

JUDGE DREDD

A dynamic comic book illustration of Judge Dredd and his fellow Judges riding their iconic three-wheeled motorcycles through a dystopian city. Judge Dredd is in the center, wearing his signature red and black helmet with a yellow visor and a yellow and black uniform. He is flanked by two other Judges, one on the left and one on the right, also in similar uniforms. The motorcycles are black with large, round headlights and a yellow eagle emblem on the front. The background features a cityscape with tall, cylindrical buildings, some labeled "SYD BARRETT" and "TOM FRAME". The sky is filled with flying vehicles and a dark, ominous cloud. The overall style is classic comic book art with bold lines and a rich color palette.

ORIGINS

JOHN WAGNER ★ CARLOS EZQUERRA ★ KEV WALKER

ROLLAND





JUDGE DREDD

ORIGINS

JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER AND CARLOS EZQUERRA

JUDGE DREDD

ORIGINS

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For information on other *2000 AD* graphic novels, or if you have any comments on this book, please email books@2000ADonline.com

To find out more about *2000 AD*, visit www.2000ADonline.com



THE CONNECTION

Script: John Wagner
Art: Kev Walker
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

Originally published in *2000 AD* Progs 1500-1504



THE CURSED
EARTH —



GIMME AN
ELTZWELT THERE,
POP, EASY ON THE
SKUZZ.

HEY,
BIBBY, LONG
TIME NO
SEE.



H-HEY —





WEST GATE,
MEGA-CITY
ONE —



THESE
AREN'T THE
NAMES ON THE
MANIFEST.

RELIEF
DRIVERS, DETROIT
AND SPILLER TOOK
SICK.



THEY LIKE
T.C. FOOD, BUT T.C.
FOOD DON'T LIKE THEM.
IT'S A REQUIRED
TASTE.

COULD
CHECK THEM
OUT WITH THE
COMPANY.

AT
THIS TIME OF
NIGHT?



ALL
LOOKS KOSHER, NO
STOWAWAYS.

ALL
RIGHT, MOVE
ALONG.

YOU GOT
A THREE-DAY
VISA, TEX. DON'T
OUTSTAY YOUR
WELCOME.



REQUIRED —
JOVIS WEPT! IT'S
ACQUIRED! IT'S
ACQUIRED, YA
NUMBSKULL!



COULDA
SCREWED THIS
UP BEFORE WE EVEN
GOT
HERE. WHY LINUS
GAVE
ME YOU TWO TO WORK
WITH I DON'T
KNOW.

WE DON'T
NEED YOUR CRAP,
CHUCK. WE GOT
HERE, DIDN'T
WE?

SECTOR
HOUSE
213 -

213

DIRTY
NIGHT.

STILL,
KEEPS THE
CREEPS OFF THE
STREETS.

PLENTY
GOING ON INDOORS,
BELIEVE ME.

HOW
LONG D'YOU
WANT?

REGULATION
TEN OUGHT TO
DO.

TAKE
41.

YOU USED
A SLEEP MACHINE
BEFORE?

ONCE OR
TWICE.

SORRY.
GOT TO ASK,
REGS.

SHEEZ!
COULDN'T WE PARK
IT ANY CLOSER TO
CIVILISATION?

NO.

JOE.

HOW'S
MY CITY DOING,
JOE? YOU AND **RICO**
— HOW ARE **YOU**
DOING?

JUDGE
FARGO —

RICO'S
DEAD, SIR. HE
WENT BAD. I
HAD TO KILL
HIM.

THIS
TRUE, **RICO**?
HE KILLED
YOU?

YES, SIR. DIDN'T
LEAVE HIM ANY
CHOICE, SIR.

YOUR OWN
CLONE BROTHER.
JOE, YOU DON'T THINK
YOU TAKE THINGS A
LITTLE TOO...
SERIOUSLY?

LAW'S
A SERIOUS
BUSINESS,
SIR.

BAD?
RICO? I CAN HARDLY
BELIEVE IT. HE'S ME, HE'S
YOU — WE DIDN'T GO
BAD, JOE.

THAT'S
A MATTER OF
OPINION, SIR.

YOU'RE
SAYING I
DID?

NOT EXACTLY,
SIR. WENT OFF THE
RAILS A LITTLE. IT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE. YOU
DIDN'T HAVE THE BENEFIT
OF THE ACADEMY. I'M
NOT BLAMING YOU,
SIR.

THANKS
FOR THAT. NICE
TO KNOW. STILL, CAN'T
HAVE YOU BEING
DISAPPOINTED
IN ME.

PUT
THE GUN DOWN,
SIR.

SORRY,
JOE. HAVE TO DO
THE HONOURABLE
THING.

SIR -
NO!



CR
AA
AK

YOU
ALL RIGHT
IN THERE,
41?

THE THIRD
DREAM ABOUT
FARGO.

DIDN'T USUALLY DREAM
IN THE SLEEP MACHINE,
BUT THIS WAS THE
THIRD. STRANGE.



HE REMEMBERED THE
TIME RICO - THE NEW
RICO - HAD HIS CHIN
BLOWN OFF.* HIS OWN
BONES HAD GOT THAT
ACHE...

*THARGNOTE: SEE
PROG 1447.

HE HADN'T CONNECTED
IT THEN, BUT THERE
HAD BEEN OTHER
TIMES, LONG AGO
- INEXPLICABLE
PAINS - FEELINGS OF
FEAR AND EXCITATION
FOR NO REASON...

HE KNEW ABOUT LINKS
BETWEEN IDENTICAL
TWINNS - AND THEY
WERE EVEN CLOSER.
THE CLONES OF FARGO.
COULD IT BE SOME-
THING SIMILAR...?



IF SO, WHY
FARGO?
WHY NOW?

MAYBE IF THE
GENES DIDN'T MAKE
THEM ALL SO
DAMNED INSENSITIVE
THE ANSWER WOULD
BE PLAIN TO SEE.

DIRTY
NIGHT.



YOU
SAID IT.

FOUR-ELEVEN, GENTS.

EL'S OUT AGAIN. HAVE TO USE THE STAIRS.

Sleepeezy

ANYTHIN' YOU NEED - AN' I MEAN ANYTHIN' - I'M YOUR MAN. JUST ASK FOR SVEN THE NIGHT GUY.

NICE ROOM. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A NICE ROOM. BRAIN BYPASS. ALL YOU EVER SAW WAS THE INSIDE OF A HOVEL.

FOR THE LOVVA MIKE. GIVE IT A BREAK, CHUCK.

THAT OUGHTA DO. TOMORROW WE GO SCOUT OUT THE LAND.

I'LL GIVE THE FIGGIN' ORDERS, TOOEY!

NOW GET YER COAT OFF. I'M SICKA SMELLIN' YOUR ARMPIT.

TURNED INTO A REAL LITTLE HITLER SINCE YOU GOT PROMOTED, AIN'T YA, CHUCK?

DON'T GIVE ME ANY OF YOUR BACKTALK. JUST REMEMBER I OUTRANK YOU.

AN' YOU REMEMBER YOU'RE JUST AN APPENDAGE. YOU DON'T DO NOTHIN' WITHOUT ME!

HOLY SMAIKE, MUTIES!

NICE ROOM.

NOW WHAT'RE THEY UP TO...?

DEAD
MEN ARE FRANK
DETROIT, 41 - PEDRO
ELDON SPILLER, 29.
BOTH CREW FOR
CURSED EARTH BY
NIGHT.

STALL
HOLDER HERMANN
POPKISS SERVED THEM
TONIGHT ABOUT 0100 -
DIDN'T NOTICE WHEN
THEIR VEHICLE DROVE
OUT.

TWO
STRAIGHT BREWS,
BURGER AN' ELTZWELT,
FRIES ONNA SIDE -
THAT'S WHAT THEY
ALWAYS
HAD.

THEY'RE REGULARS
ON THE T.C. RUN, TIME
OF DEATH I'D GUESS
SHORTLY AFTER 0100.

DETROIT
AND SPILLER -
THAT'S CURSED
EARTH BY
NIGHT 14.

VEHICLE ENTERED CITY
AT 0232, RELIEF DRIVERS
FARNESS AND LOPEZ, CARRYING
T.C. PAPERS, DAMN GOOD
FORGERIES, SHOULD'VE
CHECKED THEM UP
WITH T.C.

CREEPS'LL
DO ANYTHING TO
GET IN.

HAVE
THOSE PUT
OUT TO ALL
UNITS.





OH MAN,
ONE OF THE
DELIGHTS OF THE
BIG CITY!



WATCH
IT! THAT FIGGIN'
SOAP'S GETTIN' IN
MY EYES!



PRIME!
YOU OUGHTA
GET IN THERE,
KEEVER.

FORGET
IT. IT'S ALL THE
SAME WATER RECYCLED.
PROBLY A THOUSAND
PEOPLE HAVE
WASHED IN THAT
WATER.

WELL
MAKE IT A
THOUSAND AN'
ONE! YA GOT THAT
CURSED EARTH
SMELL ALL OVER
YA! WASH IT
OFF!



WHEN
THE JOB'S
DONE, HOW'S ABOUT
WE GRAB US A
NIGHT ON THE
TOWN?

YEAH, YOU'D
LIKE THAT. I'M SUCKIN'
YOUR ARMPIT WHILE
YOU'RE PUMPIN' SOME
DIZZY. LOT OF FREAKIN'
FUN THAT IS FOR
ME, I CAN TELL
YOU.

THAT'S
WHY LINUS PUT
ME IN CHARGE. WE
STICK TO THE
PLAN.



C'MON,
WHAT LINUS
DON'T KNOW AIN'T
GONNA HURT
HIM.

HE AIN'T
GONNA HAPTA KNOW
IT 'COS IT AIN'T GONNA
HAPPEN, SEE? WE'RE
HERE TO DO A JOB -
THAT'S IT, ENDA
STORY.



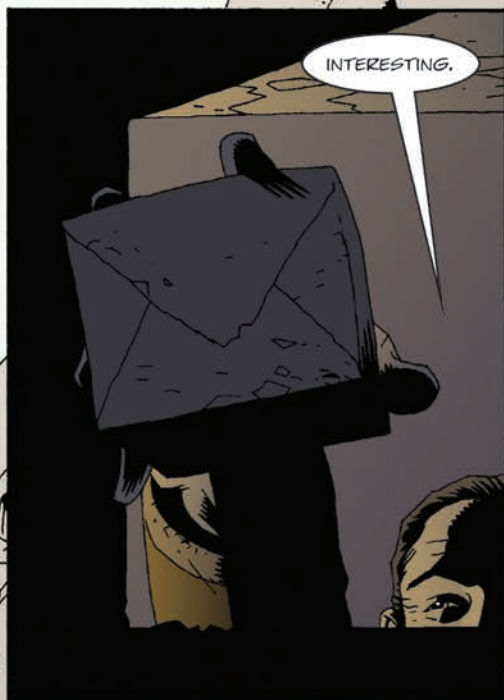
HOW DO
WE GET TO THE
GRAND HALL OF
JUSTICE?

GONNA
TURN YOURSELVES
IN, BOYS?



TAKE
IT EASY! ONLY
JOKING!

TAKE
THE CROSSTOWN
ZOOM TO SECTOR ONE,
TRANSFER TO THE LOCAL
LINE, GRAND HALL
STOP, CAN'T MISS
IT.



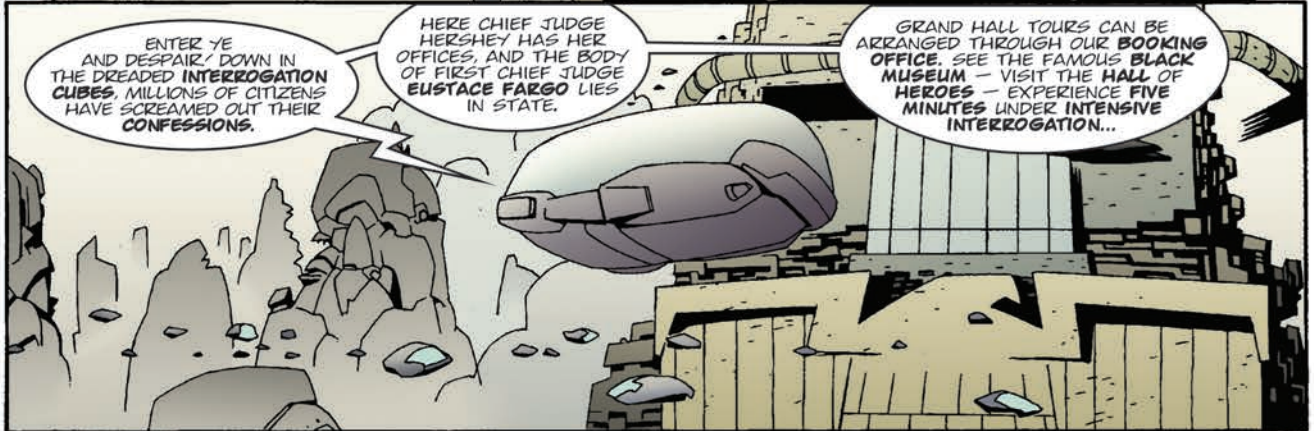
HE WAS UNASSIGNED THAT MORNING,
JUST CRUISING, LETTING HIS INSTINCT
CARRY HIM WHERE IT WOULD —



THERE'S
AN ALL UNITS
OUT — CHECK
YOUR BIKE
COM.



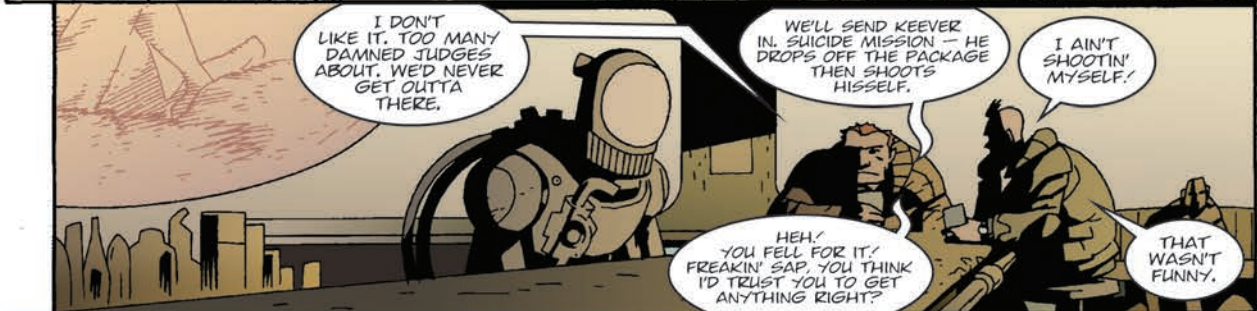
ON YOUR
LEFT NOW THE
GRAND HALL OF
JUSTICE.



ENTER YE
AND DESPAIR! DOWN IN
THE DREADED INTERROGATION
CUBES, MILLIONS OF CITIZENS
HAVE SCREAMED OUT THEIR
CONFESSIONS.

HERE CHIEF JUDGE
HERSHEY HAS HER
OFFICES, AND THE BODY
OF FIRST CHIEF JUDGE
EUSTACE FARGO LIES
IN STATE.

GRAND HALL TOURS CAN BE
ARRANGED THROUGH OUR BOOKING
OFFICE. SEE THE FAMOUS BLACK
MUSEUM — VISIT THE HALL OF
HEROES — EXPERIENCE FIVE
MINUTES UNDER INTENSIVE
INTERROGATION...



I DON'T
LIKE IT. TOO MANY
DAMNED JUDGES
ABOUT. WE'D NEVER
GET OUTTA
THERE.

WE'LL SEND KEEVER
IN. SUICIDE MISSION — HE
DROPS OFF THE PACKAGE
THEN SHOOTS
HIMSELF.

I AIN'T
SHOOTIN'
MYSELF!

HEH!
YOU FELL FOR IT!
FREAKIN' SAP. YOU THINK
I'D TRUST YOU TO GET
ANYTHING RIGHT?

THAT WASN'T
FUNNY.



DRINKING
ALONE?

NOT
ANYMORE,
SUGAR. WHAT'S
YOUR
POISON?

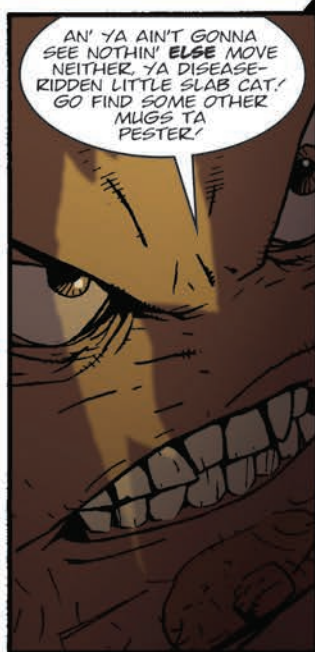
GET
LOST!

HEY!
Y-YOUR SHIRT
SPOKE! YOU GOT
SOMETHIN' IN
THERE?



NAH. I'M A... I'M
A VENTRILOQUIST.
SEE, I CAN THROW MY
VOICE. I'M A VERY
TALENTED GUY. SO HOW'S
ABOUT WE GET A ROOM
AN' I'LL SHOW YA MY
OTHER
TALENTS?

ME TOO!
I GOT A BIGGER
TALENT THAN
HIS!



IT HAD BEEN LATE.
A FILTHY NIGHT...

THE CURSED EARTH BY NIGHT
KILLERS MIGHT HAVE A CONTACT
— A PRE-ARRANGED RENDEZVOUS.
IF NOT, THEY'D BE LOOKING TO
GET IN OUT OF THE RAIN.

Sleepeezy

FAR ENOUGH AWAY,
BUT NOT TOO FAR...

WHERE
IS IT?

WH-
WH-WHERE'S
WHAT?

THE
BOX!

I-I DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
TALKIN' ABOUT! I ONLY
BEEN ON SINCE
NINE!

ASK
SVEN! SVEN,
THE NIGHT
GUY!

AND
WHERE DO
WE FIND
SVEN?

JEEZUS
JOVIS - !





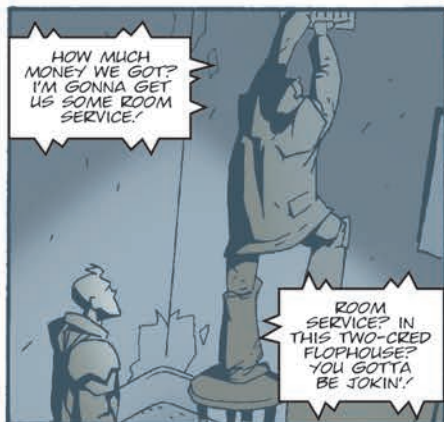


THEY'RE THE TWO WHO EXED THOSE CURSED EARTH DRIVERS, ENTERED THE CITY UNDER FALSE T.C. PAPERS.



REGISTER GIVES THEIR NAMES AS GILLAN AND FREAGUE, THE DEAD MAN - REAL NAME KEEVER, WE THINK - WAS CARRYING PAPERS UNDER FOUR DIFFERENT IDENTITIES.

WE'VE GOT SOMETHING INTERESTING FROM THEIR ROOM LAST NIGHT.



HOW MUCH MONEY WE GOT? I'M GONNA GET US SOME ROOM SERVICE.

ROOM SERVICE? IN THIS TWO-CRED FLOPHOUSE? YOU GOTTA BE JOKIN'!



THAT OUGHTA DO. TOMORROW WE GO SCOUT OUT THE LAND...

I'LL GIVE THE FIGGIN' ORDERS, TOOEY!

GET A CLOSE-UP ON THAT.



INTERESTING.

WE'VE CHECKED THE VENT. THE PACKAGE, WHATEVER IT CONTAINS, IS NO LONGER THERE. I'M ASSUMING THE ESCAPED MAN HAS IT.



THEY LEFT THE SLEEPPEEZY AT 0812. AT 0815 THE P.T. SYSTEM WAS SWITCHED OFF.

THEY TALKED ABOUT A 'JOB', AND SOMEONE CALLED LINUS - I TAKE IT HE'S THEIR SUPERIOR.

I'M HEARING THREE VOICES.

WAIT TILL YOU SEE THIS.



OKAY, LET'S KEEP THE TALK DOWN. THESE WALLS COULD HAVE EARS.

MUTANT!



"CREEP'S CALLED TOOEY. MUTATION HAS A NAME TOO - CHUCK. IT SEEMS TO BE IN CHARGE."

"TURN UP ANYTHING ON LINUS?"

"THERE'S A LINUS FRANCKS, DOING TWO LIVES IN 138. A JERRY LINUS, WANTED FOR ARSON. DON'T SEE HOW EITHER OF THEM COULD BE CONNECTED. WE'RE CHECKING THE NAME OUT WITH T.C."



SO WHO ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY HERE FOR? WHAT'S IN THAT BOX?



SVEN, THE NIGHT GUY, LIVED ALONE IN GUY LOMBARDO...



GOTTA BE WORTH SOMETHIN'... GOTTA BE WORTH A LOT, WAY THEY HID IT...



ANOTHER BOX. JEWELLERY, MAYBE...



'FRIGERATED-? WEIRD.



HELL, SOME KINDA RANSOM NOTE, KIDNAPPERS, THEY GOT THIS GUY FARGO -



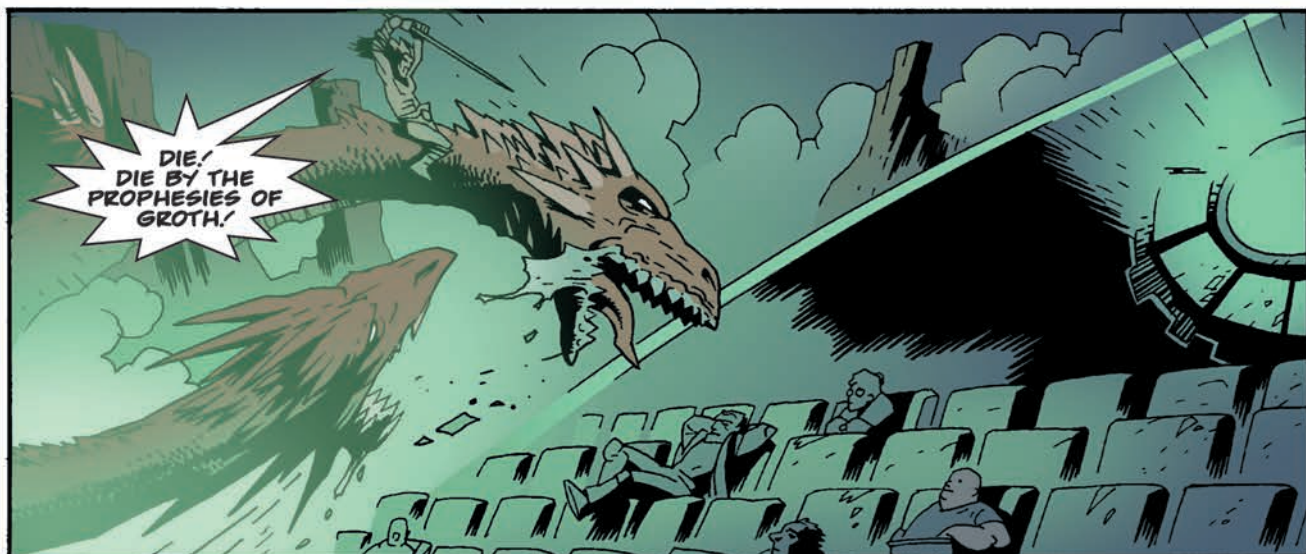
DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THIS, MAN, GOTTA HAND IT IN TO THE JAYS...

B-BUT THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW HOW I GOT IT, THEY'LL FIND OUT ABOUT ME TAKIN' STUFF FROM THE ROOMS -



WHAT'M I GONNA DO?

CLIK



DIE!
DIE BY THE
PROPHESIES OF
GROTH!



WE
CAN GO TO
GANT.

YEAH?
WHAT
WITH?



A SIMPLE
JOB, AND WE
FOULED IT UP. I
BLAME YOU AN'
KEEVER.

ME?
HOW AM I TO
BLAME?



EXCUSE
ME, YOU KEEP
TALKING TO
YOURSELF.

YEAH, AN'
YOUR WRINKLES
KEEP FLAPPIN'.
FLAKE OFF, YOU
OLD BAG. I GOT
BUSINESS TO
DISCUSS.



WELL!

WE
GOTTA
GET THE
BOX BACK.
THAT LITTLE
GEEK ON
RECEPTION —
THAT'S WHO
TOOK
IT.



HOW WE
SUPPOSED
TO FIND
HIM?

SIMPLE!
HE'S THE NIGHT
GUY, AIN'T HE? HE'S
GOT TO SHOW
HIMSELF
TONIGHT!





SVEN KAFKA,
NIGHT GUY AT THE
SLEEPEEZY ON JONSON.
STABBED EIGHT TIMES,
THROAT SLASHED,
DUMPED IN THE
GARBSTER.

HOW
LONG
AGO?

STILL
PRETTY FRESH,
SAY THIRTY
MINUTES
TOPS.



FOUND THIS
ON HIS COM. FIGURED
YOU'D WANT TO BE
INFORMED.

THIS IS JUDGE
DREDD. CONTACT
ME IMMEDIATELY.
AND DON'T GET
SMART ON YOUR
ANSWER COM.

KAFKA HAD BEEN ON DUTY
AT THE SLEEPEEZY THE
PREVIOUS NIGHT, WHEN
THE CURSED EARTHERS
HAD ARRIVED. THERE HAD
TO BE A CONNECTION.



MAYBE HE'D SEEN
SOMETHING
HAD SOMETHING
ON THEM. MAYBE
HE KNEW ABOUT
THE BOX...



WE CALL IT THE
MAGUFFIN, JOE.
THE OBJECT
— THE THING
EVERYBODY
WANTS.

IT'S A
BOX, SIR. THE
MUTANT BROUGHT
IT IN. DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
IN IT.



COULD IT
BE SOMETHING TO
DO WITH YOU,
SIR?

YOU HAVE
EVIDENCE?

NO,
SIR, JUST A
SUSPICION. THESE
DREAMS I'VE
BEEN HAVING...
LIKE THIS
ONE.



COULD
BE PANDORA'S
BOX, JOE — OPEN
IT AND YOU'LL GET
MORE THAN YOU
BARGAINED
ON...



YOU
ALL RIGHT
THERE?

A LITTLE
DIZZY. IT'LL
PASS.

AREN'T
YOU ON THE
DISABLED
LIST?

WHO HAS
TIME?



STILL, MAYBE
I OUGHT TO GRAB
A SESSION ON THE
SPEEDHEAL.

CAN'T
HURT.

YOUR
SUSPECT IS CALLED
TOOEY - MUTANT.
KILLED THE DAY GUY
AT THE SLEEPEEZY AND
TWO TRUCK DRIVERS
OUT ON HELL'S
HIGHWAY.



THEY HAD AN **ALL UNITS**
OUT ON THE MUTANT. **PSU**
WAS ON THE CASE. THEY'D
FIND HIM. PROBABLY
SOONER THAN LATER...



YES?

I'M A FRIEND OF A
FRIEND, MR GANT. IF
I WAS EVER IN THE
CITY, LINUS SAID TO
LOOK YOU UP.



LINUS?

THAT'S
WHAT I
SAID.

LOOK, LET
ME IN, WILL YA,
MR GANT?



NICE PLACE YOU GOT HERE.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



IT'S WHAT OUR MUTUAL FRIEND WANTS, GANT.

M-MY GOD!



HEY, YOU GOT A **DRINK** OR SOMETHIN', GANT? I'M DRY AS A RABBUSH HERE.



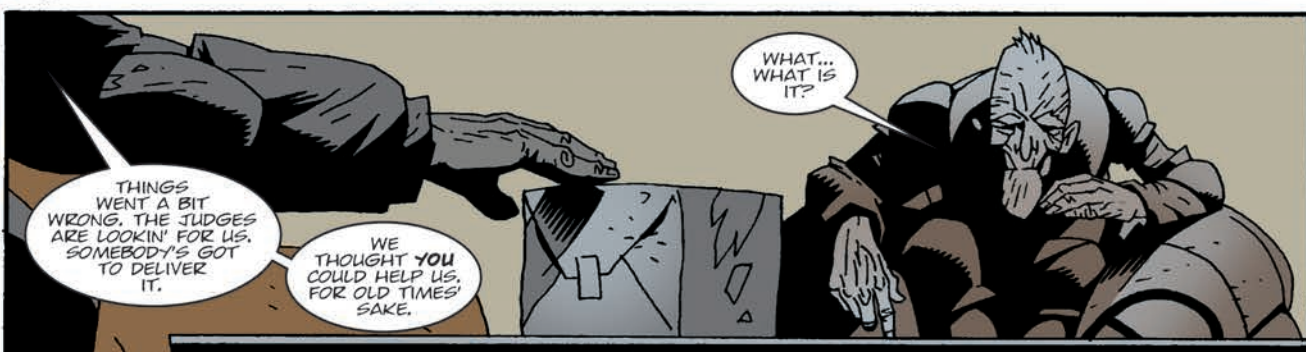
OF...OF COURSE, ARTHUR —

SIR.



SO YOU SEE, GANT, ME AN' TOOEY HERE GOT A SIZABLE **BONE** TO PICK WITH THIS CITY. SAME GOES FOR OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

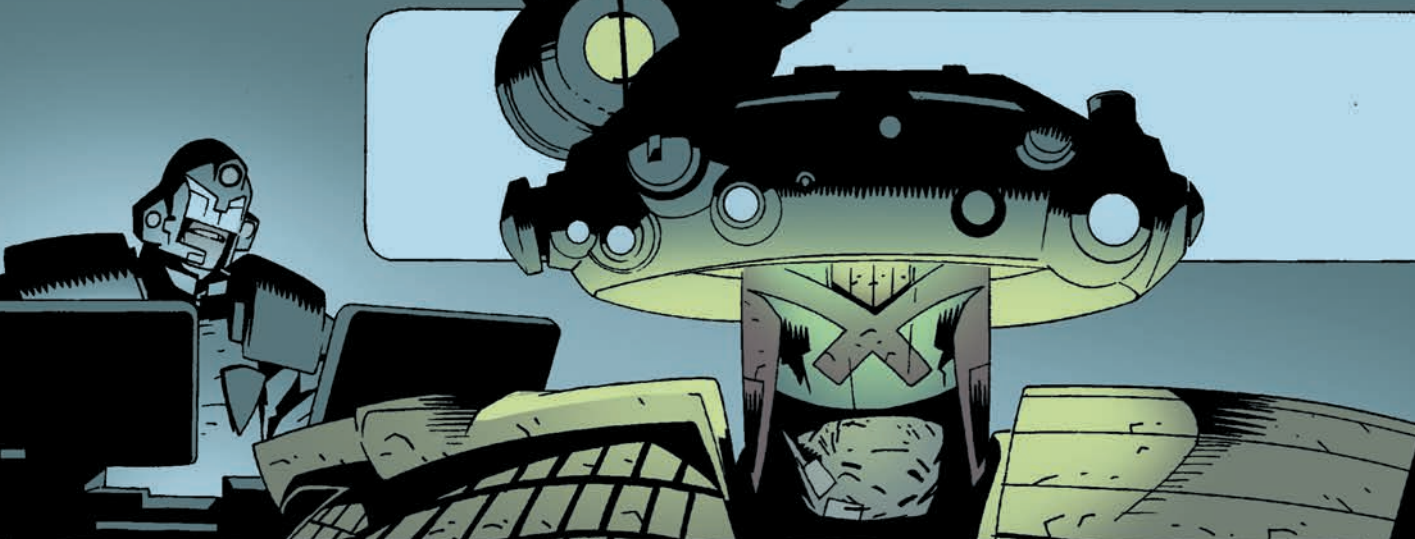
SHOW HIM THE PACKAGE, TOOEY.



THINGS WENT A BIT WRONG, THE JUDGES ARE LOOKIN' FOR US, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO DELIVER IT.

WE THOUGHT **YOU** COULD HELP US, FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.

WHAT... WHAT IS IT?



WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, SIR?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?

TELL YOU? CAN ANYBODY TELL YOU ANYTHING, JOE?



THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH US, WITH YOU - WITH ME, WE KNOW IT ALL. ALL WE CAN SEE IS A STRAIGHT LINE. JUSTICE, LET JUSTICE BE DONE.

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS, YOU SAID SO YOURSELF. THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL...

AND BY GOD THEY FELL. ON ME, ON YOU...



IT'S NOT TOO LATE, JOE.

FOR WHAT? WHAT?



IT'S A MINOR CONCUSSION, NO BIG DEAL. ANOTHER COUPLE OF SESSIONS OUGHT TO FIX IT. WOULDN'T RECOMMEND ANY GYMNASTICS MEANWHILE.

I'LL DO MY BEST.



YOU WERE TALKING TO YOURSELF THERE. YOU DO THAT A LOT?

SIGN OF AGE, I GUESS.



DREDD!
ALDOUS, PSU, WE
HAVE A FIX ON
TOOEY!



IT WAS
THE HAT THAT
STYMIED US. DIDN'T
GET A CLEAR VIEW
TILL THE LOWLEVEL AT
MAXON, SECTOR
ONE, TRACED HIM
BACK.



HE CAUGHT THE
11-04 CROSSTOWN
FROM SABS CORNER -
THAT PUTS HIM CLOSE
ENOUGH AT THE
RIGHT TIME TO HAVE
EXED YOUR NIGHT
GUY.



HE
ALIGHTED AT KNOCK
STREET, SECTOR ONE,
PROCEEDED WEST ON
VAN HOUTEN AS
FAR AS -

SKIP THE
BLOW-BY-BLOW,
ALDOUS -
WHERE IS HE?



