

JUDGE DREDD: TITAN

Part One Of Eight

By Rob Williams & Henry Flint

Page One (Two Panels)

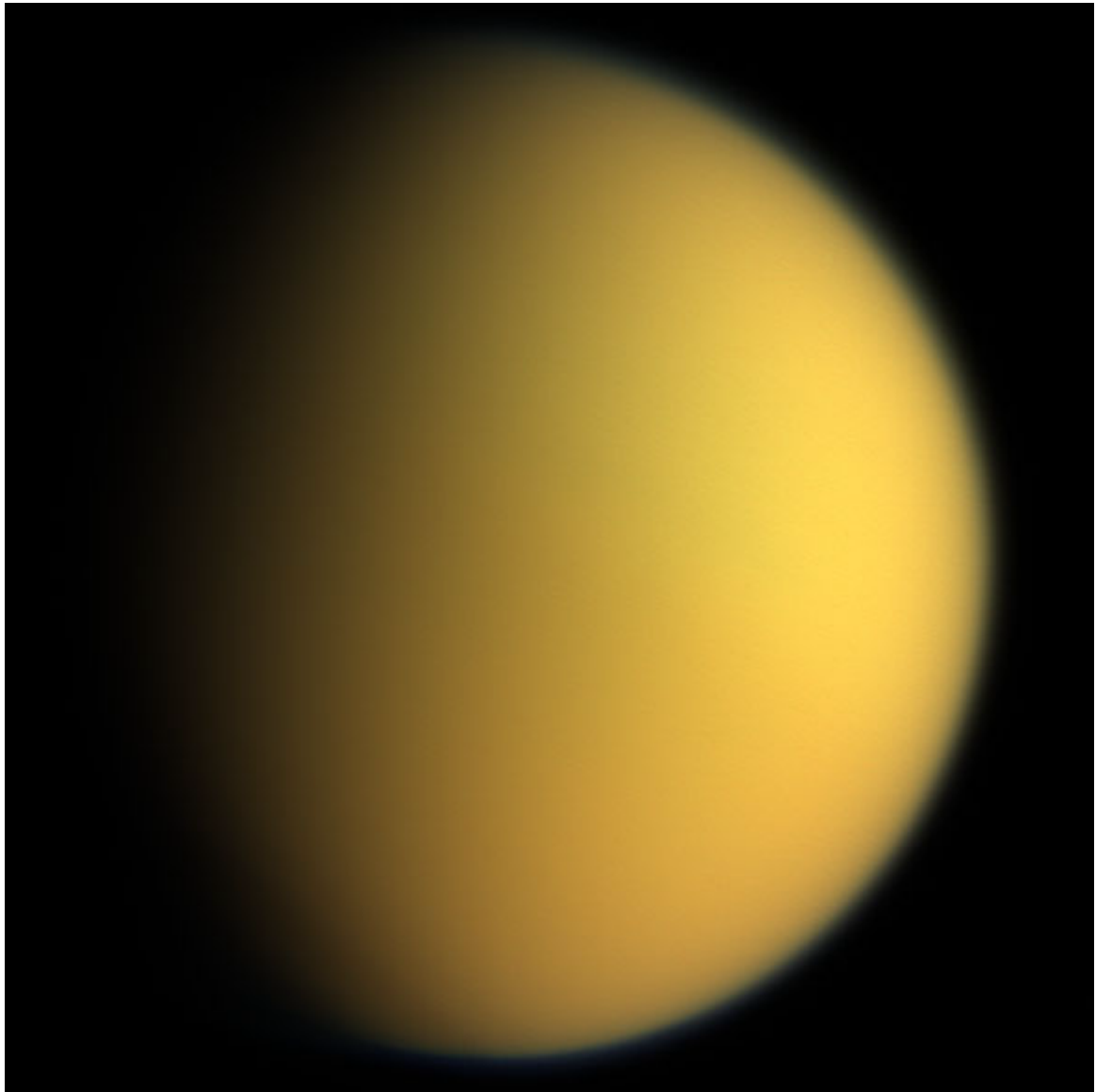
Panel One

A wide pull back shot of Saturn and its rings. Its moons circling it. Space beyond. Deep space, this. Far away from Earth. Far away from help. Frontierland.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Two

Titan now fills this panel. It's entire circularity. Its orange haze.



CAPTION:

Titan.

