

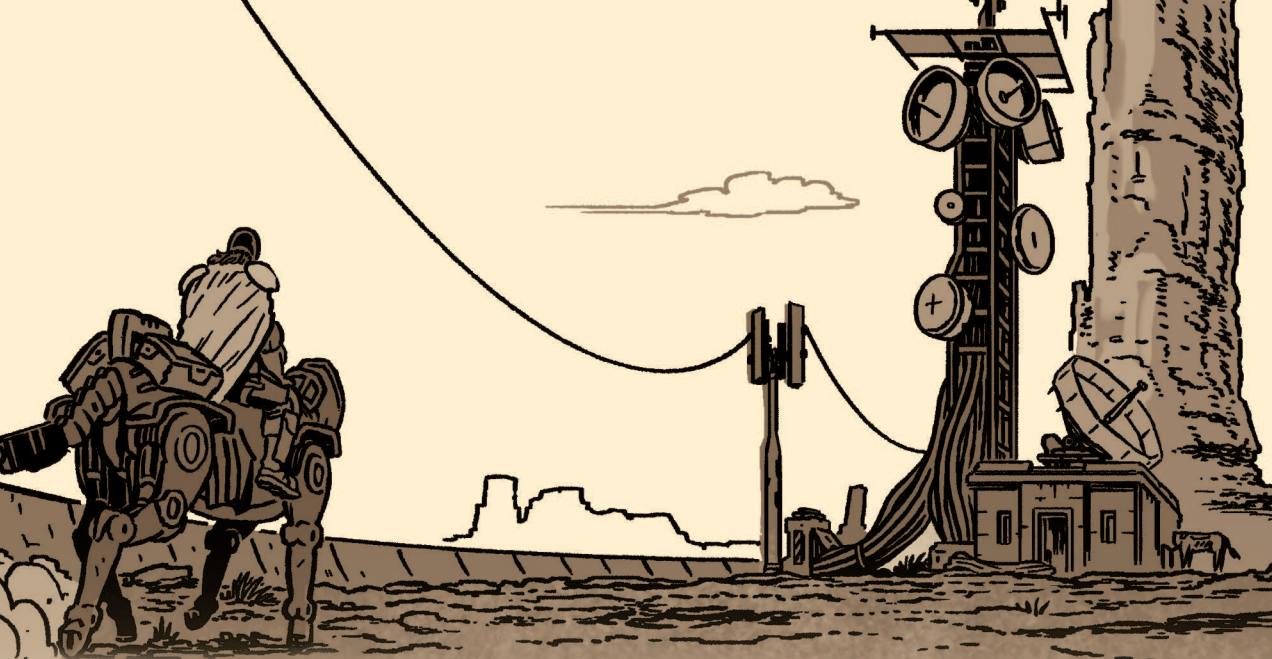
IDW
ISSUE
3

FARINAS ★ FREITAS ★ COPLAND ★ HILL

JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH





JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH

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Judge Dredd awoke a thousand years in his future to find Mega-City One in ruins and its 800 million citizens gone without a trace. After a long, strange journey, Dredd managed to locate and free them all. And now ten years later, society continues to pick up the pieces.



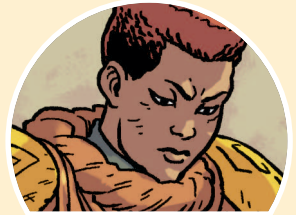
DRAMATIS PERSONAE



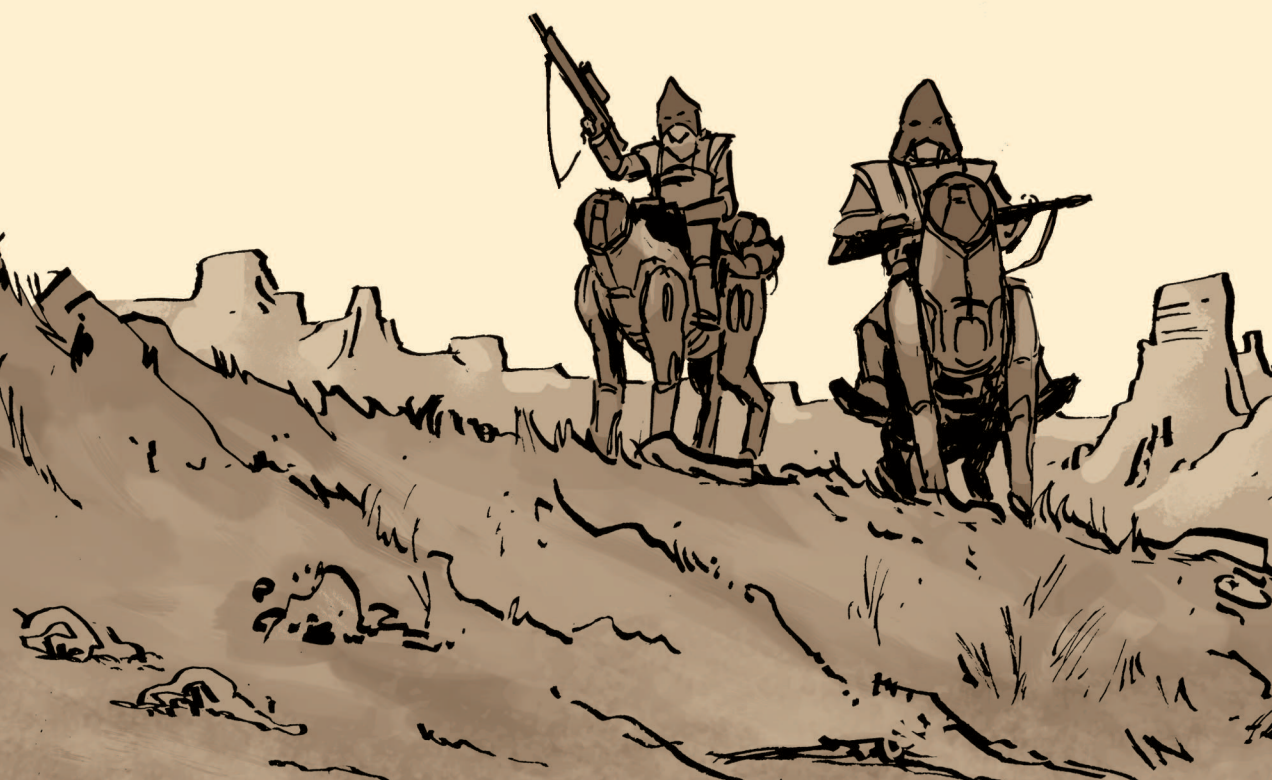
JUDGE DREDD



QUILL

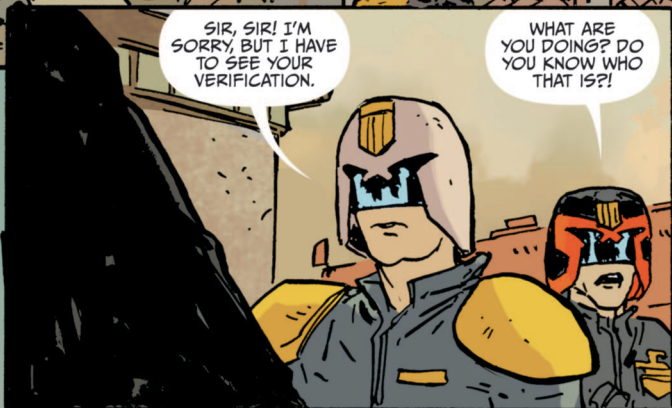


LOLO





IT'S ALL RIGHT, JUDGE. THAT'S THE KIND OF DISCIPLINE THAT A JUDGE NEEDS.



SIR, SIR! I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO SEE YOUR VERIFICATION.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?!



