

Judge Dredd: Melt  
Rob Williams & Henry Flint

**JUDGE DREDD: MELT v2**  
By Rob Williams & Henry Flint

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Page One (Five Panels)

**NB – Henry, everything here is not snowy and blizzard-y (nice change from Enceladus). So the snowmen are abberations**

Panel One

Establishing shot of Mega City One at night. No snow.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “Every story needs a good guy.”

Panel Two

Establishing exterior shot of a department store. ‘Kitchen Stuff!’ on the sign, then underneath: ‘Things to stick your food in, idiot.’ Through the window, we can see a caretaker moving fridges around on a trolley.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Three

Inside the department store now as – in foreground of shot – a delivery door is kicked open by something with extraordinary strength. In the background of shot, some distance away, that caretaker looks around, fast, to see what just made that noise.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “Just consider me the ghost of Christmas future here..”

FX: KRAK KKK

Panel Four

Large panel. Now we see what just kicked the door open – four HUGE snowmen, with beads for eyes, carrots for noses (Dredd will hate those carrots), peddles making the mouths, buttons etc – stand there. But these things have developed arms and legs and are built like big bruisers. Still, there’s no doubt here about what they are. These aren’t exo-suits. These are made of snow. Living snowmen. And they look mean and hungry.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Five

Reaction shot from the caretaker now, close-up. He rolls his eyes and looks exhausted to see this.

CARETAKER: Oy...

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CARETAKER:                    Again with the snow creatures?

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**Page Two (Six Panels)**

Panel One

Dredd on Lawmaster, driving on an overpass of a busy skedway.

BIKE (spiked):                      Control to all Judges in vicinity of William Perry  
 FattyShoppMall.

DREDD:                                Dredd. Go.

BIKE (spiked):                      Several sightings of, erm... 'snowmen' walking north  
 along...

Panel Two

Close-up on Dredd as his head snaps to attention. Grim, grim. Did all the Enceladus inmates not die?

DREDD:                      Cut off the sub-sector. No one gets in or out. Give me four H-Wagons  
 and two SWAT teams armed with flame-throwers.

Panel Three

Dredd guns the bike for all its worth. Urgency.

DREDD:                                If it throws a snowball, napalm it.

ALEX/NARRATOR:            "Merry Drokking Christmas..."

Panel Four

Cut to the four snowmen, who are running away from the store, down a street, pushing two trolleys that have several large refrigerator units on them.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "Still, give him a break, yeah? He'd recently seen how many slaughtered by nightmare ice creatures from another world?"

ALEX/NARRATOR: "The man was just trying to protect HIS city. I get that."

CARETAKER (o/s, left):        HEY! COME BACK HERE!

Panel Five

The caretaker in the doorway now, waving his fist in anger. Down the street, away from him, the snowmen run for it with their loot.

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CARETAKER: BRING BACK MY FREEZER UNITS YA ZERO DEGREE BUMS!

ALEX/NARRATOR: “Mega City One can be a VERY hard place to live, you know. Horrors, hi-rise hardship. But, occasionally, when you’re eight years old...”

Panel Six

A child – this is ALEX – he’s key to our story. Stands, stunned, as the four snowmen with the freezers on trolleys run straight past him. This is a thing of wonder. Alex stands open-mouthed. The snowmen RUNNING for it for all they’re worth. NB – Let’s not make fun of Alex in his depiction throughout. He’s no fool. He’s a good-hearted kid, and this story will have a big effect on him. We can make the other citizens look like idiots, but not Alex.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “... a gang of snowmen who’ve just stolen a couple of freezer units run right past you and it changes your entire life...”

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 Page Three (Six Panels)

Panel One

Close-up on Alex now. Smiling as this thing of wonders goes past just feet from him. And he cheers them on. OK, they're stealing things, but they're SNOWMEN. Joy on his face. He waves at them.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "... and maybe the future of an awful lot of people."

ALEX: HA! SNOWMEN!

ALEX: YEAH! RUN! GET AWAY! GO!

Panel Two

Alex's POV now as the last of the four snowmen turns smiling towards 'us'/him and, with a big beaming smile, gives us a BIG snowy thumbs up. A genuine 'thanks for the support.' These snowmen thieves appear to be genuinely nice... snowguys.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Three

That snowman explodes in a mass of snow and ice as a fiery hi-ex hits it.

FX: KRAKKKKKKOOOM!

DREDD (o/s): Napalm Hi-ex.

Panel Four

Alex looks down at the snowman's remains – shocked. Large burning lumps of ice and snow on the floor. Dredd's bike drives over them. Dredd doesn't even look at the boy.

