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SECTOR CONTROL

IN THIS ISSUE



JUDGE DREDD THE VICTIMS OF BENNETT BEENY

Mega-City One, 2142 AD. This vast urban hell on the east coast of post-apocalyptic North America is home to over 140 million citizens. Crime is rampant, and stemming the tide of chaos are the Judges, future law-enforcers empowered to dispense instant justice. Toughest of them all is Judge Dredd – he is the Law! Now, Total War are attacking Bennett Beeny block...

Dredd created by John Wagner & Carlos Ezquerra



MEGATROPOLIS PART TWO

Imagine a Mega-City One from an alternate timeline – less the gleaming metropolis of the twenty-second century but instead an art deco retro-future variation. Joe Rico is the one good cop in a police department riddled with corruption, and he's just been joined by a new partner in the shape of Amy Jara. Together they're investigating an apparent gangland murder...

Megatropolis created by Kenneth Niemand & Dave Taylor



DREADNOUGHTS BREAKING GROUND

USA, 2035 AD. The new Justice Department is still in its early years, with Judges working alongside the police, though Fargo's people are slowly taking over. It's proving an explosive transition, with many citizens – and more than a few cops – unhappy with these helmeted officers taking to the streets. Judge Veranda Glover is a recent transfer to Boulder, Colorado... Dreadnoughts created by Michael Carroll & John Higgins



THE RETURNERS HEARTSWOOD

Brit-Cit, 2142 AD. Four different people in Ciudad Barranquilla – academic Barrancourt, ex-Judge Mineiro, gangbanger Correira, and transgender street-walker Chavez – all awoke from near-death experiences, and as a consequence are capable of dealing with the supernatural. Now, they've fled to Brit-Cit, hoping to find a way to escape their curse...

The Returners created by Si Spencer & Nicolo Assirelli



DELIVERANCE PART TWO

After the events on the Mayflower, the cargo ship the Solips discovered the Dark Judges Death, Fire and Mortis floating in space, and the alien superfiends murdered the crew. They subsequently also decimated a colony, Dominion, before Mega-City marines destroyed the planet. Death was trapped in a Boing[®] bubble, and has been recovered by the Mortarian cult... *The Dark Judges created by John Wagner, Alan Grant & Brian Bolland*

EDITOR'S LETTER

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY BLOW-OUT LAST MONTH – AND JUDGING BY THE RESPONSE the bumper birthday Meg seemed to go down very well (the issue selling out in twenty-four hours was certainly heartening to see). Do send in your feedback to the Dreddlines address – dreddlines@2000ADonline. com – about the current roster of stories as I'd still like to run a letters page one of these months. If you too want to have Dreddlines back then I need your letters!

As befits this month's suitably ghoulish Judge Death cover, October is traditionally a time for terrifying tales of the supernatural, so naturally the House of Tharg has that covered. Make sure you check out the 2020 **Misty and Scream** special that's on sale now, featuring strips by Maura McHugh, Alec Worley, Kek-W, Simon Coleby, Dani, John Lucas and more, and the Treasury of British Comics releases the second volume of **The Thirteenth Floor** by John Wagner, Alan Grant and José Ortiz, plus **The Dracula File** by Gerry Finley-Day, Simon Furman and Eric Bradbury gets a paperback edition. Pull the curtains, curl up in a comfy chair, and prepare to chill!



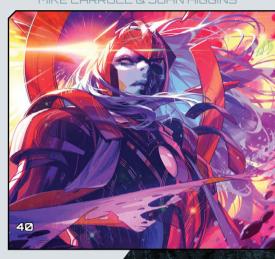
NICK PERCIVAL COVER ART MATT SMITH EDITOR SBORNE, SAM GRETTON & GEMMA SHELORAKE GRAPHIC DESIGN

FEATURES

PAGES 40-41

NEW COMICS WE ONLY FIND THEM WHEN THEY'RE DEAD

PAGES 42-43 INTERROGATION MIKE CARROLL & JOHN HIGGINS



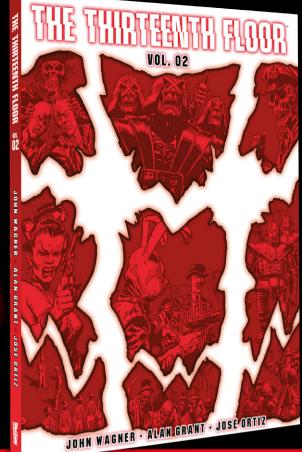


JUDGE DREDD MEGAZINE 425

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THESE THESE PEOPLE HAVE CONSPIRED WITH THE JUDGES IN THEIR ACTS OF OPPRESSION. THEY MUST NOW PAY THE PRICE.

> THAT WAS BARE SECONDS AGO AT BENNETT BEENY BLOCK, WHERE TOTAL WAR TERRORISTS ARE BRUTALLY MURDERING RESIDENTS. THE SCENE ...

THANKS, SUNNY AMONG THE DEAD IN THAT APARTMENT WERE FILM PRODUCER PUP MORANT, SCULPTOR DEBORA FOSSET MAJOR AND AEROBALL STAR STRETCH MCGOWAN. SLAIN STRETCH MCGOWAN. SLAIN EARLIER WERE LOVEABLE VID-SHOW HOSTS VIK AND DICK, WHO OWNED NEIGHBOURING LUX-APTS.

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WE GIVE THEM JUSTICE.

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I'D JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT, KAT, GRIEVING VIEWERS CAN STILL TUNE IN TO THE VIK AND DICK SHOW ON THIS CHANNEL TOMORPOW TOMORROW NIGHT.

Wh3 1

THAT'S A THAT'S A COMFORT, SUNNY, AND I'M JUST HEARING THAT STRETCH MCGOWAN IS STILL TWITCHING, SO IT'S NOT ALL OVER FOR STRETCH YET. CAN WE GET SOME MEDICAL ATTENTION TO STRETCH MCGOWAN, PLEASE.

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JOHN WAGNER

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DAN CORNWELL CHRIS BLYTHE

ANNIE PARKHOUSE







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HANGING VICTIM IS RAGNAR SLINK, CEO OF TOTAL SURVEILLANCE. NO I.D. POSSIBLE AS YET ON DECEASED JOGGER.



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PINPOINT ACCURATE OR THE HOSTAGE DIES.

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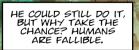
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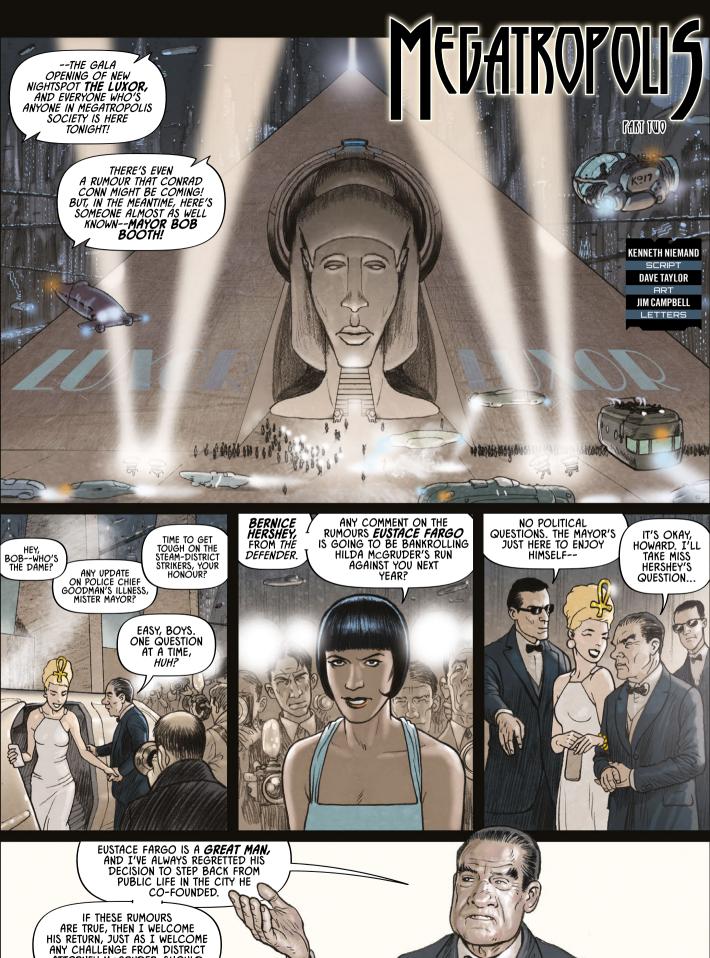
JOHN WAGNER GOLIN MAGNEII

