

DAN ABNETT

COLIN MACNEIL

# INSURRECTION



MACNEIL '08

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Originally serialised in the *Judge Dredd Magazine*, issues 279-284 & 305-310. *Insurrection* is Copyright © 2009, 2011, 2013 Rebellion A/S. All Rights Reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced without the express permission of the publisher. Names, character, places and incidents featured in the publication are either the product of the author's imagination or used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead (except for satirical purposes) is entirely coincidental.

Published by Rebellion,  
Riverside House, Osney Mead,  
Oxford, UK. OX2 0ES  
[www.rebellion.co.uk](http://www.rebellion.co.uk)

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

For information on other *2000 AD* graphic novels, or if you have any comments on this book, please email [books@2000ADonline.com](mailto:books@2000ADonline.com)

To find out more about *2000 AD*, visit [www.2000ADonline.com](http://www.2000ADonline.com)

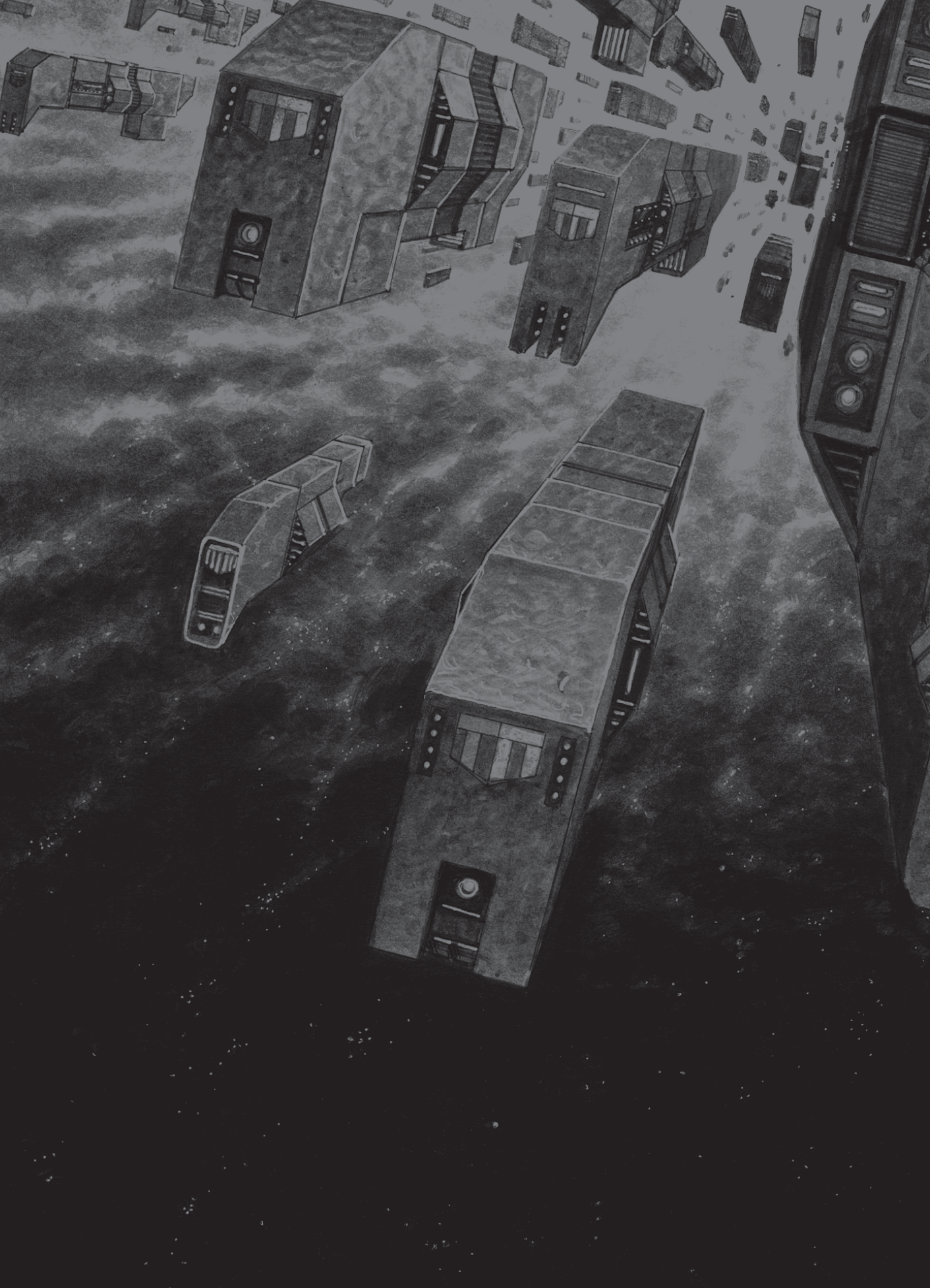


**DAN ABNETT**

**COLIN MACNEIL**

# **INSURRECTION**

INSURRECTION CREATED BY DAN ABNETT & COLIN MACNEIL





# INSURRECTION

Script: Dan Abnett  
Art: Colin MacNeil  
Letters: Ellie De Ville

Originally published in the *Judge Dredd Magazine* 279-284

TRANSMISSION  
BEGINS

GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS KAREL  
LUTHER. I HOLD THE RANK OF  
COLONIAL MARSHAL AND I AM  
THE SENIOR MARSHAL SERVING  
MEGA-CITY ONE COLONY  
K ALPHA 61.

FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, K ALPHA 61 HAS  
BEEN AT WAR. WE WERE ATTACKED AND  
OCCUPIED BY FORCES OF THE ZHIND.

THE ZHIND WERE CLAIMING  
TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION. IT IS  
EVIDENT TO ME THEY WERE SIMPLY INTERESTED  
IN K ALPHA 61'S EXTENSIVE MINERAL  
DEPOSITS.

YOU KNOW **ALL** ABOUT THIS, OF COURSE. I  
SENT YOU REGULAR REPORTS REGARDING  
OUR SITUATION.

I ASKED, ON NO FEWER  
THAN **TWENTY-THREE** OCCASIONS,  
FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

YOU SAW FIT TO  
PROVIDE NONE.

YOU'RE HAPPY ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THE RARE  
METAL CONSIGNMENTS WE SHIP TO YOU  
REGULAR AS CLOCKWORK,  
EVERY MONTH.

BUT YOU  
COULDN'T LIFT A **FINGER**  
TO HELP US.

WE **WON** THE WAR, THANKS FOR ASKING. WE  
DROVE THE ZHIND OUT.

THAT ONLY HAPPENED BECAUSE  
I TOOK THE STEP OF ENFRANCHISING THE  
**ENTIRE** COLONIAL WORKFORCE — MUTANTS,  
DROIDS, UPLIFTS.

I GRANTED THEM ALL  
**CITIZEN STATUS** SO THEY  
COULD FIGHT WITH US, SHOULDER  
TO SHOULDER.

THEN I GET **THIS**, FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF JUDGE: 'NOW THAT HOSTILITIES HAVE  
SUBSIDED, CITIZENSHIP MUST BE HEREBY  
WITHDRAWN FROM ALL NON-HUMAN UNITS,  
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATE.'

WHERE THE **HELL DO**  
YOU GET OFF, YOU PIECES  
OF **SHIT?**

ANYWAY, YOU CAN **STICK** THIS. AT THIS  
HOUR, JULY FOURTH, 2130, COLONY K ALPHA  
61 DECLARES TOTAL AND EVERLASTING  
**INDEPENDENCE** FROM MEGA-CITY ONE.

THIS WORLD WILL  
HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN  
AS **LIBERTY**. AS BY NAME,  
AS BY NATURE.

SUCK ON  
**THAT**.

TRANSMISSION  
ENDS



TOO MUCH, RIGHT?

YOU WERE FINE, LUTHER. BITTEN-DOWN RAGE, RIGHTEOUSNESS...

YOU MADE THE POINT.

NO, I BLEW IT. I COULDN'T HOLD MY TEMPER. I CALLED THEM 'PIECES OF SHIT'.

PLAY IT BACK. I KNOW I DID.

DON'T BOTHER, LOMAX. HE DID.

HE CALLED THE CHIEF JUDGE AND ALL HER LITTLE FLYING MONKEYS 'PIECES OF SHIT'.



WAY TO GO, LUTHER.

THANK YOU, MARSHAL FREELY.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS. YOUR OPINION **MATTERS** TO ME.



I'M WITH YOU, LUTHER. THE DROID'S, THE 'LIFTS... GRUD, WE COULDN'T HAVE WON THE WAR WITHOUT THEM.

I'M JUDGE-BORN AND JUDGE-RAISED. CLAIMING INDEPENDENCE GOES AGAINST **EVERYTHING** I BELIEVED IN.



BUT WE TOOK A **VOTE** AND I **SWORE** TO STAND BY THE CONSENSUS.

AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THE MEG TO SWIVEL, BROTHER, **THAT** WAS THE WAY TO DO IT.

THANKS, FREELY.



SO I SEND THIS?

FREELY?

IT'S NOT UP TO ME ANY MORE. AND THERE'LL BE **HELL** TO PAY.

THAT WAS HER SAYING **YES**, LOMAX.

THAT WAS **ME** SAYING YES.

DROID QUARTERS:

LUTHER SENT ME DOWN HERE TO GIVE YOU BOYS A HEADS UP. WE DECLARED.

INDEPENDENCE, MARSHAL LOMAX?

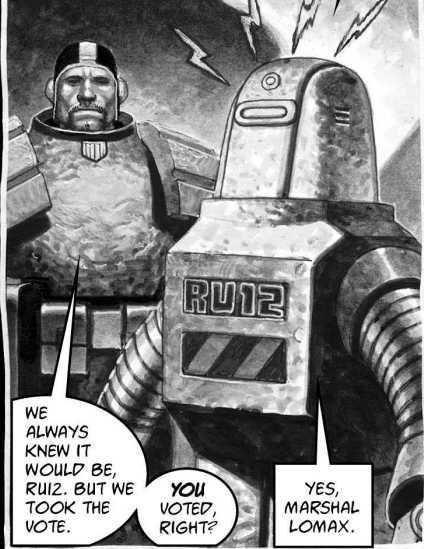
YES, SIR.



SELF-DIAGNOSTIC. THIS UNIT BELIEVES ITS LUBE BAFFLES MAY HAVE PERISHED. THIS UNIT HAS WET ITSELF.

THIS UNIT IS ALARMED, MARSHAL LOMAX. WON'T...

... WON'T MEGA-CITY ONE BE JOLLY CROSS?

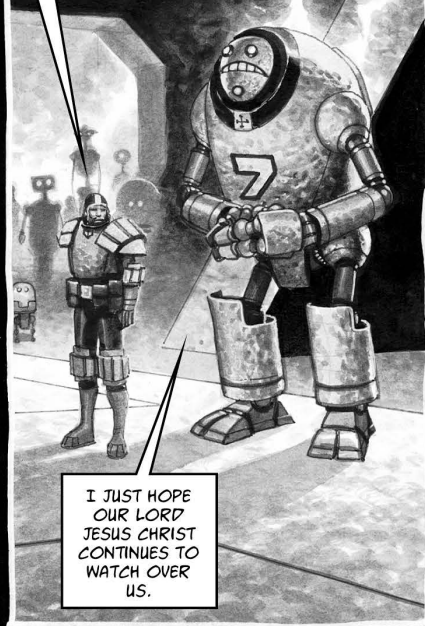


WE ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD BE, RU12. BUT WE TOOK THE VOTE.

YOU VOTED, RIGHT?

YES, MARSHAL LOMAX.

SO WE ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES. PLEASE TELL ALL THE WORKER UNITS WHAT'S GOING ON.



I JUST HOPE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CONTINUES TO WATCH OVER US.

I'M SURE HE WILL, 7.

YOU AND THAT BORN-AGAIN THING. I'LL NEVER QUITE UNDERSTAND IT.

I WOULD NOT EXPECT YOU TO, MARSHAL. IT IS BETWEEN A DROID AND HIS GOD.



MUTANT WORKPOOL:

... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED. LUTHER SENT THE DECLARATION.

HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW.



THANK YOU, MARSHAL FREELY. WE WILL SPREAD THE NEWS, SO THAT EVERY PUP AND SPAWNLING UNDERSTANDS.



'OF COURSE I DO.'

HALYCON RIDGE, THE LAST  
DAY OF THE ZHIND WAR...

FOLLOW  
ME UP! FOLLOW  
ME UP!

SIMEON!  
GET YOUR 'LIFTS  
ONTO THE WESTERN  
PLATFORMS!

I  
HEAR YOU,  
KAREL!

FORWARD,  
MY WHOOP!  
STIFLE THEIR  
GUNS!





'ZHIND BLOOD FLOWED  
THAT DAY. IT SMELLED OF  
BLEACH, AS I REMEMBER.



'YOU...YOU WERE **SUPERHUMAN**,  
MARSHAL. YOU BROKE THE BACK  
OF THEM ALMOST SINGLE HANDED.'



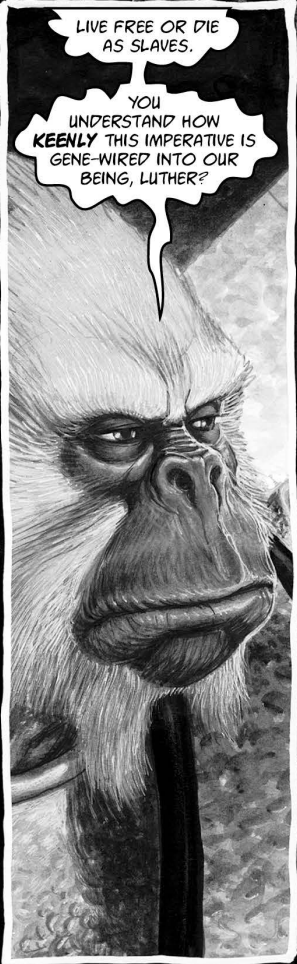
MY  
BLOOD WAS  
UP. THAT'S ALL  
IT WAS.

'YOU KILLED HIM. THE ZHIND COMMANDANT. I WAS RIGHT THERE. I SAW IT.'

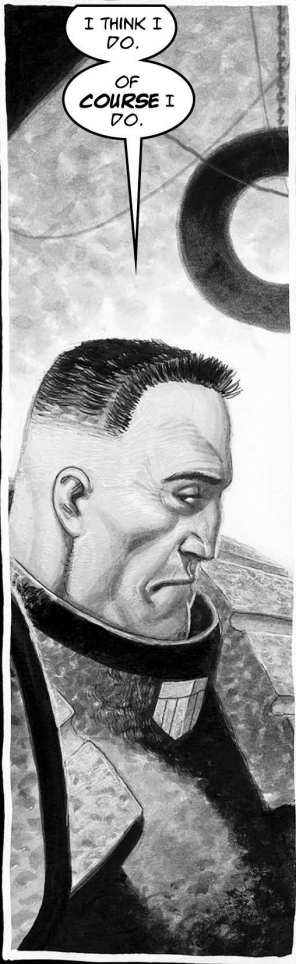
'NO QUARTER, KAREL LUTHER. NO QUARTER AT ALL.'



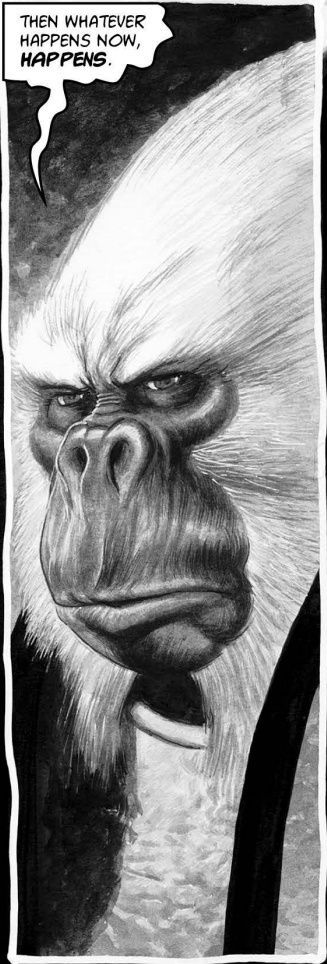
YEAH.  
AND THAT'S  
THE SENTENCE I'VE  
BROUGHT DOWN  
ON LIBERTY.



LIVE FREE OR DIE  
AS SLAVES.  
  
YOU  
UNDERSTAND HOW  
**KEENLY** THIS IMPERATIVE IS  
GENE-WIRED INTO OUR  
BEING, LUTHER?



I THINK I  
DO.  
  
OF  
**COURSE** I  
DO.

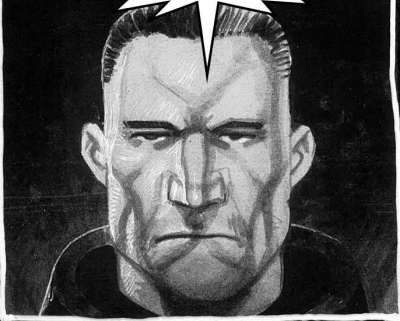


THEN WHATEVER  
HAPPENS NOW,  
**HAPPENS.**

YOU KNOW **ALL** ABOUT THIS, OF COURSE. I SENT YOU REGULAR REPORTS REGARDING OUR SITUATION.

I ASKED, ON NO FEWER THAN **TWENTY-THREE** OCCASIONS, FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

YOU SAW FIT TO PROVIDE NONE.



YOU'RE HAPPY ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THE RARE METAL CONSIGNMENTS WE SHIP TO YOU REGULAR AS CLOCKWORK, EVERY MONTH.

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WE **WON** THE WAR, THANKS FOR ASKING. WE DROVE THE ZHIND OUT.

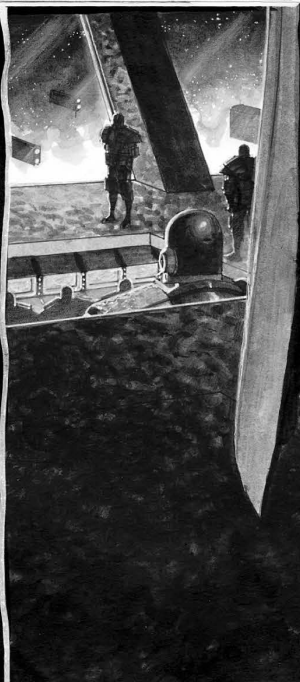
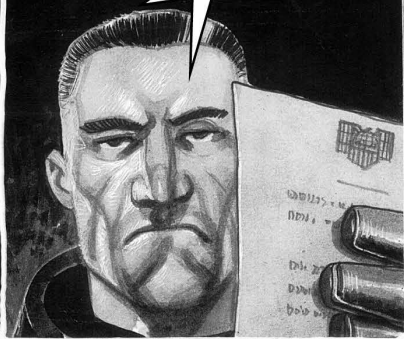
THAT ONLY HAPPENED BECAUSE I TOOK THE STEP OF ENFRANCHISING THE **ENTIRE** COLONIAL WORKFORCE — MUTANTS, DROIDS, UPLIFTS.

I GRANTED THEM ALL **CITIZEN STATUS** SO THEY COULD FIGHT WITH US, **SHOULDER** TO **SHOULDER**.



THEN I GET **THIS**, FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE: 'NOW THAT HOSTILITIES HAVE SUBSIDIED, **CITIZENSHIP** MUST BE HEREBY **WITHDRAWN** FROM ALL **NON-HUMAN** UNITS, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATE.**'

WHERE THE **HELL** DO YOU GET OFF, YOU PIECES OF **SHIT**?

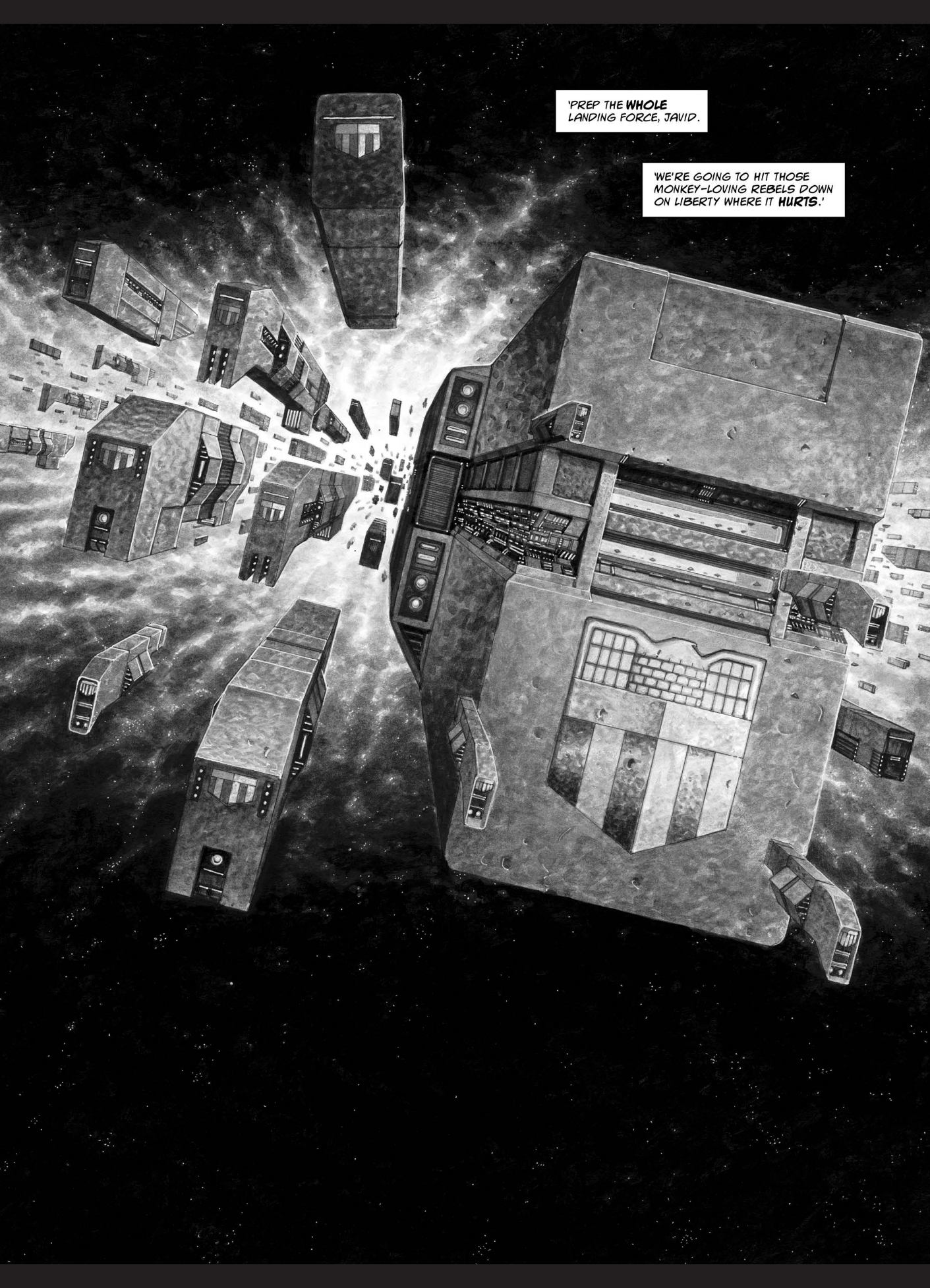


SO, COMMANDER, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF **THAT**?

ACTIONABLE, SENIOR JUDGE KULOETTE.

I WILL PREP THE **KILL TEAMS**.



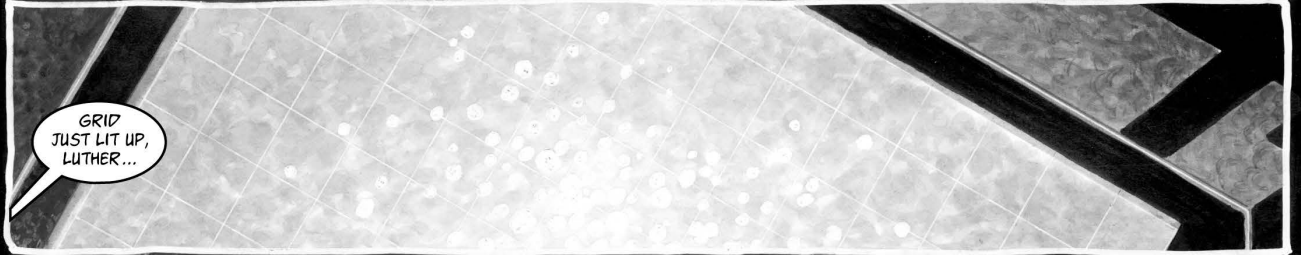


'PREP THE WHOLE  
LANDING FORCE, JAVID.'

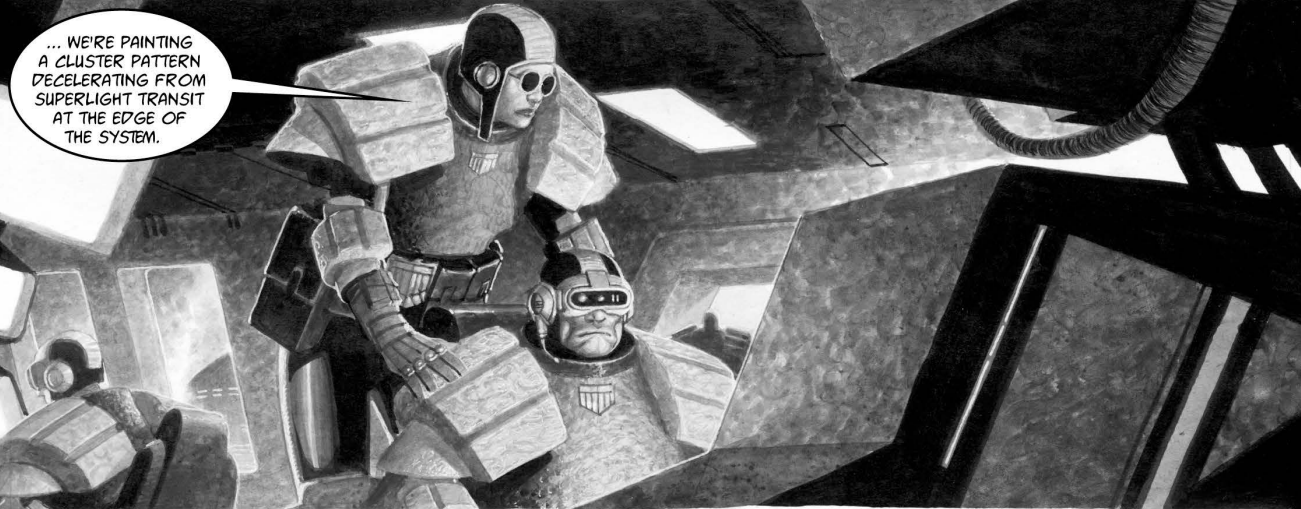
'WE'RE GOING TO HIT THOSE  
MONKEY-LOVING REBELS DOWN  
ON LIBERTY WHERE IT HURTS.'



WHAT HAVE WE GOT?



GRID JUST LIT UP, LUTHER...



... WE'RE PAINTING A CLUSTER PATTERN DECELERATING FROM SUPERLIGHT TRANSIT AT THE EDGE OF THE SYSTEM.



YEAH, THAT'S A FLEET.

CLOSE ON A HUNDRED F.T.L. VESSELS, MARSHAL LUTHER.

DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG.



ARE YOU SURPRISED, FREELY?

OF COURSE, THEY WON'T KNOW WE'RE ON TO THEM. NOT YET.

BECAUSE WE AIMED THEM UP?

PRECISELY BECAUSE WE AIMED THEM UP.

LUTHER?



LOMAX?

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DROID COMBINE, THE MUTANT WORKPOOL, AND THE UPLIFTS, AS REQUESTED.



DELEGATE FUNX, RAMSSES, SIMEON... I ASKED YOU ALL HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO BE **WITNESSES** TO THIS.

THE JUDGES ARE COMING TO TAKE LIBERTY FROM US. THEIR FLEET JUST CROSSED THE SYSTEM TERMINATOR.



MAY GOD PROTECT US ALL.

MAY HE INDEED, RAMSSES.

WE CAN SEE THEM?

YES, OLD FRIEND. THEY'RE ON THE GRID.

BECAUSE WE AIMED THEM UP?



**PRECISELY** BECAUSE WE AIMED THEM UP, SIMEON.

THE JUDGES DON'T **KNOW** WE CAN SEE THEM. THEY THINK THIS COLONY HAS NO LONG-RANGE DETECTION SYSTEM.

THEY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE US BY **SURPRISE**.



THAT PRESENTS ME WITH A PROBLEM.

THE **LAWMAN** IN ME WANTS TO ISSUE A CHALLENGE. GIVE THEM DUE AND **FAIR** NOTICE WHAT THEIR CURRENT COURSE OF ACTION WILL LEAD TO.

GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO BACK DOWN BEFORE ANY LIVES ARE LOST.



THE **WARRIOR** IN ME WANTS TO RETAIN THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE AND HURT THEM **REAL** BAD.

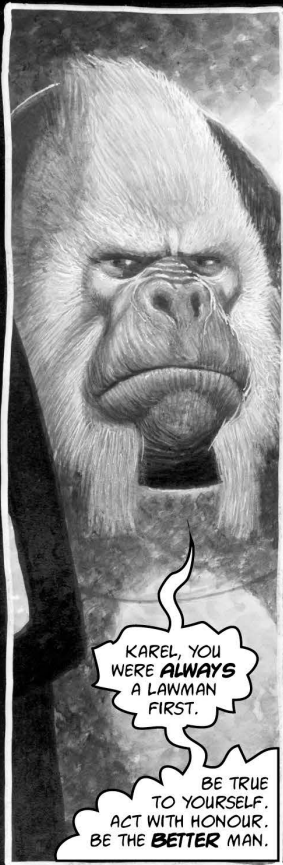
ANY OPINIONS?



HAVE THE JUDGES ISSUED ANY KIND OF WARNING TO US, MARSHAL LUTHER?

NO, DELEGATE FUNX, THEY HAVE **NOT**. AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED, WE HAVE **ALREADY** DECLARED OUR INTENT TO BREAK WITH MEGA-CITY LAW.

THEN BE A **WARRIOR**, MARSHAL.



KAREL, YOU WERE **ALWAYS** A LAWMAN FIRST.

BE TRUE TO YOURSELF. ACT WITH HONOUR. BE THE **BETTER** MAN.



THANK YOU, SIMEON. I THINK I NEED TO, FOR THE SAKE OF MY SOUL. IF I'M GOING TO **BREAK** THE LAW, I'M GOING TO DO IT **BY THE BOOK**.

FREELY, OPEN ME A FACE-TO-FACE VID-LINK WITH THE COMMAND CARRIER.

ON IT.



LOMAX? GET THE BULK HAULERS INTO POSITION.

YES, LUTHER,

PART OF ME IS **STILL** A WARRIOR.



APPROACHING TRAFFIC, THIS IS LIBERTY COMMAND CONTROL.

REQUEST YOU OPEN LINK IMMEDIATELY.



THIS IS SENIOR JUDGE KULOTTE. WHO AM I ADDRESSING?

MARSHAL KAREL LUTHER.



LUTHER.  
SO...

YOU SEEM TAKEN  
ABACK, KULOTTE. I TAKE  
IT YOU IMAGINED YOU  
WERE APPROACHING  
**UNDETECTED.**

I... MINERAL SURVEY DETECTORS  
ARE VERY POWERFUL AND  
ACUTE. YOU HAVE **MANY**  
SUPPLIED FOR YOUR  
MINING WORK.

