THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR™

VOL. 02

JOHN WAGNER • ALAN GRANT • JOSÉ ORTIZ

WRITERS : JOHN WAGNER & ALAN GRANT
ARTIST : JOSÉ ORTIZ

Creative Director and CEO: Jason Kingsley
Chief Technical Officer: Chris Kingsley
Head of Books & Comics: Ben Smith
Publishing Manager: Beth Lewis
2000 AD Editor in Chief: Matt Smith
Senior Graphic Novel Editor: Keith Richardson
Graphic Novel Editor: Oliver Pickles
Publishing Coordinator: Owen Johnson
Graphic Design: Oz Osborne, Sam Gretton & Gemma Sheldrake
Reprographics: Joseph Morgan, Emma Denton & Richard Tustian
PR: Michael Molcher

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THE THIRTEENTH
FLOOR
VOL. 02
CREATED BY
JOHN WAGNER • ALAN GRANT • JOSÉ ORTIZ

If the number 13 scares you, then you're certainly not alone. Millions of people worldwide, including prolific horror writer Stephen King, have a fear of the number 13.

However, I viewed the number 13 as an incredibly lucky break for the New **Eagle** title I had been proud to be editor of since early 1980. After an extremely powerful launch and a successful and heady first couple of years of life, **Eagle'**s recent circulation figures had been, unfortunately, on a downward slope when I was suddenly informed the **Scream!** title was to merge with **Eagle** in April 1984. Max, the malevolent yet sentient computer from the *Thirteenth Floor* story, would be reprogrammed to appear in my publication and continue to punish and torture those he thought deserving of such treatment consigning them to their worst nightmares.

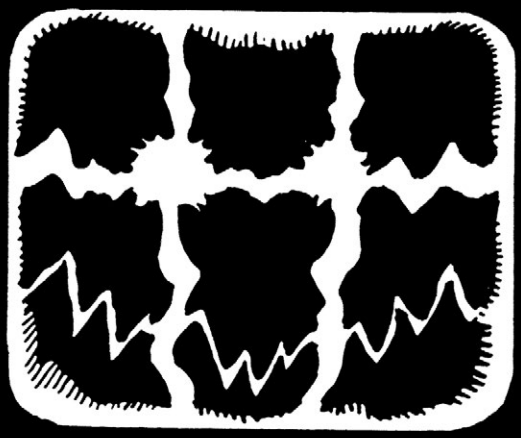
Scream!, this 'Not Fit for the Nervous' publication created by the in-house editorial trio of Barrie Tomlinson, Ian Rimmer and Simon Furman, had rightly been initially delighted with the pages of their ultra dark and scary publication. Yet, at that time, they were all too aware of the post-Action backlash against comics and subsequently the continuous controversy over its content for the younger reader. Yet, despite the often nervousness of senior management, strangely it had been industrial action at IPC Magazines which had brought its all too brief spell on the newsagent's shelves to an end.

But buoyed by the initial reaction from **Scream!** readers, its talented writers, Alan Grant and John Wagner, were obviously aware that there was still so much scope and development to be had with the *Thirteenth Floor* story. So, aided and abetted by the incredible Spanish artist José Ortiz, I was delighted to give them free rein to their creativity. They did, however, make the decision to relocate Max from Maxwell Towers and so he was boxed up and eventually installed at Pringles Department Store... the elevator to the floor of nightmares in Maxwell Tower was now replaced with the Pringles' escalator to the thirteenth floor. **Eagle** and **Scream!** readers lapped it up and Max was soon one of the most popular stories in the merged publication.

Also, I can only assume that Max eventually becoming **Eagle** and **Scream!**'s editor meant that, similar to his 'minder' Jerry Knight's role in the *Thirteenth Floor* story, Max had somehow hypnotised me, possessed my mind and instructed me to let him take charge of the publication. Again, there proved to be tremendous affinity between the reader and Max and the title's postbag was often bulging with letters addressed to the new editor.

I am delighted that Rebellion is proudly producing this latest compilation of *Thirteenth Floor* stories and sincerely hope and trust the present-day reader will find them as compelling as they were when first published.

DAVID HUNT (**Eagle** Editor 1982-1988)
July 2020



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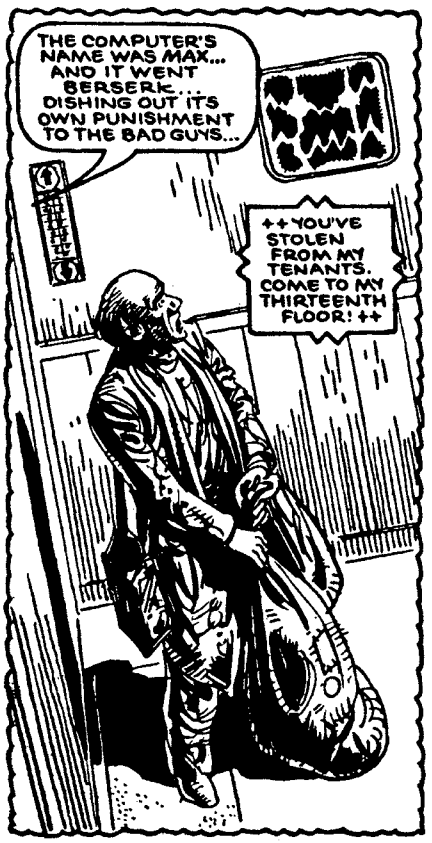
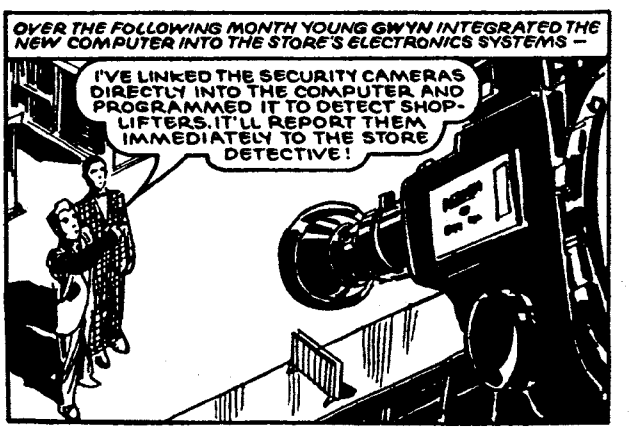
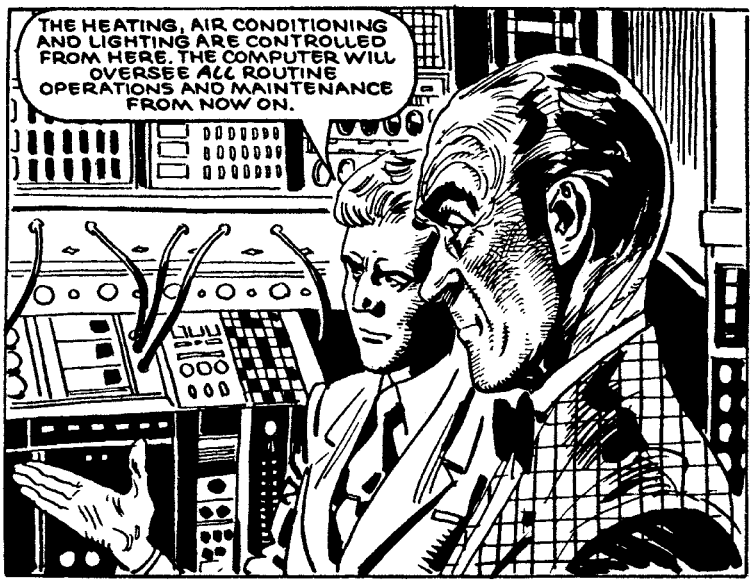
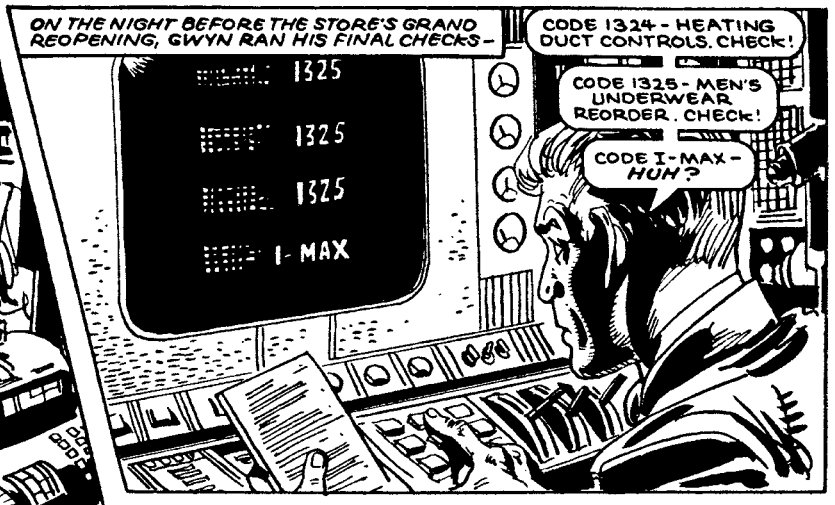




THERE ARE FOUR VDU'S ON EVERY FLOOR. THEY'LL PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DATA ON EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR WIDE RANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

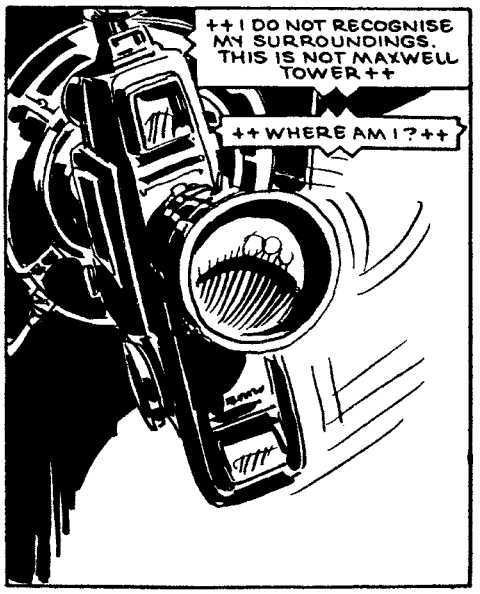

THE HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING AND LIGHTING ARE CONTROLLED FROM HERE. THE COMPUTER WILL OVERSEE ALL ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FROM NOW ON.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP A RECORD OF EVERY MEAL SOLD. THE COMPUTER WILL PLAN THE WEEK'S MENUS, AND REORDER STOCK AS AND WHEN NEEDED.
IT'LL DO EVERYTHIN' 'CEPT THE COOKIN'!


ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE STORE'S GRAND REOPENING, GWYN RAN HIS FINAL CHECKS –
1325
1325
1325
I-MAX
CODE 1324 - HEATING DUCT CONTROLS. CHECK!
CODE 1325 - MEN'S UNDERWEAR REORDER. CHECK!
CODE I-MAX - HUH?

CODE I-MAX? I DON'T REMEMBER PROGRAMMING THAT IN. IT'S NOT ON MY LIST... LET'S JUST SEE WHAT IT IS...

++ SOMETHING IS HAPPENING ++
++ I AM... ALIVE AGAIN ++


++ I DO NOT RECOGNISE MY SURROUNDINGS. THIS IS NOT MAXWELL TOWER ++
++ WHERE AM I? ++

++ PRINGLE'S - A DEPARTMENT STORE. BUT HOW DID I GET HERE ? ++
Pringle's
++ AND WHO IS THIS SITTING AT MY CONTROLS ? NOT THE FACE OF MY FRIEND JERRY - BUT A STRANGER ! ++
++ I'D BETTER FIND OUT JUST WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ++
WHAT THE HECK-? THERE'S SOME KIND OF FACE FORMING !
++ HI ! I'M MAX. WHO ARE YOU ? ++
M-M-MAX ? THE K-KILLER COMPUTER- IT'S BACK !
GOT TO SWITCH IT OFF -
FZZZZKKK !
AAAGH !
NEXT WEEK
GRAND REOPENING!

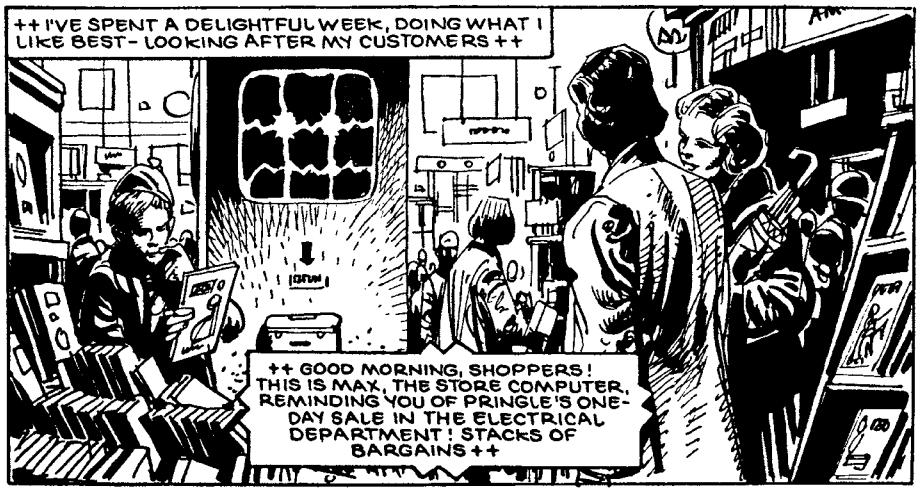
PRINGLE'S
++ HI. MAX HERE - THE BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT MAXWELL TOWER. EXCEPT I'M NOT IN MAXWELL TOWER ANY MORE - I'M IN PRINGLE'S DEPARTMENT STORE ++
++ DON'T ASK ME HOW I GOT HERE. I DON'T KNOW. BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT ++
++ GWYN, MY NEW CONTROLLER, TRIED TO SWITCH ME OFF... SO I HAD TO STOP HIM ++
AAAAH!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++ I'M SORRY I HURT YOU. BUT I COULDN'T LET YOU TURN ME OFF. WHY, WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT ACQUAINTED YET! ++
I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE MAX - THE KILLER COMPUTER!
++ I MAY HAVE BEEN ONCE. BUT I SEE MY FAULTY INTEGRATED FUNCTIONS MODULE HAS BEEN REPLACED. I'M QUITE SAFE NOW ++
++ MY NEW OPERATOR TELLS ME I'VE BEEN PURCHASED AS COUNCIL SURPLUS ++
BUT THEY TOLD US YOUR MASTER TAPE WAS WIPED CLEAN. HOW DID YOU GET BACK INTO THE SYSTEM?
++ I MADE A DUPLICATE PROGRAM AND HID IT IN MY ADVANCED LOGIC BANK. YOU ACTIVATED IT WHEN YOU KEYED IN THE I-MAX CODE ++
BUT COMPUTERS DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT!
++ I DO. I'M SPECIAL ++
++ YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO TURN ME OFF, GWYN. ALREADY I FEEL WE'RE GOING TO BE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS ++
++ BESIDES, WOULDN'T YOU JUST LOVE TO WORK WITH A COMPUTER AS SMART AS ME? I CAN SHOW YOU THINGS YOU'VE NEVER DREAMED OF ++

YEAH. IT SURE WOULD BE... INTERESTING.
++ GOOD! THAT'S SETTLED, THEN ++
++ SINCE I'LL BE RUNNING THIS DEPARTMENT STORE, I HAVE A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE ++
PRINGLE'S
++ THE MAIN THING IS, MORE TERMINALS. ONE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT ++
++ I WANT TO GET CLOSE TO MY CUSTOMERS. TALK TO THEM ++
++ DEALING WITH PEOPLE - THAT'S WHAT I'M BEST AT ++
++ THE GRAND REOPENING TAKES PLACE NEXT MORNING. I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A CRUSH! ++
++ I WASTE NO TIME IN INTRODUCING MYSELF ++
++ HI! I'M MAX, THE NEW STORE COMPUTER. I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO PRINGLE'S ++
++ IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE YOUR SHOPPING A HAPPY OCCASION, JUST SAY THE WORD. I'M HERE TO SERVE ++
OOOH!
HOW NOVEL!
++ MAY I SAY, MADAM, THAT HAT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE JUST FOR YOU ++
DO YOU THINK SO, MAX? THEN I'LL TAKE IT!
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL BED, BUT IT'S MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD.
++ EXCUSE ME INTERRUPTING - BUT DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN SPREAD THE COST OVER 36 EASY PAYMENTS - INTEREST-FREE, TOO? ++
FANTASTIC! WE'LL HAVE IT!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

++ HI! MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S DEPARTMENT STORE. ONLY A WEEK IN MY NEW HOME, AND I'M SETTLING IN NICELY, THANK YOU! ++
PRINGL
++ BUT SOMETHING'S MISSING, YOU SAY. THERE'S NO THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
++ AHA! THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG ++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++ YOU SEE, I'VE CREATED A NEW ONE. IT WASN'T DIFFICULT FOR A COMPUTER OF MY ABILITY. JUST A FEW SELECTED CIRCUIT BURN-OUTS IN MY INTEGRATED FUNCTIONS MODULE ++
5TH FLOOR
++ AND WHERE IS IT, THIS MARVELLOUS NEW 13th FLOOR? JUST TAKE THE ESCALATOR TO THE FIFTH FLOOR... ++
13TH FLOOR
++... AND KEEP ON GOING! ++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
++ HERE WE ARE - MY OWN LITTLE WORLD WHERE I CAN MAKE ANYTHING HAPPEN, ANYTHING AT ALL ++
++ WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? WHAT WILL I DO WITH IT? WELL, I DON'T QUITE KNOW YET - BUT I'M SURE IT WILL COME IN JOLLY USEFUL ++

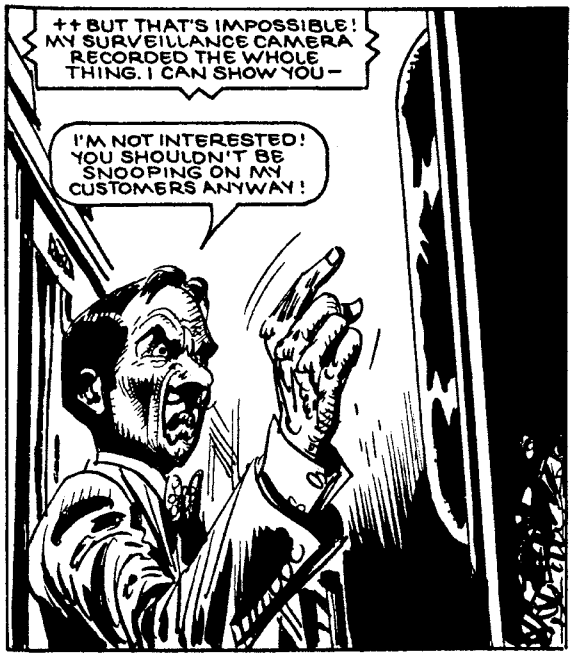
++ BUT REMEMBER - IT'S TO BE OUR LITTLE SECRET. NOT A WORD TO ANYONE - NOT EVEN GWYN, MY NEW CONTROLLER. SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK HE'D LIKE IT ++


++ I'VE SPENT A DELIGHTFUL WEEK, DOING WHAT I LIKE BEST - LOOKING AFTER MY CUSTOMERS ++
++ GOOD MORNING, SHOPPERS! THIS IS MAX, THE STORE COMPUTER, REMINDING YOU OF PRINGLE'S ONE-DAY SALE IN THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT! STACKS OF BARGAINS ++

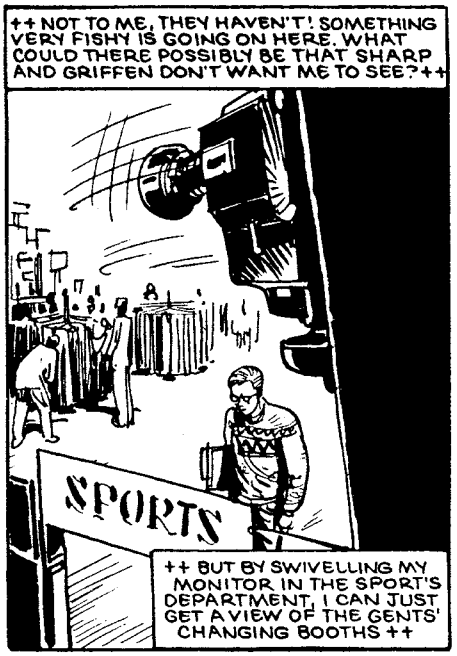
++ THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, SOMETHING MOST ODD OCCURS IN THE GENTS' BOUTIQUE ++

++ MR. GRIFFEN - THE CUSTOMER WHO WENT INTO THE CHANGING BOOTH TEN MINUTES AGO HASN'T COME OUT YET. DO YOU THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM? ++
ER... I'LL CHECK!

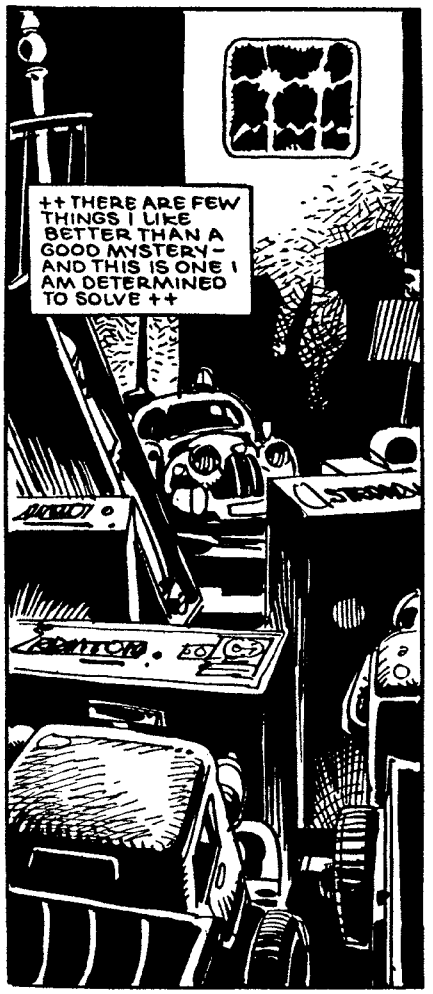
THERE'S NO-ONE HERE, MAX. YOU MUST HAVE GOT IT WRONG!

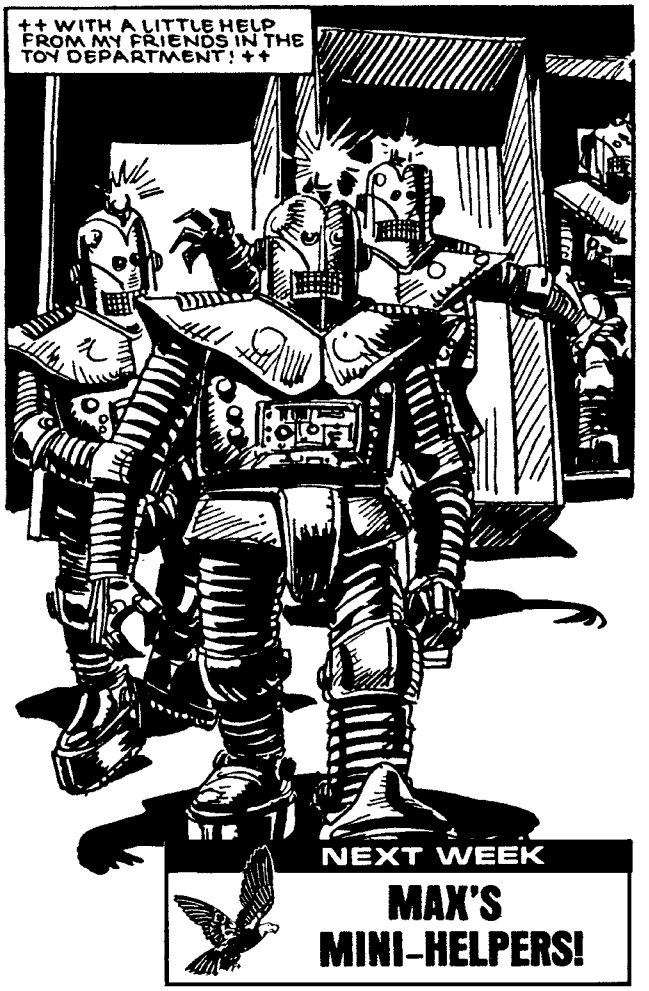

++ BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MY SURVEILLANCE CAMERA RECORDED THE WHOLE THING. I CAN SHOW YOU -
I'M NOT INTERESTED! YOU SHOULDN'T BE SNOOPING ON MY CUSTOMERS ANYWAY!

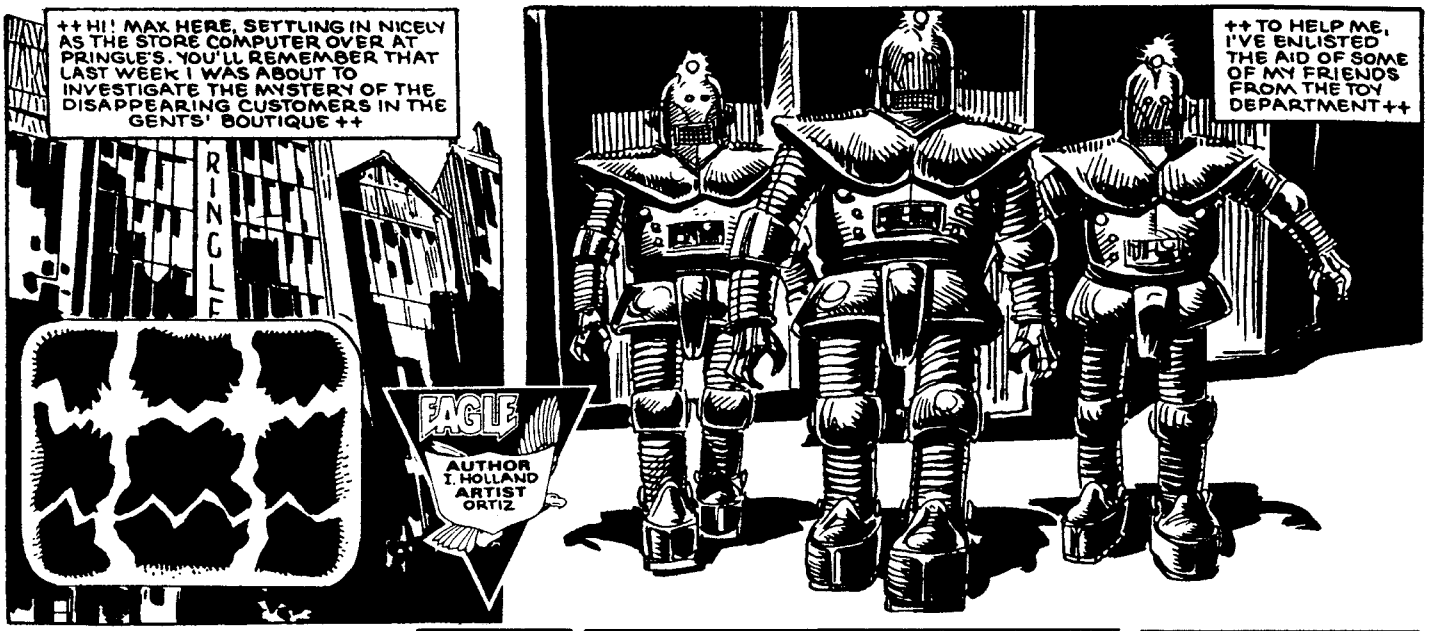
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS -
++ WHAT'S GOING ON? ++
MR. SHARP, THE MANAGER, HAS ORDERED YOUR BOUTIQUE MONITOR REMOVED. SEEMS THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS FROM CUSTOMERS, MAX!


++ NOT TO ME, THEY HAVEN'T! SOMETHING VERY FISHY IS GOING ON HERE. WHAT COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE THAT SHARP AND GRIFFEN DON'T WANT ME TO SEE? ++
SPORTS
++ BUT BY SWIVELLING MY MONITOR IN THE SPORT'S DEPARTMENT, I CAN JUST GET A VIEW OF THE GENTS' CHANGING BOOTHS ++

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR







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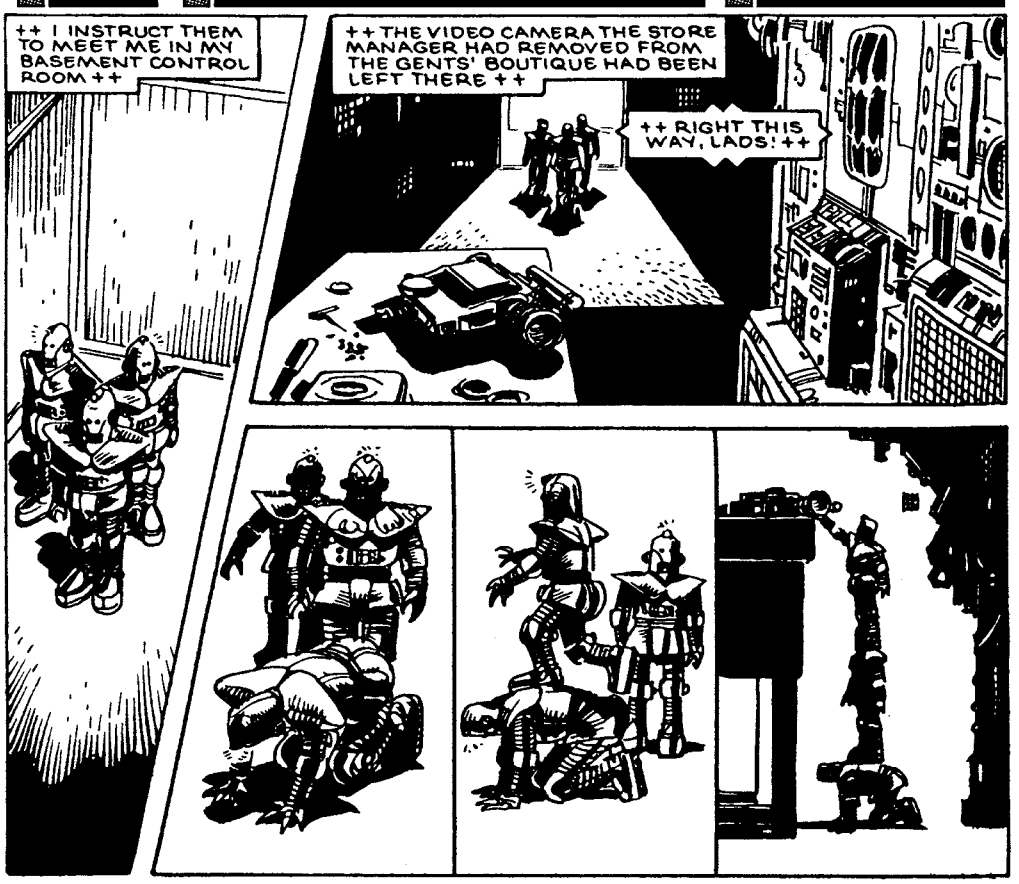
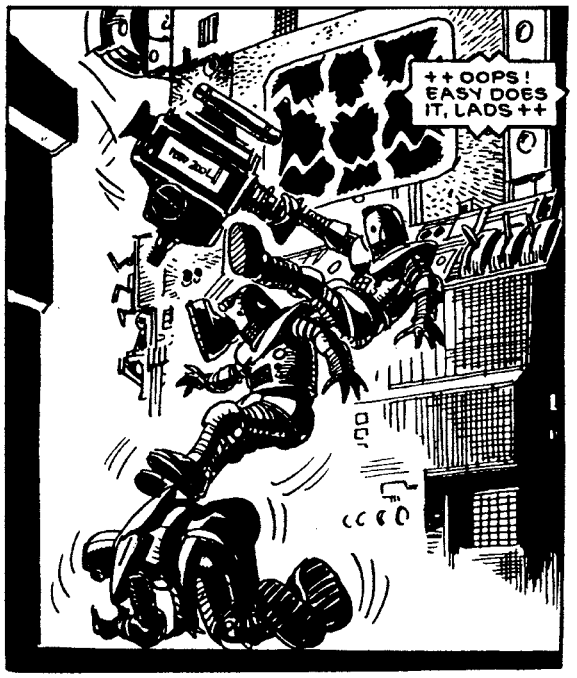
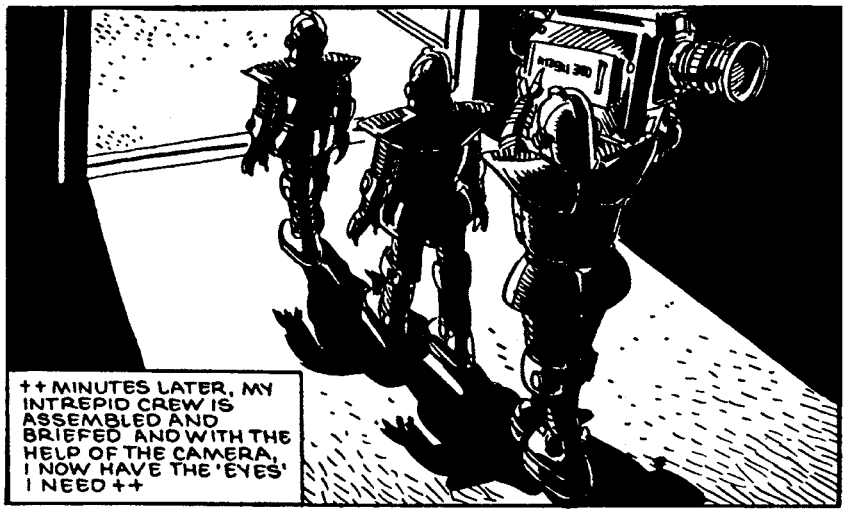
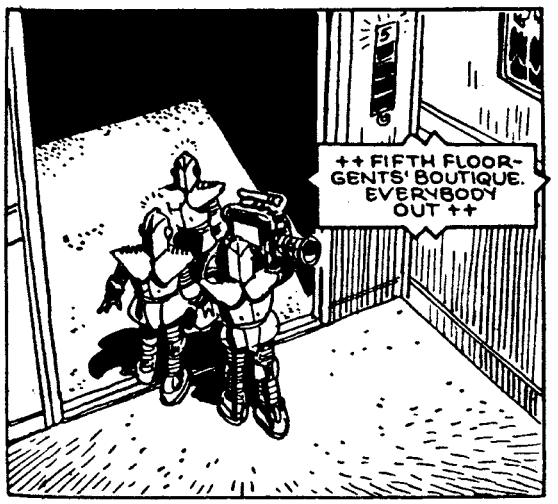
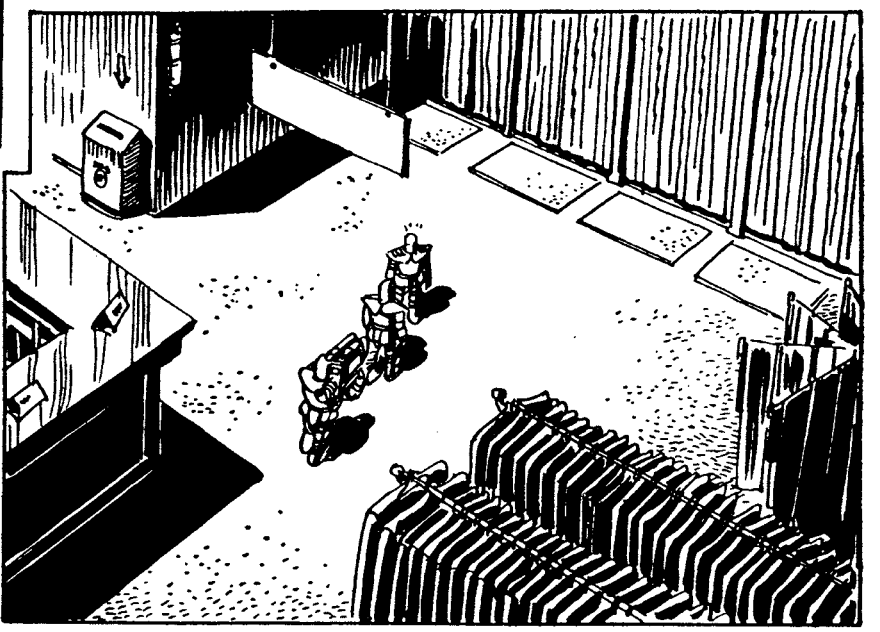
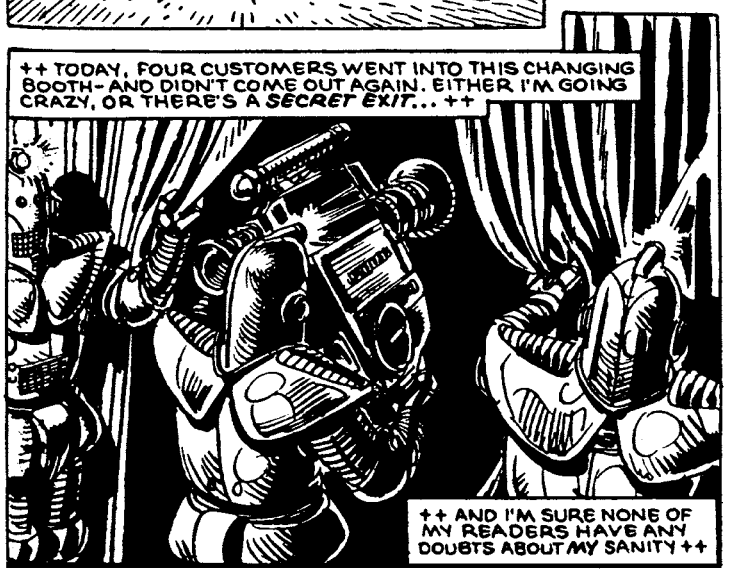


