

VERTIGO

ISSUE 59

WARREN ELLIS

DARICK ROBERTSON

RODNEY RAMOS

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SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

*** LATE EDITION ***

TRANSMETROPOLITAN

SHUTTING DOWN...



DIRECT SALES



vertigo.com



Warren Ellis writes and



Darick Robertson pencils

The Long Day Closes

*Rodney Ramos, inker • Nathan Eyring, color & separations
Clem Robins, letterer • Darick Robertson, cover • Zachary Rau, editor
Transmetropolitan created by Warren Ellis and Darick Robertson*

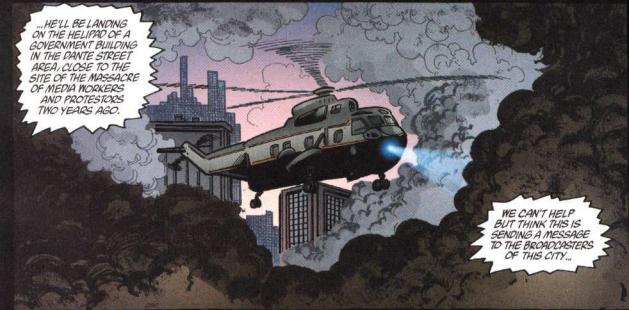
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...SPKF NEWS LIVE:
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED
WORD FROM A SOURCE
IN THE WHITE HOUSE...

...YES... WE HAVE THE
PRESIDENT'S FLIGHT PLAN
FOLLOWING HIS UNSCHEDULED
DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON...




...HE'LL BE LANDING
ON THE HELIPAD OF A
GOVERNMENT BUILDING
IN THE DANTE STREET
AREA, CLOSE TO THE
SITE OF THE MASSACRE
OF MEDIA WORKERS
AND PROTESTORS
TWO YEARS AGO.

WE CAN'T HELP
BUT THINK THIS IS
SENDING A MESSAGE
TO THE BROADCASTERS
OF THIS CITY...



FUCK YOU
BACK, MISTER
PRESIDENT.



...FROM A PANICKING
PRESIDENT WHO
SOUGHT TO SUPPRESS
DAMAGING REVELA-
TIONS EMERGING
FROM THE CITY...

...BY IMPOSING
MARTIAL LAW AND
DRACONIAN EMERGENCY
CONTROLS ON
THE MEDIA...



CHANNON,
ARE WE FAR
FROM DANTE
STREET?

EIGHT
BLOCKS NORTH.
YOU KNOW THIS
AREA...

I'M KIND
OF FUZZY.



WHAT
DO WE DO?

WE
GO SEE
HIM.



WHAT?

WE'RE
GOING TO GO
TO HIM.

IN FACT, I
FEEL A...



...WHEN YOU TALK TO PEOPLE
AND THEY LIE TO YOU AND
YOU WRITE ABOUT IT.

INTERVIEW?

YEAH. I FEEL
AN INTERVIEW
COMING ON.



YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

I AIN'T DEAD YET.

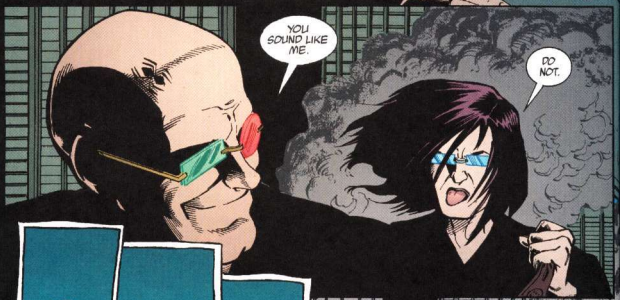
AND I'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS LEFT.



WE DON'T HAVE ANY TRICKS LEFT. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE BROADCAST CAPABILITY.