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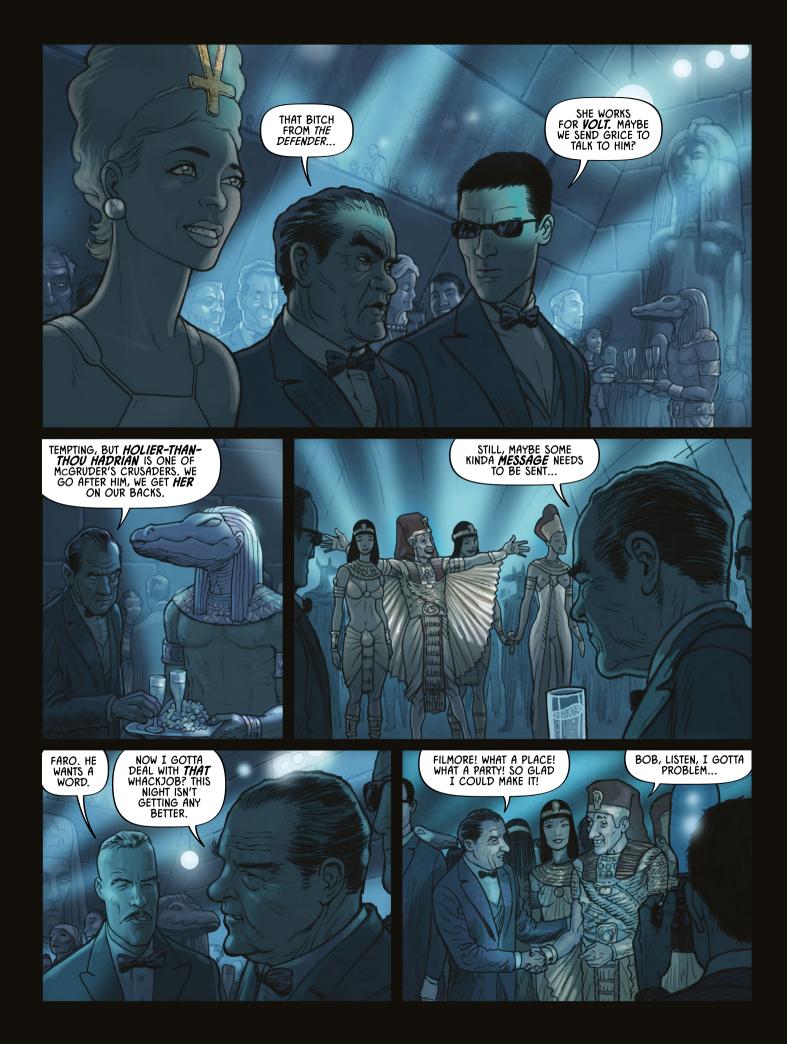
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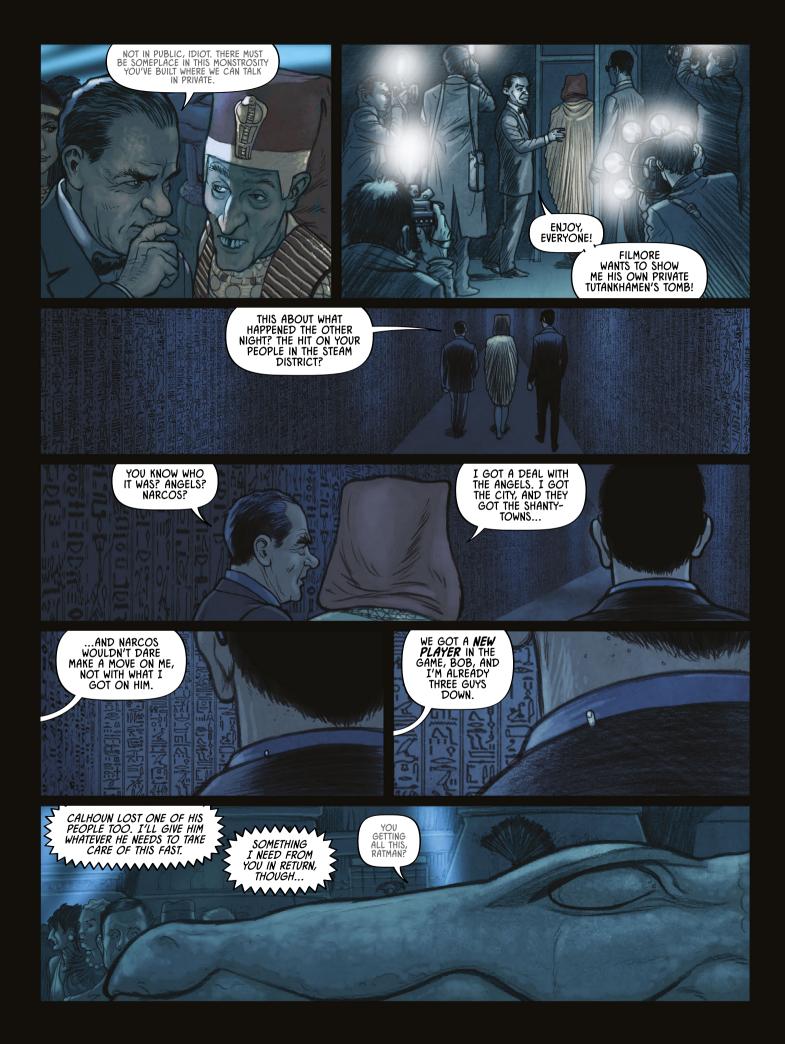