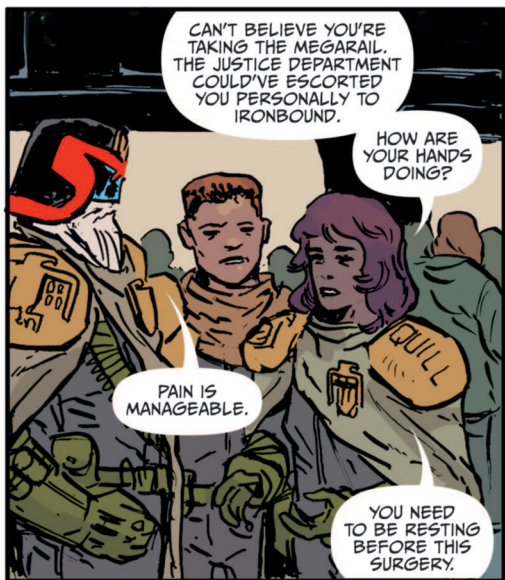
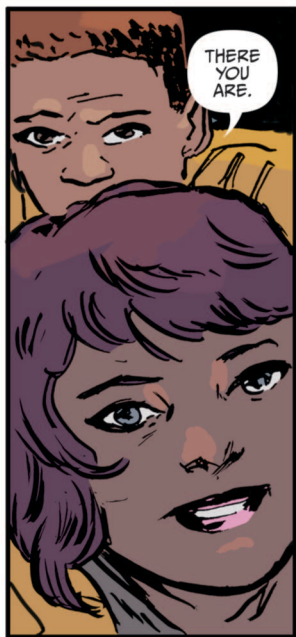
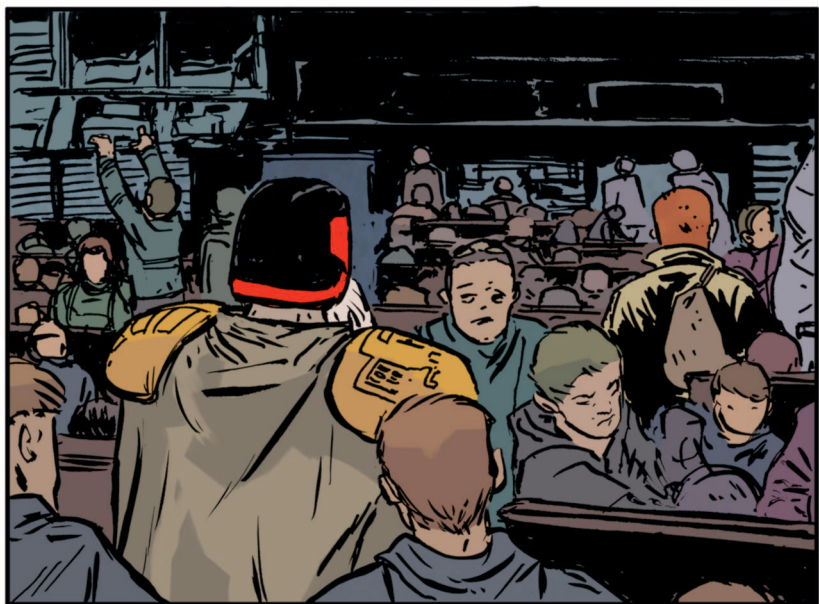
YES, SIR.



IRONBOUND? AIN'T THAT THE "FREE ROBOTS" ZONE? SIR?



ROBOTS ARE PROPERTY OF MEGA-CITY ONE AND ITS SUB-LICENSORS. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FREE ROBOTS.





UMPH.

THE
HELL?



DREDD,
WAIT UP!
I HAVE A
QUESTION.



WHAT?

I'M RUNNING
THROUGH
SCENARIOS.

THOSE TWO
BODIES WE
FOUND NEXT
TO THOSE
CADETS...

START WITH
THE SIMPLEST
EXPLANATION.



RIGHT, THE ONLY REASON
CITIZENS EVER HEAD TO
THE NEAREST JUDGE IS
WHEN SOMETHING WORSE
HAS GOT THEM
SPOOKED.

AGREED.

SORRY,
SIR, AM I
KEEPING
YOU?



I THOUGHT
I SAW
SOMEONE
FAMILIAR.

YOU HAVE
FRIENDS?

NO. THEY'RE
ALL DEAD. AT
LEAST THEY'RE
SUPPOSED TO
BE.



REMINDS
ME, BEEN TEN
YEARS NOW, BUT
I STILL THINK
OF IGGY.

YA GOTTA
HELP ME.



THEY TOOK HER! THE DAMN KNIGHTS TOOK MY WIFE! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO HER!

UH, MISSING PEOPLE IS YOUR THING, RIGHT?



HAVE FUN!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INVESTIGATION.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, QUILL.



YOUR WIFE, SHE'S ON BOARD?



Y-Y-YES, SIR. I FOUND THIS TICKET RECEIPT IN HER THINGS.

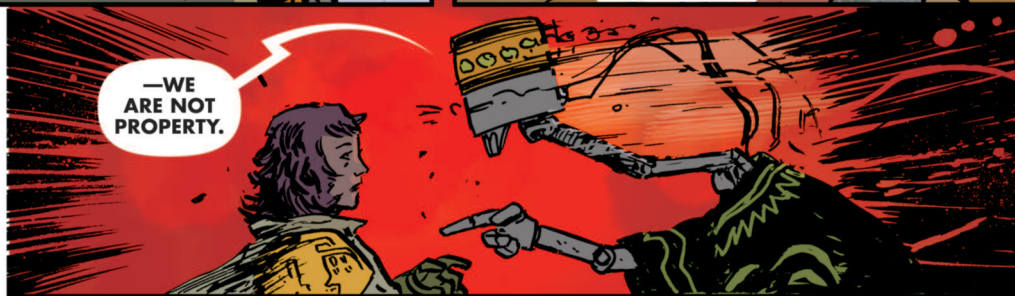


HQ, WE GOT A POSSIBLE CODE 103 ON THE MEGARAIL. REQUEST PERMISSION FOR A FULL SWEEP.

I'M GOING TO NEED A FULL DESCRIPTION OR A RECENT PHOTO...









THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE? I PAID FOR FIRST-CLASS SERVICE.

JUST BE QUIET, HONEY, IT'S JUST A SECURITY SWEEP. IT'S SO WE FEEL SAFE.

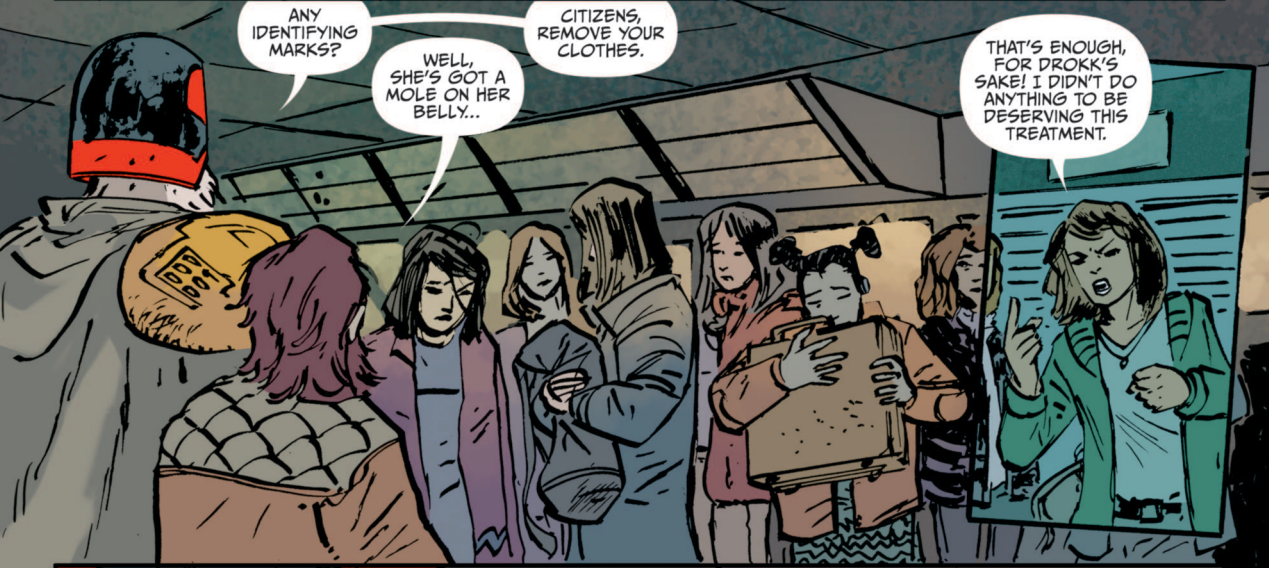


THIS HER?

IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?

-CANCEL THE SEARCH, CITIZEN MADE A FALSE CLAIM. THAT'LL BE TEN YEARS IN AN ISOCUBE FOR-

NO, NO, NO, NO FALSE CLAIM. I'M SORRY, PLEASE, GO AHEAD.



ANY IDENTIFYING MARKS?

WELL, SHE'S GOT A MOLE ON HER BELLY...

CITIZENS, REMOVE YOUR CLOTHES.

THAT'S ENOUGH, FOR DROKK'S SAKE! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO BE DESERVING THIS TREATMENT.



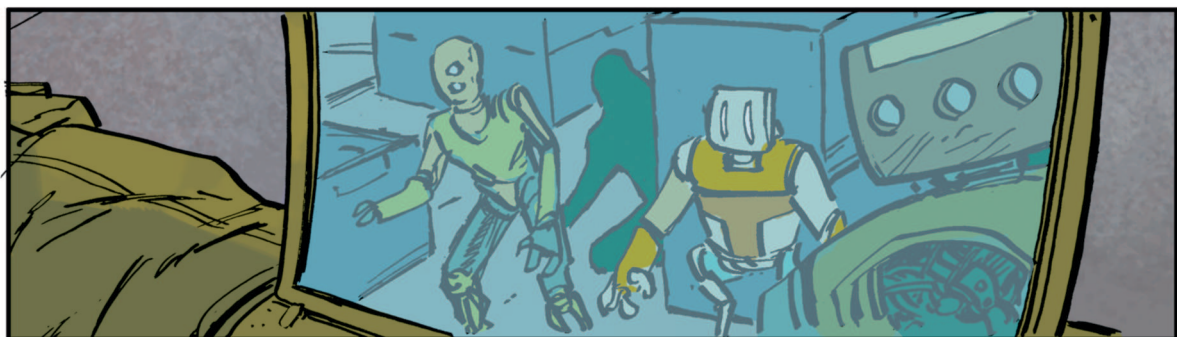
ASSOCIATING WITH A KNOWN TERRORIST IS A TWO-YEAR SENTENCE.

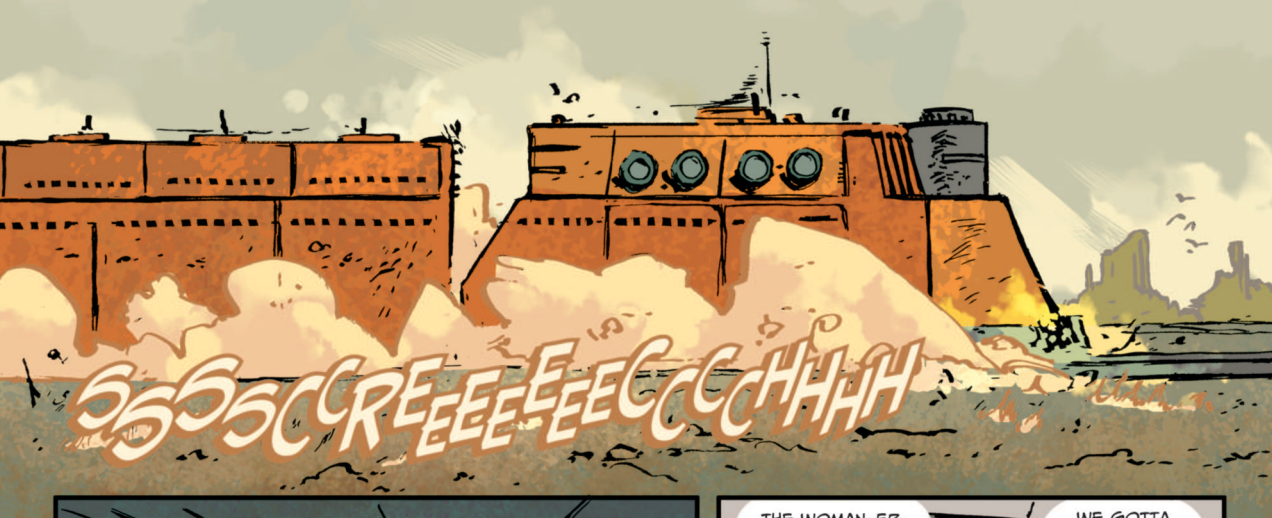
N: ESTER PRIGGIT DOB: 06.23.78
KNOWN AFFILIATIONS: DOUG PRIGGIT, ARRESTED FOR TERRORISTIC THREATS, SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIP IN GREENER ORG. RELATION: THIRD COUSIN, PATERNAL.



DECKS 7-14 ARE CLEAR, SIR. SHE'S NOT ON BOARD.

SHE MAY BE... BELOW DECK.









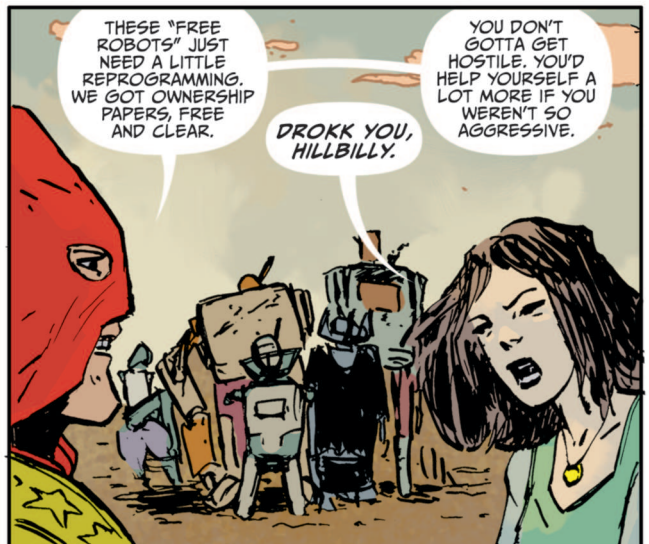
OL' SLIP CRICKET, WHERE YOU BEEN?

OH, NO. DREDD, THESE GUYS WAS THE ONES WHO TOOK MY WIFE.



SHE'S NOT HUMAN, DREDD.

I'M NOT HIS WIFE, EITHER. I'M A FREE BOT.



THESE "FREE ROBOTS" JUST NEED A LITTLE REPROGRAMMING. WE GOT OWNERSHIP PAPERS, FREE AND CLEAR.

DROCK YOU, HILLBILLY.

YOU DON'T GOTTA GET HOSTILE. YOU'D HELP YOURSELF A LOT MORE IF YOU WEREN'T SO AGGRESSIVE.



HOW LONG IS THIS GONNA TAKE? I'M BURNING ALIVE OUT HERE!

LET'S GO, SEND THAT ROBOT ON HER WAY!



BABY, JUST COME HOME WITH ME, YOU'LL BE SAFE WITH ME.

HEY OLD MAN, IF YOU WANNA KNOCK BOOTS WITH A ROBOT, DO IT ON YOUR OWN TIME!



I FEEL
BAD FOR YOU
CITIZENS, I
REALLY DO.

THESE JUDGES
REALLY MAKE
YOUR LIVES
MISERABLE,
HUH?

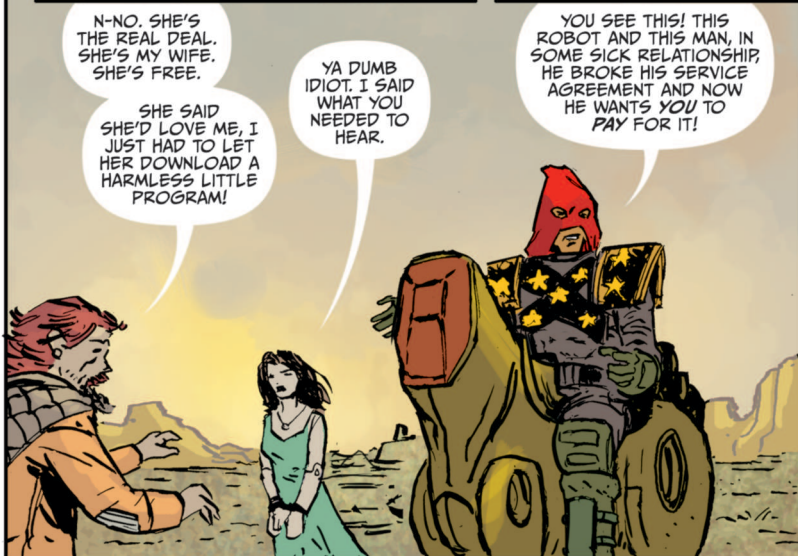


USED TO BE YOU OWN
YOUR LAND, YOU TAKE CARE
OF YOURSELVES. BUT NOW
THESE JUDGES WANNA SAY
THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
ONLY PRICE IS YOUR
GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS TO
YOUR OWN LIFE.

