



GRANT MORRISON STEVE YEO WELL
PHANTASIES TO WATCH

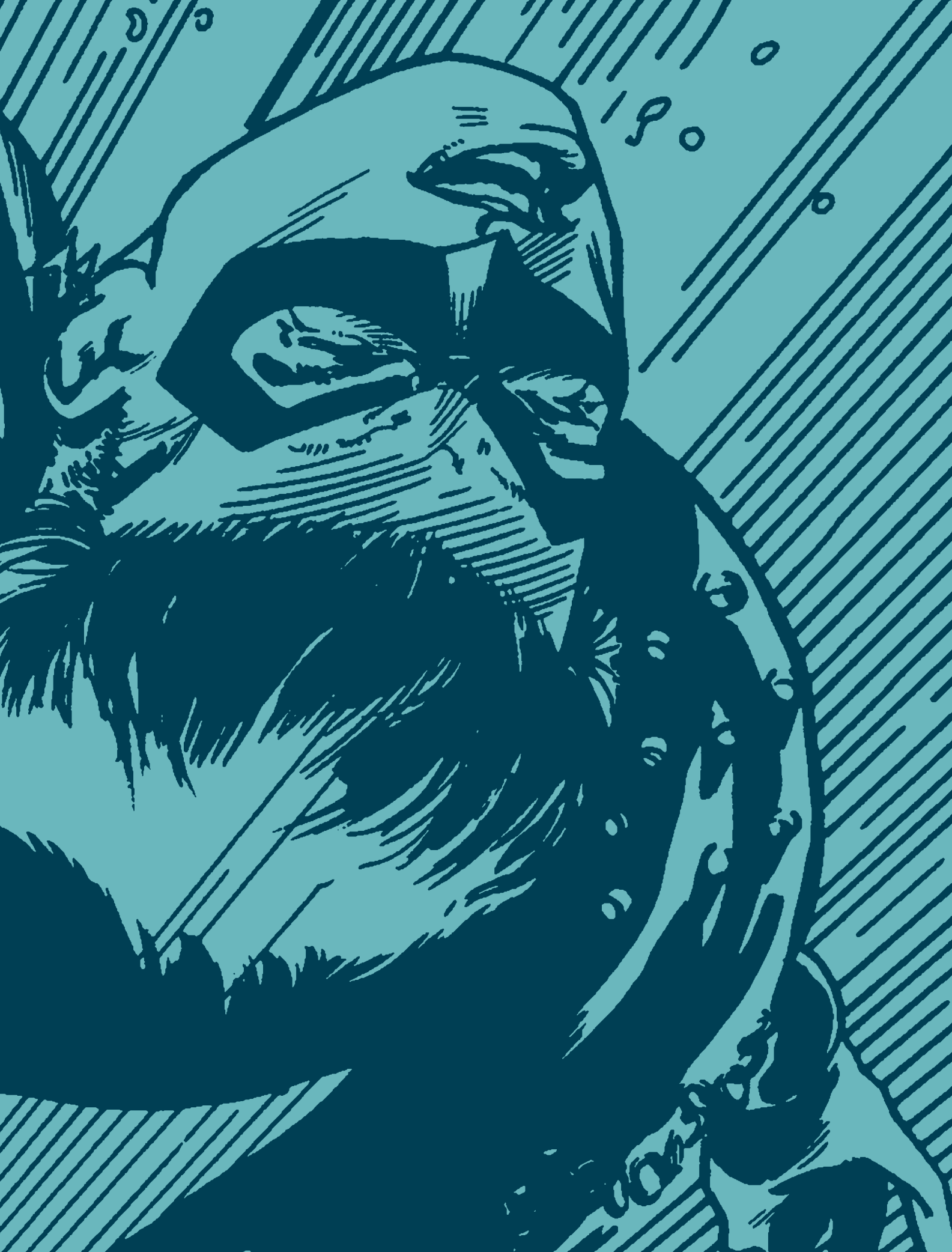


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P H A S
GRANTMORRISON



E T W O
S T E V E Y E O W E L L



PHASE II

Script: Grant Morrison

Art: Steve Yeowell

Letters: Mark King & Gordon Robson

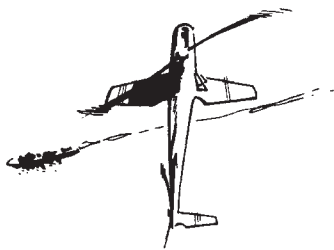
Originally published in 2000 AD Progs 589-606

ZENITH

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA:
DECEMBER 31, 1987.



"I STILL CAN'T GET USED
TO THIS PLACE, DAVID."



IT'S LIKE THE
CITIES IN MY
DREAMS.

ALL THIS
ART DECO...

APPARENTLY SOME
BIG WAVE OR
SOMETHING WIPED
OUT MOST OF THE
ORIGINAL CITY
IN 1971.

IT WAS
COMPLETELY
REDESIGNED AS
A FUTURIST
UTOPIA BY AN
ARCHITECT
CALLED ALAN
PARKER.

PHASE II/PROLOGUE: "DOWN UNDER"

IT'S JUST SO
STRANGE TO BE
SPENDING THE
NEW YEAR IN A
PARALLEL
UNIVERSE.

YEAH, I
REMEMBER
HOW I FELT
THE FIRST
TIME.

ANYWAY...
TIME TO GET
MOVING, I
THINK.

CIRCUS
STARTS IN
FIFTEEN
MINUTES.

YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE BEST
ABOUT THIS PLACE, PENNY?

I CAN WALK DOWN THE STREET
WITHOUT PEOPLE PESTERING
ME FOR MY AUTOGRAPH OR
WHISPERING, "THERE GOES
RUBY FOX, THE SUPERHUMAN."

SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON
ART
STEVE YEOWELL
EDITING
MARK KING



YOU USED TO LIKE THAT IN THE '60 S.

MM.

I'M OLDER NOW. WE ALL ARE.

EXCEPT FOR YOU.



YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LET ME IN ON YOUR SECRET.

OH I WILL, RUBY.

I'LL TELL YOU THINGS YOU WON'T BELIEVE.



I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHEN WE SHOULD MAKE OURSELVES KNOWN TO ZENITH.

I MEAN, HE'S ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO OUR DEFENCE, BUT IS HE GOING TO BE RELIABLE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!



ZENITH IS NO PROBLEM.

IT'S PETER WHO WORRIES ME. I THINK HE SAW YOU BOTH AT SIADWEL'S FUNERAL AND I'M SURE HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING.

LET ME DEAL WITH PETER.



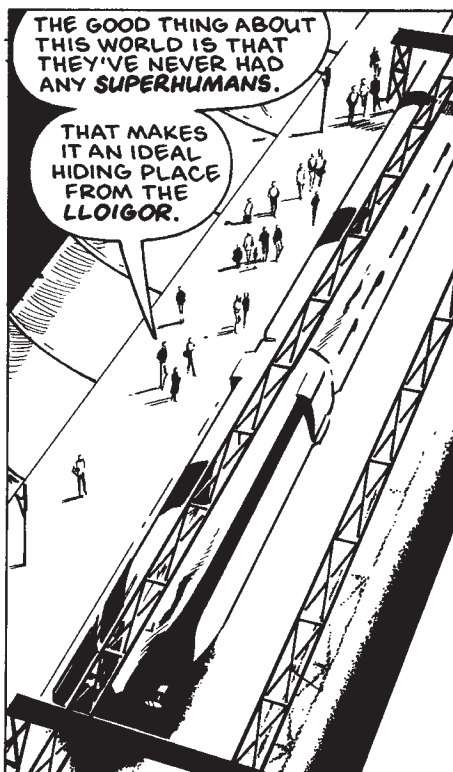
SURELY IF I EXPLAIN THE THREAT OF THE OMNIHEDRON HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO HELP US?



DAVID, HOW LONG DO WE HAVE BEFORE..?

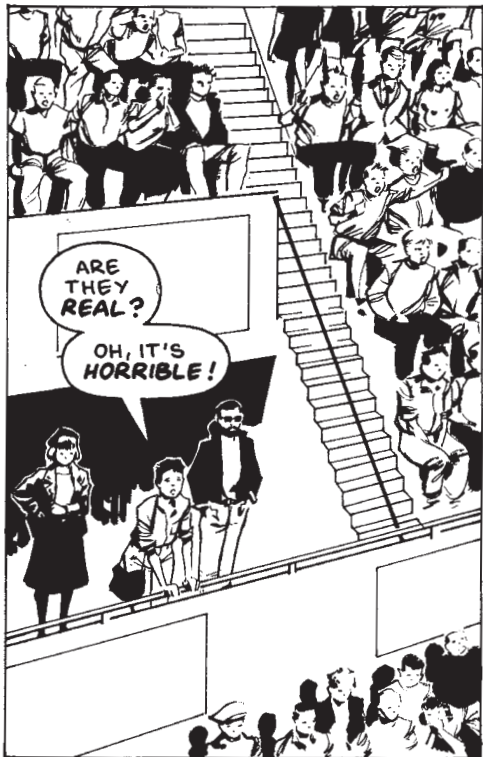
I ASKED MANTRA THE SAME QUESTION, RUBY.

SHE SAID WE MAY HAVE A YEAR. IF WE'RE LUCKY.









ARE THEY REAL?

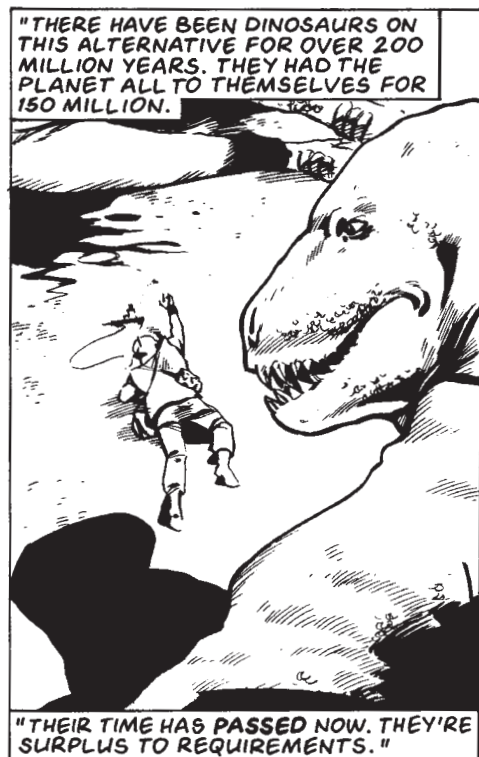
OH, IT'S HORRIBLE!



WHY ARE THEY KILLING THEM?

IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM BULLFIGHTING.

IT MIGHT HELP TO LOOK UPON THE WHOLE THING AS A METAPHOR.



"THERE HAVE BEEN DINOSAURS ON THIS ALTERNATIVE FOR OVER 200 MILLION YEARS. THEY HAD THE PLANET ALL TO THEMSELVES FOR 150 MILLION.

"THEIR TIME HAS PASSED NOW. THEY'RE SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS."



"IF WE SURVIVE THE ALIGNMENT, 1990'S GOING TO BE A RED LETTER YEAR IN THE DIARY OF EVOLUTION.

EVOLUTION TAKES NO PRISONERS. THE MASTERS OF THE EARTH BECOME SIMPLY MONSTERS, CONDEMNED TO EXTINCTION.

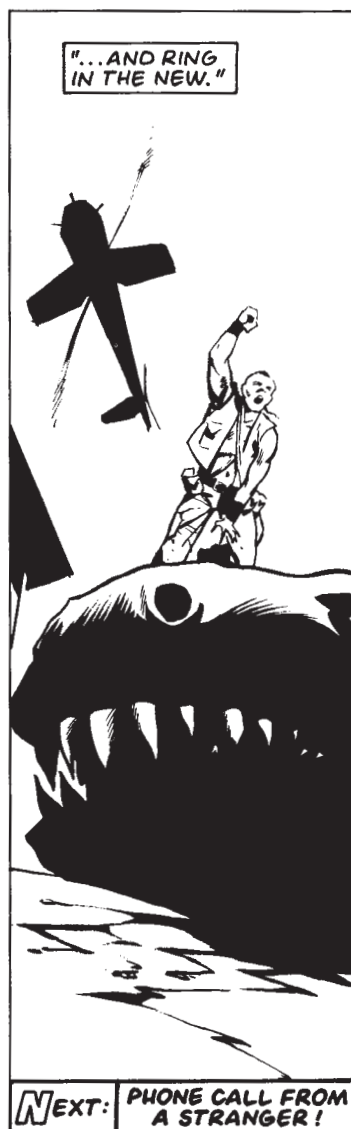
THINK ABOUT THAT AND THINK ABOUT THE PLAN WE MADE IN 1968.



"LOOK TO THE FUTURE, RUBY."



RING OUT THE OLD.



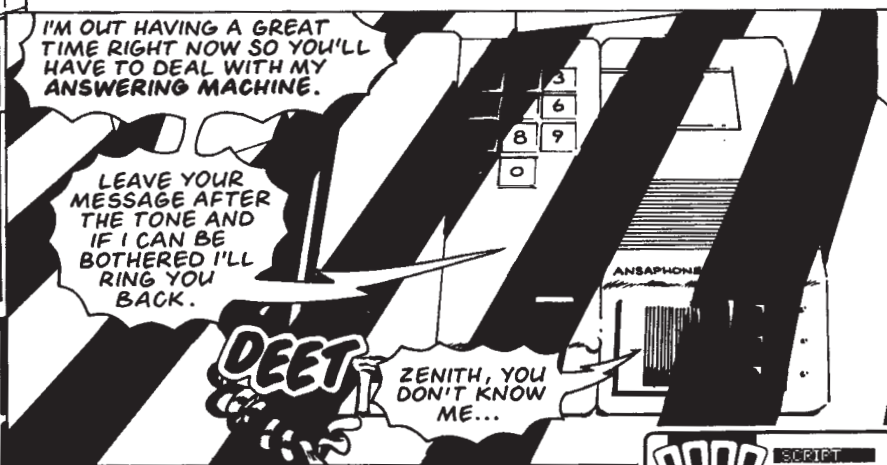
"...AND RING IN THE NEW."

NEXT: PHONE CALL FROM A STRANGER!

ZENITH

PHASE II / 1: "MANY HAPPY RETURNS"

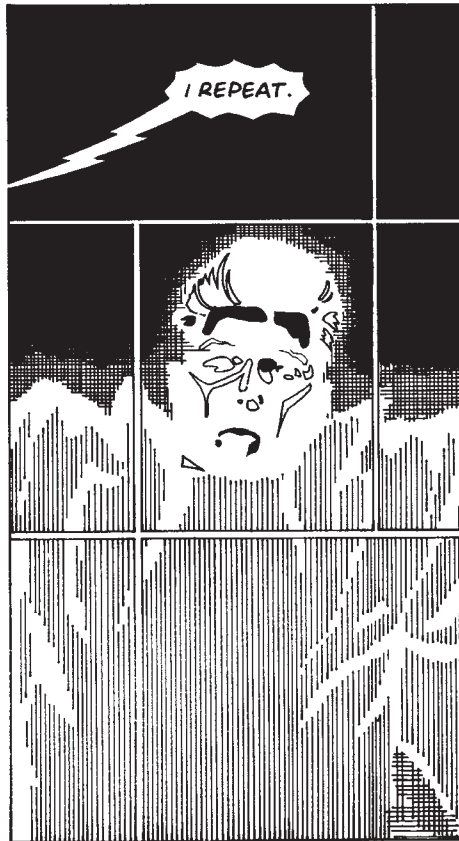
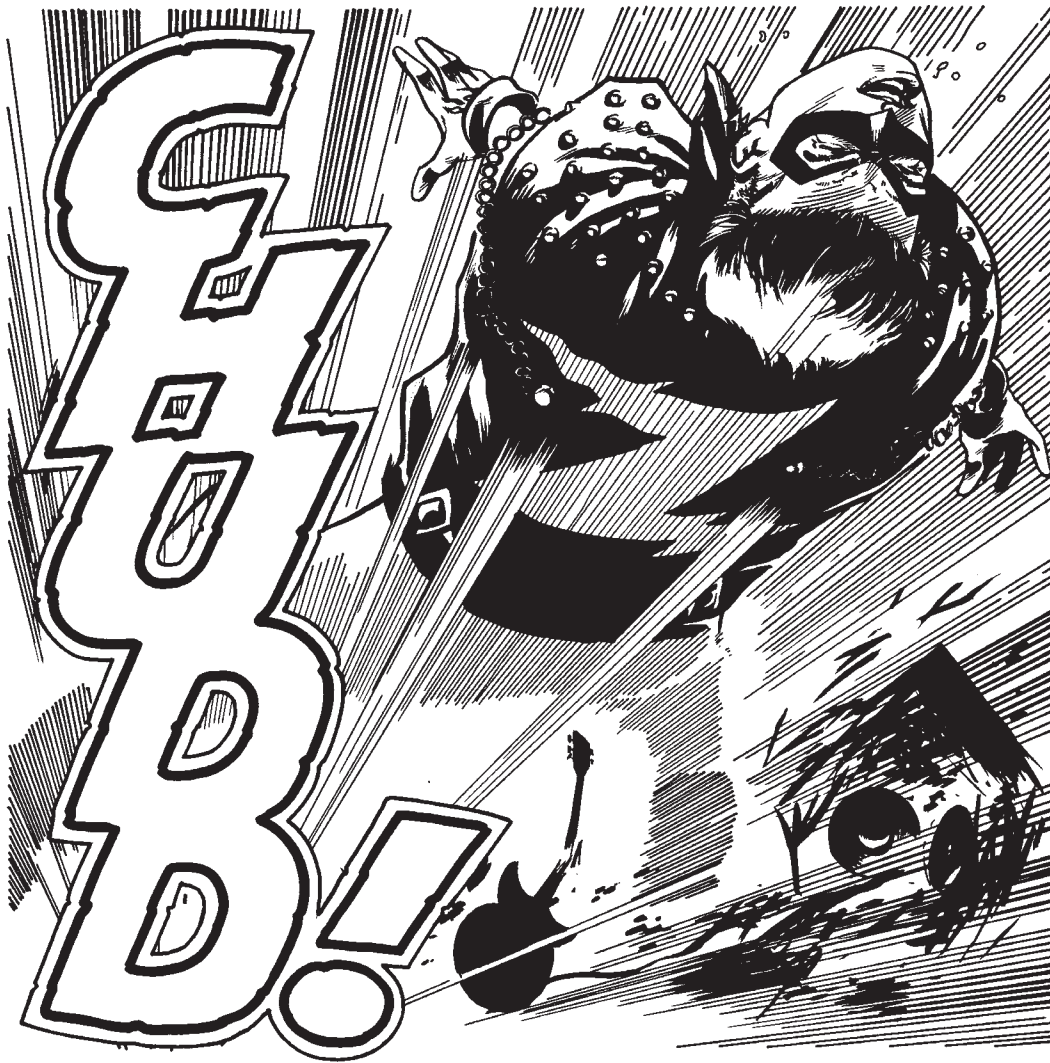
LONDON: FEBRUARY 3, 1988.



SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON
ART
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING
MARK KING









GET OUT
NOW!

NEXT: A SLIGHT
CASE OF
MURDER

SCHIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 5, 1988.

MIND IF I
INTRUDE,
PEYNE?

SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON
ART
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING
MARK KING

WHAT
ARE YOU
UP TO?

PUTTING
IN SOME
PRACTISE
FOR THE
FINAL OF
'TELLY
ADDICTS'?

I'M
RERUNNING
THE PICTURES
FROM
WARHEAD'S
HELMET
CAMERA.

IT'S QUITE
FASCINATING.

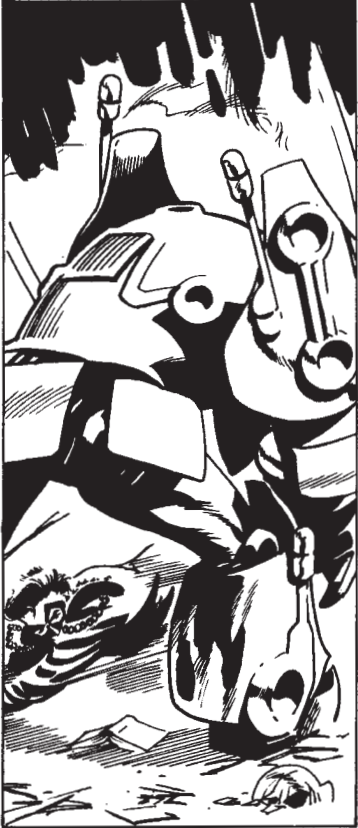
THIS IS
JUST AFTER HE
BROKE INTO
ZENITH'S
FLAT.

"I THINK HE GAVE THE BOY
QUITE A SURPRISE."

ZENITH

PHASE II/2: "VISITORS"

"BUT LOOK HOW QUICKLY HE REACTS."



"ONE GETS THE FEELING HE'S LEARNED FROM HAVING TO FIGHT MASTERMAN LAST YEAR."

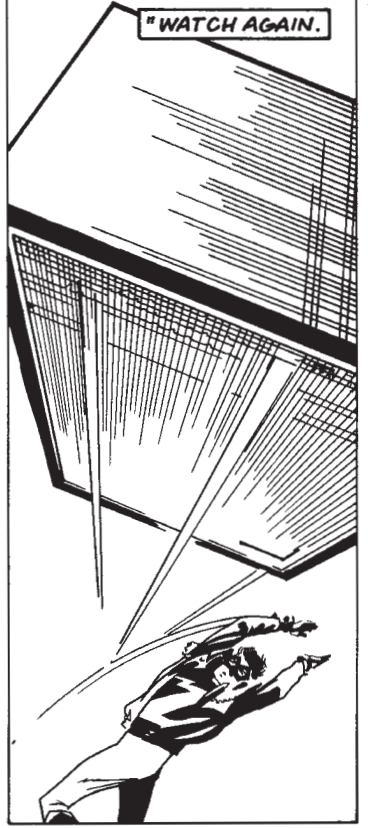


"I MUST ADMIT THAT AFTER READING HIS INTERVIEWS AND LISTENING TO HIS SO-CALLED 'MUSIC', I'D COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ZENITH WAS COMPLETELY WITLESS."



"I MAY BE FORCED TO ALTER MY OPINION."

"WATCH AGAIN."



"HARDLY A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT, YOU SEE?"



