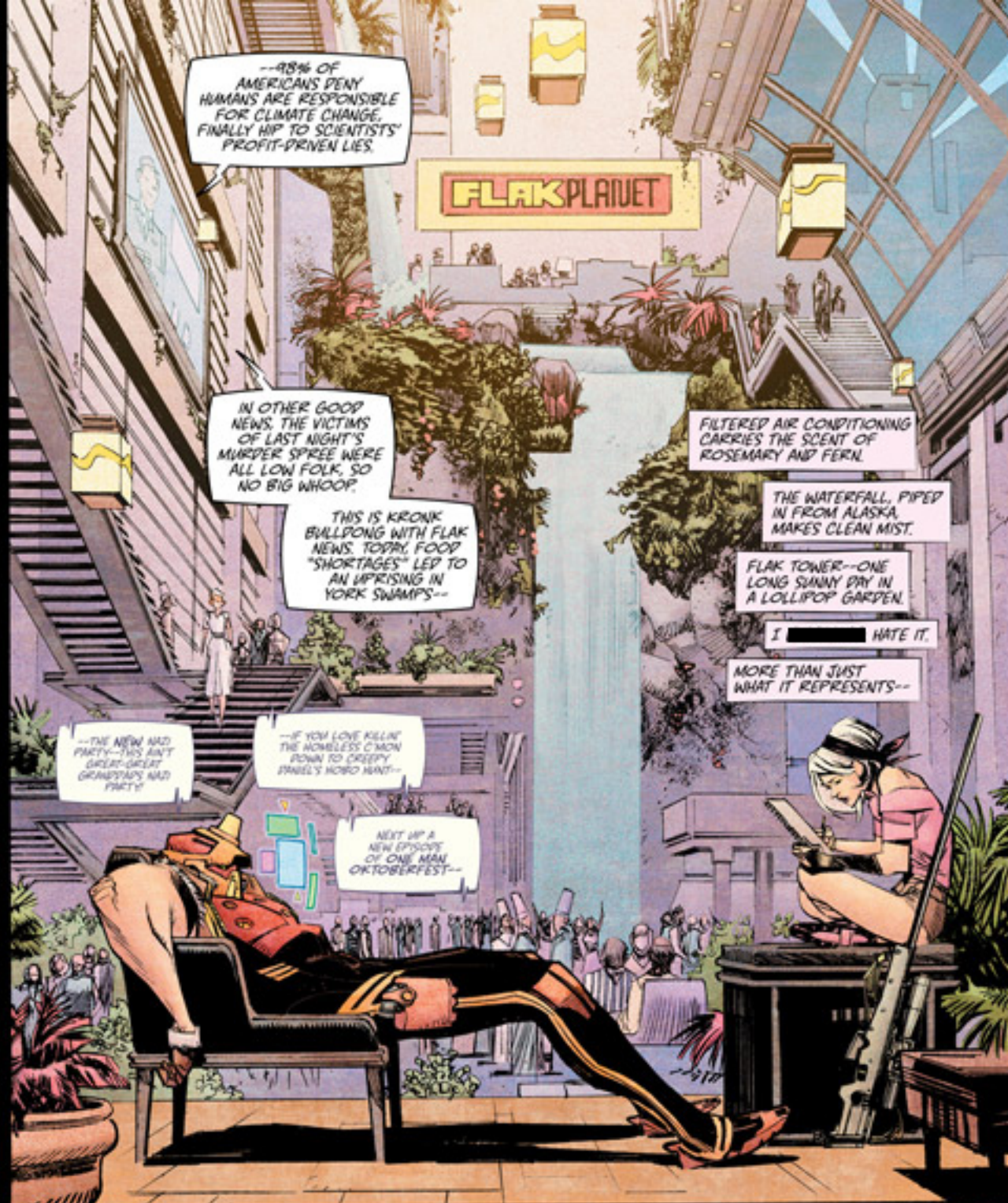




--98% OF AMERICANS DENY HUMANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, FINALLY HIP TO SCIENTISTS' PROFIT-DRIVEN LIES.

