

Law and disorder

Scene: *At the police station. There is a radio transmitter, a table and chairs. Sergeant Ruth Less and Probationary Constable Nicky Hicky are on duty.*

Ruth: Seeing this is your first night on the job, just take it easy, Probationary Constable Hiccup.

Nicky: Hickey, sir.

Ruth: Oh, all right, Hickey it is—knew a criminal by that name once, no relation I hope?

Nicky: No, sir. No one in my family's ever been a crook.

Ruth: Now these are your orders, Ricci.

Nicky: Oh wow, my very first orders. I've waited for this moment for years.

Ruth: Empty the garbage bin.

(Suddenly Oscar Swindlepuus enters. He is brandishing a water pistol.)

Ruth: Take cover! *(Ruth and Nicky fall to the floor.)*

Oscar: Hey Sarge, is that any way to greet an old friend?

Ruth: I know you well but you are not an old friend, Oscar Swindlepuus! You should know better than to burst in here waving a gun around.

Oscar: No offence, Sarge.

Ruth: It's Sergeant to you, and it is an offence to point a gun—especially at me!

Oscar: But you don't understand. I'm trying to sell the gun. It's my latest invention: the aquagun. It shoots under water.

Ruth: Sure, next time someone robs a bank underwater it'll be just the shot.

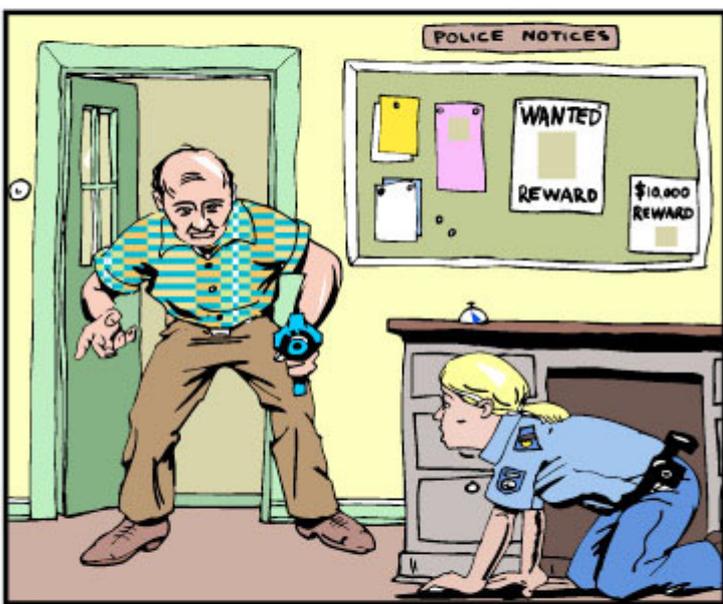
Oscar: I knew you'd be interested. The only problem is it's not quite waterproof—otherwise it's perfect.

Ruth: How much?

Oscar: Just two hundred dollars. Minus the discount. A measly fifty dollars. And, as well as the aquagun, I'll give you a pair of flippers, goggles, a fishing net and a year's supply of hand-picked worms!

Nicky: That's terrific—I'm hooked!

Ruth: It sounds fishy to me.



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