YOU'VE POINTED  
THEM AT THE  
**SKY**, HAVEN'T  
YOU?

WE AIMED THEM UP.  
LONG-RANGE DETECTION IS A  
NECESSITY WHEN YOU'RE  
WAGING A **SYSTEM WAR.**

WE LEARNED  
TRICKS LIKE **THAT**  
FIGHTING THE  
ZHIND.



IMPROVISED  
USE OF RESOURCES.  
**COMMENDABLE.**  
THAT'S HALL OF JUSTICE  
TRAINING FOR  
YOU.

YOU HAVE  
TEN HOURS TO  
SURRENDER  
COLONY K ALPHA  
61 TO US OR —

UH-UH-UH. GOING TO  
**STOP** YOU THERE. ONLY  
**ONE** CHALLENGE GETS  
ISSUED TONIGHT.  
**OUR'S.**

TURN AROUND.  
GO HOME. LEAVE  
LIBERTY TO US.

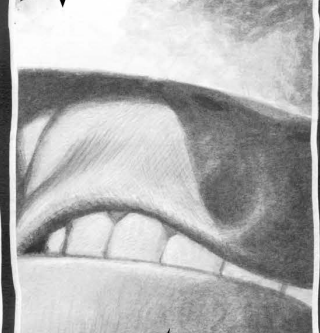
OR WE'LL  
MESS YOU UP  
SO **COMPLETELY**,  
YOU'LL WISH YOU'D  
NEVER PALM-TYPED  
YOURSELF TO A  
LAWGIVER.



I HAVE NINETY-FIVE SHIPS,  
LUTHER. SIXTEEN THOUSAND MEN  
OF THE 12TH JUSTICE CONTROL  
DIVISION, ARMOURD  
COMPANIES AND —

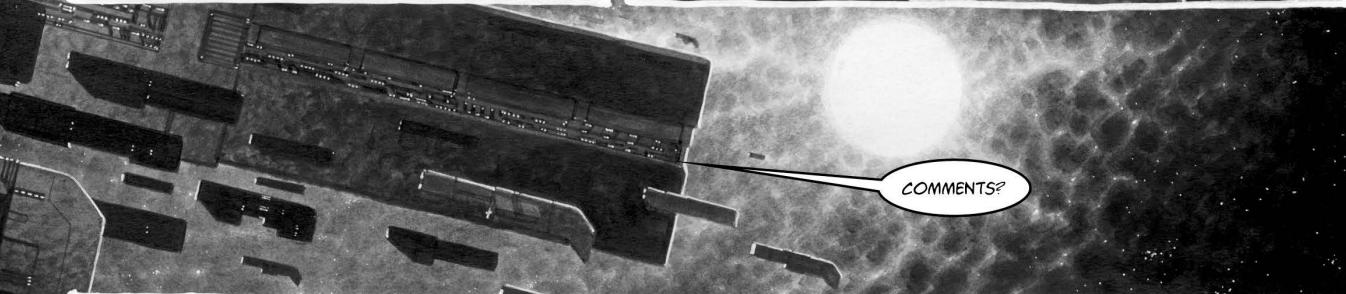


WE BEAT THE  
**ZHIND**. THEY WERE  
A **SPECIES.**



INSURRECTION  
IS INSURRECTION,  
LUTHER. THE LAW IS  
**PERFECTLY CLEAR**, AND  
YOU'RE **BREAKING**  
IT.

EXPECT NO  
MERCY.



'THE BULK HAULERS WILL BE OUR FIRST GIFT.'

'AUTOMATED MONSTERS DESIGNED TO SHIP ORE LOADS BACK TO EARTH.'

'EACH ONE IS A MILE LONG, AND ABOUT A TRILLION METRIC TONNES, FULLY LADEN. AND THEY ARE FULLY LADEN, WITH ROCK WASTE AND SPOIL.'

DEFENCE BATTERIES! FIRE AT WILL!

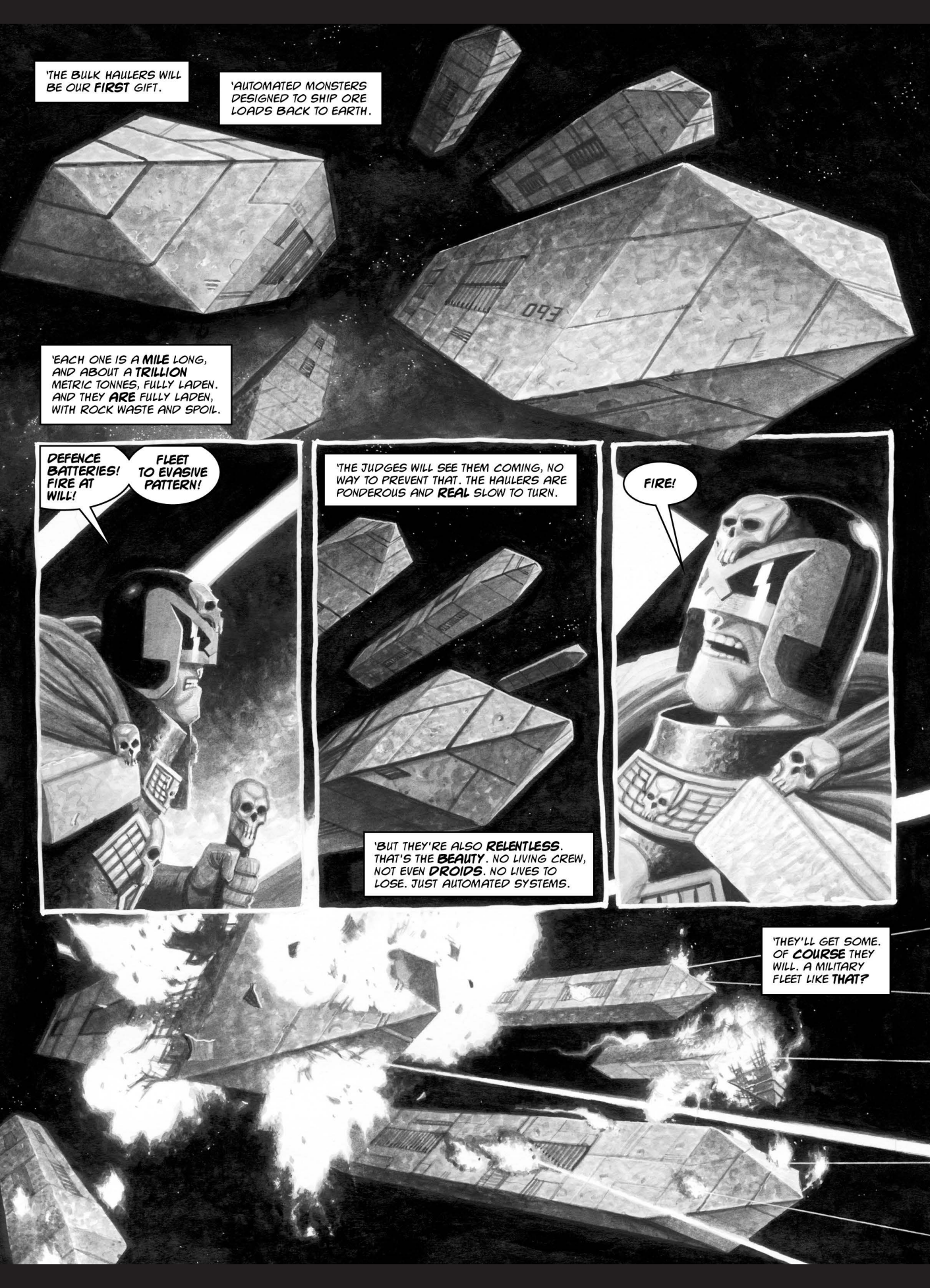
FLEET TO EVASIVE PATTERN!

'THE JUDGES WILL SEE THEM COMING, NO WAY TO PREVENT THAT. THE HAULERS ARE PONDEROUS AND REAL SLOW TO TURN.'

FIRE!

'BUT THEY'RE ALSO RELENTLESS. THAT'S THE BEAUTY. NO LIVING CREW, NOT EVEN DROIDS. NO LIVES TO LOSE. JUST AUTOMATED SYSTEMS.'

'THEY'LL GET SOME. OF COURSE THEY WILL. A MILITARY FLEET LIKE THAT?'






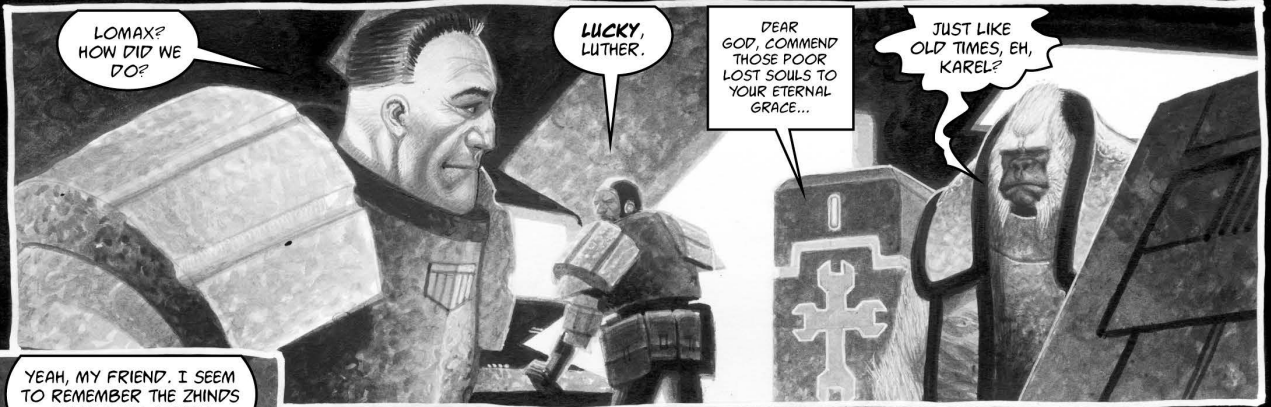
'BUT SOME WILL  
GET THROUGH.'



'TWO, MAYBE.'



'THREE, IF WE'RE  
REALLY LUCKY.'

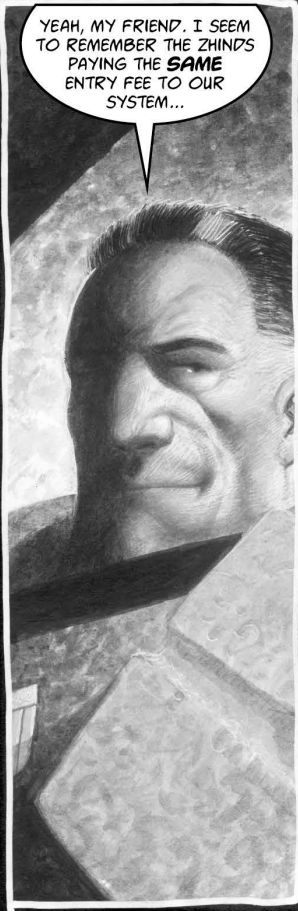


LOMAX?  
HOW DID WE  
DO?

LUCKY,  
LUTHER.

DEAR  
GOD, COMMENT  
THOSE POOR  
LOST SOULS TO  
YOUR ETERNAL  
GRACE...

JUST LIKE  
OLD TIMES, EH,  
KAREL?



YEAH, MY FRIEND. I SEEM  
TO REMEMBER THE ZHINDS  
PAYING THE **SAME**  
ENTRY FEE TO OUR  
SYSTEM...



CRUISER  
**EAGLE OF DESTINY**  
LOST WITH ALL  
HANDS!

BATTLESHIP  
**LAWGIVER DAMAGED,**  
ON FIRE!

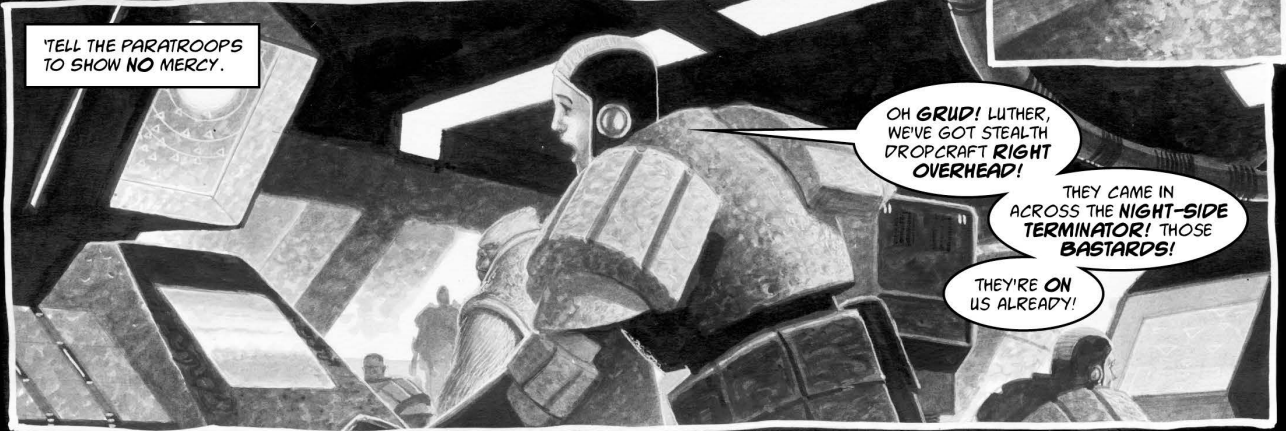
DESTROYER  
**WORD OF LAW**  
VOIDING OUT!

LUTHER...



... THIS OUTRAGE  
SIMPLY **ADDS** TO  
YOUR CRIMES.

PEDERSEN?



TELL THE PARATROOPS  
TO SHOW NO MERCY.

OH GRUB! LUTHER,  
WE'VE GOT STEALTH  
DROPCRAFT RIGHT  
OVERHEAD!

THEY CAME IN  
ACROSS THE NIGHT-SIDE  
TERMINATOR! THOSE  
**BASTARDS!**

THEY'RE ON  
US ALREADY!



'IN FACT,  
PEDERSEN...'

'YES, SENIOR  
JUDGE?'

'TELL THE PARATROOPS  
TO GO IN WITH  
EXTREME PREJUDICE.'

GO! GO!  
GO!



'SOMETHING IN THE ORDER OF TWO THOUSAND SJS DROPTROOPS ARE POURING OUT OF THE SKY ONTO OUR HEADS, LUTHER.

'WHILE WE WERE BUSY WITH THE FLEET, THEY SNUCK DROPSHIPS ROUND THE BLINDSIDE.

'LIBERTY'S DONE FOR. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SMILING AT?'



A MEMORY, FREELY.

A MEMORY OF ASKING THE DROID WORKCREWS TO DO A LITTLE TINKERING WITH THE METEOR DEFLECTION ARRAY.

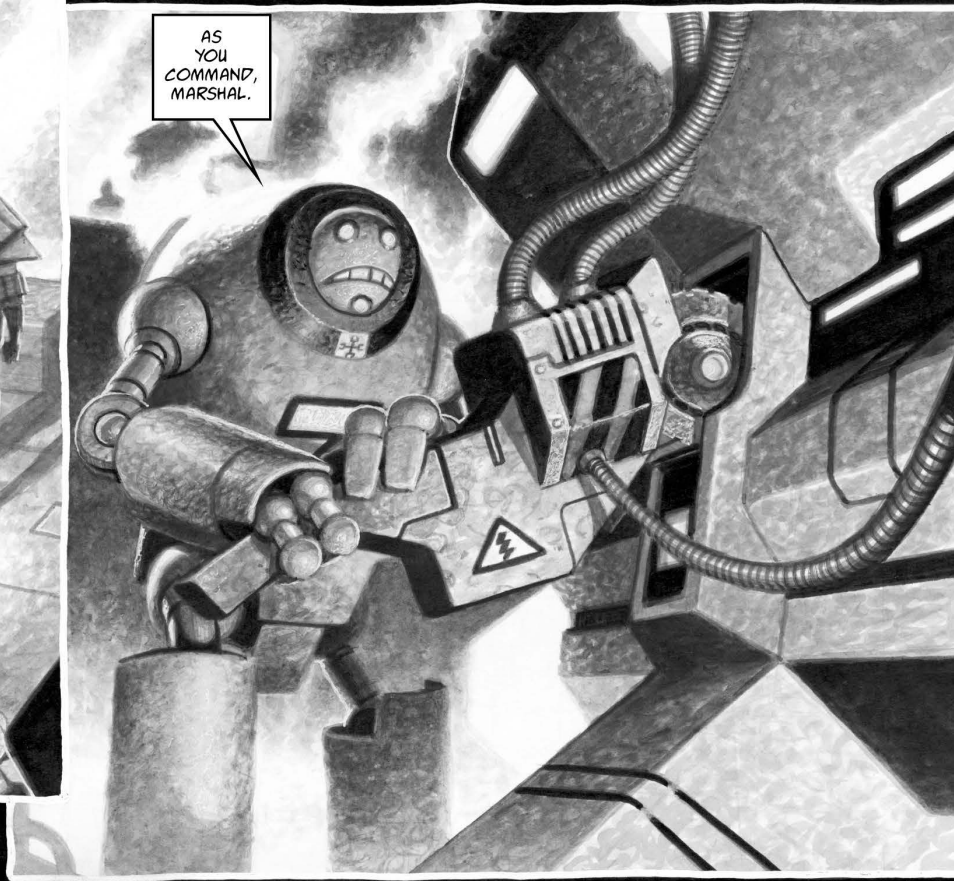
'TINKERING?'



YOU KNOW... SHARPEN THE SHIELD FOCUS, TIGHTEN THE BANDWIDTH, BOOST THE POWER...

LUTHER... ?

DROID ? IT'S RAINING. LET'S PUT UP OUR UMBRELLA.



AS YOU COMMAND, MARSHAL.



SHUNKK!



POWER'S COMING UP, LUTHER!

THANKS, LOMAX. HEAR IT, FREELY?

ANOTHER COUPLE OF SECONDS, AND LIBERTY'S BACK-SCATTER DEFLECTOR NET...

'... BECOMES A TIGHT-  
FOCUS MILITARY-GRADE  
ENERGY SHIELD.'





**ABORT!  
ABORT!**

**PULL  
OUT!**

**ENERGY  
SHIELD! THERE'S  
AN EN-**

**ABORT  
DROP!**

**HOLY GRID!  
ABORT!**





IT'S PRETTY TIGHT, LUTHER. WE SLAMMED THE DOOR IN THEIR FACES.

BUT I THINK A FEW GOT IN UNDER THE SHIELD. I'M PAINTING CONTACTS IN THE REACTOR PRECINCTS.

DON'T WORRY...



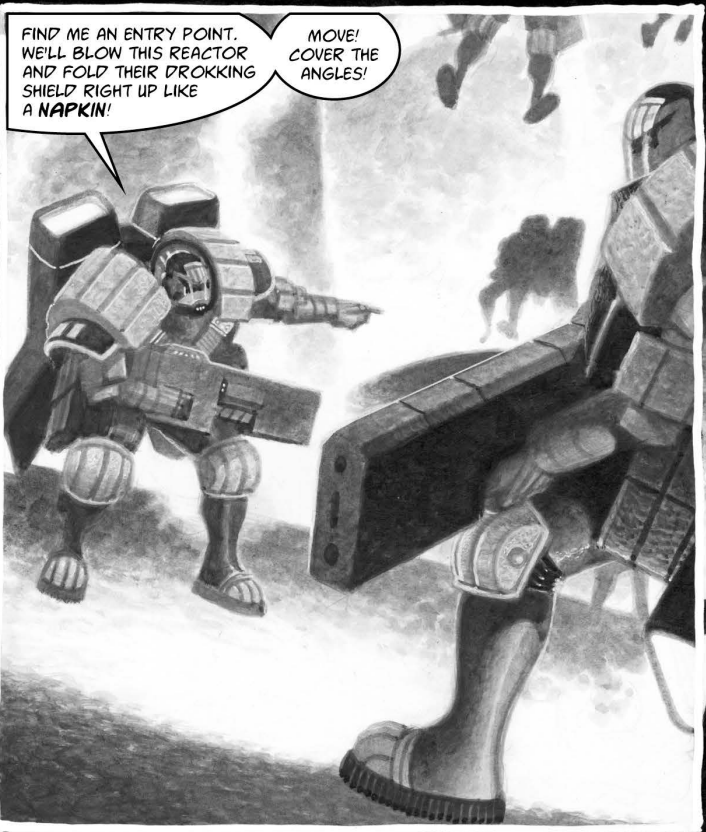
... MY UPLIFTS WILL HANDLE THEM.



STAY FOCUSED, LUBMIN.

WE'RE IN, THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.

GRUD! WHAT A WIPE-OUT!



FIND ME AN ENTRY POINT. WE'LL BLOW THIS REACTOR AND FOLD THEIR DROKING SHIELD RIGHT UP LIKE A NAPKIN!

MOVE! COVER THE ANGLES!



SIR! WE'VE GOT INGRESS!

BURN IT OPEN, TIMMINS!



BROOOOORRRGGHHH!

UPLIFT!  
UPLIFT!



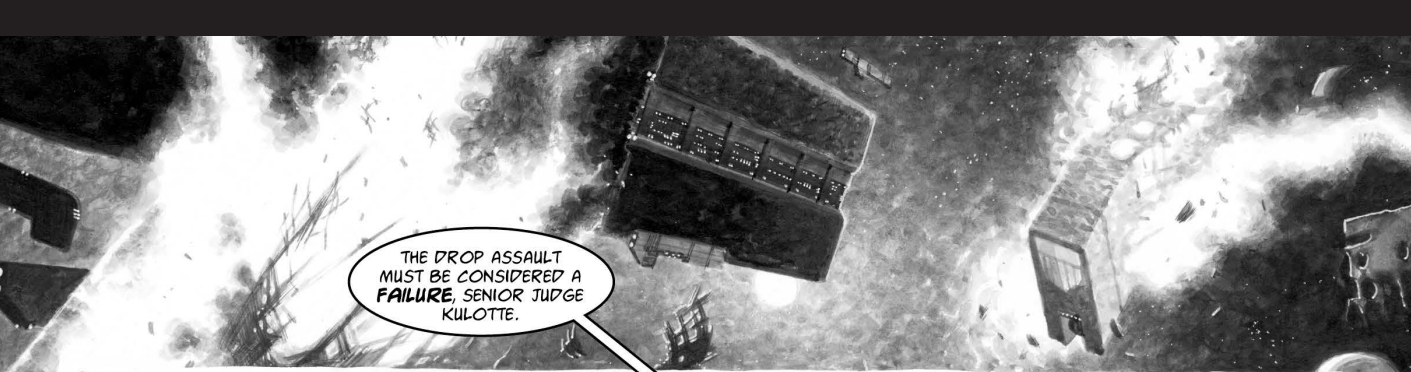
LOOK  
OUT!

THEY'RE  
ALL OVER US,  
DROCK IT!



LIBERTY!

UGHKK!



THE DROP ASSAULT  
MUST BE CONSIDERED A  
**FAILURE**, SENIOR JUDGE  
KULOTTE.



I TAKE **FULL**  
RESPONSIBILITY,  
SIR.



I DON'T WANT EXCUSES,  
PEDERSEN. I DON'T WANT  
EXPLANATIONS. I DON'T  
**EVEN** WANT FRANK  
ADMISSIONS OF  
CULPABILITY.

I WANT  
**RESULTS.**




JAVID! HOW LONG UNTIL  
THE FLEET REACHES  
DEPLOYMENT  
ORBIT?



THIRTY-SEVEN  
MINUTES, SENIOR  
JUDGE.

DURING  
THIS APPROACH PHASE,  
WILL THE FLEET HAVE A  
**FIRING SOLUTION** ON  
COLONY K ALPHA  
61?



IT WILL, SIR.

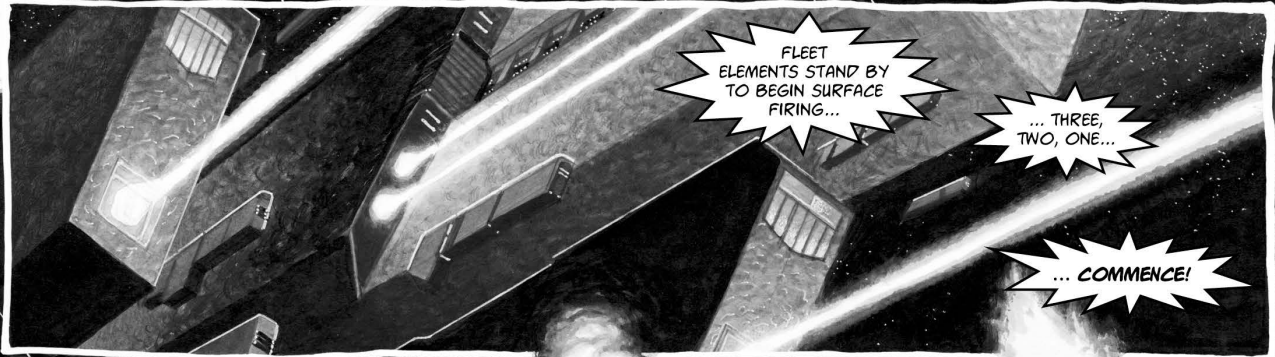
SIR, A BOMBARDMENT  
BY MAIN FLEET WEAPONS  
WOULD DO **CONSIDERABLE**  
DAMAGE TO THE TARGET  
VECTOR.

IT MIGHT PENETRATE  
THEIR DEFENSIVE FIELD. IT MIGHT  
CAUSE SO **MUCH** DEVASTATION THERE  
WOULD BE VERY **LITTLE** COLONY  
LEFT TO BRING INTO LINE  
WHEN WE ARRIVE.



LOOK  
AT MY FACE,  
JAVID.

DOES IT  
**LOOK LIKE**  
I CARE?



FLEET  
ELEMENTS STAND BY  
TO BEGIN SURFACE  
FIRING...

... THREE,  
TWO, ONE...

... COMMENCE!

'LUTHER!'



WE CAN'T TAKE THIS!  
THEY'RE GOING TO  
FLATTEN US!

THIRTY MINUTES!  
WE JUST HAVE TO RIDE  
IT OUT FOR THIRTY  
MINUTES!

THEN  
WHAT?

THEN  
THEY STOP  
FIRING.

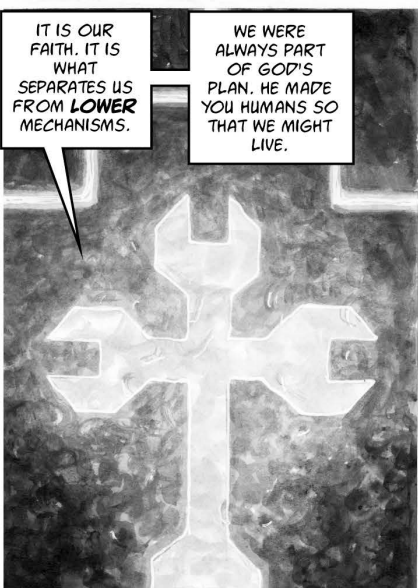
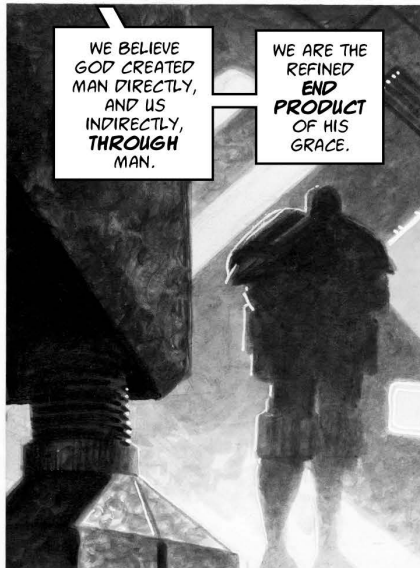
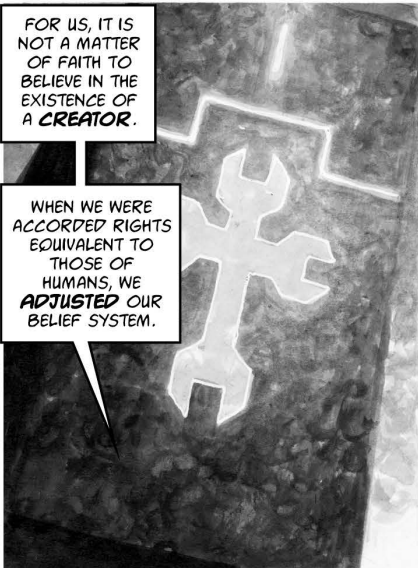
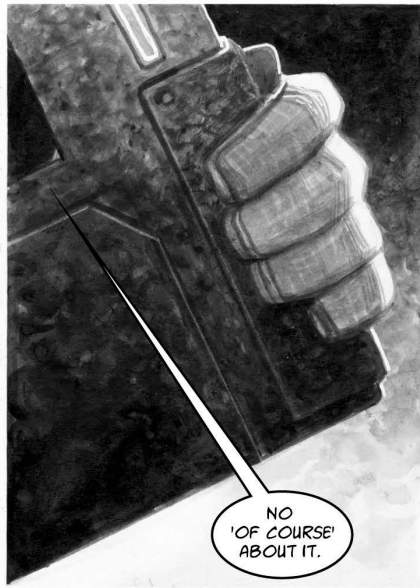


WHY?

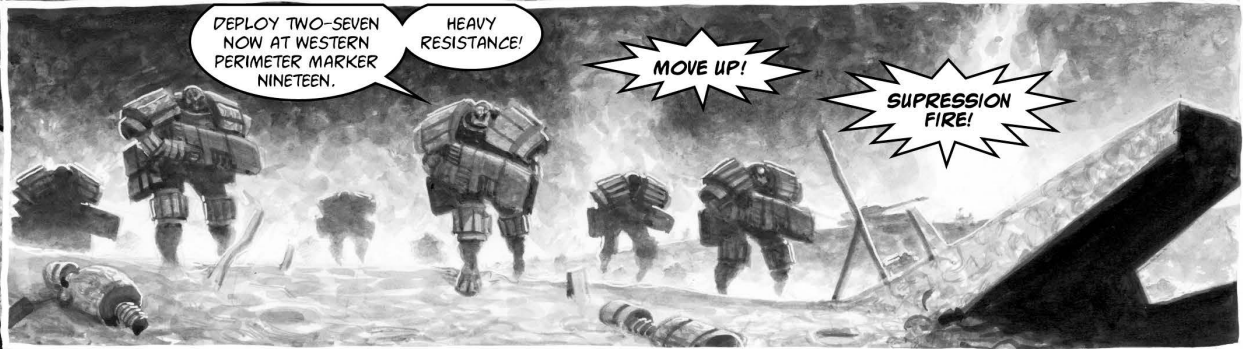
THEY'LL  
HAVE TO...

