

GRANT MORRISON STEVE YEO WELLS

PHASE THREE





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SEASIDE

WASH



P H A S E

GRANT MORRISON



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



PHASE III

Script: Grant Morrison
Art: Steve Yeowell
Letters: Gordon Robson

Originally published in 2000 AD Progs 626-634, 650-662 & 667-670

A ALTERNATIVE 666;
FEBRUARY 14, 1987.



AD

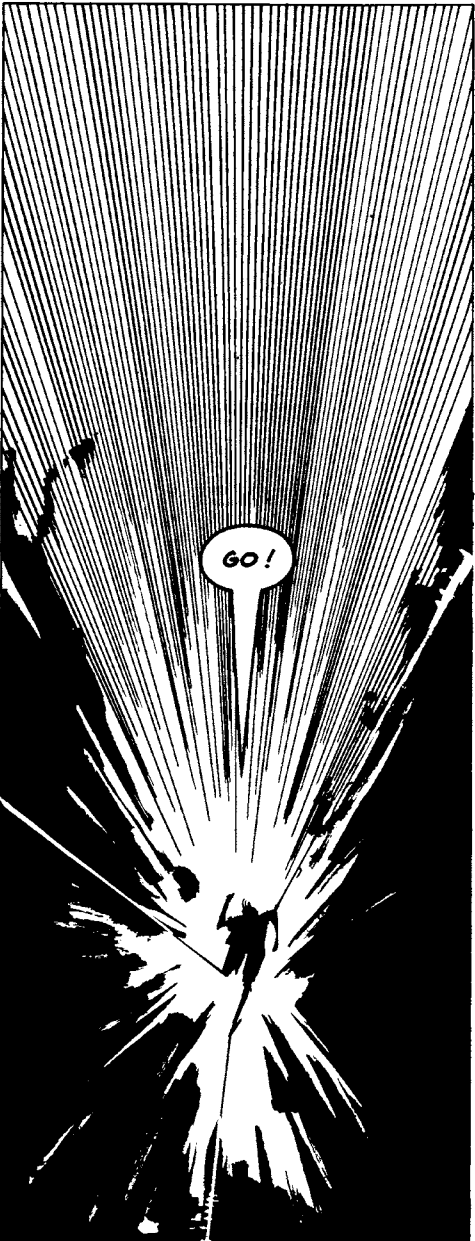
SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON
STEVE YEDWELL
LETTERING
KID

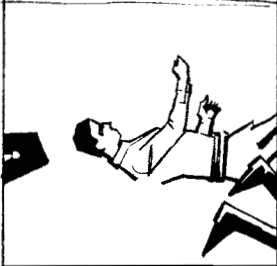
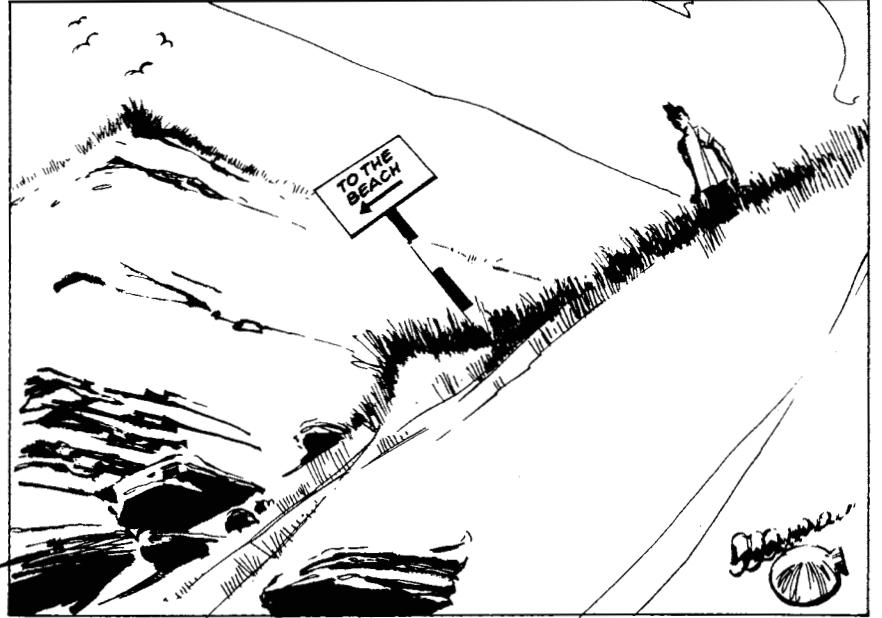
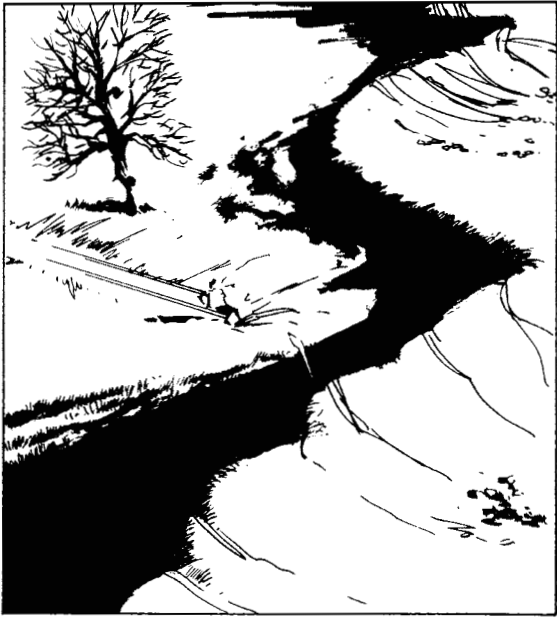
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ZENITH

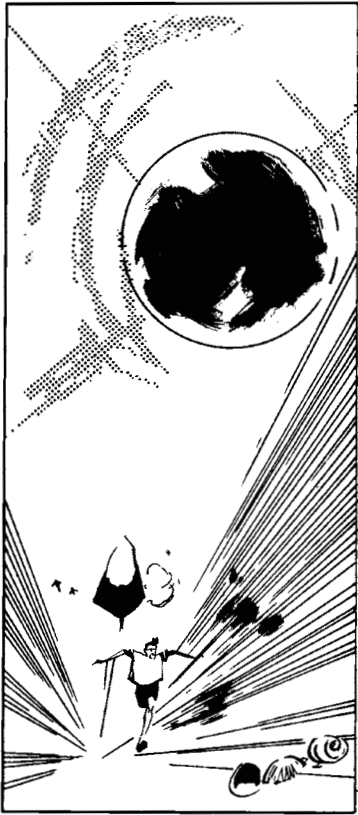
PHASE III/PROLOGUE:
"MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE"











ZENITH

PHASE III/I: "NADIR"

LONDON: MARCH 10, 1989.



...LOOK, BRIONY...I KNOW...I KNOW WHAT I SAID, BUT THE DIRE STRAITS ALBUMS ARE MINE!

YOU CAN HAVE THE CDS IF YOU WANT...NO, I TOLD YOU...



WHAT?

THE WINE COOLER? NOW WAIT A MINUTE...!

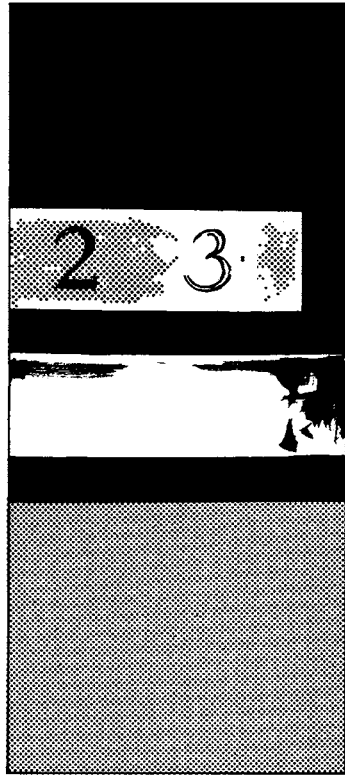
THAT WAS MY AUNT PAULINE GAVE ME... NO..!



LOOK, BRIONY, I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE AN AMICABLE SPLIT...

PLINK!

SCRIPT BY
GRANT MORRISON
ART BY
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING
KID



LOOK AT THEM!

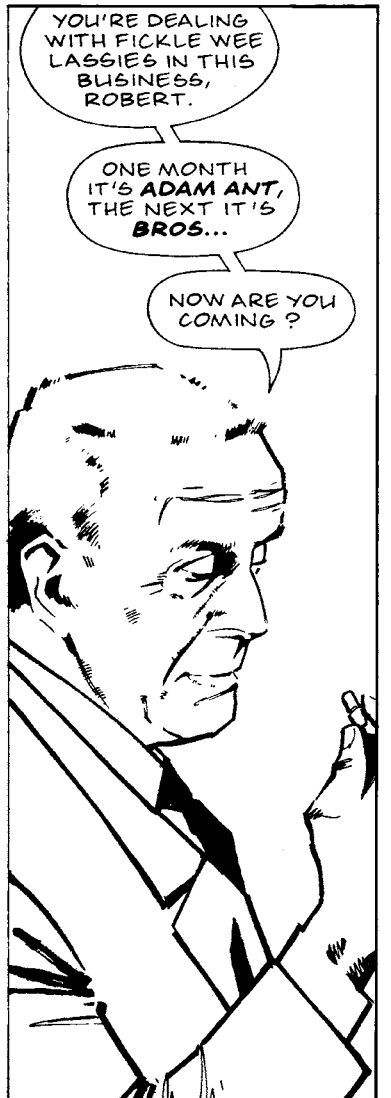
JACK FIVE!

THEY'RE UGLY, THEY CAN'T SING, THEIR RECORDS ARE TERRIBLE.



SO HOW COME THEIR SINGLE'S AT NUMBER ONE AND MINE'S AT NUMBER FORTY FOUR?

TELL ME THAT, EDDIE.



YOU'RE DEALING WITH FICKLE WEE LASSIES IN THIS BUSINESS, ROBERT.

ONE MONTH IT'S ADAM ANT, THE NEXT IT'S BROS...

NOW ARE YOU COMING?



COMING WHERE? TO RECORD SOME STUPID KIDS' TV SHOW?

MIMING IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF BRAINLESS PRE-SCHOOL BRATS... IS THIS WHAT MY CAREER'S COME TO?



WELL, GET THEM WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG...

MY LAST TWO SINGLES HAVE BEEN TOTAL DISASTERS, EDDIE. I MEAN, WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE NEXT? SINGING CAROLS WITH THE BLUE PETER DOG?

OPENING THE NEW BRANCH OF TESCO IN HARTLEPOOL?



BLANKETY BLANK?



OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE IT!

IT'S OKAY FOR YOU!



LOOK AT ME, EDDIE... I'M 21. I'M OVER THE HILL.

I MIGHT AS WELL COLLECT MY BUS PASS AND BOOK A 'YOUNG AT HEART' HOLIDAY.



OH, SHUT UP AND GET YOUR JACKET ON!

WE'VE TO BE DOWN AT THE STUDIOS IN HALF AN HOUR.



HMMPH!



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR GLOVES?



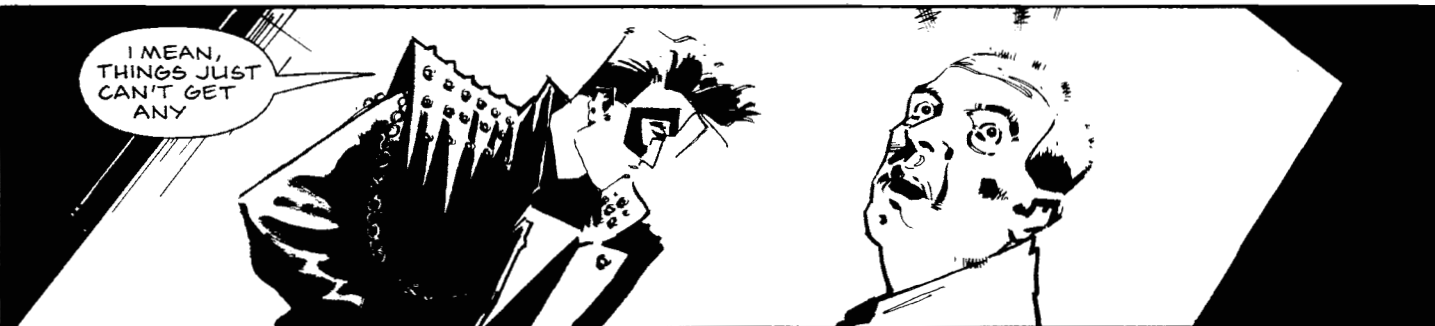
I'VE GOT MY GLOVES! I'VE GOT MY JACKET! I'VE GOT A LIFE THAT'S SLOWLY SINKING INTO THE SUNSET AND NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE!

HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO MOANS HALF AS MUCH AS YOU DO...

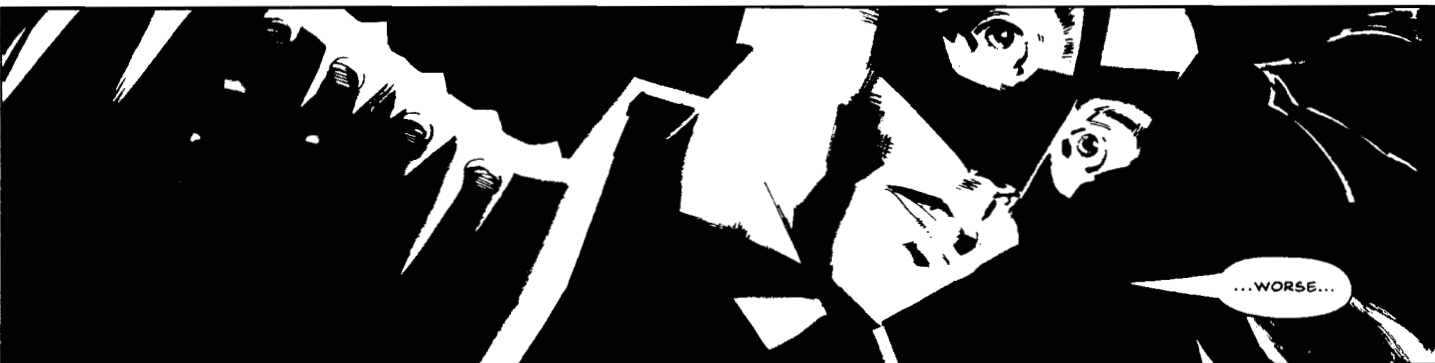


WELL, NO WONDER! YOU'RE MY AGENT, EDDIE. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ORGANISE THINGS FOR ME.

YOU'VE JUST LET ME SLIDE, THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

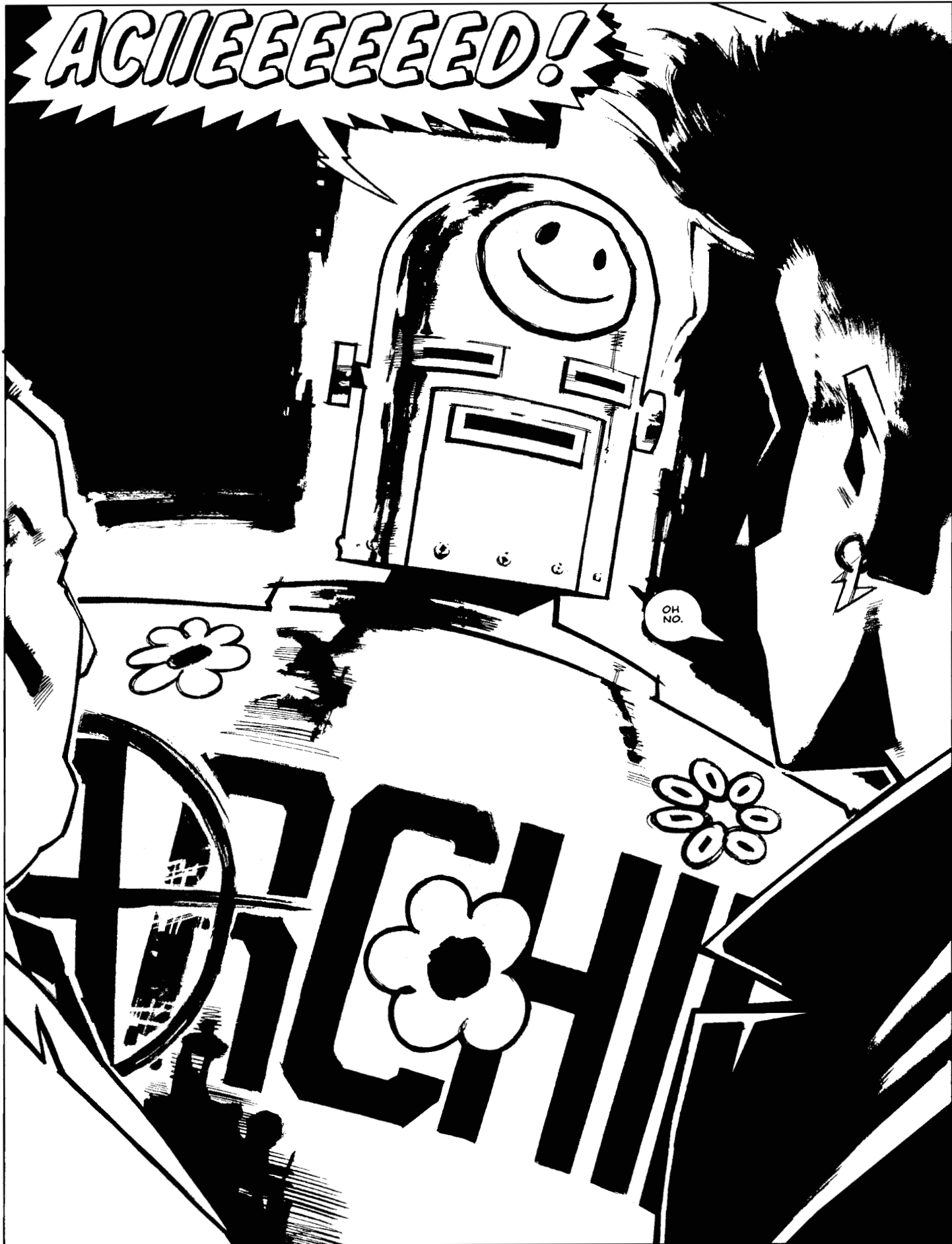


I MEAN, THINGS JUST CAN'T GET ANY



...WORSE...

ACIIEEEEEEED!



OH NO.

CRASH

LONDON: MARCH 10, 1989.

LATER.



...IN THE COMMONS, THE ROW CONTINUES FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES THAT UNSPECIFIED AMOUNTS OF RADIOACTIVE PLUTONIUM HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING FROM THE DOWNREAY AND SELLAFIELD NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS...



THE PLUTONIUM, ENOUGH TO MANUFACTURE A NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IS FEARED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF MIDDLE EASTERN TERRORIST GROUPS.



GOVERNMENT DEFENCE SECRETARY PETER S& JOHN, HOWEVER, MADE IT CLEAR IN A STRONGLY-WORDED STATEMENT THAT CRZZZSHH NOT RESPONSZZZZZ



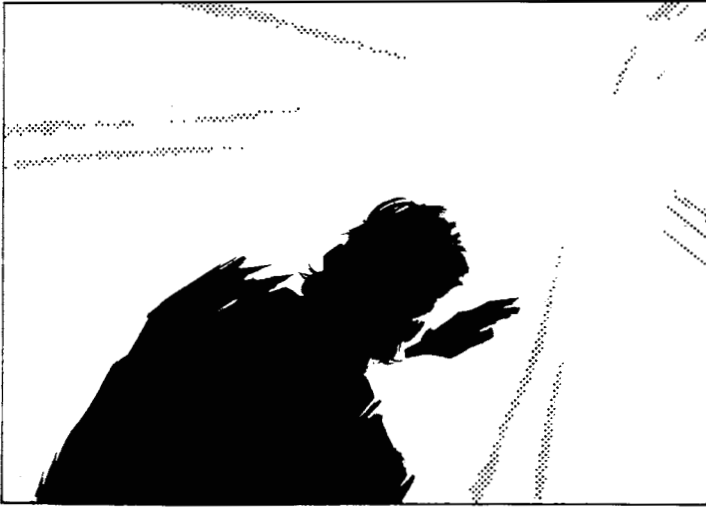
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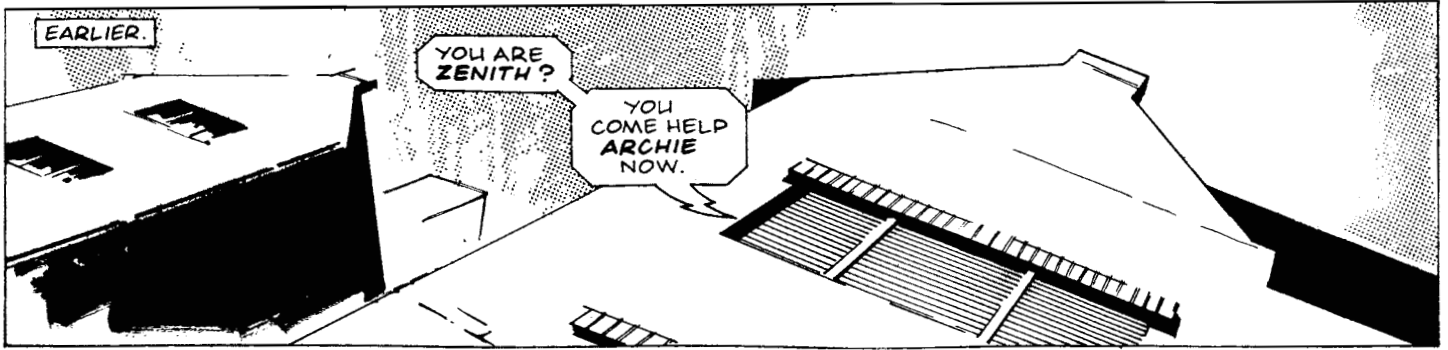


SECRET
 GRANT
 MORRISON
 ART
 STEVE
 YEOWELL
 LETTERING
 KID

ZENITH

PHASE III / 2: "FRIENDLY PERSUASION"





EARLIER.

YOU ARE ZENITH?

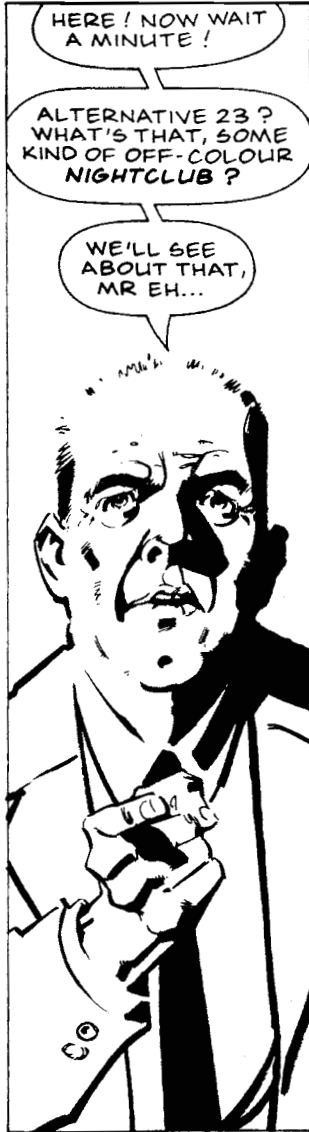
YOU COME HELP ARCHIE NOW.



LISTEN, YOU NEED HELP. ACID HOUSE ROLLED OVER AND DIED LAST YEAR...!

ACID NEVER DIE! SPEED SPEED ECSTASY!

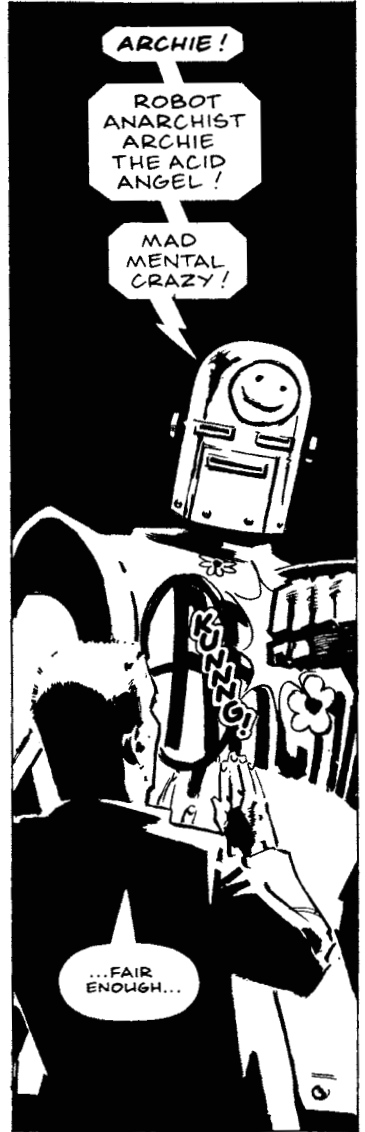
YOU COME WITH ARCHIE TO ALTERNATIVE 23!



HERE! NOW WAIT A MINUTE!

ALTERNATIVE 23? WHAT'S THAT, SOME KIND OF OFF-COLOUR NIGHTCLUB?

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, MR EH...

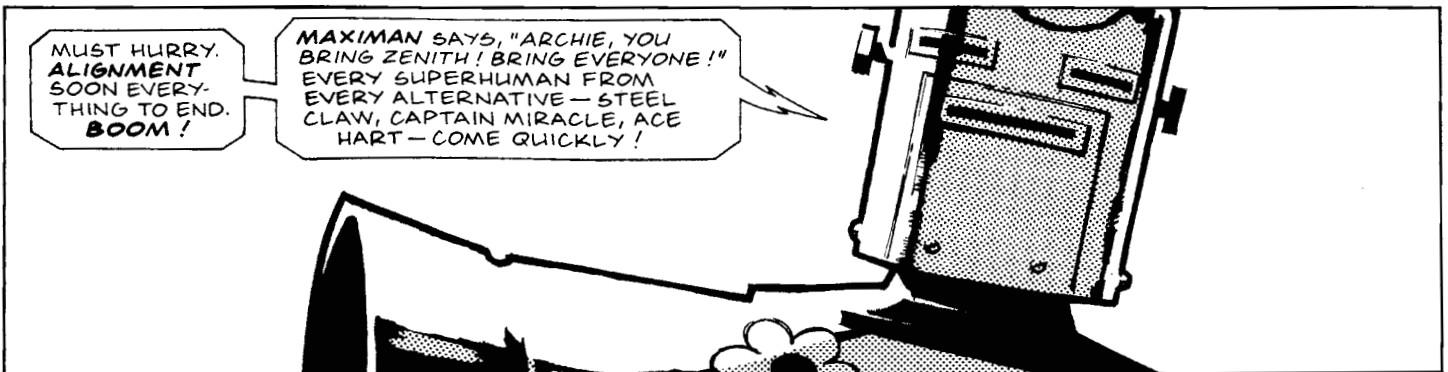


ARCHIE!

ROBOT ANARCHIST ARCHIE THE ACID ANGEL!

MAD MENTAL CRAZY!

...FAIR ENOUGH...



MUST HURRY. ALIGNMENT SOON EVERY-THING TO END. BOOM!

MAXIMAN SAYS, "ARCHIE, YOU BRING ZENITH! BRING EVERYONE!" EVERY SUPERHUMAN FROM EVERY ALTERNATIVE - STEEL CLAW, CAPTAIN MIRACLE, ACE HART - COME QUICKLY!







SO...WHAT IS THIS? AN ALTERNATIVE WORLD?

WHAT'S IT AN ALTERNATIVE TO? THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW. IT LOOKS EVEN MORE BORING THAN THE WORLD WE JUST LEFT.

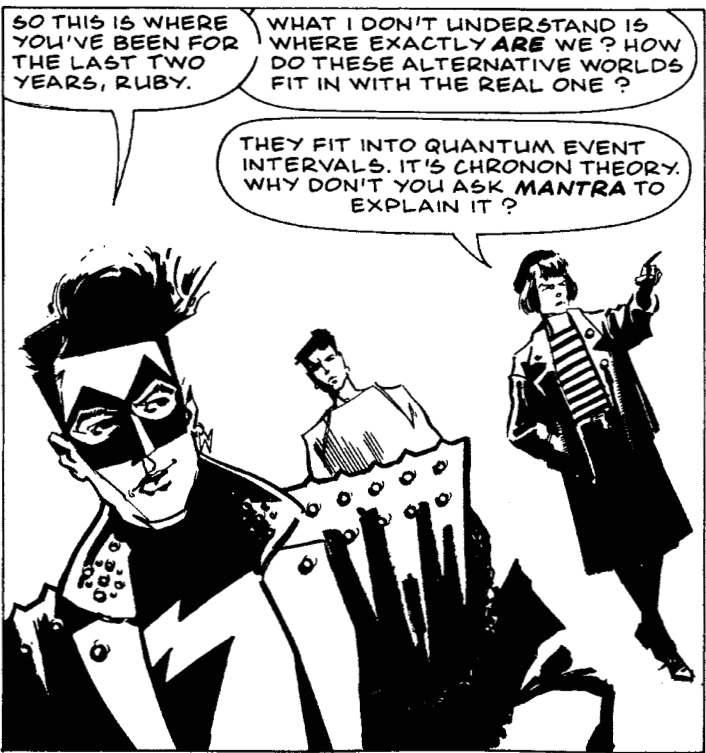
AD
GRANT MORRISON
EVE YEWELL
KID



AND IT'S TYPICAL, ISN'T IT? YOU TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO A PARALLEL UNIVERSE AND THE FIRST PEOPLE YOU MEET, YOU KNOW THEM!

HOW DID YOU END UP HERE, St JOHN?

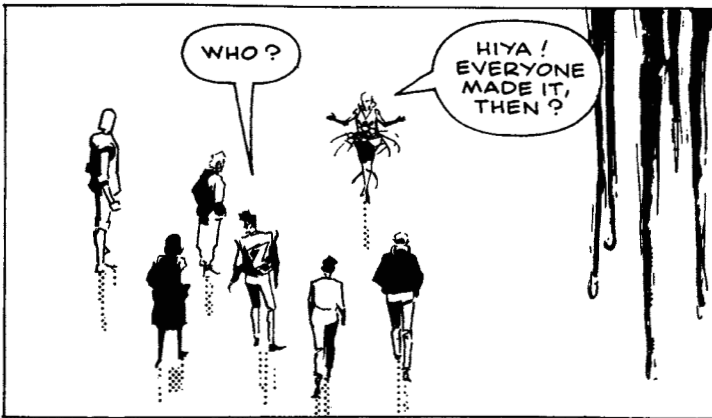
SOME OLD FRIENDS... INVITED ME.



SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, RUBY.

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE? HOW DO THESE ALTERNATIVE WORLDS FIT IN WITH THE REAL ONE?

THEY FIT INTO QUANTUM EVENT INTERVALS. IT'S CHRONON THEORY. WHY DON'T YOU ASK MANTRA TO EXPLAIN IT?



WHO?

HIYA! EVERYONE MADE IT, THEN?

ZENITH

PHASE III/3: "A SEPARATE REALITY"

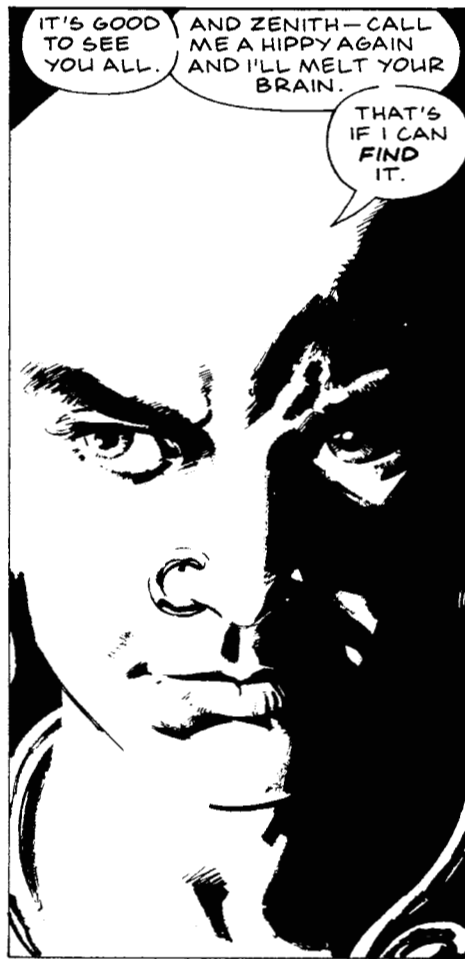


HI! NO PROBLEMS THIS TIME.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

LOOKS LIKE IT. EVERYONE'S HERE NOW. WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR MAXIMAN TO COME OUT OF HIS MEDITATION.

OH-OH! HIPPIES ON THE STARBOARD BOW!



IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ALL.

AND ZENITH—CALL ME A HIPPIY AGAIN AND I'LL MELT YOUR BRAIN.

THAT'S IF I CAN FIND IT.



THIS WAY.



YOU'RE PETER ST JOHN, AREN'T YOU? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU FOR A WHILE NOW. I THINK WE MAY HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.

TWENTY YEARS AGO YOU MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT.

AND YOU ARE..?



93 MANTRA. JUST MANTRA FOR SHORT. ARCHIE AND I ARE WITH **BLACK FLAG**, A GROUP OF ANARCHIST SUPERHUMANS FROM ALTERNATIVE 88.

WE'VE ORGANISED THIS WHOLE THING OURSELVES, BASICALLY.



THIS LIFT WAS INSTALLED FOR THE NON-FLYING SUPERHUMANS...

SO THERE ARE A FEW OTHERS HERE? FROM OTHER...ALTERNATIVES, I TAKE IT?



OH YES.
A FEW OTHERS.

