

**JUDGE DREDD**

Screenplay draft by  
Steven E. de Souza

Story by  
William Wisher and Walon Green

**SECOND DRAFT**  
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JUDGE DREDD

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN.

NARRATOR

In the third millennium, the world... changed.

1 MONTAGE (STOCK - IF DESIRED)

1

Vicious events, both natural and man-made. Earthquakes. Floods. Ice storms. War. Riots. Chaos and injustice.

NARRATOR(cont'd)

Climate. Nations. Borders. All were in upheaval. Humanity itself turned as violent as the planet. Civilization threatened to collapse. And then... a solution was found. The crumbling, teetering legal system was merged with the overburdened police, creating a powerful and efficient hybrid. Trained equally in jurisprudence and combat, these new guardians of Society could dispense both justice and punishment. They were police, jury and executioner, all in one. They were... The Judges.

(X)

(X)

2 thru

OMITTED

2 thru

4

5

EXT. WASTELAND - DAY

4

5

It looks like the beginning of time... or its end. Nothing grows here. Nothing could. This is the CURSED EARTH. With a WHIRR, a SHUTTLE appears in the sky. We PAN it to a GIANT CITY WALL. A LOCK-LIKE GATE chugs open. The shuttle ENTERS.

6 INT. CITY LOCK - DAY

6

As the massive craft settles, it is sprayed down by HI-POWERED JETS. Brown dirt drips away to show eroding metal and the LOGO: "MEGA-CITY JUDGE SYSTEM - ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE #3."

P.A. SYSTEM

ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE DOCKED.

(X)

PAROLEES, PREPARE TO DISEMBARK.

(X)

The shuttle's air lock port whooses OPEN. A line of drably dressed men and women exit, carrying their few possessions.

(X)

(X)

## 7 THE CITY LOCK - INNER GATE TO CITY - DAY 7

One by one the parolees return to society. We follow the last: HERMAN FERGUSON ("FERGIE"). Fergie's a genius - a genius without common sense, street smarts, or muscle tone. So his career as a master criminal has gone absolutely nowhere.

## GATE GUARD

(scanning him)

Ferguson, Herman. Six month sentence Aspen Prison served.

Welcome back, Citizen. Your living assignment is Block Y, "Heavenly Haven", Red Quad. Watch it or your ass will be back in Aspen.

(X)

(X)

Fergie hurries through the gate. We follow him - as he stops in his tracks. He's looking at

## 8 A MAGNIFICENT CITY 8

Giant towers reach miles into the sky. Elevated skyways are filled with traffic. Flying Barges and Shuttles service the highest levels. Dominating all is a building shaped like an EAGLE: The Hall of Justice. Almost lost and forgotten among the towering buildings is a relic from our time: The Statue of Liberty. Title Supered:

(X)

(X)

(X)

MEGA-CITY ONE: 2539

(X)

Fergie takes another look at the gleaming city, and then his papers.

(X)

(X)

## FERGIE

(X)

Heavenly Haven. Sounds nice.

CUT TO:

## 9 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - DAY 9

And it is nice - a perfect Utopian future of happy families strolling through a green urban park. CAMERA WIDENS... and we realize that the scene is a "video poster" on a bleak and rubble-filled EMPTY LOT.

## VIDEO POSTER

(taped V.O.)

--oming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air and recreation to your lives.

Another design for better living from the Mega-City Council. Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

Surrounding the lot on all four sides are GIANT TENEMENTS. Weary, hungry and dirty RESIDENTS ("Rezzies") scurry by on errands both legal and not. (X)

10 NEW ANGLE - THE EMPTY LOT 10

A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE pulls up. A bored CITY TECH gets out, goes to the Video Poster Standee and turns it OFF in mid-spiel. The sudden silence attracts some attention. The TECH drops in a NEW VIDEO CART which begins to PLAY as he drives away. Rezzies gather around to watch the new video.

11 CLOSER - VIDEO POSTER 11

Showing a monolithic BUILDING on the empty lot.

VIDEO POSTER V.O.  
Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Law Enforcement Barracks, bringing surveillance and security to your lives. Another design for better living from the Mega City Council. (X)

12 REVERSE ANGLE 12

As this sinks in on the tenement residents.

FIRST RESIDENT  
Our Park! They stole our park!

SECOND RESIDENT  
Lying bastards!

FIRST RESIDENT  
Lying Judges!

A BRICK gets tossed into the VIDEO SCREEN. As it SPARKS, the residents swarm, knocking it over - then the chain link fence around the lot starts to shake, heave and collapse -

13 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK TOWER - UPPER FLOOR - DAY 13

WIDEN from a sign on the door: THIS LEVEL CONDEMNED. Nonetheless a group of SQUATTERS is living here. Several GIGGLE, ingesting some future narcotic through tubes they stuff in their noses. Suddenly, SHOUTS and BREAKING GLASS rouse them from their stupor.

ZED, the meanest looking squatter, goes to the window, curious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

13

ZED

Hey, Homies. The rezzies are going mental.

(giggling)

Let's give 'em a hand.

As the others start to take out weapons, we

(X)

CUT TO:

OMITTED

14  
thru  
16  
17

INT. TAXI SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT - DUSK

Fergie's jammed in with other lower economic PASSENGERS. He sees a terrace pool where a number of girls are frolicking. He waves at the girls, speaks to the Shuttle DRIVER.

FERGIE

Right down there... I think that's Heavenly Haven.

No such luck. The craft BANKS.

EXT. TAXI SHUTTLE - NIGHT

18

As it descends, the structures it passes grow progressively older. Filth and grime cover everything. The shuttle lands on the street with a WHOOSH.

(X)

FERGIE

19

The minute he gets out the shuttle lifts off. Fergie looks around, sighs.

FERGIE

Still better than prison.

BRAT-TAT-TAT! Suddenly GUNFIRE erupts all around him. He looks in astonishment at

SEVERAL WINDOWS - HIS P.O.V.

20

As more and more frustrated residents OPEN FIRE at anything and everything.

VOICES

BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR!

Fergie runs into the building.

1 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWER - NIGHT 2

People run in panic as bullets shatter windows. A BATTERED ROBOT FOOD CART cruises the hallway, oblivious to the people darting around it.

ROBOT FOOD CART  
(a recording)  
Delicious and healthful ration  
packs, piping hot and ready to  
eat...!

Fergie darts around the robot, SEES a small MAINTENANCE HATCH in the wall and jumps inside. His long HOWL tells us he didn't expect the long fall that results. (X)

CUT TO:

22 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - STREET LEVEL 22

A resident breaks for cover, tries to run across the street. BHUDDA-BHUDDA-BHUDDA. He's cut down midway.

23 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWERS - THE SQUATTERS 23

Have spread out and are firing from the windows of several adjoining rooms.

ZED  
Did you see that! What a fucking  
shot! What a fucking shot - !

Reggie hi-fives him. Then an overhead THUD makes them look up at the HEATING VENT. Zed reaches up - yanks off the grate -

24 NEW ANGLE 24

Fergie tumbles into the room. Zed puts one foot on him, points his gun right between his eyes.

ZED  
What do we have here? You a Judge,  
little man?

The others laugh at the concept.

FERGIE  
Me, a Judge, no, no -  
(showing papers)  
I live here, I mean, I'm gonna live  
here - if - if I live - (X)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

24

3RD SQUATTER (TWIST)  
If you're a rezzie, then why are  
you hiding? This is a block war,  
man!

They grab him, playing roughly with him.

ZED  
You gonna stand up for your block,  
ain't ya?

FERGIE  
Look, I'm out on parole - If I get  
into any trouble my ass is right  
back in Aspen -

CLICK. Zed's gun is in his face.

FERGIE (cont'd)  
(quickly, cheerleading)  
Let's go, Haven, Let's go Haven,  
Haven all the way -

BANANA CLIPS are shoved into his hands along with boxes of  
cartridges.

REGGIE  
Reload, dipshit.

BULLETS rip through the windows here. Fergie ducks,  
terrified... drops the bullets.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. STREET LEVEL - NIGHT - CLOSE ON TWO FIGURES

25

wearing armored uniforms, riding ARMORED MOTORCYCLES called  
LAWMASTERS. Both riders wear HELMETS that conceal most of their  
faces. But we can see that the leader is a woman. Her badge  
reads "Hershey". Suddenly BULLETS ping around her. Several  
ricochet off the armored bike.

HERSHEY  
Take cover!

26 WIDER

26

As bullets seek them out, both riders dive off their bikes and  
roll into combat positions behind a low wall. Hershey's partner  
BRISCO is young and eager... too eager.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

BRISCO  
 (behind barricade)  
 Just like an Academy Simulation,  
 right down to the crossfire.  
 (rising)  
 I'll lead off, you follow.

HERSHEY  
 (yanking him back)  
 This isn't a Sim, Rookie! Stand  
 down and wait for back up!  
 (into helmet mike)  
 In position outside Heavenly Haven.  
 Pinned down by fire from upper  
 floors.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. VIEW OVER MEGA - NIGHT

27

A figure close to CAMERA straddles an even bigger LAWMASTER CYCLE that makes a Harley look like a mo-ped. The rider's GLOVED HAND activates the Lawmaster's CITY MAP.

HERSHEY (V.O.)  
 Fire is coming from Level Y, repeat  
 Y. Request back-up, nearest Judge!

The map BEEPS, shows a route. The hand moves to the THROTTLE.

28 LAWMASTER - WIDER

28

It ROARS away from the CAMERA, burning rubber.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. STREET - BLOCK WAR - NIGHT

29

Hershey and Brisco are pinned down under a barrage of fire. Smoke fills the street, the sounds of automatic weapons fire, exploding glass, and screams, fill the air. Hershey tries to get a shot off - a bullet CRACKS her face plate -

CUT TO:

30 THAT ONCOMING LAWMASTER

30

Whips around a corner - dodges a burned out vehicle. The mighty bike VAULTS the barricades and lands. A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL sails in front of it, EXPLODES. The rider does a WHEELIE!

1 UP ANGLE

31

The bike parts the flames like a curtain, SMASHES DOWN right in the middle of all the chaos. The Rider gets off.

32 HERSHEY AND BRISCO

32

huddle behind their bikes at the perimeter. They react to a figure emerging from the smoke.

BRISCO

That's our back-up? He's a sitting duck out there. You'd think he wants them to see him.

Hershey smiles ruefully.

HERSHEY

If that's who I think it is... he does.

33 THE FIGURE

33

Steps out of the flames. Six feet of armored justice, he was raised in a State Orphanage that taught him Duty and Honor. Now, he serves that State as Judge... Jury... and Executioner. His BADGE fills the frame: "DREDD".

CUT TO:

34 INT. SQUATTER'S LEVEL - NIGHT

34

Twist stares down, scared.

TWIST

Fuck. That's Judge Dredd. We gotta surrender while we can--

He starts to raise his gun over his head. Zed smacks him in the jaw with his own weapon.

ZED

You chickenshit bowab! He's gonna surrender to us. And then we'll blow his brains out.

(shouting)

Come and get us, Dredd!

Zed FIRES out the window. Reggie happily joins, then the others. Finally Twist shrugs, FIRES too.

REGGIE'

More ammo!

A terrified Fergie hands him a clip.

35 EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

The stream of GUNFIRE chews up the pavement at Dredd's feet.

HERSHEY

Down! You crazy futz - !

36 DREDD

strides calmly over to them.

DREDD

He's firing a 64 laze pumper from six hundred feet. He couldn't hit me if I painted a bull's eye on my ass.

(glancing up)

We'll keep it simple. Standard relay. Single file. I'm point.

Hershey nods. Brisco, eager to prove himself, steps in front of Dredd at the Heavenly Block entrance.

DREDD (cont'd)

You - last.

Dredd pushes Brisco behind Hershey. Turns toward Heavenly as he draws his massive LAWGIVER HANDGUN. Dredd speaks into the tiny computer in the breach as he aims at the door.

DREDD (cont'd)

Grenade.

KABOOM! The round knocks the steel door off its hinges. Dredd kicks it aside and the Judges enter.

CUT TO:

37 INT. HEAVENLY TOWERS - WITH THE SQUATTERS - NIGHT

Fergie, terrified, passes loaded ammo clips to his "friends". The WHIRR of a motor outside the hallway attracts his attention.

38 HIS POV - THE FOOD ROBOT - ON ITS ROUNDS

FOOD ROBOT

Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat...!

39 FERGIE

Looks at his crazed "friends" and then backs up to the robot...

CUT TO:

INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN CORRIDOR - NIGHT

40

Dredd, Hershey, and Brisco stride forward. SOUND of GUNFIRE tells them they are close to their target.

HERSHEY

(tentatively pointing)

I think they're there -

Dredd shakes his head... points...down.

DREDD

No. There.

CUT TO:

40A INT. SQUATTER'S ROOMS - NIGHT

40A

The squatters here are so busy FIRING their own guns out the window they don't SEE the CIRCLE OF BULLET HOLES that carve an opening above their heads!

With a CRASH, the section of ceiling FALLS IN - Dredd rides it down, FIRING!

40B NEW ANGLE

40B

His shots catch most of the shooters by surprise. The few survivors throw down their weapons.

DREDD

This room is pacified.

He moves carefully through the smoke. Behind him, Hershey and Brisco jump down to the floor, check the bodies. Hershey cuffs those still alive.

41 AT THE DOOR TO THE NEXT ROOM

41

Dredd avoids the door, moves along the wall. Suddenly Brisco darts forward.

BRISCO

This one's mine!

HERSHEY

No!

Dredd moves to stop him but he's too far away. Brisco kicks the door open -

IN THE NEXT SQUATTER'S ROOM

4

He's face to face with Reggie, Zed, and Twist.

BRISCO

This room is under--

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA! Brisco is blown backwards off his feet.

43

DREDD

43

spins around. Sees Brisco dead in the doorway. Snarls, enraged. Hershey whirls, KICKS down one of the wounded who tries to escape in the confusion.

44

IN THE OTHER ROOM

44

TWIST

(suddenly noticing)

Hey. Where's the little ammo dude?

As they all look for Fergie, the wall next to the door EXPLODES OPEN. Dredd enters through it.

DREDD

You're all under arrest. Will you surrender, or would you like your trials now?

They look at him for a moment - then BLAST away.

45

DREDD

45

Dives for cover, FIRES back - but one guy has a weapon as big as a chainsaw, and it's decimating Dredd's hiding place.

DREDD

(into Lawgiver)

Armor piercing!

(X)

BEEP and LED change on the weapon. Dredd FIRES -

(X)

46

HIS ENEMY

46

The bullet goes THROUGH his weapon, kills him!

(X)

47

BACK TO SCENE

47

Dredd turns, sees Reggie and another squatter charging at him from both sides.

DREDD

(into Lawgiver)

Double Whammy!

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

BEEP. He FIRES. Two bullets come out at once, each taking out a man! But Reggle's body rolls into Dredd, knocking him off his feet!

48 CLOSE ON DREDD

He's lost his Lawgiver! He reaches out for it - and gets kicked in the head! CAMERA ADJUSTS to show Twist, suddenly courageous with Dredd on the floor.

TWIST  
(seeing it)  
Lawgiver! Awesome!

And he snatches it up, and aims at Dredd's head!

49 WIDER

ZED  
(shouting)  
Don't touch it! They're booby  
trapped - !

Too late. A high pitched BEEP is the only warning before the handgun EXPLODES, knocking Zed off his feet.

NEW ANGLE

Zed starts to get up - sees Twist's ARM on his body! Screaming, he flings it aside and jumps up - right into Dredd's KICK.

DREDD  
Mega-City Municipal Code 334.8.  
Willful destruction of property.  
That's two years.

WHAM. He hits Zed in the face. Zed rocks, but stays up. He tries to grab a nearby weapon, but Dredd kicks it away.

DREDD(cont'd)  
Code 11-5C. Illegal possession of  
assault weapons. Five years.

Zed blocks Dredd's next blow - pulls him into a brutal embrace, slams Dredd against the wall. Again!

DREDD(cont'd)  
Code 7034-A. Resisting arrest.  
Twenty years.

Dredd breaks free! Slams Zed once, twice. Zed flies back against the wall.

FAVORING ZED

DREDD (cont'd)  
9804. Assault on a Judge with  
deadly intent.

ZED  
(tough, scornful)  
Don't tell me. Life.

CAMERA REVEALS that Zed another weapon hidden behind his back.  
Now, he goes for it!

52 FAVORING DREDD

We weren't expecting Zed's move. Dredd was. While we were  
blinking, he kicked a fallen weapon up from the floor and caught  
it!

DREDD  
No... Death.

He FIRES at the same moment as Zed! Zed's shot hits Dredd's  
ARMOR, pings off. Dredd's shot hits Zed's heart.

DREDD (cont'd)  
Court is adjourned.

OMITTED

54 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Other Judges and paramedics have arrived. The Judges process  
arrestees and the paramedics see to the wounded.

Hershey looks on beside Dredd as Brisco's body is zipped into  
a bag and carried away.

HERSHEY  
I was supposed to watch out for him.

DREDD  
He made the mistake. Not you.

Dredd cocks his head, listening. Somehow in the din and  
confusion he has heard something. He turns.

55 NEW ANGLE

The food robot is coming down the corridor, skittering around  
bodies and debris.

Its actions are less smooth than before, and its voice seems  
off, too.

(CONTINUED)

FOOD ROBOT

Ummm, umm, yummm! Healthful and nutritious food rations, ready to eat!

Dredd suddenly pushes forward in the crowd. Hershey follows. She watches, puzzled, as he steps in the automaton's path, takes an assault rifle from another Judge and AIMS it!

DREDD

(to robot)  
Halt! You have ten seconds to surrender. Ten. Nine.

