AN ADVENTURE OF TINTIN
FREELANCE REPORTER FOR
LE VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE

Drawn by RODIER from the characters created by HERGÉ
From a proposed scenario in the "Spirou" magazine
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• Coloured by Studios Juhis • Translated by Chris Owens • Lettered by Richard •
One day...

Would you believe it, Snowy! We were just two streets away when this occurred! Perhaps I wasn't cut out to be a reporter...

Out of the way, kid. Oh! Sorry!

Hey! Did you see, Snowy? That was Mickey Martino! Quick, follow him!

TAXI!

VROOM

He's stopped... He's going into the restaurant... Drop me just here!

Hello, Inspector? Tintin here, from the Vingtième Siècle... I've just located Mickey Martino!

Where? At the Coupole Restaurant? Very good, we're on our way! Keep an eye on him! Thank-you...
A few minutes later...

Mickey Martino? Come with us!
I'm having my dinner... and also, I haven't done anything!

I protest! I haven't done anything!

It's useless, Martino. Here's the warrant. We're going to search your premises.

But, what do you want with me?

Don't play the innocent! The Western Bank was robbed yesterday... the crime fits your style perfectly, old fellow!

Yesterday, you say? Then you're out of luck, Inspector! I've just returned from Italy today. I got off the train about two hours ago... I have witnesses...

Well, we shall see...

Speak to my housekeeper...

I'm certain, Mr Inspector. Mr Martino gave me his key before his departure. Nobody has entered since, not even me...

So, nobody, not even you, has entered this apartment for three days. Fine, but we'll search all the same, just for peace of mind...

RRRRRIIIING

What's that?!

A ringing...

Wait! Come with me!!
It was only an alarm clock going off.

... and a little later...

No, Inspector... we've searched everywhere, and no clues... nothing.

Yes! But of course!

Listen, Inspector...?

Good heavens, you're right!

Mickey Martino, you are under arrest! Your alibi seemed sound, but you've made a foolish error!

Later, at the offices of Le Vingtième Siècle...

Tintin, I congratulate you! Your report on Mickey Martino's arrest is excellent!

But how did you work out that his alibi was false?

Simple - the alarm clock told me!...

If nobody had been in the apartment for three days, how could the alarm clock have set itself to ring? ... In reality, poor old Martino had absent-mindedly wound it up that same morning!

Well done! I think you've got the makings of a fine reporter!

Thanks!

So, for your first major report, what do you say to a trip to the Soviet Union?

Are you serious, sir?

Let's quickly go and get ready, Snowy! We're off to the Land of the Soviets for a top story!

That's the end... of a quiet life!

THE END