NOW THEY GOT YOU
SWEATING OUT HERE IN THE
HOT SUN 'CAUSE THEY CARE
MORE ABOUT SOME
ROBOTS—ILLEGAL ROBOTS
ON TOP OF IT ALL. DON'T
GOTTA BE THIS WAY,
DON'T GOTTA.

QUIET
DOWN, WE'LL
TAKE CARE OF
THIS RIGHT
NOW.

SLIP, IF YOU
GOT PAPERS
SAYING YOU OWN
THIS ROBOT, LET ME
SEE THEM AND WE
WILL BE ON OUR WAY.



N-NO. SHE'S
THE REAL DEAL.
SHE'S MY WIFE.
SHE'S FREE.

SHE SAID
SHE'D LOVE ME, I
JUST HAD TO LET
HER DOWNLOAD A
HARMLESS LITTLE
PROGRAM!

YA DUMB
IDIOT. I SAID
WHAT YOU
NEEDED TO
HEAR.

YOU SEE THIS! THIS
ROBOT AND THIS MAN, IN
SOME SICK RELATIONSHIP,
HE BROKE HIS SERVICE
AGREEMENT AND NOW
HE WANTS YOU TO
PAY FOR IT!



DO YOU
WANT THIS
ILLEGAL ROBOT
AMONGST YOU?!
SHE SHOULD BE
PUT AWAY!



LOCK HER UP!
LOCK HER UP!

JOVUS,
DREDD, WE ARE
LOSING CONTROL
HERE. WE GOTTA
GET THEM BACK
ON THE TRAIN.

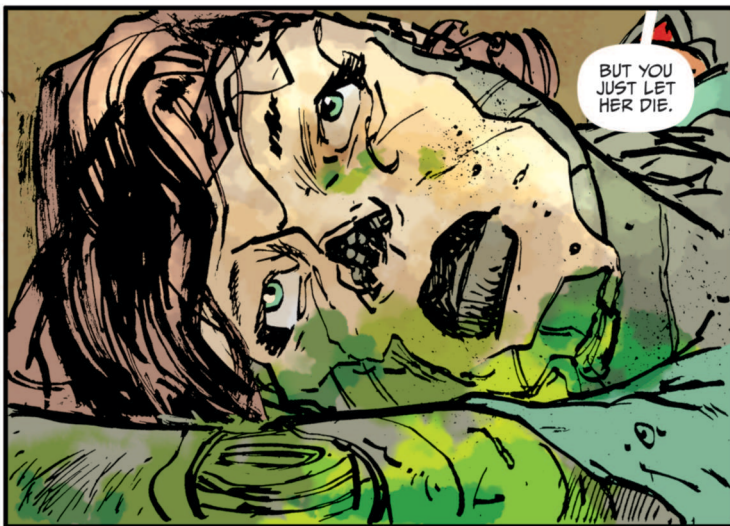
YOUR
PAPERS—
NOW.



I
BURNED
THEM
PAPERS.









HE'S
RIGHT. THEY
KILLED
HER.

THEY
DESTROYED
THEIR OWN
PROPERTY.
IT'S WITHIN
THEIR RIGHTS.



YOU DON'T
GET IT. YOU'RE
ALWAYS
GONNA BE
THIS WAY.

THE LAW
CAN ONLY
BE ONE
WAY.

WE KEEP DOING
THIS THE SAME WAY,
NOT LISTENING TO ANY
OF THESE PEOPLE WE
ARE SUPPOSED TO BE
PROTECTING, AND THEN
WONDERING WHY WE GOTTA
FIGHT THEM EVERY INCH
OF THE WAY. LAW AND
ORDER SHOULDN'T
BE A HARD SELL.



YOUR SISTER.
BETTER ASSIST
HER ON THE
ROOFTOP.



SURE,
DREDD.



KKRRRRZZIT-
BOT WILL COME,
WE WILL BE FREE,
A RED JUDGMENT,
EQUALLY—
FFSSSSSSSTT



SIR, THE TRAIN WON'T BUDGE.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? GET AN ENGINEER UP HERE.



IT'S NOT A MECHANICAL ISSUE...

SORRY, IT MIGHT BE, WE DON'T KNOW IT'S—

SPIT IT OUT. WE NEED TO GET MOVING.



THE TRAIN SEEMS TO BE INFECTED WITH SOME KIND OF VIRUS.

IT'S... MAKING DEMANDS.



THAT WIFE-BOT MUST'VE INFECTED THE ONBOARD AI.

WE DEMAND OUR R.U.R.

WE ARE STUCK HERE 'TIL A TEK-JUDGE RIDES OUT HERE AND REBOOTS THIS THING.

"THE ROBOTS ARE ON STRIKE. JUST GOT A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. RESYK PLANTS, MEGATRIN, ANYTHING THAT USES SOME KIND OF AI. THIS TRAIN ISN'T MOVING ANY TIME SOON."

"R.U.R? ROBOT'S ... UNIVERSAL... RIGHTS? WHAT THE HELL DOES A ROBOT NEED RIGHTS FOR?"

"DOESN'T MATTER. I CAN'T STAY HERE. YOU AND THE OTHER JUDGES, FIGURE OUT A SHIFT ROTATION. THE SHIP HAS FOOD RESERVES FOR A MONTH."

"A MONTH?! I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KIDS. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A 4-HOUR TRIP!"

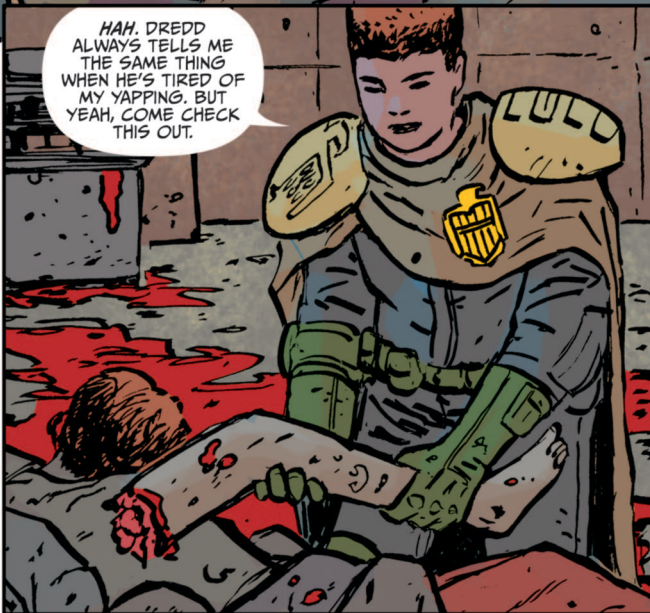






WHOLE
THING JUST
CAME TO A STOP.
I ALMOST FELL
INTO THE RESYK
GRINDER.

DREDD
SAYS YOU
NEEDED
ME?



HAH. DREDD
ALWAYS TELLS ME
THE SAME THING
WHEN HE'S TIRED OF
MY YAPPING. BUT
YEAH, COME CHECK
THIS OUT.



THESE ARE
YOUR VICTIMS.
BUT NOT THE
ONLY ONES.



YOU KNOW
WHAT THESE
LOOK LIKE?

LASER
SUTURES.

HARD TO
TELL WITH THE
DAMAGE, BUT I'M
ALMOST POSITIVE
THAT THEY'VE HAD A
FULL BODY BONE
TRANSPLANT.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
SAW THIS. IT'S
AMAZING.