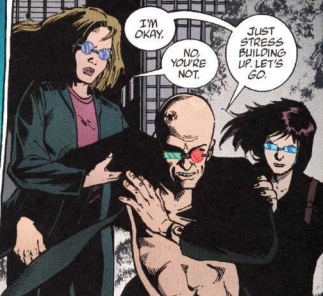
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HIDING UP HERE, WATCHING EVERYTHING HAPPEN BELOW US LIKE A BUNCH OF IDIOTS.

I FEEL LIKE STABBING FORTY PEOPLE AT RANDOM.



YOU SOUND LIKE ME.

DO NOT.



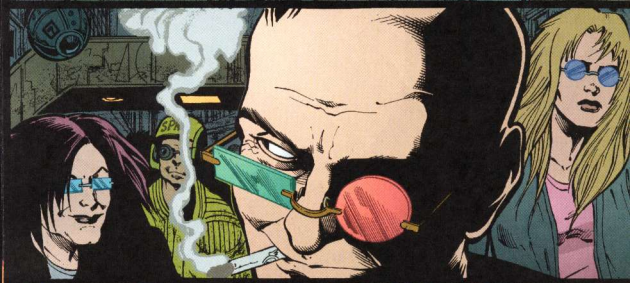
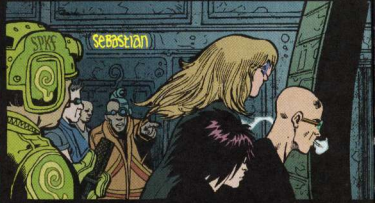
I'M OKAY.

NO, YOU'RE NOT.

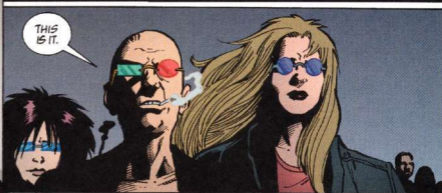
JUST STRESS BUILDING UP. LET'S GO.

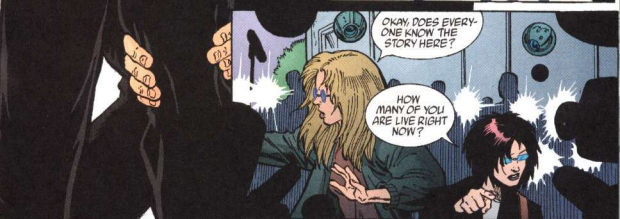
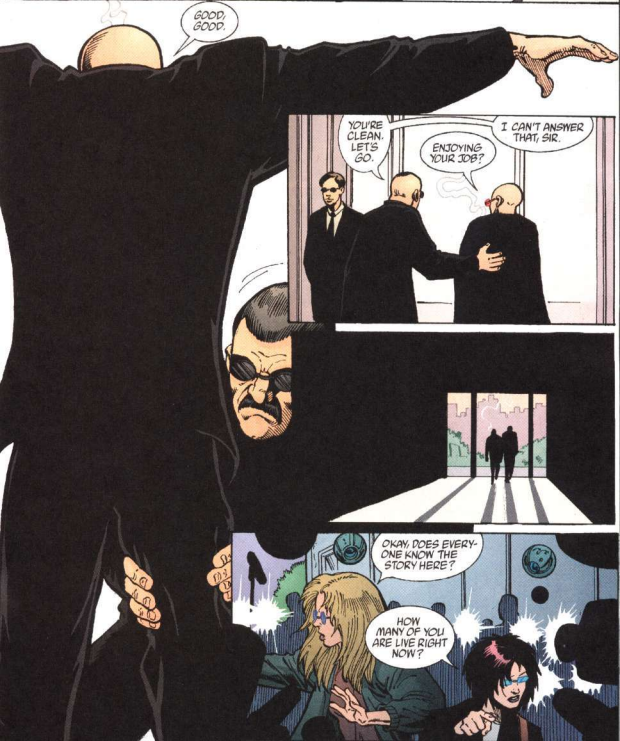
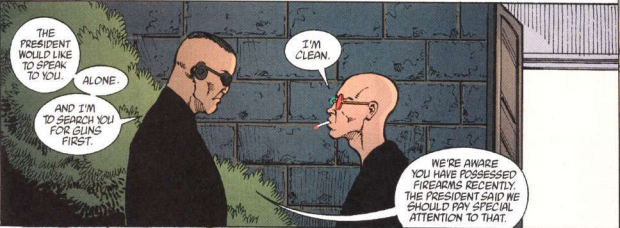














GOD,
MY HEAD
HURTS...