Page Two (Six Panels)

Panel One

External wide shot of the prison complex above ground now. On the surface (there's more below ground, in the mines. This is a major industrial looking colony here. Justice Department logos. There's a space dock with two Justice Department spacecraft on it. On the far side are two large biodomes – think Silent Running. Nothing sleek about this complex. It's a harsh prison complex on the moon of a planet far away. Henry, Carlos' work on Purgatory has external shots of the Titan complex. I can scan and send to you if you like. Although it's so long ago I don't think anyone will mind if you go with your own design. There are lots of lights and life inside the complex but no one is visible. There's flickers of lots of small somethings in the sky floating way above the complex, but we won't see what they are until we return here on the last page (they're the bodies of the Justice Dept Warders – that's not obvious here though, but there's about 30 bodies up there, as we'll show on our last page)

CAPTION: Justice Department Penal Colony.

Panel Two

Closer-look at the biospheres now. Lots of plant life and well ordered crops. Both spheres contain major reserves. No one is around. No human beings or robots visible.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Three

The two Justice Department space ships on the spacedock. Again. No one visible.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Four

We're inside the mining complex here. In Purgatory, this was used as hard labour to punish the prisoners. Tunnels run off this. No one is around again. It seems, from these shots, that the place is abandoned.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Five

We're out on the surface now, nearby an external airlock. There's a window by the side of it – steel rivets on edge etc. And we're at a distance here but there's a large blood splat on the interior of that window. We'll move close in here in a second.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Six

Same panel/angle but we've zoomed in here closer. And that is definitely a large blood splat on the interior of that window we're looking at. Whatever has happened here, people have died.

HOWE CAPTION: "What's the deal, Dredd?"

Page Three (Seven Panels)

Panel One

Change of scene. Establishing shot of Dredd and two other Judges (one is a senior Judge – Howe, the other a white helmet cadet shadowing him) sat on Lawmasters in a siding on the edge of a busy skedway, looking out over a typically amazing, garbled Mega City One landscape. A burnt out sector, not fixed since Chaos Day, sits below. Plainly derelict blocks. And the strange thing is. It's snowing. Heavily. This snow will mirror in the final part of our story on another of Titan's moons, as we'll eventually see.

HOWE: I mean... It's July.

HOWE: Why the drokk's it snowing?

Panel Two

Dredd and the two Judges all look up. Snow falling on them.

CADET: Weather control's fallen from 93.25 to 81.67% efficiency in the last six months.

Panel Three

Dredd holds out his hand. Catching snowflakes. Large ones.

CADET (o/s): Prior to Chaos Day weather control held a standard 98.64% level of efficiency over a three year period.

Panel Four

Close-up on Dredd's face. The snow pisses him off. The cadet is pissing him off.

DREDD: Hmph.

Panel Five

Pull back so we see the three of them again. Dredd starts to gun his engine as he hears the message coming in over the radio.

RADIO (spiked, untethered): Dredd. Attend the Grand Hall Of Justice immediately.

DREDD: Dredd, en route.

Panel Six

As Dredd pulls away into traffic the two remaining judges – Howe and the cadet – watch him go.

DREDD: Cadet. Pay more attention to the street and less to efficiency data or you'll be another Resyk statistic.

DREDD: Repeat the initial stages of your training, starting immediately.

Panel Seven

Close-up on the surprised cadet and the other Judge, both watching 'us' drive away. Both look a little stunned.

HOWE: I swear he's getting worse.

Page Four (Six Panels)

Panel One

Large panel, taking up at least a third of the page. A cool-looking, fairly sleek but stubby Mega City One Justice Department spacecraft blasts towards us with the Earth behind it. An Eagle on its nose, as was the case with the Judge Child's ship. But this is a far more modern, more compact looking ship. It is launched from a Justice Department space station that is in shot, as we leave it and The Earth behind.

RADIO (untethered, spiked): Olympian 1, you are clear.

Panel Two

Series of small panels here. Cut to interior of the ship. On one wall is lines of hi-tech weaponry. Guns after guns. The interior of this ship is VERY well stocked. This is plainly a warship. Everything is shaking here as the ship blasts away.

FX: <rattle>

Panel Three

Different shot of even more weaponry stowed perfectly on the ship. What look like big pulse rifles, grenades, helmets. The Justice Department logo is clear on them.

FX: <rattle>

Panel Four

Dredd's POV as he looks down at his hand. EVERYTHING on board this ship is shaking. But we're staring down at our open, upturned palm (in a cool-looking Justice Department 'space marine' type body armour) and the hand is shaking.

