

The Ballad of

HALO JONES

Volume 2



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– **Multiversity Comics**

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“Halo Jones was my first love. Or maybe my first role model. The girl that got out.” – **Lauren Beukes**

“the story of an ordinary woman, not a superhero or special snowflake, but a woman who made her own story ... a character that represented the everywoman ... *The Ballad of Halo Jones* broke the mould ... remarkably timeless” – **The Independent**

“groundbreaking feminist heroine ... one of the comic industry’s strongest role models” – **The Guardian**

“exponentially cooler than knock-offs like *Tank Girl*, mostly because she remains a fed-up real person amid the wild space opera of her universe”
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The Ballad of

HALO JONES

Volume 2



6427 A.D.—THE
INSTITUTE
FOR PARA-HISTORICAL
STUDIES—

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ART ROBOT
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LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
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ALL RIGHT.
CAN WE HAVE A
LITTLE *SILENCE*
PLEASE? MR.
SOTGORE?

THANK
YOU.

INSTITUTE
OF
PARA-
HISTORICAL
STUDIES
FOUNDER
LUX ROTH CHOP

I TOLD YOU
BEFORE THE *MARXMAS*
VACATION THAT THIS
TERM WE'D BE STUDYING
A SUBJECT VERY
CLOSE TO MY
HEART.

OF ALL THE
LEGENDS WE'VE
DISCUSSED, THIS ONE—
TO ME— IS MOST
IMPORTANT. KNOW
WHY?

MR. SOTGORE?

BECAUSE YOU'VE
JUST PUBLISHED
A PROGRAM ON THE
SUBJECT, AND YOU
WANT EVERYONE TO
BUY IT SO YOU CAN
QUIT LECTURING
AND LIVE ON
PERELANDRA.

SOTGORE,
SHUT UP!

HA HA.

VERY GOOD,
MR. SOTGORE. YES,
YOU'RE RIGHT... I HAVE
JUST HAD A PROGRAM
PUBLISHED— MY LIFE'S
WORK, IN FACT. BUT
THAT'S NOT WHY
THIS LEGEND IS
IMPORTANT.

IT'S
IMPORTANT
BECAUSE IT'S
TRUE.

LET'S
START OUR
HOLOGRAM
LECTURE.

BY COMPLETE
COINCIDENCE, IT HAS
THE SAME TITLE AS MY
RECENTLY PUBLISHED
PROGRAM...

KUK?

The Ballad of HAL JONES

BOOK TWO.
PROLOGUE.



OVER THE CENTURIES, A LOT OF NONSENSE AND DISTORTION HAS BUILT UP AROUND THE NAME HALO JONES.

IT'S SAID THAT SHE WAS A WAR CRIMINAL WHO AIDED IN THE SLAUGHTER OF MILLIONS...

SUPPOSEDLY, SHE MET MANY FAMOUS HISTORICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING LUX ROTH CHOP, LUIZ CANNIBAL AND SALLY QUIASA.

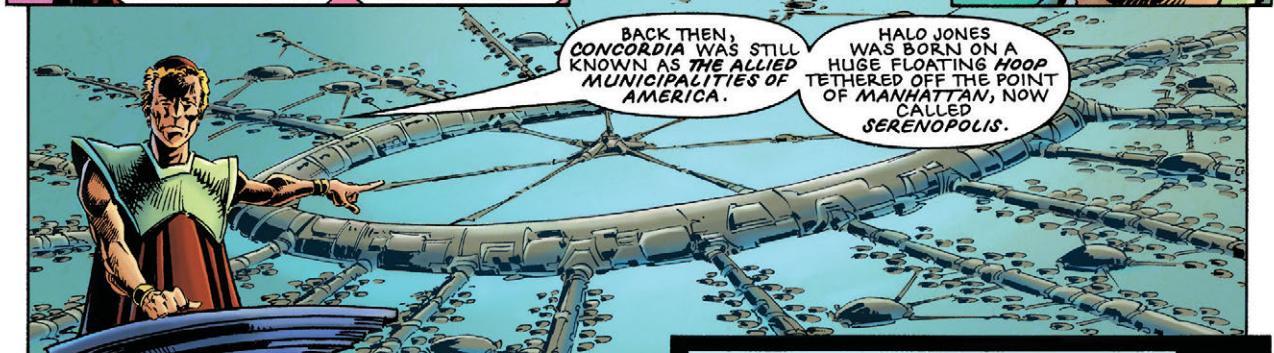
DURING THE TRI-MALE EMPIRE OF THE 52nd CENTURY, IT WAS EVEN CLAIMED THAT SHE WAS A MAN, NAMED HAL JONES.



SO... WHO WAS HALO JONES?

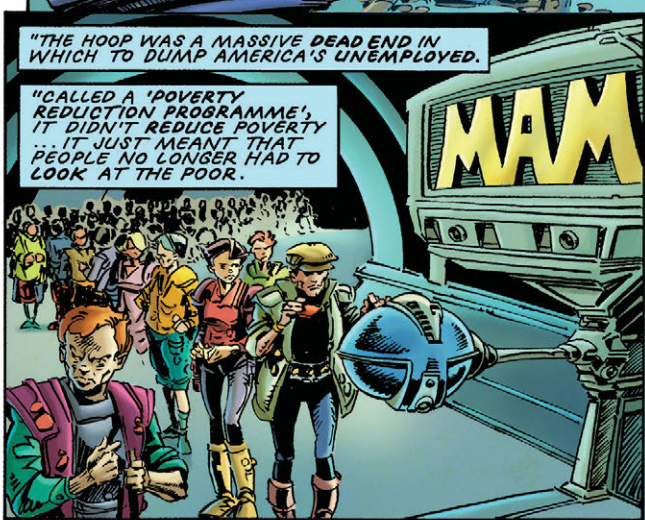


TO FIND THAT OUT, WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE TIME OF HER BIRTH — BACK TO THE 50th CENTURY A.D., ACCORDING TO THE OLD CALENDAR.



BACK THEN, CONCORDIA WAS STILL KNOWN AS THE ALLIED MUNICIPALITIES OF AMERICA.

HALO JONES WAS BORN ON A HUGE FLOATING HOOP TETHERED OFF THE POINT OF MANHATTAN, NOW CALLED SERENOPOLIS.



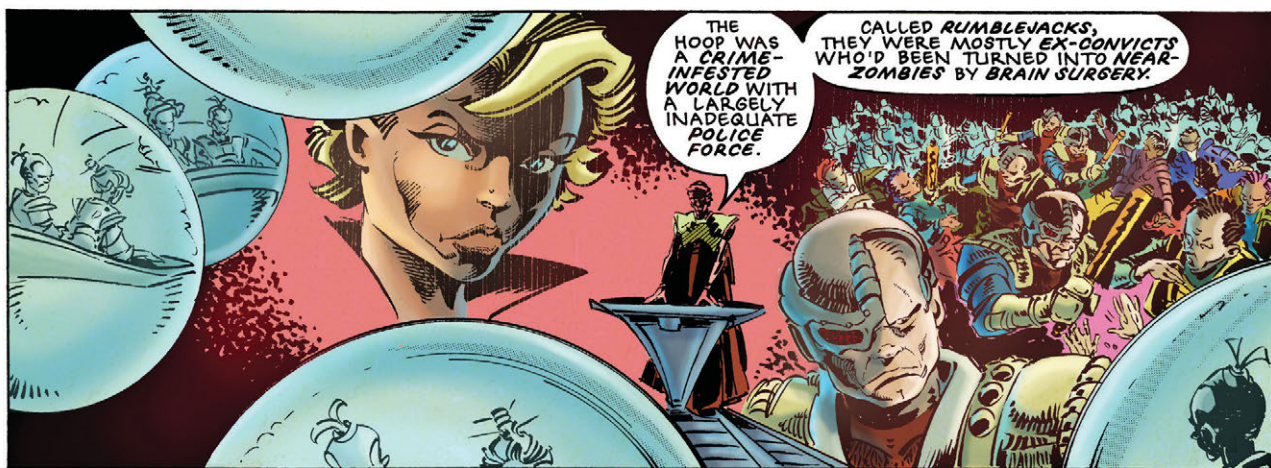
"THE HOOP WAS A MASSIVE DEAD END IN WHICH TO DUMP AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYED.

"CALLED A 'POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMME', IT DIDN'T REDUCE POVERTY ... IT JUST MEANT THAT PEOPLE NO LONGER HAD TO LOOK AT THE POOR.



"IF YOU LOST YOUR JOB YOU WERE MOVED TO THE HOOP, WHERE YOU LIVED ON A STATE-PROVIDED CREDIT-CARD SYSTEM CALLED MAM UNTIL YOU FOUND EMPLOYMENT.

"EXCEPT THAT THERE WASN'T ANY EMPLOYMENT."



THE HOOP WAS A CRIME-INFESTED WORLD WITH A LARGELY INADEQUATE POLICE FORCE.

CALLED RUMBLEJACKS, THEY WERE MOSTLY EX-CONVICTS WHO'D BEEN TURNED INTO NEAR-ZOMBIES BY BRAIN SURGERY.



THEN, OF COURSE, THERE WERE THE DIFFERENT DRUMMERS... A TEENAGED CULT WHOSE BRAIN IMPLANTS GAVE THEM A PERSISTENT HYPNOTIC DRUM-BEAT INSIDE THEIR HEADS.

SOMETIMES IT MADE THEM ECSTATIC, SOMETIMES VIOLENT, BUT—

DR. BRUNHAUER, WEREN'T MOST OF THE DRUMMERS KILLED IN THE RED WEDNESDAY MASSACRE?



HM. YES. VERY GOOD... BUT THAT WAS IN 4952, THREE YEARS AFTER HALO JONES LEFT EARTH.

BACK IN 4949, LIFE WAS VERY DIFFERENT. TODAY, THERE ARE FEW ALIENS RESIDENT UPON EARTH.

IN 4949, HOWEVER, THERE WERE MANY IMMIGRANTS FROM PROXIMA AND ALPHA CENTAURI. MOST ENDED UP ON THE HOOP, CREATING RACIAL TENSIONS.

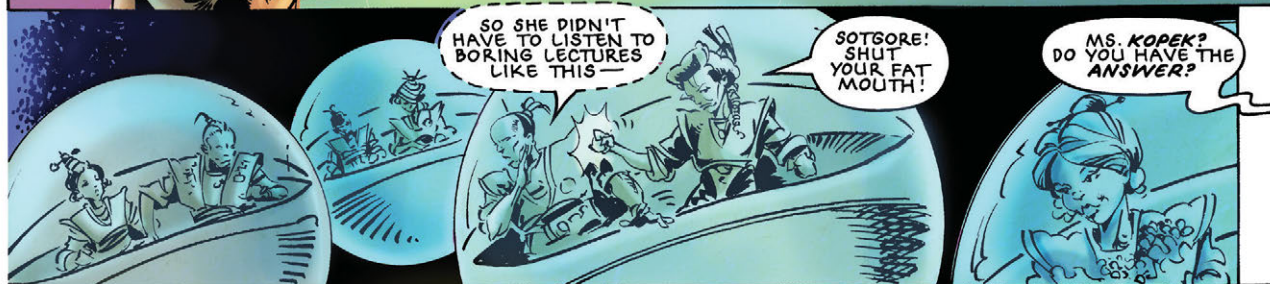
IF THE POVERTY AND RIOTS GOT TOO DEPRESSING, YOU COULD VISIT ONE OF THE HOOP'S EXIT GARDENS... SNIFF THE FLOWERS... LISTEN TO THE MUSIC...

...AND BE PUT QUIETLY TO SLEEP WITH A LETHAL INJECTION.



HALO JONES WAS BORN INTO THIS MISERABLE, SEALED WORLD IN 4037. NONE OF THE LEGENDS MENTION HER PARENTS. PRESUMABLY THEY DIED WHILE SHE WAS YOUNG.

IN 4040, SHE LEFT EARTH... WHY?



SO SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO BORING LECTURES LIKE THIS—

SOTGORE! SHUT YOUR FAT MOUTH!

MS. KOPEK? DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWER?



UH... UH, WELL, I READ THAT SHE LEFT EARTH BECAUSE OF A FAILED LOVE AFFAIR WITH HER BOYFRIEND, RODRICE.

HA HA HA! NO, I'M AFRAID THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE MORE ROMANTIC LEGENDS THAT'S SPRUNG UP.



IN REALITY, "RODRICE" WASN'T HALO'S BOYFRIEND—OR EVEN A BOY! HER NAME WAS RODICE.

HOWEVER, HALO DID LEAVE HER BEHIND ON EARTH, AND THEY DID ARRANGE TO MEET A YEAR LATER ON THE PLANET CHARLEMAGNE.



HALO JONES SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT EARTH WHILE SHE WAS UPSET AFTER THE BRUTAL MURDER OF ONE OF HER FRIENDS...

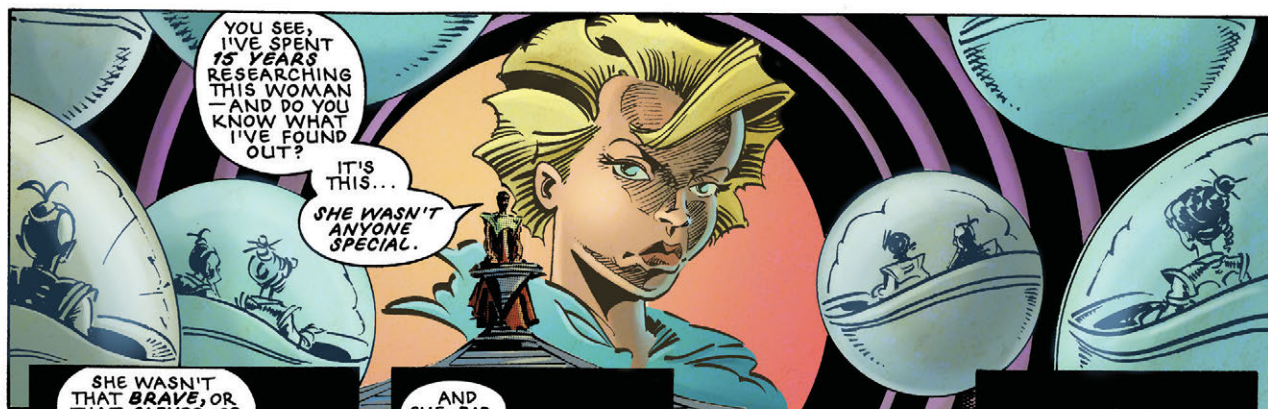
...AND THE RECRUITMENT OF ANOTHER INTO THE PSYCHOPATHIC DIFFERENT DRUMMERS.



ABOARD AN ANCIENT LUXURY LINER, NAMED 'THE CLARA PANDY' AFTER A FAMOUS GALACTIC FRONTIERSWOMAN, HALO JONES LEFT EARTH WITH A ROBOT DOG FOR COMPANY...

...AND NEVER CAME BACK.

THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY.



YOU SEE, I'VE SPENT 15 YEARS RESEARCHING THIS WOMAN — AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT?

IT'S THIS...
SHE WASN'T ANYONE SPECIAL.



SHE WASN'T THAT BRAVE, OR THAT CLEVER, OR THAT STRONG.

SHE WAS JUST SOMEBODY WHO FELT CRAMPED BY THE CONFINES OF HER LIFE.

SHE WAS JUST SOMEBODY WHO HAD TO GET OUT.



AND SHE DID IT!