WE'VE SPENT THE LAST YEAR SCOURING THE KNOWN ALTERNATIVES, GATHERING TOGETHER ALL THE SUPERHUMANS WHO HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY THE LLOIGOR...

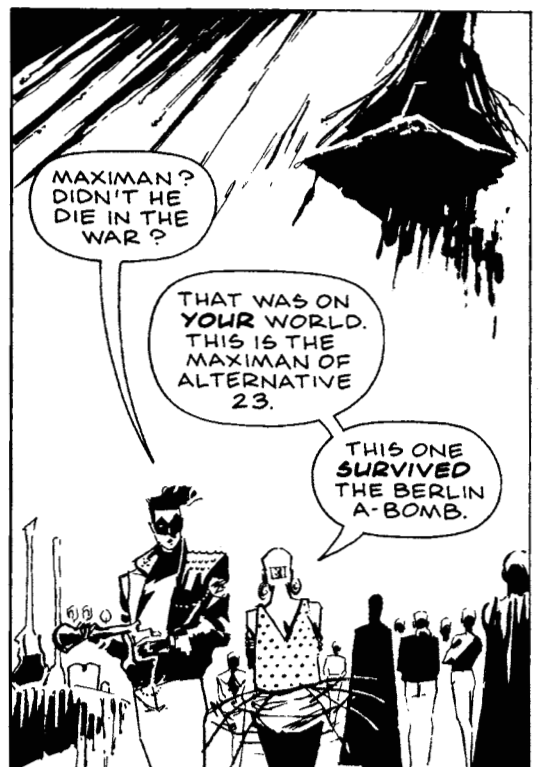
EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING, MANTRA... THE LLOIGOR..?



YES. THE MANY-ANGLED ONES. THE DARK GODS. WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

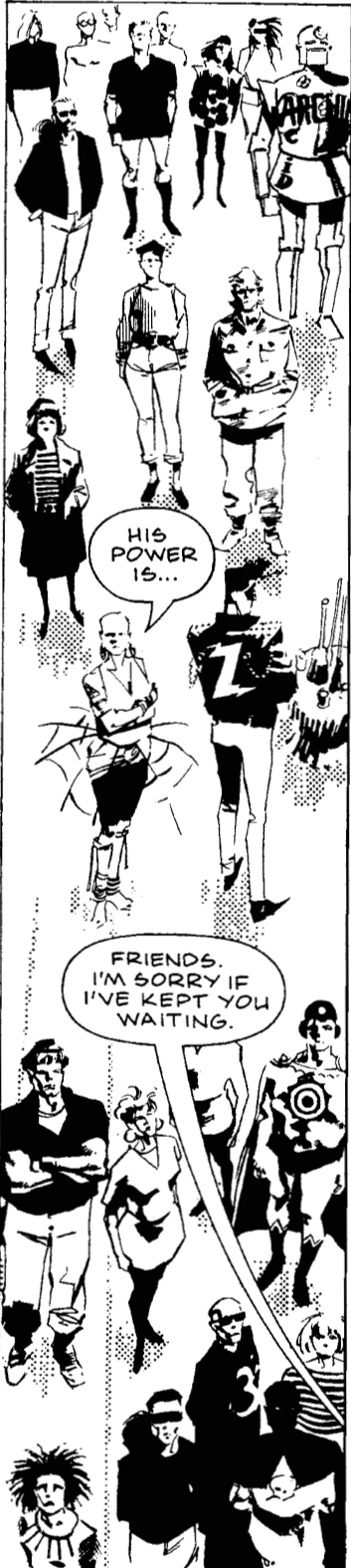
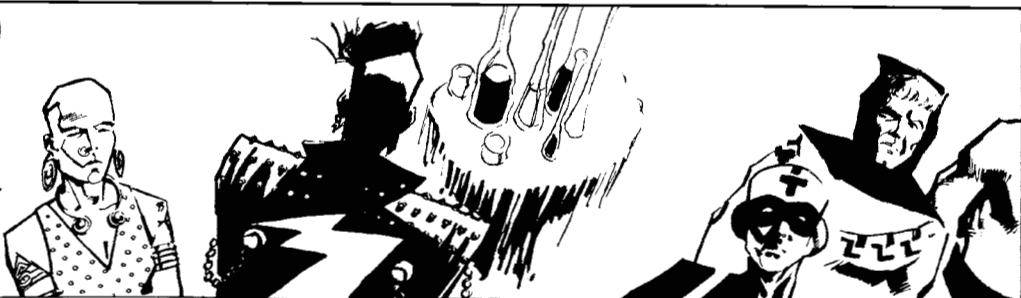
WE'RE HERE.





HE'S HAD OVER FORTY YEARS TO GROW BEYOND ALL OF US.

HE CREATED THIS PLACE PURELY BY THOUGHT. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?

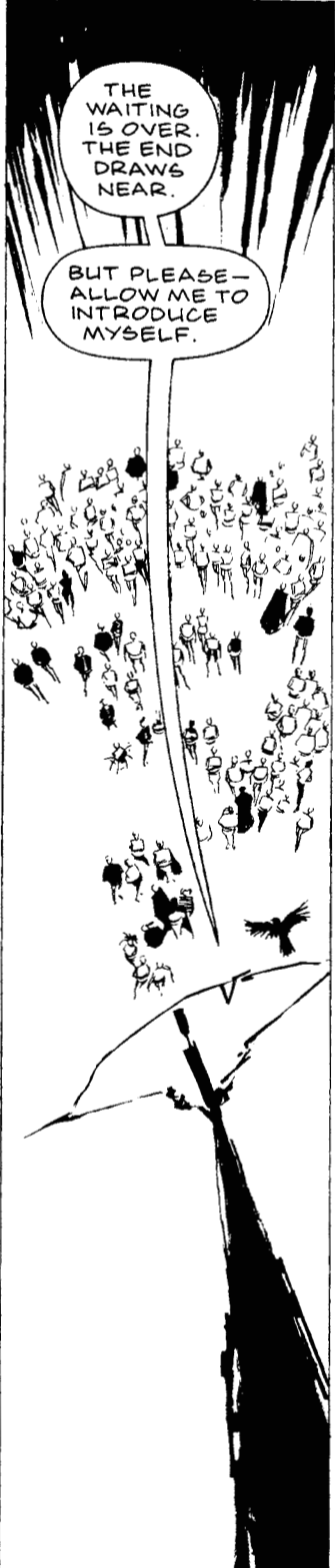


HIS POWER IS...

FRIENDS. I'M SORRY IF I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING.

THE WAITING IS OVER. THE END DRAWS NEAR.

BUT PLEASE—ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.



MAXIMAN.

I'M MAXIMAN.

A XIS MUNDI:
ALTERNATIVE 23.

I AM MAXIMAN. MAXI. YES.
MAN. WHICH IS NOT TO SAY
MY REAL NAME. NOT AT ALL.
I AM BY TURNS MR WHIT-
LOCK, MR OH-DINN, MR SEE-
NO-EVIL...I...

PLEASE...UNDERSTAND,
I'VE SPENT THE LAST
TWENTY YEARS IN
ISOLATION. I'M NOT
ACCUSTOMED TO...
ADDRESSING QUITE
SO MANY PEOPLE.



 **AD**
SCRIPT BY
GRANT
MORRISON
ART BY
STEVE
YEOWELL
COLORS BY
KID

ZENITH

PHASE III/4: "FACTS AND FIGURES"

IF AT TIMES MY ATTENTION
SEEMS TO...TO WANDER, IF
I MAKE UP WORDS WHICH
SEEM TO CARRY NO
MEANING, PLEASE FORGIVE
ME. THANK YOU.



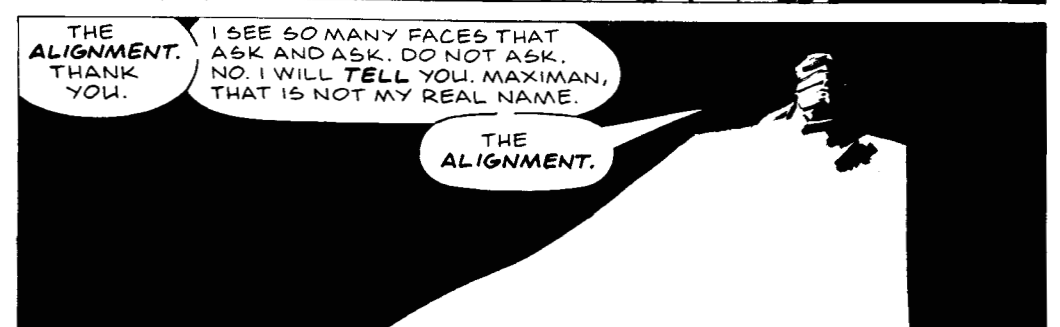
SEEING YOU ALL HERE
REMINDS ME OF AIR
BREATHING ON THE
JANGLECHIMES WHEN
ALL WAS SNUG AND
BABYTIGHT AND...
THESE WORDS ESCAPE
SO EASILY FROM
BEHIND MY CAGE
OF TEETH. YES.



YES.

HE'S TOTALLY
MAD! AND HE'S
GOT NOTHING
ON UNDER
THAT CAPE!

ZENITH!



TIME, THAT IS TO SAY, DURATION, THAT IS TO SAY THE CONTINUOUS PASSAGE OF EXISTENCE FROM NO-THING TO THING TO NO-THING AGAIN. TIME IS NOT CONTINUOUS.

IT IS MADE OF PARTICLES. AYA. AYA. AYA. PARTICLES SEPARATED BY QUANTUM EVENT INTERVALS. THANK YOU.

INTO THESE TIMELESS PROBABILITY GAPS ARE SLOTTED AN INFINITE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSES. YES. WORLD WITHOUT END. THAT IS TO SAY, CHRONON THEORY.

BUTTERFLY WORDS FLITTER IN SEARCH OF MEANING...I...

I BEGIN AGAIN.

THE ALIGNMENT, SOON TO COME TO PASS, IS A PRECISE ARRANGEMENT, CONFIGURATION, OF THESE INFINITE WORLDS. TRICKA-RICKKK. YES AND NO.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL FORM WHAT WE CHOOSE TO CALL THE OMNIHEDRON.

A VAST, THAT IS TO SAY INCOMPREHENSIBLE, CRYSTAL STRUCTURE. A SUPERDIMENSIONAL GEOMETRY COMPOSED NOT OF LINES AND ANGLES BUT OF CONTINUUMS. THIS, THE OMNIHEDRON.

THE LLOIGOR HAVE WAITED. HA. HA. HA. FOR THIS MOMENT.

WHY? EXCUSE ME. NO-ONE IS SURE. PERHAPS SOME TERRIBLE ENERGY, SOME POWER WILL BE RELEASED AT THE MOMENT OF ALIGNMENT. THANK YOU. NO-ONE KNOWS.

ONE MONTH NOW. THE ALIGNMENT. BOOM BOOM BOOM. ENDLESS UNIVERSES CONJOINED IN STRANGE ALIGNMENT.

FROM THIS TOWER, THAT IS, THIS IVORY TOWER. AXIS MUNDI. GATESHELF. SOLITOWERLY INDWELLING. THIS... FROM HERE, I SEE THROUGH THE VEILS BETWEEN DRIFTING WORLDS. SEE ALL THE WORLDS.

I SAY I SEE. YES. I SEE BLACK FLAG.

I ASK THEM TO HELP ME AGAINST THE LLOIGOR. THE LLOIGOR HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF CERTAIN ALTERNATIVES. THANK YOU. WHY? NO-ONE KNOWS YET. THEY TAKE THESE WORLDS, THESE MIRROR EARTHS AND THEY WAIT. FOR THE ALIGNMENT.

I ASK BLACK FLAG TO HELP ME.

ON ALTERNATIVE 257, A TERRIBLE THING. THAT WORLD'S INDIGENOUS SUPERHUMAN, THAT WORLD'S PROTECTOR, DEFENDER, IS OCCUPIED BY A LLOIGOR MIND COLONY. HIS NAME IS HOTSPUR. NOT HIS REAL NAME.

HE KILLS SMILEY SUN. LANGUAGE FALTERS... I... EXPLODING BLOOD AND BONEHARD...



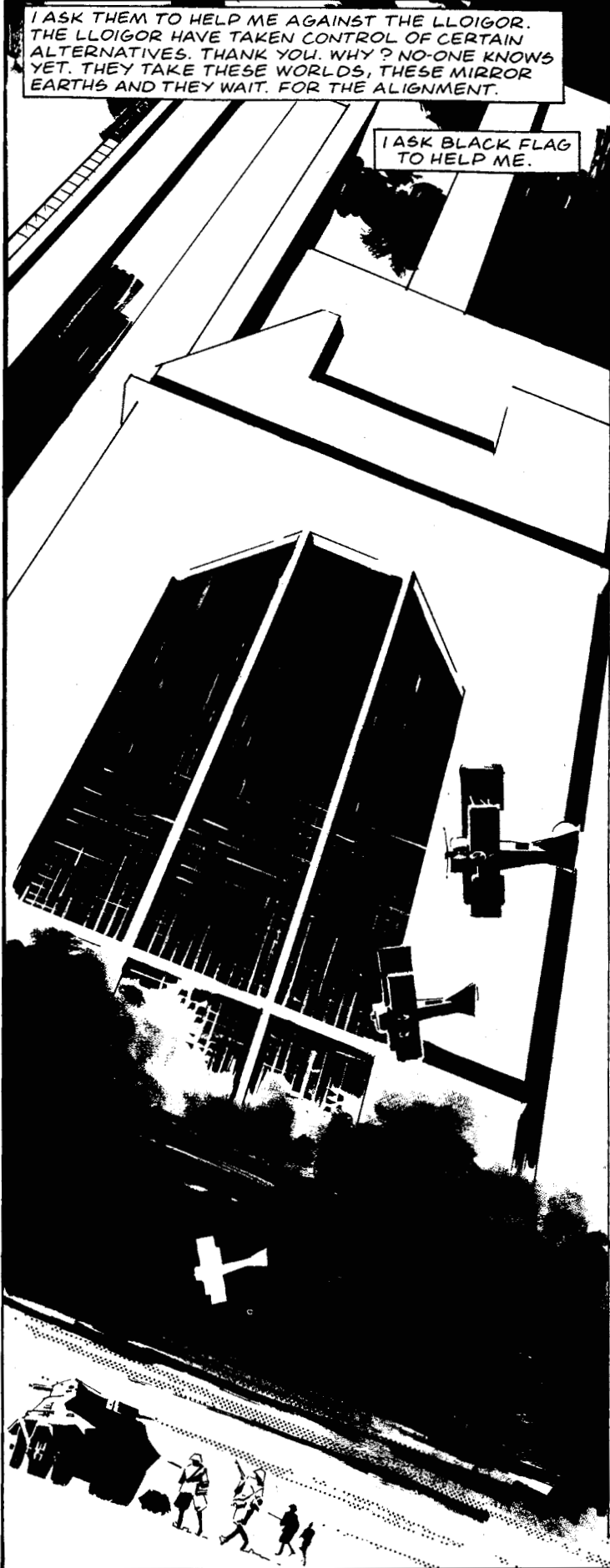
BLACK FLAG, THAT IS, MANTRA, DOMINO, DJ CHILL, ARE FORCED TO FLEE.

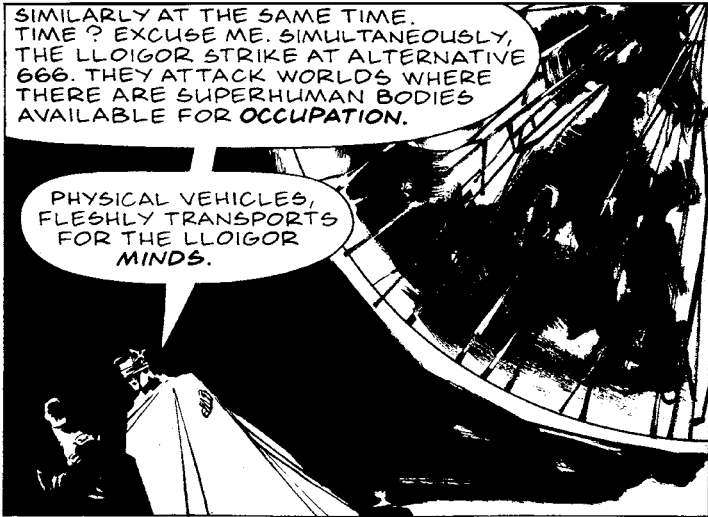
LOST TO THE LLOIGOR.

257 IS LOST.

THANK YOU.

YES.





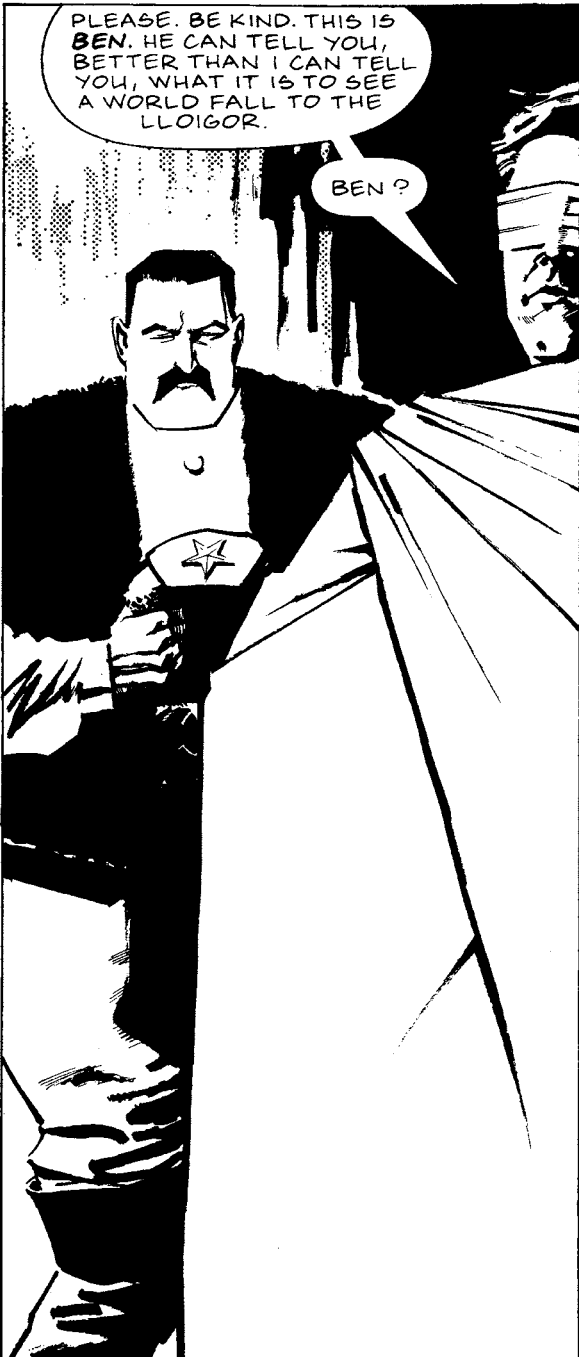
SIMILARLY AT THE SAME TIME, TIME? EXCUSE ME. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE LLOIGOR STRIKE AT ALTERNATIVE 666. THEY ATTACK WORLDS WHERE THERE ARE SUPERHUMAN BODIES AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPATION.

PHYSICAL VEHICLES, FLESHLY TRANSPORTS FOR THE LLOIGOR MINDS.



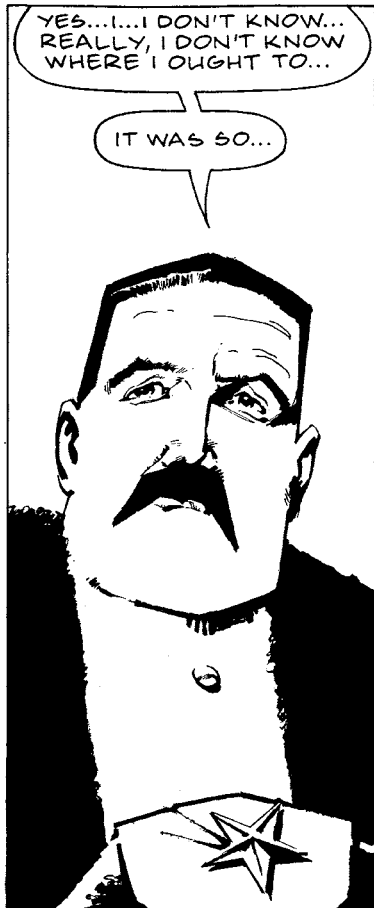
ALTERNATIVE 666 FELL TO THE LLOIGOR. ALL THESE WORDS ARE SO CURIOUS TO ME. SORRY. WORDS.

ONE SUPERHUMAN SURVIVED, THAT IS TO SAY, ESCAPED THROUGH AN EINSTEIN-ROSEN BRIDGE AND CAME AT LAST TO THIS GATHERING PLACE.



PLEASE. BE KIND. THIS IS BEN. HE CAN TELL YOU, BETTER THAN I CAN TELL YOU, WHAT IT IS TO SEE A WORLD FALL TO THE LLOIGOR.

BEN?



YES...I...I DON'T KNOW... REALLY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I OUGHT TO...

IT WAS SO...



I'M SORRY...

I ACTUALLY DON'T THINK I CAN...

I'M SO SORRY.

CALM DOWN, BEN. WE HAVE THIS TAPE FROM ALTERNATIVE 666.

LET THE TAPE TELL THE STORY.



LISTEN NOW.

THANK YOU.

"...ON THAT DAY, ON THAT TERRIBLE JOURNEY NORTH TO MIDDLETOWN, I SAW MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN TIED UP IN BUNDLES WITH BARBED WIRE. SOME OF THEM WERE STILL ALIVE... STILL CRYING..."

"I SAW PET DOGS AND CATS AND FARM ANIMALS STRUNG FROM TELEPHONE WIRES, SAW BLINDED BIRDS MADLY FLUTTERING IN THE RUINS..."

"THEY DID THIS FOR FUN."

"FOR THE FUN OF IT."

IRONBOROUGH

SEASIDE

THOMPSON ST.

SECRET
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YEOWELL
LETTERER
KID

PHASE
III
5

ZENTAR

"LETTER FROM THE UNDERWORLD"

"THAT WAS WHAT NONE OF US COULD UNDERSTAND.

"THE CRUELTY

"THE SHEER CRUELTY OF IT ALL.

"I FOUND TIGER TOM AND TAMMY, AS I'D BEEN TOLD, HIDING IN THE BASEMENT OF A STINKING BURNED-OUT HOUSE.

"HE WAS IN A STATE OF SHOCK OF SHOCK, SHE WAS BADLY INJURED, FEVERISH.

"HE STARTED TO CRY WHEN HE SAW ME. I MEAN, THEY'RE ONLY CHILDREN...

"I GAVE THEM WHAT FOOD I'D MANAGED TO SALVAGE AFTER THE MAMBAMOBILE WAS DESTROYED OUTSIDE IRONBOROUGH.

"IF ONLY I'D MANAGED TO SAVE THE FIRST-AID KIT.

"LATER, TOM TRIED TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED. MOST OF IT WAS INCOHERENT... MISS WONDERSTARR HAD APPEARED, POSSESSED, LIKE THE OTHERS. SHE BEGAN TO DESTROY THE TOWN. THE Z-RIDERS MOUNTED SOME KIND OF FUTILE RESISTANCE...



"THEN HE ASKED ME ABOUT LONDON.

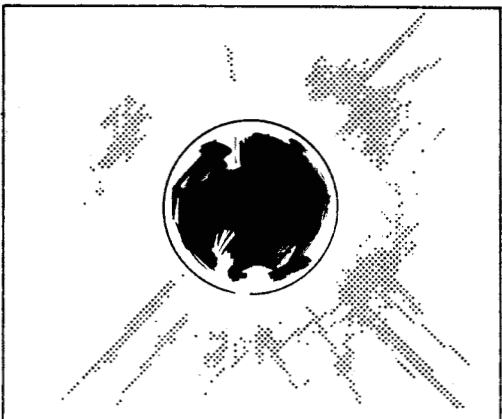


"I COULDN'T TELL HIM.

"I FEEL SUCH A COWARD, BUT, WELL... I JUST COULDN'T, THAT'S ALL. NOT WHILE HE STILL HAD SOME HOPE.

"APPARENTLY MR WHY AND BEN AND SOME OF THE OTHERS ARE STILL ACTIVE AND FIGHTING.

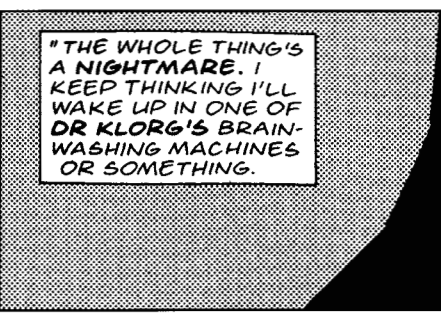
"FROM WHAT I'VE GATHERED, THEY'RE TRYING TO DEFEND SOMETHING CALLED AN EINSTEIN-ROSEN BRIDGE.



"THIS SEEMS TO BE A KIND OF GATEWAY INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION OR SOME KIND OF ALTERNATIVE WORLD. I CONFESS, IT'S ALL A BIT BEYOND ME.

"THE WHOLE IDEA IS THAT I PASS THIS TAPE ON TO TOM, HE PASSES IT TO JIMMY QUICK AND JIMMY GETS IT THROUGH THE BRIDGE AND AFTER THAT...

"AFTER THAT, THE CAVALRY ARRIVES, I SUPPOSE.



"THE WHOLE THING'S A NIGHTMARE. I KEEP THINKING I'LL WAKE UP IN ONE OF DR KLORG'S BRAIN-WASHING MACHINES OR SOMETHING.



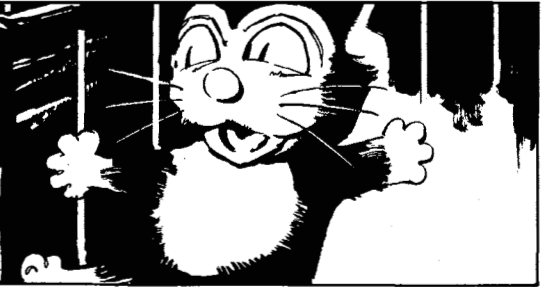
"EVIL GENIUSES I CAN DEAL WITH. BANK ROBBERS, YES.

"BUT THIS IS A NIGHTMARE.

"I'M RECORDING THIS AT 7 O'CLOCK, THE SUN IS GOING DOWN BEHIND THE CHURCH STEEPLE. THE VICAR'S BODY HAS BEEN IMPALED ON THE WEATHERCOCK AND IT CREAKS AS IT TURNS.



"THAT'S THE ONLY SOUND I CAN HEAR NOW, THANK HEAVEN.



"AND THE SKY IS FULL OF BLOOD AND DIRT IN A DREADFUL SUNSET...I..."

"I'M SORRY...I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THE WORLD'S NOT OURS ANYMORE, IT'S...I FEEL LIKE A FOX AND THE HOUNDS ARE BAYING AT MY HEELS AND THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.



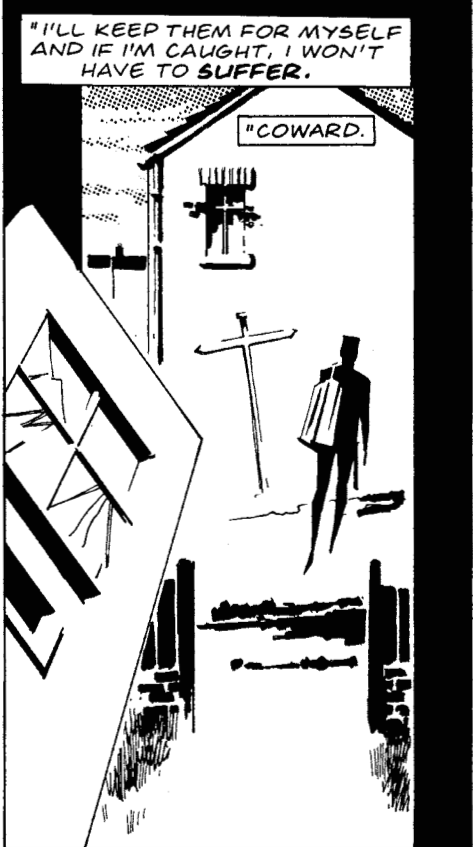
"TOMORROW MORNING I'LL LEAVE THIS TAPE DISC WITH TOM AND PRESS NORTHWARDS. FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.

"I'M SUCH A COWARD. I SHOULD LEAVE THE PILLS TOO, BUT I KNOW I WON'T.



"I'LL KEEP THEM FOR MYSELF AND IF I'M CAUGHT, I WON'T HAVE TO SUFFER.

"COWARD."



"ANYWAY, IT'S FEBRUARY TWELFTH, 1987. I HOPE THIS TAPE REACHES SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN HELP US.

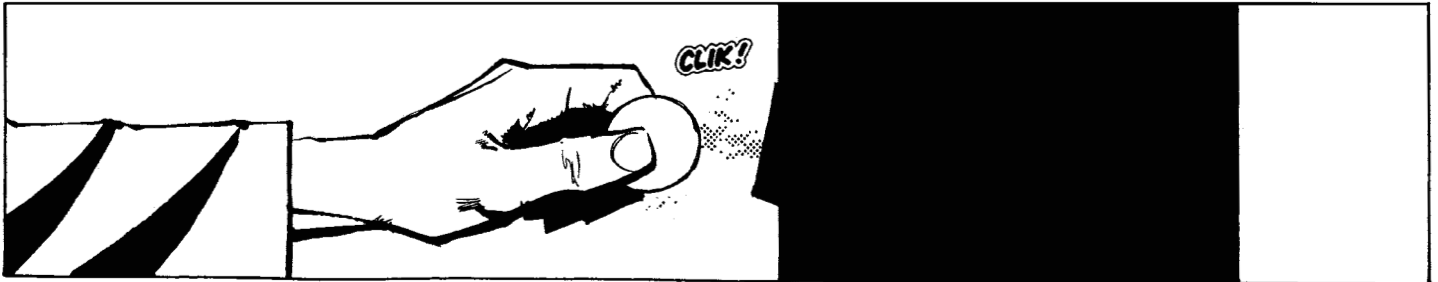
"I HOPE SOMEDAY WE'LL MEET WHEN IT'S ALL OVER AND WE CAN SHARE A DRINK AND A LAUGH AND...WELL..."



"YOU KNOW."

"BYE."





THIS TAPE WAS RECORDED OVER A YEAR AGO YES. BROUGHT TO US BY JIMMY QUICK OF ALTERNATIVE 666. HE DIED, POOR JIMMY, BOO HOO, BRINGING THE TAPE THROUGH.

A WHOLE YEAR. THANK YOU.



NO-ONE HAS BEEN TO 666 IN ALL THIS TIME. ALL THIS...WORD...THIS TIME. THINGS MUST BE WORSE. MUCH WORSE.

THIS IS WHY I HAVE BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE. DID I BRING YOU? ARKKKCREATION. FORGIVE ME. WORDS SOME-TIMES LOSE THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.



I HAVE BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE SO THAT WE MIGHT DAMAGE THE OMNIHEDRON, PREVENT THE COMING ALIGNMENT AND AND AND.

AND SPARE, THAT IS RELIEVE, FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE LLOIGOR, ALTERNATIVES 257 AND 666.

THE FOLLOWING IS MY PLAN, YOUR TASK:



TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE BRIDGES, TO BE STRONG AND TO DESTROY THOSE WORLDS AND EVERY LIVING THING UPON THEM.

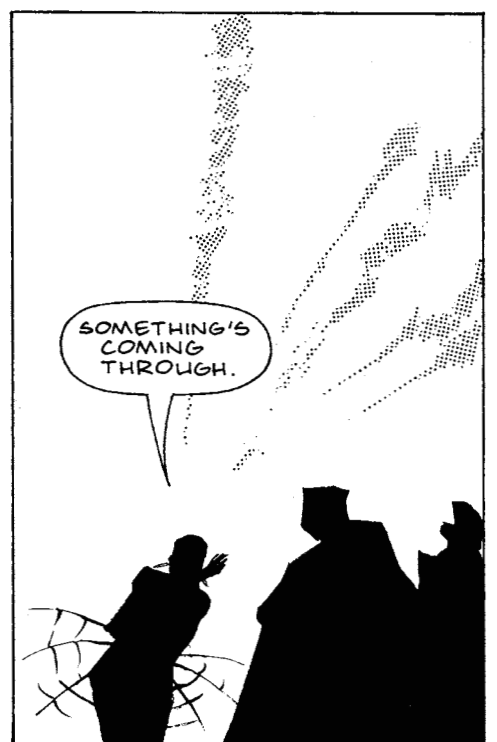
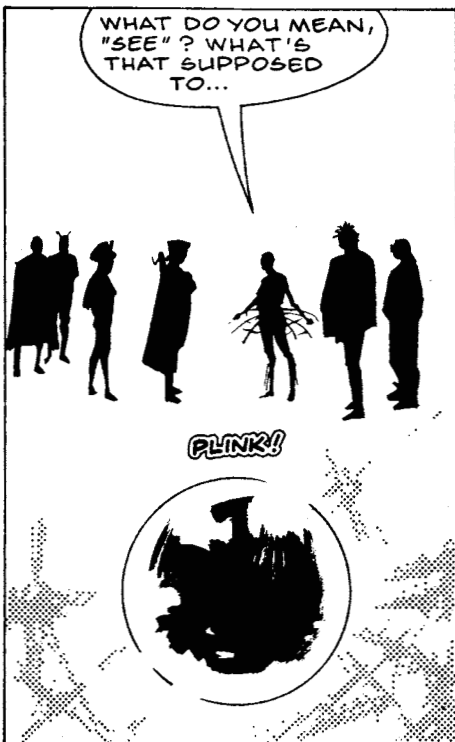
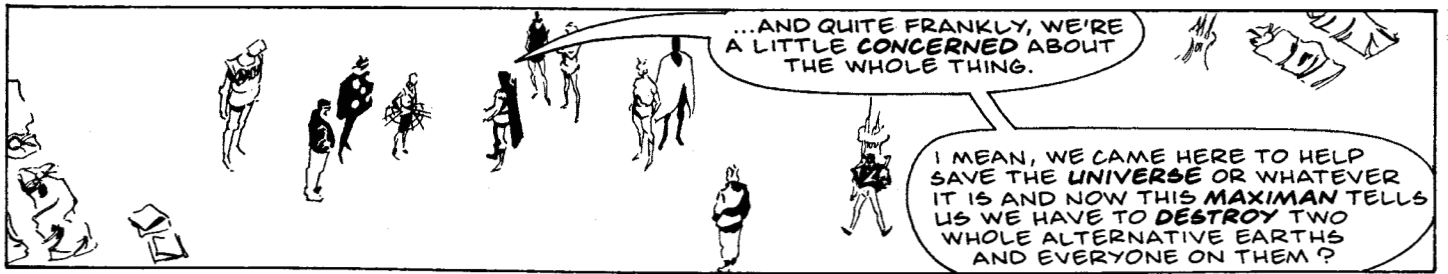
YES.



