyway?

19 **JOHNNY** My name's Dollar

20 **DOLAN** He's with the insurance company. What about

21 the Bible?

22 **BRANNIGAN** Well, I know we weren't supposed to handle

23 it any more than necessary but I had to look

24 -

25 **DOLAN** (ALARMED) That book is 500 years old. You

26 could destroy it-

27 **BRANNIGAN** It's evidence, Lieutenant. I had to check

28 it out.

29 **BEALS** Some evidence!

30 **DOLAN** What's he talking about.

1 BEALS You think I stole a priceless first edition?
2 Ha! Somebody's a bigger crook than I could
3 ever hope to be.

4 BRANNIGAN I told you to shut up.

5 DOLAN Brannigan-

6 BRANNIGAN I'm afraid he's right, Lieutenant. See for
7 yourself. Look here.

8 SFX (OPEN LARGE VOLUME)

9 DOLAN The pages are-

10 JOHNNY Blank!

11 DOLAN It's a fake!

12 BRANNIGAN I'm sure it looked impressive in Walker's
13 bookcase but it's as phony as a side show
14 fortune teller.

15 DOLAN But I saw pictures of it open -- there was
16 printing on the pages.

17 JOHNNY Yeah, I've got copies of the same photos
18 from Allied's file.

19 BEALS You see? I got nothing so you got nothing.
20 What's the sentence for stealing a fake?

21 DOLAN Fake or no, burglary is a felony, mister.
22 You'll do ten to twenty either way. I'll
23 see to that.

24 BRANNIGAN The question is: who made the switch and
25 when?

26 JOHNNY "Who and when?" - that is the million dollar
27 question. If a real Gutenberg is missing,
28 Allied is liable for the loss. But if they
29 insured a fake -- I'll check back with you
30 later, Lieutenant. I've got a few more
31 questions I'd like to ask Preston Walker.

32 MUSIC BRIDGE

1 JOHNNY I drove back out to the Walker estate on
2 Capitol Hill. I was about to knock on the
3 door when -

4 SARAH Why it's Mr. Dollar.

5 JOHNNY Oh! Hello Mrs. Walker.

6 SARAH Call me Sarah.

7 JOHNNY Sarah.

8 SARAH I was just working in the flower garden and
9 saw you drive up.

10 JOHNNY I was hoping to speak with your husband - a
11 few questions.

12 SARAH Of course. Well, I'm about ready for a
13 break. Won't you come in, Mr. Dollar.

14 JOHNNY Johnny.

15 SFX BIG DOOR OPENS

16 SARAH Would you like some lemonade, Johnny?

17 JOHNNY That would be nice.

18 SFX FOOTSTEPS ON MARBLE - CONTINUE UNDER

19 SARAH Pardon us, Rex. Just passing through.

20 JOHNNY Rex?

21 SARAH The dinosaur, there. Hideous, isn't he?

22 JOHNNY Well, he is pretty imposing.

23 SARAH Some men are happy to collect coins or
24 stamps. My husband collects everything. As
25 long as it's expensive.

26 SFX FOOTSTEPS CHANGE OVER TO WOOD FLOOR

27 JOHNNY Nothing is too good--

28 SARAH For those who can afford it. Yes, I know. -
29 - In here.

30 SFX FOOTSTEPS STOP -- CLINK GLASSWARE -- POUR
31 LEMONADE

1 SARAH I suppose Preston is fond of Rex because
2 they have so much in common.

3 JOHNNY Oh?

4 SARAH They're both bigger than life, Imposing - as
5 you say -- cold-blooded predators. Well,
6 there is one difference. Rex listens to me.
7 We've had many a conversation, Rex and I.
8 Rex doesn't say much but he's a good
9 listener.

