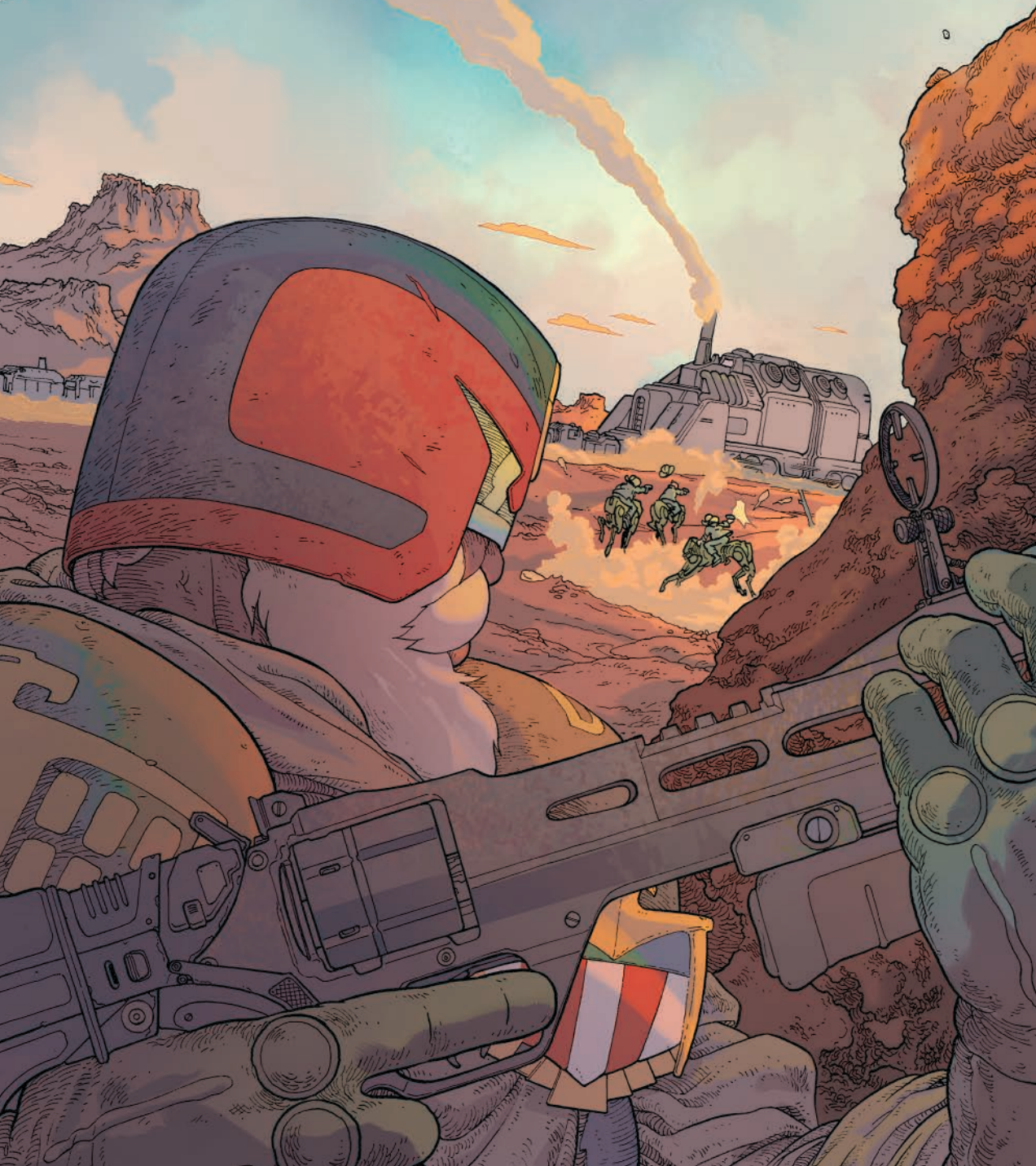


FARINAS • FREITAS • IRIZARRI • COPLAND

JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH





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**JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY
JOHN WAGNER AND CARLOS EZQUERRA.**



SIX HOURS EARLIER...



CH UDD

LOLO, YOU HELD NOTHING BACK. COMPLETELY INCAPACITATED ME.

THAT WAS SMART, TAKE OUT THE STRONGEST FIRST.

BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATED THE OTHER ATTACKER.

IF QUILL WANTED TO, SHE COULD'VE DRIVEN THAT KNEE THROUGH YOUR ORBITAL SOCKET.



GOOD FIGHT.

YEAH, BUT DID YOU HAVE TO SMASH THE BUCKET? NEXT TIME JUST GIVE ME A FAT LIP.

THERE'S ANOTHER HELMET IN STORAGE. IT'S A SALVAGED VARIANT. DEFLECTS SMALL-ARMS FIRE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVELY, SINCE DISCONTINUED.



THIS IS PRETTY GNARLY. WHY DID THEY DISCONTINUE IT?

HUH?

WHY DID THEY DISCONT--



DISCONTINUED: IN CLOSE-QUARTERS, THE HIGH DEFLECTION RATE LED TO UNPREDICTABLE TRAJECTORIES. CIVILIANS AND JUDGES INJURED OR KILLED BY RICOCHETS.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT THOUGHT IT WAS WISER WE JUST LEARN TO DUCK.



I DUNNO, I KINDA LIKE IT.

REMINDE ME NOT TO STAND NEXT TO YOU.

LOLO, QUILL--STRAP YOURSELVES IN--NOW!



WHO'S FIRING ON US?!

FLARES NOW!



WE HAVE TO ABANDON SHIP, SUIT UP.

LOLO, TAKE THE WEAPONS PACK, QUILL, A SURVEY PACK.

NO TIME!

ARROO!

"THE WHOLE
TIME? SINCE
BEFORE THE
GRASS?"

"OVER A
THOUSAND YEARS
NOW, SURVIVING.
THERE HAS BEEN
NO WAY FOR US
TO GET HOME."

THERE'S A
WAY NOW. WE GOT
OUR ISSUES DOWN
THERE, TOO, BUT
AT LEAST IT'S NOT
THE MOON. THAT'S
WHAT BRINGS US
HERE.

OH YEAH, WE
ARE KNOCKING
HEADS BIG-TIME
DOWN THERE.
SPREADING
LAW--

--AND
ORDER.

I'M SORRY,
SIR. WE DIDN'T
REALIZE YOU
WERE UP. YOU
TOOK QUITE A
BUMP BACK
THERE.

AT EASE.
WHO ARE THESE
PEOPLE? WHO
FIRED ON US?
QUILL, HAVE YOU
TAKEN THEIR
VITALS YET?

SIR,
THEY ARE
HARMLESS.
THEY'RE--

YES,
SIR.

I'M SORRY,
WE HAVE TO
TAKE BLOOD
SAMPLES,
CHECK YOUR
VITAL SIGNS.

WE UNDERSTAND.
YOU ARE SAFE HERE. WE
WERE NOT THE ONES THAT FIRED
ON YOU. WE WOULD NEVER
INJURE A FELLOW HUMAN BEING
OR, THROUGH INACTION, ALLOW
ANOTHER HUMAN BEING TO
COME TO HARM.

I THINK
YOU SHOULD
TELL HIM WHAT
YOU JUST
TOLD US.