IN OTHER GOOD NEWS, THE VICTIMS OF LAST NIGHT'S MURDER SPREE WERE ALL LOW FOLK, SO NO BIG WHOOP.

THIS IS KRONK BULLDING WITH FLAK NEWS. TODAY, FOOD "SHORTAGES" LED TO AN UPRISING IN YORK SWAMPS--

FILTERED AIR CONDITIONING CARRIES THE SCENT OF ROSEMARY AND FERN.

THE WATERFALL, PIPED IN FROM ALASKA, MAKES CLEAN MIST.

FLAK TOWER--ONE LONG SUNNY DAY IN A LOLLIPOP GARDEN.

I [REDACTED] HATE IT.

MORE THAN JUST WHAT IT REPRESENTS--

--THE NEW NAZI PARTY--THIS AIN'T GREAT-GREAT GRANDPA'S NAZI PARTY!

--IF YOU LOVE KILLIN' THE HOMELESS C'MON DOWN TO CREEPY DANIEL'S NOBO NANT--

NEXT UP A NEW EPISODE OF ONE MAN OKTOBERFEST--

--I HATE IT BECAUSE I WANT TO STAY.

WANT TO SINK INTO THE COMFORT AND FORGET WHAT'S OUTSIDE.



--TONIGHT ON THOSE [REDACTED] AIN'T MUTATED--

--LOOK OUT BROWN LANTERN-- IT'S FREEDOM WON LANTERN!

MR. FLAK WILL SEE YOU NOW.

LED'S DIALED IN DEEP.

TRYIN' TO AVOID WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO--

--TRYIN' TO FORGET
THAT WE'RE QUITTING.

**CONSTABLE
LED DENT!**

THE
SWINGINGEST
OF THE
HOUR!

AND, OF
COURSE,
YOUR LOYAL
KITTEN,
TAMMY.

WHAT CAN
I GET FOR
YOU TWO?
NAME YOUR
POISON.

I RECOMMEND
A TUG 'N' TONIC,
LED. GOOD FOR
THE STRESS.

IF YOU DON'T
MIND, I'D LIKE
TO GET RIGHT
TO IT AND
DISCUSS OUR
DEAL--

OF
COURSE.

THAT DAVEY
TRAUMA JOB,
THAT WAS SOME
RING-A-PING
YOU PULLED
OFF, LED.

DAVEY HAD
BEGUN TO TAKE
OVER A NUMBER
OF VERY
IMPORTANT
SYSTEMS OF
GOVERNANCE.

