

GRANT MORRISON STEVE YEO WELL

PHANTASIES T W O





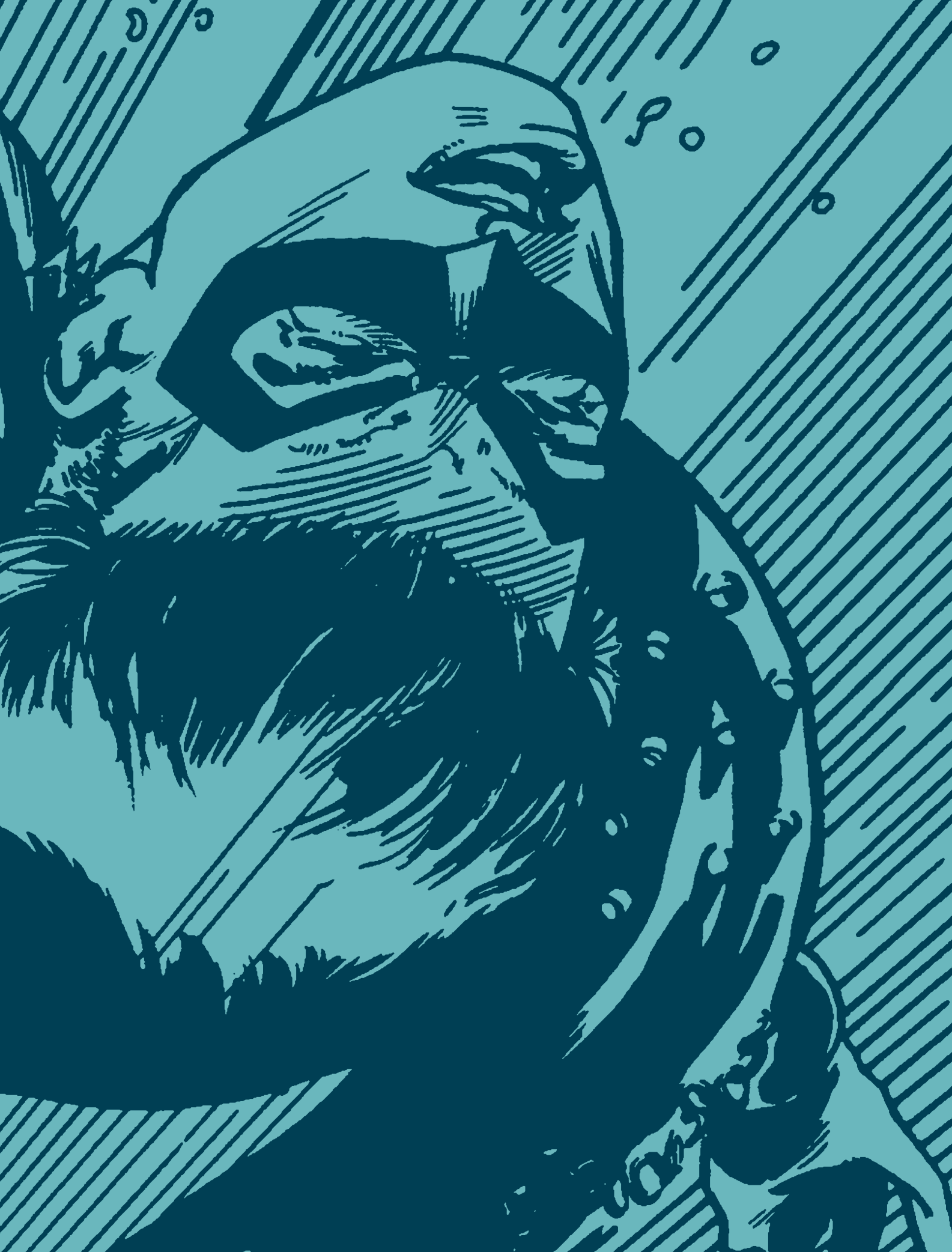
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P H A S

GRANT MORRISON



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



# PHASE II

Script: Grant Morrison

Art: Steve Yeowell

Letters: Mark King & Gordon Robson

Originally published in 2000 AD Progs 589-606

# ZENITH

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA:  
DECEMBER 31, 1987.



"I STILL CAN'T GET USED  
TO THIS PLACE, DAVID."

IT'S LIKE THE  
CITIES IN MY  
DREAMS.

ALL THIS  
ART DECO...

APPARENTLY SOME  
BIG WAVE OR  
SOMETHING WIPED  
OUT MOST OF THE  
ORIGINAL CITY  
IN 1971.

IT WAS  
COMPLETELY  
REDESIGNED AS  
A FUTURIST  
UTOPIA BY AN  
ARCHITECT  
CALLED ALAN  
PARKER.

## PHASE II / PROLOGUE: "DOWN UNDER"

IT'S JUST SO  
STRANGE TO BE  
SPENDING THE  
NEW YEAR IN A  
PARALLEL  
UNIVERSE.

YEAH, I  
REMEMBER  
HOW I FELT  
THE FIRST  
TIME.

ANYWAY...  
TIME TO GET  
MOVING, I  
THINK.

CIRCUS  
STARTS IN  
FIFTEEN  
MINUTES.

YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE BEST  
ABOUT THIS PLACE, PENNY?

I CAN WALK DOWN THE STREET  
WITHOUT PEOPLE PESTERING  
ME FOR MY AUTOGRAPH OR  
WHISPERING, "THERE GOES  
RUBY FOX, THE SUPERHUMAN."

AD  
SCRIPT  
GRANT MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE YEOWELL  
CHARACTER DESIGN  
MARK KING  
CREDIT CARD #00



YOU USED TO LIKE THAT IN THE '60 S.

MM.

I'M OLDER NOW. WE ALL ARE.

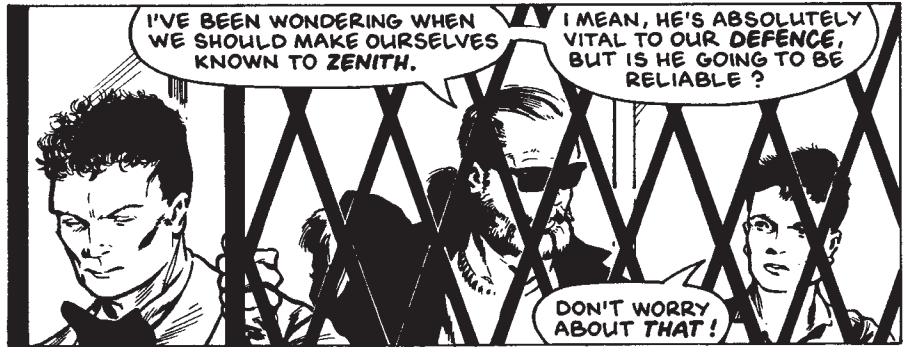
EXCEPT FOR YOU.



YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LET ME IN ON YOUR SECRET.

OH I WILL, RUBY.

I'LL TELL YOU THINGS YOU WON'T BELIEVE.



I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHEN WE SHOULD MAKE OURSELVES KNOWN TO ZENITH.

I MEAN, HE'S ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO OUR DEFENCE, BUT IS HE GOING TO BE RELIABLE?

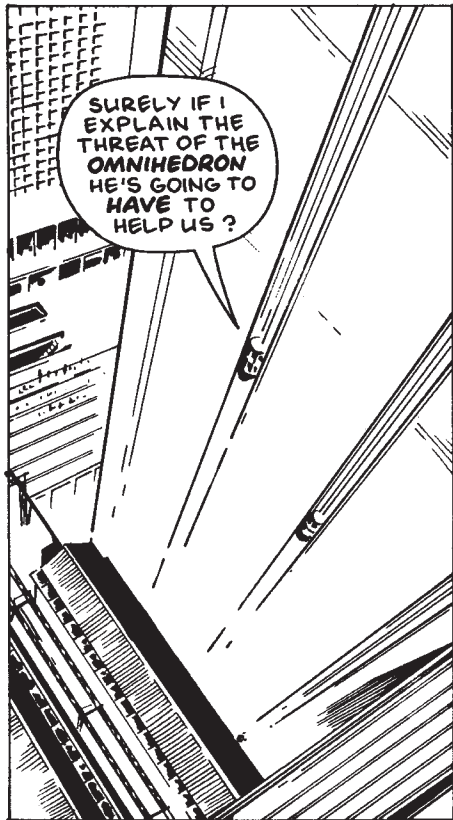
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!



ZENITH IS NO PROBLEM.

IT'S PETER WHO WORRIES ME. I THINK HE SAW YOU BOTH AT SIADWEL'S FUNERAL AND I'M SURE HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING.

LET ME DEAL WITH PETER.



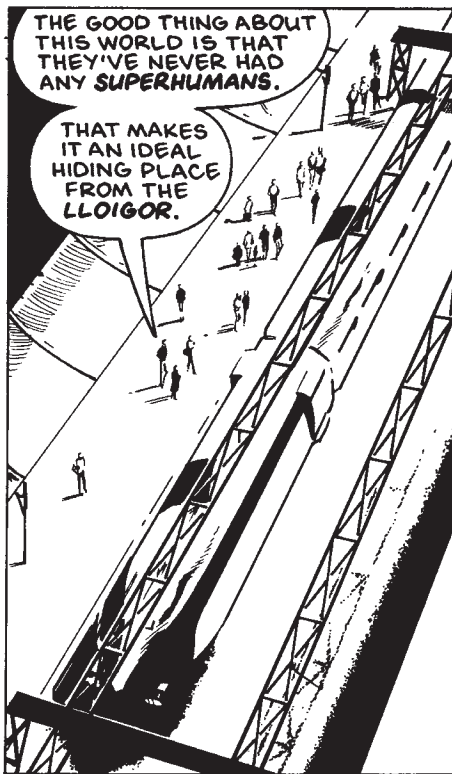
SURELY IF I EXPLAIN THE THREAT OF THE OMNIHEDRON HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO HELP US?



DAVID, HOW LONG DO WE HAVE BEFORE..?

I ASKED MANTRA THE SAME QUESTION, RUBY.

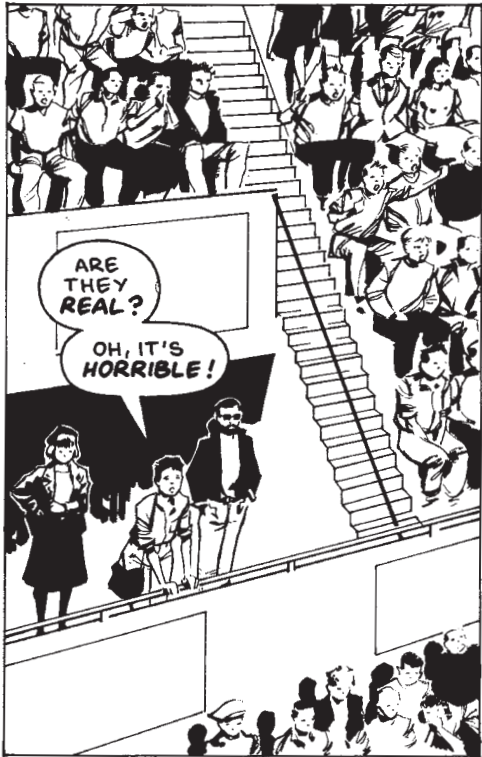
SHE SAID WE MAY HAVE A YEAR. IF WE'RE LUCKY.







SO I  
HOPE YOU  
BROUGHT  
YOUR  
CAMERA.



ARE THEY REAL?  
OH, IT'S HORRIBLE!



WHY ARE THEY KILLING THEM?

IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM BULLFIGHTING.

IT MIGHT HELP TO LOOK UPON THE WHOLE THING AS A METAPHOR.



"THERE HAVE BEEN DINOSAURS ON THIS ALTERNATIVE FOR OVER 200 MILLION YEARS. THEY HAD THE PLANET ALL TO THEMSELVES FOR 150 MILLION.

"THEIR TIME HAS PASSED NOW. THEY'RE SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS."



"IF WE SURVIVE THE ALIGNMENT, 1990'S GOING TO BE A RED LETTER YEAR IN THE DIARY OF EVOLUTION.

EVOLUTION TAKES NO PRISONERS. THE MASTERS OF THE EARTH BECOME SIMPLY MONSTERS, CONDEMNED TO EXTINCTION.

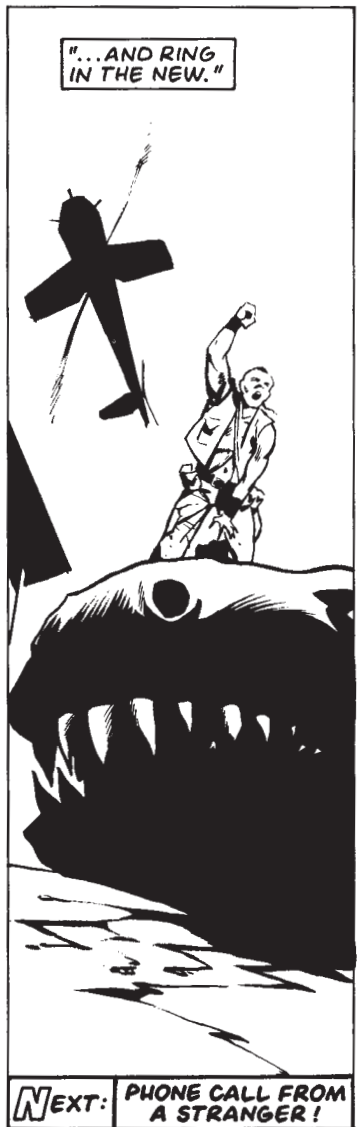
THINK ABOUT THAT AND THINK ABOUT THE PLAN WE MADE IN 1968.



"LOOK TO THE FUTURE, RUBY."



RING OUT THE OLD.



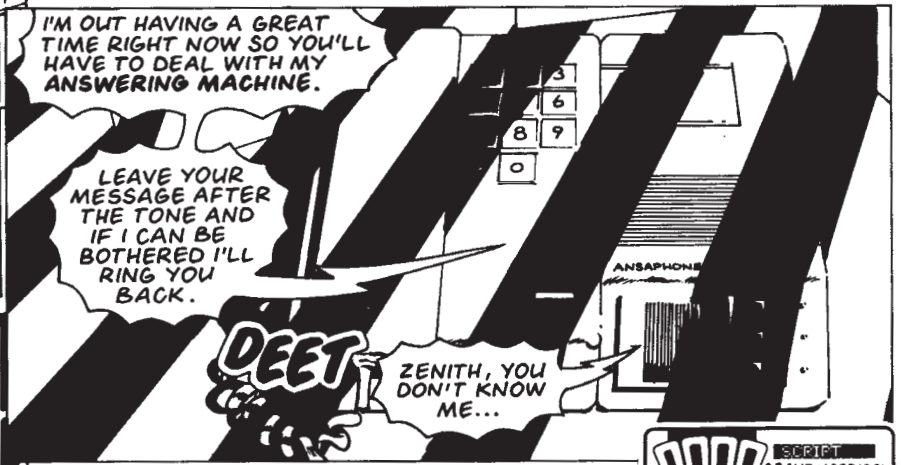
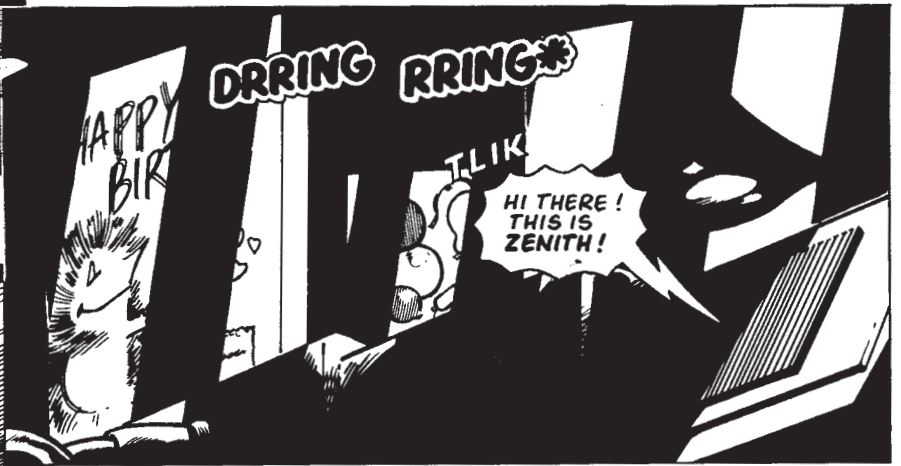
"...AND RING IN THE NEW."

**NEXT:** PHONE CALL FROM A STRANGER!

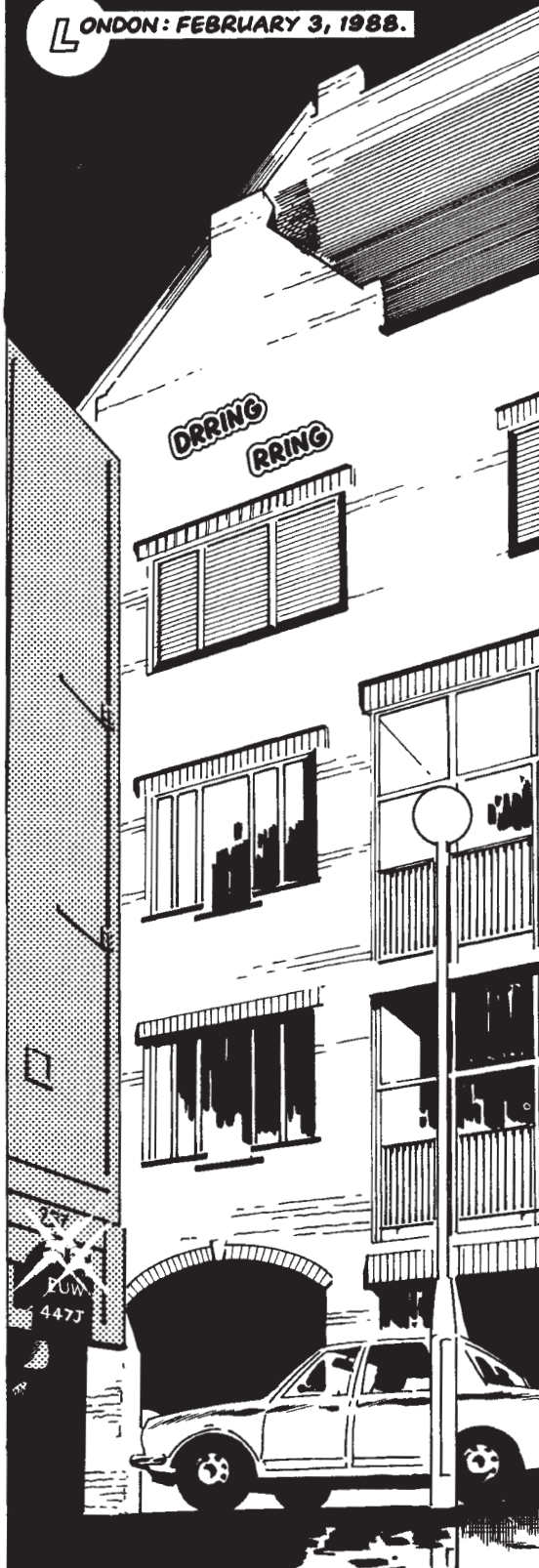
# ZENITH

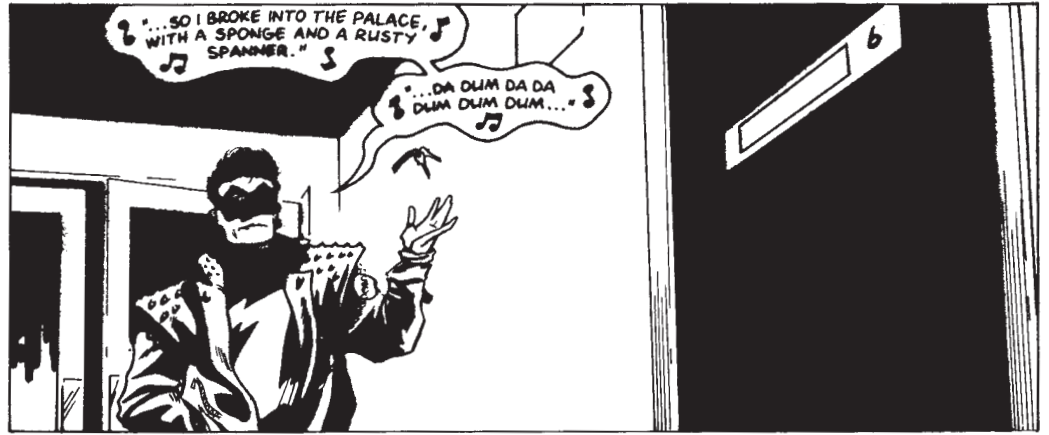
## PHASE II / 1: "MANY HAPPY RETURNS"

LONDON: FEBRUARY 3, 1988.

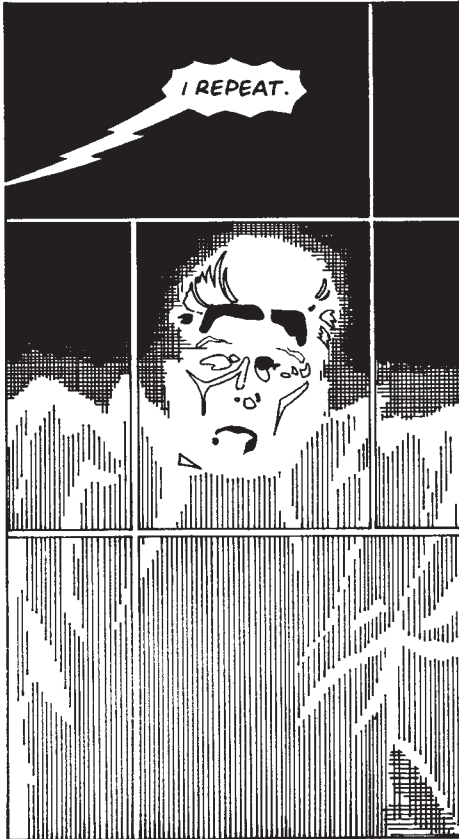
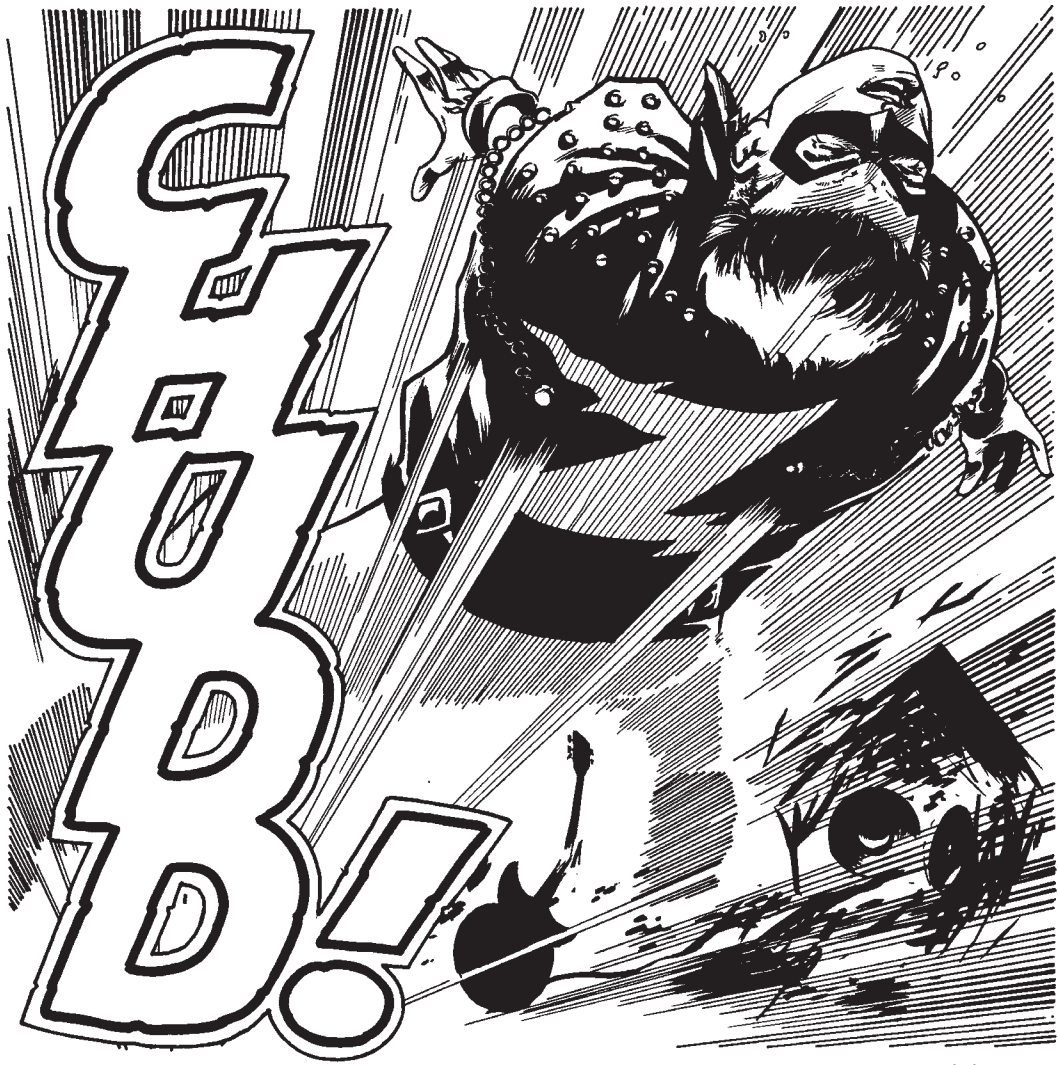


SCRIPT GRANT MORRISON  
PLOT STEVE YEOWELL  
LETTERING MARK KING











GET OUT NOW!

**NEXT:** A SLIGHT CASE OF MURDER

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 5, 1988.

MIND IF I  
INTRUDE,  
PEYNE?

SCRIPT  
GRANT MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE YEOWELL  
LETTERING  
MARK KING



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
UP TO?

PUTTING  
IN SOME  
PRACTISE  
FOR THE  
FINAL OF  
'TELLY  
ADDICTS'?

I'M  
RERUNNING  
THE PICTURES  
FROM  
WARHEAD'S  
HELMET  
CAMERA.



IT'S QUITE  
FASCINATING.

THIS IS  
JUST AFTER HE  
BROKE INTO  
ZENITH'S  
FLAT.

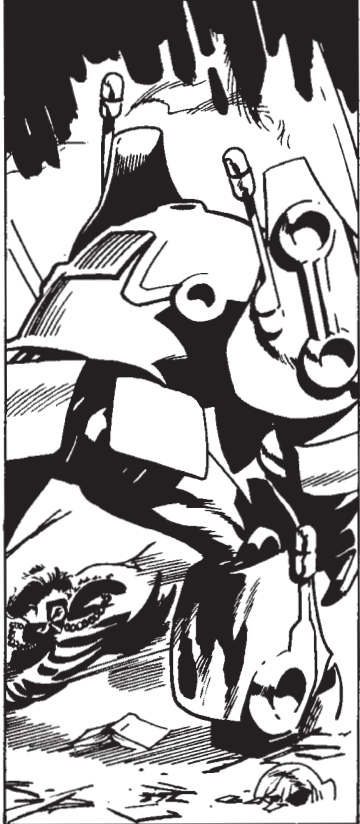


"I THINK HE GAVE THE BOY  
QUITE A SURPRISE."

# ZENITH

**PHASE II/2: "VISITORS"**

"BUT LOOK HOW QUICKLY HE REACTS."



