



1965

AT THE ELECTORAL VICTORY PARTY, RIGHT AFTER THE 1965 ELECTIONS.

"IS THAT... IS THAT MACAPAGAL?"



LOPEZ WEBCOMIC ARC 5

ENEMY OF MY ENEMY II

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WHAT DO YOU WANT?

DON'T WORRY MY OLD ADVERSARY. I'M HERE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR VICTORY.

YES. ALL THOSE THINGS ARE DONE.

YOU'LL LEAVE MY FAMILY AND EMPLOYEES IN PEACE?!



MAYBE I PUSHED THINGS TOO FAR, BUT I THINK WE'VE PUT SOMEBODY IN OFFICE WHO WILL PUSH THINGS EVEN FURTHER...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I KNOW I LOST BUT I'M AFRAID THAT IT'S NOT JUST ME. ARE YOU REALLY AWARE?

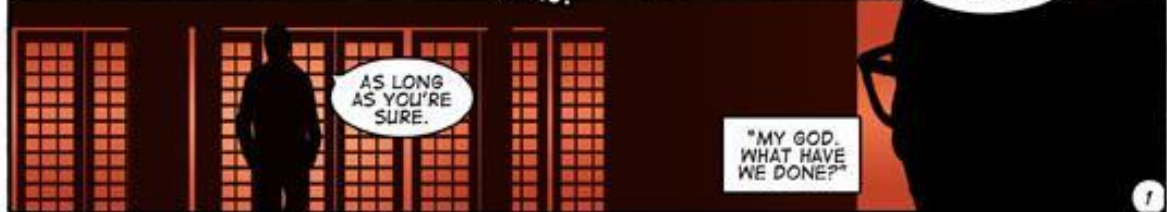
DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHO YOU'VE PUT IN CHARGE OF THIS COUNTRY?

BANG!
BANG!



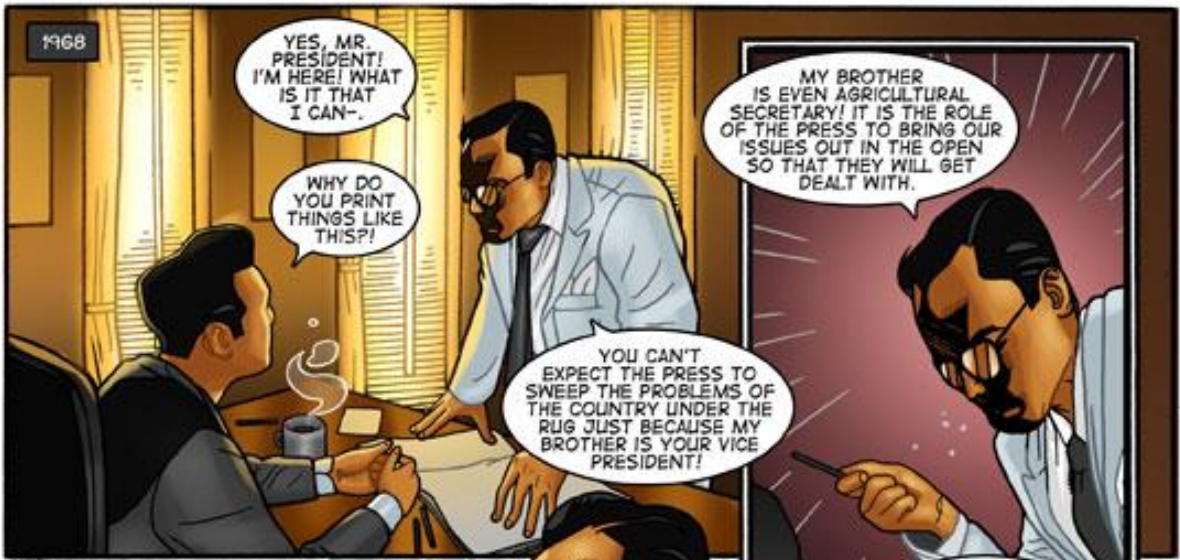
THANK... THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS VISIT.

AS FOR THE PRESIDENT, I'M SURE WE'LL BE ALRIGHT. EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.



AS LONG AS YOU'RE SURE.

"MY GOD. WHAT HAVE WE DONE?"



YES, MR. PRESIDENT! I'M HERE! WHAT IS IT THAT I CAN-

WHY DO YOU PRINT THINGS LIKE THIS?!

YOU CAN'T EXPECT THE PRESS TO SWEEP THE PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY UNDER THE RUG JUST BECAUSE MY BROTHER IS YOUR VICE PRESIDENT!



MY BROTHER IS EVEN AGRICULTURAL SECRETARY! IT IS THE ROLE OF THE PRESS TO BRING OUR ISSUES OUT IN THE OPEN SO THAT THEY WILL GET DEALT WITH.