CONTROL,
GET UNITS TO
THE ELDSTERS' CONDO
ON WISTEY. I WANT IT
SEALED OFF. BE ON THE
LOOKOUT FOR SUSPECT
IN THE SLEEPSEZY
KILLING.

BRAD PITT
ELDSTERS' CONDO,
WISTEY STREET,
SUSPECT SPOKE IN
INTERCOM AND WAS
ADMITTED AT 12-28.
INTERCOM WILL BE
ABLE TO GIVE YOU
THE APARTMENT.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

JUST
TAKIN' A FEW
THINGS FOR THE
JOURNEY. NO POINT
US HANGIN'
AROUND
NOW.



BRAD
PIT



HOW WE
GONNA GET OUT
OF THE CITY? THEY'LL
BE LOOKIN' FOR
US.

EXACTLY.
US.



AIN'T YOU
GLAD YOU GOT
SOME BRAINS
ALONG?





SUSPECT WAS ADMITTED TO APARTMENT 8Q, HOME OF ONE SPENDER J. GANT.

GANT IS 138 YEARS OLD, CONFINED TO AN INVALID BUGGY. HE IS NOT AT HOME. HOUSE DROID REFUSES TO DIVULGE HIS WHEREABOUTS.



HOUSE DROID SAYS SUSPECT TOOEY LEFT ONLY MINUTES AGO. HE'S USING GANT'S SPARE HOVER UNIT.



MADELY! I'M SHOT!

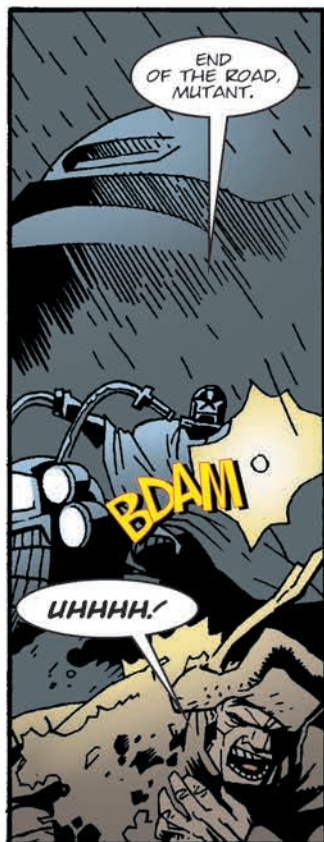


ARMED MAN ON GIMP BUGGY, HEADING NORTH ON SECTOR ONE SKEDWAY!



GOT TO BE THE MUTANT!

DREDD! INTERCEPTING THAT HOVER BUGGY!





D-DAMN IT, TOOEY, DON'T YOU FLAKE OUT ON ME! THAT'S AN ORDER! D-YA HEAR ME, TOOEY!



HEY, SHAKE A LEG, GUY. STAMP YOUR FEET OR SOMETHIN'. I'M GETTIN' COLD... REAL COLD....



NUMBERS... THAT'S ALL YOU HAD, LAWMAN...

FACE TO FACE... MAN TO MAN... YOU COULDN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO OLD... TO OLD CHUCK TITMAN...



THE BOX... HE HASN'T GOT IT.



NOR HAD IT BEEN FOUND AT GANT'S APARTMENT -

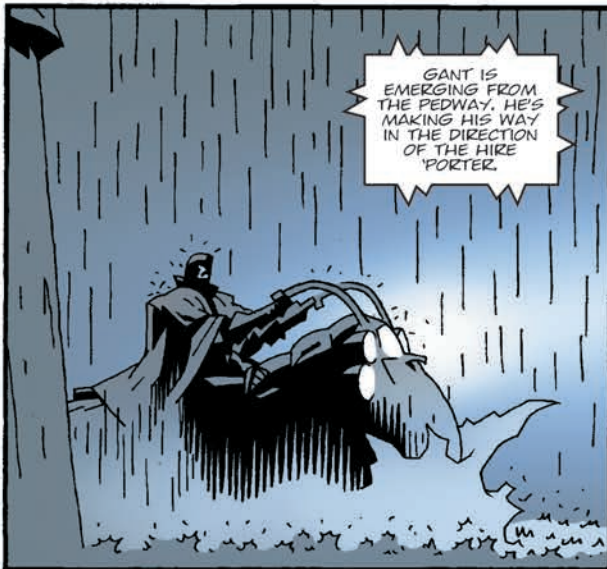
WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK ALL ALONG THE MUTANT'S ROUTE. HE COULD HAVE DROPPED IT.

CHECK. WE'RE STILL WORKING ON THE HOUSE DROID.

FZZT

WHAT DID YOU SAY THE OWNER'S NAME WAS?

GANT. SPENDER J. GANT.





HEART ATTACK.
THE SIGHT OF YOU, I
SUPPOSE, NOT ENTIRELY
SURPRISING AT
HIS AGE.

TERRIFIC.



NOTHING
IN THE BUGGY
OR THE HIRE
'PORTER. IT PICKED
HIM UP ON ELRIC
BOULEVARD.

GET A
FULL TEAM ON IT.
SEARCH THE ROUTE
BACK FROM ELRIC
TO HIS BLOCK. I'LL MAKE
A START ON THE
PEDWAY.



WHAT WAS
IT ABOUT THIS
CASE? EVERYONE
KEPT DYING
ON HIM.



MAYBE IT WAS FATE.
MAYBE THEY WERE
FATED NEVER TO LEARN
THE BOX'S SECRET...





ORIGINS

Script: John Wagner
Art: Carlos Ezquerra
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

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Thanks to
ROBIN LOW.





NO NEED TO SHOUT. I WAS JUST NEXT DOOR.

HERE'S A LIST.

Cohn
Venables
Waters
Renga
Ennerby
Sanchez

CHECK STATUS AND AVAILABILITY, ALL CURSED EARTH IMMUNISATIONS UP TO DATE, RATIONS FOR THIRTY DAYS. READY TO LEAVE AT 0600.

I NEED EIGHT. COULD ONLY THINK OF SIX. BIT OUT OF TOUCH.

ENNERBY'S NO GO - CAUGHT A LOAD ON THAT SPEXER FIASCO.

COHN...
VENABLES...
WATERS...
RENGA...

COHN IS GOOD, HE'S AVAILABLE. YOU COULD TRY CURZON. JUST GRADUATED BUT HE'S SHARP. AND THERE'S ME.

YOU?

I KNOW THE HIP PLAYS ME UP, BUT IT'S JUST PAIN, THAT'S ALL. I ALWAYS GET OVERLOOKED FOR THE PLUMS.

HMM...

ALL RIGHT, LOGAN, BUT YOU BREAK DOWN YOU GO HOME ON YOUR OWN. YOU MAY FIND THIS IS NO PLUM.

COHN AND VENABLES ARE MED STAFF. YOU EXPECTING CASUALTIES THEN?

ALWAYS EXPECT. THAT WAY YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.

0530, WEST
GATE NINE -

WE HAVE
RECEIVED FROM
PERSONS UNKNOWN
A RANDOM DEMAND
FOR THE RETURN
OF THE BODY OF
JUDGE EUSTACE
FARGO.



IT'S
MISSING?

HIS TOMBS
IN THE HALL OF
JUSTICE. I
PASSED IT ONLY
YESTERDAY.

HOW
COULD ANYONE
GET TO IT
THERE?



THEY
DIDN'T HAVE TO. I
HAVE SOME INFORMATION
FOR YOU, AND THIS GOES
NO FURTHER THAN
THIS ROOM -

JUDGE
FARGO HAS
NEVER BEEN
IN THAT
TOMB.

YOU'RE
KIDDING, BUT
WE WERE ALWAYS
TOLD -

FABRICATED.

FARGO'S
BODY WAS...
SHALL WE SAY,
MISAPPROPRIATED,
UNTIL NOW WE HAD
THOUGHT IT LOST
FOREVER.

IT
SEEMS
NOT.





SOME 'DULT GIMME FIFTY CREDITS TO GIVE YA THIS.

WHAT-?

DOWN! EVERYBODY DOWN!

HUH?

HASN'T GONE OFF - !

GET BACK, KID!

FRONT DESK! WE HAVE A SUSPECTED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE!

THE INNER CONTAINER WAS REFRIGERATED. IT HELD A SECTION OF HUMAN TISSUE. ITS DNA WAS IDENTICAL TO YOURS.

THIS CAME WITH IT.

YOU DON'T SEEM SURPRISED.

Fargo

Price for remainder one billion credits used currency only.

Funds leave Mega-City one tomorrow A.M., route specified below. Further instructions will be given en route.

Small escort only, no heavy armament.

No tricks.

LET'S SAY I HAD A SUSPICION FARGO MIGHT BE INVOLVED.

SO GANT PASSED THE BOX TO THE JIVE FOR DELIVERY. AND YOU THINK IT'S MY CLONE-FATHER?

IT'S HIGHLY PROBABLE.

THE AGE AND LEVELS
OF ABSORBED CONTAMINANTS
INDICATE A MAN WHO LIVED
THROUGH MOST OF THE LAST
CENTURY — AND THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO FAKE.

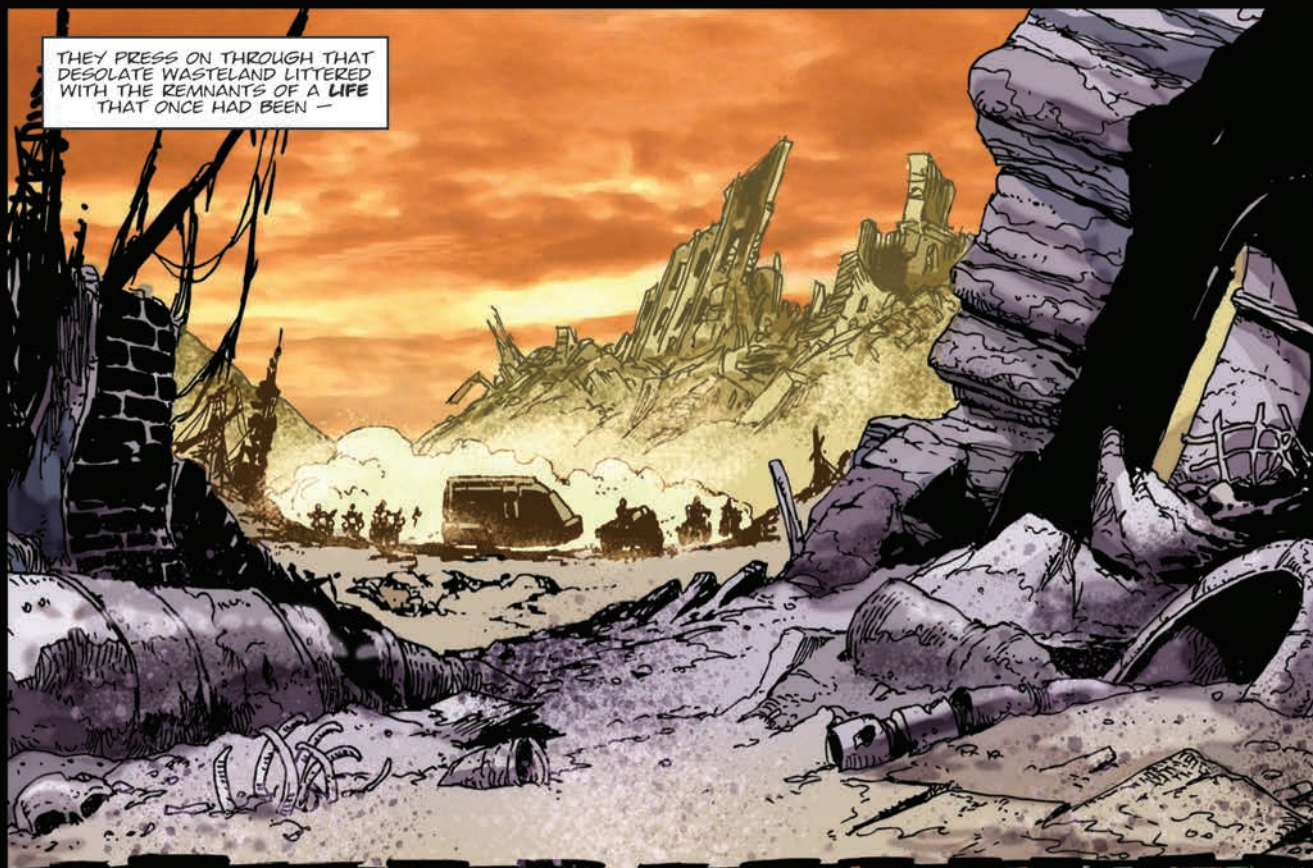
AND
THERE'S ONE
OTHER THING
YOU SHOULD
KNOW...

THE TISSUE
WAS FRESH, DREDD,
TAKEN FROM A LIVING
ORGANISM.

JUDGE
FARGO — IF
INDEED IT IS FARGO —
MAY STILL BE
ALIVE!



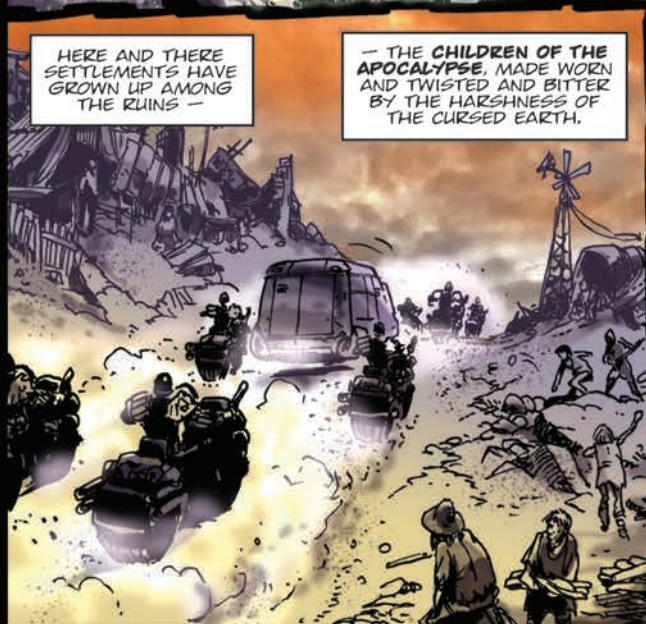
THEY PRESS ON THROUGH THAT
DESOLATE WASTELAND LITTERED
WITH THE REMNANTS OF A LIFE
THAT ONCE HAD BEEN —



— RUSTING, CRUMBLING
MEMORIALS TO THE LAND
THEY CALLED AMERICA.



HERE AND THERE
SETTLEMENTS HAVE
GROWN UP AMONG
THE RUINS —



— THE CHILDREN OF THE
APOCALYPSE, MADE WORN
AND TWISTED AND BITTER
BY THE HARSHNESS OF
THE CURSED EARTH.

THEY GAVE
THEM WIDE
BERTH.



THIS TORTURED LAND...

NOT FARGO'S LEGACY, AS MANY THOUGHT, BUT DEMOCRACY'S — A PRODUCT OF THE CORRUPTION THE JUDGES HAD BEEN FORMED TO FIGHT.

IN THAT RESPECT AT LEAST, THEY HAD FAILED. TOO LATE, TOO LATE TO PREVENT DISASTER...

WHEN DO YOU RECKON THEY'LL MAKE CONTACT?

NOT TODAY. NOT FOR A WHILE. THEY WANT US WELL AWAY FROM THE CITY.

SOMETHING BURNING UP AHEAD.

LOOKS LIKE A RADWAGON.

MUTANT. ONE OF THE ATTACKERS. THAT'S HOME-MADE ARMOUR.

WOMAN'S DEAD. SHOT UP LIKE A PRACTICE DROID.

THE BUH...THE BABY...TH- THEY GOT THE BABY...



GUH...
GOT SEPARATED
FROM...FROM THE
'TREK'. BIG DAMN
MISTAKE...

SAVE
HIM. DON'T
LET THEM...HAVE
MY...LITTLE
BOY...



SO MUCH
FOR THEIR NEW
LIFE.

YOU
GOTTA ASK,
THE CITY
WAS THIS
BAD?

TRACKS
EVERYWHERE.
THESE ONES LOOK
THE FRESHEST -
HEADING INTO
THE HILLS.

NOT OUR
BUSINESS, RENGA.
WE'VE GOT OUR
INSTRUCTIONS.



DREDD TO
JUSTICE WATCH.
COME IN. ARE
YOU READING
ME?



NOTHING.
TOO MUCH
INTERFERENCE.

SO IT'S
JUST US. WE'VE
GOT TO DO
SOMETHING. WE
CAN'T LEAVE THAT
BABY TO THE
MUTIES.

I AGREE,
I MEAN, WHAT'S
SOME DEAD
OLD BONES
TO A JUVIE'S
LIFE?

GOT TO
SAY IT, DREDD.
FATHER OF
JUSTICE, SURE.
BUT HE'S STILL OLD
BONES. THAT LITTLE
BOY COULD
STILL BE
ALIVE.



ALL RIGHT.
CURZON, SANCHEZ,
RENGA, YOU COME WITH
ME. WATERS, YOU'RE
IN CHARGE
HERE.



FIND
SOME DEFENSIBLE
GROUND. WHOEVER
DID THIS MAY BE
BACK.

CHECK.



YOU - HAS A PARTY PASSED HERE RECENTLY PULLING SOME KIND OF WAGON? THEY HAVE ANIMALS.

AND A NORM JUVE.

I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY HAD, MISTER. WE...WE DON'T LIKE TO LOOK WHEN THEM...THEM ABOMINATIONS GOES BY.

AIN'T-AINT YOU NEVER SEEN 'EM? THEY'RE THE DEVIL'S OWN - THE TRUE CHILDREN OF THE APOCALYPSE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DON'T EVEN LISTEN, MOGGY!

KEEP TRYING THAT RADIO, LOGAN. MIGHT GET A BREAK IN THE ATMOSPHERICS.

YO!

MIGHT AS WELL LET THEM KNOW WE'VE SEEN THEM. DON'T WANT TROUBLE IF WE CAN AVOID IT.

DON'T THINK THIS IS AVOIDABLE.

YOU SEE 'EM THERE, QUIGLEY? YOU SEE 'EM?

I SEE 'EM, NICEY.

HOW MANY YOU COUNT?

I COUNT FIVE, NICEY!

AN'
WHADDYA
RECKON THEY GOT
IN THAT THERE
TRUCK?

SOMETHIN'
REAL GOOD, I
BET.

WELL,
HOW ABOUT WE
RIDE DOWN THERE,
SLAUGHTER THEIR ASSES
AN' FIND OUT? HOW DOES
THAT SOUND FOR
A PLAN?

WORKS
FOR ME,
NICEY.







SOON,
MY DEAR, PUSH
AGAIN.

PUSH!

PUSH!
BE BRAVE,
NORMA,
YOU CAN
DO IT!



BOY,
RUN AND TELL THE
WISEHEADS! THE TIME
OF THE BIRTHING IS
ON US!

YEZZIM!



THE
BIRTHING!

WE'VE
BEEN WAITING SO
LONG FOR THIS
MOMENT!

HUSH, CHILD.
HUSH, SO WE MAY
HEAR THE CRY OF THE
NEWBORN — THE NEXT
GENERATION!



THE
NORMS ARE
COMING!



FOUR
OF 'EM, RIDING
UP THE
TRAIL!

WOE!
WHAT NEW CURSE
IS THIS UPON
US?



SPREAD OUT! NO KILLING IF WE CAN AVOID IT!

ROOFUS! THEY HAVE ROOFUS!

BDAM
BDAM

EASE OFF THERE, PARTNER!

WE'RE HERE TO FIND THE ONES WHO DESTROYED THE RADWAGON - AND TO RECLAIM THE BABE-IN-ARMS YOU STOLE!

PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS! YOU CAN'T FIGHT US!

FAWOOM

STOLE? NOT TRUE! WE TOOK THE CHILD FOR HIS PROTECTION!

SEE HOW YOU HAVE UPSET HIM WITH YOUR GUNS AND NOISE! HUSH, LITTLE ONE!

HE WILL BE RAISED AS ONE OF US, AS IS OUR WAY!

AS FOR THE REST, IT WAS NONE OF OUR DOING!

THESE PEOPLE COULD NEVER HAVE TOTALLED THE RADWAGON. THEY'RE PRACTICALLY STONE AGE.

SO WHO DID HIT THE RADWAGON?



SURE
ARE A LOT OF
THEM. DON'T LIKE
THE LOOK OF THIS
AT ALL.

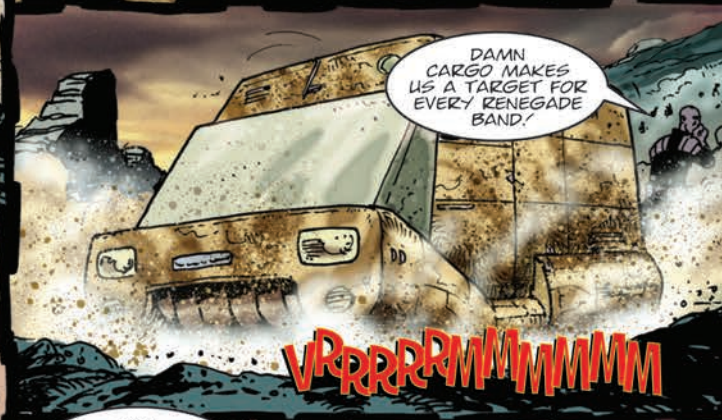
ANY
LUCK WITH DREDD,
LOGAN?

NEGATIVE.
JUST STATIC.



THEY MEAN
BUSINESS! COHN
— USE THE HOVER
JETS! BURY THE
TRUCK!

40.



DAMN
CARGO MAKES
US A TARGET FOR
EVERY RENEGADE
BAND!

VRRRRRMMMMMMMM



YOU
WORRIED ABOUT
THAT SCRAPYARD
ARMY?

YOU'VE
BEEN TOO LONG
IN MED-DIV, VENABLES.
YOU SEE **WORSE** EVERY
DAY AT THE **JUVIE**
CLUB.

YEAH?



YOU'RE
GOING TO THE
WRONG JUVIE CLUBS,
WATERS!



ONE
MORE PUSH,
DEARIE.



MORE THAN
A FEW NORMS HERE,
LOOKS LIKE THEY MAKE
A HABIT OF BABY-
SNATCHING.



WHERE
DID YOU COME
FROM, KID? YOU'RE
NO MUTIE.

GET
YOUR HANDS OFF
HIM!



HOLSTER
IT, CURZON!

WE WOULD
HAVE BEEN DEAD
IF THEY HADN'T FOUND US,
AND CARED FOR US!
WE LOVE THESE
PEOPLE!

TELL HIM,
JIMMY!



THEY'VE
SHOWN US NOTHING
BUT KINDNESS! THEY'RE
GOOD PEOPLE — AND
I'LL FIGHT BEFORE I
LET YOU TAKE US
AWAY!

YOU CAN
FIGHT, BOY, BUT IT
WON'T CHANGE THINGS.
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU
HERE.

THEN
TRY TO TAKE
ME! COME ON, I'M NOT
AFRAID OF YOU!



THE
WISEHEADS ARE
COMING!



NOW
THAT'S A
MUTATION!

JIMMY!
PUT DOWN THAT
SPEAR!

WE ARE
THE ELDERS!
WE WILL SPEAK
FOR THIS
VILLAGE!

BUT —

AND NO
BUTS, YOUNG
MAN!

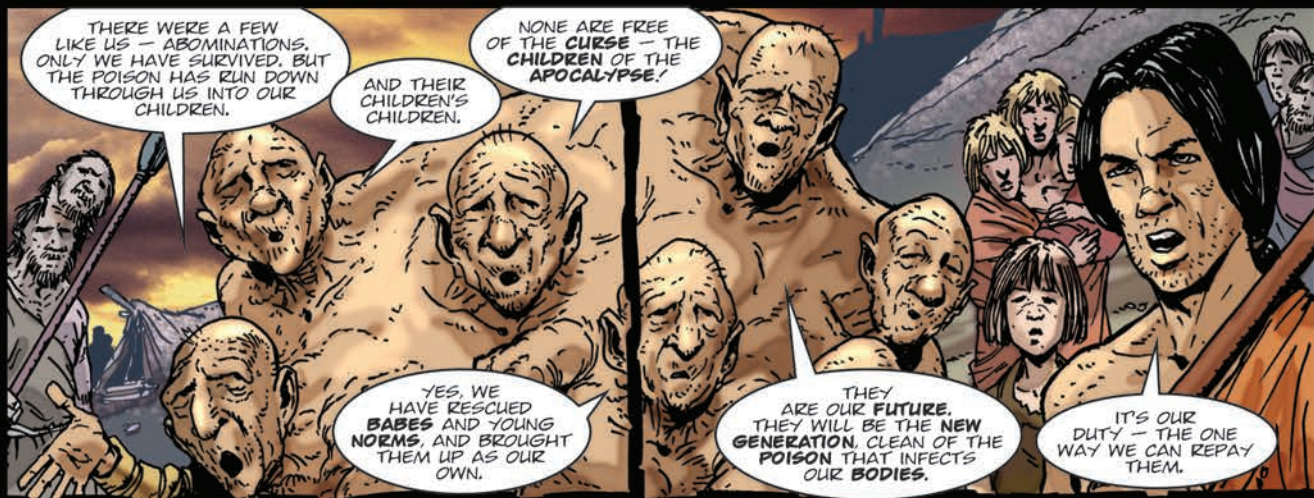
AFTER
THE WAR, I
WAS ONE OF THE
FIRST TO BE
BORN.

WE
WERE.

ALL
RIGHT, WE
WERE.

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE LIKED TO
BE THAT
MOTHER.

PAINFUL.





HEY! YOU
JUDGES! WHADDA YOU
GOT IN THAT THERE
HOVER-BUGGY?



NOTHING
OF INTEREST
TO YOU! BUT I'LL
MAKE YOU A
PROMISE —

— YOU AND
YOUR SCRAPYARD
ARMY TRY FINDING OUT
AND I GUARANTEE YOU'LL
BE CRAWLING
THROUGH YOUR OWN
BLOOD!



OOOOHHH!
TOUGH GUY!

WE AIN'T
GONNA TAKE
THAT, ARE WE,
NICKEY?



NO, BOYS, I
LIKE TO DO THINGS NICE,
BUT IF FOLKS WON'T DO THE
DECENT THING AN' GIVE US ALL THEY
GOT, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TA
TREAT 'EM.

BLOW
YOUR WAR HORN,
QUIGLEY!



HERE
THEY COME!
CHOOSE YOUR
TARGETS!



MEANWHILE, HIGH
IN THE HILLS —

TWO
HEADS! THE
BABY
BEARS THE
CURSE!

WE HOPED
IT WOULD BE FREE
OF THIS **BLIGHT** — THE
CHILD OF INCOMERS, WHOSE
BODIES HAD NOT BEEN
POISONED LIKE
OURS!

ALL
OUR **HOPES**
GONE FOR
NOTHING!

WHAT
IS THERE
TO LIVE FOR
NOW?

SOIL
ANALYSIS
SHOWS LEVELS OF
SIXTEEN DANGEROUS
CONTAMINANTS
WAY OVER THE LIMIT.
I'M TALKING LIKE A
THOUSAND TIMES
OVER.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
WENT DOWN HERE
DURING THE **WAR**, BUT IT
SURE DOESN'T MAKE
FOR A HEALTHY
LIFESTYLE.

THEN
THERE'S THE
REASON FOR THE
CURSE ON THESE
PEOPLE.



THE
POISON ISN'T IN
YOUR GENES, IT'S **HERE**,
IN THE EARTH — ALL
AROUND YOU. IF YOU
WANT THE **CURE** YOU
HAVE TO **MOVE**
AWAY.

BUT
THIS IS OUR
HOME! IT IS IN
OUR **HEARTS**! HOW
COULD WE LEAVE
IT?

YOU
MAY LOVE
THIS LAND, BUT THE
LAND DOESN'T LOVE
YOU. YOU'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE THE **WISE ONES** —
YOU MUST SEE
THERE'S ONLY ONE
SOLUTION.



WE MUST
BE CLEAR OF
THE DEAD ZONE! I
HAVE CONTACT
WITH JUSTICE
WATCH!

WE CAN
HAVE YOU **MOVED**
TO WHERE THE LAND IS
CLEAN. WE CAN HELP YOU
START A NEW LIFE, BUT
THOSE YOU HAVE RESCUED
MUST BE **RETURNED**
TO MEGA-CITY
ONE.

NO! I'M
STAYING WITH
THEM!



WHEN
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH
TO MAKE THAT DECISION,
YOU'LL BE FREE TO DO
AS YOU LIKE.

THAT'S THE
DEAL, MAKE YOUR
CHOICE — USE THOSE
WISE HEADS WELL, DECIDE
WRONG AND THERE IS NO
FUTURE FOR THE
CHILDREN OF THE
APOCALYPSE.



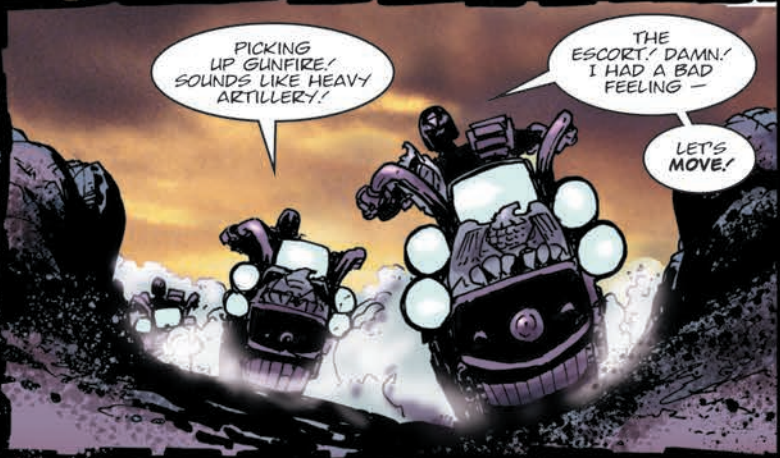
FOR A MOMENT THERE I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO BE DUMB ENOUGH TO SAY NO. THAT IS NO KIND OF LIFE.

THE HOVERSHIP'S ONLY GOING TO DUMP THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE CURSED EARTH. NOT GOING TO BE ANY PICNIC.

BETTER THAN WHAT THEY HAVE.



AND SO THE EVILS OF THE WAR CARRY ON DOWN THE GENERATIONS. IF EVER WE NEEDED AN EXAMPLE OF MAN'S GENIUS FOR HARMING HIS FELLOW MAN, THEY'RE IT...



PICKING UP GUNFIRE! SOUNDS LIKE HEAVY ARTILLERY!

THE ESCORT! DAMN! I HAD A BAD FEELING —

LET'S MOVE!



LOGAN, TRY DREDD AGAIN!

GIMME A BREAK, WATERS, SOON AS I GET A MINUTE!



DON'T SAY OLD NICEY DIDN'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO CO-OPERATE!



THEY GOT VENABLES!

WE'RE GETTING SWAMPED!



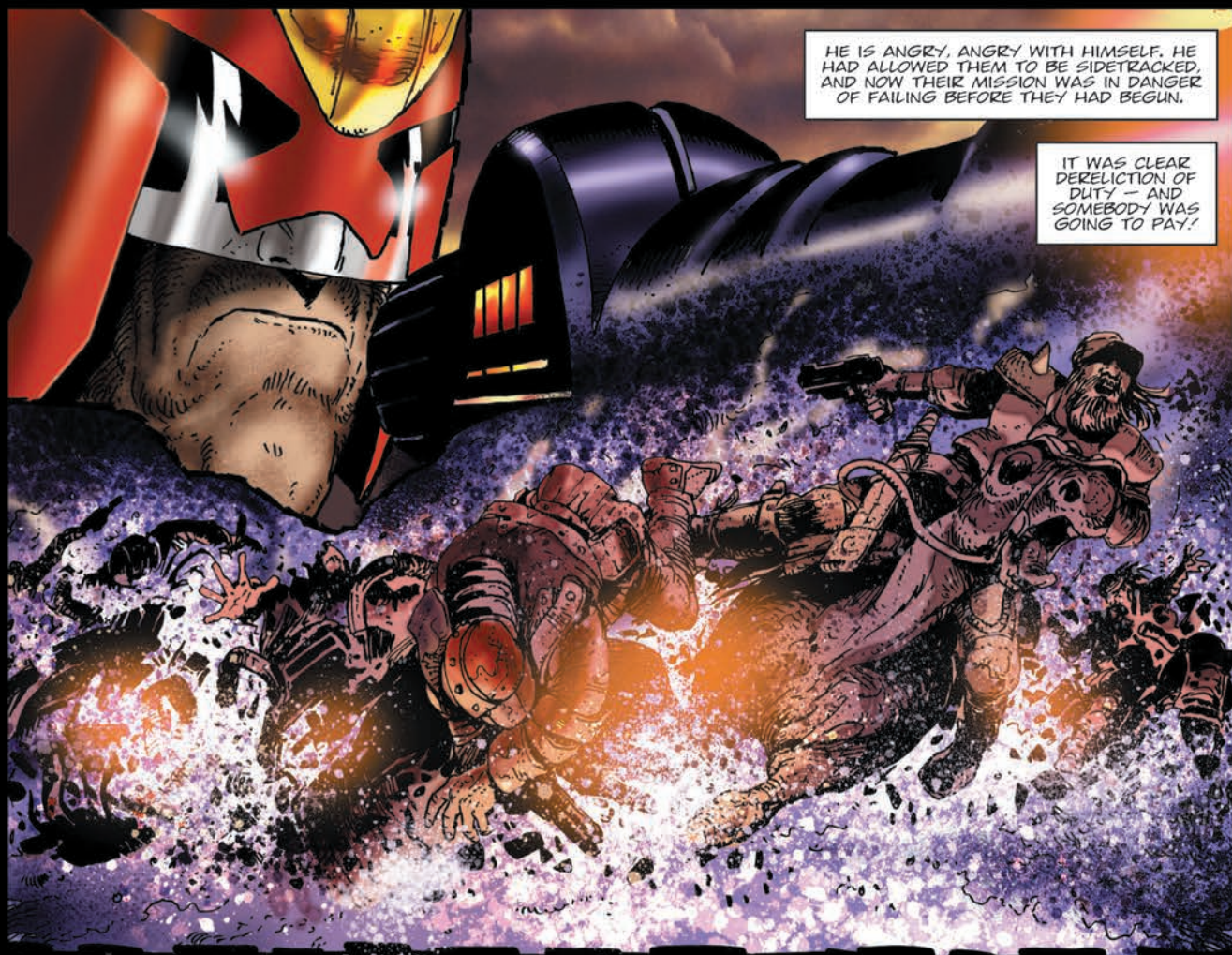
THEN WE GO DOWN FIGHTING!