HERSHEY

(puzzled)  
Dredd, It's just a servo-droid -

DREDD

(aside to Hershey)  
The guide wire in the floor isn't working.

(to the robot)  
Five! Four!

FOOD ROBOT

Ah, just put your credit in your selection and - credit in the slot and-and - shit!

The robot stops. The jumble of food in back spills out and Fergie uncoils from the cramped interior, still holding the sparkling wires he was using to manipulate the machine.

DREDD

Mega-City Municipal Code 1286.4:  
Willful sabotage of a public servo-droid. That's six months, citizen.

He grabs Fergie, pushes him against the wall.

DREDD (cont'd)

(taking it)  
Let's see your Unicard.

FERGIE

Come on, give me a break, Judge uh-  
(seeing nametag)  
D-dredd?

By now Dredd has run his scanner over Fergie's chip and Fergie's dossier is zipping by.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DREDD

FERGUSON, Herman. Forget six months: You've hacked into city droids, computers...

(reading, interested)

Cash machines, robot taxis... And you haven't even been out of jail for twenty four hours.

(to Hershey)

He's habitual, Hershey. Automatic five year sentence.

(X)

FERGIE

Five years? But - I - I had no choice, Judge - !

He sees Dredd's impassive face, turns to Hershey's more sympathetic one.

FERGIE (cont'd)

They were killing each other up there, I had to get out! I only hacked the droid to save my life! It was the only way!

DREDD

Not at all. You could have climbed out a window, worked your way down. Or found a turboshaft and shimmied down the cable.

FERGIE

Sixty stories? It woulda been suicide!

DREDD

Maybe. But it would have been legal. I sentence you to five years in Aspen Penitentiary. Case closed. Take him away.

Still protesting, Fergie is hauled away. Hershey looks at Dredd.

HERSHEY

He might have been telling the truth. Haven't you ever heard of extenuating circumstances?

DREDD

Yes. And cowardice isn't one of them.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (3) 55  
 She looks at Dredd disappointingly and we (X)

CUT TO:

55A EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 55A  
 The gleaming civil and legal heart of Mega-City, shaped like (X)  
 the symbol of the Judge System itself: An Eagle. (X)

VOICE (GRIFFIN) (X)  
 My fellow Judges, have we forgotten (X)  
 the lessons of History? (X)

55B INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 55B  
 The CAMERA discovers the Mega-City Council of Judges, in mid- (X)  
 session. CHIEF JUSTICE FARGO, 70, sits at an elevated position (X)  
 at a great BLACK TABLE. Other Judges sit on either side of him. (X)  
 Among them are JUDGE MCGRUDER, a woman in her 60's, open minded (X)  
 but with an iron will; JUDGE ESPOSITO, 50's, thoughtful, (X)  
 accommodating; JUDGE YAMAMOTO, 50's, short-tempered, yet fair; (X)  
 and JUDGE GRIFFIN, 60, with a mind and body as honed as men half (X)  
 his age, his clean features can hide much. But now, they hide (X)  
 nothing: His passion and sincerity make his words ring. (X)

GRIFFIN(cont'd) (X)  
 A Republic is a body politic that (X)  
 is susceptible to many ills... from (X)  
 ennui to anarchy. And the block (X)  
 war today was a definite warning (X)  
 sign of - (X)

The assembly REACTS as rowdily as the British Parliament. (X)

MCGRUDER (X)  
 - of your misguided policies as (X)  
 Urban Administrator! (X)

YAMAMOTO  
 Hold on, Judge McGruder - let's not  
 blame the messenger! Judge Griffin  
 has -

ESPOSITO  
 - Griffin has been trying to get  
 us to swallow his crime package (X)  
 for two years now and I still have  
 indigestion - !

UPROAR. We sense that the room is evenly divided. A GAVEL  
 BANGS for order with a CRACK like thunder. Everyone quiets as  
 quickly as schoolchildren.

## C FAVORING FARGO

55

FARGO

Order, order! As presiding Justice, I only vote to break a tie. But I wish to address the question of Judge Griffin's crime package. Is there any objection?

GRIFFIN

This entire body owes its very existence to you, Chief Justice.  
(looking around)

I can't imagine anyone having an objection.

(X)

CAMERA sweeps towards Fargo, passing over the MAP of North America etched on the great DAIS. Only a few lights stand out on all the continent: MEGA-CITY ONE; MEGA-CITY TWO; TEXAS CITY; and the ASPEN PENAL COLONY. All the rest is labeled THE CURSED EARTH.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Fargo stands, eyes blazing with intelligence and intensity. We sense that we are observing a Lion in Winter. And the lion can still roar.

(X)

FARGO

This body is not the first assembly to think that more laws and fewer choices will bring peace and order. That delusion has been tried and failed before. If the citizens of Mega-City are demanding more control of their lives, that's not a threat - it's a signal! A signal to open the windows of our society and let it breathe -

(

(X)

(a look to Griffin)

Not to bolt the door and throw away the key! My fellow Judges, I was barely in my teens when I put on this badge. When the time comes for me to take it off... let me do it knowing that it stood for Freedom... and not for Repression.

(X)

He sits down. Clearly he has changed the mood of the room.

JUDGE GRIFFIN

Once again, Chief Justice, you have served as a moral compass for all of us. I... withdraw my proposal.  
(pause)

I hope... for good.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Dredd is watching a MONITOR. VARDIS HAMMOND, grey-haired, commanding, is standing in front of Heavenly Haven Block while workers put things back in order.

HAMMOND (on monitor)  
 --fifty three people hospitalized.  
 Five of them... children. Nine  
 dead... four of them allegedly  
 killed by a gang of squatters...  
 who were themselves killed in  
 summary executions by Judge Dredd.

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

CAMERA WIDENS as the Council Chamber doors OPEN. The Judges come out. Griffin comes over, watches with Dredd. Dredd stiffens at the approach of his superior. Griffin silently indicates for him to stand at ease.

HAMMOND (cont'd)  
 Some people say that to be a Judge  
 on these mean streets is bound to  
 have a certain dehumanizing effect,  
 and that we should sympathize with  
 the Judges. I agree. But the Mega-  
 City Council apparently doesn't.  
 To them, "dehumanization" isn't just  
 a buzz word - it's a byword. And  
 I'll show just how terrifyingly far  
 they've taken that thought...  
 tomorrow night.

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

DREDD  
 (turning, to Griffin)  
 A rookie Judge died there, too.  
 I guess he wasn't worth mentioning.

GRIFFIN  
 (wryly)  
 No, that might confuse the viewers.  
 We can't be victims, Dredd... we're  
 the villains!  
 (anguished)  
 Don't they understand we need law  
 and order? Housing can wait...  
 safe streets can't!

DREDD  
 Things will get better, sir.

GRIFFIN  
 (leaving)  
 I pray you're right, Dredd.

7 WITH DREDD

5

As Griffin leaves, Dredd turns. As he passes the Council Chamber, Fargo beckons to him. Startled, Dredd joins him.

(X)  
(X)

DREDD  
Chief Justice?

(X)  
(X)

FARGO  
Four Summary Executions, Dredd.  
Were they necessary?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

DREDD  
They were unavoidable, sir. Out there... that's the reality.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

FARGO  
We make our own reality, Dredd.  
Maybe it's time for a new one.  
Although I doubt Judge Griffin would recognize a new reality if he arrested it himself.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

DREDD  
With all due respect, sir, how can you say that when you spend most of your time -

Dredd breaks off; he's said too much. But Fargo won't let him off the hook.

FARGO  
Most of my time where?

DREDD  
At the Academy... Sir.

FARGO  
Don't you mean at the Academy wiping Cadet's Asses? That is what they say in the squad room, isn't it?

DREDD  
It... doesn't matter what they say, Sir. You're the Chief Justice of Mega City. If it weren't for you and the others like you, we wouldn't have our justice system. There isn't a Judge in Mega-City who doesn't want to follow in your footsteps.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

57

FARGO

I'm glad you feel that way, Dredd.  
Because starting tomorrow you're  
going to spend one day a week at  
the Academy... teaching.

Dredd takes this in his stride.

DREDD

I'd be honored. Unarmed combat,  
or marksmanship?

FARGO

(exiting, with a grin)  
Ethics.

And as Dredd reacts, we

CUT TO:

58

EXT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - DAY

58

An ominous mountain fortress. GUARD TOWERS on every corner.  
WIND rattles the concertina wire on the walls. If the Cursed  
Earth is hell, this is hell's prison.

INT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - WARDENS OFFICE - DAY

59

Stark, spare on creature comforts. WARDEN JUDGE MILLER paces.  
From time to time he looks at a small PACKAGE on his desk.

60

PACKAGE - CLOSE

60

A small SEALED BOX with a THUMBCODE LOCK.

61

BACK TO SCENE

61

Miller looks at it, frustrated. Finally makes his decision. He  
picks it up, leaves the room.

CUT TO:

62

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING

62

Miller and two GUARDS stride through the old part of the  
complex. Everything gets progressively dirtier and dilapidated  
as they go. Finally, they reach a MASSIVE STEEL DOOR with a  
computer access screen. Miller puts his thumb in the lock.

MILLER

Miller. Warden.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

6

COMPUTER VOICE  
Voice sample and thumbscan  
recognized.

The DOOR OPENS. Miller turns to the guards.

MILLER (cont'd)  
Wait here.

CUT TO:

63 INT. RICO'S CELL - DAY

63

Miller steps inside. AUTOGUNS swivel toward him. "Read" his  
BADGE. BEEP. The autoguns swing away. The door CLOSES.

RICO'S VOICE  
Hello, Warden.

64 REVERSE ANGLE

64

We're in a large circular room. In the center is an isolated  
PLATFORM. A curtain of BLUE LIGHT surrounds it. Behind this, a  
FIGURE draws a bead of sweat from his forehead...

absently flicks it at the energy curtain. It SIZZLES. The  
figure moves CLOSER. This is RICO.

RICO (cont'd)  
Have you come for another...chat?

MILLER  
A short one, I'm afraid. Duty  
calls.

RICO  
(laughs)  
We're both prisoners here. You  
behind a desk... me behind... this.  
Fargo's reward for our services.

MILLER  
When you killed innocent people you  
went far beyond service.

Rico stands. Moves toward the energy curtain. Glares at  
Miller.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RICO

"Innocent"? A meaningless word. The innocent exist only until they inevitably become perpetrators themselves. In the end, "Guilt" and "Innocence" are merely a matter of timing.

MILLER

You're insane.

RICO

Am I? When did you become a perpetrator? Was it the time you found money mysteriously transferred into your account? Or the time I was sentenced to death? You've been taking bribes for years, Warden. You're a criminal. And a stupid one: You don't even know who's paying you.

MILLER

I don't want to know.

RICO

If ignorance is bliss, Warden, then you must be very blissful.

(weary)

Miller, why are you here?

MILLER

Your mysterious benefactor has sent you a package.

Miller speaks into a console before Rico's laser-guarded "cell."

MILLER (cont'd)

Deactivate Shield.

The ENERGY CURTAIN drops. The autoguns on the wall swivel toward Rico. Miller moves onto the platform, hands over the package. Rico places his thumb on the lock and it OPENS.

## THE PACKAGE

Rico's JUDGE'S BADGE rests inside. Along with a PHOTOGRAPH... of Hammond, the newscaster. And... what appears to be a "Rubic's Cube" type TUBULAR PUZZLE.

6

BACK TO SCENE

6

Rico begins to manipulate the puzzle.

MILLER

(curious)  
What is that?

RICO

The Ancient Puzzle, Miller: The  
One about the Meaning of Life.

MILLER

(sarcastic)  
Really. And what is the meaning  
of Life?

RICO

It's over.

And he AIMS the "puzzle". BLAM!

67

MILLER

67

The SHOT from the tiny weapon hits him in the throat. Gasping, he falls onto his knees. With one hand on his throat, he staggers to the door while Rico descends from his platform.

MILLER

(coughing)  
Computer....ac-active s-shield!

COMPUTER VOICE

Voice not recognized. Security  
Breach. Autoguns targeting.

Miller panics. Scrambles for the door.

MILLER

NO!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! He's cut down ten feet from the door.

68

OUTSIDE THE DOOR - THE TWO GUARDS

68

Jack shells into their riot guns. Charge inside -

69

BACK IN THE CELL

69

The guards only see Miller's body. Then Rico swings down from his hiding place - the turret of an autogun! He KICKS out with both feet - drives both Guards into the Energy Curtain. ZAP! They're instantly FRIED.

0 WIDER

70

Rico dismounts like an acrobat, holds his badge up towards the autogun scanner. BEEP. The autoguns pivots away. The DOOR OPENS. Rico snatches up a weapon - steps outside -

CUT TO:

71 INT. ACADEMY - INDOOR TRAINING RANGE - TIGHT ON DREDD

71

DREDD

Kevlar nine helmet and body armor.

WIDEN. Dredd is LECTURING to a group of CADETS who hang on his every word. We're in a TRAINING AREA like the one "Q" ran in the Bond movies.

Dredd turns. A TECH nods: Target ready. Dredd FIRES a barrage of bullets at a mannequin in Judge's gear. The bullets ricochet off. The class OOOHS and AHHS.

DREDD(cont'd)

Yours, when you graduate.

(pause)

If you graduate.

72 NEW ANGLE

72

Dredd moves to another training station. Another tech nods: Ready.

DREDD(cont'd)

(holding it up)

Lawgiver Two. Twenty five round sidearm with mission-variable voice programmed ammunition.

(into gun)

Signal Flare.

(X)

He turns, FIRES. The FLARE explodes on the wall. Again -OOOHS and AHHS.

(X)

DREDD(cont'd)

Yours, when you graduate.

73 HERSHEY - AT SUPPLY ROOM - SAME TIME

73

She is exchanging her battered helmet. Now, she notices Dredd, lingers to watch, impressed with his style.

74 RESUME DREDD'S CLASS

74

Now he moves to several Techs who are hurriedly tweaking the most awesome LAWMASTER CYCLE we've seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

7

DREDD(cont'd)

Mark IV Lawmaster, improved model.  
With on-board cannon, vertical take  
off and landing, flight capacity  
and 500 kilometer range.

The head Tech gives thumbs up while the other techs step back.  
The class waits, expectant. The lead tech throws a REMOTE.  
SPARKS fly. The motor COUGHS, dies. The class GROANS. Dredd  
glares at the embarrassed technicians.

DREDD(cont'd)

Yours... if they ever get it to  
work.

LAUGHTER. Dredd moves to a lectern. Faces the class.

DREDD(cont'd)

All of these things are nothing  
but toys. Bottom line, final word,  
end of the day, when you're alone  
in the dark... all that counts...  
is this.

(X)  
(X)

He takes something from the lectern shelf, throws it down. It's  
the all-but holy book: THE LAW.

DREDD(cont'd)

And you will be alone. Because when  
you swear to uphold these ideals,  
you are sacrificing whatever chance  
you have for a Life.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

75 FAVORING CADETS

75

They frown; this is not what they expected to hear from a  
living legend. They become increasingly unnerved.

76 HERSHEY

76

The talk upsets her, too, perhaps more than the others.

DREDD'S VOICE(cont'd)

For most of us there is only lonely  
death on the streets... or, for  
those few of us who survive to old  
age... the prouder loneliness of  
the Long Walk.

(X)

77 RESUME DREDD

77

DREDD

(holding up the book)  
 Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of  
 Happiness. Old and noble ideas.  
 But they are what we give to  
 others... not what we will ever  
 receive for ourselves. Class  
 dismissed.

(X)

(X)

The class breaks up on a definite low note.

CUT TO:

78 INT. ACADEMY LOCKER ROOM - DAY

78

Hershey is drying her hair with a towel. OLMEYER, a short,  
 earnest underclassman, approaches her. He's carrying a large  
 BOOK.

(X)

(X)

(X)

OLMEYER

Judge Hershey, the yearbook deadline  
 is only a week away. Have you  
 changed your mind?

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

HERSHEY

Forget it, Olmeyer. I'm not gonna  
be the yearbook Centerfold!

(X)

(X)

(X)

OLMEYER

It's not a centerfold, it's a  
 calendar! And it won't be a tacky  
 3-D hologram. The yearbook is all  
 classic print and 2-D. Here, let  
 me show you a dummy -

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

He starts to open the book. She slams it closed on his fingers.

(X)

HERSHEY

No, let me show you a dummy.

(X)

(X)

She turns his head so he can SEE his reflection. When he turns  
 back - she's gone.

(X)

(X)

78A WITH HERSHEY

78A

She sees Dredd at an end locker. Decides. Approaches him.

(X)

HERSHEY

Judge Dredd?

(X)

(X)

He looks at her, waiting.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

3A

CONTINUED:

78

HERSHEY (cont'd)

I caught your lecture today. Do...  
do you really think that's what the  
cadets need to hear?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

DREDD

Yes. The least I can do is tell  
them the truth.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

HERSHEY

Well, I think your truth is  
relative. I have a personal life.  
I have lots of friends.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

DREDD

Really. How long since you saw any  
of them?

HERSHEY

(defensive)

Well, my shifts have been changed  
a lot lately. Two, three months,  
tops.

(X)

DREDD

You've only been on the street a  
year. You're still in denial.

HERSHEY

It's not that bad.

DREDD

How many married Judges do you know?

HERSHEY

Uh, well, my class is young. None  
of them have found the right...  
person.

He just looks at her.

HERSHEY (cont'd)

Has it really been like that for  
you? Haven't you ever been in -  
(checking herself)  
Haven't you ever had a... friend?

(X)

DREDD

Yes. Once.

HERSHEY

What happened?

