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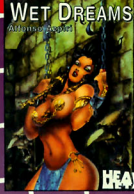
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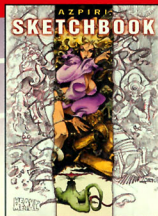
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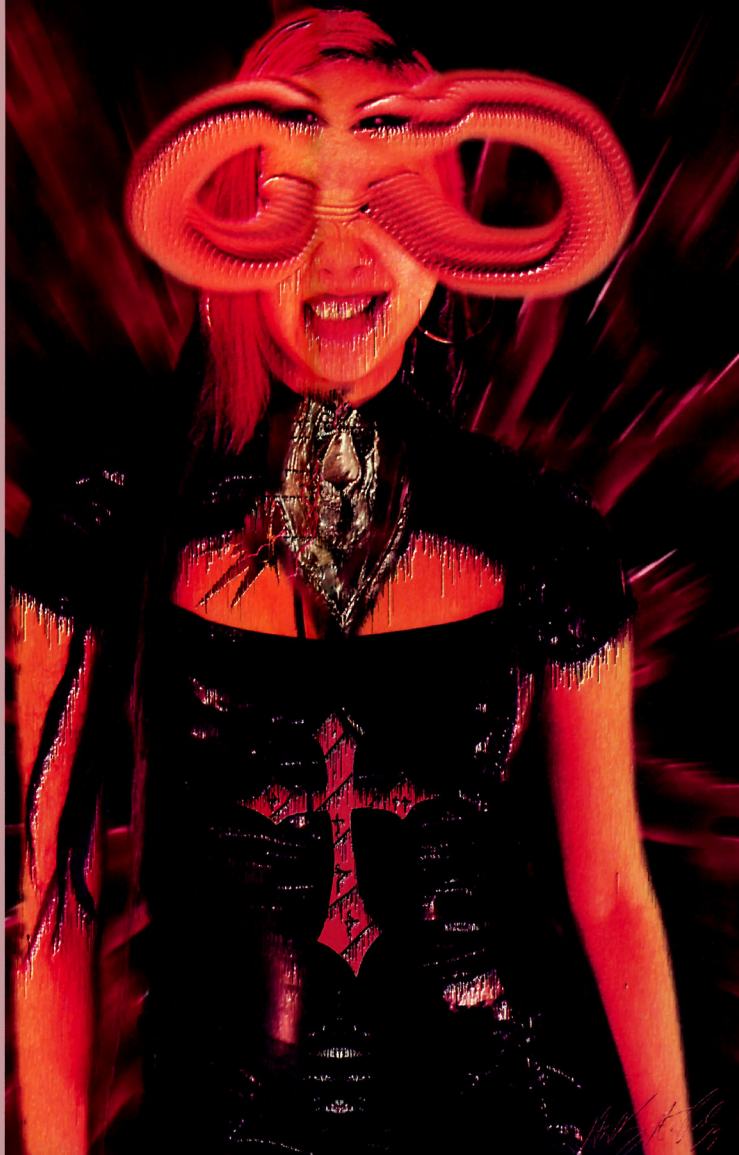
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◀Illustration by Anthony A. Paluzzi
To find out more about Anthony's work,
contact him at liquiddreams@juno.com
or <http://paluzzi.net>

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Here we are again, another summer beginning to fade into the fall, and I hope you all had a great one! Ours was filled with tons of work and travel, the biggest event for us being the San Diego Comic Con. I want to say, "Thanks" to all the new friends from the message boards that stopped by to visit- great to put faces with the e-mail names. Of course, a special tip of the hat to all the "regulars" who stopped by to tell war stories from conventions past, and help us create new ones in many of the gaslight bars! Woo! Woo!

Before I get into this issue, I had an idea for some letters I'd like to get from you guys- there's been a lot of movies based on comics that have come out recently, "Blade 2", "Spiderman", "Hulk", "X-Men 2", "Daredevil", and "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen", and I'd love to get your comments on any or all of them. Of course you can also talk about any other films you saw and enjoyed, like "The Matrix" for example. Send your letters to me at heavymetal1@rcn.com Thanks.

For this issue, I'm starting a new series in the graphic novel section called, "The Regulator" which I think you'll enjoy. (Don't worry, I've got all the follow-up installments to the other graphic novels you've been waiting for in the pipeline- like "Druuna", "A Bit Of Madness", "Gypsy", and "Requiem" in the next bunch of issues.)

I want to welcome back to the cover Lorenzo Sperlonga, always a pleasure, with many more to come in the future. We've got an exceptional gallery this time out, not that I liked any of the others any less but glad to have Moreno with us for the trip. Nice work, maybe we'll have him on a cover one day soon. Robert Valley, I totally dig his style. He spins a wonderful short, and Francesco Ciampi sent me a long one I couldn't turn down. Mr. Pahek returns with another thoughtful political twisted tale and Ferran Xalabarder (who created "Key to Valhalla" a while back) brings us "Space Trifle". To round out another fun issue, the cool, stylized Mezzo does "Hallorave".

Of course we can't forget our regular features crew, check'em out, and finally my thanks to Anthony A. Paluzzi who is our featured artist of the month. I'm off to find my bed, talk to you soon!

Best,

Kim Eastman

Dear H.M.,
In the past I've noticed many comic book heroes and heroines that appear in H.M. have had their likeness reproduced as cold-cast porcelain statues, and in various scales by sculptors who are closely associated with the magazine. But, I've never seen any statues that represent my favorite H.M. heroine, "Druuna". I feel I must express my disappointment for having never seen Druuna made into cold-cast porcelain and hand painted. I've always thought it would be a great idea if Italian illustrator, Paolo Eleuteri Serpieri's brain child, Druuna is reproduced as limited edition statues. There are lots of comic book heroines, villains and female warriors with their own statues, but I always wonder why I never see Druuna. I would strongly like to suggest that H.M. seriously consider proposing to have several cold-cast porcelain statues, in different poses done in Druuna's likeness. Please give the Druuna statues a lot of thought. I believe it will do us all some good.

Everett

Dear Everett,
Thanks for your thoughts on the Druuna sculpture. This has been on the minds of many of our fans and us. We've had numerous discussions with the main publisher and Serpieri about doing one, but haven't been able to come to terms. I have heard they were going to do one themselves and possibly release it this coming year, but no further details have emerged yet. We have asked to do an animated version of Druuna, and it would be a great tie in to offer the best Druuna statue yet. I'll keep you posted.

Dear H.M.,
I just bought the May 2002 issue of H.M. as a back issue. As soon as I saw this issue I was very pleased to instantly recognize the work of my favorite artist, Dorian Cleavenger. Hell, yeah! And the gallery that followed was great as well. I love Dorian's work. I enjoyed the Norse theme that followed in two of your featured stories, "The Spell of the Rhunes" and "The Key to Valhalla". As of now, I'm patiently awaiting the next installment in the Druuna series as well as a new story by Azpiri.

A few months ago I drew a por-

trait of Druuna's ass that I titled, "Perfection". It is on 10 x 15 cold-press illustration board. It is very good, clean and very detailed. Would you be interested in placing this art in your magazine? I guarantee that you would not be disappointed.

Keith

Dear Keith,
Sure, we'd love to see your portrait of Druuna's "charms" and if possible we'll print it in the featured artist section. Dorian is a great friend, and one of my favorite artists- and I plan to include him on the cover and in the gallery as much as possible. I hope you caught Azpiri's latest adventure in the January 2003 issue (killer!). We will have a new Druuna installment this year- as soon as it is done, we'll get it in an issue!

Dear H.M.,
I just wanted to type a few bars in to say I love your magazine and everything H.M. has to offer. I purchased some books and some back issues. I guess you could say I have found a new hobby of sorts, but comic books just don't do it anymore. H.M. gets my attention in more ways than one. So many great artists, so many great stories! I also really like the Galactic Geographic by Karl Kofoed. Makes me want to see what's next!! They could all be storyboards for a lot of future movies with actors or animated. Also, H.M. 2000 is the coolest movie ever!! I loved the first one also, but this definitely is something different. You could almost revolve the stories around if you have more movies planned for the future. What I mean is, it could be possible to make a movie about many short stories or one big graphic novel like FAKK2. Thanks so much!

John

Dear John,
Thanks for your note and by now you've read that we're doing six direct to DVDs, but they will all be "one story" films. I would love to team up with Ivan Reitman to do another "anthology" style film for the big screen- who knows, with a little luck... Also, I just want to add that I love the work Karl Kofoed does, and am proud to have him as part of the magazine. I'm glad you enjoy his efforts as much as we do.

Check out our web-site at
www.heavymetal.com

MEDIA CLUSTERS



Marilyn Chambers' Bedtime Stories-

Marilyn Chambers throws a lingerie party one summer evening, and a group of women get together to tell their most intimate "Bedtime Stories" as they model the sexy outfits.

DVD \$19.95



If I See You In My Dreams- Misou managed to get through all of high school and college without a girlfriend. A wizened fortune-teller had predicted that it is his destiny to be alone for his entire life! When Misou sees the beautiful Nagisa, his heart is awakened for the first time. Drama.

DVD \$24.95



Bible Black- Twelve years ago, an innocent looking junior college's Magic Club held a Satanic ritual. The helpless Kitami was chosen as a sacrifice, but she got her revenge by making a blood contract with the demon that was summoned. In present day, the love-struck Minase finds one of the club's old books. He uses a forbidden spell to control the most popular girl at school. Erotic Supernatural.

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Bible Black Second Sacrament-

To have all the sex and power he could ever want, Minase made a pact with the demonic university nurse, Miss Kitami. Now Kitami has a new plan, to take all these girls and go after Imari, Minase's neighbor and childhood friend. Minase must either convert Imari with a ritual orgy or fight the dark lust growing inside of him and protect her. Erotic Fantasy.

DVD \$29.95



Elsa Fraulein SS- Elsa is the sadistic overseer of a third reich pleasure train on route to the front lines. Loaded with young women, the crew is set to serve Hitler's combat officers. The pitiless Elsa delights in torturing and killing suspected traitors to the Fuhrer. But the Allied powers have vowed to stop this evil train at all costs and a group of French Partisans have set out to complete the task. Comedy.

DVD \$24.95



Medusa- A team of scientists conducting a biological study in an underground sewage system discovers a group of alien-looking eggs that they subsequently destroy. However, unknown to them, one of the eggs had hatched and escaped. It is a snake-like creature that can adapt quickly to human society, and it soon adopts human form. As a beautiful woman, the snake creature seeks food, and a way to fertilize her eggs. Sci-Fi/Horror

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Slave Doll- Aki is an Andmaid, half android, half maid. Created to infiltrate the house of Kenichi, she disguises herself as an ordinary housekeeper. Her mission is to capture a sample of Kenichi's superior sperm, but she ends up with more than she bargained for. Drama. Contains scenes of explicit sex.

DVD \$29.95



Werewolf Woman- Daniela raped as a girl, channels her hatred towards men by summoning and becoming possessed by a deceased and vicious female werewolf ancestor. She lures victims by her charm, sexual drive and seduction before turning into the Wolf-woman to graphically take a bloody revenge and kill them. Horror.

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The Amalthean Arch

A Federation FTL cruiser departing for some stellar destination passes above the Gateway Arch to the Universe on Jupiter's tiny moon Amalthea. The monument is a symbol seen by many galactic tourists traveling to and from our solar system.

The bridge, over three kilometers tall, was built in 2880 as a structural experiment using polyceramic radiation-resistant materials, and also as a symbol of mankind's passage to the stars. It is likened to the St. Louis Arch on Earth – built in the late twentieth century – which symbolized expansion and trade for settlers of the American West.

At the dedication of the Amalthean Arch the President of the Federation signed the controversial Colonial Imperative forbidding cultural intervention or annihilation, traditionally byproducts of expansionism. *"The old ways of trade growth often involved war,"* he said, *"but now we embark on a new road, and the peoples encountered along the way should always see the best in us. This requires dedication to knowledge acquired through, and guided by, the steady hand of scientific inquiry."*

*A bridge to nowhere –
more than just
an engineering marvel.*

A lonely plaque attests to a monument critics have called a folly ... and a fanciful and costly gesture. But those who witness the arch are usually space-farers who say they appreciate sighting this mark of humanity in a region that is cold, alien, and dangerous.



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THE REGULATOR

GALLERY

"I DON'T LOVE ANYBODY, BUT ME.

I DONT HATE ANYBODY, BUT ME."

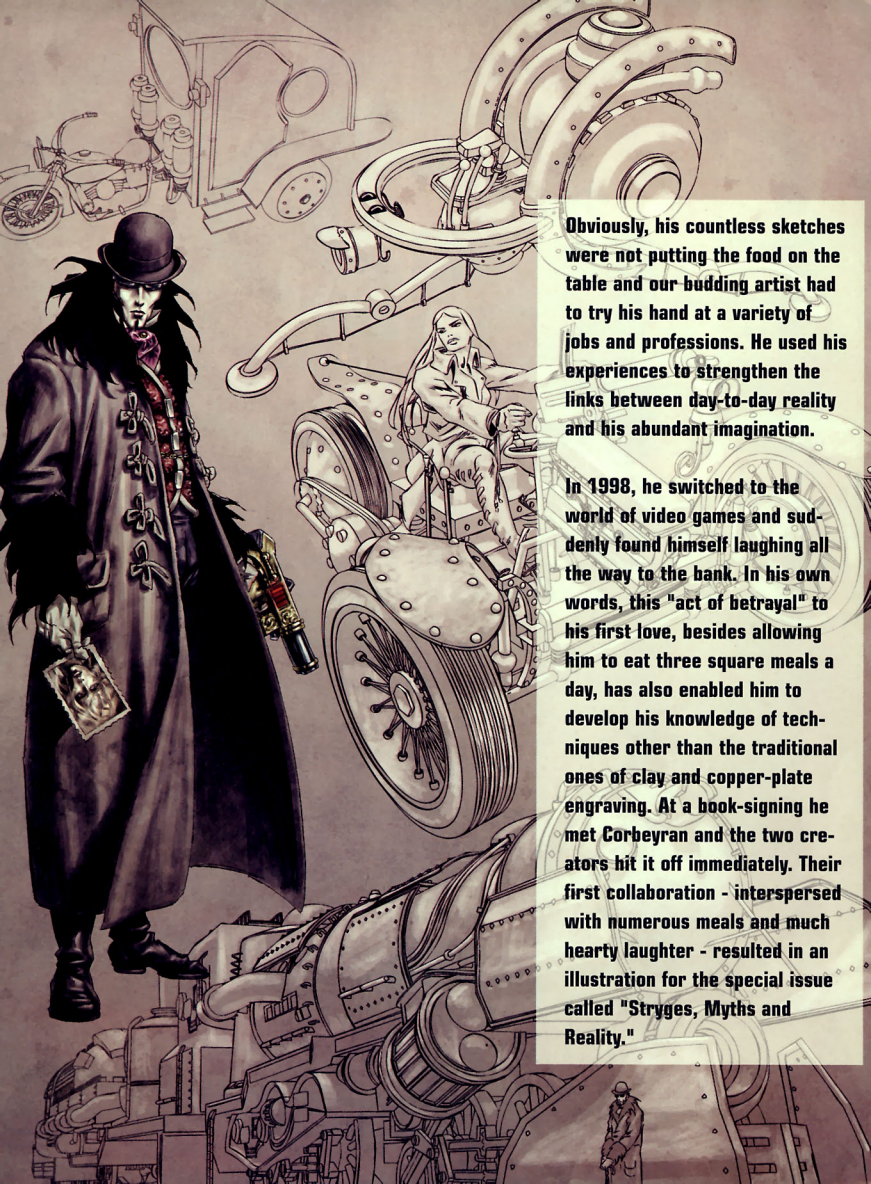
ARISTIDE NYX



Marc Moreno was born on March 15, 1968, in Toulon, in the south of France. A precocious child, he was completely immersed in the world of comics by his father who used to draw characters from Disney and "Les Pieds Nickelés" for Marc and his three brothers.



Marc soon revealed the extent of his brimming imagination, but he was careful to seek out his masters among the great artists of the past - Velazquez, Degas and Caravaggio - as well as among the artists published in the legendary, but now defunct, French comics magazine "Pilote". A quick learner, he sketched regularly from life and everyday situations which he found to be the best way of creating interesting characters. Unfortunately, his passion for art undermined his academic career and he just barely managed to scrape through his high school graduation.



Obviously, his countless sketches were not putting the food on the table and our budding artist had to try his hand at a variety of jobs and professions. He used his experiences to strengthen the links between day-to-day reality and his abundant imagination.

In 1998, he switched to the world of video games and suddenly found himself laughing all the way to the bank. In his own words, this "act of betrayal" to his first love, besides allowing him to eat three square meals a day, has also enabled him to develop his knowledge of techniques other than the traditional ones of clay and copper-plate engraving. At a book-signing he met Corbeyran and the two creators hit it off immediately. Their first collaboration - interspersed with numerous meals and much hearty laughter - resulted in an illustration for the special issue called "Stryges, Myths and Reality."



Soon after, their joint talents produced the "Regulator" series which recounts the tormented adventures of a hit man, torn between his love life and the cold-bloodedness of his profession.

You ain't seen the last of them yet!



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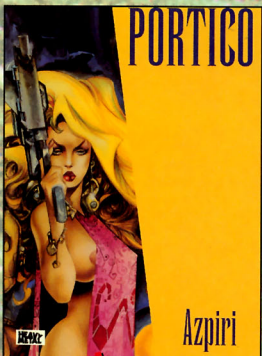
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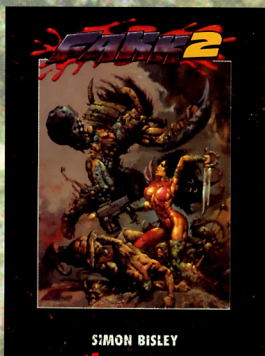
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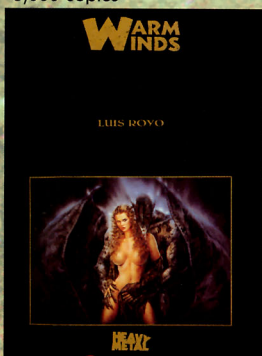
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Frazetta: Painting With Fire



Director Lance Laspin, a life-long Frazetta fan, used state-of-the-art digital video and computer animation to bring to life some of Frazetta's most famous paintings. And with unparalleled access to Frazetta's family and archives, he's succeeded in humanizing this most iconic of artists, revealing him as a loving husband, a doting father and grandfather, and a protean athlete. It also shows Frazetta as the artist sees himself—a fun-loving camera nut who would rather play sports and goof off with friends than paint, but yet who is an artist of such astonishing gifts that he's capable of bashing out a masterpiece in just a few short hours. The end result of three years of hard work by Lance Laspin and the Cinemachine crew is a complete portrait of an artist whose vivid, frightening, funny, wonderfully imaginative artwork is inextricably woven into the fabric of 20th and 21st Century pop culture.

HM: What was your inspiration for doing a biography of Frazetta?

LASPINA: I've been wanting to do this film for at least eight years now. Because this film is being self-funded, I really was in no position to start the film when I first came up with the idea. Fortunately, during those eight years I was able to work on many other films and learn the craft in more depth. It also gave me time to define more clearly what I wanted to do with this film. With the gentle prodding of a few friends, I became inspired once again to follow



through with this idea. There was never a more perfect time to do so than early 1999. The digital video technology had taken off in the last five years made the project much more affordable than if we shot on 16 or 35mm. You used the word "inspiration" in that question, and to us, that is the theme of this documentary. Frank inspired me and thousands of other artists to pick up a pencil and paintbrush. Because of this, I felt it was necessary to produce a documentary so future generations could be touched by this man. Of course, his work alone is capable of doing so, but I know many of his fans are anxious to know more about the man behind the paintings. To my knowledge, he's only been interviewed once on camera before, and that was for a school TV station at East Stroudsburg University. Other than this short five-minute piece, he's never been seen before speaking on camera.

HM: Many people have tried to do film biographies of Frank Frazetta over the years, but Cinemachine succeeded. How did you get Frank to agree to the project?

LASPINA: In August of 1999 we filmed interviews with several people at the San Diego Comic Con. Using this footage, we cut together a 14-minute promotional trailer that included an opening montage of Frank's work, interviews, animations of some of his paintings, and an ending montage of old photographs of Frank and his family...We had been in touch with the Frazettas for almost a year at this point. I had spoken with

Ellie on several occasions and she was very open to the idea, but was waiting for proof of our work. She made it a point to let us know we were not the only ones who had approached her with this idea, so I knew ours had to be special. That being said, I didn't cut the trailer with the sole intention of trying to impress them. I cut it as a glimpse of what the finished product would look like, and hoped that our tastes would coincide. I mailed the tape to Frank and Ellie in February of 2000 as a birthday gift to Frank. I also sent one to their son Frank Jr. About four days after mailing the tape, I was awakened in bed early one morning...by a call from Frank Jr. He went on and on about how much he and his parents enjoyed the tape, saying it actually brought them all to tears. Of course that was not my intention but I was happy to hear it affected them emotionally. Once I hung up with Frank Jr., I immediately called Frank and Ellie to get their reaction to the tape. Ellie was also extremely complimentary saying, "many have tried to do this before, but this is the first time it has ever been done in an artistic way and with such class." That's all I needed to hear. I was ecstatic. She then passed the phone over to Frank who graciously thanked me for the tape. Imagine. Frank Frazetta is thanking me. Me? I had to let him know that it's he who I should be thanking for inspiring me to do what I love. It was then that the deal was pretty much sealed as they agreed to let us do the documentary. We never met face to face until June of 2000, a full year and two months after my initial phone call to them.