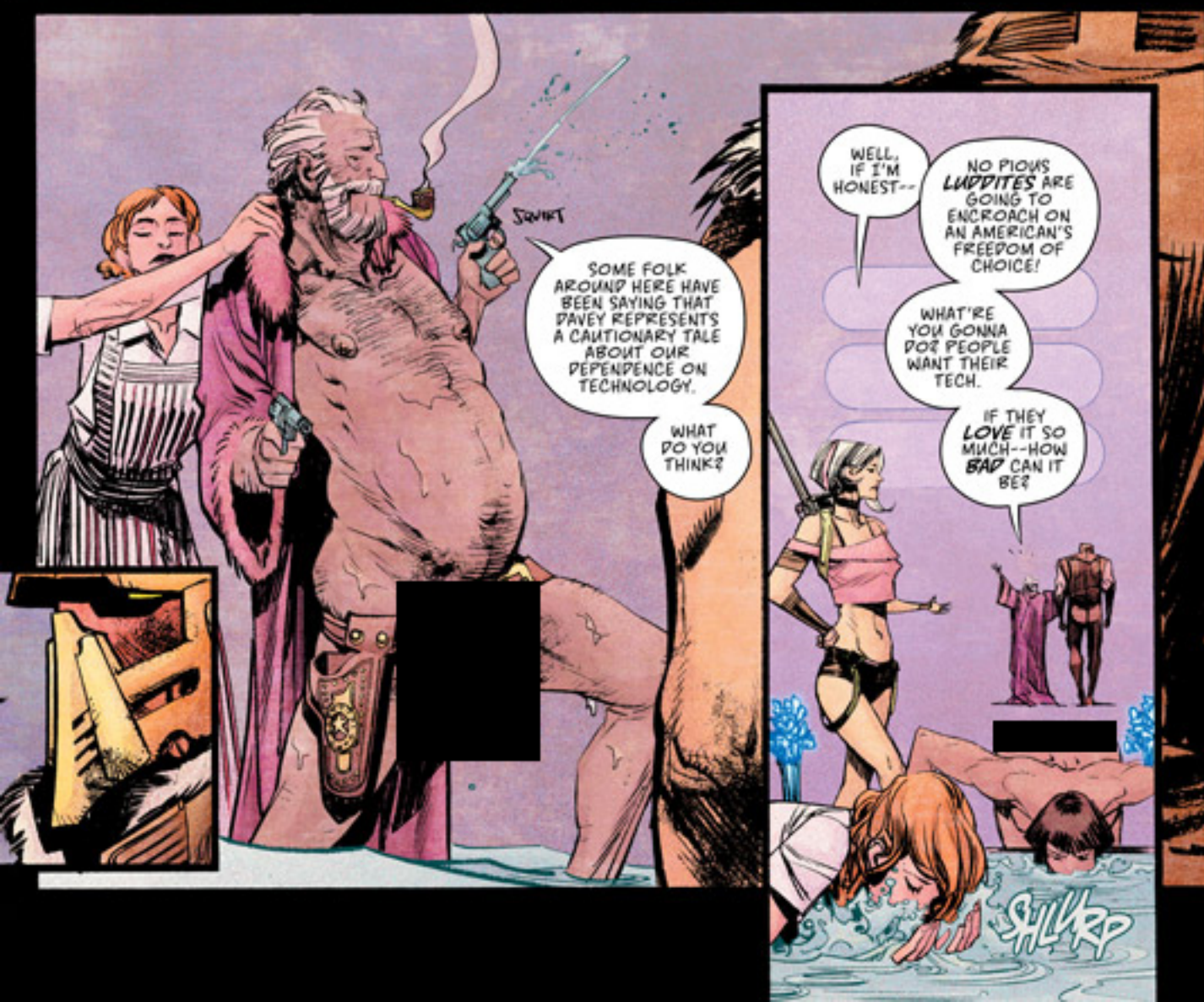
CAN YOU
IMAGINE IF HE'D
TAKEN CONTROL
OF THE CITY'S
MAINTENANCE 'BOTS,
OR, HEAVEN
FORBID, MORE
CONSTABLES?

SHUDDER.

SIR, YOU PROMISED
IF WE BROUGHT DAVEY
IN OUR CONTRACTS
WOULD BE--

A MAN WITH
THE ABILITY TO
SINK HIS
CONSCIOUSNESS
INTO THE INTERNET...

TERRIFYING.





I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE SERVANTS DRINKING YOUR BATH WATER.

I ALWAYS WELCOME YOU TO SPEAK YOUR MIND, SANDY--

DEBBIE.

YOU THINK I ENJOY WATCHING PEOPLE DRINK MY PEE WATER, WENDY?



THE HORSES EAT THE APPLES-- THE FLIES EAT THEIR

WAY THE WORLD'S ALWAYS BEEN. RIGHT, LEO?

HMM.

LOOK, I DIDN'T CREATE THE PROBLEM.

ROBOTICS DO THE FARMING, MINING, MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION-- EVERYTHING.

LEFT AN UNEMPLOYED POPULATION WITH A LOT OF FREE TIME.

SO, I KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED.

YOU DROWN THEM IN IDIOCY, OR WORSE, ECHO CHAMBERS DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THEIR MISINFORMED OPINIONS.



PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE THEIR MINDS ANYMORE, BRANDY.

SO, I SAY, WHY BOTHER TRYING?

I DIDN'T WIN THE WORLD RATINGS WAR BY FIGHTING HUMAN NATURE.

PEOPLE PICK A TRIBE AND FALL IN LINE.



SO, I GAVE THEM EACH THEIR OWN CHANNEL, TOLD THEM WHAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR--

I MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE.

WHEN HUMAN LIFE BECAME WORTHLESS, I GAVE IT VALUE.

EVERY SHOW WATCHED IS A PURCHASE.

