



COUNTRY™

DEFINITIVE EDITION





QUEEN & COUNTRY™

WRITTEN BY
GREG RUCKA

ILLUSTRATED BY
**STEVE ROLSTON, BRIAN HURTT, LEANDRO FERNANDEZ,
CHRISTINE NORRIE, BRYAN LEE O'MALLEY, & STAN SAKAI**

LETTERING BY
SEAN KONOT & JOHN DRANSKI

COVER BY
TIM SALE

BOOK DESIGN BY
KEITH WOOD

COLLECTION EDITED BY
JAMES LUCAS JONES

ORIGINAL SERIES EDITED BY
JAMIE S. RICH & JAMES LUCAS JONES

Published by Oni Press, Inc.

Joe Nozemack, publisher

James Lucas Jones, editor in chief

Randal C. Jarrell, managing editor

This collects issues 1-12 of the Oni Press comics series *Queen & Country* as well as material from the *Oni Press Color Special* 2001.

Queen & Country is [™] & © 2001, 2007 Greg Rucka. Unless otherwise specified, all other material © 2007 Oni Press, Inc. Oni Press logo and icon are [™] & © 2007 Oni Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Oni Press logo and icon artwork created by Dave Gibbons. The events, institutions, and characters presented in this book are fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders.



ONI PRESS, INC.

1305 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Suite A

Portland, OR 97214

USA

www.onipress.com

First edition: December 2007

ISBN: 978-1-932664-87-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4

PRINTED IN CANADA.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPERATION: BROKEN GROUND 1

OPERATION: MORNINGSTAR 119

OPERATION: CRYSTAL BALL 201

BEHIND THE SCENES 331

ABOUT THE AUTHORS 357

OPERATION: BROKEN GROUND

WRITTEN BY
GREG RUCKA

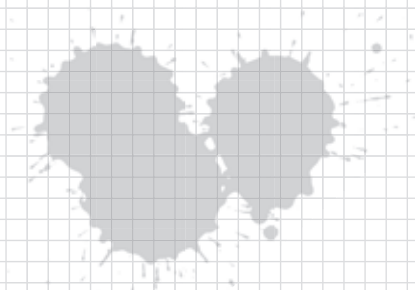
ILLUSTRATED BY
STEVE ROLSTON

LETTERED BY
SEAN KONOT

INTERLUDE ILLUSTRATED & LETTERED BY
STAN SAKAI

WITH TONES BY
TOM LUTH

ORIGINALLY EDITED BY
JAMIE S. RICH



ROSTER



C—Ubiquitous code-name for the current head of S.I.S.. Real name is Sir Wilson Stanton Davies.

DONALD WELDON—Deputy Chief of Service, has oversight of all aspects of Intelligence gathering and operations. Immediate superior to Crocker.

PAUL CROCKER—Director of Operations, encompassing all field work in all theaters of operations. In addition to commanding individual stations, has direct command of the Special Section—sometimes referred to as Minder's—used for special operations.

TOM WALLACE—Head of the Special Section, a Special Operations Officer with the designation Minder One. Responsible for the training and continued well-being of his unit, both at home and in the field. Six year veteran of the Minder's.

TARA CHACE—Special Operations Officer, designated Minder Two. Entering her third year as Minder.

EDWARD KITTING—Special Operations Officer, designated Minder Three. Has been with the Special Section for less than a year.

OPS ROOM STAFF



ALEXIS—Mission Control Officer (also called Main Communications Officer)— responsible for maintaining communications between the Operations Room and the agents in the field.

RON—Duty Operations Officer, responsible for monitoring the status and importance of all incoming intelligence, both from foreign stations and other sources.

KATE—Personal Assistant to Paul Crocker, termed P.A. to D.Ops. Possibly the hardest and most important job in the Service.

ANGELA CHANG—CIA Station Chief in London. Has an unofficial intelligence-sharing arrangement with Crocker.

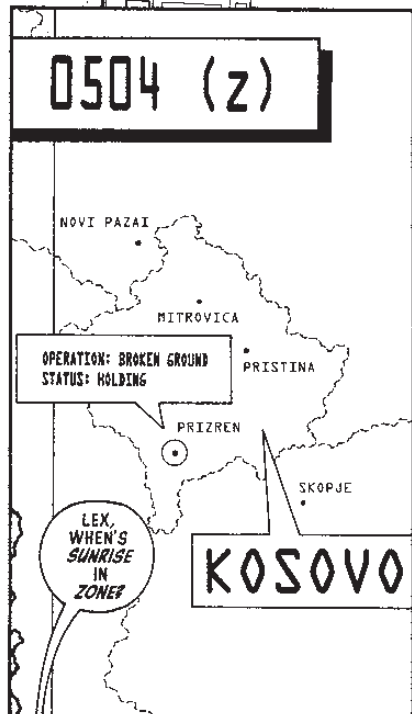
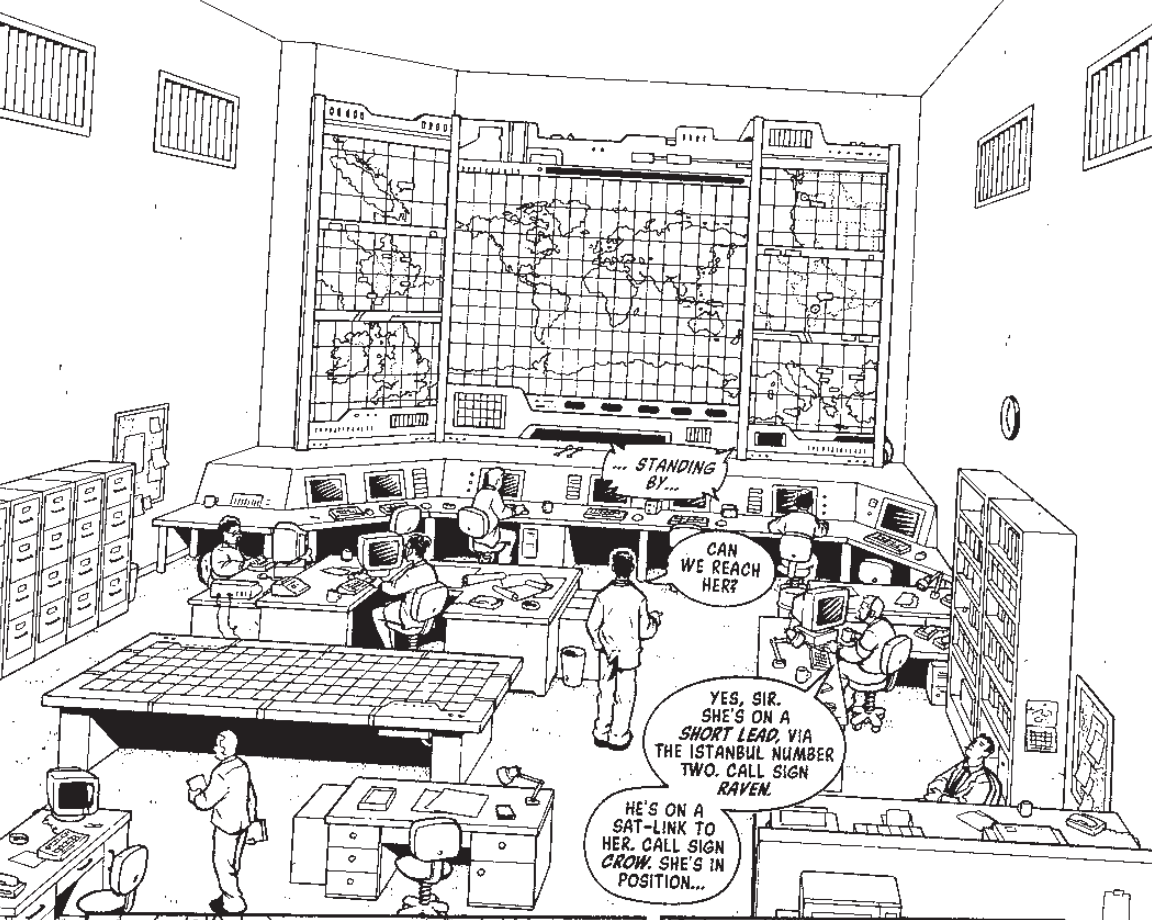
SIMON RAYBURN—Director of Intelligence for S.I.S. (D. Int), essentially Crocker's opposite number. Responsible for the evaluation, interpretation, and dissemination of all acquired intelligence.

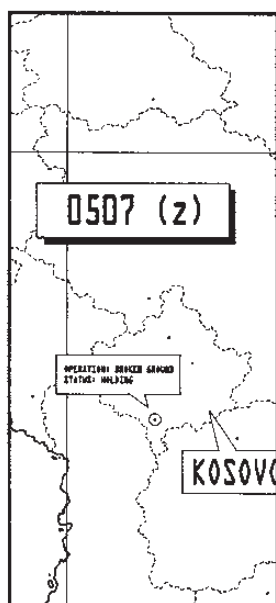
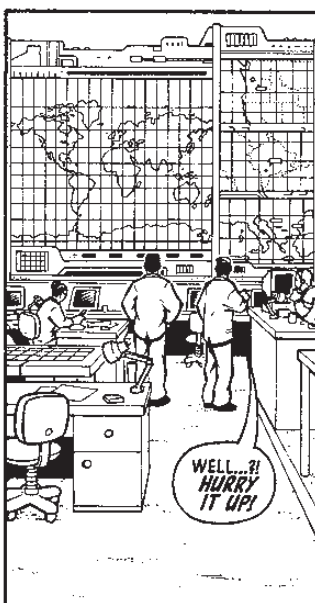
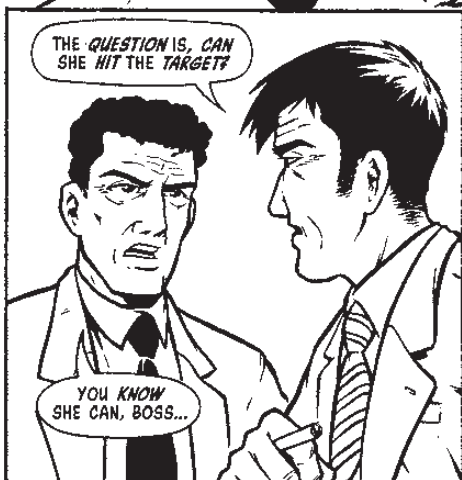
DAVID KINNY—Crocker's opposite number at M.I.5, also called the Security Services, with jurisdiction primarily confined to within the U.K.

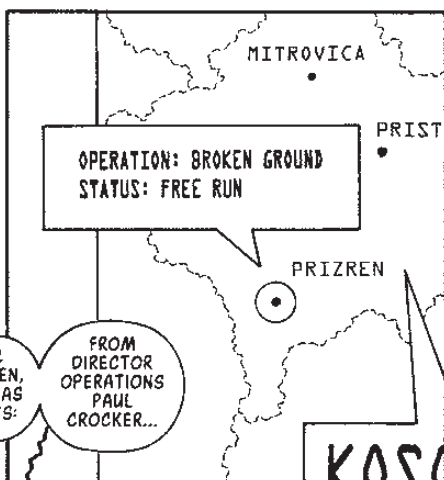
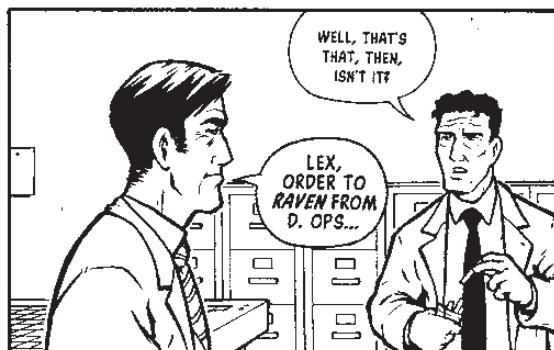
OTHERS

CHAPTER 1

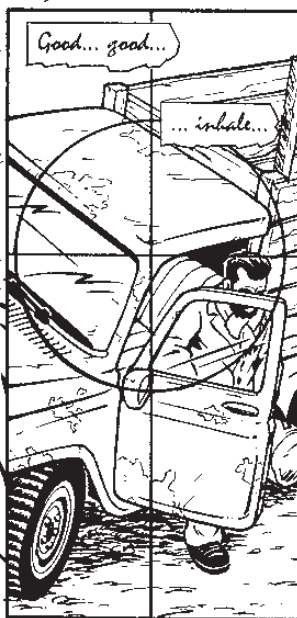
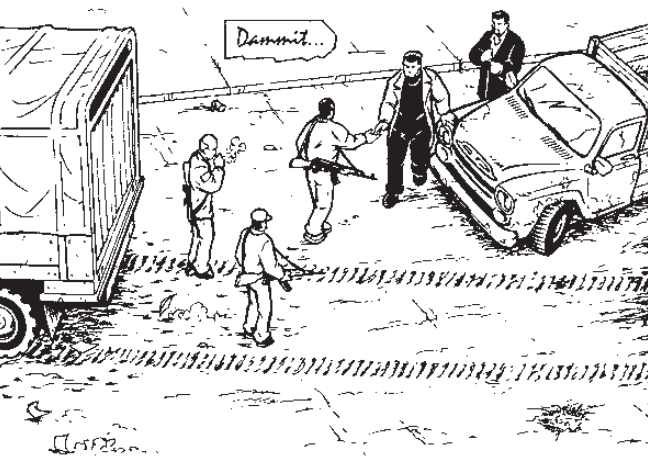


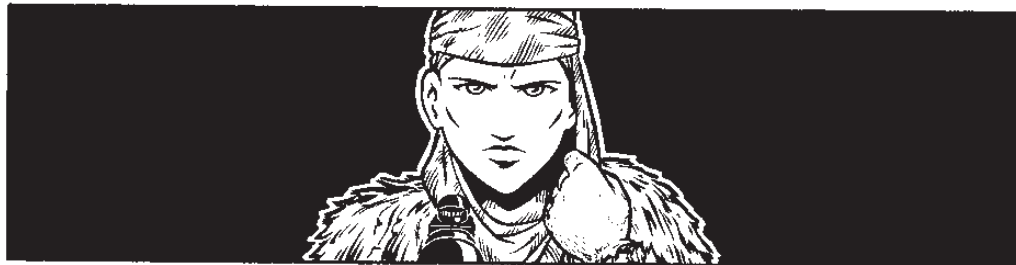
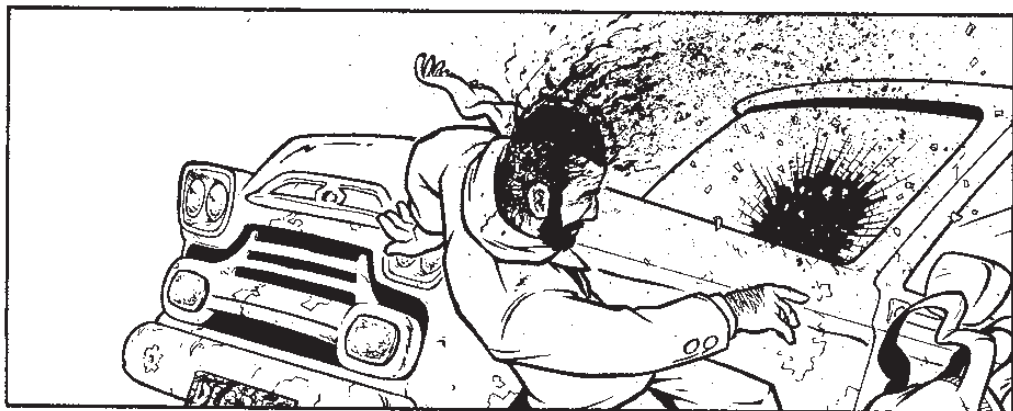


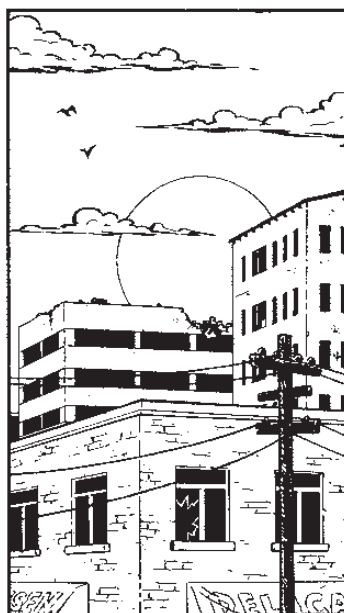
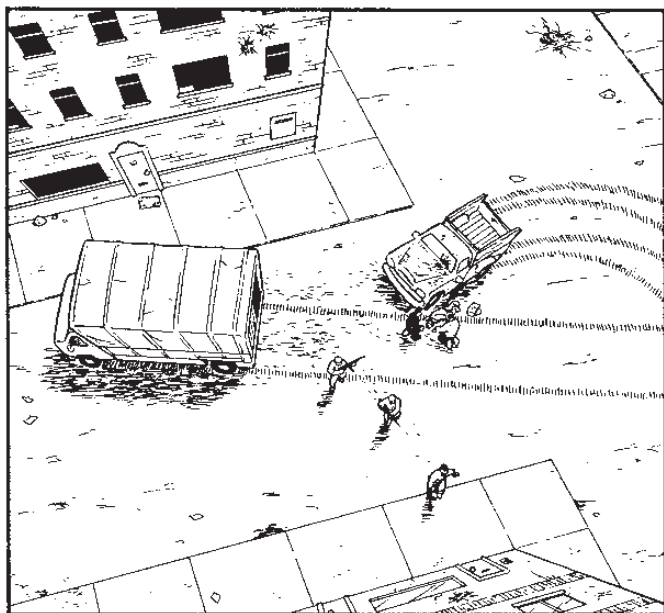
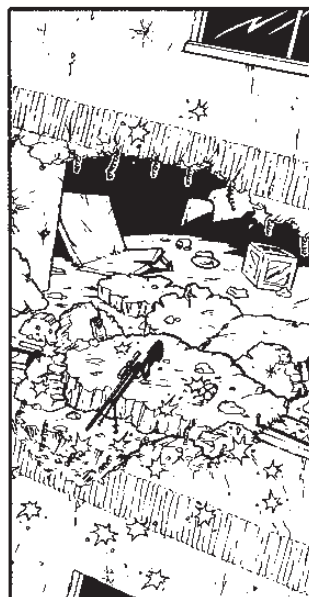
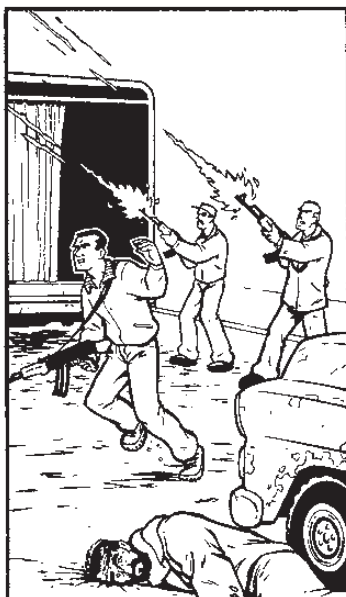


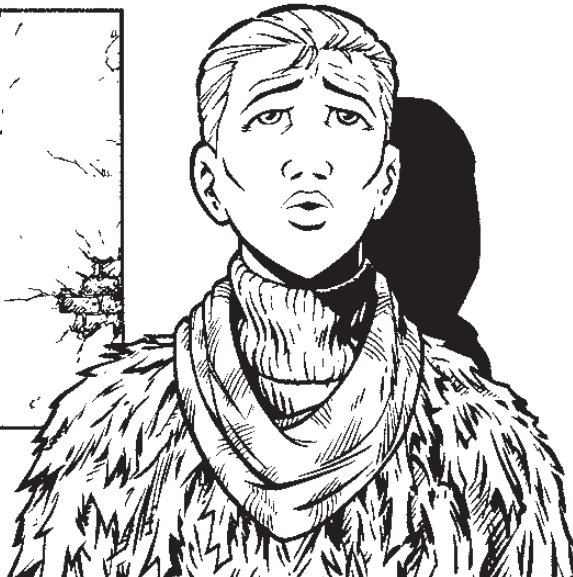


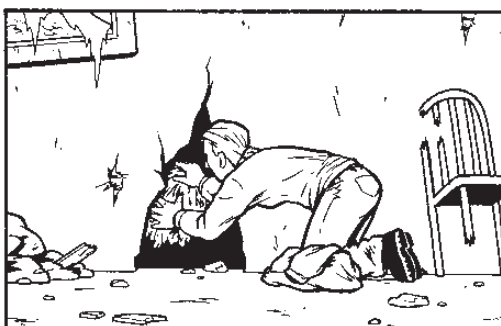
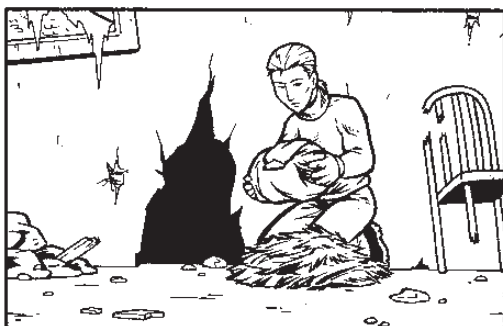
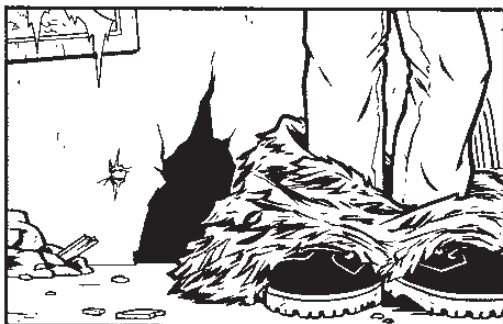
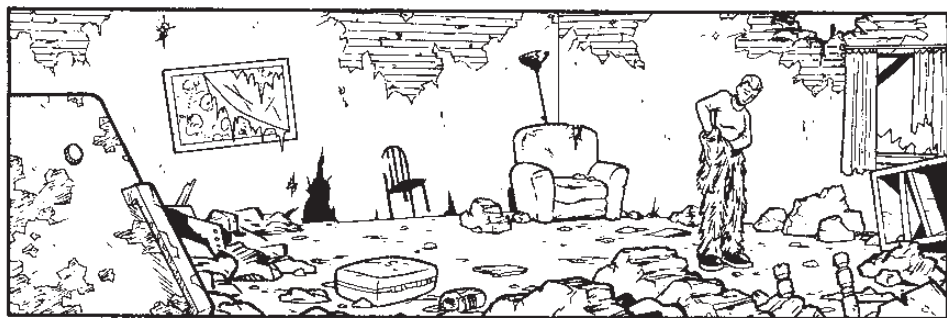


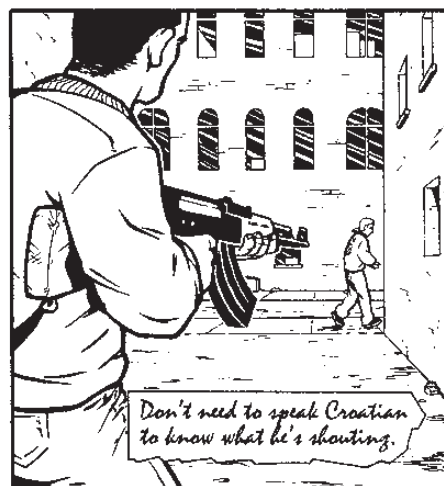
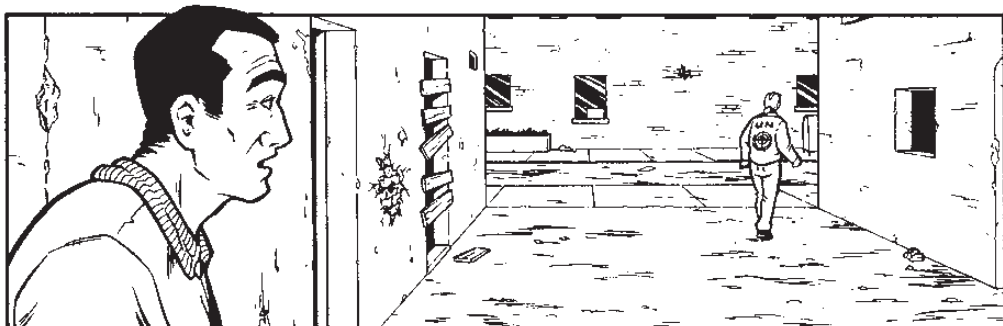


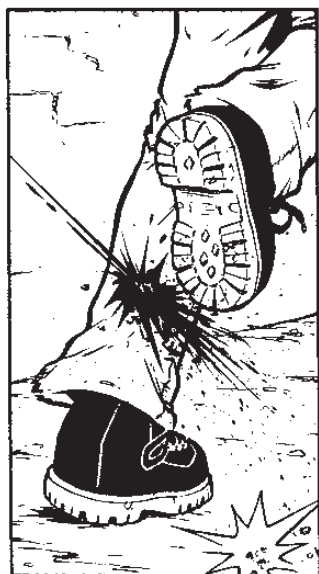


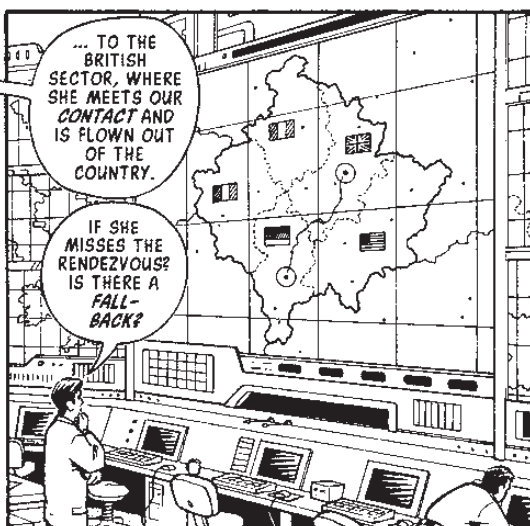
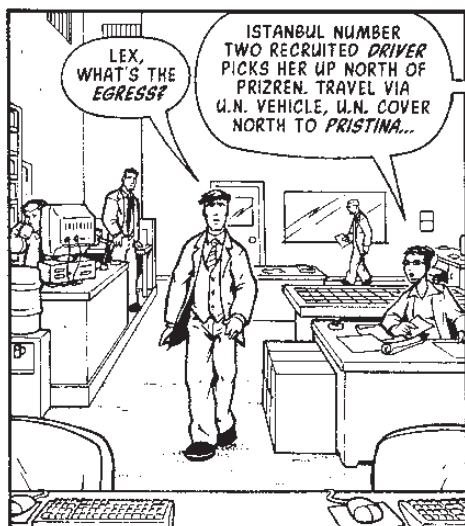
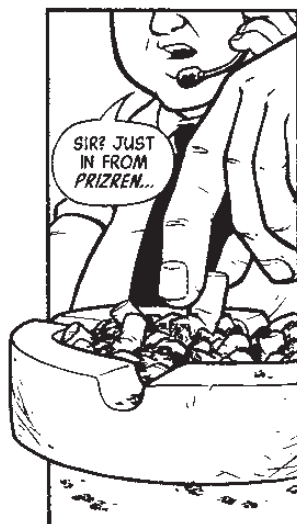


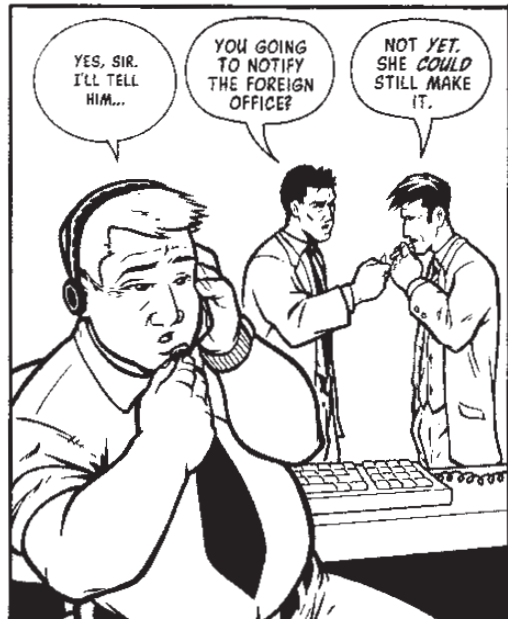




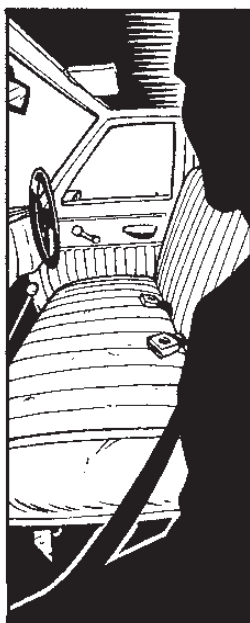
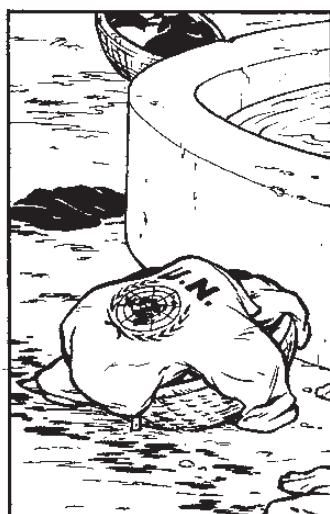


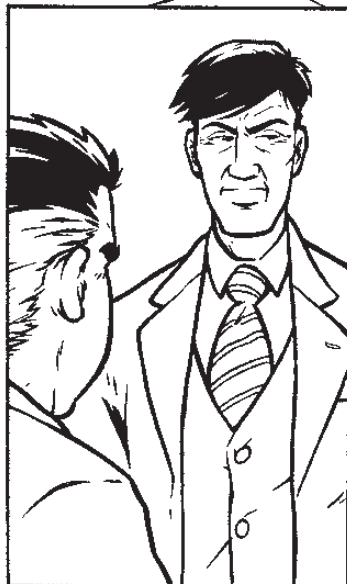


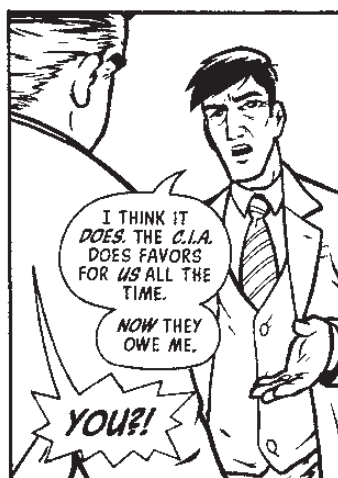
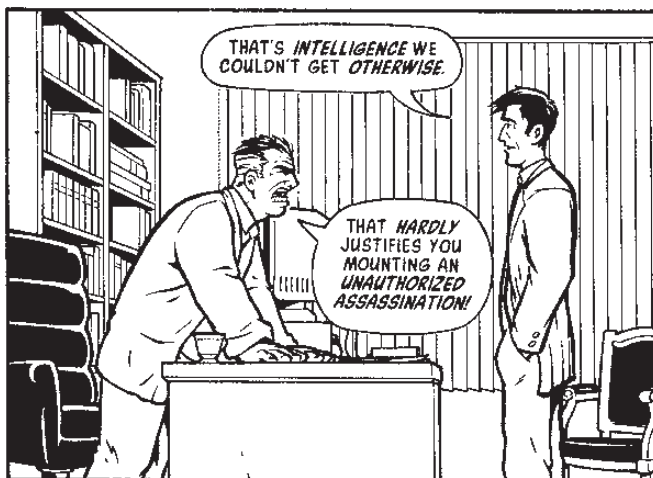




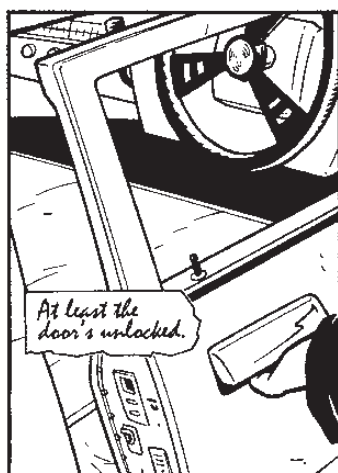


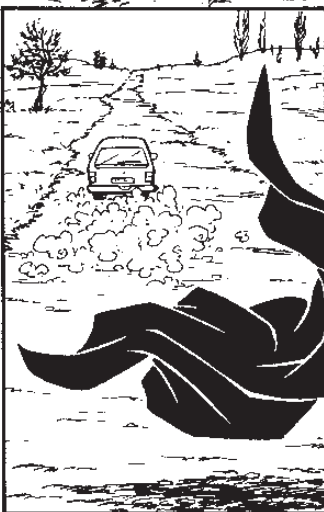
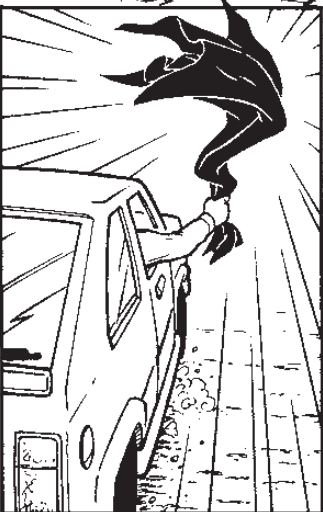
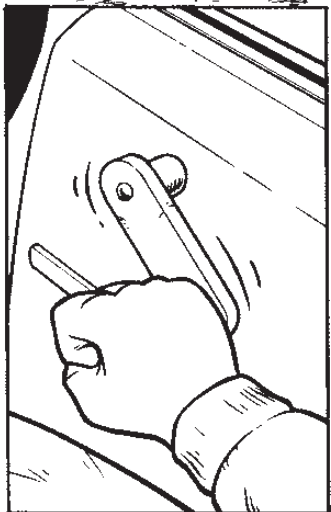
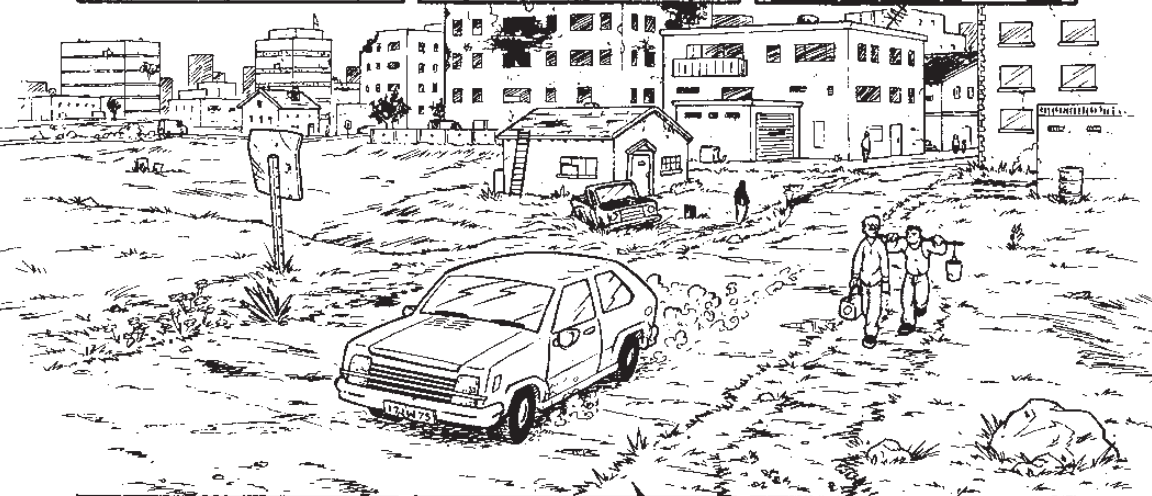
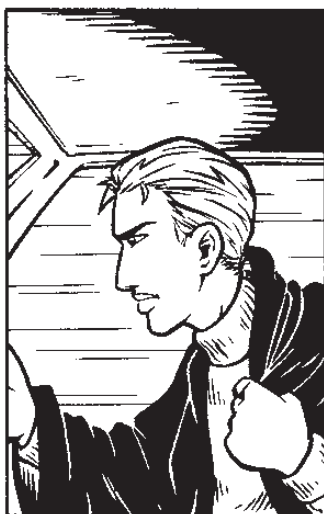
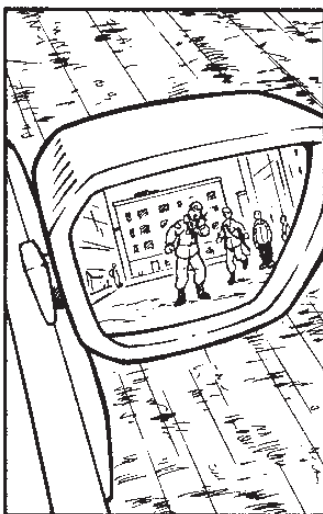


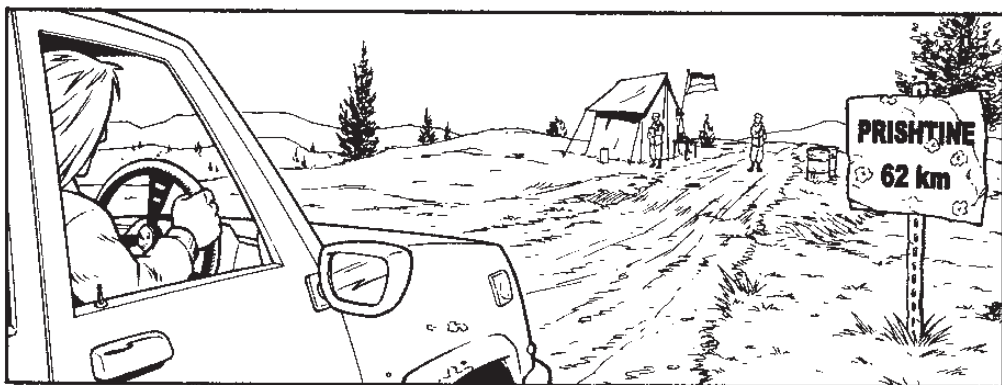
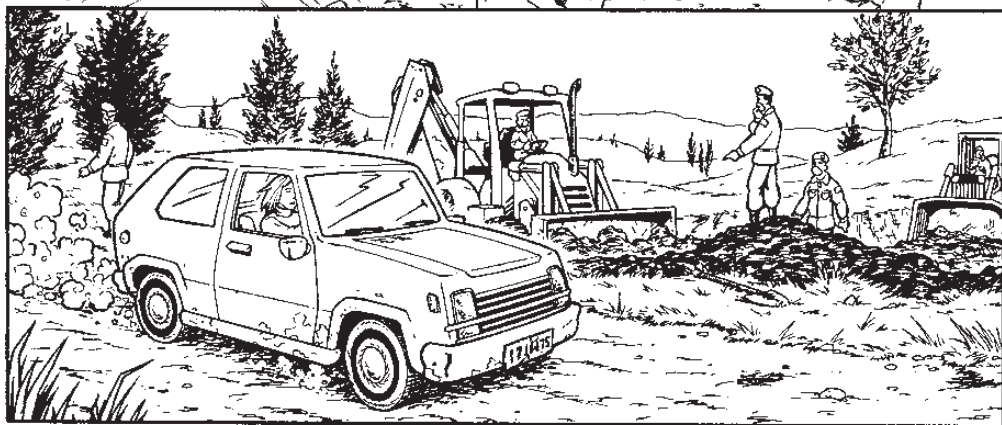
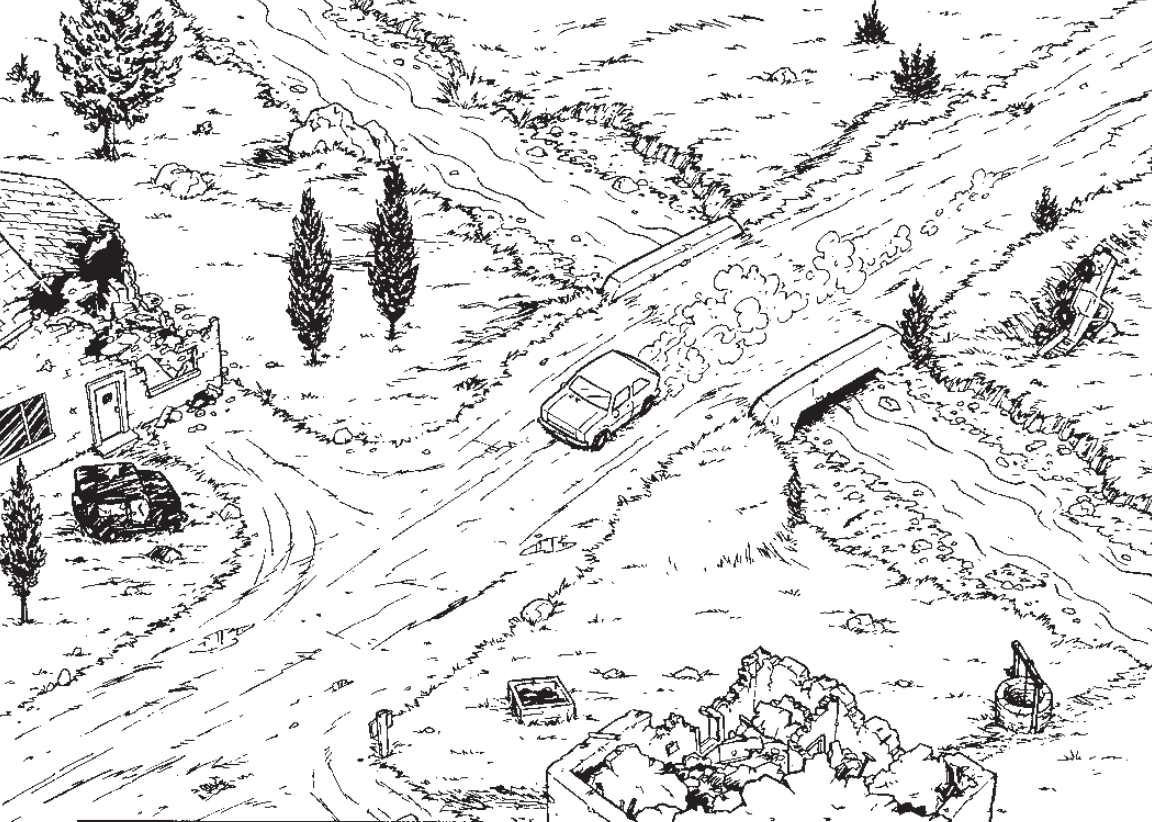


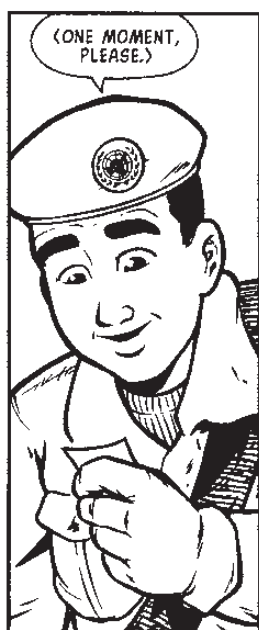


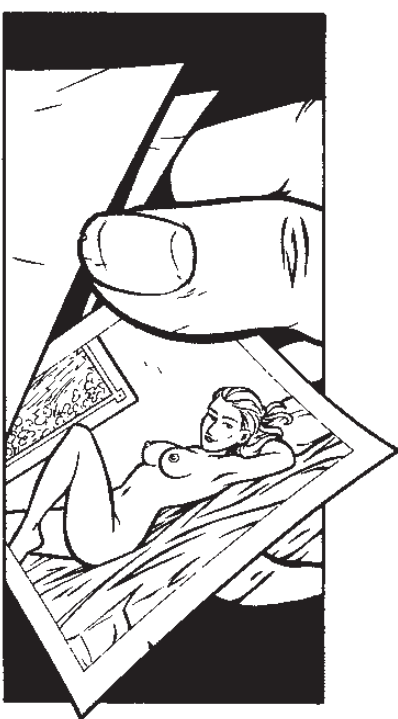


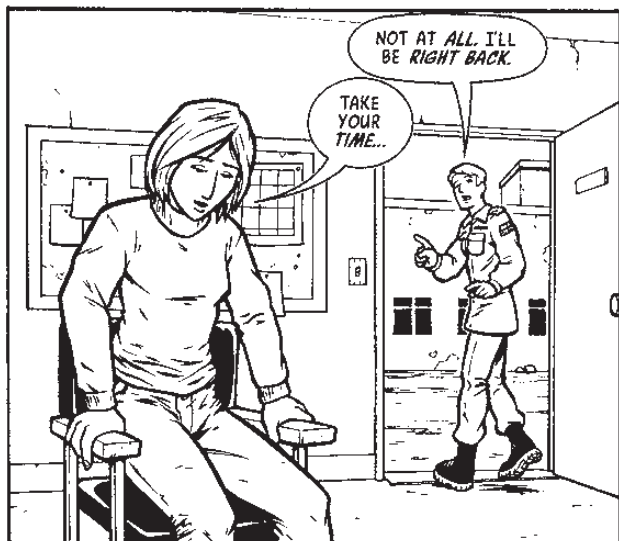


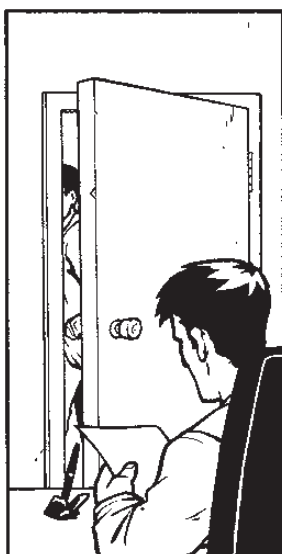






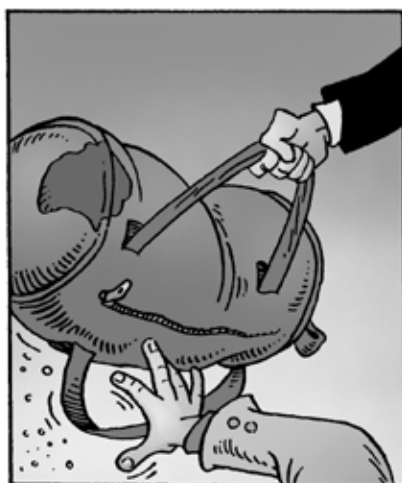








INTERLUDE







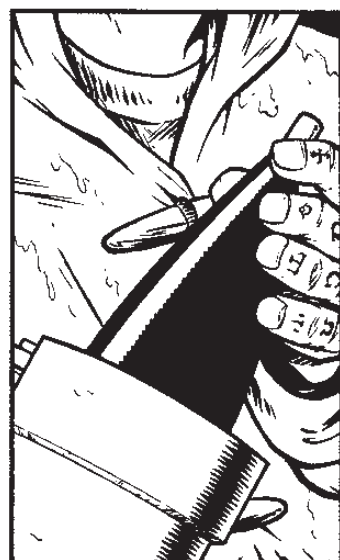
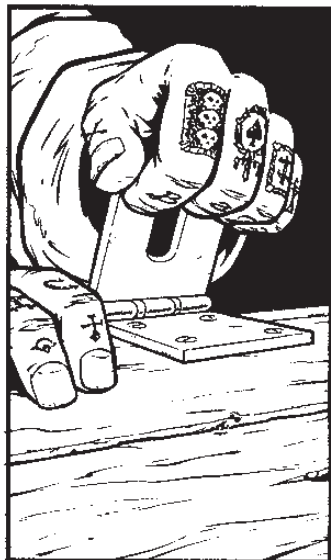
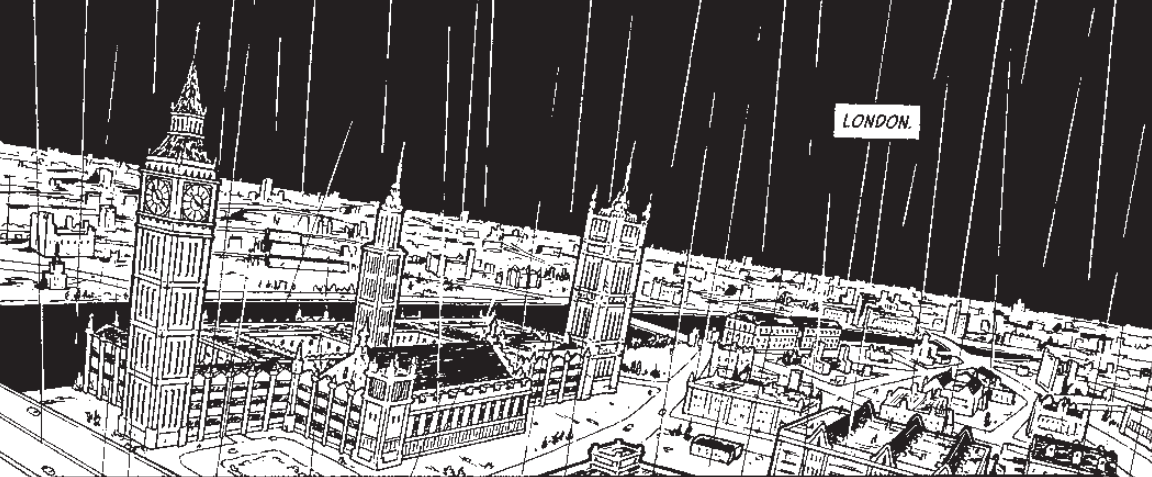


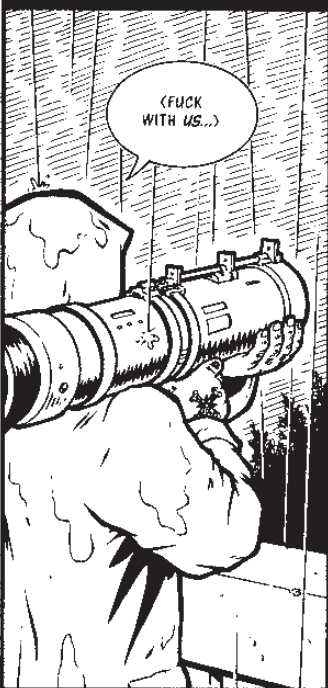




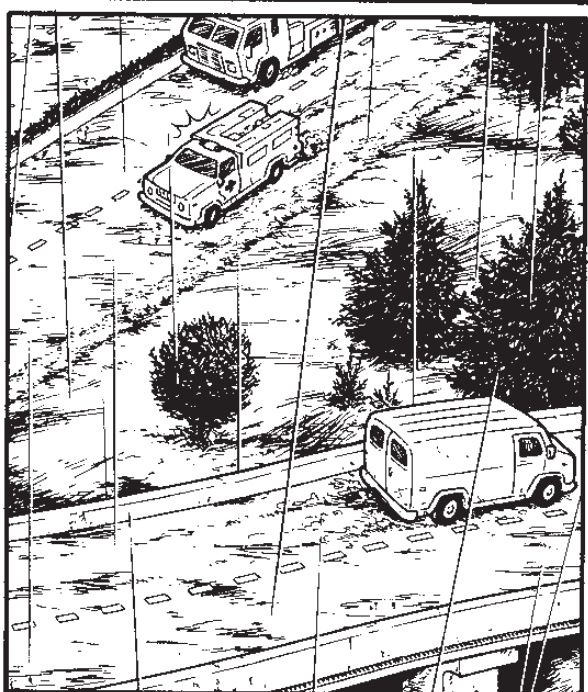
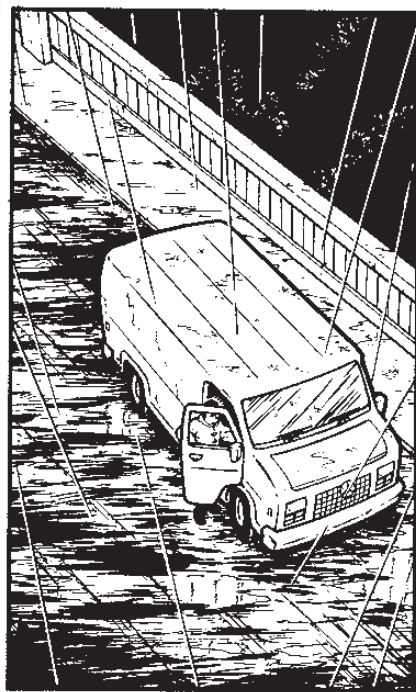


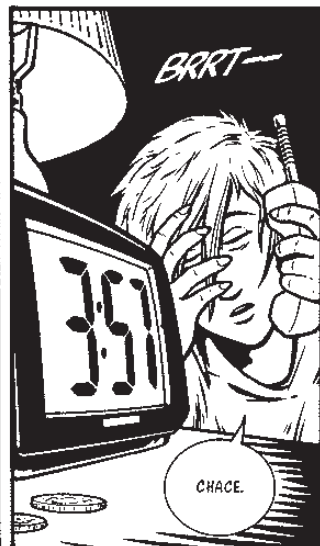
LONDON.