HM: How many interviews have you collected?

LASPINA: The current total is somewhere around 30...In August of 1999 at the San Diego Con we shot interviews with Neal Adams, Bill Stout, Bernie Wrightson, Dr. Dave Winiewicz, and Joe Jusko...In July of 2000 at the San Diego Con we shot interviews with Simon Bisley, Kevin Eastman, Brom, Al Williamson, Clayburn Moore, Danzig, Arnie and Cathy Fenner, Mark Schultz, and Forrest J. Ackerman. August of 2000 was

a big deal for us. That's when we captured an interview with Frank along with three of his children, Frank Jr., Billy, and Heidi. We spent a total of two weeks in East Stroudsburg filming the Frazettas. This included a day trip back to Brooklyn where he spent his childhood. We had lunch with longtime pals Nick Meglin and Angelo Torres, visited his Mom and sister, stopped by his old high school field where legend has it Frank tossed a baseball over 400 feet. We also stopped by Coney Island, where he originally met Ellie.

I returned to the Frazetta Estate in October of 2000 and Ralph Bakshi was kind enough to drive down from New York for an interview...In February of 2001, we interviewed Conan the Barbarian Director John Milius in his Warner Bros. Studio office...we returned to the Frazetta Estate in June of 2001 to film the Grand Opening ceremonies of the Frank Frazetta Art Museum, located within a stone's throw of their house. We talked with several of his fans and filmed them meeting their idol for the first time. It was quite a spectacular event.

HM: Is there anyone you wanted to interview for the project but couldn't get?

LASPINA: Oh sure. At the top of the list would be Ellie, Frank's wife. She refused to go in front of the camera. This is so unfortunate because Ellie and I have shared many interesting conversations off camera. She's a fascinating woman and would have been a tremendously interesting subject to interview...Al (Williamson) definitely took some convincing on our part, as he originally turned us down. Once we got him in front of the camera,



he really opened up and talked about the "Fleagle Gang" days with Frank and the rest of the guys.

HM: In making this film, what did you learn about Frazetta that you didn't know before?

LASPINA: There were many things about his career I did not know, but I was more taken by what I learned about Frazetta, the person, and I hope we can successfully convey this in the film...his incredible sense of humor somewhat surprised me, especially in light of his poor health. I know many of his light-hearted watercolors reflect his love for humorous subject matter, but spending time with him and seeing the enjoyment he gets out of being funny was truly a pleasure to experience. I know this is somewhat of a concern for him regarding the documentary. He wants his sense of humor to come across, as most people may incorrectly judge his personality based upon his more famous fantasy subject matter. He's always said that the funny subject matter is the true Frazetta, and I had the pleasure of experiencing that first hand...I never knew what a perfectionist he was. He will take paintings that have been "finished" for 30 or more years and begin to touch them up changing an arm here or a leg

there until he is completely satisfied, because ultimately, he has to live with it. I know he has upset some of his fans by doing so, but he's constantly trying to please his number one critic—himself. Seeing him work on these paintings in person, seeing how they would evolve day to day gave me a new respect for him. Whether or not I agreed with his changes, I respect the fact that he only wants to put out his absolute best work, and this is why, I believe, he paints over existing paintings instead of starting new ones. I discovered how important family is to him...Perhaps above all else, I learned that even today, at age 73 he continues to be an inspiration by having taught himself to paint with his left hand. The strokes have made it difficult for Frank to control a brush with his right hand, which is the one he used to create all of his masterpieces. The fact that he refused to roll over and give up painting altogether had a huge impact on me. It revealed to me his true nature. This is something I'll take with me forever.

HM: Did making the film cause you to change your opinions about Frank's work in any way?

LASPINA: It only gave me a greater appreciation of his art. Seeing his work in person

is something every Frazetta fan must experience. You're kidding yourself if you think you're getting it all from the books or prints. I had the pleasure of visiting the original museum in downtown East Stroudsburg back in the mid-80's. Seeing his originals for the first time took my breath away...getting a chance to really study his originals up close every day during the course of our filming was like going to art school. And hearing personally from Frank the stories behind particular paintings was an extra special treat. It made me realize his work will be around for a long, long time, and will continue to grow in appreciation with each passing year.

HM: Have you had any interest from production companies about releasing the film nationally?

LASPINA: I didn't want any companies swooping in and dictating what we could or could not do, so they will have to accept the film as is or not at all. I know this sounds stubborn but this film is not only a reflection upon our company and the type of work we put out, but more importantly it's a reflection on Frank, and we want to make sure our vision remains true to his work and is not diluted.

By now you should know that I think *Frazetta: Painting With Fire* is a great film, not just for Frazetta fans, but also for anyone who appreciates innovative, well-made cinema. Since it may be a while before the film is released nationally to theaters, and it won't be released on DVD until later this year, the best way to see it is to order a copy from www.Cinemachine.net. It's available for \$19.95 from its makers, so don't be a putz and buy an overpriced copy on Ebay, okay? Or, don't forget to tell 'em *Heavy Metal* sent you.

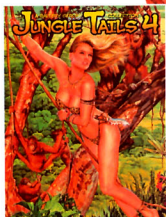


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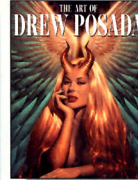
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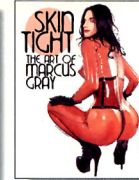
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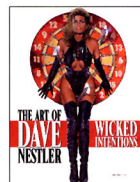
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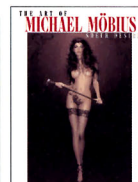
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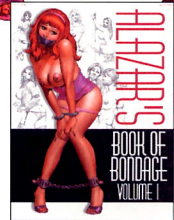
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USED CONDOM.

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YOU SHOULD READ
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ES" BY FLAWBERT.

CASTRATING QUESTIONS.

DO YOU LOVE
ME?

THE MOST NAIVE
AMONG YOU MAY
CONCLUDE THAT IT
DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT YOU SAY...
BUT THIS COULD
PROVE TO BE A
TERRIBLE MISTAKE
'CAUSE THERE ARE
LOTS OF THINGS
YOU SHOULDN'T
SAY.

WHAT
NOT TO
SAY...

SO AS NOT TO
WRECK THE
MOOD, THERE
ARE LOTS OF
THINGS YOU
SHOULDN'T
SAY BEFORE,
DURING AND
AFTER SEX...

BEFORE.

DID THEY MAKE
FUN OF YOU IN
PHYS. ED. BECAUSE
OF YOUR TINY
WILLY?

THAT'S FUNNY
YOU LOOK FATTER
WITHOUT YOUR
CLOTHES ON...

INSTEAD, TRY SAYING: SIZE
DOESN'T MATTER.

INSTEAD, TRY SAYING: IT'S AMAZING
HOW THIN YOU LOOK IN BLUE.

I'M FINALLY GOING TO
FIND OUT IF IT'S BETTER
WITH A REAL WOMAN THAN
WITH AN INFLATABLE DOLL!

INSTEAD, TRY SAYING: LET'S TRY A
THREESOME!

IS YOUR
HUSBAND
JEALOUS?

INSTEAD, TRY SAYING: I COLLECT FIREARMS TOO.

DURING.

SORRY, BUT
BEANS ALWAYS
MAKE ME FART.

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE
MEXICAN FOOD?

TV IS A LOT MORE
FUN
THAN SEX.

INSTEAD, TRY SAYING: I
HATE MISSING "SPRINGER".

NO, NOT THERE!
NOT THERE!

INSTEAD, TRY SAYING: YOU
NAUGHTY BOY, YOU!

ONE REDHOT WELCOME TO
ALL YOU PARTY ANIMALS
AND CREATURES OF THE NIGHT!

I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR BLEARY
EYES: YOU'RE STILL ALL TAXED
UP AND NOT YET READY TO
CALL THE NIGHT A DAY.

WELL, THEN WHY DON'T YOU
ORDER YOURSELF ANOTHER
DRINK AND THROW YOURSELF
ANOTHER PILL....

...WHILE I TELL YOU A STORY
OF MY OLD PAL MIKE, ONE BIG
HUNK OF A PARTY ANIMAL.

MIKE WAS LATE
THAT FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE SUN WAS ALREADY
SETTING, AND HE DIDN'T
WANT THE BOYS TO
START WITHOUT HIM...

HEY, PAL!
CHECKED
OUT ANY
GIRLS YET?

WHATTA YOU THINK
OF THAT BROAD
OVER THERE?

YOU REALLY GO
FOR THE TALL SLIM
ONES, DON'T YOU?

TOO SKINNY FOR
MY DIET. ME, I
PREFER 'EM BIG
AND JUICY --

-- LIKE
THE
ONE
OVER
HERE.

WHEN THE BOYS' MUSIC CAME ON...

RAW! RAW! RAW! MEAT! MEAT! MEAT!

RAW MEAT! RAW MEAT! RAW MEAT!

A NIGHTMARE ON THE TOWN

SCRIPT: JOSEF ROTHER - ART: KLAUS SCHERWINSKI
INKS: DANIEL KIESSLER - COLORS: GUIDO NEUKAMM





MOST FRIDAYS THE BOYS WOULD
WATCH THE SPANDEX FREAKS BEAT THE
SUPERHERO CRAP OUT OF EACH OTHER,
BUT THIS WAS THE REAL THING...



IN THE END DAWN WAS
DRAWING NEAR, AND
THINGS STARTED TO
DIE DOWN A BIT. THE
BOYS CRASHED AT
JEFF'S PLACE.

IT WAS FRANK, WHO ASKED
WHAT THEY WERE GONNA
DO NOW ---

--- AND IT WAS
DAVE, WHO HIT
UPON THE IDEA:

RUSSIAN ROULETTE
WITH FIVE LEAD BULLETS
AND ONE SILVER BULLET!

FRANK TOOK THE
GUN FIRST...

POW!

THEN JEFF...

POW!

THEN MIKE...

POW!

SO MIKE
HAD TO
CALL IT
A DAY.

BUT YOU GOTTA
ADMIT: HE HAD A
LITTLE FUN
BEFORE HE DIED.

HE WOULDN'T
HAVE MISSED
THAT NIGHT
FOR HIS LIFE.

**THE
END**

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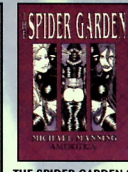
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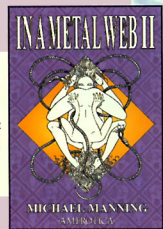
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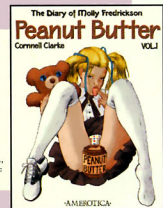
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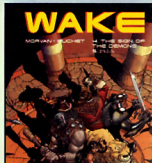
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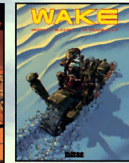
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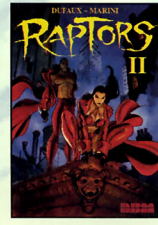
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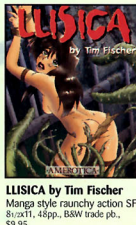
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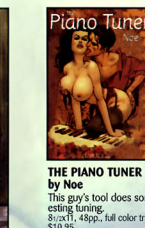
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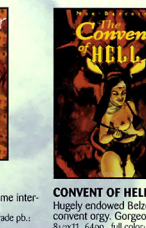
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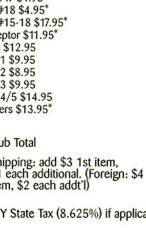
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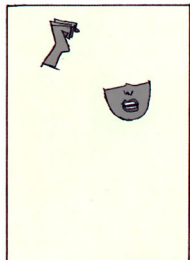
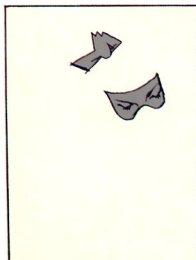
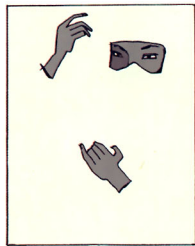
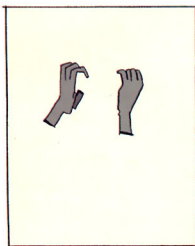
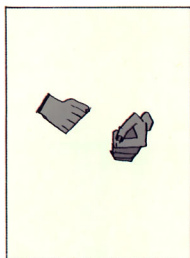
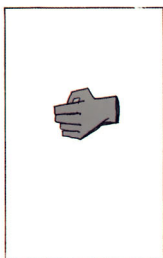
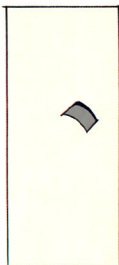
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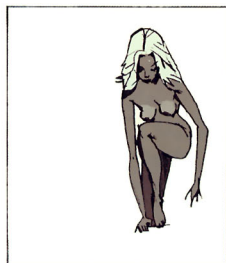


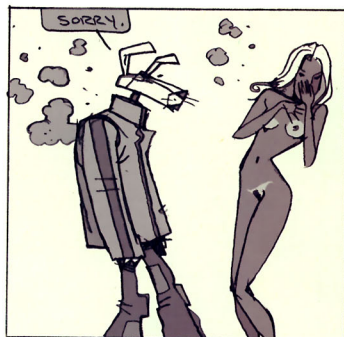
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THE REGULATOR: AMBROSIA



OH MY GOD!
MY GOD!



I HEAR
SCREAMING!

WEEPING.



FOOTSTEPS.



SOUNDS
CRASHING IN
MY NEWBORN
EARS.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THEY MEAN.



AND I DON'T
YET KNOW THAT
THIS WORD IS
GOING TO
HAUNT MY LIFE.



MONSTROUS!
MONSTROUS!

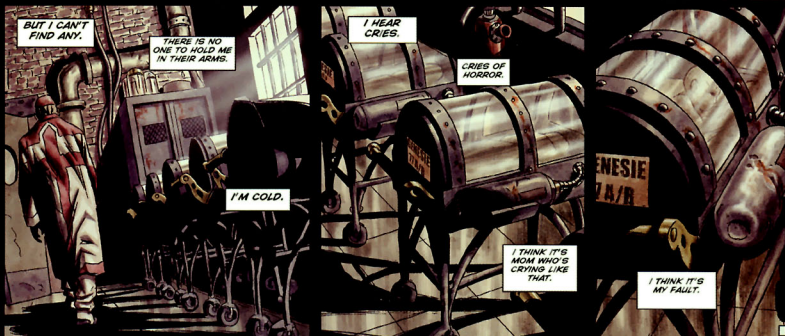


MY BROTHER
AND I HAVE JUST
BEEN BORN.

FOR NOW, I'M
LOOKING FOR A
LITTLE WARMTH.



A LITTLE LOVE.



BUT I CAN'T
FIND ANY.

THERE IS NO
ONE TO HOLD ME
IN THEIR ARMS.

I HEAR
CRIES.

CRIES OF
HORROR.

I'M COLD.

I THINK IT'S
MOM WHO'S
CRYING LIKE
THAT.

I THINK IT'S
MY FAULT.

30 YEARS LATER. PENITENTIARY
PLATFORM. BAPOLIS.

IT'S THE LAST TIME
I'M HELPING YOU OUT,
POLO. THE THIRD
LEVEL ISN'T REALLY
MY BEAT...

IT'S BIG BULL... IN
#12... HE WEIGHS A
TON... I CAN'T DO
IT ON MY OWN!

THIRD LEVEL,
EAST WING.
CONTAMINATED
PRISONERS.

WE'RE GONNA
GET SCREWED
ONE OF THESE
DAYS!

AND THEM?
WHAT ARE THEY
DOING HERE?

FINAL STAGES.
THEY DON'T EVEN
LOCK 'EM UP

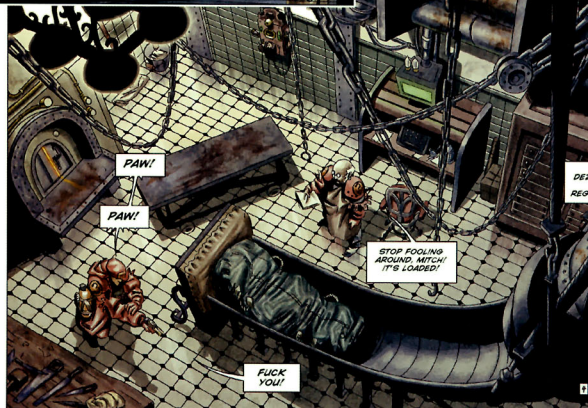
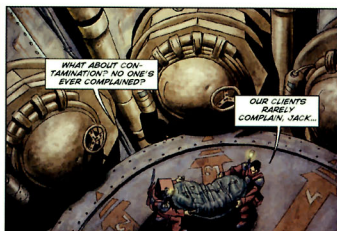
THEY'RE TOO WEAK
TO STAND UP.
THEY'RE NOT LIKELY
TO ESCAPE!

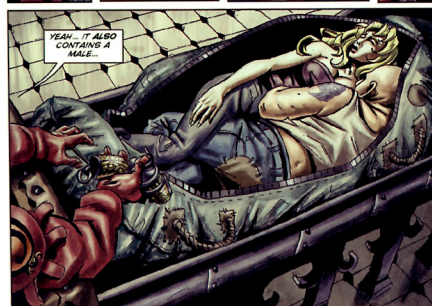
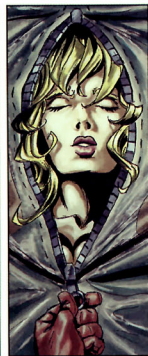
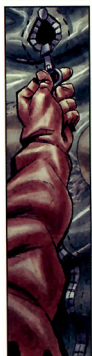
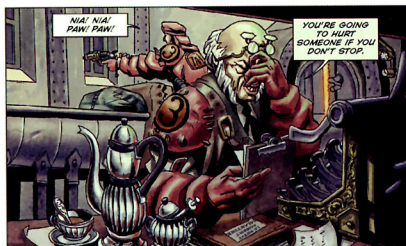
YEAH... CONSIDERING WHAT
IT'S LIKE OUTSIDE NOW,
THERE'S NO POINT IN
RUNNING AWAY. THEY'RE
BETTER OFF INSIDE.

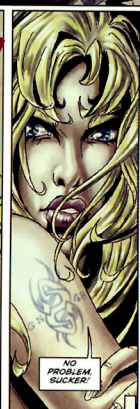
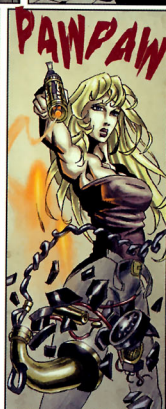
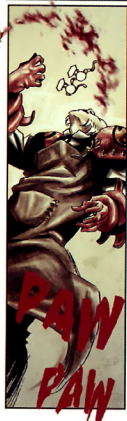
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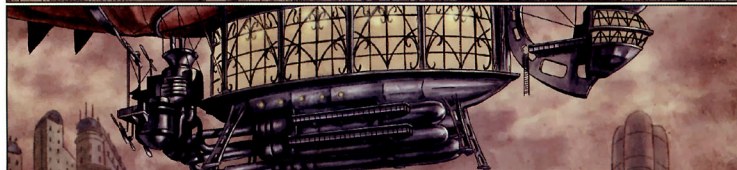
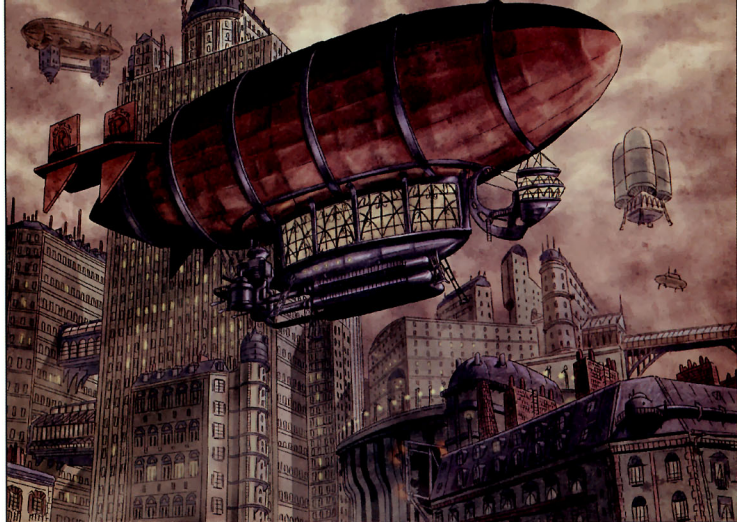
THERE
HE IS...

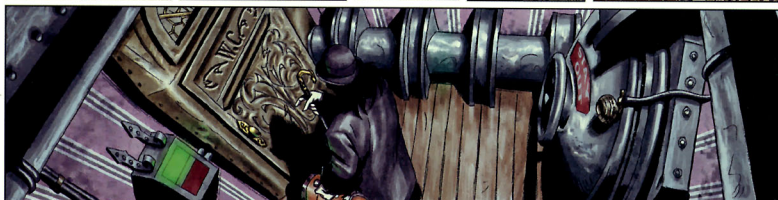
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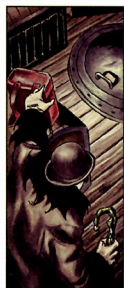


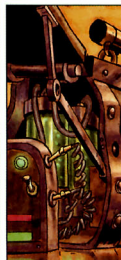
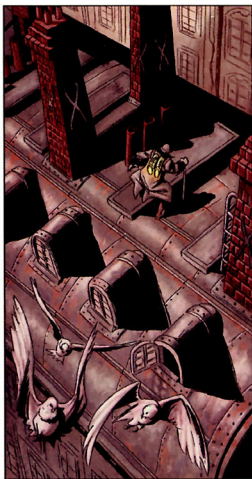






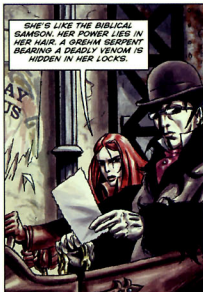








A.K.A. "THE SCORPION." SHE'S A HIRED KILLER... OF AN UNUSUAL SORT.