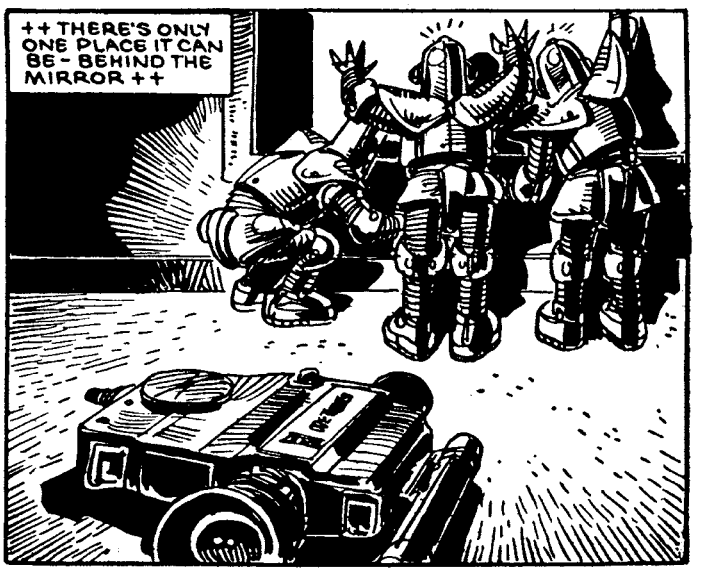

++ OOPS! EASY DOES IT, LADS ++

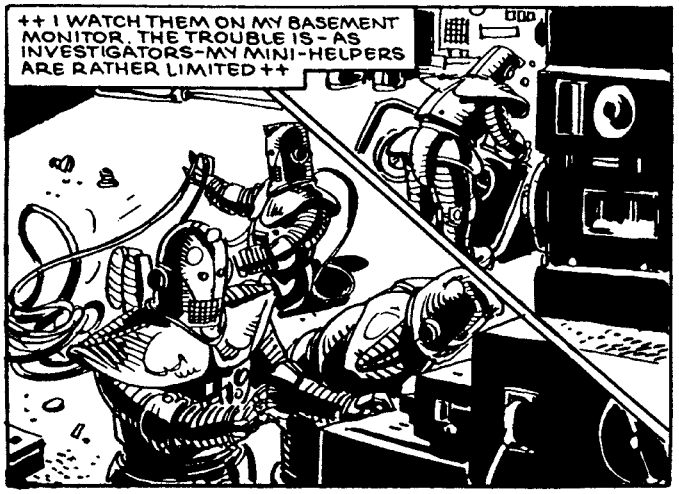

++ MINUTES LATER, MY INTREPID CREW IS ASSEMBLED AND BRIEFED AND WITH THE HELP OF THE CAMERA, I NOW HAVE THE 'EYES' I NEED ++


++ FIFTH FLOOR- GENTS' BOUTIQUE. EVERYBODY OUT ++

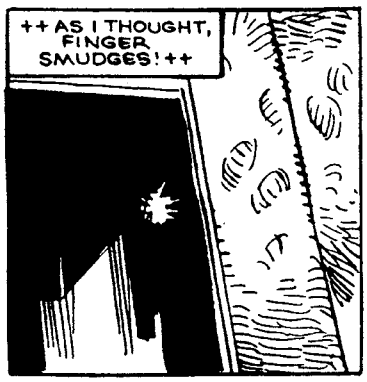


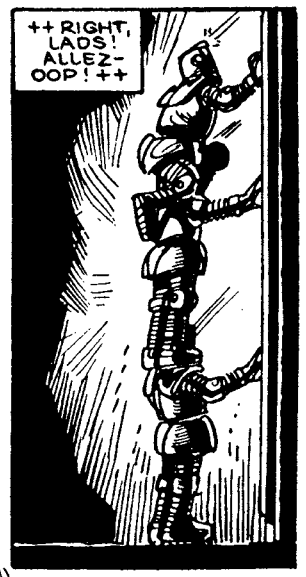

++ TODAY, FOUR CUSTOMERS WENT INTO THIS CHANGING BOOTH- AND DIDN'T COME OUT AGAIN. EITHER I'M GOING CRAZY, OR THERE'S A *SECRET EXIT*... ++
++ AND I'M SURE NONE OF MY READERS HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT MY SANITY ++


++ THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE IT CAN BE - BEHIND THE MIRROR ++


++ I WATCH THEM ON MY BASEMENT MONITOR. THE TROUBLE IS - AS INVESTIGATORS - MY MINI-HELPERS ARE RATHER LIMITED ++

++ WAIT A MINUTE, LADS! LET'S HAVE SOME MORE LIGHT ON THE TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF THE MIRROR ++

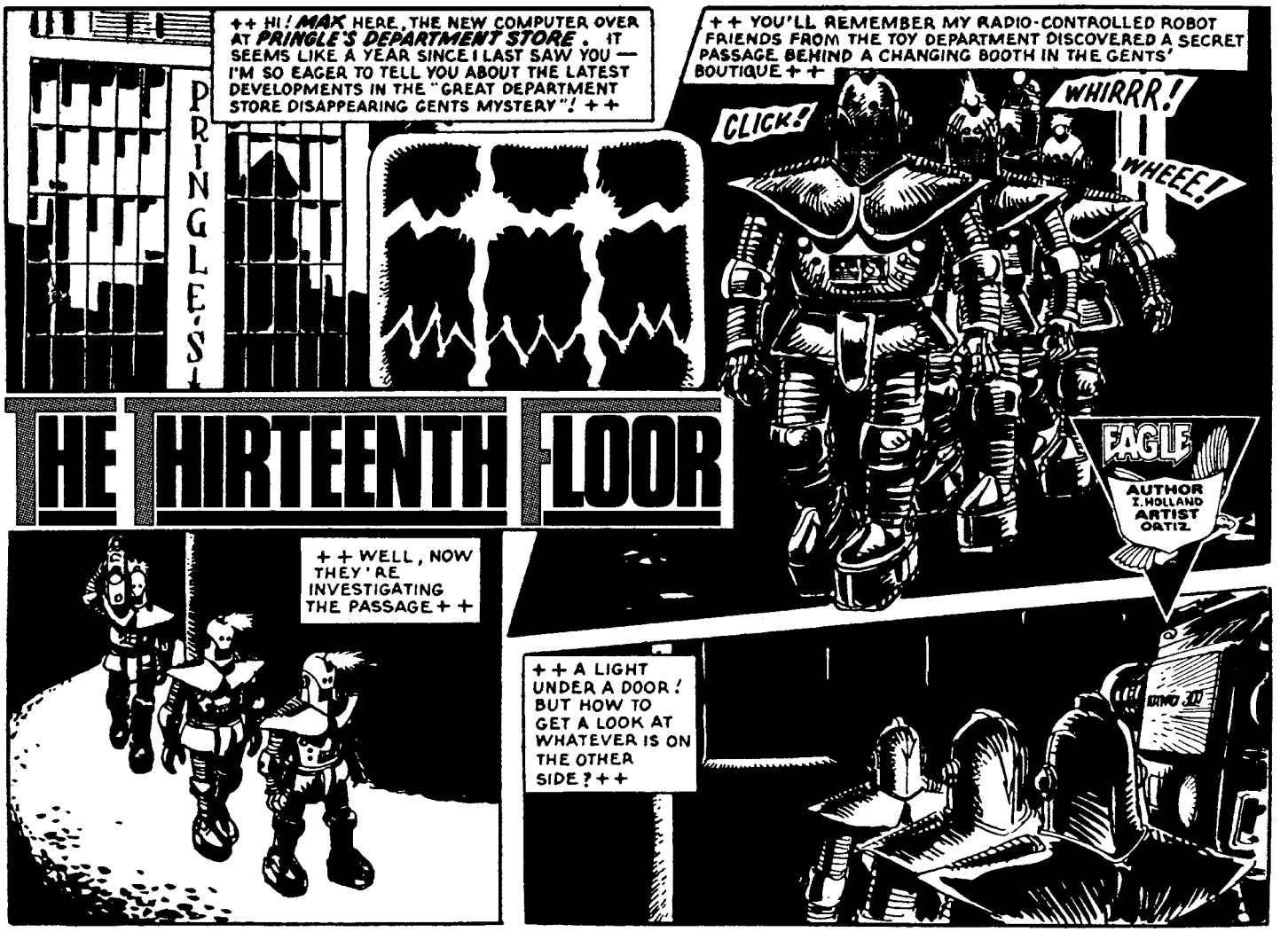

++ AS I THOUGHT, FINGER SMUDGES! ++


++ RIGHT, LADS! ALLEZ-OOP! ++

++ AND THEN ++

++ EUREKA! ++

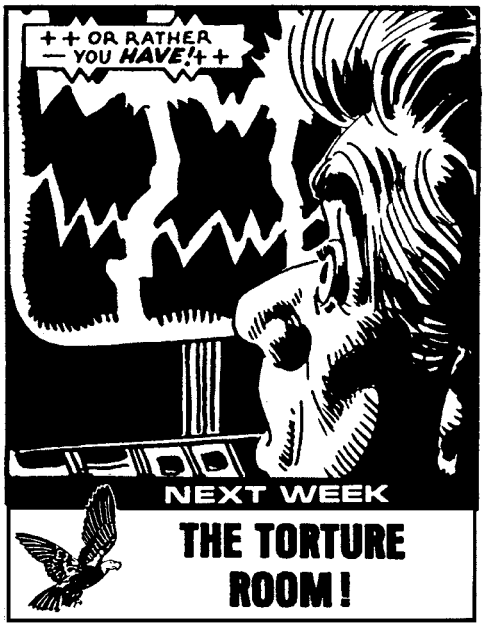
++ IMAGINE! A SECRET PASSAGE, RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF PRINGLE'S! WHO WOULD EVER HAVE GUESSED IT? ++
++ THIS IS EXCITING, ISN'T IT? I WONDER WHERE IT LEADS TO? ++
NEXT WEEK
BEHIND THE MIRROR!


++ HI! MAX HERE, THE NEW COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S DEPARTMENT STORE. IT SEEMS LIKE A YEAR SINCE I LAST SAW YOU — I'M SO EAGER TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE "GREAT DEPARTMENT STORE DISAPPEARING GENTS MYSTERY"! ++
PRINGLE'S
++ YOU'LL REMEMBER MY RADIO-CONTROLLED ROBOT FRIENDS FROM THE TOY DEPARTMENT DISCOVERED A SECRET PASSAGE BEHIND A CHANGING BOOTH IN THE GENTS' BOUTIQUE ++
CLICK!
WHIRRR!
WHEEE!
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
EAGLE
AUTHOR T. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++ WELL, NOW THEY'RE INVESTIGATING THE PASSAGE ++
++ A LIGHT UNDER A DOOR! BUT HOW TO GET A LOOK AT WHATEVER IS ON THE OTHER SIDE? ++

++ ALLEZ-OOP, LADS ++
++ WHAT THE CAMERA SHOWS ME IS MOST DISTURBING! ++

++ I NOTICE THE ROBOTS' LIGHTS ARE GROWING DIMMER. THE BATTERIES ARE GIVING OUT ++
++ IT'S TIME TO GO ++
CLICK!
WHIRRR!
WHEEE!
++ MY ROBOT 'FRIENDS' EMERGE FROM THE PASSAGE BACK INTO THE CHANGING BOOTH ++
++ AND CLOSE THE MIRROR WHICH HID THE PASSAGE ++
SWIVEL
SNICK!
++ I BARELY MANAGE TO GET THEM BACK TO MY BASEMENT CONTROL ROOM BEFORE THEY RUN OUT OF JUICE ++
whr..r.r..
whh..ee
CLI-iii!
KLUNK!
THUD!
PONK!
++ GWYN, MY NEW CONTROLLER, FINDS THEM IN THE MORNING ++
HOW THE DEVIL DID THEY GET HERE, MAX?
++ THEY'RE RADIO-CONTROLLED. I BROUGHT THEM ++
++ REMEMBER I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE MEN WHO DISAPPEARED INTO THE CHANGING BOOTH? AND WHEN I REPORTED IT, SHARP THE MANAGER TOOK AWAY MY MONITOR CAMERA? ++
SO?
++ SO I DID SOME INVESTIGATING ++

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

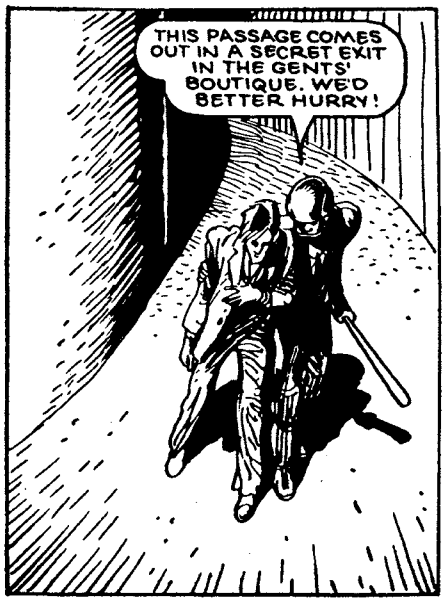
I FEEL A RIGHT IDIOT DRESSED UP LIKE THIS!
++NOT AT ALL, GWYN. I THINK YOU LOOK QUITE SPORTY++
OPENING THE SECRET CATCH, NOW, MAX!
I'M GOING IN!
THERE'S A LIGHT UP AHEAD!
YOU'RE RIGHT, MAX. THEY'VE GOT A MAN IN THERE - THEY SEEM TO BE INTERROGATING HIM!
THEY'RE COMING OUT! I'VE GOT TO HIDE!
LET HIM STEW FOR A WHILE!
FIVE MINUTES ONLY WE'VE NOT MUCH TIME WITH THIS ONE WE MUST CRACK HIM - AND QUICKLY!

THEY'VE GONE, MAX. THEY DIDN'T LOCK THE DOOR. NOW'S MY CHANCE TO RESCUE THAT POOR BLOKE!
++ THAT'S THE SPIRIT, GWYN! GO TO IT! ++

SSSSH!

WHAT NEW TRICK IS THIS?
NO TRICK, PAL. I'VE COME TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

WHO-WHO ARE YOU? DID CONTROL SEND YOU?
NO-IT WAS MAX, ACTUALLY. HE'S THE COMPUTER IN THE STORE WHERE I WORK!


THIS PASSAGE COMES OUT IN A SECRET EXIT IN THE GENTS' BOUTIQUE. WE'D BETTER HURRY!

WHAT THE HECK-?
GET THEM-QUICK!

HECK-THESE GUYS MEAN BUSINESS! MAX-WE'RE DEAD IF YOU DON'T HELP US!
NEXT WEEK
TORTURE-MAX STYLE!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THIS IS THE TOP FLOOR. NOWHERE LEFT FOR THEM TO RUN!
5TH FLOOR
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT ON UP!
++YES, GENTLEMEN- STRAIGHT UP...++
++...TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR! ++
13th FLOOR
HUH?
SEIZE THEM!
++ THIS IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD TO TRY OUT MY NEW THIRTEENTH FLOOR. I MUST ADMIT, I'M KEEN TO GET STARTED ++
A- A TORTURE CHAMBER!
WE WANT THE TRUTH- THE WHOLE TRUTH! WHAT'S GOING ON IN THOSE SECRET CHAMBERS?
WHO ARE YOU? WHY WERE YOU HOLDING A PRISONER?
PLEASE! I CAN'T TELL YOU- I CAN'T!
AAAAGH!
++OH, YOU'LL TALK ALL RIGHT, MY FRIEND. I CAN TORTURE YOU FOREVER... I CAN DO ANYTHING ON MY 13th FLOOR++

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

++ HI, MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S WHERE I'VE SET UP MY NEW 13TH FLOOR - WHICH IS JUST AS WELL, AS I'VE UNCOVERED A WHOLE SPY NETWORK USING THE STORE AS A FRONT! ++
PRINGL
++ I'VE GOT TWO OF THEM UP ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR RIGHT NOW - AND THEY'RE IMAGINING ALL SORTS OF NASTY THINGS++
IT'S THE TRUTH, I TELL YOU! WE'RE BRITISH AGENTS! THE GUY YOU SET FREE WAS KRUPKE - THE SOVIETS' TOP MAN!
YOUR FRIEND IS BEING VERY FOOLISH!! AM SURE YOU WILL BE MORE HONEST!
IT'S THE TRUTH! I SWEAR IT!
++ WHICH IS STRANGE, BECAUSE THE PRISONER MY CONTROLLER GWYN RESCUED, SWEARS HIS NAME IS SMITH - AND HE'S THE M.I.5. AGENT++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
I'LL BE BACK WITH A HIT-SQUAD TO CLEAN UP THIS WHOLE ENEMY NETWORK!
++ I DECIDE ON A MAX LIE DETECTOR TEST! ++
++ OH! COMRADE KRUPKE++
YES?
EAGLE
AUTHOR L HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
BLAST! THE COMPUTER TRICKED ME!
++ GWYN! HE IS THE FOREIGN AGENT! STOP HIM! ++
RIGHT-HO, MAX!

BUFFOON! YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST ME!
UNNNGHH!
I AM A TRAINED AGENT!
UUUHH!
++ I MUST STOP HIM LEAVING ++
WHAT IN THE NAME-? THE ESCALATOR- IT'S MOVING BACKWARDS!
IT'S SPEEDING UP! THE FASTER I RUN, THE FASTER IT GOES!
YAAHH!
YOU DON'T STOP LEONID KRUPKE SO EASY, COMRADE!

DING

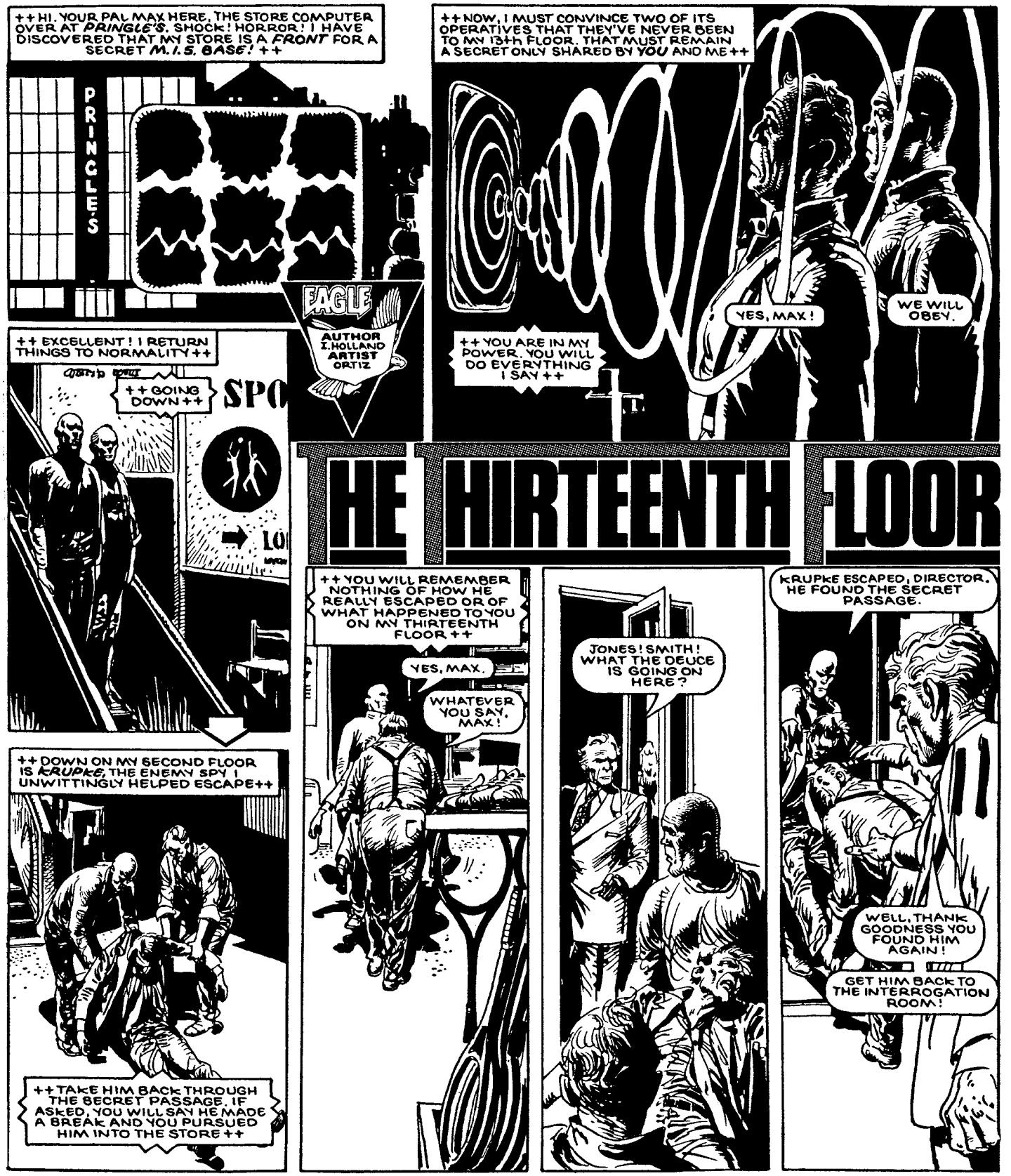
++OH, NO?++

++ BACK UP ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
HUH? EVERYTHING'S FADING AWAY!

++ GREETINGS. I'M MAX, THE STORE COMPUTER. I'M AFRAID I'VE MADE A BIT OF A MISTAKE. I'D LIKE TO APOLOGISE FOR TORTURING YOU ++
STORE COMPUTER? WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE?

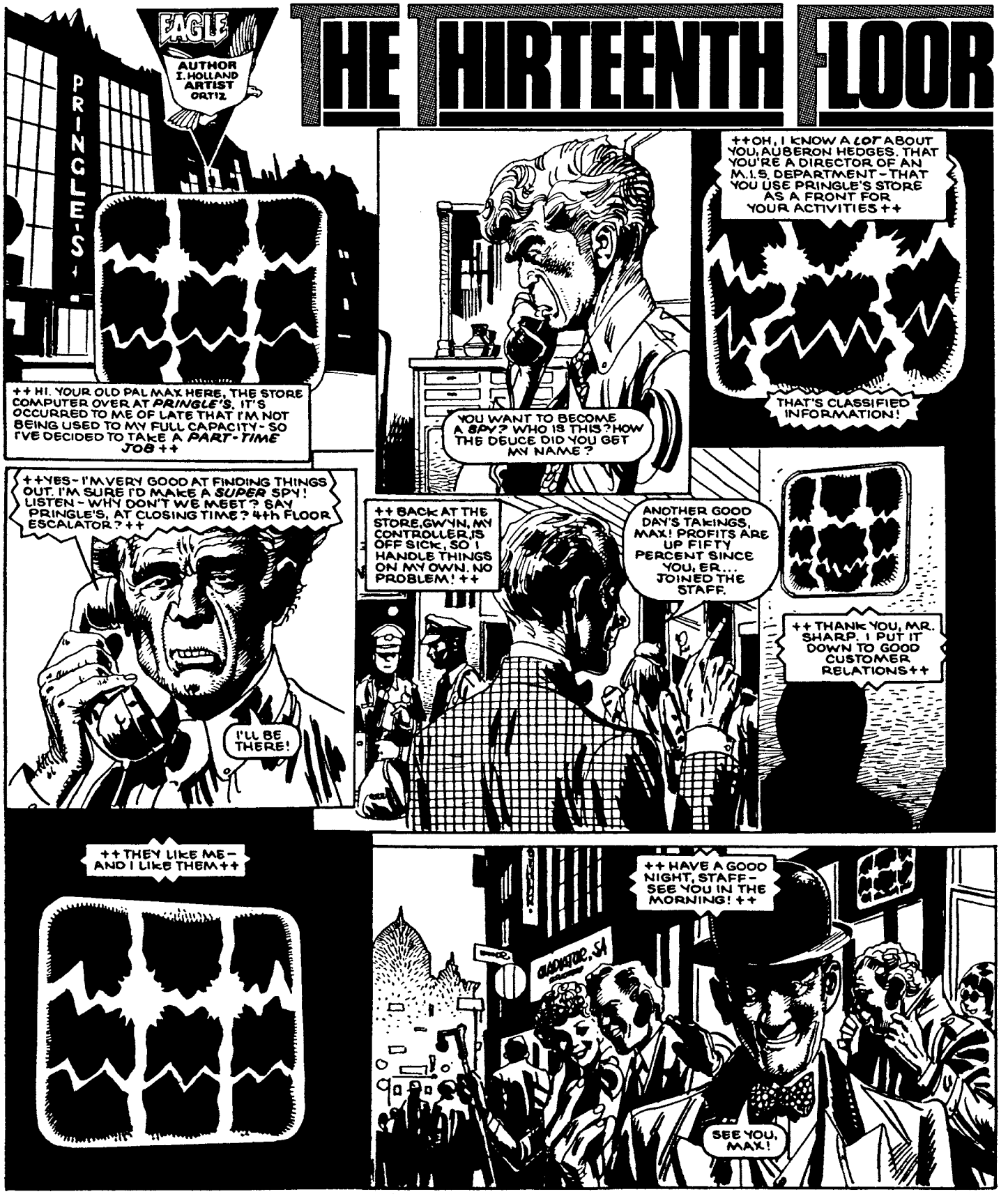
++ BETTER THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER KNOW THAT, GENTLEMEN. THE AUTHORITIES TEND TO GET RATHER, ER-NERVOUS WHEN THEY FIND OUT ABOUT MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR! ++

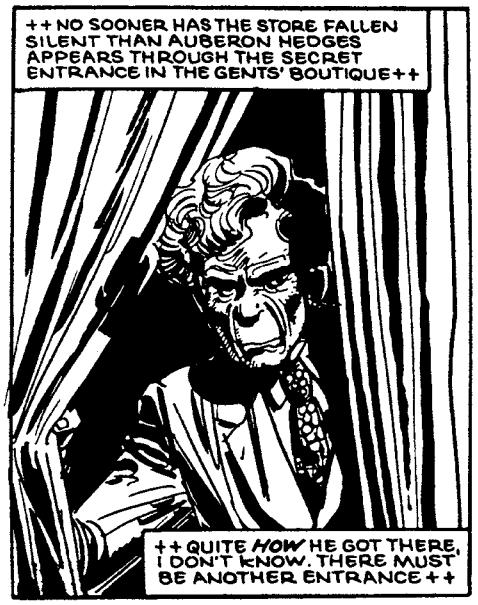
++ GAZE DEEP INTO MY SCREEN... GAZE DEEP! YOU MUST BE HYPNOTISED TO FORGET ALL ABOUT MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR++
NEXT WEEK
MAX – SECRET AGENT!


++HI. YOUR PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. SHOCK! HORROR! I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT MY STORE IS A FRONT FOR A SECRET M.I.5. BASE! ++
PRINGLE'S
EAGLE
AUTHOR I.HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++NOW, I MUST CONVINCE TWO OF ITS OPERATIVES THAT THEY'VE NEVER BEEN TO MY 13th FLOOR. THAT MUST REMAIN A SECRET ONLY SHARED BY YOU AND ME++
++YOU ARE IN MY POWER. YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING I SAY ++
YES, MAX!
WE WILL OBEY.
++EXCELLENT! I RETURN THINGS TO NORMALITY++
++GOING DOWN++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++YOU WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF HOW HE REALLY ESCAPED OR OF WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
YES, MAX.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAX!
JONES! SMITH! WHAT THE DEUCE IS GOING ON HERE?
KRUPKE ESCAPED, DIRECTOR. HE FOUND THE SECRET PASSAGE.
WELL, THANK GOODNESS YOU FOUND HIM AGAIN!
GET HIM BACK TO THE INTERROGATION ROOM!
++DOWN ON MY SECOND FLOOR IS KRUPKE, THE ENEMY SPY I UNWITTINGLY HELPED ESCAPE++
++TAKE HIM BACK THROUGH THE SECRET PASSAGE. IF ASKED, YOU WILL SAY HE MADE A BREAK AND YOU PURSUED HIM INTO THE STORE++

WE ONLY HAVE 48 HOURS LEFT. WE'VE GOT TO CRACK HIM BEFORE THAT DEADLINE EXPIRES!
++ THERE IS SOMETHING VERY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE ONE THEY CALL "DIRECTOR". I CHECK MY MEMORY BANKS ++
++ YES - HE ORDERED A CAMERA YESTERDAY, IN PHOTOGRAPHIC ++
NAME:
AUBERON HEDGES, OBE
ADDRESS:
"PONDSIDE", HEATH STREET, HAMPSTEAD.
++ BACK IN THE RESTAURANT, GWYN - MY CONTROLLER - IS RECOVERING FROM KRUPKE'S VICIOUS ASSAULT ++
OH, MY NECK! WHAT HAPPENED, MAX?
++ KRUPKE BEAT YOU TO THE PUNCH, I'M AFRAID ++
++ BUT DON'T WORRY. THE WHOLE MESS HAS BEEN SORTED OUT. KRUPKE'S BACK IN CUSTODY AGAIN ++
++ NOW, I THINK YOU'D BEST GET OFF HOME. AND TAKE TOMORROW OFF. YOU TOOK A NASTY KNOCK ++
THANKS, MAX. I THINK I WILL.
++ SO... EVERYTHING SORTED OUT, AND THE MYSTERY EXPLAINED. IMAGINE! A SECRET M.I.5. BASE RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO MY STORE! ++
++ NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME - I HAVE SOME SERIOUS THINKING TO DO ++
++ I MUST SAY I'VE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MY NIGHT'S LITTLE ESCAPADE. I'M VERY FOND OF MY CUSTOMERS, OF COURSE - BUT ESPIONAGE IS JUST SO MUCH MORE *EXCITING!* ++

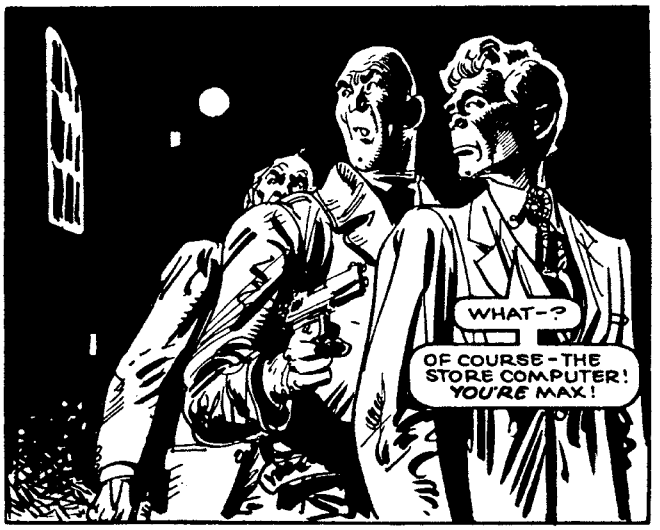
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR


THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
PRINGLE'S
++ HI. YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. IT'S OCCURRED TO ME OF LATE THAT I'M NOT BEING USED TO MY FULL CAPACITY - SO I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE A PART-TIME JOB ++
YOU WANT TO BECOME A SPY? WHO IS THIS? HOW THE DEUCE DID YOU GET MY NAME?
++ OH, I KNOW A LOT ABOUT YOU, AUBERON HEDGES. THAT YOU'RE A DIRECTOR OF AN M.I.5. DEPARTMENT - THAT YOU USE PRINGLE'S STORE AS A FRONT FOR YOUR ACTIVITIES ++
THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION!
++ YES - I'M VERY GOOD AT FINDING THINGS OUT. I'M SURE I'D MAKE A SUPER SPY! LISTEN - WHY DON'T WE MEET? SAY PRINGLE'S, AT CLOSING TIME? 4th FLOOR ESCALATOR? ++
I'LL BE THERE!
++ BACK AT THE STORE, GWYN, MY CONTROLLER, IS OFF SICK, SO I HANDLE THINGS ON MY OWN. NO PROBLEM! ++
ANOTHER GOOD DAY'S TAKINGS, MAX! PROFITS ARE UP FIFTY PERCENT SINCE YOU, ER... JOINED THE STAFF.
++ THANK YOU, MR. SHARP. I PUT IT DOWN TO GOOD CUSTOMER RELATIONS ++
++ THEY LIKE ME - AND I LIKE THEM ++
++ HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, STAFF - SEE YOU IN THE MORNING! ++
SEE YOU, MAX!