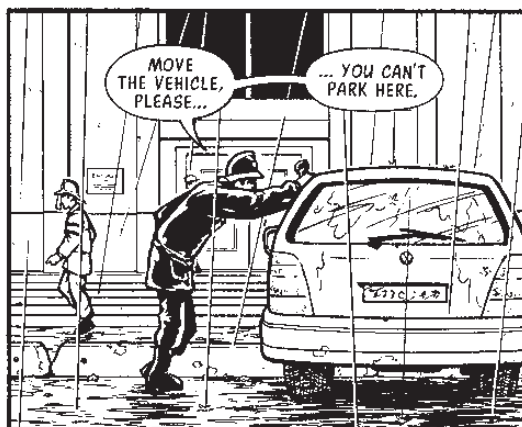


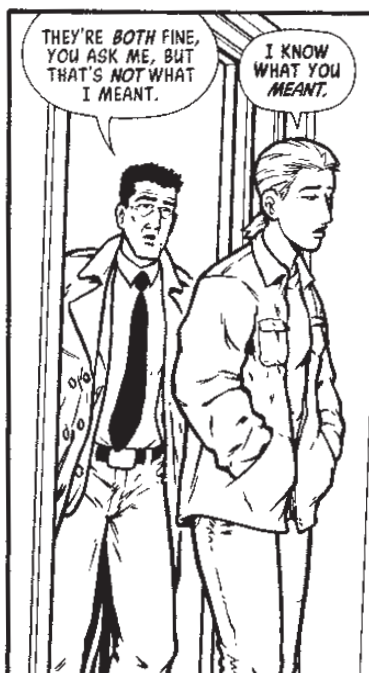
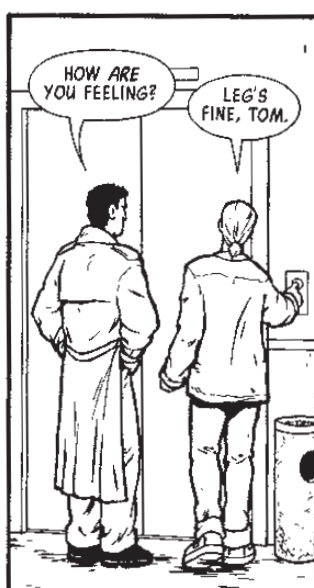


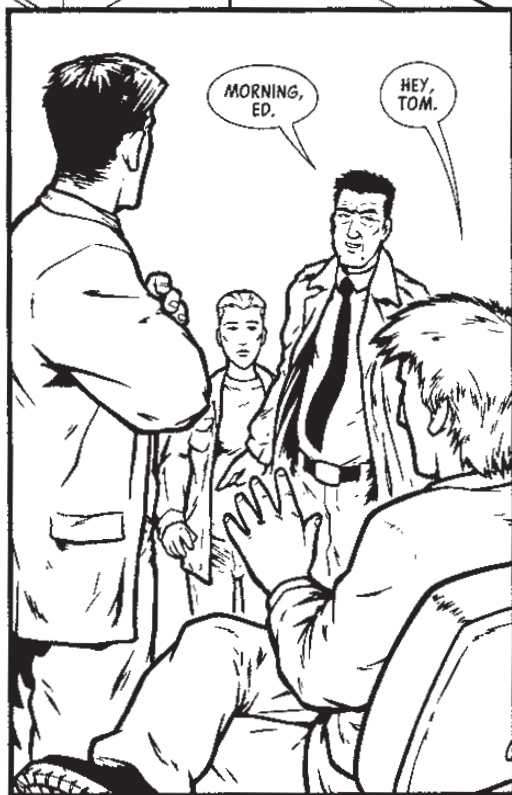
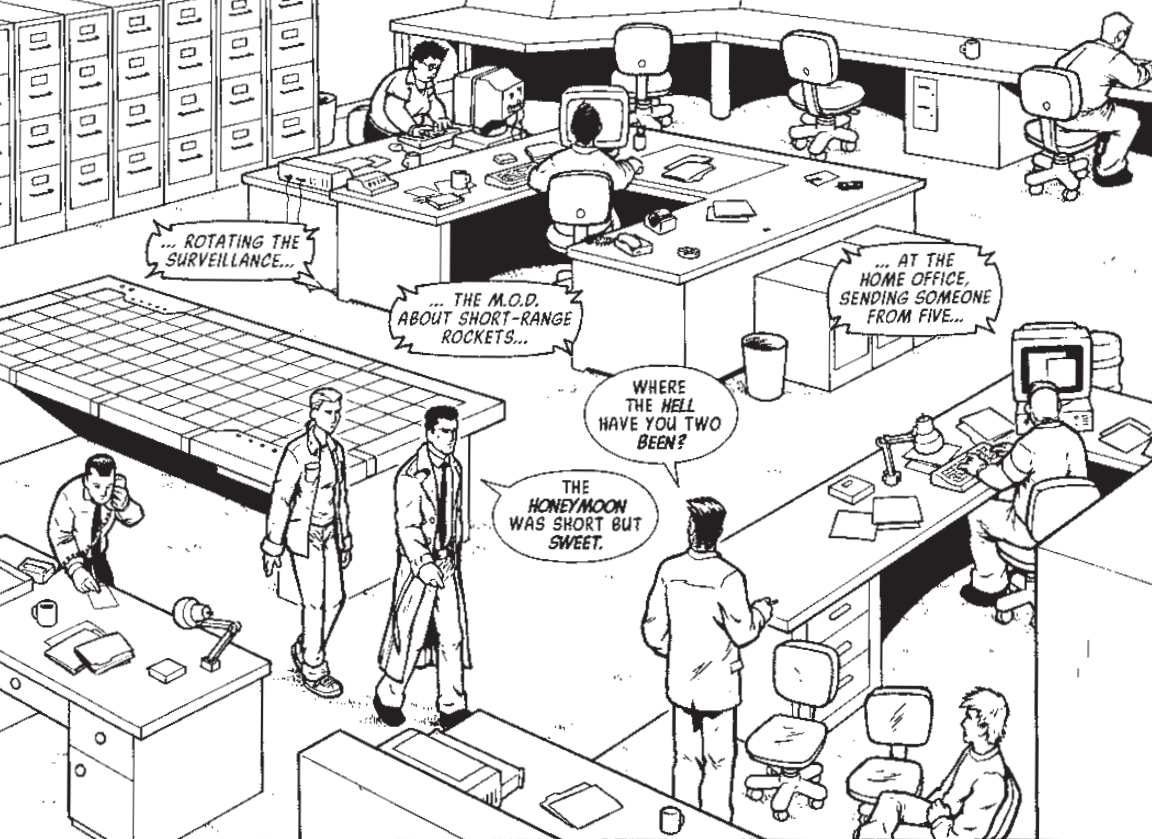


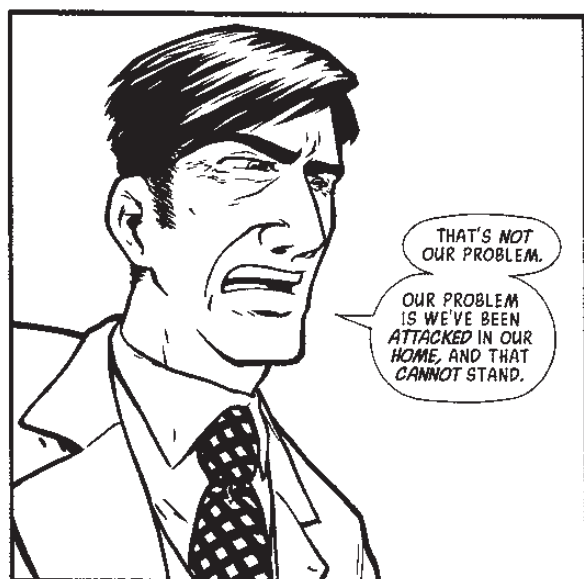
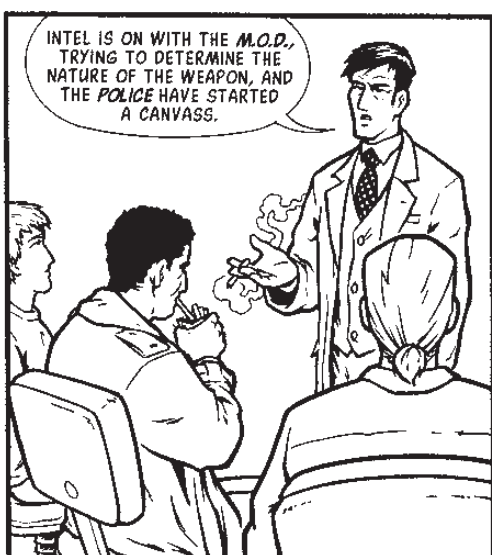












I DON'T CARE.



WE'RE NOT CHARTERED FOR DOMESTIC WORK, BOSS, YOU KNOW THAT. IT'S THE PURVIEW OF MIS.



FIVE WASN'T ATTACKED, TOM. WE WERE.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE WILL GIVE US BACKING.

AND THE HOME OFFICE WILL OPPOSE.

I CAN SEE WHERE YOU'RE HEADING, BOSS...



... BUT IF S.I.S. GOES MUCKING ABOUT IN A FIVE INVESTIGATION--

THEY CAN INVESTIGATE TO THEIR HEART'S CONTENT, TOM!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT!

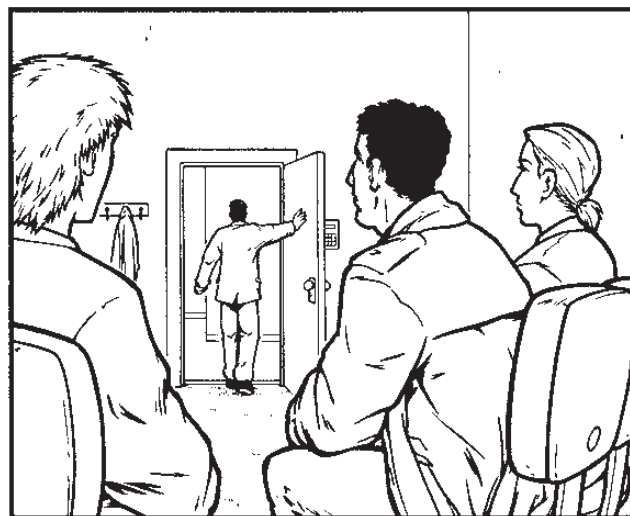
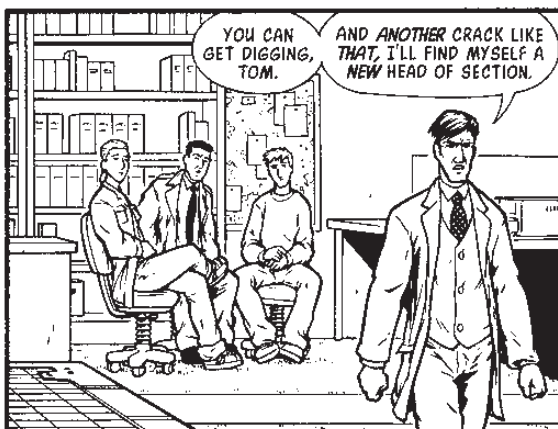
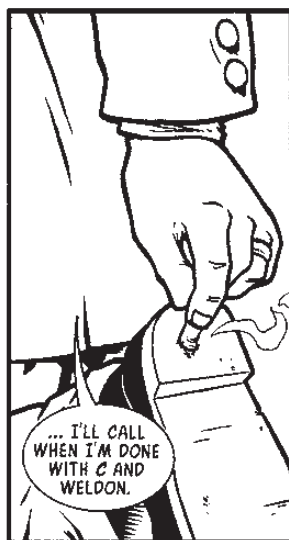


WHAT DO YOU WANT, SIR?

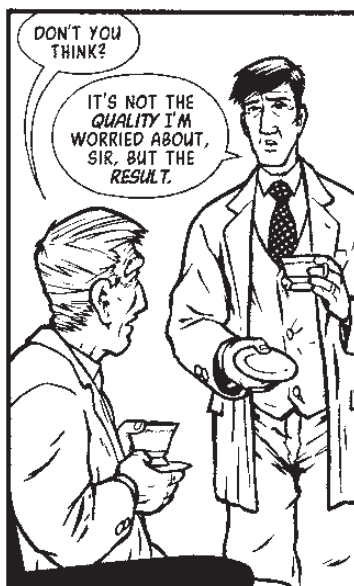
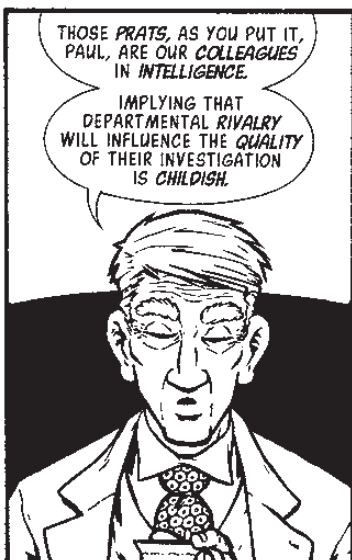
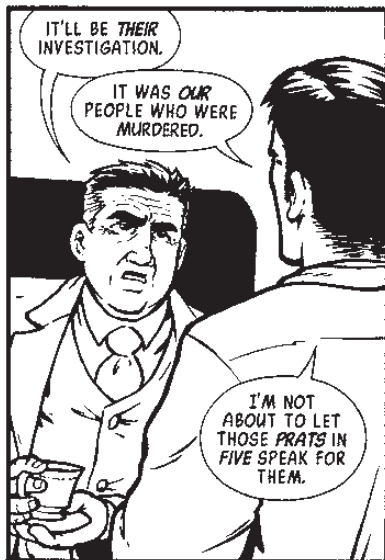


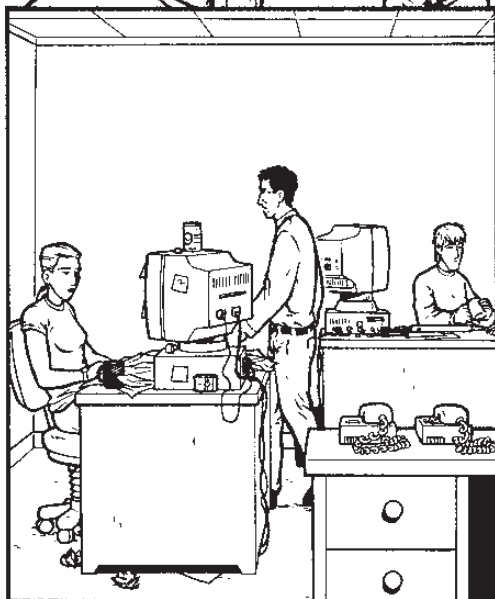
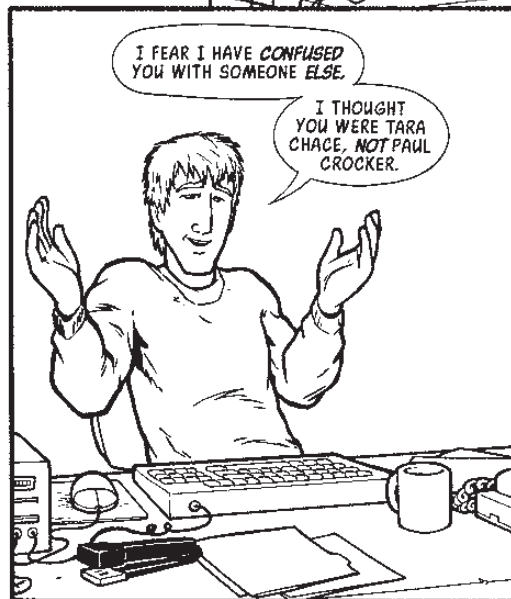
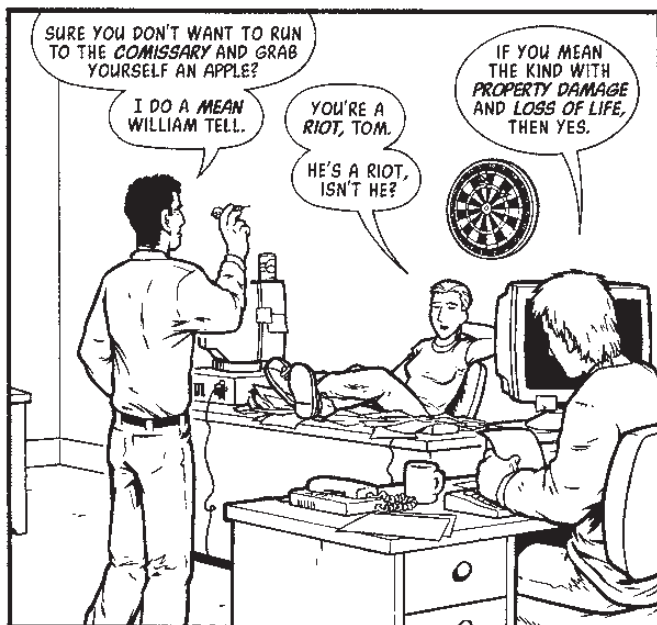
RETALIATION.



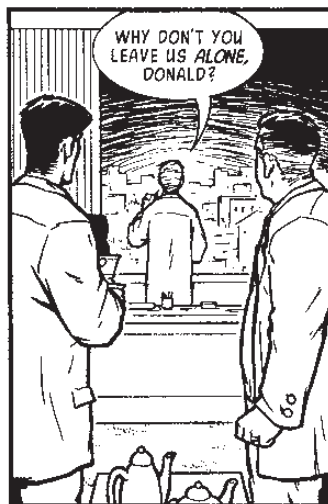
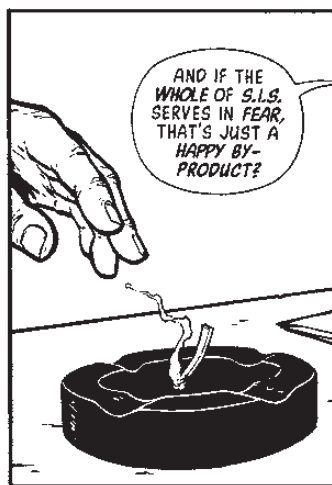


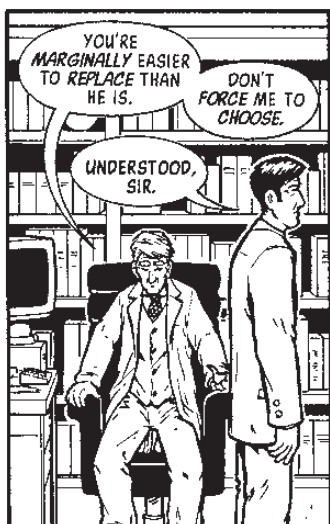


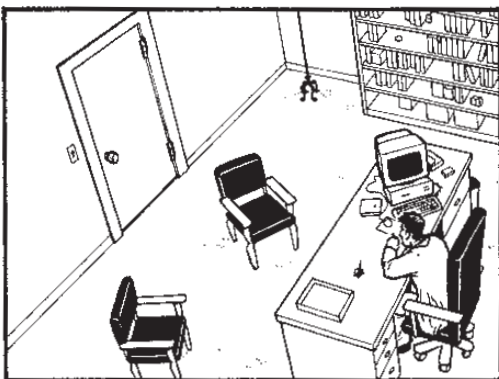
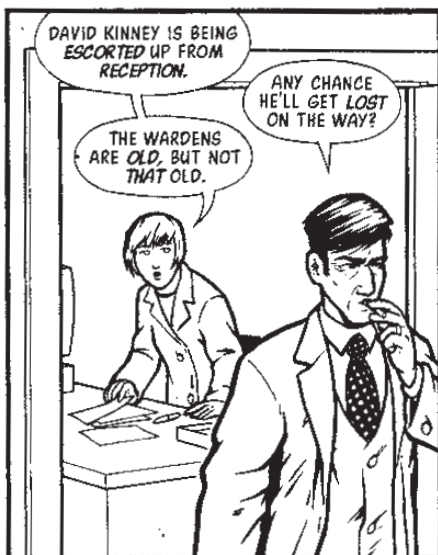




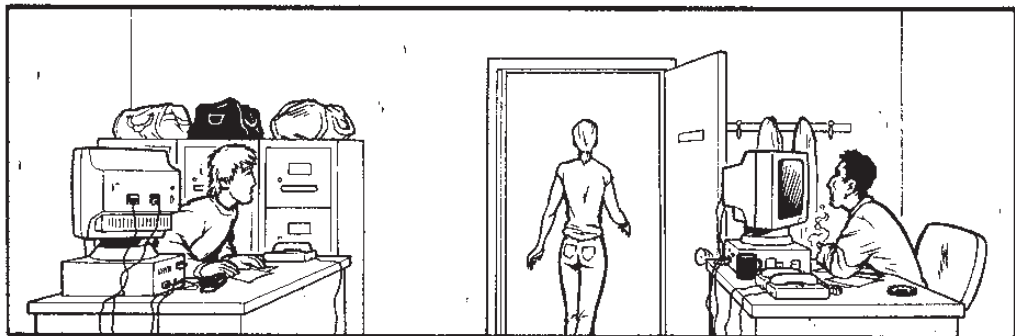
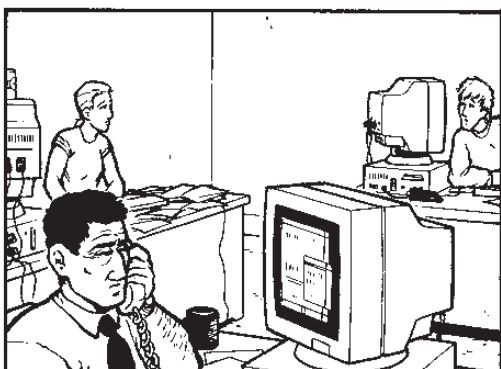
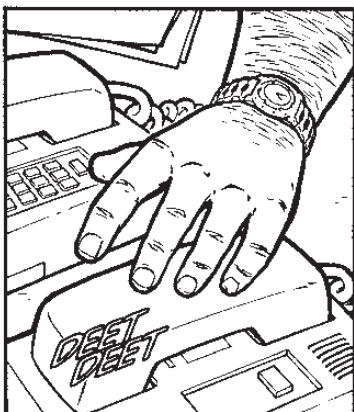
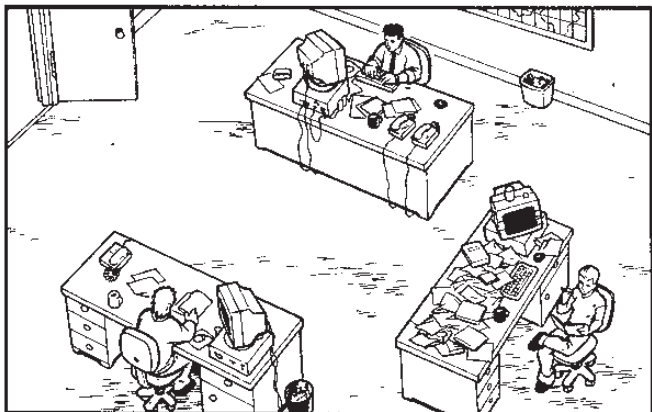


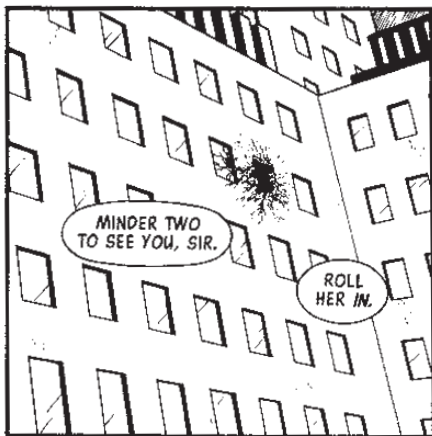


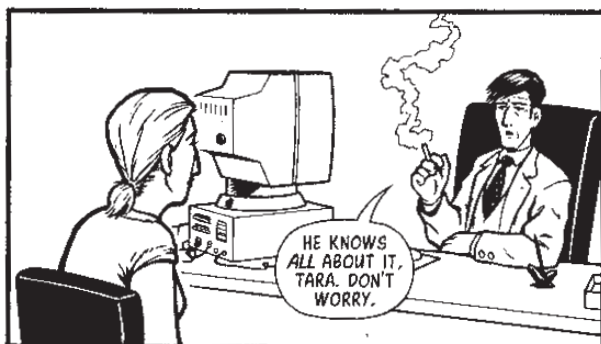


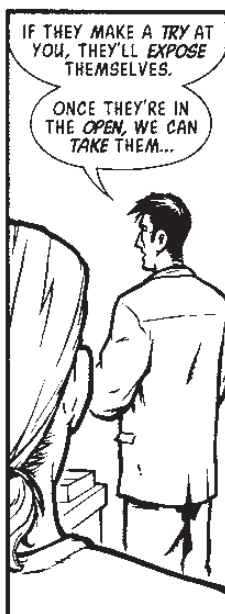
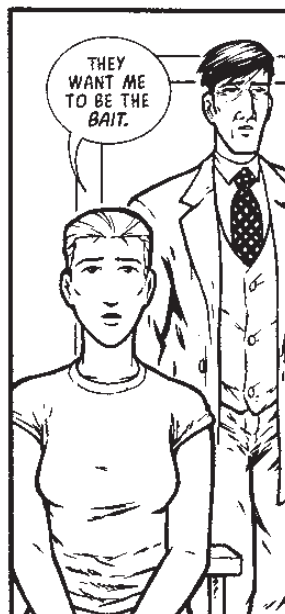
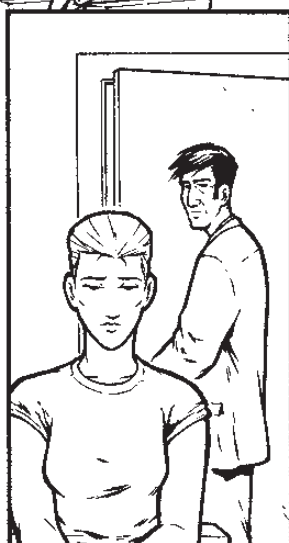
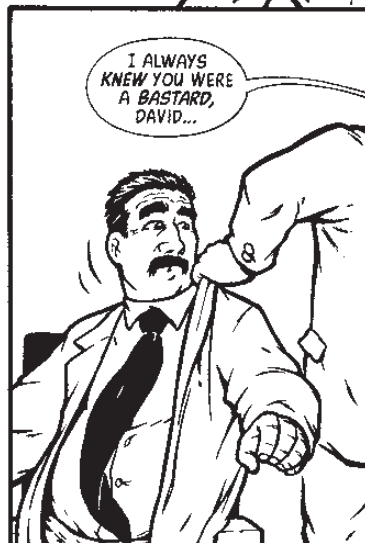


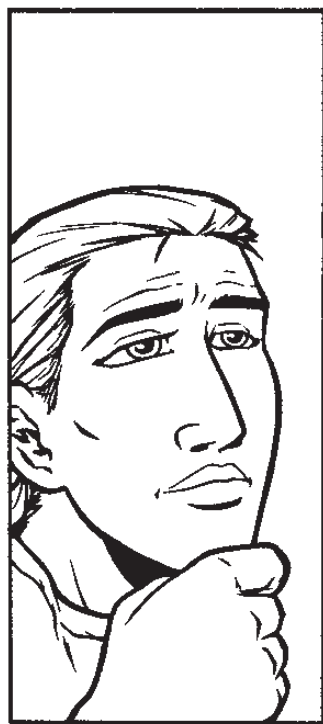




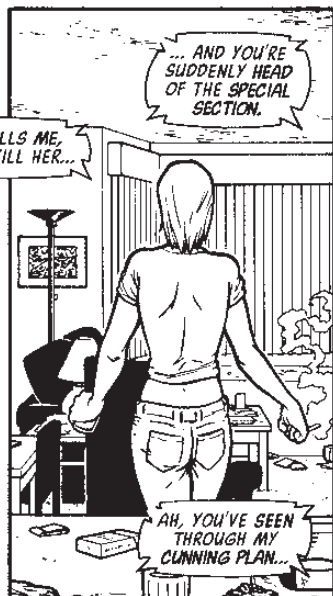
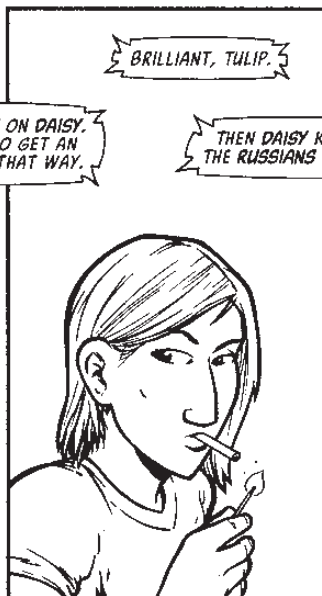


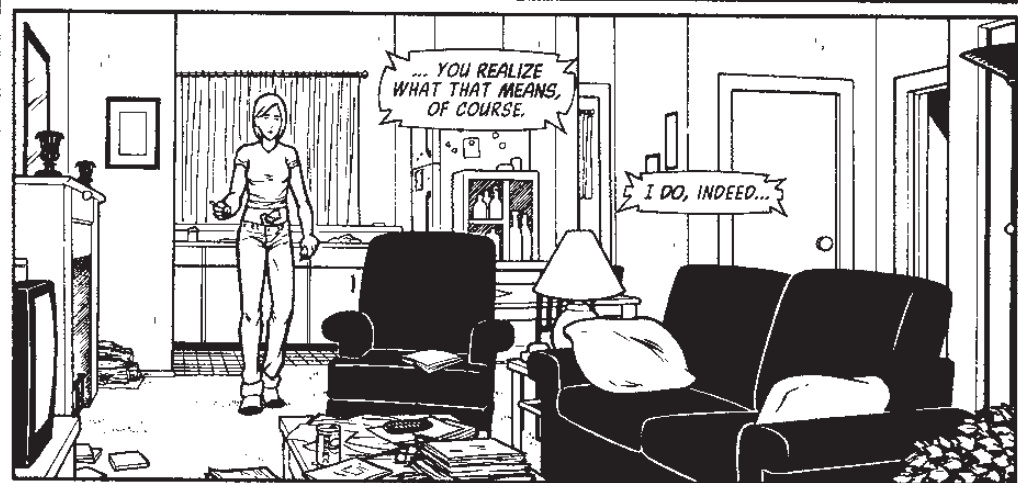




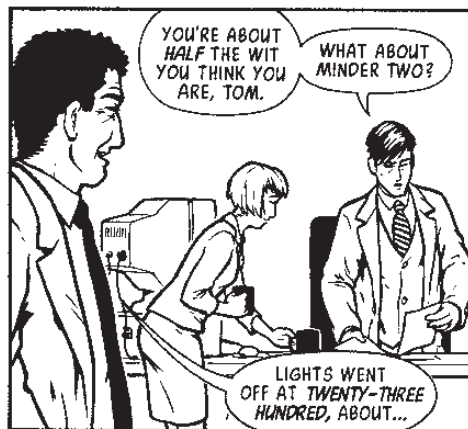
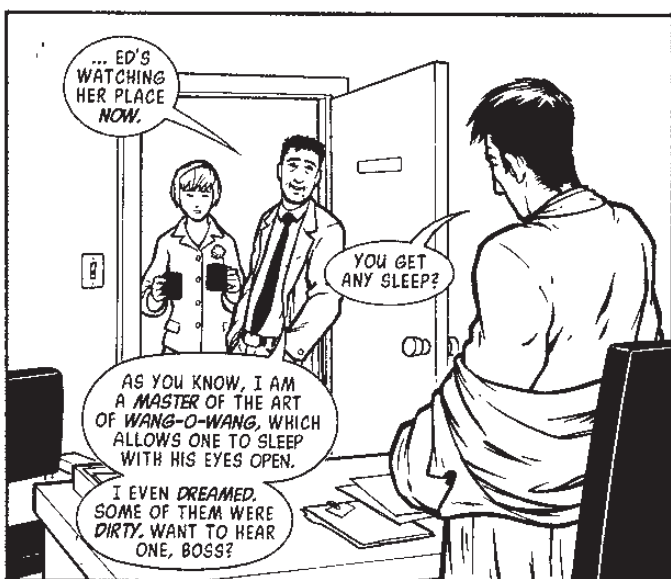


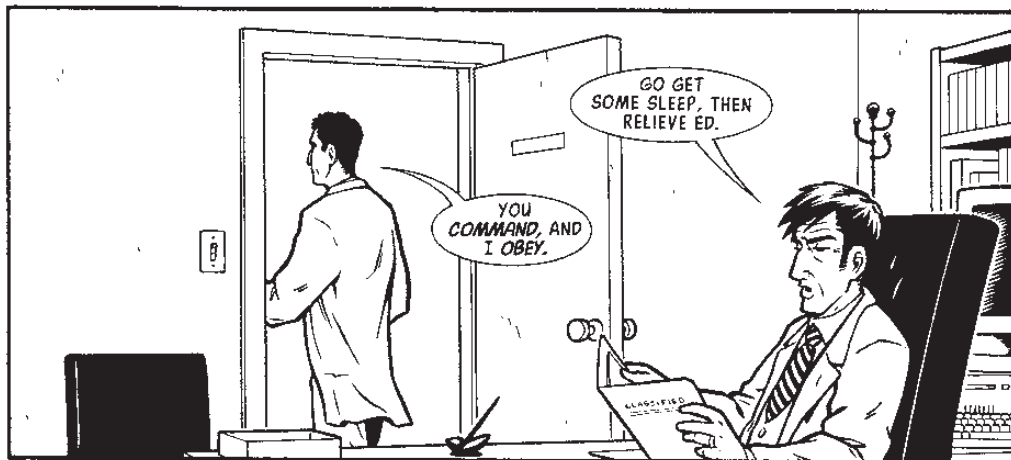


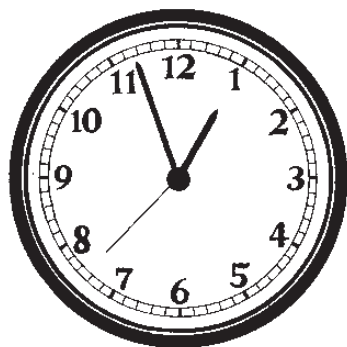












PAUL!
YOU'RE GOING TO
BE LATE.



CALL THE EMBASSY,
TELL HER I'LL BE IN
THE PARK.

SHE'S PROBABLY
ALREADY LEFT--

SHE HASN'T
LEFT, SHE'S RUNNING
LATE, TOO.



AND WHEN MINDER
THREE GETS IN, TELL
HIM I'LL SEE HIM WHEN
I GET BACK--

PAUL.



SIR.

HEADING
OUT?

MEETING
WITH CHENG.

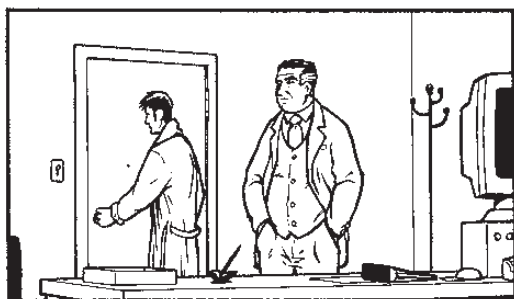


A MINUTE
IN YOUR OFFICE,
PLEASE.



KATE?

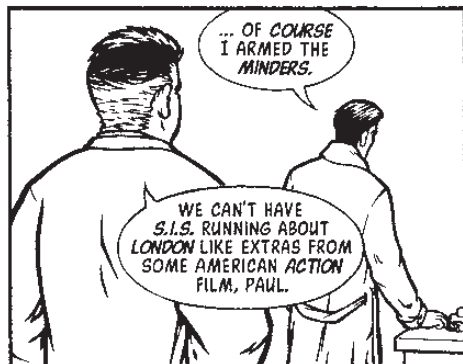
I'LL LET
HER KNOW.



I SAW A MEMO
FROM MATERIEL
THIS MORNING
ABOUT THREE
WALTHER P88s.

DID YOU
ARM THE
MINDERS?

CHASE IS BEING
HUNTED BY THUGS IN THE
MIDDLE OF LONDON, SIR...



... OF COURSE
I ARMED THE
MINDERS.

WE CAN'T HAVE
S.I.S. RUNNING ABOUT
LONDON LIKE EXTRAS FROM
SOME AMERICAN ACTION
FILM, PAUL.



YOU GET
AWAY WITH
THAT BEHAVIOR
ON STATION, NOT
AT HOME.
NOT HERE...

AND CERTAINLY
NOT WHEN KINNEY
AND THE REST OF
FIVE ARE BREATHING
DOWN OUR NECKS.

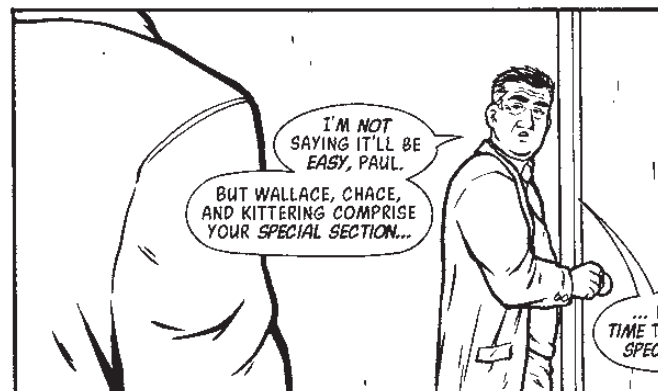


YOU HAVE
TO DISARM
THEM.



AND WHEN THE RUSSIANS
MAKE THEIR TRY, WHAT IS
CHASE SUPPOSED TO DO?

BAT HER EYES AND ASK THEM
SWEETLY TO NOT MURDER HER
TOO MUCH?



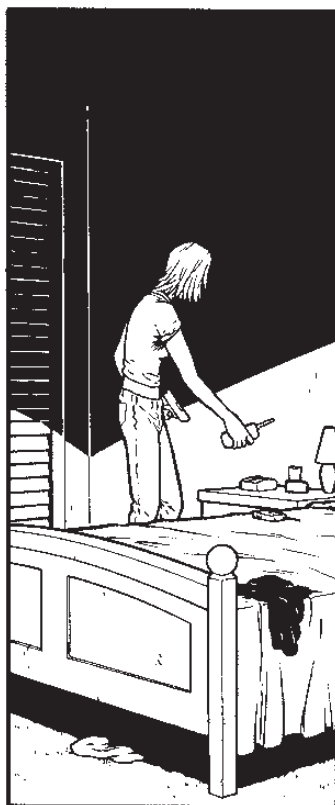
I'M NOT
SAYING IT'LL BE
EASY, PAUL.

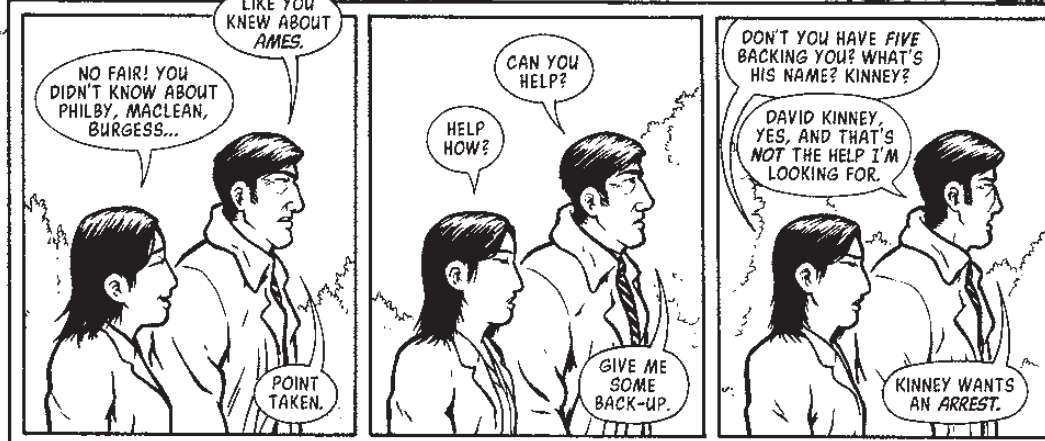
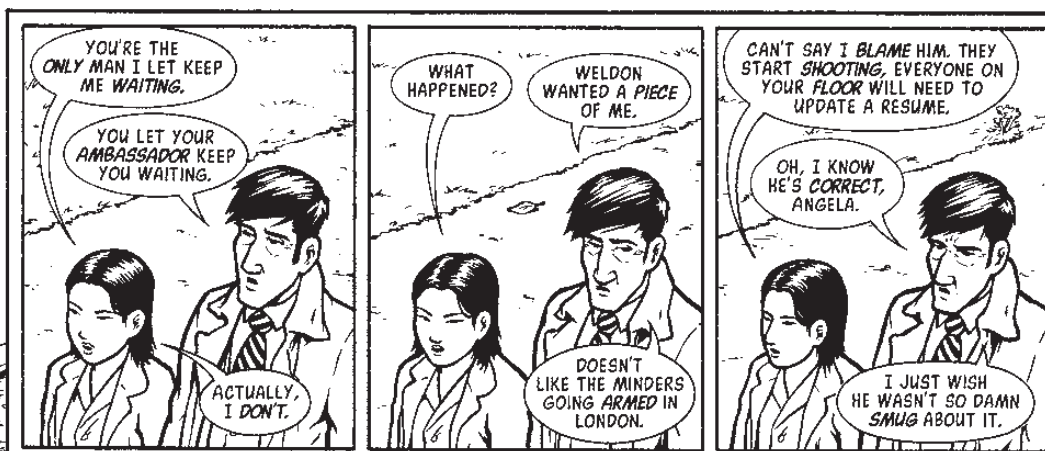
BUT WALLACE, CHASE,
AND KITTERING COMPRISE
YOUR SPECIAL SECTION...

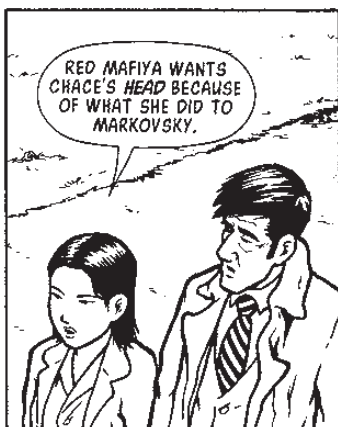


... PERHAPS IT'S
TIME THEY PROVE HOW
SPECIAL THEY ARE.

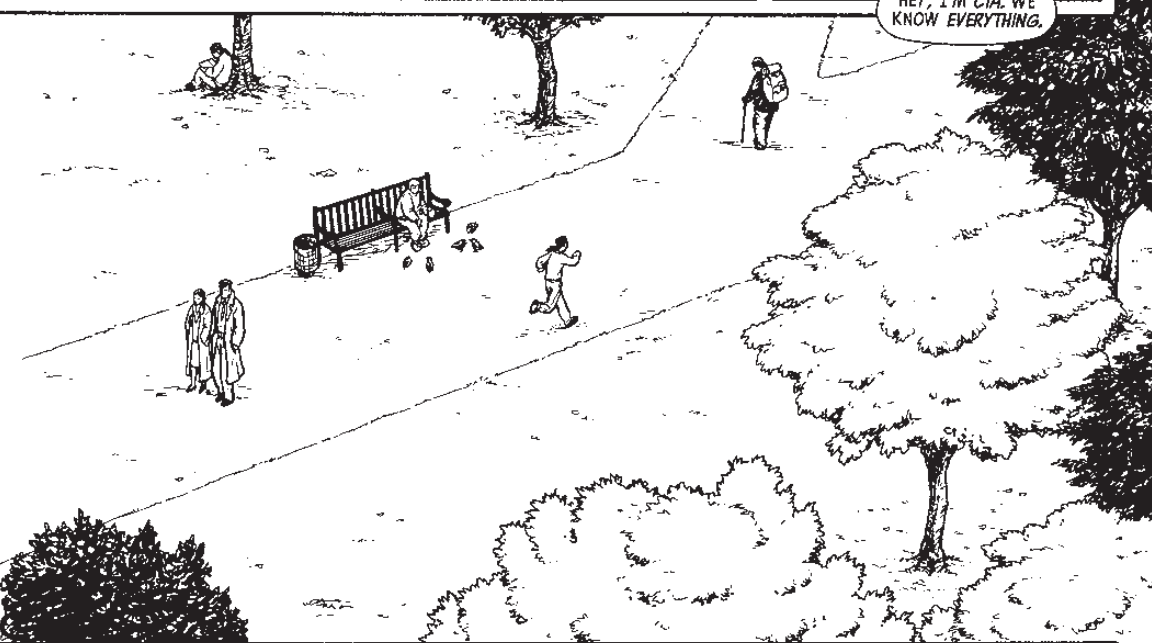


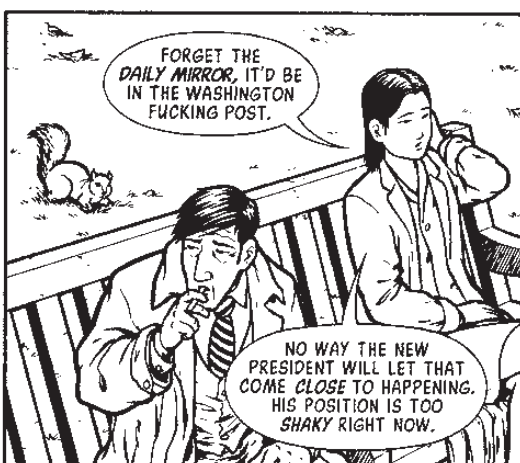
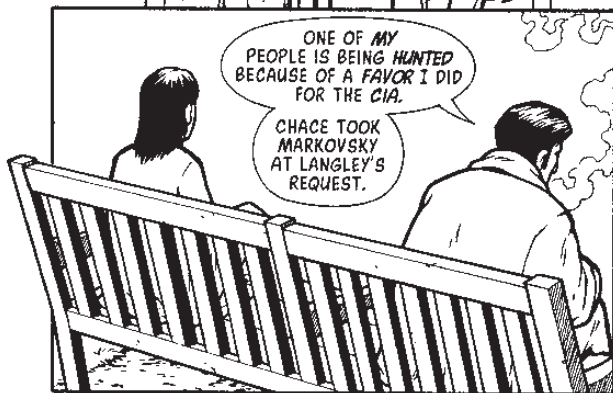
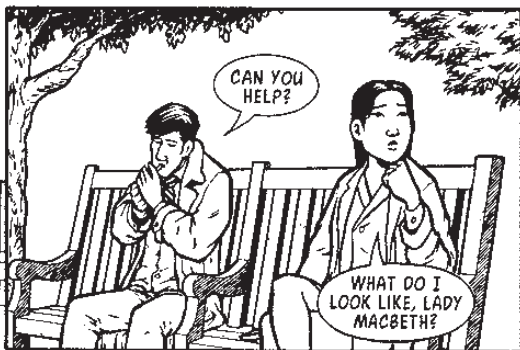
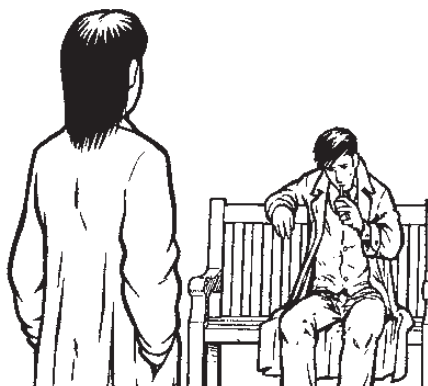


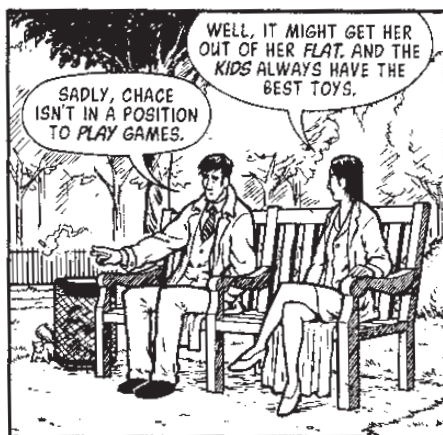
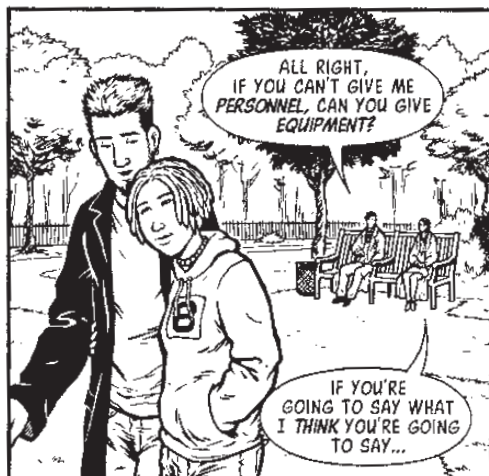


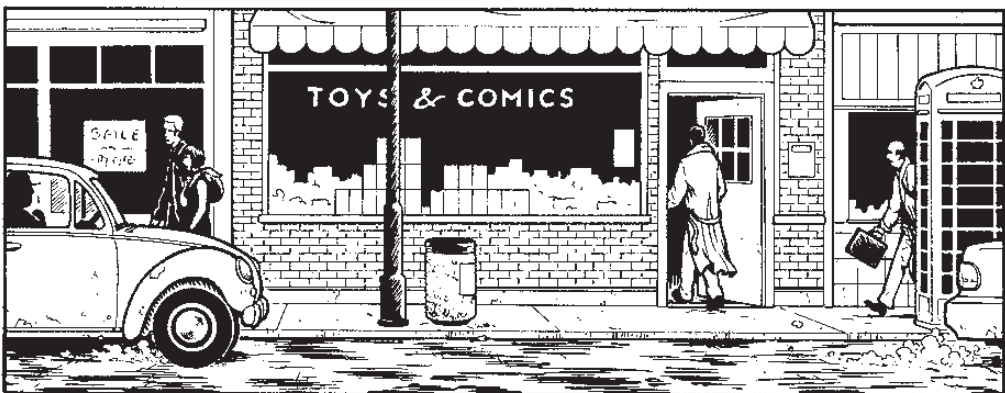


HEY, I'M CIA. WE KNOW EVERYTHING.