SHE'S LIKE THE BIBLICAL SAMSON. HER POWER LIES IN HER HAIR: A GREEN SERPENT BEARING A DEADLY VENOM IS HIDDEN IN HER LOCKS.



THE SERPENT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM IS CONNECTED TO HER'S. AT THE SLIGHTEST IMPULSE FROM SAMSONNE'S BRAIN, IT DESTROYS HER PREY.

HMM.



SAMSONNE SPECIALIZES IN POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS. EMPTY HANDS, EMPTY POCKETS... PLUS AN ANGELIC FACE. BESIDES, THE WEAPON IS ORGANIC AND UNDETECTABLE.

THAT'S AN ADVANTAGE.



BUT THERE ARE ALSO SOME DISADVANTAGES: THE SERPENT TIRES EASILY AND NEEDS TIME TO RECOVER. IT SLEEPS FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER EACH ATTACK.



WHAT ABOUT
RAMSCORNE...? I MEAN,
IF THERE'S AN
ACCIDENT?

I SEE YOU'RE
GETTING
INTERESTED...



BE CAREFUL, NYX! IN
OUR PROFESSION,
IT'S DANGEROUS TO
HAVE FEELINGS FOR
ONE'S CLIENTS.

FEELINGS HAVE NOTHING
TO DO WITH THIS! BUT
SHE'S ATTRACTIVE AND IT
WOULD BE A SHAME IF
SHE WERE DISFIGURED BY
SOME GREENM BEFORE
SHE DIED.



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE RAVAGES
CAUSED BY A GREENM BITE? THE PURULENT
SWELLINGS THAT DEFORM THE FEATURES?

YOU'RE AN AESTHETE, NYX.
STOP WORRYING. SHE'S IN
NO DANGER. HER BLOOD IS
ALREADY CONTAMINATED BY
THE VENOM... SHE'S IMMUNE...



I SEE, SO
WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?



SHE HAS ESCAPED
FROM THE
PLATFORM. YOUR
JOB IS TO FIND
HER... AND
REGULATE HER!

WHY DON'T THEY
SHAVE HER HEAD
IN PRISON? THAT
WOULD HAVE
SOLVED THE
PROBLEM...



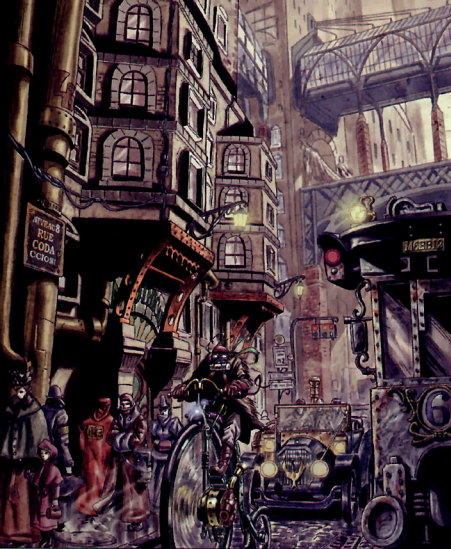
THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE
TIME. SHE WAS
ARRESTED FOR A BANAL
SPEEDING VIOLATION.
THE AUTHORITIES ONLY
FOUND OUT ABOUT HER
ARREST YESTERDAY
EVENING... AND OUR
INFORMERS DIDN'T TELL
US TILL THIS MORNING...

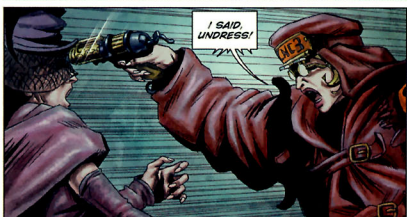


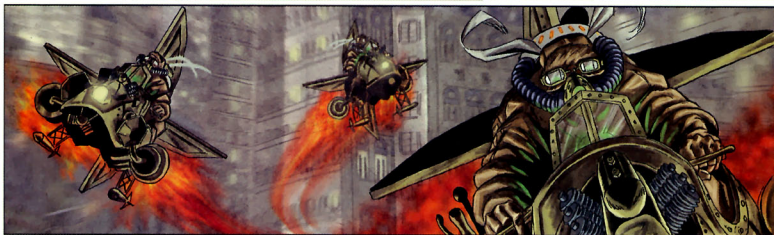
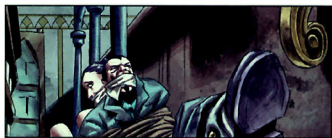
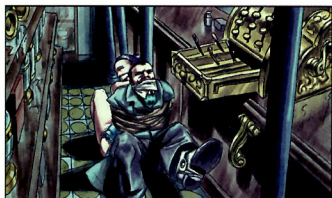
THE WORLD IS HURTLING
ALONG, BUT THE
ADMINISTRATION IS STILL IN
THE STEAM AGE. SCORPION
MANAGED TO ESCAPE JUST
TWO HOURS AFTER HER
INCARCERATION...

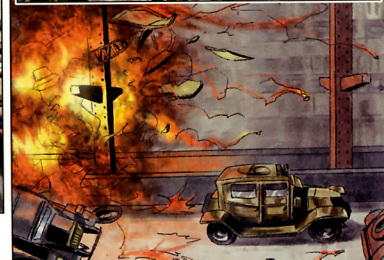
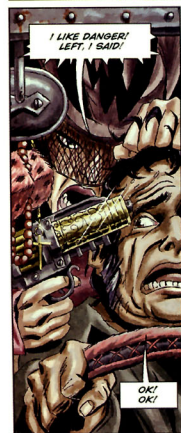
RELEASING MY RESUME.
I'M NOT A HEADHUNTER.
I LIKE TO LIQUIDATE
ANONYMOUS THINGS...
EXECUTE CROWDS.
CAUSE CHAOS.

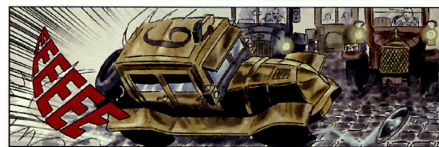
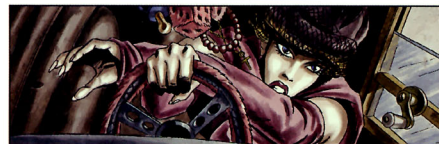
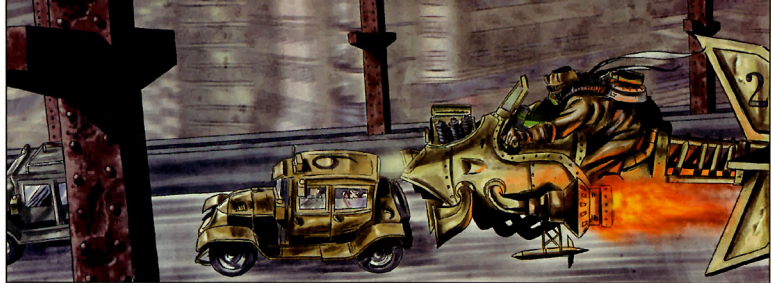


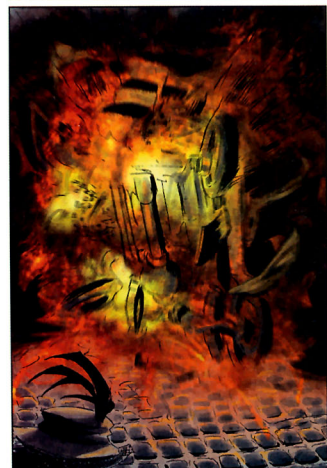


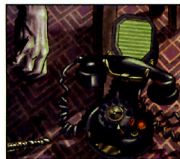
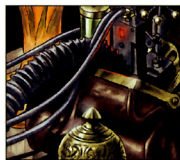












I'M GROWNUP
NOW.

I SHOULD SAY "WE" SINCE
MY EXISTENCE IS SO
INTIMATELY LINKED TO MY
BROTHER'S.

HYPERTROPHY OF
THE SUBCUTANEOUS
CELLULAR SYSTEM.

BARBARIC
TERMS THAT
DON'T
REASSURE
ME.

I'M A SCIENTIFIC
CURIOSITY, AND
SPECIALISTS OFTEN
COME TO VISIT ME.

SOME FROM
VERY FAR
AWAY.

WE'RE CALLED
"THORACOPAGUS."

I'VE LEARNED A
LOT OF MEDICAL
JARGON.

VASCULAR SYSTEM,
FORCED ANASTOMOSE.

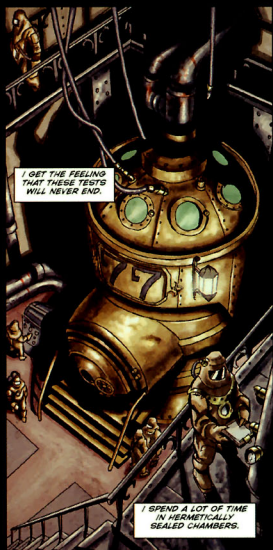
EDEMATOUS TIMEFACTION.

BUT MOM AND DAD, WHO
COME THREE TIMES A YEAR
TO FILL IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS,
STILL REGARD ME AS A
MONSTER...

... WITHOUT
ANY RIGHTS.

DEPRIVED OF LOVE
AND HAPPINESS.

DEPRIVED EVEN
OF A MOMENT OF
JOY.



I GET THE FEELING
THAT THESE TESTS
WILL NEVER END.



I'M TERRIFIED
THAT I'LL
SPEND THE
REST OF MY
LIFE IN THIS
TOMB.



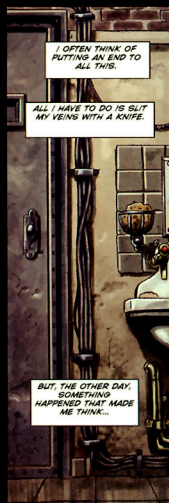
IT'S PITCH DARK
AND VERY COLD.
AND I'M AFRAID
THE DOOR WILL
GET STUCK.



THE REST OF THE
TIME, I STAY IN MY
ROOM, DOING
NOTHING ALONE... SO
TO BREAK.

THE DOOR IS NOT
LOCKED, BUT I DON'T
LIKE WANDERING
AROUND THE CORRIDORS
WITH THE OTHER
INMATES.

THEY SCARE ME.



I OFTEN THINK OF
PUTTING AN END TO
ALL THIS.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SLIT
MY VEINS WITH A KNIFE.



SOMEONE KNOCKED
AT MY DOOR.

SHE WASN'T A
NURSE.



SHE WAS A NEW
INMATE.

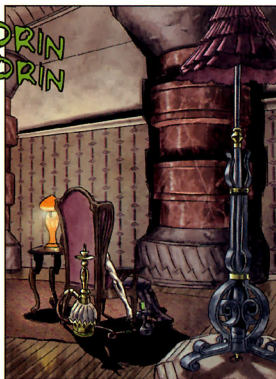
SHE DIDN'T Wince WHEN SHE
SAW ME. SHE JUST SAID SHE
WAS BORED AND ASKED ME IF I
WANTED TO BE HER FRIEND.



I WAS SO SURPRISED I
COULDN'T EVEN REPLY.

SHE SMILED.

DRIN
DRIN



NOX
BREAK:
(NO...)

THIS IS MOROS. IS
YOUR VIDEOSCOPE
ON?

YES.



CAN YOU
IDENTIFY THIS
MAN?



LEONARD TYPHOEUS,
A LABOR CONGRESS-
MAN FROM SECTOR
9.

RING ANY BELLS?



I'VE HEARD HE'S
PLANNING TO RUN IN
THE NEXT
ELECTIONS.

THAT'S RIGHT. TOMORROW EVENING
TYPHOEUS IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE A
SPEECH OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCING
THAT HE'S A CANDIDATE... THE
PROBLEM IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS
WHERE HE IS NOW...



HE'S ON
THE RUN?

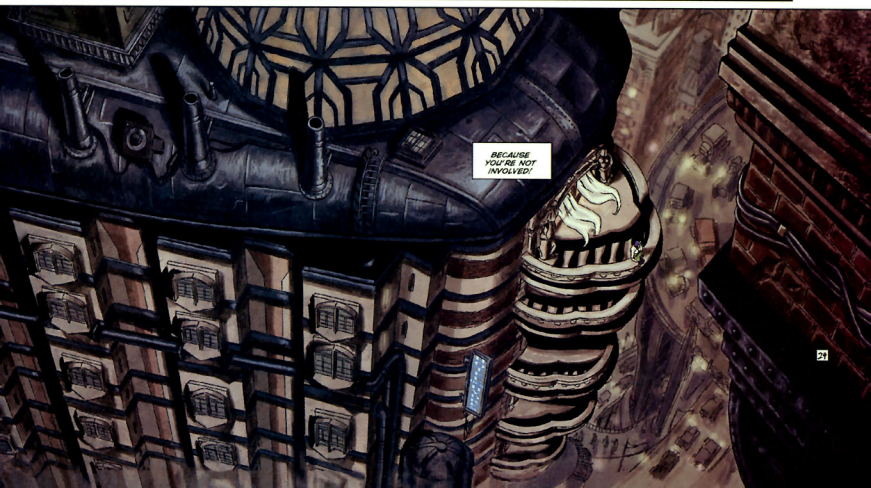
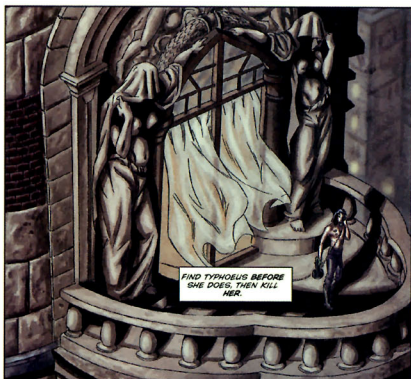
IF WE HAD THE
NUMBER OF HIS VOX-
COM WE WOULDN'T
HAVE CALLED YOU!

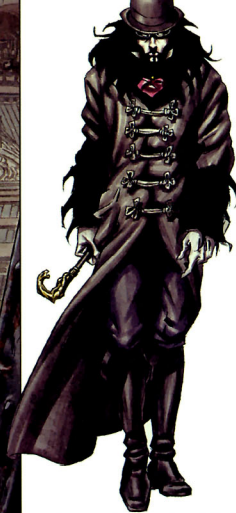
SCORPION IS ON HIS TRAIL...
SHE MUST BE PLANNING TO
REGULATE HIM BEFORE HE
TURNS UP AT THE
STADIUM... AND YOU MUST
STOP HER!

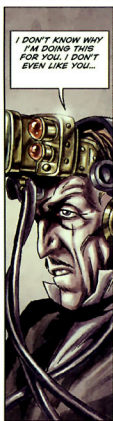
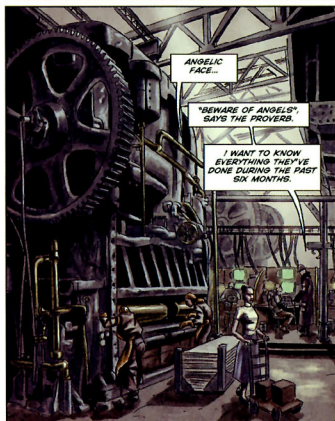



IF THERE'S A CONTRACT ON
HIM, THERE MUST BE A
GOOD REASON... BUT WHAT
IS HADES' INVOLVEMENT?

IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO ASK
SUCH QUESTIONS, NOR
FOR ME TO ANSWER
THEM...

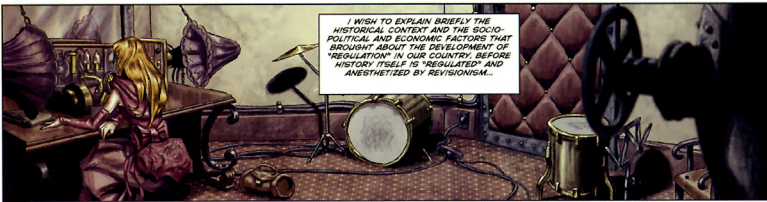









THIS MESSAGE IS ADDRESSED TO
THE GENERATIONS OF THE FUTURE
AND TO THE LAW... THAT IS, IF WE
STILL HAVE A FUTURE AND IF OUR
CHILDREN STILL HAVE A SENSE OF
JUSTICE...

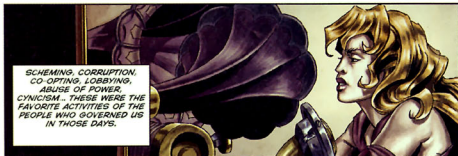


I WISH TO EXPLAIN BRIEFLY THE
HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE SOCIO-
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT
BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF
"REGULATION" IN OUR COUNTRY, BEFORE
HISTORY ITSELF IS "REGULATED" AND
ANESTHETIZED BY REVISIONISM...




FOLLOWING THE TERRIBLE
ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE THAT
DEIMATED THREE-QUARTERS OF THE
POPULATION OF THE WORLD AND
ALMOST ERADICATED OUR PLANET FROM
THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE POLITICIANS
ADOPTED AN IRRESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE
AND DID NOTHING TO HELP THE
SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES. INSTEAD,
THEY DEVELOPED A SYSTEM WHERE LIES,
FRAUD AND DECEPTION REIGNED.


AND THEY WILLINGLY SACRIFICED
EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO SLAKE
THEIR THIRST FOR POWER.



SCHEMING, CORRUPTION,
CO-OPTING, LOBBYING,
ABUSE OF POWER,
CYNISM... THESE WERE THE
FAVORITE ACTIVITIES OF THE
PEOPLE WHO GOVERNED US
IN THOSE DAYS.



A VIOLENT AND AMORAL SPORT
THAT KNEW NO LIMITS. SINCE
THE ENDS ALWAYS JUSTIFIED
THE MEANS, THERE WAS ONE
AND ONLY ONE RULE, AND IT
WAS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE:
WINNING!



THE REGULATORY
ORGANIZATIONS WERE
CREATED TO MAKE UP
FOR THIS TOTAL ABSENCE
OF MORALITY AND
CONSCIENCE.



WHEREVER THE LAW
SIDES WITH THE RICH,
WHERE IT PROTECTS THE
PRIVILEGES OF THE
POWERFUL, THE POOR
HAVE ONLY ONE
RECOURSE: CRIME.



REGULATION IS THE LAST
BASTION OF THE DESTITUTE
AND DEFENSELESS INDIVIDUAL
IN THE FACE OF ORGANIZED
STATE BARBARISM. A WAY...



... OF FIGHTING EVIL
WITH EVIL...



... OF RESPONDING TO
THE SYSTEM'S IMPLICIT
VIOLENCE, WHICH IS
DRIVING THE WORLD
TOWARD AN INEVITABLE
CATASTROPHE, WITH
EXPLICIT PERSONAL,
SHORT-TERM VIOLENCE.



THROUGH THE SYSTEMATIC
USE OF TERRORISM AND
POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS
THESE ORGANIZATIONS
WERE ABLE TO...

ELIMINATE A FEW
"PROBLEMS" AND TO
"REGULATE" THE
EXISTING CHAOS...



THEY BELIEVED THAT
SUCH TACTICS WOULD
FRIGHTEN THE
ELECTED MEMBERS OF
GOVERNMENT...



THEY THOUGHT THAT IN A FEW
WEEKS THINGS WOULD
BECOME CLEAR...



THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE
PREPARING THE WAY FOR
SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION...



THEY WERE WRONG.

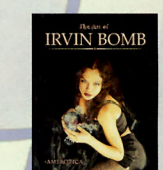
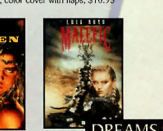
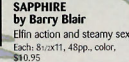


TOC
TOC
TOC

CLICK!

ENTER!

A decorative graphic element located at the bottom of the page. It consists of a grid of colored squares and semi-circles. The top row features a yellow square, a yellow semi-circle, a yellow square, a yellow semi-circle, a yellow semi-circle, and a yellow semi-circle. The bottom row features an orange square, an orange square, an orange square, an orange semi-circle, an orange square, and an orange square. The colors transition from yellow to orange.



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A SPACE TRIFLE

>WE JUST REACHED THE THIRD
PLANET OF THE STAR ARI-DAN-
ZAR-4, NIMA-SIR, AND AS WE
EXPECTED, IT IS INHABITEDX

>PERFECT!...CAN THEY
DETECT USP...X

>NEGATIVE, NIMA-SIR. WE ARE
HIDDEN BEHIND SOME MOON
WHICH ORBITS OUR OBJECTIVEX

>PERFECT! ACTIVATE SCHEDULE'S
NEXT PHASEX

>BUT, NIMA-SIR...X

>WHAT'S THE MATTER FRADOCKX

>NOTHING, NIMA-SIR...EXCEPT
THAT IN ORDER TO ACTIVATE THE
NEXT PHASE WE WILL HAVE TO
LEAVE OUR CURRENT POSITION.
B.I. PROBES' RADIO BROADCAST
WILL NOT REACH US FROM THE
PLANET'S SURFACE IF WE KEEP
HIDDEN HERE. YOU
KNOW...WAVES TRAVEL IN A
STRAIGHT LINEX

>...AND WHAT'S BOTHERING
YOU?X

>IT'S JUST THAT...IF LIVING
ORGANISMS DOWN THERE
HAVE SOME SORT OF TECH-
NOLOGY, HOWEVER RUDIMEN-
TARY IT IS, THEY COULD
DETECT US IN THE OPENX

>BUT THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM
FOR US, IS IT?...IGNITE INVISI-
BILITY MAGNETIC SHIELDX

>BUT THIS WILL CONSUME A
LOT OF ENERGY, NIMA-SIRX

>I DON'T CARE, WE CAN
AFFORD ITX

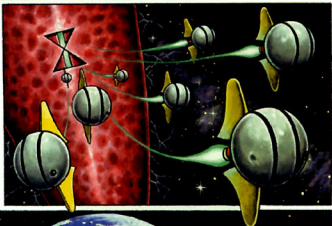
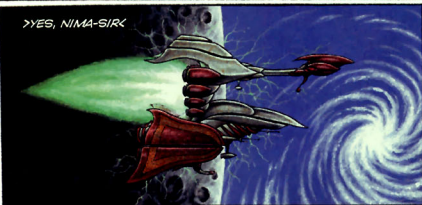
>ARE YOU SURE, NIMA-SIR?X

>AFFIRMATIVE, FRADOCK. WE
HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY IN THIS UNI-
VERSE...X

>...BE SURE OF THATX

>...IGNITE THE
SHIELD AND LAUNCH
B.I. PROBESX

>YES, NIMA-SIRX



>BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION PROBES
LAUNCHED, NIMA-SIRX

>PERFECT!...X



>...LET'S
SEE WHAT
KIND OF
CREATURES
LIVE IN THIS
BEAUTIFUL
BLUE BALLX



»HAVE THE PROBES RETURNED
"FRADOCK"?