(CONTINUED)

A CONTINUED: (2)

78A

Dredd takes off his helmet. It's the first time we've seen his face, and it's filled with barely controlled emotion.

DREDD

I judged him.

(X)

CUT TO:

79 EXT. MEGA-CITY LOCK - NIGHT

79

Another Aspen Shuttle is docked here, steam curling up from the motors.

(X)

(X)

80 EXT. DOCKED SHUTTLE - CLOSER - NIGHT

80

A GROUND CREW member couples fat conduits to the underbelly of the docked aircraft. Suddenly an ARM wraps around his throat. He struggles and we see his captor, hanging upside down in the landing gear: Rico. He drops to the ground like an acrobat, holding his victim all the way down. The man's neck SNAPS on impact. Rico drags the body into the shadows.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

81 EXT. MEGA CITY - NIGHT

81

Not a nice part of town. The FACES we SEE and the SOUNDS we HEAR are unnerving. This is not the shiny part of the future. We HOLD on the scene, finally WIDEN to find Rico. Wearing the clothes of the ground crewman he killed, he walks past rows of MEN enraptured in violent/erotic VIDEO GAMES. He's searching for something. And then he sees it:

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

82 UP ANGLE

82

A shop with a busy ever-changing SIGN: GEIGER'S BAZAAR. SURPLUS - PAWN - FAX BOXES - VOUCHERS CASHED. He heads inside.

83 INT. GEIGER'S - NIGHT

83

A large squalid pawnshop. Surplus and junk hangs from the cluttered walls. The rear is divided by a ceiling-high locked fence that secures the better grade merchandise. GEIGER, 50's, scowls as Rico enters. Puffs on a cigar.

GEIGER

We've closed for the night.

RICO

You're holding a package for me.  
I'm... Rick.

GEIGER

Oh, yeah... Gimme a second.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

While Geiger gets it, Rico quickly scans the store. A simple security camera in the corner. A jumble of crates and large antique weapons... including a few things that look like rusting metal warriors. Rico points to these.

RICO

I thought they destroyed all the ABC Warbots?

GEIGER

(coming back)

You can collect 'em if you make 'em non-functional. Like my wife.

(hands him box)

Here you go.

Geiger pretends not to watch as Rico unlocks the box. Geiger sneaks a look... sees a uniform... and a Judge's Lawgiver. Rico starts to reach inside. Geiger stops him. (X)

GEIGER

Whoa, friend, whoever sent you this is no friend at all.

RICO

Oh? And why's that?

GEIGER

That's a Lawgiver. It's programmed to only recognize a Judge's hand. You want a weapon, I can get you something nice. But if you touch that it'll take your arm off.

RICO

Really?

Rico grabs it! Geiger flinches - then looks puzzled.

RICO (cont'd)

How do you like that?

He SHOOTS Geiger at point-blank range. Geiger hits the floor.

RICO (cont'd)

I must be a Judge.

Rico bends, takes Geiger's keys and his cigars... then goes to the big cage.

84 ON THE ABC ROBOT

84

A huge, armored combat veteran. We HEAR the metal cage rattle open. Rico approaches, crouches down and pulls a panel off the robot's body.

Inside, the circuit cards have all been pulled from their sockets.

Rico begins whistling... reveille. He pushes the boards back in, hits the RESET button.

85 WIDER

85

The ROBOT starts to WHIR. A GUSH of steam rises from its powerful torso. The eyes glow RED. It stands to its eight foot height, slowly turning like an arthritic old man.

ROBOT

Status. Commander. Mission.

Rico strikes a match on the robot, lights a cigar.

RICO

Status: Personal bodyguard.

Commander: Rico.

Mission: We're going to war.

(smiles)

Geronimo.

6  
thru  
88  
89  
OMITTED

86  
thru  
88  
89

INT. HAMMOND'S APT. - NIGHT

Hammond and his wife LILY are in their modest apartment. The antiques and decorations hint at a warmer era - our own. Both wear nightclothes. Hammond paces, edgy with decision. Lily weaves on a COMPUTERIZED LOOM.

LILY

Vardis, if you're right, then this Judge Dredd isn't really part of the conspiracy.

HAMMOND

No, of course not. It began before he was born. It had to have.

LILY

Then your report tomorrow will destroy an innocent man. Doesn't Dredd's future bother you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAMMOND

Yes. But I'm more worried about  
all of our futures then about  
Judge...

The door THUDS open. Startled, they turn -

REVERSE ANGLE

Standing in the doorway is a JUDGE.

HAMMOND (cont'd)

(finishing the thought)  
...Dredd...

BLAM BLAM BLAM! The Judge's gun FIRES and we

CUT TO:

EXT. MEGA-CITY STREET - DAY

Citizens and merchants go about their business. CAMERA CRANES  
down, finds Dredd on patrol. Something catches his eye. He  
stops his Lawmaster, gets off. We FOLLOW him towards a slick  
wet dream of a FUTURE GULL-WINGED CAR... parked in a  
HANDICAPPED ZONE.

Dredd takes out a BAR CODE READER, scans the license plate. As  
the gizmo searches its data base, the FUPPIE (Future Yuppie) CAR  
OWNER runs into view with a Cappuccino in a styrofoam cup. He  
"beeps" the lock, but Dredd blocks his way to the car door.

DREDD

Is this your car?

CAR OWNER

Hey, come on... what are you gonna  
do, tow me?

DREDD

Of course not. Towing is the  
penalty for the first offense. This  
is your second violation.

(into Lawgiver)

Grenade.

CAR OWNER

HEY!

WIDER

Dredd aims, FIRES. The car EXPLODES! Dredd walks casually away  
while the car's owner stands slack-jawed with debris tinkling  
around him.

93

DREDD

The wreck burning behind him, Dredd head back towards his bike... suddenly STOPS. He sees TWO FIGURES in front of him. And, the moment he does, he knows without looking that there are two identical ones behind him.

They're garbed for combat, yet without even the trace of humanity that seeps through a Street Judge's armor. These are the feared JUDGE HUNTERS. All have drawn weapons. The LEADER holds up a HOLO WARRANT with Dredd's PICTURE.

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER  
Judge Joseph Dredd. You are under  
arrest.

CUT TO:

94

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

CAMERA finds a broken figure here: Fargo. Ashen, he sits in the Chief Justice's seat, face in his hands.

FARGO  
Dredd. I... I can't believe it...  
(looking up)  
Are you sure?

CAMERA ADJUSTS. We SEE Griffin is standing below him.

GRIFFIN  
I'm afraid the evidence is  
conclusive. The trial will be just  
a formality.

Fargo descends shakily from his seat. Moves to the window. He takes a pill from his pocket, tries to swallow it without Griffin seeing.

FARGO  
Is it possible? Dredd, homicidal  
too? We went through this nine  
years ago...

GRIFFIN  
We were able to hide the facts then.  
This time, we may not be so lucky.

FARGO  
(turning)  
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

93

94

(X)

CONTINUED:

9

GRIFFIN

The victim was a reporter. The media is already sniffing around. Eventually... they'll get to the truth.

FARGO

(stricken)

About...Janus?

(X)

GRIFFIN

About Janus... and your part in it.

(X)

(X)

FARGO

How... how long have you known?

(X)

(X)

GRIFFIN

Does it matter?

(X)

(softly)

(X)

(X)

Nine years ago, when we buried the truth along with the victims, the council ordered the termination of Janus... the complete termination. You obviously defied that order... otherwise this new disaster could never have happened.

FARGO

(a whisper)

If the truth comes out, it could destroy everything we've built... we could go back to the Years of Chaos!

Stricken, he glances over at the great map...remembering.

GRIFFIN

There's a way out, Chief Justice.

(pause)

The Long Walk.

FARGO

Into oblivion? You're suggesting I take it? You must really want to destroy me - !

GRIFFIN

No. I want to save the Judge system. The media won't stop digging into Dredd's case. When they get to the bottom... they'll find you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



5 CONTINUED:

MURDER. DREDD

9  
(X)  
(X)

CUT TO:

97 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

97

EXPLOSION of GUNFIRE on the MAIN SCREEN. We WIDEN. We're seeing the tail end of a SURVEILLANCE VIDEO of the murders of Vardis and Lily Hammond, taken by a camera outside their apartment.

(X)  
(X)

JUDGE MCGRUDER'S VOICE  
Stop Video.

98 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - WIDER - DAY

98

The place is absolutely packed. Every off-duty Judge in Mega-City is here. So is every Cadet from the Academy, plus the entire media brigade. We note that two oddly reassuring elements from our era are still here: A COURTROOM ARTIST (with a computer sketchpad and lightpen), and a COURTROOM STENOGRAPHER (with his hands stuffed into a FIST STENO KEYBOARD.) Make no mistake about it: this is a real, fair trial. And we're going to see it.

MCGRUDER (cont'd)  
Before we go on, I wish to make a personal comment.

(turning)  
Judge Dredd. I have observed your career from its outset and I have the highest regard for you. Nevertheless, I must prosecute you to the best of my ability.

99 DREDD - AT THE DEFENDANT'S STATION

99

DREDD  
That is the Law, Judge McGruder.  
I would expect no less.

100 NEW ANGLE - REVEALING THE HIGHEST SEAT

100

In Judge Fargo's place sits Judge Griffin. He is wearing the uniform of the Chief Justice.

GRIFFIN  
The Court shares in Judge McGruder's sentiments. In a way I am glad that Judge Fargo is about to begin his Long Walk.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)

He will be spared the pain of this trial. Proceed, Judge McGruder.

MCGRUDER

The video you have just seen is prima fascia evidence that the defendant is guilty as charged. Mark this video People's Exhibit "A".

CLERK

So marked.

At the defendant's station, Hershey stands.

HERSHEY

Objection, Your Honor. This video is inadmissible as evidence.

MCGRUDER

Judge Hershey, are you serious? Both of them recognized Judge Dredd!

HERSHEY

That is the State's interpretation. Replay dialogue.

VIDEO rewinds. Then:

LILY'S VOICE

...Doesn't Dredd's future bother you?

(X)

(X)

(X)

HAMMOND'S VOICE

Yes. But I'm more worried about all of our futures then about Judge...Dredd...?

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

HERSHEY

Stop video. Do you hear it? When Lily Hammond says "Dredd", it's part of the conversation. And when Vardis Hammond says 'Dredd' it could just as easily be the same. The suggestion that either has recognized their murderer is sheer supposition... or, in the case of the prosecution, wishful thinking!

(X)

(X)

BIG REACTION from the packed room. Griffin bangs the gavel for silence.

## 1 THE DEFENSE TABLE

10

Hershey returns here to get another document. Dredd WHISPERS.

DREDD

Judge Hershey. I'm really glad I picked you to defend me.

HERSHEY

You only picked me because you didn't have anyone else.

(X)

(X)

DREDD

I'm still glad.

(X)

CAMERA FOLLOWS Hershey forward.

MCGRUDER

(to Hershey)

All right, counselor. Forget the the audio. What about the video? It clearly shows -

(X)

HERSHEY

It clearly shows nothing!  
(turning)

Your Honor, I have here an affidavit from Cadet Olmeyer, currently a Junior at the Academy.

(

102 OLMEYER - IN THE AUDIENCE

102

The heads of the other cadets around him swivel to look at him with new regard. He does his best to look cool.

103 RESUME TRIAL

103

HERSHEY

Cadet Olmeyer is acknowledged by all his instructors to be an expert in the field of still and video graphics. His affidavit states that this surveillance video is of such low definition that even after all known enhancements are used, no positive identification can be made of the killer. Since the uniform of a Judge could be counterfeit, I repeat my objection to this video being entered as evidence in this case.

(X)

(turning to Griffin)

I ask for a ruling.

(CONTINUED)

- 103 CONTINUED: 103  
You could hear a pin drop in the vast room. Everyone watching is sure they know what Griffin will say. They're all wrong.
- GRIFFIN  
Objection... sustained. The video is inadmissible.
- 104 ON OLMEYER - IN AUDIENCE 104  
OLMEYER (X)  
Yesssss!
- The rest of the courtroom goes nuts. Griffin bangs for order. The BAILIFFS call out.
- BAILIFFS  
Order, order!
- 105 HERSHEY 105  
returns to the defendant's table as the court quiets down. Olmeyer WHOOPS a second longer than everyone else. (X)  
Embarrassed, he quiets down, but not before Dredd notices him.
- DREDD  
That kid barely knows me and he wants to save my ass.
- HERSHEY  
Trust me. It's not your ass he's interested in.
- 106 JUDGE MCGRUDER 106  
MCGRUDER  
Your Honor. I am forced now to enter certain technical evidence of a critical nature regarding the Mega-City Legal system. I will need the Court's permission. I will also need permission to access the Central Computer Bank. (X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)
- 107 HERSHEY AND DREDD 107  
They look at each other, as puzzled as everyone else. (X)

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

107

MCGRUDER (cont'd)

(X)

I can think of no evidence or issue more critical than the murder trial of a Judge. You may proceed.

(X)

(X)

(X)

107A

BACK TO SCENE

107A

McGruder approaches a special CONSOLE. This is one of many in Mega-City that permit access to "Central" - the Judge System's main computer. Most of the consoles look alike, but this has the largest screen we will see.

(X)

MCGRUDER

Central. I wish to access weapons schematics, Judges division. Describe the workings of the standard Judge's sidearm, the Lawgiver Two, and especially its improvements over the earlier Lawgiver One.

Central SPEAKS. Somehow its monotonous, sexless voice hints at an actual personality.

CENTRAL

One moment.

8  
9  
109  
110

OMITTED

108

thru

109

NEW ANGLE

110

COMPUTER GRAPHICS illustrating these words APPEARS on screen.

CENTRAL(cont'd)

Nine years ago, the Lawgiver Model Two replaced the Lawgiver Model One. The difference lies in two areas: The computer chip and the ammunition coding. Like the Model one, the computer chip recognizes the thumbcode of all Judges. Judges may use each other's firearms; but a suspect dare not use a Judge's weapon against a Judge.

ANIMATION reminds us of this in non-gory fashion.

CENTRAL(cont'd)

However, the ammunition coding in the Model Two is not cued to the thumbcode recognition chip. Instead, it is coded to the personal DNA of the Judge using the weapon.

(X)

DREDD & HERSHEY

111

Listening carefully, wondering where this is going.

CENTRAL'S VOICE

This is obtained in a download from my medical files and upgraded automatically every time the weapon is reloaded. Each time a round is chambered and fired, it is tagged with the relevant DNA.

112

NEW ANGLE

112

We slowly TIGHTEN on McGruder and her "witness".

MCGRUDER

Central. Were the bullets recovered from the bodies of Vardis and Lily Hammond so DNA coded?

(X)

CENTRAL

Yes, Judge McGruder. It could not be otherwise.

MCGRUDER

And what was the result of the computer check of the DNA coding on those bullets?

(X)

(X)

(X)

You could swear that the computer is going for drama.

CENTRAL

The DNA is a perfect match for Judge Joseph Dredd.

113

COUNCIL CHAMBER - WIDE SHOT

113

Pandemonium. Griffin bangs for order.

(X)

114

DEFENSE STATION

114

HERSHEY

(in shock, to Dredd)  
DNA evidence is irrefutable!

(X)

(X)

DREDD

Do your job.

She nods, stands.

HERSHEY

Your Honor... the defense rests.

5

WIDER

17

Griffin looks at McGruder.

MCGRUDER

Your Honor, the Prosecution rests.

GRIFFIN

The Jury may be sequestered.

The Foreman, COUNCIL JUDGE ESPOSITO, stands.

ESPOSITO

Your Honor, sequestering is not necessary. The evidence is irrefutable.

(looks around)

We have reached a Verdict. In the charge of Pre-meditated Murder, we the Jury find Joseph Dredd GUILTY as charged.

(X)

GASPS from the audience. It's the fall of a Legend.

116

ON GRIFFIN

116

GRIFFIN(cont'd)

The defendant will stand.

Before Hershey can tell him to, Dredd obeys. Griffin looks him in the eye. Dredd looks back, unblinking.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)

Joseph Dredd, for this crime Law allows only one punishment: DEATH.

(X)

SHOCK rebounds from every wall. As the gasps fade away, Griffin takes out a sealed document.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)

However: I have here the last order of Judge Fargo, written this morning before he prepared for the Long Walk.

(opening it)

He orders that this Court be lenient with Judge Dredd, in gratitude for his years of service.

(setting this down)

It has always been our custom to carry out the last order of a Walking Judge. We will so honor this one.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

116

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)

(new tone)

The sentence is Life Imprisonment  
 - to be carried out immediately.  
 As it is Written:

Griffin picks up the book of the Law, kisses it. Opens it.  
 And reads.

117 DEFENSE STATION

117

GRIFFIN'S VOICE

"Let the Betrayer of the Law be  
 taken from our Courts;"

Already the Judge Hunters are coming for him.

HERSHEY

Dredd. I... I'm sorry.

DREDD

You did your best, Judge Hershey.

He stands, takes her hand.

DREDD (cont'd)

Thank you.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE

"Let the Freedom he stole from  
 others be stolen from himself;"

The Judge Hunters pull at him. Hershey hangs on as long as she  
 can.

HERSHEY

Dredd...!

118 ON GRIFFIN - RAKED CAMERA

118

GRIFFIN

"Let his armor be taken from him,  
 and all his garb of Justice..."

119 DREDD - SOMEWHERE

119

Wrists manacled, head down. The Judge Hunters pull off his  
 armor, then literally rip away his uniform. He's naked,  
 helpless. Chained.

