THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN

WAGNER ★ SIMPSON ★ MACNEIL ★ BURNS

JUDGE DREDD

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JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER AND CARLOS EZQUERRA

THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN

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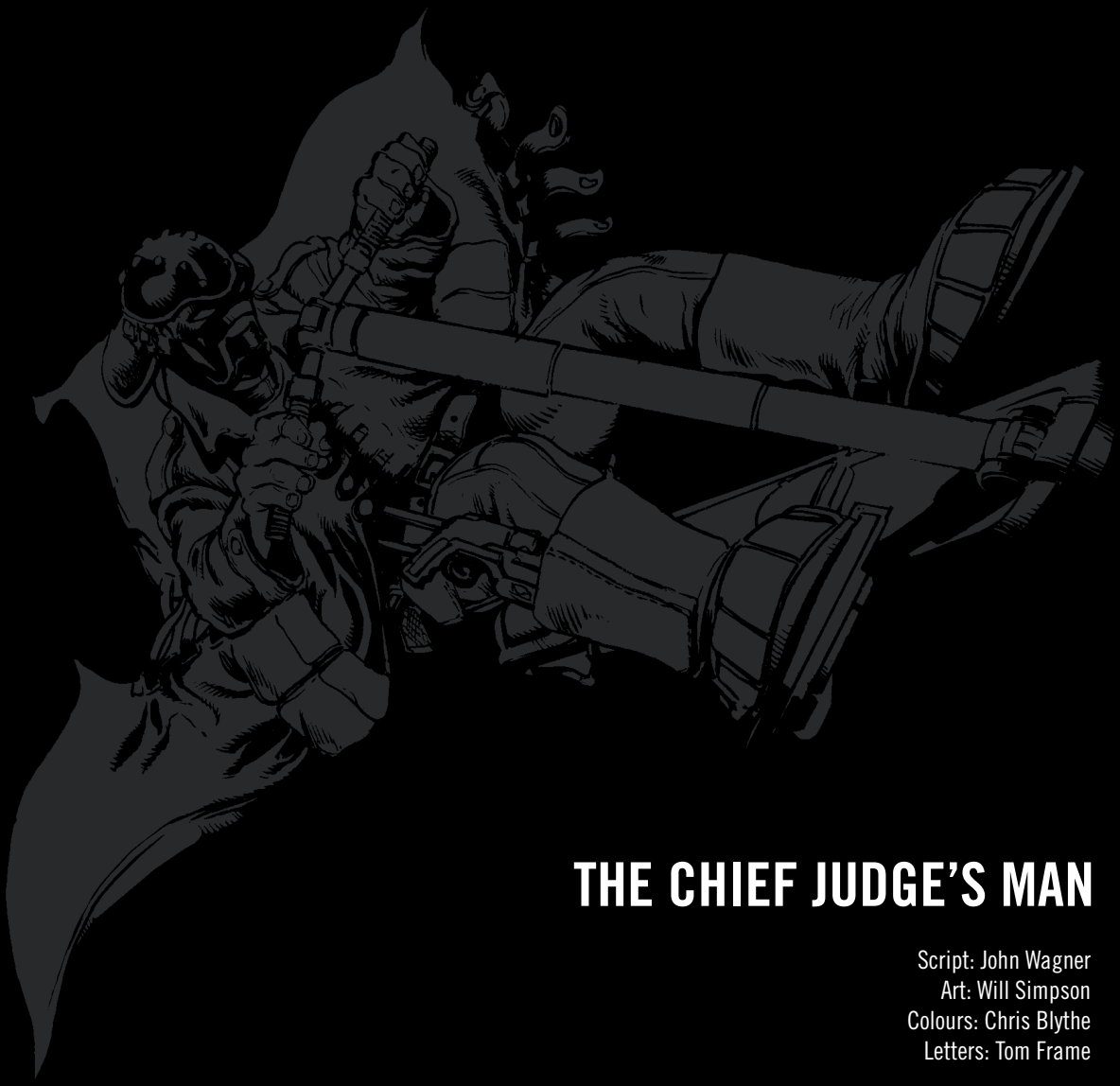

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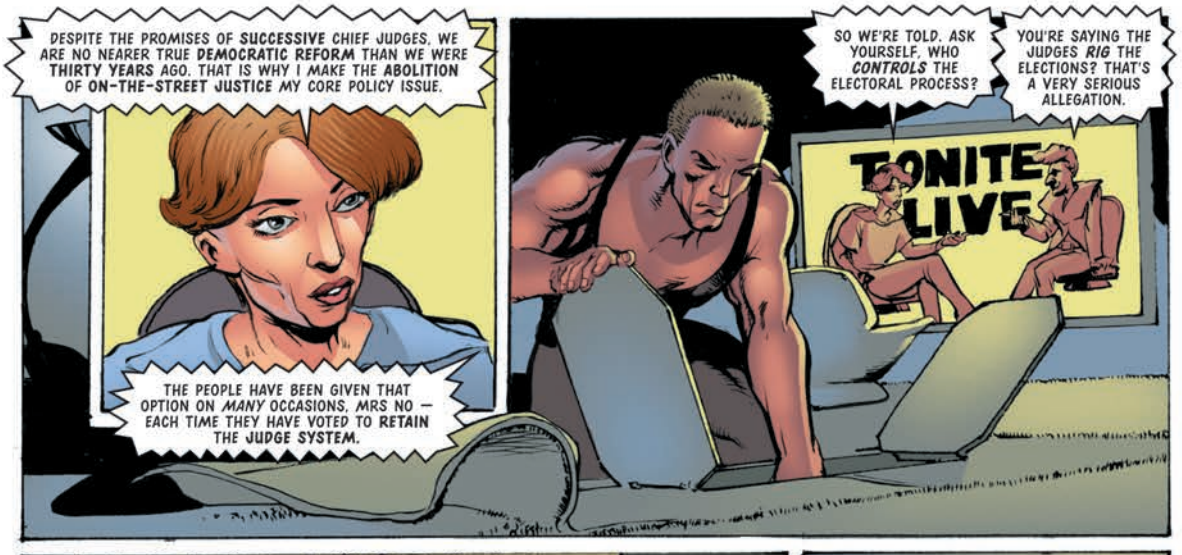
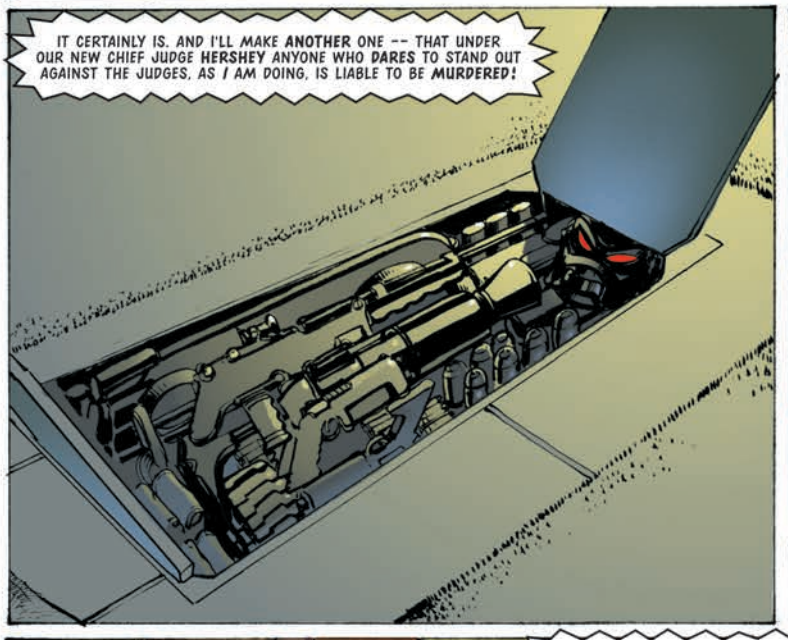
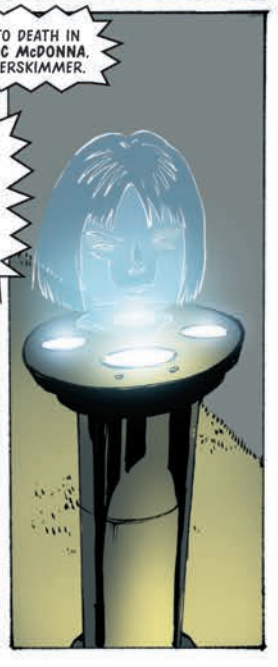

DESPITE THE PROMISES OF SUCCESSIVE CHIEF JUDGES, WE ARE NO NEARER TRUE DEMOCRATIC REFORM THAN WE WERE THIRTY YEARS AGO. THAT IS WHY I MAKE THE ABOLITION OF ON-THE-STREET JUSTICE MY CORE POLICY ISSUE.
THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THAT OPTION ON MANY OCCASIONS, MRS NO — EACH TIME THEY HAVE VOTED TO RETAIN THE JUDGE SYSTEM.
SO WE'RE TOLD. ASK YOURSELF, WHO CONTROLS THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?
YOU'RE SAYING THE JUDGES RIG THE ELECTIONS? THAT'S A VERY SERIOUS ALLEGATION.
TONITE LIVE


IT CERTAINLY IS. AND I'LL MAKE ANOTHER ONE -- THAT UNDER OUR NEW CHIEF JUDGE HERSHEY ANYONE WHO DARES TO STAND OUT AGAINST THE JUDGES, AS I AM DOING, IS LIABLE TO BE MURDERED!

KACHUNK
I CAN HEAR GASPS OF DISBELIEF FROM OUR AUDIENCE SIMULATOR. YOU HAVE PROOF?

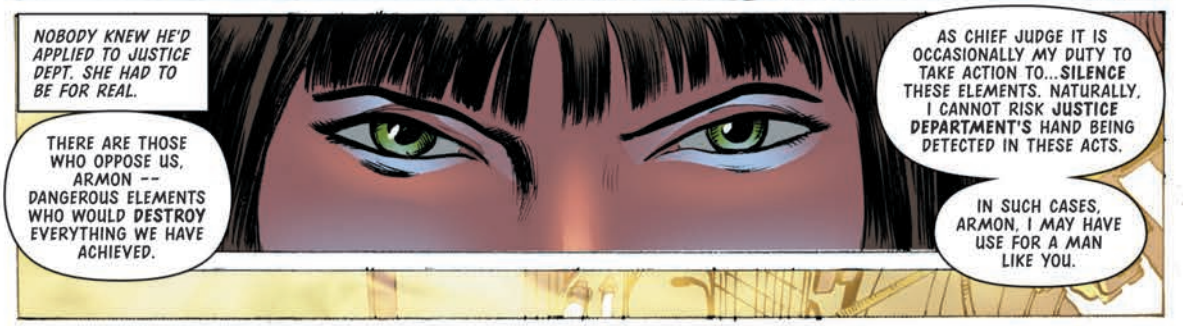
EXAMINE THE FACTS. MILLAN JEBBS, STABBED TO DEATH IN ANDROID PARK...PASHMINA DOBL, POISONED...CHIC McDONNA, THE ELDSTER LEADER -- BOMB UNDER HIS ZIMMERSKIMMER.
WITHIN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS EIGHT ANTI-JUSTICE DEPT ACTIVISTS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIOLENT ATTACKS. IN NOT ONE CASE HAS AN ARREST BEEN MADE. IN FOUR CASES JUDGES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PIN THE BLAME ON A MYSTERY ASSASSIN -- THIS SO-CALLED JUSTICE KILLER.
A LIKELY STORY.



YOU'RE WATCHING THE SHOW?
YES, CHIEF JUDGE.
THE WOMAN COMPLAINS TOO MUCH. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ALL IF SOMEONE SHUT HER UP.
THE PROGRAMME IS LIVE. SHE'LL BE AT THE STUDIO FOR ANOTHER HOUR.
I UNDERSTAND.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT CALL. I'M READY.
HOVER
KCHINK
THOKKA

THE FIRST TIME SHE CALLED HE HALF BELIEVED IT WAS A JOKE.
HE WAS FRESH OUT OF THE SPACE CORPS, DISHONOURABLY DISCHARGED AFTER THAT INCIDENT WITH THE CIVILIAN.
THE LAST FACE HE EXPECTED TO SEE ON THE HOLO-COM WAS HERS.
CH-CHIEF JUDGE-?

I'VE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH YOUR RECORD, ARMON. SPECIALIST IN COVERT OPERATIONS, FOUR FIELD CITATIONS. EXPERT IN COMBAT, ARMED AND UNARMED. BUSTED THREE TIMES FOR HOSPITALISING FELLOW OFFICERS...
MY CITY, RIGHT OR WRONG, MA'AM. ANYBODY TALKS OUT OF TURN, I DON'T SIT AROUND AN' LISTEN.
YOU'VE NOW APPLIED TO THIS DEPARTMENT FOR A POSITION AS AN AUXILIARY.
FAT CHANCE, AFTER MY DISHONOURABLE.


NOBODY KNEW HE'D APPLIED TO JUSTICE DEPT. SHE HAD TO BE FOR REAL.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO OPPOSE US, ARMON -- DANGEROUS ELEMENTS WHO WOULD DESTROY EVERYTHING WE HAVE ACHIEVED.
AS CHIEF JUDGE IT IS OCCASIONALLY MY DUTY TO TAKE ACTION TO...SILENCE THESE ELEMENTS. NATURALLY, I CANNOT RISK JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S HAND BEING DETECTED IN THESE ACTS.
IN SUCH CASES, ARMON, I MAY HAVE USE FOR A MAN LIKE YOU.

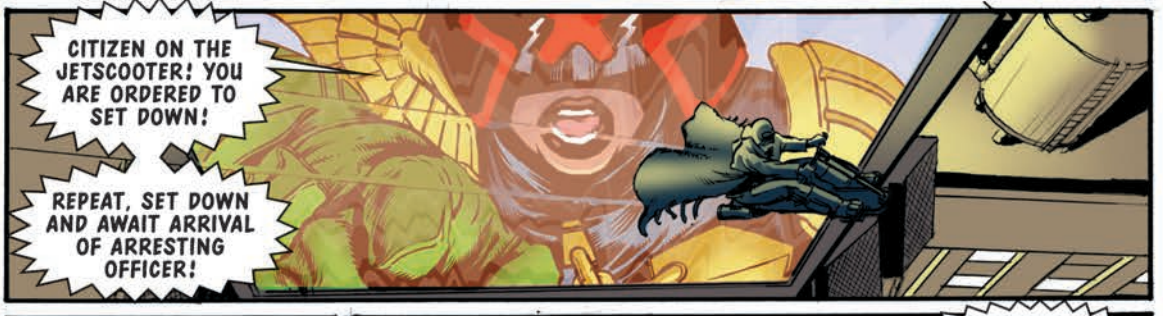
SHE'D GIVEN HIM THE CODE OF A LUGSAFE AT KEELER ZOOM...
SHE'D KNOWN ALL ABOUT HIM, EVERY DETAIL. SHE WAS FOR REAL.
HUMA BOX
YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM ME AND ME ALONE. YOU WILL NEVER — REPEAT NEVER — DIVULGE MY PART IN YOUR ACTIVITIES. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT, I WILL OF COURSE DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF YOU.
NATURALLY, I WOULD PREFER IT IF YOU WERE NOT TAKEN ALIVE. TO THAT END YOU WILL FIND POISON CAPLETS IN YOUR EQUIPMENT BELT.
THEY WILL WORK AS WELL ON YOU AS YOUR VICTIMS. CARRY ONE WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.
TO THE DEATH!
REST ASSURED, NO ONE BUT YOU AND I WILL EVER KNOW I AM... THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN!

TONIGHT WOULD BE HIS TWELFTH KILL, THOUGH THEY HAD HIM DOWN FOR HALF THAT NUMBER AT MOST.
THE CHIEF JUDGE'S REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS, AND HIS APPROACH TO HIS WORK WAS SO IMAGINATIVE THAT SEVERAL HAD PASSED OFF AS ACCIDENTS.
NO!
NO!
NO
NO NO NO! NO NO NO! NO NO NO!
THEY'RE NOT EXPECTING TROUBLE.
THERE'S A SMALL CROWD OUTSIDE THE STUDIO, STOOGES PUT UP BY GRAND HALL'S PUBLIC DECEPTION UNIT...
HERE SHE COMES!

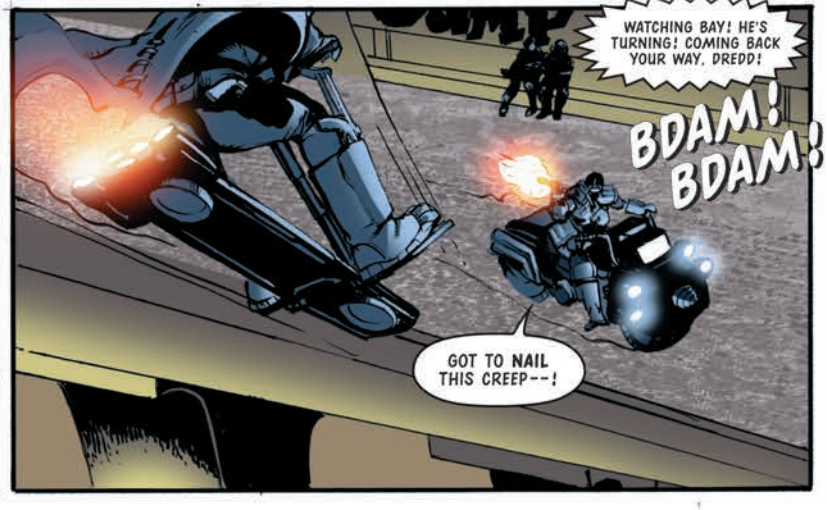
DROKK!

CONTROL! CITIZEN PETULA NO HAS BEEN SHOT DEAD — SINGLE LASER BLAST FROM DIRECTION OF DWIGHT D. EISENTOWER!

PUBLIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT CAMS PICK UP A SUSPECT JETSCOOTER LEAVING THE EISENTOWER --
RIDER MATCHES DESCRIPTION OF PERP KNOWN AS THE JUSTICE KILLER, WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH NUMEROUS ASSASSINATIONS OF ANTI-JUDICIAL ELEMENTS.


CITIZEN ON THE JETSCOOTER! YOU ARE ORDERED TO SET DOWN!
REPEAT, SET DOWN AND AWAIT ARRIVAL OF ARRESTING OFFICER!

BDAM!


WATCHING BAY! HE'S TURNING! COMING BACK YOUR WAY, DREDD!
BDAM! BDAM!
GOT TO NAIL THIS CREEP--!

DREDD IS ON A ONE-TO-ONE WITH THE MYSTERY ASSASSIN KNOWN AS THE JUSTICE KILLER--
HE'S NEVER GOING TO CLEAR THAT ADBOARD—!
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
SKASHHHHH
DROKK!
STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

LET GO—!
CONTROL, CONFIRM I HAVE THE JUSTICE KILLER IN CUSTODY!
YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!
AT LEAST ONE OF US HAS IT COMING!
HOONNNNKKKKKKK
WHAAAMMMM
UNNH!
shreeeeee
Whump!
SLAMMM
UNGGHHH!
YOU'VE SEEN MY FACE!

I SHOULD KILL YOU—!
BUT HESITATION CAN BE FATAL!
SPAPPPPPA
splut!
I HAVE NO WISH TO HURT YOU—!
THEN DROP THE GUN AND ASSUME THE POSITION!
spip!
I AM ON YOUR SIDE—!
NO LAWBREAKING MURDERER IS ON MY SIDE!
THUD!
THUD!
URNGG!

WHUMP
CONTROL, COULD USE A LITTLE ASSISTANCE HERE! PERPETRATOR PROVING UNCO-OPERATIVE!
YOU FORCE ME TO DO THIS!
WHAPP
SPAPPP!
YOU DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU?
SPAKKKK!
I AM GONNA HAVE SOME FUN ADDING UP YOUR SENTENCE!
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!
PUT IT DOWN—!
UNHH!

JUST IN, CHIEF--
REFORM LEADER PETULA NO HAS BEEN MURDERED. OUR 'JUSTICE KILLER' AGAIN.
DON'T CALL HIM OURS— HE'S NOT OURS. THOUGH NO DOUBT THEY'LL BE BLAMING US FOR IT.
I UNDERSTAND MRS NO DARED TO ACCUSE YOU OF AS MUCH IN THE INTERVIEW TONIGHT. SOME PEOPLE JUST BEG FOR IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY, THE FELLOW'S TARGETING ANTI-JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ELEMENTS, MA'AM. WHILE HE'S STILL AT LARGE, WHY DRAW ATTENTION TO HERSELF BY SPEAKING OUT AGAINST US?
CAN'T STOP THE CITIZENS TALKING, DE KLERK. UNFORTUNATELY.
UNITS ARE IN PURSUIT, CHIEF JUDGE. WE MAY HAVE A CHANCE AT HIM THIS TIME.
GOOD. KEEP ME INFORMED.
TWO BROKEN RIBS HERE. BETTER HAVE A SESSION ON THE SPEEDHEAL.
I HEAR HE HIT YOU WITH A STUN BOLT.
AND A FEW OTHER THINGS BESIDES.
YOUR MIKE GOT BROKEN. CALLS NEVER CAME THROUGH, OTHERWISE WE'D HAVE HAD THE CREEP.
NO SIGN OF HIM?
NEGATIVE. JUST MELTED AWAY. HE'S GOOD AT THAT.
NEVER MIND. DNA DOESN'T LIE. WE'VE STILL GOT HIM.

HE HAS NO WAY TO CONTACT HER. HE CAN ONLY SIT AND WAIT FOR HER TO COME.
PERHAPS NOW IS TIME TO DO HIS DUTY, BEFORE THEY COME FOR HIM.
THEY HAVE WAYS OF MAKING A MAN TALK. HE SHOULD KNOW. HE HAS USED THEM OFTEN ENOUGH HIMSELF.
YOU'RE ALIVE. GOOD. I COULDN'T FIND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO YOU EARLIER. I WONDERED IF YOU MIGHT HAVE...DISPOSED OF YOURSELF.
HE SAW ME, CHIEF JUDGE.
WITHOUT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION ONE FACE IS LIKE A HUNDRED THOUSAND OTHERS, ARMON.
BUT MY BLOOD — TISSUE --
IT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF. DON'T LET IT CONCERN YOU. YOU'RE QUITE SAFE.
REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE, AWAIT MY ORDERS. THERE'S STILL MUCH WORK FOR THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN...

