



FROM THE PAGES OF
**JUDGE
DREDD**

HONDO CITY JUSTICE

REVENGE OF THE 47 RONIN & MORE

ROBBIE MORRISON ★ STEVE PARKHOUSE ★ MIKE COLLINS ★ CLIFF ROBINSON ★ COLIN MACNEIL

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HONDO CITY JUSTICE

JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER & CARLOS EZQUERRA ★ SHIMURA AND JUDGE INSPECTOR INABA CREATED BY ROBBIE MORRISON & FRANK QUITELY,
BASED ON DESIGNS BY COLIN MACNEIL

HONDO CITY LAWMEN



SHIMURA

Status: Ex-Judge Inspector, now a ronin.

First Appearance: *The Judge Dredd Magazine* 2.37, *Shimura*

History: Shimura was regarded as one of the greatest judges in the Hondo City Justice Department and was once considered for a place on its council. This all changed after he was among a group of Judge Inspectors ambushed by Yakuza with ties to corrupt department officials. A disillusioned and vengeful Shimura went rogue exacting his own form of justice on criminal organisations in the city. He is currently employed as a bodyguard to the heiress of the Taoka Corporation.

Abilities: A formidable fighter, at one time considered to be the best in the whole of the Hondo City Justice Department, Shimura is also proficient in the use of several weapons, including laser-shuriken and the traditional Wakizashi sword.



JUDGE INSPECTOR INABA

Status: Active Judge Inspector in Hondo City

First Appearance: *The Judge Dredd Magazine* 2.37, *Shimura*

History: Aiko Inaba is a rarity — a woman rightfully wearing the uniform of a Hondo City Judge Inspector. Once Judge Shimura's rookie, she is now a rising star in Justice Central. More recently Inaba has been assigned to mentor Cadet Junko Asahara.

Abilities/weapons: A highly-proficient hover-bike rider with keen detective skills, Inaba is also very skilled in hacking into and deactivating advanced computer networks.



CADET JUDGE JUNKO ASAHARA

Status: Active

First Appearance: *The Judge Dredd Magazine* 300, *Hondo City Justice*

History: Young Junko Asahara is the first graduate of the Otomo Programme. Born with powerful psionic abilities, Junko and other students in the programme are trained to hone their power. Once fused with samurai discipline and judicial training, students literally become living weapons!

Abilities/weapons: Junko has exhibited several powerful psychic abilities including psychokinesis and psychometry.



THE HARDER THEY COME

Script: Robbie Morrison

Art: Colin MacNeil

Letters: Ellie De Ville

Originally published in *Judge Dredd Magazine* 238-243

HONDO CITY, 2107 AD.

HE **SNAPPED** INSPECTOR KATAGIRI'S NECK, USED HIM AS A SHIELD!

I FIRED THROUGH KATA... THROUGH THE **BODY!** BUT HE WAS TOO FAST! HE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID! HE **CUT** ME, TOOK MY GUN!

COMPOSE YOURSELF, CADET. BACK-UP IS ON ITS WAY.

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES?

DEAD!
EVERYONE'S DEAD!

HE... HIS **HANDS!**
HE ONLY USED HIS HANDS — SMASHED THEIR SKULLS, TORE OUT THEIR THROATS, PUNCHED THROUGH THEIR CHESTS!

IS THE PERPETRATOR STILL IN THE VICINITY? **REPEAT!**
IS THE... ?

I DON'T KNOW!

I... I CAN'T SEE!

HONDO CITY, 2127 AD.



I'M NOT USED TO MEN
DESERTING ME IN BED IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

A FEW YEARS AGO,
I MIGHT EVEN HAVE BEEN
INSULTED, THROWN SOME
STUFF AT YOU.



SOMETIMES I HAVE
DIFFICULTY SLEEPING. IT'S
NOTHING TO DO WITH
YOU.

AND I'VE HAD
EVERYTHING THERE IS TO
THROW THROWN AT ME
ALREADY!



SO, UH, WHY IN THE
NUDE? NOT THAT I'M
COMPLAINING OR
ANYTHING...



MORE DANGEROUS.
KEEPS YOU ON YOUR
TOES. MAKES YOU FEEL
YOU'VE MORE TO LOSE.

YOU LIKE DANGER,
SHIMURA?



DANGER LIKES
ME!



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SEEMS TO BE DEVELOPING A TASTE FOR IT, **AMBER**.

YOU'RE STILL GOING AHEAD WITH THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE IN THE **RADLANDS** OF **J!**?

YEAH.

WHY? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO **CHANGE** THE WORLD?

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.

BUT THERE'S SOMETIMES A **PRICE** TO PAY.

SHAANG!

MAYBE.

BUT I'VE GOT **YOU** TO PROTECT ME.

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFTER ME FOR MY **LOOKS**.

YOU NEVER TOLD ME HOW YOU GOT THAT **SCAR**...

TRAINING ACCIDENT.

I WASN'T ALWAYS AS GOOD WITH A SWORD.

MEGA-CITY ONE, ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD OF THE CONTINENT ONCE KNOWN AS NORTH AMERICA.

IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT, JUDGE GIANT?

12,500 PERPS HOUSED IN A FACILITY ONE-FIFTH THE SIZE OF WHAT WOULD NORMALLY BE REQUIRED TO HOLD THAT NUMBER.

THE MEGA-CITY ONE PRISON SERVICE WAS IN DANGER OF MELTDOWN LONG BEFORE TOTAL WAR'S TERRORIST ATTACKS DISABLED TWO OF OUR MAIN CUBE COMPLEXES.

THESE STASIS-CAGE PROTOTYPES ARE THE IDEAL SOLUTION. THEY REQUIRE LESS MANPOWER AND THE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE...

THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?

INMATE 9969.
STAN LEE, AKA
DEATHFIST.

FREELANCE ASSASSIN AND UNDERWORLD ENFORCER, REPUTEDLY THE GREATEST MARTIAL ARTIST TO EVER COME OUT OF THE RADLANDS OF J1.

172 COUNTS OF MURDER THAT WE'RE CERTAIN OF. IN REALITY, PROBABLY TRIPLE THAT.

THEY'RE KEPT IN PERMANENT DEEP SLEEP, FED AND WATERED INTRAVENOUSLY.

ELECTRO STIMULATION EXERCISES THEIR BODIES TO PREVENT THE MUSCLES WASTING AWAY, AND THEIR HEALTH IS MONITORED AROUND THE CLOCK BY A TEAM OF PHYSICIANS.

EVERYTHING BUT READ THEM A *BEDTIME STORY*, HUH?

I SAW DREDD TAKE HIM DOWN IN 2112, BACK WHEN I WAS STILL A CADET.*

HELLUVA FIGHT! HE ALMOST HAD OLD STONEY FACE A COUPLE OF TIMES...

DON'T WORRY, HE'S A HIGH-RISK LIFER. WON'T BE OPENING HIS EYES FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS AT...

* SEE THE RETURN OF DEATHFIST, 2000 AD PROGS 540-541.



THE WARRIOR STRIKES
WITHOUT HESITATION.

THE BLACK CHI WRITHES WITHIN
HIM, DEMANDING BLOOD.

VENGEANCE.



LET'S SEE
HOW HIGH YOU KICK
WITHOUT KNEECAPS,
PUNK!

BDAM

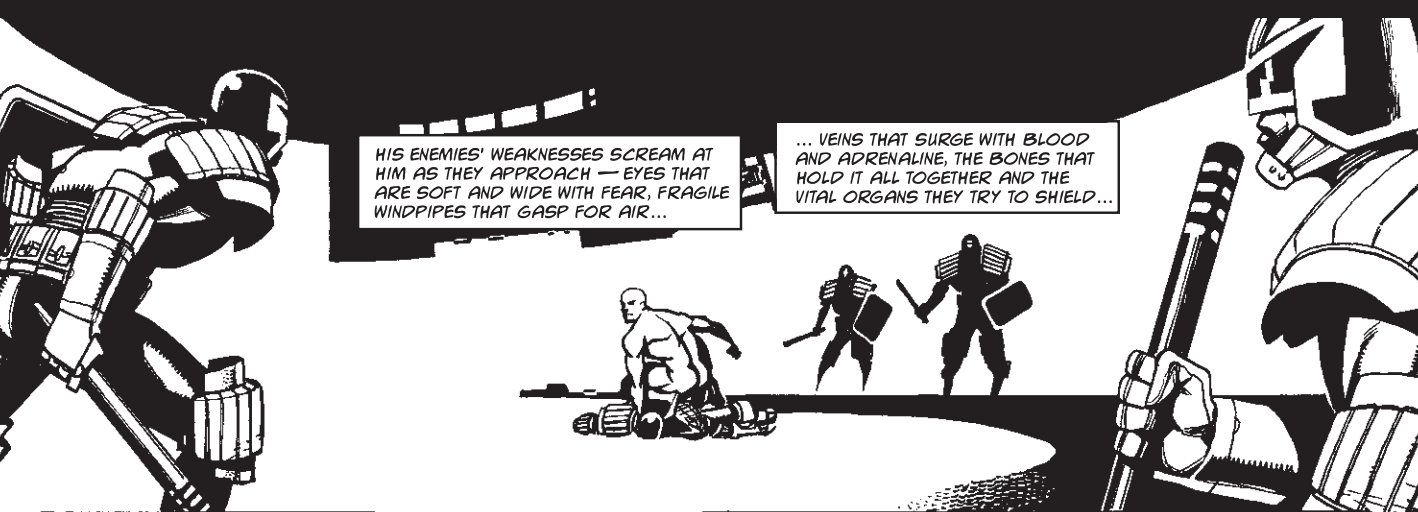
CRICK

THE WARRIOR IS
DISAPPOINTED. THIS
IS NOT THE JUDGE
WHO HUMILIATED HIM.

HE RECOGNISES THE NAME,
THOUGH — THE SON OF
ONE OF THIS CITY'S FEW
HEROES, WITH A GROWING
REPUTATION OF HIS OWN.

AN EASIER TARGET
THAN DREDD, BUT
STILL A GOOD ONE
TO DESTROY, TO LET
THE WORLD KNOW
HE HAS RETURNED.

nnn —



HIS ENEMIES' WEAKNESSES SCREAM AT HIM AS THEY APPROACH — EYES THAT ARE SOFT AND WIDE WITH FEAR, FRAGILE WINDPIPES THAT GASP FOR AIR...

... VEINS THAT SURGE WITH BLOOD AND ADRENALINE, THE BONES THAT HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER AND THE VITAL ORGANS THEY TRY TO SHIELD...



THEY SHATTER AND BURST AND RUPTURE SO EASILY, IT'S AS IF THE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT HADN'T HAPPENED.

THE WARRIOR FEELS...

REBORN.

HE CUTS A SWATHE THROUGH THE PRISON,
GROWING FASTER, STRONGER AND MORE FLUID
WITH EACH KILL, FEEDING THE BLACK CHI.

SAY GOODBYE TO **DR STYLER**, THE DIRECTOR
OF THE TEAM THAT MONITORS THE PRISONERS'
WELFARE. A BRILLIANT PHYSICIAN, BUT A
CONFUSED AND LONELY WOMAN.

I MET HER AT A BAR,
HELPED HER DISCOVER WHO SHE REALLY
WAS. SHAME I WASN'T EXACTLY WHO OR
WHAT I APPEARED TO BE.

CRASH!

STAN THE MAN!
LONG TIME NO SEE...

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE
CERTAIN BODILY SECRETIONS THAT
CAN DRIVE MEN — OR WOMEN —
TO DO MY WILL!

STYLER SECRETLY FED YOU WITH
NUTRIENTS TO COUNTERACT THE DEPRESSANTS
AND TRANQUILLISERS THE JUDGES HAVE BEEN
PUMPING YOU WITH. SHE UPLOADED THE PRISON
LAYOUT INTO YOUR MIND AND...

ENOUGH
TALK.

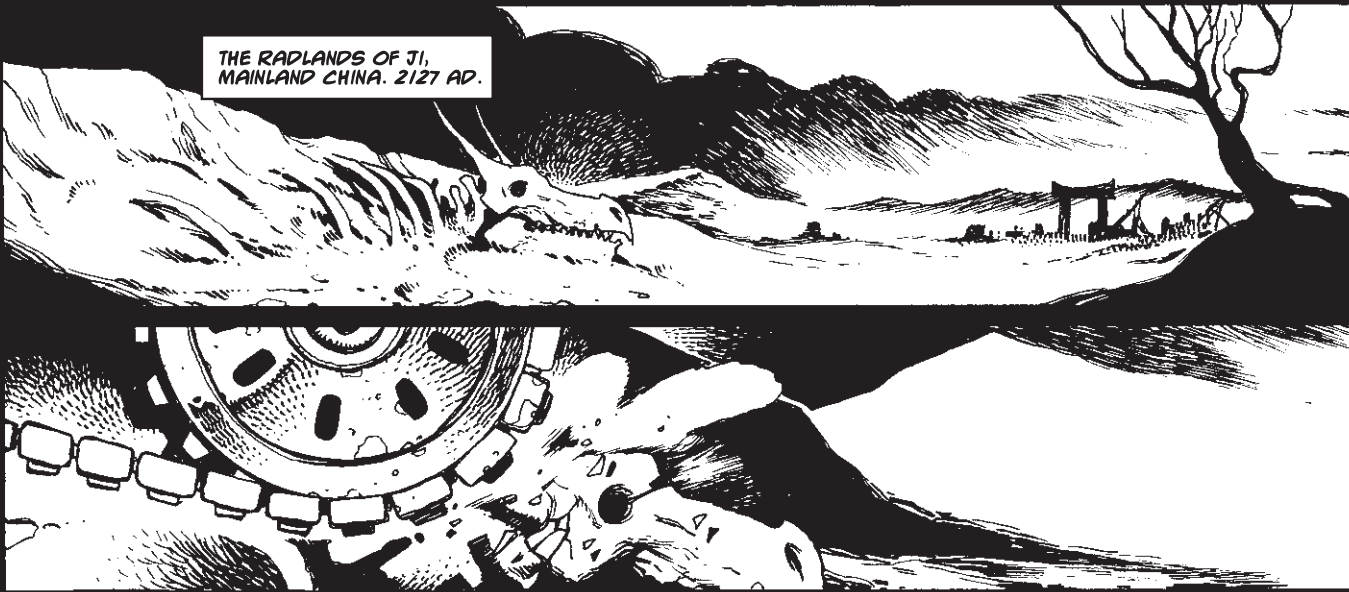
I FEEL THE SAME, BUT WE'VE
NO TIME! THE JUDGES WILL BE
ON THEIR WAY!

I'VE BEEN **CAGED** AND **NEUTERED**
LIKE A **BEAST** FOR 15 YEARS —
WE'LL **MAKE** TIME!

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW,
ON TOP OF THE BODIES! AND
WE'LL KILL **ANYONE** THAT TRIES
TO STOP US!

HSSSSSSS!

YOU
ALWAYS WERE A
ROMANTIC!

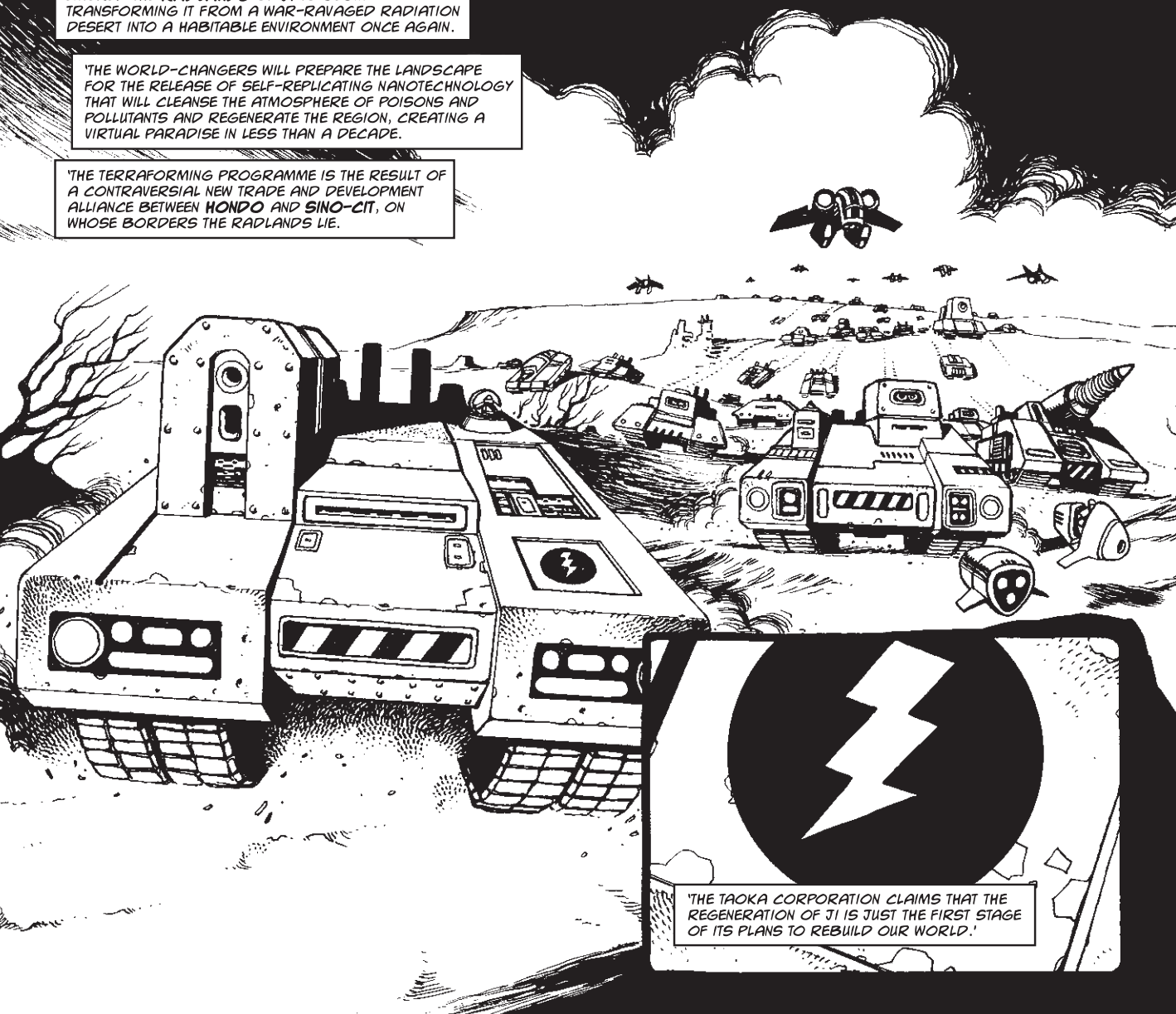


THE RADLANDS OF JI,
MAINLAND CHINA. 2127 AD.

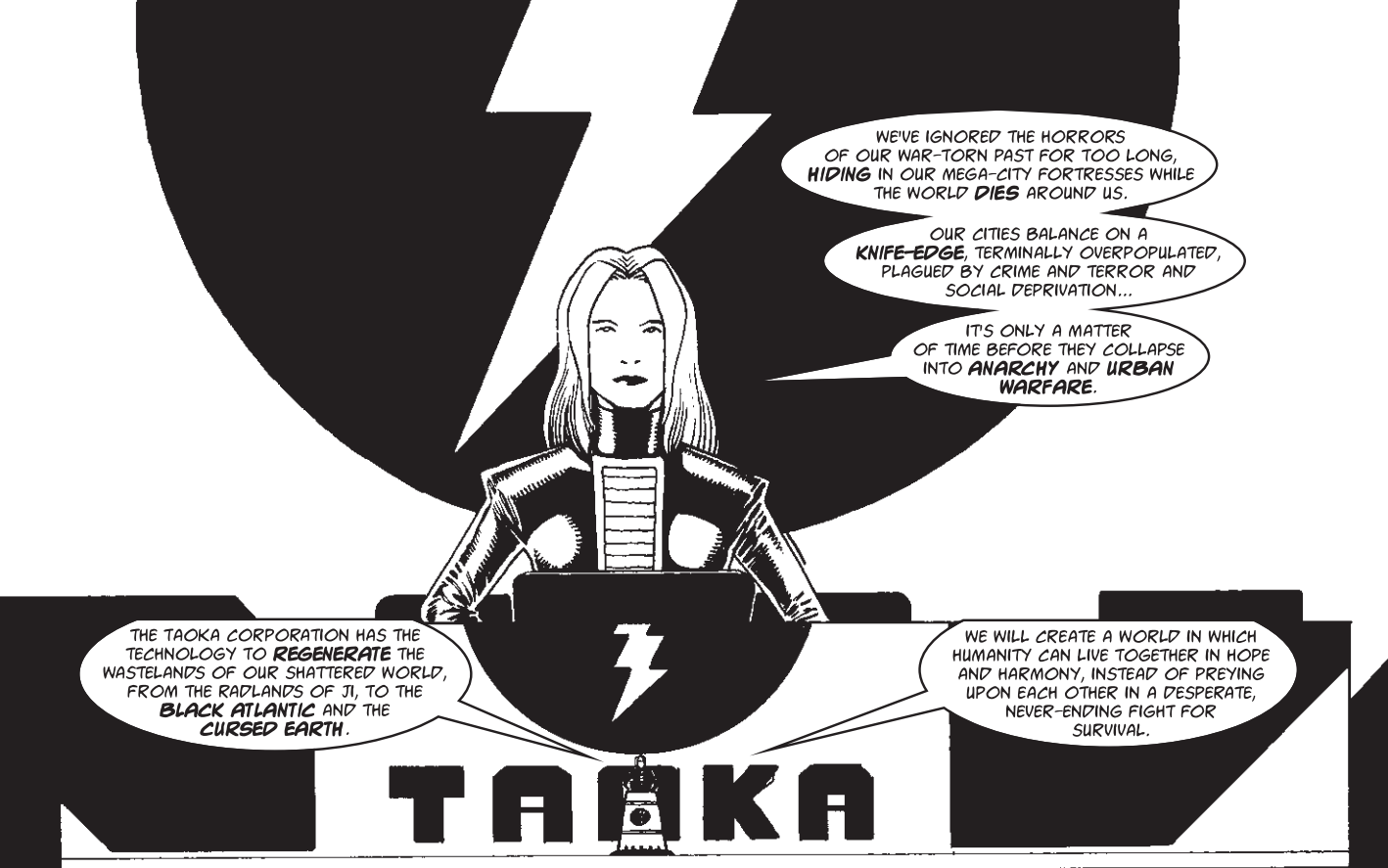
TAOKA CORPORATION WORLD-CHANGERS HAVE ENTERED THE RADLANDS OF JI TO BEGIN TRANSFORMING IT FROM A WAR-RAVAGED RADIATION DESERT INTO A HABITABLE ENVIRONMENT ONCE AGAIN.

THE WORLD-CHANGERS WILL PREPARE THE LANDSCAPE FOR THE RELEASE OF SELF-REPLICATING NANOTECHNOLOGY THAT WILL CLEANSE THE ATMOSPHERE OF POISONS AND POLLUTANTS AND REGENERATE THE REGION, CREATING A VIRTUAL PARADISE IN LESS THAN A DECADE.

THE TERRAFORMING PROGRAMME IS THE RESULT OF A CONTRAVERSIAL NEW TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE BETWEEN HONDO AND SINO-CIT, ON WHOSE BORDERS THE RADLANDS LIE.



THE TAOKA CORPORATION CLAIMS THAT THE REGENERATION OF JI IS JUST THE FIRST STAGE OF ITS PLANS TO REBUILD OUR WORLD.



WE'VE IGNORED THE HORRORS
OF OUR WAR-TORN PAST FOR TOO LONG,
HIDING IN OUR MEGA-CITY FORTRESSES WHILE
THE WORLD **DIES** AROUND US.

OUR CITIES BALANCE ON A
KNIFE-EDGE, TERMINALLY OVERPOPULATED,
PLAGUED BY CRIME AND TERROR AND
SOCIAL DEPRIVATION...

IT'S ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME BEFORE THEY COLLAPSE
INTO **ANARCHY** AND **URBAN
WARFARE**.

THE **TAOKA CORPORATION** HAS THE
TECHNOLOGY TO **REGENERATE** THE
WASTELANDS OF OUR SHATTERED WORLD,
FROM THE RADLANDS OF **J1**, TO THE
BLACK ATLANTIC AND THE
CURSED EARTH.

WE WILL CREATE A WORLD IN WHICH
HUMANITY CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN HOPE
AND HARMONY, INSTEAD OF PREYING
UPON EACH OTHER IN A DESPERATE,
NEVER-ENDING FIGHT FOR
SURVIVAL.

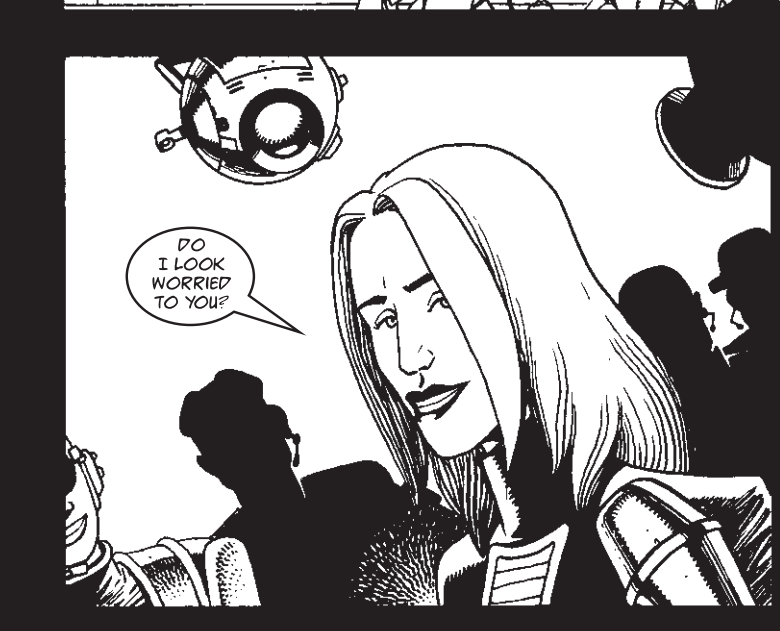
TAOKA



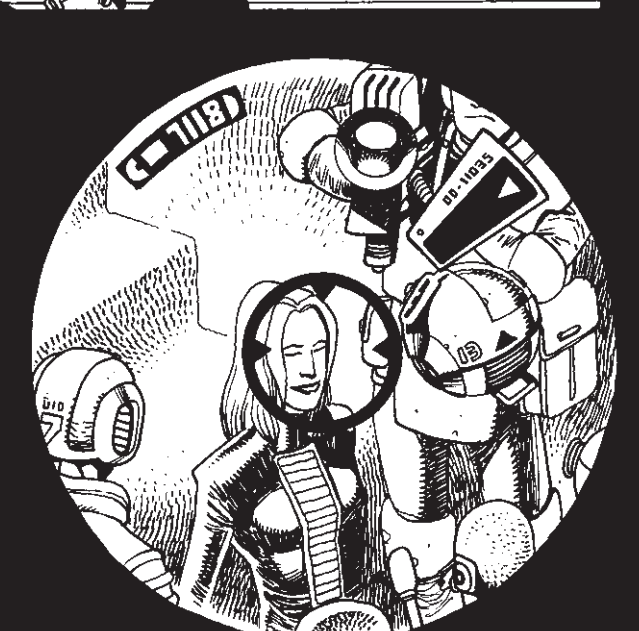
MS TAOKA! IS IT TRUE YOU'RE
ALSO LOOKING TO REBUILD
MEGA-CITY TWO?

THE RADLANDS OF **J1** ARE HOME TO A
NUMBER OF CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS!
IT'S RUMOURED THEY'VE SENT
DEATH-THREATS!

ANY COMMENT?

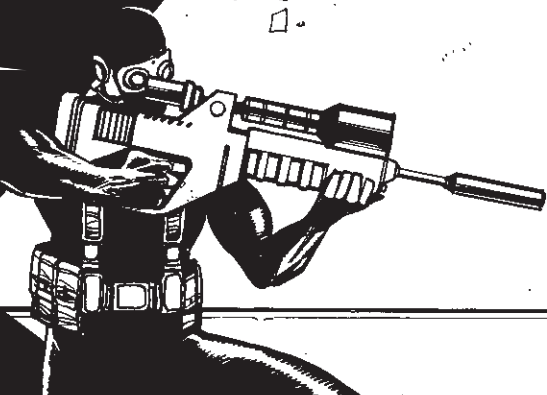


DO
I LOOK
WORRIED
TO YOU?



C-7118

88-11035



TARGET ACQUIRED.

TAKE THE SHOT!

BLOW THE BITCH'S
BRAINS OUT IN FULL VIEW
OF THE WORLD'S
MEDIA!



DROKK!
I'VE LOST THE
SHOT...



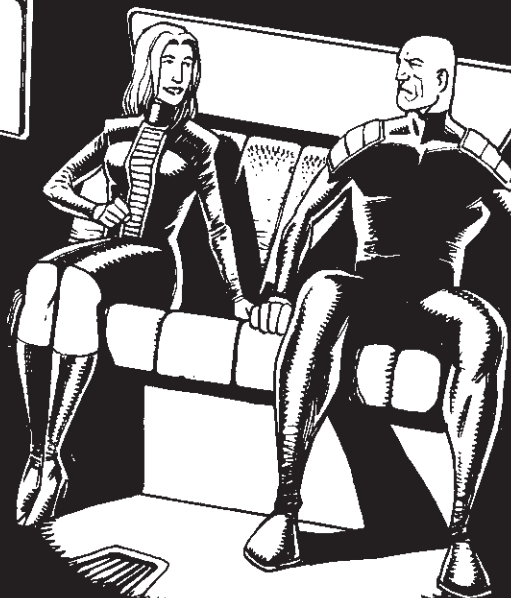
SOME FOOL
BASTARD'S STEPPED INTO
THE LINE OF FIRE!



SO, I'VE JUST
PROMISED TO **SAVE**
THE WORLD!

WHAT'S NEW
WITH YOU?

OH, NOTHING
MUCH.



THE SHOGUN'S STILL REFUSING TO OFFICIALLY GRANT YOU A FULL PARDON, SAYS HE WOULD LOSE TOO MUCH **FACE**, BUT HE HAS OFFERED A SORT OF **UNOFFICIAL AMNESTY**.

AT LEAST IT'LL STOP JUDGES **SHOOTING** AT YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO.

THE **TAOKA CORPORATION'S** RESURGENCE MEANS THAT IT'S IN **HONDO'S** INTEREST TO KEEP ME HAPPY, AND I LIKE HAVING YOU AS MY PERSONAL TROUBLE-SHOOTER.

DIDN'T EXPECT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE SO TOUGH, THOUGH. YOUR OLD COLLEAGUES **REALLY** DON'T LIKE YOU!

THE LAW AND I DON'T ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE.

IT'D TAKE **YEARS** TO PUT TOGETHER A TERRA-FORMING PROGRAMME ON THIS SCALE. IT WAS ORIGINALLY YOUR FATHER'S PLAN?

I'VE ADAPTED IT. MY FATHER WAS A **VISIONARY**, EVEN IF HE ULTIMATELY LOST HIS HUMANITY. IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO LIVE WITH WHAT HE BECAME. THIS IS MY CHANCE TO MAKE AMENDS.

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

I HAVE GOOD REASON TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF ANYTHING **MASAMUNE TAOKA** WAS INVOLVED WITH.

FUNNY. THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING ABOUT **YOU**.





WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

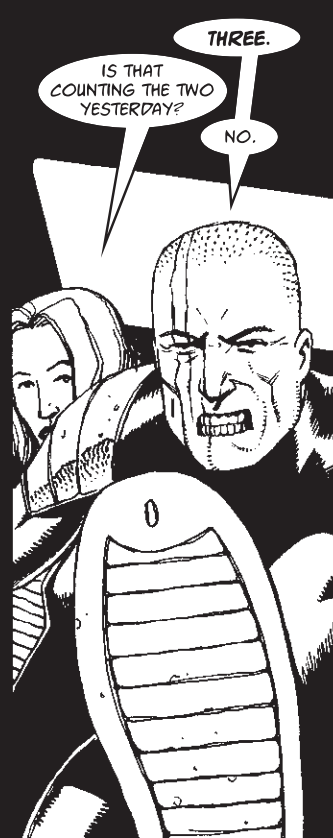
ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON
YOUR LIFE.

HOW MANY'S
THAT?



THE NANO-MINES TOOK OUT
THE THRUSTERS, BUT THE PASSENGER
COMPARTMENT'S INTACT!

USE YOUR LASERS!



THREE.

IS THAT
COUNTING THE TWO
YESTERDAY?

NO.



KRUNK



JUST
TODAY!

THEY STARTED ON THE BORDER-
LANDS, CLOSEST TO SINO-CIT,
WHERE THERE'S LEAST RESISTANCE.

THE FIGHTING HEART
KWOON IS NOT THE ONLY
POWER UNDER THREAT.

THE RADLANDS HAVE DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER
OF RIVAL FACTIONS DURING YOUR ABSENCE —
OUTLAW MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS LIKE OUR
OWN, TRIAD SOCIETIES, EXTREME WARRIOR
SECTS AND MUTANT DICTATORSHIPS.

'WE WILL ALL BE
DESTROYED IF THE
TERRAFORMING
IS ALLOWED TO
CONTINUE.'

0078: 07031146600 - 000

THEN END IT.

KILL THE TAOKA
WOMAN.

WE'VE TRIED.

'SHE HAS UNUSUALLY
EFFECTIVE PROTECTION.'

YOU ARE **STAN LEE**.
DEATHFIST. THE GREATEST
ASSASSIN AND MARTIAL ARTIST
THE FIGHTING HEART KWOON HAS
EVER PRODUCED.

ELIMINATE AMBER TAOKA
FOR US. DESTROY THE TAOKA
CORPORATION. HUMILIATE HONDO AND
SINO-CIT UTTERLY. SHOW THE WORLD
THE RADLANDS OF JI CANNOT
BE TAMED.

THE MOST POWERFUL RADLANDS
FACTIONS HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE
AND SENT THEIR GREATEST WARRIORS
FOR YOU TO COMMAND...



THE WARRIOR SMILES, BLACK CHI SHIFTING SENSUOUSLY THROUGH HIM, SENSING THE KILLING TO COME.

THIS ISN'T ASSASSINATION.

THIS IS WAR.

'I'D BEEN ORDERED TO SAKAMOTO SPACE-PORT TO MEET OUR HONOURED GUEST — WHICH ISN'T EXACTLY HOW I'D DESCRIBE HIM — WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED...

HONDO CITY
JUSTICE! HALT!

'A HAPPY SLASHER — THE LATEST CRAZE AMONGST HOVER-CYCLE GANGS EAGER TO PROVE THEIR TOUGHNESS — WAS CUTTING HIS WAY THROUGH THE TOURISTS IN THE TERMINAL.

'THEY SLASH THEIR VICTIMS WITH A LASER-KNIFE, FILMING THE ATTACK WITH AN EYE-CAMERA THAT RELAYS THE FOOTAGE TO THEIR FELLOW GANG-MEMBERS.'

YOU HEARD THE
LADY, CREEP!

INSPECTOR
INABA, DO YOU
ALWAYS NEED SO
MUCH HELP WITH
YOUR ARRESTS?

DREDD-SAN!

OF ALL THE CITIES
IN ALL THE WORLD, WHY
DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP
COMING BACK TO MINE?

BELIEVE ME —
I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE
AS MUCH AS YOU DON'T
WANT ME HERE...

HONDO CITY TERRITORIAL
WATERS. 2127 AD.

THIS IS THE HONDO CITY GUNSHIP
NAKAJIMA. YOU ARE TRESPASSING IN OUR WATERS.
PREPARE TO BE BOARDED. RESIST AND WE'LL
FIRE WITHOUT HESITATION.

MOVEMENT ON THE
DECK, COMMANDER.
THEY'RE COMING
OUT...

BLIND THEM WITH THE SEARCHLIGHT.
KEEP THEM SCARED AND
DISORIENTATED.

NAKAJIMA
TO OCEAN
CONTROL!

SEND REINFORCEMENTS TO CURRENT
POSITION! WE'VE CAPTURED **STAN LEE**,
A.K.A. **DEATHFIST**.

REPEAT! WE'VE —

HHHSSSSSS!

WHAT THE...!?

OOF!

WURRRGH!

AAAAEEEEEE!

PR!!

