

DREDD

EXCLUSIVE PROLOGUE TO THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

DREDD

TOP OF THE WORLD, MA-MA

MATT SMITH

SCRIPT

HENRY FLINT

ART

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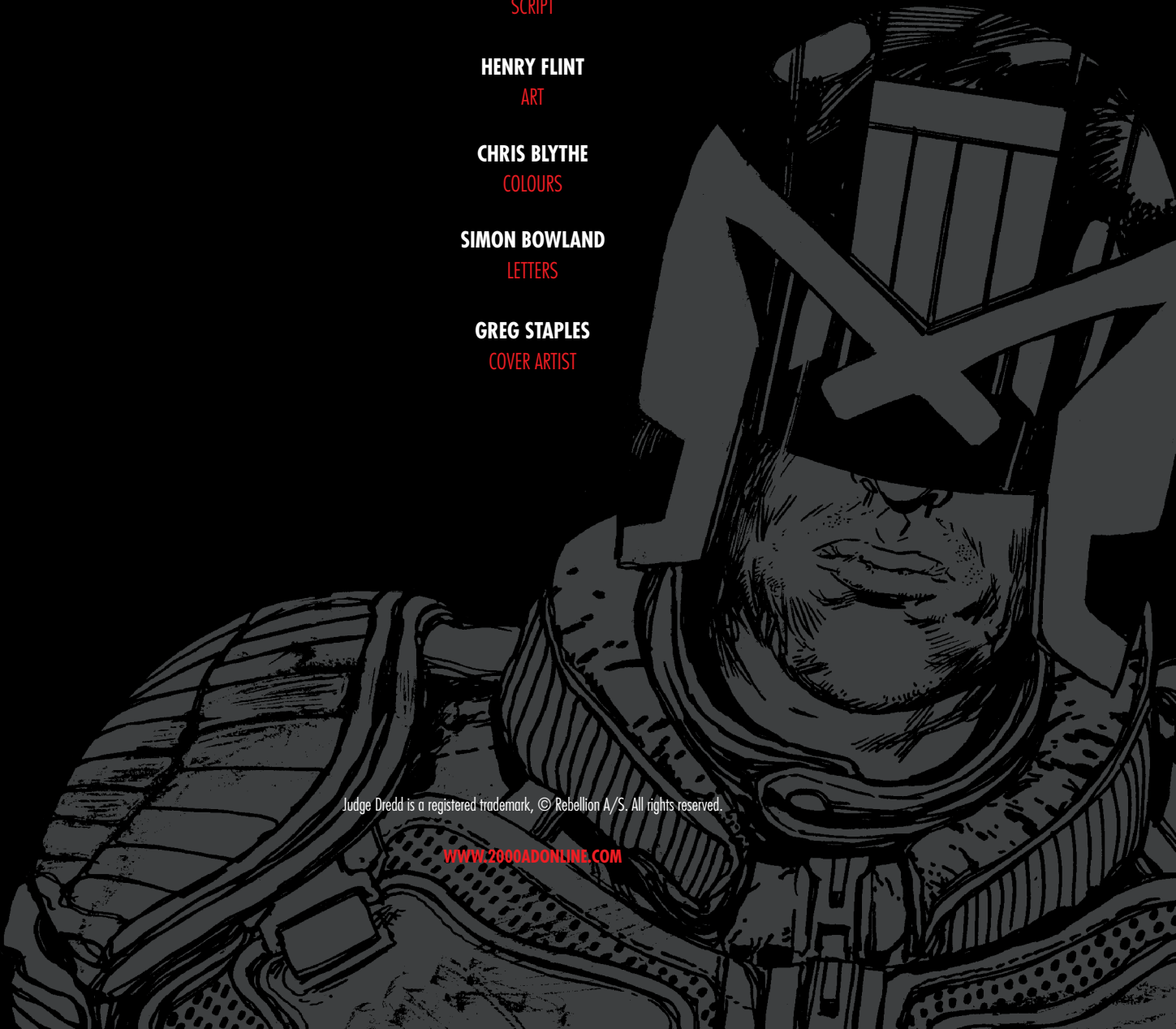
LETTERS