MEGA-CITY ONE'S 'JUSTICE KILLER' HAS STRUCK AGAIN!
THIS DRAMATIC FOOTAGE WAS TAKEN LAST NIGHT SHORTLY AFTER ANTI-JUDGE CAMPAIGNER PETULA NO WAS SHOT DEAD IN COLD BLOOD!
GLIDDY
GORDON
ROSS
MONIK
GELLE

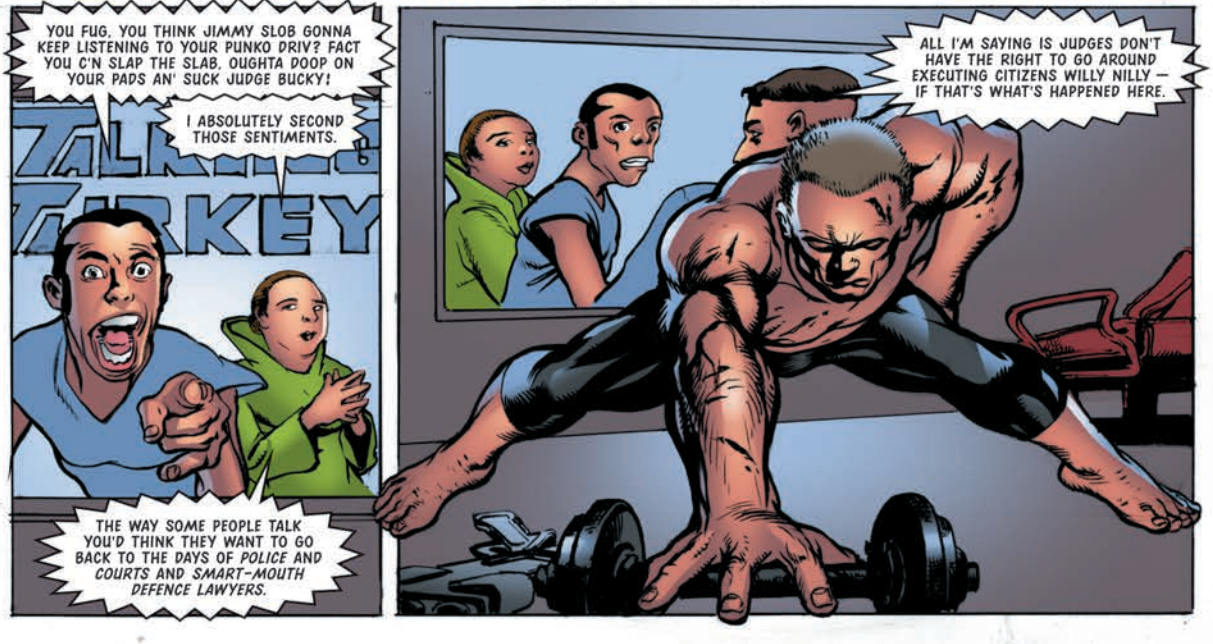
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT? IT'S ABOUT THE JUSTICE KILLER -- I KNOW WHO HE IS.
BERT
BIGGO
BARRY

I WAS IN THE BLOCK HOVERPORT LAST NIGHT. I SAW HIM --

I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT TILL I SAW THE PICTURES ON THE NEWS. I'M SURE IT'S HIM.
I"VE SEEN HIM BEFORE. HE LIVES IN THE BLOCK --
JUST A FEW DOORS AWAY FROM A FRIEND OF MINE...

SPEAK UP, CITIZEN!
I...I CAN'T. I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL. I WAS WITH SOMEONE. IF MY HUSBAND FOUND OUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'D DO...
OH, GRUD, HE'S COMING! I HAVE TO GO!

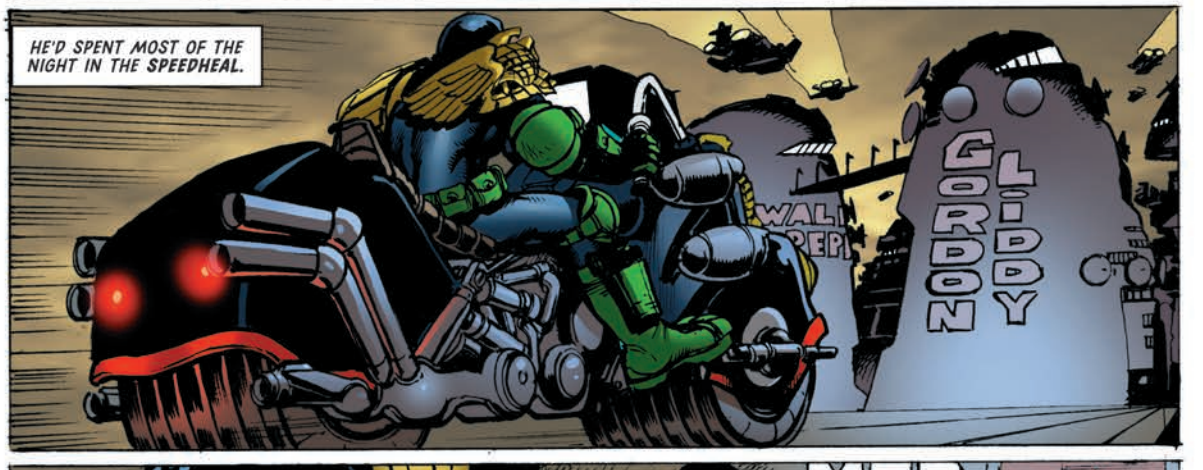
TALK TO ME NOW OR I SEND A JUDGE ROUND. YOUR CHOICE, CITIZEN.
MAYS, KRYSTAL APT 8957 GORDON LIDDY BLOCK
PLEASE, NO, DON'T SEND ANYONE! I'LL CALL BACK, I PROMISE --
NO, WE HAVEN'T MADE ANY DECISIONS YET, BUT I THINK DOODLY WOULD REALLY LIKE A SPACE HOLIDAY THIS YEAR. RIGHT. OKAY, 'BYE, URBANA.
THAT WAS URBANA — I SAID I'D LEND HER THOSE CURSED EARTH BROCHURES.
Hmph


YOU FUG, YOU THINK JIMMY SLOB GONNA KEEP LISTENING TO YOUR PUNKO DRIV? FACT YOU C'N SLAP THE SLAB, OUGHTA DOOP ON YOUR PADS AN' SUCK JUDGE BUCKY!
I ABSOLUTELY SECOND THOSE SENTIMENTS.
TALKING TURKEY
THE WAY SOME PEOPLE TALK YOU'D THINK THEY WANT TO GO BACK TO THE DAYS OF POLICE AND COURTS AND SMART-MOUTH DEFENCE LAWYERS.
ALL I'M SAYING IS JUDGES DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO GO AROUND EXECUTING CITIZENS WILLY NILLY — IF THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE.

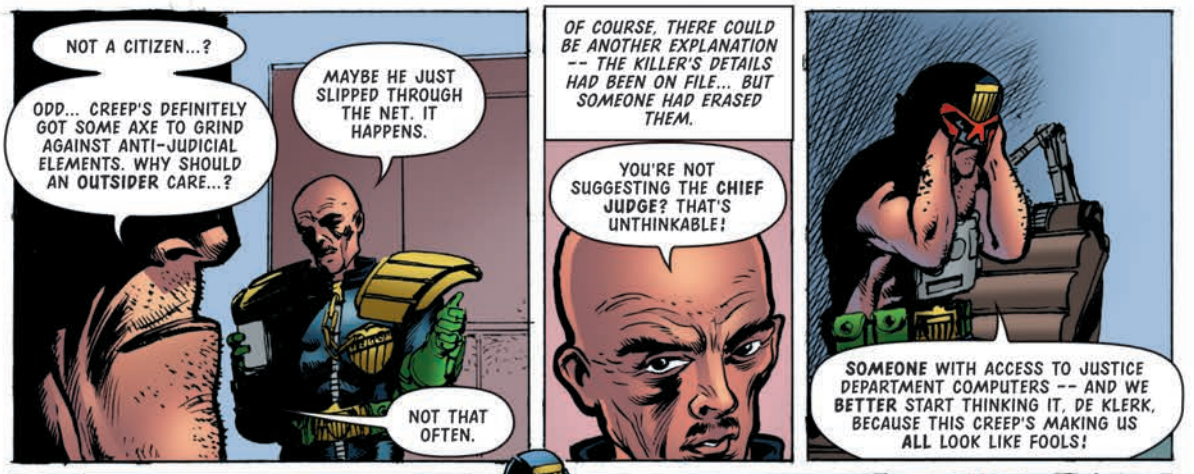
IF YOU'RE JUST JOINING US, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE KILLING OF PETULA NO, MURDERED AFTER CLAIMING THE SO-CALLED JUSTICE KILLER MAY BE AN AGENT OF CHIEF JUDGE HERSHEY HERSELF!
PROOF POSITIVE -- OR SPOOKY COINCIDENCE? THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DECIDE!
spingggg
BISHOP DESMOND SNODGRASS, FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE AS A SIMP, HOW DO YOU VIEW THE NIGHT'S EVENTS?
I MUST OBJECT! TO DEBASE THE DEBATE BY INVITING COMMENT FROM A MAN AS OBVIOUSLY INSANE AS BISHOP SNODGRASS IS AN INSULT.

COULD SOMEONE CUT THE BISHOP DOWN, I THINK HE'S CHOKING.
CHIEF JUDGE—?

WE HAVE A PROBLEM, ARMON.


HE'D SPENT MOST OF THE NIGHT IN THE SPEEDHEAL.
GORDON
LIDDY

DE KLERK — APPOINTED TO CO-ORDINATE THE 'JUSTICE KILLER' INVESTIGATION — HAD STOPPED BY WITH THE TEST RESULT. THAT HADN'T IMPROVED HIS MOOD...
KILLER'S DNA IS NOT ON FILE.


NOT A CITIZEN...?
ODD... CREEP'S DEFINITELY GOT SOME AXE TO GRIND AGAINST ANTI-JUDICIAL ELEMENTS. WHY SHOULD AN OUTSIDER CARE...?
MAYBE HE JUST SLIPPED THROUGH THE NET. IT HAPPENS.
NOT THAT OFTEN.
OF COURSE, THERE COULD BE ANOTHER EXPLANATION -- THE KILLER'S DETAILS HAD BEEN ON FILE... BUT SOMEONE HAD ERASED THEM.
YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING THE CHIEF JUDGE? THAT'S UNTHINKABLE!
SOMEONE WITH ACCESS TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COMPUTERS -- AND WE BETTER START THINKING IT, DE KLERK, BECAUSE THIS CREEP'S MAKING US ALL LOOK LIKE FOOLS!

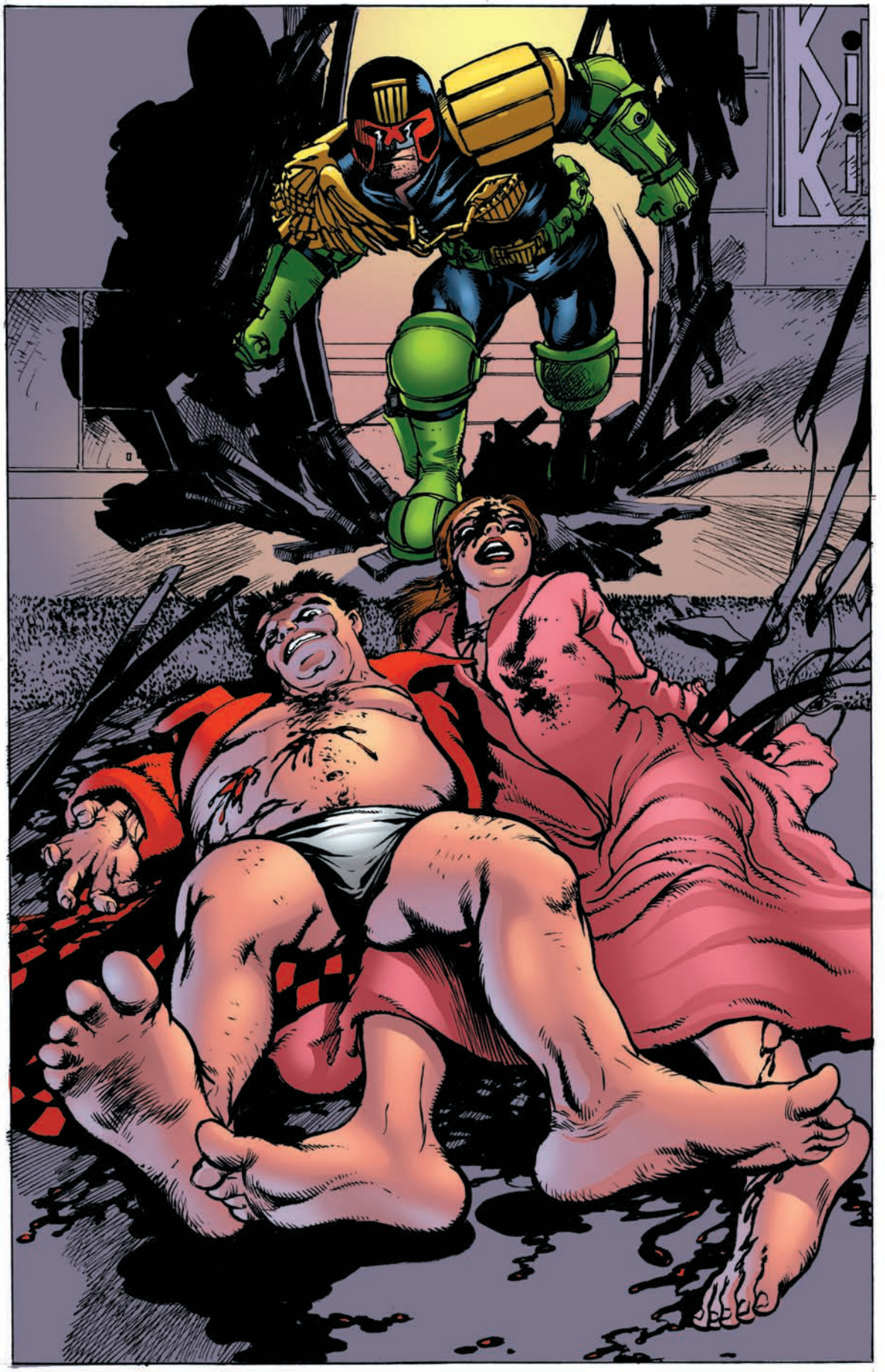
HE'D PUT TOGETHER A COMPUTER LIKENESS OF THE KILLER. IT COULD HAVE FITTED ANY ONE OF 50,000 MEGA-CITIZENS. HE DIDN'T HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE.
ALL THE SAME, THEY'D HAD OVER FOUR HUNDRED 'POSITIVE' SIGHTINGS SINCE THE PICTURES HAD BEEN RELEASED.

bing bong
THE PROFILE OF THIS INFORMANT DIDN'T TALLY WITH THE USUAL BATCH OF CRANKS.
KRYSTAL MAYS, 30, PART-TIME LECTURER IN DOMESTIC BLISS, SOUTH SIDE PSEUDOTECHNIC. MAYS CLAIMED THE KILLER WAS RESIDENT IN LIDDY.

INSTRUCTIONS SAID INFORMANT WAS CONDUCTING AN EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR, HUSBAND UNAWARE. HANDLE WITH TACT.
bing bong bing bong
OPEN UP IN THERE, CITIZEN! THIS IS THE LAW!

TACT.
RIGHT.

SKRAAAAKKKKK

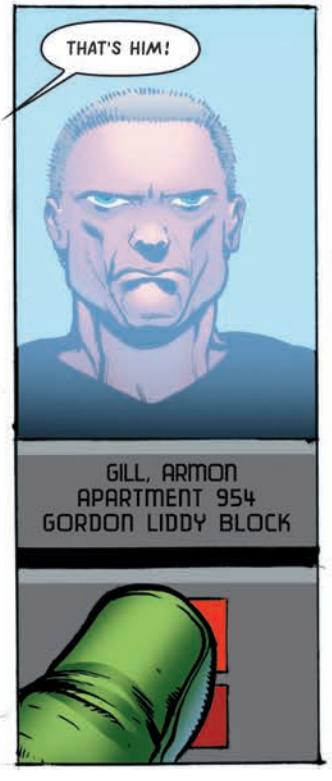


SO MUCH FOR HIS WITNESS.
NO SIGN OF A WEAPON -- WOUNDS CAN'T HAVE BEEN SELF INFLICTED.
NOTIFY CONTROL, WAIT FOR FORENSICS TO ARRIVE.
COMPUTER, ACCESS RESIDENTS LIST.
ACCESSED.

SHE'D SEEMED CERTAIN THE KILLER LIVED IN-BLOCK. THIS WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM IT.
LIST MALES, AGE 28 TO 45, ABOVE MEDIAN HEIGHT, WEIGHT — NOT IN EXCESS OF 100 KAY. HOW MANY?
LISTING 1109.
DREDD

CONTROL, I'M FORWARDING ELEVEN HUNDRED NAMES. RUN THEM AGAINST DNA RECORDS. LET ME KNOW ANYONE THAT DOESN'T SHOW.
ELEVEN HUNDRED--?
YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY. YOU'VE GOT TWO MINUTES. THIS IS PRIORITY ONE. I'M COUNTING.

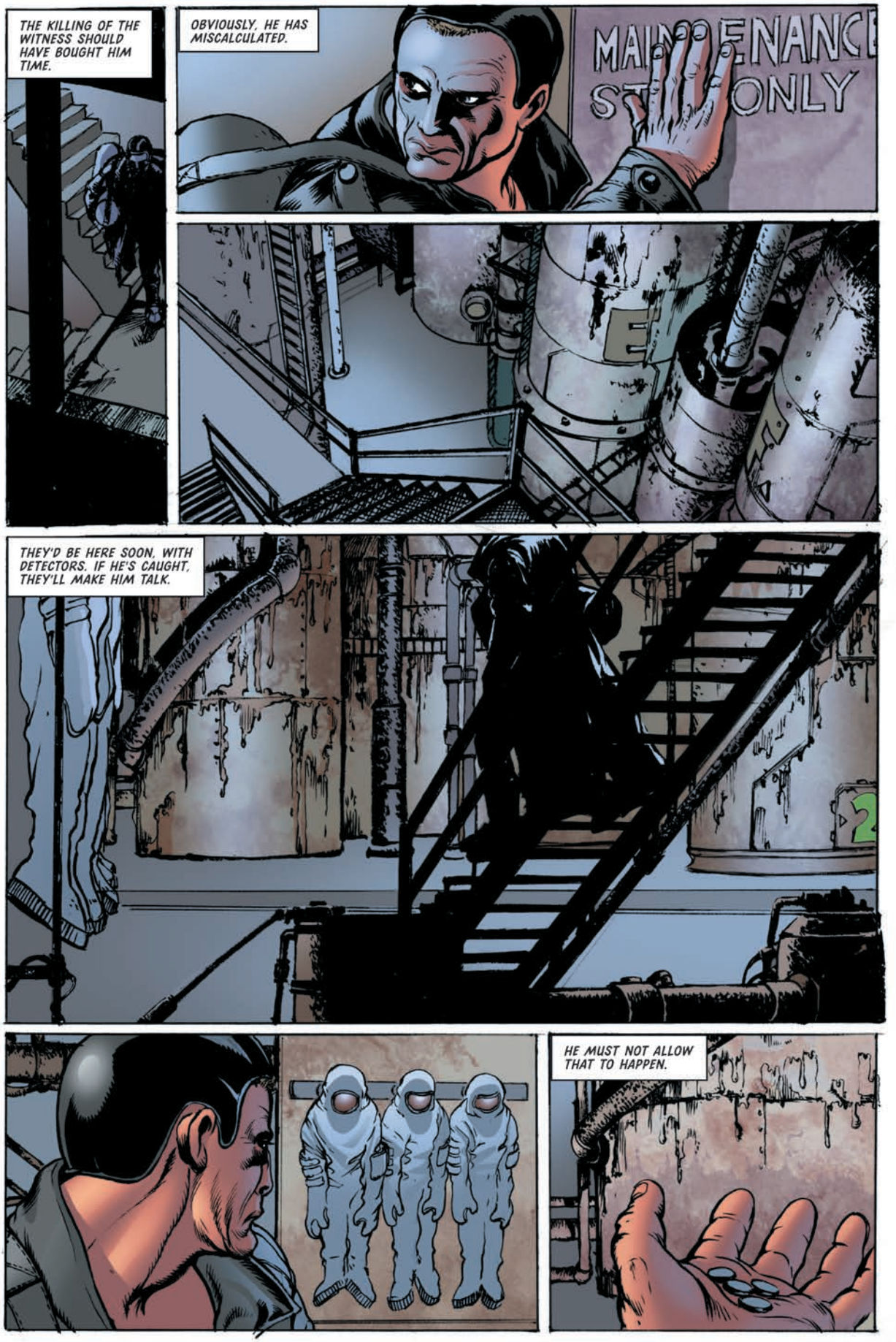
TWO NEGATIVES. DREDD, GILL, ARMON, APARTMENT954 -- PERRIO, JOMO, APARTMENT 7709.
PERRIO RECENT ARRIVAL FROM PAN-AF, SCHEDULED FOR MANDATORY TESTING TUESDAY.
NO EXPLANATION ON GILL. ZERO INFORMATION ON FILE.
GOT TO BE ON FILE HERE, FOR BLOCK SECURITY.
COMPUTER, SHOW ME GILL.


THAT'S HIM!
GILL, ARMON
APARTMENT 954
GORDON LIDDY BLOCK

I WANT THIS BLOCK CLOSED OFF! NOBODY IN OR OUT! BACK-UP UNITS TO APARTMENT 954!

THE HUNT FOR THE 'JUSTICE KILLER' BRINGS DREDD TO AN APARTMENT IN GORDON LIDDY BLOCK...
thud thud
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, GILL! THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
BLINDS IN THE APARTMENT ARE DRAWN, DREDD! HEAT SENSORS PICKING UP NO SIGN OF LIFE!
GET READY, I'M BLOWING THE DOOR!
FTOOM
FTOOM
FTOOM
BAD MOVE—!
KLIK!
VAWOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM

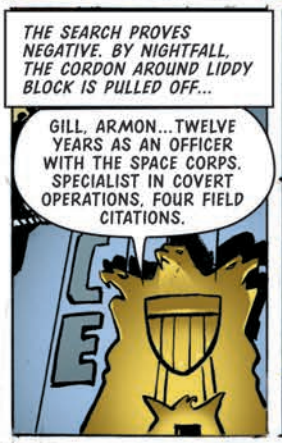
VAROOOOOOOOOOM
WE CAN TAKE IT GILL'S NOT HOME!
BELIEVE SUSPECT MAY STILL BE IN BLOCK! MAINTAIN CORDON! NO ONE GETS OUT!
LET'S GET THE SEARCH UNDER WAY!
BUT I LIVE THERE!
YOU'LL BE LIVING IN A CUBE IF I GET ANY MORE LIP!
NO WAY OUT NOW.