WAD
AD

SCRIPT BY
GRANT MORRISON
ART BY
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING BY
KID

© 1997 WAD





I... I DIDN'T EXPECT... YOU'RE BOTH YOUNG...

DAVID, YOU'RE TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER. YOUR HAIR, YOUR BEARD...

WE PROMISED WE'D TEACH YOU, RUBY, DIDN'T WE ?

WELL, NOW IT'S TIME TO LEARN.



NONE OF US EVER REALISED JUST HOW POWERFUL WE WERE, RUBY. WE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME THINKING LIKE HUMANS, LIMITING OURSELVES TO THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE.

IT'S TIME FOR AN END TO ALL THAT.



THE UNIVERSE IS POTTER'S CLAY IN OUR HANDS.

TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES, RUBY.



WHO IS IT ?

WHO'S THERE ?



UHHHH

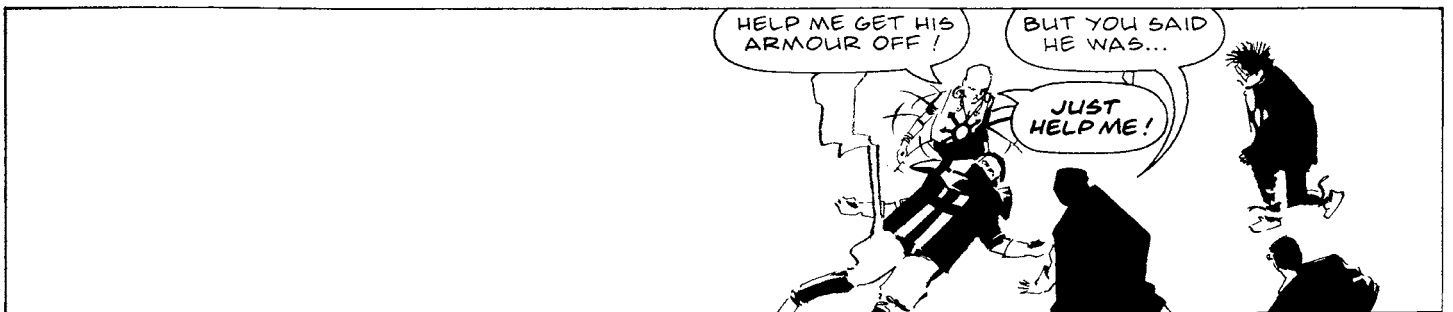
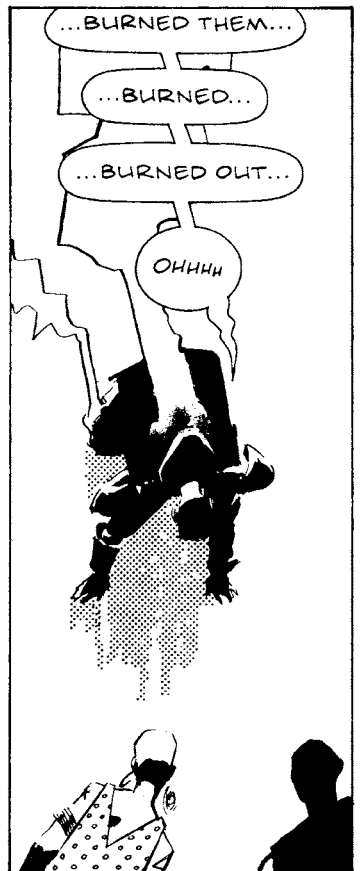
OH NO.



HOTSPUR. IT'S HOTSPUR! HE WAS OCCUPIED BY A LLOIGOR ON 257. HE'S ONE OF THEM !



HE'S ONE OF THEM!





AAHHHH



HIS MIND...IRON...LIKE HOT IRON...HE'S CAST OFF THE LLOIGOR POSSESSION!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU TOLD US NO-ONE'S EVER...

HOW COULD HE..?

OH.



YOUNG.

I'M YOUNG.



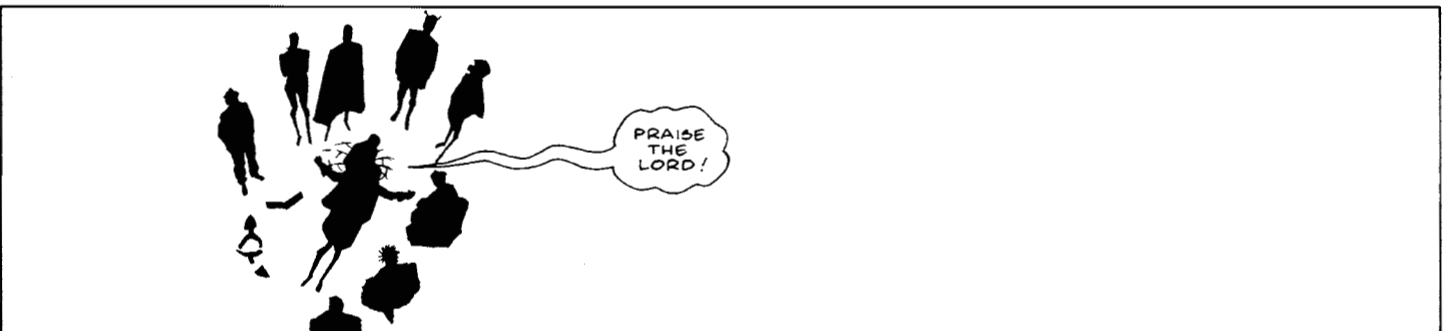
OH, LOOK!

LOOK WHAT HE'S DONE TO HIMSELF!

BURNED OUT THE DEVIL... HA HA... BURNED HIM, BURNED HIM!



I'M YOUNG!



PRAISE THE LORD!

ZENITH

PHASE
III
7

"MARCHING AS TO WAR"

AXIS MUNDI:
ALTERNATIVE 23.

YES. I TRUST ALL SLEPT WELL. THANK YOU. BUT WAIT. THE DAY HAS COME NOW. THE GREAT DAY. WE ASSEMBLE AND SOON WE DIVIDE TO FACE THE LLOIGOR, THAT IS, THE ENEMY, THE ADVERSARY. YES.

YOU EACH HAVE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. ONE GROUP... STOP... GRRRRROUP WILL TRAVEL TO ALTERNATIVE 666, ANOTHER LED BY HOTSPUR, TO 257.

SCOTT
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YEOWELL
COLORIST
KID

HOTSPUR
WILL
TALK
NOW.
PLEASE.

THANK YOU,
MAXIMAN.

MAXIMAN HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU HOW MY BODY WAS OCCUPIED BY A LLOIGOR SPIRIT AND HOW I TRIUMPHED OVER THE WEAKNESS OF FLESH. I AM TOLD THAT NO-ONE HAS EVER THROWN OFF A LLOIGOR POSSESSION.

WELL, PERHAPS THAT WAS TRUE IN THE PAST, BUT THIS TIME THESE LLOIGOR WERE NOT DEALING WITH UNDISCIPLINED RADICALS AND NANCY-BOYS!

THIS TIME THEY WERE DEALING WITH A SOLDIER IN THE ARMY OF GOD!

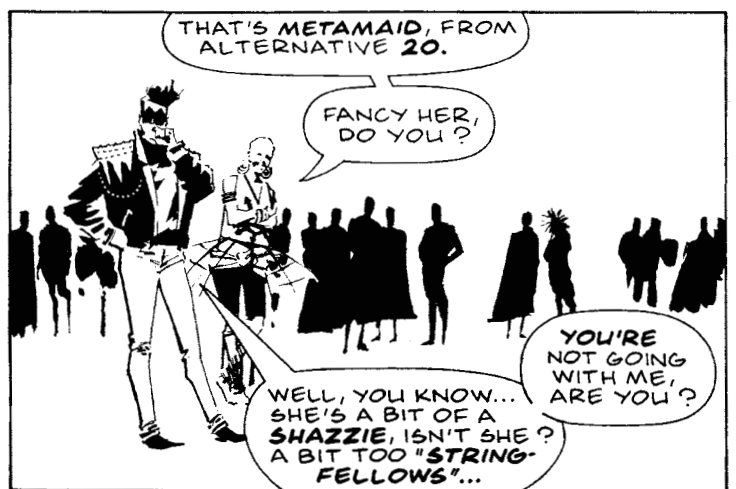
I SET A MOLTEN CROSS TO MY CORRUPTED BODY AND BY PAIN AND THE WRATH OF THE ALMIGHTY, DID I EXPEL THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT!

I AM LIVING PROOF THAT THE LLOIGOR CAN BE SUBDUED! THAT WE CAN CLEANSE MY TORTURED WORLD!

AND CAST THE LLOIGOR FOREVER BACK INTO THE FIERY GULF OF GEHENNA!

AS HE DIED TO MAKE MEN HOLY, LET US LIVE TO MAKE MEN FREE, WHILE GOD IS MARCHING ON!

HALLELUJAH!







...WE SHALL LOOSE THE FATAL LIGHTNING OF THAT TERRIBLE SWIFT SWORD! THE SWORD THAT NEVER SLEEPS! AND WE SHALL CRUSH THESE LLOIGOR.

I SHALL LEAD THE ATTACK ON MY HOMETOWN, BEN HERE WILL CAPTAIN THE OTHERS.



YES...WELL...WHAT HE SAID REALLY.

I SUPPOSE I'M IN CHARGE OF YOU LOT...

THAT MAKES ME FEEL REALLY CONFIDENT...

NOW YOU WAIT A MINUTE!



IF YOU WANT MY AUTOGRAPH, YOU ONLY HAVE TO ASK.



LISTEN, YOU LITTLE CREEP! YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT INSULT AND HUMILIATE PEOPLE SINCE YOU GOT HERE!

WELL, MAYBE YOU GET AWAY WITH THAT ON YOUR HOME ALTERNATIVE BECAUSE EVERYONE'S FRIGHTENED OF YOU, BUT WE'RE NOT PUTTING UP WITH IT, YOU UNDERSTAND?



RIGHT! THAT'S...

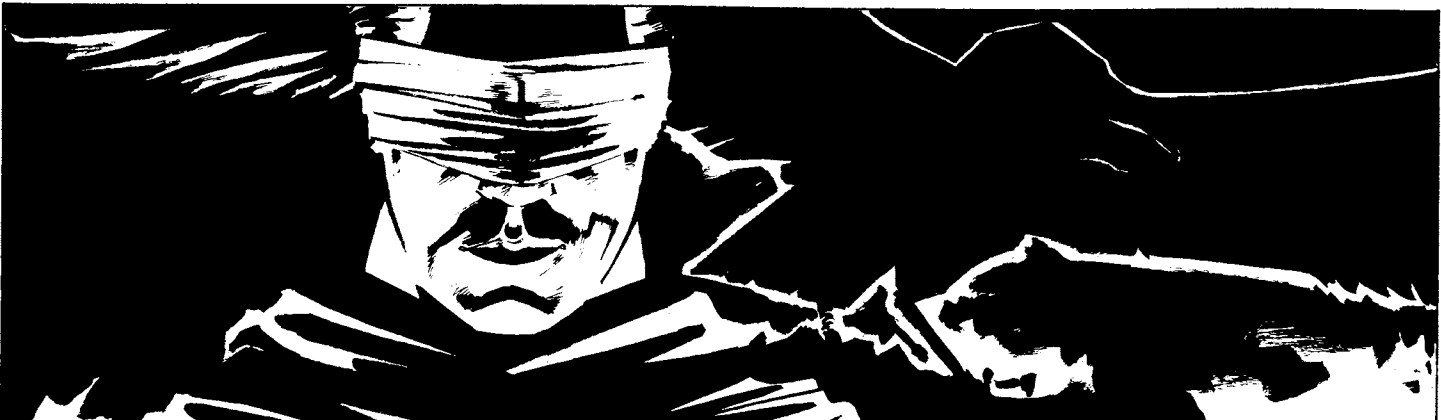
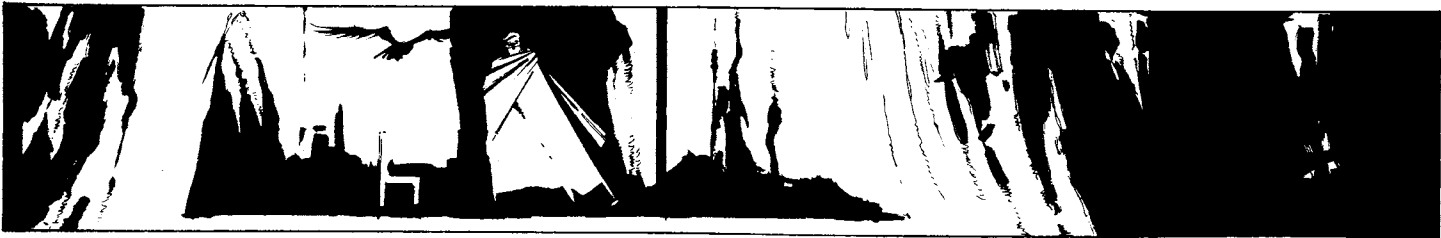
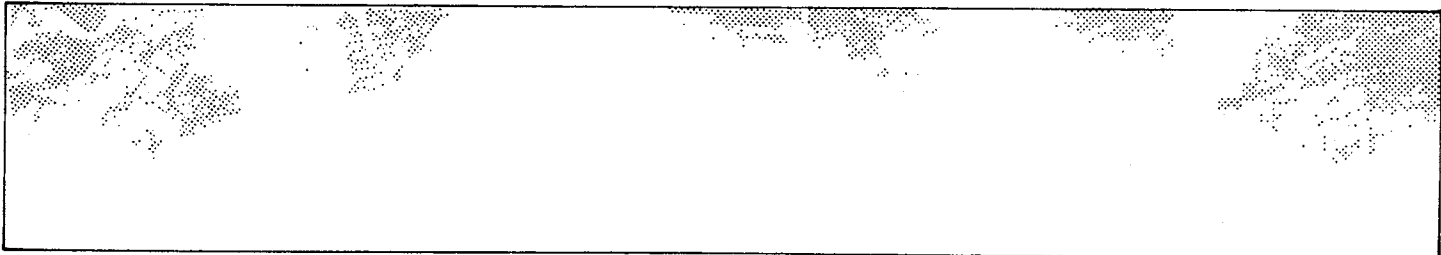
PLEASE! PLEASE, I DON'T WANT TO START A FIGHT.

ANYWAY, I SUPPOSE HE'S RIGHT. I'M NOT MUCH OF A LEADER. I JUST WANT TO STOP THE LLOIGOR AND...



WELL.

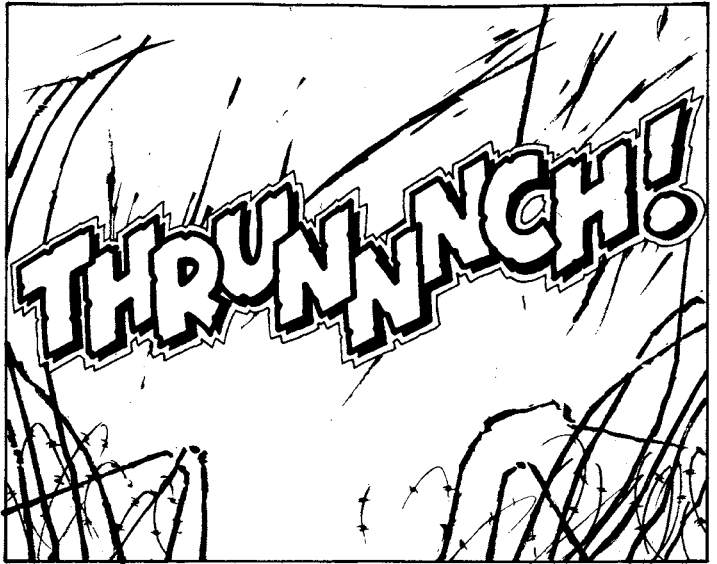
HERE GOES, EH?



ALTERNATIVE 666:
MARCH 12, 1989.

"AWAY BACK WHEN WE WERE DEAD YOUNG, THE MAGIC KINGDOM WAS THE MOST BRILLIANT PLACE IN THE WORLD.

"THE FAIRY MOUNTAIN WATERSLIDE, THE ROLLER-GHOSTER, THE CABIN OF CURIOSITIES — A TOTAL PARADISE FOR KIDS.



"I DIDN'T REALISE HOW MUCH THINGS COULD CHANGE UNTIL I GOT THE MESSAGE ON THE UNDERGROUND NETWORK THAT TOMMY TRIDENT WAS BACK AND THAT HE NEEDED HELP TO LIBERATE THE PRISONERS OF THE LLOIGOR.

"I KNEW THINGS WERE BAD, BUT THAT'S WHEN IT REALLY HIT HOME.



"THAT'S WHEN I SAW WHAT MISS WONDERSTARR HAD TURNED INTO.



"THAT'S WHEN I HEARD THAT HORRIBLE, SPEEDED-UP CALLIOPE MUSIC AND PEOPLE SCREAMING, MAD WITH PAIN. WHEN I SMELLED HUMAN FLESH AND CANDYFLOSS.

"WHEN I CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE SICK, HOT LIGHTS OF BLOODY PANDEMONIUM.



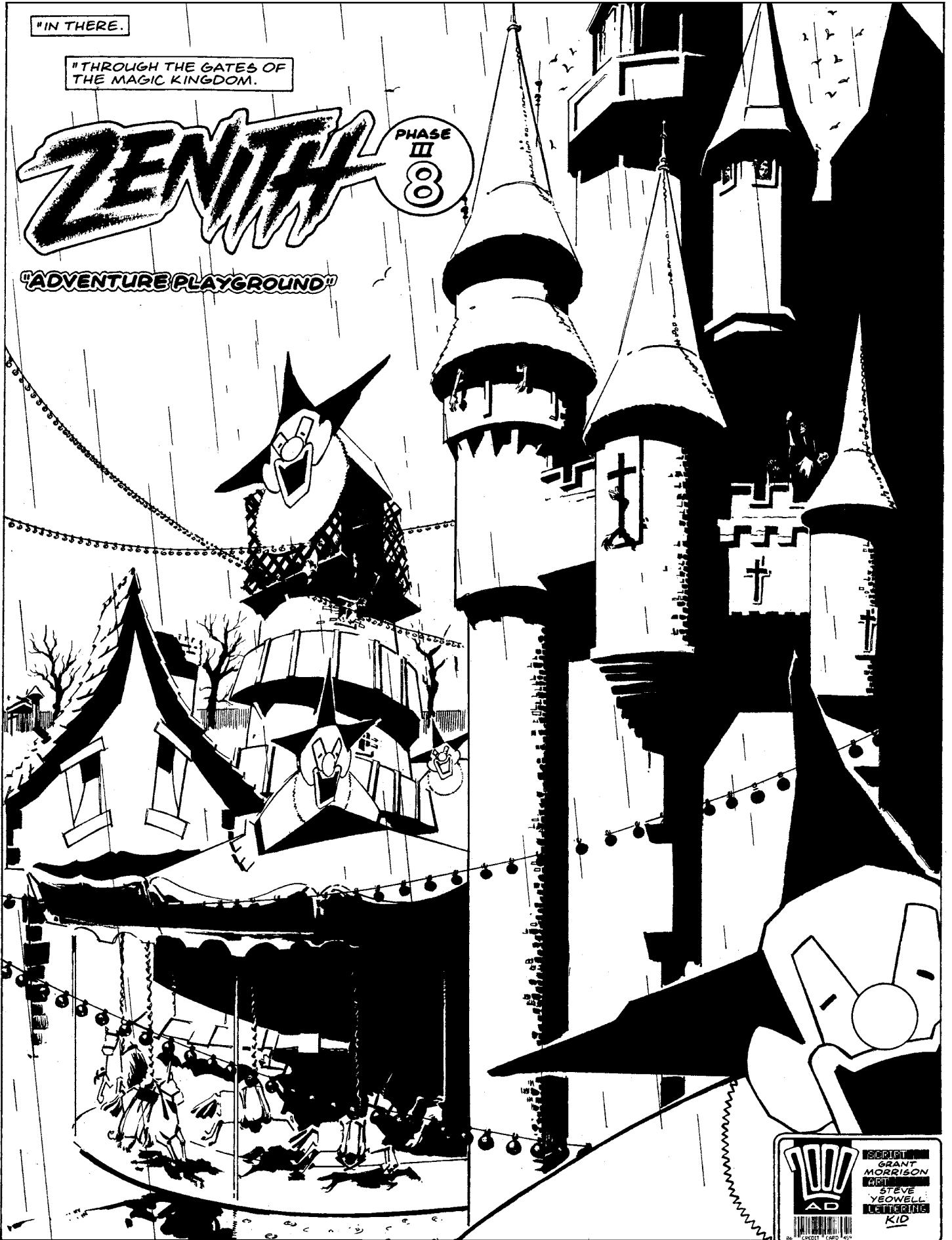
"IN THERE."

"THROUGH THE GATES OF
THE MAGIC KINGDOM."

ZENITH

PHASE
III
8

"ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND"



AD

SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ART
STEVE
YEOWELL
LETTERING
KID

06 CXC011 1490 420

"AND WHEN MISS WONDERSTARR LOOKED AT ME, I TELL YOU, MY BLOOD RAN COLD AND I KEPT THINKING, 'SHE USED TO BE SO GOOD WITH THE CHILDREN. SHE'LL NOT HURT ME...!'"



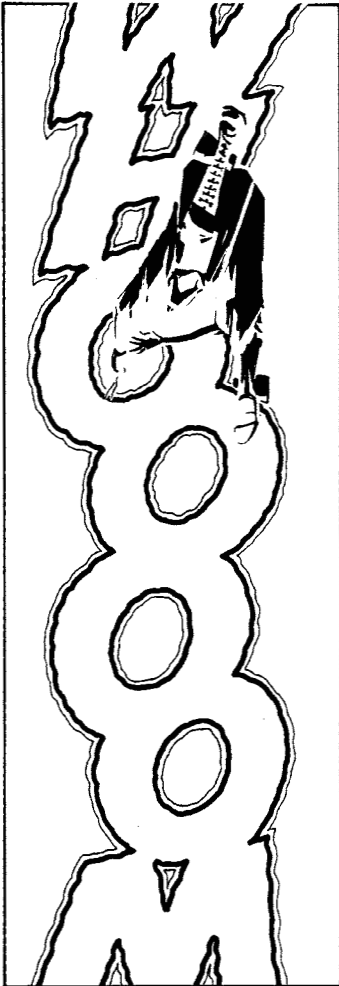
ANOTHER ONE?

ANOTHER LITTLE MAGGOT-BOY CRAWLED OUT OF THE DUNGHEAP? I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE ALL COMING FROM.



BUT I DO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO BITE OFF YOUR...



"SHE FELT THAT ONE ALL RIGHT!"

"AND WHILE SHE WAS STILL GROGGY, ALL THOSE PEOPLE SHE'D KEPT IN HER CONCENTRATION CAMP GOT A GOOD GRAB OF HER."

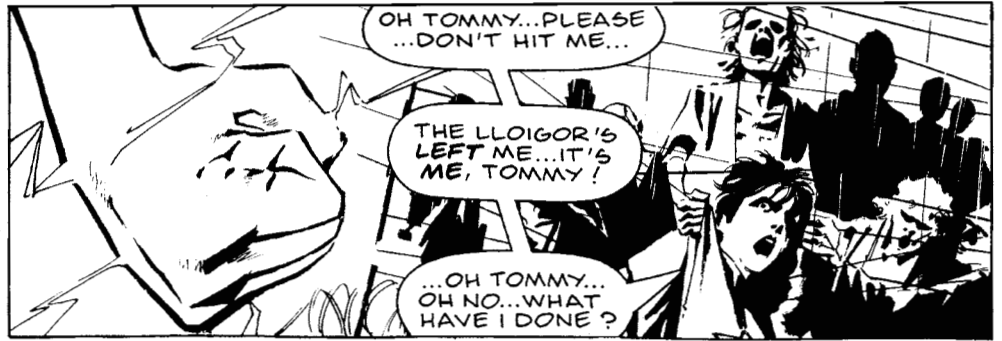
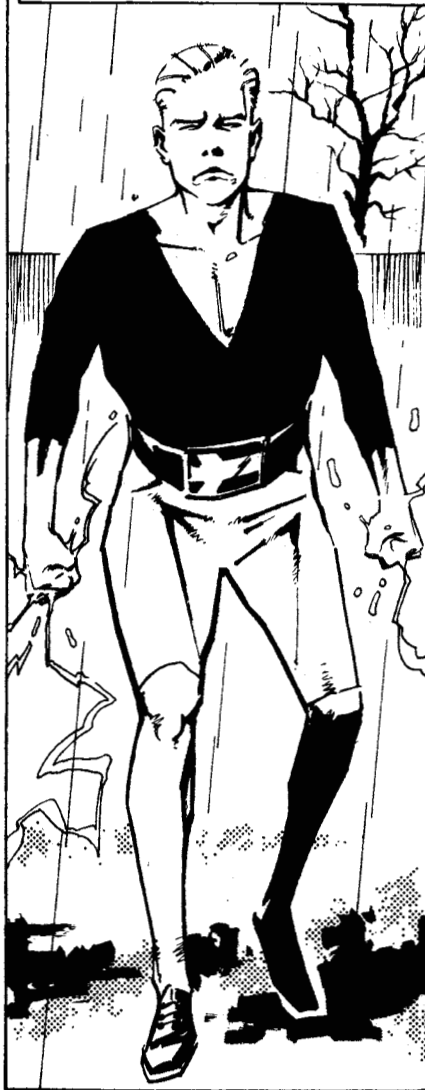
"THEY WERE LIKE HOWLING SKELETONS IN HELL. IT WAS AWFUL."



"AND THEN HE STEPPED FORWARD TO FINISH HER OFF."

"TOMMY TRIDENT, THE NUCLEAR BOY."

"HE'S OKAY, TOMMY...STRONG, YOU KNOW? FAST."



OH TOMMY...PLEASE ...DON'T HIT ME...

THE LLOIGOR'S LEFT ME...IT'S ME, TOMMY!

...OH TOMMY... OH NO...WHAT HAVE I DONE?



...WHAT? I...



"BUT AWFUL TRUSTING WITH PEOPLE."

SPLAT!



OHHHH

"OH, TOMMY! WHAT HAVE I DONE? SAVE ME, TOMMY!"

YOU'RE PATHETIC!



AND YOU'RE OURS!

"I SUPPOSE IT WAS TOTAL SUICIDE, BUT I FELT I HAD TO MAKE SOME EFFORT, ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THOSE POOR PEOPLE WATCHING."

"I THOUGHT MAYBE WITH HER BEING WEAK, I COULD USE MY WRIST-ROCKETS..."

"WELL, ANYWAY... THAT WAS A DEAD LOSS."

"I THOUGHT, 'THAT'S IT FOR YOU, JOCKIE-BOY. THAT'S IT FOR THE WHOLE POOR WORLD NOW.'"



"THINGS STARTED TO GO ALL RUNNY AND BLACK."

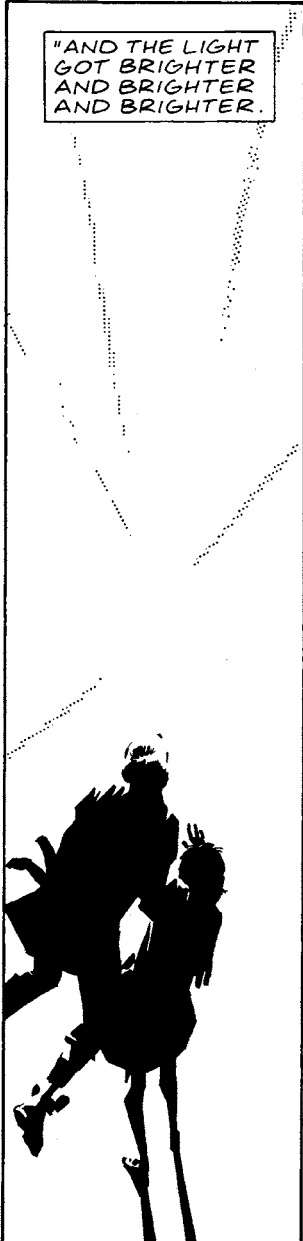
PLINK!

"AND THEN I HEARD A WEE NOISE, LIKE A LIGHTBULB BREAKING."



"AND THE LIGHT GOT BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER."

"AND EVERYTHING CHANGED AGAIN."



ALTERNATIVE 666:
MARCH 12, 1989.

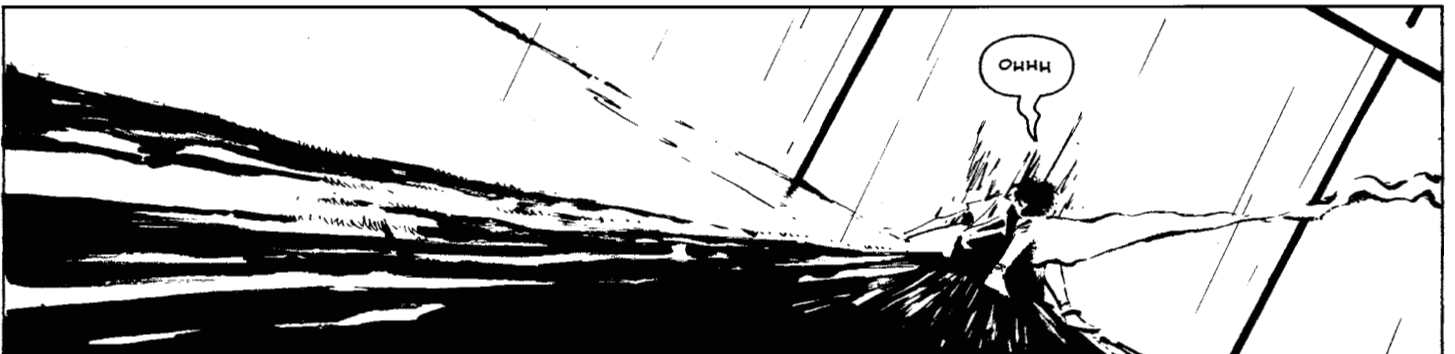
THE DARK GODS, **THE LLOIGOR**, HAVE BEEN TAKING OVER SUPERHUMANS ACROSS EARTH'S ALTERNATIVE REALITIES AND GENERALLY WREAKING HAVOC. **ZENITH** AND HIS SUPERHUMAN COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN DESPATCHED BY **MAXIMAN** TO DAMAGE THE **OMNIHEDRON** AND DESTROY THOSE REALITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY FALLEN TO THE LLOIGOR.



SHUFF!



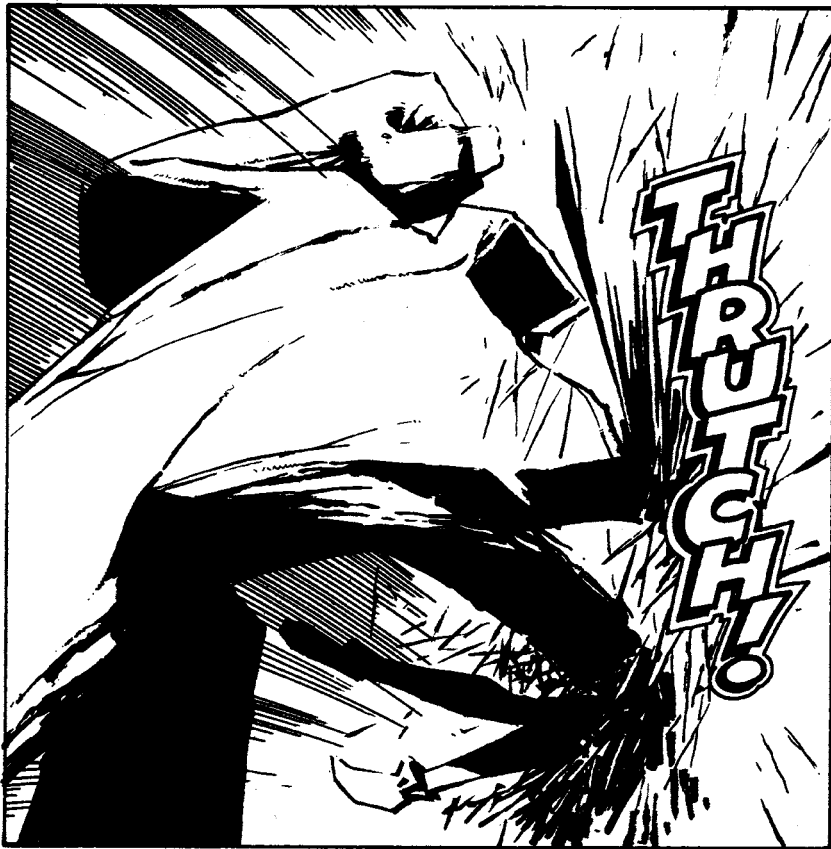
CHANG!





