

THE LOUD HOUSE

#349 - "Beg, Borrow, and Steele"

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1 **INT. COMIC BOOK STORE - DAY** 1

Lincoln (in David Steele suit) spy rolls through the store
and addresses the camera:

1 **LINCOLN** 1

 It's allowance day. Which means one
 thing: I can finally buy another
 David Steele mystery box!

REVEAL a display of wrapped MYSTERY BOXES decorated with the
David Steele logo and an arrangement of question marks.
There's a David Steele cutout.

2 **LINCOLN (CONT'D)** 2

 Each one has a different character
 inside. I've collected all of them
 except for the coolest, rarest one:
 Mr. David Steele himself! And
 bonus, he comes with a stain-
 resistant tux!

3 **KARA (O.S.)** 3

 You mean, the *Stainless Steele*?
 <SCOFF> Good luck with that.

PAN TO KARA (12), the store's "April Ludgate-esque" cashier,
reading a David Steele comic book at the register.

4 **KARA (CONT'D)** 4

 My parents own this store and I
 haven't even found one.

She dryly turns a page of her comic without looking at him.

5 **LINCOLN** 5

 <SCOFF> Kara, please. It's not luck
 when you've got Steele instincts.

Lincoln grabs a box, shakes it, knocks it, and holds it up to
his ear like a seashell.

6 **LINCOLN (CONT'D)** 6

 Good weight. <SNIFF> Smells like
 steel.

Kara <COUGHS> impatiently. Lincoln hands her the box, which
she rings up. He shreds the box open and pulls out a HENCHMEN
doll wearing a polo tucked into cargo shorts. His face falls.

7 **LINCOLN (CONT'D)** 7

 Another Lackey Larry? No!

8 **KARA** 8

Guess your Steele instincts are a
little rusty. Want to try again?

9 **LINCOLN** 9
I can't! I don't have any more
money.

10 **KARA** 10
Well, you could just do what Lackey
Larry did in issue #147.

She holds up a comic. We see a panel of Lackey Larry pleading to Golden Toe, who is surrounded by money bags and villainously petting a cat. Lincoln brightens.

11	LINCOLN	11
	Borrow the money from a kingpin	
	with extra cash like Golden Toe!	
	Who do I know that's a kingpin?	

2 INT. LOLA'S BEDROOM - LATER 2

SMASH CUT TO: Lola sits at her tea party table and pets CLIFF villainously (like Golden Toe). Lincoln sits crammed in a tiny chair across from her.

12 **LOLA** 12
Love the golden part. But don't
call me a toe.

13 **LINCOLN** 13
No, that's-- sorry, we got off on
the wrong foot. <NERVOUS CHUCKLE>
So, can I borrow the money?

Lola narrows her eyes at Lincoln and then smiles brightly. She tosses Cliff out of her lap and he <YOWLS> in protest.

14 **LOLA** 14
 Sure! Why not? I'm always happy to
 use my pageant earnings to help out
 a less fortunate family member.

Lola grabs MR. SPRINKLES. She gives him a <KISS> and then unzips him, revealing WADS OF CASH popping out of his cotton stuffing. Lincoln's jaw drops. He reaches for the cash, but Lola swats his hand away.

15 **LOLA** (CONT'D) 15
Not so fast! You're not getting a
dime until you sign this contract
promising to pay me back.

She shoves a lengthy CONTRACT in Lincoln's face. Lincoln grabs a pen and is about to sign it. Lola stops him.

16 **LOLA** (CONT'D) 16

Are you sure you don't want to read that first? If you need help with the legalese, Mr. Sprinkles is an attorney.

Quick shot of Mr. Sprinkles staring dead-eyed at camera.

17 **LINCOLN** 17
Nope! I'm good.

Lincoln signs the contract. Lola hands over the cash. Lincoln smiles.

Mystery Box Montage:

--Lincoln opens a new mystery box at the comic store. It's another Lackey Larry. He <GROANS>.

--Lola opens the bottom of her makeup box and hands Lincoln more money.