THE KILLING OF THE WITNESS SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT HIM TIME.
OBVIOUSLY, HE HAS MISCALCULATED.
THEY'D BE HERE SOON, WITH DETECTORS. IF HE'S CAUGHT, THEY'LL MAKE HIM TALK.
HE MUST NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.

FIRE
THE FIRE IN THE APARTMENT IS SOON EXTINGUISHED --
HOLOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATOR -- WORKS ON HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO TRANSMISSIONS. NO WAY OF TRACING ANY CALLS HE MAY HAVE MADE.
WE KNOW ONE THING -- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY HE COULD HAVE GOT ONTO OUR WITNESS SO QUICKLY. WE'VE GOT AN INFORMER IN JUSTICE DEPT.
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T SAY THAT FOR SURE, DREDD.
APARTMENT CONSOLE'S TUNED TO OUR FREQUENCIES. THE MESSAGE ON YOUR WITNESS WENT OUT ON A CLEAR CHANNEL, DIDN'T IT?
THAT WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO KNOW.
blip blip blip
OH, MAN-!

BLOCK SEWAGE HOPPERS. SYSTEM EXTRACTS THE WATER FOR RECYCLING.
THE SMELL'S ENOUGH TO KILL YOU!

IF THE CREEP'S IN THERE, HE'S WELCOME TO IT!
SLANGGG


THE SEARCH PROVES NEGATIVE. BY NIGHTFALL, THE CORDON AROUND LIDDY BLOCK IS PULLED OFF...
GILL, ARMON...TWELVE YEARS AS AN OFFICER WITH THE SPACE CORPS. SPECIALIST IN COVERT OPERATIONS, FOUR FIELD CITATIONS.

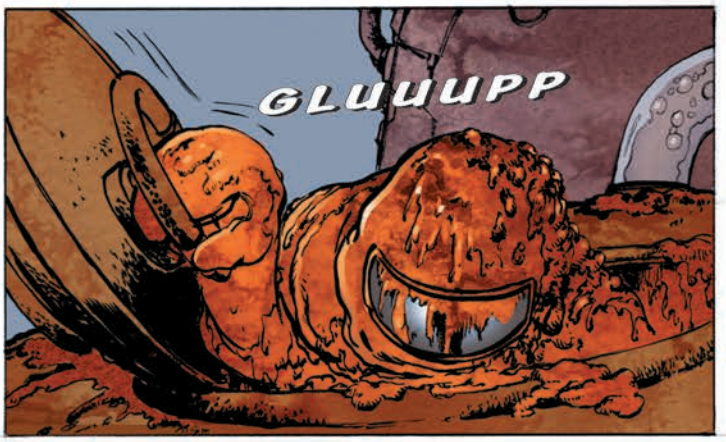
REDUCED TO THE RANKS THREE TIMES FOR VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING FELLOW OFFICERS. EACH TIME CLAIMED HE WAS 'DEFENDING THE HONOUR OF HIS CITY'.
I GOT THE FEELING HE WASN'T YOUR AVERAGE CIT.
DISHONOURABLY DISCHARGED LAST YEAR AFTER NEARLY KILLING A CIVILIAN. NO RECORD AFTER THAT TILL HE TURNS UP LIVING IN LIDDY.

NO RECORD OF ENTRY TO THE CITY, NOTHING ON FILE AT ALL. WHY I DIDN'T THINK TO RUN HIS DNA PAST SPACE CORPS, I DON'T KNOW.
WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, DE KLERK. NOT SURE I'D HAVE THOUGHT OF IT MYSELF.
BUT THIS IS MY CASE, DREDD. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF IT.

WELL, WE KNOW WHO HE IS NOW. THAT'S PROGRESS. WE'VE GOT HIS PICTURE ON EVERY NEWS BROADCAST. WHEREVER HE IS, WE'LL FIND HIM.

creee

SHLUKK


GLUUUPP

HE HAD CALCULATED THAT THE OXYGEN PILLS WOULD SUSTAIN HIM TILL WELL AFTER ANY SEARCH WAS OVER.
THEY HAVE A SAFE HOUSE ARRANGED. IN AN EMERGENCY, HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO GO THERE AND AWAIT HER CALL.
HE STEALS A POD FROM THE BLOCK HOVERPARK AND WHEN IT HAS DROPPED HIM AT HIS DESTINATION, SETS IT TO RETURN ON AUTOMATIC.
AND BEFORE LONG, SHE DOES CALL...
I REGRET THAT YOU HAD TO KILL THE MAYS COUPLE. THEY ARE NOT OUR ENEMIES, ARMON. THEY WERE, UNFORTUNATELY, A DANGER TO YOU -- TO BOTH OF US.
I MADE IT QUICK.
YOU ARE MOST CONSIDERATE.
YOU WILL FIND FACE CHANGE APPARATUS IN THE APARTMENT. USE IT. YOUR OWN IS BECOMING RATHER WELL KNOWN.
I'VE SEEN THE NEWS.
FOR THE MOMENT I THINK IT WOULD BE WISEST TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS, LET THE FUSS DIE DOWN.
IN DUE COURSE, I WILL HAVE MORE WORK FOR YOU.
SYNTH
YES, CHIEF JUDGE.

ON THE CHIEF JUDGE'S SERVICE

Script: John Wagner
Art: Colin MacNeil
Letters: Tom Frame

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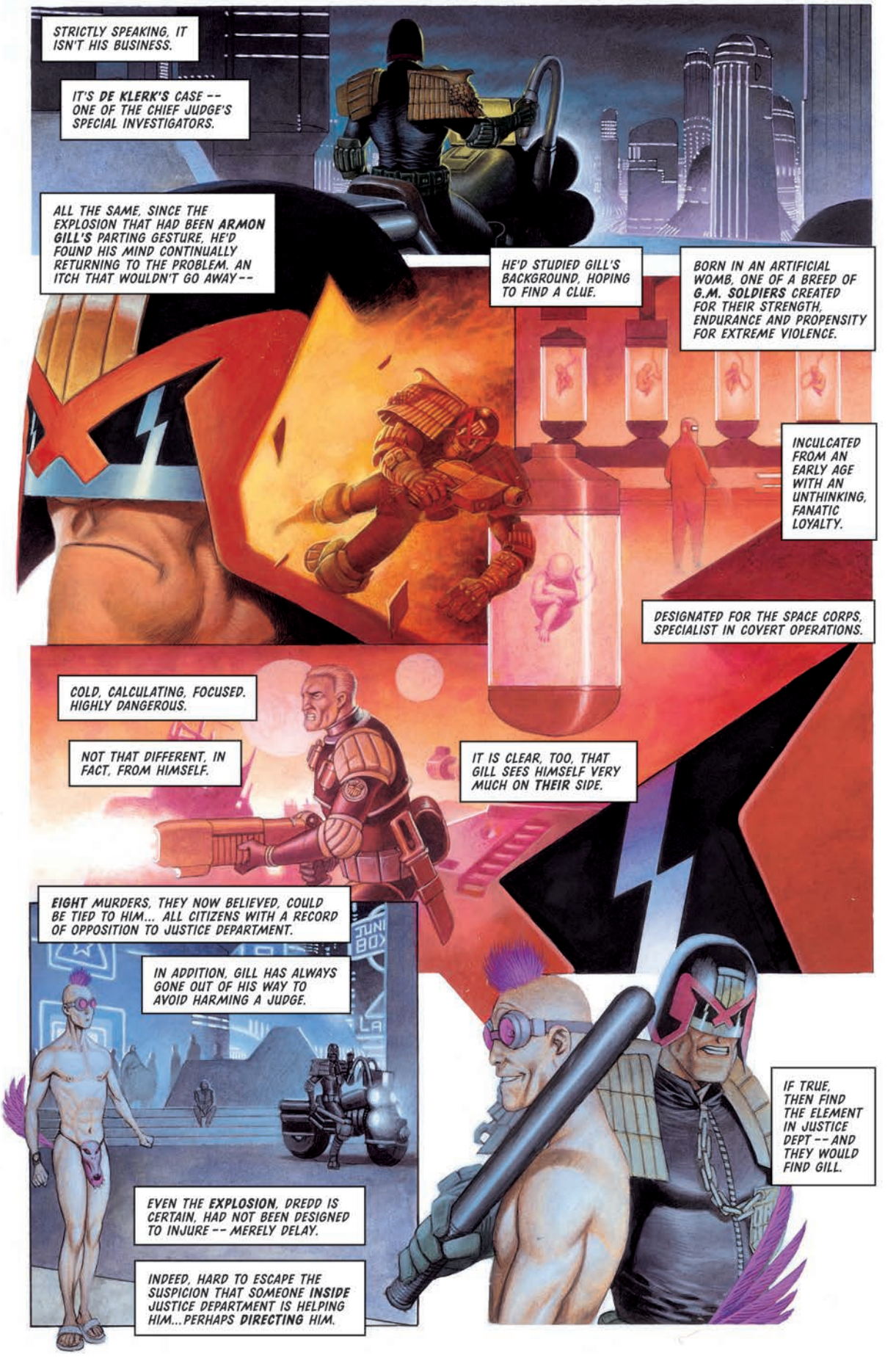
ROOFTOP
CONRAD CONN HOTEL
HE HAD SEEN A NOTICE ADVERTISING HER LECTURE. HE'D GONE TO THE **ROOFTOP AT THE CONN** TO HEAR HER SPEAK.
HE'D NEVER SEEN HER IN THE FLESH. A STRIKING WOMAN -- DARK HAIR, STYLED SEVERELY; FINELY CUT FEATURES. LIPS LIKE A SLASH OF BLOOD AGAINST HER PALE SKIN.
NOT BEAUTIFUL, BUT... HANDSOME. STRONG. A FACE HE COULD ADMIRE.
SHE'D PASSED HIM ON HER WAY OUT. SHE'D LOOKED RIGHT INTO HIS EYES -- AND SHOWN NOT ONE FLICKER, NOT THE MEREST **HINT** OF RECOGNITION, OF THE SECRETS THAT THEY SHARED...
...OF THE MANY **EXECUTIONS** HE HAD CARRIED OUT FOR HER.
SHE WAS GOOD. THIS CHIEF JUDGE. COOL. HE LIKED THAT.

HE'D STOPPED FOR A DRINK AT THE TERRACE BAR, BUT SOME LOUDMOUTH HAD SPOILED IT. THERE WAS ALWAYS ONE.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE JUDGES ARE REALLY CELIBATE? HOW DO YOU THINK LA HERSHEY GOT WHERE SHE IS?
GOOD AT HER JOB, I THOUGHT.
YES, AND I'VE HEARD SHE DOES ALL HER BEST WORK ON HER BACK. YOU ARE SO NAIVE, TONY! LISTEN, I COULD TELL YOU A FEW THINGS ABOUT OUR SAINTLY JUDGES--
LISTENING, HE'D FOUND THE OLD FAMILIAR ANGER BUILDING UP AGAIN.
WHEN SHE WENT TO THE RESTROOM, HE'D FOLLOWED...
WHAT-?
THAT HAD MADE HIM FEEL BETTER.

EVERYTHING HE COULD HAVE NEEDED HAD BEEN IN THE SAFE HOUSE...
WEAPONS, MONEY -- ENOUGH FOOD TO ENSURE HE NEEDN'T LEAVE THE APARTMENT FOR MONTHS IF NECESSARY.
IN TIME, SHE HAD COME TO HIM.
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CHOOSING A NEW IDENTITY FOR YOU, ARMON. I TRUST YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION.
OF COURSE NOT, CHIEF JUDGE.
I WILL MAKE ALL NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR RECORDS HERE. A PACKAGE WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW --
--MARIUS CLEEF, SEMI-RETIRED PREACHER, LIVES ON HIS OWN IN GANTRY BLOCK ON A SMALL STIPEND FROM THE CHURCH OF GRUD THE AVENGER.
NO LIVING RELATIVES. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, NO FRIENDS. A MAN OF STRONG OPINION, MUCH OF IT OPPOSED TO OUR AIMS HERE AT JUSTICE DEPT.
HE CAN BE REMOVED WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE.
THERE WAS A FACE-CHANGE MODULE IN THE APARTMENT. HE HAD ONLY TO FEED THE ACCOMPANYING DIGITATION INTO THE MACHINE, IT DID THE REST.
A FAR CRY FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF FACE-CHANGE TECHNOLOGY. THINGS COULD GO BADLY WRONG THEN.
NOT NOW.

GANTRY WAS A DIRT-LEVEL LOWRISE BY THE SEWAGE YARD IN 41--
WHO SUMMONS ME? REVEAL YOURSELF, SINNER!
REPEN
HE'D LOADED CLEEF INTO HIS OWN HOVERSKIMMER AND DROPPED HIM INTO THE SEWAGE PULPING POOL.
SINCE THAT NIGHT THE CHIEF JUDGE HAD CALLED ON HIS SERVICES SEVERAL TIMES.
HE HAD TO BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT NOW, CAREFUL TO MAKE THE KILLINGS APPEAR LIKE ACCIDENTS -- OR SUICIDE.
ANY WAY OTHER THAN BY HIS OWN HAND.


STRICTLY SPEAKING, IT ISN'T HIS BUSINESS.
IT'S DE KLERK'S CASE -- ONE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATORS.
ALL THE SAME, SINCE THE EXPLOSION THAT HAD BEEN ARMON GILL'S PARTING GESTURE, HE'D FOUND HIS MIND CONTINUALLY RETURNING TO THE PROBLEM. AN ITCH THAT WOULDN'T GO AWAY--
HE'D STUDIED GILL'S BACKGROUND, HOPING TO FIND A CLUE.
BORN IN AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB, ONE OF A BREED OF G.M. SOLDIERS CREATED FOR THEIR STRENGTH, ENDURANCE AND PROPENSITY FOR EXTREME VIOLENCE.
INCULCATED FROM AN EARLY AGE WITH AN UNTHINKING, FANATIC LOYALTY.
DESIGNATED FOR THE SPACE CORPS, SPECIALIST IN COVERT OPERATIONS.
COLD, CALCULATING, FOCUSED. HIGHLY DANGEROUS.
NOT THAT DIFFERENT, IN FACT, FROM HIMSELF.
IT IS CLEAR, TOO, THAT GILL SEES HIMSELF VERY MUCH ON THEIR SIDE.
EIGHT MURDERS, THEY NOW BELIEVED, COULD BE TIED TO HIM... ALL CITIZENS WITH A RECORD OF OPPOSITION TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.
IN ADDITION, GILL HAS ALWAYS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID HARMING A JUDGE.
EVEN THE EXPLOSION, DREDD IS CERTAIN, HAD NOT BEEN DESIGNED TO INJURE -- MERELY DELAY.
INDEED, HARD TO ESCAPE THE SUSPICION THAT SOMEONE INSIDE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS HELPING HIM...PERHAPS DIRECTING HIM.
IF TRUE, THEN FIND THE ELEMENT IN JUSTICE DEPT -- AND THEY WOULD FIND GILL.

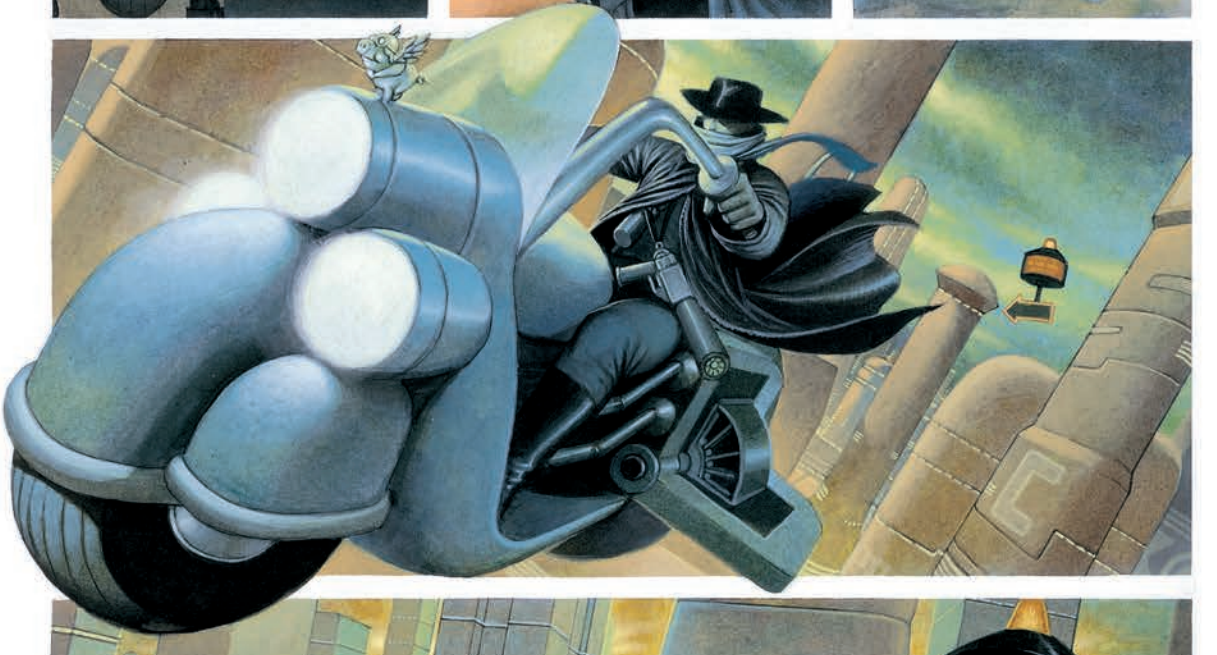
TONIGHT, WHEN HE RETURNS, SHE CALLS AGAIN.
ELMER GANTRY
HE MENTIONS THEIR MEETING, AT HER LECTURE. THERE IS NO POINT DENYING IT. SHE COULD NOT HELP BUT RECOGNISE HIM.
I'M... DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, ARMON. I EXPECTED BETTER. IT WAS UNPROFESSIONAL.
I WISHED TO SEE YOU IN PERSON, CHIEF JUDGE -- JUST ONCE. I PROMISE YOU, IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
HE THINKS IT BEST NOT TO MENTION THE KILLING OF THE WOMAN.
INWARDLY HE CURSES HIMSELF. HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED HIS TEMPER TO GET THE BETTER OF HIM.
WE WILL SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT. BUT I MUST KNOW I CAN RELY ON YOU, TOTALLY. I HAVE A...VERY DELICATE MISSION FOR YOU TO PERFORM.
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE.
MY WHOLE POSITION HERE HANGS UPON YOUR SUCCESS -- AND WITH ME, YOUR POSITION TOO, ARMON. THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKE.
MY TARGET, MA'AM?
DREDD.

17.45. ELMER GANTRY BLOCK.
HOUSE.
LISTENING.
TODAY'S HOLOPIC, 'SPACE: KILLFORCE 9'. I WISH YOU TO RECORD IT.
'SPACE: KILLFORCE 9' : SHOWING, VIOLENCE CHANNEL. 18.00 TO 19.55. CONFIRM INSTRUCTION TO RECORD.
spoingg
PUT A FREEZPAK IN TO HEAT. I WILL RETURN AT 19.40. KEEP IT WARM IF I'M LATE.
PLEASE SPECIFY TEXTURE AND FLAVOUR.
IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE. YOU CHOOSE.
TEXTURE 5, MID-CHEWY. FLAVOUR ORIENTAL. CONFIRM INSTRUCTION.

18.32. CORNER OF 333rd AND MAIN, SECTOR 44.
GACK INC

TURN RIGHT, FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS. DON'T LOOK ROUND AGAIN.

18.41.



JUSTICE BEAT
NO-FLY ZONE
18:30 - 17:00 TODAY
DETOUR

WHAT I ASK WILL REQUIRE...CONSIDERABLE SACRIFICE, ARMON. I MUST KNOW THAT YOU ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO MY SERVICE.
FOR YOU, CHIEF JUDGE, I WOULD BRAVE HELL ITSELF.
IF YOU SURVIVE, YOU WILL PUT THAT CLAIM TO THE TEST. DO NOT FAIL ME.

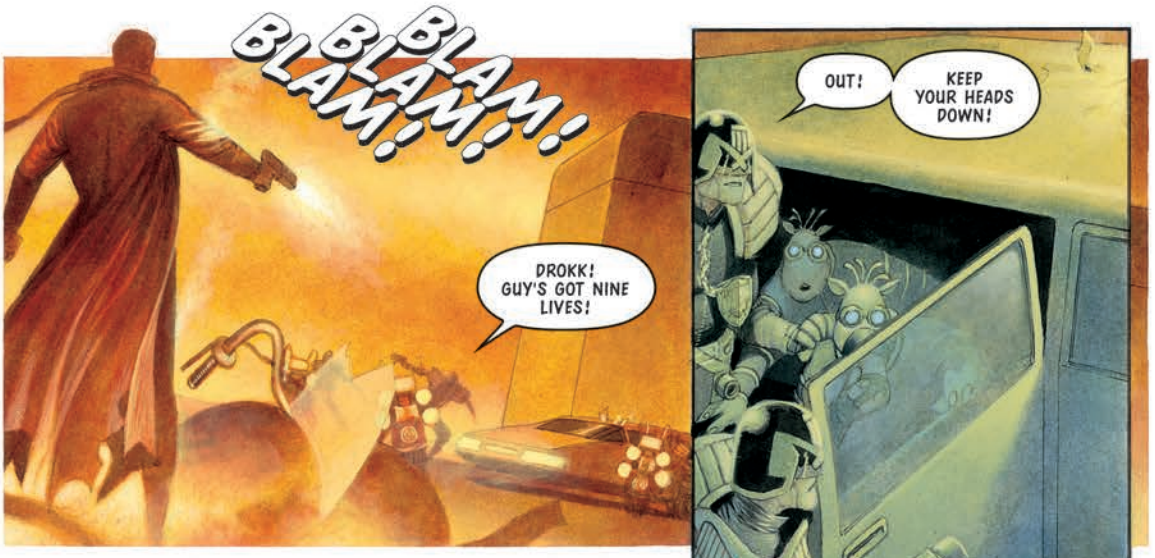
18.44. BOULEVARD 9.
THIS IS DREDD. CONVOY ON SCHEDULE. ETA ASTROPORT, 12 MINUTES.

