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DC COMICS

WARREN ELLIS • DARICK ROBERTSON • RODNEY RAMOS

NO. 48
OCT 01

***** LATE EDITION *****

TRANSMETROPOLITAN

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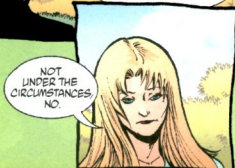
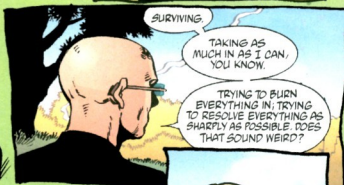
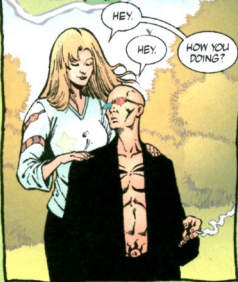
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THIS ISN'T THE WAY I EXPECTED TO BE HEADING OUT.

DOES TO ME.



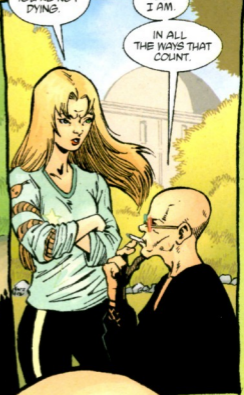
SPIDER, YOU'RE NOT DYING.

YES I AM.

IN ALL THE WAYS THAT COUNT.

IN ABOUT A YEAR, I'M GOING TO BE A COMPLETE VEGETABLE.

ODDS ARE THAT MY LONG-TERM MEMORY WILL GO AWAY, MY SHORT-TERM MEMORY WILL EMBARRASS A GOLDFISH, AND I'LL NEVER WRITE ANOTHER WORD AGAIN.



I WON'T BE ABLE TO RETAIN OR PROCESS INFORMATION.

SOUNDS LIKE DYING TO ME.



ON THE OTHER HAND: WHAT THE FLUCK.

WE COULD ALL BE HIT BY AN ASTEROID THE SIZE OF ROYCE'S ASS TOMORROW.

YOU CAN QUIT, YOU KNOW.

IF YOU WANT.

NO HARD FEELINGS, NO GRUDGES, NO SNEAKY SHOT FROM BEHIND WITH THE BOWEL DISRUPTOR.

TEMPTING.

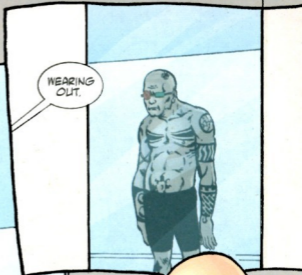
FOUR YEARS I'VE BEEN STUCK WITH YOU NOW.

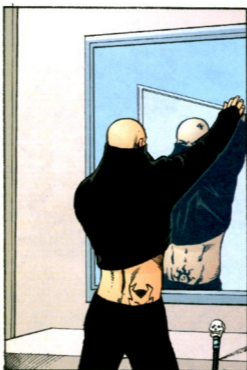
ASIDE FROM A BRIEF SPELL IN A NUNNERY.

I'M STAYING.

I WAS LYING ABOUT THE BOWEL DISRUPTOR THING.

I KNOW.



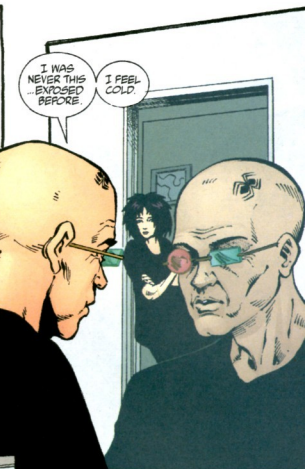




I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE IT.

PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S ARMOR KEEPING THE WORLD OUT.

YOU NEVER NEEDED IT BEFORE.



I WAS NEVER THIS ... EXPOSED BEFORE.

I FEEL COLD.