10 JOHNNY I see.

11 SARAH So, Johnny, how goes the sleuthing?

12 JOHNNY Well, as I said, I do have a few questions
13 for your husband.

14 SARAH I'm afraid he isn't here right now. Some
15 kind of problem at the printing plant.

16 JOHNNY I guess I should have called ahead.

17 SARAH I'm glad you didn't. Glad to have the
18 company.

19 JOHNNY I wouldn't think you'd want for company.

20 SARAH My husband doesn't allow it.

21 JOHNNY Doesn't--

22 SARAH Preston Walker doesn't share his
23 "possessions" with anyone.

24 JOHNNY I see.

25 SARAH But if I can be of any help to you - any
26 help at all --

27 JOHNNY Well, if you wouldn't mind -- answering a
28 few questions.

29 SARAH I'll try.

30 JOHNNY Exactly where was the Gutenberg kept?

1 SARAH Oh, it was just on a shelf in Preston's
2 library. Once he had it, he didn't treat it
3 like anything special.

4 JOHNNY And it was taken in a burglary?

5 SARAH Yes. That certainly wasn't anything
6 spectacular - not like in the movies. They
7 just jimmed a window.

8 JOHNNY Do you, by any chance, happen to know --
9 when was the last time the Bible was out?

10 SARAH You mean off the shelf?

11 JOHNNY Yes.

12 SARAH As far as I know it was never off the shelf
13 once Preston put it up there.

14 JOHNNY And the photographs that were sent to the
15 insurance company - do you happen to know
16 who took them?

17 SARAH A man Carl Ludlow knew - Biggerstaff is his
18 name. Edmund Biggerstaff. He deals in rare
19 books and antiques.

20 JOHNNY Were they taken here?

21 SARAH Yes, right in the library. He must have
22 taken a hundred. He said he wanted to
23 document every detail.

24 JOHNNY Thanks, Mrs. Walker. You've been very
25 helpful. Do you suppose there's a chance I
26 can catch up with your husband at the
27 printing plant?

28 SARAH I'll call and tell him you're coming.

29 MUSIC BRIDGE

30 SFX PRINTING PLANT NOISES - FADE UP UNDER

1 JOHNNY (NARRATING) I arrived at the printing plant
2 a quarter to noon. Walker's assistant, Carl
3 Ludlow was waiting for me at the gate.

4 LUDLOW Mr. Walker asked me to escort you to his
5 office, Mr. Dollar.

6 JOHNNY Thanks. This is quite an operation you've
7 got here.

8 LUDLOW Yes, it is. We publish half a dozen slicks
9 here every month.

10 JOHNNY Slicks?

11 LUDLOW Refers to the paper. Cheap magazines are
12 printed on pulp - Really True Detective,
13 Astro Stories, that kind of thing. We
14 publish a higher class product for a more
15 sophisticated audience on slick, glossy
16 paper.

17 JOHNNY I see. Nothing is too good -

18 LUDLOW For those who can afford it. Yes, I've
19 heard that many many times. So, tell me,
20 Mister Dollar, were the police of any help
21 to you? Did you speak with Detective
22 Brannigan?

23 JOHNNY Yes, I met Brannigan and he was very
24 helpful. So helpful, in fact, he solved the
25 case.

26 LUDLOW Solved it! Then you recovered the
27 Gutenberg?

28 JOHNNY Not exactly. The police have the burglar in
29 custody but the Gutenberg - well, that's
30 another matter.

31 LUDLOW How unfortunate. Well, here we are. This
32 is Mr. Walker's office.

1 SFX DOOR KNOCK

2 WALKER (OFF) Come in.

3 SFX DOOR OPEN, FOOTSTEPS, CLOSE

4 WALKER Oh, Dollar, come in. I can give you a
5 couple of minutes but that's all. You have
6 some questions?

7 JOHNNY I'll get right to the point, then, Mr.
8 Walker. Do you recall when was the last
9 time you had a close look at the missing
10 Bible?

11 WALKER What do you mean? It sat right on my shelf.
12 I had a close look at it every day.

13 JOHNNY Yes, but when was the last time you actually
14 had it open?

15 WALKER Open? Why, not since we had the photographs
16 taken for the insurance. Why?

17 JOHNNY About those photographs, I'm a little
18 curious. Being a magazine publisher, you
19 probably have a number of staff
20 photographers?

21 WALKER Of course.

22 JOHNNY But you didn't use any of them to photograph
23 the Gutenberg.

24 WALKER No, Edmund Biggerstaff took them. He's the
25 dealer who alerted me it was coming up for
26 auction. He did the insurance appraisal and
27 took the photographs himself.