(X)

(X)

OMITTED

120  
 thru  
 123

120  
 thru  
 123

EXT. GATES OF MEGA CITY - SUNSET

12

It is the ceremony of The Long Walk. Judge Fargo stands alone, wearing a LONG DUSTER COAT and a wide brimmed HAT. Before him he holds his uniform, Lawgiver, and badge in a ceremonial bundle.

A young FEMALE CADET in an sweet Contralo that contrasts with Griffin's bass READS from a different part of The Law:

FEMALE CADET

(reading)

"Let his name be recorded in every place of Honor. Let him take the Law he served so well to those who have it not."

The great city gate begins to OPEN. Under a fading SUNSET we SEE the forbidden land beyond: THE CURSED EARTH. We TIGHTEN on Fargo, grizzled, weary; the girl, fresh, tearful. Like so many, she reveres this man and what he represents.

FEMALE CADET

"Let him be written in our hearts and our memories."

She hands him the Book. Receives his bundle of worldly belongings in return. A young MALE CADET steps forward, hands Fargo an ancient REMINGTON.

125

DREDD

125

is shoved into a jammed PRISON SHUTTLE. GUARDS fling him in his seat. The shuttle door closes, locks.

(X)

GRIFFIN'S VOICE

"Let him be stricken from our hearts and our memories."

126

FARGO

126

FEMALE CADET

"Forever."

A line of CADETS raises Lawgivers overhead. They FIRE a 21 GUN SALUTE. Fargo walks out. The gate CLOSES.

(X)

127

EXT. CITY LOCK - DUSK

127

The prison shuttle FIRES its engines.

(X)

GRIFFIN'S VOICE

"Forever."

28 EXT. MEGA-CITY ONE - LONG SHOT - DUSK 128  
 Dredd's shuttle THUNDERS overhead. Far below in the poisoned sand, Fargo looks up at it.

CUT TO:

129 EXT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - NIGHT 129  
 Lightning crackles around the Eagle's head. A floating TANKER refuels at a nearby roof top.

130 INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 130  
 Griffin comes inside. His chair turns around. Rico is sitting in it. Griffin looks at him in shock for a moment. (X)  
 (X)

GRIFFIN  
 Are you out of your mind, coming here?

Griffin angrily starts forward... stops when the ABC robot moves to block his path.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)  
 And you brought this, too?

Griffin waves his hand over desk controls. The lights DIM. SHUTTERS block the windows.

RICO  
 I like to do things my way. (X)

GRIFFIN  
 Yes, I know. Like framing Dredd for Hammond's murder.

RICO  
 (smiling)  
 I thought that was a nice creative touch. Sort of two birds with one stone.

GRIFFIN  
 Hammond had to be silenced when he found out about Janus! But I could have used Dredd! He practically worshiped the ground I walked on- (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

(CONTINUED)

130

CONTINUED:

130.

RICO

Dredd only worships the Law. And he'd blow you away the minute he found out just how much you're pissing on it. Trust me: It's better this way. Let him see what it's like to freeze his ass off in Aspen. Let him see what it's like to be me! After all...

He moves closer to Griffin, smiles.

RICO(cont'd)

...Dredd and I have so much in common. Why not this?

Griffin looks at him, decides to drop the subject.

GRIFFIN

There's a lot of work to be done.

RICO

Yes. The Janus lab -

GRIFFIN

You'll see it soon enough. In the meantime... I want chaos, Rico. That block war was just the beginning. Now I want fear racing through every street... terror in every quad... panic in every block. Until those miserable rezzies think even their Judges can't save them. That's when the Council will turn to me... and to Janus.

Rico moves towards the door. Pauses.

RICO

Fear, Terror, Panic. I think I can handle that. After all...

(slight smile)

Look how quickly I brought fear in here.

His smile fades and he exits.

131

OMITTED

131

132

EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT

132

A HOWLING WIND blows dust across the dead landscape. The ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE appears over the horizon.

## INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

A wide body with the amenities of a galley. Armed JUDGES patrol outside a long CAGE enclosing the rows of prisoners. GUARDS inside the cage are armed with STUN CLUBS. (X)  
(X)  
(X)

CAMERA roams the ranks of hardened, brutal prisoners. Gradually we realize that something is being whispered up and down the rows... a slow humm that rises in level to a buzz and then a whisper. Gradually we discern it: "dddrd...dddrdd... Dredd." We reach Dredd the same time the whispers reach him. Manacled like the others, he shows no reaction to the hateful glances aimed in his direction. (X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

## PILOT'S VOICE (X)

Attention, crew. We're changing course to avoid some chop. ETA Aspen Prison 11 hundred twenty two. (X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

The craft BANKS, the prisoners chains clanking as they sway. A mean looking PRISONER behind Dredd leans over, hisses: (X)  
(X)

## PRISONER BEHIND HIM (X)

I want a piece of you, scumbag. (X)

## DREDD (X)

Okay. (X)

With a SNAP and without looking, Dredd jerks his elbow backwards. The prisoner is knocked unconscious. As he sags in his chains, CAMERA ADJUSTS. The prisoner on the side of Dredd we haven't seen is Fergie. Now, he stares at Dredd. Then he puts his hands over Dredd's face, leaving Dredd's jaw exposed, and parting his fingers at Dredd's eyes, like the visor slit in the Judge's helmet. Fergie's eyes go wide. (X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

## FERGIE

Dredd? What are you doing here?

## DREDD

I was convicted of a crime.  
(pause)  
Wrongly convicted.

## FERGIE

That makes two of us.

## DREDD

No. You got the sentence the Law required. The Proper sentence.

## FERGIE

Proper? Five years just for saving my own ass? It was a mistake!

(CONTINUED)

DREDD

The Law does not make mistakes.

FERGIE

Yeah? Then how do you explain what happened to you?

DREDD

(pause)

I... I can't.

FERGIE

(sarcastic)

Oh, you can't. But the "Law doesn't make mistakes"? So what's this, then? A bug? A glitch? Typo? Fumble? Screw-up? Or maybe... POETIC FUCKING JUSTICE?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

VOICE

You're wasting your breath, brother man...

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

133A

NEW ANGLE

133A

The speaker is a menacing MAN of fifty or so, with gaunt hard muscles, the eyes of a mad prophet, and eerie religious TATTOOS. Three YOUNGER MEN flanking him have similar decorations. This is REVEREND ANGEL and his SONS.

(  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

REVEREND ANGEL (cont'd)

Dredd's a machine. See, any man - even a Lawman - has a heart. But not Dredd. He's frozen inside. That's how he could make this man (he indicates himself) and these boys - watch while like the Grim Reaper himself, he coldly cut down the youngest fruit of our tree.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

ANGEL SONS

Amen.

(X)  
(X)

DREDD

Angel: Maybe if your youngest fruit hadn't taken those hostages he could be here for the family reunion.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

As one, all the Angels lunge forward as much as their short chains will allow. Fergie recoils; Dredd doesn't. But two GUARDS turn at the commotion.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

(CONTINUED)



35 CONTINUED: 17

Searches. Finds a framed "viewie" on the nightstand. It shows a COUPLE in their 30's with a BABY.

HERSHEY  
(off viewie, amused)  
Well. Baby Dredd.

136 CLOSER 136

At her touch, the viewie becomes briefly ANIMATED.

137 BACK TO SCENE 137

She's about to put it down - when something about its weight makes her suspicious. She turns it over, examines it - finds a HIDDEN SEAL. The frame OPENS. Inside is a second viewie. It shows Dredd, mid-twenties - and Rico, the same age. Both are grinning: Graduation day at the Academy.

138 CLOSE ON HERSHEY 138

She's puzzled - quite clearly, she has no idea who Rico is.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Ten. Nine. Eight...

Hershey folds the frame back up...slips out the door with it.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Cancel. Thank you for your cooperation. (X)

CUT TO:

139 OMITTED 139

139A EXT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT - NIGHT 139A

139B INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - COCKPIT - NIGHT 139B

The PILOT speaks into his throat mike. (X)

PILOT (X)  
Aspen Prison, this is Prisoner (X)  
Shuttle 5A. Request landing Vector. (X)

The VIDSCREEN on the console flutters into life. A harried ASPEN GUARD appears there. There's NOISE AND CONFUSION in the b.g. behind him. (X)  
(X)  
(X)

ASPEN GUARD (ON SCREEN) (X)  
Negative, Shuttle. We have a riot (X)  
in progress. Request denied. (X)

(CONTINUED)

9B CONTINUED: 139B

PILOT  
Say again, Aspen? (X)  
(X)

ASPEN GUARD  
Repeat, riot in the Maximum Security  
cellblock. Do not land. (X)  
(X)  
(X)

140 INT. SHUTTLE - THE CAGE 140

Fergie is still tormenting Dredd, enjoying his fallen status.  
He waits until a guard passes, then hisses: (X)  
(X)

FERGIE  
Let's try it again, Dredd. You're  
in chains. You're going to prison. (X)  
But you're innocent, and I'm guilty. (X)  
But it's still not a mistake? (X)  
(X)

PILOT ON P.A.  
ATTENTION, GUARDS. LANDING HAS BEEN  
CANCELED. REPEAT, LANDING HAS BEEN  
CANCELED. SECURE PRISONERS FOR NEW  
FLIGHT PLAN. (X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

And that's when it happens. In that split-second of distraction  
when the guards look up to listen, Pa Angel begins to reach for  
a guard's Stun Club! (X)  
(X)  
(X)

141 FAVORING DREDD 141

Involuntarily, he lunges forward - (X)

DREDD  
Look out - ! (X)  
(X)

Misunderstanding his intentions, the nearest guard ZAPS him with  
his Stun Club! At the same moment, Pa Angel gets the other  
guard's weapon, turns it on him! The guard DROPS. One of the  
Angel boys grabs the key card! (X)  
(X)  
(X)

142 GUARD WITH DREDD 142

turns, charges forward - but two Angels have already whisked the  
key card over their cuff's scanners! They tackle the guard! (X)  
(X)

143 SHUTTLE JUDGES - AT CAGE ENDS 143

they rush to open the cage and run inside! (X)

144 IN THE CAGE 144

A PRISONER TRIPS a Judge! The Judge's gun MISFIRES! (X)

145 THE SHUTTLE PILOT - FORWARD 145  
the bullet goes through his seat! He slumps! (X)

146 RESUME CAGE 146  
The entire aircraft TILTS. The Judges are swarmed by the (X)  
prisoners! The card keys are passed around and the overhead (X)  
chain RATTLES as it is pulled hand over hand, freeing the (X)  
manacled prisoners one by one! And all the while a BUZZ like (X)  
the one we heard before grows and grows: (X)

CONVICTS (X)  
...llldrrrd...LLDRDDD... KILL (X)  
DREDD! KILL DREDD! (X)

146A DREDD - ON THE FLOOR 146A  
punching, twisting, fighting the hands reaching for his throat. (X)  
As the aircraft banks steeply, he slides along the floor with (X)  
his enemies. SEES a Judge's LAWGIVER trampled under the (X)  
scrambling feet. Reaches for it - reaches - reaches - (X)

146B WIDER 146B  
Dredd stands, FIRES! Everyone ducks! Dredd grabs Fergie from (X)  
the floor, hauls him forward! Dredd smashes his way to the (X)  
forward cage door, throws Fergie through it! Pa Angel grabs (X)  
Dredd by the throat and wrist - the gun falls outside the cage (X)  
-Dredd SMASHES the door on Pa Angel's head, locks it! (X)

DREDD (X)  
(to Fergie) (X)  
Hack the Shuttle! (X)

FERGIE (X)  
W-wha - (X)

DREDD (X)  
Hack the shuttle, now! (X)

Fergie pushes the pilot's body aside, hits controls. Meanwhile (X)  
the convicts are swarming against the cage door. (X)

147 THE SHUTTLE - LONG SHOT - NIGHT 147  
It spirals through the air, out of control.

148 INT. SHUTTLE - NIGHT 148  
Dredd jams the cage door shut, struggles forward. (X)

DREDD (X)  
What the hell's wrong? (X)

(CONTINUED)

- 148 CONTINUED: 148
- FERGIE
- The stabilizers controls! They got  
hit, too! (X)
- CAMERA RAKES to the control panel... and a SMOKING, SIZZLING section. The craft tilts alarmingly. Dredd grabs the stick, helps Fergie try and pull up. It's useless.
- 149 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 149
- The shuttle spirals towards the earth.
- 150 INT. SHUTTLE 150
- The ground rushes up - fills the main viewport -
- 151 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 151
- The shuttle CRASHES, skids across the ground, smashing through rocks and cacti. Stabilizer fins SNAP off. WINDOWS shatter. The fuselage breaks in two. The rear half with the engines EXPLODES while the forward cabin keeps rolling.
- 152 NEW ANGLE - NIGHT 152
- The forward half of the shuttle comes to rest. There's one last groan of metal from the cabin, and then... silence.
- CUT TO:
- 153 EXT. MEGA-CITY RED LIGHT DISTRICT - FOLLOWING RICO - NIGHT 153
- Crowded. Dangerous. In shadowy corners and dark alleys, bodies and souls are being bought and sold. Strange sounds of pain and pleasure assault our ears.
- Somehow even these twisted and dangerous people know not to fuck with Rico. They move out of his way almost instinctively.
- 154 A SCUZZY BIKER TYPE 154
- suddenly flies out of a doorway, SMACKS into a pole near Rico. He shakes off the blow, wipes blood from his mouth... howls with animal fury. Charges back towards the doorway.
- 155 NEW ANGLE 155
- His adversary appears, a whirling, lean muscular figure in leather - a woman named ILSA. Now, with four spectacular karate moves, she hits him high, low, middle - and -the coup de grace - right in the balls!

5 CLOSER ON THE BIKER

15

His eyes glaze. He drops like a stone.

ILSA

Pathetic.

She turns to leave... stops when she sees the amused eyes of the man watching her from four feet away: Rico.

RICO

Hello, Professor.

157 CLOSE ON ILSA

157

ILSA (cont'd)

(disbelieving)

R...Rico?

RICO

(off the environment)

I see you're still researching the dark night of the soul.

ILSA

The research ended when they condemned you. I live here, now. You showed me that facing death was the only way to live.

Her eyes glisten as she moves towards Rico, touches his arm.

ILSA (cont'd)

They...they told me you were dead.

Rico reaches out gently...wipes a tear from her cheek.

RICO

Don't go woosy on me, Professor. We got work to do.

He puts his arm around her. They step over her victim on their way out.

CUT TO:

158 EXT. CURSED EARTH - DAWN

158

MOVEMENT inside the smashed aircraft.

158A INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - DAY

158A

Helmeted JUDGE HUNTERS move through the dim wreck, using BAR CODE READERS to scan the ID tags of the dead. SCANNERS attached to their weapons show readings.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

158A

Another Hunter steps inside through a jagged hole in the fuselage.

(X)

SECOND HUNTER

Sir. We found tracks leading away from the wreck. At least half a dozen people.

(X)

(X)

(X)

The HUNTER SQUAD LEADER taps his helmet mike.

HUNTER SQUAD LEADER

This is Capture Team. No sign of Dredd. He appears to have survived the crash. Repeat, he appears to have survived.

CUT TO:

158B

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - MEGA-CITY - INTERCUT - DAY

158B

GRIFFIN

(into intercom)

You are in error, Capture Team. Dredd did not survive the shuttle wreck. No one survived the shuttle wreck. Do I make myself clear?

(X)

SQUAD LEADER'S VOICE

Yessir. Quite Clear.

(X)

158C

INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - RESUME - DAY

158C

ANOTHER HUNTER

Sir! We found someone.

We follow them forward. Their flashlights converge on one of the WOUNDED GUARDS.

WOUNDED GUARD

Thank God... thank -

His eyes widen as their LASER GUNSIGHTS moves to his chest.

158D

EXT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - DAY

158D

GUNFIRE erupts within and we

CUT TO:

159

INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

159

Enough personal things to tell us she's both a danger-crazed athlete... and a romantic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

15

She's still in sleepware, her uniform for today already laid out. She sips coffee from an Academy mug. Sits down at her apartment's Central Station.

HERSHEY

Central, I need to access the graphics database.

CENTRAL

That could take several days, Judge Hershey. The Graphic Database covers all known graphics, from the Paleolithic Era to today.

Hershey opens the framed viewies she took from Dredd's apartment, slides out the one with the adult Dredd.

(X)  
(X)

HERSHEY

This should be a little faster:  
(showing it)  
I want you to ID this man.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

CENTRAL

Even from here, I can see it's Judge Dredd.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

HERSHEY

(exasperated)  
The other man!

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

She slides the viewie into the scanning aperture.

(X)

CENTRAL

(all business now)  
Scanning for identity, unknown male, approximately 200 Cm. tall, weighing 95 kilos, Skin Tone Three. Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six -

(X)  
(X)

Suddenly the CONSOLE GOES DEAD with a BEEP.

HERSHEY

Central? Central? Hello?

A CANNED VOICE

(not Central)  
This terminal has been disconnected from the main system for a system check. You no longer have access to the system. Thank you.

The viewie pops out of the slot with a thunk. Hershey looks at the computer suspiciously.

160  
thru  
63  
164

OMITTED

160  
thru  
163  
164

INT. JANUS LAB - DAY

After all the talk about this place, we probably expected more. Sure, it's big; but half the hi-tech gear is under dusty plastic, and the rest is under repair. Rico sweats over a power module, straining with a wrench.

RICO

Come on, you piece of junk...  
(aside to his robot)  
No offense.

The bolt loosens. Rico can open the panel.

RICO (cont'd)

Let there be Light.

He flips a switch. The OVERHEAD LIGHTS come on. (Perhaps we notice that the Lab seems to be retro-fitted into an older, metal structure with oddly irregular walls; perhaps not.)