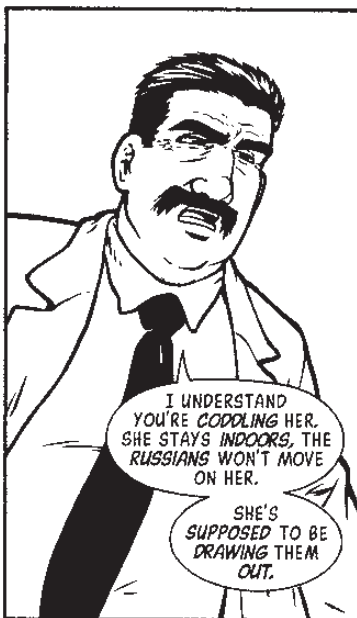
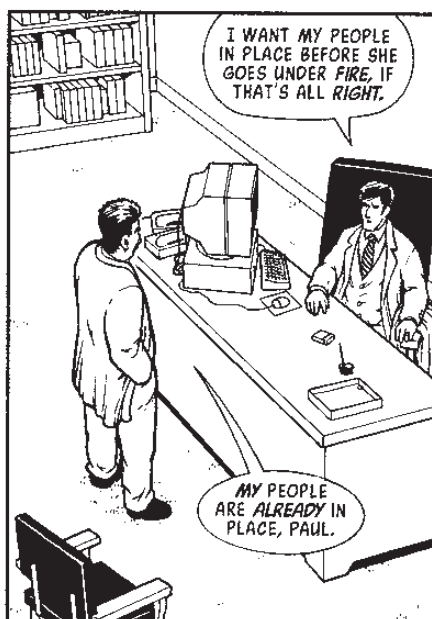
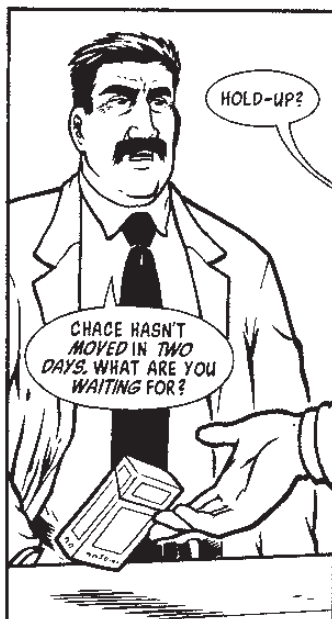


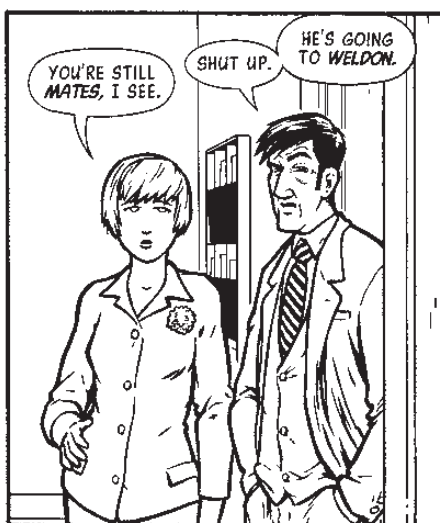
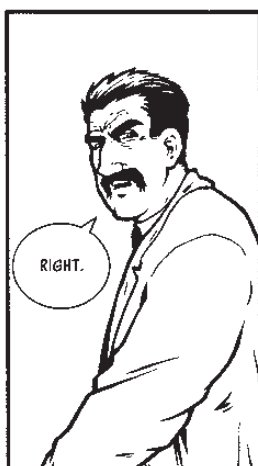
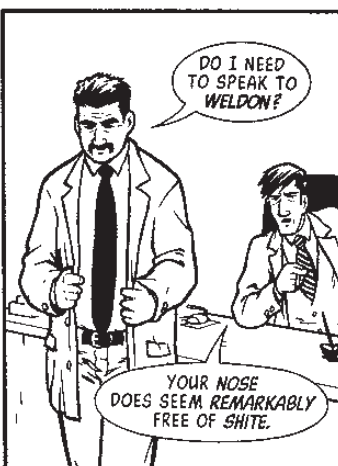


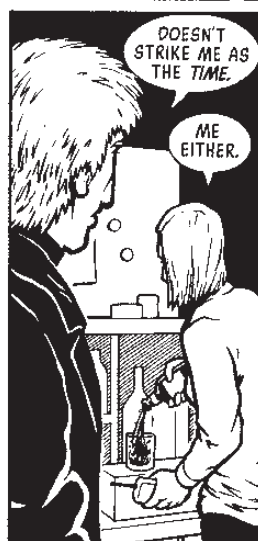














SO WHAT IS
THE GOOD WORD
FROM MASTER
CROCKER?

HE OFFERS US
TOYS AND
INSTRUCTIONS.

WE'RE EACH
TO TAKE ONE
OF THESE...



... AND THEN
WATCH TARA GO
FOR A WALK BY
THE WATER.



ARE THESE
PELLET GUNS?

YES. WE'RE
TO BLUFF
WITH THEM.

BLUFF.

YES.

GETS WORSE.
KINNEY GOT THE DC
TO ORDER TARA INTO
THE OPEN...

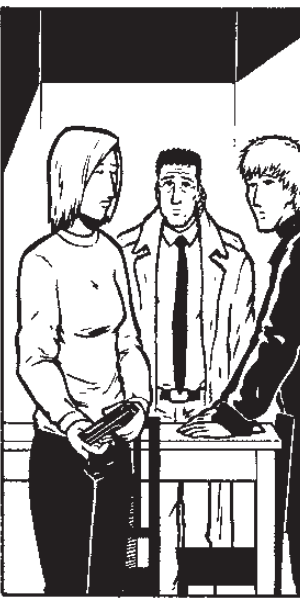


... ASSURED HIM
THAT FIVE WOULD
PROVIDE ADEQUATE
BACK-UP.

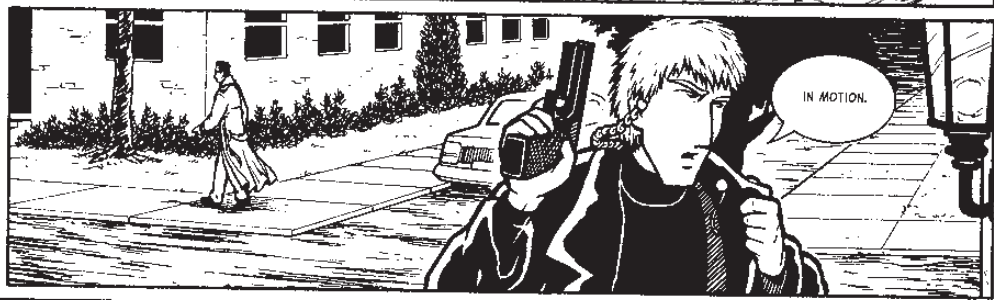
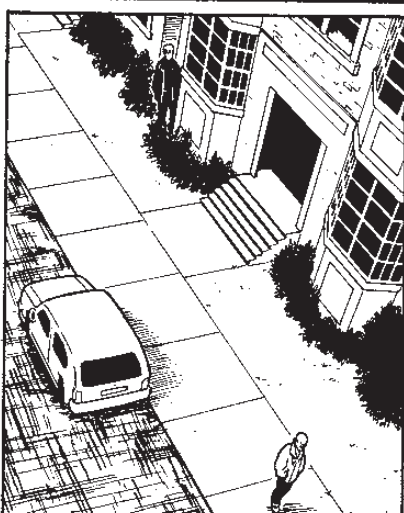


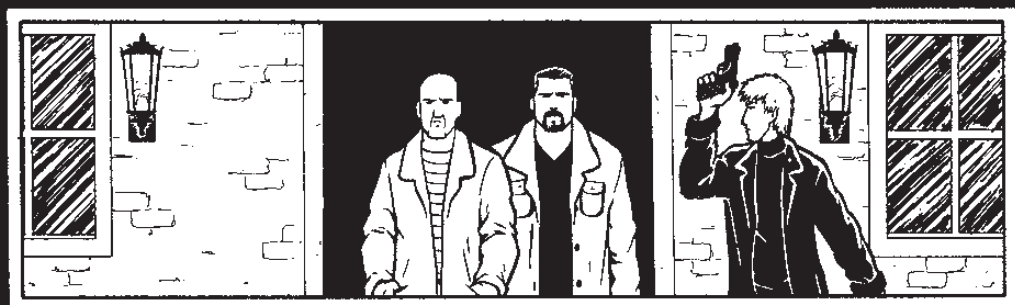
FIVE WANTS ARRESTS.
THEY'LL TRY TO TAKE
THE RUSSIANS ALIVE.

WHICH MEANS
THEY'LL WAIT UNTIL
AFTER THE TRY.



I'LL GET
MY COAT.





ROSE, DAISY.
TWO DOWN...



... I'LL CALL
HOME AND
HAVE THEM
COLLECTED...



... THE REST
ARE YOURS.

Two of
them.

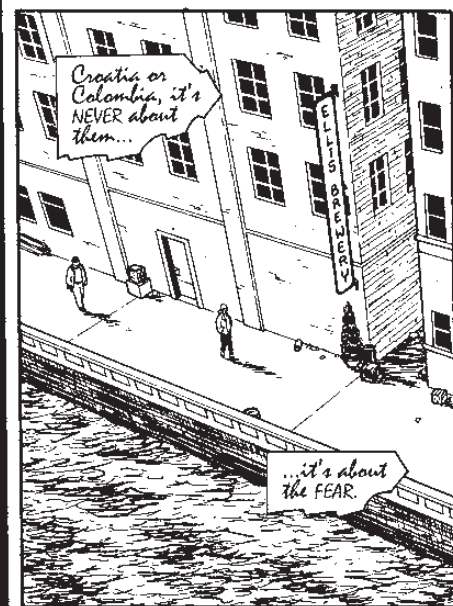


Wallace and I
can TAKE two
of them.



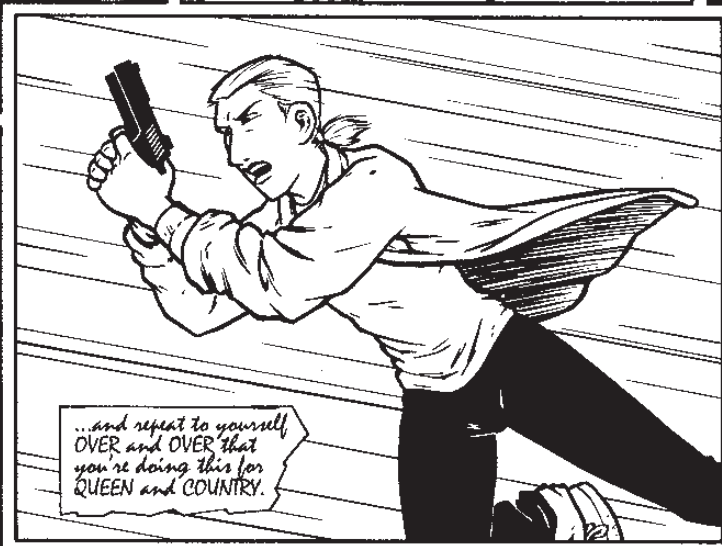
Just pick the
MOMENT.

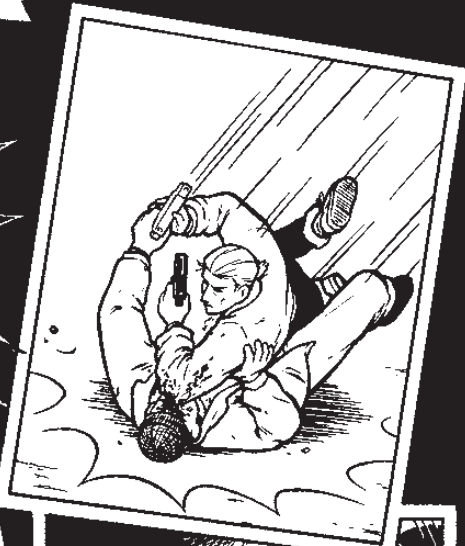


















... TO THE FARM
FOR INTERROGATION.

THEY'RE UNDER GUARD
NOW, AND KINNEY HAS HIS
QUESTIONERS EN ROUTE.

AND THE
MINDERS?

I SENT
THEM HOME AFTER
THEY FILED THEIR
REPORTS.

WALLACE AND
CHACE WILL BE BACK IN
THE PIT ON STAND-BY
BEFORE NOON.

NOT
KITTERING?

EDWARD'S
WITH DOCTOR CALLARD,
THEN OFF FOR THE REST
OF THE DAY.

THE REPORT SAID
NOTHING ABOUT
KITTERING TAKING
AN INJURY.

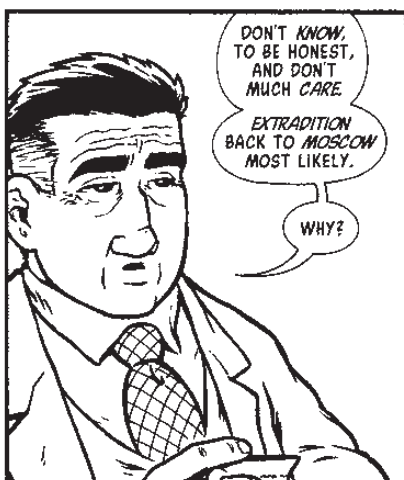
THAT'S
CORRECT, SIR.

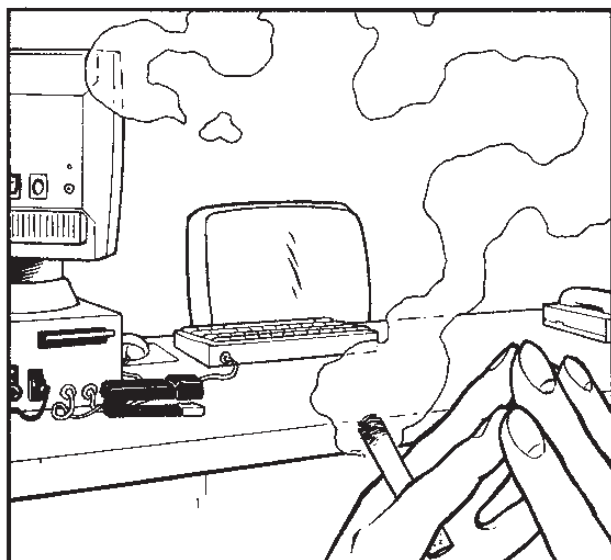
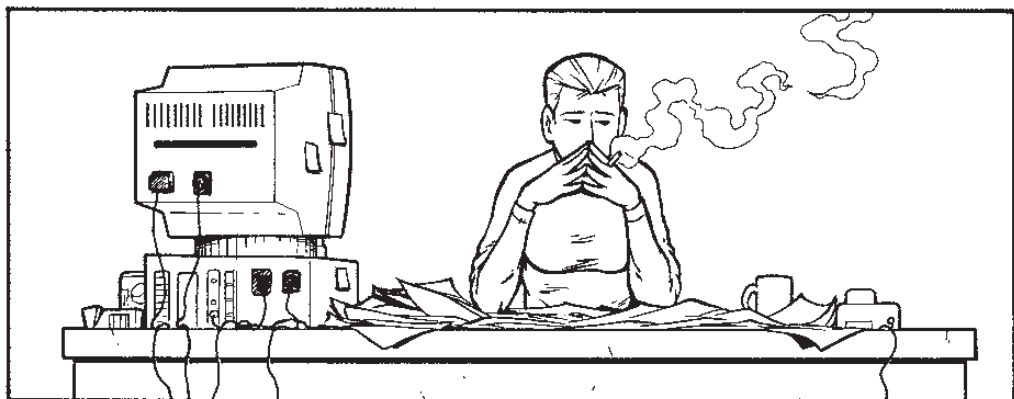
HE DID,
HOWEVER, KILL ONE OF
THE RUSSIANS WITH HIS
BARE HANDS.

AH,
RIGHT.

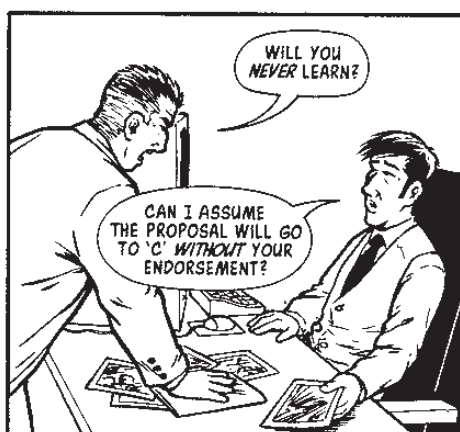
WELL, HE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY CHOICE,
DID HE, PAUL?

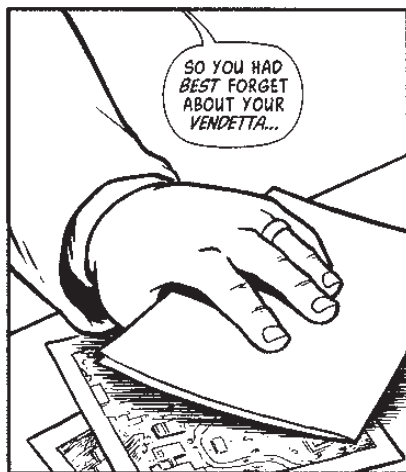
NO, SIR.

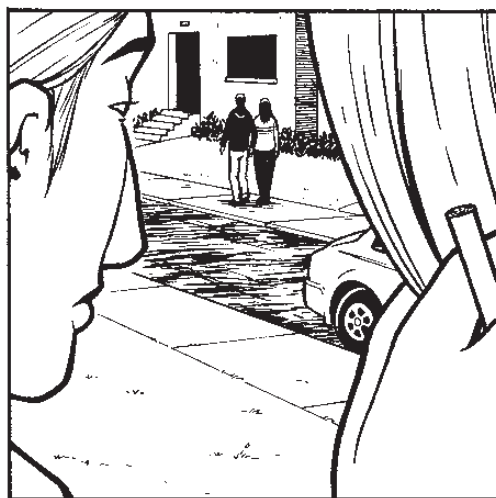
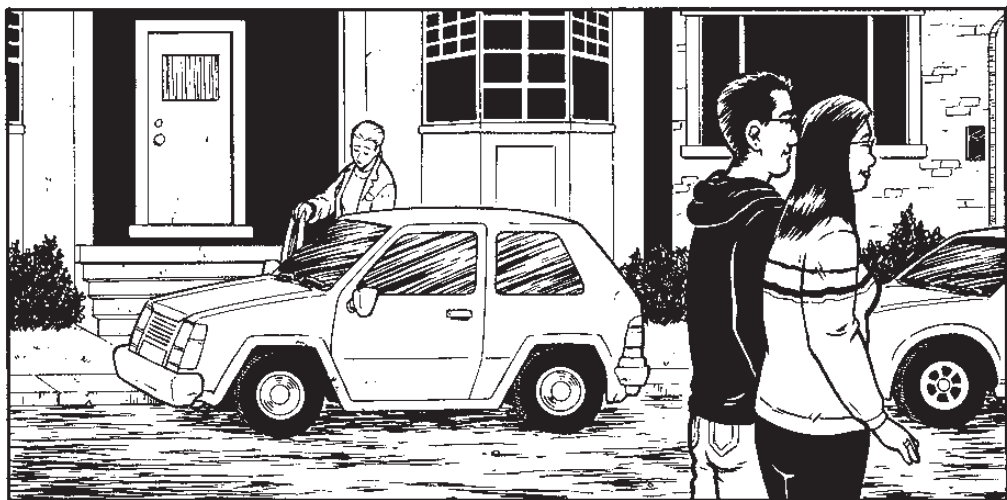








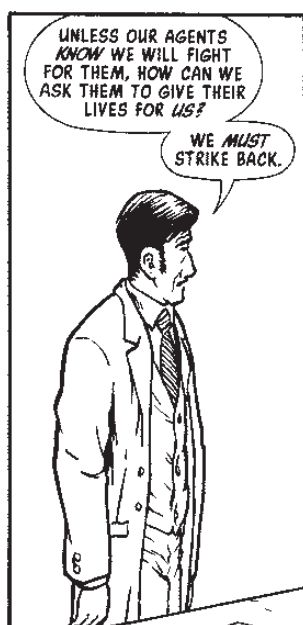
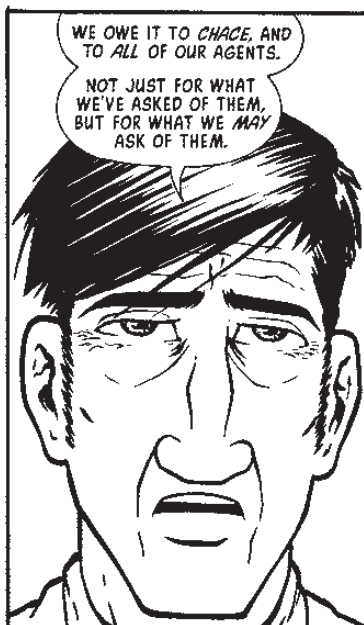
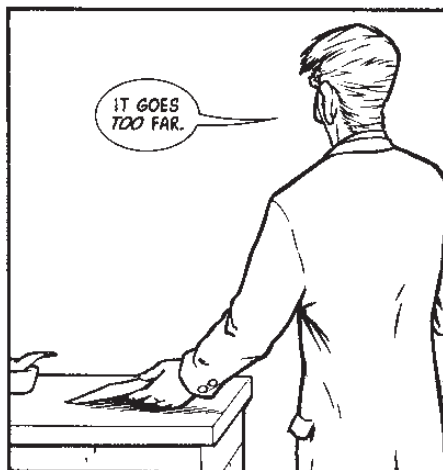
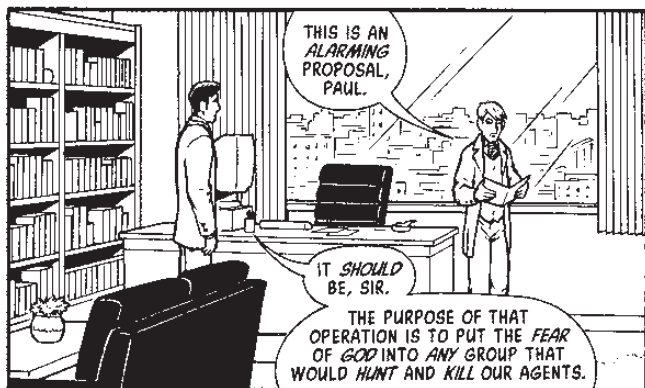


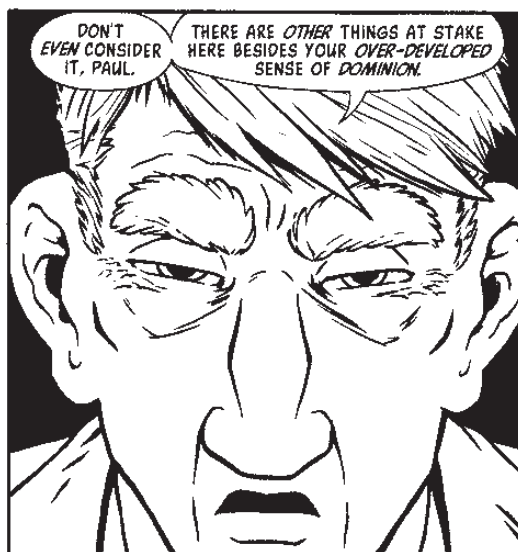
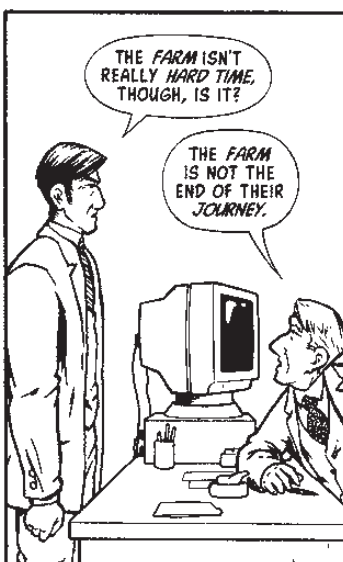
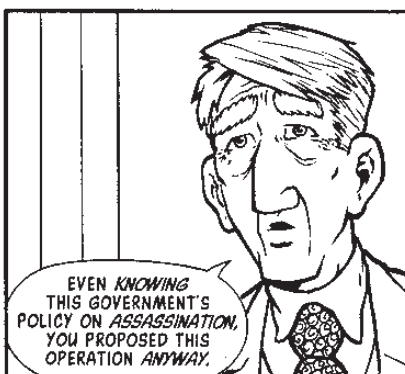


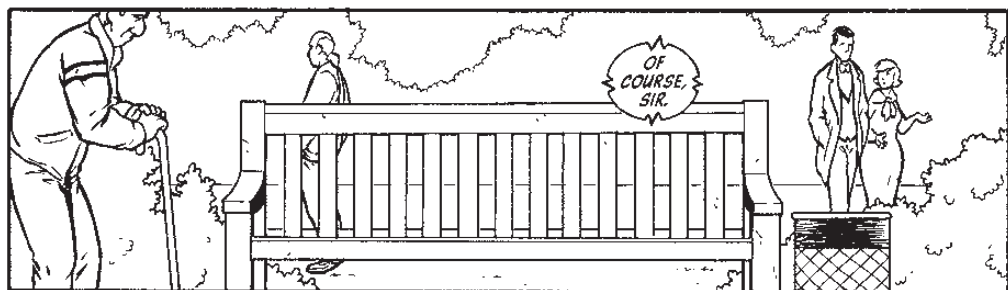
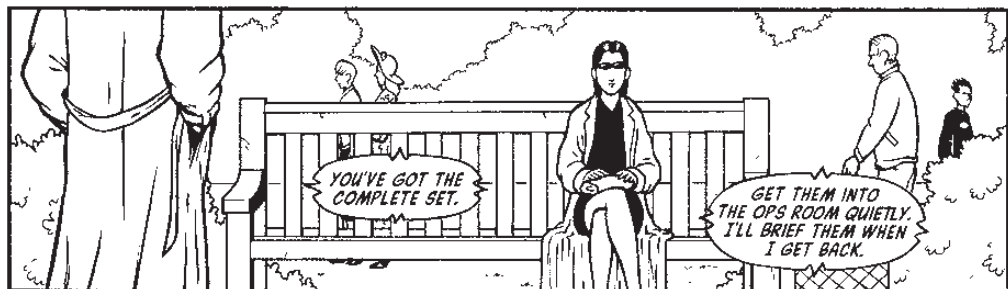


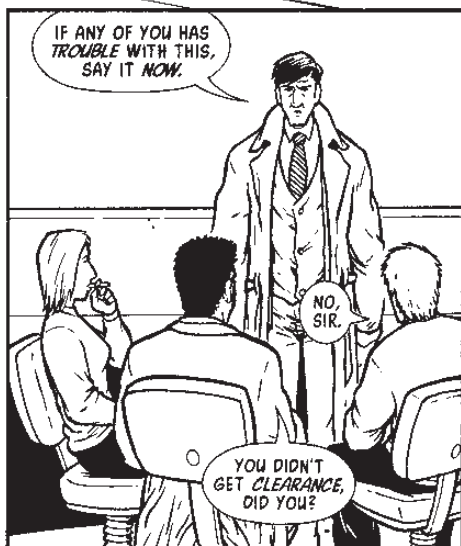
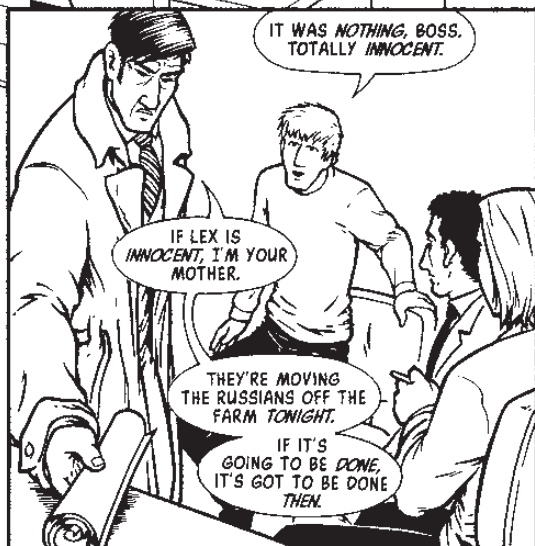


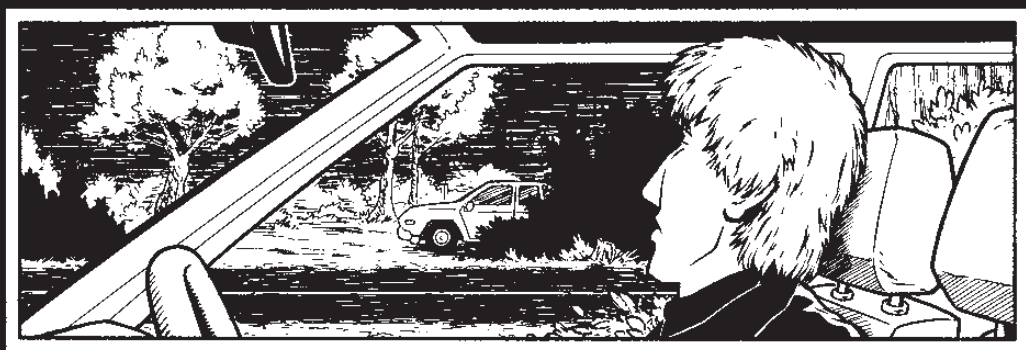


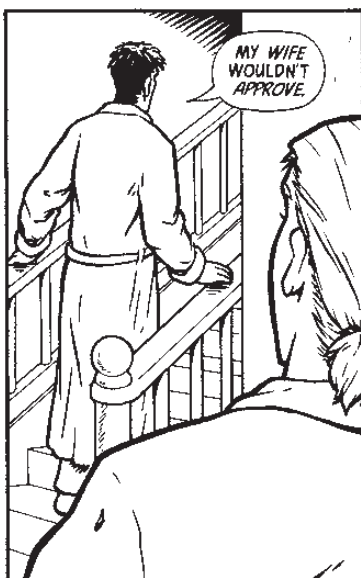


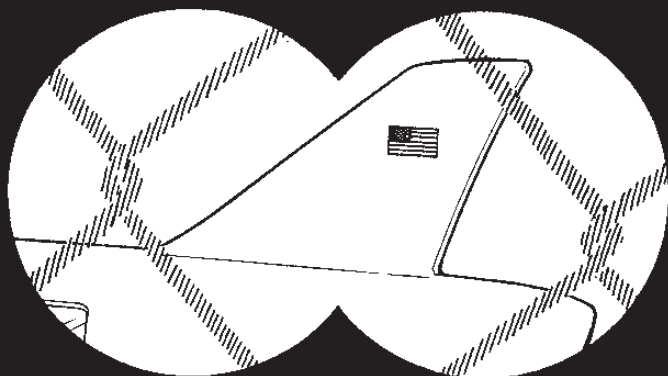
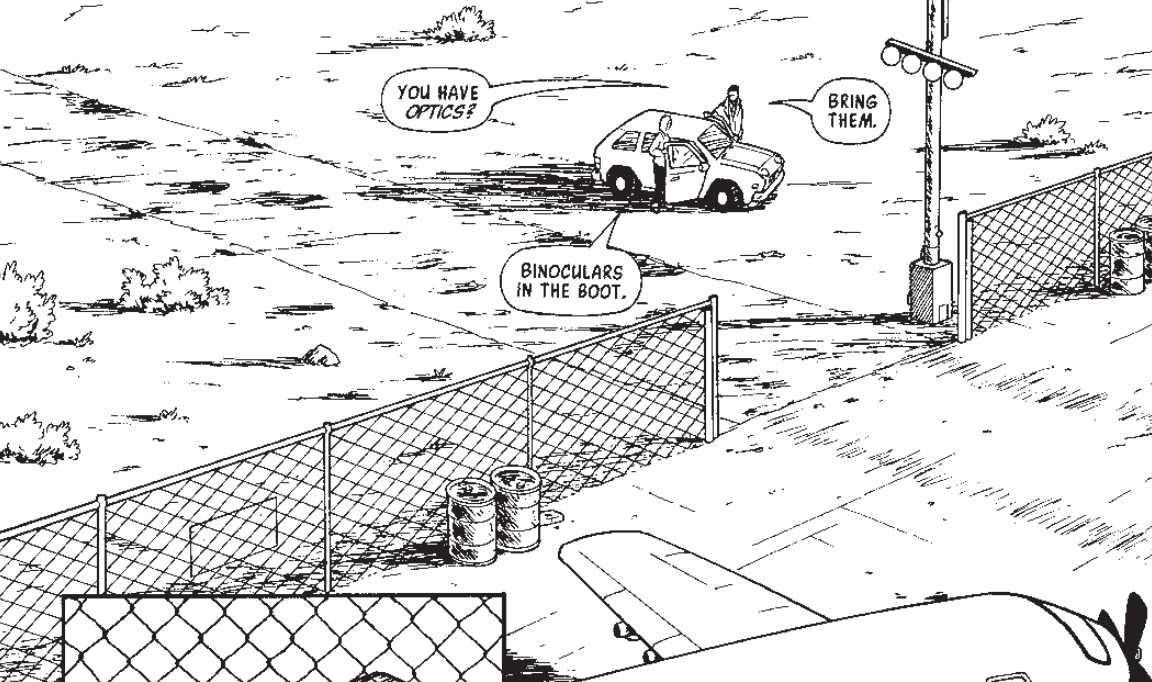


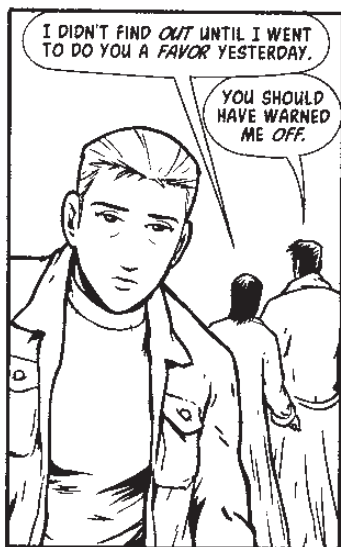
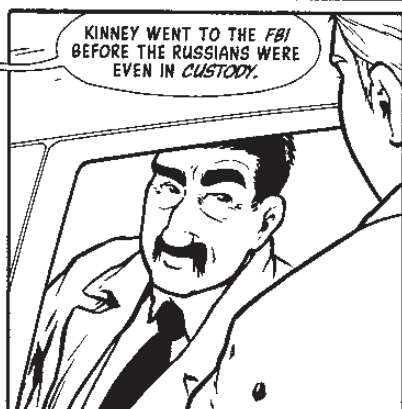
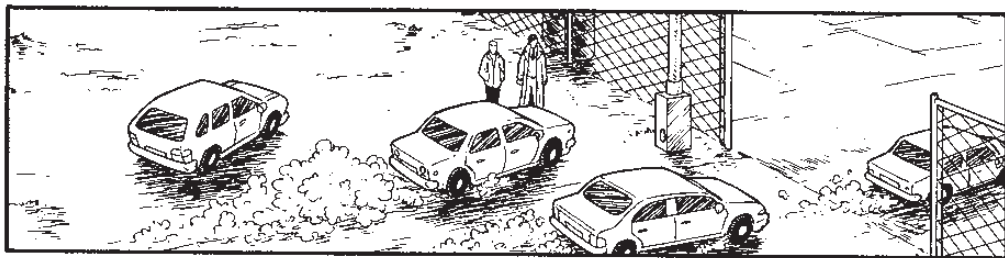


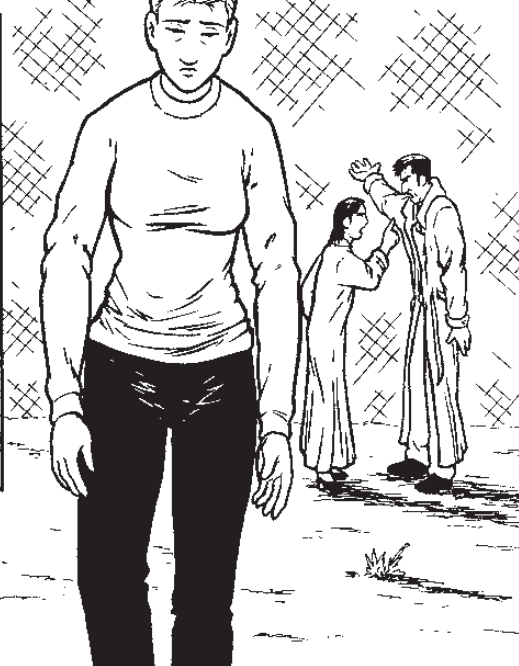
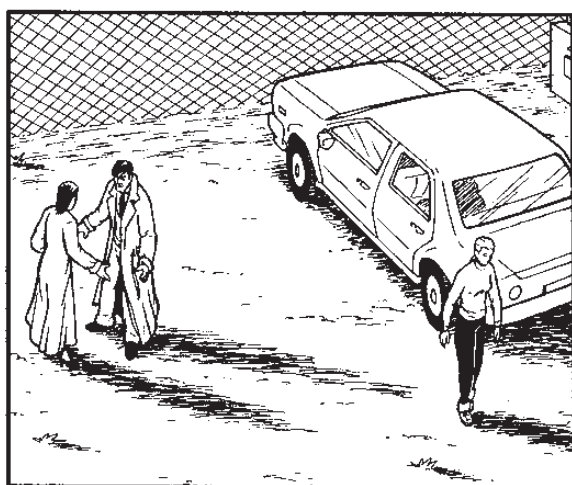
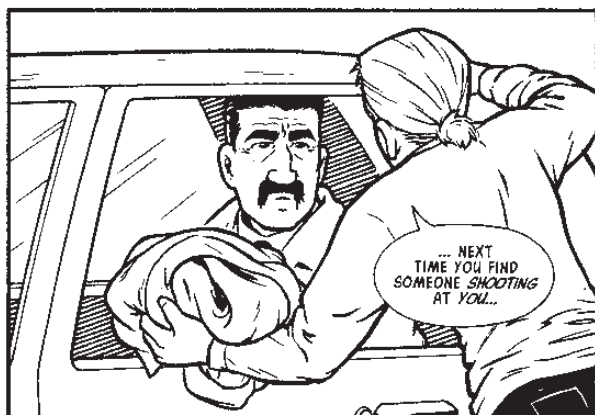












OPERATION: MORNINGSTAR

WRITTEN BY
GREG RUCKA

PENCILLED BY
BRIAN HURTT

CHAPTER 1 INKED BY
BRYAN LEE O'MALLEY

CHAPTERS 2 & 3 INKED
BY CHRISTINE NORRIE

LETTERED BY
SEAN KONOT

ORIGINALLY EDITED BY
JAMIE S. RICH

ROSTER



C—Ubiquitous code-name for the current head of S.I.S.. Real name is Sir Wilson Stanton Davies.

DONALD WELDON—Deputy Chief of Service, has oversight of all aspects of Intelligence gathering and operations. Immediate superior to Crocker.

PAUL CROCKER—Director of Operations, encompassing all field work in all theaters of operations. In addition to commanding individual stations, has direct command of the Special Section—sometimes referred to as Minders—used for special operations.

TOM WALLACE—Head of the Special Section, a Special Operations Officer with the designation Minder One. Responsible for the training and continued well-being of his unit, both at home and in the field. Six year veteran of the Minders.

TARA CHACE—Special Operations Officer, designated Minder Two. Entering her third year as Minder.

EDWARD KITTING—Special Operations Officer, designated Minder Three. Has been with the Special Section for less than a year.

OPS ROOM STAFF



ALEXIS—Mission Control Officer (also called Main Communications Officer)—responsible for maintaining communications between the Operations Room and the agents in the field.

RON—Duty Operations Officer, responsible for monitoring the status and importance of all incoming intelligence, both from foreign stations and other sources.

KATE—Personal Assistant to Paul Crocker, termed P.A. to D.Ops. Possibly the hardest and most important job in the Service.

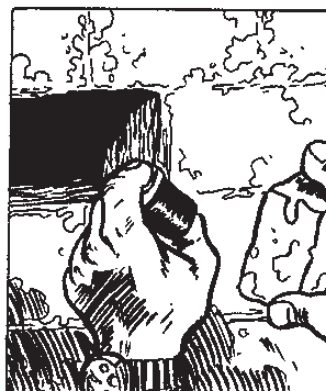
ANGELA CHANG—CIA Station Chief in London. Has an unofficial intelligence-sharing arrangement with Crocker.

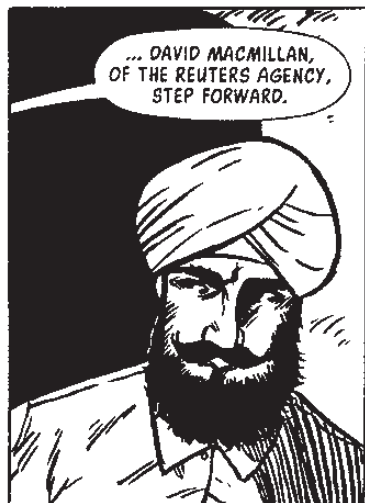
SIMON RAYBURN—Director of Intelligence for S.I.S. (D. Int), essentially Crocker's opposite number. Responsible for the evaluation, interpretation, and dissemination of all acquired intelligence.

DAVID KINNY—Crocker's opposite number at M.I.5, also called the Security Services, with jurisdiction primarily confined to within the U.K.

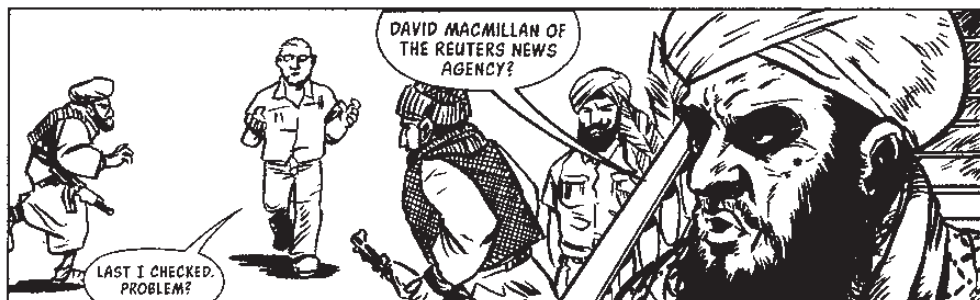
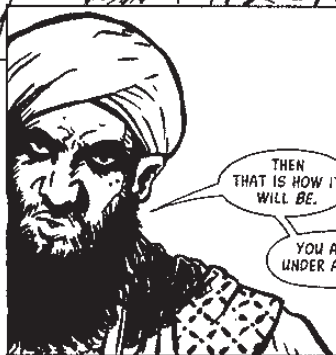














LONDON.

WHY DON'T YOU
HAVE A SEAT?

MAKE YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE

Cambridge University
Eleanor Grace Callard
First Class Honours
English Literature

Johns

YOU CAN
SMOKE IF
YOU LIKE.

I'LL BE TAKING
NOTES, IF YOU
DON'T MIND.

First Session

YOU DON'T MIND,
DO YOU?

First Session

-Reticent

PLEASE.

WHY
DON'T YOU SIT
DOWN?



WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?



JUST MY NOTES.

THEY'RE CONFIDENTIAL, JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME.



THEN I CAN READ THEM?

CERTAINLY.



HAVE I GOT IT RIGHT SO FAR?

First so -
- Accident
- Suspicious



THEN WE HAVE THE FOUNDATION OF TRUST, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

I WOULDN'T GET CARRIED AWAY, DOCTOR.







MORE ENTERTAINING THAN THE MUGABE PACT, THOUGH.



















IT'S A SPECIAL OP.

VERY GOOD, SIR.

OPERATION DESIGNATED MORNINGSTAR.

KABUL OPERATION: MORNINGSTAR

ROW, I NEED THE SOONEST FLIGHT TO DELHI.

ALREADY DONE, SIR...

... BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT 143, DEPARTS HEATHROW OH-SIX-FIFTY-FIVE TOMORROW, ARRIVES DELHI: TWENTY-TWO TEN LOCAL.

YES, SIR.

TWO SEATS.



MINDERS ONE AND THREE TO BRIEF.



FULL COVER, WITH DOCUMENTS.

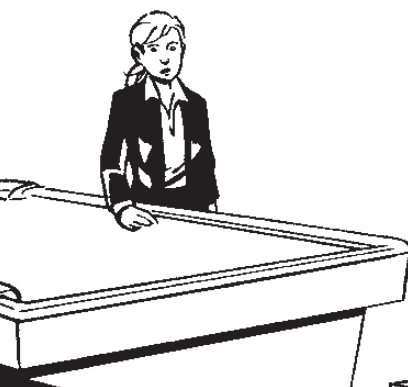
NO ARMS.

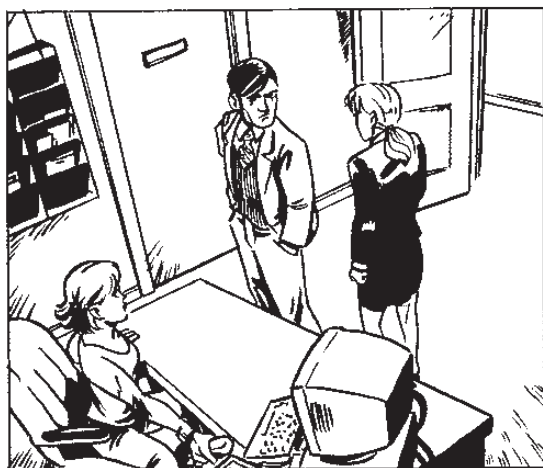
VERY GOOD, SIR.
ED? TOM?...