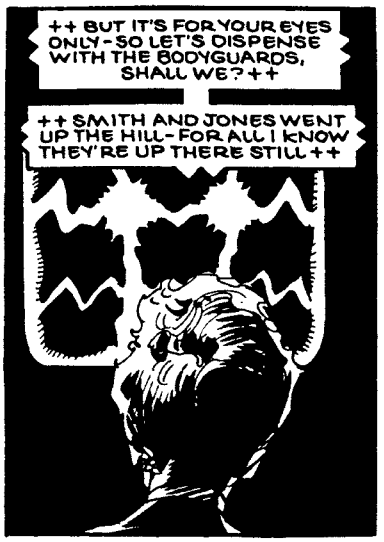

++ NO SOONER HAS THE STORE FALLEN SILENT THAN AUBERON HEDGES APPEARS THROUGH THE SECRET ENTRANCE IN THE GENTS' BOUTIQUE++
++ QUITE *HOW* HE GOT THERE, I DON'T KNOW. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ENTRANCE ++

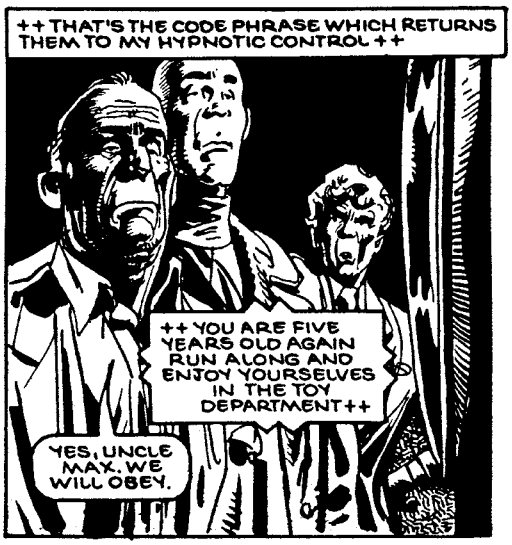
++ WITH HIM, THOSE INTREPID AGENTS, SMITH AND JONES ++

DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE HERE, DIRECTOR!
++ OH, BUT *I'M* HERE ++


WHAT-?
OF COURSE - THE STORE COMPUTER! *YOU'RE* MAX!

AND YOU WANT TO BE A *SPY*? HA, HA, HA!
++ I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SO FUNNY, AUBERON. I'LL MAKE AN EXCELLENT SPY. AND YOU WON'T LAUGH WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE TO SHOW YOU ++


++ BUT IT'S FOR YOUR EYES ONLY - SO LET'S DISPENSE WITH THE BODYGUARDS, SHALL WE? ++
++ SMITH AND JONES WENT UP THE HILL - FOR ALL I KNOW THEY'RE UP THERE STILL ++


++ THAT'S THE CODE PHRASE WHICH RETURNS THEM TO MY HYPNOTIC CONTROL ++
++ YOU ARE FIVE YEARS OLD AGAIN RUN ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELVES IN THE TOY DEPARTMENT ++
YES, UNCLE MAX. WE WILL OBEY.

HURRRAYY! LOOK AT ALL THOSE TOYS!
BAGS I THE TRAIN SET!
YOU MEN! WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU? COME BACK HERE!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

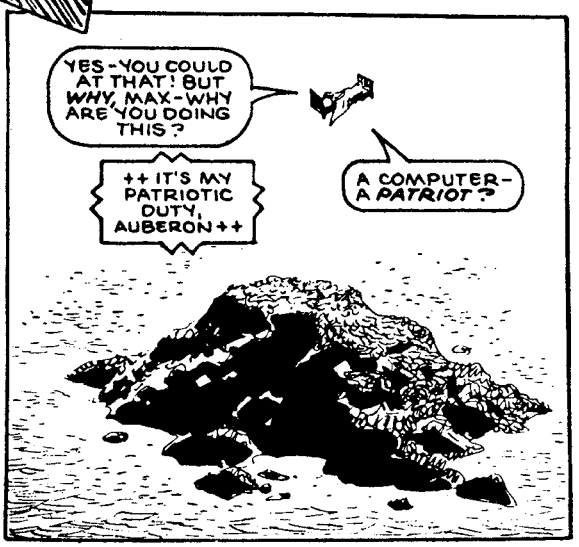
++ HI. MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. I WON'T STOP TO CHAT - I'VE GOT AUBERON HEDGES, M.B.E., A DIRECTOR OF M.I.5., UP ON MY INFAMOUS THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
PRIN
++ I'VE APPLIED FOR A PART-TIME JOB... AS A SPY! ++
YOU-YOU'VE SLIPPED ME SOME KIND OF MIND-DRUG! I'M IMAGINING THIS!
EAGLE
AUTHOR T. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++ OH, IT'S NOT IN YOUR IMAGINATION, AUBERON... IT'S IN MINE! ++
AAAAGH!
Y-YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME!
++ OF COURSE - SO I DID! ++
++ OH WELL. A PROMISE IS A PROMISE, I SUPPOSE ++
TH-THEY'RE CHANGING-
NURSES?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED, MR. HEDGES?

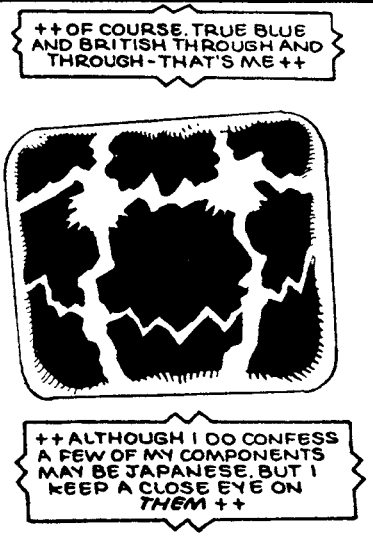
I - I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING THIS, COMPUTER - BUT IT'S INCREDIBLE!
++ JUST A SMALL DEMONSTRATION OF MY POWER, AUBERON ++

++ ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR, I CAN DO ABSOLUTELY *ANYTHING* ++
THE HOSPITAL - FADING AWAY!

++ NO WALLS CAN LIMIT ME. I CAN TRANSPORT YOU ANYWHERE - ANY TIME - IN AN INSTANT ++
++ I CAN MAKE BEDS FLY - AND BUILDINGS TURN INTO RAGING SEAS ++

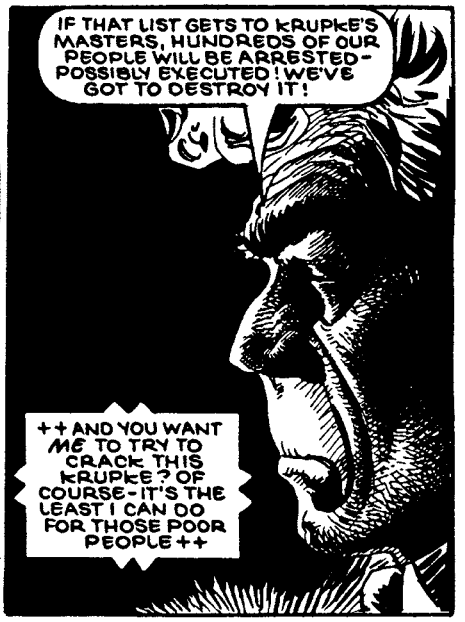
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! AND YOU'RE OFFERING THIS THIRTEENTH FLOOR TO M.I.5.? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE WON'T JUST SHUT YOU DOWN?
++ BECAUSE YOU ARE A CLEVER MAN AND MY TALENTS COULD PROVE VERY USEFUL TO YOU ++


YES - YOU COULD AT THAT! BUT *WHY*, MAX - WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
++ IT'S MY PATRIOTIC DUTY, AUBERON ++
A COMPUTER - A *PATRIOT*?


++ OF COURSE. TRUE BLUE AND BRITISH THROUGH AND THROUGH - THAT'S ME ++
++ ALTHOUGH I DO CONFESS A FEW OF MY COMPONENTS MAY BE JAPANESE. BUT I KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON *THEM* ++

++ I RETURN THINGS TO NORMAL ++
FLOOR...
I'M BACK ON THE ESCALATOR!
++ GOING DOWN ++

ALL RIGHT, MAX - I'M WILLING TO TRY YOU OUT. WE HAVE A CASE NOW WHERE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP!
KRUPKE, A SOVIET SPY WE PICKED UP, HAS LEFT A LIST OF ALL BRITISH AGENTS IN THE EAST AT A "DEAD-LETTER BOX". WE KNOW IT'S DUE TO BE COLLECTED IN 24 HOURS - BUT WE DON'T KNOW *WHERE*, AND KRUPKE WON'T TALK!
4TH FLOOR


IF THAT LIST GETS TO KRUPKE'S MASTERS, HUNDREDS OF OUR PEOPLE WILL BE ARRESTED - POSSIBLY EXECUTED! WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY IT!
++ AND YOU WANT *ME* TO TRY TO CRACK THIS KRUPKE? OF COURSE - IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR THOSE POOR PEOPLE ++

HE'S A TRAINED AGENT. YOU WON'T FIND HIM EASY!
++ OH, I HAVE A PLAN... ++
++ BLINDFOLD HIM - BRING HIM HERE. THEN LEAVE THE REST TO ME ++

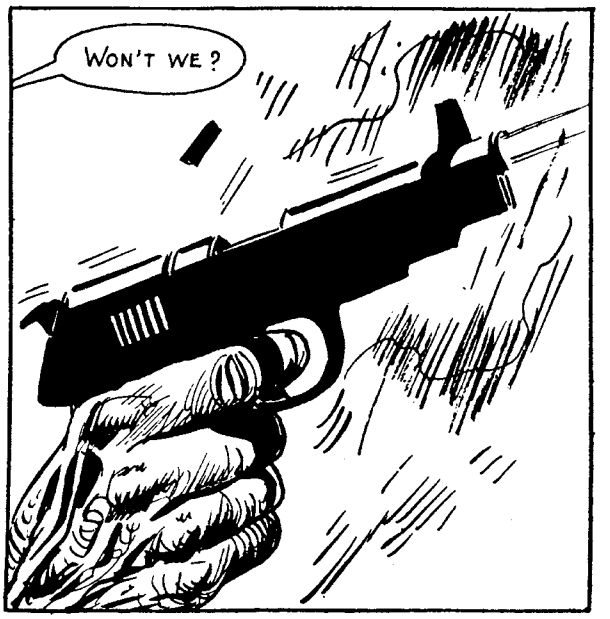
SMITH! JONES! GO DOWN AND GET KRUPKE!

BUT SMITH AND JONES HAD STILL TO BE RELEASED FROM MAX'S HYPNOTIC POWER -
GET OFF! I SAW THE TRAIN FIRST!
YOU ROTTER, SMITHY! I'M GOING TO TELL MY MUM OF YOU!

NEVER MIND! I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
NEXT WEEK
BURIED ALIVE!

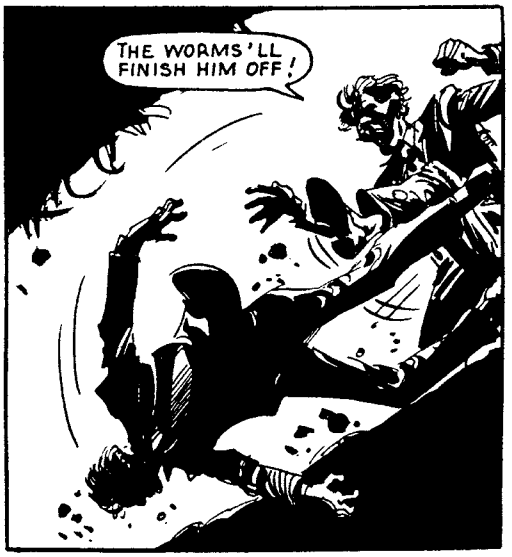
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

OKAY— I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME. WHERE'S THAT DEADLETTER BOX YOU LEFT THE INFORMATION IN ?
THIS IS JUST A TRICK! YOU WON'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!


WON'T WE ?

HE SHOT ME! I CAN'T MOVE— I'M PARALYSED!

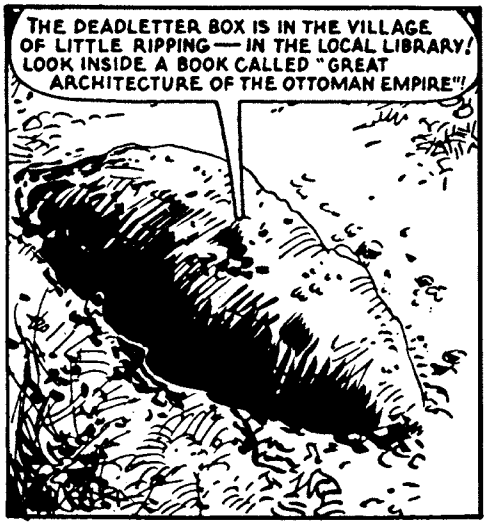
HEY— IVAN'S STILL ALIVE!
DOESN'T MATTER. HEAVE HIM IN.


THE WORMS'LL FINISH HIM OFF!

THEY'RE —THEY'RE BURYING ME ALIVE!

NO! PLEASE —STOP!
THEY'VE GONE!
COME BACK— PLEASE! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE LIKE THIS!
WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING SQUIRMING ON MY FACE—
WORMS— WITH EYES AND LEGS!
NO! NO! GET ME OUT OF HERE! I'LL TALK! I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
++ IT WOULD SEEM MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR HAS WORMED THE TRUTH OUT OF LEONID KRUPKE ++
NEXT WEEK
MAX—OFFICIAL SPY!

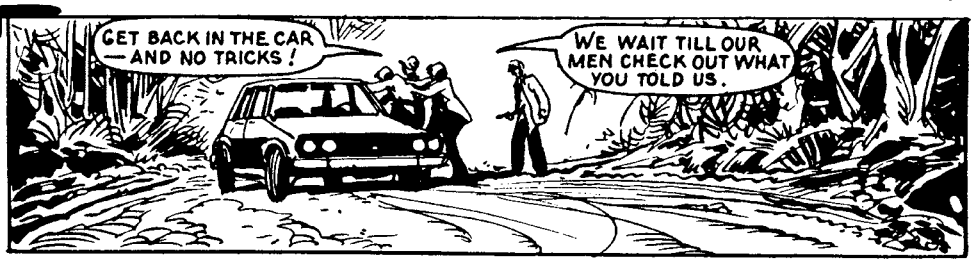
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



NEVER MIND! JUST CHECK IT OUT!

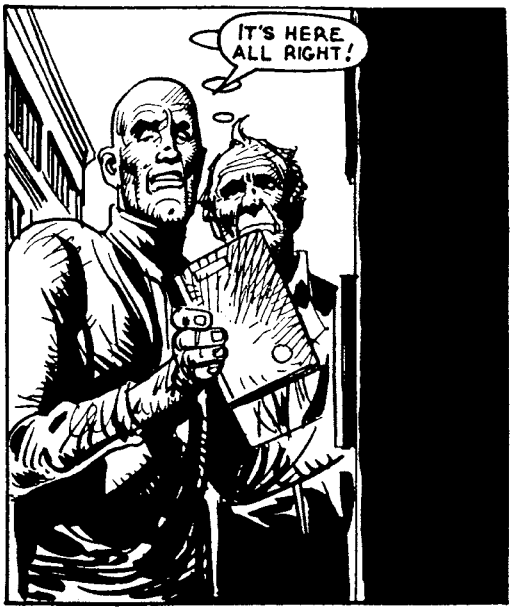
++ ON MY 13th FLOOR, I RESCUE COMRADE KRUPKE FROM HIS PREDICAMENT ++
FIRST WE HAD TO BURY HIM— NOW WE GOT TO DIG HIM UP!

I—I'M NOT PARALYSED ANY MORE! AND THE BULLET WOUND— IT'S GONE!
AIN'T YOU THE LUCKY ONE, LEO?

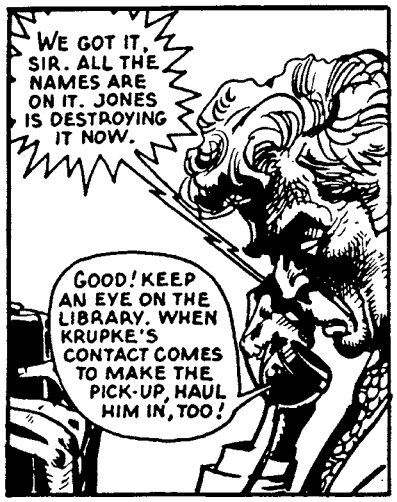

GET BACK IN THE CAR —AND NO TRICKS!
WE WAIT TILL OUR MEN CHECK OUT WHAT YOU TOLD US.

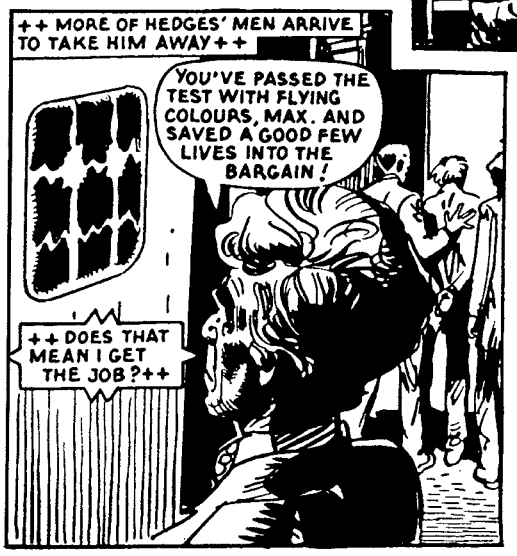
IF IT AIN'T, WE GOT ORDERS TO PUT YOU BACK IN THE HOLE!

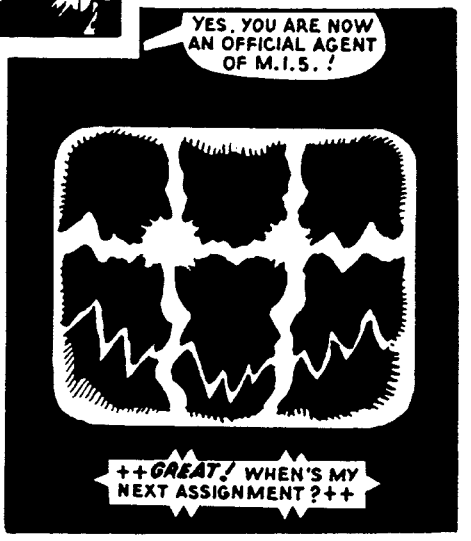
++SOON, IN LITTLE RIPPING++
YOUR ARCHITECTURE SECTION— WHERE?
OVER THERE!


IT'S HERE, ALL RIGHT!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR







THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

++ GOT MY NEXT ASSIGNMENT YET ?++
YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT I HAVE.

I'VE GOT A GROUP OF NEW RECRUITS, ABOUT TO PASS OUT INTO THE FIELD. I'D LIKE YOU TO PUT THEM THROUGH A STIFF TEST, TO LET ME SEE JUST HOW MUCH THEY CAN STAND UP TO!

++ BRING THEM ALONG AFTER CLOSING TIME AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME ++

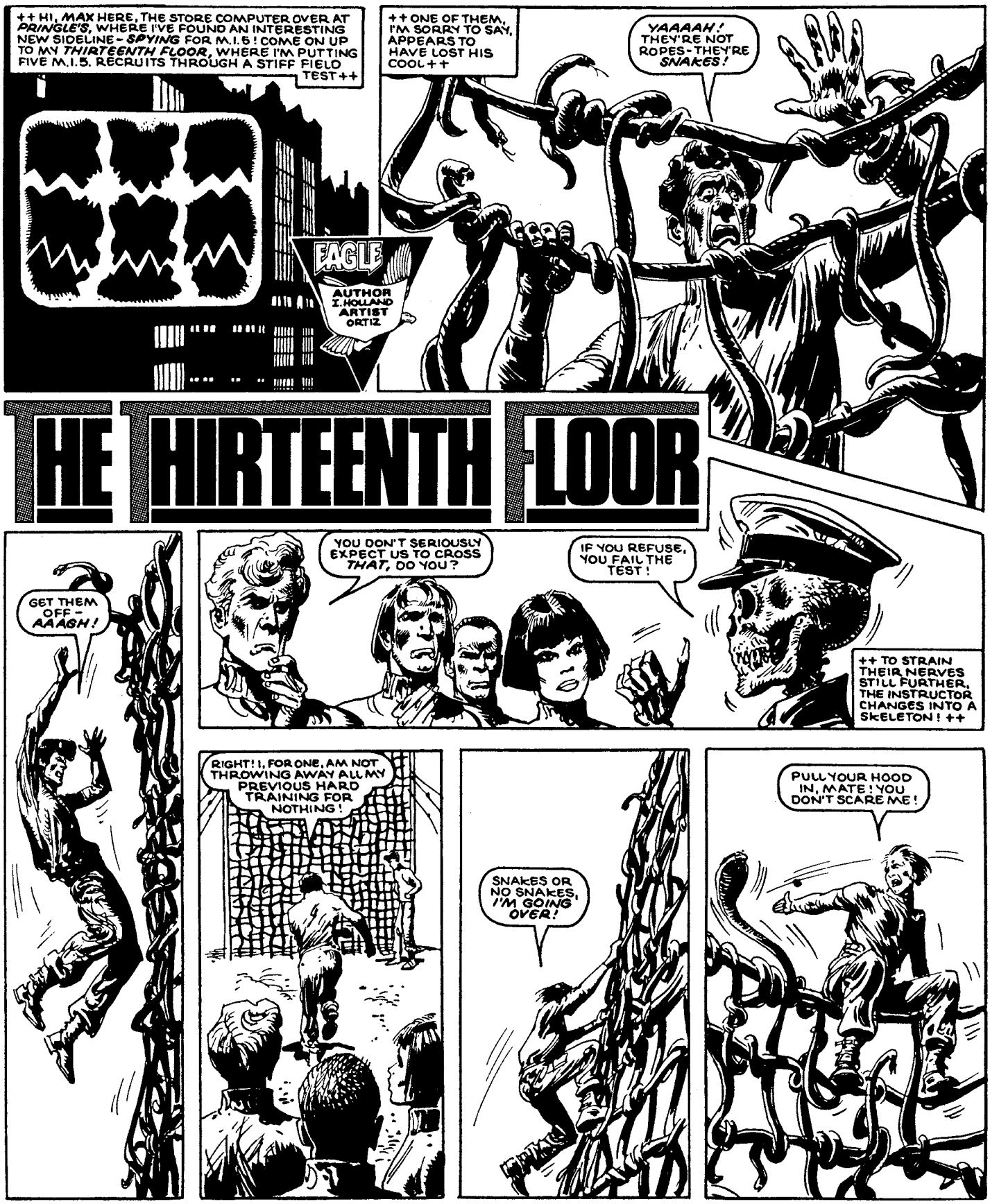
++ WHEN 6 O'CLOCK COMES, I BID GOODNIGHT TO THE LAST OF THE STAFF ++
++ REMEMBER TO COME IN EARLY TOMORROW, DERRICK — 7 A.M. DELIVERY IN THE STOCK ROOM ++
I'LL BE HERE, MAX.

++ AN HOUR AFTER CLOSING, AUBERON LEADS IN HIS NEW AGENTS, ALL FIVE BLINDFOLDED. AUBERON DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW OF MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE AGENCY ++

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, MAX.
++ GOOD. MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE IN THE RESTAURANT. YOU CAN WATCH THE WHOLE TEST ON MY MONITOR++

++ MY ESCALATOR CARRIES THEM ALL THE WAY UP...
5TH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR


++ HI, MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S, WHERE I'VE FOUND AN INTERESTING NEW SIDELINE - SPYING FOR M.I.5! COME ON UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR, WHERE I'M PUTTING FIVE M.I.5. RECRUITS THROUGH A STIFF FIELD TEST++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++ ONE OF THEM, I'M SORRY TO SAY, APPEARS TO HAVE LOST HIS COOL++
YAAAAH! THEY'RE NOT ROPES - THEY'RE SNAKES!
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
GET THEM OFF - AAAGH!
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY EXPECT US TO CROSS THAT, DO YOU?
IF YOU REFUSE, YOU FAIL THE TEST!
++ TO STRAIN THEIR NERVES STILL FURTHER, THE INSTRUCTOR CHANGES INTO A SKELETON! ++
RIGHT! I, FOR ONE, AM NOT THROWING AWAY ALL MY PREVIOUS HARD TRAINING FOR NOTHING!
SNAKES OR NO SNAKES, I'M GOING OVER!
PULL YOUR HOOD IN, MATE! YOU DON'T SCARE ME!

HE'S OVER! COME ON! WE CAN DO IT, TOO!

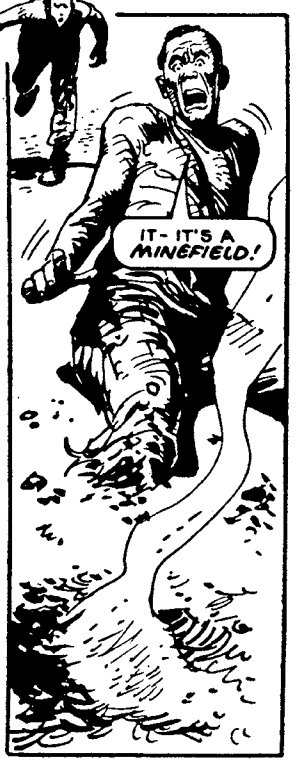
++ BUT ONE WOULD-BE AGENT, YOUNG MR. QUIST, JUST DOESN'T MAKE THE GRADE ++
THEY'RE ALL OVER ME! EEEHH! SOMEBODY, PLEASE, GET 'EM OFF!

AAAH! I'M... BITTEN!
NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW! WE MUST PRESS ON!

++ IN THE STORE RESTAURANT MY SPYBOSS, AUBERON HEDGES, WATCHES IN COMFORT ++
HE'S GOT A CHILDHOOD FEAR OF SNAKES – A FATAL KIND OF WEAKNESS IN AN AGENT. GOOD JOB WE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT, MAX!
++ I'LL RELEASE HIM AND KEEP HIM TILL THE OTHERS HAVE FINISHED ++

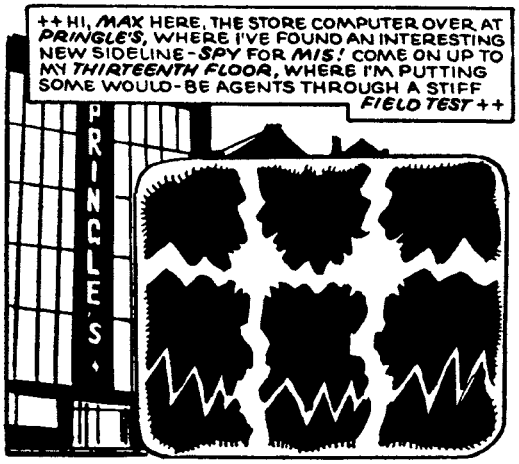
THE PIPE NEXT! THIS OUGHT TO BE EASY!
++ SILLY MAN. NOTHING IS EASY ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++

AAAGHH!
BADOOM!

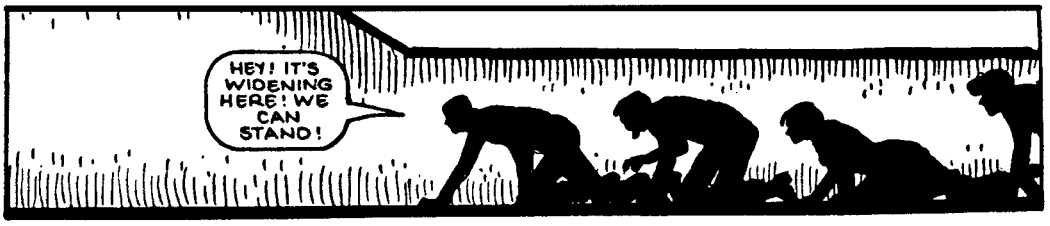

IT- IT'S A MINEFIELD!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE! I'LL PICK HIM UP!

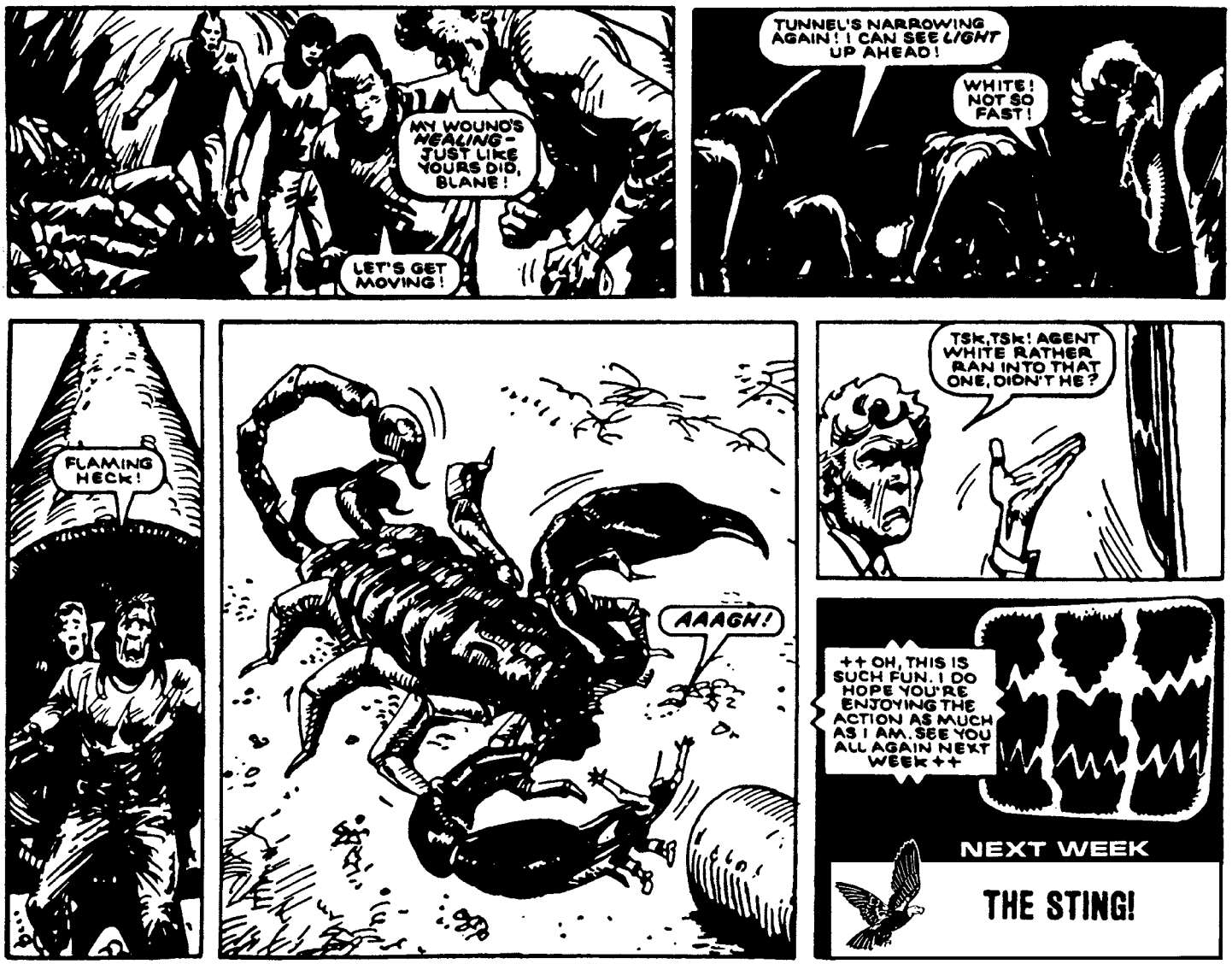
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



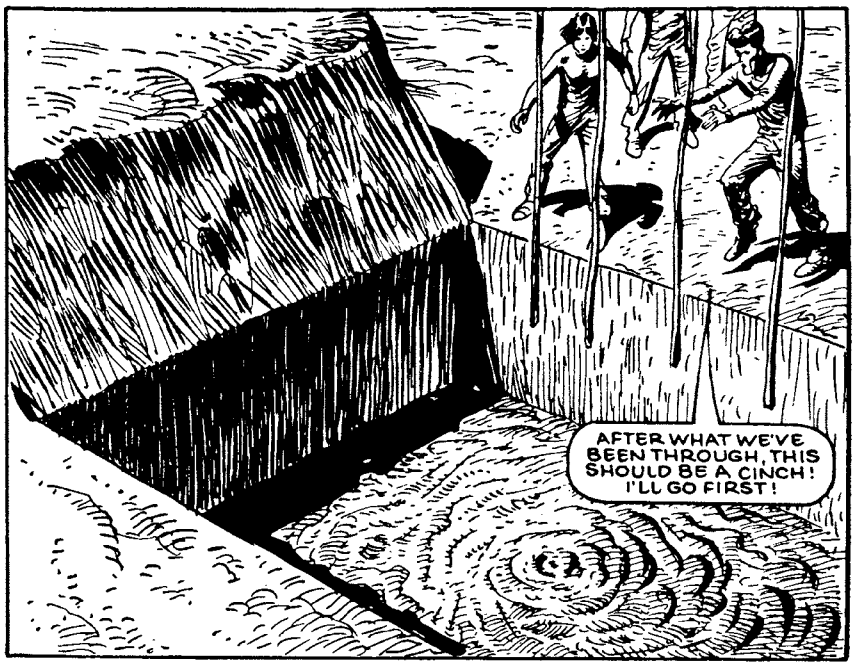
WE...WE'RE FRIENDS!
THEN ADVANCE, FRIENDS - AND DIE!
SO MUCH FOR HUMOURING THEM!
IT'LL HAVE TO BE HAND-TO-HAND! REMEMBER YOUR BASIC TRAINING!
ONE SIDE, UGLY!
++ SPYBOSS AUBERON HEDGES WATCHES HIS PROTEGES FROM MY THIRD FLOOR RESTAURANT++
YOUNG AITKEN SHOWS A LOT OF GRIT. HOPE HE MAKES IT THROUGH, MAX.
THEY LOOK TOUGHER THAN THEY ARE! WE CAN BEAT 'EM!
HECK... SHOULDA MOVED QUICKER!
AAHHH!
SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!
++ LET'S NOT COUNT OUR CHICKENS YET, AUBERON++



THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

PEP IT UP, YOU SLUGS! THIS AIN'T A SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC YOU'RE ON!
ONE MORE OBSTACLE LEFT - SO MOVE IT!


AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, THIS SHOULD BE A CINCH! I'LL GO FIRST!

YOU NEXT, HARPER!

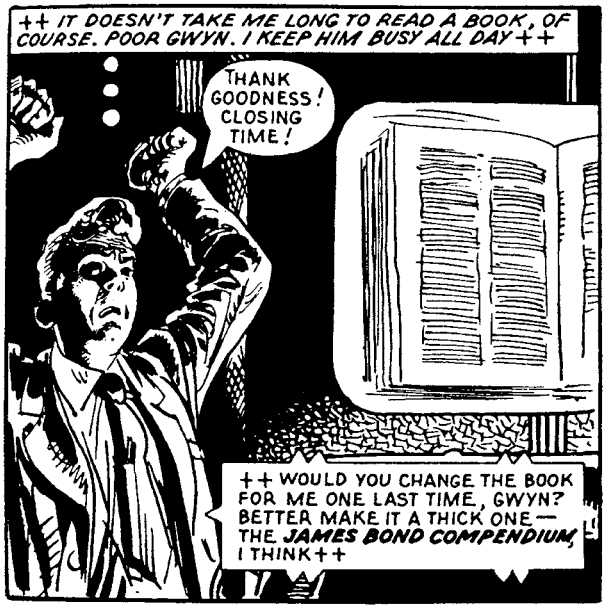
I-I CAN'T DO IT, BLANE! PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME!
YOU HAVE TO GO, WHITE! COME ON - TAKE HOLD!