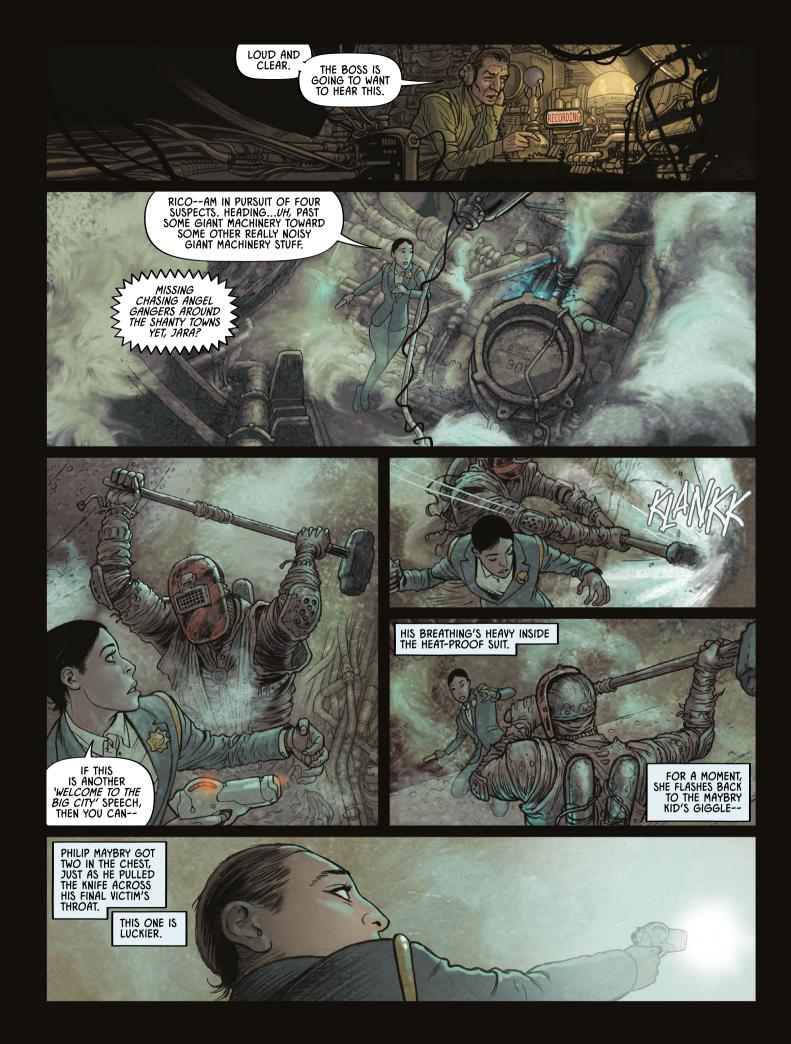
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ATTORNEY MCGRUDER, SHOULD SHE CHOOSE TO RUN.



