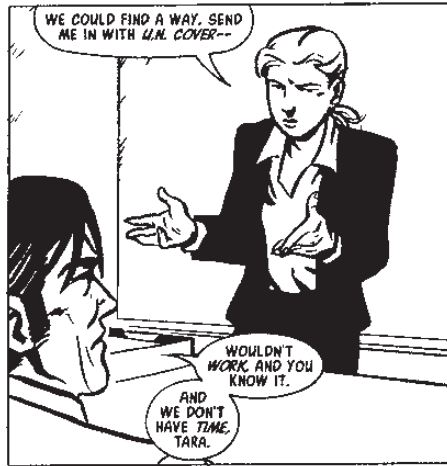
... YOU'LL BE TRAVELING AS IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY SALESMEN, WITH THE DELHI NUMBER TWO AS YOUR TRANSLATOR.

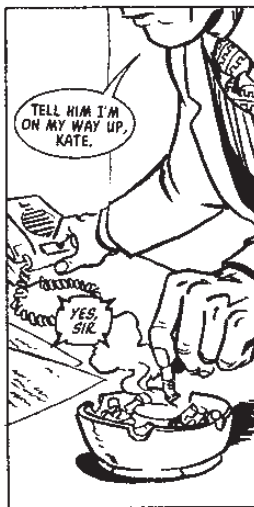
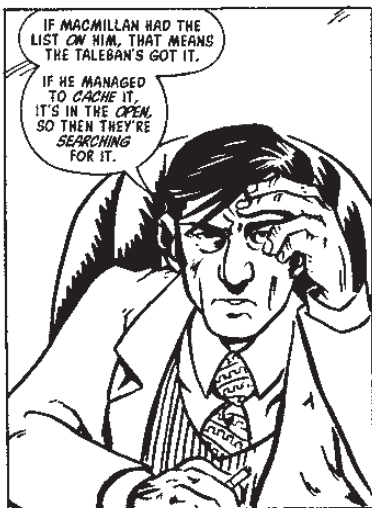
THAT'S CORRECT...

THAT'S DENNIS AVASTI?













-- RESULT OF
CONTINUED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
IN THE REGION.



IN AFGHANISTAN THIS MORNING,
JOURNALISTS NICHOLAS BUCK, DAVID
MACMILLAN, AND ALAIN ROUX WERE EXECUTED
BY THE TALEBAN GOVERNMENT AFTER
BEING FOUND GUILTY OF ESPIONAGE.

MACMILLAN, A BRITISH
NATIONAL AND TWENTY-TWO
YEAR VETERAN CORRESPONDENT,
HAD BEEN CHARGED SPECIFICALLY
WITH SPYING FOR S.I.S..



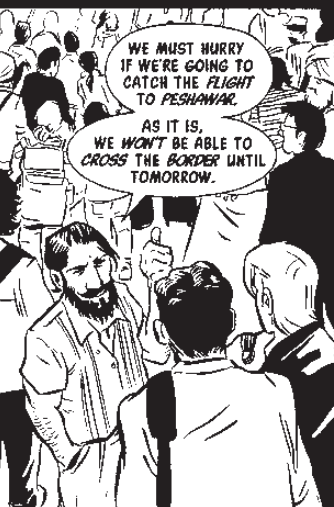
THE FOREIGN
OFFICE HAS DENIED THE
ALLEGATION.

IN RELATED NEWS,
A REPORT RELEASED BY
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
TODAY ESTIMATES...



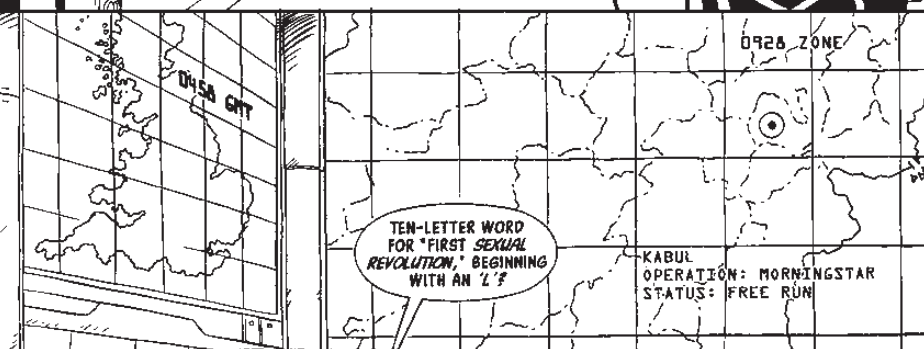
... THAT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF
AFGHANI WOMEN SUFFERING FROM VARIOUS
MEDICAL CONDITIONS FACE CERTAIN DEATH IF
CONTINUED TO BE DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT
BY THE TALEBAN GOVERNMENT...





LONDON.

TARA?



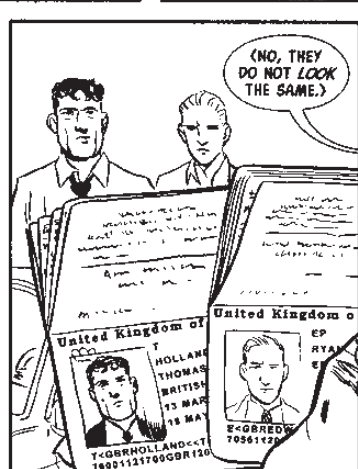
'LYSISTRATA.'



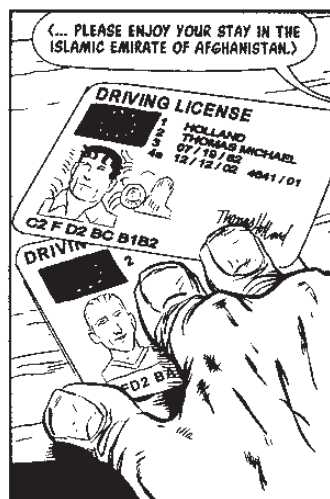
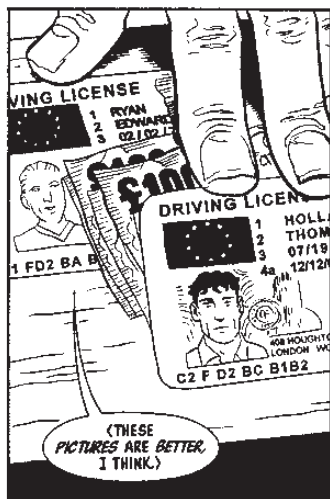
AH, THAT'S
THE TRICK.

MORNING,
FRED.





MIC EMIRATE AFGHANISTAN





... BLOODY TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I CAN'T HEAR THEM!

I'M A SPY FOR GOD'S SAKE!

BUT IT WAS A VALID QUESTION, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU NORMALLY DON'T REPORT TO WORK UNTIL NINE, ISN'T THAT TRUE?



THERE'S AN OPERATION RUNNING IN AFGHANISTAN, DOCTOR CALLARD, RUNNING RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

AT THREE IN THE MORNING? I'D THINK YOU SHOULD BE SLEEPING.



YES, WELL, WE'VE DISCUSSED THAT ALREADY, HAVEN'T WE?

I COULDN'T SLEEP.

SO YOU WENT TO THE OPS ROOM.

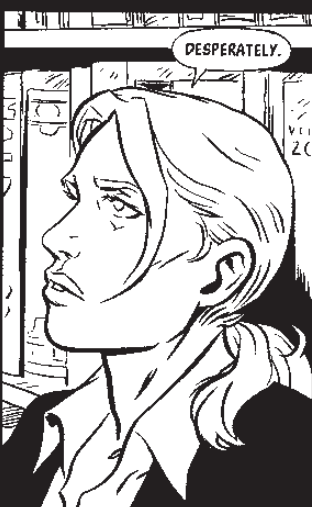
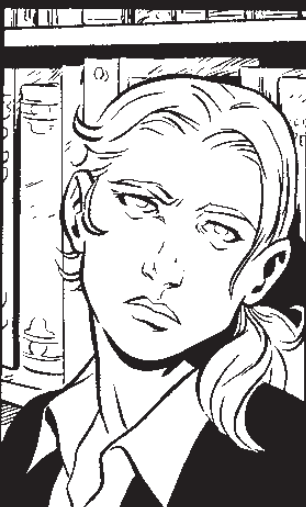
YES.



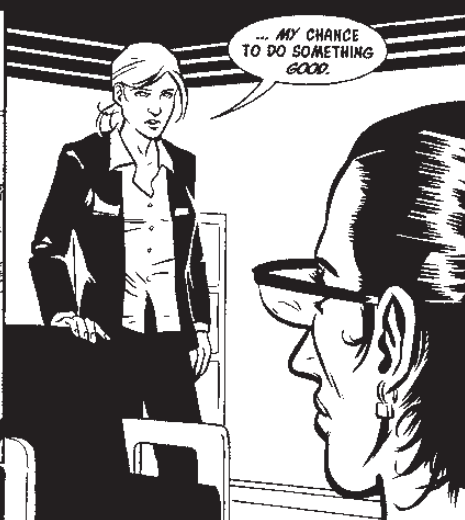
THIS OPERATION IN AFGHANISTAN...

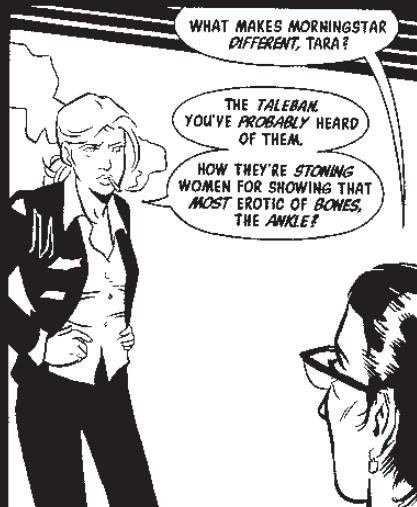
MORNINGSTAR.

IF YOU SAY, YOU WANTED TO GO?



DESPERATELY.





WHAT MAKES MORNINGSTAR
DIFFERENT, TARA?

THE TALEBAN.
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD
OF THEM.

HOW THEY'RE STONING
WOMEN FOR SHOWING THAT
MOST EROTIC OF BONES,
THE ANKLE?



HOW THEY'RE PRODUCING
WHOPPING PILES OF HEROIN TO
BE SOLD HERE IN THE U.K.?

HOW THEY'RE HARBORING AND
FUNDING OSAMA BIN LADDEN?



LITTLE THINGS
LIKE THAT.



I'D CERTAINLY WANT
THEM TO PAY.

TOO RIGHT.

MORE THAN I'D WANT
TO KILL AN EX-RUSSIAN
GENERAL AS A FAVOR TO
THE CIA, CERTAINLY.

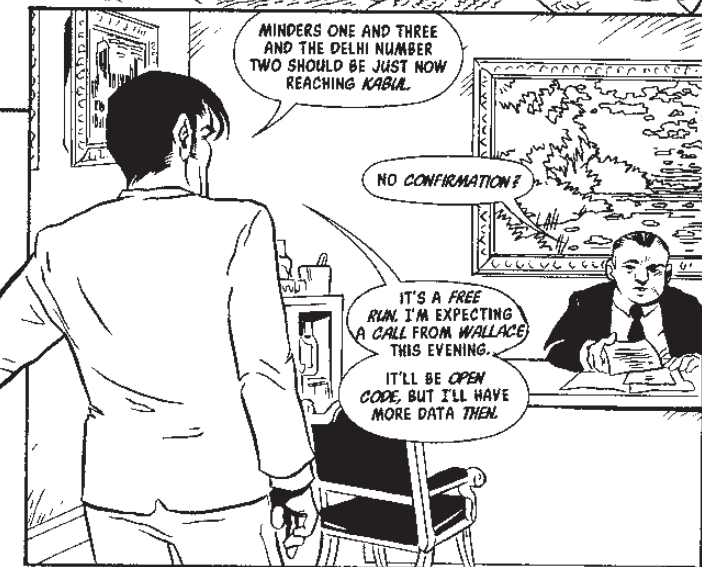
SO YOU
UNDERSTAND.





KATE SAYS
YOU WANTED TO SEE
ME, SIR?

WHAT'S THE STATUS
ON MORNINGSTAR?



MINDERS ONE AND THREE
AND THE DELHI NUMBER
TWO SHOULD BE JUST NOW
REACHING KABUL.

NO CONFIRMATION?

IT'S A FREE
RUM. I'M EXPECTING
A CALL FROM WALLACE
THIS EVENING.

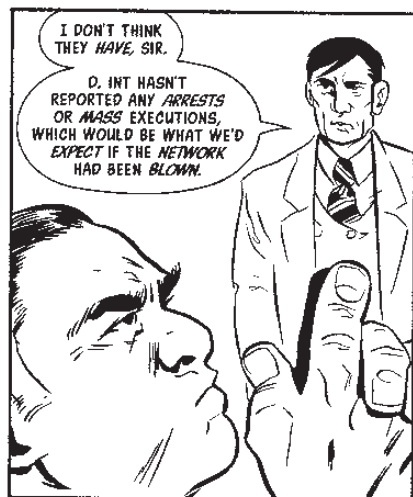
IT'LL BE OPEN
CODE, BUT I'LL HAVE
MORE DATA THEN.



ONCE IN KABUL,
WHAT THEN?

THEY'LL START
CLEARING THE DEAD
DROPS, HOPING TO LOCATE
THE LIST OF UNITED
FRONT CONTACTS.

PRESUMING
THAT THE MILITIA HASN'T
ALREADY GOTTEN THEIR
HANDS ON IT?



I DON'T THINK
THEY HAVE, SIR.

D. INT HASN'T
REPORTED ANY ARRESTS
OR MASS EXECUTIONS,
WHICH WOULD BE WHAT WE'D
EXPECT IF THE NETWORK
HAD BEEN BLOWN.

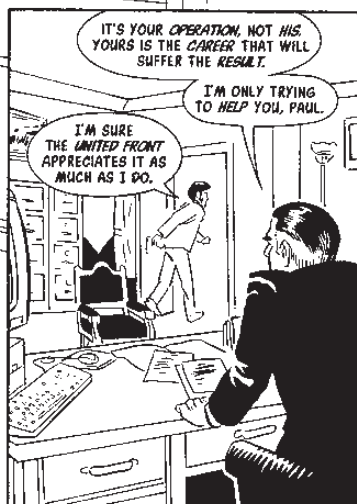
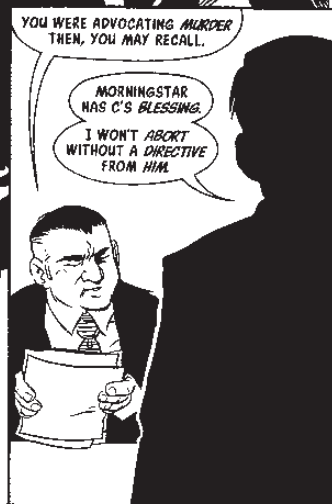


UNLESS THEY'RE SITTING
ON THE LIST, WAITING TO
SEE WHO COMES TO
COLLECT IT.

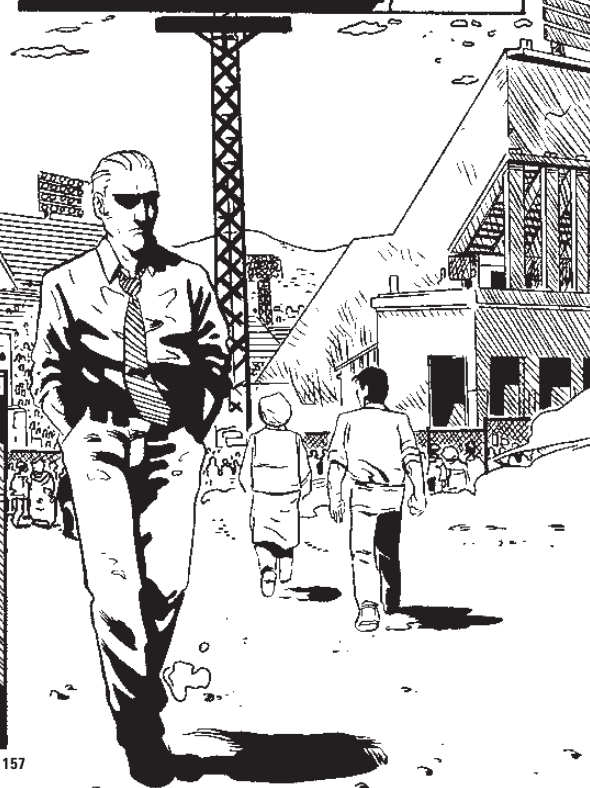


THAT'S ALWAYS A
POSSIBILITY, SIR.

WE'LL KNOW
SOON ENOUGH. AS I SAID,
TOM AND ED ARE ALREADY
IN KABUL.

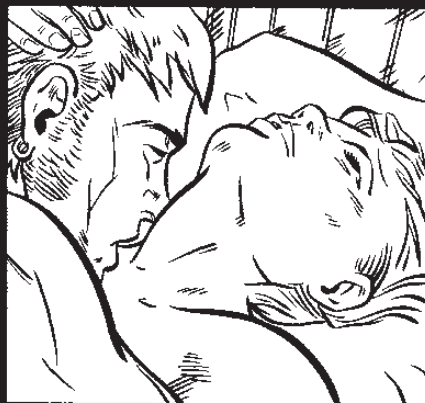
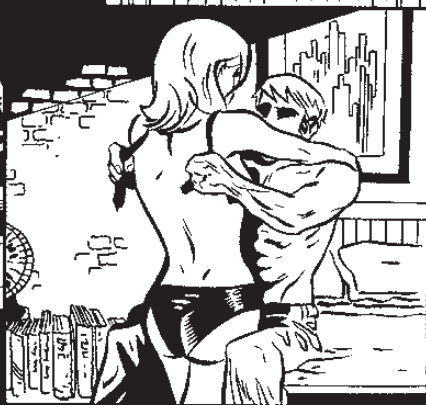
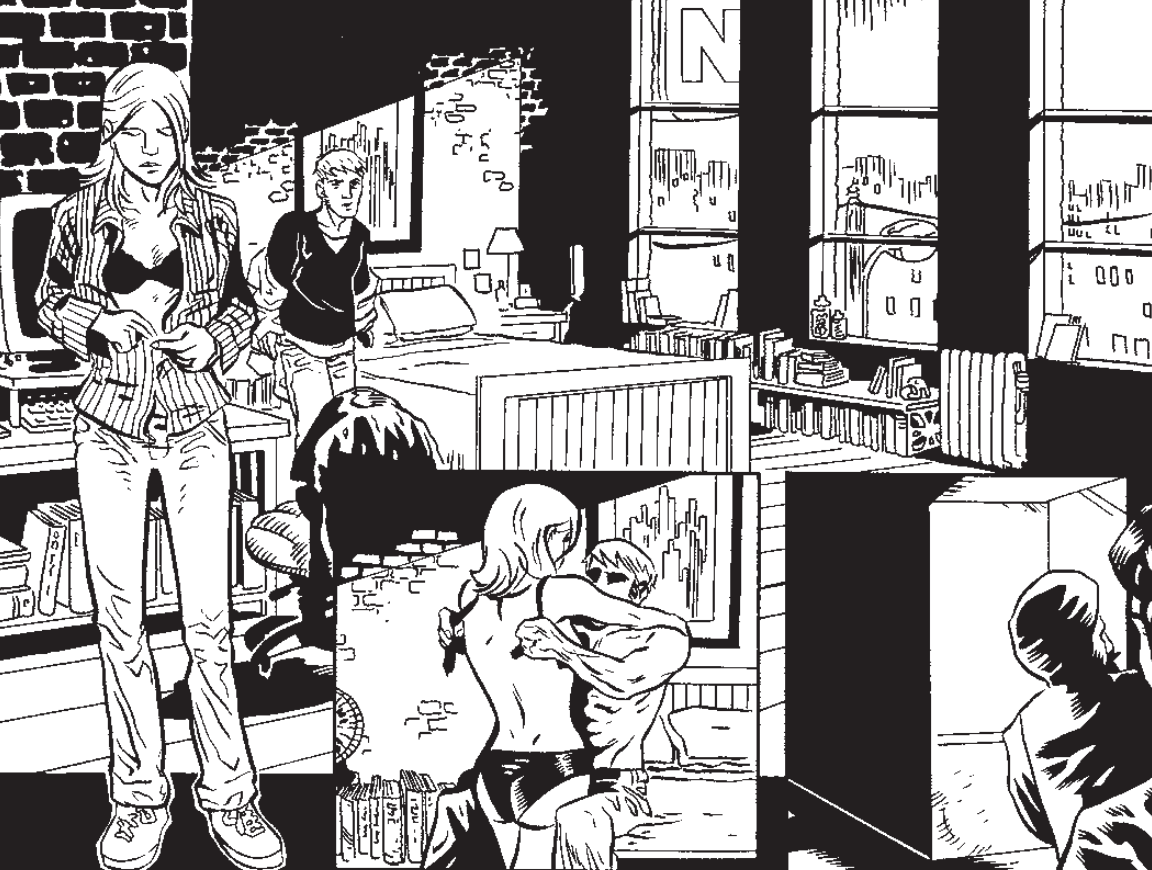




















TOM? HOW'S BUSINESS?

ENLIGHTENING, BUT FRUITLESS...

... SO FAR, WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY INTERESTED BUYERS.



YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ALL OF OUR PROSPECTS?



ONLY GOT TO THREE OF THEM TODAY. IT WAS BUSY.

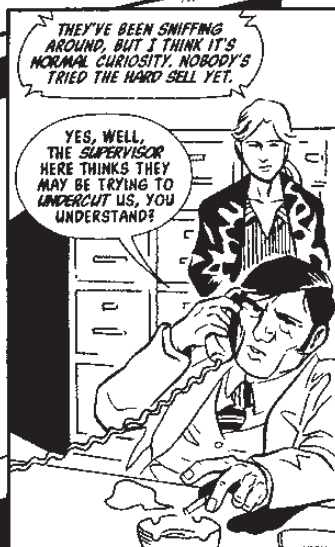
THERE ARE A FEW MORE WE'LL LOOK INTO TOMORROW.

0304 GMT

0534 ZONE

KABUL OPERATION: MORNINGSTAR
STATUS: FREE RUN

AND THE COMPETITION? HAVE THEY HAD ANY SALES?



THEY'VE BEEN SNIFFING AROUND, BUT I THINK IT'S NORMAL CURIOSITY. NOBODY'S TRIED THE HARD SELL YET.

YES, WELL, THE SUPERVISOR HERE THINKS THEY MAY BE TRYING TO UNDERCUT US, YOU UNDERSTAND?



IT WAS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY, BUT I'VE SEEN NO SIGNS OF IT.

THEN KEEP AT IT, AND HOPEFULLY TOMORROW WILL BRING MORE LUCK.

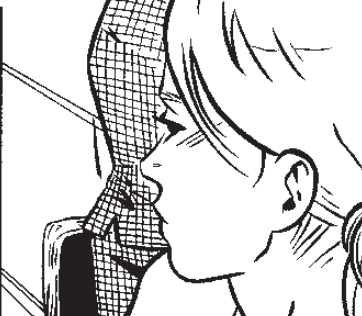
TALK TO YOU SOON.



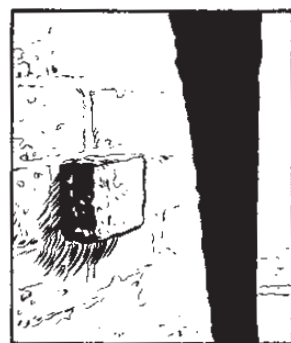
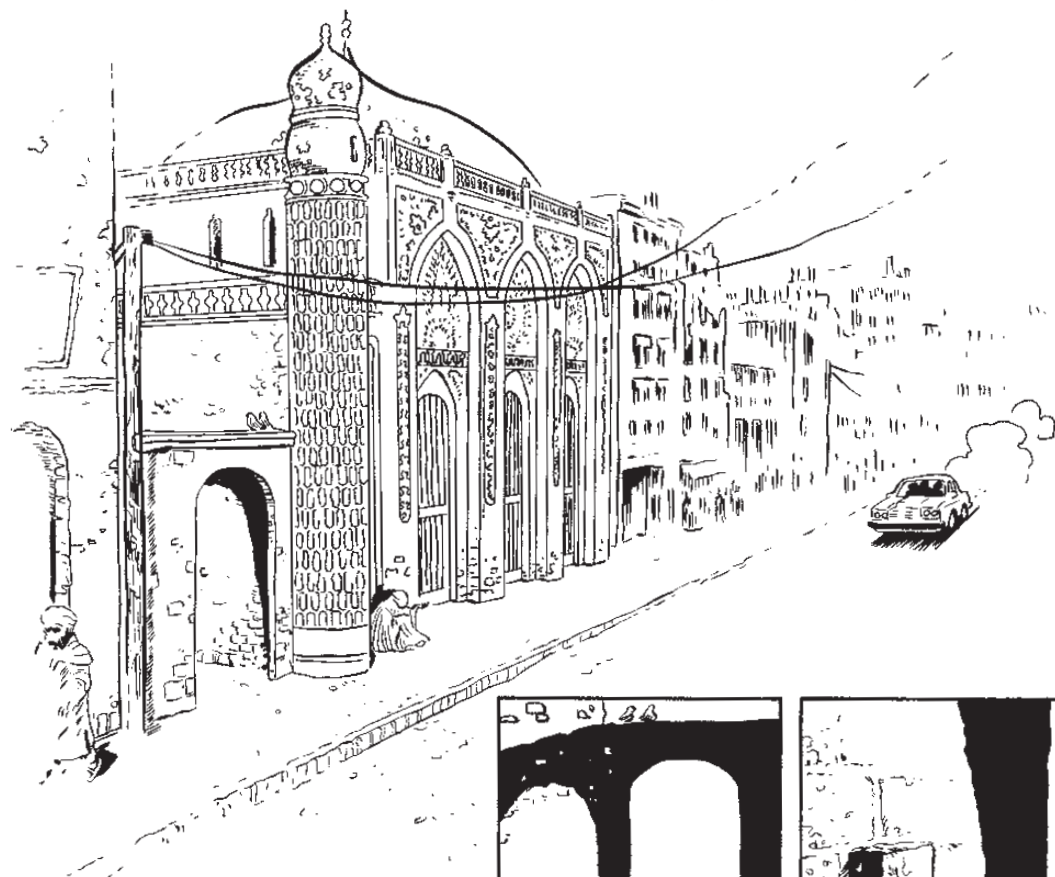
THAT WAS TOM?

YOU SHOULD BE AT HOME, TARA.











PAGMAN, 19 KM
N.W. OF KABUL.

... ASININE
CHOICE FOR
A D.L.B., IF YOU
ASK ME.

I DIDN'T.



IT'S NOT
THERE.

SO FAR NO...
JUST ANOTHER FEW
SECONDS...



IT'S NOT
BLOODY THERE.

THIS IS
THE LAST DROP.
TOM, IT HAS TO
BE HERE.

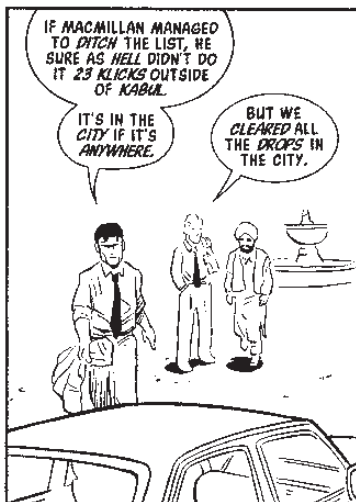
NO, IT
DOESN'T.



IF MACMILLAN MANAGED
TO DITCH THE LIST, HE
SURE AS HELL DIDN'T DO
IT 23 KILLOMETERS
OUTSIDE
OF KABUL.

IT'S IN THE
CITY IF IT'S
ANYWHERE.

BUT WE
CLEARED ALL
THE DROPS IN
THE CITY.

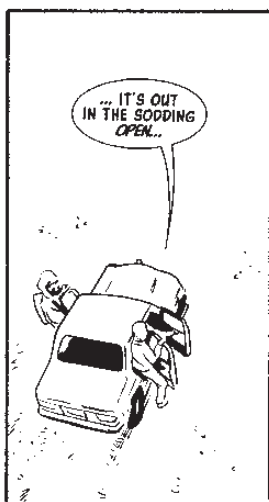


YOU THINK
I DON'T KNOW
THAT?

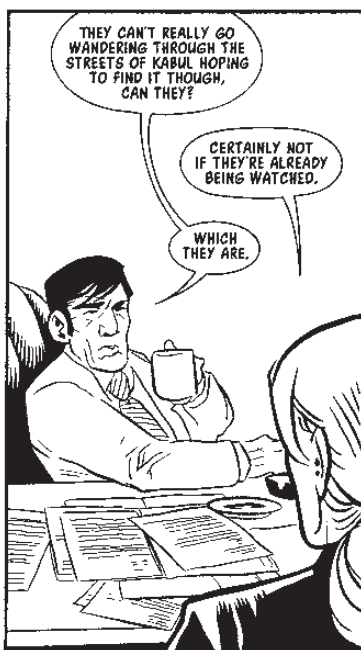
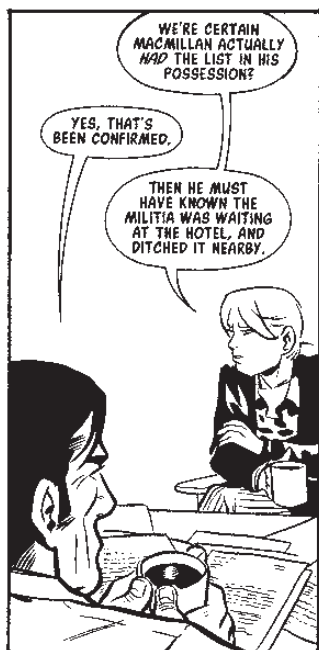
IT'S NOT IN
A D.L.B., ED...

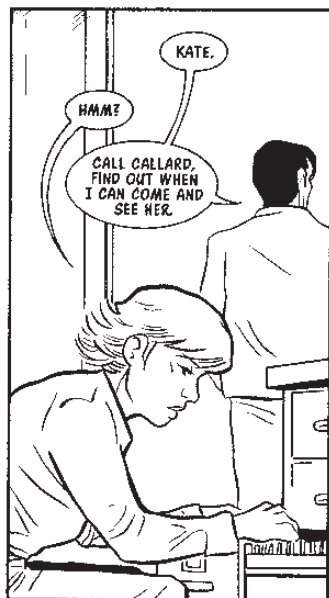
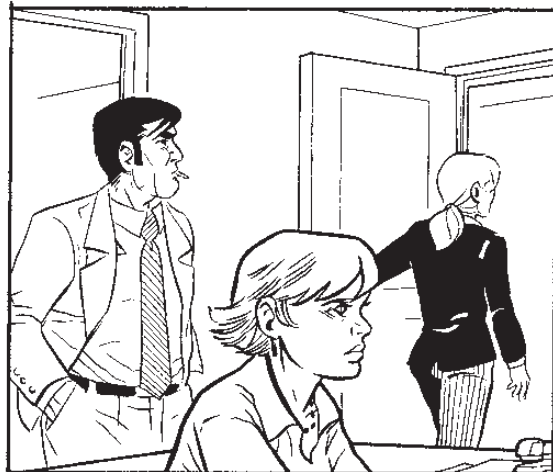


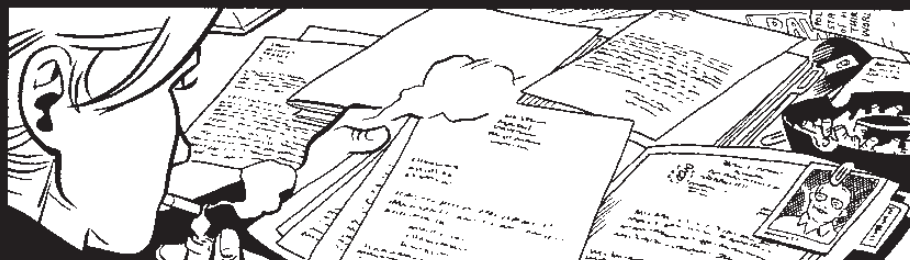
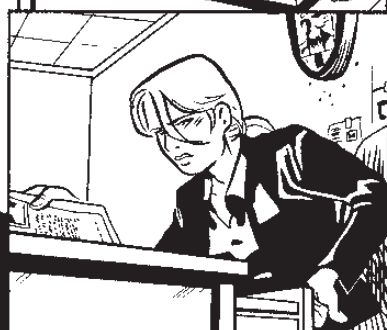
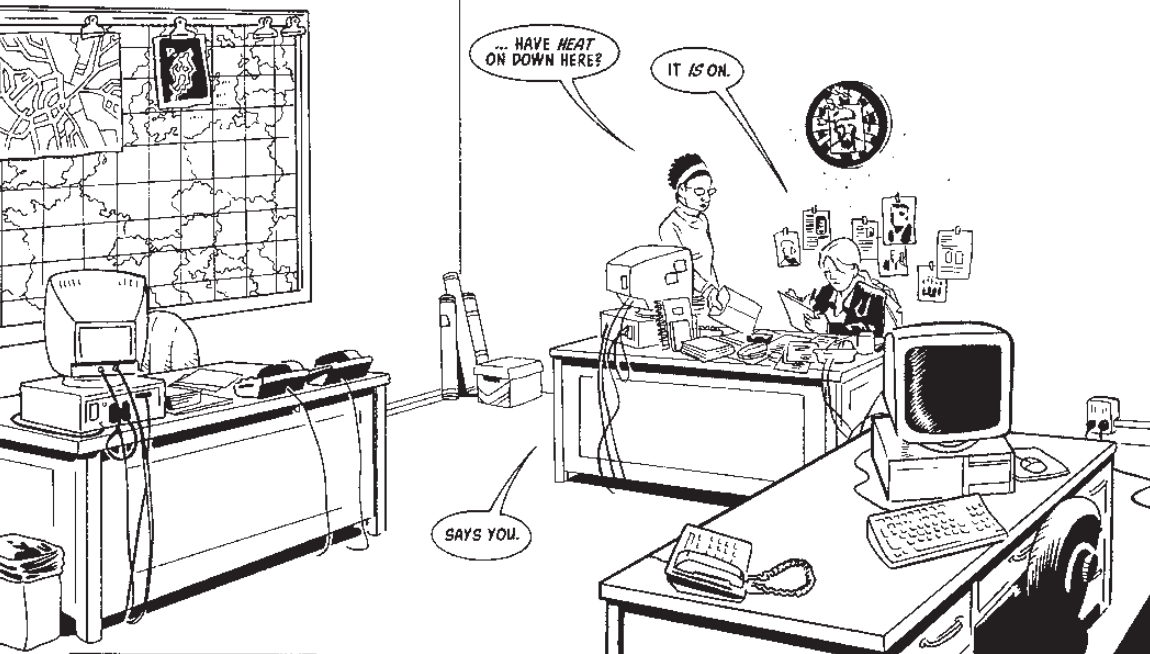
... IT'S OUT
IN THE SODDING
OPEN...











KABUL

... EXPLAIN IT
AGAIN, TOM.

RULES OF
TRADECRRAFT.

WHAT'S
THE FIRST THING YOU
DO AFTER YOU LOAD
A DROP?

PLACE YOUR
D.L.B. LOADED SIGN.
HANDKERCHIEF OFF THE
FLOWER POT, THAT
KIND OF THING.

BUT MACMILLAN
NEVER SIGNED
DROP LOADED.

MACMILLAN WASN'T
THE MOST RELIABLE AGENT
I'D EVER WORKED WITH. TOM.
HE MIGHT'VE FORGOTTEN.

CARRYING THE
UNITED FRONT
CONTACT LIST?

HE'D HAVE
BEEN SO SCARED
HE'D NEVER EVEN
HAVE CONSIDERED
NOT PLAYING BY
THE BOOK.

OUTSIDE,
SOMEPLACE.

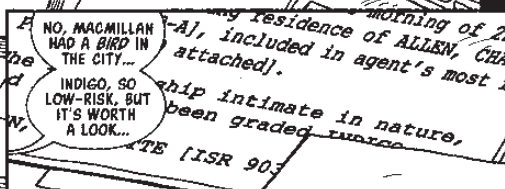
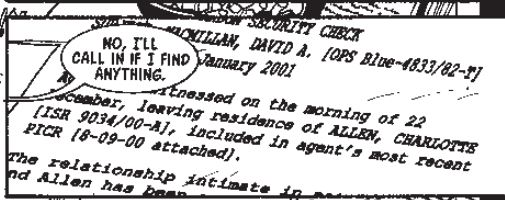
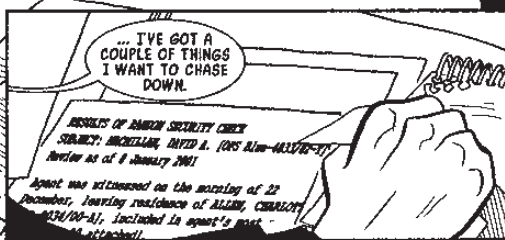
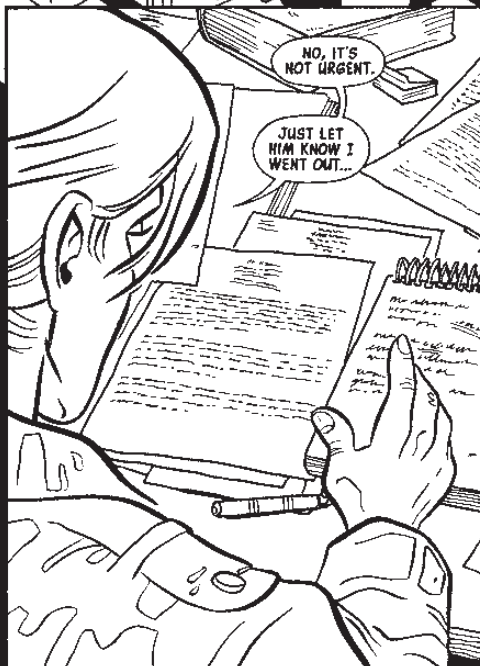
HE WAS SUPPOSED
TO PASS THE LIST TO
YOU, PHYSICALLY.

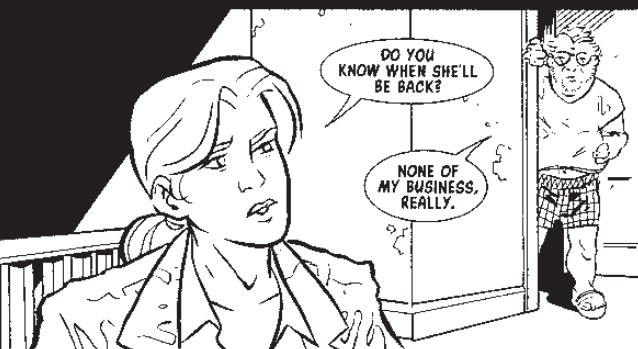
SO IT WAS ON HIM RIGHT
UP UNTIL HE SPOTTED THE
MILITIA AT THE HOTEL.

I WAS IN THE LOBBY
WHEN HE WAS TAKEN. HE
DIDN'T DROP IT THERE.

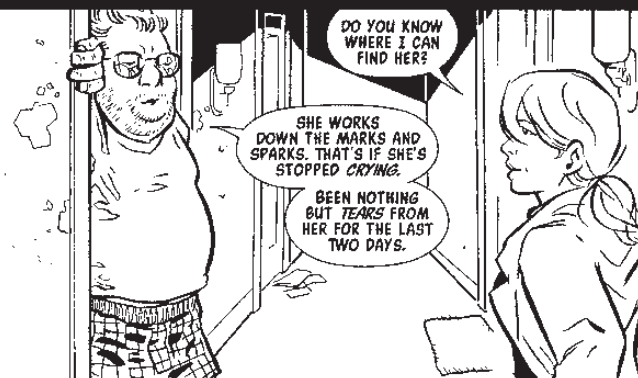
RIGHT.
AND SOMEPLACE
NEAR.





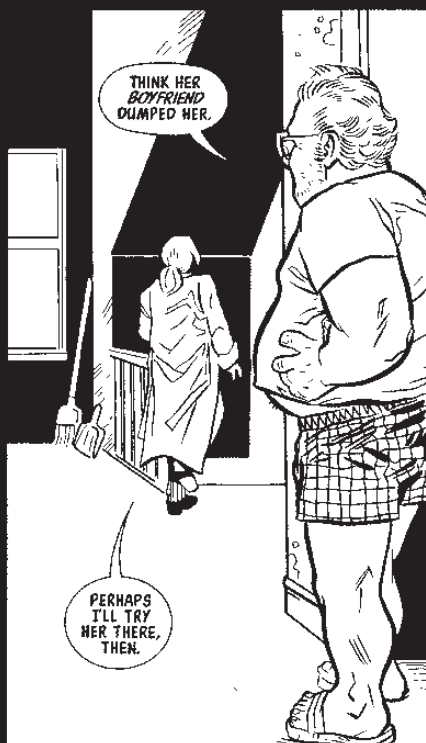


NONE OF MY BUSINESS, REALLY.



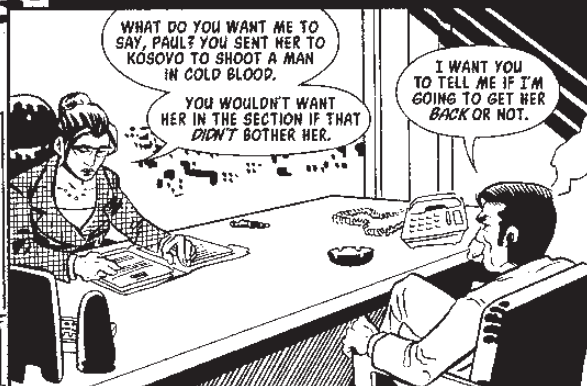
SHE WORKS DOWN THE MARKS AND SPARKS. THAT'S IF SHE'S STOPPED CRYING.

BEEN NOTHING BUT TEARS FROM HER FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS.



PERHAPS I'LL TRY HER THERE, THEN.

... DOESN'T
REALLY TELL ME HOW
SHE'S FARING, DOES IT,
ELEANOR?



WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO
SAY, PAUL? YOU SENT HER TO
KOSOVO TO SHOOT A MAN
IN COLD BLOOD.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT
HER IN THE SECTION IF THAT
DIDN'T BOTHER HER.

I WANT YOU
TO TELL ME IF I'M
GOING TO GET HER
BACK OR NOT.



I'M NOT CERTAIN I KNOW
WHAT THAT MEANS. YOU
HAVE HER NOW.

YOU'D HAVE FIRED
HER ALREADY IF YOU
THOUGHT THAT.

IF SHE'S
GOT MISSION
TWITCH--



PAUL...

... WOULD
YOU EVEN BE ASKING
THESE QUESTIONS IF WE
WERE TALKING ABOUT
WALLACE?



HER GENDER
ISN'T AT ISSUE,
ELEANOR. HER
JOB IS.



STILL, YOU SENT HER TO
KOSOVO. NOT WALLACE.
NOT KITTINGER.

YOU KNEW
WHAT SHE WOULD
DO THERE.

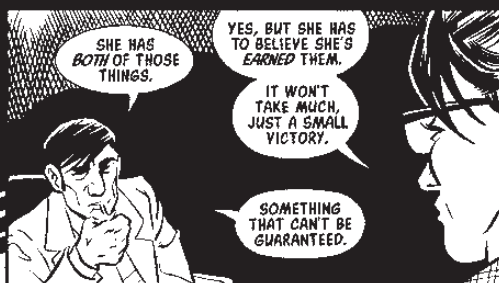
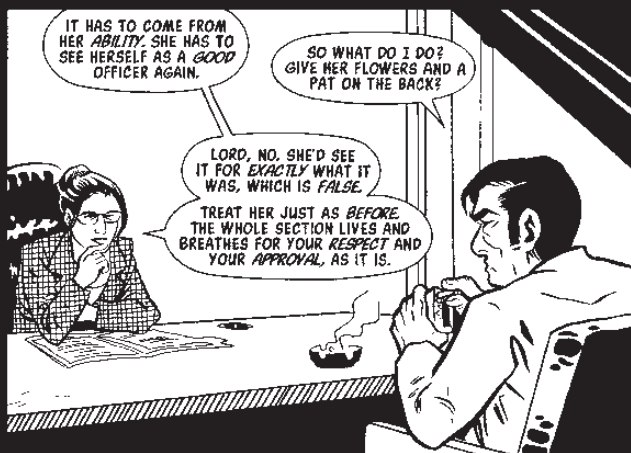
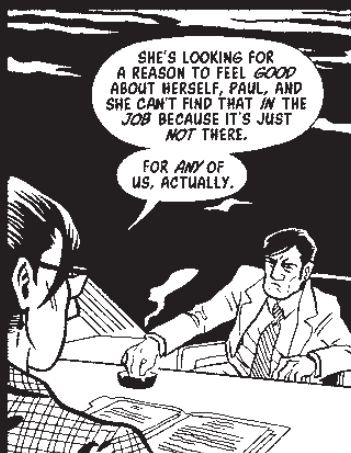


WALLACE CAN'T HIT
WATER FROM A BOAT, AND
KITTINGER'S TOO NEW TO
THE SECTION.

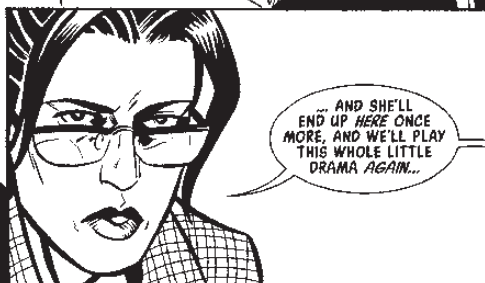
I SENT CHACE
BECAUSE I KNEW
SHE COULD GET THE
JOB DONE.



THEN YOU'VE
ANSWERED YOUR
OWN QUESTION.

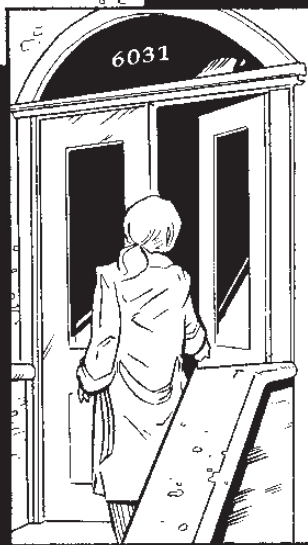
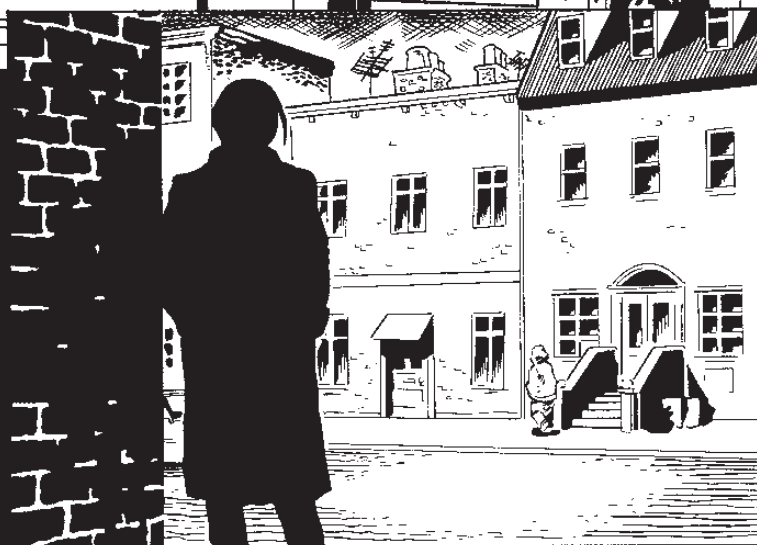


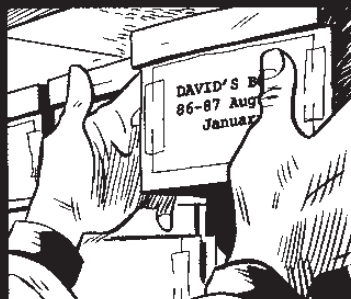
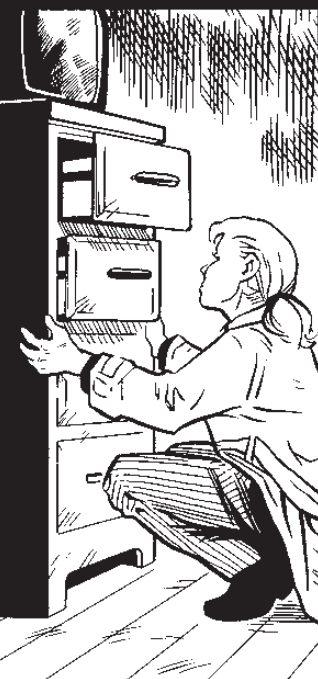
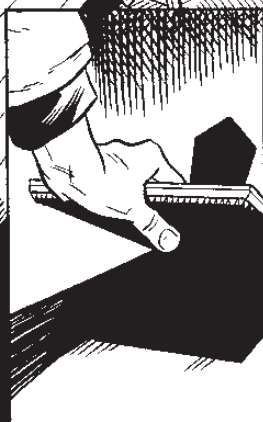
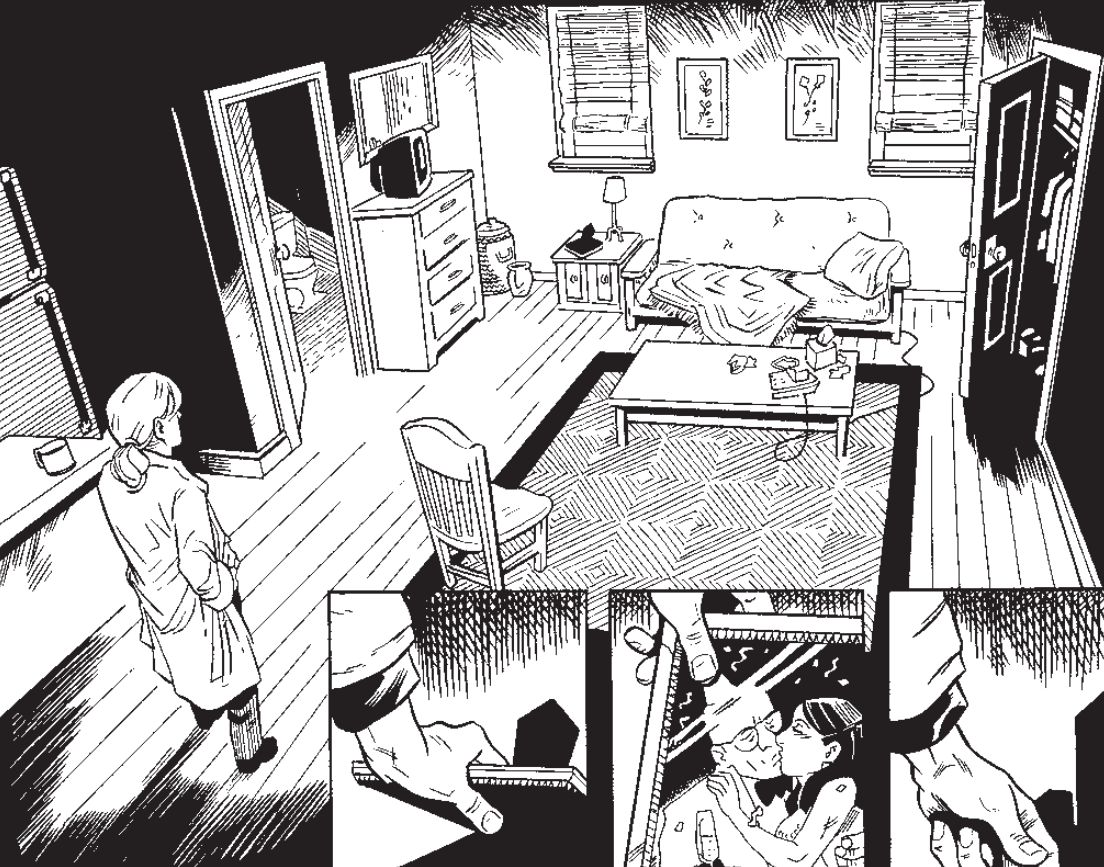
... AND SHE'LL BE EXEMPLARY IN THE FIELD, AND THEN, EVENTUALLY...