SHE WENT OUT PAST VEGA, OUT PAST MOULQUET AND LAMBARD! SHE SAW PLACES THAT AREN'T EVEN THERE ANY MORE!

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE SAID? HER MOST FAMOUS QUOTATION?



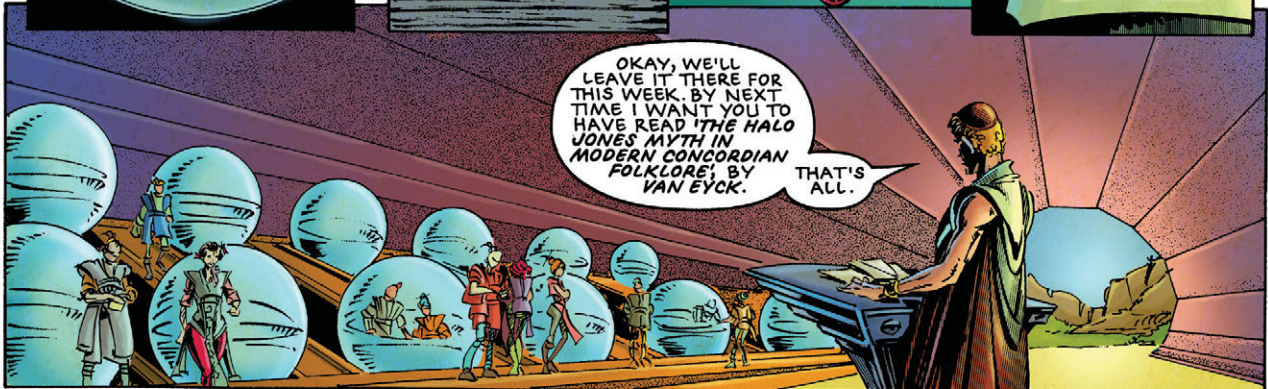
"ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT."



WHY, YES. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.

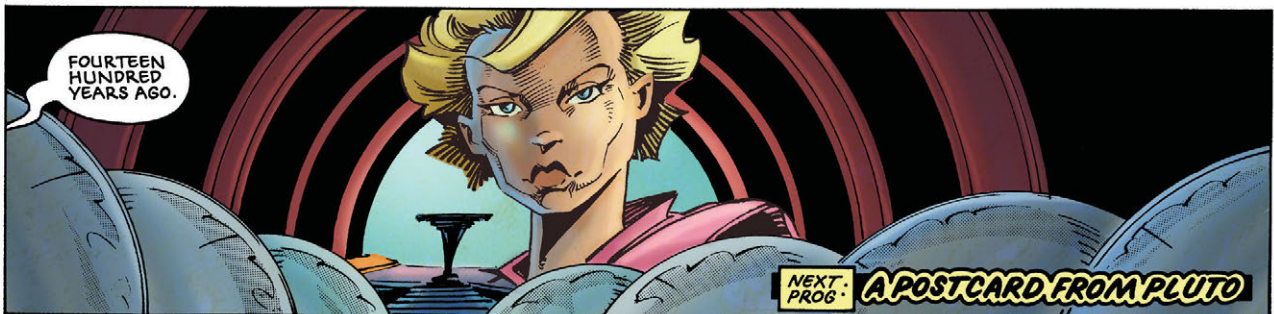
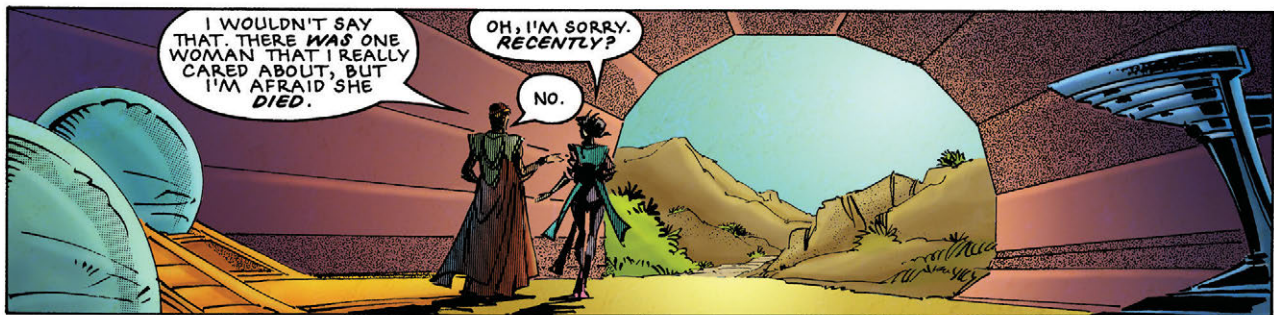
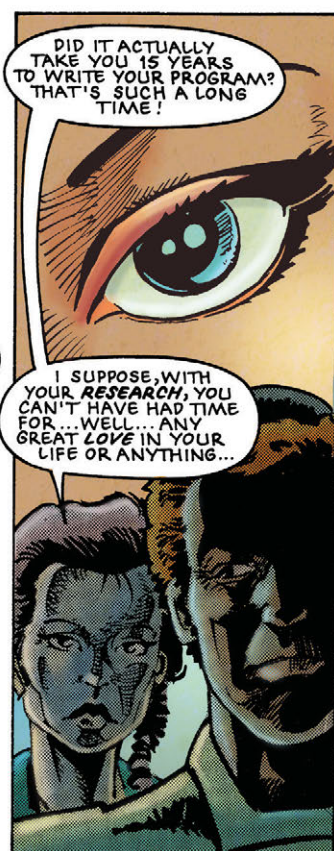
THAT'S VERY GOOD, MS. KOPEK.

SHE SAID... "ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT."



OKAY, WE'LL LEAVE IT THERE FOR THIS WEEK. BY NEXT TIME I WANT YOU TO HAVE READ 'THE HALO JONES MYTH IN MODERN CONCORDIAN FOLKLORE', BY VAN EYCK.

THAT'S ALL.



"DEAR RODICE..."

"TEN MINUTES AGO WE PASSED PLUTO. I KNOW THIS BECAUSE MY CABINMATE-TOY- GRABBED MY NECK, RAMMED MY HEAD AGAINST THE WINDOW AND SAID 'LOOK! THERE'S PLUTO!'"

"I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING."

The Ballad Of

HALO JONES

1: A POSTCARD FROM PLUTO

"TOY'S FULL NAME IS TOY MOLTO. SHE'S REALLY NICE. SHE'S SEVEN FEET TALL AND YESTERDAY, WHEN ONE OF THE SLABS SMARTMOUTHED ME, SHE BROKE HIS WRIST."

"SHE'S THE TOUGHEST WOMAN I EVER MET. YOU'D HATE HER."

"THERE'S ALSO A SORT OF STOWAWAY IN OUR CABIN - A REALLY DULL TYPE. I CAN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING ABOUT HER..."

"IN FACT, IT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A HER. IT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY."

"BEING A HOSTESS IS REALLY SLAPPY, BUT AT FIRST I HAD ONE OR TWO DOUBTS ABOUT THE UNIFORM..."

DON'T LOOK AT ME! I'M AN ATROCITY!

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ART ROBOT
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LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER

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"SOME OF THE PASSENGERS ON THE CLARA PANDY ARE REAL FIRST-CLASS EXOTICS, ALTHOUGH MOSTLY THEY'RE JUST LOUD AND RICH."



"THERE'S THIS ONE PASSENGER, A WOMAN, WHOSE NAME IS CEZANNE GOLEITER. SHE'S FABULOUS."





"THE OTHER BEST THING ON BOARD IS THE STEERSMAN..."

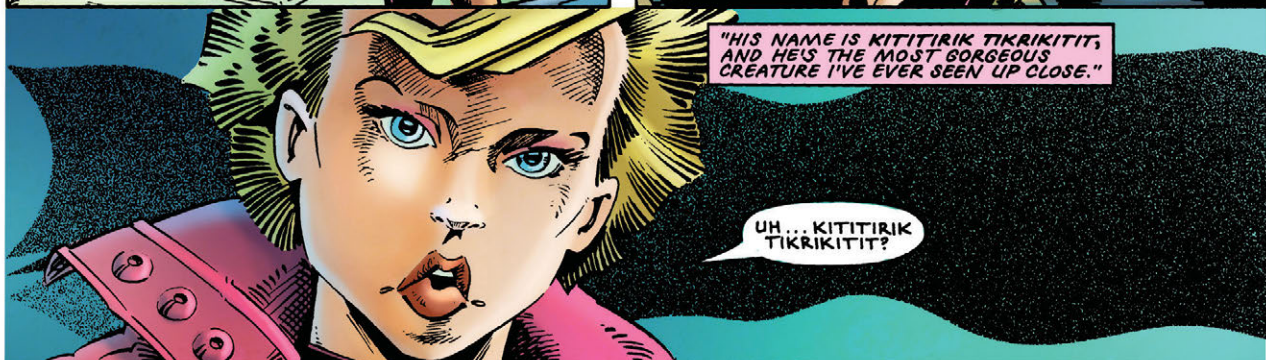
JONES, H.?
YUTHA HOZTEZZ
TALKS CETACEAN,
RIGHT? YUHGODDA
COME WI' ME.

UH...
WHAT
FOR?



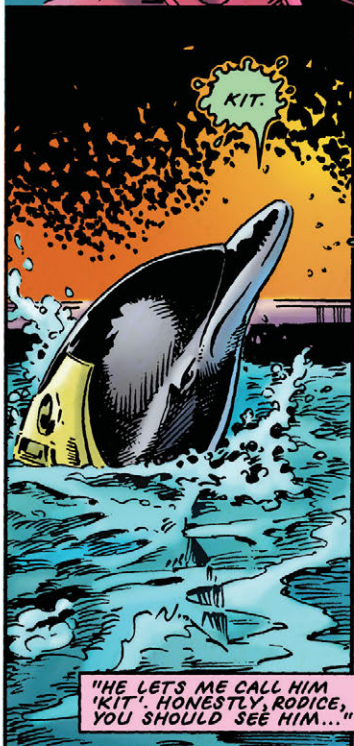
TH' STEERZMAN
WANTSUM
COMPANY.

HE'S THROUGH
INNA FORWUD
NAVIGASHUN
CHAMBUH. Y'KIN
PICKUPPA
NAGUAJACKET
ONNA WAY
IN...



"HIS NAME IS KITITIRIK TIKRIKITIT,
AND HE'S THE MOST GORGEOUS
CREATURE I'VE EVER SEEN UP CLOSE."

UH... KITITIRIK
TIKRIKITIT?



KIT.

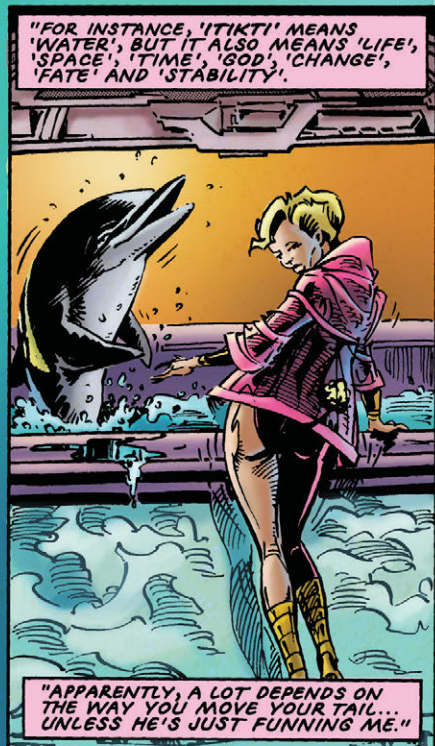
"HE LETS ME CALL HIM
'KIT'. HONESTLY, RODICE,
YOU SHOULD SEE HIM..."



TIKRIKIT
TIKRIKIT
IKTIKITIT?

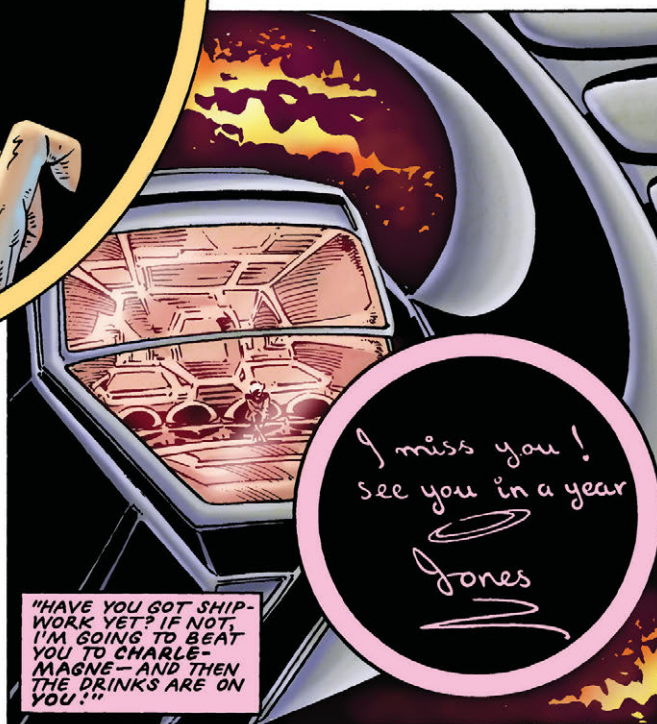
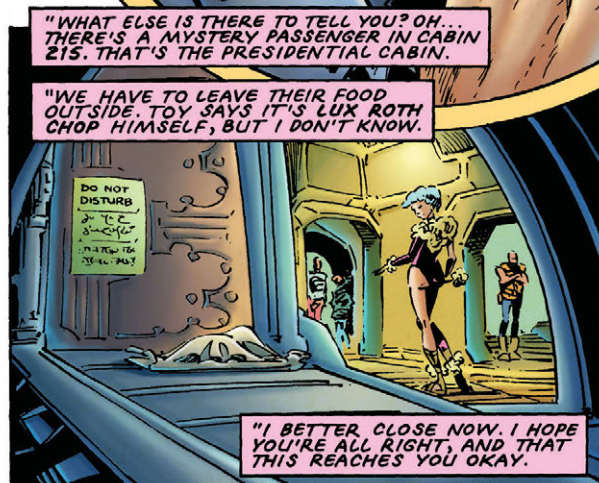
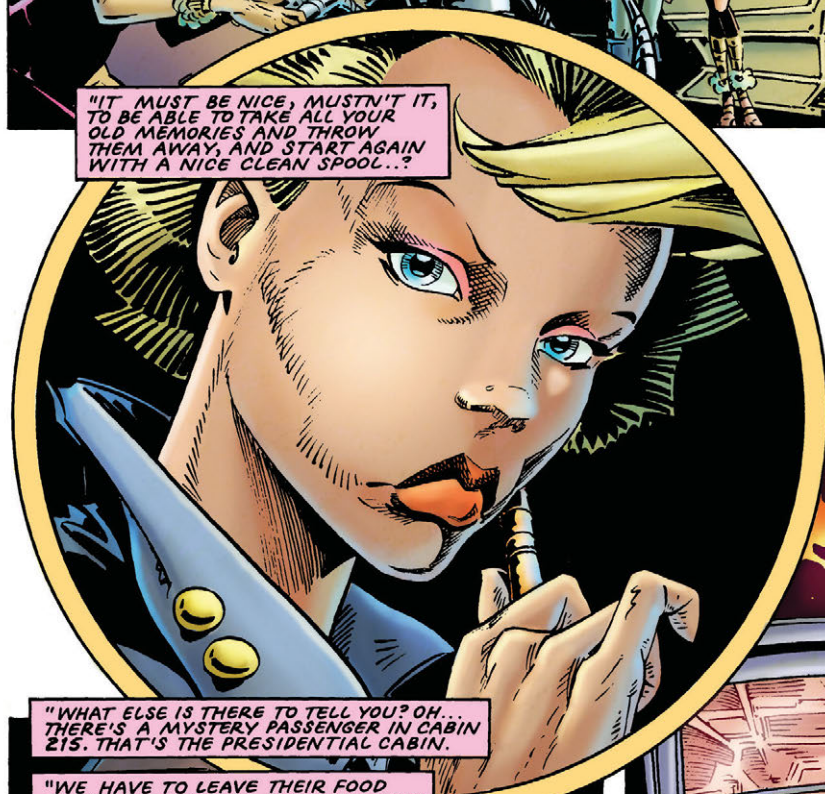
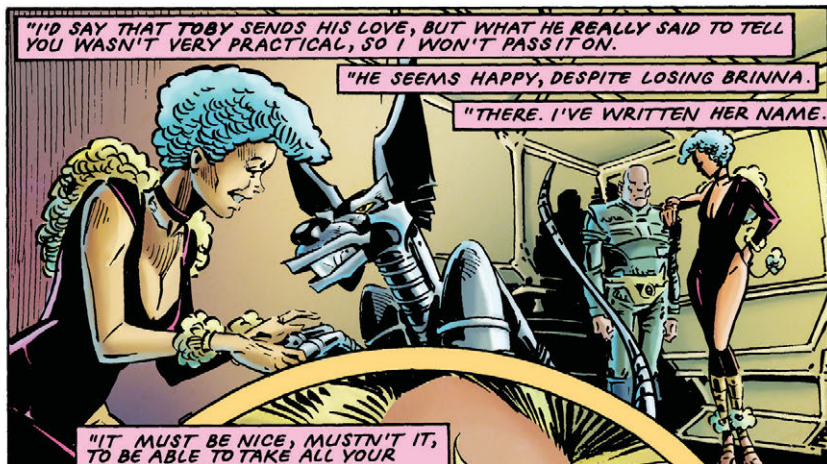
RIKIKIKITITIK
RITITIK...
KI
RITITITIK.