THOSE PURCHASES MOVE INDUSTRY AND CREATE JOBS.

CONSUMPTION GIVES HUMAN LIFE MEANING.



PLANET FLAK



SPEAKING OF
STUFF PEOPLE
NEED--WHAT DO
YOU KNOW ABOUT
JAPAN, LED?

LED DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT GEOGRAPHY, BUT HE
CAN NAME ALL THE MIMES
ON "WHO SHAT IN
MY CAR?"

ONE OF
OUR BEST
SHOWS.



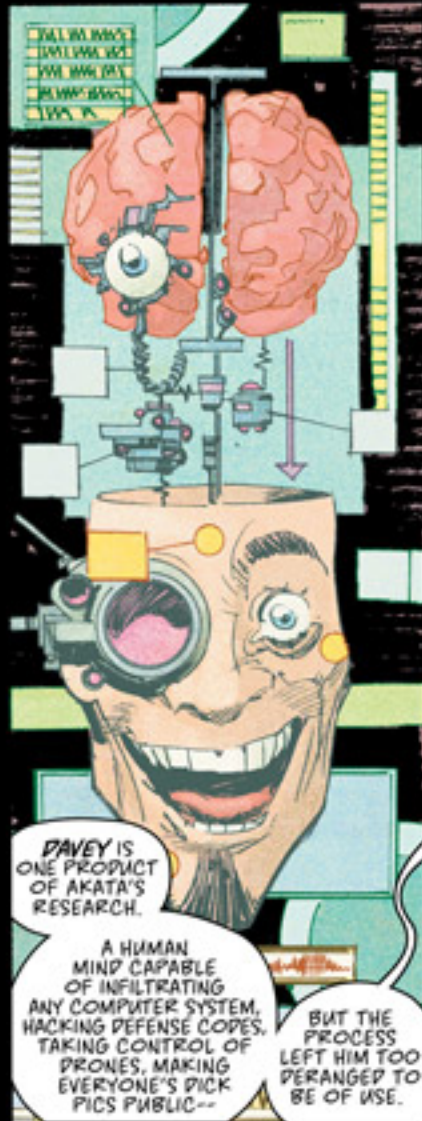
THIS MORNING
MY INTERROGATORS,
HARD AT WORK ON
MR. DAVEY TRAUMA,
UNCOVERED SOME
INTERESTING NEWS
ABOUT THE CURRENT
STATE OF JAPAN.

IT ALL BEGINS
WITH A VERY
HUSH-HUSH JAPANESE
WEAPONS CONSORTIUM
KNOWN AS "PROJECT AKATA."



DURING THE BIG
MELT, THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING
ON A WAY TO GET THEIRS IN
THE GLOBAL
CLUSTER.

ONE DR. AKATA WAS
TASKED WITH COOKING UP
WAYS TO GROW NEW
FARMLANDS, OR FAILING THAT,
WEAPONS TO HELP PLUNDER
RESOURCES FROM OTHER NATIONS.



DAVEY IS
ONE PRODUCT
OF AKATA'S
RESEARCH.

A HUMAN
MIND CAPABLE
OF INFILTRATING
ANY COMPUTER SYSTEM,
HACKING DEFENSE CODES,
TAKING CONTROL OF
PRONES, MAKING
EVERYONE'S PICK
PICS PUBLIC--

BUT THE
PROCESS
LEFT HIM TOO
PERANGED TO
BE OF USE.



WHEN OUR DIGITAL PANDY
AWOKE FROM STASIS IN
ONE OF THE OLD TOKYO
FACILITIES, WELL, YOU
WON'T BELIEVE
WHAT HE FOUND
OUTSIDE...

PARADISE.

WHATEVER
PROJECT AKATA
WAS UP TO--

--APPARENTLY
LEFT TOKYO A GARDEN
WITH ENOUGH FOOD
AND CLEAN WATER TO
SUPPLY OUR NATION
OF LOS ANGELES FOR
DECADES.



