

**VERTIGO**  
DC COMICS

WARREN ELLIS • DARICK ROBERTSON • RODNEY RAMOS

no. 38  
NOV 00

\*\*\* LATE EDITION \*\*\*

# TRANSMETROPOLITAN

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FOR FOOD

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GRADE  
COVER  
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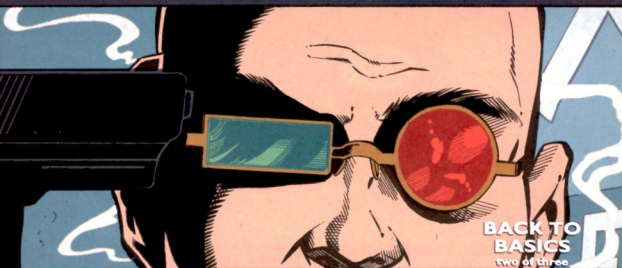
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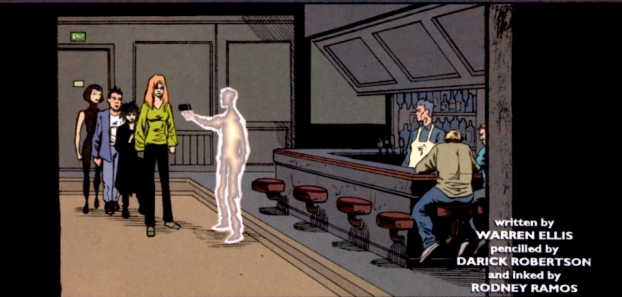


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**BACK TO  
BASICS**  
two of three



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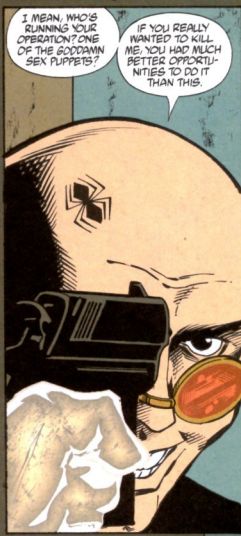


HA HA HA  
HA HA HA HA

OH, THIS  
IS SAD, IT  
REALLY IS...

WHAT'S  
SO FUCKING  
FUNNY?

THIS  
IS. YOU  
ARE.



I MEAN, WHO'S  
RUNNING YOUR  
OPERATION? ONE  
OF THE GODDAMN  
SEX PUPPETS?

IF YOU REALLY  
WANTED TO KILL  
ME, YOU HAD MUCH  
BETTER OPPORTU-  
NITIES TO DO IT  
THAN THIS.

BELIEVE ME,  
WE REALLY WANT  
TO KILL YOU.

NO YOU  
DON'T. IF YOU  
REALLY WANTED  
TO KILL ME,  
I'D BE DEAD  
ALREADY.

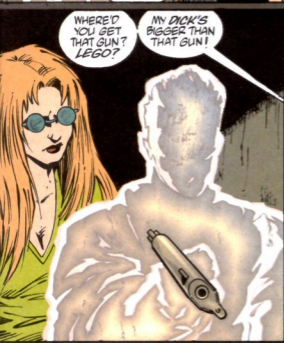


I MEAN, YOU  
AGREE WITH ME,  
DON'T YOU?

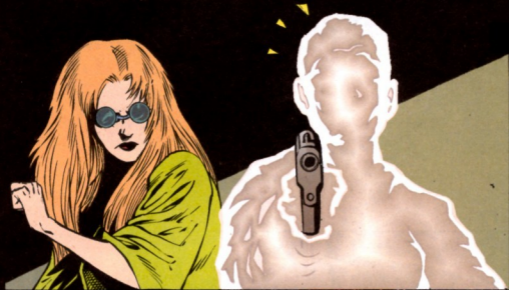
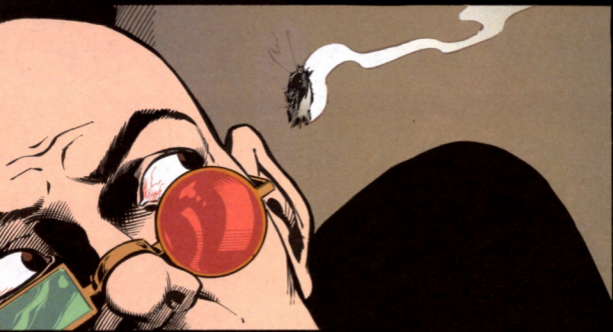


OKAY, I  
CAN'T TELL, WITH  
YOU IN THAT ANYONE-  
SUIT, BUT CHRIST, HOW  
HARD IS IT?