AD
SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YEOWELL
LETTERING
KID
ROBSON

PHASE
III
9



IS SHE..?

HER EYES!

WATCH OUT FOR



NO PROBLEM. JUST HOLD STILL.

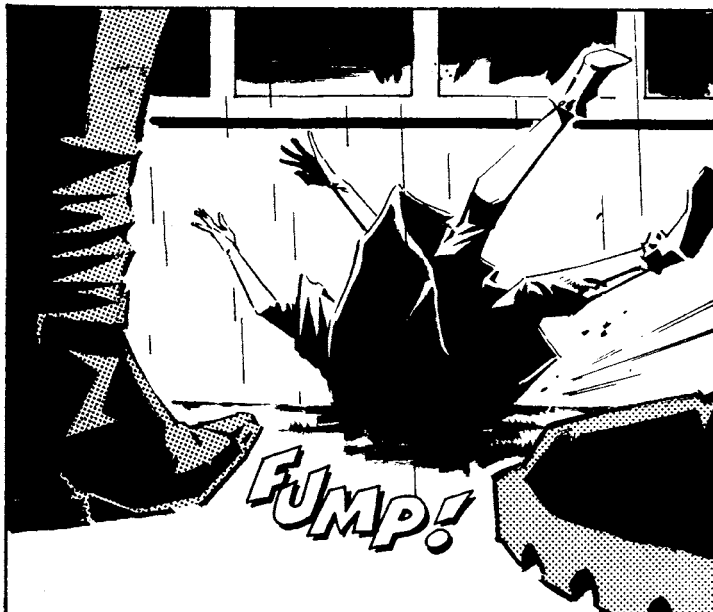
THERE. FLAMES BECOME BUTTERFLIES...

OAKMAN!

YAAAA!

PUT IT OUT! SOMEBODY PUT IT OUT!

SHE'S GONE!



IT WASN'T *HER* FAULT SHE WAS TAKEN OVER BY A LLOIGOR.

YOU MIGHT AT LEAST HAVE LEFT HER HEAD.

IF WE HADN'T ARRIVED WHEN WE DID, SHE'D HAVE KILLED YOU.

STOP COMPLAINING.

YES, BUT... WELL, I MEAN, THIS ISN'T THE WAY WE DO THINGS WHERE I COME FROM EITHER.

DON'T BE STUPID. OR IF YOU MUST BE STUPID, AT LEAST TRY TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

COULDN'T WE HAVE TRIED TO, WELL REHABILITATE HER..?

PICK HIM UP AND BRING HIM WITH US.

LISTEN, WHAT ABOUT ALL THESE PEOPLE? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST LEAVE THEM HERE?

CAN'T WE SET THEM FREE?

SET THEM FREE IF YOU WANT, BUT LET'S FACE IT - WHERE WILL THEY GO?

THE WHOLE WORLD BELONGS TO THE LLOIGOR NOW.

NOW.

WHICH WAY TO LONDON?

ZENITH

PHASE III
10

"CITY OF WOE"

ALTERNATIVE 666:
MARCH 13, 1989.

"YOU SAW WHAT THEY'D DONE TO CAUCASUSVILLE, BEN'S HOME TOWN — TOTAL SCORCHED EARTH.

"AND THEN, COMING INTO LONDON ON THE MI IT WAS LIKE THAT FILM SPARTACUS, WITH CORPSES THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE WAY.



"IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE ONLY THREE PEOPLE DID THIS TO THE WHOLE WORLD, YOU KNOW ?

"COURSE THE LLOIGOR PICKED THE MOST POWERFUL CRIME-FIGHTERS TO TAKE OVER. THE ONES THAT COULD WRESTLE WITH MOUNTAINS.

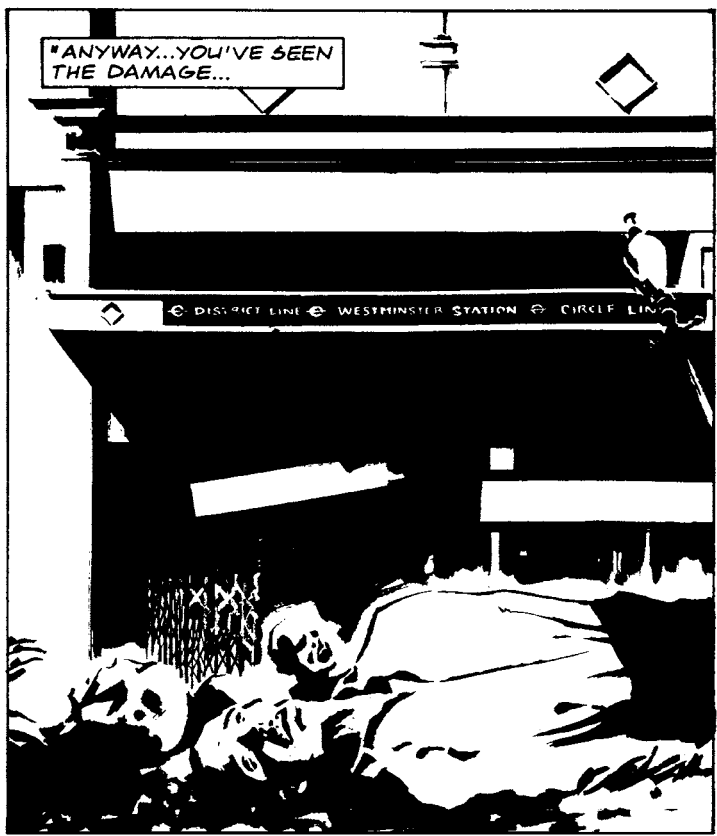


"I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE WAY THEY ALWAYS WORK. IT'S JUST THE BADNESS OF IT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND, YOU KNOW — THE PEOPLE FARMS AND THE DEATH RIDES IN THE MAGIC KINGDOM...

"THAT'S WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

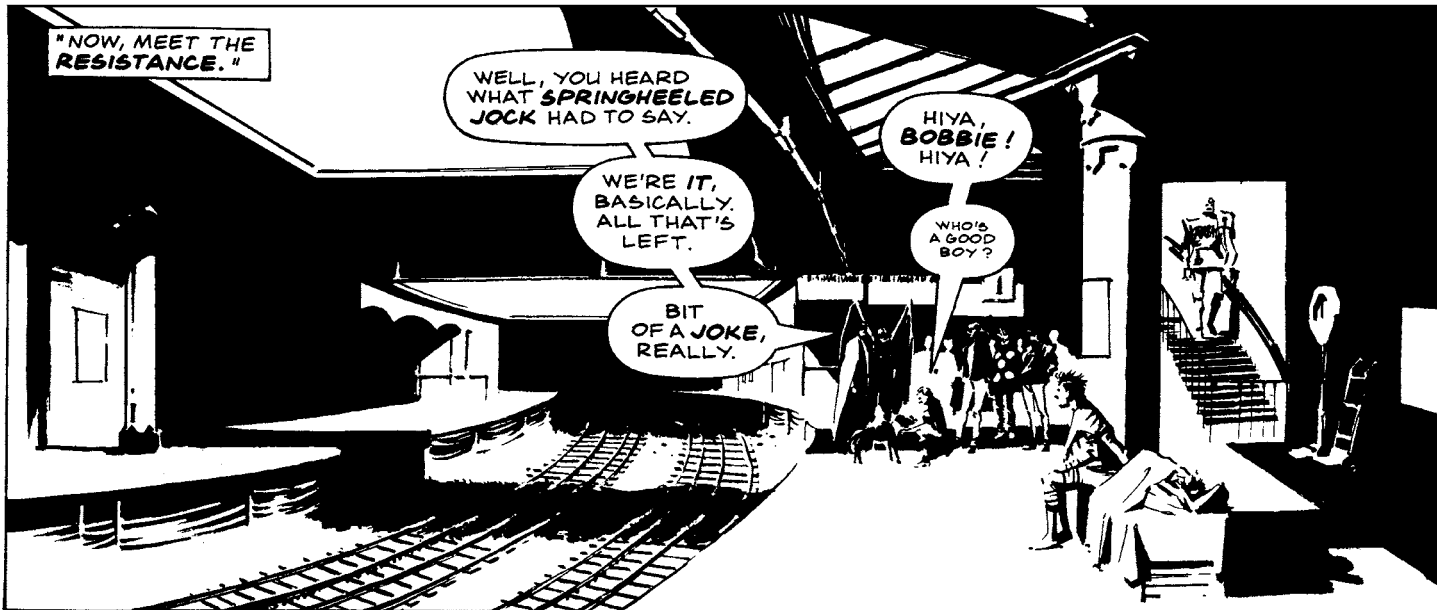


"ANYWAY...YOU'VE SEEN THE DAMAGE..."



WAD
AD

SCRIPT BY
GRANT MORRISON
ART BY
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING BY
KID ROBSON



"NOW, MEET THE RESISTANCE."

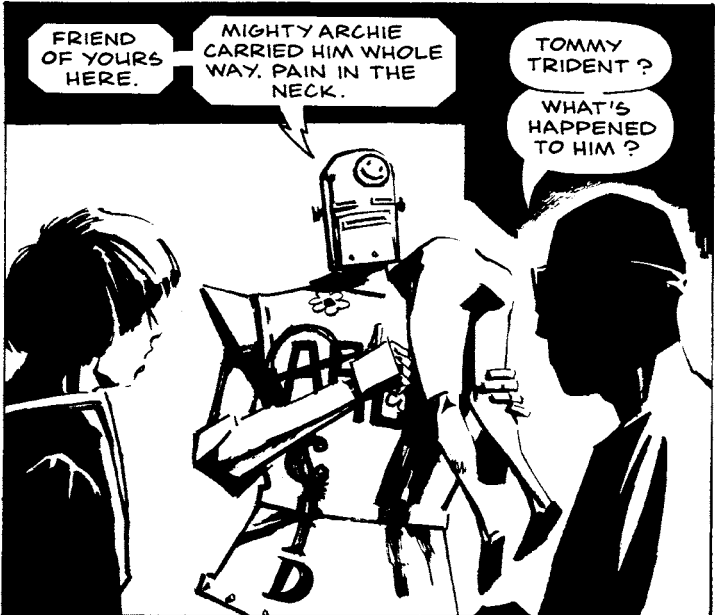
WELL, YOU HEARD WHAT **SPRINGHEELED JOCK** HAD TO SAY.

WE'RE IT, BASICALLY ALL THAT'S LEFT.

BIT OF A JOKE, REALLY.

HIYA, **BOBBIE!** HIYA!

WHO'S A GOOD BOY?



FRIEND OF YOURS HERE.

MIGHTY ARCHIE CARRIED HIM WHOLE WAY. PAIN IN THE NECK.

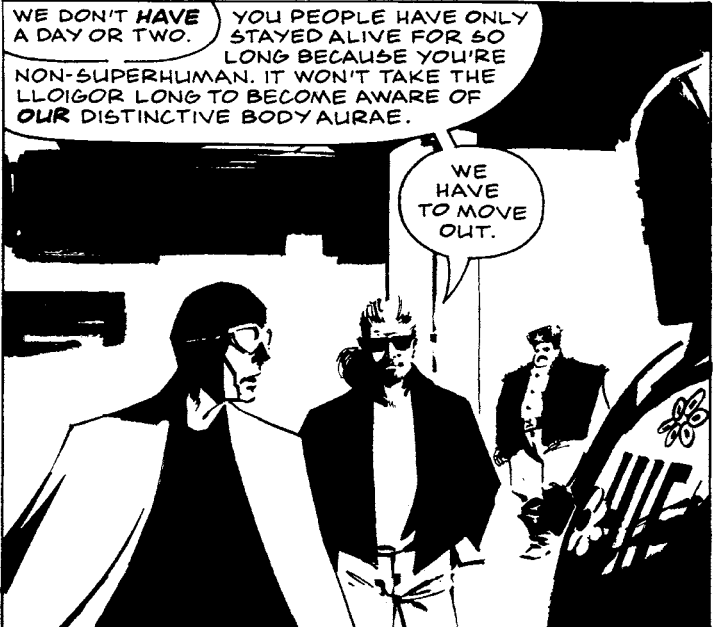
TOMMY TRIDENT?

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?



TOMMY MEETS LLOIGOR. BANG! TOO BAD FOR **TOMMY.**

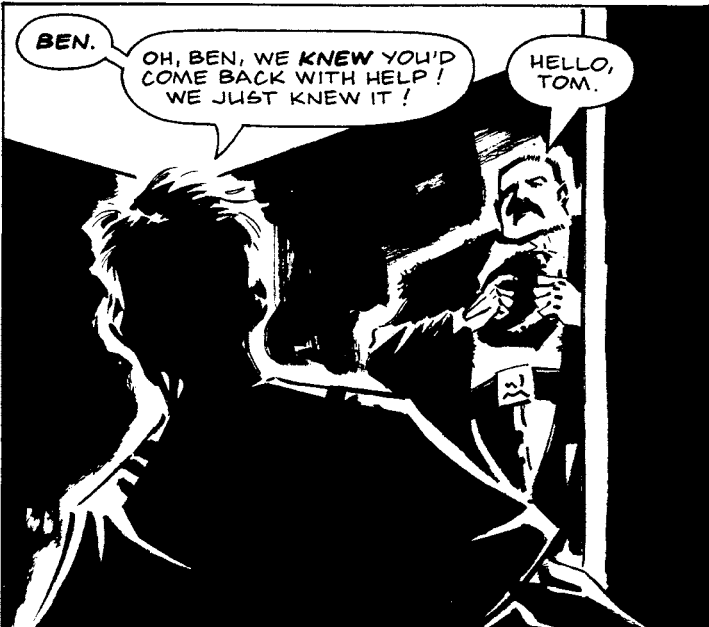
LISTEN, HIS BODY WILL PROBABLY **REPAIR** ITSELF. I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE. ALL HE NEEDS IS A DAY OR TWO...



WE DON'T **HAVE** A DAY OR TWO.

YOU PEOPLE HAVE ONLY STAYED ALIVE FOR SO LONG BECAUSE YOU'RE NON-SUPERHUMAN. IT WON'T TAKE THE **LLOIGOR** LONG TO BECOME AWARE OF OUR DISTINCTIVE BODY AURAE.

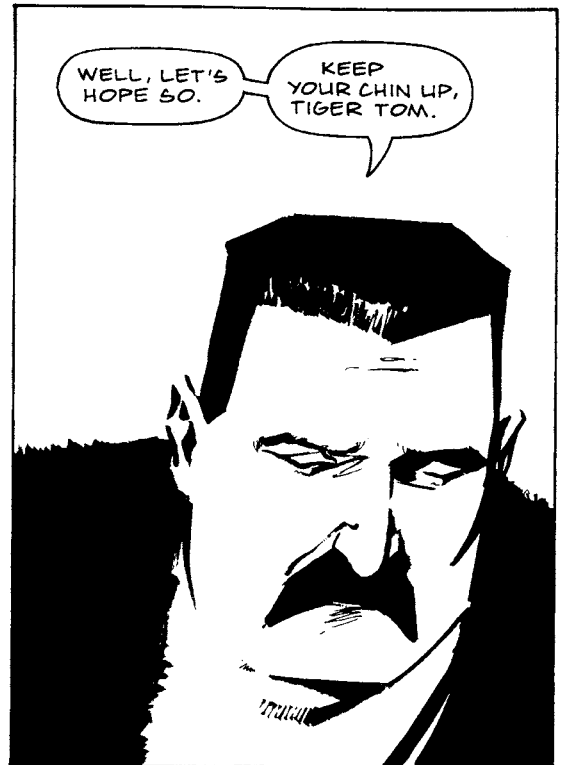
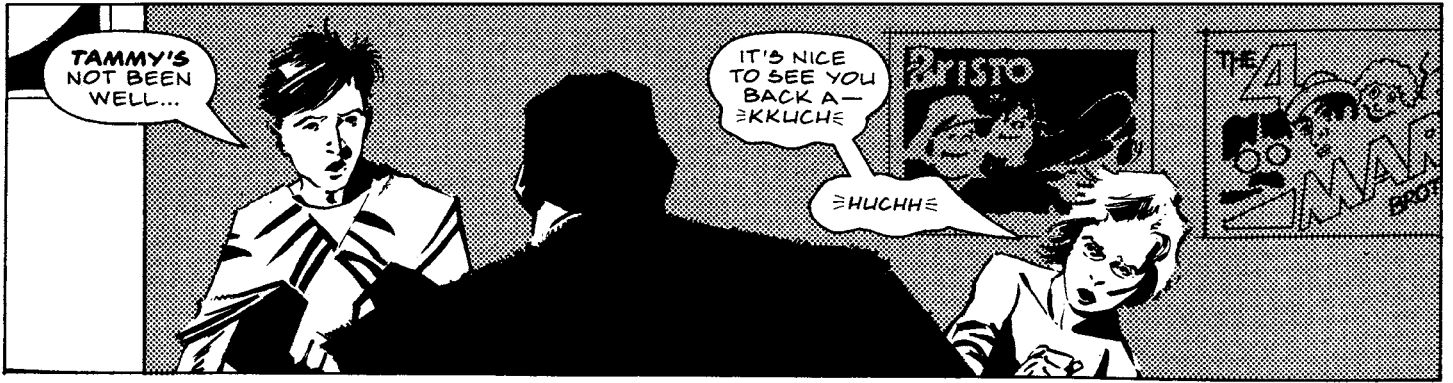
WE HAVE TO MOVE OUT.



BEN.

OH, **BEN,** WE **KNEW** YOU'D COME BACK WITH HELP! WE JUST **KNEW** IT!

HELLO, **TOM.**





ANTI

DEPRESSANTS.

ANTI-DEPRESSANTS? WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

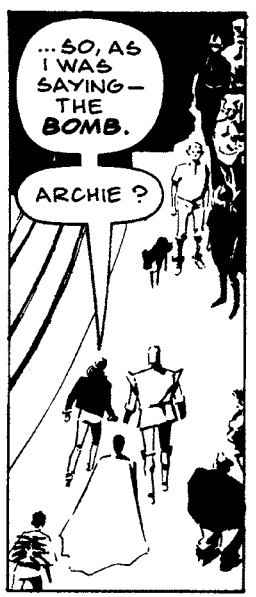


MY PROBLEM? MY WHOLE WORLD'S IN RUINS! I'VE LET EVERYONE DOWN, THAT'S ALL!

OH, THEY WON'T SAY, BUT I KNOW. A YEAR AGO, I PROMISED TO BRING BACK HELP. I'VE LET THEM ALL DOWN...

OH, STOP MOANING! THEY'RE LUCKY YOU CAME BACK AT ALL.

I WOULDN'T HAVE.



...SO, AS I WAS SAYING - THE BOMB.

ARCHIE?



ARCHIE GO BOMB CRAZY! BOOM!

YES, WELL...

THE CHAOSTRUCTOR WAS CREATED BY MAXIMAN AND THERE ARE ONLY TWO IN EXISTENCE.



THIS ONE, THIS LITTLE DEVICE IN MY HAND HAS DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES WHICH MAKE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR WEAPONS LOOK LIKE ROMAN CANDLES.

IT OPENS A HOLE INTO THE CHAOTHERIC - THE FUNDAMENTAL OCEAN OF PRIMAL CHAOS OUT OF WHICH REALITY IS UNFOLDED. ONCE THAT HOLE IS OPENED, CHAOS ENERGY IS SET FREE TO CONSUME THE WORLD...



HANG ON! LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DESTROYING THE WHOLE WORLD?

OUR WORLD?



YOUR WORLD NO LONGER EXISTS. THIS WORLD BELONGS TO THE LLOIGOR.

IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE DESTABILISE THE OMNIEDRON. THERE'S SIMPLY NO OTHER OPTION.



ALTERNATIVE 666:
MARCH 13, 1989.

CHUMMF!

PLOSH!

AARRHH!

AND WHAT DO
THEY CALL YOU,
LITTLE MAN?

SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ART
STEVE
YEOWELL
KID
ROBSON

THE
STEEL CLAW,
CREEP!

WRRRRRR!

AS ABOVE...

ZENITH

PHASE
III
11

"KILLING TIME"

30 BELOW.



WHAT A DISASTER!

WHAT A TOTAL DISASTER!



THE TUNNEL'S BLOCKED!

THE TUNNEL'S BLOCKED!

THE LLOIGOR ARE KILLING EVERYONE BACK THERE!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?



KIKKRENCH!

IT'S NOT BLOCKED NOW.



THERE'S SOMEBODY COMING AFTER US!

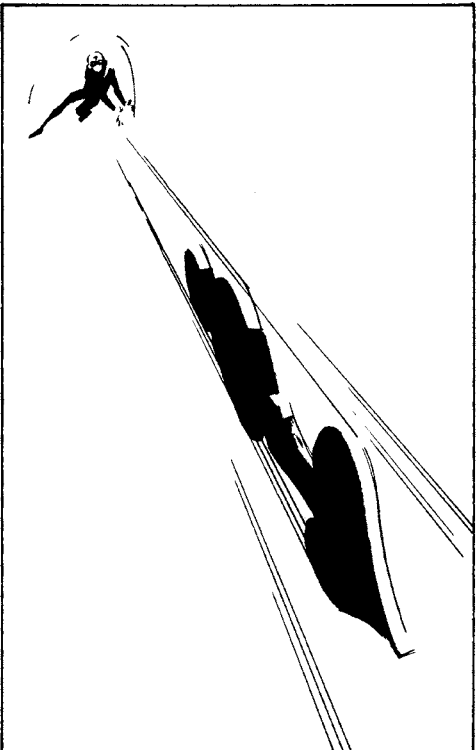
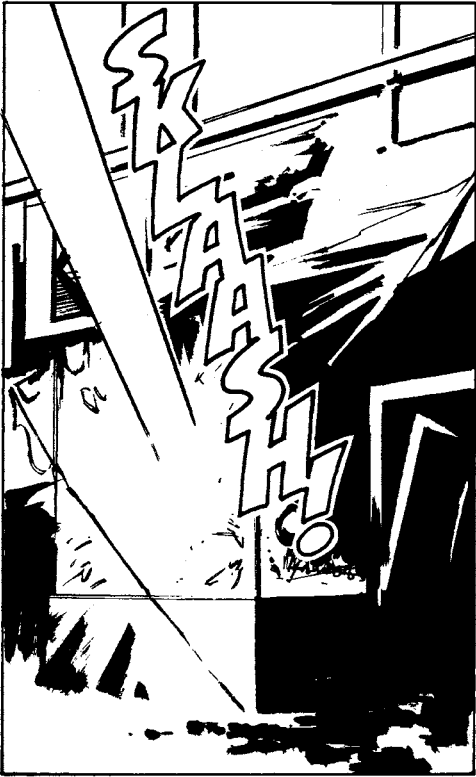
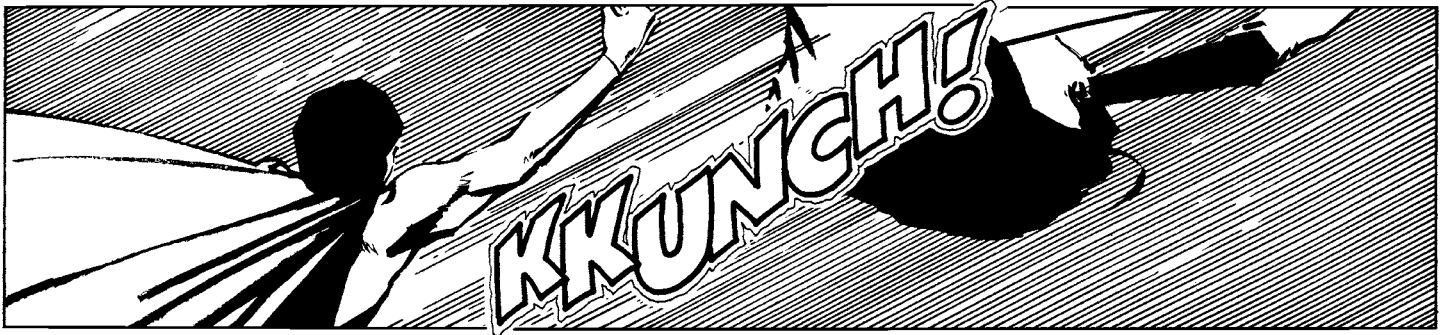
IT'S MR WHY!



OH CRUMBS, IT'S MR WHY!

IT'S MR WHY!





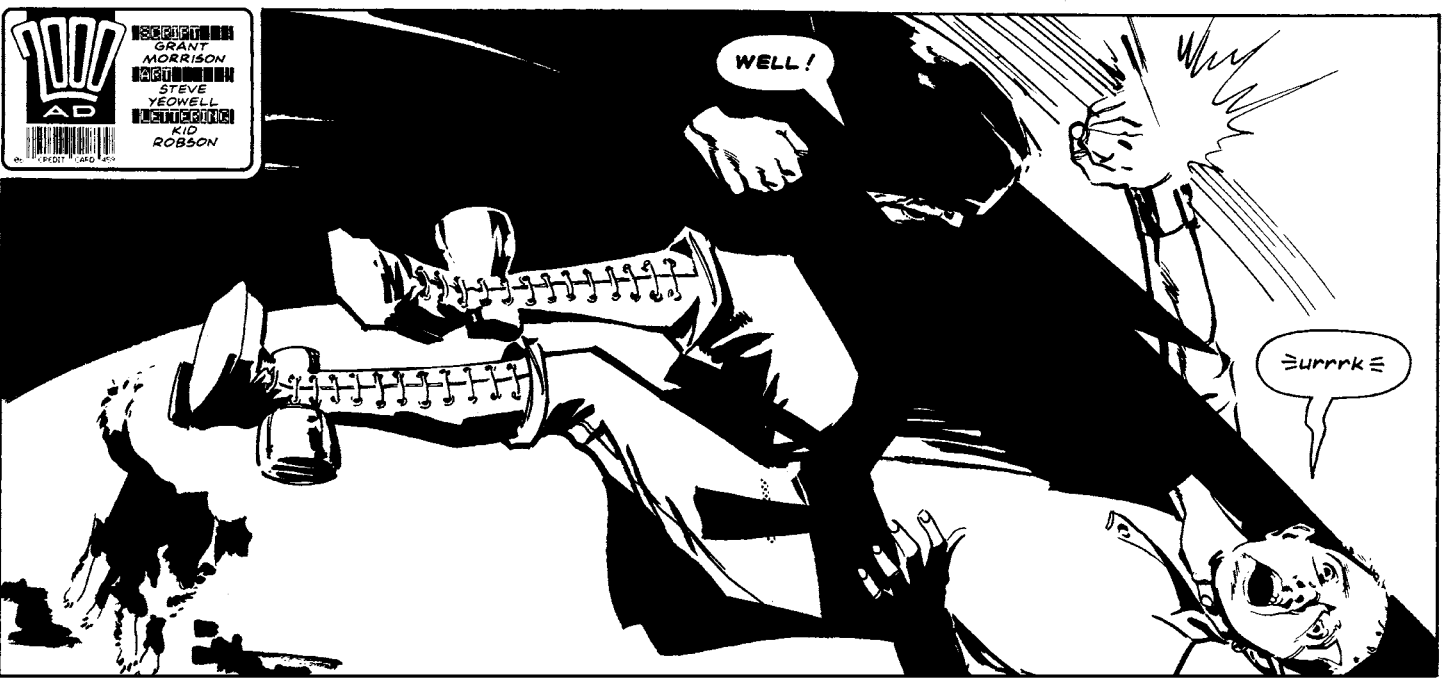


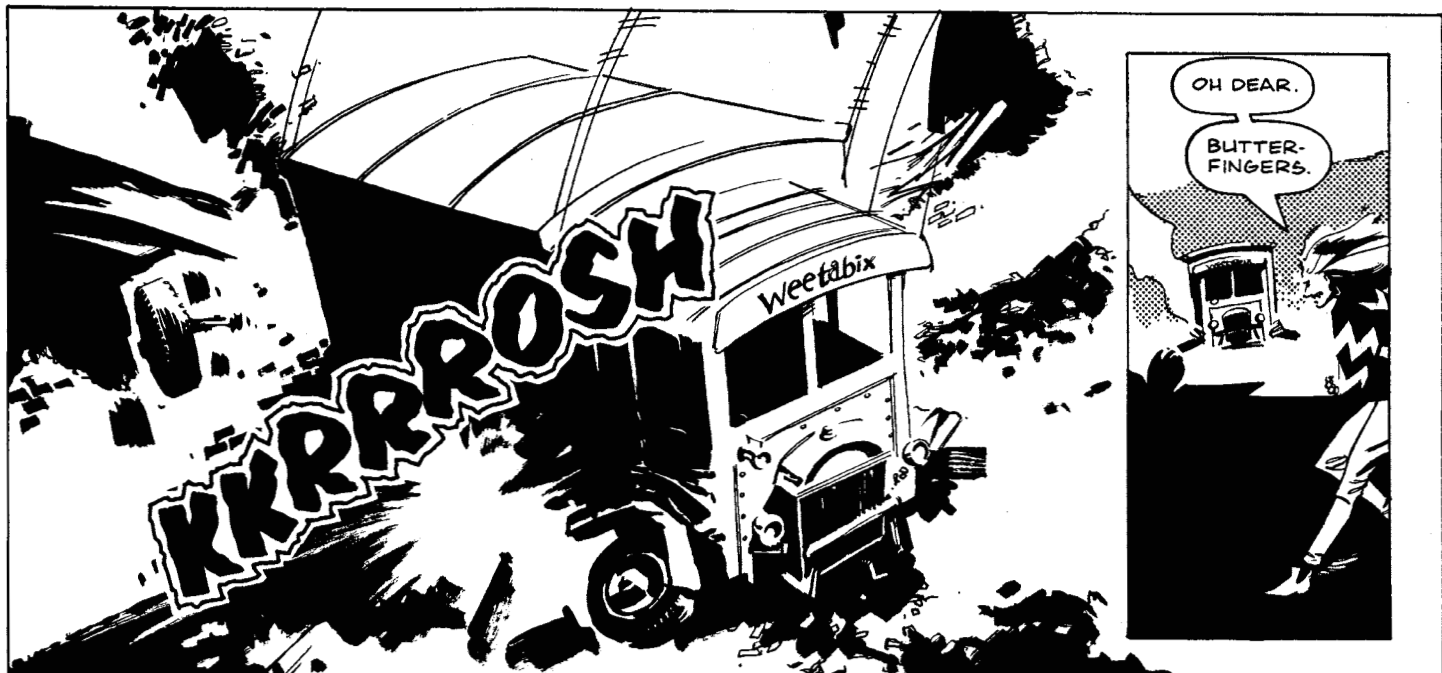




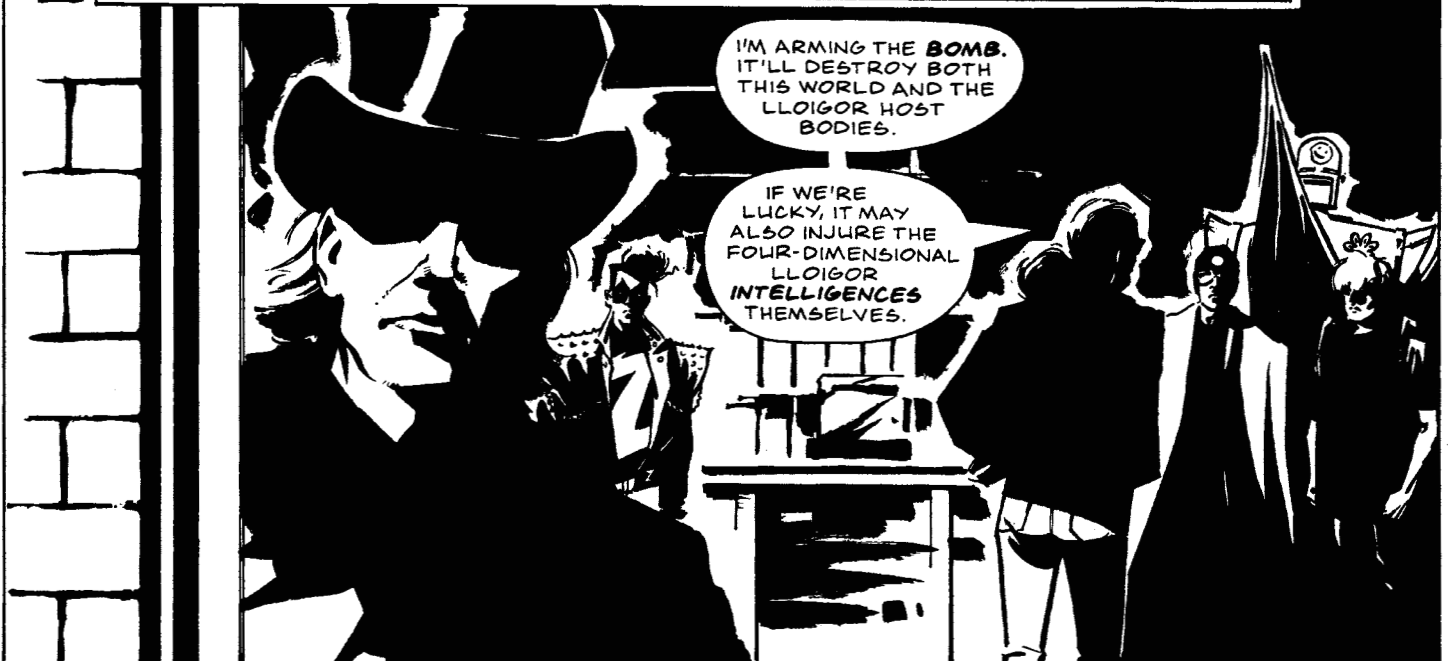
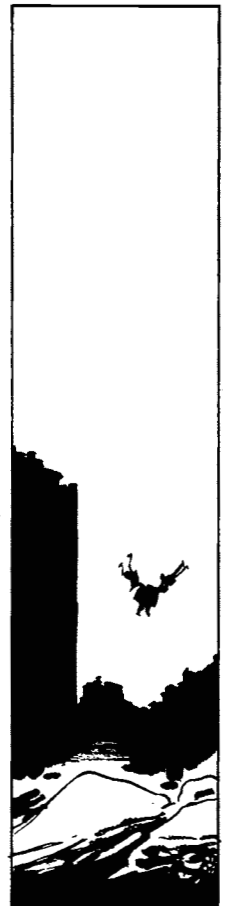
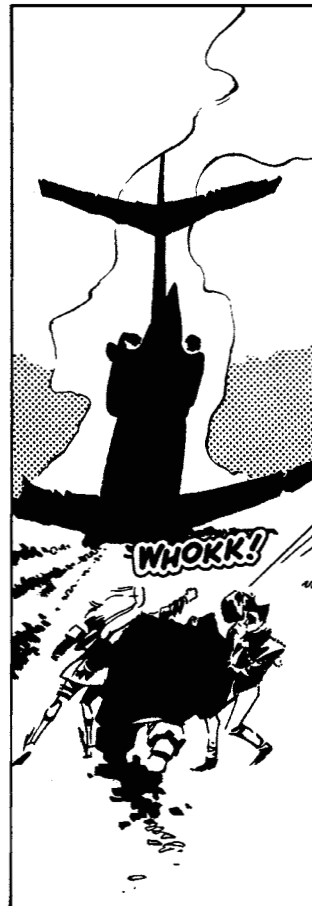
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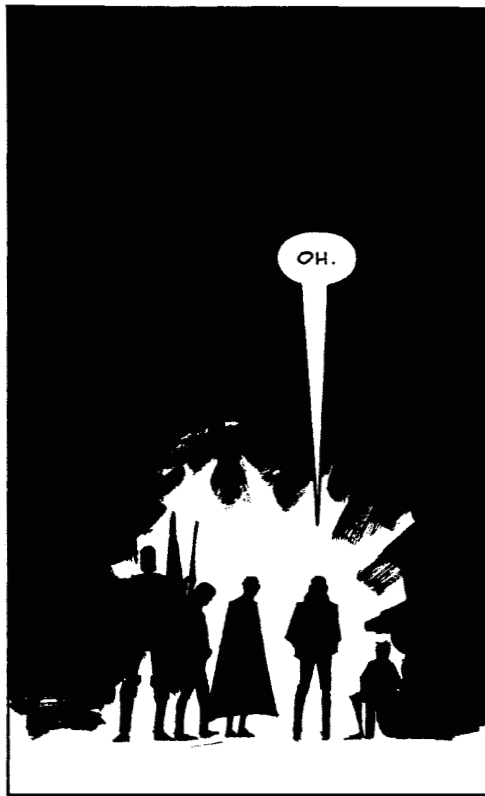
GRANT
MORRISON
STEVE
YEOWELL
KID
ROBSON











ZENITH

PHASE
III
13

"CHILDREN'S HOUR"

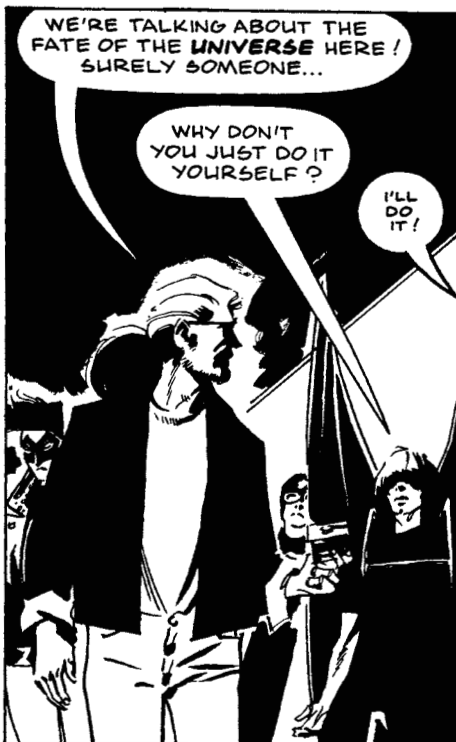


ALTERNATIVE 666:
MARCH 12, 1989.