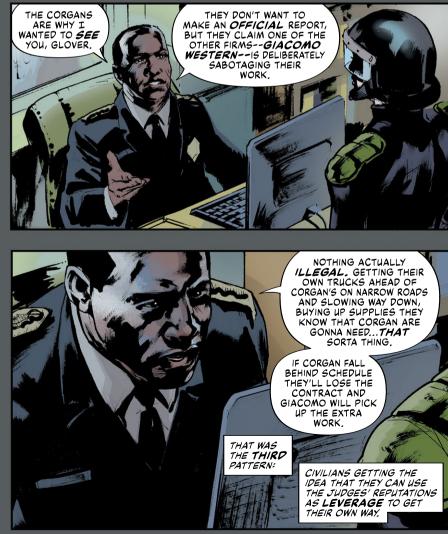


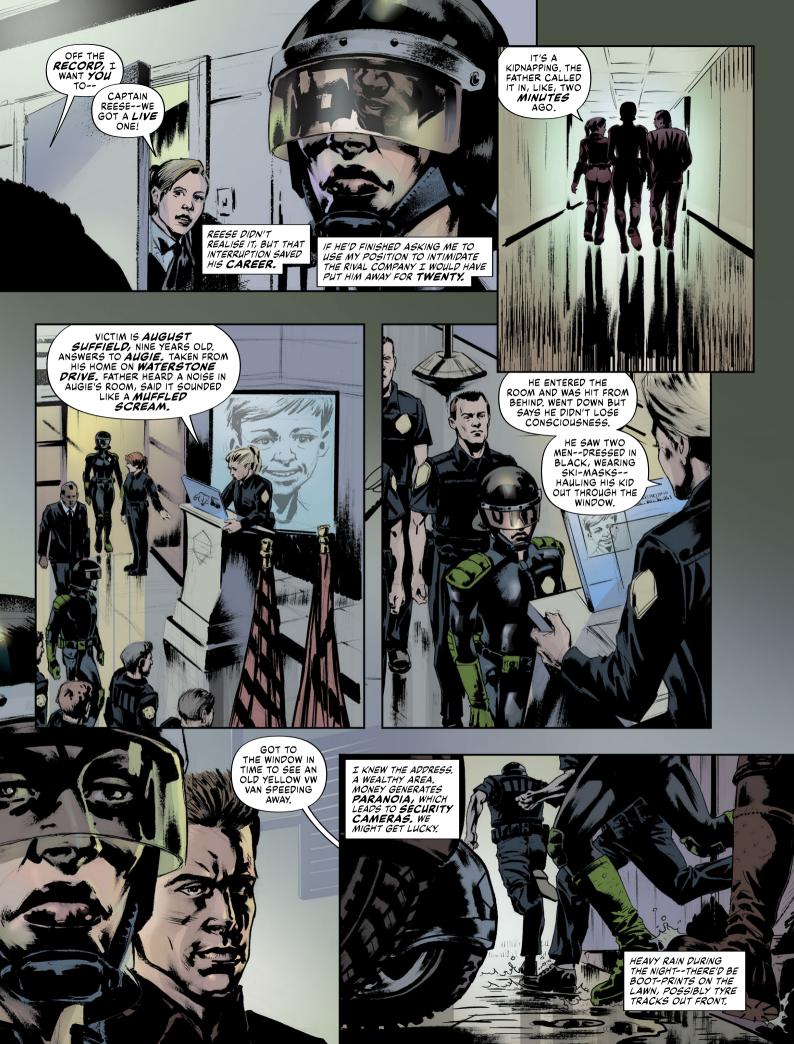


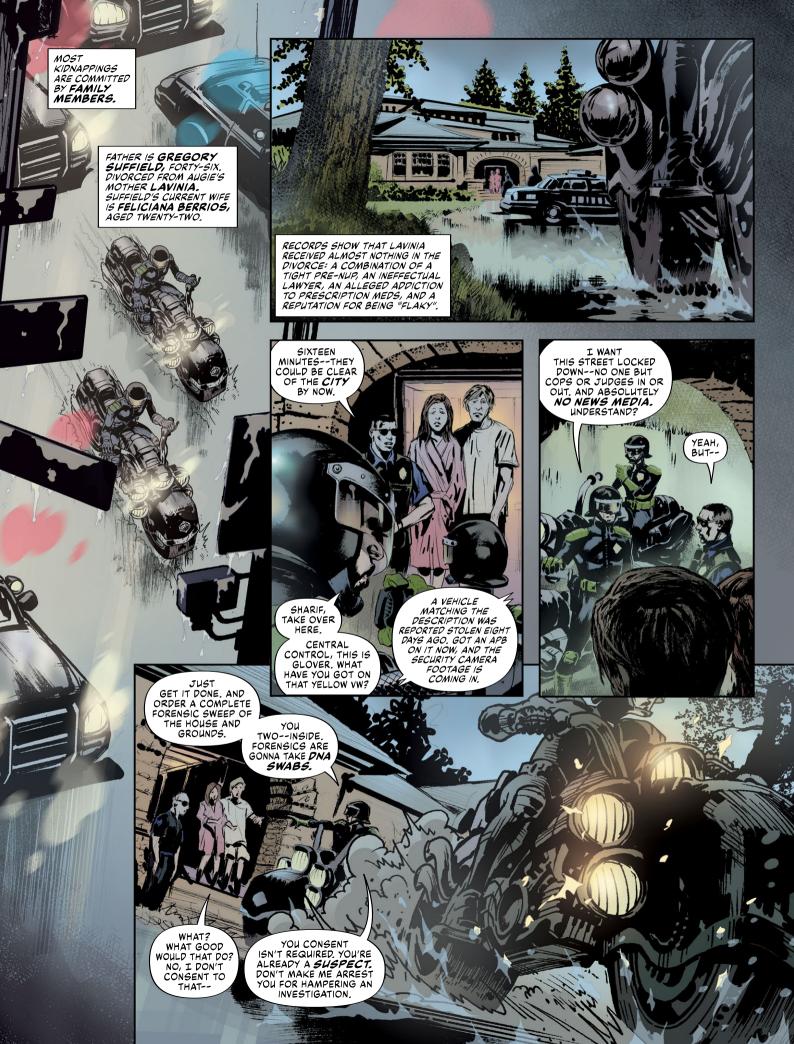


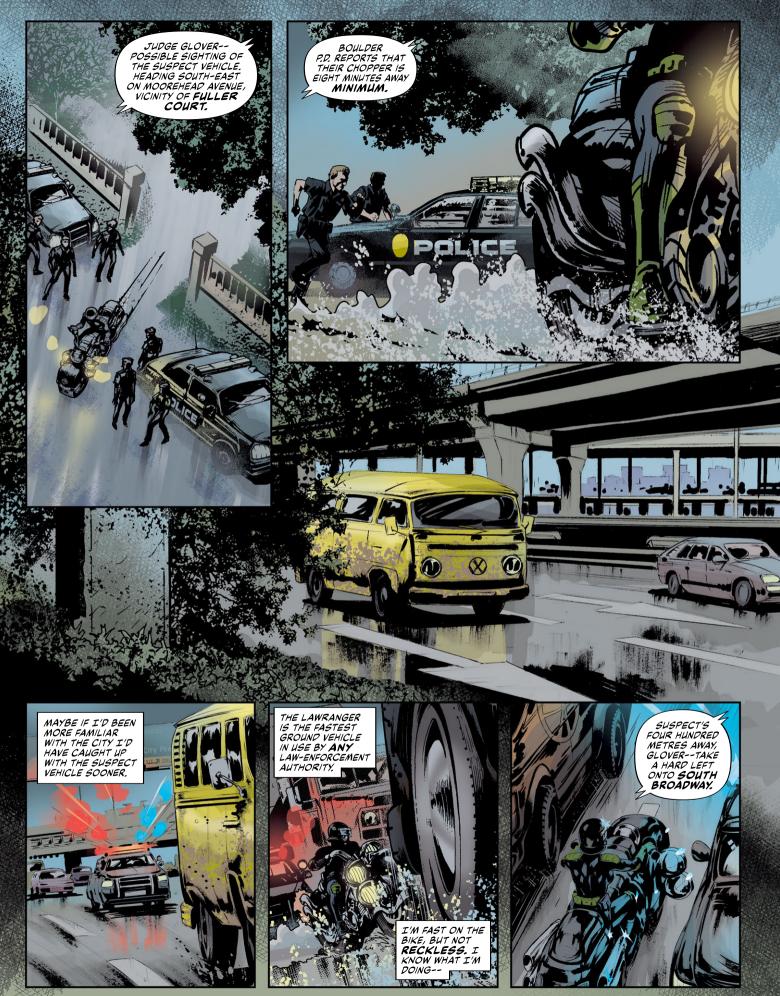




















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'THE GODS ARE Always beautiful. And the gods are Always dead.'



THIS IS WHAT AWAITS THE HUMAN CREW OF DEEP-SPACE SCAVENGER SHIPS THAT OPERATE at the fringes of known reality, seeking out the huge, lifeless corpses of allpowerful interstellar beings and strip-mining them for their meat and bodily fluids with the use of swarming drones. Competition among these scavengers is fierce, the rules of salvage brutally enforced — and the crew are being watched and listened to at all times by their employers.

We Only Find Them When They're Dead is a majestically dark sci-fi page-turner published by Boom! Studios, and also the latest creation by long-serving 2000 AD creator and friend of the prog Al Ewing. With epic art by Turin-based artist Simone Di Meo, whose credits include Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers for Boom! and a number of projects at Marvel, it's the kind of comic that readers of 2000 AD's current crop of strips should enjoy a great deal.

'It's a series about meaning and the search for it,' explains Ewing. 'It's set at the edge of the galaxy, where a colony has been established to strip-mine the corpses of the vast space gods that drift in from the gulfs. One such "autopsy ship", captained by the obsessed Georges Malik, goes on a quest to find a live one – but he and his crew are pursued relentlessly by a Javert-like figure from his past.'

BY KARL STOCK

......

Ewing compares pursuing officer Paula Richter to the police inspector from Victor Hugo's Les Misérables, who makes it his mission to bring Jean Valjean to justice after he breaks parole; yet in the first couple of monthly issues there also appears to be something of Herman Melville's fanatical whale-hunter Captain Ahab to Malik. We Only Find Them When They're Dead is a powerful sci-fi adventure, but what's going on beneath that? Is it a sci-fi adventure, a metaphysical horror, a dark comedy, or something else entirely?

'There are elements of all of these,' says Ewing. 'I'm resistant to putting it in a box and nailing the lid down to force it into a certain demographic. At times, it'll veer into science fiction, the politics of this future space society, metaphorically the politics of our own world, larger questions of belief, and whatever else I decide to throw into it. Tonally, it veers between sombre and thoughtful, and a faster, more action-packed pace – I wouldn't advise flipping through it quickly. If nothing else, you'll want to spend time absorbing Simone's art.'

Di Meo's work is indeed beautiful, fusing an eccentric range of characters and tech to a storyline that balances space operatic grandeur with cosmic action and close-focus character moments. How did the artist come on board with this series? Was Ewing involved with his recruitment, given that they'd shared a credit panel before, and what is it he likes about his art — in what ways does it complement what he's trying to do with this story?

'Boom! put me in touch with Simone, whom I'd worked with previously on an **Immortal Hulk** special,' he says. 'I pitched him the basic concept and then sent him a larger pitch for the first book, which we shopped around a couple of people before it went back to Boom!. That was the start of him putting his own stamp on this – if it had been another artist, it would have been a totally different book. Simone brings a sense of grandeur and scale to the story that we're going to sorely need to fit these gigantic concepts in, but he's also great when it comes to the smaller character moments and designing the sci-fi society the book takes place in.'

How long has the idea been developing in Ewing's mind, and might it have been something which could have seen the light of day in **2000 AD**, back when his work regularly appeared in the prog? 'It's been gestating from the original idea for about four years or so,' says the writer. 'I remember having conversations about it with artists in the tents at Thought Bubble, but it really picked up steam when Boom! showed an interest in publishing something of mine. They put me in touch with Simone and provide advances, help with PR and various other things. It's been a useful partnership, and it's taught me a fair



amount about what would be needed to bring a book into existence on my own.'

Ewing is now a bona fide big writer through his work with Marvel in the United States, particularly on the **Avengers**, the deservedly acclaimed **Immortal Hulk**, and now his recently instigated ongoing series of **Guardians of the Galaxy**. Yet his writing for both the major American publisher and with the **2000 AD** stable in the UK has largely been on a work-forhire basis – **We Only Find Them When They're Dead** is a significant move into working on his <u>own self-originated</u>, creator-owned projects.

'I'd like to do more creator-owned stuff, certainly,' he says. 'As fun as it is to collaborate with dozens of other people in a shared universe – and it is fun – I do miss that sense from the **2000 AD** days of working with just a handful of people; an artist, a letterer, an editor. I get a big kick out of connectivity, though, and while this is a self-contained story that's set to last fifteen issues and then bow out, I'm letting myself flex those muscles and build something relatively intricate. Maybe more intricate than I'd be able to achieve working in a universe like Marvel's – that has a lot of moving parts to account for at any one time.'

