

A CUT FROM *CALDWELL'S BOMB*  
BY BILL ROGERS

JOLLEY

Smitty reckons the rocket launcher's good to go.

EARL

Smitty gonna shoot 'er?

JOLLEY

No, Smitty ain't gonna shoot 'er! You know damn good'n well Smitty can't climb no water tower after that auger ripped the heel clean off his foot.

EARL

I thought they sewed it back on.

JOLLEY

Well, they must'a missed a stitch. He'll be hoppin' around on one foot for quite a spell.

EARL

You ever think Smitty gettin' his foot caught up in that auger is God's way'a tellin' us not to go through with this thing?

JOLLEY

Just the opposite, hoss. You ever hear of a man catchin' his boot in a damn auger an' losin' no more'n two, three inches off his foot? It's like Daniel in the lion's den. If a man's livin' right, he don't need to be scared'a nuthin'.

EARL

Well, who's gonna shoot the damn thing?

JOLLEY

(JOLLEY returns to sit in the chair stage right of the table)

Looks like you're it.

EARL

Why me?

JOLLEY

Cause me an' Calvin ain't spry enough to climb up that tower.

EARL

Why can't Conley do it?

JOLLEY

The last thing we need is some silly-billy up there blastin' away like Yosemite Sam.

EARL

What about Nature Boy?

(JOLLEY removes a thick manual from the bag)

JOLLEY

I ain't even gonna respond to that. Now then, this here's the book that come along with the rocket launcher. Look 'er over good, cause we're only gettin' one bite at this apple.

(EARL examines at the manual)

EARL

What the hell language is this? I can't make heads nor tails of it, Jolley. What is it, Irish or somethin'?

JOLLEY

Are you shittin' me? Who ever heard of a book wrote in Irish?

EARL

Well goddamn it, we got it off an Irishman, didn't we?

JOLLEY

Don't you dare start this sacred mission off with a blasphemy!

EARL

Whatever the hell language it is, it's Greek to me.

JOLLEY

Earl, you're makin' me reconsider this whole deal.

(JOLLEY takes the book from EARL and examines it)

That there's Chinese or A-rab or something. That book's wrote in all kind'a languages. The American part starts someplace in the middle.

(JOLLEY gives the manual back to EARL)

EARL

Yeah, OK, here's the American part... Jesus Jolley, this don't make no more sense than the Chinese part. Don't somebody from over the creek know how to shoot this thing?

JOLLEY

If somebody else shoots it, we don't get credit for it. Them national boys already think we're a bunch'a retards an' dickheads out here.

EARL

Nature Boy said somethin' about makin' up a bomb. What's wrong with that idea?

JOLLEY

Nature Boy ain't exactly on the cuttin' edge'a technology. In case you hadn't noticed, he lives in a damn cave an' hunts down his dinner with a sharp stick. No Earl, we got just one chance to do this right, an' as far as I can see, you're it.

EARL

So, where's the gizmo?

JOLLEY

It's hid out in a safe place.

EARL

Well damn it Jolley, I need to see the dad gum thing while I'm readin' this or it ain't gonna make no sense. If you want me to shoot the son-of-a-bitch, you should'a brung 'er over.

JOLLEY

Are you out'a your ever lovin' mind? I ain't haulin' no rocket launcher down the thoroughfare in broad daylight.

EARL

This ain't gonna work, is it?

(JOLLEY rises)

JOLLEY

I guess you better pray pretty hard it does. Look, I better skedaddle. Read that damn book!

EARL

Lookee here, ever' second page is jammed full'a diagrams an' tables an' shit. I can't read this stuff. I can't even see how to cock the fuckin' thing.

JOLLEY

Damn it Earl, why do I always need to be the one to study ever'thing out?

EARL

That's what ya get for bein' so smart.

JOLLEY

Well, give me back the damn book. Can't be too hard to work the dad gum thing if them rag heads an' camel jockeys can do it.

(EARL hands the book to JOLLEY who returns it to the bag)

EARL

I bet them rag heads an' camel jockeys got the chance to fire off a couple'a practice rounds. For Christ sake, we just barely got the bastard. I don't see how this is gonna work.

JOLLEY

You got to see through your faith and not just through your eyes. I bet I get this figured out in less than ten minutes.

(JOLLEY removes a small brochure from the bag and hands it to EARL)

Here, you keep this little brochure that come with it. Familiarize yourself with the nomenclature.

EARL

The which?

JOLLEY

(JOLLEY crosses toward the front door upstage center. EARL follows him)

Just look 'er over, hoss. When's Deena start her shift at the restaurant?

(EARL crosses to the window upstage right and looks out)

EARL

I don't know; it varies.

JOLLEY

Well, give me a holler when the coast is clear.

EARL

OK, but I'll tell you right now, I don't like this one little bit.

JOLLEY

Well Earl, you liked it just fine when you thought some other jasper was gonna shoot 'er.

EARL

(Still looking out the window)

Damn, here comes Caldwell. You better slink out the back way.

JOLLEY

You pray for courage, Dutchman.

EARL

An' you keep prayin' for some other way to do this.