"HE DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT THE FULL RANGE AND EXTENT OF THE ABILITIES HE INHERITED FROM HIS PARENTS."

"BUT HE REACTS QUICKLY. HE THINKS ON HIS FEET."



"I LIKE THAT."



"OF COURSE, A FEW TONS OF DEBRIS ARE UNLIKELY TO STOP WARHEAD."



"QUITE FRANKLY, I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT COULD STOP WARHEAD."



"UNTIL THIS HAPPENED."



WHAT WAS THAT ?

A STROBOSCOPE, BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS.

SIMPLY PUT, THE FLICKERING LIGHT WAS SET AT JUST THE RIGHT FREQUENCY TO INTERFERE WITH WARHEAD'S BRAIN WAVES, TRIGGERING A SEIZURE.

"AND THEN ZENITH
FINISHED THE JOB."



"THAT WAS WHEN WE
LOST THE CAMERA."

"WHICH LEAVES US WITH ONE
VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION."



WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU ?!

NAME'S PHAEDRA.
PHAEDRA CALE.

CIA.

GUESS
YOU MISSED
THE MESSAGE
I LEFT
WITH YOUR
ANSWERING
MACHINE.



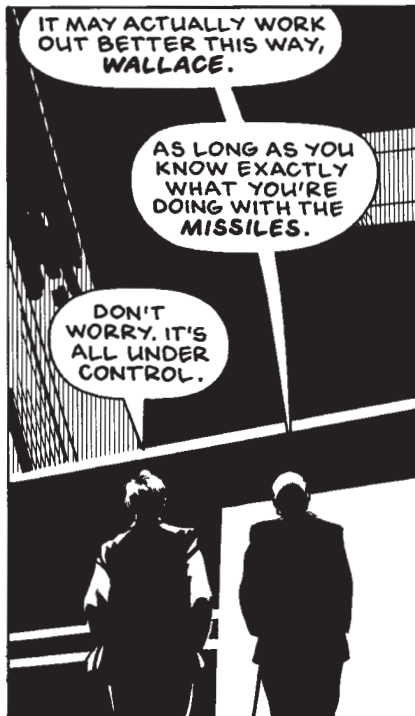
CIA ?

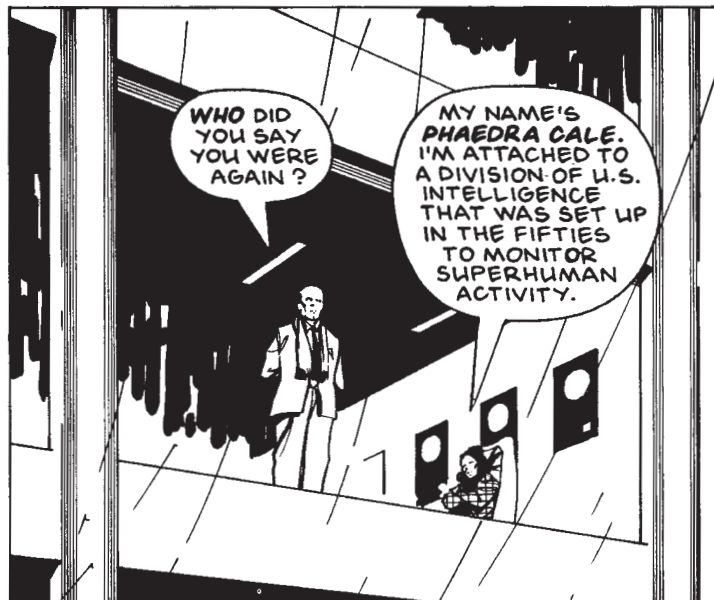
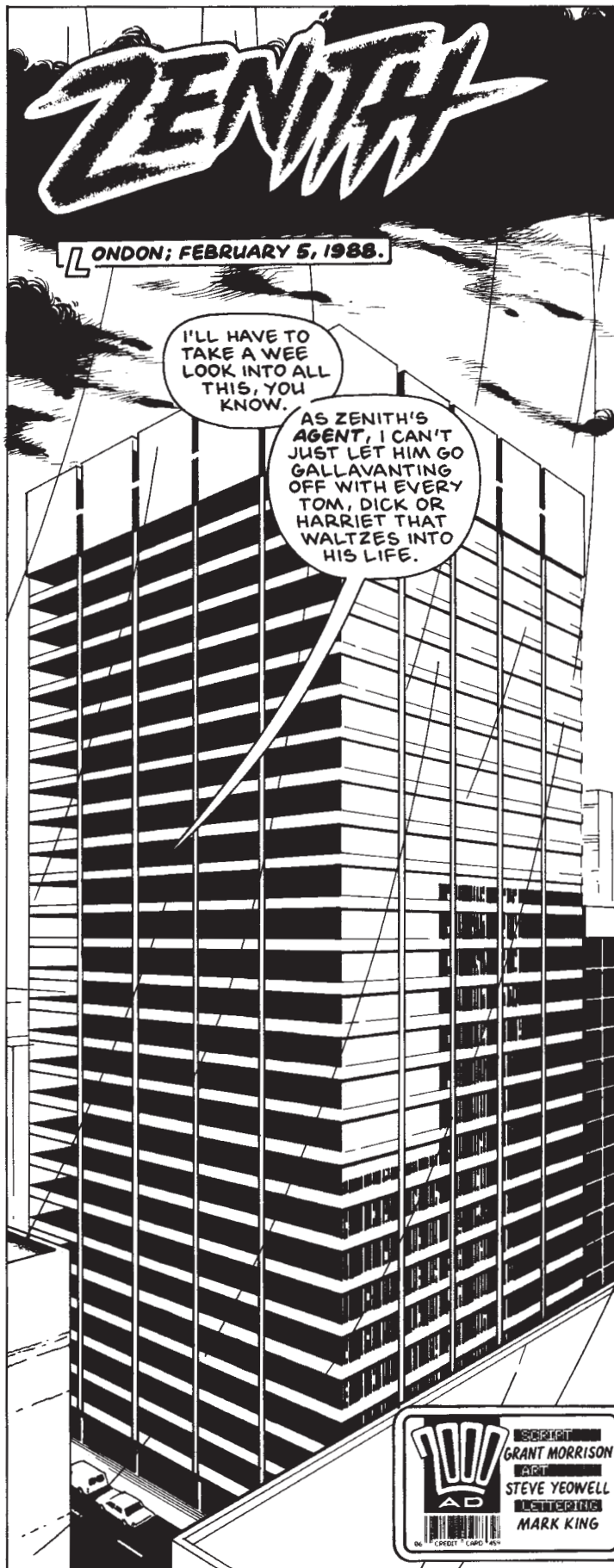
YOU LEARN
PRETTY FAST
FOR A DUMB
BRIT.

WELL ? YOU
COMING ?

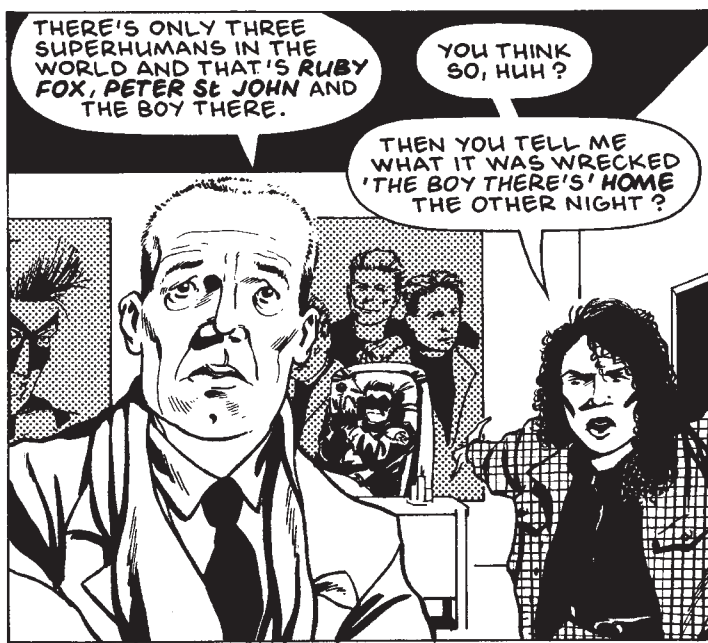


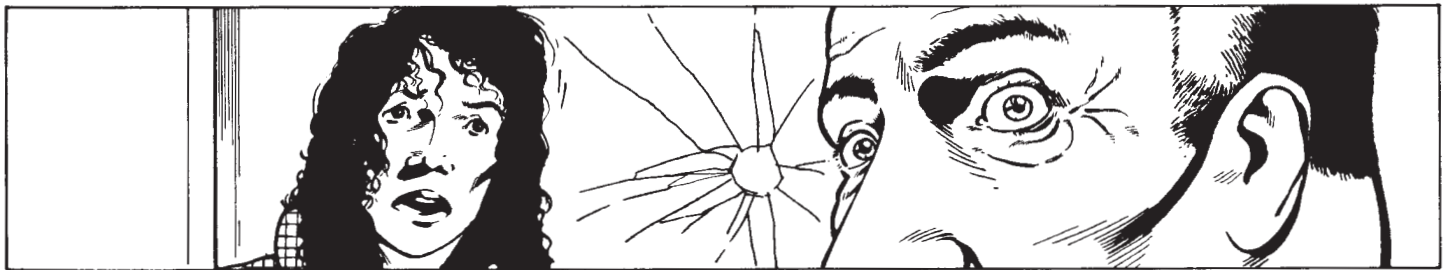
OR DON'T
YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHERE
YOUR PARENTS
HAVE BEEN
ALL THESE
YEARS ?



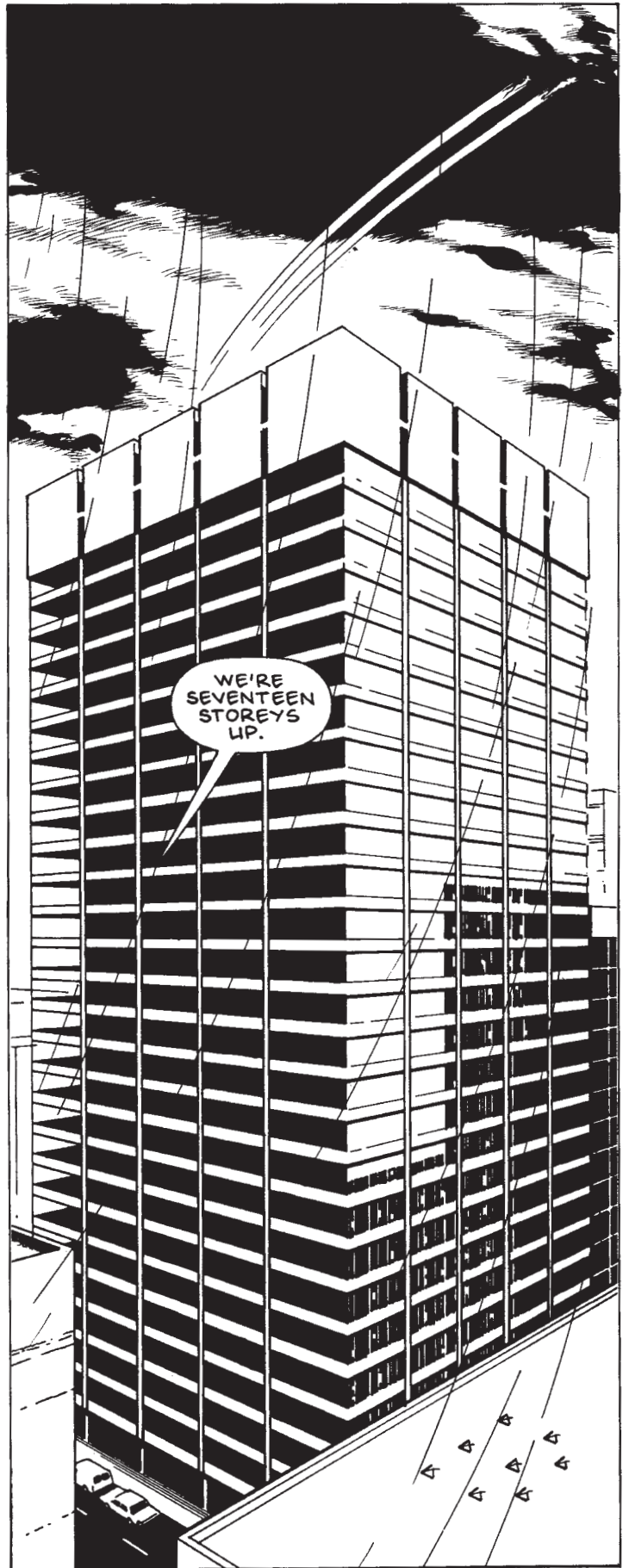


PHASE II/3: "TAKE THE HIGH ROAD"









NEXT: THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE

SCHIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 5, 1988.



HMS 'RESOLVE', THE NORTH
SEA: FEBRUARY 5, 1988.

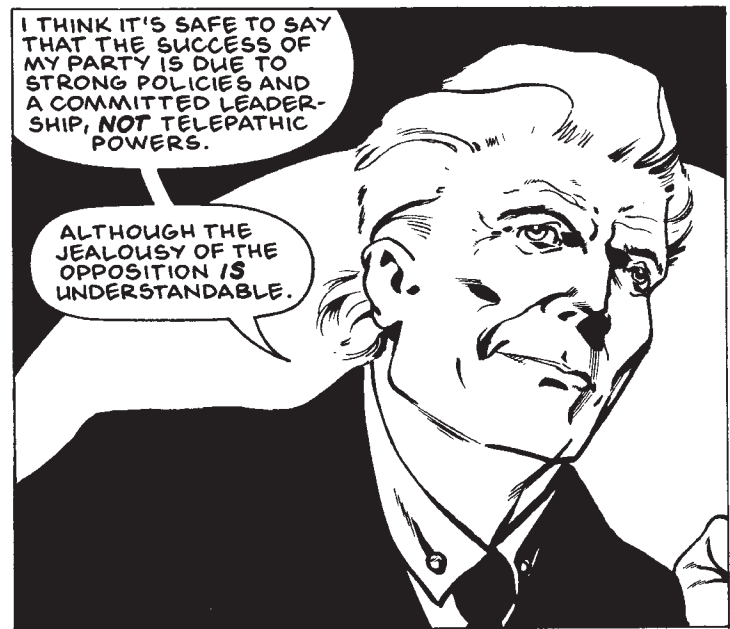
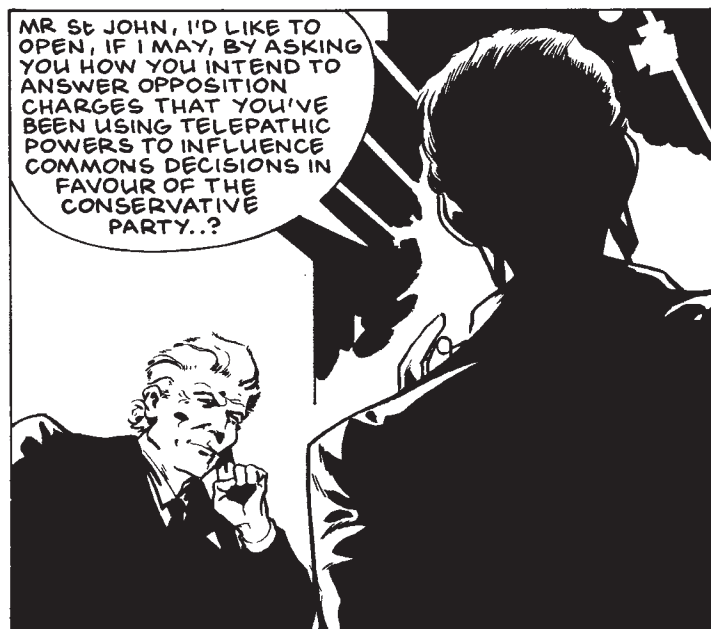
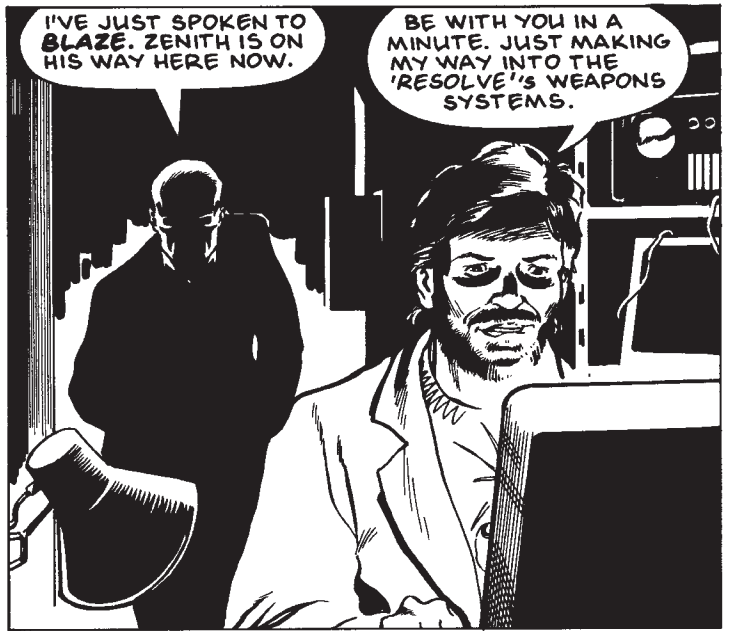


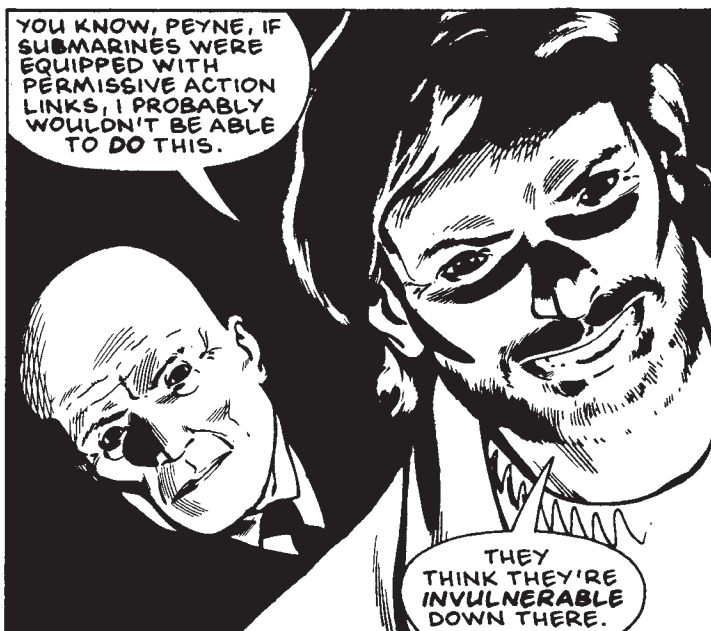
LONDON: FEBRUARY 6, 1988.

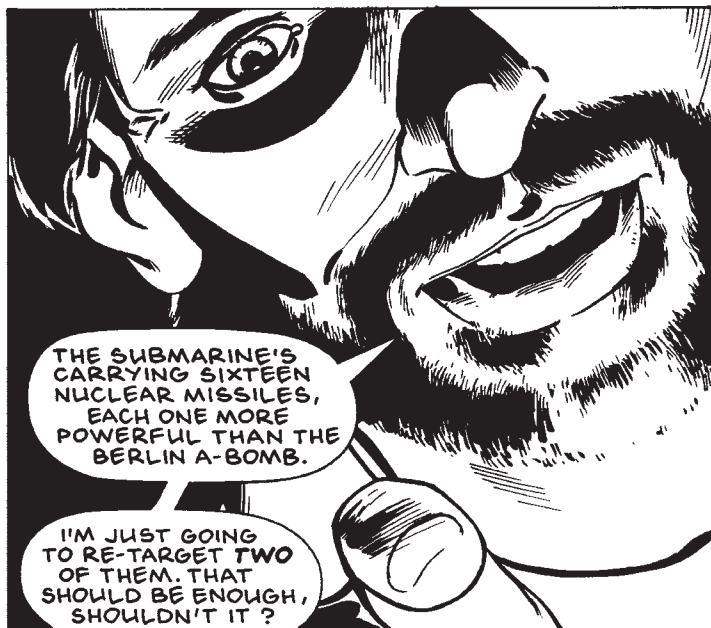
TO BEGIN
TODAY'S PROGRAMME
WE HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH GOVERN-
MENT DEFENCE SECRETARY,
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
PETER St JOHN MP,
CURRENTLY AT THE CENTRE
OF A COMMONS ROW OVER
THE MISUSE OF HIS
SUPERHUMAN
ABILITIES...



PHASE II/4: "DEEP TROUBLE"







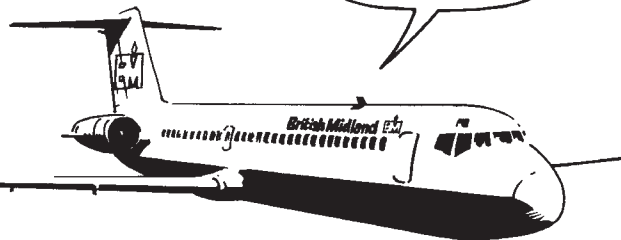


NEXT: KEEP 'EM FLYING!

ZENITH

AIRBORNE: FEBRUARY
6, 1988.

MUST BE FUNNY
BEING CALLED
SOMETHING LIKE
'PHAEDRA'.



PHASE II/5: "FIRE IN THE SKY"

SOUNDS SORT
OF LIKE GREEK
SEAFOOD WHEN
YOU THINK
ABOUT IT.

YOU MUST
WONDER WHY
YOUR MUM AND
DAD DIDN'T
JUST GIVE YOU
A SENSIBLE
NAME.

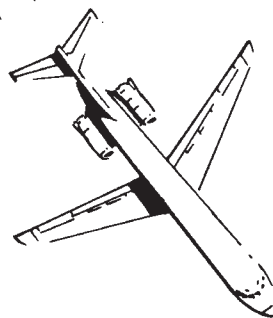


YOU
MEAN LIKE
'ZENITH'?