REINFORCEMENTS! GET 'EM!



MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!



HE IS ANGRY, ANGRY WITH HIMSELF. HE HAD ALLOWED THEM TO BE SIDETRACKED, AND NOW THEIR MISSION WAS IN DANGER OF FAILING BEFORE THEY HAD BEGUN.

IT WAS CLEAR DERELICTION OF DUTY — AND SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO PAY!



THEY'RE LIKE FIGHTIN' DEMONS!

SCATTER, BOYS!



LET'S GET AFTER THEM!



NEGATIVE, CURZON! NO MORE WILD GOOSE CHASES!



I'M SORRY, VENABLES. REAL SORRY.

LOGAN, TAKE CURZON AND CHECK THE ENEMY WOUNDED. EXECUTE ANY YOU FIND ALIVE.

YO!



CAN YOU DO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO WITHOUT VENABLES, COHN?

GOOD.

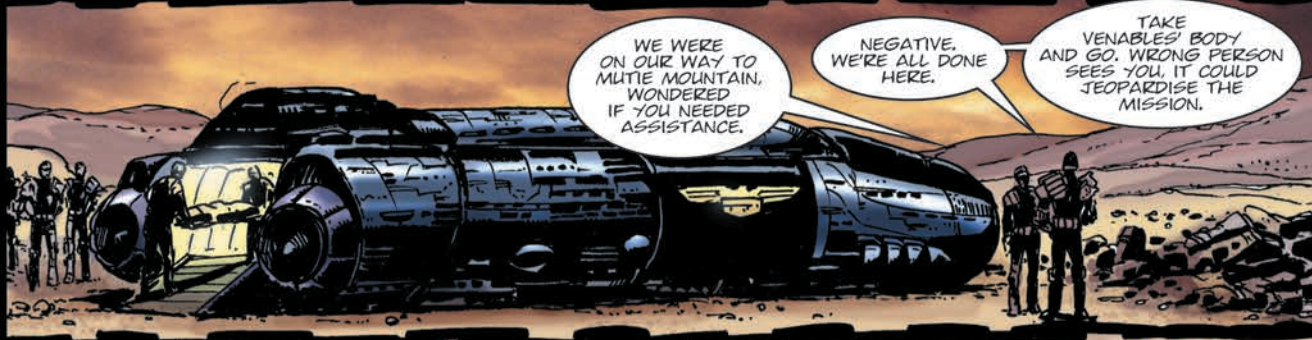
YES, SIR, MIGHT NEED SOME HELP, BUT NO PROBS.



HOVERSHIP COMING!

H...HELP ME...

YOU BET. ALL THE WAY TO HELL.



WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO MUTIE MOUNTAIN, WONDERED IF YOU NEEDED ASSISTANCE.

NEGATIVE, WE'RE ALL DONE HERE.

TAKE VENABLES' BODY AND GO. WRONG PERSON SEES YOU, IT COULD JEOPARDISE THE MISSION.



BLOW THE 'PORTER FREE AND LET'S GET READY TO RIDE. WE'VE LOST ENOUGH TIME.



ONE GONE. HOW MANY MORE BEFORE WE FIND FARGO - IF IT IS FARGO? IF THIS ISN'T JUST ANOTHER WILD GOOSE CHASE?



YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR ME?

MEGA-CITY JUDGE, HUH? RECKON I MIGHT.



THEY SAID YOU'D GIVE ME FIFTY CREDDS.

WHO'S THEY?

COUPLE OF GUYS, DROPPED IN ON A HOVERSKIMMER THREE DAYS AGO. FACES ALL WRAPPED UP LIKE THEY DIDN'T WANT TO BE RECOGNISED.

HMMPH.



ROUTE MAP. CREEPS AREN'T READY TO MAKE CONTACT YET.

KEEP RIDING WE'LL BE WATCHING



CAMP, THAT NIGHT -

HAVE TO MAKE A LITTLE DETOUR, WATERS. I'LL TAKE LOGAN AND COHN WITH ME.

IN THE MORNING MOVE ON. WAIT FOR US HERE, AT THE RIVER CROSSING.

YOU THINK IT'S WISE, SPLITTING UP AGAIN?



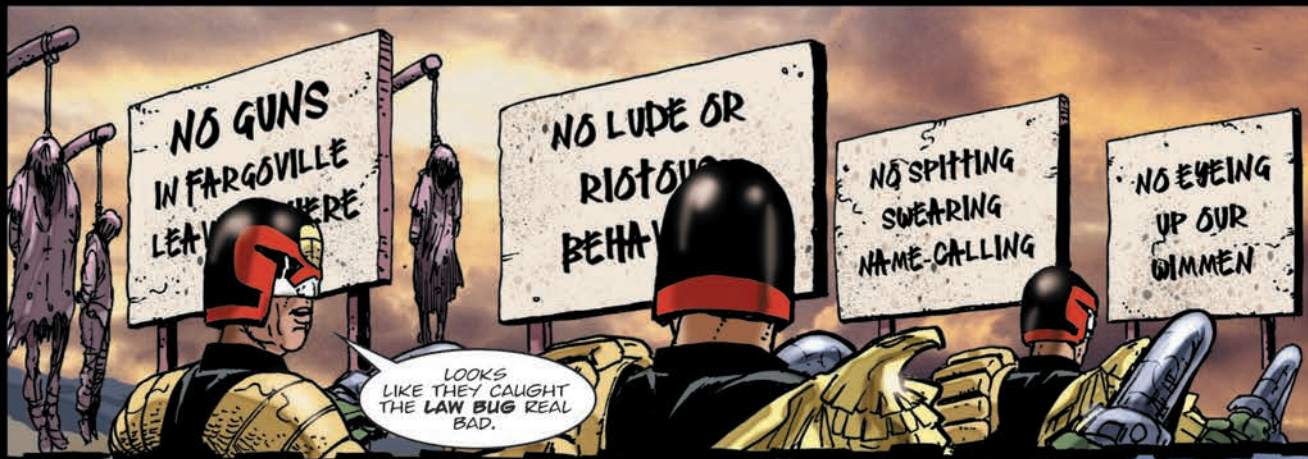
RATHER AVOID IT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO CHECK OUT.

SIGNALS ARE COMING THROUGH AGAIN. STAY IN CONTACT WITH AERIAL UNITS. ANY TROUBLE, CALL THEM IN.

NO CHANCE OF A LITTLE SLEEP, SIR? I'M PRETTY BUSHED.

"SLEEP IN THE SADDLE, COHN. TIME'S PRESSING."







SINCE THE DEVASTATION OF AMERICA WE ALONE HAVE KEPT THE TORCH OF JUSTICE BURNIN' IN THESE PARTS, A BASTION OF NORMALITY AMONG THE MUTANT HORDES.

HERE IN FARGOVILLE I AM PROUD TO SAY A CRIME IS STILL A CRIME AND NO CRIME EVER GOES UNPUNISHED.

A KIND OF MADNESS INFECTS THIS TOWN, BUT IT'S NOT OUR BUSINESS TO INTERFERE...

HERE, LOOK AT HIM! LOOK AT THAT CHIN! HE COULD BE EUSTACE FARGO HISSELF.

OOOHHH!

IT'S UNCANNY!

'FACT, WE WERE JUST FIXIN' TO HANG US SOME MUTIES, YOU CAN BE GUESTS OF HONOUR.'

THANKS, BUT WE'LL PASS.



MY NAME IS DREDD. I AM A CLONE GROWN FROM THE GENETIC MATERIAL OF FARGO. IN MANY WAYS YOU COULD SAY I AM EUSTACE FARGO.

WHEE-EE! FARGO HISSELF BACK FROM THE DEAD!

AIN'T THAT A TURN UP!



WE'RE HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP. THERE ARE DETAILS OF FARGO'S LIFE I MUST LOOK INTO.

SURE THING! EVERYTHING YOU COULD EVER WANT TO KNOW, IT'S ALL THERE IN OUR OWN LITTLE MUSEUM!

THEY SURE LIKE FARGO. PLACE IS LIKE A SHRINE.

YEAH, YOU FIGURE THERE'S ANYONE IN TOWN WHO'S NOT CALLED EUSTACE?

STEP RIGHT IN, FOLKS! I'M EUSTACE JOHNSON, MUSEUM CURATOR, ANYTHIN' YOU WANNA KNOW, JUST ASK.

YOU GO RIGHT IN, FELLAS! I'M GIVIN' YOU FREE PASSES FOR LIFE!

LET THERE BE JUSTICE FOR ALL



GOT A WHOLE SELECTION OF HIS BIKES, RIGHT FROM WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BITTY KIDDIE.

MAN, A **LAWRANGER**? THAT WAS THE **PROTOTYPE** FOR THE **LAWMASTER**. LOOK AT THE ARMAMENT - RIGHT OUT OF THE DARK AGES.

THEY WERE PRONE TO JAMMING. HELD 200 ROUNDS, BLUNTNOSE .45s.



YOU SURE KNOW YOUR STUFF, YOUNG MAN.

THIS HERE WAS HIS FIRST BB GUN, GIVEN TO LITTLE EUSTACE FOR HIS FIFTH BIRTHDAY. BY THE TIME HE WAS **SIX** HE WAS A **DEAD SHOT**. USED TO ROAM THE COUNTRYSIDE, SHOOTIN' PRACTICALLY ANYTHIN' THAT MOVED.



AND HERE WE HAVE HIS MAMMY AN' PAPPY, **NATHAN AN' MARY**. **NATHAN** WAS **CIRCUIT JUDGE** ROUND THESE PARTS, AN' HE INSTILLED IN THE BOY A LOVE OF JUSTICE AN' FAIR PLAY.

MARY WAS A KINDLY WOMAN, BUT STRICT, NOT EXACTLY CHURCHY, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, BUT SHE WOULDN'T PUT UP WITH NO NONSENSE FROM THE BOY.



NEVER SAW A PICTURE OF THEM BEFORE, TOO MUCH OF THE ARCHIVE WAS DESTROYED IN THE WAR.

HIS PARENTS...MY PARENTS, APART FROM **RICO**, THE NEAREST THING I HAVE TO A FAMILY.



SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN, FOLKS. WE GOT A WHOLE FILM SHOW HERE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL SEE THINGS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING.

JUST MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE AN' I'LL GO GET HER STARTED.



THE YEAR IS 1999, AT 20.45 ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 9, AT 16 MAIN STREET IN THE TOWN OF **JAXVILLE**, A HAPPY EVENT IS TAKING PLACE.

JAXVILLE?

THEY CHANGED THE NAME TO **FARGOVILLE** AFTER HIS DEATH, I KNOW THAT MUCH.



IT'S A BOY!

FOR MUCH OF THIS EARLY FILM WE OWE OUR THANKS TO MARY'S SISTER JOSEPHINE, WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN A BRAND NEW VIDEO CAMERA FOR CHRISTMAS.



ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL?

HE'S GOT OUR CHIN.



HMMPH.



SOMETHING WRONG?

JUST WATCH.



SHAME ON YOU, EUSTACE BLUNT! SHAME ON YOU, EUSTACE GARVIE!

WHY, MISS EUSTACE - WHAT'S THE MATTER?



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S THE MATTER! YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE GUARDIANS OF LAW AND ORDER WHEN YOU'RE HELPIN' A THIEF!

WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, MISS EUSTACE?

HIM! HIM IN THERE! NOT JUST A THIEF, THE WORST KIND OF THIEF!

HE'S COMMITTED THE MOST UNNATURAL CRIME OF ALL! HE'S STOLEN THE BODY AND SOUL OF OUR GREATEST EVER CITIZEN!

HE'S STOLEN THE VERY FLESH OF EUSTACE FARGO!

WE'RE DOWN TO THE
LAST PLAY IN THE STATE
SCHOOLS GRIDIRON
FINAL AND IT LOOKS
LIKE THE DREAM IS
OVER FOR JAXVILLE!

31-26 DOWN AND EVEN
WITH THEIR PHENOMENAL
QUARTERBACK EUSTACE
FARGO, I SEE NO WAY
BACK FOR THE HICKS
FROM THE STICKS!

AND THERE'S
THE HIKE - !

A BULLET PASS
FROM FARGO FINDS
STUKELY! HE'S CUTTING
CROSS-FIELD! BUT HE'S
GOT THREE MARAUDERS
CLOSING IN!



IT'S A LATERAL!
AND IT'S FARGO!
FARGO HIMSELF
COMING
THROUGH!



HE HANDS OFF
ONE - TWO! HE'S
HEADING FOR THE
LINE! I DO NOT
BELIEVE WHAT I
AM SEEING!

COME ON,
FARGO!

GO,
GUY!

SHOULD'VE
GOT YOU
TWO SOME
POPCORN.



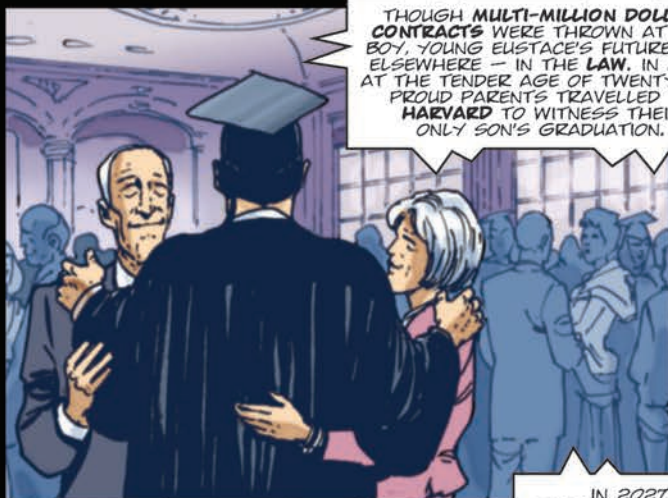
THIS IS
INCREDIBLE!
EUSTACE FARGO
HAS WON THE
GAME FOR
JAXVILLE!



THEY'RE
LIFTING
HIM ALOFT!
THE CROWD
IS GOING
WILD!

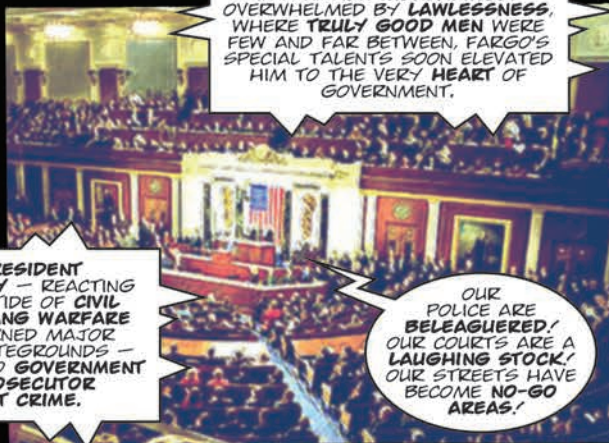


I'VE NEVER SEEN A
PLAY LIKE THAT
BEFORE! ONLY
SEVENTEEN YEARS
OLD, BUT THIS BOY
COULD HAVE A
HUGE FUTURE IN
THE PROFESSIONAL
GAME!



THOUGH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACTS WERE THROWN AT THE BOY, YOUNG EUSTACE'S FUTURE LAY ELSEWHERE — IN THE LAW. IN 2019, AT THE TENDER AGE OF TWENTY, HIS PROUD PARENTS TRAVELLED TO HARVARD TO WITNESS THEIR ONLY SON'S GRADUATION.

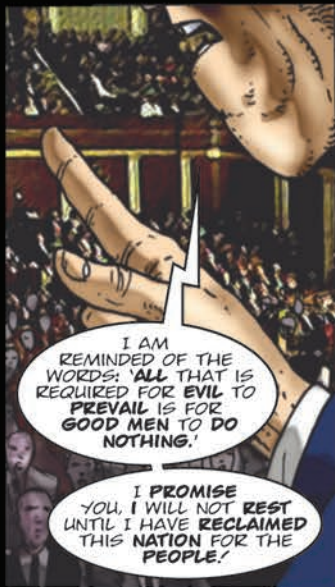
MANY THOUGHT HE WOULD FOLLOW HIS FATHER INTO HIS JAXVILLE LAW PRACTICE, BUT YOUNG EUSTACE HAD LONG AGO DECIDED THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE TO EXERCISE HIS BURGEONING TALENTS — WASHINGTON.



IN A NATION INCREASINGLY OVERWHELMED BY LAWLESSNESS, WHERE TRULY GOOD MEN WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, FARGO'S SPECIAL TALENTS SOON ELEVATED HIM TO THE VERY HEART OF GOVERNMENT.

IN 2027 PRESIDENT THOMAS GURNEY — REACTING AGAINST THE TIDE OF CIVIL UNREST AND GANG WARFARE THAT HAD TURNED MAJOR CITIES INTO BATTLEGROUNDS — APPOINTED FARGO GOVERNMENT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR STREET CRIME.

OUR POLICE ARE BELEAGUERED! OUR COURTS ARE A LAUGHING STOCK! OUR STREETS HAVE BECOME NO-GO AREAS!



I AM REMINDED OF THE WORDS: 'ALL THAT IS REQUIRED FOR EVIL TO PREVAIL IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.'

I PROMISE YOU, I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE RECLAIMED THIS NATION FOR THE PEOPLE!



SHORTLY AFTER FARGO'S APPOINTMENT, ARMED GANGS LED BY THE NOTORIOUS P STREET POSSE STORMED THE WHITE HOUSE ITSELF. PRESIDENT GURNEY'S LIFE WAS ONLY SAVED BY A DARING RESCUE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ROOF!



UNDER FARGO'S DIRECTION, HUNDREDS OF ARRESTS WERE MADE — BUT THROUGH INTIMIDATION AND OUTRIGHT MURDER OF THE JURORS, NOT ONE CONVICTION WAS UPHOLD. THE PERPETRATORS WALKED FREE.



THIS OUTRAGE WAS THE FINAL STRAW. WITH THE PRESIDENT'S BLESSING, FARGO OUTLINED HIS 'NEW DEAL' TO CONGRESS —

THE LAW HAS FAILED US! TRIALS TAKE YEARS TO REACH THE COURTS — AND WHEN THEY DO IS THERE A JURY IN THIS LAND THAT DARES TO CONVICT?

OUR PROUD NATION IS BEING DESTROYED BY THE VERY PRINCIPLES WE ONCE HELD SO DEAR!

IF OUR JURIES ARE TOO FRIGHTENED TO ACT — IF OUR COURTS ARE POWERLESS — WE MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY!

IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE JUDGES OUT OF THE COURTS AND PUT THEM ONTO THE STREETS! WE MUST CHOOSE GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TRAINED TO ADMINISTER RETRIBUTION FAIRLY AND WITHOUT DELAY.

WE MUST ARM THEM WITH THE POWER TO DISPENSE INSTANT JUSTICE!

ABANDON DUE PROCESS? NEVER!

THE PEOPLE DID NOT AGREE. IN THE ELECTION OF 2028, PRESIDENT GURNEY WAS RETURNED WITH A MASSIVE MAJORITY, AND THOSE SENATORS WHO OPPOSED HIM SWEEPED FROM OFFICE!

SOME KIND OF COMMOION OUTSIDE. SEE WHAT'S GOING ON, COHN.

YES, SIR.

IT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

WE WON'T APPROVE IT, FARGO!

IT'S A STEP TOO FAR!

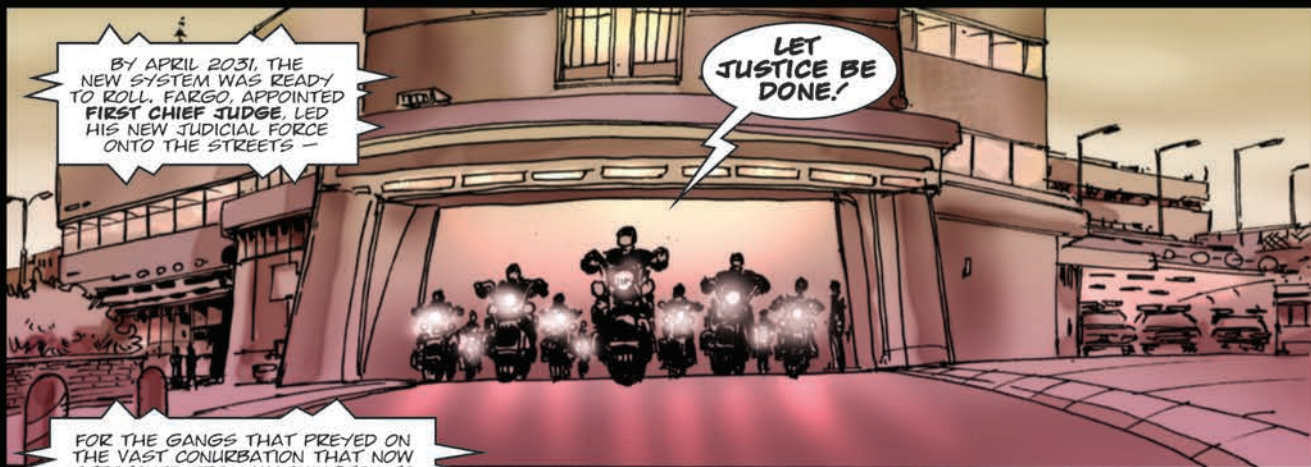
IT WAS TO TAKE MORE THAN TWO YEARS BEFORE THE LAST PROTECTIONS ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION COULD BE SCRAPPED, TO BE REPLACED BY A STRINGENT NEW JUDICIAL CODE.

MEANWHILE FARGO PURSUED HIS TASK TIRELESSLY, SETTING UP CENTRES ACROSS THE NATION TO RAPIDLY TRAIN THE NEW BREED OF JUDGES.

IN TIME, ACADEMIES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, WHERE ENTRANTS, SELECTED AT THE AGE OF FIVE, WOULD SPEND MANY GRUELLING YEARS LEARNING TO EXERCISE THEIR SWEEPING POWERS.

SURE IS INTERESTING. SEEING ALL THIS OLD ARCHIVE FOOTAGE.

IT'S INTERESTING ALL RIGHT.



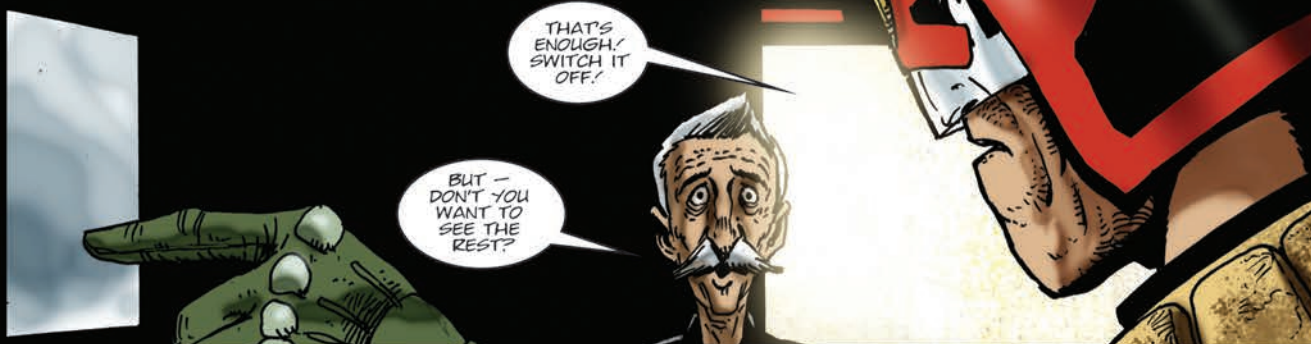
BY APRIL 2031, THE NEW SYSTEM WAS READY TO ROLL. FARGO, APPOINTED **FIRST CHIEF JUDGE**, LED HIS NEW JUDICIAL FORCE ONTO THE STREETS —

LET JUSTICE BE DONE!

FOR THE GANGS THAT PREYED ON THE VAST CONURBATION THAT NOW STRETCHED FROM WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK — WHICH WOULD BECOME THE FIRST **MEGA-CITY** — IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END.



THE SENTENCE IS DEATH!



THAT'S ENOUGH! SWITCH IT OFF!

BUT — DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THE REST?



I KNOW THE REST. WHAT I WANT NOW IS THE TRUTH.

T-THE TRUTH?

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

YOU'RE LYING, LITTLE MAN. THAT FILM'S BEEN DOCTORED TO REMOVE HIM. WHY?

WHY HAVE THEY REWRITTEN HISTORY?

EUSTACE WAS NO ONLY CHILD. HE HAD A TWIN BROTHER - EPHRAM. AN IDENTICAL TWIN. WHY IS THERE NOTHING IN THAT FILM ABOUT HIM?

I...I CAN'T SAY. WE-WE DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM HERE. IT-IT'S A CRIME TO MENTION HIS NAME.

WELL I'M GIVING YOU SPECIAL DISPENSATION. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHERE'S EPHRAM?



HE'S D-DEAD. LONG DEAD. HE WENT BAD. WE KICKED HIM OUTA TOWN. H-HE WENT AWAY TO LIVE IN THE BACKWOODS WITH HIS ROTTEN BROOD.

WHERE?

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME SAY NO MORE. THEY'LL ARREST ME. I'LL GET HUNG. I NEVER SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU THIS MUCH.



I'LL FIND OUT. GET OUT OF HERE.

FARGO HAD AN IDENTICAL TWIN? THEN... THE TISSUE SAMPLE THEY SENT COULD HAVE BELONGED TO THE TWIN. THEY'D BE INDISTINGUISHABLE.

AND THE CONTAMINANT PROFILE WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMILAR. COULD BE WERE ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE, LOGAN. COULD BE THE BODY THEY'VE GOT BELONGS TO EPHRAM FARGO.





CRAAAK

SHERIFF
THINKS THE
HANGMAN'S NOOSE
GONNA GET YOU, HE
DIDN'T KNOW OL' ELUSTACE
STARK! GONNA WORK
YOU TILL YOU
DIE!



HEY,
BOSS! HOW
COME THAT
STINKIN' JUDGE
GETS TA WEAR A
HAT AN' WE
DON'T?

THINK
WE WANNA
LOOK AT IT, BOY
— THE FACE HE
STOLE FROM OUR
GREATEST EVER
CITIZEN?



CRAAAK

AN'
SPEAK
WHEN YOU'RE
SPOKEN
TO!

ON
YOUR FEET,
BODYSNATCHER!
NOBODY SAID
YOU COULD
HAVE NO
BREAK!



GOT TO
PLAY ALONG, TRY
TO LAST OUT TILL
NIGHTFALL...

YES,
BOSS! I'M
WORKING,
BOSS!



WE'RE
IN A HELLUVA
SPOT, LOGAN. WHY DID
DREDD BRING US
HERE?

TO FIND
OUT...ABOUT
EPHRAM. HE'S
FARGO'S
IDENTICAL
TWIN.

IT COULD
BE HIS BODY
THEY'RE HOLDING,
NOT EUSTACE'S.
WHOLE THING
COULD BE A
BIG CON.



TWIN, HUH?
LOT OF DIFFERENCE
IT MAKES TO US NOW.
THEY'RE GOING TO
HANG US.

YEAH?
THEY'VE GOT HIM
ON A CHAIN GANG,
REMEMBER.

DON'T
WORRY. DREDD'LL
GET US OUT OF
THIS.



YOU
DON'T KNOW
HIM LIKE I DO.
HE'LL GET US
OUT...



NIGHT FELL, AND THE
PRISONERS WERE
MARCHED BACK TO THE
JAIL — EXCEPT ONE...

KEEP
WORKIN', BOY!
JUS' COS BOSS STARK
AIN'T HERE DON'T MEAN
WE START GOIN'
EASY!



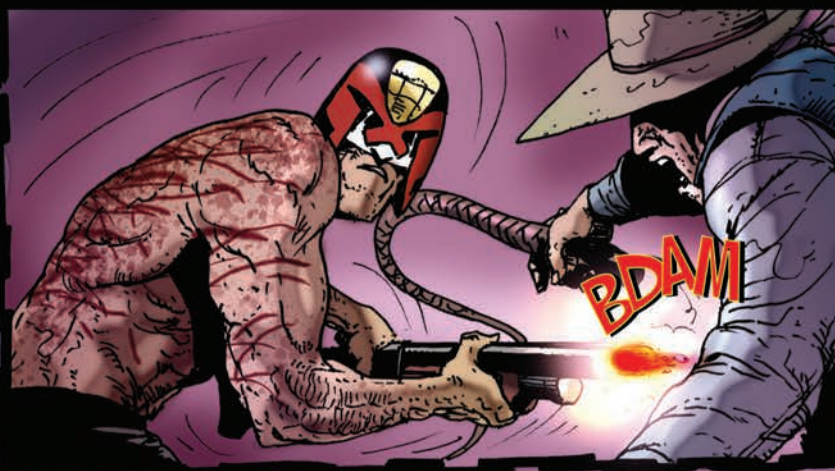
AIN'T IT
A SHAME? HE
CAN'T TAKE NO
MORE!

NO
LYIN' DOWN
ON THE
JOB!

YES,
BOSS...I'M...
WORKIN',
BOSS...



UNNH!



IN TOWN —

WHEE-OOO! WATCH OUT THERE, MISS EUSTACE! WE GOT US SOME REAL WHEELS NOW!

YOUNG FOOL!

VRRMMMMMM

DANG IT, YOUNG EUSTACE! YOU STOP MONKEYIN' AROUND THERE OR I'LL PUT YOU ON THE CHAIN GANG!

YOU'LL HAVE TA CATCH ME FIRST!

SPAK!

SHRANEEGG

VRRMMMMMM

LOGAN! COHN! SOUND OFF!

HERE! THIS WAY!





HE'S
HELL ON
WHEELS!

GEDOWDAHERE!



THEM DAMN
WARDERS OF YOURS
FOULED UP BUT
GOOD!

DON'T
BLAME ME! IT'S
YOUR FAULT! YOU
SHOULDA HANGED
'EM RIGHT
AWAY!

STOP
ARGUIN'! SHOOT
'IM! SHOOT 'IM DOWN
WITH THEIR OWN
GUNS!



BARCOOM

BARCOOM

BARCOOM



HUH?

B-BOOBY
TRAPPED!

DANG!



LOOKS
LIKE ALL HELL'S
BREAKIN' LOOSE
IN TOWN!

WHAT'RE
THEM SONS
O' SATAN
UP TO?



MORE
TO THE POINT,
BOYS, WHAT'RE WE
WAITIN' FOR? LET'S
GET US A PIECE
OF IT!





YOU JUMPED-UP NORMS, WE HEARD TELL YOU WAS FIXIN' TO HANG ONE OF OUR KINFOLK.

WE WARNED YOU IF WE EVER HAD TO COME BACK HERE WE'D PUT AN END TO YOUR SHENANIGANS ONCE AN' FOR ALL.

Y-YOU WOULDN'T DARE!



BADOW



YOU AIN'T EXEMPT, SHERIFF.

**BADOW
BADOW
BADOW**



DON'T MIND THEM. THEY HAD IT COMIN' A LONG TIME.

THE NAME'S RANDY FARGO. I'M LEADER OF THIS PACK OF RUFFIANS. AN' YOU'D BE - ?

DREDD. JOE DREDD.

THE SPIT OF GREAT GRANDDADDY EPHRAM.

LOOK AT THAT CHIN, PA. AIN'T NO DOUBTIN' IT, HE'S BLOOD.



CHINS HAVE KINDA GROWN SINCE THE BIG RAD HIT. THAT'S A FACT AN' NOTHIN' WE CAN DO ABOUT IT. BUT WE'RE STILL FAMILY.

PUT IT THERE, JOE.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS NECK OF THE WOODS?



WE CAME TO CHECK UP ON EPHRAM. THERE ARE THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW.

WELL, YOU FOUND THE RIGHT PEOPLE. GET YOUR BOYS TOGETHER, YOU CAN RIDE ON BACK WITH US.

AN HOUR'S
RIDE —

THERE LIES
GRANDDADDY EPHRAM,
JOE, YOUR LOOKALIKE
— JUST A HUMBLE
STONE OVER HIS
GRAVE.

I HEAR TELL
HIS TWIN BROTHER
EUSTACE GOT HIMSELF
A BIG TOMB IN THE
CITY, AN' LOTS OF
STATUES.

HE WAS
A GREAT MAN,
WE CALL HIM THE
FATHER OF
JUSTICE.

IT'S
GRANDAD/
GRANDAD'S
BACK!

WE GOT
US SOME VISITORS!
THIS HERE'S JOE AND HIS
MEN, JOE'S KIN FROM THE
BIG CITY — EUSTACE'S
CLONE!

HELL, HE
COULD BE THEM
— EPHRAM AND
EUSTACE.

WHEE-EE!
NEVER HEARD
THE LIKE!

WELCOME
TO FARGO COUNTRY,
JOE.

KILL
A COUPLE
OF FAT HAWGS!
WE'RE GONNA
PARTY!