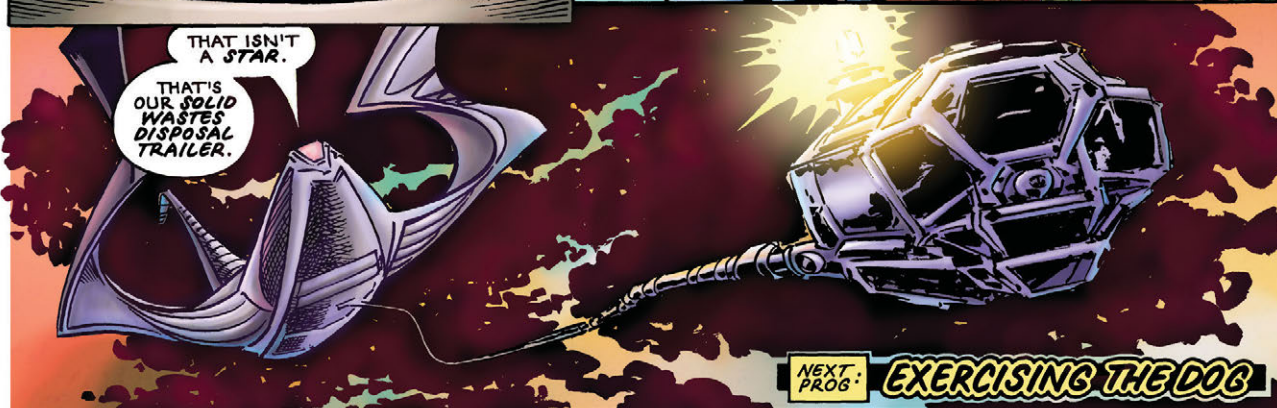
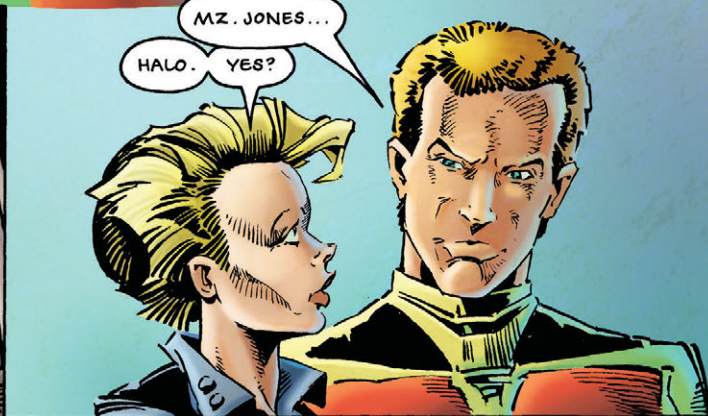
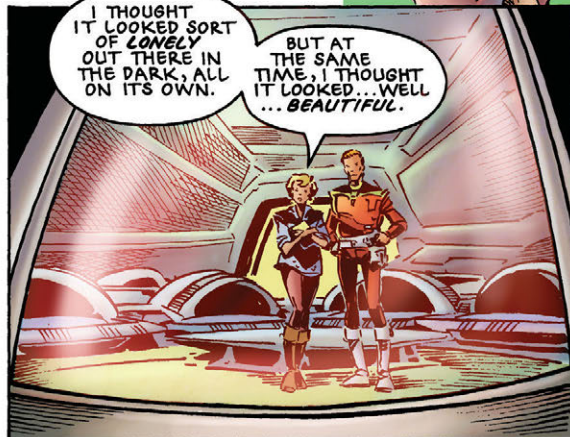
"A LOT OF NIGHTS I JUST CALL
TO SIT AND TALK WITH HIM.
MY CETACEAN IS BETTING
BETTER, BUT IT'S SUCH A
COMPLICATED LANGUAGE."



"FOR INSTANCE, 'ITIKTI' MEANS
'WATER', BUT IT ALSO MEANS 'LIFE',
'SPACE', 'TIME', 'GOD', 'CHANGE',
'FATE' AND 'STABILITY'."

"APPARENTLY, A LOT DEPENDS ON
THE WAY YOU MOVE YOUR TAIL...
UNLESS HE'S JUST FUNNING ME."





ONE MONTH OUT:

HELLO,
TOBY. WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

I FINALLY GOT
AN APPOINTMENT
WITH THE
CYBERNETICIST.
GONNA REPLACE
MY OLD AUDIAL
MEMORY SPOOLS.
HOW ABOUT YOU?

I'M GOING DOWN
TO TALK TO KIT FOR
A WHILE IN THE
NAVIGATION
CHAMBER.
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE
REALLY LUCKY.
CYBERNETICIST
NINEGOLD CAN REPLACE
MY MEMORY SPOOLS
ANY TIME HE
LIKES.

LUCKY?

YEAH, WELL,
IT'S GOOD BEING OUT
HERE WITH YOU... BUT I
AIN'T GETTIN' MUCH
EXERCISE DOIN' THIS
SECURITY WORK...

DON'T
COMPLAIN.
ANYTHING
FOR A PULL
LIFE. I'LL
SEE YOU
AROUND.

NAVIGATION AREA
RESTRICTED ACCESS

KIT?

TRITITIK
KITRITITIKIK-
TIRIK?

HEY, KIT?
WHERE...?

COME IN
AND SHUT DOOR,
PLEASE, OR I BLOW
YOUR SKULL TO
PIECES.

CHLIK

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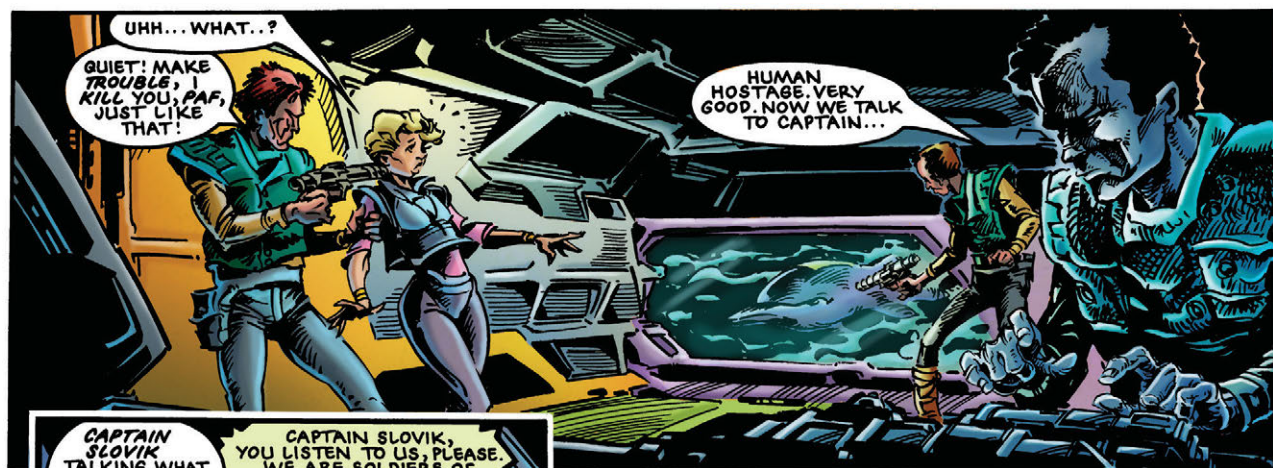
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2: EXERCISING THE DOG

The Ballad Of

HAL
JONES





ONE: WE DEMAND THAT THE TRUTH OF OUR STRUGGLE BE BROADCAST BY LYING EARTHSIDE MEDIA, DIRECT FROM THIS SHIP...

NOW, THIS IS THE SPOOL... WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



TWO: WE DEMAND THAT THE GUILD OF CETACEAN STEERSMEN RE-OPEN WATER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EARTH'S ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS, PLEASE, I...

YOU SHUT UP NOW! EARTH-CONCUBINE OF THE RICH, I SPIT ON YOU!



THREE: THERE WILL BE SAFE PASSAGE FROM THIS SHIP, WITH STEERSMAN AS HOSTAGE, FOR MYSELF AND FELLOW SOLDIERS AGAINST OPPRESSION.

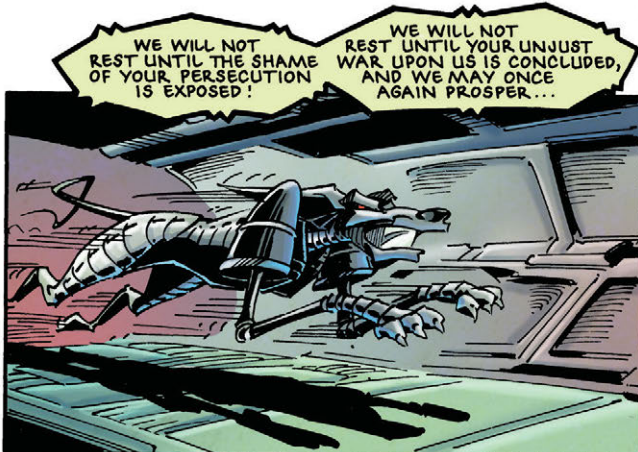
NO-ONE WILL BE HARMED...



... UNLESS YOU FAIL TO MEET OUR DEMANDS. THEN, WE KILL STEERSMAN, AND LUX ROTH CHOP WILL ANSWER TO STEERSMAN'S BUILD. I DO NOT THINK YOU WANT THIS.

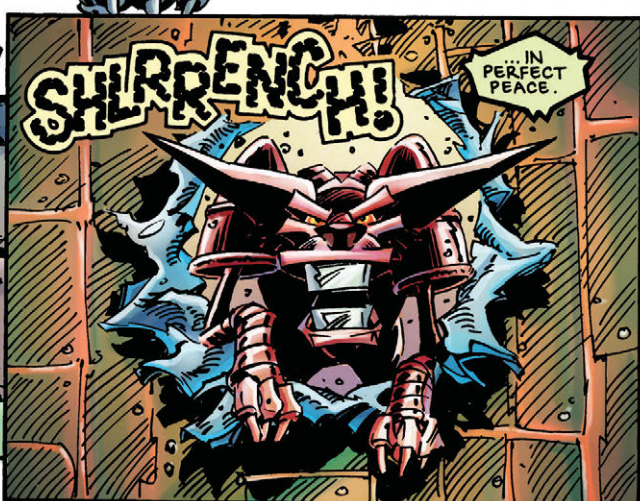
RIRRI-TITIKKIT-RIKIT-RIKIT?

YOU TOO! YOU SHUT UP!



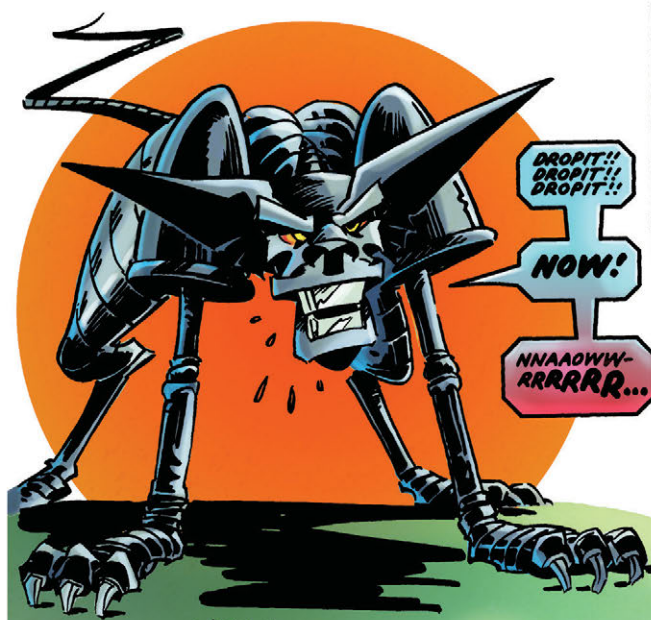
WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE SHAME OF YOUR PERSECUTION IS EXPOSED!

WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL YOUR UNJUST WAR UPON US IS CONCLUDED, AND WE MAY ONCE AGAIN PROSPER...

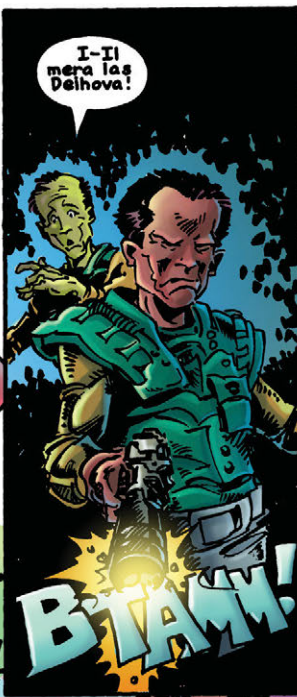


SHLRRENCH!

... IN PERFECT PEACE.



DROPIT!!
DROPIT!!
DROPIT!!
NOW!
NNAADWW-
RRRRR...