I HATE TO INTERRUPT, BUT CAN WE DISCUSS OUR RESIGNATION--

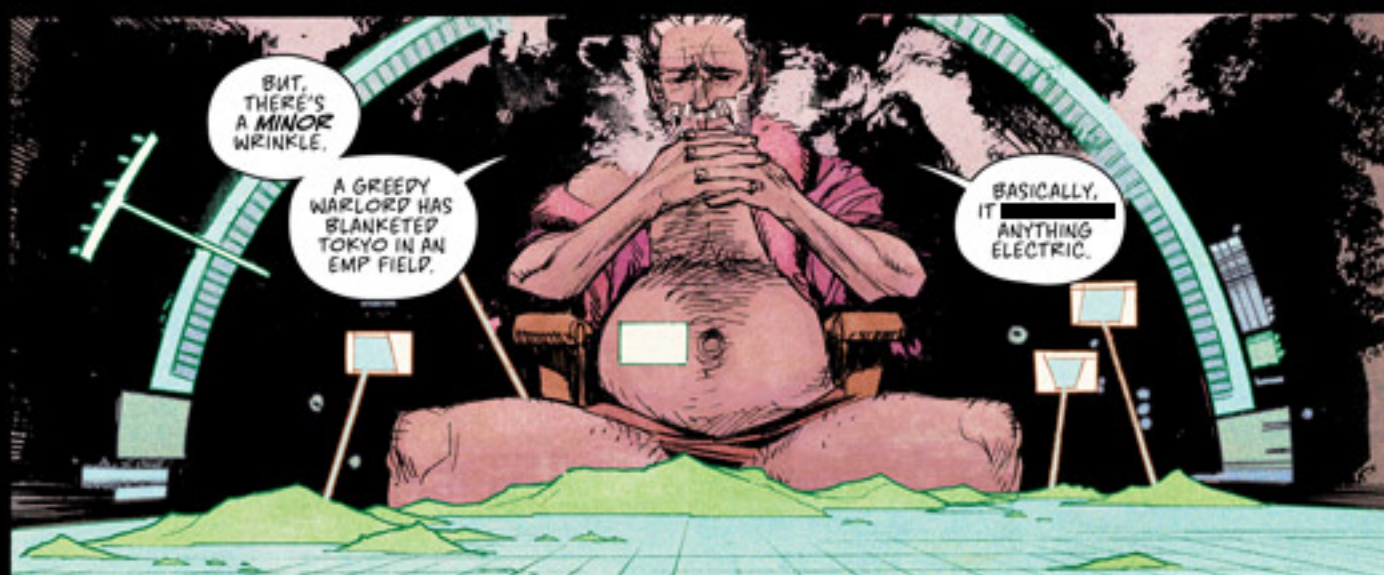
I REALIZE YOU TAKE ISSUE WITH INEQUALITY, SUSAN.

AND TOKYO IS FULL OF A LOT OF STUFF THAT OUR PEOPLE NEED.



TOKYO IS YOUR CHANCE TO HELP EVEN THE SCALES A BIT.

THE [REDACTED] HE KNEW.



BUT, THERE'S A MINOR WRINKLE.

A GREEDY WARLORD HAS BLANKETED TOKYO IN AN EMP FIELD.

BASICALLY, IT [REDACTED] ANYTHING ELECTRIC.



FORTUNATELY, WE'VE RETRIEVED GLIMPSES OF THE WARLORD FROM DAVEY'S MIND.

NASTY.

HOARDING THE RESOURCES, STARVING THE PEOPLE, RULES OF VIOLENCE YAPPA-YAPPA.

YOU GET THE GIST.



AND THAT DAMNED EMP FIELD MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEND IN A TEAM TO SECURE THE RESOURCES OUR PEOPLE SO DESPERATELY NEED.

SO, MISS TECH-FREE--



--YOU'RE TAKING LEP TO TOKYO.

SHUT DOWN THE EMP.

KILL THE WARLORD IN CHARGE. YOU DO THIS, I'LL HONOR OUR AGREEMENT--



--YOU'RE BOTH FREE OF YOUR CONTRACTS.

NO MORE SERVANTS FORCED TO DRINK MY BATHWATER. AND EVERYONE GETS RICH.

YOU HAVE TO SUCCEED. IF YOU DON'T--