--Lincoln opens a new mystery box. Blowfish. He <GROANS>.

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--Lola unscrews a vent and hands Lincoln a sack of gold
coins.
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3 INT. LINCOLN'S BEDROOM - LATER 3

Lincoln is surrounded by dozens of unwrapped boxes and discarded assorted villain figurines. He goes through a few:

18 **LINCOLN** 18
Odd Bob, Blowfish...*Odd Bob with*
Blowfish's dorsal fin? So much for
quality control!

Lincoln tosses the defective figurine aside. There's just one more wrapped mystery box left.

[illegible]

He closes his eyes and pulls out a STAINLESS STEELE! Lincoln
opens his eyes and <GASPS!>

20 **LINCOLN** (CONT'D) 20
 <CHEER!> It's him. It's really him!
 A Stainless Steele!

(MORE)

LINCOLN (CONT'D)

(emotional)

This is the best day of my--

Suddenly Lola emerges from the shadows.

21	LOLA	21
	Hello, Lincoln.	

22 **LINCOLN** 22
 <STARTLED YELP> Oh, hey Lola--

23 **LOLA** 23
Enough pleasantries, this isn't a
social visit.
 (waving the contract)
We had a deal.

24 **LINCOLN** 24
Oh. Right. The loan. So I kinda
thought that was more of a "pay
when you're ready" situation.

[illegible]

26 **LINCOLN** 26
Yeah... probably should have read
that contract. Alright, what's the
damage?

Lincoln opens up his VELCRO WALLET. Lola slides a slip of paper across his desk. Lincoln reads it and his eyes bulge. He looks down at his empty wallet.

27 **LINCOLN** (CONT'D) 27
 <HEH HEH> Looks like I'm a little
 short. But maybe I could give you
 my, erm, wallet instead? It's
 genuine pleather--

28 **LOLA** 28
Hard pass. But lucky for you, I'm
an extremely understanding and
generous person. You can work off
your debt to me. For starters,
you'll be driving me around town...

She holds up a pair of HEELS.

LOLA (CONT'D)

While breaking these in for me.

4 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - DAY 4

CLOSE ON: Lincoln's foot, painfully jammed in a heel. His foot keeps slipping off the gas pedal. WIDEN to reveal Lincoln driving Lola in her PRINCESS JEEP, swerving in all directions. Startled PASSERBYS jump out of the way.

30 **LINCOLN** 30
How the heck do you drive in these things?!

31 **LOLA** 31
It's an art. Now step on it, we
have errands to run.

Lincoln floors it just as SCOOTs barrels towards them from the opposite direction.

32 **SCOOTS** 32
Out of my way, fancy wheels! Mama's
late for a colonoscopy.

Lincoln abruptly swerves out of the way, crashing into a FIRE HYDRANT and scrunching the front of the jeep. Lola <GASPS> in horror. She takes out a small notebook and writes in it.

33 **LOLA** 33
Hate to add to your debt, but I
have to charge you for the cost of
the cosmetic damage.

Suddenly, a powerful stream of water gushes out of the hydrant, drenching the jeep, Lincoln, and Lola.

34 **LOLA** (CONT'D) 34
And the water damage.

5 INT. MALL - LATER 5

Lola breezes through the mall. She stops at a store window where an expensive-looking CRYSTAL TEAPOT is on display. She <GASPS.> *

[illegible]

Lincoln, trailing behind, struggles to walk in heels while carrying a bunch of shopping bags. His feet swell and he grimaces with every step.

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36                                LINCOLN                                36
    <OW, OW, OW...>
      (stopping)
        (MORE)

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LINCOLN (CONT'D)

Can we take a break? I think my blisters are starting to blister.

37

LOLA

37

That means it's working, Lincoln. Now, be a dear and double back across the mall and return this dress for me.

Lola tosses a PAGEANT DRESS at Lincoln, hitting his face.

38

LOLA (CONT'D)

38

(motioning to the teapot)
I have a date with that crystal piece of fabulousness.