FX: <rattle>

Panel Five

Reverse the POV. We're just behind the hand now and we can see Dredd, its owner, looking down at his hand as it shakes. Dredd looks at this with curiosity. Everything onboard the ship is shaking. But Dredd's wondering if his hand is shaking. Dredd is in the Justice Department spa marine armour but it only goes to the top of his neck. Above that it's Dredd's regular helmet.

FX: <rattle>

AUSTIN (o/s): How old you, dog?

Panel Six

Dredd looks across and sat opposite him is a huge black guy in similar space marine armour. Smiling, strapped in. The entire innards of this ship is laid out like an

advanced version of a DC3 for paratroopers, with space marines lining each wall, facing each other. Staring at each other. This guy is facing Dredd. He's mid-twenties, built like an NFL player. Muscle and bulk with zero body fat. Works out hugely. VERY confident in his own abilities. His nameplate states 'Austin'. He's cocky enough to mock Dredd (dear God). And he's no fool. This is a challenge of Dredd's authority.

AUSTIN: Don' take me wrong now. I realise you legendary and all. And I respect that. But this is SPACE, feel me?

AUSTIN: I'm just wonderin' if you the OLDEST dude to ever go into space.

Page Five (Six Panels)

Panel One

Side onto Dredd and Austin, looking down the ship. We can see the line of space marines to the side of him. Couple glance his way to hear his response here. They all look like highly trained, physically built soldiers. But Dredd's just been thrown a challenge here. They want to see how he responds. Dredd grimacing as the ship shakes. There's a team of 12 space marines, plus Dredd and two extras, as we'll see. The two extras aren't in shot here. They're further up towards the cockpit. We'll introduce them next episode.

AUSTIN: Must be some kinda record...

DREDD: You're Justice Department's space marines, yeah? Some kinda elite. The best we got.

AUSTIN: Damn straight.

Panel Two

Close-up on Dredd, face-on. Inner steel. Attitude. Doesn't need to put on a show here. There is only the job.

DREDD: They put the oldest man to ever go into space in charge, to make sure you don't screw up this mission.

DREDD: Respect that.

Panel Three

Austin and the other space marines go quiet. Austin smiles a little at Dredd. Respects Dredd's reply.

AUSTIN: Heh.

HERSHEY CAPTION: "We've received zero contact from the Titan penal colony in six hours and security cameras on site have been shut down."

Panel Four

Cut to external establishing shot of the Grand Hall Of Justice.

LOCATOR CAPTION: 12 hours ago.

HERSHEY CAPTION: "I think we all recognise the gravitas of that statement."

Panel Five

Cut to a meeting room of the Council Of Five. Hershey at head of table. Faces us. Grim.

HERSHEY: Over 1000 Judges, incarcerated for crimes ranging from petty theft to attempted genocide.

HERSHEY: That's an army trained to be every bit as good as us. Just minus the code of Justice.

Panel Six

Cut to Dredd at the table. NO anger or anxiety as he says this.

DREDD: There was a breakout before. We planted charges to ensure it wouldn't happen again.

DREDD: We can't fight an invading army of our worst failings in our current condition.

DREDD: Destroy Titan. Now.

Page Six (Six Panels)

Panel One

Hershey. Grim. In charge.

HERSHEY: Long-range satellite scans show some kind of debris over the site and the colony's two spacecraft still on the launchpad.

HERSHEY: If there has been a revolt, they'd have run by now, and they haven't.

HERSHEY: Could be some kind of accident. And I won't kill over a thousand prisoners without all the facts.

Panel Two

Dredd, listening to this.

HERSHEY (o/s): But you're right. Dredd. I need someone in charge who can make the hard call here if necessary.

HERSHEY (o/s): Small marine team. Get in. Find out what's happened and then get back off site. We'll blow it to hell if necessary, I promise you.

Panel Three

Hershey, and there's genuine worry here.

HERSHEY: Once upon a time we'd have sent an army out there to smash down any uprising.

Panel Four

Cut to the exterior of the Titan colony again. Above it, we can see all those bits of 'debris' floating high in the sky. Still can't make them out.

HERSHEY CAPTION: "We don't have that kind of strength anymore."

Panel Five

Our 'camera' rises up into the sky now, heading up to all that debris floating.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Six

Now we're amongst the 'debris' and we can see that it's the dead bodies of around 30 Justice Department wardens, floating in space, having been thrown out of airlocks at around the same time. The uniforms reveal their Justice Dept loyalty. No space suits here. It should be a grim spectacle.

CAPTION: Debris...

END OF EPISODE ONE