

27: Eddie

Eddie brings the plane down at the right spot despite last-minute snags involving Mickey Finn and Captain Baker.

The launch arrives. Baker tries to prevent the gangsters boarding, but Eddie foils him. They are: Vinnie, the leader; Joe, a nasty runt; and Kid, who looks about 18.

Eddie and Carol-Ann are reunited. He whispers to her that if all goes well the gang will be caught a few minutes after they leave.

They go to the flight deck. The crew see Carol-Ann and begin to understand. Eddie begs them not to be heroes.

Eddie leads Vinnie to Frankie in No. 4 Compartment, taking Captain Baker along to calm the passengers (while Joe and Kid herd the rest of the crew into No. 1).

Ollis Field stands up and says: This is FBI agent Tommy McArdle. Frankie Gordino crossed the Atlantic on a ship that reached New York yesterday and he is now in jail in Providence, Rhode Island.

Vinne says: Hell, we ain't after Frankie. Where's the Kraut?

Luther already has Carl Hartmann at gunpoint. He admits proudly that he hired the Patriarca gang to kidnap Hartmann at the behest of the Nazis, whom he admires and supports.

Vinnie says: So where's the fuckin submarine? Luther: I don't know why it isn't here! Eddie knows why: the submariners have seen the naval cutter, which is a submarine chaser. Vinnie: Hell, we've done out bit, we're going, gimme the money. Luther hadns him a small case containing \$100,000 in twenties.

While Vinnie is checking it, Joe starts playing with Diana's tits. Mark springs to her defence and is knocked down. Joe announces they will take her with them. Mark tries to stop him and Joe starts to beat him to death. Eddie jumps on Joe and

holds him; then tells Mark not to commit suicide. (Eddie knows Diana will be all right because the gang is going to be caught in a few minutes.)

Luther says: I'll have to come with you, Vinnie. As they are leaving, Mr Membury attacks and is shot. Eddie cannot help saying What a waste! Luther becomes suspicious: why does Eddie keep preventing people from being heroes? What does he know that no one else knows? Then the seaman from the lunch comes in and says he has heard, over his radio, that there is a Navy cutter patrolling the coast. Luther realises Eddie has double-crossed him. Baker looks at Eddie with new respect. Luther is about to kill Eddie. Then they all hear the Goose.

Luther says to Vinne: This is a godsend--we can escape on it and fly over the damn Navy. As it lands, Luther sends the seaman back to tie it up and Eddie to bring the people, keeping Carol-Ann as hostage. And Eddie realises he has failed after all.

28: Nancy, Harry, Margaret

Nancy, on the Goose, has found the solution to all her problems: she will become General Textiles' European Manager.

They board. Ted meets them and takes them to the lounge.

Mervyn agrees to fly the Goose on condition Diana is left behind. This leads to a row between Luther and Joe. Then Kid says: Shit, boss, look out the fuckin window!

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(Drop Harry's trunk scheme and leave his escape plans vague. His big problem was that Margaret would think he had slipped away from her to steal the diamonds, too cowardly to tell her he was leaving; and that his love for her was not real. But he thinks, whether he escapes now or is caught, he may never see her again. So he will never have a chance to explain. The only solution, he realises, is to put the jewels back. Which he does at the end of the previous chapter.)

Harry creeps out and sees Percy take the gun.

He goes down into the bow compartment and casts off the ropes holding the launch.

Joe and the Kid come running to see what has happened. Harry pushes Joe into the sea. Joe pulls Kid with him. They both drown.

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Luther sees them drown and says hysterically: How did that happen? Vinnie growls: There has to be someone else on this fuckin crate. Margaret thinks: Harry!

The seaman brings the launch near again. Vinnie takes charge. He sends Luther ahead with Hartmann, and follows with Mervyn, telling Luther to keep Hartmann in front of him.

Percy drops through the trapdoor and shoots Hartmann in the back.

Luther puts his gun to Margaret's head and everyone freezes. The U-boat appears.

Luther tells Eddie to open the main door.

Margaret realises it all depends on her. Is she courageous or not? Is she willing to risk her life?

A seaman appears on the submarine and throws a rope. Eddie catches it.

Luther tells Hartmann to board the submarine.

Harry appears.

In the moment for which Harry distracts Luther, Margaret grabs the gun.

Eddie jumps Luther and it is all over.

29: Eddie, Nancy, Harry

Baker forgives Eddie and the crew embrace him.

Nancy and Nat make a deal.

Mervyn wishes Diana the best of luck.

Harry and Nancy escape in the launch with Vinnie's money.