

JUDGE DEATH



MY NAME IS DEATH

JOHN WAGNER ★ FRAZER IRVING





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JUDGE DEATH CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER AND BRIAN BOLLAND

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JOHN WAGNER

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Originally serialised in 2000 AD Progs 1289-1294 and Judge Dredd: Magazine 209-216.
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Published by Rebellion, Riverside House,
Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, UK
www.rebellion.co.uk

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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MY NAME IS DEATH

Script: John Wagner

Art: Frazer Irving

Letters: Tom Frame

Originally published in *2000 AD* Progs 1289-1294

I AM DEATH.

DEATH THE AVENGER,
PURGER OF SSSINSS.

DEATH THE MERCIFUL,
PURIFIER OF SSSOULSSS.

THOSE WHO CONSSSIDERED
ME GONE, THINK AGAIN.

THOSE WHO LAUGHED, AND
MOCKED ME, BE AFRAID.

FOR I AM RETURNED, AND
THISSS TIME JUDGEEMENT
WILL NOT BE DENIED.

I AM COMING.





LUNA ONE--

THIS IS
JUDGE ANDERSON. EMO.
SHE'S COME ALL THE
WAY FROM EARTH TO
SEE YOU.



HELLO, EMO. THEY TELL
ME YOU'RE NOT TALKING
TO ANYONE.

I UNDERSTAND.
SOMETIMES THINGS
WE SEE ARE JUST
TOO MUCH TO BEAR.
WE TRY TO CLOSE A
DOOR ON THEM, IN
OUR MINDS, SO WE
DON'T HAVE TO THINK
ABOUT THEM.

I'M GOING TO
HELP YOU TELL US
WHAT HAPPENED
IN THAT ROOM.

DON'T BE AFRAID. I'M
JUST GOING TO HOLD
YOUR HAND, LIKE THIS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
TALK. YOU DON'T HAVE
TO SAY A WORD.



UNCLE HERP--
DONNNN'T!



ONE WORD ABOUT THIS
AND I'LL KILL YOU TOO,
JUVEY! BELIEVE IT!



WHO...
WHO'S
HERP?

ONE OF THE BOYFRIENDS.
HERP WILLIS. WE CHECKED
HIM ON THE LIE DETECTOR,
CAME OUT NEGATIVE.

YOUR LD'S FAULTY.
CHECK HIM AGAIN.
HE'S YOUR MAN.



UNCLE HERP'S NOT
GOING TO HURT YOU,
EMO. HE'S NOT GOING
TO HURT ANYONE
EVER AGAIN.

IT'S MY FAULT!
I MADE HIM ANGRY!
MOM STOPPED HIM
HITTIN' ME AN...
AN...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP
THINKING THAT WAY.

I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE SADNESS AWAY, BUT I CAN MAKE IT HURT A LITTLE LESS.

FIRST TIME HE'S SLEPT LIKE THAT SINCE HE ARRIVED. WHAT DO YOU DO TO THEM?

GIVE THEM A LITTLE PEACE, FOR A WHILE.

YOU SEEMED DISTRACTED BACK THERE FOR A MOMENT.

SOMETHING I SAW... AT THE EDGE OF MY MIND. AN APPARITION...

PROBABLY NOTHING. SPACELAG.

NO...OH, NO...!

GOT TO GET TO AN EARTH-COM!

MEGA-CITY ONE--

JUDGE DREDD ENTERING. OPEN INNER RING.

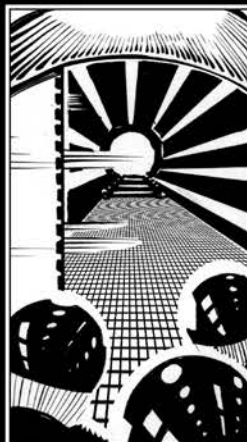


BUSY OUT THERE?

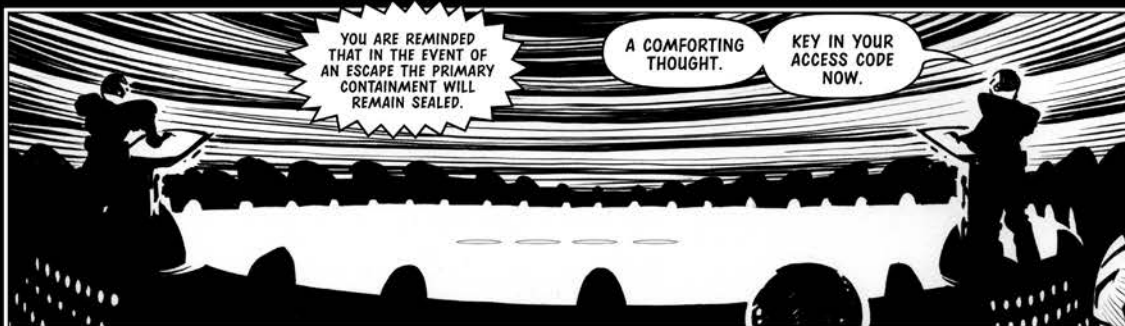
THE USUAL.



WE WERE INSPECTED ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO. I DON'T SEE HOW ANYTHING COULD HAVE CHANGED.



ENTERING PRIMARY CONTAINMENT.



YOU ARE REMINDED THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN ESCAPE THE PRIMARY CONTAINMENT WILL REMAIN SEALED.

A COMFORTING THOUGHT.

KEY IN YOUR ACCESS CODE NOW.



THOSE PLUGS ARE EIGHTY METRES LONG, EMBEDDED IN SOLID PLASTEEL. A NUKE WOULDN'T SHIFT THEM.

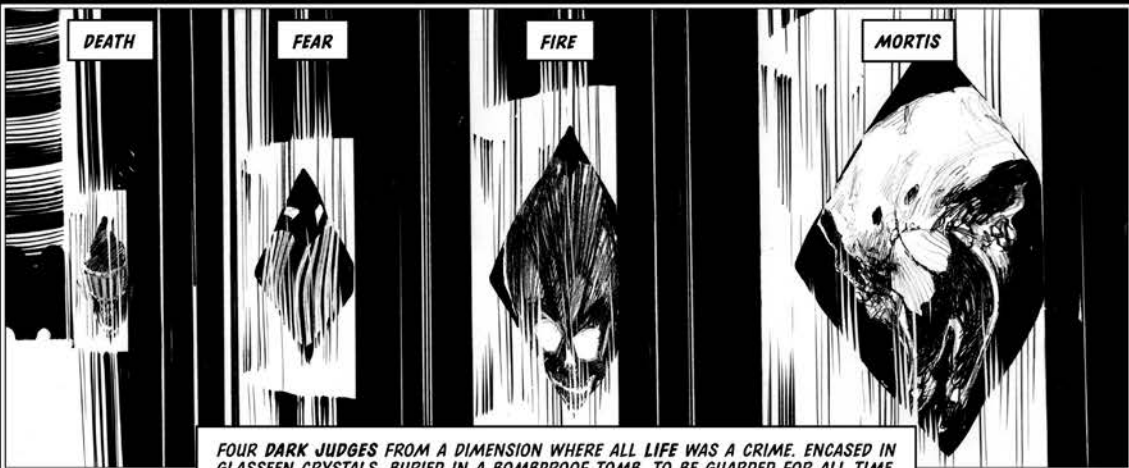
I KNOW. I WAS BRINGING THE CRYSTALS HERE WHEN THEY GOT HIJACKED BY THAT GOTHAM CLOWN.*

* THARGNOTE: SEE 'THE BATMAN JUDGE DREDD FILES'.



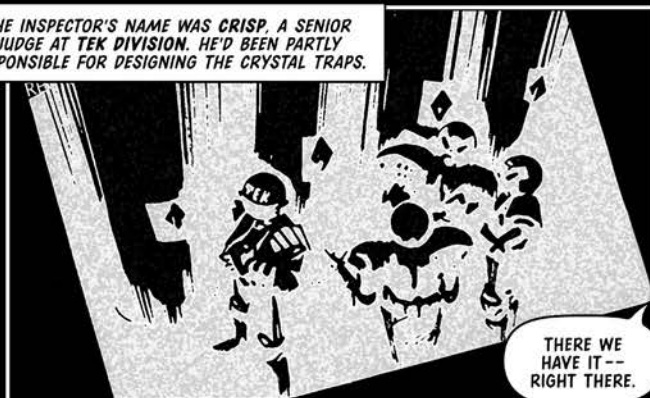
ANDERSON'S GOT TO BE WRONG.

THAT'S WHAT I'M HOPING.

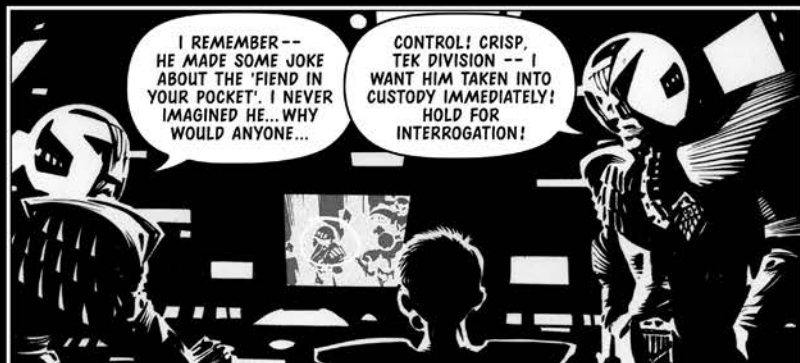




THE INSPECTOR'S NAME WAS CRISP, A SENIOR JUDGE AT TEK DIVISION. HE'D BEEN PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING THE CRYSTAL TRAPS.



THAT'S WHERE HE SLIPS THE FAKE IN.



I REMEMBER -- HE MADE SOME JOKE ABOUT THE 'FIEND IN YOUR POCKET'. I NEVER IMAGINED HE... WHY WOULD ANYONE...

CONTROL! CRISP, TEK DIVISION -- I WANT HIM TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IMMEDIATELY! HOLD FOR INTERROGATION!



JUDGE CRISP REPORTED MISSING 15 DAYS AGO, STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. IF YOU HAVE A LEAD OR ANY INFORMATION, CONTACT ZEIGLER AT THE MISSING BUREAU.

IF HE OPENS THAT CRYSTAL--

IT MAY BE TOO LATE.



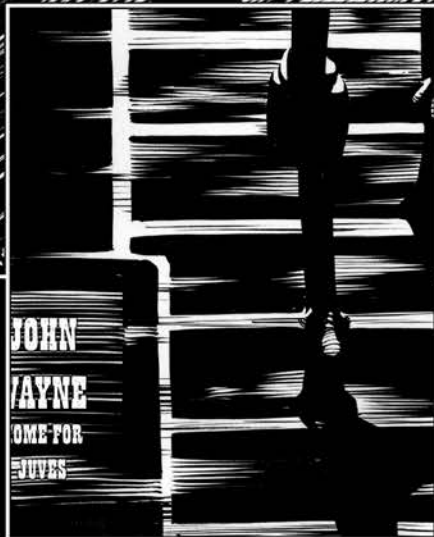
IF ANDERSON'S RIGHT, THE MOST EVIL CREATURE THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN MAY ALREADY BE LOOSE ON OUR STREETS AGAIN!



A THICK BLANKET OF FOG IS TONIGHT DRIFTING IN FROM THE CANADIAN WASTES, DROPPING VISIBILITY IN MANY PARTS OF THE CITY TO NEAR ZERO. JUSTICE DEPT ADVISES DRIVERS TO ENGAGE AUTOMATIC DRIVER SYSTEMS IN AFFECTED AREAS. BETTER STILL, STAY HOME.



TONIGHT'S ADVERSE CONDITIONS ARE JUST ONE OF MANY NATURAL PHENOMENA TO STRIKE THE CITY SINCE THE BREAK-DOWN OF MEGA-CITY ONE'S DILAPIDATED WEATHER CONTROL NETWORK. HERE'S RUBE BURNETTI AT WEATHER CENTRAL--



SNOW. RAIN. HAIL. FOG... IF YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE PROBLEMS ONLY OTHER MEGA-CITIES SUFFERED, THINK AGAIN. PENDING A HUGE INJECTION OF CASH FROM BELEAGUERED CITY PLANNERS, THEY SEEM SET TO BE WITH US FOR YEARS TO COME.

"LET ME IN," THE SMEG BEAST SCREAMED. "OR I'LL SMITE AND I'LL KNOCK YOUR MID-LEVEL FAMILY HAB UNIT TO SMEGAREENS!"

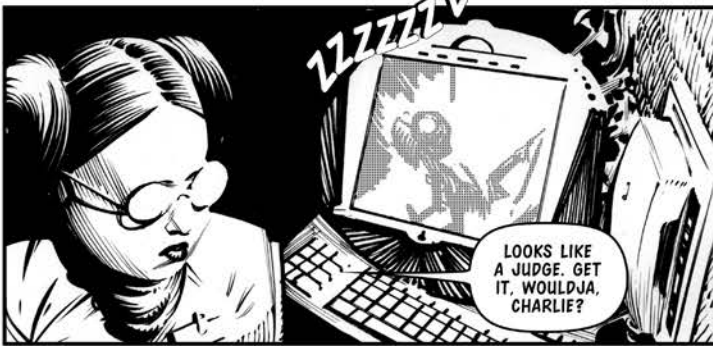
THIS IS A SCARY STORY, UNCLE FUNSTER. COULDN'T WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE?



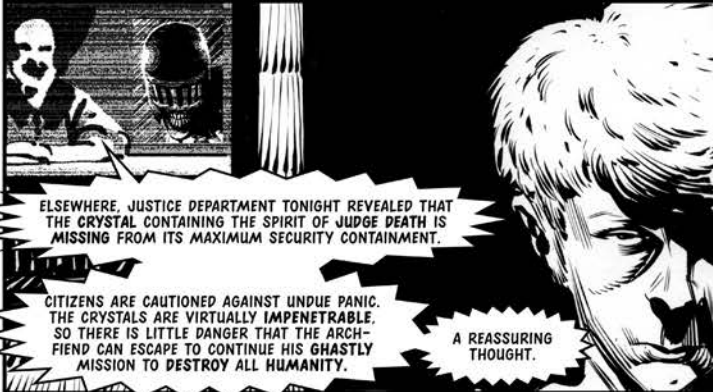
DON'T YOU WORRY, RIGELLA, NOTHING CAN HURT YOU HERE. AT THE JOHN WAYNE HOME FOR JUVES, SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

AN' WALKIN' TALL.

THAT'S RIGHT, BILLY. WALKIN' TALL.



LOOKS LIKE A JUDGE. GET IT, WOULDJA, CHARLIE?



ELSEWHERE, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TONIGHT REVEALED THAT THE CRYSTAL CONTAINING THE SPIRIT OF JUDGE DEATH IS MISSING FROM ITS MAXIMUM SECURITY CONTAINMENT.

CITIZENS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST UNPUE PANIC. THE CRYSTALS ARE VIRTUALLY IMPENETRABLE, SO THERE IS LITTLE DANGER THAT THE ARCH-FIEND CAN ESCAPE TO CONTINUE HIS GHASTLY MISSION TO DESTROY ALL HUMANITY.

A REASSURING THOUGHT.



GREEETINGGSSS!

MY NAME ISSS DEATHHH. I HAVE COME TO JUDGGE YOU.





THE
SSSENTENCE
IS DEATHHH!

THE CRIME
ISS LIFFE!

P-PUH-PUH-PLEASE...!

I MUSST PURGGE
YOU OF YOUR
WICKEDNESS!

SSSIN NO
MORE!

M-MERCY-!

GRANTED!