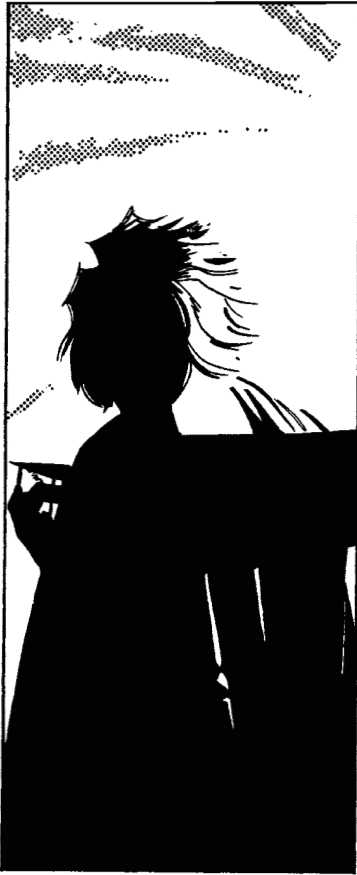
THE LLOIGOR WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE. THE BOMB'S TIMER DOESN'T WORK AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ATTEMPT A REPAIR.

SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO ACTIVATE IT MANUALLY.

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.







TAMMY ?

WUHH ?

IT'S OKAY. IT'S ME. IT'S TIGER TOM.

TOM ! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO...

I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU ON YOUR OWN.



NOT FOR ANYTHING.

OH, TOM, THAT'S STUPID... HOW CAN I SET THE BOMB OFF NOW..?

SHH. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

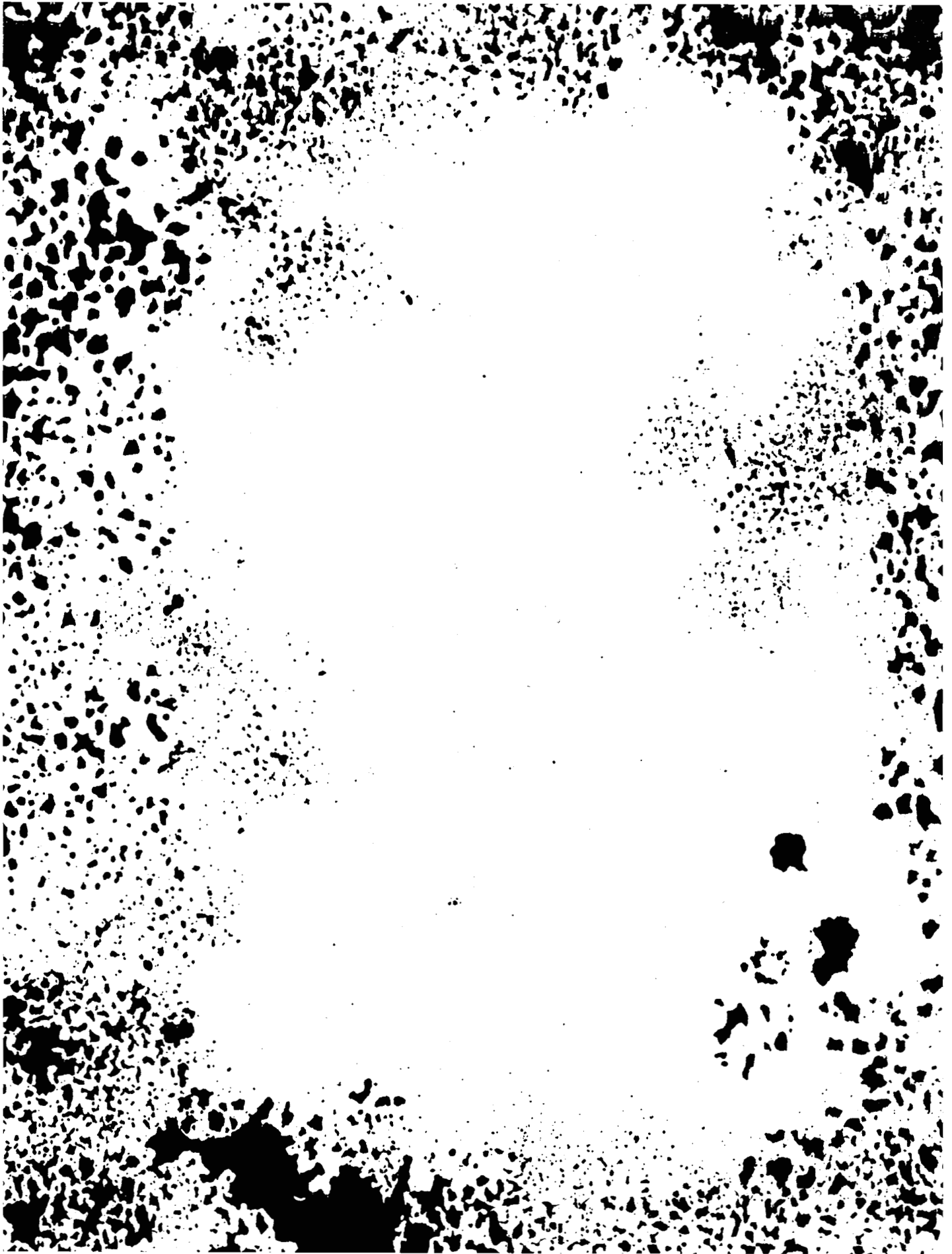


IT'S FUNNY HOW IT'S ALL ENDED UP WITH US, IN THIS PLACE.

JUST ME AND YOU AT THE END - TIGER TOM AND TAMMY.

YOU ALWAYS WERE MY FAVOURITE COUSIN.

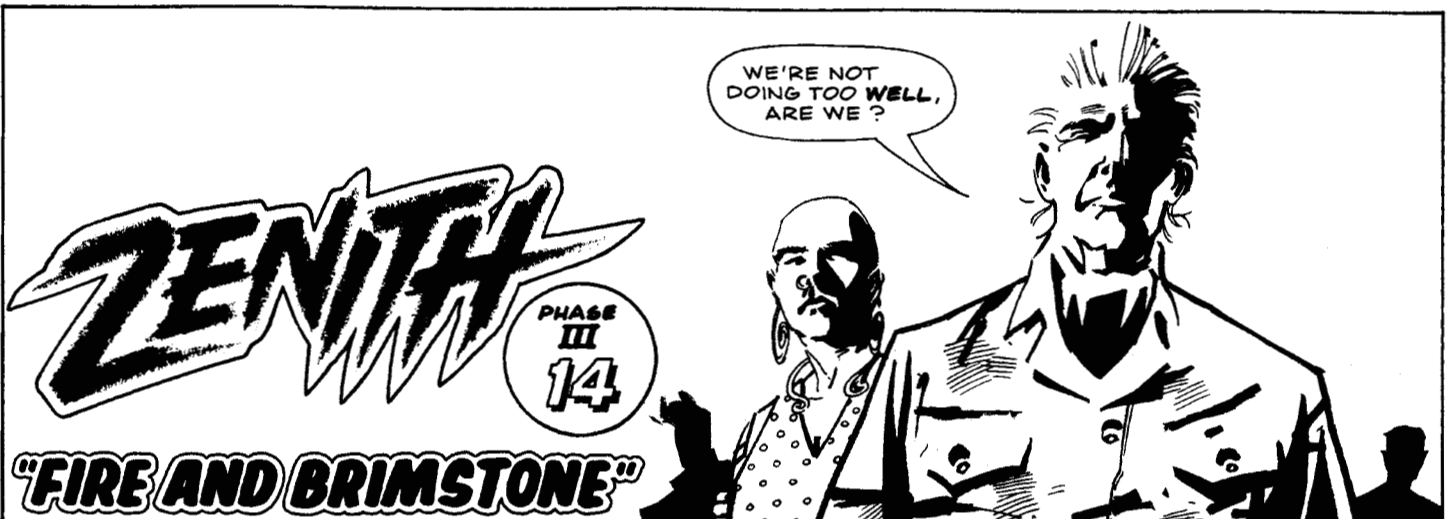




A LTERNATIVE 257:
MARCH 14, 1989.



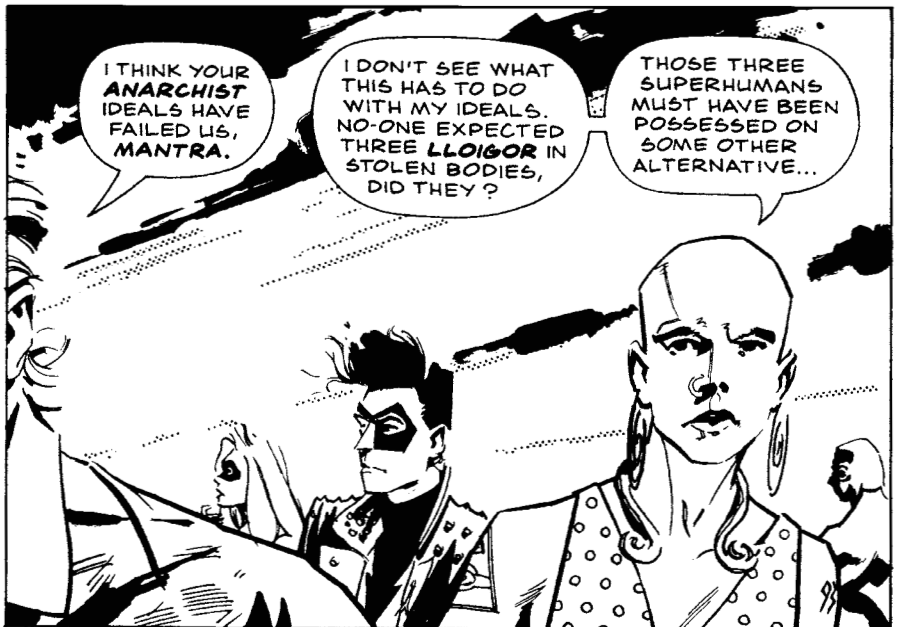
AD
SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YECWELL
COLORIST
KID
ROBSON





IN FACT, I'D CALL THIS A **SHAMBLES**. WE'VE BEEN HERE, WHAT, THREE DAYS? AND ALREADY MOST OF US ARE DEAD.

IN ADDITION, WE'VE MANAGED TO **LOSE** THE OTHERS.



I THINK YOUR **ANARCHIST** IDEALS HAVE FAILED US, **MANTRA**.

I DON'T SEE WHAT THIS HAS TO DO WITH MY IDEALS. NO-ONE EXPECTED THREE **LLOIGOR** IN STOLEN BODIES, DID THEY?

THOSE THREE SUPERHUMANS MUST HAVE BEEN POSSESSED ON SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVE...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY **MAXIMAN** DIDN'T SEE THIS...

I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT **ELECTROMAN**. IT'S JUST NOT LIKE HIM...

LISTEN, I'M SURE HE'LL BE OKAY. HE'S WITH **ACE** AND **CAPTAIN MIRACLE** AND THEY DON'T COME MUCH TOUGHER THAN THESE TWO.



YOU KNOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE **VERTEX**. HE'S SO NICE. WHY DIDN'T **ZENITH** TURN OUT LIKE THAT? THEY BOTH LOOK THE SAME...

RUBY? RUBY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT..?



WHAT, ME?

OH YES. UH-HUH.

I'M FINE. YES.

JUST TIRED. THAT'S ALL.



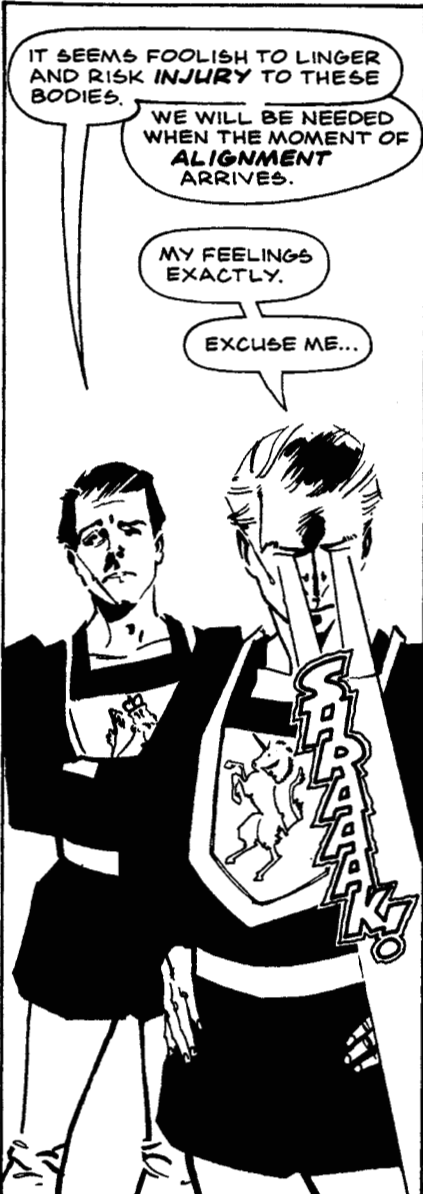
THAT'S ALL.

STREAMLINE, COME ON! YOU'RE DREAMING AGAIN!

IT'S JUST **HOTSPUR** AND THE OTHERS. I CAN'T HELP WONDERING WHAT'S HAPPENING...

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?







...AND I'M PICKING UP A LOT OF PANIC VIBRATIONS.

I THINK THE CATHEDRAL'S UP AHEAD SOMEWHERE. I THINK THAT'S WHERE SPOOK AND THE OTHERS ARE...

SOMEONE COMING!

THERE! LOOK!



SATAN'S IMPS! I'LL DESTROY YOU!

HOTSPUR, NO! YOU'LL BE PULLED INTO THE BRIDGE WITH THEM!

THERE.

TIME TO LEAVE, MR LION?

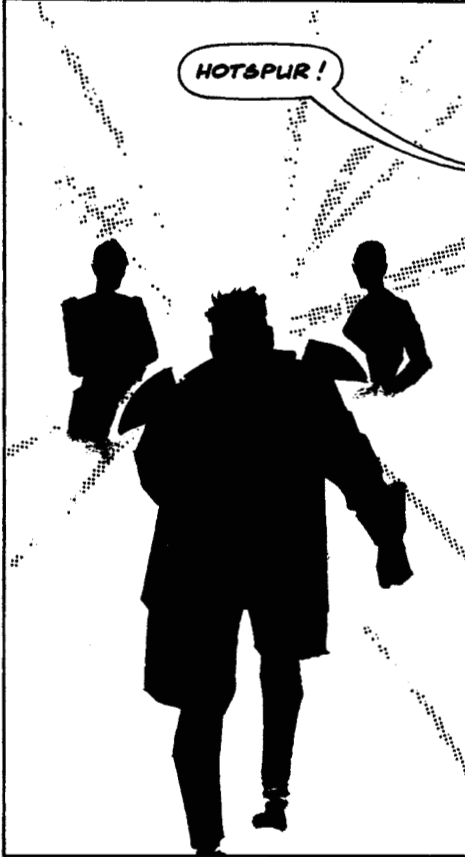
UNDOUBTEDLY, MR UNICORN.



SEE?

NO, WAIT! IT'S OKAY! IT'S ELECTROMAN!

IT'S ELECTROMAN!



HOTSPUR!



YES. IT'S ELECTROMAN.

AREN'T I GORGEOUS?



HOTSPURR!

AND HERE YOU ARE, LITTLE MAN. IN THE WORLD OF THE LLOIGOR.

IN THE LAND OF PAIN. IN THE MANY-ANGLED REALM.

WITH US.

SHUB-NIGGURATH, THE TERRIBLE NIGHT-GOAT.

HASTUR.

MAD AZATHOTH.



CTHULHU OF THE EYES.

IOK SOTOT.

YOU ARE BEYOND SPACE.

BEYOND TIME.

ALMIGHTY GOD

WHAT SHALL WE DO TO YOU ?

LITTLE MAN. LITTLE HOTSPUR.

PRESERVE ME

FATHER

HOLY

PRESERVE

GOD

LET ME

YOU!

LET ME DO IT TO HIM.

HOTSPUR ?

HELLO AGAIN.

IT'S YOU!

ZENITH

PHASE III 15

"SEEING THE LIGHT"

ALTERNATIVE 257:
MARCH 14, 1989.

...WHAT ABOUT RUBY AND PETER? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

COME ON SPOOK! THEY'RE PROBABLY DEAD!

WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!

I'M ACTIVATING THE BOMB, ALL RIGHT?

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. WHY ISN'T MY BELT WORKING?

WHAT?

MY MAGIC BELT. IT'S SUPPOSED TO ENDOW THE WEARER WITH THE "MIGHT AND MAGIC OF THOR", YOU SEE. IT ONLY WORKS FOR THE PURPOSES OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE AND...

AND WELL, IT'S NOT WORKING.

WHY ISN'T IT WORKING?

HEY!

THE LLOIGOR GOT AWAY!

THE LLOIGOR GOT AWAY! THEY'VE TAKEN HOTSPUR!

THEY PULLED HIM WITH THEM THROUGH A BRIDGE!

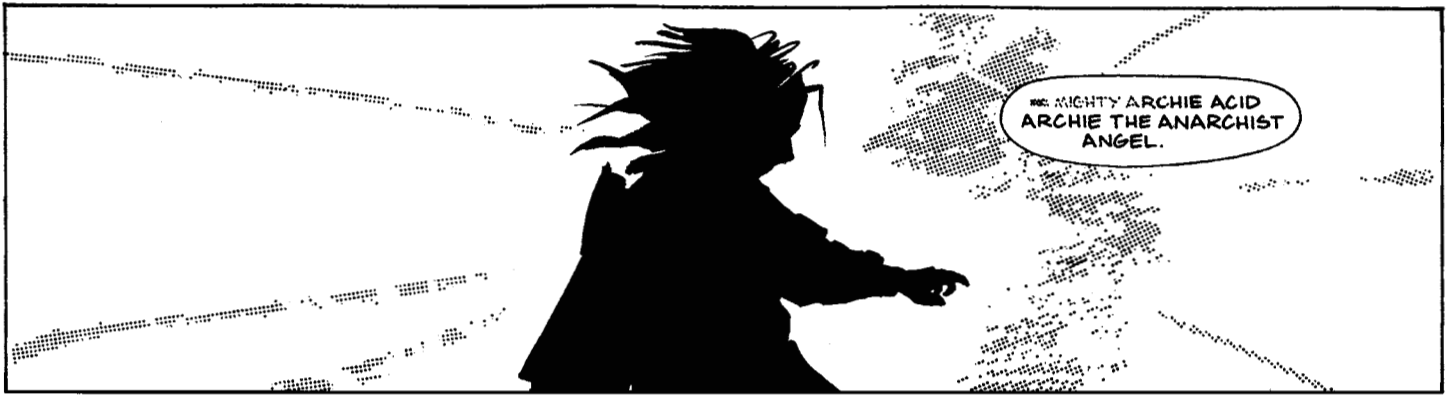
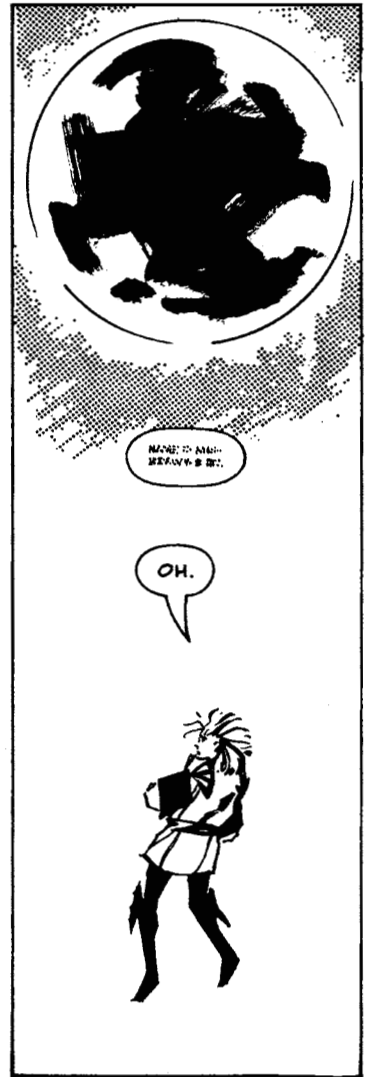
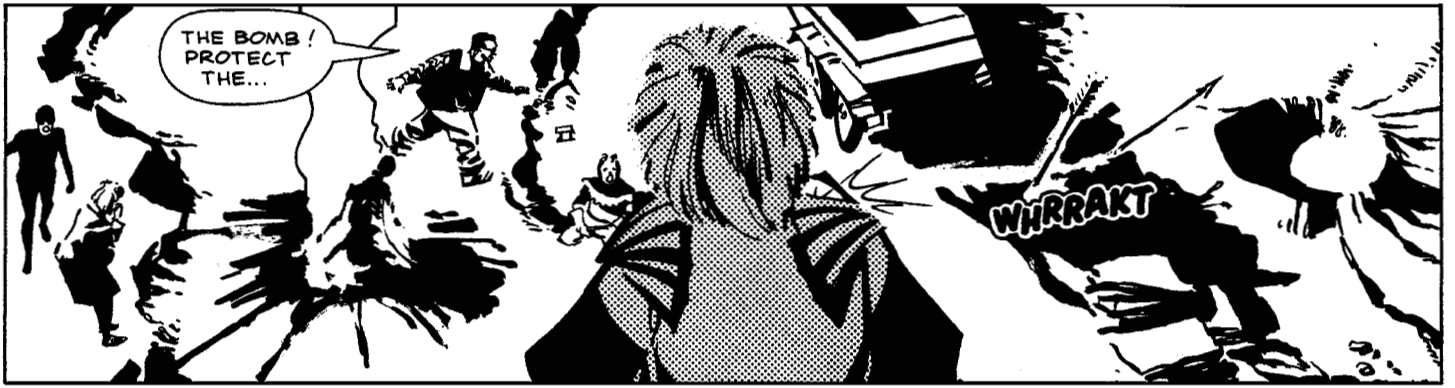
THEY'VE WHAT?

THAT'S RIGHT. ONE MINUTE HE WAS...

OH GOD. LOOK.

IS THIS A PRIVATE PARTY?





**MAD
MENTAL
CRAZY!**



ZENITH

PHASE III

16

"JUDGEMENT DAY"

ALTERNATIVE 257:
MARCH 14, 1989.



WELL ?

AD
SCOTT GRANT
MORRISON
STEVE YEOWELL
KID ROBSON

AREN'T YOU PLEASED TO SEE ME WITH MY NEW SOUL ? MY LLOIGOR SOUL ?

WELL AREN'T YOU ?



I CAN DO ANYTHING NOW. ALL THE AWFUL THINGS I'VE EVER DREAMED OF DOING...

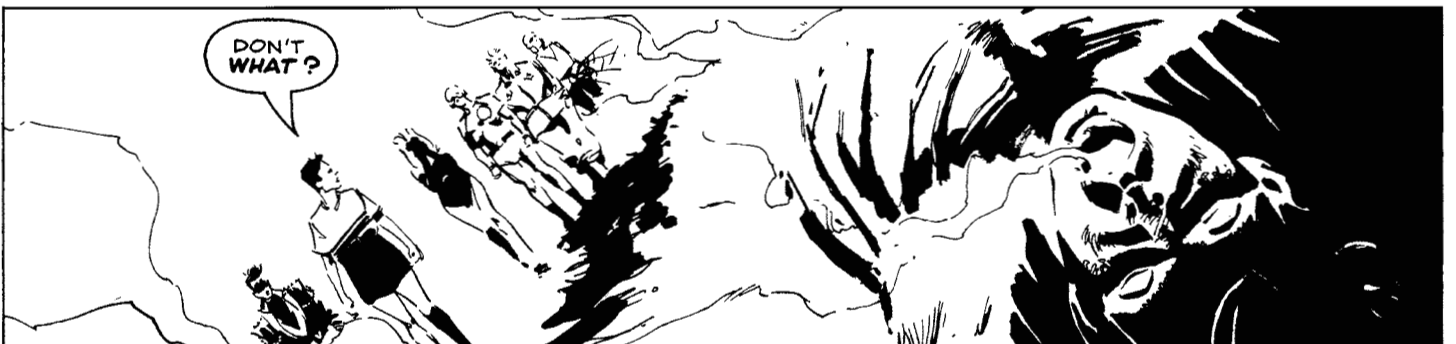
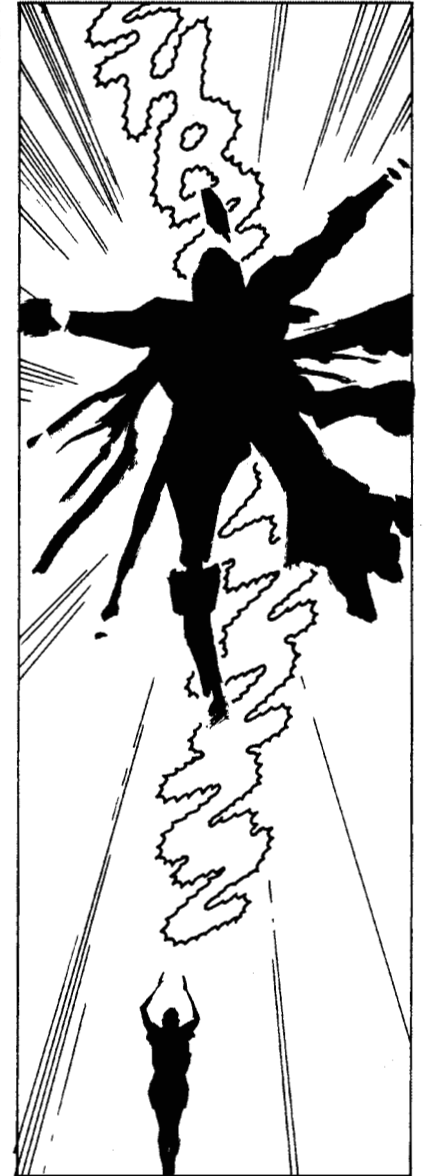
ELECTROMAN, DON'T LET THEM DO THIS TO YOU ! THEY'RE CONTROLLING YOUR MIND...

ELECTROMAN, IT'S ME. IT'S ELECTROGIRL.



WELL, SO IT IS !

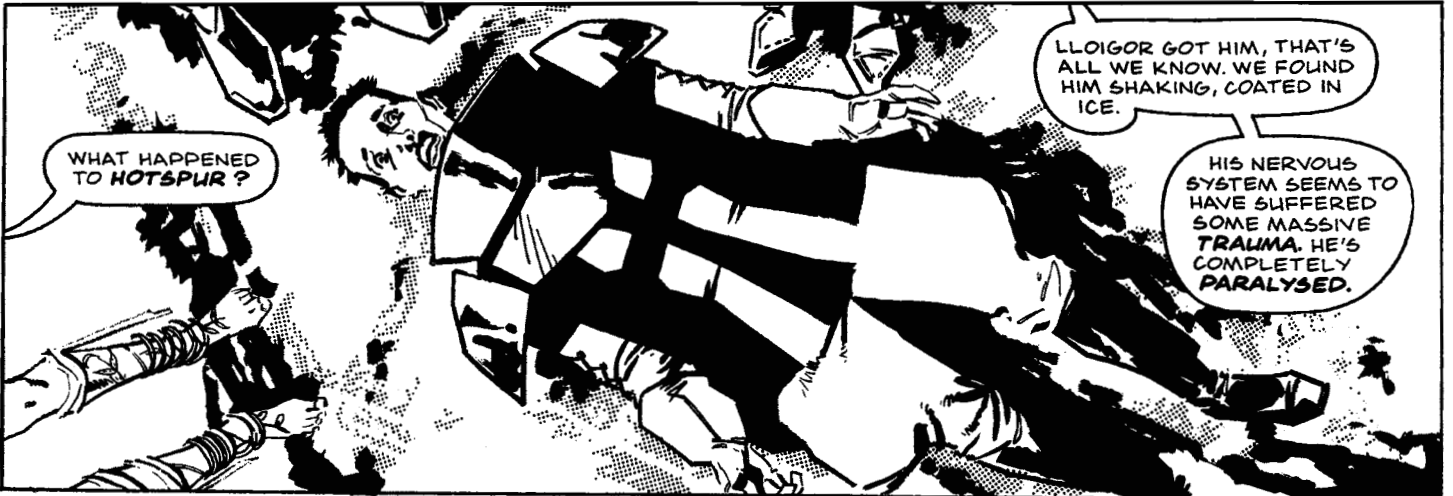






...SO THEN ARCHIE TURNS UP, MAN, ON THE BACK OF A **DINOSAUR** FROM ALTERNATIVE 303, YOU KNOW?

AND HERE WE ARE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO **HOTSPUR**?

LLOIGOR GOT HIM, THAT'S ALL WE KNOW. WE FOUND HIM SHAKING, COATED IN ICE.

HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE SUFFERED SOME MASSIVE **TRAUMA**. HE'S COMPLETELY **PARALYSED**.



ANYWAY. TIME WE WERE GONE. WE MANAGED TO HURT THE **WYVERN**, BUT HE'S STILL OUT THERE AND I DON'T THINK HE'S **HAPPY**, YOU KNOW?

THE BOMB'S READY IF EVERYONE ELSE IS...



LISTEN, WASN'T THERE SOMEONE..?

SHH!

I'M ERECTING A **BRIDGE**.



BUT I'M SURE THERE WAS...

