

JUDGE DREDD: FIT
By Rob Williams & Henry Flint

Page One (Six Panels)

Panel One

Hall of Justice. Garage area. Dredd steps off his Lawmaster and steam and smoke rises from his blackened uniform where one side of him has been on fire. One side of his helmet too. The bike shows similar flame damage on one side too. Dredd, a face like ABSOLUTE BIBLICAL thunder, climbs off the bike and is coming towards us and you'd BETTER GET OUT THE WAY. The technician, who has come to fix up the bike, physically backs away slightly in shock at the state of Dredd and Dredd's bike. Behind Dredd, we can see another wounded Judge being helped off his bike. Whatever just went down, the Judge passed out on the way back and his bike auto-piloted him home. Dredd, however, stayed conscious throughout. But this is causing him serious pain. He needs a speed heal tube. Stat. TERRIFYING SIGHT.

LOCATOR: HALL OF JUSTICE.

TECH (small): Grudd on a greenie.

DREDD: ... Speed heal tube. Now.

Panel Two

A speed heal tubes. Dredd inside one. Floating like it's an emersion tank. His helmet and top layer is off but we don't see his face, obviously (maybe part of the tube's mechanics covers his face). But that body shows off all the scars and wounds of the constant battles. Still, this is a moment of peace. Rare for Dredd.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Three

Cut to a darkened office (lights are off. It's just Hershey and Gerhart in a quiet, empty room throughout their scene, like this is an after-hours 'secret' meeting). The Chief Judge's office. SJS Judge Gerhart stands in front of us. His helmet under his arm. His face shows the scars of what happened to him on Titan. His neck and the lower half of his face on one side was too damaged and, rather than plastic surgery, he's gone for a 'I don't give a damn who stares' utilitarian metallic approach. This isn't meant to look cool or scary. It's practical, pure and simple. Why bother grafting false skin onto it? That isn't THE JOB. And Gerhart is all about the job. Moreso than ever following Titan. Gerhart hands us an iPad-like tablet with the Justice Department logo on it. NB – throughout the scenes with Hershey in this script, she holds and occasionally glances at that report throughout.

GERHART: The report.

GERHART: As per your order.

Panel Four

Now we see, from Gerhart's POV, who he is handing the report to. It's Hershey. Grim. Staring up at him.

HERSHEY: Am I going to like what it says, Gerhart?

Panel Five

Close-up on Gerhart and we get a good strong look at the nasty effects of that metal showing on his face and neck. Where the skin ends and metal begins. It's not that tidy.

GERHART: What he experienced on Titan, Chief Judge...

Panel Six

Cut to Dredd at his locker, in full uniform. And while there's lots of hustle and bustle around him. Other Judges. He is staring down at his gloves – he's not put them on yet, He's lost in thought. Staring at them.

GERHART CAPTION: “You don't just speed heal that.”

Page Two (Six Panels)

Panel One

Cut to a flashback to Titan. One of the Titan inmates SMASHES a thick link of chain right across Dredd's helmet, which cracks under the strain. Dredd shakes (this is a brain-damage level hit).

GIANT (untethered): Dredd.

Panel Two

Back to reality. Dredd still staring at his gloves. Judge Giant is standing a few lockers down, looking at Dredd. A moment's hesitation from Giant. Not outright concern. But... Dredd doesn't really do 'lost in thought.'

GIANT: ...

GIANT: We good?

Panel Three

Cut to Dredd, with Giant as his 'wingman', heading out into traffic on his Lawmaster. Classic Dredd shot. You'd never know anything was wrong.

DREDD: Control. Dredd. Give me something.

CONTROL (spiked): Shots fired. Bill Belichick block.

DREDD: Responding.

Panel Four

As they roar along the skedway. Six lanes over, we can see Gerhart on his SJS bike (these are very cool. Trev Hairsine designed one for Gerhart's appearance in 'Skulls' Here you go.



Giant glances over and notices Gerhart. Dredd keeps looking straight ahead.

GIANT: You got your very own stalker, Dredd. Trying to keep his distance.

GIANT: Aw man. You think they'd give me one of those sweet SJS bikes if I asked real nice?

Panel Five

Close-up on Dredd. Front on. Gunning the bike. World streaming past. He doesn't look. Doesn't like the fact that he's being trailed by SJS. Figures it's Gerhart but doesn't respond. And he knew this was coming.

DREDD: ... hmph.

Panel Six

Cut to outside Belichick block and a home-made Mecha body armour is blasting machine guns strapped to his arms at anyone and everything. A sixteen-year-old punk-ish type plainly having the time of his life, laughing, loving it.

GERHART CAPTION: "16-year-old tech savant downloaded some old war-droid schematics and decided to do something a little different with his school project this year."

GERHART CAPTION: "Not after anything. No demands. No hostages. Just having teenage kicks blowing hell out of everything and everyone."