GREG STAPLES

COVER ARTIST

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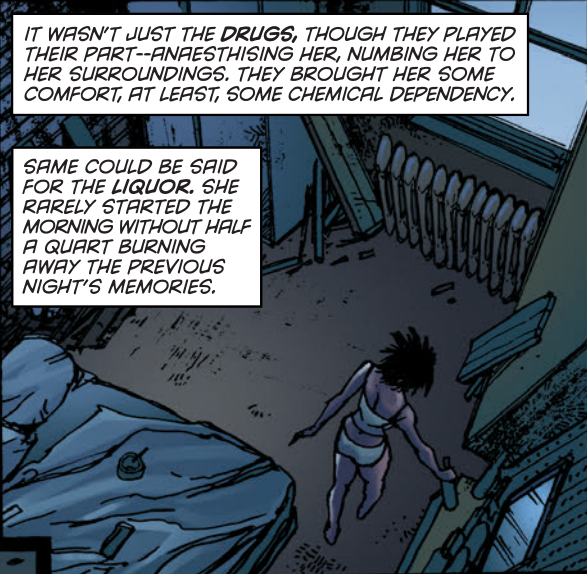


FOR MADELINE,
LIFE MOVED IN
SLOW MOTION.



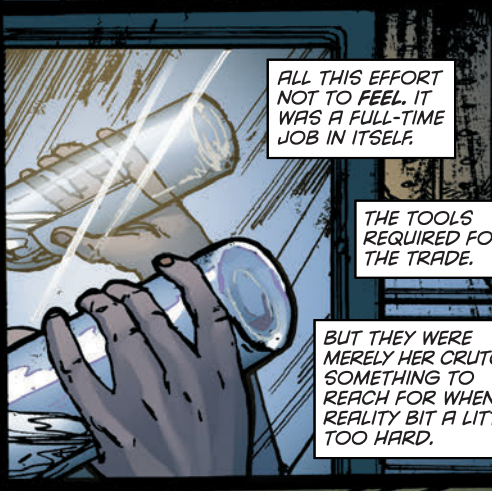
THAT WAS HOW IT SEEMED TO HER, EACH
DAY: TRAPPED IN A BUBBLE, WATCHING THE
WORLD AROUND HER MOVE AT DOUBLE-SPEED,
PASSING HER BY, LEAVING HER BEHIND.

SHE'D LONG
SINCE FALLEN
OUT OF STEP.



IT WASN'T JUST THE **DRUGS**, THOUGH THEY PLAYED
THEIR PART--ANAESTHISING HER, NUMBING HER TO
HER SURROUNDINGS. THEY BROUGHT HER SOME
COMFORT, AT LEAST, SOME CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY.

SAME COULD BE SAID
FOR THE **LIQUOR**. SHE
RARELY STARTED THE
MORNING WITHOUT HALF
A QUART BURNING
AWAY THE PREVIOUS
NIGHT'S MEMORIES.



ALL THIS EFFORT
NOT TO FEEL. IT
WAS A FULL-TIME
JOB IN ITSELF.

THE TOOLS
REQUIRED FOR
THE TRADE.

BUT THEY WERE
MERELY HER CRUTCH,
SOMETHING TO
REACH FOR WHEN
REALITY BIT A LITTLE
TOO HARD.



FACT WAS, TIME HAD DRAGGED
FOR MADELINE EVER SINCE SHE'D
BEEN GIVEN NOTHING TO LIVE FOR.



SINCE SHE HAD NO FUTURE.

...REPORTED TO BE MORE THAN FIFTEEN PROSTITUTES WORKING ON THE PREMISES. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ALSO STATED THAT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF DRUG PARAPHENALIA HAD BEEN FOUND, INDICATING THAT IT WAS BEING USED AS A BASE FOR THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS...