AHH, COOKED TO
PERFECTION...

TAKE A COUPLE OF THE
BODIES TO FEAST UPON IF YOU
WISH, BUT BE QUICK...



'... WE HAVE A CITY
TO TERRORISE.'

JUSTICE CENTRAL,
HONDO CITY.



RONIN BASTARD.

MURDERING
SCUM.

TRAITOR.

DEATH'S
TOO GOOD
FOR YOU,
RONIN.

NICE TO BE
BACK?

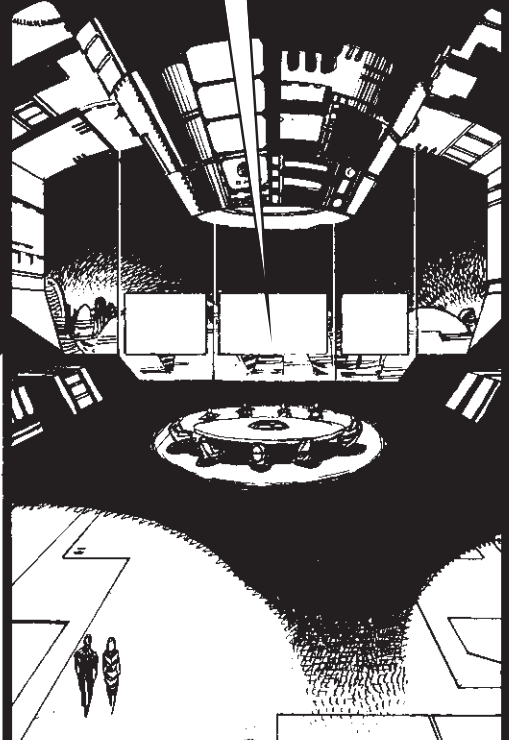
HASN'T
CHANGED MUCH
SINCE THE LAST
TIME I WAS
HERE.

HMM, YOU
DO HAVE A
WAY WITH
PEOPLE.

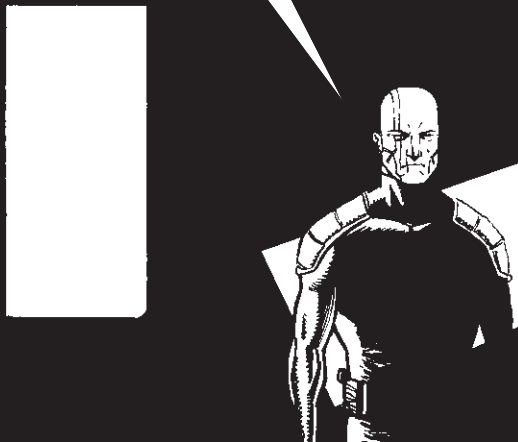


THERE HAVE BEEN TWELVE ATTEMPTS
ON YOUR LIFE IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS, MS TAOKA.
ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THAT WAS
JUST THE BEGINNING.

JUDGE DREDD...

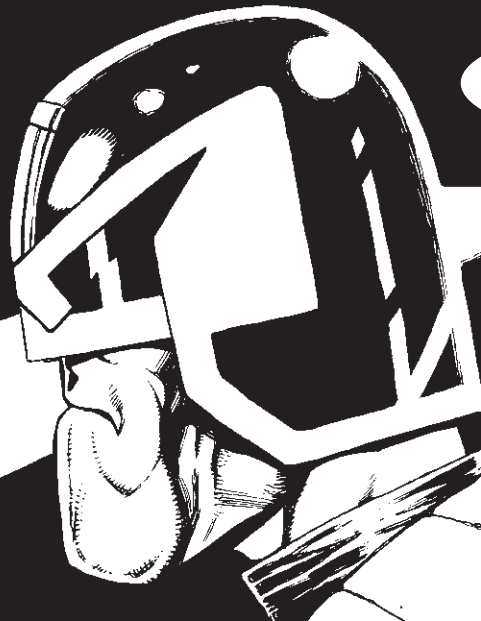


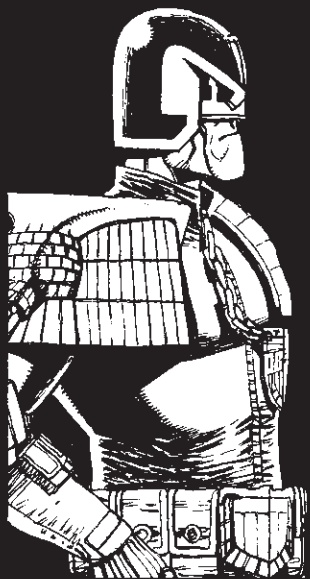
DREDD-SAN. I
THOUGHT THEY WOULD'VE
RETIRED YOU BY
NOW.



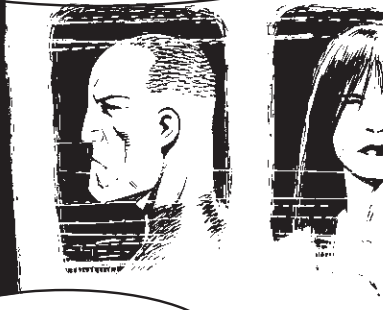
AND I FIGURED
THEY'D HAVE ARRESTED
YOU. SPEAKING OF
PERPS...

STAN LEE BROKE
OUT OF THE MEGA-CITY
ONE ISO-CUBES TWO
WEEKS AGO.





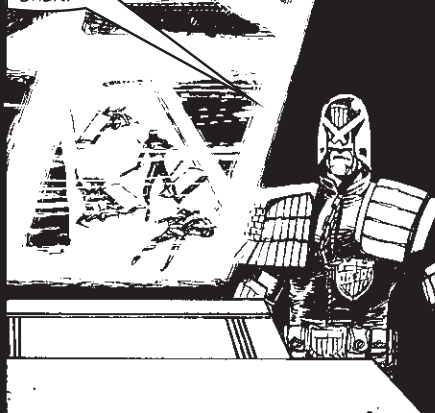
THE ESCAPE WAS ENGINEERED BY A RADLANDS MUTANT NAMED **LADY SAI**. SHE'S AFFILIATED TO THE **FIGHTING HEART KWON** — LEE'S MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL. USUALLY OPERATES AS A HIRED KILLER IN SINO-CITY.



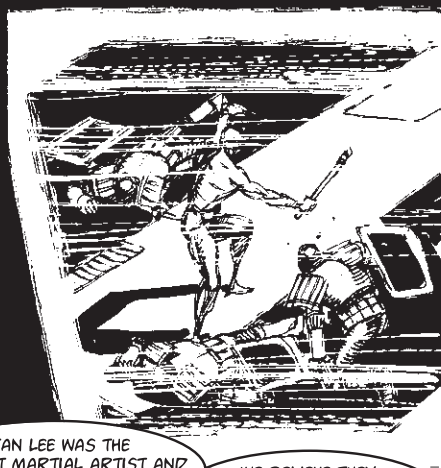
SHE TOOK HUMAN FORM, SEDUCED A MEMBER OF THE PRISON MEDICAL STAFF TO GAIN ACCESS TO LEE.

THE CREEP KILLED TWENTY-ONE JUDGES, LEFT ANOTHER SEVENTEEN IN INTENSIVE CARE, INCLUDING **JUDGE GIANT**.

I'M HERE TO TAKE HIM BACK.



THE OUTLAW POWERS THAT RULE THE RADLANDS OF JI ARE UNDER THREAT FROM THE TAOKA CORPORATION'S TERRAFORMING PROGRAMME...

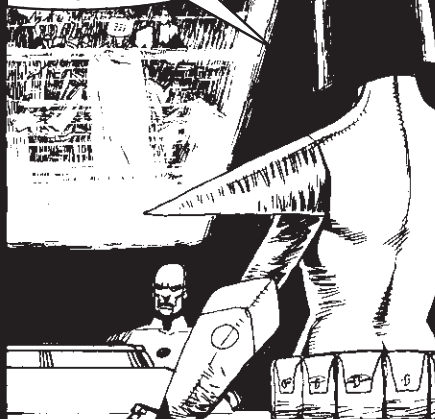


STAN LEE WAS THE GREATEST MARTIAL ARTIST AND ASSASSIN THE RADLANDS EVER PRODUCED.

WE BELIEVE THEY BROKE HIM OUT OF PRISON TO ELIMINATE YOU, MS TAOKA.

A JUDICIAL GUNSHIP WAS ATTACKED LAST NIGHT IN THE PACIFIC, THE CREW SLAUGHTERED. JUST BEFORE WE LOST CONTACT, ONBOARD SURVEILLANCE BROADCAST THIS IMAGE OF THE SHIP THEY CHALLENGED.

IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME LEE'S ALREADY IN THE CITY.



YOUR SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT TO THE FUTURE OF THIS CITY, MS TAOKA, PERHAPS THE WORLD.

AS OF THIS MOMENT, CONSIDER YOURSELF UNDER JUDICIAL PROTECTION.

I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, YOUR HONOUR, BUT I'M MORE THAN HAPPY WITH MY CURRENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.



IT WASN'T A **REQUEST**,
GIRL.

YOU WILL **NOT** BE
ALLOWED TO DICTATE TO
THIS CITY THE WAY YOUR
FATHER DID.

SHIMURA...

YOU'RE THE ENEMY THAT NEVER CHANGES.
YOUR '**AMNESTY**' IS REVOKED FORTH-
WITH. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR
TREASON AND MURDER.

TAKE HIM TO
THE CAGES.

WHO
SAYS THERE'S
NO **HONOUR**
IN HONDO
CITY... ?

MANY THANKS, DREDD-SAN. YOU'VE DELIVERED YOUR
WARNING. YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.
WE WILL DEAL WITH STAN LEE. YOU'LL RETURN TO
MEGA-CITY ONE IMMEDIATELY.

YOU THINK I TRUST
YOU **KUNG-FU CLOWNS**
TO BRING HIM IN?

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE
IN THE MATTER, DREDD-SAN.
NOT UNLESS YOU WISH TO CAUSE
A DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT.

I'M DISAPPOINTED, INSPECTOR
INABA.

I ALWAYS KIND OF
HOPED **YOU'D** BE THE ONE
TO ARREST ME.

DON'T HUMILIATE
YOURSELF BY MAKING US USE FORCE.
I'D HATE TO HAVE TO ARREST YOU
ALONGSIDE SHIMURA.



'MAYBE I'M BIASED AGAINST GLAMOROUS EX-SUPERMODELS OVER A HEAD TALLER THAN ME, BUT I'D DISMISSED AMBER TAOKA AS LITTLE MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE WHO'D ONLY INHERITED THE TAOKA CORPORATION THROUGH AN ACCIDENT OF BIRTH.

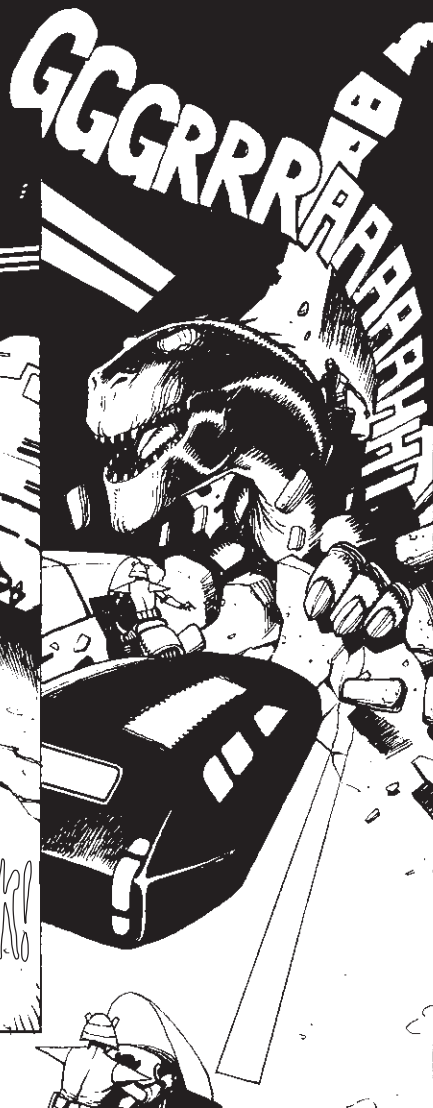
'WELL, SINCE I SERVED UNDER INSPECTOR SHIMURA AS A CADET.'

I'M SORRY, MS TAOKA, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE SHOGUN WAS PLANNING...

SHIMURA SAYS YOU'RE THE ONLY HONEST JUDGE IN HONDO CITY, INSPECTOR.

MAYBE I'LL MAKE YOU SHOGUN ONE DAY.

'AS WE SPED THROUGH THE STREETS, THOUGH, SHE DISPLAYED A RUTHLESSNESS I HADN'T SEEN SINCE...



CRAWWWW!



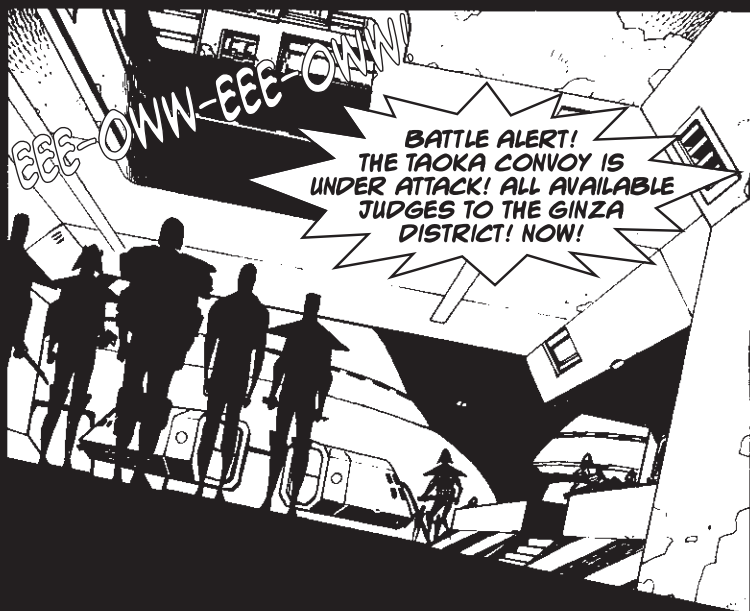
BURN THEM, GODZARRO!

BURN THEM TO THE BONE!

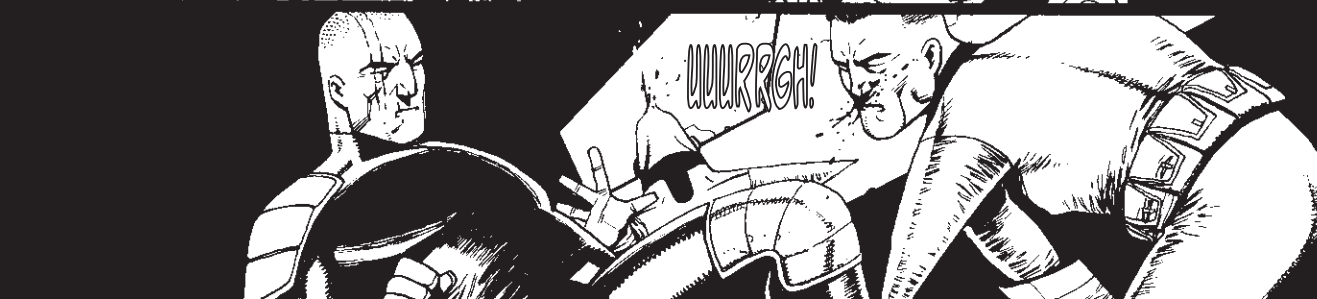
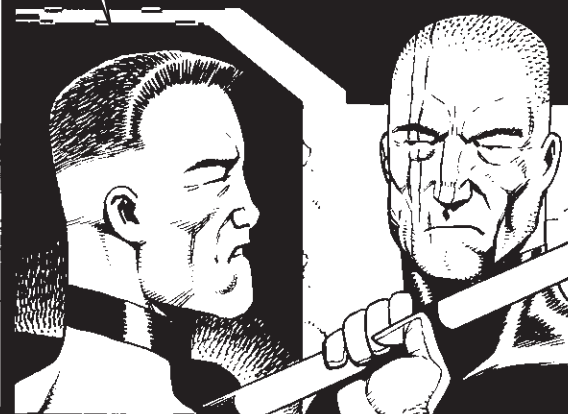
REMINDE ME TO PERFECT THE TAOKA TELEPORTATION SYSTEM.

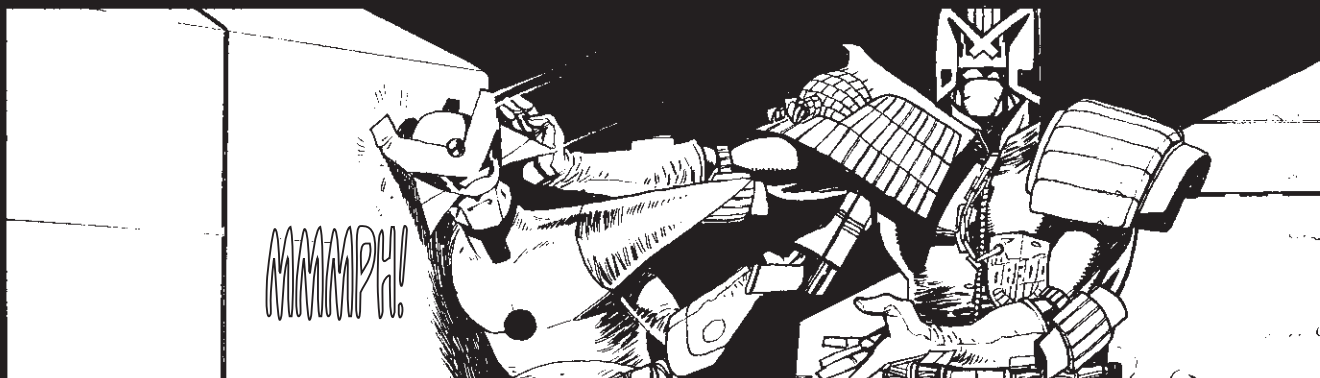
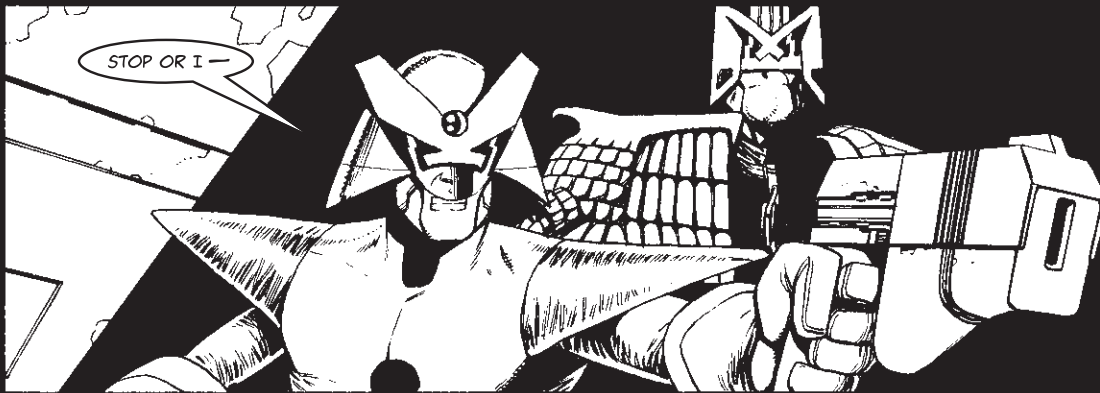
TRAVELLING BY CAR'S GETTING A LITTLE TOO DANGEROUS...





DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, RONIN — NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE 'KILLED TRYING TO ESCAPE'!







JUDGE INSPECTOR
AIKO INABA:

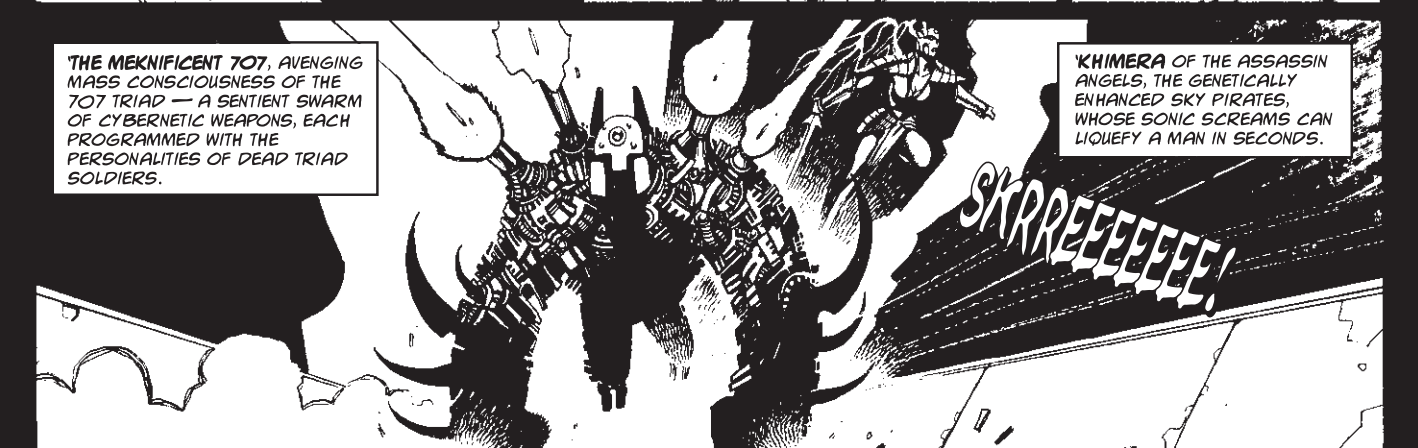
'OKAY, WHO'S TRYING
TO MURDER ME TODAY?



'GODZARRO, THE
LIZARD KING, RULER OF
THE DRAGON-PITS OF JI.

'LADY SAI, KILLER-FOR-HIRE
TO THE SINO-CITY UNDERWORLD
AND AFFILIATE OF THE FIGHTING
HEART KWON.

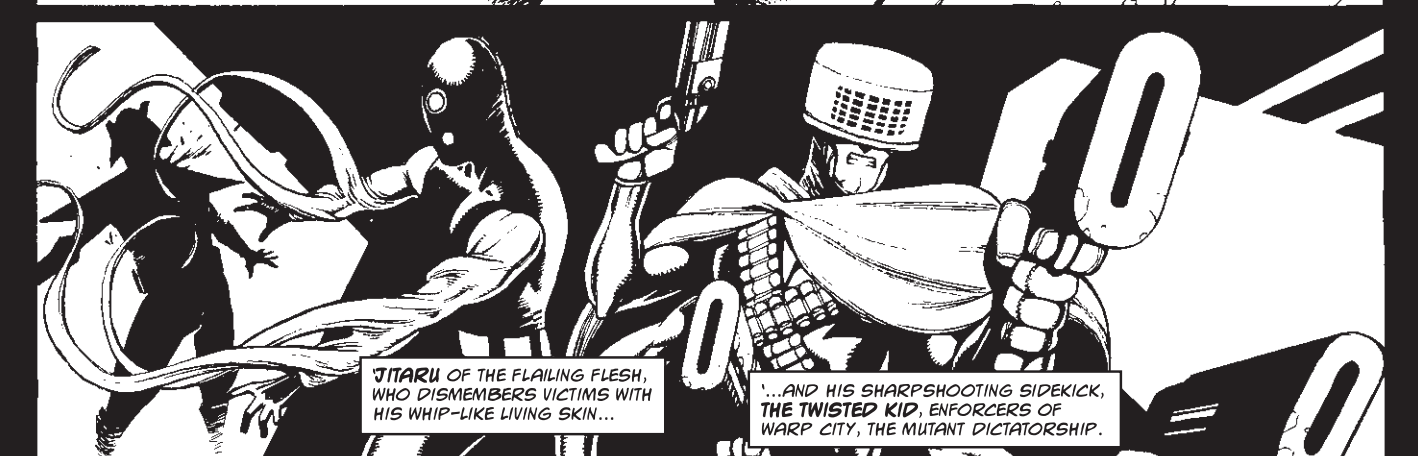
LISTEN TO YOUR
BONES BREAKING. IT'S LIKE
MUSIC, ISN'T IT?



THE MEKNIFICENT 707, AVENGING
MASS CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE
707 TRIAD — A SENTIENT SWARM
OF CYBERNETIC WEAPONS, EACH
PROGRAMMED WITH THE
PERSONALITIES OF DEAD TRIAD
SOLDIERS.

'KHIMERA OF THE ASSASSIN
ANGELS, THE GENETICALLY
ENHANCED SKY PIRATES,
WHOSE SONIC SCREAMS CAN
LIQUEFY A MAN IN SECONDS.

SKRRREEEEEEEE!



'TITARRU OF THE FLAILING FLESH,
WHO DISMEMBERS VICTIMS WITH
HIS WHIP-LIKE LIVING SKIN...

...AND HIS SHARPSHOOTING SIDEKICK,
THE TWISTED KID, ENFORCERS OF
WARP CITY, THE MUTANT DICTATORSHIP.

'AND, AS IF THEY WEREN'T DANGEROUS ENOUGH ON THEIR OWN...

'STAN LEE, THE GREATEST MARTIAL ARTIST TO EVER COME OUT OF THE RADLANDS OF JI...

'... WHO'S JUST EVADED FIVE OF MY SHOTS AT VIRTUALLY POINT BLANK RANGE.'

AAAGH-KKK!

AMBER TAOKA, THE RADLANDS OF JI ARE NOT FOR CIVILISING. WE WILL NOT LIE DOWN AND DIE FOR YOUR BRAVE NEW TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD.

YOU THINK WE'RE SAVAGES? MONSTERS?

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW SAVAGE I CAN BE!

BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

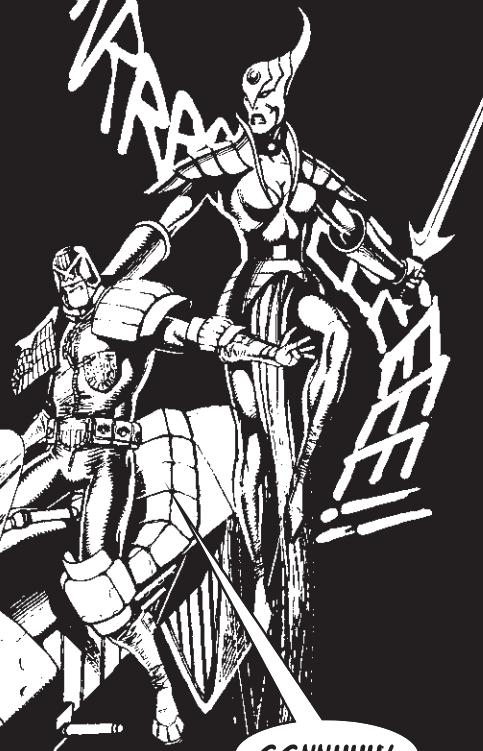
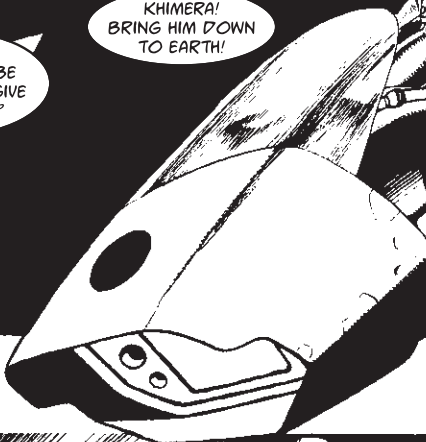


DREDD?



KHIMERA!
BRING HIM DOWN
TO EARTH!

WHAT, YOU
THOUGHT MAYBE
WE'D JUST FORGIVE
AND FORGET?

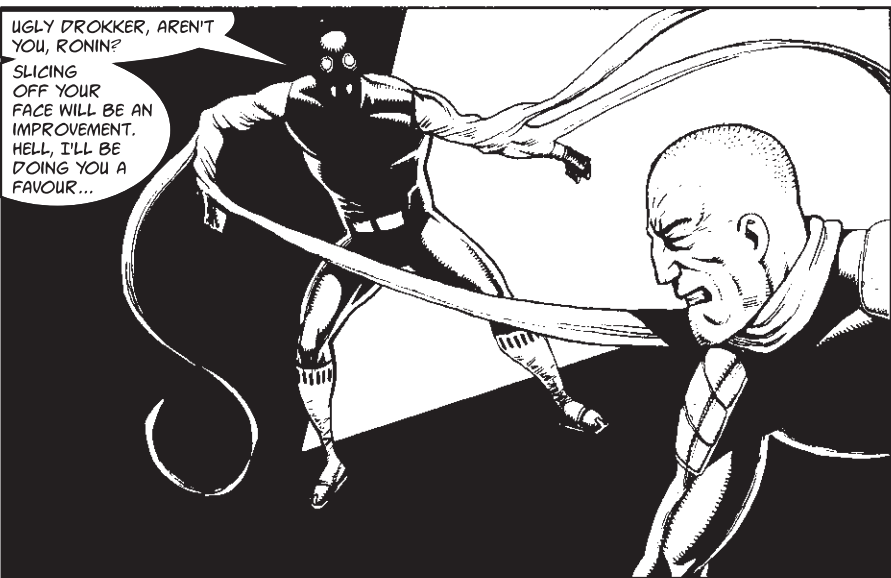


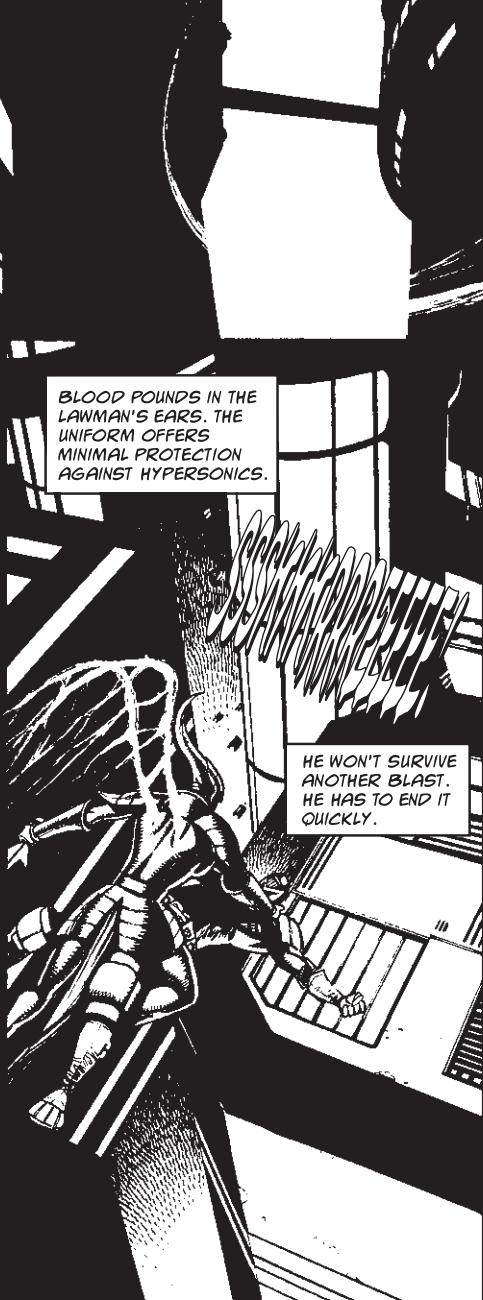
GGNNHHH!



DREDD'S THE LAST
OF YOUR WORRIES,
ASSASSIN!

SHIMURA!





BLOOD POUNDS IN THE
LAWMAN'S EARS. THE
UNIFORM OFFERS
MINIMAL PROTECTION
AGAINST HYPERSONICS.

HE WON'T SURVIVE
ANOTHER BLAST.
HE HAS TO END IT
QUICKLY.



ELECTRO-KNUX
WEAVED INTO THE
FABRIC OF HIS
GLOVE — TO GIVE
HIM AN EDGE WHILE
PURSUING THE LAW
IN UNKNOWN
TERRITORY.

GAKKKKK!

TRY AND
SING WITH YOUR
MOUTH FULL,
CREEP!

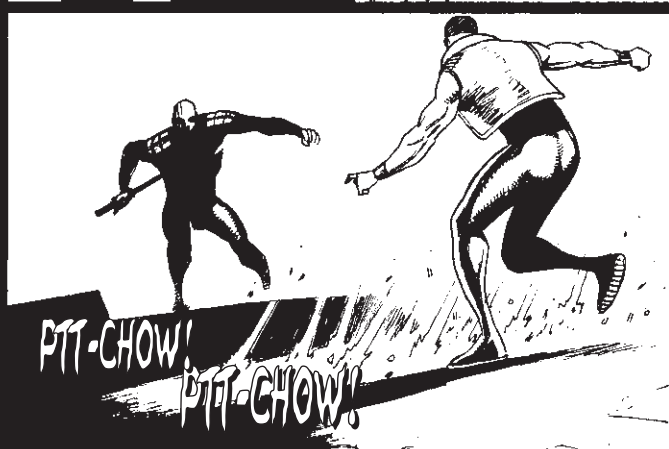


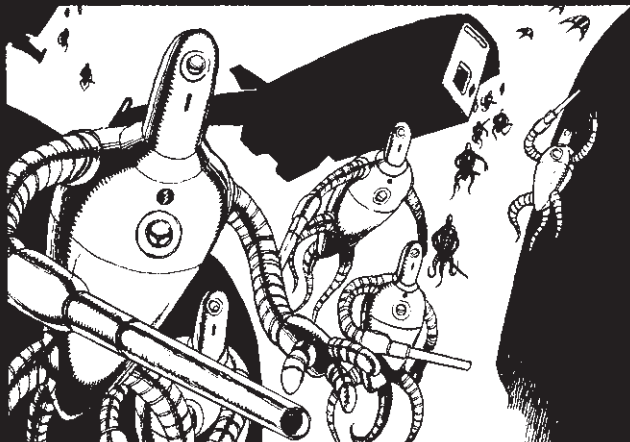
DREDD, YOU CAME
ALL THIS WAY TO LET ME KILL
YOU. CONSIDERATE.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL
SHOW YOU THE SAME RESPECT.
I'LL SEND YOUR **HEAD** BACK
TO THE BIG MEG.



AND I'LL SEND
YOURS BACK TO
THE RADLANDS
OF JI.

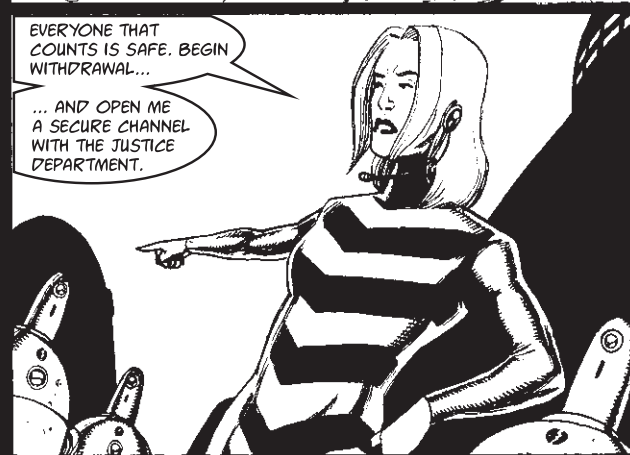




WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

A PRIVATE ARMY OF COMBAT-DROIDS RUNNING LOOSE IN THE STREETS? WHERE ARE THE JUDGES? WHO RUNS YOUR GRUDDAMNED CITY?

I'M BEGINNING TO ASK MYSELF THE SAME QUESTION, DREDD-SAN...



EVERYONE THAT COUNTS IS SAFE. BEGIN WITHDRAWAL...

... AND OPEN ME A SECURE CHANNEL WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.



THE BITCH IS HARDER TO KILL THAN WE THOUGHT...

THEY'RE RETREATING. TOT?

LAUNCHING NANO-TRACERS...



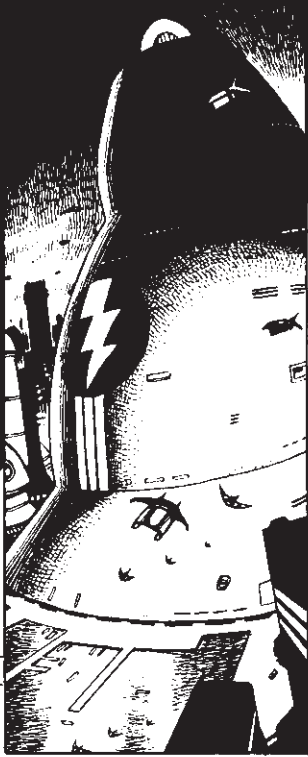
'WHEREVER THEY GO, WE'LL FIND THEM.'