THEY
MADE A MESS OF
YOUR BACK. I'LL DOUBLE
THE ANTIBIOTICS, THINGS CAN
GO SEPTIC FAST OUT
HERE.

FOLKS IN
FARGOVILLE SURE
LIKE DISHIN' IT OUT, BEIN'
THE BIRTHPLACE OF EUSTACE
FARGO WENT RIGHT TO
THEIR HEADS, I
RECKON.

HOW
YOU DOING,
LOGAN?

SO WHAT
WENT
WRONG BETWEEN
EUSTACE AND EPHRAM? WHY
DID FARGOVILLE WIPE
EPHRAM FROM THE
RECORDS?

WHAT WITH
HIS BROTHER ALWAYS TELLIN'
HIM RIGHT AND WRONG, AN' HIS
MA AN' PA HOLDIN' EUSTACE UP TO
HIM LIKE SOME PLASTER SAINT,
NO WONDER EPHRAM WENT
ORNERY.

HE GOT
OUTA THERE SOON AS
HE COULD, MADE HIS OWN LIFE
WHERE HE DIDN'T HAVE TO
TAKE NO BULL FROM
NOBODY.

AN' THAT
INCLUDED THEM
TUB-THUMPERS IN
JAXVILLE — HMMPH,
THEY CALL IT
FARGOVILLE
NOW.

LET'S
JUST SAY THEY
WAS TWO DIFFERENT
PEOPLE, FUNNY, THEM
BEIN' IDENTICAL
AN' ALL.

WAY MY
DADDY TOLD IT, EPHRAM
JUST GOT SICK OF EUSTACE
BEIN' SUCH A HOLIER-THAN-
THOU STUFFED SHIRT —
NO OFFENCE.

AS IF
ANYONE'S GOT THE
RIGHT TO THAT NAME
BUT US.

A
LITTLE SORE, I'LL LIVE.
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT
SENDING ME BACK.

FUNNY — ONE BROTHER WENT ONE WAY,
ONE ANOTHER. IT COULD HAVE BEEN HIM
AND RICO. MUST RUN IN THE FAMILY.

HE TOLD THEM ABOUT THE
RANSOM DEMAND, AND THE
HUMAN TISSUE SENT TO
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT —

YOU
SAID YOU HAD TO
KNOW SOME THINGS
ABOUT EPHRAM —
IS THAT IT,
JOE?

I'M
AFRAID
NOT.

I HAVE
TO BE SURE THAT IT'S
EUSTACE'S BODY THEY'RE
HOLDING. I HAVE TO ASK YOUR
PERMISSION TO EXHUME
EPHRAM.

THE
HELL YOU
WILL!

SO YOU
JUST CAME HERE
TO ABUSE OUR
HOSPITALITY!

I'VE
KILLED MEN FOR
LESS!

EASY
NOW. YOU'RE
TAKIN' THE WRONG
END OF THE STICK
THERE, BOYS. JOE'S
FAMILY — HE AIN'T
HERE TO DO
US NO INJUSTICE.
ARE YOU,
JOE?

THAT'S
ALL ANY MAN
WANTS. AN' IF THAT
AIN'T MY GRANDDADDY
BURIED UP THERE, I
WANT TO KNOW IT
TOO. AN' I WANT
TO KNOW WHO'S
RESPONSIBLE.

I AM
NOT. JUST TO
LEARN THE
TRUTH.

NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
BE MEETIN' GREAT
GRANDDADDY
FACE TO
FACE.

IF IT
IS YOUR GREAT
GRANDDADDY.

GET
BUSY,
COHN.



SKELETON'S MEASUREMENTS TALLY WITH WHAT WE KNOW. JUST GOT TO CONFIRM DNA...



CONFIRM.

DISREGARDING THE FAINT POSSIBILITY IT COULD BE EUSTACE IN THERE, THAT'S GOT TO BE EPHRAM.



MORNING —

WELL, JOE, IT'S BEEN A REAL SHORT VISIT BUT IT'S BEEN INTERESTIN'.

GOOD. THEY DIDN'T FIND MY BACK-UP.



MAYBE ONE DAY WE'LL MAKE US A TRIP TO THE BIG CITY, RETURN THE COMPLIMENT.

SURE LIKE TO MEET SOME OF THEM FANCY MEGA-CITY WOMEN?

YOU DO THAT?



BUT THEY'RE MUTANTS. THEY WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED IN THE CITY.

LET'S NOT GO INTO THAT, LOGAN.

MAYBE IT'S TIME THINGS CHANGED.



BIT DIFFERENT WHEN IT GETS PERSONAL, HUH?

WE'LL MAKE THAT THE LAST REMARK, COHN...



SOMETHING'S WEIRD.
THE NEWSREEL GAVE FARGO'S
BIRTHDATE AS 1949, RIGHT? BUT
IT SAYS ON THE TOMB 2001.
HOW COME?

I DON'T KNOW, COHN.
2001 IS THE DATE WE HAVE
— THE DATE HE ALWAYS
USED.

MAYBE HE
WANTED TO BE
THOUGHT A CHILD
OF THE 21ST
CENTURY.



THAT'S NOT
ALL THAT'S WEIRD. YOU
SAID FARGO WAS NEVER
IN THAT TOMB
ANYWAY.

SO WHERE
DID WE BURY HIM?
AND WHY ALL THE
MYSTERY?

HE
CAUGHT A
BULLET IN A DRIVE-BY,
I KNOW THAT
MUCH.



HE DIDN'T.
AND WE DIDN'T.
BURY HIM, I
MEAN.

MAINLY
BECAUSE
HE WASN'T
DEAD.

BUT
WE'VE ALL
SEEN THE
VID —

A SKILLFUL
SIMULATION.
THE TRUTH IS
RATHER MORE...
BIZARRE.



THERE
WAS A RUMOUR,
WHEN I WAS IN THE
ACADEMY, THAT HE WAS
SEEN DURING THE WAR
— ALIVE. AND THAT'S
TWENTY YEARS AFTER
HE WAS SUPPOSED
TO HAVE BEEN KILLED.
I NEVER BELIEVED
IT, BUT...

NO ONE
SAYS A WORD
ABOUT THIS WHEN WE
GET BACK — IS THAT
UNDERSTOOD?

THERE
ARE THINGS YOU
MAY NEED TO KNOW,
BUT THEY REMAIN TOP
SECRET. IF THE TRUTH
WERE TO GET OUT IT
WOULD REFLECT
BADLY ON JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT.

FARGO'S NEW JUDICIAL SYSTEM WAS HARSH. MISTAKES WERE MADE, BUT THE CITIZENS WERE PREPARED TO OVERLOOK A FEW TEETHING TROUBLES. THEY WERE TIRED OF THE COUNTRY LOOKING LIKE A WARZONE.

A HUGE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME GOT UNDER WAY. FORERUNNERS OF THE ISO-BLOCKS, THE PRISON POPULATION SOARED, BUT THANKS TO AUTOMATION COSTS ACTUALLY WENT DOWN. THE CITIZENS LIKED THAT TOO.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RAPIDLY GREW INTO AN ARM OF GOVERNMENT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO RIVAL CONGRESS ITSELF.

A LESSER MAN COULD NEVER HAVE ACHIEVED IT, BUT FARGO'S REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY CARRIED IT THROUGH - A MAN OF UNSHAKABLE PRINCIPLE, WHO LIVED BY THE RULES HE SET FOR OTHERS.

NO TEMPTATION COULD LURE HIM FROM THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW, NO BRIBE OR FAVOUR CORRUPT HIM. THOSE WHO FELL BELOW HIS STANDARDS WERE QUICKLY DEALT WITH.

THE PEOPLE BELIEVED IN HIM, THAT WAS THE KEY. IN THE PAST THEY'D BEEN LIED TO BY POLITICIANS OF EVERY HUE. FARGO WAS DIFFERENT.

AND THERE LAY THE DANGER ONE STEP OVER THE LINE, AND THE WHOLE EDIFICE COULD CRUMBLE.

EVEN NOW I CAN'T BE SURE OF THE FULL TRUTH - IT WAS ALL HUSHED UP. I GOT THIS FROM GOODMAN HIMSELF, BUT HE COULD HAVE BEEN HOLDING BACK.

THERE WAS A WOMAN. SEQUENTA TELLS, VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION ON LEGAL REFORM. SHE AND FARGO LIAISED, WHEN HIS WORKLOAD PERMITTED...

YOU LOOK TIRED, EUSTACE.

HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR 48 HOURS. FUMIGATING WASHINGTON. HAD TO BE DONE.

MY TECHNICAL DIVISION IS WORKING ON A NEW SLEEP MACHINE - YOU GET A WHOLE NIGHT'S SLEEP IN HALF AN HOUR. I'LL BE THEIR FIRST CUSTOMER, I CAN TELL YOU.

LET'S LEAVE THIS FOR TONIGHT, THEN. I'LL HAVE MY STAFF DRAFT A MEMO IN THE MORNING.

YOU WORK TOO HARD. DON'T THINK WE DON'T APPRECIATE IT, BUT YOU'LL BURN YOURSELF OUT, EUSTACE.

YOU'RE A MAN, NOT A MACHINE. YOU'VE GOT TO RELAX SOMETIMES...







DIDN'T LEARN THEIR LESSON THE FIRST TIME.

SOME PEOPLE NEVER DO.



COHN, LOGAN, YOU STAY WITH THE TRUCK. WE'LL SPLIT UP, CATCH THEM FROM TWO SIDES. NO SURVIVORS THIS TIME.



RANGE 800.

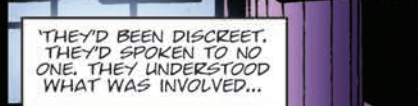
LET 'EM GET CLOSER. NO SENSE WASTING BIKE CHARGE.



SO WHAT HAPPENED?

WITH FARGO...?

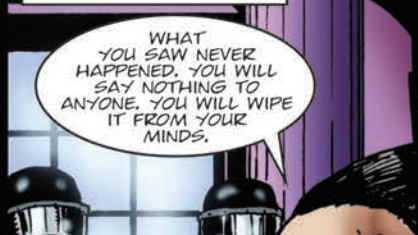
SOLOMON WAS JOINT DEPUTY CHIEF JUDGE AT THE TIME, WITH GOODMAN. HE CALLED IN THE OFFICERS INVOLVED...



'THEY'D BEEN DISCREET. THEY'D SPOKEN TO NO ONE. THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS INVOLVED...



'FARGO WAS ANOTHER MATTER. HE HAD INSTITUTED THE MONASTIC CODE THAT EVERY JUDGE MUST LIVE BY.



WHAT YOU SAW NEVER HAPPENED. YOU WILL SAY NOTHING TO ANYONE. YOU WILL WIPE IT FROM YOUR MINDS.

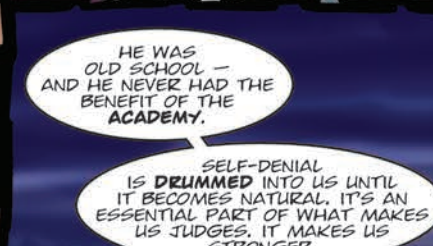


'TOO EXTREME. MANY THOUGHT, BUT THERE WERE GOOD REASONS FOR IT, AND NOW HE HAD FALLEN BELOW HIS OWN EXACTING STANDARDS.'



OF COURSE, SIR.

YES, SIR.



HE WAS OLD SCHOOL — AND HE NEVER HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE ACADEMY.



SELF-DENIAL IS DRUMMED INTO US UNTIL IT BECOMES NATURAL. IT'S AN ESSENTIAL PART OF WHAT MAKES US JUDGES. IT MAKES US STRONGER.

AND LONELIER.



YES, PERHAPS.



'IN 2051
PIERCE WAS
IN OFFICE.
HE HAD BUILT
HIS WHOLE
CAMPAIGN ON
THE INSTANT
JUSTICE
TICKET.'

MY
RESIGNATION, MR
PRESIDENT.

YOUR
RESIGNATION?
I...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
EUSTACE...



PERSONAL
REASONS,
SIR.



I'VE
INFORMED THE
PRESIDENT THAT YOU
ARE RECONSIDERING. THIS
IS AN **OVER-REACTION**.
EUSTACE, GIVE
YOURSELF TIME,
THINK ABOUT
IT.



YOU HAD
NO RIGHT TO DO
THAT, SOLOMON. I HAVE
ALREADY THOUGHT
LONG AND DEEPLY.



SO
YOU MADE A
MISTAKE. GOOD
GRIEF, MAN, WE'RE
ALL HUMAN. CUT
YOURSELF
A LITTLE
SLACK.

WHEN
I DENY IT TO
OTHERS? THAT
I CANNOT
DO.



WE'RE
NOT ACCEPTING
IT. THIS
DEPARTMENT
NEEDS YOU.
EUSTACE - THE
COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU.

THANK YOU,
SOLOMON. I'LL GIVE
YOUR COMMENTS DUE
CONSIDERATION.



BDAM



DREDD'S
ACCOUNT IS
BRIEFLY
INTERRUPTED —

TAKE
'EM!

BDAM

BDAM

HOLYYY
MERDE!

A LITTLE
FRENCHY TALK —
THAT'S CLASS,
NICEY!

SHANAMMM





HUH...HELP ME...



BDAM!



PRETTY SURE WE GOT 'EM ALL.

GOOD.



THIS IS THEIR LEADER.

WE...WE CAN DO A DEAL, LAWMAN. LUH-LET'S PARLAY...

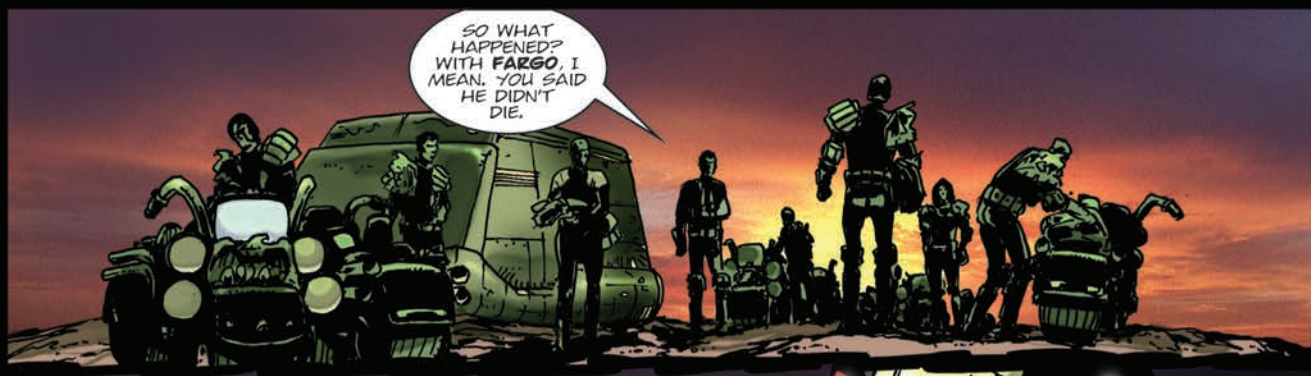


I'VE HEARD ALL I WANT FROM YOU.

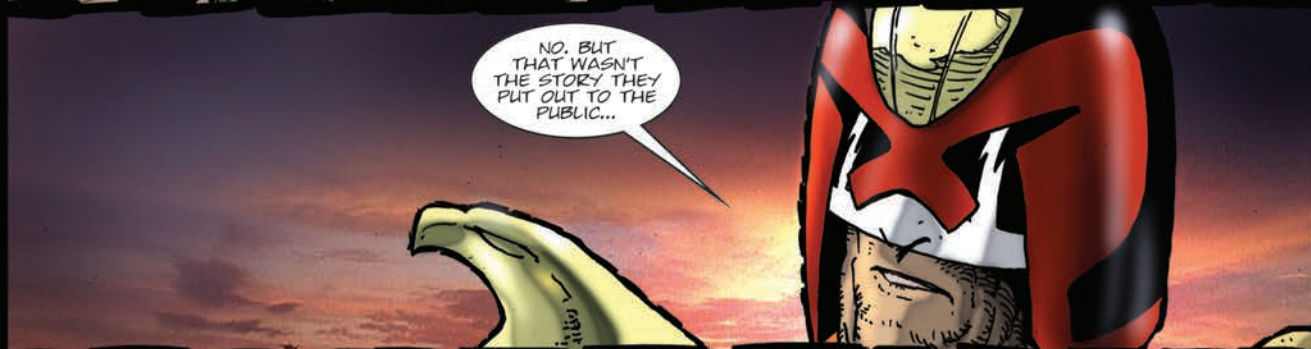
BDCWVW!



DAWN'S COMING. WE RIDE IN FIVE MINUTES, IF YOU NEED SLEEP, DO IT IN THE SADDLE.



SO WHAT HAPPENED? WITH FARGO, I MEAN. YOU SAID HE DIDN'T DIE.



NO. BUT THAT WASN'T THE STORY THEY PUT OUT TO THE PUBLIC...



CHIEF JUDGE EUSTACE FARGO IS DEAD.

HE DIED FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS WHILE INTERVENING IN A VICIOUS DRIVE-BY SHOOTING.

DESPITE MANY CALLS ON HIS TIME, FARGO — THE SHINING LIGHT BEHIND THE NEW LEGAL SYSTEM — NEVER ABANDONED HIS DUTIES AS A STREET JUDGE, DISPENSING INSTANT JUSTICE TO THE CRIMINALS WHO HAVE SO LONG PLAGUED OUR SOCIETY.



TODAY HIS DEVOTION TO DUTY COST HIM THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. THIS REMARKABLE FOOTAGE WAS TAKEN BY A PASSER-BY —

GET DOWN!



OH MY GOD, IT'S THE CHIEF JUDGE!

FARGO!

CALL AN AMBULANCE! SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!



EUSTACE FARGO DIED AS HE LIVED, STANDING UP FOR THE RIGHTS AND LIVES OF ORDINARY CITIZENS.

HIS HONESTY, HIS INTEGRITY, HIS COURAGE AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE ALL FOR THE GOOD OF THIS NATION WILL STAND FOREVER AS AN EXAMPLE TO EVERY AMERICAN.

HIS DEATH CAN ONLY REINFORCE THE CASE FOR THE LAWS THAT HE INTRODUCED. SO LET ANY WHO THINK INSTANT JUSTICE TOO IS DEAD BE DISABUSED OF THAT NOTION.

I HAVE TODAY APPOINTED JUDGE HOLLINS SOLOMON TO THE POST OF CHIEF JUDGE.

FARGO IS GONE, BUT HIS LEGACY WILL LIVE ON.

SO WE FAKED THE SHOOTING TO COVER UP THE FACT THAT FARGO COULDN'T LIVE BY HIS OWN RULES. OUR WHOLE SYSTEM'S BUILT ON A LIE.

HARDLY. FARGO WAS ONLY HUMAN. HUMAN BEINGS ARE FALLIBLE. DOESN'T MEAN THE SYSTEM'S WRONG.

BUT WHAT SOLOMON AND GOODMAN DID — THE COVER-UP. THAT WAS WAY OUT OF LINE.

I DISAGREE, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS ALL THEY COULD DO.

WOULD YOU HAVE EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN CREATED DESTROYED BECAUSE OF ONE MAN'S WEAKNESS, SANCHEZ?

IN RETROSPECT, IT WAS PERHAPS UNWISE. SOLOMON WAS TOO CLEVER FOR HIS OWN GOOD SOMETIMES. BUT AT THE TIME IT APPEARED UNLIKELY THAT FARGO WOULD RECOVER.

AS SOLOMON SAW IT, A MARTYR — A NOBLE SACRIFICE — WOULD BE A MORE POWERFUL TOOL THAN A LIVING VEGETABLE IN THE BATTLE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. AND A BATTLE WAS SURELY COMING.

WELL... NO... I GUESS NOT.

LOOK ON IT AS A SMART P.R. MOVE.

BUT WHY SAY HE WAS DEAD?

ONCE THE DECISION WAS MADE, OF COURSE, IT WAS TOO LATE TO GO BACK.



AS FOR WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS, AND THE PART FARGO PLAYED IN IT, I CAN TELL YOU THAT FIRST HAND — BECAUSE I WAS THERE.

LET'S RIDE!



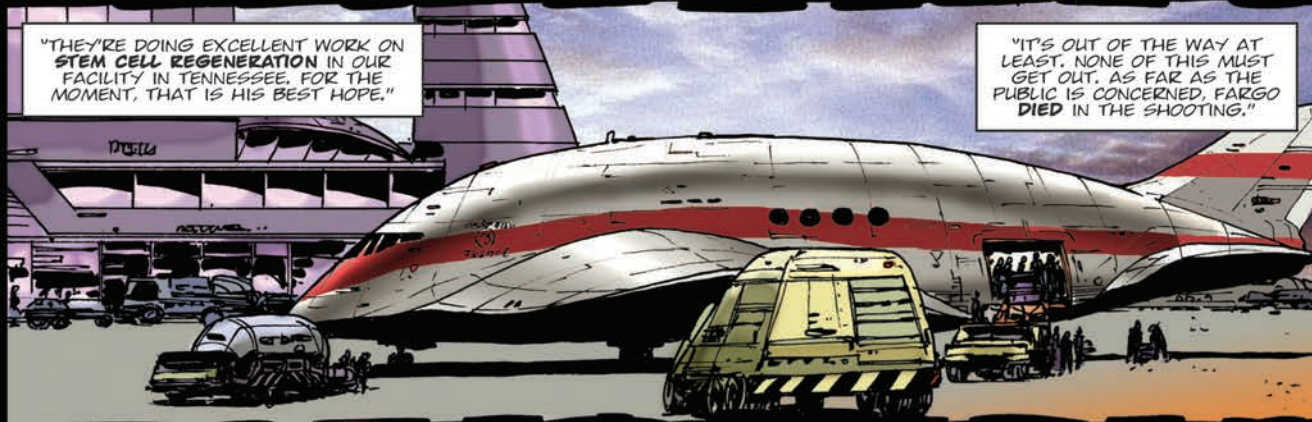
JUDGE FARGO IS OUT OF DANGER NOW.

THE LEFT AND RIGHT TEMPORAL LOBES PERFORM SIMILAR FUNCTIONS. IN CASES WHERE ONE IS DESTROYED, THE OTHER CAN OFTEN TAKE OVER.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT COLLATERAL DAMAGE. IT IS FAR MORE PROBABLE THAT HE WILL BE A VIRTUAL VEGETABLE.

THE PROGNOSIS IS A LITTLE MORE HOPEFUL TODAY, WHEN HE RECOVERS — IF HE RECOVERS — HE COULD REGAIN SOME DEGREE OF LUCIDITY, PERHAPS EVEN MOBILITY.

YOU SAY 'COULD'?



"THEY'RE DOING EXCELLENT WORK ON STEM CELL REGENERATION IN OUR FACILITY IN TENNESSEE. FOR THE MOMENT, THAT IS HIS BEST HOPE."

"IT'S OUT OF THE WAY AT LEAST. NONE OF THIS MUST GET OUT. AS FAR AS THE PUBLIC IS CONCERNED, FARGO DIED IN THE SHOOTING."



TOP FIGURES FROM THE WORLD OF POLITICS AND SHOWBUSINESS TURNED OUT TODAY, AND MILLIONS MORE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE GRAND HALL OF JUSTICE, FOR THE FUNERAL OF CHIEF JUDGE EUSTACE FARGO.

FARGO, WHO PERISHED AS HE HAD LIVED, FIGHTING FOR THE LIVES AND LIBERTY OF THE CITIZENS, WAS LAID TO REST IN A SPECIALLY BUILT TOMB WITHIN THE GRAND HALL.

PRESIDENT FOREMAN PIERCE HIMSELF GAVE THE EULOGY...



FOR TWENTY YEARS EUSTACE FARGO HAS NURTURED AND GUIDED THIS NATION. HE HAS MASTERMINDED THE REPLACEMENT OF TRIAL BY JURY WITH INSTANT JUSTICE, A SYSTEM NOW WIDELY COPIED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

HE HAS SEEN US THROUGH GREAT CHANGES. HE HAS WATCHED OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEGA-CITIES, MAINTAINING THE PEACE ON OUR STREETS IN TROUBLED TIMES.



AND THOUGH HE HAS HIS ENEMIES, HIS DETRACTORS, LET NONE BE IN ANY DOUBT, FARGO'S LEGACY WILL NOT DIE WITH HIM. THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK.



CHIEF JUDGE, WE'VE TALKED ABOUT A CLONING PROGRAMME BEFORE. WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF FARGO'S PHYSICAL MATERIAL. YOUNG JUDD HERE HAS SOME EXCELLENT IDEAS.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME, ATTICUS.

WITH RESPECT, SIR, THERE'LL NEVER BE A BETTER TIME — TO START WITH THE FATHER OF JUSTICE HIMSELF. WE CAN MAKE ENDLESS COPIES.



AND OUR ENEMIES WILL USE IT AGAINST US. THEY WILL SAY WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE A SUPER RACE. THE PEOPLE ARE NOT READY FOR THAT.



2052 —

CONGRESS TODAY APPROVED THE AUTONOMY ACT, GIVING AMERICA'S THREE GREAT MEGA-CITIES VIRTUAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ON ALL BUT FOREIGN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

TEXAS CITY GOVERNOR ROBERT L. BOOTH WELCOMED THE CHANGE —

SOME SAY THIS IS THE END FOR THE AMERICAN SUPERSTATE. I SAY IT IS MERELY THE END OF THE BEGINNING. LET US NEVER FORGET THAT UNITED WE ARE STILL THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH.

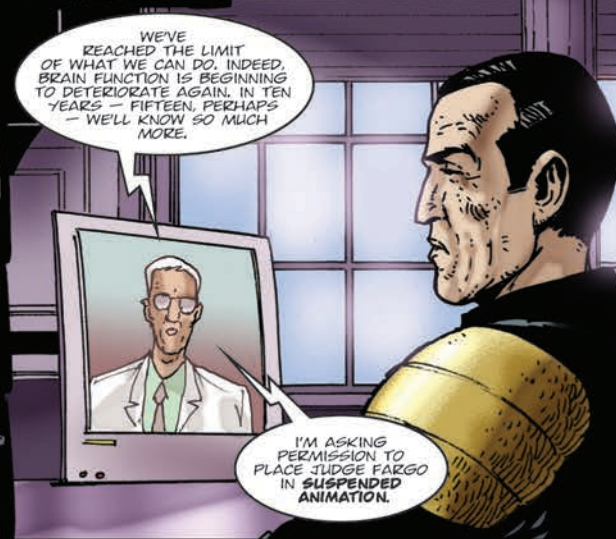


YOU'RE YOUNG, JUDD. YOU'LL LEARN. THE TIME MAY COME, BUT THIS IS NOT IT.



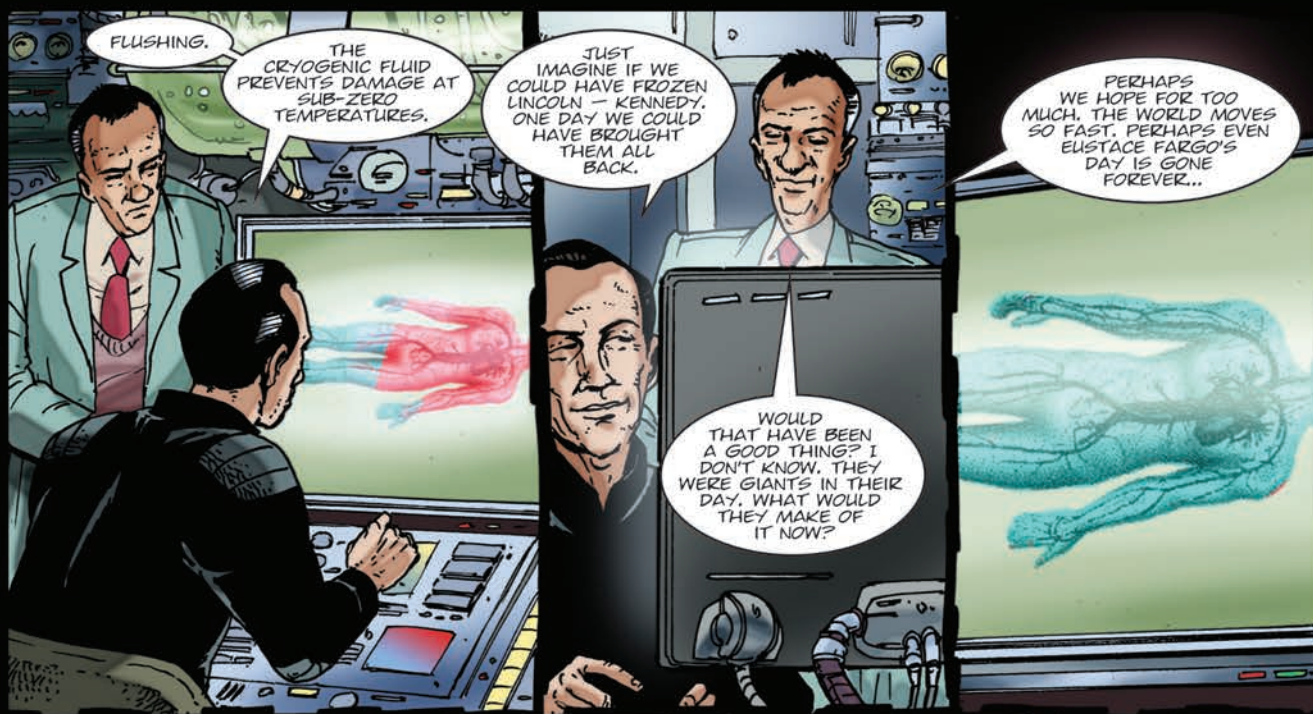
I...I WOGGED TODAY, HOLLINS. THREE ST-STEBBS. DOGERS SAY IS...IS GOOD...

I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR IT, EUSTACE. PERHAPS IN TIME, IF YOU KEEP UP THE PROGRESS, WE'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE.



WE'VE REACHED THE LIMIT OF WHAT WE CAN DO. INDEED, BRAIN FUNCTION IS BEGINNING TO DETERIORATE AGAIN. IN TEN YEARS — FIFTEEN, PERHAPS — WE'LL KNOW SO MUCH MORE.

I'M ASKING PERMISSION TO PLACE JUDGE FARGO IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.



FLUSHING.

THE CRYOGENIC FLUID PREVENTS DAMAGE AT SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES.

JUST IMAGINE IF WE COULD HAVE FROZEN LINCOLN - KENNEDY. ONE DAY WE COULD HAVE BROUGHT THEM ALL BACK.

PERHAPS WE HOPE FOR TOO MUCH. THE WORLD MOVES SO FAST. PERHAPS EVEN EUSTACE FARGO'S DAY IS GONE FOREVER...

WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN A GOOD THING? I DON'T KNOW. THEY WERE GIANTS IN THEIR DAY. WHAT WOULD THEY MAKE OF IT NOW?



2055 -

SCENES OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATION TODAY ON ROUTES INTO MEGA-CITY ONE AS NEW IMMIGRATION CONTROLS CAME INTO FORCE.

ON ROUTE THREE ALONE OVER 400 ARRESTS WERE MADE.

NON-CITIZENS MUST COMPLY WITH PROPER VISA REGULATIONS. ALL THOSE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER ILLEGALLY WILL BE DOCUMENTED, QUESTIONED AND DEPOSITED BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS.



THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF MEGA-CITY ONE ARE FULLY BEHIND THE JUDGES IN THIS EXERCISE.

WE'RE NOT TOTALLY AGAINST IMMIGRATION. NATURALLY, THOSE WITH QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY, BUT RESIDENTS OF THE OUTLANDS MUST ACCEPT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE NUMBERS THE MEGA-CITIES CAN HOLD.

2057 -

HOLLINS SOLOMON
TODAY STEPS DOWN AS
CHIEF JUDGE OF MEGA-
CITY ONE.

SOLOMON,
WHO WITHSTOOD
MANY STORMY BATTLES
IN CONGRESS TO CONTINUE
BUILDING JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
INTO THE AWESOME LAW
ENFORCEMENT TOOL
IT IS TODAY, ANNOUNCED
HIS INTENTION IN AUGUST
TO RETURN TO HIS
FIRST LOVE, THE
STREETS.

HE WILL
REMAIN AS A
MEMBER OF THE NEW
COUNCIL OF FIVE, THE
GUIDING COMMITTEE TO BE
SET UP UNDER HIS
REPLACEMENT, FORMER
DEPUTY CHIEF
JUDGE CLARENCE
GOODMAN.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU WON'T
CHANGE YOUR MIND,
HOLLINS?

I'M TIRED,
CLARENCE - TIRED
OF ALL THE IN-FIGHTING
AND BACKSTABBING.
ALL THE POLITICS.

I USED
TO ENJOY IT,
FOR MY SINS, BUT
NOW...SOMEHOW THE
STREETS SEEM A
MORE HONEST
PLACE.

YOU'VE SEEN
THIS MAN BOOTH?
THEY SAY
HE'LL BE HARVISSON'S RUNNING MATE
IN '00. AMERICA IS NOT ENOUGH FOR HIM.
HE HAS BIGGER AMBITIONS, AND HE
IS NO FRIEND OF OURS.

ARM US.
THAT IS MY ADVICE
TO YOU, BUILD JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT INTO A FORCE
CAPABLE OF TAKING ON
THE MILITARY. THERE'S
A BATTLE COMING,
ONE WE MUST
NOT LOSE.

ON A
LIGHTER NOTE,
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
TODAY ANNOUNCED THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
EXPERIMENTAL PSI DIVISION.
THE DIVISION WILL CONDUCT
RESEARCH INTO THE USE
OF EXTRA-SENSORY
POWERS IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST
CRIME.

NO
HIDING PLACE FOR
TOMORROW'S CRIMINALS?
BEWARE - IT COULD
HAPPEN.