"ONE GETS THE FEELING HE'S LEARNED FROM HAVING TO FIGHT MASTERMAN LAST YEAR."

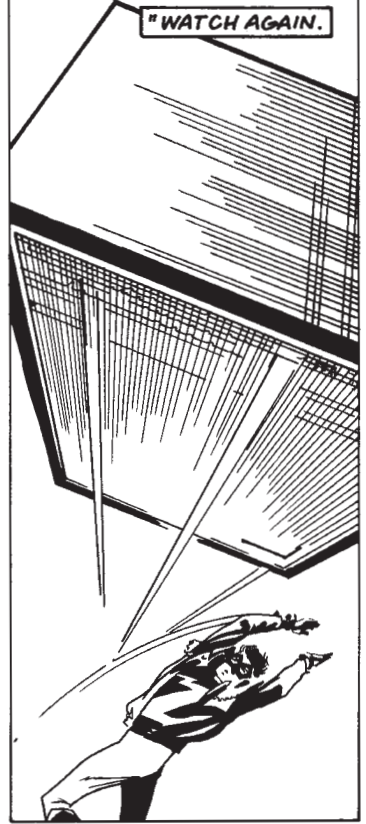


"I MUST ADMIT THAT AFTER READING HIS INTERVIEWS AND LISTENING TO HIS SO-CALLED 'MUSIC', I'D COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ZENITH WAS COMPLETELY WITLESS."



"I MAY BE FORCED TO ALTER MY OPINION."

"WATCH AGAIN."



"HARDLY A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT, YOU SEE?"



"HE DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT THE FULL RANGE AND EXTENT OF THE ABILITIES HE INHERITED FROM HIS PARENTS."

"BUT HE REACTS QUICKLY. HE THINKS ON HIS FEET."



"I LIKE THAT."



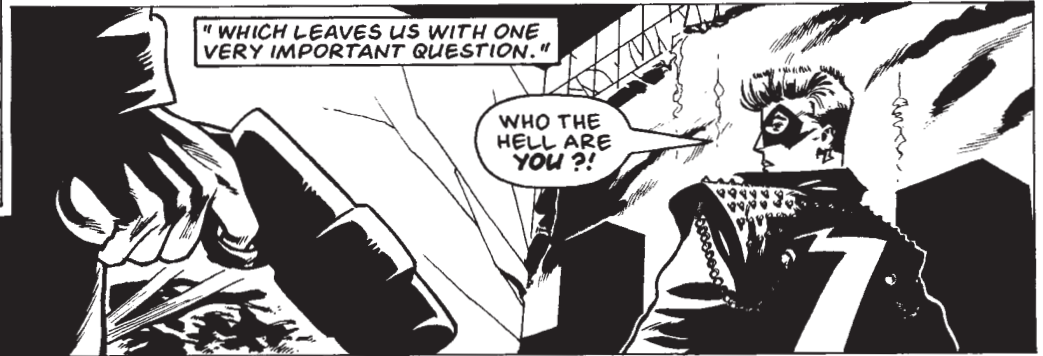


"AND THEN ZENITH FINISHED THE JOB."



"THAT WAS WHEN WE LOST THE CAMERA."

"WHICH LEAVES US WITH ONE VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION."



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

NAME'S PHAEDRA. PHAEDRA CALE.

CIA.

GUESS YOU MISSED THE MESSAGE I LEFT WITH YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE.



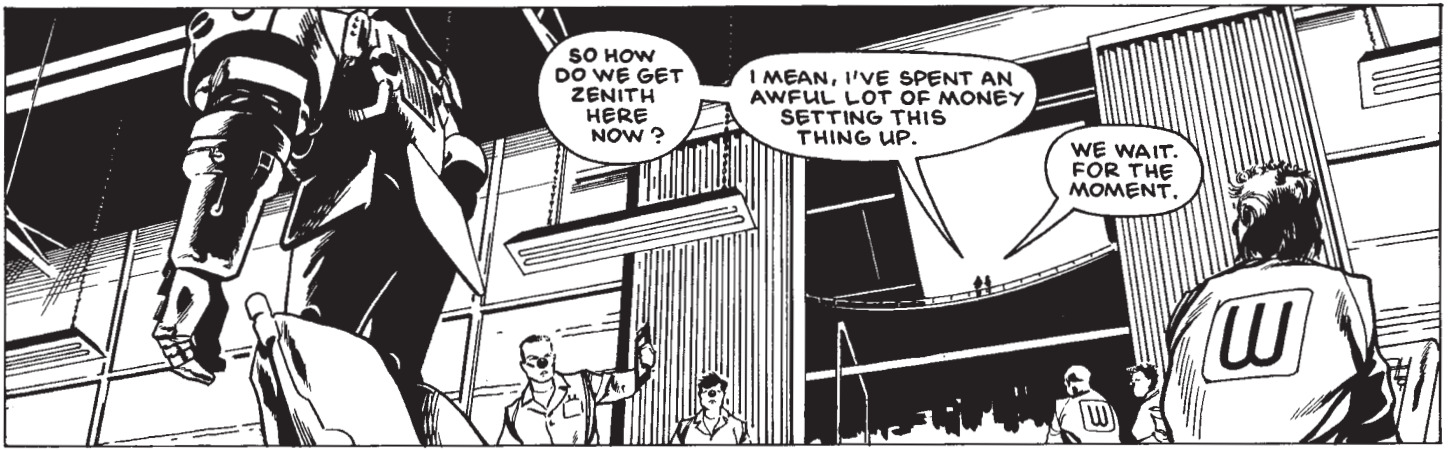
CIA?

YOU LEARN PRETTY FAST FOR A DUMB BRIT.

WELL? YOU COMING?



OR DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOUR PARENTS HAVE BEEN ALL THESE YEARS?



SO HOW DO WE GET ZENITH HERE NOW?

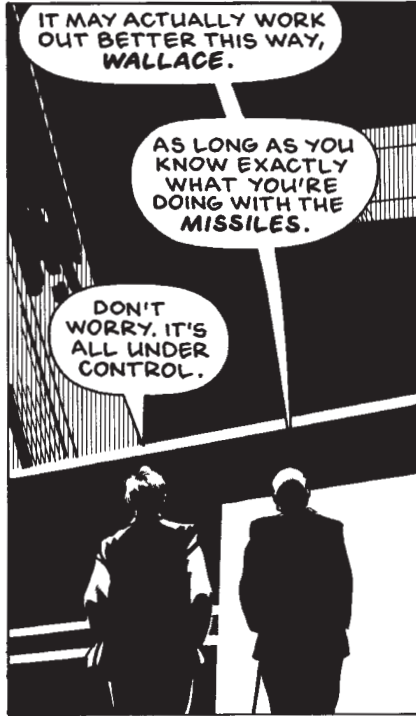
I MEAN, I'VE SPENT AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY SETTING THIS THING UP.

WE WAIT FOR THE MOMENT.



WELL, DON'T LET'S WAIT TOO LONG.

I'M A BUSY, BUSY BOY, PEYNE.



IT MAY ACTUALLY WORK OUT BETTER THIS WAY, WALLACE.

AS LONG AS YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH THE MISSILES.

DON'T WORRY. IT'S ALL UNDER CONTROL.



STRANGE.

HE HAS HIS MOTHER'S EYES.



REALLY?



I THOUGHT WE HAD HIS MOTHER'S EYES.

Next

SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME!

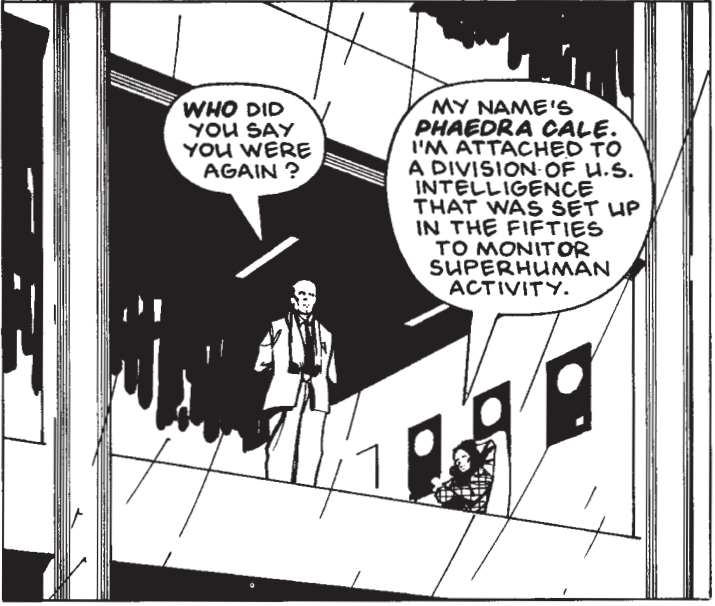
# ZENITH

LONDON; FEBRUARY 5, 1988.

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A WEE LOOK INTO ALL THIS, YOU KNOW.

AS ZENITH'S AGENT, I CAN'T JUST LET HIM GO GALLAVANTING OFF WITH EVERY TOM, DICK OR HARRIET THAT WALTZES INTO HIS LIFE.

SCRIPT GRANT MORRISON  
ART STEVE YEOWELL  
LETTERING MARK KING



WHO DID YOU SAY YOU WERE AGAIN?

MY NAME'S PHAEDRA CALE. I'M ATTACHED TO A DIVISION OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE THAT WAS SET UP IN THE FIFTIES TO MONITOR SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY.



DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

U.S. INTELLIGENCE, EH?



IS THAT NOT A WEE BIT OF A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS THERE?

## PHASE II/3: "TAKE THE HIGH ROAD"



YOU'RE A REAL FUNNY GUY, MACPHAIL.

FUNNY LIKE LEPROSY.



DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THIS FARRAGO, ZENITH?

WELL...



HOW COME YOU'RE NOT WEARING THIS RED NOSE?

I MEAN IT'S COMIC RELIEF DAY, EDDIE AND YOU'RE LETTING THE SIDE DOWN.



OH, FOR GOODNESS' SAKE!

I'M TRYING TO BE SERIOUS HERE.

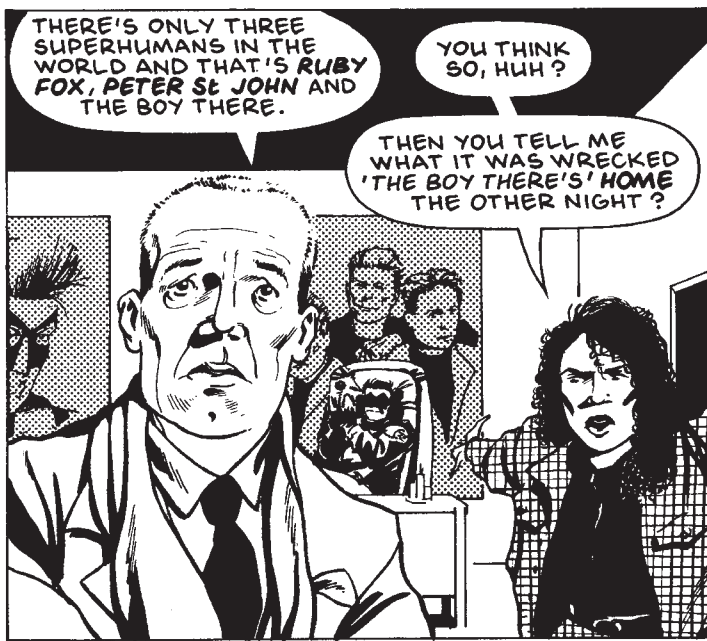
OH YEAH?



WELL MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REALISED JUST HOW SERIOUS THIS REALLY IS.

WE'VE RECEIVED EVIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPERHUMAN TEST BAN TREATY!

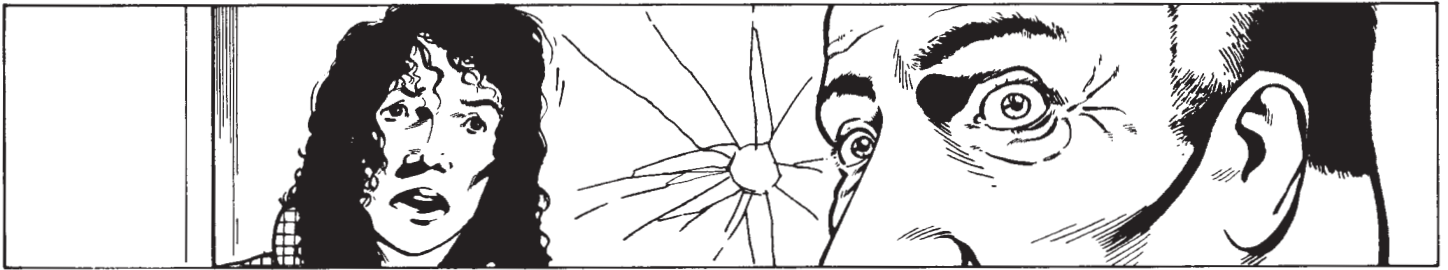
OCH, AWAY!

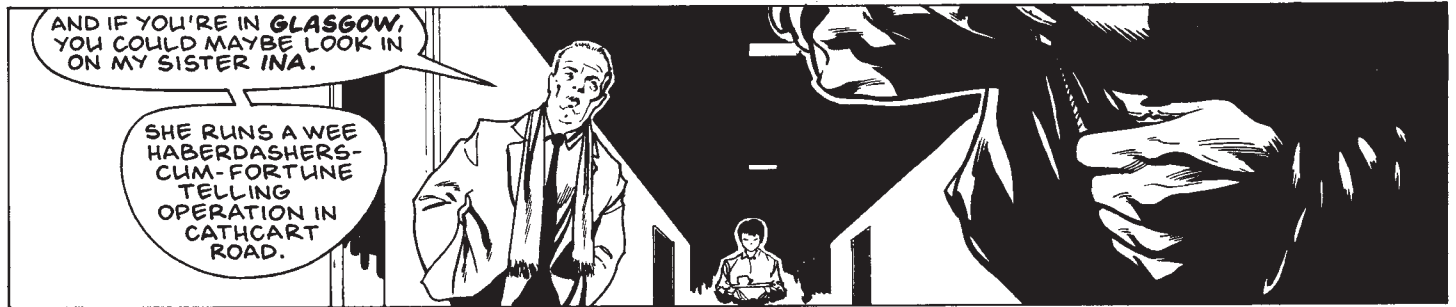
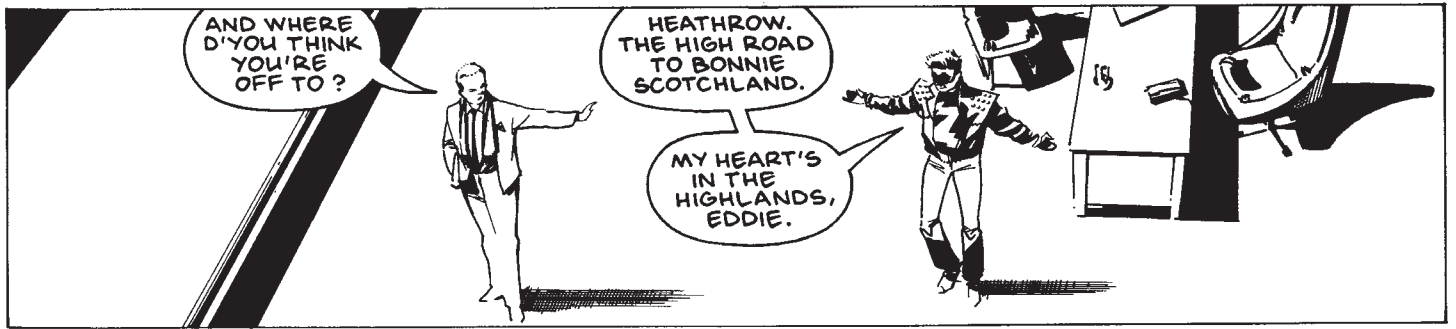


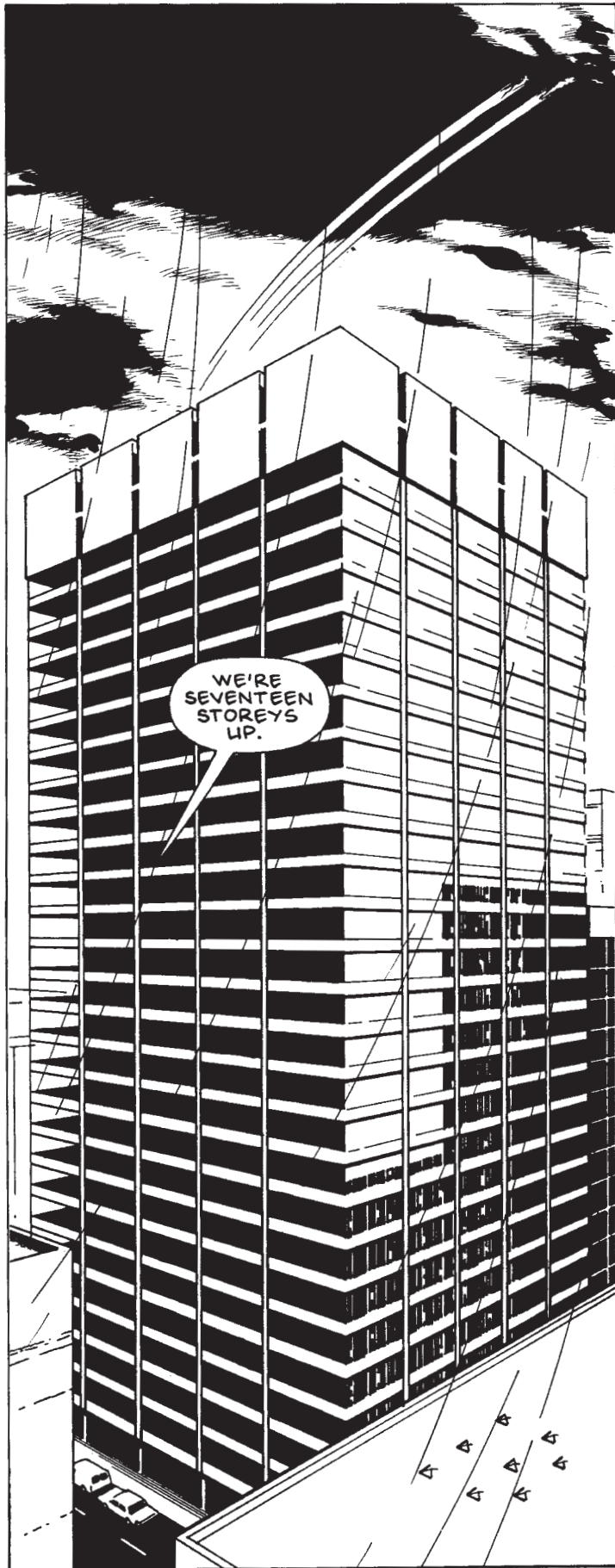
THERE'S ONLY THREE SUPERHUMANS IN THE WORLD AND THAT'S RUBY FOX, PETER SE JOHN AND THE BOY THERE.

YOU THINK SO, HUH?

THEN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT WAS WRECKED 'THE BOY THERE'S' HOME THE OTHER NIGHT?







**NEXT: THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE**

**SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 5, 1988.**



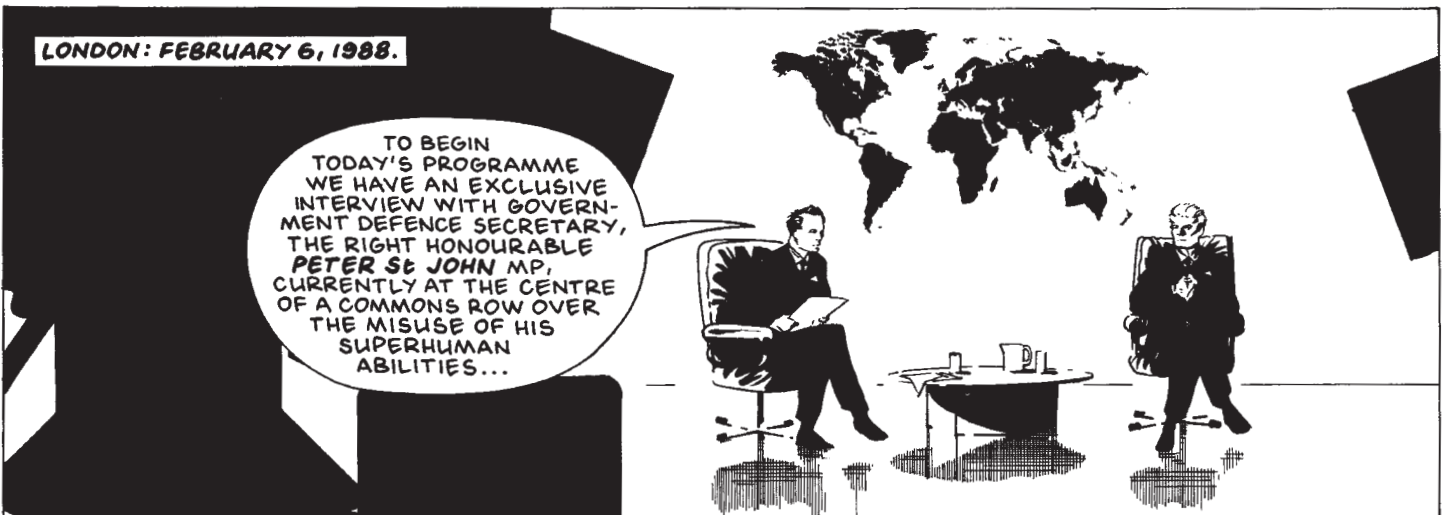
**HMS 'RESOLVE', THE NORTH  
SEA: FEBRUARY 5, 1988.**



**AD**  
GRANT MORRISON  
STEVE YEOWELL  
MARK KING

**LONDON: FEBRUARY 6, 1988.**

TO BEGIN  
TODAY'S PROGRAMME  
WE HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNMENT  
DEFENCE SECRETARY,  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
**PETER ST JOHN MP,**  
CURRENTLY AT THE CENTRE  
OF A COMMONS ROW OVER  
THE MISUSE OF HIS  
SUPERHUMAN  
ABILITIES...



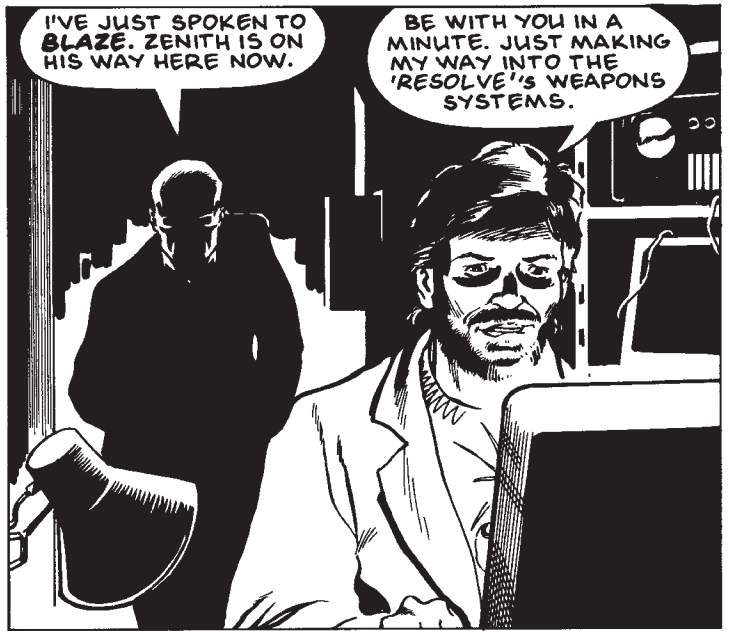
**PHASE II/4: "DEEP TROUBLE"**



WALLACE? IT'S PEYNE.

RIGHTY RIGHTY!

COME ON IN.



I'VE JUST SPOKEN TO BLAZE. ZENITH IS ON HIS WAY HERE NOW.

BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE. JUST MAKING MY WAY INTO THE 'RESOLVE'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

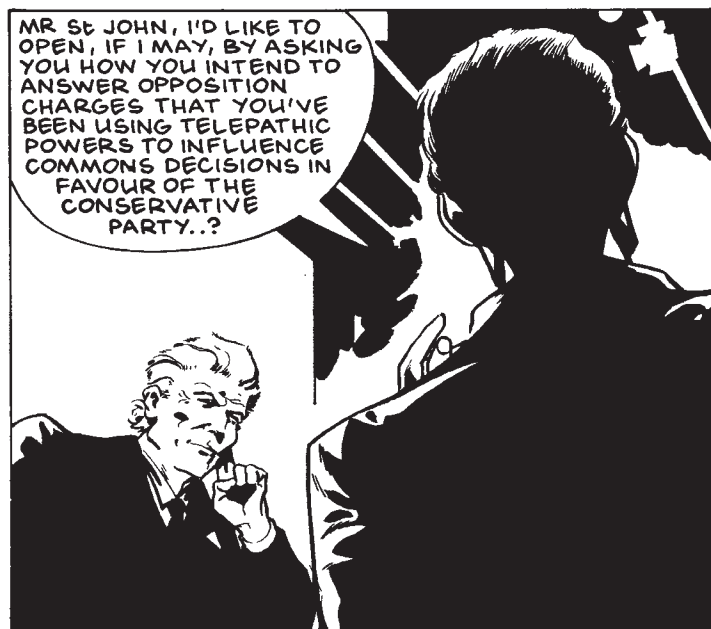


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, MCNISH?

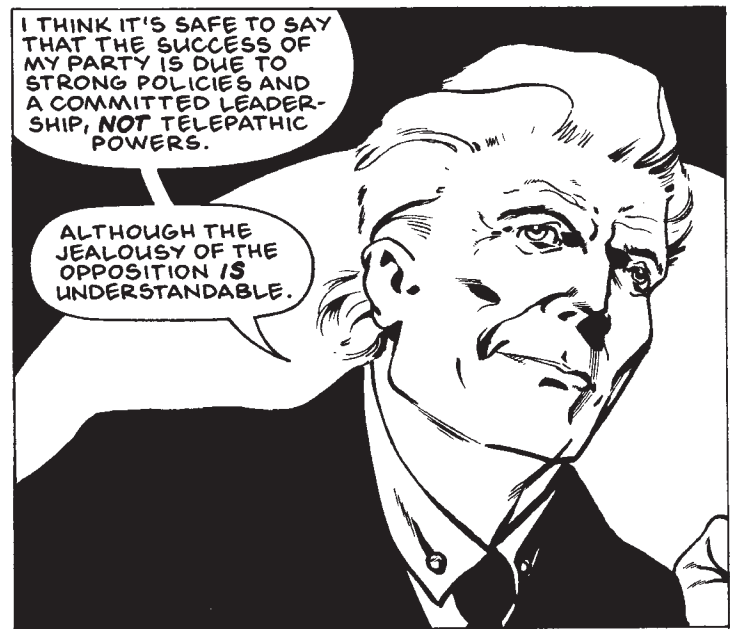
IT'S THE COMPUTER, SIR...I...