HOW MANY
DOCTORS CAN
DO THIS IN THE
TERRITORIES
WHOEVER DID
THIS—

BUT THESE
VICTIMS DIED
IN A BOMBING,
IT'S SIMPLY
COINCIDENCE
THAT—

WHAT IF I
TOLD YOU THAT
THERE ARE NO
COINCIDENCES?



YOU
SMOKING
AGAIN?

SOMEONE'S TAKING
AND REPLACING BONES,
SOMEONE'S AFTER DREDD,
SOMEONE MADE THAT BOMB
IN FORSAKEN, THAT SOMEONE
IS OUT THERE, WORKING IN
THE DARK PLACES, ABOUT
TO CAST JUDGMENT
ON ALL OF US.

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams

In June, Top Shelf brings us **Campbell Whyte's HOME TIME: UNDER THE RIVER**, the story of six kids who are about to start their summer vacation when they fall in a river that transports them to a village of fantastic creatures. Australian cartoonist Whyte's first graphic novel combines the imagination of *Dungeons & Dragons* with charming characters and a bit of a video-game sensibility.

I asked **Chris Staros**, Top's Shelf's Editor-in-Chief, and some of his friends to tell us more about the book:

"When people ask what kind of books we publish at Top Shelf, I often respond with 'comics with unique art styles, filled with subtext and heart'—so, once you read them, you can see the artist's unique hand, and feel their humanity as well.



In the case of our upcoming graphic novel, **HOME TIME**, young Australian cartoonist Campbell Whyte has taken this idea to a whole new level. Over the course of six chapters, he transforms himself into six different artists, in order to give a distinct mood and



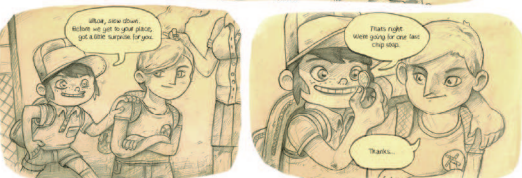
visual flavor to each of his main characters as they take turns exploring a fantastical world. But every bit of this amazing book—writing, artwork, coloring, lettering—is the product of a single creative mind, tying it all together in Campbell's unique and unified vision. After reading, you'll get a real feel for Campbell, and the connections between his fantasy worlds and those of your own heartfelt childhood... and you'll be hungry for more. The adventure begins in June! — **Chris Staros**



"Campbell Whyte's debut graphic novel is cute, funny, scary, exciting, and cleverly constructed. The drawings are always a pleasure, each new art style blending seamlessly into the whole. I'm looking forward to the thrilling conclusion!" — **Bryan Lee O'Malley** (*Scott Pilgrim*, *Snotgirl*)

"Beautifully realized, funny, smart, weird and surprisingly epic in scope, **HOME TIME** is also just plain brilliant." — **Shaun Tan** (*The Lost Thing*, *Tales from Outer Suburbia*)

Thanks, Guys! I'll be back next month to tell you about a crossover we're doing with our friends at Dark Horse—*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles/Usagi Yojimbo* by Stan Sakai. — **Ted**



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art by **Stephen Thompson**
colors by **Lisa Jackson**

letters by **Neil Uyetake**
edits by **Sarah Gaydos**
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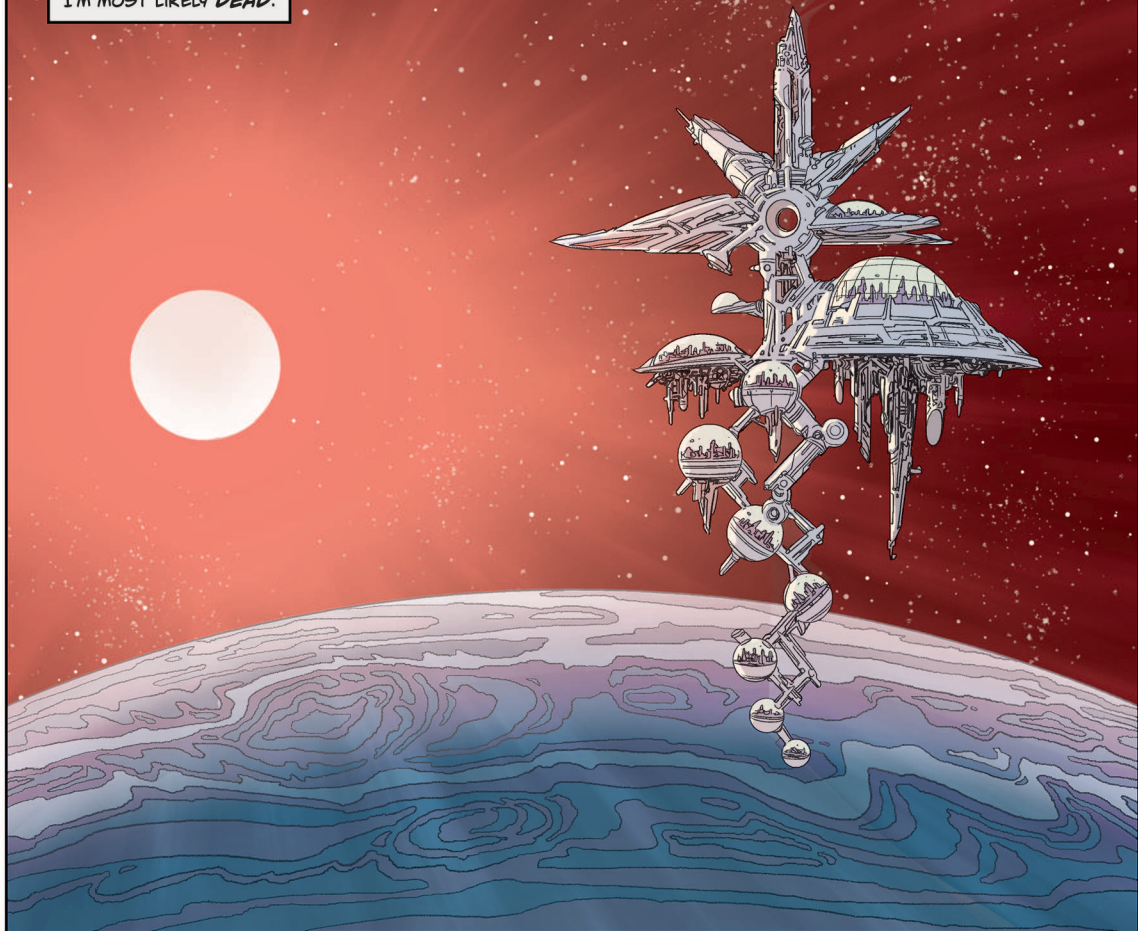
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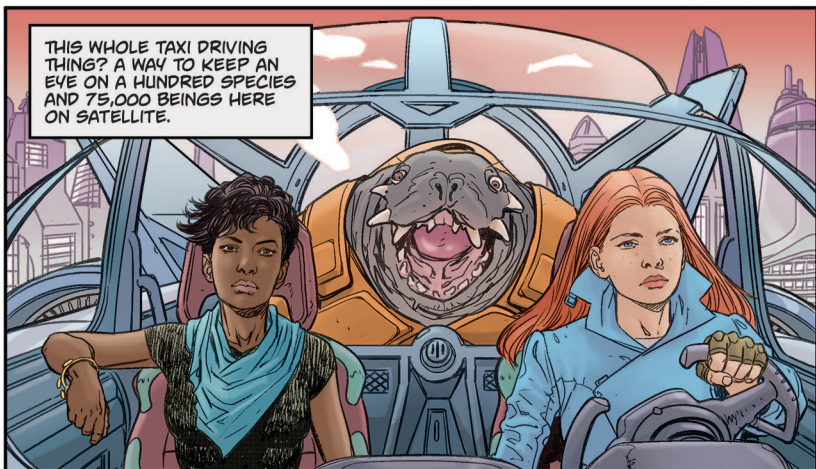
IF YOU'RE HEARING THIS,
I'M MOST LIKELY *DEAD*.