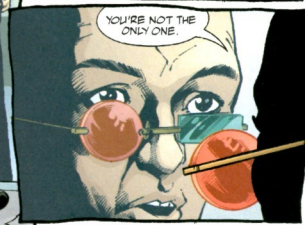
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A TIE THAT'D SCARE THE FLICK OUT OF PEOPLE.

HEH HEH HA HA HA

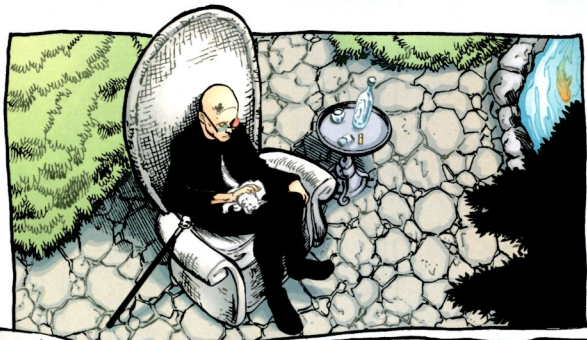
...TELL PEOPLE YOU'RE GOING TO RUN FOR OFFICE NEXT YEAR ON THE "DRUGS AND DOG-CULLING" TICKET..



YOU'RE FRIGHTENING ME.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE.



HEH.

UGLY
PLURRY
THING

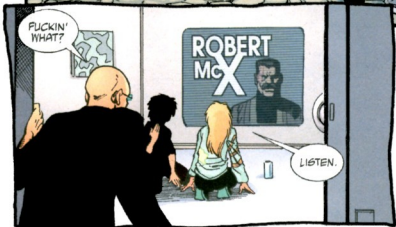
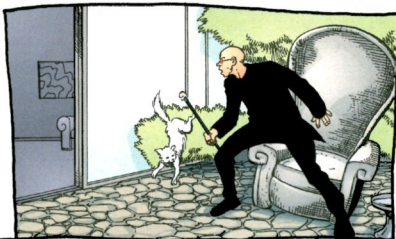


WE HAD A GOOD
RUN, DIDN'T WE?



DON'T
YOU
WORRY.

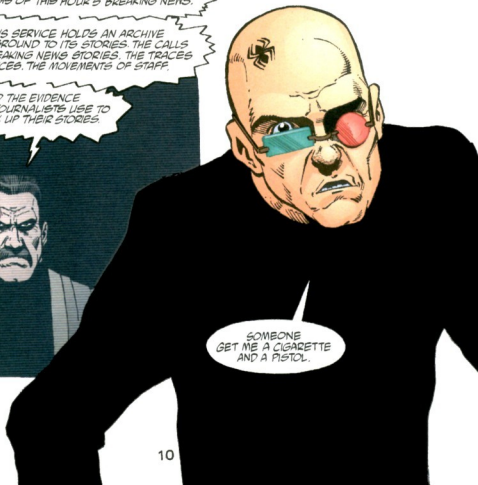
THEY'LL
LOOK AFTER YOU,
YOU WEIRD LITTLE
BITCH.




--ANALYSIS OF THIS HOUR'S BREAKING NEWS.

EVERY NEWS SERVICE HOLDS AN ARCHIVE OF THE BACKGROUND TO ITS STORIES. THE CALLS THAT LEAK BREAKING NEWS STORIES. THE TRACES OF BUSY OFFICES. THE MOVEMENTS OF STAFF.

AND THE EVIDENCE THAT JOURNALISTS USE TO BACK UP THEIR STORIES.





ONLY NOW, AS THE CITY PULLS ITSELF TOGETHER IN THE WAKE OF THE RUINSTORM DISASTER, HAVE THE CITY MEDIA LOOKED TO THEIR OWN CONDITION.

AS BUSINESS HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL, AND WE IN THE MEDIA HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM THE DISASTER TO THE JOB OF GENERAL REPORTAGE ONCE MORE--



OH SHIT.

--WE HAVE FOUND THAT WE HAD SUFFERED OUR OWN ANFUL WOUND.

THE ARCHIVAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN DECIMATED

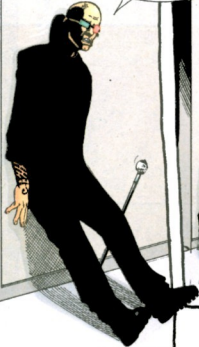


WHERE WE LOG THE EVIDENCE.

