

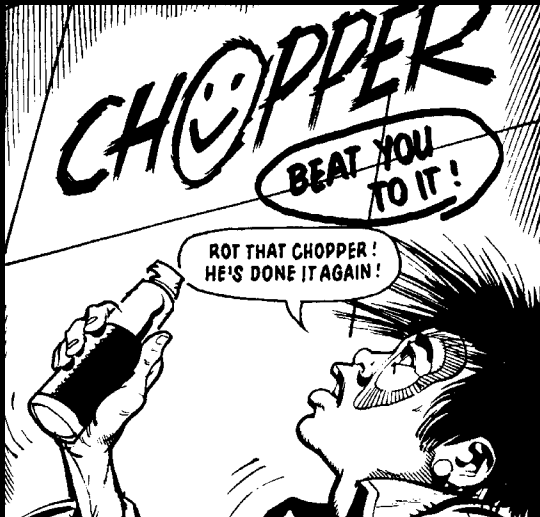
# CHOPPER

## WANDERING SPIRIT



CHOPPER CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER, RON SMITH & CAM KENNEDY

# CHOPPER - THE MAKING OF A MEGA-CITY REBEL



Marlon 'Chopper' Shakespeare wasn't prepared to be just another unemployed nobody living in Mega-City One. As a teen, the young rebel set out to become the best wall-scrawler (graffiti artist) in the Big Meg, but was eventually caught by Judge Dredd whilst going up against his arch-rival, the mysterious 'Phantom'. [*UnAmerican Graffiti*]

Having survived his time in the Iso-Cubes, Chopper traded in his spray cans for a flying surfboard. Entering the illegal and deadly Supersurf 7, he proved to have the skills to be the very best skysurfer the world had ever seen, though not without finding his way back on the wrong side of the law in the process. [*Midnight Surfer*]



On the eve of Supersurf 10 in Oz, Chopper escaped custody and set out on a treacherous journey in order to take the world championship title back from the 'Wizard of Oz', Jug McKenzie. After being narrowly defeated by Jug, a deflated Chopper escaped out into the Radlands, where he could remain free. [*Oz*]

After befriending Jug McKenzie and beating him in a friendly rematch [*Soul on Fire*], Chopper tried to refuse the call of

professional Sky Surfing, but his friend Smokie declared before his death that Chopper must follow his "Songline". The lure of the sky indeed proved irresistible, and Chopper left the radlands for Mega City two and the StigCorp-sponsored bloodbath that would be Supersurf 11. Ensuring the drunken Jug was kept safely away, Chopper went on to win the deadly race, thought not before blowing up billionaire media baron Stig with a grenade. [*Song Of The Surfer*]



Having come closer to death than ever before, Chopper made a life for himself in the Radback with his friends. But the power- and vengeance-hungry Stigcorp tried to murder Chopper and take over their home of Drongo Springs to control the energy of the songlines. Chopper and Jug took up their boards to fight back and won, but not without casualties. [*Earth, Wind & Fire*]

After facing his skysurfing demons in the Radback [*Dead Man's Twist*], making a flying visit to MC 1 [*Funeral in Mega City One*] and taking a reluctant trip to the Hondo-run MC 2 for Supersurf 13 [*Supersurf 13*], Chopper settled into life as a beach guard, and helped a cancer-riddled Jug McKenzie to end his life in the skies. An attempt to bond with Jug's estranged daughter and her con-artist mother ended in him being duped into returning to MC 1 to steal a valuable formula. Narrowly foiling the plot, Chopper once again skipped out on the law, and fell back into the quiet life of Oz... [*The Big Meg*]

*UnAmerican Graffiti* originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 206-207 and collected in *Judge Dredd: The Complete Case Files 04*

*Midnight Surfer*, originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 424-429 and collected in *Judge Dredd: The Complete Case Files 09*

*Oz* originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 545-570 and collected in *Judge Dredd: The Complete Case Files 11*

*Soul On Fire* originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 594-597

*Song Of The Surfer* originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 654-665

*Earth, Wind & Fire* originally published in **Judge Dredd Magazine** 1.01-1.06

*Dead Man's Twist* originally published in **Judge Dredd Magazine** 2.36

*Funeral in Mega City One* originally published in **Judge Dredd Poster** Prog 4

*Supersurf 13* originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 964-971

*The Big Meg* originally published in **2000 AD** Progs 1387-1394

All collected in *Chopper: Surf's Up*



## WANDERING SPIRIT

Script: David Baillie

Art: Brendan McCarthy

Additional Colours: Len O'Grady

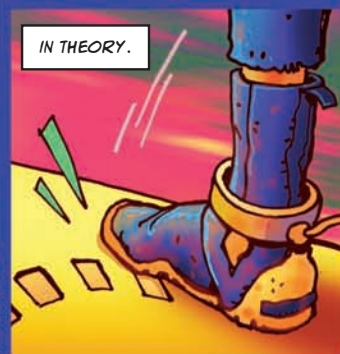
Letters: Ellie De Ville

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THEY SAY THAT THE INSANELY HOT MEGATHERMALS THAT BLOW ACROSS THE RADBACK ARE SURFABLE.