2060 -

THE VOTE
OF THE NORTHERN
STATES HAS JUST COME IN,
CONFIRMING THE LANDSLIDE
WIN FOR HARVISSON AND
BOOTH.

AND
WE UNDERSTAND
THAT PRESIDENT
CHAMBERS HAS JUST
FORMALLY CONCEDED
VICTORY TO HER
OPPONENTS.

MR BOOTH, AS
THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT,
WILL YOU BE PURSUING
A HARD LINE WITH THE
GROWING ANTI-AMERICAN
ALLIANCE?

GET THIS
STRAIGHT: WE'RE NOT OUT
TO BULLY ANYONE. NEITHER WILL
WE BE GANGED UP ON. LET THOSE
BANDING TOGETHER TO OPPOSE
US TAKE THAT AS A
WARNING.

CHIEF JUDGE GOODMAN, IT'S AN HONOUR TO HAVE YOU HERE, SIR.

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SPARE THE TIME BEFORE, JUDD.

SORRY ABOUT ATTICUS, OF COURSE, BUT I'M SURE HE LEAVES THE PROGRAMME IN GOOD HANDS.

DREDD, JOSEPH
[STRAIN 0001/
FARGO]

THESE ARE FARGO'S. YOU'VE NAMED THEM ALREADY?

DREDD, RICO
[STRAIN 0001/
FARGO]

IT HELPS TO GIVE THEM INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES. DREDD - WE THOUGHT THE NAME WAS APT. DESIGNED TO INSTILL FEAR IN THE POPULACE.

I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU SOLOMON STILL HAS DEEP RESERVATIONS...

SIX VIABLE CLONES SO FAR. WE'VE HAD OUR FAILURES - THE ACCELERATED BIRTHING PROCESS IS BREAKING NEW GROUND - BUT THESE ARE COMING ON WELL.

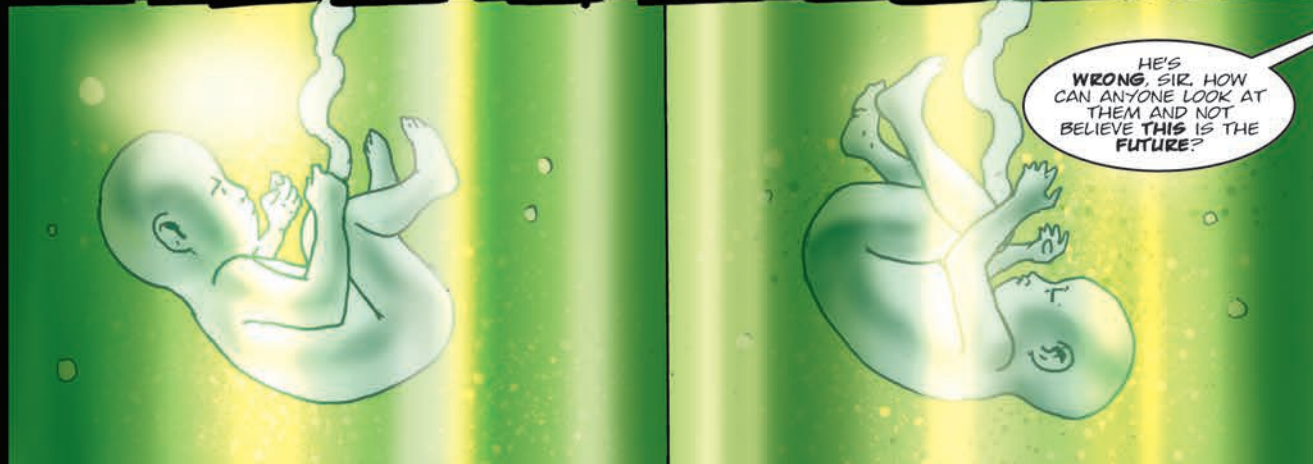
AT PRESENT WE'RE ESTIMATING SIXTEEN MONTHS FOR FULL GESTATION. THEY'LL EMERGE AT ROUGHLY AGE FIVE TO SIX.

IN THE MEANTIME WE HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DATA INPUT. THEY'RE BETTER VERSED NOW IN THE LAW THAN ANY STREET JUDGE. FIT, FOCUSED AND 100 PER CENT LOYAL.

TOMORROW'S SUPER JUDGE.



HE'S WRONG, SIR. HOW CAN ANYONE LOOK AT THEM AND NOT BELIEVE THIS IS THE FUTURE?



WELCOME TO THE ACADEMY OF LAW. IT IS THE FERVENT DESIRE OF EVERY YOUNGSTER IN THE CITY TO BE WHERE YOU ARE NOW.

AND YOU ARE ESPECIALLY PRIVILEGED, TO YOU HAS BEEN GRANTED THE HONOUR OF CARRYING ON THIS DEPARTMENT'S MOST EXCEPTIONAL BLOODLINES. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL NOT DISGRACE THEM.

ACADEMY OF LAW

TEST THEM, PRINCIPAL. ASK THEM ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

YOU, BOY - DREDD, 54D, DEFINE.

54D - CRIME BLITZ. JUDGES ARE ENTITLED TO ENTER AND SEARCH ANY CITIZEN'S HOME AT ANY TIME, SIR.

CRIME BLITZ IS VALUABLE NOT ONLY FOR UNCOVERING CRIME, BUT ALSO FOR DETERRING FUTURE WRONGDOING.

AND IT GIVES THEM RESPECT, SIR. PUTS THE FEAR OF THE LAW INTO THEM.

THANK YOU, RICO. QUITE RIGHT. AND YOU, UH - MCVEY - CURRENT PENALTY FOR JAYWALKING, CONSTITUTION AVENUE, SECTOR SIX.

EXCELLENT. I CAN SEE WE MAY HAVE TO MOVE YOU ALL ON A LITTLE QUICKER. THAT IS GOOD.

WE'RE READY, SIR!

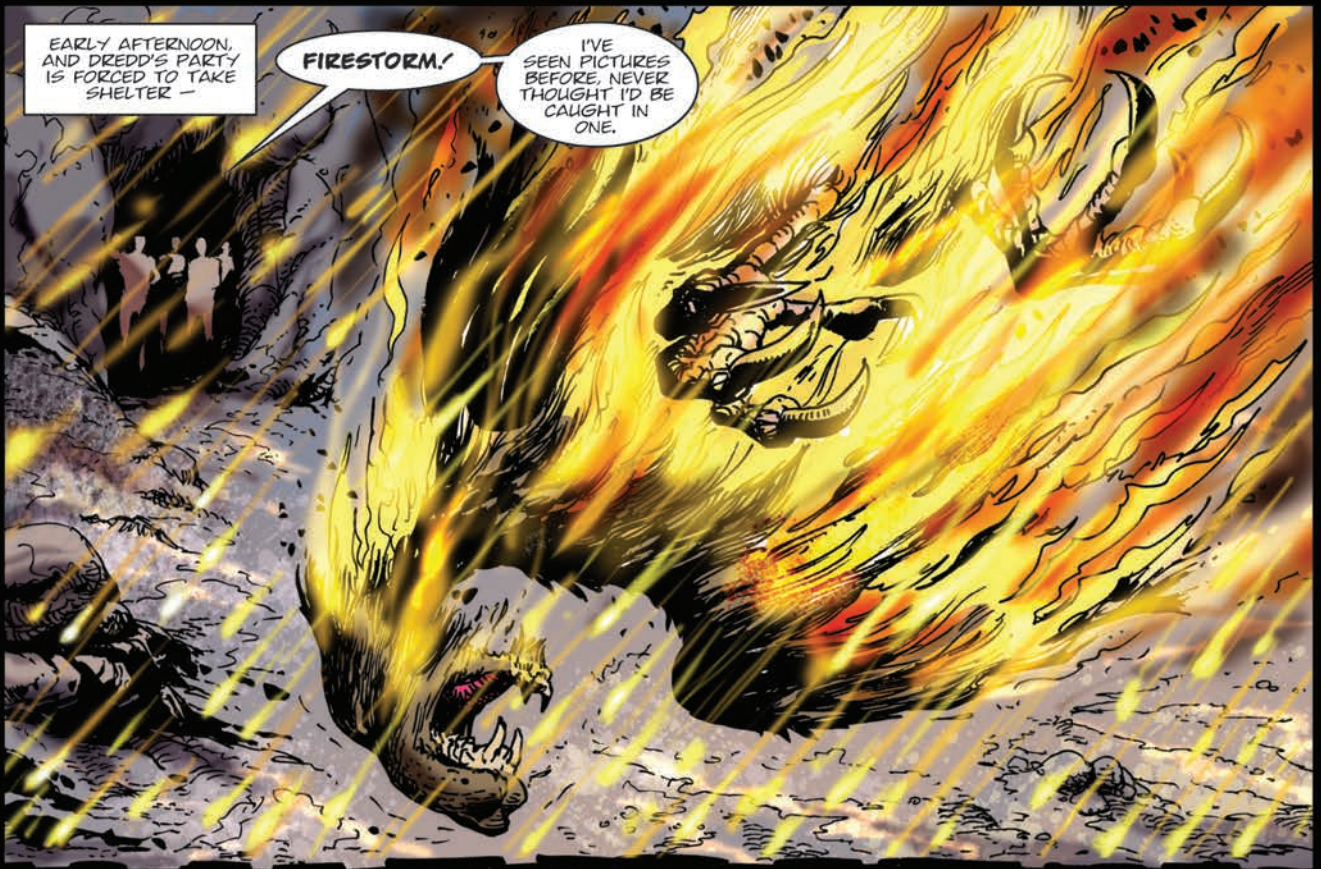
CONSTITUTION IS FAST TRACK, SIR. PENALTY IS AT JUDGE'S DISCRETION BUT MINIMUM TWO YEARS IS LAID DOWN. PERSONALLY, I FEEL THAT IS TOO LENIENT.

WE ARE ENTERING DANGEROUS TIMES, WE WILL REQUIRE EVERY BIT OF AVAILABLE MANPOWER FOR THE STRUGGLE AHEAD.

EARLY AFTERNOON,
AND DREDD'S PARTY
IS FORCED TO TAKE
SHELTER —

FIRESTORM!

I'VE
SEEN PICTURES
BEFORE, NEVER
THOUGHT I'D BE
CAUGHT IN
ONE.



CHEMICALS
IN THE ATMOSPHERE.
WATER DROPLETS GET
COATED, LIGHTNING
SETS THEM
OFF.

NO WONDER
THEY CALL IT
THE CURSED EARTH.
**PRESIDENT ROBERT
L. BOOTH'S** GIFT
TO A GRATEFUL
NATION...



BREAK
OUT THE
RATIONS, MIGHT
AS WELL TAKE
LUNCH.

SO
BOOTH GOT
ELECTED.



BOOTH.
YES.
2068...

OUR
LAST
PRESIDENT,
AND THE
WORST.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WERE ALREADY BAD - BOOTH TOOK THEM TO A NEW LOW. THE WORLD WAS LIVING OFF OUR BACKS, THAT WAS HIS LINE.

TRUTH WAS, WE'D ALWAYS USED OUR MUSCLE TO MAKE SURE AMERICA'S INTERESTS CAME FIRST. BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR BOOTH. HE WANTED EVERYTHING.

SO WOULD I, SANCHEZ. WE TRY.

THEY SAY POWER CORRUPTS, ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY.

I'D LIKE TO THINK WE'RE DIFFERENT.

BUT BOOTH...HE'D BEEN SPOILING FOR A FIGHT RIGHT FROM THE START. AND HE GOT ONE - THOUGH IT WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR...

FOREIGN STATES HAVE BEEN GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT OVER THEIR RESERVES. FOOLISHLY, THEY INSIST ON HOLDING OUR COUNTRY TO RANSOM.

GO GET 'EM, BOB!

I HAVE THEREFORE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER OUR TROOPS TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION.

WE TAKE THIS ACTION IN OUR LEGITIMATE NATIONAL INTERESTS. LET ME THEREFORE ISSUE THIS WARNING -

ANY OPPOSITION - FROM ANY EXTERNAL AGENCY - WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF HOSTILITY.

TO HELL WITH CIVILIAN CASUALTIES! YOU GOTTA CRACK A FEW EGGS TA MAKE GOULASH!



THE UNION OF SOVIET MEGA-CITIES HEREBY ISSUES OUR OWN WARNING! REMOVE YOUR TROOPS IMMEDIATELY OR A STATE OF WAR WILL EXIST BETWEEN US!

THE EUROPEAN CITY-STATES WILL NOT — CAN NOT — STAND IDLY BY!

THE SINO BLOCK IS READY TO RESPOND TO THIS ACT OF BARBARITY!

WE WILL WIPE THE GREAT SATAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

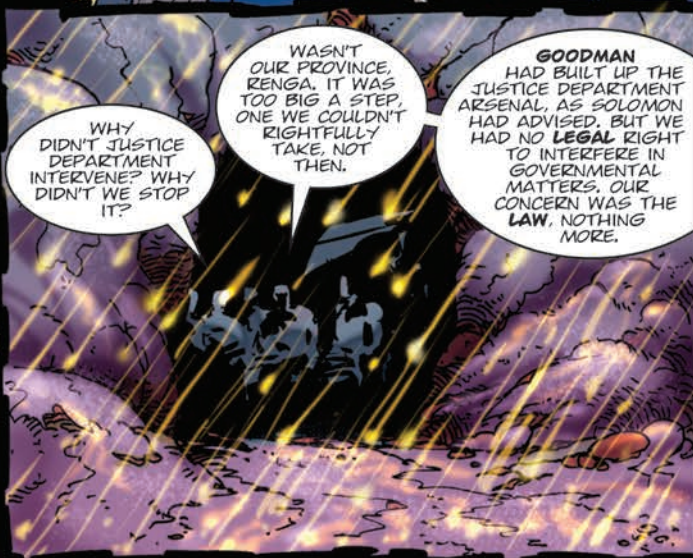
BRIT-CIT IS RELUCTANT TO CONDEMN THE ACTIONS OF OUR AMERICAN ALLIES. LET US APPROACH THIS CRISIS IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE.

"THERE WAS OPPOSITION EVEN IN BOOTH'S OWN OFFICE —"



WITH RESPECT, MR PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE YOU'RE LEADING US INTO A WAR FROM WHICH THE WORLD MAY NEVER RECOVER. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PULL BACK.

YOU DAMNED YELLOWBELLY, BENEDICT! YOU THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE THE SOVS AND THE REST? GET HIM THE HELL OUT OF HERE!



WHY DIDN'T JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTERVENE? WHY DIDN'T WE STOP IT?

WASN'T OUR PROVINCE, RENGA. IT WAS TOO BIG A STEP, ONE WE COULDN'T RIGHTFULLY TAKE, NOT THEN.

GOODMAN HAD BUILT UP THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ARSENAL, AS SOLOMON HAD ADVISED. BUT WE HAD NO LEGAL RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS. OUR CONCERN WAS THE LAW, NOTHING MORE.



ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 10, 2070, JUDGES WERE CALLED TO THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN. THEY FOUND THE BODY OF SPECIAL ADVISOR ARNOLD BENEDICT FLOATING IN THE PRESIDENT'S CATFISH POOL.

WHAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY FIND — TOO LATE, SADLY — WAS A TRAIL OF MURDER AND DECEPTION THAT LED STRAIGHT BACK TO BOOTH HIMSELF...

IT LOOKED, ON THE FACE OF IT, A CASE OF SUICIDE. BENEDICT HAD AN ALCOHOL PROBLEM, AND A MESSY DIVORCE. HE WAS KNOWN TO BE ANTI-WAR. THE PROSPECT HAD DRIVEN HIM OVER THE EDGE.

"BUT AT THE TIME THEY WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH MORE IMMEDIATE MATTERS. ON JUNE 12, CHIEF JUDGE GOODMAN CONVENE A MEETING OF THE JUDGES OF AMERICA'S THREE GREAT MEGA-CITIES..."

SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY MET MARLON HUNNICUT AND GABE SUAREZ.

GRIM TIMES, SOLOMON.

THEY'VE BEEN BETTER, MARLON. THAT'S FOR SURE.

ARLOW, JOHANSEN, LOWTHER, JUDD.

WE'VE BEEN TAKING A KEEN INTEREST IN YOUR PROGRAMME, JUDD.

IT'S LOOKING VERY PROMISING, SIR. OUR FIRST **CLONES** ARE CURRENTLY DISTINGUISHING THEMSELVES AT THE ACADEMY.

WHO KNOWS IF THEY'LL LIVE TO SERVE? WE COULD ALL BE GOING TO HELL IN A HOVERCRAFT.

THE PRESIDENT IS INTENT ON WAR. I HAVE PERSONALLY MADE REPRESENTATIONS — HE PRACTICALLY LAUGHED ME OUT OF THE OFFICE.

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE DO, CLARENCE — ARREST HIM?

WOULD THAT WE COULD, BUT ON WHAT GROUNDS?

INSANITY!

THE MAN IS CLEARLY MAD! HE BELIEVES OUR **SHIELDS** CAN STOP EVERYTHING, EVEN IF THEY COULD. WHAT KIND OF WORLD WILL WE BE LEFT WITH AFTERWARDS?

THIS WAR WILL BE **GLOBAL**, GENTLEMEN. IT WILL BE THE GREATEST DEVASTATION THE EARTH HAS KNOWN SINCE THE EXTINCTION OF THE **DINOSAURS**. IT IS OUR DUTY TO PREVENT IT, ANY WAY WE CAN.

I THOUGHT IF WE APPROACHED HIM **TOGETHER** HE MIGHT LISTEN TO REASON.

HE'S THREATENED TO **DISSAND** US! THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS! TO RETURN THIS CITY TO THE OLD WAYS — TRIAL BY JURY AND RAMPANT CORRUPTION!

SADLY, I DOUBT ROBERT L. BOOTH IS OPEN TO REASON.

COULD HE DO IT?

WE ARE NOT AS POPULAR AS WE ONCE WERE, AND HE'S GOT THE PEOPLE WORKED UP TO FEVER PITCH. THEY BELIEVE WE CAN WIN THIS WAR.

IF WE'RE GOING TO CONFRONT HIM, LET US NOT DELAY.

CHIEF JUDGE, THE PRESIDENT IS MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT, SIR.



THE FIRST MISSILES ARE SPEEDING TOWARDS THEIR TARGETS. THE WAR TO END ALL WARS HAS BEGUN. MY FELLOW AMERICANS, WHEN IT IS OVER WE WILL BE RAISING THE STARS AND STRIPES OVER THE ENTIRE GLOBE.

IT'S STARTED.

WE DIDN'T WANT THIS WAR - WE DIDN'T ASK FOR IT - BUT AS SURE AS GOD IS MY JUDGE WE WILL FINISH IT.

IT'S TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING NOW. WE MUST RETURN TO OUR CITIES WHILE WE STILL CAN.



THE SHIELDS DEFLECTED THE FIRST INCOMING STRIKES. YOU WERE WITH ME AT EERIE, RENG - YOU SAW THE RESULT.*

YES...

*THARGNOTE: SEE 'FOG ON THE EERIE', PROGS 1037-1040.

SUAREZ'S SHIP WAS CAUGHT IN A BLAST OVER THE MID-WEST. HE NEVER REACHED MEGA-CITY TWO.



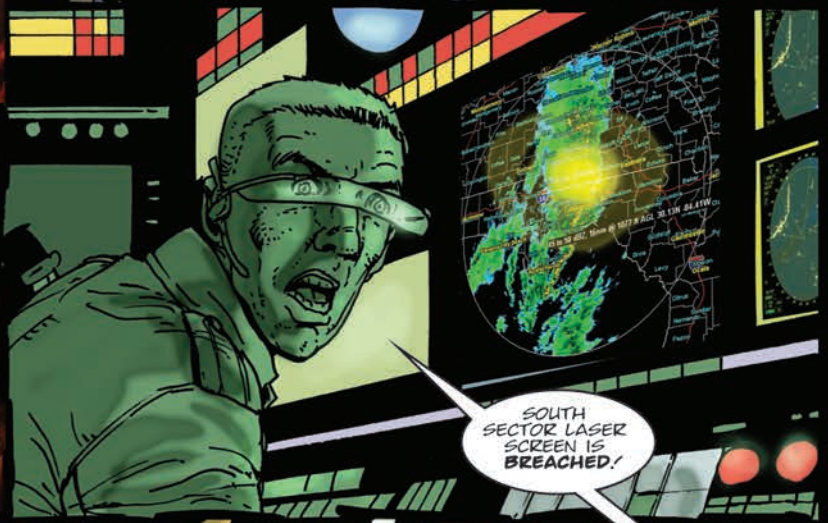


"PERHAPS HE WAS THE
LUCKY ONE. HE NEVER
LIVED TO SEE WHAT WAS
LEFT WHEN THE BOMBS
STOPPED FALLING..."



WE HAVE STRIKES CONTINENT WIDE, MR. PRESIDENT.

APART FROM THE STRIKE ON ERIE — AND ONE HERE IN THE SAN DIEGO QUAD — THE MEGA-CITIES DEFENCES ARE HOLDING.



SOUTH SECTOR LASER SCREEN IS BREACHED!



SCRATCH BALTIMORE QUADRANT!



THAT'S D-DAMN CLOSE! IT COULD BE US NEXT! GOD HELP US!

THE HELL WITH GOD, I'M TRUSTIN' IN YOUR DAMN SCREENS, GENERAL!

NOTHING IS FOOLPROOF, SIR -



INCOMING! WE HAVE STRIKES ON HARRISBURG - LONG ISLAND -



THE CHIEF JUDGE A SHORT WHILE AGO DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY. ALL CADETS ABOVE THE AGE OF FOURTEEN ARE ASSIGNED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT TO FULL ACTIVE SERVICE.

WHAT WILL BE LEFT WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER I DREAD TO IMAGINE. FOR NOW, WE MUST PUT OUR FEARS ASIDE AND CONCENTRATE ON OUR DUTY. REPORT TO YOUR SECTION HEADS FOR ASSIGNMENT.



SIR - WE REQUEST TO JOIN THE OLDER CADETS.

I APPRECIATE YOUR SPIRIT, DREDD - ALL OF YOU. IT IS NO LESS THAN I WOULD EXPECT FROM OUR CLONES. BUT AT YOUR TENDER YEARS -

THEY ARE EXTREMELY CAPABLE FOR THEIR AGE, PRINCIPAL. THEY KNOW THE LAW INSIDE OUT. PERHAPS, CONSIDERING THE SITUATION, BETTER THAT THEY SHOULD BE OCCUPIED USEFULLY.



YES, YES, YOU HAVE A POINT...

VERY WELL, ALL OF YOU, REPORT TO THE ARMOURY.

YES, SIR!

THANK YOU, SIR!



"THERE WAS PANIC ON THE STREETS. TRAFFIC WAS SNARLED UP DEAD. PEOPLE WERE JUST ABANDONING THEIR VEHICLES. WE HAD TO GET VITAL ROUTES MOVING AGAIN.

"FORTUNATELY, BY THEN MOST VEHICLES HAD AUTO-PILOTS.

RETURN TO YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE!

INSTRUCTION UNDERSTOOD.

GET OFF THE STREETS! GET IN YOUR CARS! GET HOME!

AAAAHHHHH!
AAAAHHHHH!
AAAAHHHHH!

THAT'S ENOUGH, CITIZEN! SCREAMING'S NOT GOING TO GET YOU ANYWHERE! ON YOUR FEET!

AAAIEEEEEEEEE!

WASTING YOUR TIME, JOE! SHE'S TOO FAR GONE! GRAB HER!

THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!



SHE LIVES
IN APARTMENT 12E,
COOPER CENTRE,
SECTOR 12.

GO
TO COOPER
CENTRE.

COOPER CENTRE!
INSTRUCTION
UNDERSTOOD!



BEST WE
CAN DO WITH
HER.

UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES.



LOOTERS!
NO MERCY!
TAKE 'EM
DOWN!



"TO KILL IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE - UNTIL THEN
IT HAD JUST BEEN AN IDEA, A THEORETICAL
IMPERATIVE. FORTUNATELY, WHEN THE TIME
CAME, NEITHER OF US WAS FOUND WANTING."



SUCK ON
THAT, JAYBIRD
SCUM!

RICO!



AHHHHH!

BOAM BOAM BOAM



CLEAR 'EM OUT!

WE PUT A STOP TO IT. HAD 'EM JUMPING OUT OF SECOND-FLOOR WINDOWS JUST TO GET AWAY FROM US.

OF COURSE, IT WAS LIKE TRYING TO HOLD BACK THE TIDE, BUT WE DID WHAT WE COULD.

FIGURED I'D PULLED THE SHORT STRAW. BABYSITTING YOU TWO, BUT YOU CAN HANDLE YOURSELVES. HOW OLD ARE YOU - TEN? ELEVEN?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SIR.

ACCELERATED CLONING. KIND OF HARD TO SAY.

HELP ME! I...I'M DYING HERE!



HANDS OFF!

NOT ENOUGH MEDS FOR LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS - WE'RE GOING TO WASTE OUR TIME ON YOU?

UNHH!



YOU'VE GOT THE ATTITUDE, THAT'S FOR SURE.

LET'S JUST HOPE WHEN THIS IS OVER THERE'S STILL A CITY LEFT FOR YOU TO JUDGE!











DAMN
MILITARY.
WORSE THAN
SAVAGES.

YOU
DID WELL HERE.
SORRY ABOUT
KINNISON. THAT'S
THE LIFE, I'M
AFRAID.



BY THE
13TH THE BOMBS
HAD STOPPED FALLING.
THE WORLD HAD BEEN
NUKED INTO
SUBMISSION.

WE WEREN'T
MUCH BETTER. VAST
TRACTS OF THE COUNTRY
WERE UNINHABITABLE -
RADIATION POCKETS NO
ONE COULD GO
NEAR.

A PALL OF
SMOKE HUNG OVER THE
CITIES. POWER WAS CUT OFF.
THEY PUT TROOPS ON THE STREETS
TO HELP RESTORE ORDER, AND
ALL TOO OFTEN WE FOUND
OURSELVES FIGHTING
THEM.



HOWARD
LINT, CHIEF JUDGE,
UP TILL THIS MORNING
HE WAS A SENIOR
AIDE TO THE
PRESIDENT.

HE CAME
IN OF HIS OWN
VOLITION?

YES,
SIR.



MR LINT,
WOULD YOU TELL
THE CHIEF JUDGE
WHAT YOU'VE JUST
TOLD US?

YES...YES,
CERTAINLY.



ARNOLD...
ARNOLD BENEDICT.
THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL
ADVISOR, WAS MURDERED
ON THE ORDERS OF THE
PRESIDENT.

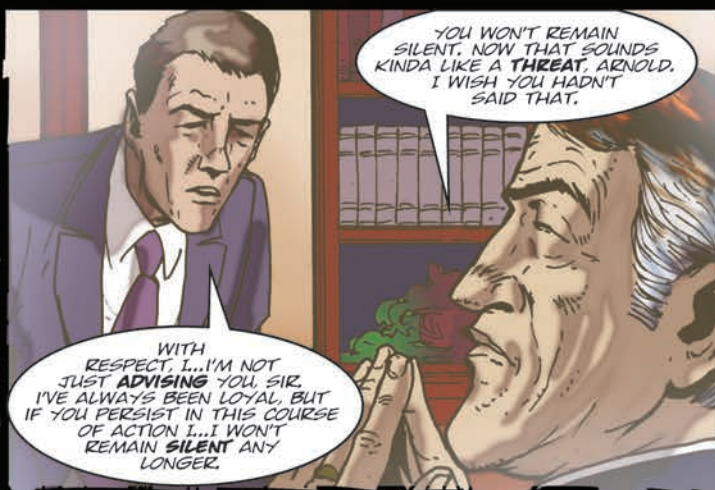
THAT
IS A SERIOUS
ACCUSATION,
MR LINT. YOU
CAN PROVE
IT?

NOT AS
SUCH, NO. BUT
I KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED. I SAW
ENOUGH...



MR PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE YOU'RE LEADING US INTO A WAR FROM WHICH THE WORLD MAY **NEVER RECOVER**. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PULL BACK.

YOU DAMNED **YELLOWBELLY**, BENEDICT! YOU THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE THE **SOVS** AND THE REST? GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!



YOU WON'T REMAIN SILENT, NOW THAT SOUNDS KINDA LIKE A **THREAT**, ARNOLD. I WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT.

WITH RESPECT, I...I'M NOT JUST **ADVISING** YOU, SIR. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL, BUT IF YOU PERSIST IN THIS COURSE OF ACTION I...I WON'T REMAIN **SILENT** ANY LONGER.



WHAT YOU HAFTA UNDERSTAND IS, THIS IS A **GREAT MISSION** I HAVE EMBARKED ON - THE GREATEST IN OUR HISTORY, BECAUSE WHEN IT IS OVER THE **WHOLE WORLD** WILL BELONG TO US.

NOW **THAT'S** WORTH **FIGHTING** FOR, ARNOLD. THAT IS WHY I CANNOT ALLOW **ANYTHING** - OR ANY **ONE** - TO GET IN THE WAY...



I WAS PASSING ARNOLD'S OFFICE A SHORT WHILE LATER. I SAW THEM TAKING HIM - MCCrackEN, FRANK LEVINE, TWO OTHERS I DIDN'T RECOGNISE...



WHERE ARE WE GOING? I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T, MR BENEDICT. NOT YET.

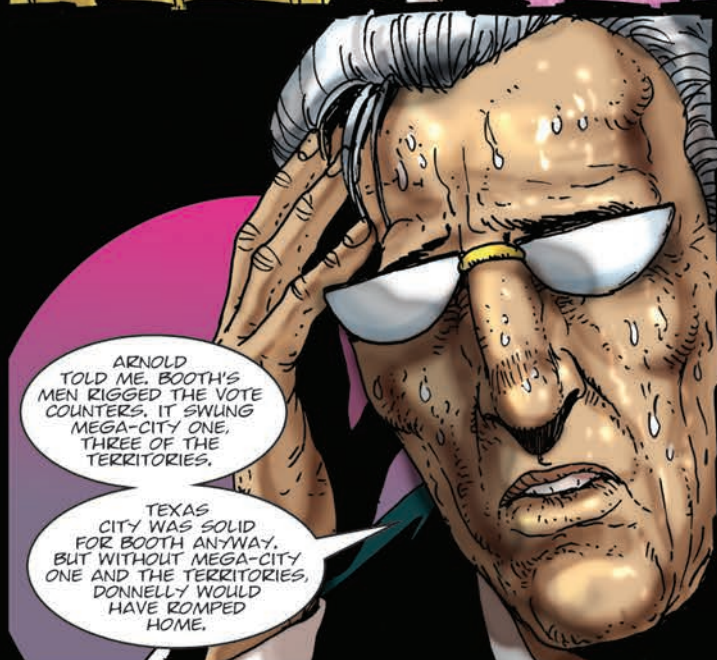


WHEN YOU'VE SEARCHED HIS OFFICE, CHECK HIS HOME.

HE WAS DIVORCED - HE MAY HAVE LEFT SOMETHING WITH THE EX-WIFE, CHECK OUT HIS MOTHER'S APARTMENT TOO.



POOR ARNOLD, PERSONAL PROBLEMS. ON THE EVE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST TRIUMPH, HE JUST COULDN'T WAIT AROUND TO SEE IT...





REPEAT
YOUR STATEMENT
FOR THE RECORD,
CITIZEN LINT.



PRESIDENT BOOTH
HAD THE VOTE COUNTERS
TAMPERED WITH. IT SWUNG
MEGA-CITY ONE AND THREE
OF THE TERRITORIES
IN BOOTH'S FAVOUR.



WITHOUT THAT,
KYLE DONNELLY WOULD
BE OUR PRESIDENT, AND
WE'D NEVER HAVE HAD
THIS DAMNED
WAR.



IT WAS ONE
MAN'S WORD, BASED ON
HEARSAY, TO MAKE A CASE
AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.
THEY NEEDED HARD
EVIDENCE.

THEY
FOUND IT IN A
SAFE DEPOSIT
BOX REGISTERED
TO ARNOLD
BENEDICT...



IT'S A COPY
OF A WHITE HOUSE
SECURITY TAPE DATED TWO
DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION. WE
CAN ONLY ASSUME BENEDICT
STORED IT AWAY BEFORE
HIS DEATH, AS
INSURANCE.

RAY
MARGOLES,
AS YOU KNOW, WAS
BOOTH'S CAMPAIGN
ORGANISER
IN '68.



PRE-ELECTION
POLLS ARE COMING
IN SOLID FOR DONNELLY.
UNLESS WE CAN TURN IT
AROUND IN THE NEXT 24
HOURS, MR PRESIDENT,
YOU WILL LOSE THIS
ELECTION.

WHAT
THE HELL ARE
WE GONNA DO,
RAY?



I SUGGEST
WE HAVE A WORD
WITH BILL SURTEES AT
ELNOR COMPUTECH. HE
OWES US.

BILL
SURTEES...?



ELNOR SUPPLIED THE VOTING MACHINERY IN MOST OF THE TERRITORIES AS WELL AS MEGA-CITY ONE.

YOU MEAN...FIX THE VOTE? COULD WE DO IT? NO - SURTEES WOULD NEVER GO ALONG WITH IT.

YOU HELPED HIM SWEEP THAT BLACKWATER SCANDAL UNDER THE CARPET, SIR. YOU CAN JUST AS EASILY SWEEP IT OUT AGAIN.



THAT WOULD BE BLACKMAIL, RAY.

POLITICS IS A DIRTY BUSINESS. YOU'VE GOT TO ASK YOURSELF, MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT'S BEST FOR AMERICA.

I JUST NEED YOUR OKAY.



JESUS... JESUS...



YOU...YOU NEVER HEARD IT FROM ME, YOU UNDERSTAND? I HAD NOTHING PERSONALLY TO DO WITH THIS. WHAT YOU DO, YOU DO ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE.

