



DID YOU KNOW I CAN'T LIGHT THIS?

MY CIGARETTE. IT'S AGAINST REGS.

"Numbers"
AUSTIN



4200 SHOOTINGS HERE IN CHICAGO LAST YEAR. OVER 700 HOMICIDES.*

THE CITY IS HELPLESS TO STOP IT.

*CHICAGO TRIBUNE 12/13/16 --ALEX



BUT SMOKING? WELL, THAT WE'RE PUTTING A STOP TO.

DEATHSTROKE, DETECTIVE GILL. THERE'S A RUMOR--



--THAT SOME MOTHERS OF KIDS KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE POOLED THEIR MONEY--

--AND HIRED DEATHSTROKE TO TAKE OUT THE SHOOTERS.



IN 2010, THERE WERE 11,000 GUN HOMICIDES IN THE UNITED STATES, MR. RYDER.

IN JAPAN, THERE WERE ELEVEN.



NOT 11,000. ELEVEN.

EVER SEE "A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS," DETECTIVE?



DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL FOR THE TOWNSFOLK WHO HIRED THE GUN-SLINGER.

I PRESUMED TWENTY DEAD FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS AND SIX DEAD TEACHERS, MOSTLY WHITE--



--KILLED BY THE HAND OF A DERANGED WHITE MAN--

--WOULD HAVE HAD SOME MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON PUBLIC POLICY.



I CERTAINLY HOPED 49 DEAD KIDS IN A FLORIDA NIGHTCLUB WOULD.



YET HERE WE ARE STANDING IN THE SNOW OVER A DEAD TWELVE-YEAR OLD.



AND I'M GONNA GET REPRIMANDED ABOUT MY SMOKING.

SO,
THE GIRL:
SOME CORPORATE
SECRETARY
DRIVING THE
BOSS'S TESLA
S-P85.

A
150,000-
DOLLAR CAR
THAT RUNS ON
BATTERIES SHE
FORGOT TO
CHARGE.

STUCK,
SHE LOOKS
LIKE EASY
PICKINGS FOR THE
CREW IN THE
PATHFINDER,
RIGHT?

THEY
ATTEMPT TO
RAPE HER, SHE
DEFENDS HERSELF,
THROWS SHOTS FROM
A .380 SHE HAS A
CONCEALED-
CARRY PERMIT
FOR.

BUT,
SEE, SHE'S
HAD ALMOST NO
TRAINING WITH THE
THING AND SHE'S
PANICKING, SO SHE
CAN'T HIT THE
SIDE OF A
BARN.

MISSES
THE RAPISTS--
NAILS THE KID
RIDING PAST
ON HIS BIKE.
SO...

...WE
RING THE
BOYS UP ON
AG-SEX ASSAULT,
THE GIRL GOES
INTO THERAPY,
THE KID GOES
TO THE
MORGUE.





HOW MUCH LONGER, CHARLIE?

STILL WAITING ON THE CORONER, ED. COULD BE THE REST OF THE NIGHT.

NEED TO GET THAT BOY OUT THE STREET, NOW.



ED THOMPSON-- JACK RYDER, USED TO BE A JERRY SPRINGER TYPE.

A REPORTER? DIDN'T THINK THE PRESS CARED.

DEATHSTROKE, REVEREND--?

LORD, I HOPE SO.

I'D TAKE MICKEY MOUSE WITH A MACHINE GUN IF IT'D HELP OUR COMMUNITY.



WOULD IT HELP?

NO.

I DON'T DEAL IN RUMOR, MR. RYDER, BUT IN FACT. GOT ANY OF THOSE?

A FEW...



...THE GIRL.

EDUCATED, MAKES GOOD MONEY.

WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE IN AUSTIN? THE KID--



--IT'S ONE IN THE MORNING. WHAT'S HE DOING OUT HERE?

YOU WANT FACTS, DETECTIVE? THE PATH-FINDER--



--THAT'S AN ARMSTRONG MASTER TOOL SET IN THE REAR BOX. SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THOSE GUYS AREN'T THUGS--THEY'RE MECHANICS.



THEY WEREN'T TRYING TO RAPE HER, THEY STOPPED TO HELP HER.

SHE PANICS, THROWS SHOTS AT THEM BUT HITS THE KID--

--WHO IS MOST CERTAINLY THE DRUG MULE SHE CAME TO SCORE FROM. INVENTS THIS "RAPE" FICTION.

NOW CAN WE TALK ABOUT DEATH-STROKE...?



DEATHSTROKE

CREATED BY
MARY WOLFMAN & GEORGE PÉREZ

Chicago

PRIEST DENYS COWAN BILL SIENKIEWICZ JEREMY COX WILLIE SCHUBERT
—story— —pencils— —inks— —color— —letters—

DENYS COWAN, BILL SIENKIEWICZ
& ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
—cover—

SHANE DAVIS, MICHELLE DELECKI
& ALEX SINCLAIR
—variant cover—

BRITTANY HOLZHERR ALEX ANTONE MARIE JAVINS
—assistant editor— —editor— —group editor—



"GANG MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD DEATHS IN CHICAGO HAVE BEEN GETTING DROPPED. EIGHTEEN SO FAR--



"--SINCE DEATHSTROKE WAS RUMORED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE MOMS' CONTRACT.



"EIGHTEEN BODIES, DETECTIVE. SOME OF THE TOUGHEST, BADDEST NEWS ON THE STREET.



"THE MOST INTERESTING PART?

"NO GUNS.

"DEATHSTROKE HASN'T FIRED EVEN ONE SHOT. IT'S LIKE HE'S SENDING A MESSAGE--"

THOOM!