Lola disappears into the store. Lincoln <SIGHS> as he limps off dejectedly with the dress in his hands and the shopping bags looped through his arms. He passes the FOOD COURT, where an EMPLOYEE holds up a free sample tray of snacks.

39

EMPLOYEE

39

Care to try a bacon-wrapped, fried mini corn dog sample?

Aroma lines from the tray waft in the air. Lincoln's stomach <GROWLS> hungrily.

40

LINCOLN

40

Yes, please! Um, I don't have a free hand, so could you just toss one in my mouth?

The Employee shrugs and flicks a mini corn dog into Lincoln's mouth.

41

EMPLOYEE

41

Complimentary condiments?

Lincoln nods eagerly and opens his mouth as the Employee squirts bottles of ketchup, mustard, and relish with gusto. Lincoln catches them in his mouth one by one, narrowly missing Lola's stuff. He address the camera:

42

LINCOLN

42

(chewing, cocky)
Ha! Bet you thought that was going to end badly!

Lincoln turns in the other direction and unexpectedly CRASHES into a portable "Sauces of the World" cart. Lola's shopping bags go flying. Open containers of sauce splatter, covering Lincoln with globs of sauce.

He looks around, dazed, and notices Lola's dress on the ground, covered in stains. The color drains from his face.

43 LOLA (O.S.) 43
MY DRESS!!!!

REVEAL Lola nearby, holding her new teapot and fuming. Even the teapot boils and WHISTLES.

44 **LOLA** (CONT'D) 44
I can't return it now.
 (pulls out notebook)
I'm adding this to your tab,
Lincoln!

45 **LINCOLN** 45
What? No! I can fix this.

He moves towards the dress, but slips in the condiments. He knocks the teapot from her hands. It falls to the ground and shatters. Lola pulls out her notebook and scribbles angrily.

46 **LOLA** 46
Looks like you'll be working for me
for a long, long, long--

As Lola continues, Lincoln <SIGHS> and turns to camera:

47 **LINCOLN** 47
I can't do this anymore. I need to
get out of this debt now.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY 6

LUCY, LYNN, LILY, LENI, and LISA seated on the couch. Lincoln stands, wearing his blue convincing suit. He <CLEARS> his throat like he's about to give a presentation. Instead, he falls to his knees with his hands in a begging position.

48 **LINCOLN** 48

Please! You have to lend me the money to pay off Lola! Or else I'll have to work for her forever. Like, until high school!

49 LYNN 49
Dude, I feel for ya but I don't
have that kind of cheddar.

50 LILY/LISA/LUCY 50
Me neither.

51 **LENI** 51
OMGosh! I know, we can combine our
money to save Lincoln!

Lynn elbows Leni.

52 **LENI** (CONT'D) 52
 <OW> As long as you pay us back--

53 **LINCOLN** 53
Of course, it'll be my top
priority! You can count on me!

Lisa, Leni, Lynn, and Lucy empty their pockets and hand money to Lincoln. Lily goes to her TOY CASH REGISTER.

54 **LINCOLN** (CONT'D) 54
Aw, Lily you're even going to give
me your toy money. That's really
sweet.

Lily hands him money.

[illegible]

Lily winks at him. Dissolve to...

7 INT. LINCOLN'S BEDROOM - TWO WEEKS LATER 7

Mystery box figurines are scattered across the room. Lincoln enthusiastically play-fights with his David Steele figurine and his defective Oddbobb/Blowfish figurine from earlier.

56 LINCOLN 56
(as OddBob/Blowfish
figurine)
Sorry Steele, but you're no match
for my surprise dorsal fin!
(as David Steele Figurine)
Really? Because it looks like
you're *fin*-ished! Ha!

Lincoln whacks the defective figurine across the room and <LAUGHS> triumphantly. Suddenly, his bedroom door swings open. Leni, Lisa, Lily, Lucy, and Lynn stand at the doorframe with their arms crossed. Lincoln freezes.

57 **LINCOLN** (CONT'D) 57
Um...hi?

58 **LYNN** 58
We're here to collect, Stinkin'!