»YES, NIMA-SIRK

»...AND WHAT ABOUT THEIR
DATAP...HAS IT BEEN PROCESSED
YET?K

»YES, NIMA-SIRK

»AND...PK

»SIRP...K

»THE DATA, FRADOCK?... WHAT
ARE THE CONCLUSIONS?K

»ACCORDING TO THE DATA GATH-
ERED, THE PLANET IS RULED BY A
SPECIES OF ANIMALS WHOSE LIFE
SYSTEM IS BASED ON CARBON
MOLECULES...K

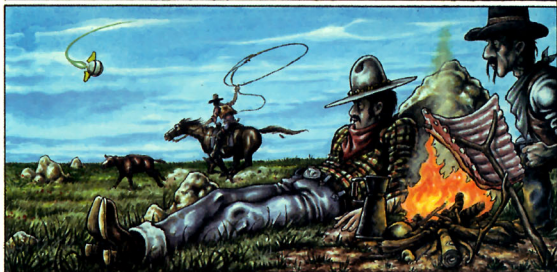
»CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC;
FRADOCK?K

»OF COURSE SIR... THEY ARE A,
SPECIES OF HIGHLY EVOLVED
PROTOZOANS ORGANIZED AROUND
AN INTERNAL OSSEOUS SKELE-
TON. SIR, THEY ARE PLACENTARY
MAMMALS WITH VIVIPAROUS
REPRODUCTION. THEY ARE SEXUAL
CREATURES DIVIDED IN TWO
OPPOSITE BUT COMPLIMENTARY
SEXUAL POLES. ACCORDING TO
THEM, "MALES" AND "FEMALES".
THEY HAVE ONE BIG HEAD WHICH
ALMOST CONTAINS ALL THEIR
SENSES. JUST ONE PAIR OF EYES,
ONE NOSE TO BREATH OXYGEN
AND SMELL ODORS, ONE MOUTH
FOR FEEDING PURPOSES AND
TWO EARS TO CAPTURE NOISES.
INSIDE THE HEAD, THERE'S ALSO
ONE BRAIN THAT REGULATES ALL
THEIR BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS.
THEY COMMUNICATE WITH EACH
OTHER BY MEANS OF AN EXTEN-
SIVE RANGE OF SPOKEN LAN-
GUAGES, MOST OF THEM ALSO
WRITTEN. THEY KNOW A FEW
TECHNOLOGIES. THEIR INTELLECT
IS ADVANCED ENOUGH TO DOMI-
NATE THIS RICH PLANET, BUT
HIGHLY RUDIMENTARY COMPARED
WITH OTHER COSMOS' SPECIES.
MORPHOLOGICALLY, THEY ARE NOT
VERY FAR FROM OURSELVES...DO
YOU WANT ME TO DESCRIBE
THEIR FUNCTIONALITY AT A CELLU-
LAR LEVEL, SIRP...K

»NEGATIVE...YOU POINTED OUT
THAT THEY HAVE A MOUTH FOR
FEEDING PURPOSES,
FRADOCK...WHAT ARE THEIR FOOD
SOURCES?K

»THEIR DIET VARIES DEPENDING
ON THE REGION...NEVERTHELESS,
THEY FEED UPON OTHER SUB-
SPECIES FROM THE SAME PLAN-
ET. SIR, VEGETABLES AND OTHER
ANIMALS, EVEN OTHER MAMMALS
LIKE THEMSELVES. TRACING THE
GENETIC ANCESTRY OF THESE
MAMMALS, BOTH THE FEED AND
THE FED, ONE CAN CONCLUDE
THAT THEY ALL COME FROM ONE
SINGLE ORIGIN...K

»...VERY INTRIGUING...AND WHAT'S
OUR CONCLUSION ABOUT SUCH A
CRAZY BIO-MESSP...K



>YOUR CONCLUSION, NIMA-SIR, IS THAT THIS PLANET IS MAINLY POPULATED BY SPECIES OF CANNIBALISTIC PROTOZOANS, AND ONE OF THEM HAS AN APTITUDE FOR TECHNOLOGIES. THESE SELF CALLED "HUMANS" WILL SOON BE ABLE TO DEVELOP THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO COLONIZE OTHER WORLDS...<

>...WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS IN THIS MATTER, SIR?<

>...WELL, THIS IS SUCH A DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE...IF THOSE "HUMAN" CREATURES FEED UPON THEIR OWN EQUALS, I DO NOT DARE TO THINK WHAT THEY COULD DO TO OTHER COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ALIEN LIVING FORMS AS OURS...<

>YOUR ORDERS, NIMA-SIR?...<

>...DESTROY THEM! FIRE THREE THERMO-TORPEDOES.

>YES, NIMA-SIR<

>TORPEDOES FIRED, NIMA-SIR<

AROOGA! AROOGA!

>AN UNIDENTIFIED BODY IN OUR ROUTE, NIMA-SIR! COLLISION IMMINENT!<

>FULL SPEED! USE EVERY BIT OF ENERGY FOR THE EMERGENCY ENGINES!!<

>YES SIR!!<

FWOC
POTI POTI POTI
PEEEEEEEEEEEEE

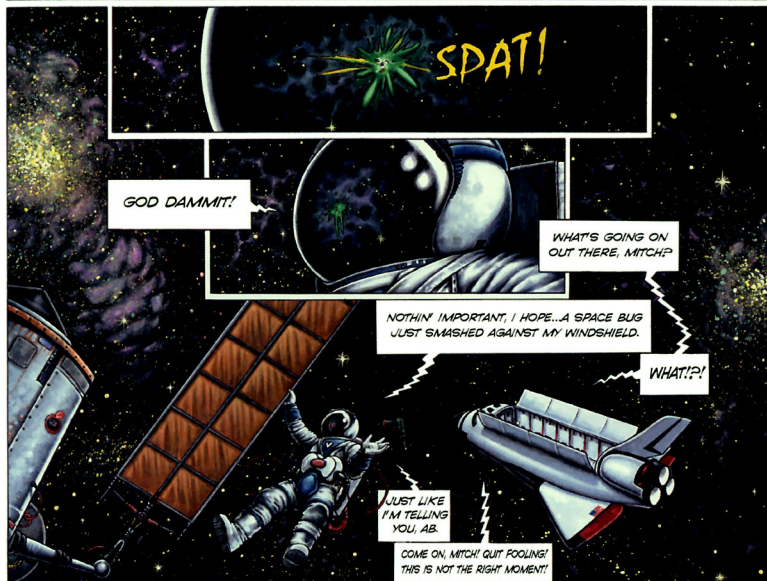
>NIMA-SIR...<

>YES, FRADOCK<

>WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO MAKE A QUICK ESCAPE...<



>DAMN GOD:K
>I AGREE, NIMA-SIRK



GOD DAMMIT!

WHAT'S GOING ON
OUT THERE, MITCH?

NOTHIN' IMPORTANT, I HOPE...A SPACE BUG
JUST SMASHED AGAINST MY WINDSHIELD.

WHAT?!

JUST LIKE
I'M TELLING
YOU, AB.

COME ON, MITCH! QUIT FOOLING!
THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT MOMENT!



I'M NOT JOKIN', AB...IF THIS IS NO
SPACE BUG, WITH THIS COLOR IT
CAN ONLY BE ONE THING...

WHAT, MITCH?!
COME ON, MAN!
DON'T LEAVE US IN
SUSPENSE!

...IF THIS IS NOT
A BUG, IT IS THE
SNOUT OF AN
ALIEN CREATURE.

HA, HA, HA!...
YOU ARE
HOPELESS, MITCH.
ALWAYS JOKING.

NO, IT'S TRUE, AB!!
THAT'S NO FUCKIN'
JOKE!!!!...



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WITHOUT SARAH



THIS IS SARAH EATING A CHEESEBURGER...



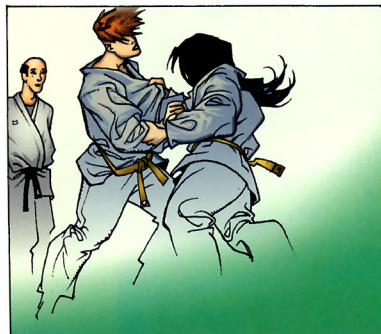
HERE WE WERE AT A MADMAN'S CONCERT...



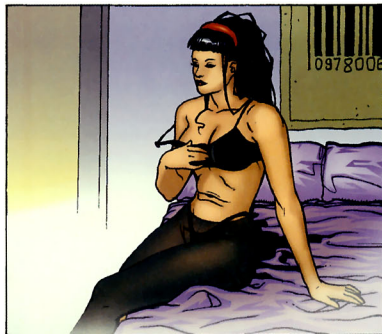
I EVEN REMEMBER THE TIME SHE DIDN'T PASS HER DRIVING TEST...



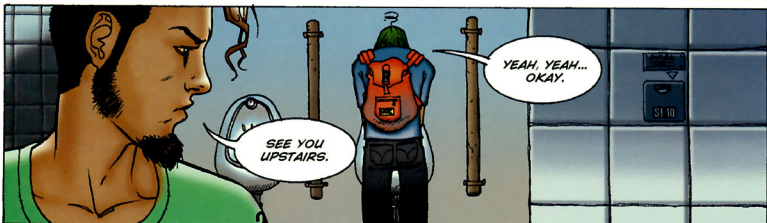
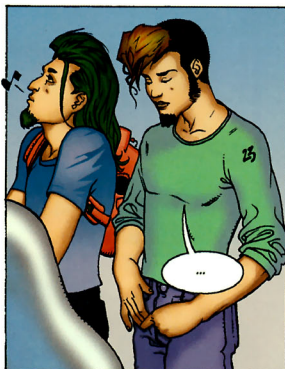
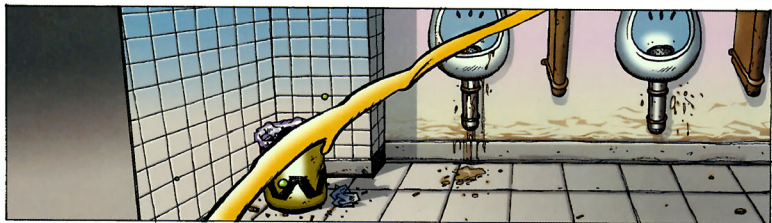
AND THIS IS THE KIND OF STUFF I CAN'T FORGET.



LIKE ALL THE FIGHTING WE DID IN HIGH SCHOOL.



MAN, WAS I IN LOVE WITH HER.



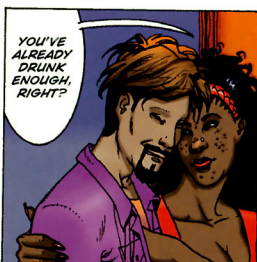




SO...



YOU'VE
ALREADY
DRUNK
ENOUGH,
RIGHT?



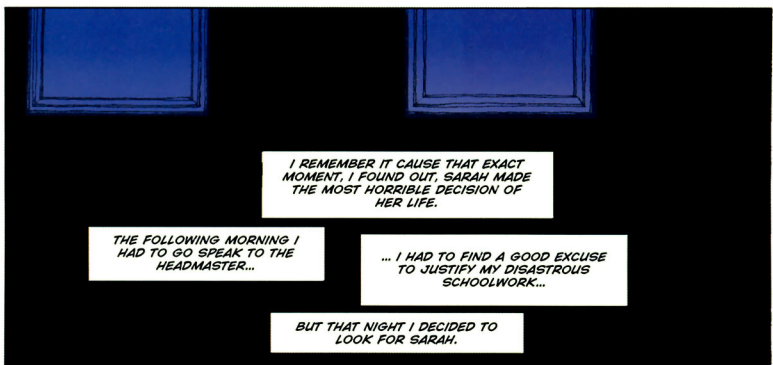
THOSE TWO WENT OFF INTO
THE CLUB BASEMENT.



HE HAD TAKEN A BIT OF
ECSTASY.

SHE JUST NEEDED A BIT OF
MONEY.

NOW THEY WERE THERE IN
THE SHADOWS, JUST UNDER
THOSE WINDOWS.

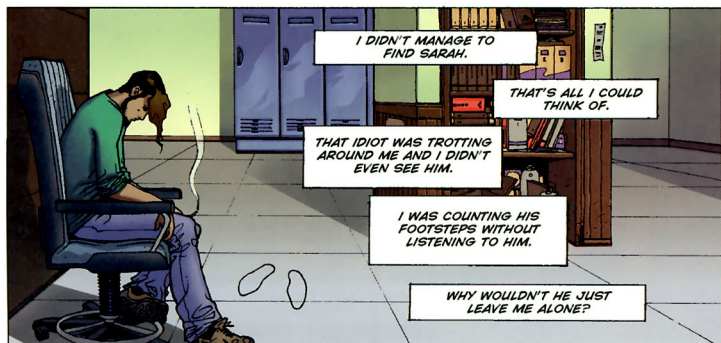
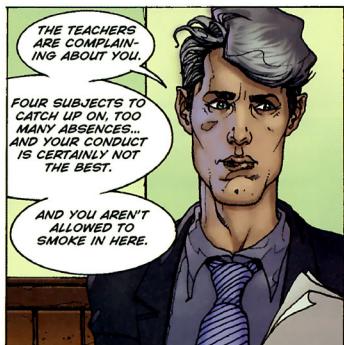
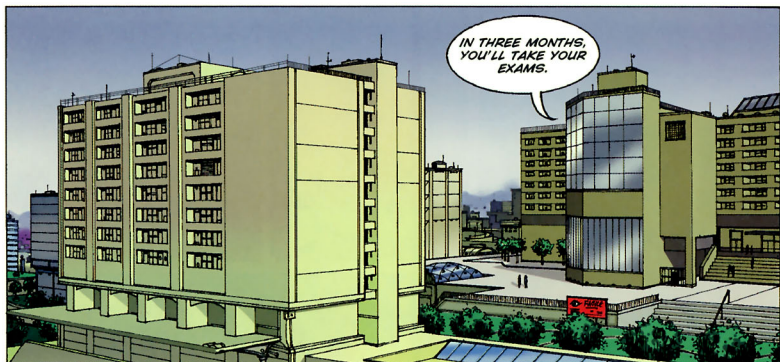


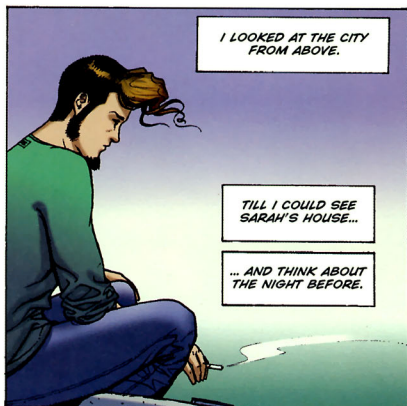
I REMEMBER IT CAUSE THAT EXACT
MOMENT, I FOUND OUT, SARAH MADE
THE MOST HORRIBLE DECISION OF
HER LIFE.

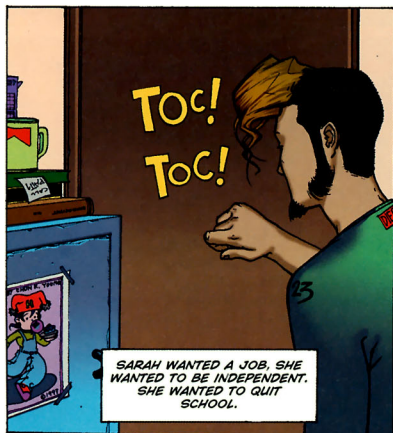
THE FOLLOWING MORNING I
HAD TO GO SPEAK TO THE
HEADMASTER...

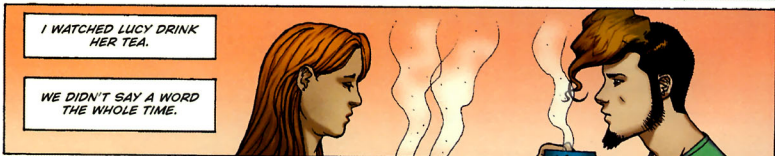
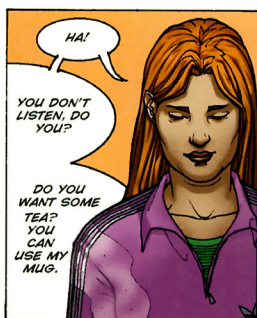
... I HAD TO FIND A GOOD EXCUSE
TO JUSTIFY MY DISASTROUS
SCHOOLWORK...

BUT THAT NIGHT I DECIDED TO
LOOK FOR SARAH.









I FELL ASLEEP WITH THE
FEELING I HAD TO GET UP
EARLY.



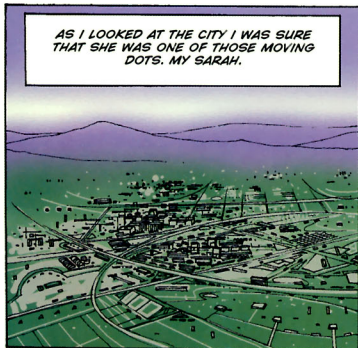
SEE YA LATER...
CALL ME!
SARAH



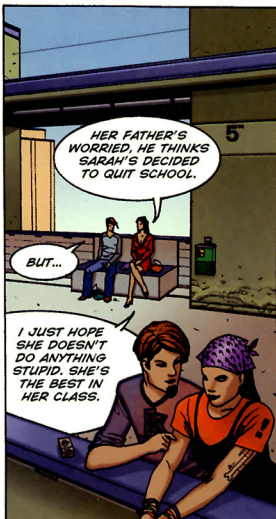
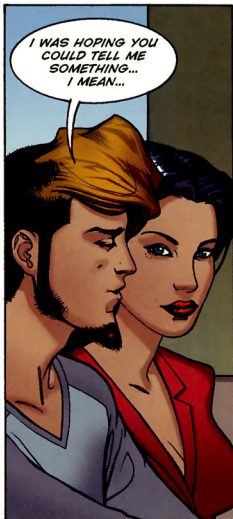
THE HEADMASTER HAD BEEN
CLEAR- I WAS GOING TO
FAIL SCHOOL THAT YEAR.

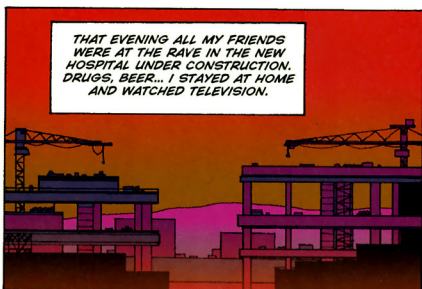
STILL, THAT WAS THE
LEAST OF MY WORRIES.

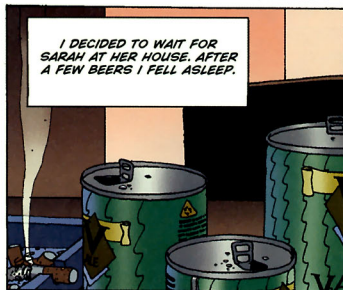
AS I LOOKED AT THE CITY I WAS SURE
THAT SHE WAS ONE OF THOSE MOVING
DOTS. MY SARAH.



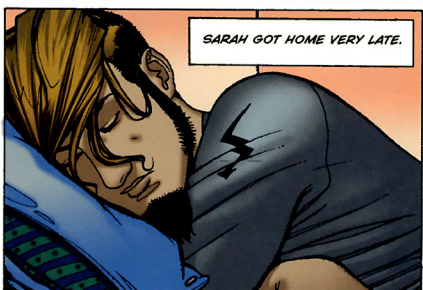




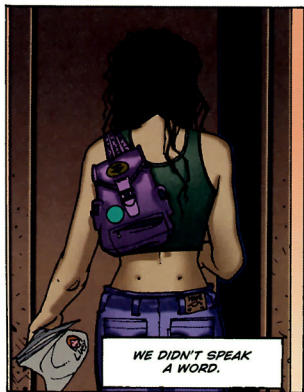




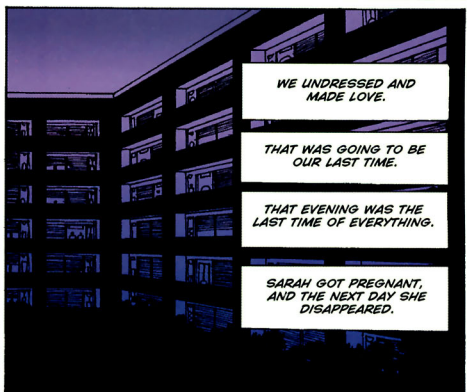
I DECIDED TO WAIT FOR SARAH AT HER HOUSE. AFTER A FEW BEERS I FELL ASLEEP.