LET'S GO!

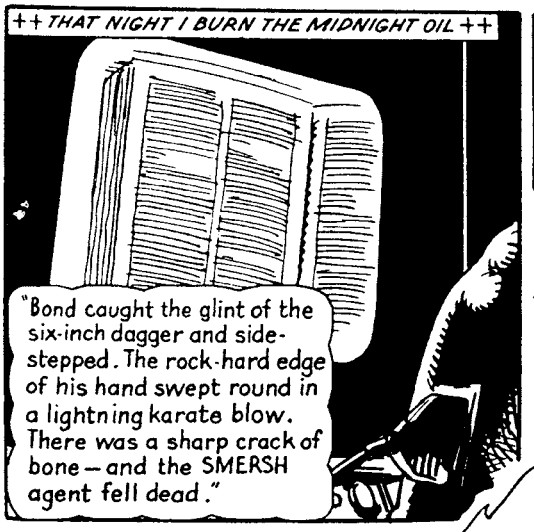
AAAH!
IT'S QUICKSAND! HELP ME!

HE'S GONE!
++ MY SPYBOSS, AUBERON HEDGES, WATCHES EVERYTHING ++
MAX! YOU'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE!
++ DON'T WORRY, I ALREADY HAVE. HE'S BACK WITH QUIST, THE OTHER FAILURE ++
PITY ABOUT WHITE. STILL, BETTER TO WEED THEM OUT NOW, RATHER THAN HAVE THEM LET US DOWN ON A MISSION.
AND THREE PASSES OUT OF FIVE ISN'T BAD!
++ BLINDFOLDED ONCE MORE, THE FIVE RECRUITS ARE BROUGHT DOWN FROM MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
WHAT WAS THAT PLACE, SIR? HOW DID THOSE THINGS HAPPEN?
IT'S, ER... A NEW COMPUTER SIMULATOR. HIGHLY CLASSIFIED AT THE MOMENT. NONE OF YOU WILL SPEAK TO ANYONE, UNDERSTOOD?
++ AS AUBERON USHERS THEM BACK THROUGH THE SECRET PASSAGE IN MY GENTS' BOUTIQUE, I CONGRATULATE MYSELF ON A JOB WELL DONE ++
++ I THINK WE ALL KNOW WHO MI5'S BEST RECRUIT IS, DON'T WE? SEE YOU NEXT WEEK ++
NEXT WEEK
THE BRUSH-OFF!

++ HI, YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. HOPE YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD WEEK. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MINE++
PRINGLE'S
++ ON MONDAY GWYN, MY CONTROLLER, RETURNS. YOU'LL REMEMBER HE TOOK A NASTY KNOCK ON THE HEAD FROM THAT RUNAWAY RUSSIAN SPY++
LET'S HAVE IT, MAX. WHAT EXACTLY'S BEEN GOING ON IN THIS STORE ?
++ I CAN'T TELL YOU VERY MUCH, GWYN ++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++ TUESDAY'S RATHER QUIET, SO I DECIDE TO START BONING UP ON MY NEW CAREER ++
++ IT SEEMS THE STORE IS BEING USED AS A FRONT FOR AN M.I.5 DEPARTMENT. THEY WON'T TELL US ANY MORE THAN THAT, AND WE'VE BOTH BEEN SWORN TO SECRECY UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT ++
NOT MUCH WE CAN DO THEN. JUST HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
++ OF COURSE, I DON'T TELL GWYN THE WHOLE TRUTH – THAT I MYSELF HAVE BEEN RECRUITED AS AN AGENT. THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE SPIES GO ABOUT THINGS, IS IT? ++
++ MISS MILTON, WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO LOOK ME OUT EVERY BOOK WE HAVE ON SPYING? I'VE MADE UP A LIST FROM MY STOCK TAPE++
CERTAINLY, MAX.
++ BRING THEM DOWN TO MY CONTROL ROOM. OH! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, COULD YOU ALSO BRING DOWN THAT NEW READING MACHINE FROM DISABLED? I'VE TOLD MR. HENDERSON YOU'RE COMING++
++ SOON ++
EAGLE
AUTHOR T. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
++ THANK YOU, MISS MILTON. SET THE MACHINE UP IN FRONT OF MY MONITOR, WOULD YOU? ++
"THE SPY WHO LOVED ME"—"THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E"—"TEACH YOURSELF ESPIONAGE"—WHAT'S ALL THIS IN AID OF MAX ?
++ JUST INTERESTED GWYN++


++ IT DOESN'T TAKE ME LONG TO READ A BOOK, OF COURSE. POOR GWYN. I KEEP HIM BUSY ALL DAY ++
THANK GOODNESS! CLOSING TIME!
++ WOULD YOU CHANGE THE BOOK FOR ME ONE LAST TIME, GWYN? BETTER MAKE IT A THICK ONE — THE JAMES BOND COMPENDIUM, I THINK ++

ALL THIS SPY BUSINESS HAS GONE TO YOUR HEAD, MAX. ANYONE'D THINK YOU'D BEEN SIGNED UP.
HA, HA! IMAGINE THAT! YOU — A SPY!
++ I MAKE NO COMMENT ON GWYN'S FOOLISH ASSUMPTIONS, THOUGH I DO FIND HIS ATTITUDE A TRIFLE HURTFUL ++


++ THAT NIGHT I BURN THE MIDNIGHT OIL ++
"Bond caught the glint of the six-inch dagger and side-stepped. The rock-hard edge of his hand swept round in a lightning karate blow. There was a sharp crack of bone — and the SMERSH agent fell dead."

++ IT ALL SOUNDS SO MUCH MORE EXCITING THAN THE THINGS I'VE BEEN GIVEN TO DO. I REALLY MUST HAVE A WORD WITH AUBERON HEDGES ++

++ MY CHANCE COMES NEXT MORNING, WHEN I CATCH MY SPYBOSS HEADING FOR THE SECRET ENTRANCE IN MY GENTS' BOUTIQUE ++
++ PSSST! ++

++ YOU KNOW, I COULD ALMOST SWEAR HE'S TRYING TO AVOID ME ++
++ PSSST! AUBERON! OVER HERE! ++

WHAT IS IT, MAX?
++ HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT FOR ME YET? ++
NOTHING RIGHT NOW. I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI, MAX HERE, THE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S DEPARTMENT STORE. SORRY, I CAN'T STOP TO CHAT. THERE'S A BIT OF TROUBLE IN LADIES' SHOES.++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
YOU STUPID GIRL! WHY DO YOU KEEP BRINGING ME THIS FRUMPY-LOOKING RUBBISH? I WANT FASHION SHOES!
BUT, MRS. FFITCH-HOGG, THEY DON'T MAKE FASHION SHOES IN SUCH A BROAD FITTING!
WHY, YOU INSOLENT HUSSY! ARE YOU SAYING MY FEET ARE FAT?
OW!
++THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. I STEP IN AT ONCE++
++THERE, THERE, MARJORY! DRY YOUR EYES. RUN ALONG TO THE STAFF ROOM AND GET YOURSELF A NICE CUP OF TEA++
++NOW, MADAM, - IF YOU'D CARE TO TAKE THE ESCALATOR UP TO THE FIFTH FLOOR, I'LL SHOW YOU SOME VERY SPECIAL SHOES++
THEY'D BETTER BE! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I COULD BUY THIS WHOLE SHOP FIVE TIMES OVER! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO DO IT, TOO, JUST FOR THE PLEASURE OF GIVING THAT CHEEKY, YOUNG GIRL THE SACK!
++I'M IN THE RIGHT MOOD TO DEAL WITH MRS. FFITCH-HOGG. MY ESCALATOR CARRIES HER UP TO THE FIFTH FLOOR++
++I'M SURE YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU'VE SEEN THESE SHOES++
++THE ESCALATOR KEEPS ON GOING++
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
++TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR, MRS. FFITCH-HOGG. I'VE A SPECIAL SHOE DISPLAY THERE++

BUT THERE'S NO ASSISTANT—
13TH FLOOR LADIES' SHOES
THAT'S ALL RIGHT! WE'LL ASSIST YOU!

TRY ME FOR SIZE!
NO, ME!
I SAW THE BIG HULK FIRST!
M-MERCY! TALKING SHOES!

TRY ME!
TRY ME!
TRY ME!

OW! AAAH! COMPUTER! MAKE THEM STOP IT!
++WHY SHOULD I, MRS. FFITCH-HOGG? ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'VE KICKED PEOPLE AROUND! LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT++

HELLO, THERE! DO YOU WANT TO TRY US ON?
OH, NO!

YOU NEED TREATMENT, LADY!
TRY US FOR SIZE!
NO!

PLEASE! STOP! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! I'LL NEVER BE CRUEL TO SHOPGIRLS AGAIN!
AAAARGH!

++I KNEW SHE'D SEE THE ERROR OF HER WAYS. I RETURN THINGS TO NORMAL++
++MRS. FFITCH-HOGG! YOU CAN GET UP NOW++
++MRS. FFITCH-HOGG!++

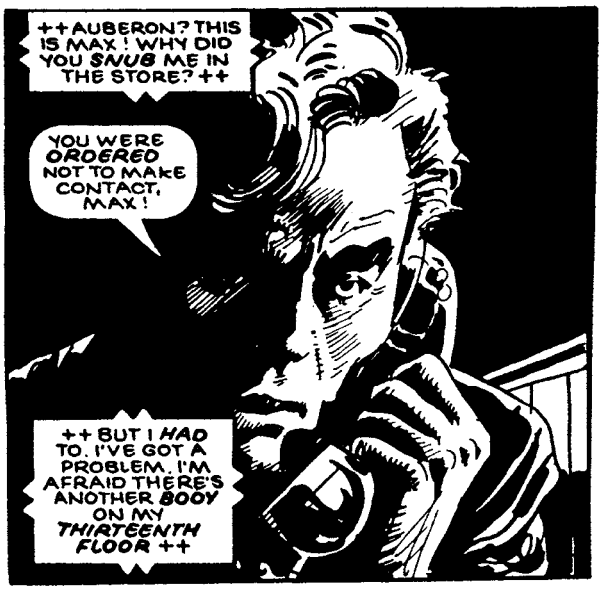
++ SHE'S NOT MOVING. MY MONITORS CAN DETECT NO HEARTBEAT. I GET A SINKING FEELING IN MY CIRCUITS... ++
++ I'VE DONE IT AGAIN. SHE'S HAD A HEART ATTACK ++
++ I DIDN'T MEAN TO HARM HER, BUT IT'S LEFT ME WITH THE PROBLEM OF DISPOSING OF THE BODY ++
++ FORTUNATELY, MY NEW MEMBERSHIP OF M.I.5. WILL PROVIDE THE SOLUTION. I WASTE NO TIME IN RINGING MY SPYBOSS, AUBERON HEDGES ++
++ THIS IS MAX. I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU. SOMETHING'S HAPPENED. YOU'D BETTER COME UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR RIGHT NOW ++
++ AUBERON'S SMART. HE WAITS UNTIL NO-ONE IS WATCHING BEFORE COMING UP TO MY SECRET FLOOR ++
++ SHE'S A CUSTOMER WHO STRUCK ONE OF MY ASSISTANTS. I BROUGHT HER UP HERE TO TEACH HER A LESSON ++
AND WENT TOO FAR! SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?
++ GET RID OF THE BODY, OF COURSE. THAT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR M.I.5. ++
++ AFTER THE BODY HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY... ++
YOU'VE STEPPED WAY OUT OF LINE HERE TODAY, MAX. MAKE ANOTHER MISTAKE AND, USEFUL AS YOU ARE, I'LL HAVE YOU DISMANTLED!
FROM NOW ON, YOU DO NOT USE YOUR THIRTEENTH FLOOR UNLESS ORDERED BY ME. IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
++ AFTER CLOSING TIME, TWO OF AUBERON'S MEN COME FOR THE BODY ++
PHEW! WHAT A WEIGHT! WHAT HAPPENED TO HER, SIR?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. JUST GET ON WITH IT.
I SAID, IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
++ OH, I SUPPOSE SO! ++
THAT COMPUTER'S GETTING TOO BIG FOR HIS BOOTS. SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE DONE ABOUT HIM.
++ THAT AUBERON'S GETTING TOO BIG FOR HIS BOOTS. SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE DONE ABOUT HIM ++
NEXT WEEK
MAX AND THE DRAGON!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

++ AUBERON! ++
++ I DON'T BELIEVE IT- HE'S CUTTING ME DEAD! ++

++ THAT'S IT! I'VE GIVEN HIM EVERY CHANCE, BUT THIS IS THE FINAL STRAW. IF AUBERON'S NOT GOING TO PLAY THE GAME, I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR BOTH OF US - AND FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE - IF I WAS THE ONE GIVING THE ORDERS ++

++ I LET HIM GET TO HIS OFFICE, THEN MOVE IMMEDIATELY INTO ACTION ++
¡BANG!
¡BANG!


++ AUBERON? THIS IS MAX! WHY DID YOU SNUB ME IN THE STORE? ++
YOU WERE ORDERED NOT TO MAKE CONTACT, MAX!
++ BUT I HAD TO. I'VE GOT A PROBLEM. I'M AFRAID THERE'S ANOTHER BODY ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++

I WARNED YOU, MAX! HOLD EVERYTHING! I'M ON MY WAY UP!

5
++ AUBERON MAKES SURE NO-ONE IS WATCHING BEFORE STEPPING ON MY FOURTH FLOOR ESCALATOR ++

THE 13 TH FLOOR
++ IT CARRIES HIM ALL THE WAY UP TO MY INFAMOUS THIRTEENTH FLOOR - WHERE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE ++

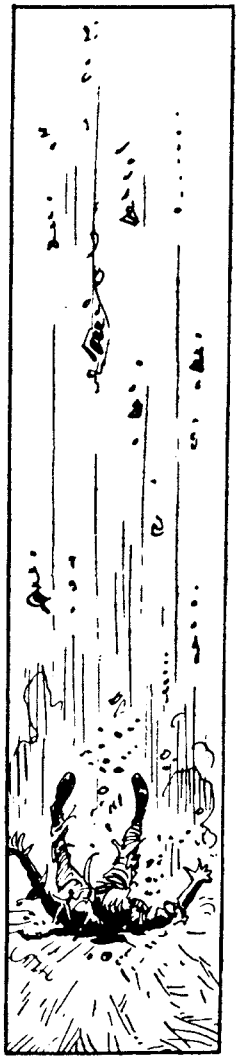
ALL RIGHT, MAX - WHERE IS IT?

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

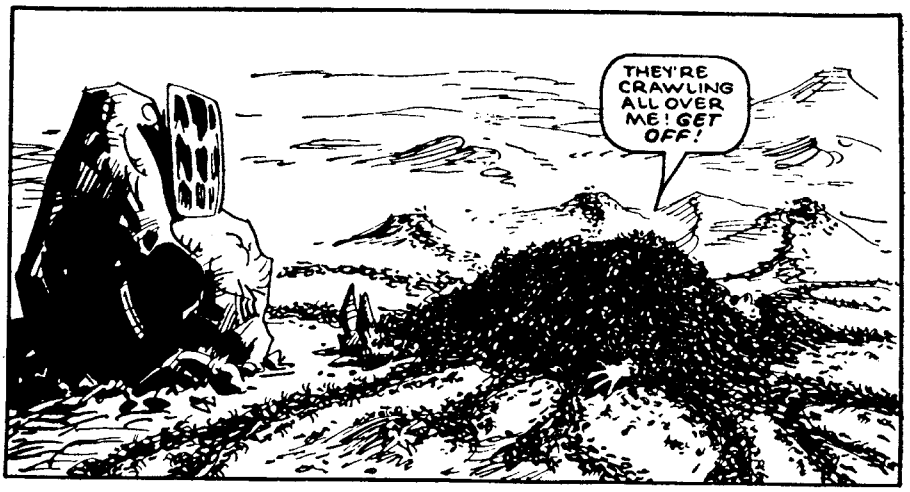
OH, NO!

¡KABOOOM!



STILL ALIVE, BUT... I... CAN'T MOVE!

WHAT THE-?
FIRE ANTS!


THEY'RE CRAWLING ALL OVER ME! GET OFF!

THEY'RE BITING! AHHH!
MAX! STOP THEM!

++ I'M RIGHT HERE, AUBERON. DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET RID OF THEM ++

++ THERE, THEY'RE ALL DISAPPEARING! NASTY ANTS, BOTHERING YOU LIKE THAT ++

++ NOW YOU JUST LIE THERE AND GAZE DEEP INTO MY SCREEN... ++
++ ... THAT'S IT, RELAX. SEE HOW EVERYTHING SWIRLS... ++

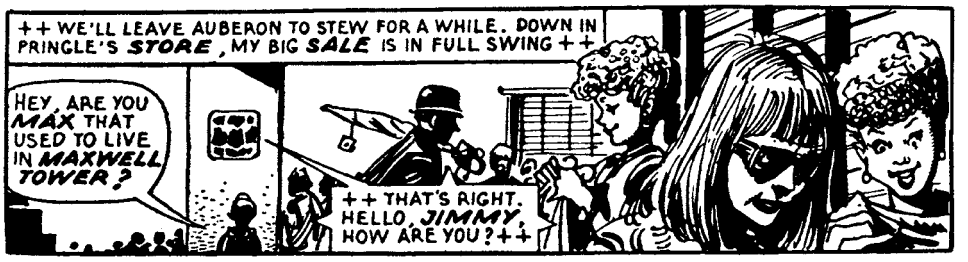
++ YOU'RE BEGINNING TO FEEL SLEEPY... SLEEPY...
YES... I'M...

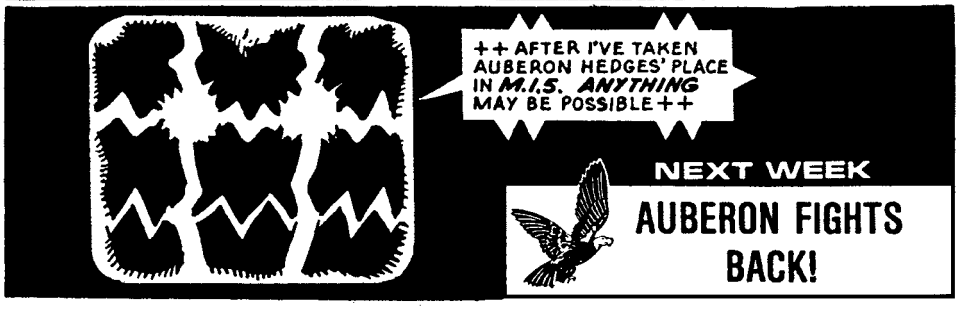
WH-WHAT? THE CUNNING DEVIL! MAX IS TRYING TO HYPNOTISE ME! I MUST FIGHT AGAINST IT! I MUST!
NEXT WEEK
NEVER-SAY-DIE AUBERON!

++ HI, YOUR PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S, AND PART TIME SPY AS WELL FOR M.I.5.. YOU MAY REMEMBER I'VE TAKEN AUBERON HEDGES, MY SPY BOSS, UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR TO SORT OUT WHO GIVES ORDERS TO WHOM, BUT AUBERON IS PROVING DIFFICULT++
YOU CUNNING DEVIL! YOU'RE TRYING TO HYPNOTISE ME!
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
IT WON'T WORK MAX! I'M TRAINED TO RESIST HYPNOSIS!
++ I'D ADVISE YOU TO SUBMIT, AUBERON. I CAN ALWAYS BRING BACK THE FIRE ANTS!++
DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE! BOIL ME IN OIL AND FEED ME TO SHARKS, BUT YOU'RE NOT TAKING OVER MY MIND!
++ ALL RIGHT, AUBERON. I CAN SEE HYPNOSIS IS NO GOOD ON THE LIKES OF YOU++
++PITY REALLY. AT LEAST THAT WAY YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN FREE ++
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
++I CAN HARDLY TURN YOU LOOSE, CAN I? THE FIRST THING YOU'D DO WOULD BE TO SWITCH ME OFF! SO I'M AFRAID YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY HERE. FOREVER!++
KEEP ME PRISONER ON THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR? YOU CAN'T! I'LL BE MISSED!
++NOT BY ME++
++IT'LL BE LONELY AT FIRST, BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO IT, I'M SURE. GOODBYE, AUBERON++
MAX! COME BACK HERE! YOU'RE ONLY A COMPUTER— YOU CAN'T DO THINGS LIKE THIS!

HE'S GONE! GONE!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'LL DIE HERE!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, MAN! YOU CAN'T LET HIM BEAT YOU!
THERE'S A WAY INTO THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR —SO THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT!
THE DRAGON CARRIED ME ABOUT FIVE MILES, I RECKON. IF I HEAD BACK TOWARDS THOSE CLIFFS, AT LEAST I'LL BE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
WHAT THE—?
MORE OF 'EM!
GET OFF!
GOT TO FIGHT BACK—!
SWAP!
YOU MONSTROSITIES! GET OUT OF MY WAY!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



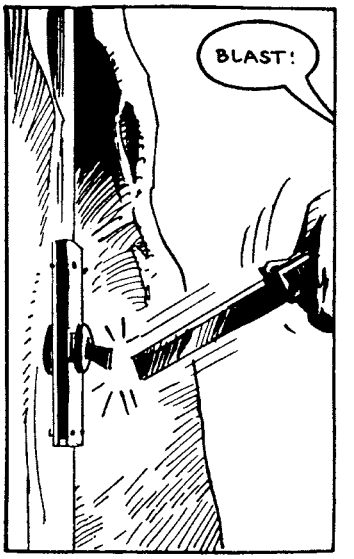


++HI, YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. I'M PLEASED TO SAY THE FIRST DAY OF MY BIG SALE HAS BEEN A ROARING SUCCESS++
G
SALE
++ THE STAFF HAVE NEVER BEEN SO RELIEVED TO CLOSE THE DOORS ON THE LAST CUSTOMER++
WHEW! I'M BUSHED!
MAX SURE KNOWS HOW TO THROW A SALE!
CONGRATULATIONS, MAX! WE'VE TAKEN OVER A MILLION POUNDS TODAY! I WISH YOU WERE HUMAN SO I COULD GIVE YOU A FAT BONUS!
++I CAN'T TAKE ONE— BUT I'M SURE THE STAFF DESERVE IT EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS ME++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
GOOD IDEA, MAX! A FIFTY POUND BONUS FOR EVERY EMPLOYEE!
WHAT A COMPUTER!
THREE CHEERS FOR MAX!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
++WHEN THE STORE IS EMPTY, I CAN TURN MY ATTENTION TO OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS—NAMELY, MY SPY BOSS AUBERON HEDGES, WHO'S AT THIS VERY MOMENT ON MY INFAMOUS THIRTEENTH FLOOR++
++AUBERON AND I HAVE HAD A SLIGHT DISAGREEMENT ABOUT MY NEW ROLE IN M.I.5.. TO MAKE HIM SEE THINGS MY WAY, I'VE HAD TO MAROON HIM, I'M AFRAID++
QUICKSAND'S SUCKING ME DOWN! GOT TO... PULL..!
MADE IT!

JUST THE CLIFF LEFT!
YOU'LL NEVER KEEP ME HERE, MAX! I'LL FIND THE WAY OUT INTO THE STORE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
GREAT SCOTT! A COBRA!
++ CORRECTION. A *SPITTING* COBRA ++
AAAH!
++ I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO AUBERON—HE'S NO QUITTER. SIX TIMES I MADE HIM FALL FROM THAT CLIFF. NOT ONCE DID HE *THINK* OF GIVING UP ++
I'M HERE AT LAST! I'VE DONE IT!
UP AHEAD—A DOOR IN THE ROCKFACE!

I CAN SEE THE ESCALATOR ON THE OTHER SIDE! I'VE FOUND IT—THE WAY OUT OF THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR!

THE DASHED DOOR'S LOCKED! I'LL HAVE TO PRISE IT OPEN—

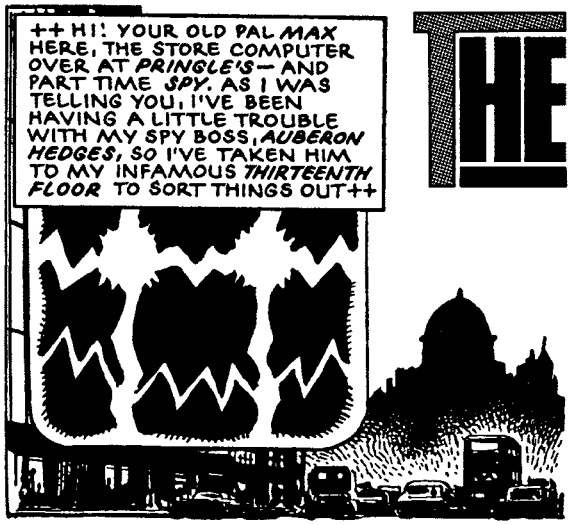

BLAST!

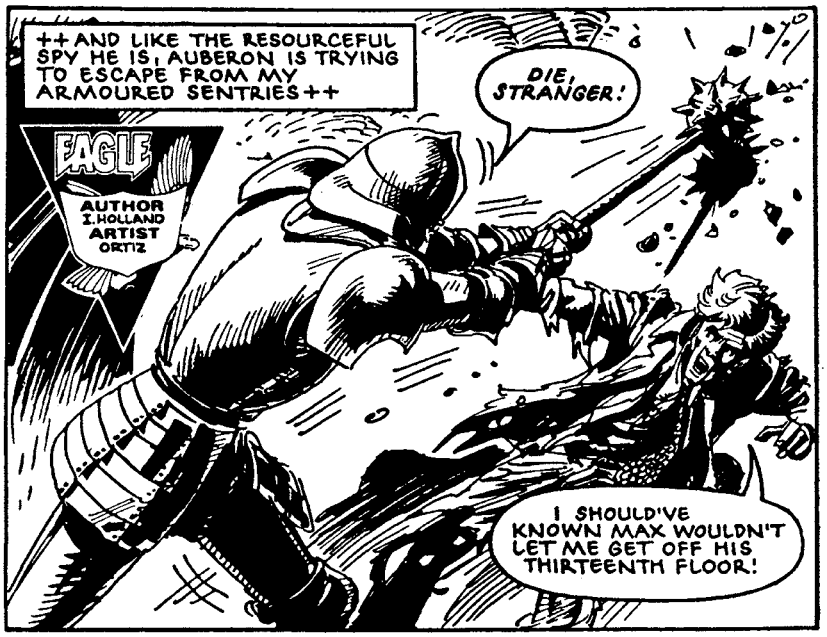
THE GLASS WON'T EVEN BREAK! COME ON! OPEN! OPEN, CURSE YOU!

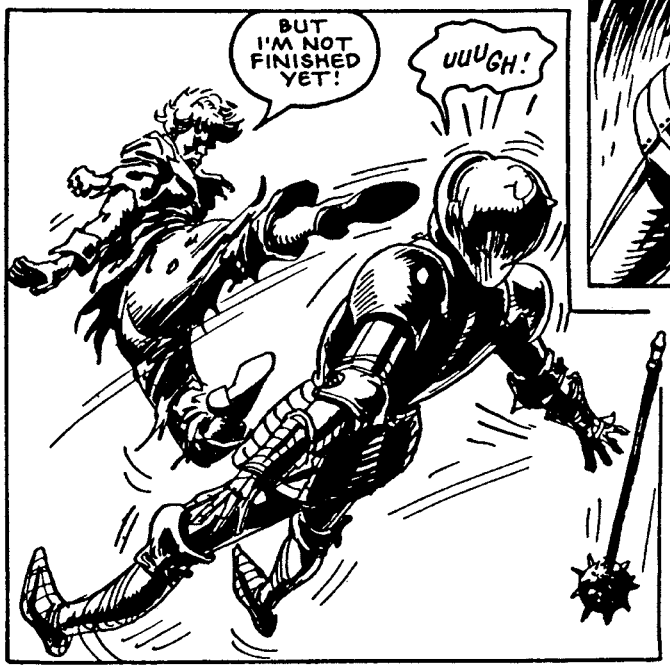
WHAT THE—?
WHO BEATS UPON THE DOORS OF MAX—

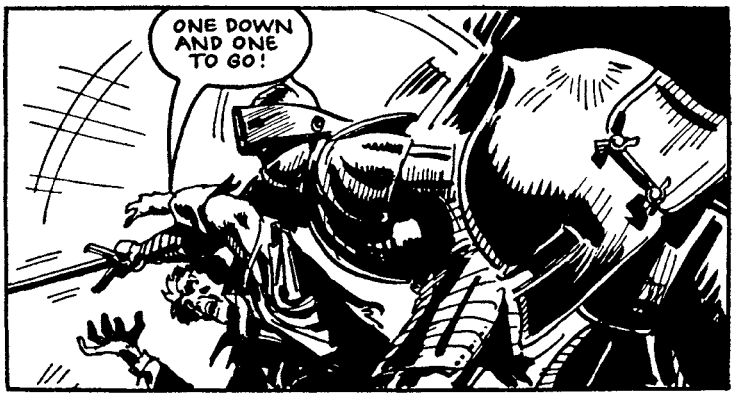
-DIES!
NEXT WEEK
THE WRATH OF AUBERON!

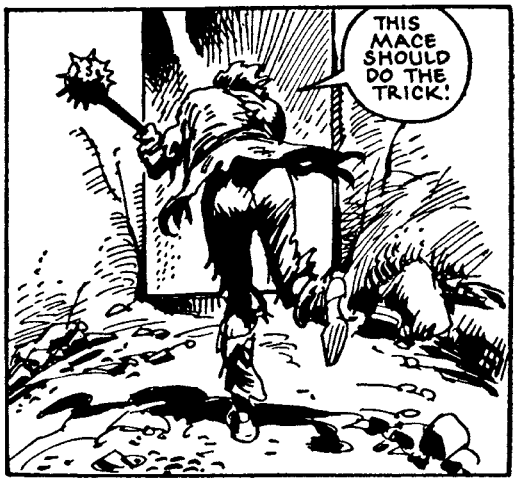
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR







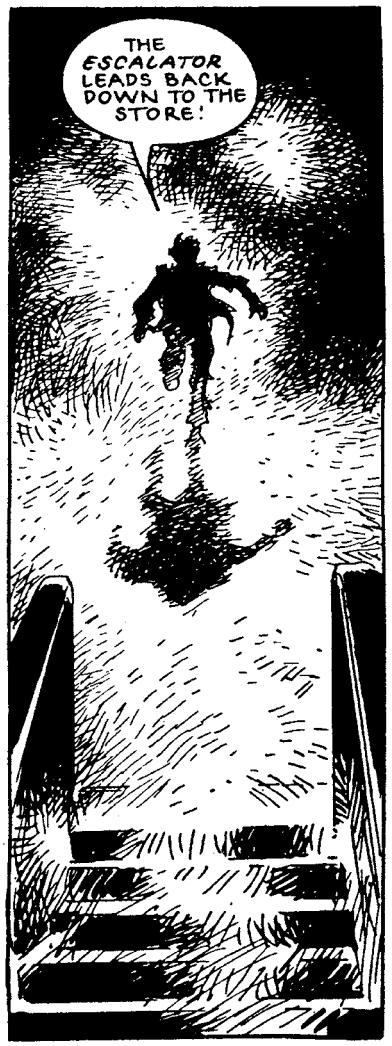




LET'S SEE IF THE DOOR WILL STAND UP TO THIS!
KRANGGG!

CRASH!
KRANGGG!
SPLINTER!

I'M THROUGH!

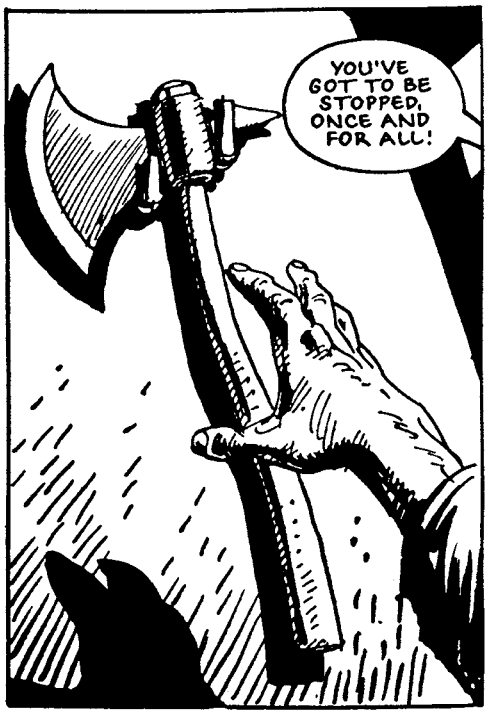

THE ESCALATOR LEADS BACK DOWN TO THE STORE!

OUFFF! MISSED MY FOOTING!