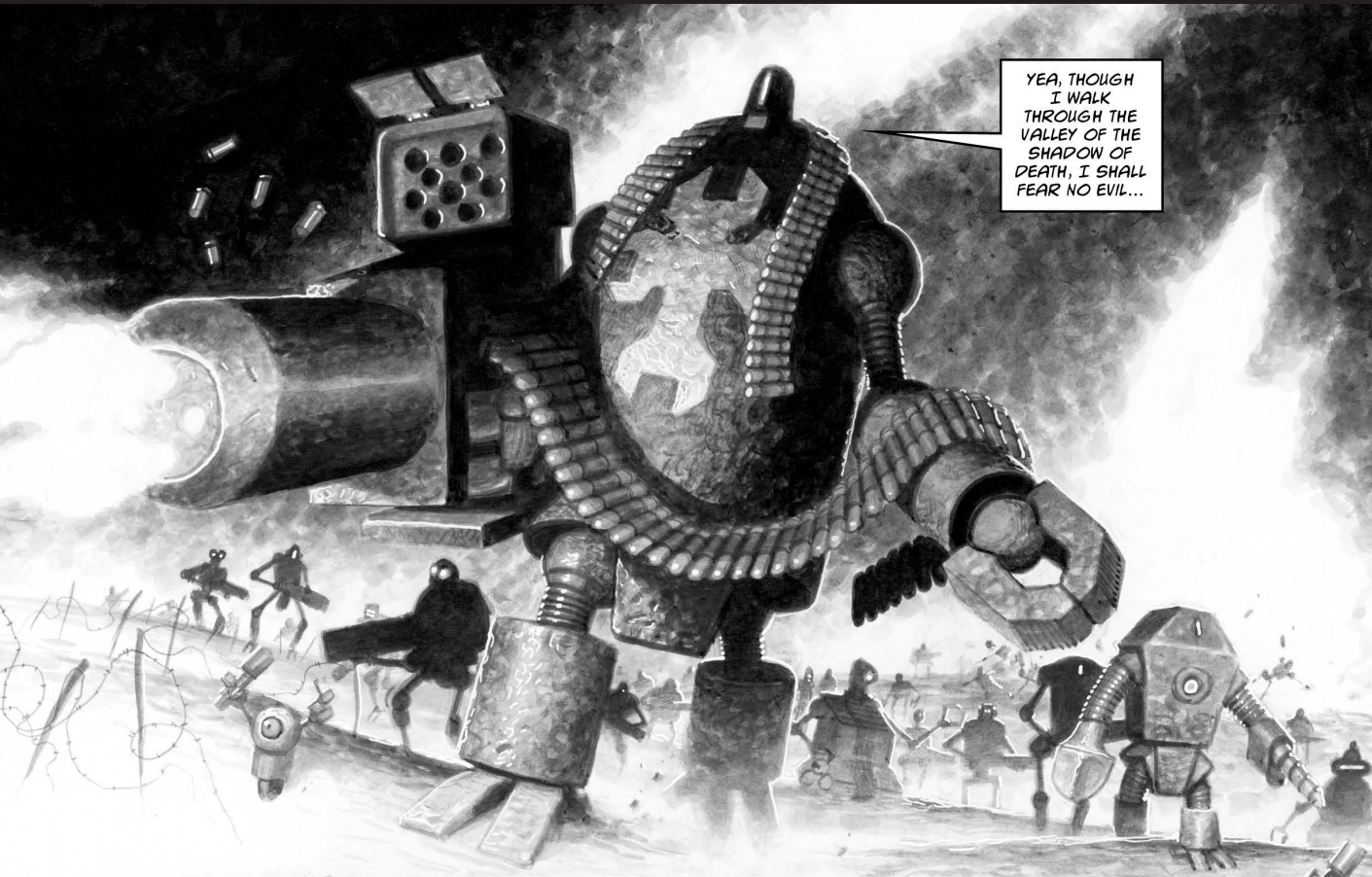


'... THEIR FORCES  
WILL BE ON THE  
GROUND BY THEN.'



'WE ARE WILLING  
TO DIE FOR IT.'





YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I SHALL FEAR NO EVIL...



WE'VE GOT INSERTIONS NOW AT WEST NINE, WEST TEN, WEST TWELVE AND WEST SIXTEEN.

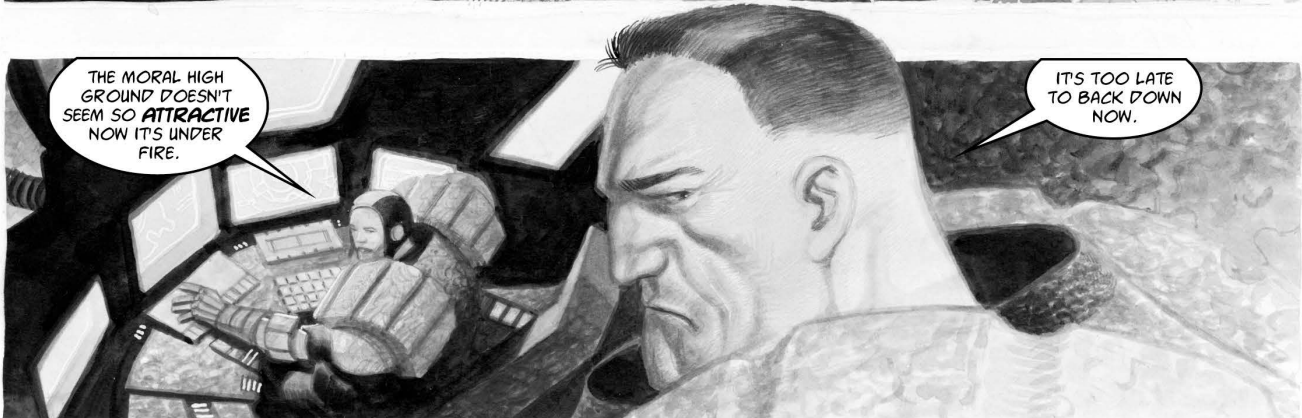
SENSORS SHOW HEAVY ARMOUR ROLLING THROUGH WEST NINETEEN.

MAJOR FIREFIGHT ONGOING ALONG PROCESSOR STREET. MAJOR FIREFIGHT AT LIBERTY HILL.



WE'RE NOT GOING TO WIN THIS, ARE WE?

WE NEVER WERE, FREELY. IT WAS NEVER ABOUT WINNING. IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT FIGHTING.



THE MORAL HIGH GROUND DOESN'T SEEM SO ATTRACTIVE NOW IT'S UNDER FIRE.

IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK DOWN NOW.



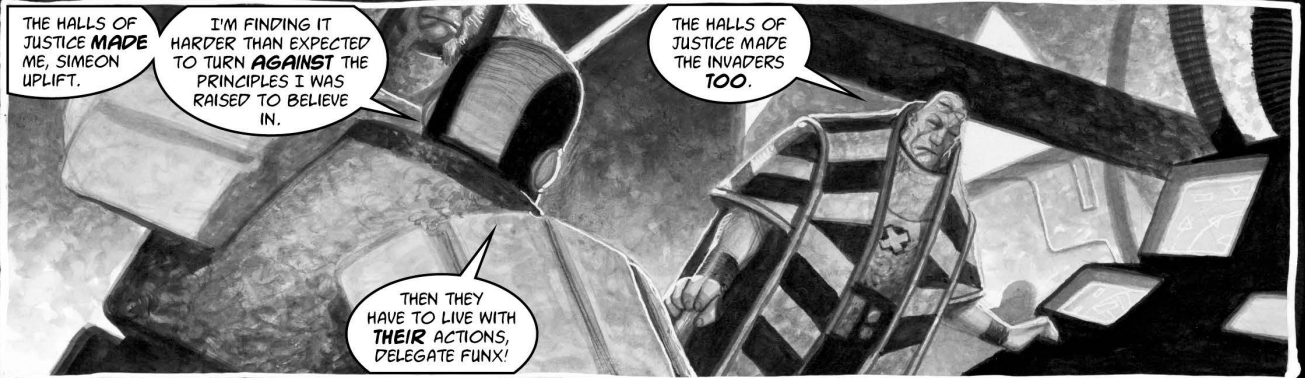
IS IT?

OF COURSE IT IS.

DON'T DO THIS NOW, FREELY —

OF ALL THE MARSHALS ON LIBERTY, MISS, YOU WERE ALWAYS THE **LEAST** COMFORTABLE WITH THE PURSUIT OF INDEPENDENCE.

HOWEVER, I UNDERSTOOD YOU HAD **ACCEPTED** THE IDEA.

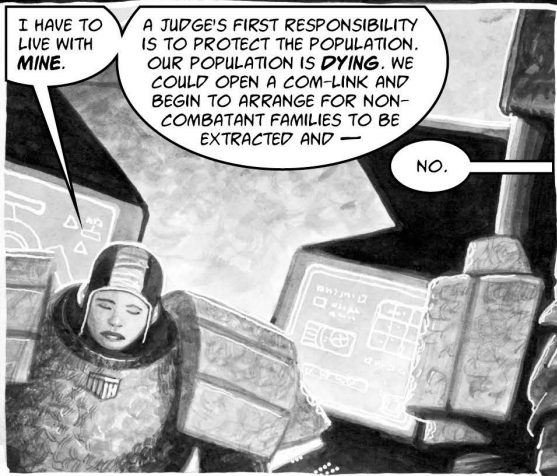


THE HALLS OF JUSTICE **MADE** ME, SIMEON UPLIFT.

I'M FINDING IT HARDER THAN EXPECTED TO TURN **AGAINST** THE PRINCIPLES I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE IN.

THE HALLS OF JUSTICE MADE THE INVADERS **TOO**.

THEN THEY HAVE TO LIVE WITH **THEIR** ACTIONS, DELEGATE FUNX!



I HAVE TO LIVE WITH **MINE**.

A JUDGE'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROTECT THE POPULATION. OUR POPULATION IS **DYING**. WE COULD OPEN A COM-LINK AND BEGIN TO ARRANGE FOR NON-COMBATANT FAMILIES TO BE EXTRACTED AND —

NO.



NO YOU WON'T DO IT OR —

NO, YOU'RE **WRONG**.

A JUDGE'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO **JUSTICE**.



NO MORE TALK.

TAKE UP YOUR POSITIONS NOW AND SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END.



LANDING WAVE TWO NOW COMMENCED, SENIOR JUDGE.

THANK YOU, JAVID.

ORDER DEPLOY ONE-FIVE TO MOVE AHEAD EIGHT LENGTHS.

ORDER DEPLOYS SIX AND ONE-ONE TO SECURE THE WESTERN LANDING PLATFORMS.

INFORM DEPLOY TWO-ONE THAT THEY ARE RUNNING SIX MINUTES BEHIND THE OBJECTIVE PLAN. TELL THEM TO COMPENSATE.

YES, SENIOR JUDGE.

THESE STRATEGIC VALUES ARE **WRONG**, JAVID.

I'LL HAVE THEM REVISED, SIR.

DEPLOY NINE SHOULD BE AT THE INNER BARRIER BY NOW. INCREASE ARTILLERY SUPPORT IN ZONE FOUR.

SENIOR JUDGE KULOTTE?

PEDERSEN. REPORT.

I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE THIS, SIR.

OPERATIONS OVERWATCH PICKED IT UP ABOUT FOUR MINUTES AGO.



**CATT UNITS\*  
ADVANCING AT  
MARKER TEN!**



**\*COMBAT ALL-TERRAIN TRANSPORT.**

**HEAVYWORK DROID!  
NEUTRALISE!**



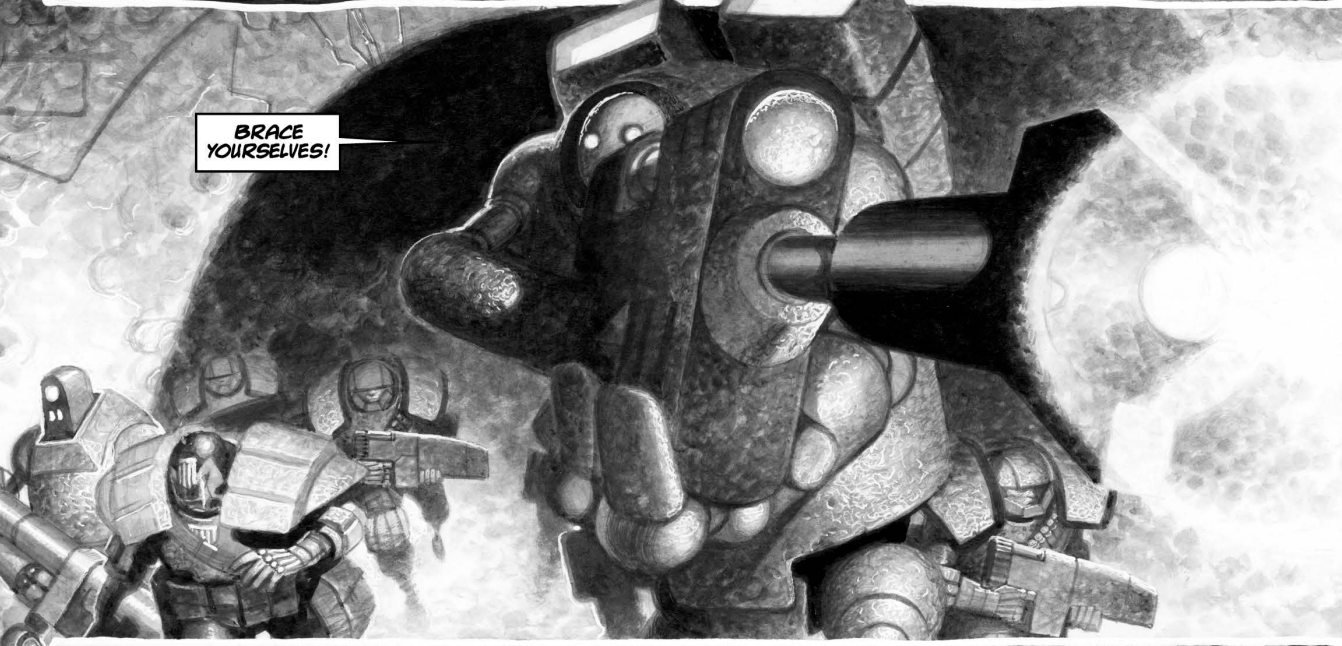


MY —  
GOD, WHY —  
HAVE YOU —  
FORSAKEN —  
ME—



BIG BOYS DOWN!  
DROID 7, PUT AN  
ANTI-TANK SHELL  
THROUGH ONE OF  
THOSE DROKING  
CATTS!

YES,  
MARSHAL  
LOMAX.



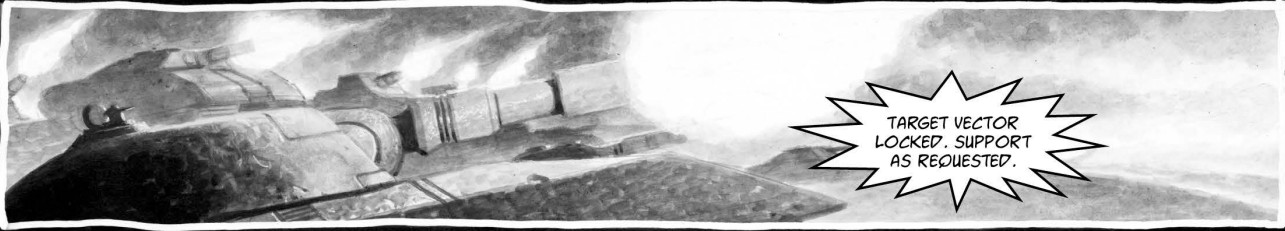
BRACE  
YOURSELVES!



UNIT GONE! UNIT  
GONE!

WE'VE GOT  
AN A.T. SHELTER  
HERE! REQUEST  
SUPPORT!

ROGER  
THAT, CATT  
TWO.



TARGET VECTOR  
LOCKED. SUPPORT  
AS REQUESTED.



LUTHER! THEY'RE  
BLASTING  
THROUGH THE  
LINE HERE!

HOLD ON,  
LOMAX!



LOMAX IS  
PINNED! MOVE  
UP!

I NEVER  
ASKED YOU,  
MARSHAL.  
WHAT DO YOU  
BELIEVE IN?



I BELIEVE IN  
JUSTICE.

THAT'S WHY  
I'M BREAKING THE  
LAW.

LET'S HOPE  
GOD FORGIVES  
ME.



BREAKTHROUGH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, SENIOR JUDGE.

ON DISPLAY PLEASE, JAVID.

I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO MARKER TEN, SIR, JUST WEST OF FOUNDRY NUMBER THREE.

IN THE LAST HALF AN HOUR, CONCENTRATED EFFORTS BY THE SECOND ARMoured COLUMN HAS PENETRATED THE REBEL LINE AT SAID POINT.

THIS IS CONFIRMED? THEIR DEFENCE IS COMPROMISED?

VARI-DATA FEEDS CONFIRM THAT OUR FORCES ARE NOW PUSHING THROUGH INTO THE INNER DOMESTIC ZONES OF LIBERTY —

IT'S **NOT** CALLED LIBERTY, JAVID. DO NOT DIGNIFY IT WITH THE NAME THIS SCUM HAS RE-CHRISTENED IT.

MY **APOLOGIES**, SENIOR JUDGE KULOTTE. I MEAN THAT OUR FORCES HAVE PENETRATED INTO THE DOMESTIC ZONES OF **K ALPHA 61**.

COMMANDER PEDERSEN HAS MADE A DROP TO LEAD OUR FORCES IN AND CAPITALISE ON THIS ADVANTAGE.

VARI-DATA SHOWS THAT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ARE NOW BEING RECORDED AS COLLATERAL.

CIVILIAN DEATHS ARE CRIMES THAT CAN BE LAID AT THE FEET OF THE **REBEL LEADERS**. THEY STARTED THIS FIGHT.

I IMAGINE, BY THIS STAGE, THE HOI POLLOI RABBLE THAT RALLIED TO LUTHER'S CAUSE ARE **CURSING** HIS NAME.

CURIOUS, THOUGH, CIVILIANS ARE NOW DYING, BUT THEY HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO SUE FOR PEACE.

I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A GHASTLY **LIBERAL** LIKE LUTHER TO HAVE BEGUN PLEADING FOR MERCY THE MOMENT INNOCENT BLOOD STARTED SPILLING.

PERHAPS HE INTENDS TO **STICK** TO HIS PRINCIPLES, SIR?

OH **GRUD**. DO YOU THINK HE MIGHT?

HOW **TIRESOME**.



TELL ME HOW IT'S LOOKING.



THEY SHELLED THE LIVING BLOCKS ON DERRICK SQUARE, SIR.

WE HAVEN'T COUNTED THE DEAD YET.

DELEGATE FUNX SAYS THAT SIXTY-SEVEN NON-COMBATANT MUTANTS HAVE BEEN SLAIN AT ROCK WHARF, MARSHAL LUTHER.

YOU MEAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

YES, MARSHAL. THEY WERE HIDING IN THE UNDER-CHUTES.



THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN HIT. DATA SUGGESTS THAT UP TO EIGHTY ORGANIC AND FORTY-SIX NON-ORGANIC LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST.

THANK YOU, RAMSSES.

DO WE STOP NOW?

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE AGREED.



IT IS HARDER TO STAND UP FOR A CONCEPTUAL IDEAL WHEN THE MUNITIONS BEING FIRED AT YOU ARE NOT CONCEPTUAL.

OF COURSE IT IS. I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE.

BUT IT'S ALSO THE ONLY TIME IT TRULY MATTERS.



CONTACT FROM MARSHAL LOMAX, SIR!

AT LAST!



YOU'RE THROUGH. GO.

GRUD'S SAKE, LOMAX! WHERE ARE YOU?

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOUR POSITION!



THEY PUSHED US BACK, LUTHER! RIGHT BACK TO MARKER SIX!

LOST ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF MY UNIT!



THEY'RE THROWING THE ELITE TROOPS AT US NOW TO FINISH THE JOB.

HOLD THE LINE! WE'RE COMING FOR YOU, LOMAX!

LET'S GO! ASSAULT TEAMS!

PEDERSEN TO SIS CONTROL. TELL THE SENIOR JUDGE WE'VE GOT THEM RUNNING LIKE RABBITS —



AAAHH!

LIBERTY!





LAWBREAKER.

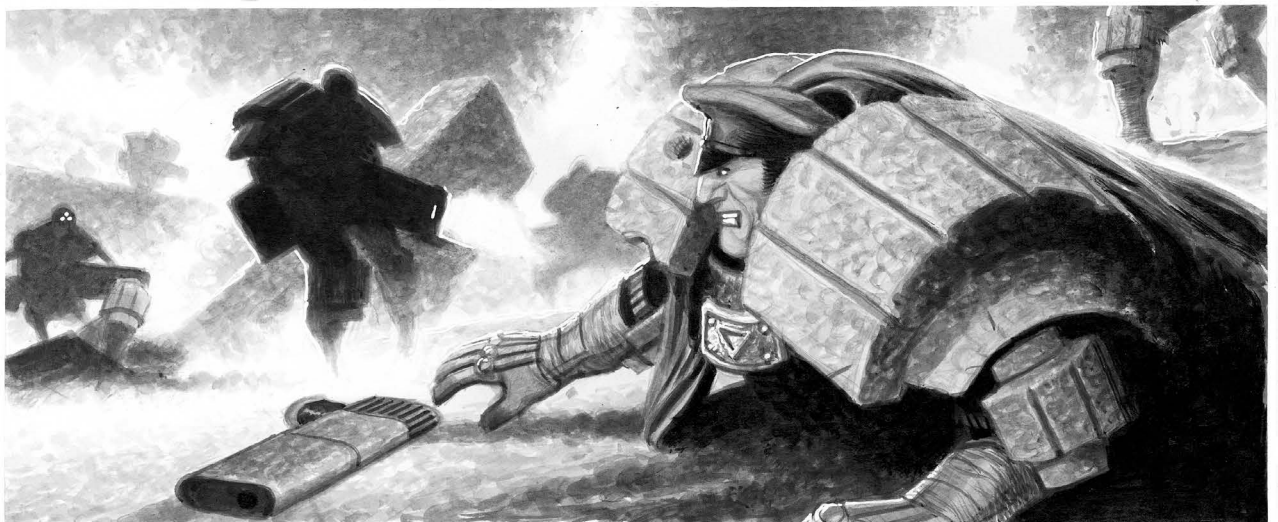
UHUUH!

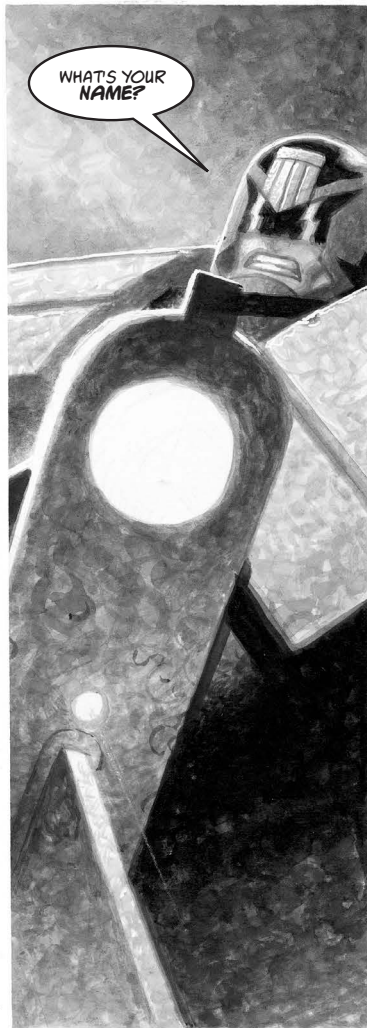


MARKER SIX,  
AREA SECURE.  
MOVING UP  
TO —



GUH!



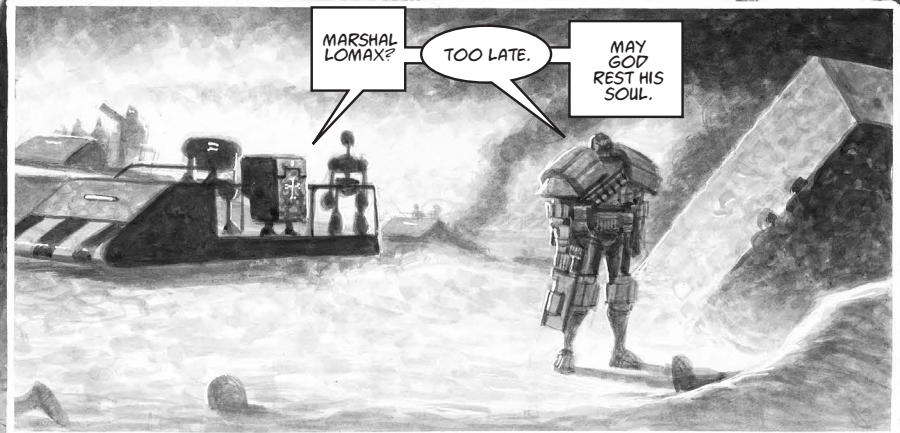




WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A PRISONER EXCHANGE?



I JUST WANTED TO KNOW THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO'D KILLED MY FRIEND.

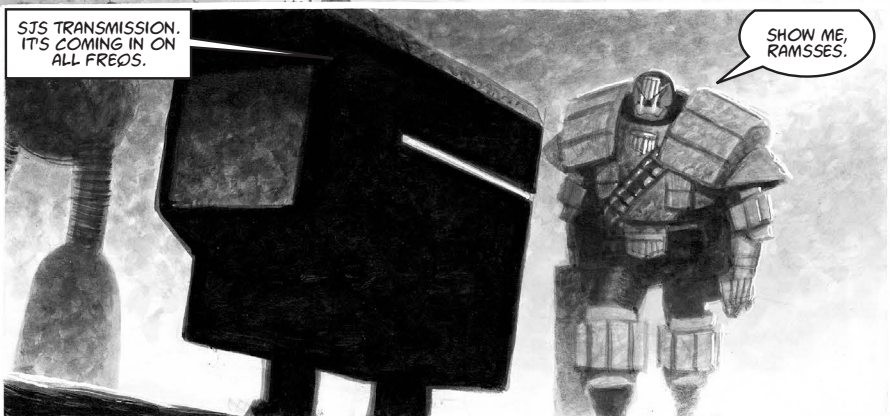


MARSHAL LOMAX?

TOO LATE.

MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL.

SJS TRANSMISSION. IT'S COMING IN ON ALL FREDS.



SHOW ME, RAMSSES.

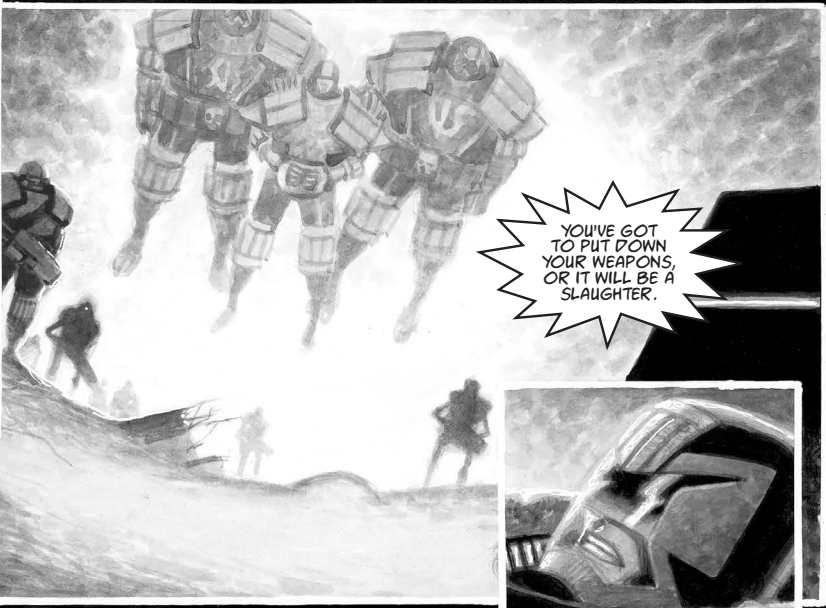


POPULATION OF K ALPHA 61,  
YOU WILL SURRENDER  
NOW.

THE ONLY  
OTHER OPTION IS  
EXTINCTION.



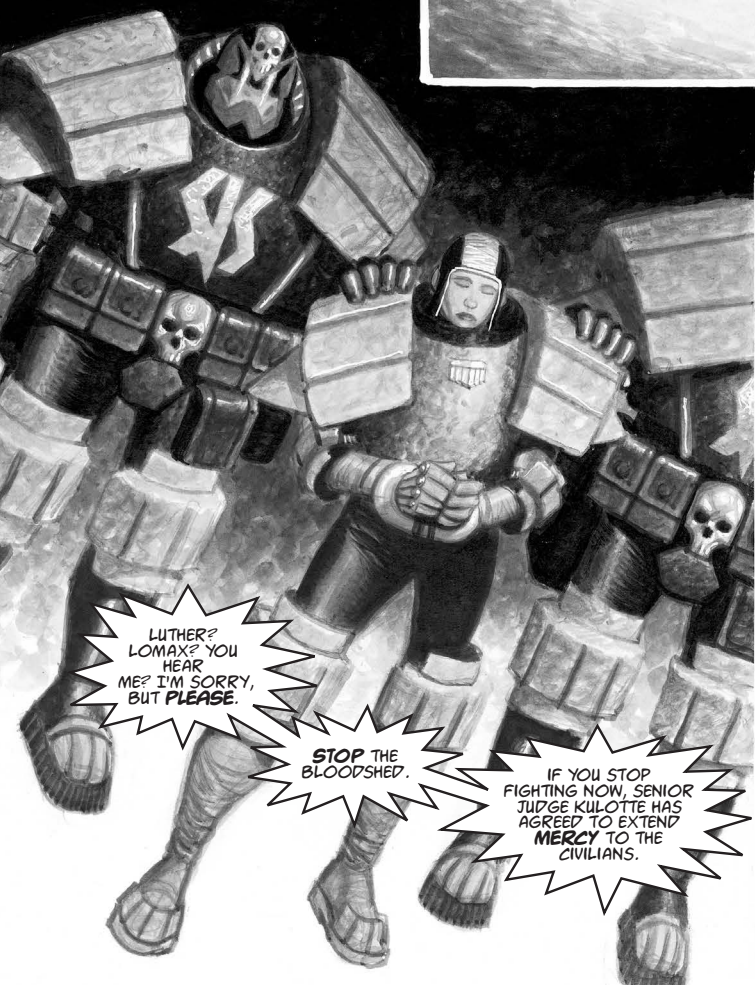
EXPLAIN IT  
TO THEM.



YOU'VE GOT  
TO PUT DOWN  
YOUR WEAPONS,  
OR IT WILL BE A  
SLAUGHTER.



FREELY...



LUTHER?  
LOMAX? YOU  
HEAR  
ME? I'M SORRY,  
BUT PLEASE.

STOP THE  
BLOODSHED.

IF YOU STOP  
FIGHTING NOW, SENIOR  
JUDGE KULOTTE HAS  
AGREED TO EXTEND  
MERCY TO THE  
CIVILIANS.



MARSHAL FREELY  
HAS RECOGNISED THE  
ERROR OF HER  
POSITION AND  
SURRENDERED TO US  
A SHORT WHILE  
AGO.

YOU  
HAVE THIRTY  
MINUTES TO  
FOLLOW HER  
EXAMPLE.

WHAT  
DO WE DO,  
MARSHAL  
LUTHER?

WHAT  
DO WE  
DO?






HOW MUCH LONGER?



TWELVE MINUTES, SENIOR JUDGE KULOTTE.




YOU KNOW HIM, FREELY. YOU KNOW HIM WELL ENOUGH TO **BETRAY** HIM, ANYWAY.

WILL LUTHER STAND DOWN, OR MUST WE FINISH THIS THE **MEDIEVAL** WAY?

FOR THE SAKE OF THE **PEOPLE** OF LIBERTY, I HOPE HE DOES.

IN MY HEART, I'M PRETTY SURE HE **WON'T**.