SO HOW MANY
OF YOU ARE ON A
PRIVATE PAYROLL?



THAT'S
NOT
FUNNY.



HE'S
WAITING FOR
YOU IN THERE.
HE HAS TWO
AGENTS WITH
HIM. FOR YOUR
PROTECTION
AS MUCH AS
HIS.



IT'S NOT
MEANT
TO BE.





THERE'S THE PRICK.



CALLAHAN.

SO.

WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT, GET IT SAID SO I CAN GO AND LAY DOWN SOMEWHERE.

I FEEL LIKE GOD WIPED HIS ASS WITH MY BRAIN.



HAVE I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE YOU FINALLY LOSE ALL YOUR FACULTIES, JERUSALEM?

THAT WOULD BE NICE.

BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

YOU HAVE FUCKED WITH ME, JERUSALEM.

YOU HAVE FUCKED WITH ME AND FUCKED WITH ME AND HAVE FINALLY MADE MY LIFE DIFFICULT.

YOU DON'T GET TO GO AND BE ILL AND GET AWAY WITH IT.

AND WHAT HAS YOUR MISSION: FUCK WITH ME GOTTEN YOU?

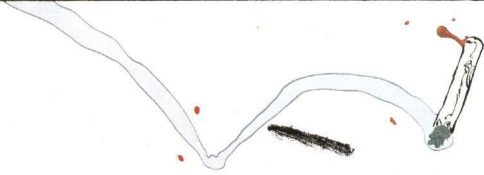
YOUR BRAIN'S ROTTING; YOU'VE GOT NO FUCKING JOB, NOWHERE TO LIVE, AND YOU'RE NOW TRAPPED IN A ROOM WITH ME AND TWO OF MY AGENTS.

JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, eh?

YOU GOING TO KILL ME TOO, CALLAHAN?

YOU'VE GOTTEN IN MY WAY.

MISTER PRESIDENT.





SO THIS IS IT?

SLAP ME AROUND A BIT AND THEN SHOOT ME?

GOD, YOU'RE BORING.



NO, NO, I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT YOU.

MY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ARE GOING TO SHOOT YOU.



WE ALL KNOW ABOUT YOUR RECENT FONDNESS FOR HANDGUNS. YOU'VE BEEN VERY SHOWY WITH THEM.

HERE; THIS WAS SECRETED ON YOUR PERSON. MY AGENT DOWN-STAIRS MISSED IT WHEN HE FRISKED YOU.

YOU PULLED IT ON ME. THEY BLEW YOU AWAY.



YOU ARE UTTERLY DISCREDITED.

YOU SEE, A DEATH IN THE RIGHT PLACE IS ALL IT EVER TAKES.



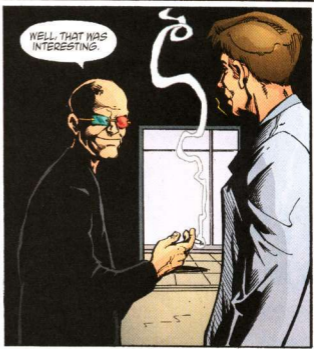
NO.

THE TWO AGENTS YOU PAID OFF ARE STILL IN THE CHOPPER, MISTER PRESIDENT.



YOU WANT HIM KILLED, YOU KILL HIM YOURSELF.

YOU'RE WORSE THAN THE LAST GUY.



WELL, THAT WAS INTERESTING.