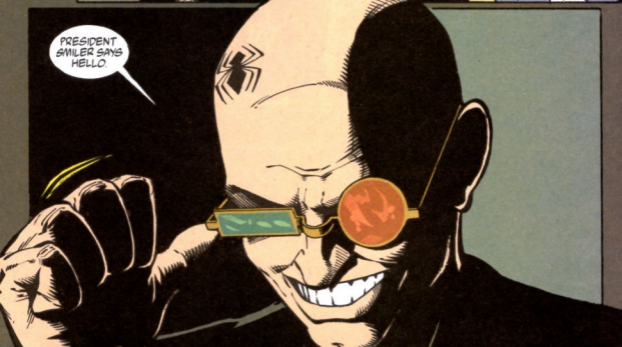
I'M A DRUNK  
AND A DRUGS  
USER. I HAVE TO  
SPEND THREE HOURS  
A DAY ON THE JOHN.  
KILL ME THEN.













HE'S CAUSED LOCAL TALENT TO BE HIRED. OF COURSE PROBABLY COFS.

NO ACTUAL PROFESSIONAL WOULD GET WITHIN A MILE OF A GIG LIKE THIS. WAY TOO CONVENIENT, ME AND MY ASSOCIATES BEING FOUND SHOT DEAD.

BUT THAT WASN'T THE POINT.



I MEAN, HE WOULDN'T EXACTLY WEEP BUCKETS IF I GOT KILLED.

BUT THIS WASN'T ABOUT KILLING ME.

STAND BACK. THIS IS G-SANITIZE AND ID TRASHCAN-- YOU DON'T WANT ANY OF THESE TO GET ON YOU.



THIS WAS ABOUT SAYING HELLO.

THIS WAS ABOUT SAYING, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU.

AND I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU.



THAT'S THE ENEMY THIS TIME, YOU SEE.

THE BEAST WAS SICK, BUT HE PLAYED BY THE USUAL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.

BUT THE SMILER...



...THE SMILER IS GENUINELY INSANE.



WHAT IS THAT STUFF?

ID TRASHCAN. LEAVES NOTHING BEHIND THAT CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY ANYBODY.

JUST LEAVES A LITTLE HEAP OF CHARRED AND UNRAVELED DNA.

I FEEL LIKE THAT SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW.



SHOULDN'T WE BE TAKING OFF THEIR DISGUISE SUITS AND, I DON'T KNOW, TELLING SOMEONE?

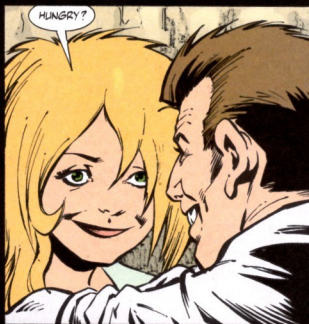
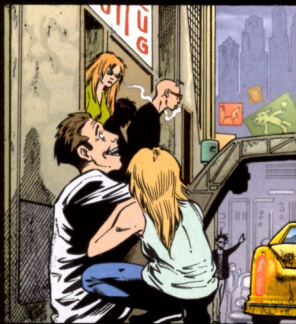
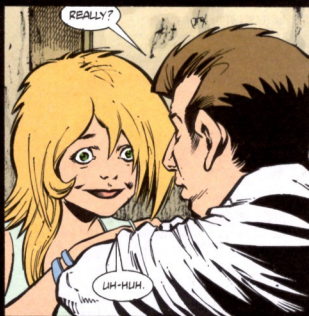
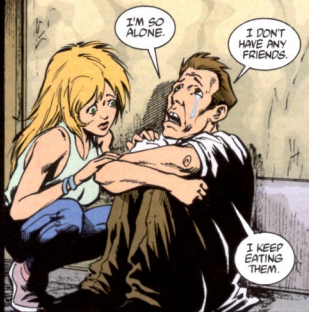
I'M NOT SAYING CALL THE COPS, JUST IN CASE, BUT THERE MUST BE SOME-THING--



WRONG RULES.

THIS IS ABOUT SENDING MESSAGES.



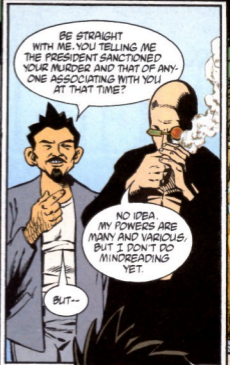




STEP ON, MY CHILDREN. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CITY.

HEY, NO-ONE'S TRIED TO KILL ME BEFORE, I'M ALLOWED TO BE MILDLY CONCERNED.

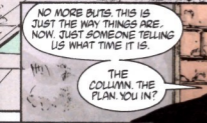
ONLY NATURAL. BUT DON'T LET IT RULE YOUR LIFE.



BE STRAIGHT WITH ME. YOU TELLING ME THE PRESIDENT SANCTIONED YOUR MURDER AND THAT OF ANYONE ASSOCIATING WITH YOU AT THAT TIME?