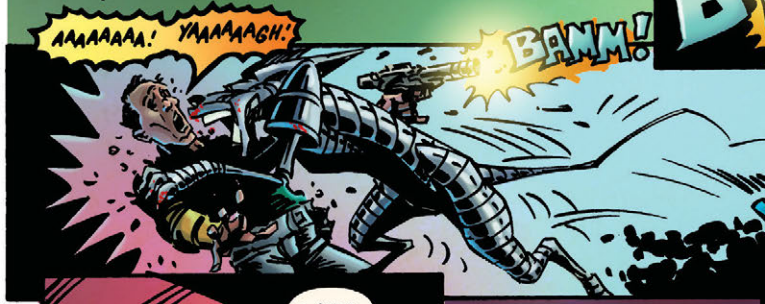


I-I
mera las
Delhova!

BIAM!

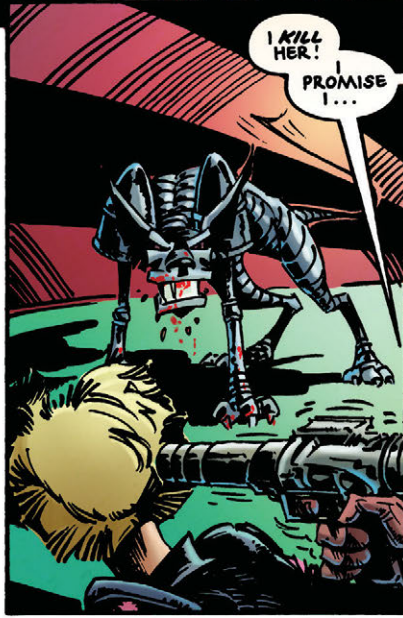


RRRRRRRR-
RAAARRR-
RGGHH!



AAAAAAA!
YAAAAAGH!

BANM!



I KILL
HER!
I PROMISE
I...

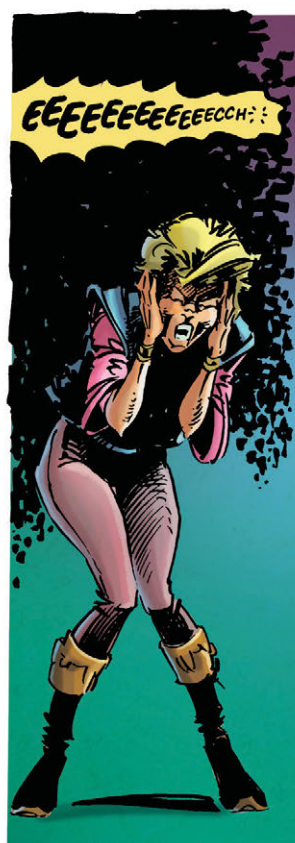


...KILL...



... HERRAAAAAIIIEEEEE!

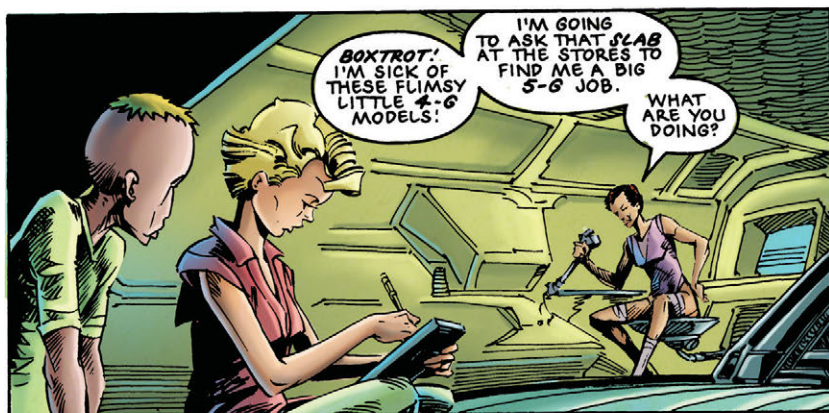
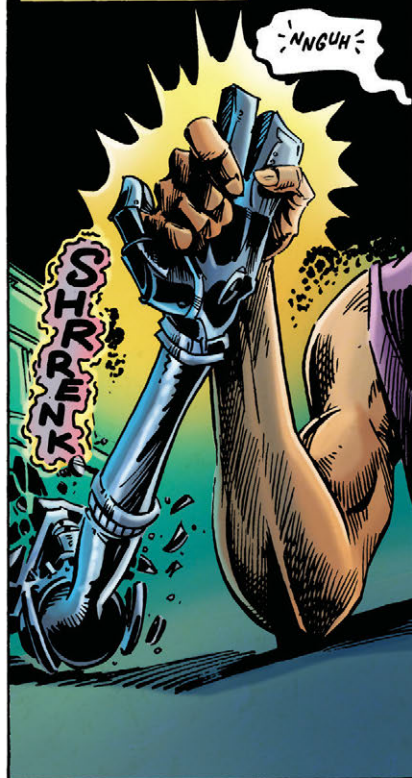
BIAM!

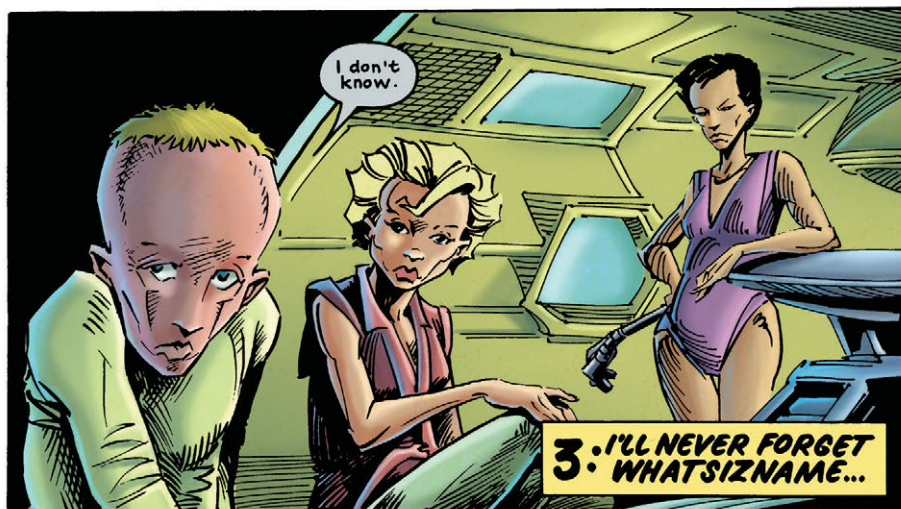


NEXT PROG: I'LL NEVER FORGET WHATEVER NAME

4949AD

THREE MONTHS OUT:





**3: I'LL NEVER FORGET
WHATSIZNAME...**

The Ballad Of HALO JONES

"I REMEMBER I
STARTED OFF AS
A GIRL. THAT
MUCH I'M
CERTAIN OF..."



"...OR MAYBE I
STARTED OUT AS
A BOY. NEVER
MIND - IT
DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER."



"THE THING IS, I WASN'T
HAPPY AS A GIRL... UH...
OR MAYBE I WASN'T
HAPPY AS A BOY..."



"THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE,
EXCEPT THAT 6 MONTHS AFTER
THE TREATMENT I STARTED
REGRETTING MY DECISION."

"SO I HAD ANOTHER
REMOULD TO TURN
ME BACK TO WHAT-
EVER I STARTED OUT AS."



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Over the
next five years,
I changed my mind
about whether I
wanted to be a boy
or a girl *forty-*
seven times.

I suppose
all those *remoulds*
finally did something
to my *mind* and
my *body*...

"EVENTUALLY, I WASN'T A BOY OR A GIRL. I WASN'T ANYTHING. I COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I'D BEEN ORIGINALLY. THE DOCTORS WERE EQUALLY CONFUSED."

"ALSO, MY PERSONALITY HAD BEEN COMPLETELY ERASED. THAT'S WHY I'M SO BORING."

"PEOPLE STOPPED LISTENING TO WHAT I WAS SAYING, AND DIDN'T SEEM TO NOTICE I WAS THERE."

"EVERYBODY FORGOT ABOUT ME. I WASN'T A BOY, I WASN'T A GIRL..."

"I WAS JUST A CYPHER, A SORT OF GLYPH."

"LIFE'S VERY DIFFICULT WHEN NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE THERE. I COULDN'T GET A JOB BECAUSE TEN SECONDS AFTER THE INTERVIEW THEY FORGOT ABOUT ME."

"ALSO, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET SERVED IN RESTAURANTS."

"FINALLY, MY LANDLADY FORGOT I WAS LIVING IN MY APARTMENT AND LEASED IT TO ANOTHER FAMILY."

"I WALKED THROUGH THE CROWDED STREETS AND NOBODY EVEN LOOKED AT ME... THEY JUST STARED STRAIGHT THROUGH ME."

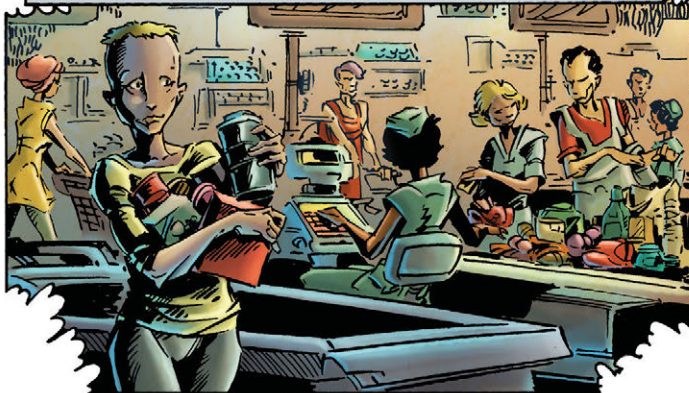
"I PROTESTED, BUT THEY DIDN'T NOTICE. EVENTUALLY, I MOVED OUT."

"IT WAS AS IF I'D SOMEHOW SLIPPED BENEATH THE THRESHOLD OF HUMAN AWARENESS."

I had no home, no money, no friends, no job... all I had to look forward to was starvation.

But, as it turned out, I didn't starve.

"YOU SEE, BEING A NON-ENTITY HAS GOT SOME ADVANTAGES. I SOON DISCOVERED THAT I COULD HELP MYSELF TO WHAT-EVER I WANTED, AND NO-ONE WOULD NOTICE ME DOING IT."



"I'D WALK INTO PEOPLE'S HOMES AND SIT DOWN WITH THEM AT THEIR BREAKFAST TABLE... AND NOBODY WOULD THINK TO ASK WHAT I WAS DOING THERE."



"I FIRST STOWED AWAY ON THE CLARA PANDY THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE CALLED AT RULF'S WORLD IN VEGA."



"I FOUND AN EMPTY CABIN AND MOVED IN. EVEN THE SHIP'S ROBOTS DIDN'T NOTICE ME."

"I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE. IT'S A LONELY LIFE REALLY. THE MINUTE I LEAVE A ROOM IT'S LIKE I WAS NEVER THERE."

"IT'S AS IF I'M IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION TO EVERYONE ELSE."



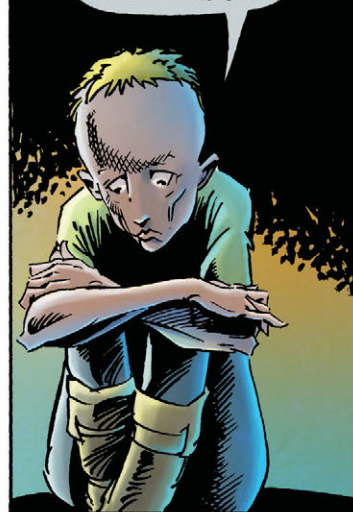
"STILL, I'M NOT COMPLAINING. I LIKE BEING NEAR PEOPLE..."

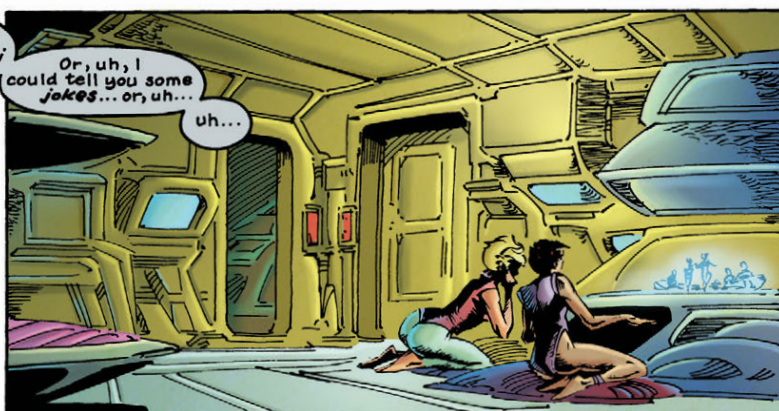
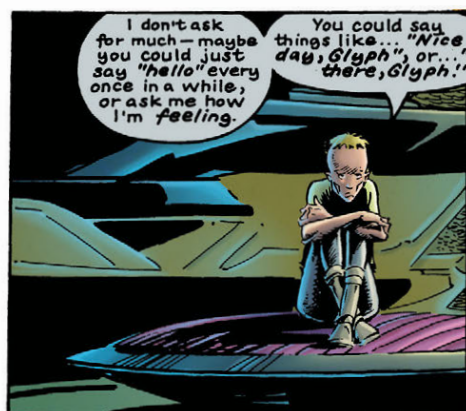
"I CAN LISTEN TO WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, AND PRETEND TO JOIN IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS. IT'S A LOT OF FUN, REALLY..."



... but there I go again, talking about myself and burdening everybody with my problems.

I don't want you to feel sorry for me. I'm just grateful to you for taking a moment to listen...





**FOUR MONTHS
OUT:**

HOY! HALO,
LOOK — JUNK
CLUSTERS!

WHERE?

AAH,
WAY BACK
THERE. YOU
MISSED
'EM.

The Ballad Of

HALO JONES

4: BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Y'KNOW, I
HAVEN'T SEEN
ONE OF THE
NATURAL WONDERS
OF SPACE YET!
THIS SHIP
TRAVELS SO
FAST.

YOU THINK
SO? I NEVER
FEEL LIKE I'M
REALLY
MOVING WHEN
I'M SPACE-
SIDE.

HEY, YOU —
KID! STAFF ONLY!
OUTSCRAM!

IT'S ALMOST
5.75. I HAVE TO
TAKE LUNCH TO THE
PRESIDENTIAL
CABIN.

LUCKY YOU.

OKAY, JUST
DELIVER THOSE
DRINKS AND THEN
I'LL COVER FOR YOU.
IT'S PRETTY
QUIET.

UH... MZ. GOLEITER?
WAS YOURS THE
'RED SHIFT', OR THE
'SCHRÖDINGER'S
CAT'?

RED SHIFT,
WITH ICE, NO
PINEAPPLE,
THANK YOU, SO
KIND, HERE'S
TWO
CREDITS.

Y'KNOW,
THAT CEZANNE
GOLEITER,
I'M SURE I
RECOGNISE HER
VOICE FROM
SOMEWHERE...