DREDD: One down. Got visual on the other three, control.

DREDD: They're abandoning the trailer and heading into a derelict city block.

Panel Five

The three remaining snowmen have left the freezers and run, arms flailing in exaggerated silent fear, into the shadows and pure black of the city block. They'll disappear into the blackness. Dredd has them in his flashlights.

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DREDD: I've got...

Panel Six

Dredd has driven into the city block now – it's been derelict a very long time. But he looks around and can't see the snowmen. They've vanished.

DREDD (small): ... them.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "When you're a child you see Judges as your protectors."

ALEX/NARRATOR: "They take away the bad people. They keep us safe at night. From Dark Judges, Kleggs, alien ice monsters..."

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**Page Four (Six Panels)**

Panel One

Minutes later, after his search has come to nothing, Dredd walks out of the darkness of that derelict building. Alex, stood by the remnants of the snowman, watches him come. And everything in Dredd's physicality says ANGER boiling below the surface.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "But it had a real effect on me to see him walk out of the old city block, after the snowmen just... disappeared."

Panel Two

Dredd walks right past Alex and doesn't even notice he's there. This titan of a man being up close to an 8-year-old, and the sheer anger emanates off Dredd. And we're close enough to him to be looking UP at this dinosaur of a figure. The crags in the skin. The chin. This is a child's eye view of Dredd.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "I've never been so close to that much anger."

DREDD: Control. Get TEK Division down here.

DREDD: Now.

Panel Three

Cut to the scene several hours later. Tek Division are picking over the remnants of that exploded snowman like it's made of high-explosive. Hi-tech goggles and mobile microscopes. The city's brightest minds examining... snow. Dredd and Hershey in background. Some highly armed SWAT Judges. This is overkill but... considering Enceladus... The area has been cordoned off. Lots of Judge security here – the Chief Judge on site.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "30 minutes later and I'd never seen so many Judges."

HERSHEY: They were stealing household freezer units?

DREDD: Yes. Dumped them when discovered.

Panel Four

Hershey and Dredd now. Both as grim as each other looking on.

HERSHEY: That's... pedestrian. You're sure they weren't some leftover Enceladus inmates?

DREDD: No. Snowmen. They had... the noses.



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**Page Five (Six Panels)**

**Panel One**

We're above Alex now, sneakily looking out his apartment window, down at this mass scene of Judges. Trying not to be spotted.

TEK-JUDGE (from below): The ice was alive during the invasion. Kids made snowmen. Maybe some remnant of the Enceladus intelligence remained in the ice...

TEK-JUDGE 2 (from below): It's kinda difficult to do an autopsy on water.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "I heard it all... and despite their long words and their machines... I KNEW what the answer was..."

**Panel Two**

Face onto Alex now. He can't help his HUGE smile. Wonder.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "MAGIC."

**Panel Three**

Cut to a TV newsreader – half cyborg. Microphone. Looking right at us. He looks very depressed.

NEWSREADER: Hello, I am Cyber Tim Dunning, Channel Ennui News. Merry Christmas. I guess.

NEWSREADER: NEWS! The series of heists that have briefly piqued this bludgeoned city's strangled interest continues, so don't hang yerself just yet.

**Panel Four**

Footage from a personal iPhone now as we see, high above, that three snowmen are flying in BatGliders over the city, coming in to land on the roof of a large building.

NEWSREADER (spiked): Some doofus took this camera footage in a fleeting attempt to inject spectacle into a life built on inertia and nothingness.

NEWSREADER (spiked): As the Snowmen gang used actual Bat gliders to break into a factory making freezer units.

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Panel Five

Similar hand-held footage as the citizens on the street cheer on (arms raised) as, high above, two of the snowmen fly away from the building a few minutes later.

NEWSREADER (spiked): “Soon the strains of ancient moribund festive fave ‘Walking In The Air’ were sung by the crowd below as the snowmen made their escape.”

CROWD (as one, notes): We’re floating in the moonlit...

Panel Six

One of the snowmen – who has a freezer unit on the back of his glider – plummets to Earth. The gliders can plainly not handle the weight of the freezer. D’oh.

NEWSREADER (spiked): “And then... tragedy, gravity and, yes, very obvious common sense intervened.”

CROWD (as one): Oh.

NEWSREADER (spiked): “This is Cyber Tim Dunning, genuinely wondering what the point is, Channel Ennui News.”