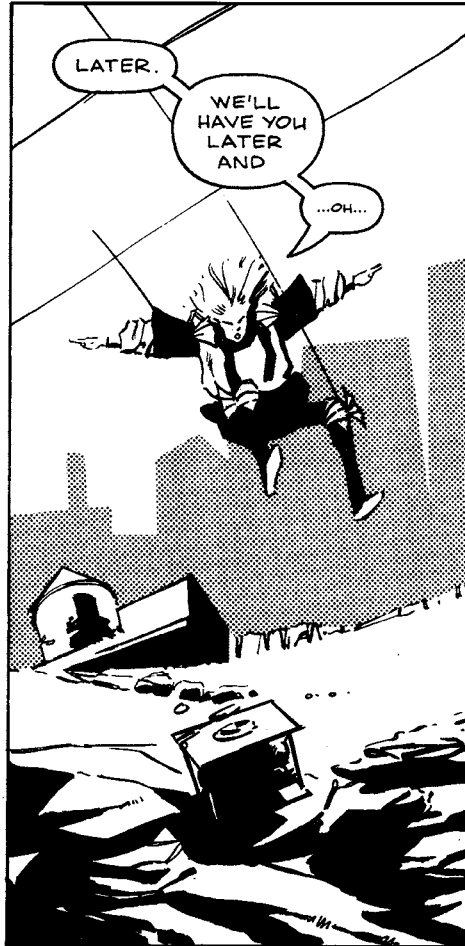
LOOK!

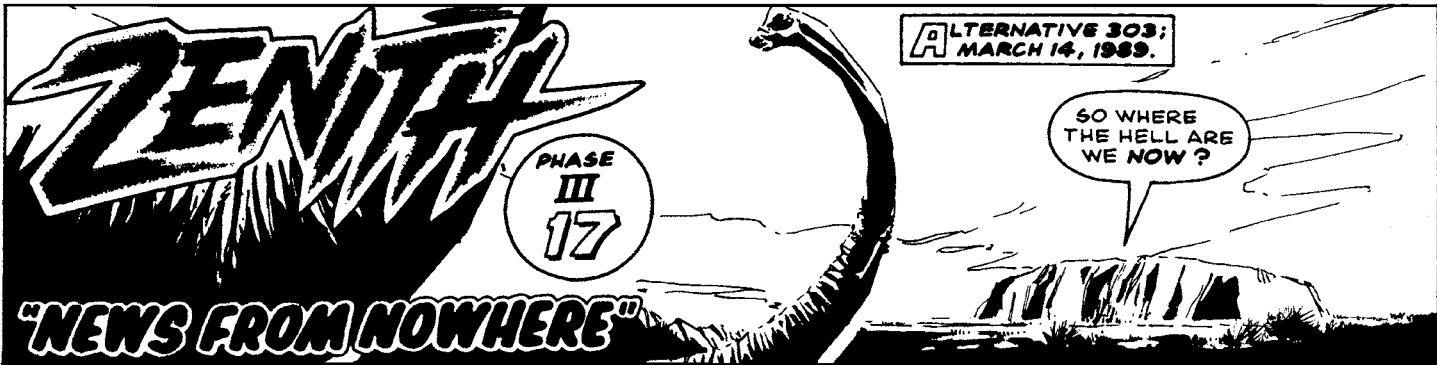
OVER THERE!



IT'S THE **WYVERN**!

BOMB GOES OFF IN TWO MINUTES. EVERYBODY OUT.





ALTERNATIVE 303: MARCH 14, 1989.

SO WHERE THE HELL ARE WE NOW?

PHASE III
17

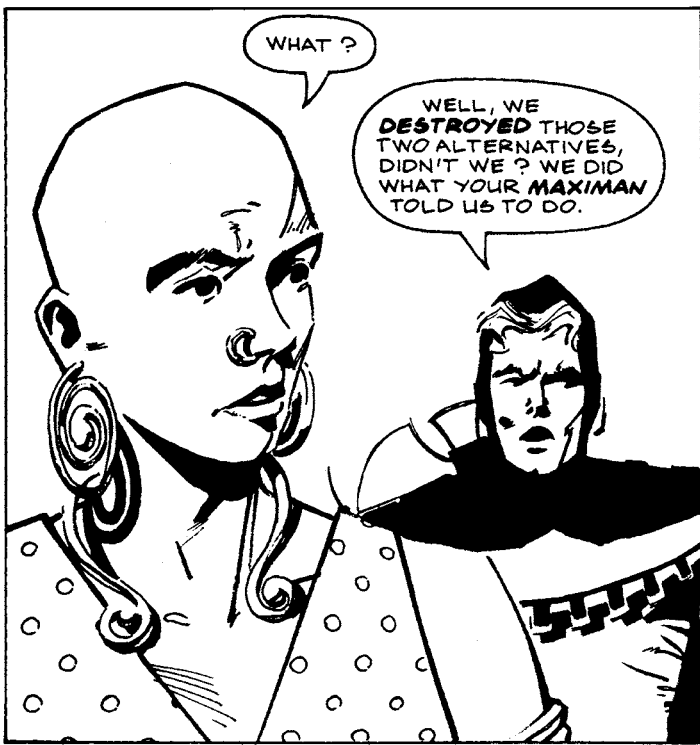
"NEWS FROM NOWHERE"



ALTERNATIVE 303. NO SUPERHUMANS HERE. THE LLOIGOR DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT YET.

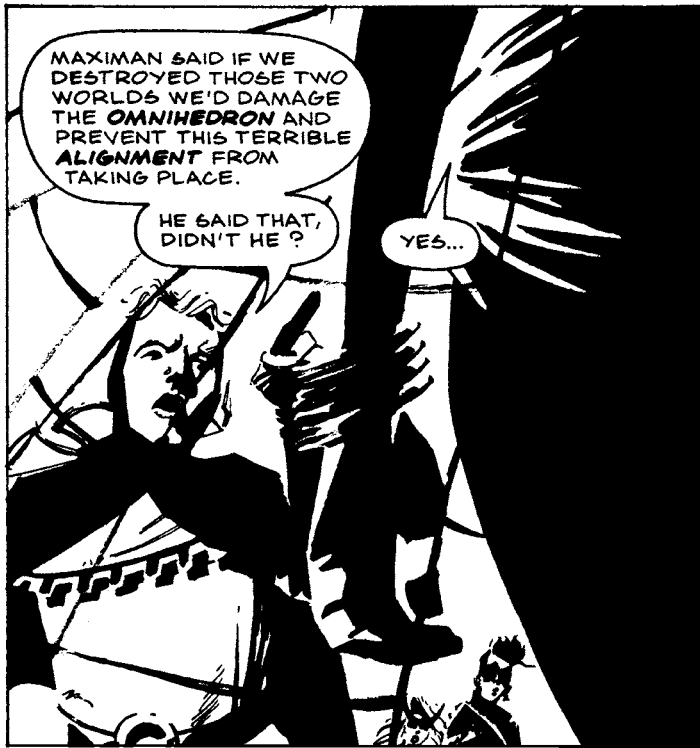
IT SEEMED LIKE THE BEST BOLTHOLE.

BUT HAVE WE SAVED THE UNIVERSE?



WHAT?

WELL, WE DESTROYED THOSE TWO ALTERNATIVES, DIDN'T WE? WE DID WHAT YOUR MAXIMAN TOLD US TO DO.



MAXIMAN SAID IF WE DESTROYED THOSE TWO WORLDS WE'D DAMAGE THE OMNIEDRON AND PREVENT THIS TERRIBLE ALIGNMENT FROM TAKING PLACE.

HE SAID THAT, DIDN'T HE?

YES...

 SCRIPT BY GRANT MORRISON ART BY STEVE YEOWELL EDITOR KID ROBSON





...AND WHAT ABOUT HIM? CAN ANYTHING BE DONE FOR HOTSPUR?

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT, I'M AFRAID.



IT'S COMPLETE PARALYSIS. NOT TOO GOOD.

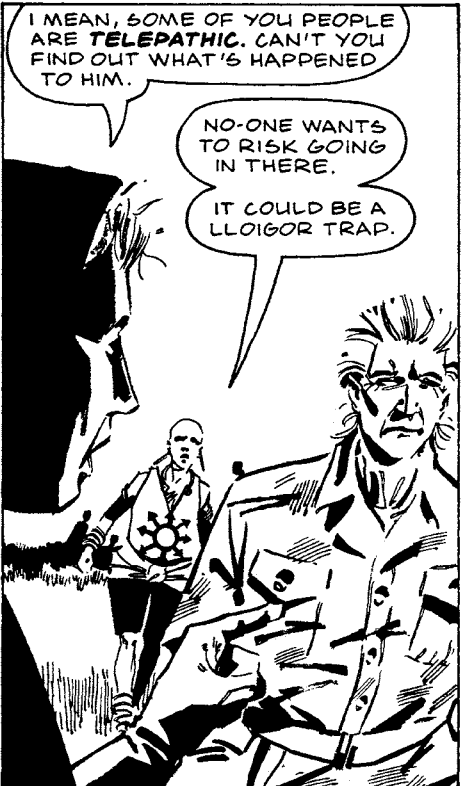
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING, ZENITH... HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH ANY REAL GUTS, YOU KNOW THAT?



I'M NOT ZENITH, I'M VERTEX, FROM ALTERNATIVE 300.

I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE!

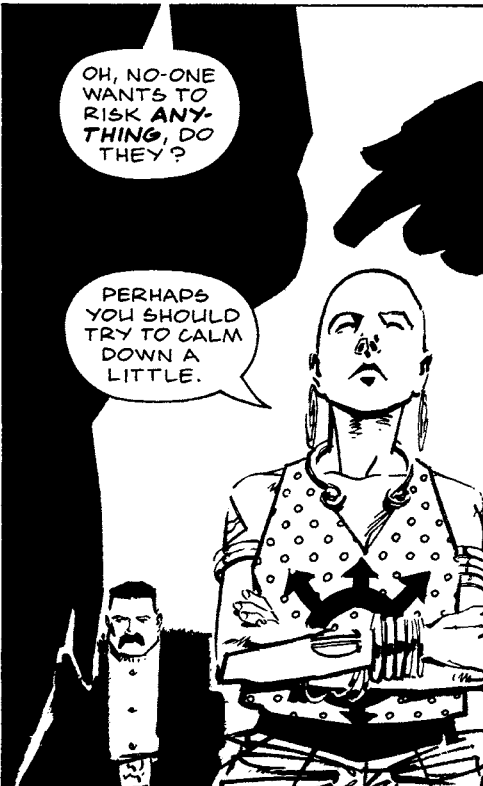
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH ANY GUTS.



I MEAN, SOME OF YOU PEOPLE ARE TELEPATHIC. CAN'T YOU FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM.

NO-ONE WANTS TO RISK GOING IN THERE.

IT COULD BE A LLOIGOR TRAP.



OH, NO-ONE WANTS TO RISK ANYTHING, DO THEY?

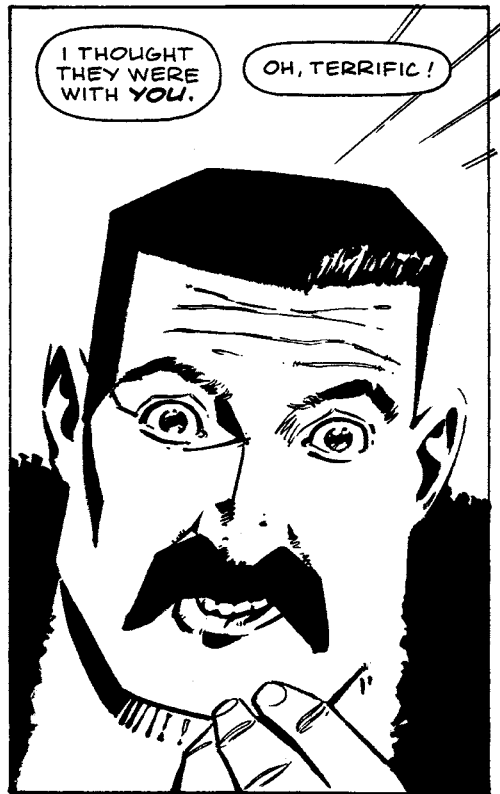
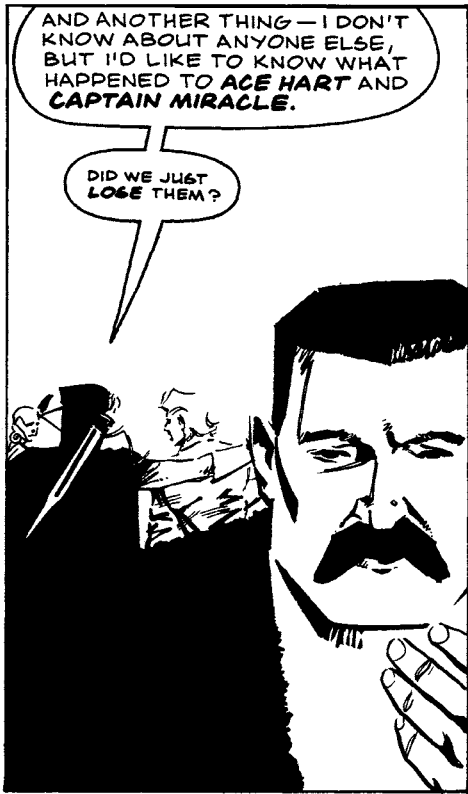
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TRY TO CALM DOWN A LITTLE.



CALM DOWN?

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLOODY WAR THAT NOBODY SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND!

CALM DOWN?





ZENITH

PHASE III
18

"WOLF IN THE FOLD"

ALTERNATIVE 303:
MARCH 14, 1989.



SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ART
STEVE
YEOWELL
KID
ROBSON



YEAH. BEN SAW HOTSPUR'S EYES BEFORE HE DIED. HE WAS BLINKING IN MORSE CODE.

MAXIMAN'S ON THE SIDE OF THE LLOIGOR!

I KNEW HE WASN'T TO BE TRUSTED WHEN I SAW UP HIS CLOAK...



WHO ELSE KNOWS ABOUT THIS?

BEN. YOU. ME.



SOMEONE AMONG US IS WORKING WITH MAXIMAN. THAT'S WHY THE LLOIGOR HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECOND GUESS US AT EVERY TURN.

COULD YOU SEND MANTRA OVER? I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HER.



MANTRA?

YEAH, OKAY.



MANTRA? YOU SURE?

YES.

I'M SURE.



DAMN.



...HOTSPUR AT LEAST DESERVES CREMATION. I MEAN, WE MUST HAVE SOME PYROKINETICS HERE...

LOOK, JUST DO WHAT YOU LIKE! I'M NOT...

MANTRA!

ST JOHN WANTS A WORD WITH YOU.



OH, WHAT NOW?

YOU'RE TELEPATHIC. YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.



ZENITH!
ZENITH!

WE STILL HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK...

I KNOW ISN'T IT BRILLIANT?



OH, YOU'RE A HARD MAN, ZENITH.

WELL... THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY, ANYWAY...



I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT IF IT'S TRUE.

WELL?

HAVE YOU TOLD HIM?



YEAH, I TOLD HIM.

WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS DOING? ASKING FOR THE TIME?

NO... I MEAN... WELL, WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?





WHAT'S GOING ON..?

DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO SEND ANY TELEPATHIC ALARMS BACK TO AXIS MUNDI. WE'VE JUST LOCKED YOUR PINEAL DOOR.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

THIS IS INSANE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!



MAXIMAN. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MAXIMAN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BEGIN?



I WON'T TELL YOU ANYTHING!

I WON'T!



OH, YOU WILL.

I THINK YOU'LL TELL US EVERYTHING.

ALTERNATIVE 303:
MARCH 14, 1989.

FOR GOODNESS' SAKE! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AD
SCRIPTED BY GRANT MORRISON
ART BY STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING BY KID ROBSON

MAXIMAN IS WORKING FOR THE LLOIGOR! YOU'VE BEEN WORKING FOR MAXIMAN.

WE WANT THE TRUTH AND WE WANT IT NOW.

ZENTH

PHASE III
19

"SHAMING THE DEVIL"

THEY'RE GOING TO WIN! THE LLOIGOR ARE GOING TO WIN!

MAXIMAN'S WORKING FOR THE LLOIGOR? I KNEW IT! BLOODY KNEW IT!

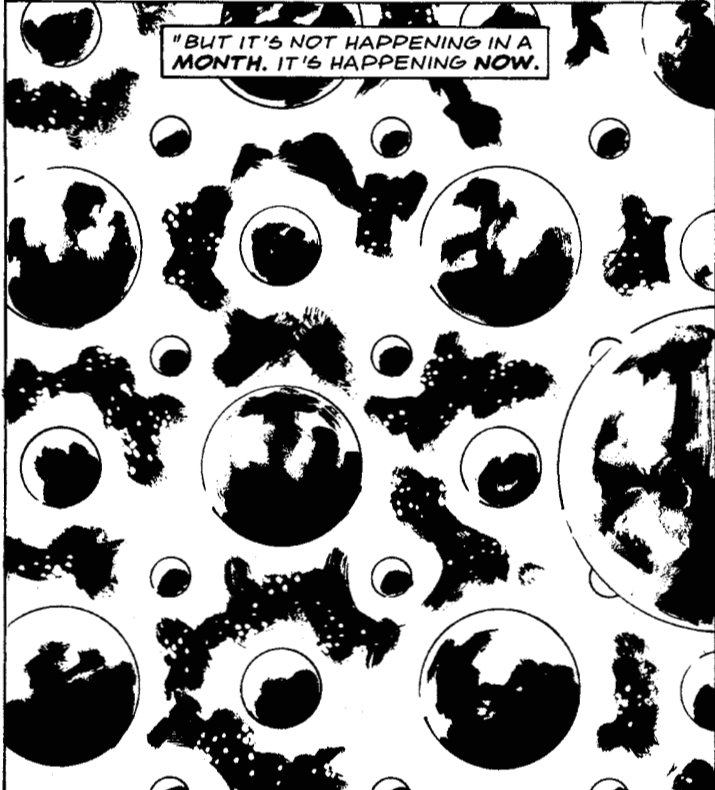
WE CAN'T STOP THEM! EITHER WE JOIN THEM OR THEY DESTROY US ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO!

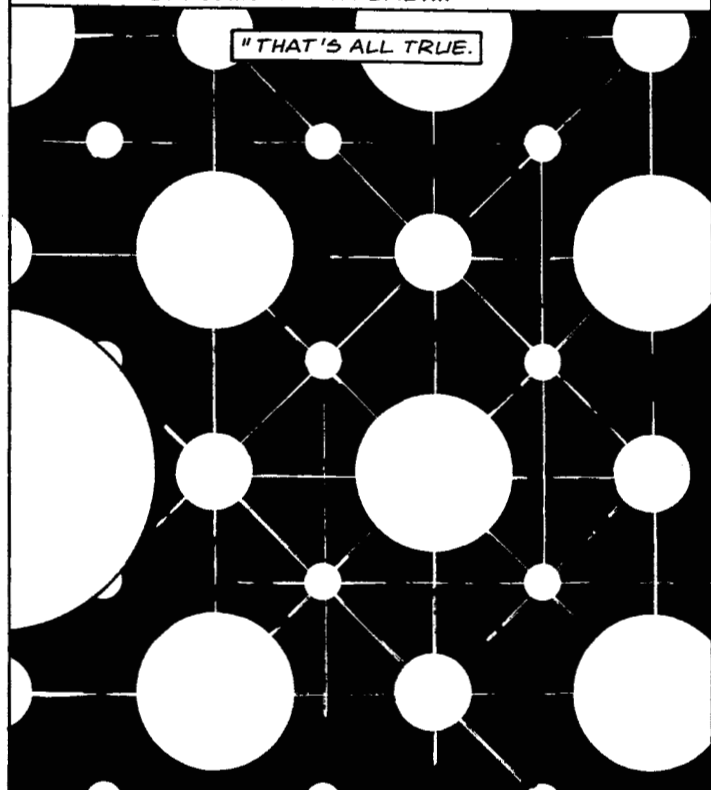
THEN TELL US, MAN.



"HE WASN'T LYING WHEN HE SAID THAT THE ALIGNMENT WAS A SUPER-DIMENSIONAL ARRANGEMENT OF ALTERNATE WORLDS. THAT BIT WAS TRUE.



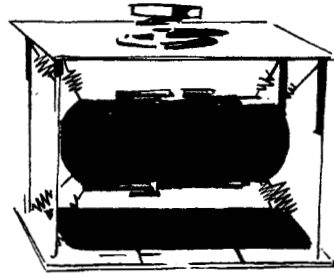
"AT THE MOMENT OF ALIGNMENT, THE ALTERNATIVES WILL FORM THE OMNIHEDRON - A CRYSTAL STRUCTURE ...I...CAN'T EXPLAIN IT PROPERLY...



"BUT HE LIED ABOUT THE **BOMBS**. HE LIED ABOUT THE **CHAOSTRUCTORS**. HE TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAD TO DESTROY TWO WORLDS IN ORDER TO CREATE A **FLAW** IN THE OMNIHEDRON.

"HE SAID THAT...THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO **DAMAGE** THE CRYSTAL..."

"IT'S NOT TRUE."



"IT WAS ALL SET UP. WHEN YOU DESTROYED THOSE TWO WORLDS YOU **REMOVED** A FLAW IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE OMNIHEDRON.

"YOU DID THE LLOIGOR'S WORK FOR THEM.

"AND IN RETURN, THEY'VE TAKEN POSSESSION OF **ACE HART** AND **CAPTAIN MIRACLE**."



AND WHAT...**USE** DO THE LLOIGOR PLAN TO MAKE OF THE OMNIHEDRON ?



THEY PLAN TO **S-S-SET**...TO SET THE WHOLE STRUCTURE **V-VIBRATING** AT A CERTAIN PITCH.

THEY HAVE **T-T-TO DESTROY** ANOTHER WORLD TO DO THAT...



"BUT WHEN THE OMNIHEDRON BEGINS TO **RESONATE**, THEY PLAN TO **ASCEND** ALONG ITS **GE-GE-GEOMETRY**...IT'S **UNIQUE GEOMETRY**...TOWARDS SOMETHING CALLED **POINT ZENITH**..."

"IT'S THE POINT OF INFINITE DIMENSIONAL SPACE...TH-THE **GODHEAD**...**POINT ZENITH**..."



POINT ZENITH ?
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...





WHICH WORLD DO THEY PLAN TO DESTROY THIS TIME?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY REACH THIS "POINT ZENITH"?



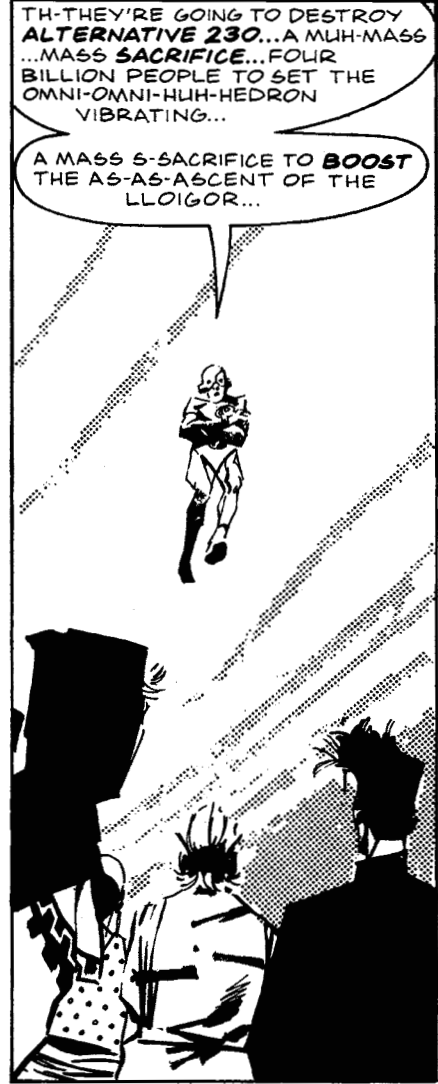
TH-THEY'LL UN...UNFOLD...INTO THE GODHEAD. THEY'LL BECOME PART OF EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS. THEY'LL BE ABLE TO... TO CHUH-CHANGE IT ALL WITH A THUH-THOUGHT...A THOUGHT...

ST-STOP THE COLD.

...PLEASE..?

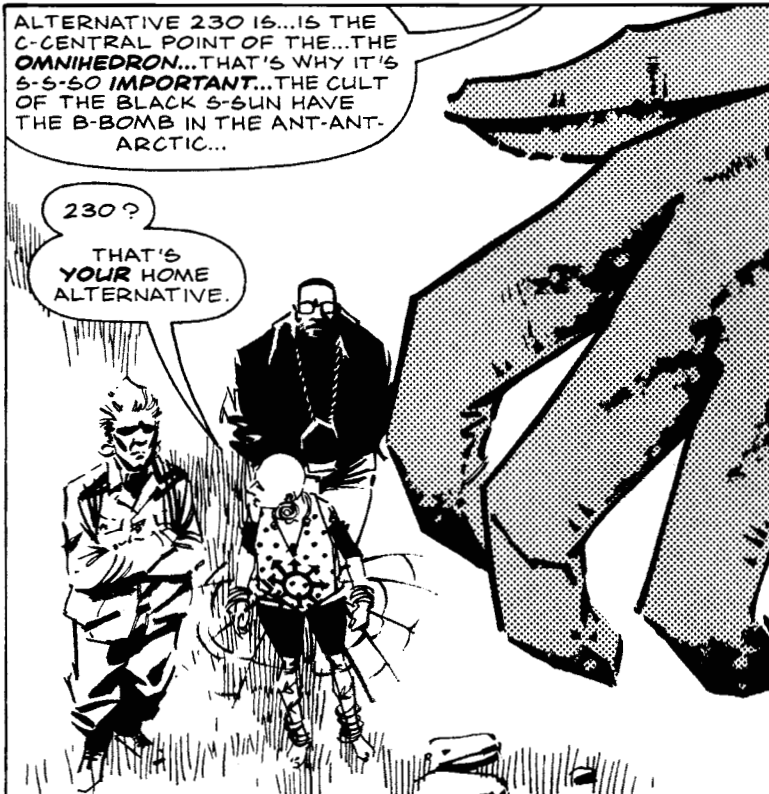


KEEP TALKING.



TH-THEY'RE GOING TO DESTROY ALTERNATIVE 230...A MUH-MASS ...MASS SACRIFICE...FOUR BILLION PEOPLE TO SET THE OMNI-OMNI-HUH-HEDRON VIBRATING...

A MASS S-SACRIFICE TO BOOST THE AS-AS-ASCENT OF THE LLOIGOR...



ALTERNATIVE 230 IS...IS THE C-CENTRAL POINT OF THE...THE OMNIHEDRON...THAT'S WHY IT'S S-S-SO IMPORTANT...THE CULT OF THE BLACK S-SUN HAVE THE B-BOMB IN THE ANT-ANT-ARCTIC...

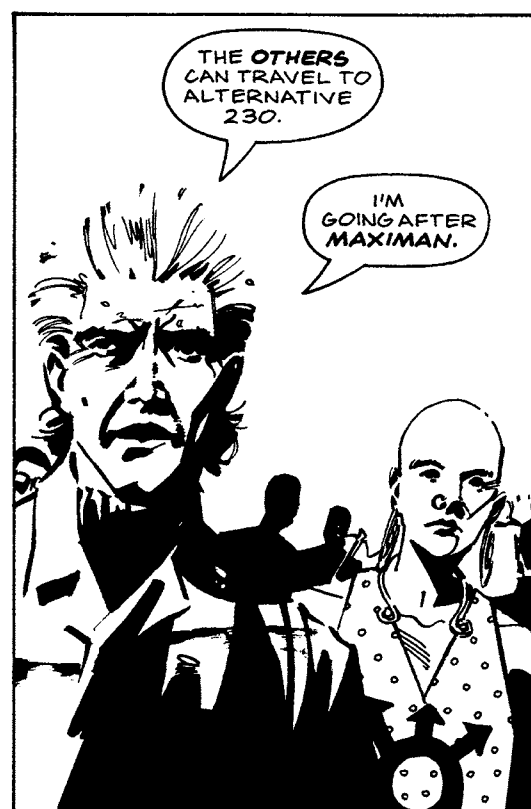
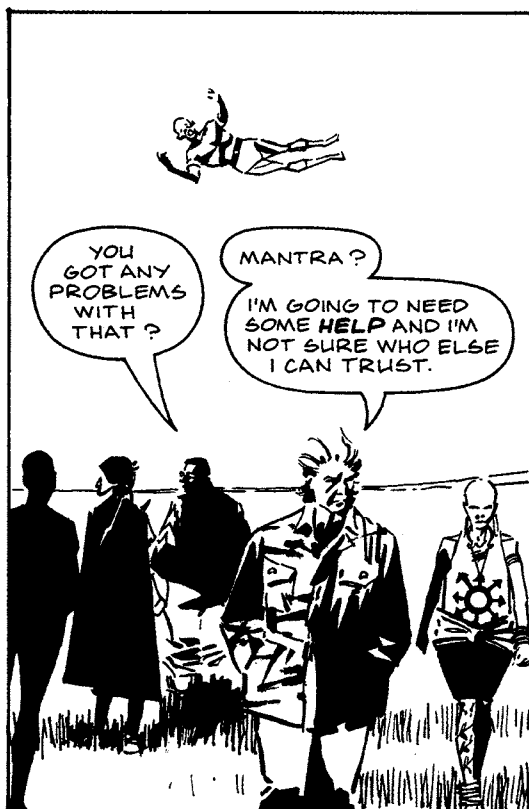
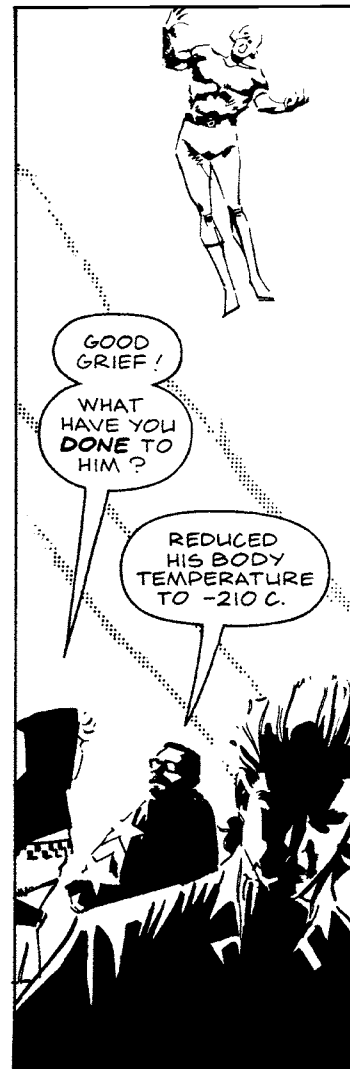
230?

THAT'S YOUR HOME ALTERNATIVE.



WHOSE HOME ALTERNATIVE?

OUR HOME ALTERNATIVE?



ALTERNATIVE 230:
MARCH 15, 1989.

NOT LONG NOW.

THE ALIGNMENT IS ALMOST HERE.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW HEAVEN, A NEW EARTH.

A UNIVERSE OF ORDER.

MY ONLY ANXIETY CONCERNS THE SUPERHUMANS...

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL. THEY'RE EITHER DEAD OR DISORGANISED OR, LIKE THESE TWO, TRANSFORMED INTO PHYSICAL VEHICLES FOR US.

ANY OTHERS WHO MAKE IT THIS FAR WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE LION AND THE UNICORN.

W
AD
SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON
STEVE YEOWELL
KID ROBSON

OH YES.

TURNUED OUT NICE AGAIN.

ZENITH

PHASE III

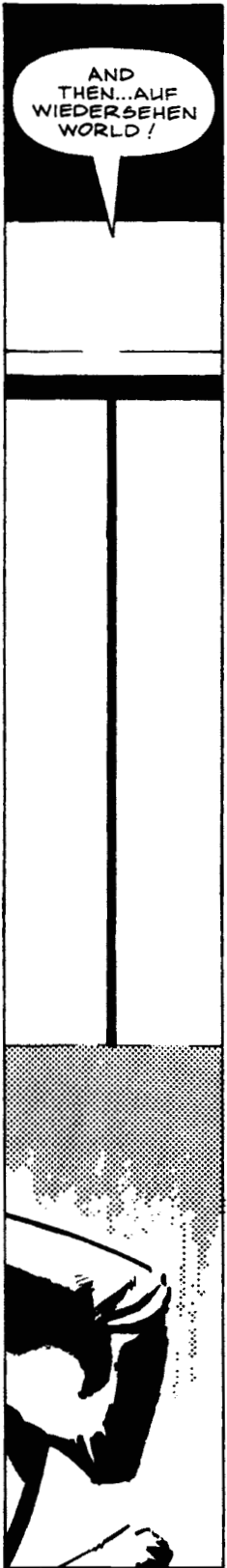
20

"COLD BLOOD"



YOU'LL WANT TO SEE THE **BOMB**, OF COURSE. THE **CHAOSTRUCTOR**.

THE STOLEN **PLUTONIUM** WAS INVALUABLE. IT SIMPLIFIED THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE **BOMB'S** CONSTRUCTION. WE HAVE ONLY TO **ARM** IT NOW.