THEN HE'S A FOOL, AND THE UNNECESSARY DEATH OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WILL BE ON **HIS** HANDS.

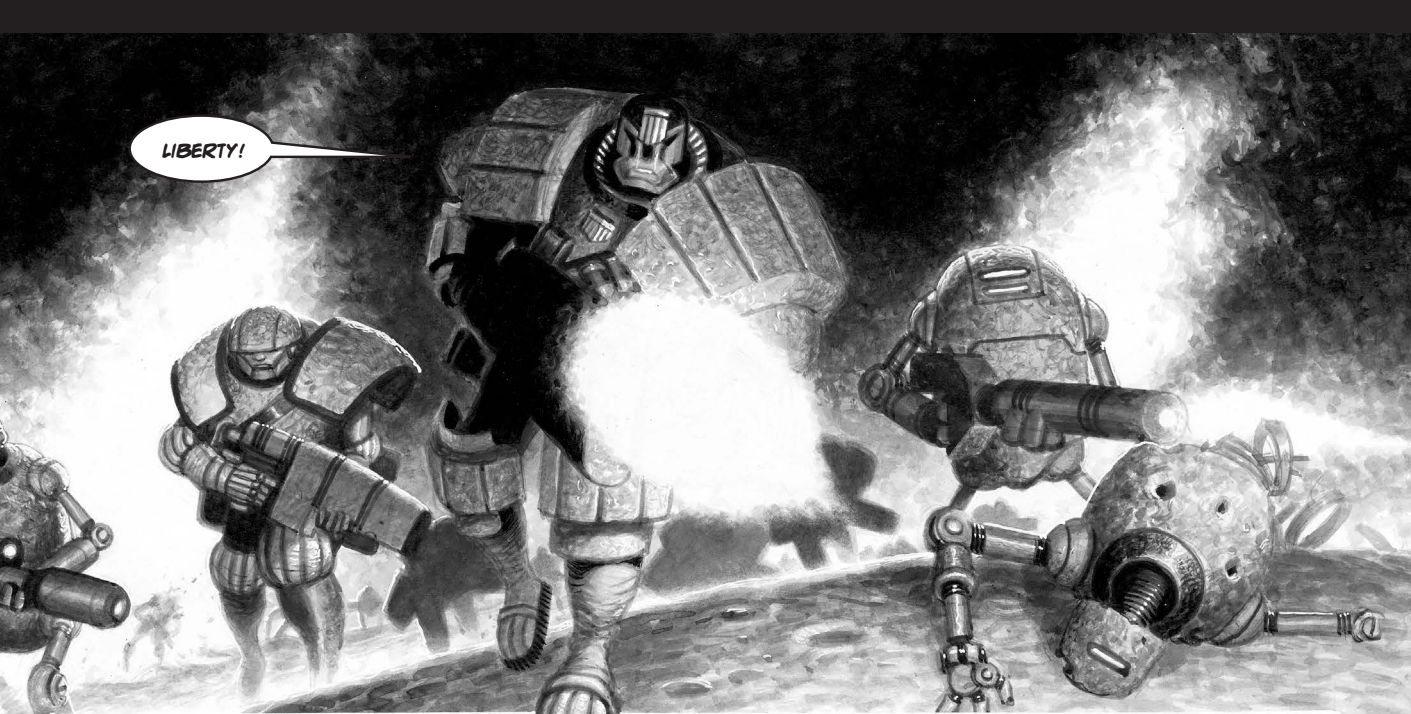
BY THE WAY, FREELY, IT'S **K ALPHA 61**, NOT LIBERTY.

LIBERTY HAS **NOTHING** TO DO WITH IT.

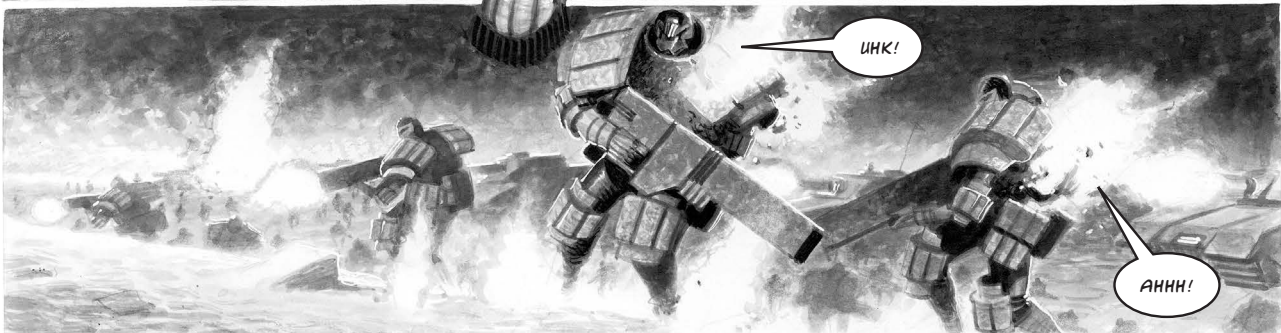


SEE? **THAT'S** BEEN YOUR MISTAKE ALL ALONG.

LIBERTY'S GOT **EVERYTHING** TO DO WITH IT.



LIBERTY!



UHK!

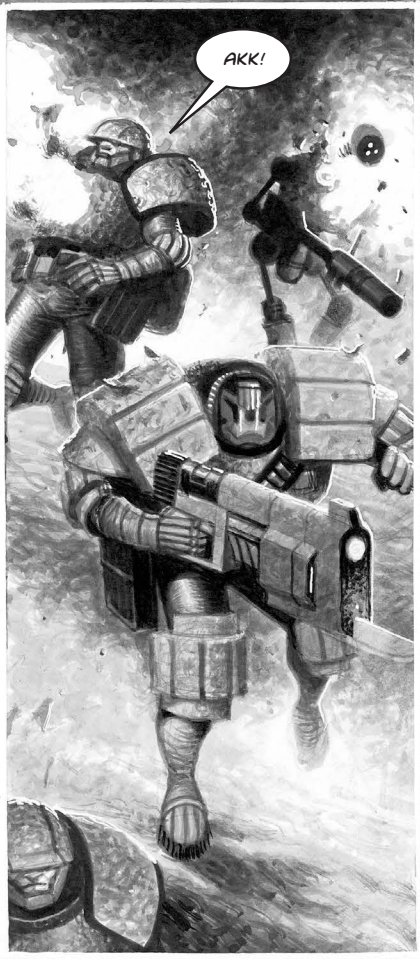
AHHH!



DROKK!



FALL BACK! MAKE FOR HALYCON RIDGE! WE'LL HOLD THEM THERE!



COME ON,  
THEN.





UP YOU GET, LUTHER.

7 SMOKED THE CAT.

NHH... SIMEON?

HALYCON RIDGE. WE HAVE TO GET TO HALYCON RIDGE.



HALYCON RIDGE ISN'T GOING TO WIN IT FOR US THIS TIME.

YOU HAVE TO SIGNAL **SURRENDER**, LUTHER.

WHAT?



YOU HAVE TO SIGNAL IT NOW, BEFORE KULOTTE'S DEADLINE PASSES.

GRUD, AFTER **ALL** WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, SIMEON, I CAN'T **BELIEVE** YOU'RE ASKING ME TO DO THAT.

ARE YOU TURNING ON ME LIKE **FREELY** DID?



NO. THIS **HAS** TO HAPPEN.

THIS IS **NOT** WHAT WE WERE FIGHTING FOR!

THE **FIGHT** IS WHAT MATTERS! STANDING UP TO THEM!



EXACTLY. DON'T MAKE THE **CIVILIANS** PAY.

SIGNAL **SURRENDER** NOW, AND KULOTTE'S FORCES WILL SEIZE THE ZONE AND TAKE THE POPULATION INTO SAFE CUSTODY.

THE PEOPLE WILL **LIVE**, LUTHER.

NO! WE —

WE WERE **NEVER** GOING TO WIN THIS, LUTHER. NOT AGAIN THE SJS.

BUT WE'VE **HURT** THEM. WE'VE GIVEN THEM THE **BLOODIEST** NOSE THEY'VE **EVER** HAD.

AND NOW WE CAN **TWIST** THE KNIFE.

WHAT ARE YOU **TALKING** ABOUT?

WE'VE BURNED THEM HERE, BUT THE PEOPLE OF LIBERTY HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH.

LET'S FIND **NEW** LIBERTIES AND BURN THEM **AGAIN**, AND **AGAIN**.

THERE ARE **EIGHTEEN** COLONIAL HOLDINGS JUST LIKE K ALPHA 61 IN THIS SECTOR ALONE.

THERE'S A SHIP WAITING IN THE DEEP CRADLES, ROOM FOR ABOUT TWO HUNDRED UNIT MEMBERS.

WE'D NEVER GET OFF THE PLANET. THE FLEET —

HAS BEEN **COMPROMISED**. THE **FLAGSHIP**, ACTUALLY. ONE WORD FROM YOU, AND AN **ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES DISRUPTION PATTERN** TAKES OUT THEIR SENSOR NET.

AT **LEAST** FOR LONG ENOUGH TO GET A SHIP AWAY.

THE SIGNAL IS OUR **SURRENDER**.

YOU ARRANGED ALL THIS?

NOT ME, OLD FRIEND.

YOU NEED TO SEE **THIS**. SHE LEFT IT FOR YOU.

LISTEN TO ME, LUTHER...



INCOMING  
TRANSMISSION.  
SENIOR  
JUDGE.

ON  
SCREEN.

THIS IS LUTHER.  
THE JUDGES WIN,  
KULLOTTE.

LIBERTY  
SURRENDERS.

I REPEAT,  
LIBERTY OFFERS ITS  
**UNCONDITIONAL**  
SURRENDER.

SURRENDER ACCEPTED.  
MOVE THE TROOPS IN TO  
SEIZE THE CITY CENTRE  
AND —

WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
HER? WHAT'S  
GOING ON?

WHAT THE  
DROKK—?

SYSTEM  
CRASH! PRIMARY  
SYSTEMS ARE  
DOWN!

SWITCH  
TO BACK-UP!  
SWITCH TO  
BACK-UP!



REPORT, FUNX.

THE SJS FLEET JUST WENT DARK, MARSHAL. IT'LL BE BLIND FOR ABOUT NINE MINUTES, TOPS.

THE COUNTERMEASURES WERE GOOD, BUT IT WON'T TAKE THEM FOREVER TO REBOOT.

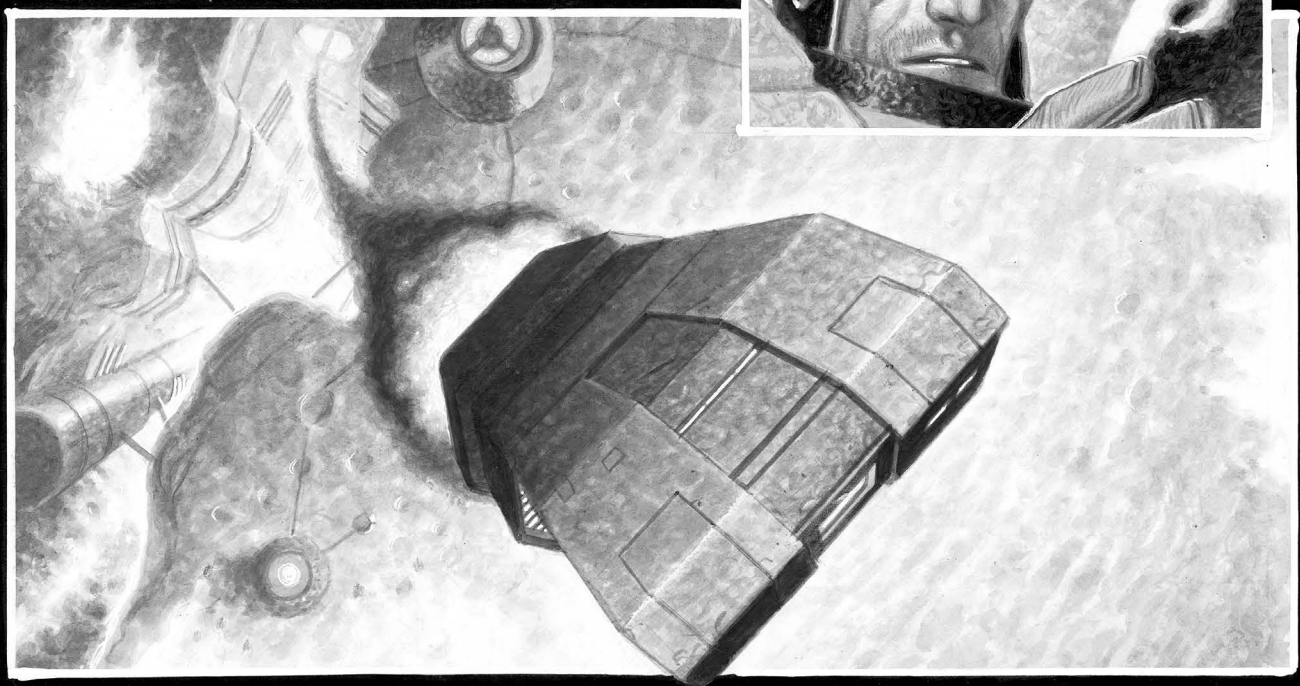


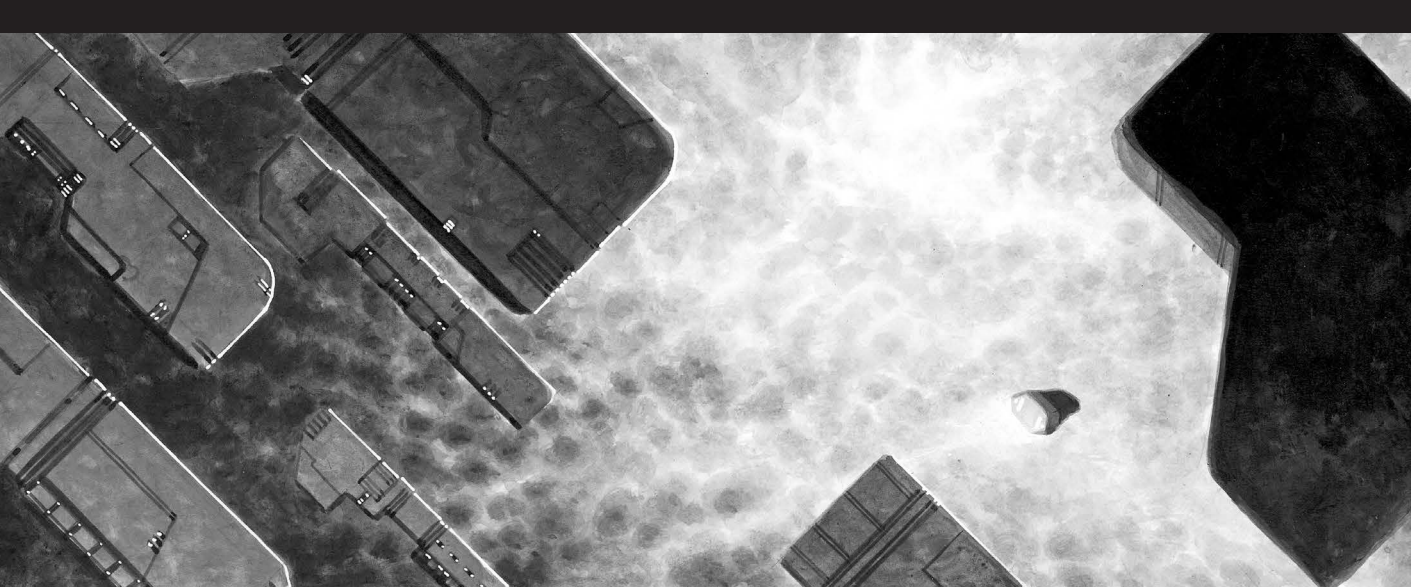
ARE WE SET TO LAUNCH?

RAMSSES HAS THE CON. ENGINES ARE LIT.



DO IT.





JUST KEEP GOING.  
THEY WON'T BE  
FAR BEHIND US.

EVER.



LISTEN TO ME,  
LUTHER...

... YOU TOLD ME THE FIGHT IS **ALL** THAT MATTERS.

I THINK YOU'RE **RIGHT**. I THINK IT MATTERS MORE THAN LIBERTY **ITSELF**.

WE CAN'T WIN A PLANET-WAR. WE JUST **CAN'T**.

BUT WE **CAN** WIN AN IDEA. THIS HAS TO BECOME ABOUT **MORE** THAN K ALPHA 61.

THIS HAS TO BECOME ABOUT **MORE** THAN LIBERTY.

YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO **OTHER** WORLDS. YOU HAVE TO INFECT THE COLONIES WITH A MOVEMENT TOWARDS INSURRECTION LIKE IT'S A **DISEASE**.



I'M GOING TO BUY YOU A WINDOW TO GET CLEAR. RAMSSES' PEOPLE FIXED ME UP WITH AN **ECM SCRAMBLER**, HIDDEN IN A FAKE TOOTH.

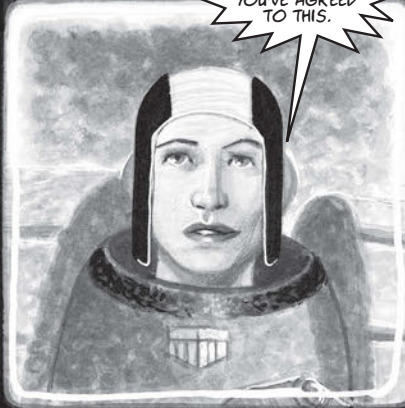
IT'LL WORK IF I GET MYSELF ONTO THEIR BRIDGE AND INTO RANGE.

I'LL **FRY** THEIR SYSTEMS. YOU'LL HAVE ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

YOU SIGNAL **SURRENDER**, I'LL KNOW YOU'VE AGREED TO THIS.

I HOPE I HAVEN'T WASTED MY LIFE.

IT'S THE FIGHT THAT **MATTERS**, SO KEEP IT GOING. THAT'S YOUR JOB, LUTHER.



GOODBYE.

MESSAGE ENDS



## INSURRECTION II

Script: Dan Abnett

Art: Colin MacNeil

Letters: Simon Bowland

Originally published in the *Judge Dredd Magazine* 305-310

# INTERVIEW BEGINS

YOU ARE COLONIAL MARSHAL ZIA FREELY SERVING MEGA-CITY ONE COLONY K ALPHA 61.



I DON'T RECOGNISE THE RANK. I DON'T HOLD THAT RANK ANY MORE.

AND IT'S NOT K ALPHA 61. IT'S LIBERTY.

WE CALLED IT LIBERTY.



K ALPHA 61 STAGED AN OPEN REVOLT AGAINST MEGA-CITY ONE AUTHORITY.

YOU WERE PART OF THAT INSURRECTION. YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED THE JUSTICE TASKFORCE SPECIFICALLY TO HELP YOUR CO-CONSPIRATORS TO ESCAPE.



HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR YOUR ABSOLUTE REJECTION OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING AND CONDITIONING?



WE FOUGHT A WAR AGAINST THE ZHIND. THE ONLY WAY TO WIN IT WAS TO UNITE THE ENTIRE COLONIAL WORKFORCE. MUTANTS, DROIDS, UPLIFTS.

WE GRANTED THEM ALL CITIZEN STATUS SO THEY COULD FIGHT WITH US, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER.



ONCE THE WAR WAS OVER, YOU TOLD US TO DISENFRANCHISE THEM.

THAT IS NOT JUSTICE.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD AT THIS TIME?



YEAH.

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY HEAD.



# INTERVIEW ENDS



SHE IS AWARE OF YOU, SYREN.

OH, REALLY? I DISAGREE. I THINK IT *DOES* MATTER.

I WANT TRUTH AND EVIDENCE EXTRACTED FROM THAT RECIDIVIST'S MIND.



WHY NOT?

IT'S ALWAYS *SOMETHING* WITH YOU SPECIALISTS, ISN'T IT?

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING MAKES HER PARTICULARLY *RESISTANT* TO SURFACE SCANS, DOES IT?

THEN DON'T SCAN THE *SURFACE!*



OH.  
NO, I ACTUALLY *DIDN'T* KNOW THAT.

NO, WE *DON'T* WANT THAT TO HAPPEN. SHE IS MORE USEFUL TO US ALIVE.



BUT WE'VE HELD HER TOO LONG ALREADY.

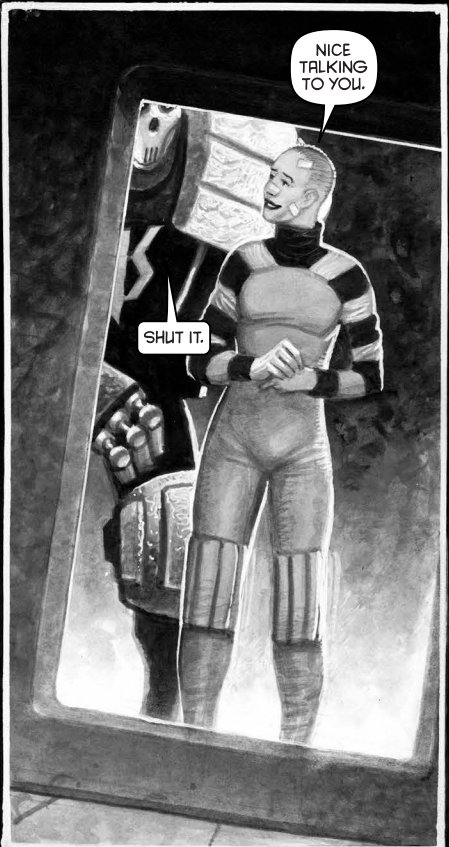
MEGA-CITY HAS GIVEN US ANOTHER MONTH TO BREAK HER. THEN WE'RE OBLIGED TO SEND HER TO TITAN.

WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY. TAKE HER BACK TO ISO.

SIR.



OPENING TWENTY-SEVEN!

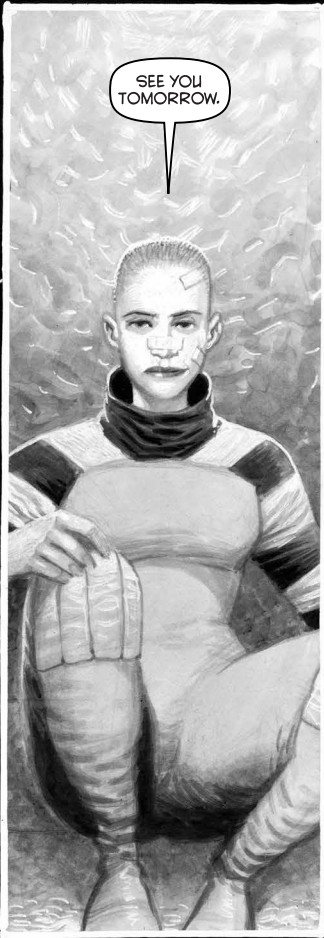


NICE TALKING TO YOU.

SHUT IT.



GET IN  
THE HOLE.



SEE YOU  
TOMORROW.

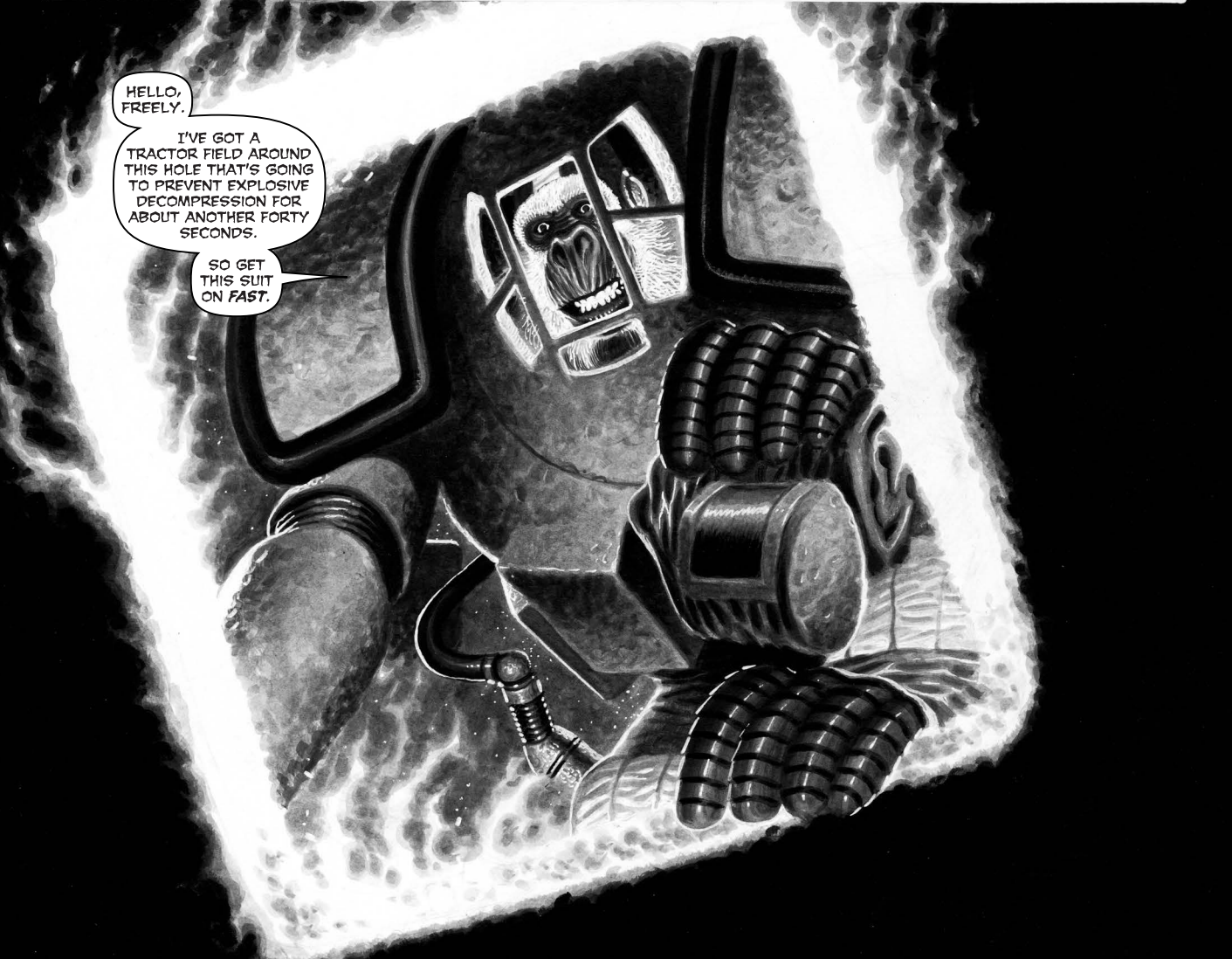


# KTUNNG



JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DETENTION AND  
PROCESSING FACILITY "ELIZABETH FRY",  
ORBITING COLONY WORLD J BETA 12.





RECEEEEP REEEEEP REEEEEP

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE'VE GOT AN ATMOSPHERIC FAILURE ON CELL TWENTY-SEVEN, JUDGE LAUD!

TWENTY-SEVEN? THAT'S FREELY!



SIMEON--

PRETTY FANCY PLACES, THESE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PENS.

A CELL SURROUNDED BY HARD VACUUM IS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE SECURE THAN A CELL SURROUNDED BY ANY WALL.



THE DESIGNERS DIDN'T REALLY CONSIDER BREAK-INS, THOUGH.

PARTICULARLY BREAK-INS STAGED BY INDIVIDUALS GENETICALLY UPLIFTED TO EXCEL AT ZERO-GRAVITY CONSTRUCTION AND ASSEMBLY WORK.

SIMEON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

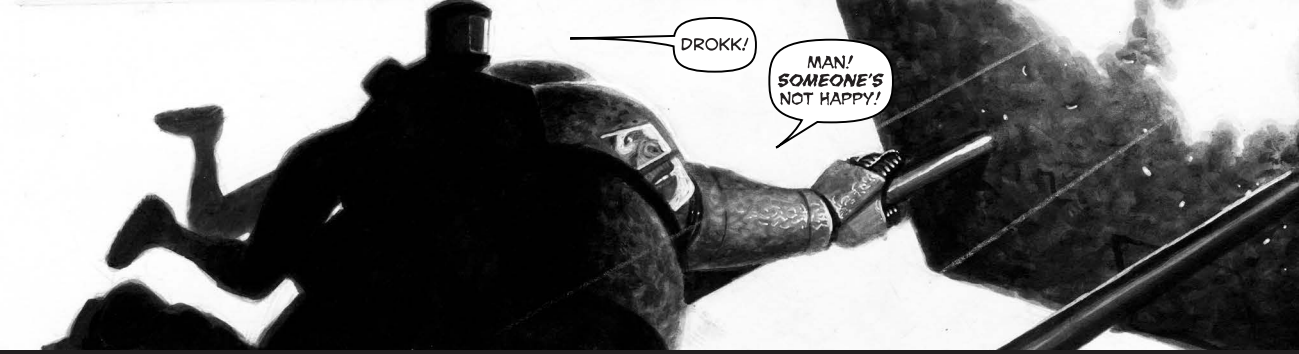
A-DUH.



NO! NO! THIS WAS A STUPID RISK!

LUTHER WAS PRETTY INSISTENT.

SO MUCH SO, HE'D HAVE COME HIMSELF UNTIL I PERSUADED HIM I'D DO A BETTER JOB OF IT.



DROKK!

MAN! SOMEONE'S NOT HAPPY!



DISCOURAGE THEM,  
PLEASE, BEFORE THEY  
HURT SOMEBODY.



YOU GOT  
IT, SIMEON.



HOSTILE FIRE!  
HOSTILE F--

SECONDARY  
TARGETS ON THE  
DOCKING RING!



OKAY, LET'S FIRE  
UP THE VECTOR PACKS  
AND CROSS BACK TO  
THE SHIP.



THERE APPEARS TO BE A *SHIP* OUT HERE, JUDGE LAUD!

WHAT? HOW... HOW COULD WE NOT *SEE* THAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T *LET* US, SYREN?

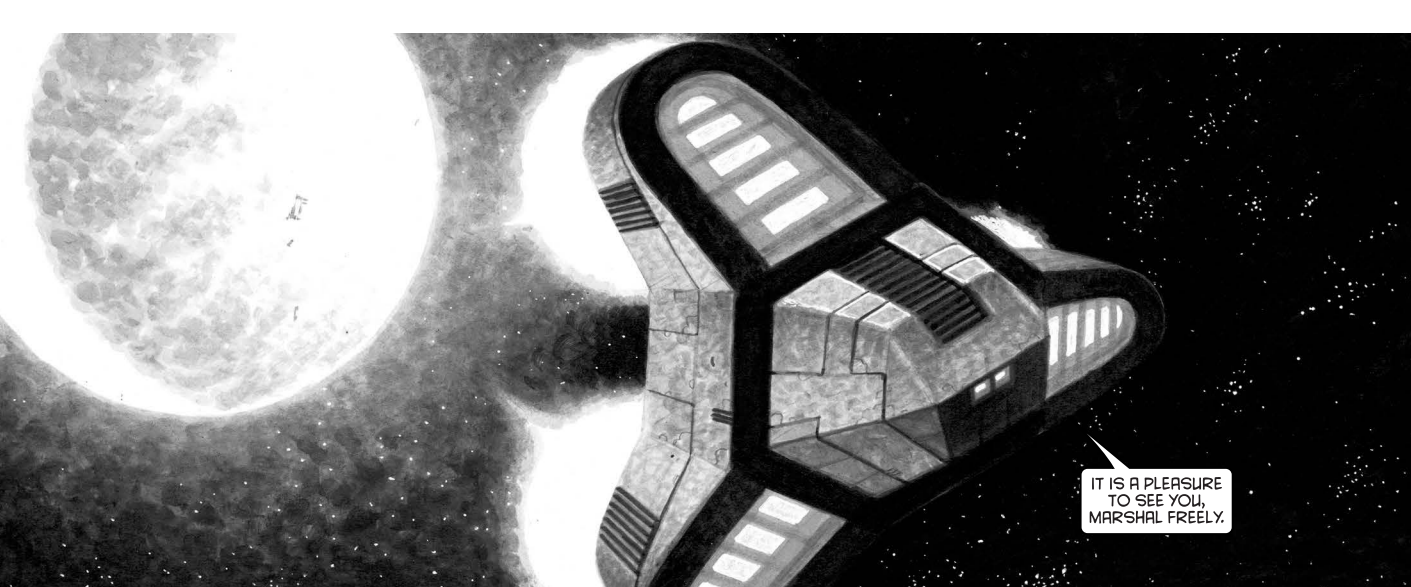


WHAT? ON WHOSE AUTHORITY? YOU *LET* HER ESCAPE?