28 JOHNNY And you were present at the time?

29 WALKER Yes. So was Ludlow, here.

30 LUDLOW Is there some problem with the photographs,
31 Mister Dollar?

1 JOHNNY No, nothing with the photographs. Did you
2 see him put the book back on the shelf when
3 he was finished.

4 WALKER He didn't put it back on the shelf - I did.
5 What's this all about?

6 JOHNNY Well, the police arrested a man this morning
7 for the burglary-

8 WALKER Really? Outstanding!

9 JOHNNY -- and they've recovered a book that looks
10 exactly like your Gutenberg.

11 WALKER Looks like?

12 JOHNNY It's a fake.

13 WALKER That's impossible! Biggerstaff
14 authenticated it.

15 JOHNNY I don't think the book the burglar took from
16 your shelf was the same one that that
17 Biggerstaff authenticated.

18 WALKER What are you suggesting?

19 JOHNNY Somebody pulled a switcharoo - and it looks
20 to me like an inside job.

21 WALKER How can you be so sure it's a fake?

22 JOHNNY Because all the pages are blank. Setting on
23 your shelf, you'd never know the difference
24 but it was never made to stand up to close
25 inspection. That means the person who made
26 the switch knew that the book wouldn't be
27 scrutinized.

28 LUDLOW So the police have only recovered a
29 worthless prop?

30 JOHNNY That's about the size of it. What about
31 this Edmund Biggerstaff?

1 LUDLOW He came highly recommended. He owns a
 2 bookstore and gallery over in the Queen Anne
 3 district.

4 JOHNNY I think I'd like to talk with him.

5 LUDLOW I'll get you the address.

6 WALKER You talk with him, Dollar. And check back
 7 with me this evening. I intend to get to
 8 the bottom of this.

9 JOHNNY We're on the same page, Mr. Walker. The
 10 very same page.

11 MUSIC BRIDGE

12 ANNOUNCER We'll be back with the second act of Yours
 13 Truly, Johnny Dollar right after this brief
 14 intermission.
 15 (MIDBREAK COMMERCIAL)

16 MUSIC THEME FADE UNDER FOR

17 ANNOUNCER Now back to The First Edition Matter,
 18 tonight's adventure on Yours Truly, Johnny
 19 Dollar.

20 MUSIC UP THEN UNDER FOR NARRATION

21 JOHNNY I drove to the address Carl Ludlow gave me.
 22 It was a small storefront in the Queen Anne
 23 district. The front window had gold
 24 lettering: Regent Books, Curios & Antiques
 25 - Edmund Biggerstaff, proprietor.
 26 (CONTINUES)

27 SFX DOOR OPEN, BELL, DOOR CLOSE

28 JOHNNY Biggerstaff was a slight man in his mid
 29 thirties with thinning hair. Smartly but
 30 casually dressed, he was intently studying a
 31 document with a magnifying glass. (CLEARS
 32 THROAT)

1 SFX LAYING GLASS & DOCUMENT DOWN

2 BIGGERSTAFF (UPPER CLASS ENGLISH ACCENT) Oh! Good
3 afternoon, sir. How may I help you?

4 JOHNNY Mister Biggerstaff?

5 BIGGERSTAFF Doctor.

6 JOHNNY Doctor Biggerstaff—

7 BIGGERSTAFF PhD. Cambridge, '47, you know. I would
8 have completed my dissertation years earlier
9 if it hadn't been for that ghastly war.

10 JOHNNY Ghastly.

11 BIGGERSTAFF Quite. - Was there something I could do for
12 you Mr.—

13 JOHNNY Dollar. Johnny Dollar. I'm an insurance
14 investigator, Dr. Biggerstaff. I'm looking
15 into a burglary a week ago at the Preston
16 Walker estate.

17 BIGGERSTAFF The Gutenberg.

18 JOHNNY Yes. I believe you were the one who
19 authenticated it?

20 BIGGERSTAFF Quite so. It was a magnificent specimen.
21 Most people would expect a 500-year-old
22 volume to be fragile and crumbling to dust
23 but quite the contrary. The pages were all
24 intact and in excellent condition. The
25 binding hardly showed any signs of wear at
26 all.

27 JOHNNY Almost as if it had been made only
28 yesterday.

29 BIGGERSTAFF (SMILE) Exactly.

30 JOHNNY And you took the photographs for the
31 insurance file?

1 **BIGGERSTAFF** I must confess, Mr. Dollar, I got somewhat
2 carried away. I think I may have taken a
3 hundred or more pictures of that volume. I
4 wanted to document and preserve every
5 detail.