WELL, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

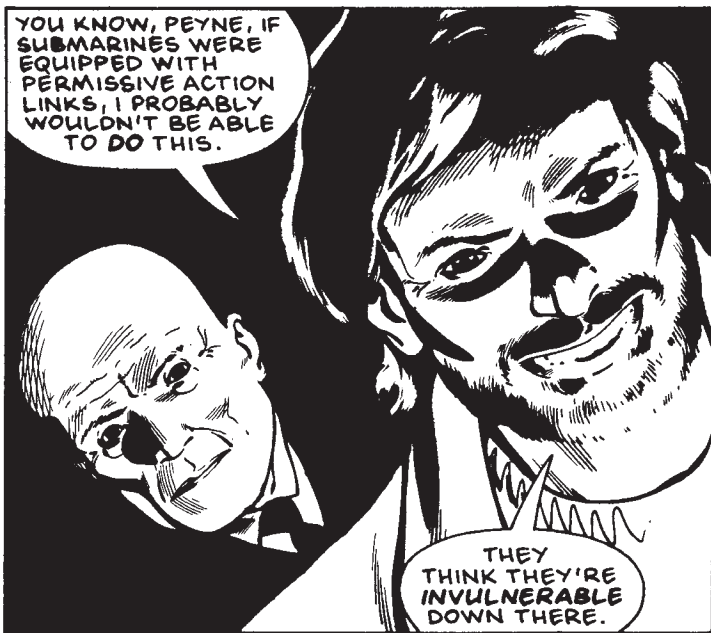


MR ST JOHN, I'D LIKE TO OPEN, IF I MAY, BY ASKING YOU HOW YOU INTEND TO ANSWER OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT YOU'VE BEEN USING TELEPATHIC POWERS TO INFLUENCE COMMONS DECISIONS IN FAVOUR OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY..?



I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THE SUCCESS OF MY PARTY IS DUE TO STRONG POLICIES AND A COMMITTED LEADERSHIP, NOT TELEPATHIC POWERS.

ALTHOUGH THE JEALOUSY OF THE OPPOSITION IS UNDERSTANDABLE.



YOU KNOW, PEYNE, IF SUBMARINES WERE EQUIPPED WITH PERMISSIVE ACTION LINKS, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS.

THEY THINK THEY'RE INVULNERABLE DOWN THERE.



THEY FORGET IT WAS ME WHO DESIGNED THEIR COMPUTERS.

MY COMPANY BUILT AND INSTALLED THEM.

AND I INCORPORATED THE BACKDOOR CODES THAT ALLOW ME ACCESS INTO ALL THEIR SYSTEMS.



COMMAND - W&O. WE HAVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS AT CONDITION ISQ HERE.

UH, WHAT'S GOING ON...?



W&O - COMMAND. I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND YOU.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?



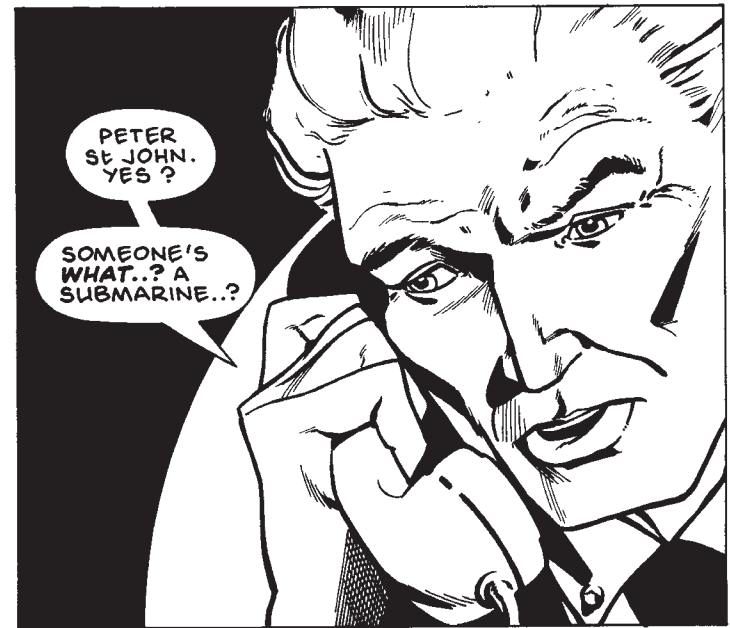
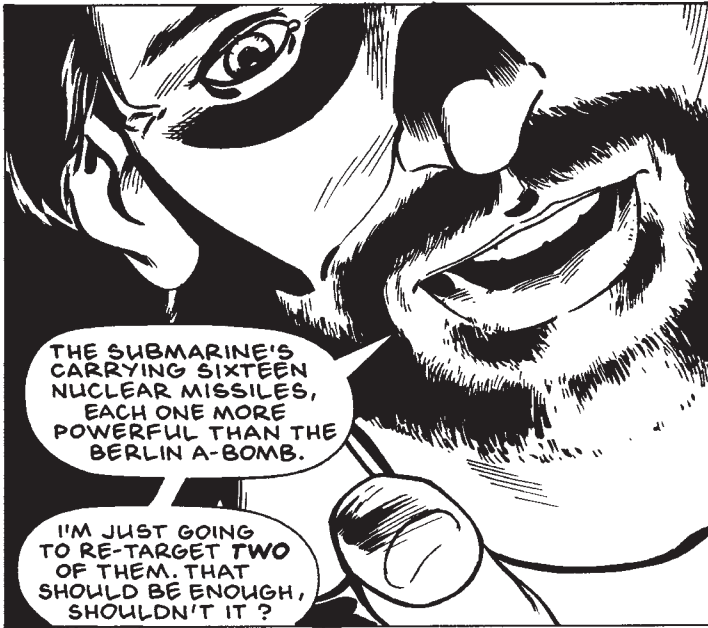
BASICALLY, I SIMPLY WANT TO STRESS THAT IF MY PSYCHIC ABILITIES WERE AS WELL-DEVELOPED AS SOME CLAIM, I WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED THESE ACCUSATIONS TO BE EXPRESSED IN THE FIRST PLACE.



BUT HOW WOULD YOU...

HOLD EVERYTHING! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP THE TAPING FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

URGENT TELEPHONE MESSAGE FOR MR ST JOHN!

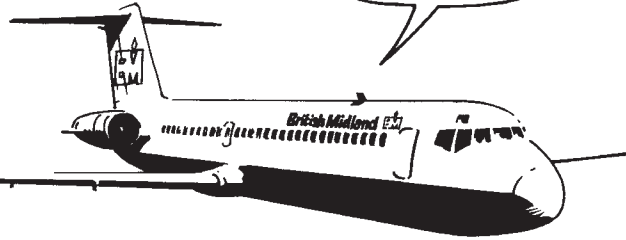




**NEXT: KEEP 'EM FLYING!**

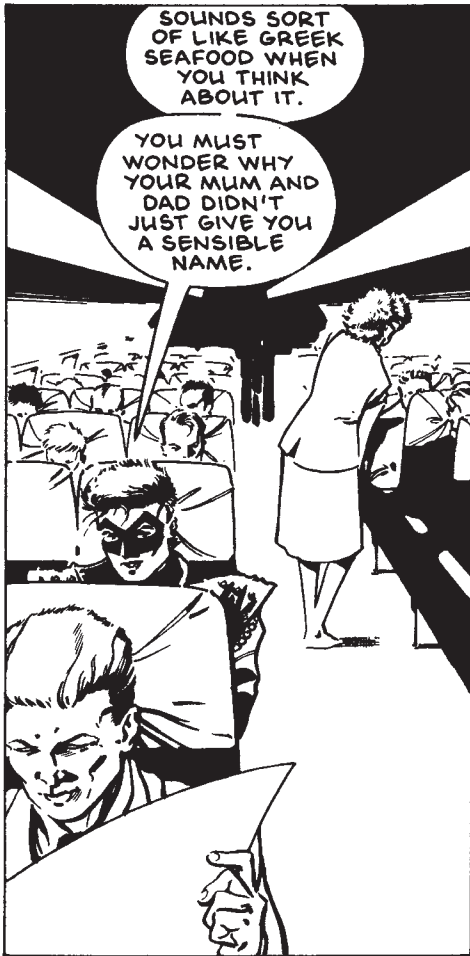
# ZENITH

AIRBORNE: FEBRUARY  
6, 1988.



MUST BE FUNNY  
BEING CALLED  
SOMETHING LIKE  
'PHAEDRA'.

## PHASE II/5: "FIRE IN THE SKY"



SOUNDS SORT  
OF LIKE GREEK  
SEAFOOD WHEN  
YOU THINK  
ABOUT IT.

YOU MUST  
WONDER WHY  
YOUR MUM AND  
DAD DIDN'T  
JUST GIVE YOU  
A SENSIBLE  
NAME.

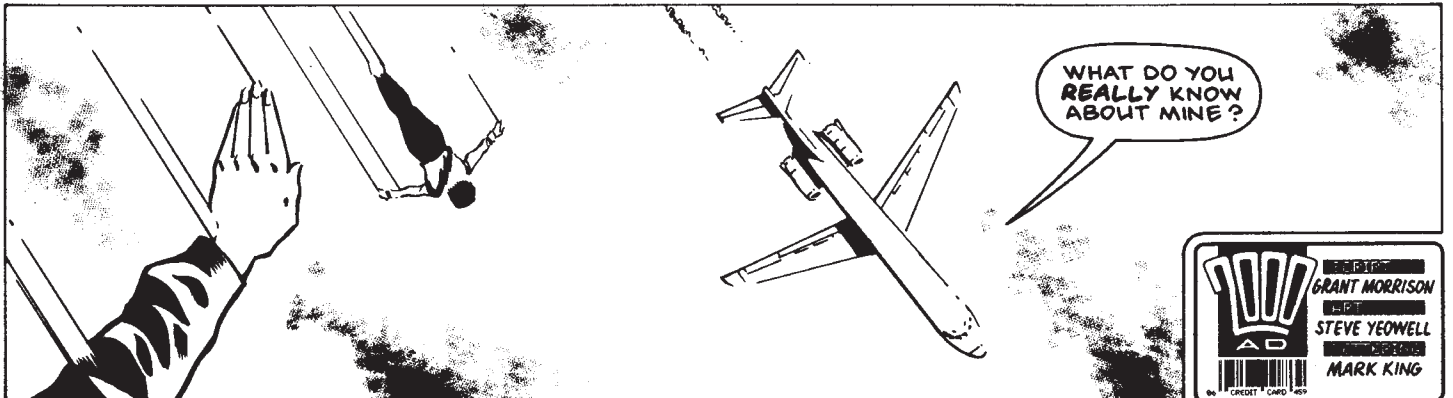


YOU  
MEAN LIKE  
'ZENITH'?



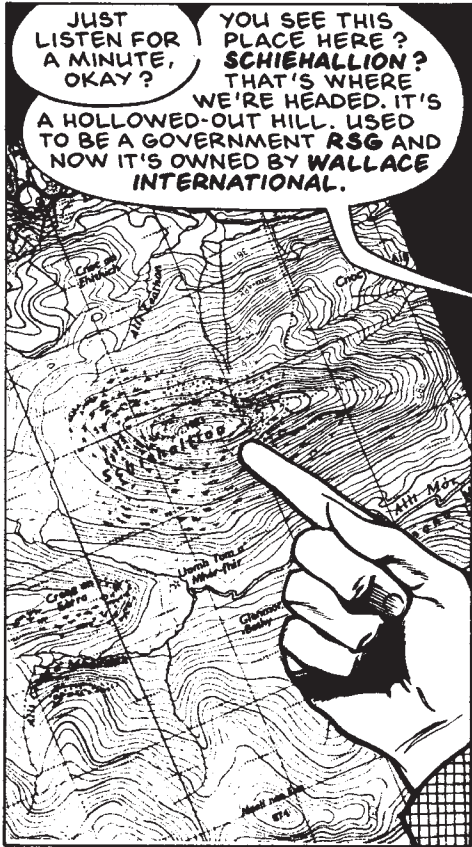
YEAH.  
SOMETHING  
LIKE  
THAT.

AND SPEAKING  
OF MUMS AND  
DADS...



WHAT DO YOU  
REALLY KNOW  
ABOUT MINE?

**AD**  
GRANT MORRISON  
STEVE YEOWELL  
MARK KING



JUST LISTEN FOR A MINUTE, OKAY?

YOU SEE THIS PLACE HERE? SCHIEHALLION? THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED. IT'S A HOLLOWED-OUT HILL. USED TO BE A GOVERNMENT RSG AND NOW IT'S OWNED BY WALLACE INTERNATIONAL.



THIS GUY, SCOTT WALLACE, IS SOME KIND OF COMPUTER WHIZZ-KID.

HE MADE A FORTUNE ANTICIPATING THE ARCADE GAME BOOM IN THE LATE SEVENTIES AND NOW HE'S GOT A FINGER IN MORE PIES THAN YOU COULD EAT IN A LIFETIME.

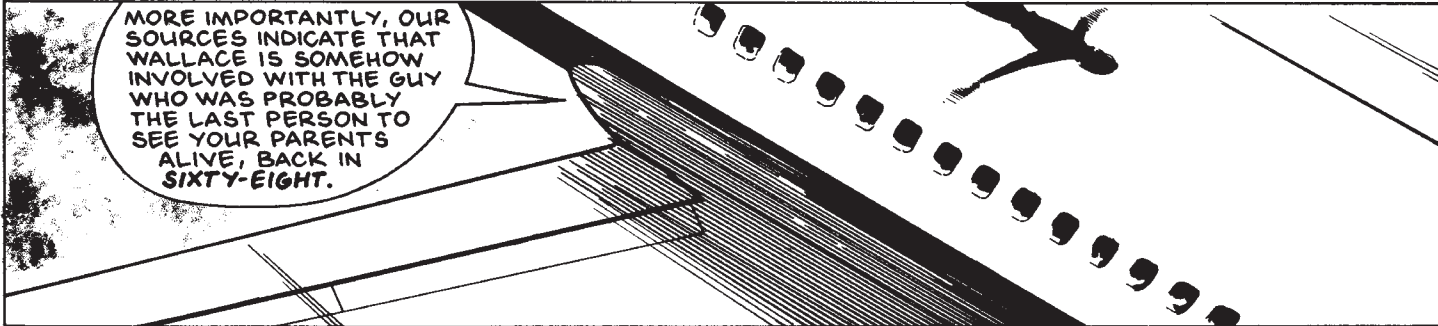


YEAH, I'VE HEARD OF HIM. HE'S THE GUY THAT TRIED TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC IN A SHOEBOX OR SOMETHING.

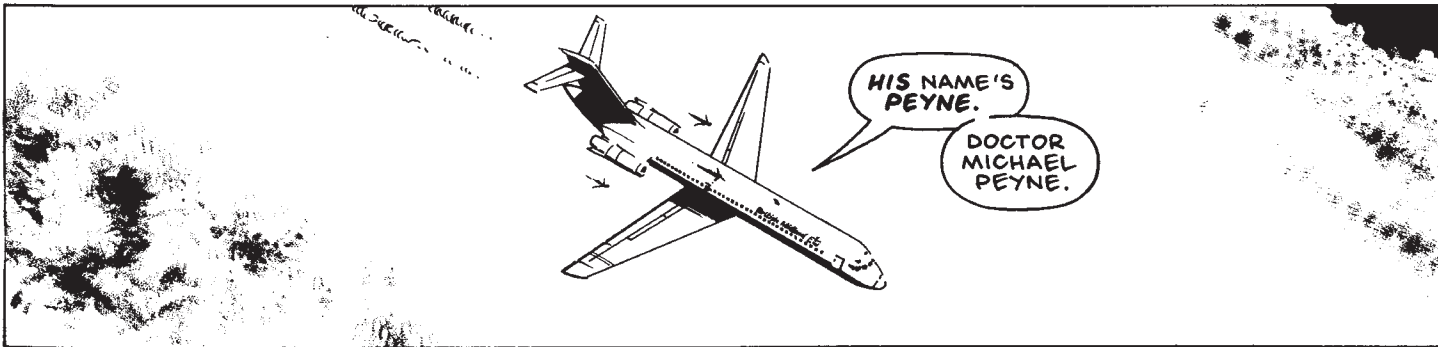
WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH MY MUM AND DAD?



WELL, THERE WAS A WALLACE INTERNATIONAL VAN PARKED OUTSIDE YOUR APARTMENT WHEN YOU WERE ATTACKED ON WEDNESDAY. OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED?



MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT WALLACE IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED WITH THE GUY WHO WAS PROBABLY THE LAST PERSON TO SEE YOUR PARENTS ALIVE, BACK IN SIXTY-EIGHT.



HIS NAME'S PEYNE.

DOCTOR MICHAEL PEYNE.



DOCTOR PAIN?

COME ON! THIS IS LIKE JAMES BOND!



IT'S PEYNE. EE WYE.

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD OF HIM — 'THE FATHER OF ENGENETICS'? HE PRACTICALLY CREATED SUPER-HUMANITY SINGLE-HANDED.



IT WAS HIS WORK THAT CONVINCED U.S. INTELLIGENCE TO TRAIN PEOPLE LIKE ME — PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO KILL SUPERHUMANS IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT.

≡TKK≡

SINCE WHEN WERE SUPERHUMANS SUCH A BIG THREAT?



SINCE THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF CLOUD 9 ALL TURN OUT NOT TO HAVE LOST THEIR SUPER-POWERS AFTER ALL.

SINCE PEYNE SEEMS TO BE RECEIVING ILLEGAL FUNDING TO CONTINUE HIS EXPERIMENTS...

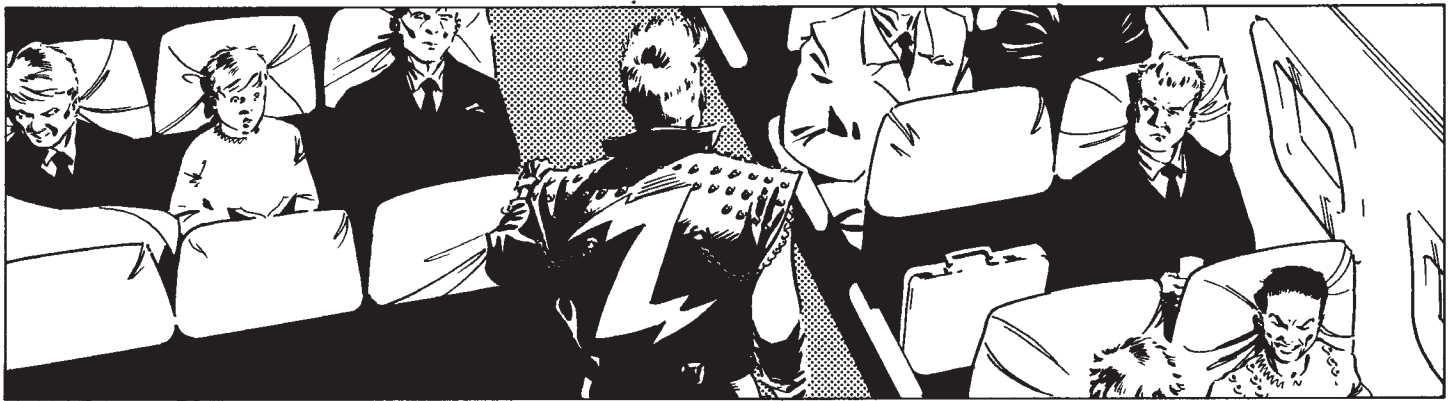


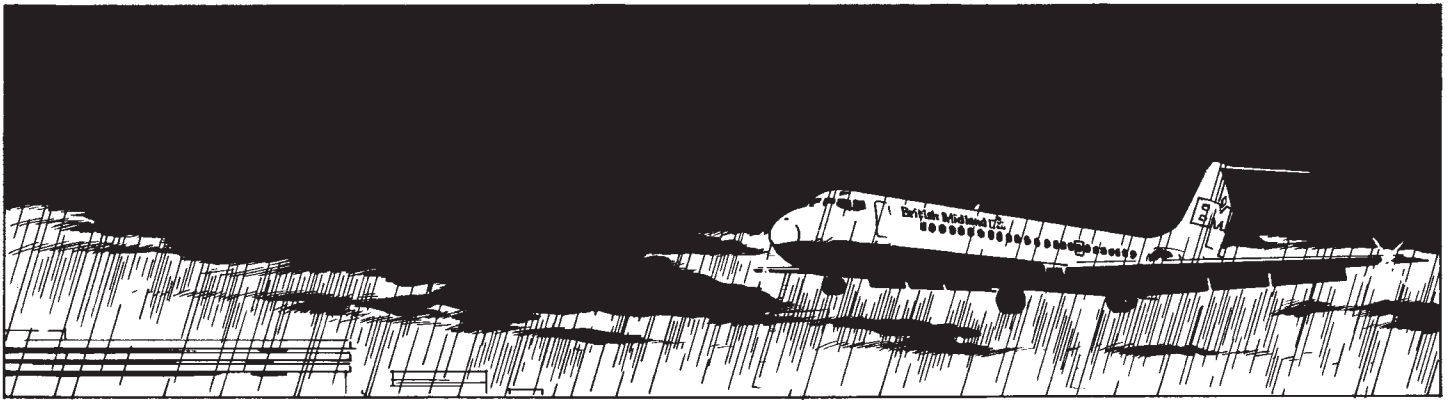
THAT'S TYPICAL AMERICANS, ISN'T IT? IF IT'S NOT REDS UNDER THE BED, IT'S SUPERHUMANS.

YOU'RE ALL JUST JEALOUS.



I MEAN, YOU EVEN HAD TO MAKE UP COMICS ABOUT THEM BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY REAL ONES OF YOUR OWN!





SO THIS IS GLASGOW.

NO WONDER EDDIE LEFT.

WE SHOULD HAVE A HIRE CAR WAITING.



YOU STILL MAD AT ME?

I'M NOT MAD. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO JUST BE HUMAN.



YOU SUPERHUMANS... IT'S LIKE WE'VE BEEN INVADED BY ALIENS, YOU KNOW?

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT, PHAEDRA.



KEEP WATCHING THE SKIES.

**NEXT: OLD ACQUAINTANCE.**

**B** LACK.

(I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.)

FREEZING.

THINGS THAT USED TO BE HUMAN DRAG THEMSELVES INTO THE PERPETUAL SHADOWS, SOBBING WITH SHAME.

A CHILD'S DOLL, DRIVEN MAD BY THE HORRORS IT HAS WITNESSED, STARES UP AT ME.

I'M TOO LATE.

A SKYFUL OF FLOATING CINDERS.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE ?

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO THE WORLD ?

I WISH THE SUN WOULD ONLY RISE.

AND THEN I REALISE THAT IT HAS RISEN.

AND THE SUN IS BLACK.



**ZENITH**

**PHASE II/6: "FAMILIAR SPIRITS"**



**AD**  
GRANT MORRISON  
STEVE YEOWELL  
MARK KING

'PETER.'

THEY'RE IN  
THE SUN.

INCUBATING  
IN THE SUN.

'PETER.'

THE SKY  
WRITHES.



I'M AFRAID.  
I'M SO AFRAID.

THEY'RE BEING  
BORN AS A NEW  
GEOMETRY OF  
INCOMPREHEN-  
SIBLE FORMS,  
A SPECTRUM  
OF COLOUR  
WITHOUT  
NAMES.

THEY BEND AN  
IMPOSSIBLE  
MAZE THROUGH  
SPACE, CROSSING  
THE LIGHT SEC-  
ONDS WITH  
MADDENING  
SPEED.

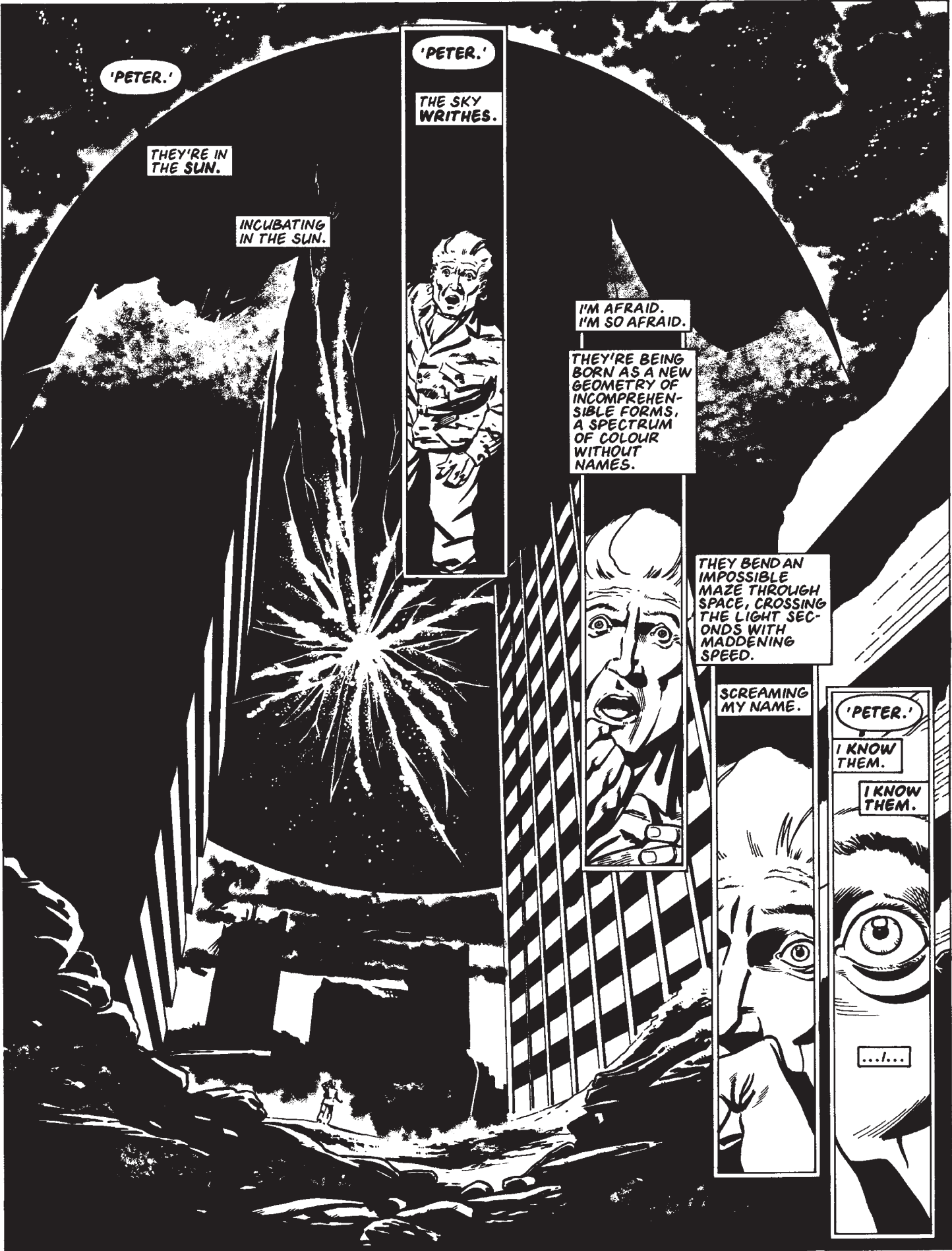
SCREAMING  
MY NAME.

'PETER.'

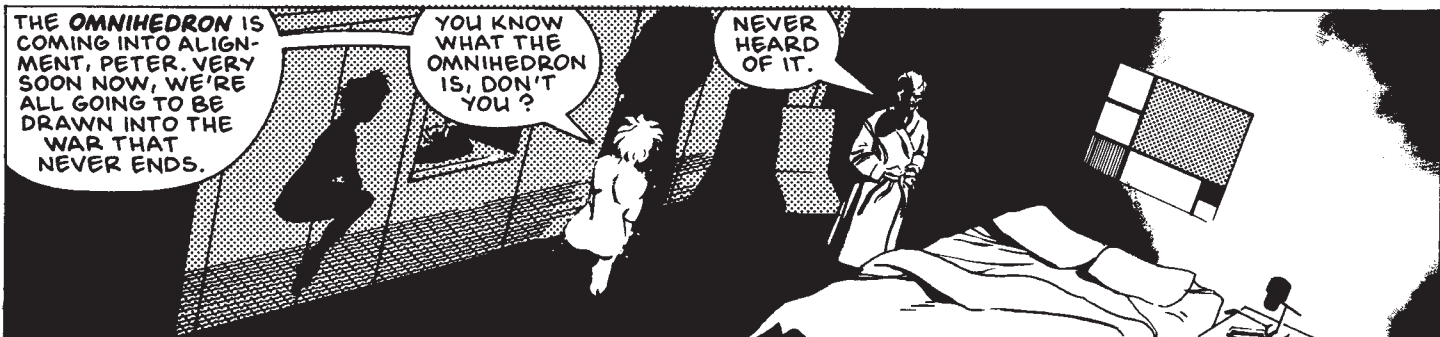
I KNOW  
THEM.