UNDERSTOOD, SIR.



WE HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO LOCATE MARGOLES OR SURTEES. THE STATE THE COUNTRY'S IN, WE MAY NEVER DO SO.

YOU NOTICE THE PRESIDENT DID NOT EXPRESSLY GIVE HIS CONSENT. THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM.

I DISAGREE. IN THIS CASE, LACK OF A CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL REJECTION OF THE SUGGESTION IS TANTAMOUNT TO APPROVAL.

THIS MAY BE AN UNPOPULAR VIEW, BUT AREN'T WE IN DANGER OF SHOOTING OURSELVES IN THE FOOT?



WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. WHAT GOOD PURPOSE IS SERVED BY EXPOSING OUR PRESIDENT NOW? WHAT MESSAGE WOULD THAT SEND TO OUR ENEMIES?

THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF UNPRINCIPLED, MORALLY BANKRUPT SUGGESTION I'D EXPECT FROM YOU, JUDD.

WE ARE JUDGES, DAMMIT! OUR PRIME DUTY TO THIS NATION - OUR WHOLE REASON FOR EXISTENCE - IS TO UPHOLD THE LAW, WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES!

SOLOMON, PLEASE!



YOU'VE MADE YOUR CASE, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY DOUBT, OUR CLEAR DUTY NOW IS TO CONFRONT THE PRESIDENT AND DEMAND HIS RESIGNATION.



BOOTH LAUGHED IN THEIR
FACES. THE TAPE, HE CLAIMED,
WAS A FORGERY. IN THAT CASE,
THE ONLY WAY TO REMOVE A
PRESIDENT WAS **IMPEACHMENT**,
AND THAT WAS OUTSIDE THE
JURISDICTION OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT.

THAT'S
RIDICULOUS!
THE GUY WAS A
CROOK!



RIDICULOUS
OR NOT, IT WAS
THE **LAW**. THEY WERE
STILL BOUND BY
IT, HOWEVER
FLAWED.

NONE
OF THEM HAD
THE AUTHORITY, LEGAL
OR MORAL, TO STEP
BEYOND IT. PERHAPS
ONLY **ONE** MAN
DID...

AT THE
TIME RICO AND I
HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO
CENTRAL SECTORS. TWENTY-
FOUR HOURS ON, FOUR
HOURS OFF, GRABBING
WHAT LITTLE SLEEP WE
COULD...



DREDD!
RICO! UP AND
AT 'EM!

COLLECT
YOUR BIKES,
GO TO THE **MED
RESEARCH
FACILITY** ON
HOOVER - YOU
KNOW IT?

YES,
SIR.

WHAT'S
UP?

NO
QUESTIONS,
REPORT TO THE
COMMANDING
OFFICER WHEN
YOU GET
THERE.

HUH-?



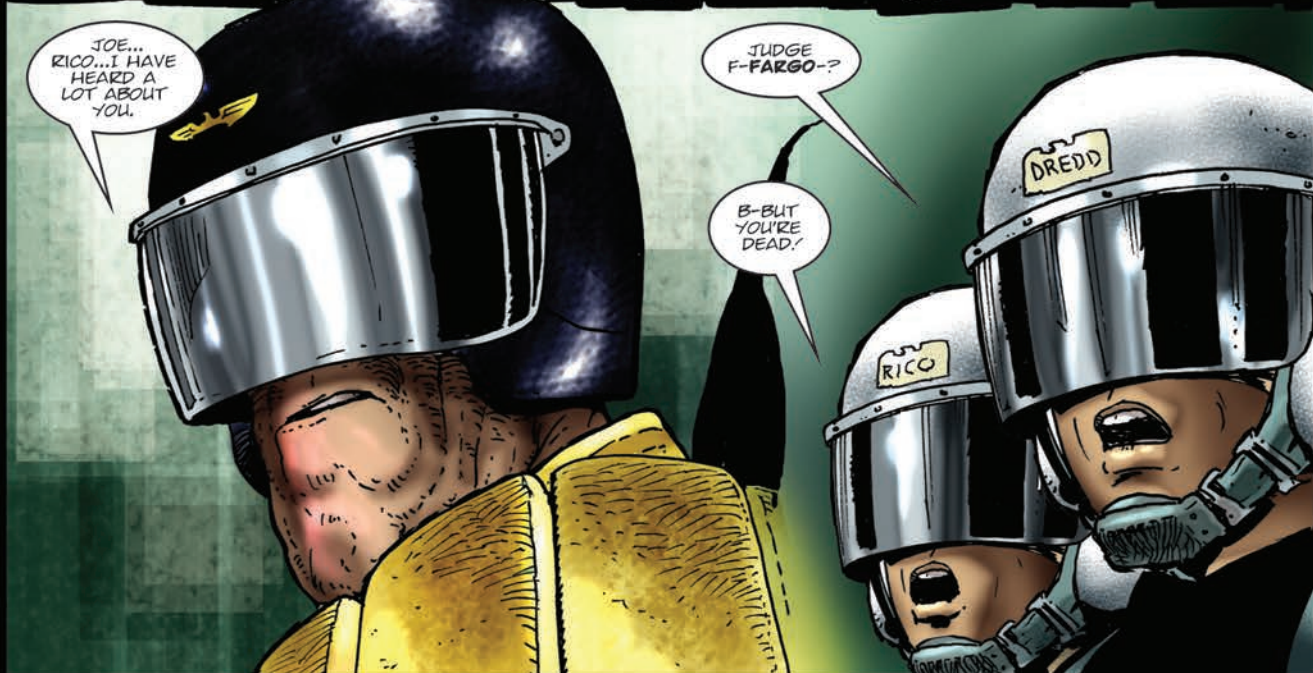
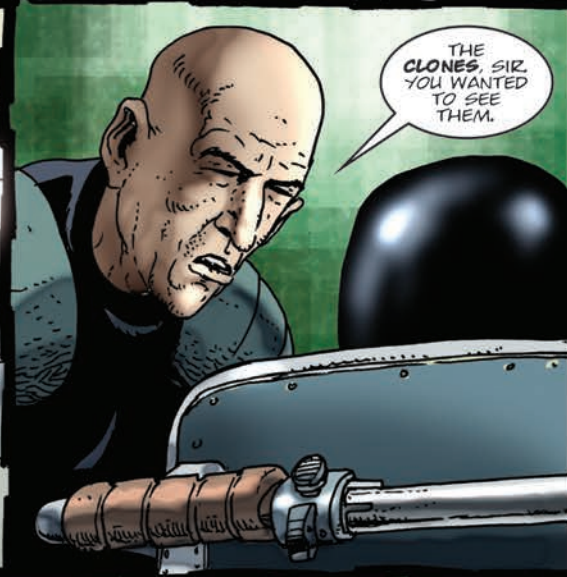
THEY'RE
GOING TO TAKE US
OFF THE STREETS. WE'RE
TOO YOUNG. I KNEW IT WAS
COMING. TOO GOOD TO
LAST.

BUT
WE'VE DONE
ALL RIGHT. WE GOT
A **COMMENDATION**
JUST THIS
MORNING.



THEY'LL
HAVE US
CHANGING BED
BOTTLES AND
CLEANING UP
AFTER **BASKET
CASES**.

GUESS
WE'VE GOTTA
GO WHERE
WE'RE NEEDED,
RICO.





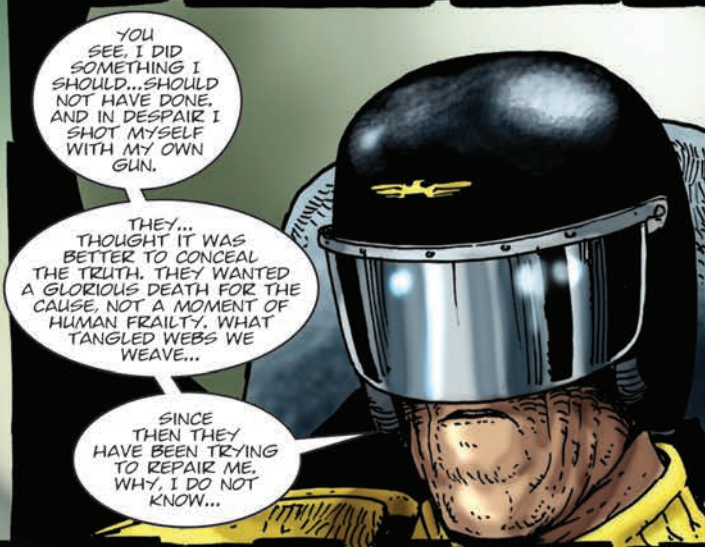
SO I AM TOLD. SOMETIMES IT...SEEMS TO ME IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...

BUT... COME CLOSER. LET ME LOOK AT YOU...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIR. I'VE BEEN TO YOUR TOMB.

THEN YOU'RE ONE UP ON ME, JOSEPH.



YOU SEE, I DID SOMETHING I SHOULD...SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE, AND IN DESPAIR I SHOT MYSELF WITH MY OWN GUN.

THEY... THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER TO CONCEAL THE TRUTH. THEY WANTED A GLORIOUS DEATH FOR THE CAUSE, NOT A MOMENT OF HUMAN FRAILTY. WHAT TANGLED WEBS WE WEAVE...

SINCE THEN THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REPAIR ME. WHY, I DO NOT KNOW...



SIR, THEY REQUIRE YOU AT THE GRAND HALL.

CALLAN, SHOW DREDD AND RICO TO THE STREET ENTRANCE.

NO, LET THEM ACCOMPANY ME. WE'VE HAD SUCH A SHORT ACQUAINTANCE. WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH LONGER IS LEFT TO ME?



YOU CAN BE MY BODYGUARDS. I HAVE HEARD YOU HAVE... ALREADY DISTINGUISHED YOURSELVES, DESPITE YOUR YOUNG AGE.

THANK YOU, SIR.

WE'RE HONOURED, SIR.

RICO



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

THAT WHENEVER ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT BECOMES DESTRUCTIVE OF THESE ENDS, IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE — IT IS THEIR DUTY — TO THROW OFF SUCH GOVERNMENT.

I QUOTE THESE WORDS FROM THE DECLARATION SIGNED NEARLY THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. TODAY AMERICA, THE NATION OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT AND DIED FOR, LIES IN RUINS — DESTROYED BY THE CRIMINAL MACHINATIONS OF ONE MAN — PRESIDENT ROBERT L. BOOTH!

I HAVE ISSUED PRESIDENT BOOTH WITH AN ULTIMATUM — THAT HE RESIGN AND SURRENDER HIMSELF IMMEDIATELY FOR TRIAL! IN THE MEANTIME I DECLARE HIS TENURE TO BE AT AN END!

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE — AND WITH YOUR CONSENT — THE GOVERNANCE OF MEGA-CITY ONE WILL BE ASSUMED BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT!



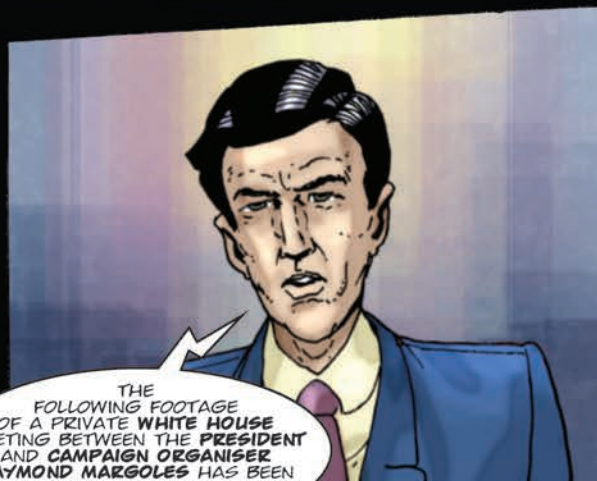


I CALL ON THE MILITARY TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE NEW AUTHORITY. FURTHERMORE, I HAVE INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER WORLD POWERS TO BRING THIS DISASTROUS WAR TO A FAIR AND JUST CONCLUSION!



SUCH A DRASTIC STEP! I KEEP ASKING MYSELF, HAVE WE DONE THE RIGHT THING?

HISTORY IS WRITTEN BY THE VICTORS, CLARENCE, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CITY, THAT MUST BE US.

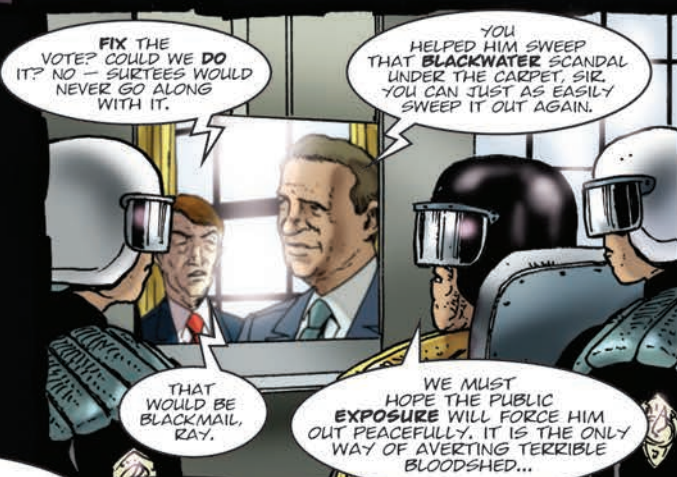


THE FOLLOWING FOOTAGE OF A PRIVATE WHITE HOUSE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CAMPAIGN ORGANISER RAYMOND MARGOLES HAS BEEN RELEASED BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.



UNLESS WE CAN TURN IT AROUND IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS, MR PRESIDENT, YOU WILL LOSE THIS ELECTION.

WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GONNA DO, RAY?



FIX THE VOTE? COULD WE DO IT? NO - SURTEES WOULD NEVER GO ALONG WITH IT.

YOU HELPED HIM SWEEP THAT BLACKWATER SCANDAL UNDER THE CARPET, SIR. YOU CAN JUST AS EASILY SWEEP IT OUT AGAIN.

THAT WOULD BE BLACKMAIL, RAY.

WE MUST HOPE THE PUBLIC EXPOSURE WILL FORCE HIM OUT PEACEFULLY. IT IS THE ONLY WAY OF AVERTING TERRIBLE BLOODSHED...



HE STOLE THE PRESIDENCY!

YOU...YOU NEVER HEARD IT FROM ME, YOU UNDERSTAND? I HAD NOTHING PERSONALLY TO DO WITH THIS, WHAT YOU DO, YOU DO ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE.

YOU TWISTED BASTARD, BOOTH!



NO ONE
PASSES!



DAMN THEM!
DAMNED IF I LET
THEM DO THIS
TO ME!

IF WE LOSE THE
PEOPLE IT MAY BE
HARD TO HOLD
ON.

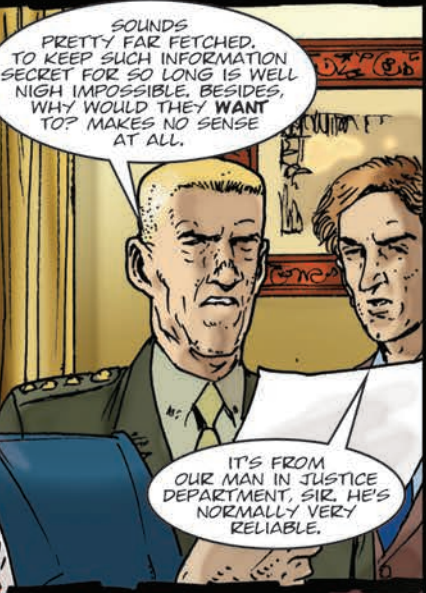
MR
PRESIDENT,
THIS JUST
CAME
IN -



ALIVE?
SURELY
NOT.



THIS SAYS
EUSTACE FARGO
NEVER DIED. HE'S BEEN IN
SUSPENDED ANIMATION. NOW
THEY'VE REVIVED HIM. CAN
YOU BELIEVE THAT,
GENERAL?



SOUNDS
PRETTY FAR FETCHED.
TO KEEP SUCH INFORMATION
SECRET FOR SO LONG IS WELL
NIGH IMPOSSIBLE. BESIDES,
WHY WOULD THEY WANT
TO? MAKES NO SENSE
AT ALL.

IT'S FROM
OUR MAN IN JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT, SIR. HE'S
NORMALLY VERY
RELIABLE.



IF ANYONE
COULD CONCEAL SUCH
A THING, OUR JUDGES
COULD. AND IF IT IS TRUE,
THEIR OWN CLAIMS
WILL LOSE ALL
CREDIBILITY.

GENERAL,
YOU CAN STILL
RELY ON YOUR
TROOPS?

MOST
OF THEM, SIR.
YES.



ACCORDING
TO OUR INFORMATION
THEY'RE KEEPING HIM AT
A RESEARCH FACILITY IN
SECTOR 2. IF HE IS THERE,
BRING HIM TO ME
- ALIVE.



THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED SO MUCH OF HIM. HE'S NOT YOUNG, HIS RECOVERY'S HARDLY COMPLETE.

I'VE PUT HIM UNDER MILD SEDATION.

YOU CADET'S MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A BREAK. I DARE SAY THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON YOU AS WELL.



GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME TO PUT THE CITY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

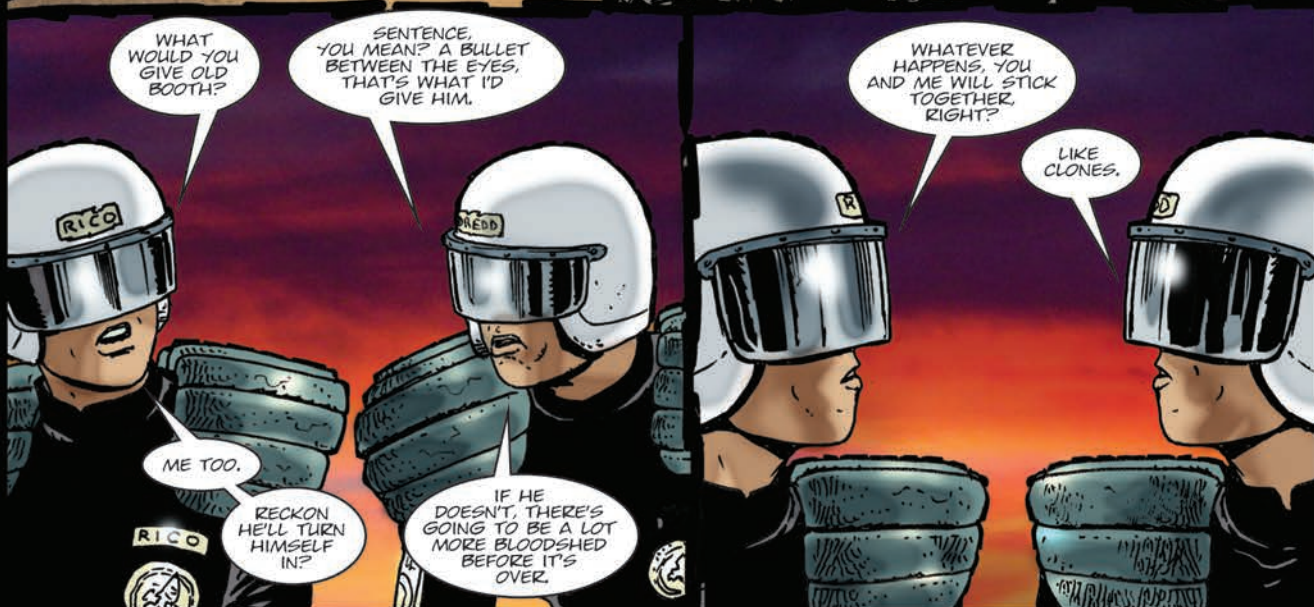
YOU THINK THIS IS BAD - LEAST THEY MANAGED TO DEFLECT MOST OF THE NUKES, THE REST OF THE COUNTRY'S PRACTICALLY UNINHABITABLE.



GONNA BE A LOT OF SICKNESS, STARVATION - MUTANT BIRDS TOO. IT'LL BE GANG LAW OUT THERE, PLENTY OF WORK FOR US, I GUESS.

I DUNNO, I HEARD SOLOMON SAY THE CITIES ARE GOING TO GO THEIR OWN WAY.

AND TO HELL WITH THE REST. SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.



WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE OLD BOOTH?

SENTENCE, YOU MEAN? A BULLET BETWEEN THE EYES, THAT'S WHAT I'D GIVE HIM.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU AND ME WILL STICK TOGETHER, RIGHT?

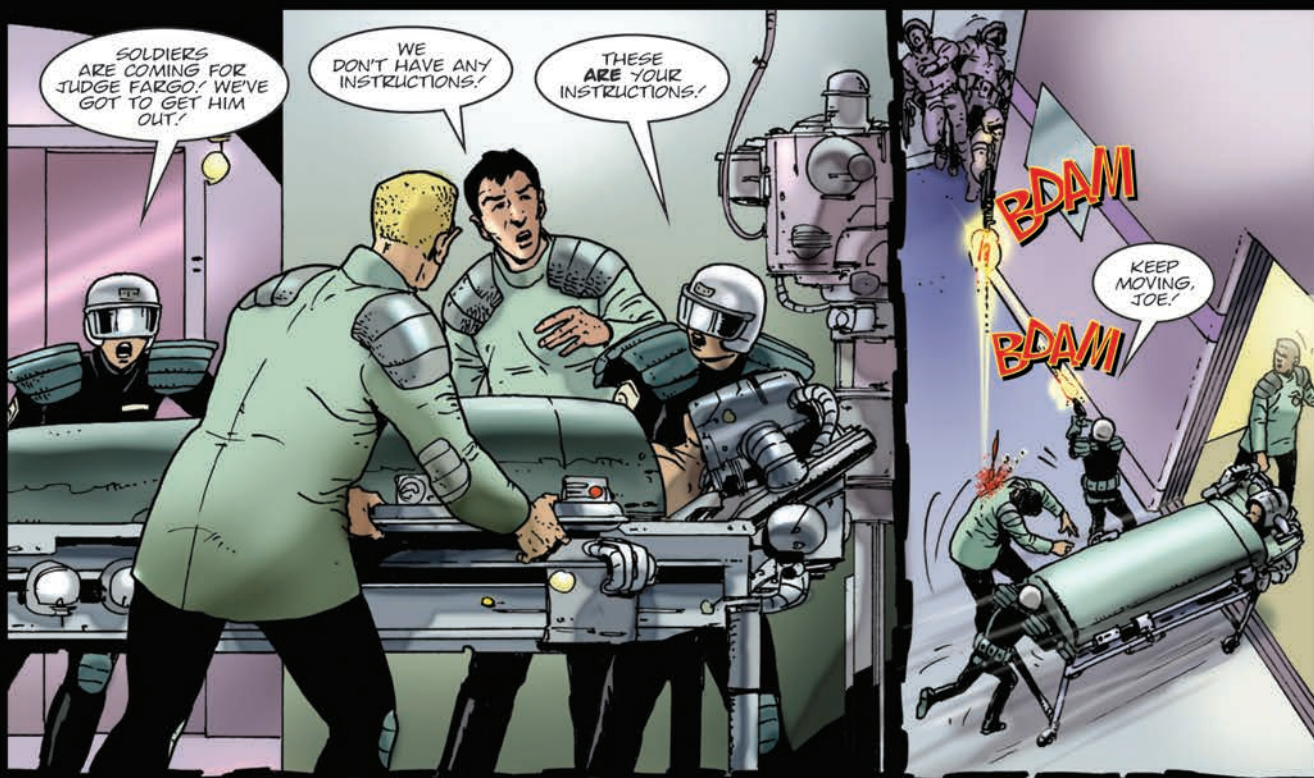
LIKE CLONES.

ME TOO.

RECKON HE'LL TURN HIMSELF IN?

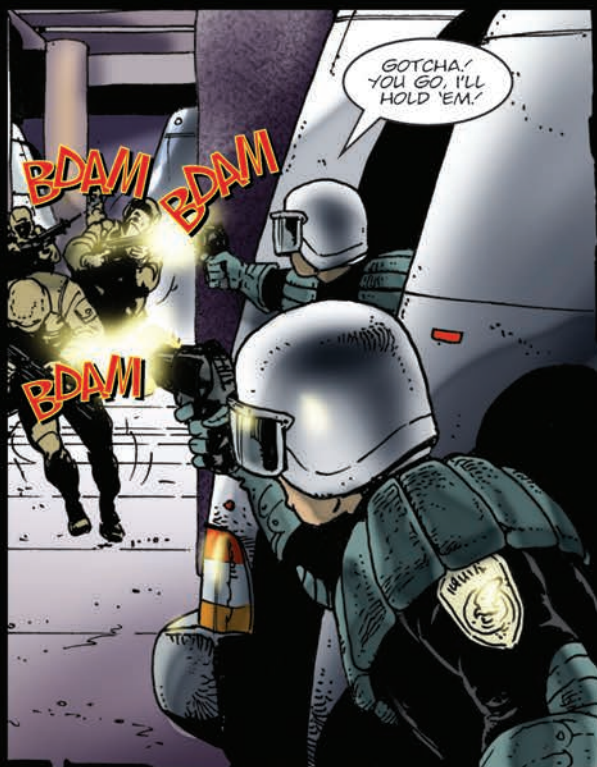
IF HE DOESN'T, THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT MORE BLOODSHED BEFORE IT'S OVER.

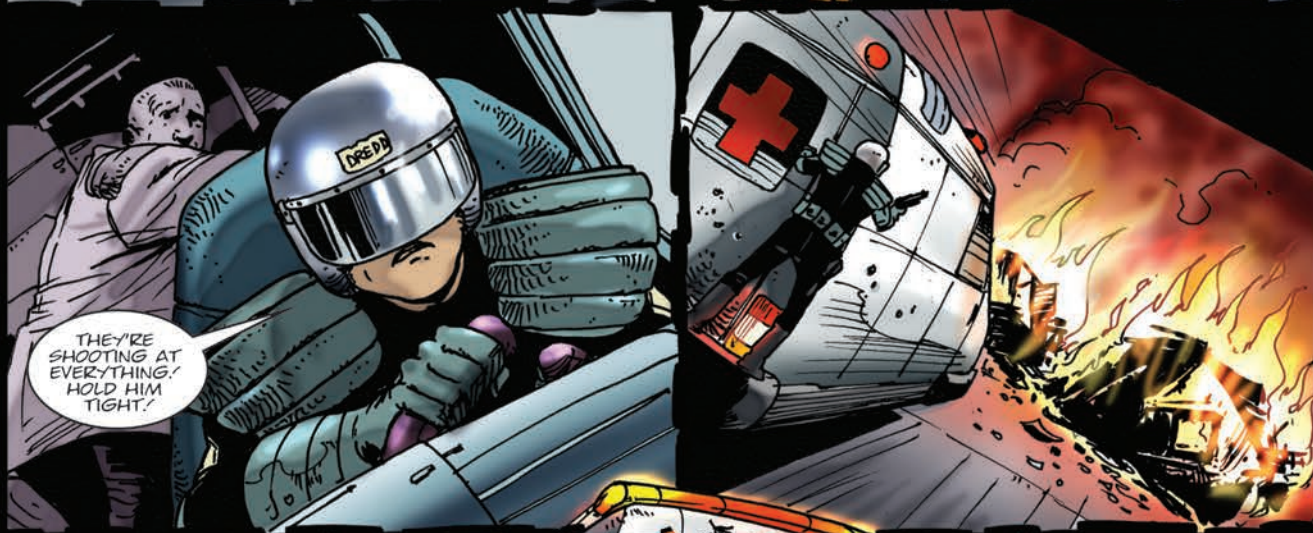


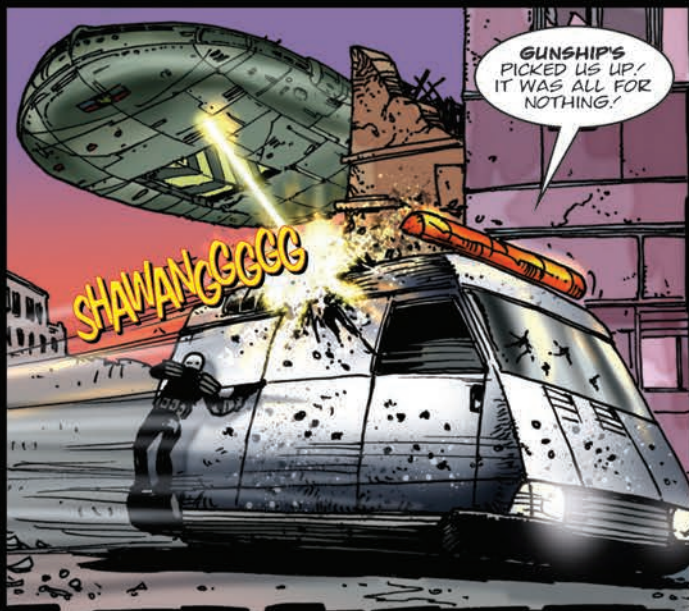






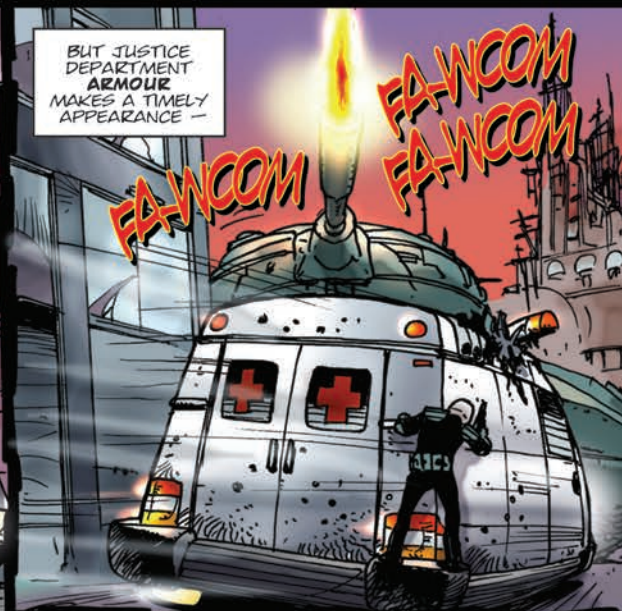






GUNSHIPS
PICKED US UP!
IT WAS ALL FOR
NOTHING!

SHAWANGGGGG

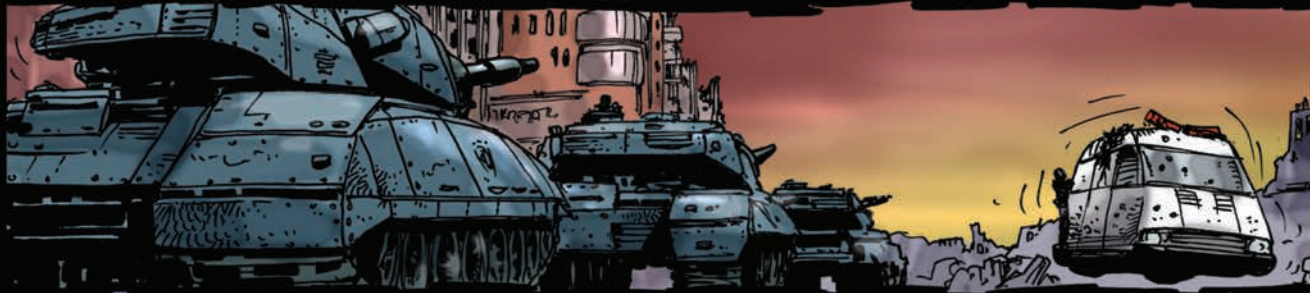


BUT JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT
ARMOUR
MAKES A TIMELY
APPEARANCE —

FA-NCOM
FA-NCOM
FA-NCOM



BA-BOOOOOOOM



THE
PATIENT IS SAFE!
THE TROOPS WHO
ATTACKED THE FACILITY
ARE 'FLYING EAGLE'
DIVISION.

HOW
DID HE FIND
OUT ABOUT
FARGO?

AN
INFORMANT
NO DOUBT. I HAVE
MY SUSPICIONS.
I'LL LOOK INTO
IT.

IN THE
MEANTIME, CLARENCE,
WE HAVE NO OPTION BUT
TO TAKE HIM BY FORCE OF
ARMS. YOU MUST ISSUE
THE ORDER — ARREST
PRESIDENT
BOOTH!

THAT
IS BOOTH'S
ANSWER TO YOUR
ULTIMATUM.

GOODMAN

ALONSO



BOOTH'S
ELECTION RIGGING
WENT A LONG WAY TOWARDS
DEMORALISING THE MILITARY.
THOUSANDS SURRENDERED AS
WE TIGHTENED THE NET ON
WASHINGTON.

AROUND
THE WHITE HOUSE
THE FIGHTING WAS
BLOODY.

GOODMAN
HAD SPENT YEARS
BUILDING UP JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT'S FORCES. IT WAS
JUST AS WELL, IF WE LOST THIS
BATTLE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
THE END OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT.

'RICO AND I WERE
AMONG THOSE CHOSEN
TO TAKE PART IN THE
FINAL ASSAULT —

GO!

TAKE
THE WHITE
HOUSE!





'IT WAS A FEARFUL STEP WE HAD TAKEN, BUT I AGREED WITH IT THEN AND I AGREE WITH IT NOW. WITHOUT THE **RULE OF LAW** WE ARE NOTHING.

'NO ONE MAY HOLD THEMSELVES ABOVE IT, NOT THE ORDINARY CITIZEN, NOT THE **PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE PRESIDENT, YOU'VE MISSED HIM. HE LEFT AN HOUR AGO ON A HOVERFIGHTER. HE'LL BE HALFWAY TO THE ROCKIES BY NOW.



'CONGRESS AND THE SENATE WERE SUSPENDED. THEY'D DONE NOTHING TO CURB BOOTH'S EXCESSES - THEY'D SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE TOOTHLESS AND IRRELEVANT.