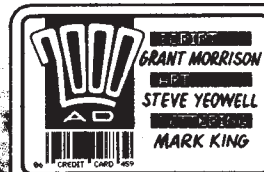


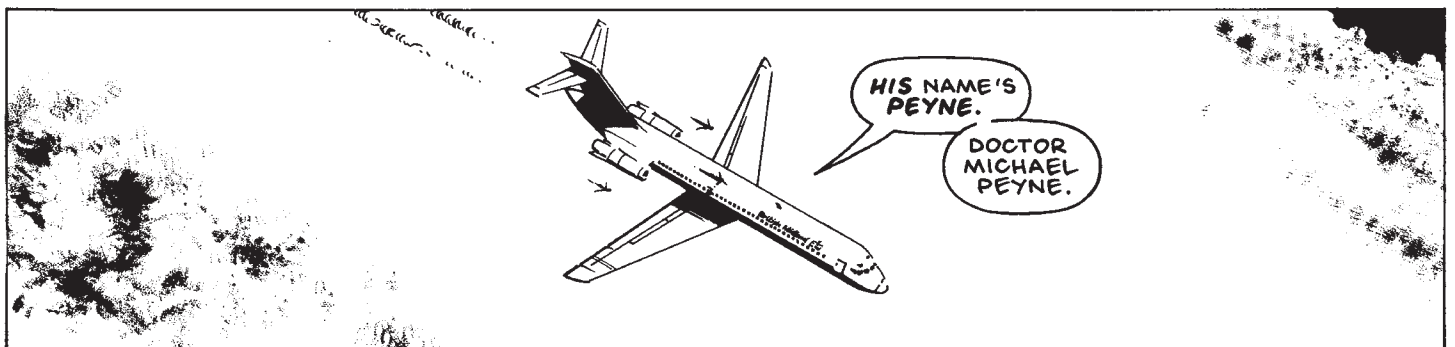
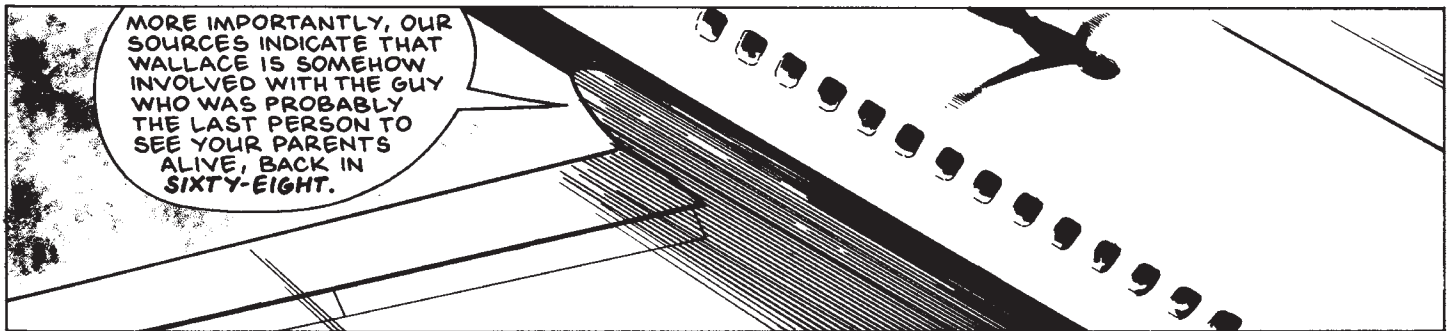
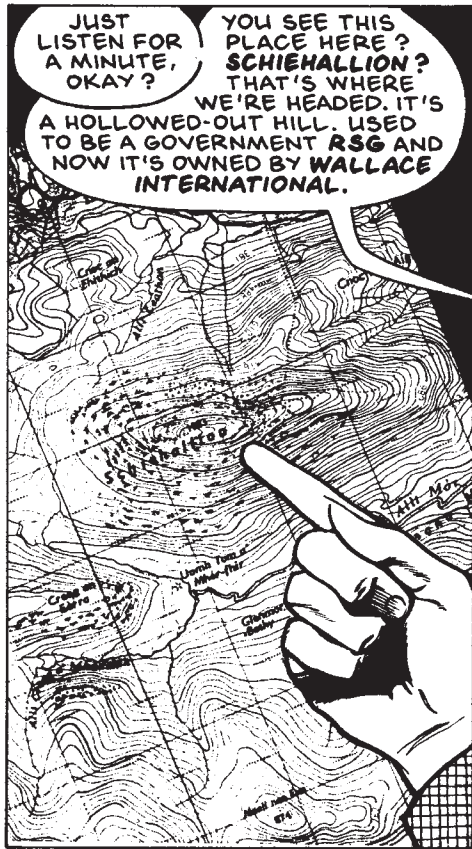
YEAH.
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT.

AND SPEAKING
OF MUMS AND
DADS...

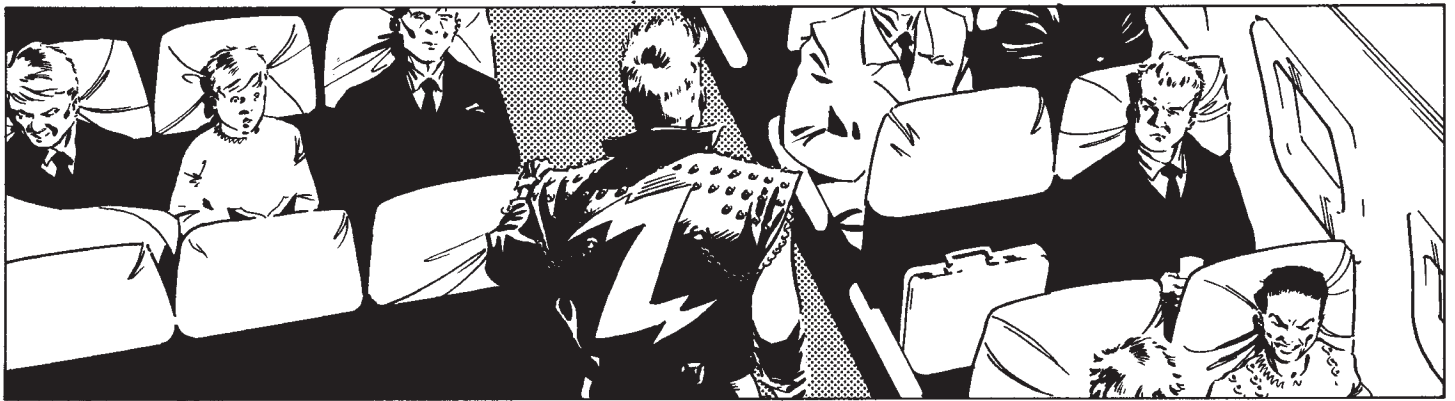


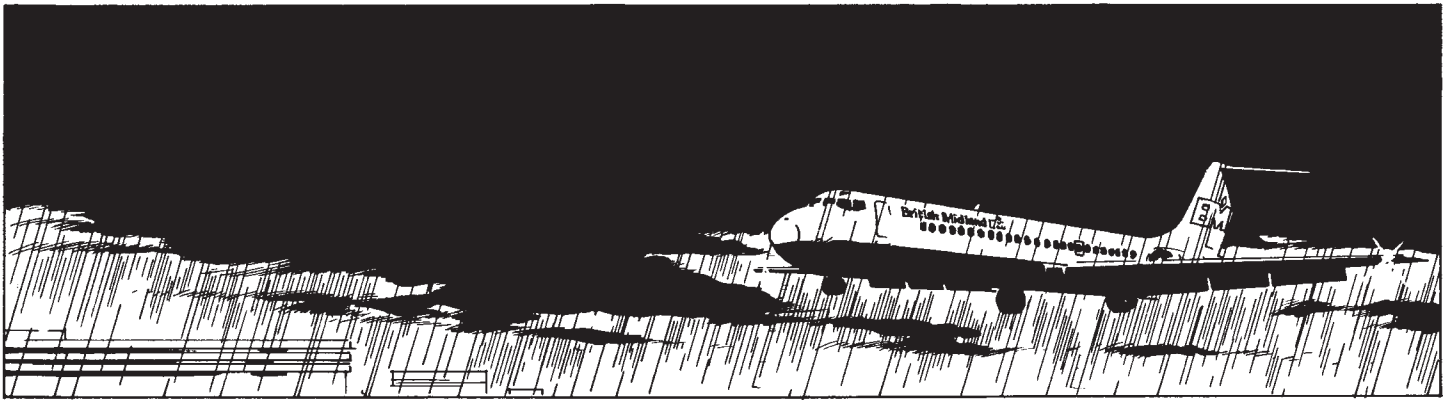
WHAT DO YOU
REALLY KNOW
ABOUT MINE?











SO THIS IS GLASGOW.

NO WONDER EDDIE LEFT.

WE SHOULD HAVE A HIRE CAR WAITING.



YOU STILL MAD AT ME?

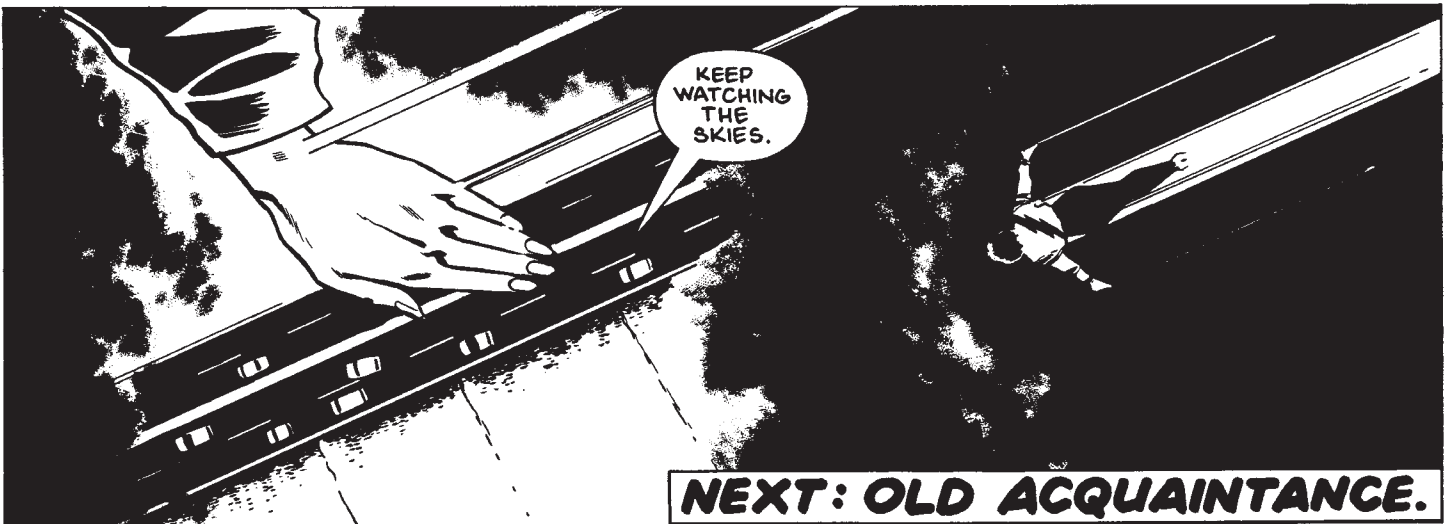
I'M NOT MAD. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO JUST BE HUMAN.



YOU SUPERHUMANS... IT'S LIKE WE'VE BEEN INVADED BY ALIENS, YOU KNOW?

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT, PHAEDRA.



KEEP WATCHING THE SKIES.

NEXT: OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

B LACK.

(I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.)

FREEZING.

THINGS THAT
USED TO BE
HUMAN DRAG
THEMSELVES
INTO THE
PERPETUAL
SHADOWS,
SOBBING WITH
SHAME.

A SKYFUL OF
FLOATING
CINDERS.

A CHILD'S DOLL,
DRIVEN MAD BY
THE HORRORS IT
HAS WITNESSED,
STARES UP AT
ME.

I'M TOO
LATE.

WHAT HAVE
THEY DONE ?

WHAT HAVE
THEY DONE
TO THE
WORLD ?

I WISH THE SUN
WOULD ONLY
RISE.

AND THEN I REALISE
THAT IT HAS RISEN.

AND THE
SUN IS
BLACK.

ZENITH

PHASE II/6: "FAMILIAR SPIRITS"

AD
GRANT MORRISON
STEVE YEOWELL
MARK KING

'PETER.'

THEY'RE IN
THE SUN.

INCUBATING
IN THE SUN.

'PETER.'

THE SKY
WRITHES.

I'M AFRAID.
I'M SO AFRAID.

THEY'RE BEING
BORN AS A NEW
GEOMETRY OF
INCOMPREHEN-
SIBLE FORMS,
A SPECTRUM
OF COLOUR
WITHOUT
NAMES.

THEY BEND AN
IMPOSSIBLE
MAZE THROUGH
SPACE, CROSSING
THE LIGHT SEC-
ONDS WITH
MADDENING
SPEED.

SCREAMING
MY NAME.

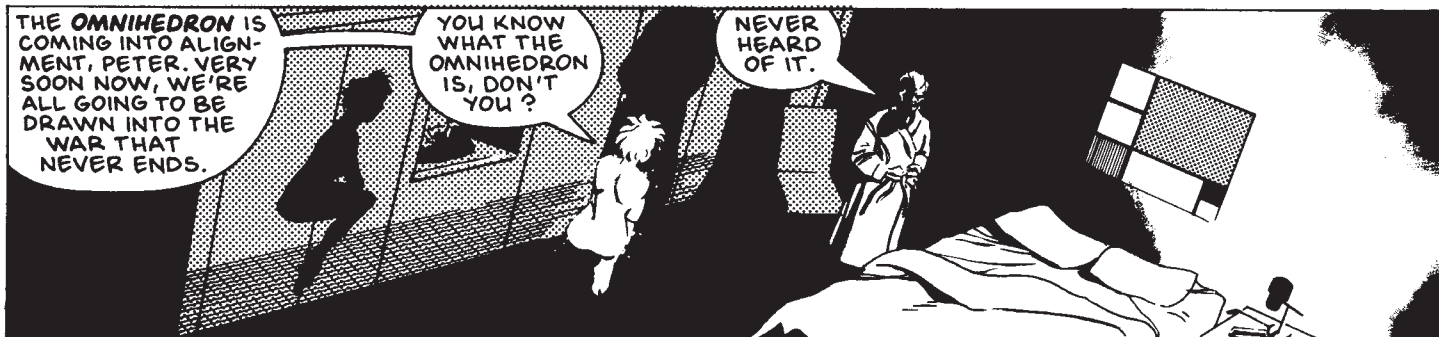
'PETER.'

I KNOW
THEM.

I KNOW
THEM.

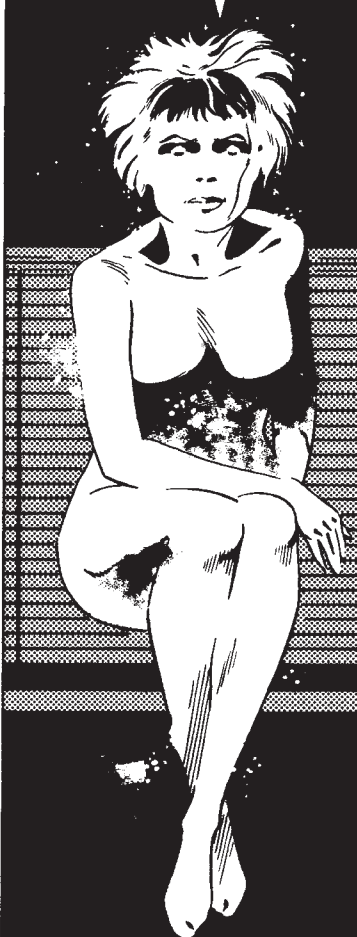
...I...





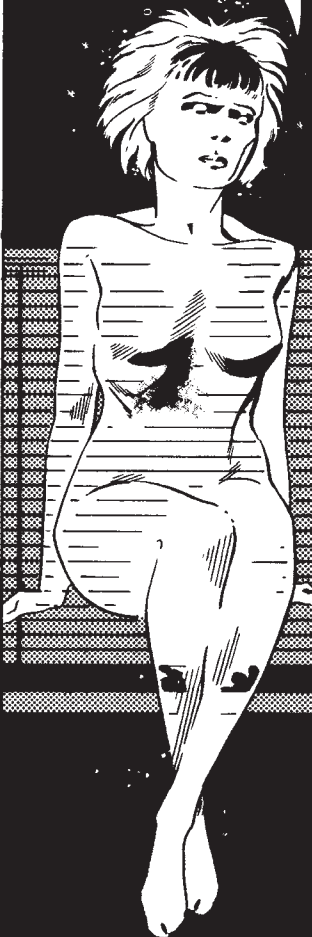
YOU'RE LYING. I CAN SEE YOUR AURA.

WAS IT WHEN YOU FOUGHT IOK SOTOT WITH ZENITH? WAS THAT WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE OMNIHEDRON?

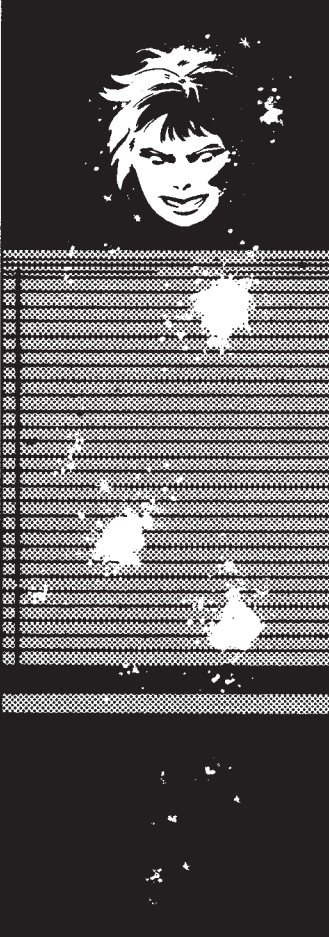


OH, PETER, YOU DON'T KNOW THE THINGS I'VE SEEN SINCE I FELL INTO THAT MIRROR TWENTY YEARS AGO. YOU DON'T KNOW JUST HOW BIG EVERYTHING IS.

WE NEED YOU.



THINK ABOUT IT, PETER. I'LL BE BACK SOON, WITH FRIENDS, AND I KNOW YOU'LL COME ROUND.



BECAUSE IN THE END

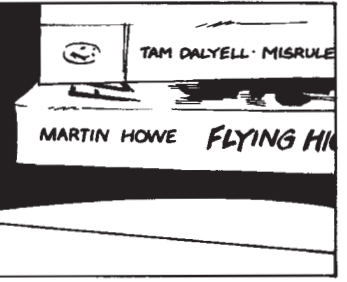
NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOUR DISGUISE

YOU'RE STILL ONE OF US.



My head is pounding,
beating like a ruthless
metronome.

Things are
coming apart.



I thought I had every-
thing worked out. I
thought I had covered
all the angles.

But there are angles
beyond angles, I should
have known that.



Even as I write, the
lunatic who's taken con-
trol of a nuclear sub-
marine has his finger
poised on the button,
ready to destroy
London.

Overhead, the super-
humans gather like
vultures. Waiting.



I'm struck by an image:
mankind playing Russian
roulette with itself.

So much depends
now on chance,
on luck.



The barrel
spins.

The trigger
is pulled.



NEXT: THE HIDDEN FORTRESS.

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 8, 1988.

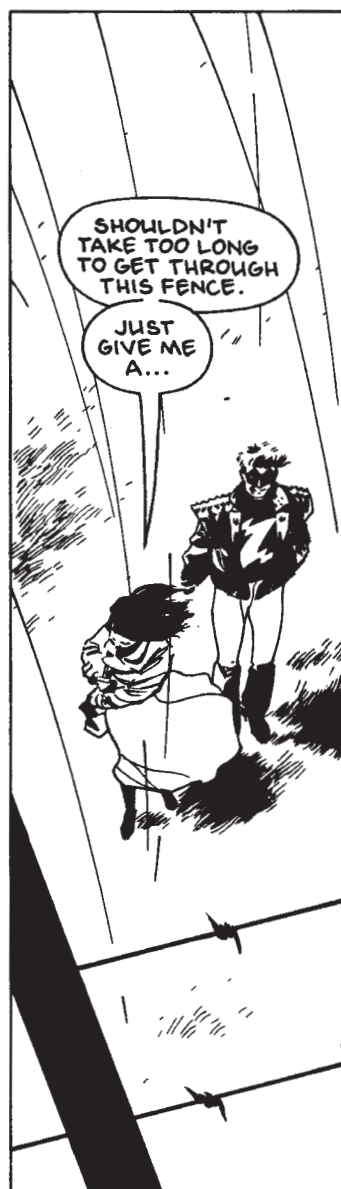
ALL I
WANTED WAS
SOME
COVERING
DARKNESS.

I MEAN,
WHAT IS THIS?
THE MONSOON
SEASON?

I COULD
REALLY GET
TO DISLIKE
SCOTLAND.