NO IDEA. MY POWERS ARE MANY AND VARIOUS, BUT I DON'T DO MINDREADING YET.

BUT--



NO MORE BUTS THIS IS JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE. NOW, JUST SOMEONE TELLING US WHAT TIME IT IS.

THE COLUMN. THE PLAN. YOU IN?



Q1 ALREADY SAID--

I HEARD WHAT Q1 ALREADY SAID. I'M ASKING YOU.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING TO HEAR YOU SAY.

LET'S DO THE JOB RIGHT.



UNLESS YOU GIVE A SHIT TOO THEN IT'S POINTLESS.

JOURNALISM IS FOR THE MADLY PASSIONATE. IT'S FOR THE INTENSE AND THE HALF-FUCKING-MAD AND THE PEOPLE WHO GIVE A SHIT.



# DISCONEKT

BOILING BABIES  
ALL OVER CITY.  
DISCONEKT RESCUE SQUADS  
TRY HELP CITY PEOPLE  
BEFORE HEADS  
BURST WITH RAGE.

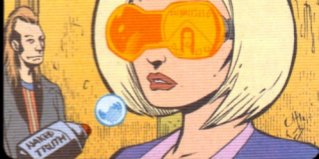
DISCONEKT  
DRUG GOOD FOR  
YOU. REAL WORLD  
BAD. MAKE SICK.  
RIVERS OF PUKE.  
DRUG GOOD.

THIS  
IS THE NEWS,  
SPONSORED BY  
DISCONEKT.



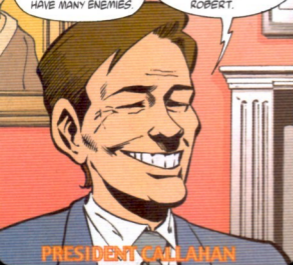
IT TASTED  
LIKE CHIVES, AND I  
THOUGHT, YOU KNOW,  
THIS CAN'T BE MY  
PLACENTA.

IT WAS ONLY  
THEN THAT I REALIZED THAT  
THE DOCTOR WAS WEARING  
CHEF'S WHITES.



I THINK WE HAVE  
TO RECOGNIZE THAT  
THESE ARE CONFUSING  
TIMES, AND THAT WE  
HAVE MANY ENEMIES.

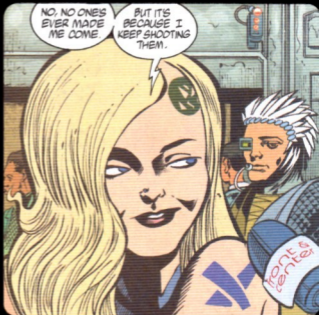
BRIEFLY EXTENDING  
THE GROUNDS OF NATIONAL  
SECURITY IS A MILD,  
COMMON-SENSE STEP,  
ROBERT.



**PRESIDENT CALLAHAN**

NO. NO ONES  
EVER MADE  
ME COME.

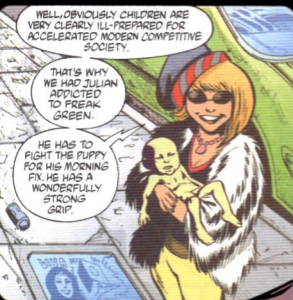
BUT IT'S  
BECAUSE I  
KEEP SHOOTING  
THEM.



WELL, OBVIOUSLY CHILDREN ARE  
VERY CLEARLY ILL-PREPARED FOR  
ACCELERATED MODERN COMPETITIVE  
SOCIETY.

THAT'S WHY  
WE HAD JULIAN  
ADDICTED TO  
FREAK GREEN.

HE HAS TO  
FIGHT THE PUPPY  
FOR HIS MORNING  
FIX. HE HAS A  
WONDERFULLY  
STRONG GRIP.

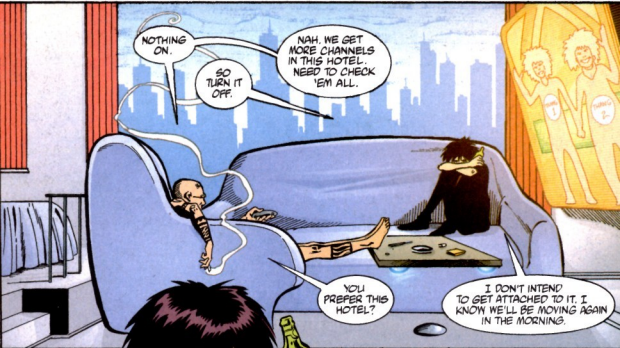


SPKF NEWSFEED HACKED BY ACTIVISTS,  
REPLACED BY FOOTAGE OF SIX FEMALE  
ENGLISH TERRORISTS BEING RAPED AND  
KILLED IN DUBLIN--

airfeed

--85% OF  
AUDIENCE NOTICE  
NO DIFFERENCE  
FROM USUAL  
SPKF FEED. MORE  
AFTER THESE  
MESSAGES--





NOTHING ON.