I KNOW  
THEM.

.../...







THE OMNIHEDRON IS COMING INTO ALIGNMENT, PETER. VERY SOON NOW, WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE DRAWN INTO THE WAR THAT NEVER ENDS.

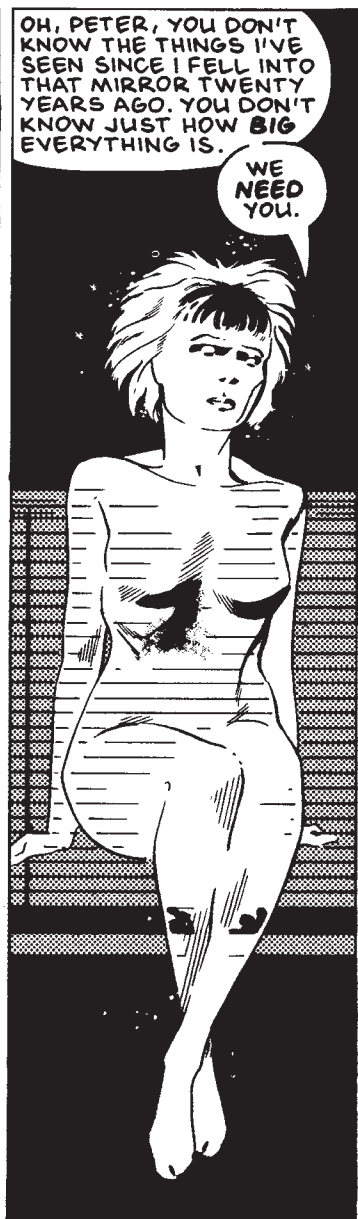
YOU KNOW WHAT THE OMNIHEDRON IS, DON'T YOU?

NEVER HEARD OF IT.



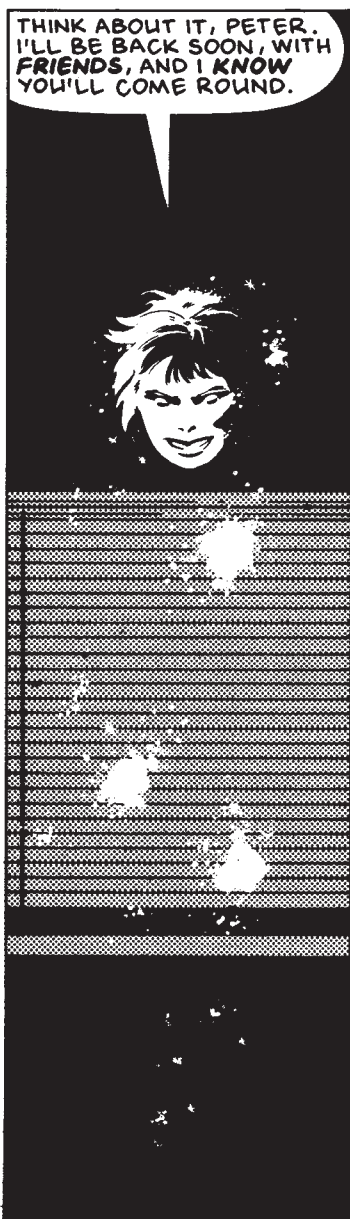
YOU'RE LYING. I CAN SEE YOUR AURA.

WAS IT WHEN YOU FOUGHT IOK SOTOT WITH ZENITH? WAS THAT WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE OMNIHEDRON?



OH, PETER, YOU DON'T KNOW THE THINGS I'VE SEEN SINCE I FELL INTO THAT MIRROR TWENTY YEARS AGO. YOU DON'T KNOW JUST HOW BIG EVERYTHING IS.

WE NEED YOU.



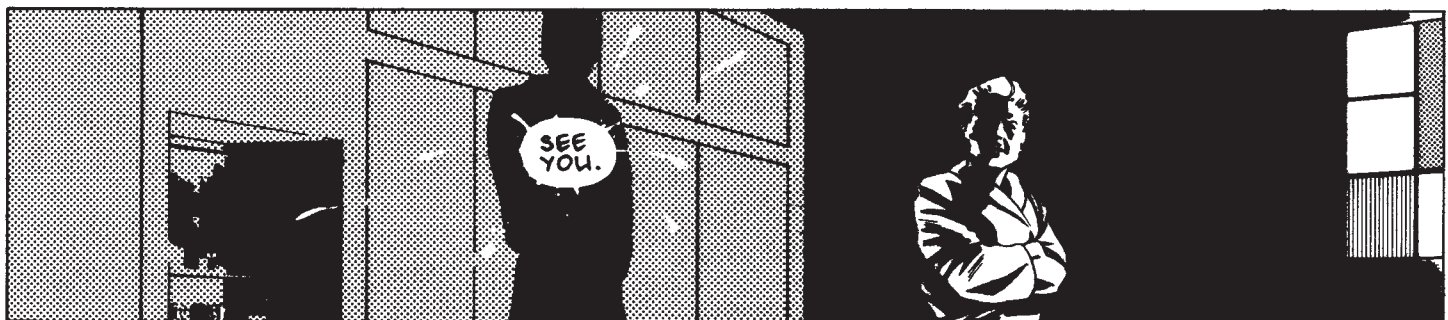
THINK ABOUT IT, PETER. I'LL BE BACK SOON, WITH FRIENDS, AND I KNOW YOU'LL COME ROUND.



BECAUSE IN THE END

NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOUR DISGUISE

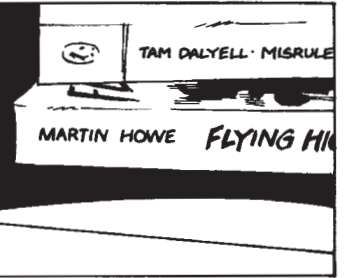
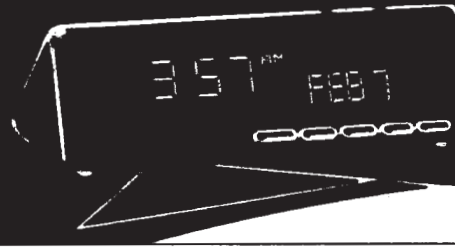
YOU'RE STILL ONE OF US.



SEE YOU.

My head is pounding, beating like a ruthless metronome.

Things are coming apart.



I thought I had everything worked out. I thought I had covered all the angles.

But there are angles beyond angles, I should have known that.



Even as I write, the lunatic who's taken control of a nuclear submarine has his finger poised on the button, ready to destroy London.

Overhead, the superhumans gather like vultures. Waiting.



I'm struck by an image: mankind playing Russian roulette with itself.

So much depends now on chance, on luck.



The barrel spins.

The trigger is pulled.



**NEXT: THE HIDDEN FORTRESS.**

SCHEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 8, 1988.

ALL I  
WANTED WAS  
SOME  
COVERING  
DARKNESS.

I MEAN,  
WHAT IS THIS?  
THE MONSOON  
SEASON?

I COULD  
REALLY GET  
TO DISLIKE  
SCOTLAND.

≡HFF≡

SO THIS  
IS THE  
PLACE  
THEN?

W  
NO TRESPASSING  
DANGER! ELECTRIFIED FENCE

YEAH.

THIS  
IS THE  
PLACE.

SHOULDN'T  
TAKE TOO LONG  
TO GET THROUGH  
THIS FENCE.

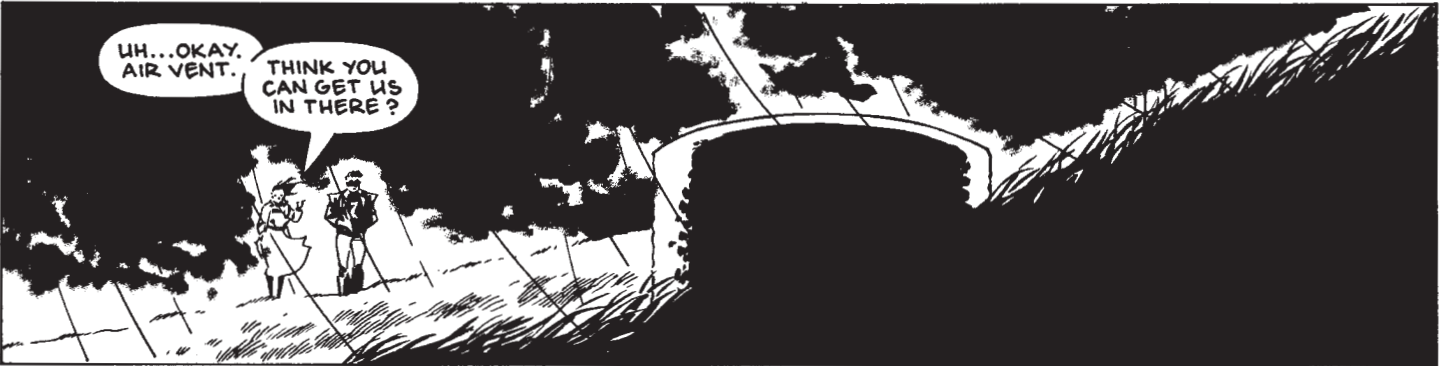
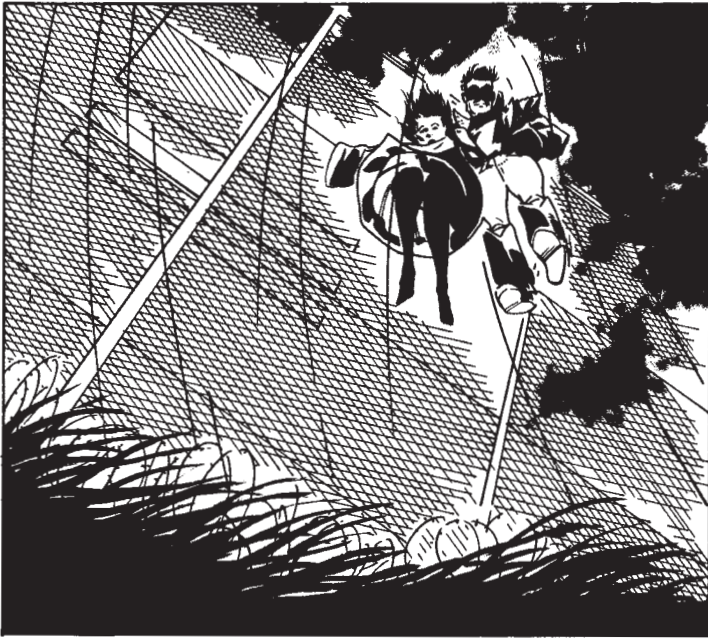
JUST  
GIVE ME  
A...

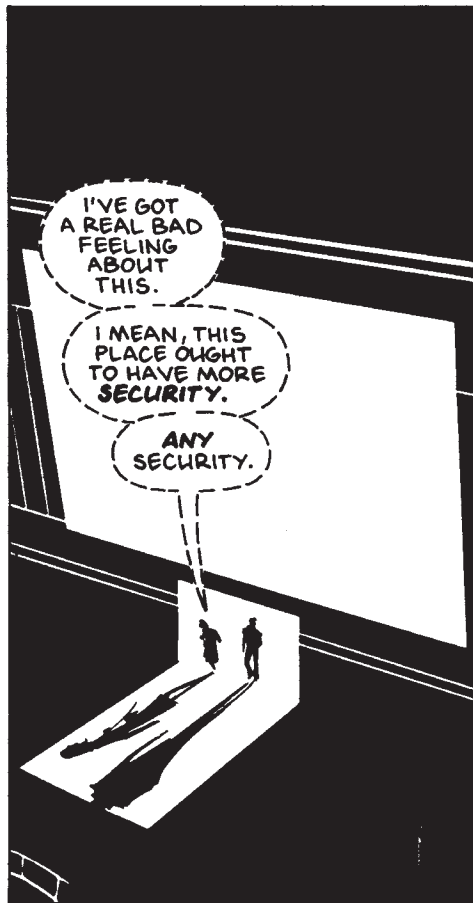
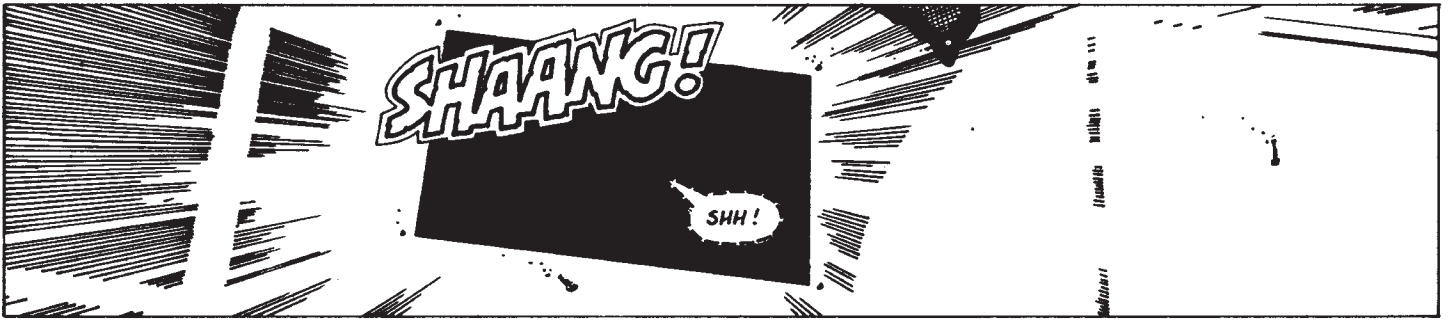
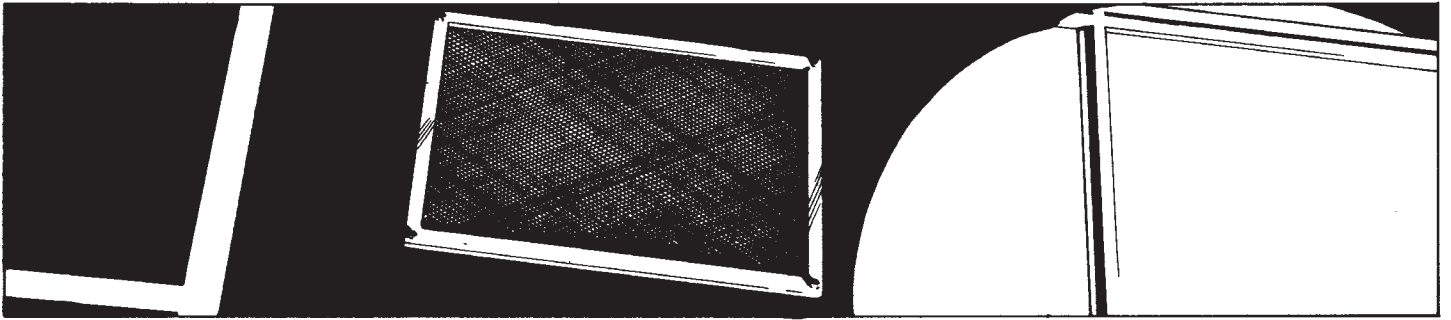
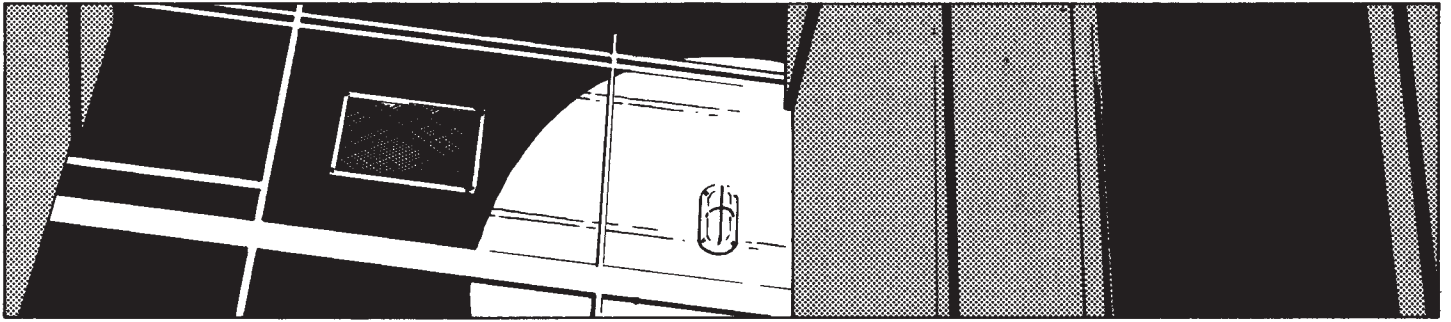
...WUHH...!

ZENITH

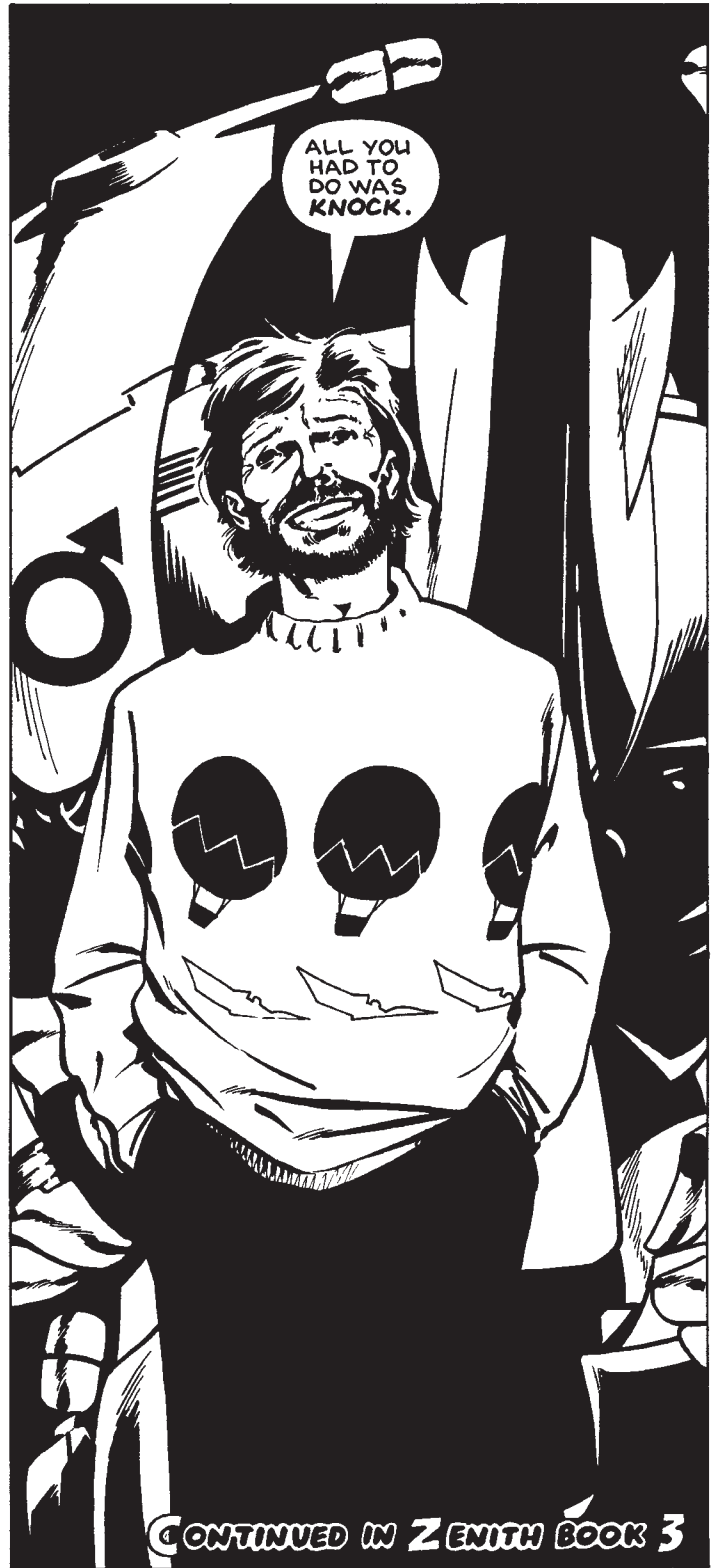
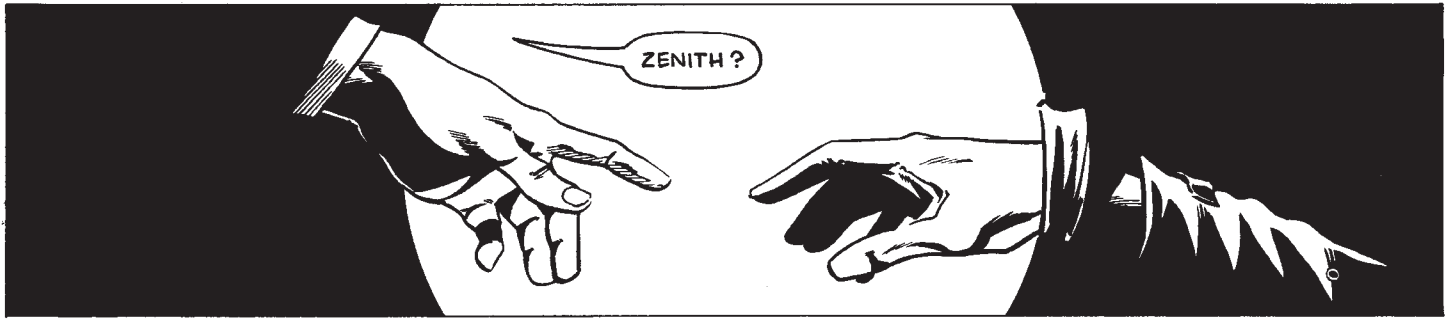
PHASE II/7: "INTO THE UNDERWORLD"

SCRIPT  
GRANT MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE YEOWELL  
LETTERING  
MARK KING  
AD  
D.C. CREDIT CARO P&S









# ZENITH

LONDON: FEBRUARY 8, 1988.

## PHASE II/8: "KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR"



SCRIPT: GRANT MORRISON  
ART: STEVE YEOWELL  
LETTERING: GORDON ROBSON

SCHIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 8, 1988.

WELL, HERE WE ALL ARE, THEN!

I SUPPOSE I OUGHT TO GET THE INTRODUCTIONS OUT OF THE WAY FIRST.

WARHEAD YOU'VE ALREADY MET, I THINK. THE GIRLS ARE SHOCKWAVE AND BLAZE.

IT WAS ME WHO THOUGHT UP THE NAMES, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING.

THAT'S DR PEYNE, WHO'S PROBABLY THE CLEVEREST MAN ANY OF US WILL EVER MEET.

AND I'M SCOTT WALLACE.

"DO YOU KNOW ME?"

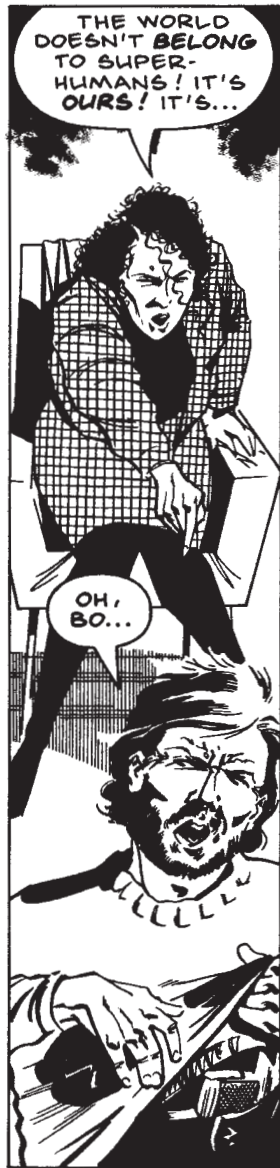
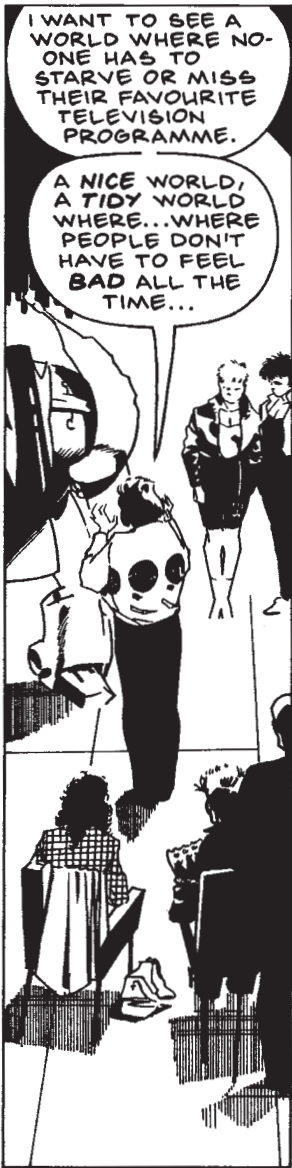
OH, WE KNOW YOU ALL RIGHT, PAL!

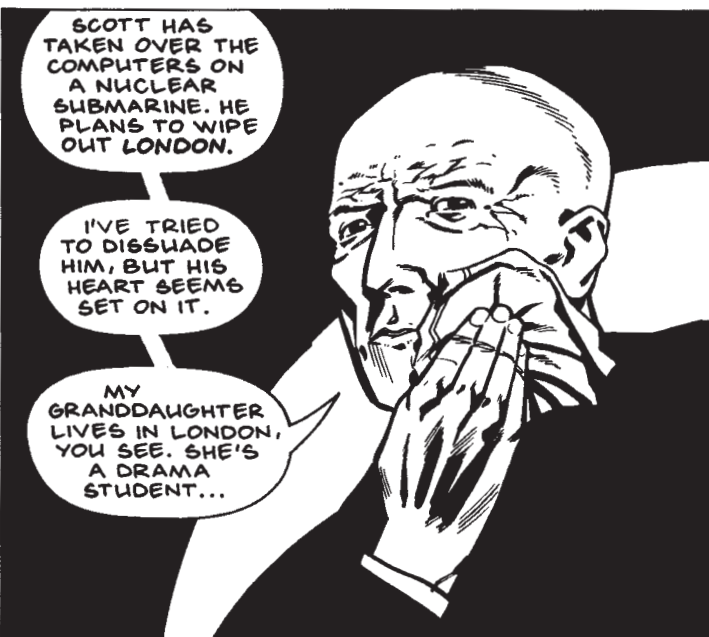
WHY? I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG, AM I? NOT REALLY.

I'M JUST SICK OF THE WAY THE WORLD'S GOING AND I THINK I COULD DO A BETTER JOB, BUILD A BETTER WORLD, THAT'S ALL.

WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE AND WE'RE GOING TO PULL THE WHOLE DAMN THING AROUND YOUR EARS.









HE MUST BE MAD...! WALLACE, I MEAN.

THE GUY'S MAD!

POSSIBLY. HE'S ALSO VERY, VERY RICH.