SARAH GOT HOME VERY LATE.



WE DIDN'T SPEAK A WORD.



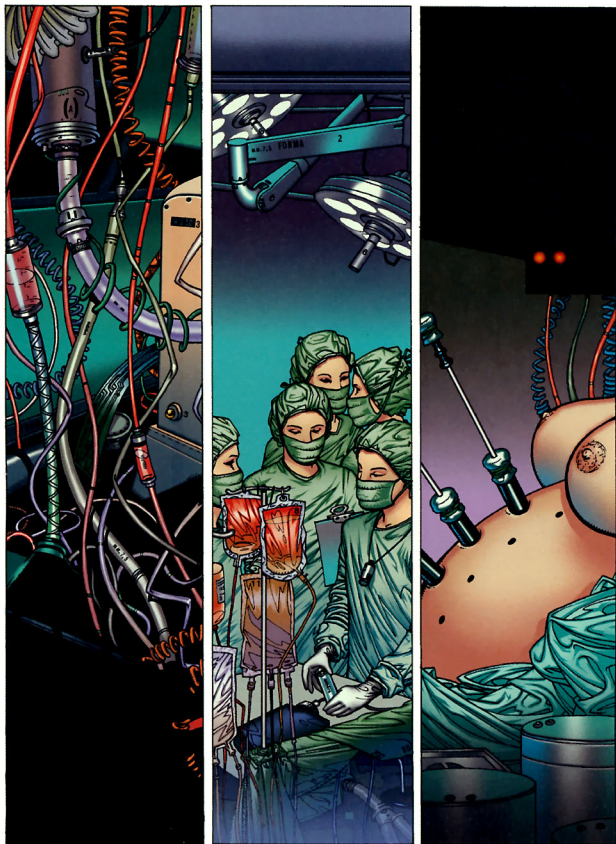
WE UNDRESSED AND MADE LOVE.

THAT WAS GOING TO BE OUR LAST TIME.

THAT EVENING WAS THE LAST TIME OF EVERYTHING.

SARAH GOT PREGNANT, AND THE NEXT DAY SHE DISAPPEARED.

THESE AREN'T MY MEMORIES. I WASN'T THERE. IT'S THAT STUFF YOU KNOW CAUSE YOU'VE SEEN IT ON TELEVISION. SARAH WANTED THAT BABY JUST TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE INSTITUTE FOR RECONSTRUCTION S.N.T. THERE SHE UNDERWENT A SERIES OF OPERATIONS

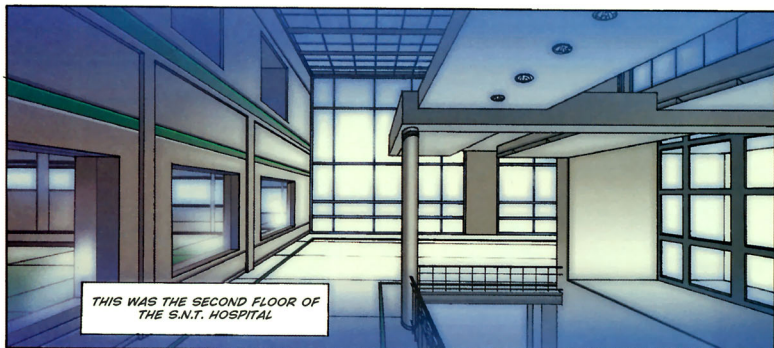


IN A FEW MONTHS SHE WOULD HAVE CHANGED COMPLETELY. THE DOCTORS WERE GOING TO USE THE BABY'S ENERGY RESOURCES TO MAKE STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO SARAH'S BODY.

THIRTY SURGICAL OPERATIONS IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. IS THAT WHAT SHE WANTED? IS THAT WHY SHE HAD LEFT SCHOOL, AND HER FRIENDS, AND ME? CORRECT. CORRECT ANSWER.



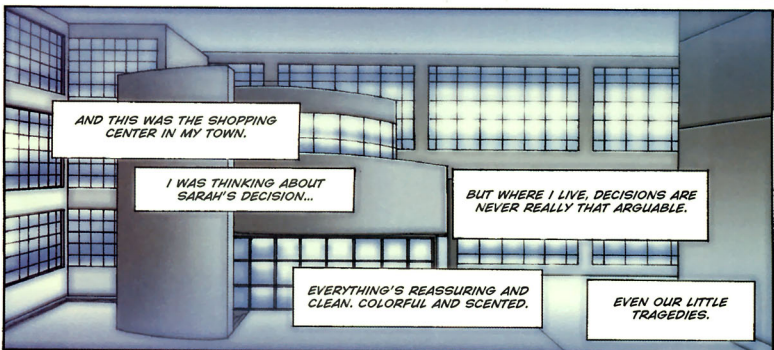
WHAT SHE WANTED WAS A JOB. AND AFTER SIX MONTHS AT THE S.N.T. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TROUBLE FINDING ONE. AND I? I WAS STUDYING FOR MY EXAMS, INTENT ON DOING WELL.



THIS WAS THE SECOND FLOOR OF
THE S.N.T. HOSPITAL



THIS WAS MY HIGH
SCHOOL.




AND THIS WAS THE SHOPPING
CENTER IN MY TOWN.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT
SARAH'S DECISION...

BUT WHERE I LIVE, DECISIONS ARE
NEVER REALLY THAT ARGUABLE.

EVERYTHING'S REASSURING AND
CLEAN. COLORFUL AND SCENTED.

EVEN OUR LITTLE
TRAGEDIES.



SO THERE WAS NOTHING
ELSE TO DO BUT STUDY
FOR EXAMS.

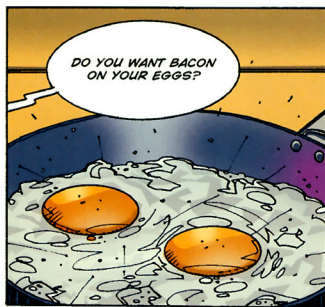
I IGNORED MY FRIENDS
FOR A FEW WEEKS.



AND REVISITED CHEMISTRY.



THE LAST SUBJECT I HAD TO
CATCH UP IN.





I'M SURPRISED TO SEE HIS GRADES HAVE GOTTEN BETTER. HE'S CAUGHT UP IN THREE SUBJECTS AND HIS CONDUCT IS DEFINITELY BETTER.

GOOD...

RIGHT.

I KNOW HE'S STUDYING FOR CHEMISTRY.



...



WE EXPECT GREAT THINGS.

I HOPE HE WON'T LET US DOWN.

...



I THOUGHT THAT...

... THAT THE STORY WITH SARAH HAD DISTURBED YOU... I MEAN...

BUT YOU UNDERSTOOD, YOU UNDERSTOOD HER DECISION.

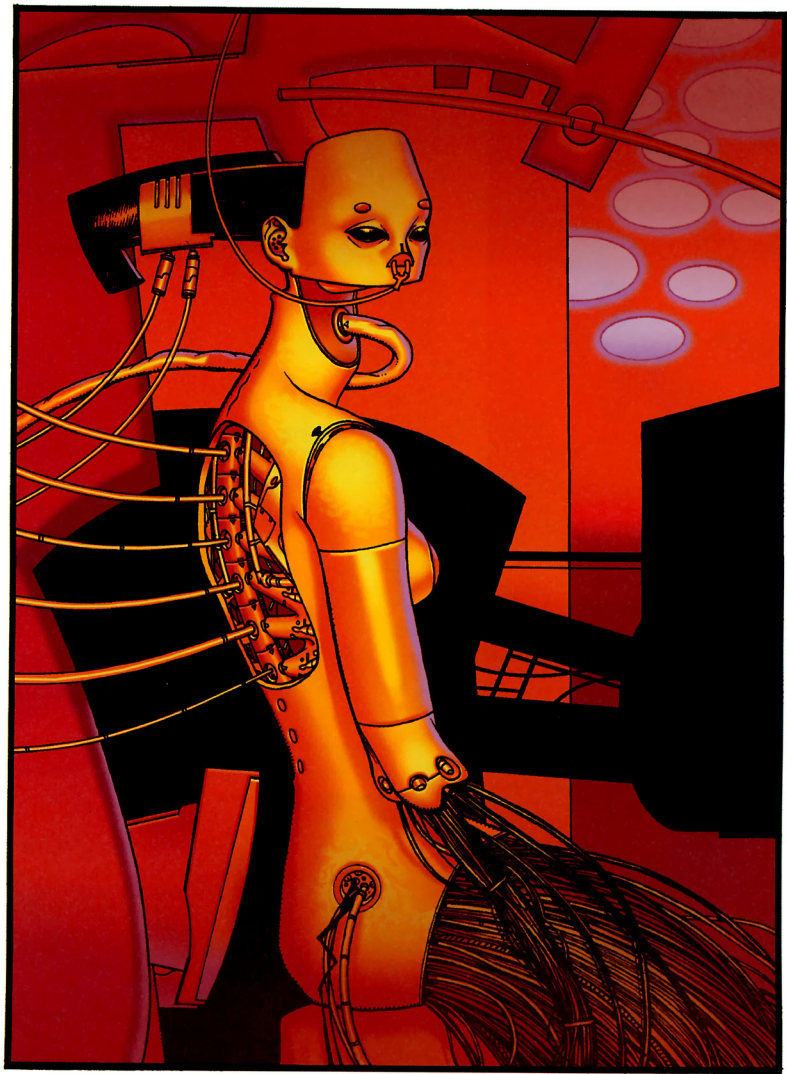
AN IMPORTANT DECISION.



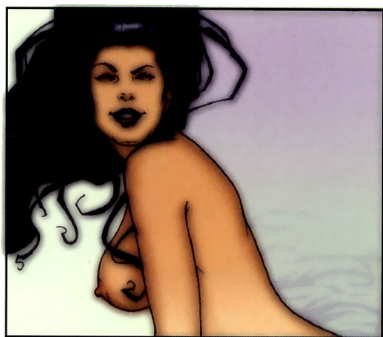
A SACRIFICE THAT SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US.



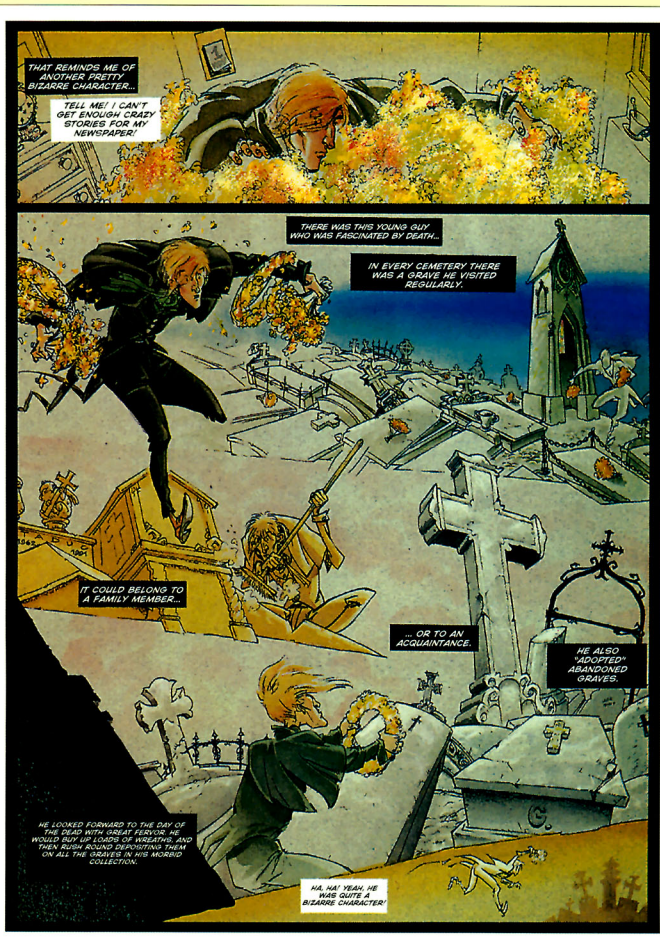








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THE BALLAD OF THE CEMETERIES

TH. ROBIN

I've got mausoleums galore
Graves, sepulchers, and more
In every cemetery of note,
There is a tomb on which I dote
From humble graves
For poor knaves
To fancy tombstones
For affluent bones.
And yet I'm sad...
Ain't that just too bad?

And it's all because
(This should give us pause)
I don't have a single plot
In Montparnasse, just round the block.
But in all the other cemeteries
In the city of Paris
I got my tenanted spot
Empty crypts I have not
There are some in suburban towns,
Not to mention the rural downs,

In sunny seaside resorts,
And marine cemeteries in ports.
Wherever you can dig a ditch
I got a hole, without a hitch!

But there isn't even a hint,
Not the slightest tiny glint,
Of a spot to which I can lock
In Montparnasse, just round the block.

On the Day of the Dead,
Like a chicken without a head,



I run, I fly from catacomb
To grave, to crypt, to tomb.
Tirelessly I go, bearing wreaths,
Rushing across the heaths,
My arms laden with flowers
Grimacing many visits into a few hours.
Not a minute do I waste
As amongst the cypresses I make haste.

But only a liar could say
That he's seen me on this day.

Bearing wreaths or running amok
In Montparnasse, just round the block.
Outside the chateau of my great-aunt,
The rich old Countess of Gaunt,
My family rails, "What's she waiting for?"
Will the old lady die, or will she live some more?
They want her jewels, her gold,
Her land, her forests, all she's got in the hold!

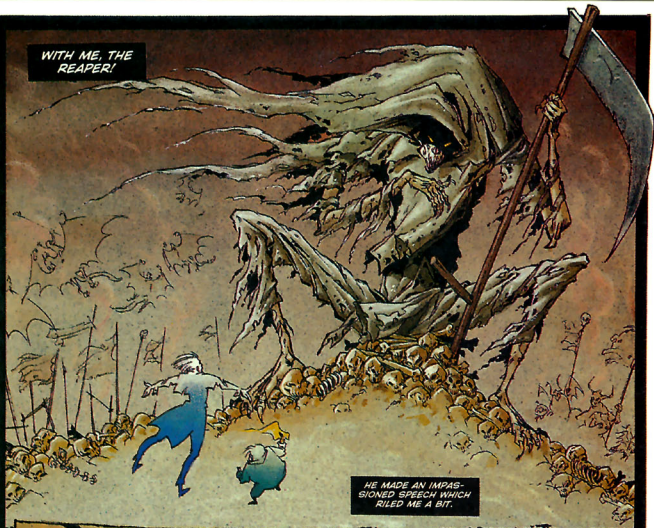
But I don't want much at all
I just wish the old lady a pleasant Fall

Behind the iron gates that lock
Of Montparnasse, just round the block.

So sang a young man,
Quite a dapper Parisian,
Till heaven said, "That's enough!"
It was quite in a huff,
Fed up of his whining requests
At all the inquests.
So God sent the Grim Reaper
And it was time to dig the grave a bit deeper!

In their hurry, the undertakers did make
Quite a serious mistake
For they carted him off, without even a knock,
To Montmartre, which is really not on his block!

WITH ME, THE
REAPER!



HE MADE AN IMPAS-
SIONED SPEECH WHICH
RILED ME A BIT.

UNFORTUNATELY, I LOST
MY TEMPER... AND, IN A
REGRETTABLY ANGRY
GESTURE, I KILLED HIM!

THAT'S... THAT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE...



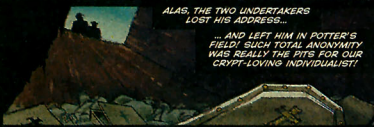
BUT IT WAS ALL FOR THE BEST,
AND THE EMPTY TOMB... WELL,
HE FILLED IT HIMSELF!

HOW CLEVER!



ALAS, THE TWO UNDERTAKERS
LOST HIS ADDRESS...

...AND LEFT HIM IN POTTER'S
FIELD! SUCH TOTAL ANONYMITY
WAS REALLY THE PITS FOR OUR
CRYPT-LOVING INDIVIDUALIST!



NOW HE CAN FORGET HIS LONELINESS AND
PLAY WITH HIS BUDDIES...

OH, HE HASN'T BEEN WASTING HIS
TIME! HE KEEPS WRITING ME LET-
TERS OF PROTEST ON BITS OF HIS
SHROUD!



Th. Power

HALLORAVE

FLIES IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER. THAT'S WHAT I REMEMBER. FLIES AND SWEETERING HEAT.



AN ENDLESS SUMMER- PROBABLY TO MAKE MY MOTHER'S DIVORCE EASIER, SHE WAY ALWAYS SAYING THAT THE SUN WAS A GREAT ANTI-DEPRESSANT.



IT WAS HER SECOND DIVORCE. SHE WAS LEAVING ME ALONE LIKE SHE NEVER HAD BEFORE, AND I WAS ENJOYING MYSELF.



I WAS THE KING, THE LORD OF THE FLIES. MY MOTHER USED TO SAY, REFERRING TO SOME BOOK SHE'D ONCE READ.



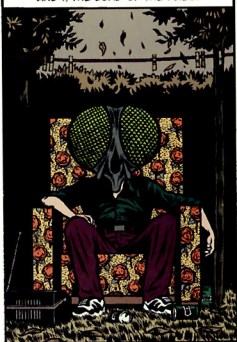
SALLY AND BRIAN OFTEN DROPPED BY, AND WE WOULD LOUNGE AROUND IN THE CHAIRS WE'D BROUGHT DOWN FROM THE ATTIC TO REPLACE THE GARDEN FURNITURE THAT HAD DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH MY STEP-FATHER. WE'D GET STONED ON WHISKEY AND PILLS AND TRY TO THINK OF COSTUMES TO WEAR TO A HALLOWEEN RAVE. BUT ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS HOW TO SCREW SALLY.



SHE WAS GOING OUT WITH BRIAN, BUT I WANTED HER. I WANTED HER FROM THE DAY HE INTRODUCED US, AND SHE KNEW IT. THE NIGHT BEFORE HALLOWEEN, WE TRIED ON OUR COSTUMES. BRIAN WAS A SKELETON- HE HAD PAINTED THE BONES ON A BLACK T-SHIRT AND TIGHTS. SALLY WAS A CAT...



AND I, THE LORD OF THE FLIES.



WE WERE WASTED. BRIAN WANTED TO TAKE A PICTURE OF US WITH OUR MASKS. SALLY SAT ON MY LAP. I COULD FEEL HER HEAT GOING THROUGH MY PANTS AND RISING INTO MY CROTCH.



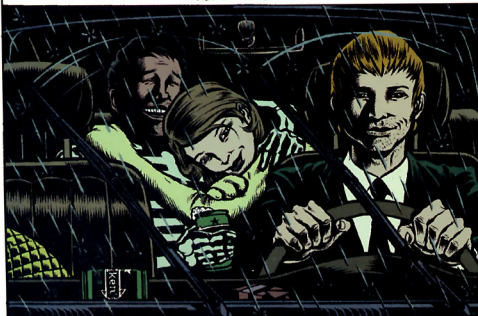
I BECAME HARD AND WHEN I ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING HANGING OUT WITH THAT ASSHOLE, SHE STARTED CARRESSING ME- AND SHE KEPT ON DOING IT THE WHOLE TIME BRIAN WAS TAKING OUR PICTURES. HE WAS ONLY THREE FEET AWAY!



AFTER THEY LEFT, IT STARTED RAINING. IT COOLED DOWN AND SUDDENLY IT WAS FALL. BUT UNDER MY MASK, MY FACE WAS ON FIRE.



THE NEXT EVENING, I WENT TO PICK THEM UP. MY MOTHER HAD LENT ME HER CAR AND WE LAUGHED THINKING OF THE POOR FOOLS ON THE BUS IN THEIR DRIPPING WET COSTUMES.



IT WAS POURING. SALLY ASKED ME WHY I WAS DRIVING SO FAST. I SAID IT WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE SURE I'D KILL GENE KELLY, AND THAT MADE THEM LAUGH THEIR HEADS OFF.



THEY KEPT KISSING AND FEELING EACH OTHER UP. I DIDN'T KNOW IF SALLY HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN US OR IF SHE JUST WANTED TO LEAD HIM ON.



I'D HAD ENOUGH. ENOUGH OF THAT DUMB SKELETON AND CAT NECKING IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR...



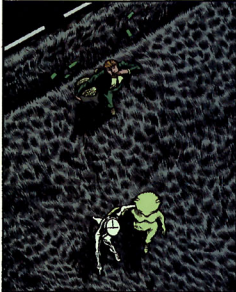
ENOUGH OF THE LORD OF THE FLIES. ENOUGH OF THIS SHITTY HALLOWEEN. SO I STEPPED ON THE GAS TO LET OFF SOME STEAM. AND THAT'S WHEN BRIAN CRIED OUT, "STOP! THIS IS IT!"



WE WEREN'T QUITE THERE YET, BUT YOU HAD TO WALK THE REST OF THE WAY. IT FELT GOOD TO GET OUT OF THE CAR. IT CALMED ME DOWN. IT WASN'T RAINING SO HARD AND THE AIR WAS WARMER.



WE HAD TO CROSS A FIELD. I HADN'T TAKEN ANYTHING BEFORE THE DRIVE, AND I WANTED TO CATCH UP NOW. SO I SWALLOWED THREE PILLS IN ONE GO.



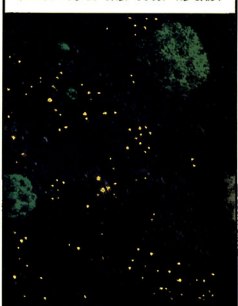
HALF-WAY ACROSS THE FIELD, THE PILLS KICKED IN.