'MEGA-CITY ONE WAS IN **CHAOS** - LOOTING, LAWLESSNESS, ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY STILL RUNNING AMOK. A **CURFEW** WAS ENFORCED, A **SHOOT TO KILL** POLICY FOR MINOR OFFENCES. HARSH BUT NECESSARY.

'THE **IRON GRIP OF JUSTICE** CLOSED ON THE CITY - A GRIP WE MAINTAIN TO THIS DAY.'

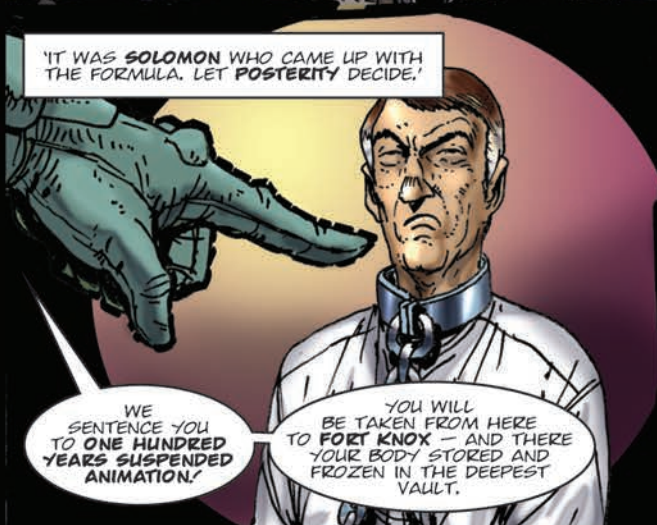


BOOTH HAD HIS MILITARY STRONGHOLD IN THE WEST, AROUND THE BIG BASES. HE WASN'T RECAPTURED UNTIL THE NEXT YEAR.

YOU ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. THEY COULDN'T FIND IT IN THEIR HEARTS TO **EXECUTE** THE **LAST PRESIDENT** OF THE UNITED STATES.

YOU ALL RIGHT THERE, LOGAN?

YEAH... YES, JUST A...LITTLE HOT.



'IT WAS **SOLOMON** WHO CAME UP WITH THE FORMULA. LET **POSTERITY** DECIDE.'

WE SENTENCE YOU TO **ONE HUNDRED YEARS** SUSPENDED ANIMATION.'

YOU WILL BE TAKEN FROM HERE TO **FORT KNOX** - AND THERE YOUR BODY STORED AND FROZEN IN THE DEEPEST VAULT.



LOGAN!



REQUIRE
URGENT MED-EVAC.
REPEAT, URGENT
MED-EVAC.



WHY
DIDN'T YOU
TELL ME ABOUT
THAT ARM,
LOGAN?

I...I
DIDN'T
WANT YOU TO
SEND ME
BACK.

YOU'RE
A DAMNED FOOL. IT'S
POISONED AND IT'S SPREADING.
IF COHN DOESN'T TAKE IT OFF
NOW YOU'RE GOING
TO DIE.



GUESS...
GUESS YOU'VE
GOT TO DO WHAT
YOU'VE GOT TO
DO...

THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE THE
HIP THAT LET ME
DOWN. FUNNY OLD
WORLD.



STORM'S
PLAYED ITSELF
OUT.

STILL
NOTHING BUT STATIC.
I'VE TRIED PUTTING A
REMOTE UP ABOVE THE
FIRESTORM. SAME
RESULT.

TRY
AGAIN.



WHUP
WHUPPA



THOUGHT
IT WAS CLEAN BUT
THESE CURSED EARTH
BACTERIA ARE HELL
TO GET ON
TOP OF.

HE'S
SEDATED NOW. I'VE
PACKED THE WOUND WITH
ANTIBIOTIC GEL. FEVER'S
DROPPING ALREADY. I
THINK HE'S GOT A
GOOD CHANCE.

HE'S
TOUGHER
THAN HE
LOOKS.



BLIP



OH
DEAR

WE
MUST

INTERCEPT!



THAT'S A
MISSILE!



WHO THE
HELL - ?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
FLASHING OVER
THERE -



THEY'RE
MAKING THE
RECOGNITION
SIGNAL.
THEY WANT US
TO FOLLOW
THEM.

SIGNAL
BACK, WE HAVE A
SICK MAN. WE DON'T
LEAVE TILL HE'S FIT
TO TRAVEL.



CURZON,
PASS ME
THOSE NIGHT
SIGHTS.

THEY'RE NOT
PLAYING THE
GAME. TELL

THEM
DAWN. WE
LEAVE AT

DAWN.
THAT'S
FAIR.

DROKK!
IT CAN'T
BE —

WHAT
IS IT?

SNAP,
CRACKLE AND
POP —

ROBERT
L. BOOTH'S
NURSEMAIDS!



AFTER THE WAR, RICO AND I WERE SENT BACK TO THE ACADEMY.

FARGO CONTINUED TO ADVISE, BUT REMAINED IN THE BACKGROUND. HIS PRESENCE KNOWN ONLY TO A FEW.



THE STRAIN ON HIM HAD BEEN HEAVY. THE CLASH WITH JUDD SEEMED TO MARK THE REAL TURNING POINT...

I HAVE A VISION OF THIS CITY UNDER TOTAL, ONE HUNDRED PER CENT JUDICIAL CONTROL. A DOCILE, OBEDIENT POPULATION —

THE ANSWER IS GENETIC MANIPULATION. IF JUDGES CAN BE CLONED, WHY NOT THE CITIZENS?



IN THESE DAYS OF HARSH LAWS AND STRICT CONTROLS IT IS ALL TOO EASY TO PLAY GOD. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT OUR PRIME DUTY IS TO SERVE. OUR JOB IS TO POLICE THE CITIZENS WE HAVE — NOT CREATE THE CITIZENS WE WOULD LIKE.

I MUST EXERCISE MY VETO.

YOUR DAY IS DONE, FARGO. IT'S TIME FOR NEW IDEAS — A NEW LEADER!

BDAAM BDAAM

A DUMMY — AAAHHHH!

'FROM THE DAY OF JUDD'S ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, FARGO'S WILL TO GO ON SEEMED TO SLIP AWAY. HIS BODY WAS FAILING. HIS MIND WAS SHOWING INCREASING SIGNS OF REGRESSION — MEMORY LAPSES, CONFUSION...

'I SAW HIM ONLY ONE MORE TIME. RICO AND I WERE CALLED TO THE GRAND HALL.'

HOW ARE YOU, SIR?



IT'S DREDD AND RICO, YOUR CLONES, SIR.

YOU SENT FOR US, SIR.

YES... DREDD AND RICO, SO I DID. I'M SORRY, I FORGET SO EASILY NOW...

I... WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE.



THEY'RE GOING TO PUT ME BACK INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION. THEY'VE GOT SOME FOOL IDEA THAT... SOMEDAY THEY CAN PUT MY...MY ESSENCE IN ANOTHER BODY...

I TOLD THEM WE'VE ALREADY GOT THAT...RIGHT HERE, JOE AND RICO.

WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

IF WE COULD DO HALF AS WELL AS YOU, SIR, WE'D BE HONoured.



HALF... NO...HALF'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH. YOU MUST...YOU MUST DO BETTER. WHAT HAVE I ACHIEVED? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

YOU CREATED OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, SIR. NO ONE COULD DO MORE.

YOU RESTORED ORDER. YOU GAVE THE PEOPLE RESPECT FOR THE LAW.



ORDER... RESPECT...YES, I GAVE THEM THAT. I MADE THEM FEAR US.

BUT ARE THEY HAPPY? I ASK MYSELF, ARE THEY HAPPY?



HAPPY'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, SIR. IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO MAKE THEM HAPPY.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTROL, SIR. YOU SAID THAT YOURSELF. LET THEM GET BIG IDEAS ABOUT THEMSELVES AND WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE.



LIFE, LIBERTY, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. THEY WERE PROMISED THAT TOO -

PURSUIT, SIR. NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT FINDING IT.

THEY GOT LIFE AND LIBERTY, LONG AS THEY STAY LEGAL. THEY BREAK THE LAW, WE COME DOWN ON THEM HARD. THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS, SIR.



YES...YES, THEY'VE TAUGHT YOU WELL...



THREE WEEKS AFTER FARGO WAS PUT IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION THEY OPENED THE TANK FOR A ROUTINE CHECK AND FOUND ANOTHER BODY HAD BEEN SUBSTITUTED.

MISSING?
SOMEONE TOOK HIM?

WAIT A MINUTE...HE WAS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, RIGHT?



UNTIL HIS REMOVAL, I CAN'T VOUCH FOR WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.

BUT THEORETICALLY — IF WHOEVER TOOK HIM MAINTAINED HIM IN CRYOGENIC SUSPENSION — HE COULD STILL BE ALIVE.



IT WAS NEVER ADMITTED. TOO EMBARRASSING. IT HAD TO BE AN INSIDE JOB.

AT THE TIME TWO JUNIOR MEDS DISAPPEARED, MEDLICOTT AND SHELVE, SUSPECTED OF SYMPATHIES WITH JUDD AND HIS CLONING PROGRAMME.

NEITHER THEY NOR THE BODY WERE EVER RECOVERED.

NOR DID I COME ACROSS IT WHEN I FOUND JUDD'S BASE.*

NONE OF THE JUDDA CLONES WE INTERROGATED HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF IT. IF FARGO HAD BEEN THERE, SURELY THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN.

*THARGNOTE: SEE 'OZ' PART 16, PROG 560.



YES, IN FACT, THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE WOULD SEEM TO SUPPORT THE THEORY.

ALIVE? AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

NO WONDER THEY WERE SO KEEN TO BRING HIM BACK.



THE ROBOTS ARE APPROACHING.

THOSE UNIFORMS — THAT'S SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE NEW MUTANT ARMY.



I LEFT THOSE THREE ON A FARM WITH EX-PRESIDENT BOOTH — RE-SENTENCED TO HARD LABOUR FOR LIFE. HOW THEY GOT TIED UP WITH THE NMA BEATS ME.

THE NEW MUTANT ARMY. SO THAT'S WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST.

THEY'RE RECRUITING ROBOTS NOW?



WE'VE MET BEFORE. YOU WERE MED DROIDS, CHARGED WITH TENDING TO ROBERT L. BOOTH.*

ROBERT L. BOOTH...I DON'T THINK I KNOW ANYONE OF

THAT NAME. SO LET'S CUT THE SMALL TALK

SHALL WE? SHOW US THE MONEY.

*THARGNOTE: SEE 'THE CURSED EARTH' PARTS 7-8, PROGS 67-68.



THEY MUST'VE BEEN CAPTURED AND REPROGRAMMED.

THIS LOOKS LIKE MONEY, BUT I

MUST TAKE IT ALL AWAY FOR CHECKING. YOU WAIT HERE

AND I'LL BE BACK IN A WEEK OR SO.



THE MONEY STAYS HERE. YOU TAKE ME TO FARGO. ONCE I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT THE BODY, THEN WE'LL ARRANGE THE TRADE.

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.



OH DEAR. I THOUGHT HE

MIGHT BE

VERY WELL. I AGREE. BUT NO

DIFFICULT!

TRICKS OR I MIGHT HAVE TO GET

ROUGH WITH YOU.



YOU COULD BE RIDING INTO A TRAP.

THEN IT'LL BE DOWN TO YOU TO GET ME OUT, WATERS.

LET US GET OUT OF SIGHT, THEN FOLLOW AT A DISTANCE.

THE TERRAIN GREW AROUND THEM.
AS THEY RODE, MORE RIDERS
SLIPPED OUT OF THE TREES —

PICKING
UP AN
ESCORT.

I'LL HAVE
YOUR GUN — THAT
FANCY WEAPON
BELT TOO.

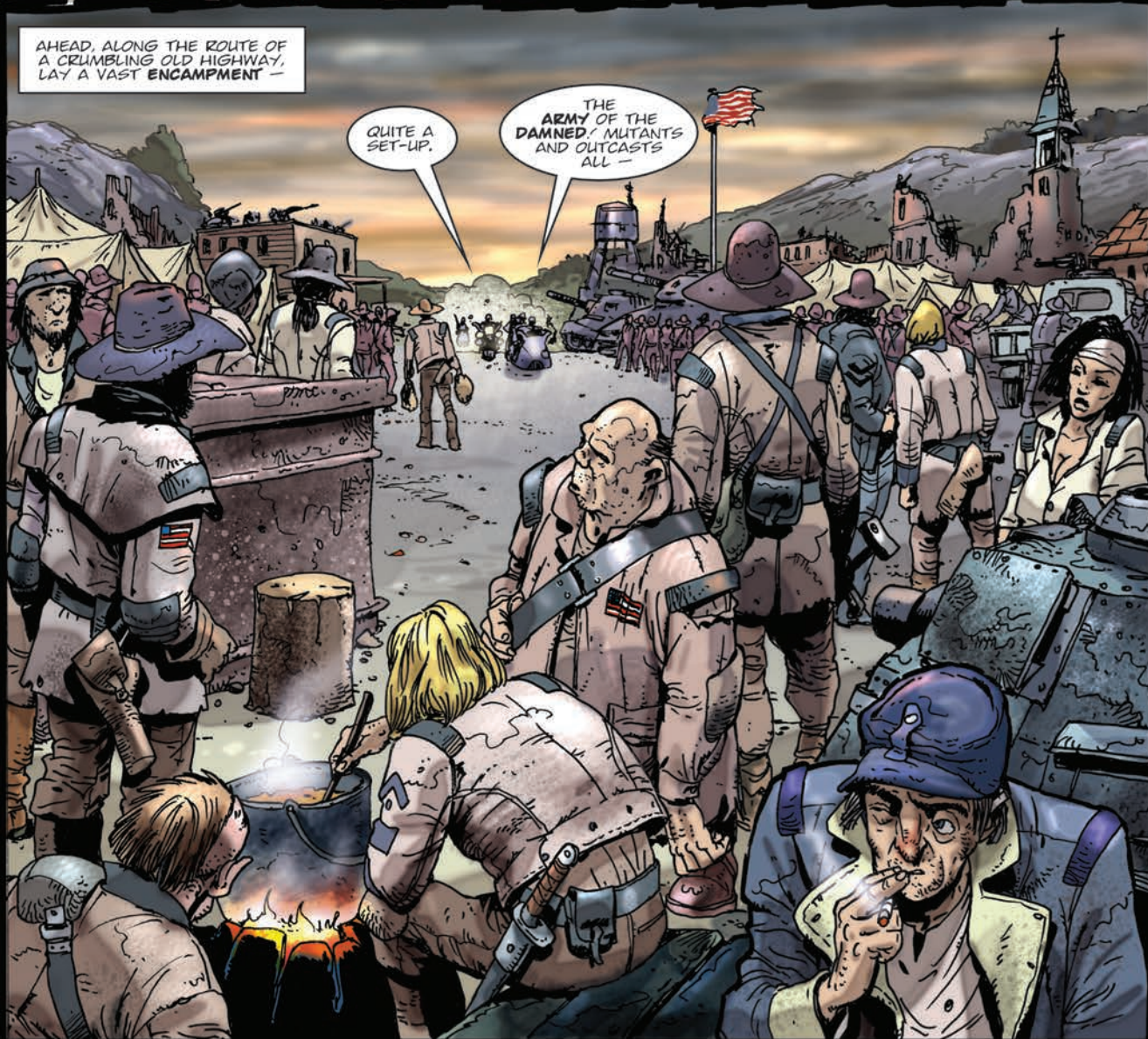
DON'T TRY
ANYTHING.

I
KNOW WHEN I'M
OUTNUMBERED.

AHEAD, ALONG THE ROUTE OF
A CRUMBLING OLD HIGHWAY,
LAY A VAST ENCAMPMENT —

QUITE A
SET-UP.

THE
ARMY OF THE
DAMNED, MUTANTS
AND OUTCASTS
ALL —





THE DISPOSSESSED!
BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.
BOY! THANKS TO LINUS, TIME IS
COMIN' FOR US TO RISE UP AND
TAKE WHAT'S OURS - AND
YOUR MONEY'S GONNA
PAY FOR IT!

LINUS -
YES, IT ALL
BECOMES
CLEAR
NOW.



SMART GUY
HERE REFUSED TO
HAND OVER THE MONEY.
SIR, HE WANTS TO
PARLAY.

THE
JUDGES LIKE TO
TALK! USUALLY JUST
SO THEY CAN GET
CLOSE ENOUGH TO
STAB YOU IN THE
BACK!



YOU
SAID YOU
DIDN'T KNOW
HIM!



I LIED.

OH DEAR.

SLAP
MY FINGERS
SORE.



ROBERT
LINUS BOOTH - I
SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED
YOUR SLIMY HAND
IN THIS.



KNOW THIS -
THE ACTIONS OF THE
JUDGES WERE UNLAWFUL!
I, ROBERT L. BOOTH, AM STILL
THE LEGAL PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED
STATES!

AND I
MEAN TO TAKE
BACK WHAT'S MINE
- TO TAKE BACK
AMERICA!

I WAS
LOST, DREDD - CAST
DOWN BY THOSE NOT FIT
TO LICK MY BOOTS! THEN
YOU CAME ALONG AND
FREED ME...

...FREED
ME TO RISE AGAIN! TO
BUILD THIS HALF-BAKED
ARMY INTO A FORCE STRONG
ENOUGH TO CLAIM MY
RIGHTFUL PLACE!



THEY SAY THE CREAM ALWAYS RISES TO THE TOP!

I HEARD IT WAS SCUM.



NOBODY TALKS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES LIKE THAT!

DON'T HOLD BACK, MEN!



CALL THIS AN ARMY? I'VE SEEN THIRD-YEAR CADETS PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT!

GODDAM! HE'S GOT SOME SASS!



FIX HIS STINKIN' SKIMMER!

HE BROUGHT A SAMPLE OF THE GOODS, MR PRESIDENT.

PASS IT ON TO THE MEN. THEY'RE OVERDUE SOME WAGES. THEN ORGANISE A PARTY TO PICK UP THE REST.

TAKE PLENTY OF FIREPOWER. THOSE JUDGES WON'T BE EAGER TO HAND IT OVER.



WE
COULD TAKE
THEM!

AND WE
COULD DO WHAT
WE'RE HERE FOR. SHUT
UP AND KEEP
DOWN!



YOU JUDGES
MAKE ME LAUGH! YOU
TAKE YOURSELVES SO
SERIOUSLY!

SO I
BENT A FEW RULES!
SO I PLUNGED THE
WORLD INTO WAR!
SO WHAT?

YOU
THINK I DIDN'T
HAVE IT PLANNED? YOU
THINK AMERICA WOULDN'T
HAVE COME OUT OF
IT SMELLING OF
ROSES?

BUT
OH NO! THEY
COME STOMPING IN THERE
WITH THEIR JACKBOOTS AND
THEIR SANCTIMONIOUS
BULLSHINE!

AND THAT
SENTENCE - 100
YEARS IN SUSPENDED
ANIMATION! WAS THAT
SUPPOSED TO BE
SOME TERRIBLE
PUNISHMENT?



AND IF
THAT'S NOT DUMB ENOUGH,
YOU COME ALONG AND RELEASE
ME INTO THE CARE OF
A BUNCH OF HICKASS
HILLBILLIES!

ARE YOU
GUYS LIVING IN
FAIRYLAND?



THE
PRESIDENT
IS

SPEAKING
TO YOU

THUNK

TURKEY!



HOW DID IT GO...? 'I CHANGE YOUR SENTENCE TO LIFE, BECAUSE THAT'S A WHOLE LOT TOUGHER,' AND EVERY DAY YOU'LL WORK, BRINGING LIFE BACK TO THE CURSED EARTH.'

I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY?



HOW LONG DO YOU THINK BEFORE I HAD THOSE HICKABILLIES WORKING FOR ME? I WAS THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET THE BETTER OF A BUNCH OF CORNPONES?

WHERE'S... FARGO? YOU'VE GOT HIM, HAVEN'T YOU? THE TESTS DIDN'T LIE...



HOW MANY DO YOU RECKON - FIVE THOUSAND?

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.

AND WE GOT SIX - SIX AND A HALF, IF YOU COUNT LOGAN. WHAT'S THE PLAN?



HO-LYYYY-!



THWAPP!

BAP

THE SNATCH PARTY
FINDS THE RANSOM
UNATTENDED —

RECKON
THEY JUST RUN
FOR IT?

AN' LEFT
ALL THIS CASH?
GOTTA BE SOME
HITCH.



GIMME!

GET YER
GODDAMN
HANDS OFF!
THAT'S ARMY
MONEY!

AW
HELL, WHAT THE
PRESIDENT DON'T SEE,
THE PRESIDENT AIN'T
GONNA COMPLAIN
ABOUT!

DAMN
RIGHT,
MAJOR!

HEY,
SARGE, THERE'S
A COUPLA NAKED
WOMEN UP
THERE.

WHADDYA
MEAN, NEKKED
WIMMEN?

REAL
NICE LOOKERS,
TOO. JUST CAVORTIN'
ABOUT. WHAT DO
YOU WANT US TO
DO WITH THEM?



HELL,
SONNY, IF
YOU DON'T KNOW,
GUESS IT'S MY
DUTY TO SHOW
YOU.

I WANNA
PIECE O' THEM
WIMMEN TOO,
SARGE!

GODDAMN
IT, SHUT YOUR
MUTIE MOUTH. YOU
WANT THE WHOLE
CAMP TA KNOW?



OZMAN,
TAKE SANCHEZ
AND CURZON. TRY TO
FIND THE MUNITIONS
STORE. RENGA AND
COHN WILL COME
WITH ME.

WHAT
ABOUT ME,
WATERS?

CAN'T
RISK YOU,
LOGAN.
STAY HERE,
WATCH THE
BIKES.





THIS
IS WHAT
YOU CAME
FOR!

I
HEARD ABOUT
HIM YEARS AGO —
THE JUDGE WHO FELL
TO EARTH. I THOUGHT IT
WAS JUST A MYTH, LIKE
SLEEPING BEAUTY.
YOU KNOW HOW
SUPERSTITIOUS
MUTIES
ARE.

THEN
A WHILE
BACK WE PICKED
UP A WALLOONEY
— LIVE IN CAVES
UP ON WALTON
MOUNTAIN.

HE WAS
WEEPIN' AN' WAILIN'
AND PRAYIN' FOR HELP
TO SOME GOD JUDGE.
WELL, I HAD TO
INVESTIGATE...

HAVE TO
INTERRUPT YOUR
LITTLE PRAYER
MEETING,
FOLKS!



NOT
JUST ANY JUDGE
BUT FARGO HIMSELF.
LYING THERE IN HIS
CRYO-CAPSULE,
AN' THEM
WORSHIPPING
HIM.

I'D HAD
A REPORT HE WAS
STILL ALIVE, JUST AFTER
THE WAR - BUT IT WAS
NEVER VERIFIED. HERE WAS
THE LIVING PROOF. I COULD
HARDLY CREDIT MY
LUCK.

THE
MUTANTS
WOULDN'T HAVE
THE **KNOWLEDGE** TO
MAINTAIN THE
MACHINE.

IT WAS A
STATE-OF-THE-ART
CAPSULE - **AUTOMATED**. IT
DID EVERYTHING, NOT LIKE THAT
RUSTY TANK YOU PUT ME IN.
WITH MY IDIOT ROBOT
KEEPERS.

I SAY

THAT'S
A BIT

HARSH.



SO
MEDLICOTT AND
SHELVE MUST HAVE COME
THIS WAY WHEN THEY FLED
THE CITY. SOMETHING
MUST HAVE GONE
WRONG -

FIRE'S
REACHING
THE FUEL TANKS!
IT'S GOING TO
BLOW!

EJECT
THE CARGO!
WE CAN AT
LEAST SAVE
HIM!



ALL RIGHT,
BOOTH, I'M SATISFIED.
ALL THAT REMAINS IS
TO ORGANISE THE
HANDOVER.

THERE
YOU GO **AGAIN**, OFF ON
YOUR WILD FLIGHTS OF
FANTASY. THERE ISN'T GOING
TO BE ANY HANDOVER. I GOT
HIM, I'VE GOT YOU, AND I
HAVE THE MONEY TOO.

NOW IF YOU
WILL KINDLY ACCOMPANY
ME TO THE **COURTHOUSE** WE'LL
SEE JUSTICE DONE **PROPERLY**
FOR ONCE. THE CHARGE IS
TREASON!



MEANWHILE -

WE'VE FOUND
THE **MUNITIONS**
STORE, WATERS, WHAT
INSTRUCTIONS?



THE MAJOR'S
COMIN' IN WITH THE
RANSOM!



WHEE-OOO!
WE'RE RICH!

THE
JUDGES GIVE
YOU ANY
TROUBLE?

THEY
WASN'T THERE,
MR PRESIDENT, SIR.
FIGURE THEY GOT
SCARED, UPPED
AND RAN
FOR IT.



RAN
FOR IT?

THE JUDGES
ARE GUILTY OF MANY
THINGS, MAJOR, BUT I'D NEVER
ACCUSE THEM OF BEING SHY OF
A FIGHT! THEY'RE UP TO
SOMETHING!

KEEP YOUR
EYES PEELED -
DOUBLE THE
SENTRIES!

YES,
SIR!

AND SEE
THAT THE MONEY'S
SECURED IN THE
ARMOURY.



THEY'RE
TAKING DREDD
INTO THE OLD
COURTHOUSE!

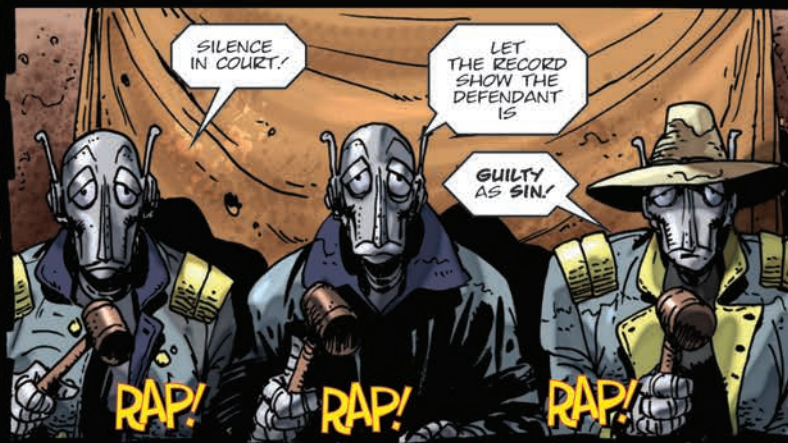
OZMAN,
THEY'RE REMOVING
THE MONEY TO THE
ARMOURY. WE'VE FOUND
DREDD. HOW LONG BEFORE
YOU CAN GIVE US A
DIVERSION?



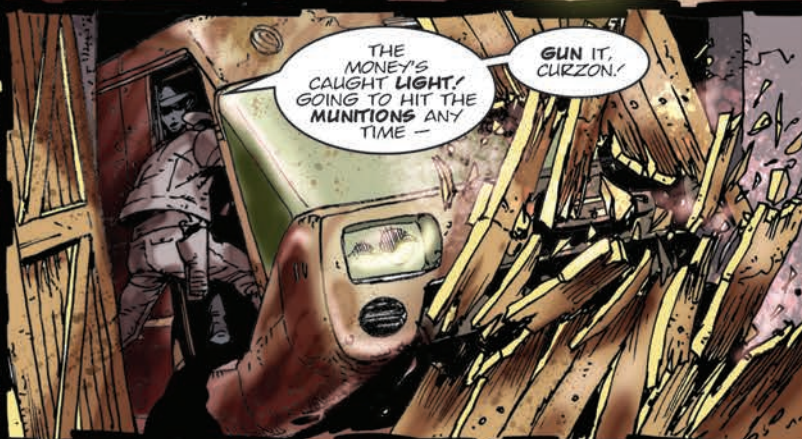
GIVE
US
FIVE.

HERE
COMES THE
'PORTER.

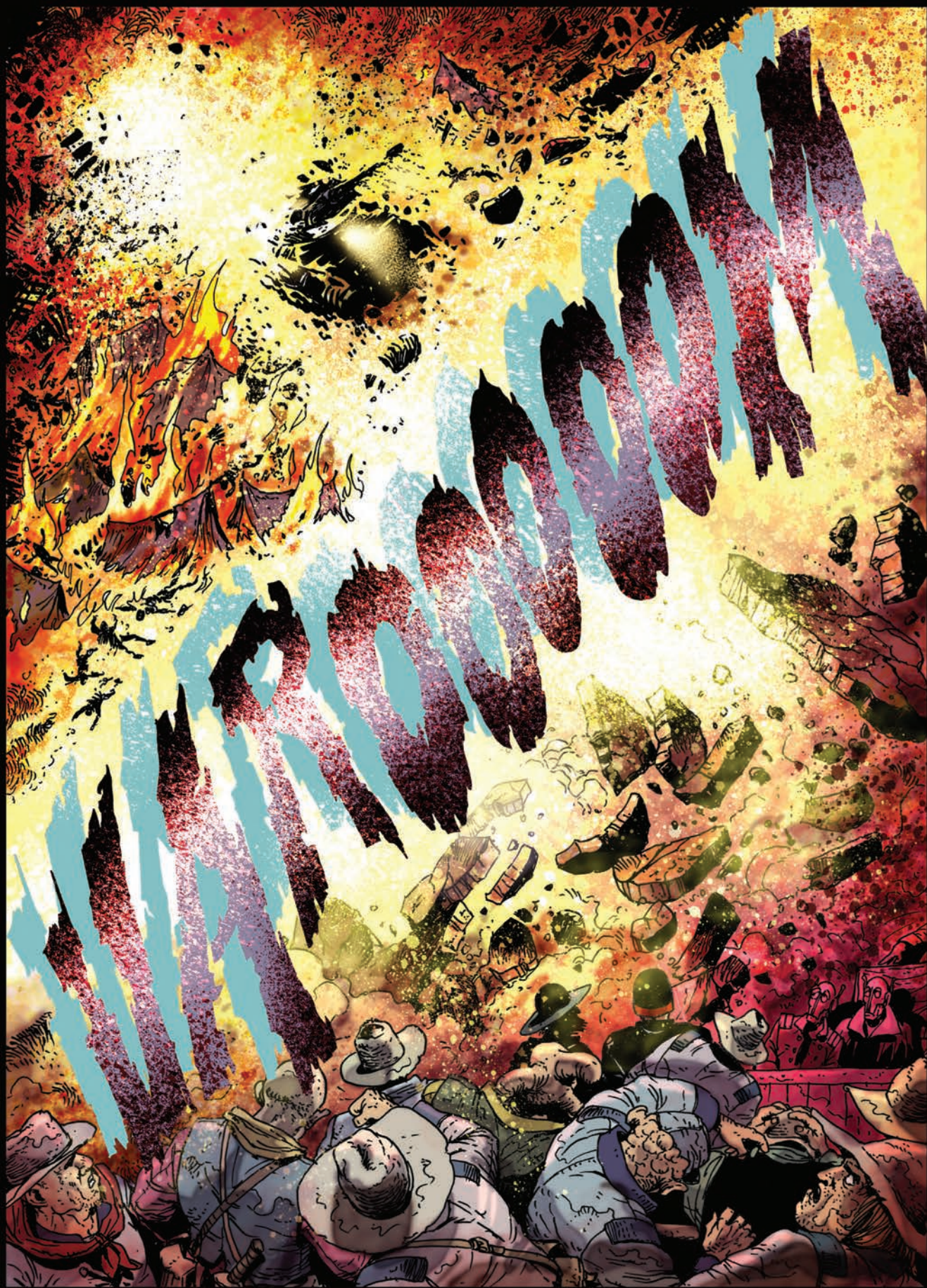
LET
THEM MAKE
THEIR DEPOSIT,
THEN WE
MOVE.

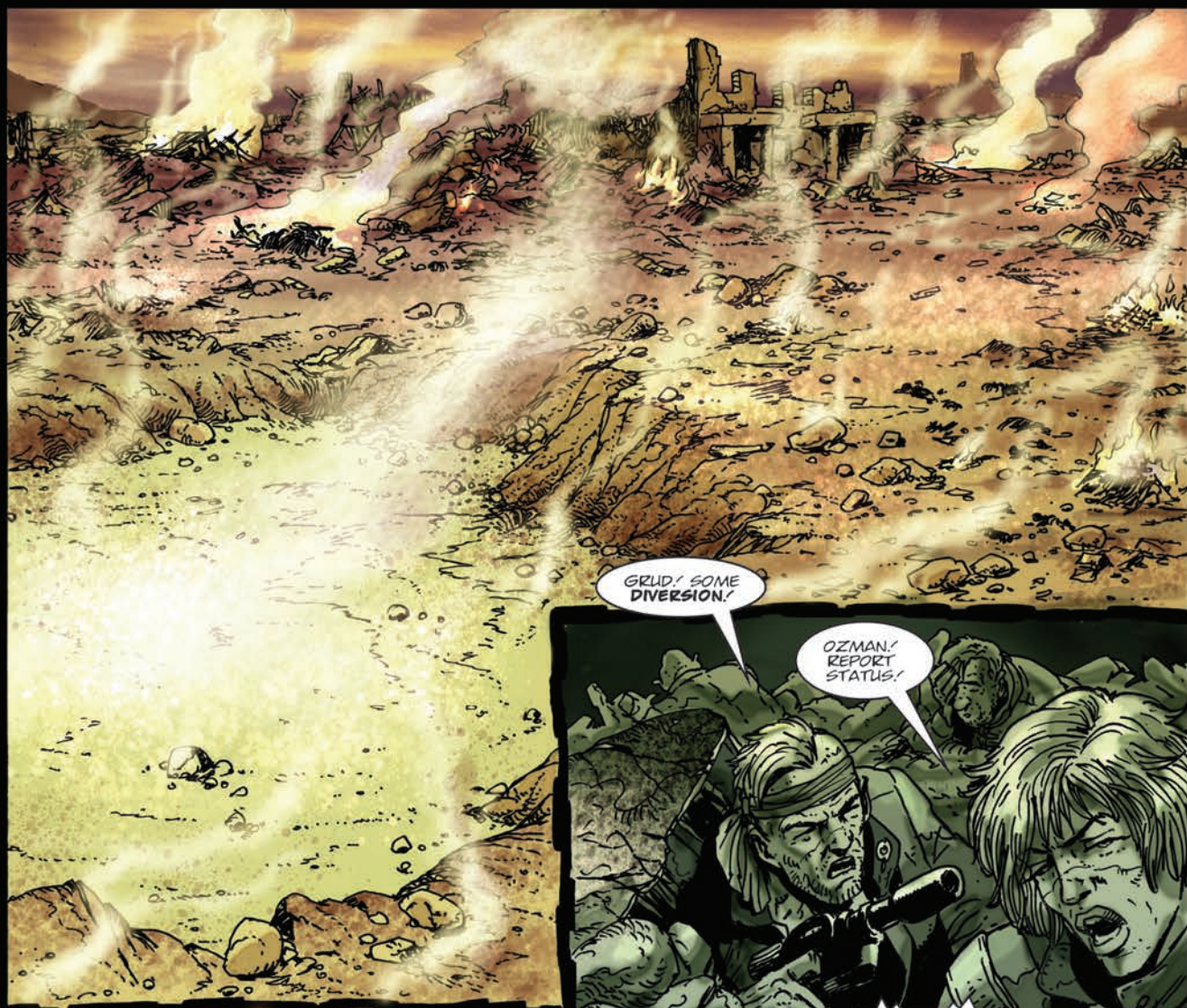












GRUD! SOME
DIVERSION!