6 **JOHNNY** You're absolutely certain that the book you
7 photographed was authentic?

8 **BIGGERSTAFF** (OFFENDED) Sir! Exactly what are you
9 suggesting?

10 **JOHNNY** Nothing at all. Just want to establish that
11 the book on Preston Walker's shelf was
12 genuine.

13 **BIGGERSTAFF** The Gutenberg was absolutely genuine. I'd
14 stake my professional reputation on it. And
15 I watched Preston Walker, himself, place It
16 back on the shelf.

17 **JOHNNY** Yes, of course. (PAUSE) I guess Mr. Walker
18 is quite a book lover, judging from his
19 collection.

20 **BIGGERSTAFF** Yes, judging from his collection.

21 **JOHNNY** You don't sound convinced.

22 **BIGGERSTAFF** Mr. Walker is a world renowned collector,
23 Mr. Dollar, but he's a complete Philistine.
24 The real book lover in that organization is
25 named Carl Ludlow.

26 **JOHNNY** Ludlow?
27

1 **BIGGERSTAFF** Yes. If it weren't for him, I don't think
2 Preston Walker would know a Gutenberg Bible
3 from last month's issue of Ellery Queen.
4 But Mr. Ludlow - there's a man who cherishes
5 not only the words but the craftsmanship of
6 a fine old volume. It's a pity he doesn't
7 have the means to afford them, himself.

8 **JOHNNY** Not directly, at least.

9 **BIGGERSTAFF** Quite. But with Mr. Walkers wealth he can
10 own them all -- vicariously.

11 **JOHNNY** Yeah, vicariously. Thanks, Doctor, you've
12 been a big help.

13 **BIGGERSTAFF** Not at all.

14 **MUSIC** BRIDGE

15 **JOHNNY** I headed back to my hotel but not before
16 calling Sergeant Brannigan at police
17 headquarters to invite him to join me for
18 dinner and to ask a favor - that's expense
19 account item sixteen, a dime for the call,
20 and item seventeen, six-fifty for a couple
21 of T-bones medium rare in the hotel café.

22 **SFX** RESTAURANT NOISES

23 **BRANNIGAN** It doesn't wash, Dollar. Ludlow's as clean
24 as a whistle. He's never been in trouble
25 with the law, no sign of any unusual debts.
26 He's exactly what he appears to be.--
27 studied business at Melton Community College
28 with a minor in English literature. -- took
29 a summer internship with Walker's company
30 and worked his way up to become his personal
31 assistant.

1 JOHNNY I know, but Biggerstaff was definitely
2 pointing the finger straight at him.
3 BRANNIGAN Straight's not a word I'd use to describe
4 Biggerstaff. Cambridge never heard of him.
5 The British Consulate has no record and
6 Immigration's never heard of him either.
7 JOHNNY I see.
8 BRANNIGAN It looks like Biggerstaff's as big a phony
9 as that ersatz Bible.
10 JOHNNY You may be right. I thought from the
11 beginning there was something not quite
12 right about him. That accent - I've known
13 French mimes who could do a better fake
14 English accent.
15 WAITRESS Excuse me, are you Mr. Dollar?
16 JOHNNY That's right.
17 WAITRESS There's a telephone call for you, sir. You
18 can take it over there.
19 JOHNNY Thanks. If you'll excuse me for a minute,
20 Sergeant, I'm expecting a call from
21 Hartford.
22 BRANNIGAN Certainly.
23 SFX RESTAURANT BACKGROUND - FOOTSTEPS -
24 TELEPHONE PICKUP
25 JOHNNY This is Johnny Dollar. You have a call for
26 me. (PAUSE) Yes, thank you. (PAUSE)
27 Hello, Patsy?
28 WALKER (FILTER) Is that some kind of joke, Dollar?
29 JOHNNY Oh, Mr. Walker. I'm sorry I was expecting
30 another call.
31

1 **WALKER (FILTER)** Somebody may think I'm a patsy, but I can
2 assure that is not the case. I know who
3 took my Gutenberg, Mr. Dollar, and how it
4 was done. I'll lay it all out for you as
5 soon as you can get over here.

6 **JOHNNY** We're in luck, Mr. Walker. I just happen to
7 have Sergeant Brannigan right here with me.
8 We're on our way.