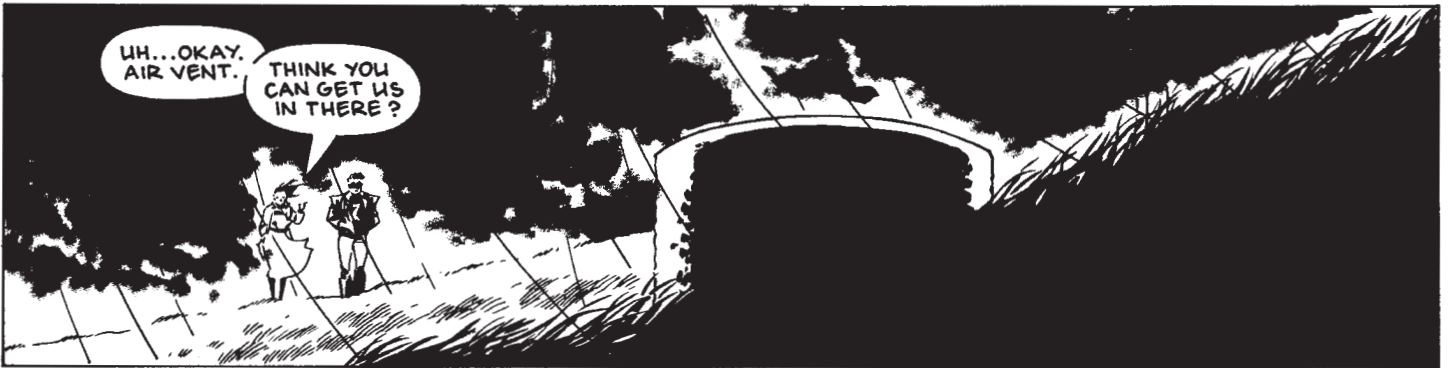
≡HFF≡

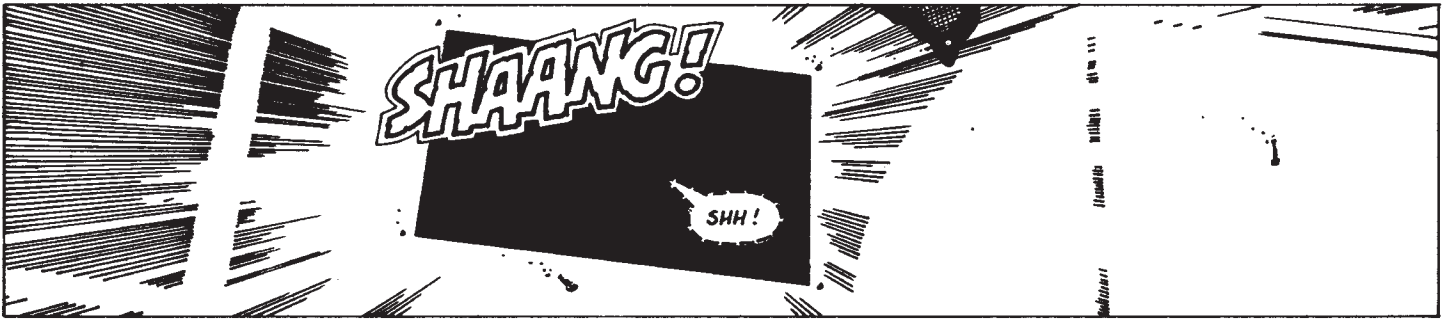
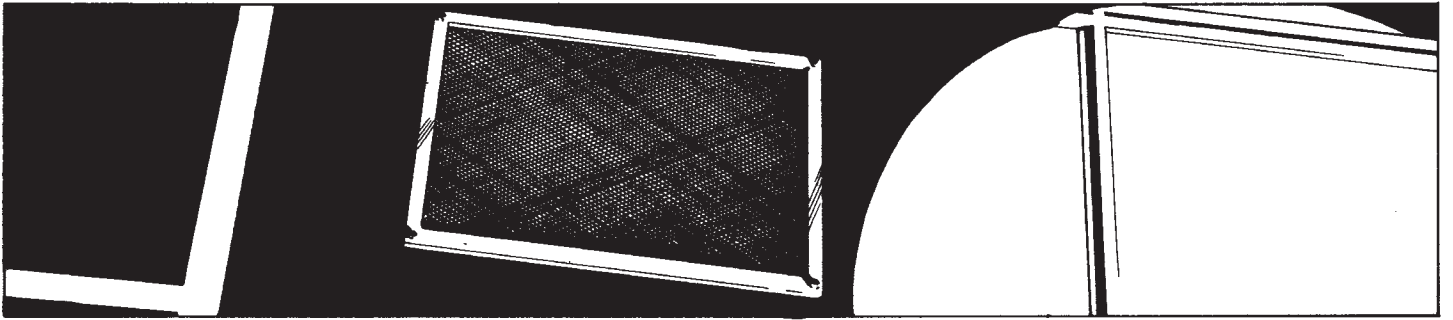
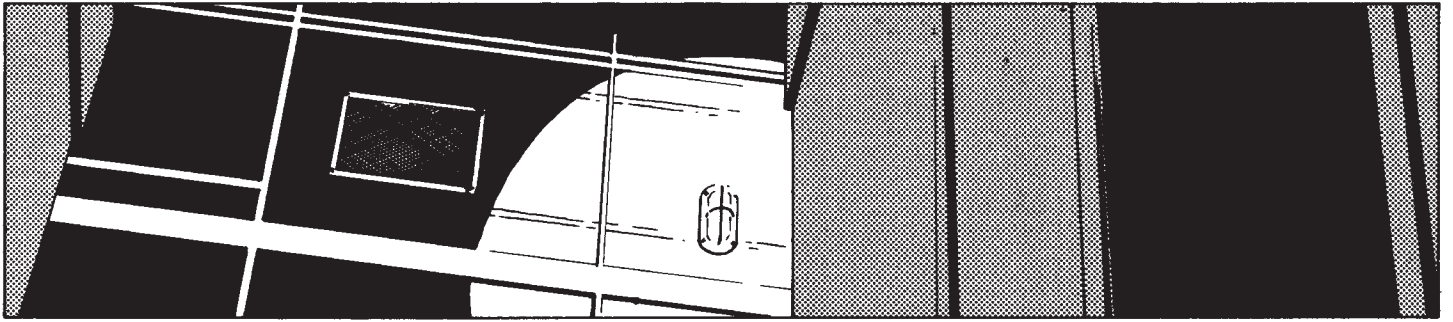
SO THIS
IS THE
PLACE
THEN?



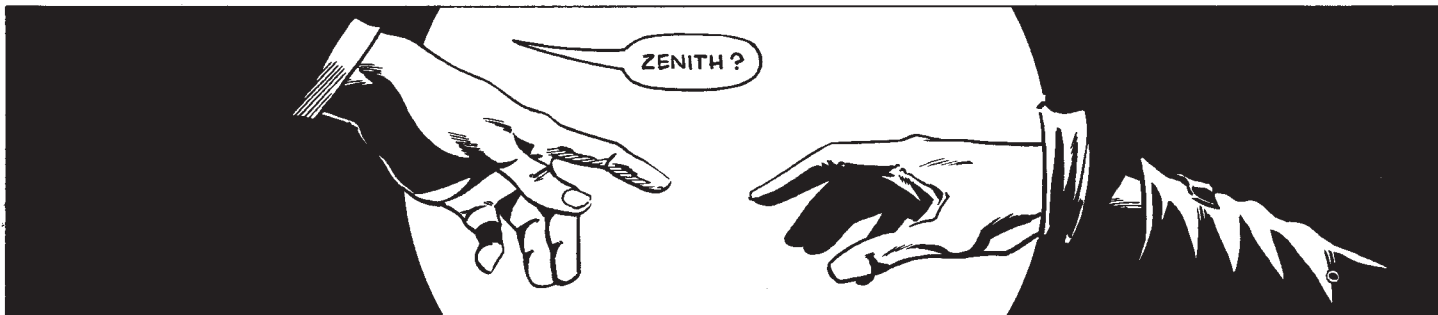
PHASE II/7: "INTO THE UNDERWORLD"

SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON
ART
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING
MARK KING







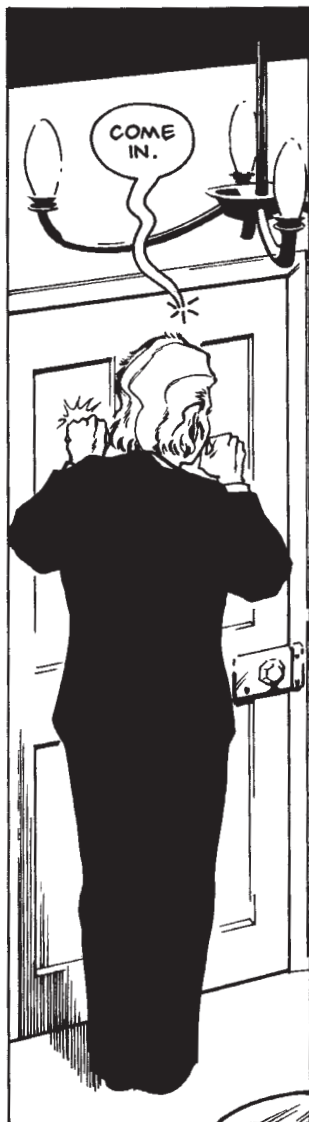


CONTINUED IN ZENITH BOOK 3

ZENITH

LONDON: FEBRUARY 8, 1988.

PHASE II/8: "KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR"



SCHIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 8, 1988.

WELL,
HERE WE
ALL ARE,
THEN!

I SUPPOSE
I OUGHT TO
GET THE
INTRODUCTIONS
OUT OF THE
WAY FIRST.

WARHEAD YOU'VE ALREADY
MET, I THINK. THE GIRLS ARE
SHOCKWAVE AND BLAZE.

IT WAS ME
WHO THOUGHT UP
THE NAMES, IN
CASE YOU'RE
WONDERING.

THAT'S
DR PEYNE, WHO'S
PROBABLY THE
CLEVEREST MAN
ANY OF US WILL
EVER MEET.

AND I'M
SCOTT
WALLACE.

"DO YOU
KNOW
ME?"

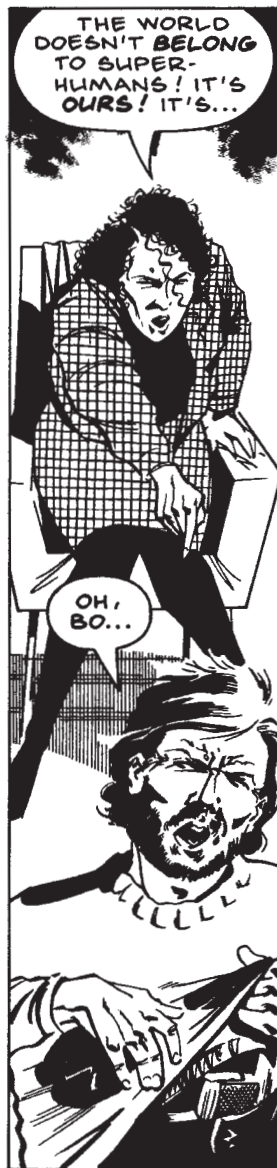
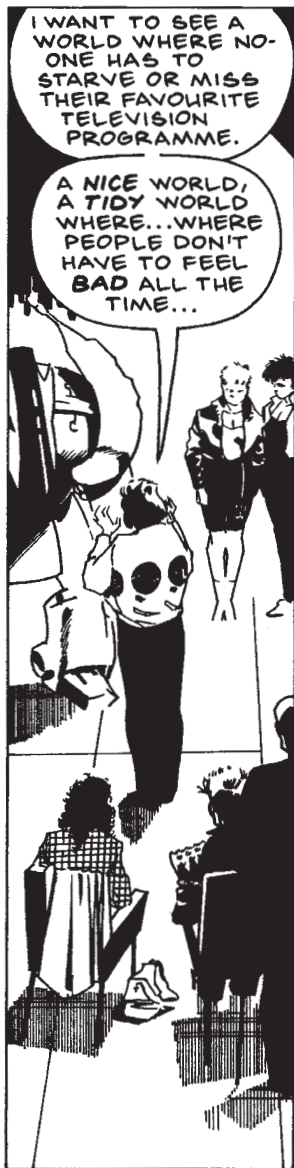
OH, WE KNOW
YOU ALL RIGHT,
PAL!

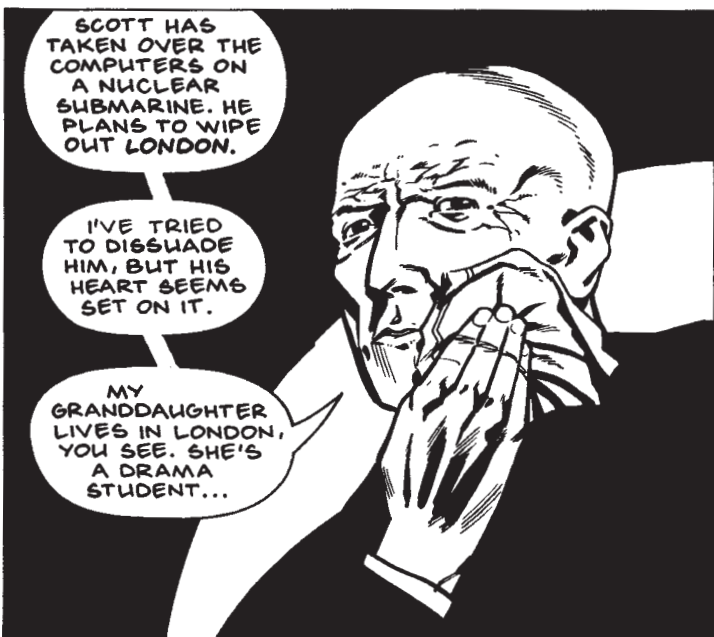
WHY? I'M NOT DOING
ANYTHING WRONG, AM
I? NOT REALLY.

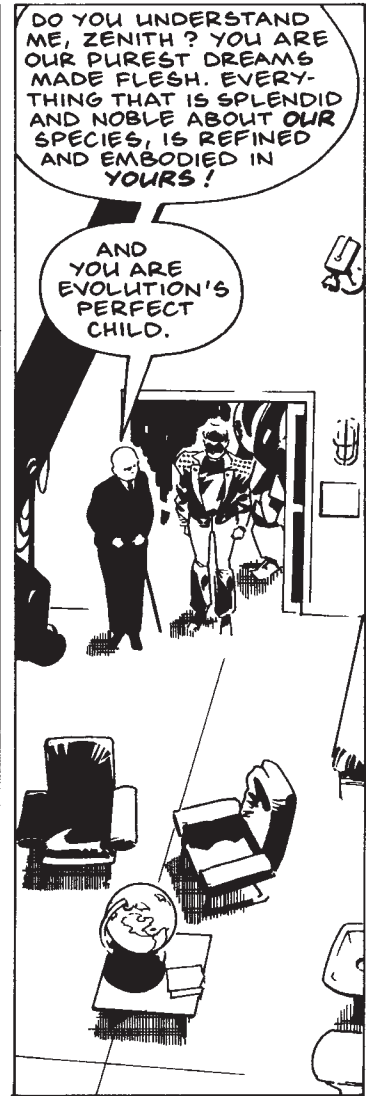
I'M JUST SICK OF
THE WAY THE WORLD'S
GOING AND I THINK I
COULD DO A BETTER
JOB, BUILD A
BETTER WORLD,
THAT'S ALL.

WE KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
HERE AND WE'RE
GOING TO PULL
THE WHOLE
DAMN THING
AROUND
YOUR EARS.









ZENITH

PHASE II/9: "WAITING FOR THE BIG BANG"

LONDON: FEBRUARY
9, 1988.

It happens tomorrow.

Oblivious to its fate,
London huddles under
a cold sky, like a
beast marked for the
slaughterhouse.

The missiles fly
tomorrow.

Two nuclear warheads.
Enough to erase this city
forever from the face
of the earth.

I suggested destroying
the submarine that's been
taken over, but we can't
even find it.

Evacuation is out of the
question, except for the
privileged.

The Royal Family
left yesterday.

I don't know what to do.
For the first time, I
simply don't know what
to do.

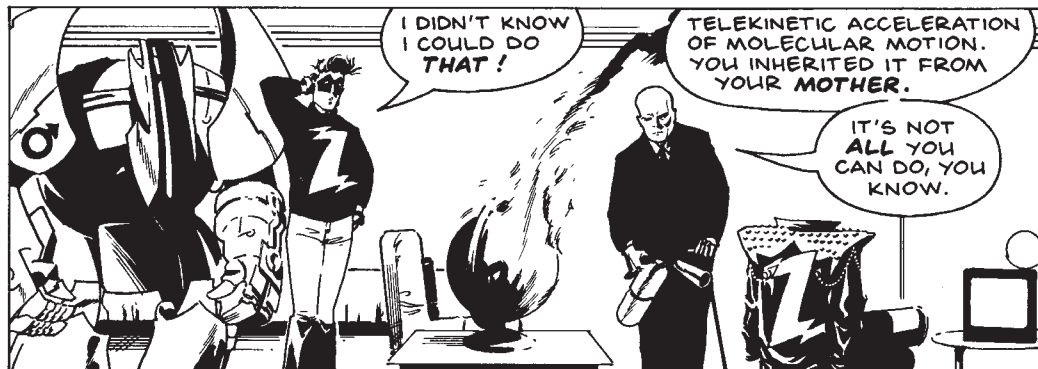
Tomorrow the sky will
burn. The animals in the
zoo will burn. The chil-
dren and the bankers.
The poets. The criminals.

I don't know
what to do.

The birds.

Tomorrow.

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 9, 1988.



ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY, ZENITH, IS THAT EVOLUTIONARY FORCES HAVE GIVEN YOUR PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE WORLD BY ENDING THE TYRANNY OF HUMANITY.

WHAT? SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE HUMAN!

BUT YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE MORE THAN WE ARE.

CAN'T YOU SEE THE CARNAGE MAN HAS PERPETRATED DURING HIS SHORT TIME ON EARTH? CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT HE'S DOING TO THE WORLD?

"HE DESTROYS THE RAINFORESTS THAT SUPPLY THE EARTH WITH MUCH OF ITS OXYGEN, NEVER ONCE CONSIDERING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE."

"HE WEEPS SENTIMENTAL TEARS OVER ET AND THEN HUNTS DOWN DOLPHINS AND WHALES, TURNING GENUINE ALIEN INTELLIGENCES INTO PETFOOD AND SOAP."

"THE CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS FROM HIS HAIRSPRAYS AND DEODORANTS ARE EATING AWAY THE PLANET'S PROTECTIVE OZONE LAYER."

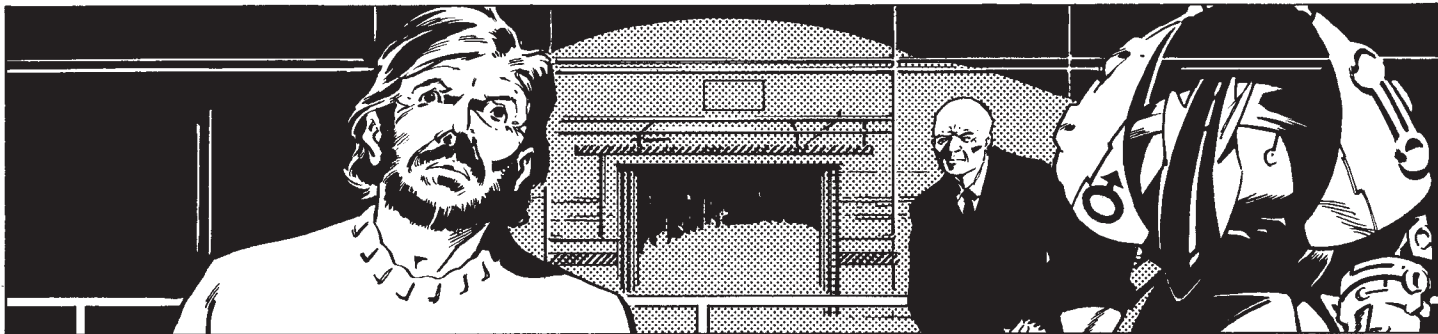
"THERE'S A HOLE IN THE SKY NOW AS BIG AS ANTARCTICA."

THE HISTORY OF MANKIND IS A CATALOGUE OF ATROCITY, BRUTE IGNORANCE AND BLIND GREED. IT CAN HAVE ONLY ONE OUTCOME.

SO YOU AND WALLACE ARE GOING TO GET TOGETHER WITH GREENPEACE AND SORT IT ALL OUT?

HA!





PHEW!

THE **SUNDAY SPORT** WOULD LOVE THIS, PEYNE!

ENJOY YOUR LITTLE CHAT WITH ZENITH, DID YOU?

I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL HIM TOO MUCH. IF HE KNEW WHAT HE'S **REALLY** CAPABLE OF...

STILL. IT WON'T MATTER SOON.

WHY DOES PROGRESS ALWAYS DEMAND SO MUCH SPILLED BLOOD?

ACCORDING TO THE CHART, ZENITH'S BIORHYTHM CYCLE REACHES THE LOWEST POINT OF ITS NEGATIVE PHASE TOMORROW, WHEN THE MISSILES GO OFF.

THAT'S WHEN HE'LL LOSE HIS SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES FOR A DAY.

AND THAT'S WHEN WE'LL KILL HIM.

NEXT: **I NEVER SANG FOR MY FATHER**

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.



HI
THERE,
PEYNE!

YOU
HAVEN'T
BROUGHT
THE GIRLS,
HAVE
YOU?

NO,
NOT THIS
TIME, I'M
AFRAID.



THEY
DON'T SAY
MUCH, DO THEY?
SHOCKWAVE
AND BLAZE,
I MEAN.

THEY
COMMUNICATE
TELEPATHICALLY.
YOU COULD DO IT
TOO IF YOU
WANTED.



HOWEVER,
TIME GROWS
SHORT.

AND I THINK
YOU DESERVE
TO KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR
PARENTS.

ZENITH

PHASE II/10: "HOME TRUTHS"



"THINGS REALLY BEGAN TO GO WRONG IN 1965, WHEN TASK FORCE UK, AS THEY WERE KNOWN THEN, REFUSED ORDERS TO ASSIST THE USA IN VIETNAM."

"IT'S ALL IN MY BOOK, SEIZING THE FIRE. I MUST LET YOU... WELL, PERHAPS NOT."



"SO, '65 WAS THE TURNING POINT, BUT THE EFFECTS OF THAT DECISION WERE NOT TO BE SEEN UNTIL SOME TIME LATER."

"BY 1967 TASK FORCE UK HAD BECOME CLOUD 9, DARLINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA."



"AND BY THIS TIME I THINK THEY'D BEGUN TO SUSPECT THAT THE BOOSTER SERUM THEY WERE REGULARLY DOSED WITH WAS ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO STERILISE THEM."

"THERE WAS A GROWING FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT BREED. A FEAR THAT WE HAD CREATED OUR OWN EVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSORS."

"OF COURSE, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED, BUT MY HANDS WERE TIED AT THAT TIME."

"I NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED. CLOUD 9 HAD PLANS OF THEIR OWN."

"THOSE PLANS, WHICH INVOLVED YOUR BIRTH, CAUSED A SPLIT WITHIN THE GROUP THAT WAS NEVER HEALED."

"YOUR PARENTS, WHITE HEAT AND DR BEAT, DISAPPEARED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, DURING WHICH TIME I ASSUME YOU WERE BORN AND PASSED INTO THE CARE OF YOUR GRANDPARENTS."

"IN THE SPRING OF 1968, YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER TURNED UP IN SOUTHERN FRANCE."



"I IMAGINE THEY WERE PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES. EVERYTHING MUST HAVE BEEN GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN."

"HOW COULD THEY HAVE KNOWN WHAT WAS TO OCCUR NEXT?"



"NO-ONE SUSPECTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE CIA'S SHADOWMEN."