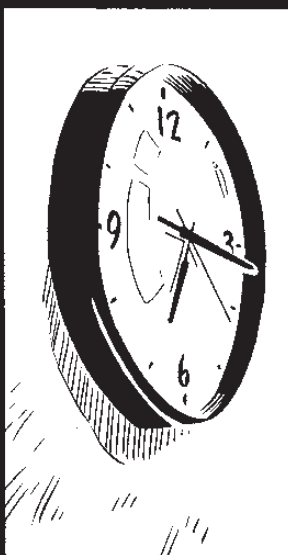
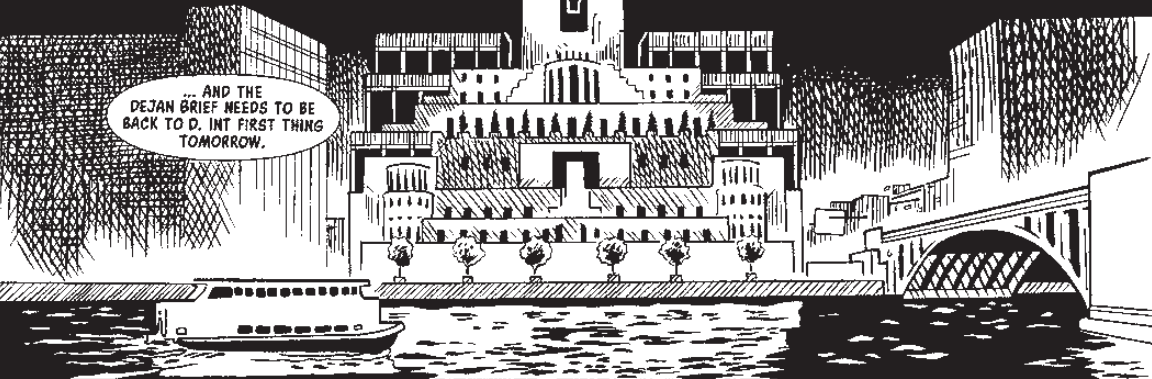


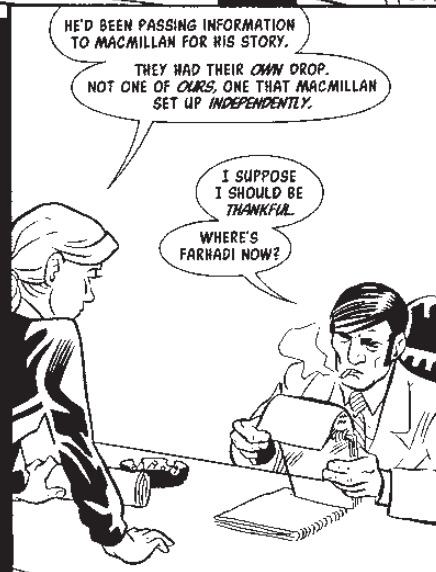
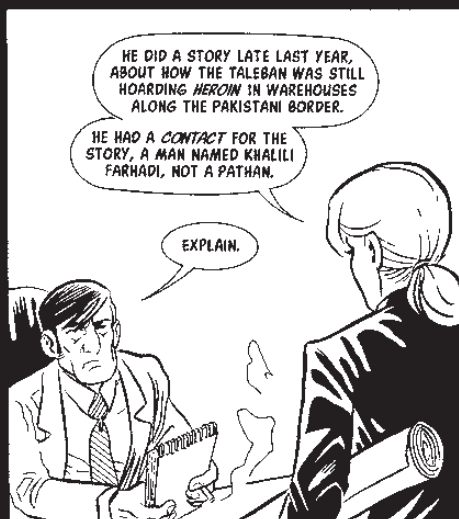
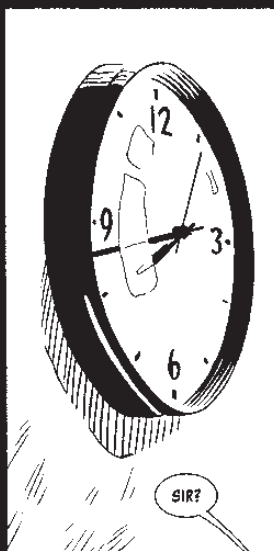
... UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF HER FOR YOU TO USE.

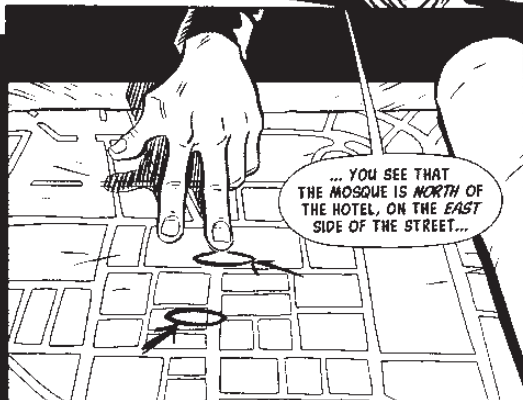
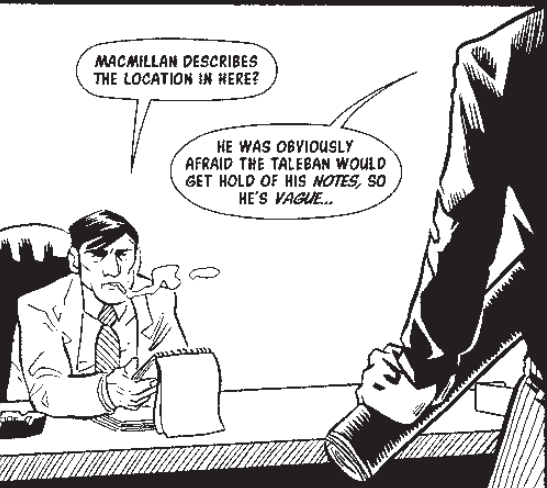


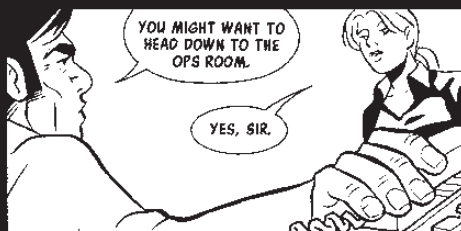
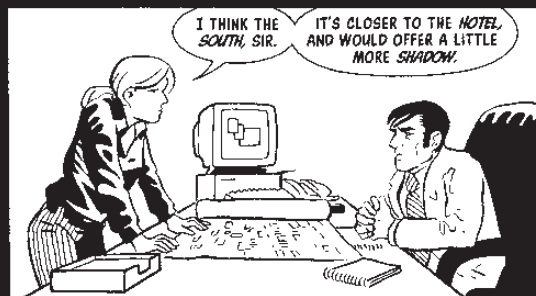
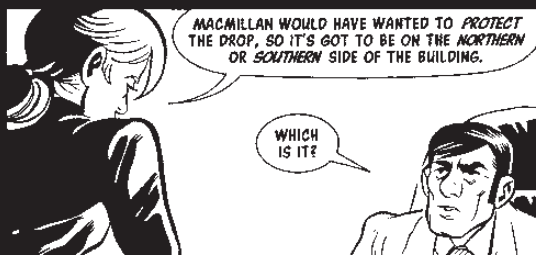


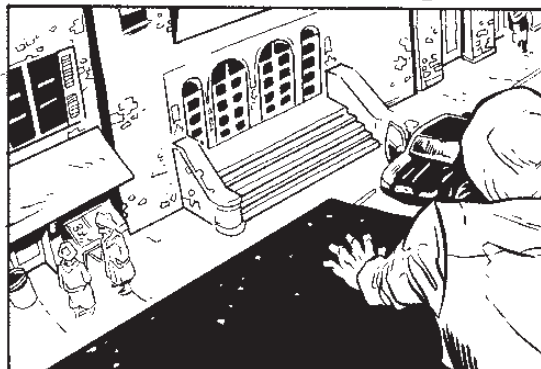
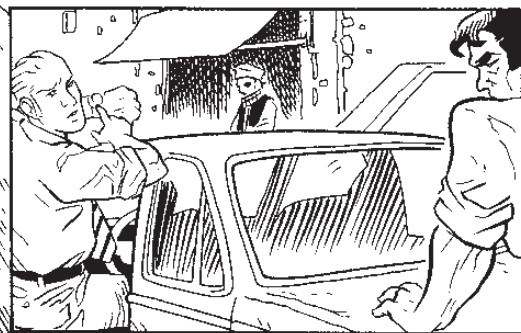
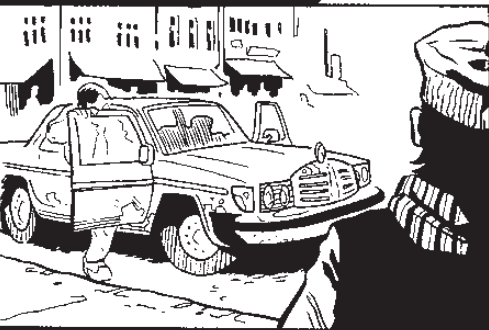
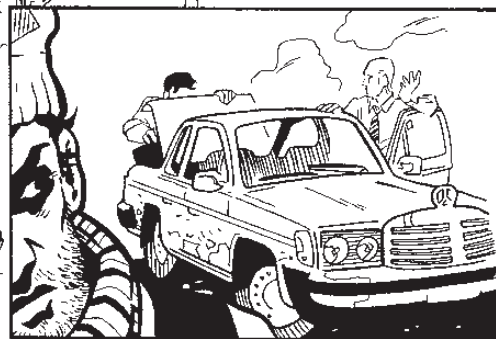


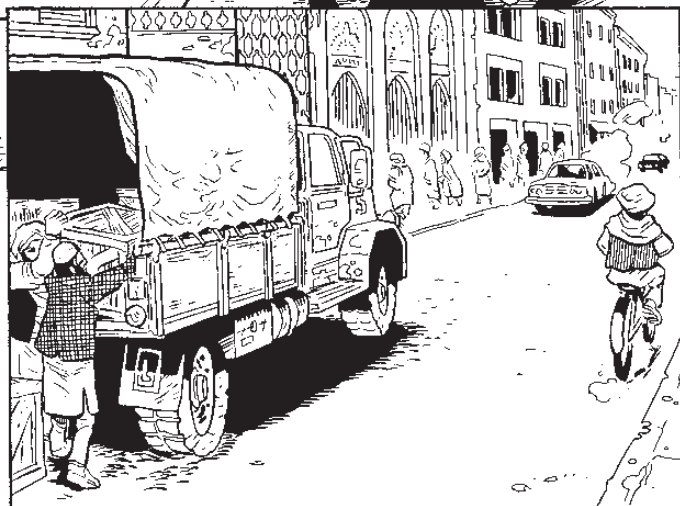


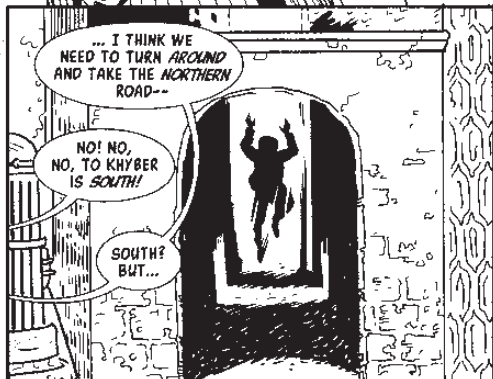




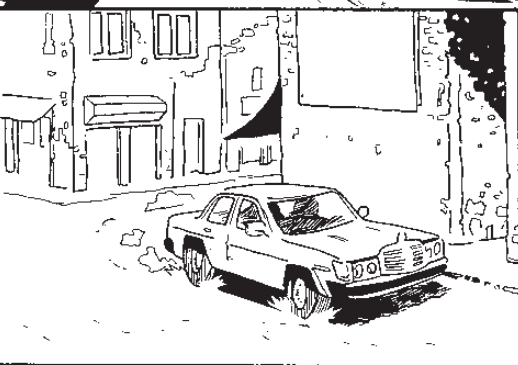
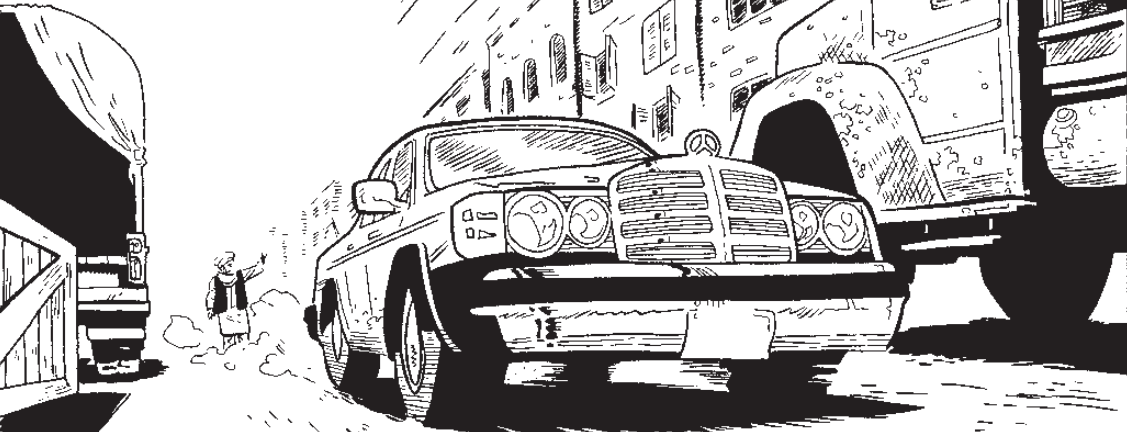


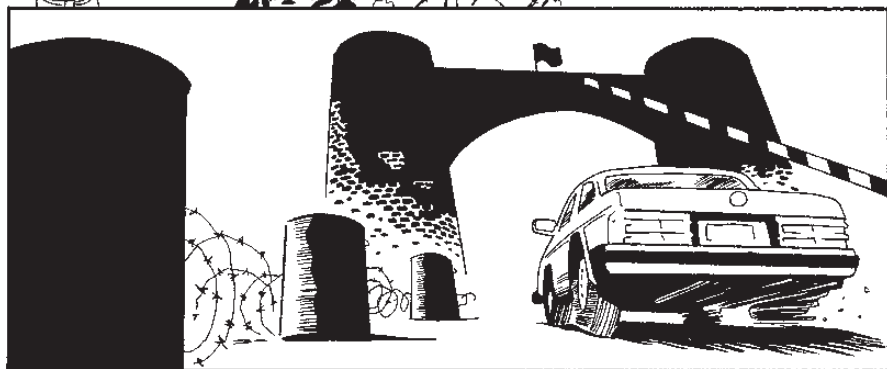


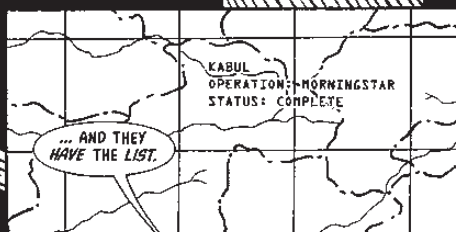
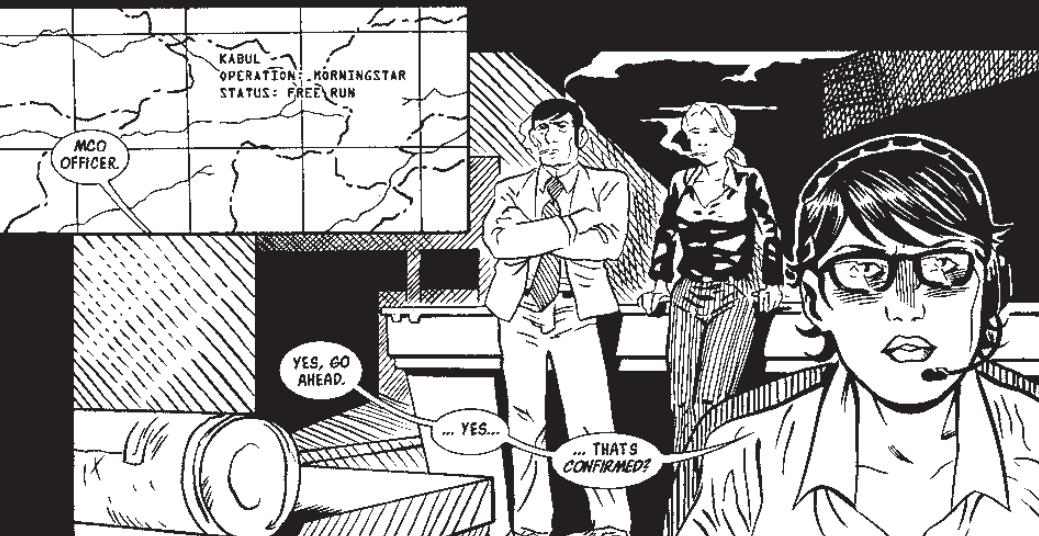












OPERATION: CRYSTAL BALL

WRITTEN BY
GREG RUCKA

ILLUSTRATED BY
LEANDRO FERNANDEZ

LETTERED BY
SEAN KONOT

ORIGINALLY EDITED BY
JAMIE S. RICH

ROSTER



C—Ubiquitous code-name for the current head of S.I.S.. Real name is Sir Wilson Stanton Davies.

DONALD WELDON—Deputy Chief of Service, has oversight of all aspects of Intelligence gathering and operations. Immediate superior to Crocker.

PAUL CROCKER—Director of Operations, encompassing all field work in all theaters of operations. In addition to commanding individual stations, has direct command of the Special Section—sometimes referred to as Minder's—used for special operations.

TOM WALLACE—Head of the Special Section, a Special Operations Officer with the designation Minder One. Responsible for the training and continued well-being of his unit, both at home and in the field. Six year veteran of the Minder's.

TARA CHACE—Special Operations Officer, designated Minder Two. Entering her third year as Minder.

EDWARD KITTING—Special Operations Officer, designated Minder Three. Has been with the Special Section for less than a year.

OPS ROOM STAFF



ALEXIS—Mission Control Officer (also called Main Communications Officer)— responsible for maintaining communications between the Operations Room and the agents in the field.

RON—Duty Operations Officer, responsible for monitoring the status and importance of all incoming intelligence, both from foreign stations and other sources.

KATE—Personal Assistant to Paul Crocker, termed P.A. to D.Ops. Possibly the hardest and most important job in the Service.

ANGELA CHANG—CIA Station Chief in London. Has an unofficial intelligence-sharing arrangement with Crocker.

SIMON RAYBURN—Director of Intelligence for S.I.S. (D. Int), essentially Crocker's opposite number. Responsible for the evaluation, interpretation, and dissemination of all acquired intelligence.

DAVID KINNY—Crocker's opposite number at M.I.5, also called the Security Services, with jurisdiction primarily confined to within the U.K.

OTHERS



GREG ELLKA
LEO HERNANDEZ

CHAPTER 1

LONDON.

MCO OFFICER...

...TRACKING
THE SITUATION
--WHAT?--

DUTY
OPERATIONS
OFFICER, GO
AHEAD--

--JUST A
MOMENT--

MCO, GO AHEAD...

--I'M SORRY,
WHAT DID YOU
SAY?

--NEED TO
BLOODY STOP
SHOUTING--

...SORRY, JUST
A MOMENT...

--SLOW DOWN
FOR GOD'S
SAKE--

--FOR
D. OPS FROM
THE F.C.O.--

DUTY
OPERATIONS
OFFICER, YOU BETTER
GET DOWN HERE,
SIR...

...SOMETHING
AWFUL'S HAPPENED.

11 SEPTEMBER
2001
1405 HOURS
GMT





...SHOOTING AT YOU--WOULD THAT KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN?

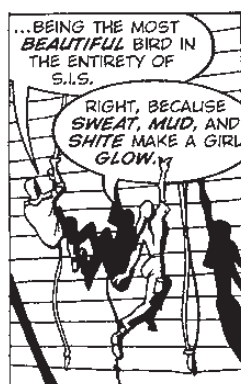
AND TO THINK, I LEFT THE REGIMENT FOR THIS.

ADMIT IT, ED, SLOGGING THROUGH MUD TURNS YOU ON.



GOOD FOR THE COMPLEXION, RIGHT?

NOT THAT YOU NEED THE HELP...

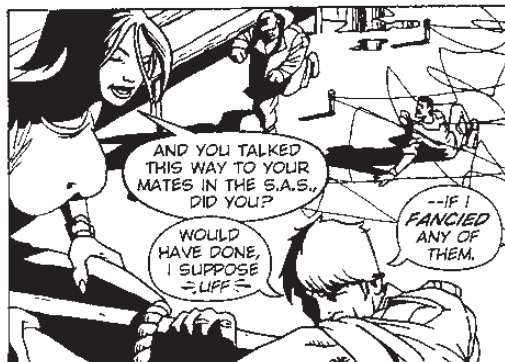


...BEING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BIRD IN THE ENTIRETY OF S.I.S.

RIGHT, BECAUSE SWEAT, MUD, AND SHITE MAKE A GIRL GLOW.



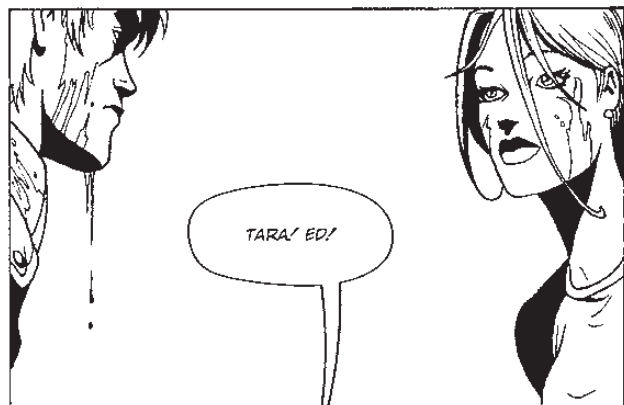
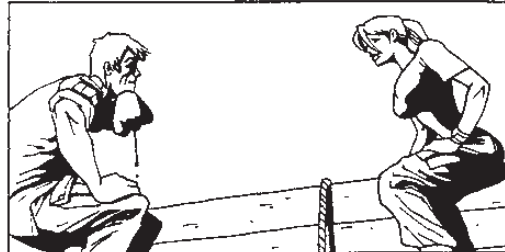
WORKS FOR ME.



AND YOU TALKED THIS WAY TO YOUR MATES IN THE S.A.S., DID YOU?

WOULD HAVE DONE, I SUPPOSE --LUFF--

--IF I FANCIED ANY OF THEM.

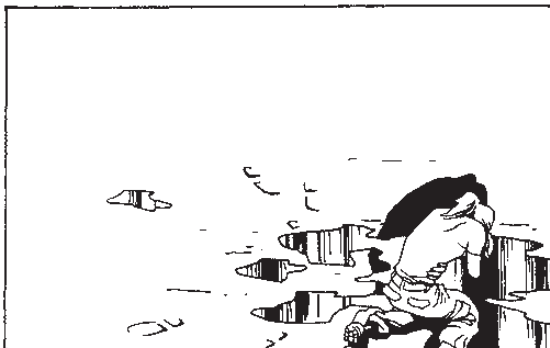
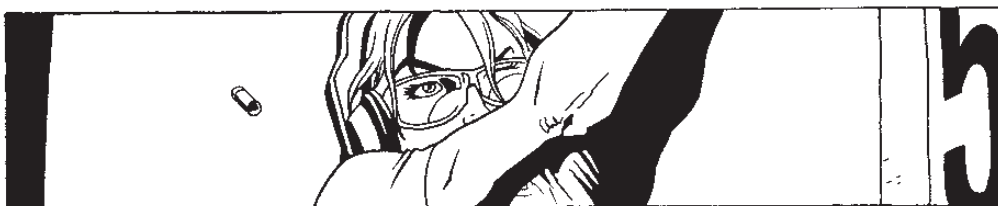
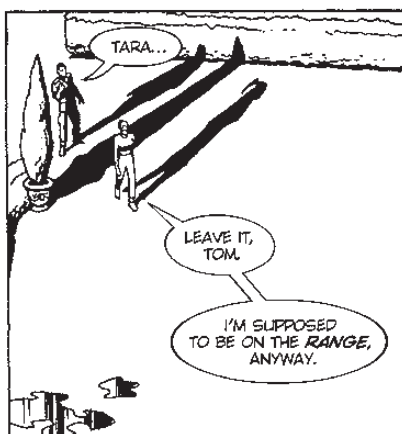


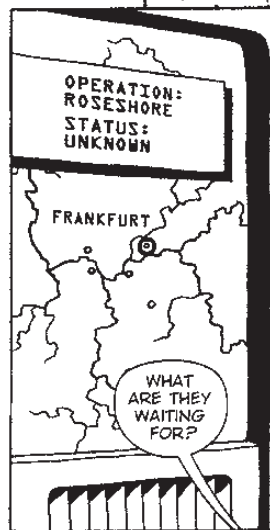
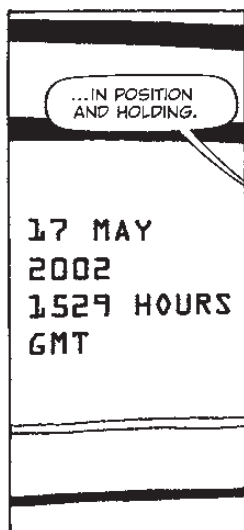
TARA' ED!

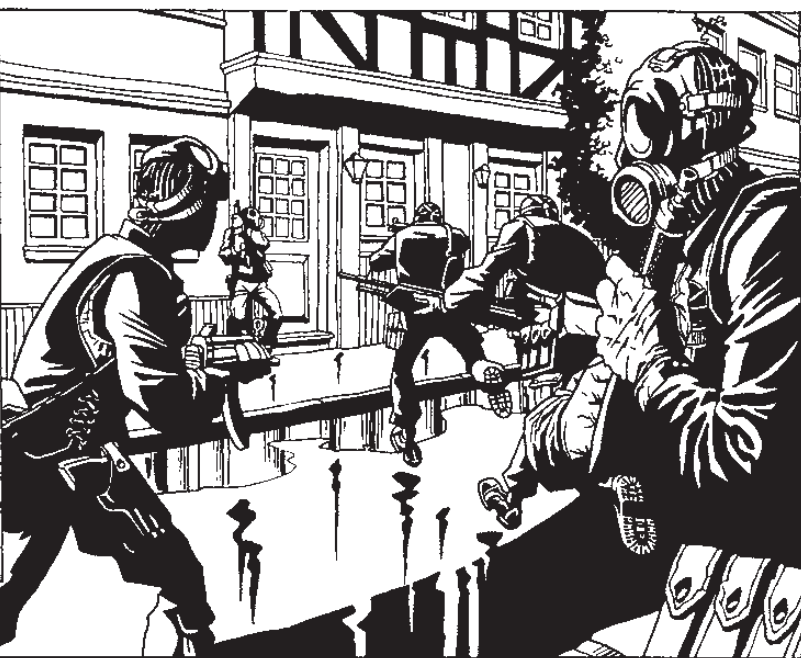


INDOORS, NOW.











(ENTRY
TEAM POSITIONS,
STAND-BY...)



<... SWEEP
TEAM, STAND-BY...
STAND-BY...>

<...ENTRY TEAM...
BREACH BREACH
BREACH>



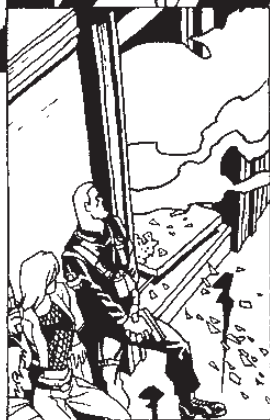
(SWEEP TEAM,
MOVE!)



COMING, ED?

WOULDN'T
MISS IT.









THAT
WOULD NOT BE
MUGHNIYEH?

NO ONE
GETS THAT
LUCKY.



THERE'D BE NO WAY
TO *CONFIRM* IT IF IT
WAS, ANYWAY.

THE ISRAELIS
SAY HE HAD PLASTIC
SURGERY DONE A WHILE
BACK. NO IDEA WHAT
HE LOOKS LIKE
NOW.

A *VICTORY*
NONETHELESS,
WOULDN'T YOU
SAY?



WE'LL
SEE.

{HAS THIS BEEN
CHECKED?}

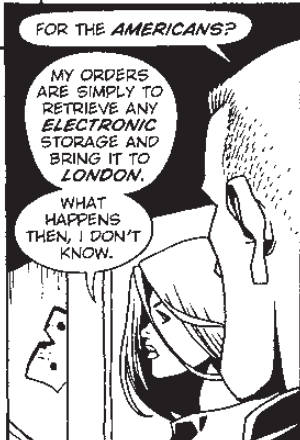
{CHECKED?}



{FOR EXPLOSIVES.}

{YES, IT'S
ALL *CLEAR*,
SIR.}

THIS IS WHAT WE
WERE *AFTER*. I'M TO
CARRY IT BACK TO
LONDON.



FOR THE AMERICANS?

MY ORDERS
ARE SIMPLY TO
RETRIEVE ANY
ELECTRONIC
STORAGE AND
BRING IT TO
LONDON.

WHAT
HAPPENS
THEN, I DON'T
KNOW.



THE
AMERICANS
WILL SHARE
THE *DATA*?

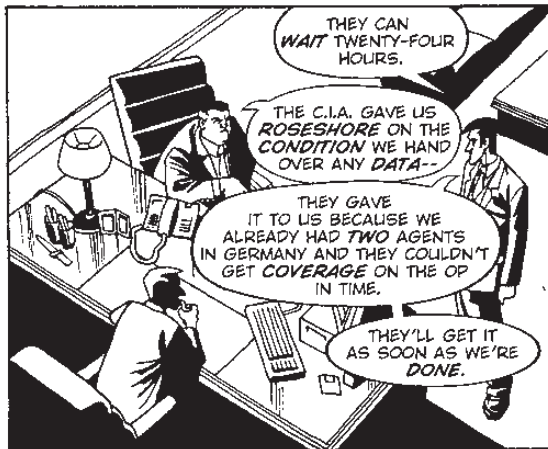
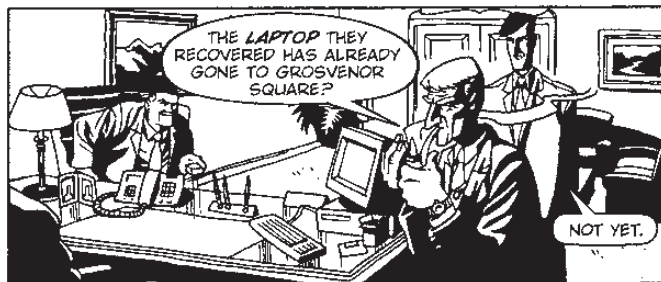
I REALLY
CAN'T SAY, MISTER
SCHRADER.

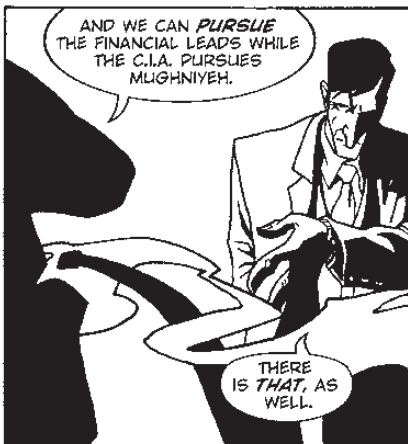
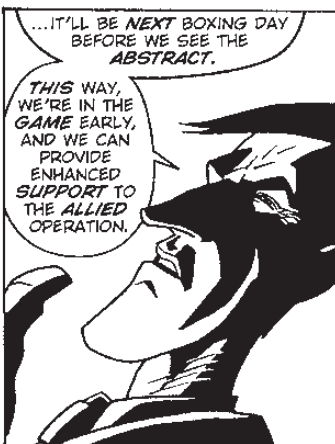
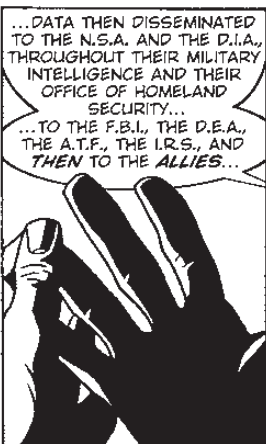
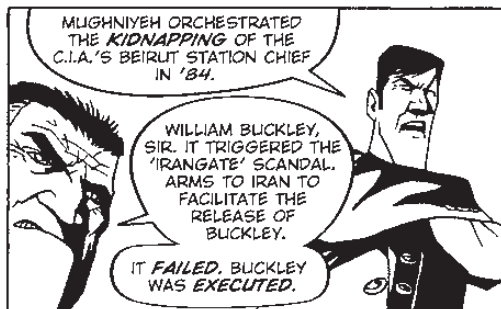
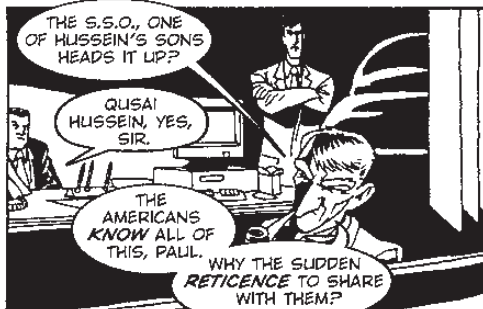
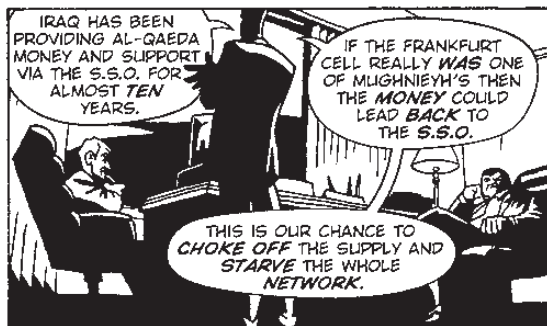
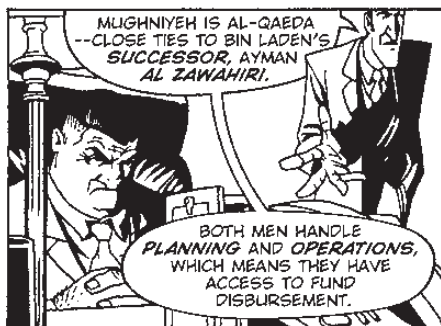


VERY WELL. I WILL CALL YOUR
MISTER CROCKER AND LET HIM
KNOW THAT YOU AND MISTER
KITTINGER ARE ON
YOUR WAY.

THANK YOU.









...MOTHERFUCKER!



GIVE THAT TO ME NOW
OR I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL
AUTHORIZE A COVERT
ON YOUR PASTY
ASS!

THAT'S
UNCALLED FOR,
ANGELA.

I'M NATURALLY
FAIR-SKINNED.



SHUT UP.

LINDSEY?
COURIER PACK,
IMMEDIATE TO
LANGLEY.

RIGHT
AWAY.



SEND IT
OUT NOW.

WILL DO.



YOU ARE INCLUDED
ON THE CIRCULATION LIST,
YOU KNOW. YOU'D HAVE
SEEN IT EVENTUALLY.

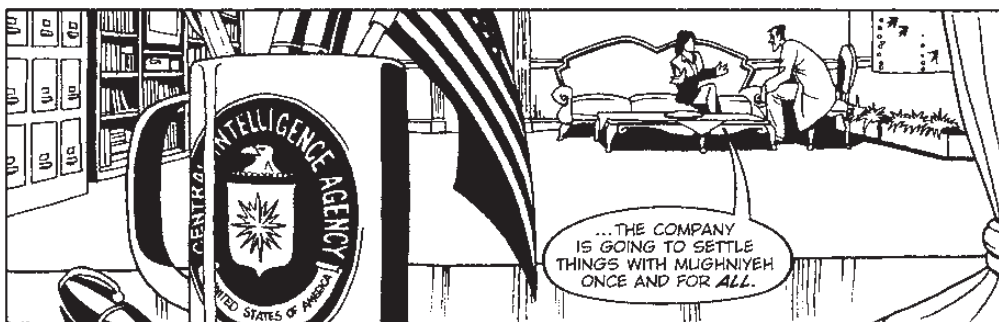
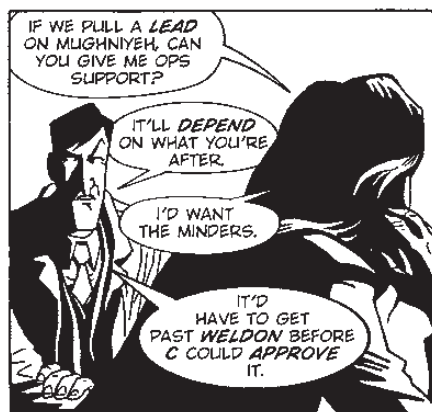
I WANTED THE
UNEXPURGATED
VERSION.

DON'T WE ALL?

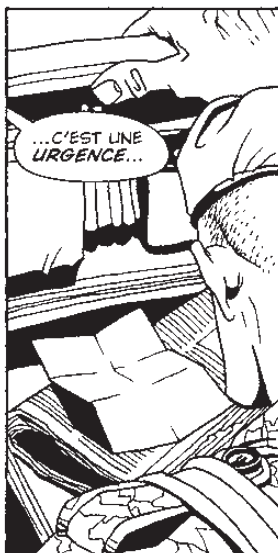
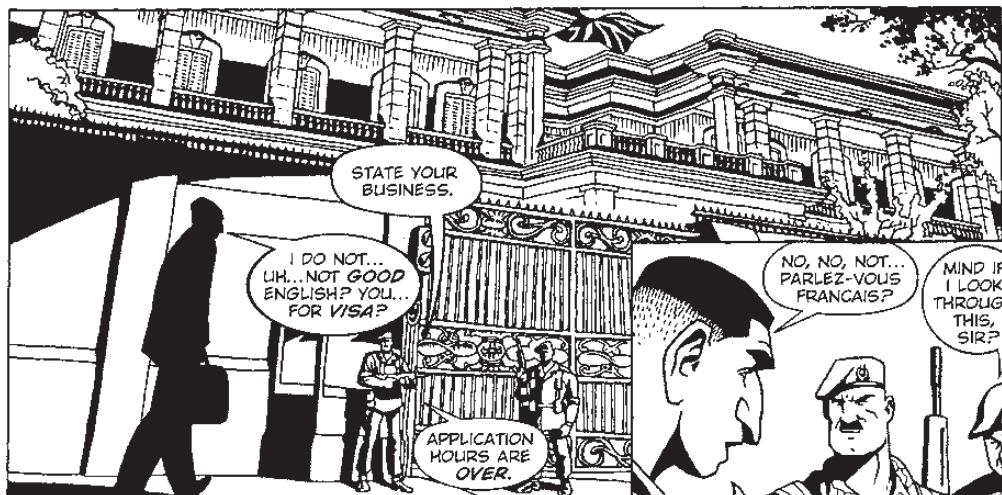


RAYBURN'S
PEOPLE ARE GOING
OVER IT?

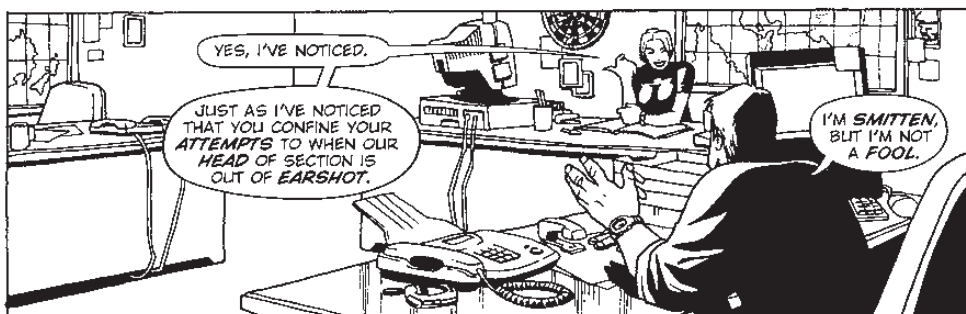
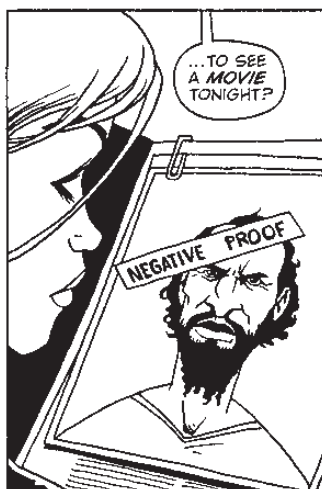
THEY
STARTED LAST
NIGHT.

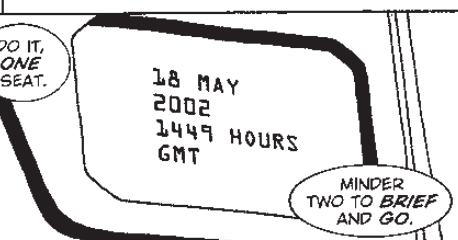


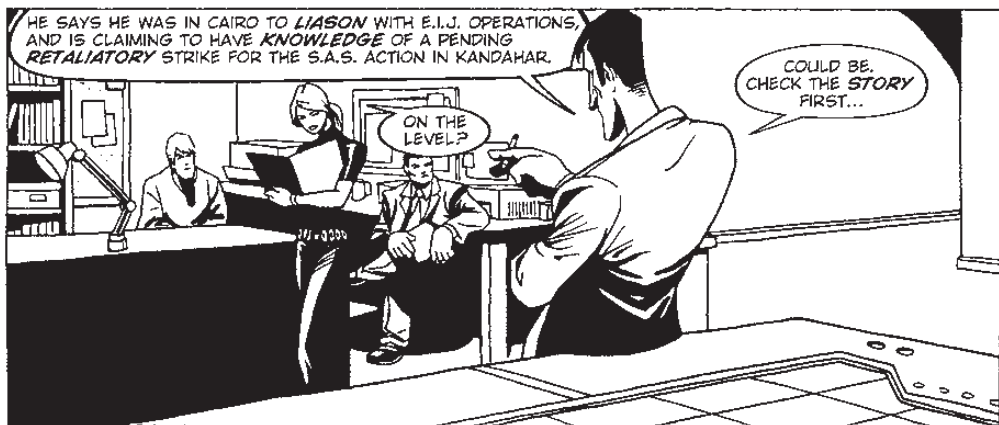
CAIRO.

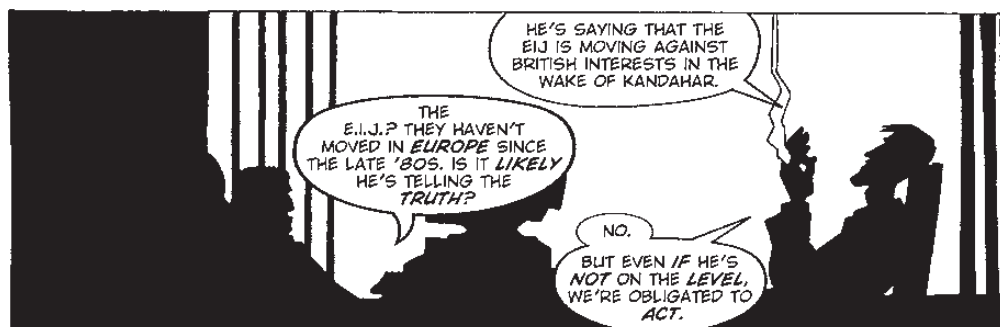


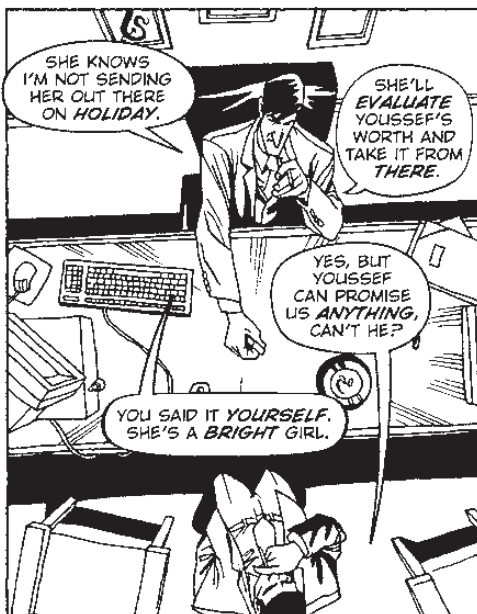
I AM BEING WATCHED.
I MUST SPEAK TO YOUR
AMBASSADOR. I HAVE
INFORMATION VITAL TO
UK CITIZEN SAFETY.

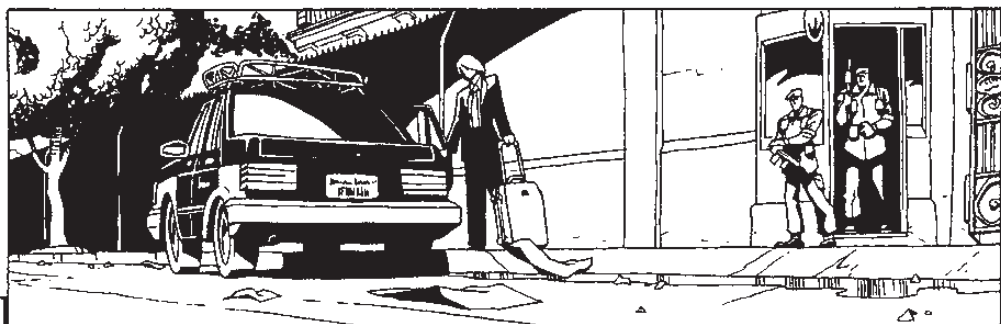
















«MAHMOUD
YOUSSEF? MY NAME
IS CHACE...»



«...I'VE BEEN SENT BY
MY GOVERNMENT TO
SPEAK WITH YOU...»



«... SORRY FOR
THE *DELAY*. HAVE
YOU HAD ANYTHING
TO *DRINK*?»

«(DRINK?)»

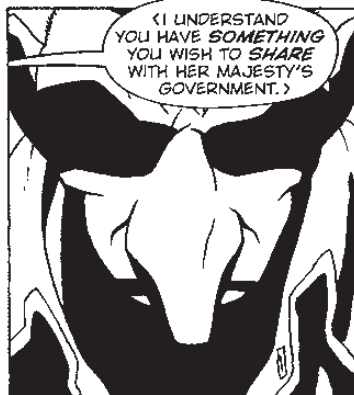
«NO, NO,
I'VE BEEN
SITTING
HERE -»

MISTER HODGSON, WOULD YOU
FETCH US SOME TEA, PLEASE...



...THANK YOU.

«MISTER YOUSSEF,
PLEASE, SIT DOWN.
WE HAVE A LOT TO
TALK ABOUT.»



«I UNDERSTAND
YOU HAVE *SOMETHING*
YOU WISH TO *SHARE*
WITH HER MAJESTY'S
GOVERNMENT.»