TSUKUBA, THE
SCIENCE DISTRICT
OF HONDO CITY.

'NEARLY TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS
JUST A CADET, **MASAMUNE TAOKA** —
THE CYBERNETICS GENIUS AND WOULD-BE
DICTATOR OF HONDO CITY — HUNTED
INSPECTOR SHIMURA AND I THROUGH
HIS TECHNOLOGICAL FORTRESS.

'WE BARELY ESCAPED
WITH OUR LIVES...

'SO YOU CAN IMAGINE MY
HORROR WHEN I WOKE UP TO
FIND US VIRTUALLY BESEIGED
IN THE SAME LOCATION.'



YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU
WERE REBUILDING YOUR
FATHER'S HIVE.

IT'S THE MOST
EFFICIENT WAY TO
RUN THE TAOKA
CORPORATION. AND IT
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT
THE ONLY ONE WITH
SECRETS...

... OR DID YOU JUST
FORGET TO MENTION
THAT THERE WAS **BAD**
BLOOD BETWEEN YOU
AND STAN LEE?

I TOLD YOU...

I WASN'T
ALWAYS AS GOOD WITH
A SWORD.



THE CITY CLOSES IN ON HIM, STRANGE AND ALIEN. HE HAS, PERHAPS, BEEN TOO LONG IN ISOLATION.

HE TRIES TO FOCUS THE BLACK CHI WITHIN HIM, THE SPIRIT OF MURDER THAT HAS SERVED HIM SO WELL.

IT THRASHES WILDLY, DISTURBING HIS CONSCIOUSNESS.

HE REMEMBERS HIS FIRST KILL — HIS FIRST **REAL** KILL, NOT THE WEAKLINGS HE CRUSHED IN TRAINING SESSIONS — HERE IN HONDO, ALMOST TWO DECADES AGO...

I WAS STILL A **CADET** AT THE TIME, IN MY FINAL YEAR OF PROBATION, PARTNERED WITH **INSPECTOR KATAGIRI**, A THIRTY-YEAR VETERAN, HIGHLY REGARDED.

WE WERE SECONDED TO BODYGUARD DUTY, PROTECTING A GAMES DEVELOPER NAMED **DAISUKE TOYAMA**, WHOSE HOLO-TECHNOLOGY WAS ALSO USED IN JUDICIAL COMBAT SIMULATIONS.

HE'D OPENED UP A MANUFACTURING DIVISION FOR HIS LATEST FULL IMMERSION CONSOLE IN SINO-CITY — CHEAP LABOUR.

THE 707 TRIAD DEMANDED A CUT OF HIS PROFITS — STANDARD SINO BUSINESS PRACTICE. TOYAMA REFUSED, INFORMED THE HONDO AUTHORITIES. SINO-CITY WOULD'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE, BUT POLITICS DICTATED THAT THEY COULDN'T.

THEY WERE **FORCED** TO MAKE ARRESTS. IN TURN, THE 707 TOOK OUT A CONTRACT ON TOYAMA'S LIFE.



THE WARRIOR COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW EASY IT WAS TO INFILTRATE THE TARGET'S MANSION. THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM WAS NEXT TO USELESS: HE WAS LIKE A GHOST.

THE PERIMETER GUARDS FELL WITHOUT A SOUND, POISONED SHURIKEN EMBEDDED IN THEIR FLESH.

THE OLDER JUDGES REALIZED THE DANGER, GATHERED TOYAMA AND HIS BODYGUARDS TOGETHER IN A DEFENSIVE POSITION AND RADIOED FOR BACK-UP. IT WAS WHAT THE WARRIOR EXPECTED.

HE WAS AMONGST THEM BEFORE THEY COULD OPEN FIRE, KILLING WITH EACH SINGLE BLOW, REVELLING IN THEIR FEAR AND HELPLESSNESS.

'HE SNAPPED KATAGIRI'S NECK, TURNED HIS HEAD RIGHT AROUND.

THE CADET HAD BEEN ELSEWHERE IN THE MANSION, JOINED THE PARTY LATE...

'I FIRED THROUGH THE CORPSE, BUT LEE WAS TOO FAST, USED KATAGIRI AS A SHIELD TO CHARGE ME.

'HE WAS JUST A BOY, NO OLDER THAN ME. I COULDN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE SO YOUNG HAD SO MUCH KILLING IN HIM.

'I'D ORDERED TOYAMA'S DAUGHTER, YUKIKO, TO LOCK HERSELF IN THE MANSION PANIC ROOM WHILE I WENT TO AID KATAGIRI, BUT SHE DIDN'T LISTEN, FOLLOWED ME...



'I WAS HALF-BLIND, HEARD HER SAY MY NAME, AND THEN WHISPER HER FATHER'S.



'LEE CRUSHED HER WINDPIPE WITH A KNIFE-HAND STRIKE. I SAW IT THROUGH THE BLOOD. IT LOOKED AS IF HE HARDLY TOUCHED HER...'



THE WARRIOR WAS SURPRISED BY THE FEROCITY OF THE ATTACK.



THE CADET WAS SKILLED, BUT FAR FROM A MASTER.

HE SHOULD'VE
BROKEN EASILY.



THE WARRIOR RETALIATED MERCILESSLY, STRIKING HIS ENEMY AGAIN AND AGAIN, BREAKING BONES, PULPING FLESH, COVERING THEM BOTH IN BLOOD...

BUT STILL THE CADET
WOULD NOT GO DOWN.



NO MATTER
WHAT HE DID,
THE CADET
REFUSED TO
FALL!



SOMEWHERE AMIDST THE FRENZY,
THE WARRIOR BECAME AWARE
OF THE APPROACHING SIRENS.

SURVIVAL TOOK OVER AND HE FLED THE
SCENE, WITH THE CADET STILL STANDING,
YELLING AFTER HIM INCOHERENTLY...





THE FAILURE
REMAINS WITH HIM.

NOW.
WE'LL KILL THEM
NOW.

ALL OF
THEM.



YUKIKO TOYAMA AND I
WERE... INVOLVED.

KIDS FOOLING AROUND —
SHE'D BEEN KEPT SHELTERED BY HER
FATHER AND I'D SPENT TWELVE YEARS IN
THE ACADEMY. PROBABLY THOUGHT
IT MEANT MORE THAN IT DID.

I WAS WITH HER WHEN
LEE ATTACKED...



REAL PROFESSIONAL
OF YOU.



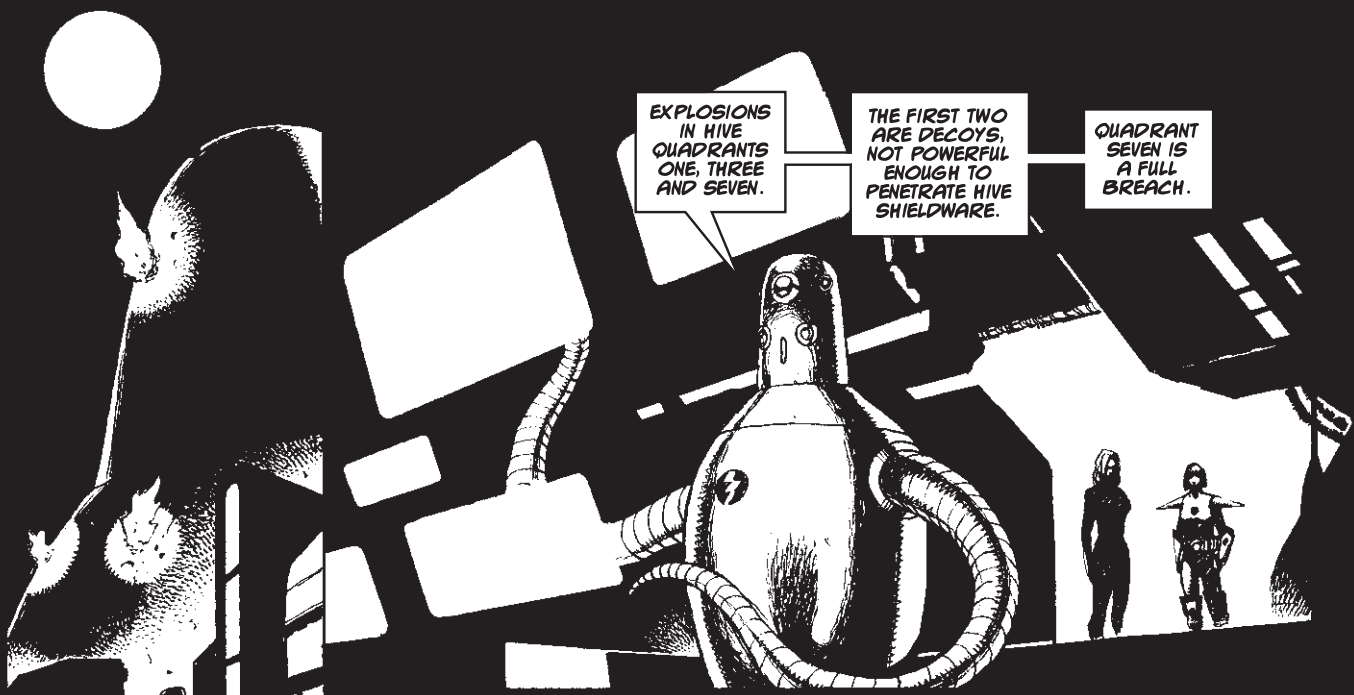
WE DON'T ALL
BELIEVE YOU HAVE
TO CUT OFF
YOUR **BALLS** TO
ENFORCE THE
LAW.

SCREWING
THE DAUGHTER
WHILE THE FATHER
WAS GETTING
KILLED'S HARDLY
ENFORCING THE
LAW.



GO AHEAD,
PUNK.

TRY ME.



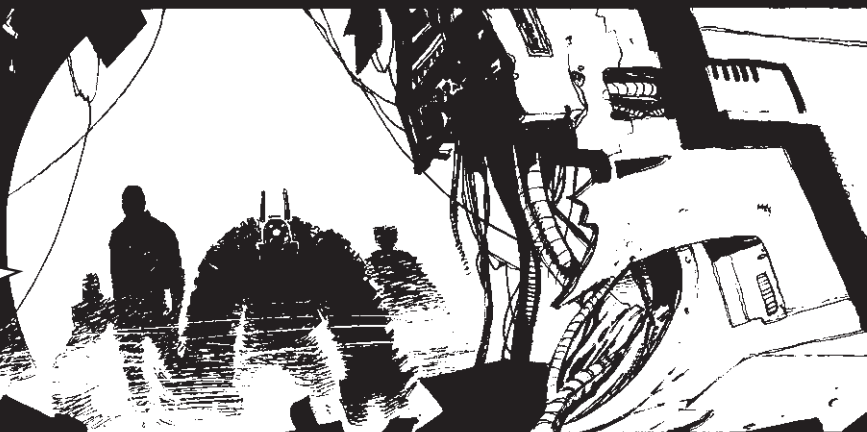
EXPLOSIONS
IN HIVE
QUADRANTS
ONE, THREE
AND SEVEN.

THE FIRST TWO
ARE DECOYS,
NOT POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO
PENETRATE HIVE
SHIELDWARE.

QUADRANT
SEVEN IS
A FULL
BREACH.

SURVEILLANCE
IDENTIFIES THE INTRUDERS AS
STAN LEE AND HIS CADRE
OF ASSASSINS.

SENDING
WAR DROIDS TO
INTERCEPT THEM.

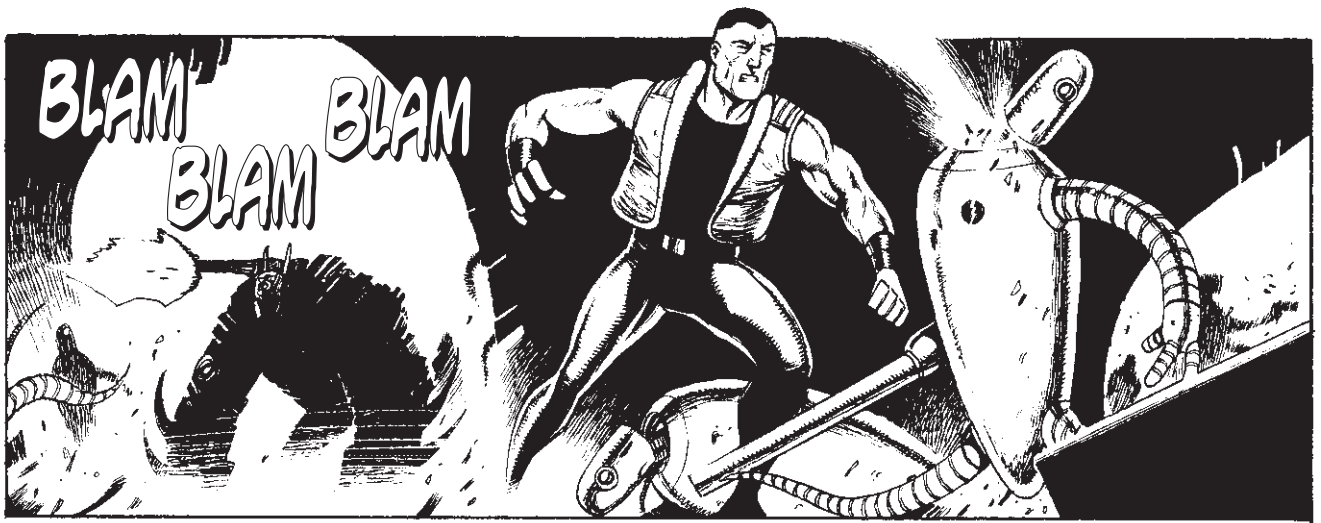


MAYBE WE SHOULD KILL
EACH OTHER **LATER**,
DREDD-SAN?

FINE BY ME.
WON'T BE **EACH
OTHER** ABOUT IT,
THOUGH.

'COURSE THERE
WON'T. I WAS BEING
POLITE BY GIVING YOU
HALF A CHANCE.

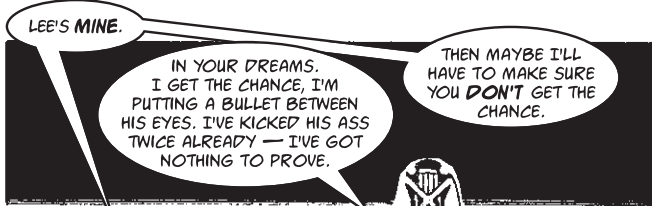




THEY'VE
ALMOST
BROKEN
THROUGH
THE INTER-
CEPTORS.

REPEAT!
INSPECTOR INABA TO
OPERATIONS!

NOTHING, DAMN
IT! THEY MUST BE
JAMMING US!



LEE'S MINE.

IN YOUR DREAMS.
I GET THE CHANCE, I'M
PUTTING A BULLET BETWEEN
HIS EYES. I'VE KICKED HIS ASS
TWICE ALREADY — I'VE GOT
NOTHING TO PROVE.

THEN MAYBE I'LL
HAVE TO MAKE SURE
YOU **DON'T** GET THE
CHANCE.



SHIMURA! A BODYGUARD DOESN'T
ABANDON HIS CHARGE — IT ISN'T IN THE
JOB DESCRIPTION.

WHOEVER DIED THE LAST
TIME YOU AND LEE MET... IT'S IN
THE PAST.

I'M STILL ALIVE AND
I'D KIND OF LIKE TO **STAY**
THAT WAY, Y'KNOW!





LEE!

YOU GOING TO COME QUIETLY, OR ARE YOU GOING TO HUMILIATE YOURSELF BY TRYING TO TAKE ME ON AGAIN?

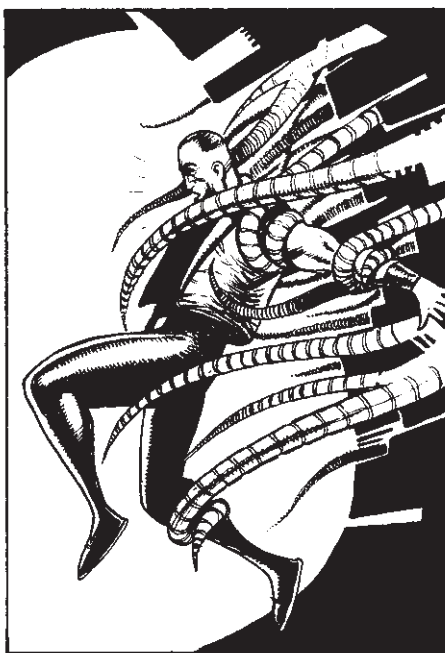


WHEN WE LAST FOUGHT, DREDD, I'D BEEN LOCKED IN A CUBE THE SIZE OF A COFFIN FOR YEARS, PUMPED FULL OF TRANQUILISERS AND INHIBITORS.

NOW, I'M A BORN-AGAIN KILLER!



HIYAAHHHHH!





YOU REALLY
THOUGHT YOU COULD
BRING DOWN **ALL**
THIS?

THE WORLD IS
BEING **CHANGED**,
ASSASSIN.

NO ONE
CAN STOP IT. NOT
NOW.



DON'T
SAY I NEVER DO
ANYTHING FOR
YOU.

YOU ENGINEERED
THIS SO WE COULD
BE TOGETHER AGAIN,
RONIN?



YOU
MUST ENJOY
PAIN!

NOT AS MUCH
AS I ENJOY DEALING
IT OUT!

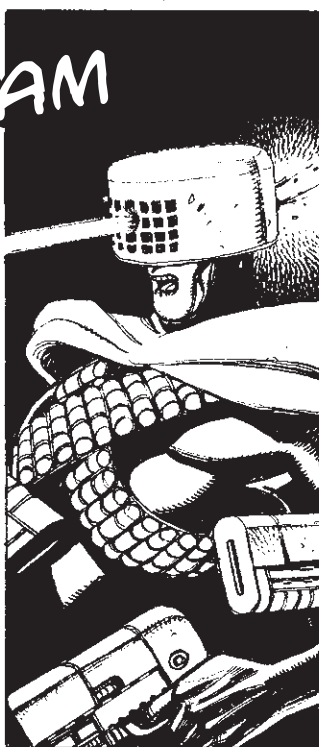
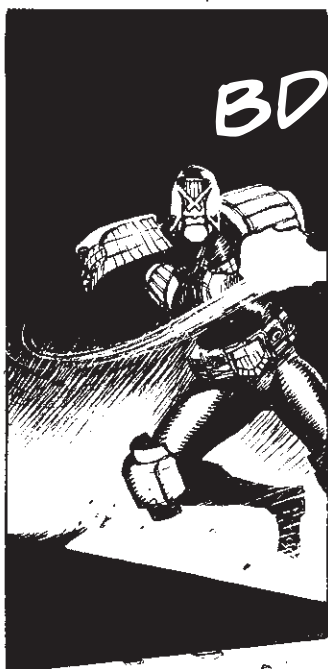
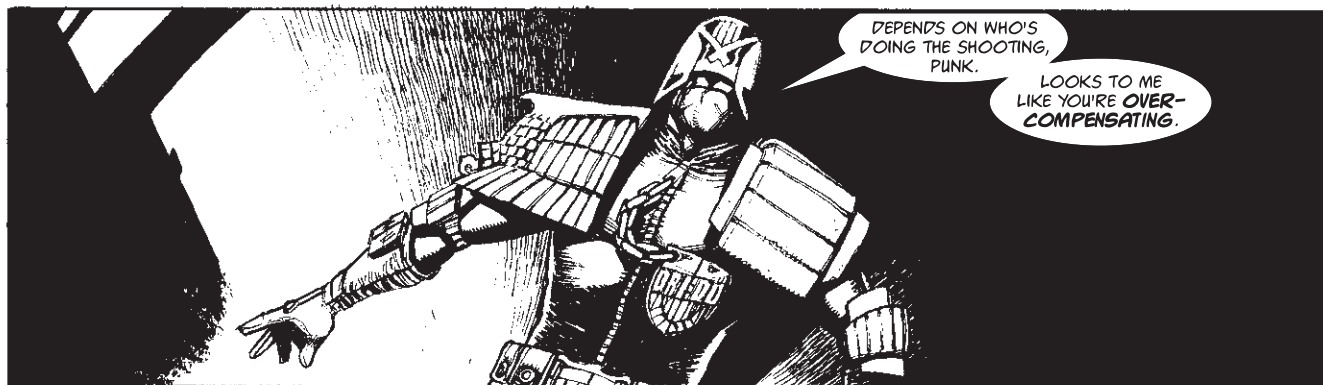
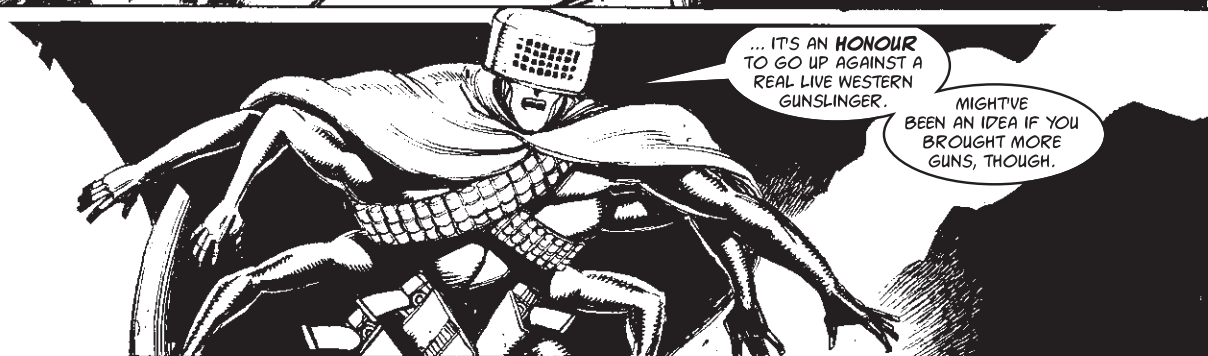


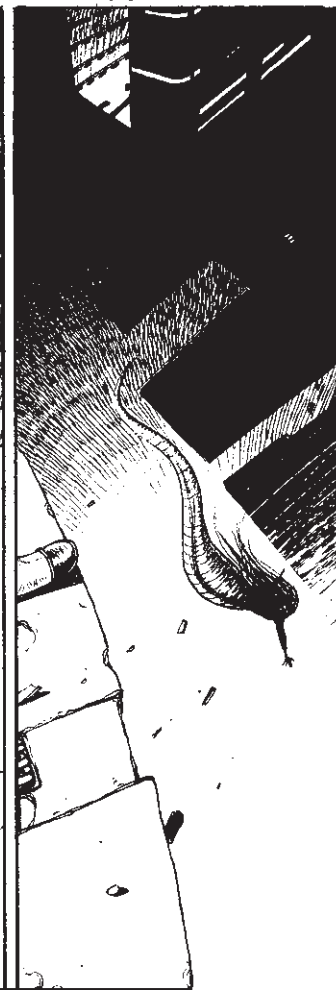
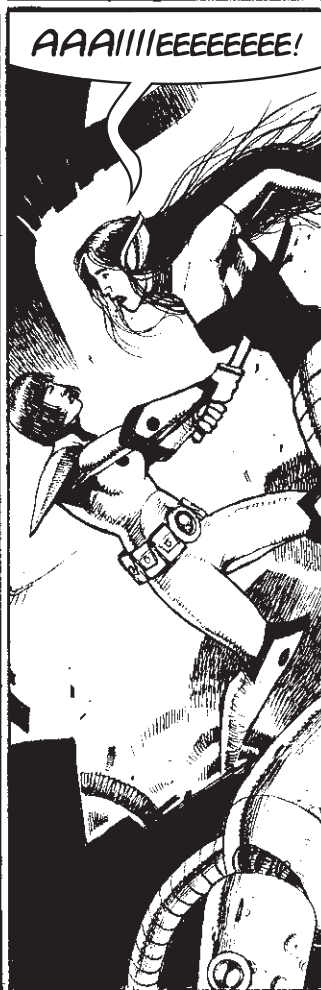
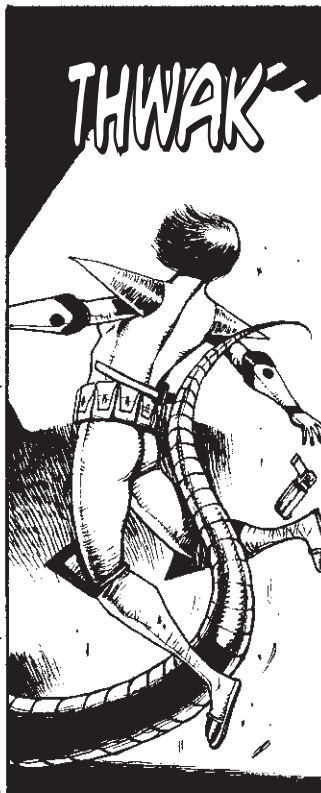
LET'S
DISPENSE WITH
THE **TOYS**, SHALL
WE?

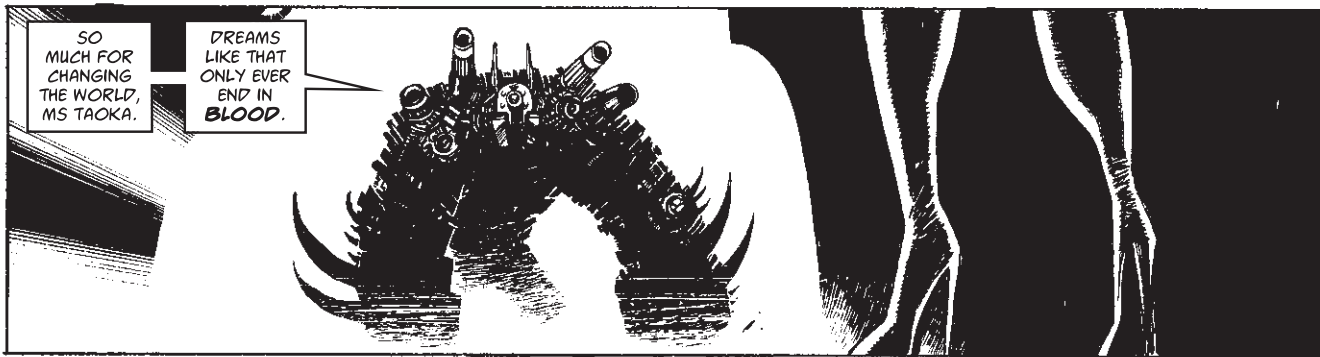


WHATEVER
WAY YOU WANT TO
DIE'S FINE BY
ME.



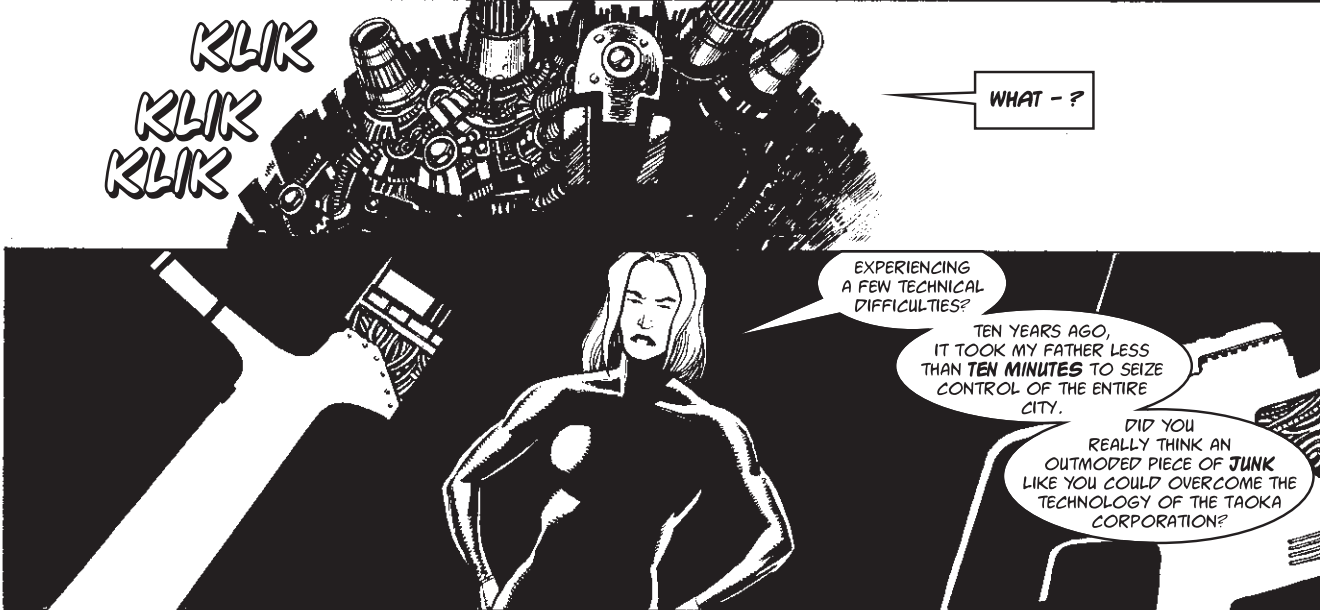






SO
MUCH FOR
CHANGING
THE WORLD,
MS TAOKA.

DREAMS
LIKE THAT
ONLY EVER
END IN
BLOOD.



KLIK
KLIK
KLIK

WHAT - ?

EXPERIENCING
A FEW TECHNICAL
DIFFICULTIES?

TEN YEARS AGO,
IT TOOK MY FATHER LESS
THAN **TEN MINUTES** TO SEIZE
CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE
CITY.

DID YOU
REALLY THINK AN
OUTDATED PIECE OF **JUNK**
LIKE YOU COULD OVERCOME THE
TECHNOLOGY OF THE TAOKA
CORPORATION?



THE NANO-TRACERS YOU
OH-SO-SUBTLY TRACKED
OUR MOVEMENTS WITH WERE
DETECTED THE MOMENT YOU
LAUNCHED THEM. THE DATA
THEY FED YOU WAS EXACTLY
WHAT I WANTED YOU
TO LEARN.

AS SOON AS
YOU BREACHED THE HIVE,
YOUR SYSTEMS WERE
CORRUPTED BY A TAOKA
NANO-VIRUS.



IT'S EATING YOU ALIVE
AND YOU DON'T EVEN
KNOW IT.

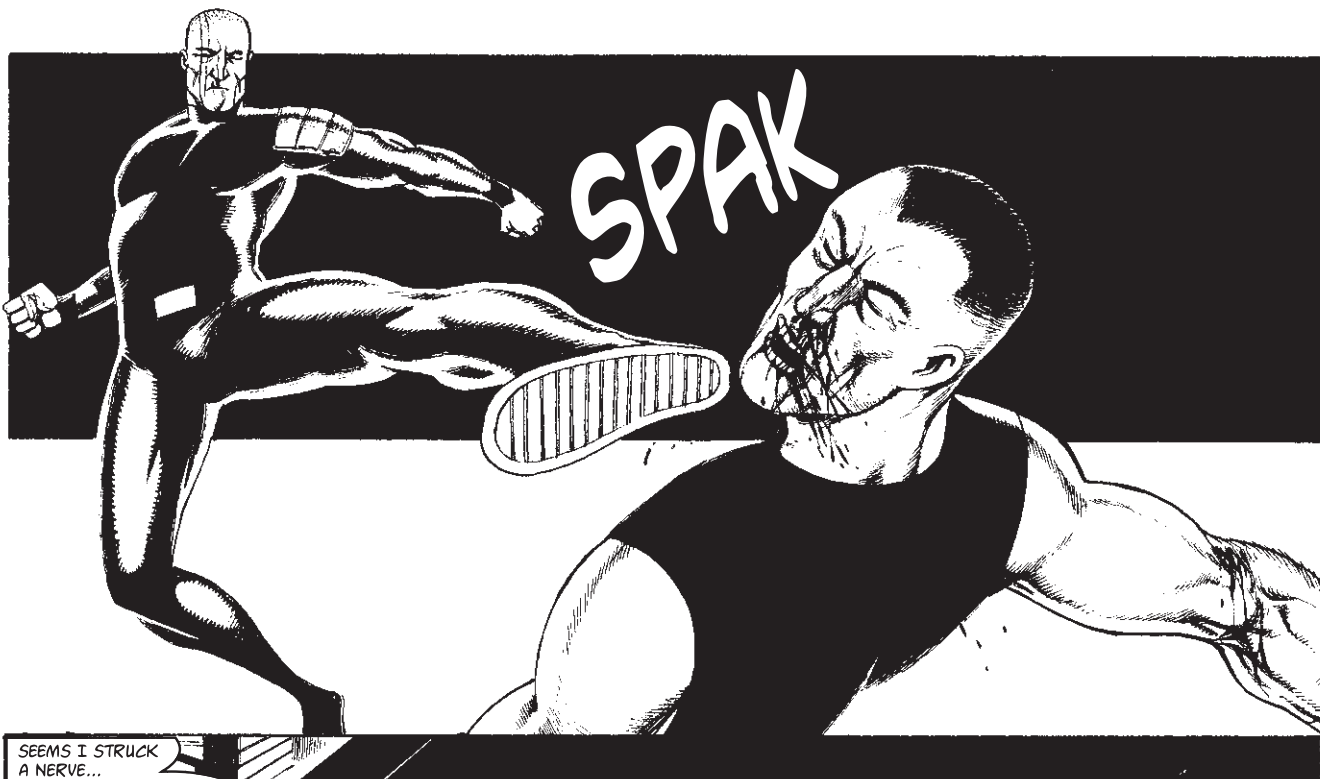
THE ONLY
THING HOLDING
YOU TOGETHER
IS **ME.**



VADDDDDOOMMM









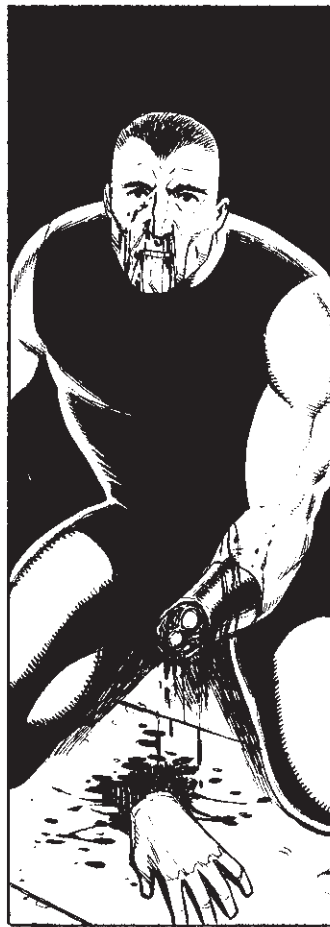
SHIMURA!

LOWER THE SWORD!
THE LAW'LL HANDLE IT
FROM HERE!



DREDD'S RIGHT,
SHIMURA-SAN! KILL
HIM AND THERE'LL
BE NO MORE
FAVOURS — NOT
FROM ME!

I'LL HUNT YOU
DOWN AS IF
YOU'RE NO
BETTER THAN
HIM!



DEATHFIST?