HOW SSWEET!
THE SSOUND OF
SSSILENCE!

WHAT ISS THISSS-?
THE CURSSSED
SSTENCHHH OF LIFE
REMAINS--

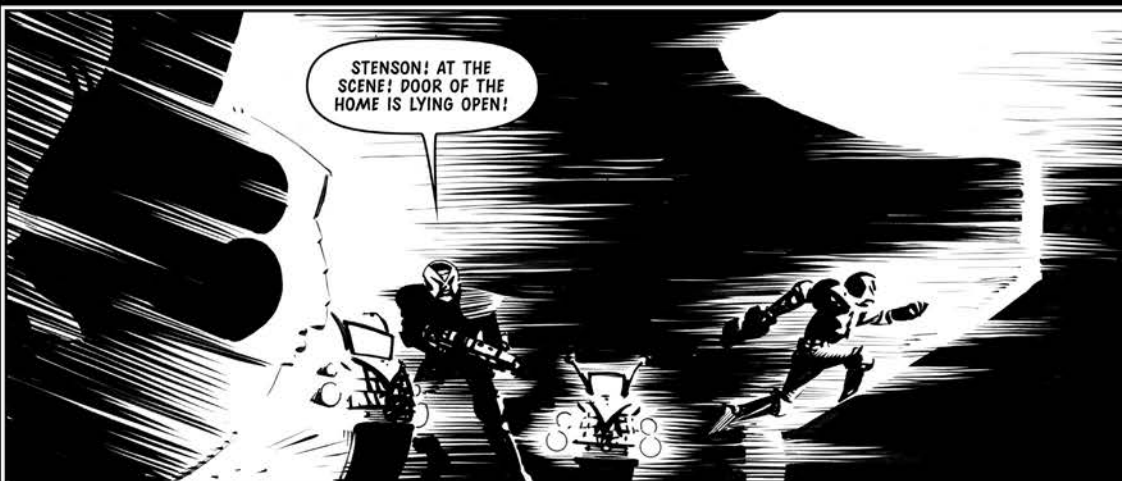
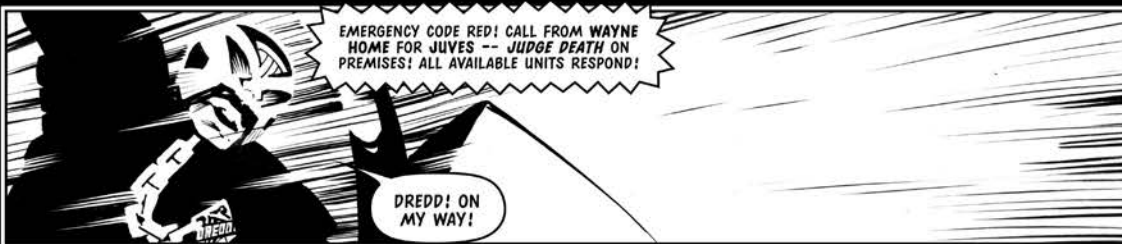
Ahhhhhhhh...

COME, CHHILD,
YOUR VITALITY
OFFENDSSS ME!

HUSSSH NOW!
HUSSSSH. YOUR
PAIN ISS OVER.



SWEET MERCY,
HELP US...!



MY PURPOSSE IS ACHIEVED. TO
CONTINUE CARRIESSS RISSSK.

BUT I HAVE BEEN SSSO LONG
TRAPPED WITHIN THAT CURSSSED
CRYSSSTAL...MY HANDSSS ITCH
TO DISSPENSS JUSSSTICE!

HOLYYYY--!

WHAMMMMPPP

THUDDA

crunch

I'M SORRY, JUDGE!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T SEE
YOU! MY AUTO-CON'S
BROKE AND -- OH, GRUD!
WHAT'VE I DONE?



CARELESS
DRIVINGG COSSSTSS
LIVESSSS!

SSPECCIFFICALLY,
YOURSSS!



CREEP'S
NOT UPSTAIRS!
NO FURTHER
CASUALTIES!



KEEP THOSE JUVES IN
THEIR DORMITORIES,
DAMN IT! THEY DON'T
NEED TO SEE THIS!



CHILDREN...
WHY CHILDREN?

THERE'S NO
LIMIT TO THE
CREATURE'S EVIL!



CONTROL!
BLANKET SEARCH,
TWO KAYS RADIUS OF
THE HOME! MANTAS --
HOVERUNITS -- EVERY
HELMET YOU CAN
BRING IN!



CALDERO! I'VE FOUND
HIM! ON FOOT, ON THE
LINKWAY!



RIOT BLASTER!

АНННННННН

ALL UNITS
CLOSE ON THAT
SIGHTING!

YOU CANNOT
KILL WHAT DOESSS
NOT LIVVVVE!

vrmmmmmmmm

LEEMAN: WE'RE
ON THE LINKWAY!
VISIBILTY NEAR
ZERO!

INCOMING!
CHECK YOUR
HEAT-SCAN!

IT'S A
LAWMASTER!

RIDER'S
REGISTERING
STONE COLD!

DEATH-!

WITHHH
PLEASSURE!



BAWOOOOOM

BAWOOOOOM

DEATH
T.V.

RIGHTEOUSSSS!

MORNING. THEY FIND THE
LAWMASTER ABANDONED.



ACROSS THE
SECTOR, A TRAIL
OF CARNAGE...

HOW DID HE GET
PAST US? CREEP'S
LIKE A GHOST.



I'VE GOT NEWS
FOR YOU -- CREEP
IS A GHOST.

DREDD, WE'VE DONE
ANALYSIS ON THOSE
BODY FRAGMENTS FROM
THE LINKWAY. THE FLESH
IS NECROTIC, TRACES OF
SEVERAL NOXIOUS
SUBSTANCES ON IT.

BUT GET THIS...
THE DNA BELONGS
TO JUDGE HOMER
CRISP.



CRISP REMOVED THE CRYSTAL FROM ITS
CONTAINMENT. WHATEVER HE WAS UP TO,
THINGS DIDN'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN.

DEATH KILLED HIM
AND TOOK POSSESSION
OF HIS BODY?



CREEP GOT WHAT
HE DESERVED!

NO ONE DESERVES JUDGE
DEATH... NOT CRISP, NOT THIS
CITY. HE'LL GO ON KILLING
UNTIL WE STOP HIM.



ANDERSON'S COMING.
IF ANYONE CAN FIND
HIM, SHE CAN!





WHY DO THEY
TORMENT ME SSSO
WITHH THEIR VILE
EXXISSSTENCE?

WHY DO THEY
SSSO SSSTUBBORNLY
RESSIST THESSSE
RIGHTEOUSSS CLAWS
OF JUSSTICCCCCCE?



THEY ARE SSO MANY...SSO MANY!
AND I BUT ONE! ONE LONE VOICE
OF REASSON CRYING IN A SSSEA
OF INIQUITYYY!

EVEN WITH MY BROTHERSS
BESIDE ME THE TASSK SSEEMSS
INSSSUPERABLE! BUT I WILL
SSSUCCEED! JUSSTICE WILL
NOT BE DENIED!

YOU SEEM IN SOME
DISTRESS, SIR. DID THE
NIGHT GO BADLY?

NO...NO.
WELL ENOUGH.
SSUFFICIENT FOR
MY PURPOSSE.

I JJUDGGED MANY!
WOMEN...CHHHILDREN...

THERE WAS
A PREGNANT ONE.
SSHHHE BEGGED ME TO
SSSPARE HER, FOR HER
UNBORN CHHHILD --
ASS IF I SSHOULD
SSSHOWW MERCY TO
ONE ABOUT TO BRING
ANOTHER SSSINNER
INTO THIS WORLD!

DO I LOOK LIKE
A FOOOOL?

CERTAINLY
NOT, SIR.

I WAS WONDERING, SIR...THE
MASTER'S BODY IS BEGINNING TO
SMELL RATHER UNPLEASANTLY.
SHOULD I REMOVE IT?

SSSUCH SSCENTSS
ARE NECTAR TO ME! THE
SSSTENCH OF DEATHHH --
OF PURITY!

I NEVER THOUGHT OF
IT THAT WAY, SIR.

YOU WOULD NOT
HARBOUR THOUGHTSS
OF TREACHERY, WOULD
YOU, SSSIMON? YOU
WOULD NOT BETRAY
ME?

I AM A ROBOT, SIR. I FOLLOW
ORDERS. THE MASTER'S
INSTRUCTIONS WERE QUITE
EXPLICIT -- I SHOULD SERVE
YOU AND NO OTHER.

GOOOD.
GOOOOD.



HOW FITTING THISSS
PLACE ISS FOR MY TASK.
FILLED WITH THE
WORKSSS OF THE DEAD.

THE MASTER
WAS AN AVID
COLLECTOR.

IN MY OWN WAY
I AM A COLLECTOR
TOO...

--THOUGH OUR
NOTIONSSS OF BEAUTY
ARE SSSOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT.

Gloria Gloria
World's most Beautiful Woman
2117

SSSEE WHAT A KINDNESS
I HAVE DONE YOUR
MASSSTER, SSSIMON?
HE ISS AT PEACCCE NOW,
PURGED OF HISS
SSSSINSS!

"HARD TO IMAGINE HE
WASS EVER ALIVE!

I TOOK A BIG CHANCE GETTING
THIS FOR YOU, McAB. I HOPE
YOU APPRECIATE IT.

OH, I DO.

DEATH'S CRYSTAL
PRISON...

THE MOST EVIL
FIEND THIS WORLD
HAS KNOWN... AND
HE IS MINE!



NOW, THE PRICE... FIVE MILLION, YOU SAID? THAT IS RATHER A LOT OF MONEY. LET US SAY ONE MILLION.

THERE ARE COLLECTORS WHO'D PAY TEN TIMES THAT.

BUT THIS IS STOLEN PROPERTY. THAT REDUCES THE VALUE. IT COULD ONLY EVER BE EXHIBITED HERE, IN MY PRIVATE VAULT.

COME NOW, CRISP, I'M NOT MADE OF MONEY.



THE PRICE STANDS, McAB. PAY UP OR THE CRYSTAL LEAVES WITH ME.

I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE YOUR ATTITUDE. I AM TRULY SORRY.



SYNTHI-CAF, SIR?

"HE BECAME INFATUATED WITH ME, TURNING ME OVER AND OVER IN HIS HANDSSS. HOW TEMPTING IT MUSSST HAVE BEEN TO RELEASSSE ME.



"IT WOULD TAKE BUT THE SSSLIGHTEST PUSSSH TO DRIVE HIM OVER THE EDGE. WITHIN THE CRYSSSTAL I REMAINED PERFECTLY SSSTILL...

SEE THAT, SIMON? SEE HOW HE DOESN'T MOVE. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO MOVE!

MOST WORRYING, SIR.

WHAT IF HE'S DOUBLE-CROSSED ME? WHAT IF IT'S JUST A HOLOGRAM? BY GRUD, THAT TWISTER -- I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM!

I MUST KNOW! I MUST FIND OUT!

"A CHEAT ALWAYSSS SSSUSSPECTS OTHERSSS OF EQUAL DUPLICCCITY. ONCE THE DOUBT SSSET IN, ABNER McAB WAS DOOMED...

NOW INTO THE LIQUID NITROGEN, SIMON! NOTHING ELSE WORKS. THIS MUST--!

LIQUID NITROGEN

CRAA-AAAK!

FREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

GOOD GRUD,
IT'S ESCAPING!

FOOOOOL! DID YOU THINK YOUR
PLASSTEEEN GAUNTLETSSS WOULD SSSTOP
ME? I AM NOT A COMMON GASSS!

THE CREATURE HAS
ENTERED YOUR
HEAD, SIR

YESSS! A MOSST
INTERESSSTINGG
SSSENSATION!
QUITE PLEASSANT,
ACTUALLY!

THISSS WILL
DO NICCELY!

I WILL REQUIRE
SSOME ALTERATIONSSS
TO THE UNIFORM!

IT ISSS TIME FOR ME TO DIE, SSSIMON.
REMEMBER, WHEN I AM GONE OUR FFFRIEND
HERE WILL BE YOUR NEW MASSSTER! YOU
WILL SSSERVE HISSS EVERY NEEDED!

BUT HE'S
DEAD, SIR.

OBSSSERVE,
SSSIMON, AND
BE AMAZZED!

"McAB TRIED TO RESSSIST
MY KNIFE THRUSST, BUT I
WASS TOO SSSTRONGGG!

ENTER DEATHHH! FILL
THISSS SSSOULLESSS
CARCASSSS!

"AND THE
RESSST, ASSS
THEY SSSAY,
WILL BE
HISSSTORY!"

IT WOULD BE WISSE
TO PREPARE McAB'SSS
BODY TOO. I MAY HAVE
NEED OF IT.

NOW THE TRAP ISS SSSET.
SHHHEE ISS COMING. BUT THERE
ARE SSSTILL DANGERSSS AHEAD.
TONIGHT I MUSST BE PREPARED.

YOU ARE GOING
OUT AGAIN, SIR?

YESSS! I HAVE
AN APPOINTMENT
WITH A YOUNGGG
LADYY!

JUDGE ANDERSON...
BREECH, MA'AM. I'VE
BEEN DETAILED TO
ASSIST YOU.

ARRIURE

START BY NOT
CALLING ME
MA'AM. I'M NOT
THAT OLD YET.

DEATH TOLL STANDS AT 82.
CREEP COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ON THE
STREETS AN HOUR. WOMEN -- JUVES
-- THREE JUDGES...

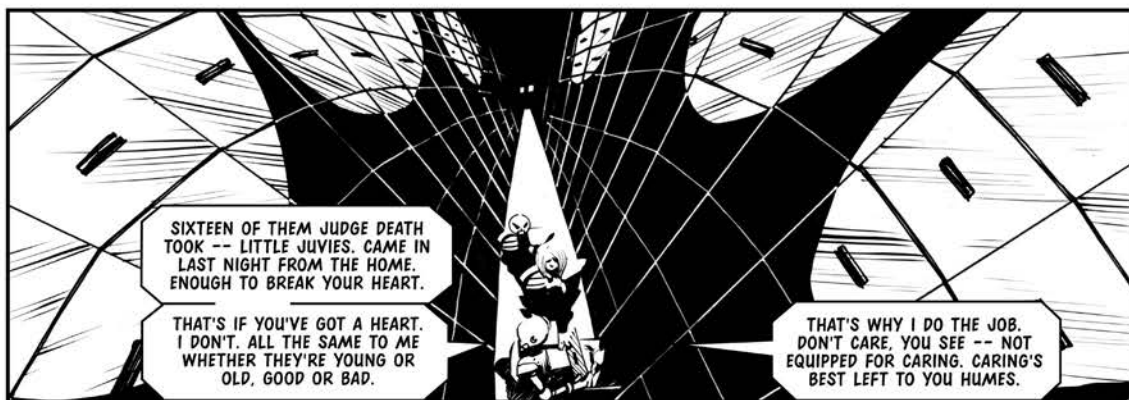
JUVE HOME -- WHY A JUVE
HOME? THEY WERE ONLY LITTLE
KIDS. THEY COULDN'T EVER HAVE
DONE ANYBODY ANY HARM.

I'LL NEVER FORGET
THE SCENE IN THAT
DORM... SIXTEEN OF THEM,
AND THE EXPRESSIONS ON
THEIR LITTLE FACES... IF
YOU'D SEEN IT...

I DID. BELIEVE
ME, BREECH, I
DID.

I WAS
FORGETTING.
YOU'RE A
TELEPATH.

MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE
HAS FORGOTTEN TOO. IF
IT'S THE LAST THING I
DO, I'M GONNA NAIL
THAT SICK SUCKER!