THINGS HAVE BEEN SO CHAOTIC THIS MONTH THAT NO ONE HAD HAD CAUSE TO REVIEW THE SYSTEM, WHOSE CONTROLS ARE ENTIRELY LOCATED--



IN THE PRINT DISTRICT.



THE ARCHIVAL SYSTEM CAN ONLY BE RECONFIGURED MANUALLY FROM PUBLISHERS' OFFICES.

YOU'D HAVE TO GET IN THERE AND BE COMPLETELY ALONE-- --ASIDE FROM A TEAM OF EXPERTS-- FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME.


THE SNIPER IN THE PRINT DISTRICT.

THE DISTRICT EVACUATED.



AND THEN THE RUINSTORM. HAPPY ACCIDENT.

ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO SEND A TEAM IN.



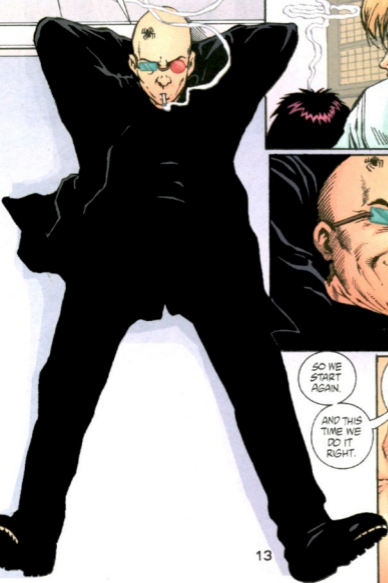
ALL THEY NEEDED WAS THE WORD'S SECTION OF THE EVIDENCE ARCHIVE TO BE WIPED.

THEY TOOK OUT THE REST OF THE SYSTEM TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD.



ALL THE EVIDENCE WE LOGGED AGAINST YOUR STORIES, SPIDER. ALL THE PROOFS. ALL THE STUFF WE WERE WAITING TO USE.

YEP. THE WHOLE DAMN LOT.



YOU'RE SOUNDING WEIRDLY CALM.



I COULD FREAK OUT, WET MYSELF AND RUSH INTO THE STREET TO KICK A DOZEN PUPPIES INTO JELLY.

BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BRING THE SHIT BACK, IS IT?

SO WE START AGAIN.
AND THIS TIME WE DO IT RIGHT.

WE GO BACK TO EVERY SOURCE. WE CONNECT EVERY POINT. WE AMASS EVERYTHING, NO MATTER HOW MINOR.

I DON'T GO AGAINST HIM UNLESS I'M COMPLETELY READY THIS TIME. NO MORE PICKING AT HIM.



I MEAN IT.
NO MORE SHOTS.
NO MORE PLAYING
NO MORE WHITTILING
AWAY AT THE
FLUCKER.

WE BUILD
THE ENTIRE CASE
AND WE SHOVE
IT THROUGH HIS
FLUCKING HEART
IN ONE GO.



DO WE...

...DO YOU
HAVE TIME
TO DO IT ALL
OVER AGAIN?



I'M
GOING TO
HAVE TO
AREN'T
I?

I'LL FIND THE TIME.
AND SINCE THE SMILER ACTED
SO WEIRD ON CAMERA DURING
THAT PRESS CONFERENCE,
WE'VE GOT A LITTLE SPACE.

THEY WERE
STILL ROASTING
HIM FOR THAT THIS
MORNING...




...WE INTERRUPT
THIS BROADCAST FOR
BREAKING NEWS.





PRESIDENT
CALLAHAN'S WIFE AND
CHILDREN ARE REPORTED
TO HAVE DIED IN A CAR
ACCIDENT IN
LOS ANGELES.