INFORM PORT AUTHORITY EUTOPIAN AMBASSADORS REQUEST IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. HAVE MED ASSIST ON STAND BY.
MEGA-CITY AIR DOESN'T SUIT.

H-WAGON! PICKING UP A FLIER INSIDE NO-FLY ZONE. PROBABLY SOME JOYHOPPER.
INTERCEPTING.

NEGATIVE THAT JOYHOPPER! FLIER IS ARMED, ASSUME HOSTILE!
TAKING PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION!
FFFFF-ZZANGGGG

SPIRALLING DOWN THROUGH THE CONCRETE FOREST AS DARTING TONGUES OF FIRE PICK AT HIM--
ABSOLUTELY FOCUSED NOW.
FINDING BRIEF RESPITE AT STREET LEVEL, TWISTING LIKE A FISH AMONG THE EARLY EVENING PEDDERS, WHERE THEY DARE NOT STRIKE...
THEN OUT -- AND AHEAD THE TARGET...
BUT EXPOSED AGAIN! THE MOMENT OF MAXIMUM DANGER--
PRETTY DAMNED DETERMINED! HI-EX!
BDAM!
FAW-AAAAAM!
SOMETHING REAL FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT CREEP...
EX-CREEP.


BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
DROKK! GUY'S GOT NINE LIVES!
OUT!
KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN!

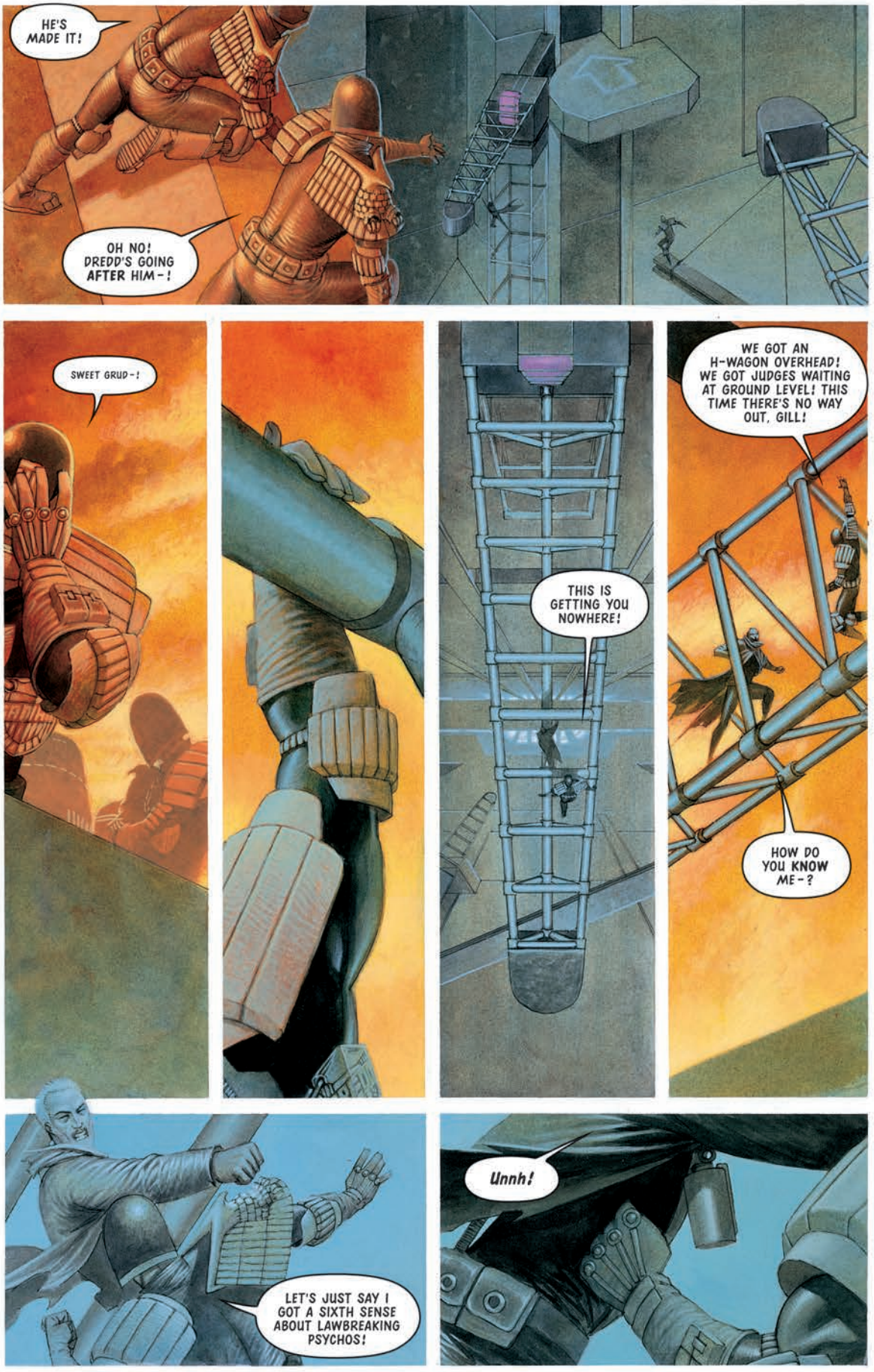
HE'S RUNNING FOR IT!
SEE HOW HE RUNS WITHOUT ANY LEGS--
HOLD YOUR FIRE!

IN THE BRIEF MOMENTS BEFORE THE FIRST EXPLOSION THERE HAD BEEN A GLIMMER OF RECOGNITION...
NOW THE TENACITY OF THE ATTACK HARDENS DREDD'S SUSPICION.
FACE HAS CHANGED BUT THE STYLE'S THE SAME! IT'S HIM -- THE JUSTICE KILLER!
AND I WANT HIM ALIVE!

DON'T DO IT, GILL!

HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT-!
unnh-!
UNNHHHHHHH
YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER HIM! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, DREDD! WAIT FOR HOVER RESCUE!
HE'S HURT, HE COULD FALL!
LET HIM!
CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL US THE TRUTH ABOUT THE JUSTICE KILLER --
IF HE DIES, WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE NAME OF HIS CONTACT IN THE DEPARTMENT!

CORNERED ON A HIGH SKEDWAY, ARMON GILL, THE SO-CALLED 'JUSTICE KILLER', TAKES DESPERATE MEASURES. BUT DREDD IS NOT TO BE PUT OFF--
ARMON GILL! THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT TO RUN!
HOLD ON! I'M COMING FOR YOU!
THEN YOU'LL WASTE YOUR TIME!
HE'S MAKING THAT GIRDER SWING!
DROKK! I SEE HIS GAME--
SO FAR, HE HAS PLAYED HIS HAND BRILLIANTLY. TO DIE NOW WOULD BE FAILURE--
--YET TO MEEKLY SURRENDER, SO OUT OF CHARACTER.

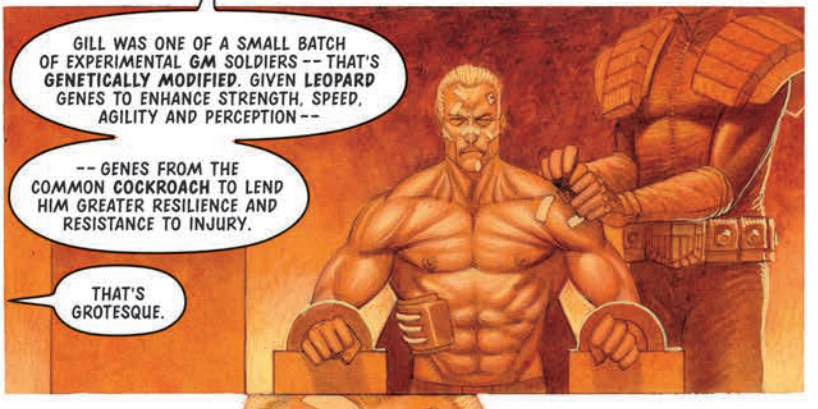

HE'S MADE IT!
OH NO! DREDD'S GOING AFTER HIM-!
SWEET GRUD-!
THIS IS GETTING YOU NOWHERE!
WE GOT AN H-WAGON OVERHEAD! WE GOT JUDGES WAITING AT GROUND LEVEL! THIS TIME THERE'S NO WAY OUT, GILL!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ME-?
LET'S JUST SAY I GOT A SIXTH SENSE ABOUT LAWBREAKING PSYCHOS!
Unnh!

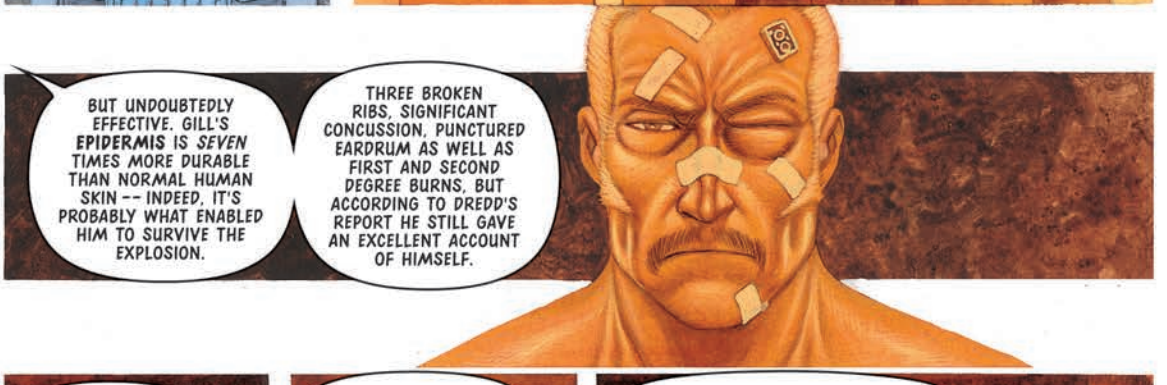
SPAPP
NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU DROP, AFTER THE TROUBLE I'VE TAKEN TO GET HOLD OF YOU-!
LET ME RETURN YOUR KINDNESS!
SWAKK!
I'M NOT GETTING THROUGH TO YOU, AM I?
LET'S TRY IT IN PLAINSPEAK!
KERRASSH
KEEP BACK!
spoinggg!

I...I WARN YOU!
AND I DON'T BUY IT, GILL. BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING WE KNOW ABOUT THE JUSTICE KILLER, IT'S THAT FOR ALL HIS CRIMES HE'S NEVER KILLED A JUDGE.
THAT'S ASSUMING I'VE GOT THE RIGHT FANATICAL MURDERING LUNATIC.
IF I HAVEN'T, I'M IN TROUBLE, HUH-?
I REGRET I... CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO TAKE ME ALIVE!
DROKK!
DREDD--
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, GIVE ME A HAND-!
GLUnnuhnnn
HZZZRRRRGZZZ
GOT IT!
LOYAL TO THE END. UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, A QUALITY I WOULD ADMIRE. UNFORTUNATELY, IN YOUR CASE, SADLY MISDIRECTED.
WHOEVER IT IS IN THE DEPARTMENT YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT, PUT IT OUT OF YOUR MIND. YOU BELONG TO US NOW. MARK MY WORDS, YOU WILL TALK.

THE *FEATURES* BELONG TO **MARIUS CLEEF**, SEMI-RETIRED PREACHER OF GANTRY BLOCK, SECTOR 41. UNDOUBTEDLY A FACE-CHANGE JOB --

--ACCORDING TO **DNA**, BODY IS DEFINITELY THAT OF **ARMON GILL**, EX-SPACE CORPS. WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE 'JUSTICE' KILLINGS.


GILL WAS ONE OF A SMALL BATCH OF EXPERIMENTAL **GM** SOLDIERS -- THAT'S **GENETICALLY MODIFIED**. GIVEN **LEOPARD** GENES TO ENHANCE STRENGTH, SPEED, AGILITY AND PERCEPTION --
-- GENES FROM THE COMMON **COCKROACH** TO LEND HIM GREATER RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE TO INJURY.
THAT'S GROTESQUE.


BUT UNDOUBTEDLY EFFECTIVE. GILL'S **EPIDERMIS** IS *SEVEN* TIMES MORE DURABLE THAN NORMAL HUMAN SKIN -- INDEED, IT'S PROBABLY WHAT ENABLED HIM TO SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION.
THREE BROKEN RIBS, SIGNIFICANT CONCUSSION, PUNCTURED EARDRUM AS WELL AS FIRST AND SECOND DEGREE BURNS, BUT ACCORDING TO DREDD'S REPORT HE STILL GAVE AN EXCELLENT ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF.

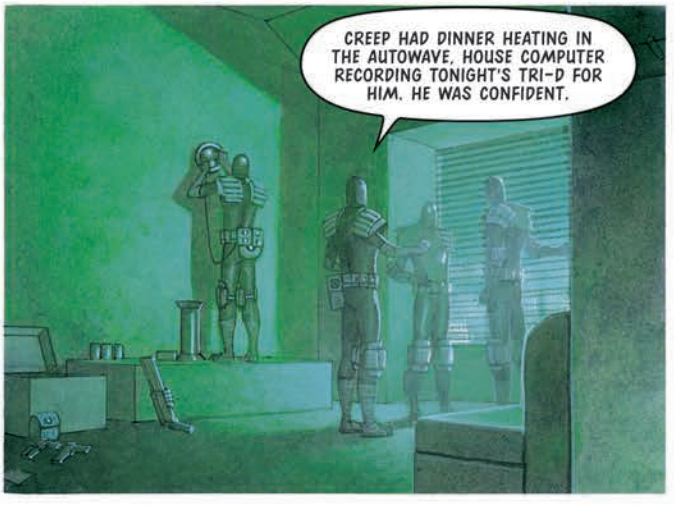
DREDD BELIEVES SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT IS CONTROLLING HIM.
SADLY, IT IS A POSSIBILITY. REST ASSURED, CHIEF JUDGE, I'LL GET TO THE TRUTH.

MY NAME IS DE KLERK, SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ATTACHED TO THE CHIEF JUDGE'S OFFICE.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE KNOWN YOU A VERY LONG TIME, ARMON...

IF YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE HELPING US, YOU'RE DELUDED. YOU'VE CAUSED US UNTOLD TROUBLE AND BROUGHT GRIEF TO MANY DECENT CITIZENS.
YES, *DECENT* CITIZENS. THEY MAY NOT AGREE WITH US, BUT THEY STILL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS WITHIN THE LAW. WHAT THEY DIDN'T DESERVE WAS TO BE **MURDERED** IN COLD BLOOD.
NOW I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS AND I KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE TOTALLY FRANK WITH ME.
CURSE YOUR DRUGS-!

THERE IS LITTLE IN MARIUS CLEEF'S APARTMENT TO AID THE INVESTIGATION.

THE STENCH OF THE NEARBY SEWAGE YARD PERVADES THE BLOCK...
IT'S A GOOD GUESS THAT'S WHERE THE **REAL** CLEEF ENDED UP.
WE'LL TAKE THAT AS READ. DON'T SUPPOSE *WORKS* IS GOING TO WANT TO START DREDGING THE WHOLE YARD.


CREEP HAD DINNER HEATING IN THE AUTOWAVE, HOUSE COMPUTER RECORDING TONIGHT'S TRI-D FOR HIM. HE WAS CONFIDENT.

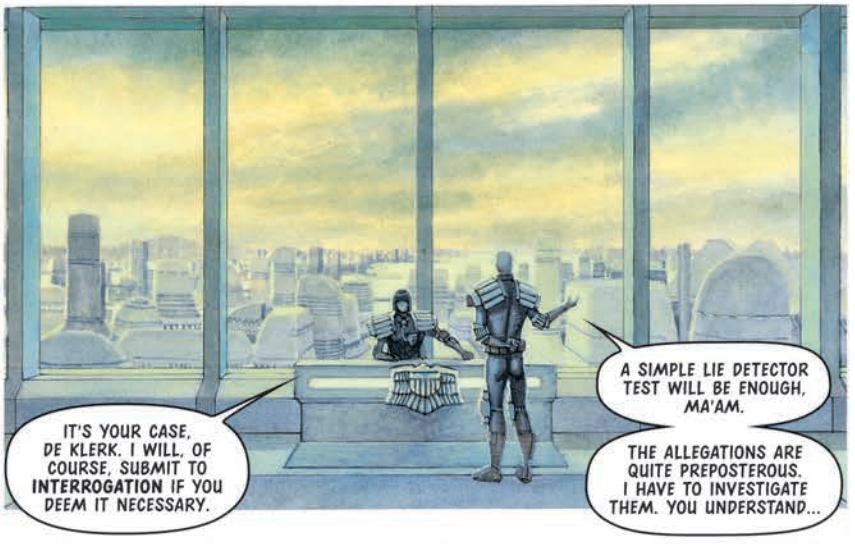
YEAH... LOOKS THAT WAY.

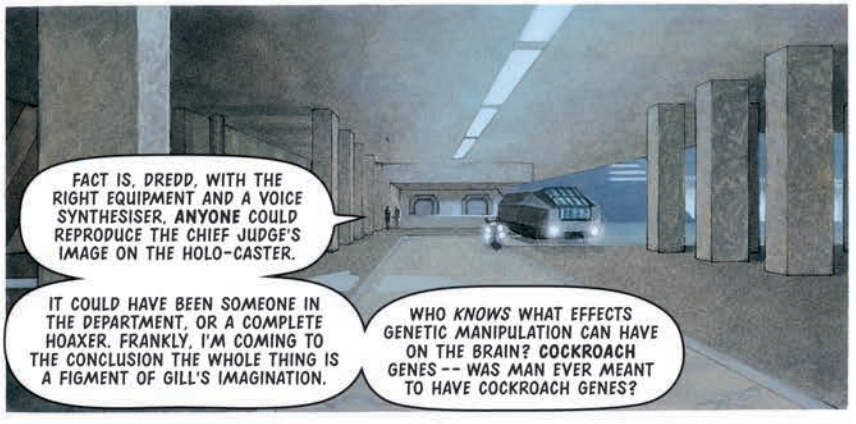
WHO IS IT, ARMON? **WHO** ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
YOU KNOW YOU **WANT** TO TELL US! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE **DEPARTMENT**, ISN'T THERE?
SMACK!
PLEASE DON'T HIT ME ANYMORE...! I CAN'T SAY! SHE'D BE MAD!

SHE? WHO'S **SHE**, ARMON?
THE CHIEF JUDGE!
OH, GRUD, I-I'VE SAID IT-!

HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
GRUD! THE CHIEF JUDGE!

THE ALLEGATIONS ARE, CHIEF JUDGE, THAT OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS **YOU** HAVE DIRECTED THE ACTIVITIES OF **ARMON GILL**, THE **'JUSTICE KILLER'**.
THAT HE HAS COMMITTED **TWENTY-ONE** MURDERS AT YOUR BEHEST. THAT HE IS, IN EFFECT, YOUR **UNOFFICIAL ASSASSIN** -- AS HE TERMS HIMSELF, **'THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN'**.
DE KLERK

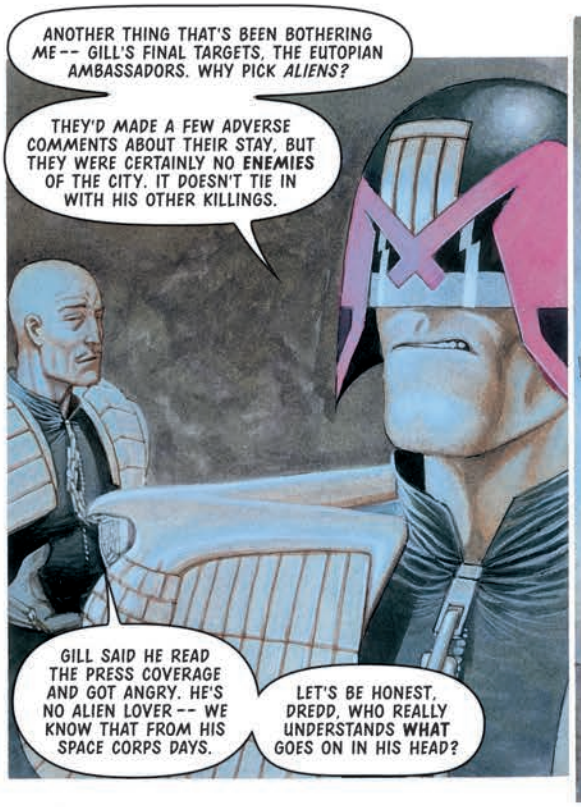

IT'S YOUR CASE, DE KLERK. I WILL, OF COURSE, SUBMIT TO **INTERROGATION** IF YOU DEEM IT NECESSARY.
A SIMPLE LIE DETECTOR TEST WILL BE ENOUGH, MA'AM.
THE ALLEGATIONS ARE QUITE PREPOSTEROUS. I HAVE TO INVESTIGATE THEM. YOU UNDERSTAND...


FACT IS, DREDD, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT AND A VOICE SYNTHESISER, **ANYONE** COULD REPRODUCE THE CHIEF JUDGE'S IMAGE ON THE HOLO-CASTER.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT, OR A COMPLETE HOAXER. FRANKLY, I'M COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THE WHOLE THING IS A FIGMENT OF GILL'S IMAGINATION.
WHO *KNOWS* WHAT EFFECTS GENETIC MANIPULATION CAN HAVE ON THE BRAIN? **COCKROACH** GENES -- WAS MAN EVER MEANT TO HAVE COCKROACH GENES?

IT'S GROTESQUE, I'LL ADMIT. BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE OTHER APARTMENT. WHO STOCKED IT, WHO **SUPPLIED** GILL?
IT'S POSSIBLE GILL SUPPLIED HIMSELF. THAT PART OF IT DOESN'T FIT WITH THE REST OF HIS DELUSION, SO HE'S WIPED IT FROM HIS MEMORY.

THEY'D FOUND THE SAFE HOUSE, AND THE FACE-CHANGE MACHINE, AND ENOUGH TRACES OF ARMON GILL TO KNOW HE'D BEEN THERE.
THE APARTMENT WAS REGISTERED TO A QUINLEY K. OTEY, RESIDENT OF LUNA 8. ENQUIRIES ON LUNA ELICITED THAT OTEY HAD NOT BEEN SEEN THERE FOR OVER 18 MONTHS.