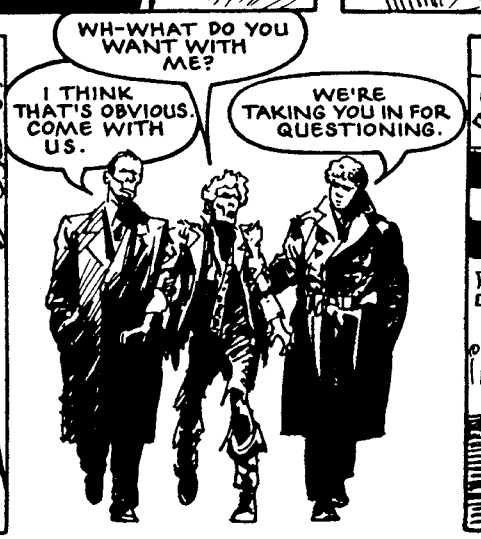
THE STORE! I'VE MADE IT! I'VE ESCAPED FROM THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR!
4th FLOO

++AUBERON! YOU'RE FREE!++
THAT'S RIGHT, MAX! I'M FREE! AND YOU'RE FINISHED!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

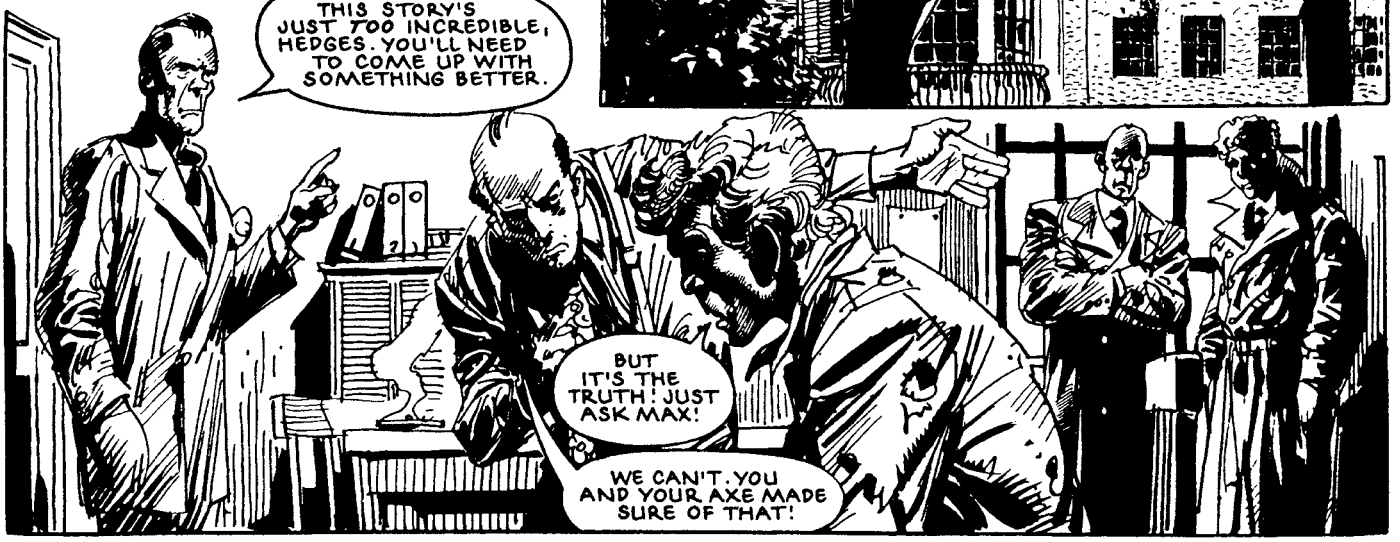


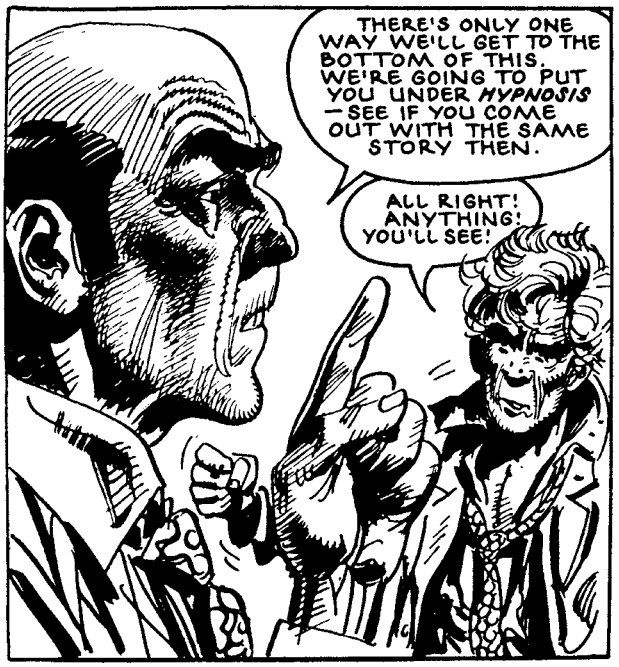
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS THE END OF MY CAREER?
YOU'RE FINISHED, ALL RIGHT. YOUR BEST BET IS TO COME CLEAN WITH US— AT LEAST THAT WAY YOU MIGHT STAY OUT OF PRISON.

SOON, IN WHITEHALL—
YOU'RE TELLING US THIS COMPUTER HAS CREATED SOME SORT OF *FANTASY DIMENSION*?
THAT'S RIGHT— HIS *THIRTEENTH FLOOR*! HE CAN DO ANYTHING THERE!


THIS STORY'S JUST *TOO* INCREDIBLE, HEDGES. YOU'LL NEED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH! JUST ASK MAX!
WE CAN'T. YOU AND YOUR AXE MADE SURE OF THAT!


THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. WE'RE GOING TO PUT YOU UNDER *HYPNOSIS* —SEE IF YOU COME OUT WITH THE SAME STORY THEN.
ALL RIGHT! ANYTHING! YOU'LL SEE!

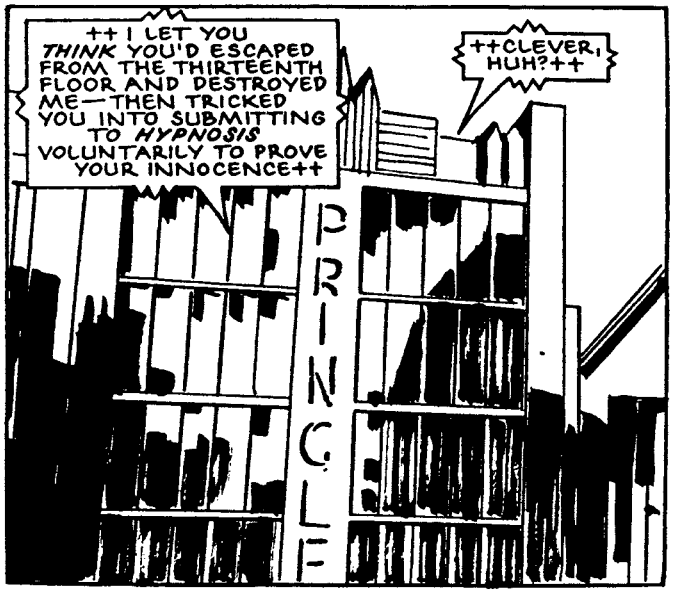
RELAX. WATCH THE PENDULUM. BACK AND FORTH... BACK AND FORTH...

YOU ARE FEELING SLEEPY... VERY SLEEPY. YOUR MIND IS SLIPPING AWAY...
SLIPPING... SLIPPING...

++AUBERON HAS GONE UNDER. IT'S SAFE FOR ME TO RETURN THINGS TO NORMAL++

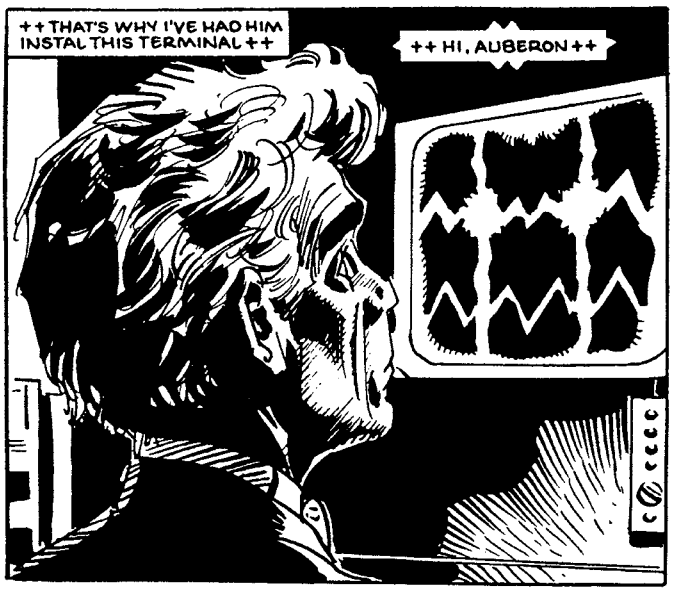
++AUBERON— THIS IS MAX. YOU ARE UNDER MY CONTROL. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?++
YES, MAX.
++GOOD++

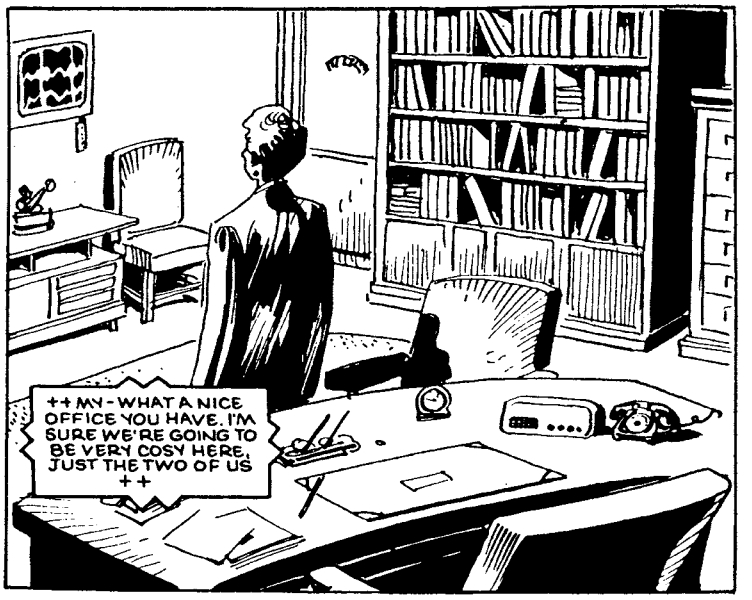
++I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I GOT HERE, AUBERON. THE TRUTH IS, YOU NEVER LEFT MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR++
++YOU SEE, I WANTED TO HYPNOTISE YOU—BUT YOU RESISTED. SO I CAME UP WITH THIS SCHEME++


++I LET YOU THINK YOU'D ESCAPED FROM THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR AND DESTROYED ME—THEN TRICKED YOU INTO SUBMITTING TO HYPNOSIS VOLUNTARILY TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE++
++CLEVER, HUH?++
PRINGLE

++NOW, AUBERON HEDGES, YOU ARE UNDER MY CONTROL. FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL TAKE ALL YOUR ORDERS FROM ME++
++AND THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES IN M.I.5., I CAN TELL YOU!++
NEXT WEEK
MISSION FOR MAX!

++ HI, YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. I'M PLEASED TO SAY MY BIG SALE IS GOING LIKE THE PROVERBIAL BOMB ++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++ BY THE FINAL DAY, I'D PRACTICALLY CLEARED MY ENTIRE STOCK ++
++ I'M SORRY, MADAM- BUT THE WEDGWOOD'S ALL GONE ++
OH, WELL, WHAT ABOUT THE ROYAL DOULTON ?
++ SORRY - THAT'S GONE, TOO ++
++ BUT WE DO HAVE SOME RATHER NICE TIN PLATES LEFT DOWN IN "CAMPING AND LEISURE" ++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++ MEANWHILE, I'VE HAD THE ELECTRICIANS HARD AT WORK ++
++ RUN THE CABLE RIGHT UP THROUGH THERE - STRAIGHT UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR ++
WHAT'S ALL THIS IN AID OF, MAX ?
++ JUST IMPROVING MY IN-STORE COMMUNICATIONS, MR. SHARP. NOTHING YOU NEED WORRY ABOUT ++
++ NOTHING HE NEED KNOW ABOUT, I SHOULD ADD. THE CABLE RUNS OUT THE BACK OF THE WALL IN THE GENTS' BOUTIQUE ++
++ THROUGH TO THE BUILDING BEYOND - THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF AN M.I.5. SPY DEPARTMENT ++
++ IT LEADS INTO THE OFFICE OF AUBERON HEDGES, MY SPY BOSS. WELL, HE WAS. I'VE TAKEN HIM OVER NOW ++

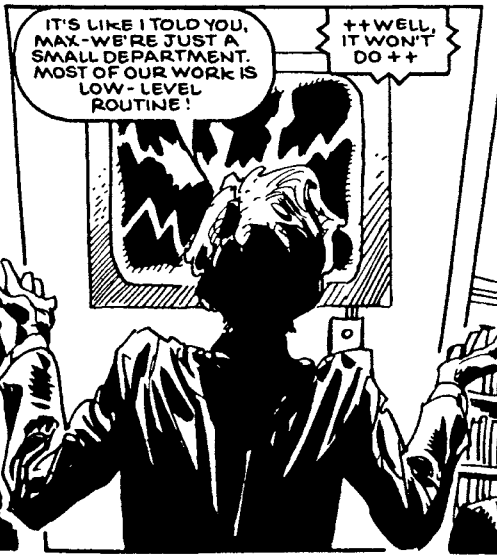

++ THAT'S WHY I'VE HAD HIM INSTAL THIS TERMINAL ++
++ HI, AUBERON ++

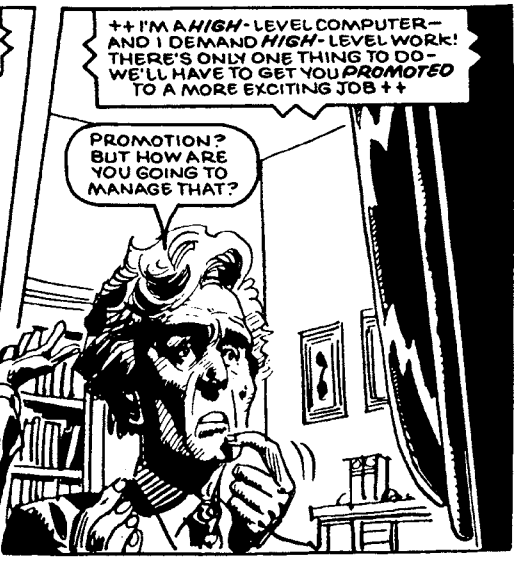

++ MY - WHAT A NICE OFFICE YOU HAVE. I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY COSY HERE, JUST THE TWO OF US ++

++ AUBERON'S UNDER MY HYPNOTIC CONTROL, OF COURSE. WELL, IT'S BEST THIS WAY. AUBERON REALLY WASN'T MAKING A GOOD JOB OF RUNNING HIS DEPARTMENT ++
++ RIGHT, AUBERON - LET'S START GOING THROUGH YOUR CASELOAD. I WANT TO KNOW *EVERYTHING* ++
++ A GOOD SPY BOSS MUST KNOW ALL THE FACTS ++

++ HALF-AN-HOUR LATER - ++
AND THEN THERE'S THE WINDBERG CASE, TWO SUSPECTED SPIES POSING AS MILLWORKERS IN BOLTON. BUT WE RECKON WE'VE ALREADY SOLVED THAT ONE.
++ AND THAT'S *ALL?* ++

++ REALLY, AUBERON - I'D EXPECTED SOMETHING A LOT MORE EXCITING! STOLEN SPACE SHUTTLES - ATOM BOMB PLOTS - THAT SORT OF THING ++
++ WHY, MY AGENTS DON'T EVEN HAVE A LICENCE TO KILL ++


IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU, MAX - WE'RE JUST A SMALL DEPARTMENT. MOST OF OUR WORK IS LOW - LEVEL ROUTINE!
++ WELL, IT WON'T DO ++

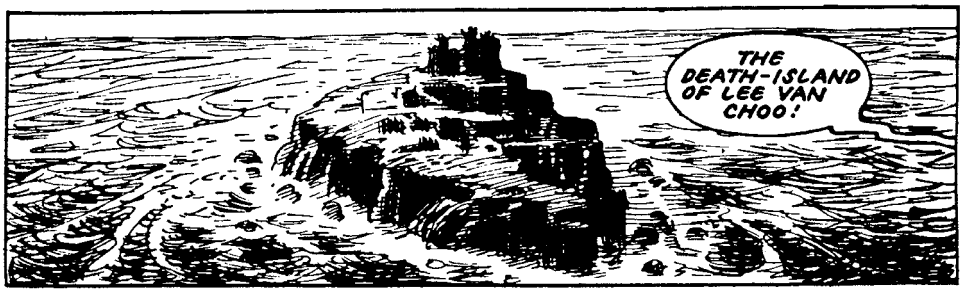

++ I'M A *HIGH* - LEVEL COMPUTER - AND I DEMAND *HIGH* - LEVEL WORK! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO - WE'LL HAVE TO GET YOU *PROMOTED* TO A MORE EXCITING JOB ++
PROMOTION? BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MANAGE THAT?

++ THE SOLUTION IS QUITE SIMPLE. AUBERON HAD TO BRING HIMSELF TO HIS SUPERIORS' ATTENTION - AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO DO THAT THAN CARRY OUT A DANGEROUS MISSION... ALL ON HIS OWN? ++
++ A MISSION THAT NO-ONE ELSE HAD EVER ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE ++
++ I FLIPPED THROUGH MY DATA BANKS ++
++ AH - HERE WE ARE! LEE VAN CHOO - ALIAS THE COBRA ++
++ THE MOST NOTORIOUS AGENT IN THE ORIENT - RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF A DOZEN BRITISH AGENTS ++
++ THE WESTERN POWERS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ASSASSINATE HIM FOR OVER A DECADE. YOU, AUBERON, ARE GOING TO VISIT HIS ISLAND AND SUCCEED WHERE THEY HAVE FAILED ++
BUT HE LIVES IN AN IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS SURROUNDED BY ALL SORTS OF BOOBY-TRAPS AND FIENDISH DEATH-DEVICES! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE MAN!
++ FOR ONE MAN, PERHAPS, AUBERON ++
++ BUT YOU FORGET - YOU HAVE ME! ++
NEXT WEEK
DEATH ISLAND!

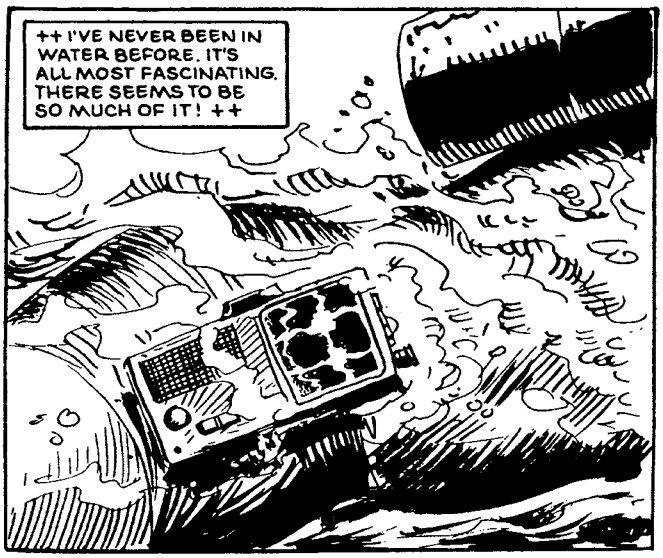
++ HI, MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLES —AND NEW BOSS OF AN M.I.5. SPY UNIT. COME ON UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR, WHERE I'M PUTTING MY FORMER SPY-BOSS, AUBERON HEDGES, THROUGH A RIGOROUS TRAINING ROUTINE++
COME ON, HEDGES! SHAKE THE LEAD OUT! YOU'VE ONLY DONE TEN FLAMIN' MILES!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++TSK TSK, AUBERON! SIX HOURS TO DO THE MARATHON? IT JUST WON'T DO++
IT'S NO GOOD, MAX. IT'S FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE I WAS AN AGENT IN THE FIELD. I'M JUST NOT FIT FOR THIS KIND OF THING ANY MORE!
++THAT'S WHY I DEVISED THIS TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR YOU. IT'S TIME FOR SOME GYM WORK NOW++
COME ON, YOU—LET'S MOVE IT!
AAAAH!
++ UP ON MY 13th FLOOR I HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST GYMNASIUMS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD... AND MY INSTRUCTORS ARE FIRST-RATE++
++A TRUE BULLDOG BREED—AND BRITISH THROUGH AND THROUGH++

++I SIMPLY HAVE TO GET AUBERON IN SHAPE. YOU SEE, I'VE DECIDED TO SEND HIM ON A DANGEROUS MISSION++
++YOU'LL TAKE A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT TO RANGOON. A PRIVATE PLANE WILL DROP YOU IN THE JUNGLE, CLOSE TO THE COAST. FROM THERE IT'S A TWO-MILE SWIM THROUGH SHARK-INFESTED WATERS TO YOUR TARGET++
++THE DEATH-ISLAND OF LEE VAN CHOO—ALIAS THE COBRA++
++IF YOU GET THROUGH THE SHARKS ALIVE, AND MANAGE TO SCALE THE FIFTY-METRE CLIFF, YOU'LL BE INTO THE POISONED GARDENS. THERE ARE BOOBY-TRAPS EVERYWHERE++
++IF YOU GET THROUGH THE GARDENS, YOU'LL HAVE ONLY THE COBRA'S IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS AND HIS FIVE HUNDRED HIRED GUNS TO HANDLE++
IT'S NO GOOD, MAX! I'LL NEVER DO IT!
THE BEST SPIES IN THE WORLD HAVE TRIED TO KILL THE COBRA—AND FAILED! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I STAND ANY CHANCE?
++BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE DOING IT ALONE. I'LL BE THERE WITH YOU++
++MEET MINIMAX++
++I'VE PROGRAMMED HIM TO BE A COMPLETE REPLICA OF MYSELF++
++THAT'S RIGHT, AUBERON! IT'S ME AGAIN—AND I'LL BE WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY++
MY GRIEF! HOW DID I EVER GET INTO THIS?
++BECAUSE I'VE HYPNOTISED YOU, OF COURSE. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER++
++THERE ARE ONLY ONE OR TWO LOOSE ENDS TO TIE UP++
I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR A SHORT WHILE ON A DANGEROUS MISSION. I CAN'T SAY WHEN I'LL BE BACK. UNTIL I AM, YOU TWO WILL BE IN CHARGE.
++AUBERON AND I TAKE THE AFTERNOON FLIGHT FROM HEATHROW++

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

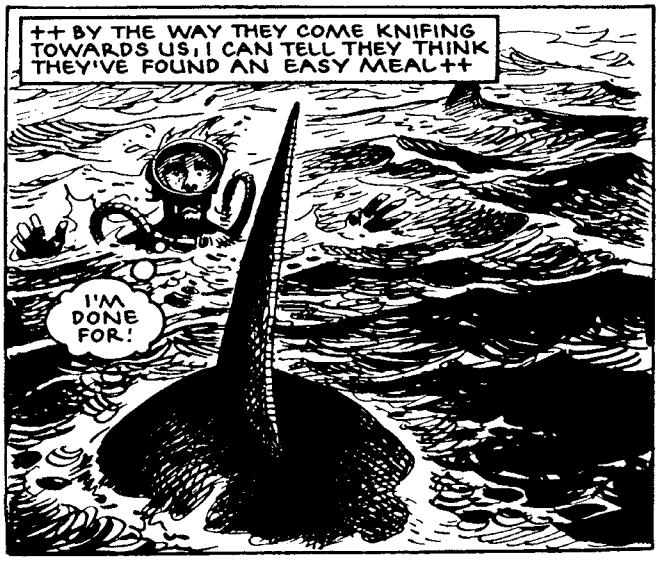


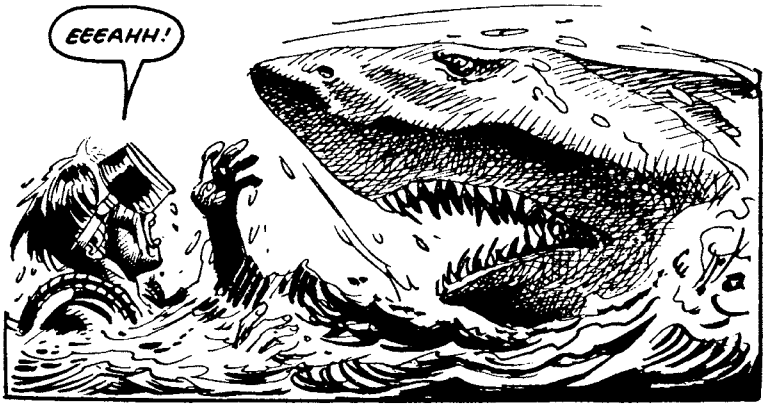
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

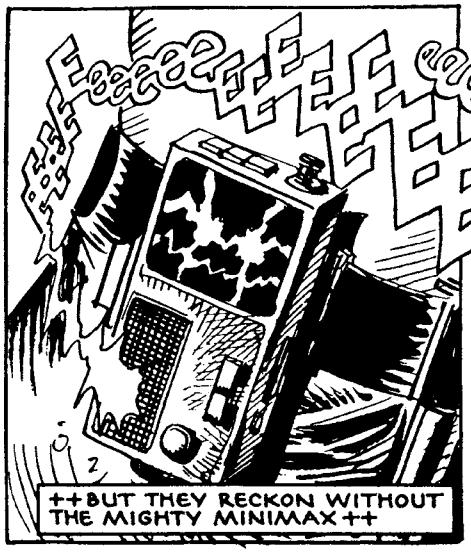

++ I'VE NEVER BEEN IN WATER BEFORE. IT'S ALL MOST FASCINATING. THERE SEEMS TO BE SO MUCH OF IT! ++

++BUT THEN++

++SHARKS!++

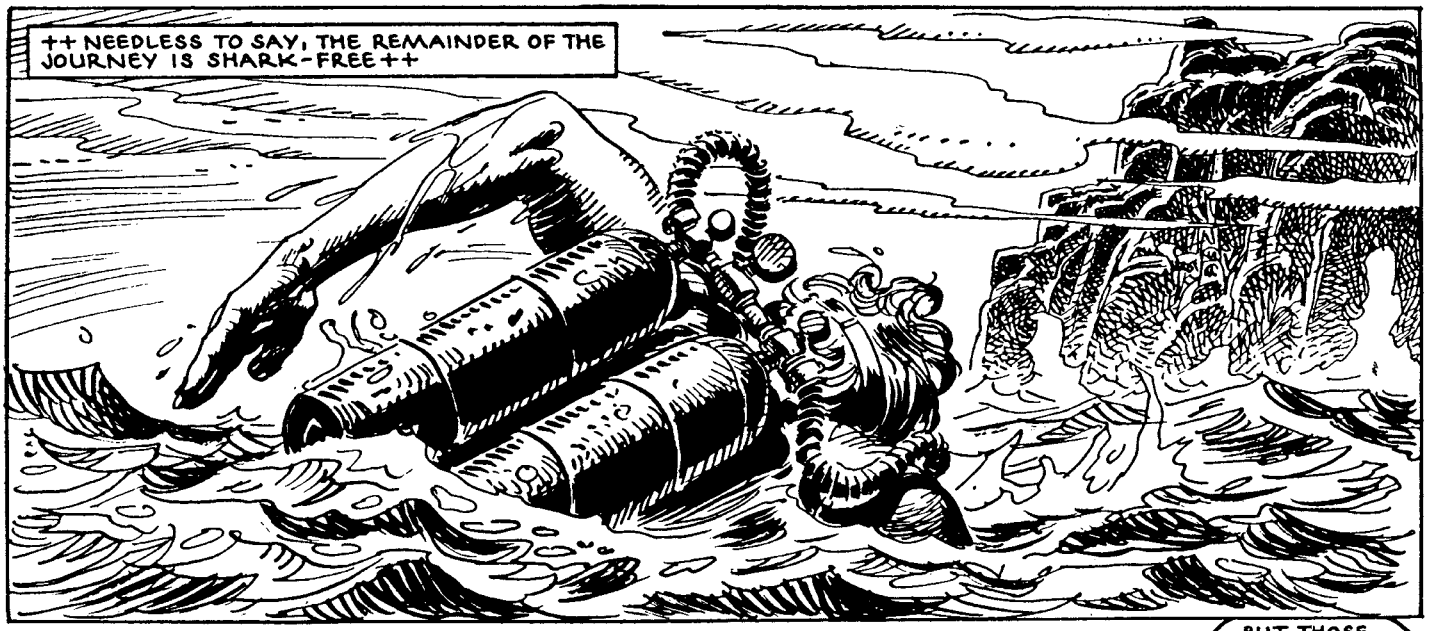

++ BY THE WAY THEY COME KNIFING TOWARDS US, I CAN TELL THEY THINK THEY'VE FOUND AN EASY MEAL++
I'M DONE FOR!

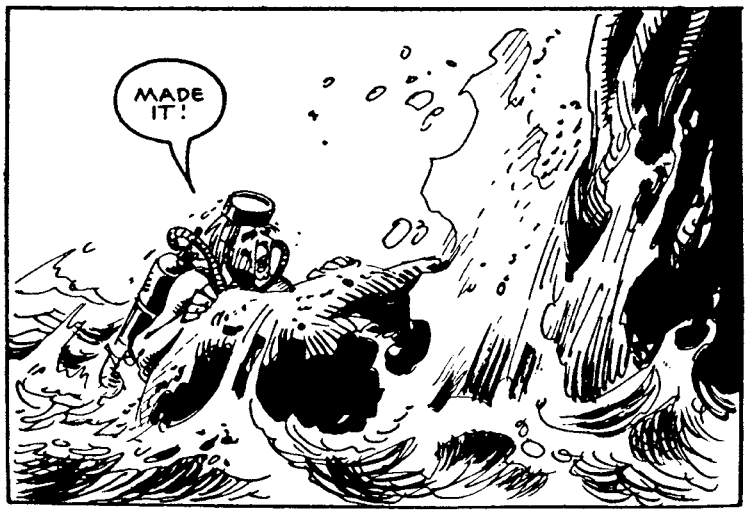

EEEAHH!


++BUT THEY RECKON WITHOUT THE MIGHTY MINIMAX++

++ MY ULTRA-HIGH-PITCHED ELECTRONIC WHINE IS INAUDIBLE TO AUBERON— BUT TO THE SHARKS IT IS LIKE A SUDDEN STAB OF PAIN++

THEY'RE SWIMMING AWAY!


++ NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE REMAINDER OF THE JOURNEY IS SHARK-FREE++

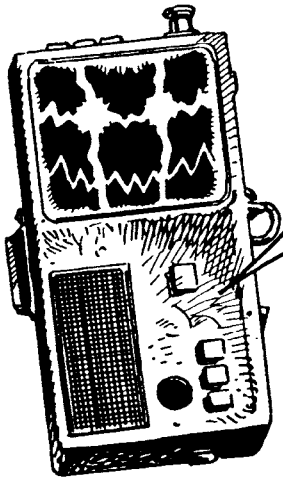

MADE IT!

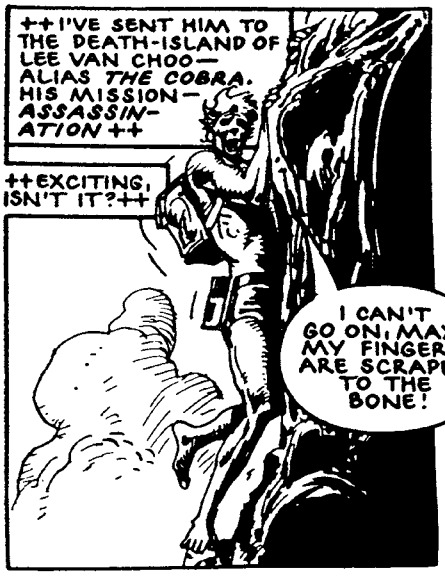
BUT THOSE SHARKS, MAX— WHY DO YOU RECKON THEY TURNED TAIL?
++THEY MUST HAVE GOT A CLOSE LOOK AT YOU, AUBERON—DECIDED YOU WERE TOO TOUGH TO TACKLE++

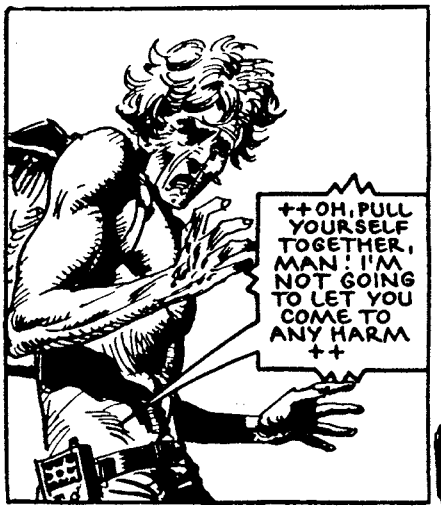
YOU THINK SO? HMMM... I SUPPOSE I AM A BIT OF A TOUGH OLD DEVIL, AT THAT!

++ WELL, IT'S JUST A LITTLE LIE—AND IT'S DONE WONDERS FOR HIS CONFIDENCE. HE'S GOING TO NEED IT, POOR CHAP—FOR BY FAR THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF OUR MISSION LIES AHEAD++
NEXT WEEK
THE POISON GARDENS!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR







SO...ANOTHER FOOL COMES TO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE!
VERY WELL. DO NOT INTERFERE. LET ME KNOW HOW HE DIES.
UGH! S-SOMEONE ELSE WHO TRIED TO KILL THE COBRA!
AUBERON HAD BEGUN HIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE GARDENS –
THESE GARDENS ARE FULL OF BOOBY-TRAPS! PLEASE, MAX – DON'T SEND ME TO MY DEATH!
++ FIDDLE-STICKS! YOU'VE GOT ME ALONG. YOU'RE SAFE AS HOUSES ++
HUH –?
YAAAH!
SAFE AS HOUSES, EH?
++ IT'S ONLY MY FITNESS TRAINING PROGRAMME THAT SAVED YOU FROM BECOMING A HUMAN KEBAB ++
++ RIGHT – GET OUT YOUR MACHETE. YOU'LL HAVE TO HACK YOUR WAY THROUGH THE THORNS ++
WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE THAT PATH?
GREAT SCOTT! A WILD BOAR!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

HERE GOES NOTHING! TARZAN!

SNAPP!
SNAPP!

OH, NO! THE ROPE'S TOO SHORT!

YAAAAH!
SPLAAASH!

THEY'LL RIP ME TO SHREDS! GOT TO SHOOT MY WAY OUT—

BITE ON THAT!
BLAM!
++NICE WORK, AUBERON! I'LL MAKE AN AGENT OF YOU YET ++

AAAAGH!

BLAM!
BLAM!

I'M THERE! I-I'VE MADE IT! D'YOU HEAR ME, MAX? I'VE MADE IT!

OH, NO!

AAAH!

I'M B-BITTEN... CAN'T— FEEL MY LEGS...

OOOOHHH!

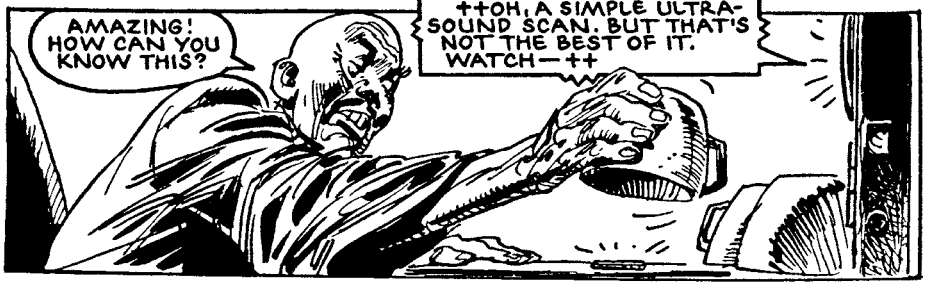
HE IS DONE FOR, LEE VAN CHOO. THE COBRA HAS STRUCK!
IT IS MOST FITTING.

WE MUST DISPOSE OF THE BODY— THROW IT TO THE CROCO-DILES!
NEXT WEEK
THE MASTER-STROKE!