«YES...
YES, I...»

«I KNOW
OF A *PLOT*,
YOU SEE...»

«...A *CHEMICAL*
PLOT...»

GREG RUCKA
LEO FERNANDEZ



"RELIABILITY, YOU SEE?
THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE
PROBLEM WITH CHEMICAL
AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS.

AL-HARTUM 11 Km
الخرطوم Km 11
KASSALA 903 Km
كاسلا Km 903

"UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN WEAPONIZED, THEY ARE REMARKABLY
UNSTABLE. DIFFICULT TO TRANSPORT, DIFFICULT TO VECTOR.

"...NOT ON A
SMALL SCALE,
BUT RATHER ON
A LARGE ONE.

"AS A RESULT, THEY
ARE ALSO DIFFICULT TO
MANUFACTURE...

"THE ESSENCE OF TERROR BEING
TO ENGENDER THE MAXIMUM
HORROR WITH THE LEAST EFFORT.

"THAT'S WHY SO MANY
ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
ESCHewed THEIR USE.
TOO MUCH EFFORT,
NOT ENOUGH RESULT.

Construction
Quadrat

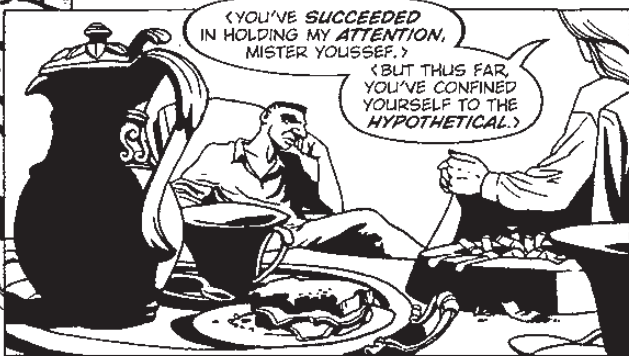
"OTHER PROBLEMS EXIST
IN THE PRODUCTION, AS
WELL. FUNDING IS CRITICAL,
AS WELL AS THE PROPER
ENVIRONMENT...

"...AND WHILE THE REQUISITE EQUIPMENT CAN
BE ACQUIRED WITH EASE--RELATIVELY SPEAKING
--IT IS FAR HARDER TO FIND PEOPLE TRAINED
TO DO THE NECESSARY WORK.

"IT REQUIRES THE
RAREST COMBINATION
OF ZEALOTRY AND
BRILLIANCE..."

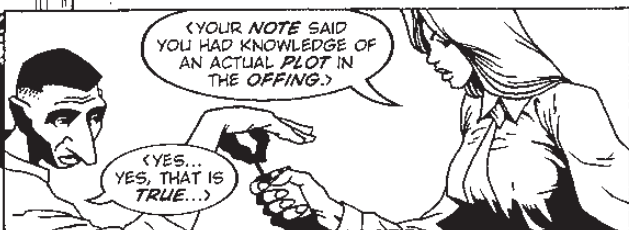


<...WITHOUT THAT CRITICAL COMPONENT, MISS CHACE, ONE IS CONFINED TO PLAYING ON THE SMALLEST OF PITCHES.>



<YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN HOLDING MY ATTENTION, MISTER YOUSSEF.>

<BUT THUS FAR, YOU'VE CONFINED YOURSELF TO THE HYPOTHETICAL.>



<YOUR NOTE SAID YOU HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AN ACTUAL PLOT IN THE OFFING.>

<YES... YES, THAT IS TRUE...>

<...I WAS RECRUITED INTO THE G.I.A. THREE YEARS AGO...AS A STUDENT, IN PARIS.>

<MOSTLY I JOINED BECAUSE OF MY OUTRAGE AT THE TREATMENT OF MY PEOPLE BY THE ZIONISTS...>



<...BUT ALSO BECAUSE I WAS A ROMANTIC.>

<AND YOU'VE FOUND ROMANCE OVERRATED?>



<IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SAY THAT, IN THE LAST YEAR, I HAVE BECOME MORE PRAGMATIC.>



<I UNDERSTAND, SO, TELL ME, MISTER YOUSSEF...>

<...WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?>



<MONEY.>

<A LOT OF MONEY.>

<TWO MILLION POUNDS.>



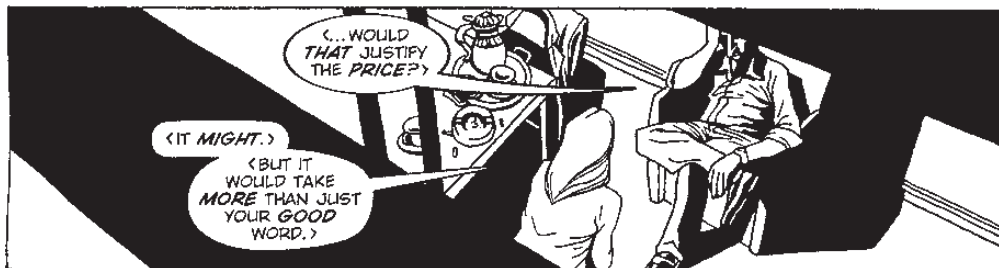
<I'M NOT CERTAIN YOU
COULD GIVE US **ANYTHING** WORTH
THAT MUCH, MISTER YOUSSEF. PERHAPS
A MORE **REASONABLE** SUM
IS IN ORDER?>



<AND IF
I TOLD YOU
THAT THE EGYPTIAN
ISLAMIC JYHAD NOT
ONLY HAS ACQUIRED
A LARGE QUANTITY
OF **SARIN**
GAS...>

<...BUT ALSO HAS
DEVELOPED A **DELIVERY**
SYSTEM THAT WILL GUARANTEE
CASUALTIES IN THE **TENS**
OF **THOUSANDS**...>

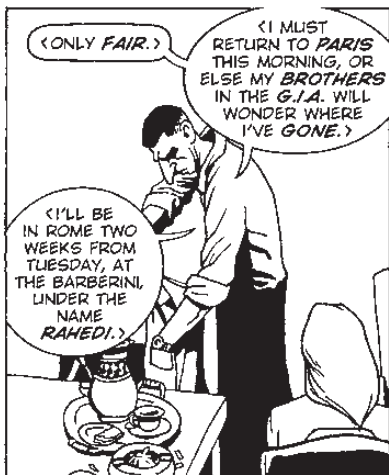
<...AND HAS
PICKED A **TARGET**
TO BE HIT IN THE NEXT
EIGHT WEEKS...>



<...WOULD
THAT JUSTIFY
THE **PRICE**?>

<IT **MIGHT**.>

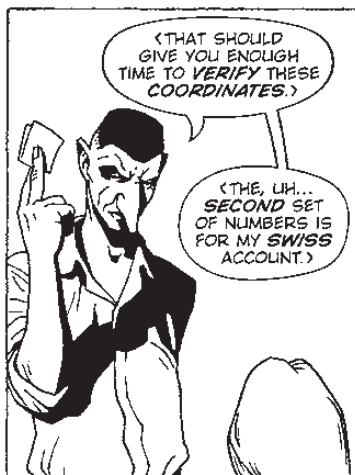
<BUT IT
WOULD TAKE
MORE THAN JUST
YOUR **GOOD**
WORD.>



<ONLY **FAIR**.>

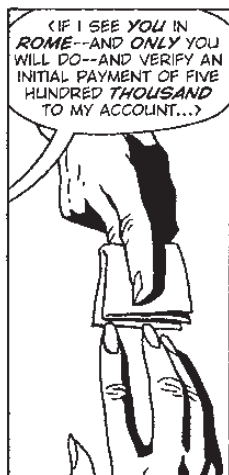
<I MUST
RETURN TO **PARIS**
THIS MORNING, OR
ELSE MY **BROTHERS**
IN THE **G.I.A.** WILL
WONDER WHERE
I'VE GONE.>

<I'LL BE
IN **ROME** TWO
WEEKS FROM
TUESDAY, AT
THE **BARBERINI**,
UNDER THE
NAME
RAHEDI.>



<THAT SHOULD
GIVE YOU ENOUGH
TIME TO **VERIFY** THESE
COORDINATES.>

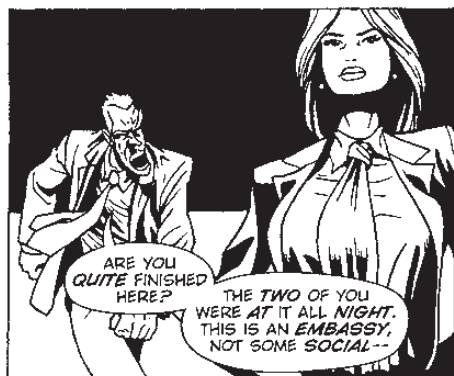
<THE, UH...
SECOND SET
OF NUMBERS IS
FOR MY **SWISS**
ACCOUNT.>

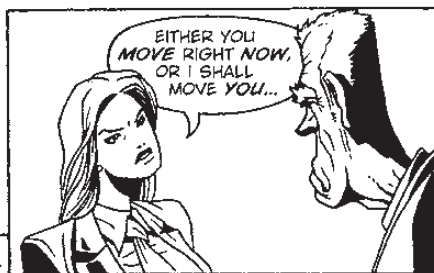


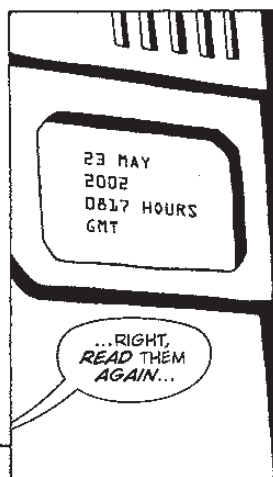
<IF I SEE YOU IN
ROME--AND ONLY YOU
WILL DO--AND VERIFY AN
INITIAL PAYMENT OF FIVE
HUNDRED **THOUSAND**
TO MY ACCOUNT...>

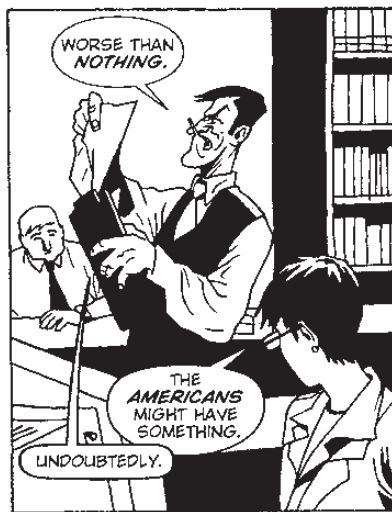
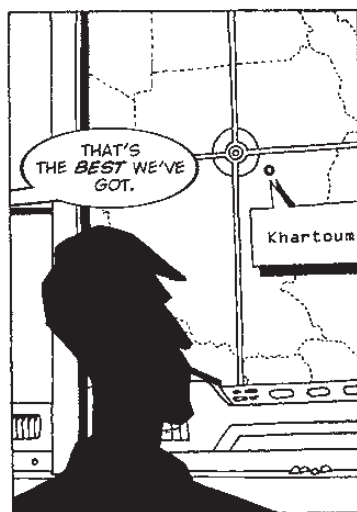
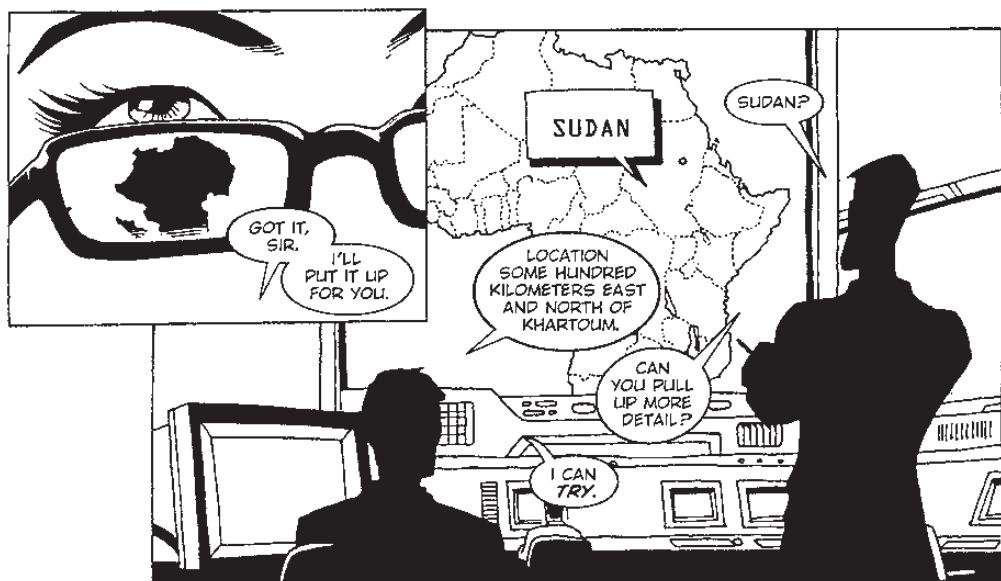


<...I'LL ASSUME
YOU'RE TAKING ME
SERIOUSLY.>

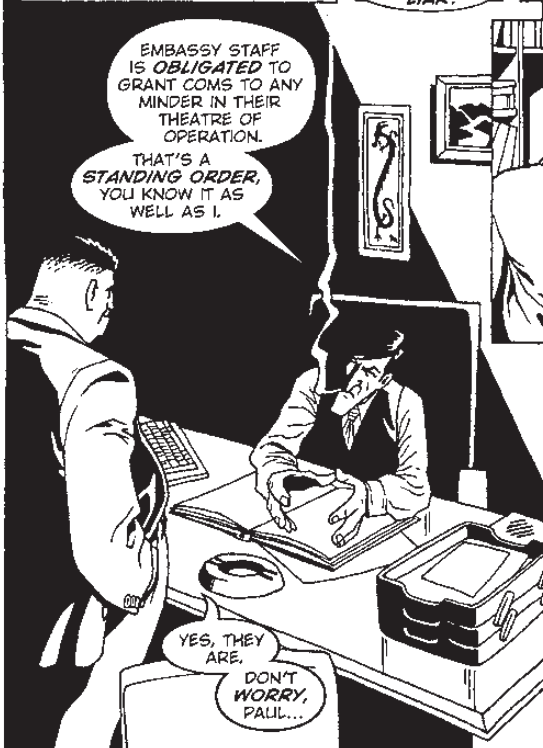
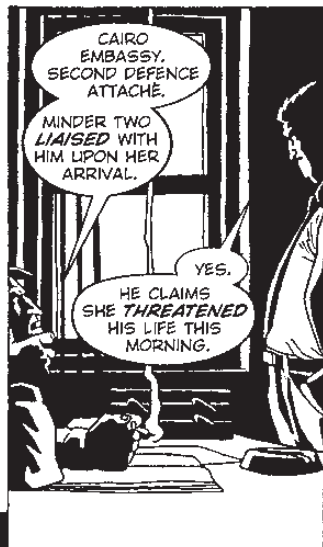


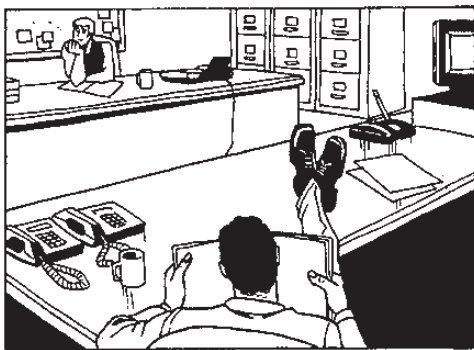
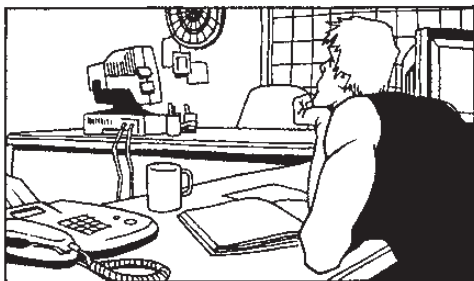
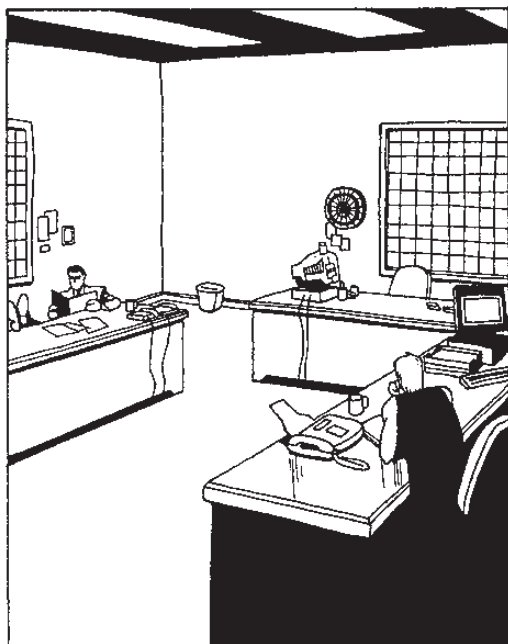












CHRIST, ED.
WOULD
YOU AND HER
DESK LIKE TO BE
ALONE?

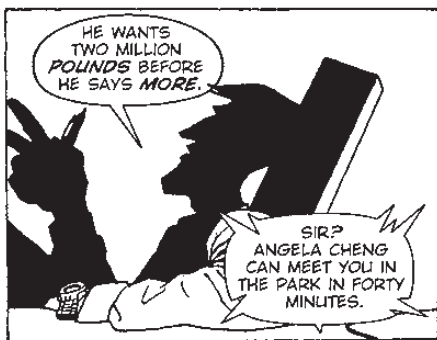
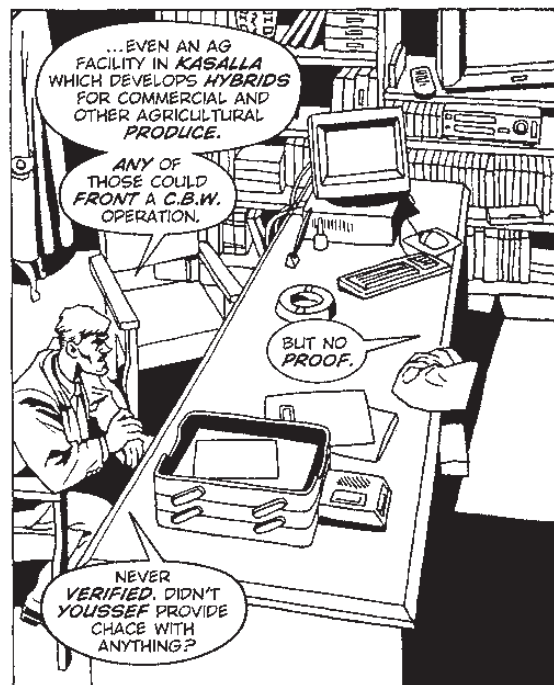
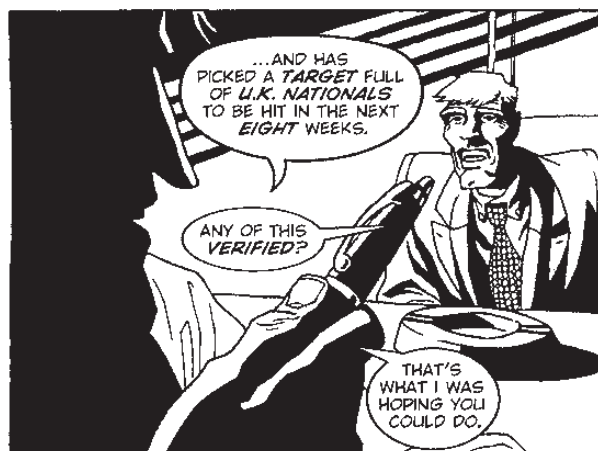


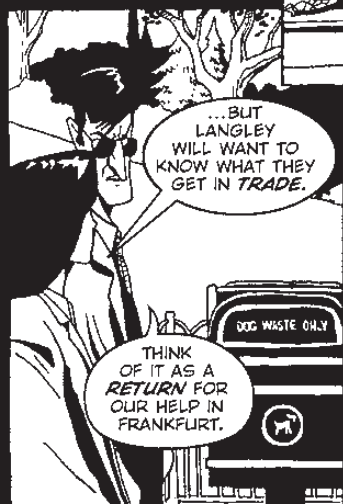
JUST
THINKING.

YES, AND
I KNOW JUST
WHAT YOU WERE
THINKING ABOUT,
TOO.

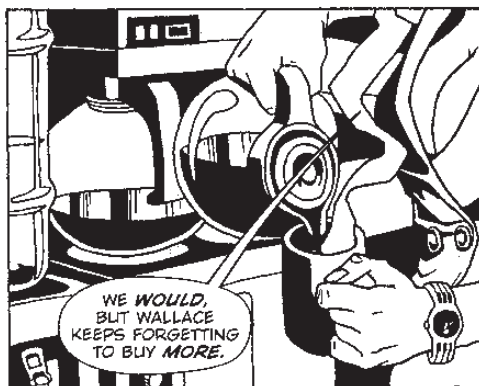
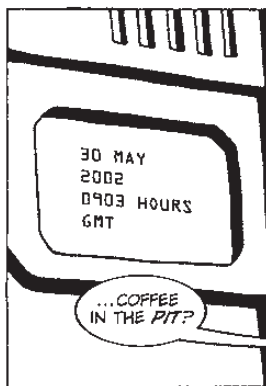


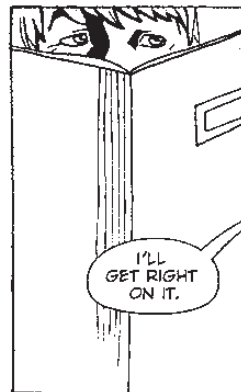
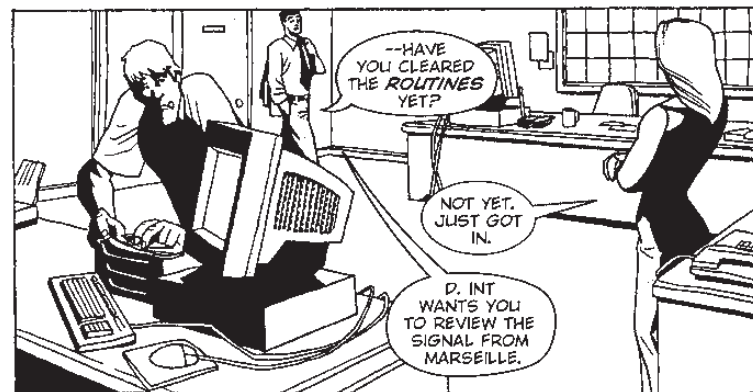
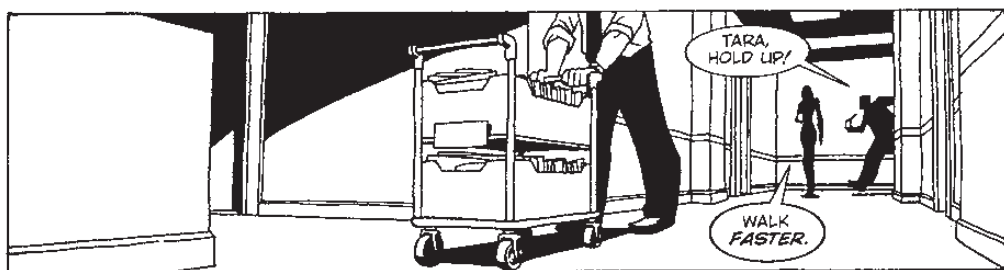


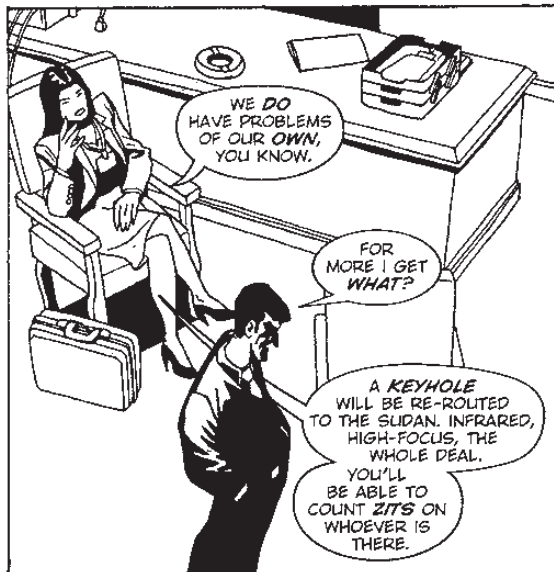


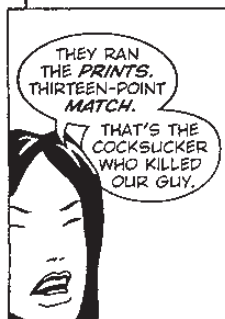


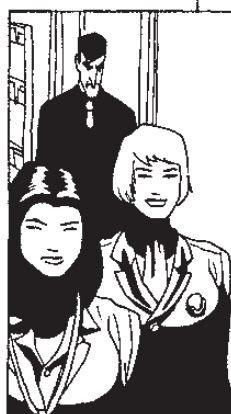


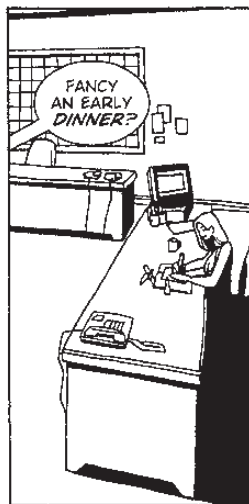
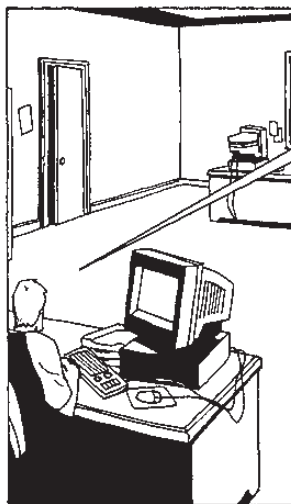
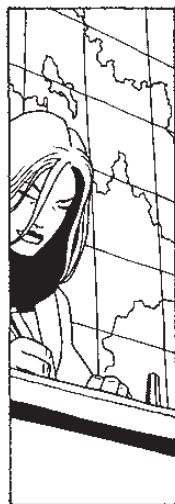
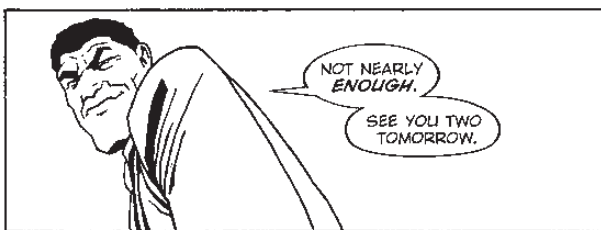
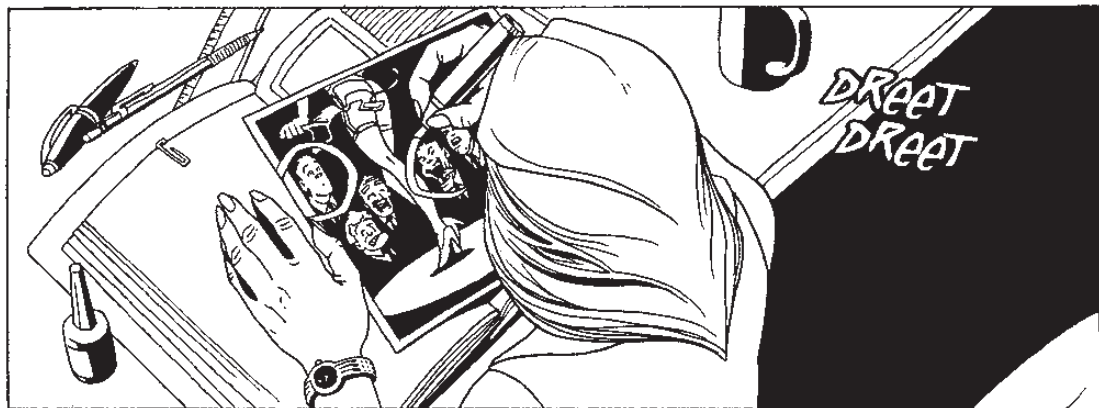




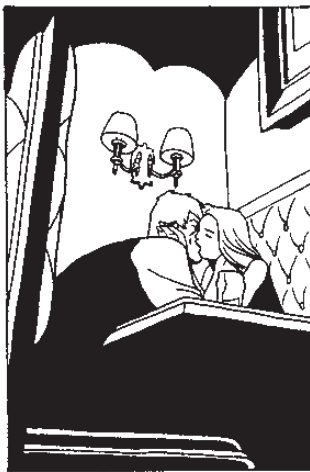


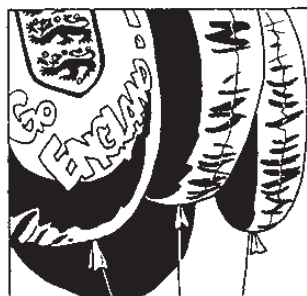
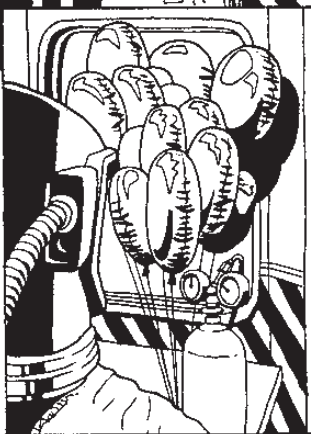
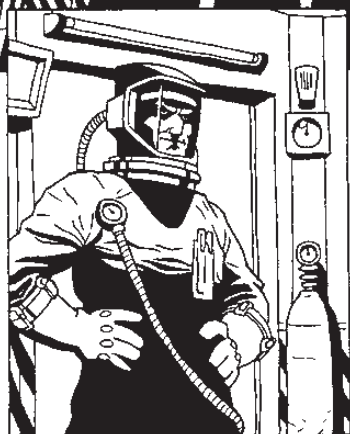






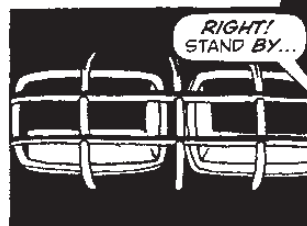




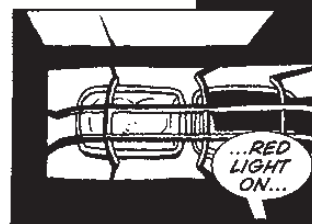


GREG RUCKA
LEANDRO FERNANDES





RIGHT!
STAND BY...

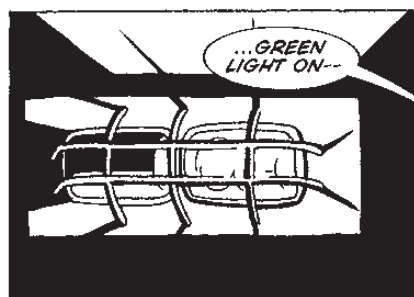


...RED
LIGHT
ON...



...STAND BY...

...STAND
BY...



...GREEN
LIGHT ON--

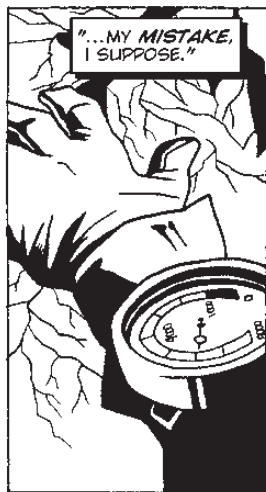


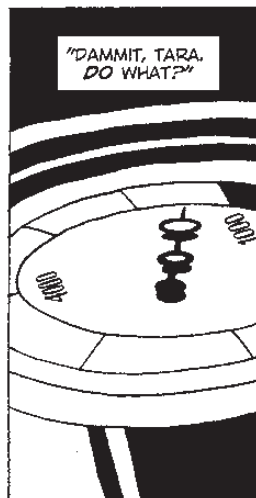
--GO GO
GO!

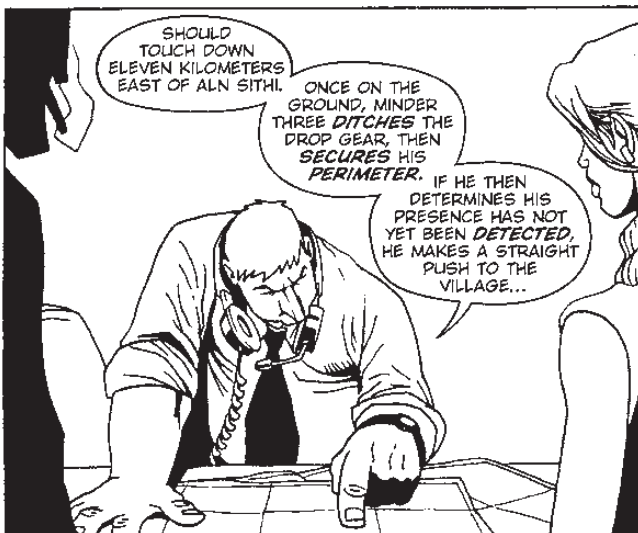


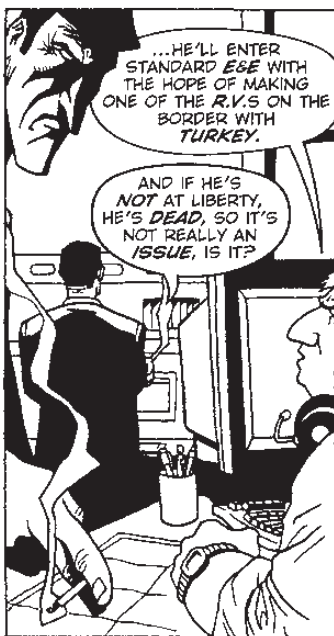
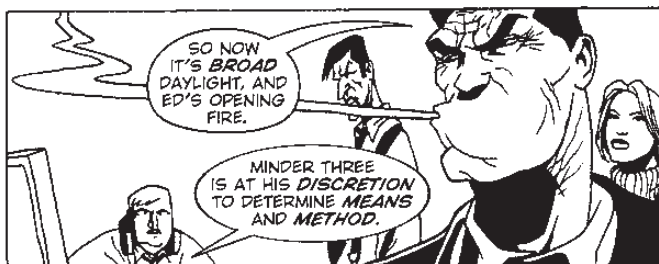
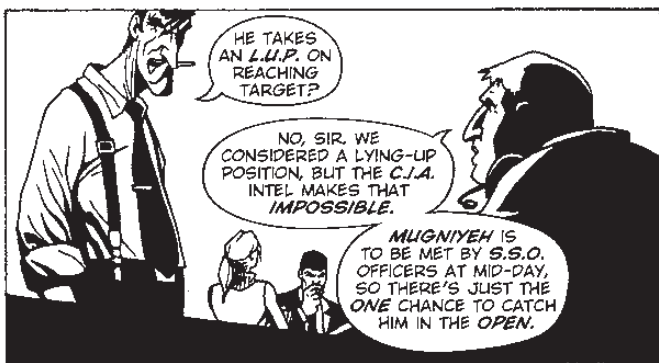
NORTHERN IRAQ.

ALTITUDE
9,870 FEET.

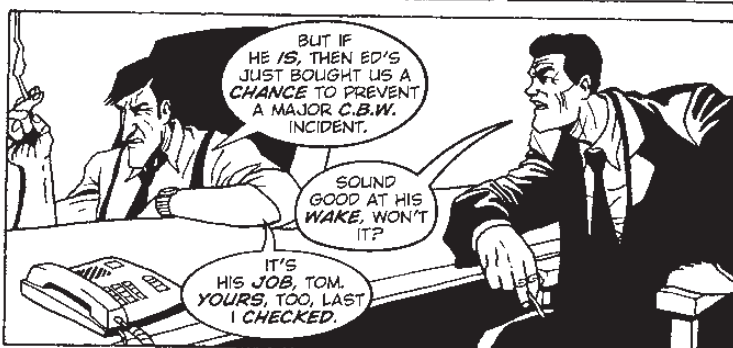
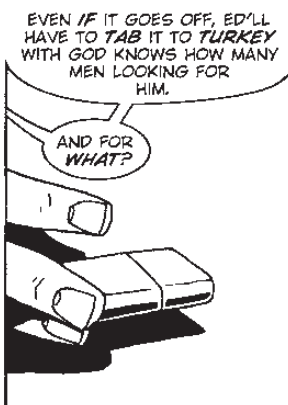


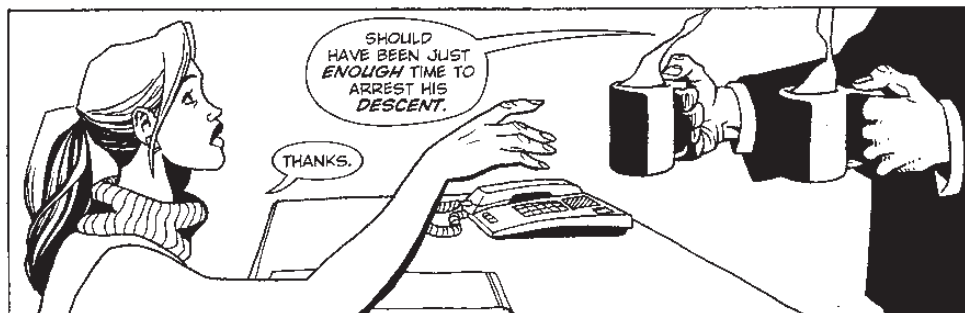
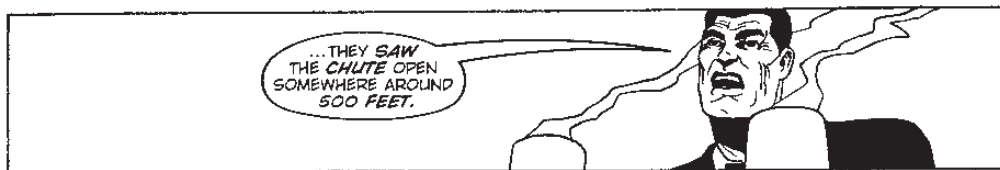
















PAUL?
ANGELA CHENG IS
BEING ESCORTED UP
FROM RECEPTION.



HAVE HER
BROUGHT DOWN
TO THE OPS
ROOM.

GET D. INT
AND MINDER TWO
DOWN THERE, AS
WELL.

YES,
SIR.



OLIVER
SAYS THE DEPUTY
CHIEF KNOWS THAT
KITTINGING IS IN
NORTHERN IRAQ.



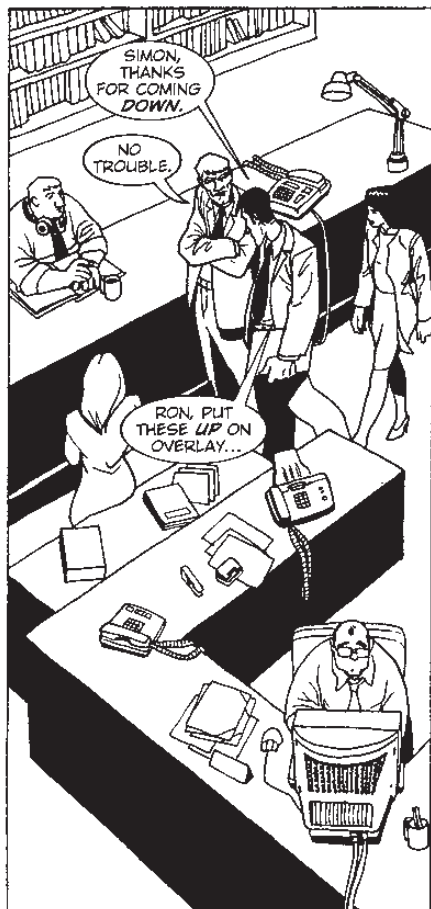
WHAT
ELSE?



JUST THAT.
SHALL
I TELL HIM
YOU'LL BE
COMING TO
SEE HIM?

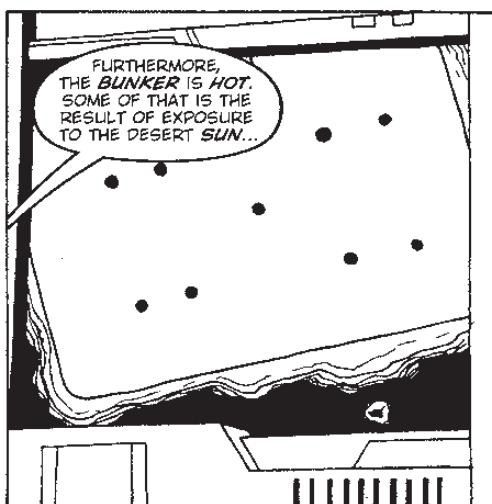
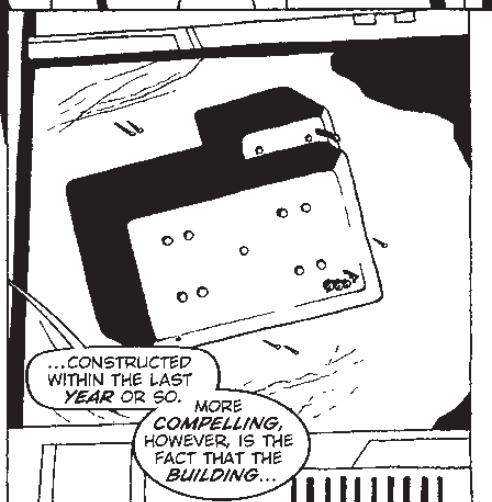
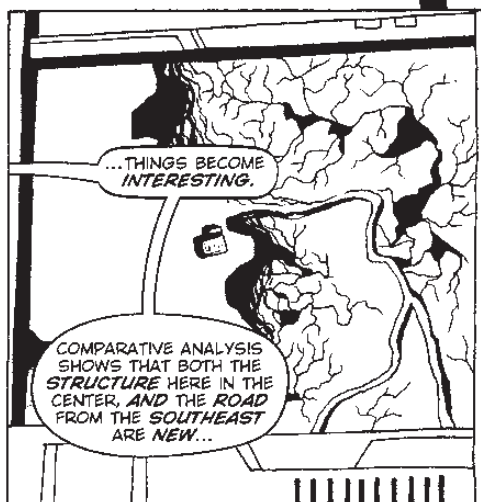
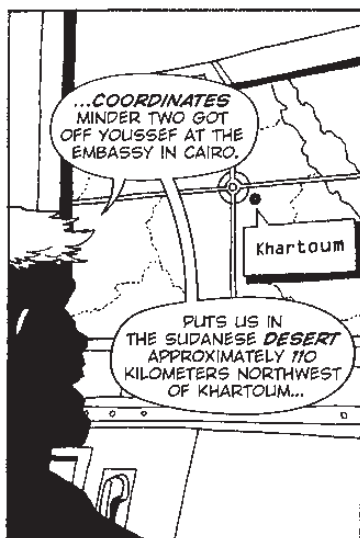


IF IT
WOULDN'T
BE A BOTHER,
KATE, YES, THANK
YOU.

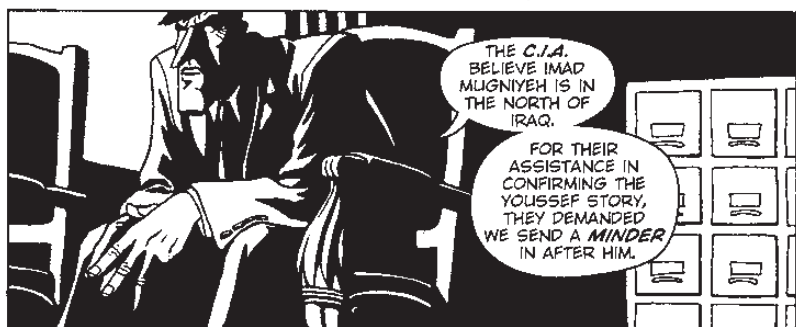


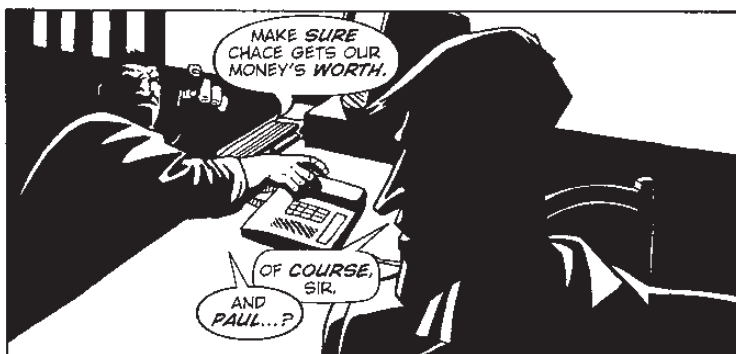
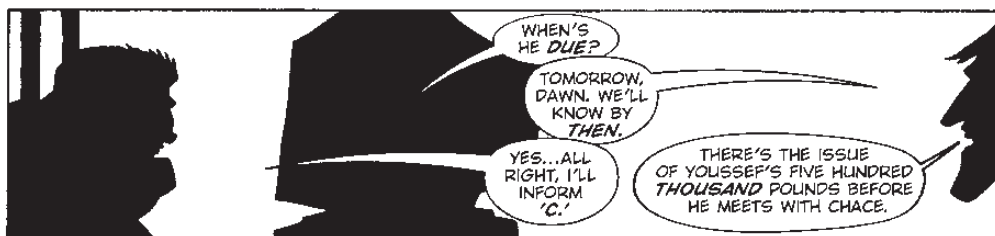
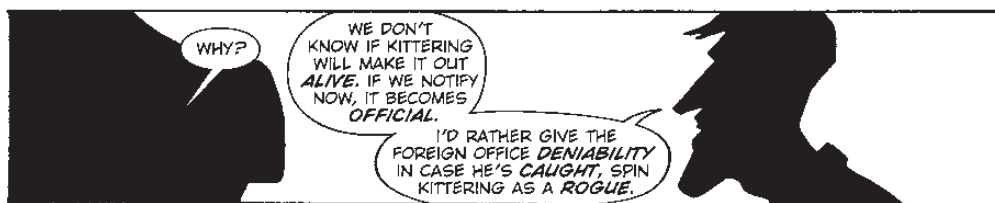
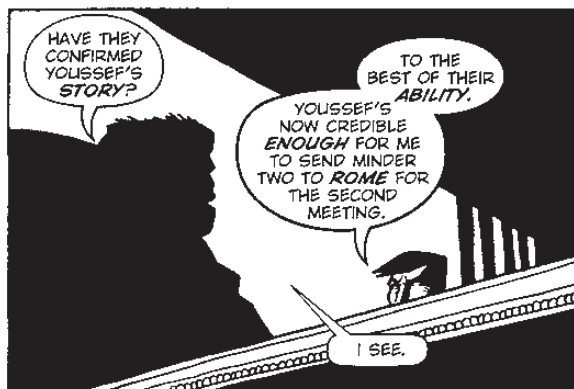
...THE REST ARE FOR SIMON, THERE, AND WOULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHY THE HELL DAVID ALLEN IS ON THE M.C.O. DESK?

