

JUDGE DREDD: THE SMALL HOUSE

Part One

By

Rob Williams

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Judge Dredd © Rebellion.

PAGE ONE (SIX PANELS)

Panel One

Open with: interior of SMILEY'S HOUSE. Go back to Trifecta for reference. But this is - bizarrely - a small victorian terraced in appearance. There is an armchair. A small table. An empty cup of tea and saucer on it. There's a small grilled fire. Three flying ducks on the wall. Old working class wallpaper. NB - there are no doors in or out. This is a small square room.

CAPTION: "There is a house, you know."

Panel Two

Close-up on the ducks on the wall.

CAPTION: "A small house."

Panel Three

That cup of tea on the table. Remnants of a cuppa at bottom of cup. Small spoon on the side. Little bit of a biscuit left in saucer.

CAPTION: "And it has no doors."

Panel Four

We're up above it now. Moving up. The room almost looks like a movie set. Outside it all we can see is darkness on all sides.

CAPTION: "There is no way in."

Panel Five

Our camera pulling upppppppp now and we can see the room - the house - below us. And we can see corridors heading off from it - myriad black corridors heading in all directions. These are Smiley's secret corridors.

CAPTION: "And no way out."

Panel Six

Our camera has now pulled waaaaay up to show the exterior of the building that the little house is in. But ignore the little house here. This is a crane shot taken exactly above the Grand Hall of Justice. Let's get the huge eagle front and centre. This is all grandeur and might and everything that the tiny house is not. But the tiny house is in there at the heart of everything the Grand Hall is... As we'll see.

CAPTION: "But someone lives there..."

SMILEY (untethered): Shhh.

SMILEY (untethered): Our little...

PAGE TWO (FIVE PANELS)

Panel One

CUT TO: Wide shot - half a page - of the main traffic skedway in SINO-CIT. Roadsters of all shapes and sizes everywhere. And our 'lead' here leaps off a bridge aiming to land on the roof of a huge roadster below. This is DIRTY FRANK, in all his smelly glory. He is holding a VERY odd looking home-made science-y pistol. It is NOT a regular gun.

SMILEY CAPTION: "... Secret."

LOCATOR: SINO-CIT.

DREDD (spiked, untethered): Can you see him?

DREDD (spiked, untethered): ...

DREDD (spiked, untethered): I SAID CAN YOU SEE HIM??

FRANK: Hang about...

Panel Two

Frank hits the roadster - but it's moving crazily fast and Frank's no athlete. He falls, rolling to the back of the roadster with the momentum. We've not got a good establishing shot of Frank yet. He's a mass of hair and coat and dirt and mess. NB - he's wearing those special goggles we saw him and the team wearing in the last Judge Sam story - Act of Grudd. This allows them to see the energy signature of the stealth Judges.

FRANK: Bit busyyyyyyy...

Panel Three

Frank is rolling, out of control, towards the back of the huge roadster. He'll fly off the end, and the mass of traffic behind him won't stop.

FRANK: AH!

FRANK: AH!

FRANK: Ahhhhh...

Panel Four

Small panel. Frank's hand grabs the end of the roadster JUST.

FRANK: AH!

Panel Five

Frank is hanging off the back. One good eye wide open in 'fuck me, that was close' shock. Or it would be were he not wearing those goggles. He looks traumatised. NOW we get our

establishing shot. Frank also has a strange watch-contraption on his hand. The one that is holding that weird science-pistol.

FRANK: Ah...

FRANK: Dirty Frank done a toilet.

DREDD (spiked, untethered): Dammit, Frank. FOCUS!

FRANK (small): Grudd? Is that you?

PAGE THREE (SIX PANELS)

Panel One

CUT TO: a Justice Department control room. DREDD and Judge Sam are in there. Sam monitoring some tech controls and computer screens. Dredd, angry, impatient, leaning in behind him. Dredd sort of wants to punch the computer screen, in his way. Anger and frustration. Seething.

SAM: Sino-Cit Judges are shutting down spacesports, borders. Any way out of the city. There's a riot at the scene of the shooting.

DREDD: He can hide. If he's invisible he can hide.

SAM: The energy signature? Have you still got it, Frank?

Panel Two

Frank looks down at his strange watch contraption. He's climbing back up onto the roadster.

DIRTY FRANK: Yes... Ooof.... He's still near...

SAM (spiked, untethered): The signal's moving at the same velocity you are. One of the roadsters! Look at the roadsters!

Panel Three

Frank looks up, those goggles.

DIRTY FRANK: Dirty Frank looks. And lo...

Panel Four

The outline of a Judge - an invisible stealth - is crouched on one of the roadsters ahead - a large mobile home type vehicle but monster-sized - and to the left of Frank's giant roadster. The ghost stealth Judge has a sniper rifle in his hand. Also just an outline here.

DIRTY FRANK: A ghost....

Panel Five

The invisible Judge turns and looks back at Frank but he's already starting to lower himself down through the ceiling of the roadster. Disappearing from view. Melting through it.

DIRTY FRANK: Annnnnd he's just melted through the roof of the roadster.

Panel Six

Front onto Frank, those goggles on, agape. Mouth hanging open. He just saw a ghost.

DIRTY FRANK: I tell you lads, it's a good job Dirty Frank has a FIRM GRASP of his own mental faculties or...

DREDD (spiked, untethered): Cut the crap. That creep just assassinated a future Sino-Cit Chief Judge.

PAGE FOUR (SIX PANELS)

PANEL ONE

Close-up on Dredd's face, back with Sam. This - ALL of this - offends him. Makes him angry. When he says this - we know he feels it.

DREDD: You know what they've done, Frank.

DREDD: You know who gave him the order.