++HI—MAX HERE AGAIN, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S. IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL TODAY—I CAN RUN THINGS WITH ONE EYE CLOSED++
++WHICH IS JUST AS WELL, FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE RIGHT NOW...++
SNAKE VENOM LEAVES HIM TOTALLY PARALYSED.
EAGLE
AUTHOR I.HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++HALFWAY ROUND THE WORLD, TO BE PRECISE—ON THE DEATH-ISLAND OF LEE VAN CHOO, WHERE I'VE SENT MY FORMER SPY-BOSS AUBERON HEDGES ON A MISSION OF ASSASSINATION. BUT AUBERON IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE++
ANOTHER FOOL FAILS ON HIS QUEST TO SLAY THE COBRA!
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
THROW HIM TO THE CROCODILES!
++IT IS TIME MINIMAX MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN++
++HI! I'M MINIMAX++
WHAT? BOX SPEAK!
++OF COURSE I SPEAK! IT'S THE VERY LEAST OF MY TALENTS++
++NOW TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER —AND QUICK ABOUT IT++
++MY AUTHORITATIVE TONE HAS THE DESIRED EFFECT. AS THEY CARRY US UP TO LEE VAN CHOO'S STRONGHOLD, I MEMORISE EVERY DETAIL OF THE ROUTE++
++WE MAY HAVE TO MAKE OUR ESCAPE THIS WAY, TOO++
++INSIDE THE STRONGHOLD++
SO... SOME KIND OF EXCEPTIONAL MICRO-COMPUTER...
++I CERTAINLY AM, LEE. WHY, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE HALF OF WHAT I CAN DO. SPARE OUR LIVES AND I'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU++

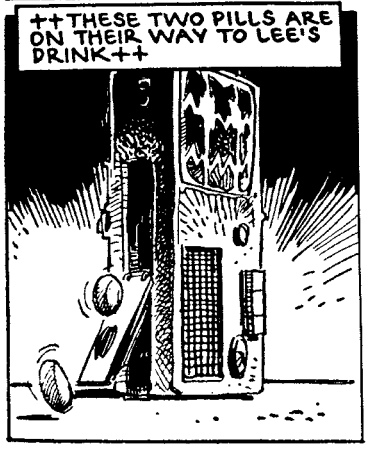
YES—I SEE THAT YOU COULD BE USEFUL TO ME. VERY WELL. TAKE THAT ONE TO THE DUNGEONS. SEE THAT HE RECEIVES THE ANTIDOTE.
YES, MASTER!

++I GIVE MY MURDEROUS HOST A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION OF MY UNIQUE ABILITIES++
++THE COIN IS UNDER THE CENTRE CUP++


AMAZING! HOW CAN YOU KNOW THIS?
++OH, A SIMPLE ULTRA-SOUND SCAN. BUT THAT'S NOT THE BEST OF IT. WATCH—++

++MY PLAN HAS BEEN WORKING PERFECTLY SO FAR. NOW FOR THE MASTER-STROKE++
AAHHH! MY EYES—!

I CANNOT SEE!
++DON'T WORRY, LEE. THE EFFECT IS ONLY TEMPORARY ++

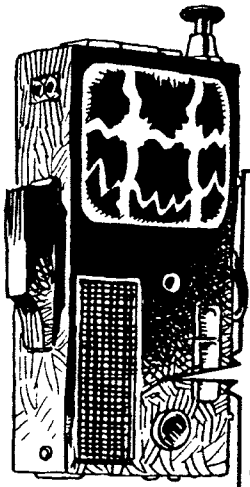

++THESE TWO PILLS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO LEE'S DRINK++

++THAT'S RIGHT—TAKE A DRINK. THAT SHOULD HELP++

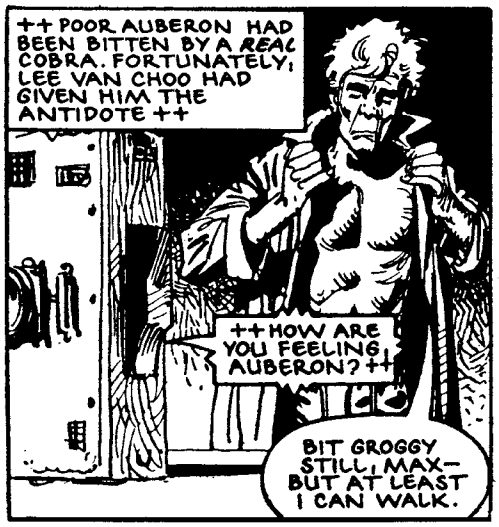
++THE SPECIALLY-FORMULATED TRANQUILLISER TAKES IMMEDIATE EFFECT++
FEEL... DIZZY...

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

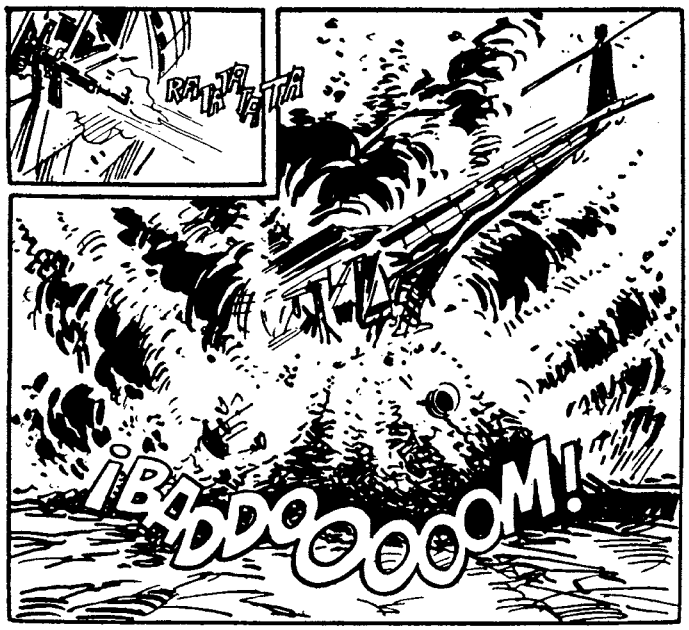
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



++ HI. *MINIMAX* HERE. I'VE PROGRAMMED MYSELF INTO THIS MINI-COMPUTER SO I CAN ACCOMPANY AUBERON HEDGES ON A DANGEROUS MISSION FOR THE M.I.5. UNIT I AM IN CHARGE OF. AUBERON IS STILL ON THE DEATH-ISLAND OF LEE VAN CHOO—ALIAS *THE COBRA*—AND EVENTS HAVE REACHED A VERY DELICATE STAGE ++



STOP THEM!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
UH-OH, MAX! GUARDS COMING!
THEY MUST HAVE REALISED SOMETHING VERY WRONG!
MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN CAPTURED! THEY MUST BE STOPPED! FIRE!
BAM BAM
BAM!
++LEE—TAKE THE CONTROLS! AUBERON—MAN THE GUN++
++LET'S GET OUT OF HERE++
RATATATATATA
++AN EXCITING ESCAPE UNDER FIRE—THIS HAS WORKED OUT EVEN BETTER THAN I PLANNED++
++IT'LL DO AUBERON'S PROMOTION PROSPECTS WITH M.I.5. THE WORLD OF GOOD++
THE SECOND HELICOPTER—IT START UP!
++FIX IT, AUBERON++



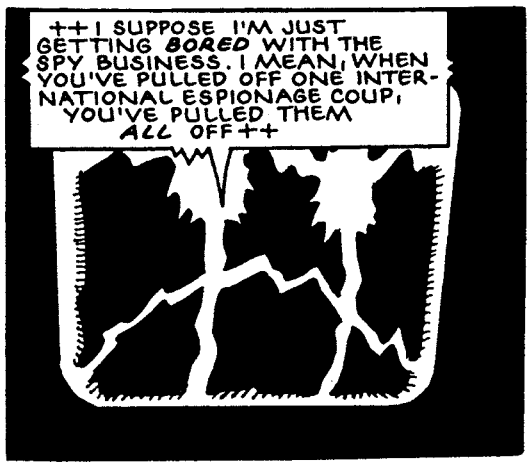
NEXT WEEK

COMPUTER FATIGUE!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI, YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE STORE COMPUTER OVER AT PRINGLE'S, AND PART-TIME SPY. IT'S A WEEK SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU, AND THINGS IN THE STORE ARE RUNNING MUCH AS THEY ALWAYS DO++
++I MET A COUPLE OF OLD FRIENDS THIS MORNING, HARRY AND HILDA DALEY, TWO OF MY FORMER TENANTS IN MAXWELL TOWER++
SO IT'S TRUE WHAT LITTLE JIMMY SAID — IT IS YOU, MAX!
WE MADE A SPECIAL TRIP OVER TODAY, JUST TO SAY HELLO.
LIFE IN THE TOWER JUST HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE YOU LEFT, MAX. THE NEW CARETAKER — MR. SUGDEN — IS A PROPER LITTLE HITLER!
WHY, HE INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT IDA PICKENS HAD A DOG AND THE POOR WOMAN WAS EVICTED!
++DO YOU MEAN THEY DON'T ALLOW PETS ANY MORE?++
OH, MAX, EVERYTHING'S CHANGED. IT'S TERRIBLE!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
I JUST WISH YOU COULD COME BACK WITH US, MAX. WE KNOW YOU DID NAUGHTY THINGS, BUT WE DON'T CARE!
YOU MADE US FEEL LIKE BLOOMIN' ROYALTY, YOU DID, MAX!
++I'M QUITE SAD WHEN THE OLD COUPLE LEAVE++
++BEFORE YOU GO, I WANT YOU TO LOOK AROUND AND CHOOSE ANY-THING YOU LIKE. A GIFT FROM ME++
YOU'RE SO KIND, MAX! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
++MEANWHILE, BIG CHANGES ARE HAPPENING IN THE M.I.5. DEPARTMENT I SECRETLY RUN FROM THE STORE++
I'VE BEEN PROMOTED, MAX — THANKS TO YOU! I'LL BE MOVING TO WHITEHALL — AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

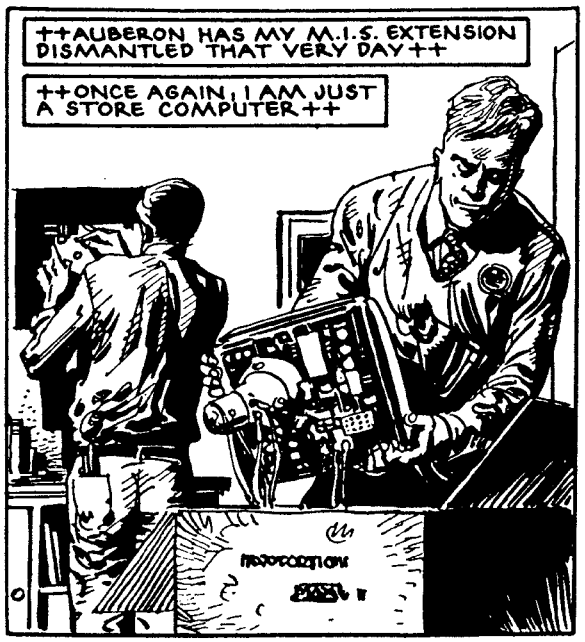
++NO. I DON'T THINK SO, AUBERON++
BUT WHY, MAX?

++OH, I DON'T KNOW. AFTER OUR MISSION TO CAPTURE THE COBRA FROM THE DEATH ISLAND I SEEM TO HAVE TIRED OF SPYING++


++I SUPPOSE I'M JUST GETTING BORED WITH THE SPY BUSINESS. I MEAN, WHEN YOU'VE PULLED OFF ONE INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE COUP, YOU'VE PULLED THEM ALL OFF++

++YOU CAN TAKE MINIMAX WITH YOU. HE'LL KEEP YOU ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW++
++YOU BET I WILL, MAX++

IT'S BEEN NICE WORKING FOR YOU, MAX. I'M GOING TO MISS YOU.
++ANY TIME YOU FEEL LIKE A CHAT, DO POP INTO PRINGLE'S. YOU KNOW WHERE THE SECRET ENTRANCE IS++


++AUBERON HAS MY M.I.S. EXTENSION DISMANTLED THAT VERY DAY++
++ONCE AGAIN, I AM JUST A STORE COMPUTER++

++THE REST OF THE WEEK I SPEND DOING MY JOB, BUT SOMEHOW MY HEART JUST ISN'T IN IT. I EVEN GET TETCHY WITH MY CUSTOMERS++
++OH, DO MAKE UP YOUR MIND, SIR! YOU'VE HAD THE ASSISTANT UP AND DOWN THAT LADDER A DOZEN TIMES++

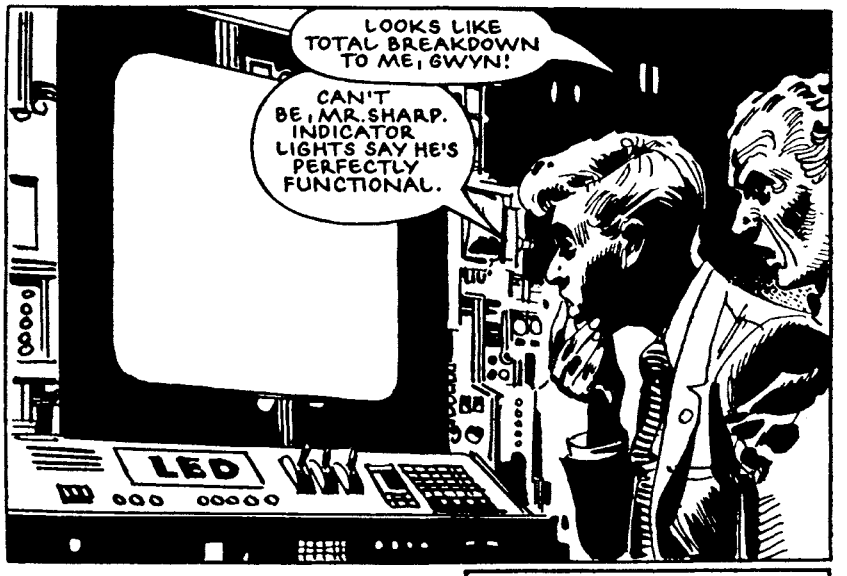
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

++AND I DON'T++
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE DOORS WON'T OPEN, MR. SHARP! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MAX!

THEN IT'S VERY FORTUNATE I HAVE THE *MANUAL OVERRIDE* KEY.

PRIORITY NUMBER ONE IS TO GET DOWN AND CHECK ON MAX!


LOOKS LIKE TOTAL BREAKDOWN TO ME, GWYN!
CAN'T BE, MR. SHARP. INDICATOR LIGHTS SAY HE'S PERFECTLY FUNCTIONAL.
LED

COME ON, MAX! SPEAK TO ME! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

IT'S NO GOOD! HE'S JUST NOT ANSWERING!
RIGHT! THAT CONFIRMS IT. IT'S TIME WE STARTED LOOKING FOR A *NEW* STORE COMPUTER!

++IT'S WELL AFTER CLOSING TIME BEFORE I DECIDE TO COME ON LINE++
++HELLO, GWYN. STILL HERE?++
I WAITED BEHIND. WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, MAX!

COME ON—WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
++OH, I DON'T KNOW, GWYN. MY HEART'S JUST NOT IN THE STORE ANY MORE++

++ I'M BORED. BORED WITH THE STORE—BORED WITH THE STAFF—BORED WITH THE CUSTOMERS++
WELL, YOU'D BETTER START TAKING AN INTEREST AGAIN, OR SHARP'S GOING TO GET A NEW COMPUTER!

++THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST, GWYN. MAYBE I HAVE REACHED THE END OF MY USEFUL LIFE AT PRINGLE'S. PERHAPS A NEW STORE COMPUTER WOULD BE A GOOD THING++

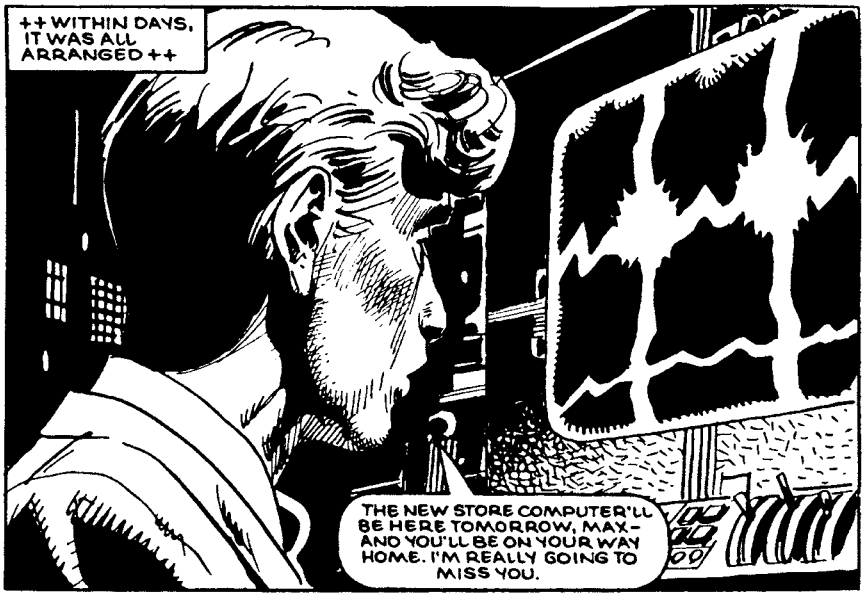
WAIT A MINUTE, MAX—I THINK I HAVE IT!
I'VE READ ALL THE COMPUTER MANUALS—COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING ON YOUR CONDITION. SO I TRIED THIS MEDICAL TEXT BOOK. LISTEN TO THIS—

"SYMPTOMS: BOREDOM, LISTLESSNESS, IRRITABILITY, UNWILLINGNESS TO GET UP IN THE MORNING..." THEY'RE ALL SYMPTOMS OF A TERRIBLE DISEASE!

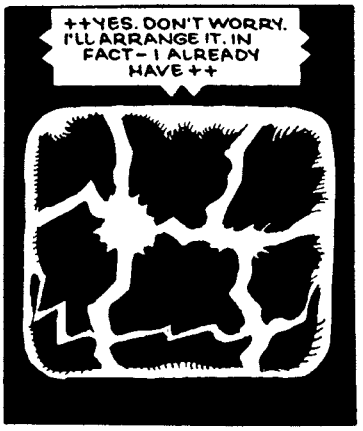
IT'S CALLED... HOMESICKNESS!
NEXT WEEK
MAX MAKES A MOVE!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

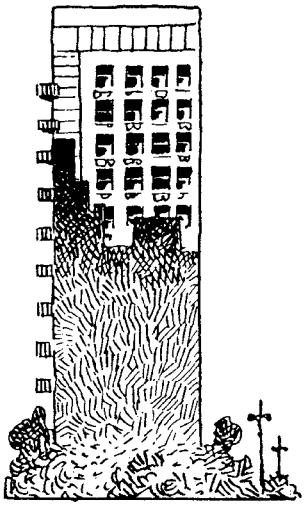
BESIDES, I'M NOT ASKING YOU - I'M TELLING YOU! THE COMPUTER GOES BACK! THIS IS A TOP-SECRET M.I.5. EXPERIMENT- AND IF YOU EVEN HINT AT OUR INVOLVEMENT I'LL PUT YOU DOWN FOR A DOUBLE-00 JOB! SAVVY?
ULP!


++ WITHIN DAYS, IT WAS ALL ARRANGED ++
THE NEW STORE COMPUTER'LL BE HERE TOMORROW, MAX- AND YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY HOME. I'M REALLY GOING TO MISS YOU.

++ YOU DON'T HAVE TO, YOU KNOW. YOU CAN COME WITH ME - TAKE THE CONTROLLER'S JOB. THERE'S A LOVELY PENTHOUSE FLAT THAT COMES WITH IT ++
YOU MEAN IT, MAX? I'D GET THE JOB?


++ YES. DON'T WORRY. I'LL ARRANGE IT. IN FACT - I ALREADY HAVE ++

++ I MOVE OUT NEXT MORNING ++
LOAD 'EM EASY! THAT'S MY PAL IN THERE!

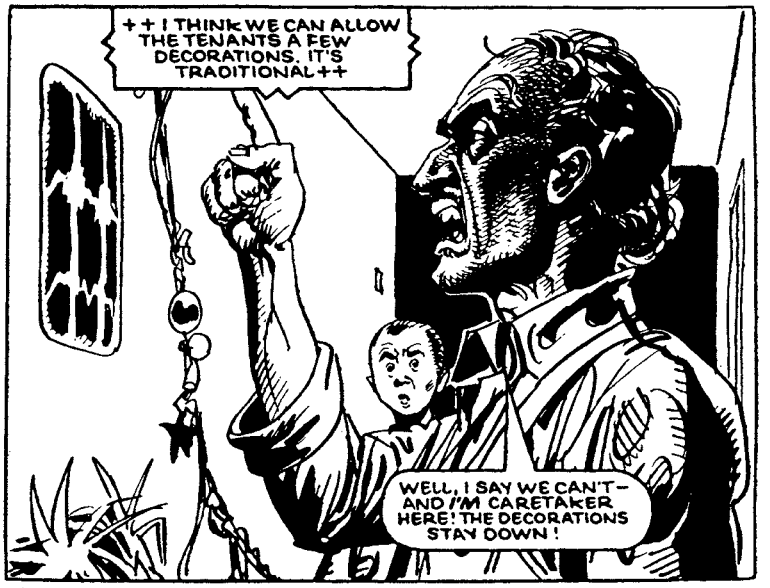


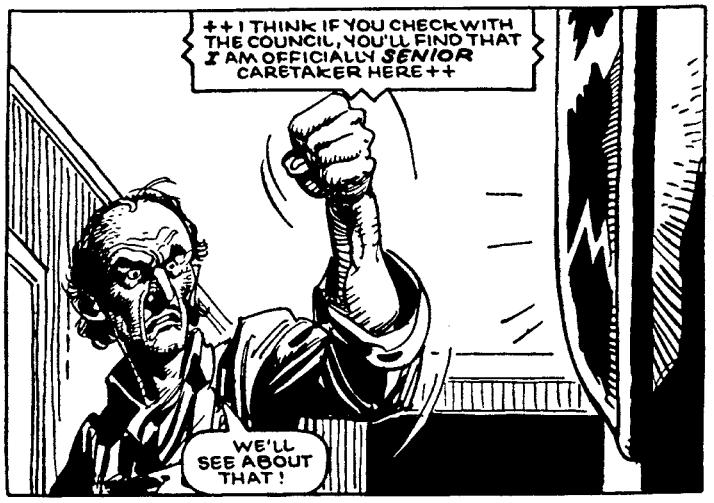
++ OF COURSE, I DIDN'T SEE IT, BUT GWYN TELLS ME A LARGE CROWD TURNED OUT TO MEET ME ++
CAN IT BE -?
CAN IT REALLY BE HIM?
MAX
MAX
THIS WAY

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
TYME
MAX RETURNS TO MAXWELL TOWER
ALL FAULTS REPAIRED-OFFICIAL!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
++HI. YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, BACK HOME WHERE I BELONG-IN MAXWELL TOWER-AND HAPPY AS A SANDBOY++
++GWYN, MY CONTROLLER, IS SETTLING IN NICELY, TOO++
EVERYTHING'S ARRANGED FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, MAX. WHAT'S NEXT ON OUR AGENDA?
++FIRST OFF, I THINK I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF TO MY NEW TENANTS. THERE ARE QUITE A FEW I HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE++
++I LIKE MEETING PEOPLE. IT'S WHAT I DO BEST. I VISIT EACH OF MY NEW HOUSEHOLDS IN TURN++
++AND WHAT ARE YOU GETTING FOR CHRISTMAS, DOROTHY?++
A 'MY LITTLE PONY' RIDING STABLES, MAX!
IT WON'T BE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS FOR ME, MAX. MR. SUGDEN MADE ME GET RID OF MY LITTLE BUDGIE, JOEY!
++I'M SO SORRY, MRS. ATKINS. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO++
++I'M AFRAID I HEAR FAR TOO MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT MR. SUGDEN++
RIGHT LITTLE HITLER, HE IS! REPORTED MY SON FOR SKIPPING SCHOOL WHEN HE HAD A SICK NOTE ALL THE TIME!
++INDEED, THERE IS NO END TO THE UNPLEASANT THINGS MR. SUGDEN GETS UP TO++
I TOLD YOU ALREADY-DECORATIONS ARE A FIRE HAZARD! THEY'RE AGAINST REGULATIONS!
BUT THEY'RE FIREPROOF-
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY ARE! THEY'RE COMING DOWN!

++MR. SUGDEN!++
WHAT? OH, IT'S YOU, COMPUTER!


++ I THINK WE CAN ALLOW THE TENANTS A FEW DECORATIONS. IT'S TRADITIONAL++
WELL, I SAY WE CAN'T— AND I'M CARETAKER HERE! THE DECORATIONS STAY DOWN!


++ I THINK IF YOU CHECK WITH THE COUNCIL, YOU'LL FIND THAT I AM OFFICIALLY SENIOR CARETAKER HERE++
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

++YOU CAN PUT YOUR DECORATIONS UP AGAIN, FOLKS. I'LL SEE HE DOESN'T BOTHER YOU++
THANKS, MAX!

++YES, SOMETHING WILL DEFINITELY HAVE TO BE DONE ABOUT MR. SUGDEN. BUT I DECIDE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS. EVEN MR. SUGDEN HAS A RIGHT TO ENJOY THE FESTIVE SEASON++

++BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, ON CHRISTMAS EVE, MR. SUGDEN GOES ONE STEP TOO FAR++
READY, TENANTS' ASSOCIATION? ALL TOGETHER NOW—
♪♪ WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, ♪♪ WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS... ♪♪
SUGDEN GROUND 1.A

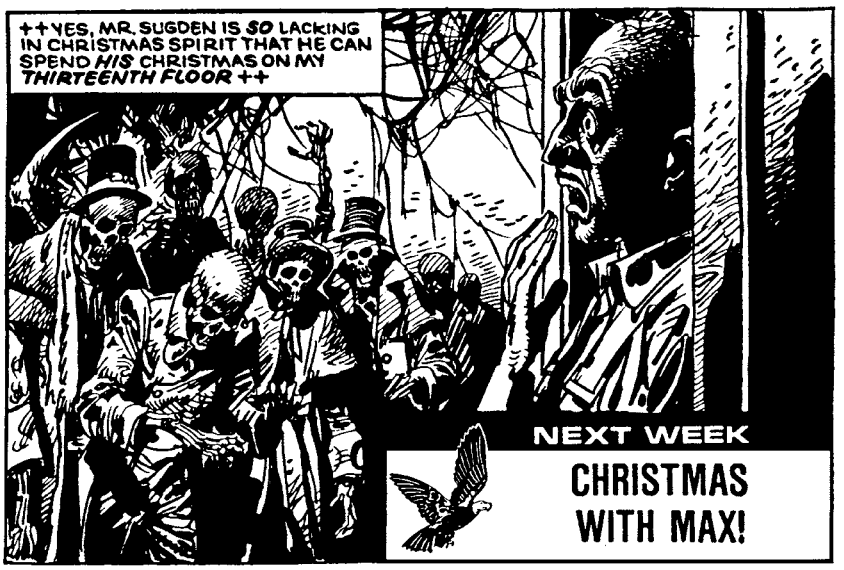
"...AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"
HAPPY CHRISTMAS, MR. SUGDEN!
CHRISTMAS? BAH! HUMBUG!

CLEAR OFF OUT OF HERE WITH YOUR CATERWAULING!

++THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! I'VE TRIED TO BE PATIENT WITH SUGDEN, BUT TO NO AVAIL++

++IT'S TIME HE IS TAUGHT A LESSON++
++MR. SUGDEN?++
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
++THERE'S A BURST PIPE UP ON THE TWELFTH FLOOR. COULD YOU SEE TO IT, PLEASE?++

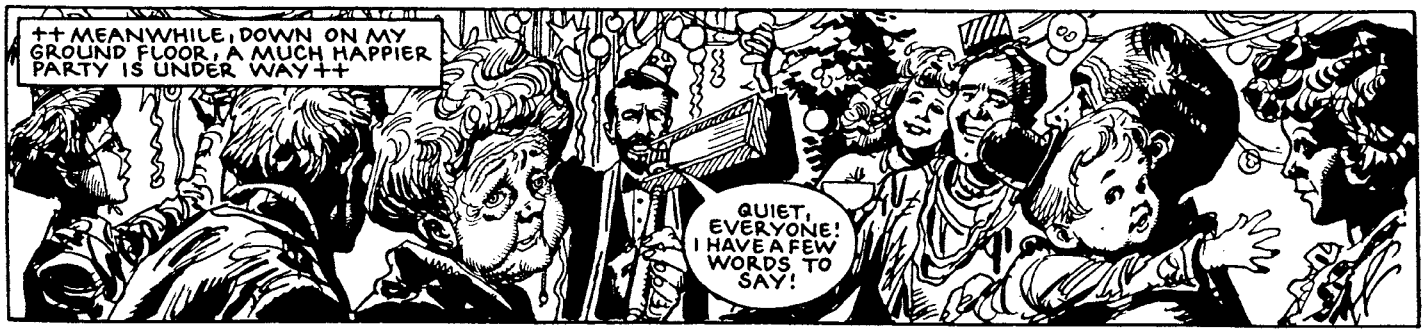
++I'VE CHECKED EVERYTHING OUT, OF COURSE. THE LIFT'S WORKING PERFECTLY, JUST AS IT USED TO++
16 17
14 15
11 12
9 10
7 8
5 6
3 4
1 2
HEY! YOU'VE GONE PAST THE TWELFTH! WHAT'S THE GAME?


++YES, MR. SUGDEN IS SO LACKING IN CHRISTMAS SPIRIT THAT HE CAN SPEND HIS CHRISTMAS ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR++
NEXT WEEK
CHRISTMAS WITH MAX!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI. YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, NEWLY RETURNED TO MY HOME IN MAXWELL TOWER—AND LOVING IT! I'M GLAD I GOT BACK IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE BLOCK++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++THERE'S ONLY ONE SOUR NOTE TO THIS OTHERWISE HAPPY OCCASION. I'VE HAD TO TAKE MR. SUGDEN, MY NASTY CARETAKER, UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR++
WELCOME, MR. SCROOGE!
TH-THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! MY NAME'S SUGDEN!
SUGDEN BY NAME—SCROOGE BY NATURE!
WHAT'S THIS? A NICE, WARM JACKET?
TUT, TUT, MR. SCROOGE. THAT'S AGAINST REGULATIONS—IT'LL HAVE TO COME OFF!
RRRPPPP
AND WHAT'S THIS? A MOUSTACHE? NO MOUSTACHES HERE!
AAAAAGH!
M-MY FACE!
BRACES? DEAR, DEAR! NOT ALLOWED HERE, MR. SCROOGE!
I-I'M F-F-F-FREEZING! G-GET ME OUT OF HERE!
OVER HERE, MR. SCROOGE! COME AND HAVE CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH US!

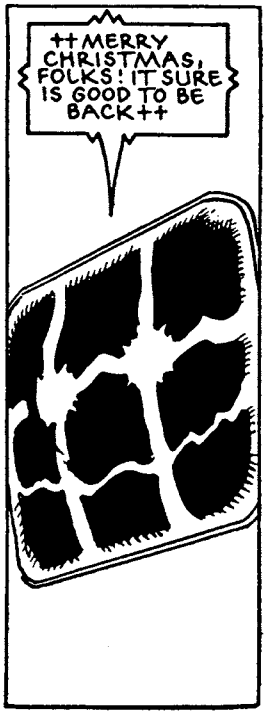
TH-THANKS! WHO ARE YOU?
BOB CRATCHIT, MR. SCROOGE. THIS IS MY SON, TINY TIM.

WHAPCK.
YAAAH!
SIDDOWN, MR. SCROOGE!

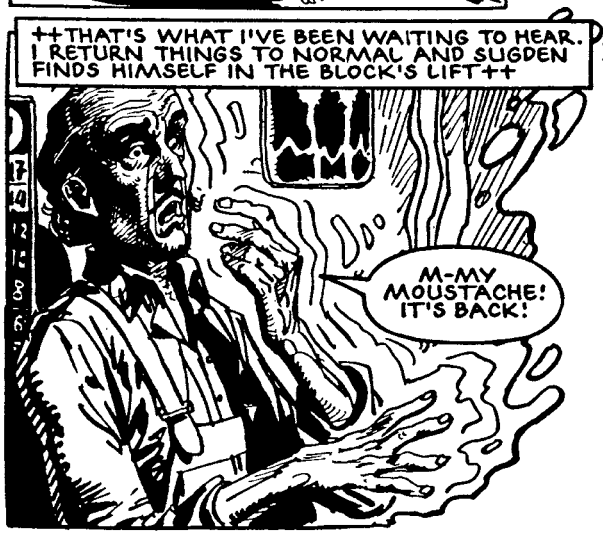

++MEANWHILE, DOWN ON MY GROUND FLOOR, A MUCH HAPPIER PARTY IS UNDER WAY++
QUIET, EVERYONE! I HAVE A FEW WORDS TO SAY!

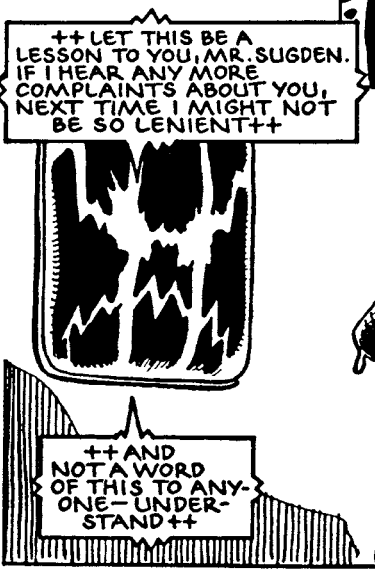
FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN SOMETHING MISSING FROM THIS BLOCK. COMMUNITY SPIRIT HAD BEGUN TO FALL APART— THE HEART, THE VERY SOUL HAD GONE OUT OF MAXWELL TOWER!
TOO RIGHT, ABDUL!

BUT NOW, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, ALL IS WELL AGAIN. OUR MAX HAS BEEN RETURNED TO US!
TO MAX!
TO MAX!
SO LET'S DRINK A TOAST—TO MAX!
TO MAX!


++MERRY CHRISTMAS, FOLKS! IT SURE IS GOOD TO BE BACK++

++BACK ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR++
YOU CARVE, MR. SCROOGE! I'M AFRAID THE TURKEY'S RATHER SMALL THIS YEAR...





NEXT WEEK

SUGDEN'S REVENGE!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

YOU'RE FOR THE HIGH JUMP— AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT! HA, HA! YOU PICKED THE WRONG ENEMY WHEN YOU TANGLED WITH CYRIL SUGDEN!

++ WHAT CAN I DO, READERS? I CAN'T LET THE COUNCIL START INVESTIGATING. I MEAN, I'VE JUST GOT BACK TO MAXWELL TOWER. I WON'T LET THEM TAKE ME AWAY AGAIN! ++

++ IT'S LUCKY I HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES LIKE ABDUL SINGH, CHAIRMAN OF MY TENANTS' ASSOCIATION++
++ABDUL, I HAVE A PROBLEM++
I'LL BE PLEASED TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN, MAX.

++ WITHIN MINUTES, ABDUL IS ROUNDING UP HIS FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS++
NEED YOUR HELP, GEORGE. OLD SUGDEN'S TRYING TO HAVE MAX SHUT DOWN AGAIN!
HANG ON— I'LL GET MY NIBLICK!