YOU BELIEVE THIS SHIT?

FUCKIN' JAYS, MAN! THEY'RE KILLIN' US HERE.

THAT TRENTON'S CREW BEING BUSTED?

TRENTON THIS WEEK, SNOWBALL HAD HIS FACTORY RAIDED LAST MONTH. THEY'RE COMIN' DOWN HARD ON EVERY H-DEALER AND WHORE IN THE SECTOR. HITIN' OUR CASH FLOW LIKE A MOTHERFUCKER.

AIN'T LIKE WE'RE NOT PAYING THE RIGHT DUDES FOR THEM TO TURN A *BLIND EYE*, Y'KNOW?

YO, LES, YOU WANNA KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR, MAN...

...SPOKE TO JUDGE DREDD, WHO LED THE OPERATION. JUDGE, IS THIS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE GRAND HALL'S ATTEMPT TO DRIVE CRIME OUT OF SECTOR 8?

CREEPS HAVE HAD TOO MUCH LEEWAY FOR TOO LONG. TOO MANY NO-GO AREAS FOR DECENT CITIZENS, TOO MUCH FLAGRANT DISREGARD AND DISDAIN FOR THE LAW. WE'RE SENDING A MESSAGE:

BREAK THE LAW AND WE'LL BREAK YOU.

ASSHOLE!

AIN'T LIKE I GOT ENOUGH SHIT ON MY PLATE TO DEAL WITH...

YO YO YO! DOUBLE-EM! WHAT TIME D'YOU CALL THIS?





THE ADDICTIONS CAME FIRST--CRANK, SOME SMACK. WHAT BOOZE SHE COULD STEAL WARMED HER AT NIGHT, BEGGING FOR CRED\$ DURING THE DAY. HER DOWNWARD SPIRAL LED TO THIS INEVITABLE FINAL DESTINATION.

SHE WAS TRAPPED, SEEKING A WAY OUT...

IT WAS GETTING TO THE POINT WHERE SHE STRUGGLED TO REMEMBER LIFE BEFORE...THIS.

HER PARENTS, WHAT LITTLE SHE KNEW OF THEM, WERE SHOT DEAD BY THE JUDGES DURING A BOTCHED ROBBERY. SHE WAS TAKEN INTO THE CARE OF THE CITY, BOUNCED BETWEEN FOSTER HOMES, THEN ONTO THE STREETS WHEN SHE WAS IN HER MIDDLE TEENS.



...HATING WHAT SHE'D BECOME.



BUT MEGA-CITY ONE IS UNFORGIVING TO THOSE AT THE BOTTOM, TRYING TO CLAW THEIR WAY UP. IT COULD CRUSH YOU IF YOU WEREN'T TOUGH ENOUGH, IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT STRENGTH OF WILL TO SURVIVE.



ORDER WAS ENFORCED BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. IT WAS IN THEIR INTERESTS TO KEEP THE PEOPLE DOWN, WHERE THEY KNEW THEIR PLACE, WHERE THEY COULD BE EASILY CONTROLLED.



YET EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, IN HER HEART, MADELINE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THIS WAS ALL SHE'D BE.



HEY.

HEY.
HOP IN.

THOUGHT
YOU WEREN'T
COMING.

I GOT HELD UP
AT THE LAB. KIND OF
AN...INTERESTING
DEVELOPMENT.

YOU
WANNA
SEE?

SURE.