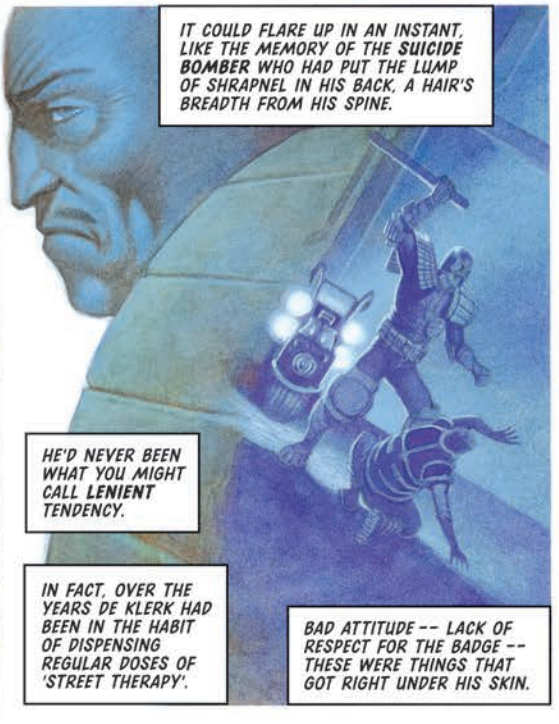
UNDER QUESTIONING, GILL HAD ADMITTED MURDERING OTEY AND DISPOSING OF THE BODY IN A SECTOR 31 CHEM PIT.
HE DENIES STOCKING THE APARTMENT, OR OBTAINING ANY OF HIS OWN FINANCE OR EQUIPMENT. THAT WAS ALL PROVIDED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE.
WELL, WE KNOW *SHE* HAD NO INVOLVEMENT.


ANOTHER THING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME -- GILL'S FINAL TARGETS, THE EUTOPIAN AMBASSADORS. WHY PICK *ALIENS?*
THEY'D MADE A FEW ADVERSE COMMENTS ABOUT THEIR STAY, BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY NO **ENEMIES** OF THE CITY. IT DOESN'T TIE IN WITH HIS OTHER KILLINGS.
GILL SAID HE READ THE PRESS COVERAGE AND GOT ANGRY. HE'S NO ALIEN LOVER -- WE KNOW THAT FROM HIS SPACE CORPS DAYS.
LET'S BE HONEST, DREDD, WHO REALLY UNDERSTANDS **WHAT** GOES ON IN HIS HEAD?

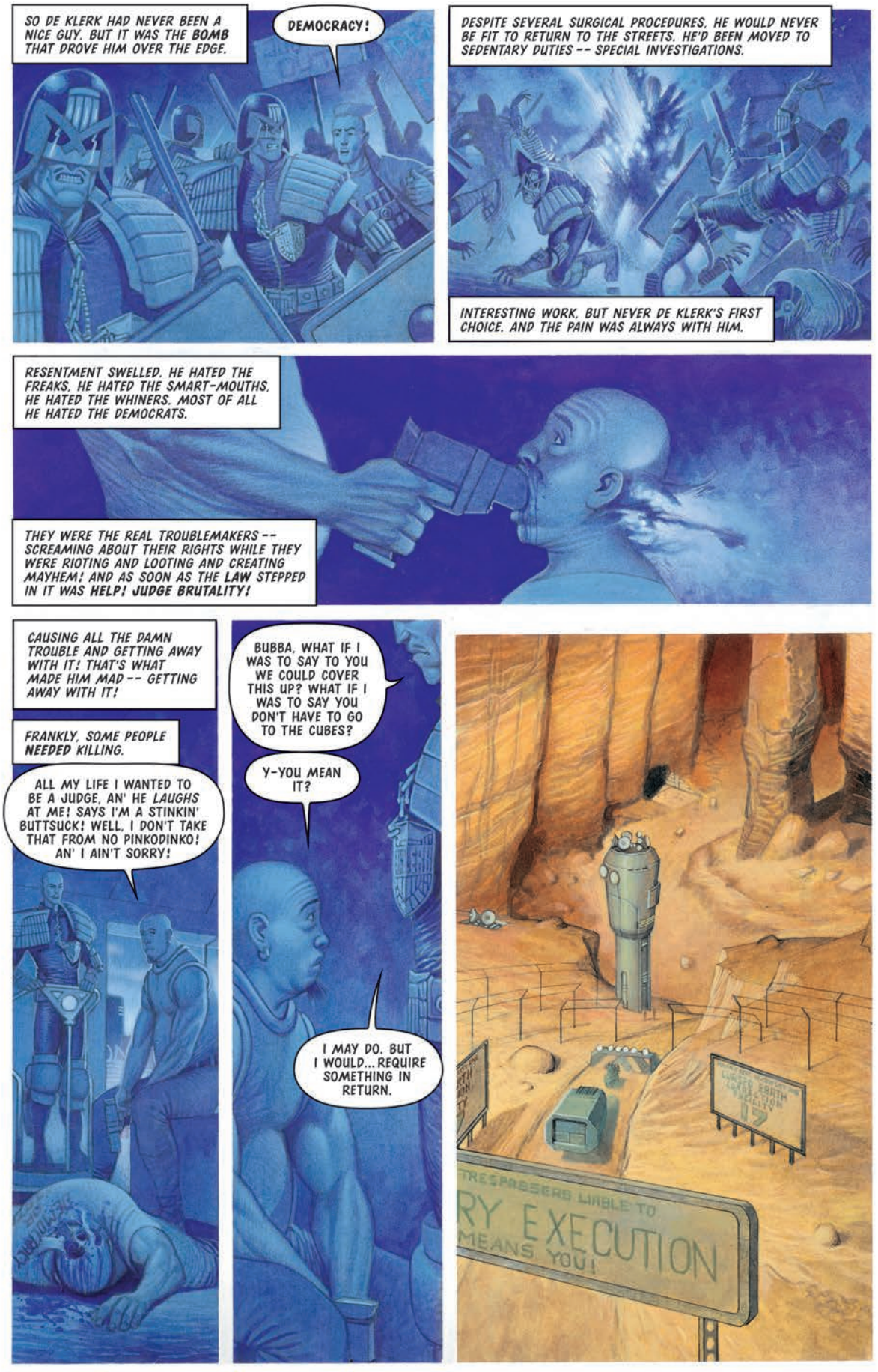
YOU ALL RIGHT, DE KLERK?
THE OLD WOUND -- GIVES ME A LITTLE GRIEF FROM TIME TO TIME. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

OPEN THE GATES!
VRMMMMMMM

THE BACK STILL HURT LIKE HELL SOMETIMES.


*IT COULD FLARE UP IN AN INSTANT, LIKE THE MEMORY OF THE **SUICIDE BOMBER** WHO HAD PUT THE LUMP OF SHRAPNEL IN HIS BACK, A HAIR'S BREADTH FROM HIS SPINE.*
*HE'D NEVER BEEN WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL **LENIENT** TENDENCY.*
IN FACT, OVER THE YEARS DE KLERK HAD BEEN IN THE HABIT OF DISPENSING REGULAR DOSES OF 'STREET THERAPY'.
BAD ATTITUDE -- LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE BADGE -- THESE WERE THINGS THAT GOT RIGHT UNDER HIS SKIN.

A LITTLE PERSONAL CURATIVE TREATMENT COULD NIP PROBLEMS IN THE BUD, AS WELL AS SAVE ON PAPERWORK AND EXPENSIVE CUBE TIME.
AND IT FELT GOOD, TOO.


SO DE KLERK HAD NEVER BEEN A NICE GUY. BUT IT WAS THE **BOMB** THAT DROVE HIM OVER THE EDGE.
DEMOCRACY!
DESPITE SEVERAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES, HE WOULD NEVER BE FIT TO RETURN TO THE STREETS. HE'D BEEN MOVED TO SEDENTARY DUTIES -- SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS.
INTERESTING WORK, BUT NEVER DE KLERK'S FIRST CHOICE. AND THE PAIN WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM.
RESENTMENT SWELLED. HE HATED THE FREAKS, HE HATED THE SMART-MOUTHS, HE HATED THE WHINERS. MOST OF ALL HE HATED THE DEMOCRATS.
THEY WERE THE REAL TROUBLEMAKERS -- SCREAMING ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS WHILE THEY WERE RIOTING AND LOOTING AND CREATING MAYHEM! AND AS SOON AS THE **LAW** STEPPED IN IT WAS **HELP! JUDGE BRUTALITY!**
CAUSING ALL THE DAMN TROUBLE AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT! THAT'S WHAT MADE HIM MAD -- GETTING AWAY WITH IT!
FRANKLY, SOME PEOPLE **NEEDED** KILLING.
ALL MY LIFE I WANTED TO BE A JUDGE, AN' HE *LAUGHS* AT ME! SAYS I'M A STINKIN' BUTTSUCK! WELL, I DON'T TAKE THAT FROM NO PINKODINKO! AN' I AIN'T SORRY!
BUBBA, WHAT IF I WAS TO SAY TO YOU WE COULD COVER THIS UP? WHAT IF I WAS TO SAY YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE CUBES?
Y-YOU MEAN IT?
I MAY DO. BUT I WOULD... REQUIRE SOMETHING IN RETURN.
TRESPASSERS LIABLE TO
RY EXECUTION
MEANS YOU!

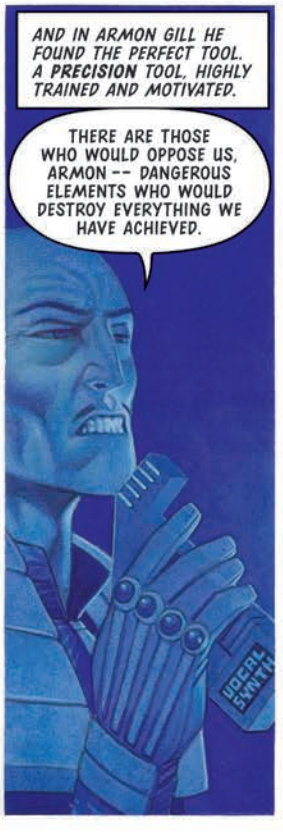
ARMON GILL, FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE CITY AND PEOPLE OF MEGA-CITY ONE, THE SENTENCE IS **LIFE IMPRISONMENT** WITHIN THIS CORRECTION FACILITY.

THIS ONE'S DANGEROUS. WATCH HIM CAREFULLY.

SO ARMON GILL HAD NOT BEEN THE FIRST. BEFORE HIM THERE HAD BEEN BUBBA O'KELLY.
BUBBA HAD KILLED FOUR TIMES FOR DE KLERK BEFORE BEING CAUGHT IN THE ACT.
DROP IT!

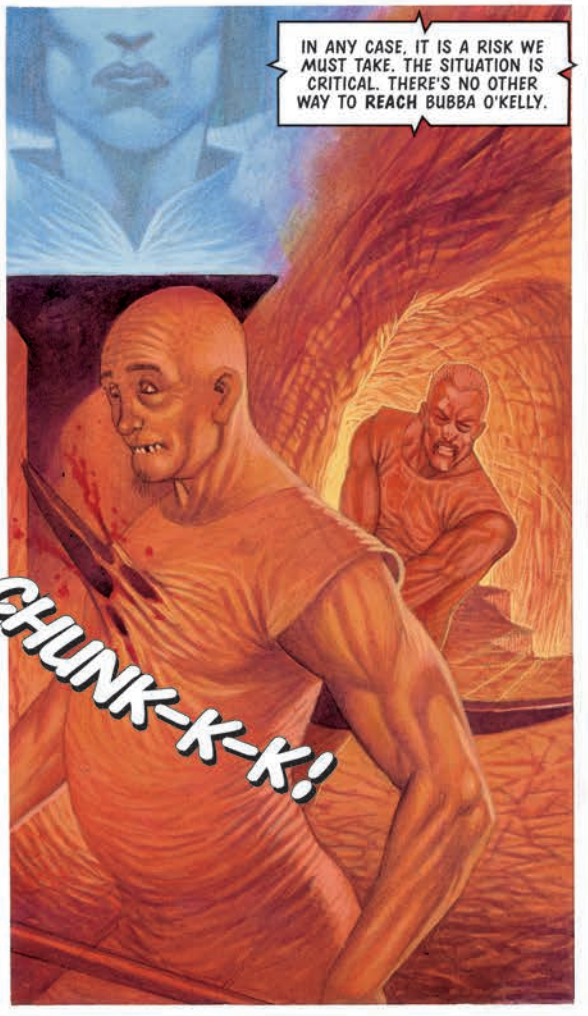
IT WAS ONLY BY PURE LUCK THAT DE KLERK MANAGED TO GET TO HIS MAN BEFORE THE INTERROGATION.
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT. DO YOUR TIME. I'LL GET YOU OUT AS SOON AS I CAN. TRUST ME.

IT HAD TAUGHT HIM VALUABLE LESSONS. NEXT TIME THERE MUST BE NOTHING TO LINK DE KLERK TO THE ASSASSIN.

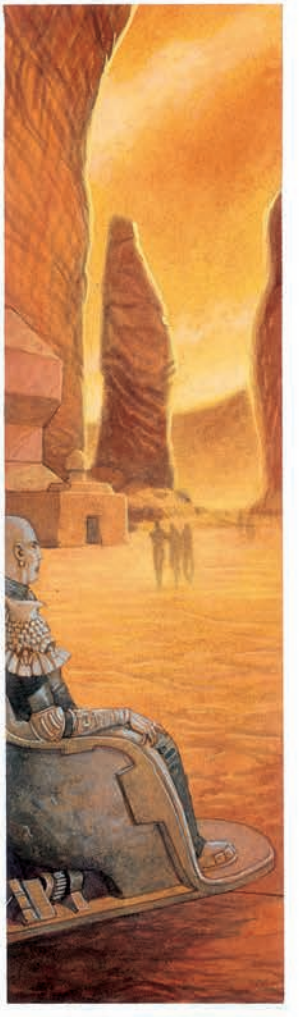

AND IN ARMON GILL HE FOUND THE PERFECT TOOL. A **PRECISION** TOOL, HIGHLY TRAINED AND MOTIVATED.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD OPPOSE US, ARMON -- DANGEROUS ELEMENTS WHO WOULD DESTROY EVERYTHING WE HAVE ACHIEVED.

THEN, JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, HE'D RECEIVED A CALL...
DE KLERK?

JUST GOT OUTA THAT HELL HOLE THEY CALL CORRECTION FACILITY 17. GOT A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OLD PAL BUBBA.
HE'S GETTIN' TIRED OF WAITIN'. HE SAYS EITHER YOU GET HIM OUTA THERE NOW OR HE'S GONNA START YAKKIN'. AN' HE SAYS YOU BETTER GIVE ME TEN GRAND FOR PASSIN' ON THE MESSAGE.
HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS?
'COURSE I AIN'T. THINK I'M STUPID?
IN FOR LIFE, HUH? WELL TAKE IT FROM ME, GILL, LIFE DON'T MEAN MUCH IN THIS DEATH PIT!
NO TALKING THERE!
YOU -- O'KELLY! GET TO WORK!
WHY SHOULD I? I DON'T BELONG HERE! STINKIN' CITY -- I'M AN INNOCENT MAN!
WHY TARGET DREDD?
DREDD BELIEVES THERE'S A JUDGE INVOLVED IN CONTROLLING YOUR ACTIVITIES. HE WANTS A CONFESSION. HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE CAN RELY ON TO TAKE YOU ALIVE.
REMEMBER, IT MUST NOT APPEAR THAT YOU WANT OR EXPECT TO BE CAPTURED. THEY MUST NEVER SUSPECT THE TRUE PURPOSE OF YOUR MISSION.
BUT IF THEY CAPTURE ME, THEY WILL MAKE ME CONFESS! THEY WILL MAKE ME TELL THEM EVERYTHING -- INCLUDING YOUR PART, CHIEF JUDGE.
THERE IS NO PROOF. IT WILL BE YOUR WORD AGAINST MINE. THEY WILL BELIEVE MINE. I WILL MAKE SURE OF IT.


IN ANY CASE, IT IS A RISK WE MUST TAKE. THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO REACH BUBBA O'KELLY.
CHUNK-K-K!

DAMNED IF I WAS GONNA STAND BY AN' LISTEN TO HIM BADMOUTHIN' MY CITY!



I PROMISE YOU, AS SOON AS I CAN I WILL GET YOU OUT OF THERE. BE PATIENT, ARMON.
TRUST ME.

REVENGE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN

Script: John Wagner
Art: John Burns
Letters: Tom Frame

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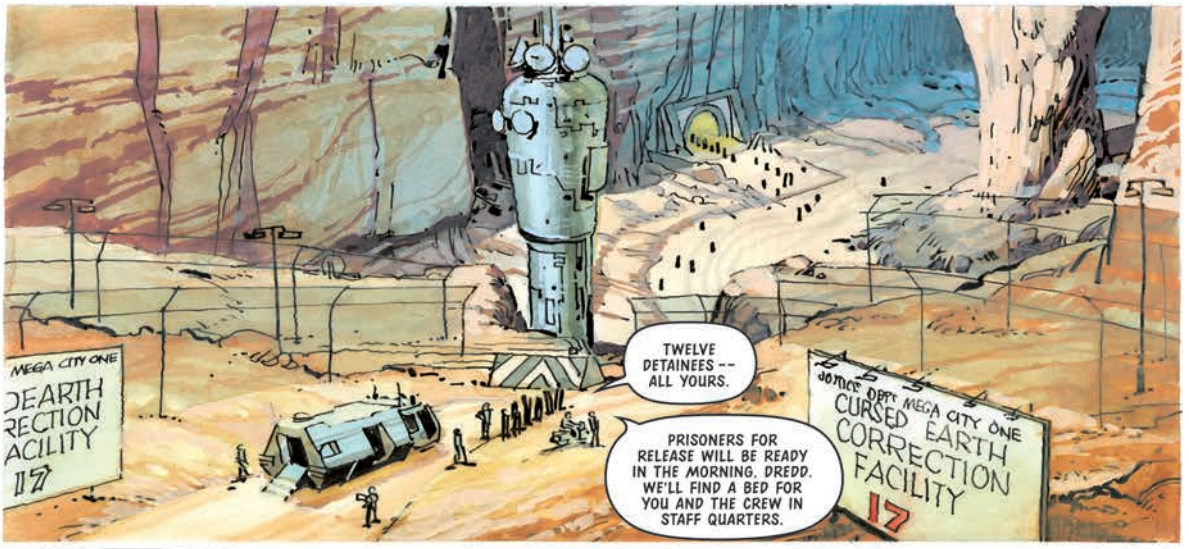

MEGA CITY ONE
DEARTH
RECTION
ACILITY
17
TWELVE DETAINEES -- ALL YOURS.
PRISONERS FOR RELEASE WILL BE READY IN THE MORNING, DREDD. WE'LL FIND A BED FOR YOU AND THE CREW IN STAFF QUARTERS.
JUSTICE DEPT MEGA CITY ONE
CURSED EARTH
CORRECTION
FACILITY
17

EYES FRONT AND FORWARD, NO TALKING, STAY IN FILE!
YOU'RE IN **CORRECTION FACILITY 17** NOW! ONE STEP OUT OF LINE AND I **GUARANTEE** YOU WILL *BE* **CORRECTED!**
EDGAR?
THE WARDEN? TRY HER OFFICE -- ADMIN BLOCK.

MAIL CALL! STEP FORWARD WHEN YOUR NAME IS CALLED!
DONOVAN -- NERDLY -- SEMPLE --
MAIL

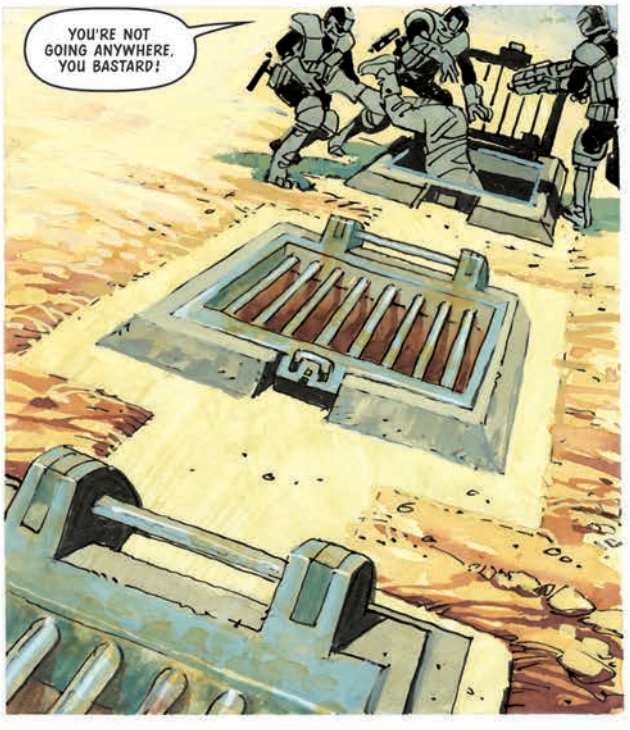
SHE... SHE'S MOVED IN WITH HIM! SHE WANTS A DIVORCE!
HELL... SORRY, DAKE.
FIFTEEN LOUSY YEARS IN THIS HELLHOLE! FIFTEEN LOUSY YEARS! WHAT'S A GUY SUPPOSED TO DO? I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE! I GOTTA GET OUTA HERE! I GOTTA GO OVER THE WALL!
EASY, BUDDY, D-DON'T TALK CRAZY!
NOTHING FOR YOU AGAIN, GILL. WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE SO POPULAR?
PUT THAT TOOL DOWN, GILL! YOU WANT ANOTHER SPELL IN THE BOX?
Unnh-!
CHUNKK!

TELL HER I'VE WAITED TOO LONG! TELL HER I'M COMING!

UNNNH
YOU'RE OUT OF LINE, PRISONER!
SZZZAKKK KKKK

PUT HIM IN THE HOT BOX!
HOLD HIM, DAMMIT!

TELL HER THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN IS COMING!


YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, YOU BASTARD!

ROAST IN HELL!
SLANGGG

JUST CALLED TO PAY MY RESPECTS, EDGAR.

RESPECTS NOTED.
ANYTHING ELSE?

RAN INTO ARMON GILL OUT THERE. HE STILL BELIEVES HE WAS THE CHIEF JUDGE'S PRIVATE EXECUTIONER.
OUR FORM OF CORRECTION DOESN'T RUN TO PSYCHOTHERAPY.
HOW'S HE BEEN BEHAVING?

GILL SKEWERED A FELLOW INMATE WITH A PICKAXE THE DAY YOU BROUGHT HIM IN. SINCE THEN THE OTHER PRISONERS LEAVE HIM WELL ALONE. LET'S JUST SAY HE'S TROUBLE.
A GM SOLDIER... BORN IN AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB, IMPLANTED WITH GENES FROM THE LEOPARD AND COCKROACH TO GIVE HIM UNNATURAL STRENGTH, ENDURANCE, AGGRESSION...
A VERY DANGEROUS COMBINATION... WHEN IT GOES WRONG.