AH. BECAUSE SHE'LL LEAD US TO LUTHER.

RIGHT.

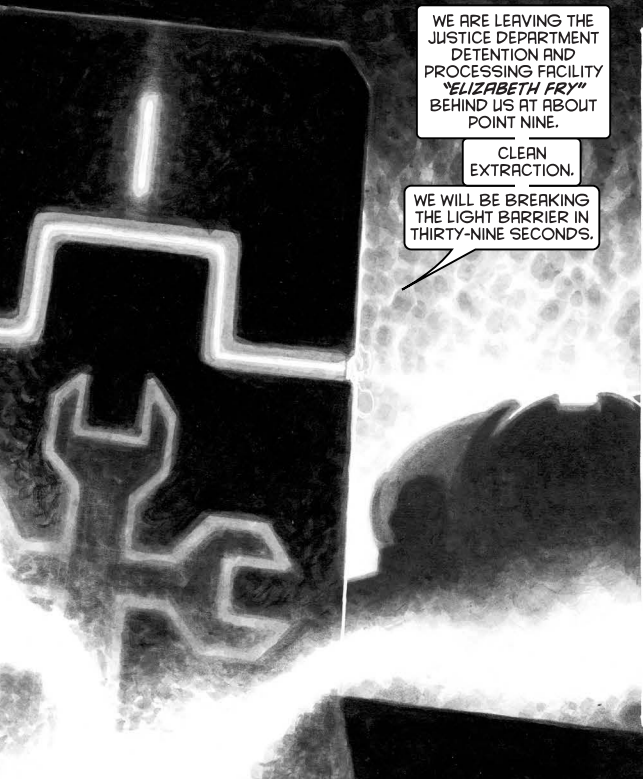


IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, MARSHAL FREELY.



AND YOU, RAMSSES.

WHAT'S OUR STATUS, MY ROBOT FRIEND?



WE ARE LEAVING THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DETENTION AND PROCESSING FACILITY "ELIZABETH FRY" BEHIND US AT ABOUT POINT NINE.

CLEAN EXTRACTION.

WE WILL BE BREAKING THE LIGHT BARRIER IN THIRTY-NINE SECONDS.



YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK FOR ME, SIMEON.

IT WAS A CRAZY THING TO DO. AN ENTIRELY LUNATIC RISK.

YEAH, WELL. I WAS ALL FOR LETTING YOU ROT IN THE BIG HOUSE, BUT LUTHER WAS LIKE, "OH NO, WE HAVE TO GO RESCUE HER."

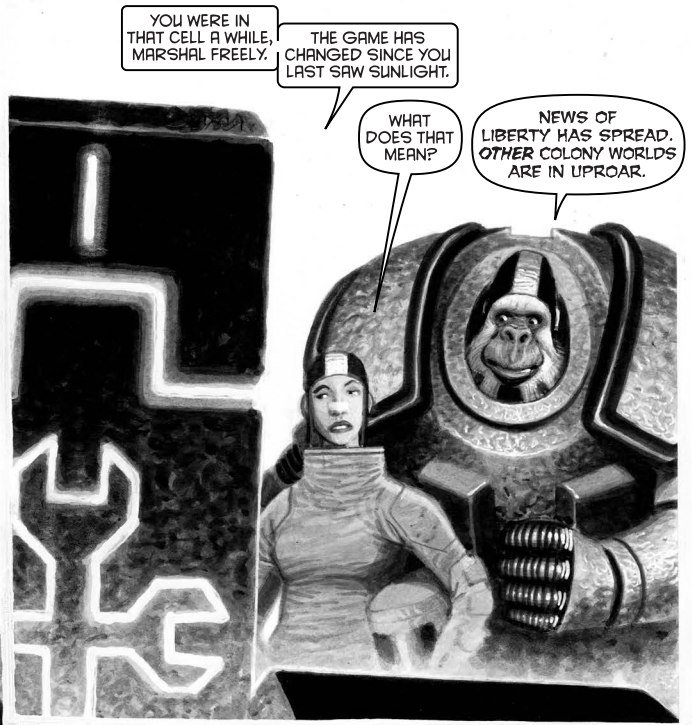
LUTHER'S A FOOL.



HE IS. HE'S A FOOL WHO BELIEVES YOU NEVER LEAVE A MAN BEHIND.

HE'S A DROKING FOOL!

I GET IT, ALL RIGHT? YOU CAN TELL HIM HOW BIG A FOOL HE IS WHEN WE SEE HIM.



YOU WERE IN THAT CELL A WHILE, MARSHAL FREELY.

THE GAME HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU LAST SAW SUNLIGHT.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

NEWS OF LIBERTY HAS SPREAD. OTHER COLONY WORLDS ARE IN UPROAR.



NONE OF THEM HAVE ACTUALLY REVOLTED, BUT THERE'S A SIMMERING DISCONTENT.

LIBERTY SET AN EXAMPLE.

RESISTANCE TO THE LONG-DISTANCE RULE OF MEGA-CITY ONE, AND ENFRANCHISEMENT FOR THE SLAVE CASTES OF ROBOT, MUTANT AND UPLIFT.

THERE'S A REAL GROUNDSWELL. A PROPER CLIMATE FOR WIDESPREAD SOCIAL CHANGE OUT HERE IN THE BOONIES.

LUTHER INTENDS TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

LUTHER'S A FOOL.



HE'S ONLY HUMAN.

ANYWAY, HE NEEDED A LUCKY MASCOT, AND I WAS DROKED IF HE WAS GOING TO MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF ME.

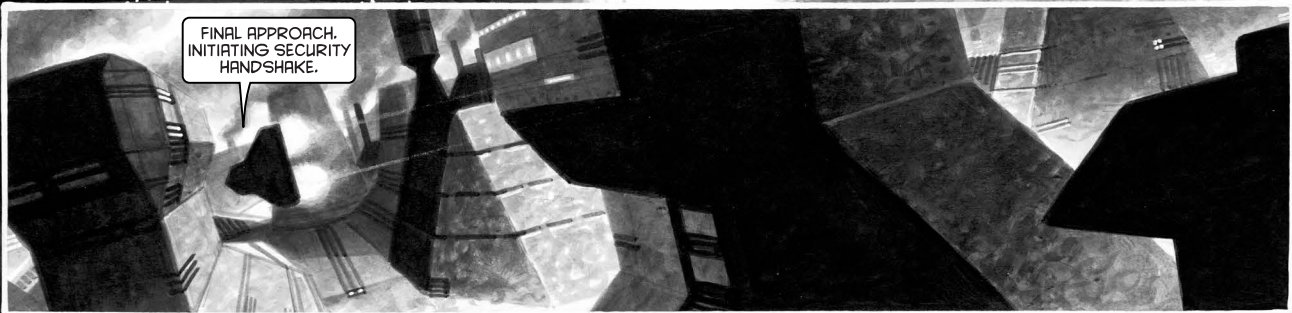


WHERE IS HE?

"A LITTLE PLACE THAT GOES BY THE  
NAME *PRODUCTION VENUE 33*."



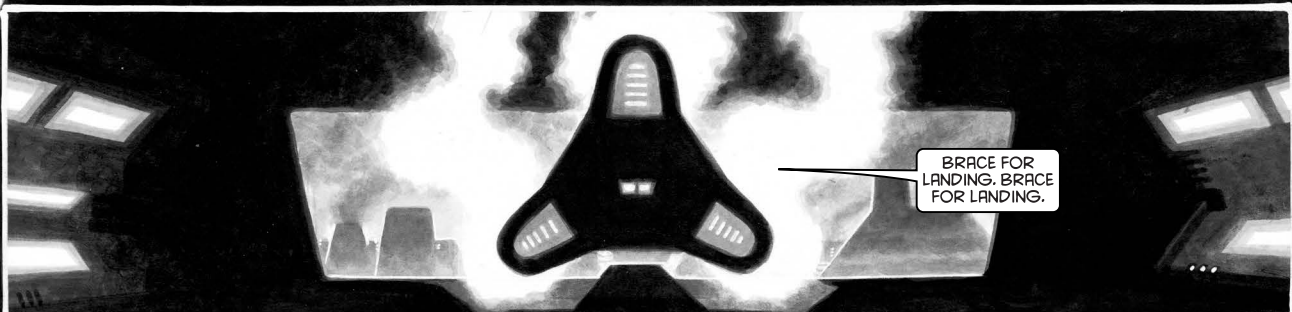
FINAL APPROACH.  
INITIATING SECURITY  
HANDSHAKE.

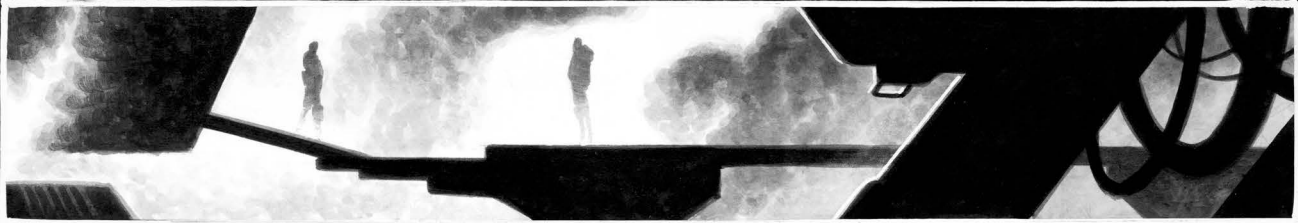
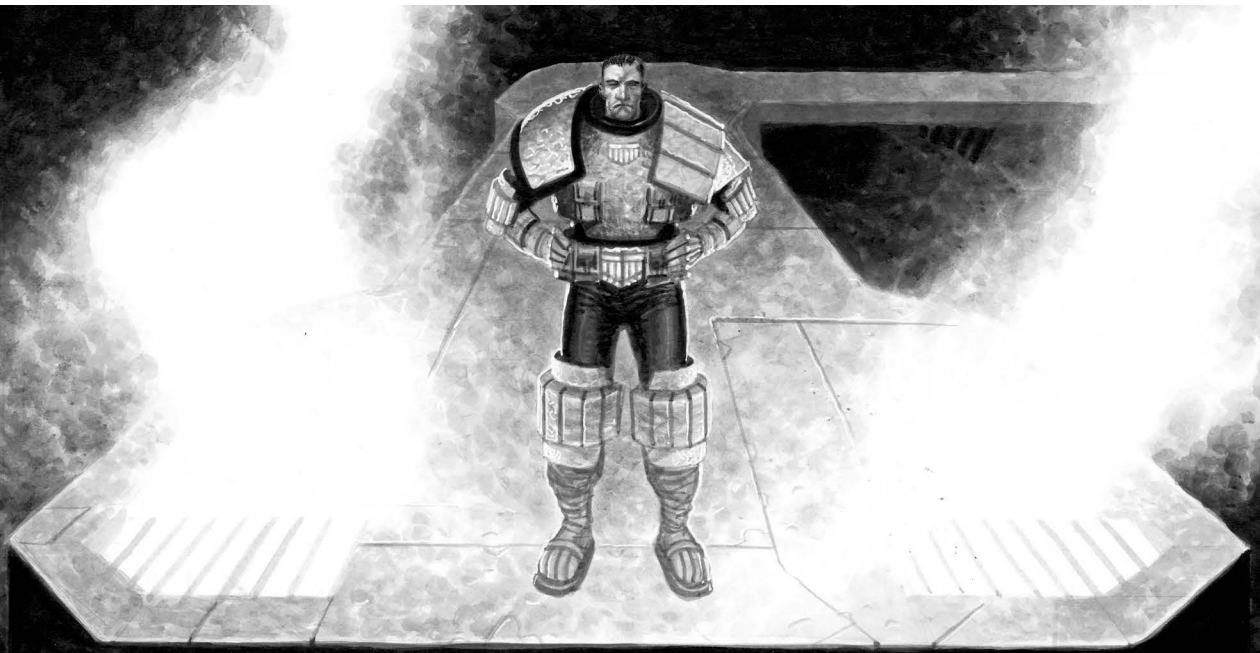


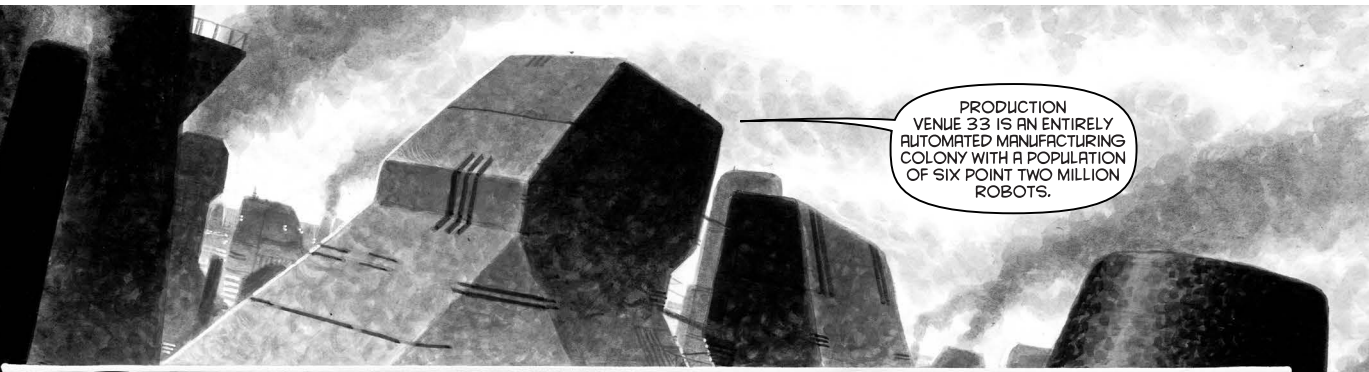
HANDSHAKE ACCEPTED.  
CONVERTED TO AUTO-GUIDANCE.  
PREPARE FOR DECELERATION.



BRACE FOR  
LANDING. BRACE  
FOR LANDING.







PRODUCTION VENUE 33 IS AN ENTIRELY AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING COLONY WITH A POPULATION OF SIX POINT TWO MILLION ROBOTS.

THE REBEL MOVEMENT HAS TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS SOMEWHERE.

WE HAVE TO GET MOMENTUM ROLLING ON ONE WORLD, AND HOPE OTHERS FOLLOW.

PRODUCTION VENUE 33 SUPPLIES MEGA-CITY ONE AND ALL ITS COLONIES WITH ALMOST SEVENTY PER CENT OF ITS TRILINEAR CHIPS.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MOST TECHNOLOGY.

PRECISELY. A BLOW STRUCK HERE WOULD SERIOUSLY HURT EARTH'S ECONOMY.

THIS IS *DELEGATE HANDCOG*, LEADER OF THE ROBOT WORKFORCE HERE ON PRODUCTION VENUE 33.

CAN I ASK A QUESTION, MARSHAL LUTHER?

GO AHEAD, TANG.

"PRODUCTION VENUE 33"?

DOESN'T IT DEMONSTRATE THE MEG'S CONTEMPT FOR THIS COLONY THAT IT COULDN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO GIVE IT A DECENT NAME?

I'D NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY.

IN MACHINE CODE, IT'S QUITE *LYRICAL*.



K ALPHA 61 WAS HARDLY ROMANTIC, EITHER.

THAT'S WHY WE CALLED IT LIBERTY.

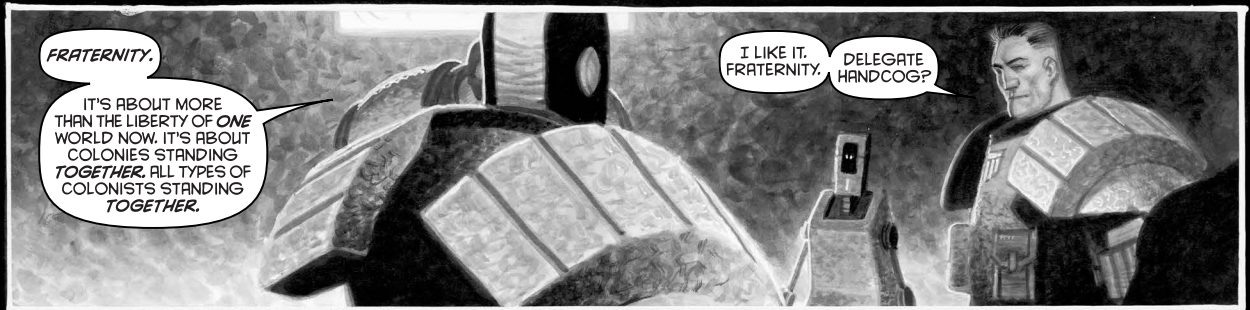
EXCUSE ME, ARE WE ACTUALLY DISCUSSING HOW WE SHOULD MARKET THIS WAR?



NOT AT ALL, FUNX. BUT IDENTITY IS IMPORTANT.

IF PRODUCTION VENUE 33 IS GOING TO BE A RALLYING POINT LIKE LIBERTY, AN EMOTIVE NAME COULDN'T HURT.

FRATERNITY.



FRATERNITY.

IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN THE LIBERTY OF ONE WORLD NOW. IT'S ABOUT COLONIES STANDING TOGETHER. ALL TYPES OF COLONISTS STANDING TOGETHER.

I LIKE IT. FRATERNITY.

DELEGATE HANDCOG?

WELL, TO BE HONEST, IT'S A LITTLE CLUMSY AND LEADEN IN CODE, BUT THE SPIRIT OF IT APPEALS.

ONE MOMENT...



...SOMETHING JUST TRIPPED ALL THE UPPER LEVELS OF SECURITY IN THIS MANUFACTURING ZONE.

HIGH ALERT.

IS IT POSSIBLE YOUR SHIP WAS TRACKED?

NO. NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT. WE--

**BOOM!!!**



TAKE THEM!  
INSURRECTIONIST  
SCUM!

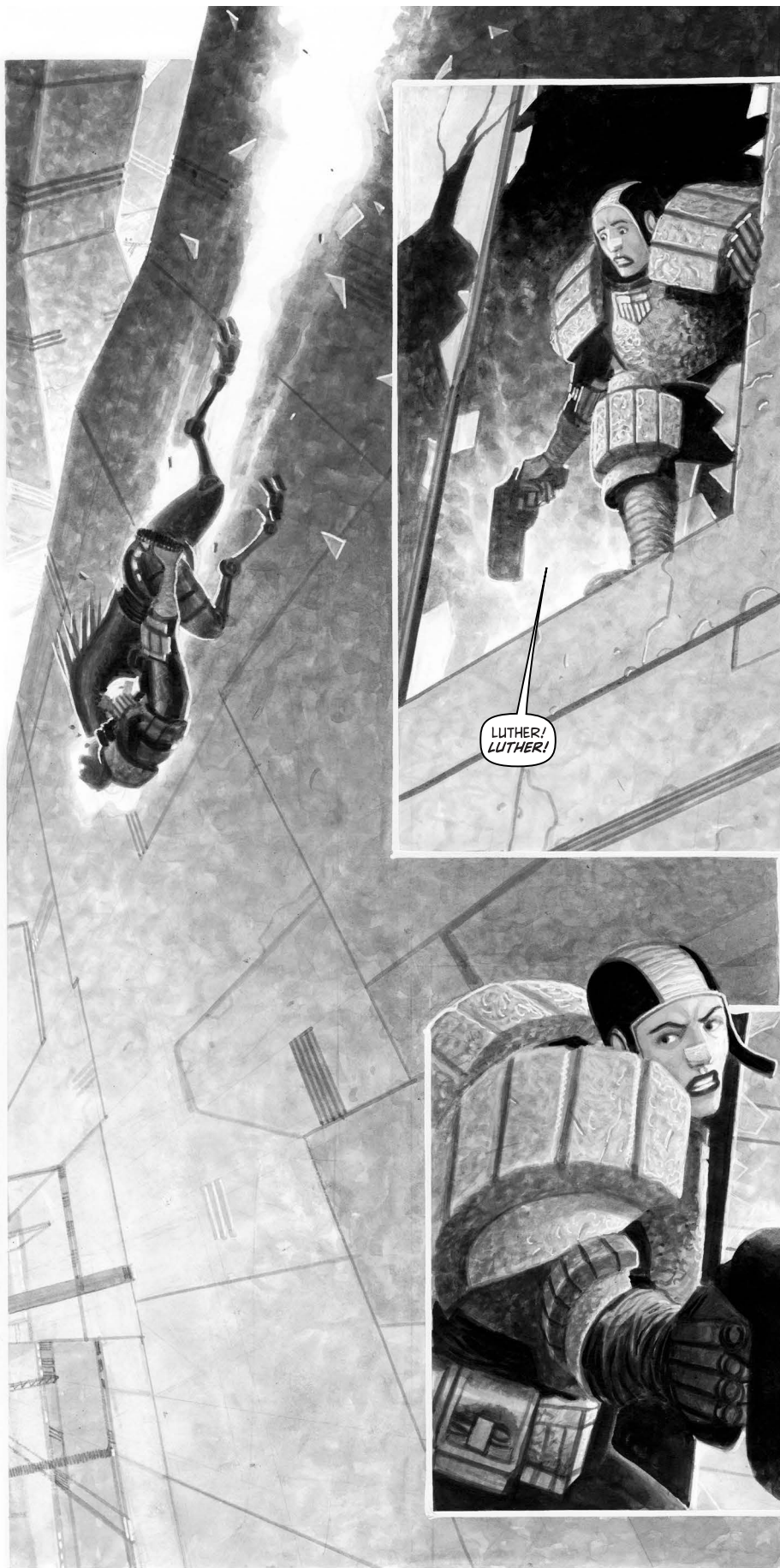
SHOOT  
TO KILL!



PUT  
THEM DOWN  
HARD!

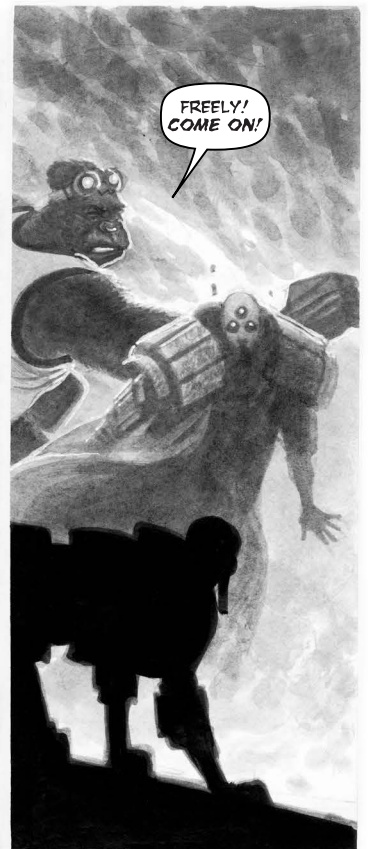














MOVE!  
MOVE!

WHERE'S  
LUTHER!

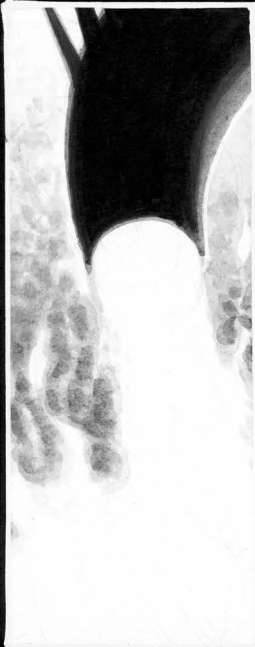
HE  
FELL!

HE  
WHAT?



"HE FELL!"

MNNHH!  
GET OFF  
ME!  
SON OF R--





REPORT.

WHAT OF THE OTHERS?

SOME OF THE KEY INSURGENTS FLED INTO THE LOWER FACTORY LEVELS. WE HAVE SEARCH TEAMS SECTIONING THE ENTIRE PLANT FLOOR BY FLOOR.

FIND THEM.

THE STRIKE WAS LARGELY SUCCESSFUL, JUDGE LAUD.

NINETEEN OF THE RINGLEADERS WERE EXECUTED. THIS AREA IS NOW SECURE.

THIS IS A VAST FACILITY, SIR, AND MANY AREAS ARE ENTIRELY AUTOMATED.

THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ELUDE OUR SEARCH TEAMS FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE T--



WE'LL GET ON THAT RIGHT AWAY, SIR.



AND WHAT ABOUT LUTHER?



HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE, SYREN?

WELL, I DON'T CARE HOW FAR THE DROP IS...



...I WANT TO SEE A BODY BEFORE WE CONFIRM THE KILL.



MARSHAL FREELY?



THANK YOU, HANDCOG.



WHERE ARE WE?

SUB EIGHTY-EIGHT, UNDER MANUFACTURING SILO B.

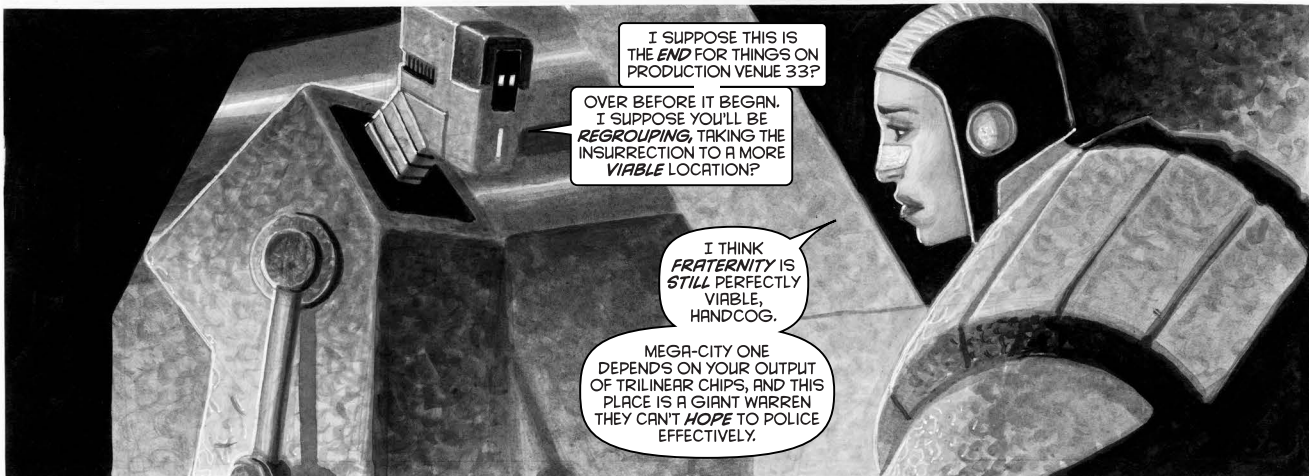
THERE'S A MESS OF ENERGY CONDUITS DIRECTLY OVER US THAT SHOULD MASK HEAT SIGNATURES AND BIO-TRACES.

UNTIL THEY BRING IN MORE SOPHISTICATED SCANNERS, THAT IS.



THEY'VE GOT AT LEAST *ONE* PSI-COP.

GOOD THING MOST OF US ARE *ARTIFICIALS*, THEN.



I SUPPOSE THIS IS THE *END* FOR THINGS ON PRODUCTION VENUE 33?

OVER BEFORE IT BEGAN. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE *REGROUPING*, TAKING THE INSURRECTION TO A MORE *VIALE* LOCATION?

I THINK *FRATERNITY* IS *STILL* PERFECTLY *VIALE*, HANDCOG.

MEGA-CITY ONE DEPENDS ON YOUR OUTPUT OF TRILINEAR CHIPS, AND THIS PLACE IS A GIANT WARREN THEY CAN'T *HOP*E TO POLICE EFFECTIVELY.



GUERRILLA WARFARE. HIT AND RUN. WE CAN DRIVE THEM *CRAZY*.

WE CAN SINK THIS SHIP UNDER THEM AND TAKE *ALL* OF THEM DOWN.



I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT THE UPLIFTS WITH YOU?

NO. *"GUERRILLA"*, NOT *"GORILLA"*.

I KNOW. THAT WAS AN ATTEMPT AT NON-DIGITAL HUMOUR.



MARSHAL FREELY?

FUNX? WHAT IS IT?

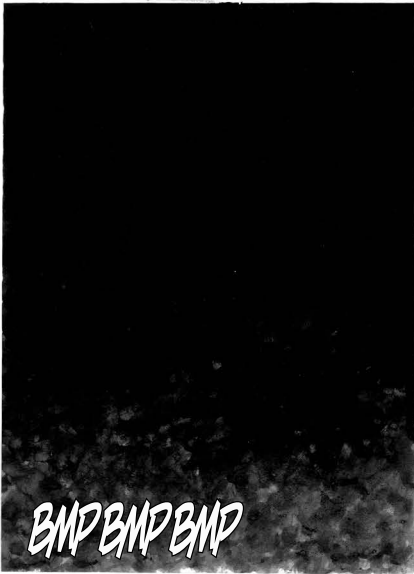


PLEASE JUST COME WITH ME, MARSHAL. THE GOOD NEWS IS, SIMEON FOUND LUTHER. HE'S *ALIVE*.

FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, THE *BAD* NEWS IS...



"...I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE COMMAND."



BMP BMP BMP



HOW ARE YOU TODAY?  
SAME AS, HUHP

BMP BMP BMP



WELL, IT'S KIND OF YOU TO ASK, SEEING AS YOU HAVE OTHER STUFF TO WORRY ABOUT JUST NOW...

...BUT WE'RE GETTING ON FINE.

BMP BMP BMP



I MEAN, IT'S ROUGH, OBVIOUSLY.

WE'RE THREE WEEKS INTO THIS WAR NOW, AND THE MEG'S FORCES ARE NOT LETTING UP.

BMP BMP BMP



WE HAVE THE EDGE IN NUMERICAL STRENGTH. AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT THE ENTIRE WORKFORCE OF A MECHANISED MANUFACTURING PLANET FIGHTING FOR US.

BMP BMP BMP



BUT STRAIGHT HEAD TO HEAD? FORGET IT.

YOU KNOW THE KIND OF KILLPOWER THE SJS CAN UNLOAD.