SIXTEEN OF THEM JUDGE DEATH
TOOK -- LITTLE JUVIES. CAME IN
LAST NIGHT FROM THE HOME.
ENOUGH TO BREAK YOUR HEART.

THAT'S IF YOU'VE GOT A HEART.
I DON'T. ALL THE SAME TO ME
WHETHER THEY'RE YOUNG OR
OLD, GOOD OR BAD.

THAT'S WHY I DO THE JOB.
DON'T CARE, YOU SEE -- NOT
EQUIPPED FOR CARING. CARING'S
BEST LEFT TO YOU HUMES.



HOW MANY
DO YOU WANT
TO SEE?

THIS SHOULD
BE...SUFFICIENT.

SHE CAN FEEL THE TERROR OF THEIR
LAST MOMENTS...THE EVIL HAND OF
DEATH, TAINTING BLOOD AND SINEW
WITH ITS FOULNESS...

SHE MUST FORCE HER MIND DEEPER,
DOWN THROUGH THE WELL OF HORROR
TO THE MONSTER BENEATH...

FIND HIM!



HE...HE'S
CALLING-!



IT ISS TIME WE SSETTLED
OUR DIFFERENCCESS, FOR
ALL TIME! COME TO ME!

COME ALONE! BRINGG
OTHERSSS AND I WILL KNOW!
THEN THE KILLINGG WILL
GO ON!

HOW MANY MORE
INNOCENTS
MUSST DIEEE?

MY BABYYY-!



I'VE GOT TO
GO TO HIM!

I'LL NOTIFY
CONTROL, ANDERSON!
GET UNITS THERE!



BREECH, NO-- I'VE
GOT TO DO THIS
ON MY OWN!

IF WE GO IN
MOB-HANDED, HE
WON'T BE THERE!
I CAN HANDLE
HIM!

ABSOLUTELY
NO WAY!

MAINTENANCE



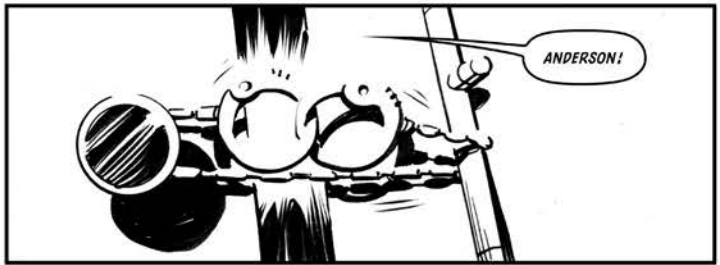
YOU'VE GOT
TO TRUST ME
ON THIS!

MAINTENANCE



SHE'S SNAPPED MY
HELMET MIKE...

MAINTENANCE
MACHINES ONLY
IN HERE, SIR.



ANDERSON!



SHE RIDES WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, GUIDED BY HER UNCANNY SENSES--



-- AND A FELL HAND FROM AFAR.



BREECH TO CONTROL! ANDERSON TOOK OFF! SHE'S GONE TO MEET WITH THAT FIEND!

WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN! SEE IF PSU CAN PICK HER UP!



PSU. WE HAVE ANDERSON ENTERING SCHWARTZ CONAPTS THIRTY SECONDS AGO. NOTIFYING BLOCK JUDGES.



MEETING ROOM

GREETINGGGSSS,
ANDERSSSSON!

YOU
MONSTER--

I'M NOT HERE
TO EXCHANGE
PLEASANTRIES!

CAREFUL WHO
YOU SSSHOOOT
NOW,
ANDERSSON!

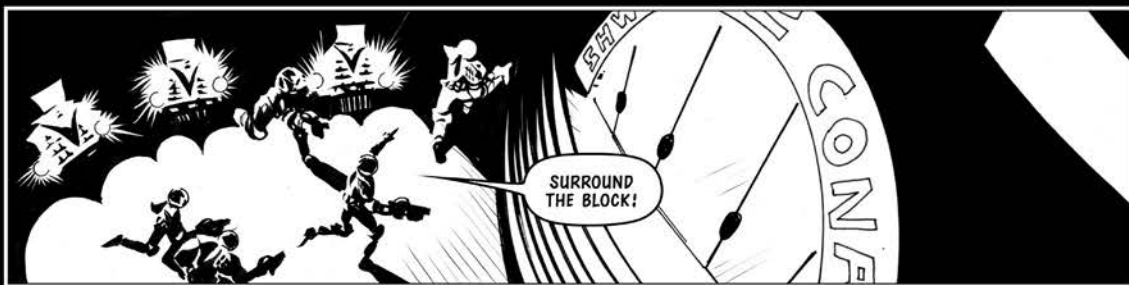
BABESS
AND CHHILDREN--
I KNEW THAT
YOU WOULD BRINGG YOU
RUNNINGGG.
SSSTRIPPED OF
YOUR REASSSSON!
SSUCHHH A
BLEEDINGGG HEART!

GOTTA RISK
IT--!

ASS LONGG ASS YOU LIVVE YOU
CAN FFIND ME! FOR WE ARE
LINKED -- A PSSSYCHIC BOND THAT
HASS THWARTED ME TOO OFFTEN!

**A BOND
THAT MUSSST
BE BROKEN!**







ANDERSON-!

SSHHEEE
IS BEYOND
SSSALVVATION!

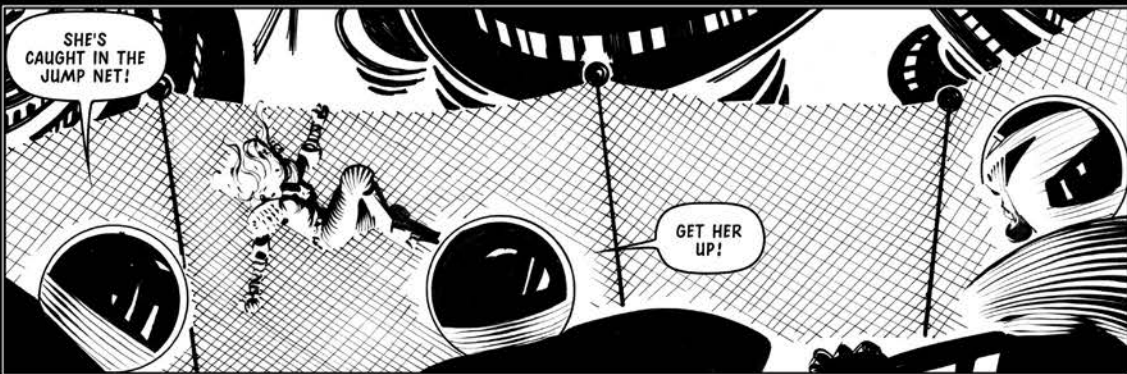
WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING
FOR-?

HIT HIM!

BY THE
POWERSSS
VESSED IN
ME--

--!
CONSSSIGN
HER TO
ETERNITYYY!







I SSSLIP OVER THE
WALL THAT NIGHT.

AND WHEN I HAVE GONE DEEP INTO
THAT RAVAGED AND PLEASSANT LAND
THEY CALL THE CURSSSED EARTH--

WE MUSSST DESSSTROY
ALL TRACESSS. I'M
AFRAID THAT MEANSSS
YOU, SSSSIMON.

YES, SIR.



FAREWELL, GOOD
AND FFAITHHFUL
SSSERVANT.



THE BODY ABANDONED BY THE MONSTER IS POSITIVELY
IDENTIFIED AS THAT OF JUDGE HOMER CRISP.



IT IS MANY
DAYS BEFORE
SUSPICIONS
ARE AROUSED
CONCERNING
THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF
RECLUSIVE
BILLIONAIRE
ECCENTRIC,
ABNER McAB.

THE SECRET VAULT
TELLS ITS STORY--



BLOOD BELONGS TO
ABNER McAB. DON'T
KNOW HOW OLD, BUT
IT'S NOT FRESH.

AND NO SIGN
OF McAB... OR
THAT FIEND.



HOW IS SHE
TODAY?



NO CHANGE. BODY
FUNCTIONS ARE TICKING
OVER. SOME MINIMAL
ACTIVITY IN THE BRAIN
BUT...NOTHING YOU
COULD CALL TRULY
ALIVE...



IT'S LIKE HE'S
STOLEN ANDERSON'S
SOUL.

IT WAS ANDERSON HE HAD WANTED.
THAT'S WHY HE'D TARGETED CHILDREN.
HE KNEW THAT WOULD BRING HER.

AND NOW...



NOW HE COULD BE ANYWHERE... HIDING IN THE CITY,
OR BEYOND, PLOTTING HIS NEXT OBSCENITIES.



AND NO WAY OF KNOWING...
UNTIL HE STRIKES.



TIME...SSSUCH A
PRECIOUSSS LUXURY...

ASSS LONG ASSS SSSHE
LIVED. I COULD NEVER
BE SSSAFE. WHEREVER
I WENT, SSSHE WOULD
HAVE FOUND ME OUT.

TIME TO THINK,
TO DREAM...

FOR LONG YEARSSS I HAVE BEEN
TRAPPED IN THISSS WORLD. ENGAGED
IN A BATTLE I SSSEEMINGLY CANNOT
WIN -- A LONE PROPHET DROWNING
IN A TIDE OF INIQUITY.

BUT I WILL FIND A WAY. I WILL MAKE
MY PLANSSS. THEN I WILL RETURN.
THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT WILL COME.

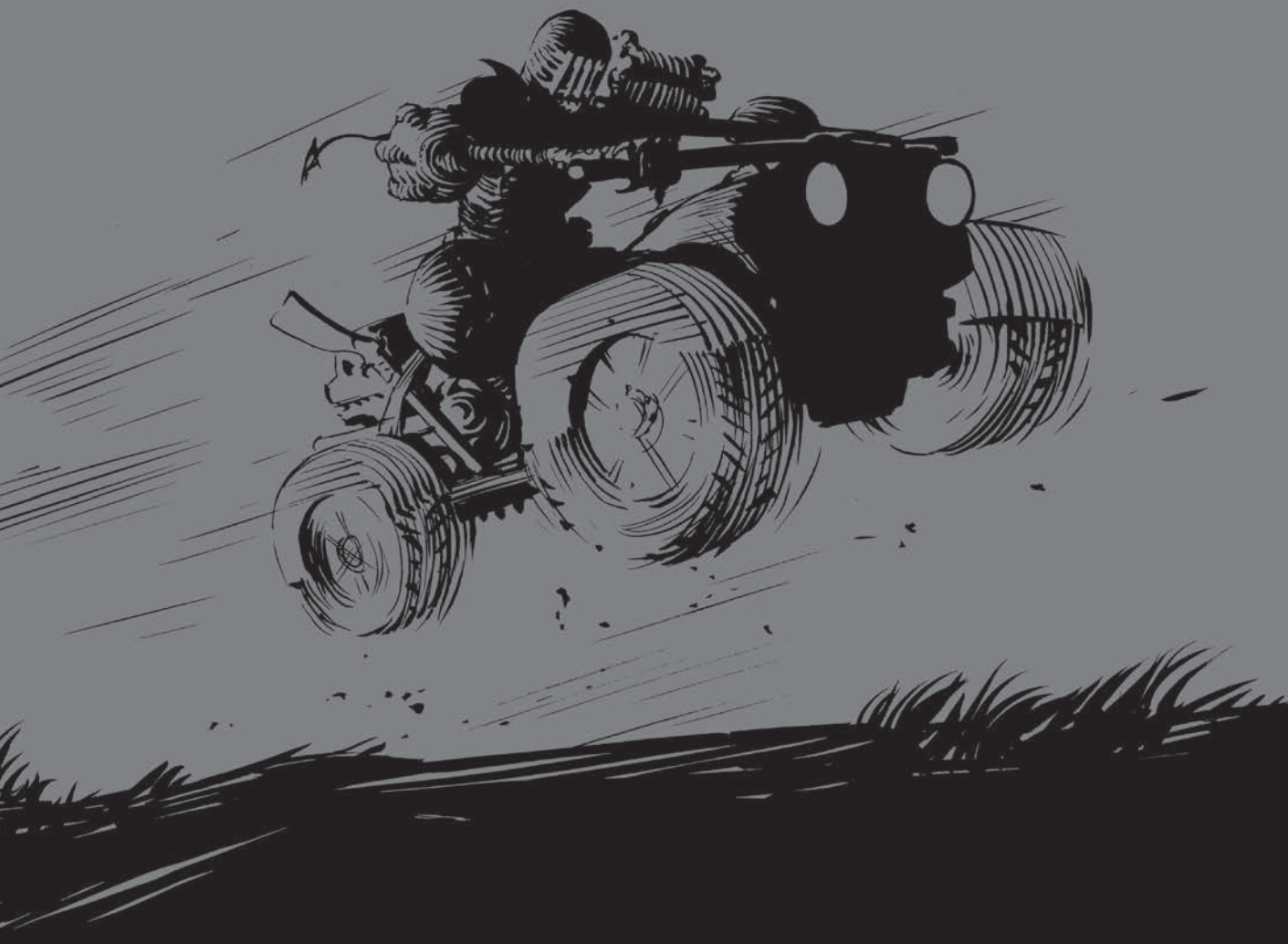
AND IN THE MEANTIME...

GREETINGGGSSSS!

MY NAME ISS
DEATHHHH.

clunk

I HAVVE COME TO
JJJUDGE YOU.



THE WILDERNESS DAYS

Script: John Wagner

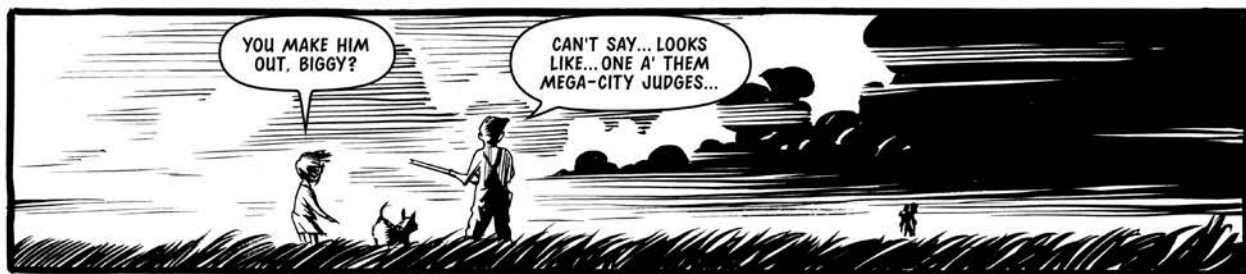
Art: Frazer Irving

Letters: Tom Frame

Originally published in *Judge Dredd Magazine* issues 209-216



THE CURSED EARTH.







I AM NOT ONE
TO BE TRIFFLED
WITHH-!

AN' I AIN'T
NEITHER! I
WARN YOU,
COME ANY
CLOSER AN' I'LL
CUT YOU DOWN
WHERE YOU
STAND!

HIS BADGE SAYS
DEATH, MA!

IT'S THE DEVIL
INCARNATE!



I CAN SSEE I AM NOT
WANTED. SSSO BE IT. I
HAYVE NEVER BEEN ONE
TO IMPOSSE MYSELF.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE OLD TRADITION
OF WELCOMINGG
SSSTRANGERS. THAT'S
WHAT I WANT TO
KNOWW...



THERE'S STRANGERS
AND STRANGERS, AN' YOU'RE
TOO DAMN STRANGE FOR MY
LIKING. START MOVIN'.

AND GOOD
DAYY TO YOU,
MADAM.



YOU SCARED
HIM GOOD, MA!