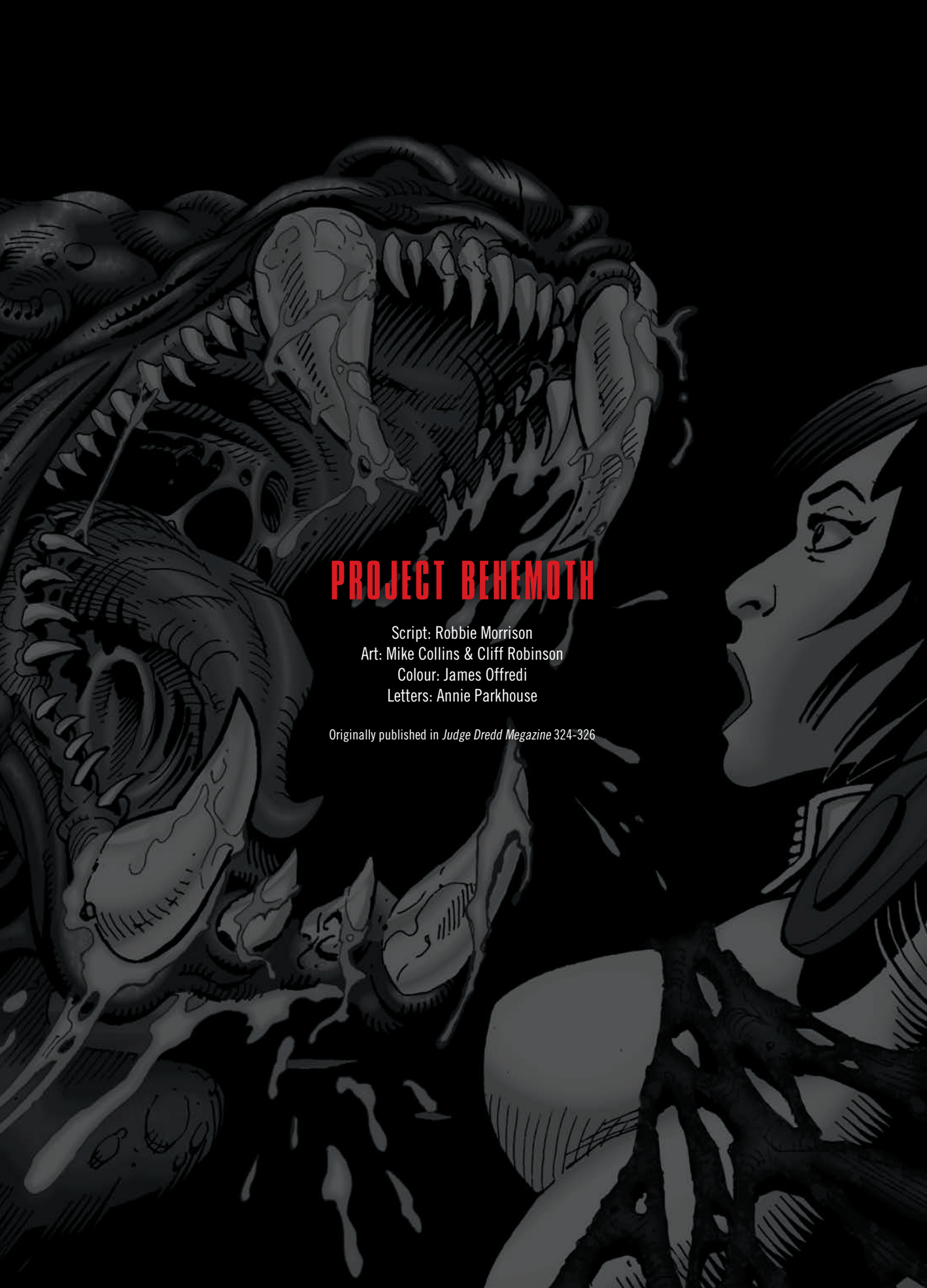
BETTER FIND
YOURSELF A NEW
NAME.



YOU CAN FIGHT OVER
WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU GETS
TO KEEP HIM.

AND TO
HELL WITH YOUR
LAWS!

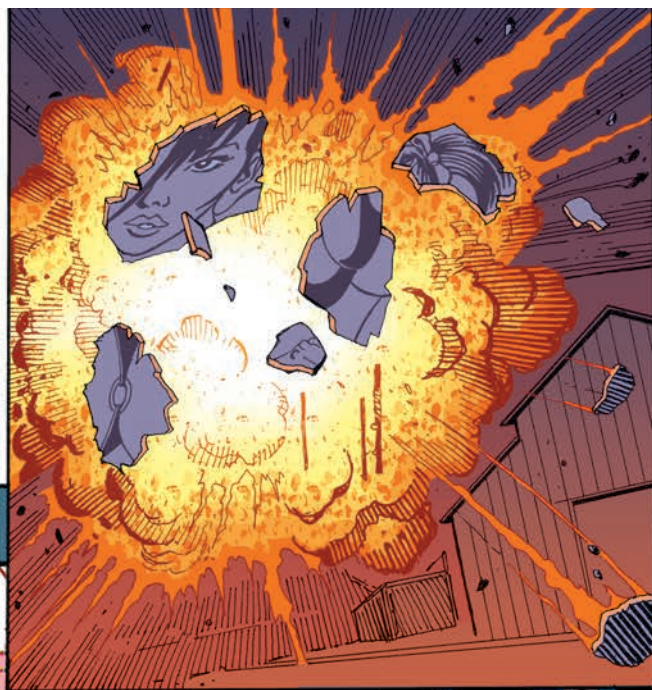




PROJECT BEHEMOTH

Script: Robbie Morrison
Art: Mike Collins & Cliff Robinson
Colour: James Offredi
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

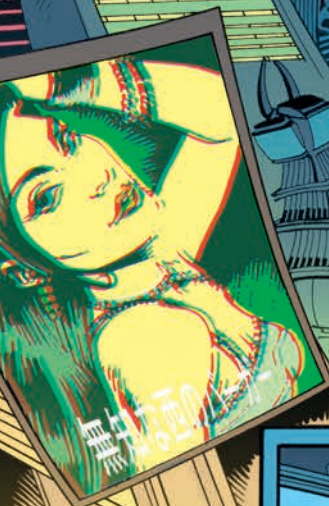
Originally published in *Judge Dredd Magazine* 324-326



HONDO CITY, 2134 AD.

OPERATIONS
TO ALL UNITS
VICINITY TSUKUBA
DISTRICT.

EXPLOSION
REPORTED AT
MONOGATARI
LABORATORIES,
CAUSE
UNKNOWN.

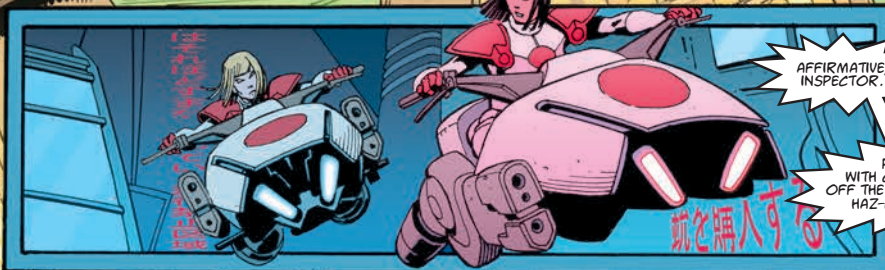


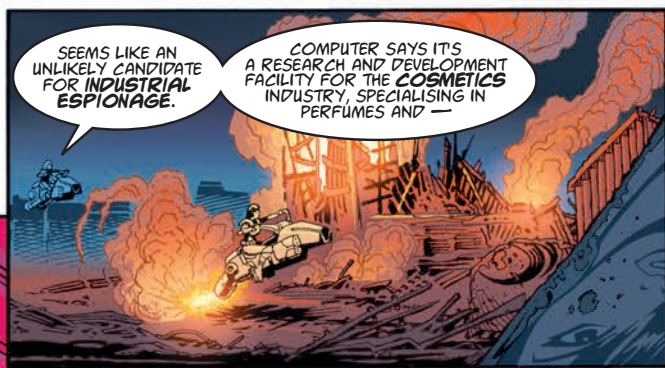
INABA
AND ASAHARA
RESPONDING.

ETA THREE
MINUTES.

AFFIRMATIVE,
INSPECTOR.

PROCEED
WITH CAUTION. SEAL
OFF THE AREA AND AWAIT
HAZ-MAT SQUADS.





SEEMS LIKE AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE FOR INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE.

COMPUTER SAYS IT'S A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY FOR THE COSMETICS INDUSTRY, SPECIALISING IN PERFUMES AND —



DON'T EXACTLY SMELL SWEET TO ME.

NOT UNLESS YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF A FRAGRANCE CALLED 'EXIT WOUNDS'.



SCENE OF CRIME ANALYSIS, PLEASE, CADET.

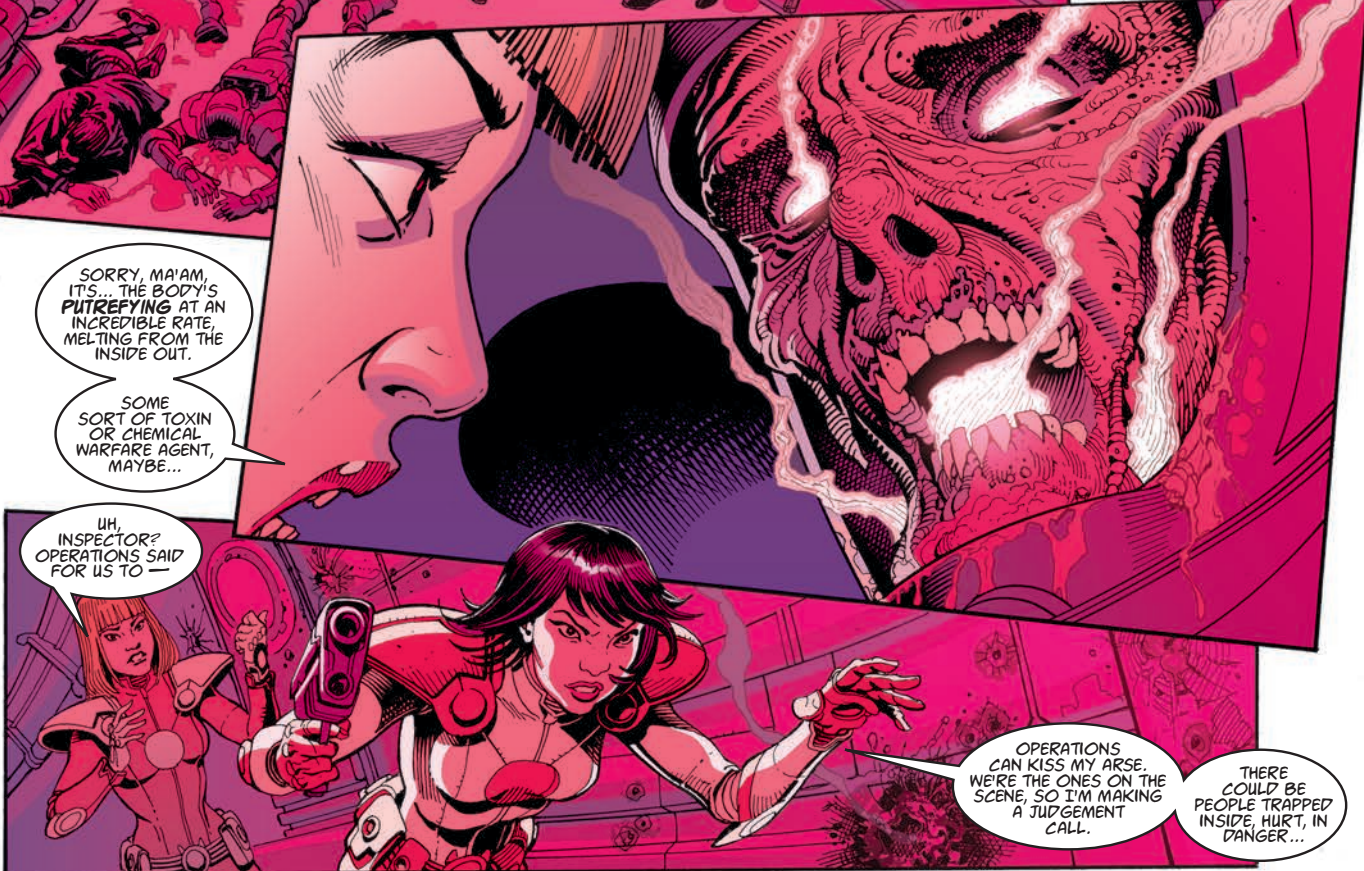
TWO SETS OF VICTIMS, SOME IN SUITS — SECURITY STAFF, PROBABLY — OTHERS IN MILITARY ARMOUR OF THE KIND FAVOURED BY URBAN MERCENARIES.

BLAST DAMAGE CONSISTENT WITH FRAG GRENADES, BUT MOST OF THE BODIES ALSO HAVE BULLET WOUNDS, POSSIBLY INFLICTED PRIOR TO DETONATION.

PUNCTURE MARKS ON THE ARMoured BODIES, BUT NOT FROM GUNFIRE OR SHRAPNEL. THEY'RE —

YEUGH!

SINCE WHEN DID 'YEUGH' BECOME AN OFFICIAL FORENSICS TERM?



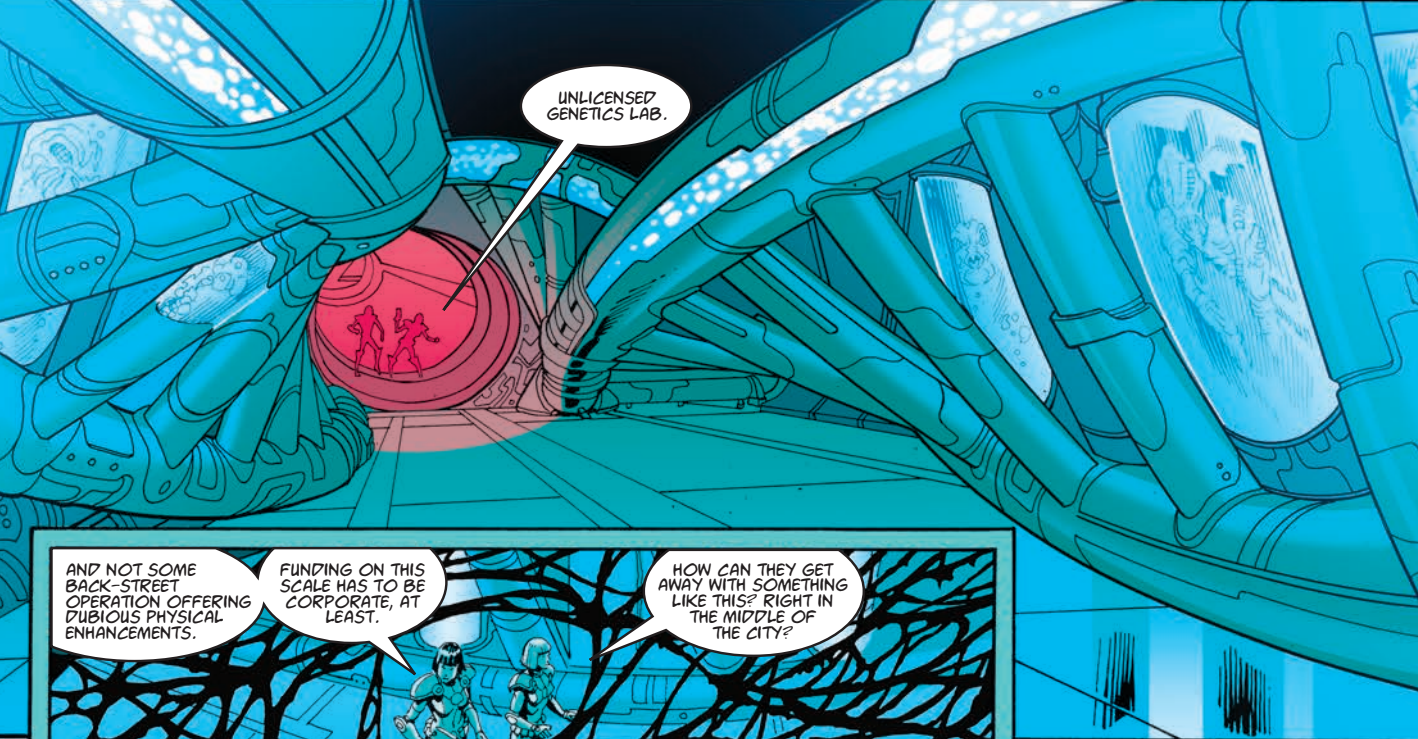
SORRY, MA'AM, IT'S... THE BODY'S PUTREFYING AT AN INCREIBLE RATE, MELTING FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

SOME SORT OF TOXIN OR CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENT, MAYBE...

UH, INSPECTOR? OPERATIONS SAID FOR US TO —

OPERATIONS CAN KISS MY ARSE. WE'RE THE ONES ON THE SCENE, SO I'M MAKING A JUDGEMENT CALL.

THERE COULD BE PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE, HURT, IN DANGER...



UNLICENSED
GENETICS LAB.

AND NOT SOME
BACK-STREET
OPERATION OFFERING
DUBIOUS PHYSICAL
ENHANCEMENTS.

FUNDING ON THIS
SCALE HAS TO BE
CORPORATE, AT
LEAST.

HOW CAN THEY GET
AWAY WITH SOMETHING
LIKE THIS? RIGHT IN
THE MIDDLE OF
THE CITY?



OUR
CORPORATIONS
THINK THEY'RE A
LAW UNTO THEM-
SELVES.

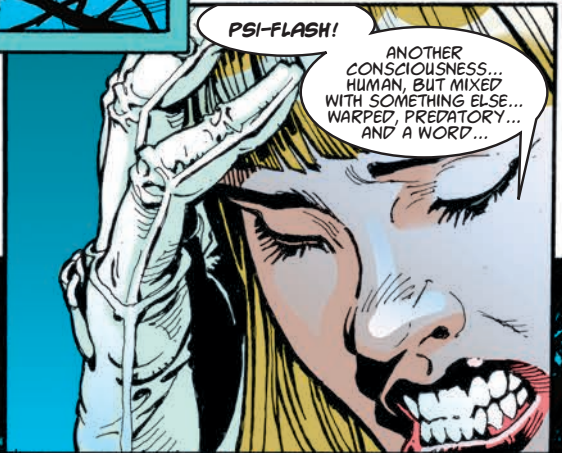
THE FUN PART
IS PROVING TO
THEM THAT
THEY'RE NOT.

UHHN!



PSI-FLASH!

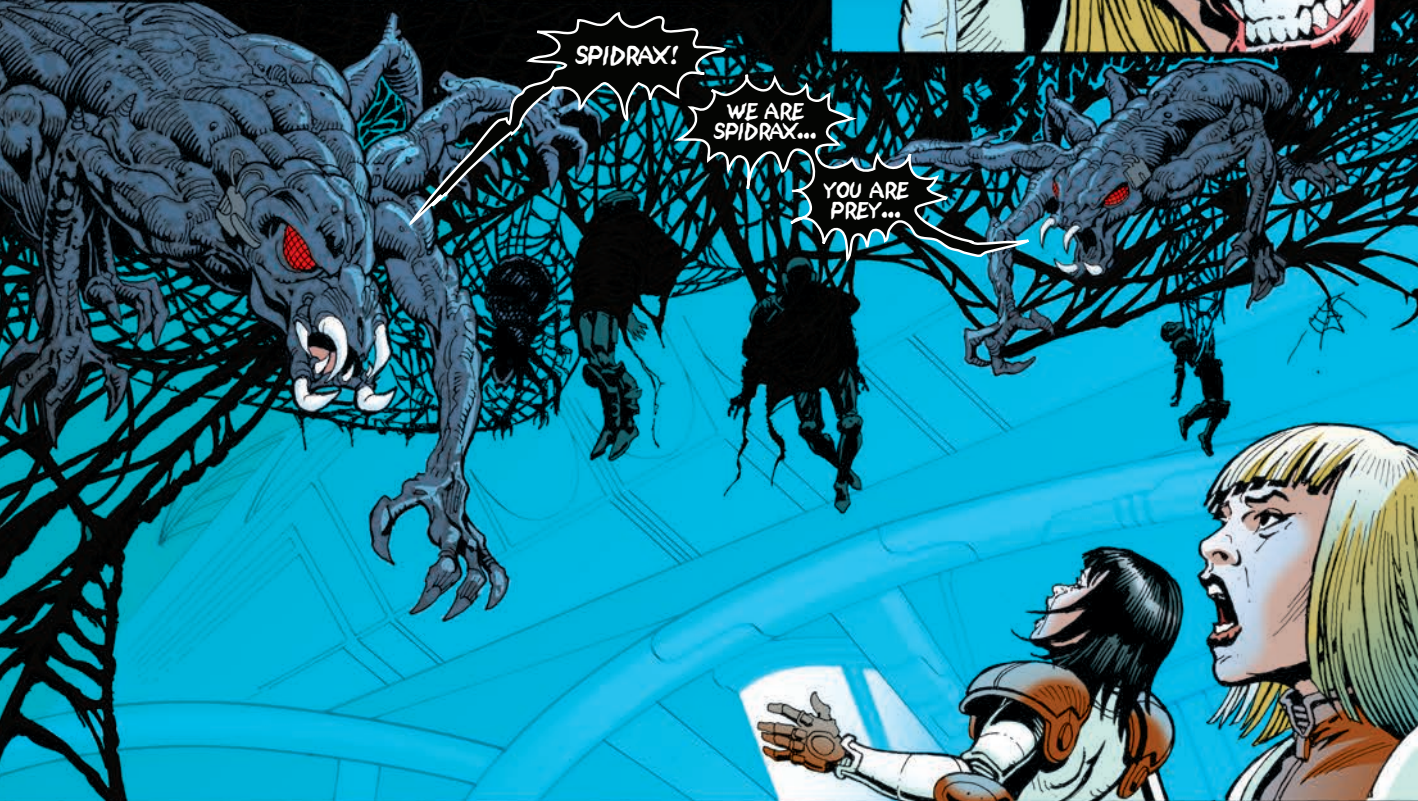
ANOTHER
CONSCIOUSNESS...
HUMAN, BUT MIXED
WITH SOMETHING ELSE...
WARPED, PREDATORY...
AND A WORD...



SPIDRAX!

WE ARE
SPIDRAX...

YOU ARE
PREY...







JUNKO!

TIME
TO START
THINKING BAD
THOUGHTS!

CADET JUNKO ASAHARA IS THE FIRST
AND PROBABLY ONLY GRADUATE
OF THE NOW-DISGRACED OTOMO
PROGRAMME, DESIGNED TO TURN
CHILDREN WITH PSIONIC POWERS
INTO LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

SHE POSSESSES TELEKINETIC
ABILITIES THAT RANK HER NOT
FAR SHORT OF A WEAPON OF
MASS DESTRUCTION — WHICH
DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE HER
THE EASIEST OF PUPILS.

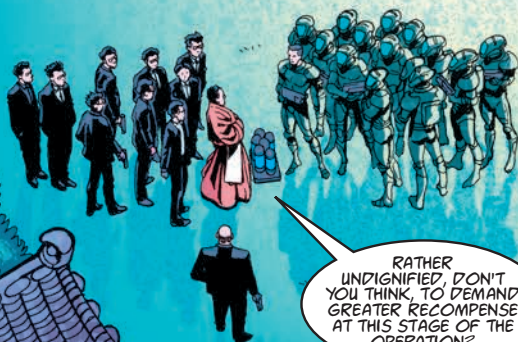
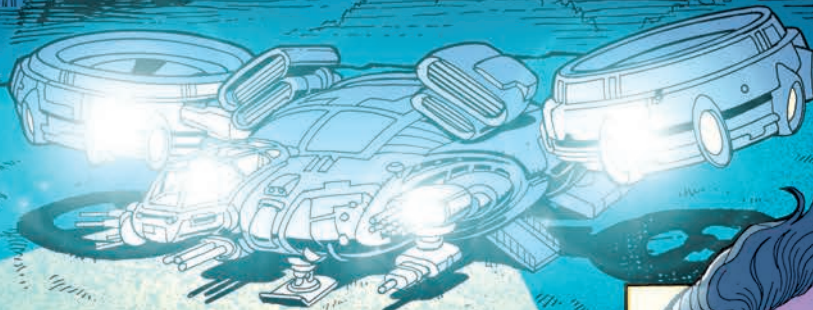
OUTLAW
GENETICS, DEAD
MERCENARIES,
VENOMOUS
SPIDER-MEN!

WE
CAUGHT A
GOOP ONE,
HUH,
INSPECTOR!

GLAD YOU
THINK SO.

SOME DAYS, ALL I
WANT IS A NICE, SIMPLE,
STRAIGHTFORWARD
MURDER.

MOUNT KOYA, WAKAYAMA
PREFECTURE.



RATHER
UNDIGNIFIED, DON'T
YOU THINK, TO DEMAND
GREATER RECOMPENSE
AT THIS STAGE OF THE
OPERATION?

UN-
PROFESSIONAL
TOO, A LESS PATIENT
MAN THAN ME MIGHT
ARGUE.

NOT
MUCH DIGNITY IN
GETTING TORN TO
PIECES BY A HORDE
OF GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED INSECT
HYBRIDS.

I LOST A
LOT OF GOOD
MEN TODAY,
ONADA.



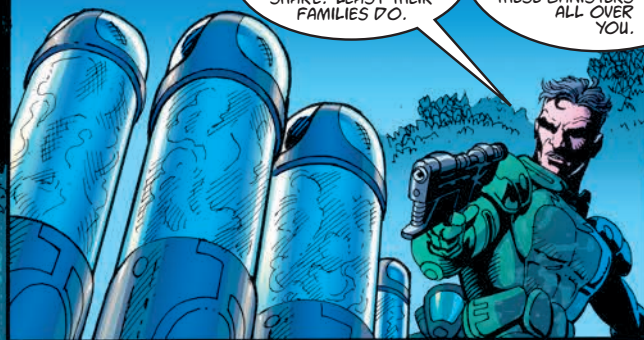
REALLY? I WAS UNDER THE
IMPRESSION THAT I HAD
ENGAGED THE SERVICES OF
BAD MEN. AMORAL, AT
THE LEAST.

PAYMENT TERMS AS AGREED. THE
FACT THAT SOME OF YOUR
COMRADES DIDN'T RETURN
AUTOMATICALLY MEANS MORE
MONEY FOR THE REST
OF YOU.



THEY DIDN'T RETURN
'CAUSE YOUR INTEL WAS
BULLSHIT. DEAD OR
ALIVE, THEY GET THEIR
SHARE. 'LEAST THEIR
FAMILIES D'O.

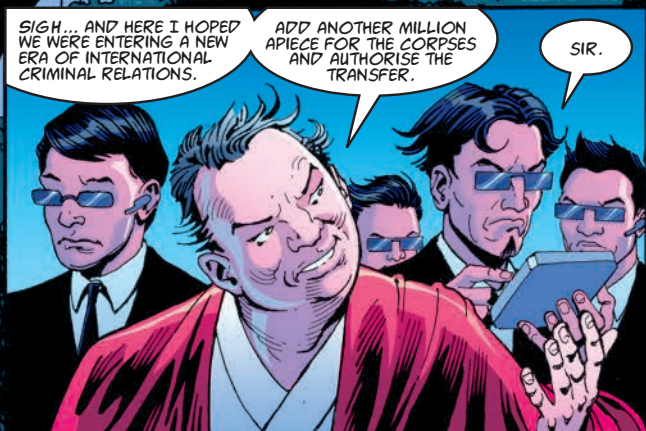
YOU MAKE GOOD
FOR THEIR DEATHS
OR I'LL BLAST
WHATEVER'S IN
THESE CANISTERS
ALL OVER
YOU.



SIGH... AND HERE I HOPED
WE WERE ENTERING A NEW
ERA OF INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL RELATIONS.

ADD ANOTHER MILLION
APIECE FOR THE CORPSES
AND AUTHORISE THE
TRANSFER.

SIR.



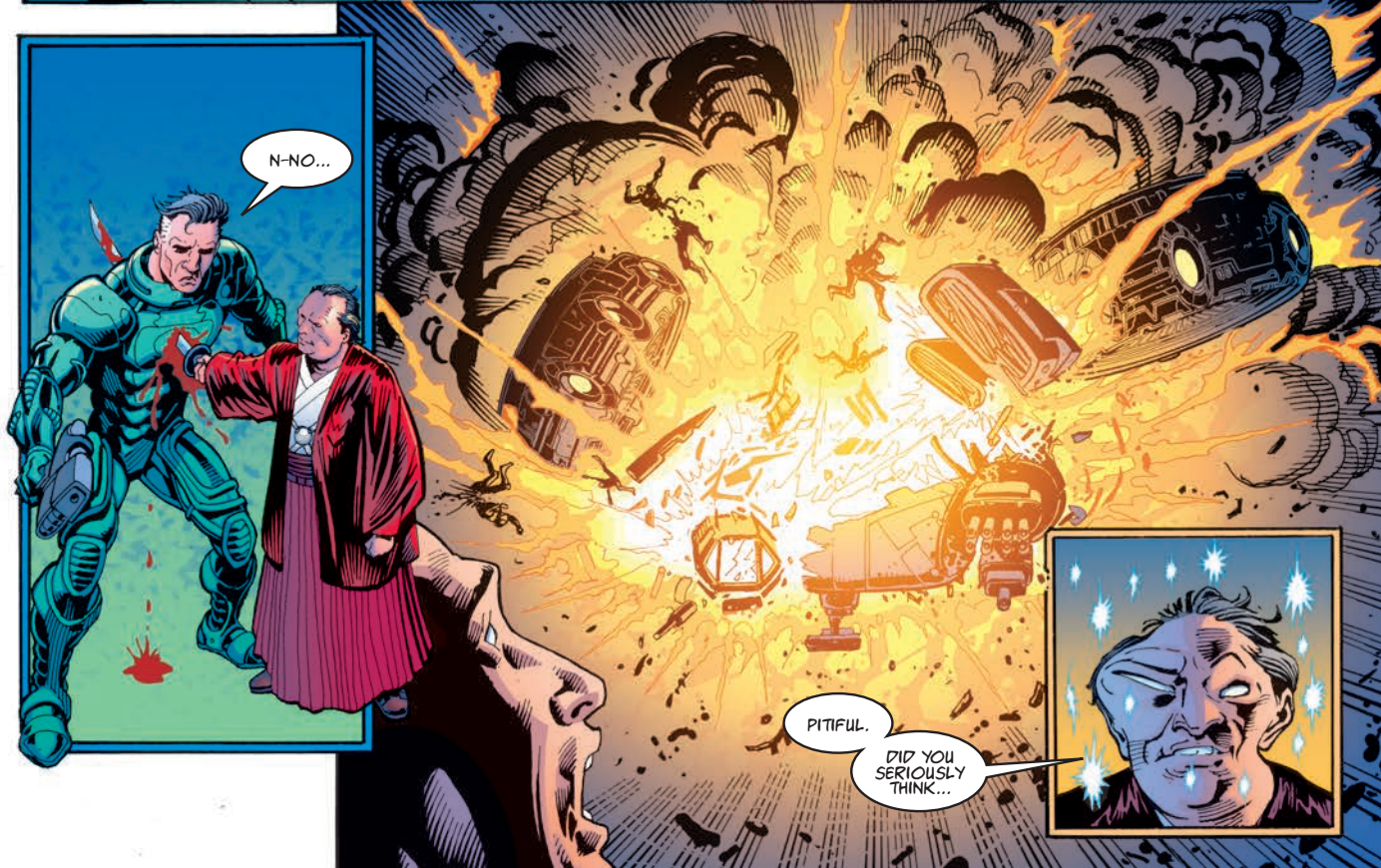
TRANSFER'S
COMPLETE,
COMMANDER.

PLUS THE
BONUS.

THEN WE'RE
DONE.

START
LOADING
UP.







... THAT THE OYABUN — THE GODFATHER — OF THE IGARASHI-KAI YAKUZA SOCIETY WOULD DEIGN TO MEET A GAIJIN — A BARBARIAN — LIKE YOU IN PERSON?

D-DROKK HIM...



... AND DROKK YOU!



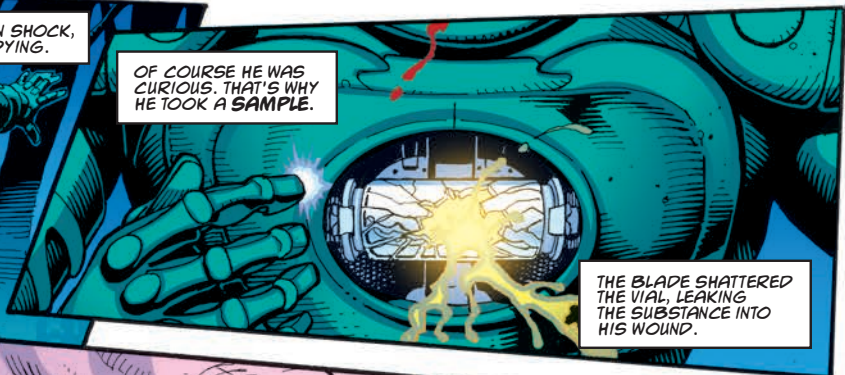
THE GAIJIN'S RUNNING! CUT HIM DOWN!

HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE, LET ALONE RUN, FIGHT.



A WOUND LIKE THIS, HE SHOULD BE FLAT ON HIS BACK.

IN SHOCK, DYING.



OF COURSE HE WAS CURIOUS. THAT'S WHY HE TOOK A SAMPLE.

THE BLADE SHATTERED THE VIAL, LEAKING THE SUBSTANCE INTO HIS WOUND.



HE CAN FEEL IT, COURSE THROUGH HIM LIKE RAGE, HIS THOUGHTS TURNING SAVAGE.

OKUNO-IN CEMETERY.

HEY,
GAIJIN!

NICE
OF YOU TO
BRING US TO A
CEMETERY.

HE'S
A DEAD MAN
WALKING.

WHERE
ELSE WOULD
HE GO?

RRRRRRRR...

GGGGRRRRRRRAAAAAHHH!



OUCH.

STILL, HARD TO FEEL SORRY FOR A MAN I KNOW IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THREE GANGLAND MURDERS THAT I COULDN'T PROVE.

NAOTO TATSUMI, ENFORCER FOR THE IGARASHI-KAI YAKUZA SOCIETY.

ANOTHER ONE OVER HERE, INSPECTOR.

'LEAST I THINK IT IS. HARD TO TELL. HE'S BEEN POUNDED TO A PULP.



OKUNO-IN CEMETERY, WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE.

BETTER TELL FORENSICS THERE'S ANOTHER TWO DOWN HERE.

OPERATIONS TO INABA.

SHOGUN JUDGE KOBAYASHI REQUESTS A SIT-REP.

JUSTICE CENTRAL, TOKYO DISTRICT.



ANOTHER HEADLINE-GRABBING CASE, INSPECTOR?

YOU AND CADET ASAHARA ARE BECOMING QUITE THE CELEBRITIES. JUST AS WELL YOU'RE BOTH PHOTOGENIC.

IS THE AIRCRAFT AT WAKAYAMA THE SAME AS THE ONE SPY-SKY SPOTTED LEAVING TSUKUBA DISTRICT AFTER THE ASSAULT?



YEAH.

AND WE'VE GOT BODIES GALORE — THREE MORE DEAD MERCENARIES LIKE THOSE IN TSUKUBA AND AT LEAST ONE KNOWN ENFORCER FOR THE IGARASHI-KAI.

NICE OF HIPEYUKI ONADA TO LEAVE US SOME INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE FOR A CHANGE.

I'LL ORDER SURVEILLANCE ON HIM. FIRST...

FRAUD DIVISION HAD TO GO THROUGH A WEB OF FRONT COMPANIES AND ENCRYPTION-SHIELDS, BUT THEY'VE LOCATED THE TRUE OWNERS OF MONOGATARI LABORATORIES...

TOHO GENETICS, KYOTO PREFECTURE.

AMAZINGLY, WE DON'T HAVE TO GET TOUGH, THOUGH I WAS RATHER LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

ITTO WATANABE — HEAD OF TOHO GENETICS — HAS A CONSCIENCE.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE **PRESSURE**. SHARE-HOLDERS, PROFITS... I KNEW IT WAS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, BUT...

DIDN'T PREVENT HIM COMMITTING THE CRIME, BUT HE'S CERTAINLY SORRY NOW THAT HE'S BEEN CAUGHT.

POTENTIALLY?

WE RESPONDED TO AN ALARM AND WERE ALMOST EATEN BY A HORDE OF **CANNIBALISTIC SPIDER-MEN!**

SO SORRY!

OUR FIRST TEST SUBJECTS. WE CALL THEM **SPIDRAX**. THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN CONTAINED, CONTROLLED...

THE ATTACKERS MUST HAVE BREACHED THE SYSTEM, RELEASED THEM INADVERTENTLY...

THERE WAS A VAULT, IN THE BASEMENT?

EMPTY.

THE **BEHEMOTH FORMULA!**

HAS ANYONE INGESTED IT?

SHRAPNEL.

NOW AND AGAIN, A THOUGHT
SURFACES, TRYING TO
REMIND HIM OF WHO HE IS.

FOR THE MOST PART, IT'S
JUST INSTINCT AND EMOTION.

RAGE. HUNGER. VENGEANCE.

HA HA HA!

THREE
YEARS AT TOKYO
UNIVERSITY —

— AND YOU END
UP DOWN HERE
WITH ME?

A
SANITATION
ENGINEER? A SHIT-
SHOVELLER!

HEY,
TIMES ARE
TOUGH.

AND I
DON'T EXACTLY
SEE YOU USING
A SHOVEL...