THESE RICE SHORTAGES HAD BEEN PLAGUING OUR COUNTRY SINCE MY GRANDFATHER'S TIME.

TRY NOT TO LOOK AT THIS AS CRITICISM. THINK OF IT AS OPPORTUNITY.

YES! WE WILL BEAT THIS PROBLEM!



AFTER ALL, I CAN'T EXPECT A COUNTRY TO BE LOYAL TO ME WHEN THEIR BELLIES ARE EMPTY.

IF YOU SAY SO.



LEADERSHIP IS ACCOUNTABILITY. WE CAN'T JUST SIT IDLY BY AND LET MARKET FORCES DRAG US INTO UNCERTAINTY BY TAKING CONTROL OF ALL THE ELEMENTS IN OUR BUSINESS.



WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO NAVIGATE OUR OWN FATE, TO NAVIGATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR COUNTRY.





"YOU KNOW, MISTER PRESIDENT, EVER SINCE I WAS A SICKLY CHILD IN INDUSTRIAL JAPAN..."

"AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH..."

"I HAVE DREAMED OF A PHILIPPINES THAT STOOD PROUDLY AMONGST THE DEVELOPED NATIONS..."

"WITH ALL THE DEVASTATION, WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE HAD TO OVERCOME, I CAN FINALLY SEE THE LIGHT ON THE HORIZON."



WITH THAT DREAM SO CLOSE, IT BAFLES ME WHY YOU GIVE ALL OF THOSE MILITARY CONCESSIONS TO THE UNITED STATES.

YOUR DREAM OF A DEVELOPED PHILIPPINES IS A LOVELY DREAM.

YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF CERTAIN REALITIES, THE FIRST BEING THE GUYS WHO HAVE ALL THE GUNS MAKE ALL THE RULES. IF I NEED TO CONSOLIDATE MY BASE OF SUPPORT WITH A MILITARY SUPER POWER THAT'S NOT ANY OF YOUR CONCERN.

THEY'RE OUR ALLIES BUT THOSE DEMANDS ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND YOU KNOW IT!

AND TO A DEGREE I SHARE IT AS WELL.



LISTEN MR. PRESIDENT, I'M NOT HERE TO ACCUSE YOU OF ANYTHING. BUT I PROMISE YOU, MY JOURNALISTS ARE DOING THEIR HOMEWORK ON THIS ISSUE.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING.

YOU KNOW, I LEARNED A LOT FROM THE RICE SHORTAGE. IT'S TRUE, A STRONG LEADER CAN TAKE ADVERSITY AND TURN IT INTO AN OPPORTUNITY.

I'M SURE THE PUBLIC WILL SIDE WITH ME ON THIS ONE.



I HOPE WE CAN SETTLE THIS UNPLEASANTNESS, PUT IT BEHIND US AND START PREPARING FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS.

YOU CAN COUNT ON US BEING READY, MR. MARCOS.

I THINK THE TIME HAS COME TO DRAW A LINE BETWEEN US AND THE PRESIDENT.

BUT THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL...

I'M SORRY BUT EVERY TIME I TALK TO HIM, I GET THAT KIND OF CREEPING SENSATION LIKE I GOT THE NIGHT THAT MACAPAGAL TALKED TO ME.

ENING

NANDING

AMERICA ON A WAR WITH VIETNAM MIGHT BE MAKING MARCOS' TRIGGER FINGER ITCHY!

"BUT DON'T WORRY, NANDING. WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN HOW TO KEEP GREEDY POLITICIANS IN LINE. CAMPAIGN BUT I NEED YOU TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE MARCOS CAMP."

"LEAVE THE JUSTICE TO ME."

THE MANILA CHRONICLE
PRESIDENTIAL RATINGS DROP
Philippine that editorial was not a decision made lightly. A family that had been so fiercely attacked by Macapagal was fully aware of the business risks it was taking. Several times before, Ening decided to give the Marcoses the benefit of the doubt. But now, that borders could be in danger, and the winner of a all-powerful Executive branch that he had warned about in his warnings their might come to life. For Ening, it was time to take a stand.

TIME TO GO TO PLAN B!





YOU DID WHAT? HOW MUCH!?

SIR, I TRIED TO STOP HIM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BESIDES, WHAT PROBLEM DO YOU HAVE WITH REDISTRIBUTING SOME OF THE WEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST?!



THE CENTRAL BANK IS NOT YOUR PIGGY BANK! YOU CAN'T TAKE THESE KIND OF WILD RISKS WITH OUR ECONOMY!

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? THE POLLS ARE OPEN. ARE YOU GONNA STOP THE ELECTIONS? YOUR OUTRAGE IS A LITTLE LATE.

DAMN YOU! THE PEOPLE WON'T STAND FOR IT!