WAIT TILL PA
GETS HOME!



I WAIT FOR NIGHT, FOR I MUST HAVE A CARE, IN THIS WILDERNESS,
THERE ARE NO FACILITIES TO REGENERATE MY BODY.



OUT HERE, I AT LAST TRULY
UNDERSTAND THE VASTNESS OF
THIS WORLD, OF MY TASK.

THEY BREED FASTER
THAN I CAN BRING THEM TO
JUSTICE. HOW MANY HAVE
BEEN BIRTHED SINCE I HAVE
BEEN SITTING HERE --
THOUSANDS?

EACH ONE A
NEW SINNER, BORN
INTO CRIME.

SO MANY,
SO MUCH TO
DO...





creeeeek





R-RUN,
BIGGY!
GUH... GET
MORTY AND
RUNNN...!

YOUR CONCERN FOR
YOUR OFFSSPRINGG IS
TOUCHHING, MADAM,
BUT IT WILL NOT
SSSAVE YOU!



ALL CRIME ISS COMMITTED
BY THE LIVING, THEREFORE
LIFFFE ITSSSELF MUST BE A
CRIME -- I TRUSSST YOU
UNDERSSTAND THAT SSSIMPLE
PRINCCIPLE?

YOU...
YOU ARE THE
DEVIL!

YOU SSSHOUDD SSSHHOW
SSOME APPRECCCIATION! I HAVVE
DELAYED MY JOURNEY TO FREE
YOU FROM THE SSSINFULNESS
OF YOUR EXISSTENCE!



RESSST IN
PEACCE!



R-R-RUN,
MORTY!



SSSTAY!
LET'SSS HAVVE
A PYJJAMA
PARTY -- OR
SSSHOULD
THAT BE A
WAKE?



COME
NOWW,
BOYYY!



A CHASSE!
EXXXCELLENT!
JUSSSTICCE
SSSHOULD
NOT COME
TOO EASSILY!







I CAME UPON FOUR WAGONS,
CIRCLED FOR THE NIGHT.



AND THOUGH THEY PUT UP
SOME RESISTANCE, I PREVAILED.



I GRANTED EACH ONE MERCY,
ACCORDING TO THE LAW.

THE WEAPON PROVED MOST USEFUL, BUT WHERE POSSIBLE
I HAVE COME TO PREFER PASSING SENTENCE FACE TO FACE.



CLOSE UP AND PERSONAL.

JUSTICE WITH A SMILE.

IN THE MORNING I CAME
UPON A LONELY DWELLING.

THE NIGHT'S EXECUTIONS SHOULD HAVE BUOYED ME --
INSTEAD, THEY'D LEFT ME FEELING VAGUELY DISSATISFIED...

MORNING, STRANGER.
STOP A WHILE. REST
YOUR BONES.

THANKSSS,
DON'T MIND
IF I DO.

RAGWEED TEA
IN THE POT.

I REQUIRE NO
SSUSSTENANCCE.

THAT'S A
HELLUVA CROAK
YOU GOT ON YOU.
RAD DUST'LL DO
THAT. TRAVELLIN'
FAR?

FARRR? YESSS. FAR. A
JOURNEY SSSEEMINGLY
WITHOUT END. SSUCH A
BIG WORLD. SSSO MANY
SSINNERSSS!

AND IFF BY SSSOME MIRACLE I
SSSUCCCEED IN BRINGINGG YOU
ALL TO JUSSSTICE, WHAT OTHER
WORLDSSS, OTHER
CIVILISSATIONSSS REMAIN
TO BE PURGGGED?

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE
BITTEN OFF A REAL
MOUTHFUL THERE, SURE
ENOUGH. PURGIN' A
CIVILISATION, WELL I
NEVER!

JUST GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST, NOW.
HELPS TO HAVE A SYMPATHETIC EAR.

PERHAPSS I SSSHOULD RETURN
TO MY OWN WORLD -- OR FIND
A WORLD MORE MY SSSIZE!

MIGHT BE DOIN'
US ALL A FAVOUR.

MY SSSIZE? MY SSSIZE? HAS IT COME TO THISSS?
IF I SSSHRRINK FROM THE MAGNITUDE OF MY TASSSK,
CAN I ANY LONGER CALL MYSSSELF JUDGGGE?

YOU IN
THE LEGAL
PROFESSION,
THEN?

AND WHAT
ABOUT MY
BROTHERSSS --
SSHOULD I
FFREE THEM?
YESSS. YESSS!
THEY CANNOT
BE LEFFFT!

GOT FAMILY,
HUH?

BUT EVEN IFF I DO, WE
ARE BUT FFOUR AGAINST
THE MULTITUDE.



HEY YOU, BLIND MAN! WHO'S THAT YOU GOT THERE?

YOU BETTER NOT MIX WITH HIM, BLIND MAN! HE DON'T LOOK RIGHT!



HOLY-!



WHAT IN TARNATION-?

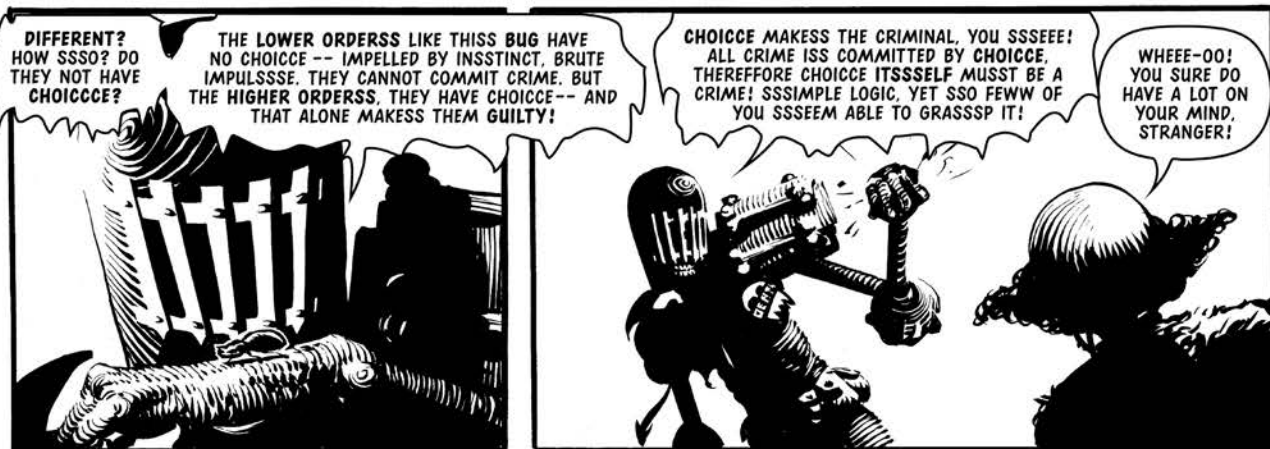
NOTHING TO CONCERN YOU. I HAVVE SSSENT THEM ON THEIR WAY.



YOU WANNA WATCH THAT SCATTERBLASTER, STRANGER. SOMEBODY COULD GET HURT!

PERHAPSSS IT ISS MY ENTIRE CONCCCEPT OF JUSSSTICCE THAT ISS WRONG? AM I PRESSUMPTUOUSSSS TO ASSSSUME THERE SSSSHOULD BE ONE LAWW FOR ALL?

MY LAWWW WASS FOR DEADWORLD -- THESE CREATURES ARE DIFFERENT...



DIFFERENT? HOW SSSO? DO THEY NOT HAVE CHOICCCCE?

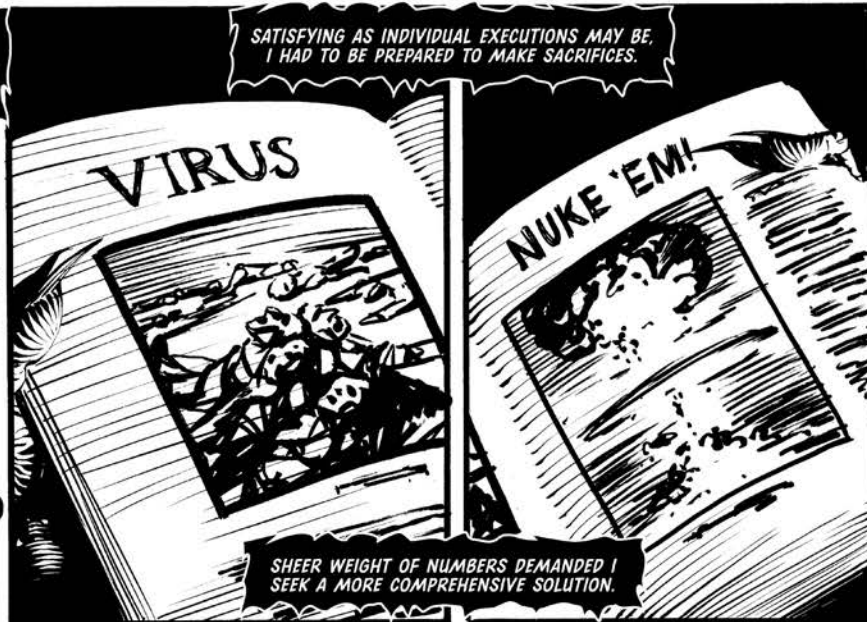
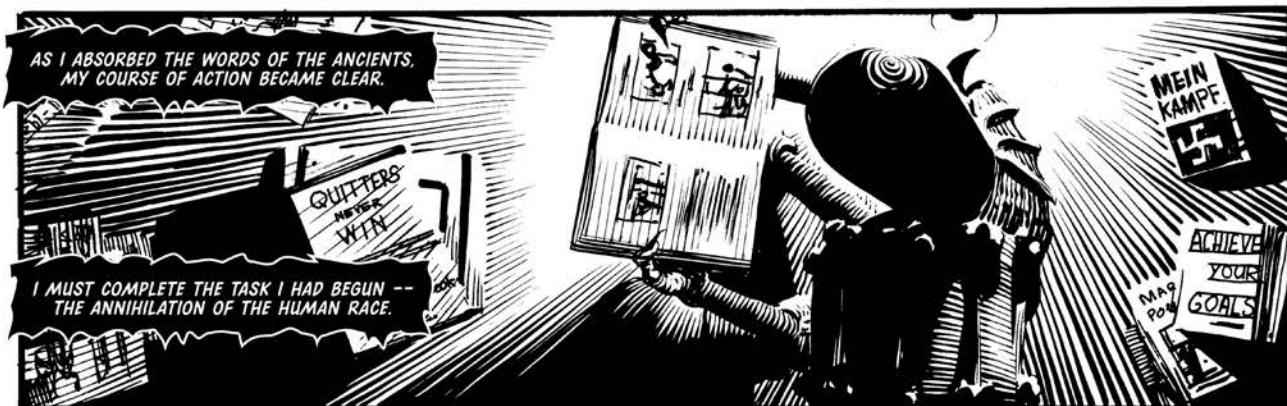
THE LOWER ORDERSS LIKE THISS BUG HAVE NO CHOICCE -- IMPELLED BY INSSSTINCT, BRUTE IMPULSSSE. THEY CANNOT COMMIT CRIME. BUT THE HIGHER ORDERSS, THEY HAVE CHOICCE-- AND THAT ALONE MAKESS THEM GUILTY!

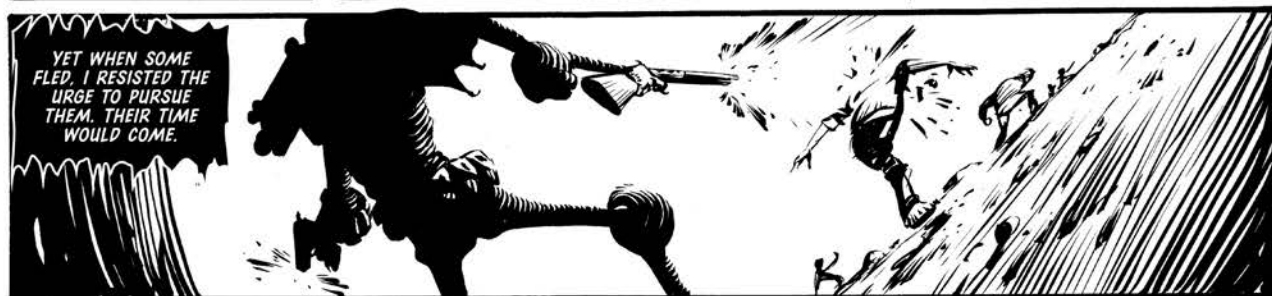
CHOICCE MAKESS THE CRIMINAL, YOU SSSEEE! ALL CRIME ISS COMMITTED BY CHOICCE. THEREFFORE CHOICCE ITSSSELF MUSSST BE A CRIME! SSSIMPLE LOGIC, YET SSO FEWW OF YOU SSSEEM ABLE TO GRASSSP IT!

WHEEE-OO! YOU SURE DO HAVE A LOT ON YOUR MIND, STRANGER!











GUESS
THIS IS THE
END FOR
ME TOO,
STRANGER?

I'M
AFFRAID
SSSO.



DON'T USUALLY
GET A MAN SO
WRONG.

NOT WRONGG. I AM YOUR
FRIEND. I COME TO SSSAYVE
YOU, TO FFFREE YOU FFROM
THE BURDEN OF YOUR
MISSSERABLE LIFFFE.

I COULD LIVE WITH
IT IF YOU COULD.



I REACHED INTO HIM, AND CRADLED HIS BEATING
HEART IN MY HAND, AND SLOWLY, SLOWLY,
SQUEEZED THE SINFULNESS FROM HIM.



AND I TOOK HIM DOWN AND LAID HIM OUT IN THE PLACE
THAT HE HAD LOVED, AMONG THE WORDS OF THE ANCIENTS.

HE HAD BEEN USEFUL.
HE DESERVED NO LESS.



AND THEY SAY I DON'T HAVE A HEART.



CAN'T LET YA. DON'T KNOW WHERE
THIS TRAIL'S GONNA END. DON'T
WANT YOU THERE WHEN IT DOES.

DONGGG DONGGG

DONGGG DONGGG DONGGG

IT WAS THE
DEVIL!

THAT'S WHAT
GRAMPS CALLED
HIM.

WE HID IN THE
CELLAR, FOR OUR
SHAME. HE COULDN'T
FIND US.



I'M HOCUS
RITTER. I'M ON
HIS TRAIL. NEED TO
KNOW MORTY'S
SOMEPLACE SAFE.

OF COURSE.

PA --

I'M SISTER BRACENOSE,
MORTY. I'LL LOOK AFTER
YOU.



MIGHT BE BACK,
MIGHT NOT. CAN'T
SAY FOR SURE.

GRUD GO WITH YOU,
HOCUS RITTER.







SUFFICE TO SAY, WE JUDGED THEM ALL...

'KAY, JAY. GET
ONE OF ME AN'
SLIDE NOW!

OH, YES, WE HAD SOME FUN THAT DAY.

FREED OF THE NECESSITY TO EXTERMINATE EVERYONE
ON THE SPOT, I WAS AT LAST ABLE TO EXPERIENCE
ANOTHER SIDE TO LIFE. OR IN MY CASE, DEATH.







ISS THISSS
WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKINGG
FOR?

BLAM



SH-SHOULDN'T
OUGHTA DO
THIS, MAN!
YOU...YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS IS
GONNA DO TO
ME...!

I CAN
IMAGGINE.



GOODNESS KNOWS, I'M NO
SADIST. DEATH IS MERELY
A JOB. BUT I ENJOYED
WATCHING HIM SUFFER.



AFTER ALL, HE COULDN'T SAY
HE DIDN'T HAVE IT COMING.