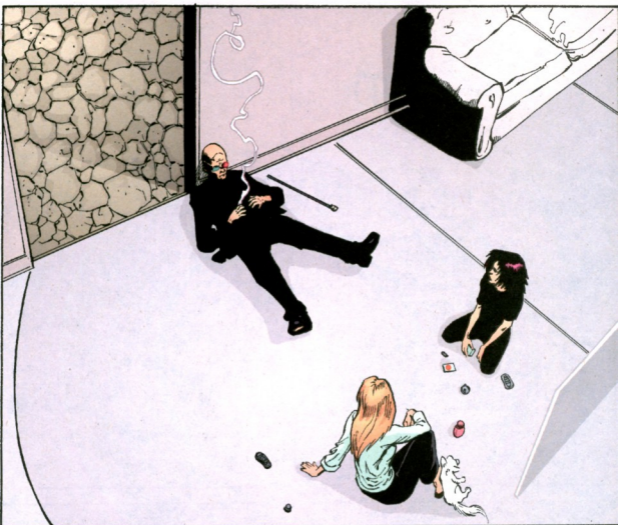


THE PRESIDENT
PREFERRED TO KEEP HIS FAMILY IN
CALIFORNIA SO AS NOT TO INTERRUPT
HIS CHILDREN'S SCHOOLING AND
HIS WIFE'S CAREER AND
LIFESTYLE.



THERE HAS BEEN
NO DIRECT COMMENT FROM
THE OVAL OFFICE, BUT THE
PRESIDENT'S ADVISOR HAS
ASKED THAT WE JOIN
MR. CALLAHAN IN
PRAYER AT THIS TIME.





SHE WAS NICE.

NEVER MET THE KIDS, BUT SHE WAS NICE.

HE DID IT, DIDN'T HE?

I MEAN, MAYBE I'VE JUST SPENT TOO MUCH TIME AROUND YOU AND MY BRAIN'S GONE, BUT...

HE HAD HER KILLED, DIDN'T HE?



PROBABLY.

HE NEEDS A HIGH APPROVAL RATING TO DO WHAT HE WANTS TO DO. HE'S TERRIFIED OF NOT BEING LOVED BY THE RETARDED MASSES.

I STIFFED HIM IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE. HIS FAMILY DIED, ASSURING HIM OF A MASSIVE BOOST AND THE SYMPATHY OF A NATION.



WHICH MEANS I PROBABLY KILLED HER.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.



BUT, DAMNIT, WE KNOW HE KILLED VITA SEVERN. WE KNOW HE HAD VARIOUS WITNESSES KILLED. WHO ELSE WOULD BENEFIT?

IT'S THE BASTARD'S SIGNATURE. NO FINGER-PRINTS, BUT NO ONE ELSE BENEFITS.

WHAT NOW?



WE ASSUME THE OTHER SHOE IS GOING TO DROP.

AND WE GET ON WITH THE JOB REGARDLESS.



WASTING HIS FAMILY FOR HIS APPROVAL RATING.

I WANT TO SAY I DON'T BELIEVE IT.



YOU KNOW WHAT THE FUNNY THING IS?

HE'S HAPPY TO KILL ANYONE EXCEPT ME. I STILL SAY THE AMBUSH IN THAT BAR WAS DELIBERATELY CRAP.

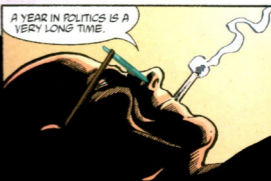
I'M IMMORTAL.



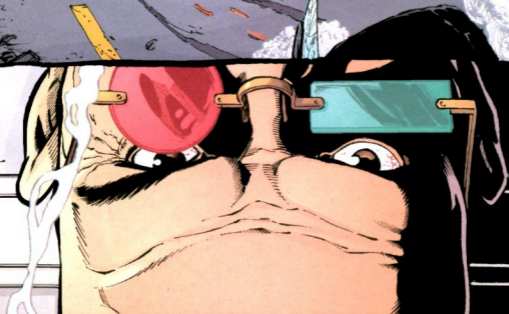
YOU GOT A YEAR.



A YEAR IN POLITICS IS A VERY LONG TIME.









I'M GOING TO
MAKE THE GRINNING
BASTARD SUFFER.