OZMAN!
REPORT
STATUS!

BRUISED
BUT STILL
OPERATIONAL!
ALL PERSONNEL
INTACT!



WE'RE
WEDGED IN!
HOLD TIGHT!
REVERSE
THRUST!





HELLLLP! THEY'RE KIDNAPPING YOUR PRESIDENT!

SHUT HIM UP!

HERE COMES THE 'PORTER'!



IT'S FARGO, ALL RIGHT!

GET THE CAPSULE INTO THE 'PORTER'!



IS HE STILL ALIVE?

HARD TO SAY TILL WE BRING HIM OUT. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME - AND WHO KNOWS WHAT THE CAPSULE'S BEEN SUBJECTED TO.



YOU IN THERE - YOU JUDGES! WE GOT YOU PENNED IN! GIVE YOURSELVES UP! HAND OVER THE PRESIDENT!



DOESN'T LOOK PROMISING!

THE LONGER WE LEAVE IT THE MORE ORGANISED THEY GET. IT'S GOT TO BE NOW.



GET SOME STRAPS FROM THE 'PORTER'! WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH THEY LOVE THEIR PRESIDENT!



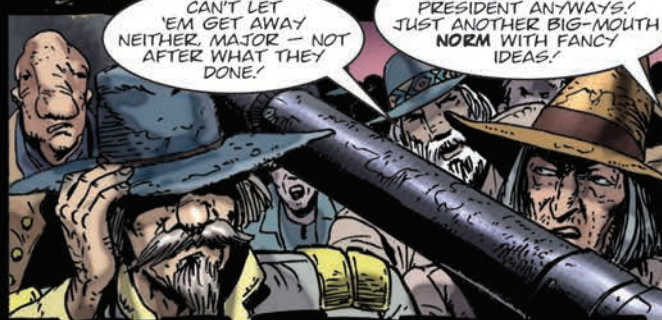
DON'T SHOOT! WE'RE COMING OUT!



A HUMAN SHIELD!

WH-WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO, MAJOR?

CAN'T RISK HITTING THE PRESIDENT, BOYS -



CAN'T LET 'EM GET AWAY NEITHER, MAJOR - NOT AFTER WHAT THEY DONE!

HELL, HE WASN'T MUCH OF A PRESIDENT ANYWAYS! JUST ANOTHER BIG-MOUTH NORM WITH FANCY IDEAS!



AIN'T PAID US IN SEVEN MONTHS AN' WHEN HE DOES IT BURNS UP IN OUR HANDS!

WHO GIVES A DOUBLE-DAMN ABOUT THE YOO-NITED STATES AND HIS STINKIN' 'DESTINY' ANYWAYS?



YOU GOT A POINT THERE, ANYWAY. WE WANT ANOTHER PRESIDENT WE CAN ALWAYS ELECT ONE, THAT'S DEMOCRACY, AIN'T IT?



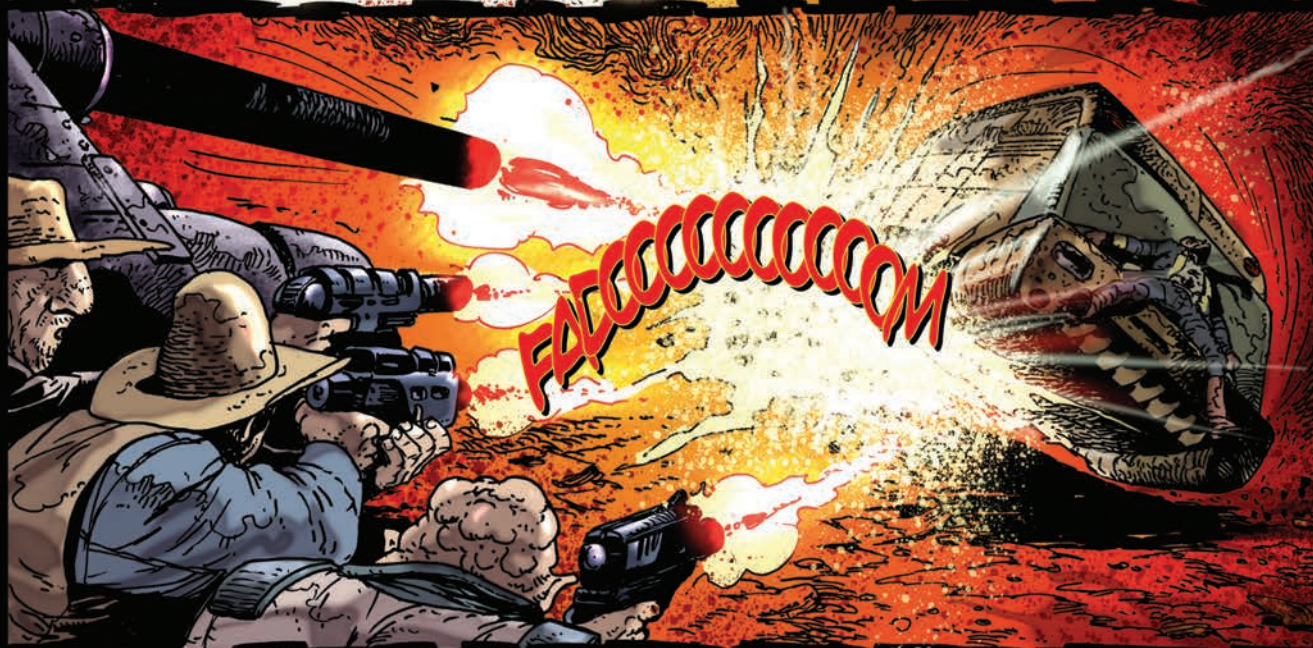
GIVE IT SOME JUICE!



LET 'EM HAVE IT!

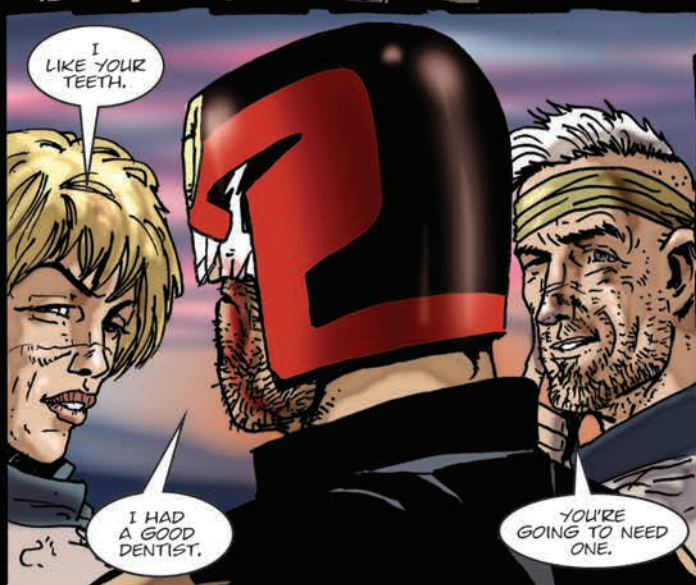


Noooooooooooo!











HOW'RE
YOU DOING,
LOGAN?

GOOD,
REAL GOOD. I'VE GOT
AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE
LIMB TEKS TOMORROW. GOT
A NEW SPLEEN, A PAPER LUNG
AND THEY'RE EVEN GOING
TO FIX MY HIP. BE
BETTER THAN NEW.

GLAD
TO HEAR IT.
PAPERWORK'S
PILING UP.

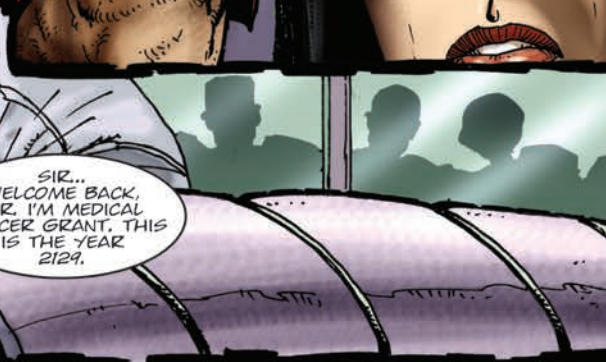
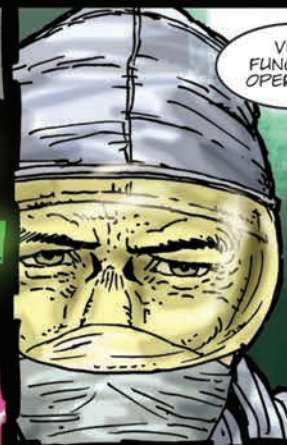


WE'VE
DONE EVERYTHING
WE CAN. WE HAVE A
FULL INTENSIVE
CARE UNIT
READY.

WE WON'T,
OF COURSE, BE
RELEASING ANY OF
THIS TO THE
PUBLIC.



TEMPERATURE'S
RISING.



FOR TWO DAYS THEY FOUGHT FOR HIS LIFE. BY THE SECOND NIGHT EUSTACE FARGO HOVERED CLOSE TO DEATH...

ALL THAT WAY, ALL THAT WAY FOR NOTHING. VENABLES DEAD, LOGAN CHOPPED UP LIKE ON A BUTCHER'S BLOCK. HAD IT BEEN WORTH IT?

BUT THEY COULDN'T HAVE LEFT HIM — THE FATHER OF JUSTICE IN THAT MADMAN'S HANDS? IT WAS UNTHINKABLE.

THERE IS ATROPHY OF VITAL ORGANS, CONTAMINATION FROM THE CRYOGENIC FLUIDS, IT'S CAUSED A CREEPING NECROSIS THAT WE ARE, I'M AFRAID, POWERLESS TO HALT.

IT'S DOUBTFUL IF HE'LL LAST THE NIGHT.

HE WAS TOO OLD AND TOO WEAK IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED.

HE'S SPEAKING?

YES, STRANGELY, HE HAS MOMENTS OF SURPRISING LUCIDITY.

HE'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU, YOU AND YOUR BROTHER.

RICO... JOE... IS THAT YOU?

IT'S JOE, SIR, RICO...

...RICO COULDN'T MAKE IT.

WANT YOU TO KNOW... TELL HIM... TELL HIM FOR ME...

WHAT, SIR?

UNNH... I'D TRIED TO... TO DENY IT, BUT I... DIDN'T BELIEVE MYSELF ANYMORE...

WHAT WE DID — WRONG, TOO FAR, WENT TOO FAR. HUNNH...

BOOTH HAD TO GO, YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO... BE FOREVER, JOE. WE CREATED A MONSTER —

WE, US, WE'RE THE MONSTER! WE GOT GREEDY — WANTED EVERYTHING — SO WE KILLED THE DREAM, JOE! WE KILLED AMERICA!



THEY HELD A SMALL SERVICE FOR HIM, INVITED PARTIES ONLY.

...IN THE LAST DAYS WAS HARDLY THE FORCE WE REMEMBER, SO LET THE INSCRIPTION FOREVER READ 2051, AND LET THAT MEMORY OF EUSTACE FARGO, FATHER OF JUSTICE, REMAIN FIXED FOREVER IN OUR MEMORIES.

TO HIM WE OWE EVERYTHING, AND IN HIS MEMORY, AS GUARDIANS OF THIS CITY, WE GO FOREVER ONWARD.

HERE LIES
JUDGE
FARGO
2001-2051

FARGO

LOT OF FOREVERS IN THERE, NOTHING IN THIS LIFE IS FOREVER.

WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU?

FARGO? NOTHING IMPORTANT, GLAD TO SEE THE CITY IN SAFE HANDS, KEEP THE FAITH...

YOU?

PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.

PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.

COVERS GALLERY



2000 AD Prog 1503: Cover by **Jock & Chris Blythe**



2000 AD Prog 1505: Cover by **Brian Bolland**



2000 AD Prog 1510: Cover by **John Higgins**



2000 AD Prog 1512: Cover by Rufus Dayglo





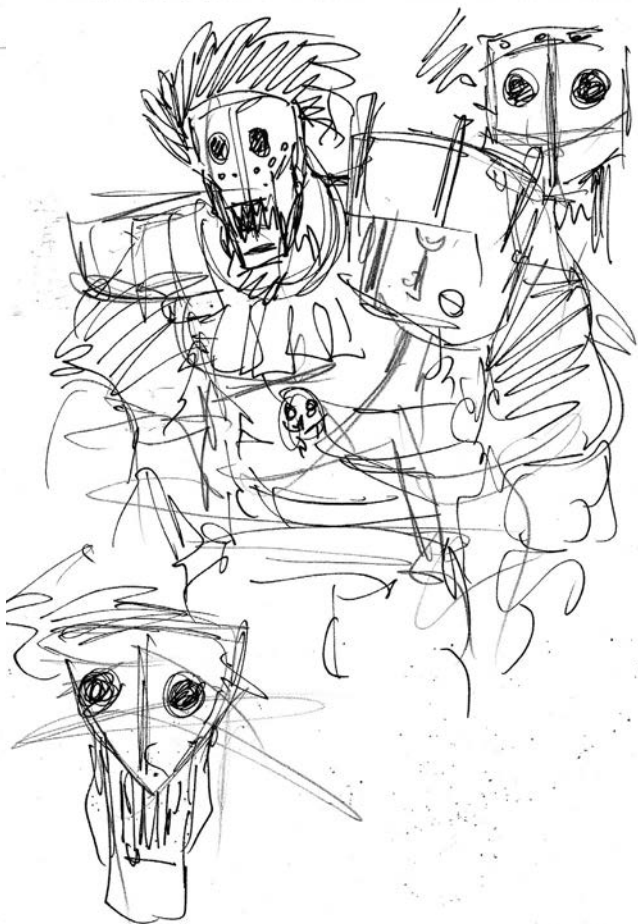
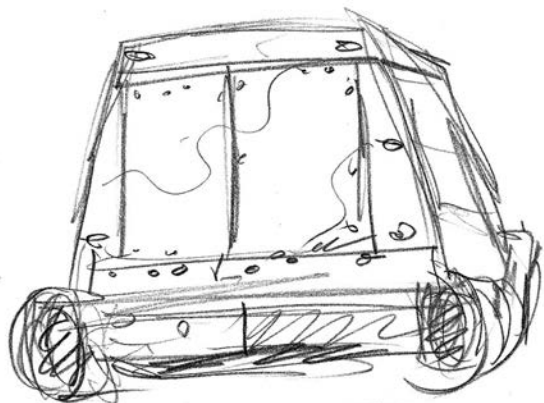
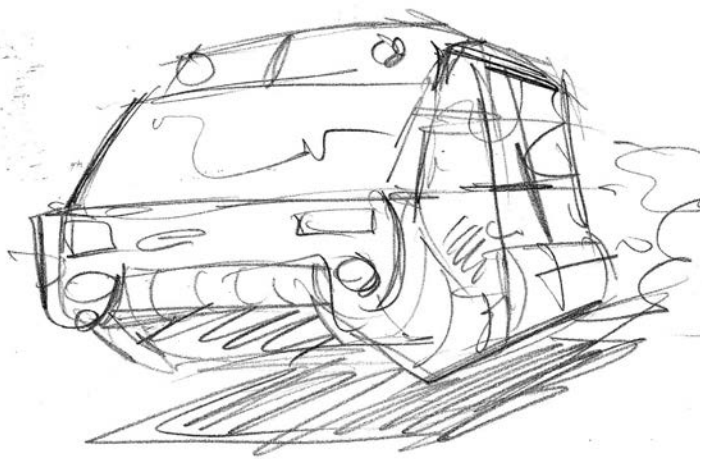
2000 AD Prog 1518: Cover by **Mark Harrison**



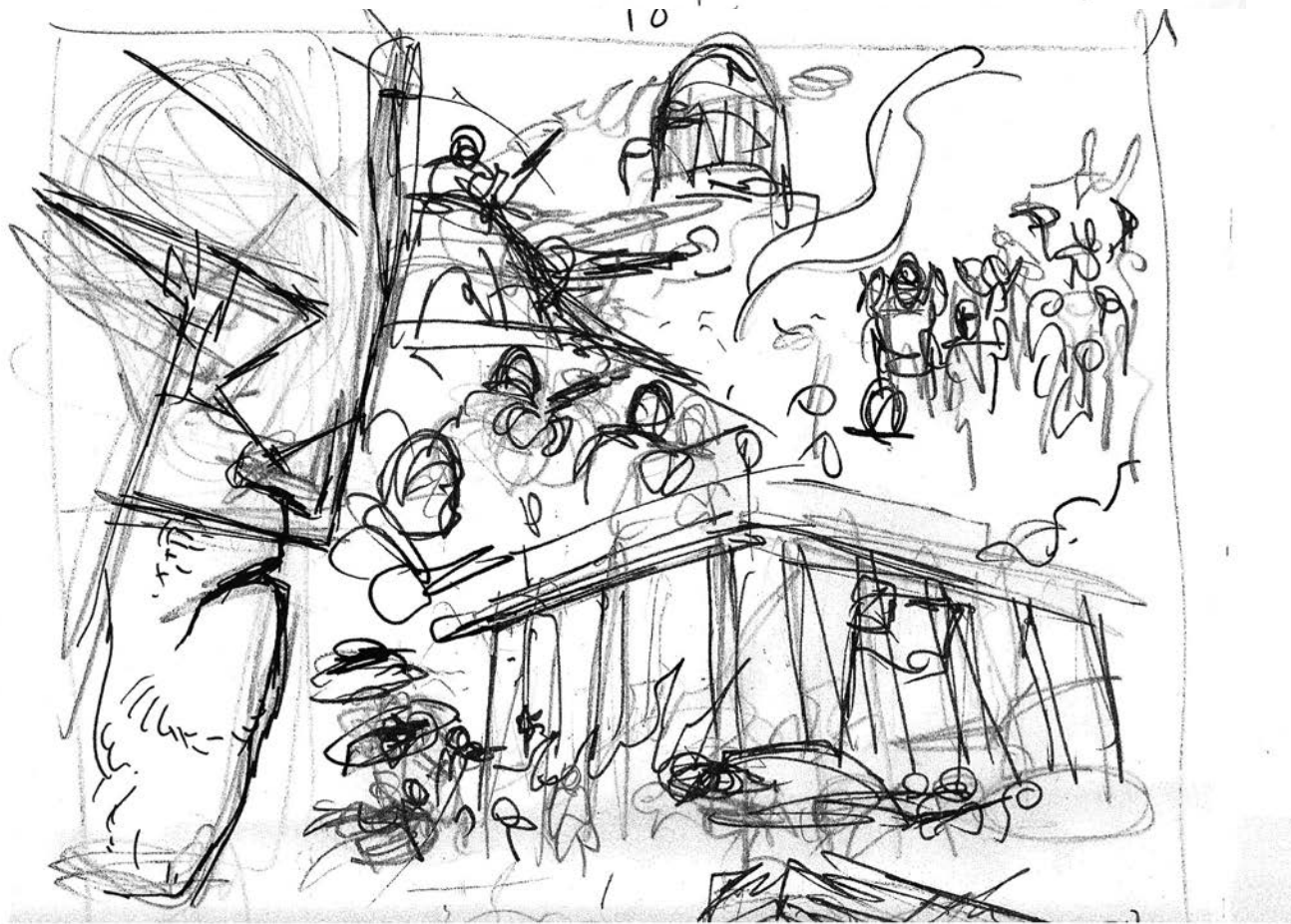
2000 AD Prog 1529: Cover by **Cliff Robinson**

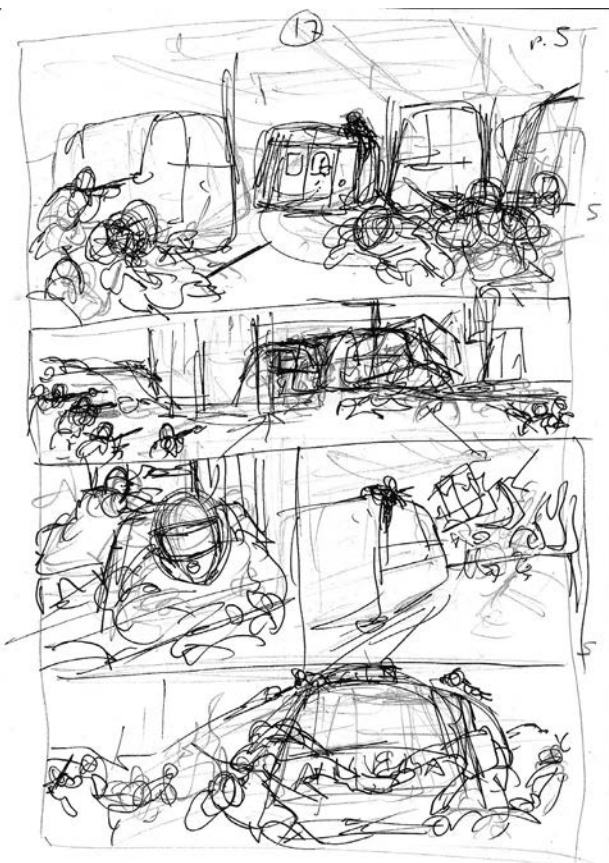


CARLOS EZQUERRA SKETCHBOOK

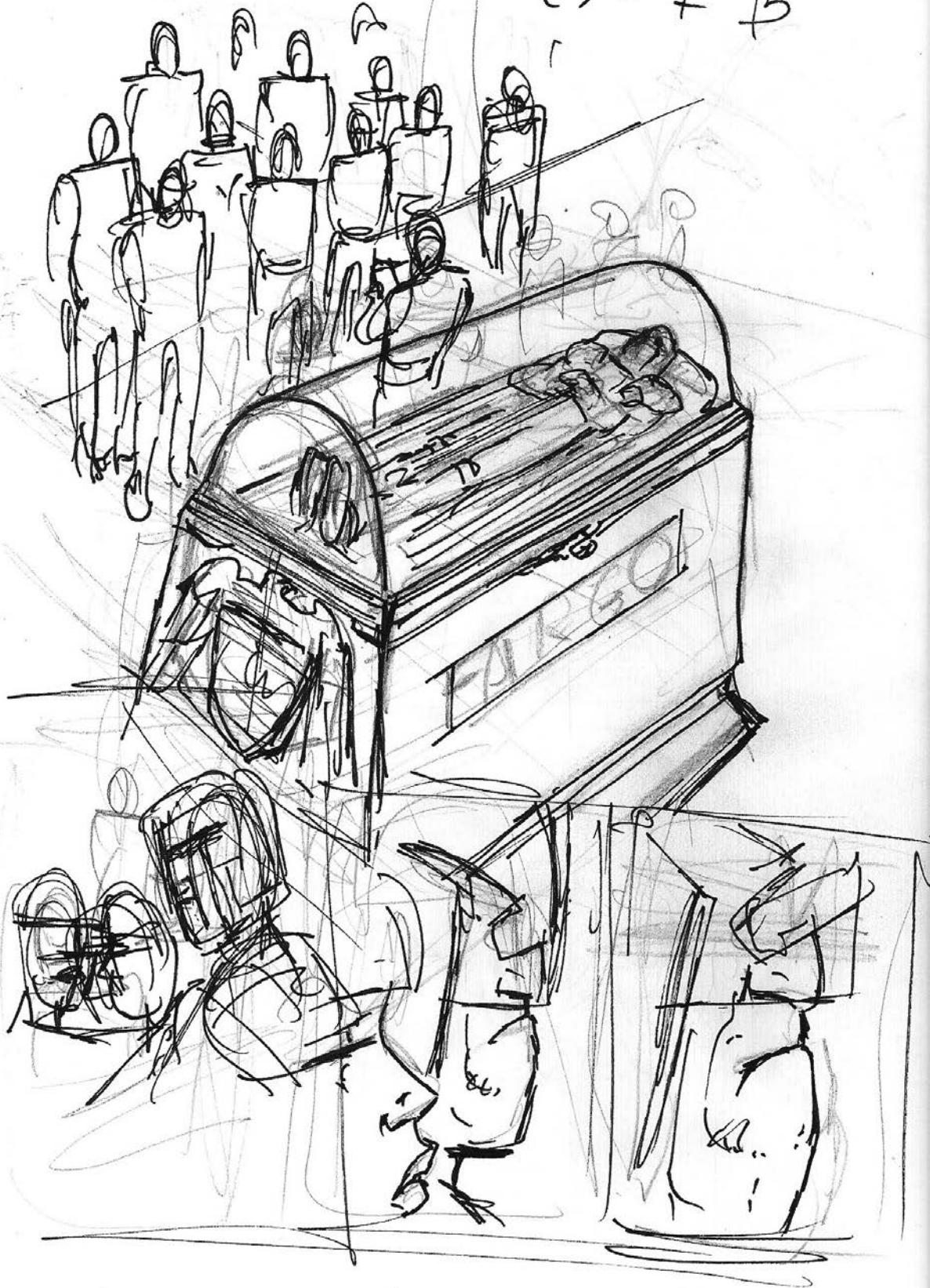


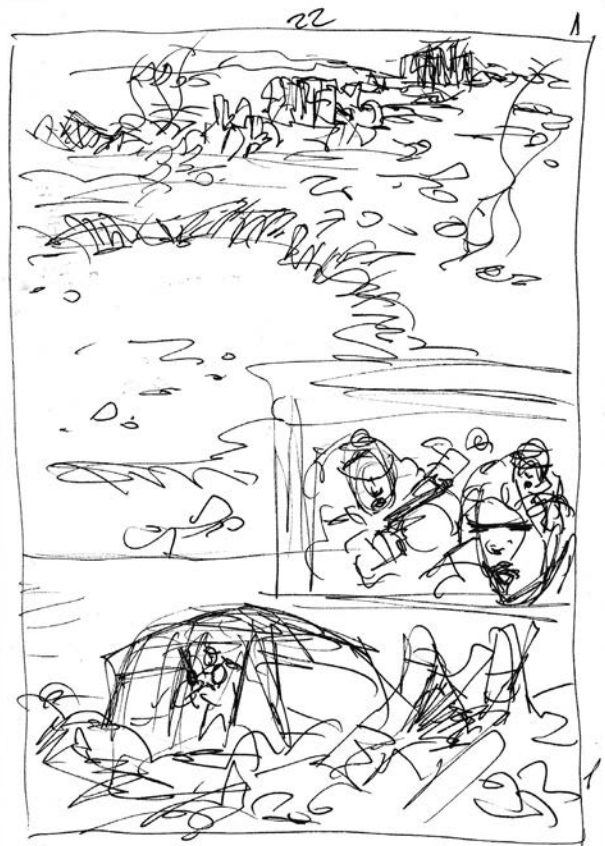


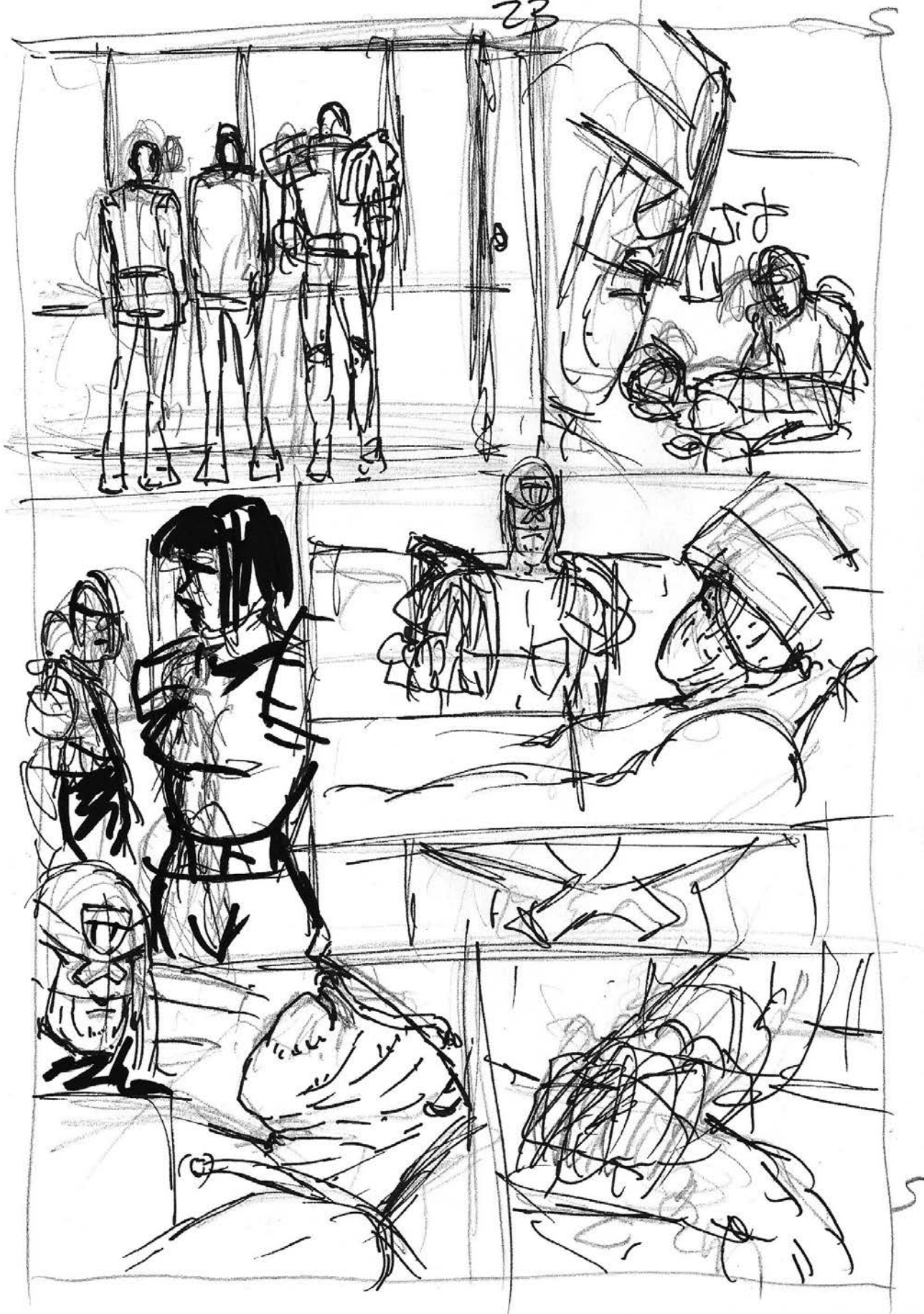




23-7 B







JOHN WAGNER

John Wagner has been scripting for *2000 AD* for more years than he cares to remember. His creations include *Judge Dredd*, *Strontium Dog*, *Ace Trucking*, *Al's Baby*, *Button Man* and *Mean Machine*. Outside of *2000 AD* his credits include *Star Wars*, *Lobo*, *The Punisher* and the critically acclaimed *A History of Violence*.

KEV WALKER

Kev Walker is the co-creator of *Badlands* and *The Balls Brothers*, and has also provided artwork for *Dan Dare*, *Judge Dredd*, *Future Shocks*, *Harlem Heroes*, *Mercy Heights*, *Rogue Trooper*, *Time Twisters* and *Tor Cyan*. For the *Judge Dredd Magazine*, he wrote *The Inspectre* and has illustrated *Judge Anderson*, *Mean Machine* and *Wynter*.

Walker has recently finished an acclaimed run on DC's *L.E.G.I.O.N.* and has pencilled Marvel Comics' *The Eternal*.

CARLOS EZQUERRA

As co-creator of *Judge Dredd* Carlos Ezquerra designed the classic original costume as well as visually conceptualising Mega-City One. He also co-created *Strontium Dog*. He has also illustrated *A.B.C. Warriors*, *Judge Anderson*, *Tharg the Mighty*, *Al's Baby* and *Cursed Eath Koburn* amongst many others. Outside of the *Galaxy's Greatest Comic*, Ezquerra first illustrated *Third World War* in *Crisis magazine*, and has since become a regular collaborator with Garth Ennis, working on *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*, *Bloody Mary*, *Just a Pilgrim*, *Condors* and *The Magnificent Kevin*. He also pencilled two special *Preacher* episodes.