WEIRD, MAN... Unnhh...
HALLUCINATIONS. LOOK
LIKE... Un-HUUH... SOME...
SOME KINDA CRAZY
GHOUL...

OH, I THINK
YOU'RE SSSSEEEING
PRETTY WELL.



TH...THOUGHT WE
WAS FRIENDS.
WH...WH...WHY,
MAN...?

YOU SSSHOU
KNOWWW, IT'SSS
IN MY NATURE.



I'M A NATURAL
BORN KILLER.

COOOL.



I DROVE THROUGH THE NIGHT, AND
ON INTO ANOTHER, WHEN OUT OF
THE WILDERNESS I CAME UPON A
VERITABLE DEN OF INIQUITY...

Vegas
City limits

...TEEMING WITH CORRUPTION, TEEMING
WITH LIFE -- ALL THAT I LOATHE.

casino BONGO!!!

CHUCKALUCK!
WE GOT
CHUCKALUCK!

PEATHGAMES

ROULETTE

PARADISE

CROSS NOW!
3-1!!

IT'S ANYGA

THE WHEEL'S
A ROLLIN'!
COME ON IN!

FOOLPROOF
SYSTEM --
GET IT HERE!

FIVE TO ONE
ON THE BIG
GUY!





THE VERY TEMPLE OF
JUSSTICCE TURNED INTO
A GAMINGGG DEN! THE
SSSICKNESS HAS
INFECTED EVERYTHING!

VEGAS
HALL
OF
JUSTICE

I HAD THOUGHT HUMAN DEPRAVITY COULD REACH NO GREATER DEPTHS, BUT I
WAS WRONG. TRULY LAS VEGAS WAS DESERVING OF THE SEVEREST JUDGEMENT.

THE WHEEL'S SPINNING,
WHERE'LL IT STOP --
A HANGIN', A WHACK-OUT,
A FIFTY-FOOT DROP?

COURT'S IN
SESSION! PLACE
YOUR BETS!

WAIT IN
LINE!

BULLET
IN THE
HEAD

AND THE
VERDICT IS --

SHEESH --

BDOWW

NEXT!

PAYING ON THE BULLET!
PAYING ON THE BULLET!

WHAT'S
THE
CHARGE?

WHACKED OUT
A CIT -- HELL,
DAMNED IF HE
HASN'T OFFED
ANOTHER ONE!

JUSSST
SSSHORTENINGG
THE QUEUE!

MY TURN CAME --

CALLS HISSELF
JUDGE DEATH.
GOD-JUDGE --
CHARGED WITH
KILLIN' TWO
CITS AN'. UH,
IMPERSONATIN'
A JUDGE.

YOU BEEN
EATIN' RIGHT,
LAWBREAKER?
YOU DON'T
LOOK TOO
HEALTHY.

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO
HOT YOURSSSELF,
SSSINNER.

WELL, WE GOT THE CURE
FOR YOU. ALL READY FOR
THE VERDICT?

WHAT ABOUT
THE TRIAAL?

THIS IS THE TRIAL!
LET'S SPIN THE WHEEL
OF JUSTICE!

COURT'S
IN SESSION!
PLACE YOUR
BETS NOW!

ROUND AND ROUND AND
ROUND SHE GOES,
36 TO 1 HE'S GOTTA LOSE!

PINGG
DISSEMBOWEL

PAYING ON THE GUT CUT!
PAYING ON THE GUT CUT!

LET JUSTICE
BE DONE!

SSSO BE IT!

POKE

ulk!

FOOL! DO YOU
THINK I AM ONE OF
YOUR HAPLESS
CITIZENSSS TO BE
TRIFFFFLED WITH?

GAHHH



HE AIN'T
N-NATURAL!
WASTE HIM!



SSSSPIN THE
WHEEEEL OF
JUSSSTICCE!



DEPRAPPED ONE.
YOU MAY HAVVE
INFFORMATION I
REQUIRE. OTHERWISSSE
YOUR LIFFFE WOULD
ALREADY BE
FFORFFFEIT!

Ulp! L-LET'S
ADJOURN TO
MY OFFICE!



NOW GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT,
FRIEND, WE GOT OUR OWN WAY OF
DOIN' THINGS HERE IN VEGAS, AN' WE
DON'T LIKE BUSY-BODIES STICKIN'
THEIR NOSES IN.

WE HAD ANOTHER ONE LIKE
YOU THROUGH HERE ONCE.
TELLIN' US WE WAS ALL WRONG.
CALLED HIMSELF DREDD.

CURSSSE
THAT NAME!

*See THE CURSED EARTH
2000 AD Progs 79-80.



HE KICKED US OUT AN'
PUT THE LEAGUE AGAINST
GAMBLING IN CHARGE. BUT
WE BIDED OUR TIME, AN'
WHEN IT WAS RIGHT, WE
STRUCK BACK.

WE SHOT UP THEM
GOODY-GOODS AN' RAN
'EM OUTA TOWN. ALL
EXCEPT ONE.



HERE, RUDY!



WHAT DO
YOU WANT
NOW?



DON'T WHADDYA
WANT ME! YOU'RE
JUST THE DOG!

USED TO CALL HIMSELF
CHIEF JUDGE RUDY. WE HAD
A LITTLE SURGERY DONE. CUT
OL' RUDY DOWN TO SIZE.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS
TO GEEKS WHO GET ON
OUR WRONG SIDE, SEE?

FZZAAAT

Yiiii!

FZZAAAT

I HAD A DOG ONCCCE.
WISSSHH I'D HAD
ONE OF THOSSSE.

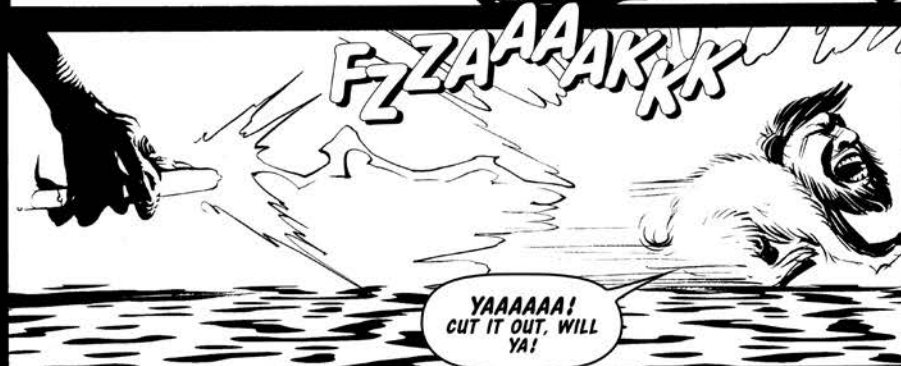


Yiiii-EEE!



MIND IF I-?

BE MY GUEST.



FZZAAAKKK

YAAAAAA!
CUT IT OUT, WILL
YA!



FOR CRYIN'
OUT LOUD, I'VE
SAID I'M SORRY!
HOW MANY
MORE TIMES
HAVE I GOTTA
SAY IT?

SHUDDUP!



YOU LOOK LIKE A GUY WE
CAN WORK WITH, STRANGER.
JUST REMEMBER WE AIN'T
NOBODY'S PATSIES. WHAT'S
YOUR BUSINESS HERE?

I'M LOOKINGG
FOR WEAPONSSSS OF
MASSSS DESSTSTRUCTION TO
ANNIHILATE THE HUMAN
RACCCE. I BELIEVVE YOU MAY
BE ABLE TO POINT ME IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION.





WEAPONS OF
MASS DESTRUCTION.
HUH...?

HMMM...

FZZAAAT

GIVE IT
A FREAKIN'
REST!

psst psst
whisper whisper



OKAY, I GUESS WE CAN
HELP YOU THERE. BUT WE'RE
GONNA NEED A LITTLE QUID
PRO QUO. Y'KNOW, YOU
SCRATCH OUR BACKS, WE'LL
SCRATCH YOURS?

WE PUT ON FIGHTS
IN THE GRAND ARENA
SOMETIMES. WE THINK YOU'D
BE A PRETTY BIG DRAW.

PUUUGGGILISSM?



YOU DARE SSSUGGESST I
EXXXHIBIT MYSSSELF LIKE
SSSOME FFAIRGROUND
BRAWLER-?

HOLD HARD! PATIENCCE!
REMEMBER MY MISSSION!
THEY CAN HELP ME!



OH,
PERHAPSS I
COULD HANDLE
A BOUT OR
TWO...

WE WERE
THINKIN' A
TEN-NIGHT RUN!
TAKE ON ALL
COMERS!

TEN THOU ENTRY FEE,
BEAT THE DEMON JUDGE
AND WIN A MILLION!
OUGHTA PACK 'EM IN!



AND SO...

IN THE RED CORNER -- WEIGHING IN
AT 104 KILOS -- MARRIED WITH TWO
CHILDREN -- ALREADY PICKING OUT THAT
NEW HOUSE AND CAR -- IT'S ORLANDO
'DO ANYTHING FOR A BUCK' PEPPER!



IN THE DARK CORNER -- WEIGHING IN AT ONLY 67 KILOS -- FIGHTING OUT OF DEADWORLD -- HE'S LEAN, HE'S MEAN, HE'S QUITE OBSCENE -- IT'S THE DEMON JUDGE -- THE KILLER FROM THE CHILLER -- THE DARK DESTROYER --
JAAAAAY DEATH!





IT'S A LEFT — A RIGHT —
A LEFT! THESE BLOWS ARE
GETTING RIGHT THROUGH
THE CHALLENGER'S GUARD,
MIKE!

RIGHT THROUGH
THE CHALLENGER,
DON!



THEY'RE DROPPING
LIKE FLIES HERE AT
THE GRAND HALL
ARENA! THEY'VE GOT
NO ANSWER TO THIS
DEMON JUDGE!

FLOATS LIKE A BUTTERFLY,
STINGS LIKE AN ALIEN
SUPERFIEND, DON!

ODIOUS THOUGH IT WAS TO TURN MYSELF INTO A TAWDRY
ATTRACTION, I HAD GREATER GOALS TO CONSIDER.

THE CORRUPT JUDGES OF LAS VEGAS
HAD PROMISED TO HELP ME LOCATE
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.



AND THOUGH I HAD
THE SATISFACTION OF
DISPATCHING SEVERAL TO
THEIR FATE, IT WAS
NOTHING TO THE TERRIBLE
JUDGEMENT I WOULD
BRING DOWN ON ALL
THEIR KIND.

LOVELY LITTLE
HAYMAKER THERE!

YOU DO NOT WANT TO
GET IN A CLINCH WITH THE
DARK DESTROYER, DON!

IT ISN'T QUEENSBERRY RULES,
MIKE, BUT YOU GOTTA ADMIT,
HE'S A CROWD PLEASER!



NEXT UP IT'S TYKE MYSEN!
LITTLE GUY LOOKS A LITTLE
OVER-MATCHED, MIKE!



DON'T BE SO SURE,
DON! THIS BOY'S
QUICK!



HE'S MAKING THE
DEMON JUDGE LOOK
CLUMSY IN THERE!



CCEASSE
YOUR INFFERNAL
PRANCCINGG!

NOW THERE'S
A MOVE I HAVEN'T
SEEN BEFORE!



ALL OVER BAR
THE COUNTING,
DON!

SKWITCH



YOU LOOKED PRETTY
GOOD IN THERE TONIGHT,
CHAMP. ANY WORDS FOR
THE FOLKS AT HOME?

SSSINNERSSS
REPENT, FFOR
THE TIME OF
JUDGGEMENT
APPROACHHHHSS!

THANKS FOR
THAT.



BIG TAKIN'S TONIGHT.
SLIM. DAMNED IF YOU
AIN'T THE BIZ!

NINE MORE
PERFORMANCESSSS,
NO MORE.

SURE, SURE, A
DEAL'S A DEAL!

MY QUEST HAD BEEN LONG AND
FRAUGHT WITH PERILS. AS I
LOOKED INTO MY FACE I SAW
LINES OF CARE ETCHED DEEP
INTO IT.

OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE
FOOLISH TO READ ANYTHING
INTO MY APPEARANCE. I DO.
AFTER ALL, INHABIT CORPSES.

EVERYBODY
GONE?

WHAT DO YOU
WANT, DOG?

LISTEN, THOSE
MAFIA SCUM ARE
LYING TO YOU!

THINK ABOUT IT.
WHY WOULD THEY GIVE
YOU WEAPONS OF
MASS DESTRUCTION --
JUST SO YOU COULD
WIPE 'EM OUT? THEY'D
HAVE TO BE CRAZY!

GOOD POINT. SOMETIMES MY OWN
FAITH IN THE ONE TRUE LAW CAN BLIND
ME TO THE FACT THAT OTHERS MAY NOT
WELCOME THEIR OWN EXTERMINATION...

YOU WANT WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION, I'LL SHOW YOU
WHERE TO FIND THEM.

YOU?

I WASN'T ALWAYS A
MUTT, Y'KNOW. I USED TO
BE CHIEF JUDGE TILL THEY
DID THIS TO ME!

ALL I ASK IS THAT
THIS IS THE FIRST PLACE YOU
WIPE OUT -- REMOVE THE
SCOURGE OF LAS VEGAS
ONCE AND FOR ALL!

HE'D MADE A SECRET
RECORDING OF A
COUNCIL MEETING --

THEY THINK BECAUSE
I LOOK LIKE A DOG I'VE
GOT NO BRAINS! HID IT
IN HERE SOMEWHERE--

-- CATCH!

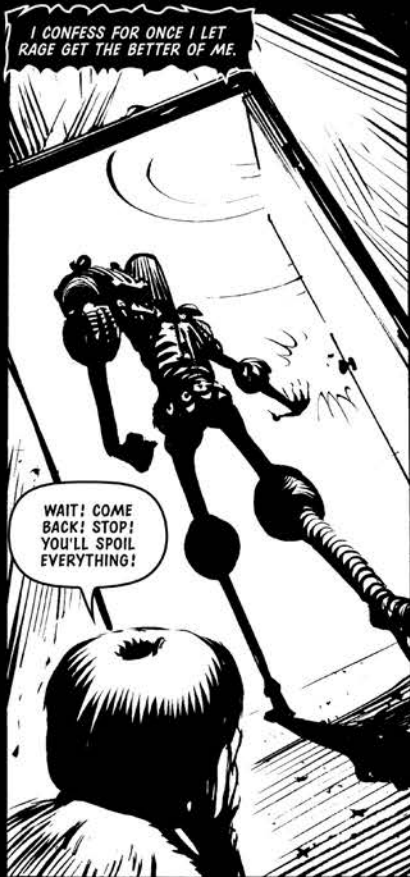
SO WHADDA WE DO WHEN
THE DEMON JUDGE FINISHES
HIS PERFORMANCES?