IN THEORY.



YOUR BOARD POWERED RIGHT DOWN, AT THE MERCY OF HUNDREDS OF METRES OF ROILING, **ROASTING-HOT** AIR BENEATH YOUR FEET... THEY SAY THAT ONLY THE BEST IN THE WORLD COULD DO THAT.

IN THEORY.

BUT IT'D TAKE SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER TO MAKE A LIFE OF IT.

YOUR ONLY WORRIES: WHERE YOUR NEXT MEAL IS COMING FROM, AND THE DEADLY **RADSTORMS**.



LIKE THAT ONE THERE.





THOSE KIDS AREN'T  
REAL SURFERS...

HEY!

HE TRIES TO SHOUT A WARNING  
BUT HIS VOICE IS HOARSE  
FROM MONTHS OF DISUSE.

MONTHS OF SOLITUDE.

RICH THRILL-SEEKERS FROM  
SOME OZ CONURB. RISKING  
PRIVILEGED LIVES OUT HERE FOR  
BRAGGING RIGHTS BACK HOME.

WHAT'S THAT  
WEIRD OLD  
DUDE YELLIN'  
ABOUT?

WHO CARES?  
PROBABLY LOOKING  
FOR CHARITY CREDZ —  
NOTHING BUT RAD  
BURNOUTS AND NATIVES  
IN THE 'BACK, MAN!

WHOOOF!

STAY  
WHERE YOU  
ARE,  
DON'T —

TRAGIC OBITUARIES JUST  
WAITING TO BE WRITTEN.



HE'D BEEN AVOIDING THESE DEADLY STORMS SINCE THEY STARTED A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT EVEN HE IS SURPRISED BY THE VICIOUSNESS ON DISPLAY HERE. IS IT HIS IMAGINATION —

— OR DOES THE CYCLONE SEEM ALMOST SENTIENT IN ITS MALEVOLENCE?

IMPOSSIBLE, OF COURSE. AS IS THE NOTION THAT THE STORM IS SOMEHOW AWARE THAT CHOPPER IS TRYING TO SAVE THIS KID...

GRRUUUUDD!

... AND MUST NOW ENSURE HE DOESN'T ENDANGER ANY MORE OF ITS BLOOD OFFERINGS.

DAMN —!

UNNFF!

AND AS HIS SKULL HAMMERS AGAINST THE HARD RADBACK GROUND HE KNOWS THAT LAST SURFER IS DEAD...

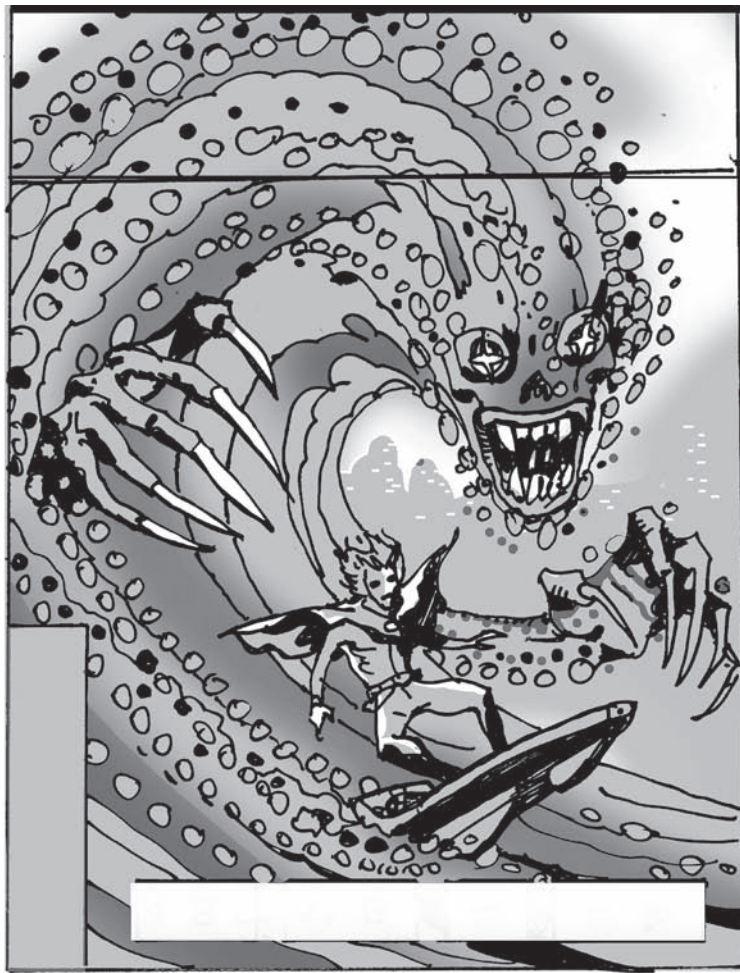
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

THUMP!  
KRAANG!









CHOPPER COVER MEGAZINE  
ROUGH

**SURF DEMONS!**







Chopper by **Brendan McCarthy**