THE CASE WAS NEVER SATISFACTORILY CLEARED UP. WE NEVER FOUND THE PERSON WHO WAS CONTROLLING GILL.
NOT OUR ESTEEMED CHIEF JUDGE?
NEGATIVE. WE'RE CERTAIN OF THAT.
ALL THE INDICATORS WERE IT WAS SOMEONE INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT -- A JUDGE... AN AUXILIARY. THE CASE JUDGE, DE KLERK, CAME UP BLANK.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

I'LL TAKE HELP WHERE I CAN GET IT, EDGAR. I'M NOT PROUD.
YOU MAY NO LONGER BE ACTIVE, BUT YOU STILL HAVE ONE OF THE SHARPEST MINDS ON THE FORCE.

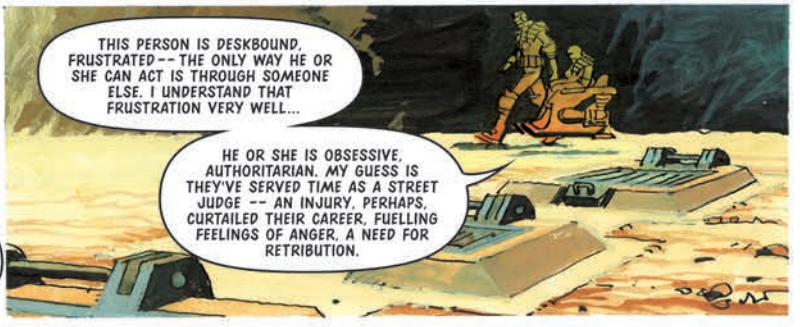
AFTER ALL THAT'S GONE BETWEEN US, YOU COME TO ME...?
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MA'AM. PRISONER ON THE WALL.
COMING.

DAKER, MA'AM. GOT A DEAR JOHN FROM THE WIFE.
GO FOR IT, DAKER!
YOU CAN DO IT, GUY!
HE'S NEVER GOING TO MAKE THE OVERHANG!
FEET'S GONE-!
DAKER! THIS IS THE WARDEN! I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO COME DOWN!
HANG ON, DAKE!
NO ONE HAS EVER SUCCEEDED IN GOING OVER THE WALL!
I DON'T CARE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP ME! I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
G-GRUDDAM—
PREWIT -- KASO! GET THAT GARBAGE CLEANED UP!

LET THIS BE A LESSON TO THE REST OF YOU SCUM! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT! DO YOUR TIME AND KEEP YOUR NOSES CLEAN!
YOU DON'T STOP THEM?
IT'S THEIR CHOICE.

WHO'S TO SAY IT'S NOT BETTER THIS WAY THAN TO ROT YOUR DAYS AWAY IN CORRECTION FACILITY 17?

STILL BRISTLING OVER HER DEMOTION -- HEAD OF PSU TO WARDEN OF A CURSED EARTH WORKFARM.
BUT THE PROBLEM HAD PRICKED HER INTEREST...
ALL RIGHT, BROAD STROKES -- YOU CAN ELIMINATE ANY ACTIVE STREET JUDGE. M.O. DOESN'T FIT. TOO CUMBERSOME, TOO MANY RISKS.
MY THOUGHTS TOO.


THIS PERSON IS DESKBOUND, FRUSTRATED -- THE ONLY WAY HE OR SHE CAN ACT IS THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE. I UNDERSTAND THAT FRUSTRATION VERY WELL...
HE OR SHE IS OBSESSIVE, AUTHORITARIAN. MY GUESS IS THEY'VE SERVED TIME AS A STREET JUDGE -- AN INJURY, PERHAPS, CURTAILED THEIR CAREER, FUELLING FEELINGS OF ANGER, A NEED FOR RETRIBUTION.

LOOK FOR A RECORD OF EXCESSIVE JUDGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO DEMOCRATIC AND OTHER ANTI-JUDICIAL ELEMENTS -- PROBABLY A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE KILL RATIO.
THAT NARROWS IT DOWN SOME.
ONE OTHER THING...

THE PRISONER GILL MURDERED THE DAY HE ARRIVED -- BUBBA O'KELLY -- HAD A SIMILAR RECORD. FOUR MURDERS, IDENTICAL PROFILES TO GILL'S VICTIMS.
I FIND THAT INTERESTING.
YOU REPORTED YOUR SUSPICIONS?
IT SLIPPED MY MIND.

SAME OLD EDGAR. STILL PLAYING IT CLOSE TO HER CHEST.
SO, THE KILLING OF O'KELLY -- COINCIDENCE... OR DELIBERATE ACT?
COULD IT BE THAT ARMON GILL ISN'T THE FIRST CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN?

JUSTICE DEPT
CURSED
CORRE
EARTH
CITY ONE

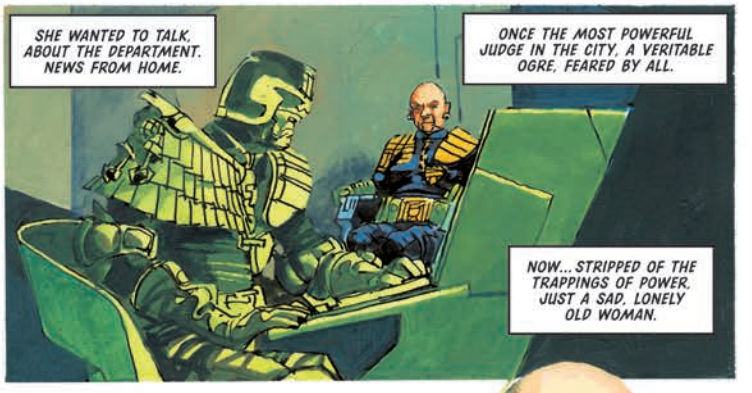
WHOLE DAMN COMPOUND'S FLOODING.
WHAT ABOUT GILL?

LET HIM ROT. COOL THE BASTARD DOWN SOME.

UNNnnnnnHHHHH

ARE YOU BUSY?
JUST GOING OVER SOME FILES. THE GILL CASE.

HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN INCARCERATED HERE-- EIGHTEEN MONTHS?
THE CASE WAS NEVER SOLVED. WHOEVER WAS USING ARMON GILL TO CARRY OUT UNJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IS STILL OUT THERE.
A WORM EATING AWAY AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE INSIDE... THAT BOTHERS ME.


SHE WANTED TO TALK, ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT. NEWS FROM HOME.
ONCE THE MOST POWERFUL JUDGE IN THE CITY, A VERITABLE OGRE, FEARED BY ALL.
NOW... STRIPPED OF THE TRAPPINGS OF POWER, JUST A SAD, LONELY OLD WOMAN.

IT HAD BEEN A HARSH JUDGEMENT, BUT IN HER CASE, NECESSARY.

RONSON, MA'AM! BARS OF THE HOTBOX BEEN FORCED OPEN! GILL'S GONE!

HARD TO BELIEVE ANY MAN COULD'VE BENT THOSE BARS, MA'AM, BUT YOU KNOW HOW STRONG HE IS...
YES, MA'AM, I GOT A FULL ALERT ON!
WEEAAAAEEEAAAAEE
SOMEONE'S MAKING A BREAK!
GO FOR IT, BUDDY!
EEEAAAAEEEAAAAEEEEEEAAAOOO
UP THERE!
HOLY CREM! LOOK AT HIM MOVE!
THAT AIN'T NATURAL!
BRING HIM DOWN!
WEEAAAAEEEAAAAEEEEEEAAAOOO

FTOOOM
FTOOOM
FTOOOM
HE'S LIKE A CAT!
LEOPARD GENES! GUY'S A G.M. FREAKSHOW!
HE'S FOUND A FOLD IN THE ROCK! CAN'T GET AT HIM!

THERE HE GOES! HE'S ALMOST THERE!
FAWOOOOOOOM
HELL ON EARTH-- HE MADE IT! HE'S OVER THE WALL!
DON'T STAND THERE GAWKING -- GET AFTER HIM!

IT'S GILL! HE'S GONE OVER THE WALL!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NOT FOR HIM! MOUNT UP! LET'S MOVE!

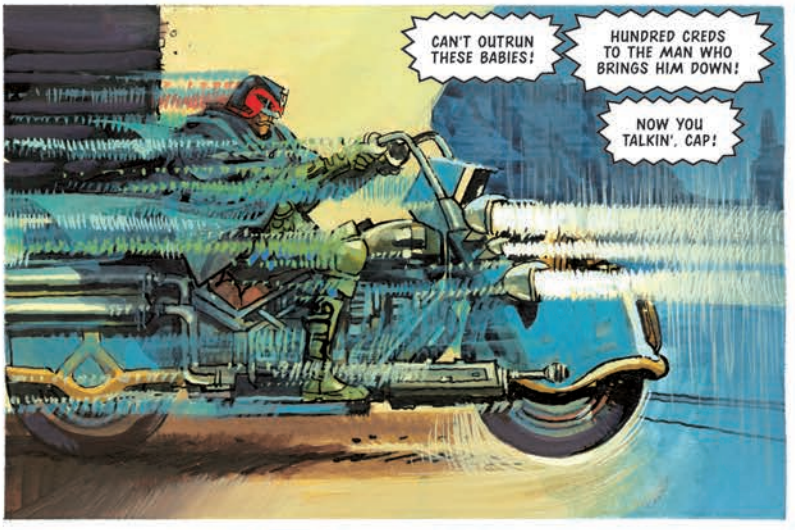
THIS IS EDGAR. YOU ARE ADVISED THE PRISONER IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS. TAKE NO CHANCES. SHOOT TO KILL.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NOT REQUIRED, DREDD. THEY'LL FIND HIM.
EVERY LITTLE HELPS, EDGAR.

"BESIDES, THEY DON'T KNOW HIM LIKE I DO."

GO, GILL!
YOU CAN MAKE IT, BOY!
YOU GOTTA BE OUTA YOUR MINDS -- IF THERE'S ONE GUY WHO NEEDS LOCKED UP, IT'S THAT GENETIC FREAK!

GOT SOMETHING ON INFRA-RED, HALF A KAY NORTH! BIG AN' MOVIN' FAST!


CAN'T OUTRUN THESE BABIES!
HUNDRED CREDS TO THE MAN WHO BRINGS HIM DOWN!
NOW YOU TALKIN', CAP!

NAILED HIM!
I HIT HIM FIRST, MAN!
HELL.
ALL RIGHT, SPREAD OUT, KEEP LOOKING.

I NEVER KILLED A MAN BEFORE. WHAT IF HE TRIES TO SURRENDER?
MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T.
GILL AIN'T A MAN, SHORTY. THINK OF IT LIKE SQUASHIN' A BUG.
THEY THINK GILL'S GOING TO SQUASH EASY, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP AGAINST.

CHECK THOSE DERELICTS.
YO!

SOUND OFF!
EMMET. 0031STROKE7 EXPERIMENTAL!
FREEMAN. 0031STROKE8 EXPERIMENTAL!
GILL. 0031STROKE9 EXPERIMENTAL!

YOU SERVE BUT ONE GRUD, BOY, AND THAT GRUD IS YOUR CITY!
WHO DO YOU LOVE?
MEGA-CITY ONE!

WHO IS GRUD'S REPRESENTATIVE ON EARTH? WHO DO YOU *SERVE, HONOUR* AND *OBEY?*
THE CHIEF JUDGE, SIR!

GILL 00319 IS INTERESTING...
ABLE TO LOWER BODY TEMPERATURE AND REDUCE HEART RATE TO PRACTICALLY ZERO -- YOU SEE THERE, THE DRONE'S SENSORS DIDN'T DETECT HIM. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ROACH GENES.
ROACH, YOU SAY?
"HIS EPIDERMIS IS TEN TIMES AS TOUGH AS NORMAL HUMAN SKIN. HE IS INCREDIBLY STRONG AND DURABLE -- IN TESTS HE'S BENCH-PRESSED OVER HALF A TON."
"BY GRUD, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR AN ARMY OF THEM!"
"THE PROGRAMME IS STILL EXPERIMENTAL, GENERAL."
GILL'S THE PRODUCT OF SOME VERY UNUSUAL GENETIC MANIPULATION. THERE ARE BOUND TO BE... DRAWBACKS.
AH... LIKE HIDING IN CRACKS AND PEEING ON THE FOOD?
RELEASE THAT CIVILIAN, SOLDIER!
NOTHIN' ON INFRA-RED.
STANDS TO REASON. HE AIN'T GOING TO HANG AROUND THIS CLOSE TO THE FACILITY.

H-HOLY --

AAAAAHHH
HE'S HERE!

AMOS, THAT YOU?
IN THE RUINS! HE CAME UP UNDER JOOSE-!
MOVE IT!

CHUNKKK
AHHHHHH!

AHHHHH!
HELL! HE'S MOBILE!

AHHHHH!

MAN'S A DAMNED KILLIN' MACHINE!

AHHHHH!

SLAUGHTER!

A DANGEROUS MAN TO UNDERESTIMATE--

JUSTICE KILLER ARMON GILL HAS ESCAPED FROM HIS CURSED EARTH PRISON, KILLING SEVERAL PURSUING JUDGES IN THE PROCESS. BUT DREDD HAS SUCCEEDED IN SHOOTING HIM DOWN --
HI-EX IN THE FUEL CELLS AND THE CREEP'S STILL MOVING.
YOU DON'T DIE EASY, DO YOU, GILL?
THERE ARE THOSE WHO OPPOSE US, ARMON...
OPPOSE US OPPOSE US OPPOSE US
I HAVE TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR-!
BDAM BDAM
WRONG MOVE!

NAAAAHHRRRRRRRRRRRR
YOU'VE GOT SOME POWERS OF RECOVERY, GILL...
SKRANGGG

I AM WHAT THEY MADE ME!
PITY YOU DIDN'T STAY A SOLDIER BOY.
YOU'VE GOT TO WONDER WHAT LUNATIC MADE THE DECISION TO PUT YOU BACK ON THE STREETS?

PUT IT DOWN. TAKE WHAT'S COMING TO YOU. YOU CAN'T BEAT ME.

KRAKOOOOOMM

SHRANNGG

THAT A FACT?
THWAP

HOW'S THAT FEELING, GILL?
SWAKK

WUNKKK

YOU HAVE NEVER MET ME -- THE REAL ME.
I'M BEGINNING TO GET THAT IMPRESSION...

THEN, I WAS TRYING TO AVOID HURTING YOU.
WHY WAS THAT, GILL? WERE YOU TRYING TO GET INTO THE CORRECTION FACILITY -- TO KILL BUBBA O'KELLY? WERE THOSE YOUR ORDERS?

NOW -- YOU'RE JUST IN MY WAY!

CRA-AKK

I WAS LOYAL, DAMMIT! NOBODY COULD HAVE BEEN MORE LOYAL THAN ME!

RIGHT NOW THAT UNIFORM'S ALL THAT'S KEEPING YOU ALIVE -- THAT'S HOW LOYAL I AM!

AND WHAT DO I GET FOR IT? CORRECTION FACILITY 17 AT THE CHIEF JUDGE'S PLEASURE!

WAKKKKKK

I WAITED.
OH, I WAITED...
MAYBE SHE'S GOT A NEW MAN? HMMM? FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME.
WHY SHOULD SHE BOTHER? GILL'S OUT OF HARM'S WAY -- HE'S LOYAL, HE WON'T TALK! ANYWAY, WHO'D BELIEVE HIM?
SO LET HIM ROT!
TELL HER THE ROACH HAS TURNED.
TELL HER... HER EXECUTIONER IS COMING.

HOLY JOVIS-!

STILL ALIVE, MA'AM. BETTER GET THE DOC ON STAND-BY. LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN RUN OVER BY A TRUCK.
NO, MA'AM. NO OTHER SURVIVORS.

TEXAS RANGER!
I GOT YOU COVERED! STAND UP AND TURN AROUND! DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES!

BIKE LOOKS LIKE MEGA-CITY JUDGE ISSUE THERE, BOY.
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

MY JOB TO PATROL THE WILDLANDS OUTSIDE TC, KEEP IT FREE OF UNWHOLESOME ELEMENTS. GET A BOUNTY FOR EVERY PIECE OF SCUM I SEND TO HELL.
RECKON YOU MIGHT QUALIFY.

ARMON GILL, AKA 'THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN'. CONVICTED MULTIPLE ASSASSINATIONS, MEGA-CITY ONE. ESCAPED CURSED EARTH CORRECTION FACILITY 17 TWELVE DAYS AGO. WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE. REWARD 400,000.
LONG WAY TO COME FOR NOTHING.

GluuUUhh-uhhh

DIDN'T COME FOR NOTHING... BOY.

HE FEELS EVERYONE'S EYES ON HIM.
HE'D BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY BY GILL, BEATEN SENSELESS, BIKE STOLEN, STILL NOT RECOVERED.
WHEN THE TOP DOG GETS TAKEN DOWN A PEG, THE PACK CAN'T HELP LOOKING, WONDERING HOW HE'S GOING TO TAKE IT...
A WEAKER CHARACTER MIGHT FEEL A SENSE OF HUMILIATION.
YOU'RE AMBULANT.
ONLY SO MUCH TREATMENT I CAN TAKE.
YOUR INJURIES WERE SEVERE. YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER. I DON'T SUPPOSE IT'S ANY GOOD ASKING YOU TO CUT DOWN ON YOUR WORKLOAD -- TAKE A SABBATICAL PERHAPS.
TEN DAYS IN THE SPEEDHEAL WAS A SABBATICAL. I'VE GOT THE GILL CASE.
AH, YES. YOU SAY ARMON GILL INTENDS TO KILL ME.
GILL STILL BELIEVES HE WAS YOUR PRIVATE ASSASSIN -- THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN. HE FEELS BETRAYED.
I ASSUME YOU -- RATHER, WHOEVER USED YOUR IDENTITY TO CONTROL HIM -- PROMISED TO GET HIM OUT OF CORRECTION FACILITY 17.
A RATIONAL MAN WOULD COUNT HIMSELF LUCKY AND RUN. NOT GILL. TUNNEL VISION. FOCUSED ON ONE GOAL -- YOUR DEATH.
BUT HE LEFT YOU ALIVE. HE COULD HAVE KILLED YOU.
INWARDLY HE STILL THINKS HE'S ON OUR SIDE. IT'S YOU THAT'S THE CORRUPTION. YOU WHO MUST BE ELIMINATED.
A COMFORTING THOUGHT.

A GENETIC FREAK MAYBE, BUT I'D SAY GILL'S THIRST FOR REVENGE IS ALL TOO HUMAN.
HE'S A MAN BRED FOR A FUNCTION -- AN EXPERIMENT, A TOOL TO DO A JOB. USED, FOUND WANTING, DISCARDED.
THEN HE GETS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE -- THE GREATEST HONOUR HE COULD ASK FOR, TO SERVE HIS CHIEF JUDGE -- ONLY TO HAVE, IN HIS MIND, HIS LOYALTY ABUSED AGAIN, BY THE ONE HE TRUSTED MOST.
I'D BE ANGRY.

ALL ENTRY PORTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED, BUT I DOUBT THAT WILL STOP HIM. HE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
I'D ADVISE YOU TO CUT DOWN ON OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENTS, BUT I SUPPOSE I'D BE WASTING MY BREATH.
YOU TRY EXPLAINING A NO-SHOW TO THE MOTHERS OF PHILADELPHIA.

NEVER MIND. ALWAYS KNEW CHIEF JUDGES DIDN'T LAST LONG.

BUBBA O'KELLY --

YOU ALL RIGHT, DE KLERK?

SORRY. BACK'S BEEN PLAYING ME UP. PLEASE CARRY ON.
BUBBA O'KELLY. CONVICTED OF FOUR MURDERS, 2122. ALL VICTIMS WITH LINKS TO OR SYMPATHETIC WITH ANTI-JUDICIAL ELEMENTS--
--VICTIMS IN EVERY RESPECT SIMILAR TO THOSE TARGETED BY ARMON GILL, THE SO-CALLED JUSTICE KILLER.

YET WHEN GILL GETS TO CORRECTION FACILITY 17, FIRST THING HE DOES IS PUT A PICKAXE THROUGH O'KELLY. COINCIDENCE?
HELLUVA BIG COINCIDENCE.
YOU'RE SUGGESTING... GILL HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO KILL O'KELLY?
WAIT A MINUTE-- I SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT. GILL WASN'T THE FIRST CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN. FIRST THERE WAS O'KELLY.

SAY O'KELLY WAS THREATENING TO TALK, SPILL THE BEANS ON HIS CONTROLLER. SENDING GILL IN TO SILENCE O'KELLY WAS A PRETTY DESPERATE MOVE, BUT HOW ELSE COULD HE GET AT HIM?
IT FITS.
LOOK INTO THE O'KELLY CASE, HIS HISTORY PREVIOUS TO HIS ARREST. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ANY CONNECTION WITH AN OFFICER IN THIS DEPARTMENT.
YOU STILL BELIEVE GILL'S CONTROLLER WAS A JUDGE?

I DO. FURTHER, ASSUMING GILL WAS INSTRUCTED TO LET HIMSELF BE CAPTURED, HOW COULD HIS CONTROLLER ENSURE HE WAS SENT TO CORRECTION FACILITY 17? CHECK WITH ALLOCATIONS, TULLY, FIND OUT HOW IT WAS DONE.
YES SIR.

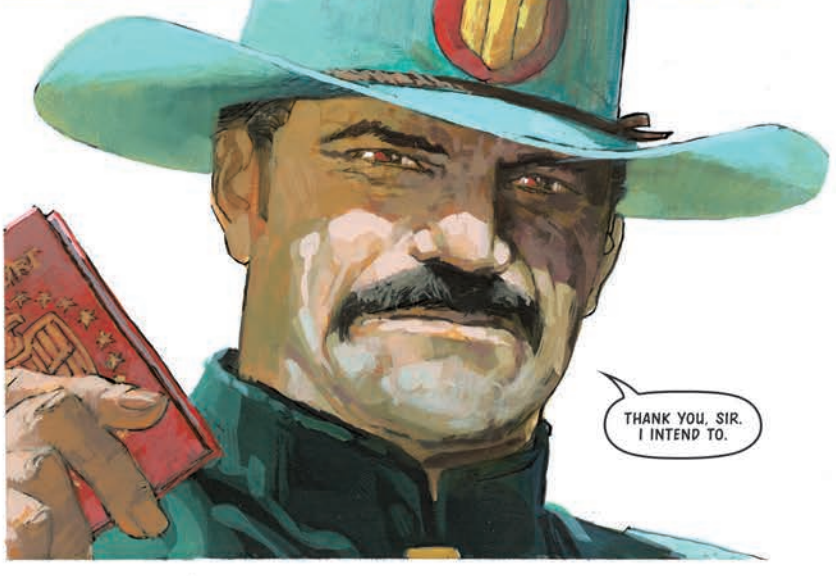
DE KLERK, YOU NEVER LEARNED HOW GILL CAME TO BE RELEASED INTO THE CITY IN THE FIRST PLACE. CONSIDERING HIS BACKGROUND, THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE.
WE INTERVIEWED THE CLERK WHO PROCESSED THE PAPERS. HE DIDN'T REMEMBER THEM. NOT SURPRISING.
THEY WERE PREPARED AND AUTHORISED BY SWINNY IN ADMIN, NOW DECEASED. HE COULDN'T BE OUR MAN-- DIED BEFORE GILL'S FIRST KILLING.