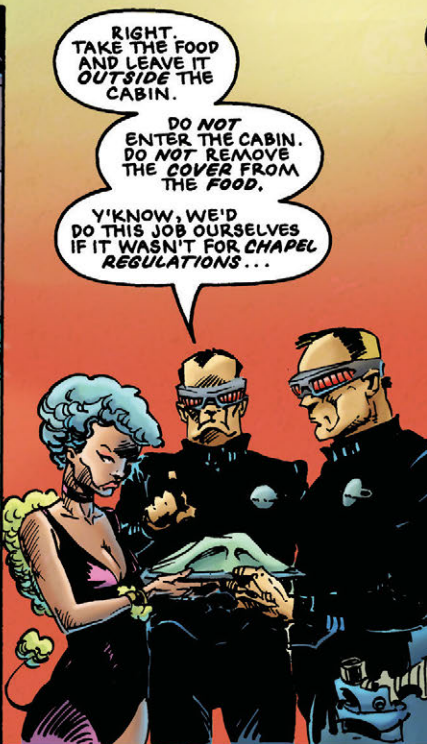
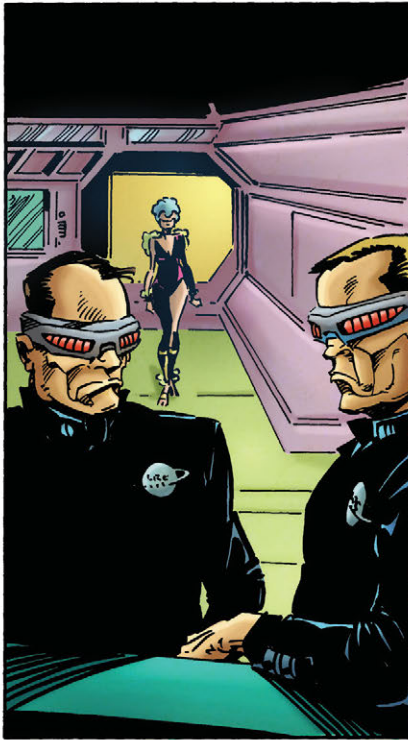
YOU'RE
PROBABLY
THINKING OF
FINGERNAILS
SCRAPING
DOWN A
POLYSCREEN.

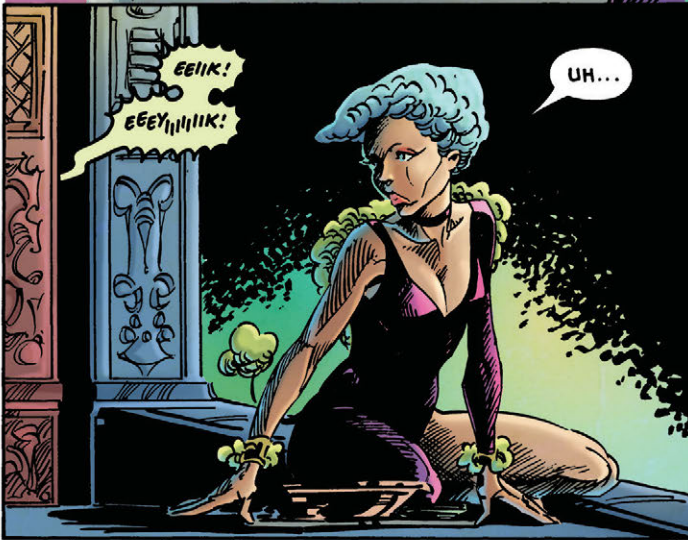
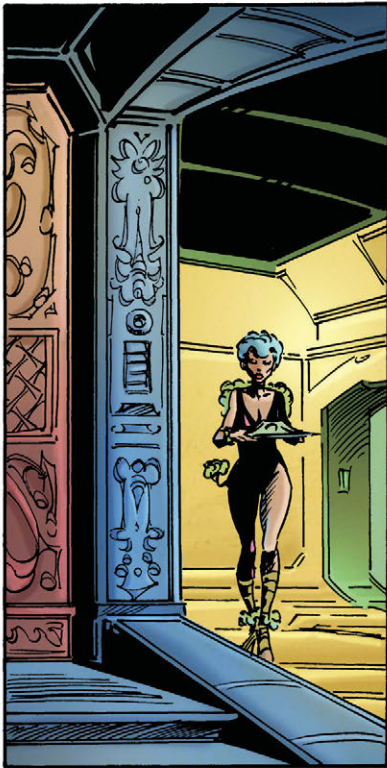
YOU OUGHT
TO GET MOVING.
THE MYSTERY
GUEST WILL BE
GETTING HUNGRY...

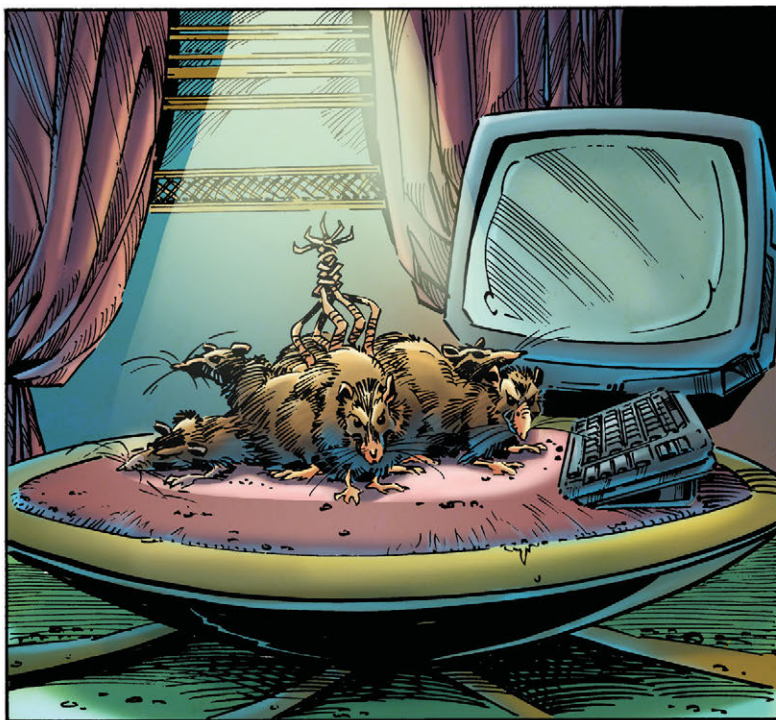
**2000AD
Credit Card:**

SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER

COMPU-73c









NEXT PROG: CAT AND MOUSE



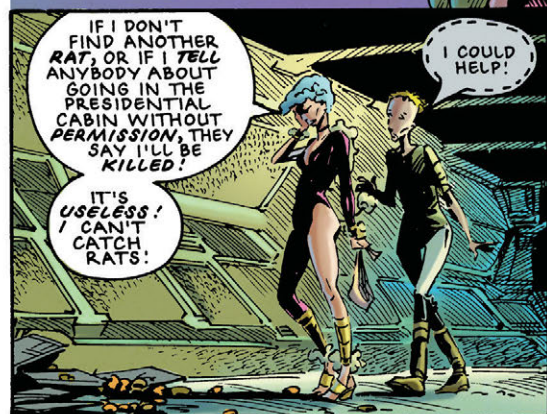
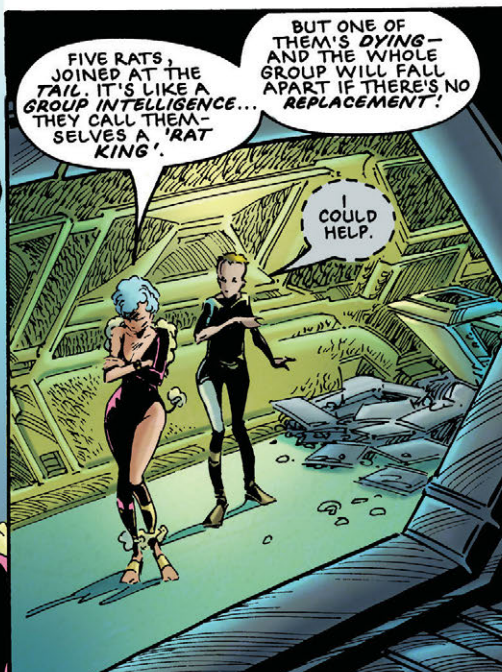
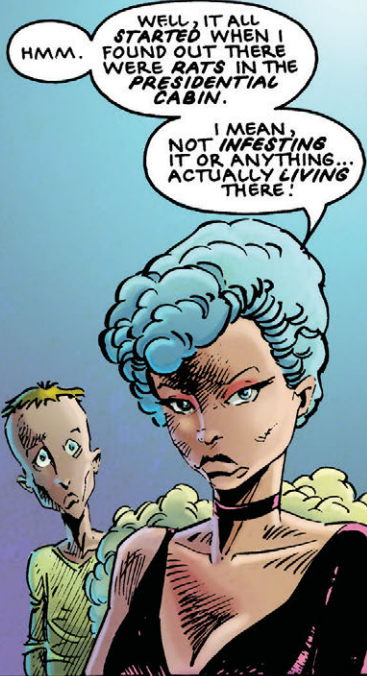
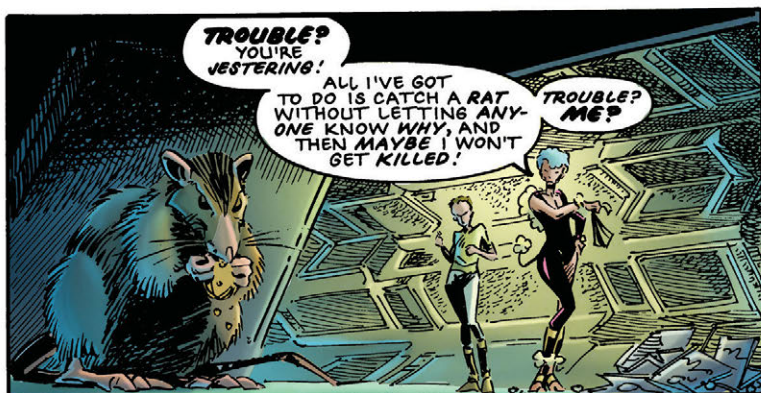
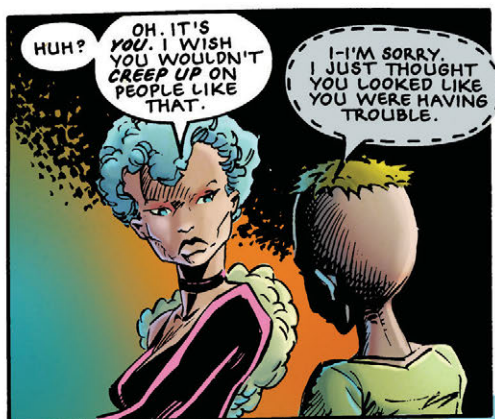
2000AD
Credit Card:
SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73E

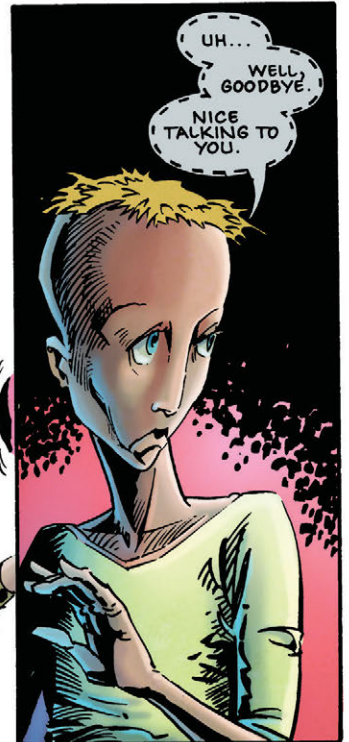


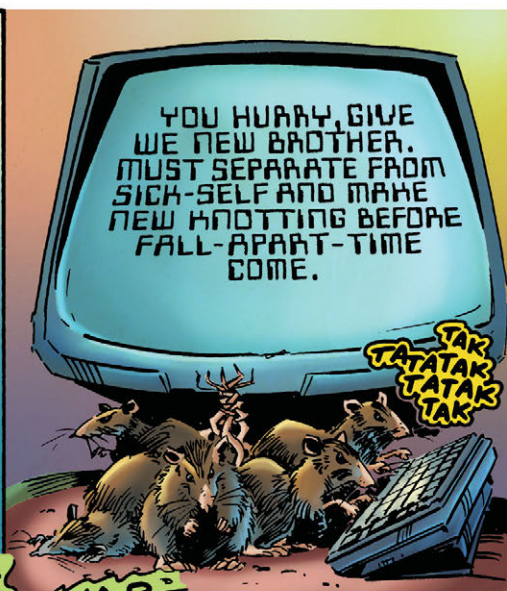
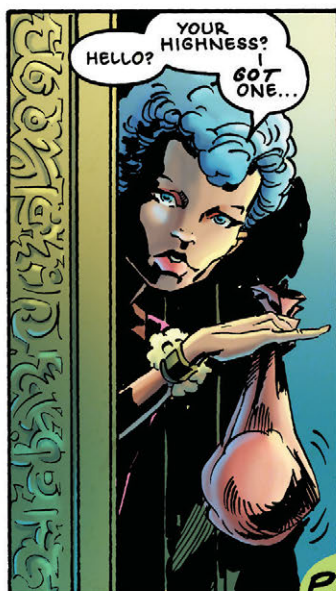
The Ballad Of HALO JONES

5: CAT AND MOUSE











EIGHT MONTHS OUT...

HELLO?
MIX?

THE SLAB
AT THE STORES
SENT ME OVER
WITH THOSE
PARTS YOU
NEEDED.

I GUESS
YOU WANT TO
FINISH EARLY
AND GET READY
FOR THE
EQUATOR PARTY
TONIGHT...

THAT'S RIGHT.
WILL YOU BE GOING,
MZ. JONES?

UH, WELL, I DON'T
KNOW. I, Y'KNOW, DON'T
REALLY HAVE ANYBODY
TO GO WITH...

MY NAME'S
HALO.

HMM. NICE
NAME. I WOULDN'T
HAVE THOUGHT
YOU'D BE SHORT
OF COMPANY,
MZ. JONES!

WELL, NORMALLY
I'M NOT, Y'KNOW, SHORT
OF COMPANY...

BACK ON THE
HOOP, I HAD LOTS
OF FRIENDS. I REALLY
MISS THEM.

I JUST DON'T
REALLY KNOW MANY
PEOPLE OUT HERE.
I'LL PROBABLY STAY
HOME TONIGHT.

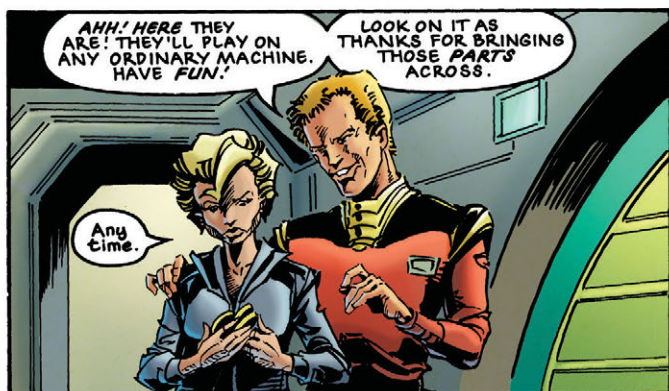
HMM. WE
CAN'T HAVE YOU
STAYING HOME AND
MISSING YOUR
FRIENDS, CAN
WE?

WE...
WE CAN'T?

I HAD
YOUR ROBOT
DOE IN A MONTH
OR SO BACK, TO
REPLACE HIS AUDIO-
MEMORY
TAPES.