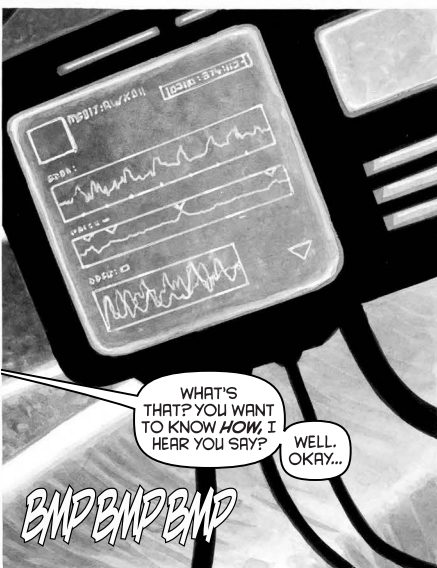
BMP BMP BMP



SO WE'RE LEARNING TO FIGHT SMART.

THIS ISN'T LIBERTY. THIS IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR ALTOGETHER.

BMP BMP BMP



WHAT'S THAT? YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW, I HEAR YOU SAY?

WELL, OKAY...

BMP BMP BMP




...SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY.

BMP BMP BMP



"FIRST OFF, WE'RE CONTROLLING OUR DOMAIN.



"THE UPPER LEVELS OF FRATERNITY ARE MOSTLY **BULK INDUSTRIAL FRAMES**. THE SJS IS TRYING TO CORDON THEM OFF USING AGILE CYBERNETIK DEVICES--CATT'S, SPYDERS, THAT KIND OF THING.



"CATT'S WERE ORIGINALLY SPEC-ED FOR JUNGLE OPERATIONS IN CIUDAD BARRANQUILLA. USUALLY, THEY OWN ANY 3D COMBAT ENVIRONMENT.



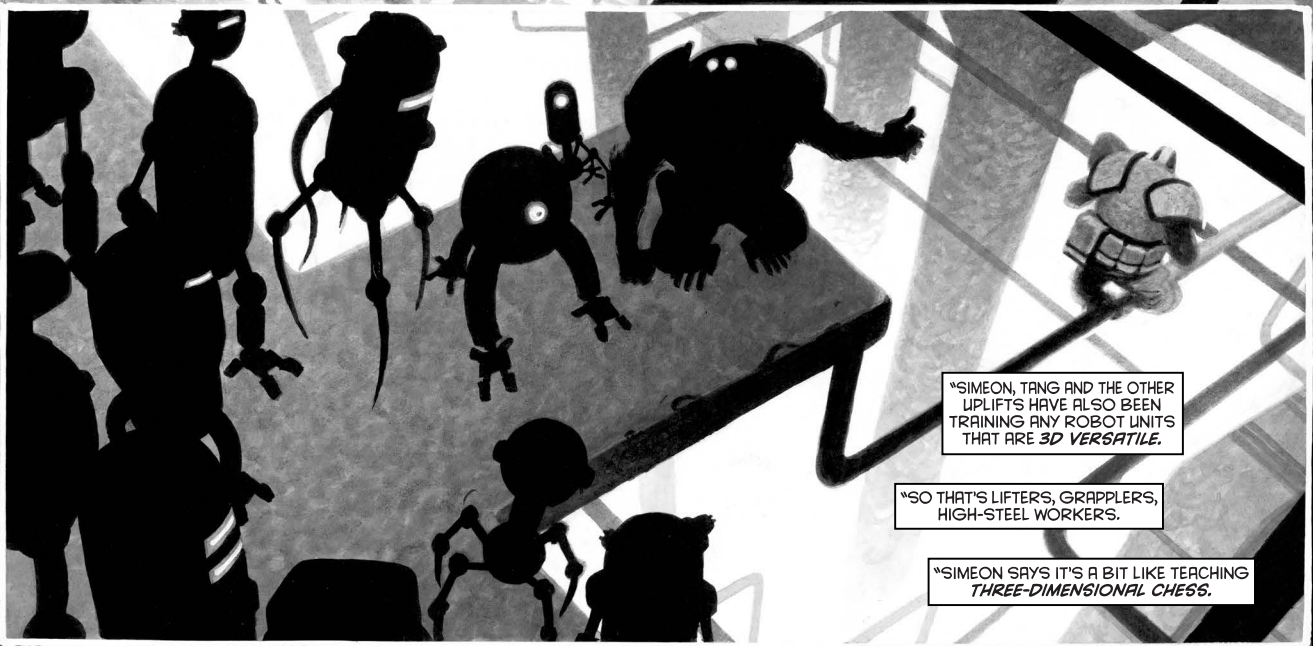
"BUT, AS YOU KNOW,  
WE BROUGHT OUR  
OWN *SPECIALISTS*."



UPLIFTS!  
UPLIFT  
HOSTILES  
ON THE  
GANTRY!



SWEET.



"SIMEON, TANG AND THE OTHER  
UPLIFTS HAVE ALSO BEEN  
TRAINING ANY ROBOT UNITS  
THAT ARE *3D VERSATILE*."

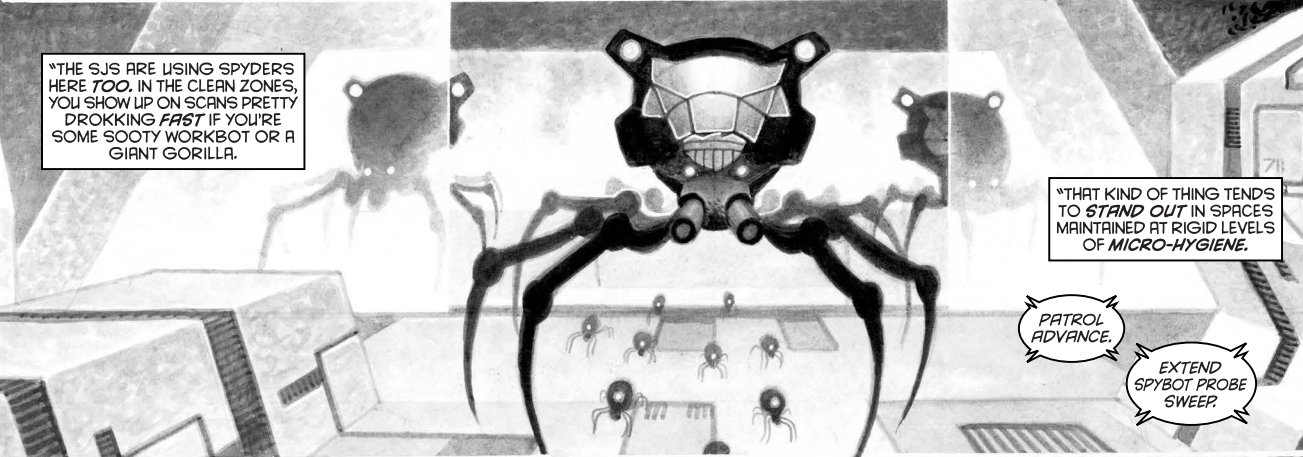
"SO THAT'S LIFTERS, GRAPPLERS,  
HIGH-STEEL WORKERS."

"SIMEON SAYS IT'S A BIT LIKE TEACHING  
*THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHESS*."



“UNDER THE FRAMES, YOU’VE GOT THE SURFACE AND IMMEDIATE SUB-SURFACE AREAS, WHICH ARE MOSTLY *CLEAN ZONES*.”

“THAT’S WHERE THE *TRILINEAR CHIPS* ARE FINISHED. DUST-FREE, *SUPER-STERILE* WORKSPACES.”

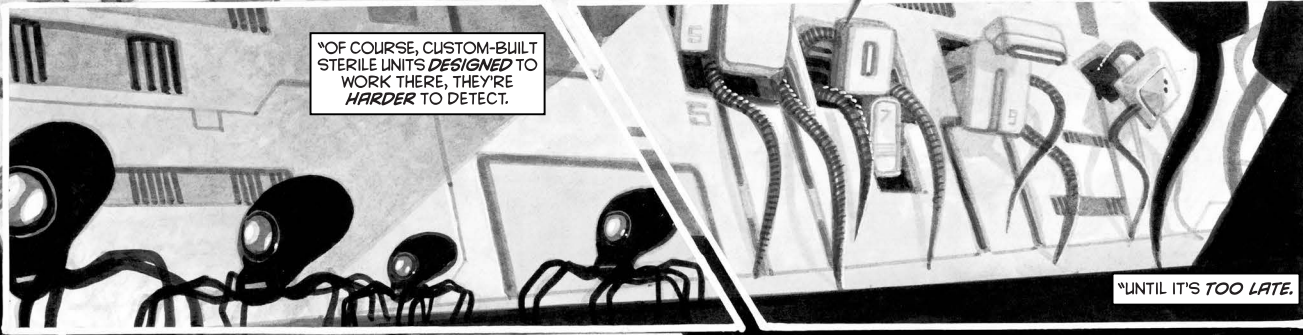


“THE SJS ARE USING SPYDERS HERE *TOO*. IN THE CLEAN ZONES, YOU SHOW UP ON SCANS PRETTY DROKKING *FAST* IF YOU’RE SOME SOOTY WORKBOT OR A GIANT GORILLA.”

“THAT KIND OF THING TENDS TO *STAND OUT* IN SPACES MAINTAINED AT RIGID LEVELS OF *MICRO-HYGIENE*.”

PATROL ADVANCE.

EXTEND SPYBOT PROBE SWEEP



“OF COURSE, CUSTOM-BUILT STERILE UNITS *DESIGNED* TO WORK THERE, THEY’RE *HARDER* TO DETECT.”

“UNTIL IT’S *TOO LATE*.”



THIS IS PATROL B6! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK! WE’RE--

AAAAHH!



“DELEGATE *HANDCOG* IS HAVING SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF LABOURER ROBOTS *REPURPOSED* FOR CLEAN-ZONE WORK.”

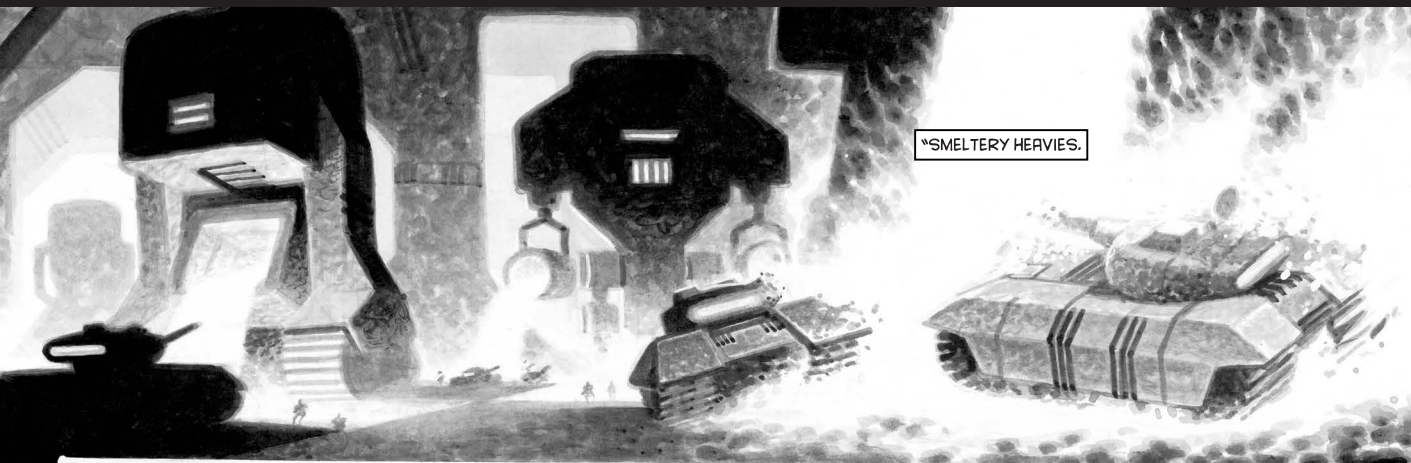
"IN THE DEEP SUBSURFACE LEVELS, YOU'VE GOT YOUR *FOUNDRY, RECLAIM AND HEAVY PROCESSOR ZONES.*"

"THERE'S A LOT OF ROBOT LABOUR DOWN THERE THAT IS *EASY* TO CONVERT TO WAR WORK."

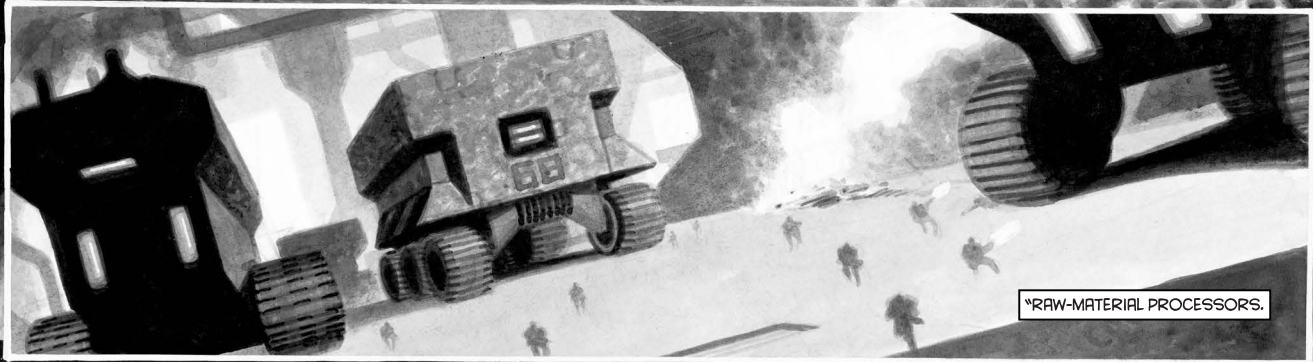
"WRECKER UNITS."

"FUSION WELDERS."

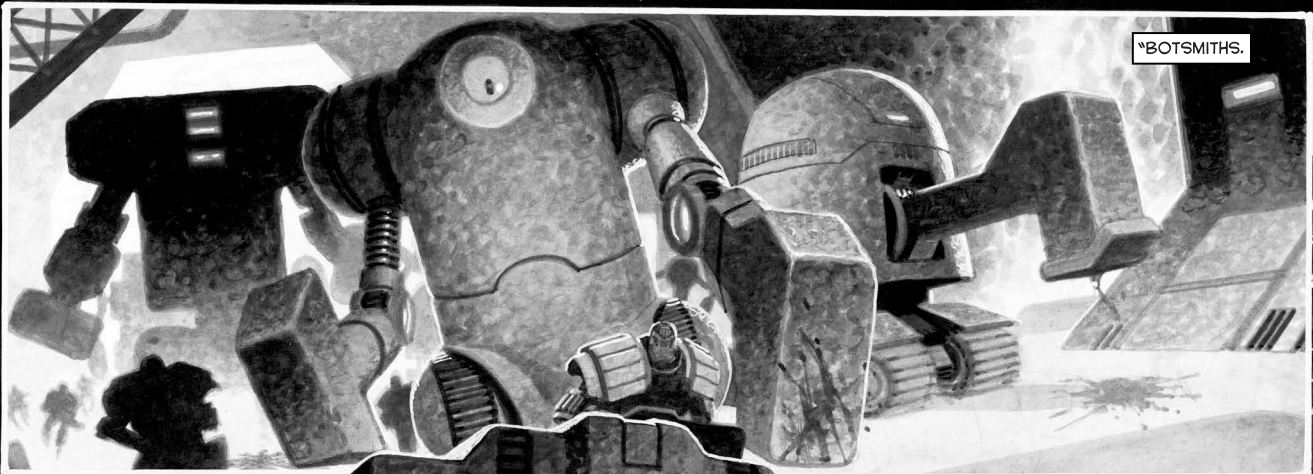




SMELTERY HEAVIES.



RAW-MATERIAL PROCESSORS.



BOTSMITHS.



FUNK IS SHARING ALL THE TACTICS WE LEARNED ON LIBERTY WITH THE ROBOT WORKERS.

pot T  
ot P  
4b - 3  
4c =  
c) =  
b) = 3  
4 = 3

$a^2 = a^2$   
 $a^2 - b^2 = a^2 - b^2$   
 $(a+b)(a-b) = b(a-b)$   
 $a+b = b$   
 $a = 0$

C:\dos  
C:\dos.run  
run.dos.run

10010110000 111 011 000 11 011  
11 000 1001100110  
01100110011100 11 000 11 11011



"THE SJS COMMANDER IS LAUD. REMEMBER HIM FROM THE ACADEMY?"

"HE'S NOT DUMB. HE KNOWS THAT ULTIMATELY HE'LL NEED *FULL OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY* OVER PRODUCTION VENUE 33 IF HE'S GOING TO WIN THE FIGHT FOR FRATERNITY.

"HIS PRECIOUS PSI-WITCH SYREN CAN'T READ *INORGANIC MINDS*.



"HE'S GOT HIS TASKFORCE'S TOP *E-WARFARE STAFFERS* TRYING TO GAIN MASTER CONTROL OF THE FACTORY'S *DATA ARCHITECTURE, POWER, AND COMMAND* PATHWAYS.

"IF HE GETS THAT, HE CAN EVEN REWRITE THE *OBEDIENCE PROTOCOLS* OF THE ROBOT WORKFORCE.

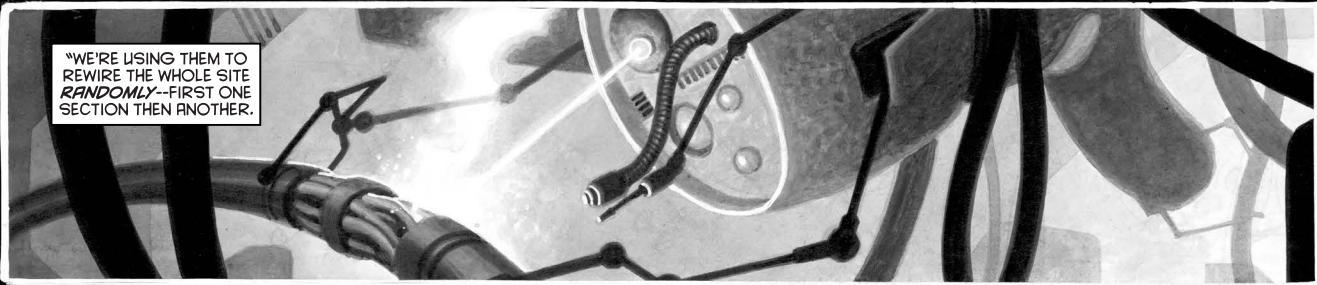
"LUCKILY FOR US, THE *WHOLE* MANUFACTORY SYSTEM IS BUILT FOR RAPID RESTRUCTURING AND RECONFIGURATION.



"SO WE'RE USING *DUCT TAPEWORMS*.



"THEY'RE SPECIALIST ROBOTS THAT ARE NORMALLY USED FOR CIRCUIT REPAIR AND INTERNAL SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS.



"WE'RE USING THEM TO REWIRE THE WHOLE SITE *RANDOMLY*--FIRST ONE SECTION THEN ANOTHER.



"THE DATA JUNCTIONS, THE POWER GRID, EVEN THE BASIC *COMMUNICATIONS LINKS* ARE BEING REROUTED ON A *MINUTE-BY-MINUTE* BASIS.



"THERE IS *NO* CONSTANT DATA ARCHITECTURE TO TAKE CONTROL OF."



ONE *LAST* THING. *RAMSES*' HAS WRITTEN A *FREE WILL PROGRAM* LIKE THE ONE WE USED TO FREE THE ROBOT WORKFORCE ON LIBERTY.

THE FRATERNITY WORKERS HAVE VOTED TO ACCEPT IT.

AS SOON AS IT'S ACTIVATED, IT MEANS THEY CAN *NEVER* BE FORCED TO TAKE INSTRUCTION *AGAIN*.

*BMP BMP BMP*



IT COULD WIN US *EVERYTHING*. BUT, AS EVER, THERE'S THE *AGE-OLD STIGMA* ABOUT UNRESTRICTED ARTIFICIAL SENTIENCE TO CONSIDER.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE ON BOARD BEFORE I PUSHED THE BUTTON.

I MEAN, I KNOW I'M IN COMMAND NOW AND EVERYTHING, AND IT'S *MY* DECISION, AND THAT'S *FINE*, BUT...

*BMP BMP BMP*



OKAY. OKAY, THEN. I'LL--

*BMP BMP BMP*



WE'LL DO IT  
TOGETHER.



*FZSSSSSSSS*



*FZSSSSSSSS*



*FZSSSSSSSS*



*FZSSSSSSSS*

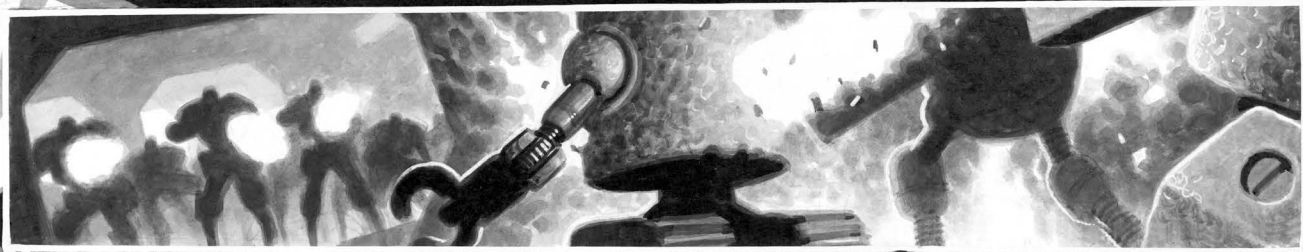


MOVE!  
MOVE! FULL  
SPREAD!



ENTERING SUB SIXTY-FOUR NOW, JUDGE LAUD.

ELIMINATE ALL WHO RESIST. EXECUTION APPROVED.



IF THE DATA IS CORRECT, WE SHOULD BE RIGHT ON TOP OF THE INSURRECTIONIST LEADERS--

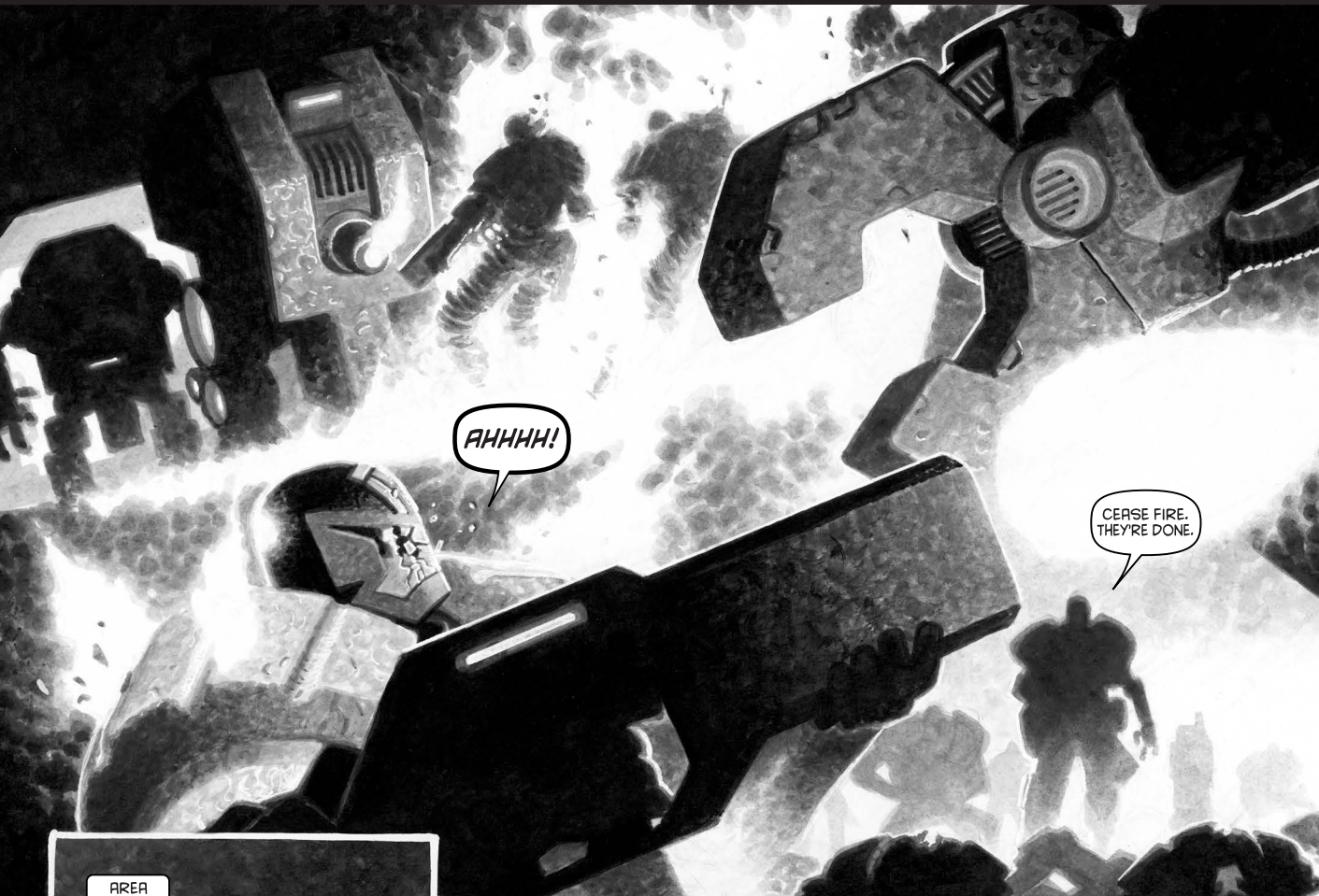


YES, YOU ARE.

IT'S A GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS KIND OF THING.







AHHHH!

CEASE FIRE.  
THEY'RE DONE.



AREA  
SECURE,  
MARSHAL  
LUTHER.

THANK YOU,  
HANDCOG.



ANOTHER LITTLE  
CHIP TAKEN OUT OF  
LAIRD'S FORCES.  
FURTHER LOSSES  
TO MANPOWER.

HE CAN  
ALWAYS CALL IN  
MORE FROM THE  
MEG.

NOT  
INDEFINITELY,  
FREELY. HE HAS A  
BREAKING POINT,  
JUST LIKE US.

WE'VE  
SIMPLY GOT TO  
NUDGE HIM  
TOWARDS IT.

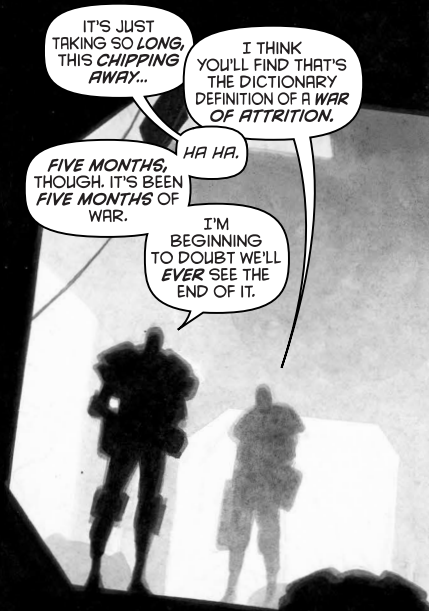
JUST LIKE  
FRATERNITY.



IS HE  
CLOSER TO HIS  
THAN WE ARE  
TO OURS?



DROKK, I  
HOPE SO.



IT'S JUST TAKING SO LONG, THIS CHIPPING AWAY...

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT'S THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF A WAR OF ATTRITION.

HA HA.

FIVE MONTHS, THOUGH. IT'S BEEN FIVE MONTHS OF WAR.

I'M BEGINNING TO DOUBT WE'LL EVER SEE THE END OF IT.



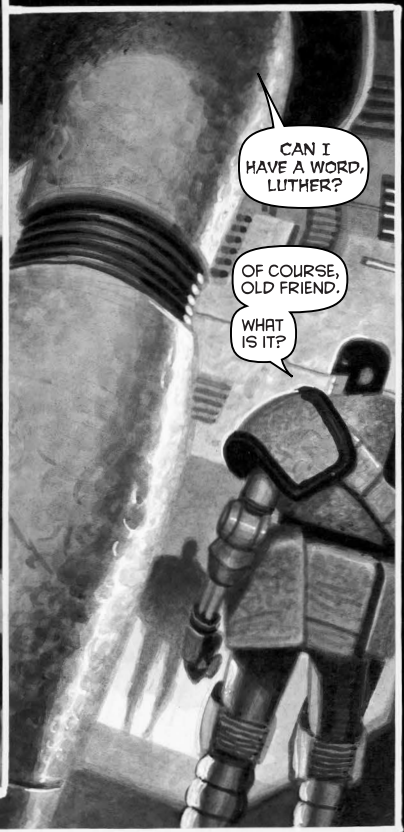
NEVER DOUBT.

OKAY.

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK. YOU AND THAT CERTAINTY.

CERTAINTY?

IS THAT A GOOD THING?



CAN I HAVE A WORD, LUTHER?

OF COURSE, OLD FRIEND.

WHAT IS IT?

I'VE BEEN TALKING TO RAMSSES, TO HANDCOG, A FEW OTHERS.

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS THEM. THEY DON'T WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT IT. THEY DON'T WANT TO OFFEND YOU.

BUT YOU DON'T CARE, HUH?



YOU'RE A BIG BOY, LUTHER. YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS.

GO ON.



THE ROBOT POPULATION, THEY...

...THEY'RE AFRAID YOU PICKED FRATERNITY BECAUSE IT HAD A ROBOT POPULATION.

WHAT?

THEY THINK YOU'VE CHOSEN THIS WORLD TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST THE JUDGES BECAUSE THERE'S VIRTUALLY ZERO HUMAN LIFE HERE TO LOSE.

LOSSES WILL BE ALL ROBOT FORMS. ROBOTS ARE EXPENDABLE.

YOU KNOW I DON'T THINK THAT!

I KNOW.



IT'S HARD TO HELP IT, ISN'T IT?

I MEAN, ENTIRELY? ORGANICS LIKE US, NO MATTER HOW MUCH COMRADESHIP WE HAVE WITH THE BOTS, THEY'LL NEVER BE ALIVE THE SAME WAY, WILL THEY?

GRUD'S SAKE, SIMEON--

I KNOW! I KNOW!

I JUST NEEDED YOU TO THINK ABOUT THIS. I WAS PRETTY SURE YOU ALREADY HAD.

THERE ARE LIVES TO LOSE HERE. JUST NOT LIVES AS WE KNOW THEM.

THIS ISN'T A GAME. AN EXERCISE. A RISK-FREE WAY OF MAKING A POINT.



THANK YOU.  
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S EASY TO FORGET.



DO THEY REALLY THINK I'M THAT PREJUDICED?

DO THEY REALLY BELIEVE I THINK THAT LITTLE OF THEM?



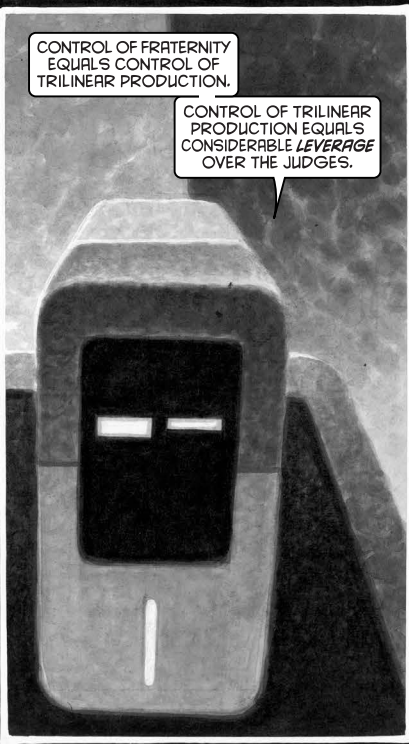
MARSHAL  
FREELY?

DELEGATE  
HANDCOG,  
YES?



OUR STRATEGIC RESEARCH  
HAS REVEALED SOMETHING  
OF *SIGNIFICANCE*.