LITTLE BY LITTLE, SHADOWS STARTED APPEARING OUT OF THE DARKNESS. SOME HAD FLASHLIGHTS. THEY MADE PATTERNS LIKE MOVING CONSTELLATIONS.



I TOLD BRIAN THAT NEXT TIME, WE WOULD BRING GUNS. WE WOULD CLIMB UP ON A HILL AND PUT OUT THOSE TWO-LEGGED LIGHTS ONE BY ONE. "COOL!" HE SAID.



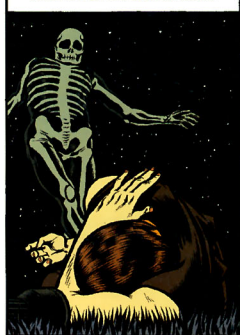
THEN BRIAN TRIPPED ONE OF THE GUYS WITH A FLASHLIGHT. HE WAS DRESSED AS A VAMPIRE-COWBOY. HE FELL ON HIS FACE, INTO A PUDDLE.



THE OTHERS THOUGHT WE WERE TOGETHER, THAT WE WERE JUST KIDDING AROUND. THE COWBOY LOOKED AT BRIAN AND WHINED ABOUT HIS MUDDY CLOTHES.



BRIAN KICKED HIM SEVERAL TIMES.



IT WAS WILD. ALL SORTS OF THOUGHTS KEPT RUSHING THROUGH MY MIND. IT WAS EXCITING TO BE THERE IN THE DARK WITH SOMEONE AS CRAZY AS BRIAN.



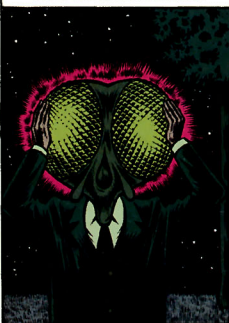
WHEN THE COWBOY STOPPED MOVING, BRIAN PICKED UP HIS HAT AND WALKED AWAY AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.



IT HAD STOPPED RAINING. I HADN'T FELT SO GOOD IN A LONG TIME. IT WAS AS IF MY BRAIN WAS BEING BLOWN UP WITH A BICYCLE PUMP...



... I FELT LIKE IT WAS GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER UNDER MY FLY'S HEAD AND THAT IT WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE.



I WANTED IT TO EXPLODE. I WANTED MY BRAIN TO BLOW UP AND SCATTER ALL OVER THE FIELDS.



I STARTED LAUGHING, AND SALLY AND BRIAN JOINED IN WITH ME. I TOLD SALLY I LOVED HER.



STILL LAUGHING, I TOLD BRIAN I WAS JEALOUS OF HIM, AND THAT AS SOON AS HIS BACK WAS TURNED I WOULD SCREW SALLY. JUST SO SHE COULD SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND TEACH HIM NEW STUFF. HA! HA! HA!



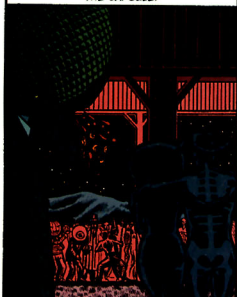
IF YOU DO THAT, I'LL CUT OFF YOUR DICK! HA! HA! HA! AND THEN WE FED EACH OTHER PILLS- WE USED TO DO THAT ONCE IN A WHILE, FOR THE SURPRISE EFFECT- ME TO SALLY, SALLY TO BRIAN...



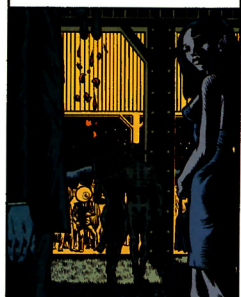
... AND BRIAN TO ME. HE PRESSED HARD AND GASHED MY TONGUE- I BET HE WANTED TO TEAR IT OUT- AND THE PILL SHATTERED.



WE WERE STANDING IN FRONT OF A HANGAR THAT WAS CROWDED WITH DANCERS. SALLY AND BRIAN JOINED THEM. I SPAT OUT THE BROKEN BITS OF THE CAPSULE.



THEY WERE COVERED IN BLOOD. WHAT AN ASSHOLE, I THOUGHT. LET HIM KEEP THAT BITCH, WHAT THE FUCK DO I CARE? THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER CHICKS.



MY FEET WERE COLD AND WET. I STARED AT THEM, LIKE AN IDIOT. I WAS COMING DOWN FROM MY HIGH.



WHEN I RAISED MY HEAD, I SAW THREE COWBOYS. ONE WAS THE GUY THAT BRIAN HAD BEAT UP. THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME.



THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A SKELETON, NOT A FLY. I STARTED RUNNING TOWARD THE DANCERS, TO WARN BRIAN.



I SINCERELY WANTED TO WARN HIM, BUT I BUMPED INTO SALLY FIRST, AND WHEN I OPENED MY MOUTH, IT WAS TO ASK HER IF SHE WANTED TO DO IT, RIGHT THERE, RIGHT AWAY.



SHE SAID OKAY, BUT IF BRIAN FOUND OUT, I HAD TO DEAL WITH HIM BY MYSELF. I TOLD HER THAT I WASN'T AFRAID OF HIM.



BEHIND HER, THE COWBOYS HAD SURROUNDED HIM.



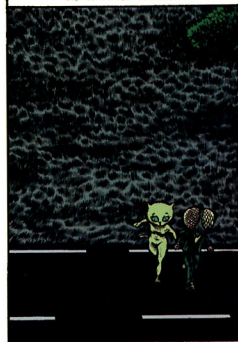
WE LEFT THE HANGAR, AND RAN STRAIGHT AHEAD. I WAS HOLDING HER HAND.



THE MOON LIT UP THE FIELD. A BREEZE HAD BLOWN THE CLOUDS AWAY. A SALMY BREEZE. THE LAST BURST OF SUMMER.



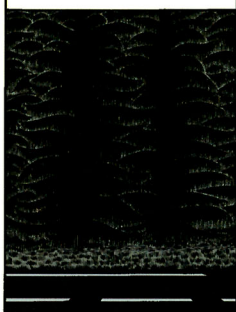
WE CROSSED A ROAD.



THERE WAS A WOODED AREA ON THE OTHER SIDE. PINE TREES WITH THICK, LOW BRANCHES. THE GROUND BENEATH WAS BARELY WET. THERE WAS NO POINT GOING ANY FARTHER.



WE THREW OURSELVES AT EACH OTHER. AS FOR THE REST, WELL... WE WERE LIKE TWO RUTTING ANIMALS.



AND ONE OF THEM HAD A FLY'S HEAD.



SALLY WANTED ME TO SCREW HER AS IF I WAS CRAZED. FOR A MOMENT, I EVEN GOT STUCK IN THE BRANCHES OF A PINE TREE.



THAT WAS WHEN I SAW THEM. THREE LIGHTS FLICKERING AMONG THE PINE NEEDLES, AND BEHIND EACH LIGHT WAS A COWBOY.



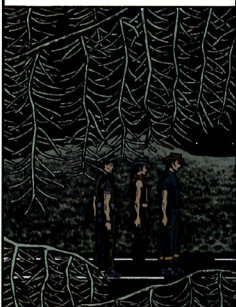
BRIAN WAS RUNNING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM. HE CROSSED THE ROAD.



HE WAS NOT IN MY FIELD OF VISION WHEN THE CAR RAN OVER HIM- A DRUNK DRIVER WHO HADN'T SWITCHED HIS HEADLIGHTS ON.



THREE COWBOYS WITH THEIR FLASH-LIGHTS- THAT'S ALL THAT WAS LEFT. I GOT MY HEAD OUT OF THE BRANCHES AND FINISHED WHAT I HAD STARTED.



BAD GIRL!



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MARTIAN GADGET

Z. PAHEK

LAST MONTH AN EXPEDITION THAT WAS DIGGING SOME ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE IN VANE FOR OVER A YEAR DISAPPEARED. AND TODAY SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAS UNEXPECTEDLY APPEARED.

FANTASTIC! THIS IS A REAL MARTIAN CITY.

YUP! THE WIND BLEW AWAY THE RED SAND. WE ARE VERY LUCKY.

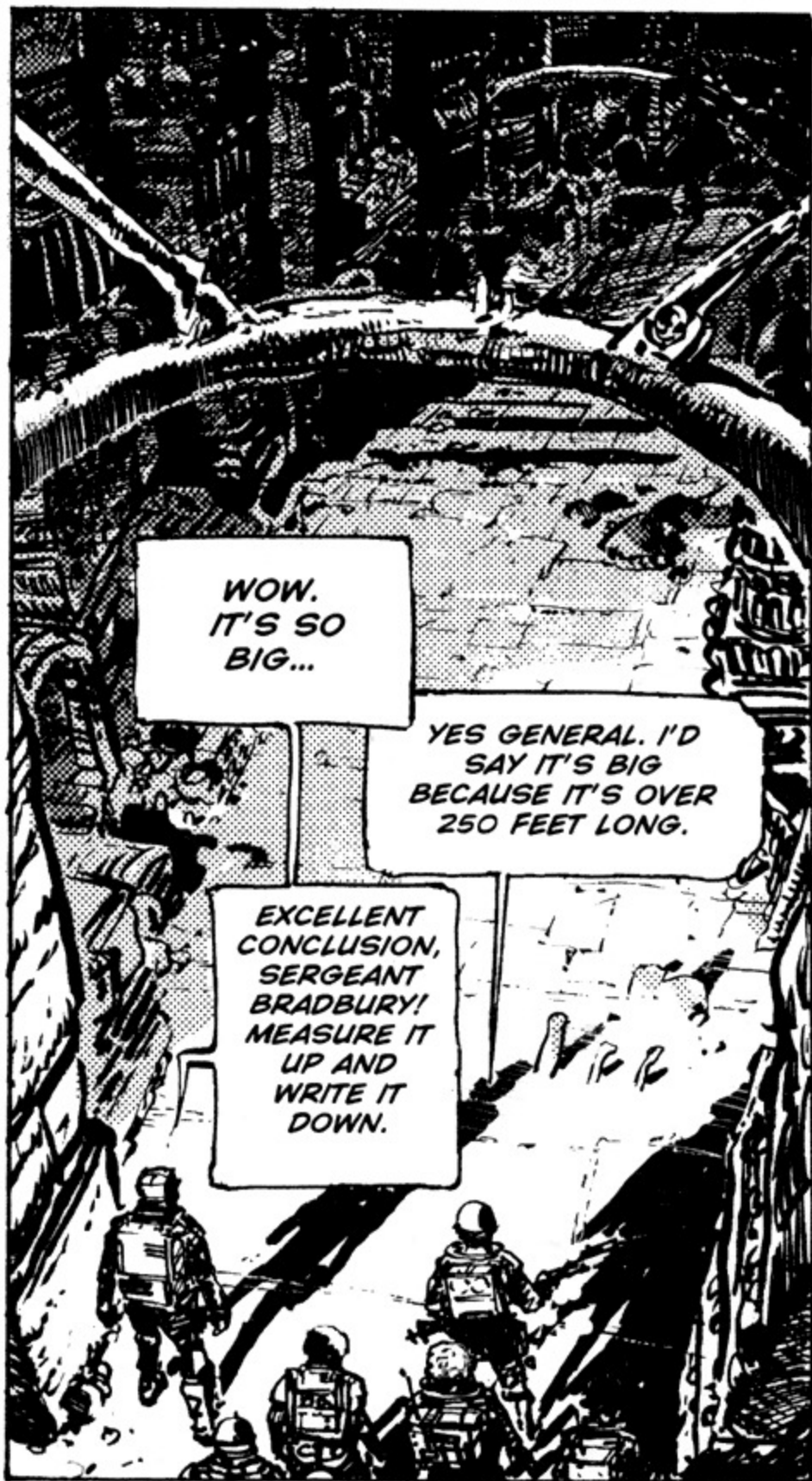
GENERAL! THE CITY IS ALL RED! I'D SAY THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF THE SAND SINCE IT'S THE SAME COLOR...

EXCELLENT CONCLUSION, SERGEANT BRADBURY. I'LL WRITE IT DOWN.

DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING UNTIL YOU CHECK IT OUT. REMEMBER HOW THE LAST EXPEDITION ENDED UP. THEY HAD BECOME ONE WITH THE MARTIAN SAND!! AND WE WOULDN'T WANT TO JOIN THEM...

RIGHT. FIND ME SOMEONE WHO WOULD.

WOW!!! WHAT A DISCOVERY! IT MUST CONTAIN MANY PRECIOUS GADGETS.



WOW.
IT'S SO
BIG...

YES GENERAL. I'D
SAY IT'S BIG
BECAUSE IT'S OVER
250 FEET LONG.

EXCELLENT
CONCLUSION,
SERGEANT
BRADBURY!
MEASURE IT
UP AND
WRITE IT
DOWN.



IT'S GET-
TING
NARROW-
ER NOW...



EXCEL...

HEY!!! I'VE FOUND
SOMETHING!!!
YEAH! YEAH!
I'M RICH!!!



RICH!! HE! HE! HE!
I'VE FOUND
A GENUINE MARTIAN
NUCLEAR
GENERATOR!

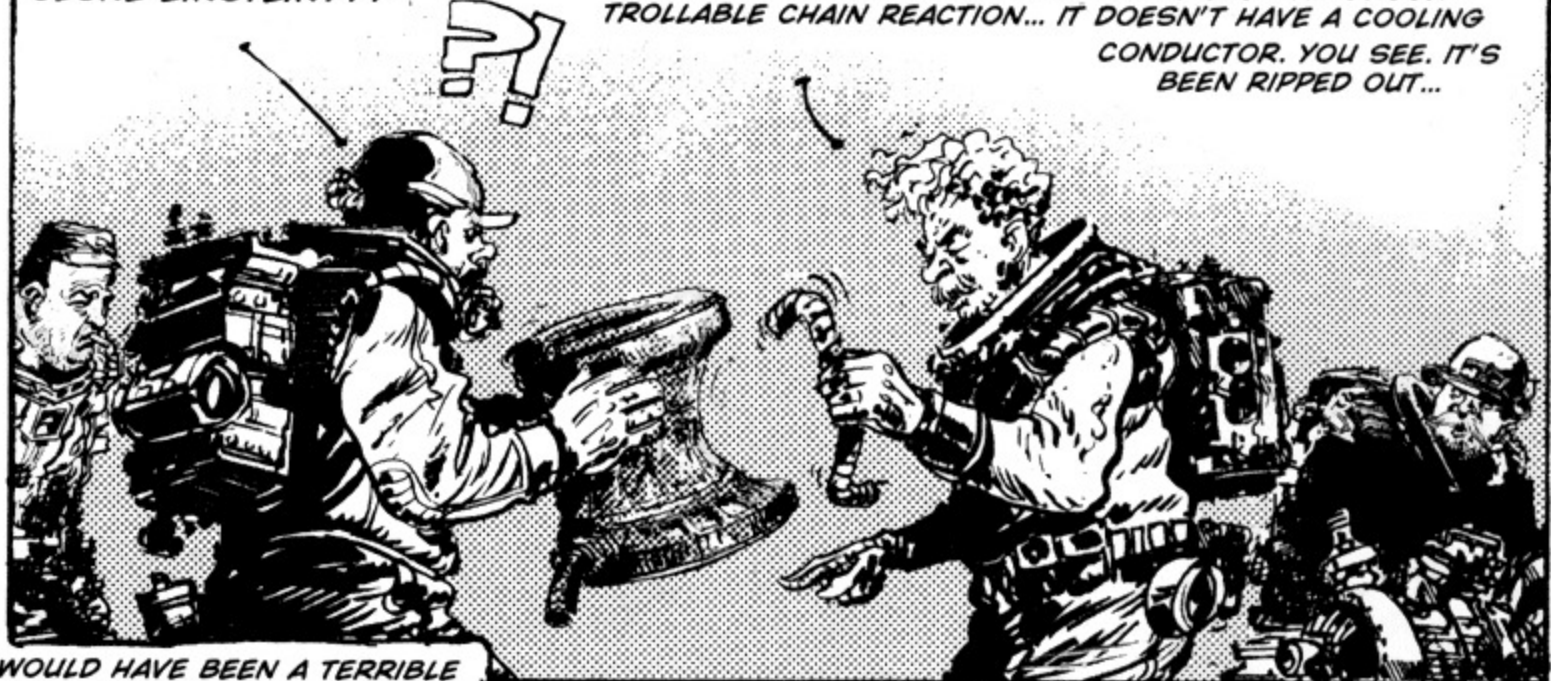
I'VE READ ABOUT THIS. IT'S AN INGENIOUS
THING, GENERAL. IT BRINGS IT'S OWNER A
REAL FORTUNE! A PERFECT NUCLEAR
REACTOR! WATCH NOW! I'M GOING TO PUT
A PEBBLE IN IT. HE! HE! HE! YOU'LL SEE
HOW IT WORKS. FREE ENERGY...

HMM... ARE
YOU SURE?
ONLY TROU-
BLE IS FREE
HERE...

NO!!! DON'T
PUT YOUR
HAND IN!!!

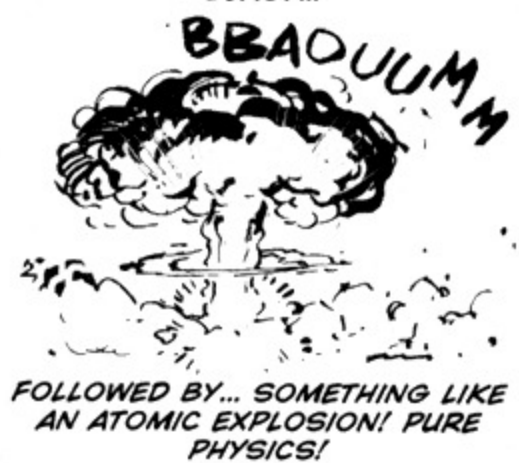


WHAT IS IT NOW,
CLONE EINSTEIN???



THAT MECHANICAL WONDER WOULD'VE INSTANTLY TURNED
YOUR FINGERS TO NUCLEAR FUEL! AND THAT WOULD'VE
CAUSED A NUCLEAR PROCESS. MAYBE EVEN AN UNCON-
TROLLABLE CHAIN REACTION... IT DOESN'T HAVE A COOLING
CONDUCTOR. YOU SEE. IT'S
BEEN RIPPED OUT...

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE
BLAST...



FOLLOWED BY... SOMETHING LIKE
AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION! PURE
PHYSICS!

RIGHT! EINSTEIN'S CLONE
KNOWS HIS CHEMISTRY.
HE WAS A CHEMISTRY
PROFESSOR!

PARDON
PHYSICS!!







LET'S GO ON. WE
NEED TO EXPLORE
THE OTHER ROOMS.
WE MUST FIND
SOME GADGETS OF
VALUE.

HA! HA! NUCLEAR FISSION... CHAIN
REACTION... HE'S A CHEMISTRY
PROFESSOR? HA!

DON'T WORRY. FIFTY OR SOME-
THING SIMILAR GADGETS HAVE
BEEN SUCCESSFULLY
SMUGGLED TO EARTH AND
SOLD TO SOME FOOLS.



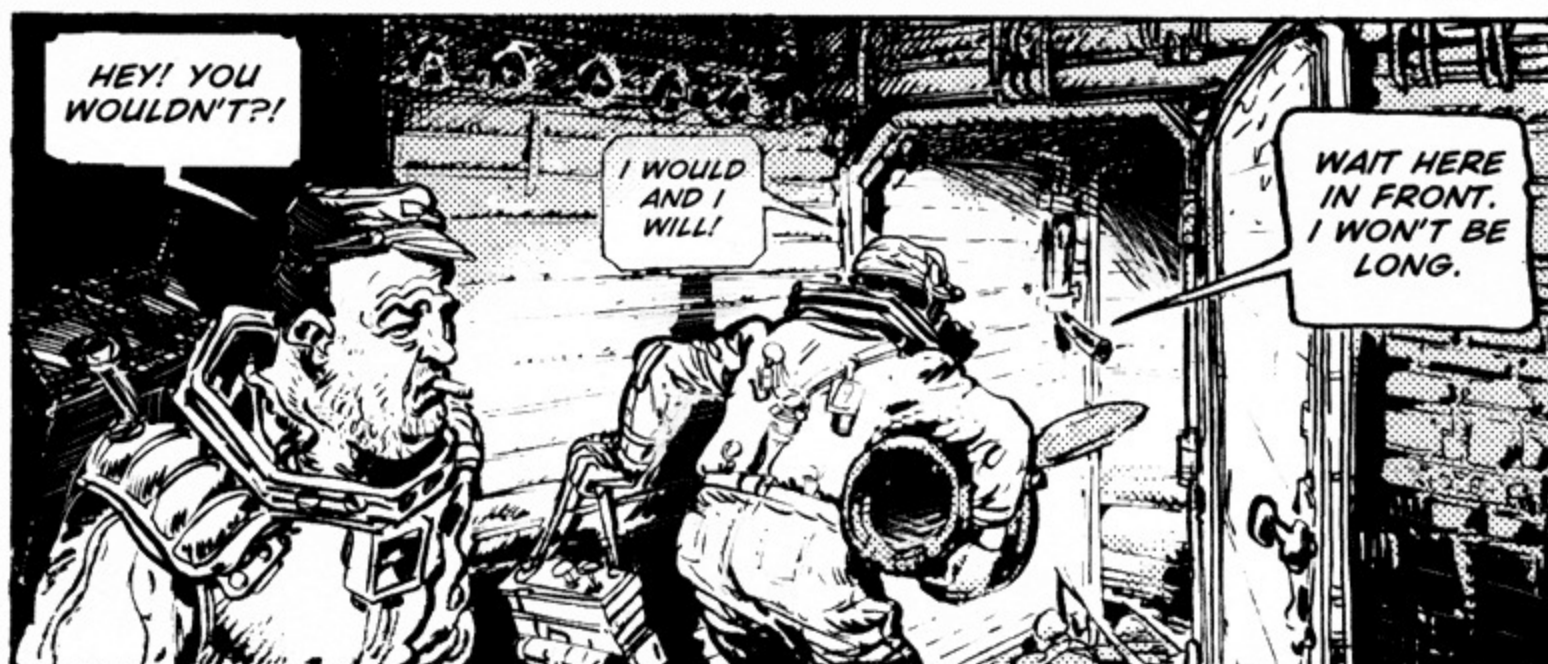
HMMM... MARTIAN TOILET SEAT?
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED? JUST
LOOK AT THAT WONDERFUL LINE. THE
DESIGN. THOSE MARTIANS WERE
REAL ARTISTS...