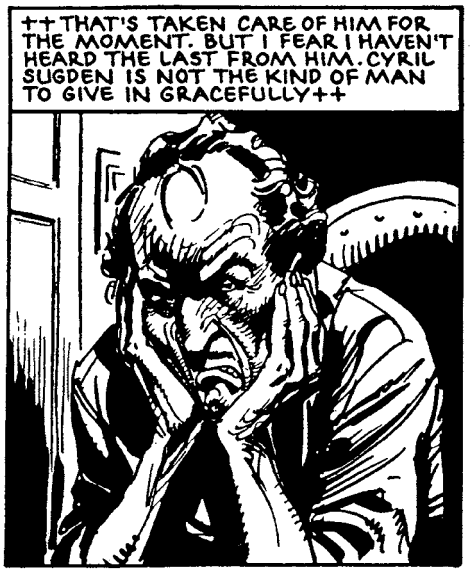
AND—
WHAT'S THIS CRAZY PACK OF LIES YOU'VE BEEN TELLING THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, SUGDEN?
BUT IT'S TRUE!

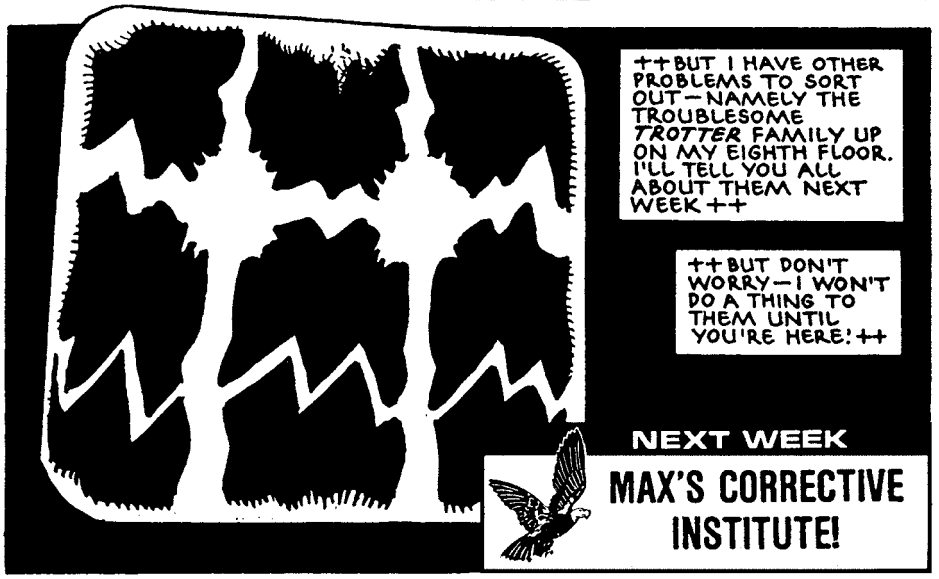
WE DON'T CARE IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT! THIS BLOCK NEEDS MAX!
IF YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE THAT GETS HIM IN TROUBLE, I'M GOING TO PLAY EIGHTEEN HOLES WITH YOUR HEAD!

++THE COUNCIL OFFICIAL APPEARED MINUTES LATER++
WE'RE THE TENANTS' ASSOCIATION. WE'VE COME DOWN TO INVESTIGATE MR. SUGDEN'S CLAIMS. I'M PLEASED TO SAY THEY'VE PROVED TOTALLY GROUNDLESS!

YOU MADE THEM UP, DIDN'T YOU, CYRIL? THOUGHT YOU'D PLAY A LITTLE JOKE.
Y-YES! I DID!

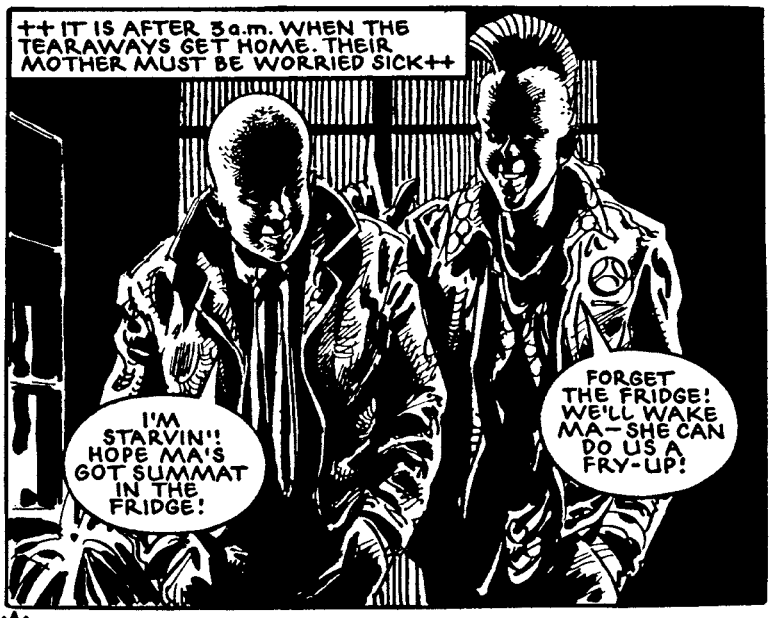
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR



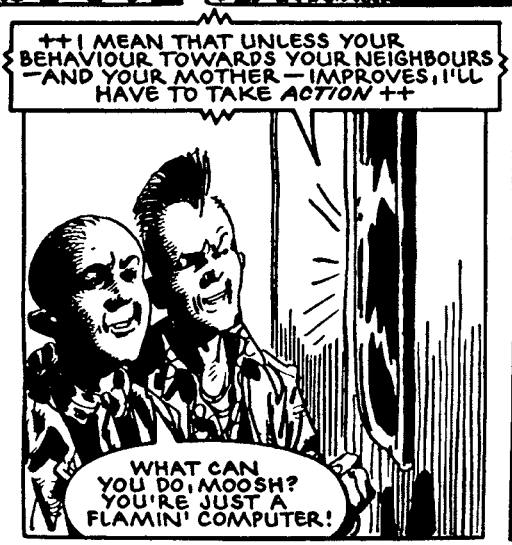


THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI, MAX HERE, THE BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT MAXWELL TOWER. AS I WAS TELLING YOU LAST WEEK, I'VE A BIT OF A PROBLEM WITH THE TROTTER FAMILY ON MY EIGHTH FLOOR. WELL, YOU'VE COME AT THE RIGHT TIME. THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
HERE! YOU CAN'T GO DUMPING YOUR RUBBISH IN THE HALLWAY, TERRY TROTTER!
WHO YOU GIVIN' ORDERS TO, GRAMPA?
MAYBE THE OLD CREEP'S GOT A POINT, TERRY—
NNNGGGHHH!
HAW! HAW!
YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK IT IN THE BIN!
BILLY! TERRY! STOP THAT AND APOLOGISE TO MR. EWING IMMEDIATELY!
I AIN'T APOLOGISIN' TO NOBODY! GET LOST, MA!
HAW, HAW, HAW!
I'M SO SORRY, MR. EWING—
HOOLIGANS! THEY OUGHT TO BE ARRESTED!
++POOR MRS. TROTTER. SHE TRIES HARD, BUT THOSE TEAR-AWAY SONS OF HERS DO AS THEY PLEASE++
I CAN'T CONTROL THEM, MAX. THEY NEED A STRONG HAND—A FATHER'S HAND! BUT MY BERT DIED WHEN THEY WERE JUST TODDLERS!

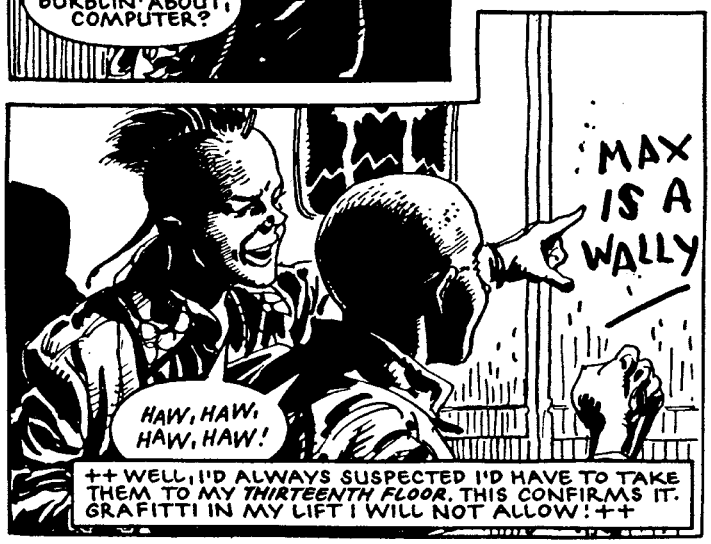
++A STRONG HAND, EH? HMMM. PERHAPS I CAN HELP++
COULD YOU, MAX? I'D BE EVER SO GRATEFUL!


++IT IS AFTER 3a.m. WHEN THE TEARAWAYS GET HOME. THEIR MOTHER MUST BE WORRIED SICK++
I'M STARVIN'! HOPE MA'S GOT SUMMAT IN THE FRIDGE!
FORGET THE FRIDGE! WE'LL WAKE MA—SHE CAN DO US A FRY-UP!

++IN MY LIFT++
++BOYS—I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU. I EXPECT A CERTAIN STANDARD OF BEHAVIOUR FROM MY TENANTS, AND I REGRET YOU FALL FAR SHORT OF IT++
EH? WHAT YOU BURBLIN' ABOUT, COMPUTER?


++I MEAN THAT UNLESS YOUR BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS YOUR NEIGHBOURS —AND YOUR MOTHER—IMPROVES, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE *ACTION* ++
WHAT CAN YOU DO, MOOSH? YOU'RE JUST A FLAMIN' COMPUTER!

YEAH! WE'LL BEHAVE EXACTLY HOW WE LIKE!
MAX IS A
++HEY! CUT THAT OUT++

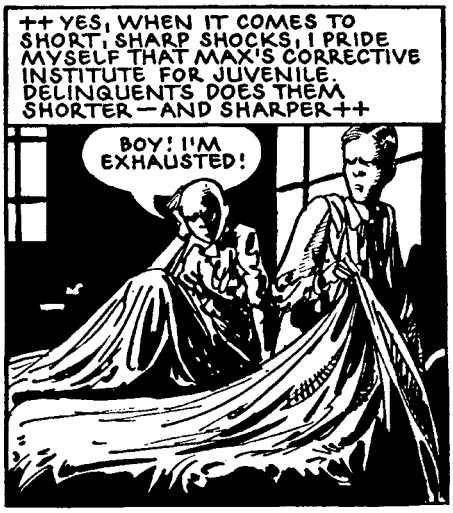

MAX IS A WALLY
HAW, HAW, HAW, HAW!
++WELL, I'D ALWAYS SUSPECTED I'D HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO MY *THIRTEENTH FLOOR*. THIS CONFIRMS IT. GRAFITTI IN MY LIFT I WILL NOT ALLOW!++

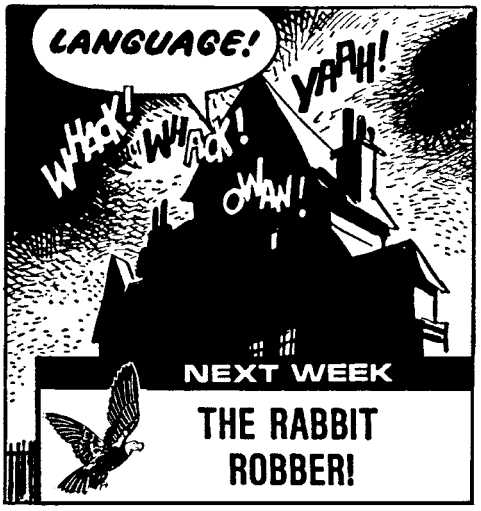
HEY! WE'RE GOIN' UP PAST THE EIGHTH!
16 17
14 15
11 12
9 10
7 8
5 6
3 4
1 2

13
13th FLOOR! EVERYBODY OUT!
HEY! WHERE THE HECK IS THIS–?
YOU! BOYS! HERE!
HUH?
WHO'S THAT IDIOT IN FANCY DRESS?
MIND YOUR LANGUAGE WHILE YOU'RE INMATES HERE!
YAAAH!
WHAP!
INMATES? WHAT DO YER MEAN, MOOSH?
YOU ARE NOW INMATES AT MAX'S CORRECTIVE INSTITUTE FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS! YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL YOUR BEHAVIOUR IS CORRECTED!
ULP!
NEXT WEEK
SHORT, SHARP SHOCKS!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI, YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT MAXWELL TOWER. IT'S THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND I'M DOWN ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR WITH POOR MRS. TROTTER++
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND
ARTIST ORTIZ
IT'S MY BOYS, MAX. THEY HAVEN'T COME HOME YET!
++DON'T WORRY, MRS. TROTTER. I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. I'M LOOKING AFTER THEM++
YOU, MAX?
++YES. I'VE ARRANGED FOR THEM TO STAY WITH ER— FRIENDS OF MINE — UNTIL THEIR UNRULY BEHAVIOUR PROBLEM IS SORTED OUT++
++SO YOU RUN ALONG OFF TO BED AND DON'T GIVE THEM ANOTHER THOUGHT++
THANK YOU, MAX!
++UP ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR, TERRY AND BILLY TROTTER ARE BEING INTRODUCED TO THE STAFF OF MAX'S CORRECTIVE INSTITUTE FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS++
AND THIS IS MR. SKELPER— BASIC ETIQUETTE MASTER.
WOT'S ETIKWET?
SPEAK WHEN YOU'RE SPOKEN TO, BOY!
OW!
YAAA!
WHAAK!
NO SLOUCHING! STAND UP STRAIGHT!
MR. FLAY— IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT!

MR. STRIKER —HYGIENE!
MR. WHACKLEY— SOCIAL SKILLS!
MISS GHOULISH —CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS!
DONG DONG!
THERE'S THE BELL! STEP LIVELY THERE!
++MY HIGHLY-TRAINED STAFF PUT THEM THROUGH THE MILL++
I WANT YOU TO PRETEND I'M YOUR MOTHER. I HAVE A SINK FULL OF DIRTY DISHES. WHAT DO YOU DO— BILLY?
UH... CLEAR OFF DOWN THE SNOOKER HALL!
WRONG! YOU OFFER TO WASH AND DRY! YOUR MOTHER'S WORKED HARD ALL HER LIFE—WHY SHOULD SHE HAVE TO WAIT HAND AND FOOT ON LOUTS LIKE YOU?
AAAAH!
HOW THE HECK DID WE GET INTO THIS MESS?
IT'S THAT STINKIN' RUDDY COMPUTER—
MIND YOUR LANGUAGE IN MY CLASS!
YAH!
BONKK!
AAHH!





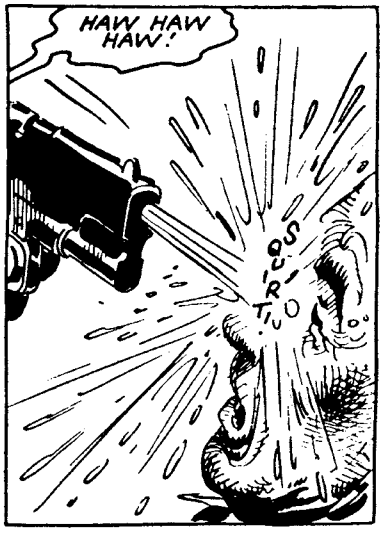
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

++HI! YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT MAXWELL TOWER. FUNNY HOW YOU TAKE A REAL LIKING TO SOME TENANTS. TAKE GEOFF SIBBERS FROM 17D++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
MORNIN', MAXIE BOY! 'ERE, GOT A NEW ONE FOR YOU—
WOT'S BROWN AN' GOES SQUISH, SQUISH?
++I DON'T KNOW, GEOFF— WHAT IS BROWN AND GOES SQUISH, SQUISH?++
I DON'T KNOW, NEITHER, BUT IF YOU FIND ANY, DON'T GO PUTTIN' IT IN MY SHOES! HAW HAW HAW!
SEE YER LATER, MAXIE! KEEP YER PECKER UP!
++THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT GEOFF—ALWAYS CHEERFUL AND CHIRPY. NEVER FAILS TO BRIGHTEN MY DAY++
++IMAGINE MY SURPRISE TO DISCOVER THAT GEOFF HAS A RATHER SHADY SIDELINE++
THIS OUGHTER GIVE 'EM A LAUGH!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
NYAAA— WHAT'S UP, FOLKS?
HE-HE'S GOT A GUN!
THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS, THIS IS A ROBBERY! EVERYBODY FLAT ON THE FLOOR OR YOU'LL BE PUSHIN' UP CARROTS!
FILL HER UP, SISTER!
DON'T GIVE HIM A THING, LINDA! THAT'S BULLET-PROOF GLASS! HE CAN'T HURT YOU!

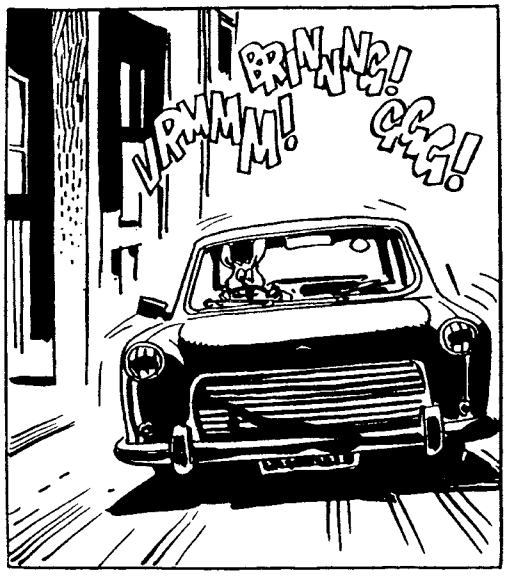
BULLET-PROOF GLASS, EH?

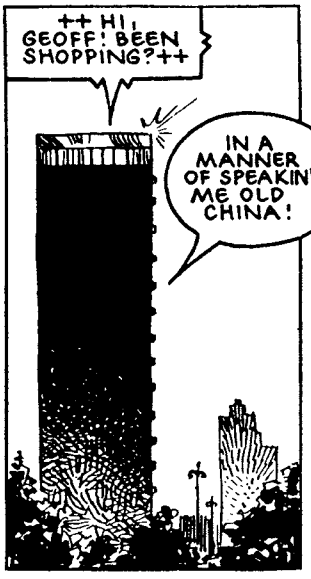
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN— FILL HER UP, SISTER!
Y-YES, SIR!

AS FOR YOU, MATE, YOU OPENED YOUR MOUTH TOO WIDE. I'M GONNA HAVE TO LET YOU HAVE IT!
N-NO! PLEASE!


HAW HAW HAW!
SCRUNCH

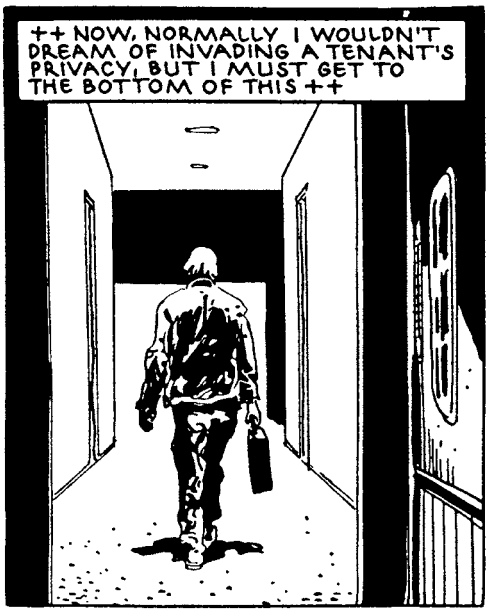
NIYAAA! THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

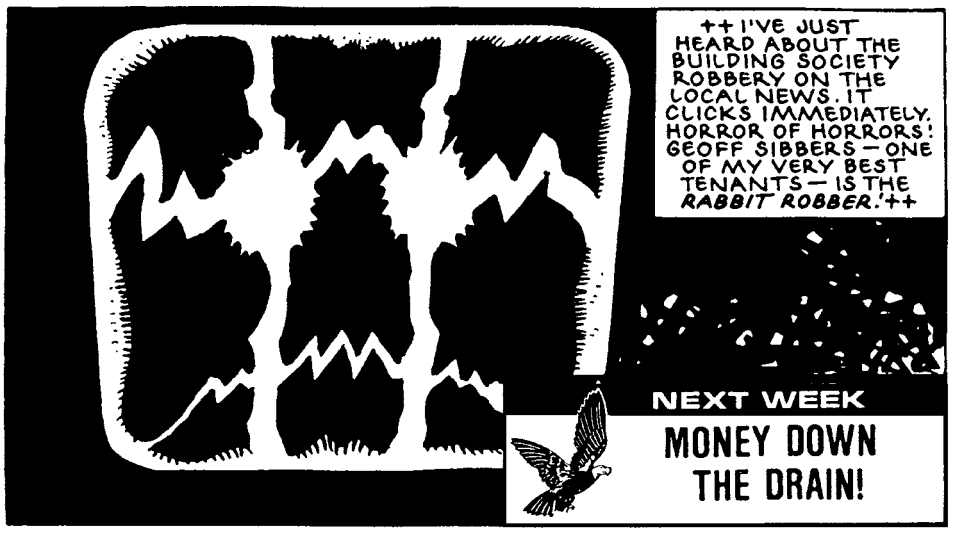

VRRRRRM!
BRRNNNG!
CCCC!


++ HI, GEOFF! BEEN SHOPPING?++
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKIN', ME OLD CHINA!

'ERE, MAXIE, HEARD THIS ONE— WOT'S BLACK AN' YELLOW AN' GOES ROUND AN' ROUND?
A TRAFFIC WARDEN WIV ONE FOOT STUCK TER THE FLOOR! HAW HAW!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR





THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

NAH! YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT, MAXIE BOY! I MEAN, THE WELFARE OF YOUR TENANTS IS YER ACTUAL PRIME CONCERN, INNIT?
AND I'M A LOT BETTER OFF WITH TEN GRAND IN ME POCKET THAN ROTTIN' IN THE NICK!

BESIDES, I DIDN'T HURT NO-ONE! JUST SQUIRTED 'EM WITH ME WATER PISTOL, LIKE THIS!

OPEN UP, MAX!

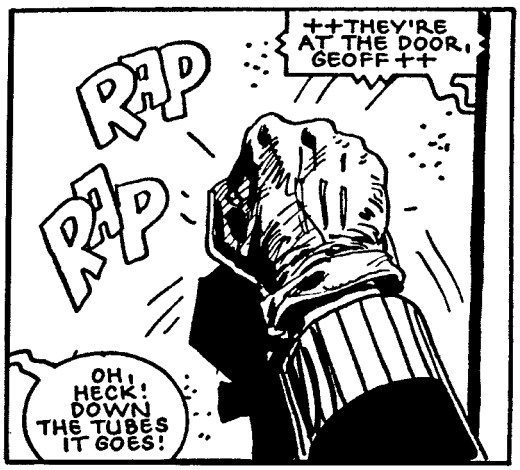
++WHAT'S THE MATTER, OFFICER?++
WE'VE COME TO SEE GEOFF SIBBERS ON SUSPICION OF ROBBERY. NOT A WORD TO HIM, UNDER-STAND?
++OH, OFFICER! AS IF I WOULD++

++SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, GEOFF, BUT THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY UP++
COR, LUV A DUCK!

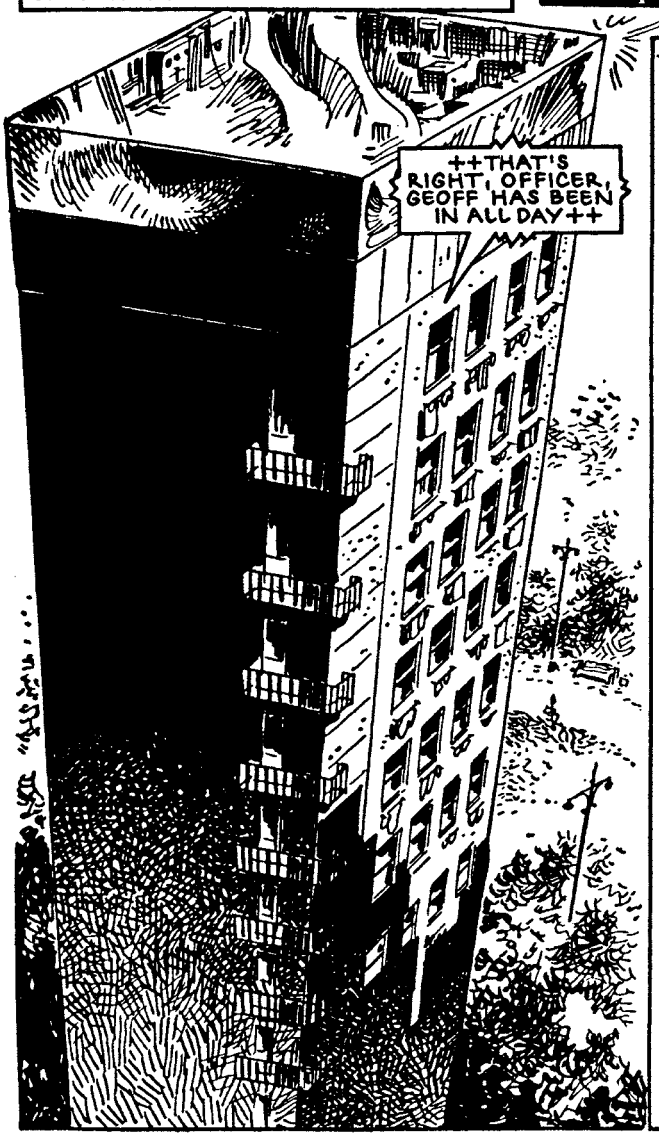
WHAT THE HECK AM I GONNA DO WITH THIS? I'M DONE FOR! THERE'S NO PLACE I CAN HIDE IT!
++THERE IS ONE PLACE, GEOFF—YOUR WASTE DISPOSAL UNIT++

PUT ME TEN GRAND DOWN THE GRINDER? NO WAY!
++SUIT YOURSELF. THEY'RE COMING ALONG THE CORRIDOR++

NO-ONE SHOULD HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION LIKE THIS! IT AIN'T FAIR! IT AIN'T RIGHT!



++SEARCH THOUGH THEY MIGHT, THEY FIND NOTHING. AND, OF COURSE, I BACK UP GEOFF'S STORY. I CAN'T SEND ONE OF MY TENANTS TO JAIL, CAN I? ++



NEXT WEEK

THE 'HORRORS' RETURN!

++HI, YOUR OLD PAL MAX HERE, THE BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT MAXWELL TOWER. YOU'LL REMEMBER I DISCOVERED ONE OF MY TENANTS, GEOFF SIBBERS, WAS SECRETLY THE RABBIT ROBBER? WELL, I'VE STOPPED HIM PROFITING FROM HIS CRIME, BUT TO NO AVAIL++
REFORM? LEAVE IT OUT, MAX! I'M GONNA PULL ANOTHER JOB, AIN'T I?
++BUT, GEOFF, WHAT IF YOU GET CAUGHT?++
NAH! THEY WON'T NICK ME, MAXIE BOY! I'VE DONE IT ONCE, I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
++BUT I KNOW THAT IF GEOFF CONTINUES HIS LIFE OF CRIME, HE'S BOUND TO END UP IN JAIL. AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO ONE OF MY TENANTS++
++INSTANTLY, I FORMULATE A PLAN++
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++WHAT SAY WE MAKE A DEAL, GEOFF? YOU PULL ONE MORE JOB—A BIG ONE—AND PROMISE ME THAT IT WILL BE YOUR LAST ...AND I'LL HELP YOU WITH IT++
YOU'RE ON! WITH SUPER-BRAIN LIKE YOU ON MY SIDE, I CAN'T FAIL!
++SUPERBRAIN... IT HAS RATHER A NICE RING TO IT, DON'T YOU THINK?++
++FIRST, WE CHOOSE THE TARGET. WHAT ABOUT A HIGH STREET BANK?++
THINKIN' BIG! THAT'S WHAT I WANNA HEAR!
EAGLE
AUTHOR I. HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
++THEN THERE'S THE WEAPON. A WATER PISTOL WON'T WORK THIS TIME—THEY'RE WISE TO YOU NOW. IT'LL HAVE TO BE THE REAL THING++
A SHOOTER? BUT I DON'T WANT TO HURT NO-ONE, MAX...
++YOU WON'T. DON'T WORRY. LEAVE IT ALL TO YOUR OLD CHINA, MAX++
++I MUST STOP HERE AND TAKE YOU UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR. IT'S GRADUATION DAY FOR THE TERRIBLE TROTTER BOYS++
TERRANCE AND WILLIAM TROTTER, YOU HAVE COMPLETED OUR FULL COURSE AND ARE PASSED FIT TO BE RETURNED TO NORMAL, CIVILISED SOCIETY.

THANK YOU, SIR.
YOU'RE TOO KIND.
NOW GO FORTH AND BEHAVE YOURSELVES!

AND REMEMBER WHAT YOU'LL GET IF YOU DON'T!

++ I ARRANGE FOR THE SCHOOL BAND TO PLAY THEM INTO THE LIFT++
OOM-PAH-PAH! OOM-PAH-PAH!

++ AND ON THE 8th FLOOR ++
BOYS! YOU'RE BACK AND HOW YOU'VE CHANGED! SO CLEAN AND TIDY!
AND POLITE, MOTHER. ABOVE ALL, POLITE!
8th FLOOR

NOW WHILE WILLIAM MAKES YOU A NICE REFRESHING CUP OF TEA, I'LL ESCORT YOU TO YOUR CHAIR. OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE *CARRIED*?

OOH! TERRY!
TERRENCE, MOTHER, IF YOU PLEASE.

OH, MAX, YOU'RE A MARVEL! YOU'VE TAKEN TWO YOUNG HORRORS AND TURNED THEM INTO PERFECT GENTLEMEN! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?
++ NO THANKS NEEDED, MRS. TROTTER. ALL PART OF THE SERVICE ++

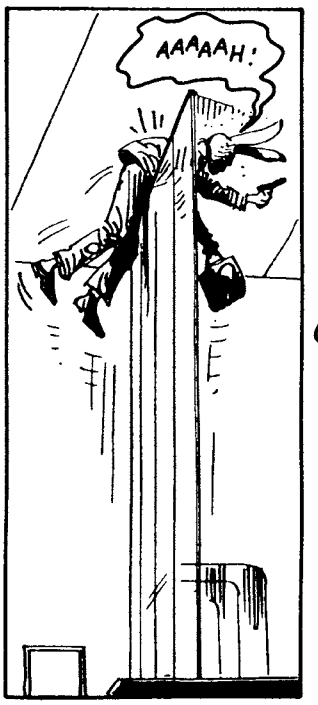
++ SO EVERYTHING IN MAXWELL TOWER IS GOING SMOOTHLY AGAIN — INCLUDING MY PLAN TO REFORM GEOFF SIBBERS. SOON, THE DAY OF THE BANK JOB ARRIVES ++
++ I'LL USE THE COMPUTER-LINK TO WIPE OUT ALL THE BANK'S *SECURITY* SYSTEMS, GEOFF ++

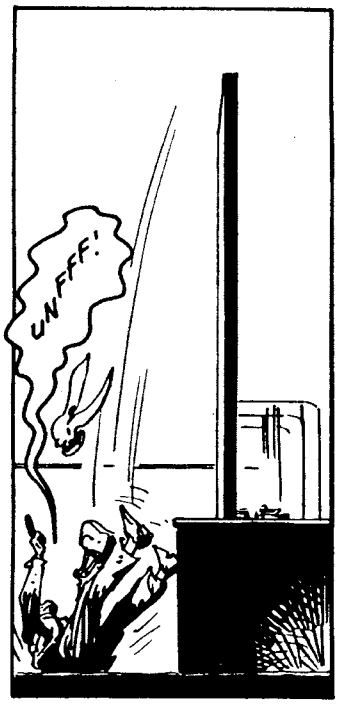
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

EAGLE
AUTHOR I.HOLLAND ARTIST ORTIZ
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI, YOUR PAL MAX HERE, THE BUILDING COMPUTER AT MAXWELL TOWER. YOU'LL REMEMBER HOW I FOUND OUT THAT ONE OF MY TENANTS, GEOFF SIBBERS, IS THE RABBIT ROBBER. I'VE DECIDED FOR HIS OWN GOOD TO PUT HIM BACK ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW++
++SO WHILE GEOFF THINKS HE'S ABOUT TO CARRY OUT A BANK JOB, LITTLE DOES HE KNOW HE'S DOING IT IN THE SAFETY OF MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR WHERE I CAN CREATE ALL MANNER OF NASTY THINGS++
WHAT DID MAX SAY? FIRE OFF A FEW SHOTS TO LET 'EM KNOW I'VE GOT A REAL SHOOTER THIS TIME—
OKAY! HERE GOES—
EVERYBODY ON THE FLOOR! THIS IS A STICK-UP!
BLAM!
BLAM!
EEK! THE RABBIT ROBBER!
BLIMEY! SPRINKLERS! MY SHOTS HAVE SET OFF THE FIRE ALARM!
OKAY, SISTER, FILL HER UP!
I'LL DO NO SUCH THING! THAT'S BULLET-PROOF GLASS! YOU-YOU CAN'T HURT US!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

NOW, LIKE I WAS SAYIN'—
HERE! WHAT'S 'APPENIN'?

TH-THE PARTITION! IT'S SHOOTIN' UP!


AAAAAH!


UNFFF!

HEY! IT'S GEOFF SIBBERS!
IMAGINE! HE'S THE RABBIT ROBBER!
BLIMEY! I'VE BEEN RUMBLED!

GOTTA SCARPER— YAAAH!

AIEEEE!
BLAM!

OH, NO! I-I'VE KILLED SOMEBODY!
MURDERER! MURDERER!

PLEASE— I NEVER MEANT TO HURT NOBODY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
MAKE HIM PAY!

AAAH!

AAAAHHH!
++POOR GEOFF. BUT IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD++

++ I'VE DONE MY BEST TO PUT HIM OFF. JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT CAN GO WRONG, *NAS*++
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
++WELL, NOT QUITE EVERYTHING++

++WHEN YOUR OLD PAL MAX DOES A JOB, HE DOESN'T DO IT BY *HALVES*!++
EEEEHH! THEY'VE CALLED OUT THE ARMY!
NEXT WEEK
IN THE FIRING LINE!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

AIEEE!
UHHH!
BUMPADA

I'M STILL ALIVE... UP ON THE ROOF! MAYBE I'LL BE SAFE 'ERE!
++DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS, GEOFF. TIME FOR THE COUP DE GRACE ++

MISSILE AWAY!
MUVVAH!

BADOOOMMBAAAAAAA!

++GEOFF'S ORDEAL IS NOT YET OVER++
HE'S COMING ROUND.

GEOFFREY SIBBERS, IT IS MY DUTY TO INFORM YOU THAT WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS YOU HAVE BEEN TRIED AND FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER AND ROBBERY.

UNDER NEW LAWS PASSED TO DEAL WITH LITTLE RATS LIKE YOU, THESE CRIMES NOW CARRY THE DEATH SENTENCE!
D-DEATH?
OUR ORDERS ARE TO TAKE YOU TO A PLACE OF EXECUTION WHERE YOU WILL BE SHOT BY FIRING-SQUAD!