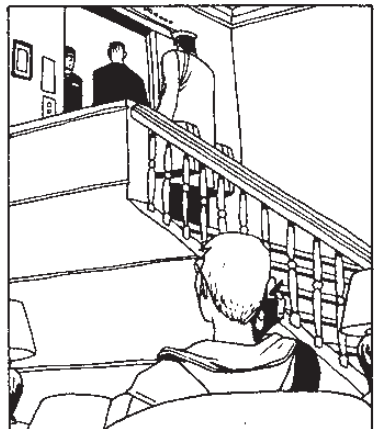


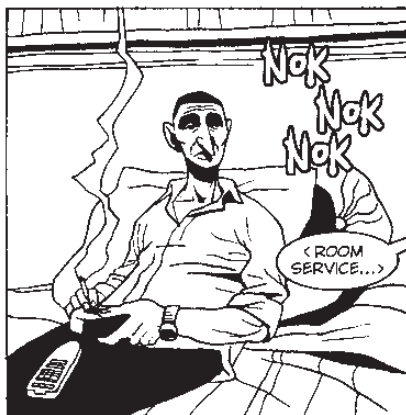


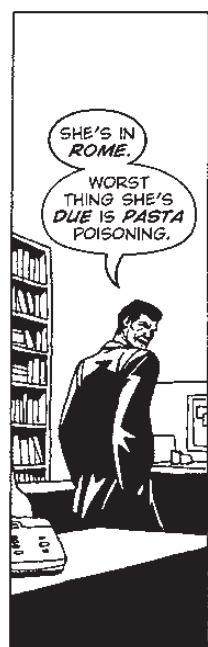
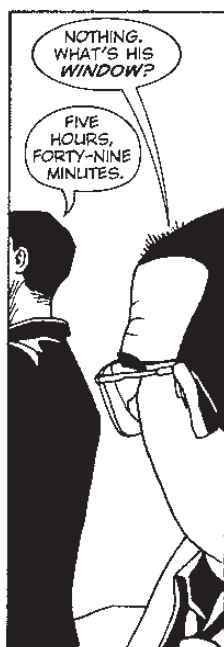


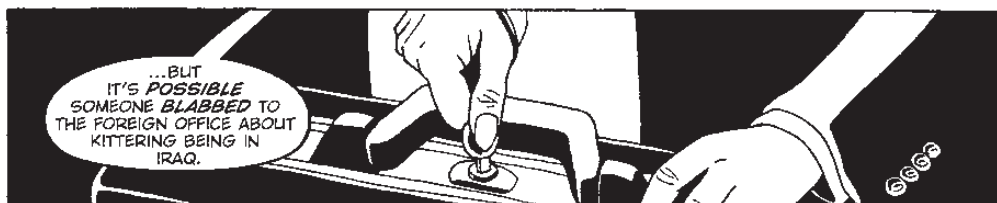




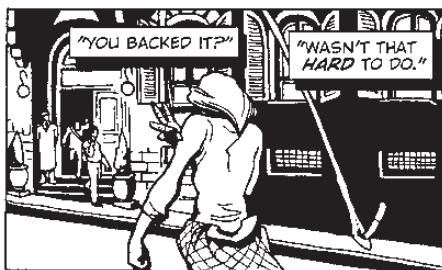
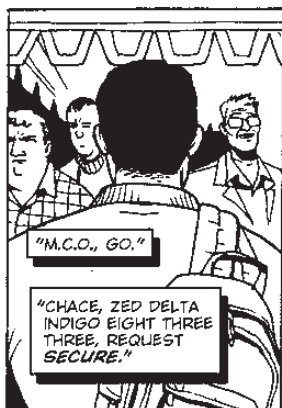


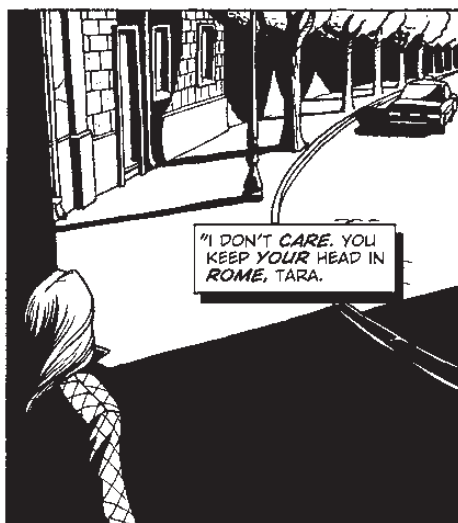
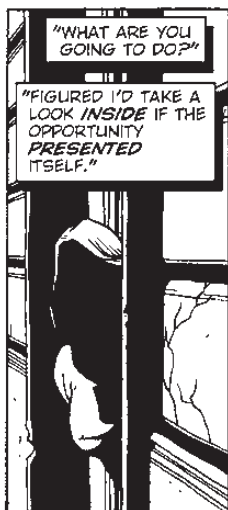


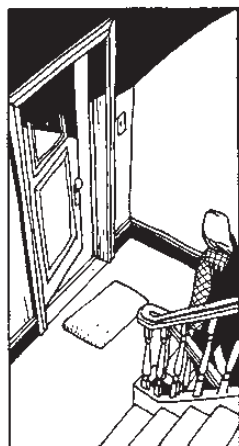






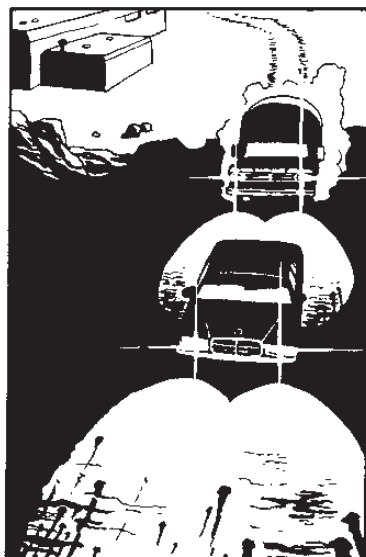
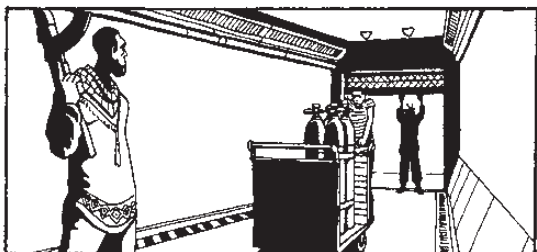


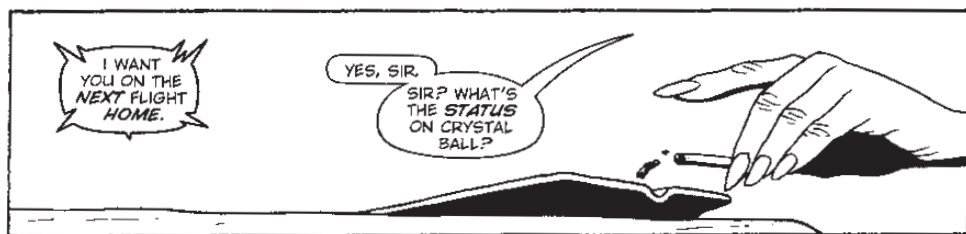


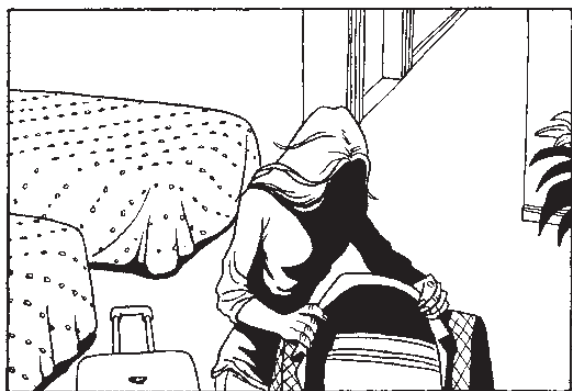
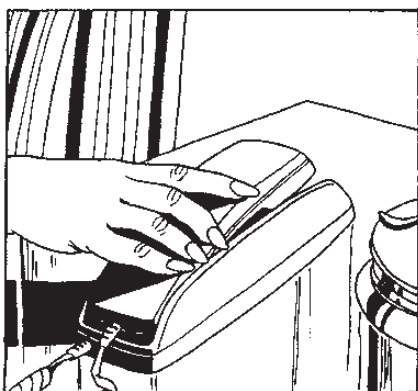
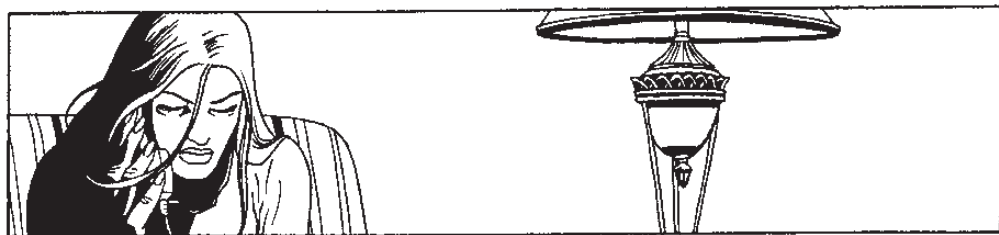














...FROM MINDER TWO, IN ROME. SHE'S ON HER WAY HOME NOW.



YOUSSEF BLEW HIS RENDEZVOUS AT THE BARBERINI. WHEN CHACE LEFT THE HOTEL, SHE'D PICKED UP A TAIL.

G.I.A.?

THAT'S HER ASSESSMENT. SHE BROKE THE TAIL, THEN BACKED IT TO A SAFE HOUSE IN TRASTEVERE. WAITED OUTSIDE ALL NIGHT.



THIS MORNING THE TWO WHO'D TAILED HER SHOVED OFF AND SHE GOT A LOOK AROUND INSIDE.

SHE FOUND YOUSSEF, DEAD. HE'D BEEN TORTURED.

ANY IDEA HOW MUCH HE TALKED BEFORE HE DIED?



DEPENDS ON WHEN THEY KILLED HIM, BUT AT A GUESS, EVERYTHING.

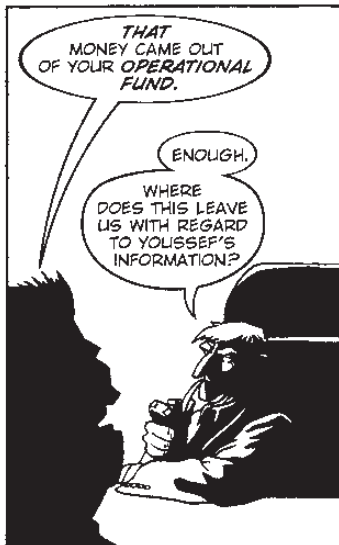
SO WE'VE JUST GIVEN THE G.I.A. FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS?



WE'LL HAVE A HARD TIME DEFENDING THE LOSS OF THE MONEY, SIR.

THAT'S HARDLY RELEVANT!

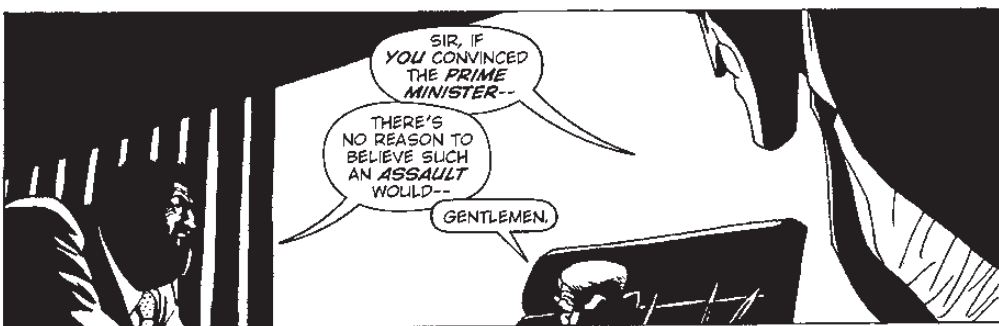
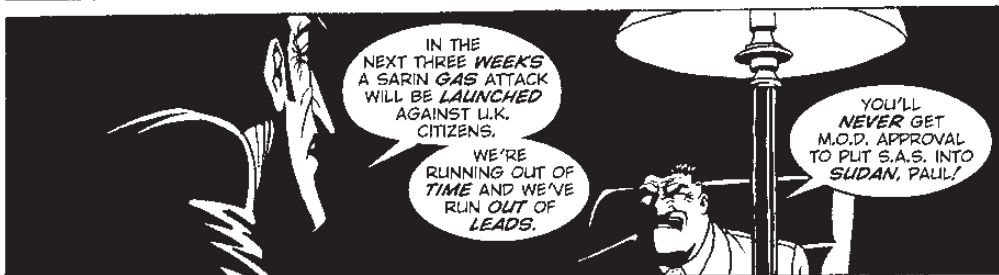
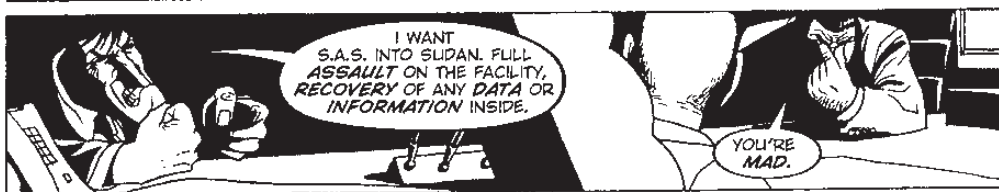
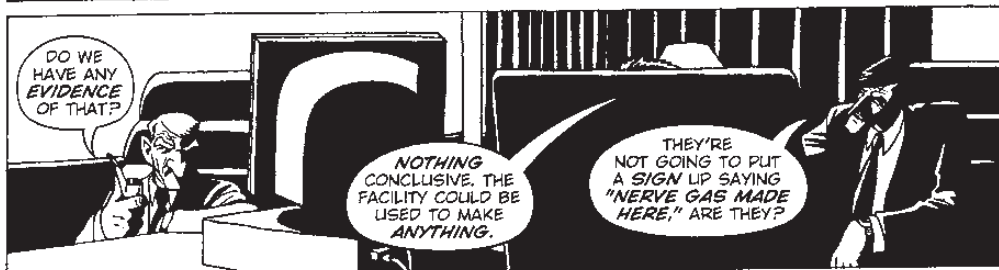
BUDGET IS ALWAYS RELEVANT! ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT WE MAY HAVE JUST FUNDED THE G.I.A. FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS!

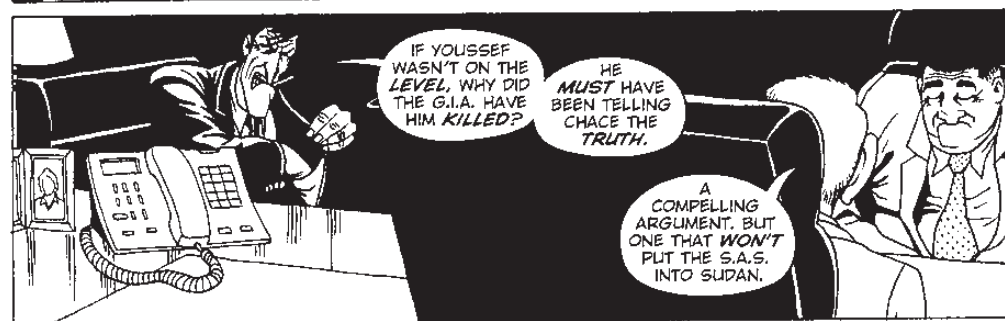
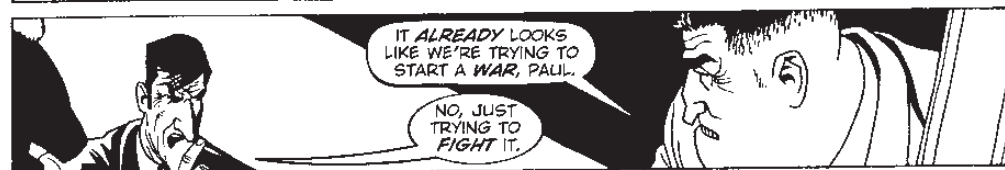
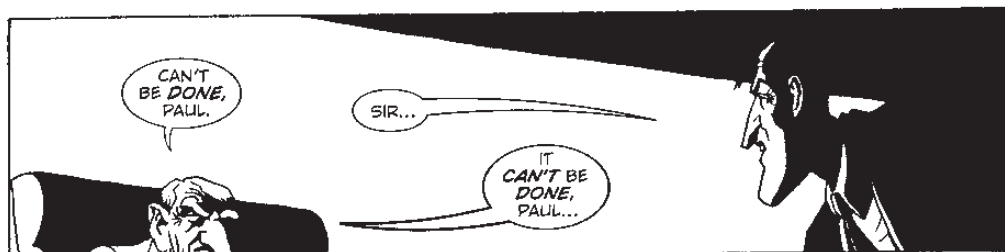


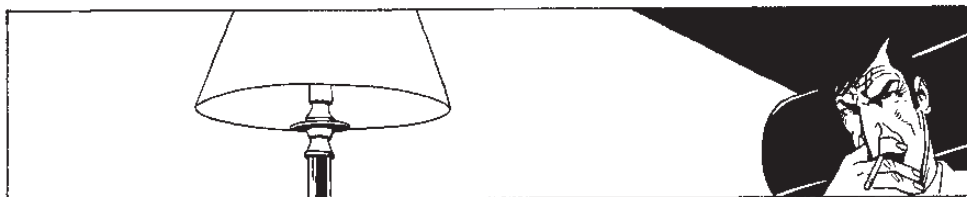
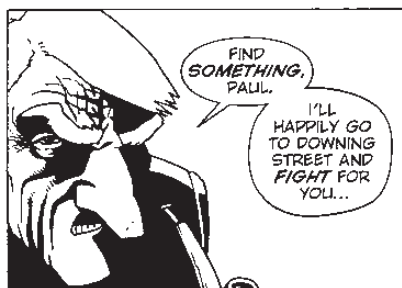
THAT MONEY CAME OUT OF YOUR OPERATIONAL FUND.

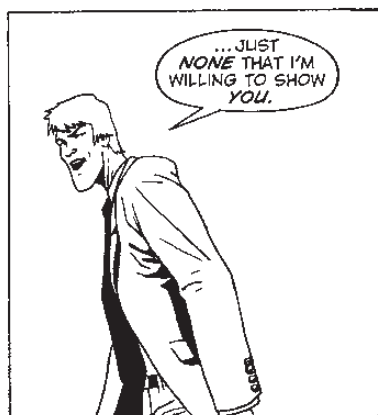
ENOUGH.

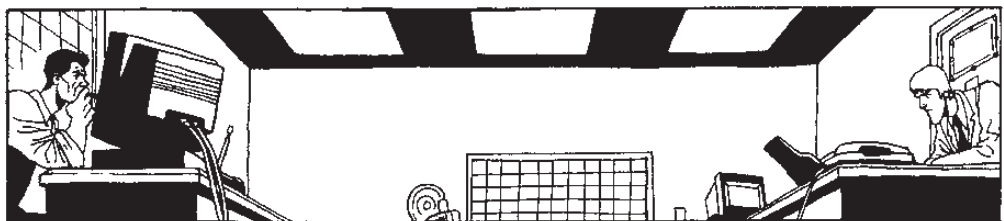
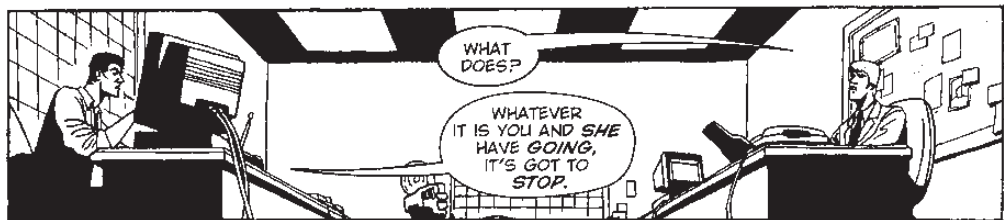
WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US WITH REGARD TO YOUSSEF'S INFORMATION?

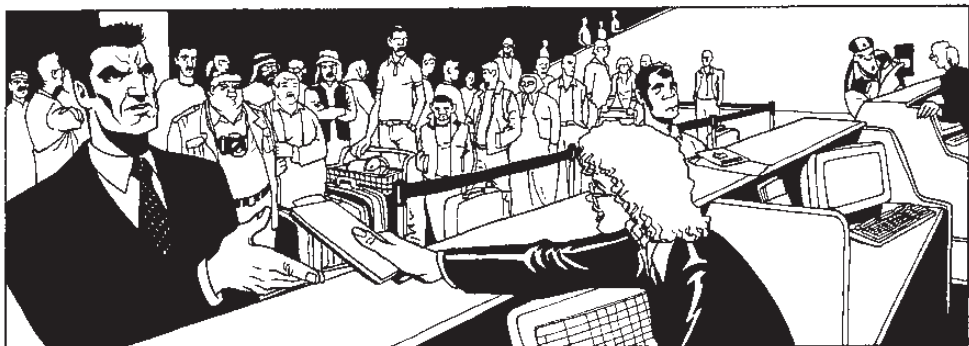


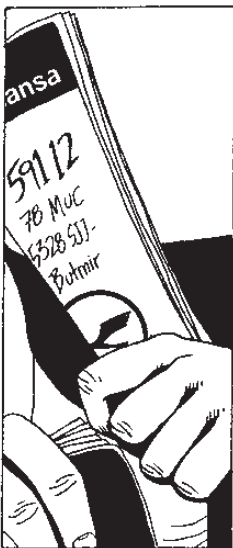


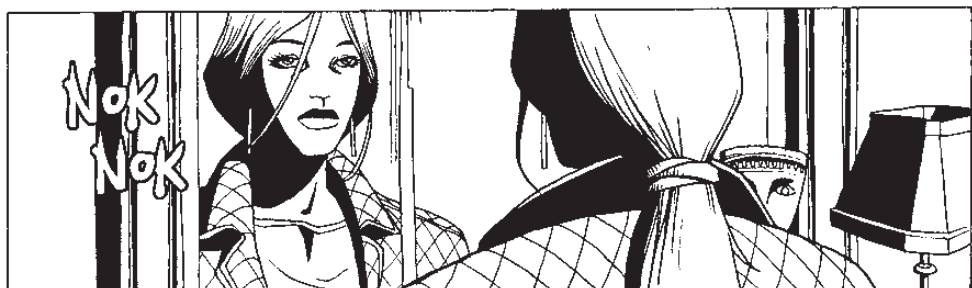


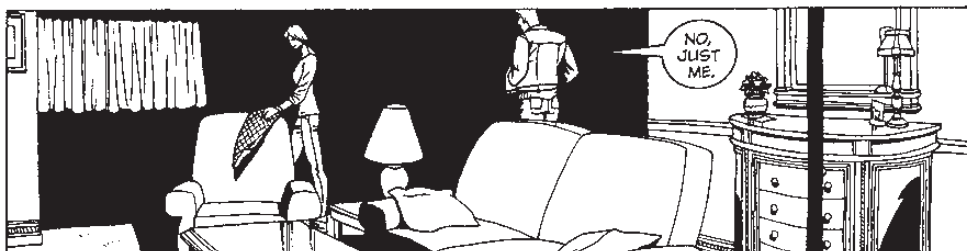
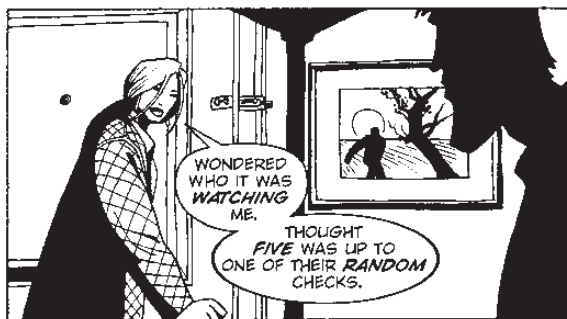


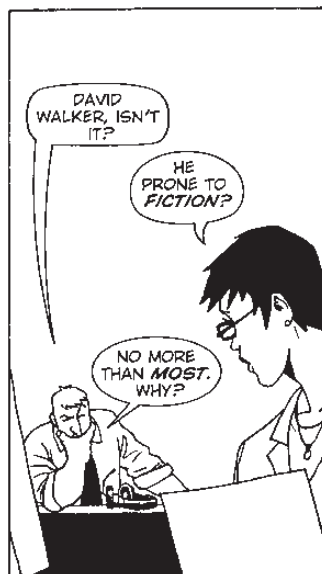
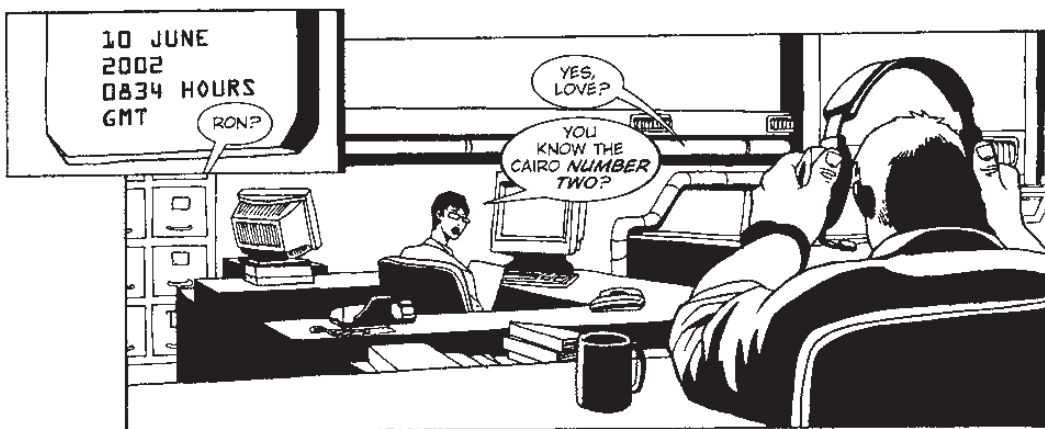


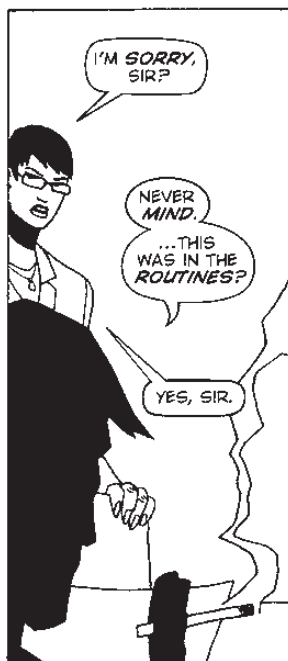
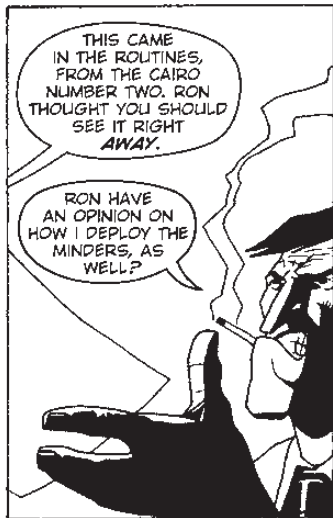


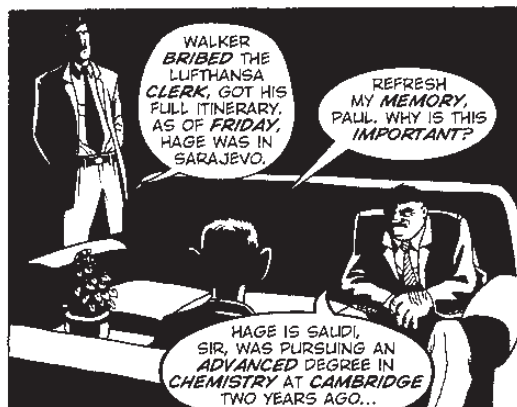
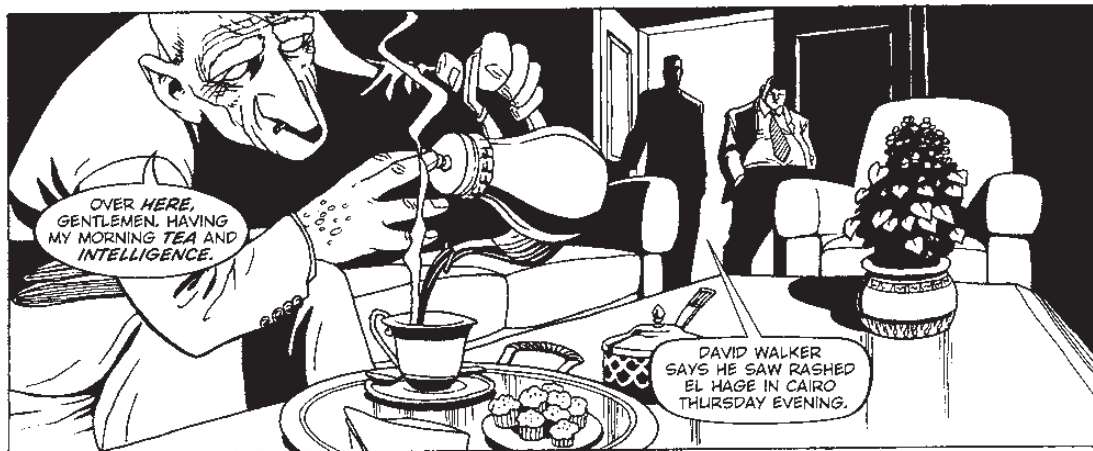


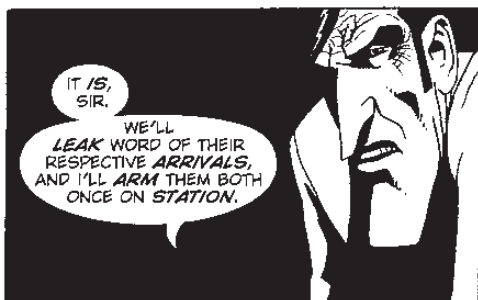
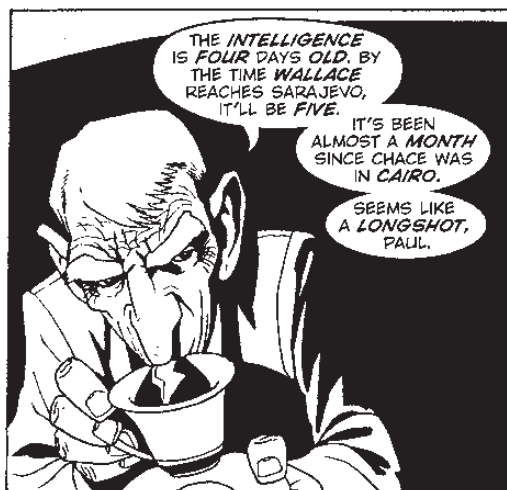
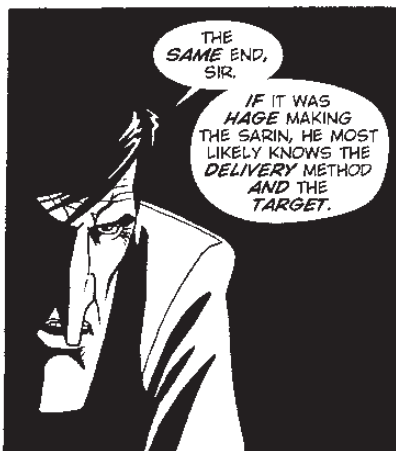


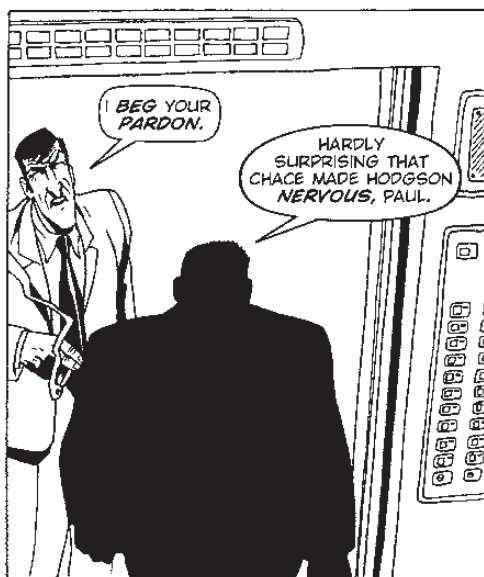


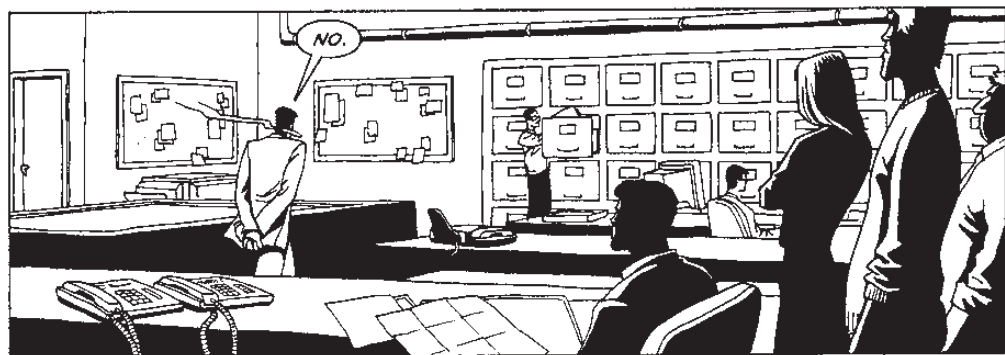
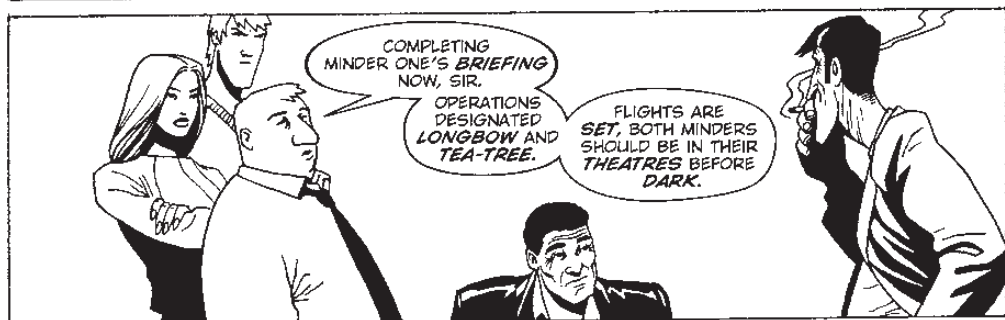




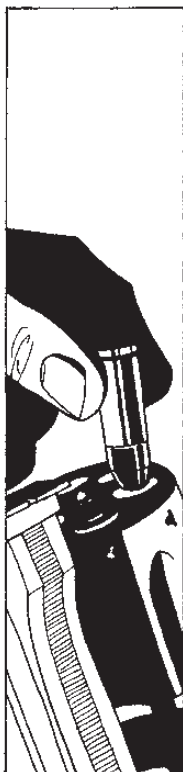
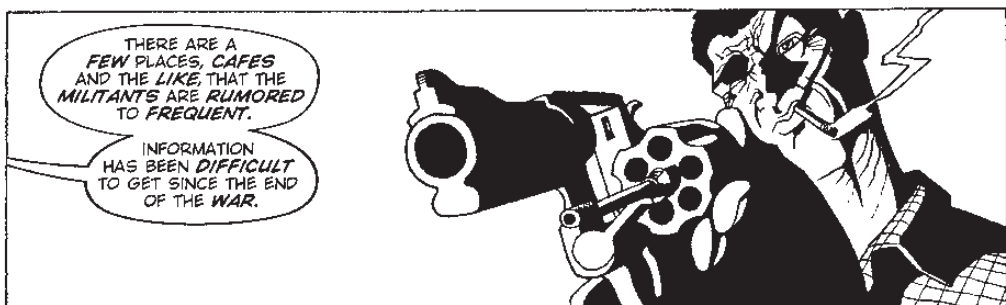


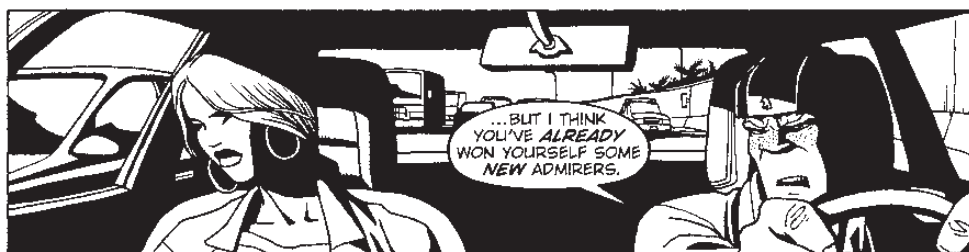


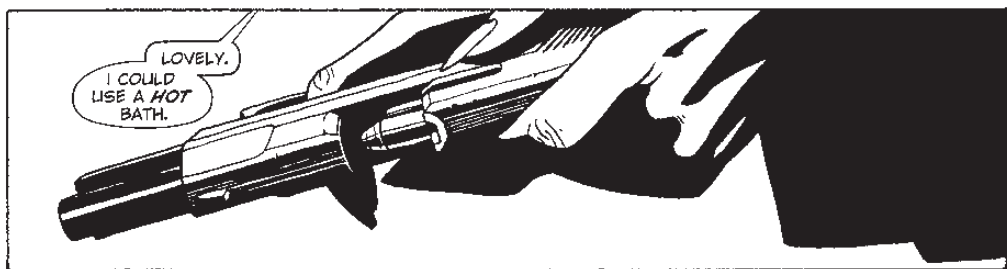
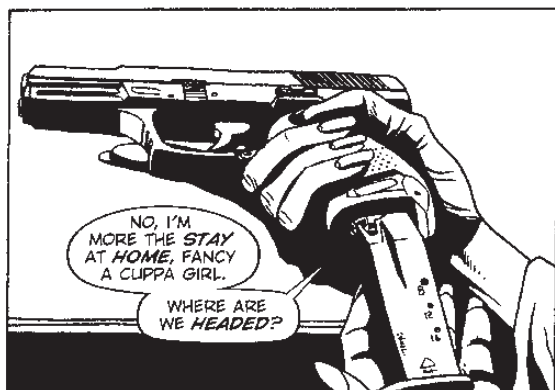


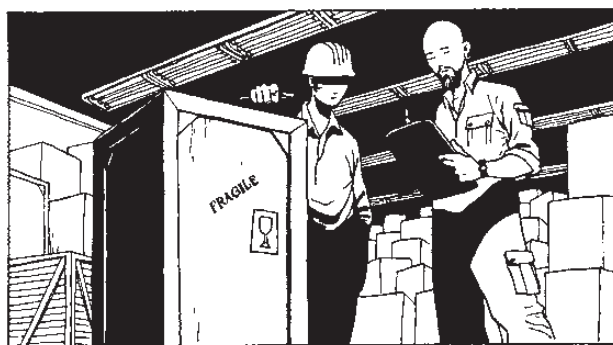
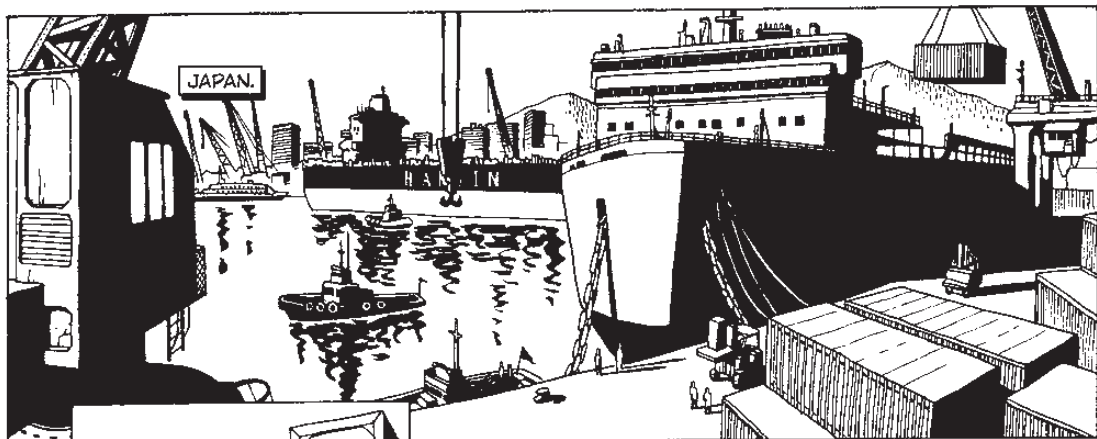










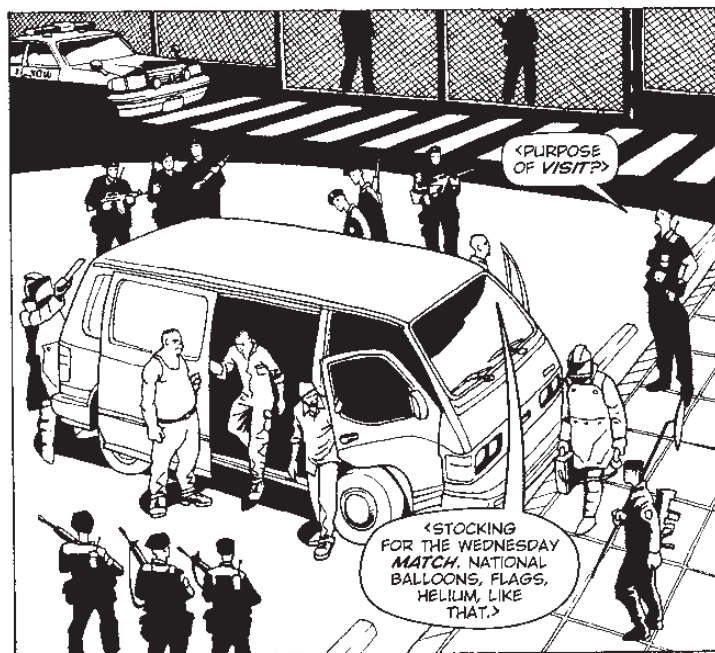


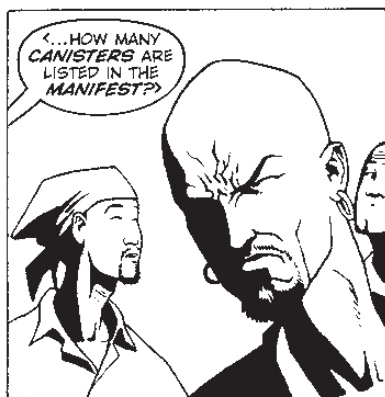
ERIK KUCHA
LEONARDO FERNANDEZ '02



NAGAI STADIUM,
OSAKA, JAPAN.

2002
A WORK UP
DREAM







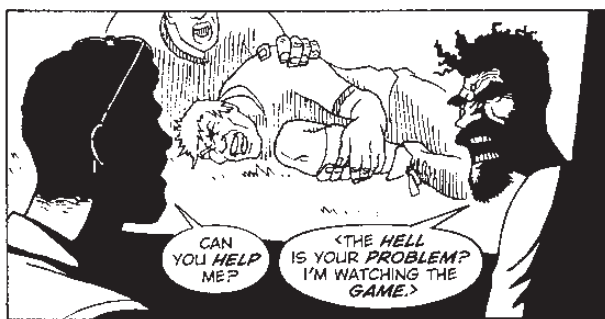
SARAJEVO,

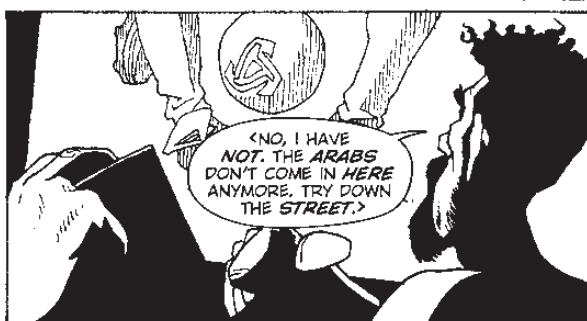
NORMALLY
I'D SAY LET ME
DO THE TALKING,
SANYA...

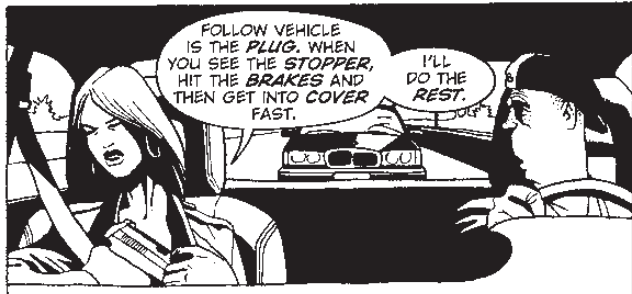
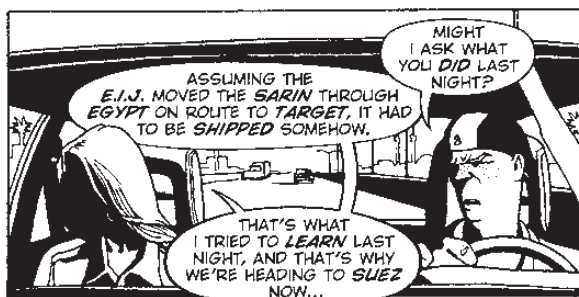
THAT
WOULD REQUIRE
YOU KNOWING THE
LANGUAGE, TOM.

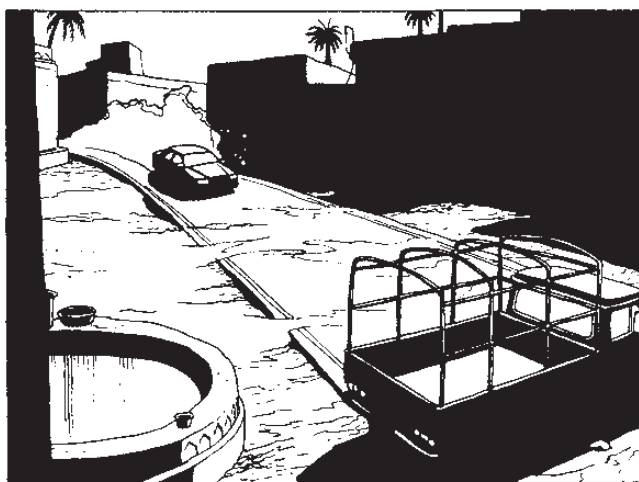
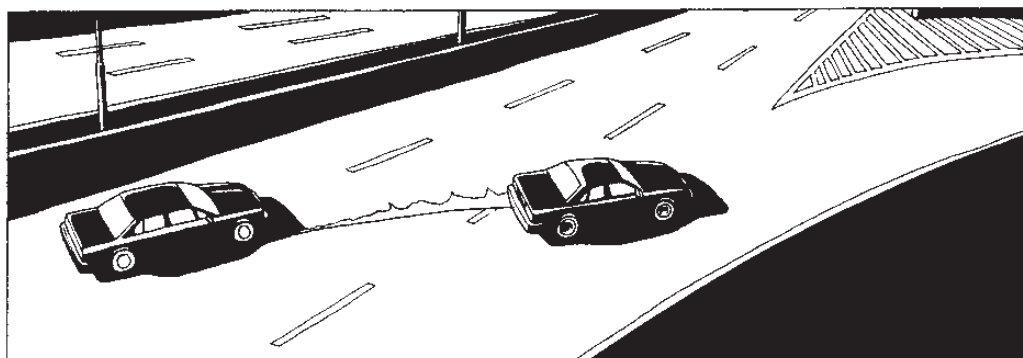
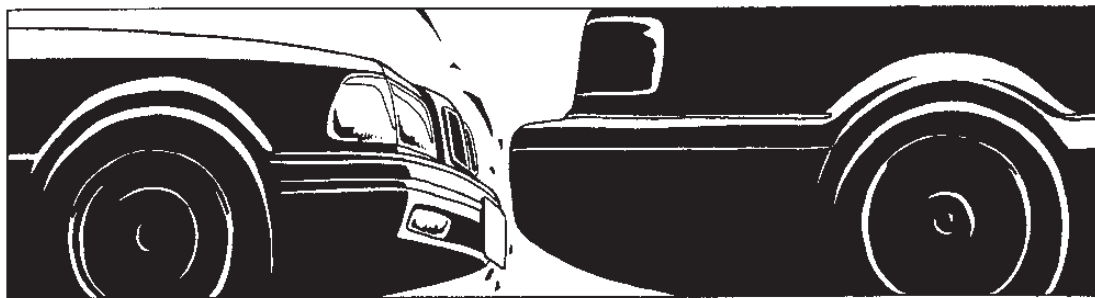
MY POINT
EXACTLY.

JUST MAKE
IT CLEAR THAT YOU'RE
TRANSLATING FOR ME,
EVEN IF YOU
AREN'T.