9 **MUSIC** BRIDGE

10 **JOHNNY** Since Brannigan was off duty and didn't have
11 a squad car, we hopped into my rental and
12 sped out to the Walker estate. As we turned
13 into the driveway we were nearly side-swiped
14 by a green and white Buick Roadmaster --
15 driven by Carl Ludlow. When we got to the
16 house the door was open so we went in.

17 **SFX** FOOTSTEPS

18 **JOHNNY** (HOLLERS) Hello?

19 **MAID** Help! Help! Oh, somebody - please help me.

20 **JOHNNY** We rushed into Walker's library. The maid
21 was hysterical.

22 **MAID** Mr. Walker! Mr. Walker! (CRIES)

23 **BRANNIGAN** I'm sorry, Miss. He can't hear you.

24 **MAID** (CRYING IN BG)

25 **JOHNNY** No, he couldn't hear anyone anymore. He was
26 slumped over the desk with a letter opener
27 protruding from his back. Scattered on the
28 desk and on the floor were a dozen or more
29 "antique" books - all with blank pages --
30 just like the Gutenberg.

1 BRANNIGAN All right, Dollar, I'm afraid I'm going to
 2 have to take over, now. This is a crime
 3 scene, and that makes it my investigation.

4 SFX PHONE PICKED UP AND DIALED - UNDER

5 JOHNNY I understand, Sergeant. Is there anything I
 6 can do to help?

7 BRANNIGAN You can stay out of my way. (PAUSE) Hello,
 8 this is Brannigan. I'm at the Preston
 9 Walker estate. Walker's dead. Send the
 10 homicide boys and a crime scene
 11 photographer. (FADING) And get out an all
 12 points bulletin on Carl Ludlow, male, white...

13 MUSIC BRIDGE

14 JOHNNY An all points bulletin for Carl Ludlow. It
 15 certainly appeared that he was our man. But
 16 Ludlow didn't strike me as the criminal type
 17 and Brannigan said Ludlow's bona fides
 18 checked out. I wanted to look at another
 19 angle - the one Brannigan had been talking
 20 about back at the hotel. -- One "Doctor"
 21 Edmund Biggerstaff. The lights were still
 22 on inside when I arrived at the shop.

23 SFX BANGING ON DOOR

24 JOHNNY Even with the shades pulled, I could see
 25 someone moving around inside.

26 SFX MORE BANGING

27 JOHNNY Open up, Biggerstaff! I know you're in
 28 there.

29 SFX MORE POUNDING - DOOR OPENS

30 BIGGERSTAFF Why, Mr. Dollar! Whatever is all this
 31 commotion about?

1 **JOHNNY** You can drop the phony accent, Doc. Your
2 counterfeit book scheme has blown wide open.

3 **BIGGERSTAFF** Phony - What in the world are you talking
4 about? Mr. Dollar, have you been drinking?

5 **JOHNNY** (QUOTING) "I must confess, Mr. Dollar, I got
6 a little carried away. I must have taken a
7 hundred pictures of that book." - That's
8 what you said, isn't it.

9 **BIGGERSTAFF** Well, yes, but what of it?

10 **JOHNNY** You took those pictures so you could make a
11 convincing copy. Convincing enough to set
12 on the shelf until somebody decided to open
13 it, that is. I'm surprised you took that
14 chance.

15 **BIGGERSTAFF** Chance? What chance?

16 **JOHNNY** You knew that Walker would probably never
17 open that book again in his life. But Carl
18 Ludlow loves books. You said so, yourself.
19 You should have known that he'd eventually
20 find out about the switch.

21 **BIGGERSTAFF** But it wasn't Ludlow who found out about the
22 switch, was it, Mr. Dollar?

23 **JOHNNY** (DAWNING ON HIM) No, it wasn't. It was
24 Beals - a two bit burglar that neither of
25 you counted on. That would mean that-

26 **BIGGERSTAFF** Carl and I were in it together? Excellent
27 detective work. But can you prove it?

28 **JOHNNY** Once we give this place a toss, yeah, I
29 think we can -- beyond a shadow of a doubt.

30 **SFX** GUN HAMMER BACK

31 **BIGGERSTAFF** A gun? Mr. Dollar, do you really think
32 that's necessary?