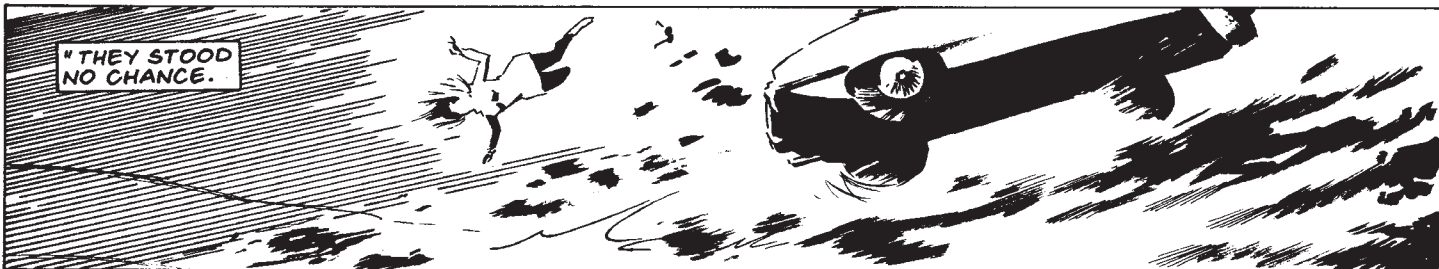
"THE SHADOWMEN ARE HUMANS WITH CRUDE PSYCHIC TALENTS WHICH, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD BE USELESS AGAINST A SUPERHUMAN MIND."



"YOUR PARENTS, HOWEVER, WERE COMPLETELY UNPREPARED FOR TELEKINETIC ATTACK."



"THEY STOOD NO CHANCE."



"POOR JENNY...I USED TO LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT THINKING OF THE SHOCK AND TERROR SHE MUST HAVE FELT."



"STAGGERING, VOMITING, UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND JUST WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HER."

"I USED TO SEE HER EYES."



"HER EYES, STARING AT ME."

"SHE HAD BEAUTIFUL EYES."





I...I
KEPT THEM,
YOU
KNOW.



I RETRIEVED THE
BODIES, YOU SEE.
YOUR MOTHER'S
BRAIN WAS MOST...
USEFUL IN MY
RESEARCHES.

I CLONED
BLAZE
FROM IT.

BLAZE IS A
CLONE OF MY
MUM...?

THIS IS
DISGUSTING!

"SHOCKWAVE WAS CLONED FROM
CELL SCRAPINGS I TOOK FROM
RUBY FOX WHEN SHE WAS ILL.
IN 1970.

"THEY ALL FELL MYSTERIOUSLY
ILL - RUBY, PETER ST JOHN AND
SIADWEL RHYS.



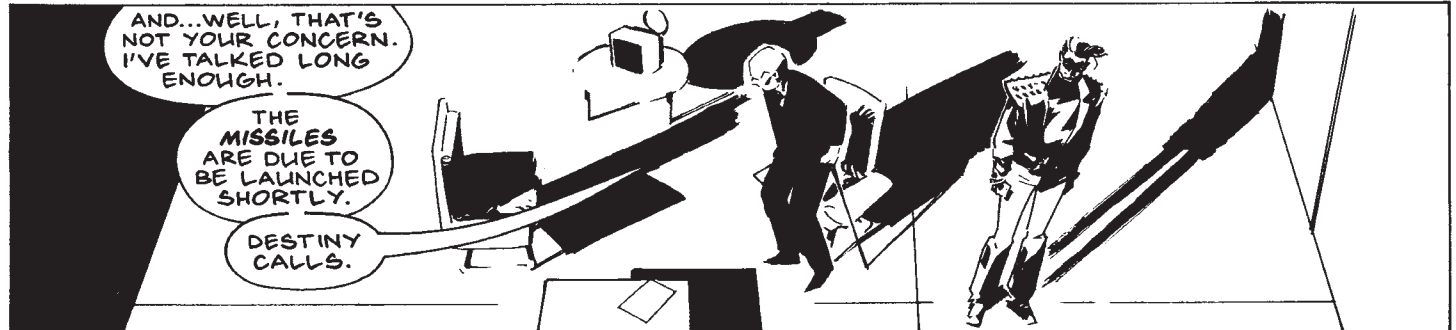
"THE AMERICANS WERE BEHIND IT,
OF COURSE.

"INITIALLY, I THOUGHT THEY HAD
ALSO MANAGED TO KILL DAVID
CAMBRIDGE - LUX AS HE WAS
KNOWN. HIS BODY DISINTEGRATED
IN A BERLIN HOTEL.



"THE STRANGE THING WAS, WHEN I
TESTED THE REMAINS, I FOUND
UNMODIFIED HUMAN GENETIC
MATERIAL.

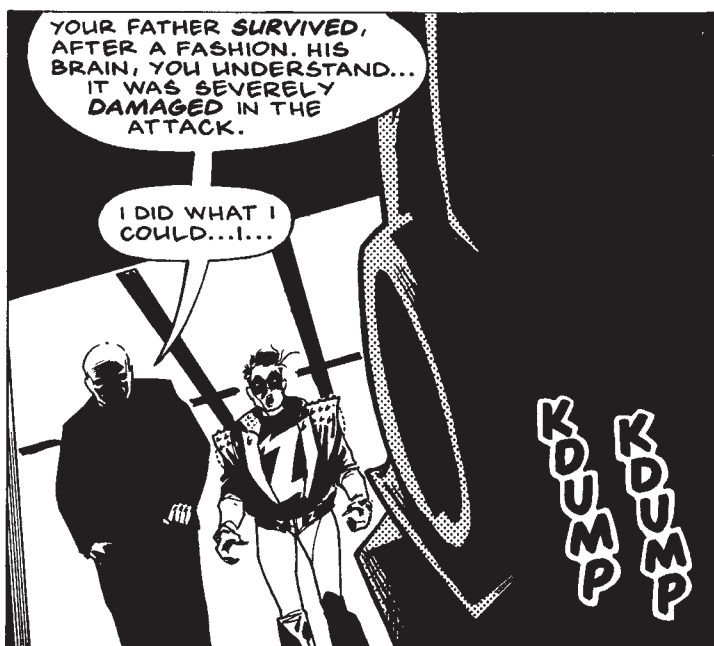
"IT WASN'T LUX AT ALL, YOU
SEE? IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE."



AND...WELL, THAT'S
NOT YOUR CONCERN.
I'VE TALKED LONG
ENOUGH.

THE
MISSILES
ARE DUE TO
BE LAUNCHED
SHORTLY.

DESTINY
CALLS.



ZENITH

PHASE II/II: "A FAMILY AFFAIR"

SCHIEHALLION; SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

...YOU'RE
TELLING ME
THIS THING IS
MY DAD..?

WHAT
COULD BE
SALVAGED
OF HIM,
YES.

I'M SORRY THAT
IT HAD TO COME
TO THIS, ZENITH,
BUT YOU'VE
DONE WHAT WAS
REQUIRED OF
YOU AND...
WELL...

WHAT
IS
THIS..?

I CHECKED YOUR
BIORHYTHM CHART.
TODAY IS YOUR LOW
PHASE, ISN'T IT ? THE
DAY YOU LOSE YOUR
SUPERHUMAN
ABILITIES ?

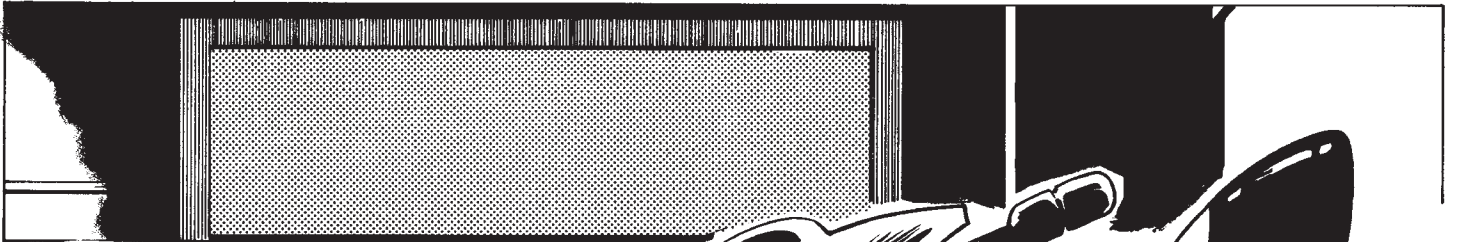
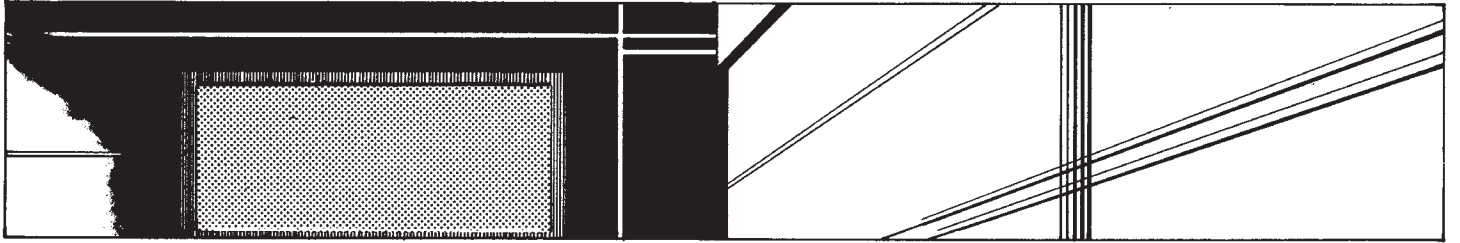
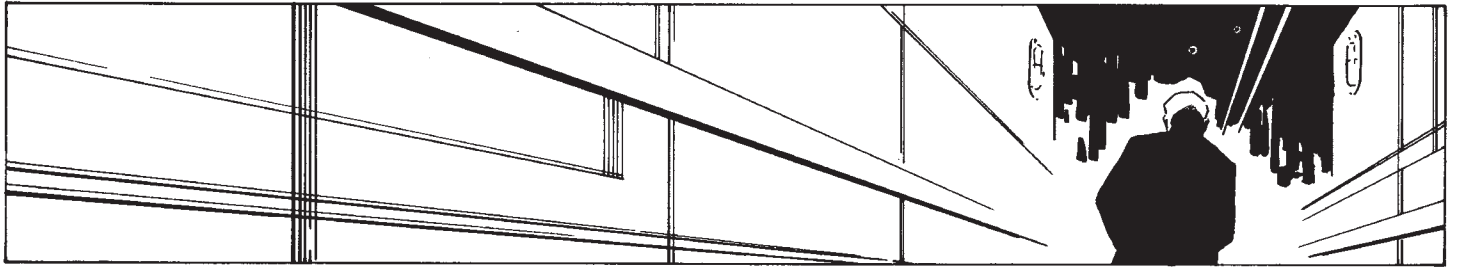
PLEASE
FORGIVE ME,
ZENITH.

I SHOULD
IMAGINE IT
WILL BE BOTH
QUICK AND
PAINLESS.

COME
ON! YOU
CAN'T
JUST...

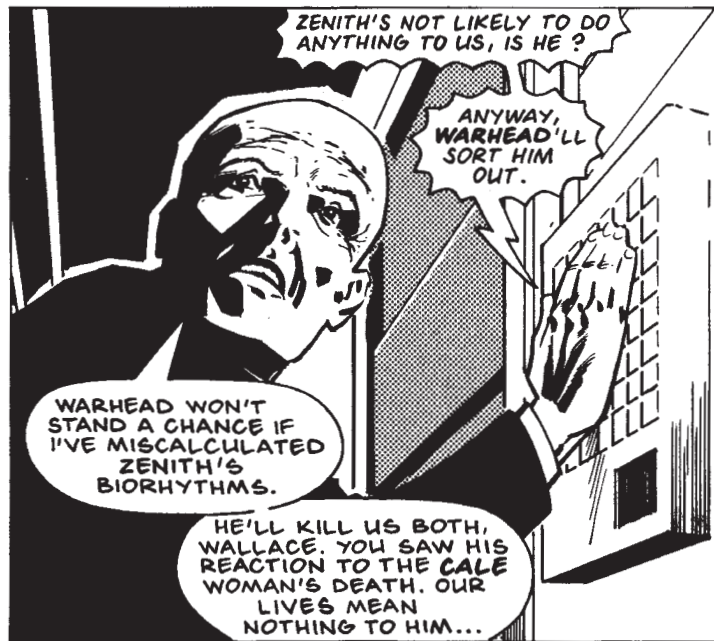
SHLIK!





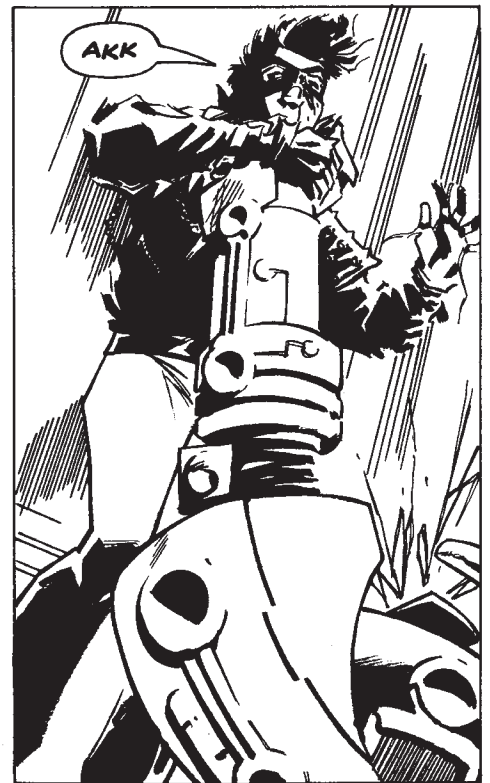
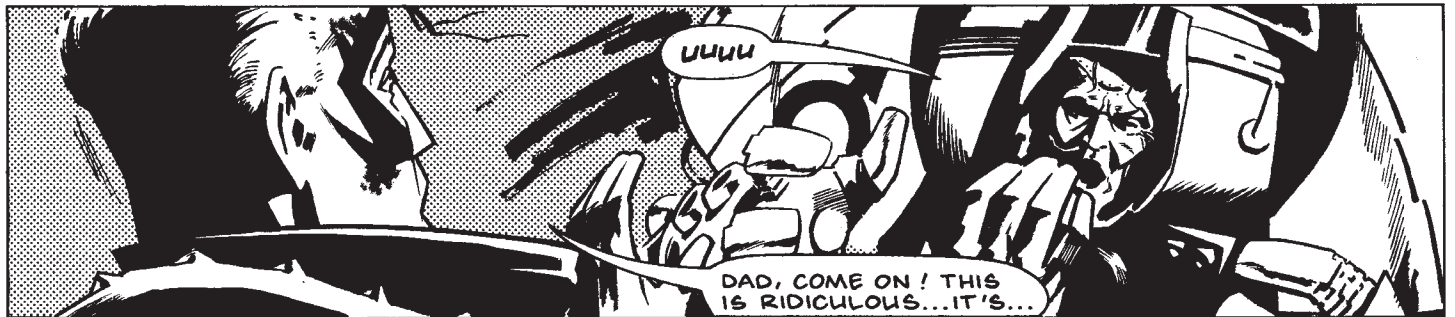


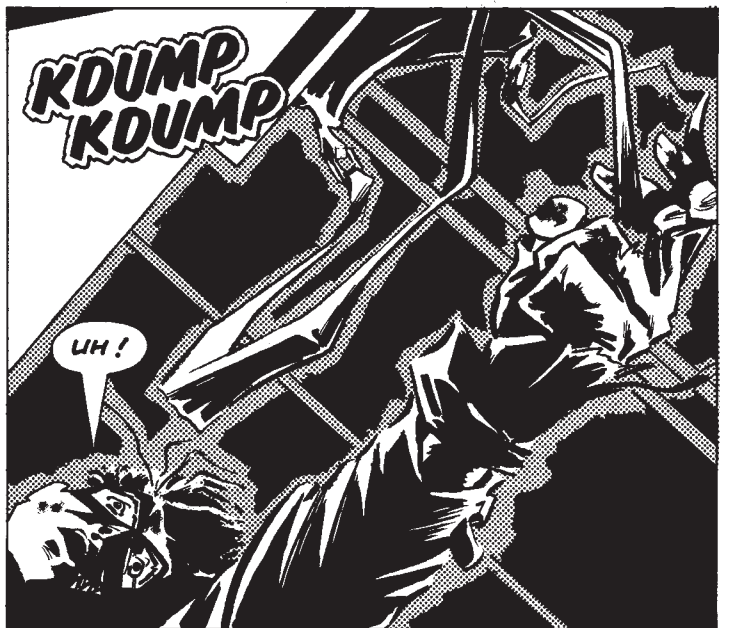
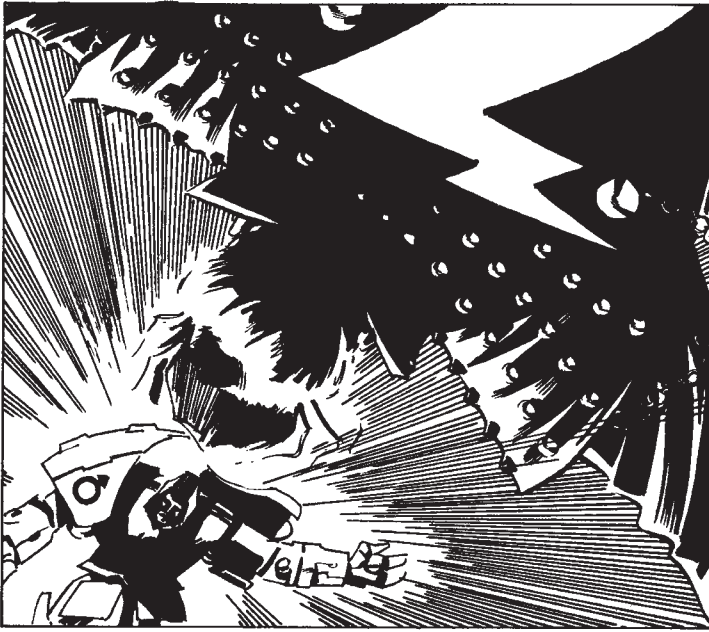




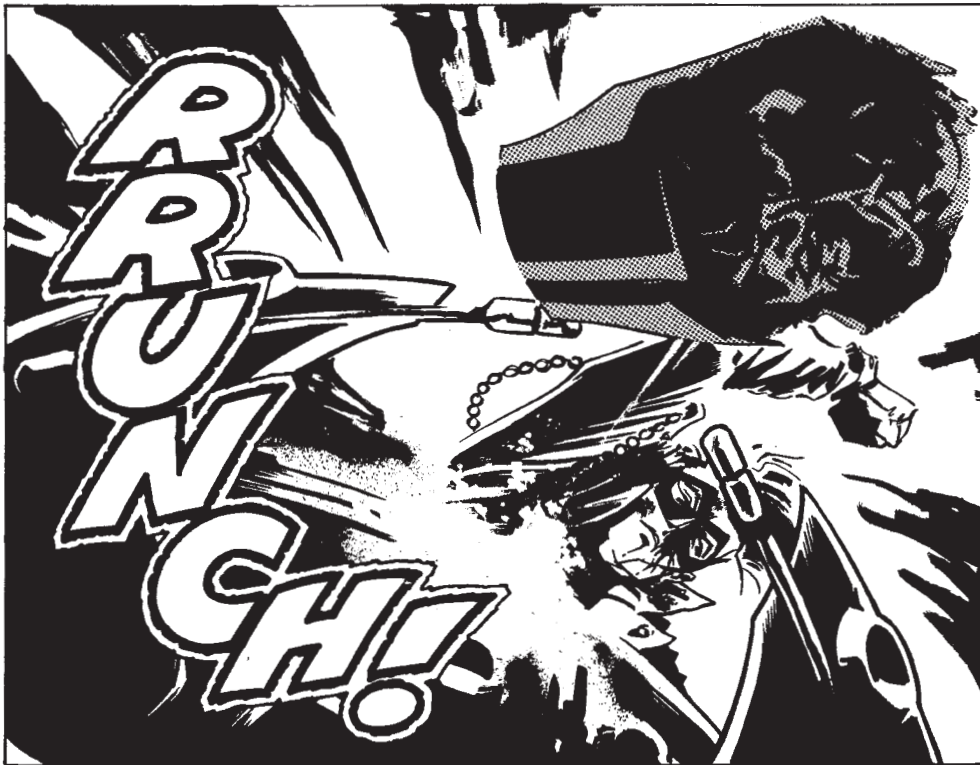
SCHIEHALLION,
SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 10,
1988.











NEXT: END OF THE GAME.

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.



SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YEOWELL
COLORIST
KID

WHAT IS
LIFE?
SCHRÖDINGER



PHASE II/13: "RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX"



LONDON: FEBRUARY
10, 1988.

Three miles above the Thames,
London below, shining in the
cold sun. The city has been
made presentable for its
impending nuclear cremation.

Why am I here ?

Perhaps it's guilt...
a sense of failure.

Perhaps I want to die here
when the missiles arrive,
obliterated in an aerial
inferno.

No. That's not it
at all, is it ?

I'm not here to passively
greet the warheads.

I'm here because I think
I can catch them.

SCHIEHALLION,
SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 10,
1988.

...I MUST
CONFESS, YOU
TOOK ME QUITE
BY SURPRISE,
ZENITH. I WAS
SURE TODAY
WAS THE DAY
YOU LOST YOUR
SUPERPOWERS.

THE EIGHTH
OF JANUARY IS
YOUR BIRTHDAY,
ISN'T IT ? ALL
THE MAGAZINES
SAY SO...

JANUARY THE EIGHTH
IS **ELVIS'** BIRTHDAY.
IT WAS MY AGENT'S
IDEA TO PUT IT
ABOUT THAT I WAS
BORN ON THE
SAME DAY.

YOU WORKED OUT
MY BIORHYTHM
CHART BASED ON
THE **WRONG**
BIRTHDATE.

HA.