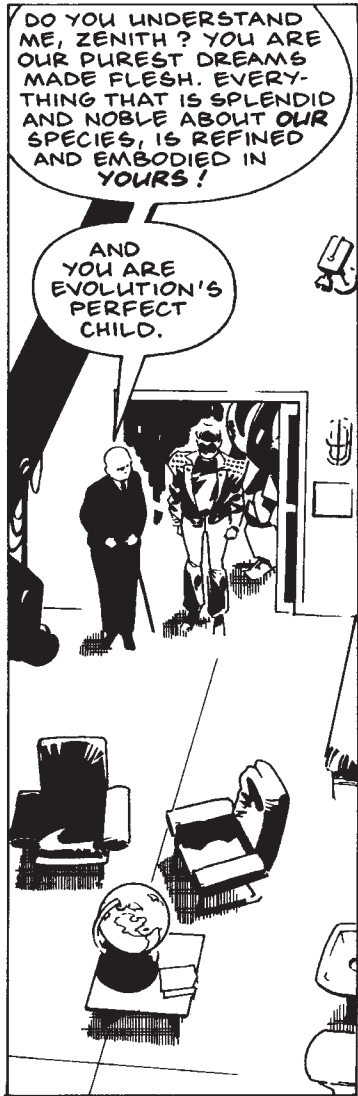
AND WITHOUT HIS PATRONAGE, I'D NEVER HAVE LIVED TO SEE MY WORK TO ITS IMMINENT CONCLUSION.

OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU...ABOUT YOUR PARENTS, YOUR POTENTIAL ABILITIES AND YOUR MAGNIFICENT DESTINY.



WE HAVE REACHED THE GATES OF PARADISE AND STAND NOW ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE AGE OF HOMO NOVUS, THE NEW MAN.

IT IS TIME FOR THE SUPERHUMANS, FOR YOUR KIND, TO TAKE UP THE BATON FROM EXHAUSTED, SICKENED HUMANITY.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, ZENITH? YOU ARE OUR PUREST DREAMS MADE FLESH. EVERYTHING THAT IS SPLENDID AND NOBLE ABOUT OUR SPECIES, IS REFINED AND EMBODIED IN YOURS!

AND YOU ARE EVOLUTION'S PERFECT CHILD.



NOW, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?

YEAH. A TV.



I MEAN, YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO MISS NEIGHBOURS, DO YOU?

NEXT: FAMILY PLOT

# ZENITH

PHASE II/9: "WAITING FOR THE BIG BANG"

LONDON: FEBRUARY 9, 1988.

It happens tomorrow.



Oblivious to its fate, London huddles under a cold sky, like a beast marked for the slaughterhouse.

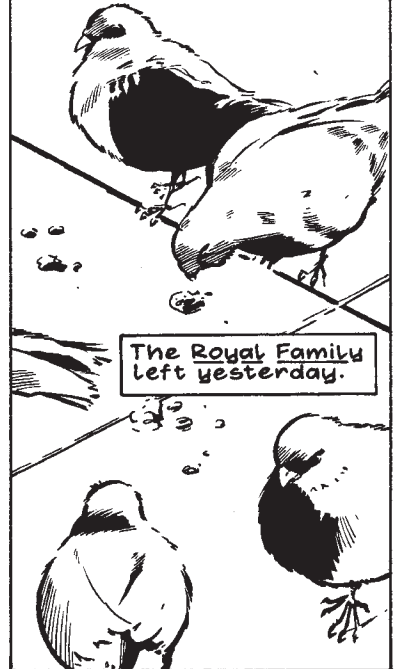
The missiles fly tomorrow.

Two nuclear warheads. Enough to erase this city forever from the face of the earth.



I suggested destroying the submarine that's been taken over, but we can't even find it.

Evacuation is out of the question, except for the privileged.



The Royal Family left yesterday.

I don't know what to do. For the first time, I simply don't know what to do.

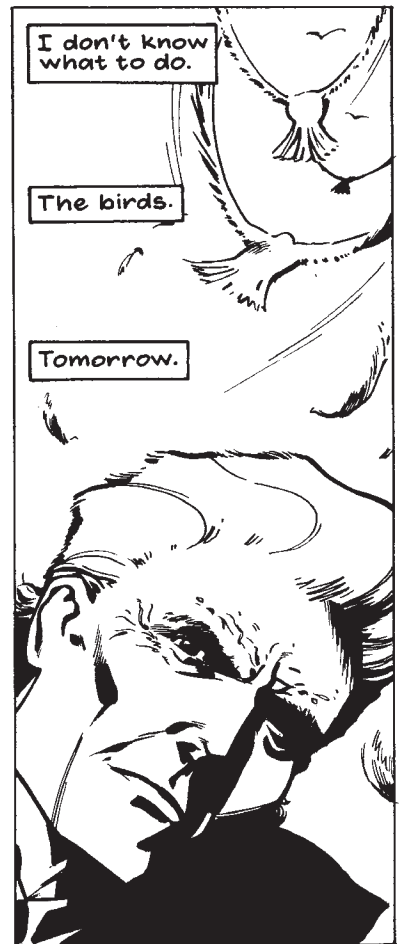
Tomorrow the sky will burn. The animals in the zoo will burn. The children and the bankers. The poets. The criminals.



I don't know what to do.

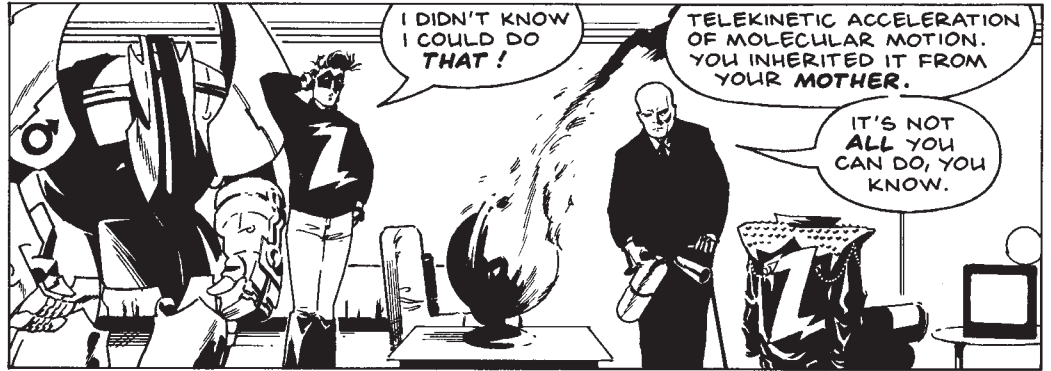
The birds.

Tomorrow.



AD  
GRANT MORRISON  
STEVE YEOWELL  
GORDON ROBSON

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 9, 1988.



I DIDN'T KNOW  
I COULD DO  
THAT!

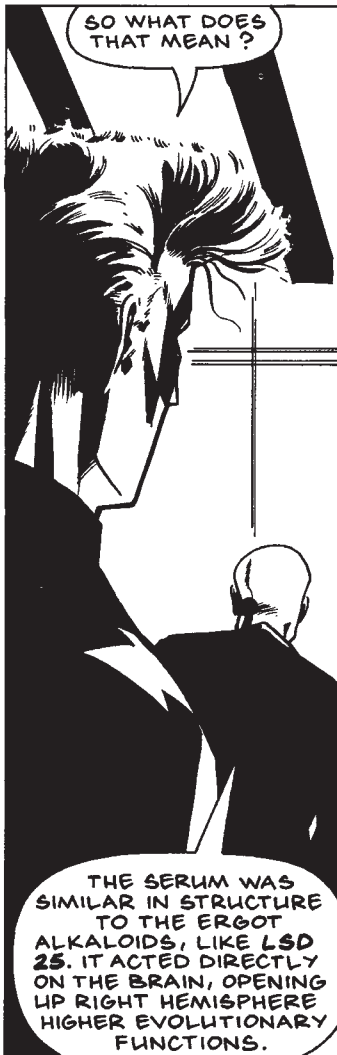
TELEKINETIC ACCELERATION  
OF MOLECULAR MOTION.  
YOU INHERITED IT FROM  
YOUR MOTHER.

IT'S NOT  
ALL YOU  
CAN DO, YOU  
KNOW.



YOU'RE THE WORLD'S  
FIRST THOROUGHbred  
SUPERHUMAN. THAT  
MAKES YOU  
SPECIAL.

YOUR ABILITIES  
ARE HEREDITARY. THEY  
DON'T RELY ON EXPO-  
SURE TO THE MAXIMAN  
SERUM.



SO WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?

THE SERUM WAS  
SIMILAR IN STRUCTURE  
TO THE ERGOT  
ALKALOIDS, LIKE LSD  
25. IT ACTED DIRECTLY  
ON THE BRAIN, OPENING  
UP RIGHT HEMISPHERE  
HIGHER EVOLUTIONARY  
FUNCTIONS.



YOU HAVE AN  
INHERENT ACCESS TO  
THOSE FUNCTIONS.  
THEORETICALLY YOU  
MIGHT TAP UNLIMITED  
POWER  
RESERVES.

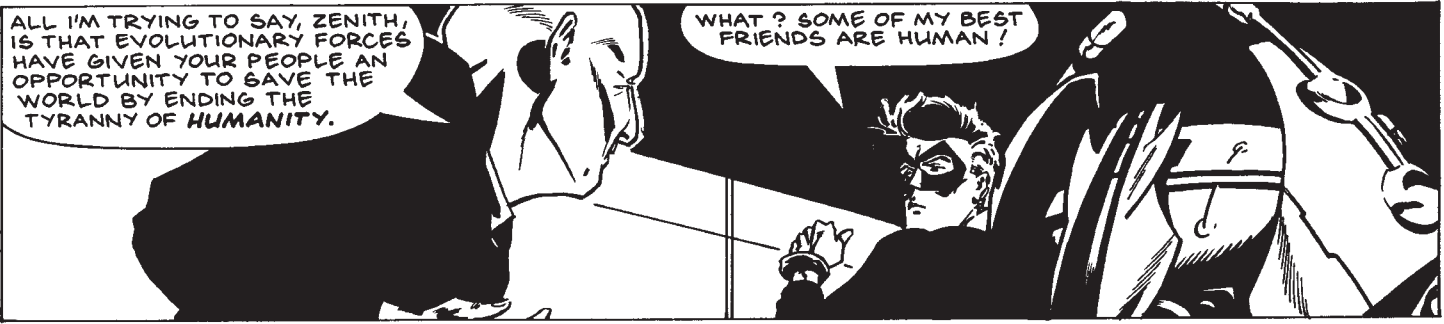
I'M TALKING  
HERE ABOUT CONSCIOUS  
MANIPULATION OF  
QUANTUM  
PROCESSES.



YOU COULD BE TALKING  
YUGOSLAVIAN FOR ALL  
I KNOW.

WHAT IS  
THIS THING?  
A ROBOT?

NOT  
EXACTLY,  
NO.



ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY, ZENITH, IS THAT EVOLUTIONARY FORCES HAVE GIVEN YOUR PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE WORLD BY ENDING THE TYRANNY OF HUMANITY.

WHAT? SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE HUMAN!



BUT YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE MORE THAN WE ARE. CAN'T YOU SEE THE CARNAGE MAN HAS PERPETRATED DURING HIS SHORT TIME ON EARTH? CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT HE'S DOING TO THE WORLD?



"HE DESTROYS THE RAINFORESTS THAT SUPPLY THE EARTH WITH MUCH OF ITS OXYGEN, NEVER ONCE CONSIDERING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE."

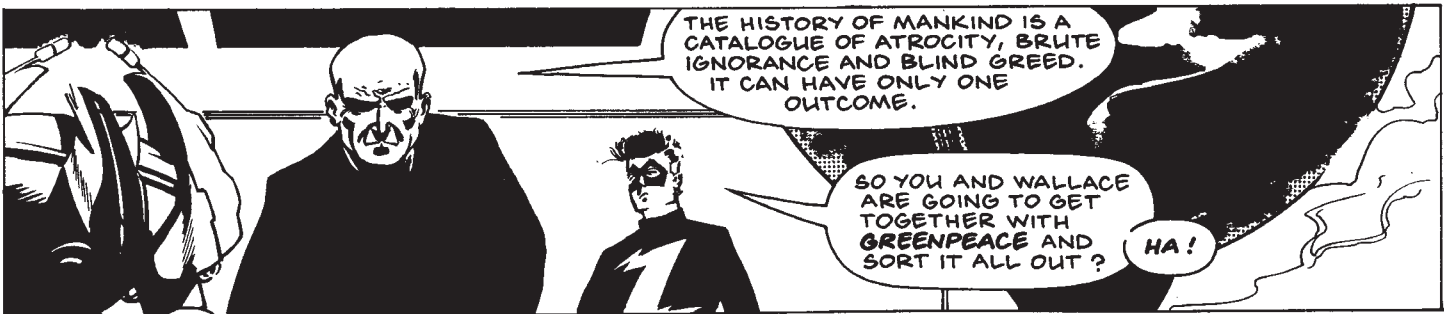


"HE WEEPS SENTIMENTAL TEARS OVER ET AND THEN HUNTS DOWN DOLPHINS AND WHALES, TURNING GENUINE ALIEN INTELLIGENCES INTO PETFOOD AND SOAP."



"THE CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS FROM HIS HAIRSPRAYS AND DEODORANTS ARE EATING AWAY THE PLANET'S PROTECTIVE OZONE LAYER."

"THERE'S A HOLE IN THE SKY NOW AS BIG AS ANTARCTICA."

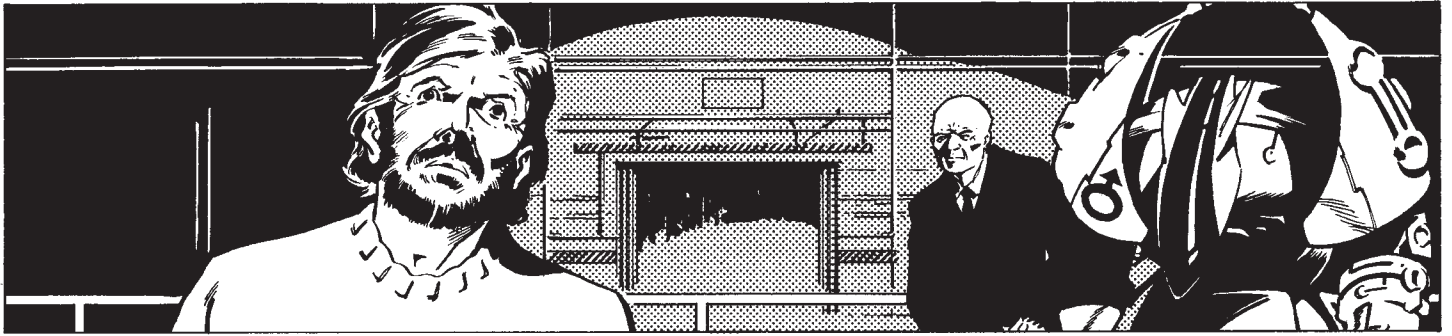


THE HISTORY OF MANKIND IS A CATALOGUE OF ATROCITY, BRUTE IGNORANCE AND BLIND GREED. IT CAN HAVE ONLY ONE OUTCOME.

SO YOU AND WALLACE ARE GOING TO GET TOGETHER WITH GREENPEACE AND SORT IT ALL OUT?

HA!





PHEW!

THE SUNDAY SPORT WOULD LOVE THIS, PEYNE!

ENJOY YOUR LITTLE CHAT WITH ZENITH, DID YOU?

I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL HIM TOO MUCH. IF HE KNEW WHAT HE'S REALLY CAPABLE OF...

STILL, IT WON'T MATTER SOON.

WHY DOES PROGRESS ALWAYS DEMAND SO MUCH SPILLED BLOOD?

ACCORDING TO THE CHART, ZENITH'S BIORHYTHM CYCLE REACHES THE LOWEST POINT OF ITS NEGATIVE PHASE TOMORROW, WHEN THE MISSILES GO OFF.

THAT'S WHEN HE'LL LOSE HIS SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES FOR A DAY.

AND THAT'S WHEN WE'LL KILL HIM.

NEXT: I NEVER GAVE FOR MY FATHER!

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.



HI THERE, PEYNE!

YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT THE GIRLS, HAVE YOU?

NO, NOT THIS TIME, I'M AFRAID.

**AD**  
GRANT MORRISON  
STEVE YEOWELL  
KID

THEY DON'T SAY MUCH, DO THEY? SHOCKWAVE AND BLAZE, I MEAN.

THEY COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY. YOU COULD DO IT TOO IF YOU WANTED.

HOWEVER, TIME GROWS SHORT.

AND I THINK YOU DESERVE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS.

**ZENITH**  
PHASE II/10: "HOME TRUTHS"

"THINGS REALLY BEGAN TO GO WRONG IN 1965, WHEN TASK FORCE UK, AS THEY WERE KNOWN THEN, REFUSED ORDERS TO ASSIST THE USA IN VIETNAM.

"IT'S ALL IN MY BOOK, SEIZING THE FIRE. I MUST LET YOU... WELL, PERHAPS NOT."



"SO, '65 WAS THE TURNING POINT, BUT THE EFFECTS OF THAT DECISION WERE NOT TO BE SEEN UNTIL SOME TIME LATER.

"BY 1967 TASK FORCE UK HAD BECOME CLOUD 9, DARLINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.



"AND BY THIS TIME I THINK THEY'D BEGUN TO SUSPECT THAT THE BOOSTER SERUM THEY WERE REGULARLY DOSED WITH WAS ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO STERILISE THEM.

"OF COURSE, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED, BUT MY HANDS WERE TIED AT THAT TIME.

"THOSE PLANS, WHICH INVOLVED YOUR BIRTH, CAUSED A SPLIT WITHIN THE GROUP THAT WAS NEVER HEALED.

"YOUR PARENTS, WHITE HEAT AND DR BEAT, DISAPPEARED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, DURING WHICH TIME I ASSUME YOU WERE BORN AND PASSED INTO THE CARE OF YOUR GRANDPARENTS.

"THERE WAS A GROWING FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT BREED. A FEAR THAT WE HAD CREATED OUR OWN EVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSORS.

"I NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED. CLOUD 9 HAD PLANS OF THEIR OWN.

"IN THE SPRING OF 1968, YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER TURNED UP IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.



"I IMAGINE THEY WERE PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES. EVERYTHING MUST HAVE BEEN GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.

"HOW COULD THEY HAVE KNOWN WHAT WAS TO OCCUR NEXT ?



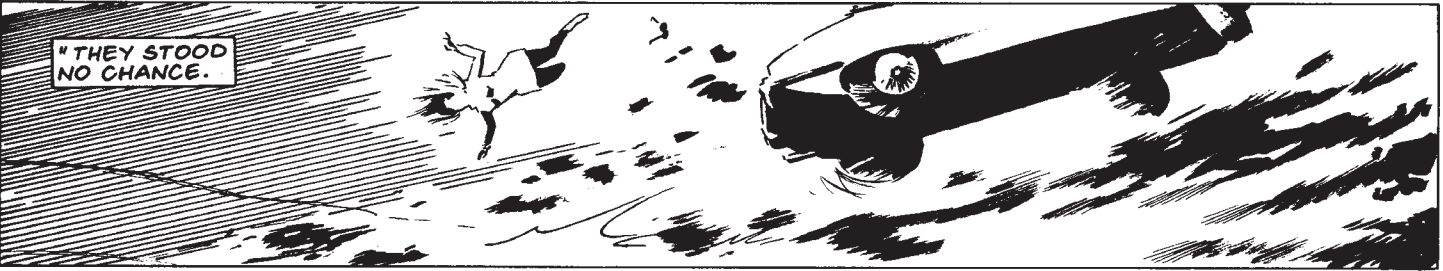
"NO-ONE SUSPECTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE CIA'S SHADOWMEN.



"THE SHADOWMEN ARE HUMANS WITH CRUDE PSYCHIC TALENTS WHICH, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD BE USELESS AGAINST A SUPERHUMAN MIND.



"YOUR PARENTS, HOWEVER, WERE COMPLETELY UNPREPARED FOR TELEKINETIC ATTACK.



"THEY STOOD NO CHANCE.

"POOR JENNY... I USED TO LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT THINKING OF THE SHOCK AND TERROR SHE MUST HAVE FELT.

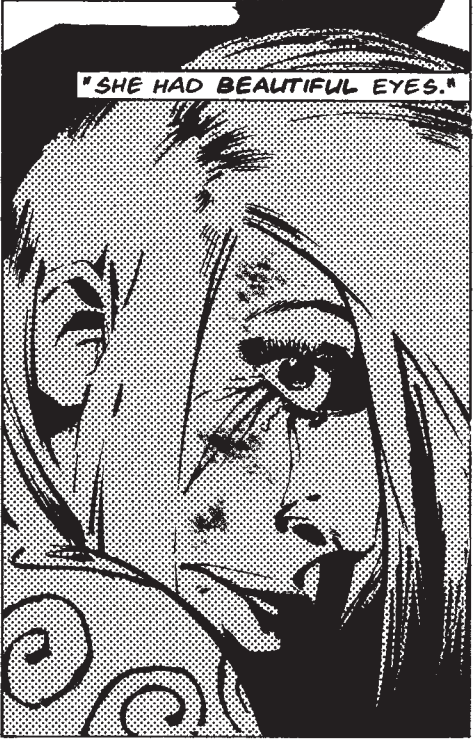


"STAGGERING, VOMITING, UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND JUST WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HER.



"I USED TO SEE HER EYES.

"HER EYES, STARING AT ME.



"SHE HAD BEAUTIFUL EYES."



I... I KEPT THEM, YOU KNOW.



I RETRIEVED THE BODIES, YOU SEE. YOUR MOTHER'S BRAIN WAS MOST... USEFUL IN MY RESEARCHES.

I CLONED BLAZE FROM IT.

BLAZE IS A CLONE OF MY MUM..?

THIS IS DISGUSTING!

"SHOCKWAVE WAS CLONED FROM CELL SCRAPINGS I TOOK FROM RUBY FOX WHEN SHE WAS ILL. IN 1970.

"THEY ALL FELL MYSTERIOUSLY ILL - RUBY, PETER ST JOHN AND SIADWEL RHYS.



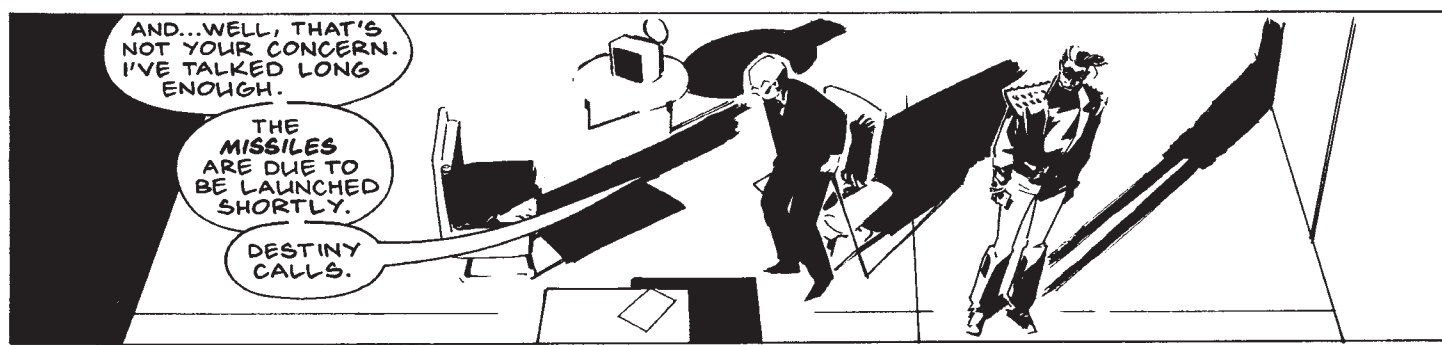
"THE AMERICANS WERE BEHIND IT, OF COURSE.

"INITIALLY, I THOUGHT THEY HAD ALSO MANAGED TO KILL DAVID CAMBRIDGE - LUX AS HE WAS KNOWN. HIS BODY DISINTEGRATED IN A BERLIN HOTEL.



"THE STRANGE THING WAS, WHEN I TESTED THE REMAINS, I FOUND UNMODIFIED HUMAN GENETIC MATERIAL.

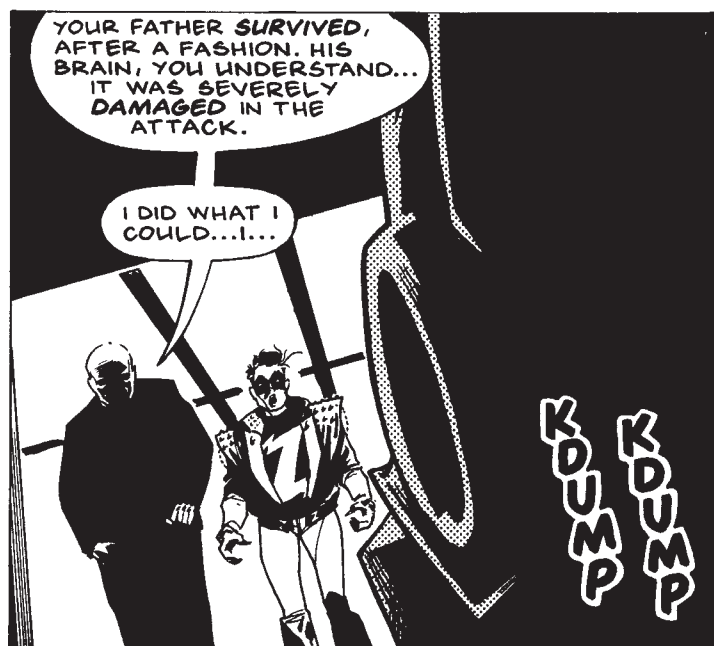
"IT WASN'T LUX AT ALL, YOU SEE? IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE."



AND... WELL, THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN. I'VE TALKED LONG ENOUGH.

THE MISSILES ARE DUE TO BE LAUNCHED SHORTLY.

DESTINY CALLS.



# ZENITH

## PHASE II/II: "A FAMILY AFFAIR"

SCHIEHALLION; SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

...YOU'RE  
TELLING ME  
THIS THING IS  
MY DAD..?

WHAT  
COULD BE  
SALVAGED  
OF HIM,  
YES.

I'M SORRY THAT  
IT HAD TO COME  
TO THIS, ZENITH,  
BUT YOU'VE  
DONE WHAT WAS  
REQUIRED OF  
YOU AND...  
WELL...

WHAT  
IS  
THIS..?

I CHECKED YOUR  
BIORHYTHM CHART.  
TODAY IS YOUR LOW  
PHASE, ISN'T IT? THE  
DAY YOU LOSE YOUR  
SUPERHUMAN  
ABILITIES?