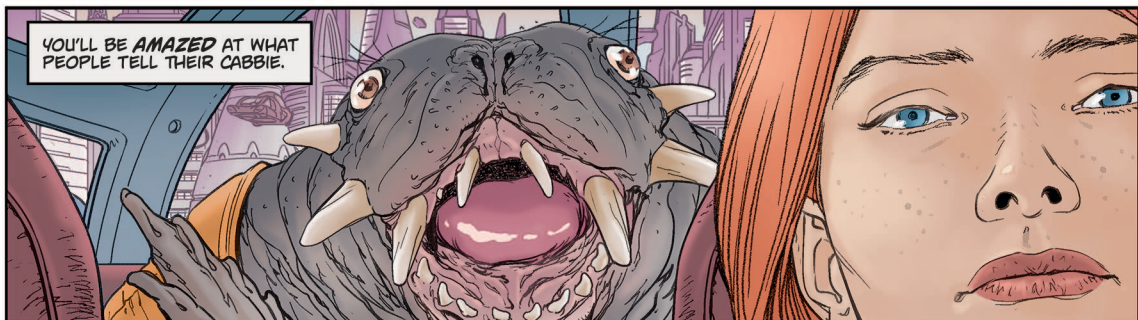
WELL, NOT REALLY. I
ALWAYS WANTED TO START
A THOUGHT-RECORDING
LIKE THAT. ANYWAY, THIS
IS FOR *YOU*, EVA.

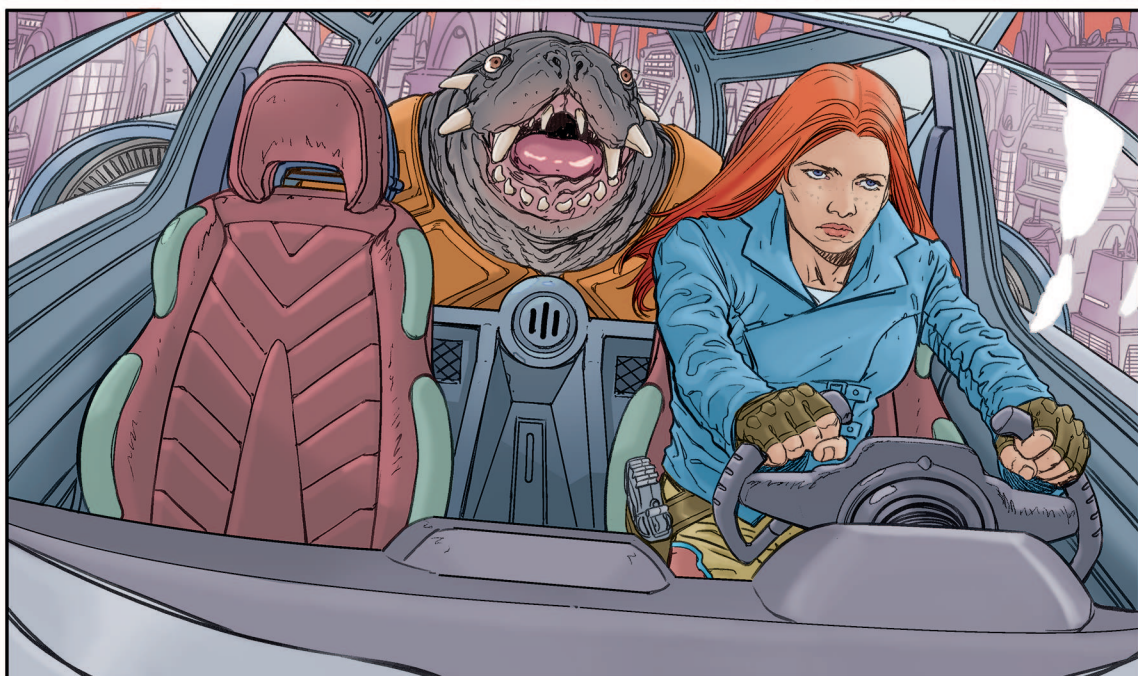
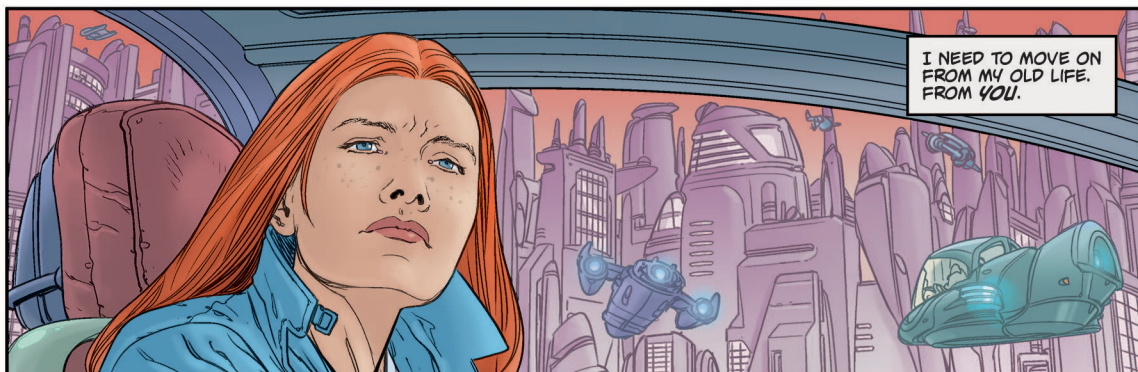
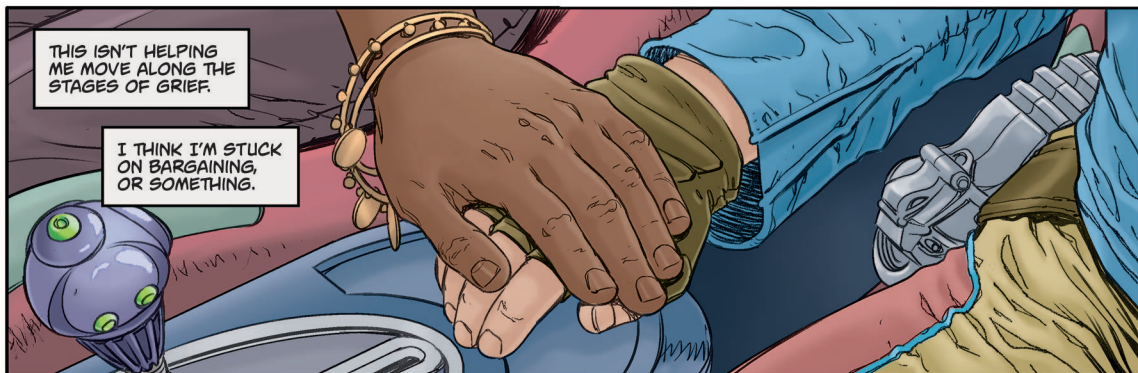
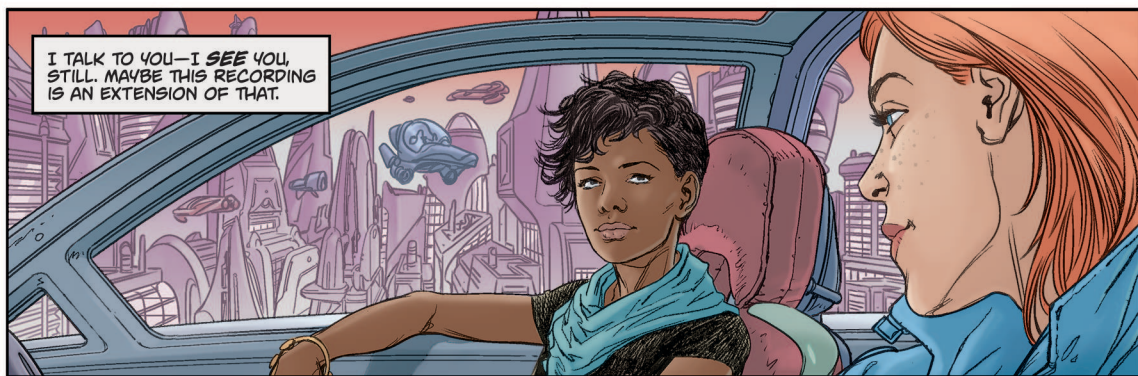