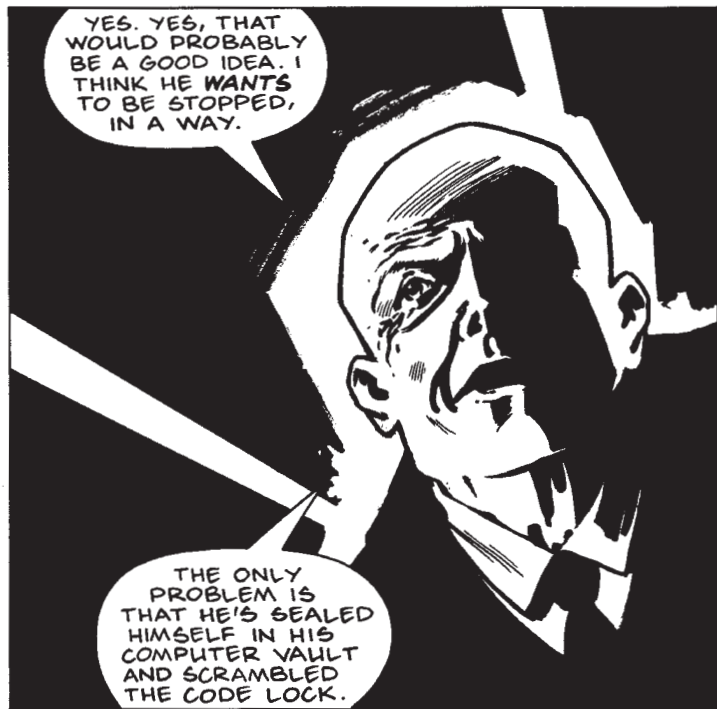
YEAH.
I'VE ALWAYS
WONDERED
WHAT IT MUST
BE LIKE TO BE
A **GENIUS**.



QUITE.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW?

WELL, I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO STOP WALLACE FROM BLOWING UP LONDON, YOU KNOW?



YES. YES, THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA. I THINK HE WANTS TO BE STOPPED, IN A WAY.

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S SEALED HIMSELF IN HIS COMPUTER VAULT AND SCRAMBLED THE CODE LOCK.



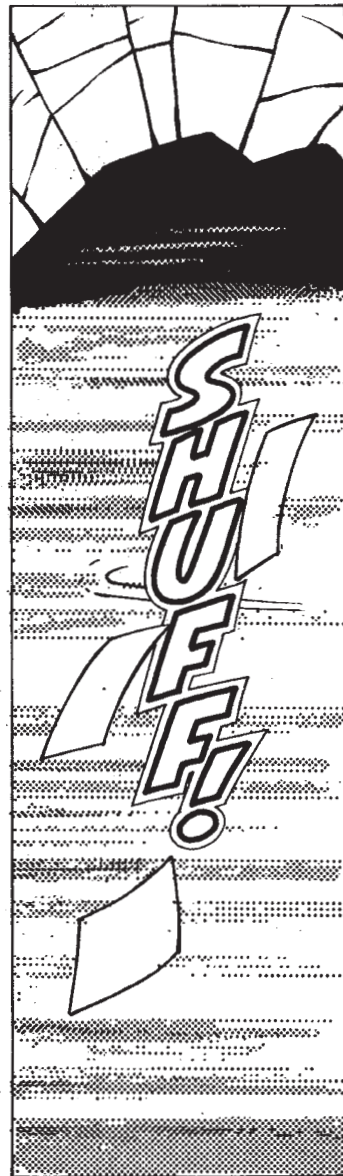
I'M SURE YOU'D BE ABLE TO **BREAK** THROUGH THE DOOR EVENTUALLY, BUT BY THAT TIME, THE MISSILES WILL BE IN THE AIR.

ZENITH? DID YOU KILL WARHEAD?



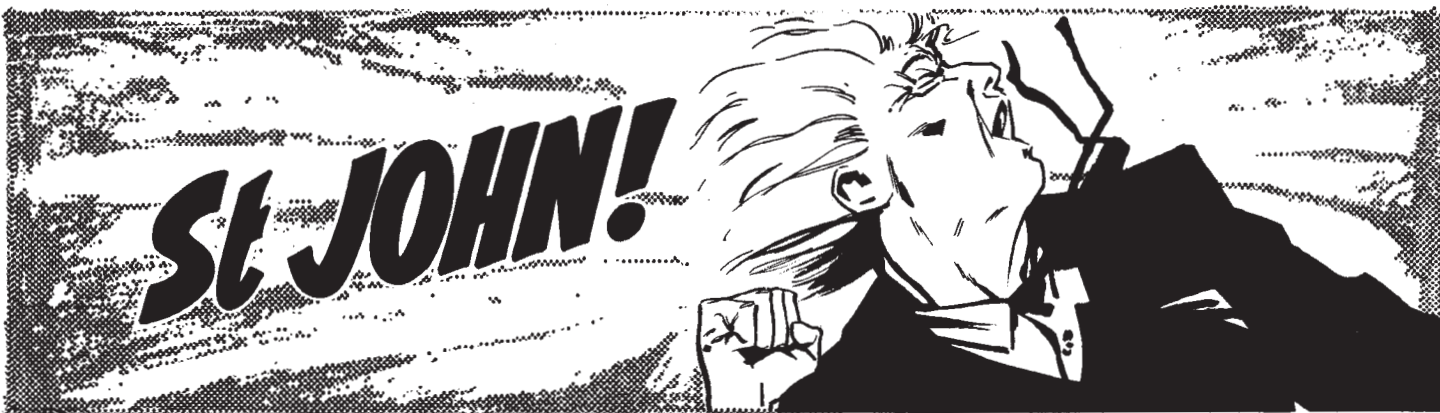
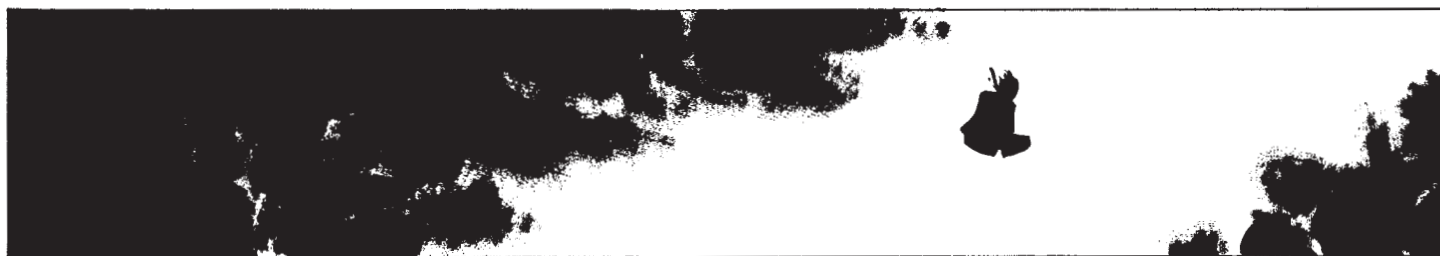
YEAH, AND I HAVEN'T FORGOT YOU TRIED TO KILL ME, EITHER.

I'LL BE BACK.



SHUFFLE!







ZENITH?
IS THAT
YOU?

YEAH IT WORKS
TELEPATHY PEYNE
SAID I COULD
DO IT !!

NOT SO LOUD!
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHO TAUGHT YOU
TO DO THIS?



DON'T HAVE TIME
THE MISSILES
LONDON WIPED OUT
WALLACE THIS GUY
RIDDLE IF I DON'T
MISSILES

SLOW
DOWN.

WHAT
RIDDLE
IS THIS?



I SEE.

LEWIS
CARROLL.
CHILD'S
PLAY.



OKAY...EH...
THE MOTHER
SAYS 'YOU WILL
DEVOUR MY
CHILD.' WHICH
MEANS
THAT...



CHA-CHAK!

VRRRR



I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.
THE CROCODILE IS FORCED
INTO A STATE OF INDECISION
BY THE PARADOX.

COME IN,
ZENITH.



YOU'VE
GOT FOUR
MINUTES.

NEXT: COUNTDOWN





AND THEN THERE'S ALL THE MESS AND THE FALLOUT FROM THE MISSILES YOU'VE JUST LAUNCHED ON LONDON.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE HOMELESS? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY TO THE CONSERVATIONISTS?

THE MISSILES HAVEN'T ACTUALLY BEEN LAUNCHED YET. THEY'RE STILL COUNTING DOWN...

ANYWAY, YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE THINGS SOUND MORE DIFFICULT.

NOT REALLY. I MEAN, WHY DO YOU THINK SUPERHUMANS HAVE NEVER TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD? I'LL BET WE COULD.

THING IS, NOBODY WANTS THE HASSLE.

YOU WOULDN'T BE RULING THE WORLD, IT'D BE RULING YOU. YOU'D NEVER GET TO SLEEP. IT'D BE HELL.

BUT IT CAN BE DONE. LOOK AT ALEXANDER, NAPOLEON, HITLER. THEY NEARLY DID IT.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE HITLER?

WELL, NO, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

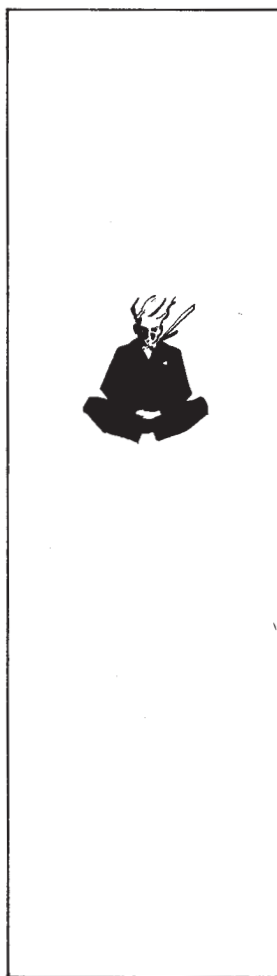
A NICE SORT OF HITLER.

OH, I DON'T KNOW.

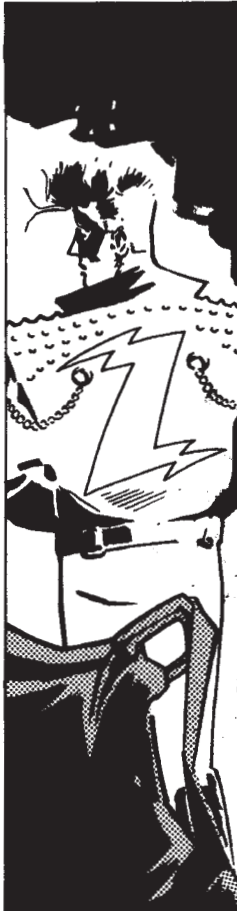
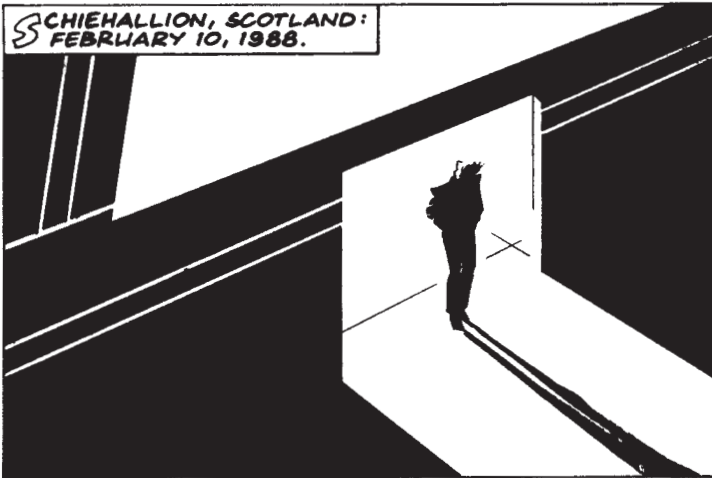
ALL I WANTED WAS... SOMETHING BETTER.

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO HAVE TO KILL ANYBODY... SOMETIMES THINGS JUST SEEM TO GET OUT OF HAND.





SCHIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.



AD

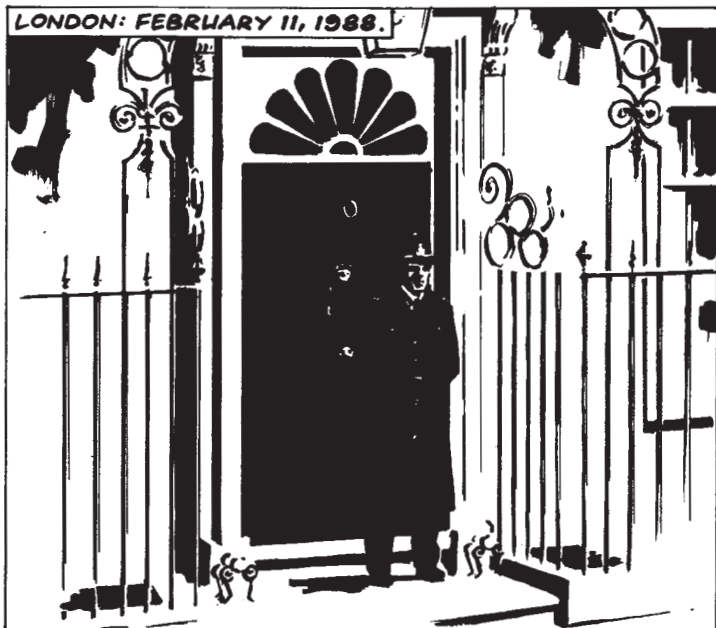
SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ART
STEVE
YEOWELL
COLORS
KID



ZENITH

PHASE II/15: "HOME TO ROOST"

LONDON: FEBRUARY 11, 1988.



...OF COURSE, WE DON'T WANT TO REVEAL THE FACT THAT LONDON CAME CLOSE TO BEING RAZED TO THE GROUND, DO WE, PETER?

NO, PRIME MINISTER, WE CERTAINLY DON'T.



I THINK A WELL-TIMED LEAK MAY BE IN ORDER-- A TERRORIST THREAT, AVERTED BY THE SKILL OF OUR DEFENCE SECRETARY.

WE MAKE NO MENTION OF YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES. WE STRONGLY EMPHASISE YOUR FIRM AND INTELLIGENT HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR.



HOW DOES THAT SOUND TO YOU?

IT SOUNDS... FINE.



AND PETER?



TED HEATH. HE'S BECOMING A DREADFUL NUISANCE AND I DO SO WORRY ABOUT HIS HEALTH.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN TO HIM.



OF COURSE.

I UNDERSTAND, PRIME MINISTER.



LONDON: FEBRUARY 11, 1988.

IT'S ALWAYS
THE SAME
WHEN I GET
HOME!

I FIND YOU HANGING
ABOUT LIKE A LOST
DOG. HAVEN'T YOU
GOT A HOME TO GO
TO, EDDIE?

YOU'RE BLINKING
LUCKY YOU'VE GOT
AN AGENT LIKE ME
TO WORRY ABOUT
YOU, ZENITH!

SO DID YOU
SEE MUCH OF
GLASGOW?

YEAH.
IT WAS A
DUMP.

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW
THAT GLASGOW'S
THE EUROPEAN CITY
OF CULTURE
1990...

LISTEN, EDDIE, JUST
LEAVE ME ALONE
FOR A WHILE, ALL
RIGHT?





LONDON: FEBRUARY
11, 1988.

LISTEN...
l...l...

WHAT
ARE
YOU?

'DARK REVOLVING IN
SILENT ACTIVITY, UNSEEN
IN TORMENTING PASSIONS,
AN ACTIVITY UNKNOWN
AND HORRIBLE, A SELF-
CONTEMPLATING SHADOW,
IN ENORMOUS LABOURS
OCCUPIED.'

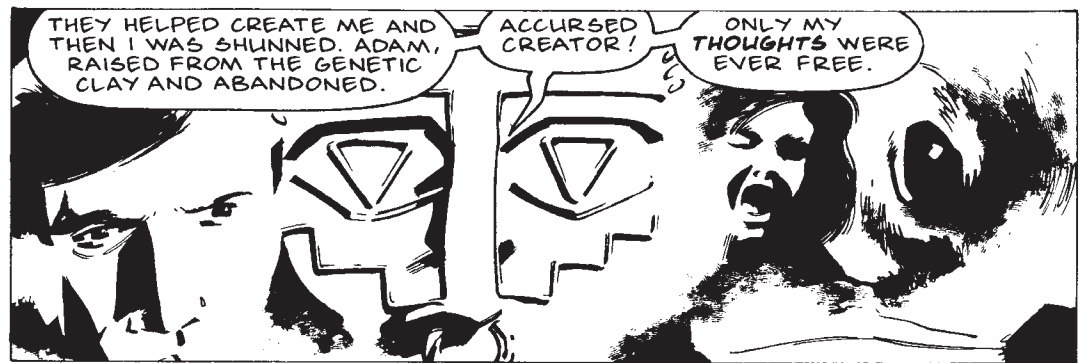
THEY CALLED
ME CHIMERA,
MY CAPTORS.



SCOTT
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YEOWELL
WRITER
KID

ZENITH

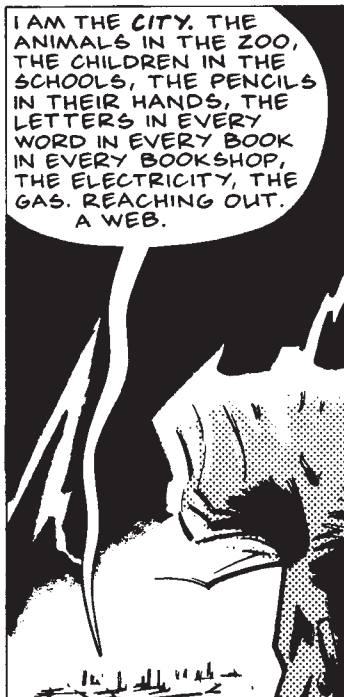
PHASE II/16: "CHIMERA UNBOUND"





I AM THE BRICKS, THE CEMENT, THE WIRING. I AM EACH INDIVIDUAL OCCUPANT, EACH FIBRE ON EACH CARPET.

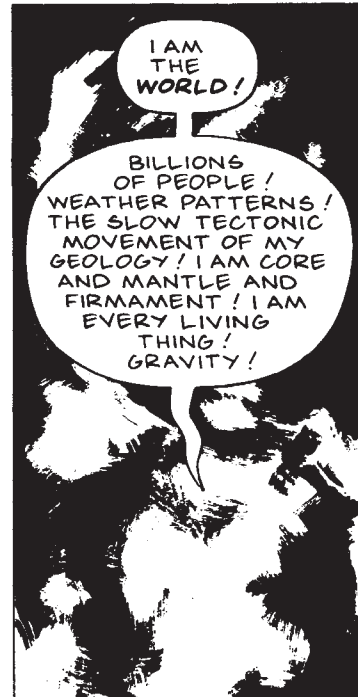
...I...



I AM THE CITY. THE ANIMALS IN THE ZOO, THE CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOLS, THE PENCILS IN THEIR HANDS, THE LETTERS IN EVERY WORD IN EVERY BOOK IN EVERY BOOKSHOP, THE ELECTRICITY, THE GAS. REACHING OUT. A WEB.

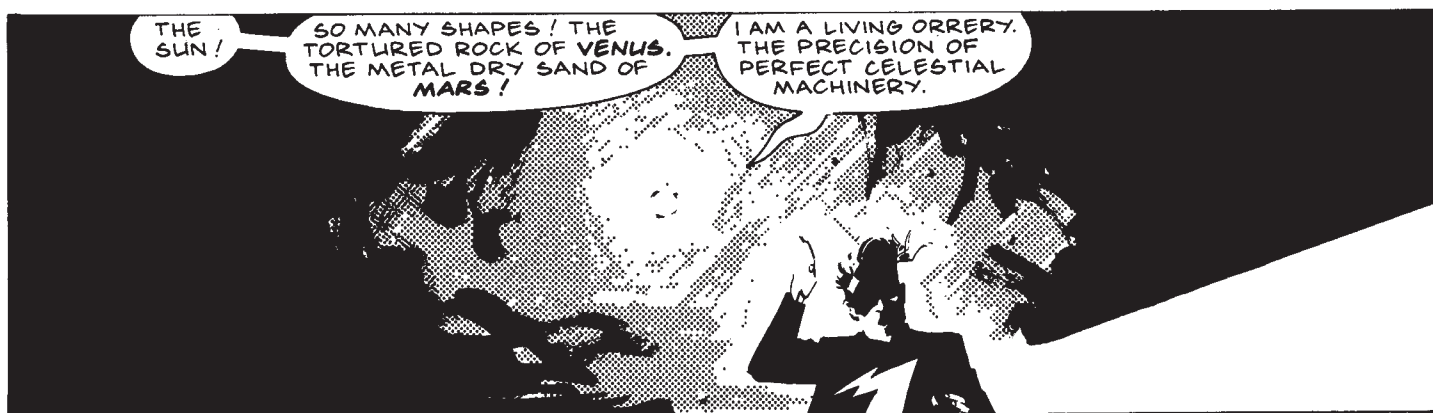


THE COUNTRY! ITS ISLANDS, ITS LAKES, ITS NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS, ITS WILDLIFE AND POWER STATIONS AND SCAFFOLDING AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, THE...THE...



I AM THE WORLD!

BILLIONS OF PEOPLE! WEATHER PATTERNS! THE SLOW TECTONIC MOVEMENT OF MY GEOLOGY! I AM CORE AND MANTLE AND FIRMAMENT! I AM EVERY LIVING THING! GRAVITY!



THE SUN!

SO MANY SHAPES! THE TORTURED ROCK OF VENUS. THE METAL DRY SAND OF MARS!

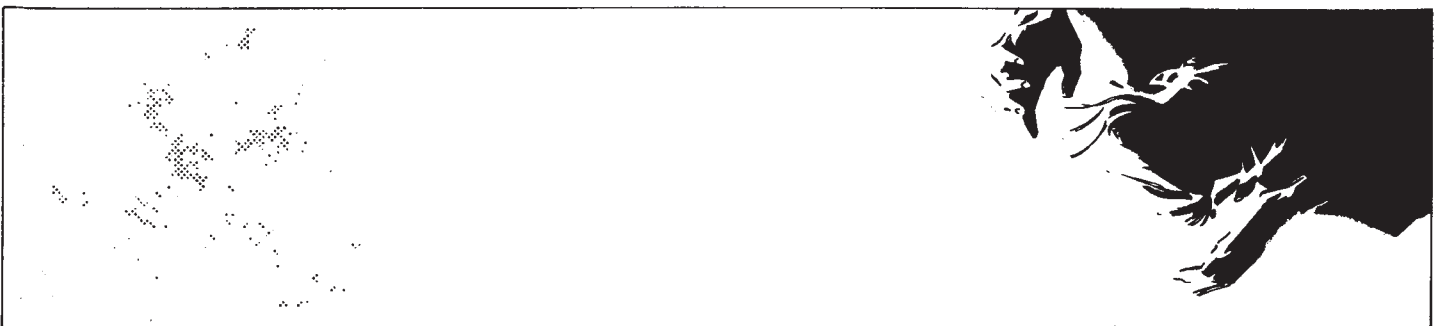
I AM A LIVING ORRERY. THE PRECISION OF PERFECT CELESTIAL MACHINERY.