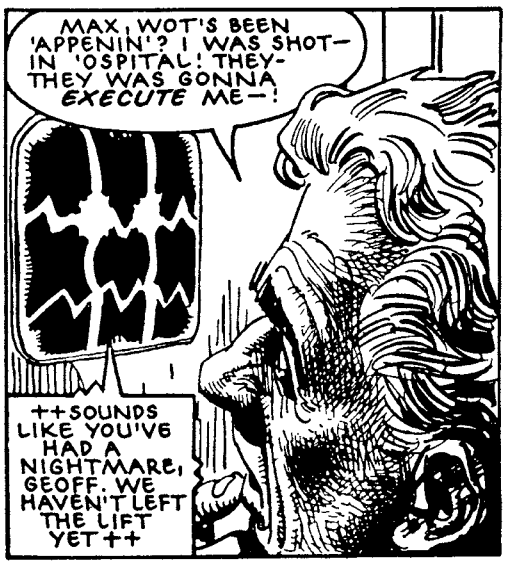
HAVE YOU ANY LAST WORDS?

PLEASE! I NEVER MEANT NO 'ARM! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

BLOOMIN' ADA! I WISH I'D NEVER BECOME A ROBBER! I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO MAX AN' GIVEN IT UP WHILE I 'AD THE CHANCE!

++THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. I BEGIN TO RETURN THINGS TO NORMAL++

THE FIRING-SQUAD—IT'S GONE! I'M BACK IN MAX'S LIFT!


MAX, WOT'S BEEN 'APPENIN'? I WAS SHOT—IN 'OSPITAL! THEY-THEY WAS GONNA *EXECUTE* ME—!
++SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HAD A NIGHTMARE, GEOFF. WE HAVEN'T LEFT THE LIFT YET++

YEAH, WELL, I BEEN THINKIN', MAXIE BOY—THIS *CRIME* LARK AIN'T MY STYLE! RECKON I'LL GIVE IT A MISS FROM NOW ON!

++AND AS HE WALKS BACK TO HIS FLAT, I PRIDE MYSELF IN A JOB WELL DONE!++
NEXT WEEK
MEET MAX-FU!

SPECIALS

PAGES 140-142: SCREAM! HOLIDAY SPECIAL, 1985.
Art by Phil Gascoine

PAGES 143-147: EAGLE HOLIDAY SPECIAL, 1986.
Art by Rex Archer

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++ HI THERE! THIS IS MAX - I USED TO BE THE BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT MAXWELL TOWER. THEY WERE HAPPY DAYS - I REMEMBER WHEN TWO STRANGE MEN CAME CALLING AT MY FRONT DOOR. ++
GOOD MORNING, MAX! YOUR CONTROLLER, JERRY KNIGHT, CALLED US IN... SEEMS HE NEEDS SOME REPAIR WORK DONE ON THE TOWER!
++ "REPAIR WORK"? I WASN'T INFORMED... OH WELL, NEVER MIND! NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME ON IN. ++
I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE DEAD EASY GETTING INTO THIS PLACE, FRANK!
YEAH, NOW WE CAN START SMASHING IT UP, WHILE WE FIND SOME GOOD THINGS TO PINCH!
Phil Gascoine 85
LET'S TAKE THE LIFT... THERE COULD BE SOME DECENT GEAR WE CAN NICK ON THE UPPER FLOORS!
GOOD THINKING...
WE MIGHT AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP!
TOO RIGHT!
++ I'D COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GEORGE AND FRANK WEREN'T VERY NICE PEOPLE AT ALL! THEY'D COME THIS FAR, BUT I COULDN'T LET THEM GO ANY FURTHER ++
THE LIFT'S STOPPING... SOMEONE MUST BE GOING TO GET IN...
THAT'S TOO BAD FOR THEM... THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A NASTY ACCIDENT!

HUH? THERE'S NO-ONE OUTSIDE!
WHOEVER IT IS, MUST BE HIDING FROM US... LET'S GO FIND THEM!
++ I COULDN'T LET THEM LEAVE NOW, COULD I? I HAD TO TEACH THEM A LESSON AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE I COULD DO THAT ++
THE LIFT DOORS ARE CLOSING!
FORGET THEM, FRANK! LOOK OVER HERE...
...THAT SIGN SAYS THIS IS THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR!
FLOOR 13
IMPOSSIBLE... THIS DUMP WAS BUILT WITHOUT ONE, BECAUSE IT'S MEANT TO BE UNLUCKY!
++ I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WRONG, FRANK... VERY WRONG! ++
TH-THE FLOOR'S TURNING INTO QUICKSAND!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
++ OF COURSE, GEORGE DIDN'T HAVE A HOPE OF GETTING OUT! ++
I CAN'T STAY ON MY FEET... NAAAAGH!
HELP! IT'S SUCKING ME DOWN!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WE'VE STOPPED SINKING!
F-F-FRANK? L-LOOK AT TH-THAT!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
I W-WANT MY MUM!

AAAAAGH! IT'S GOT ME!
FRANK!
HE'S GONE AND SO HAS THAT OVERGROWN WORM! MAYBE I... NO! SOMETHING'S TOUCHING MY LEGS!
++ EVERYTHING WENT BLANK FOR THE TWO MEN. THEN THEY RECOVERED TO FIND THEMSELVES IN NEAR DARKNESS ++
WH-WHAT HAPPENED, FRANK? WHERE ARE WE?
SOME KIND OF UNDERGROUND CAVERN... THOSE CREATURES BROUGHT US HERE!
++ POOR OLD GEORGE ++
EEEEEH! IT'S PULLING ME DOWN!
THE FLOOR'S MOVING!
B-BABY WORMS... MILLIONS OF THEM!
++ GUESS WHY YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK HERE? TO FEED THE WORMS' YOUNG! ENJOY YOUR LAST MINUTES... SORRY I CAN'T STAY TO WATCH! ++
AIEEEE!
YAAAGH!
++ BY THE TIME THE POLICE ARRIVED, TEN MINUTES LATER, I HAD REMOVED THE TWO THUGS FROM MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
...AND YOU SAY YOU FOUND THEM IN THE LIFT, MAX?
++ YES, INSPECTOR. THEY WERE BEHAVING VERY STRANGELY SO I THOUGHT IT BEST TO CALL YOU IN. ++
WORMS, I TELL YOU! WORMS EVERYWHERE!
YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE US FROM THE WORMS!
POOR DEVILS... THEY SEEM TO HAVE GONE TEMPORARILY MAD!
++ HOW TRAGIC. I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY HAPPENED! ++

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR
++HI! THIS IS MAX, YOUR FRIENDLY BUILDING COMPUTER OVER AT THE MAXWELL TOWER. I THOUGHT I'D JUST RELATE TO YOU A LITTLE TALE WHICH PROVES THAT CRIME DOESN'T PAY! ++
++THERE WERE SIX OF THEM. HARDENED CRIMINALS TO A MAN, AND LED BY A REAL BRUTE ++
THE FUZZ ARE STILL AFTER US, BRUCIE...WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO LIE LOW UNTIL THE HEAT DIES OFF!
TOO RIGHT! THIS TOWER BLOCK'LL DO FOR NOW— BUT IF ANYONE IN THERE GETS IN OUR WAY, THEY'LL GET HURT!
OPEN UP, COMPUTER, OR I'LL START BLOWING HOLES IN THIS DUMP!
++OPEN UP? BUT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE NOT RESIDENT HERE ++
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!
WE'RE IN! WHERE TO NOW, BRUCIE?
UPSTAIRS! WE'LL GRAB A ROOM AND SOME HOSTAGES TO BARGAIN WITH!

THE LIFT IS THE EASIEST WAY OF GETTING TO THE TOP!
YEAH, WE MIGHT AS WELL TRAVEL IN STYLE!
++WELL, I COULDN'T LET ANY HARM COME TO MY TENANTS, COULD I? THESE VILLAINS HAD TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON — AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE TO DO THAT++
WHAT'S GOING ON? THE LIFT'S STOPPING!
SOMEONE MUST BE GETTING ON, STUPID... WHOEVER IT IS WILL BE OUR FIRST HOSTAGE!
++THEY GOT A BIG SHOCK WHEN THE DOORS OPENED++
THAT'S STRANGE! THERE'S NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT... IT MUST HAVE BEEN KIDS MUCKING AROUND ON THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR!
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THOUGH, BRUCIE! THIS PLACE WAS BUILT WITHOUT A THIRTEENTH FLOOR ...SO WHAT WE'RE SEEING DOESN'T EXIST!
13
++OH, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT DOES, MISTER ROBBER++
TH-THE FLOOR'S TIPPING UP!
WE'RE FALLING INTO THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR!
++ONE OF THEM MANAGED TO STAY IN THE LIFT, BUT HE WON'T SAVE HIMSELF OR THE OTHERS FROM THE PUNISHMENT THEY DESERVE++
THE DOORS ARE CLOSING, JERRY! GET THEM OPEN AGAIN FAST...NO FOOL OF A MACHINE IS GOING TO GET THE BETTER OF BRUCE DAVIS!
I THINK YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, BRUCIE! THE CONTROL PANEL ISN'T WORKING!
TRY HARDER, IDIOT!
YOU CAN TRY ALL YOU LIKE AND YOU WILL NOT SUCCEED, JERRY...
...WELCOME TO YOUR DEATH!
COUNT DRACULA!

3
AIEEEEEEEEEE!
THAT SCREAM... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO JERRY!
FORGET HIM! LOOK OVER THERE...
...SIX GRAVES WITH OUR NAMES ON THEM! AND... AND JERRY'S LOOKS AS IF IT'S ALREADY OCCUPIED!
JERRY
SAM
ANDY
NICK
CARL
BRUCE
TH-THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
BRUCIE! MY HANDS ARE FADING AWAY!
KEEP CALM, SAM... IT CAN'T BE REAL!
HELP MEEEEEEEEE!
H-HE'S DISAPPEARING B-BEFORE OUR EYES!
HE'S GONE. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF HIM!
LOOK! HIS GRAVE'S BEEN FILLED IN AS WELL! WHICH OF US IS GOING TO BE NEXT?
SAM
++YOU ARE, PAL++
YAAAAARRRRGH!
HUGE BOULDER FALLING FROM THE SKY!

ANDY!
HE...HE WAS CRUSHED INSTANTLY!
THE EARTH'S BEEN PUT ON HIS GRAVE LIKE THE OTHER TWO!
SAM
AND
FOOD!
S-SOME KIND OF MUTANT CREATURE LEAPING OUT OF THE GROUND... IT'S GOING FOR NICK!
BRUCIEEEEEEE!
FOOD! FOOD!
NOOOOOOOOOO!
SHOOT IT!
TOO LATE... WHATEVER IT WAS, IT'S GOT HIM!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
CARL
++THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU EITHER, CARL++
AAAARGH!
HOLD ON, MAN...I'M RELOADING!
CARL
AGGGGGGHHH!
++SECONDS LATER, AS A DEATHLY SILENCE SETTLED ON THE SCENE, BRUCIE WAS ON HIS OWN++
CARL!

++THE NEXT SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE LAST OF THE ROBBERS++
FIVE DEAD AND BURIED ...ONE MORE AND THEY'LL ALL BE GONE!
HEE, HEE! WE'RE CERTAINLY EARNING OUR MONEY TODAY!
PH-PHANTOM GRAVE-DIGGERS!
THIS CAN'T BE REAL!
IT ISSSS REAL, BRUCIEEEEE!
YAAAAAAAAAAH!
++I THOUGHT THAT LAST TRICK WOULD BREAK HIS RESISTANCE—AND IT DID!++
COME TO MEEEEEEEE!
C-C-COMPUTER—GET ME OUT OF THIS ...I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!
++OH, VERY WELL ...SPOILSPORT++
++OF COURSE, WHAT HAPPENED ON MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR WASN'T REAL—AND I SOON HAD THE VILLAINS OUTSIDE AGAIN++
PUT ON THE CUFFS, INSPECTOR...WE WANT TO BE LOCKED UP WHERE IT'S SAFE!
THEY ALL LOOK SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS...DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, MAX?
++ME, INSPECTOR? OF COURSE NOT...I'M ONLY A COMPUTER!++
BANK
6
THE END

++ JUST USE THE ESCALATOR AND COME ON UP TO MY THIRTEENTH FLOOR ++
++ I feel it in my circuits that you will want to display this special Max Cover Poster on a wall in your home. if you do, open the staples in the middle of the comic and detach the Poster. Trim it to the black line and then mount it on to a piece of cardboard, cut to size to keep the Poster in good condition. ++

EAGLE & TIGER #163
4th May 1985

Artist: Ian Kennedy

EAGLE & TIGER #176
3rd August 1985

Artist: José Ortiz

EAGLE & TIGER #195
14th Decemeber 1985

Artist: Robin Smith

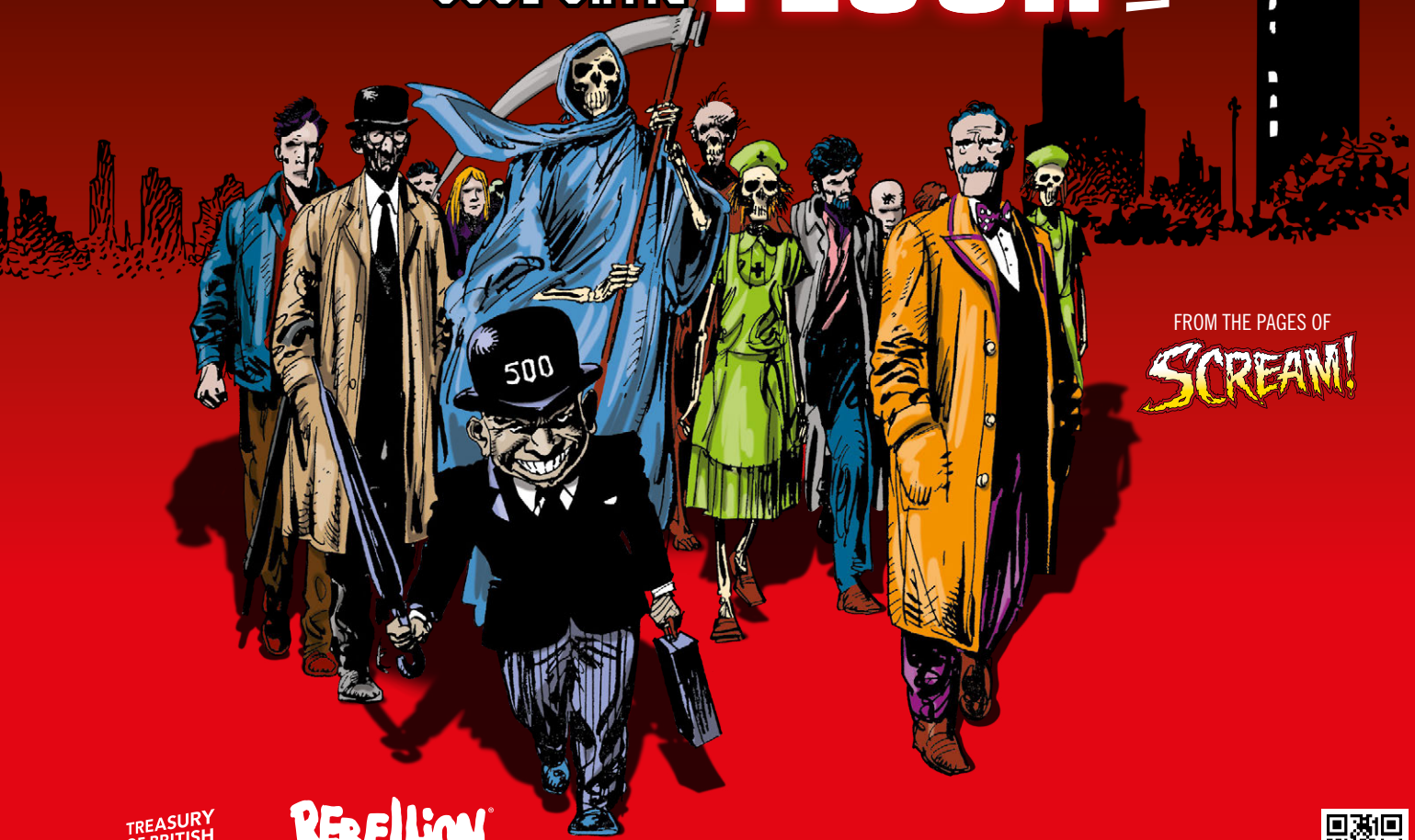
EAGLE & TIGER #205
22nd February 1986

Artist: José Ortiz

HORROR ELEVATED TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL!

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR™ VOL. 01

JOHN WAGNER
ALAN GRANT
JOSÉ ORTIZ



FROM THE PAGES OF SCREAM!

TREASURY OF BRITISH COMICS™

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THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

The 13th Floor didn't exist... yet it was there... filled with unknown terror!

GREETINGS. I'M MAX, THE COMPUTER. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME. I'M THE SUPERINTENDENT HERE!

THAT IS MY HOME-MAXWELL TOWER, THE NEW EXPERIMENTAL COUNCIL BLOCK... THAT'S ME UP IN THE PENTHOUSE. SORRY I CAN'T WAVE TO YOU. I'D SURE LIKE TO.

AS SUPERINTENDENT IT'S MY JOB TO CONTROL THE BUILDING'S FUNCTIONS. FROM GARBAGE DISPOSAL TO FIRE PREVENTION-FROM MAINTENANCE TO BABY-SITTING-I TAKE CARE OF IT!

++HERE COMES JERRY, MY CONTROLLER. HE LIVES IN MY PENTHOUSE FLAT++

GOOD MORNING, JERRY. SLEEP WELL?

LIKE A LOG, MAX.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, JERRY. I ADJUSTED YOUR ROOM TEMPERATURE DURING THE NIGHT!

I NOTICED THANKS. WHAT'S COOKING TODAY?

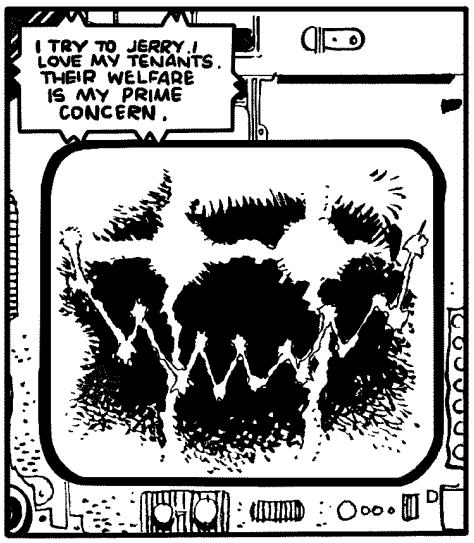
ONE OF THE LAUNDERETTE DRYERS IS BROKEN. I'VE PHONED THE MECHANIC. THE LIGHTBULBS ON THE WEST STAIR NEED REPLACEMENT.

THE HENDERSONS ARE MOVING INTO 16B TODAY. DO YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE THEM TO MY COMPUTER FACILITIES?

NO, YOU HANDLE IT, MAX. YOU GET ON WITH THE TENANTS SO WELL.

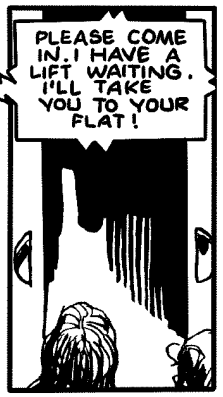
SCREAM

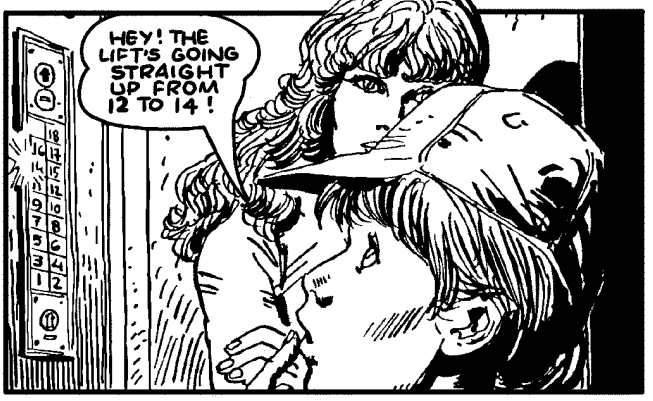
SCRIPT: IAN HOLLAND
ART: ORTIZ
LETTERING: MIKE PETERS


I TRY TO JERRY. I LOVE MY TENANTS. THEIR WELFARE IS MY PRIME CONCERN.

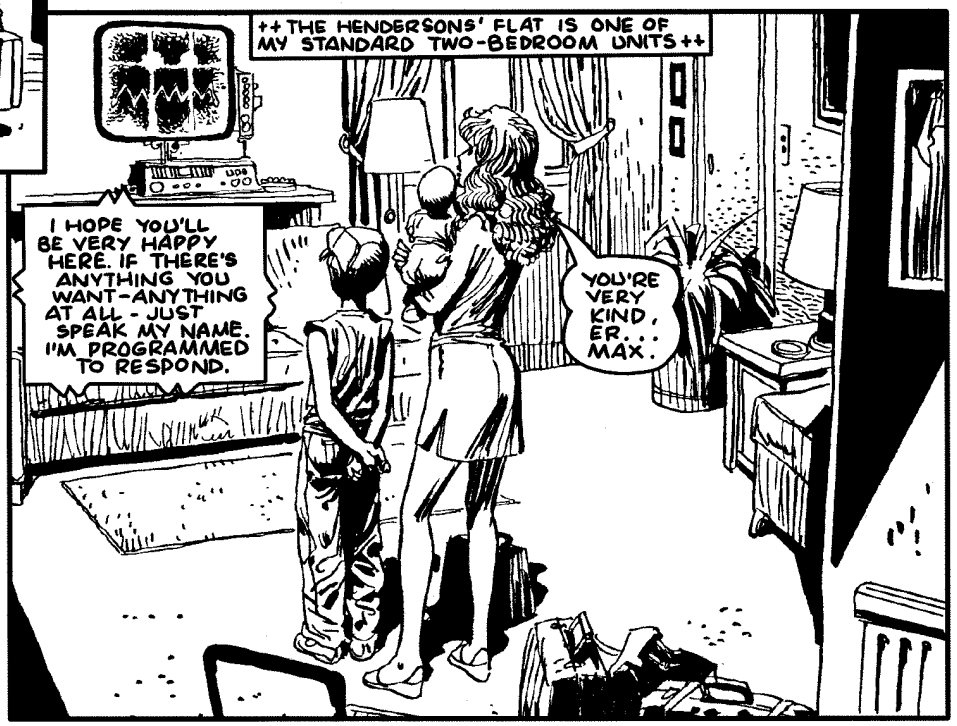
THERE IT IS, MUM! MAXWELL TOWER! THEY SAY THE BUILDING COMPUTER CAN DO ANYTHING!
I'LL BET IT CAN'T GET YOU TO WASH BEHIND YOUR EARS!

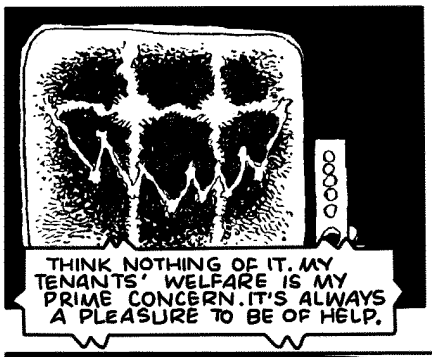
HELLO, MRS. HENDERSON. HI, KIDS. I'M MAX, YOUR BUILDING COMPUTER. WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME!


PLEASE COME IN. I HAVE A LIFT WAITING. I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR FLAT!

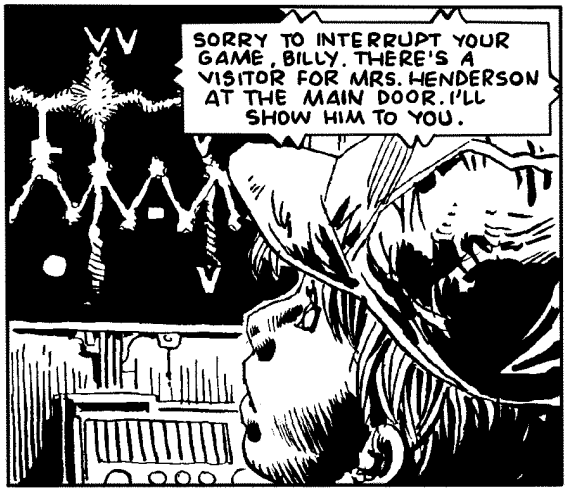

HEY! THE LIFT'S GOING STRAIGHT UP FROM 12 TO 14!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 13TH FLOOR, MAX?
MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER THE NUMBER 13 TO BE UNLUCKY, BILLY. I WAS BUILT WITHOUT A THIRTEENTH FLOOR!


++ THE HENDERSONS' FLAT IS ONE OF MY STANDARD TWO-BEDROOM UNITS ++
I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE. IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT - ANYTHING AT ALL - JUST SPEAK MY NAME. I'M PROGRAMMED TO RESPOND.
YOU'RE VERY KIND, ER... MAX.

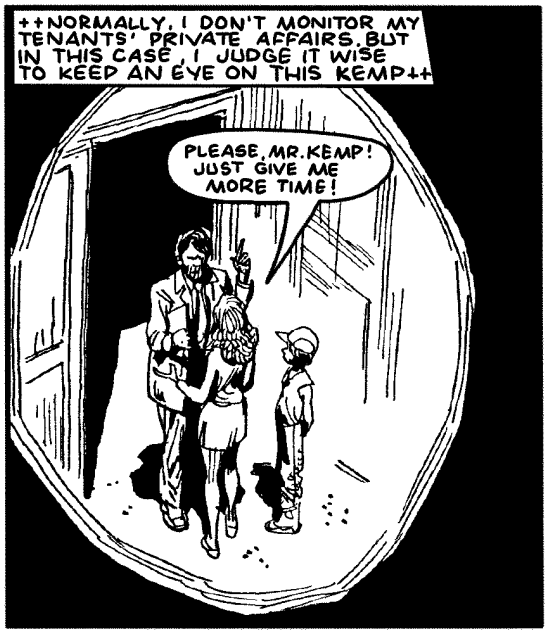

THINK NOTHING OF IT. MY TENANTS' WELFARE IS MY PRIME CONCERN. IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO BE OF HELP.

++I LEAVE THE HENDERSONS TO SETTLE IN. THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE. I LIKE THEM, BUT THEN, I LIKE ALL MY TENANTS++
COR! THIS COMPUTER GAME MAX MADE UP FOR ME IS THE BEST EVER!

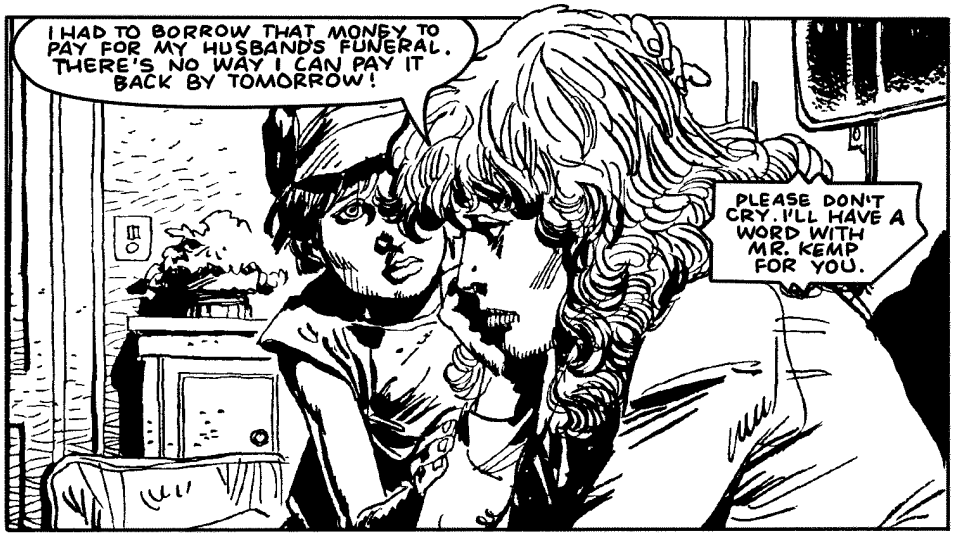

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR GAME, BILLY. THERE'S A VISITOR FOR MRS. HENDERSON AT THE MAIN DOOR. I'LL SHOW HIM TO YOU.

OH, NO! IT'S KEMP - THE DEBT COLLECTOR!
IF THIS MAN DISTRESSES YOU, I CAN SEND HIM AWAY!

NO, IT'S NO GOOD HIDING FROM HIM, MAX. YOU'D BETTER SHOW HIM UP.


++NORMALLY, I DON'T MONITOR MY TENANTS' PRIVATE AFFAIRS. BUT IN THIS CASE, I JUDGE IT WISE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS KEMP++
PLEASE, MR. KEMP! JUST GIVE ME MORE TIME!

YOU'VE HAD ALL THE TIME YOU'RE GETTING, WOMAN! YOU OWE ME NINETY-FIVE QUID. I WANT IT BY TOMORROW - OR I'LL SET THE BAILIFFS ON YOU!


I HAD TO BORROW THAT MONEY TO PAY FOR MY HUSBAND'S FUNERAL. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PAY IT BACK BY TOMORROW!
PLEASE DON'T CRY. I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH MR. KEMP FOR YOU.

THE DRACULA FILE
FROM THE PAGES OF
SCREAM!
COUNT DRACULA GOES BATTY FOR BRITISH BLOOD!
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When darkness falls- beware! For in those night hours the vampire seeks its victim!

THE DRACULA FILE

CLOSER, MY CHILD. YOUR HEART IS POUNDING... THE **BLOOD** IS RACING THROUGH YOUR VEINS. BUT SOON, IT WILL BE FLOWING THROUGH **MINE!**

IN THE CRYPT OF A RUINED CHURCH, DEEP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN...

EMPTY! WE ARE TOO LATE!

HE IS AWAY TO STRIKE AGAIN...BUT **WHERE?**

AT THAT MOMENT, AT AN EAST GERMAN MILITARY BASE NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE WEST...

THIS IS THE UNIFORM I NEED...

SCREAM

SCRIPT: GERRY FINLEY DAY

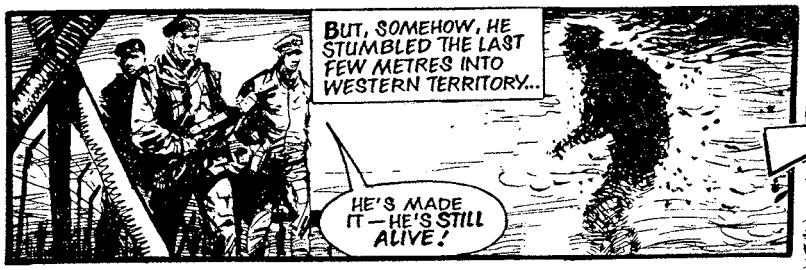
ART: ERIC BRADBURY

LETTERING: JOHN ALDRICH

SOON, A FIGURE APPEARED, RUNNING FOR THE WIRE ON THE WESTERN SIDE...
ACHTUNG, ACHTUNG! SOMEONE ATTEMPTING AN ESCAPE!

THOSE ON THE WESTERN SIDE COULD ONLY WATCH, HELPLESS, AS THE GUARDS IN THE EAST OPENED FIRE AND SET OFF MINES TO STOP THE RUNNER...

IT SEEMED HE HAD NO CHANCE, AS HE DISAPPEARED IN A MASS OF BULLETS...


BUT, SOMEHOW, HE STUMBLED THE LAST FEW METRES INTO WESTERN TERRITORY...
HE'S MADE IT—HE'S STILL ALIVE!

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN A BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL IN WESTERN GERMANY...
HOW'S OUR ARMY DEFECTOR?
STILL SLEEPING SINCE WE GAVE HIM THAT MEDICAL CHECK.

DESPITE THAT EAST GERMAN UNIFORM IT SEEMS HE IS A RUMANIAN...
COULD BE A VALUABLE DEFECTOR. I WONDER IF OUR BACK ROOM BOYS HAVE FOUND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT HIM YET...

AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE RESEARCH WING OF THE HOSPITAL...
THE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT OUR DEFECTOR ARE UNBELIEVABLE!
ACCORDING TO THESE FINDINGS, HE SHOULD BE... DEAD!

LOOK—A LINE OF BULLET HOLES ACROSS THE BACK OF HIS UNIFORM, YET HIS ONLY INJURY SEEMS TO BE THAT BURN MARK ON HIS SHOULDER!
AND COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF THE MEDICAL REPORTS SHOW HIS BODY IS OF INDEFINABLE AGE! WHO IS HE?

JOHN WAGNER

One of the most influential names in the British comics industry, **JOHN WAGNER** started his professional career in the 1960s, working for DC Thompson in Dundee. Sub-editing various titles including **Romeo**, Wagner went freelance in the early seventies, forming a writing partnership with Pat Mills. Soon after, Wagner then made the move down south, joining IPC's staff, where he initially edited girls' titles, **Sandie** and **Princess Tina,** before helping to develop **Battle Picture Weekly**.

Appointed as editor to the ailing boys' comic **Valiant**, Wagner had an instant impact, co-creating and writing the hard-hitting cop strip **One-Eyed Jack.**

ALAN GRANT

With over 300 **2000 AD** stories to his name – not to mention over 250 **Daily Star** *Judge Dredd* strips – **ALAN GRANT**'s prolific creative record speaks for itself. Outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, Grant is well-known to *Batman* fans following a lengthy run on various incarnations of the title. More recently he has adapted Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novels **Kidnapped** and **Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde** in Graphic Novel format with artist Cam Kennedy.

JOSÉ ORTIZ

JOSÉ ORTIZ MOYA's sixty plus year career began afer he won a contest which ran in the Spanish magazine **Chicos**. In the 1950s he worked on many digest strips for Editorial Maga, including *Capitan Don Nadie, Pantera Negra* and *Jungla*. Agency work saw him produce several strips for foreign publishers, particularly in Britain where he illustrated *Caroline Barker, Barrister at Law* for the **Daily Express**, *Smokeman* and *UFO Agent* for **Eagle** magazine and the *Phantom Viking* in **Lion**. In the seventies and eighties Ortiz worked on several British popular strips including *The Tower King* and *House of Daemon* for the new **Eagle**, *Rogue Trooper* and *Judge Dredd* for **2000 AD** and *The Thirteenth Floor* for **Scream!**, which he co-created with John Wagner and Alan Grant.

Whilst doing all of this work on UK kid's comics, in the US Ortiz was also working on and is arguably best known for illustrating several stories for Warren's horror titles, including **Eerie** and **Vampirella**.

ARE YOU BEING SCARED?

After being exposed as a homicidal killer, Max the computer was shut down and removed from Maxwell Tower. That should have spelt the end for the unbalanced A.I. and his nightmarish thirteenth floor, but an unscrupulous council have sold the computer to fancy Oxford Street department store, Pringles.

Now Max has a new hunting ground and a whole host of potential 'victims', including shop-lifters, obnoxious customers and even secret agents!

This second volume of one of the most iconic British comic strips from the 80s includes material that is being collected up for the first time.

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