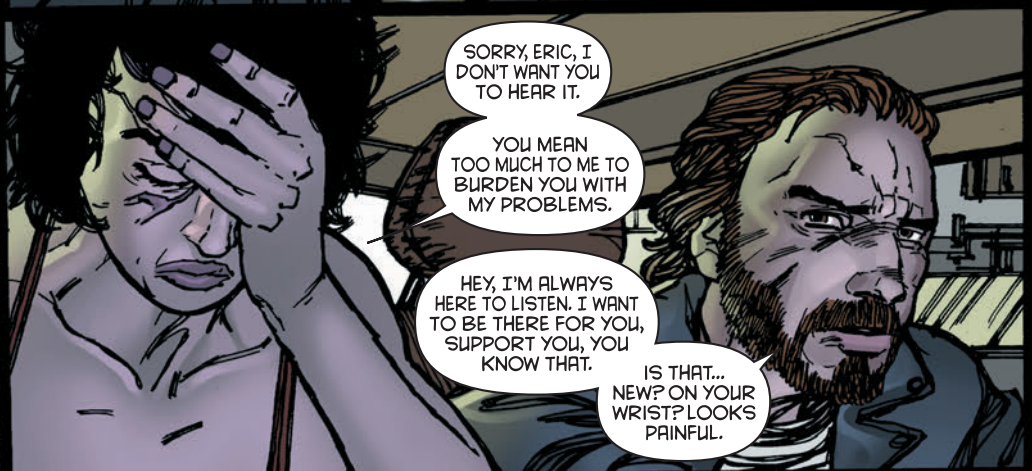


HOW
ARE THINGS,
MADDY?

MUCH
THE SAME.

AS BAD
AS THAT?

WORSE.



SORRY, ERIC, I
DON'T WANT YOU
TO HEAR IT.

YOU MEAN
TOO MUCH TO ME TO
BURDEN YOU WITH
MY PROBLEMS.

HEY, I'M ALWAYS
HERE TO LISTEN. I WANT
TO BE THERE FOR YOU,
SUPPORT YOU, YOU
KNOW THAT.

IS THAT...
NEW? ON YOUR
WRIST? LOOKS
PAINFUL.



Hmm?
OH. FUCKIN'
LESTER.

SWEAR
TO GOD,
SOMETIMES I
FEEL LIKE I'M
GONNA...



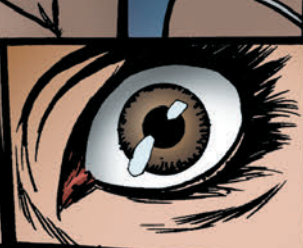
HOLD THAT
THOUGHT. COME
SEE WHAT I'VE
COOKED UP
FIRST...

"...IT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING NEW FOR BOTH OF US, A START IN LIFE WE BOTH *DESERVE*."

HAVE A TOOT ON THIS, TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK.

WHAT IS IT?

I CALL IT *SLO-MO*. YOU'LL SEE WHY.



...AMAZING. I MEAN, FUCKIN' *INSANE*. LIKE NOTHING ELSE I'VE EVER TRIED BEFORE.

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH IT?

IT'S A KIND OF AN LSD DERIVATIVE BUT CONCENTRATES ON ONE AREA OF THE BRAIN. WORKS ON *TIME PERCEPTION* IN THE USER, SLOWS IT DOWN TO *ONE PER CENT* OF ITS NORMAL SPEED. MAKES EVERYTHING SHARPER, MORE INTENSE, FOCUSED.

I LIKEN IT TO SEEING GOD THROUGH THE CRACKS IN CREATION.