SALVAGE RIGHTS,
KID. GOTTA GET
YOUR HANDS DIRTY
IF YOU WANT TO
FIND THE GOOD
STUFF.

THIS IS WHERE I
FOUND MY WIFE'S
WEDDING RING.

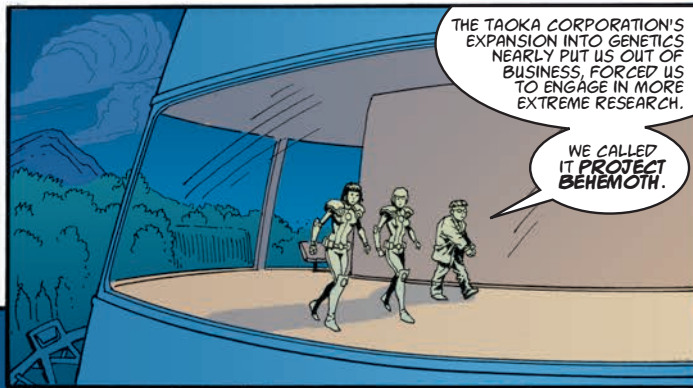
YOU OLD
ROMANTIC,
YOU...

SHE THINKS I
SAVED FOR
MONTHS.

STEP BACK,
HUH? YOU'RE
BLOCKING THE
LIGHT...

N-NOT
M-ME...

HHHHHSSSSSSSSSS!



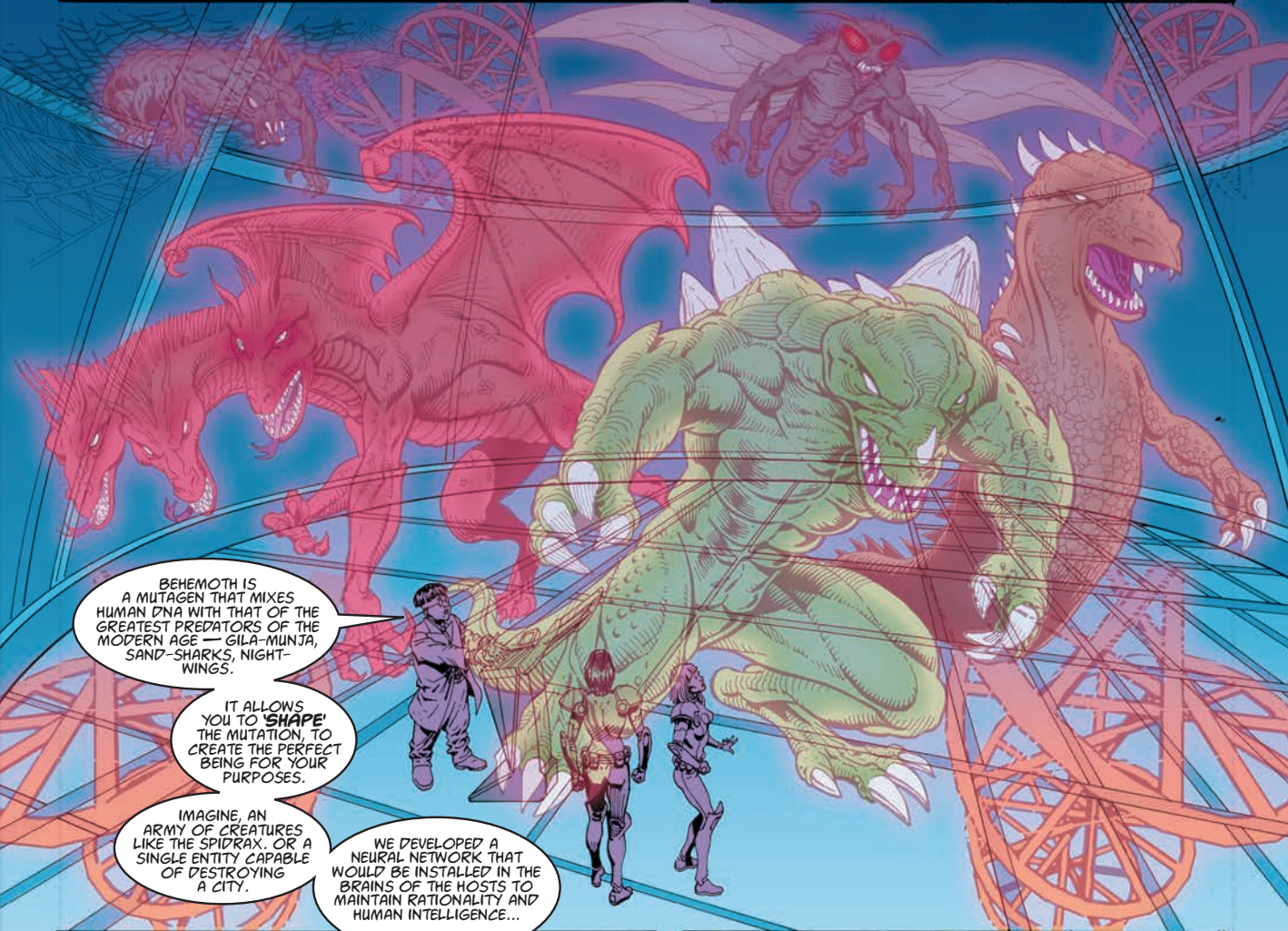
THE TACKA CORPORATION'S EXPANSION INTO GENETICS NEARLY PUT US OUT OF BUSINESS, FORCED US TO ENGAGE IN MORE EXTREME RESEARCH.

WE CALLED IT **PROJECT BEHEMOTH**.



THEY ALWAYS HAVE TO GIVE THESE THINGS BIG, IMPRESSIVE TITLES, CADET.

MUST BE A MALE THING.



BEHEMOTH IS A MUTAGEN THAT MIXES HUMAN DNA WITH THAT OF THE GREATEST PREDATORS OF THE MODERN AGE — GILA-MUNJA, SAND-SHARKS, NIGHT-WINGS.

IT ALLOWS YOU TO **'SHAPE'** THE MUTATION, TO CREATE THE PERFECT BEING FOR YOUR PURPOSES.

IMAGINE, AN ARMY OF CREATURES LIKE THE SPIDRAX. OR A SINGLE ENTITY CAPABLE OF DESTROYING A CITY.

WE DEVELOPED A NEURAL NETWORK THAT WOULD BE INSTALLED IN THE BRAINS OF THE HOSTS TO MAINTAIN RATIONALITY AND HUMAN INTELLIGENCE...



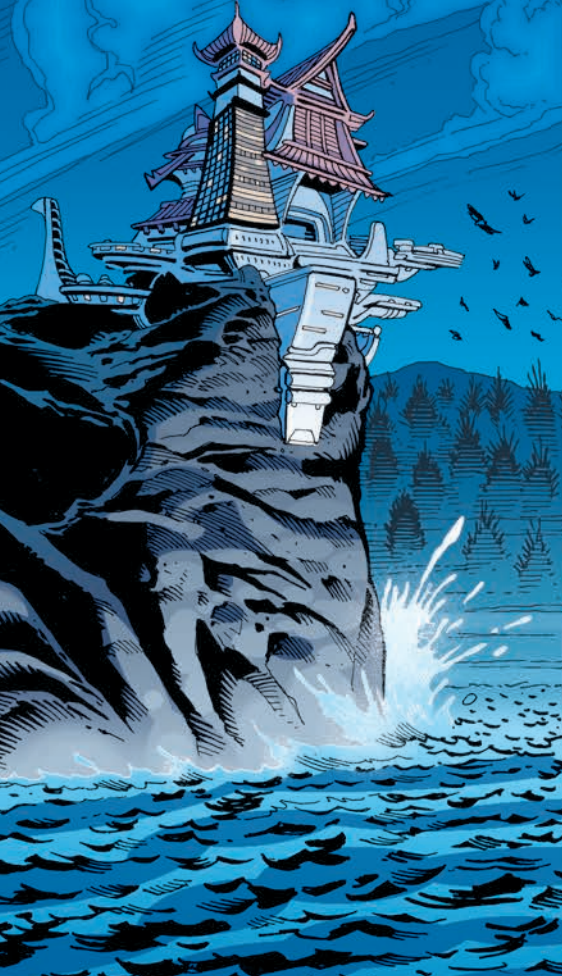
RIGHT.

IN CASE THE REALITY OF BEING TURNED INTO A MONSTER PROVE THEM MAD AND THEY SLAUGHTERED THE HEARTLESS BASTARDS WHO CREATED THEM.



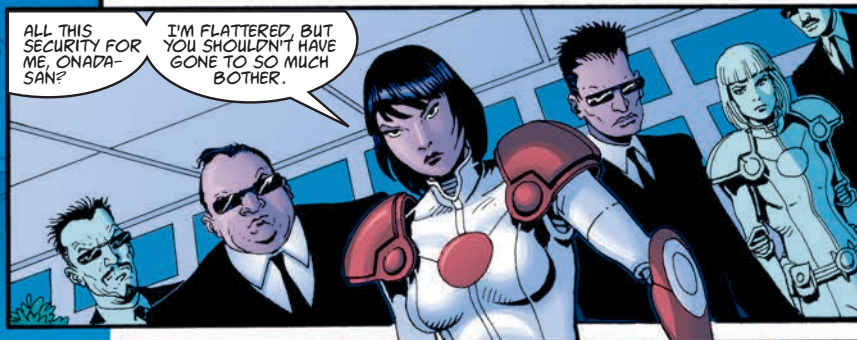
OR WORSE, DESTROY EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING THAT GETS IN THEIR WAY...

THE YOKOHAMA
COASTLINE.



ALL THIS
SECURITY FOR
ME, ONADA-
SAN?

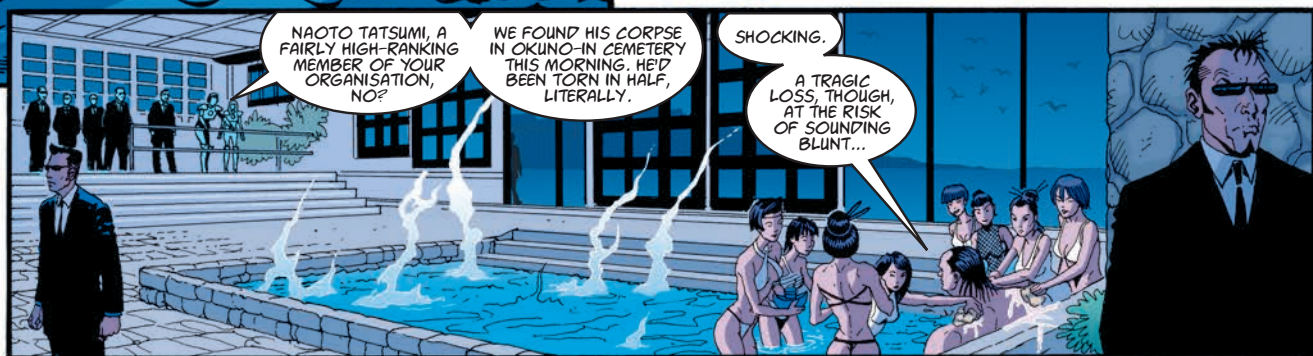
I'M FLATTERED, BUT
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE
GONE TO SO MUCH
BOTHER.



NO OFFENCE,
INSPECTOR, BUT I
HAVE LITTLE FAITH IN
THE ABILITY OF THE
JUDGES TO PROTECT
CITIZENS OF MY
STATUS.

WON'T YOU
JOIN ME? WASH
AWAY THE RIGOURS
OF A HARD DAY'S
ENFORCEMENT?

NO OFFENCE,
ONADA-SAN, BUT
I'D NEED A GUN
AT MY HEAD.



NAOTO TATSUMI, A
FAIRLY HIGH-RANKING
MEMBER OF YOUR
ORGANISATION,
NO?

WE FOUND HIS CORPSE
IN OKUNO-IN CEMETERY
THIS MORNING. HE'D
BEEN TORN IN HALF,
LITERALLY.

SHOCKING.

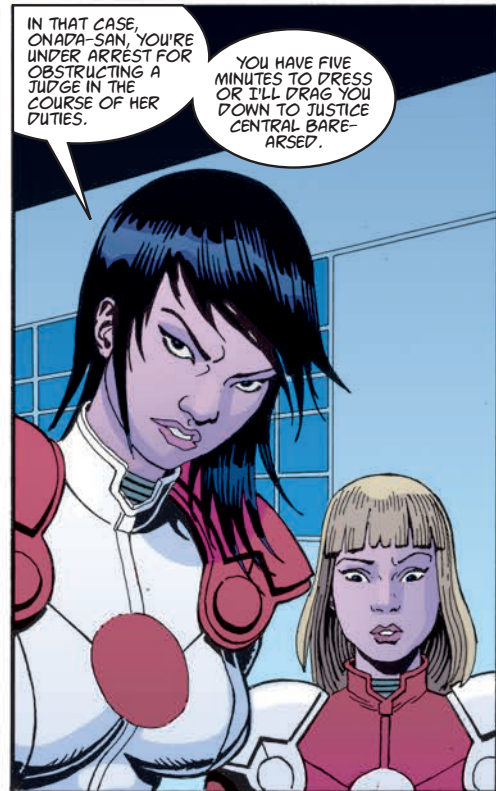
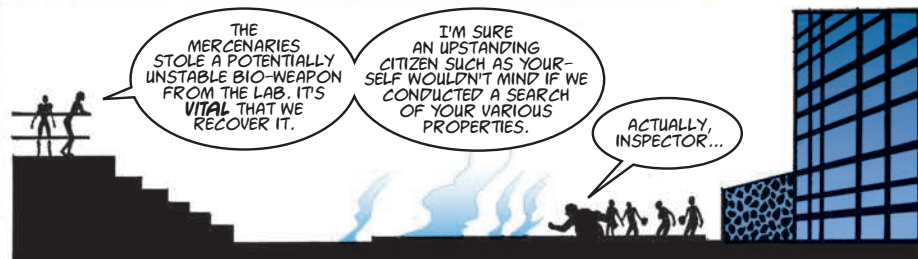
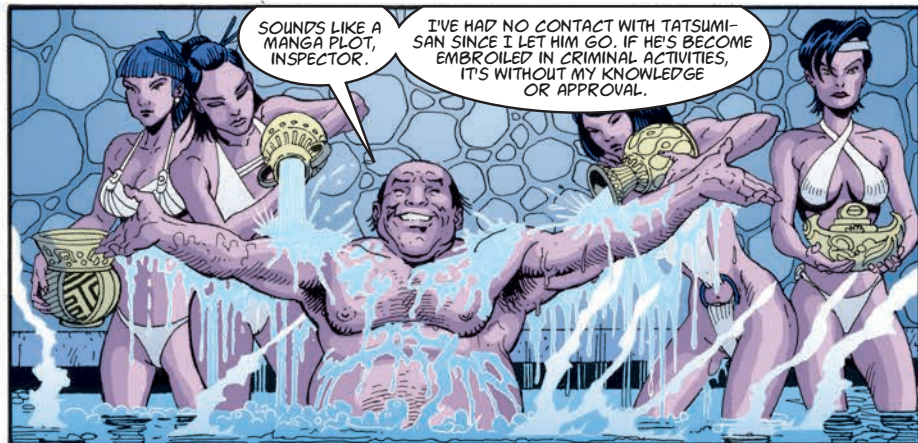
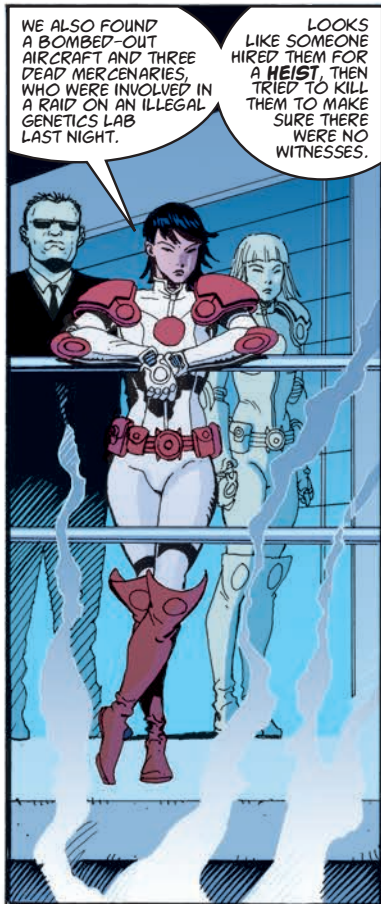
A TRAGIC
LOSS, THOUGH,
AT THE RISK
OF SOUNDING
BLUNT...

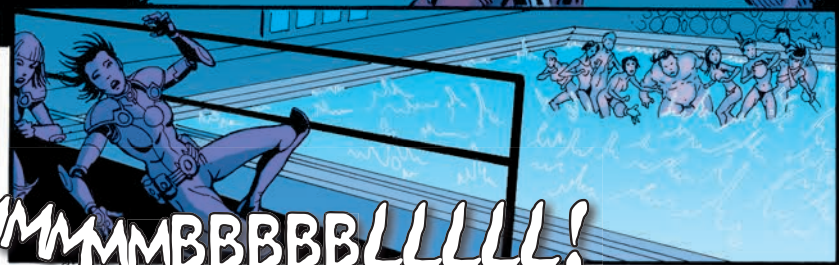
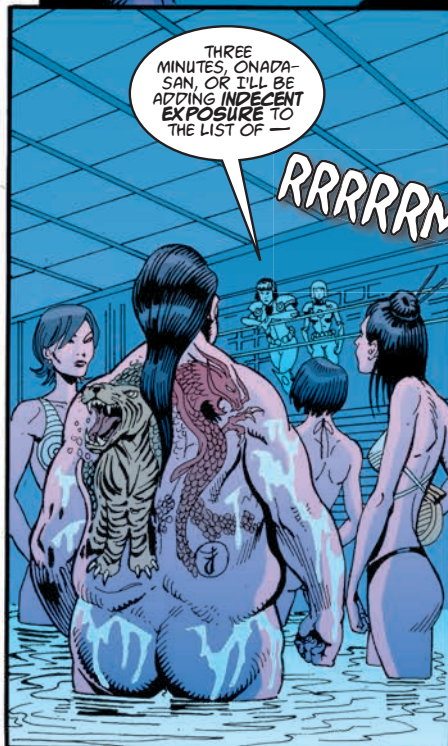
... NOT TO ME.

I
TERMINATED
TATSUMI-SAN'S
EMPLOYMENT OVER
TWO WEEKS AGO
AND HAVEN'T SEEN
HIM SINCE.

I
CAN SUPPLY
THE RELEVANT
PAPERWORK, BUT
ASSURE YOU
IT'S ALL IN
ORDER.









AAAAHHHHHH!

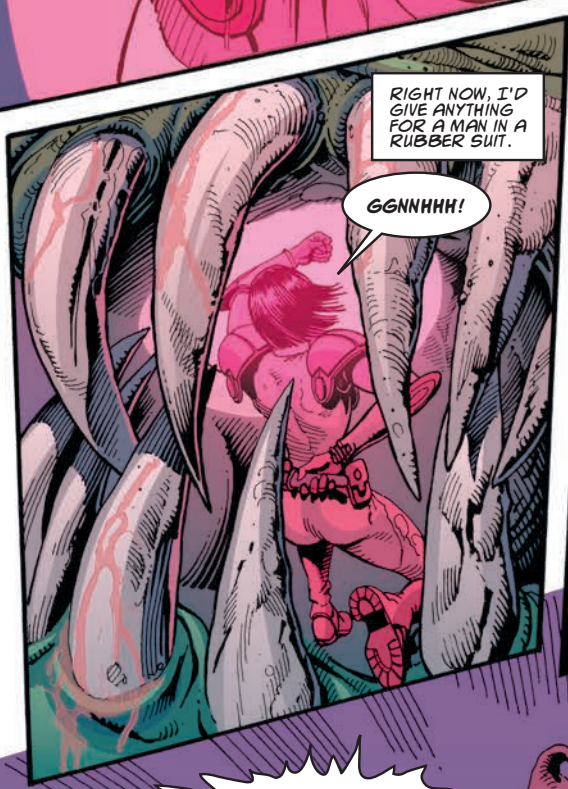
Mike
Chiff 12





A LIFETIME AGO, WHEN I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE LAW, MY SISTER AND ME USED TO KILL OURSELVES LAUGHING AT OLD GODZILLA MOVIES.

SHIELD!



RIGHT NOW, I'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR A MAN IN A RUBBER SUIT.

GGNNHHH!



IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM DOWN...



GRRAAAAAHHHHH!



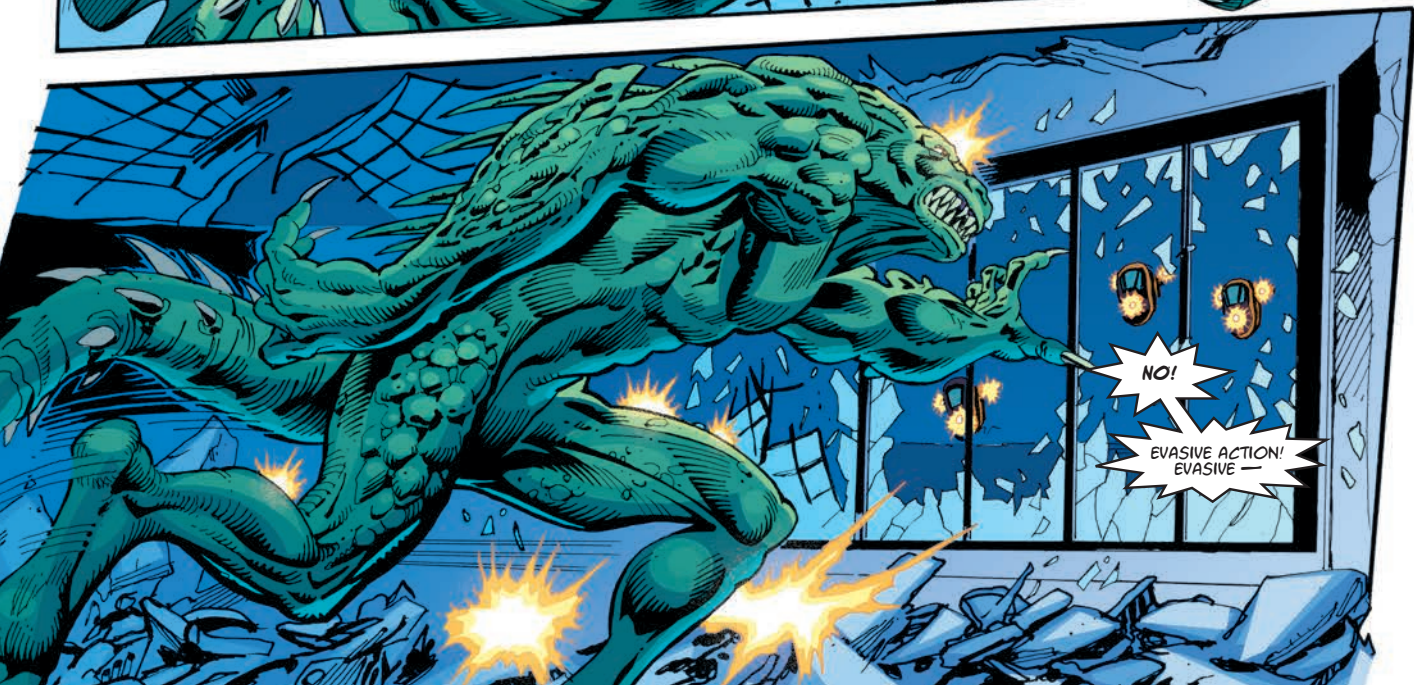
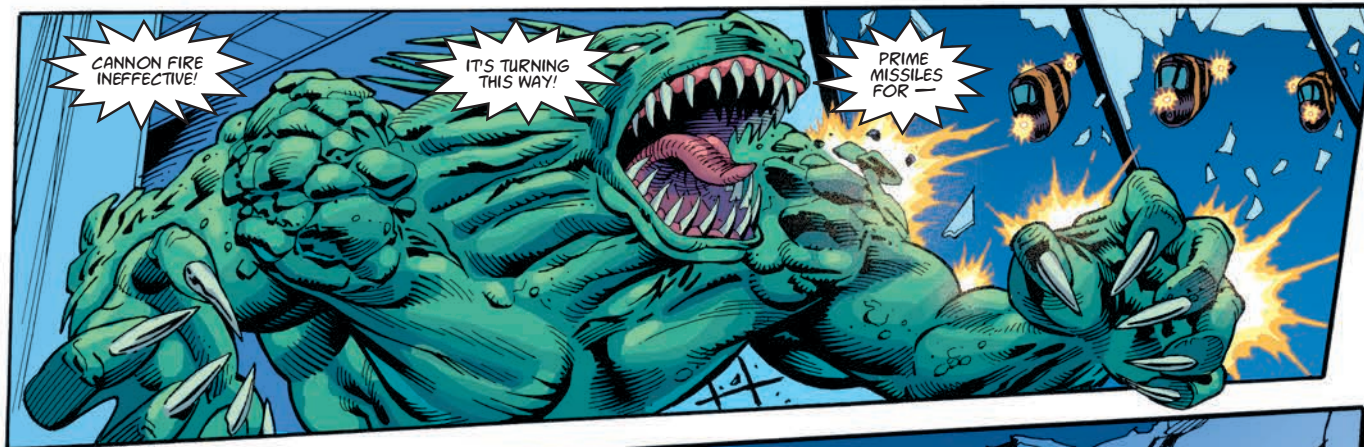
... LEAVE THEM WITH A BAD TASTE IN THEIR MOUTHS, THAT'S WHAT INSPECTOR SHIMURA USED TO SAY TO ME WHEN I WAS A CADET.

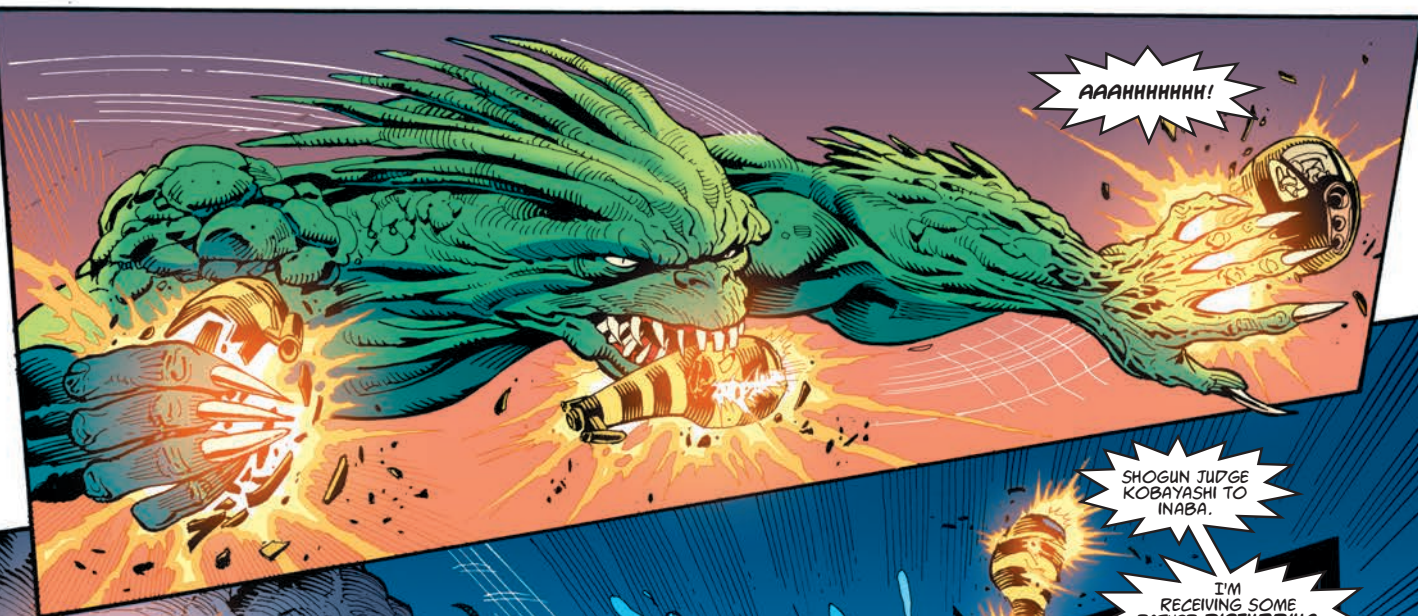
INSPECTOR INABA!

HORNET SQUAD 13
APPROACHING YOUR
LOCATION.

THE SHOGUN SENT
US IN CASE YOU REQUIRED
BACK-UP. WHAT ARE YOUR
INSTRUCTIONS?

INSTRUCTIONS?



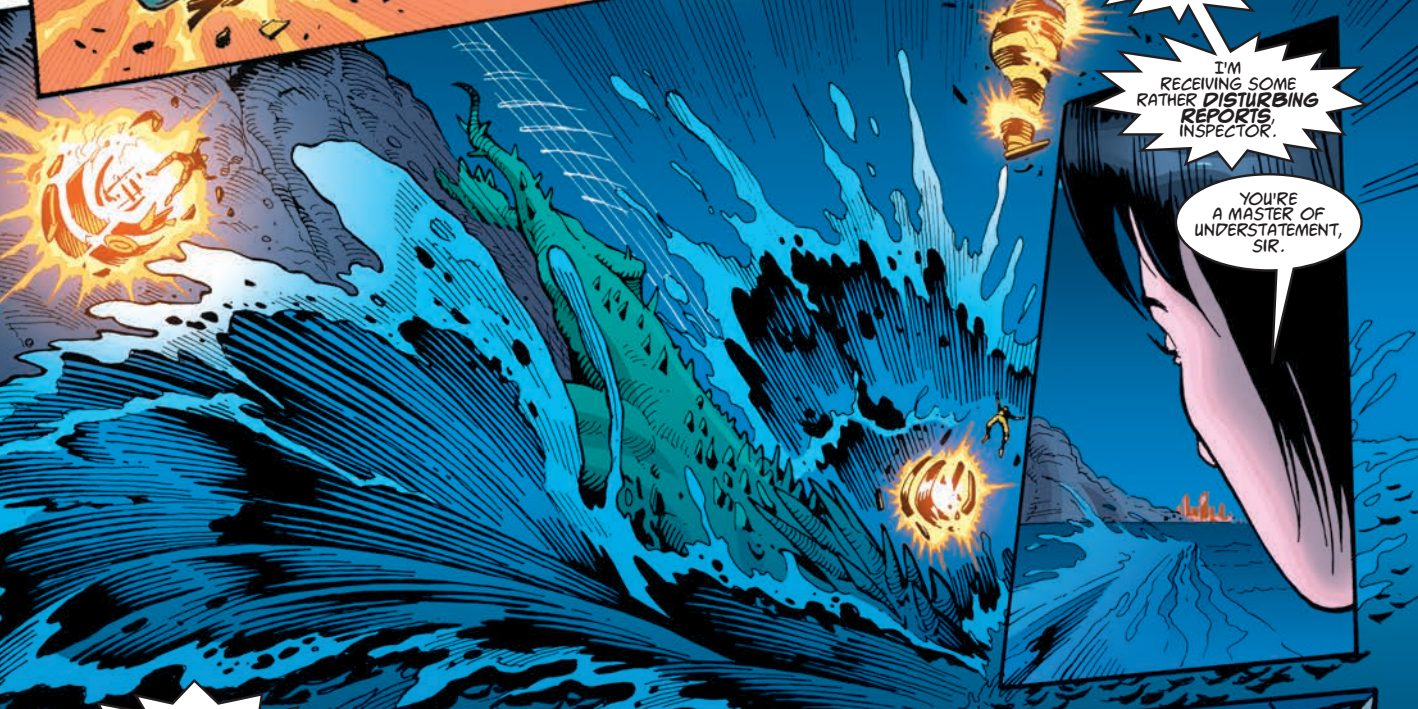


AAAAHHHHHHH!

SHOGUN JUDGE
KOBAYASHI TO
INABA.

I'M
RECEIVING SOME
RATHER **DISTURBING**
REPORTS
INSPECTOR.

YOU'RE
A MASTER OF
UNDERSTATEMENT,
SIR.



ONADA AND
HALF HIS CREW ARE
DEAD AND YOU'VE GOT A
GARGANTUAN MUTATION
CAPABLE OF MASS
DESTRUCTION HEADING
YOUR WAY.

COURTESY
OF **PROJECT**
BEHEMOTH?

LUCAS
SHRAPNEL, THE
MERCENARY LEADER,
IS STILL MISSING. I
SUSPECT HE'S
INGESTED THE
MUTAGEN.

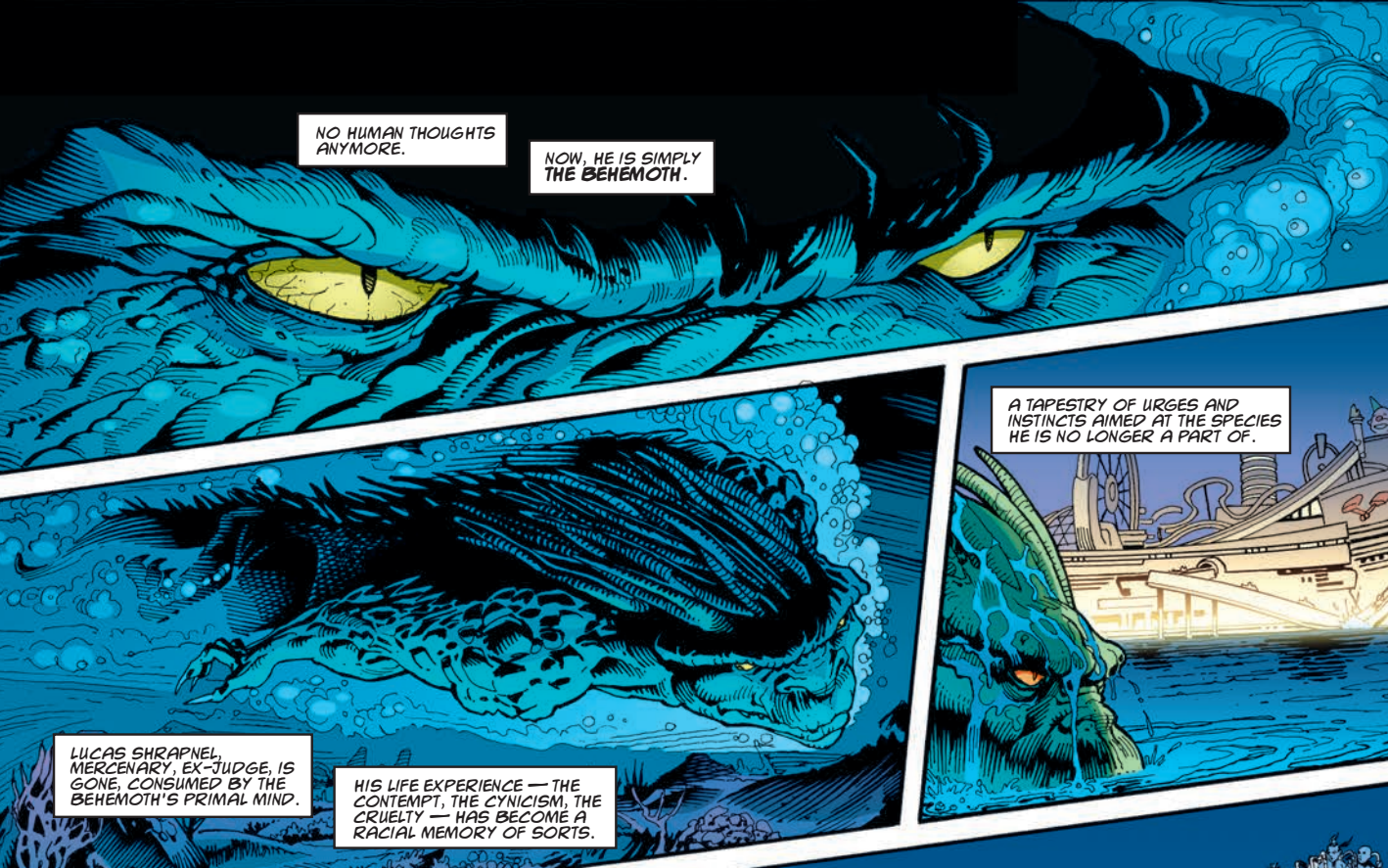


PROBABLY
NOT VOLUNTARILY,
WHICH IS WHY —

INSPECTOR!

YOU MIGHT WANT
TO TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS...