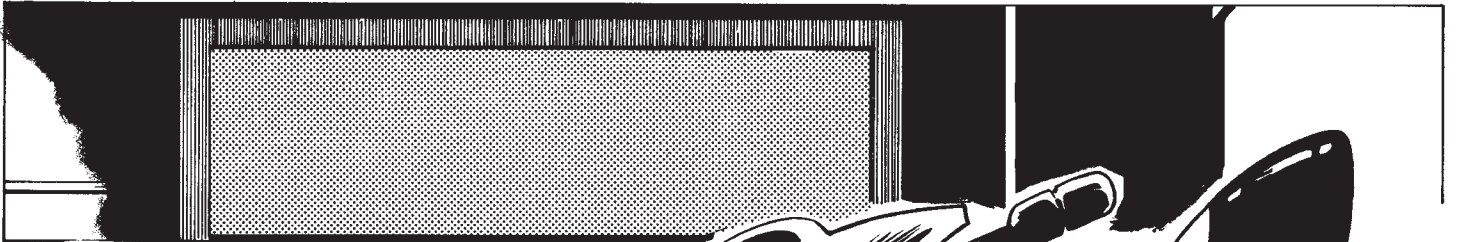
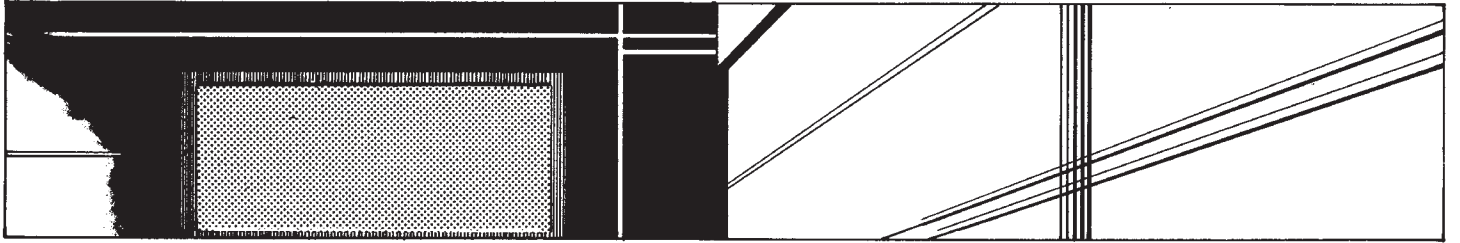
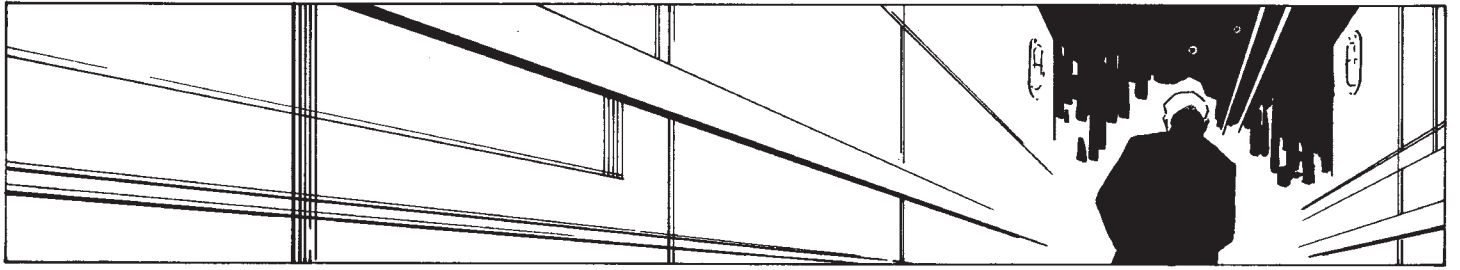
PLEASE  
FORGIVE ME,  
ZENITH.

I SHOULD  
IMAGINE IT  
WILL BE BOTH  
QUICK AND  
PAINLESS.

COME  
ON! YOU  
CAN'T  
JUST...

SHLIK!

SCRIPT  
GRANT MORRISON  
PLOT  
STEVE YEOWELL  
LETTERING  
KID









WALLACE!  
SOMETHING'S  
GONE WRONG!  
ZENITH IS  
OUT!

OPEN  
THE  
DOOR!



ZENITH'S NOT LIKELY TO DO  
ANYTHING TO US, IS HE?

ANYWAY,  
WARHEAD'LL  
SORT HIM  
OUT.

WARHEAD WON'T  
STAND A CHANCE IF  
I'VE MISCALCULATED  
ZENITH'S  
BIORHYTHMS.

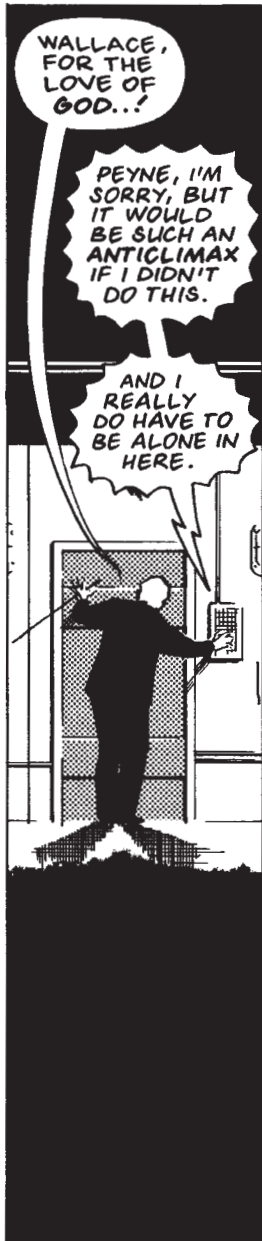
HE'LL KILL US BOTH,  
WALLACE. YOU SAW HIS  
REACTION TO THE CALE  
WOMAN'S DEATH. OUR  
LIVES MEAN  
NOTHING TO HIM...



THEN SEND  
SHOCKWAVE AND  
BLAZE TO KILL  
HIM. DON'T  
MAKE LIFE  
COMPLICATED.

I CAN'T  
RISK THE  
GIRLS! NOT  
NOW.

WE  
HAVE TO  
RETHINK  
OUR  
POSITION.  
LET ME  
IN.



WALLACE,  
FOR THE  
LOVE OF  
GOD..!

PEYNE, I'M  
SORRY, BUT  
IT WOULD  
BE SUCH AN  
ANTICLIMAX  
IF I DIDN'T  
DO THIS.

AND I  
REALLY  
DO HAVE TO  
BE ALONE IN  
HERE.



JUST ME AND  
THE COMPUTER  
AND THE  
MISSILES.

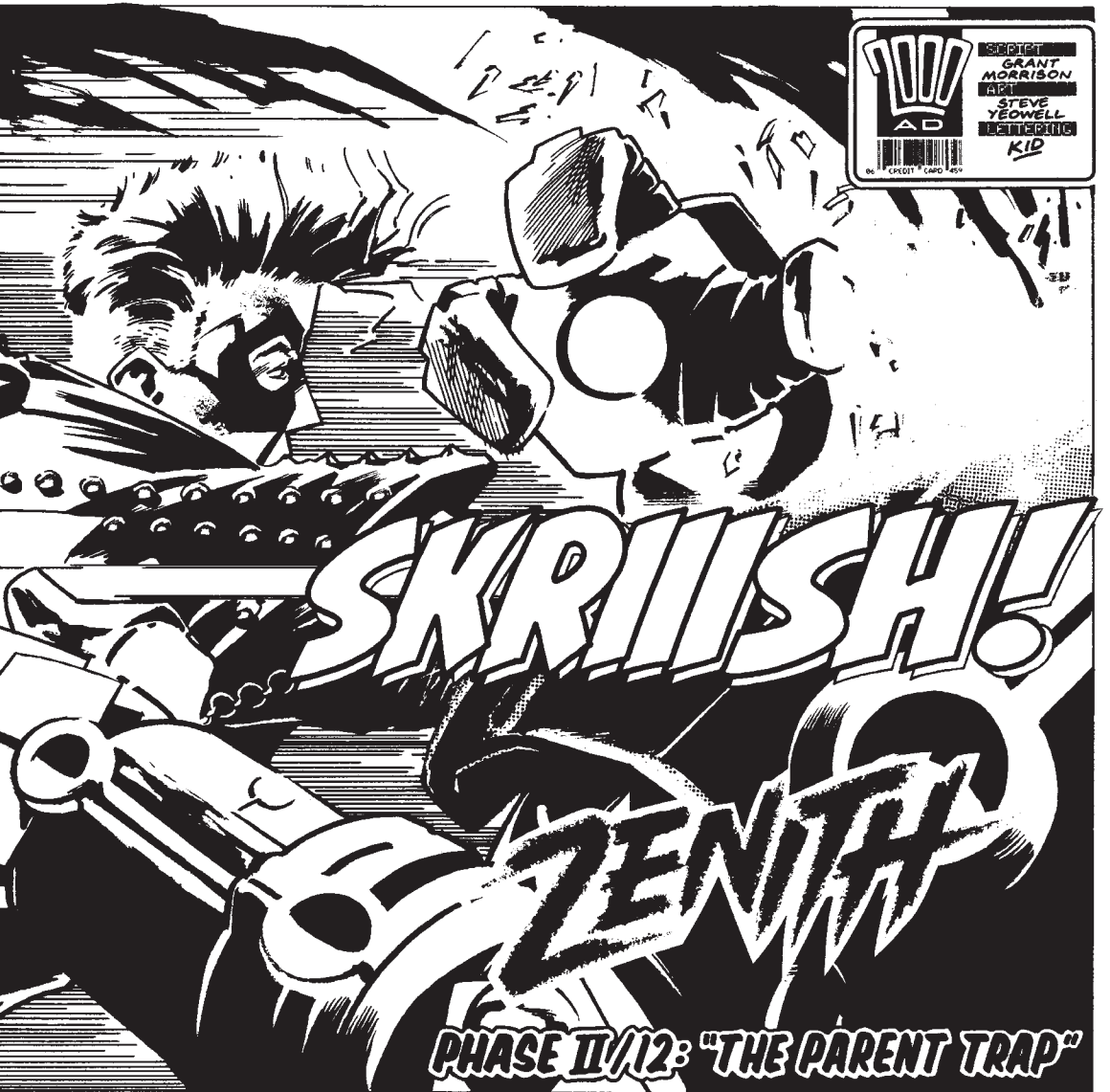
DON'T  
SUPPOSE THERE'S  
MUCH POINT IN  
WAITING ANY  
LONGER, IS  
THERE?



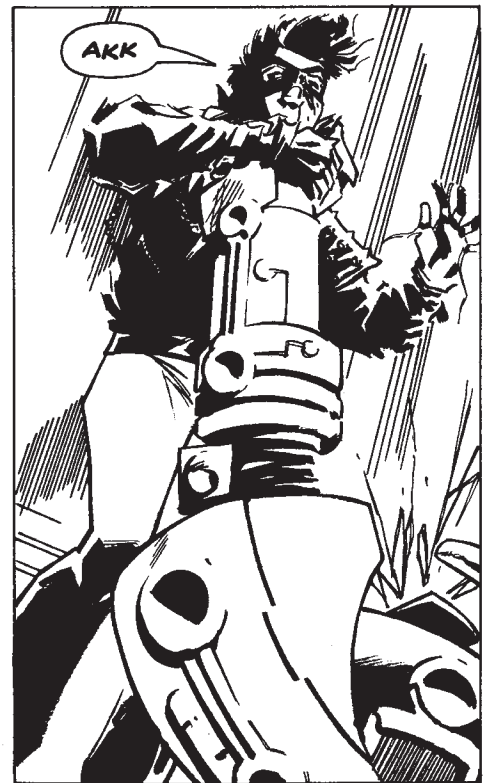
GOODNIGHT  
LONDON.

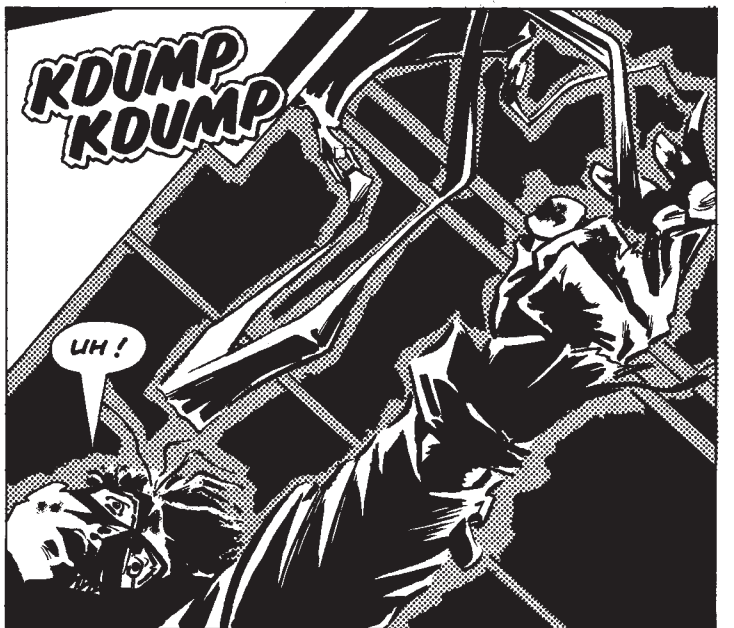
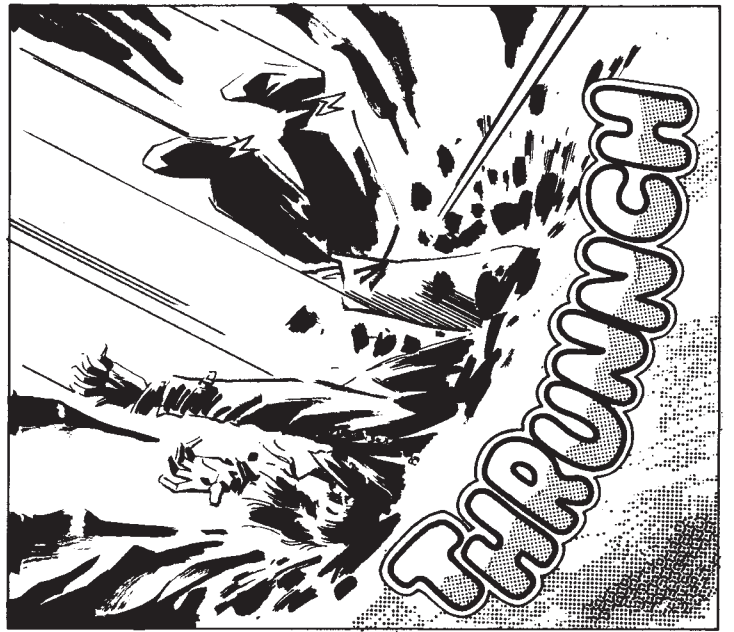
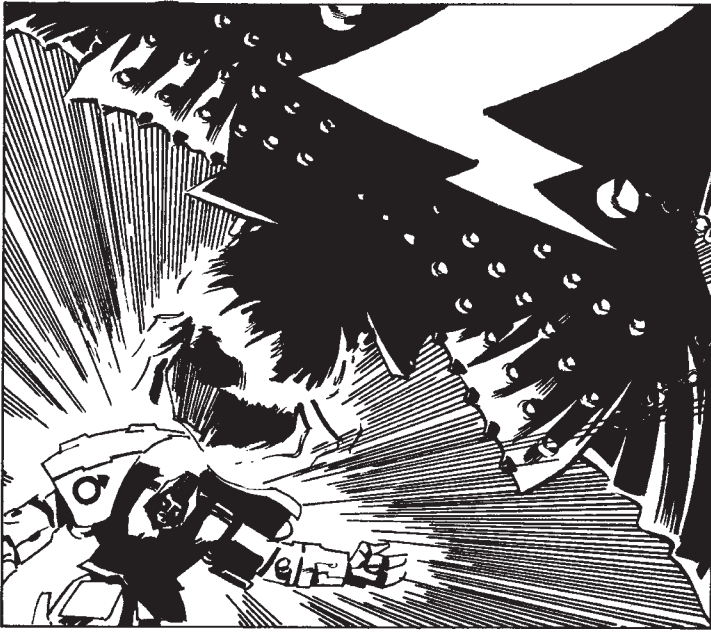
**NEXT: THE PARENT TRAP**

SCIEHALLION,  
SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 10,  
1988.



SECRET  
GRANT MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE YEOWELL  
DENTON KID  
AD  
NO CREDIT CARD









NEXT: END OF THE GAME.

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

WHAT IS  
LIFE?  
SCHRÖDINGER

**AD**

SCRIPT  
GRANT MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE YEDWELL  
COLORS  
KID



PHASE II/13: "RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX"

LONDON: FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

Three miles above the Thames, London below, shining in the cold sun. The city has been made presentable for its impending nuclear cremation.

Why am I here ?

Perhaps it's guilt... a sense of failure.

Perhaps I want to die here when the missiles arrive, obliterated in an aerial inferno.

No. That's not it at all, is it ?

I'm not here to passively greet the warheads.

I'm here because I think I can catch them.

SCHIEHALLION, SCOTLAND: FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

...I MUST CONFESS, YOU TOOK ME QUITE BY SURPRISE, ZENITH. I WAS SURE TODAY WAS THE DAY YOU LOST YOUR SUPERPOWERS.

THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT ? ALL THE MAGAZINES SAY SO...

JANUARY THE EIGHTH IS ELVIS' BIRTHDAY. IT WAS MY AGENT'S IDEA TO PUT IT ABOUT THAT I WAS BORN ON THE SAME DAY.

YOU WORKED OUT MY BIORHYTHM CHART BASED ON THE WRONG BIRTHDATE.

YEAH. I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO BE A GENIUS.

HA.



QUITE.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW?

WELL, I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO STOP WALLACE FROM BLOWING UP LONDON, YOU KNOW?



YES. YES, THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA. I THINK HE WANTS TO BE STOPPED, IN A WAY.

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S SEALED HIMSELF IN HIS COMPUTER VAULT AND SCRAMBLED THE CODE LOCK.



I'M SURE YOU'D BE ABLE TO **BREAK** THROUGH THE DOOR EVENTUALLY, BUT BY THAT TIME, THE MISSILES WILL BE IN THE AIR.

ZENITH? DID YOU KILL WARHEAD?



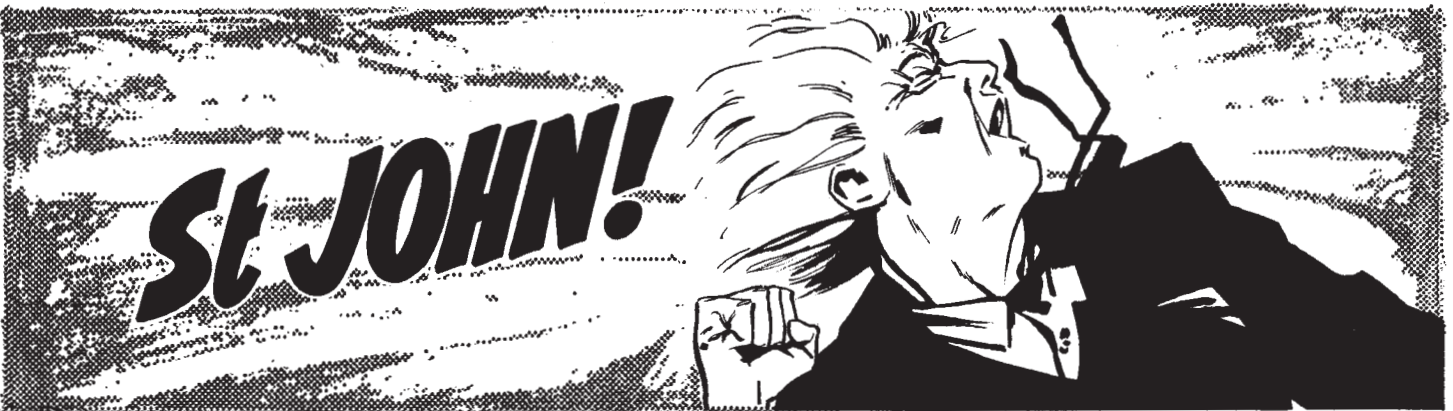
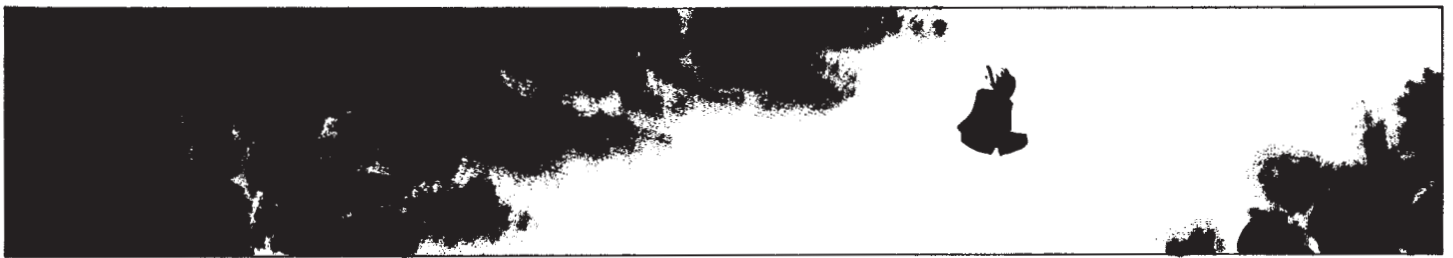
YEAH, AND I HAVEN'T FORGOT YOU TRIED TO KILL ME, EITHER.

I'LL BE BACK.



SHUFF!







ZENITH?  
IS THAT  
YOU?

YEAH IT WORKS  
TELEPATHY PEYNE  
SAID I COULD  
DO IT !!

NOT SO LOUD!  
WHERE ARE YOU?  
WHO TAUGHT YOU  
TO DO THIS?



DON'T HAVE TIME  
THE MISSILES  
LONDON WIPED OUT  
WALLACE THIS GUY  
RIDDLE IF I DON'T  
MISSILES

SLOW  
DOWN.

WHAT  
RIDDLE  
IS THIS?



I SEE.

LEWIS  
CARROLL.  
CHILD'S  
PLAY.



OKAY...EH...  
THE MOTHER  
SAYS 'YOU WILL  
DEVOUR MY  
CHILD.' WHICH  
MEANS  
THAT...



I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.  
THE CROCODILE IS FORCED  
INTO A STATE OF INDECISION  
BY THE PARADOX.

COME IN,  
ZENITH.



YOU'VE  
GOT FOUR  
MINUTES.

**NEXT: COUNTDOWN**

# ZENTH

## PHASE II/14: "ZERO HOUR"

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.

WALLACE,  
YOU'VE GOT  
TO STOP THE  
MISSILES.

YOU CAN  
STILL STOP  
THEM, CAN'T  
YOU?

IT'S  
FUNNY,  
ISN'T  
IT?



SECRET  
GRANT  
MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE  
YEOWELL  
COLORS  
KID  
AD  
© 1988 DC

PEOPLE SOMETIMES TRY TO  
IMAGINE JUST WHAT THEY'LL  
SAY IN THOSE LAST FOUR  
MINUTES BEFORE THE  
BOMB GOES OFF.

HM.

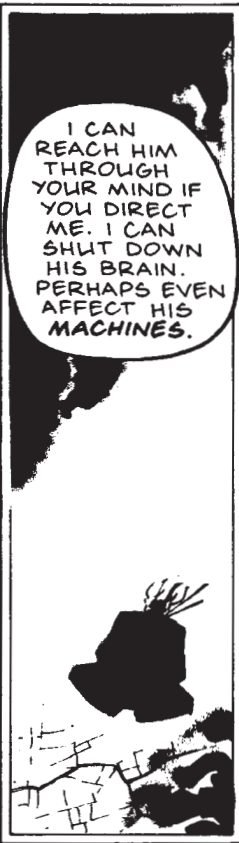


I WONDER WHAT  
THEY'RE SAYING  
IN LONDON  
RIGHT NOW.





ZENITH ?  
ZENITH, CAN YOU  
HEAR ME ?



I CAN  
REACH HIM  
THROUGH  
YOUR MIND IF  
YOU DIRECT  
ME. I CAN  
SHUT DOWN  
HIS BRAIN.  
PERHAPS EVEN  
AFFECT HIS  
MACHINES.



NO NOT YET A  
MINUTE'S ALL I  
NEED HAVE TO  
MAKE HIM DO IT  
HIMSELF

ZENITH !

A MINUTE !

YOU KNOW, I  
REALLY DON'T  
ENVY YOU  
TRYING TO  
TAKE OVER  
THE WORLD. I  
MEAN, THE  
WORLD'S A  
BIG PLACE.

ALL THAT CRIME  
AND STARVATION  
AND WARS AND  
DRUGS. EVERYONE  
WOULD EXPECT  
YOU TO HAVE ALL  
THE ANSWERS.



AND WHAT WOULD  
YOU DO ABOUT  
UNEMPLOYMENT ?



WHAT ?



AND THEN THERE'S ALL THE MESS AND THE FALLOUT FROM THE MISSILES YOU'VE JUST LAUNCHED ON LONDON.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE HOMELESS? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY TO THE CONSERVATIONISTS?



THE MISSILES HAVEN'T ACTUALLY BEEN LAUNCHED YET. THEY'RE STILL COUNTING DOWN...

ANYWAY, YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE THINGS SOUND MORE DIFFICULT.

NOT REALLY. I MEAN, WHY DO YOU THINK SUPERHUMANS HAVE NEVER TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD? I'LL BET WE COULD.

THING IS, NOBODY WANTS THE HASSLE.

YOU WOULDN'T BE RULING THE WORLD, IT'D BE RULING YOU. YOU'D NEVER GET TO SLEEP. IT'D BE HELL.

BUT IT CAN BE DONE. LOOK AT ALEXANDER, NAPOLEON, HITLER. THEY NEARLY DID IT.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE HITLER?

WELL, NO, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

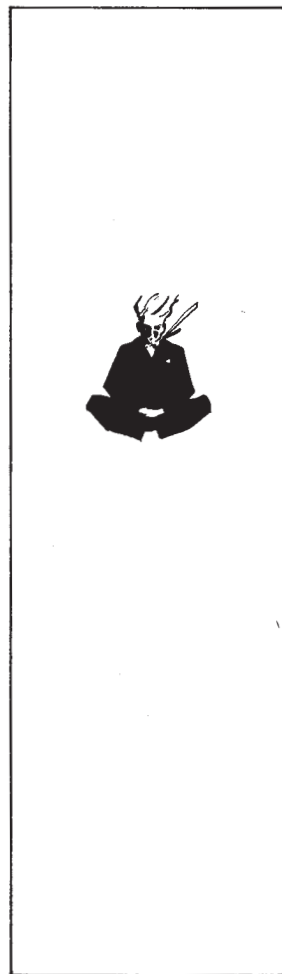
A NICE SORT OF HITLER.

OH, I DON'T KNOW.

ALL I WANTED WAS... SOMETHING BETTER.

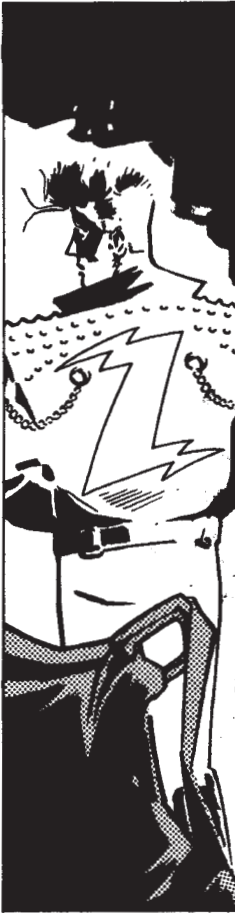
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO HAVE TO KILL ANYBODY... SOMETIMES THINGS JUST SEEM TO GET OUT OF HAND.





**NEXT: THE CHANGELING**

SCIEHALLION, SCOTLAND:  
FEBRUARY 10, 1988.



**AD**  
SCRIPT: GRANT MORRISON  
ART: STEVE YEWELL  
LETTERING: KID



# ZENTH

PHASE II/15: "HOME TO ROOST"

LONDON: FEBRUARY 11, 1988.



...OF COURSE, WE DON'T WANT TO REVEAL THE FACT THAT LONDON CAME CLOSE TO BEING RAZED TO THE GROUND, DO WE, PETER?

NO, PRIME MINISTER, WE CERTAINLY DON'T.

I THINK A WELL-TIMED LEAK MAY BE IN ORDER-- A TERRORIST THREAT, AVERTED BY THE SKILL OF OUR DEFENCE SECRETARY.

WE MAKE NO MENTION OF YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES. WE STRONGLY EMPHASISE YOUR FIRM AND INTELLIGENT HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR.



HOW DOES THAT SOUND TO YOU?

IT SOUNDS... FINE.