CAN YOU HEAR ME?

CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME?

THE THERMONUCLEAR PROCESSES IN THE SUN'S HEART. ATOMS OBLITERATE ONE ANOTHER ENDLESSLY...





AYERS ROCK, AUSTRALIA:
FEBRUARY 14, 1988.

...IT'S BEAUTIFUL, DAVID,
BUT WHY DID YOU BRING
US OUT HERE ?

THE ROCK'S BIG
AND GEOMANTICALLY
ACTIVE.

IT MAKES AN IDEAL BEACON
FOR HOMING IN ACROSS
THE ALTERNATIVES.

ZENITH

PHASE II/ EPILOGUE:
"RUMOURS OF WAR"



AND THIS
THING..?



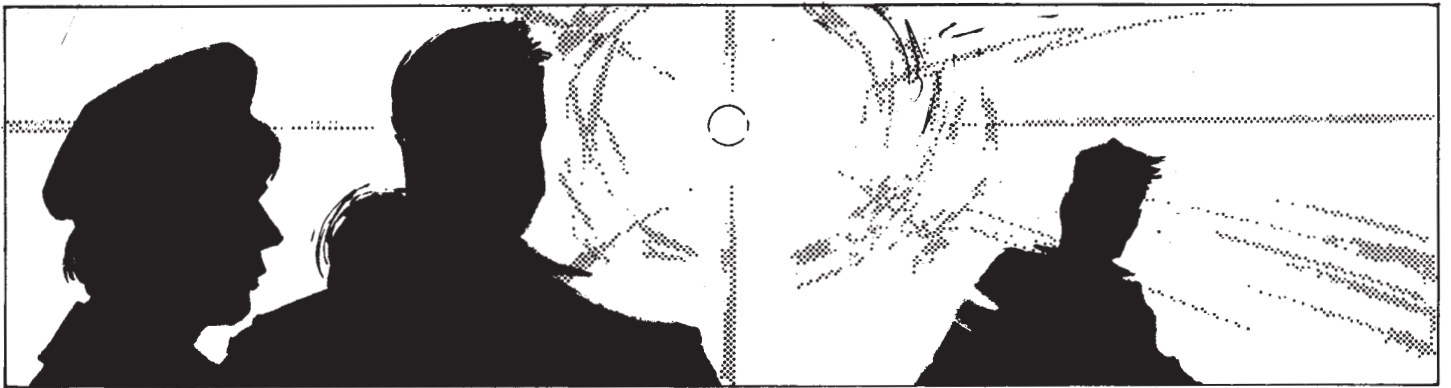
AN EINSTEIN-ROSEN
BRIDGE, PSYCHICALLY
GENERATED. WE USE
THEM TO TRAVEL
BETWEEN
ALTERNATIVES.

ONCE WE'RE ORGANISED,
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO
CONSTRUCT ONE.

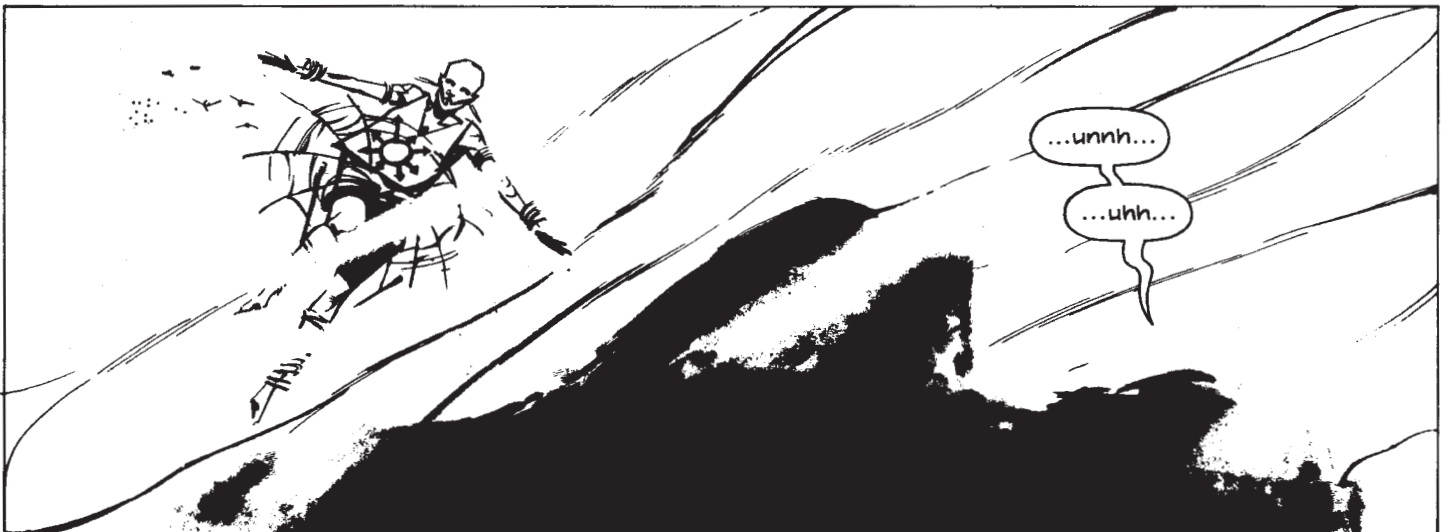
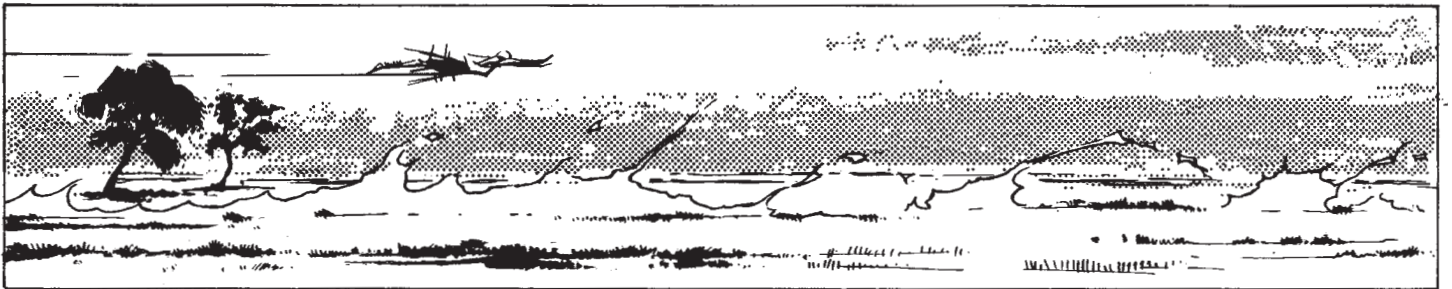
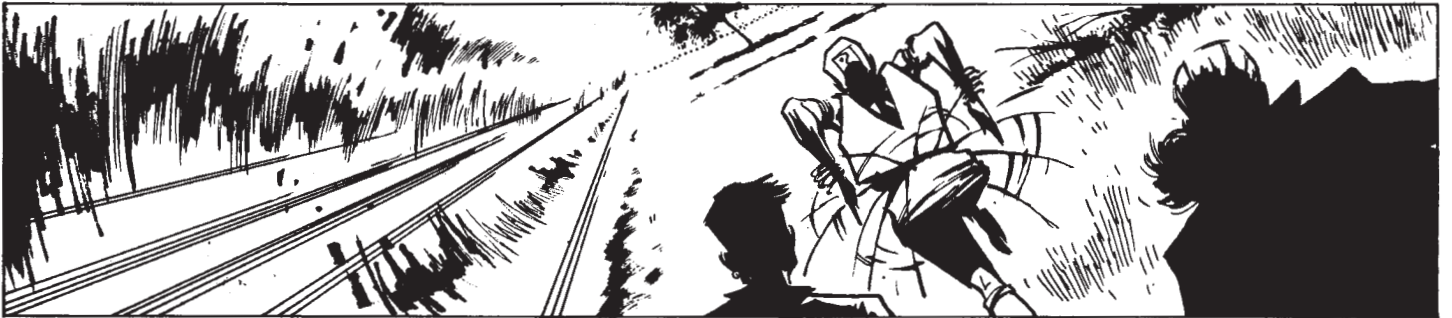
DON'T STAND
TOO CLOSE, RUBY.
THEY'RE COMING
THROUGH.

WHO..?

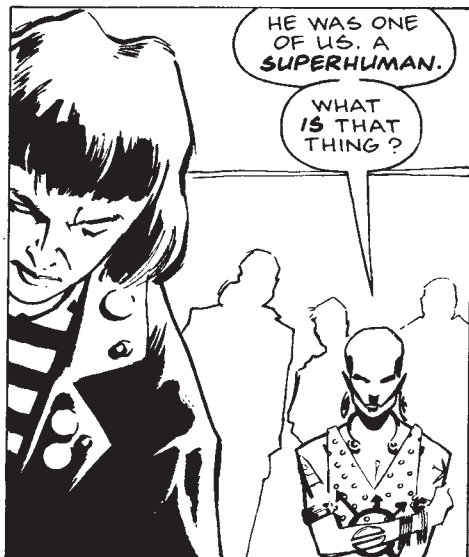
OH!













INTERLUDE

MAXIMAN

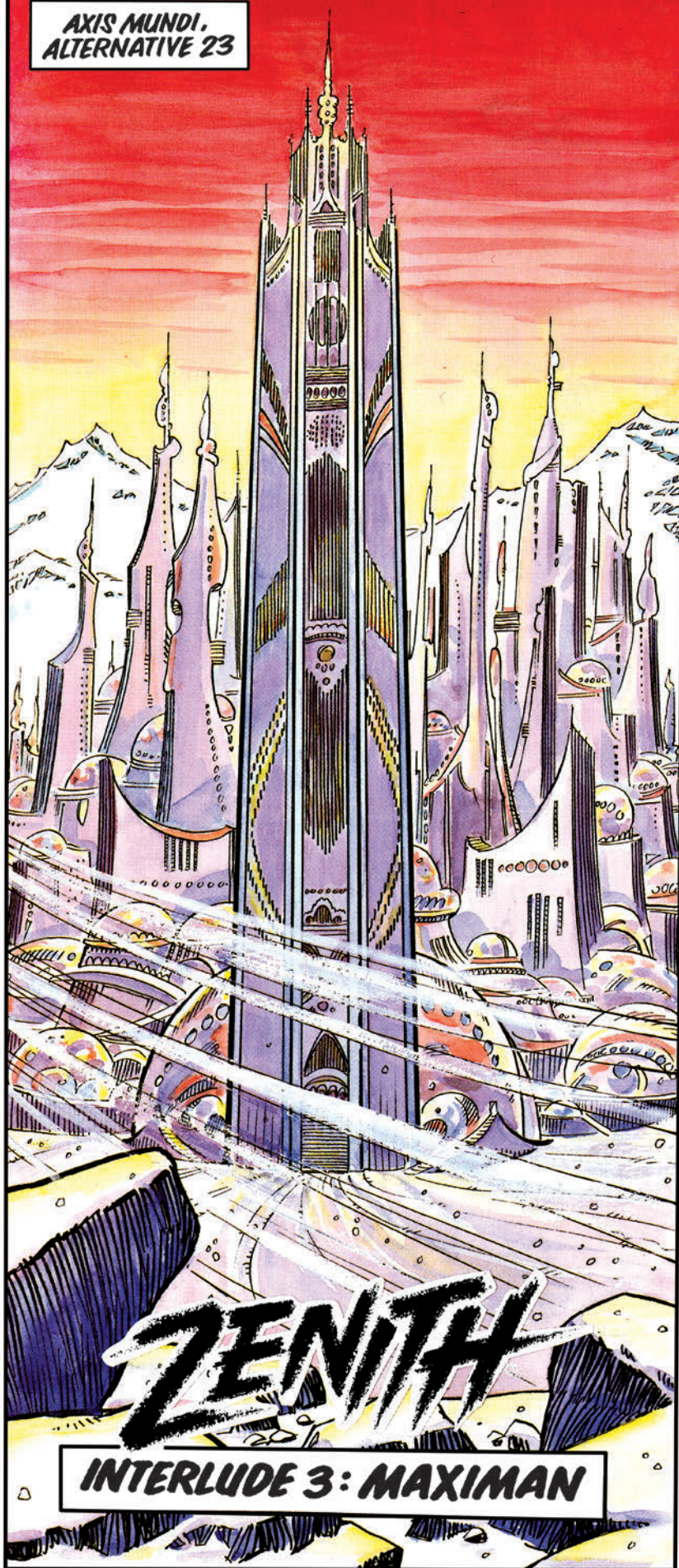
Script: Grant Morrison

Art: M. Carmona

Letters: Johnny A.

Originally published in *2000 AD Winter Special* 1988

AXIS MUNDI.
ALTERNATIVE 23



ZENITH

INTERLUDE 3: MAXIMAN



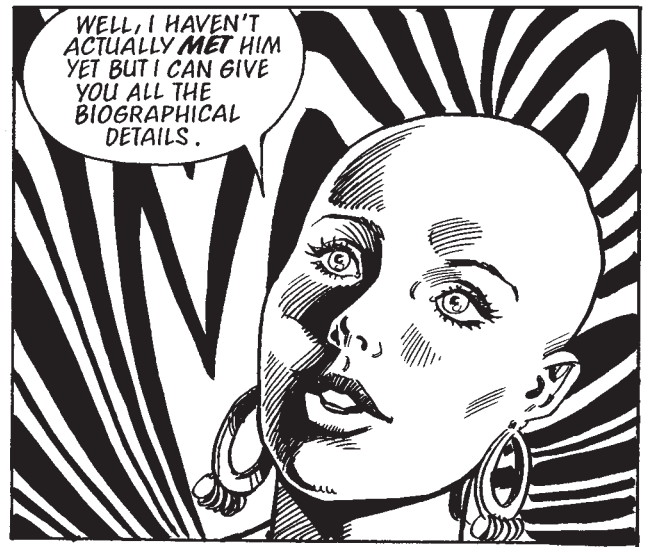
MAXIMAN?...

AD
SCRIPT
G. MORRISON
ART
M. CARMONA
COLORS
JOHNNY A.





AH.
THEN TELL ME
ABOUT **ZENITH**.



WELL, I HAVEN'T
ACTUALLY **MET** HIM
YET BUT I CAN GIVE
YOU ALL THE
BIOGRAPHICAL
DETAILS.



THAT'LL
DO.



TO START WITH,
HE WAS BORN
ON **ALTERNATIVE**
230.

230?

YEAH. I THOUGHT
THE **SYNCHRONICITY**
MIGHT INTEREST YOU!

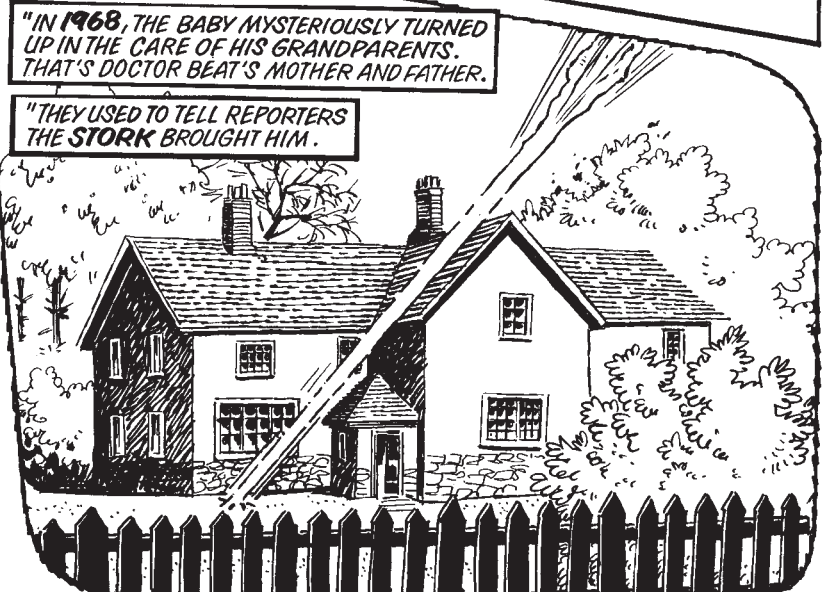


"HIS PARENTS WERE A COUPLE
OF THE LOCAL SUPERHUMANS—
WHITE HEAT AND **DOCTOR**
BEAT.

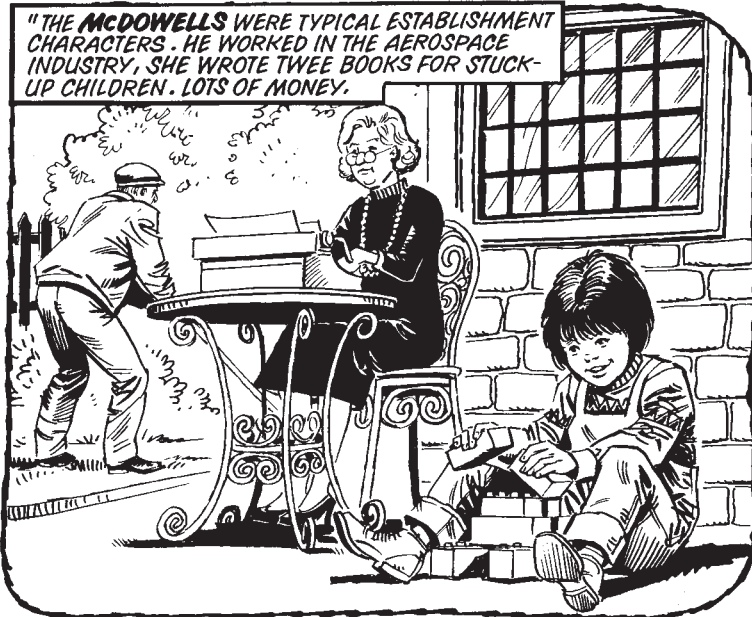
"BOTH OF THEM WERE
KILLED APPARENTLY,
AS PART OF SOME
COVERT OPERATION.

"IN **1968**, THE BABY MYSTERIOUSLY TURNED
UP IN THE CARE OF HIS GRANDPARENTS.
THAT'S **DOCTOR BEAT**'S MOTHER AND FATHER.

"THEY USED TO TELL REPORTERS
THE **STORK** BROUGHT HIM.



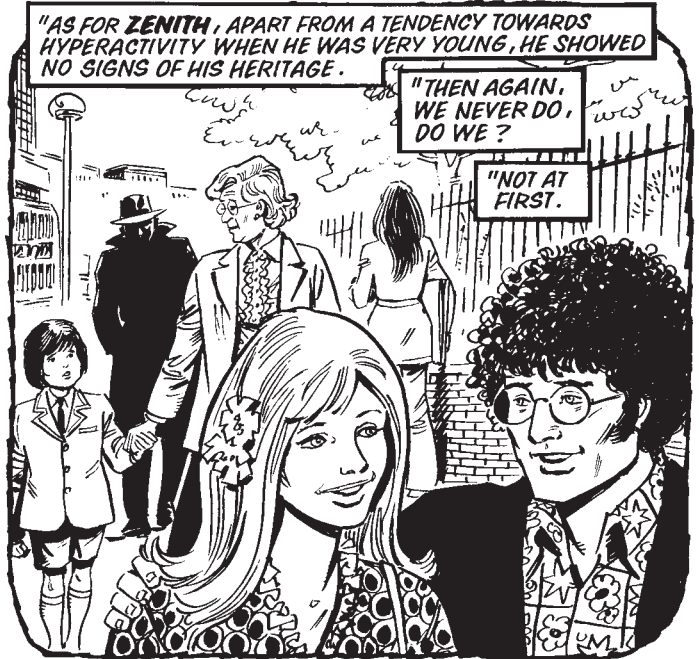
"THE **MCDOWELLS** WERE TYPICAL ESTABLISHMENT CHARACTERS. HE WORKED IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, SHE WROTE TWEE BOOKS FOR STUCK-UP CHILDREN. LOTS OF MONEY.



"AS FOR **ZENITH**, APART FROM A TENDENCY TOWARDS HYPERACTIVITY WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG, HE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF HIS HERITAGE.

"THEN AGAIN, WE NEVER DO, DO WE?"

"NOT AT FIRST."



"THE MILITARY AND THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WERE INTERESTED, OF COURSE, BUT THEY'D HAD THEIR FINGERS BURNT WITH THE PREVIOUS GENERATION OF SUPERHUMANS.

"THEY WERE CONTENT JUST TO WATCH."



"UNTIL 1979, WHEN ONE OPERATIVE OVERSTEPPED THE MARK."



"ZENITH WAS 11. I DON'T SUPPOSE THE MAN THOUGHT HE HAD ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FROM AN 11-YEAR OLD BOY."

"OBVIOUSLY NOBODY TOLD HIM ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUPERHUMAN POWER AND **PUBERTY**."



"FRACTURED SKULL, BROKEN HIP, BROKEN RIBS, BROKEN ARMS."

"THE MAN WAS LUCKY."

"HE CLAIMED HE'D ONLY COME TO READ THE GAS METER."





THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DISOWNED HIM AND HUSHED THE WHOLE THING UP.

TYPICAL.



"THEN, IN 1983, RIDING A WAVE OF NATIONAL PRIDE AND '60S NOSTALGIA, WENT PUBLIC."



"HE WAS PERFECT TABLOID FODDER AND THE MEDIA COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIM. HOW THE BRITISH LOVE THEIR **FREAKS**."

"SO HE DID WHAT ALL THE SOAP STARS AND THE PAGE THREE GIRLS WERE DOING ..."



"HE LAUNCHED A SINGING CAREER."