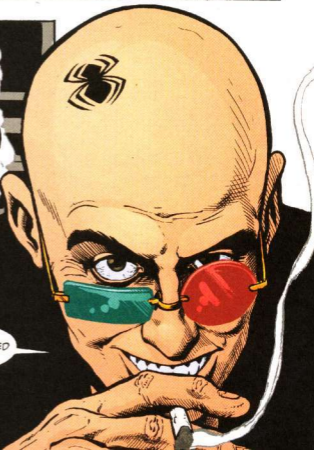
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU ACTUALLY HAD TO KILL SOMEONE YOURSELF? WITH YOUR OWN HANDS?

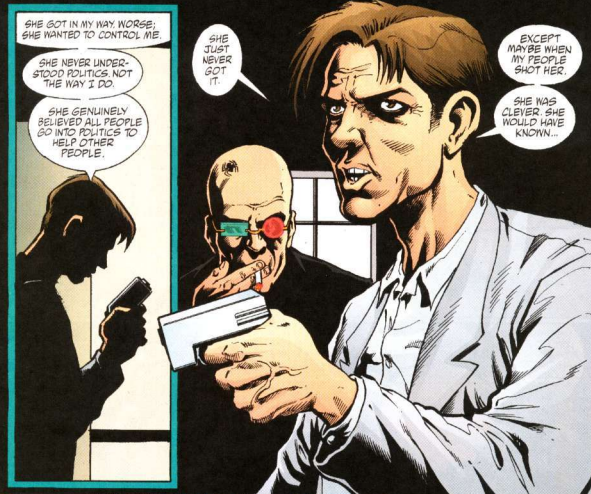
NOT LIKE IT WORKS ANYMORE, ANYWAY.

KILLING ALL THOSE STUDENT KIDS DIDN'T DISTRACT ANYONE, DID IT?

IT DOESN'T WORK FOREVER.

HELL, NOT EVEN KILLING VITA WORKED FOR LONG.





SHE GOT IN MY WAY, WORSE;
SHE WANTED TO CONTROL ME.

SHE NEVER UNDER-
STOOD POLITICS. NOT
THE WAY I DO.

SHE GENUINELY
BELIEVED ALL PEOPLE
GO INTO POLITICS TO
HELP OTHER
PEOPLE.

SHE
JUST
NEVER
GOT
IT.

EXCEPT
MAYBE WHEN
MY PEOPLE
SHOT HER.

SHE WAS
CLEVER. SHE
WOULD HAVE
KNOWN...



NOT LIKE THE
WIFE, OF COURSE.
SHE WAS ALWAYS
DUMBER THAN
A SACK OF
HAMMERS.

I MEAN
JESUS, SHE
TALKED TO
YOU.

NO
LOSS

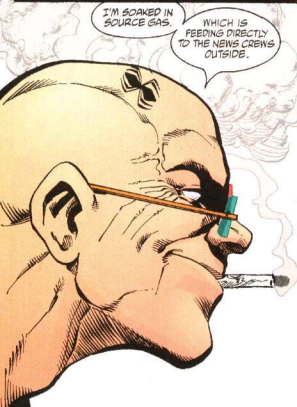


THAT WAS
WHEN YOU
STARTED
GETTING
REALLY
SLOPPY.

YOU'VE BEEN
GETTING
SLOPPIER
AND SLOPPIER
SINCE
THE FIRST TIME WE
SPOKE.



I MEAN,
YOU GOT SHARP
PRETTY QUICKLY,
BUT SINCE
THEN...



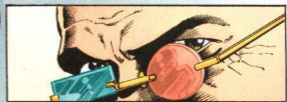


ALL
FALL
DOWN.

YOU KNOW,
I EVEN BET
YOU HAD THE ASS-
HOLES WHO KILLED THE
CONCLAVE KID RELEASED
AND ORCHESTRATED
THE DANTE STREET
MASSACRE.

IS THAT
WHY WE'RE IN
DANTE STREET
TODAY? BIT
OF RESONANCE
THERE?

IT'S ALL
GOING TO
STICK TO YOU
NOW. EVERYONE'S
HEARD EVERY-
THING.







INTERESTING
BROADCAST I'VE BEEN
LISTENING TO.



DETECTIVE
NEWTON, DANTE
STREET
PRECINCT.