1 JOHNNY Put your hands up! I'm taking you down to
 2 police headquarters.

3 BIGGERSTAFF No, sir. I don't think you are. Sarah, be a
 4 love, will you?

5 JOHNNY I'm not falling for tha-

6 SFX JOHNNY IS WHACKED OVER THE HEAD WITH A VASE
 7 IT SHATTERS AND HE DROPS TO THE FLOOR

8 JOHNNY I woke up, I don't know, maybe two hours
 9 later with a headache that felt like someone
 10 had shoved an ice pick in my eye. I called
 11 police headquarters and left a message for
 12 Brannigan suggesting an all points bulletin
 13 for Biggerstaff and Mrs. Walker. Then,
 14 since I was out of leads and barely able to
 15 see straight, I made my way back to the
 16 hotel, washed down a couple of aspirins with
 17 a double shot of Cutty and threw myself into
 18 bed.

19 SFX POUNDING ON DOOR

20 SARAH (OFF) Mr. Dollar. Mr. Dollar.

21 JOHNNY I opened my eyes to the bright light of dawn
 22 and winced when I realized I still had a
 23 shard of that ice pick lodged somewhere in
 24 my head.

25 SARAH (OFF) Johnny, please open the door.

26 JOHNNY Alright, alright. -- I'm coming. Hang on.

27 SFX DOOR OPENS

28 JOHNNY Mrs. Walker! I have to say, I never
 29 expected to see you here.

30 SARAH You've got to help me, Johnny. Got to help
 31 me explain.

1 **JOHNNY** After you lowered the boom on me last night,
2 why in the world should I help you? You
3 know there's an All Points Bulletin out for
4 your arrest?

5 **SARAH** I know, Johnny, but you've got to believe me
6 - when I hit you over the head I had no idea
7 that Edmund had murdered Preston. I just
8 panicked when you pulled out that gun.

9 **JOHNNY** Biggerstaff killed him? But I saw Carl
10 Ludlow fleeing the scene.

11 **SARAH** Yes. Edmund arranged it that way. He
12 played us all for chumps.

13 **JOHNNY** Maybe I'm still a little groggy but I'm not
14 following you.

15 **SARAH** Preston was an awful man and a terrible
16 husband. The way he treated me - - but he
17 didn't deserve to be murdered either. I
18 confess, I had an affair with Edmund
19 Biggerstaff but it was over a long time ago.
20 And I had no idea that Edmund and Carl were
21 involved in that fraud together. I only
22 learned about that last night.

23 **JOHNNY** Biggerstaff and Ludlow were in it together?

24 **SARAH** Yes - Well, no, not at first. Yesterday
25 evening, Edmund called me. He said he
26 needed to see me - it was important. I
27 couldn't help myself. I still had feelings
28 for him, so I agreed to meet him at his
29 shop. But it was all just a trick to lure me
30 away from the house. While I was on my way
31 over there, he was on his way to kill
32 Preston.

1 JOHNNY But why?

2 SARAH That's what I'm trying to tell you. Carl
3 Ludlow has an obsession with rare books, you
4 see. He found Edmund somehow and hired him
5 to pose as an expert to persuade Preston to
6 buy the books that Carl wanted. Edmund
7 fooled everybody.

8 JOHNNY Including you?

9 SARAH Edmund is so charming -- sophisticated --
10 and that accent...

11 JOHNNY But he's no art expert.

12 SARAH Oh, but Edmund is an expert -- an expert
13 forger. He made copies of the books Preston
14 bought to set on the shelves while Carl took
15 the originals for himself.

16 JOHNNY That's pretty clever.

17 SARAH That's how it started, anyway. It was only
18 a couple of books at first. But then Edmund
19 came up with a plan of his own. He
20 threatened to expose Carl if he didn't co-
21 operate.

22 JOHNNY Co-operate? How?

23 SARAH Edmund made counterfeits of books he could
24 sell on the black market, no questions
25 asked. Carl would make the switch. Edmund
26 kept the profits. For his silence, Carl got
27 to keep some of his precious first editions
28 -- But then the fake Gutenberg was stolen--
29 JOHNNY --and the only way that their secret would
30 stay a secret was if the burglar got away --
31 But he didn't.

32

1 SARAH No. Preston knew that Carl was the only
2 person with both access and a motive to make
3 the switch. He confronted him and Carl
4 confessed to everything.