NO HUMAN THOUGHTS
ANYMORE.

NOW, HE IS SIMPLY
THE BEHEMOTH.

LUCAS SHRAPNEL,
MERCENARY, EX-JUDGE, IS
GONE, CONSUMED BY THE
BEHEMOTH'S PRIMAL MIND.

HIS LIFE EXPERIENCE — THE
CONTEMPT, THE CYNICISM, THE
CRUELTY — HAS BECOME A
RACIAL MEMORY OF SORTS.

A TAPESTRY OF URGES AND
INSTINCTS AIMED AT THE SPECIES
HE IS NO LONGER A PART OF.

RAGE.

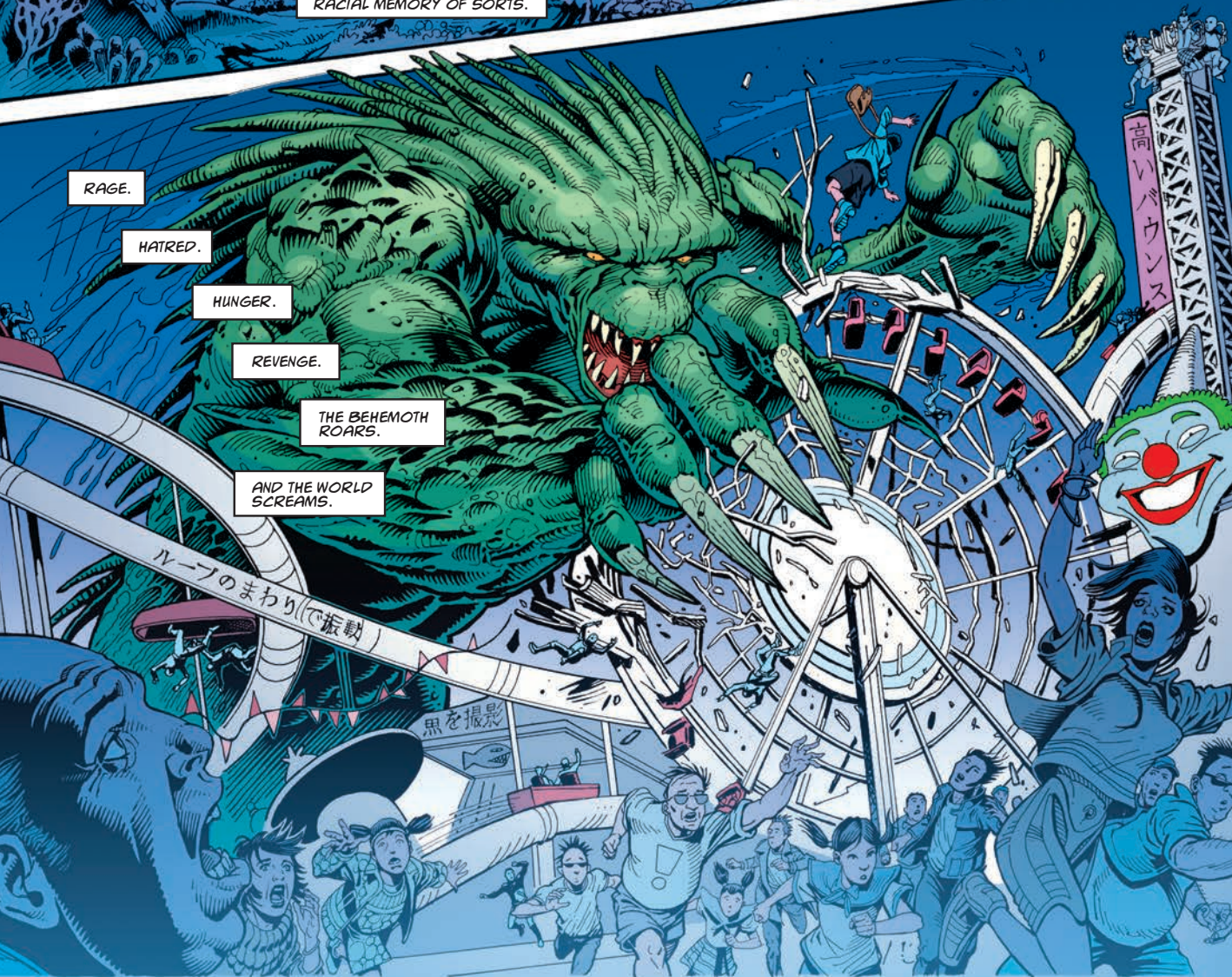
HATRED.

HUNGER.

REVENGE.

THE BEHEMOTH
ROARS.

AND THE WORLD
SCREAMS.



JUSTICE CENTRAL,
TOKYO DISTRICT.

— BAY AREA
DEVASTATED —

— STAMPEDING
CROWDS —

— HUNDREDS OF
CASUALTIES —

SHOGUN KOBAYASHI!
THE SITUATION'S CRITICAL!
YOU NEED TO AUTHORISE
A MISSILE STRIKE!

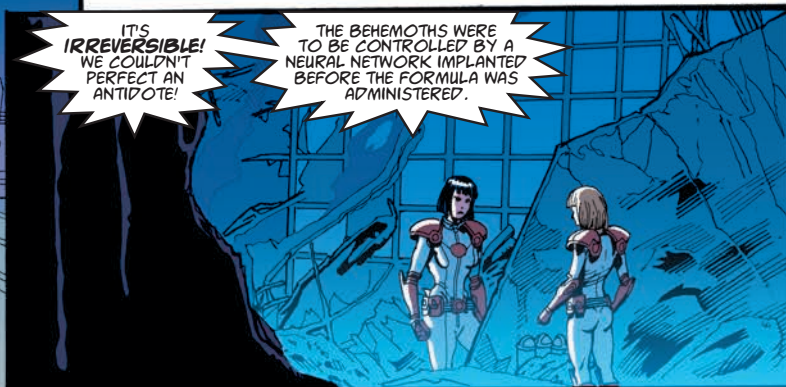
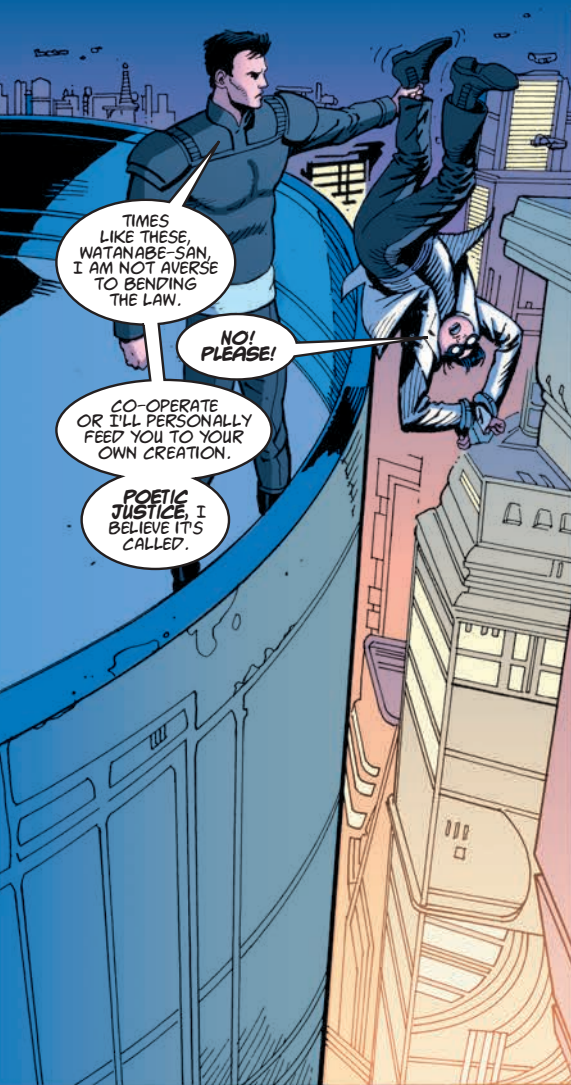
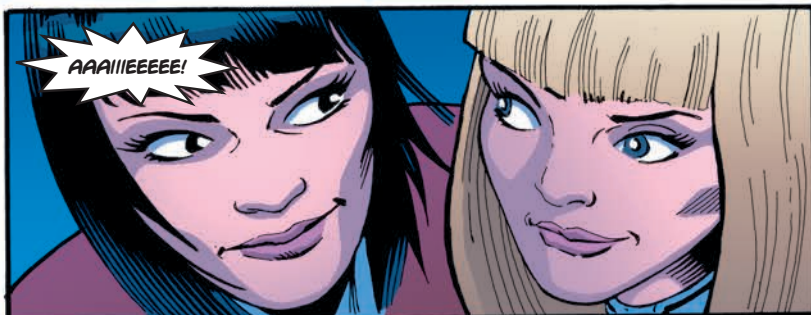
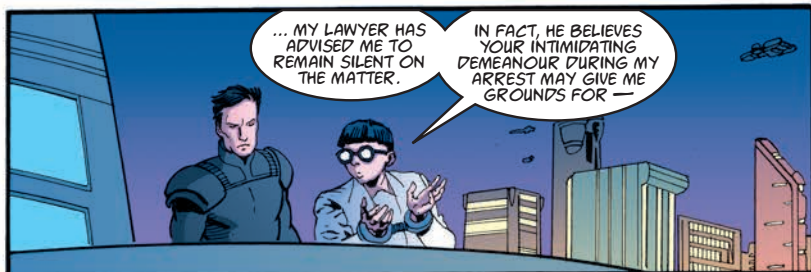
AND
DESTROY
HALF THE
CITY?

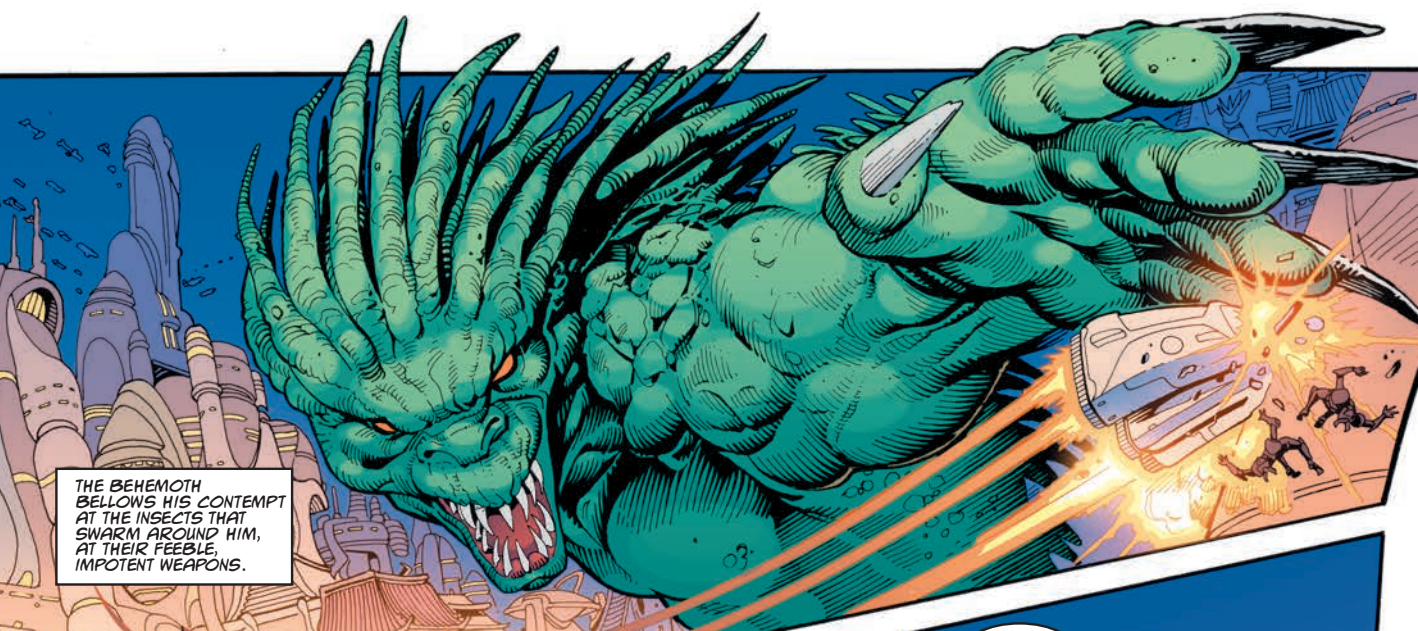
NO, SEND IN
THE MANTA TANKS. WE
NEED TO DRIVE IT INTO A
LESS POPULATED
AREA.

COMMANDER KOIKE TO
OPERATIONS. EN ROUTE
TO GINZA DISTRICT TO
INTERCEPT.

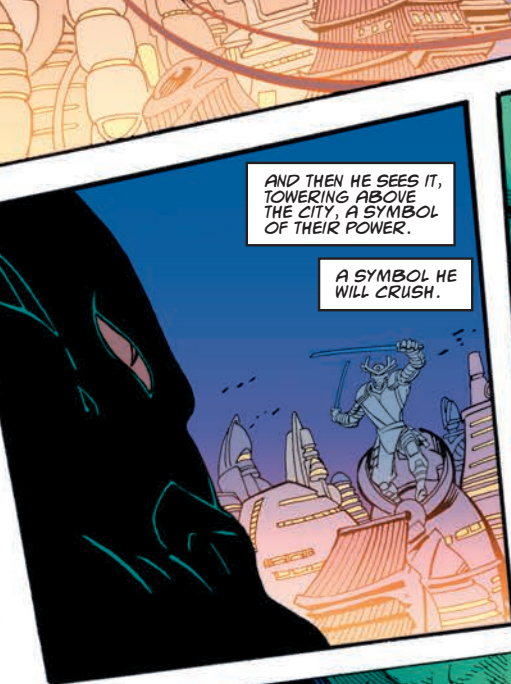
NO SIGN OF
THE CREATURE YET,
BUT —

RRRRROOARRRRR!



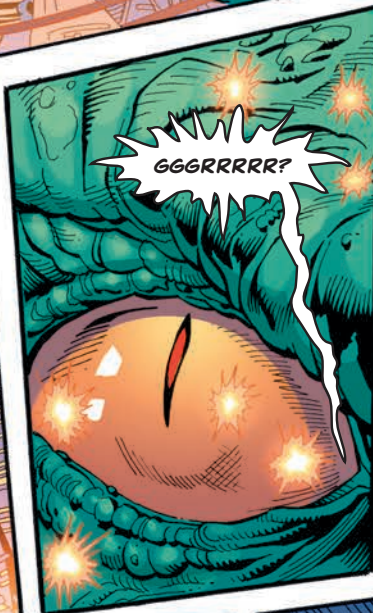


THE BEHEMOTH
BELLOWS HIS CONTEMPT
AT THE INSECTS THAT
SWARM AROUND HIM,
AT THEIR FEEBLE,
IMPOTENT WEAPONS.



AND THEN HE SEES IT,
TOWERING ABOVE
THE CITY, A SYMBOL
OF THEIR POWER.

A SYMBOL HE
WILL CRUSH.



GGGRRRRR?

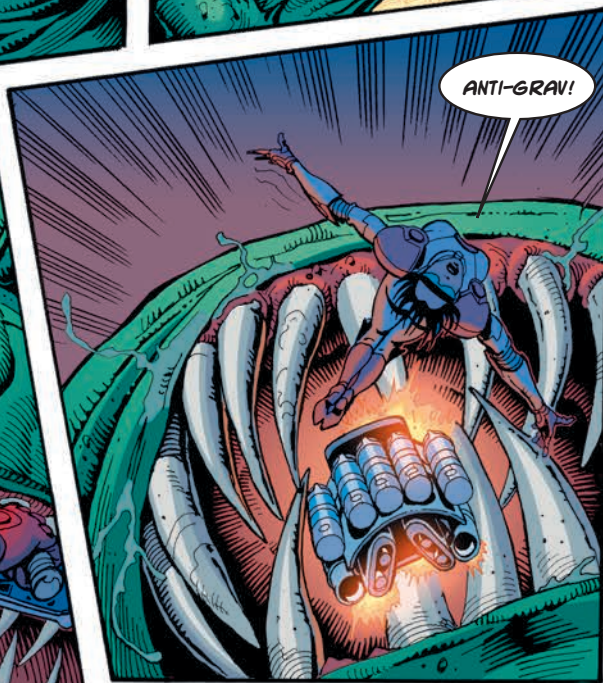


WHOA!

NICE OF
OPERATIONS TO
TELL US HE'D GOT
EVEN BIGGER!



LET'S
JUST HOPE HE
THINKS I'M
GOOD ENOUGH
TO EAT...



ANTI-GRAV!

ANTI-GRAVITY BELT —
STANDARD ISSUE SINCE
THE INTRODUCTION OF
HOVERBIKES IN 2127.

BDAM
BDAM
BDAM

SSKKSSHH!

SSKKSSHH!

SSKKSSHH!

THE BEHEMOTH
RECOGNISES THE FEMALE
FROM EARLIER, ALMOST
RESPECTS HER AUDACITY.

INABA-SAN!

ARE YOU
OKAY?

I HOPE
THAT GUNK'S
FAST-ACTING,
INSPECTOR...

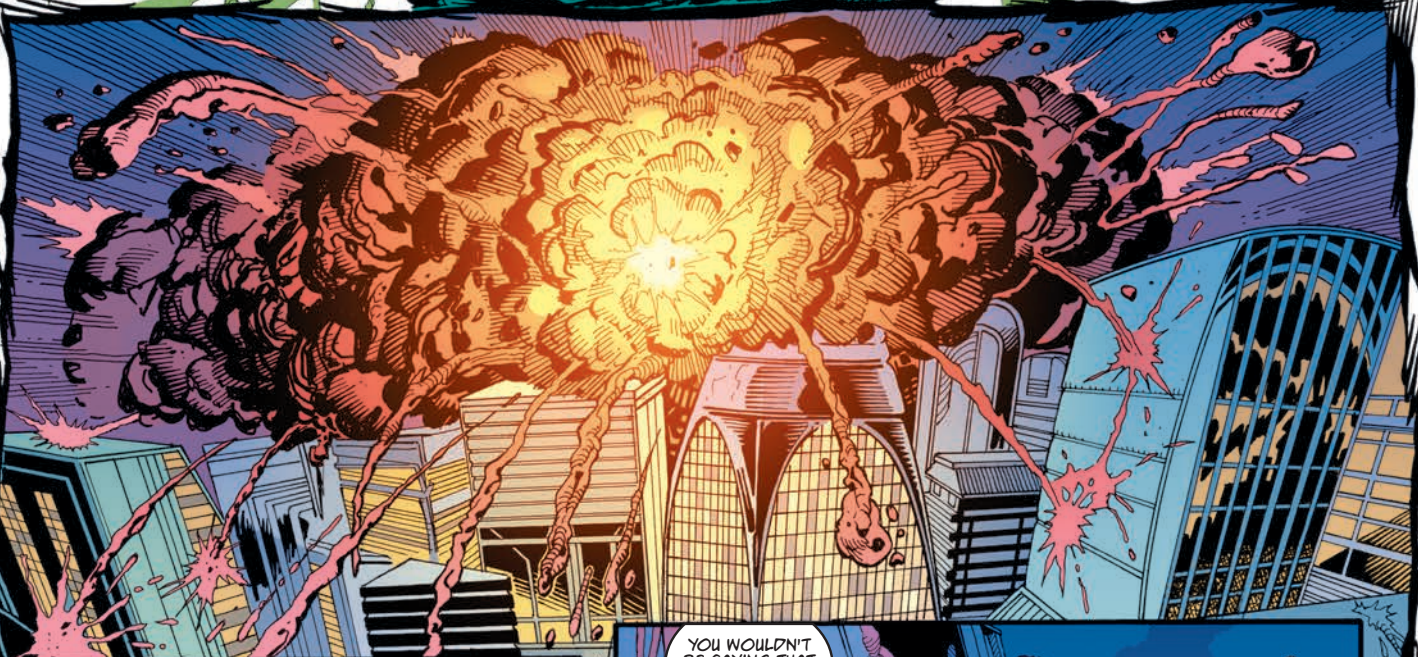
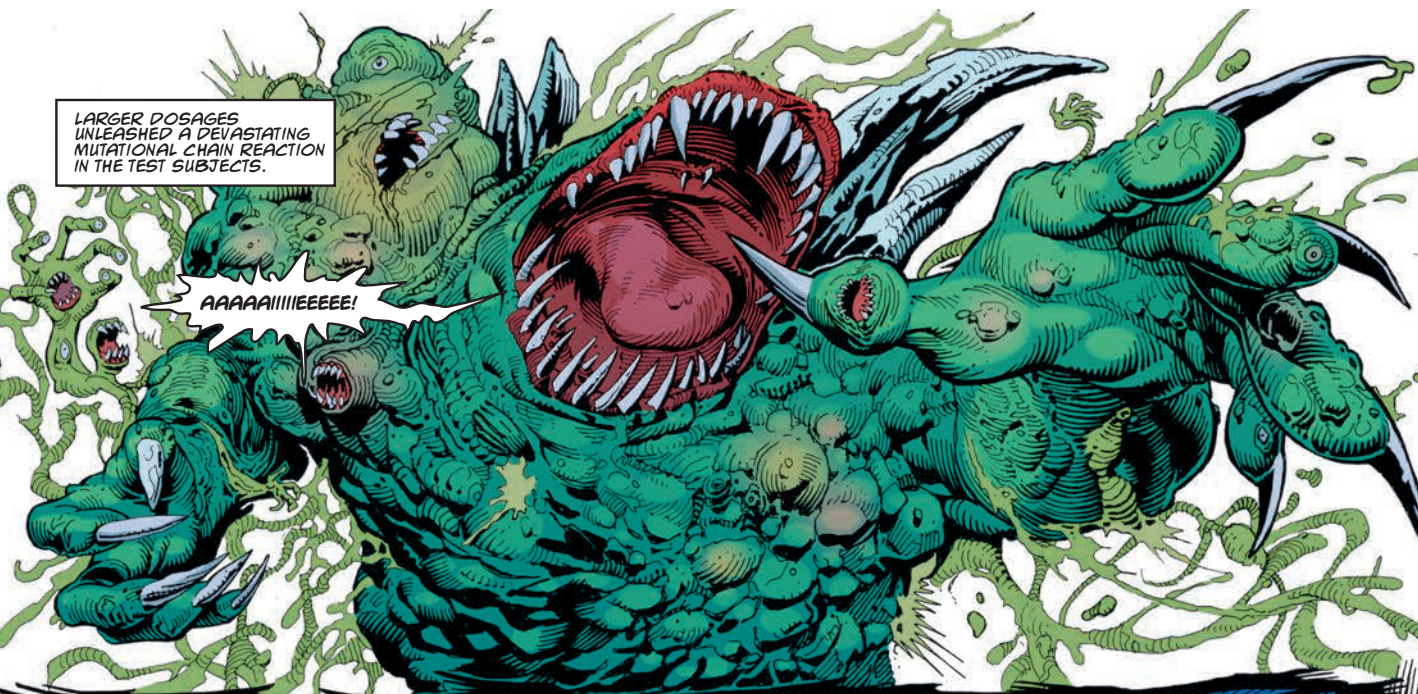
... 'CAUSE I
CAN'T HOLD
THAT SHIELD
FOR MUCH
LONG—

A
LITTLE MORE...
BREATHING
SPACE MIGHT
BE... NICE...

THE BEHEMOTH FORMULA
WAS FAR MORE POWERFUL
THAN WATANABE'S SCIENTISTS
HAD IMAGINED, ONLY NEEDING A
MINISCULE AMOUNT TO
EFFECT MASSIVE CHANGE.

LARGER DOSAGES
UNLEASHED A DEVASTATING
MUTATIONAL CHAIN REACTION
IN THE TEST SUBJECTS.

AAAAAIIIIIEEEEE!



EXCELLENT
WORK,
INSPECTOR.

I CAN
ONLY IMAGINE
THE HEADLINES —
'BEAUTY KILLS
THE BEAST!'



YOU WOULDN'T
BE SAYING THAT
IF YOU COULD
SEE ME,
SIR...



REVENGE OF THE 47 RONIN

Script: Robbie Morrison
Art: Mike Collins & Cliff Robinson
Colour: Len O'Grady
Letters: Ellie De Ville

Originally published in *Judge Dredd Magazine* 332-334

HONOUR WAS EVERYTHING TO THE ANCIENT SAMURAI.

FALSELY ACCUSED OF A HEINOUS CRIME, BUT UNABLE TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE, **ASANO NAGANORI**, THE LORD OF AKO DOMAIN, HAD NO HESITATION IN COMMITTING **SEPPUKU**.

RITUAL SUICIDE.



HE MADE NO SOUND AS HE DROVE THE BLADE INTO HIS STOMACH AND DISMEMBERED HIMSELF.



WHEN THE PAIN BECAME TOO MUCH TO BEAR WITH DIGNITY HE BOWED HIS HEAD...

A SIGNAL FOR **OISHI KURANOSUKE**, HIS FAITHFUL BODY-GUARD, TO END HIS LIFE CLEANLY.



NAGANORI'S LANDS AND PROPERTY FELL INTO THE POSSESSION OF **KIRA YOSHINAKA**, THE SCHEMING COURT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DOWNFALL.

HOWEVER, FORTY-SEVEN OF HIS FINEST WARRIORS, LED BY KURANOSUKE, REFUSED TO SERVE UNDER THEIR NEW MASTER.



THEY BECAME **RONIN**.

MASTERLESS.



FOR TWO YEARS,
NOTHING WAS
HEARD OF THEM.

THEN, IN 1703, THE
FORTY-SEVEN
RONIN TOOK
THEIR REVENGE,
SLAUGHTERING
KIRA YOSHINAKA
AND OVER TWO
HUNDRED AND
FIFTY OF HIS
SOLDIERS,
BURNING HIS
FORTRESS TO
THE GROUND.



THE SHOGUN,
WHO HAD, FOR
POLITICAL
REASONS,
EXPRESSLY
FORBIDDEN THE
SEEKING OF
VENGEANCE,
ORDERED THEIR
IMMEDIATE
ARREST.

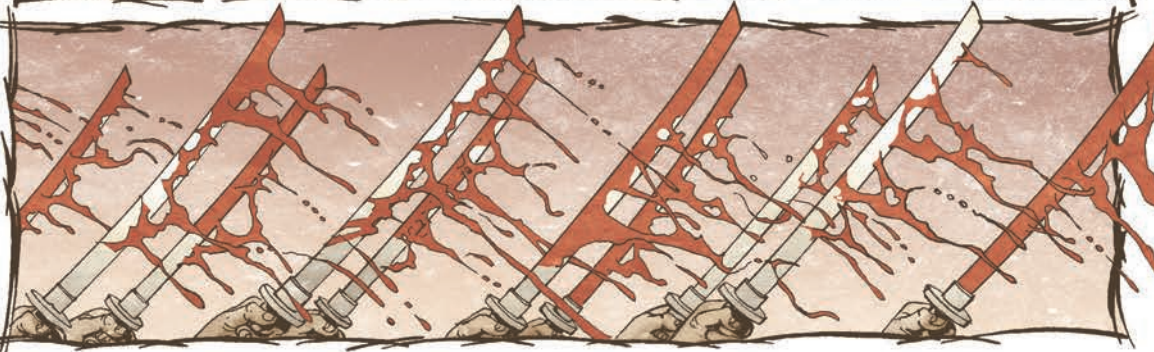


BY FOLLOWING
THE HONOUR IN
THEIR HEARTS,
THEY HAD
DISHONoured
THEIR RULER, A
TRANSGRESSION
THAT COULD NOT
BE ALLOWED TO
STAND.

THERE WAS ONLY
ONE POSSIBLE
COURSE OF
ACTION...



ON 30 JANUARY
1703, THE FORTY-
SEVEN RONIN
COMMITTED
SIMULTANEOUS
SEPPUKU.



THE BODIES OF THE
FORTY-SEVEN RONIN
WERE LAID TO REST
IN **SENGAKUJI**,
THE SPRING-HILL
TEMPLE.

AND A LEGEND
WAS BORN.

BUT OVER TIME
LEGENDS FADE.

AND EACH SUCCESSIVE
GENERATION SEEMS TO
HAVE LESS RESPECT
FOR NOTIONS OF
HONOUR OR INTEGRITY...

'HERE?'



HONDO CITY,
JAPAN, 2135 AD.





WHAT THE HELL...?

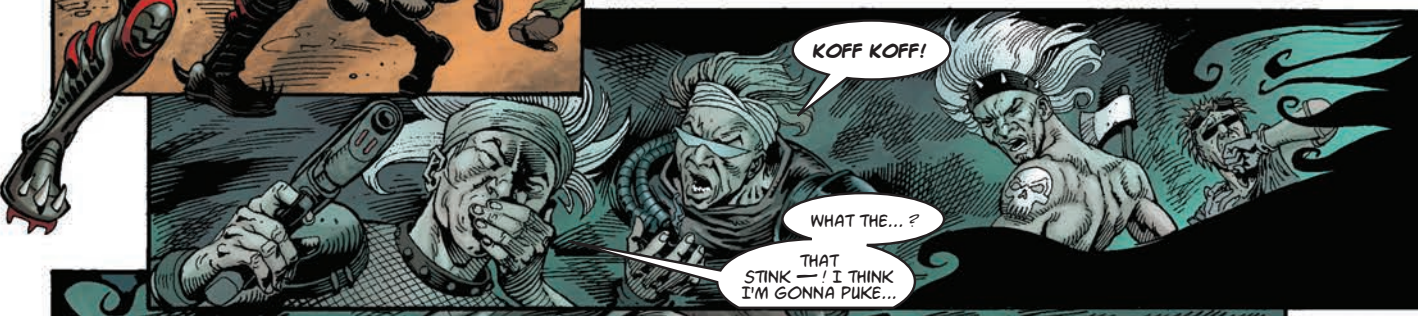
YOU SAID TO SHOOT HIM!

I WAS GONNA SAY IN THE **FOOT** OR THE **HAND** — NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE **DROKING FACE!**



HE WAS A GOOD CUSTOMER, PAID ON TIME, NEVER GAVE YOU ANY CRAP.

AND WE HAVE TO KICK A CUT UP TO THE **YAKUZA!** THEY DON'T LIKE GETTING MESSED AROUND. THEY'LL CUT OUR —



KOFF KOFF!

WHAT THE...?

THAT STINK — I THINK I'M GONNA PUKE...



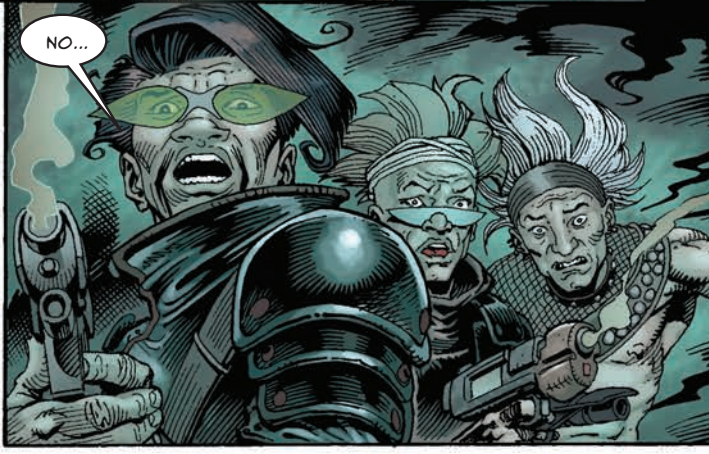
SOMETHING'S MOVING! DOZENS OF THEM!

WHAT THE **DROK** ARE THEY?



WITNESSES IS WHAT THEY ARE!

SHOOT THEIR DROKING EYES OUT!



NO...



YOU
ARE STEEPED
IN BLOOD, BUT
YOU ARE NOT
WARRIORS.

YOUR
SPIRITS ARE
CORRUPT AND
DECAYED.

YOUR SOULS
ARE
WORTHLESS.



GIVE THEM
TO A GREATER
CAUSE.



EEEEEEEEAAAAARGGHH!



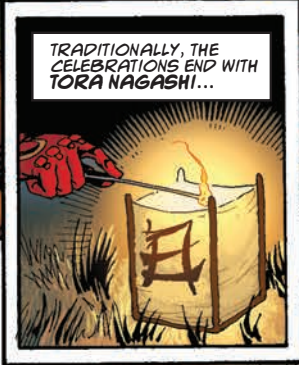
THE RISE OF
THE BLACK
SUN.



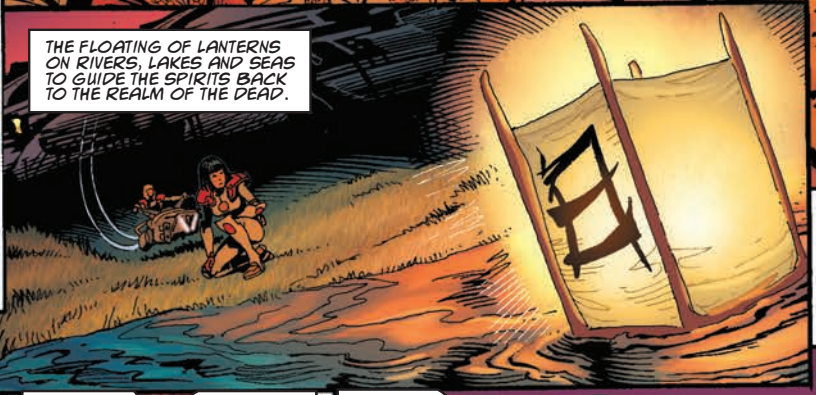


THE OBOON FESTIVAL, A BUDDHIST CEREMONY OVER SIX HUNDRED YEARS OLD, IN WHICH OUR ANCESTORS AND THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE FOR US ARE REMEMBERED AND APPRECIATED...

A TIME WHEN THE SPIRITS ARE SAID TO WALK AMONGST THE LIVING ONCE AGAIN.



TRADITIONALLY, THE CELEBRATIONS END WITH TORA NAGASHI!...



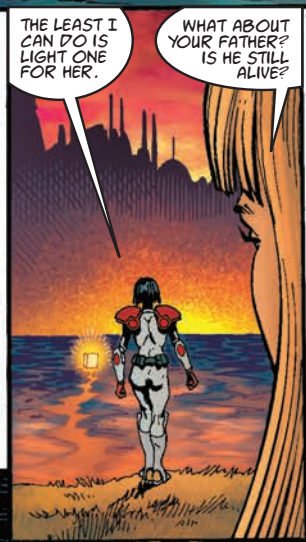
THE FLOATING OF LANTERNS ON RIVERS, LAKES AND SEAS TO GUIDE THE SPIRITS BACK TO THE REALM OF THE DEAD.



SOMEHOW, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE A RELIGIOUS PERSON, INSPECTOR.

I'M NOT.

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, BEFORE THE ACADEMY, MY MOTHER ALWAYS LIT ONE FOR MY GRANDMOTHER.



THE LEAST I CAN DO IS LIGHT ONE FOR HER.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER? IS HE STILL ALIVE?

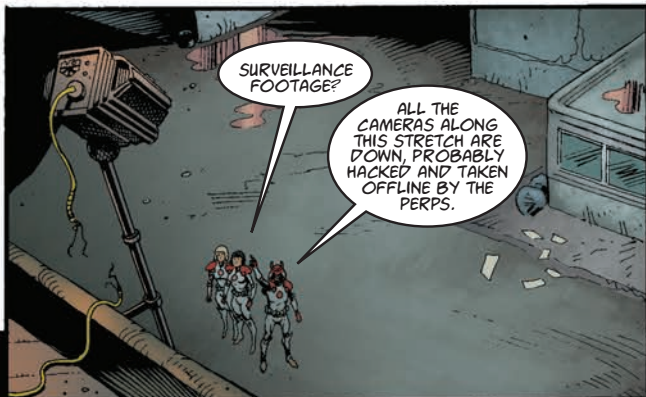


ALIVE AND KICKING.

SOMETIMES THE ONES WHO DESERVE IT MOST ARE THE LAST TO GO.

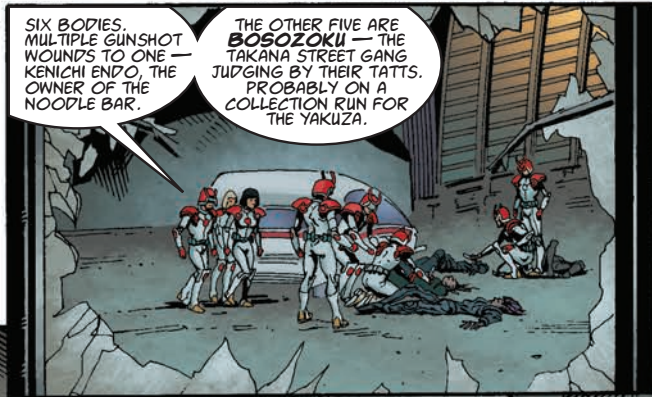


OPERATIONS TO INSPECTOR INABA...