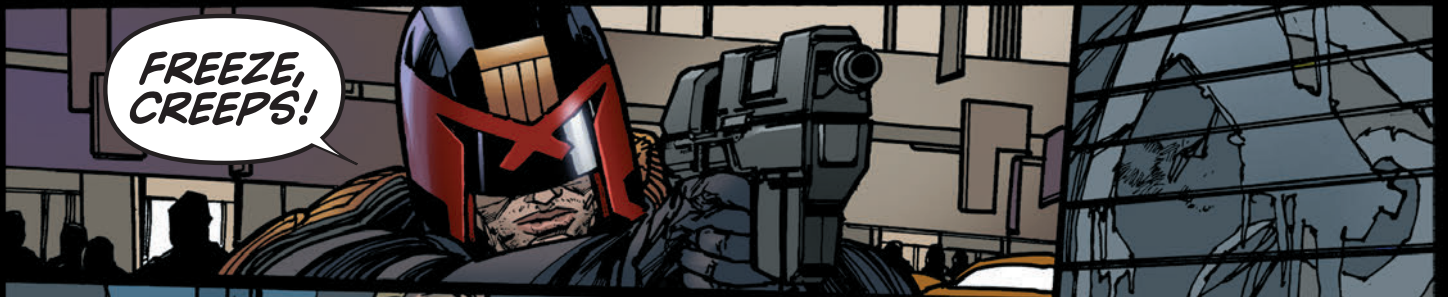
VERY POETIC. BUT SERIOUSLY, THIS SHIT'S GONNA FLY ONCE IT HITS THE STREETS. THE CITS GET A WHIFF OF THIS, IT'S GONNA BE CHRISTMAS.

I KNOW. IT'S CHEAP TO MANUFACTURE, HIGHLY ADDICTIVE BUT HAS NO IMMEDIATE SIDE EFFECTS, AND THERE'S A CUSTOMER BASE PRIMED AND READY FOR THE LATEST DRUG TO JOIN THE MARKET.

I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE *HUGE*, AND I'LL NEED HELP WITH THE DISTRIBUTION.

I PROMISED YOU A *FUTURE*, MADELINE, AND THIS IS GOING TO BE *OURS*.

I WANT YOU WITH ME ON THIS. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I'D RATHER HAVE BY MY SIDE.



FREEZE,
CREEPS!



UKK!



JEEZ--!



AAHH!



F-FUCK
YOU--



CONTROL--
DREDD. NEED A
MEAT-WAGON
PICK-UP.

TWO-
MAN TAP GANG
OPERATING ON
NEWMAR.

WILCO.
BE WITH YOU
IN TWO.

SHEESH.

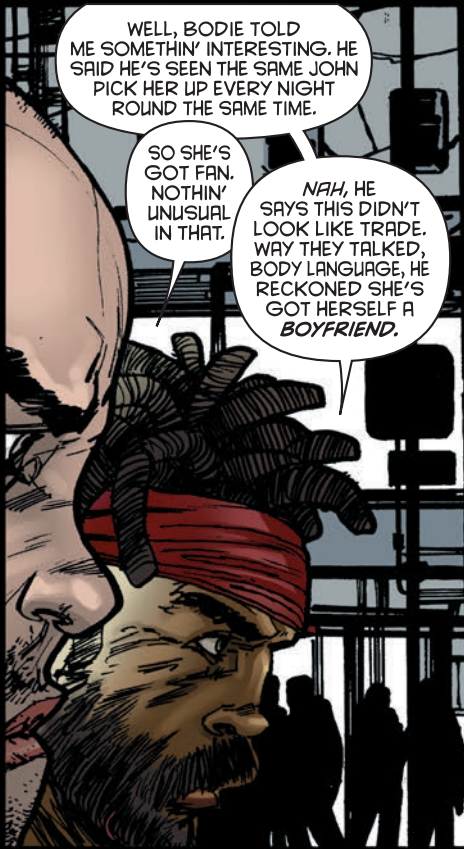


KIND OF
LOST MY TRAIN
OF THOUGHT.
WHAT WAS I
SAYIN'?

YOU WAS
TALKIN' ABOUT
MADRIGAL.

OH YEAH.
SHE'S UP TO
SOMETHIN'.

COUPLE OF GIRLS
HAVE MENTIONED SHE'S
NOT BEEN SHOWIN' HER
FACE ON THE STREETS
LATELY, BEEN DISAPPEARIN'
OFF SOMEWHERE. YOU
HEARD ANYTHIN'?



WELL, BODIE TOLD ME SOMETHIN' INTERESTING. HE SAID HE'S SEEN THE SAME JOHN PICK HER UP EVERY NIGHT ROUND THE SAME TIME.