WELL SOMEBODY ARRANGED IT! SOMEBODY PULLED STRINGS, GOT HIM ACCOMMODATION. SOMEBODY KEPT HIM SUPPLIED WITH MONEY AND MUNITIONS AND TARGETS.
IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, DE KLERK! TOO MANY DAMNED UNKNOWNS IN THIS CASE! LOOK INTO IT AGAIN!

PASS
MOVE ON.

PURPOSE OF VISIT, MR RAIKES?
JUST PLEASURE.
TEXAS RANGER -- WOULDN'T BE PLANNING ANY BUSINESS HERE?
NO SIR. GOT MORE'N I CAN HANDLE IN THE WILDLANDS.

TEN DAYS. OBEY THE LAW. ENJOY YOURSELF.


THANK YOU, SIR. I INTEND TO.

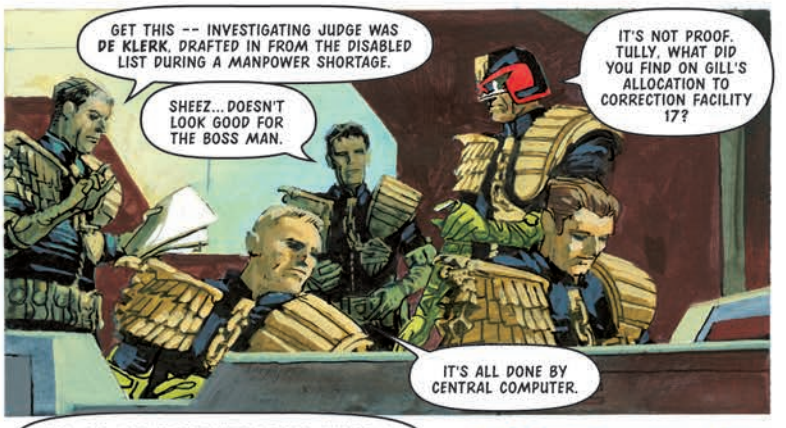
THE CURSED EARTH --
SOMETHIN' DOWN THERE!

I'VE RUN THAT PROFILE, SIR.
PERSONALITY TRAITS ARE KIND OF SUBJECTIVE, BUT THE REST IS STRAIGHT-FORWARD--
FORMER STREET JUDGE — DESKBOUND — WOUNDED IN LINE OF DUTY — EASE OF ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS — HISTORY OF HARSH JUDGEMENTS — HIGHER THAN AVERAGE KILL RATIO.
I'VE GRADED THEM TOP TO BOTTOM, MOST HITS AT THE TOP.
ALOISIUS, Jed
Admin
DE KLERK, Michael
Special Investigator
Chief Judge's Office
NINEVER, Margart
Snr Judge, Admin
SEGAL, Simson
Holding Pen Supervisor
AMOS, Ricardo
Armoury
FIRST FOUR SCORED IN EVERY CATEGORY.
DE KLERK HAD A HIGH KILL RATIO?
12 PERCENT UP ON AVERAGE. OVER SIXTY JUDGEMENTS OVERTURNED ON APPEAL. THEY CALLED HIM 'IRON MIKE' AT SECTOR HOUSE 114.
WHERE IS HE?
SESSION IN THE RAY TUBE. THE BACK PROBLEM. MEDS ARE TALKING ABOUT SIGNING HIM OFF IF IT DOESN'T IMPROVE.
SIR, WHEN WE FIRST SUSPECTED A JUDGE WAS INVOLVED IN THE JUSTICE KILLINGS, JUDGE DE KLERK WAS LIE DETECTED ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE. I TESTED HIM MYSELF. HE WAS NEGATIVE.
CAN'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT THE LIE DETECTOR TELLS YOU, MINGUS.

TWELVE NOON, THIRD PHONE, GROVER PLAZA.
blee blee
blee blee
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO COME. HE COULD BE WALKING INTO A TRAP.
blee blee
blee blee
AND WHAT COULD SHE HAVE TO SAY TO HIM NOW?
YET SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL THAN NATURAL CAUTION HAD DRAWN HIM THERE. OLD LOYALTIES, PERHAPS...
blee blee
blee blee
YO, BABY!
...OR THE HOPE, THE FUTILE HOPE, THAT SHE WOULD SAY THE RIGHT THINGS AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.
HEY, CHIEF JUDGE!
GET OFF THE LINE, YOU FOOL!
NO NEED TO TALK LIKE THAT, LADY! I DIDN'T CALL YOU, YOU CALLED ME!
LOSE YOURSELF!

ARMON -- YOU REMEMBERED OUR EMERGENCY CONTACT PROCEDURE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO YOUR CHIEF JUDGE.
NEARLY TWO YEARS I WAITED! WHAT DID YOU CARE? I WAS OUT OF HARM'S WAY, YOU COULD LEAVE ME THERE TO ROT!
IT... WASN'T THAT SIMPLE, ARMON. I TRIED, BELIEVE ME. BUT THERE WERE PROBLEMS.
IT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW, ARMON. YOU'RE BACK. WE CAN TAKE UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF. YOUR CHIEF JUDGE CAN STILL USE A GOOD MAN.
SKASHH
AHHHH
LOOK OUT!
DAMN! DAMN!

BEFORE HE WENT ON HIS KILLING SPREE, BUBBA O'KELLY SHOT A FRIEND DEAD DURING AN ARGUMENT. THE SHOOTING WAS CLASSED AS SELF-DEFENCE.


GET THIS -- INVESTIGATING JUDGE WAS DE KLERK, DRAFTED IN FROM THE DISABLED LIST DURING A MANPOWER SHORTAGE.
SHEEZ... DOESN'T LOOK GOOD FOR THE BOSS MAN.
IT'S NOT PROOF. TULLY, WHAT DID YOU FIND ON GILL'S ALLOCATION TO CORRECTION FACILITY 17?
IT'S ALL DONE BY CENTRAL COMPUTER.

GILL WAS MARKED FOR HARD LABOUR. UNLESS A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR A FACILITY IS MADE BY THE ARRESTING JUDGE, PLACEMENT IS DONE BY ROTA.
IN THIS CASE, A REQUEST FOR CORRECTION FACILITY 17 IS ON FILE -- FROM YOU.
FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
ANYONE WITH PROPER ACCESS CODES COULD HAVE GOT TO GILL'S FILE.

I CHECKED GILL'S ENTRY PAPERS AND HOUSING ALLOCATION. DEAD END. FORMS SIGNED BY SWINNY IN ADMIN, NOW DECEASED.
THESE WERE PAPER FORMS? DID YOU FINGERPRINT THEM?

DO IT. EVERY PAGE. IF SOMEBODY SLIPPED THEM ON SWINNY, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARELESS.
TC FOR YOU.

WE FOUND YOUR BIKE, DREDD.

IT'S DE KLERK THEN?
ALL THIS TIME HE'S BEEN LEADING THE INVESTIGATION -- COULDN'T BE A BETTER SPOT TO RUN A COVER UP.
WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
THOSE FORMS ON GILL --ANY CHANCE YOU COULD RUN THE RAPI-PRINT OVER THEM?

RANGER'S NAME WAS RAIKES, ELVIS RAIKES. FOUND PRINTS OF YOUR MAN GILL ALL OVER HIS APARTMENT.
A TICKET TO MEGA-CITY ONE WAS BOUGHT ON RAIKES' CARD THURSDAY -- HOVERLOVERS 2390, GOT IN 22.20 LAST NIGHT. ACCORDING TO THEIR RECORDS, RAIKES WAS ON IT.
ANY FACE CHANGE APPARATUS IN THE APARTMENT?
NEGATIVE, BUT PLENTY OF STREET PARLOURS DO THE JOB, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

IMMIGRATION -- DREDD! I WANT AN IMMEDIATE CHECK ON RAIKES, ELVIS, CITIZEN OF TEXAS CITY, CAME IN LAST NIGHT ABOARD HOVERLOVERS 2390. EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.

RAN THE RAPI-PRINT OVER THE FORMS. DE KLERK'S FINGERPRINTS WERE ON EVERY PAGE.
TO THINK THAT HE WAS OPERATING THE JUSTICE KILLERS -- GILL AND O'KELLY -- RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES, AND WE NEVER SUSPECTED.
IT'S MY FAULT. WHEN THE CASE FIZZLED OUT I SHOULD ASKED MORE QUESTIONS.
I GUESS DEEP DOWN THERE'S ALWAYS A RELUCTANCE TO BELIEVE...

RAIKES PASSED THROUGH IMMIGRATION CONTROL AT 22.49, DREDD. GRANTED TEN DAYS' STAY. REGISTERED AT THE INN ON THE SKED, SECTOR 12.

GILL'S GOT A NEW FACE.
THAT'S HIM? WE'VE GOT HIM?
MINGUS, REMAIN HERE. WHEN DE KLERK RETURNS, PLACE HIM UNDER ARREST.

SHOULDN'T WE CALL IN BACK-UP?
YOU'RE JUST OFF THE SICK ROSTER, SIR -- YOU DON'T WANT TO BE GOING UP AGAINST HIM AGAIN.
DON'T I?

INN ON THE SKED, SECTOR 12 --
HOW DID GILL GET PAST IMMIGRATION?
INN ON THE SKED

JUST CHANGED HIS FACE -- HE'S GOOD AT THAT. THEN ALL HE NEEDED WAS A NEW I-SCAN ON RAIKES' PASSPORT.
IMMIGRATION DON'T CHECK SCANS AGAINST CENTRAL RECORDS.
MAYBE THEY OUGHT TO START.

ARMON GILL'S PRINTS ON THE PASSPORT, ALL RIGHT.
JUST OUR LUCK WE MISSED HIM.
CONSIDERING THE MESS HE MADE OF THE OLD MAN, MAYBE WE WERE LUCKY.

JUSTICE NEWS HERE. SECTION UNDER 'CHIEF JUDGE'S ENGAGEMENTS' HAS BEEN TORN OUT...
SHE'S THE TARGET.
JUSTICE NEWS

ALL RIGHT. CALL OFF THE H-WAGONS. CLOSE THINGS DOWN HERE. POST AN ASSAULT SQUAD IN THE ROOM. CREEP MIGHT STILL SHOW.

PUBLIC FACILITY
THEY KNEW.
HER DOING?

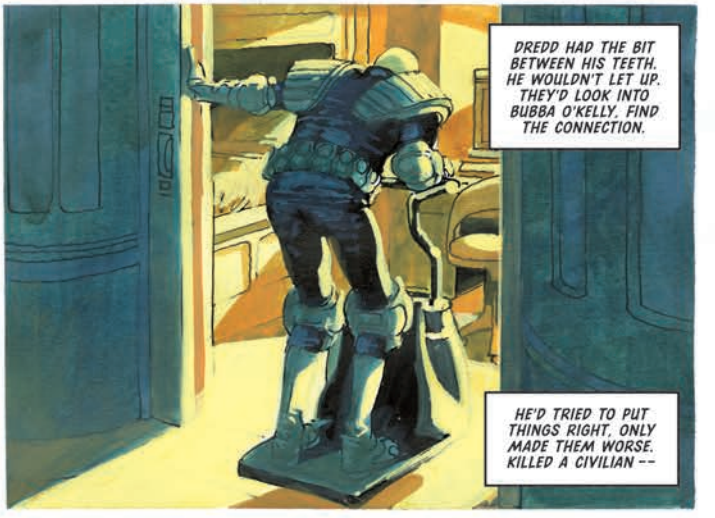
PUBLIC
SHE COULDN'T RISK SHOWING HER HAND.
BUT SHE COULD HAVE OTHER WAYS...

NO MATTER. THEY KNEW. THEY'D HAVE HIS FACE OUT ALL OVER THE CITY.

THIS FACE! HE'D CHANGED IT SO MANY TIMES HE NO LONGER KNEW WHO HE WAS.
HAD HE EVER KNOWN?

NO MATTER. IT WOULD ALL BE OVER SOON.
H-HEY --

IT WAS OVER.


DREDD HAD THE BIT BETWEEN HIS TEETH. HE WOULDN'T LET UP. THEY'D LOOK INTO BUBBA O'KELLY, FIND THE CONNECTION.
HE'D TRIED TO PUT THINGS RIGHT, ONLY MADE THEM WORSE. KILLED A CIVILIAN --

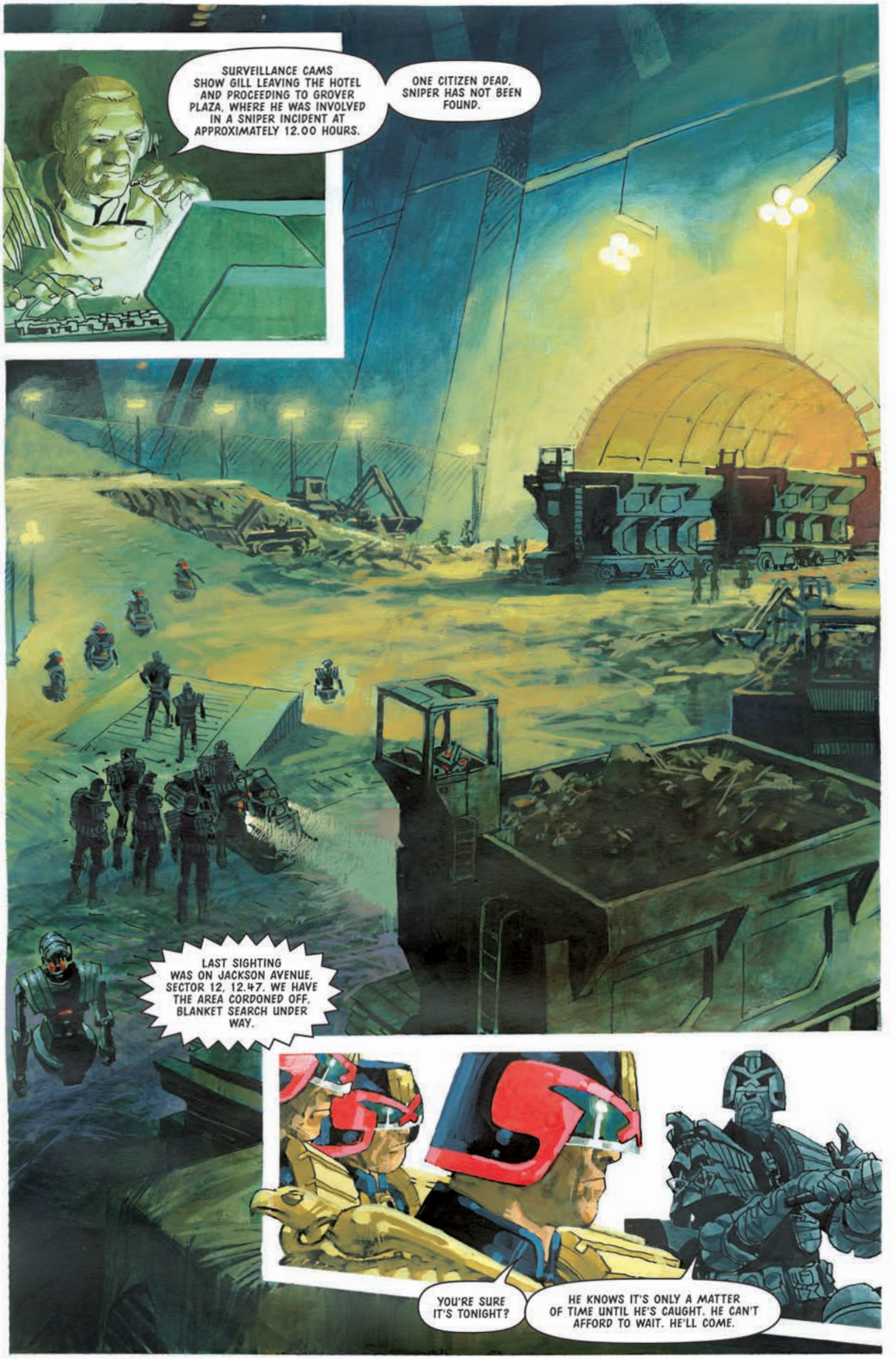
-- GAVE THAT MONSTER HE'D CREATED MORE REASON TO HATE THE CHIEF JUDGE.

URNNNHHH...
DAMN BACK. HARDLY WORTH LIVING WITH ANYWAY.

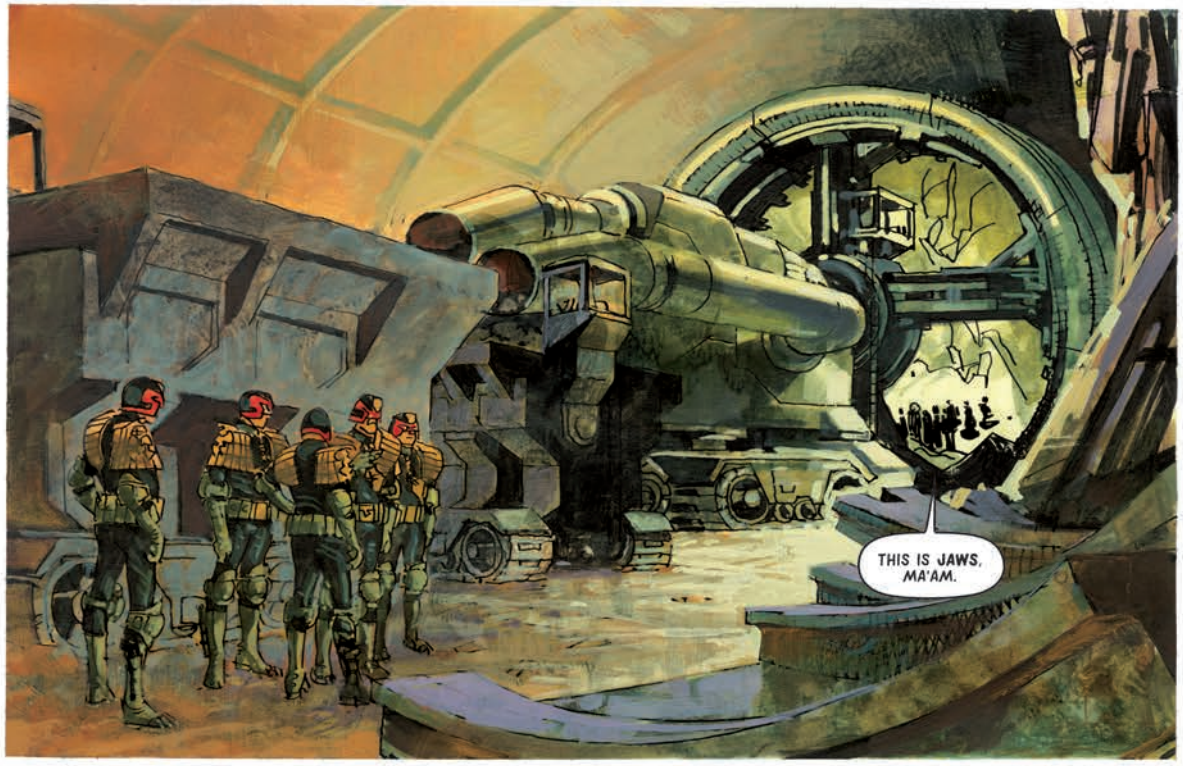
IRON MIKE. 26 YEARS' SERVICE AND THIS IS WHAT IT CAME DOWN TO -- A BAD BACK AND A CRUMMY LITTLE CELL AT THE GRAND HALL. MAYBE THAT WAS ALL HE DESERVED.

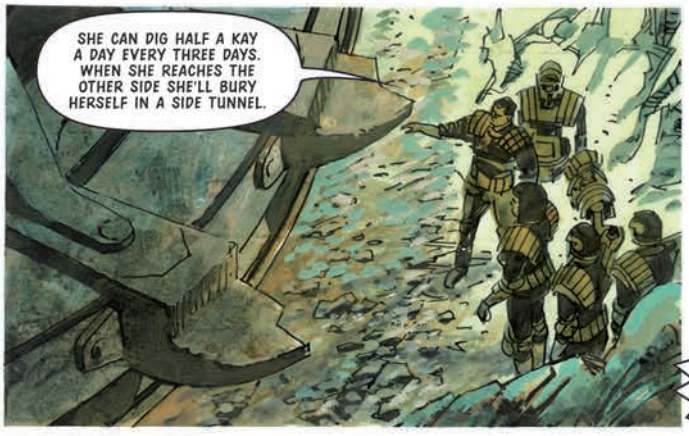
BUT HE'D BEEN RIGHT! IF THEY'D ONLY OPENED THEIR EYES TO SEE... HE'D BEEN DOING GOOD WORK...

I Judge Michael De Klerk confess
SOME PEOPLE DESERVED TO DIE.


SURVEILLANCE CAMS SHOW GILL LEAVING THE HOTEL AND PROCEEDING TO GROVER PLAZA, WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN A SNIPER INCIDENT AT APPROXIMATELY 12.00 HOURS.
ONE CITIZEN DEAD, SNIPER HAS NOT BEEN FOUND.
LAST SIGHTING WAS ON JACKSON AVENUE, SECTOR 12, 12.47. WE HAVE THE AREA CORDONED OFF. BLANKET SEARCH UNDER WAY.
YOU'RE SURE IT'S TONIGHT?
HE KNOWS IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL HE'S CAUGHT. HE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT. HE'LL COME.