AND PETER?

TED HEATH. HE'S BECOMING A DREADFUL NUISANCE AND I DO SO WORRY ABOUT HIS HEALTH.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN TO HIM.



OF COURSE.

I UNDERSTAND, PRIME MINISTER.

LONDON: FEBRUARY 11, 1988.

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME WHEN I GET HOME!







ROBERT ?

ROBERT ?  
ARE YOU  
THERE ?

NEXT: **DEATH TRAP.**

LONDON: FEBRUARY 11, 1988.

LISTEN...  
l...l...

WHAT ARE YOU?

'DARK REVOLVING IN SILENT ACTIVITY, UNSEEN IN TORMENTING PASSIONS, AN ACTIVITY UNKNOWN AND HORRIBLE, A SELF-CONTEMPLATING SHADOW, IN ENORMOUS LABOURS OCCUPIED.'

THEY CALLED ME CHIMERA, MY CAPTORS.

# ZENITH

PHASE II/16: "CHIMERA UNBOUND"

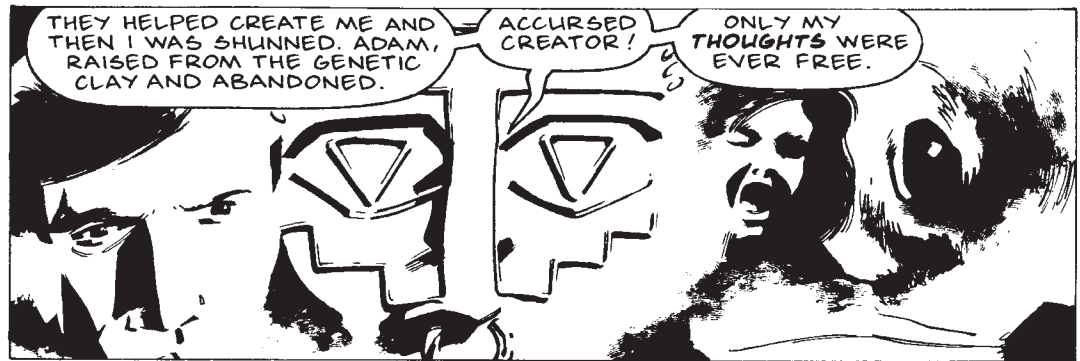

 SCRIPT BY GRANT MORRISON  
 ART BY STEVE YEOWELL  
 EDITOR KID



IMPRISONED BY FIELDS OF FORCE, LOCKED INTO ONE TORMENTED SHAPE FOR FORTY-THREE YEARS. PEYNE! HOW APTLY NAMED A MAN!

WHY WERE THEY SO AFRAID OF ME?

AH... DON'T ASK ME...



THEY HELPED CREATE ME AND THEN I WAS SHUNNED. ADAM, RAISED FROM THE GENETIC CLAY AND ABANDONED.

ACCURSED CREATOR!

ONLY MY THOUGHTS WERE EVER FREE.



YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE DARK GODS THEN?

I AM THOUGHT, UNENCUMBERED BY THE TYRANNY OF FORM.

SINCE YOUR BATTLE RELEASED ME, I HAVE DELIGHTED IN A SUCCESSION OF SHAPES - SHAPE OF BIRD, SHAPE OF CLOCK, SHAPE OF MAN...



CAN YOU CHANGE INTO BEATRICE DALLE?



ONE SHAPE IS NOT ENOUGH. I CRAVE THE SENSATION OF ALL SHAPES.

I WILL BECOME EVERYTHING AND KNOW THE SATISFACTION OF INFINITE DIVERSITY.

HANG ON...



WATCH.

IT BEGINS.

I AM THE BRICKS, THE CEMENT, THE WIRING. I AM EACH INDIVIDUAL OCCUPANT, EACH FIBRE ON EACH CARPET.

...!



I AM THE CITY. THE ANIMALS IN THE ZOO, THE CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOLS, THE PENCILS IN THEIR HANDS, THE LETTERS IN EVERY WORD IN EVERY BOOK IN EVERY BOOKSHOP, THE ELECTRICITY, THE GAS. REACHING OUT. A WEB.

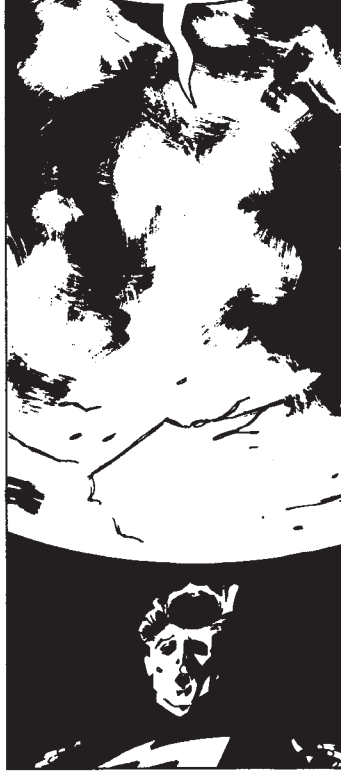


THE COUNTRY! ITS ISLANDS, ITS LAKES, ITS NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS, ITS WILDLIFE AND POWER STATIONS AND SCAFFOLDING AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, THE...THE...



I AM THE WORLD!

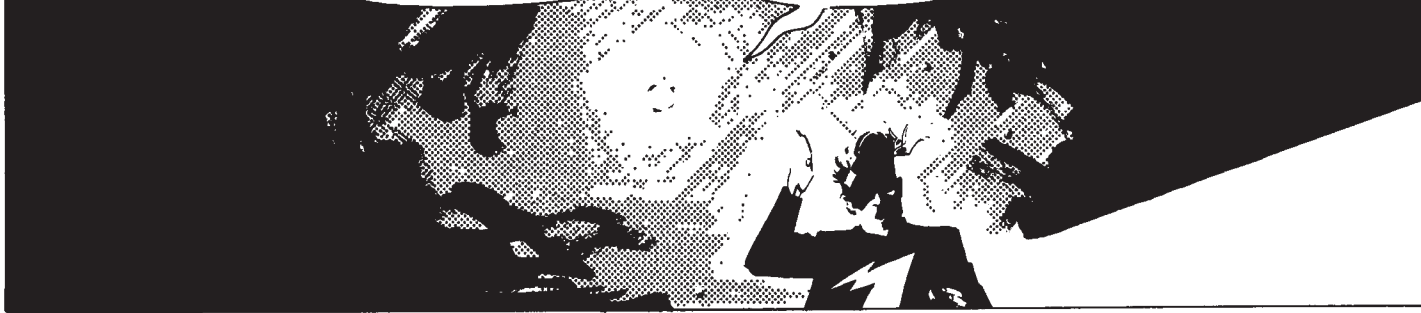
BILLIONS OF PEOPLE! WEATHER PATTERNS! THE SLOW TECTONIC MOVEMENT OF MY GEOLOGY! I AM CORE AND MANTLE AND FIRMAMENT! I AM EVERY LIVING THING! GRAVITY!



THE SUN!

SO MANY SHAPES! THE TORTURED ROCK OF VENUS. THE METAL DRY SAND OF MARS!

I AM A LIVING ORRERY. THE PRECISION OF PERFECT CELESTIAL MACHINERY.

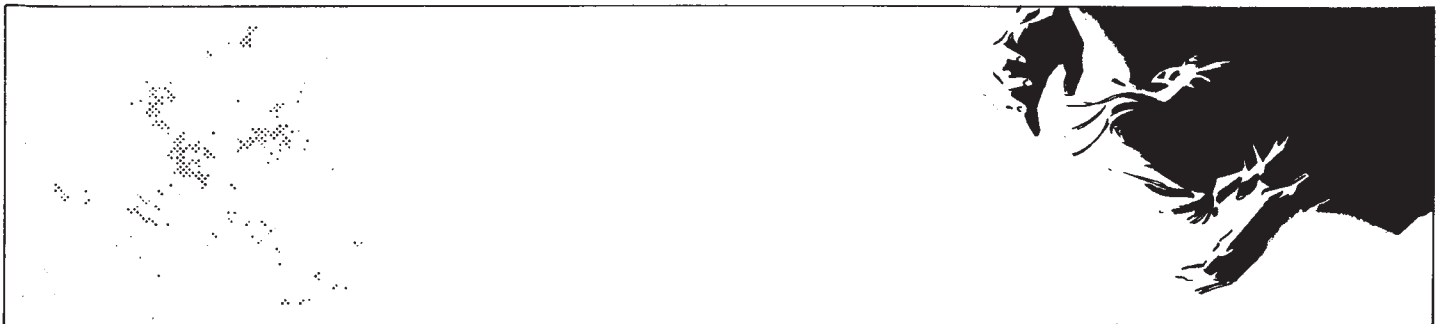


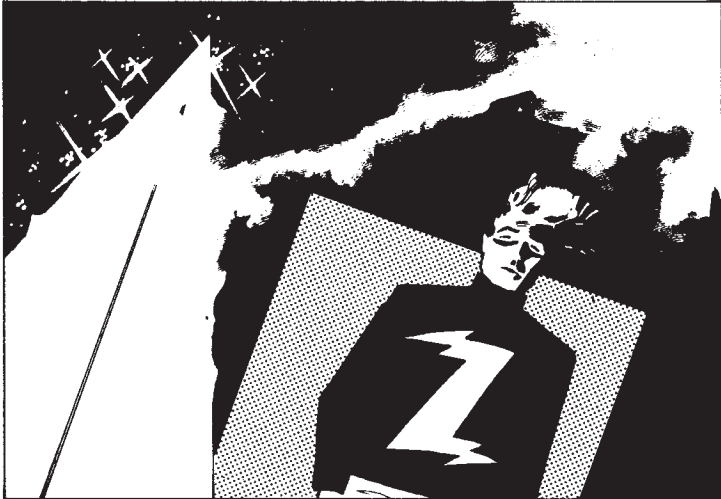
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME?

THE THERMONUCLEAR PROCESSES IN THE SUN'S HEART. ATOMS OBLITERATE ONE ANOTHER ENDLESSLY...







**A**YERS ROCK, AUSTRALIA:  
FEBRUARY 14, 1988.


...IT'S BEAUTIFUL, DAVID,  
BUT WHY DID YOU BRING  
US OUT HERE ?

THE ROCK'S BIG  
AND GEOMANTICALLY  
ACTIVE.

IT MAKES AN IDEAL BEACON  
FOR HOMING IN ACROSS  
THE ALTERNATIVES.

# ZENITH

PHASE II/ EPILOGUE:  
"RUMOURS OF WAR"



SCRIPT  
GRANT  
MORRISON  
ART  
STEVE  
YEOWELL  
LETTERING  
KID

AND THIS  
THING..?

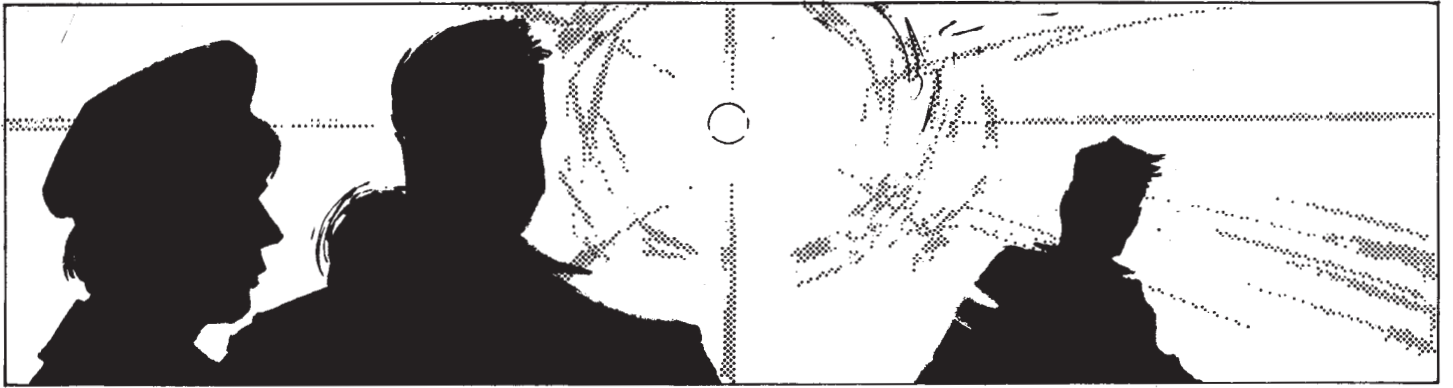


AN EINSTEIN-ROSEN  
BRIDGE, PSYCHICALLY  
GENERATED. WE USE  
THEM TO TRAVEL  
BETWEEN  
ALTERNATIVES.

ONCE WE'RE ORGANISED,  
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO  
CONSTRUCT ONE.

DON'T STAND  
TOO CLOSE, RUBY.  
THEY'RE COMING  
THROUGH.

WHO..?  
OH!





BETTER LATE THAN NOT AT ALL.



RUBY, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET **BLACK FLAG** FROM ALTERNATIVE 5. WELL, THREE OF THEM ANYWAY.

THIS IS **DOMINO**.

HELLO.



DJ CHILL.

YO.



AND **MANTRA**.

HI.

WELCOME TO THE FRONT LINE, RUBY. WE'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.



HOW ARE THINGS?

NOT SO GOOD. WE LOST ALTERNATIVE 257. ONE OF OUR ALLIES, A SUPER-HUMAN CALLED **HOTSPUR** WAS OCCUPIED AND HE MANAGED TO KILL **SMILEY SUN** BEFORE WE COULD ERECT A BRIDGE.



IT GETS WORSE, TOO.

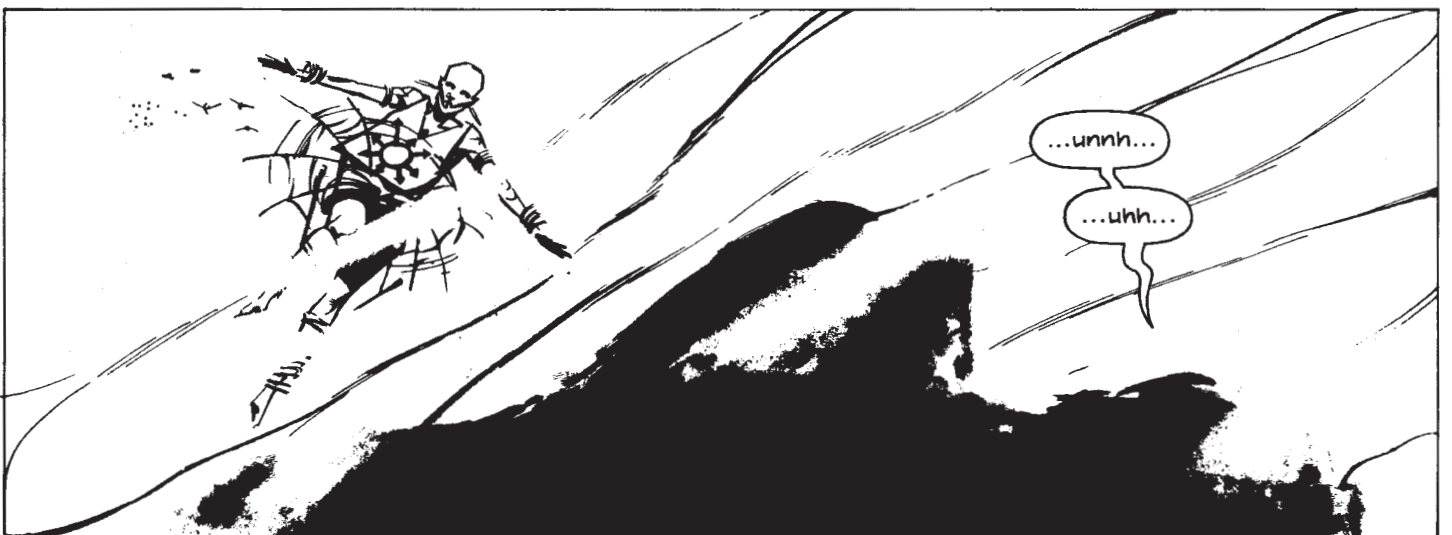
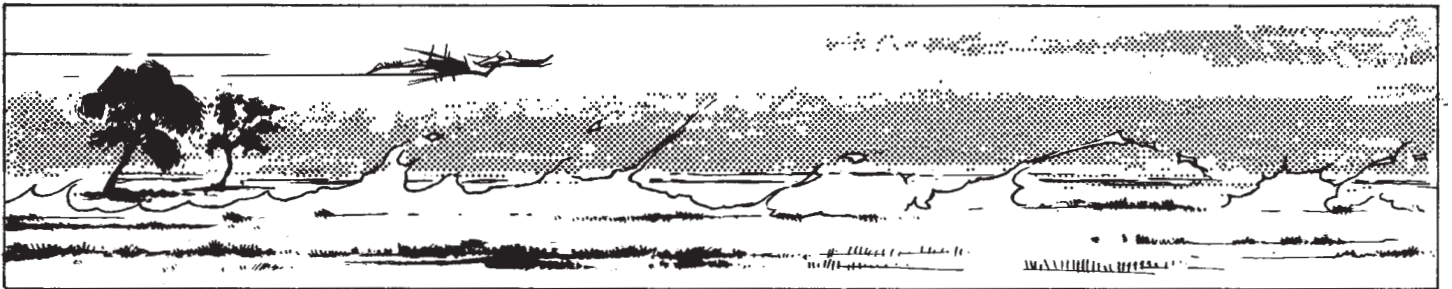
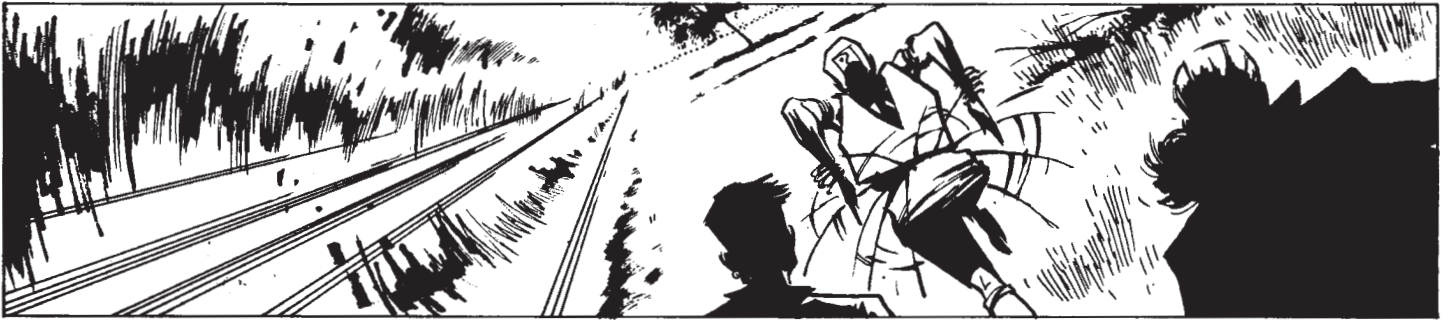
WE THINK WE MAY HAVE MISCALCULATED THE ALIGNMENT. IT'S...

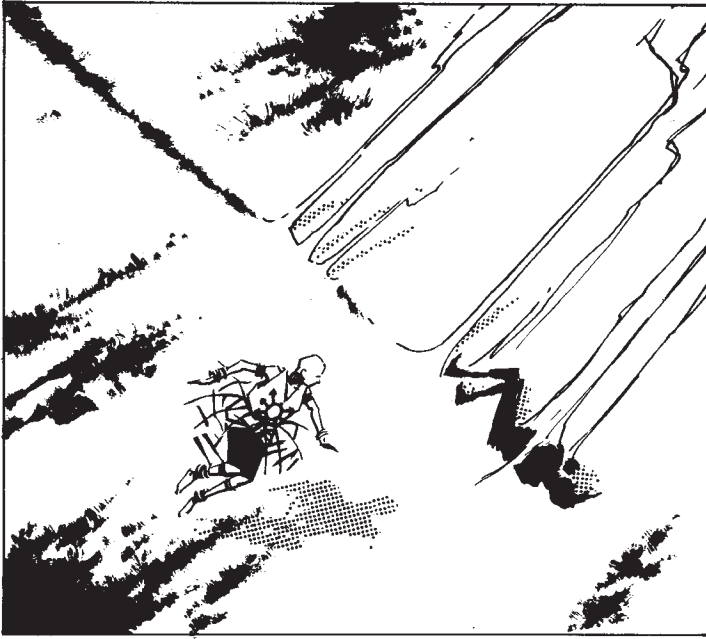


OH.

WHAT'S THAT NOISE? LIKE A WHINE...







...fuhh...

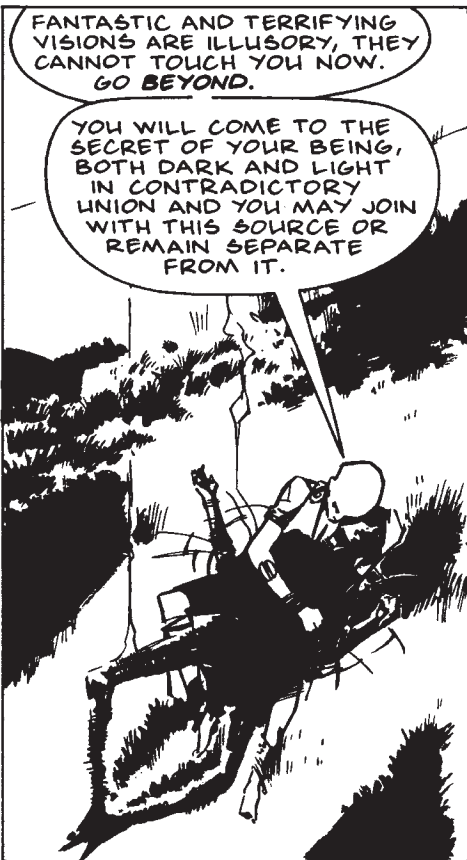
...uhfuhh...  
hunnh...



...no...hurs...  
in hurs...

SHH.

BE WITHOUT FEAR  
AS THE GREAT  
METAMORPHOSIS  
BEGINS.



FANTASTIC AND TERRIFYING  
VISIONS ARE ILLUSORY, THEY  
CANNOT TOUCH YOU NOW.  
GO BEYOND.

YOU WILL COME TO THE  
SECRET OF YOUR BEING,  
BOTH DARK AND LIGHT  
IN CONTRADICTION  
UNION AND YOU MAY JOIN  
WITH THIS SOURCE OR  
REMAIN SEPARATE  
FROM IT.



IF YOU REMAIN SEPARATE, YOU  
MUST SEEK OUT NEW LIFE.

...kk...  
kk...

GO WHERE THERE IS  
STRENGTH AND FREEDOM.  
SEEK EMANATIONS OF  
LOVE, VITALITY AND  
INTELLIGENCE.



DO  
WHAT  
THOU  
WILT.



HE WAS ONE OF US. A SUPERHUMAN.

WHAT IS THAT THING?



A LOVE LETTER FROM THE LLOIGOR.

THEY'VE FOUND US.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.

PHASE II TERMINATES...  
PHASE III IMMINENT.



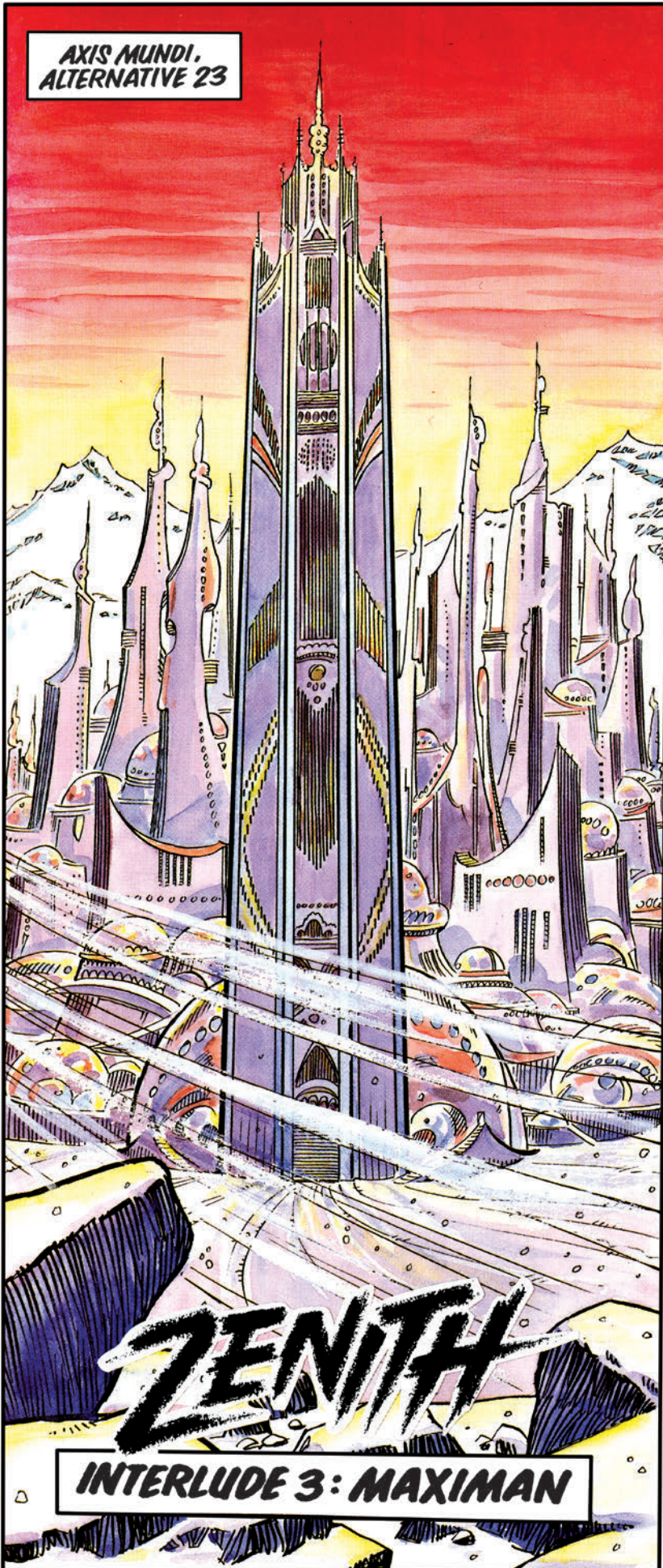
# INTERLUDE

MAXIMAN

Script: Grant Morrison  
Art: M. Carmona  
Letters: Johnny A.

Originally published in *2000 AD Winter Special 1988*

AXIS MUNDI,  
ALTERNATIVE 23



# ZENITH

INTERLUDE 3: MAXIMAN



MAXIMAN?...

SCRIPT  
G. MORRISON  
ART  
M. CARMONA  
COLORS  
JOHNNY A.



SMILEY SUN IS DEAD. HOTSPUR WAS OCCUPIED AND...

WELL, THE WHOLE THING'S BEEN A **DISASTER**. THE LLOIGOR HAVE TAKEN ALTERNATIVE 257.



I KNOW.



THE TREE HAS BEGUN TO SHAKE.



WHAT?

THE TREE HAS BEGUN TO SHAKE.

'THE SUN GROWS DARK, EARTH SINKS UNDER SEA; FROM THEIR STEADINGS IN HEAVEN THE BRIGHT STARS TURN ...'



THE **ALIGNMENT** DRAWS NEAR, **MANTRA**.

'NO MORE FIRMAMENT.'



YOU DON'T SAY MUCH, DO YOU?

YOU MAKE ME NERVOUS.



AH.  
THEN TELL ME ABOUT ZENITH.



WELL, I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY MET HIM YET BUT I CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS.



THAT'LL DO.