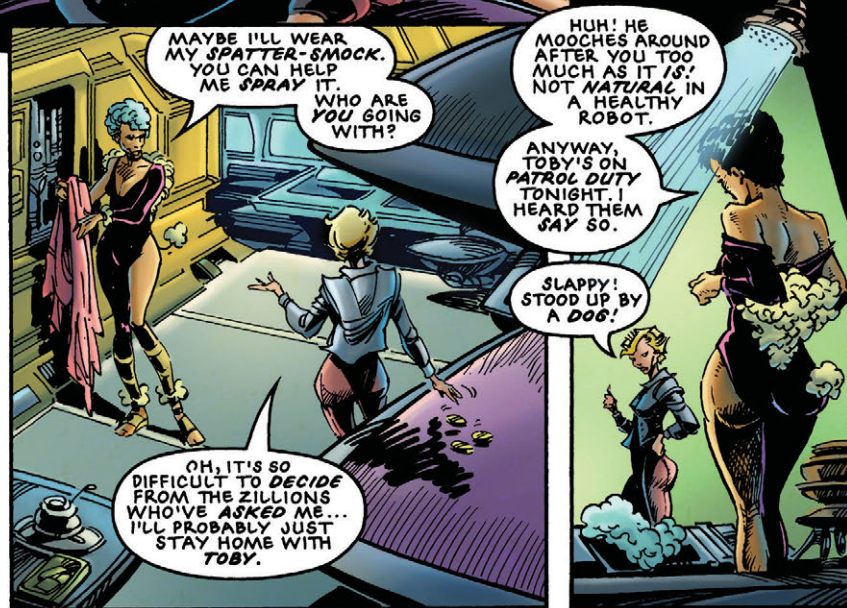
OF
COURSE
NOT!

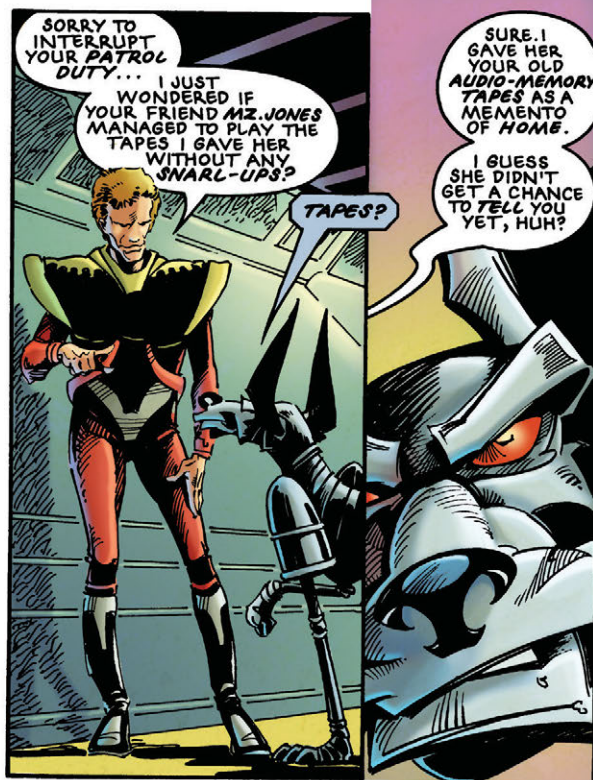
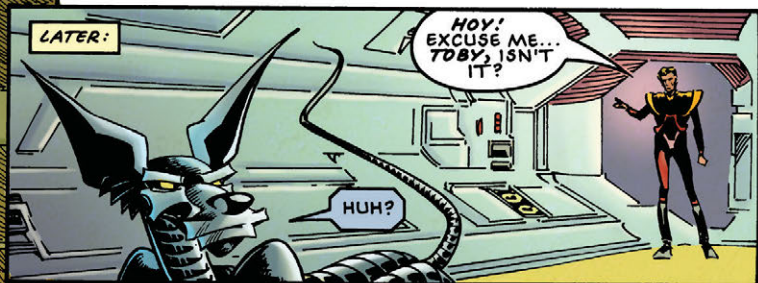
THE
OLD TAPES
ARE AROUND
HERE SOME-
WHERE. THEY'LL
HAVE YOUR
FRIENDS' VOICES
ON THEM.

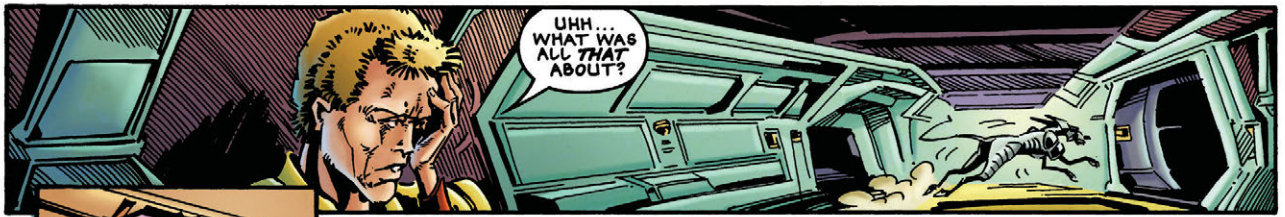


The Ballad Of HAL JONES

6: MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS...







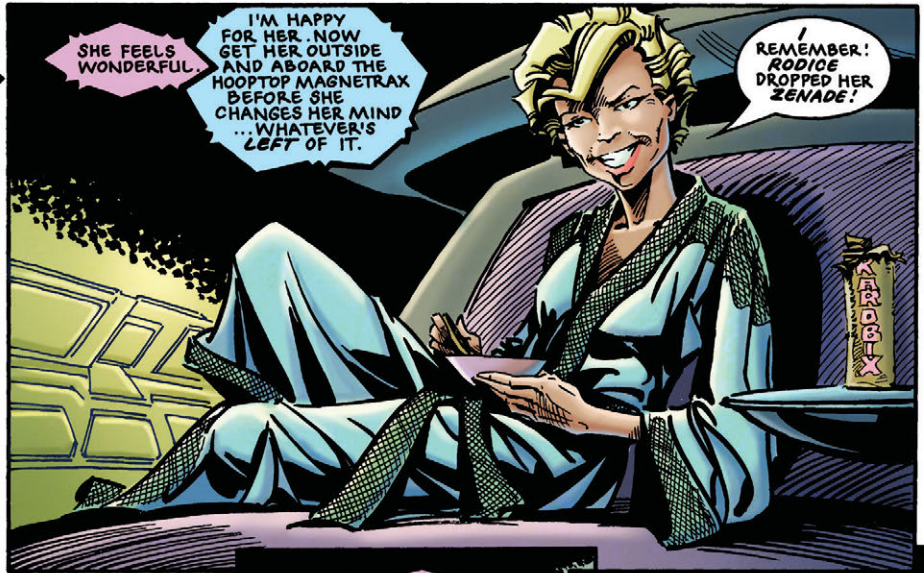
UHH...
WHAT WAS
ALL THAT
ABOUT?



RODICE?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

AM I
OKAY? I FEEL
WONDERFUL!

HAHAHA!



SHE FEELS
WONDERFUL.

I'M HAPPY
FOR HER. NOW
GET HER OUTSIDE
AND ABOARD THE
HOOPTOP MAGNETRAX
BEFORE SHE
CHANGES HER MIND
...WHATEVER'S
LEFT OF IT.

I
REMEMBER!
RODICE
DROPPED HER
ZENADE!



YOU
COMING WITH
US, TOBY?

FORGET IT.
MY GUARANTEE
DOESN'T COVER
SALT-AIR EXPOSURE.
I CAN MAKE BETTER
TIME THROUGH THE
HOOP ON MY OWN
AND MEET YOU ON
MALL LATER.
SEE
YOU AROUND,
GIRLIES.



OH...
TOBY LEFT
US HERE AND
TOOK A SHORT-
CUT.

I'LL JUST
FAST FORWARD
A LITTLE...

THERE!
THAT OUGHTA
DO IT.



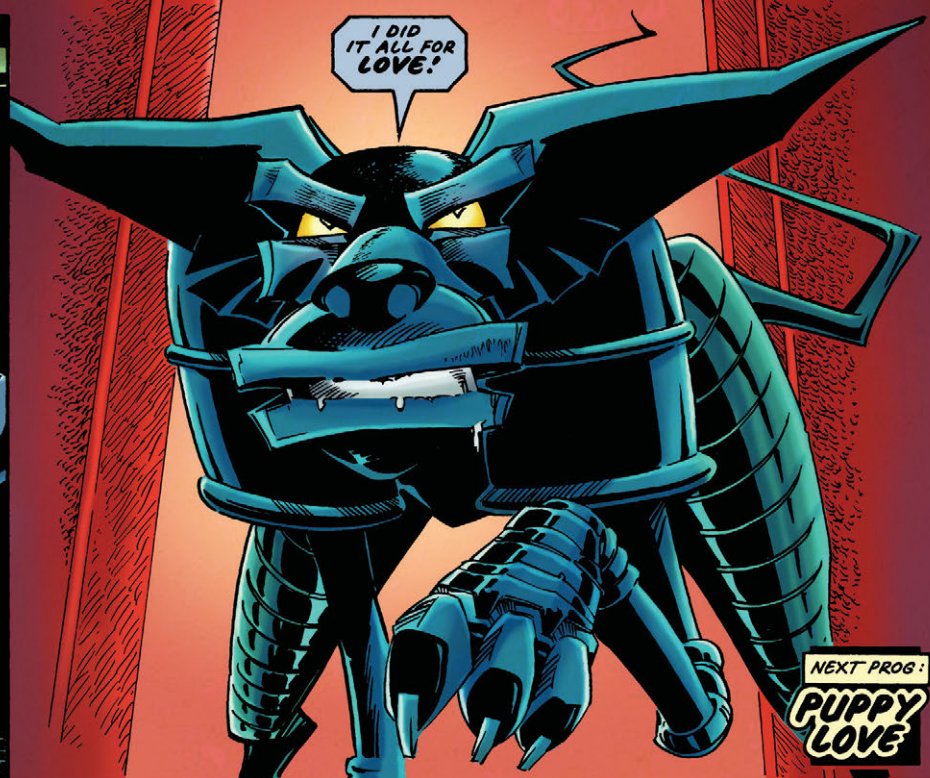
TOBY? IS THAT YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH
HALO AND RODICE?



I CAME HOME, MA.
THERE WAS SOMETHING
I HAD TO DO.

TOBY, I
TOLD YOU TO
STAY WITH
THEM!

HUH?
BRINNA?



NEXT PROG:
PUPPY LOVE

4949 AD.

PARTY NOISES:

...SO, LIKE,
I THINK WHAT
EARTH IS DOING
IN THE TARANTULA
NEBULA IS REALLY
TERRIBLE!

WHO SAYS
THEY'RE DOING
ANYTHING?

2000AD
Credit Card:

SCRIPT ROBOT
ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73c

OH, COME ON!
EVERYBODY KNOWS
EARTH IS TRYING TO
REPOSSSESS THE
TARANTULAN COLONIES
—AND EVERYBODY
KNOWS WHY.

THEY HAVE
MINERAL RESOURCES,
EARTH DOESN'T ANY-
MORE. ALL EARTH HAS
TO SELL IS WATER,
EXCEPT THE CETACEANS
WOULDN'T LET THEM...

OH, I SEE:
WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
OFFEND THE
DOLPHINS, SO
WE INVAD
A BUNCH OF
DEFENCELESS
COLONIES!

CETACEANS
ARE THE ONLY
SPECIES WHO CAN
NAVIGATE THROUGH
HYPERSPACE... OFFEND
THEM, AND SHIPPING
COLLAPSES!

THAT'S NO EXCUSE
FOR LETTING LUIGI
CANNIBAL LOOSE ON
THE TARANTULAN
COLONIES!

HE'S A
PSYCHOPATH!
HE'D USE ANYTHING
—MELANOMA BOMBS,
RATWAR...

BESIDES, FOR
RATWAR YOU NEED
A... WHAT ARE THEY
CALLED? A RAT
EMPEROR OR SOME-
THING. I LEARNED THAT
IN HISTORY...

HOW ABOUT
YOU, JOY? YOU
LOOK THOUGHTFUL.
WHAT DO YOU
THINK ABOUT
ALL THIS?

WHAAT?
RATWAR WAS
OUTLAWED
CENTURIES
AGO!

WELL, I WAS JUST
WONDERING WHETHER
MARALYNTHA ON 'SPACE
HOTEL' WAS GOING TO
MARRY DERVID...

...OR IF
HER MOTHER
WOULD COME OUT
OF THE COMA IN
TIME TO REVEAL
THAT NOOSHI WAS
EXPECTING
DERVID'S
BABY.

oh.

ANIMAL NOISES:

HALO... HALO, TRY TO SEE THINGS HOW I SEE THEM...

UH...YEAH. Y-YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GREAT, TOBY!

HALO... DON'T LIE TO ME. I CAN HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT ACCELERATING.

YOU'RE FRIGHTENED OF ME, AND YOU'RE TRYING TO BUY TIME UNTIL YOU CAN BETRAY ME.

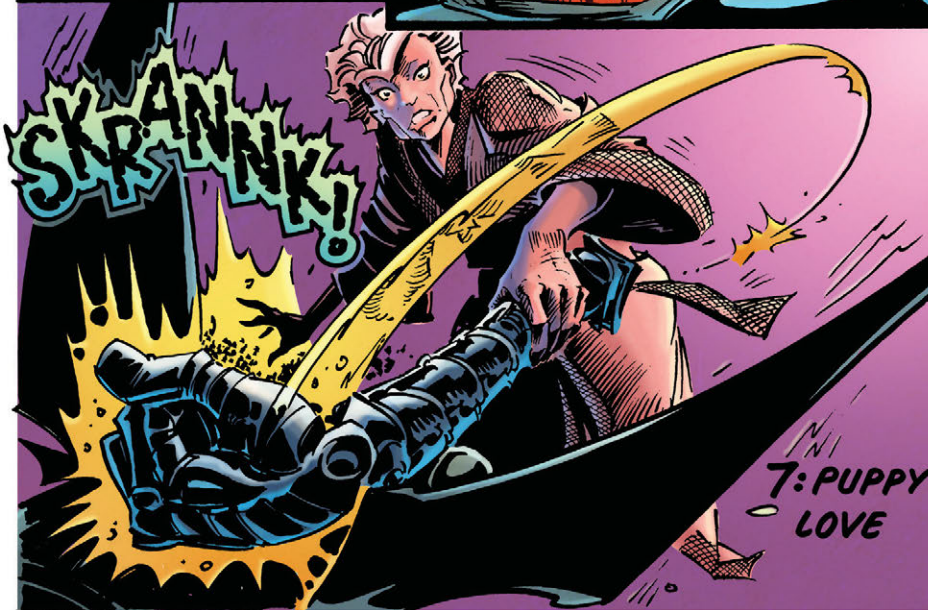
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO BRINNA— BUT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TOO GOOD TO MISS.

SHE WAS IN THE WAY, HALO.

IN THE WAY OF YOU AND ME.

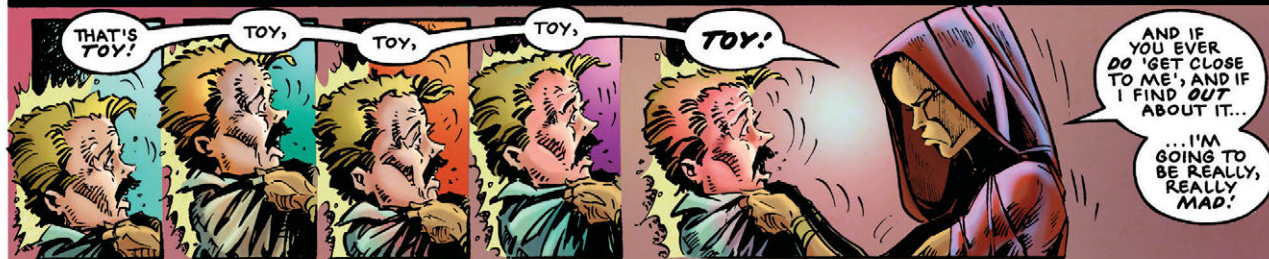
FORGET HER. SHE'S DEAD NOW, AND SHE LEFT ME TO YOU. WE CAN GO TO KAPEK'S WORLD AND FIT ME WITH A NEW HUMANOID BODY. I'D BE JUST LIKE A REGULAR BOYFRIEND. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

THAT MEANS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, TOO. I'M SORRY, GIRLY. WE COULD HAVE MADE SOME SWEET SOUNDS TOGETHER...