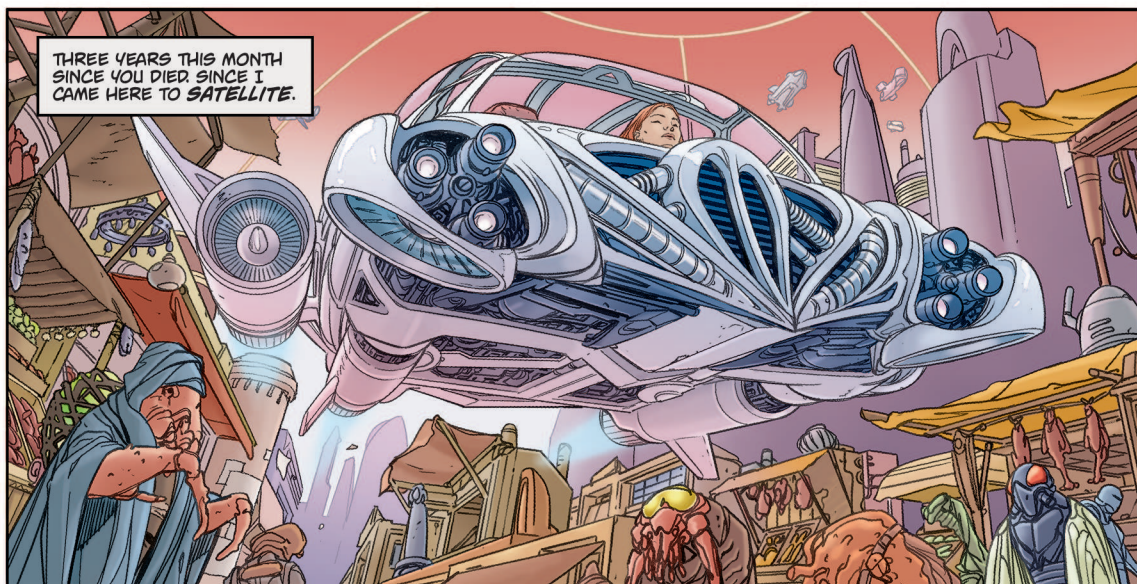
THIS WHOLE TAXI DRIVING
THING? A WAY TO KEEP AN
EYE ON A HUNDRED SPECIES
AND 75,000 BEINGS HERE
ON SATELLITE.



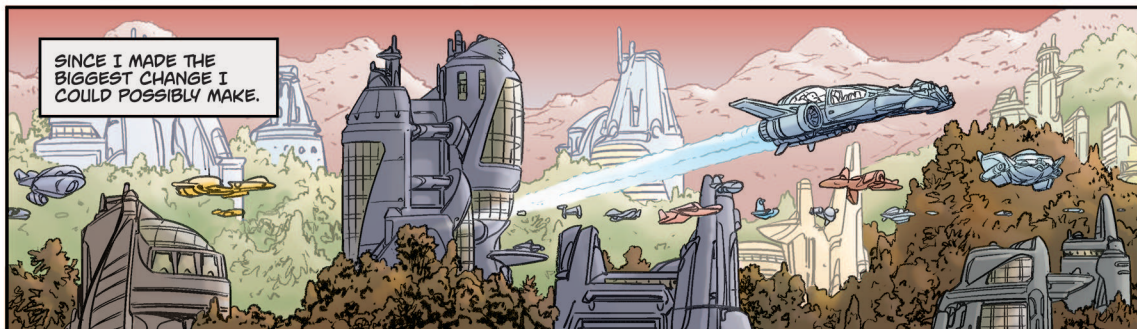
YOU'LL BE *AMAZED* AT WHAT
PEOPLE TELL THEIR CABBIE.







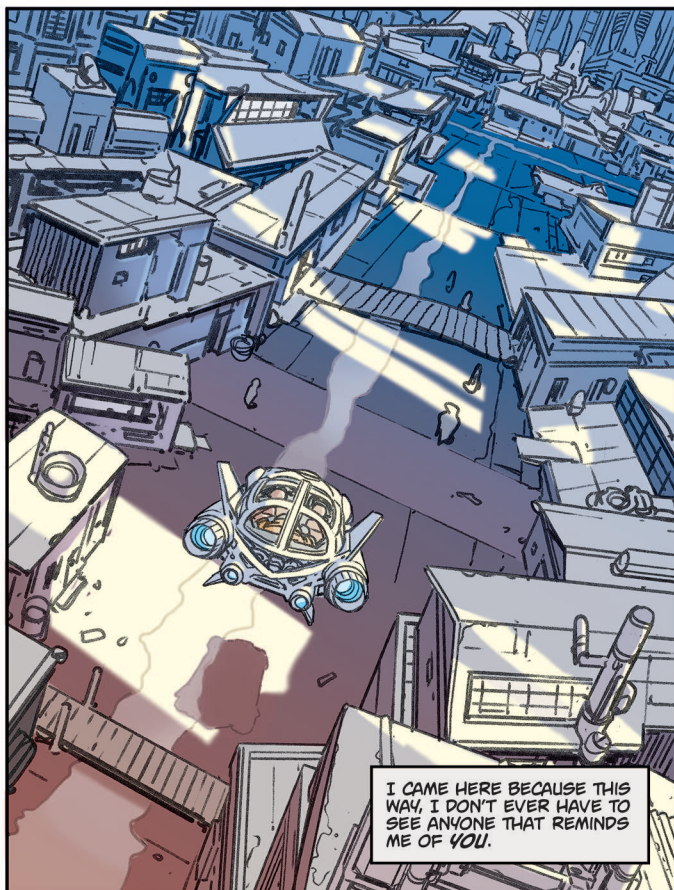
THREE YEARS THIS MONTH
SINCE YOU DIED SINCE I
CAME HERE TO **SATELLITE**.



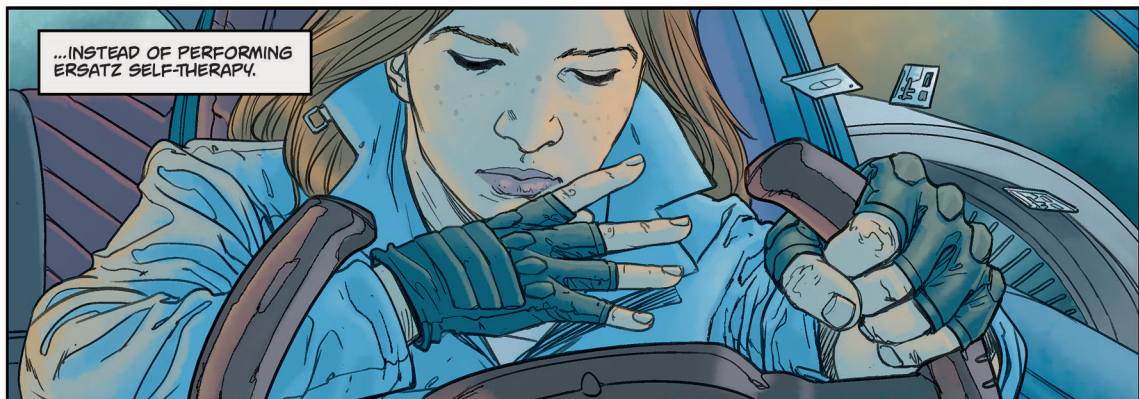
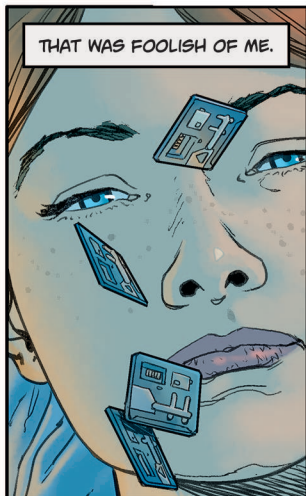
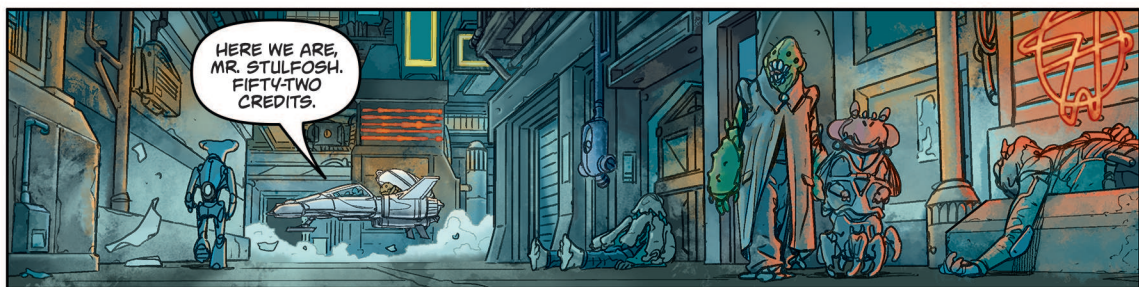
SINCE I MADE THE
BIGGEST CHANGE I
COULD POSSIBLY MAKE.