TO START WITH, HE WAS BORN ON ALTERNATIVE 230.

230?

YEAH. I THOUGHT THE SYNCHRONICITY MIGHT INTEREST YOU!



"HIS PARENTS WERE A COUPLE OF THE LOCAL SUPERHUMANS - WHITE HEAT AND DOCTOR BEAT.

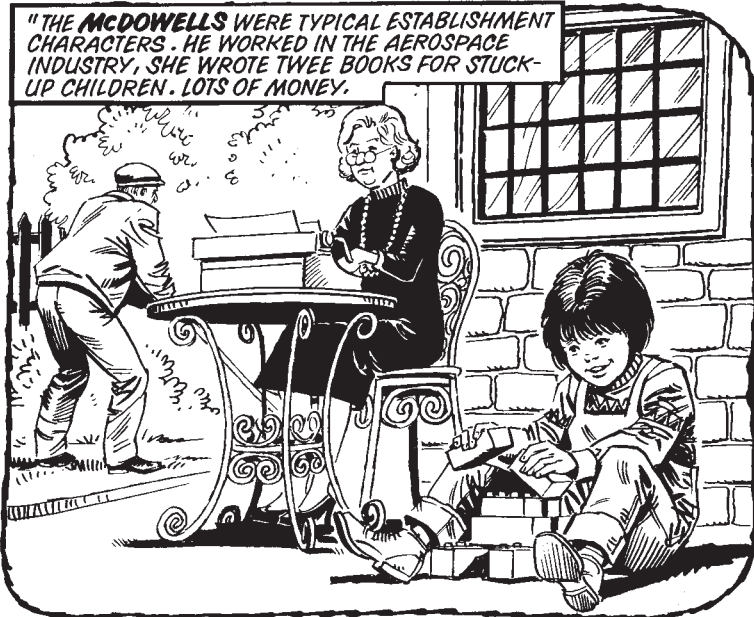
"BOTH OF THEM WERE KILLED APPARENTLY, AS PART OF SOME COVERT OPERATION.



"IN 1968, THE BABY MYSTERIOUSLY TURNED UP IN THE CARE OF HIS GRANDPARENTS. THAT'S DOCTOR BEAT'S MOTHER AND FATHER.

"THEY USED TO TELL REPORTERS THE STORK BROUGHT HIM.

"THE **MCDOWELLS** WERE TYPICAL ESTABLISHMENT CHARACTERS. HE WORKED IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, SHE WROTE TWEE BOOKS FOR STUCK-UP CHILDREN. LOTS OF MONEY.



"AS FOR **ZENITH**, APART FROM A TENDENCY TOWARDS HYPERACTIVITY WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG, HE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF HIS HERITAGE.

"THEN AGAIN, WE NEVER DO, DO WE?"

"NOT AT FIRST."



"THE MILITARY AND THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WERE INTERESTED, OF COURSE, BUT THEY'D HAD THEIR FINGERS BURNT WITH THE PREVIOUS GENERATION OF SUPERHUMANS.

"THEY WERE CONTENT JUST TO WATCH."



"UNTIL 1979, WHEN ONE OPERATIVE OVERSTEPPED THE MARK."



"ZENITH WAS 11. I DON'T SUPPOSE THE MAN THOUGHT HE HAD ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FROM AN 11-YEAR OLD BOY."

"OBVIOUSLY NOBODY TOLD HIM ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUPERHUMAN POWER AND PUBERTY."



"FRACTURED SKULL, BROKEN HIP, BROKEN RIBS, BROKEN ARMS."

"THE MAN WAS LUCKY."

"HE CLAIMED HE'D ONLY COME TO READ THE GAS METER."





THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DISOWNED HIM AND HUSHED THE WHOLE THING UP.

TYPICAL.



"THEN, IN 1983, RIDING A WAVE OF NATIONAL PRIDE AND '60S NOSTALGIA, WENT PUBLIC."



"HE WAS PERFECT TABLOID FODDER AND THE MEDIA COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIM. HOW THE BRITISH LOVE THEIR FREAKS."

"SO HE DID WHAT ALL THE SOAP STARS AND THE PAGE THREE GIRLS WERE DOING ..."



"HE LAUNCHED A SINGING CAREER."

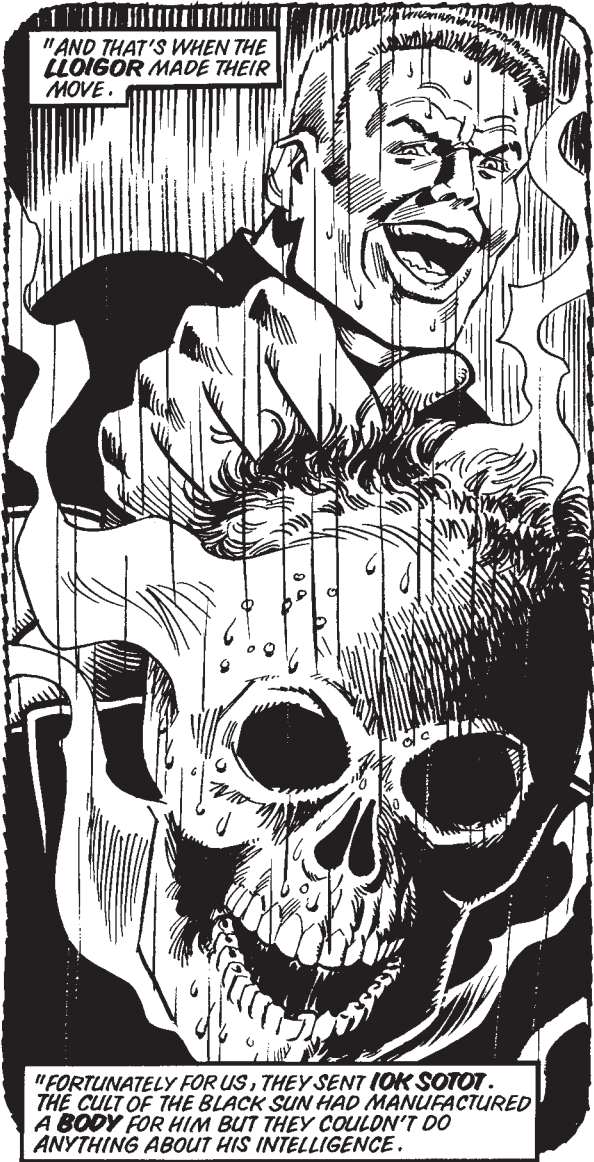


"AND WHILE YOUNG BANDS WITH REAL TALENT LANGUISHED IN OBSCURITY ZENITH'S MANUFACTURED RUBBISH EARNED HIM A FORTUNE."

"MAKES YOU SICK."



"ANYWAY, HE'D CARVED OUT A NICE LITTLE NICHE FOR HIMSELF AS EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE DESIGNER SUPERHUMAN. THE FUTURE WAS LOOKING ROSY ..."



"AND THAT'S WHEN THE LLOIGOR MADE THEIR MOVE."

"FORTUNATELY FOR US, THEY SENT IOK SOTOT. THE CULT OF THE BLACK SUN HAD MANUFACTURED A BODY FOR HIM BUT THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT HIS INTELLIGENCE."



"HE SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED ZENITH AND THE OTHER SUPERHUMANS ON Z30."

WUUCKKY!

"ZENITH'S POPULARITY WENT THROUGH THE ROOF AFTER THAT LITTLE VICTORY. FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, HIS EGO EXPANDED IN PROPORTION."



"IT WAS A FATAL MISTAKE. THEY TOOK HIM APART."

"WITHOUT REALISING IT, THEY HELPED US REGAIN ALTERNATIVE 13 AT THE SAME TIME."

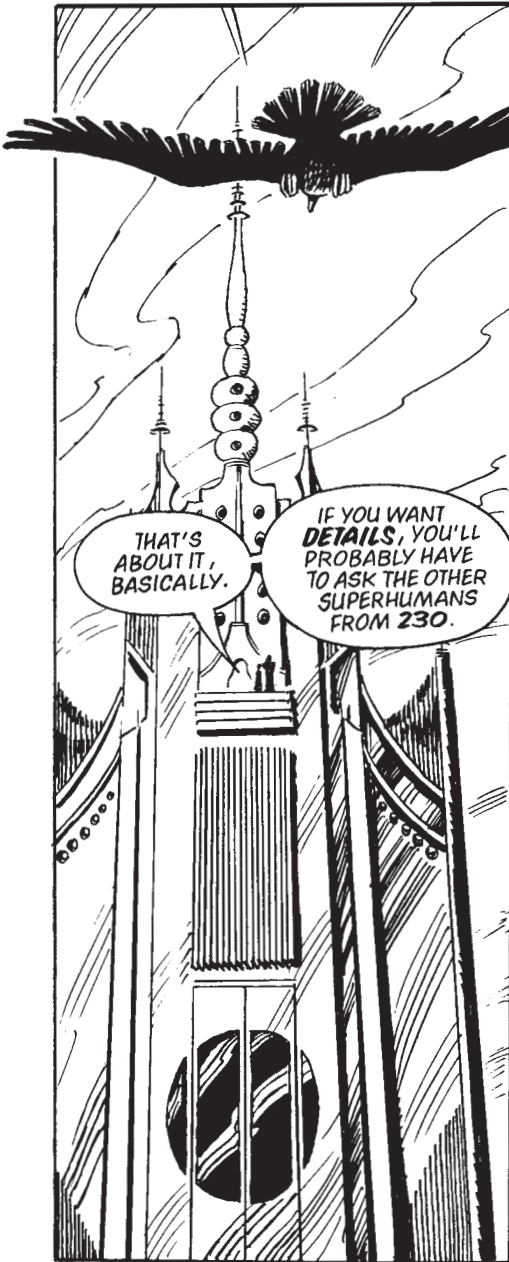
WHUNNTCH!



Daily Mail  
BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE

DAILY STAR  
YOU MUST EXCUSE ME GENTLEMEN  
I HAVE SOME WORK TO DO!

Paul's SEX REVUE



THAT'S ABOUT IT, BASICALLY.

IF YOU WANT **DETAILS**, YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO ASK THE OTHER SUPERHUMANS FROM 230.



I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, MAXIMAN, I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO **MEETING THIS ZENITH**. IT SEEMS TO BE THAT IF THEY'RE NOT **HIPPIES ON 230**, THEY'RE **YUPPIES...**



YES.

DOES ZENITH KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE **OMNIHEDRON?**



LISTEN, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD HE PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN **SPELL IT!**

IS HE **REALLY** THAT IMPORTANT TO US?



OH YES.



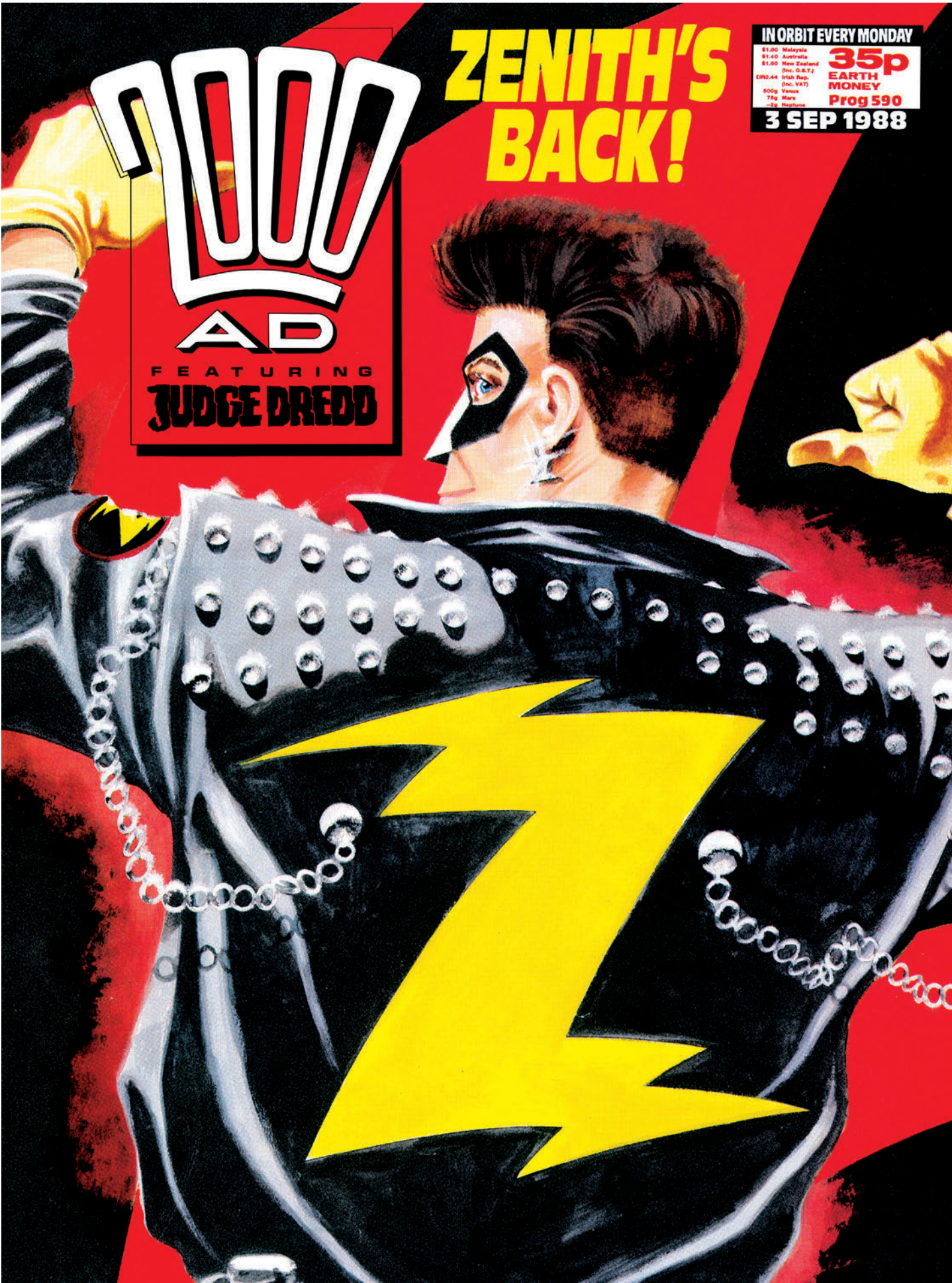
YOU KNOW I DISLIKE **MELODRAMA**, MANTRA, BUT SOME THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFRONT WITHOUT STRAYING INTO THE LANGUAGE OF **COMIC STRIPS** OR **SATURDAY SERIALS**.

IT'S VERY SIMPLE.





**GALLERY**



# ZENITH'S BACK!

# 2000

## AD

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**IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY**  
\$1.00 Malaysia  
\$1.40 Australia  
\$1.00 New Zealand  
(Inc. G.S.T.)  
€0.44 Irish Rep.  
(Inc. VAT)  
500g Venus  
75g Mars  
12g Neptune  
**35p**  
**EARTH**  
**MONEY**  
**Prog 590**  
**3 SEP 1988**

**2000**  
**AD**  
FEATURING  
**JUDGE DREDD**

**IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY**  
\$1.00 Malaysia  
\$1.40 Australia  
\$1.60 New Zealand  
(inc. G.S.T.)  
£0.57 Irish Rep.  
(inc. VAT)  
\$0.90 Korea  
75c Spain  
75c Portugal  
-25c Neptune

**35p**  
**EARTH**  
**MONEY**  
**Prog 595**  
**8 Oct 1988**

I'M TOO LATE !

**BLACK DAWN**  
in **ZENITH**

# 2000 AD

FEATURING  
**JUDGE DREDD**



**IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY**  
\$1.00 Malaysia  
\$1.40 Australia  
\$1.60 New Zealand  
(Inc. G.S.T.)  
€100.51 Irish Rep.  
(Inc. VAT)  
500g Venus  
30g Mars  
-2g Neptune

**35p**  
**EARTH MONEY**  
Prog 599  
**5 Nov 1988**



**A DATE WITH FATE IN '68**

*ZENITH*





# STAR MAKER

**IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY**  
\$1.80 Malaysia  
\$1.20 Australia  
\$1.35 New Zealand  
inc. G.S.T.  
€10.55 Irish Rep.  
inc. VAT  
500g Venus  
75g Mars  
-2g Neptune

**35p**  
**EARTH  
MONEY**  
Prog 605  
**17 Dec 1988**



# ZENITH





Zenith Phase III: Cover by **Steve Yeowell**

# 2000<sup>AD</sup> SHOWCASE



QUALITY  
**42**  
COMICS

\$1.50 U.S.  
\$1.95  
CANADA  
75p U.K.



**ABSOLUTELY IRRESPONSIBLE!**

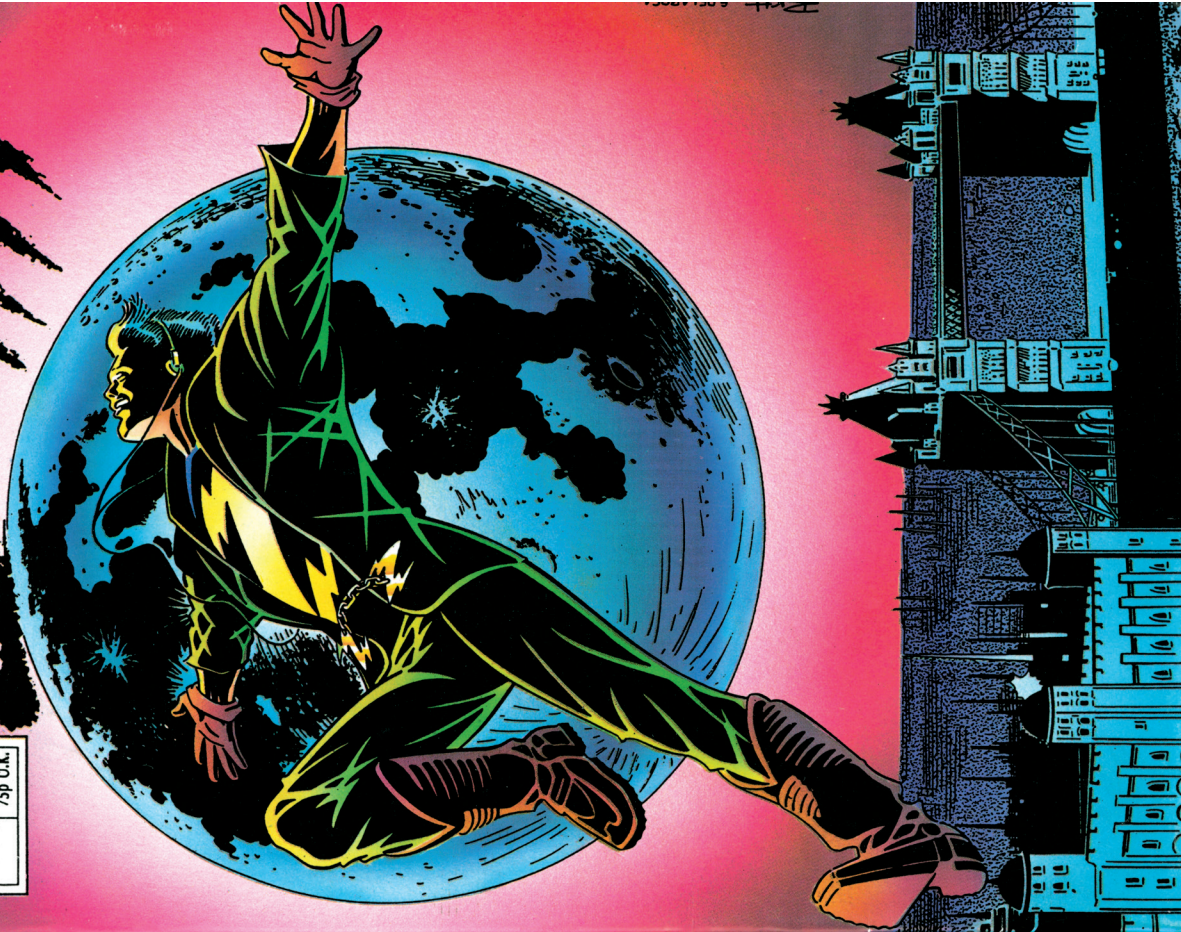
ROCK DELAROSA

# 2000<sup>AD</sup> SHOWCASE



QUALITY  
**42**  
COMICS

\$1.50 U.S.  
\$1.95  
CANADA  
75p U.K.



# 2000<sup>AD</sup> SHOWCASE

# ZENITH

QUALITY COMICS

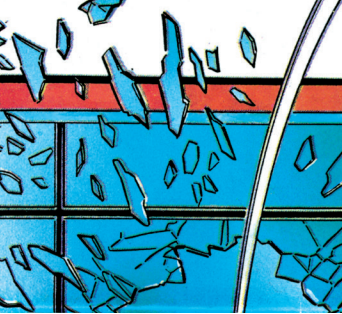
**43**

\$1.50 U.S. \$1.95 CANADA 75p U.K.

**JANUARY**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SA	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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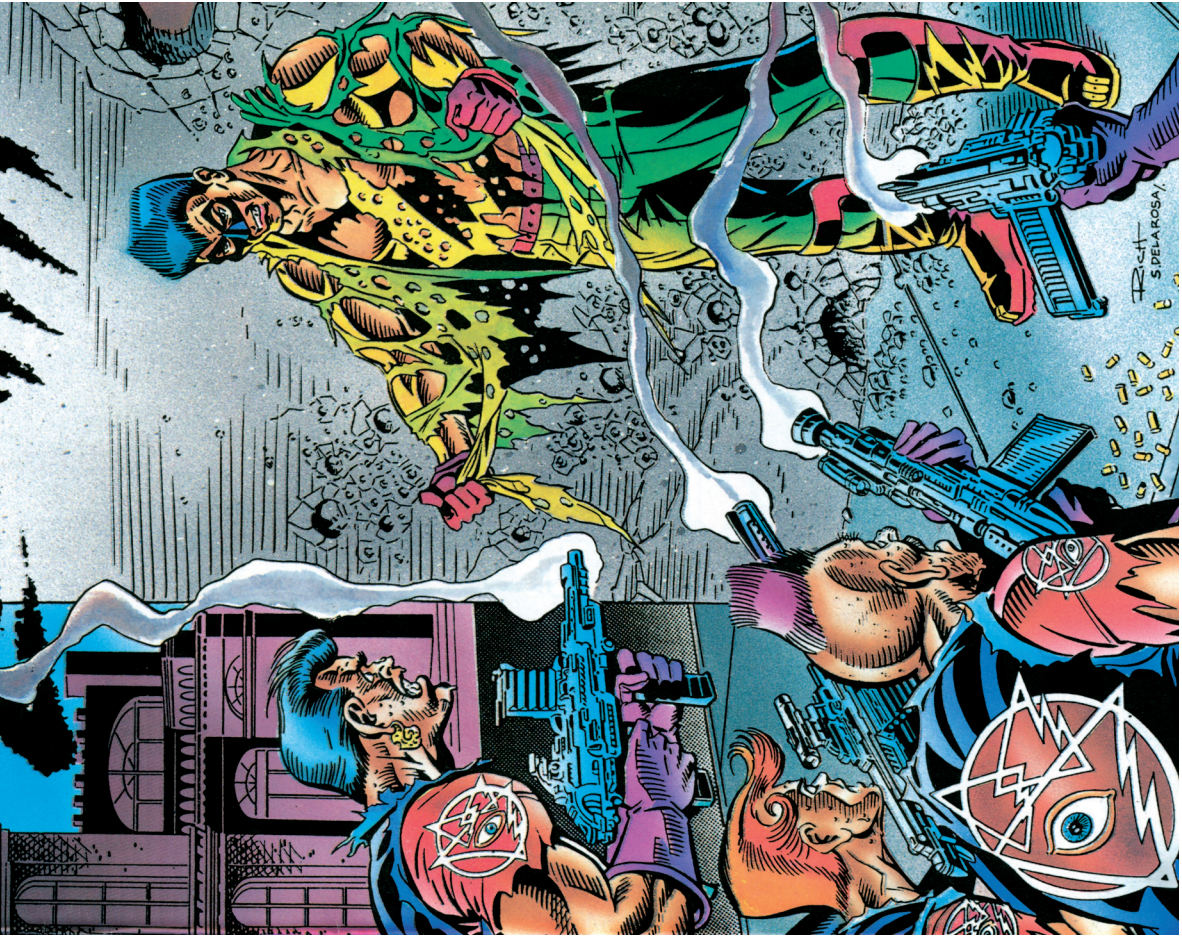
CRITICIZING



QUALITY COMICS

**44**

\$1.50 U.S. \$1.95 CANADA 75p U.K.



# 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*.

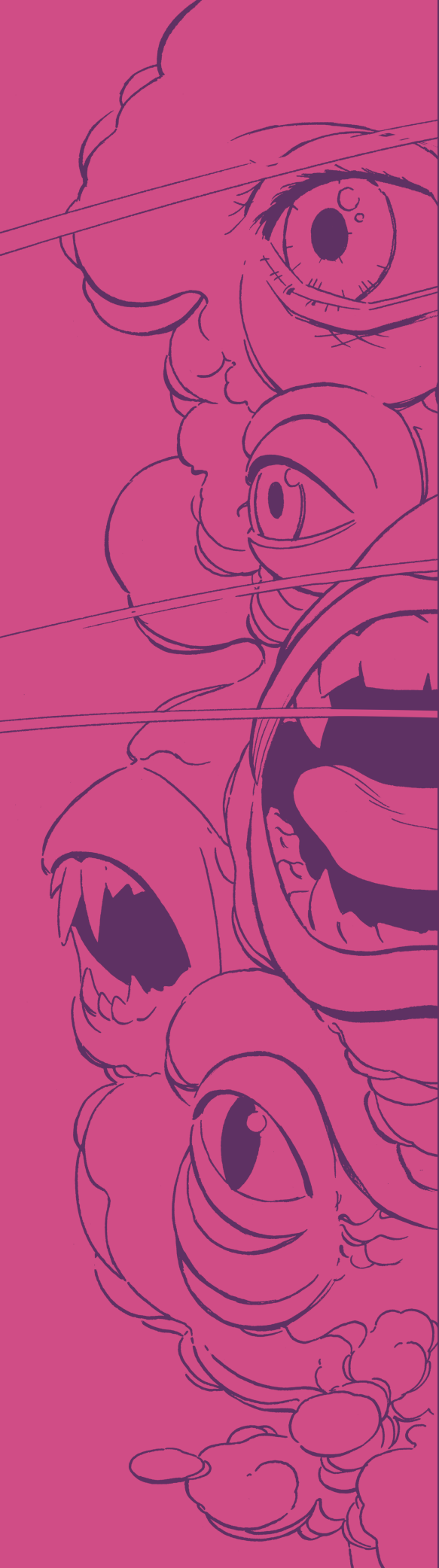
# STEVE YEOWELL

**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*.







# ZENITH

## ZENITH'S BACK!

It's 1988 and Zenith is as popular as ever thanks to his victorious battle against Masterman. The threat from the Lloigor has been quashed and now Zenith must face an all-too human threat – Dr. Michael Payne – the creator of Britain's post WWII superheroes and 'father' to Zenith's parents, has teamed up with the megalomaniac billionaire Scott Wallace who is intent on taking over the world. Together with C.I.A. agent Phaedra Cale, Zenith must stop Wallace from destroying London whilst also confronting his past and a less-than-happy reunion with his father!

Written by award-winning writer Grant Morrison (*Batman – Arkham Asylum*) with art by Steve Yeowell (*Black Shuck*) *Phase II* unveils the rich tapestry of Zenith's world with superhuman panache!



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