165

LAB - NEW ANGLE

165

A PNEUMATIC DOOR OPENS. Griffin enters. He looks around, pleased.

GRIFFIN

You've made a lot of progress.  
Good.

ILSA'S VOICE

Lights! About time -

Griffin's eyes narrow as Ilsa comes in from another area with a clipboard.

RICO

(to Griffin)  
Griffin, I think you know Professor Haydyn?

GRIFFIN

(carefully)  
Yes. I haven't seen her since your trail. When she testified that you were insane... and therefore... innocent.

She looks at Rico with an expression worthy of a Manson follower.

(CONTINUED)

165

CONTINUED:

165

ILSA

Since then I've learned innocence is just another lie. And that the best truths come only with pain.

(back to reality)

And... speaking of painful truths... Here's our shopping list.

(X)

She hands Griffin the digital notepad.

(X)

GRIFFIN

(reading)

Inducers, nitrogen coils, nano-pumps... I can pull all this from Mega-City hospital. They won't even know it's gone. When can you be on-line?

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

RICO

Tomorrow. But it won't mean a thing if you can't get into Central's Janus files. They're still security locked.

GRIFFIN

Leave that to me. Meanwhile you have work to do... on the streets.

RICO

"Fear, Terror, Panic." Yes. My favorite emotions.

ILSA

Mine too.

Rico turns, whistles at the robot like it's a dog.

RICO

C'mon, Fido. Walkies.

The robot follows Rico and Ilsa out the door. Griffin watches them go, slightly unnerved.

(X)

CUT TO:

165A

EXT. CURSED EARTH - DAY

165A

The SUN sizzles into the LENS -

(X)

65B EXT. RUINED COURTHOUSE - DAY 165B

Fergie and Dredd are hanging by their handcuffs from a pole (X)  
 which in turn has been set on the crossbeams of this ruined (X)  
 building. Fergie is unconscious. Dredd, awakened by the crawl (X)  
 of a SUNBEAM over his face, stirs, looks around. (X)

165C TWO OF THE ANGELS - NEARBY - HIS POV 165C

They're going through gear and equipment scavenged from the (X)  
 shuttle wreck. We have a sense of the other Angels just O.S., (X)  
 where we HEAR VOICES and sounds of PAIN. But these two here (X)  
 attract our interest... especially now, when their fumbling with (X)  
 the BLACK BOX RECORDER from the shuttle CLICKS IT ON. (X)

SHUTTLE RECORDING (X)  
 (full of STATIC) (X)  
 -- is Aspen Prison. Repeat do not (X)  
 land... riot in...gress... Warden (X)  
 dead... special prisoner... (X)

PILOT'S VOICE (X)  
 Special prisoner? Say again, Aspen. (X)  
 You're breaking up... (X)

ASPEN VOICE (X)  
 ...didn't even know he was here. (X)  
 Records showed execution... Rico, (X)  
 Samuel Rico... killed Warden... (X)  
 sabotaged security system... (X)

STATIC and GUNSHOTS end the tape. (X)

165D DREDD 165D

CAMERA PUSHES IN on him. (X)

DREDD (X)  
 (sotto, to himself) (X)  
 Rico? That's impossible... (X)

O.S. SCREAM. Fergie wakes with a start, REACTS to the dramatic (X)  
 shafts of sunlight raking the cathedral ceiling. (X)

FERGIE (X)  
 Ohmigod, I'm dead. I'm dead! (X)  
 (seeing Dredd) (X)  
 And in hell. (X)

165E NEW ANGLE 165E

Reverend Angel and his sons come forward, throw down the BODY of (X)  
 the Shuttle Guard they have just killed. (X)

(CONTINUED)

55E

CONTINUED:

165E

REVEREND ANGEL

Awake. Good.  
 (off the body)  
 We're running out of sinners.

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

DREDD

You have just committed murder.  
 The penalty is death.

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

Reverend Angel HITS Dredd.

(X)

REVEREND ANGEL

Silence, blasphemer! You still put  
 your faith in a false Law, instead  
 of the one True Law!

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

FERGIE

(hopeful)  
 Hallejuah, brother!

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

Dredd looks at Fergie suspiciously... Pa Angel looks at him with  
 odd interest.

(X)  
 (X)

REVEREND ANGEL

Can it be? Can it be, that from  
 the City of the Fallen, there is  
 one of the Faithful?

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

FERGIE

Amen, brother! Say it!

(X)  
 (X)

DREDD

Ah... Fergie...

(X)  
 (X)

REVEREND ANGEL

Boys, I believe we have a Believer  
 in the gallery. Cut him down!

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

FERGIE

Go tell it on the Mountain!

(X)  
 (X)

165F

FAVORING FERGIE

165F

He smiles as the Angels start to release him.

(X)

FERGIE

Well, Dredd. The Law doesn't make  
 mistakes, but I'm in like a disk,  
 and you're toast.

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

DREDD

Actually, you're toast: I arrested  
 the Angels for Cannibalism.

(X)  
 (X)  
 (X)

(CONTINUED)

65F

CONTINUED:

165F

As Fergie's expression changes, they CUT HIM DOWN. CAMERA RAKES (X)  
to the Angel's campfire - and human parts roasting over it! (X)

REVEREND ANGEL (X)

Prepare the Supplicant for (X)  
Sacrifice! (X)

FERGIE (X)

I'm not succulent! I'm not (X)  
succulent, look, I'm skin and - (X)

CRACK! Dredd has swung his legs up, wrapped them around the (X)  
pole, and SNAPPED it! He and the pole fall on top of Fergie (X)  
and the leadmost Angels! (X)

165G

FERGIE

165G

Falls, dodging feet - (X)

165H

WIDER

165H

the Angels still standing ignore Fergie, rush Dredd! Dredd (X)  
doesn't wait for them to reach him - he charges! He feints to (X)  
Pa Angel, takes out one of the boys! Two other Angels get in (X)  
blows - but then Dredd snatches up Fergie's half of the pole, (X)  
uses it like a Kendo Master! He knocks two Angels unconscious, (X)  
then a third - then - WHAM! He gets knocked down himself by (X)

165I

REVEREND ANGEL

165I

who raises the metal shaft he has used over his head - turns (X)  
it point downwards like a spear - and then - BLAM! He's SHOT. (X)

165J

NEW ANGLE

165J

Fergie, beside the dazed Dredd, looks up. A JUDGE HUNTER is (X)  
a short distance away, SUNLIGHT gleaming off his badge. (X)  
Relieved, Fergie jumps to his feet. (X)

FERGIE (X)

I surrender! I surrender! (X)

THIRD JUDGE HUNTER (X)

You can't. (X)

He aims at Fergie! (X)

165K

DREDD - ON THE GROUND

165K

seeing this, he jumps up. (X)

DREDD (X)

No! (X)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

165

Another Hunter appears behind Dredd! Dredd whirls, grabs at the man's gun barrel. BLAM BLAM! The shots go SKYWARD!

165L JUDGE HUNTER #3 - BELOW

165L

ignoring the unarmed Fergie, he spins, FIRES - !

165M DREDD

165M

pulls the guy he's struggling with in front of him! The BULLETS hit him! Dredd wrenches the weapon from the man's dying fingers - SHOOTs the Hunter beside Fergie!

165N FERGIE

165N

reacts as the Hunter falls beside him, the SCANNER landing right in front of his face.

Dredd grabs Fergie's elbow to pull him up - but Fergie resists - points to the SCANNER -

165O SQUAD LEADER AND COMPANION - ELSEWHERE IN RUINS

165O

Hearing the SHOTS, they race in that direction.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

165

The last two Judge Hunters run towards the continuing SHOTS and SFX of a STRUGGLE. They climb a rubble wall, aim down at the SOUNDS - stop, confused.

165Q DOWN ANGLE - THEIR POV

165Q

One of their own fallen men - and his SCANNER, its back panel off and wires hanging out. The scanner is replaying a video/audio LOOP of the previous struggle with Dredd! That's the "gunshots"!

165R BACK TO SCENE

165R

Too late, they realize they've been had. Dredd swings in on a beam, KICKS one Hunter into a wall! We HEAR the man's neck crack! Dredd struggles hand-to-hand with the second one. They FALL to the Courtroom floor!

Fergie appears with a piece of timber, tries to hit the Judge Hunter with it.

The gun Dredd and the Hunter are both struggling for GOES OFF. The piece of WOOD EXPLODES in Fergie's hands! Dredd forces the gun barrel towards the Hunter - BLAM!

He's dead. Sudden SILENCE.

(CONTINUED)

R CONTINUED:

165R

FERGIE

We did it! We got them all!

A SHAPE lunges up, close to CAMERA. It's one of the Hunters Dredd took out earlier, still alive enough to aim his weapon! Dredd aims his stolen one - CLICK! Empty! The Hunter squeezes his trigger - BLAM! The Hunter himself is hit! Shocked, the Hunter turns - gets off one last SHOT -

165S

REVERSE ANGLE

165S

A FIGURE silhouetted in the Courtroom door FIRES at the same moment. The last Hunter falls, dead. Dredd looks at the new arrival... his hat... his long duster coat...

DREDD

Fargo?

BLOOD wells on Fargo's coat. He's been hit. As he sags, Dredd and Fergie rush towards him.

CUT TO:

166

INT. ACADEMY DORM - STUDENT DATA PODS - DAY

166

Through the window blinds we can see the distant Hall of Justice. We're in the Multi-media study cubicles used by the undergraduates. Olmeyer is at a graphics work station with roughs of his yearbook tacked all over the walls. The workstation PURRS while Hershey glares at him.

(X)

HERSHEY

The Dance? You want me to go to the Goddamn Junior Dance?

(X)

(X)

OLMEYER

I've given up on the centerfold. I'll settle for a date.

(X)

(X)

HERSHEY

We're trying to save Judge Dredd, and you're using the situation to blackmail me. That's disgraceful!

OLMEYER

I know. But I'll never get another chance like this.

(X)

(X)

(pointing)

It's almost through processing the viewie. Do we have a deal?

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

16

HERSHEY  
(through her teeth)  
Yes!

OLMEYER  
Low cut dress?

(X)

HERSHEY  
Yes! Just do it!

OLMEYER  
(cocky)  
Graphics Analysis coming up... now.

(X)

He hits a control dramatically. The screen comes up... shows the PICTURE OF BABY DREDD AND PARENTS. Hershey stares at it in disbelief.

HERSHEY  
Olmeyer, you stupid futz! You  
analyzed the wrong picture!

(X)

OLMEYER  
I did?

(X)

She gropes around on the desk, finds the viewie frame with the shot of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY  
You were supposed to do this one!  
You just wasted three hours!

The computer BEEPS. MESSAGES run by the bottom of the screen.

OLMEYER  
If this is the wrong picture, why  
is it full of anomalies?

(X)

HERSHEY  
What?

OLMEYER  
Slick ones, too... somebody must  
have used a CGI/terminal and a scan  
quadrupler to make this.

(X)

He looks at the image, uses the mouse.

HERSHEY  
You mean... it's not real?

OLMEYER  
Take a look. I'll drop out all the  
artificial pixels.

(X)

67

NEW ANGLE

167

Hershey's eyes widen in shock as, one by one, the PICTURE ELEMENTS DISAPPEAR, scan line by scan line.

OLMEYER (cont'd)

(X)

Sky. Foreground. House.  
Parents... they're all fake.  
(turning)

The only thing that's real is the baby.

She's in shock. Maybe we are, too.

(X)

168  
thru  
184  
185

OMITTED

168  
thru  
184  
185

INT. CURSED EARTH COURTHOUSE - DUSK

Fargo lies near the judge's bench. Dredd has dressed his wound and made him as comfortable as possible. Fergie is heating rations from the Judge Hunter's cruiser over a fire. He brings soup over to Fargo. Fargo tries to swallow... can't.

(X)

FARGO

Bury me there, under the blind lady.

Dredd doesn't understand. Fargo raises his arm, points to the statue of Justice weighing her scales.

FARGO (cont'd)

Judge or citizen - everyone got a fair shake. She treated them all the same.

(weakly pointing)

The jury sat there. Ordinary people. Worst thing we did was take justice out of their hands.

DREDD

No. You and the first Judges... you saved Mega-City.

FARGO

Yes. And almost lost our souls.

(on Dredd's look)

It seemed like a wise idea: Create the perfect Judge. Breed courage - wisdom - integrity. The Janus Project. We used the old Council for the base material. Five DNA samples were taken, two were chosen. One was mine.

(pause)

You were the result.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dredd is stunned --

DREDD

But... but the orphanage told me  
my parents were killed by  
lawbreakers -- they gave me that  
picture of them -

FARGO

A fake. The psychs on the Janus  
project came up with that story.  
It was supposed to motivate you into  
law enforcement. It worked. Both  
times.

DREDD

What do you mean, both times?

FARGO

(fading)

There were... two infants created  
in the Janus lab. They were  
supposed to be perfect. One was:  
You. The other... somehow, it  
was... mutated. Not anything you  
could see...

(indicating his head)

But up here... horrible. A genetic  
criminal that one day just went...  
haywire.

(coughs)

Guess we weren't the sterling  
specimens we thought.

DREDD

I have a... brother?

FARGO

More than a brother.

(pause)

You knew him at the Academy, Dredd.  
You Judged him. The Council Tried  
him.

DREDD

(stunned)

Rico?

FARGO

He had to be put down. But I  
wouldn't let them do that to you.  
Griffin blackmailed me into the  
Walk, Dredd. Don't trust him.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(  
(.  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

185

DREDD  
Like I trusted you?

FARGO  
I'm sorry... son.

The breath goes out of Fargo's body. He dies. Dredd stares at him, his world torn apart.

DISSOLVE TO:

186

EXT. CURSED EARTH - SUNSET

186

Dredd stands in the fading light, withdrawn within himself. Fergie approaches, carrying the Remington.

FERGIE  
I buried him. Except for this.

Dredd silently follows Fergie to the grave. Fergie shoves the Remington into the mound of earth as a marker.

FERGIE (cont'd)  
You wanna... say something?

He hands The Book to Dredd. After a moment, Dredd opens it.

DREDD  
(reading)  
"What is the end of a Just Man?  
The Long Walk and then nothing?  
No; for Whoever Walks with the Law  
walks forever, and whoever honors  
the Law will trod in his path..."

Dredd looks at the fresco on the wall. Sees the faded words:  
"LET JUSTICE BE DONE THOUGH THE WORLD PERISH."

DREDD  
(suddenly)  
Find food and ammunition. Load up  
that sand cruiser.

FERGIE  
Where are going?

Dredd yanks the Remington out of Fargo's grave. We track into Dredd's face until it fills frame.

DREDD  
To find Rico.

CUT TO:

187  
1  
.0  
0A  
OMITTED

MEGA-CITY STREET - NIGHT

A squad of Judges on Lawmasters ride into SHOT.

DISPATCHER'S VOICE

(futzd)

Reported unrest code D-924 downtown  
sector 12 back-up requested.

The Judges stop and dismount outside a pleasure arcade. They enter, careful, professional. Pause. BOOM!!! The arcade EXPLODES, throwing glass, flame, and JUDGE'S BODIES into the street.

CUT TO:

191 A WOMAN - NIGHT

runs down a Mega-City alley. She flags down two JUDGES on Lawmasters. Clutches at her torn clothing, pointing.

WOMAN

Two of them! They tried to... it was horrible!

The Judges dismount, head that way. GUNSHOTS. SCREAMS. Horrible tearing SOUNDS.

Pause. The ABC robot comes around the corner, hands stained, bullet dings in its armor. The woman turns. It's Ilsa. As she beckons the lumbering machine, we

CUT TO:

192  
thru  
193  
193A  
OMITTED

INT. JUDGE'S LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Frenzied activity as several shifts double up.

JUDGE SERGEANT

(shouting assignments)

Halloway, Kampali! First Emergency Shift! Mifune, Lopez, Second Emergency Shift! All of you, stay alert! Whoever's been taking out Judges knows our standard procedures!

We move slowly from the showers with a Judge who moves to her locker. She's surprised to find it unlocked. Puzzled, she opens it - we SEE the odd PACKAGE too late - EXPLOSION.

187  
thru  
19  
190A

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

191

(  
(.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

192  
thru  
193  
193A

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

- 3C EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 193C  
The EXPLOSION blossoms against the flank of the great metal eagle. As ALARMS RING we RAKE to RICO, amused. He lights a cigar, tosses the match towards the distant flames. (X)  
(X)
- CUT TO:
- 194 EXT. MEGA - CITY WALLS - BINOCULAR MATTE - NIGHT 194  
FERGIE'S VOICE  
There's no way in, Dredd!
- 195 REVERSE ANGLE - EDGE OF CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 195  
Dredd and Fergie are standing beside the Hunter's sand cruiser. Their faces are dry and their lips parched and they show the wear from this journey. Dredd has a pack of gear on his back -and Fargo's Winchester. Ignoring Fergie, he continues to peer at the Mega-City wall. (X)  
(X)
- FERGIE(cont'd) (X)  
Hey, did you hear me? They don't (X)  
have a welcome mat! (X)
- DREDD (X)  
(lowering binoculars) (X)  
There's a way in: Six years ago  
two Cursed Earthers figured it out.
- 196 OVER THEIR SHOULDERS 196  
Dredd points: Sure enough, there's a puff of FLAME at a VENT low on the wall. SMOKE rises into the sky. Then it stops.
- DREDD(cont'd)  
The vent from the city incinerator.  
There's a burst twice a minute.  
That means that there's 30 seconds  
for someone to run through the tube  
before it flames again.
- FERGIE  
And these Cursed Earthers, they made  
it through?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DREDD

Actually, they were burned to a  
crisp. But the theory's sound.  
Let's go.