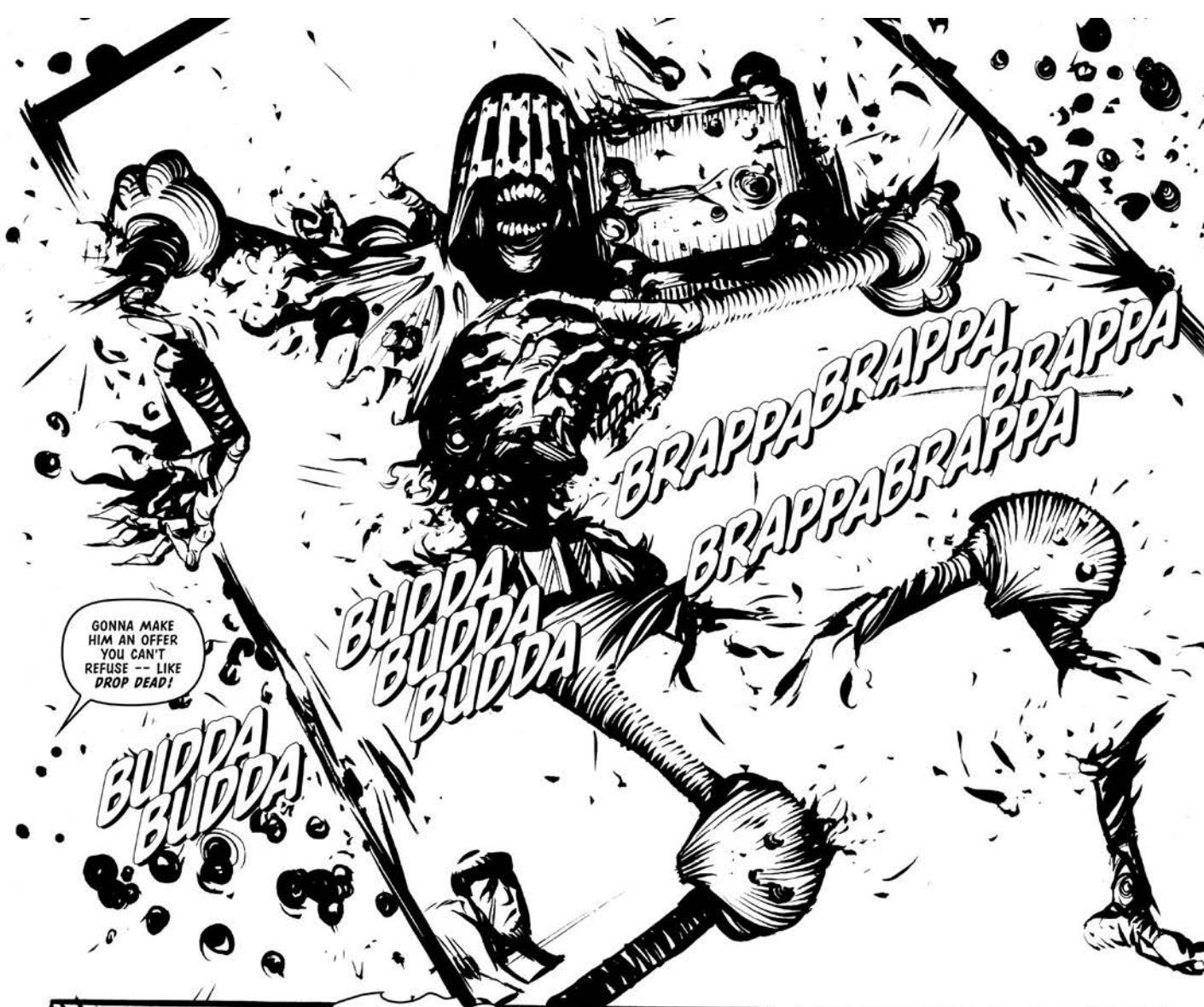
TELL HIM THERE'S
BEEN A DELAY AN'
GET HIM TO DO
ANOTHER TEN.

AN' WHAT
IF HE DON'T
PLAY BALL?

THEN WE WHACK HIM, PUT UP
TWENTY GUNS AN' EVEN THE DARK
DESTROYER AIN'T GONNA SAY BOO!

THE DOUBLE-CROSSSS! THEY DARE!
DO THEY REALISSSE WHO THEY
TRIFFFFLE WITHHHH?











FILL THISS
SOULLESS
CARCASSSS!



OH NO!
WH-WHAT HAVE
I DONE-?



DON'T
RUN AWAY,
MY DEAR!



WE WERE JUSST GETTINGG
ACQUAINTED. IT SSSEEMSSS A
SSSHAME FOR YOU TO LEAVVVE
WITHOUT...DYINGGG.

gluhrrrr



BOY, YOU'RE
SOME PIECE OF WORK.
I...I WONDER IF I'M
DOING THE RIGHT
THING. I...I WAS A
GOOD GUY ONCE.

I PREFER YOU
CONSSSUMED WITH HATRED
AND BITTERNESSSS. IFF YOU
KNOW WHAT'SSS GOOD FFOR
YOU, KEEP IT THAT WAYYY.



I HAD BEEN TOO TRUSTING. IT WAS A TIMELY
REMINDER OF THE WICKEDNESS OF THE HUMAN
RACE. SPEED THE DAY WHEN THEY WERE WIPED
FROM THE FACE OF THIS WORLD.

WE LEAVVE
LASSS VEGASSS --
TO ITS FFFATE!



SETTLEMENT
UP AHEAD.

AIN'T FAR NOW.
C'MON, OLD FELLA,
YOU CAN MAKE IT.



GUESS I RID YOU TOO
HARD. HEART SO FULLA
HATE JUST DIDN'T PAY
YOU NO MIND.

ONLY ONE THING
FER IT NOW...



MY FAULT, GUESS I
KIN... DO MY SHARE
O'...THE HUMPIN'...



BEG PARDON INTERRUPTIN' YOUR MISERY, FOLKS. I KIN SEE Y'ALL HAD A VISITATION TOO.

I'M HOCUS RITTER. HE KILLED MOSTA MA FAMILY. I'M ON HIS TRAIL.

WUMPR



YOU KIN KEEP IT, HOCUS RITTER. AIN'T NO USE TO US NOW!

TAKE THIS CROSS.

PROB'LY WON'T DO YOU NO GOOD, NEVER DID US NONE.

I THANK YOU, OLD MAN.



THE TRAIL WAS NOT HARD TO FOLLOW. HE TOOK NO PAINS TO HIDE HIS PASSING.



AND ON EVERYTHING LAY THE FETID STENCH OF DEATH.



I PROMISE YOU, WHEREVER YOU GO I'LL FIND YOU. BETWEEN US THERE WILL BE A RECKONING.



INTERCEPT
INTRUDERS!

whirrrrrrrr KRRRANNK

YRRRRmmmmmm

INTERESSSTINGG.

STEP OUT OF THE
VEHICLE! KEEP YOUR
HANDS WHERE I CAN
SEE THEM AT ALL
TIMES!

ASSUME THE
POSITION!
SPREAD 'EM!

THERE'SSS
NO NEED TO
SSSHHOUT.

HIS NAME IS DEATH.
SIR! SAYS HE'S LOOKING
FOR WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION!

HE'S GOT SOME
KINDA MAN-DOG!
DON'T LOOK RIGHT,
SIR!

COULD BE SERIOUS! BRING
HIM IN. SERGEANT! I'LL
INFORM THE GENERAL!



THE INTRUDERS, GENERAL!

EH? WHERE?

PUSH ME CLOSER, DANG IT! I CAN'T SEE!

YESSIR!



WELL WELL WELL WELL! WOULDJA RUN YOUR EYES OVER THEM! GODDAM, THEY DON'T LOOK RIGHT! THEY LOOK RIGHT TO YOU, SOLDIER?

NO SIR! THEY DON'T LOOK RIGHT, SIR!

SO WHAT ARE YOU, BOYS -- TERRORISTS? PINKO LEFTY AGITATORS? REPORTERS IN DISGUISE?



I AM A JJJUDGE ENGAGGED ON HIS LAWFFFUL DUTYY. I SSSEK YOUR COOPERATION -- ONE WAY OR ANOTHHHER.

WHAT'S HE SAY? WHAT'S HE SAY?

HE'S A JUDGE, SIR! WANTS TO PARLAY!



PARLAY, EH? WELL, DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKIN' YOU CAN PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES, LIKE I'M SOME DUMB BUCK PRIVATE WHO GOT PROMOTED 'COS EVERYONE ELSE DIED OFF!

SSSO YOU ARE THE LAST...



I HAD TIRED OF HIS SENILE PRATTLE. I KNEW ENOUGH --

HOOTINHECK--!



FUDDAFUDDAFUDDAFUDDA

CEASSSE FIRINGGG, YOU FOOLSSSS!



I SSSEEE I WASSS
WRONG ABOUT THISSS MAN.
HE IS OBBIOUSSSLY A
SSSECRET AGENT SSSENT
BY SSSSURF COMMAND.
YOU WILL TAKE HIM TO THE
WEAPONSSS AND OBBEYY
HIS EVERY ORDER.

BUT GENERAL—

DO NOT QUESSSION
ME! ISSS THAT
UNDERSSTOOD?

YESSIR!



NOW LEAVVE USSS! I FEEL
A SSSUDDEN ILLNESSS
COMINGG ON!

YESSIR!



BOY, YOU
MAKE IT LOOK
SO EASY!



IT ISSS. WHEN
YOU KNOW
HOWW.

WH-WHAT'S
GOING ON?



SO THE WAR CAME. BUT HERE NO SIGNAL WAS EVER
RECEIVED. AND LIKE GOOD SOLDIERS THEY WAITED,
AND WAITED, FOR ORDERS THAT NEVER CAME...

COINCIDENCE... OR FATE... THAT THEY
SHOULD PRESERVE IT SO WELL FOR ME?

SSSUCHH
LOYALTY
DESSSERVES
ITSSS REWARD!

WH-WHERE ARE
MY ROBOTS?



JEEZ, G-GIVE
THE GUY A
BREAK --

THISSS ISS A BREAK! HOW
LITTLE YOU KNOW -- HOW
LITTLE YOU UNDERSSTAND!



L-LOOK, I'VE
SHOWN YOU
WHAT YOU WANT.
I'M JUST GOING
TO GO NOW...

NOT QUITE
YET. YOU HAVE
NOT HAD YOUR
REWARD.

I-I WAS AFRAID
YOU'D SAY THAT!





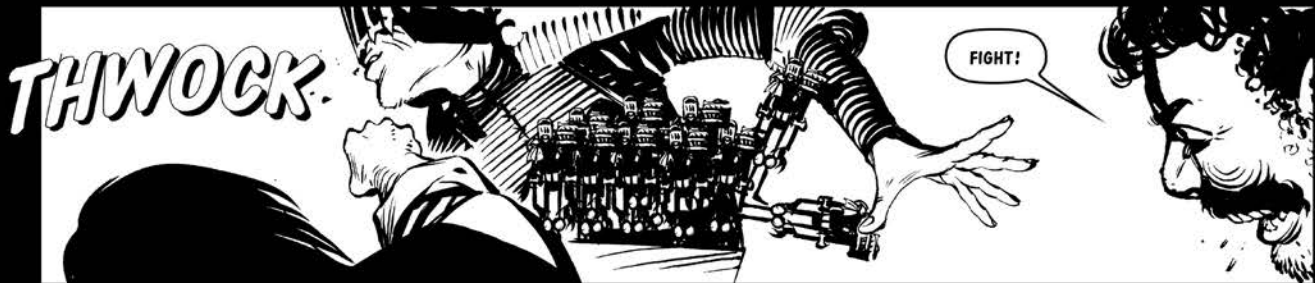
THERE WERE 24 OF THEM, IN
PERFECT WORKING ORDER.

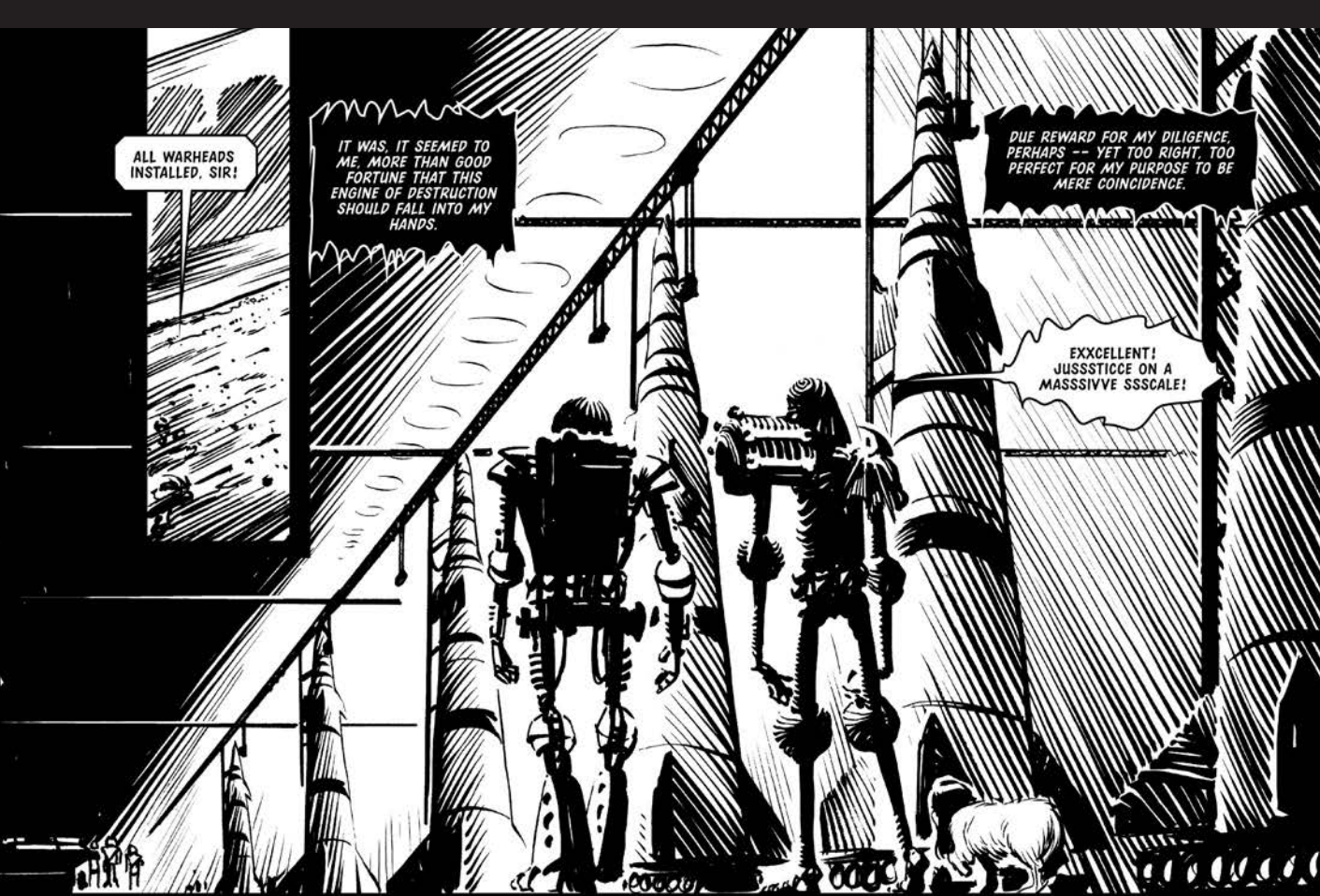
READY TO LAUNCH IN
45 MINUTES, SIR!

SO THEY'VE BEEN
HERE ALL THESE YEARS,
READY AND WAITING...
WAITING FOR A WAR
THAT NEVER CAME.

OH, IT ISSS
COMINGGG.
BELIEVVE ME, IT
ISSS COMINGGG!