SHE'D SET THE SNIPER ON HIM. SET HIM UP.
SHE HAD A NEW MAN, THAT WAS IT.
WE'RE HONOURED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE NORTH WEST HAB ZONE TUNNEL PROJECT, MA'AM!
SHUT DOWN JAWS, KEVIN. BACK HER UP. CHIEF JUDGE IS HERE.
DROKK!
WHEN IT'S COMPLETE, MA'AM, WE'LL HAVE A SIXTEEN-LANE SPEEDWAY ALL THE WAY TO THE HAB ZONE.
WITHOUT THE CRIME PROBLEMS OF THE OVERLAND ROUTE.
JUST LIKE SHE'D SENT HIM TO KILL O'KELLY. THEY WERE EXPENDABLE, HER CHIEF JUDGE'S MEN.
THAT'S WHY SHE COULD LEAVE HIM TO ROT IN CORRECTION FACILITY 17. HE'D SERVED HIS PURPOSE. FORGET HIM. HARDLY HUMAN ANYWAY.
HE'D ADMIRED HER -- WORSHIPPED HER -- AND SHE WAS JUST LIKE ALL THE REST!
WELL, NOT THIS TIME! THEY'D REMEMBER ARMON GILL THIS TIME!


THIS IS JAWS, MA'AM.


SHE CAN DIG HALF A KAY A DAY EVERY THREE DAYS. WHEN SHE REACHES THE OTHER SIDE SHE'LL BURY HERSELF IN A SIDE TUNNEL.

--VICTIM WORE DISTINCTIVE RED FLYSUIT. LOOK FOR BLACK FOORD HOVERSKIMMER NUMBER --

INCOMING!
FIRING WARNING SHOT!

GOTTA BE GILL! TAKE HIM!

ARMON GILL, BETTER KNOWN AS 'THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN', MAKES HIS FINAL RUN--
HE'S HIT!

USING THE DUMPERS FOR COVER-!

SPAK

WARN THE CHIEF JUDGE! GILL'S IN THE TUNNEL!

HE DOESN'T PASS!

KRUNNGGG

IMPACT WOULD HAVE KILLED A NORMAL MAN!
HE'S NOT NORMAL!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THIS DISTURBANCE, CHIEF JUDGE. WE DON'T USUALLY HAVE THIS...

IT'S *ME*, YOUR HONOUR! YOUR LOYAL SERVANT!
THRUMMM

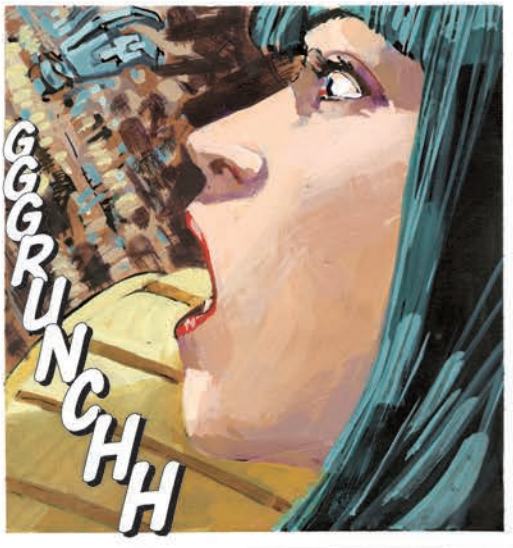
WATCH IT!

SHRANGGG
GRRRNNNNNNN
ONE LAST MISSION FOR THE *CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN!*

KRAK!
YOUR MISSION ENDS HERE, GILL!

THWAPPP
BUT NOT YOUR WAY!

KERRANGGGG
I CAN'T APOLOGISE ENOUGH, CHIEF JUDGE! I ASSURE YOU, THE MAN IS NOT EMPLOYED BY THIS FIRM!


GGGRUNCHH

SPAPPPp

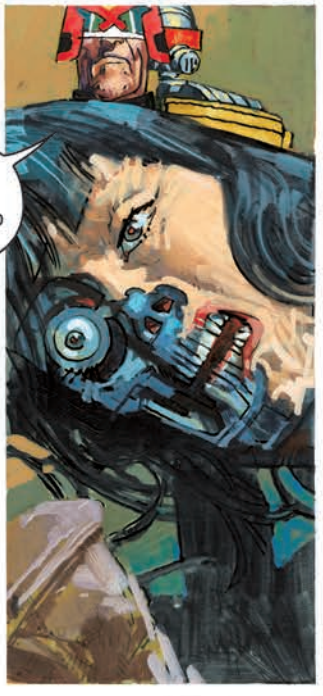
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO FOR HER NOW!

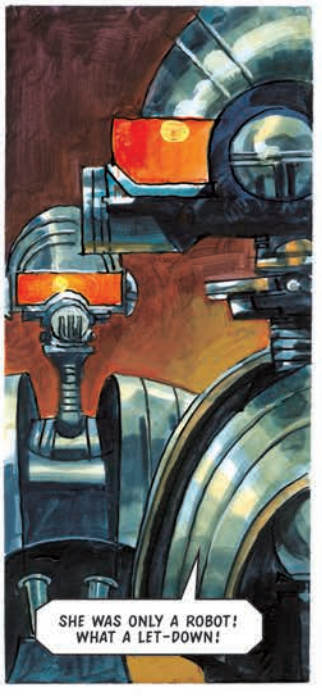
SHRANGGG
GGGRUNNNCHH
CHIEF JUDGE!
SHE SHOULD'VE TREATED ME RIGHT! I'M A MAN, DAMMIT!
A DEAD MAN!

MY GRUD--
THE CHIEF JUDGE-!

I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE CHIEF JUDGE DIDN'T FEEL A THING.

A ROBOT?


I GUESSED HE'D COME TONIGHT. FOR ONCE, I PERSUADED HER TO USE A DOUBLE.


SHE WAS ONLY A ROBOT! WHAT A LET-DOWN!

SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM TO US. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO UP AGAINST HIM AGAIN.
I DON'T HAVE TO PUT ON THIS UNIFORM IN THE MORNING EITHER. JUST GOES WITH THE JOB.
I NEVER KNEW HE TOOK IT OFF...

CASE CLOSED.
NOT QUITE. THERE'S STILL THE TRUE GUILTY PARTY...

rap rap rap
DE KLERK? THIS IS MINGUS. FRONT DESK SAYS YOU LOGGED IN.
I'M COMING IN. I HAVE ORDERS TO ARREST YOU FOR COMPLICITY IN THE...
...MURDERS OF THE 'JUSTICE... KILLER'...
I, Judge Michael DeKlerk confess to full responsibility for murders committed by Armon Gil the 'CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN' and previous Bubba O'Kelly who killed four times on my orders –
THE END

2000 AD Prog 1246: Cover by **Cliff Robinson** and **Angus McKie**

2000 AD Prog 1264: Cover by **Adrian Salmon** and **Chris Blythe**

2000 AD Prog 1345: Cover by **Cliff Robinson** and **Chris Blythe**

2000 AD Prog 1348: Cover by **Dylan Teague and Chris Blythe**

The following is John Wagner's original script for part 1 of The Chief Judge's Man

JUDGE DREDD: THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN

PART 1

PAGE 1

1. Close shot of a TV screen. A TALK SHOW is on, featuring an emcee and MRS NO, the respectable leader of the NO Party. This pic shows only Mrs No, close up, with across bottom of the screen: TALKING TO PETULA NO (Reform Party).

MRS NO (jag): DESPITE THE PROMISES OF SUCCESSIVE CHIEF JUDGES, WE ARE NO NEARER TRUE DEMOCRATIC REFORM THAN WE WERE THIRTY YEARS AGO. THAT IS WHY I MAKE THE ABOLITION OF ON-THE-STREET JUSTICE MY CORE POLICY ISSUE.

OFF (jag): THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THAT OPTION ON MANY OCCASIONS, MRS NO - EACH TIME THEY HAVE VOTED TO RETAIN THE JUDGE SYSTEM.

2. Wide. A large fairly spartan apartment. The TV screen is on the wall in bg, big enough so we can see the characters clearly, both MRS NO and EMCEE. Our Villain, ARMON GILL, is on his knees, prising open a secret compartment in the floor, a rug pulled back to expose it. Armon is about 30, very muscular, twisted.

MRS NO (jag): SO WE'RE TOLD. ASK YOURSELF, WHO CONTROLS THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?

EMCEE(jag): YOU'RE SAYING THE JUDGES RIG THE ELECTIONS? THAT'S A VERY SERIOUS ALLEGATION.

3. Close on the compartment in the floor, Armon reaching in. Inside are a couple of handguns, HIS OUTFIT, a laser rifle, knives, grenades, a fold-up JETSCOOTER (a Mega-city version of the fold-up scooters they use these days) - and a helmet/mask (make it mean-looking).

JAG (off): IT CERTAINLY IS. AND I'LL MAKE ANOTHER ONE -- THAT UNDER OUR NEW CHIEF JUDGE HERSHEY ANYONE WHO DARES TO STAND OUT AGAINST THE JUDGES, AS I AM DOING, IS LIABLE TO BE MURDERED.

4. In fg Armon holds the laser rifle, ramming a powercell into its LOAD chamber. kachunk

EMCEE(jag): I CAN HEAR GASPS OF DISBELIEF FROM OUR AUDIENCE SIMULATOR. YOU HAVE PROOF?

5. Wider. On screen in bg headshot of Mrs No. In fg Armon is dressing (show us some muscles). His OUTFIT is HITMAN rather than superhero, with holsters etc, lots of places for weapons. He'll wear (we'll see later) a long coat that looks like a grubby overcoat. He's standing by a 4 foot high plinth in the middle of the floor, slotting the laser rifle into a calf-length holster: ka-chink!

MRS NO(jag): EXAMINE THE FACTS. MILLAN JEBBS, STABBED TO DEATH IN ANDROID PARK…PASHMINA DOBL, POISONED…CHIC McDONNA, THE ELDSTER LEADER - BOMB UNDER HIS ZIMMERSKIMMER.

LINK: WITHIN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS EIGHT ANTI-JUSTICE DEPT ACTIVISTS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIOLENT ATTACKS. IN NOT ONE CASE HAS AN ARREST BEEN MADE. IN FOUR CASES JUDGES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PIN THE BLAME ON A MYSTERY ASSASSIN - THIS SO-CALLED JUSTICE KILLER.

6. The plinth is a holo-receiver. On it a HEAD forms in a glowing, shimmering electron field.

LINK(jag): A LIKELY STORY.

PAGE 2

1. The disembodied, hologram head resolves itself into that of CHIEF JUDGE HERSHEY. The head in nearground, looking towards Armon.

HERSHEY: YOU'RE WATCHING THE SHOW?

ARMON: YES, CHIEF JUDGE.

Do Hershey's balloons without tails

2. Just Hershey, fairly big on her glowing hologram head.

HERSHEY: THE WOMAN COMPLAINS TOO MUCH. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ALL IF SOMEONE SHUT HER UP.

HERSHEY 2: THE PROGRAMME IS LIVE. SHE'LL BE AT THE STUDIO FOR ANOTHER HOUR.

OFF: I UNDERSTAND.

3. Armon pats his gun, stands to attention, something of the nazi zealot about him

ARMON: I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT CALL. I'M READY.

4. Armon in the block hoverport, the city stretched out before him, coat blowing in the wind, pulling on helmet as he stares grimly out over the city. It's night, lights atwinkle. Big.

5-7. Take as many pics as you like - but keep them small - to show the unfolding of his jetscooter. By the final pic we should see the scooter revealed, the shape being like an easy-rider bike, where the rider sits well back with the legs stretched out horizontally.

FX: kchink snik thukka etc, as reqd

PAGE 3

1. BIG. On his jetscooter, cape billowing out behind him, helmet on, laser rifle visible in holster on his outstretched leg, Armon streaks across the glowing neon city.

CAPTION: THE FIRST TIME SHE CALLED HE HALF-BELIEVED IT WAS A JOKE.

2. His grim, helmeted visage bleeds into a pic of Hershey's head taking shape on his Holo-com.

CAPTION: HE WAS FRESH OUT OF THE SPACE CORPS, DISHONOURABLY DISCHARGED AFTER THAT INCIDENT WITH THE CIVILIAN.

CAPTION: THE LAST FACE HE EXPECTED TO SEE ON THE HOLO-COM WAS HERS.

ARMON: CH-CHIEF JUDGE - ?

3. Side on, the two of them. He'd be at attention.

HERSHEY: I'VE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH YOUR RECORD, ARMON. SPECIALIST IN COVERT OPERATIONS, FOUR FIELD CITATIONS EXPERT IN COMBAT, ARMED AND UNARMED. BUSTED THREE TIMES FOR HOSPITALISING FELLOW OFFICERS…

ARMON: MY CITY RIGHT OR WRONG, MA'AM. ANYBODY TALKS OUT OF TURN, I DON'T SIT AROUND AN' LISTEN.

HERSHEY: YOU'VE NOW APPLIED TO THIS DEPARTMENT FOR A POSITION AS AN AUXILIARY.

ARMON: FAT CHANCE, AFTER MY DISHONOURABLE.

4. Just the Hershey head.

CAPTION: NOBODY KNEW HE'D APPLIED TO JUSTICE DEPT. SHE HAD TO BE FOR REAL.

HERSHEY: THERE ARE THOSE WHO OPPOSE US, ARMON - DANGEROUS ELEMENTS WHO WOULD DESTROY EVERYTHING WE HAVE ACHIEVED.

LINK: AS CHIEF JUDGE IT IS OCCASIONALLY MY DUTY TO TAKE ACTION TO…SILENCE THESE ELEMENTS. NATURALLY, I CANNOT RISK

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S HAND BEING DETECTED IN THESE ACTS.

LINK: IN SUCH CASES, ARMON, I MAY HAVE USE FOR A MAN LIKE YOU.

PAGE 4

1. He's opened a deep LEFT LUGGAGE LOCKER at a zoom stop. There's a trunk inside.

CAPTION: SHE'D GIVEN HIM THE CODE OF A LUGSAFE AT KEELER ZOOM...

2. He's back home, the trunk on the floor, opening it. It's about two by two by four.

CAPTION: SHE'D KNOWN ALL ABOUT HIM, EVERY DETAIL. SHE WAS FOR REAL.

3. He's opened the trunk to reveal all the stuff we saw earlier under the floor, plus bombs, grenades, grappling line, divers other devices. Money - or pay cards - too. He is wickedly delighted.

LINK(to 4): YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM ME AND ME ALONE. YOU WILL NEVER - REPEAT, NEVER - DIVULGE MY PART IN YOUR ACTIVITIES. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT, I WILL OF COURSE DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF YOU.

4. She's on his Holo-com again. He's holding some of the equipment, a happy laddie, and reaching into the pocket of his equipment belt.

HERSHEY: NATURALLY, I WOULD PREFER IT IF YOU WERE NOT TAKEN ALIVE. TO THAT END YOU WILL FIND POISON CAPLETS IN YOUR EQUIPMENT BELT.

5. Close on the little poison capsules in his hand, and his expression - a grim smile.

HERSHEY(OFF): THEY WILL WORK AS WELL ON YOU AS YOUR VICTIMS. CARRY ONE WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

6. Armon stands to attention, like a Nazi zealot. This pic bleeds into a shot of him landing on the terrace of the (Dwight D.) Eisentower (see next page).

ARMON: TO THE DEATH!

LINK: REST ASSURED, NO ONE BUT YOU AND I WILL EVER KNOW I AM…THE CHIEF JUDGE'S MAN!

PAGE 5

1. Armon has landed on a dark terrace of the Eisentower (a big building), which gives him a view of the distant TONITE LIVE Studio (see next pic). He stands, takes aim through the telescopic sight of his rifle. This bleeds into --

2. BIG. flashbacks to his previous hits. The three already mentioned - a shadowy stabbing, a poisoned woman writhing in her death throes, a pensioner blowing up with his hovering zimmer frame - plus any others you like to add. Something 'accidental' among them - someone falling under a car or zoom; some guy dressed in women's undies who appears to have killed himself by self-strangulation (auto-erotic asphyxiation); burning wings on a plunging batglider; someone drowned in a giant pickle jar - that sort of thing.

CAPTION: TONIGHT WOULD BE HIS TWELFTH KILL, THOUGH THEY HAD HIM DOWN FOR HALF THAT NUMBER AT MOST.

CAPTION: THE CHIEF JUDGE'S REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS, AND HIS APPROACH TO HIS WORK SO IMAGINATIVE THAT SEVERAL HAD PASSED OFF AS ACCIDENTS.

3. Outside the studio, Dredd (in close fg) is on crowd control, facing the crowd close to Mrs No's robot-chauffeur car, parked at the kerb. In bg we can see the studio entrance, with a couple of judges waiting on the door.

CHANT(FX): NO NO NO! NO NO NO! NO NO NO!

4. Widen. Several other judges working under Dredd, keeping the crowd in line. In bg the two judges on the door fall in behind MRS NO as she comes out of the building. About twenty in the crowd, bearing placards like SUPPORT JUSTICE DEPT and SAY NO TO NO - YES TO JUDICIAL EXCESS and just plain NO, NO! Angle this pic so we can see the distant Eisentower.

CAPTION: THEY'RE NOT EXPECTING TROUBLE.

CAPTION: THERE'S A SMALL CROWD OUTSIDE THE STUDIO, STOOGES PUT UP BY GRAND HALL'S PUBLIC DECEPTION UNIT…

CHANT(FX): NO NO NO! NO NO NO!

CROWD: HERE SHE COMES!

5. A view through Armon's telescopic sight zeroed in on Mrs No's head as she heads for her car, just about to reach Dredd here.

PAGE 6

1. As she passes Dredd a laser bolt streaks in and blows a big hole in her head, blood and gore splotting over Dredd.

DREDD: DROKK!

2. Dredd on his bike, riding in direction the shot was fired from, calling to control.

DREDD: CONTROL! CITIZEN PETULA NO HAS BEEN SHOT DEAD - SINGLE LASER BLAST FROM DIRECTION OF DWIGHT D. EISENTOWER!

3. A PSU controller sits in front of his console/screen, which shows two or three views of Armon streaking down into the depths of the city, one of the views being a close-up, gridlines superimposed on it.

CAPTION: PUBLIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT CAMS PICK UP A SUSPECT JETSCOOTER LEAVING THE EISENTOWER -

CONTROLLER: RIDER MATCHES DESCRIPTION OF PERP KNOWN AS THE JUSTICE KILLER, WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH NUMEROUS ASSASSINATIONS OF ANTI-JUDICIAL ELEMENTS.

4. A big screen (like 50 metres square) lights up as Armon curves down and past it. On the screen is a judge's face, pointing finger.

SCREEN (JAG): CITIZEN ON THE JETSCOOTER! YOU ARE ORDERED TO SET DOWN!

LINK: REPEAT, SET DOWN AND AWAIT ARRIVAL OF ARRESTING OFFICER!

5. A JUDGE on a watching bay fires at Armon, who continues to dive, doing a U-turn away from the bullets.

FX: BDAM. BDAM

6. He comes swooping down, levelling out, heading straight for Dredd, who is crossing at right angles on (what we will see later is) an overpass, stops, aims, opens fire. On the far side of the overpass is a big advertising hoarding - Otto Sump smiling and holding a bottle and a foaming glass of putrid beer, while beside him a couple of drinkers are looking green and suffering terrible hangovers. The slogan reads: SUMP'S OLD PUTRID - MOVE UP TO HANGOVER COUNTRY!

Armon's jetscooter is only just visible above and beyond this as it swoops down, AND NEXT EPISODE IT WILL COME BURSTING THROUGH.

JAG: WATCHING BAY! HE'S TURNING! COMING BACK YOUR WAY, DREDD!

DREDD: GOT TO NAIL THIS CREEP - !

FX: BDAM BDAM BDAM

NEXT: POINT BLANK!

JOHN WAGNER

John Wagner is, to many fans, the very heart of *2000 AD*. Involved from the earliest days of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, he co-created *Judge Dredd*, as well as *Strontium Dog, Robo-Hunter* and a host of other *2000 AD* mainstays, including the critically-acclaimed *Button Man.*

Incredibly prolific throughout his career, and writing under a diversity of pen names — often in concert with Alan Grant, with whom he devised and developed *2000 AD*'s sister comic, the *Judge Dredd Megazine* — Wagner has worked extensively beyond the Thargian universe, originating and editing a number of British periodicals as well as writing many American standards, including *Batman, The Punisher, Lobo* and *Star Wars* bounty hunter *Boba Fett*. His Paradox Press graphic novel *A History of Violence* has recently been made into a film by David Cronenberg.

WILL SIMPSON

Will Simpson is the co-creator of *Universal Soldier*, and co-penciller of the classic *Judge Dredd* story 'The Dead Man' and painter of the hugely popular *Rogue Trooper* story 'The War Machine'. He has also illustrated *Future Shocks*, *Judge Anderson*, *Tales of Mega-City One*, *Tyranny Rex*, *Venus Bluegenes* and *Witchworld*.

Simpson's work beyond *2000 AD* includes *Aliens*, *Animal Man*, *Batman*, *Hellblazer*, and his co-created *Vamps* series at DC/Vertigo. He is currently working on film and animation artwork and storyboards via his own company, Rogue Rocket

COLIN MACNEIL

Colin MacNeil's masterly painted art has graced many *2000 AD* strips, including his co-created *Mechanismo, Ulysses Sweet and Vanguard*, as well as the classic, adult-oriented *America.*

He has also illustrated *Calhab Justice, Chopper, The Corps, Devlin Waugh, Heavy Metal Dredd, Judge Dredd, Maelstrom, Mega-City Mania, Missionary Man, Satanus, Shimura, Strontium Dog, Tales of the Doghouse, Tales of Mega-City One* and *Tharg's Future Shocks*

JOHN BURNS

John Burns' glorious painted art has graced several *2000 AD* series, notably in lengthy runs on *Judge Dredd* and *Nikolai Dante*, as well in as his own co-creation, *The Bendatti Vendetta*. He has also contributed to *Black Light*, *Doctor Sin*, *The Scarlet Apocrypha*, *Vector 13* and *Witchworld*. Outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, he has pencilled Eclipse's *ESPers* and the *James Bond* miniseries, *A Silent Armageddon*.

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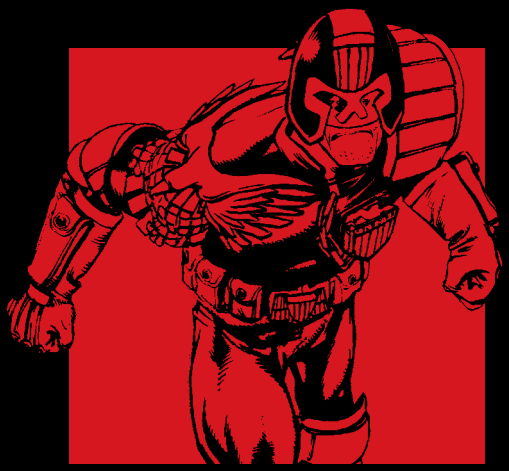

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