YEAH... YEAH...
I'M SURPRISED
THEY'RE
EXTINCT.



HE! HE! THIS
THING
REMINDS ME
OF MY HOME
ON EARTH...

IT MAKES
ME WANT TO
TRY IT!



HEY! YOU
WOULDN'T?!

I WOULD
AND I
WILL!

WAIT HERE
IN FRONT.
I WON'T BE
LONG.



HOME
SWEET
HOME...

HE... HE... I'LL BE
ABLE TO SAY THAT
I WAS THE FIRST
MAN IN HISTORY
WHO TOOK A SHIT
IN A GENUINE
MARTIAN TOILET IN
GENUINE MARTIAN
AMBIANCE!!

HEY MAN. IF
YOU ONLY
KNEW HOW
MUCH I ENVY
YOU...



SERGEANT! WHERE
ARE THOSE TWO?
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT THAT SHIT-
LAGGER. AS SOON
AS WE LEAVE HIM
ALONE SHIT HITS
THE FAN.

THEY ARE
NOT HERE.
THEY MUST
STILL BE
WHERE WE
LEFT THEM.
OBVIOUSLY,
DOING
NOTHING...

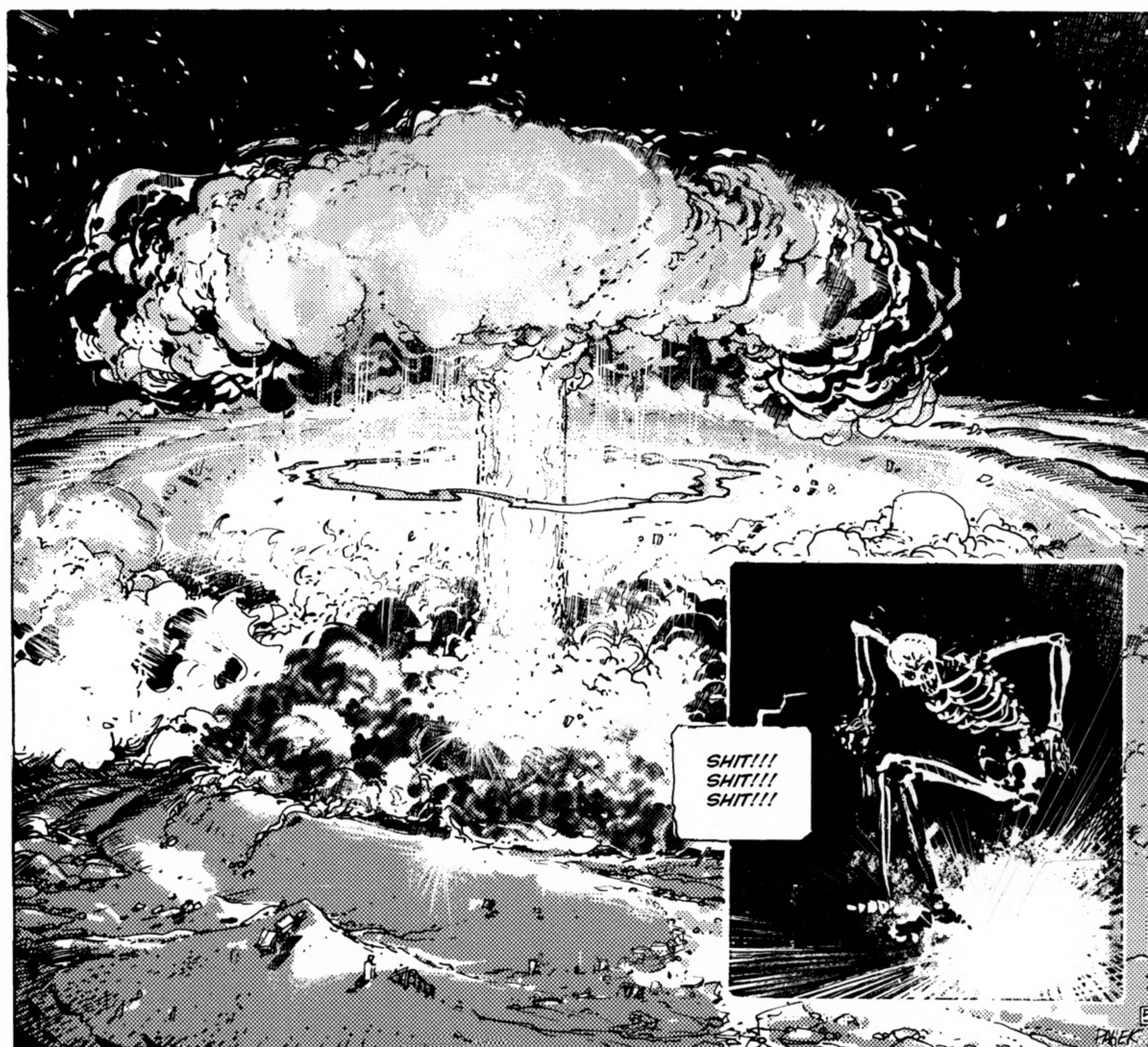
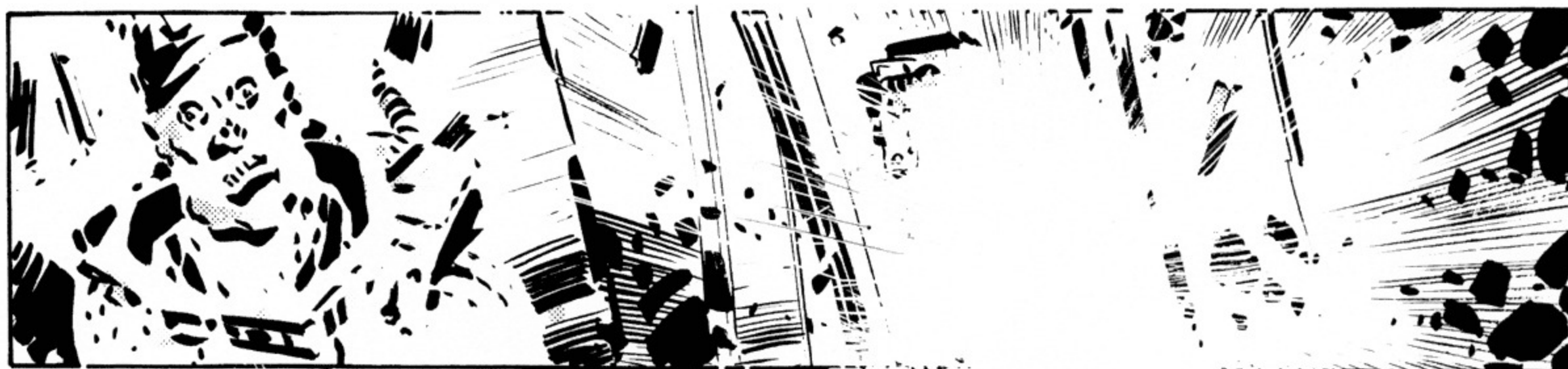
EXCELLENT
CONCLUSION,
SERGEANT.
WRITE IT
DOWN. I'D
LIKE TO KNOW
WHAT MY MEN
ARE DOING.

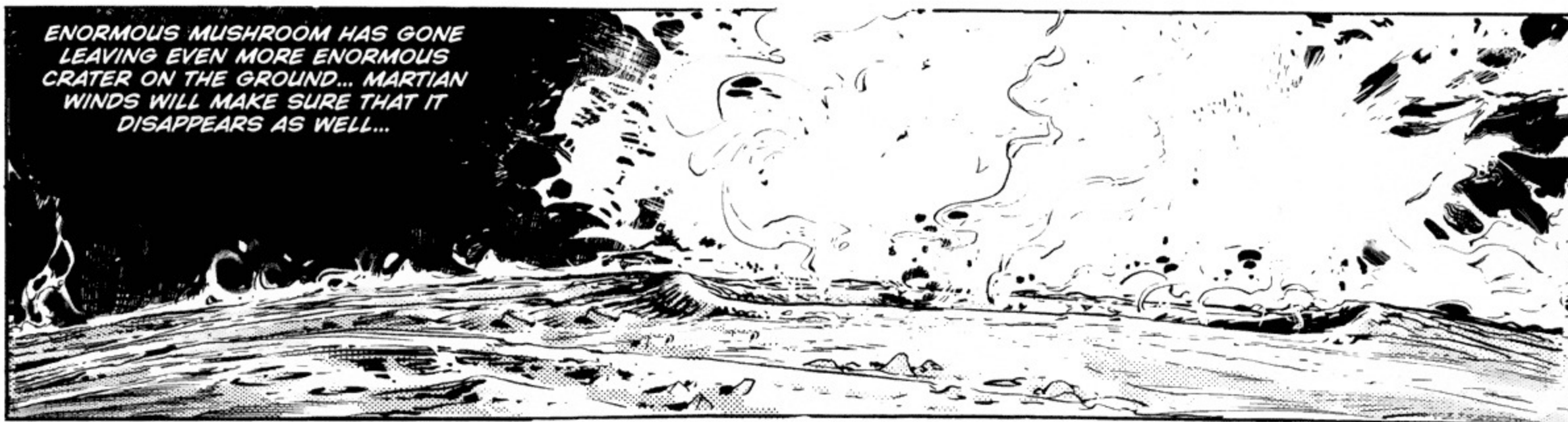


COME ON!
HAVE YOU
DONE IT
ALREADY??

JUST A
BIT...
FINALLY!!
AH...
(SIGH OF
RELIEF)

P L O N G





ENORMOUS MUSHROOM HAS GONE LEAVING EVEN MORE ENORMOUS CRATER ON THE GROUND... MARTIAN WINDS WILL MAKE SURE THAT IT DISAPPEARS AS WELL...



BUT ONE THING WILL REMAIN IN THE DARK MARTIAN SKY FOREVER... SIX SHINY DOTS. SO TINY, LIKE SIX FIRE-FLIES IN THE NIGHT...

DAMN IT! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?

WE'RE DEAD... WHAT ELSE?!

IT'S ALL SHITLAGGER'S FAULT! HE WAS THE ONLY ONE HAVING A PHYSIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY!

HEY! MY WALLET'S GONE!

I'M FEELING A BIT PECULIAR, GENERAL. I'M AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER. IT MUST BE BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A BODY.

EXCELLENT CONCLUSION, SERGEANT. WRITE IT DOWN.



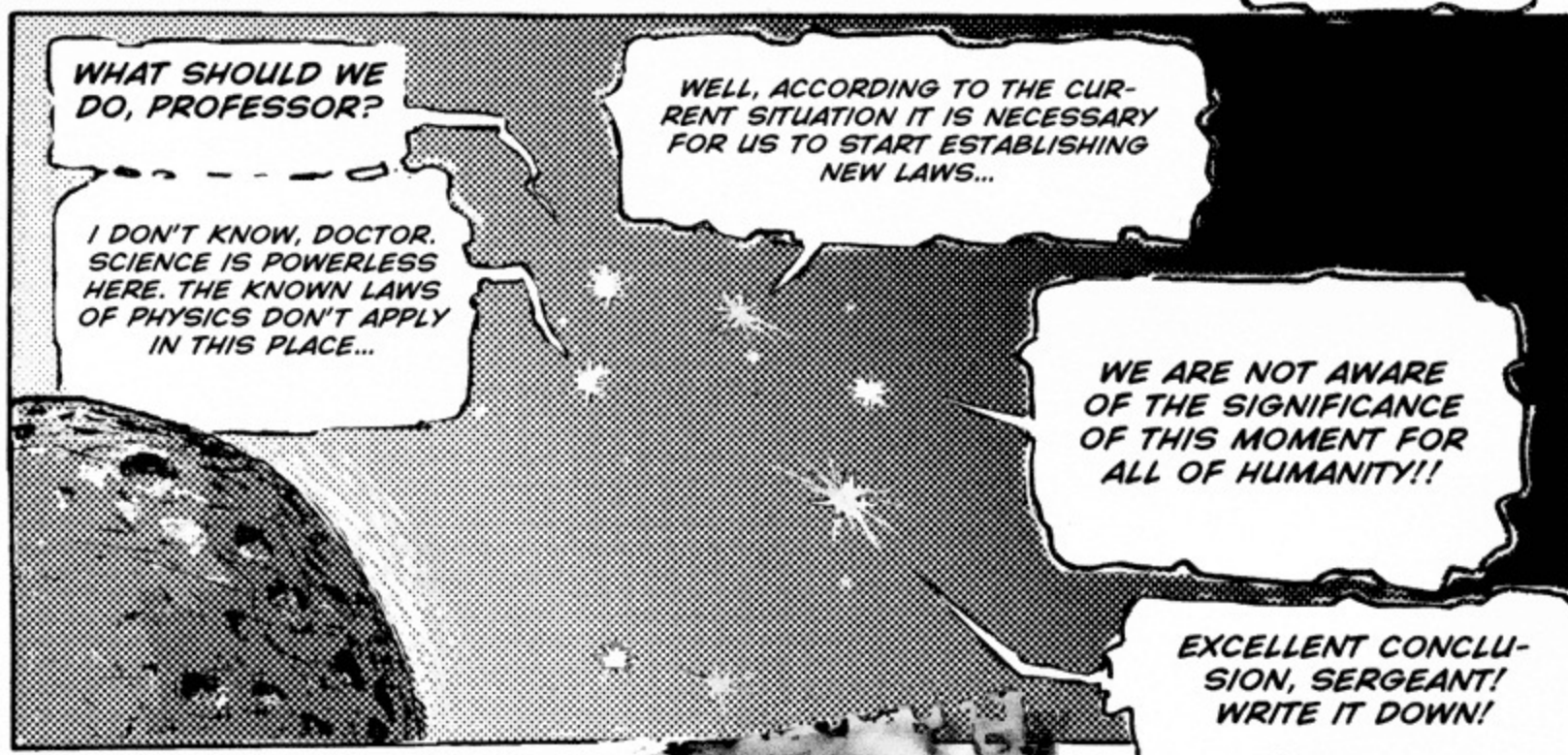
HEY! CHECK OUT THOSE NINETEEN GUYS! THOSE ARE THE GUYS FROM THE LAST EXPEDITION. THEY HAD EMERGENCIES AS WELL.

THAT SOLVES THEIR CASE.

HI! HOW ARE YOU?

HERE COMES A COUPLE MORE SUCKERS!

WE KNEW WE WOULDN'T WAIT LONG...



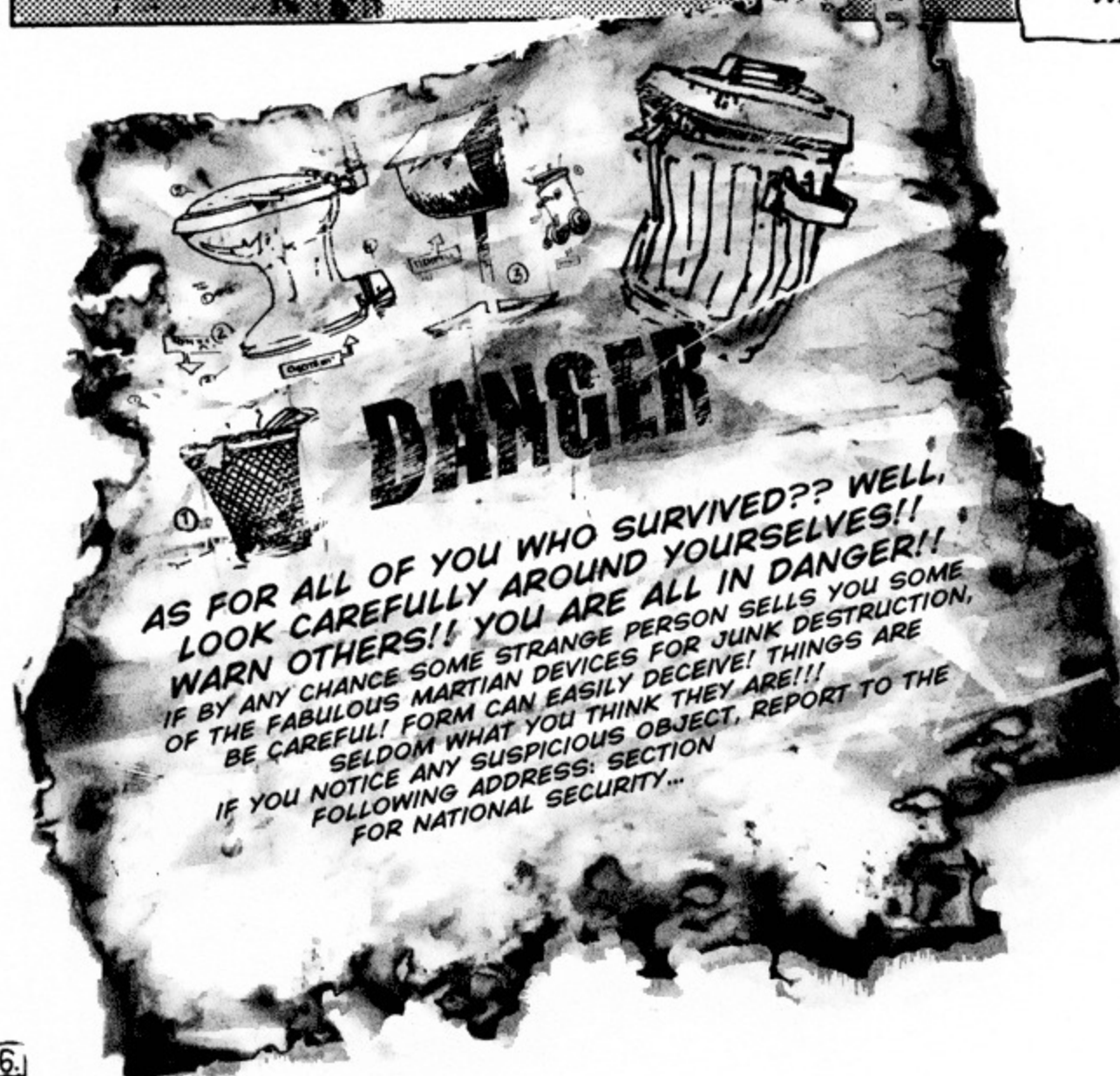
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, PROFESSOR?

I DON'T KNOW, DOCTOR. SCIENCE IS POWERLESS HERE. THE KNOWN LAWS OF PHYSICS DON'T APPLY IN THIS PLACE...

WELL, ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT SITUATION IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO START ESTABLISHING NEW LAWS...

WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MOMENT FOR ALL OF HUMANITY!!

EXCELLENT CONCLUSION, SERGEANT! WRITE IT DOWN!



DANGER

AS FOR ALL OF YOU WHO SURVIVED?? WELL, LOOK CAREFULLY AROUND YOURSELVES!! WARN OTHERS!! YOU ARE ALL IN DANGER!! IF BY ANY CHANCE SOME STRANGE PERSON SELLS YOU SOME OF THE FABULOUS MARTIAN DEVICES FOR JUNK DESTRUCTION, BE CAREFUL! FORM CAN EASILY DECEIVE! THINGS ARE SELDOM WHAT YOU THINK THEY ARE!!! IF YOU NOTICE ANY SUSPICIOUS OBJECT, REPORT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: SECTION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY...

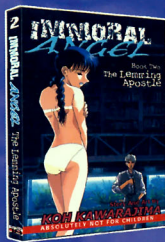


HALF BURNED SCROLL FOUND BY THE GREAT BORGG THE PLUTONIAN AMIDST THE BURNED RUINS OF OLD EARTH CIVILIZATION IN THE YEAR 5003.

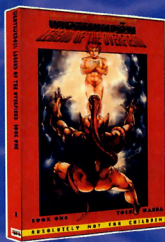
VERY GRAPHIC NOVELS... and we do mean GRAPHIC!