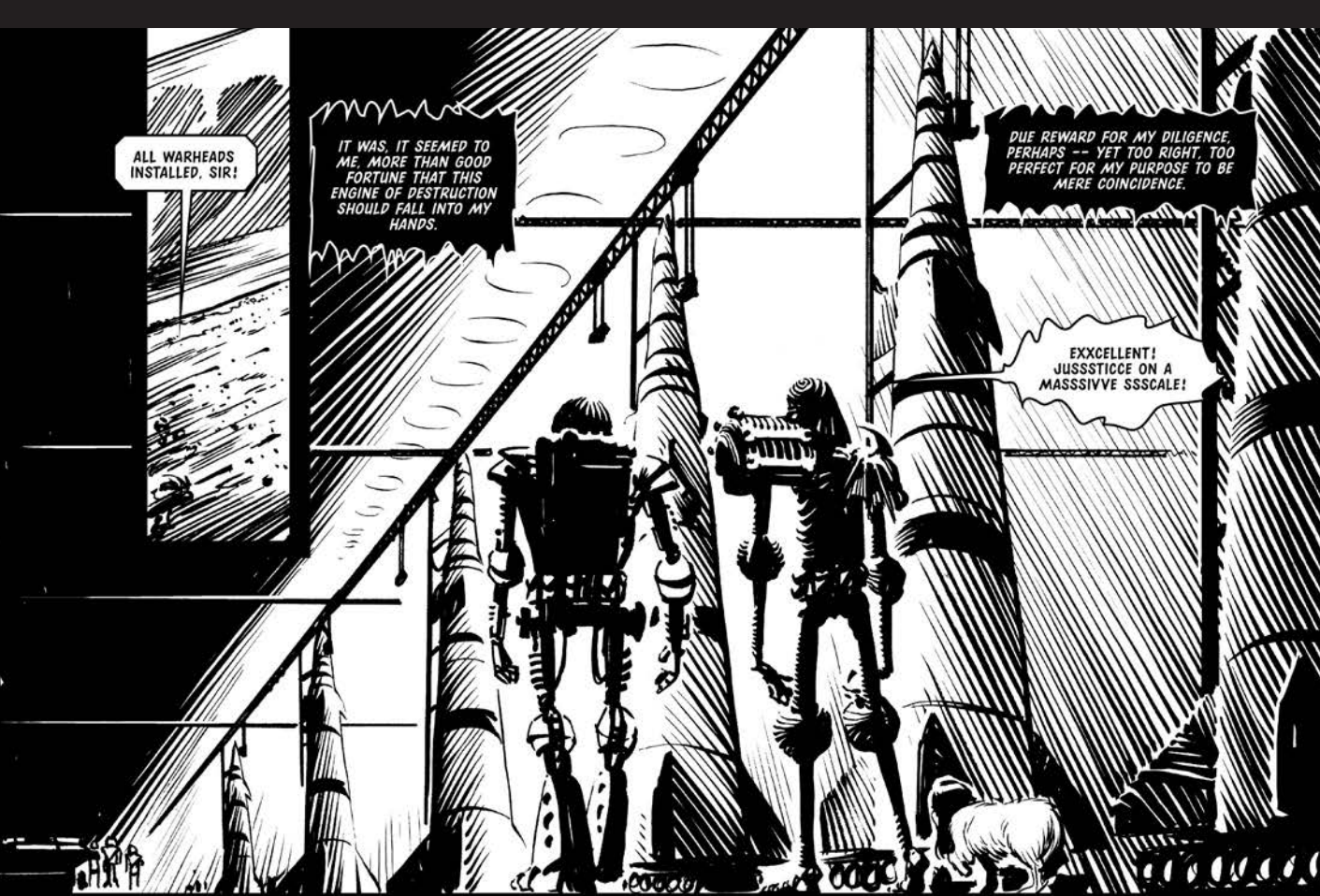


ALL WARHEADS
INSTALLED, SIR!

IT WAS, IT SEEMED TO
ME, MORE THAN GOOD
FORTUNE THAT THIS
ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION
SHOULD FALL INTO MY
HANDS.

DUE REWARD FOR MY DILIGENCE,
PERHAPS -- YET TOO RIGHT, TOO
PERFECT FOR MY PURPOSE TO BE
MERE COINCIDENCE.

EXXCELLENT!
JUSSSTICCE ON A
MASSSIVVE SSSCALE!



IT WAS AS IF SOME UNSEEN POWER HAD
GUIDED MY STEPS -- AS IF THE TRUE
ORDER OF THE UNIVERSE, TIRED OF THE
DEPRIVITY OF THIS WORLD, WAS ONCE
MORE THROUGH ME ASSERTING ITSELF.

POINT OF ORDER, SIR!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
RECEIVE PERMISSION
TO LAUNCH, SIR.

I'M GIVVINGG YOU
PERMISSSSION! THAT
SSSHOULD BE
SSSUFFICIENT!

A PROPER SIGNAL, SIR.
ON THE RED PHONE. CAN'T
LAUNCH WITHOUT A
PROPER SIGNAL, SIR!

YOU MISSED ONE
WAR, DO YOU WANT TO
MISS ANOTHER?

JURF SURE

WHAT ABOUT THE
GOOD OLD U.S.S. OF
A? DO YOU WANT TO
SEE WHAT'SS LEFTT
OF IT GO UP IN
SSSSMOKE?



WELL / DO!

IT'S JUST THE SIGNAL, SIR -- ON THE RED PHONE.



BY ALL THAT'S UNHOLY, WHY DO I HAVE TO DEAL WITH INCOMPETENTSSS?

THE LAUNCH CODE-- QUICKLY!

'ZX9--ZX9-- ARIZONA', SIR!



ZX9--ZX9--ARIZZZZONA! GET ON WITHHH IT!

IT'S THE CODE, SIR! WE'RE GO!



SSSATISSFFIED?

YES, SIR!

THEN PREPARE TO LAUNCH!



HOW MANY MEGATONS?

I DID A RAPID CALCULATION. NOT ENOUGH TO ANNIHILATE THE HUMAN RACE, AS WAS MY INTENTION...BUT AT LEAST A START.

I MUSSST CONCCEENTRATE MY RESOURCES -- ONE TARGET ALONE! THE CHIEF OFFENDER!

LET FIRSST JUDGEMENT BE UPON MEGA-CITY ONE!



BUT I WASSS FORGETTINGGG... I PROMISSSED YOU LAS VEGAS! AND YOU SSSHALL HAVE IT!

THAT'S, UH, SWELL. N-NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D KIND OF LIKE TO GET OFF, UH, BEFORE THE FALLOUT HITS.



YOU CAN'T GO YET! YOU'LL MISS THE BESSST PART OF YOUR REWARD!

Yiiiiik!

YOU GET TO SEE THE RESULTSSSS FIRSST-HAND!

LEMME GO--!

YOU DUMB ROBOTS. HE'S TAKIN' YOU ALL FOR PATSIES! DON'T YOU SEE, HE KILLED THE GENERAL!

WE AIN'T LISTENIN', MUTT!

WE GOT OUR ORDERS!

COMBAT

Bet on THIS!!

BY THE POWERSSS VESSTED IN ME, LET FLY MY MIGHTY SSSSWORD OF JUSSTICE!

HELLLOOOOOO

SHUFFLE

YOU GET TO SEE THE RESULTSSSS FIRSST-HAND!

LEMME GO--!

YOU DUMB ROBOTS. HE'S TAKIN' YOU ALL FOR PATSIES! DON'T YOU SEE, HE KILLED THE GENERAL!

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SHUFF

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SHUFFFFFFF

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HELLLOOOOOO

SHUFFLE

YOU GET TO SEE THE RESULTSSS FIRSST-HAND!

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WE GOT OUR ORDERS!

Bet on THIS!!

BY THE POWERSSS VESSTED IN ME, LET FLY MY MIGHTY SSSSWORD OF JUSSTICE!

HELLLL

SHUFFLE

YOU GET TO SEE THE RESULTSSS FIRSST-HAND!

LEMME GO--!

YOU DUMB ROBOTS. HE'S TAKIN' YOU ALL FOR PATSIES! DON'T YOU SEE, HE KILLED THE GENERAL!

WE AIN'T LISTENIN', MUTT!

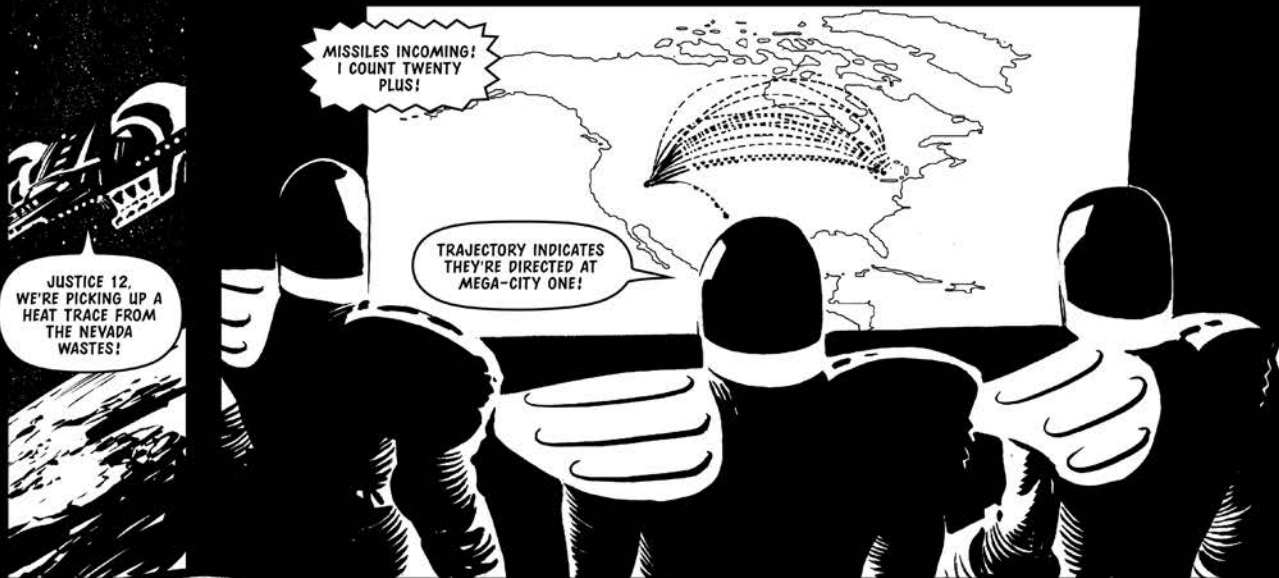
WE GOT OUR ORDERS!

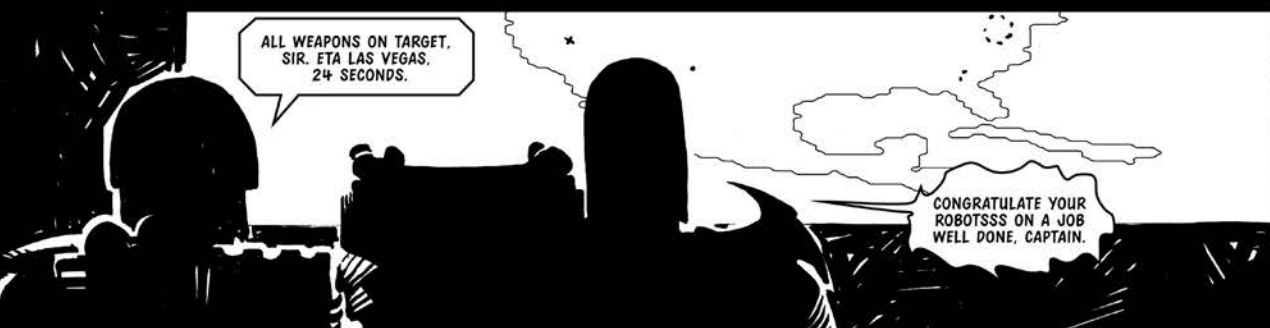
Bet on THIS!!

BY THE POWERSSS VESSTED IN ME, LET FLY MY MIGHTY SSSSWORD OF JUSSTICE!

HELLLOPPPPP

SUUUUFFFFF





CONGRATULATE YOUR
ROBOTSSS ON A JOB
WELL DONE, CAPTAIN.



NOW THAT THE DEED WAS DONE I
COULD STAND BACK AND CONSIDER
THE FULL IMPORT OF MY ACTIONS.

MY JOURNEY THROUGH THIS WILDERNESS
HAD BEEN A PERSONAL JOURNEY TOO. I HAD
COME TO ABANDON LONG-HELD PRINCIPLES...
AND YET, IN DOING SO, I FELT I HAD
SOMEHOW GROWN AS A JUDGE.

YES, JUSTICE CLOSE UP AND PERSONAL --
TO FEEL THE LAWBREAKERS SQUIRM IN MY
GRIP AS THEIR SINS SEEP AWAY -- THAT
WILL ALWAYS BE THE IDEAL...

...BUT TO LET SUCH CONSIDERATIONS DISTRACT
ME FROM THE GREATER GOAL WOULD BE
FAILING IN MY DUTY. WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION MUST BE THE WAY TO GO.

I REFUSE TO
DIE!

MORE POWER!

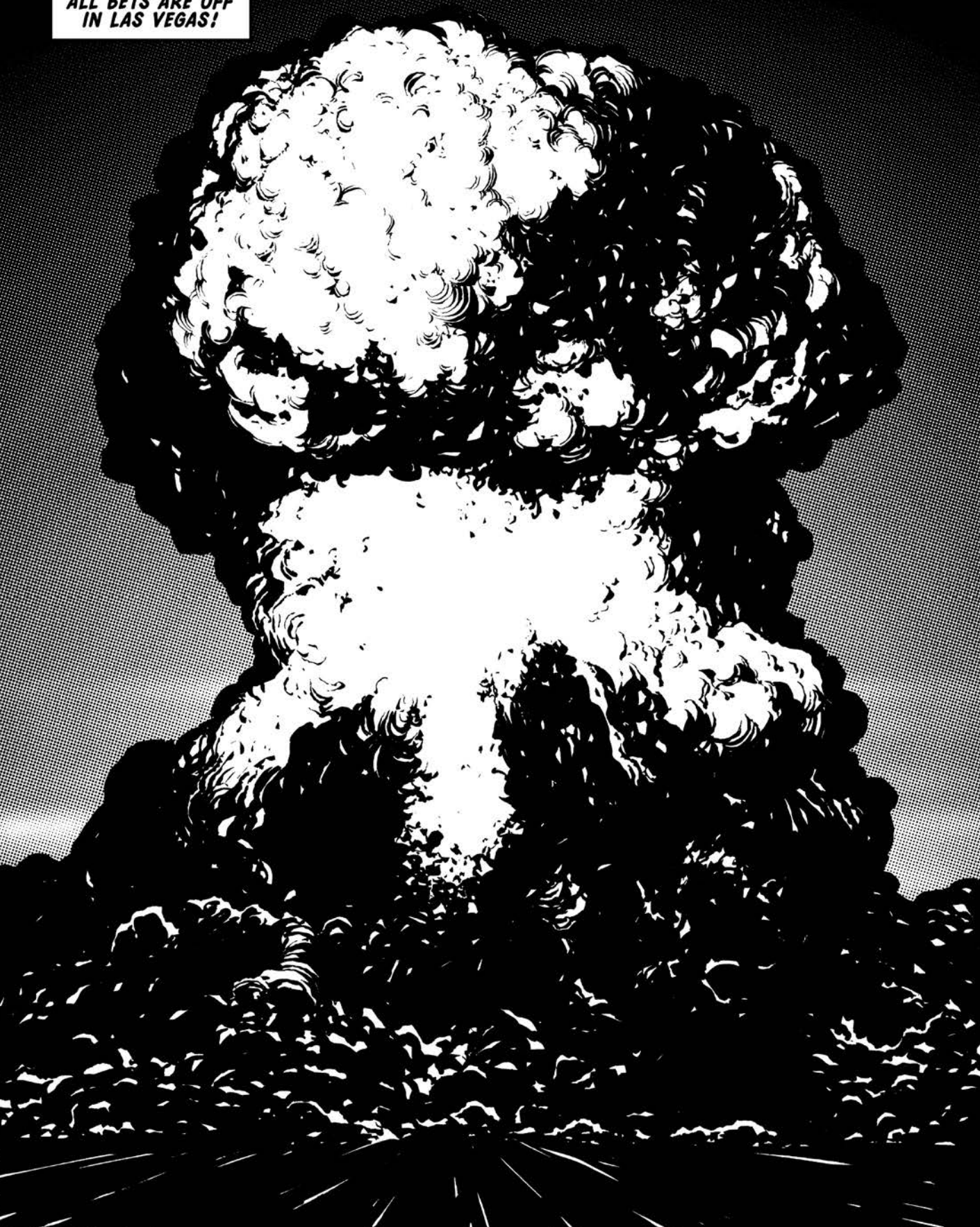
WATCH IT!
THE HORSE-!