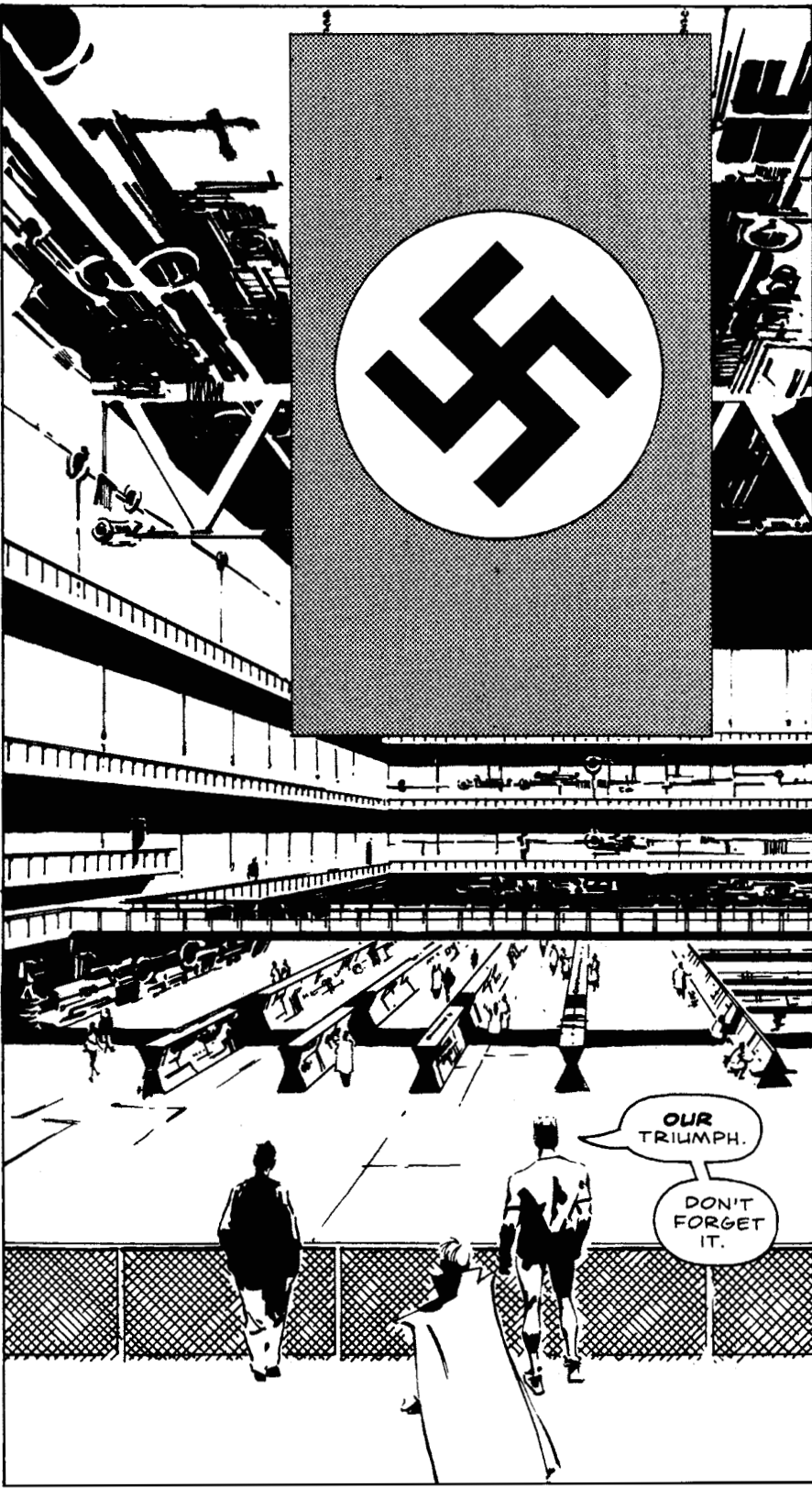
AND THEN...AUF WIEDERSEHEN WORLD!



ON THE EVE OF THIS, OUR **TRIUMPH**, I FEEL I MUST...

OUR TRIUMPH...

THE TRIUMPH OF THE **LLOIGOR** OVER TIME AND SPACE AND FREE WILL.



OUR TRIUMPH.

DON'T FORGET IT.



AH, THE SIGIL OF THE **BLACK SUN**.

YES. THE EMBLEM HAS **OTHER ASSOCIATIONS** FOR SOME OF OUR PEOPLE.

IT'S A **SENTIMENTAL** THING...



WHEN I MENTIONED **OUR TRIUMPH** EARLIER, I...

WE **CORRECTED** YOU.

HUMAN **SOULS** ARE SIMPLY THE **FUEL** WE SHALL USE TO **POWER OUR ASCENT** TO POINT ZENITH.



MASTERS.

THEY'RE ALL **VERY SUBSERVIENT**, AREN'T THEY?

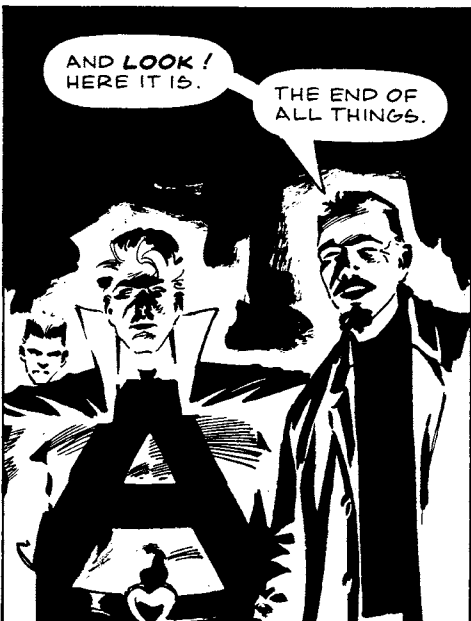
BUT WE **WILL SURVIVE** THE **UNIVERSAL HOLOCAUST**, WON'T WE?

THE **CULT OF THE BLACK SUN** HAS VENERATED AND SERVED YOU FOR **TWENTY THOUSAND** YEARS...



TWENTY THOUSAND?

IS THAT ALL?

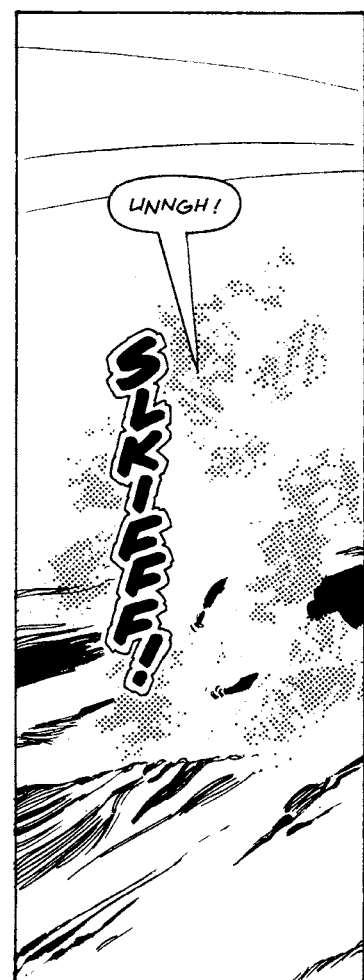
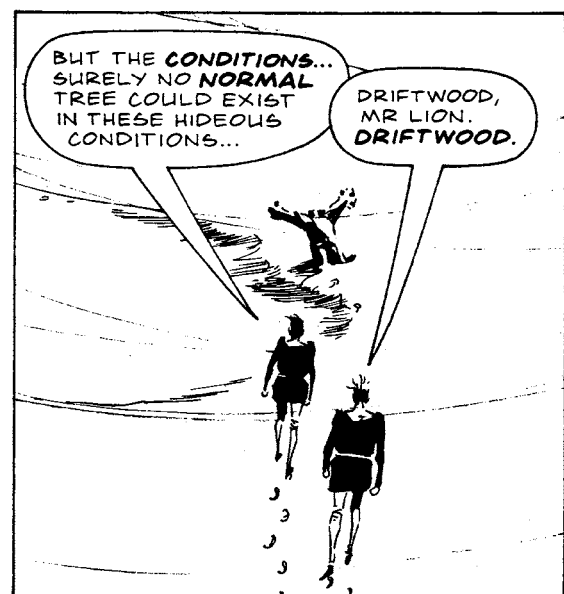
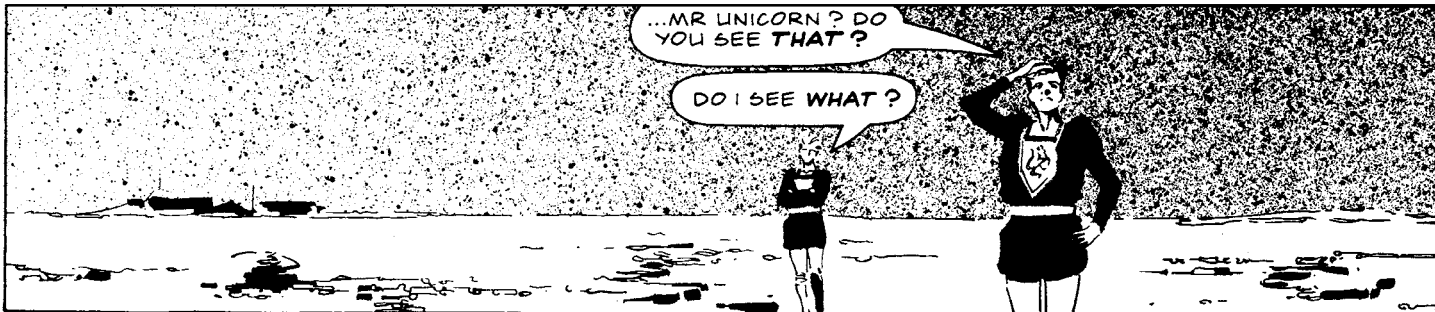


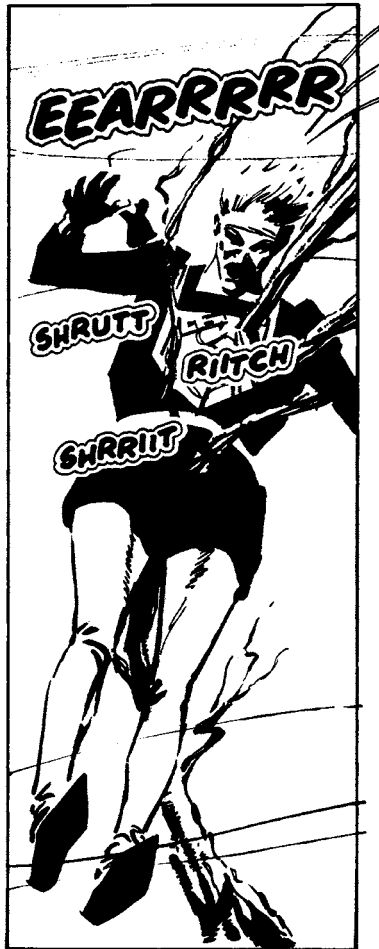
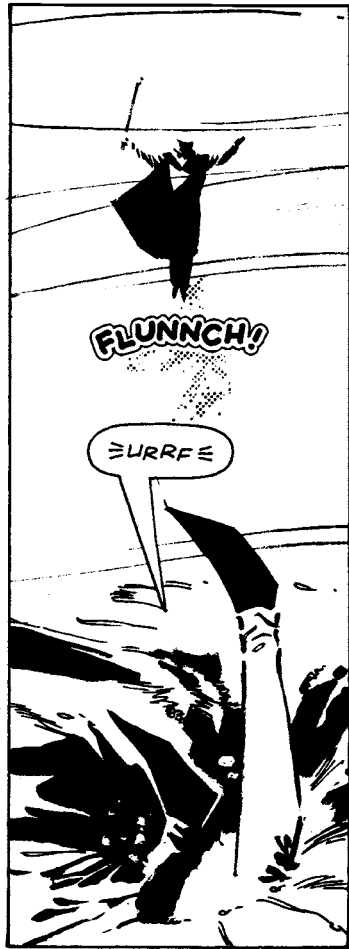
AND **LOOK!** HERE IT IS.

THE **END OF ALL THINGS**.



THE **CHAOSTRUCTOR**.





ALTERNATIVE 230:
MARCH 15, 1989.

AAWUUUUAAA WUUUUAAWUUUUAAA

AWUUUUAWUUUU

THE
ALARM!

SOMEONE'S
IN!



SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
ARTIST
STEVE
YEOWELL
LETTERING
KID
ROBSON

RIGHT.

LET'S KICK
BOTTOM.

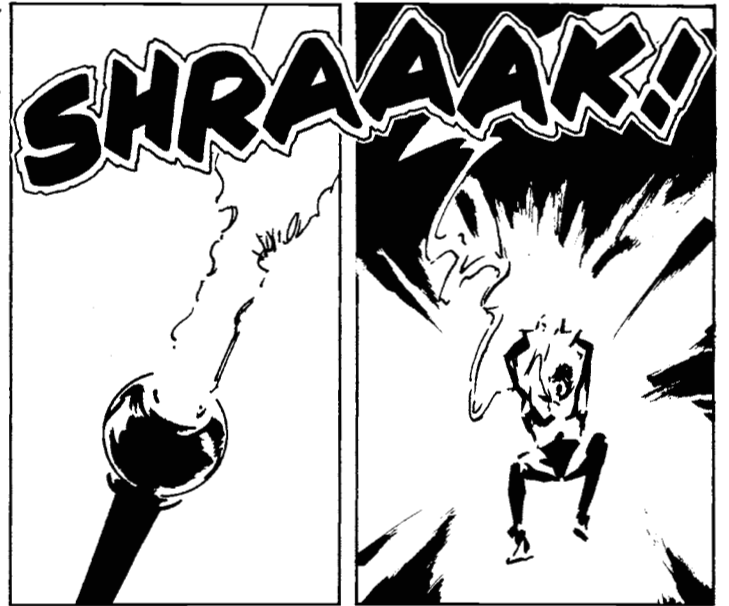
ZENITH

PHASE
III
21

"EYE OF DESTRUCTION"

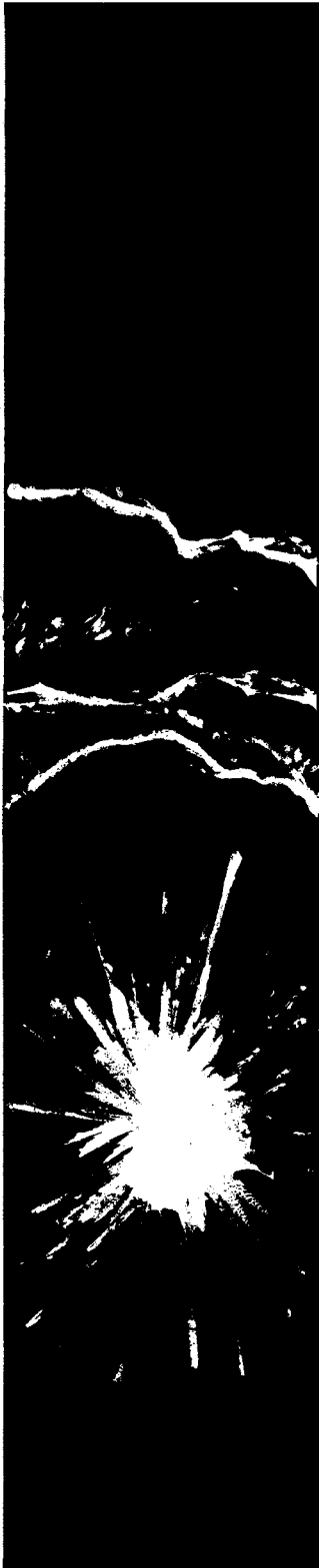
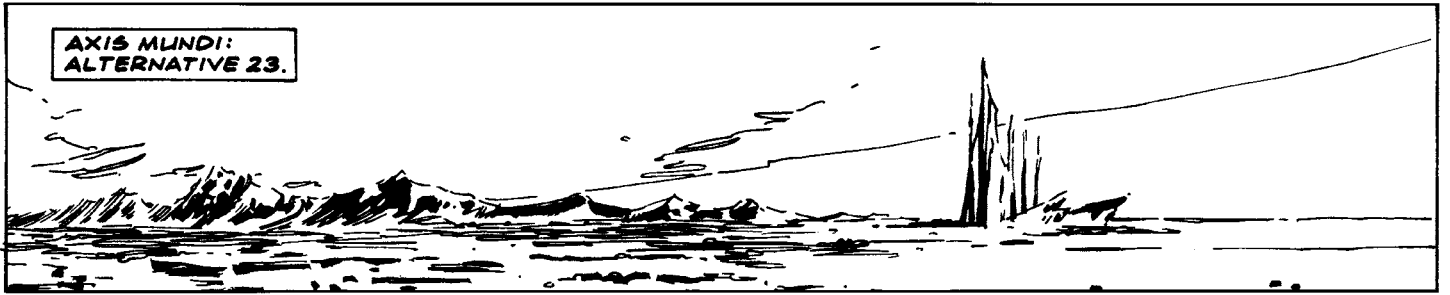








AXIS MUNDI:
ALTERNATIVE 23.





I AM MAXI. YES. MAXI. MAN. AND YOU ARE TOO LATE.

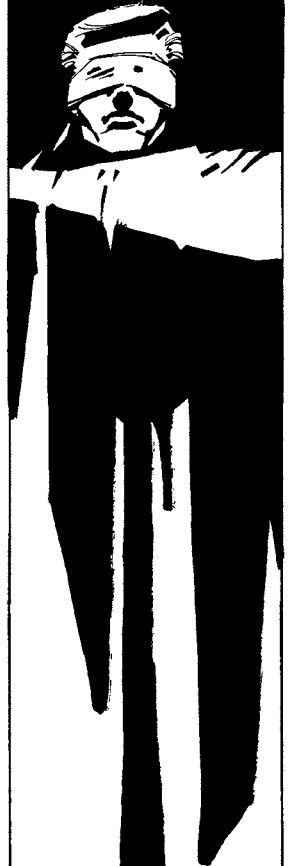
IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP STOP STOP. ME. YES. THE ALIGNMENT IS ALMOST UPON US.

MY DECISION, RESOLUTION, JUDGEMENT... WORDS... YES. REACHED LONG AGO. THAT DECISION.

I RAVAGED...I DESTROYED THIS WORLD. THREE BILLION PEOPLE. ALL DEAD. BOO HOO. MADE A DESERT OF THE WORLD. THANK YOU.

SILENCE THEN. AT LAST. AND SSSSOLITUDE.

THEN THE LLOIGOR CAME.



THEY OFFERED ME A PLACE. PLACE. IN THEIR RANKS. A TEST OF FAITH WAS REQUIRED. RRRRR.

SO I TORE, THAT IS TO SAY, RRRRIPPED. RIPPED OUT MY EYES. MY OWN EYES.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW. THANK YOU.



NOW.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE I WILL LET YOU STOP ME ?

AD

SCRIPT
GRANT MORRISON

ART
STEVE YEOWELL

LETTERING
KID ROBSON

ZENITH

PHASE III
22

"STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"

ALTERNATIVE 230:
MARCH 15, 1989.

OH, FATTY!
FATTY FATTY
FAILURE.

YOU WEREN'T THINKING
OF DISARMING THE BOMB,
WERE YOU?



WELL? GO ON.

TRY IT.

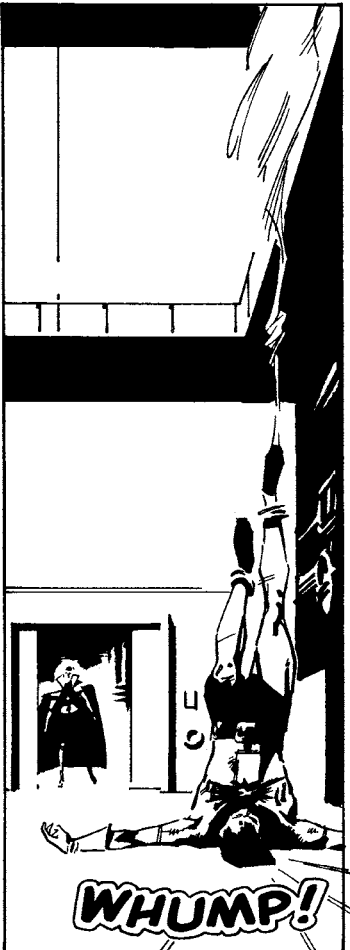


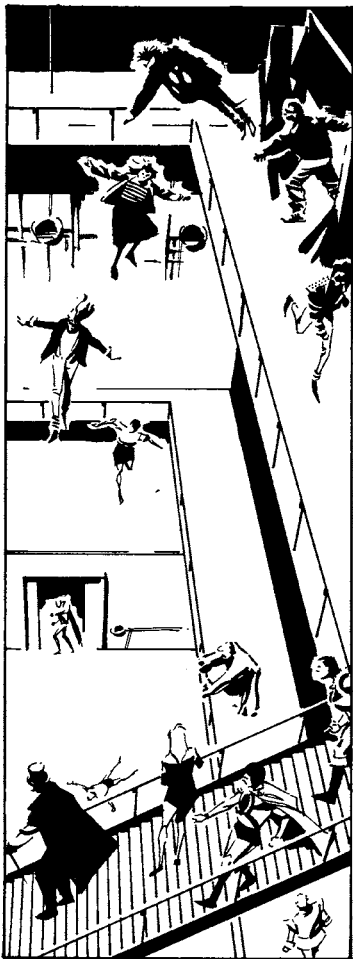
WHAT A SHAME.

FAILED AG...



CHRRRAANG





WAIT!

EEEEEEEEAAAA

OH NO...

DID IT, DIDN'T I?

NOT A FAILURE. NOT...

BEN? BEN!

SO WHAT ABOUT THE BRIDGE?

WHERE WAS HE TRYING TO ESCAPE TO?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

LET GO!

LET ME GO!

NO.

NO!

FAILURE. YOU SAID.

I'M NOT.

LET GO! LET...

NO! NO, WAIT JUST A...

LET GO!

LET ME GO!

NO.

NO!

FAILURE. YOU SAID.

I'M NOT.

LET GO! LET...

NO! NO, WAIT JUST A...

LET GO!

LET ME GO!

NO.

NO!

FAILURE. YOU SAID.

I'M NOT.

LET GO! LET...

NO! NO, WAIT JUST A...



WELL ?



MAXIMAN, LISTEN... THE LLOIGOR PLAN TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSE FROM THE QUANTUM LEVEL UP.

THEY'RE GOING TO ABOLISH FREE WILL AND UNCERTAINTY.

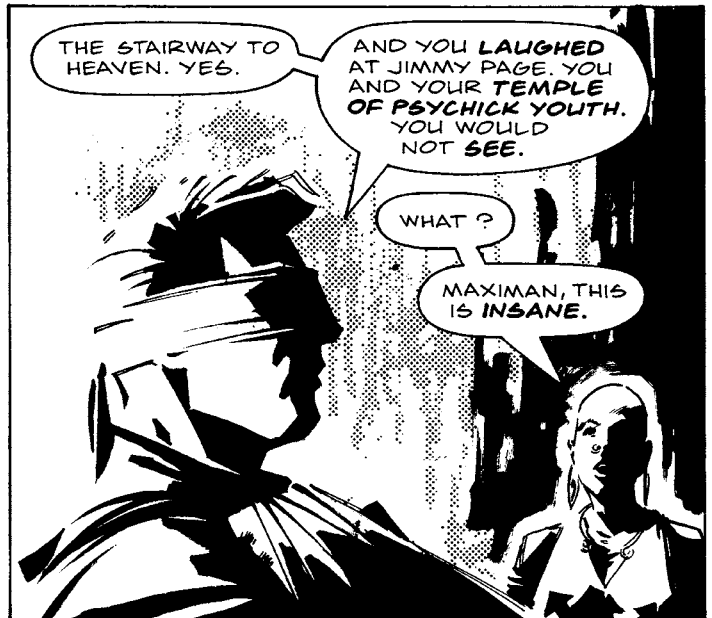
MANTRA, WAIT...



YOU CAN'T LET THEM DO THAT. WE OWE OUR EXISTENCE TO CHANCE, TO CHAOS.

YOU CAN'T TURN THE UNIVERSE INTO A PIECE OF CLOCKWORK.

BEHIND ME. AT MY BACK. THE STAIRWAY BY WHICH WE SHALL ASCEND TO POINT ZENITH. TO THE GODHEAD. GODHOOD. HOODED GOD.



THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN. YES.

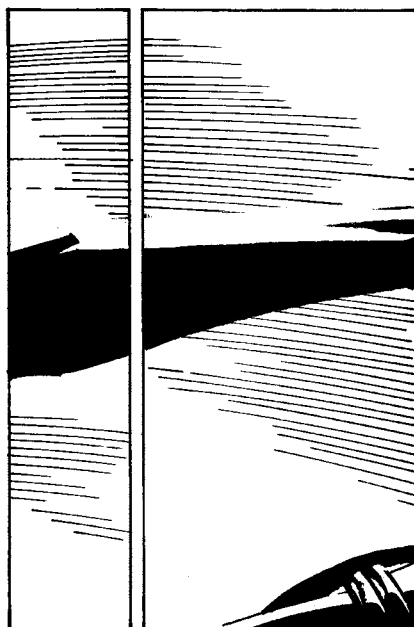
AND YOU LAUGHED AT JIMMY PAGE. YOU AND YOUR TEMPLE OF PSYCHICK YOUTH. YOU WOULD NOT SEE.

WHAT ?

MAXIMAN, THIS IS INSANE.



YOU'RE INSANE.



SHLUTT!



SEE NOW? SEE THE TRUTH THAT LIES BEYOND SIGHT?

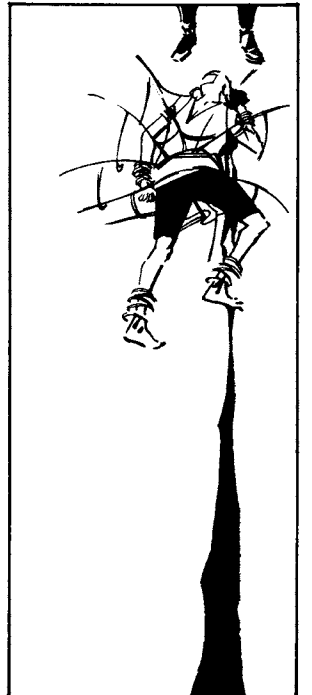
SEE NOW?



AHHH.



WHUT!



AND NOW THERE'S JUST YOU.



AND ME.

ZENITH

PHASE
III
23

'HEAD TO HEAD'

AXIS MUNDI:
ALTERNATIVE 23.



SCRIPT
GRANT
MORRISON
STEVE
YEWELL
ILLUSTRATOR
KID
ROBSON

THE OLD STORY
COMES TO AN END.
CONCLUSION.
FINISHUH.
SHUH. YES.

THE
NEW STORY
BEGINS.

ONLY MOMENTS
REMAIN BEFORE
THE ALIGNMENT.

YOU ARE
ALONE. SO SAD.
ALL ALONE.

WILL YOU ? THANK
YOU. NO. WILL YOU
MAKE AN ATTEMPT
TO STOP ME ?

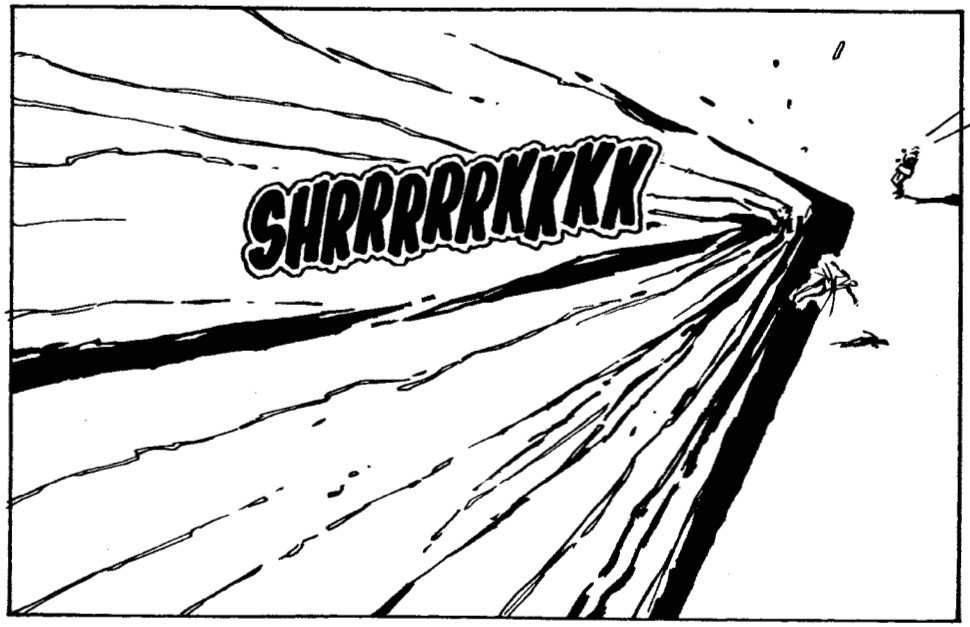
I
JUST
HAVE.



UNNGH!



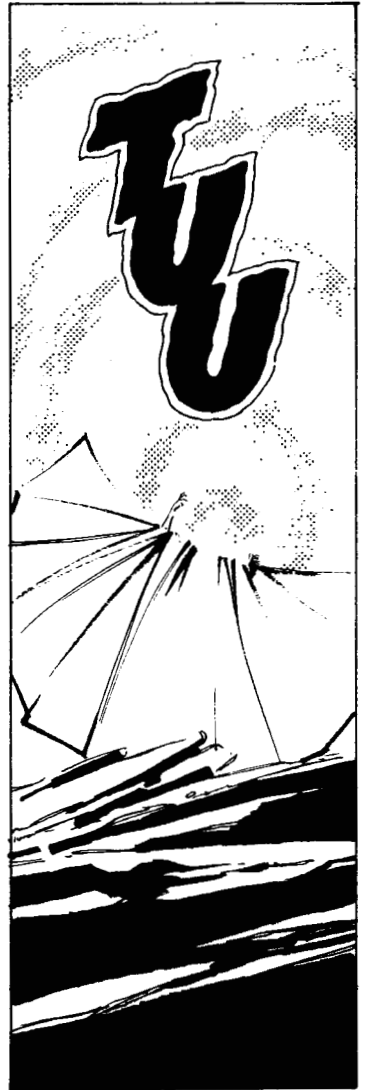
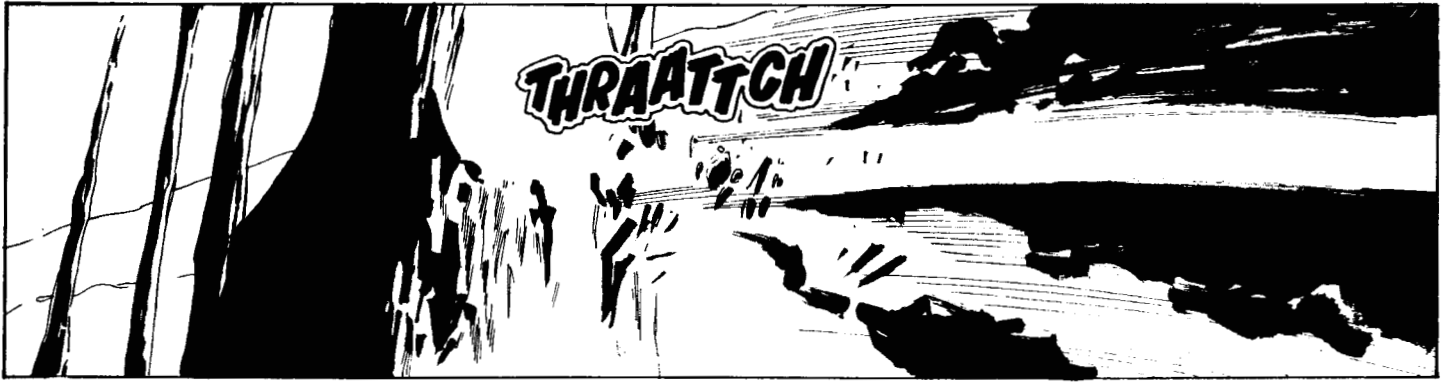
RRRRRAAAA



SHRRRRRKKKK



RRRRRR





OHHH.

OH NO.
NO MORE.



NO MORE.

DEAD NOW.
DEAD.



DEAD!



DEAD!



ATOM BY ATOM.
MOLECULE BY
MOLECULE. CELL
BY CELL.

TAKING YOU APART.
UNBIND. UNBIND. UNBIND
THE CHAINS OF YOUR
BEING. THANK YOU.

YOU CANNOT HOLD
YOURSELF TOGETHER.
I WIN. THAT IS TO SAY,
I TRIUMPH, I SUCCEED.
THE LLOIGOR WIN.

AND SEE! THE
MOMENT OF
ALIGNMENT IS
HERE. THE
ALIGNMENT!
THE ALIGNMENT!
THE...



PLINK



AH.



NEED
A HAND,
PETER?

ZENITH

PHASE III
24


"WORLD'S END"

AXIS MUNDI:
ALTERNATIVE 23.

...STOP HIM.

DON'T LET HIM GET INTO THE ENERGY STREAM.

STOP HIM!



SCRIPT BY GRANT MORRISON
ART BY STEVE YEOWELL
COLOR BY KID ROBSON

DC 1997

STOP HIM?
ALL RIGHT,
PETER.

JUST FOR YOU.

LOOK!

HE GOT AWAY!
LOOK!

SHAZZ!



LOOK!



WHAT DO WE DO ?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW ?

...ALTERNATIVE 230..?

SAVED. NO PROBLEM.

DIDN'T *STREAMLINE* SAY THEY HAD TO DESTROY 230 TO ASCEND INTO THE *OMNIHEDRON* OR WHATEVER IT IS ?



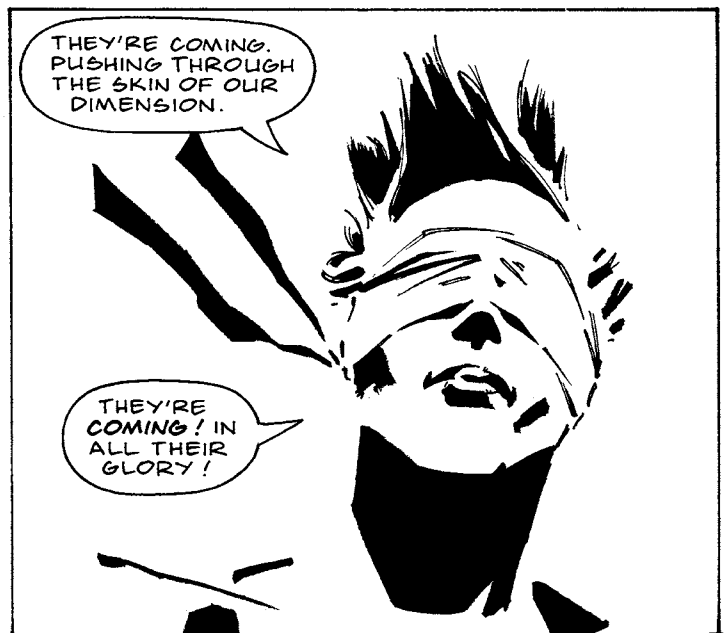
IT WAS ONLY TO EASE THEIR ASCENT. THEY CAN STILL DO IT BY FORCE OF WILL.