59 **LENI** 59
Yeah! You totally haven't paid us
back yet and we're tired of
dropping hints.

60 **LINCOLN** 60
Huh? What hints?

FLASHBACK TO: in the FRONT YARD, Lincoln practices his spy moves, his David Steele figurine propped up on the ground like it's watching him. Lisa pops out the front door and shouts dramatically:

61 **LISA** 61
Apologies TODD, but I can't afford
your oil change this month.
 (pointed)
I don't have the money!

TODD <CREAKS> rustily out next to Lisa. Meanwhile, an oblivious Lincoln does a perfect summersault.

62 **LINCOLN** 62
<GASP> David! Did you see that?!

--HALLWAY: Lincoln walks down the hall, using a tiny lint roller to lovingly clean his figurine's suit.

63 **LINCOLN (CONT'D)** 63
It's okay, I don't care that you're
not lint-resistant!

He walks past LUCY'S ROOM, where Lucy, spotting him, converses with her crystal ball.

64 **LUCY** 64
*Crystal ball, the debt is due. When
will Lincoln get a clue?*

Linc, oblivious, stops to straighten his figurine's bowtie.

--LIVING ROOM: Lincoln sits huddled with his figurine and holds up a comic so they can read it together. On the floor, Lily plays with her toy cash register. She opens the drawer and shakes it out. It's empty.

65 **LILY** 65
Lily is bankrupt.

An oblivious Lincoln turns his comic page and lets out a <CONTENT SIGH> as he rests his head towards his Steele doll.

BACK TO: Lincoln face-palms.

66

LINCOLN

66

I'm so sorry, guys. I guess I've just been a little distracted lately with my mystery box collection. But don't worry, I got you covered--

Lincoln opens up his velcro wallet. It's empty.

67

LINCOLN (CONT'D)

67

<HEH HEH> Looks like I'm a little short.

(off his sisters' glare)

<SIGH> I have to work for you all now, don't I?

8

INT./EXT. LOUD HOUSE/ROYAL WOODS - MONTAGE

8

--**ROLLER DERBY RINK:** A roller derby game is in full swing. Lynn skates to a halt and collects her breath.

68

LYNN

68

(calling out)

Hey, water boy! My electrolytes aren't gonna replenish themselves.

REVEAL Lincoln hopping over the stands and running through the rink with a tiny cup of sports drink. He darts and ducks away from other PLAYERS mid-play. He hands Lynn the cup just as two PLAYERS CRASH into him. Lynn drinks, unbothered.

--**LISA'S ROOM:** Lincoln is strapped to a circular device that spins him round and round. Lisa takes notes while TODD manages the control panel. She signals TODD with a nod.

69

LISA

69

Commencing turbo speed on human test subject--

He pulls a lever. The machine spins so fast that it breaks off of its platform. Lincoln <SCREAMS> as he rolls into the hallway, down the stairs, and through the open front door.

--**REININGERS:** Lincoln, wearing Tanya's usual outfit, struggles to stand completely still and pose as a mannequin.

70

LENI

70

Thanks again for filling in for Tanya. She has a really bad migraine.

PAN to Tanya lying on a display bed with a compress covering her eyes. Lincoln <GROANS> as he struggles to keep still. His muscles cramp, and his legs turn to jelly. He collapses.

9 **EXT. BACKYARD - LATER**

9

Lincoln looking ragged and tired, climbs into a coffin by a grave-sized HOLE. Lucy stands by him with a shovel.

71 **LINCOLN**

71

So, how long do I have to test your
new coffin for?

72 **LUCY**

72

Eight hours... Ten tops. Don't
forget your breathing straw.

Lucy holds out a straw. Lincoln frowns. Just as he's about to pull down the coffin lid, his other sisters race over.

73 **LISA/LYNN/LENI**

73

LINCOLN!!!! We need you!!!

74 **LUCY**

74

Apologies sisters, but Lincoln is
already *buried* in work. Ha. Ha.

Lisa grabs Lincoln's arm and tugs him.