SURVEILLANCE
FOOTAGE?

ALL THE
CAMERAS ALONG
THIS STRETCH ARE
DOWN, PROBABLY
HACKED AND TAKEN
OFFLINE BY THE
PERPS.



SIX BODIES.
MULTIPLE GUNSHOT
WOUNDS TO ONE —
KENICHI ENDO, THE
OWNER OF THE
NOODLE BAR.

THE OTHER FIVE ARE
BOSOZOKU — THE
TAKANA STREET GANG
JUDGING BY THEIR TATTS.
PROBABLY ON A
COLLECTION RUN FOR
THE YAKUZA.

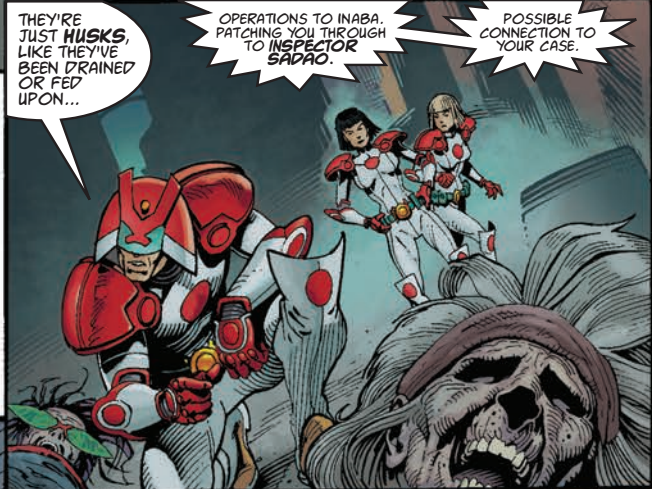
CAUSE
OF DEATH
APPEARS TO BE A
SWORD-THRUST TO THE
HEART — PROBABLY A
KATANA — BUT THAT
DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE
STATE OF THE
BODIES.

THEY
CAN'T HAVE
BEEN DEAD FOR
MORE THAN FORTY-
FIVE MINUTES, BUT
LOOK AT
THEM...

THEY'RE
JUST **HUSKS**,
LIKE THEY'VE
BEEN DRAINED
OR FED
UPON...

OPERATIONS TO INABA.
PATCHING YOU THROUGH
TO **INSPECTOR
SAPAO**.

POSSIBLE
CONNECTION TO
YOUR CASE.



ALSO, THE
GRAVES HAVE BEEN
DESECRATED.

TORN APART,
BUT NOT FROM
THE SURFACE...



INABA, I'M AT
SENGAKUJI.

I'VE GOT
TWO BODIES
THAT SOUND
IDENTICAL TO
YOUR DEAD
PERPS.



MORE LIKE
SOMETHING'S
BROKEN
OUT OF...



...LIKE SOMETHING'S BROKEN OUT OF...

BBZZZ-TTT!

SAY AGAIN, SADAO, YOU'RE BREAKING UP.



INSPECTOR SADAO?

INABA-SAN! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

THERE'S STILL ACTIVITY IN THEIR BRAINS! I DON'T...

THEY'RE DEAD, BUT THEY'RE NOT DEAD! THEY'RE —



HHHHSSSSSSSS!

AAAAHHH!

JAPAN, 1702 AD.

SOME SAY HELL IS A
RAGING INFERNO, OTHERS
A FROZEN WASTELAND.

IN TRUTH, HELL IS UNIQUE
TO EVERY ONE OF US,
HIDDEN DEEP INSIDE...

... WAITING TO
BE UNLEASHED.

OISHI
KURANOSUKE.

YOU MUST BE
DESPERATE INDEED
TO TURN TO THE
BLACK SUN FOR
HELP.

DO WE NOT
REPRESENT EVERY-
THING YOU NOBLE
SAMURAI HATE?

SOMETIMES
HONOUR DICTATES
THE EMBRACE
OF DESPERATE
MEASURES.

LIFE WILL BE
SO MUCH SIMPLER
WITHOUT ALL
THOSE IDEALS.

HONOUR.
NOBILITY.
INTEGRITY.

YOU'LL
WONDER WHY YOU
DIDN'T COME TO US
YEARS AGO.

LIFE IS
NOT WHAT YOU'RE
OFFERING.

OH, BUT IT *IS*. I'M
OFFERING YOU THE
LIVES OF KIRA
YOSHINAKA AND HIS
WARRIORS.

I'M OFFERING FORTY-
SEVEN RONIN THE CHANCE
TO AVENGE THEMSELVES
ON A HUNDRED TIMES THAT
NUMBER, TO BECOME
LEGENDS.

ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO IS BATHE
IN THE BLACK
SUN.

AND
THERE IS
NOTHING MORE
BEAUTIFUL...

AAAGHKKK!

AAAAAIIIIIEEEEE!

HONDO CITY,
2135 AD.



THIS IS LIKE NO FUNERAL PROCESSION I'VE EVER SEEN! LAST TIME I WAS AT A PARTY LIKE THIS WAS THE RIO CARNIVAL OF 2130!

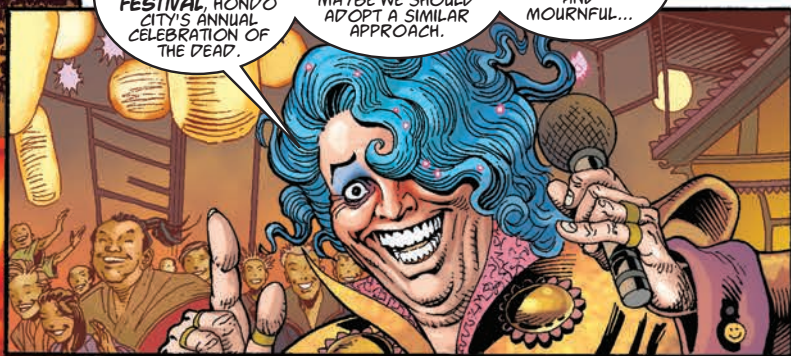
WHEN I WOKE UP THE NEXT DAY I WAS MARRIED!

BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY...

THIS IS JOJO DANVERS, REPORTING FROM THE OBON FESTIVAL, HONDO CITY'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE DEAD.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED BACK HOME IN THE MEG, MAYBE WE SHOULD ADOPT A SIMILAR APPROACH.

INSTEAD OF MOPING AROUND ALL MISERABLE AND MOURNFUL...



... WE SHOULD GET DOWN AND DO SOME SERIOUS PARTYING! REMEMBER OUR DEAD WITH —

KOFF! KOFF!

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S —



AAAKKK!



DO NOT CELEBRATE THE DEAD...

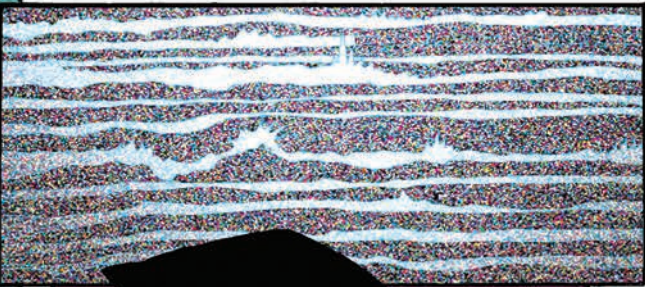




FEAR US.

FOR WE ARE COMING FOR YOU.

THE BLACK SUN IS RISING.



YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THE FORTY-SEVEN RONIN — PERHAPS OUR GREATEST CULTURAL HEROES — ARE SLAUGHTERING THEIR WAY THROUGH HONDO?

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY THEMSELVES WERE EXECUTED AND BEHEADED OVER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO?

HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE, SIR, ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS THAT WAY.

INSPECTOR SADAO REPORTED THAT ALL FORTY-SEVEN GRAVES HAD BEEN DESECRATED, THE BODIES MISSING.



'WE SUBSEQUENTLY LOST CONTACT WITH HIM.'

BEFORE HE WAS CUT OFF, SADAO REQUESTED A HOOK-UP WITH INSPECTOR INABA.

HE SEEMED TO THINK THERE WAS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RONIN AND THE MURDERS SHE AND CADET ASAHARA ARE INVESTIGATING...





HHSSSSSSSS!

AAAAHHH!



LASER-SHURIKEN!



CADET ASAHARA! START ACTING LIKE A JUDGE AND NOT THE VICTIM IN SOME CHEAP HORROR MOVIE.

SORRY, INSPECTOR, BUT TOUCHING THE CREATURE'S MIND... THE HUNGER, THE HATRED... MADE ME FREEZE.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES.



SHOGUN KOBAYASHI TO INSPECTOR INABA.

PLEASE UPDATE US ON YOUR INVESTIGATION. A FORENSICS ANALYSIS OF THE BODIES IS REQUIRED URGENTLY.



RIGHT NOW, SIR, THEY'RE HAVING A LITTLE DIFFICULTY STAYING DEAD!

I'LL CALL YOU BACK ONCE I'VE REMINDED THEM.



HHRRRAAAHH!

GGNNHHH!



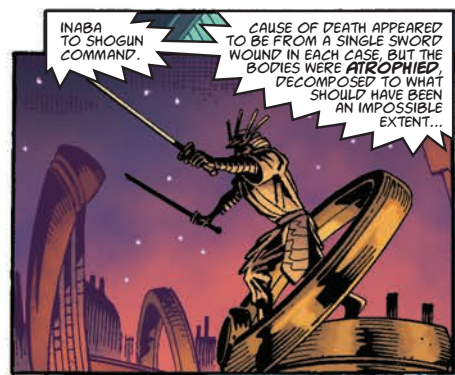
NO!



I SPECIALISED IN OCCULT AND SUPER-NATURAL PHENOMENA DOING PSIONICS TRAINING.

HEADSHOTS OR DECAPITATIONS ARE THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH ANY UNDEAD THREAT.

HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT THOSE TACTICS WORK WITH PRETTY MUCH EVERY SORT OF PERP.



INABA TO SHOGUN COMMAND.

CAUSE OF DEATH APPEARED TO BE FROM A SINGLE SWORD WOUND IN EACH CASE, BUT THE BODIES WERE ATROPHIED, DECOMPOSED TO WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN IMPOSSIBLE EXTENT...

THAT PALES INTO INSIGNIFICANCE, THOUGH, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT DURING THE EXAMINATION THEY SPRANG BACK INTO LIFE AND TRIED TO DEVOUR US.

YOU SAY THEY RETURNED TO LIFE?



THE THREAT'S OVER NOW, SIR.

NO, INSPECTOR...

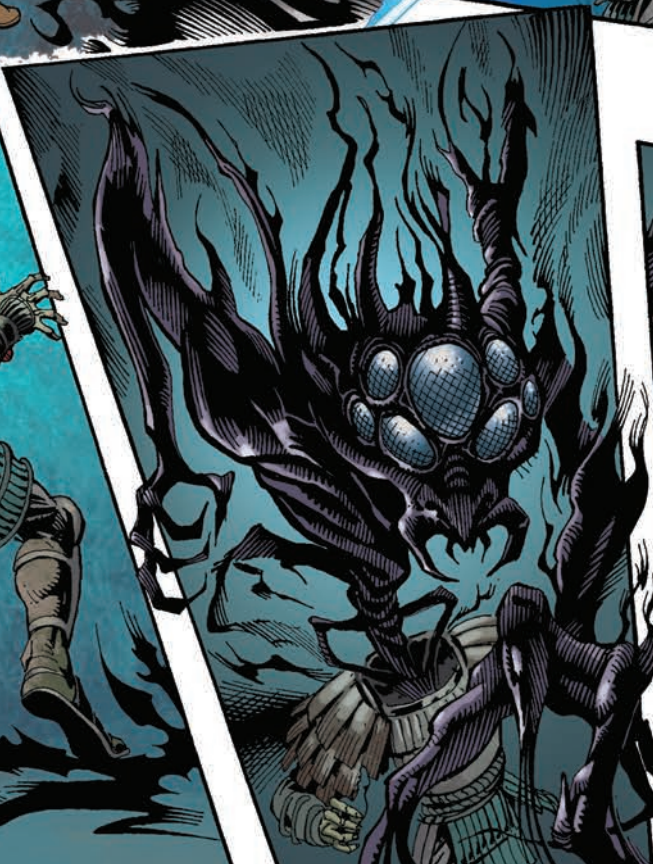


'IT'S JUST **BEGINNING...**'



THE BLACK
SUN SHALL
RISE!





BLACK CHI — THE
ESSENCE OF ALL THAT
IS EVIL AND CORRUPT
IN HUMANITY.

I HAD ENCOUNTERED IT
BEFORE, HARNESSED
BY THE MARTIAL ARTIST
ASSASSIN STAN LEE —
AKA DEATHFIST — TO
CARRY OUT SUPERHUMAN
ACTS OF SLAUGHTER
AND DESTRUCTION.*

BUT I HAD NEVER SEEN
IT IN ITS TRUE FORM.

OR FELT ITS IRRESISTIBLE,
SEDUCTIVE TOUCH, A FLOOD OF
DARKNESS THAT WASHED AWAY YOUR
INHIBITIONS, YOUR VERY IDENTITY.

UHNNH!

BLACK CHI!!

I THOUGHT
IT WAS JUST A
MYTH!

ALL TOO REAL,
CAPT!

INCENDIARY!

*THE FORTY-SEVEN RONIN
HAVE BEEN ENTOMBED
FOR OVER FOUR HUNDRED
YEARS, INSPECTOR!

'YOU THINK SOMEONE IS
USING BLACK CHI TO
RESURRECT THEM?'



GOOD QUESTION, CAPET.

WHY DON'T WE ASK THEM?



ASANO KURANOSUKE!

YOU AND YOUR WARRIORS ARE AMONGST JAPAN'S GREATEST HEROES, REVERED IN HONDO EVEN NOW, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS LATER.

WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED? MINDLESS SLAUGHTER IS NOT THE SAMURAI WAY.



THE SAMURAI WAY IS DEAD.

AS IS ASANO KURANOSUKE.

HE OFFERED HIS BODY TO THE **BLACK SUN**, SACRIFICED HIS SOUL FOR REVENGE.



GOOD.

THEN I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TORCHING ONE OF OUR NATIONAL ICONS.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, LITTLE MONKEY? YOU USED TO BE SO INNOCENT AND CAREFREE.

NOW THERE'S NOTHING IN YOU BUT THE **LAW**. WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS THAT?

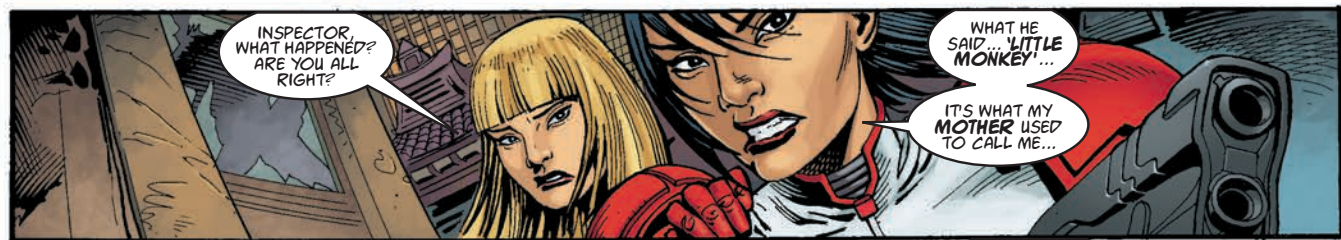


INSPECTOR?

INSPECTOR!



HA HA HA HA HA!



INSPECTOR,
WHAT HAPPENED?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

WHAT HE
SAID... 'LITTLE
MONKEY'...

IT'S WHAT MY
MOTHER USED
TO CALL ME...



MIND-GAMES,
INABA-SAN.

IF
YOU CAN RAISE
THE DEAD, THEN
READING —



HHHSSSSSS!

UH-OH!

BAD CHOICE
OF WORDS!

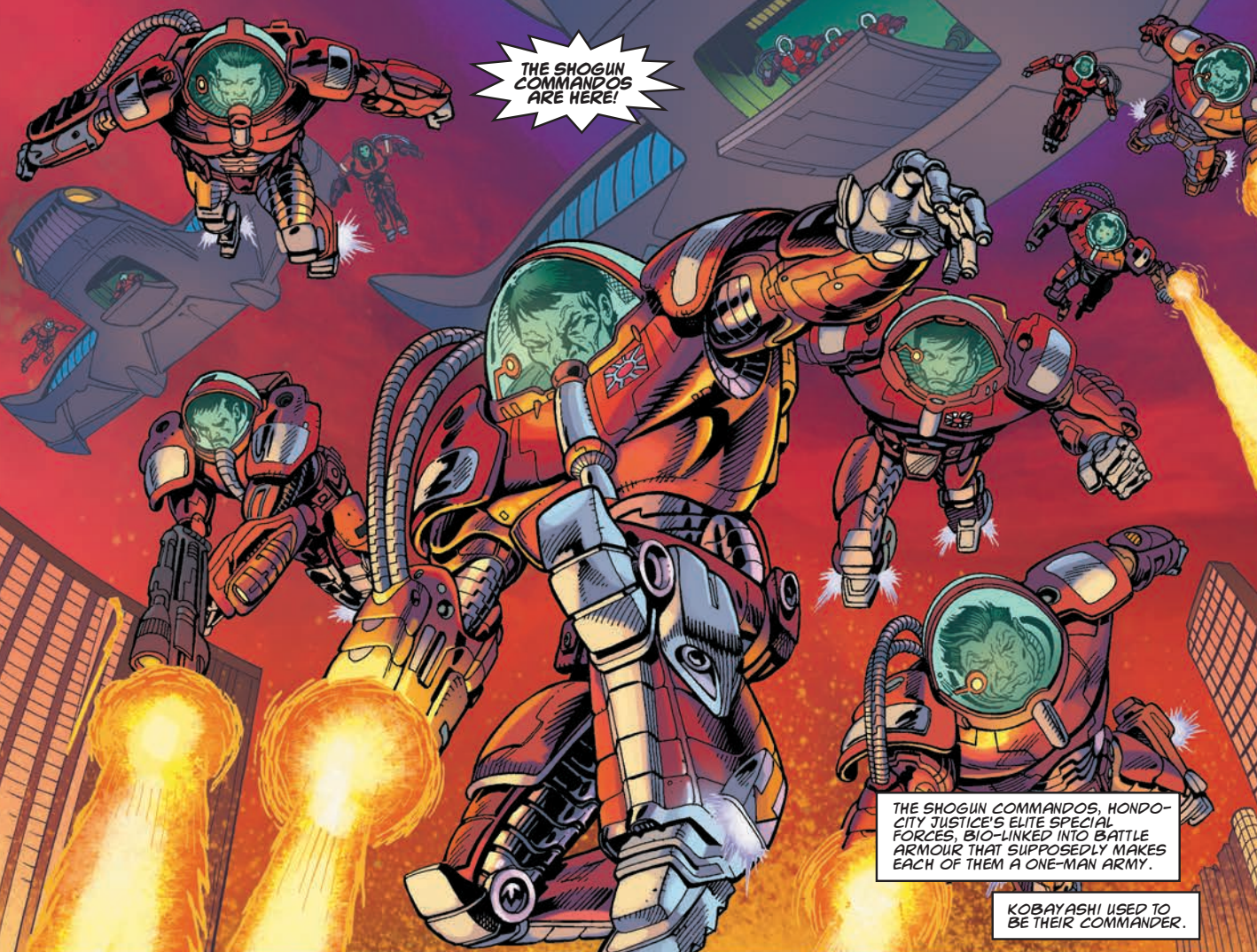


INABA
TO JUSTICE
CENTRAL!

DIDN'T
I MAKE AN
URGENT REQUEST
FOR HEAVY
FIREPOWER?



HAVE NO FEAR,
INSPECTOR...



THE SHOGUN COMMANDOS ARE HERE!

THE SHOGUN COMMANDOS, HONDO-CITY JUSTICE'S ELITE SPECIAL FORCES, BIO-LINKED INTO BATTLE ARMOUR THAT SUPPOSEDLY MAKES EACH OF THEM A ONE-MAN ARMY.

KOBAYASHI USED TO BE THEIR COMMANDER.

THE GLAMOROUS REPUTATION THAT HE GAINED IN THAT POSITION PLAYED A LARGE PART IN HIM BECOMING SHOGUN JUDGE.

WHEN THE CRIME IS HIGH PROFILE ENOUGH, HE STILL LIKES TO SUIT UP AND FLEX HIS CRIME-FIGHTING MUSCLES.

SUPERVISE THE CIVILIAN EVACUATION, INABA, I'LL HANDLE COMBAT OPERATIONS.

WE HAVE GUNHAWKS TRACKING THE RONIN, READY TO DEPLOY INFERNO MISSILES IF NECESSARY.

INFERNO MISSILES? DON'T WE HAVE ENOUGH CORPSES ALREADY?

SOMETIMES A JUDGE HAS TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS. DO WHAT HE SAYS, I'LL CHECK WITH YOU LATER.

HUH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN.



GUNHAWK 1
TO SHOGUN
COMMAND....

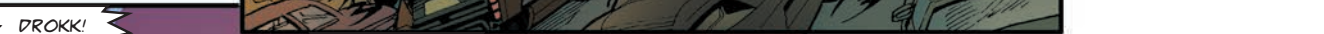


THE BLACK MIST
IS CROSSING RAIN-
BOW BRIDGE.

NO VISUAL
CONTACT WITH
TARGETS AS
YET.

THE DRIVERS ARE
PANICKING, LOSING
CONTROL.

WE'VE GOT MULTIPLE
CRASHES. IT'S **CHAOS**
DOWN THERE.



DROKK!

HOW MANY
CASUALTIES IF YOU
EXECUTED AN IMMEDIATE
STRIKE?

HARD TO SAY,
SIR. HUNDREDS,
MAYBE.



THERE MUST BE DOZENS
TRAPPED IN THE MIST
ALREADY.

AAAAAIIIIIEEEE!



COME
TO ME!

FEEL THE FIRE
OF THE BLACK
SUN!



EEEEAAAARRGH!

NOT THE BEST
INVITATION I'VE
HEARD.

THE SMART
MONEY'S ON
HEADING THE OTHER
WAY, SO...

MOVE!



YOU'RE NOT PLAYING
CHILDREN'S GAMES
ANYMORE, LITTLE
MONKEY.

ONE JUDGE
AGAINST THE
FORTY-SEVEN
RONIN?

YOU MUST BE
EAGER TO JOIN
THE RANKS OF
THE UNDEAD.



IT'LL TAKE
MORE THAN
YOU TO TEMPT
ME AWAY
FROM THE
LAND OF THE
LIVING.

BIKE
CANNON TO
AUTO! TARGET
THE FUEL
TANKS!

HHHAAAAAIIIIII!







I'M ALIVE,
JUNKO.

BUT
SOMETHING TELLS
ME I'LL NEVER BE
OKAY AGAIN...





WHAT ARE
THE FOOLS
SAYING?

TRYING
TO MAKE IT
SOUND LIKE A
TRIUMPH?

THE FORTY-SEVEN RONIN
HAVE BEEN DESTROYED —
NO CHANCE OF FURTHER
RESURRECTION. CLEAN-UP
SQUADS ARE BURNING
THE BODIES OF THE
REMAINING INFECTED
CITIZENS.

THEY CLAIM
THE DANGER'S
OVER.

WE'VE GIVEN
THEM A TASTE OF
TERROR. FUNERAL
PYRES ARE BURNING
THROUGHOUT
HONDO.

THEY'LL
NEVER FEEL SAFE
AGAIN.



INSPECTOR
INABA SURVIVED
— IT'S BEEN
CONFIRMED.

I'M GLAD,
IT'S CRUELLER
THIS WAY.

MY SISTER AND
I ALWAYS ENJOYED
A LOVE/HATE
RELATIONSHIP.

SHE
LOVED ME.

AND
I HATED
HER...

TIGER SUN DRAGON MOON

Script: Steve Parkhouse

Art: Steve Parkhouse

Letters: Steve Parkhouse

Originally published in *2000 AD* Progs 1426-1432





THEY CAME FROM
ANCIENT PLACES LOST IN
TIME, FROM **ULAN BATOR**
AND **BUGAN SHARA...**

FROM THE SHATTERED
WASTES OF THE **Gobi...**



THE DEFENSIVE LINE ONCE
KNOWN AS THE **GREAT WALL**
WAS A LEGEND ITSELF,
STILL MANNED BY SMALL
GARRISONS...



THE GUARDS
AWOKE TO A
COLD DAWN...



TIGER SUN

Dragon Moon

WITH THAT SIGNAL - THE
MUTANT ARMY ATTACKED.





THE GARRISON FOUGHT
BACK WITH ANYTHING
THEY COULD FIND...



...EVEN **SWORDS.**

AAGH





WHEN PEOPLE GATHERED TO COUNT THEIR DEAD, THEY FOUND THE BODIES, EVEN OF CHILDREN AND DOGS, HAD **DISAPPEARED...**

THE MUTANT ARMY KILLED FOR FOOD AND SPORT - AND TO PLEASE THEIR DARK LORD...

AT THIS RATE WE SHOULD REACH THE **SEA** WITHIN A MONTH.

THEN OLD SCORES WILL BE **SETTLED**. NEW BATTLES FOUGHT AND **WON**.

YOU HAVE DONE **WELL**, KABAL...



AND WHAT OF THE **OTHER** MATTER, HMMM?

THE SEARCH FOR THE **DRAGON**?

IS IT WITHIN OUR SIGHT?



I CAN FEEL IT **BURNING**, MY LORD...

MY MIND **SEETHES** WITH ITS POWER.



BY THE FULL MOON THE **DRAGON** WILL BE **OURS**!

TEMPLE OF THE LAMA, SICHUAN PROVINCE, FOUR DAYS LATER...

FOUND
SOMETHING!



CHANG'S SCOUTS
SEARCH FOR FOOD...

WHAT
IS IT? MORE
BONES?



OLD
SWORD.

NO
USE TO US.
NICE,
THOUGH.

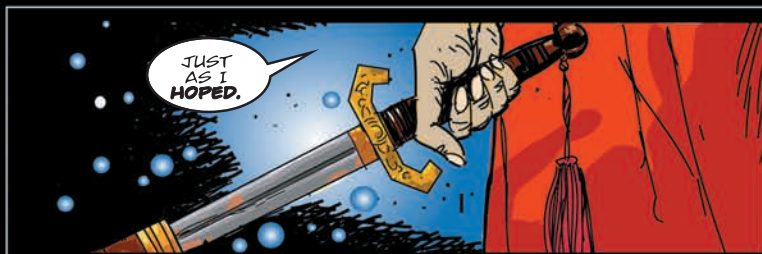
REAL
NICE.



WHAT
HAVE YOU
FOUND, MY
PRETTY
ONES?

SOMETHING
INTERESTING?

JUST
AS I
HOPED.



WE
WASN'T
STEALING
IT?

WE
WOULDN'T
TAKES
IT?

NNGGH!

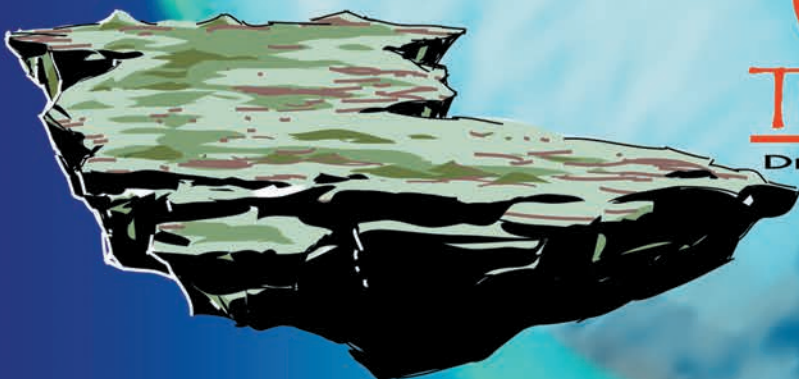
DRAGON
MOON HAS
RETURNED!



UUNGH!

2140 AD - UKIYO, THE **FLOATING WORLD**.

CREATED BY ENGINEERS FROM HONDO CITY AND A PLACE OF **EXILE** FOR THE JAPANESE **IMPERIAL FAMILY**.



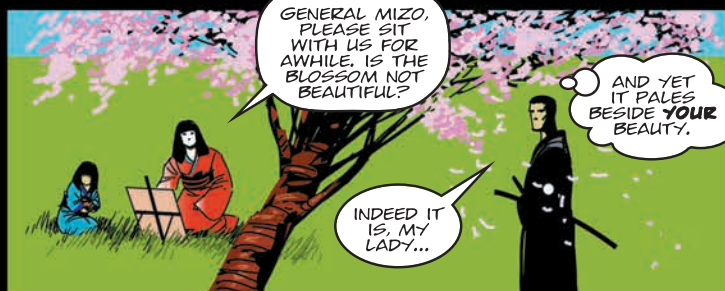
TIGER SUN

Dragon Moon



A LOVING RE-CREATION
OF A JAPAN THAT
NEVER WAS...

EXQUISITE GARDENS...
A SUMMER PALACE...
WATERFALLS... WOODLANDS...
ORCHARDS OF **ETERNAL**
SPRING...



GENERAL MIZO,
PLEASE SIT
WITH US FOR
AWHILE. IS THE
BLOSSOM NOT
BEAUTIFUL?

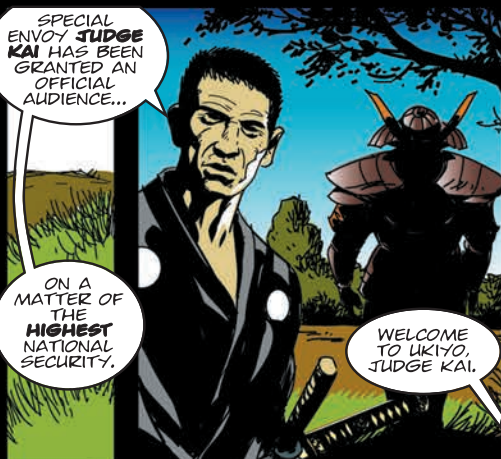
AND YET
IT PALES
BESIDE **YOUR**
BEAUTY.

INDEED IT
IS, MY
LADY...



I HAVE AN URGENT
MATTER FOR HIS
HIGHNESS, MY LADY.
A **JUDGE** IS
HERE FROM HONDO
WITH SERIOUS
NEWS.

A **JUDGE**?
HERE? IT MUST
BE SERIOUS
INDEED.



SPECIAL
ENVOY **JUDGE**
KAI HAS BEEN
GRANTED AN
OFFICIAL
AUDIENCE...

ON A
MATTER OF
THE
HIGHEST
NATIONAL
SECURITY.

WELCOME
TO UKIYO,
JUDGE KAI.



HIS HIGHNESS IS
EXERCISING WITH
LIEUTENANT KONDA. I
HOPE YOU'LL **FORGIVE**
THIS INFORMALITY,
MY LORD.

OF COURSE,
MY LADY. UKIYO
IS AS **CHARMING**
AS I'D HEARD...

A SMALL
PARADISE
IN A
TROUBLED
WORLD.



OKAY,
YA WUSS...
ARE YOU READY
FOR THIS?

C'MON, DUDE...
PITCH IT UP!
WATCH ME KNOCK
IT **OUTTA** THE
BALLPARK!

HIGHNESS...



WHAT IS
IT? CAN'T
YOU SEE
I'M...

OH!!

YOUR
HIGHNESS.



PARDON THIS
INTOLERABLE
INTRUSION...

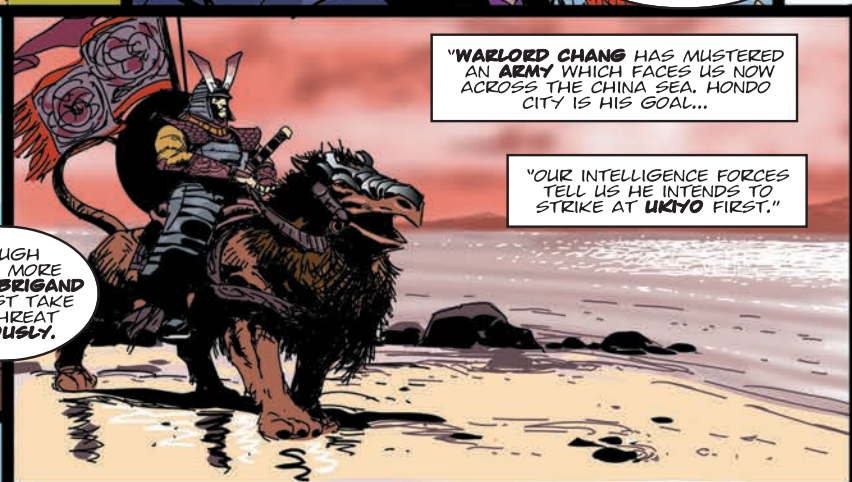
I BRING
PRESSING NEWS
FROM THE
MAINLAND.

AND IT'S
ALL **BAAAD**...



AN ANCIENT
ENEMY HAS
EMERGED FROM
THE WASTELAND.
HE BELIEVES HE
IS DESCENDED
FROM **GENGHIS
KHAN**.

THOUGH
LITTLE MORE
THAN A **BRIGAND**
WE MUST TAKE
HIS THREAT
SERIOUSLY.



"**WARLORD CHANG** HAS MUSTERED
AN **ARMY** WHICH FACES US NOW
ACROSS THE CHINA SEA. **HONDO**
CITY IS HIS GOAL...

"OUR INTELLIGENCE FORCES
TELL US HE INTENDS TO
STRIKE AT **UKIYO** FIRST."



EVERY HOUR YOU
STAY HERE,
HIGHNESS, YOUR
LIFE IS **IMPERILLED**
FURTHER.

A **MONGOL**
INVASION? SHEE,
WHAT A
BUMMER!



SASHI-SAN! PLEASE
REMEMBER YOUR
MANNERS!

FORGIVE
ME, JUDGE
KAI...

WHAT
DOES YOUR
DEPARTMENT
RECOMMEND?



IMMEDIATE
WITHDRAWAL TO
THE MAINLAND,
HIGHNESS.

MY
CRAFT IS
WAITING.

WHAT
OF OUR
ALLIES IN
MEGA-CITY
ONE?









EVEN
SO, IT'S
BETTER
TO BE
SAFE...

POM



...THAN
SORRY!



WHAT'S
THE
DAMAGE?

THE
PALACE
IS STILL
INTACT,
MY LORD...

BUT THE
JUDGE'S CRAFT
HAS BEEN
DESTROYED!



WHETHER
IT WAS
INTENDED OR
NOT, JUDGE
KAI...

IT
SEEMS YOU
ARE STRANDED
HERE WITH
US!

UKIYO, THE **FLOATING WORLD**,
ORBITING SILENTLY INTO THE
SHADOWS OF EARTH NIGHT...



TIGER SUN

Dragon Moon



A PALE MOON RISES...



SO SERENE. IT
FEELS LIKE THE LULL
BEFORE THE STORM...

HOW
ARE THE
CHILDREN?

IN BED,
HOPEFULLY
ASLEEP. I'M NOT
SURE THEY KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT'S
GOING ON.

I'M NOT SURE
I DO, EITHER.
THE NEXT
ATTACK MAY
BE MORE
SURREPTITIOUS

I THINK
CHANG
WAS JUST
**TESTING OUR
DEFENCES.**



PROMISE
ME YOU'LL
TAKE THE
**UTMOST
CARE..**

IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENED
TO YOU
I'D...

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

NO...
NO!

THAT
WAS
KIRI!





SUKO!
SLOW DOWN!
WAIT!

KIRI!



KIRI!

THERE...
THERE'S
S-SOMEONE IN
MY ROOM...

A
SHADOW-
MAN!



THERE'S
NOBODY HERE,
LITTLE ONE.
LOOK - THE
ROOM IS
EMPTY!

IT WAS
JUST A **BAD**
DREAM... JUST
A DREAM...



BUT I
SAW HIM...
HE... HE CAME
THROUGH
THE WALL!