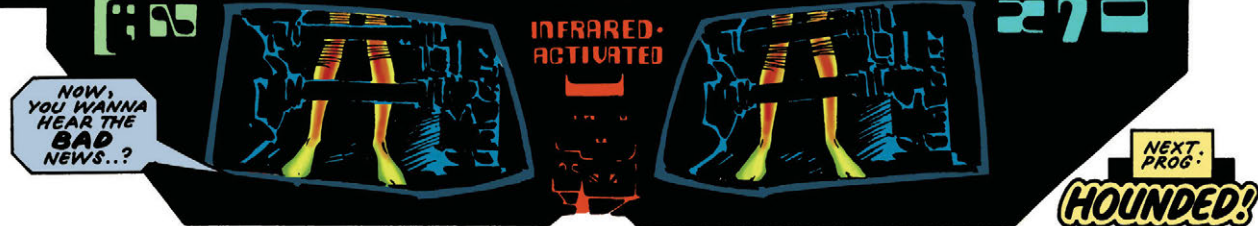
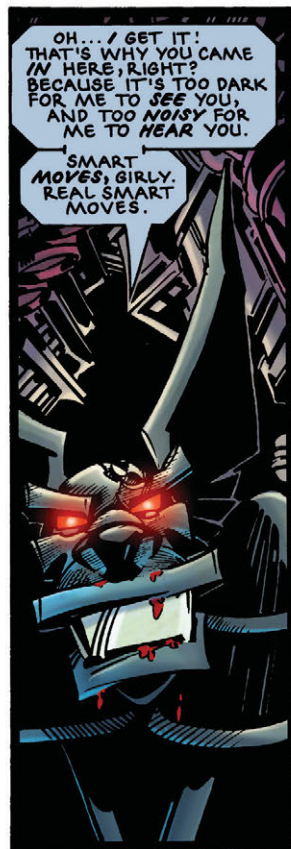
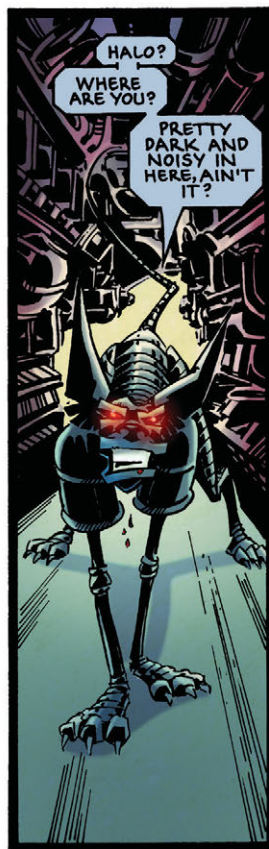


7: PUPPY LOVE

The Ballad Of
HALO JONES







HALO?
IT'S NO
USE HIDING,
GIRLY...

INFRA-RED VISION...
IT'S A STANDARD FEATURE
ON MY KIND OF MODEL. I
CAN SEE YOUR HEAT-
PATTERN, THROUGH THE
SHADOWS, THROUGH
THE WALLS...

IT'S VERY
PRETTY.

I'D LIKE
TO SEE IT
CLOSE UP.

Thudrrun Thudrrun THUDRRUN THUDRRUN
THUDRRUN



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Credit Card:
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ALAN MOORE
ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73e

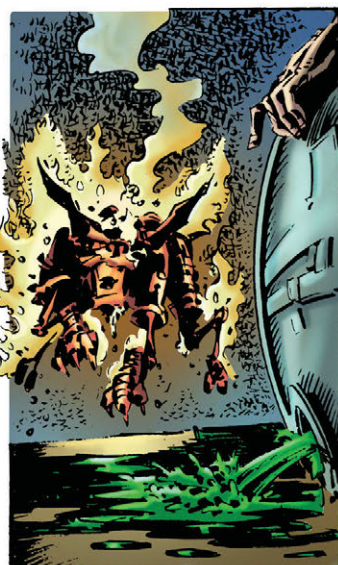


The Ballad Of
**HALO
JONES**

8-HOUNDED.

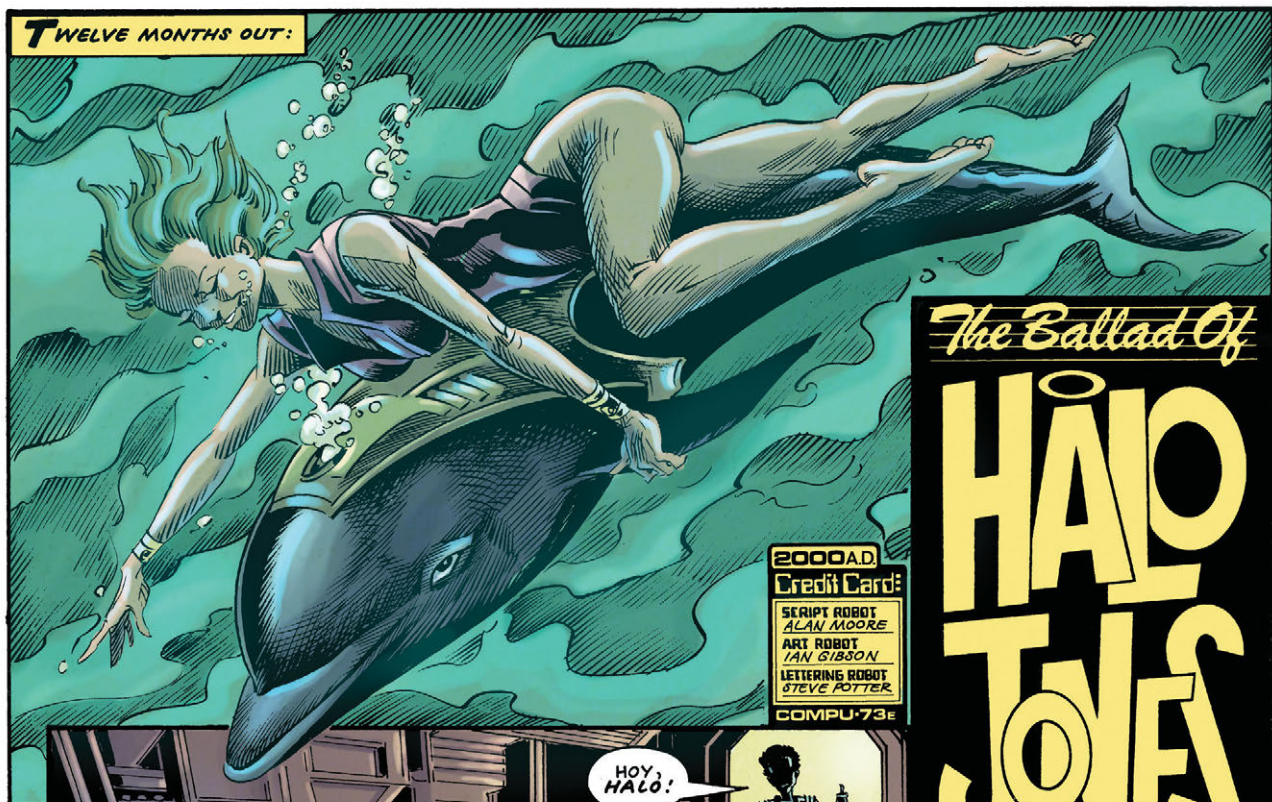






NEXT PROG: **THE LAST DANCE...**

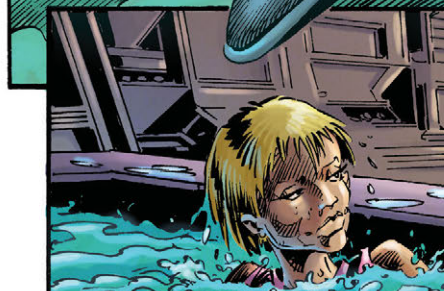
TWELVE MONTHS OUT:



**2000AD
Credit Card!**
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ART ROBOT
IAN GIBSON
LETTERING ROBOT
STEVE POTTER
COMPU-73e

The Ballad Of HALO JONES

9: THE LAST DANCE



HOY,
HALO!
ARE YOU
GOING TO GET
READY FOR
THIS PARTY,
OR WHAT?



YEAH, I GUESS
SO. I WAS JUST LAZING
AROUND WITH KIT
FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNOW THE
SHIP'S MEDIC PRESCRIBED
COMPLETE RELAXATION
FOR ME AFTER THAT
BUSINESS WITH TOSY.

YEAH.
LUCKY
YOU.



YOU'RE
JUST JEALOUS.
ANYWAY, DON'T
THE PEOPLE ON
THIS SHIP EVER
DO ANYTHING
BUT THROW
PARTIES?

TWO PARTIES
IN TWELVE MONTHS
IS A LOT? Y'KNOW,
YOU REALLY MUST
HAVE HAD A
SHELTERED
UPBRINGING.

THE
BEST.



KITITIKTI-
RITITITIK,
TIKITITRI-
KITIT.

IKIT-
IKTIRIK,
RIKITIT.

HA-LO! WILL
YOU FINISH SAYING
GOODBYE TO THE
FISH AND GET SOME
CLOTHES ON?
WE'RE GOING TO
A CHOP PARTY!



HE ISN'T A FISH. DID YOU SAY A CHOP PARTY?

YEAH—A CHOP PARTY! AS IN LUX ROTHY CHOP WHO OWNS THIS SHIP.

IT'S THE LAST NIGHT BEFORE WE DOCK ON CHARLEMAGNE. WHAT'S SO SURPRISING?



WELL, NOTHING...IT'S JUST THAT BACK ON THE HOOP, WE USED TO SAY 'CHOP PARTY' WHEN WE MEANT 'BIG DEAL'.

I'D NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHERE THE PHRASE CAME FROM...

OH, CHOP PARTIES ARE JUST LEGENDARY!



LISTEN, TONIGHT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GRAB THAT CYBERNETTICIST YOU'VE GOT A CRAVING FOR.

JUST THIS ONCE, WHY NOT WEAR SOMETHING DEVASTATING, INSTEAD OF THAT MULTI-LAYERED GARBAGE THAT YOU WORE ON THE HOOP?

I DUNNO... MAYBE...

ZZNN

T.C.K.



NO "MAYBE" ABOUT IT. I'LL BORROW SOMETHING FROM BLISHA—SHE'S ABOUT YOUR SIZE.

WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TWIST MY WRIST...

HEY, IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING FROM THIS CABIN? IT'S LIKE WE'VE GOT MORE ROOM...



HMMM. I WAS THINKING THAT, JUST THE OTHER DAY.

IT'S LIKE THERE USED TO BE SOME PIECE OF FURNITURE OR SOMETHING THAT WE NEVER NOTICED, AND NOW IT'S GONE.

YEAH. I WONDER WHAT IT WAS?



I DUNNO. GUESS IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN ANYTHING IMPORTANT.





HOY!
HOY, WAIT A
MINUTE!

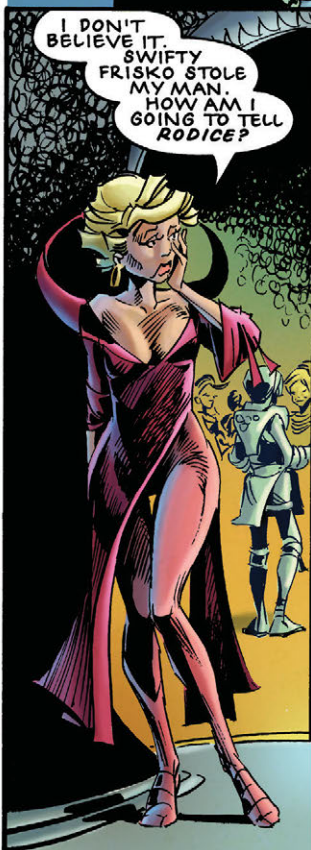


MZ. GOLEITER,
EXCUSE ME, BUT
I THINK I
FINALLY
RECOGNISED
YOUR VOICE...

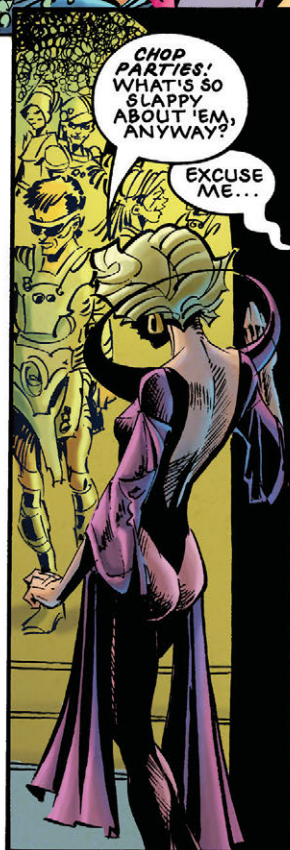
DID YOU
EVER DO NEWS
BROADCASTS
UNDER THE
NAME 'SWIFTY
FRISKO'?



SWIFTY FRISKO?
WHY, YES, HOW
FUNNY!
A COMPUTER,
YOU KNOW, PROGRAMMED
WITH MY VOICE, MATCHED
UP WITH A LITTLE
ANIMATED
HOLOGRAM.
DID
YOU WANT AN
AUTOGRAPH?
NO? DREADFUL
HURRY,
MUST
DASH...



I DON'T
BELIEVE IT.
SWIFTY
FRISKO STOLE
MY MAN.
HOW AM I
GOING TO TELL
RODICE?



CHOP
PARTIES!
WHAT'S SO
SLAPPY
ABOUT 'EM,
ANYWAY?

EXCUSE
ME...



HUH?

OH...HELLO.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

LISTEN, I'M
NOT FEELING
VERY TALKATIVE
RIGHT NOW,
SO...



THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER.
I JUST WANTED
TO TELL YOU THAT
I THINK YOU
LOOK VERY
BEAUTIFUL...

... AND TO
ASK IF I COULD
HAVE THE LAST
DANCE.





The Ballad Of

HALO JONES

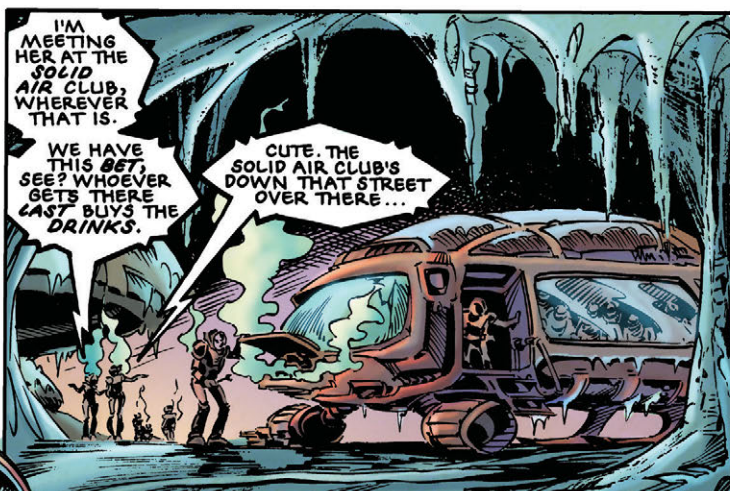
10: ICE COLD ON CHARLEMAGNE





HALO, ARE YOU GONNA BE CHANGING SHIPS HERE, OR ARE YOU STAYING WITH THE CLARA PANDY?