SO SHE'S GOT FAN. NOTHIN' UNUSUAL IN THAT.

NAH, HE SAYS THIS DIDN'T LOOK LIKE TRADE. WAY THEY TALKED, BODY LANGUAGE, HE RECKONED SHE'S GOT HERSELF A *BOYFRIEND*.



NO SHIT? HE GIVE YOU A DESCRIPTION OF THE GIMP?

NO, BUT I CAN GET ONE.

YOU DO THAT. AN *ADDRESS* TOO, HAVE HIM FOLLOWED.



"TIME I PAID THE LOVEBIRDS A VISIT..."

HEY, IT'S ME! SORRY I'M LATE, I GOT TAKEOUT.

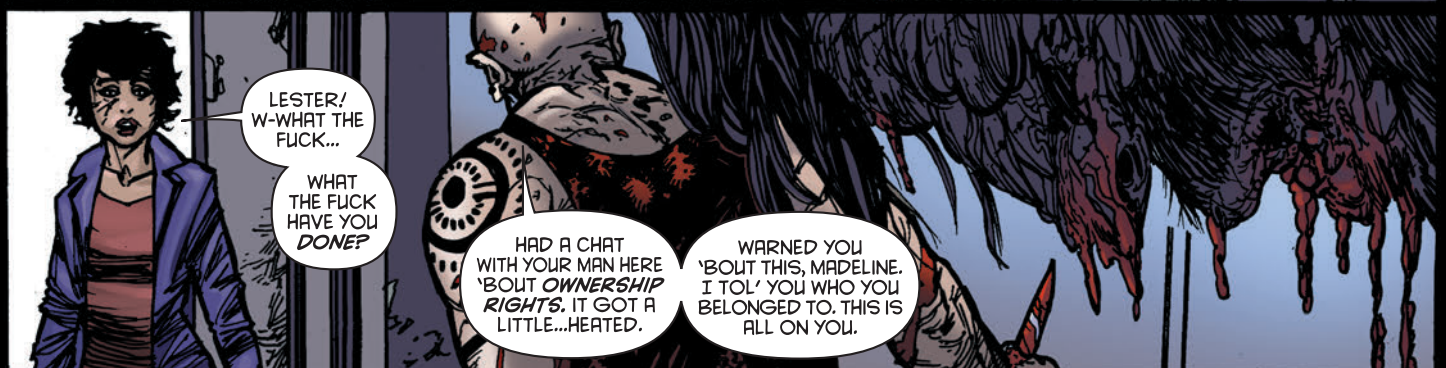
LISTEN, I WAS THINKIN' 'BOUT LOCATION AND THESE NEW BLOCKS THEY'RE PUTTIN' UP ARE MEANT TO BE NOTHIN' SHORT OF *NUKEPROOF*. COULD BE A GOOD BASE--



ERIC?

WELL, WELL, WELL. LOOKS LIKE THE GANG'S ALL HERE.

SHAME YOU MISSED THE PARTY.

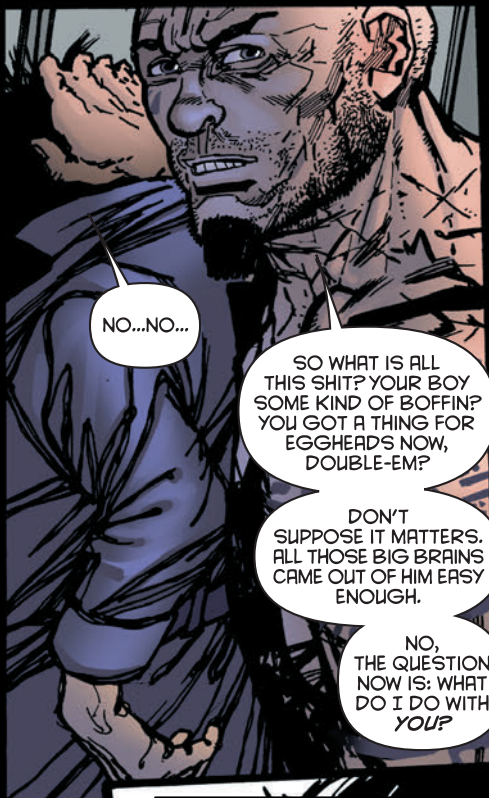


LESTER! W-WHAT THE FUCK...