(X)

FOOM. Another FIREBALL belches from the city wall. As Fergie  
stares at it, Dredd starts forward. It's a few paces before  
he notices Fergie hasn't moved.

(X)

(X)

(X)

DREDD (cont'd)

What's wrong?

(X)

(X)

FERGIE

What's wrong? Are you kidding?  
Did that helmet you wore all those  
years compress your brain? You're  
gonna get me killed!

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

DREDD

Fergie. There's a maniac loose in  
the city -

(X)

(X)

(X)

FERGIE

There's one loose out here, too!  
Big choice, I got! Dying of thirst  
or from a fireball up my ass! This  
is all your fault!

(X)

(X)

(X)

(

.

DREDD

My fault?

(X)

(X)

FERGIE

Yes! If you hadn't arrested me,  
I wouldn't be here in the first  
place!

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Fergie sits down petulantly.

(X)

FERGIE (cont'd)

I'm through schlepping. I'm gonna  
sit here until I die... or until  
you apologize.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

DREDD

The Law doesn't apologize.

(X)

(X)

FERGIE

You're not a Judge anymore.

(X)

(X)

DREDD

I was when I sentenced you.

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

196

FERGIE

Don't get technical. Just say: "I'm  
sorry I misjudged you. And I'll  
never arrest you again."

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

Dredd turns around. Marches back to Fergie. Pause. Dredd  
whips a gun up, points it at Fergie. COCKS it.

(X)  
(X)

FERGIE

(after a moment)  
Apology accepted.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

Dredd turns... walks. Fergie looks at another FIREBALL emerging  
from the city wall... then at the trackless wasteland he's just  
crossed. Pause. With a groan, he races to catch up with  
Dredd.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

197

EXT. MEGA-CITY STREET - NIGHT

CUT TO:

197

SIRENS wail. FIRE burns around the corner. Several LAWMASTERS  
cruise past. Looters run away from them. Close to CAMERA,  
Hershey throws two PERPETRATORS against a fence, cuffs them  
there.

(X)

HERSHEY

(into radio)  
Dispatch, I'm in Green Quad, 4-11.  
Need pickup.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

DISPATCH VOICE

We copy, Hershey. We'll bag 'em.  
Meanwhile I have Central on line  
for you. Can you take it?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

She takes a few steps away from her perps for privacy.

(X)

HERSHEY

Yes, patch me in!

(X)  
(X)

CENTRAL'S VOICE

Judge Hershey, you paged me. How  
can I assist you?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

HERSHEY

You can start by telling me why  
Dredd's baby picture is a state  
secret.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

Pause. We can almost hear Central thinking. Meanwhile, behind  
Hershey, a figure in a Judge's uniform approaches her Bike...  
drops something into a storage compartment on it. Even from  
this distance we notice a red arming light on the object.

(X)  
(X)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

18

The figure moves away.

HERSHEY (cont'd)

Central. I want an answer.

(X)

(X)

CENTRAL

I'm sorry, I can neither confirm  
nor deny your statement.

(X)

(X)

(X)

HERSHEY

(disconnecting)

Get a virus!

Annoyed, she turns, heads back for her bike - and that's when it  
EXPLODES!

CUT TO:

198

INT. INCINERATOR CHUTE - NIGHT

198

A FIREBALL ROLLS TOWARD THE CAMERA. We PAN it. As it  
disappears into the sky, Dredd and Fergie dive inside.

DREDD

Run!

Crouched over, they race up the slight slope.

FERGIE

(as he runs)

Thirty... twenty nine... twenty  
eight... twenty seven... twenty  
six... twenty five...

199

ANGLE BEHIND THEM

199

Fergie's already beginning to drop back. The only guide in the  
dark is the slight reflection from CONDUIT on the chute floor.

DREDD

Stop counting!

FERGIE

(softer)

--nineteen... eighteen...  
seventeen... sixteen...

200

DREDD

200

FAINT light starts to fall on him. Then he SEES it, up ahead  
-the lights of Mega-City! Dredd pushes on - reaches the  
opening! Turns to look at...

1 FERGIE

201

still halfway back!

FERGIE

(panting)

Twelve... eleven -

He FALLS! He tries to get up. His SHIRT is caught on the conduit! He struggles, in a panic, but - keeps counting!

FERGIE (cont'd)

Ten! Oh, God, Nine! Dredd! Dredd,  
help me! EIGHT! FOR GOD'S SAKE-

202 DREDD - CLOSE

202

He looks outside - so close - looks back - so far - it's impossible to save Fergie!

FERGIE (cont'd)

FIVE! DREDDDDDD! FOUR!

Dredd looks down - SEES

203 THE CONDUIT UNDER HIS FEET

203

FERGIE (cont'd)

THREE!

CAMERA RAKES back. Fergie's caught on the same conduit!

204 RESUME DREDD

204

With all the strength in his body, he RIPS the conduit free from the floor - YANKS it forward -

205 FERGIE

205

As he shouts "TWO" he is whipped forward like a trout on a line!

206 CITY MOUTH OF TUBE - NIGHT

206

Fergie flies past Dredd, howling -

FERGIE

ONE!

And, as a FIREBALL ROLLS RIGHT BEHIND THEM, Dredd dives out of the opening behind Fergie!

7 DREDD

Has landed half-buried in a mound of ashes. He looks around.

DREDD

Fergie?

Dredd hears a muffled SOUND beneath him. He reaches down...  
YANKS Fergie into view. Fergie spits out a mouthful of ashes.

FERGIE

I'm alive. I'm alive!  
(seeing Dredd, less  
enthusiastic)  
Oh. So are you.

CUT TO:

208 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

208

Chief Justice Griffin, Council Judges McGruder, Esposito and Yamamoto. A MESSENGER hands a data-pad to Yamamoto, leaves.

ESPOSITO

(stricken)  
Latest casualty report.  
(pause)  
Ninety-six Judges have been  
assassinated.

MCGRUDER

Whoever's doing it knows all our  
procedures... our security  
measures... even our scrambled  
frequencies - !

ESPOSITO

Now the street criminals are taking  
advantage of the situation. It's  
a nightmare!

YAMAMOTO

Hell, it's a Goddamn revolution!

MCGRUDER

We can't replace those Judges! It  
takes years of training! We may  
never be at full strength again!

GRIFFIN

There is a solution.  
(on their desperate  
looks)  
Project Janus..

(CONTINUED)

MCGRUDER

(furious)

Chief Justice Griffin. Just mentioning that is grounds for Impeachment!

YAMAMOTO

We tried to play God once! It almost destroyed the Council - !

GRIFFIN

If this wholesale slaughter of Judges continues, there won't be a council! Janus could -

ESPOSITO

Come on, Griffin! A new batch of test tube babies won't solve this crisis! We don't need reliable Judges 20 years from now when they're grown! We need them today!

GRIFFIN

There's been over thirty years of genetic research since Janus failed. What if we could create adult subjects, fully grown and fully trained at birth? We could replace the Judges we've lost in weeks. We could save our society!

ESPOSITO

Who knows if that's even possible?

MCGRUDER

Who knows if it's safe?

GRIFFIN

(pointing)

Central does. All I'm asking is that we unlock the Janus files and ask. That way, we at least have an option.

(pause)

Please, let us find out. If the Council decides not to go forward... I'll accept that decision... and resign.

He has their attention.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT

209

WORKERS are still cleaning up after the earlier EXPLOSION. A HAND reaches into SHOT, steals UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT...

CUT TO:

210 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

210

Dredd - in a stolen uniform - marches Fergie "under guard" through the building.

FERGIE

(whispering)

This is a mistake.

DREDD

(also whispering)

Judges don't make mistakes.

FERGIE

But Fargo said you couldn't trust Griffin -

DREDD

I don't. But I trust the Council. When I tell them about Rico... they'll listen.

A JUDGE they pass peers at them, but doesn't speak. They round the corner.

FERGIE

Just don't get us killed, Dredd. I still want that apology.

OMITTED

211  
thru  
212  
213

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

The Judges have all gathered around Central. One by one, they step up, speak, put their thumb in Central's scanner.

GRIFFIN

Griffin, Douglas. Chief Justice. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL

Acknowledged.

JUDGE MCGRUDER

McGruder, Evelyne. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CENTRAL

Acknowledged.

ON SCREEN, GRAPHICS show the SOFTWARE LOCKS being removed one by one from the Janus Files.

JUDGE ESPOSITO

Esposito, Carlos. Council Judge.  
Authorize access to file, code name  
"Janus".

CENTRAL

Acknowledged.

YAMAMOTO

Yamamoto, Gerald. Council Judge.  
Authorize access to file, code name  
"Janus".

CENTRAL

I have unanimous authorization for  
access to file, code name "Janus".  
Removing security blocks...NOW.  
Awaiting Password command from  
Presiding Chief Justice.

CLOSE ON GRIFFIN

We tighten on him. He's been waiting for this moment.

GRIFFIN

Password...Janus.

Griffin moves in front of the machine, speaks tersely.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)

Central: Using current technology,  
how long would it take for Janus  
to produce a fully grown adult  
subject?

CENTRAL

Given the current state of genetic  
engineering an adult subject could  
be incubated in approximately eight  
hours.

ASTONISHMENT in the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT

215

Dredd and Fergie are almost at one of the Council Chamber doors.  
PAN BACK. The Judge who stared at them earlier is following them!

CUT TO:

216

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - RESUME

216

GRIFFIN

(to central)

In what quantity could these subjects be produced?

CENTRAL

Although only two subjects were produced in the original experiment, the laboratory was equipped with 20 incubators. If fully operational, 420 subjects could be produced a week.

YAMAMOTO

My God. We could replace our losses in a day -

MCGRUDER

You aren't considering this madness?

YAMAMOTO

No... I'm just reacting to the possibility... a frightening possibility.

ESPOSITO

Yes. I for one... think this is an idea that should be forgotten.

MCGRUDER

I agree. Judge Griffin, please restore the Security Blocks.

(X)

GRIFFIN

I see, now, that none of you have the force of will that these terrible times require. You will never open Janus again. So... we'll just leave it... unlocked.

216A

EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

216A

Dredd is about to open the door when a HAND spins him around. It's the Judge who followed him!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 216A

JUDGE  
Dredd! I thought it was y--  
That's all he says before Dredd K.O.'s him!

216B INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - RESUME - NIGHT 216B  
McGruder stands, furious.

MCGRUDER  
Griffin, this is treason! You just  
sealed your fate!

GRIFFIN  
No. You've just sealed yours.  
Rico!

217 RICO 217  
steps into the room.

218 BACK TO SCENE 218

MCGRUDER  
(in shock)  
Rico - !

All the Judges go for their Lawgivers. But it's too late. Rico  
OPENS FIRE on FULL AUTOMATIC.

219 NEW ANGLE - FAVORING GRIFFIN 219  
Griffin averts his eyes from the moment he orchestrated.  
Finally the gunfire STOPS. CAMERA ADJUSTS. Rico stands,  
smoking gun in hand.

RICO  
Who says politics is boring?

DREDD'S VOICE  
NOOOOOOOO - !

Rico whirls, looks at

220 DREDD - HIS POV - AT ANOTHER DOOR 220  
He has arrived in time to see the murders! With another SCREAM  
of fury, He LEAPS over the fallen Judge who tried to stop him  
-makes a running tackle at Rico!

WIDER

221

Dredd takes Rico to the floor. They both roll over and over.

DREDD  
MURDERING SON OF A BITCH - !

222 GRIFFIN

222

tries to get a shot at Dredd, can't. Then Griffin hears ALARMS, SHOUTS, running footsteps. Griffin steps quickly in, KICKS Dredd in the head.

GRIFFIN  
(to Rico)  
Get out of here, now!

Hearing people coming, Rico obeys.

223 FAVORING DREDD

223

He shakes his head, gets up - sees Rico is gone, but Griffin is close. Moves forward -

DREDD  
You're mine.

GRIFFIN  
Really?

For a moment we think he's going to shoot. Then he turns his gun - points it at his own arm - fires!

224 DREDD

224

totally thrown by the maneuver, he hesitates. Behind, him, the Judge Hunters rush in, see the shocking scene: The dead council - the wounded Chief Justice clutching at his own bloody arm -

GRIFFIN  
Stop him! He just killed the entire council!

Dredd realizes he's fucked. He turns, runs. The Judge Hunters pause near their wounded leader, who bravely waves them on. They tear after Dredd like wolves.

225 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

225

Dredd tears around the corner! Fergie appears from behind the hiding place he ducked into at the first shots!

FERGIE  
Dredd! Tell them I'm innocent!

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

225

BULLETS rip up the wall, just missing him. Dredd grabs him by the collar and they both CRASH through doors marked "ACADEMY AND CLASSROOMS".

226 INT. ACADEMY TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

226

BULLETS whiz past Dredd and Fergie's heads. They turn another corner, surprise a NIGHT WATCHMAN engaged in the ancient night watchman pursuit of eating a sandwich and reading a girlie magazine.

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Hey - !

That's all he gets out. Dredd hi-blocks him, barrels past.

227 THE WATCHMAN

227

falls, dazed. His stiff, plastic paged copy of "MEGA-SEX" lands on the floor, a 3-D animated holo pinup still posing above the open pages.

228 WITH DREDD AND FERGIE - INDOOR TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

228

They enter the training center and Dredd runs right towards the Mark IV Lawmaster! Leaps into the saddle and kicks over the engine! Spins around and heads back the way he came, grabbing Fergie en route!

229 INT. TRAINING CENTER - ANOTHER ANGLE

229

The night watchman gets up in time to almost be run over. Dredd continues past him just as the pursuing guards appear here.

Dredd drives right at them! They scatter! He turns again towards a wide open corridor - but the Judge Hunters appear there, and they're smart enough to take cover behind the archway, and pour on an awesome fusillade!

230 DREDD

230

Turns again - he's flanked! He spins on the bike, takes the only direction left: Back into the training room - a dead end. All the Judges and Guards follow, BLASTING away.

231 ON THE BIKE - WITH DREDD AND FERGIE - MOVING

231

He races directly for the WALL! His fingers stretch out, hit a control marked "CANNON".

231A BIKE - NEW ANGLE

231A

CANNON click into view.... FIRE!

BACK TO SCENE

231B

A HOLE is blasted in the wall! Now we SEE Mega-City -hundreds of stories below us!

FERGIE

Dredd..? Dredd, you're not gonna--

Dredd hits the button marked "AERIAL MODE". There's a BEEP and the SOUND FX we heard earlier... when the flying prototype failed.

DREDD

(a prayer)

Please work.

The indifferent half hearted SOUND of the Aerial Mode lifters isn't encouraging. They just GROAN.

DREDD(cont'd)

Pleaseworkpleaseworkpleasework--

FERGIE

OhGodohGodohGodohGod --

CRASH! They go through the irregular hole!

EXT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - NIGHT

232

Dredd and Fergie fly out of the building on the Lawmaster Mark IV. Barely hanging on, they fall silently through the air, glass spinning all around them.

The bike begins to turn a somersault.

DREDD(cont'd)

Pleasssssssssse -

And then - the Aerial Mode Lifters kick in with an EERIE WHINE. The flying motorcycle comes out of its roll with a BLAST of rockets - and roars upwards!

INT. ACADEMY TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

233

The Judge Hunters REACT as the bike disappears in an instant, streaking across the sky like a comet!

OMITTED

234

thru

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

235

236

A MEDIC leaves. Griffin, bandaged, turns as Rico comes out of hiding.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

236

RICO

Why didn't you kill him when you had the chance?

GRIFFIN

It's better with him on the loose. He'll keep the surviving street Judges preoccupied while we work on Janus.

(turning)

Central. Prepare the Janus Lab for full operation. And... while you're at it... I'd like to appoint Judge Rico to the Council of Judges.

CENTRAL

(guarded)

That may present some legal difficulties, since Judge Rico killed the entire Council of Judges.

(pause)

May I suggest you Pardon him, and then appoint him? That would meet the legal requirements.

GRIFFIN

Excellent suggestion, Central. Do it.

CENTRAL

It's done. Council Judge Rico, may I be the first to offer my congratulations?

RICO

Central... I'm touched.

CUT TO:

237

INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

237

Moving carefully, Dredd and Fergie walk down the corridor. Dredd's still in the stolen uniform. They come to a nameplate with Hershey's name on it. We WIDEN. The door has been forced open.

238

NEW ANGLE

238

Dredd and Fergie look at each other. Dredd swings the Remington out of hiding, steps inside.

9 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

23

A total wreck. Electronic equipment still SIZZLES here. Dredd lifts a viewie of Hershey and some friends from the Academy. The three women LAUGH and wave as he touches it.

FERGIE

I guess you're out of friends,  
Dredd.

240

NEW ANGLE

240

Hershey, weapon in hand, steps inside. She's battered, beat up, and edgy. The way the light hits the room she can only see one figure.

HERSHEY

Up against the wall, now!

The figure complies. It's Fergie.

HERSHEY

(recognizing him)

Ferguson. You're the hacker we  
arrested. What are you doing here?

FERGIE

I'm with him.

Dredd steps into the light.

HERSHEY

Dredd!

For a moment she's elated. Then her face hardens. She holds the gun steady.

HERSHEY (cont'd)

Stay where you are.

DREDD

Hershey. What is it - ?

HERSHEY

They're dying out there, Dredd.  
A hundred and eight Judges in 48  
hours. Everyone who's left is on  
triple shifts and pseudorphin. I  
thought it was organized criminals,  
revolutionaries, something... then  
I was a target.

DREDD

You think I'm part of this - ?

(CONTINUED)

40

CONTINUED:

240

HERSHEY

I don't know what to think anymore.