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Same panel again, but Alex plainly is trying not to fall asleep, and starting to fail at it. That icebox is still there.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “So I laid a TRAP. Mom’s icebox.”

ALEX/NARRATOR: “And I WAITED.”

Panel Five

Alex looks down at his iPad newspaper and a story says ‘FREEZER SALE! ALL THE FREEZERS IN ONE UNGUARDED PLACE! COME GET FREEZERS! ALSO: FREEZERS!’ This is the Judge’s trap. And it’s blatant. But the snowmen aren’t that smart.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “I wanted to help them.”

ALEX/NARRATOR: “That’s what a good guy does, right?”

Panel Six

The same panel/angle as three and four, but a snowman’s hand comes in from out of shot and reaches down for the icebox. Alex, in background of shot, has fallen fast asleep, holding the iPad newspaper. We don’t see the whole snowman here. Just his hand coming into panel.

NO DIALOGUE

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Panel One

Alex wakes up and sees two white figures, disappearing into the darkness. The snowmen. They've nearly disappeared into the black. They are carrying his icebox.

ALEX: Ah...

Panel Two

Henry, there's a hole in the ground here – where an old drain has crumbled and decayed. One snowman simply morphs his way into this hole in the floor, like he's being sucked down into a pipe. The other snowman has the icebox.

FX: SCHLUUUUUUUP!

Panel Three

Now the other snowman does the same. But the icebox is just too large to fit down their pipe and will get stuck.

FX: SCHLUUUUUUUP!

Panel Four

The icebox is too large to fit in the pipe – just. It stays caught there while the snowmen have disappeared.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Five

Alex stands over the icebox as it shakes and jitters – like the snowmen are pulling it down with them but it won't quite come. **NB – he's carrying the iPad newspaper throughout this scene. He'll show it to the snowmen eventually.**

FX: RATTTTTLE.

ALEX: Uh, hello?

FX: RATTTTTLE.

ALEX: My name's Alex. I'm eight. That's my mom's icebox and it's too big to fit in your...



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Page Eight (Five Panels)

Panel One

Small panel. Alex lands at the other end of the pipe. HARD. But he'll be OK. He is down in the undercity here. The iPad newspaper has come with him.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "That pipe seemed to go on and on forever..."

Panel Two

Small panel. He raises his head and groggily, but with an amazed look on his face, he looks up. He can't believe what he's seeing. He picks up the iPad newspaper.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "... it had to in order to transport me to another world."

Panel Three

Large panel now. As close to a splash page as we can go. We're behind Alex as he looks down on the ruins of the ice-rink outside the old New York Rockefeller Centre. There's the ruined old gold statue. The massive old Christmas tree. It's lined all around by flags of all countries. And it stands right by one of New York's tallest skyscrapers – Rockefeller Centre. Here's some reference but google this to get a good feel. And flying higher than all the other flags, is a HUGE flagpole with tattered old American flag on it. The two snowmen stand below on the ice rink that is only about 20% ice these days, carrying Alex's mom's ice box.. The rest of it is just concrete. They are attempting to bring the ice rink back so they have somewhere to live.



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NO DIALOGUE

Panel Four

Alex looks up, in awe, at that huge tattered, long-forgotten American flag hanging over the plaza. About as symbolic as we can get. The flag hangs down, tattered and dirty and torn.

ALEX (small):                      Wow.

Panel Five

Close-up on Alex now as a snowball hits him in the face, quite hard. He didn't see it coming.

FX:    SPHLAT!

ALEX:    Ow.

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**Page Nine (Six Panels)**

Panel One

Alex looks down and the two snowmen are looking up at him, smiling. One waves for him to come down and join them. They look very friendly.

ALEX: Oh...

ALEX: Hey.

Panel Two

A few minutes later, Alex is down on the ice rink with them. The snowmen look sad. One points at where the ice runs out.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “They didn’t talk, but it was pretty clear what they wanted to do.”

ALEX/NARRATOR: “They wanted freezers to rebuild the ice-rink. Maybe so they could have somewhere cold to live...”

Panel Three

The two snowmen ice skate across the patch of ice that is intact, and they are helping Alex to do the same. He laughs in wonder.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “Or maybe so people could have somewhere to come and dance.”

ALEX/NARRATOR: “And laugh...”

ALEX/NARRATOR: “And forget the mess of the city above.”

Panel Four

Alex looks and notices that the snowmen are melting slightly. Dripping a bit. Not alarmingly. But it’s happening. He looks worried at this. NB – this panel probably works if the melt-y is in the foreground and we see Alex’s concerned face in background of shot. The snowmen are on a limited time frame.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “For a short while.”