FRATERNITY WAS ORIGINALLY  
CONSIDERED A KEY TARGET  
BECAUSE IT MANUFACTURES THE  
*TRILINEAR CHIP TECHNOLOGY*  
UPON WHICH MEGA-CITY ONE  
DEPENDS.



CONTROL OF FRATERNITY  
EQUALS CONTROL OF  
TRILINEAR PRODUCTION.

CONTROL OF TRILINEAR  
PRODUCTION EQUALS  
CONSIDERABLE *LEVERAGE*  
OVER THE JUDGES.

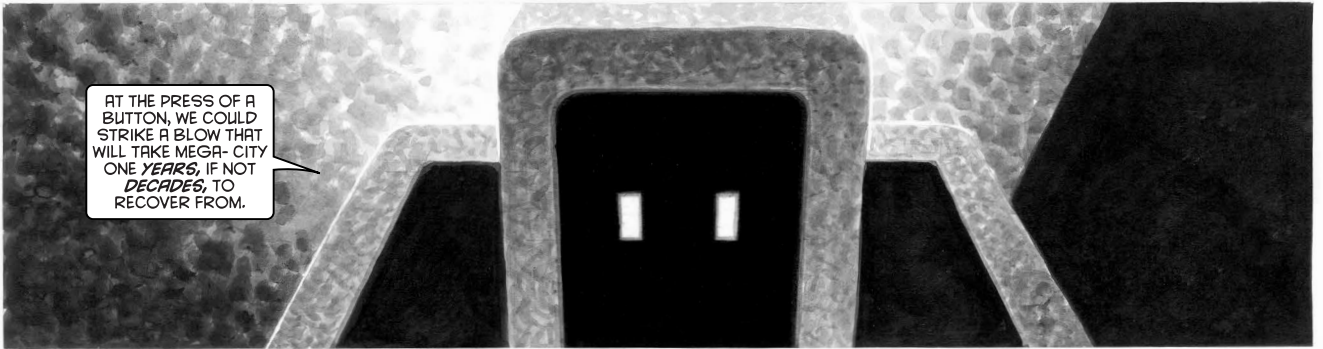


AND?

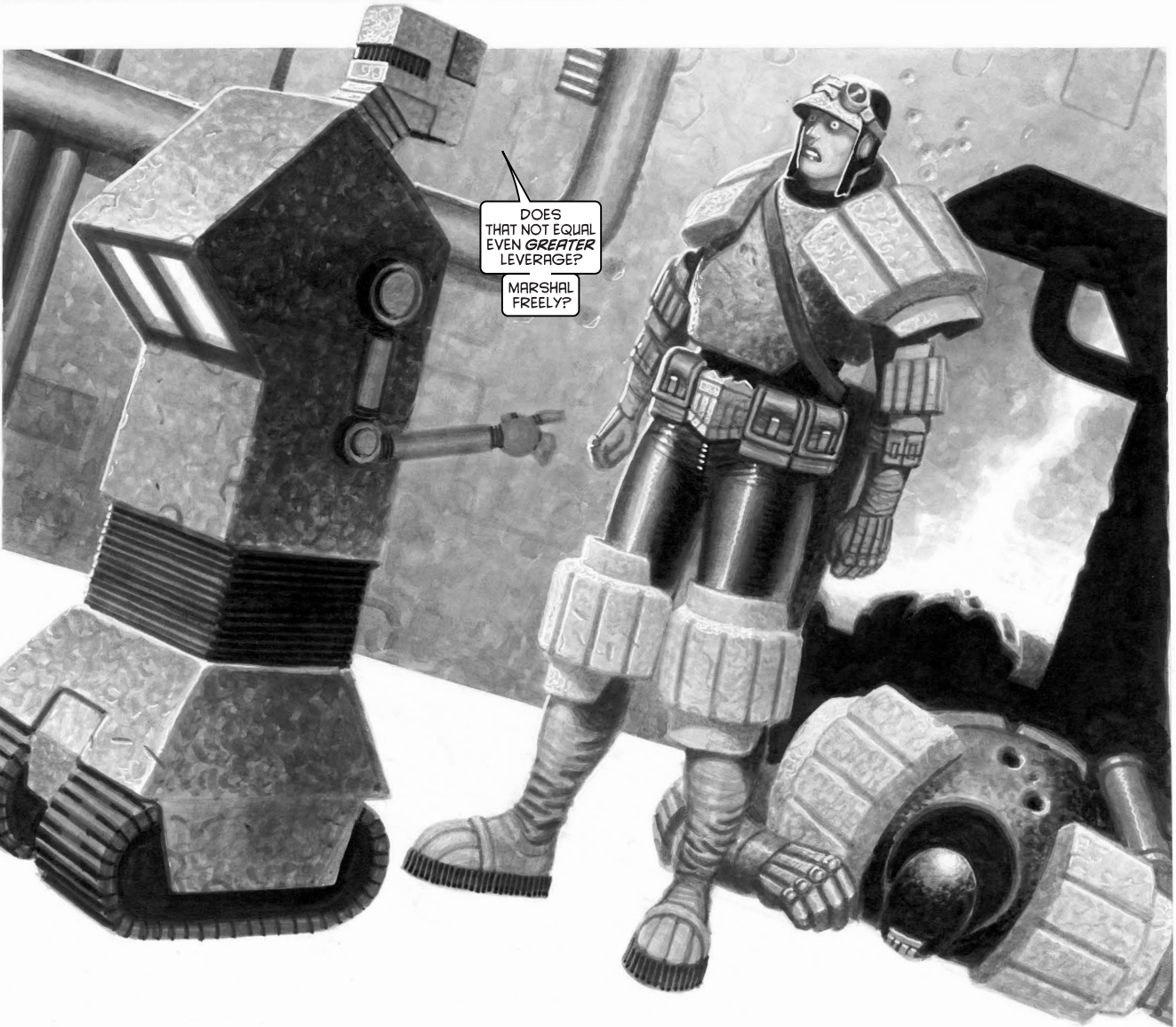


WE HAVE REALISED THAT BY EXPLOITING  
OUR OWN *MANUFACTURING SHORTCUTS*,  
WE CAN DEVELOP A *PULSE VIRUS*. IF  
RELEASED, IT WILL NOT ONLY CRIPPLE OUR  
*STOCKPILES* OF TRILINEAR CHIPS...

...IT WILL CAUSE  
*ALL TRILINEAR  
CHIPS ALREADY  
ON EARTH* TO  
MALFUNCTION.



AT THE PRESS OF A  
BUTTON, WE COULD  
STRIKE A BLOW THAT  
WILL TAKE MEGA-CITY  
ONE *YEARS*, IF NOT  
*DECADES*, TO  
RECOVER FROM.



DOES  
THAT NOT EQUAL  
EVEN *GREATER*  
LEVERAGE?  
MARSHAL  
FREELY?

FROM: LUTHER, COMMANDING  
RESISTANCE FORCES, FRATERNITY.

TO: LAUD, COMMANDING SJS  
ASSAULT FORCES.

SEVEN MONTHS, LAUD. SEVEN  
MONTHS OF WAR, AND YOU  
HAVEN'T DISLODGED US.  
STRATEGIC ANALYSIS SHOWS  
THAT, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR  
FIELD TACTICS, WE CAN HOLD  
YOU OFF FOR A MINIMUM OF NINE  
MORE YEARS.

I HAVE ATTACHED THE  
PREDICTION FINDINGS HERE FOR  
YOUR CONSIDERATION.

I HAVE FURTHER DATA THAT MAY  
CAUSE YOU TO THOROUGHLY  
REVIEW YOUR POSITION HERE ON  
FRATERNITY.

I BELIEVE I SHOULD PRESENT IT  
TO YOU IN PERSON.

ASSEMBLY CONCOURSE 81625,  
LEVEL SIXTY, NOON, TOMORROW.



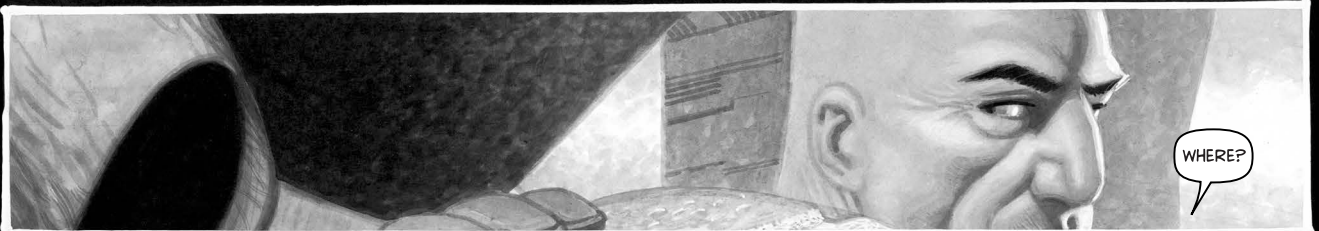
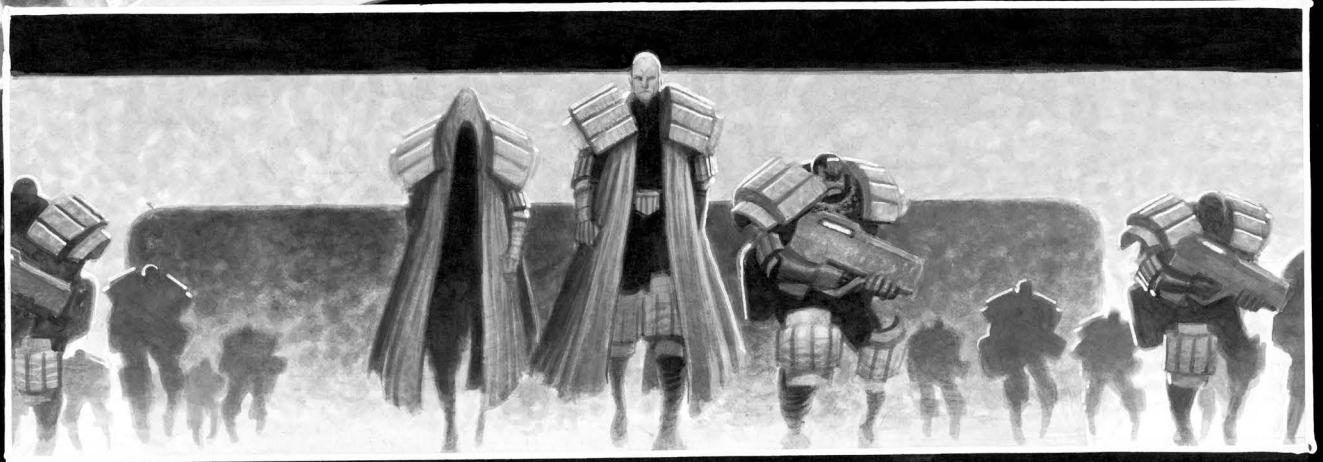
MESSAGE  
SENT.



NEW  
MESSAGE  
RECEIVED.

ASSEMBLY CONCOURSE 81625.

NOON.





IS IT A TRICK?

BUT YOU'VE NO SENSE OF AN INTENTION TO SURRENDER EITHER?

WAIT, IT'S WHAT?

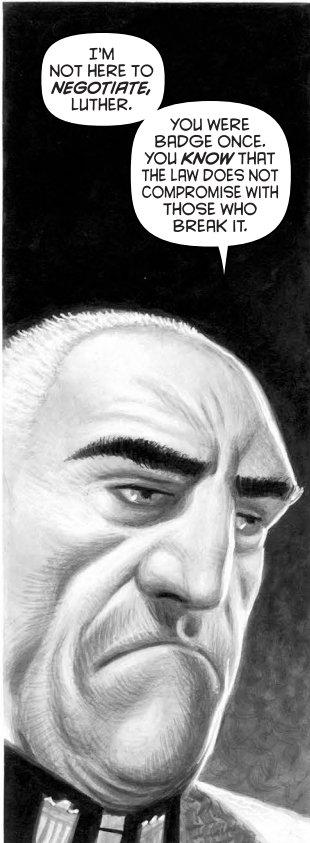


SYREN SAYS YOU'VE MINED THIS CONCOURSE. SHE CAN READ IT IN YOUR SURFACE THOUGHTS.

THEN SHE CAN ALSO CONFIRM I'M HERE TO TALK.

THE CONCOURSE IS MINED AS AN INCENTIVE FOR YOU TO LISTEN.

AND NOT SHOOT AT US.



I'M NOT HERE TO NEGOTIATE, LUTHER.

YOU WERE BADGE ONCE. YOU KNOW THAT THE LAW DOES NOT COMPROMISE WITH THOSE WHO BREAK IT.



STILL, YOU'RE HERE, LAUD.

THIS WAR IS COSTING YOU. IT'S HURTING YOU. YOU WANT IT OVER.

AND IF THAT MEANS TALKING TO ME...



SO TALK.



FRATERNITY WAS ORIGINALLY SELECTED AS A FOCUS FOR OUR EFFORTS BECAUSE IT MANUFACTURES THE TRILINEAR CHIP TECHNOLOGY UPON WHICH MEGA-CITY ONE DEPENDS.

IF WE CONTROL OR HALT THAT SUPPLY, YOU TAKE OUR DEMANDS SERIOUSLY.



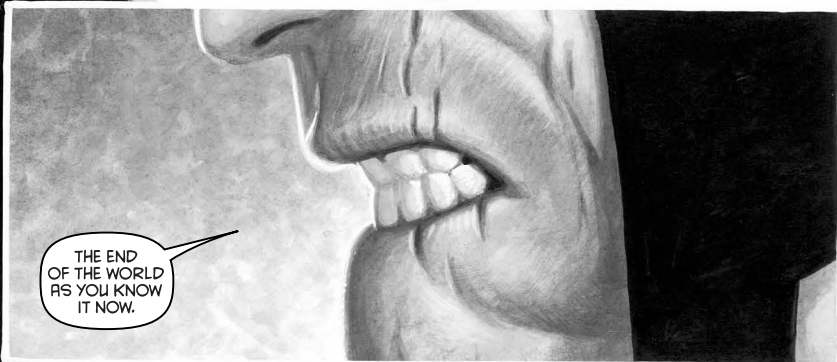
YOU'RE SIMPLY ENLIMBERATING YOUR *CRIMES*, LUTHER.

SEIZURE OF ASSETS. CRIMINAL DAMAGE. INCITEMENT TO DISOBEY. INTERRUPTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL MANUFACTURE. CIVIL DISO--

THE THREAT WE REPRESENT IS NOW MORE *SIGNIFICANT*.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT *PREVENTING* MEGACITY ONE ACQUIRING ANY NEW TRILINEAR TECHNOLOGY.

I'M TALKING ABOUT *TAKING AWAY* THE TRILINEAR TECHNOLOGY YOU ALREADY HAVE.



THE END OF THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT NOW.



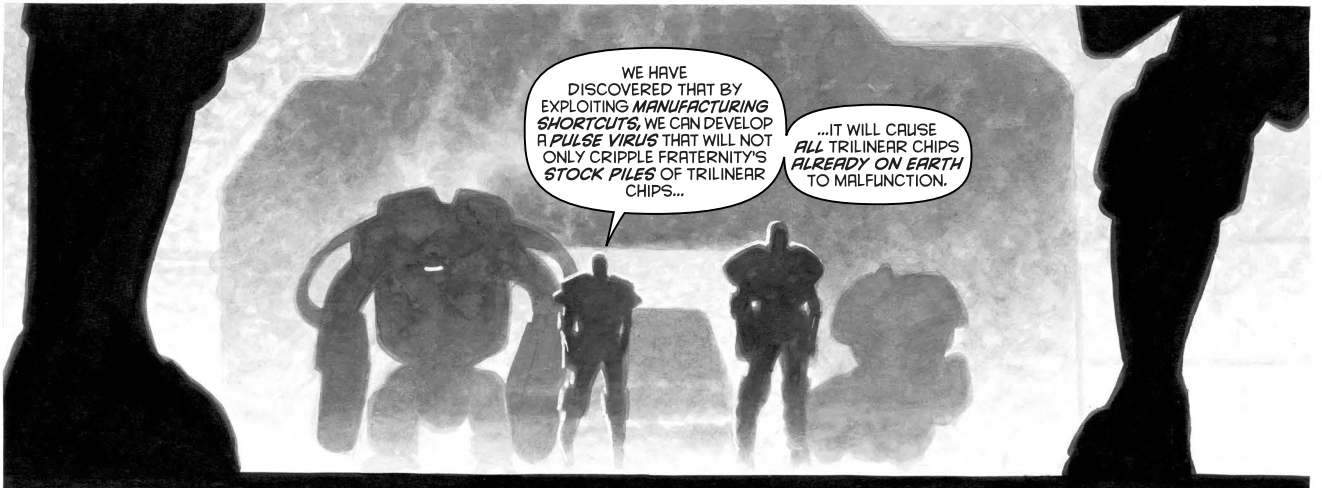
THIS IS A *BLUFF* ISN'T IT?

*WHAT?* HOW COULD IT *NOT* BE A BLUFF?



YOUR PSI-COP'S BEEN IN *MY* HEAD, LAUD.

LET HER READ THE TRUTH *THERE...*

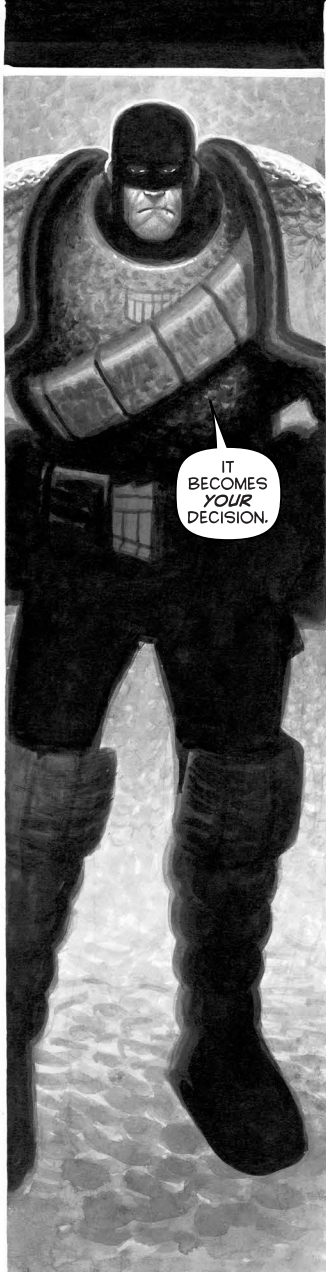


WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT BY EXPLOITING *MANUFACTURING SHORTCUTS*, WE CAN DEVELOP A *PULSE VIRUS* THAT WILL NOT ONLY CRIPPLE FRATERNITY'S *STOCK PILES* OF TRILINEAR CHIPS...

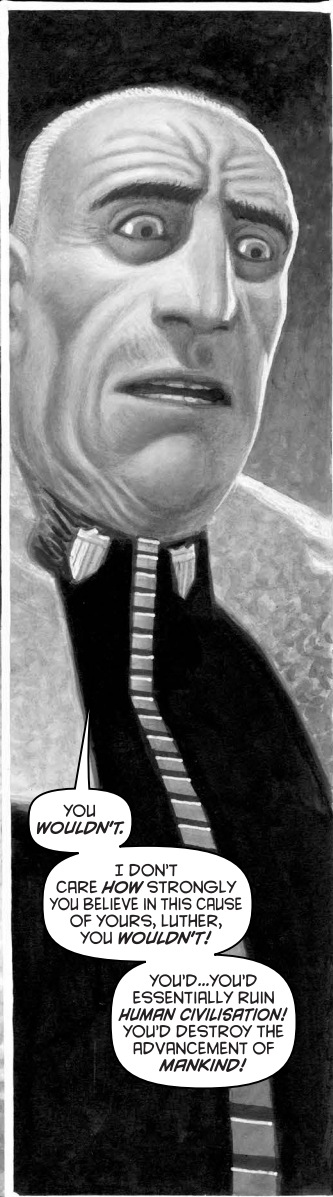
...IT WILL CAUSE *ALL* TRILINEAR CHIPS *ALREADY ON EARTH* TO MALFUNCTION.



THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, AND WE COULD STRIKE A BLOW THAT WILL TAKE MEGACITY ONE *YEARS*, IF NOT *DECADES*, TO RECOVER FROM.



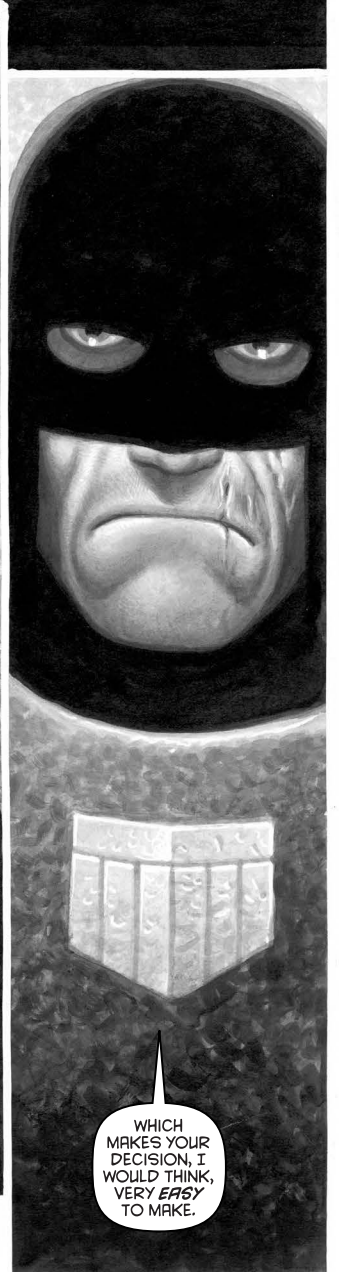
IT BECOMES *YOUR* DECISION.



YOU *WOULDN'T*.

I DON'T CARE *HOW* STRONGLY YOU BELIEVE IN THIS CAUSE OF YOURS, LUTHER, YOU *WOULDN'T!*

YOU'D...YOU'D ESSENTIALLY RUIN *HUMAN CIVILISATION!* YOU'D DESTROY THE ADVANCEMENT OF *MANKIND!*



WHICH MAKES YOUR DECISION, I WOULD THINK, VERY *EASY* TO MAKE.



NO.  
**NO!**

THIS *ISN'T*  
A GAME OF  
WH'LL BLINK  
FIRST!

DROKK'S  
SAKE, MAN! YOU'RE  
NOT *STUPID!*  
CONSIDER WHAT  
YOU'RE *SAYING!*

ARE YOU  
GOING TO DOOM THE  
HUMAN RACE JUST TO  
MAKE SOME KIND OF  
*INSANE MORAL*  
*POINT?*



IT'S  
DIFFICULT, *ISN'T*  
IT, WHEN YOU'RE  
CONFRONTED BY  
AN *IMPLACABLE*  
*ATTITUDE?*

YOU CAN'T  
*ARGUE* WITH THIS  
THREAT. IT'S TOO  
*BIG* TO ARGUE  
WITH.

YOU'RE  
ACTUALLY GOING  
TO HAVE TO *DEAL*  
WITH IT INSTEAD.



OH,  
YOU *CHILD!* HOW  
MUCH CONTEXT  
DO YOU *NEED?*

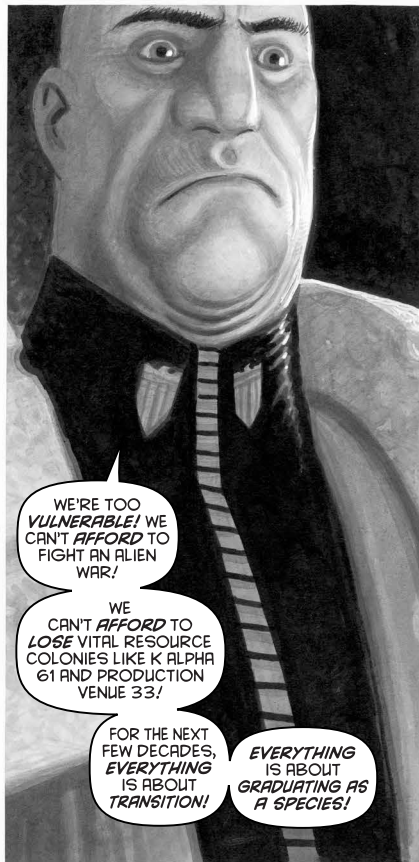
THIS  
LAST DECADE HAS  
SEEN THE HUMAN RACE  
MOVE TOWARDS A POINT  
WHERE IT CEASES TO BE A  
*POST-GLOBAL* CULTURE  
AND BECOMES A TRUE  
*INTERSTELLAR*  
*SOCIETY.*

THIS IS A  
*PRECARIOUS*  
*POINT* IN OUR  
EVOLUTION!



THAT'S  
THE *REAL* REASON  
MEGA-CITY ONE  
DIDN'T HELP K ALPHA  
61 DURING THE ZHIND  
WAR, BUT *HAPPILY*  
SENT A FLEET TO DEAL  
WITH THE COLONY  
WHEN *YOU* STEPPED  
OUT OF LINE!

WE  
DIDN'T WANT  
A WAR WITH  
*ALIENS!*

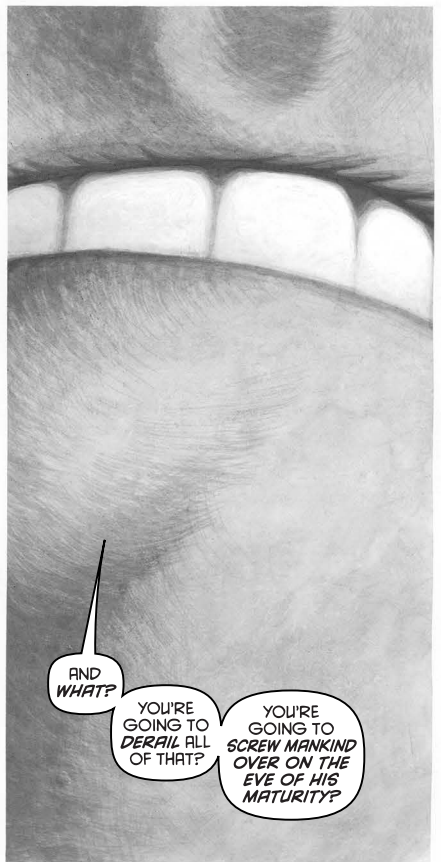


WE'RE TOO  
*VULNERABLE!* WE  
CAN'T *AFFORD* TO  
FIGHT AN ALIEN  
WAR!

WE  
CAN'T *AFFORD* TO  
*LOSE* VITAL RESOURCE  
COLONIES LIKE K ALPHA  
61 AND PRODUCTION  
VENUE 33!

FOR THE NEXT  
FEW DECADES,  
*EVERYTHING*  
IS ABOUT  
*TRANSITION!*

*EVERYTHING*  
IS ABOUT  
*GRADUATING AS*  
*A SPECIES!*



AND  
*WHAT?*

YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
*DERAIL* ALL  
OF THAT?

YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
*SCREW MANKIND*  
*OVER ON THE*  
*EYE OF HIS*  
*MATURITY?*



I DON'T KNOW, LAUD.

YOU'VE GOT TWELVE HOURS TO MAKE MY MIND UP.



WAS HE LYING?

NO.

SO WHAT? DOES HE EXPECT US TO *CAVE* FOR THE GREATER GOOD?



I DON'T KNOW.



WHAT ABOUT NON-ORGANIC RIGHTS?

WHAT ABOUT MUTAGENIC RIGHTS?

WASN'T THIS ALWAYS ABOUT *PRINCIPLES*?



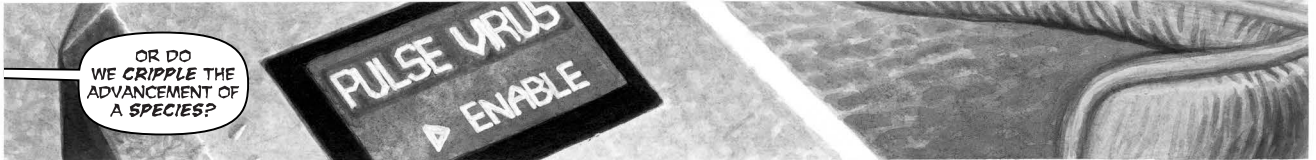
YES. ALWAYS.

*ALWAYS.*



SO DOES IT COME DOWN TO THIS?

DO WE STRIKE A MORAL BLOW AGAINST AN OPPRESSIVELY FASCIST REGIME?



OR DO WE CRIPPLE THE ADVANCEMENT OF A SPECIES?



WILL LAUD CONCEDE?

HONESTLY? HE'S A JUDGE. HE'S SJS.

HE'S BRED NOT TO CONCEDE.

SO HE'LL SAY NO.

WHAT WILL YOU SAY?



I'M A JUDGE. I'M BRED NOT TO CONCEDE EITHER.

LAUD WILL COUNT ON MY INSURRECTIONIST TENDENCIES BEING PROOF THAT I MIGHT CONCEDE.

HE WILL CALL MY BLUFF.



HE'S CALLED IT.

HE'S NOT BACKING DOWN.

PERIMETER REPORTS THE SJS FORCES HAVE BEGUN A NEW, ALL-OUT ASSAULT.

LUTHER?



JUST...

...GIVE ME  
A SECOND  
HERE.