Page Three (Six Panels)

Panel One

Cut back to Hershey. Looking at the report. Unreadable here. The job. A statement.

HERSHEY: Dredd acted accordingly.

Panel Two

Cut back to Dredd, on his Lawmaster, blowing the 16-year-old and his Mech Armour to pieces. No mercy.

GERHART CAPTION: "Of course."

GERHART CAPTION: "His warning was ignored. The perp opened fire. Dredd ended the situation."

Panel Three

Cut to Gerhart driving on a flyover. Dredd passing below. Giant has gone elsewhere.

GERHART CAPTION: "There was something strange soon afterwards, however."

CONTROL (spiked): Disturbance at a Mutie Equal Rights march on Michael Richards.

DREDD: Dredd. Responding.

Panel Four

Dredd takes a skedway off-ramp. In the distance, behind, Gerhart has stopped his bike on the flyover and is watching.

GERHART CAPTION: "He took 248 to the crime scene."

GERHART CAPTION: "385 would have shaved three minutes off the arrival time."

Panel Five

Cut to Gerhart and Hershey. The darkness implying this is a secret meeting.

HERSHEY: A small lapse...

GERHART: ... that Dredd doesn't make. But the sheer volume of the memory loss drug that Nixon shot into him...

HERSHEY: He passed the psych tests to return to the streets.

Panel Six

Cut to Dredd SMASHING out the teeth of a two-headed Mutie using his Daystick. Dredd's hit takes out the teeth of BOTH the heads. The Mutie has a placard saying 'Two heads! One cause!'

GERHART CAPTION: "He did. Yes."

GERHART CAPTION: "But you still asked me to write this report."

them here abandoned the place – moved onto another more profitable job. They starved. Dredd stares at them in horror.

NO DIALOGUE

Page Five (Six Panels)

Panel One

Close-up on Dredd's face. And if grim is his default setting we can see just how much this bothers him. Angry below that surface veneer.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Two

Tight close-up on the manacles. Two sets of hands. Tied to the floor. Prisoners. Just as Dredd was.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Three

A dead woman, horribly malnourished, her eyes wide open, staring blankly up at Dredd.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Four

Cut to the slaver. The guy who owned the apartment. He's in a small cafe, sat outside, eating a synthi-burger. Bald, goatee, small facial tattoo. Laughing with a friend at an unheard joke. Big built, boxer type. In the background we can see Dredd's torso as he approaches. Neither the slaver or the guy sees Dredd coming.

GERHART CAPTION: "Took him 87 minutes to track down the slaver."

Panel Five

From behind Dredd smashes the slaver's face and head down THROUGH the table. And Dredd's face shows he fucking means this. Dredd's unreadable nature plus one. This is an act of complete brutality. And the guy fucking deserves it.

GERHART CAPTION: "The perp's friend claimed that Dredd did not offer a warning before the arrest."

Panel Six

Pull back so we see Gerhart on his bike, at a distance down the street, watching this, as Dredd smashes a follow-up HUGE punch down on the slaver. Smashing him down into the sidewalk.

HERSHEY CAPTION (different colour, please): "Did you hear the warning, Gerhart?"

HERSHEY CAPTION (different colour, please): "Gerhart?"

Page Six (Six Panels)

Panel One

Back to Hershey and Gerhart. Gerhart looks troubled.

GERHART: Permission to speak freely?

HERSHEY: Of course.

GERHART: I don't think you're interested in Dredd's operational competence in this report, Chief Judge.

Panel Two

Close-up on Hershey, listening to this. She's thinking 'shrewd guy.' Gerhart has nailed this.

GERHART (o/s): Given your history with him and what he means to Justice Department as a totem, especially given our current limited state...

GERHART (o/s): ...you'll go to the grave with him.

Panel Three

Gerhart again. He looks ever-so-slightly self-conscious here as he says this. Doesn't back away from eye contact with the Chief Judge though.

GERHART: I think you asked me to make this report to gauge MY competence, given my prior... unhealthy interest in Dredd.

Panel Four

Hershey, keeping eye contact with Gerhart throughout, dismissively drops the iPad report onto her desk. She doesn't care about it. He's nailed it.

HERSHEY: ...

HERSHEY: ... That's an intriguing theory, Gerhart.

HERSHEY: You may return to duty.

Panel Five

Gerhart walks towards the door. Over his shoulder, Hershey gets up from her desk. Gerhart doesn't turn.

HERSHEY: Speaking freely.

HERSHEY: Should we be concerned about Dredd?

GERHART: He's brutal and angry. He's always been brutal and angry.

Panel Six

As Gerhart leaves, Hershey stands alone in her office, the darkness surrounding her.

GERHART: As long as he operates under the law we have nothing to worry about.

THE END