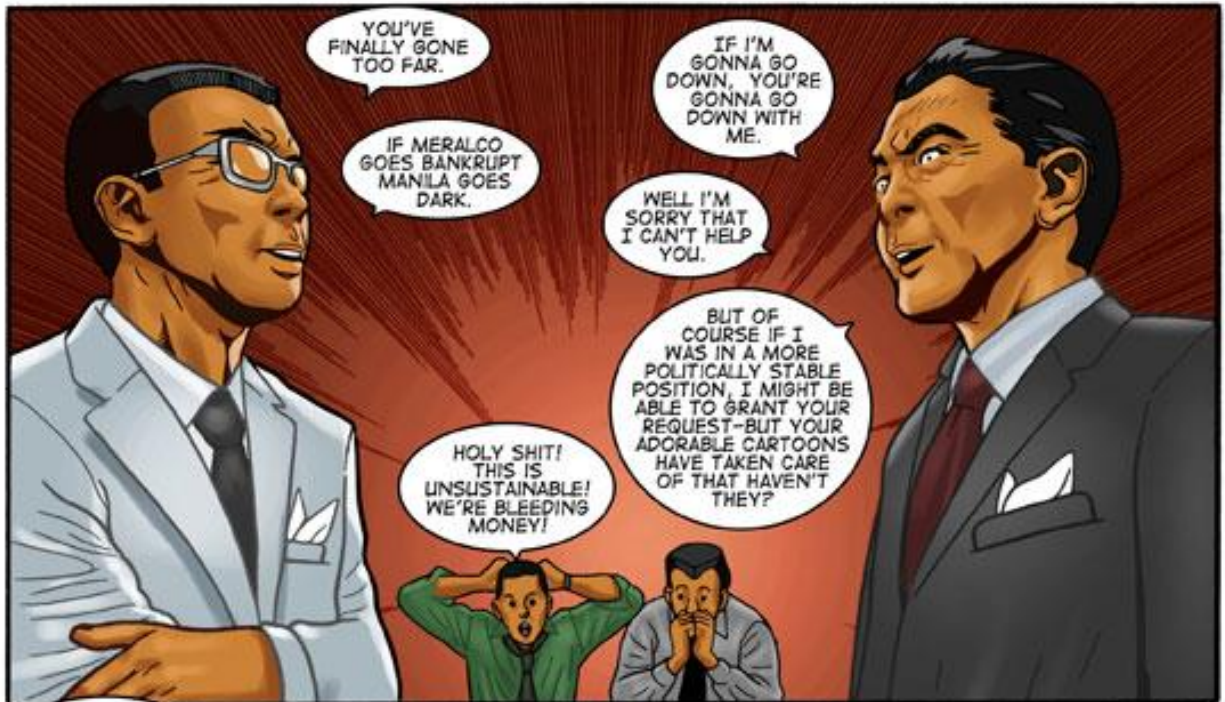
COME ON, ENING. SEE ALL THE THINGS WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER.

ALL THE PROSPERITY IT'S GOTTEN THE COUNTRY AND YOUR OWN FAMILY. ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO THROW ALL THAT AWAY?

THE PRICE OF MY INTEGRITY IS NOT MEASURED IN PESOS, MR. PRESIDENT.

OH I KNOW THE HISTORY OF YOUR FAMILY, ENING. I KNOW THE PRICE YOUR FATHER PAID. THE PRICE OF HIS INTEGRITY WAS BLOOD.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON, EH ENING?



YOU'VE FINALLY GONE TOO FAR.

IF MERALCO GOES BANKRUPT MANILA GOES DARK.

IF I'M GONNA GO DOWN, YOU'RE GONNA GO DOWN WITH ME.

WELL I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T HELP YOU.

BUT OF COURSE IF I WAS IN A MORE POLITICALLY STABLE POSITION, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GRANT YOUR REQUEST—BUT YOUR ADORABLE CARTOONS HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THAT HAVEN'T THEY?

HOLY SHIT! THIS IS UNSUSTAINABLE! WE'RE BLEEDING MONEY!



WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?! THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IS TO KEEP OUR POLITICAL FIGURES HONEST!

YOU OWE ME!

I'VE FACED MY SHARE OF BULLIES. YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST AND YOU WON'T BE THE LAST.



WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO? SWEEP IT UNDER THE RUG? POLITICAL STABILITY BASED ON A LIE—!

IS STILL POLITICAL STABILITY!



I'M SORRY, MR. LOPEZ. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. YOU NEED TO SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT IN AMERICA RIGHT AWAY.

"HOW CAN I LEAVE WHEN THE COUNTRY NEEDS ME?"



This fight doesn't serve the country. I'm coming to see you.
We'd like to bury the hatchet.

[Signature]
Marcos.

HOPEFULLY HE DOESN'T AIM TO BURY THAT HATCHET IN MY BACK.