It's interesting that Ewing has a fixed endpoint in mind for this series. What hopes does he have for it during this period, and might it continue if it's a success? And also — in what's an inevitable question around contemporary creator-owned comics, in these days when the transition from page to screen has never been smoother — might there be any interest from other media in some form of adaptation?

'It's set to run for just those fifteen issues,' says Ewing. 'After that, I doubt it'll be back, but there's definitely the possibility to tell more stories in that world. As for other media - I can't say anything about that yet, but it's possible it could find its way into other media for an adaptation.'

Meanwhile, Ewing continues to produce some of the most exciting mainstream titles being produced on the other side of the Atlantic. While it's true that the ongoing continuity of the Marvel Universe is a difficult beast for anyone not immersed in it for some years, his series for the publisher manage to be thoroughly accessible in their high-concept contemporary precision, while offering plenty of subtle but outstanding fan service for those who are after that sort of thing.

'S.W.O.R.D. was announced just now at Marvel,' he says of his next project. 'It's a new X-title that's twinned with the Space books I've been doing there [many of his recent series have taken their heroes off-Earth], and will deal with a few other bits of cosmic business I've handled over the years. If you like my science-fiction work, pick it up in December. And **Immortal Hulk** continues, with the stakes only ramping up higher – I'm very pleased with how that series has gone down, and I'm looking forward to how readers take the next parts to hit the stands.'

Those who know US superhero comics will know that this title is one of Marvel's most acclaimed of recent years. Yet, while it's long been a tradition that UK creators who cut their teeth on **2000 AD** eventually make the trip across to America for more work, not all fans necessarily follow. For those who only know Ewing's work from his time on **Judge Dredd**, as well as series he co-created for the Galaxy's Greatest Comic like **Zombo**, **Damnation Station** and **The Zaucer of Zilk**, how would he sell **We Only Find Them When They're Dead** to a dedicated **2000 AD** reader?

'It's science fiction that hopefully makes you think,' he says, 'much like **2000 AD** has always done very well. The pace of it fits the number of pages per episode we have, but if you remember my **2000 AD** work with fondness, check us out.'

The first issues of **We Only Find Them When They're Dead** by AI Ewing and Simone Di Meo are available now from Boom! Studios



With **Dreadnoughts** taking place in 2035 AD, you're getting the chance to play in the fertile ground of the earliest days of the Justice Department. Michael, you've got form here, with your series of **Judges** prose novels...

MC: Yes, Dreadnoughts is a spin-off from the Judges prose novels that allows me to explore the rise of the Judges in a different way. With Judges, the plan is that the series goes from the 2030s to the 2070s, effectively leading into the Judge Dredd Year One novellas. There's not a lot of room to develop the characters from one book to the next and Dreadnoughts is a chance to look closer at the impact of Judges on an already fractured society. They're a sledgehammer approach to law enforcement... things have reached the stage where everyone is saying, *'Crime and corruption are rampant! Why doesn't someone do something?'* Well, here come the Judges... and with them comes the realisation that the people should be careful what they wish for!

Where does the title of the series come from?

MC: The name was definitely and deliberately chosen to reflect Judge Dredd! Matt [Smith, editor] and I batted suggestions back and forth for a while, with him suggesting that a slang term for the Judges might work as the series title. Research led me to the 1912 story-paper **The Dreadnought**. That instantly jumped out at me as a great nickname the cits might have for the Judges – partly as dreadnoughts are unstoppable armoured machines, partly because of the Dread/Dredd connection, but also because the 'nought' suggested the beginning of something.

For years, it seemed that there was a certain wariness to go back too much in **Dredd** lore – a preference perhaps to leave it all just that little vague?

MC: Sure, that was certainly the case when Judge Dredd began, set one hundred and twentytwo years in the future, when all we needed to know was that there had been a big war and MC-1 and the Judges had emerged from the rubble. Over the years we were drip-fed morsels of back-story, as and when it suited the thencurrent tale, until John Wagner decided to give us *Origins*. But *Origins* focuses on the 'big story', the political and social background that permitted or required, depending on your point of view — the rise to power of the new Department of Justice and its first Chief Judge, Eustace Fargo.

When I was developing the **Judges** series I decided that they would avoid those big, world-shattering tales. I wanted to show the impact of the Judges on the ordinary people, those citizens scared and desperate enough to think that trading freedom for security is the right option, the career cops who see their jobs being taken away from them, and the small-time criminals who realise the only way to survive is to become more ruthless.

With **Dreadnoughts**, the same thing applies... except that we're mostly following one Judge rather than many. The big events will still happen, but mostly as background elements. It's important to me that the established stories remain intact and we don't try to rewrite any of the history.

There's an enormous amount of potential in the world of **Dredd** to get really deep into the politics of the future – not just how we get from a democracy to Justice Department, but the minutiae and mechanics necessary for it to happen...

MC: Well, it's a matter of perspective – politics isn't *really* what we see on the news with the red-faced leaders shouting about migrants and borders and deficits, it's about people and what you can persuade them to believe. Real power doesn't come from the ability to threaten someone into giving you their money, it comes from manipulating them – and the world around them – into a position where they'll give you their money of their own free will and then thank you for taking it. And we can swap out 'money' and replace it with 'freedom' and it still applies.

Perspective is *everything* in storytelling. With **Dreadnoughts**, we're following Judge Glover, who's ruthless and idealistic and very good at her job. She's saving lives and putting away a lot of bad people, but deep in the background Chief Judge Fargo and his advisors are steadily and deliberately dismantling the United States of America.

The Judge system is definitely an extreme solution to society's problems, but it's not as

far removed as we might like. To get from where we are now to the Judge system isn't going to require the leaders to step down, but the people to step aside. Again, it goes back to the common cry of 'Someone ought to do something!' History shows us that when the burdens of poverty and crime start to overwhelm the state the people will gratefully relinquish their power to those they believe will provide a better outcome.

John, let's talk about the difficulties of designing the world of **Dreadnoughts**...

JH: Working on any future world is always working with design elements that require a grounding in a reality, which is why Carlos Ezquerra's designs were so effective in creating a believable future world. Carlos took a fluid, organic approach to the design of MC-1, which we recognised immediately: recognisable but different.

Having worked in John and Carlos's world for most of my career, there have always been hooks to hang any fantastical designs and ideas on. In many ways, Michael is in that same creative mind-set, allowing the artist imagination to soar from a base of solid story foundation.

So what sort of design cues were you looking at when shaping the world of **Dreadnoughts**?

JH: Dreadnoughts is the hardest SF comic strip I have ever had to draw, visualising ten minutes into the future, which makes Mike's story more chilling by being set so close to the now we see outside.

How are you working on this one? Digital? Oldschool? Or a mix of both?

JH: I jumped right into producing digital art in the mid nineties when I first got a viable studio computer, but found digital illustration somewhat limiting so I've always used a mix of traditional and digital.

I'm trying a new process with **Dreadnoughts**, technically different to anything I've done before. Rather than my usual tight black line, I'm doing a mix of line and tone that's separated on the black plate when Sally Jane [Hurst] colours in Photoshop - I think it gives a more fluid, expressive depiction to the art.

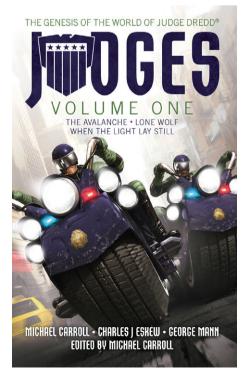
Sally and I have a close working relationship and I know that what comes out of the studio is going to great so once we've decided the feeling or colour mood for the story, Sally has complete freedom to create. Sally's versatility is as much a part of the visual excitement as any other element. In **Dreadnoughts** we wanted a darker, muted palette, plus we have a couple of new digital brushes we wanted to try – because of my new technique we wanted it to be a looser colour style, allowing for over-painting the black, which is not something we usually do.