I'LL STAY
WITH YOU...
I WON'T LET
ANYONE
HURT YOU...
I PROMISE.



EVERYTHING
QUIET? DID
YOU SEE
ANYONE ENTER
OR LEAVE
THIS ROOM?

I DIDN'T
SEE ANYTHING,
MY LORD.



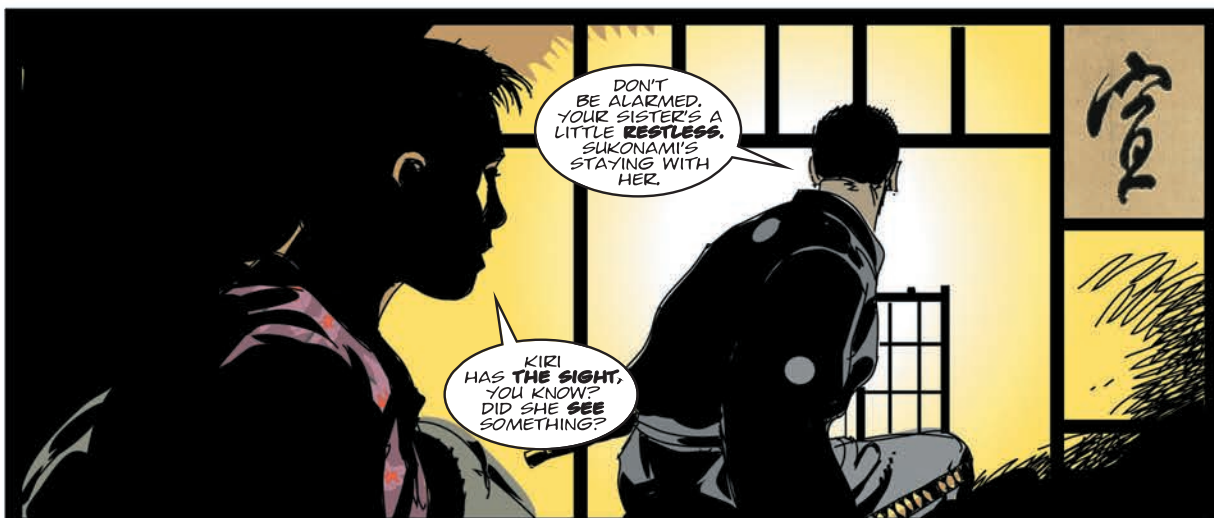
ASK
JUDGE
KAI TO
MEET ME
IN THE
EMPEROR'S
ROOM AS
SOON AS
HE CAN.

YES,
SIR!



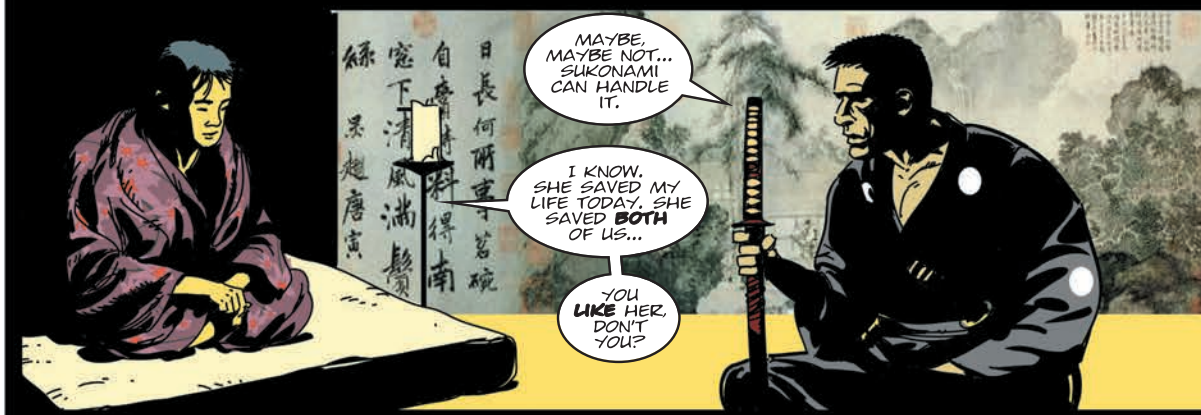
HIGHNESS?

IS THAT
YOU, GENERAL?
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?



DON'T BE ALARMED. YOUR SISTER'S A LITTLE **RESTLESS**. SUKONAMI'S STAYING WITH HER.

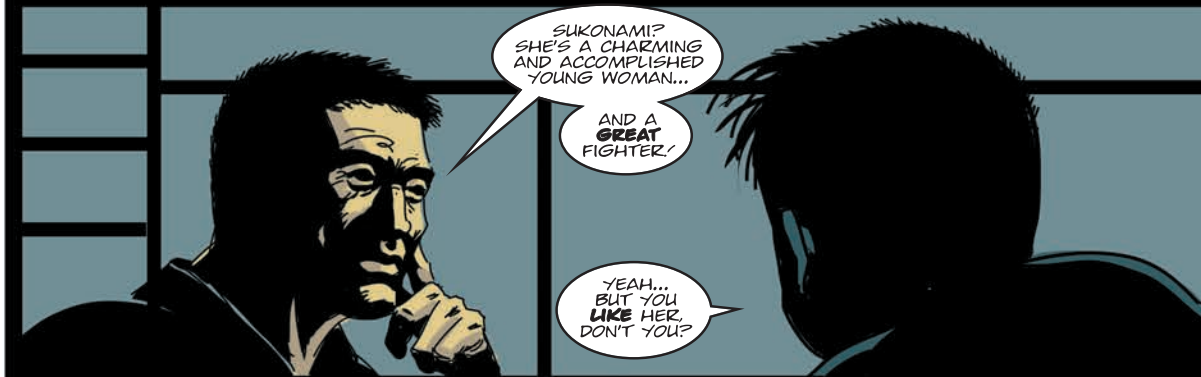
KIRI HAS **THE SIGHT**, YOU KNOW? DID SHE **SEE** SOMETHING?



MAYBE, MAYBE NOT... SUKONAMI CAN HANDLE IT.

I KNOW. SHE SAVED MY LIFE TODAY. SHE SAVED **BOTH** OF US...

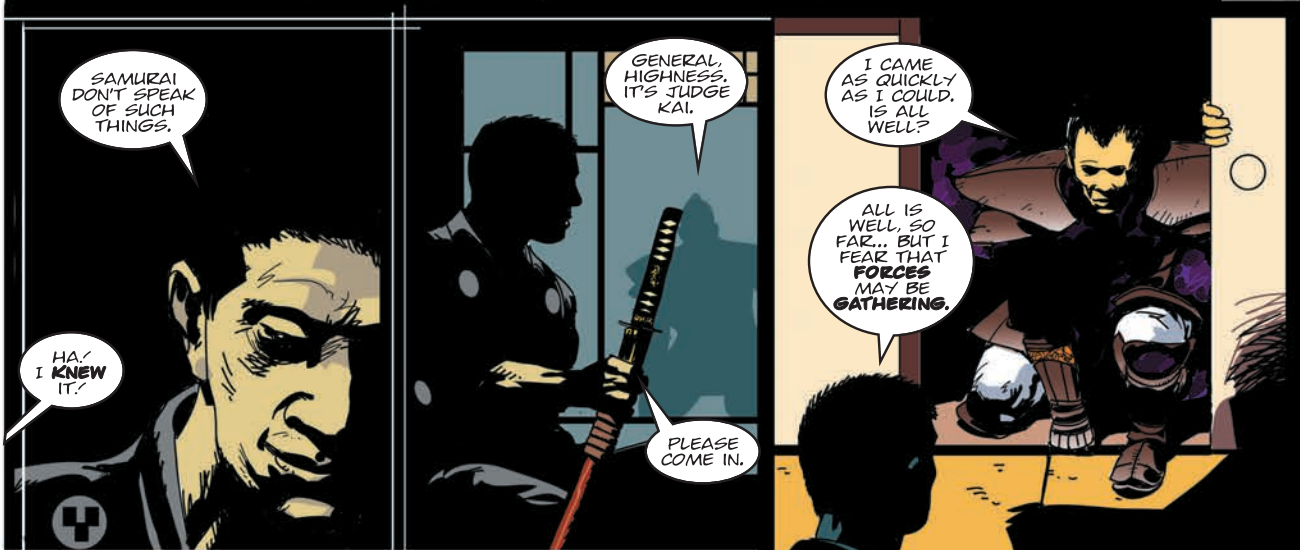
YOU **LIKE** HER. DON'T YOU?



SUKONAMI? SHE'S A CHARMING AND ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG WOMAN...

AND A **GREAT** FIGHTER!

YEAH... BUT YOU **LIKE** HER. DON'T YOU?



SAMURAI DON'T SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS.

HA, I **KNEW** IT.

GENERAL, HIGHNESS. IT'S JUDGE KAI.

PLEASE COME IN.

I CAME AS QUICKLY AS I COULD. IS ALL WELL?

ALL IS WELL, SO FAR... BUT I FEAR THAT **FORCES** MAY BE **GATHERING**.



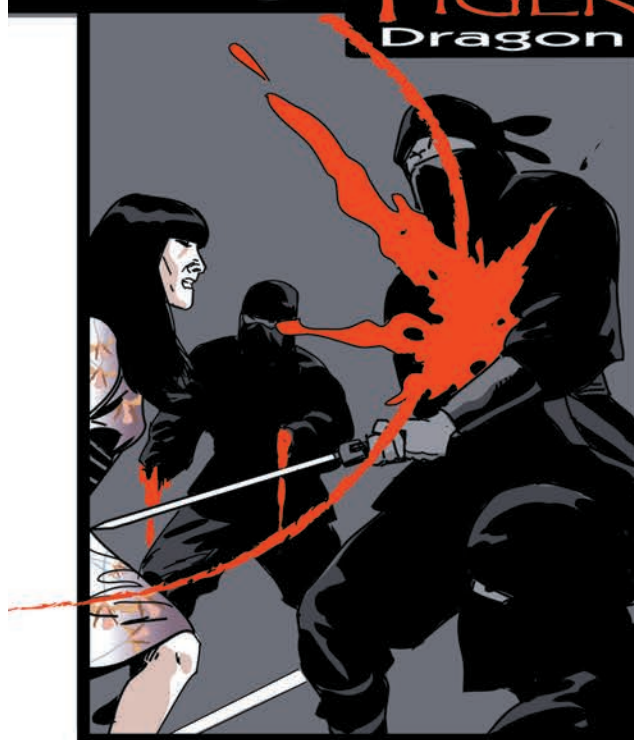




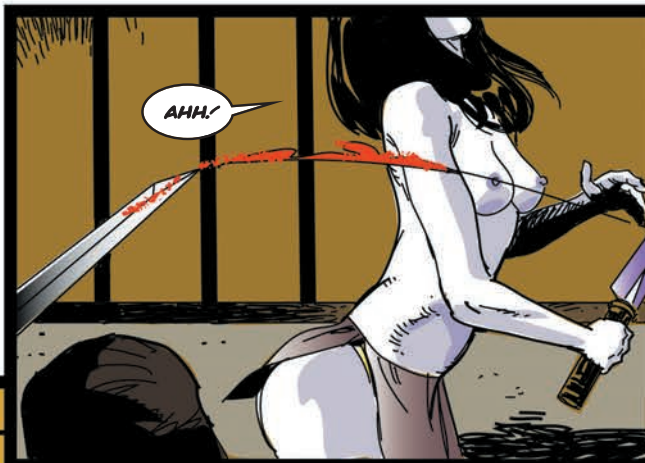


TIGER SUN

Dragon Moon











AT THAT MOMENT,
HALF A WORLD
AWAY...



ONLY
TWO OF YOU?
THE BRATS ARE
WELL
DEFENDED.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
BROUGHT?



THE
WOMAN'S
BLOOD...

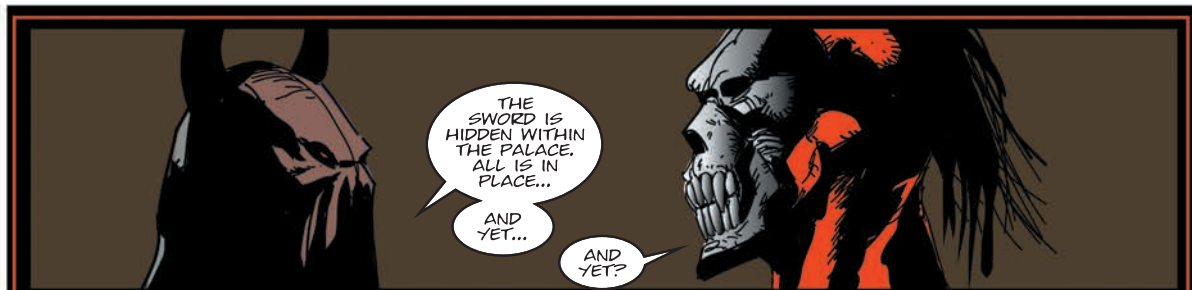
SOME
OF HER
HAIR...

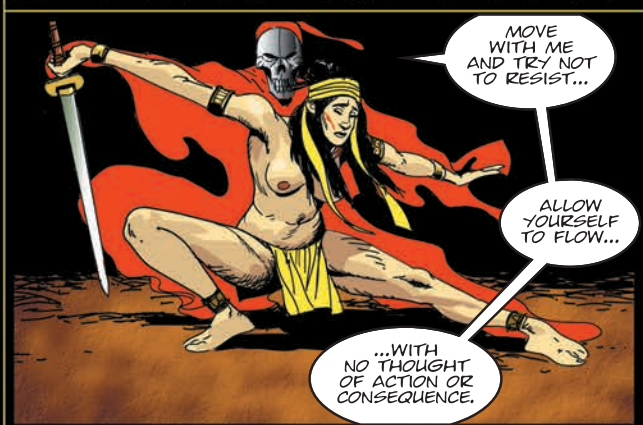


A
PIECE OF HER
CLOTHING.



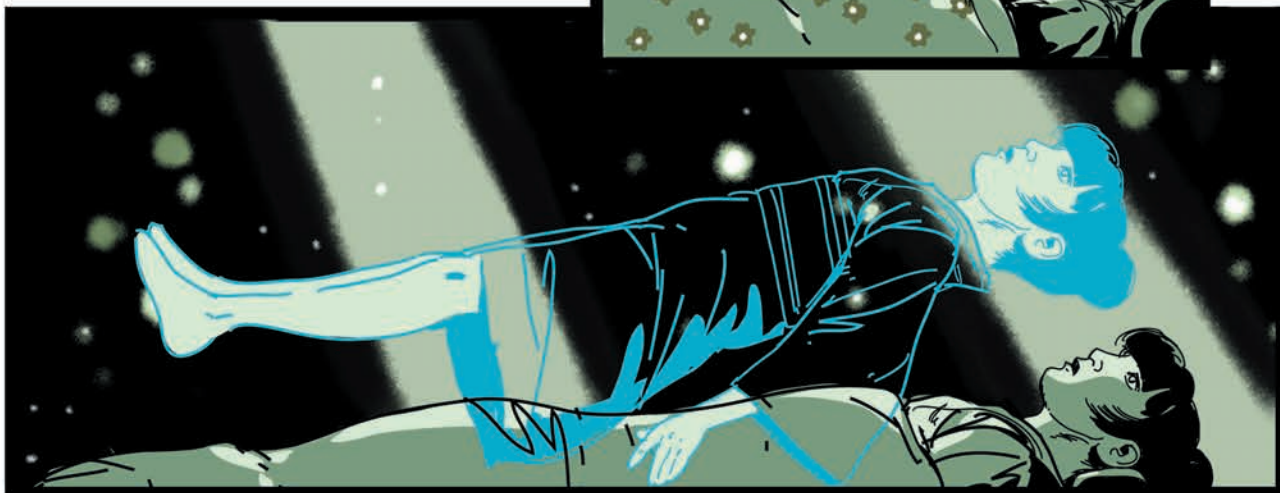
SO...
IS ALL IN
PLACE? IS
DRAGON MOON
HIDDEN?





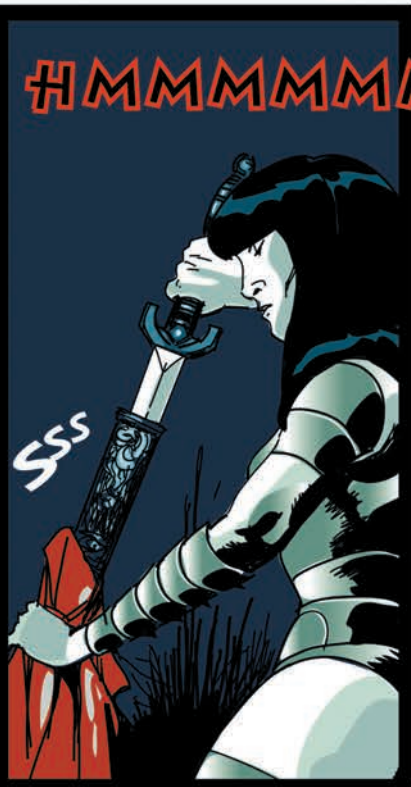
...WITH NO THOUGHT OF ACTION OR CONSEQUENCE.













LIEUTENANT KONDA, COME QUICKLY! SUKONAMI'S LOST HER MIND!

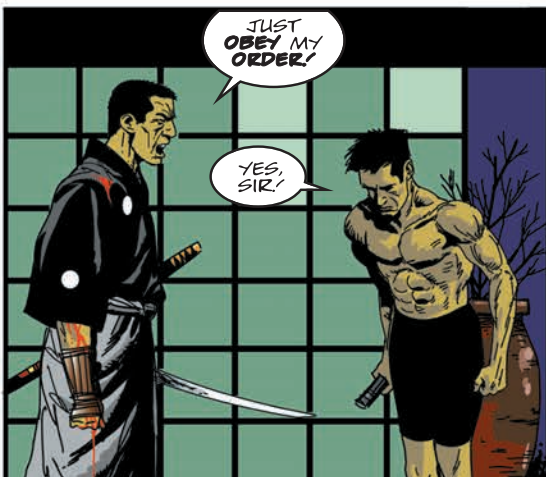
SHE'S KILLING EVERYONE!



SHE'S KILLING EVERYONE!











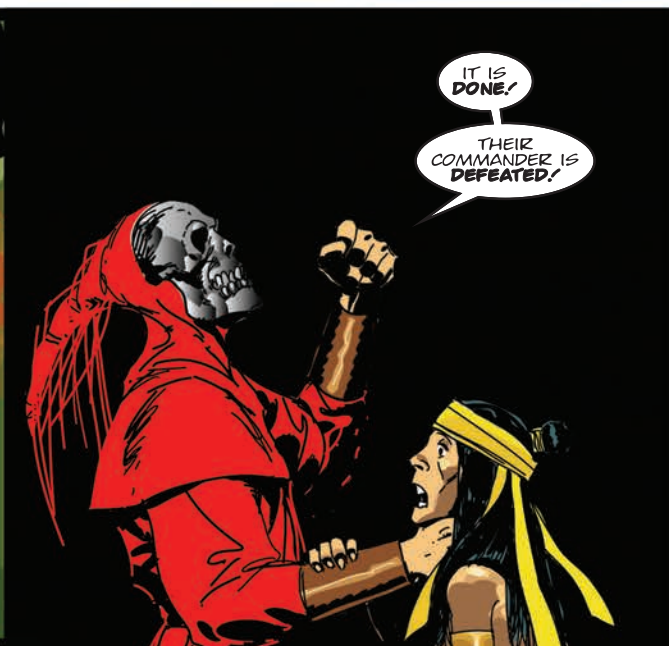




TIGER SUN

Dragon Moon







NOW THE BOY
IS **OURS!**
UKIYO IS
NO MORE!

THE
GREAT CHANG
IS OUR LORD AND
SOVEREIGN -
THE GODS HAVE
CHOSEN!



NEXT MOMENT...

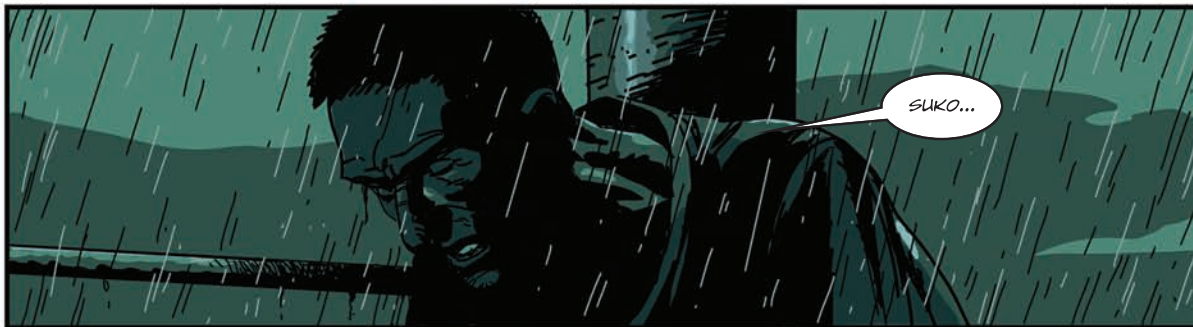


YOU ARE
BUT A **DOOMED**
APPARITION...

YOUR
TIME ON THIS
WORLD IS OVER.
THIS **DELUSION** CAN
NO LONGER
CONTINUE.



THAKK!



SUKO...

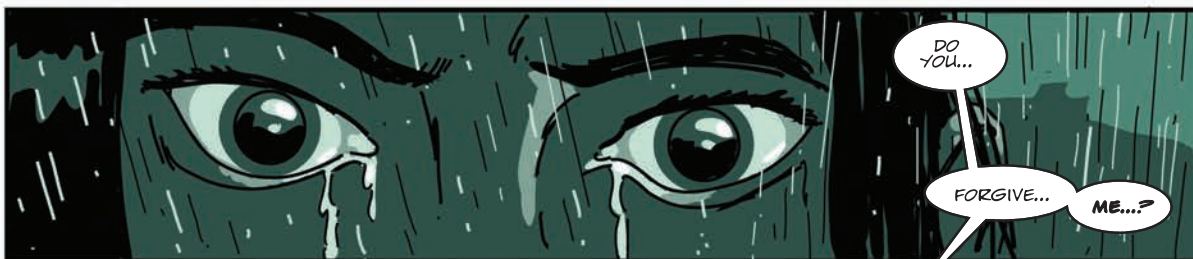


SUKO... I CARED...
FOR YOU...
ONCE...

I THOUGHT
YOU... CARED
FOR ME...

I KNOW...
YOU WOULD NOT...
DO THIS... AND
I FOR...

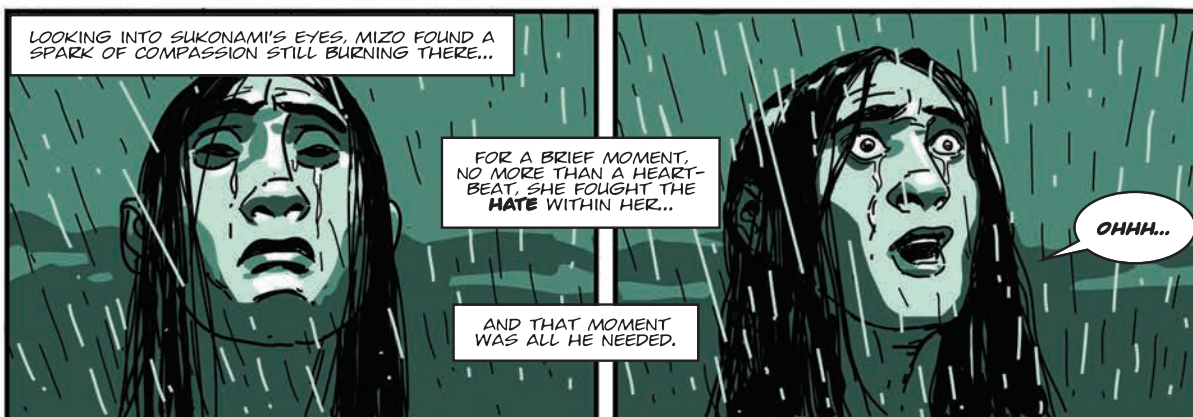
FORGIVE
YOU...



DO
YOU...

FORGIVE...

ME...?



LOOKING INTO SUKONAMI'S EYES, MIZO FOUND A
SPARK OF COMPASSION STILL BURNING THERE...

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT,
NO MORE THAN A HEART-
BEAT, SHE FOUGHT THE
HATE WITHIN HER...

AND THAT MOMENT
WAS ALL HE NEEDED.

OH...!



THEY HAD BOTH STRUCK TOGETHER,
EACH PIERCING THE OTHER'S HEART...

AND SO THEIR LIFE
APART **ENDED**... AND THEY
WERE JOINED IN **DEATH**.



WHAT IS IT? WHAT AILS YOU, CHILD? GET UP, DAMN YOU...

GET UP AND FIGHT!



THE POWER OF KABAL'S MAGIC REBOUNDED TENFOLD, **SHATTERING** HIS MIND...



THEY FOUND HIM NEXT MORNING, A **SILENT SHADOW**, UNABLE TO SPEAK HIS OWN NAME...



ENTOMBED IN HIS OWN DARKNESS.



HHHHHHHHHH
Glik

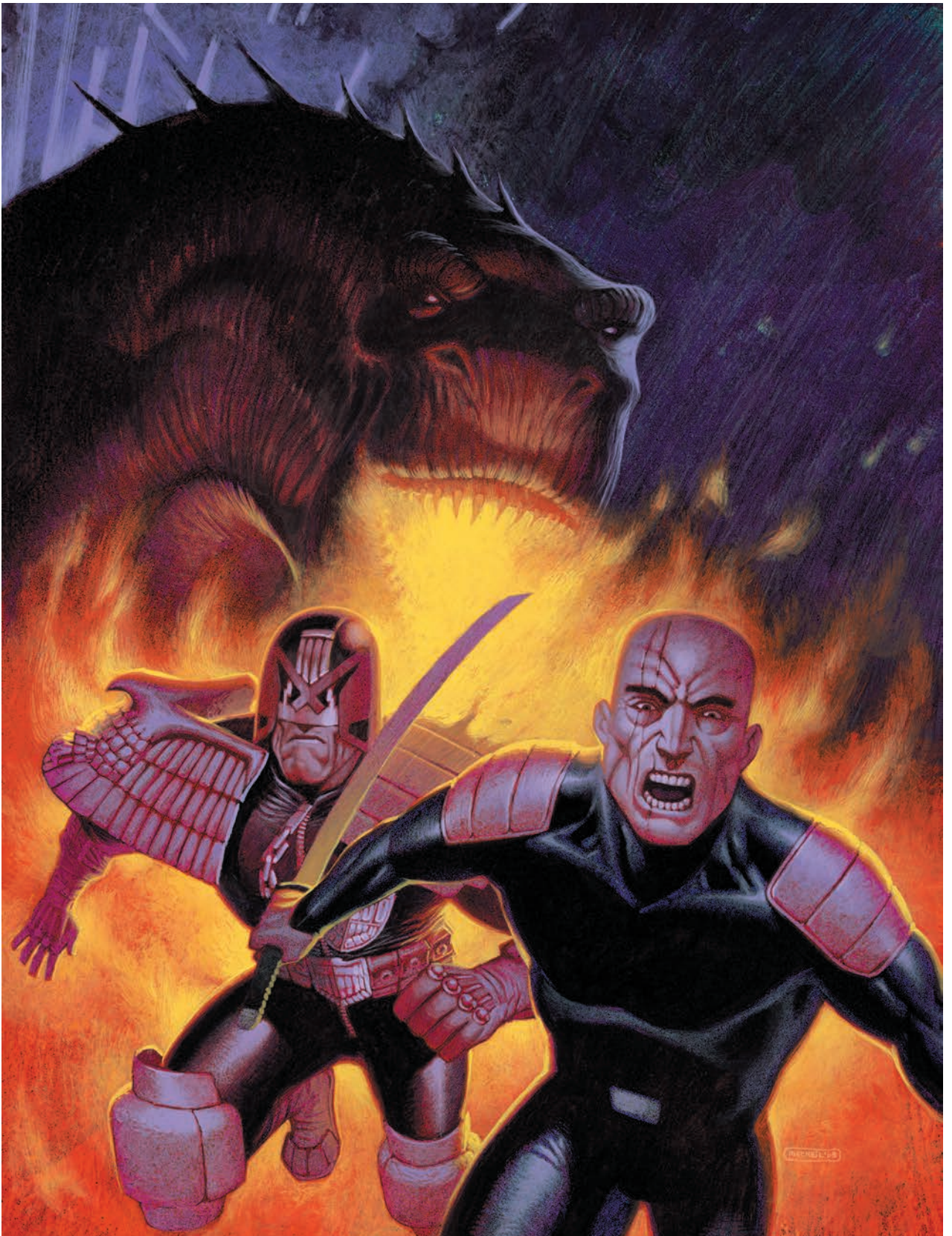


IT'S OPEN...

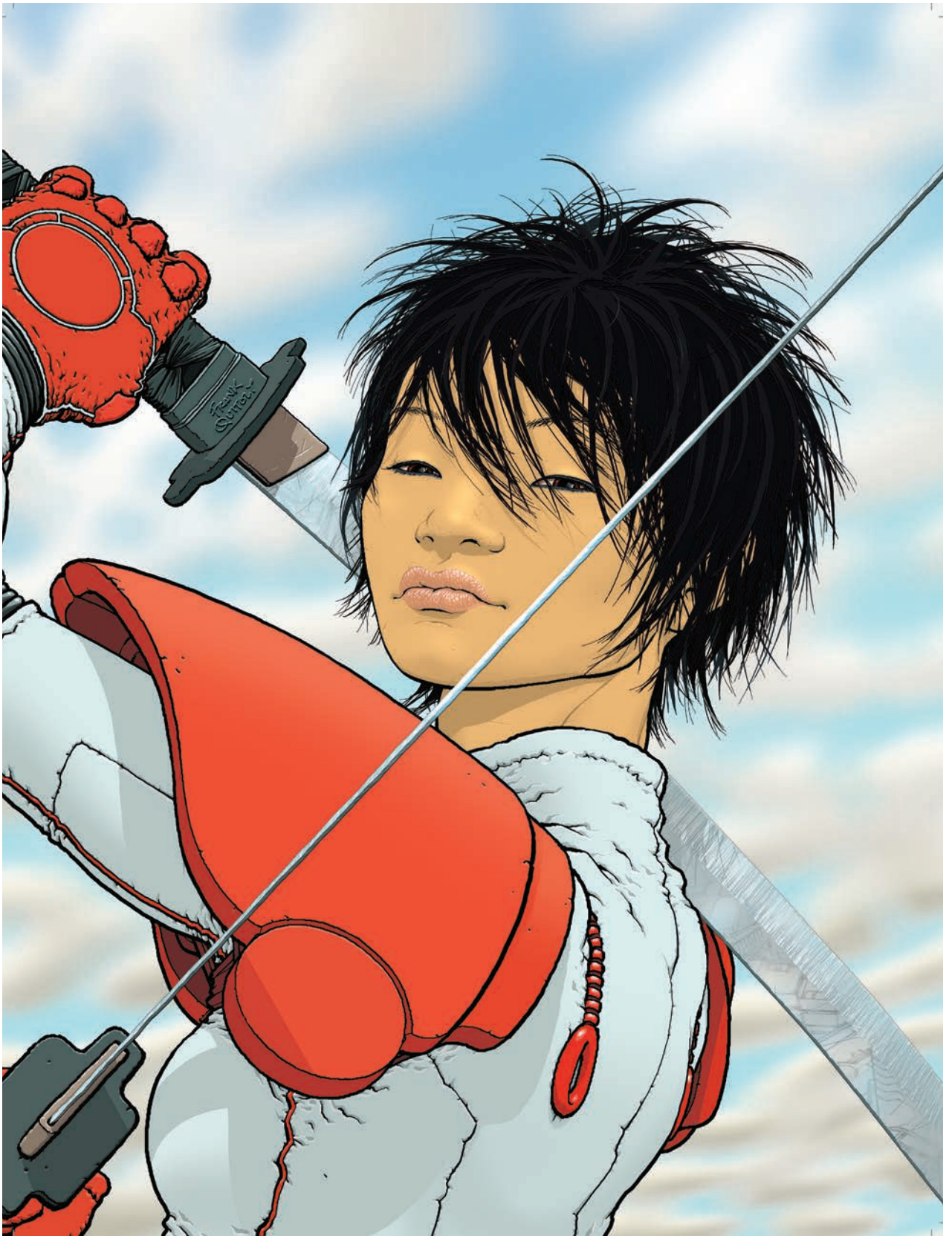
COME ON, EVERYBODY INSIDE! QUICKLY!



COVER GALLERY



Judge Dredd Magazine 241: Cover by Colin MacNeil





Judge Dredd Magazine 324: Cover by Cliff Robinson & Dylan Teague



Judge Dredd Magazine 326: Cover by Neil Roberts



Judge Dredd Magazine 333: Cover by Henry Flint



ROBBIE MORRISON

Robbie Morrison is one of *2000 AD*'s most popular writers, having co-created *The Bendatti Vendetta*, *Shakara*, *Shimura* and *Vanguard*, as well as being one of the select few writers to have chronicled the adventures of *Judge Dredd* in *2000 AD* and the *Judge Dredd Magazine*.

He is also co-creator of fan-favourite strip *Nikolai Dante*, which won an Eagle award for 'Best Character' in 2002, beating *Judge Dredd* to this accolade for the first time in almost twenty years. In the US, he has written Spider-Man's *Tangled Web* for Marvel and *The Authority* for DC/WildStorm. His and artist Charlie Adlard's critically acclaimed graphic novel *White Death* has also been hugely successful in both Europe and the US.

STEVE PARKHOUSE

British-born writer, artist and letterer Steve Parkhouse started his career at Marvel comics where he worked on *Nick Fury*, *Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Back in the UK he was one of the first artists to work on the acclaimed anthology *Warrior*, co-creating *The Bojeffries Saga* with writer Alan Moore and he also worked for Marvel UK, writing *Night Raven* which was illustrated by David Lloyd and *The Black Knight* – both of which ran in *Hulk Weekly*. Having enjoyed a successful run writing *Dr. Who Weekly* with Dave Gibbons on art chores, Steve also illustrated several strips for *2000 AD*, including *Judge Dredd*, *Luke Kirby* and Morrison and Millar's *Big Dave*.

MIKE COLLINS

Mike Collins has illustrated *American Gothic* which he also co-created, *Judge Dredd*, *Rogue Trooper*, *Sinister Dexter*, *Sláine* and has written and illustrated several *Tharg's Future Shocks* strips. Mike has also pencilled several licensed-based comics such as *Star Trek*, *Dr Who*, *Transformers* and *Ghostbusters*. His US comic credits include *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Teen Titans*, *X-Men*, *Spiderman* and *Daredevil* amongst many others.

COLIN MACNEIL

Colin MacNeil has served more than 25 years for his art crimes. His nefarious doings include *Judge Dredd*, *Chopper*, *Strontium Dog*, *Insurrection*, *Conan the Barbarian*, *Bydandy*, singing and biscuits. He is currently at large in society.

CLIFF ROBINSON

Cliff Robinson is one of *2000 AD*'s longest-serving artists, having made his debut with a *Future Shock* way back in Prog 362! Since then, he has co-created *Mother Earth*, and illustrated numerous *Judge Dredd* strips, as well as *Future Shocks*, *Judge Anderson* and *Venus Bluegenes*.



WAY OF THE RONIN!

HONDO CITY IS THE JAPANESE EQUIVALENT OF MEGA-CITY ONE - a large, sprawling urban mass policed by a Justice Department. Culturally however, it is totally different. While on the forefront of modern technology, the Hondo-citizens remain tied to the roots and customs of feudal Japan, while the Samurai-like Judge Inspectors who police the city, have been plagued by cases of corruption. Fortunately, judges like Aiko Inaba are upholding the law while questioning the authority of Justice Central.

From giant city-stomping beasts to vengeful ronin from beyond the grave, Hondo City life can be crazier than a pocketful of Pokémon! This collection features a host of *2000 AD* comic talent, including Robbie Morrison (*The Authority*, *Nikolai Dante*), Colin MacNeil (*Judge Dredd*, *Insurrection*), Colin Wilson (*Star Wars*, *Rogue Trooper*), Cliff Robinson (*Judge Dredd*, *Judge Anderson*) and Steve Parkhouse (*The Bojeffries Saga*, *Doctor Who*).



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