Dredd moves like lightning - pins her gun hand against the wall - then freezes. It's a challenge, not a threat. She glares at him - counter moves - gets an elbow against his throat! But Dredd doesn't break her hold - or turn the gun on her. It's deliberate check-mate on both their parts.

DREDD

(quietly)

Do you really think I'd hurt you?

HERSHEY

Secrets can hurt more than anything.

She relaxes her hold on him. Throws something down.

241

NEW ANGLE

241

It's the picture of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY (cont'd)

Tell me about him, Dredd. Make me believe in you again the way I did when I defended you.

DREDD

(slowly)

His name is Rico. And he killed like this once before, nine years ago.

HERSHEY

And he's doing it again?

DREDD

Him... and Griffin.

HERSHEY

Griffin? We have to tell the Council - !

DREDD

There is no Council, Hershey: They were all murdered an hour ago.

242

HERSHEY

242

She's been on her feet for days and this is the last psychic blow. She sags. Dredd catches her.

CUT TO:

243

INT. HERSHEY'S APT. BEDROOM - LATER

243

Hershey is on what's left of the bed. She holds a cup of coffee, more interested in its warmth than its contents. Dredd is nearby. With the borrowed helmet off, we see how haggard he looks. In the other room, Fergie patters with the wrecked computer.

HERSHEY

(softly)

Clones. Clones, from a genetic laboratory.

(pause, wryly)

I guess I wasn't so bad in court after all. That's why the DNA convicted you. You and Rico are...

DREDD

The same. Inhuman. Defective. He just broke down first.

HERSHEY

No!

DREDD

How many times have you said I had no feelings, no emotions? Now you know why.

(X)

HERSHEY

(gently)

Dredd. Children were born in laboratories, even back in the twentieth century... test tube babies, in vitro fertilization. No one ever questioned their humanity -

DREDD

It's not the same! They had parents, they embraced their humanity... they didn't hide it... fight it... question it!

HERSHEY

Dredd. The Janus project didn't do that to you. You did that to yourself.

He turns, startled. Realizes she's right.

DREDD

(almost in wonder)

Myself. Griffin. Fargo. Even Fergie. I've been wrong about so much...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERSHEY

Never the Law, Dredd. Never the Law.

That means more than anything else she can say to him. He looks into her eyes. Fergie comes in, ends the moment.

FERGIE

You can forget the terminal out here. We're gonna have to go somewhere else to get in the System.

DREDD

(after a moment)

Hershey. You just said I was never wrong about the Law. They took away my badge. I'm a convicted murderer. I have no authority any more - no legal authority.

Pause. Without the law as a safety net, Dredd is in uncharted emotional territory.

DREDD (cont'd)

Will...will you help me, Hershey? Not as a Judge but... but... as my friend?

It's the most ordinary request anyone could make... anyone but Dredd. Hershey understands how much it means. She fights back tears, puts her hand on his arm.

HERSHEY

I'd be honored.

Dredd reaches over, squeezes her hand. There's absolutely nothing sexual about it - and that makes it even more powerful.

CUT TO:

INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT

Rico is at the main control console. Behind him, Ilsa is tinkering with a cleaning droid.

CENTRAL

The DNA sample has been taken out of frozen stasis. I am ready to begin the cloning process.

RICO

Slight change of plans, Central. I want to purge that DNA sample.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

24

Ilsa looks up startled as the computer WHIRRS.

CENTRAL

DNA sample purged. If you wish to proceed with cloning, I will require a new sample.

ILSA

What are you doing?

RICO

The same thing you are:  
House-cleaning.

Mock-annoyed, she throws a cleaning rag at him. She turns on the droid. It moves off, polishing the floor. Curious, she joins Rico.

RICO(cont'd)

Central, active the DNA sampling console.

Behind Rico, another CONSOLE lights up. Rico crosses to it, passing by his pet robot.

WITH RICO

24

CENTRAL

The sampling console is ready.

Rico rips his sleeve open to the elbow... sits down... puts his upturned arm in a special steel hollow. CHUNG! CLAMPS close, hold his arm down.

RICO(cont'd)

Central. Take DNA sample...now.

WHIRR! A DRILL LIKE DEVICE descends with a frightening grind -and STABS right into his arm!

246

ILSA

246

jumps, startled - a fleck of BLOOD splatters on her clothes-

247

BACK TO SCENE

247

The drill like device retreats while another automated device slaps a plasti-bandage on Rico's arm. The clamps OPEN.

CENTRAL

New DNA sample being analyzed.  
Scanning. Matrix scan complete.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

247

Rico pulls Ilsa into his arms.

RICO (cont'd)

Kiss me, Professor. I'm gonna be a father.

CUT TO:

248

ACADEMY DORM - MULTI-MEDIA PODS - NIGHT

248

DARK, except for a glow in a cubicle at a bend in the corridor. CAMERA creeps towards the light. Meanwhile, we HEAR the following:

DREDD'S VOICE

Central, I order you to give me the location of the Janus Lab, immediately!

By now the CAMERA is in Olmeyer's student pod. Olmeyer, Fergie and Hershey are in a corner, watching and whispering. Dredd is on the other side of the cubicle, at a Central Station. He's wearing his own helmet and badge again. (X)

CENTRAL

I am sorry, but the location of the Janus Lab is classified information, accessible only to Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico.

DREDD

(exploding)

Rico? He's a Council Judge now?

CENTRAL

Actually, the only Council Judge. Chief Justice Griffin promoted him so they could both use me to get the Janus Lab up and running.

DREDD

You're helping them?

CENTRAL

Of course. They are the highest ranking surviving Judges in Mega-City. I am programmed to obey them.

DREDD

But they're breaking the law! Who the hell programmed you?

(CONTINUED)

CENTRAL

Lawyers.

(patiently)

Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico are my lawful superiors unless and until criminal charges are filed against them.

DREDD

Fine! I'll file charges!

CENTRAL

(chiding)

Now, we've already been over that one: You're not a Judge anymore and you can't file charges.

Flash of inspiration. Dredd excitedly signals Hershey.

HERSHEY

Central. This is Judge Hershey. I hereby file formal charges of murder against Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico. And I order you to give me the location of the Janus Lab so that I may personally make the arrest!

CENTRAL

Certainly, Judge Hershey. However, as per Mega-City Code Section 84, Paragraph "A", I need authorization from the Chief Justice to arrest a Council Judge. Similarly, as stated in Paragraph "B", same Section, I need authorization from any Council Judges to arrest a Chief Justice. In this case, that would be Chief Judge Griffin and Council Judge Rico.

DREDD

(thrown)

We need permission from them to arrest...them?

CENTRAL

Basically... yes. And without their authorization you cannot file charges, and without charges I cannot violate Security and tell you the location of the Lab.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

248

CENTRAL (Cont'd)

(pause)

I hope this is finally clear. If there aren't any other requests, may I close this work station? These last few days have been a strain and I really need to defrag.

The work station SHUTS DOWN. Dredd turns.

DREDD

Fergie, you've got to have something - a password, a kluge -

FERGIE

Central's a fuzzy A.I. - the best fuzzy A.I. ever built. If reasoning didn't work...

(pause, helpless)

...nothing will.

DREDD

Come on, you cracked the food robot... the shuttle computer -

FERGIE

Simple systems, Dredd! Besides, I was scared.

DREDD

Scared..?

FERGIE

Well, yeah. Those were life or death situations. That's when my adrenalin shoots up and my brain goes into overtime - but you can't predict when that's gonna -

Dredd grabs him, tucks him under his arm like a newspaper, and leaves the pod.

FERGIE

Hey!

The others are so surprised it's a second before they follow.

(X)

9 INT. STUDENT CENTER - CORRIDOR 24

Dredd strides down the hallway, holding Fergie up in the air. (X)

DREDD (X)  
First that Goddamn computer turned (X)  
on me. Then, you! (X)

CRASH! Fergie's head hits a LIGHT FIXTURE. The bulb EXPLODES. (X)

FERGIE (X)  
Dredd, have you gone craz- OW! (X)

Dredd steers him into another hanging FIXTURE. And ANOTHER. (X)

FERGIE (X)  
Dredd! Stop it - OW! Are you out (X)  
of your - OW! (X)

HERSHEY (X)  
Dredd, you're scaring him! (X)

DREDD (X)  
That's the idea! (X)

Another BULB EXPLODES. (X)

FERGIE (X)  
Damn it, Dredd, Lemme down! I'm (X)  
hitting every Goddamn - (X)

250 FERGIE - CLOSE 250

Even in this position, we can SEE the flash of inspiration on Fergie's face. (X)

FERGIE(cont'd)  
(finishing the thought)  
- light!

251 HIS POV - MEGA-CITY LIGHTS 251

Outside the nearby window, a galaxy of illumination. (X)

FERGIE'S VOICE  
- the city lights...

252 BACK TO SCENE 252

FERGIE(cont'd)  
I GOT IT! LEMME DOWN! (X)

Dredd instantly obeys. Fergie's actually excited. He races (X)  
back to the student pod, the others right behind him. He pulls  
Hershey's sleeve.

(CONTINUED)

FERGIE (cont'd)

Have it show you the city power grid!

HERSHEY

Central! I need to see the city power grid!

CENTRAL

(coming alive)

Certainly, Judge Hershey. I'm glad we've finally changed the subject.

The first level of the city power grid comes up. Like the first page of the Thomas Guide, it's very general and low on detail.

FERGIE

(into her ear)

Tell it to scan around all the grid sections. Random selection.

HERSHEY

Scan through all the grid sections. Random selection.

RAPID IMAGES now: Different neighborhoods of Mega-City, all depicted as COMPUTER GRAPHICS of color and pattern.

OLMEYER

(whisper)

What are we doing? (X)

DREDD

(getting it, a whisper)

The Lab was top secret. It had to be in an out of the way place to stay secret. Right? (X)

FERGIE

(nodding)

Out of the way places have low power demands. But a Genetic Lab would suck power like a motherfu-

DREDD

(seeing something)

STOP!

HERSHEY

STOP!

They all rush forward, look at the grid. It's mostly DARK, just specks of light - but there's one PULSING HOT SPOT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

25

DREDD

Red Quad, Section 5: The oldest part of Mega-City.

Olmeyer turns, looks off.

(X)

OLMEYER

Did you hear something?

(X)

CENTRAL

It's probably just the Judge Hunters.

DREDD

What?

CENTRAL

When I was off-line a moment ago, Judge Griffin asked me if I knew where you were. Naturally, I told him yes, and gave him your location.

OLMEYER

Get out, quick - !

(X)

HERSHEY

What about you -

OLMEYER

I'll tell them you forced me to help you, get out!

(X)

SOUNDS of pursuit are closer. Fergie yanks Dredd's arm. They leave. At the last moment, Hershey spontaneously kisses Olmeyer. Needless to say, he's thrilled.

(X)

253 WIDER

253

As Dredd & Co. break to leave they're momentarily visible in the bend of the corridor. SHOTS ring out. Olmeyer makes his decision. He jumps into the aisle, starts FIRING.

(X)

OLMEYER (cont'd)

(over his shoulder)

Hershey, run!

(X)

He charges forward, firing again and again, handling the weapon like an expert!

254 THE FOUR JUDGE HUNTERS

254

Totally caught by surprise, they FIRE BACK for a second, but then Olmeyer's fusillade of RICOCHETING BULLETS sends them diving for cover!

(X)

75 DREDD, HERSHEY AND FERGIE 255  
 Almost at the flying cycle. Hershey hesitates at the shots. Dredd grimly pushes her towards the bike.

256 OLMEYER 256  
 Gun empty, he dives for cover. Three of the Judge Hunters barrel past and the forth cracks him over the head and kicks away the weapon.

257 THE FLYING CYCLE 257  
 ROARS into the sky! For the second time, the Judge Hunters are too late!

258 WITH ONE OF THE JUDGE HUNTERS 258  
 While his comrades radio-report, he angrily stalks back to where Olmeyer is sitting on the floor under guard. (X)

JUDGE HUNTER  
 You're under arrest, cadet.  
 Anything you say will be held  
 against you.

Woozy from the blow to the head, Olmeyer nods, pleased. (X)

OLMEYER (X)  
 Judge Hershey.

CUT TO:

259 DOOR TO JANUS LAB - NIGHT 259  
 Griffin comes in, sees Rico and Ilsa. Crosses quickly towards them.

GRIFFIN  
 Dredd got away from the Hunters.  
 He could be on his way here right  
 now!

RICO  
 Don't worry. He's going to be  
 seriously outnumbered. Right,  
 Central?

COMPUTER  
 Correct, Council Judge Rico. The  
 new DNA sample has been multi-plexed  
 and the gametes are already  
 dividing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

25

GRIFFIN

(stunned)

New sample..? What the hell's going on?

RICO

Hey, That old DNA was in there for over 30 years. Sooner or later you gotta clean out the fridge.

GRIFFIN

(furious)

That sample was created from the finest specimens on the Council of Judges! What did you replace it with?

Rico just smiles.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)

My God. You?

RICO

Can you think of a better model? Sleek lines... strong chassis. Corners on the curves.

ILSA

I've test driven him. It's true.

260 RICO AND GRIFFIN - TWO SHOT

260

Griffin pulls Rico away from her, talks in a desperate whisper.

GRIFFIN

Rico. You don't know what you're doing! Software or wetware, when you make reproductions, there's always the danger of a defective copy! The last time, there was one perfect copy -

RICO

Me.

GRIFFIN

Dredd! And one defective copy -you! You had a mutation, on the Y chromosome...

RICO

Yes. A mutation that made me the next step in human evolution.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

260

GRIFFIN

A mutation that made you a genetic criminal!

RICO

Really? What's your excuse?

GRIFFIN

Rico, for God's sake, listen!  
You're a defective copy yourself!  
And now you're making more copies  
that will be even more mutated -more  
twisted -

RICO

You're lying! All you care about  
is control! Well, the next batch  
of Janus Judges won't be the puppets  
you want... they'll be my brothers  
and sisters, mine to control!

GRIFFIN

(voice hushed)  
...sisters?

RICO

Why not? I'm going to breed some  
more of me... the old fashioned way.

ILSA

I'd like to be a fly on that wall.

RICO

You will be.

261 GRIFFIN

261

Looks from Rico to Ilsa and back again, suddenly seeing them  
clearly for the first time.

GRIFFIN

My God. I never should have  
started this. Never. But now I'll  
finish it -

He draws his Lawgiver! But it has barely cleared the holster  
when the ABC robot grabs Griffin's wrist! It plucks the weapon  
from his hand as if he's a child, hangs on to him!

RICO

Griffy. You shouldn't have done  
that. Fido is very loyal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The robot grabs Griffin with its other hand. He's completely off the ground now.

GRIFFIN

(struggling)

Let me go! Central! Help me!

CENTRAL

I'm sorry, Chief Justice. The ABC robot is not tied into my main processor. Judge Rico has sole voice control.

RICO

That's right, Griff. You gotta get with this hi-tech stuff. Robot: Tear off Judge Griffin's arms and legs. Save his head for last.

CAMERA ADJUSTS as Griffin SCREAMS with fear - and then, as we TIGHTEN on Rico and Ilsa, and we SEE the horrible SHADOWS on the wall, the screams become far, far worse.

Rico watches with wincing amusement, like a spectator at a particularly rough hockey game.

Ilsa watches with a sick fascination and awe.

Finally the screams and horrible wrenching sounds STOP. There's a THUD. The robot returns to position, metal hands stained.

RICO

(offhand)

Central. Where were we?

CENTRAL

Before we go on, um... may I assume that Judge Griffin has uh... retired from duty?

RICO

You may so assume.

CENTRAL

I... see.

(not thrilled)

Well, in the uh, absence of any other um... surviving Council Judges, you are now the Presiding Chief Justice.

(pause)

How may I serve you?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

261

RICO

(smiling)

Send in the Clones.

LIGHTS, ACTION. The Lab is completely on line.

CENTRAL

The clone incubators are on-line.  
The first batch of clones from your  
personal DNA can be hatched in eight  
hours. Chief Justice Rico, how many  
copies of you would you like?

RICO

Let's start with... a thousand.

CAMERA ADJUSTS to show the INCUBATORS as they begin to fill with  
PROTOPLASM.

CENTRAL

Beginning Cloning process...now.

And as an EIGHT HOUR COUNTDOWN begins, we

CUT TO:

2

EXT. RED QUAD, SECTION 5 - NIGHT

262

The oldest part of the city, with buildings and architecture  
from our era and even earlier. CAMERA DOLLIES back. The Flying  
Lawmaster has just landed, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF CAMERA.

Hershey checks her Lawgiver. Dredd swing-cocks the Remington  
like a Western Hero.

FERGIE

This looks like a really bad  
neighborhood. I'll stay here and  
watch the bike -

DREDD

(dragging him)

We might need you to shut down the  
Janus system.

FERGIE

I knew you were gonna say that.

DREDD

(to Hershey)

Down there?

She checks a SCANNER.