In the **Judges** novellas we've read of a near future, but the visuals came from a combination of what the reader already knew of MC-1 and their own imaginations. So with **Dreadnoughts**, it strikes me that you've got a huge role, filling in the gaps in MC-1 & **Dredd** history...

JH: For me the best thing about comics is the collaboration. You're being very generous to the artist, but breathing life into the players on this SF world stage is the writer's job, with strong characterisations and dramatic peaks. At the start, I was not much of a fan of Judge Glover but by episode three I started to see the character as Mike had intended – through subtle asides, small comments, gestures, her character is being fleshed out and the rigidity of her outlook on the Law is leavened. I think fans will be surprised by their changing response to her as they go through the story.

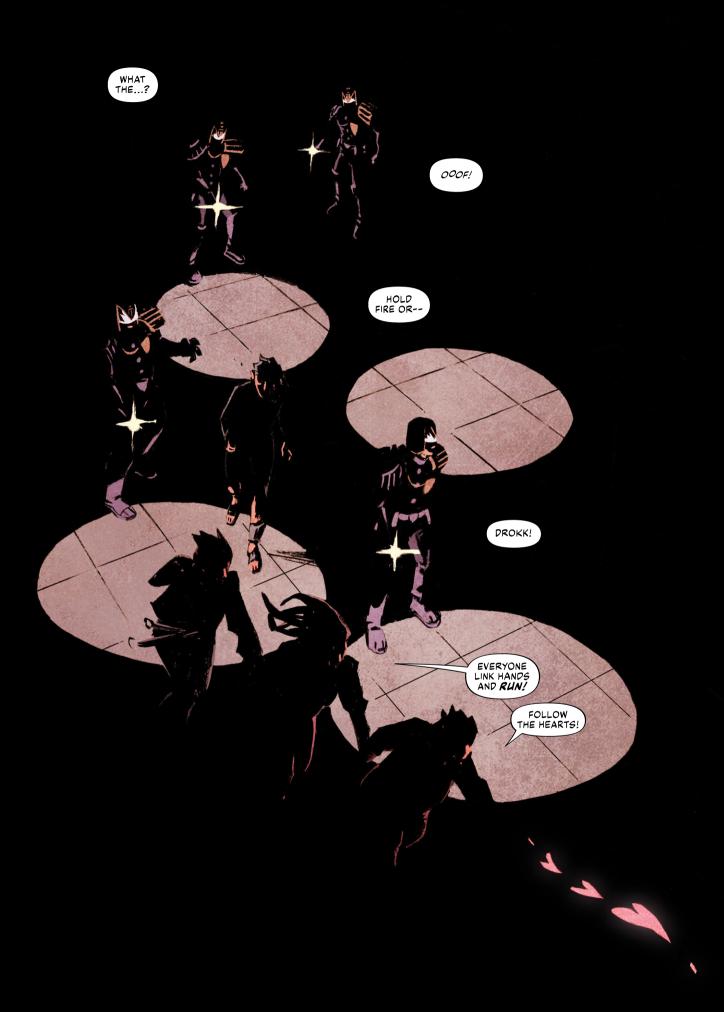
What sort of look have you designed for these first generation of Judges?

JH: Carlos did the early Judges designs, and they're retro-designed to reflect his original vision. The **Dreadnought** Judges in the first episodes are understated, not armoured up, a design closer to a traditional cop's uniform. There's less of the fascist imagery of eagles and chains but it's still recognisably a step towards the Judges' uniform of the future.

