GARY
CALLAHAN,
YOU'RE UNDER
ARREST FOR
MURDER,
ATTEMPTED
MURDER, AND
OTHER CHARGES
YET TO BE
SPECIFIED.

GET
AWAY
FROM ME,
BITCH.



YOU'RE A
RESISTING-ARREST
MOTHERFUCKER,
AREN'T YOU?

YOU WANT
TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR
RIGHTS, MISTER
PRESIDENT?



Here's something that you hear in the media all the time: more than half the population of the United States believes in angels... Not just the hypothetical pin-dancers that students count while chugging beer in the philosophy lounge, but real "things" that somehow watch over us, and act as supernatural guardians of our lives. Even while we're chugging beer in the philosophy lounge. It's hard to get a crowd up for a good witch-boiling party nowadays, but it is nice to see some belief structures from the Middle Ages still intact.

Well, since guardian angels are part of democratic reality in the twenty-first century, I have a few questions about this whole concept...

Does everyone have a guardian angel? Including presidents and priests, plumbers and housewives, arms merchants, pimps and tax collectors? Do the homeless have incompetent spirit guides, or do they draw some sort of malicious celestial bastards in the grand lottery of who gets what angel? You gotta believe the Aztecs, the Incas and the Cherokee were

issued no angelic guardians whatsoever, or else the god-loving Europeans wouldn't have so quickly and efficiently kicked their Xuitzilopochtli-loving Native American asses.

ON THE ledge

And what do these angels do with their time? Do they grant wishes if you're high enough on peyote to see one? Do they decide elections in Florida? Do they watch over us and protect us from everything except car accidents, cancer, Enron retirement plans and slipping down the stairs and breaking neck bones?

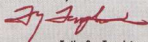
And who's in charge of the angels? There are billions of people to be watched over, even if you DON'T count the Hindus and the Moslems and the Aztecs. What's

the structure of this vast protection organization? Is there a bureaucracy or is it more of an autonomous collective?

BIG TIME is a graphic novel that finally answers all those questions. It's the story of Lester Bigg, a homeless actor who pees against the third rail of a subway system and, instead of fribcasseing his wee-wee, he wakes up face to face with his own private guardian angel...one of the incompetent and malicious ones.

As they try to put Lester's life back together, the pair run into movie stars, high-powered agents, record executive weasels and the concept of God itself. And although the story is about divine intervention, grey alien abductions, spirit guides, pookas, and someone studying to be a fully licensed muse...

To more than half the population of the United States, it's based on a true story.



Ty Templeton

IN STORES THIS AUGUST

BIG TIME (TRADE PAPERBACK)

What do you do when your "guardian angel" hates you and is determined to ruin your life? That's what happens to Lester Bigg in an outrageous dark comedy from the twisted mind of Ty Templeton!

LUCIFER: NIRVANA (PRESTIGE FORMAT)

A beautiful angel with an ancient score to settle puts out a contract on Lucifer Morningstar. But can the Devil really die? Featuring guest appearances by Daniel, the new Sandman, as well as Lucifer's masked accomplice, Mazikeen. Written by Mike Carey. Painted art and cover by Jon J. Muth.

LUCIFER: A DALLIANCE WITH THE DAMNED (TRADE PAPERBACK)

Collecting LUCIFER #14-20, A DALLIANCE WITH THE DAMNED finds the Lightbringer hard at work on a New Creation outside the bounds of any authority but his own, complete with a new pair of inhabitants for a new Garden of Eden. By Carey, Gross, Ormston & Kelly. Painted cover by Christopher Moeller.

100% #3 (OF 5)

Gastro dancer Daisy and John the busboy enjoy a cool holographic culinary experience that leads to hot passion in the shower. Meanwhile, distrustful Kim warms up to Ely, and Haitous prepares for a dangerous boxing match that could rekindle his fading career...or just kill him. Written and illustrated by Paul Pope.