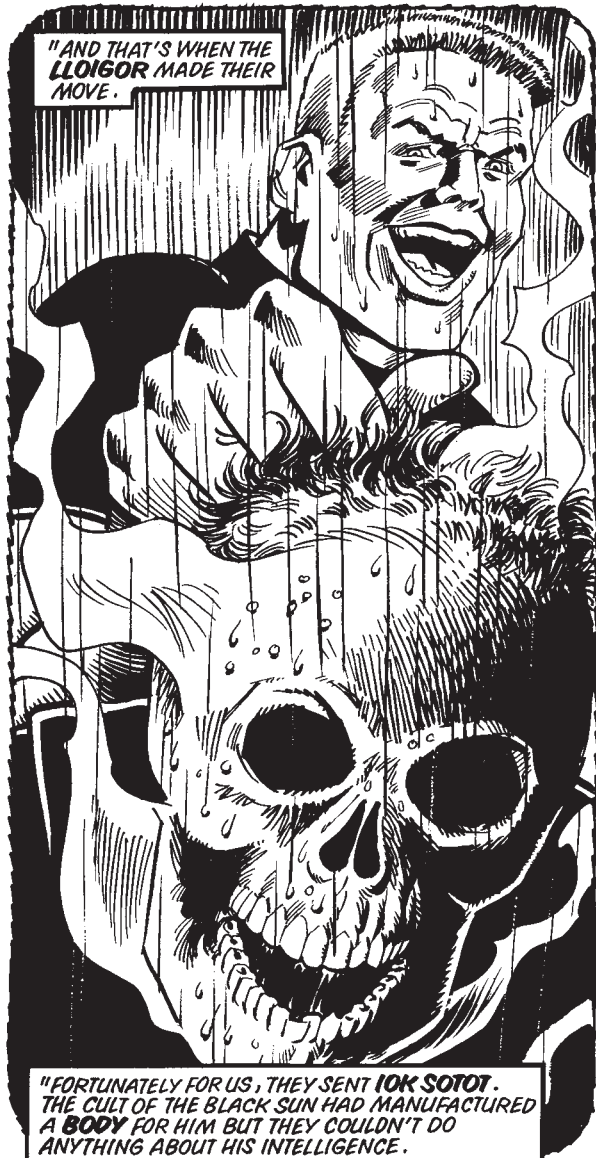


"AND WHILE YOUNG BANDS WITH REAL TALENT LANGUISHED IN OBSCURITY ZENITH'S MANUFACTURED RUBBISH EARNED HIM A FORTUNE."

"MAKES YOU SICK."

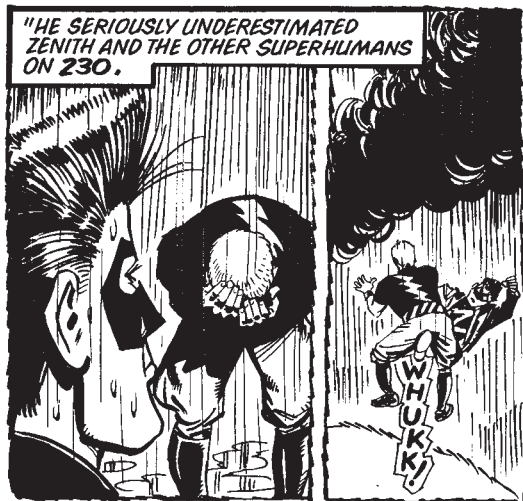


"ANYWAY, HE'D CARVED OUT A NICE LITTLE NICHE FOR HIMSELF AS EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE DESIGNER SUPERHUMAN. THE FUTURE WAS LOOKING ROSY..."



"AND THAT'S WHEN THE LLOIGOR MADE THEIR MOVE."

"FORTUNATELY FOR US, THEY SENT IOK SOTOT. THE CULT OF THE BLACK SUN HAD MANUFACTURED A BODY FOR HIM BUT THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT HIS INTELLIGENCE."



"HE SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED ZENITH AND THE OTHER SUPERHUMANS ON 230."

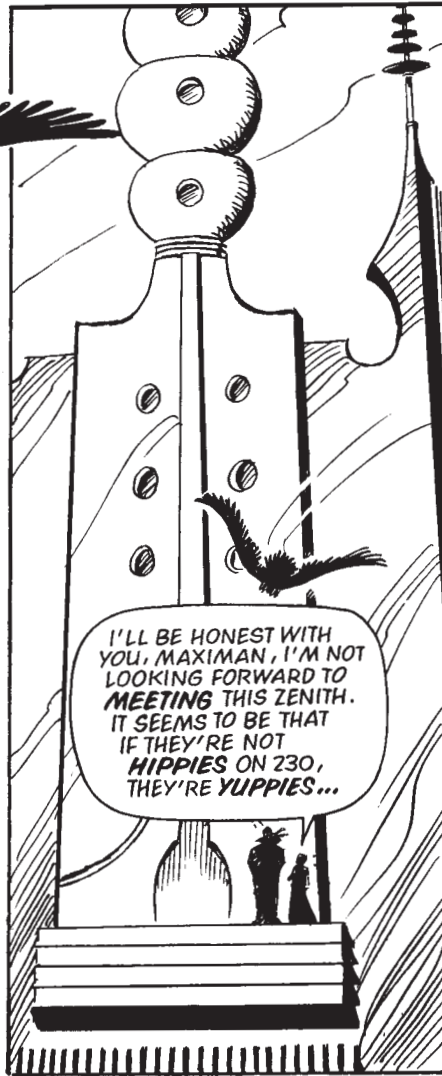
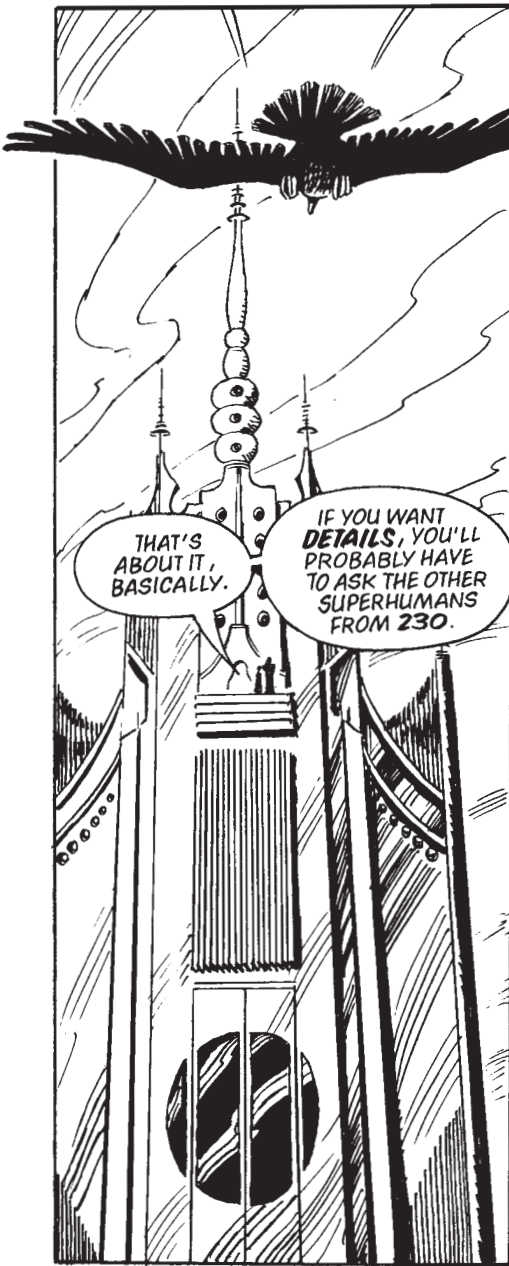


"IT WAS A FATAL MISTAKE. THEY TOOK HIM APART."

"WITHOUT REALISING IT, THEY HELPED US REGAIN ALTERNATIVE 13 AT THE SAME TIME."



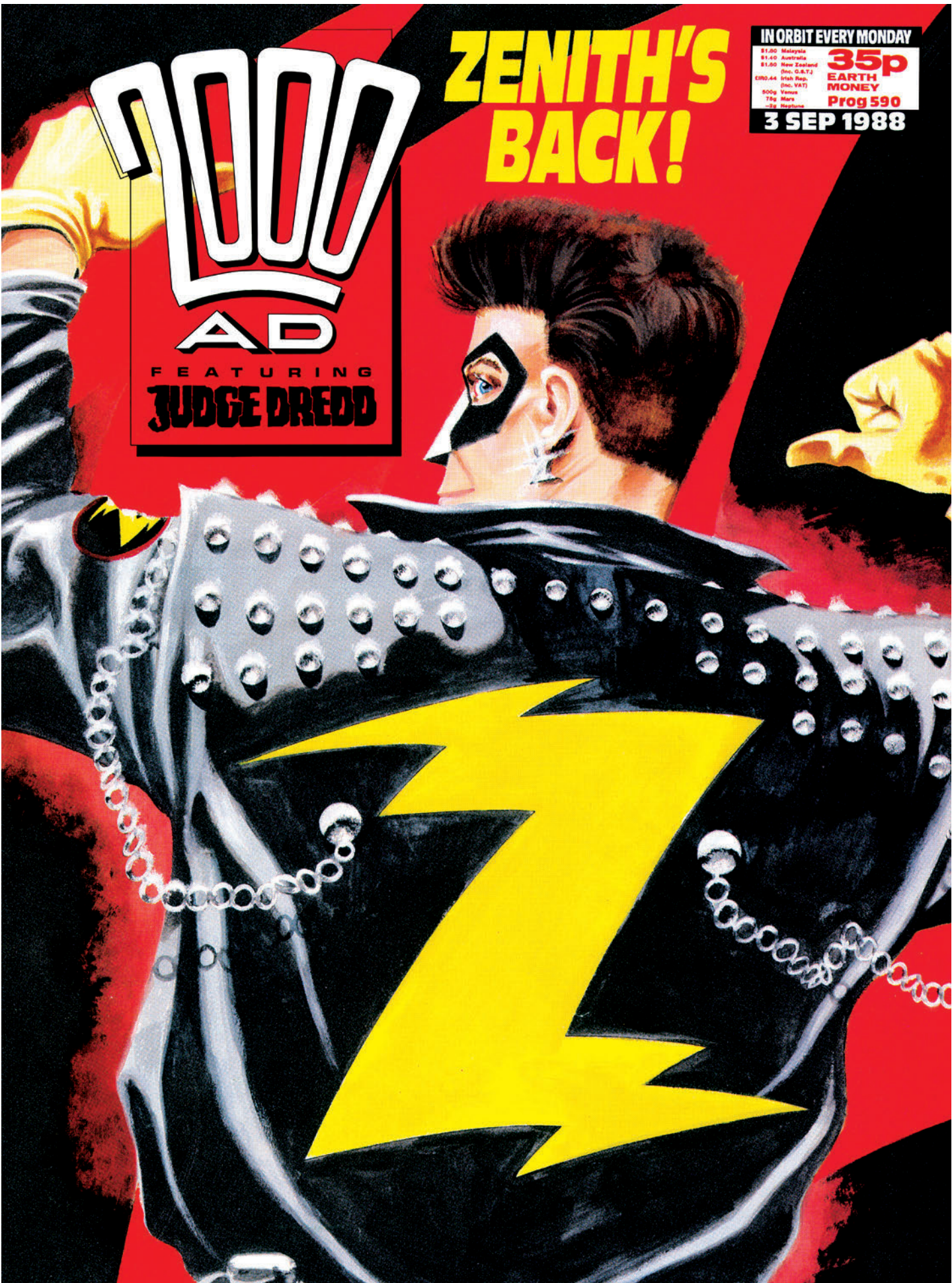
"ZENITH'S POPULARITY WENT THROUGH THE ROOF AFTER THAT LITTLE VICTORY. FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, HIS EGO EXPANDED IN PROPORTION."







GALLERY



ZENITH'S BACK!

2000
AD
FEATURING
JUDGE DREDD

IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY
\$1.00 Malaysia
\$1.40 Australia
\$1.00 New Zealand
(Inc. G.S.T.)
£90.44 Irish Rep.
(Inc. VAT)
500g Yemen
75g Mars
12g Nestle
35p
EARTH
MONEY
Prog 590
3 SEP 1988



IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY

\$1.00	Malaysia
\$1.40	Australia
\$1.60	New Zealand
(inc. G.S.T.)	
£0.10	Irish Rep.
(inc. VAT)	
£0.09	Europe
75p	Spain
25p	Portugal

35p
EARTH MONEY
Prog 595
8 Oct 1988



I'M TOO LATE !

BLACK DAWN
in ***ZENITH***

2000 AD

FEATURING
JUDGE DREDD



IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY
35p
EARTH
MONEY
Prog 599
5 Nov 1988



**A DATE
WITH
FATE
IN '68**
ZENITH





STAR MAKER

IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY
\$1.80 Malaysia
\$1.20 Australia
\$1.35 New Zealand
inc. C.S.T.
€10.55 Irish Rep.
inc. VAT
500g Venus
75g Mars
-2g Neptune
35p
EARTH
MONEY
Prog 605
17 Dec 1988

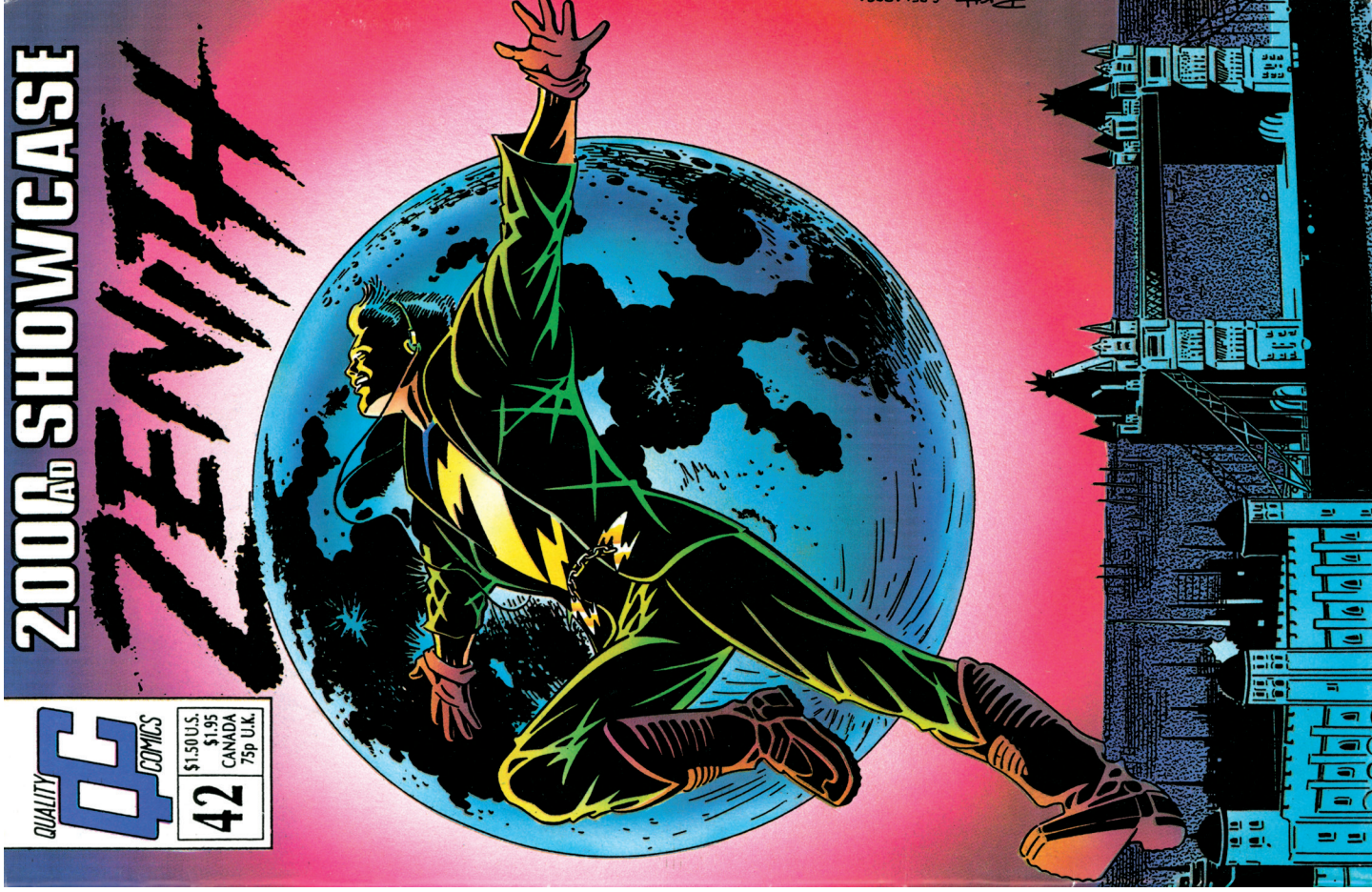
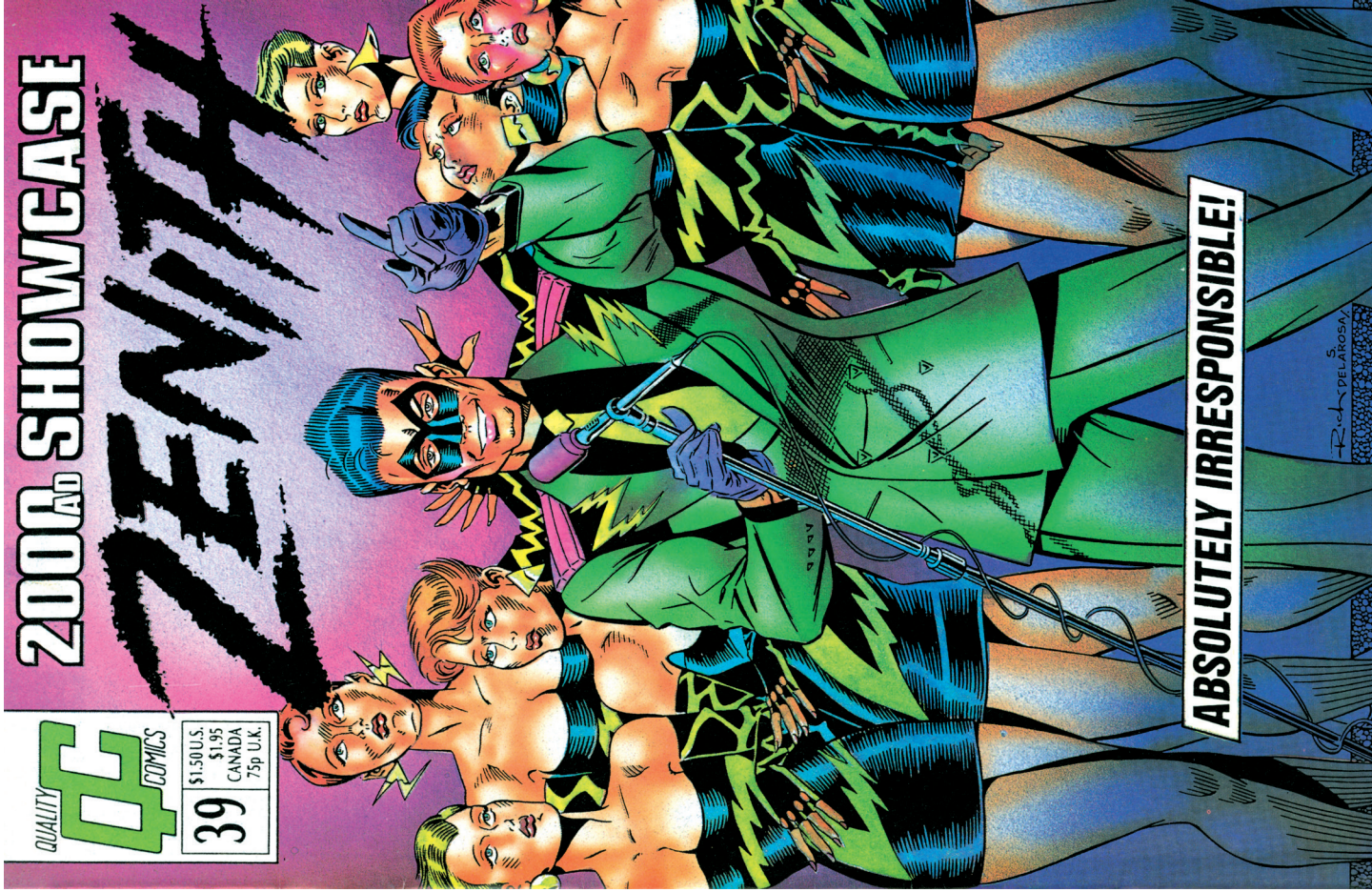


ZENITH





Zenith Phase III: Cover by **Steve Yeowell**



2000 AD SHOWCASE

ZIT

44

FLEETWAY QUALITY

\$1.50 U.S.

\$1.05 CANADA

75p U.K.

R. B. G. S. DELAROSA

[illegible]

GRANT MORRISON

Grant Morrison is one of the most successful ex-2000 AD writers, with a host of critical awards and a huge following. He began his career on Marvel UK's *Zoids* before coming to the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, where his strip *Zenith* became a fan-favourite. At first a prolific writer of 'mature readers' comics, including the award-winning *Animal Man*, *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, *Doom Patrol*, *The Invisibles* and *The Filth* for Vertigo, he has gone on to write successful runs on the *X-Men* and *Batman* and won numerous awards for his work on *All-Star Superman*.

STEVE YEOWELL

Steve Yeowell has been a massively popular 2000 AD artist, since his debut as artist of the classic *Zenith*. He is also co-creator of *Maniac 5*, *Red Fang*, *Red Razors* and *The Red Seas*, and has pencilled *Armitage*, *Black Light*, *DeMarco*, *Devlin Waugh*, *Future Shocks*, *Judge Dredd*, *A Life Less Ordinary*, *Nikolai Dante*, *Pussyfoot 5*, *The Scarlet Apocrypha*, *Sinister Dexter*, *Tharg the Mighty*, *Vector 13* and *Black Shuck*.

His work outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic includes *Batman*, *Doom Patrol*, *The Invisibles*, *Sebastian O*, *Skrull Kill Krew*, *Starman* and *X-Men*.





ZENITH

ZENITH'S BACK!

It's 1988 and Zenith is as popular as ever thanks to his victorious battle against Masterman. The threat from the Lloigor has been quashed and now Zenith must face an all-too human threat – Dr. Michael Payne – the creator of Britain's post WWII superheroes and 'father' to Zenith's parents, has teamed up with the megalomaniac billionaire Scott Wallace who is intent on taking over the world. Together with C.I.A. agent Phaedra Cale, Zenith must stop Wallace from destroying London whilst also confronting his past and a less-than-happy reunion with his father!

Written by award-winning writer Grant Morrison (*Batman – Arkham Asylum*) with art by Steve Yeowell (*Black Shuck*) *Phase II* unveils the rich tapestry of Zenith's world with superhuman panache!



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