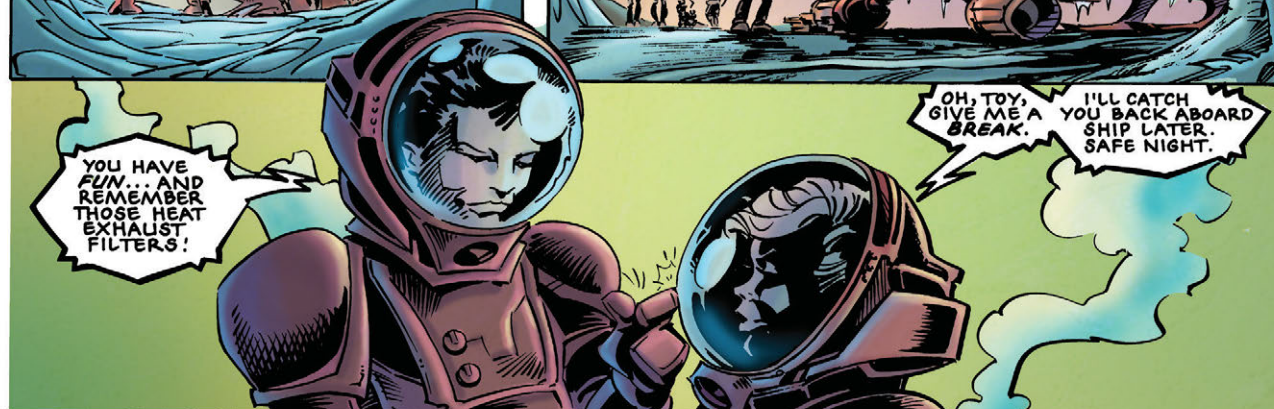
I DON'T KNOW. I'M MEETING MY FRIEND RODICE HERE. A LOT DEPENDS ON WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO.



I'M MEETING HER AT THE SOLID AIR CLUB, WHEREVER THAT IS.

WE HAVE THIS BET, SEE? WHOEVER GETS THERE LAST BUYS THE DRINKS.

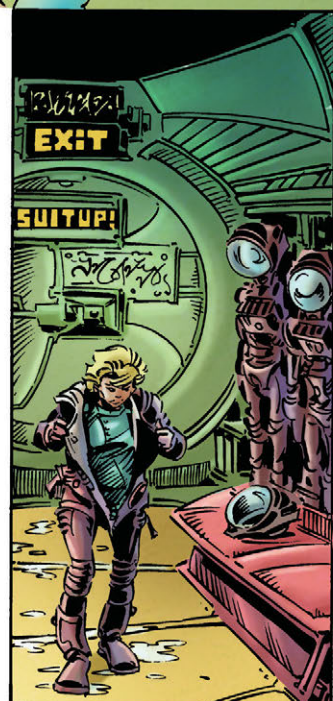
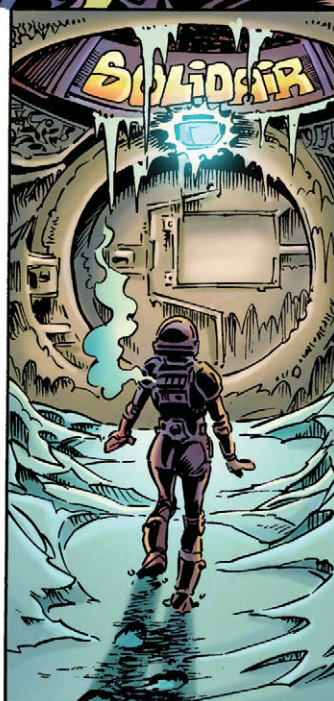
CUTE. THE SOLID AIR CLUB'S DOWN THAT STREET OVER THERE...



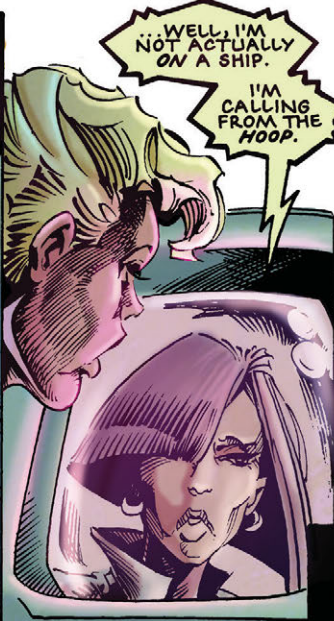
YOU HAVE FUN... AND REMEMBER THOSE HEAT EXHAUST FILTERS!

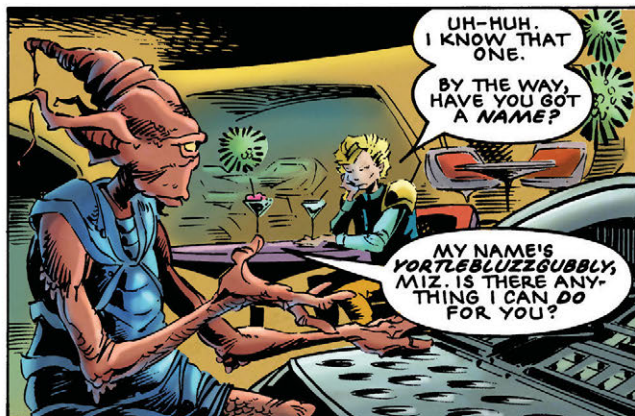
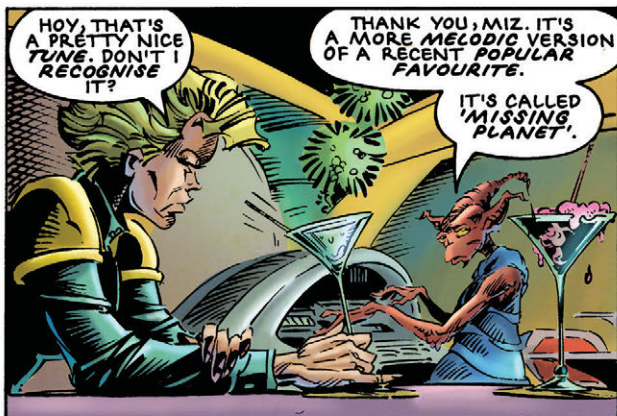
OH, TOY, GIVE ME A BREAK.

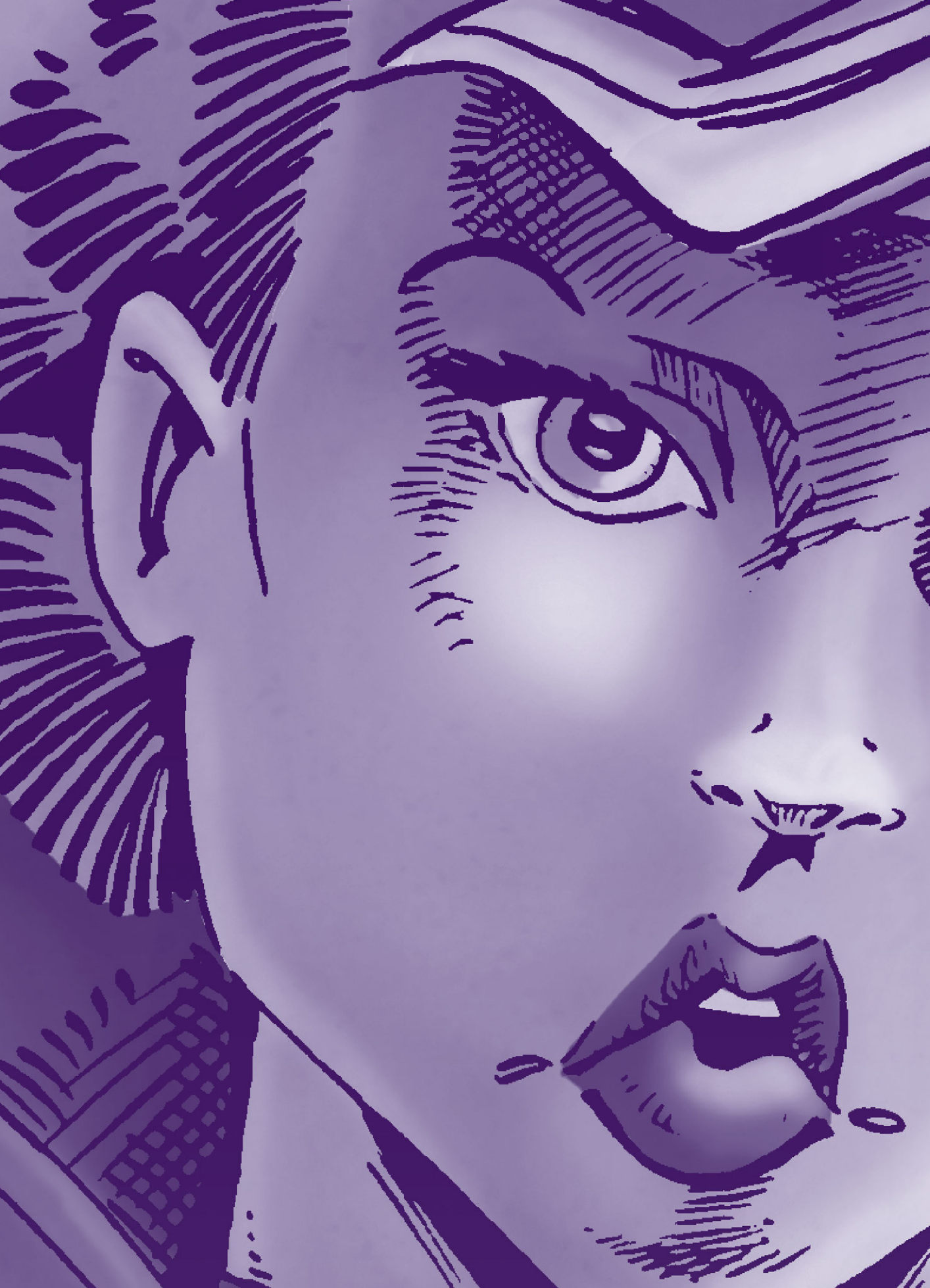
I'LL CATCH YOU BACK ABOARD SHIP LATER. SAFE NIGHT.













EXTRAS

THE HUNT IS ON FOR HALO'S BONES!

PROG 413
13 APR 85

2000 AD

FEATURING **JUDGE DREDD**

\$1.45 Malaysia
65c Australia
65c New Zealand
55g Mercury
210g Venus
66g Mars
10g Asteroid Belt
110g Saturn
10g Neptune
2g Pluto

24p
EARTH
MONEY

IN ORBIT
EVERY
MONDAY

HOT DIGITAL DOG!

ALAN MOORE

One of the most respected and well-known comic writers of the past few decades, Alan Moore created some of *2000 AD*'s most popular series, including *Abelard Snazz*, *The Ballad of Halo Jones*, *D.R. & Quinch* and *Skizz*. He has also worked on several other strips for *2000 AD*, most notably *Tharg's FutureShocks*.

Outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, Moore is best known for his work on *Watchmen*, which redefined the superhero genre in 1986, but this is simply touching the surface of a career which has included *Batman*, *Captain Britain*, *From Hell*, *Glory*, *Green Lantern Corps*, *Lost Girls*, *Miracleman*, *A Small Killing*, *Swamp Thing*, *Superman*, *V For Vendetta*, *Promethea* and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*.

More recently his latest novel, *Jerusalem*, was published to critical acclaim.

IAN GIBSON

One of *2000 AD*'s best-loved and most honoured artists, Ian Gibson is responsible for the co-creation of *The Ballad of Halo Jones* (with Alan Moore), and created *Bella Bagley*, an unfortunate character in *Judge Dredd*'s world who fell head-over-heels in love with 'Old Stoney Face' himself! His work outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic includes *Chronicles of Genghis Grimtoad*, *Star Wars: Boba Fett*, *X-Men Unlimited*, plus the designs for the TV series *Reboot*.

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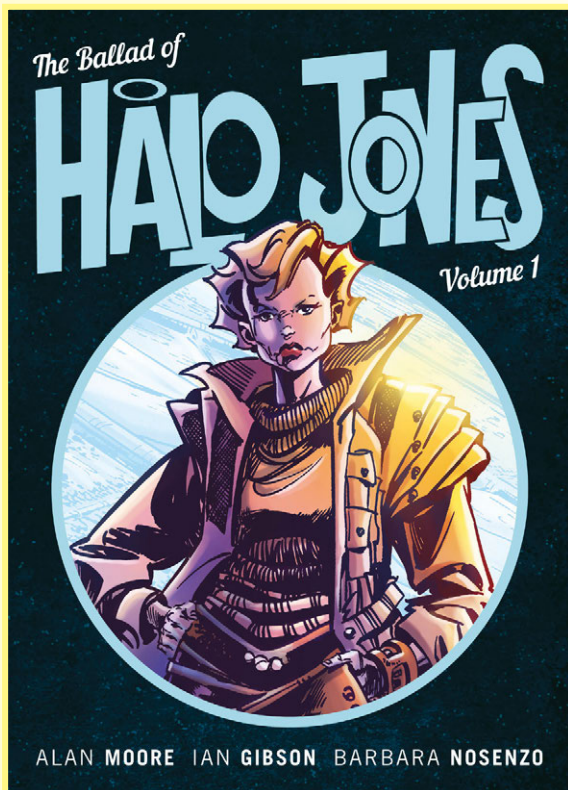
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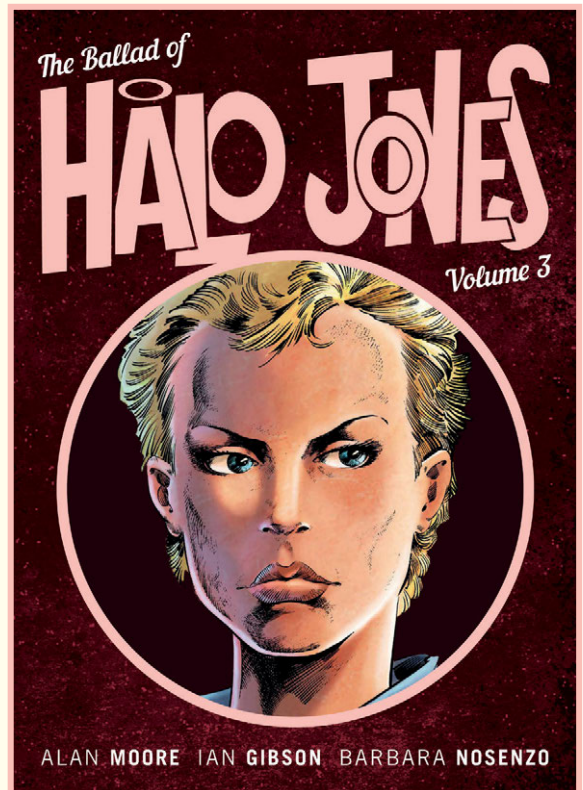


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