5 JOHNNY And fingered Biggerstaff.

6 SARAH Yes. But after your visit to his shop
7 yesterday, Edmund knew the scheme was about
8 to unravel. He knew Carl would incriminate
9 him.

10 JOHNNY So he lured you away so he could kill Walker
11 and make it look like Ludlow did it.

12 SARAH He was going to make it look like they
13 argued -- that Carl killed Preston, then
14 committed suicide. But you saw -- Carl got
15 away.

16 JOHNNY Where's Biggerstaff now?

17 SARAH He's probably halfway to Mexico by now.
18 Edmund had a boat - a 35 foot cabin cruiser.
19 We were on our way to the slip when he
20 admitted to me what he'd done. I jumped out
21 of the car at the next stoplight and just
22 ran. I didn't know who else I could turn to
23 so I came here to ask for your help.

24 JOHNNY Alright, Mrs. Walker. It sounds a little
25 far fetched to me but you might be able to
26 sell it to the police. I'll see that you
27 get the opportunity. I'll escort you down
28 to police headquarters. Sergeant Brannigan
29 can take it from there.
30

1 MUSIC BRIDGE

2 BRANNIGAN I don't know, Dollar. Her story is a little

3 wacky but it does fit with the facts as we

4 know them. You and I both saw Carl Ludlow

5 leaving the scene of the murder. He could

6 have been running because he did it himself

7 but he could just as easily have been

8 running because he didn't -- and didn't want

9 to get blamed.

10 JOHNNY And there were all those books with blank

11 pages.

12 BRANNIGAN What you saw was the tip of the iceberg.

13 There are thirty-seven phonies that we know

14 of, so far. We turned up a couple of the

15 originals when we searched Ludlow's place -

16 that fits with her story -- but most of them

17 are still unaccounted for.

18 JOHNNY Ouch. Allied is going to love that.

19 BRANNIGAN And that's just the books - who knows about

20 the other stuff, the paintings, sculptures

21 and whatnot.

22 JOHNNY You didn't find any Van Gogh's in Ludlow's

23 apartment?

24 BRANNIGAN No. -- The only lead we've got is Ludlow's

25 car. It turned up in a parking lot over in

26 Bremerton but nobody's seen Ludlow since he

27 nearly ran us over yesterday.

28 JOHNNY What about Biggerstaff's boat?

29

1 BRANNIGAN Gone. Along with Biggerstaff - if that's
2 even his name. We alerted the Coast Guard
3 to be on the lookout but that's about all we
4 can do. We'll watch the airport, train
5 stations, what have you -- but I've got a
6 feeling this one's headed for the cold case
7 file.

8 JOHNNY And Mrs. Walker?

9 BRANNIGAN Well, we could charge her with assault for
10 whacking you over the head - if you want to
11 press charges.

12 JOHNNY No, not really.

13 BRANNIGAN We can't corroborate her story but we can't
14 disprove it, either. With Walker's money
15 she can afford to hire a room full of
16 Philadelphia lawyers. I suppose it will be
17 up to the D.A. but I expect he'll take the
18 path of least resistance.

19

1 MUSIC BRIDGE

2 JOHNNY (NARRATING) Who knows, Patsy? That may be
3 the way it happened or it may not. Carl
4 Ludlow's body washed up on the beach a week
5 later. I'll leave it for the police to
6 sort out who killed who. As for the
7 insurance - well, it looks like all those
8 books Allied wrote policies on were the real
9 deal at the time Preston Walker insured
10 them. So unless you can prove that Sarah
11 Walker was involved in the fraud - and I
12 don't think you can - it looks like Allied
13 is on the hook for several million dollars -
14 all payable to Preston Walker's widow - one
15 Sarah Walker. Which makes my final expense
16 account balance of fourteen hundred twenty
17 seven dollars and fifty cents look like
18 peanuts. I'll tell ya what, Patsy, why
19 don't you and the missus come over to my
20 place on Saturday and I'll treat you to some
21 nice fresh Salmon -- caught, grilled and
22 served up by - Yours truly, Johnny Dollar.

23 MUSIC THEME MUSIC

24 ANNOUNCER American Radio Theater has presented, Yours
25 Truly, Johnny Dollar - The First Edition
26 Matter ---

27
28 Credits.

29
30
31