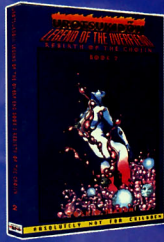
Immoral Angel
Books 1&2



Adventure Kid: The Original Manga
Books 1&2



Urotsukidoji: Legend of the Overfiend
Books 1&2



Demon Beast Invasion: The Original Manga
Books 1&2



La Blue Girl Collection
Books 1&2



La Blue Girl: The Original Manga
Books 1&2



MAIL TO: HEAVY METAL, DEPT. 9/03, 100 NORTH VILLAGE AVE., STE. 12, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11570

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Adventure Kid - The Original Manga Book 2: Hard Drive.....	\$16.95
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 State: _____ Zip: _____
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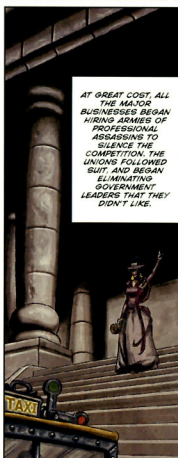
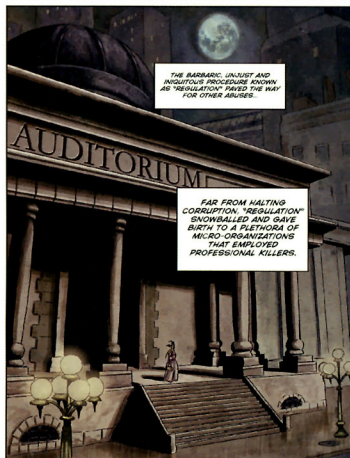
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WARNING: ABSOLUTELY NOT FOR CHILDREN

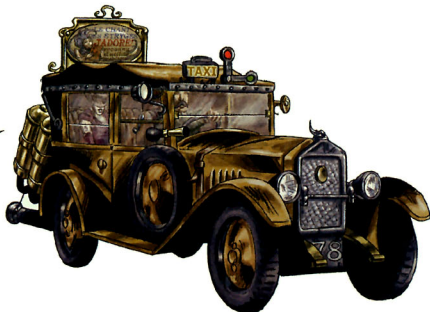
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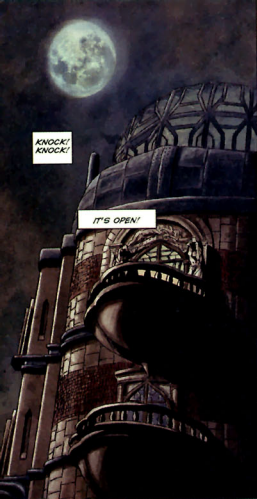




AT THE BEGINNING, THE POLITICIAN HAD BEEN THE MAIN TARGET, BUT THEY QUICKLY TURNED THE TABLES ON THE "REGULATORS" AND TOOK CONTROL OF THE SYSTEM THE REAL WAR WAS JUST BEGINNING... END OF THE FIRST REEL...

THE STADIUM...

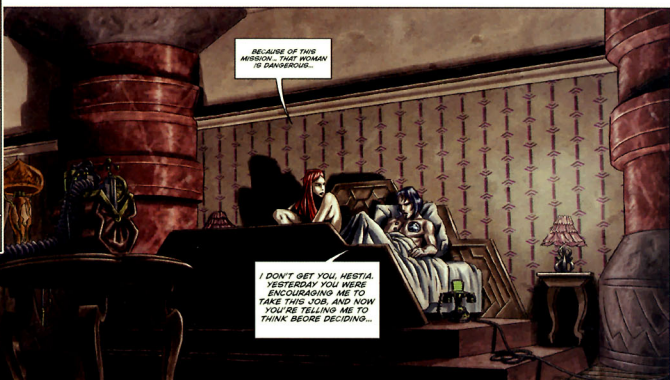






YOU SHOULD BE
ON YOUR
GUARD,
ARISTIDE.

WHY?
BECAUSE OF
YOU?



BECAUSE OF THIS
MISSION... THAT WOMAN
IS DANGEROUS...

I DON'T GET YOU, NESTIA.
YESTERDAY YOU WERE
ENCOURAGING ME TO
TAKE THIS JOB, AND NOW
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO
THINK BEFORE DECIDING...



ALWAYS THE SAME
DUALITY...

I DO NOT FEAR DEATH... IF
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT, I'VE LIVED
WITH DEATH SINCE
CHILDHOOD...

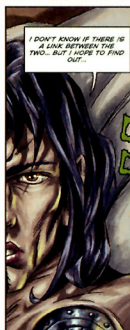


... AND IT'S NOT
THIS GADGET THAT
WILL CHANGE MY
MIND!



... TO TELL YOU THE
TRUTH, THIS PHOTO
HAS AWAKENED A
MEMORY THAT I
THOUGHT WAS
BURIED FOREVER...

... THE MEMORY
OF A HAPPY
TIME...



I DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS
A LINK BETWEEN THE
TWO... BUT I HOPE TO FIND
OUT.



DRIN
DRIN
COM.



VIX
SPEAKING.

IT'S ZELOS. I
HAVE THE
INFORMATION YOU
ASKED ME FOR...

GO
AHEAD.



TYPHOEUS
DISAPPEARED
TWO WEEKS
AGO.
APPARENTLY
WITHOUT ANY
OFFICIAL REASON.

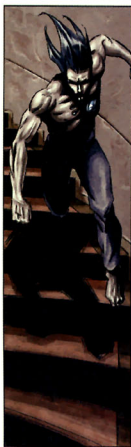
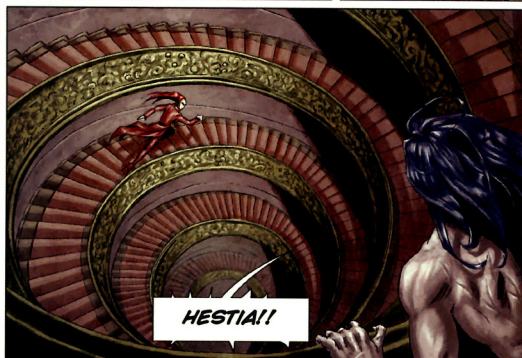
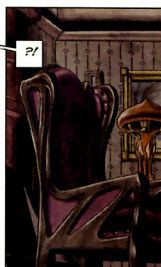


CLICK



ARISTIDE? ARE YOU
STILL THERE?

JUST A MINUTE... CALL
ME ON MY VOX-COM...
THE HOTEL LINE IS
BUGGED...





ARE YOU SURE
THAT THYPHOEUS
HASN'T TAKEN
SPECIAL LEAVE
BECAUSE OF THE
CONTRACT?

NOT
LIKELY.



WEIRD...

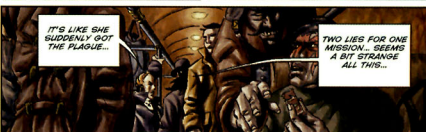
WHAT'S SO
WEIRD?



... THAT I HAVE TO
PROTECT A GUY WHO'S
NOT OFFICIALLY
THREATENED BY A
REGULATORY
ORGANIZATION.



THE OTHER WEIRD
THING IS THAT THIS
SO-CALLED
SAMSONNE HASN'T
BEEN CONTRACTED
TO REGULATE
ANYONE FOR THE
LAST TWO WEEKS.



IT'S LIKE SHE
SUDDENLY GOT
THE PLAGUE...

TWO LIES FOR ONE
MISSION... SEEMS
A BIT STRANGE
ALL THIS...



AND WHEN DO I GET
MY COUPONS?

NOT UNTIL I KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE
GIRL.



I ONLY FOUND
SCRAPS... HER REAL
NAME IS AMBROSIA.

AMBROSIA?

'FRAID SO. I
KNOW IT'S NOT
COMMON BUT
IT'S ALL YOU'VE
GOT.



AMBROSIA...



I'M CALLED
AMBROSIA...



AMBROSIA CAN WORK
MIRACLES WITH
FOLDED PAPER... AND
SHE CAN DO ALL
SORTS OF WONDERFUL
THINGS. SHE QUICKLY
BECAME OUR FRIEND.



SHE LOVES ME
AND MY
BROTHER.



BUT I THINK SHE
PREFERS ME.



THE OTHER DAY SHE
TOOK US TO HER
SECRET HIDEAWAY.

SHE TOOK ME BY THE
HAND AND WE WENT
DOWN TO THE
BASEMENT. SHE HAD A
SURPRISE FOR US



I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE.
THEY SAY THERE ARE
RATS HERE. BUT I WAS
IMPATIENT AND VERY
EXCITED. I WANTED TO SEE
THE SURPRISE THAT
AMBROSIA HAD PREPARED
FOR US.



SHE TOLD US TO WAIT FOR
HER IN THE DARK FOR A
LITTLE WHILE... SHE KNEW
HOW TO BUILDUP THE
SUSPENSE! I HAD GOOSE
BUMPS ALL OVER...

I COULD HAVE CRIED!



HEY, ARISTIDE? ARE YOU
LISTENING?! DO YOU
WANT ME TO TELL YOU...

EHH... YES, OF
COURSE... I'M
SORRY, ZELOS...
GO ON...



HER PAST IS A BIT VAGUE. SHE SPENT PART OF HER CHILDHOOD IN A PUBLIC INSTITUTION FOR RADIATION VICTIMS OF THE GREAT INTOXICATION, BUT SHE RAN AWAY SOON AFTER.

WHEN SHE WAS 20 SHE JOINED THE BLACK GARD... HER BADGE WAS NUMBER 48. LATER, SHE BECAME A FREELANCE REGULATORY

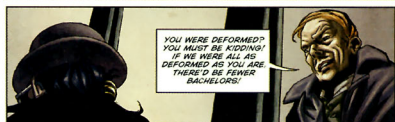


HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?



DO YOU KNOW HER? AH, SHE'S AN OLD GIEL FRIEND... THEY'VE ASKED YOU TO KILL ONE OF YOUR OLD FLAMES...

NO... NO, IT GOES EVEN FURTHER BACK... WE WERE IN THE SAME INSTITUTION, SHE WAS THE ONLY INMATE WHO WASN'T DISGUISED BY OUR PHYSICAL DEFORMITY...



YOU WERE DEFORMED? YOU MUST BE KIDDING! IF WE WERE ALL AS DEFORMED AS YOU ARE THERE'D BE FEWER BACHELORS!



THIS IS NOT A JOKE. I HAD A BROTHER...

A SIAMESE TWIN... WE WERE JOINED AT THE CHEST... HE DIED WHEN THEY SEPARATED US... THE HEART WAS IN MY CHEST...



WOW! THAT'S SOME DICKENSIAN STORY!



I'LL DOUBLE THE AMOUNT IF YOU HELP ME AGAIN...

NO WAY! THE WOMAN IN THE ARCHIVES IS GOING TO GET SUSPICIOUS...

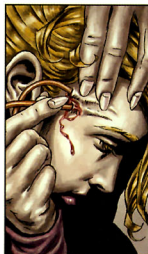
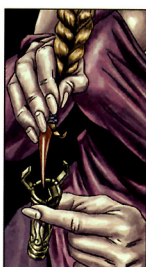
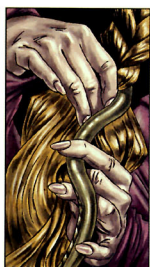


FORGET YOUR DUSTY FILES... THIS IS A DIFFERENT SORT OF JOB...

WHAT SORT?



A FIELD JOB...





AND
THEY'RE
OFF!

THE SQUAMS ARE IN GREEN,
AND THE KILLERS ARE
WEARING THEIR USUAL
BLOOD-RED BREASTPLATES!
THIS CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
SHOULD BE EXPLOSIVE.
RIGHT, CRATOS?

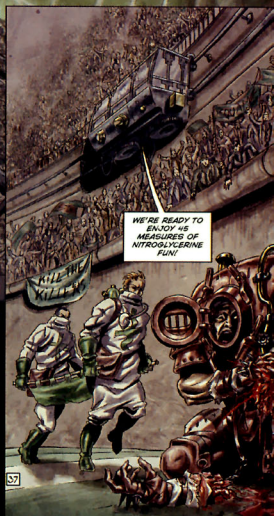


THAT'S RIGHT!
WE'RE ABOUT TO
WATCH A HISTORIC
MATCH!

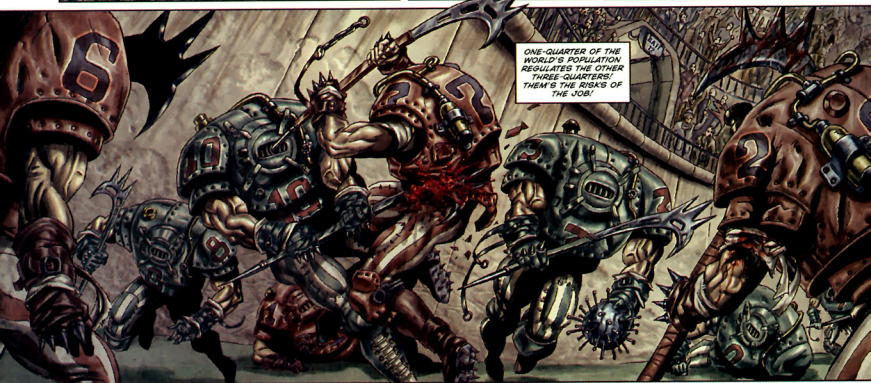


SPEAKING OF HISTORY... REMEMBER THAT
ROCKETT-BALL OWES ITS POPULARITY TO
ITS GREAT SIMPLICITY: PLAYERS MUST
SCORE A POINT BEFORE THE BALL BLOWS
UP IN THEIR FACES!

AHAHAHA! AS YOU KNOW
FROM EXPERIENCE, RIGHT
CRATOS?! AND THERE'S
NO POINT REVIEWING THE
RULES... 'CAUSE THERE
AIN'T ANY!



WE'RE READY TO
ENJOY 45
MEGAGRAMS OF
NITROGLYCERINE
FUN!







THERE HE IS!

SHIT!
THEY'VE...



... FOUND ME!
KEEP COOL...
TURN AROUND
SLOWLY...



STOP!

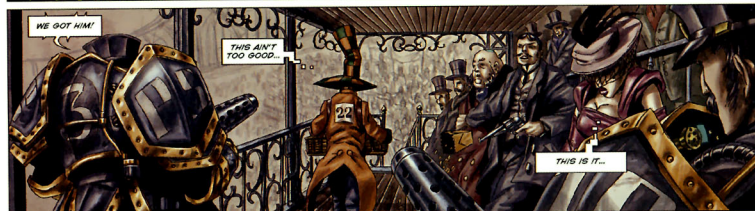


STOP OR WE OPEN
FIRE!

OH, COME OFF IT!
YOU WOULDN'T DARE
OPEN FIRE IN THIS
CROWD!



WHAT'S GOING ON
UP THERE?



WE GOT HIM!

THIS AIN'T
TOO GOOD...

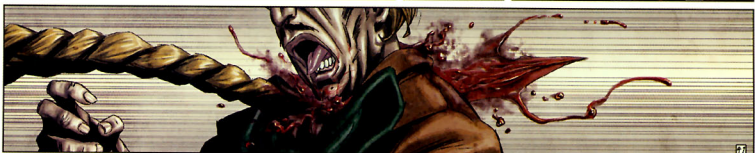
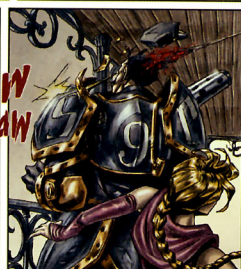
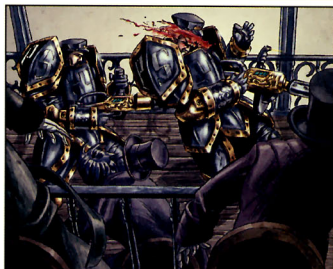
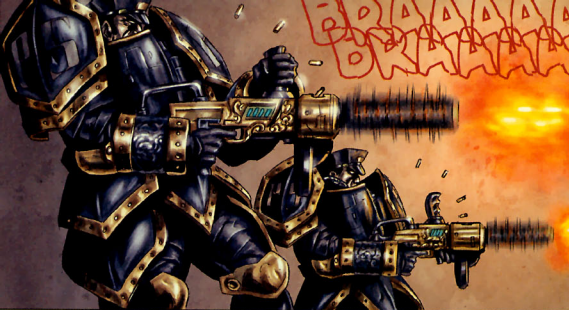
THIS IS IT...

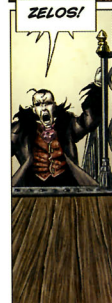


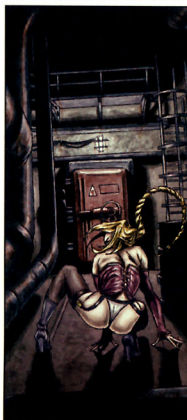
ZOOM
REGION
UNDER 98°



**ZELOS!
WATCH OUT!**







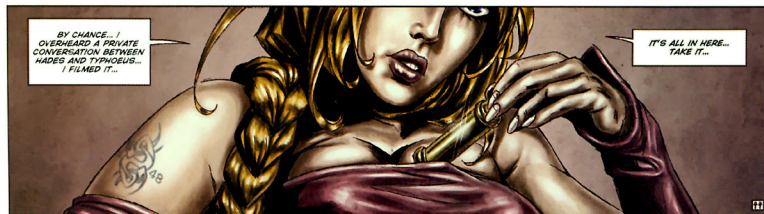


MAKE UP YOUR MIND. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW... TURN AROUND SLOWLY...



LET'S FINISH OUR CONVERSATION... IT WAS MOST INSTRUCTIVE. HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THIS ALLIANCE?



BY CHANCE... I OVERHEARD A PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN HADES AND TYPHOEUS... I FILMED IT...

IT'S ALL IN HERE... TAKE IT...



WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH ME? WHY SHOULD I CARE?

WE CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS! NEITHER OF US CAN! WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT!



LIFE'S A BITCH AND OUR FUCKING SOCIETY ENCOURAGES US ALL TO BECOME CRIMINALS. BUT IF OUR FREEDOM IS TAKEN AWAY, WE MAY AS WELL GIVE UP AND SLIT OUR THROATS!



ON BOARD THE ZEPPELIN THAT YOU REGULATED TWO DAYS AGO, THERE WERE SOME HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE TRYING TO FIND A WAY OF INTERRUPTING THE META-REGULATION PROCESS.



I HAD HOPED TO STOP YOU FROM INTERVIEWING, BUT A STUPID SPEEDING VIOLATION THWARTED MY PLANS. AND BY THE TIME I MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THE PLATFORM, IT WAS TOO LATE... THE HARM HAD BEEN DONE.



BY BLINDLY FOLLOWING YOUR EMPLOYER'S INSTRUCTIONS, YOU'VE BECOME PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVENTS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE...



ALL THE PROOF YOU NEED IS IN THAT REEL.



NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



YOUR RESUME DOES NOT SAY YOU HAVE A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE...

BIOGRAPHERS ONLY MENTION WHAT SERVES THEIR PURPOSE...

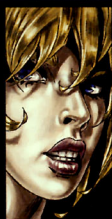


THIS IS NOT THE LAST OF YOUR SURPRISES...



SURPRISE...

SURPRISE...



CORREY VAN

MORENO

PAW

BIG GUNS!

HIGH CALIBRE SF
ACTION EVERY
WEDNESDAY IN



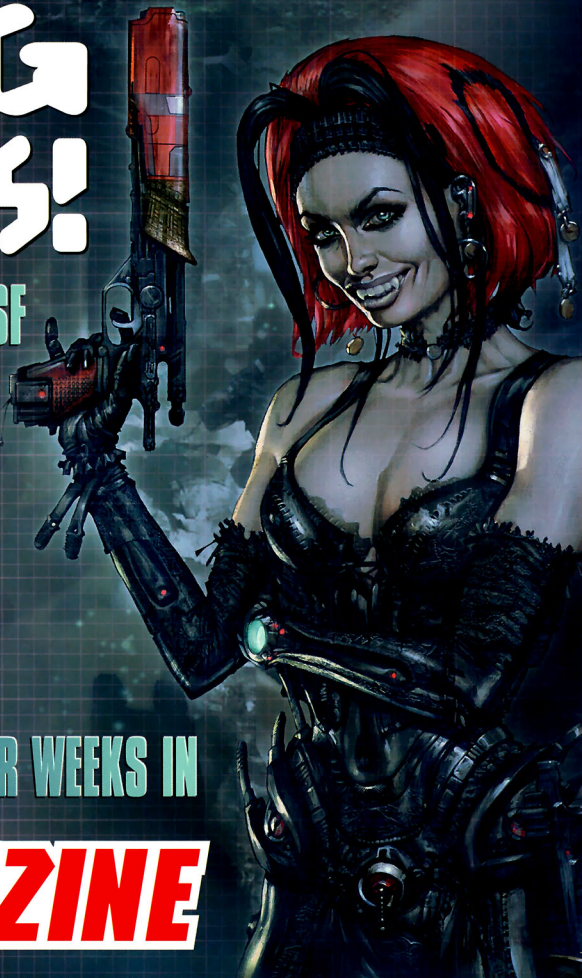
AND EVERY FOUR WEEKS IN

JUDGE DREDD

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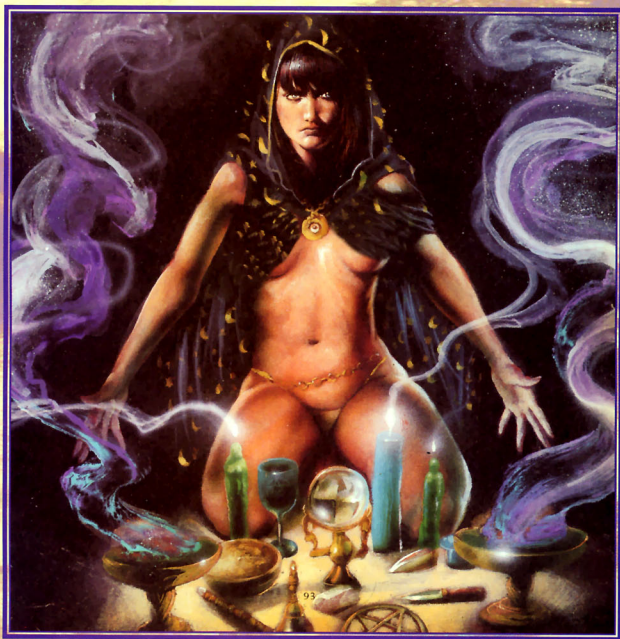


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& Civiello

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