Panel Five

The two snowmen look down at Alex’s iPad as he shows it to them. Holding it up for them. He’s beaming at them like he’s so happy that he’s helping them.

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ALEX/NARRATOR: “I guess they needed freezers to remake all the ice on the ice rink. Somehow. And just to... stay alive.”

Panel Six

Alex now – big smile – pointing at the iPad newspaper. It says, in large type: ‘FREEZER SALE! ALL THE FREEZERS IN ONE UNGUARDED PLACE! COME GET FREEZERS! ALSO: FREEZERS!’ Alex is so happy to help them with this.

ALEX/NARRATOR: “And I knew exactly where they could find them.”

ALEX/NARRATOR: “I was helping them create something... wondrous.”

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Page Ten (Six Panels)

Panel One

Change of scene. We're behind the two snowmen now as they walk up the middle of a street towards a large shop ahead that says – in flashing overtly silly obvious neon signs above: 'FREEZER SALE! ALL THE FREEZERS IN ONE UNGUARDED PLACE! COME GET FREEZERS! ALSO: FREEZERS!' Neon arrows point towards the door. This couldn't be a more obvious trap if it tried. To the side of the street are alleys, roadsters, rooftops above – they all contain armed Judges. As we'll see in a second. But this Freezer place – and the pure WHITE light emanating from it? It's like the snowmen are walking towards heaven.

ALEX/NARRATOR: "I was helping the city."

Panel Two

Close up on all those freezer signs now. The white light, glowing. 'FREEZERS! ALL THE FREEZERS!'

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Three

Tight close-up on the snowmen's faces. BLISS. Big snowmen smiles! SOOO HAPPY! This is their heaven.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Four

Down one of those alleys – lots of Judges. Guns, flame throwers.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Five

Up on the rooftops – lots of Judges. Guns. Overwhelming numbers and arms. This is a snowman Butch & Sundance.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel Six

Extreme tight close-up on Dredd's face. Cold. No feeling at all here. His face fills the panel. A snarl of pure badass mean.

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DREDD:

Melt 'em.

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**Page Eleven (Six Panels)**

Panel One

Thin page-wide panel of fire, filling the panel.

ALEX/NARRATION: "I don't know how..."

ALEX/NARRATION: "... but one made it out."

Panel Two

Down in the undercity again now. One snowman – his arm and part of one side melted off, runs towards us. He looks scared. He's melting badly. Not long left.

ALEX/NARRATION: "Kinda."

Panel Three

Alex shoots out of the bottom of the tube that he fell through last time to get down here, Scrambling with fear.

FX: THONK!

ALEX (small): No.

Panel Four

He runs to the edge, looking down on the ice-rink below, and he sees the snowman standing there, with Dredd at the other end of the ice-rink, pointing his Lawgiver at the snowman.

ALEX/NARRATION: "Dredd had followed. Dredd got here first."

ALEX/NARRATION: "Of course."

ALEX: DON'T!

Panel Five

The snowman raises its one good hand to surrender, but its dripping and melting quite heavily now. It won't last long. Its carrot nose is drooping. About to fall.

DREDD: Freeze.

FX: DRIP!

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FX: DRIP!

Panel Six

The carrot nose drops off, falling to the ground. Like a slow motion carrot tumble.

FX: DRIP!

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Page Twelve (Six Panels)

Panel One

Dredd fires and the snowman explodes in flames. A Napalm hi-ex bullet.

DREDD:                   NAPALM HI-EX!

FX:                       THOOOOM!

Panel Two

The snowman burns – a melty pile of sludge already.

ALEX (o/s):             He was surrendering.

Panel Three

Dredd looks across the ice and Alex has come down to the rink and is ten feet away, tears rolling down his face. He looks ANGRY more than upset though. Angry with Dredd.

ALEX:                    You saw that he was surrendering.

ALEX:                    I know what you did.

Panel Four

Dredd's reaction as he hears these words. Unreadable. But I like to think that somewhere, deep down, they sting a tiny bit. But we won't show that. ;)

ALEX (o/s):             You're not the good guy.

Panel Five

Dredd walks towards us, straight past Alex. A repeat of the first two panels of Page Four, but this time it's reverse. Dredd looks calm, Alex is the one filled with all the anger.

DREDD:                   Yeah?

DREDD:                   Well, you're still alive.

Panel Six

Pull back, as Alex watches Dredd walk away. Dredd with his back to him. That tattered old US flag hanging somewhere in shot.

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DREDD:                      Grow up.

**THE END**