

Point 1: If two alarms weren't tripped, and no burglar was involved, then the safe was almost certainly opened by *someone who already knew the combination* to it!

Point 2: If the thief took an old comic, but left a pile of cash untouched, then the thief was almost certainly *someone who already knew the value* of the comic. They knew that the comic was worth more than the pile of cash!

'This is all very puzzling,' I mused. 'Didn't Ed go to the police?'

'Yes, but they say there's nothing they can do. There was no break-in, or anything like that. It's as if the comic simply vanished into thin air, overnight.'

I stood up decisively. 'OK, here are the two things I'm going to do, in reverse order: Number Two, I'm going to examine the scene of the crime; Number One, I'm going to try and get this wretched super-tough heavy-duty repair tape off my fingers. Tell your brother that Saxby Smart is on the case!'

A Page From My Notebook

Question: If the comic was so valuable, why did Ed keep it? Why not sell it and get enough money to set himself up as a full-time trader, which is what Charlie says he wanted to do?

Question: What kind of thief steals a comic, but not money? Even if a thief saw a comic book in a safe and thought, Aha! I bet that's valuable, they'd surely have taken the money TOO. Why was this thief ONLY interested in the comic? I'm sure this is significant.

Question: Will I be scraping these gluey bits off my hands for the rest of time?