WHAT THE FUCK HAVE YOU *DONE?*

HAD A CHAT WITH YOUR MAN HERE 'BOUT *OWNERSHIP RIGHTS*. IT GOT A LITTLE...HEATED.

WARNED YOU 'BOUT THIS, MADELINE. I TOL' YOU WHO YOU BELONGED TO. THIS IS ALL ON YOU.



NO...NO...

SO WHAT IS ALL THIS SHIT? YOUR BOY SOME KIND OF BOFFIN? YOU GOT A THING FOR EGGHEADS NOW, DOUBLE-EM?

DON'T SUPPOSE IT MATTERS. ALL THOSE BIG BRAINS CAME OUT OF HIM EASY ENOUGH.

NO, THE QUESTION NOW IS: WHAT DO I DO WITH *YOU*?



YOU FUCKER...

THING IS, I DON'T THINK A *BEATIN'* IS GOING TO CUT IT THIS TIME. I RECKON YOU'VE BECOME HARDENED TO THEM ANYWAY.

I THINK MORE OF A SHOW OF *LOYALTY* IS REQUIRED.



PUT YOUR MOUTH WHERE THE MONEY IS, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

THIS CITY COULD CRUSH YOU IF WEREN'T TOUGH ENOUGH.

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE *STRENGTH OF WILL* TO SURVIVE.

FEAR. RUTHLESSNESS. UTTER COMMITMENT. THAT WAS HOW YOU ROSE TO THE TOP AND STAYED THERE.

HOW YOU ESTABLISHED A *REPUTATION*.

I'M SORRY. YOU'RE RIGHT.



TRY THIS. IT'LL...ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE.

DOPE?

AND THEN SOME. IT'LL MAKE IT LAST FOREVER.



COOL.

GLAD YOU'VE FINALLY ACCEPTED WHO'S IN CHARGE, MADRIGAL.

LESTER...

...CALL ME
MA-MA.

**AAAAHHHHH-
AAAAHHHHHH-
AAAAHHHHH!**

TIP-OFF WAS
CALLED IN ANONYMOUSLY.
MED'S PLACE TIME OF DEATH
AS A FEW HOURS AGO, AROUND
ELEVEN-THIRTY. THEY THINK HE
WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN HE
WAS DUMPED HERE, LONG
SINCE BLED OUT.

OFFICIAL CoD
IS BLOOD LOSS, THOUGH
THE...uh, ORGAN WASN'T
REMOVED WITH A BLADED
WEAPON. TISSUE DAMAGE
AROUND THE GROIN AREA
IS CONSISTENT WITH IT
BEING *BITTEN* OFF.

AN
ANIMAL?

OF THE
HUMAN
VARIETY.

Huh. SO
WHO WAS
HE?

I.D.'D AS
LESTER GRIMES,
MID-RANKING
PIMP AND KNOWN
FELON.

DONE
SOME CUBE-TIME FOR
DRUG POSSESSION
AND ASSAULT. NASTY
PIECE OF WORK.

NOT
GOING TO
BE MISSED,
THEN.

PROBABLY
NO SHORTAGE OF
ENEMIES EITHER, BUT
A CASTRATION LIKE
THIS IS *SYMBOLIC*,
A DECLARATION
OF INTENT.

SOMEONE'S
MAKING A POWER
PLAY, GOT THEIR
SIGHTS ON THE
TOP SPOT...

PEACH
TREES