SO TURN IT OFF.

NAH. WE GET MORE CHANNELS IN THIS HOTEL. NEED TO CHECK 'EM ALL.

YOU PREFER THIS HOTEL?

I DON'T INTEND TO GET ATTACHED TO IT. I KNOW WE'LL BE MOVING AGAIN IN THE MORNING.



WHERE'S CHANNON?

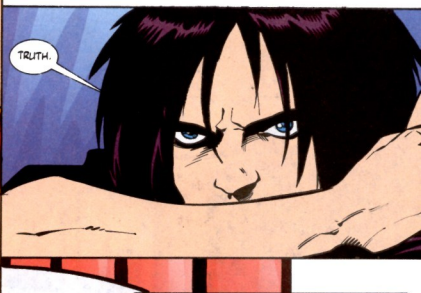
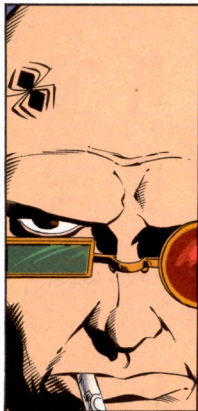
SHE WENT FOR A NAP WHILE YOU DOZED OFF SAYS FIGHTS TEND TO WIPE HER ABOUT A BIT.

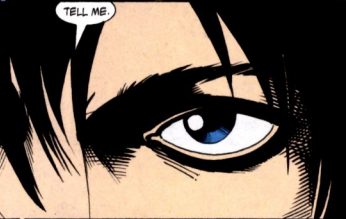
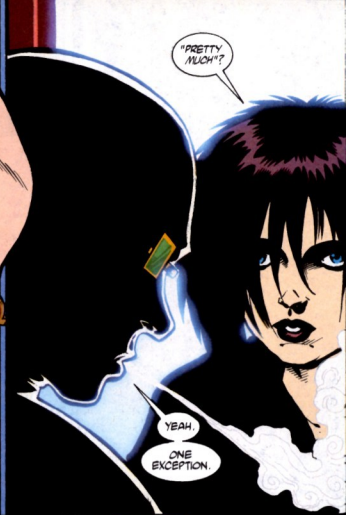
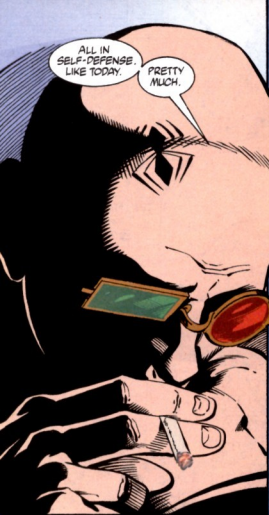


SPIDER?

YEAH.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU KILLED?











I've started writing again. He'd be pleased about that, if he knew.

I don't dare tell the bastard. He'll only want to read it.

Not ready for that yet. But I've got to get what's happening down on paper. So I can get it out of my head.



He's just left the hotel without a word, gone out into the street and started displaying himself in front of the public.

He's just taken his pants off. I think he's going to try and get someone to read the tattoo on his penis again.

He's convinced it reads READ MY SCRIPTURE: I WILL NEVER ABANDON THE CITY I LOVE but everyone forced to see it claims that it says RAT, and even then only if you squat and give the wrinkle the benefit of the doubt.



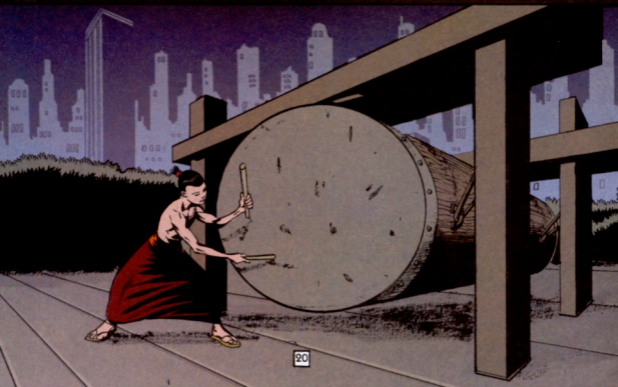
When I first met him, I thought he was mad.

After a while, I realized he was just angry.

Now...I'm starting to wonder if he's ill.

Because he's starting to forget things. And he wasn't dozing when Channon left the room.







LOOK AT THAT.

THE CONTRAIL? THAT'LL BE ONE OF THE NEW SHUTTLES FROM LAUNCHPORT NORTH.

NO, NO.  
THE NAKED MAN.

And so, freed, I  
start to write.



TO BE  
CONCLUDED



D  
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