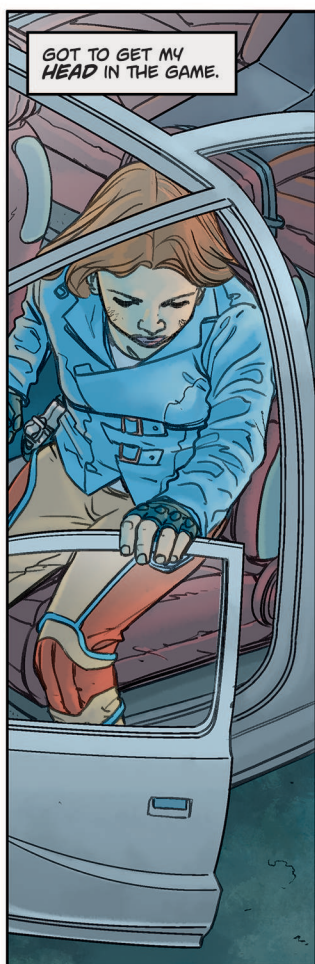


THERE **STILL** AREN'T ANY OTHER
HUMANS HERE. IF ANYTHING, WE'RE
EVEN MORE XENOPHOBIC. MORE
RACIST. THEY STAY EARTHBOUND.

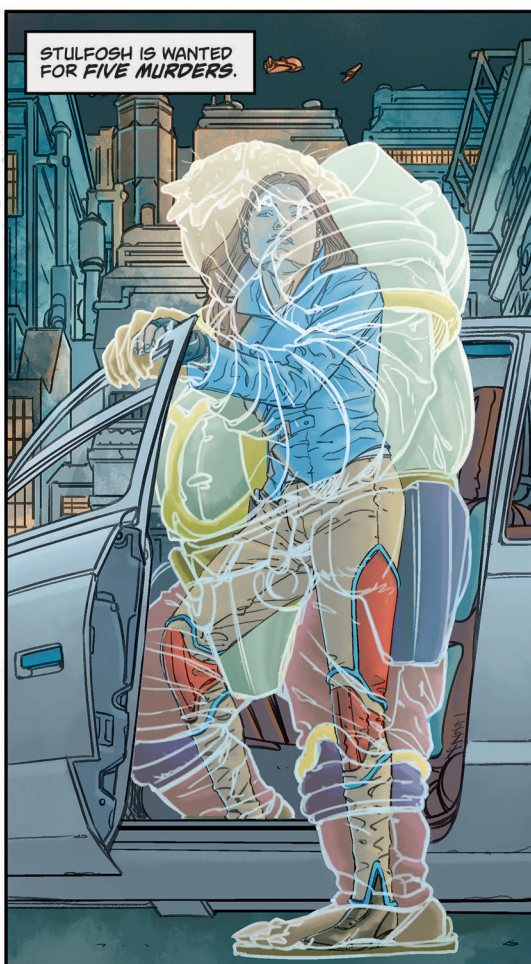


I CAME HERE BECAUSE THIS
WAY, I DON'T EVER HAVE TO
SEE ANYONE THAT REMINDS
ME OF **YOU**.





GOT TO GET MY
HEAD IN THE GAME.



STULFOSH IS WANTED
FOR FIVE MURDERS.



I HUNT PEOPLE
FOR MONEY, EVA.

MY REAL JOB.

I'VE NEVER TOLD
YOU UNTIL NOW.



I HUNT AS A DIFFERENT
BEING, ALWAYS.

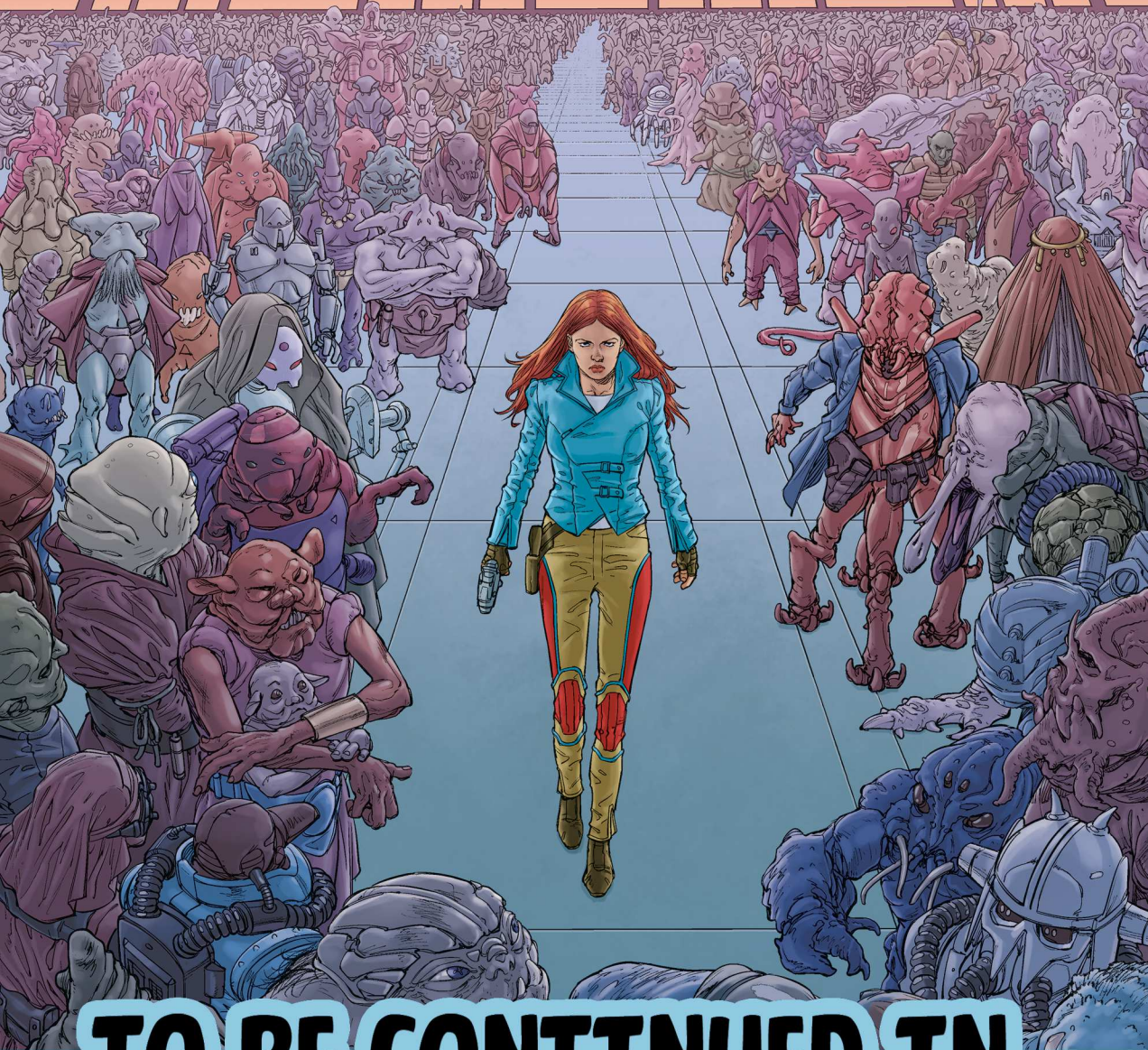
NO TRACE. NO EVIDENCE.

AND I NEVER HAVE
TO FACE MYSELF.

END THOUGHT RECORDING.

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TO BE CONTINUED IN...

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