DREDD: Take him.

Panel Two

Close-up on Frank, and the intensity hits him. The drive. Captain Ahab-like. SMILEY. He wants this so badly. This roadster will NOT get away.

FRANK (small): Yes...

Panel Three

Crane shot. Frank - like Frogger - leaps from one roadster to another roadster. Heading for his target.

DREDD CAPTION: "They'd been looking for so long... For the **Enceladus** energy signature.... Judge Sam had written a programme that patched into signal arrays in Mega City One."

DREDD CAPTION: "And in other cities..."

DREDD CAPTION: "A covert action. Unauthorised..."

Panel Four

Frank lands on the roadster in question. JUST. He looks exhausted and worried. He's no mega action hero.

DREDD CAPTION: "If Hershey knew..."

FRANK: Ooodrokkk...

Panel Five

Cut back to Dredd. Close-up. Intensely grim. That jaw clenched so hard he nearly breaks his own teeth.

DREDD CAPTION: "If Hershey knew a lot of things..."

DREDD CAPTION: "That would need dealing with..."

Panel Six

Back to Frank. He slams a tracer down on the roof of the roadster. Shouts this.

DREDD CAPTION: "... eventually."

FX: SLAM!

FRANK: TRACER ON!

PAGE FIVE (SIX PANELS)

PANEL ONE

The roadster veers down a ramp. Frank is hanging off the back. Hanging on for his life.

FX: SKREEEEEE!!!!!!

DREDD CAPTION: "STEALTH JUDGES. Operating outside of official Justice Department purview."

DREDD CAPTION: "Assassinations. Poking the political direction of certain states... including **our** own."

DREDD CAPTION: "Someone, removing pieces from the chess board... Someone they'd been chasing for a **very long** time..."

Panel Two

The roadster is picking up speed. Heading down an off ramp. Heading right, seemingly away from the main roads.

DREDD CAPTION: "The stealth Judges had gone quiet since they knew we were onto them... When they knew we had the readings to the Enceladus ener..."

DREDD CAPTION: "Shut up, old man. Details. Words. Just... words."

DREDD CAPTION: "Murder. That's all it is."

Panel Three

The roadster skreeeches to a halt as - in front of it - two SINO-CIT H-Wagons have hovered down to block the road.

DREDD CAPTION: "A creep is a creep."

DREDD CAPTION: "Even an invisible one."

FX: SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!

H-WAGON (spiked, VERY large): <HALT IN THE NAME OF SINO OR WE SHOOT!>*

NB* - translated from the Sin-Cit.

Panel Four

Cut back to Dredd, who SHOUTS this, spit flying. Judge Sam intent on the screen.

DREDD: ALIVE THIS TIME! DAMMIT!

DREDD: ALIVE!

Panel Five

Back to the side of the roadster. The invisible stealth Judge (just outline) just comes out of the side of the roadster despite there being no doors. Like a ghost. He thinks no one can see him.

CAPTION: "No doors."

CAPTION: "No way in..."

Panel Six

Frank fires the weird science pistol at the ghost figure and a very strange field of Enceladus-energy hits him. This is NOT a normal gun. Frank is wide-eyed here as he fires it.

CAPTION: "No way out."

FRANK: OI! OI! GHOST-Y!

FX: FZZZZSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

PAGE SIX (SIX PANELS)

PANEL ONE

The invisibility is gone. A stealth Judge - now visible - hits the ground. Unconscious. With a thud. Little sparks of weird electricity around him as he becomes visible.

FX: THUD.

DREDD (spiked, untethered): Do you have him?

DREDD (spiked, untethered): I said... Do... You...

Panel Two

Frank rests a foot on his head, leans over, breathes out, exhausted. Sweating hard. In front of him, several Sino-Cit Judges are approaching - guns pointing at him.

FRANK: Calm your capacious chin, Joseph.

FRANK: Yes...

FRANK: Tell Sam that it worked.

PANEL THREE

Back to the control room. Sam - all enthusiasm and youthful Judge-y hope - BEAMS in delight. Behind him, Dredd looks away, troubled. Two different reactions here. Dredd knows the shit this is going to bring.

SAM: It worked! It actually...

FRANK (spiked, untethered): Ummm... How Dirty Frank is going to get him out of Sino-Cit without anyone knowing may be anotherrrALRIGHT SINO-JUDGES? HOW'S TRICKS? STOP POINTING THE GUNS! I SAID STOP...

DREDD: ...

Panel Four

Dredd walks out, down a corridor. Sam turns and watches him go. Dredd looks tired. Sam a little concerned for him.

DREDD: No one can know, Frank.... No one...

SAM: Dredd?

DREDD CAPTION: "One more step. One slow, tired movement. Chipping away. Chipping away at... everything he'd ever stood for."

Panel Five

Dredd walks down a corridor. Behind him - a figure emerges THROUGH the wall. No door. This is the Enceladus tech. This is Smiley. We'll see him next panel. But for now, we just see the silhouette of a Judge walking through the wall, like a ghost..

DREDD CAPTION: "Is this what it's come to, old man? The only way left? Shoot and arrest and beat everything down for so long until there's nothing left?"

DREDD CAPTION: "Nothing left to hurt but..."

DREDD CAPTION: "Someone's standing behind him..."

Panel Six

SMILEY stands before Dredd. No hiding. No evil grin. The most plain man imaginable. Just a simple Judge standing in a corridor. Nothing extraordinary. Alan Bennett in a Judge's outfit. His badge says who he is for us to see: SMILEY. But he is entirely unreadable. If he's have wanted to shoot Dredd, he could have.

SMILEY: Judge Dredd.

SMILEY: A word?

END OF EPISODE ONE