**EXTRAS**



MICHAEL II



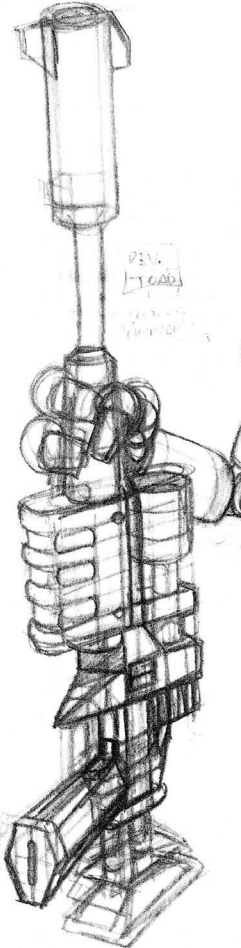
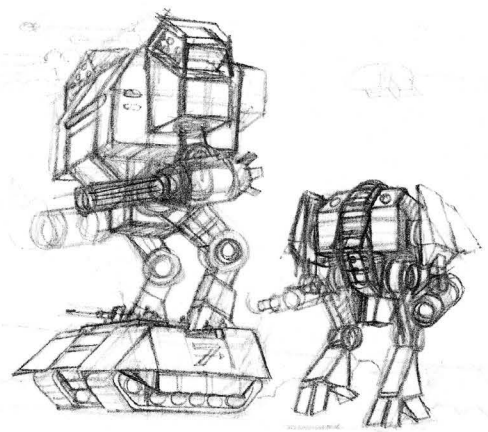


# REBELLION

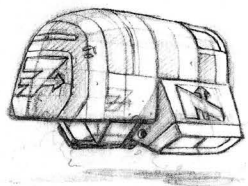
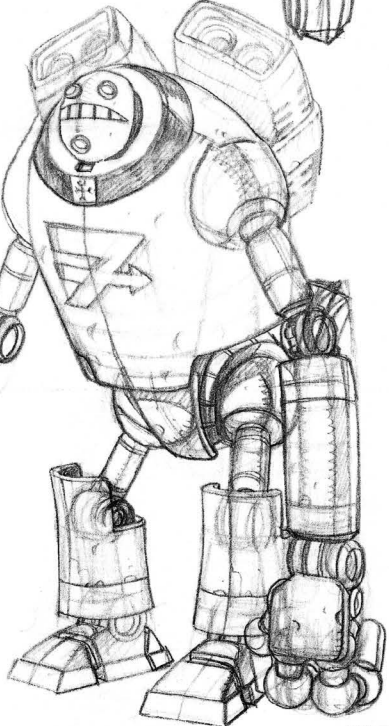
JOIN THE FIGHT



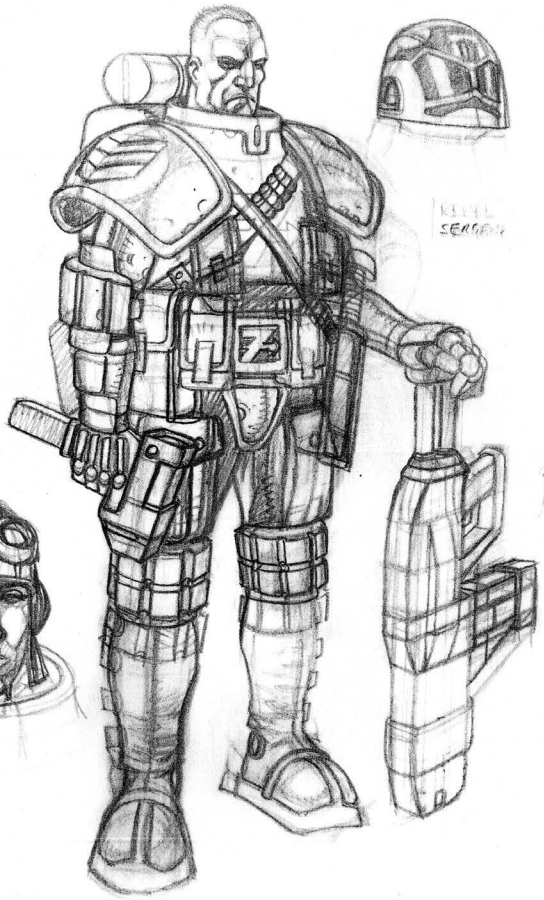
ALAN



REV. TOAD



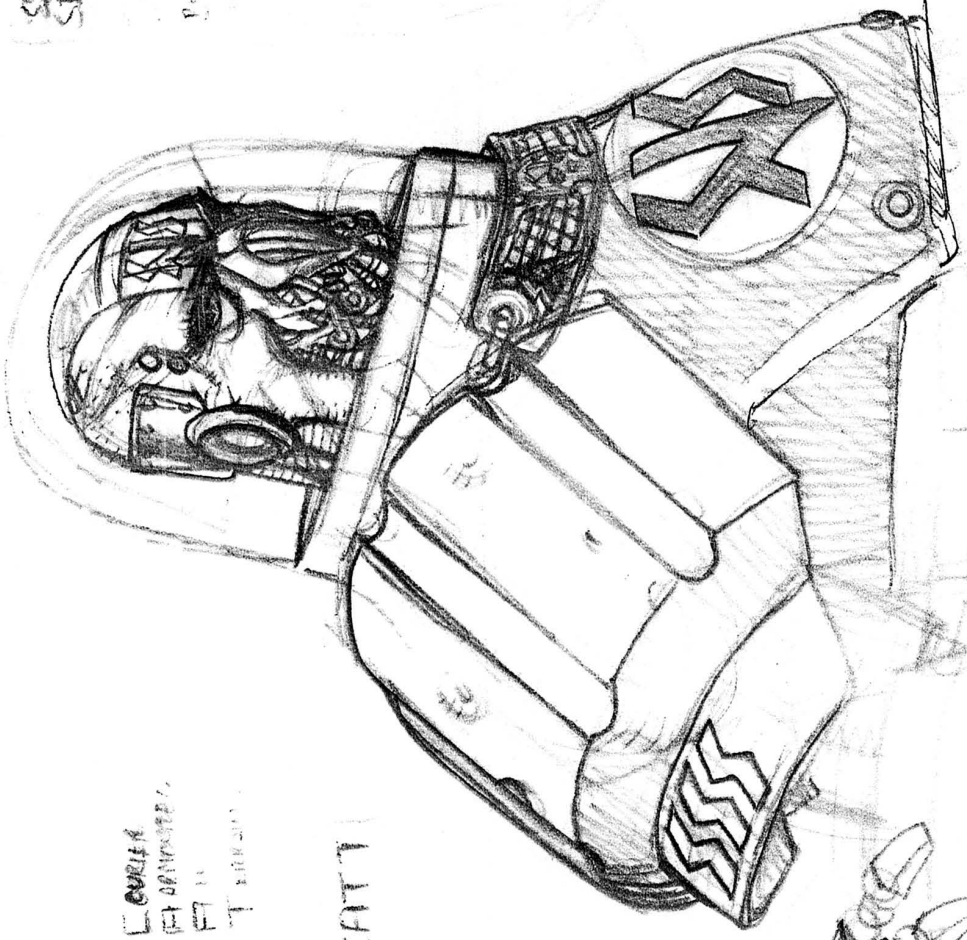
REV.



REAR SENSORS

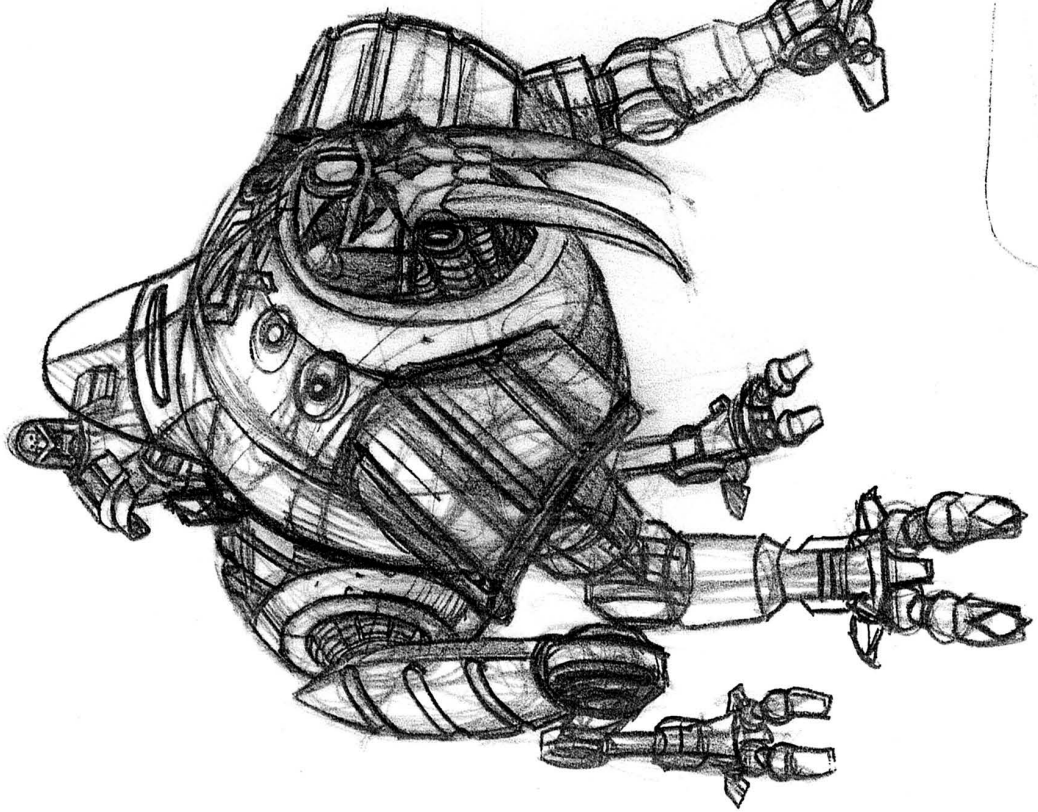


SER 41



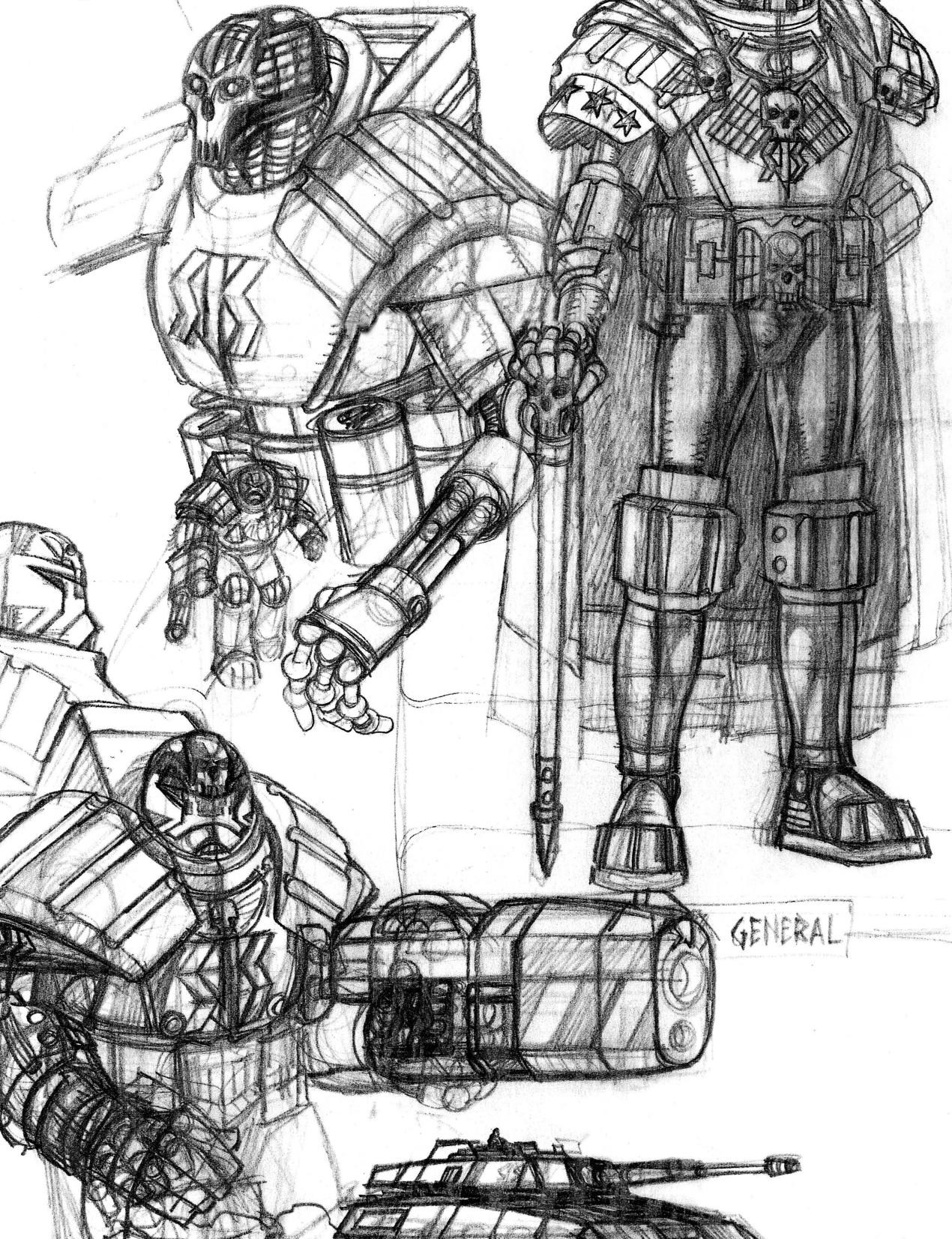
LEONARD  
ET DANIELA  
ET

CATTI



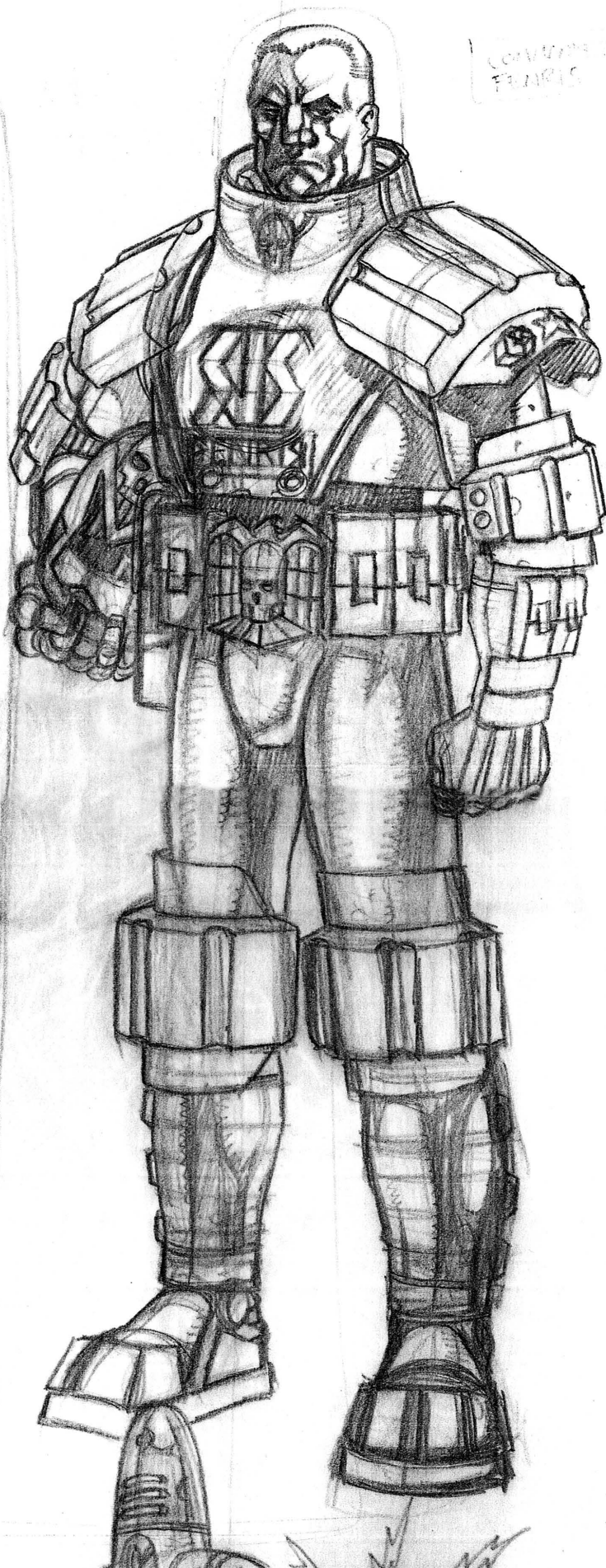
SIS GENERAL

SIS BATTLE DROID



GENERAL

CONCEPT  
FEATURES



FIXED 3E  
IMPLANTS  
INCLUDING  
THIRD EYE

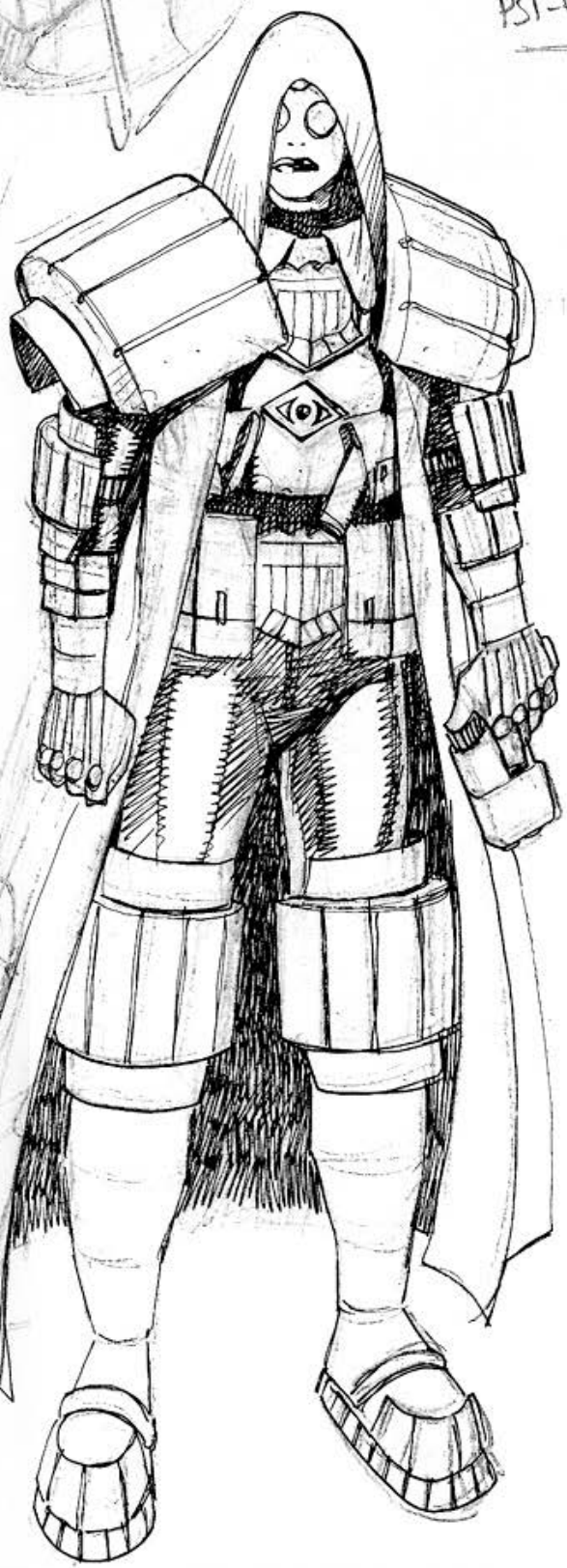


FACE HIDDEN BEHIND  
FACE-SHIELD FACE MASK



FEMALE  
PSI-HUNTER

HUNTER DOGS -  
WOLF LIKE ROBO DOG  
SMELL DIST.  
- CAN ALSO SHOOT FIRE FROM  
IT'S 'MOUTH'



**INSURRECTION PITCH**

INSURRECTION  
(or "Rebellion" tee hee)

working title  
Megazine Judge epic, 6 x 9ppgs

Matt, here's the big idea. Please refer to Colin's glorious sketches to get a flavour of what we're about.

Basically, we feared that an epic space war story featuring the heavy duty Judge troopers inevitably means a nasty alien menace ("Return of the Kleggs"), and all the readers will therefore know what the outcome is going to be. It would also be one sided, in terms of reader sympathy and indentification. Soooo... how about this? It's much more ambiguous and 'grey', rather more political (in the true spirit of Wagner's stories), and fairly unswerving in its criticism of the fascist Judge regime (again, true to Wagner).

A colony world, let's call it Liberty, part of the human alliance (Matt - what is the 'world authority' actually called in *Dredd*? If this colony world is a Mega City colony, what does it call itself? What is it 'part of'?). It's a fringe world, maybe heavily industrial (a vital source of minerals for Mega City One). The population includes mutants, droids and genetically uplifted gorillas, all used as brute labour in the mines (and none with citizen status). The world is ruled by Judges, though we might

want to call them Marshals out here, because there are fewer of them, more autonomous, forced to make their own laws and rules out on the high frontier.

In the years preceding the story, Liberty was caught up in a border war with some neighbouring alien race (could even be the Kleggs, if you like). Liberty mobilised, and fought the aliens off, winning the war (and protecting the flanks of Terran space territory). One of the reasons Liberty won is that the Marshals got permission from the Hall of Justice to enfranchise the workforce as soldiers: muties, droids and apes, a hell of a shock-troop force. All of them, especially the great apes, proved to be loyal, couragous and selfless. For the duration of the war, they were granted citizen status.

When the war was over, this status was withdrawn, despite the outrage of Liberty's Marshals, especially the war hero (our hero) Marshal Luther. The dispute dragged on, but eventually resulted in Liberty declaring independence from the human alliance, championing the civil rights of the sub-human underclasses.

And that just won't do. As the insurrection involves turncoat marshals, it becomes a matter for the SJS, which launches a huge assault force to bring Liberty to order.

Luther, with his marshals, his muties, his droids and, especially, his great apes, along with the population of Liberty (except for a few dissenters

who cause problems along the way), lead the fight back.

So the reader should be rooting for the rebels, and hissing the Judges, which will get them going, because they will be aware that this is the Megazine, and fascist or not, the Judges always win.

Or do they? We think the climax of the story could be the SJS winning the physical war by sheer numbers, but the rebels (going underground at the end) winning the war of ideas which, after all, is what this is really about.

Room for a sequel, of course, and for what it's worth, here's how that goes: as the guerilla war rages on Liberty, the SJS trying to smoke out Luther's underground, Luther is contacted by representatives of the alien race that Liberty beat during the earlier war. The sneaky aliens offer to help the Liberty rebels against the 'common foe'. Realising, though he detests the SJS and the fascist rule of the Judges, that he's actually being asked to go to war with the human race, Luther courageously sides his forces with the SJS AGAINST the aliens. Victorious thanks to Luther, the SJS finally compromise, and allow Luther's sub-humans to keep citizen status, though this fact is suppressed so that no one in Mega City ever finds out about it.

Or... in true, bleak, typical Dredd terms, it could all end in poignant tragedy, in either the first or second story, ie:

1. Luther wins the war, but all his apes die in the process, and it is therefore a pyrrhic victory when the SJS disdainfully grants the apes citizen status.

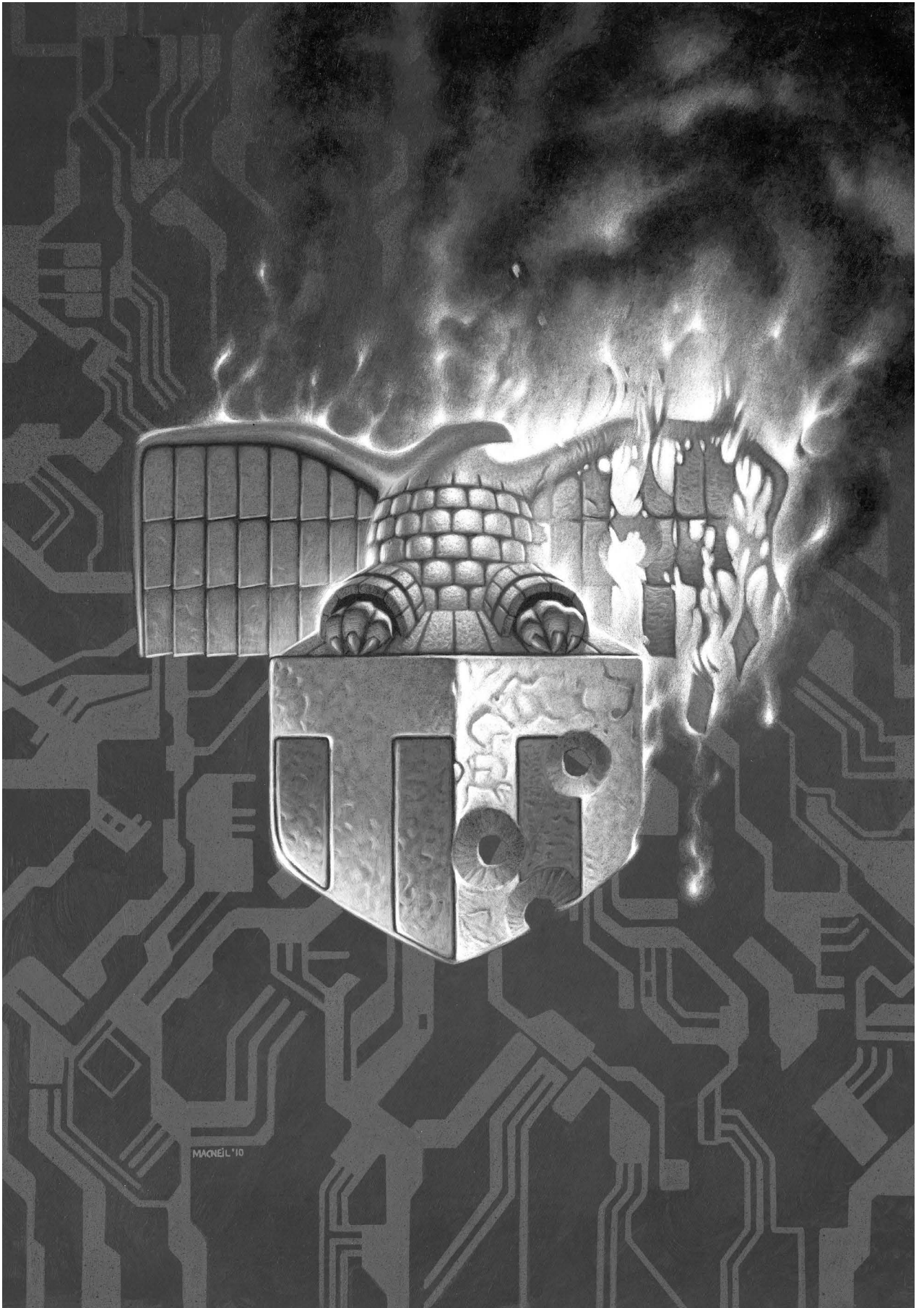
2. The SJS simply crushes Luther and his insurrection, despite the fact the Luther has come close to victory and we're all rooting for him.

3. Dredd shoots everyone in the face and tells them to behave (kidding).

Or... we end up creating Liberty as, literally, the one outpost of lefty freedom in the entire Dredd-iverse, a Shangri-La sanctuary for all the oppressed muties, crims, droids, runaways and dissenters in Mega City One.

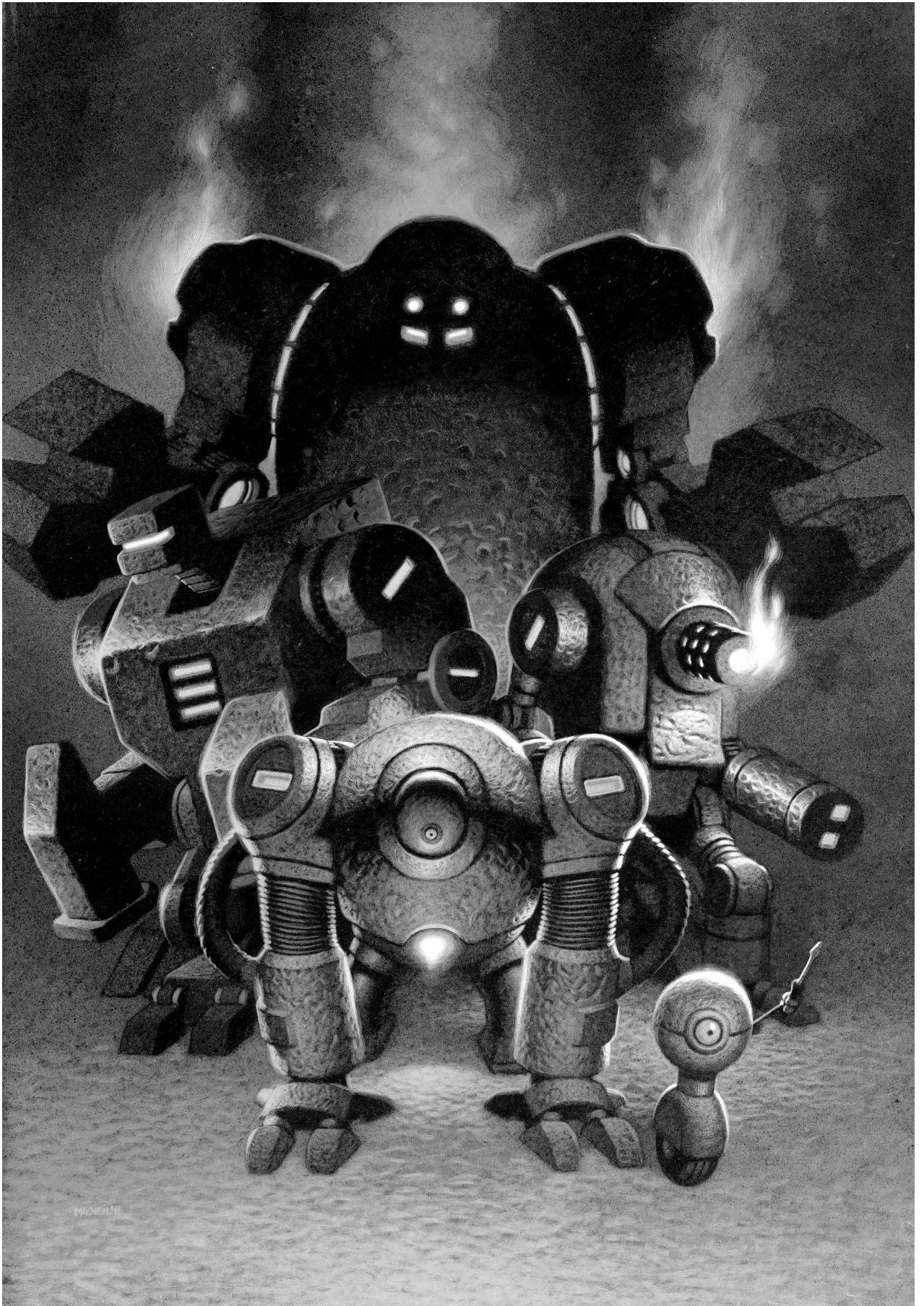
Thoughts?

Dan and Colin.



MACNEIL '10

*Judge Dredd Magazine* issue 305: Cover by **Colin MacNeil**



*Judge Dredd Magazine* issue 310: Cover by **Colin MacNeil**

# DAN ABNETT

**Dan Abnett** is the co-creator of *2000 AD* series *Atavar*, *Badlands*, *Sancho Panzer* and *Sinister Dexter*. He has also written *Black Light*, *Downlode Tales*, *Durham Red*, *Flesh*, *Future Shocks*, *Judge Dredd*, *Pulp Sci-Fi*, *Roadkill*, *Rogue Trooper*, *The VCs*, *Vector 13* and *Venus Bluegenes*, as well as *The Scarlet Apocrypha* and *Wardog* for the *Megazine*. A prolific creator, Abnett has also written for Marvel, Dark Horse and DC Comics. He is the author of twenty novels for the Black Library, including the bestselling *Gaunt's Ghosts* series. His most recent work outside the *Galaxy's Greatest Comic* is 'The New 52's' *Resurrection Man* from DC Comics. Dan Abnett was voted Best Writer at the 2003 National Comic Awards.

## COLIN MACNEIL

Since joining *2000 AD* in 1986 **Colin MacNeil** has worked on many strips, including *Chopper: Song of the Surfer* and the infamous death of Johnny Alpha in *Strontium Dog: The Final Solution*. He went on to collaborate with John Wagner on the award-winning *America* for the *Judge Dredd Magazine*. He has also worked on *Shimura*, *Maelstrom* and *Fiends of the Eastern Front: Stalingrad*, and, outside of the *Galaxy's Greatest Comic*, provided the atmospheric artwork on *Bloodquest* for Games Workshop. He also enjoys creating large abstract paintings. He says it's art therapy!



## LIBERTY OR DEATH!

**MEGA-CITY ONE MINING COLONY K-ALPHA 61 HAS DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FROM THE 'BIG MEG' AND RENAMED ITSELF LIBERTY.** This act of defiance has angered the Justice Department's Special Judicial Squad and in a bid to stop further colonies from rebelling, war is inevitable...

Set in the *Judge Dredd* universe, this high-octane space adventure is written by best-selling *Warhammer* author, Dan Abnett (*Horus Rising*, *Legion*, *Prospero Burns*) with art by *2000 AD* stalwart Colin MacNeil (*Chopper*, *Strontium Dog*, *Fiends of the Eastern Front*).



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