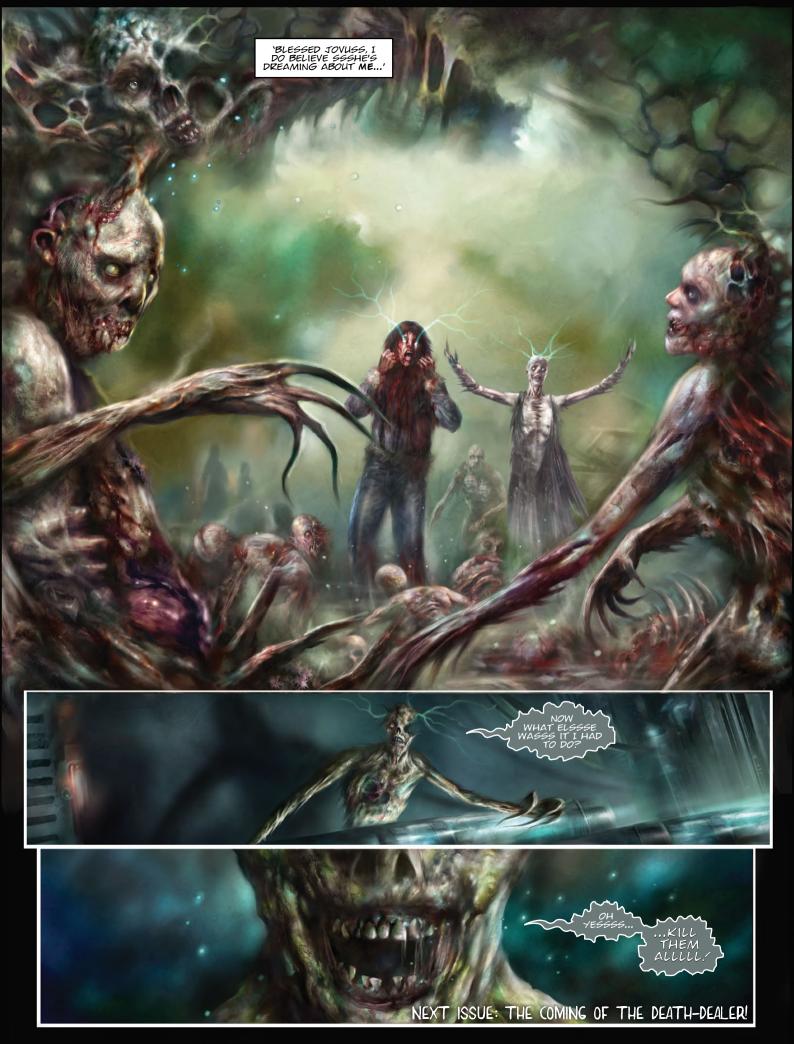












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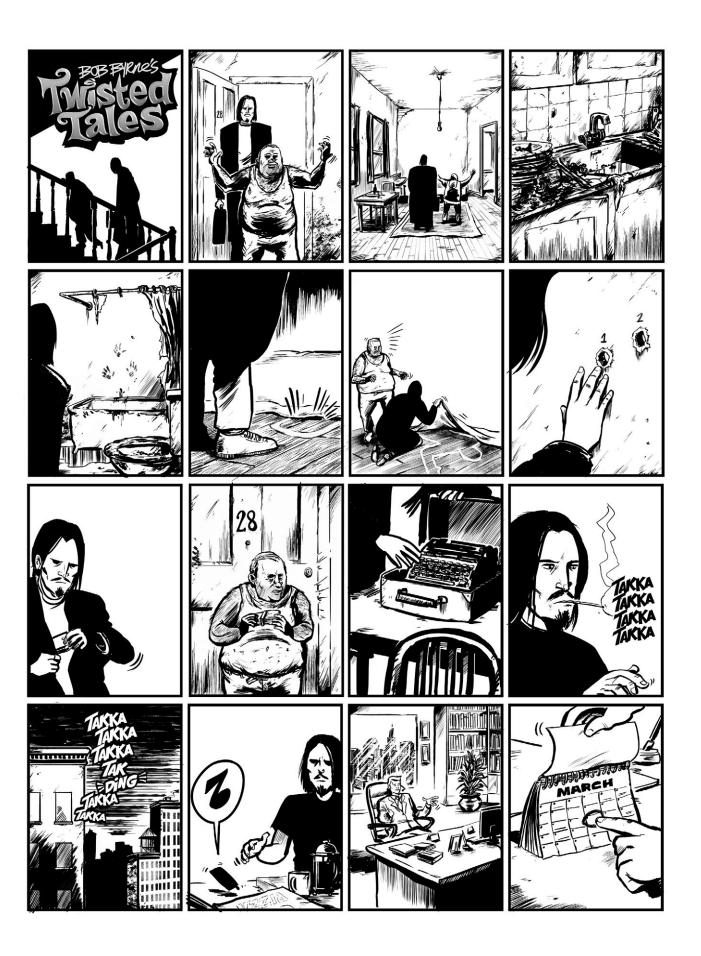
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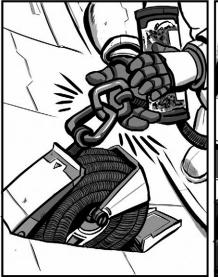








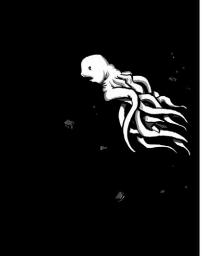






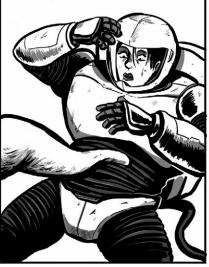














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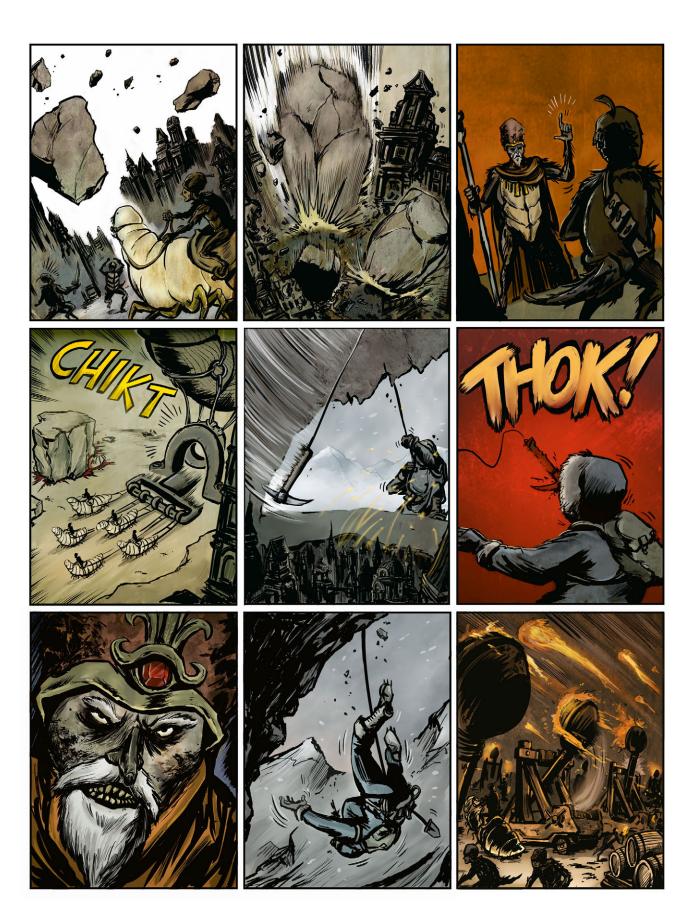
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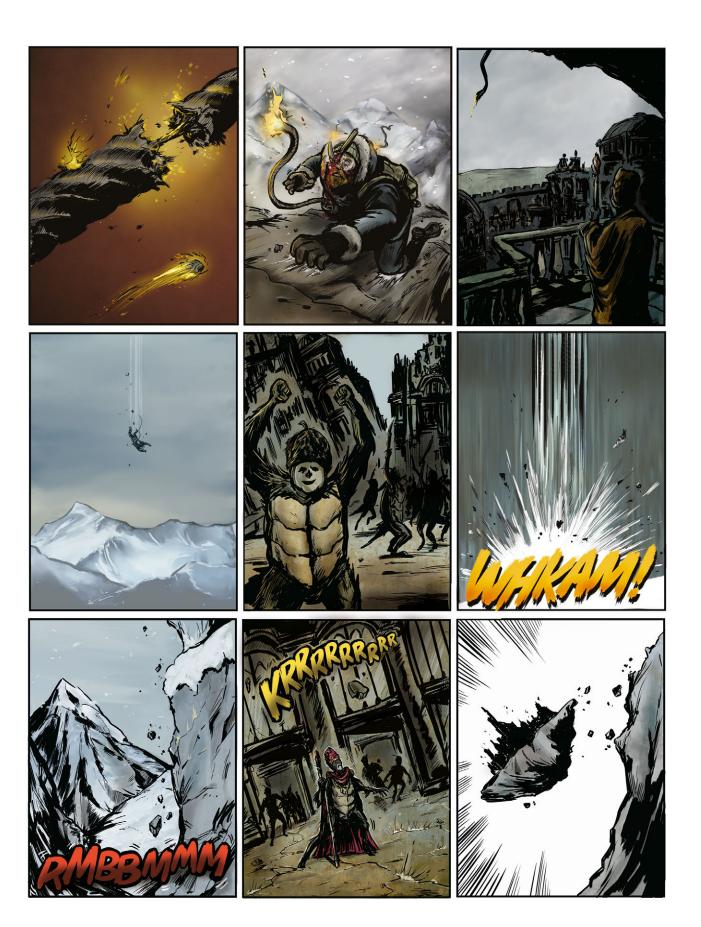












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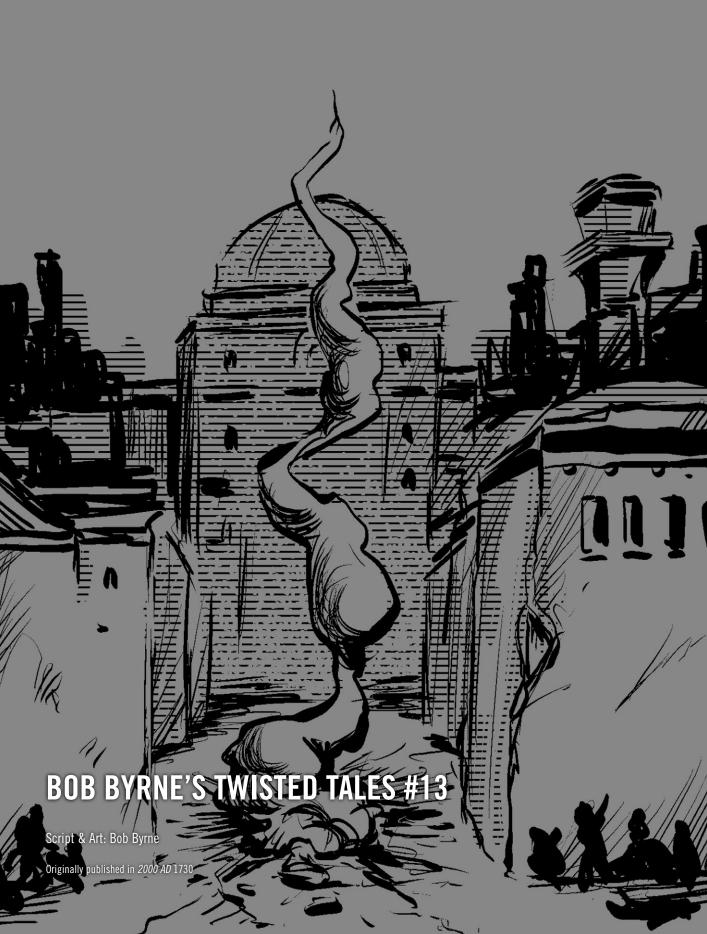
