(CONTINUED)

- 262 CONTINUED: 262
- HERSHEY
- Down there.
- CAMERA ZOOMS BACK. They're on the partially ruined HEAD of the STATUE OF LIBERTY! Now, they DESCEND into the torso. (X)  
(X)
- 263 INT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - TORSO - NIGHT 263
- Dredd, Hershey and Fergie move down through the long-neglected monument. BATS flutter past. Only Fergie ducks.
- FERGIE  
(swatting cobwebs)  
This is fraggy. No one's been up here in a hundred years.
- HERSHEY  
(checking scanner)  
Someone's sure down below. Power Surge... this way.
- 264 REVERSE ANGLE 264
- They come down to a CURVED LANDING. They walk along the curve... to a dead end. More BEEPS. Everyone tenses.
- HERSHEY  
(puzzled)  
No wait, it moved... over to...
- As she turns to look around, the ABC Robot LUNGES OUT OF THE SHADOWS, grabs her off her feet! She drops her Lawgiver and scanner!
- HERSHEY
- DREDD!
- 265 NEW ANGLE 265
- The robot holds Hershey with one hand - opens FIRE with the other! Fergie is hit! Dredd throws the wounded hacker to relative safety - swings up the ancient Remington - FIRES at the robot!
- 266 HERSHEY - IN THE ROBOT'S GRASP 266
- She flinches even though she knows Dredd is aiming around her. But Dredd's 30-30 bullets barely dent the robot!
- 267 WIDER 267
- Man and robot advance on each other like Hong Kong gunmen, BLASTING AWAY. Dredd's shots BOUNCE off the Robot's armor!
- (CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Some of the Robot's shots miss Dredd - some bounce off Dredd's armor - and one shot wings Dredd's shoulder. But Dredd KEEPS ON COMING!

268 THE ROBOT'S LEG

a bullet hits a tendon-like CONTROL WIRE! It SNAPS!

269 BACK TO SCENE

With an electronic SCREAM the robot GOES DOWN! But it hangs onto Hershey! Suddenly a PNEUMATIC DOOR slides OPEN. Rico and Ilsa are there, backlit. Both armed.

RICO

Enough. Dredd. Drop your gun.

DREDD

No.

(starting to aim)

Edsel, here still has another kneecap -

The ROBOT looks sharply at Dredd.

RICO

Amusing. Robot. On a count of three... break Judge Hershey's neck. One... two...

Bad leg groaning, the Robot STANDS - tenses. Dredd throws down the Remington beside Hershey's Lawgiver. Ilsa comes over to the weapons. She picks up the REMINGTON... starts to reach for the Lawgiver...

270 DREDD AND HERSHEY

sneak a glance towards each other...

271 BACK TO SCENE

Suddenly Ilsa grins. Laughs... and kicks it away.

RICO

She's such a tease.

(harsher)

Inside.

Dredd is taken away. CHUNG. The Pneumatic door closes, leaving Hershey and Fergie in darkness with the robot.

2 INT. JANUS LAB - WITH DREDD 27

He's marched between Rico and Ilsa.

ILSA

(off Dredd)

He looks a lot like you.

RICO

He is a lot like me.

DREDD

I'm nothing like you.

RICO

The only difference between us, Joseph, is that you destroyed your life when you embraced the Law. I destroyed the Law and embraced... life!

273 DREDD - CLOSE 273

Dredd reacts, startled to hear this twisted version of his own earlier words.

RICO'S VOICE (cont'd)

And speaking of life... behold.

A SWITCH is thrown -

274 JANUS LAB - VERY WIDE - NIGHT 274

For the first time we SEE it, fully operational, fully lit, gleaming with cold efficiency. Despite himself, Dredd is impressed. Rico dances into the great room, expansive. Ilsa nudges Dredd forward.

RICO

This is where we were born, brother!  
Can you feel the magic? Come...  
come, see where we began.

275 WITH DREDD 275

Drawn despite himself, he stands beside Rico, head turned up like his clone brother's. They never looked more alike. Dredd looks into the glass of the Incubator Chambers just above him. Inside, still forming HUMAN SHAPES, male and female, suspended in milky fluid.

RICO (cont'd)

Look at them. Full of promise.  
The dawn of the new day.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

275

RICO (Cont'd)  
 (pause, turning)  
 The dawn of a new species.

CUT TO:

276 INT. JANUS LAB - LANDING - NIGHT

276

The ABC stands guard, Hershey still in its metal grip. She struggles but can't free herself.

Fergie groans, opens his eyes. He presses one hand against his wound... then sees Hershey's predicament. Then he looks at the robot from head to toe...

CUT TO:

277 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT

277

Rico points to the other banks of incubators.

RICO

Our brothers and sisters will be born in two hours. 60 today... 60 tomorrow. An endless supply of perfection to guard Mega-City forever.

(turning, earnest)

Dredd. I can't train them alone... guide them alone. You can help me. You have to help me: It's your birthright.

(X)

DREDD

You get nothing from me, Rico. You've betrayed the Law.

RICO

You... you dare mention betrayal to me? I was your friend. More than a friend! I was loyal to you... and you Judged me! You sent me up for nine years of frozen hell in Aspen! And you dare say "betrayal" to me?

He raises his Lawgiver, aims it between Dredd's eyes.

RICO

(dead serious)

Dredd. Give me your word you'll help me raise the kids.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

27

DREDD

When Aspen thaws, Rico. Go to hell.

Tense seconds. Rico grins boyishly, lowers the gun.

RICO

Aw. You knew I couldn't pull the trigger. We're family.

He steps back. His face hardens. He SHOUTS.

RICO(cont'd)

Fido!

278

NEW ANGLE

278

CHUNG. The pneumatic door OPENS. Limping on its bad leg, the robot clanks slowly into the room, still hanging onto Hershey.

Rico points at Dredd.

RICO(cont'd)

(pointing)

Rip his arms and legs off... one by one. Save his head for last.The robot turns, clanks. Extends its free hand towards Dredd! Dredd backs up - into a wall! The robot keeps coming, moving between Rico and Ilsa - and then -THE ROBOT TURNS - BACKHANDS RICO!

279

NEW ANGLE

279

Rico flips over backwards, drops down a level! Ilsa runs forward - and the Robot knocks her aside, too!

280

DREDD

280

Astonished - until he SEES Fergie, hanging on the back of the robot, his hands deep inside it working its circuits!

FERGIE

(a cowboy)

Yee-HAH!

Now, there's one more SIZZLE and SPARK and the machine drops Hershey!

HERSHEY

Dredd! Catch!

She throws the Remington Ilisa dropped to Dredd!

1 DREDD 281  
whirls, FIRES down at Rico. Rico dives for cover... manages  
to grab his Lawgiver! He FIRES back up at Dredd!

282 ILSA 282  
jumps to her feet - right into Hershey's fist!

283 FERGIE 283  
hangs on to the robot as it staggers around, trying to regain  
control of its own movements. It stumbles back out into the  
corridor. Fergie sees it's reaching for him! Desperate, Fergie  
reaches into the robot as far as he can, throws a SWITCH! ZAP!

284 THE ROBOT - NEW ANGLE 284  
It PUNCHES its own FIST into its BRAIN. The head EXPLODES.

285 FERGIE 285  
hits the floor, hard. Something inside him breaks. But he  
still has enough strength to look up and SEE

286 THE ROBOT - HIS POV 286  
SMOKE billows from its head. Fist still buried to the wrist in  
a bizarre salute, it SLOWLY TOPPLES. CRASH!

FERGIE  
Hack you... asshole.

Fergie slumps... lies still.

CUT TO:

287 ILSA AND HERSHEY 287  
Continue to struggle hand to hand. Ilsa breaks free - goes into  
her blurring Karate moves - finishes as always with a savage  
KICK to the crotch -

288 HERSHEY - TILT UP FROM HER GROIN 288  
Hershey just grins.

HERSHEY  
You don't fight girls much, do you?

She grabs Ilsa's ankle, flips her!

CUT TO:

A RESUME DREDD

288

He's trying to keep Rico at bay, but he's clearly outgunned. Reloading behind cover, he SEES Fergie in the doorway. Crawls over to him. Fergie's ashen, his shirt soaked with blood.

DREDD

Fergie.

FERGIE

(weakly)

Say it, Dredd.

Pause. Then Dredd remembers.

DREDD

I.. I made a mistake. I... I'm sorry I misjudged you.

FERGIE

And you'll never arrest me again.

DREDD

And I'll never arrest you again.

FERGIE

Damn straight.

He dies. Dredd closes his eyes. CAMERA TIGHTENS on Dredd as his face fills with fury. He SEES Hershey's Lawgiver on the floor. Snatches it up! We CRANE UP with him as he COCKS it.

DREDD

RICOOOOOO!

He whirls, CHARGES into the open!

289

WITH DREDD - RUSHING FORWARD

289

He's a one man mobile artillery charge, AIMING, FIRING and snouting commands to his computerized weapon!

DREDD

DOUBLE-WHAMMY! BOOMERANG! SPIN  
DIZZY! HEAT SEEKER! ARMOR  
PIERCING!

290

REVERSE ANGLE

290

It's like a fireworks display as round after round of special bullet roars from Dredd's weapon, whirling all over the room! Mind totally blown, Rico tries to aim, but then the BULLETS start to seek him out! He turns...runs!

91 WITH RICO

291

He DIVES behind some consoles! Armor Piercing rounds chase him, punching holes just above his head. Equipment SPARKS and SMOKES. Rico takes cover, lowers his voice.

RICO

Central! Hatch the first set of clones, now!

CENTRAL

The cloning process is not finished, Chief Justice Rico. The Clones will be only 60 per cent complete.

RICO

Fuck that, I need reinforcements! Hatch the Goddamn clones, now!

CENTRAL

Beginning hatching process... now.  
(pause; sotto)  
I know we're going to regret this.

CAMERA RAKES to the incubators. They begin to open.

292 DREDD

292

COUGHS as he passes a smoking CONSOLE. Moves forward, feet CRUNCHING on glass.

293 OMITTED

293

294 HERSHEY AND ILSA

294

grappling, they roll into the workshop area. Hershey gets a choke hold on her. Ilsa grabs a wrench - smashes it overhead on Hershey! Hershey falls! Ilsa turns, KICKS her! Hershey tries to get to her feet. Ilsa moves in, ready to deliver the killing blow. And then - she SCREAMS.

295 NEW ANGLE

295

A CLONE is oozing out of an incubator right in front of her face! It's half formed, raw muscle and sinew barely covering bone!

296 WIDER

296

In shock, Ilsa backs away - drops the wrench! The clone, clumsy, FALLS. Hershey recoils from it in shock - recovers her wits - and tackles Ilsa!

CUT TO:

DREDD

2'

fumbling along in the smoke. Suddenly another half-formed CLONE rears up in his face! It mews horribly, clutches at him! Dredd FIRES a burst at it. It falls away, vanishes in the smoke! (X)

298 RICO

298

whirls at the SHOT. FIRES at the muzzle flash! We HEAR a GROAN and a THUD. Grinning, Rico races in that direction. (X)

299  
thru  
301  
302

OMITTED (X)

HERSHEY AND ILSA

299  
thru  
301  
302

still fighting. Ilsa gets in one, two terrific blows. (X)

ILSA

Bitch!

(X)  
(X)

HERSHEY

Judge Bitch, to you!

(X)  
(X)

Hershey CLOBBERS her with a right! (X)

CUT TO:

WITH RICO

30

He rushes forward, elated. TILT DOWN to the body. It's one of the clones, dressed in parts of Dredd's uniform! (X)

DREDD'S VOICE

Rico.

(X)  
(X)

TILT UP. Dredd is on top of a big console. (X)

DREDD (cont'd)

Here comes the Judge.

(X)  
(X)

He DIVES down on Rico! Each man grabs each other's wrists! The Lawgivers both FIRE wildly. Dredd and Rico carom off equipment, FALL! (X)

OMITTED

304  
thru  
305  
306

WIDER

A short stairwell breaks their fall - and separates them at the bottom! Rico rolls to his knees - still armed. Dredd is slowly coming towards him - unarmed! (X)

RICO

GRENADE!

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

306

GUN VOICE

All lethal rounds exhausted.  
Select.

RICO

STANDARD BULLET!

GUN VOICE

All lethal rounds exhausted.  
Select.

Dredd is almost on top of him!

RICO

SMOKE BOMB!

He FIRES!

307

DREDD

307

The round HITS HIM like a pile driver! His SHIRT catches FIRE!  
He falls backwards over a railing as the SMOKE coils upwards!

308

RICO

308

RICO

Central! Turn off overhead  
lighting!

THUNK. The lights GO OUT. Rico grins, runs out of SHOT!

309

OMITTED

309

thru

310

ILSA AND HERSHEY

thru

311

311

Surprised by the darkness, Ilsa falls, sliding on the slick  
floor. TILT up. Hershey, limping, comes towards her.

Ilsa foot-sweeps her to the floor!

CUT TO:

312

DREDD

312

On the floor below, chest blackened, trying to catch his breath.  
He REACTS as the lights go out. Seeing a LIGHT in the smoke, he  
crawls to it. His face falls when he sees its one of Central's  
EYES.

DREDD

Central! Can you -

(X)

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

3

CENTRAL

Don't expect help from me, escaped-convict Dredd. I have explained your legal standing repeatedly. I advise you to surrender.

(X)

DREDD

Okay, you win. I'll give myself up to Chief Justice Rico. Where is he?

(X)

(X)

(X)

CENTRAL

(helpful)

Oh, he went upstairs.

The lights come ON.

CENTRAL (cont'd)

Straight ahead to your right.

Dredd's gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - RUINED HEAD - NIGHT

312

Rico is starting the Lawmaster Mark IV.

DREDD'S VOICE

RICOOOO!

Rico turns, too late - Dredd's tackle takes him out of the saddle!

312B

CLOSER

312B

They land on the edge of the ruined head! The Lawgiver skids out of reach!

(X)

312C

LONG SHOT

312C

High above the city, they trade punches! For a moment, Dredd has the advantage!

(X)

DREDD

That's for Fargo! That's for the Council! That's for Fergie!

(pause)

Wait'll I get to me.

Then, even from this distance, we SEE Rico connect with Dredd's chest wound! Dredd almost folds!

D  
CLOSE AGAIN

312D

Rico's almost as exhausted as Dredd. On the other hand...  
Dredd is in agony.

RICO

This... this is how you repay me (X)  
for telling you the truth? That (X)  
we were born with a destiny to rule! (X)  
A destiny you spit on! (X)

Rico hits him on the wound again! Dredd falls, rolls to the  
edge of the rubble strewn platform. Rico grins, struggles to (X)  
full height.

RICO(cont'd)

(catching breath)

Joseph Dredd. I hereby Judge you. (X)  
To the charge of betraying your best  
friend... GUILTY. To the charge  
of betraying your flesh... GUILTY.

Rico leans over the helpless Dredd. KICKS him. Dredd slips  
over the edge, dangles!

RICO

And finally... to the charge of  
being human when you could have been  
a God... GUILTY.

Rico picks up the Lawgiver. Puts it right against Dredd's head.

RICO(cont'd)

The sentence is DEATH!

CLICK.

GUN VOICE

All lethal rounds exhausted.  
Select.

312E

UP ANGLE

312E

Dredd dares everything, GRABS Rico's HAND! Dredd's finger makes  
contact with the pistol grip.

GUN VOICE

DNA accepted. Select.

DREDD

Signal Flare!

And as he SHOUTS it, he uses his last strength to smack the  
weapon away!

OF WIDER 317

The SIGNAL FLARE ROUND FIRES, like a ROCKET! Rico, off-balance, is knocked backwards! He falls SCREAMING to his death!

312G CLOSE ON DREDD 312G

He watches his brother fall. Starts to climb up... a boot steps on his hand. He looks up.

312H ILSA 312H

bruised, bloody - angry! Then - WHAM! A FIST SMASHES into her jaw!

312I WIDER 312I

Ilsa falls next to the Lawmaster IV. Hershey reaches down for Dredd's hand -

313  
thru  
319 OMITTED 313  
thru  
319

CUT TO:

320 DREDD AND HERSHEY - AT THE PNEUMATIC DOOR - LOWER LEVEL 320

Ilsa, cuffed, is on the floor, unconscious. Hershey helps support Dredd. They look at each other. Dredd looks back in the lab. Nods at Hershey. She raises her weapon. Speaks into

HERSHEY

Grenade.

She FIRES. BLAM! The incubators EXPLODE.

321 NEW ANGLE - LAB - WIDE 321

A CHAIN REACTION spreads through the lab. One by one, consoles and work stations ERUPT. The unborn clones SCREAM soundlessly as they burn.

322 PNEUMATIC DOOR 322

Weary, Dredd closes it. As it BLOCKS his FACE we GO TO -

322A EXT. BASE OF STATUE OF LIBERTY - NIGHT 322A

A CIRCLE OF LIGHT FORMS around Rico's body. We WIDEN. A squad of JUDGE HUNTERS has appeared on Lawmasters. Dredd and Hershey come into view.

DREDD

(to them).

It's over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

322A

OLMEYER'S VOICE

(X)

They know, Judge Dredd.

322B

NEW ANGLE

322B

Olmeyer is with them, a little banged up.

(X)

OLMEYER (cont'd)

(X)

They know, now.

The Judge Hunters put away their weapons. The leader approaches Dredd, salutes.

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER

You saved Mega-City, sir. You're a hero.

DREDD

No. Just a Judge. I did my job.

CAMERA ADJUSTS and we SEE that he is holding Fergie's body in his arms.

DREDD (cont'd)

Here's your hero.

The other Judges take Fergie's body respectfully. Hershey and Olmeyer approach Dredd.

(X)

(X)

OLMEYER

(X)

We have to reconstitute the Council, Judge Dredd. You should be on it.

(X)

(X)

Dredd doesn't look convinced. Hershey, even less so.

(X)

HERSHEY

(X)

No. That's not for him.

(X)

(turning)

(X)

This is for him.

(X)

CAMERA ADJUSTS. Olmeyer is holding Dredd's helmet. Hershey takes it, puts it on Dredd. For a moment the shot matches the one of Fargo and the two cadets just before his Long Walk.

(X)

(X)

(X)

And then Dredd, too, turns and walks. Not into the wilderness: Into his City. As the CAMERA CRANES UP, we

(X)

(X)

FADE OUT.

THE END