75 **LISA**

75

Tough tungsten! I need a sample of
his earwax for science.

Lisa pulls out a horrifying corkscrew instrument. Before Lincoln can react, Lynn grabs his other arm.

76 **LYNN**

76

Well, wait in line! I need a target
for archery practice.

They pull Lincoln back and forth like a game of tug-of-war. Lucy, Leni, and Lily join them on either side and pull him in both directions.

77 **LYNN/LILY/LENI**

77

Move it, Stinkin'!/Wiwwy's turn!/I
forgot what we're doing!

78 **LINCOLN**

78

STOP!

The sisters promptly stop and release Lincoln.

79 **LINCOLN** (CONT'D) 79
If I keep this up, I'm going to
need this coffin for real!

80 **LUCY** 80
You say that like it's a bad thing.

81 **LINCOLN** 81
<GROAN> I never should have taken
financial advice from a comic book!
I feel like a real Lackey Larry
right now...

82 **LYNN** 82
I don't know what that means. But I
want my money. So, figure something
out!

Lincoln pulls out his David Steele figurine and <SIGHS>. **LP**

10 **INT. COMIC BOOK STORE - THE NEXT DAY** 10

Kara crosses her arms dubiously while Lincoln gestures to his
wheelbarrow overflowing with mystery box figurines.

83 **LINCOLN** 83
So, how would you like to buy--
 (sadly)
--a complete David Steele mystery
box collection? Plus several dozen
henchmen...

84 **KARA** 84
I would like nothing more!
 (Lincoln perks up)
If this were two weeks ago. A whole *
new collection comes out tomorrow. *
So yours are completely worthless. *

Lincoln's face falls. Kara looks at him sympathetically.

85 **KARA** (CONT'D) 85
Look, you're really tugging at my
heartstrings. Which I didn't know I
had. I'll give you \$12 for the lot.

86 **LINCOLN** 86
\$12? That's not nearly enough to
pay back my sisters!
 (sighing)
But, I guess it's a start. Deal.

87 **KARA** 87
Sorry kid, not everyone is cut out
for the high pressure world of
comic memorabilia collecting.

Kara passionlessly digs through the wheelbarrow. A dejected Lincoln pulls out his Stainless Steele figurine.

88 **LINCOLN** 88
Well, David. This is it. <SOB>
Our last mission together!

89 **KARA** 89
Wait, it can't be--

Kara picks out the Odd Bobb/Blowfish figurine from earlier. She lights up and takes it the counter to inspect it.

90 **LINCOLN** 90
Oh, sorry. I forgot to remove that
one. I know it's junk--

91 **KARA** 91
Junk? This is an Odd Bobb with
Blowfish's dorsal fin! I read about
this on the David Steele fan
boards! I thought it was just the
stuff of legends!

[illegible]

93 93

KARA

It's a factory defect. Those are always worth the most. Let's just say I'm willing to pay this amount for it.

Kara slides a scrap of paper across the register counter. Lincoln reads it. His jaw drops, and then he smiles brightly.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER 11

Leni, Lynn, Lily, and Lucy stand in line as Lincoln hands them their money one at a time. Lisa counts her bills and calls out:

94 **LISA** 94
Ready your joints, TODD. It's time
for that oil change!

TODD rolls by. He raises his arms to celebrate and they <CREAK>. The sisters disperse. Lincoln addresses the camera:

95

LINCOLN

95

So, it all worked out in the end. I was able to pay my sisters back and keep most of my collection!

Lincoln pulls out his David Steele figurine.

96

LINCOLN (CONT'D)

96

(as Steele figurine)

Now, all we need is that new Steele mobile we saw at the store!

(as Lincoln)

Nice try, Agent Steele! But I learned my lesson. You have to be careful before you borrow--

97

LOLA (O.S.)

97

Lincoln! Will you give me back my pageant pumps, already?!

PAN DOWN to Lincoln wearing Lola's heels from earlier. He starts to run.

98

LINCOLN

98

<SHEEPISH CHUCKLE> They're actually pretty comfortable once you break them in!

THE END