BOB BYRNE'S TWISTED TALES #14

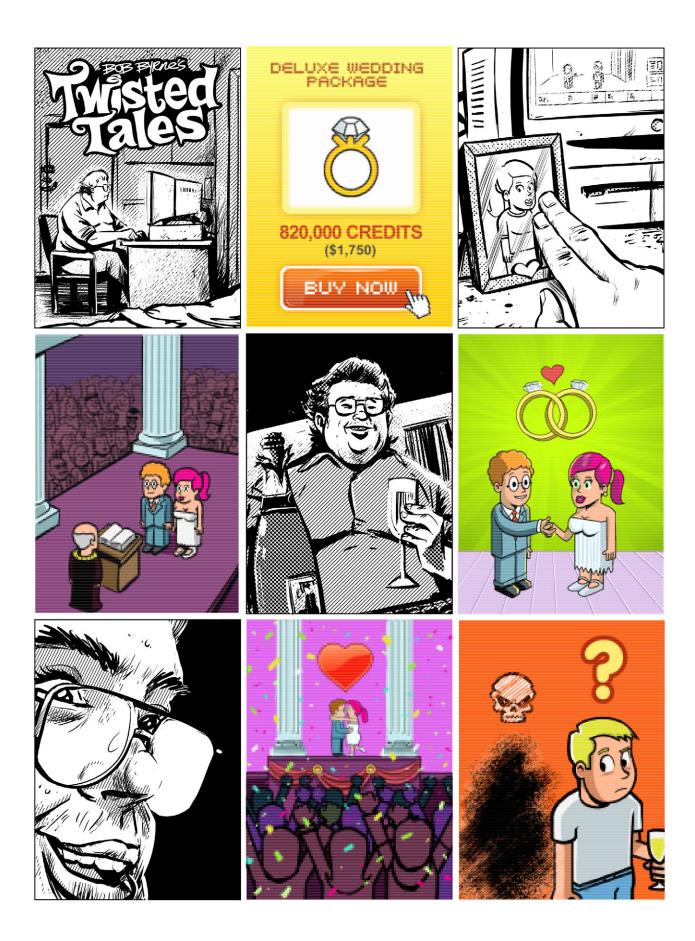
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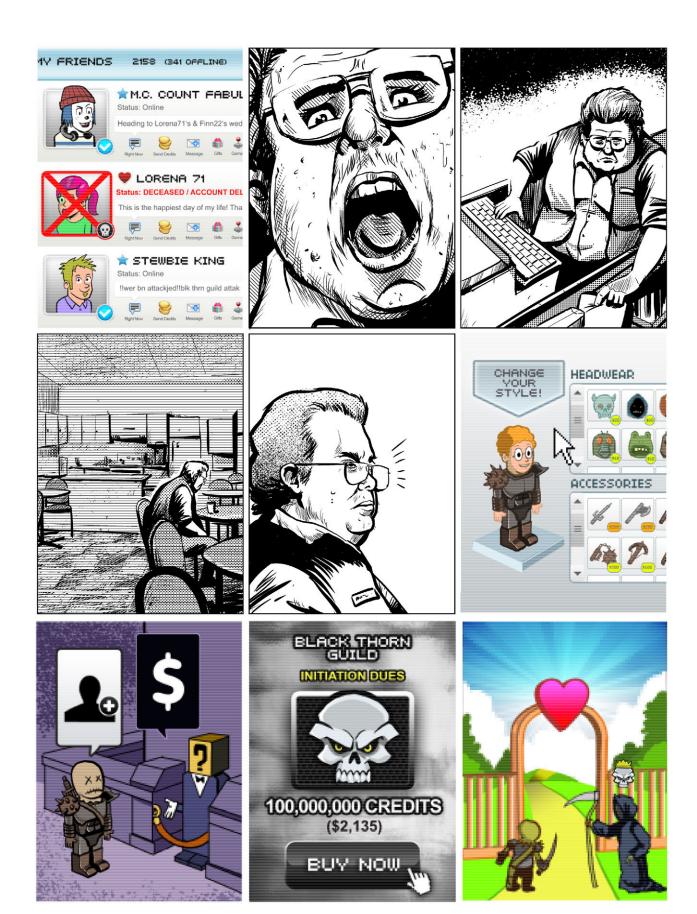


































BOB BYRNE'S TWISTED TALES #15

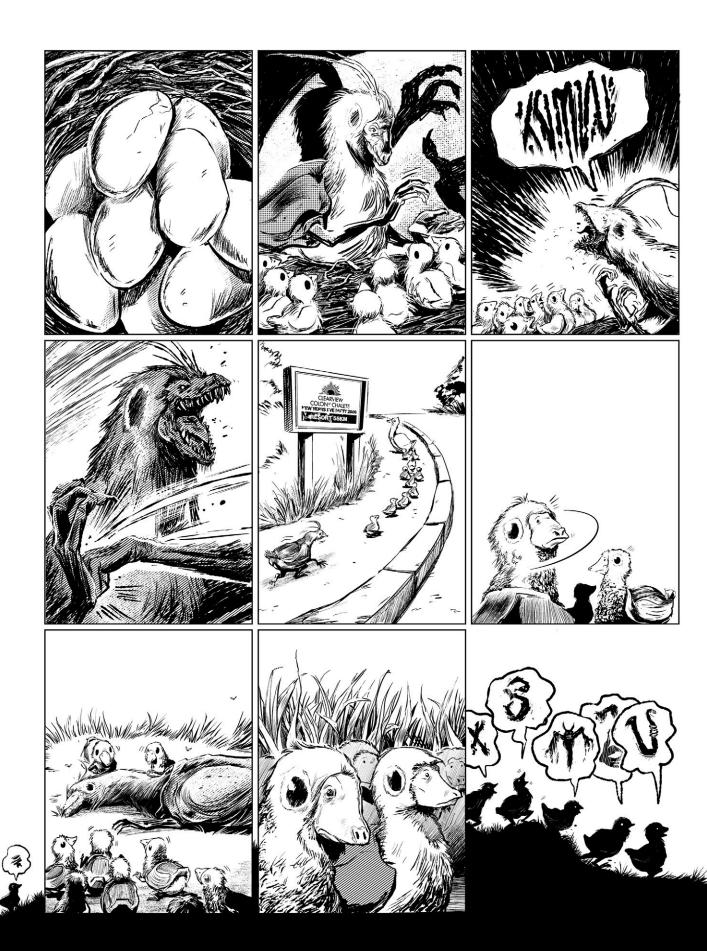
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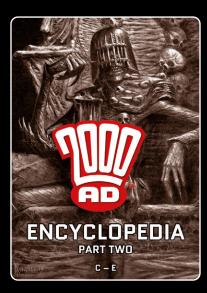












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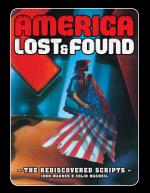
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