WHUMP

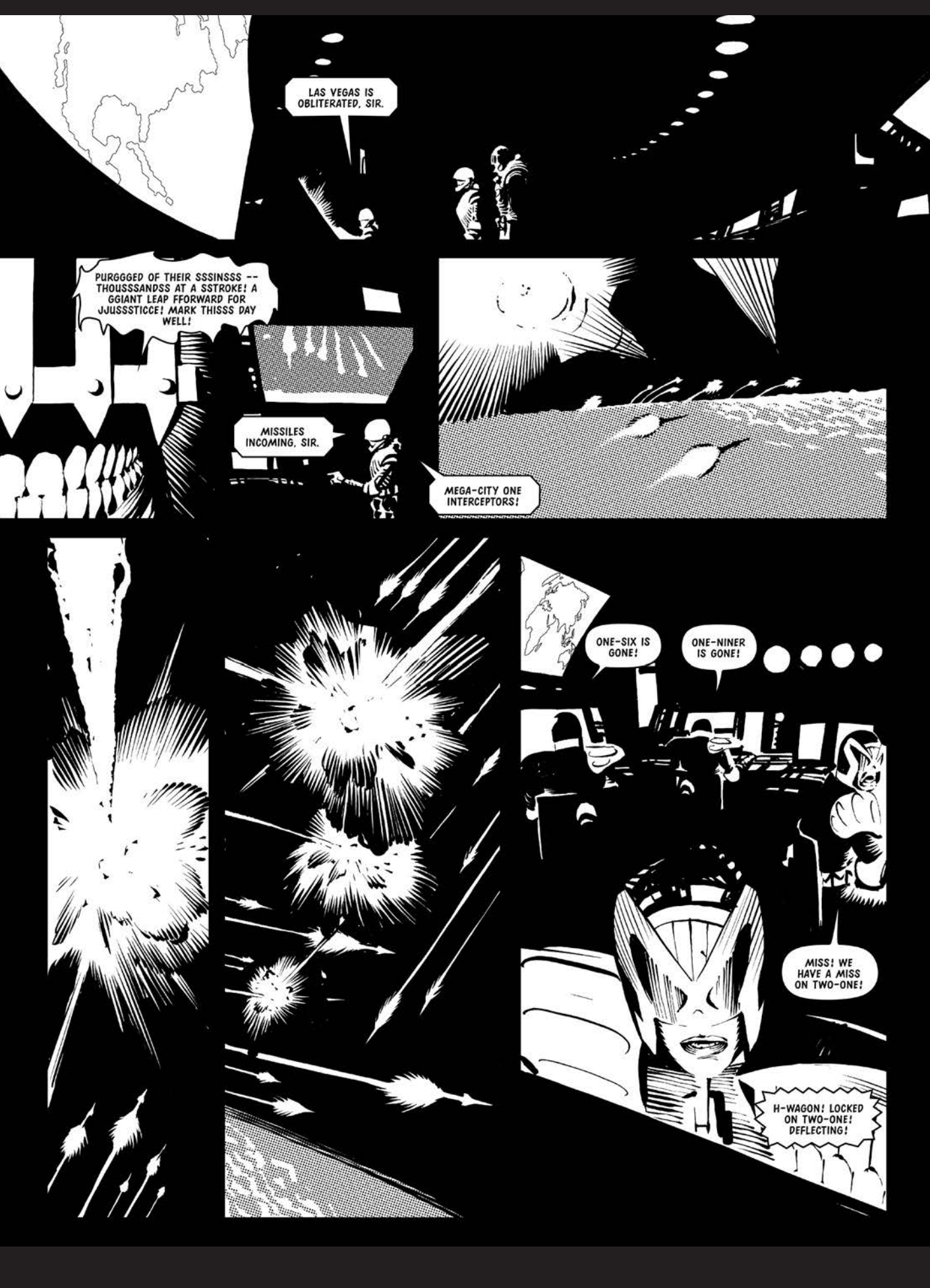
VZZZZZZZZAAAAA TTTTtttt
NEEEEEEEEEEEEEIIIIII
SKIDDDDDDD

GOODBYE, YOU
ROTTEN WORLD!

**ALL BETS ARE OFF
IN LAS VEGAS!**







LAS VEGAS IS
OBLITERATED, SIR.

PURGGGED OF THEIR SSSINSS --
THOUSSANDSS AT A SSTROKE! A
GGJANT LEAP FFORWARD FOR
JJJSSSTICCE! MARK THISSS DAY
WELL!

MISSILES
INCOMING, SIR.

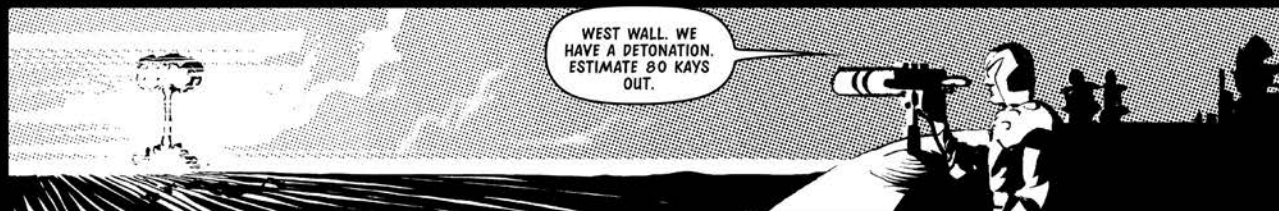
MEGA-CITY ONE
INTERCEPTORS!

ONE-SIX IS
GONE!

ONE-NINER
IS GONE!

MISS! WE
HAVE A MISS
ON TWO-ONE!

H-WAGON! LOCKED
ON TWO-ONE!
DEFLECTING!



WEST WALL. WE
HAVE A DETONATION.
ESTIMATE 80 KAYS
OUT.



LAST INCOMING
NULLIFIED!

WE BELIEVE IT MAY AN
UNMANNED PRE-WAR
ESTABLISHMENT THAT HAS
SOMEHOW BECOME ACTIVE
AGAIN. 24 MISSILES, THAT
WOULD BE RIGHT FOR A
BUSH CLASS SILO.

WHATEVER THE
TRUTH, IT HAS TO
BE NULLIFIED. WE'VE
LAUNCHED A
RETALIATORY STRIKE.



ALL MISSILES
DESTROYED.

DEAR ME. THAT ISS
A DISSAPPOINTMENT.

SSSTILL. I NEVER EXXPECTED IT TO BE
AN INSSSTANT SSSOLUTION. NO VVICTORY
WORTHH HAVVINGG COMESS EASSSSY.

PERHAPSSS NUCLEAR ISS
NOT THE BESSST OPTION. EFFEFFECTIVE,
BUT... SSSOMEWHAT UNSSSUBTLE.
NO MATTER, THERE ARE OTHHHHER
METHHODSS.

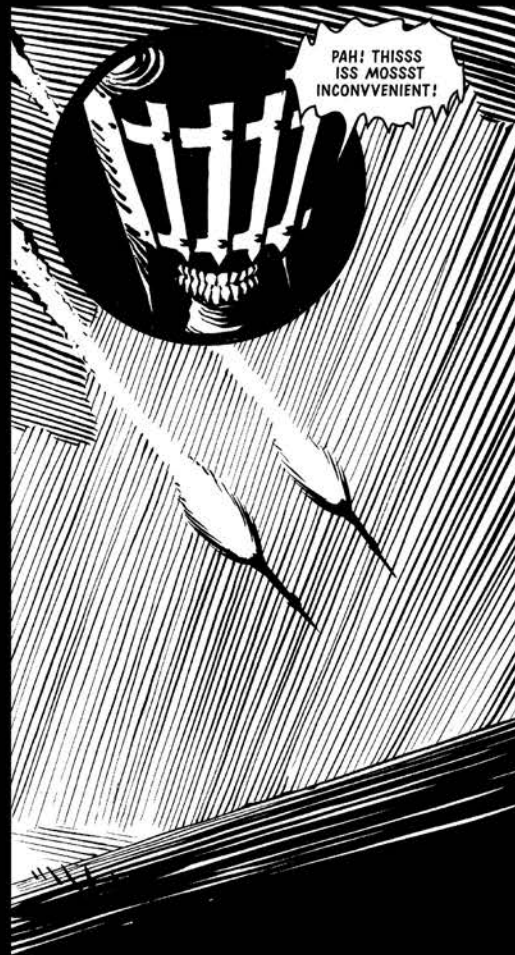
TIME ISS ON MY SSSIDE, AND
NATURE, FOR I WILL NOT RESSTT UNTIL
THE CORRUPTION OF LIFFE HAS BEEN
ERASSSED FROM THIS WORLD!

INCOMING!



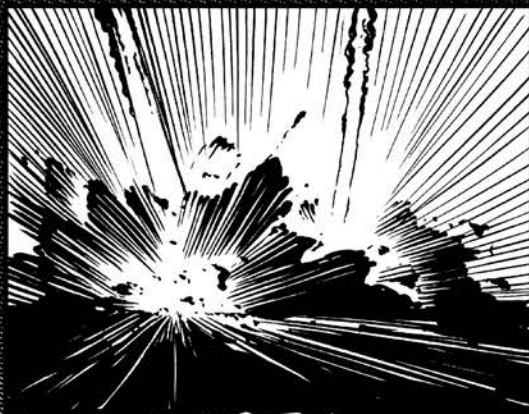
TWO MISSILES
INCOMING. ETA
30 SECONDS.

STRIKING BACK, SIR.
ONLY TO BE EXPECTED,
PROBABLY BUNKER
BUSTERS. WE'RE TOAST.



PAH! THISSS
ISS MOSSST
INCONVENIENT!





HOLD ONTO
YOUR HAT, SIR!

FOOOOLLSSS!



YOU ONLY
POSTPONE
JUDGEMENT!
I SHALL
RETURN!



YOU
CANNOT KILL
WHAT DOES
NOT LIVE!



WELL I SURE AS HELL
AM GONNA GIVE IT MY
BEST SHOT!

AN INTRUDER!



YOU
CANNOT HURT
ME HERE ON
THE ASSSTRAL
PLANE!

WHAMM-M-M

UrrrhhHHHH



THAT HURT...!



NOT ENOUGH! NOTHIN'
CAN EVER REPAY YOU FOR THE
HURT YOU HANDED OUT!

THIS IS FOR MA BOY!
THIS IS FOR MA WIFE!
SHE WAS A GOOD
WUMMAN!

SHE WASSS
A SSSINNER!

AN' THIS IS FER
ALL THE OTHER
GOOD FOLKS YA
MURDERED!

JUSSSTICCE!
I GAVVE THEM
JUSSSTICCE!

YOU CANNOT SSSTOP ME!
NOTHING CAN SSSTOP ME!
I HAVE MY DUTY!

ALL CRIME ISS
COMMITTED BY THE
LIVVVINGG -- THEREFFORE
ALL LIFFE MUST BE A
CRIME! ONLY THE DEAD CAN
BE TRULY INNOCENT!

THAT'S A
DAMNED LIE!

IT IS AN
IMMUTABLE
TRUTH -- A
TRUTH TOO
POWERFUL FOR
YOU!

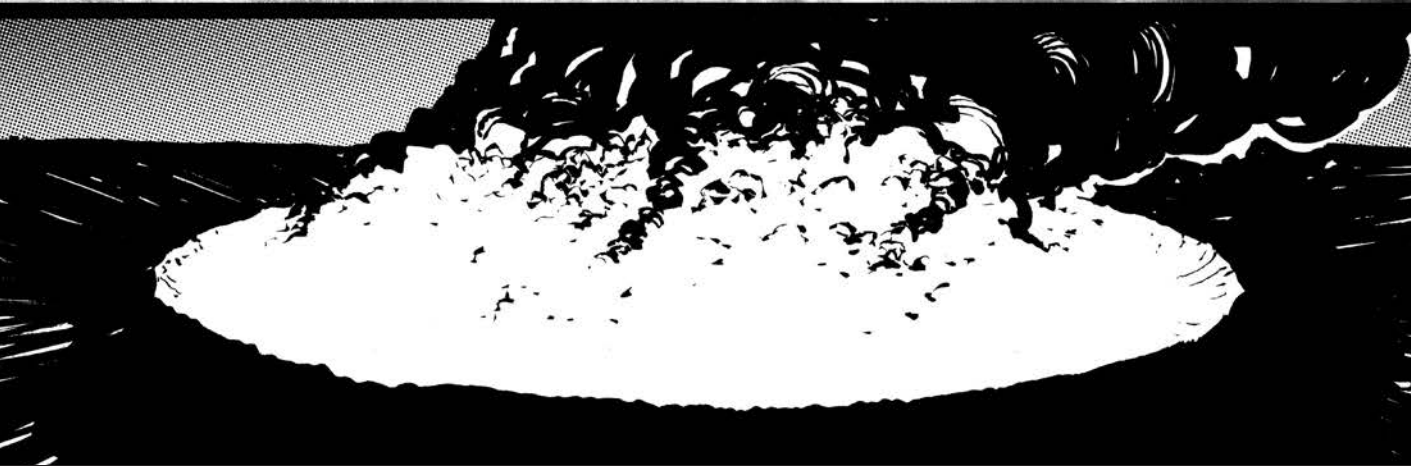
I C-CAN'T FAIL
NOW! BY ALL
THAT'S HOLY,
HELP ME--!

DIE! DIE! DIE!
DIE! DIE! DIE!
DIE! DIE! DIE!

THISSS
CANNOT BE--!

THISSS ISS
MY DOMAIN! I HOLD
THE POWER HERE!

HATE IS OUR POWER!
THOUSANDS UPON
THOUSANDS OF LOST
SOULS CRYIN' OUT FOR
RETRIBUTION! SUCH
POWER IS GREATER
EVEN THAN YOU!





2000 AD Prog 1294: Cover by Henry Flint & Chris Blythe



Judge Dredd Magazine Issue 209: Cover by Greg Staples



Judge Dredd Magazine Issue 211A: Cover by **Frazer Irving**



Judge Dredd Magazine Issue 211B: Cover by **Frazer Irving**



FRAZER IRVING SKETCHBOOK



FRAZER IRVING SKETCHBOOK



Artwork for a line of *2000 AD* mobile phone covers





JOHN WAGNER

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

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

FRAZER IRVING

Frazer Irving is without question one of 2000AD's brightest new stars. His distinctive art style, both on co-created strips like *A Love Like Blood*, *Necronauts* and *Storming Heaven*, as well as on *Judge Dredd*, *Judge Death*, *Future Shocks*, *Terror Tales*, *Tharg the Mighty*, *The Scarlet Apocrypha* and *Sinister Dexter*, have quickly brought him to the attention of the US industry. Irving recently completed both *Fort: Prophet of the Unexplained* for Dark Horse Comics and *The Authority: Scorched Earth* for DC/WildStorm.

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