100 BULLETS #38

The second in a series of six stand-alone stories finds Minuteman Cole Burns returning to his old stomping grounds of New York City. Question is, is he there for business or pleasure? By Azzarello & Risso. Painted cover by Dave Johnson.

AMERICAN CENTURY #18

In "Beth Wish," Harry Kraft comes face to face with his spiteful wife, who's making a fortune in mail-order porn. Will she turn his life into a living hell, or can Harry get protection from the Chicago cops on the take? By Chaykin, Tischman, Laming & Stokes. Painted cover by Jim Silke.

CODENAME: KNOCKOUT #16

"Amok in America" Part 1 of 3. Angela returns to California for a showdown with G.O.D., while the woman who has shadowed her life since the series began goes on a rampage in New York. By Rodi, Benes & Lei. Painted cover by J.G. Jones.

THE CRUSADES #18

With another vicious killing imminent, will Venus get to Detective Petronas in time, so they can save the day? Or will the scarred, broken man known as The Knight be Venus's savior in tarnished armor? By Seagle, Jones & Randall. Painted cover by Aron Wiesenfeld.

FABLES #4

Bigby's investigation into Rose's murder reaches its climax at Fabletown's Remembrance Day Ball. But who would invite a psycho-killer to the most prestigious social event of the year? By Willingham, Medina and Hamilton. Painted cover by James Jean.

THE FILTH #3 (OF 13)

Grant Morrison's new VERTIGO series continues! Welcome to the Paperverse, where supermen and fantasy-heroines battle for truth and justice, and reality is merely a page-turn away. By Morrison, Weston & Erskine. Cover by Carlos Segura.

HELLBLAZER #176

With Angie in a hospital bed and the mystery of Gemma's absence deepening, John starts taking things very personally. By Carey & Dillon. Painted cover by Tim Bradstreet.

HUNTER: THE AGE OF MAGIC #14

Mystical forces from all sides are massing for battle, and Tim Hunter is stuck square in the middle. In other words, it's war...and the gloves are off. By Dylan Horrocks. Art by Case, McLoughlin, Bird & Roach. Painted cover by Jon Foster.

LUCIFER #29

"Inferno," Part 1 of 4. Lucifer prepares to duel his most uncompromising foe, but with his power still locked inside Izanami's tainted feathers, there's no chance of victory... By Carey, Gross & Kelly. Painted cover by Christopher Moeller.

MIDNIGHT, MASS #5 (OF 8)

Trapped in a room full of bugs, a descending ceiling, the Midwives of Kali about to resurrect an incredibly malevolent spirit... Yes, it's a bad day for the Kadmons! By Rozum, Salz & Palmiotti. Painted cover by Tomer Hanuka.

TRANSMETROPOLITAN #59

In the penultimate issue of TRANSMETROPOLITAN, it's Spider Jerusalem's final meeting with the President, surrounded by a city on fire and government troops in open conflict with civilians. By Ellis, Robertson & Ramos.

VERTIGO POP: TOKYO! #2 (OF 4)

A kidnapped pop star's future hangs in the balance as Maki, the carefree costumed teenager, leads her hapless gaijin companion straight into the twisted heart of Tokyo's underworld. By Vankin & Fisher.

Y — THE LAST MAN #2

Yorick Brown, the last remaining human male, makes his way to Washington D.C. to find his congresswoman mother. And just what is the agenda of the mysterious Agent 355? By Vaughan, Guerra & Marzan, Jr. Painted cover by J.G. Jones.

EVENTS NEXT MONTH...

IN THE SHADOW OF EDGAR ALLAN POE (HARDCOVER)

The voice of the long-dead author reaches out from beyond the grave to give a chilling account of his tortured life. Written by Jonathan Scott Fuqua. Photographic art by Stephen John Phillips & Steve Parke

FIGHT FOR TOMORROW # 1 (OF 8)

Martial arts mayhem abounds as Cedric Zhang, a Buddhist monk kidnapped and forced to fight, must brawl his way to the truth about himself and the woman who betrayed him. Written by Brian Wood. Art by Denys Cowan & Kent Williams. Cover by Jim Lee.