OH.



FEEL THEM.

CAN YOU FEEL THEM ?



THEY'RE COMING. PUSHING THROUGH THE SKIN OF OUR DIMENSION.

THEY'RE COMING! IN ALL THEIR GLORY!



THE LLOIGOR ARE COMING!

THE ALIGNMENT HAS ARRIVED!



A BILLION WORLDS! DIMENSIONS LOCK TOGETHER! GEARMESH OF CREATION.

NOW. NOW!

DOES ANYONE HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO?

WHAT IF WE BLOW UP THE WORLD..?



I SEE IT. THE CRYSTAL. THE OMNIHEDRON. PLANES AND LINES. CONTINUUMS INTERSECTING.

WE ARISE! WE ARISE TO GODHEAD.

TO POINT ZENITH!

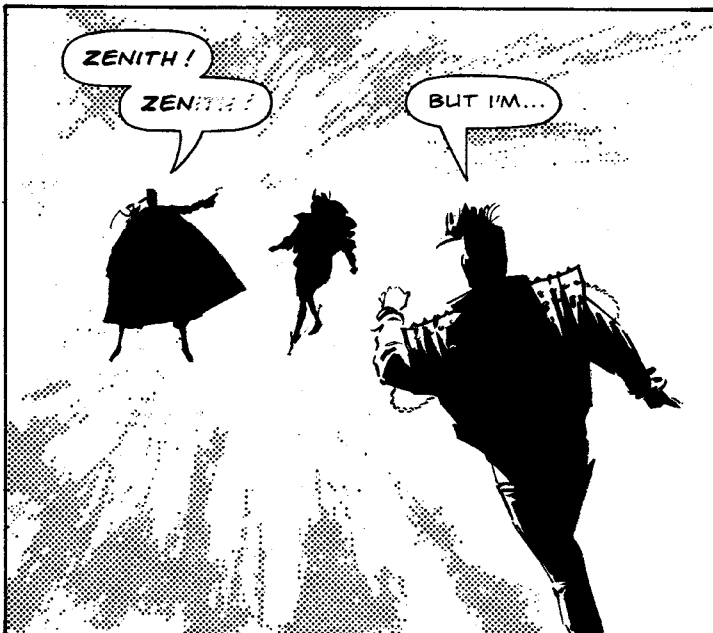


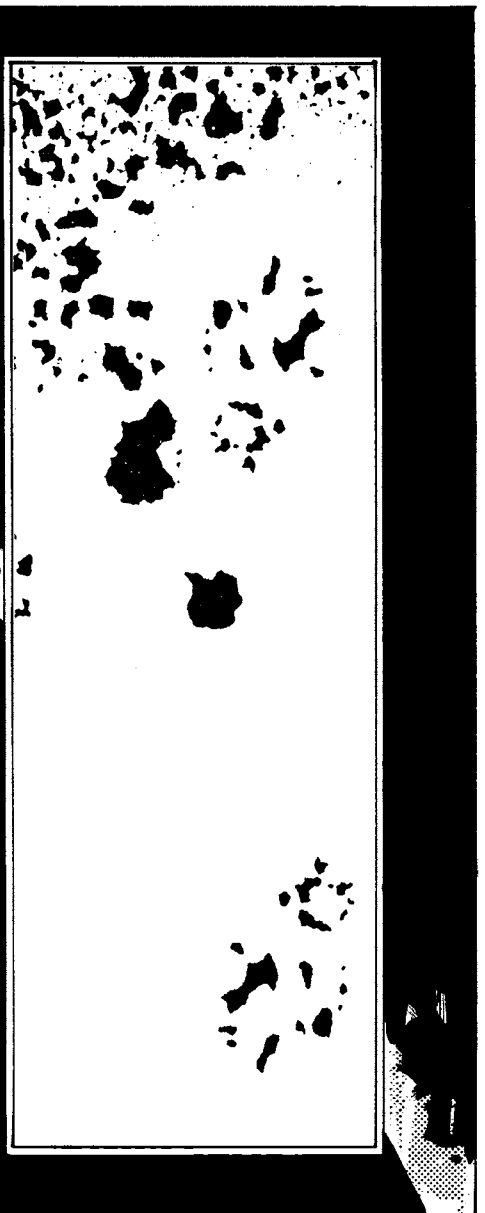
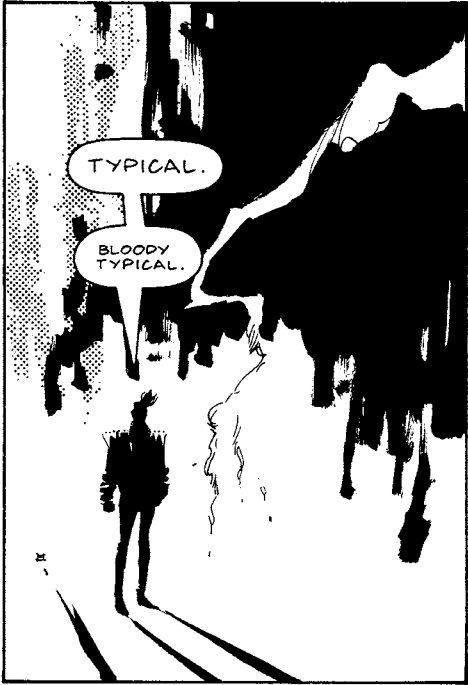
IT'S NOT WORKING!

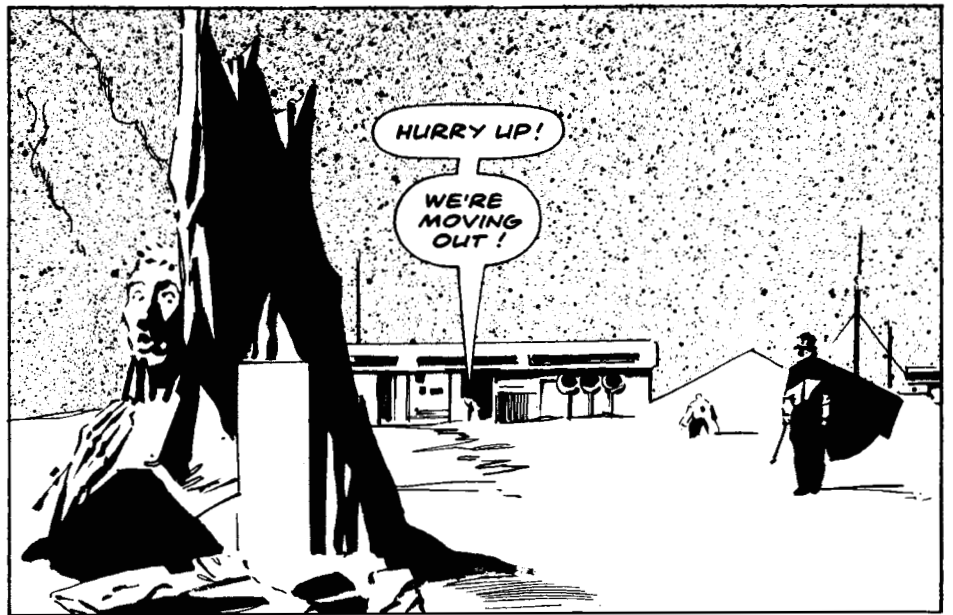
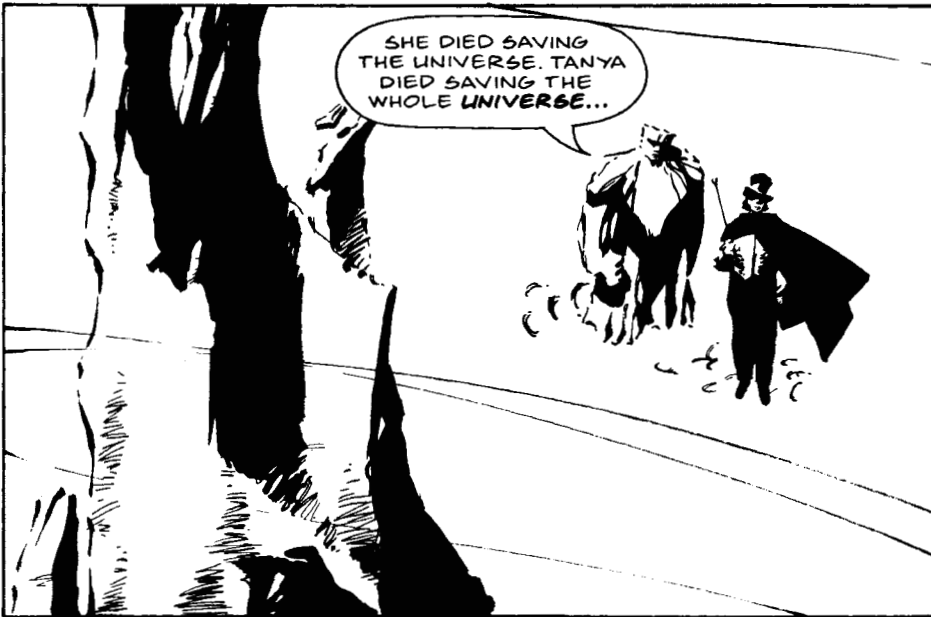
MY MAGIC CANE DOESN'T WORK IN HERE!

ANY IDEAS? ANYBODY?

I BROUGHT THE BOMB FROM ALTERNATIVE 230, IF THAT'S ANY HELP...







EPILOGUE: "AFTER THE CRASH"

ZENITH

SECRET
GRANT MORRISON
ART
STEVE YEOWELL
LETTERING
KID ROBSON

...SUPERHUMANS FROM ALTERNATIVE 42 USE THIS BRIDGE. 331 THIS ONE AND IT'S OVER THERE IF YOU'RE GOING TO 20.

YOU THERE!

YOU CAN COME BACK WITH US IF YOU LIKE.

WELL, YEAH... I MEAN, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

OUR WORLD NEEDS ALL THE CRIMEFIGHTERS IT CAN GET NOW.

I MEAN, WE DIDN'T COME OUT OF THIS TOO WELL, DID WE? I THINK IT'S WHAT THEY CALL A PYRRHIC VICTORY.

STRANGE HOW IT WAS ZENITH WHO CAME THROUGH IN THE END.

HE DIED A HERO...

WHAT'S THIS?





WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT ME BEING DEAD?

...BUT YOU WERE...

YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF. TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE. WE SAW IT...



WHAT?

ME SACRIFICE MYSELF? YOU MUST BE JOKING...



MUST'VE BEEN VERTEX.

SOUNDS LIKE THE SORT OF STUPID THING HE'D DO. I'VE BEEN HERE ALL THE TIME.

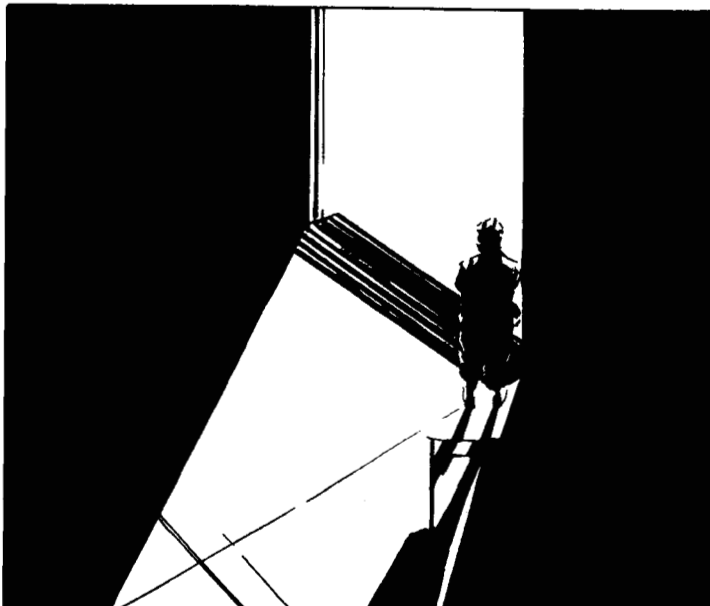


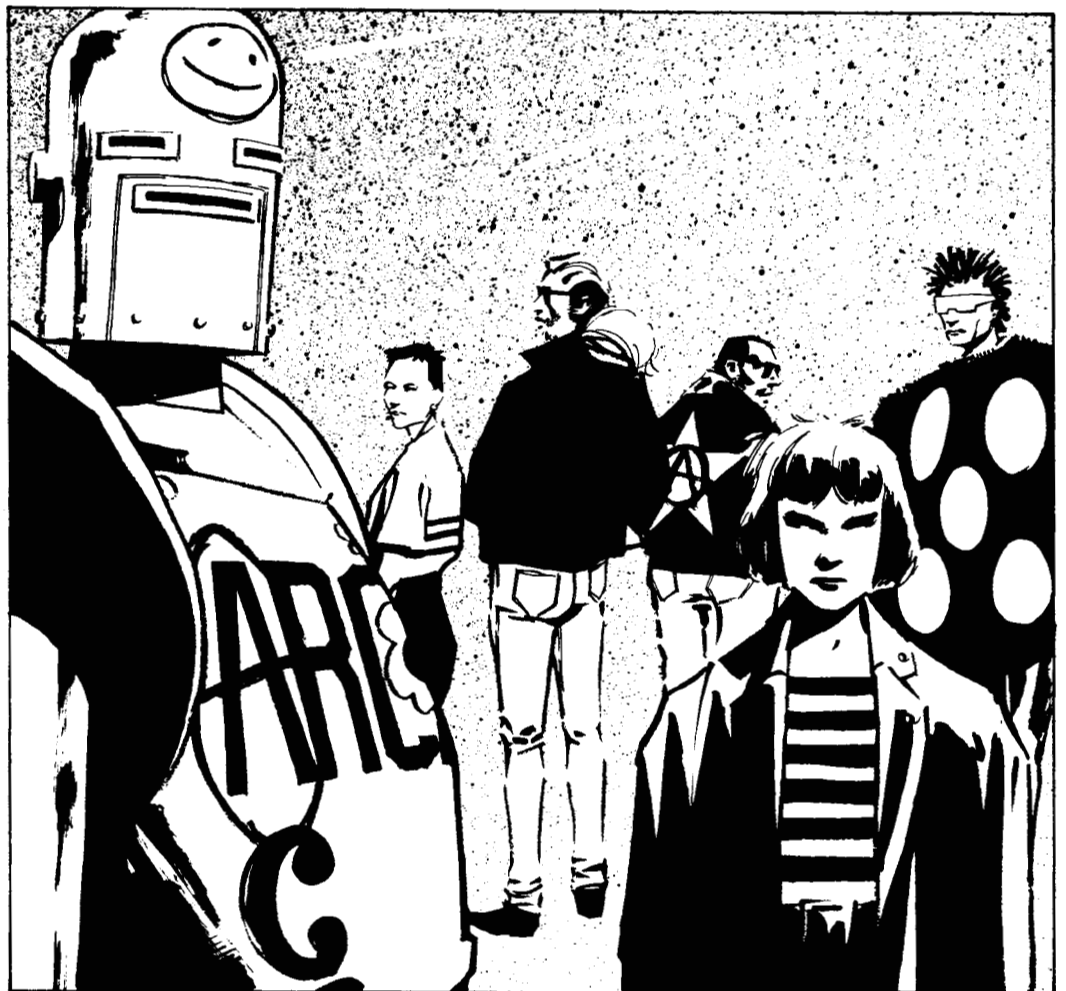
WELL, I HOPE YOU'RE TAKING HIS NAME OFF THE MEMORIAL!

OH, SHUT UP, ARCHER. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH.

LET'S JUST GO HOME.









INTERLUDE
SHADOWS AND REFLECTIONS

Script: Grant Morrison
Art: Jim McCarthy
Letters: Gordon Robson

Originally published in *2000 AD Annual 1990*

LONDON: DECEMBER 23, 1967.



IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT
US TO BE?

THE SCOTTING RACE

HERE, TAKE IT! IT'LL
BE SOMETHING TO READ
WHILE YOU'RE OPERATING
THE GAS CHAMBERS!



said all the wrong
things. shouldn't
have lost it.

my temper

why did i lose
my temper?



WHAPP!



merry christmas

merry
bloody



SWASH!



maybe i should talk
to people. talk to
humans. someone.

if i drop the thought-
shield they'll be able
to see me again.

the humans.
maybe.



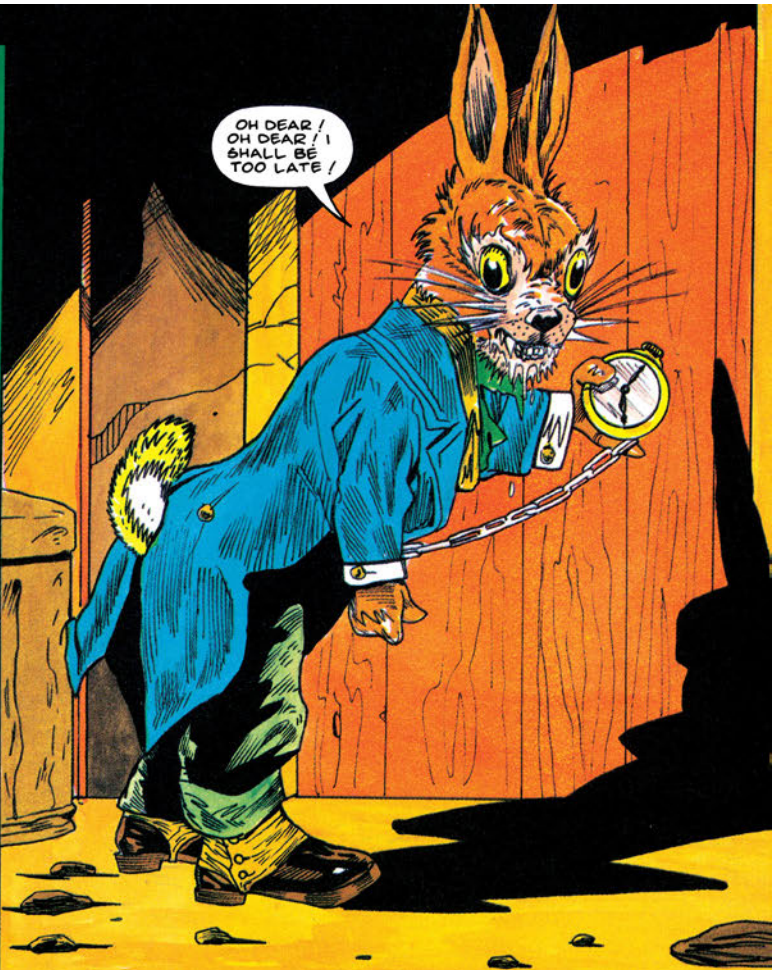
ah forget it.

merry merry

PS66T!

PETER St JOHN!

MANDALA!



OH DEAR / OH DEAR / I SHALL BE TOO LATE!



HEY!

WAIT!



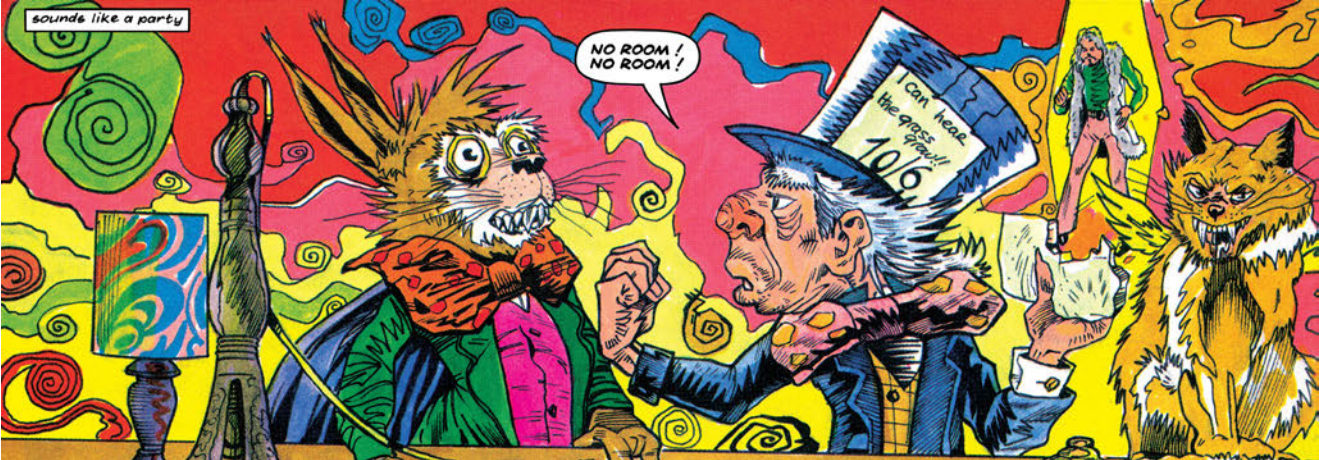
HELLO..?



up ahead. music. is that?

jefferson airplane

behind the door. green door



sounds like a party

NO ROOM!
NO ROOM!

Can hear
the grass grow!!
1016

A ZENITH INTERLUDE:

Shadows & Reflections

WOLFE
GRANT ANDERSON
WOLFE
JIM MACCARTHY
KID



THIS IS A JOKE,
RIGHT?

...ISN'T
IT...

....!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER? CAT
GOT YOUR
TONGUE?



BEATLES
FOR SALE

A
TALKING
CAT
WITH
A HUMAN
TONGUE?

NOW
WOULDN'T
THAT BE
QUEER?





OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

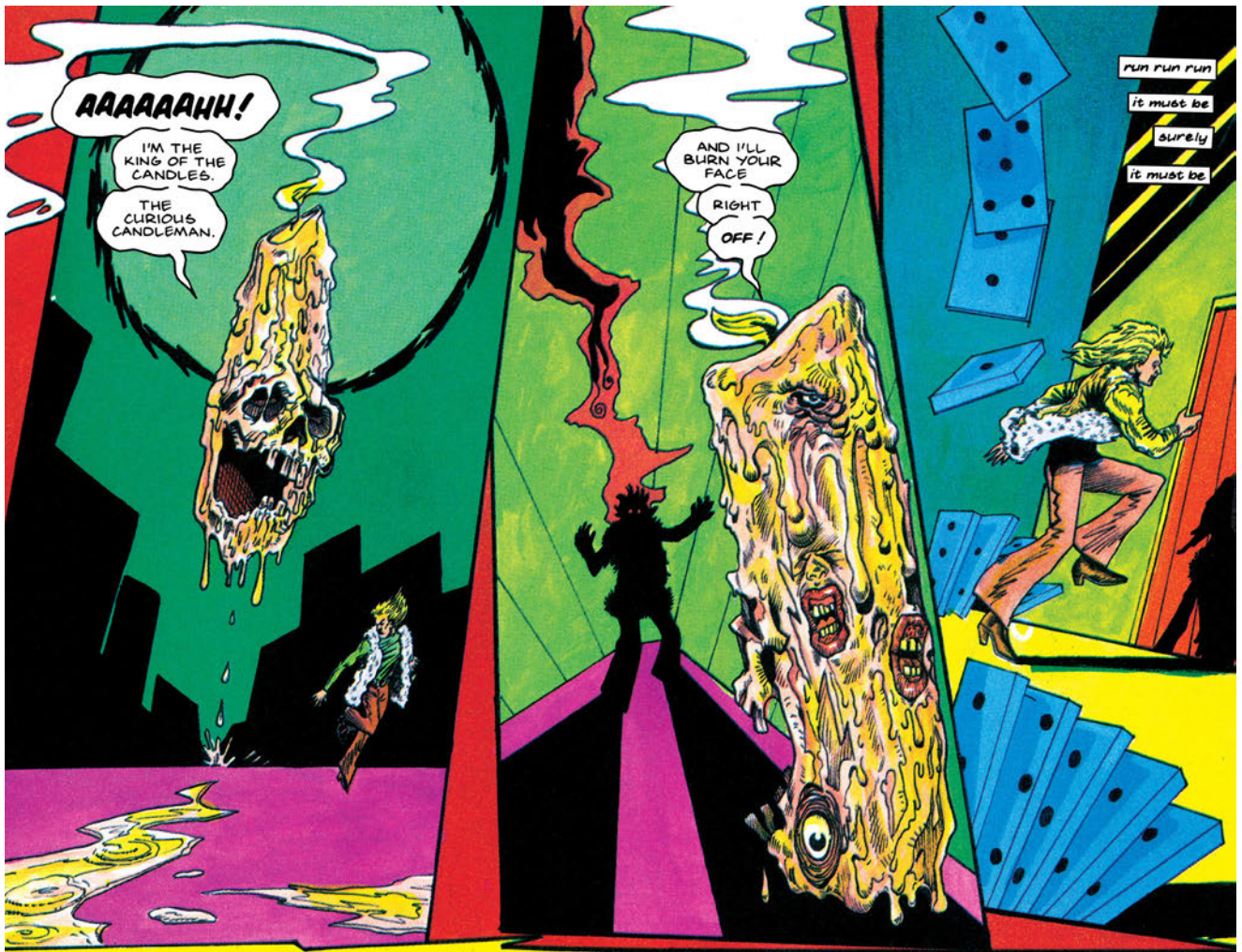


HERE COMES A CANDLE TO LIGHT YOU TO BED.

HERE COMES A CANDLE.

HERE COMES A CANDLE!

HERE COMES A CANDLE!



AAAAAAHH!

I'M THE KING OF THE CANDLES.

THE CURIOUS CANDLEMAN.

AND I'LL BURN YOUR FACE RIGHT OFF!

run run run
it must be surely
it must be



a flashback



never again with the windowpane

never

KRITCH

RRRKTCH

CHURT

JACK, JACK, BORN
IN A FEVER.

TWICE AS SHARP
AS A BUTCHER'S
CLEAVER.



I'M CLINNING
JACK. I'M JACK
THE KNIFE.
YOURS TRULY,
SPRINGHEELED
JACK!

I'LL SCRATCH
YOUR LITTLE
EYES OUT

SHRUTTI!



SHAN'T QUIT
RIPPING TILL
I DO GET
BUCKED!

SHRUTTI!



NOT
CODDING
DEAR OLD
BOSS!

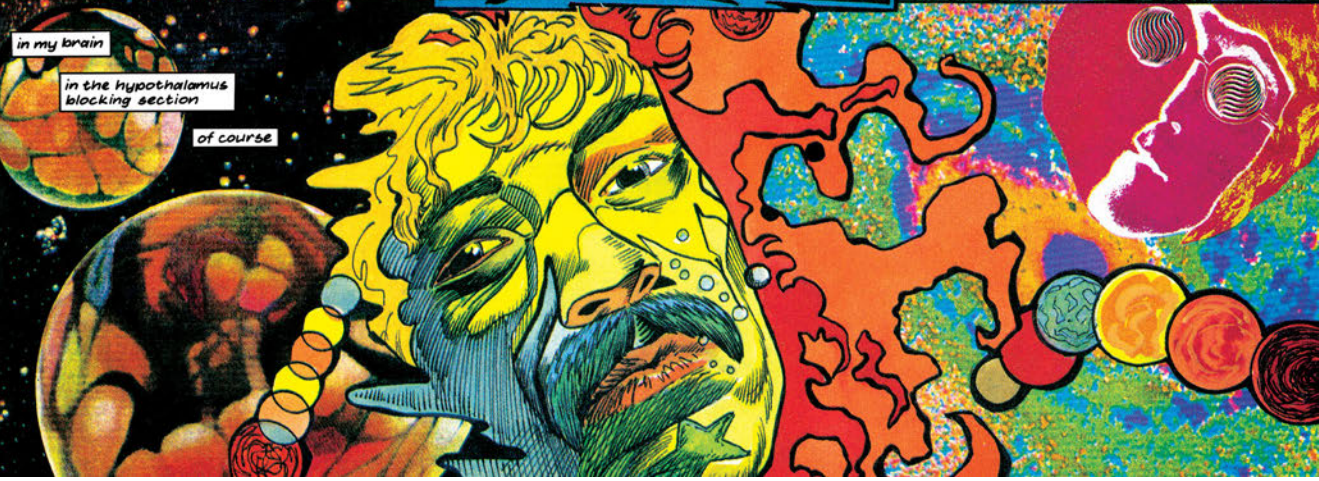
UHH!



in my brain

like fingerprints
sticky fingers

FLOOSH!

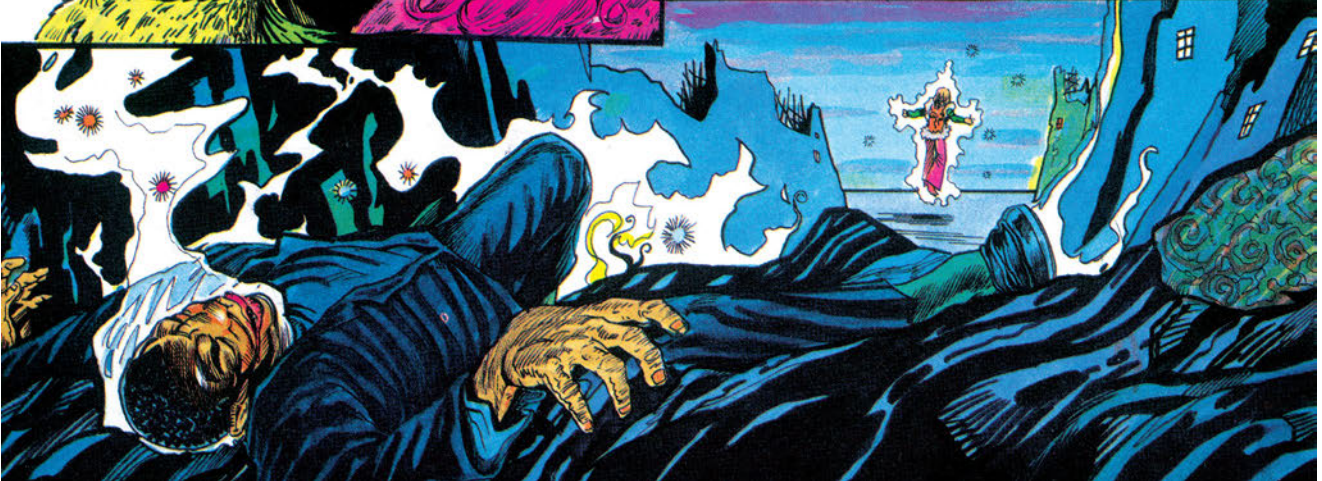
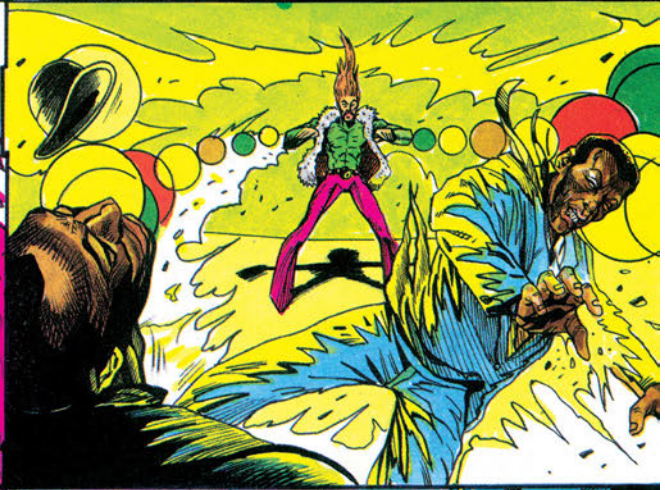
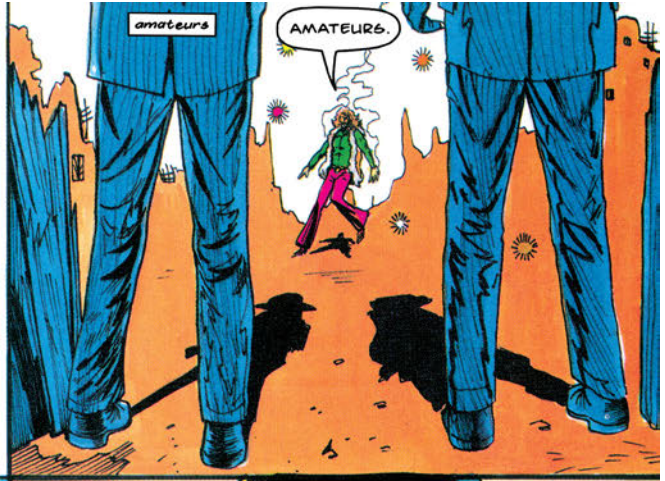


in my brain

in the hypothalamus
blocking section

of course

of course!





GRANT MORRISON

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

STEVE YEOWELL

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

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



YOU'RE ZENITH,
AREN'T YOU ?



YEAH...
I...AH...



ZENITH

A CRISIS! A SECRET WAR!

The Lloigor are back and this time they plan to take control of everything. In order to do so, they must align alternate universes and form a crystal known as the 'Omnihedron'. Maximian of alternate 23 has gathered together an army of superheroes from multiple Earths to fight back against the dark gods. With reality itself at stake, will Zenith be mature enough for once to take the war seriously?

Zenith creators Grant Morrison (*Animal Man*) and Steve Yeowell (*The Invisibles*) deliver a truly epic cross-dimensional superhero tale, *2000 AD*-style!



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