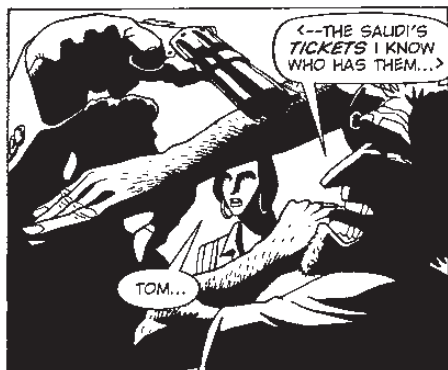


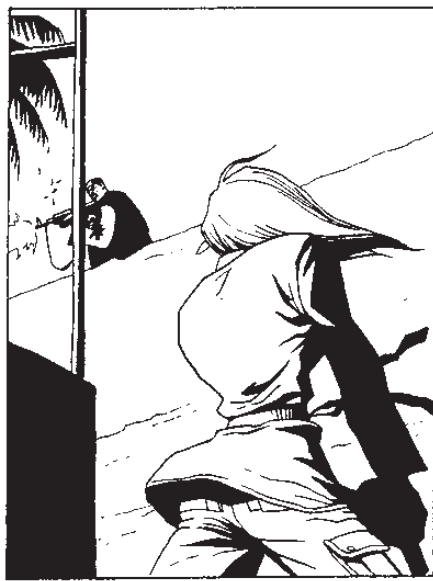


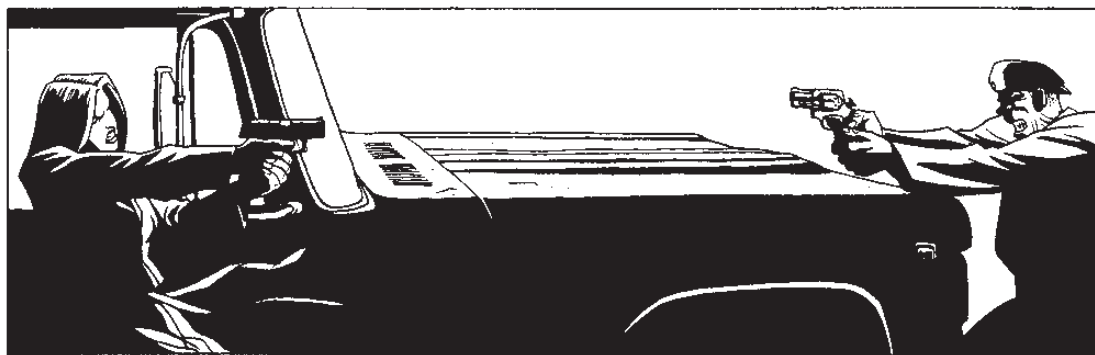
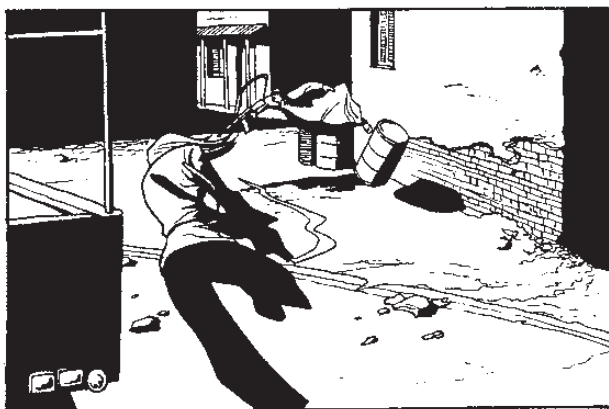


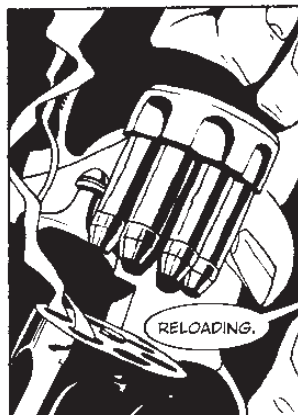
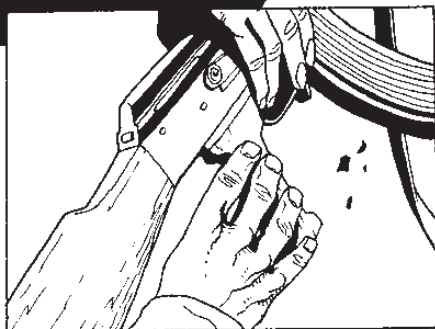
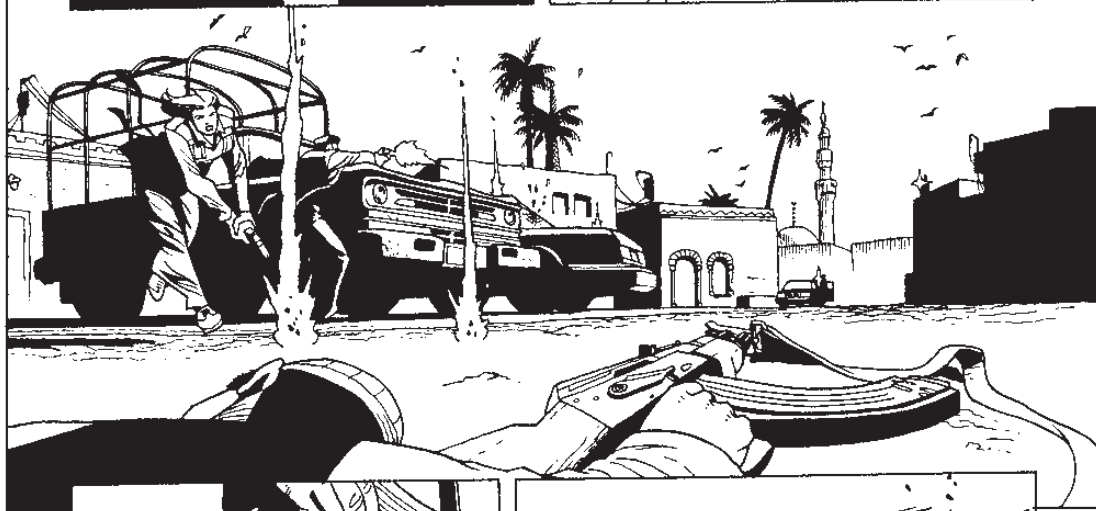
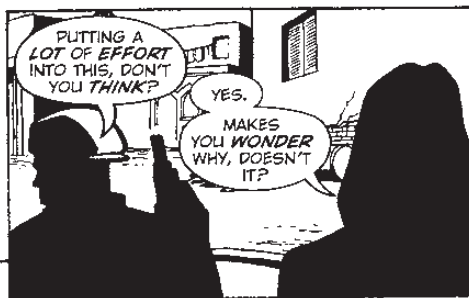


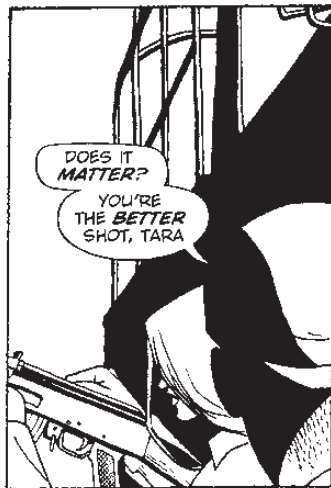
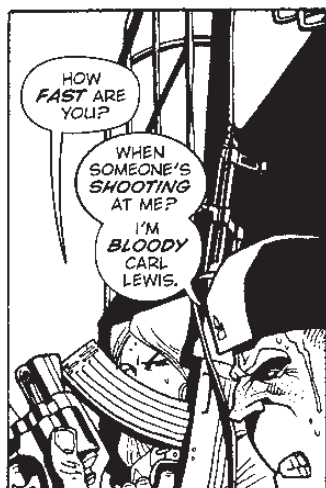


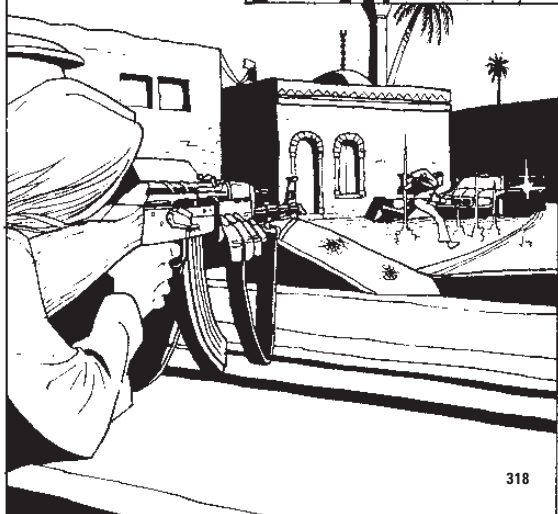
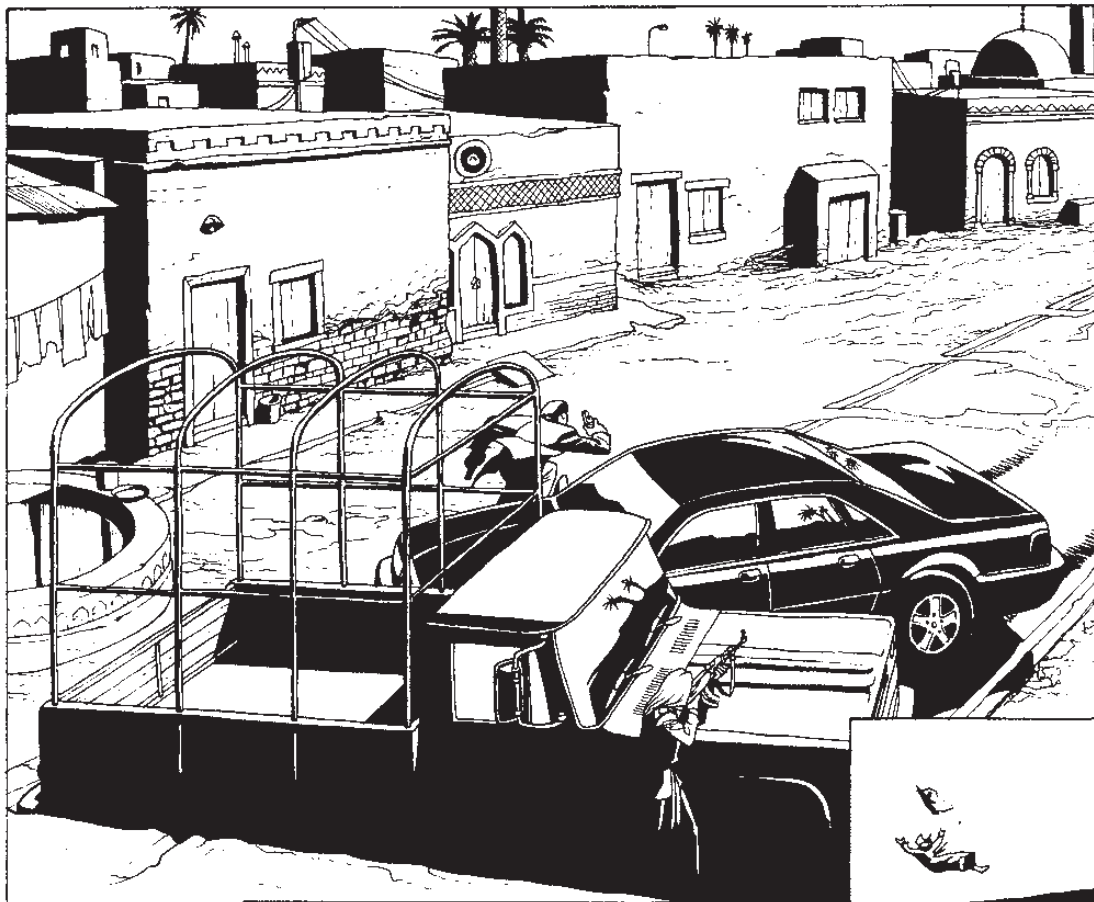




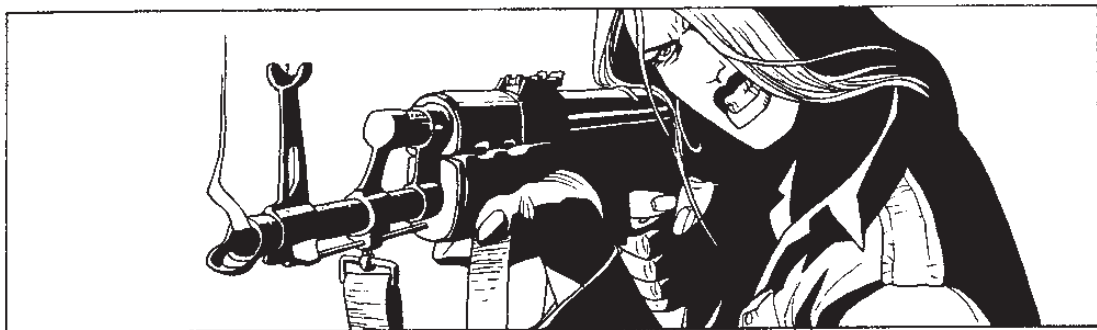




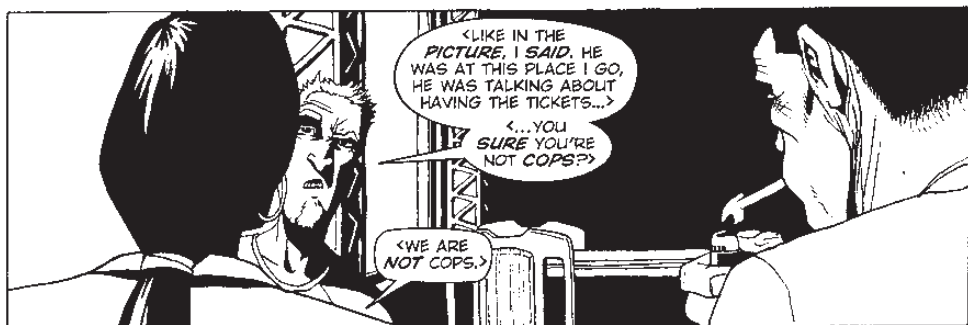


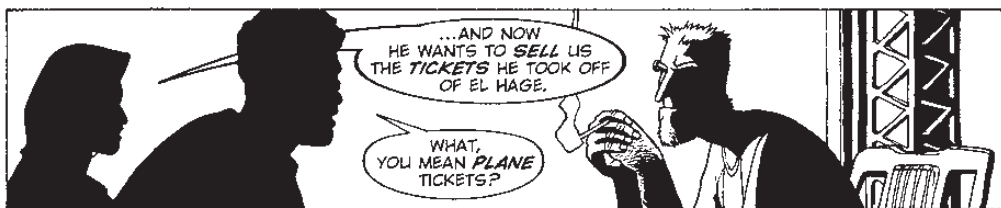


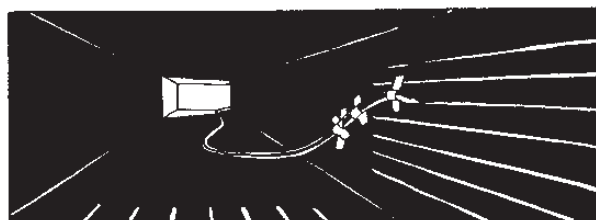
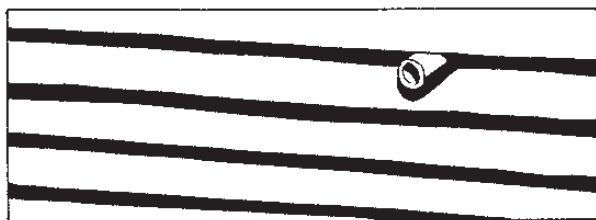
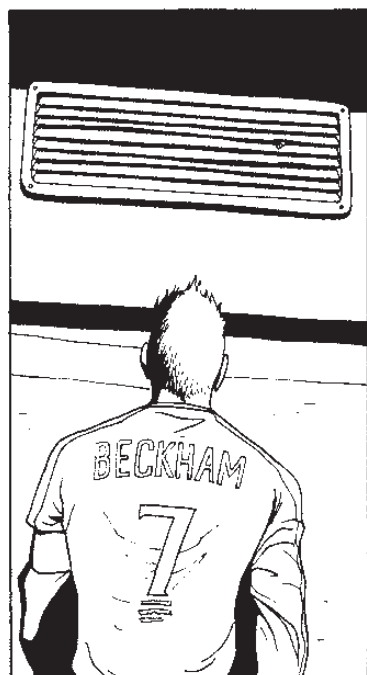


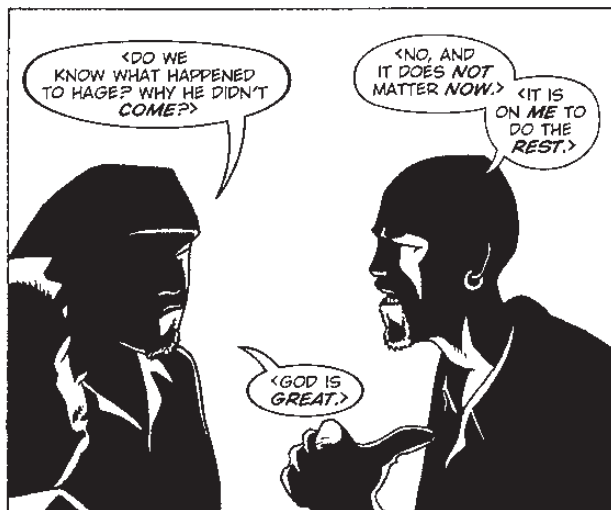
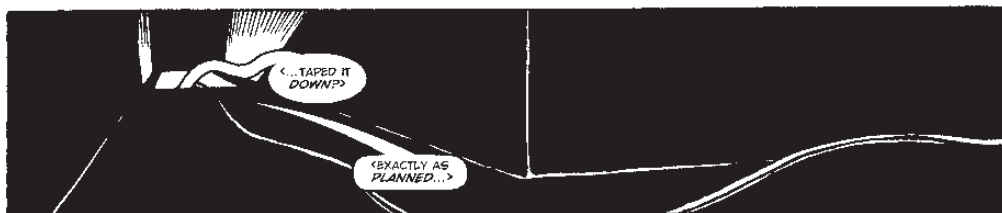


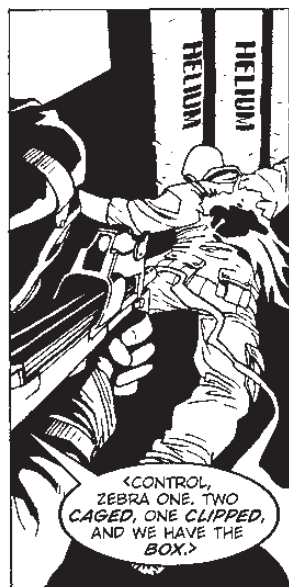


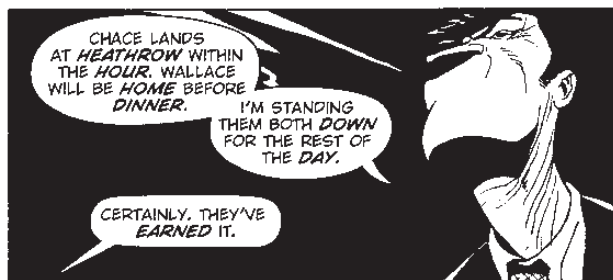
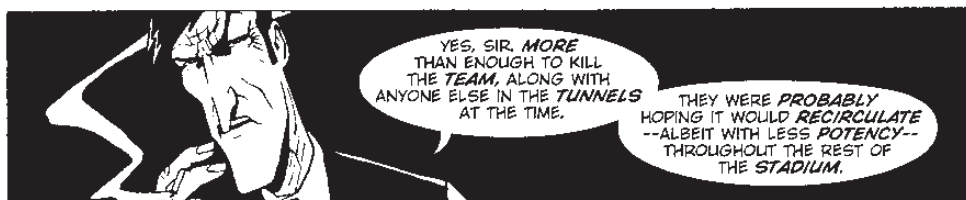


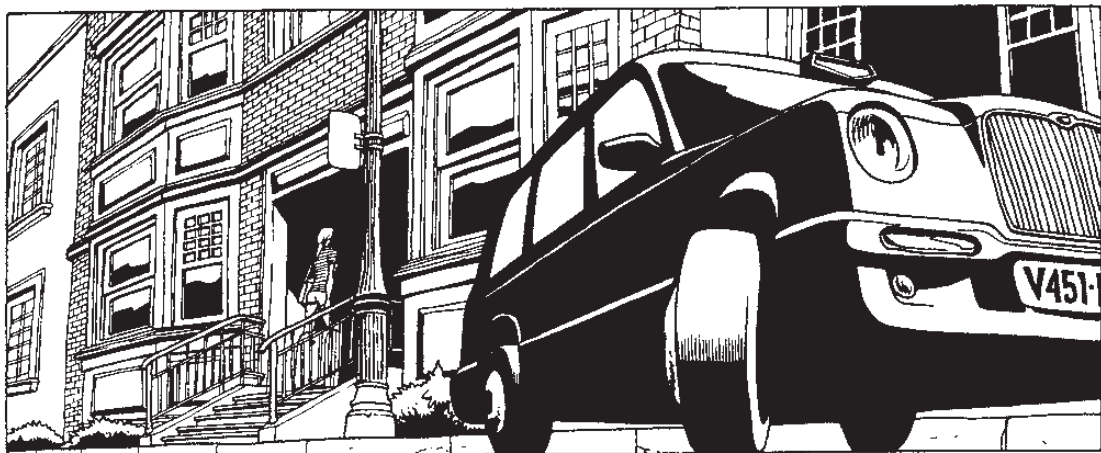












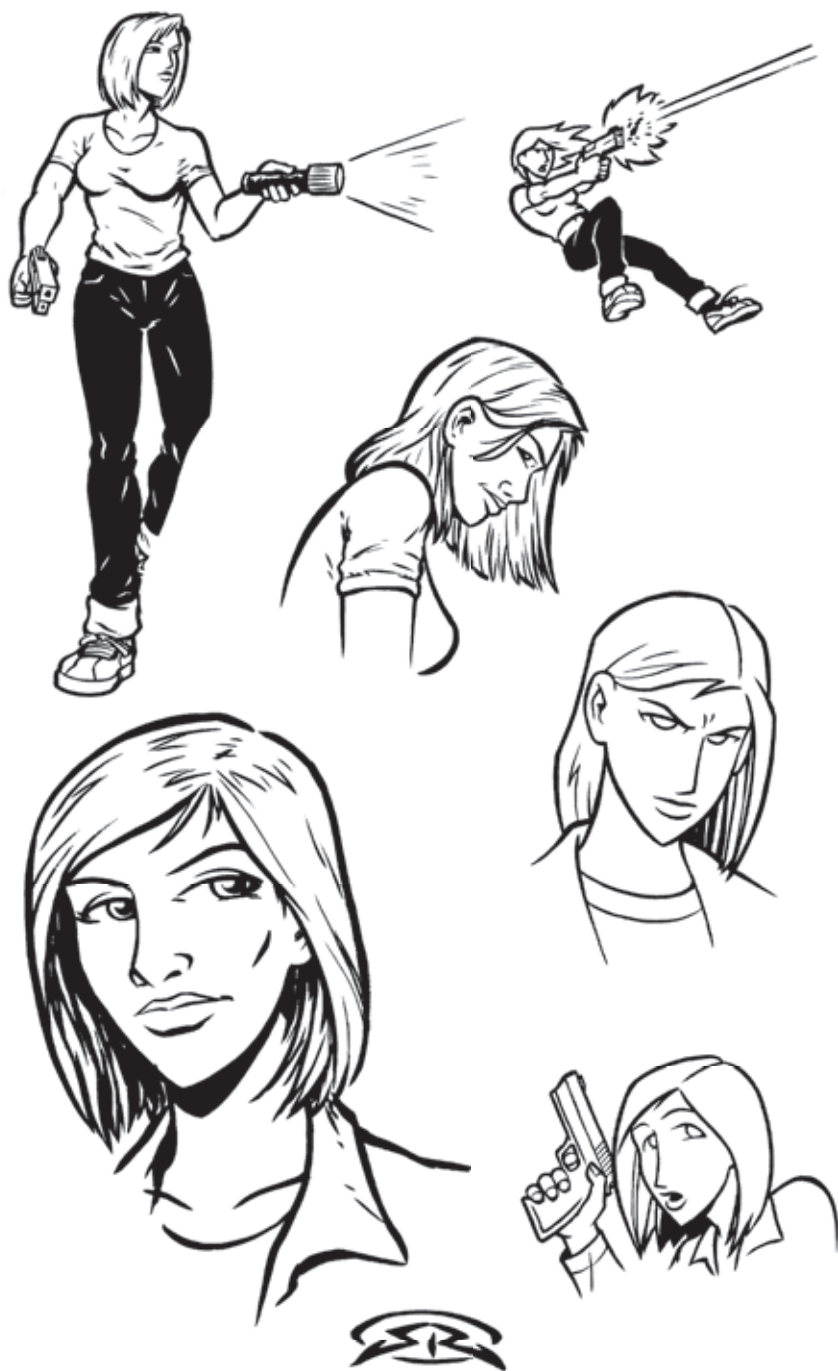
...I'M JUST
WATCHING THE
MATCH....

QUEEN & COUNTRY™

BEHIND THE SCENES



The following pages contain samples of some of Steve Rolston's development process, taking the characters from sketches to final designs, as well as looking at the layout/pencilling process.



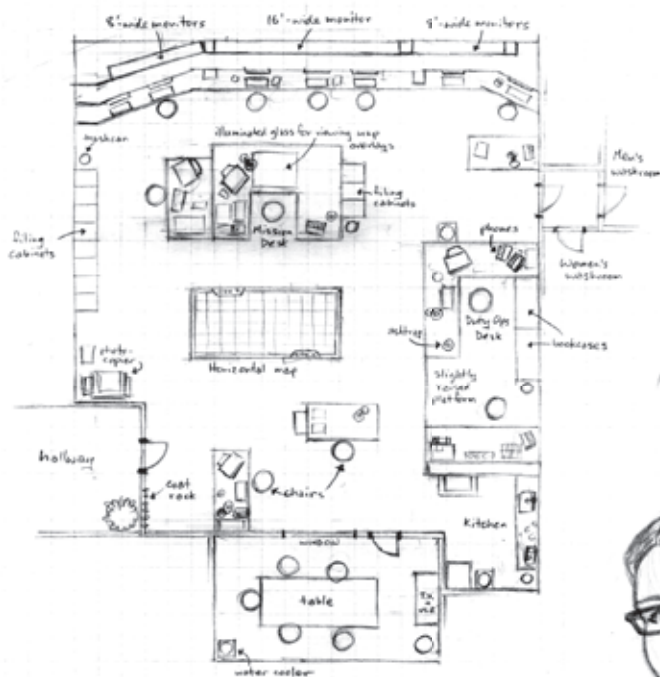
Steve's first sketches...



Original designs for Wallace, the Minder who most drastically changed by his final version

OPS ROOM

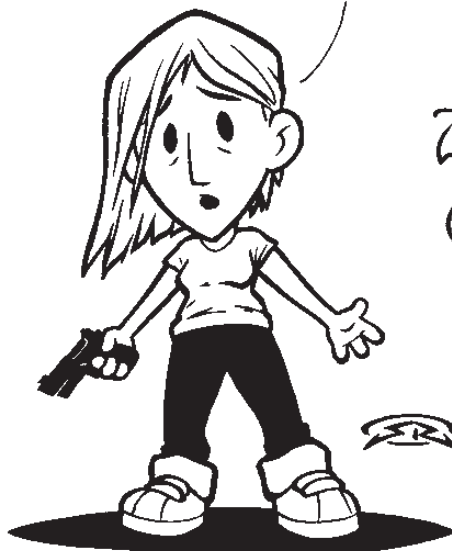
□ — 2 feet x 2 feet





This is an example of how Steve roughed out his pages at a smaller size before he started pencilling them. Figuring out the angles and positioning at this stage allowed him to make changes before starting the detailed work.

What do they mean
I'm too cartoony?!



Cartoon by Steve Rolston.

Name's
Tara
Chace,
wot?



Sketch by Bryan O'Malley.



Cartoon by J. Bone.

Cartoons done in response to stuffy critics demanding a more "realistic" style on *Queen & Country*.

PRODUCTION GALLERY



Artist Leandro Fernandez did extensive preparatory work for his tour of duty on *Queen & Country*. The material is seen here for the first time, and ranges from character sketches and cover designs to a look at his pencilled pages.





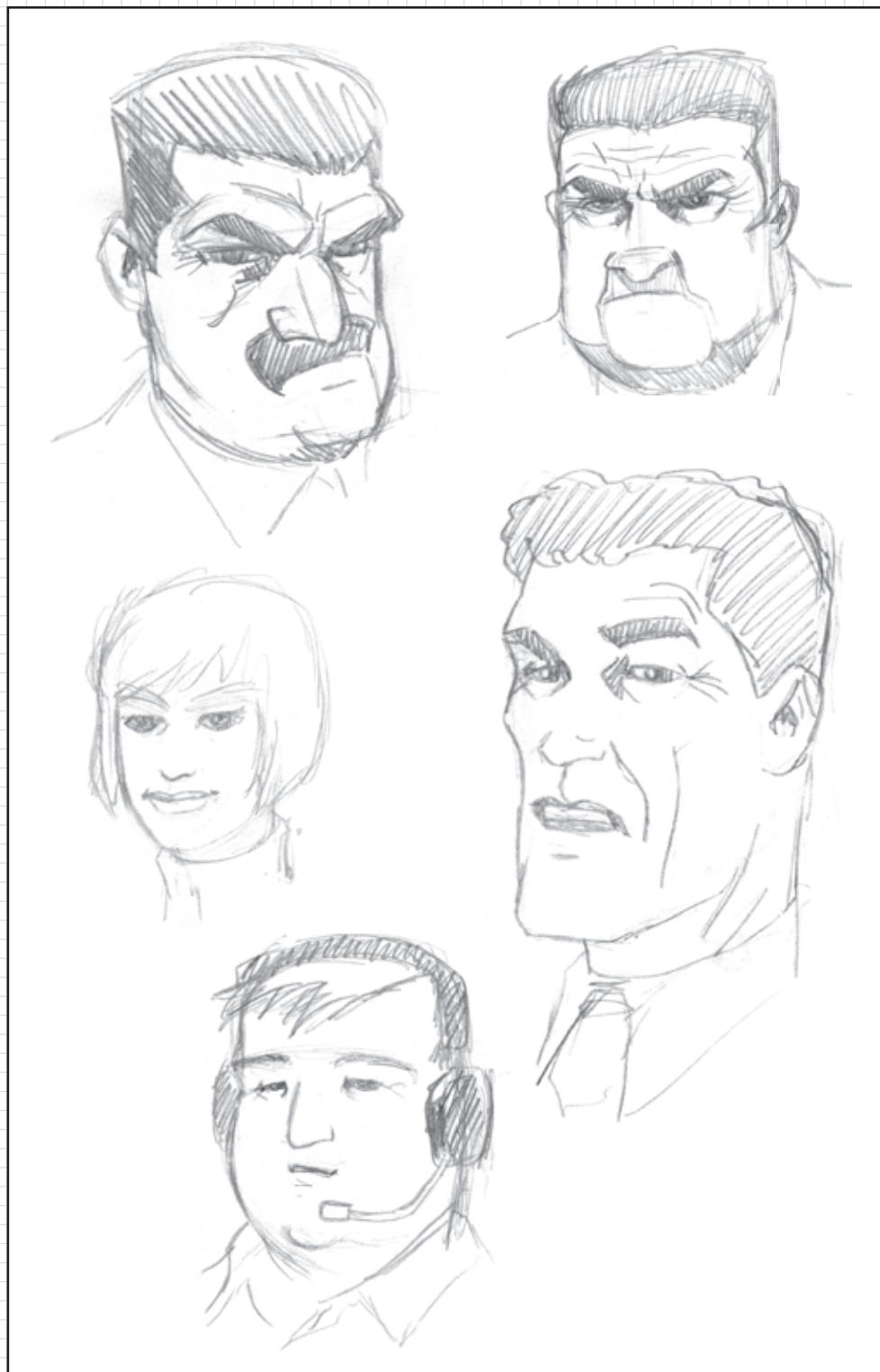
PAUL

















Leandro's cover roughs show not only a work in progress, but an assured designer's eye that knew exactly what he wanted to see.





A look at how Leandro maps out his pages.



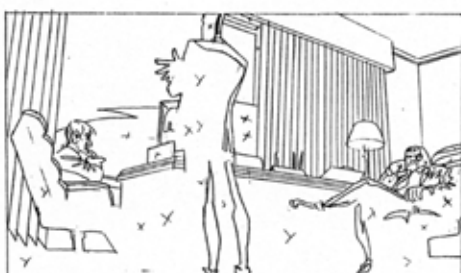




Note in this sequence from *Operation: Crystal Ball* how the blacks are planned for early on, but left open until the inking.

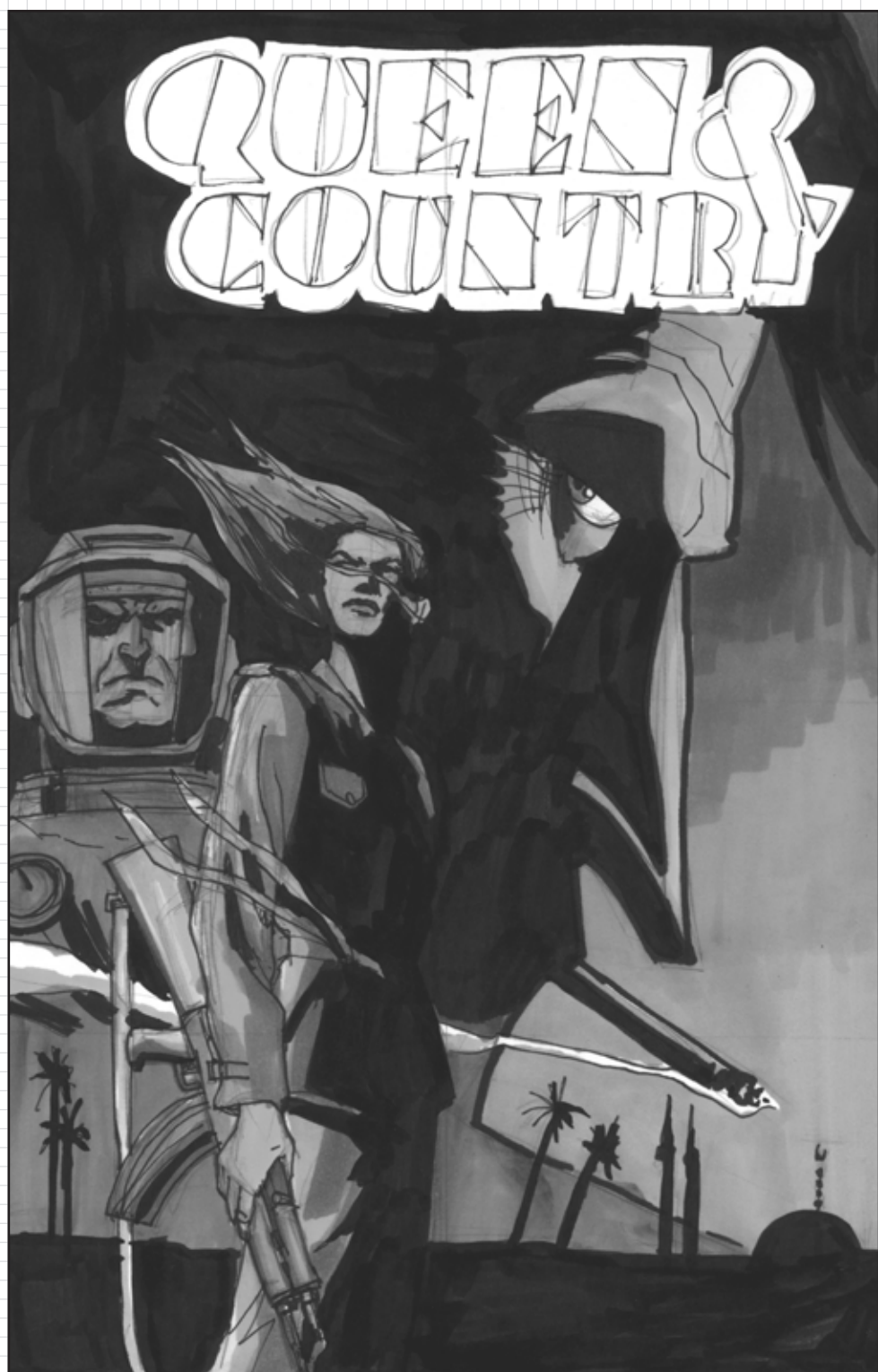


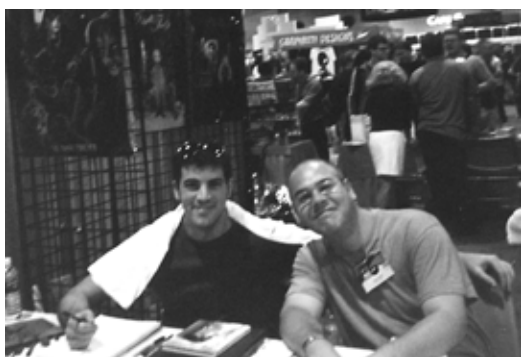
Planning for a quiet scene requires just as much planning as a complicated action scene. All the characters must be placed properly and the panels designed in such a way to create the illusion of movement, even if the characters are just standing around talking.





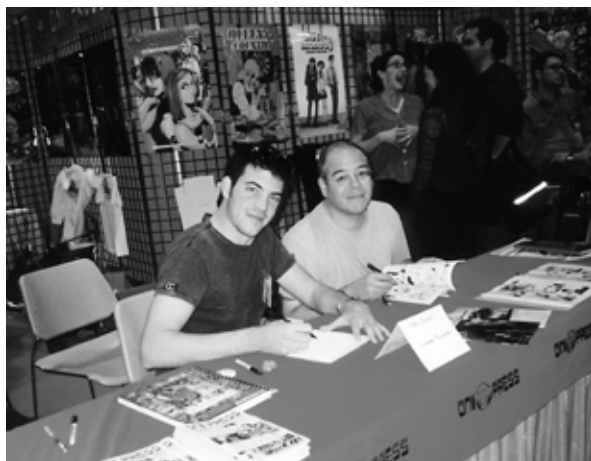
A selection of Leandro's development sketches for the original *Operation: Crystal Ball* trade paperback cover.





Photos taken at San Diego Comic Con International in 2002, just a couple months after the serialization of *Crystal Ball* began. It is also the convention where Greg Rucka and Steve Rolston won their Eisner Award for *Queen & Country* as Best New Series.

(Right) Behind Leandro and Greg is Greg's wife, Jen Van Meter (*Hopeless Savages*), and she's speaking to Judd Winick (*Pedro & Me*) and his wife, Pam Ling.



(Left) Leandro is flanked by writer Ivan Brandon on the left and one of *Queen & Country's* editors, James Lucas Jones, on the right. You decide which one has already had too many.



QUEEN & COUNTRY™

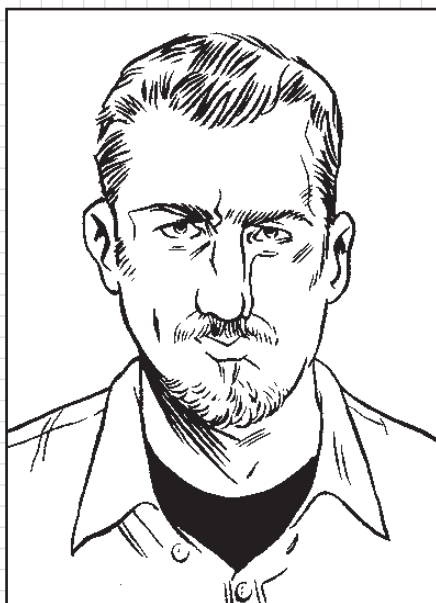
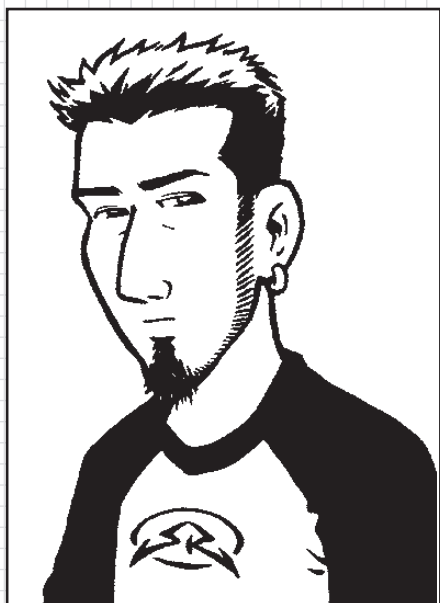
ABOUT THE AUTHORS . . .



GREG RUCKA was born in San Francisco and raised on the Central Coast of California, in what is commonly referred to as “Steinbeck Country.” He began his writing career in earnest at the age of 10 by winning a county-wide short-story contest, and hasn’t let up since. He graduated from Vassar College with an A.B. in English, and from the University of Southern California’s Master of Professional Writing program with an M.F.A.

He is the author of nearly a dozen novels, six featuring bodyguard Atticus Kodiak, and two featuring Tara Chace, the protagonist of his *Queen & Country* series. Additionally, he has penned several short-stories, countless comics, and the occasional non-fiction essay. In comics, he has had the opportunity to write stories featuring some of the world’s best-known characters—Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman—as well as penning several creator-owned properties himself, such as *Whiteout* and *Queen & Country*, both published by Oni Press. His work has been optioned several times over with *Whiteout*, starring Kate Beckinsale, being the first to actually be made. His servers are also in high demand in a variety of creative fields as a story-doctor and creative consultant.

Greg resides in Portland, Oregon, with his wife, author Jennifer Van Meter, and his two children. He thinks the biggest problem with the world is that people aren’t paying enough attention.

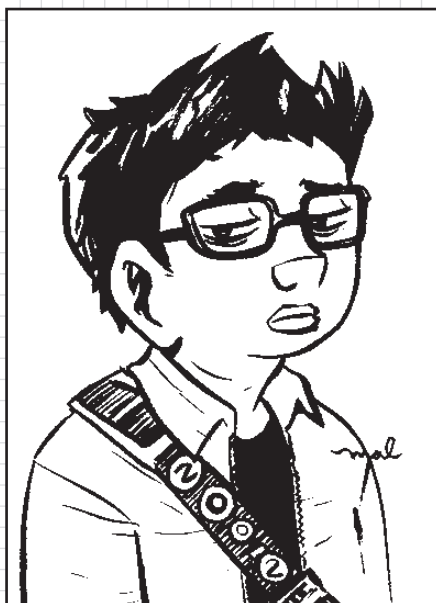


STEVE ROLSTON—Steve Rolston is best known as the premiere artist on Greg Rucka's Eisner Award winning spy series *Queen & Country*. Since then he has illustrated *Pounded*, *Jingle Belle*, *Mek*, *Tales of the TMNT*, *The Escapists* and a forthcoming *DeGrassi* graphic novel. With both his artist and writer hats on, he created the cartoony *Jack Spade & Tony Two-Fist* and the "slacker noir" graphic novel *One Bad Day*.

Steve lives in Vancouver, Canada.

BRIAN HURTT burst onto the comic scene with the second arc in Greg Rucka's critically acclaimed series *Queen & Country*. He's not put his pencil down since, lending his illustration skills to the *Queen & Country* spin-off *Declassified*, *Skinwalker*, DC's critically acclaimed *Gotham Central*, as well as the DC series *Hard Time*. In 2006 he launched a new creator-owned series with writer Cullen Bunn. Titled *The Damned*, the series saw Brian pencil, ink, tone, and letter a book for the first time ever.

He resides just outside of St. Louis in a room covered in black ink.



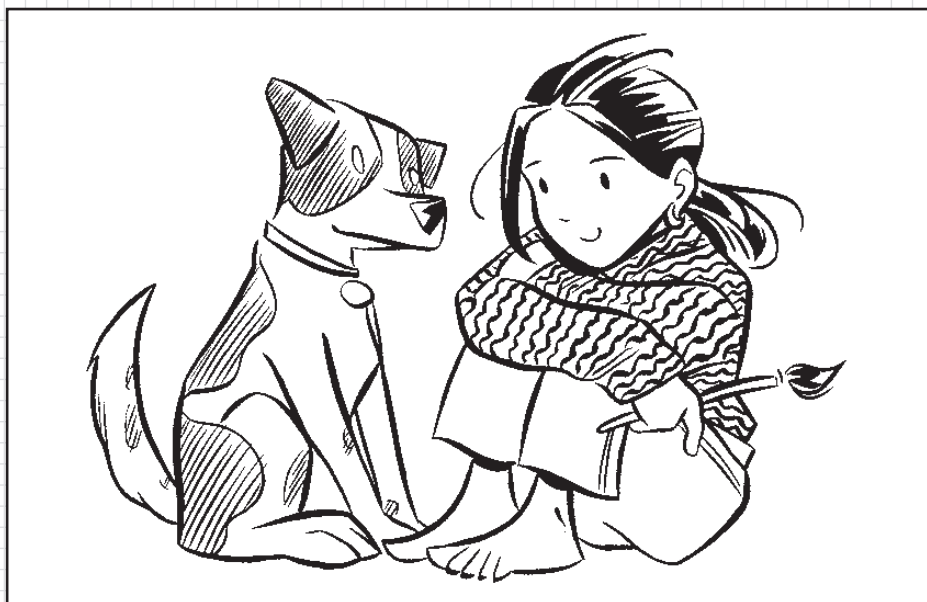
LEANDRO FERNANDEZ is one of the most versatile and dedicated artist working comics. After taking the industry by storm with his controversial work on *Queen & Country*, he ended up at Marvel Comics and has since worked with some of their most well known characters—including both Wolverine (where he collaborated once again with *Q&C* scribe Greg Rucka) and Spider-Man. He is perhaps best known as the artist of some of Garth Ennis' most powerful *Punisher* stories.

Leandro's work can currently be seen gracing the pages of comics at both Marvel and DC.

BRYAN LEE O'MALLEY—is an award-winning Canadian cartoonist.

His current work (2004 to present) is the *Scott Pilgrim* series, published by Oni Press. His previous efforts include the graphic novel *Lost at Sea* and artwork for the *Hopeless Savages* miniseries *Ground Zero*.

He occasionally records music under the name Kupek.



CHRISTIN NORRIE has worked extensively as an artist since 2000. Her primary work is in comic book illustration, which skills have led to projects creating concept art, storyboards, and book covers.

Her most noted works include her original graphic novel *Cheat*, the Oni Press series *Hopeless Savages*, and the newly released graphic novel *Breaking Up* published in 2007 by Scholastic/Graphix.

Dubbed “a natural storyteller” by *Publisher’s Weekly*, Norrie has earned two Eisner nominations, A Russ Manning Promising Newcomer Nomination, and a 9th Panel and New York City Comic Book Museum Award.

She works and lives in New York City.

OTHER BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM GREG RUCKA AND ONI PRESS...

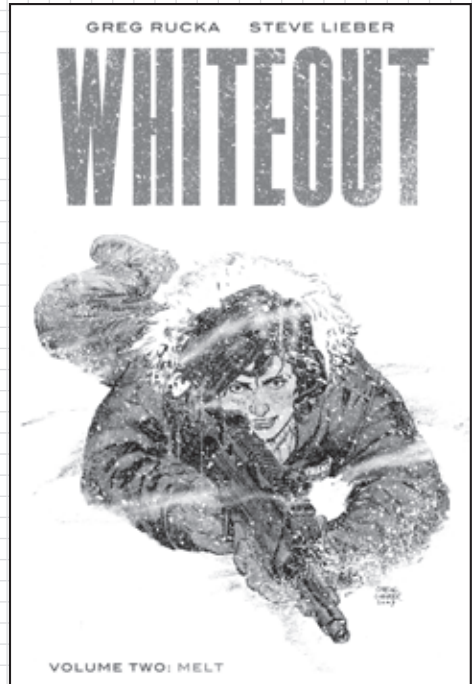


WHITEOUT, VOL 1: THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

written by Greg Rucka; illustrated by Steve Lieber

128 pages • 6"x9" trade paperback

ISBN-13 978-1-932664-70-6 • \$13.99 US

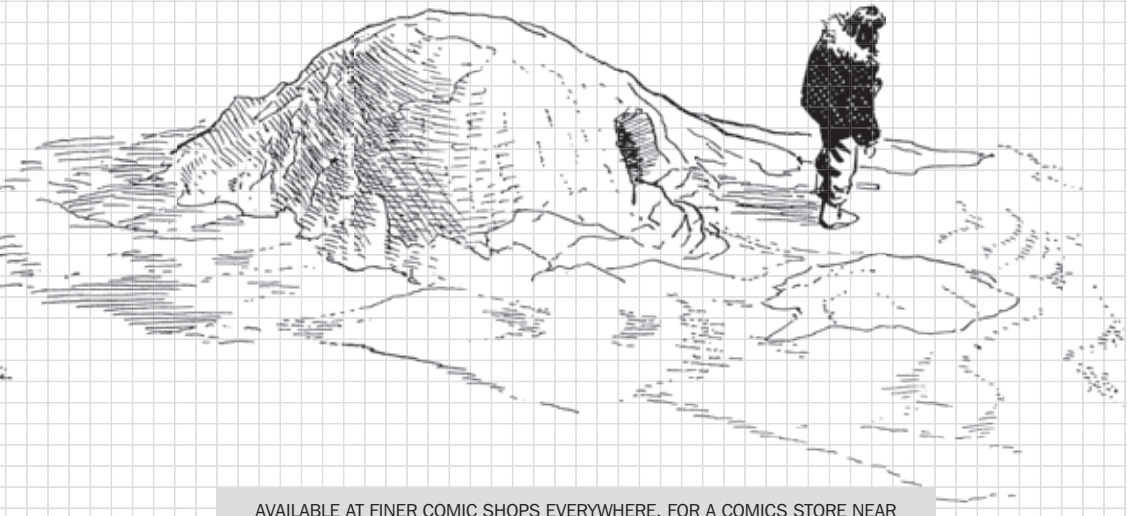


WHITEOUT, VOL. 2: MELT: THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

written by Greg Rucka; illustrated by Steve Lieber

112 pages • 6"x9" trade paperback

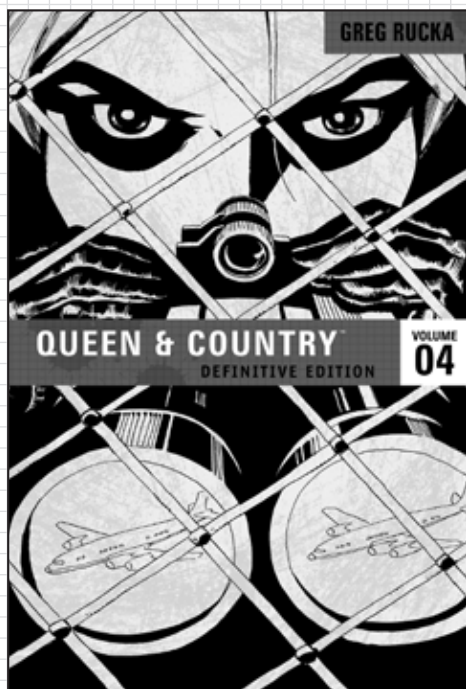
ISBN-13 978-1-932664-71-3 • \$13.99 US



AVAILABLE AT FINER COMIC SHOPS EVERYWHERE. FOR A COMICS STORE NEAR
YOU, CALL 1-888-COMIC-BOOK OR VISIT WWW.COMICSHOPS.US.



AVAILABLE NOW IN FINER COMICS SHOPS & BOOKSTORES.



QUEEN & COUNTRY, VOL. 2: THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

written by Greg Rucka; illustrated by Jason Alexander,
Carla Speed McNeil, & Mike Hawthorne
344 pages • 6"x9" trade paperback
ISBN 978-1-932664-89-8 • \$19.99 US

QUEEN & COUNTRY, VOL. 3: THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

written by Greg Rucka; illustrated by Steve Rolston,
Mike Norton & Chris Samnee
408 pages • 6"x9" trade paperback
ISBN 978-1-932664-96-6 • \$19.99 US

QUEEN & COUNTRY, VOL. 4: THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

written by Greg Rucka & Antony Johnston;
illustrated by Brian Hurtt, Rick Burchett,
& Christopher Mitten
296 pages • 6"x9" trade paperback
ISBN 978-1-934964-13-2 • \$19.99 US



ONI PRESS

www.onipress.com

